

AUGUST 1978

20p

Soldier



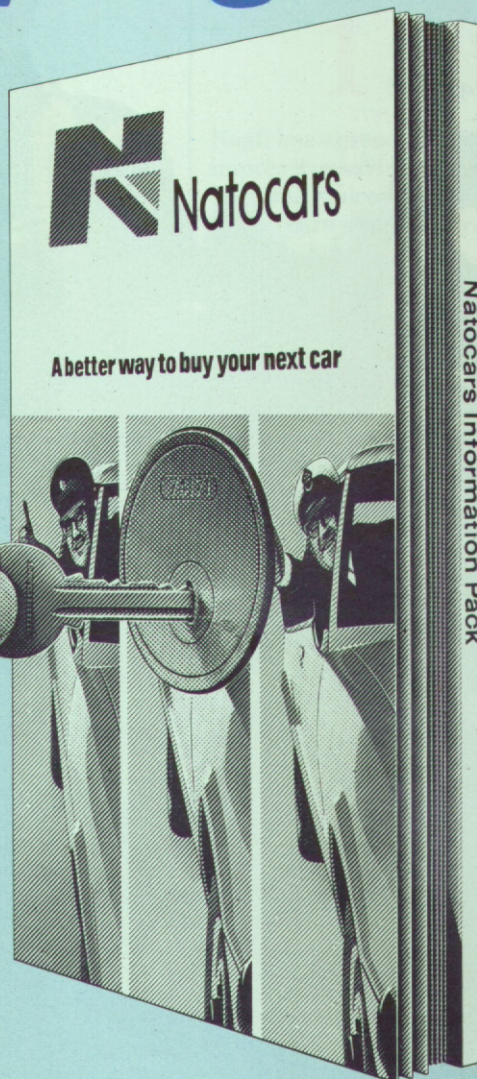
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FRONT COVER

Private I W Penrose, Pony Major of 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, with the regimental mascot, Lance-Corporal Pegasus, leading the massed bands at the Queen's Birthday Parade in Berlin.

Picture by Doug Pratt.

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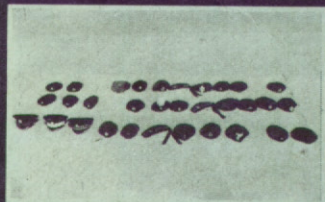
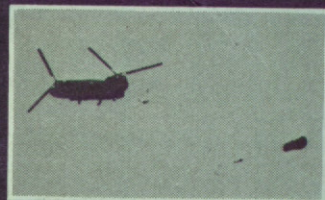
4 Gunners train in Australia

'Pommy' gunners went 'down under' while 'Diggers' came to train on Salisbury Plain. SOLDIER reports on this trans-global exchange.

18 More than 40 cap badges and drawn from all parts of the world — that's the new infantry demonstration battalion at Warminster. The welding together of this assortment into a battalion has already begun.

29 Fazakerley Engineering

Just outside Liverpool, Rhine Army's fleet of mighty Antar tank transporters is being facelifted — just one job for a unique Ministry of Defence workshop.



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T

The hospitality a battery of British gunners received on an exchange visit to Australia is a memory that will stay with them for a long time

'Rent-a-Pom' goes down under



Story: Doug McArthur
Pictures: Paul Haley



LUSH VEGETATION abounds. High grass clutches at the waist and around the clearing majestic gum trees reach for the blue Australian sky. In the distance a speck appears, growing rapidly larger as it clears the surrounding hills.

It is a helicopter, but like no helicopter these British gunners have ever worked with before. It is a massive twin-rotor Chinook.

Suddenly the chattering of a million birds is stilled by the maniacal clattering of the powerful twin engines as the 'chopper' swoops in. Suspended beneath the fuselage, like a spider hanging from a branch, is a 105mm gun. The noise gets louder and louder until eventually it seems to fill the brain with vibration and sound. Then, as the Chinook hovers to drop her load, everything in a 100-yard radius is flattened by the spectacular down-draught. The gunners' faces are tightened into demoniac grins as the wind twists and pulls features about. Helpless before that man-made gale, they can only look for cover behind rocks and vehicles. Anywhere to escape from the dust and debris-filled wind.

Then, as suddenly as she came, the helicopter is gone, her job done and another gun sited in a firing position impossible to reach by road.

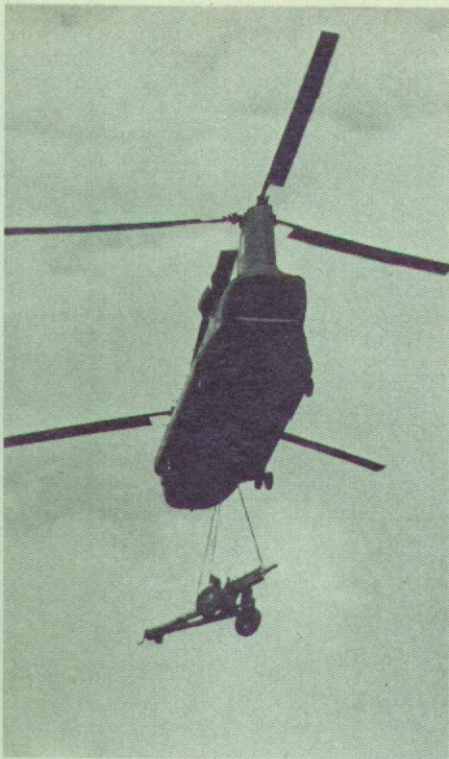
This facet of artillery movement was a lesson learned by the Australians in Vietnam and something that the 'Brits' from 88 (Arracan) Battery, of 4 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, were quick to learn on their month-long exchange visit to Australia's Queensland.

The visit was the annual North Star-Southern Cross exercise in which a British unit exchanges with its Australian counterpart. This year, for the first time, the exchange went to the gunners, giving Arracan Battery the chance to swap with 108 Battery of 4 Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery.

Happily, both units thought they had the better of the deal. The Brits looked forward to their time in the outback and sampling some of that famous Australian sun and atmosphere, while the 'Diggers' eagerly anticipated live-firing the British Army's new 105mm light gun on windswept Salisbury Plain and ceremonial guard duty for

Above left: An Australian Air Force Chinook helicopter hovers close to the ground for a gun detachment to hook up a 105mm howitzer.

Left: Battery commander Major David Bray sees for himself how the laser range-finder works under full field conditions out in the bush.



Prince Charles in Sunderland, traditionally the British regiment's home.

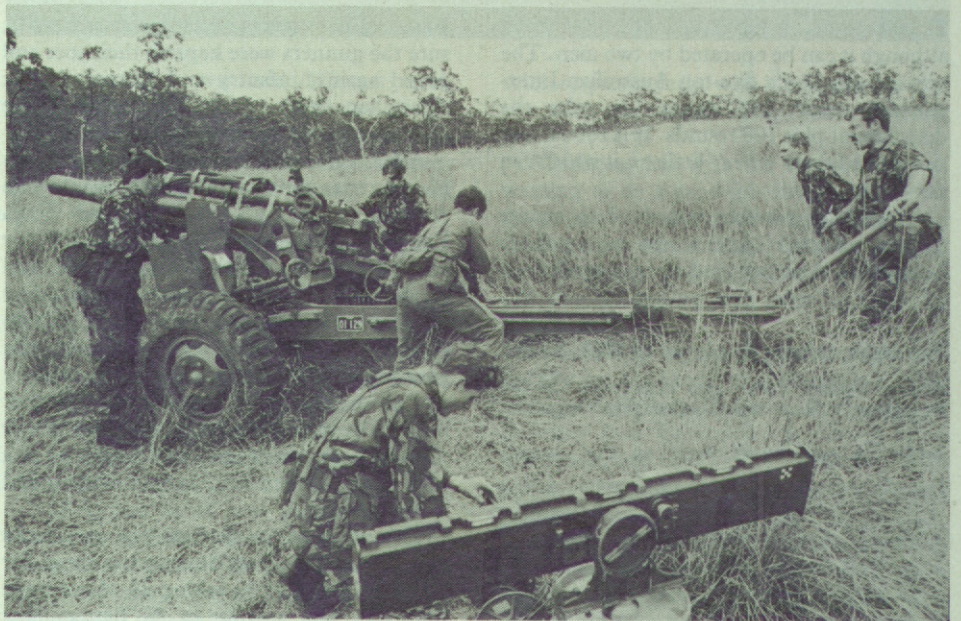
"This kind of exercise gives us a unique opportunity to do things we are not likely to do any other way," said Lieutenant-Colonel David Gilroy, commanding the Australian regiment. "The chance to fire so many live rounds from a new weapon is one I don't think any of the boys would want to miss."

At the same time his British counterpart, Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Colley, added: "It is always a useful experience to use other people's equipment, because it increases our adaptability. There are several valuable lessons to be learned in Australia, besides the obviously marvellous chance to see a country most of us will probably never see again."

The 100-plus British battery moved into Lavarack Army base, just outside Townsville, a town about the size of Guildford, and almost immediately started converting to the 'Aussie' 105mm gun. Lavarack is Australia's biggest tropical base and home of its Regular Army's 3rd Task Force of 1st and 2nd/4th battalions of The Royal Australian Regiment, 4 Field Regiment and supporting units.

Although the Australian gun is much more basic than the sophisticated light gun, Arracan Battery treated it with respect. And even though these Canadian guns were all about 30 years old — one dated back to 1945 — they had at least all been fired in anger. The Australian battery saw several tours in Vietnam while the guns stayed there almost up to the cease-fire.

The Australian gun is the basic American field artillery split-trail howitzer. It fires standard Nato ammunition at about seven rounds a minute with a maximum range of

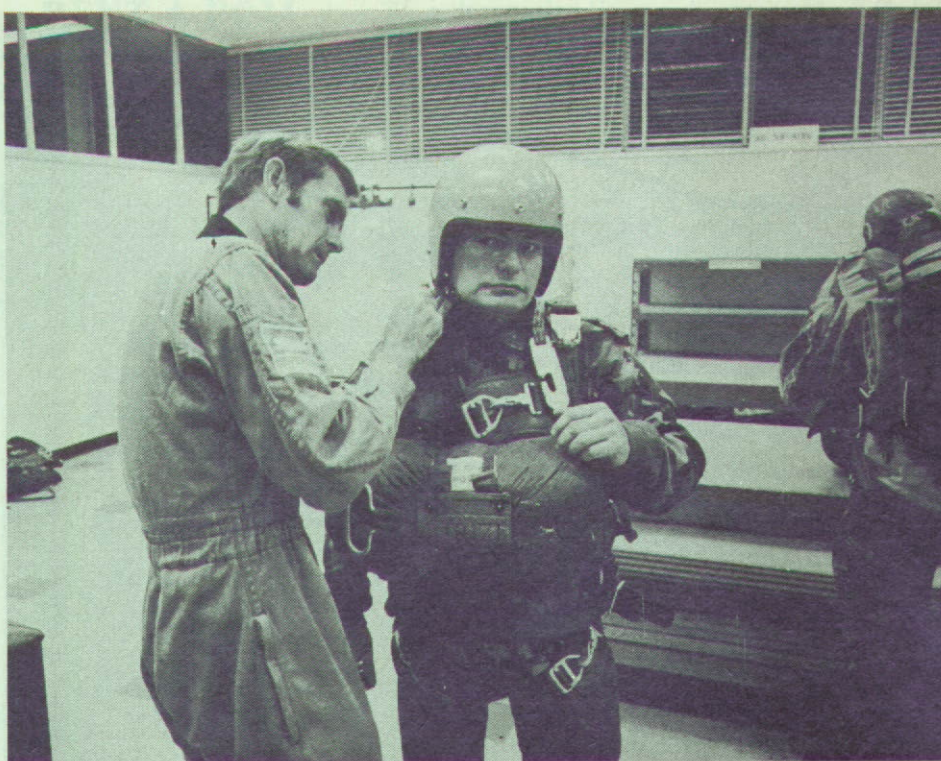


Top left: 'Hanging like a spider from a branch.'

Top right: The gunners double aboard. In minutes they will be ready at a new location.

Centre: Gum trees provide the backdrop for an Australian 105mm as it is brought into action.

Right: The big 5-ton Internationals snake their way through the bush to the firing position.



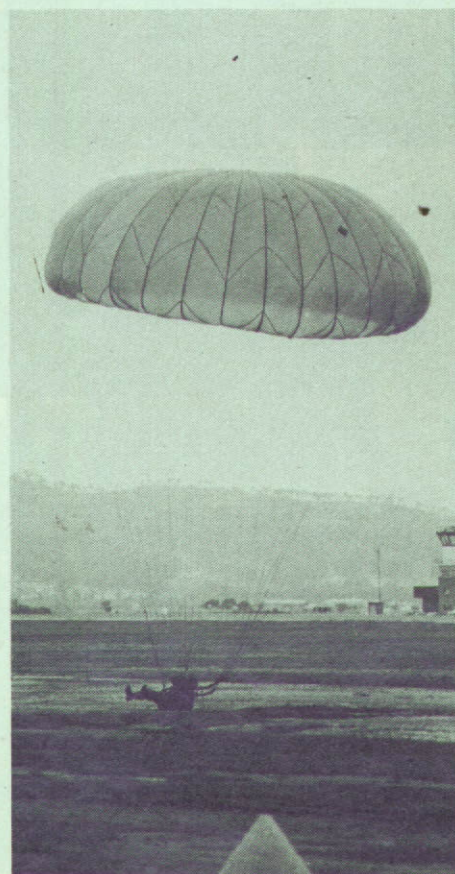
11,000 metres. It has a detachment of seven although it can be operated by two men. The gun is pulled by a five-ton Australian International truck, big enough to take the detachment plus 100 rounds. It is robust and simple and there is very little on it which can go wrong.

Everything possible was done to ensure that the British battery saw as much as possible on their trip, but it was not all play.

Top right: Driving in convoy to High Ranges.

Above: Colonel Colley gets help from Colonel Batchelor. They were subalterns together.

Below: A parachutist lands on the airstrip.



Far from it. A series of hard exercises made sure the gunners were kept on their toes and pitted against infantry and gunners of the Australian Army — who had the advantage of working in their own backyards.

After conversion training had been completed, the guns were driven up to the Australian Army's county-sized High Ranges training area — real Ned Kelly country where wallabies, kangaroos and exotic bird-life abound. After the grinding climb to the range, located on a plateau several thousand feet above sea-level, the guns were picked up by Chinook helicopter and moved one by one several miles further into the bush to their firing positions. These massive helicopters can carry two guns at a time slung underneath, as well as men and materials inside.

This phase of the exercise was considered particularly important because the Royal Air Force will shortly be taking 30 of the huge Chinooks into service so 88 Battery was given a head start in training with them in their heavy lift artillery application.

During these first days in the bush, Arracan Battery went through anti-tank and laying drills, local defence and moving procedures in the unfamiliar five-tonners. Although the battery had recently been to Belize, most of its gunners were still very cautious about 'creepy-crawlies,' particularly snakes in the long grass. Their Aussie colleagues' comments that the first they would know about a snake was when it sank its fangs into an ankle did little to reassure them . . . But gradually the Brits came round to believing that practically all wild-life — of whatever size — would beat a hasty retreat when people came near.

One bonus on the High Ranges was that after the exercise they did not have to be cleared. Every year, during the dry season, as regular as clockwork, fire sweeps through the area, effectively disposing of live rounds and debris alike.

The main feature of the exercise was the opportunity to use Australian kit, a mixture of home-produced Australian, British and American equipment. Some time was set

aside for trying out small arms, such as the Armalite rifle (used by Aussie patrol section leaders), M60 and M64 heavy machine-guns, and a real novelty, the M74 rifle which can throw a grenade 300 metres.

During the battery commander's exercise, the gunners fired off about 300 rounds of high explosive as a pipe-opener to a full regimental exercise working with the Australian 107 Battery. This was designed to integrate both batteries to regimental intensive standards, including live firing. The highlight was a co-ordinated illumination shoot with 107 Battery firing the illumination and 88 Battery the HE underneath it.

The British laser range-finder, although not yet on general issue, was tested under field conditions. It speeds up the procedures of getting fire on to the ground, eliminating adjustment, and was used successfully in a terrain where it is difficult to map-read.

The regiment has a commitment to provide a parachute-trained observation post, so the chance to jump from a Chinook helicopter was grabbed by the handful of 'Red Berets' on the trip. Helping to smooth the way for the paras was Lieutenant-Colonel Alan Batchelor, commanding the Australian Parachute Training School, who was a subaltern with Colonel Colley as airborne gunners in the early 1960s. He left Britain to join the Australian Army in 1967.

"This is good for me," he said, "because apart from meeting up with some old friends, I can catch up on the gossip as well."

The ten airborne dropped out at 1200 feet at a speed of 115 knots on to Townsville's airport. Again this was another new experience for the Brits because they jumped from a Chinook using, for the first two jumps, American T10 non-steerable parachutes and, for the final drop, MC1-1 steerable.

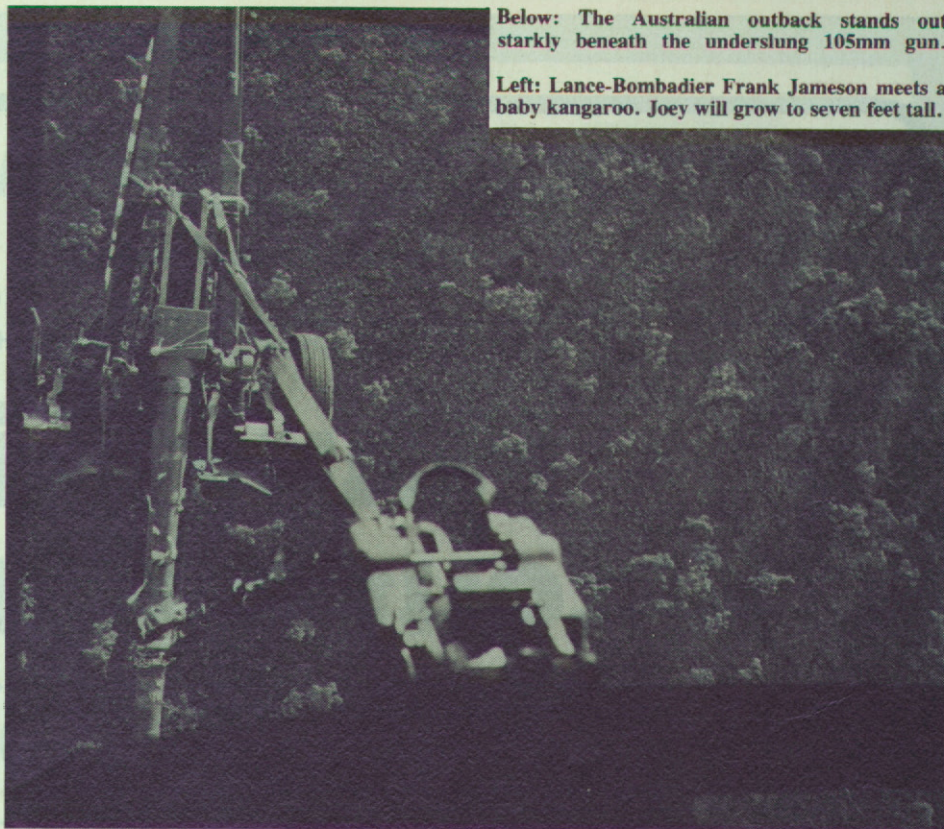
"It was good parachuting," said Sergeant John McQueenie afterwards. "The Chinook is very stable and you don't get the buffeting that you do from the props of the Hercules. Just a steady down-draught."

What really made the trip special for the British gunners was the hospitality both



Below: The Australian outback stands out starkly beneath the underslung 105mm gun.

Left: Lance-Bombadier Frank Jameson meets a baby kangaroo. Joey will grow to seven feet tall.



from their Army hosts and the civilian population. A local newspaper ran a 'Rent-a-Pom' campaign to adopt a 'Pom' for either a day or a weekend and the response was embarrassingly high. The battery office was flooded with calls from local people who wanted to give 'the Poms' a good time.

Whenever the gunners were not working they were involved in some activity, usually sporting — swimming and diving and, of course, rugby, soccer and hockey matches against both Army and civilian sides.

In the final week of the month-long visit, the battery moved to Australia's Gold Coast, about 1000 miles further south. The whole week was organised by Mr Ken Bromley, now retired, who in war years was a Royal Australian Naval Reserve officer. Now he devotes his time to getting people — particularly servicemen — to enjoy themselves.

It all started with the Vietnam war when he took on the Wounded Serviceman's Convalescent Scheme which provided 14 days' free convalescence in families' homes on the Gold Coast for every Digger wounded in Vietnam and returned home for medical treatment. He extended the service to include any unit of any nationality, visiting Australia.

"We provide accommodation by home hosting," he said, "and over the years I have built up a panel of people prepared to take the boys into their homes for a week, although with a big unit like this I have had to augment my list. This is something I enjoy doing, mainly because I like to see people enjoying themselves."

One of the highlights of the week on the coast was a soccer match against the Gold Coast United Soccer Association. Sergeant Len Melville, a freefall instructor with the battery, dropped in with the ball to the delight of the several thousand spectators.

"I think the whole exercise was a great success," said battery commander Major David Bray. "We have worked with different equipment, different radios, and vehicles and we have converted to their guns and

fired them. We have used different small arms, different equipment and even eaten different rations. And most important we have worked in co-operation with a different army with different systems and ways of doing things.

"We have had a tremendous reception and in fact the hospitality has been quite embarrassingly overwhelming. There have been parties and barbeques arranged for us and 'Rent-a-Pom' has meant so many offers we have had to ration them out. At the Gold Coast we stayed in peoples' houses. What better way is there of seeing a country and getting to know its people than actually living with them?

"An indication of how popular the trip was is that we called for volunteers to stay on for another three months and virtually every unmarried man stepped forward. So three soldiers will be staying here when we leave and going on exercise in New Guinea and we will be taking three Australians with us to Canada."

In just over a year, the British regiment has taken part in 14 overseas exercises — its nickname of the 'Flying Fourth' is well earned. "In the last year we have had a record programme, doing far more travelling than any other full unit anywhere, particularly gunners," said Colonel Colley. "As part of 6 Field Force's Nato reinforcement, we have to be highly mobile, working with Danes, Germans and Italians as well as in Belize and elsewhere, like America and, of course, Australia.

"The regiment has quite a challenge to maintain an artillery posture supporting six battle groups in 6 Field Force and training with these groups in different countries. In addition we must have a para-trained element.

"My philosophy is that if the regiment is to rise to the challenge of its role, everyone must be involved one hundred per cent in the team effort, from the gunner who joined yesterday right up to myself. I believe the main asset of this regiment is the individual

soldier, particularly with those characteristics from the North East, our recruiting area.

"Combine that with the characteristic of wanting to do a good job and you have the makings of a really good outfit. Hence the development of the soldier who has a thirst for knowledge, and will want to prove himself, thus increasing even more his thirst for knowledge."

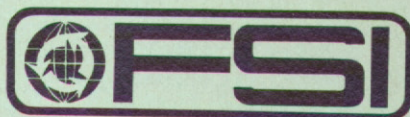
Since Belize in October of last year, 88 Battery has converted to the light gun, then been to Schleswig Holstein, firefighting in Barnsley over Christmas, Schleswig Holstein again, and Cyprus and Denmark. Trips to the States and Canada are planned for this summer.

"Every time we do something different, we build up an expertise somewhere in the regiment. Australia is a very good example of this because we are drawing from them the benefits of their experiences. Their lessons learned in Vietnam are particularly important, especially the application of the heavy-lift helicopters.

"Our light gun is highly mobile and is not protected so it has to move fast, therefore the soldier working it must be highly mobile, well trained and fit, which ties in with what we are doing here. In the long term, this trip will cement a firm affiliation between 4 Field in Britain and 4 Field in Australia.

"I believe these exercises are the best training available with the exchange of a complete battery coming under the command of a parent regiment and using its equipment. The understanding and chances to learn from each other's lessons is overwhelming. We have a lot to offer to the Australians and they to us. That is very much an equal opportunity basis.

"All the time we are doing this kind of thing we are building up the soldier and making him more professional because he is trading on the resources of other people, which can only be money — or training — in the bank."



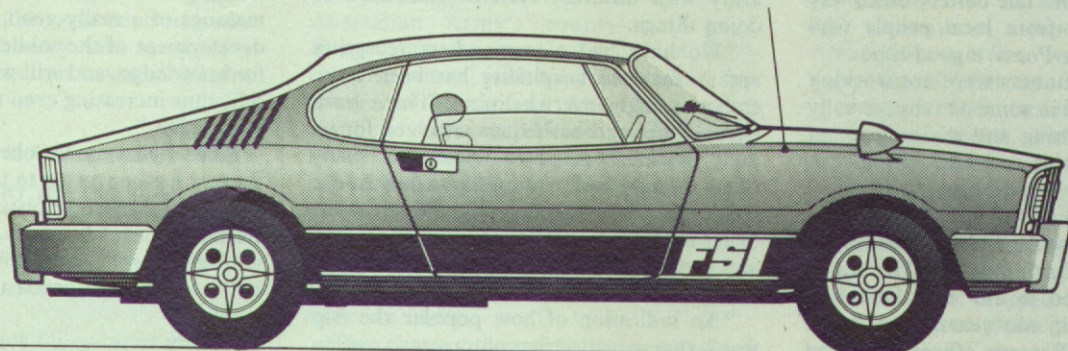
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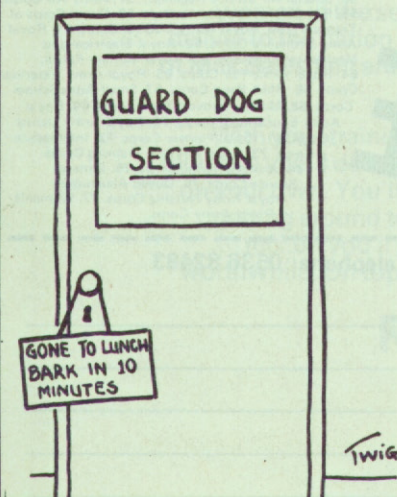
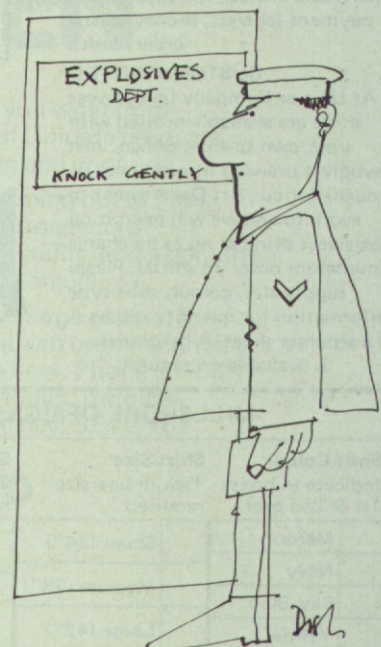
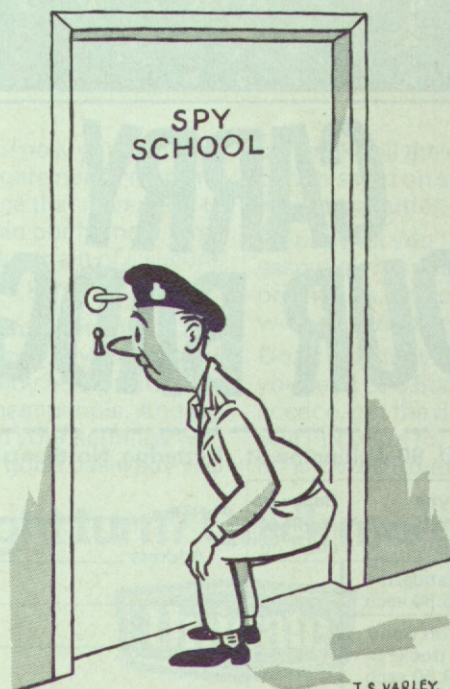
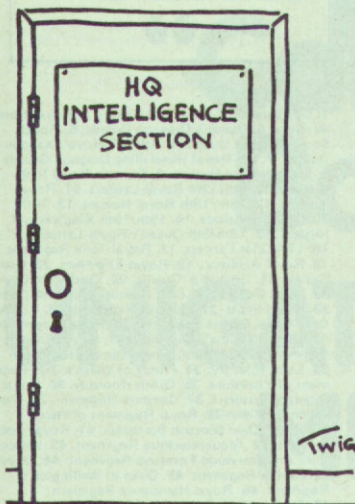
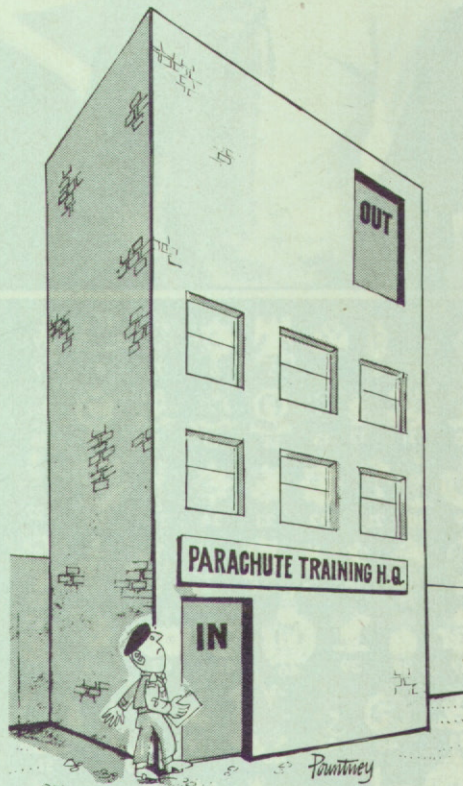
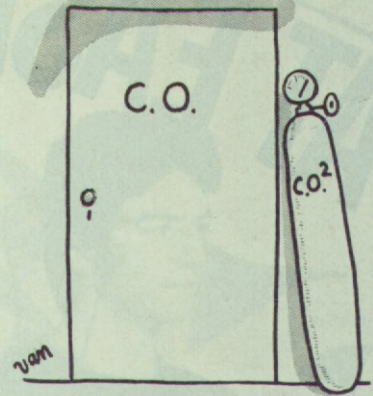
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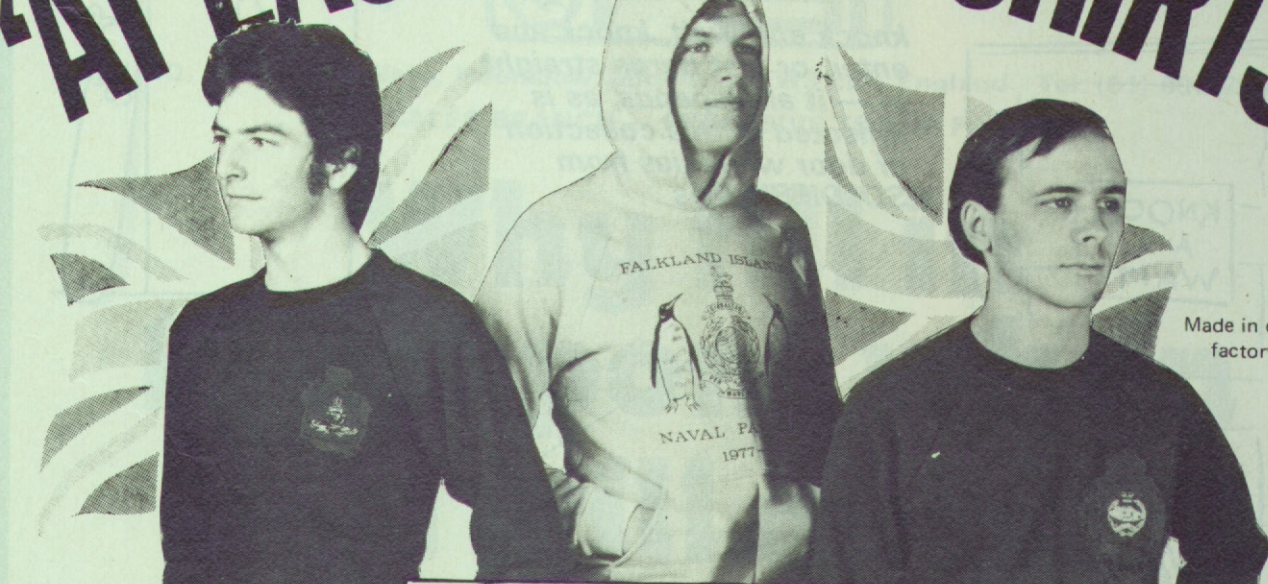
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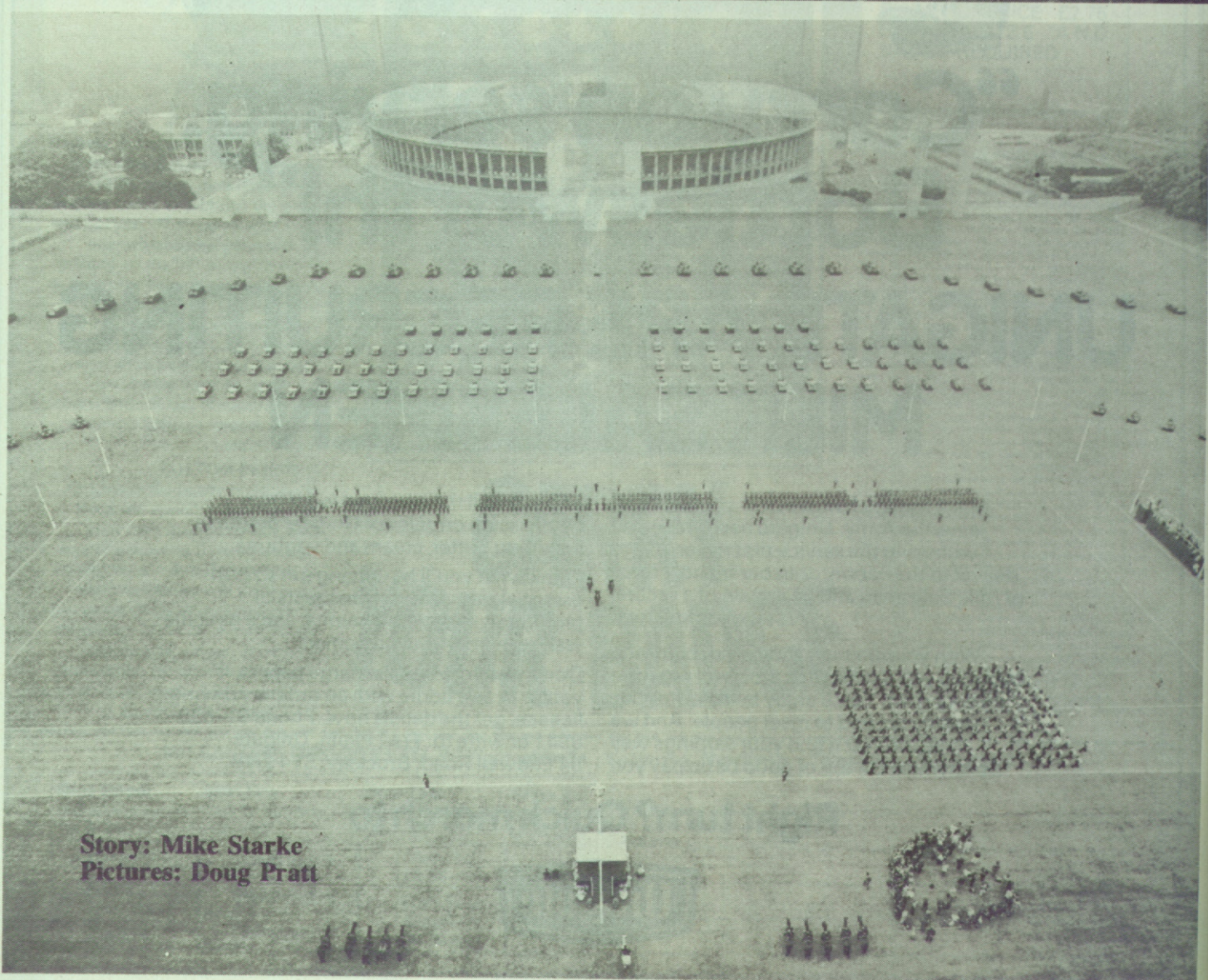
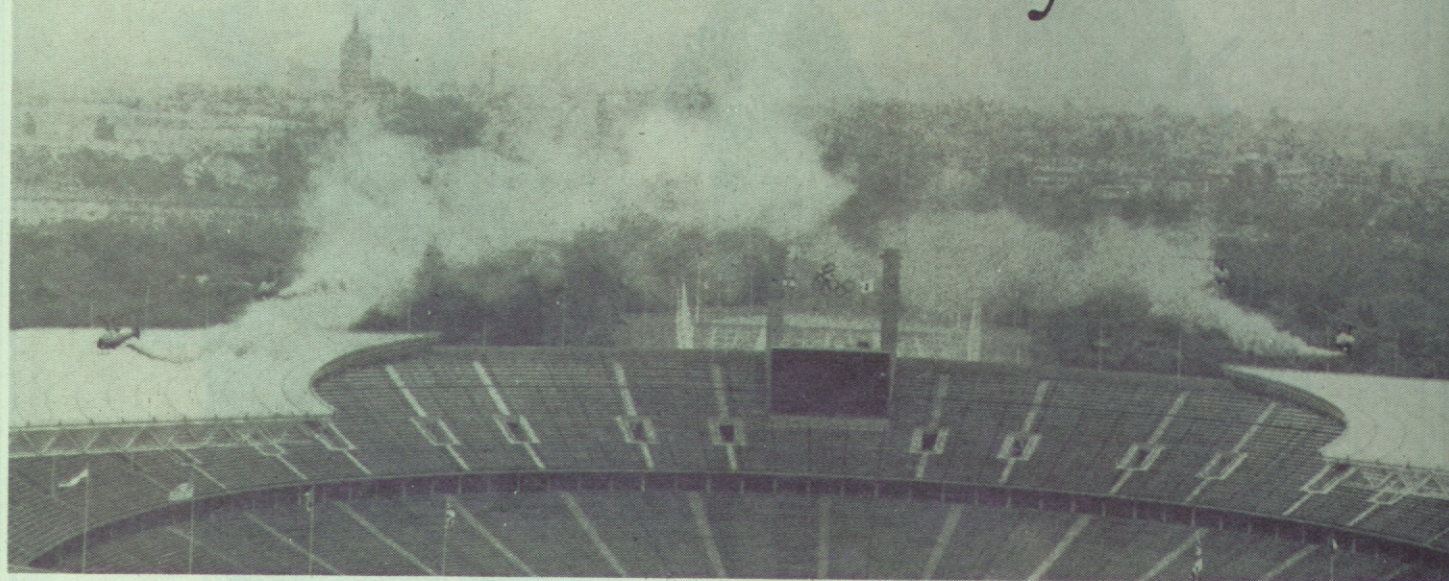
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Right turn? Quick march to



BERLIN

Trooping the Colour makes history



Story: Mike Starke
Pictures: Doug Pratt



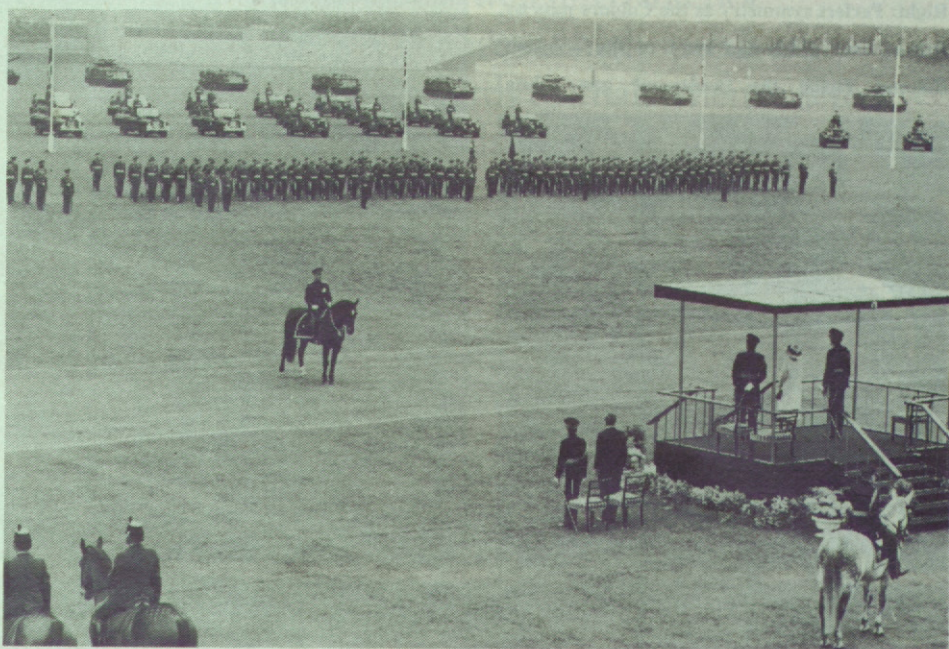
A PAGE of modern military history was made at Berlin's spectacular Maifeld Stadium when — for the first time in her reign — the Trooping the Colour ceremony was performed in front of the Queen outside Britain.

The trooping ceremony, undertaken on the Queen's orders, took place at the annual parade in Berlin celebrating Her Majesty's official birthday. Normally a glittering display of military pageantry, this year's parade was especially so as it was staged in front of the monarch herself accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh.

Some 30,000 people gathered in the Maifeld's spacious stands to watch the event and the less familiar uniforms of French and American allies mingled with those of the British as a reminder of the unique status of Berlin as a divided city. Berliners too were there in force to greet the British monarch they had affectionately dubbed 'Die Queen.'

The rigid formality of the military preparations for the parade in the still, humid air in the stadium contrasted with the effervescent enthusiasm of the crowd who whiled away their waiting with impromptu chants of 'We want the Queen' and singing of 'Jerusalem.'

The arrival of the horse-drawn state landau carrying the royal party was the signal for a co-ordinated roar of greeting to fill the massive stadium. The red, white and blue stripes of thousands of hand-held union



Top left: Gazelles trail red, white and blue.
 Left: A panorama of the military pageantry.
 Top: Her Majesty chats with some soldiers.
 Centre: The parade lines up for the Queen.
 Right: All the excited children show the flag.

flags blurred into a rippling sea of colour as they were waved in the air.

The three battalions currently stationed in Berlin — plus their Colours to be trooped — were on parade. They were 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards, 1st Battalion, The Green Howards, and 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment. All the supporting arms and services of the Berlin Field Force — plus the RAF — were on parade too.

Making up the total number of 1100 troops on parade were massed bands (led by 2nd Parachute Battalion's tiny pony mascot 'Lance-Corporal' Pegasus) and the tanks of B Squadron, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, which fired a 21-gun royal salute.

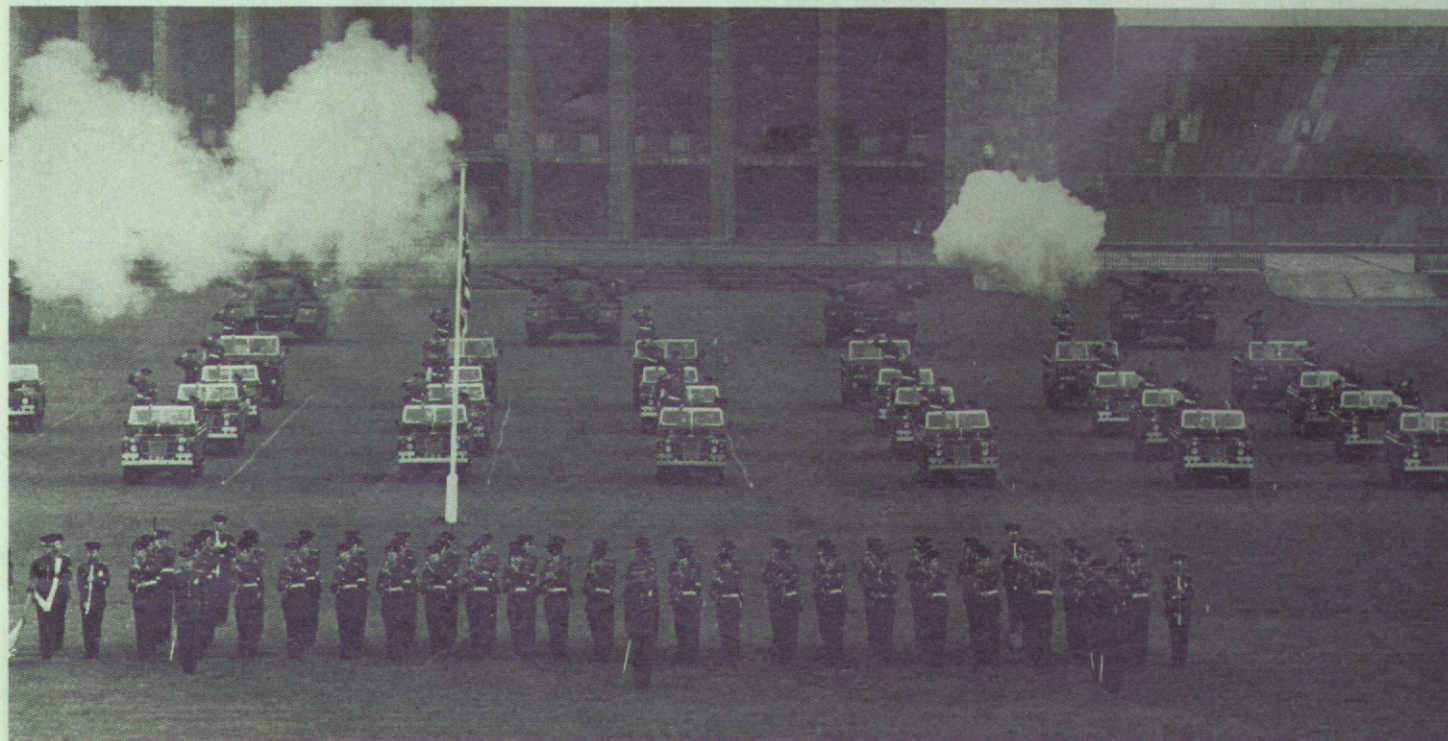
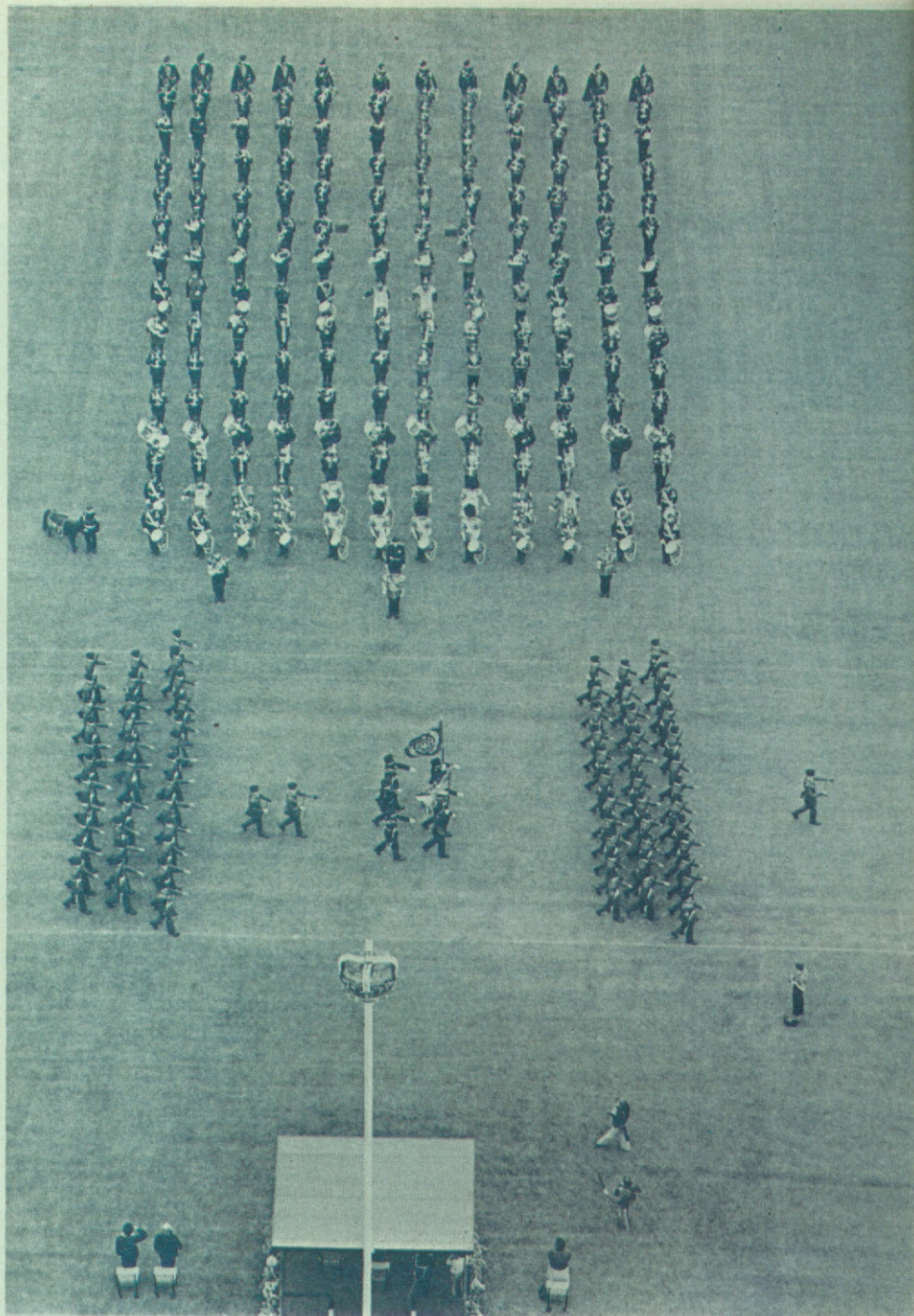
The Army Air Corps was not left out and the Gazelle helicopters of 7 Flight burst over the stadium trailing red, white and blue smoke. The infantry's contribution to the noisome greetings was a feu de joie fired from their rifles, the cracking ripple of sound spreading precisely along the ranks.

The parade advanced in review order and the Queen took the Royal Salute before she left with the traditional three cheers from the troops on parade mingling with tumultuous applause from the stands as she rode off to fulfil other engagements in Berlin during her second visit in 13 years.

Right: Perfect symmetry as the Colours pass by.

Below: One gentleman rises to the occasion.

Bottom: Firing the twenty-one gun salute.



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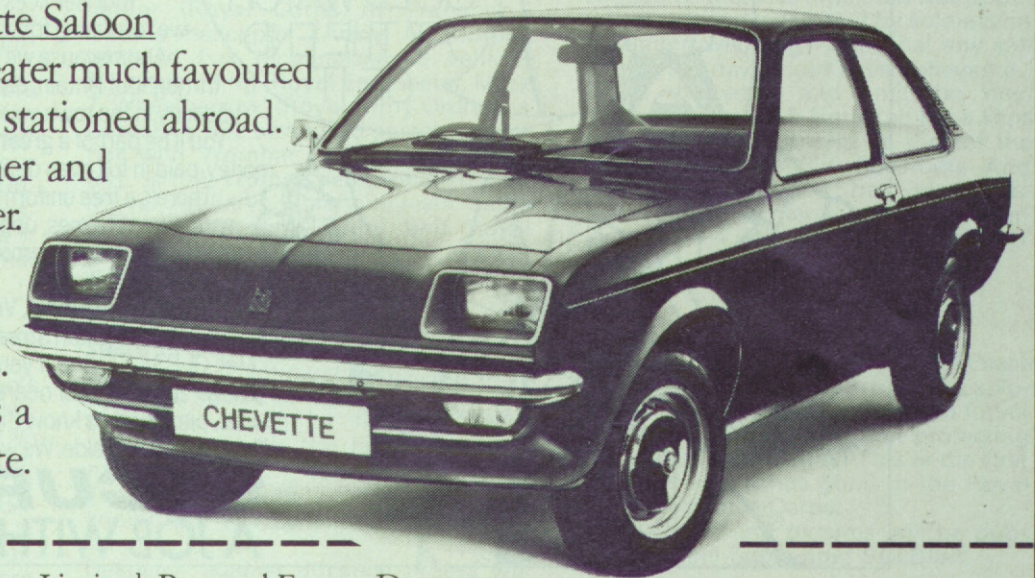
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SOLDIER to Soldier

Next month, SOLDIER's Families Pages will be just two years old. There will be neither a birthday party nor a cake though, if pressed, your Editor might just be persuaded to waive his inborn Yorkshire 'carefulness' and buy Anne Armstrong an orange squash. She has, after all, done well, as Mr Forsyth might — and does — say, as many Army wives will wholeheartedly agree. In her they have found a sympathetic ear for their problems and a willingness on their behalf to tackle officialdom with forthrightness and tenacity.

Threading her way through the labyrinth of today's ever increasing legislation, she has taken up a number of irrational and irksome anomalies and persuaded Government departments to put them right. In each theatre she has so far visited — Northern Ireland, Rhine Army, Cyprus and Berlin — the wives have come up with their particular difficulties, be they excess baggage charges, refrigerators, 'wharfing,' or the overall problems of pay, allowances, housing and benefits.

Leaflets, booklets, addresses and other information have flowed out to Army wives everywhere and many wives and their husbands are taking advantage of Anne's 'housing bureau' which she runs to inform them of surplus quarters coming up for sale.

You, the Army wife reading this, are well aware of the value of the Families Pages — which you've probably turned to first in this issue — but does your next-door neighbour follow Anne Armstrong? Tell her to insist that her husband buys SOLDIER — and brings it home — or persuade her to buy her own copy!

★

At long last Southern Television's Army serial, 'Spearhead,' billed as the Army's answer to 'Warship,' has got under way. It started on 18 July and runs every Tuesday night at 7.30 until 29 August on the full Independent Television network. There is one exception to this. Episode Four, which deals with trouble in Northern Ireland, will not be shown on Ulster Television.

Even before public reaction to this fictitious series, based on soldiers in 6 Platoon, B Company, of 'The Royal Wessex Rangers,' can be gauged, work has already started on a second series, based on the Royal Wessex Rangers' life in Rhine Army. Filming has already taken place in Germany and will continue on Salisbury Plain this month.

And good news for British Forces Broadcasting Service viewers in Rhine Army — the first series will definitely be shown there this autumn although an exact slot had not been decided when this column went to press.

Episodes in the first 'Spearhead' series are: 1 Suspect, 2 Leave, 3 Loyalties, 4 Jackal, 5 Both Ends Against the Middle, 6 Thieves in the Night, 7 Truth Games. Guests at a Press preview of the first

episode included officers and soldiers, and their wives, of 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, which is seen in the series, and In-Pensioners of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea — and they all appeared to enjoy their sampling of 'Spearhead.'

★

Readers are sure to welcome the 1979 Regular Army calendar which, like its predecessors, will be on sale through SOLDIER. The new theme is 'The Power of the Army' and this is brought out through full-colour pictures of today's equipment.

A slightly larger format of 15½ inches wide by 13½ inches deep is dominated each month by a side elevation of the particular equipment, vignettted on a buff background. Above, in each case, are two photographs of the equipment in tactical use and a brief description of it.

The items of 'hardware' featured in the 1979 calendar are: Scimitar tracked reconnaissance vehicle (in service with the Household Cavalry and Royal Armoured Corps), 105mm light gun (Royal Artillery), ramped powered lighter (Royal Corps of Transport), Gazelle helicopter (Army Air Corps), wheeled Fox reconnaissance vehicle, M2 bridging rig (Royal Engineers), Mark 7 'Wheelbarrow' (Royal Army Ordnance Corps), FV 432 armoured personnel carrier with Wombat (mechanised infantry), M107 175mm self-propelled gun (Royal Artillery), Chieftain main battle tank (Household Cavalry and Royal Armoured Corps), 7.62 general-purpose machine-gun (infantry) and the amphibious Stalwart load carrier.

And yes — wait for it — there is some space this time on which to make brief diary entries. Not much space, but write tight and you're all right — or else use the larger space by fixing all your appointments for the last day of the month!

The 1979 calendar's price is not yet known but will be announced in next month's issue.

Despatch against advance orders will start immediately the calendars are received by SOLDIER — this is currently expected to be early October.

★

Not so much the news you missed as the news you never missed — the home of Blanco, an old factory in Sheffield, has, it seems, been sold to a garage. So, you might say, who cares? Possibly descendants of the manufacturers, who supplied 30,000,000 blocks of Blanco to the Services, mainly the Army, in World War Two; possibly some retired sergeant-major of the old school; certainly not today's young soldiers, though they might vaguely have heard of a Blanco which disappeared 20-odd years ago. Perhaps though it is worth recalling the Blanco story for their benefit. It began

way back in 1875. A young Volunteer, John Needham Pickering, suggested to the elders of his family's firm of Joseph Pickering & Sons Ltd, who had been making polishes for 50 years, that they should market a new product to replace the traditional pipeclay for whitening the buckskin equipment the Army then wore.

It took some ten to 15 years for the new-fangled Blanco, a registered trade name, to catch on, but eventually it became the Army's standard cleaner, with other colours added, the main one khaki of course, as the Army went into khaki around 1900. Web equipment followed in 1908 and five years later Blanco was officially approved as the Army's web cleaner. In the early 1900s too there was a boost for Pickering's when white shoes and boots became fashionable street wear, plus a demand from the growing sports of cricket and tennis.

More than once Blanco popped up in Parliament — how much time was spent on Blanco-ing, the Hon Member would ask. Pickering's estimated, incidentally, that those 30,000,000 wartime blocks worked out at only one to two blocks per man per year, which suggested that less time than was popularly supposed was spent by soldiers on blancoing webbing — not that any soldier of the day would have believed it. Down the years and until this day, Joseph Pickering & Sons Ltd have kept their formula as secret as that of the perhaps more popular Coca-Cola. And while their Blanco has long disappeared, the name has been perpetuated — in the Army's 'Blanco' Whites.

★

The Army Wilkinson Sword of Peace has been awarded to 321 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit for its work in Northern Ireland in protecting the civilian community. This is the first time the award has gone to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. A full report and pictures will be published in the September SOLDIER.

★

A hybrid military vehicle destined for desert work caught the eye of photographers at the Press preview of the British Army Equipment Exhibition in Aldershot. An enterprising lensman enlisted two passing soldiers to add realism to his shot of the vehicle. Eager to co-operate, the uniformed pair stepped into the vehicle to pose, only to be greeted by angry shouts from the exhibitor's tent. A less-than-fit-to-fight figure, sporting a Brigade of Guards tie, emerged panting from the tent to exclaim: "Oi, you! Get off that vehicle. We haven't spent hours cleaning it to have soldiers all over it!" One can be forgiven for thinking that the whole object of the exercise was to sell lots of equipment for that very purpose.



The Army's newest battalion



Story: John Walton
Pictures: Doug Pratt

THERE WILL BE more than 40 different cap badges on parade at Warminster this month for the official formation of the first new British Army battalion for many years. The new Infantry Demonstration Battalion, formed to relieve the strain on manpower caused by Northern Ireland and overseas commitments, incorporates men from all the Army's infantry battalions.

The new battalion was announced in February and within days its commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel John Caiger (The Staffordshire Regiment), and the adjutant, Captain James Barry (The Royal Irish Rangers), were hard at work on a plan which would bring together 650 different men from varied backgrounds and weld them into a topnotch infantry battalion.

Knook Camp, a hutted complex just outside Warminster, was chosen for the battalion assembly point and gradually as Spring lengthened into Summer more and more men poured in from all parts of the world. First to arrive were 50 company commanders and senior non-commissioned officers — followed by 200 men as the advance party. Then on 1 June the final 400 soldiers arrived at camp — and training began in earnest for the demonstration role to be taken over from 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment.

Colonel Caiger is full of enthusiasm for the project. He told SOLDIER: "This is the most exciting thing I have ever done in my Army career. The biggest problem is going to be the welding together as one entity but the men have arrived on time with the right

Top left: Lieutenant-Colonel John Caiger of the Staffords, first commanding officer of the unit.

Top centre: Captain James Barry, adjutant and the man who designed the new shoulderflash.

Above: Quartermaster, Major Stuart Chubb, The Royal Scots, holds a wide variety of uniforms.

Left: A gurkha, two Guardsmen, Scottish and Irish infantrymen — just five of the 42 badges.



Left: Families officer Major Derek Rendle gets some of the wives together to discuss problems.
Below: Smart salutes from each of the four home countries as Gurkha officer passes by.

skills and so far it has all gone exactly according to plan.

"One of the most interesting things about this new battalion is that we are all doing a new job for the first time. I have never been a CO before, it's first time for the adjutant and company commanders and it goes on right down through the rank structure. This means we all have to be much more on our toes than ever before and because there are no files we have to solve problems from scratch."

Basically the job of the demonstration battalion is to provide men, equipment and weapons to operate with the School of Infantry on its various courses. It has to have a

good knowledge of all the infantry skills — be they for the Arctic, the jungle, Northern Ireland or Rhine Army. It thus requires more skills at any one time than any other infantry battalion.

Says Colonel Caiger: "Every man has to be a specialist three or four times over. The anti-tank gunner must be capable of firing and maintaining his anti-tank gun, driving a Land-Rover and maintaining and driving an armoured personnel carrier as well as his normal duties as a lance-corporal."

Every single battalion in the infantry is represented — some by only a handful of men and others by as many as 36. The Light Division is providing 159 officers and men

— surpassing any other by about 50 men.

The interesting thing is that there will be no distinctive uniform for the new battalion. All its members will wear their own regimental uniform and cap badges — but with a distinctive shoulder flash designed by Captain Barry. It shows the infantry dagger in a red heptagon on a green background. The five long sides of the heptagon represent home divisions — the two short ones the Brigade of Gurkhas and The Parachute Regiment.

First regimental sergeant major is Warrant Officer 1 Tony Miller of The Queen's Lancashire Regiment. He sees most of the initial problems of welding together such a hotch-potch as physical rather than of personality.

"We've already had cases of private soldiers seeing officers wearing different coloured berets and not realising they are officers," he says. "But I think we can soon get people clicking together."

"I'm a great believer in the system we have now and as a Lancashire man I prefer to work with others from Lancashire. But it's not a big problem and it's my job to overcome it."

"We shall encourage a bit of regimental rivalry but won't let it go too far. If I have to tell a man off I tell him that it's not him I am rollicking but his regiment and if this gets going we won't have a lot of nonsense."

Another thing a brand-new battalion lacks is tradition and customs. But every man who





is available will be allowed to join his own unit for its regimental day if it is practicable.

There were a lot of suggestions when the battalion was first announced that commanding officers might use it as an opportunity to get rid of men who were not up to scratch.

But Colonel Caiger has no worries on that score. He says: "I have been given absolute powers of sending back any soldier I don't like the look of but providing a man arrives with the correct skills we will keep him. We require our share of bad hats otherwise we would not be an ordinary battalion."

"But so far the standard of men that I have got has been very high. Every platoon commander in the battalion has Northern Ireland experience and all except one have got mechanised platoon experience. You won't find another battalion in the British Army with our level of expertise."

Mr Miller is equally confident that they will get a good average spread. "In four or five months' time you will be able to judge the standard of infantry today by what this battalion is like. What we aim to do is to make this an élite posting to which senior non-commissioned officers will want to come."

There is plenty scope for innovation with a new battalion. One idea, which one or two regiments are going to try out, is to send their young soldiers to Warminster while the regiment is in Northern Ireland.

Says Mr Miller: "This will be an opportunity for the lad who is too young to go out to Northern Ireland. Instead of stagnating with the battalion rear party he will be able to come here for four months and do training which runs the gamut of military life and will give him a first-class introduction to weapons and tactics."

Another first for the battalion is the fact that it has two Gurkha officers. This is



Top left: Knook Camp, first battalion home.

Left: Major Rendle meets Gurkha officer's wife.

Below: Morning orders for many-hatted section.



believed to be the first time that a non-Gurkha battalion has had Gurkha officers as part of its permanent establishment.

One of them, Lieutenant Bejoy Moktan, who speaks impeccable Oxford English, confessed he had been having some difficulty in coping with the variety of regional accents, particularly the Scottish and Irish ones — "I just have to tell them to speak more slowly."

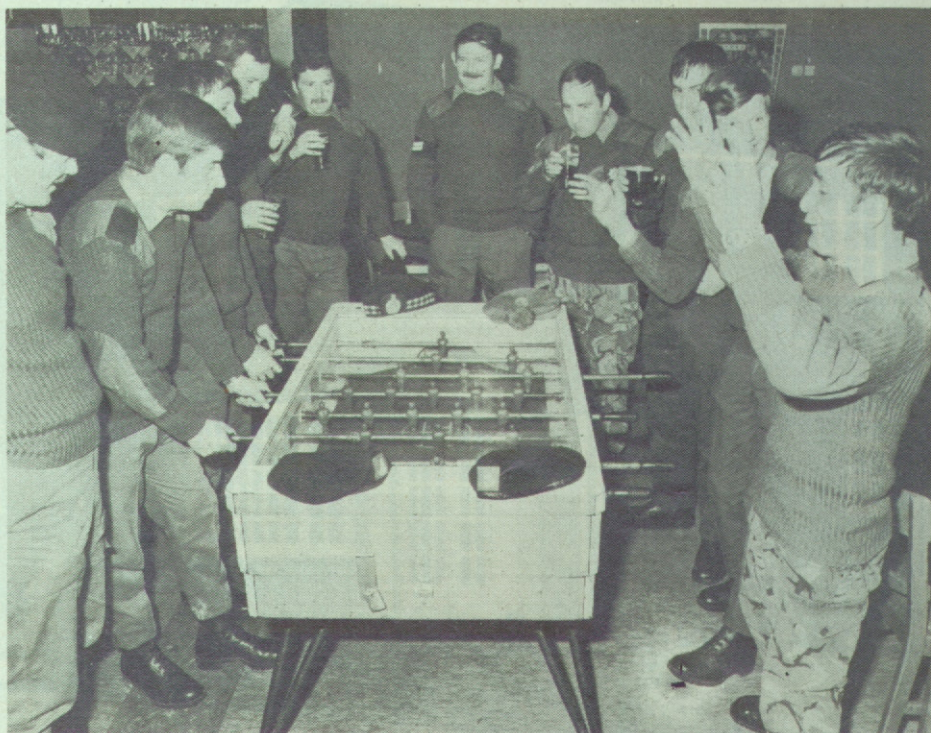
Man with a complicated job is Major Stuart Chubb, The Royal Scots. As quartermaster he has to hold all badges, buttons, embellishments, kilt, trews and so on for the whole of the infantry. "Of course a lot of the stuff is basic to everybody but we have to make out a card for every item down to a badge or a button," he said. "We won't hold huge quantities but there will be a big variety for obvious reasons."

Building up a regimental spirit also applies to families and the families officer, Major Derek Rendle (The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment), and his assistant Corporal Gordon Melrose (The Royal Highland Fusiliers) have the job of creating it among the quarters.

Initially the families moved into quarters in Devizes but when the handover takes place this month they will all be accommodated in Warminster, apart from the Support Company in Netheravon. A weekly families newsletter and regular surgeries will be followed by the creation of a wives' club and committees as soon as possible.

Ranger Patrick Toms is a man who has already seen a wide slice of military life. He served for nine years with The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, three years with the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals and three years with the Ulster Scottish Light Air Defence Regiment (TAVR) before joining The Royal Irish Rangers.

He says of his new battalion: "I think people are mixing better than they do in their own regiments. All ranks are starting from scratch and we are getting on very well together." The newest battalion in the British Army is off the ground.

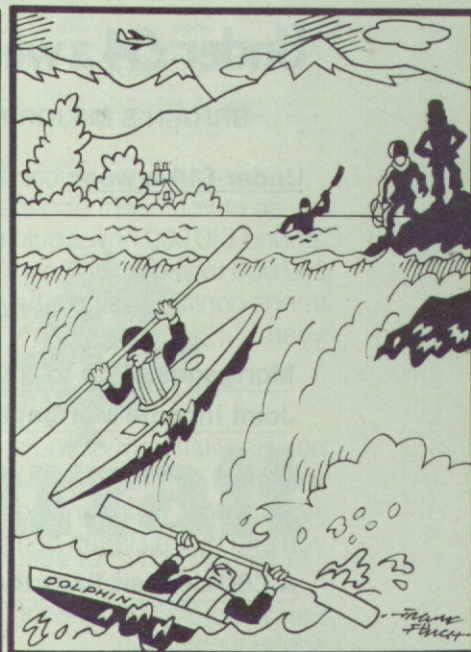
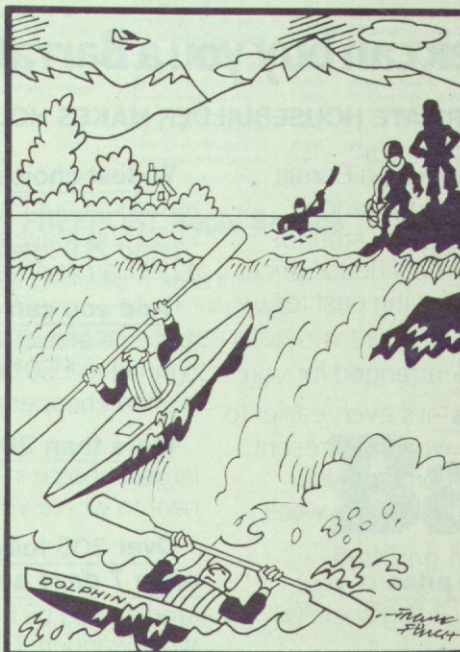


Top right: Sergeant W Clayton on bar check.

Right: Scotland v England table football game.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU

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		<input type="checkbox"/> Scunthorpe—Beck Farm Park 7,625		<input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln—Triton Gdns 8,870		<input type="checkbox"/> Stamford Bridge—	
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Soldier news

'Misfits' slur angers Army homebuilders

Servicemen and their families are bracketed with criminals and the insane in many parts of the United Kingdom in terms of eligibility for council houses.

Letters from aggrieved wives reveal that in some areas Service families are having difficulty getting on — and remaining on — council housing lists. And some are told they can be housed . . . but only under the Housing Homeless Persons Act 1977, which classes them with social misfits.

Detained

Defining 'local connections' with an area where housing is sought, Section 18, paragraph (2), sub-paragraph (a), sub-sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii) of the Act state that residence in an area is not of a person's own choice if he became resident in it as a member of the Regular Armed Forces or 'was detained under the authority of any Act of Parliament' in other words, was in prison or a mental institution.

Advice

The Ministry of Defence's advice to Service families setting up home is to put their names on council lists or save to buy a home of their own. But those choosing council accommodation may not find it so easy — as these wives have discovered:

Mrs L, of BFPO 45, writes: 'In the early part of 1973 we applied for and were put on the Rushmoor (Aldershot) housing list. We sent in our application every six months to confirm that we still wished to remain on the list. This was stamped and returned by the council.

Application

'When in Berlin we sent in our form in November to be stamped. The council kept our application and sent us a letter stating as we were no longer residing in the borough we were now struck off the list. On our return we could re-apply but the four years we had previously been on the list would not count or even be taken into consideration even though — as we explained to them — it was not our fault that we moved out of the borough.

'My husband is due for discharge just after our return from Berlin, which means if we do apply for the housing list again we will have been on it for only about three weeks and stand no chance of getting a council house and would be homeless with two children.'

Joined

Mrs H, of BFPO 107, adds: 'My husband joined the Army at 16 years

of age and is now coming up to the end of 12 years' man's service and we applied to be put on Aberdeen council housing list.

'The housing department cannot promise anything. I do think that local councils should have to house us on leaving the forces, especially in cases where the husband has done the years of service that mine has.'

'Only way'

Another wife from BFPO 107 makes a further point. Mrs S says: 'As my husband is Bournemouth-born and bred we applied to their housing department to go on their list but was told that the only way we could do so was for my husband to leave the Army, work in the Bournemouth area for 12 months and then we would be considered!

'We then applied to North Dorset, where I was born, and were told that because I had not lived in the area for a definite period in the last ten years we had no chance.

Civilian

'Yet my sister — married to a civilian — got on that same housing list without any problems and she was not born there and neither her nor her husband have anything to do in Dorset.

'My husband has been in the Army for 20 years and we have been married for 16. So how could I have lived there in the last ten years?'

So it seems that Service families who strive not to become a burden on the State and who behave as responsible citizens find at the end of their service that they may be housed with the indignity of being considered in the same bracket as criminals and the insane.

A joint circular from the Department of the Environment (Circular 54/75) and Circular 1000/75 from the Welsh Office on housing for ex-servicemen and women has asked local councils (who are completely autonomous in laying down their housing policy) to be sympathetic towards the housing of Service families.

Problems

It also spells out the problems faced by garrison town councils where there is a high concentration of Service families.

Several councils are now using the Housing Homeless Persons Act to justify not accepting Service families or removing them from their lists.

SOLDIER's Anne Armstrong comments:

If you are on a council housing list or are applying to be put on one, ask for a letter to state that should you move away from the area on a posting your name will not be removed from the list.

Confirmation that you wish to stay on the list is also vitally important. This is up to you, for councils take no responsibility for a renewal slip going astray. Don't forget to

notify councils of a change of address too.

I raised the disquieting facts related above with the Ministry of Defence and they had already brought this anomaly to the attention of the department concerned. But as these pages were going to press MoD had not had a reply.

Remember when seeking council housing that the new towns are worth a try and some of the more rigid rules of other councils do not apply.

Les 'samples' sappers' fare



"I wouldn't say this pie's old . . . but the weevils are singing 'Happy Birthday'." But resigned to his fate as usual, lugubrious comic Les Dawson accepts the proffered morsel from a member of 38 Regiment, Royal Engineers, in memory of his own Army days as a trooper in the Queen's Bays, 2nd Dragoon Guards. Les posed for SOLDIER with the lads at Aldershot Army show where he was visiting Major Rob Thomas, a sapper he befriended in Hong Kong. (Watch out for Les's own Army memoirs, in SOLDIER soon.)

Opening a House of Commons debate on the Army, the Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Army, Mr Robert Brown, said he deeply resented suggestions by some members in a previous debate that the British Army was no longer capable of fulfilling its responsibilities. He cited Belize, Bermuda and the firemen's strike as recent examples which proved that this was not so.

Mr Brown said that the Army had now entered the final phase of its restructuring programme and all the basic reorganisation would be finished by 31 March next year.

Turning to TAVR equipment, Mr Brown accepted that in some cases this was older than they would wish. But it remained the basic aim that TAVR units should be given the kit to do the job and this was being carried through. Recently, Blowpipe and the Fox armoured car had been issued to certain TAVR units in advance of many Regular units.

Mr Philip Goodhart (Conservative, Beckenham) complained that the Chieftains which were being sold to Iran were in larger quantities and of better quality than the ones we had ourselves. They had bigger

tions of some of the detachments, the nature of the information which we shared with other countries and the borderline between military and civilian monitoring.

Mr Anthony Kershaw (Conservative, Stroud) said that at one time he had not thought that the Rhine Army restructuring would have seen greater efficiency in the use of troops. Now he agreed that it had but in spite of this it had led to a great deal of overstretch.

He asked how long task force headquarters could function in war. Men could not remain awake for

armour, but to fit this to the Chieftains in service with the British Army would require a complete new shell and turret.

Mr Brown said that this would be extremely expensive and not cost-effective.

On the United Nations contribution, Mr Brown said the British were the largest single element of the UN forces in Cyprus. The Government was providing logistic support from Cyprus to the UN peacekeeping force in the Lebanon in the form of food, basic materials, stores and equipment.

IN PARLIAMENT

Tests and exercises involving the new establishments would continue and adjustments and improvements would be made where necessary.

Mr Brown said it was perfectly true that manpower difficulties had been experienced and that many units had been suffering from 'overstretch.' Much of this stemmed from the demands of Northern Ireland.

"One of the particular difficulties that has been highlighted has been a shortage of men in armoured regiments, with the result that a small number of tanks have had to be temporarily withdrawn from service," he continued. "I must emphasise that this is a peacetime problem only, which arises from the many other tasks which have to be carried out as part of daily life."

Mr Brown said that in the event of an emergency the tanks in question could be made ready for operational use very quickly. And he said that critics of Army equipment had either been inaccurate or ignored a fact of life — that no army could be equipped entirely with perfect, brand-new kit at all times.

The main Army equipment project for the next decade would be the replacement of the Chieftain main battle tank. Studies into this were being given a high priority and in the meantime Chieftain was going through a programme of major improvements. These would enhance the accuracy of its main armament and it was hoped to improve significantly the reliability of the engine.

engines, Chobham armour and a better fire control system. Similarly Clansman was being sold to Iran, Dubai and Nigeria with more advanced fittings than those provided to our own soldiers.

Mr Frank Hooley (Labour, Sheffield Hooley) wanted to know why British troops were not involved in the recent United Nations exercise in Lebanon, since we had UN forces relatively adjacent in Cyprus.

He foresaw an increased role for the Army through the United Nations and said it was necessary that officers and men should receive specific training in the techniques of international peacekeeping. He suggested joint exercises with such countries as Ireland, Canada, India, Finland, Peru and Ghana.

Mr Robin Cook (Labour, Edinburgh Central) referred to the global network of strategic signals communications maintained by all three armed forces. He said about 15,000 servicemen and civilians were involved, a large force of men, particularly in the context of withdrawal of tanks because the Army could not find the men to man them.

Listing some of the places where signals personnel were based, Mr Cook said the Royal Corps of Signals was perhaps the only body which could justifiably boast in its literature of joining the Army to see the world.

Mr Cook said they raised genuine political issues on the scale of finance going into signals, the far-flung loca-

more than four days and nights and he did not think that a system which had no personal reserves could carry on for longer than that.

Citing the gunners, Mr Kershaw said that since restructuring they had twice the number of weapons with 500 fewer men to man them. He said that units must be larger and said the best thing that Ministers could do would be to give each unit about 25 more men.

Mr Jerry Wiggin (Conservative, Weston-super-Mare) a member of the TAVR for 21 years until recently, said that the great weakness of the TAVR lay in the physical problems of getting soldiers from their civilian functions into their battle positions in Germany. "This procedure is being slowed up because of the existence of ancient legislation that allows the call-up of the TAVR only following a Queen's Proclamation," he revealed.

Mr Wiggin suggested a completely new procedure allowing for selective call-up in the first instance so that the whole operation could be started quickly. On United Kingdom defence he said there was now no Regular Army unit west of Salisbury Plain.

He said it was 'extraordinary' in the light of modern developments with paratroops, landing fields, sea-borne assaults and so on that troops could not be disposed in a more orderly fashion around the country.

A Labour advocate of a return to National Service was Mr John Ryman (Blyth), who said it need not be of an entirely military character but of community or welfare service of some kind. It could give useful training and a sense of purpose to many young people leaving school who at the moment had no hope at all of employment.

Mr Geoffrey Johnson-Smith (Conservative, East Grinstead) was anxious about the Army's soft-skinned vehicles of which the Government had admitted 24 per cent were more than ten years old.

Mr Johnson-Smith said it was possible that vehicles that old could still give good service. But he guessed that there was some truth in the feeling that many of them merited the description 'clapped out.' If there was one thing worse than a clapped-out vehicle it was a clapped-out vehicle with no spares. He maintained that because of cut-backs in research and development there were no new vehicle designs coming forward.

Replying to the debate, Mr Brown said the Chieftains sold to Iran were not better than our own — they would be fitted with Chobham

He added: "I should like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and thanks for the work done by our units in Cyprus, and particularly for the way in which they have addressed themselves so swiftly and effectively to the sizeable new task of providing support for the peacekeeping force in the Lebanon."

★

In an adjournment debate on weapon systems standardisation, Mr Patrick Wall (Conservative, Hatteridge) said it was particularly serious that seven Nato nations planned to introduce new major tactical communications systems of six different types in the next few years. None of these systems was interoperable with any other or with the Nato integrated communications system.

He pointed out that while the USSR produced virtually all the military hardware for Warsaw Pact forces, Nato nations were at present operating seven different types of tank, eight different armoured personnel carriers, 31 different anti-tank weapons, 24 families of combat aircraft and 50 or more tactical missile systems.

There were various methods of obtaining standardisation but international competition, favoured by the Americans, was the most dangerous of all because it gave rise to all kinds of national pressures, political decisions and consequential bad feeling.

He said that an American official had told him before the tank competition that unless the British gun proved 20 per cent more effective than the German one it had not got a hope.

Summing up, Mr Wall said collaboration was needed at a much earlier stage, the requirement should be defined by an international organisation and the 'two-way street' between Europe and America needed an accounting system that might later develop into a European procurement agency.

Replying, Dr Gilbert said he agreed with a great deal of what Mr Wall had said. The long-term defence proposals contained a lot of very promising material along the lines mentioned by him.

On a note of caution, Dr Gilbert said that standardisation was not a panacea for all of Nato's difficulties — in certain areas it could be a disadvantage as the Warsaw Pact might have to solve only one technical problem to meet the Nato capability.



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A black and white photograph showing a small, flat-bottomed boat, possibly a landing craft or a supply boat, filled with various pieces of equipment and supplies. The boat is marked with the number '24C' on its side. It is positioned on a body of water, with a large, multi-story building and a bridge visible in the background across the river. The scene appears to be a military or logistical operation in a riverine environment.

As part of restructuring last year, the regiment, based at Hohne, handed in its 52-ton Chieftain tanks and took over the 50mph Scorpion. Built almost of aluminium alloy,

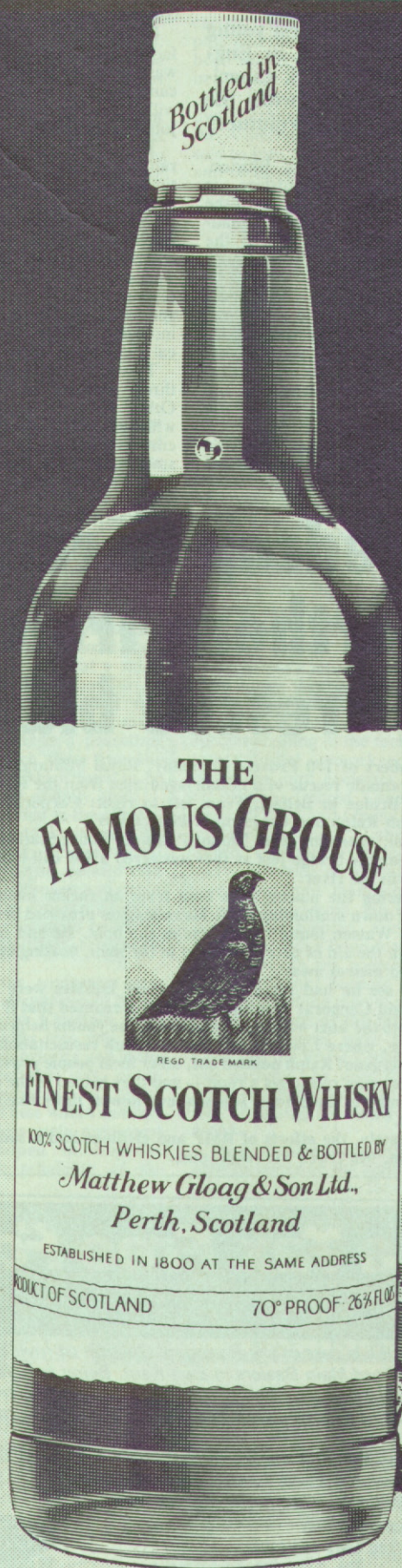
The Dragoon Guards' exercise, codenamed 'Mayfly,' took place round Hannover, in soaking conditions.

Trevor, a former pupil of Blurton High School, is aiming for a job as a

Trevor's programme is the first of three planned by the squadron. Other young unemployed people will benefit from two programmes currently being planned, to take in stores and office work.

Unfortunately, the efforts of RMP and civilians had a sad end when the rescued man, Mr Owen McVeigh, died.

NEWS 3



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Join the McNavy



For the first time the salute at a passing-out parade at the Scottish Infantry Depot has been taken by a serving Royal Navy officer.

He is Commander Ronnie Laughton (pictured), who holds a staff appointment at the Ministry of Defence. The depot commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Mike White, Queen's Own Highlanders, was a student at the Army Staff College, Camberley, when Commander Laughton was on the directing staff. The parade was commanded by Lieutenant John Monteith, The Black Watch, whose father is honorary Colonel of the Regiment — and Commander Laughton's brother-in-law.

The 62 men on parade who have completed their basic 16 weeks' training joined battalions of The Scottish Division.

The rain in Pennsylvania falls mainly on Anglians

For the 116 part-time soldiers from East Anglia who trained in Pennsylvania with the US National Guard their first experience of the United States was rain, rain, and then more rain.

The Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve soldiers from The Royal Anglian Regiment and The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment were given a VIP welcome as they emerged from the aircraft into the pouring rain.

The welcome over, the composite TAVR company was whisked off 20 miles to the National Guard permanent training camp at Fort Indian-town Gap where they spent their two weeks' familiarisation training.

They were issued with American M-16 rifles, the M60 machine-gun and the M-79 grenade launcher.

Under the command of Major Ian Arnold, the East Anglians spent the first four days and nights under active service conditions on field exercises with the National Guard battalion who were their hosts. And every day and night it rained. Weapon pits and bivouacs were flooded and the training area was turned into a muddy morass.

But it was on the ranges that the 'Brits' excelled. Despite using American equipment the visitors took the top seven marksmanship places.

The visit was an exchange with the Pennsylvania National Guard, who last year trained with the TAVR soldiers of 5th and 7th battalions, The Royal Anglian Regiment, at their annual camp at Sennybridge. This year the visiting Americans again trained at Sennybridge but this time their hosts were 6th Battalion.

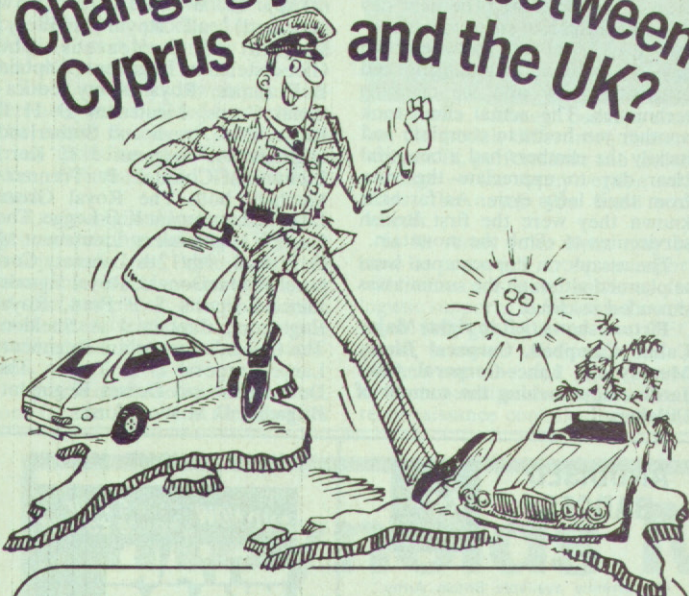
Like father, like WOI



After 41 years in the Army, Warrant Officer Class 1 (RSM) Clifford Marrison 'signs off' and guiding him through the discharge papers is Warrant Officer Class 1 Geoffrey Marrison — his son.

Clifford's discharge at Headquarters Army School of Mechanical Transport, Leconfield, Humberside, was all part of a day's work for his son Geoffrey, also of the Royal Corps of Transport, who is superintending clerk at the HQ.

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Royal Green Fingers



Some were blasting away with a pickaxe, others scraped more sedately with a shovel. The commanding officer, of course, used a silver spade (well, a silver-painted one).

Everybody at Hong Kong's Stanley Fort, from the 'top brass' to the newest recruit, was digging holes and popping trees into them. The 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, was following the Hong Kong Government's call to plant, plant, plant.

The scenic Far East colony encourages its residents to plant trees whenever and wherever possible, and the Green Jackets, now the only battalion of United Kingdom troops based there, did their bit to support the afforestation policy by devoting an entire day to the planting of 500 shrubs and trees of 18 different species.

Pictured left are Rifleman Kevin Fry (left) and Lieutenant-Colonel Garry Johnson.

Twin peaks climbed



The two highest mountains in Central America have been climbed by a team from 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers.

The team, based in Belize, climbed two big extinct Mexican volcanoes — Popocatepetl, just outside Mexico City, and the remote Citlaltepetl, which at 18,800 feet is 4000 feet higher than Mont Blanc. Both of these giants are snow-covered

throughout the year despite Mexico's tropical climate.

Citlaltepetl was the expedition's first and major target. After 36 hours of travelling the first camp was established 8000 feet up in a remote area of Pueblo State. The next day the expedition moved up to a mountain hut 13,700 feet up, where two days were spent acclimatising and practising snow and ice climbing techniques. The actual climb took another ten hours to complete and luckily the climbers had a beautiful clear day to appreciate the view from their lofty eyrie. As far as is known they were the first British servicemen to climb the mountain.

The assault on Popocatepetl went as planned although the summit was shrouded in cloud.

Picture shows (left to right) Major Calum Campbell, Corporal Jimmy Murray and Lance-Corporal Allan Jardine approaching the summit of Citlaltepetl.

Northern Ireland awards

The following awards have been made for service in Northern Ireland between 1 November 1977 and 31 January this year.

Commander of the Order of the British Empire: Brigadier M N S McCord.

Officer of the Order of the British Empire: Lieutenant-Colonel M G Cawse, Royal Artillery.

Member of the Order of the British Empire: Major M B H Ashmore, The Royal Scots; Captain R E H David, Welsh Guards; Major A de CL Leask, Scots Guards; Captain R H Parata, The Black Watch; Captain R W White, The Royal Irish Rangers.

Queen's Gallantry Medal: Corporal A R Haw, The Green Howards; Sergeant S K Rimmer, Royal Marines.

Military Medal: Lance-Corporal R Wilson, Royal Engineers.

Mentioned in Despatches: Major The Hon R N Bethell, Scots Guards; Lieutenant-Colonel M R N Bray, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment; Major I Cameron, Royal Military Police; Lance-Corporal M Coitino, Lance-Corporal M W Crane, both The Parachute Regiment; Corporal P T Cowie, Major P W Snell, both Intelligence Corps; Sergeant R G Davies, Royal Army Veterinary Corps; Staff-Sergeant S Dolman, Staff-Sergeant R H Evans, Captain A J Taylor, all Royal Army Ordnance Corps; Lieutenant-Colonel A G H Harley, Lance-Bombardier S Klebukowski, Major (QM) G W Milburn (now deceased), all Royal Artillery; Sergeant M E Heavens, The Gloucestershire Regiment; Captain B E James, Royal Army Educational Corps, Lieutenant D H P Keate, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders; Sergeant J E Kerr, Lieutenant-Colonel P Trenner-Mitchell, both The Royal Green Jackets; Lieutenant K G Legge, The Gordon Highlanders; Lieutenant M D Linnell, 9th/12th Lancers; Corporal A MacDonald, Royal Signals; Lance-Corporal S P Pratt, Royal Engineers; Captain J A Sheldon, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment; Lance-Corporal D R Taylor, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment; Brigadier D M Woodford.

'Blue jobs' go back to Bassingbourn

Soldiers at Depot The Queen's Division at Bassingbourn were reminded of the station's early days as a war-time bomber base when they were invaded by 'blue jobs' — veterans from the 91st Bomber Group, United States Air Force.

Artillery, jet aircraft, helicopters and troops from all three Services joined forces to present a dramatic battle demonstration during the Bassingbourn Anglo-American Air Festival.

The veterans unveiled a memorial to those who were killed while operating from the station. Appropriately the memorial centred round a propeller from a B-17 Flying Fortress found collecting dust in a store in Khartoum.

Bassingbourn was handed over to the Army in 1969, and is now the home of The Queen's Regiment, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and The Royal Anglian Regiment.

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Trophy for techs in tropical heat

West countryman Sergeant Richard Bird and his small Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers detachment of aircraft technicians sweated nightly in temperatures around the 120s to keep a flight of Army Air Corps helicopters airworthy in Belize.

Hangar doors remained closed to keep out marauding insects from swamplands surrounding the airstrip.

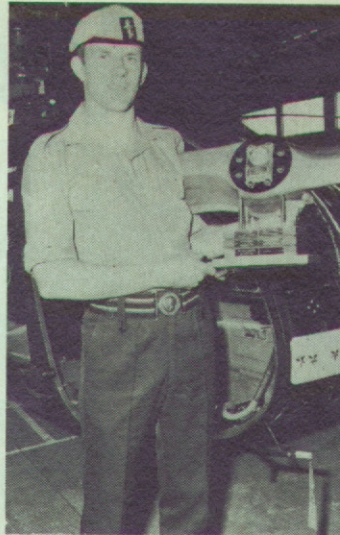
Over a six-month period of intensive flying, three Scout helicopters

clocked up 900 hours, and those safe flying hours were the result of the hard work by Richard and his men.

Now recognition of his 'example and leadership' comes with the award of the Army's top Hutchings Trophy for flight safety.

The citation notes that his 'relaxed but competent approach, his unstinting application to the task in hand, made the greatest contribution possible in making so many safe flying hours available to the pilots in Belize.'

Sergeant Bird is currently serving with 12 Flight, Army Air Corps, at Wildenrath.



SEME saves the day

A national TV appeal for trading stamps and cigarette coupons to buy kidney machines threatened to swamp a charity organisation until volunteers from Bordon stepped in.

The appeal for the British Kidney Patients Association is believed to have raised more than £340,000, and the machines that have been bought as a result have already saved the lives of many kidney patients.

The School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, at Bordon, has been helping with the vast job of sorting the mail. In all, 450 mail bags of trading stamps and cigarette coupons have been sorted by volunteer officers, soldiers and wives, as part of what has appropriately become to be known as Operation Mail Bag.

The secretary of BKPA works in a cottage near Bordon, where a handful of civilian volunteers turn up daily to sort mail. It was from here that the cries for assistance came. Faced with an enormous backlog of unsorted mail that was building up at the TV station in Manchester, the secretary of the BKPA asked SEME to help. Initially, a few volunteer soldiers helped sort mail at the cottage but it was clear that the only way to reduce the backlog significantly would be to organise a number of large-scale sorting operations in the barracks in the evenings. The SEME cinema and gymnasium have both been used as sorting offices, which gives some idea of the size of the operation.

General greets Lynx

At the controls of the British Army's new Lynx multi-role helicopter when it flew over Rheindahlen was General Sir Frank King, Commander-in-Chief British Army of the Rhine and Commander Northern Army Group.

Wearing the light blue beret of the Army Air Corps, of which he is Colonel Commandant, General King joined the Lynx crew for a test flight from the helicopter landing pad outside Rheindahlen Joint Headquarters. The Lynx had been on display.

Commenting on the flight afterwards, General King said like all new generation equipment Lynx was very exciting. It will be replacing the Army's Scout helicopter.

Lynx is a new advanced technology helicopter produced as a joint Anglo-French venture by Westland and Aerospatiale.

Two hundred and twenty helicopters have been ordered for service in the armed forces of seven countries, including the United Kingdom, Denmark, and The Netherlands.

A twin-engined high performance general-purpose helicopter, Lynx is exceptionally fast, agile and manoeuvrable. It has a semi-rigid rotor of steel and plastic. Plastic has been used extensively, with the engine and hydraulics of modular construction.

Lynx is available in two versions, one for the Army and the other for



naval roles. Although basically similar, the models differ in equipment, weapon fit, performance and undercarriage — the Army version with skids, the naval type fitted with wheels.

In its Army roles Lynx may be used as a tactical troop transport with seats for nine soldiers; for logistic support; as an armed escort fitted with gun pods or two GEC pintle mounted mini guns or a 20mm cannon; for search and rescue; casualty evacuation; as a reconnaissance command post, and

as an anti-tank helicopter, fitted with the new Tow missile.

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Legions back at Lunt



Flanked by pseudo-Roman soldiers at the official opening of part of a Roman fort which had been reconstructed by his men, Colonel Peter Morrison, Commander Engineer Resources, Long Marston, couldn't resist a

classical opening to his speech — "Friends, Romans and countrymen . . ."

Colonel Morrison was at Lunt Fort, Baginton, near Coventry Airport, where last autumn his sappers had rebuilt a gyrus or horse training arena on the site of a Roman fort in use around 2000 years ago (see SOLDIER December 1977).

He said that the British nation today was the result of work by those who had come to this country over the years from foreign lands. The excellence and durability of Roman engineering had lasted in many cases until the present time and it was a privilege and pleasure for the sappers to have helped in the reconstruction.

After the opening, Colonel Morrison presented a standard on behalf of the City of Coventry to the Ermine Street Guard, members of a Gloucestershire-based society dedicated to research into the Roman Imperial Army and the reconstruction of Roman armour and equipment.

The mock Romans then paraded in the gyrus and demonstrated a reconstructed Roman catapult — firing wooden arrows into a target. The Lunt Fort is now open to the public for the summer.

RCT take cake

A special envoy flew from Germany on a special mission to Northern Ireland — and he really took the cake!

First, 15 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, celebrated its centenary at Scarborough Barracks, Osnabrück, with a family party complete with an impressive birthday cake. Pieces were given out to all members of the squadron at Osnabrück.

Then, two days later, when the officer commanding, Major Bruce Watson, flew to Northern Ireland, he took 49 pieces of cake for his soldiers serving there. He also took a video recording of the Osnabrück festivities — just to show the Northern Ireland troop what they'd missed, according to some cynics.

The squadron was originally formed as 15 Company, Army Service Corps.

Boys' bonanza



Army apprentices who raised more than £1500 to help a disabled children's home had a chance to see how their money was to be spent when they visited the centre. The lads, of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps Apprentices' College, have raised nearly £5000 in three years for the White Lodge centre. Picture shows the centre's administrator, Mrs Carol Myer, receiving the £1500 cheque from Apprentice Sean Hetherington.

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Yes, there are still some copies left of SOLDIER's special edition showing The Queen with her Army throughout Jubilee Year. If you would like this stiff-covered souvenir crammed with colour and black-and-white pictures, just send 65 pence (to include postage and packing) to SOLDIER, (RS2), Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

As an Army ship bows in...



The second of two specially built landing craft logistic has been commissioned into service. With due ceremony Her Majesty's Army Vessel Arakan became the second ship in six months to be commissioned into the Army (her sister-ship HMAV Ardennes was commissioned last December).

Both ships were built and launched by Brooke Marine at Lowestoft and replace ancient land-

ing craft tank (LCTs) which were built in 1944 for operations against the Japanese towards the end of World War Two.

The two new LCLs are part of the fleet operated by The Maritime Detachment, Royal Corps of Transport, in Gosport.

Arakan is 237 feet long and can carry 350 tons of cargo as containers or battle tanks. Despite her 1500 tons weight, her manoeuvrability and shallow draught mean she can be used in little water and can load or discharge on open beaches through her bow doors.

With a range of 4000 miles the

vessel has a worldwide capability but she will operate mainly in the Outer Hebrides in support of the Royal Artillery ranges there and for carrying general cargoes.

Arakan's first skipper is Major David Nicholas who commands a crew of 35 aboard — all Army personnel. Major Nicholas's sword was used to cut the celebration commissioning cake aboard. The cutting was done by Mrs Majorie Todd, wife of Colonel Kenneth Todd, Commander 3 Transport Group at Marchwood, and the youngest soldier on board, Driver James Driver-Williams (19).

...an RN one bows out



One of the Royal Navy's oldest ships, and floating home to thousands of troops in Belfast, has finally gone to the breakers.

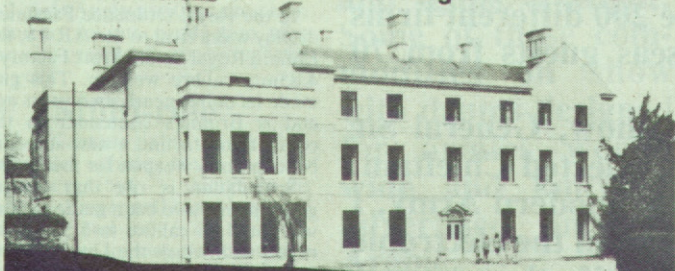
She is the 10,000-ton submarine depot ship HMS Maidstone. Built by John Brown at Clydebank, she was commissioned into the RN in 1938.

Maidstone was converted between 1958 and 1962 for nuclear submarine support. From 1969 she was home to troops in Belfast until being towed to Rosyth naval base, for de-stocking.

The ship has now been towed to a breaker's yard in Inverkeithing, Fife.

Morcott Hall

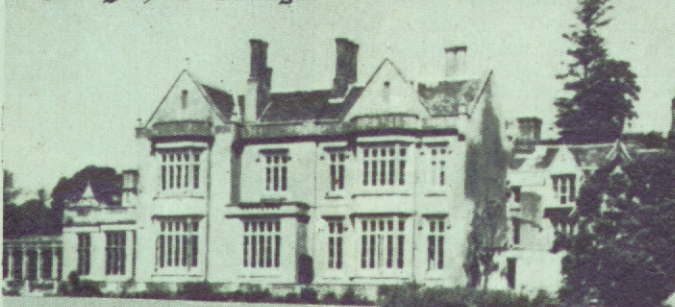
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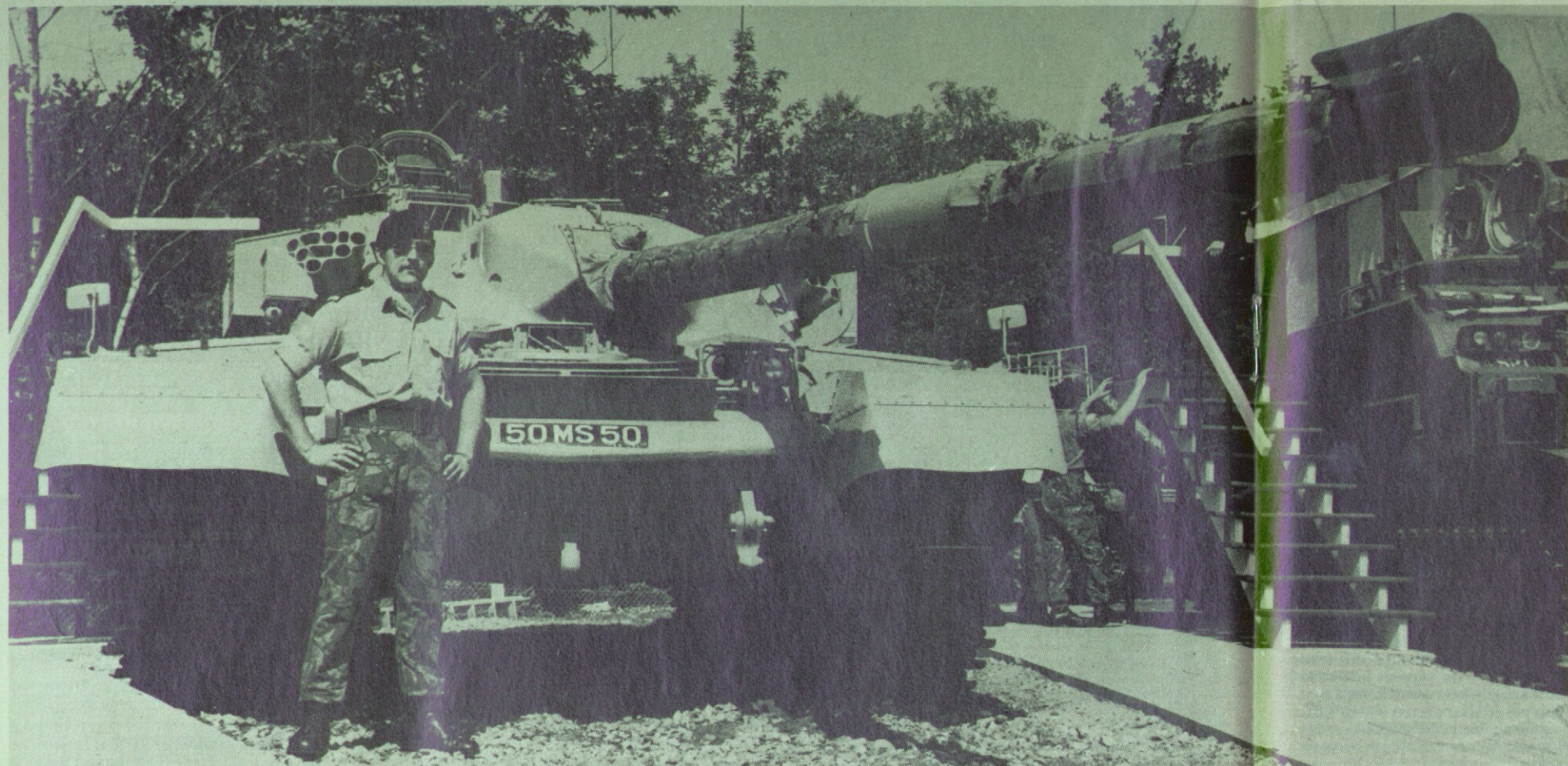
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Chieftain—'virility symbol of Army'

The Chieftain tank was singled out as the star of the British Army Equipment Exhibition at Aldershot where some 200 different firms showed off their military wares to 400 overseas guests from 70 countries.

Asked to identify the star attraction of the show, General Sir Hugh Beach, Master-General of the Ordnance, selected Chieftain. He said: "That is the great virility symbol of the modern Army, I suppose." He added that 'four or five' other items in the electronic field were also world-beaters but declined to identify them.

Candidates for his choice could have included Marconi's Morcos mortar fire prediction calculator on show at BAEE for the first time. The Morcos mortar computing system has been designed to be simple and robust and capable of 'memorising' ten mortar positions, fifty targets, ten observers and ten positions of own troops. Plug-in memory units can be replaced in seconds to produce a new set of calculations.

Another electronic breakthrough — also from Marconi — was the Triffid ultra high frequency radio relay equipment designed to operate with the British Army's Ptarmigan tactical communications network. Triffid's manufacturer's boast is that it is simple to set up, operate and maintain and can be installed in a wide range of vehicles.

Arabic

Every conceivable corner of the quartermaster's stores was represented at the show. As General Beach said: "There's everything from regimental knitwear and drums to tanks and guns." One of the knitwear firms was typical of many exhibitors in having Arabic translations of their literature prominent on their stands. In one case a representative made no apology for

the fact that he could offer no English language brochures — only Arabic. "That's where the money is nowadays," he said with the satisfaction of a successful exporter.

Praised

Tanks and guns were there in profusion too — including the highly praised Chieftain. And as if there were not as wide a selection of the real thing to tempt overseas buyers, inflatable imitations were there too. These took the form of Russian T62 and T72 tanks which are inflated and used for recognition purposes. The manufacturers, Airborne Industries, explained that their success story began at El Alamein with Monty where their inflatables were used as decoys to confuse Rommel's Afrika Korps. Apart

from their military models — including an inflatable hangar for Harrier jump-jets — Airborne Industries are proud of their cultural connection, having produced a blow-up Moby Dick for the film about the great white whale.

Essential

Small arms were an essential feature of BAEE and Sterling, which makes the sub-machine-gun in service with the British Army, had on show its AR-18 and AR-18S combat rifles, being up-dated versions of the Armalite produced on licence from the American Armalite company.

Improved

The AR-18 has a folding stock and an improved gas-operated action for chambering the 5.56mm rounds from the 20-cartridge magazine. The AR-18S is a stubby version of the AR-18 with a second handgrip mounted forward of the magazine and a barrel 10½ inches long as opposed to the 18½ inches of its big brother.

Rival

In the Royal Ordnance Factories' display was a rival to the AR-18, the Enfield Royal Small Arms Factory's 4.85mm calibre weapon. This gun made its debut nearly two years ago and is Britain's contender in the competition to find a new standard Nato infantry weapon for the 1980s.

Speculation is rife that contingency plans have been made to convert the 4.85 calibre to 5.56 — the round with which the United States is amply stocked, to say the least — but official confirmation was not forthcoming at BAEE.

One of the more interesting new vehicles previewed at the show was the Laird (Anglesey) Centaur which is due to go into production next year with prototypes appearing later this year.

Multi-role

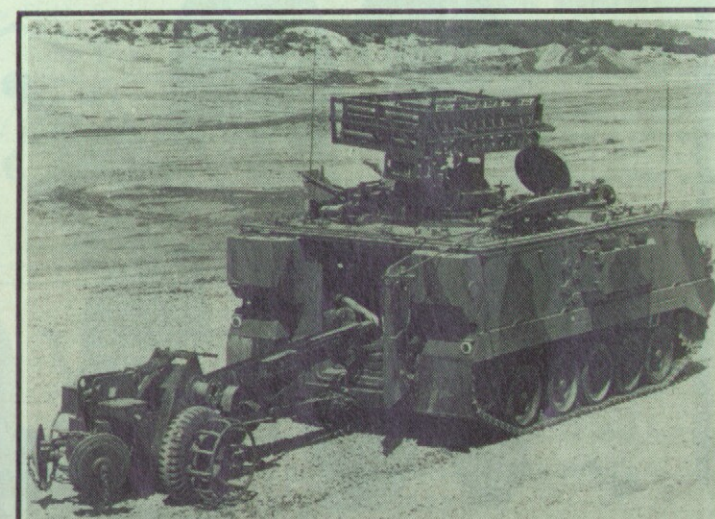
The Centaur is a half-tracked multi-role vehicle based on the Land-Rover but — thanks to its tracks — longer and capable of carrying a load of 6.25 tons. A business-like looking vehicle with a multiplicity of configurations for field use, the Centaur will be something to watch on trials.



General Sir Hugh Beach: "There's everything from regimental knitwear and drums to tanks and guns." Right: Some of those commodities on show with drums designed for armies worldwide and knitwear advertised only in Arabic.



...And an inflatable Russian T62 tank—not quite as virile?



...Then crabbers spiked the guns

Crab fisherman temporarily silenced the Army's big guns with their sail-in protest offshore during what was to have been a firepower demonstration at Bovington on the Dorset coast, but wheeled and tracked vehicles were still put through their paces. Here an FV 432 armoured personnel carrier is seen towing a bar mine layer and carrying the Ranger anti-personnel mine launcher.

Pied Sapper calls the tune

The story of the Pied Piper of Hamelin is more than 600 years old and well known to children all over the world. For many years it has been presented in the form of a play each Sunday morning on the steps of the Hochzeitshaus in the picturesque old town on the banks of the Weser, and has become an attraction for many visitors and tourists.

But recently, for a very special reason, there were two plays — the traditional one in German, and an English version presented by members of the British community.

The reason? In 1977 the Royal Engineers were given the Freedom

of Hamelin in recognition of the strong links which have been forged between the townspeople and the many sapper units based there since the end of World War Two.

So on this, the first anniversary of the granting of the Freedom, the

Royal Engineers once again marched through the town.

Then came the Garrison's version of the play, by Robert Browning, one of the few occasions on which it has been performed in English in its original setting. It was followed immediately by the German version and both presentations were received appreciatively by the large Anglo-German audience.

Major James Johnson, commanding 65 Corps Support Squadron, Royal Engineers, portrayed the

Pied Piper in the garrison play and made his own colourful costume. "It was great fun," he said, "and everyone enjoyed it, especially the children. But I don't think I'd like to do it too often."

Herr Siegfried Sacher, who has been Hamelin's resident Pied Piper for 18 years, was full of praise for the garrison play. "It was first class," he said, "and will help to maintain the links between our two peoples. I hope it is decided to present it every year in the future."

Harvey's a hit

A record first released in 1972 and which sold 30,000 copies — mostly by word of mouth through the British Army — has been re-released 'by popular demand.' The number, by talented singer-songwriter Harvey Andrews, is entitled 'Soldier' and tells the story of a soldier on duty in Northern Ireland who sacrifices himself when a bomb threatens a crowd of innocent people.

Harvey told SOLDIER: "Every time I have done a concert for troops — be it in Cyprus, Belize or Germany — the audience have called out for 'Soldier.' Its success has been remarkable when you consider that it has never been played by the BBC or other major radio stations. It has been sold by word of mouth between soldiers."

Harvey Andrews appears regularly in Combined Services Entertainment shows developing almost a Vera Lynn relationship with the Army!



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Army takes the wraps off its latest vehicle radar

The Army has lifted the secrecy veil on a new vehicle radar set in service for the past year and designed to pinpoint the exact location of snipers. At Chelsea Barracks a four-man team from the Scots Guards demonstrated Claribel — a British invention which seems destined for big overseas sales.

Three of the soldiers sat in a Land-Rover fitted with the device while a fourth took potshots at a wooden board fitted to the front of the vehicle — using an air rifle. The radar dutifully recorded the angle of the shots and showed it even when the vehicle took evasive action.

The advantages are obvious. Said Lance-Sergeant Alec MacDonald: "Before we had this we were snookered. We jumped out of the vehicle and never knew where the snipers were — now we can do something about it without waiting for further shots."

Claribel records any bullet fired at the vehicle — even a miss. Said Dan Hume, marketing manager for Microwave and Electronic Systems: "If a shot isn't registered then the sniper isn't aiming at you."

The device was developed in only two years as a joint project by MESL and Ministry of Defence scientists. Said project leader Mr John Holcroft: "It has been thoroughly tested. We have fired tens of thousands of rounds at it during trials."

It can be fitted to any vehicle large enough to take the full battery operated kit — Land Rovers, 'Pigs,' Saracens, three-tonners and so on. And while it is particularly useful in an urban situation such as Belfast or Derry it is not entirely useless in rural area ambushes where vehicle engine noise hampers the soldiers' traditional 'crack and thump' detection methods.

Claribel can also track missiles but has been programmed to ignore stones or bricks. It can be used by day or night and is not affected by either weather or background noise.

Claribel, official name GS20 Hostile Fire Indicator, will be marketed abroad with the backing of the Defence Sales organisation — to Ministry approved customers only.



Imjin parade

For what may be the last time, 45 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, marched on to the square of Haig Barracks, Hohné, to commemorate the Battle of Imjin.

As part of 29 Independent Infantry Brigade Group, the regiment played a major role in halting the Chinese offensive at the Imjin

River. For three days and nights, 45 Field Regiment, supporting the brigade group, fought and eventually broke the main Chinese assault to advance to Seoul, capital of South Korea.

Now, because there is only one battery left from the Imjin battle — 170 (Imjin) Field Battery — and because Hohné is not suitable for the drive-past of heavy vehicles, the annual formal remembrance of the battle may well be phased out.

Surprise award for printer Nigel

Lance-Corporal Nigel Lawn, a Royal Signals clerk serving with 1st Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment, has been presented with the British Printing Society's Overseas Award for 1977.

Nigel was not aware of the award when he was 'requested' to present himself, with his family, in his commanding officer's office.

Any fears he may have had were soon allayed when the commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel P R Davies, announced the award and quoted from the citation. In his letter the President of the British Printing Society, Mr Derek Fordred, said, 'The award is in recognition of Lance-Corporal Lawn's considerable skill in letterpress printing both professionally and as a member of our Society. He has kept the banner flying for the British Printing Society among the British Forces overseas.'

The public announcement of the award was made during the Society's annual convention at the University of Sussex, Brighton, last month.

In addition to being a master craftsman within the society, Corporal Lawson also holds a number of certificates of proficiency awarded by the German printing industry.

Boost for m/cycle mileage allowance

Motorcyclists have had a boost to their public transport rate and residence to place of duty rate for motor mileage allowance.

The new rise means machines of 150cc or less attract a rate of 2.7 pence a mile, 151cc to 245cc a rate of 3.5 pence and 246cc to 500cc a rate of 4.5 pence.

These allowances came into effect on 2 July.

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Many think themselves lucky to be posted to Berlin and indeed it is a special posting. One hundred miles inside East Germany, it has a 'Wall' and wide bare strip of no-man's land which reminds you that you can't just go to and fro at will. There are fresh flowers and shrines to those who died attempting to escape to the West. Should you leave Berlin through the corridor to West Germany, either by car or train, you must stay inside your vehicle and your papers must be in order — or else!

For some of the British families who may spend from two to five years there it gives a depressing and claustrophobic feeling. Just the plain fact that freedom is curtailed, and that the noise of revving Russian tanks can be heard just a stone's throw away, reminds families why they are in Berlin and of the importance of the jobs their husbands do.

But this is only part of it. Families in Berlin enjoy living at a standard which I believe every soldier should have. To have a meal out, to make an occasional visit to the cinema or theatre, to afford to take out an insurance policy, to have one's friends in for a meal, to be able to buy a car or furniture — to me this is not luxury but a standard that every soldier should be able to enjoy regardless of where he is stationed.

So, in Berlin, pay was not the burning issue; more the anomalies of the DHSS system and unemployment for teenagers and no supplementary benefits; the excess baggage charges and the cost of taking one's car to Berlin.

Then there are the problems encountered over getting children's belongings to Berlin. All teenagers have to go to boarding school — not by choice but because there is no comprehensive school there at present. (One is due to open at Gatow next year). Leisure facilities are numerous and the choice wide and varied, including West Berlin's museums, art galleries, shopping centres or an outing to the city's famous zoo. Less than half Berlin is built-up; the rest is open space; of farmland, forests and inland waterways. You can't go home to relations at weekends so your leisure pursuits must be found in the city. As a result, everyone gets together to run and organise a wide variety of sports, clubs and outings. Despite the continual turnover of servicemen and their families, volunteers continue to come forward — and long may it last.

Service families make the most of each posting. One couple I talked to on their flight home said: "Only yesterday — our last day after three years in Berlin — we found some places that we had not been to before." They added: "Most things are there, they won't come to you — you must make the effort."

Among the families there is a sense of well-being; you need only read the Services newspaper Berlin Bulletin, or one of the regimental news sheets to see how the families cope. Goodwill, voluntary involvement, ideas and above all esprit de corps show that the Service families are making the most of yet another posting.



ALL IN THE FAMILY

WITH

ANNE ARMSTRONG

Forces fed by FRIS

Housekeeping in Berlin is synonymous with FRIS, the families ration issue scheme, that keeps the forces fed — more specifically, 8000 people, 36 Army dogs and two horses.

Food is ordered on FRIS forms and delivered in FRIS bins, so FRIS is a byword for wives in Berlin.

Families came to Berlin after World War Two and the method of supplying food to them was found to be unsatisfactory. Then came the blockade and after this it was decreed that the British sector should always maintain a 90-day stock of food to avoid a repetition of the siege privations. Out of all this grew FRIS, managed by the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

Under the watchful eye of Major Harold Washington, anything up to 35 tons of food can arrive daily at the depot. Each consignment of fresh fruit and vegetables from Common Market countries, frozen meat from the United Kingdom, not to mention all the dry and tinned goods, is rigorously checked. "We are supplied through agents," said Major Washington. "Every delivery has to be Grade 1. If not, it's rejected. The troops and families know they are getting excellent quality. If anyone complains, the complaint is investigated immediately but we have very few, particularly when you think of the numbers we cater for."

Walking round the huge warehouse is a trek in itself. There are ten enormous cold stores for the butchery department, then the bakery turning out 2000 loaves and 6000 rolls for FRIS three nights a week. Stock piles of tinned and dry

goods, and a potato bagging machine, plus a laboratory for taking random samples for testing, take up even more space.

Alongside are the despatching bays where teams of wives make up the families orders from their shopping lists. Prices are fixed twice yearly and each family has a cash entitlement for each member per day. Deliveries to homes are made every Monday, Wednesday and Friday using a fleet of vans which

deliver the FRIS bins on some 28 different routes all over the British sector.

The work provided is a boon to Service families. "These jobs are much sought after, as jobs are becoming more difficult to find for wives and dependants, especially teenagers, for economic crisis has hit Berlin too. So there is often a waiting list for this work," said Major Washington.

As for the customers, they have a choice of 85 items from which they can order at extremely competitive prices, although their local overseas allowance is adjusted to take this into account.

Below: FRIS bins are packed for delivery to families.



Youth work on shoestring

Dennis Griffiths is the newly appointed youth officer in Berlin — one man relying on voluntary help to cater for the 1600 or so dependent youths living with their parents in the divided city. A sharp contrast with the American sector's Dependent Youth Association with its full-time director and 16 permanent instructors.

Although there is a mass exodus of British youngsters from Berlin to boarding schools at home or in Rhine Army — the Americans have no boarding system — the number of British teenagers in the city will rise dramatically in 1979 with the opening of the new comprehensive school at Gatow.

Dennis Griffiths has no local authority grants to rely on and no national youth organisation to lend a hand.

His assistance comes entirely from voluntary helpers whose willing hands are often tied by inevitable postings and military com-

mitments. There are hopes that a youth tutor will be appointed when the Gatow school opens.

So it is amazing just what is achieved even now. Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies thrive and their programmes do not lack scope or initiative because of the strictures imposed by isolation in Berlin.

Out-of-school activities abound — this year, 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, sponsored a summer camp for the youngsters. There are sports of every kind for the outdoor types. But for those who seek a youth club atmosphere it is not nearly as easy. For each club

has to find a clubroom, equipment and staff.

The Americans, in their sector, do not share this problem as they look forward to their huge new youth complex due to be finished soon.

The Dependent Youth Association is a massive organisation set up to cater for United States children of servicemen wherever they are serving at home or abroad. So there is the advantage of central funding, given that the DYA is recognised worldwide by all concerned.

For some seven years I have been trying to form an Army youth association (the British Forces Youth Service Germany caters only for Germany). Such an organisation could command the recognition enjoyed by the DYA which would enable so much more to be done — and paid for. At present, so many Service youngsters miss out.

Berlin—city of contrasts

Berlin's Brooke Barracks' overlooking Spandau Prison, is a contrast for its residents; the families of 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, who have lived for years in Aldershot.

But once they settled in to their strange new environment, most families found no shortage of things to do. One wife said: "We even have ten-pin bowling matches against the American wives. But I think the biggest contrast with Aldershot is in the wealth of museums.

Another wife explained about the shopping: "What a difference from Aldershot. It's like comparing chalk with cheese." The famous Kurfurstendamm — one of three main boulevards in Berlin comparing with London's West End — is more for sightseeing than shopping with prices so high.

Then there is the Europa Centre shopping precinct with escalators, mirrored ceilings and even an ice rink in the middle to cool off after a spending spree.

One of the biggest stores in Berlin is the Kaufhaus des Westens — Ka De We (pronounced car-day-vay) for short. It is worth a visit just to see the wide range of stock available. The store boasts you can buy anything you want there and after looking round you can believe it.

The WRVS run fascinating tours of East Berlin to see how the other half lives and travel in West Berlin is very cheap and easy on the U Bahn (underground) or commercially linked bus routes.

Mrs Lorraine Neilson said: "There's never a dull moment for there are many outings and events organised by the families for the families. Some take the opportunity

to visit places like Bremerhaven, Frankfurt, Strasbourg and Braunschweig via the allied trains. These trips are good as they get you out of Berlin for a time."

More isolated than Brooke Barracks is Montgomery Barracks, the home of 1st Battalion, The Green Howards. Their camp and families' estate is set among woods and fields bounded on one side by the infamous Berlin Wall with a Russian tank park sited just the other side of it.

So families do really feel they're at the 'sharp end' as they hear the tanks revving up close by.

Much of the family life revolves around the community centre — converted rooms in a barrack block. Here enterprising wives have created — among other things — a coffee shop and a flourishing library of 700 books with a special children's section.

For the more energetic there are sports, including a popular soccer match against the local police.

The motto of the wives' club is variety. A mystery evening tour of Berlin and a visit to East Berlin's famous Opera House followed by an evening meal were just two ventures. Said one wife: "We are full of ideas and activities. We have to be as we are not near the centre of things out here."

By September this year the families, youth club and playgroup will be uprooting and starting all over again . . . in Northern Ireland.



Above: 2 Para wives' bingo. Below: Green Howards' soccer.



Edinburgh House caters for all

Edinburgh House Hotel is just a few yards away from Summit House, the Berlin home of Naafi and the British Forces Broadcasting Service. It overlooks the flame of peace in busy Theodor-Heuss Platz in the heart of the divided city. Since 1962 this 100-bed non-profit making hotel has welcomed thousands of servicemen and women and their families.

Major Peter Bridgeland, a widely travelled ex-East Surrey Regiment officer, runs the hotel with a friendly ease. He explained to me the hotel's role: "First we are nothing to do with Naafi; a popular misconception. Our main job is to look after those who come to Berlin on duty; official visitors, and those who are in transit. But whenever possible we fill up with people who want to spend their leave in Berlin. Families often come up from the Zone (West Germany). It's a very popular trip for wives whose husbands are on emergency tours in Northern Ireland. Also in August we shall be at the disposal of The Green Howards when their families will move in so that the incoming regiment taking over from them can move straight into their quarters."

There is no need to worry about making yourself understood for half the staff are wives and dependants of servicemen. So with all the usual amenities of a top-class hotel, including bars, TV, restaurants, children's playground and baby-sitting service, Edinburgh House is ideal for families.

The reception staff have a fund of

knowledge, not only about the military side of life but on West Berlin as a whole. In this friendly hotel your stay should be very pleasant. Pictured below: One of the restaurants.



Refund's golden rules

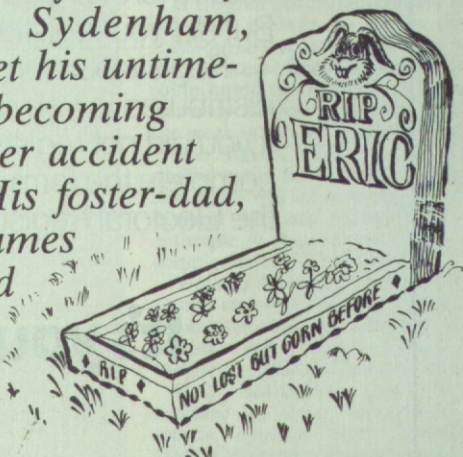
The rules qualifying Service house buyers for a refund of expenses associated with the purchase rely on two main points. First, the transaction must be a direct result of a posting and, second, no suitable married quarter must be left unoccupied following the house purchase concerned.

The reason for the rules is that the refund is meant to compensate only for an expense incurred for military, not personal reasons. In this respect the Army is acting in the same way as a civilian employer by reimbursing employees for expenses incurred on behalf of the company.

Other rules apply to the Service house buyers' refund of expenses but the two above give rise to most misunderstanding.

Any soldier contemplating buying a house is strongly advised to consult his pay staff before doing so.

Eric the airborne bunny is no more (see SOLDIER June 1977). The then-mascot of the Army Air Corps, based at Sydenham, Belfast, met his untimely end by becoming 'just another accident statistic.' His foster-dad, Captain James Wood, told me the sad news.



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You will also be sure of your vote wherever you may be living. But did you register last year?

Registration forms will be distributed to you during August. If you did not register last year, complete the form and send it to the Electoral Registration Officer

for the area in which you wish to register as soon as possible. It must be signed and dated by 10th October (15th September for Northern Ireland Constituencies) if your name is to be included on next year's register.

You should receive your registration forms by the beginning of September. If you do not, they can be obtained from Service Units or, in case of difficulty, from your local Electoral Registration Officer.

It's your vote  don't lose it!

Issued by the Home Office.

Rain slows top men

Appalling weather conditions dogged the Army individual athletic championships and, despite the presence of nearly a dozen international athletes, performances were not as good as might have been expected.

In the senior events the only record to be broken was clipped by a tenth of a second by one of these internationals when Corporal Walcott Taylor, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, bettered his own 47.5 second Army record run in the 400 metres last year by .1 of a second.

Taylor also won the 200 metres but in almost a second slower than Corporal Steve Hall's record set last year. Hall and middle-distance international star Lieutenant Glen Grant were disappointingly absentees from this year's entries.

Hall's other speciality — the 100 metres — went to Signalman Benjamin (2 Armoured Division HQ and Signal Regiment) in 11.1 seconds, four-tenths of a second adrift of Hall's record but understandably so in the wind and rain of Aldershot Stadium. (The start of a 100 metres heat is pictured below.)

Double honours went to another signalman, M Edwards (11 Signal Regiment), who won the 800 metres (1 minute 57.3 seconds) and the 1500 metres (3:54.4). But it is perhaps a measure not only of the conditions but of the strength of the

absent Grant that his record times for these events two years ago lopped nine and 14 seconds respectively off this year's winning times.

Sapper Pickford (Royal Engineers) took the 5000 metres title in 15:08.8 and, in a surprise 3000 metres steeplechase cross-country, champion and Welsh international Warrant Officer 2 'Taffy' Davies (7 Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery) was beaten into second place by Staff-Sergeant E C Turner (AAC Chesham). Their times were 9:09.2 for the winner with the

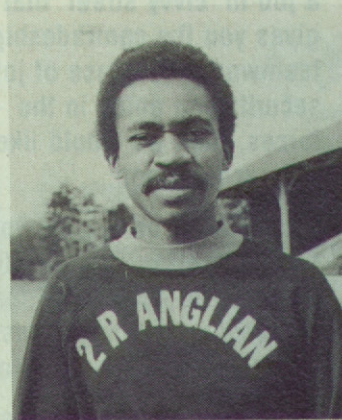
runner-up 6.4 seconds behind him.

In this event no-one seems able to reach the elusive 8:47.8 record set some 14 years ago — the second longest standing Army record on the books.

Lance-Corporal M Morgan (1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment) retained his 110 metres hurdles title, just .2 of a second slower than his 14.9 seconds record set last year, and in the 400 metres hurdles Taylor triumphed again for his hat-trick of events this year.

Taylor also repeated a win last year in the event. But he was still denied the record, the Army's longest standing one at present, of 53.1 seconds recorded over 440 yards back in 1963. Taylor's run this year was 2.2 seconds longer.

There was a double in the field events for Staff-Sergeant E M Ricketts (REME Wing RSA) who won the shot (15.13 metres) and the discus (38.88). But the bad weather hampered performances in all field



Walcott Taylor — hat-trick

events. High jump: Spr J W McKeown (RE) 1.85. Long jump: Spr A Rose (RE) 7.08. Triple jump: L/Cpl D Hemphill (1 IG) 13.53. Pole vault: S/Sgt P R Cribb (REME) 4.00. Javelin: Pte C Clover (1 R Anglian) 76.70. Hammer: Cpl K Bodger (1 R Anglian) 49.46.

The 100, 200 and 400 metres races for women all went to Lieutenant A Carter (160 Provost Company RMP) and the first two in record times (12.3 and 25.2). She took the third title in 63.5.

A third record in the 800 metres was smashed by Lance-Corporal Samms (AAC Centre) in 2:28.3. Corporal A M Patterson (Army School of Transport) won the 100 metres hurdles in 16.5 seconds.

The high jump and long jump titles both went to Lance-Corporal B M Lewis (COD Donnington) with 1.52 metres and 5.28 metres respectively. The shot was won by Captain E D Elliott (WRAC) 13.82, the discus by Private K Turnbull (12 Company WRAC) 27.98 and the javelin by Sergeant B Clewlow (ACIO Blackheath) 37.28.

Redcaps on march

Entries are flowing in for the Royal Military Police and City of Chichester international march, codenamed 'Exercise Redcap 101,' to be held on 6 August.

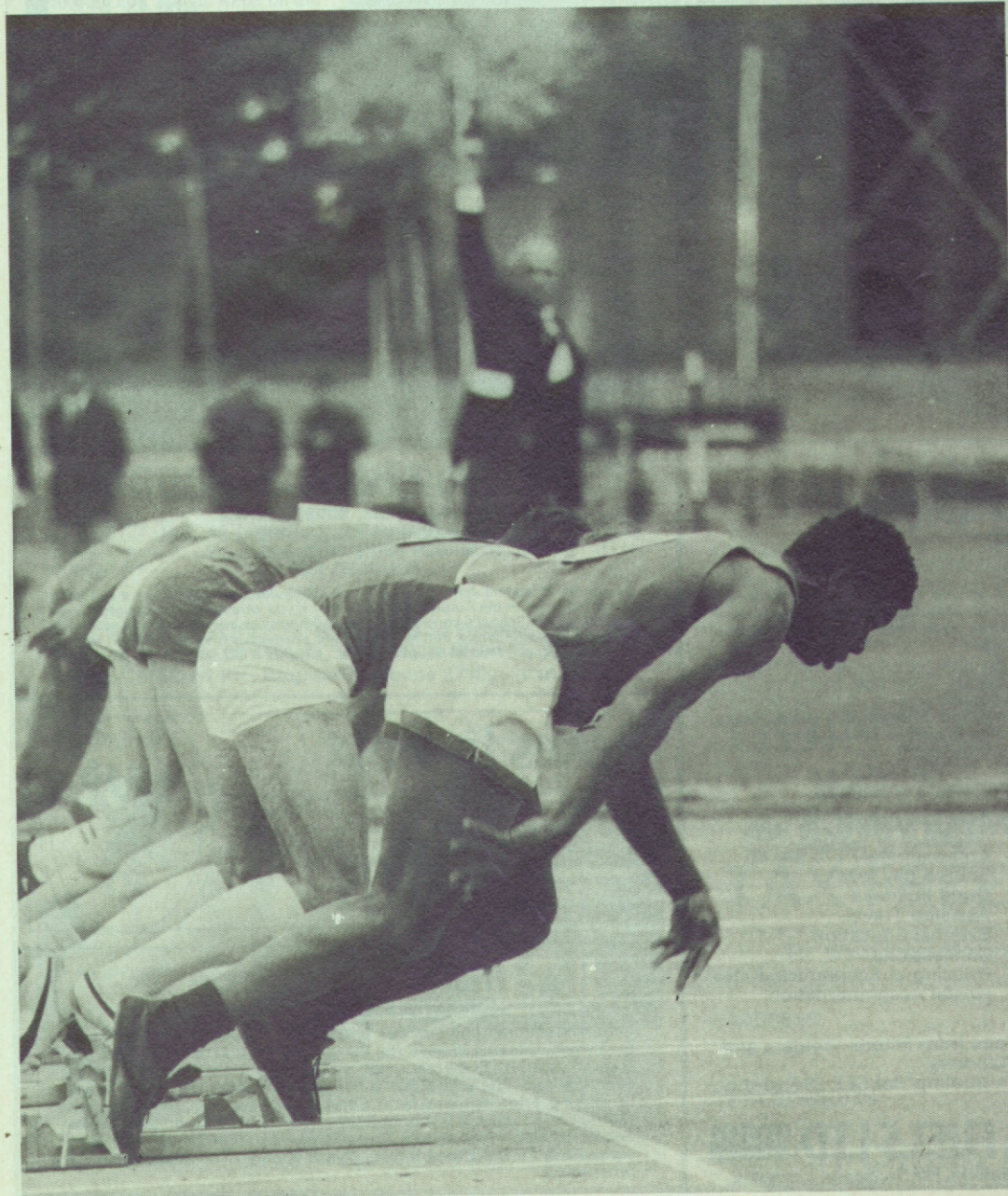
The march is a successor to the successful event organised to mark the RMP's centenary last year and is held in the countryside north of Chichester, taking in the slopes of the South Downs and footpaths and bridle-ways through the Goodwood Estate and Forestry Commission land.

A Belgian gendarmerie team taking part intends to march from Eastbourne for practice. They will use the scenic South Downs Way, a route noted to rambling clubs, as a warm-up before competing later in the week in the 40-kilometre event.

The RAOC EFI, Naafi's Territorial unit, have entered a team and Naafi will be manning a march reunion bar and providing a discotheque in the evening which will complement civic celebrations.

Walkers have the choice of four routes covering 10, 20, 30 and 40 kilometres and all entrants completing their chosen circuit will receive a medal marked accordingly.

Any individual (Service or civilian) or team can enter the march. Details from: Secretary, RMP Chichester March, Roussillon Barracks, Chichester, West Sussex.



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Sunshine slalom for canoeists

For the third year running near perfect weather graced the Army's slalom canoe championships at Llandyssul in South Wales although low water in the Teifi river led to a certain amount of rock scraping and spills (see picture below).

Some 120 competitors took part and the novice event was particularly well attended with some 60 competing. The event was won by Apprentice Tradesman M A Smith of the Army Apprentices College Arborfield with A/Tsmn Dobson of AAC Harrogate second.

Only five canoes took part in the C1 event which was won by Sergeant-Instructor Jamieson, from RMA Sandhurst, with SI Haigh second. A mere four turned out for the veterans' event, won by Captain Peter Cruise.

Another Arborfield apprentice took the intermediate prize against opposition from more than 40 other competitors. Second to A/Tsmn Lance-Corporal C W Smith was Haigh. South East District won the inter-district event and, in effect, the team was the Arborfield boys again.

Jamieson and Haigh were in the winners' frame again for the C2 race but the cavalry came through to take the open trophy in the form of Trooper Thompson of 16th/5th Lancers. Fellow-Lancer Captain Crawford was second.

'Pop'-eye the sailor



Netley Sailing Club gave a champagne welcome to its 500th member after an intensive recruiting drive had boosted membership to nearly double the previous total in just over two months.

The club's Commodore, Major-General Mike Callan (pictured right), presented the lively bottle of bubbly to Mr Geoff Green of Winchester to mark not only the club's achievement in reaching its target figure so soon in the season but also to congratulate him on managing to get on to the membership list.

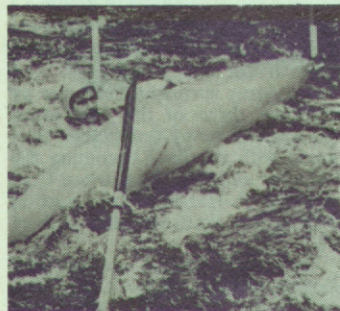
Popularity

For now the figure of 500 members has been reached it has been decided to close the membership for fear of flooding the club's resources and reducing its undoubted popularity.

Closed

But the membership list is closed only to civilians — who form roughly a third of the total. Servicemen will still be able to join the club and the club took their absorption into account when fixing the figure of 500 as a maximum general list total.

Any Army sailor still wishing to join should contact the Secretary, Netley Sailing Club, Netley Abbey, Southampton, Hants.



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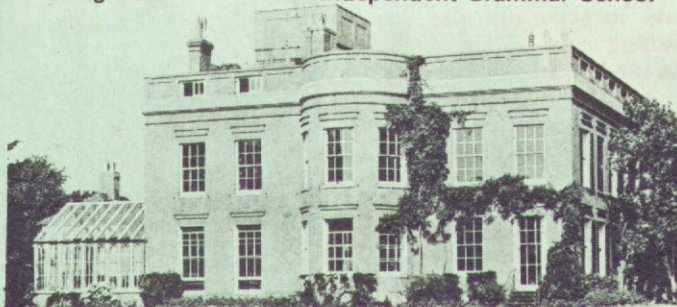
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Judo's Mapp strikes gold

What is being hailed as one of the most successful seasons of Army judo was capped by the winning of a gold medal in the British open championships:

Mighty 18-stone Corporal Arthur Mapp struck gold by defeating E Carnegie of London in the over-95kg event. Experts report that Arthur is fast becoming the star of the British team and he is carving out a reputation for himself as being popular with competitors and spectators alike.

Dynamic

His judo is dynamic and his ability to move with the speed and grace of a lightweight belies his bulky frame. He is thought to be one of the best British prospects for a medal in the Moscow Olympics.

An Army team of judo experts also won a bronze medal in the inter-area team championships. A good result in this contest has been sought for many years and much hard work by many people has ultimately brought its reward. It also means that the team starts next year's competition with the all-

important advantage of being seeded.

Successful

Writing in the Army Judo Association newsletter, Tatami News, editor Warrant Officer 2 D Lyon says: 'I think it is safe to say that this has been one of the most successful seasons in the history of the Army Judo Association, certainly in terms of medals won.'

Thanks

'My sincere thanks and appreci-

ation to Staff-Sergeant Instructor Johnston of the Army Physical Training Corps, the Army and Combined Services coach, for the effort and enthusiasm he has put into his work which made it all possible.'

Ping
pong
Pongos

Army table tennis was given a supercharged boost by its players' domination of the inter-Service championships.

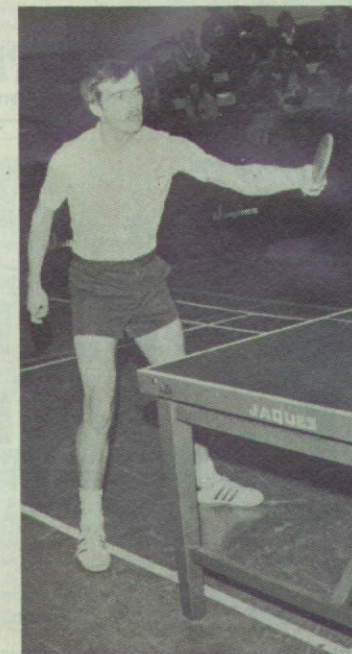
For the first time the Army captured the two premier titles — the men's and ladies' singles. These events have been almost the personal property of the RAF or Royal Navy in the past. And the Army has now become the first Service to win both trophies simultaneously.

Fifty competitors entered the men's singles tournament. As expected the competition was very keen with all three Services fielding their current champions.

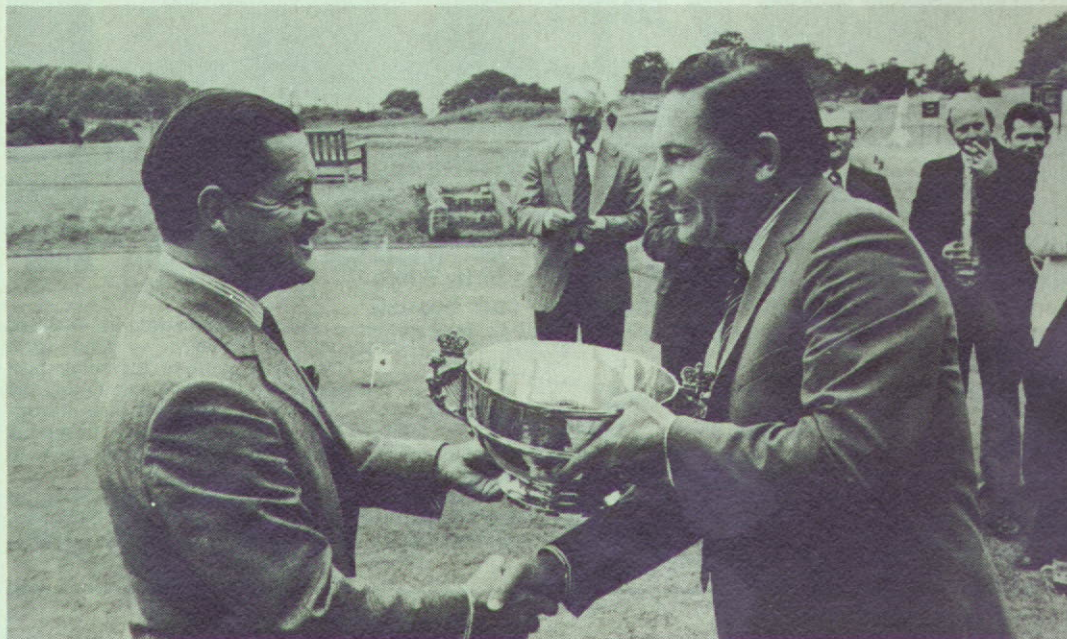
The Army surprised everyone by providing three of the four semi-finalists and Army dominance continued with the final becoming the first-ever all-Army final when Corporal K P Harrison (pictured in action) beat Staff-Sergeant Alther-ton.

The ladies singles contest saw Women's Royal Army Corps Private Armstrong making her debut — and what a debut it turned out to be. She fought her way through to meet the defending champion, Wren Langridge, in the final.

Both met later — this time on the same side of the net — to win the ladies' doubles title.



Signals win through



The Royal Signals have won the Army Golf Association's inter-corps competition after some closely contested rounds.

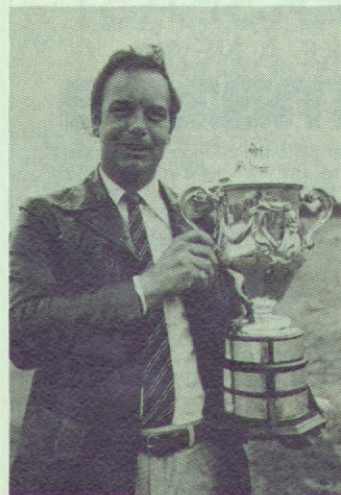
The road to the Royal Irish Rangers' Trophy started easily enough for the Signals with a bye against the Royal Armoured Corps who scratched from the contest. Round two was easy enough too with a 34-0 whitewash of the Royal Corps of Transport.

But the semi-final brought stiffer opposition in a closely contested match against the Royal Army Ordnance Corps whose team included Corporal Ian Gray (pictured below) who is this year's Army Golf Society's Challenge Cup holder.

The Signals went ahead towards the end of the match and emerged 6-2 winners which belied the evenly matched play in earlier stages.

In the final there was another good battle, this time with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, up until the final holes. After two matches, REME were 2-1 up but Sergeant Chris Carveth and Warrant Officer 1 Reg Simpson each won the last hole to finish four up. The final score was a convincing 9-2 to the Signals.

Individual results: Maj Dick Carroll (pictured above receiving from General Bob Lyon (left) the Irish Rangers Trophy) beat WO1 Ken Smith by one hole, WO1 Len Yates lost to Capt Matt Sullivan by two holes, Carveth beat Maj Bob Spiller by four holes and Simpson beat WO1 Bob Lamb by four holes.



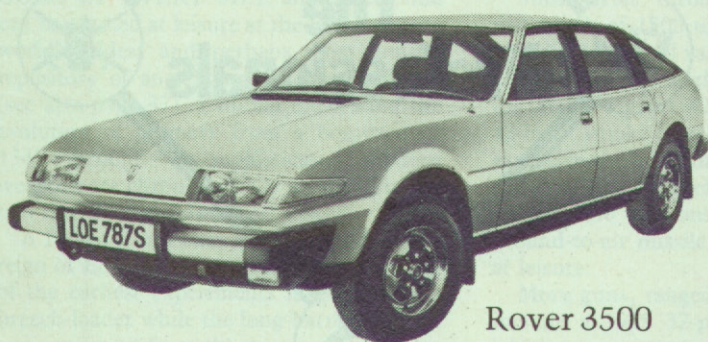
Lasers to cut a dash

A joint Services single-handed sailing championship is being staged by the Army for the first time this year and incorporates the Army Sailing Association's single-handed event.

The large fleet of Laser dinghies expected to enter will gather at Netley Sailing Club — which is hosting the event — on 7 and 8 October for the five-race contest out of which four races will count towards the championship.

Any single-handed sailor who still has not entered should contact Lieutenant-Colonel Roger Grannum, RAPC Computer Centre, Worthy Down, Winchester, Hants, SO2 2RG.

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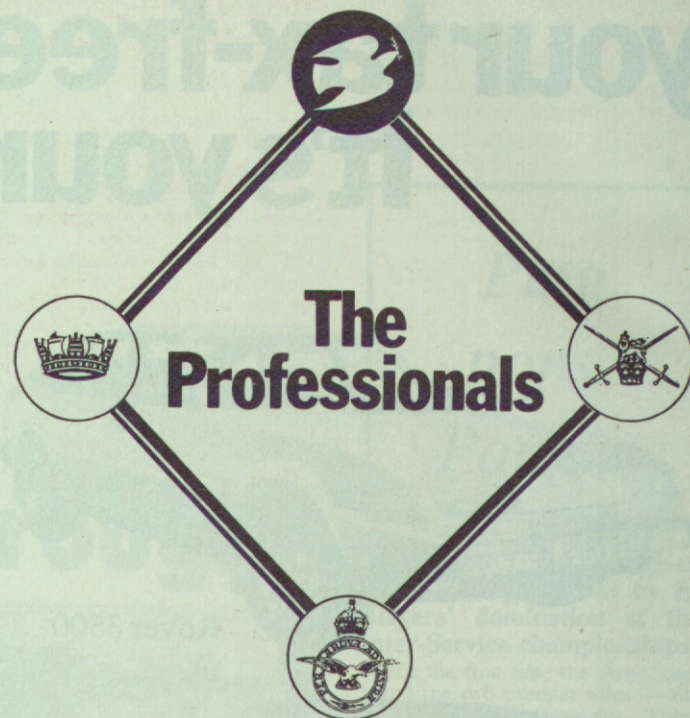
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GUNS OF EVERY SIZE and description can be studied at leisure at the Rotunda, the world's oldest and perhaps most famous repository of ancient and modern artillery (see also page 37). Exhibits illustrating the evolution of gunnery from a bombard of 1346 through to sophisticated modern weapons are chronologically arranged in the tent-like display room.

A forged iron Peterara dating back to the reign of Edward IV is shown as an example of the earliest experiments in producing a breech-loader while the long-barrelled naval gun recovered from the wreck of the 'Mary Rose,' which went down off Spithead in 1545, illustrates a later breech-loader.

Moving on to the era of casting (1450-1850), which includes the appearance of the howitzer, two brass cannon catch the eye — a 5½-inch howitzer presented by George III to the Emperor of China in 1792 and captured during the China War of 1860 and a nine-pounder bearing the letter 'M' for Charles, Duke of Marlborough. Guns used in the Civil War and at Waterloo are in this section and impossible to miss is an ornate Indian cannon on its original carriage captured at Moodkee in 1845.

The introduction of rifled ordnance marked an important stage in the history of the gun and in 1871 the nine-pounder rifled muzzle-loader was issued to the Royal Horse and Field Artillery. Known as the cap-badge gun, it was used as a model for the Royal Artillery cap badge and now has an honoured place in the museum.

The beginning of the 19th century saw the introduction of rocketry by Lieutenant-General Sir William Congreve and the Rotunda has several examples from the early organ-pipe rockets to the fearsome, long-range monsters of modern times.

Among the many historic guns are the 2.5-inch RML mountain gun made famous in Kipling's 'The Screw Gun,' a 5-inch howitzer, constructed in workshops at Mafeking and named the Wolf Gun after Baden-Powell, then a lieutenant-colonel, who was nicknamed 'The Wolf,' and, of course, the 13-pounder Nery Gun of L Battery RHA which gained undying fame at the battle of Nery in 1914 after remaining in action until its last round was fired. Three Victoria Crosses were awarded to the battery for this action.

Among a host of other guns attracting attention are a James II brass minion on a galloper carriage, a George I Royal Mortar, a portable infantry gun used by the Austrians in World War One, a French 31-barrelled mitrailleuse of 1870, a 75mm pack-howitzer used at Arnhem and two-, six- and 25-pounder anti-tank guns.

Small arms through the ages from a matchlock of 1500 to present-day rifles are well displayed and various types of ammunition such as the mighty 36-inch shell made for Mallet's giant 42-ton mortar (1857), a 13-inch smoke shell, shrapnel and high explosive shells (to mention but a few) have a section to themselves. Modern artillery vehicles and weapons like the Thunderbird ground-to-air missile can also be inspected at leisure.

More guns, ranged outside the museum, include a 1945 32-pounder anti-tank gun which never came into service, an American 155mm gun, a 7.2-inch howitzer which fired the Victory in Europe salute at Larkhill in May 1945, and a German canister thrower made of wood and bound with wire.

An annexe houses a variety of exhibits from Stone Age battle axes and chain mail suits of armour to relics of the Zulu War, an umbrella belonging to the Duke of Wellington, a coffee pot stamped with the imperial monogram and used by Napoleon, the emperor's travelling oven and a collection of 22 models forming an artillery train, including pontoons and ammunition caissons, presented to the Iron Duke by the Czar of Russia. Here too is a German section containing a variety of items like a trench periscope, a sniper's body shield and a ten-barrelled Dan Heuser, forerunner of the machine-gun.

For the gunner or anyone interested in the international history of military guns this is a museum par excellence. **John Jesse**

Curator: Mr S C Walter
Address: The Rotunda Museum of Artillery
Repository Road
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Telephone: 01-854 2424 ext 385
Open: 1 April to 31 October, Monday to Friday 1000 to 1245 and 1400 to 1700; Saturday 1000 to 1200 and 1400 to 1700; Sunday 1400 to 1700. Between 1 November and 31 March the museum closes at 1600
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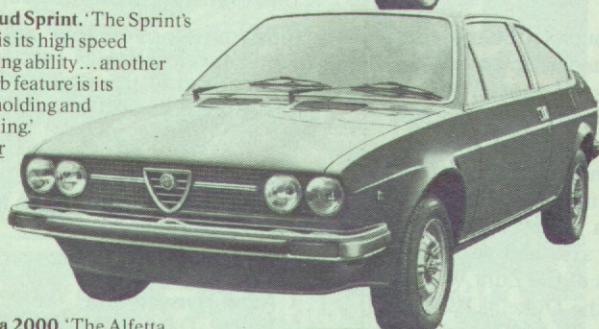
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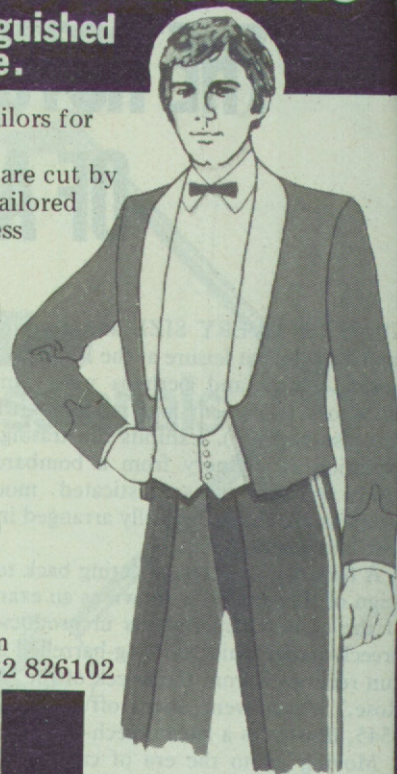
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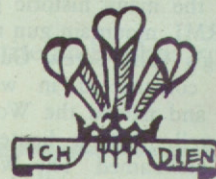


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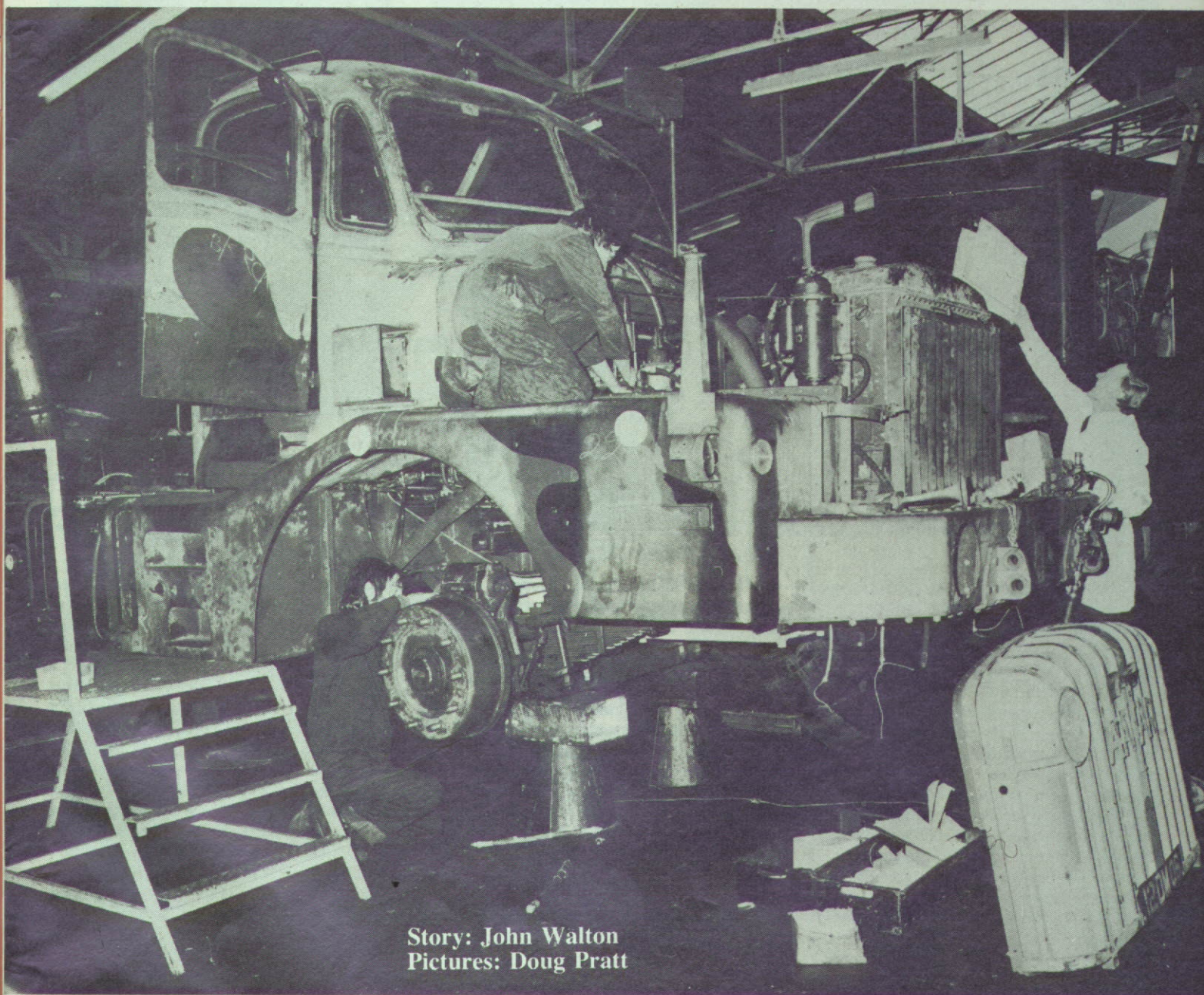
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KOP KISS OF LIFE FOR ANTARS



Story: John Walton
Pictures: Doug Pratt

IN THE HEART of 'Z Cars' country just outside Liverpool, Rhine Army's fleet of mighty Antar tank transporters is being given a facelift — designed to give them another five years of life and in some respects to improve on the performance and facilities they offered when new a couple of decades ago.

The Antar refurbishing operation, lasting three years and involving every one of the mammoth vehicles in turn, is being carried out by experts — Fazakerley Engineering, the last central workshop of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers to be run by a private company under contract.

Fazakerley Engineering played a big part in 'Operation Bracelet,' the Northern Ireland 'Pig' up-armouring project back in

1973. Although REME took over old camps and did a lot of the work with Army labour, all the up-armoured Humber vehicles passed through Fazakerley's workshops for visor modifications and mechanical improvements.

But the firm's links with the Army go back much further than that. It was in 1938 in Manchester that Williams Motor Company Ltd was asked to carry out repairs to Government vehicles and by 1941 there was a regular contract with the Ministry of Supply. The company operated a wartime school for REME trainees — the physical training instructor during that time was Frank Swift, the legendary England goal-keeper who died in the Manchester United air disaster.

In 1947 the company was offered the chance of a central workshop on the site of the old RAF Fazakerley and, as Mr Vincent Williams, executive chairman of Williams Motor Company (Holdings) Ltd, recalls: "I came here, saw the potential and said we would take it on." Since that time Fazakerley Engineering has always operated in the same way. The land, the buildings and the capital equipment are owned by the Ministry of Defence but Fazakerley Engineering is a privately registered firm which employs its own labour and manages its own affairs.

All its work is carried out for the Government and it is the last survivor of more than 20 workshops operated by private companies in this fashion during and after World War Two.



Left: The refurbishment at Fazakerley complete, the Antars begin the long trip back to BAOR.

Above: Even changing a tyre has to be done by special equipment when they are of Antar size.

Technical director Mr Jim Horrocks considers that having experienced workers who have been employed there for many years is a great advantage. Beginning as an apprentice in the mid-1930s, he has spent his life with Williams and there are many others who have been with the firm since its move to Fazakerley. "This gives us a wealth of experience in so many types of vehicles," he says. "And we have developed certain specialist types of equipment unique both in REME and the commercial field."

This contractor-client relationship means that Fazakerley Engineering can argue when it considers that work requested by the Ministry is incorrect or inadequate.

Mr Horrocks has strong feelings about driver comforts, which he feels are often neglected by the Services. In the Antar project every effort is being made within the contract to improve these. "We have had tank transporter drivers here and we try to take some notice of what they tell us," he says. "There is still today a tendency in the Services that when we suggest a heater in the cab we are told they don't need it — the driver will be given an extra pair of socks. We believe that sort of thinking went out with the Ark and drivers should be provided as far as possible, bearing in mind the conditions in which they will operate, with the same comforts and facilities as a driver would expect outside."

In pursuit of this policy, Fazakerley takes the Antar seats completely to pieces and rebuilds them and, in the words of Mr Doug Smart, contract supervisory officer of the Logistic Executive (Army), "These seats often come out better than when they were new."

As befits such large vehicles, the Antar refurbishing project takes a long time. They leave Rhine Army, travel by ship and road to Fazakerley and are away from the unit for between 16 and 18 weeks, of which 12 are spent on the actual work.

On arrival the engine is thoroughly tested by modern diagnostic methods and if it requires a complete overhaul it is shipped off to Rolls-Royce. If not, then it will be refurbished by Fazakerley.

The Antar is then 90 per cent dismantled — not a difficult task because although the vehicle is so huge it strips down into fairly simple small parts. It is washed, cleaned and every worn part replaced so that the Antar will perform with complete reliability until the new generation of tank transporter vehicles arrive sometime in the 1980s.

When the vehicle is reassembled it undergoes a strenuous 60-mile road test. Loaded with steel tanks full of sand, to match the weight of a Chieftain tank, it goes up the M6 — a steady climb which should simulate the conditions it will meet on German autobahns.

Then it is homeward bound — four Antars set off by road for Southampton accompanied by a minibus and mechanic. He will carry out on-the-spot repairs en route unless the breakdown is serious, in which case the Antar will return to Fazakerley. This has happened only once during the two years of the programme — even then the gearbox trouble was remedied by work through the night and the Antar was able to catch up the convoy in time to sail on the same boat.

Mr Smart describes the facelifted Antars thus: "They have better braking, better

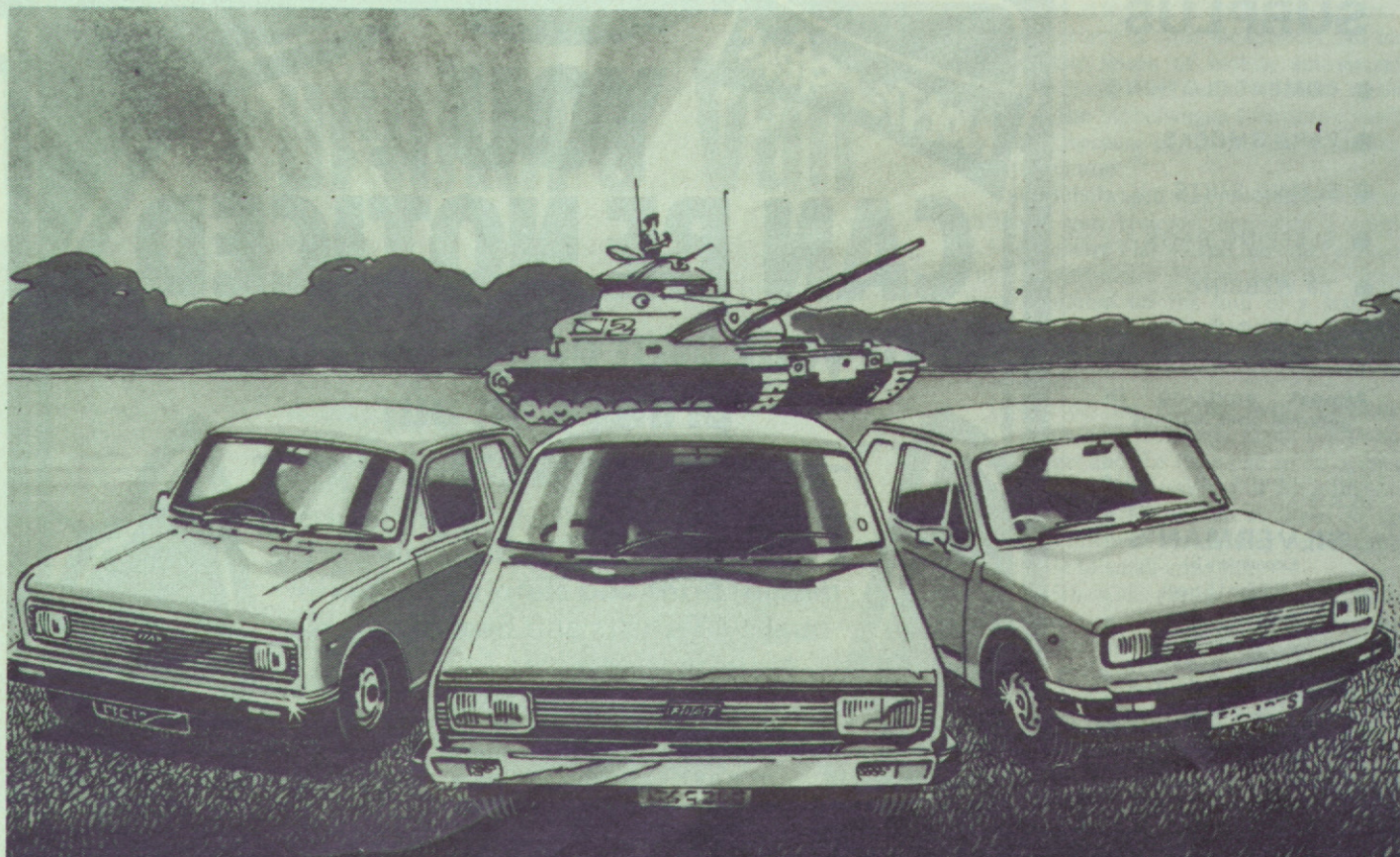
steering and better gear selection than when they were new. Although Fazakerley has done Antars for years there has never been the opportunity to go into depth as they have on this project."

Apprentices at Fazakerley are trained in depth and pushed to the limit. Declares Mr Horrocks: "They are probably some of the best-trained lads in Merseyside in this trade. They are taught to think and come out with new ideas. Because so many of the senior staff have been with this company for such a long time we have to start thinking about them as our replacements."

Most of the senior men at Fazakerley are ex-servicemen and the hunt is constantly on for Army trained personnel to work on the vehicles they know so well. Says Mr Horrocks: "The number of ex-REME people coming to us in recent times has been very small but we are always willing to interview them because the ones we have had are so very good."

"Unfortunately for us most of the ex-REME lads from the North West tend to stay down where their mothers-in-law live on Salisbury Plain. But we are always looking for vehicle builders, heavy vehicle mechanics and auto electricians."

For more than 30 years the Ministry of Defence and Fazakerley Engineering have worked hand-in-glove as a successful partnership. Mr Vincent Williams sums up: "We feel we have a high reputation with the Ministry and we have seen many of our friends climb up the tree from majors and half-colonels to generals. At the same time we are able to make the decisions on how we are going to operate this workshop without undue interference."



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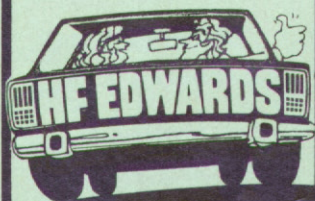
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(CAPITAL LETTERS PLEASE)

SLD

UGLY, ANGULAR Stukas screamed out of the sky softening up resistance ahead of advancing armoured formations in France in the summer of 1940. But over the same

battlefield, exactly four years later, the tables were turned when rocket-firing Typhoons and Thunderbolts fell like birds of prey on retreating Wehrmacht panzers.

The teachers of close air support had not learned the lesson of mobile anti-aircraft defence. Hasty improvisation came in the shape of the Möbelwagen ('furniture van'), so called because of its box-like and slab-sided structure.

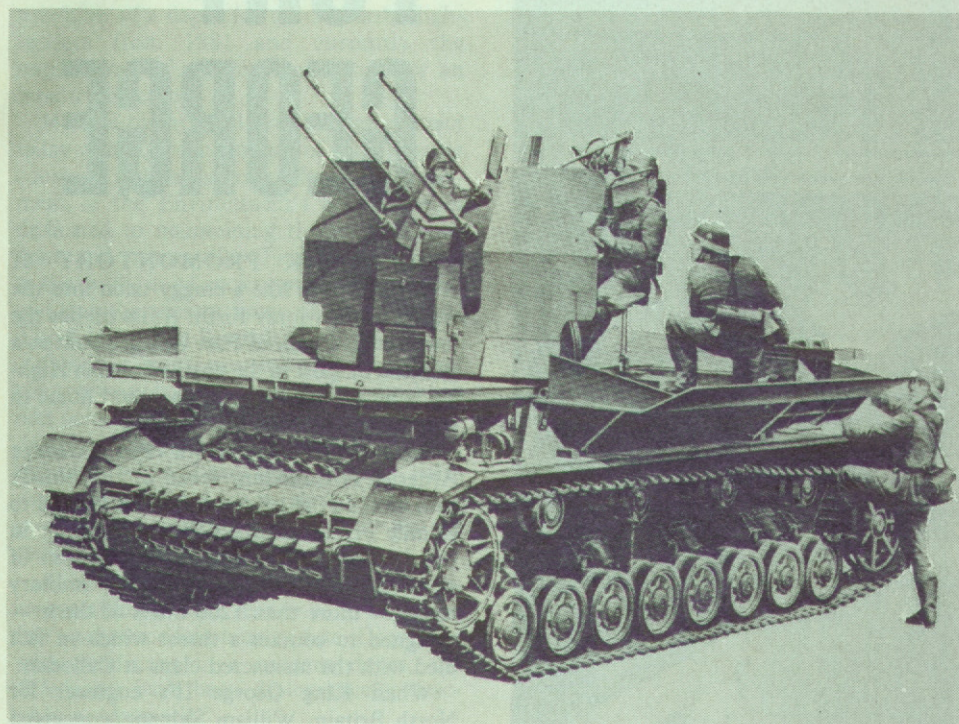
The Möbelwagen was produced with two different gun systems, one with a single 3.7-centimetre Flak 43 and the other a quadruple 2-centimetre Flakvierling 38. These were mounted on the hull of a standard Panzerkampfwagen IV. Protection was provided by hinged armoured flaps ten millimetres thick.

It was not the fighting man's favourite AFV. The high silhouette made it a prominent target and the flaps had to be opened out to afford clear traverse of the guns and working space for the crew. Thus at the crucial moment of action they were highly vulnerable to small-arms fire.

A 1:35th scale plastic kit of the Flakvierling version has just been released in this country by the Japanese model firm of Tamiya through its UK agents, Richard Kohnstam Ltd, 13 High Street, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. It has a recommended retail price of £4.40.

The kit comes complete with those infamous flaps (with working hinges) and a crew of four figures (in action poses). There are also movable tracks, traversing turret and elevating guns. Finishing touches are added by camouflage painting and transfers of tactical signs. **HH**

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FORMIDABLE FORT GEORGE

THE BLEAK PROMONTORY of Ardesier curves like a craggy talon into the waters of the Moray Firth. At its tip lies the low, massive bulk of Fort George, built as a garrison outpost in the hostile Scottish Highlands more than 200 years ago and home to generations of soldiers ever since.

Some ten miles from Fort George Ardesier is Culloden, scene of the bloody rout of the Highlanders who had flocked to Bonnie Prince Charlie's Jacobite banner in the rising of 1745. The fort itself was one of a system of garrisons linked by military roads — more than 1200 miles of them — designed to contain a threat which in fact died with the massacred clans at Culloden.

When King George II's engineer for North Britain, William Skinner, conceived the sprawling edifice that was to be Fort George, there was only a lone hut on the promontory at Ardesier. When building was completed in 1769 — 21 years after it had started — the angular symmetry of the fort's defences dominated the rocky peninsula.

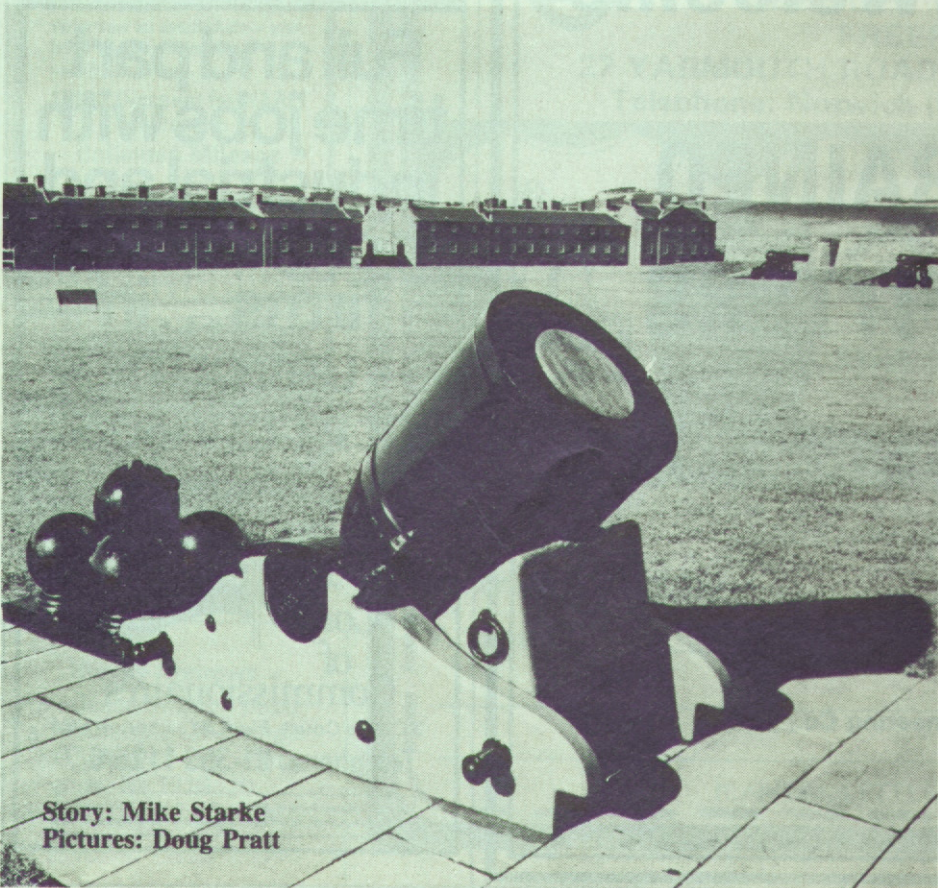
The essential plan of the fort's principal defence is bastions arranged around an elongated polygonal rampart. From the air it looks like a crude outline of a rocket-ship with nose and fins.

Its walls and earthworks defying attack, the fort was amply armed with a variety of formidable artillery. There were eighteen 24-pounders, twenty-five 18-pounders, twenty-two 12-pounders and four 6-pounders as well as four of the mighty 13-inch mortars — the biggest of their kind. On the north-west corner of the fort were an additional four 42-pounder guns on a level with the sea. These were taken from the captured French man-o'-war, *Foudroyant* — still in use as a floating hulk by the Royal Navy in Portsmouth Harbour.

Originally, the barracks in the fort were intended to house a governor, lieutenant-governor, 86 officers and 2090 non-commissioned officers and men. For their added protection, should they be attacked, bomb-proof casemates were tunnelled under the north and south curtain walls to accommodate every man on the strength. The grand magazine — still intact — was also bomb-proof and could contain 2474 barrels of gunpowder.

Top: The imposing entrance to Fort George has all the symmetry of its contemporaries' style.

Left: Four of these 13-inch mortars — biggest of their kind — helped to defend Fort George.



Story: Mike Starke
Pictures: Doug Pratt

Completely self-contained, Fort George boasted its own chapel, brew-house, bake-house and inn.

The fort was considered a model defence work of its day. But by the time it was completed the danger of another Jacobite rising had faded. The fort was then kept in existence by a series of nicely balanced chances — the need for its ample accommodation and stores to provide for the many regiments raised in the Highlands for the late 18th to early 19th century wars, the provision of a depot for the Seaforth Highlanders from 1881 and currently the requirement of a permanent station for an infantry battalion.

Most of the original Fort George is intact today although the ravages of time provide constant restoration tasks for the Department of the Environment's resident team dedicated to maintaining the fort for residents and visitors alike. Fort George is open to the public as an ancient monument as well as being the present home of 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers.

Constant use by successive regiments over the centuries has left its intriguing marks in odd corners of the fort. There are the stone doorways deeply louvered with the wear of bayonets which have been whetted there over the years. And in the present day quartermaster's stores you can still see the racks for muskets round the walls.

A modernisation programme is due to start within the next year or so to bring the fort's accommodation up to date. Compared with conditions in a modern depot, the differences have been diplomatically described as 'dramatic.'

As far back as 1803, in his 'Retrospect of a Military Life,' Quartermaster-Sergeant J Anton, of the 42nd Highlanders, wrote: 'It is so remotely situated that few soldiers like to be quartered within its walls . . .' A modern Jock put it more succinctly: "Welcome to Colditz."

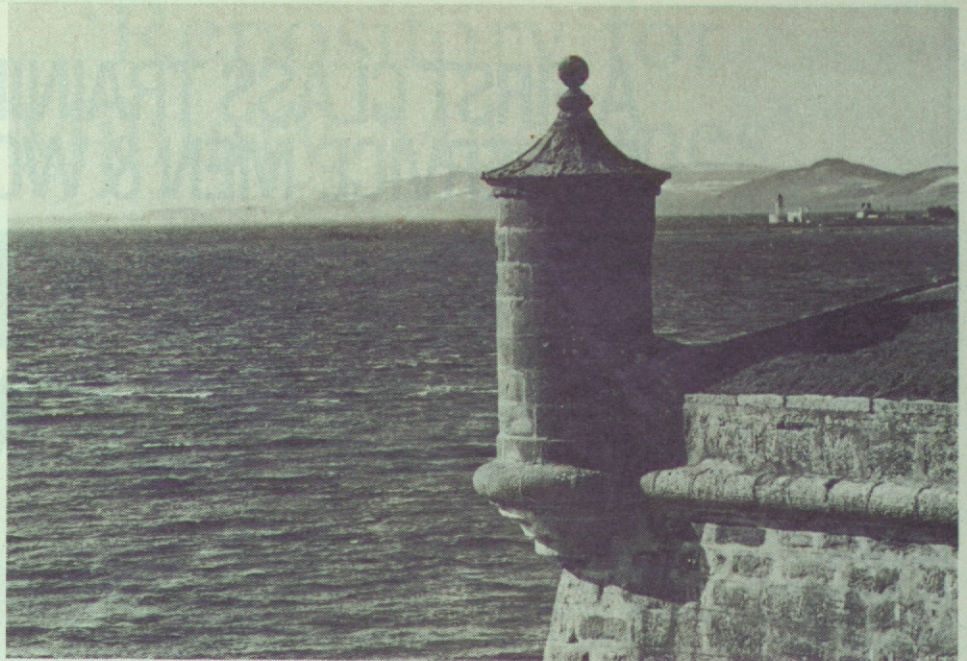
The soldiers today live four or five to a room. But the refurbished barrack area — leaving the ancient exteriors as they are — will be converted to ten-man flats with three men to a room and sitting rooms and kitchen facilities available. Married soldiers now live out in nearby Inverness or Nairn and are brought in to work by bus.

Their lot may be due for improvement, but it is perhaps better than that of the soldiers stationed at Fort George with QMS Anton. They were not even allowed out into the nearby village of Campbeltown (Ardesier). To evade this, some men of another regiment quartered in the fort lifted the milestone and placed it against the far end of their favourite pub.

When they were brought up for being out of bounds 'they pleaded they had not gone beyond the milestone and were pardoned; no doubt more on account of the humour of the frolic than of the right to legal exculpation.'

A little later in the century, one officer at least took a rosier view of the bleak outpost. Sir Aeneas MacIntosh of MacKintosh Bart, 23rd Chieftain of MacKintosh, opined: 'In short, it is the best military quarter in the world for the soldiers and I could almost venture to say for the officers.'

Perhaps a more balanced view for both then and now came from QMS Anton who admitted he found the fort agreeable enough as 'my wants were few and easily gratified.'

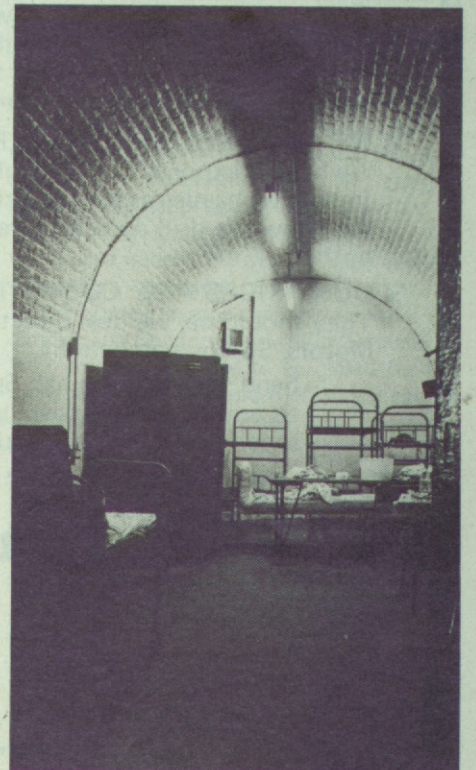


Top: Commanding its rocky promontory the fort dominates the water leading to Inverness town.

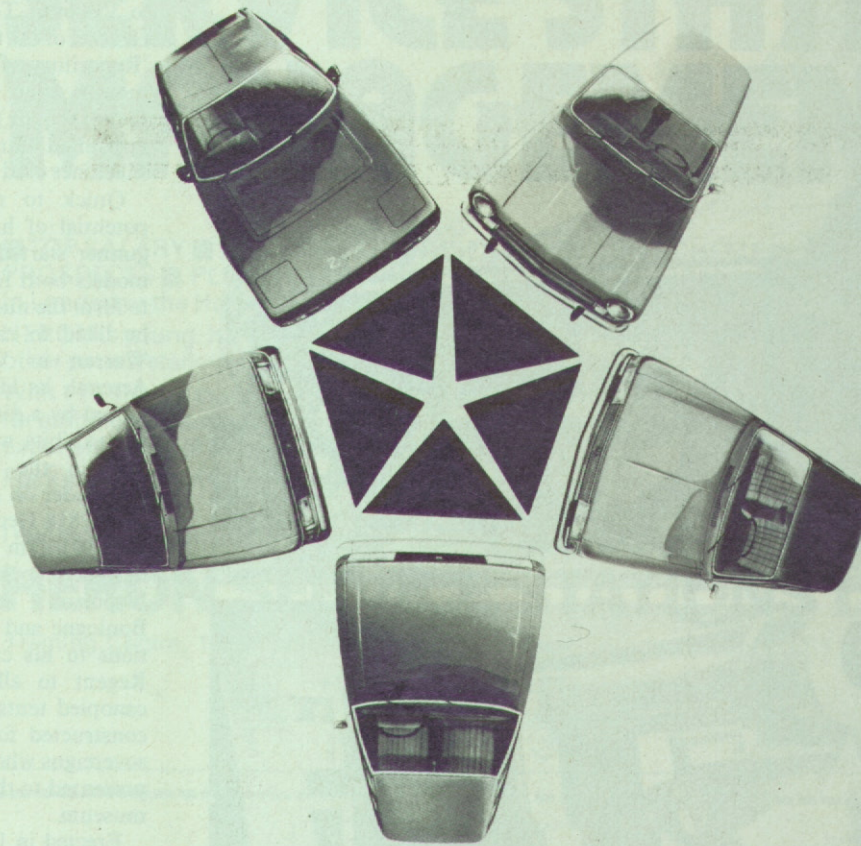
Above: Generation after generation of Jocks must have worn the stone with their bayonets.

Right: The casemates under the walls could accommodate the entire garrison if necessary.

Fort George has an historic connection with both the Seaforth Highlanders and the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. The 2nd Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders, (78th Regiment of Foot) was embodied at the fort in 1793 and 2nd Battalion, Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, was formed there in 1897. The fort was the Seaforth's Depot from 1882 to 1961 and that of the Camerons from 1881 to 1886. Shortly after the two regiments amalgamated in 1961 to form the Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons), it was decided to house a combined museum at Fort George which had been home to both regiments for so long.



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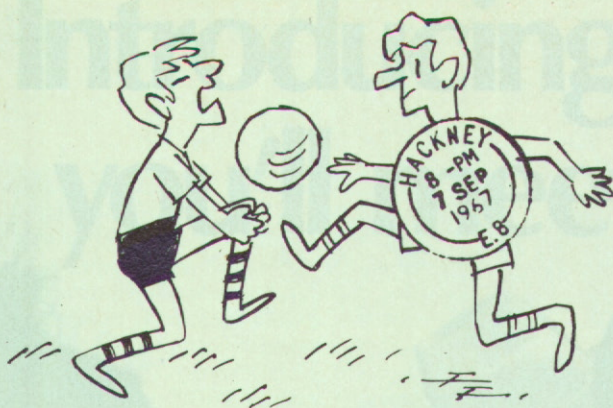
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LETTERS

Who was the VIP?

While I was serving as a driver with the staff car pool of Headquarters 5th Division at Mersa Matruh early in 1936, four of us, all drivers, were detailed to act as escort to the GOC, General William Howard, on a special mission. The party comprised four officers and seven other ranks, in two vehicles. The whole operation was 'hush-hush.'

We left Mersa Matruh and travelled in a south-westerly direction for about two hours, crossed the border into Libya, headed due north to the coast, turned east and travelled down the coast until we reached a large hotel, the name of which I cannot recall.

General Howard and the officers went into the hotel and the rest of us stayed in the transport. After about two hours, drinks, sandwiches and cigarettes were brought out to us, sent, we were told, not by the GOC but by a person of very high standing.

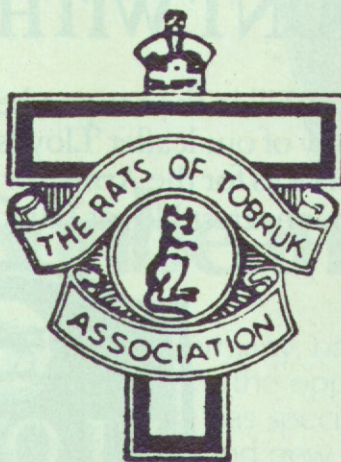
A few days later, back at headquarters, it was rumoured that the person of high standing was Edward, Prince of Wales. The rumour was neither confirmed nor denied. I myself have never doubted the rumour for the action was typical of this great man who, even when under great mental and physical strain — which he must have been at that time — did not forget the other ranks. Perhaps a reader could confirm this rumour. — **Bob Mercer, Gilroyd Lane, Linthwaite, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HF7 STD.**

More angels

The reference to 'The Angel of Catterick' (Letters, April) brought back very pleasant memories. During the battle of Arras in April 1917 I was blown up and badly wounded. After about 16 weeks in the East Leeds War Hospital I was sent to a small convalescent home of about 25 patients run by a very kind and sweet little lady and three nurses in Roundhay Park. I think her name was Lady Kitson. She and her small staff were all angels. Nothing was too much trouble and every kindness and con-

sideration were lavished on all of us. If there is any doubt about the Angel of Mons or Catterick, there is absolutely no doubt that this lady and her staff were the Angels of Roundhay. — **F J Goldup, Flat 9, 40 Little Heath, Charlton, London, SE7 8BQ.**

Viva jerboa



You state in the May **SOLDIER** (disbandment of 7th Armoured Brigade, News 4) that the jerboa has finally bowed out.

This doesn't mean the end of the little chap! He will live as long as we do — we being 'The Rats of Tobruk Association.' The jerboa is incorporated in our badge (above).

We were not in 7th Armoured Division but were in the siege of Tobruk and now we try to help survivors of the siege who are in need. — **T R Kienzle, 8 Green Lane, Hounslow, Middlesex, TW4 6JF.**

Short back-and-sides

During a recent visit to Turkey I was very impressed with the close-cropped heads of all Turkish Army personnel. I consider the present long hair trend to be effeminate (see 'young reserve soldiers,' February **SOLDIER**, page 35) and totally unsuitable for active service conditions.

I am given to understand that in Poland and the Soviet Union all men, on being conscripted, are shaved clean and required to stay in uniform for their first year of duty. And unless they have altered their regulations, intakes to the United States Marines also have their heads completely shaved.

Close crops were very popular in the late fifties, I recall as a National Serviceman. Will the good old short back-and-sides days ever return? — **P E Barber, 29C Fieldway Court, Birkenhead, Merseyside.**

Badge project

I am a warrant officer in the Air Training Corps. Part of the cadets' training is project work and in this connection I am arranging for them to build up a collection of flying badges and insignia for display in our headquarters. Donations of flying and aviation badges worldwide, metal or cloth, military or civil, which are surplus to collectors' requirements, would be very welcome for our project. — **D S Carstairs, 53 Bread Street, Edinburgh, EH3 9AH.**

Reunions

Notices of corps and regimental reunions should be sent to Editor, **SOLDIER**, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU, at least two months before the event is due to take place. No charge is made for announcements which will, where appropriate, be repeated at two-monthly intervals.

The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's) Regimental Association. Annual reunion dinner, 8pm, Saturday 2 September, at Whittrington Barracks, Lichfield. Tickets (£2 each in advance) from RHQ The Staffordshire Regiment, Whittrington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS14 9PY.

The Royal Regiment of Wales Association. Annual reunion weekend 19-20 August at Brecon. Dinner, Penlan High School Hall, 7.30pm, Saturday; (tickets (£2.80) and details in advance from RHQ The Barracks, Brecon, LD3 7EB.

Church parade 10am for remembrance service in Cathedral at 11am, Sunday 20 August.

The Welch Regiment Old Comrades. Annual reunion, Saturday 7 October, TAVR Centre, Broadway, Pontypridd. Tickets £2.75 each; limited overnight accommodation available. Details from V D Williams, 41 Cole Bank Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 8EZ.

The East Yorkshire Regimental Association. Annual reunion, 23-24 September. Apply Secretary, The East Yorkshire Regimental Association, 11 Butcher Row, Beverley, North Humberside, HU17 0AA.

Royal Army Veterinary Corps Association. Annual general meeting and reunion dinner, Saturday 7 October, RAVC Training Centre, Melton Mowbray. For details apply Hon Secretary, RAVC Association, Ministry of Defence (AVR), Droitwich, Worcestershire, WR9 8AU (phone: Droitwich 2323 ext 32).

67 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (1939-45) (265, 266, 446 batteries). Reunion, October. Details from Maj M Roberts, Greenlands, Rose Bank, Fernhill Heath, Worcester.

Eighth Army Veterans' Association. El Alamein reunion, Blackpool Winter Gardens, Saturday 28 October. Parade, cenotaph service and march past, Sunday 29 October. Details from General Secretary (Alec Lewis), 7 Whinell Road, West Derby, Liverpool, L12 2AS.

The Royal Welch Fusiliers Comrades Association. Annual reunion and general meeting, The Barracks, Wrexham, 8-9 October. Tickets and programmes available from branch secretaries or on application to Secretary, RWFCA, The Barracks, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 2DB.

Gallipoli Association. Annual dinner, Tuesday 3 October, Royal Air Force Club, London. Veterans cordially invited. Details and short account of campaign and its sequel available from Maj E H W Banner, Delphi, Maresfield Park, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 2HB.

Hong Kong, Singapore, Ceylon and Pack Artillery Associations. Reunion, Eastbourne, 2 September. Details from 835933 D A Knight, 79 Tyrell Avenue, Welling, Kent, DA16 2BT.

Ex-Prisoners-of-War. Reunion and concert, Fairfield Hall, Croydon, Friday 15 September. For details, see to Maj J Howe (Retd), Castleton, Hookwood, Limpsfield, Oxted, Surrey, RH8 0DU.

The Dorset Regiment Association. Annual reunion, Saturday 9 September, TAVR Centre, Poundbury Road, Dorchester. Details from Secretary, The Keep, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1RN.

The West Yorkshire Regiment and The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire. Annual reunion and White Horse Ball, Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Strensall, Saturday 7 October. Particulars from Secretary, West Yorkshire & PWO.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FROM ABF

This year the Army Benevolent Fund is marketing five Christmas cards. Card A (16 pence each) is 'A Winter Landscape' by Esaias Van de Velde; Card B (12p) depicts Queen Victoria, the Prince Consort and the Crown Prince of Prussia reviewing the troops at Aldershot on 17 July 1856; Card C (12p) is 'Laughing (Chelsea) Pensioners' by J Gough; Card D (10p) is a modern design, 'The Opportunist,' by Patricia Champness, showing two deer; and Card E (16p) reproduces Titian's 'The Holy Family and a Shepherd.'

All prices above include postage within UK or to BFPO addresses. Cards may be ordered from The Forces Press, Crimea Road, Aldershot, Hampshire (cheques/postal orders made payable to The Forces Press, Naafi, and crossed 'A/c payee only,' and they are also on sale to personal callers only at the Army Benevolent Fund, G Block, Duke of York's HQ, King's Road, Chelsea, London, SW3 4SP (Monday to Friday, 1000-1230, 1400-1600 hours).

Regimental Association, Imphal Barracks, York, YO1 4HD.

AAC OBA. All ex-Arborfield and Carlisle apprentices and past members of staff. Penultimate reunion in the college will take place 14-15 October. Write to Hon Sec, OBA, Army Apprentices College, Arborfield, Reading, RG2 9NJ, for details.

York & Lancaster Regiment. Annual dinner, Sergeants' Dinner Club, Endcliffe Hall, Sheffield, Saturday 9 September. Details from Regimental Secretary, RHQ The York & Lancaster Regiment, Endcliffe Hall, Endcliffe Vale Road, Sheffield, S10 3EU.

Wartime Boys' Battery. Eleventh reunion, Saturday 7 October, RA Sergeants' Mess, RA Barracks, Woolwich. Cost, including accommodation Saturday night and breakfast Sunday morning, £6.50. All who served in the Boys' Battery, or were members of its permanent staff, between 1942 and the battery leaving Woolwich, are eligible. Details from T C Holden, 6 Ingres Walk, Sholver II, Moorside, Oldham, Lancashire.

Collectors' Corner

Gary Packer, 61 Birchgrove Road, Birchgrove, Swansea, SA7 9JR. — *Wishes exchange WW2 pilot's battle-dress trousers (34in waist, 33in inside leg) for ground crew BD trousers (32/31). Also wishes buy officer's smooth serge khaki BD trousers (31/29).*

Algy Buck, Heatherton Hospital, Kingston Road, Heatherton 3202, Victoria, Australia. — *Seeks South African cap badges, preferably pre-Republic, especially Dukes, CTH, CFA, THA, PAG, ILH, RNC, ROLL, Wits, TS, 1st City, Del Rey, Middelands & Botha, SA Irish, SWA, SWD, WP, engr, T Services, SAIC and PR. Will exchange for current Australian or purchase.*

John Ferrigan, 50 Wicor Mill Lane, Portchester, Hants, PO16 9EG. — *Seeks two pre-1939 regimental swagger canes, preferably RSF, for escort to Standard of Portsmouth Branch, Burma Star Association, when Standard is paraded. Willing to buy.*

D A S Hibberd, 44 Holmes Avenue, Hove, Sussex, BN3 7LD. — *Wishes buy uniform items eg interesting caps, berets, side hats, stable belts and part/complete Lowland uniform. Particularly seeking Royal Scots trews, Royal Hussars overalls, Queen's Own Hussars cap and Royal Irish Rangers caubeen. Please state price.*

D Horne, 52 Westfield Avenue, Thurlstone, Sheffield, S30 6RN. — *Seeks para wings of the world, metal and cloth, buy or swap. Also contact with fellow collectors.*

John Hadden (aged 16), c/o Farrell, 3/8 Piershill Square East, Edinburgh, EH8 4BD. — *Seeks programmes, LP records, photos and colour slides Edinburgh Tattoo, also records and photos Scottish regts.*

Arthur Laycock, 4 Alderney Road, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire. — *Has brass and military bands on 78rpm records (list available). Will sell or exchange for badges.*

G Smith, 130 Luttworth Road, Northampton, NN1 5JL. — *Starting collection, seeks metal shoulder titles and cloth divisional signs, British and Commonwealth armies.*

M Brown, 10 Margaret Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1RZ. — *Seeks button Artists' Rifles.*

J D Atherton, 9 Richmond Gardens, Redhill, Arnold Nottingham, NG5 8JS. — *Seeks officers' and soldiers' cap badges, collar dogs, S/Ts, buttons, LNL, Norfolk, Foresters, Lincolns, Leicesters, Royal Marines. Will buy or has a few badges for exchange.*

W Martin, 3 Lon Ceredigion, Pwllheli, Gwynedd, North Wales. — *Will pay reasonable price for pre-plastic Dinky military vehicles. Naval and air force items also sought.*

Peter de Greiff, Lehnstedter Weg 37, 2822 Schwanewede 1, West Germany. — *Collects badges and insignia of airborne/para troops. Offers in exchange. English against German badges.*

Maj J A Barrow, 1 R Hamps, BFPO 17. — *Wishes exchange British cap and collar badges, brass S/Ts and buttons; particularly interested in Wilts, R Berks, R Hamps and Royal Marines.*

Competition

The not-inappropriate answer to April's Competition 237 (AFV recognition) was 'Trying to decode messages can sometimes be extremely tiresome, especially when symbols are so similar.'

Prizewinners:

- 1 Mrs M E Tennuci, 10 Chesilton Crescent, Church Crookham, Aldershot, Hants.
- 2 L/Cpl J M Ashley, 12 Armd Wksp REME, BFPO 36.
- 3 S/Sgt R F Hind, 53 Sy Sec, Int & Sy Gp (G), BFPO 39.
- 4 C/Sgt G Stuart, Scottish Inf Depot Glencore, Penicuik, Edinburgh.
- 5 Paul Hudson, 3 Mardyke, Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex.
- 6 R W Kay, 5 Foxes Lane, Broadwell, Coleford, Glos.
- 7 J Allanach, 5 Franklyn Avenue, Sholing, Southampton.
- 8 Stanley Baldry, 411 East 46th Avenue, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

How observant are you?

(see page 21)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Chimney pots on house. 2 Stern of canoe above 'Dolphin.' 3 Rope of spectator second from right. 4 Spray on right of rock halfway down fall. 5 Shape of snow line on peak in front of aircraft. 6 Helmet of middle canoeist. 7 Left end of bottom canoeist's paddle. 8 Bottom canoeist's left thumb. 9 Lines on bottom canoeist's lifejacket. 10 Lower arm of distant canoeist above fall.

NEW WELCH MUSEUM

The new museum of The Welch Regiment, which was opened by the Prince of Wales on 4 May, is open daily from 10am to 6pm in summer and from 10am to 4pm in winter. The museum is housed in the Black and Barbican Towers of Cardiff Castle and an admission fee of 30 pence for adults and 15 pence for children is levied for entry into the Castle grounds.

The museum's curator is Mr Owen (phone: Cardiff 29367).

In this regular feature **SOLDIER** keeps you up-to-date on tattoos, open days, exhibitions, at homes, Army displays and similar occasions on which the public is welcome to see the Army's men and equipment. Amendments and additions to previous lists are indicated in bold type.

See-the-Army DIARY

AUGUST 1978

- 1 Tyneside Summer Exhibition (1-5 August) (Royal Signals 'White Helmets' motorcycle display team).
- 2 Redcar Carnival (Royal Green Jackets freefall team).
- 2 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (2-5 August).
- 3 Bakewell (Derbyshire) Show (The Light Division 'Flying Bugles' freefall team).
- 4 Southsea Show (4-6 August) (band).
- 6 Bromley Family Day, Norman Park (RGJ freefall).
- 7 Keith Show (7-8 August) (White Helmets).
- 9 Cheltenham Tattoo (9-13 August).
- 9 Bingley Centenary Celebrations (White Helmets).
- 10 Bournemouth Fiesta (10-12 August) (White Helmets).
- 11 Stoke-on-Trent Carnival (11-12 August) (band; corps of drums; Flying Bugles).
- 11 Shrewsbury Show (11-12 August) (two bands).
- 16 Cromer Carnival (The Parachute Regiment 'Red Devils' freefall team; White Helmets).
- 17 Edinburgh Tattoo (17 August-9 September).
- 18 Reading Show (18-19 August) (band).
- 18 Gloucester Carnival (Royal Artillery motorcycle display team).
- 19 Lincolnshire Steam Spectacular, Lincoln (19-20 August) (RA motorcyclists).
- 19 Skegness Carnival Week (19-25 August) (band; static displays).
- 19 Doncaster Horse Show (19-20 August) (Royal Military Police 'Red Caps' mounted display team).
- 25 British Timken Show, Northampton (25-26 August) (Guards freefall; static displays).
- 26 Expo Steam, Peterborough (26-28 August) (RA motorcyclists).
- 26 Town and Country Festival, Stoneleigh (26-28 August) (Flying Bugles).
- 26 Preston Tattoo (26-28 August) (three bands; corps of drums; two pipe bands; Red Devils; Junior Parachute Company 'Pegasus' physical training display; Red Caps; Royal Armoured Corps hot-air balloon; White Helmets).
- 27 Quexpo '78, Birchington, Kent (27-28 August) (band; RGJ freefall).
- 28 Leicester City Show (28-29 August) (band; Guards freefall; RA motorcyclists 29 August).
- 28 Walsall Show (28-29 August) (White Helmets 29 August; Pegasus 29 August).
- 28 Erith Show (RGJ freefall).

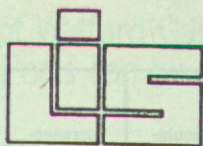
SEPTEMBER 1978

- 1 Birmingham Show (1-3 September) (band; RA motorcyclists; Pegasus).
- 2 Hinckley Steam Engine Rally (2-3 September) (White Helmets).
- 2 Guildford Town Show (2-3 September) (band; Red Caps 3 September).
- 2 Cosgrove Park Carnival (2-3 September) (band).
- 3 Spectro 78, Waterbeach (band; Red Devils).
- 7 Buckinghamshire County Show, Aylesbury (Red Caps).
- 9 South Midland Tattoo, Banbury.
- 9 Freedom of Nottingham, 17th/21st Lancers.
- 9 Romsey Agricultural and Horse Show (Red Caps).
- 9 Theale Horticultural Show, Reading (RA motorcyclists).
- 10 Epping Forest Show (RA motorcyclists).
- 15 Welwyn Garden City Water Show (RGJ freefall).
- 16 Open Day, Royal School of Military Engineering, Chatham.
- 17 Royal Engineers' memorial service and veterans' parade, Rochester Cathedral.
- 21 Thame Show (band).
- 23 New Colours, 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, Redford Barracks, Edinburgh.
- 24 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, march through Cumnock and Ayr; old Colours laid up in Auld Kirk, Ayr.
- 26 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, march through Glasgow.

OCTOBER 1978

- 14 Queen's Own Highlanders bicentenary parade, Elgin.

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BOOKS

A to Z

'Encyclopedia of World War II' (General Editor: John Keegan)

From that old favourite the British Sten gun to the German V-2 rocket, or the United States B-17 Flying Fortress, to aircraft carriers, every major ship, tank, artillery piece or hand weapon is concisely described in this all-embracing encyclopedia. Battles, personalities and political events and the part they played are also sketched to complete the picture.

Every important campaign is outlined and remarkably clear maps indicating army, naval and air movements provide useful aids. Over 300 illustrations, many in colour, accompany the authoritative text of some 225,000 words written by a team of experts under the general editorship of John Keegan, senior lecturer in military history at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, who also contributed many of the entries, especially those dealing with the Western Desert.

Unlike the average encyclopedia this one goes a step further than provision of fact in that it seeks to provide a continuous and explicative narrative of World War Two from its outbreak to the final defeat of the Axis powers. It analyses the motives and expectations underlying the grand strategy of the warring powers and provides in one volume a concise history of the war in encyclopedic form.

Hamlyn Publishing Group Ltd, Astronaut House, Hounslow Road, Feltham, Middlesex, TW14 9AR, £5.95 JFPJ

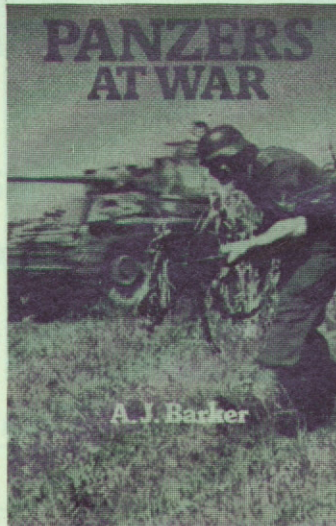
Decisive?

'Panzer at War' (A J Barker)

General Heinz Guderian, the driving force behind the development of the Wehrmacht's Panzer force, declared after World War Two: 'Whenever in future wars the battle is fought, Panzer troops will play the decisive role.' At the moment there is considerable discussion on whether or not the tank is still 'king of the battlefield,' a point made by General-major a.D Hans-Joachim Loeser in his foreword to this excellent and evocative book.

He takes the view that despite the developments in anti-tank weapons, the tank is likely to remain the decisive weapon in the foreseeable future, and he gives a timely reminder that in quantity if not perhaps in quality, the tank forces of the Warsaw Pact countries vastly outnumber those which Nato can deploy.

Colonel Barker shows what it was like to serve in a German Panzer division, and particularly how necessary it is for soldiers to have faith in their weapons. He takes us through sand and snow, meadow and steppe in the tracks of Hitler's Panzer divisions, and we watch guns and armour keeping pace with the requirements of changing situations



until there emerges the superb Royal Tiger, a tank which could take on a squadron of Shermans single-handed.

Though he covers a great deal of familiar ground, Colonel Barker scores heavily with a splendid selection of pictures most of which have not been published outside Germany. Ian Allan Ltd, Terminal House, Shepperton, Middlesex, TW17 8AS, £5.95 JCW

Sticky time

'Revolutionary Violence' (Anthony Burton)

Between Lenin and Carlos (the 'Jackal') there is a bare half-century in which the shape and thought of the world have changed out of all recognition. Mr Burton surveys those years and the revolutionary theories they produced — the teachings of Trotsky, Mao Tse-tung, Lawrence of Arabia, Giap, Kim Il Sung, Che Guevara, Grivas, Marighela (the Brazilian urban terrorist) and the guerrilla-priest, Camilo Torres.

He takes a look at the Fascist theorists, too, and finds that many of their ideas live on. He warns that should a new leadership appear, intellectually able to maintain a wider appeal based on up-dated ideology, any country with a stagnant economy could be under threat.

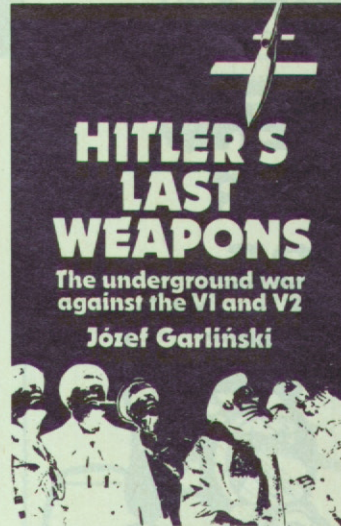
In considering the future of revolutionary violence, Mr Burton concludes that we are in for a sticky time as the present trend towards transnational terrorism will continue to grow unless the nations of the world sink their ideological differences and combine against it.

Not a very cheerful book, but certainly thought-provoking and timely. Leo Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £6.50 JCW

Missiles

'Hitler's Last Weapons: The Underground War Against the V1 and V2' (Jozef Garlinski)

A former Polish cavalry officer, Resistance fighter and Auschwitz prisoner, Mr Garlinski has had an



interest in Hitler's Wunderwaffen — wonder weapons — since he first heard of them while working as a slave labourer at Wittenberge, Germany, in 1944.

After the war, he studied the V-1 flying bomb and the V-2 rocket and now presents his findings. He tells several stories, all interlinked. There is the young Werner von Braun, and an artillery captain called Walter Dornberger, developing their ideas on rocketry in 1936 and searching for a site for their base. They found one at Peenemunde. There is an air force colonel, Wolfram von Richthofen, directing a Luftwaffe experimental group on a pilotless plane project about the same time.

As development proceeds, we see the race to get information on the new weapons begin. Polish Resistance workers collected whole chunks of them and got them out to the allies; in the factories, slave labourers from all over Europe committed acts of sabotage to slow down production.

Though Mr Garlinski covers much well-trodden ground, he is most informative and very much at home when covering Resistance activity, particularly in his Polish homeland. Julian Friedman Publishers, 4 Perrins Lane, Hampstead, London, NW3 1QY, £5.95 JCW

Ancient and modern

'Men-at-Arms: The British Army 1965-80' (Major D G Smith)

'Men-at-Arms: The US Army 1941-45' (Philip Katcher)

'Men-at-Arms: North-West Frontier 1837-1947' (Robert Wilkinson-Latham)

'Men-at-Arms: The Greek and Persian Wars 500-323 BC' (Jack Cassin-Scott)

The amount of useful information on its dress compressed into this slim volume of 40 pages on the British Army is quite remarkable. Regiment by regiment, details of uniforms such as facing colours, shoulder titles, button designs, collar badges, lanyards and stable belts are clearly set out. Cap badges from The Life Guards to the Women's Royal Army Corps fill two pages, the dress of the Brigade of

Gurkhas is economically covered and there are small charts giving examples of shoulder patches and trade or employment badges.

In his book on the American Army of World War Two, Philip Katcher discusses the complexities and development of US military dress and equipment in Europe, North Africa and the Pacific zone. Weapons are briefly but adequately dealt with, divisional nicknames and battle honours are listed, and there is a good selection of uniforms in full colour.

The first, second and third Afghan wars are clearly and concisely dealt with in Robert Wilkinson-Latham's admirable little book. Fierce warrior tribes like the Pathans, Afridis, Baluchis and Waziris inhabited the North-West Frontier, or the 'Grim' as it was feelingly called by generations of British soldiers who for over 100 years were involved in this restless sector because of the fear of a Russian invasion through Afghanistan, the 'gateway to India.' Battles and skirmishes are graphically described and there are many vivid illustrations featuring British and Indian troops.

Next, to the warriors of ancient Greece and Persia and other warring forces of 2500 years ago who fought those classic campaigns in the eastern Mediterranean and Asia Minor on the battlefields of Marathon and Thermopylae, Salamis, Plataea and Mycale. These, and the Peloponnesian War, are the main ingredients of this study by Jack Cassin-Scott who also painted the colour plates. A useful introduction covers the Ionian revolt and sets the scene generally while a final chapter reviews the military prowess of Alexander the Great. Illustrations are plentiful.

Osprey Publishing Ltd, 12-14 Long Acre, London, WC2E 9LP JFPJ

Fighting era

'Weapons and Equipment of the Victorian Soldier' (Donald Featherstone)

Let this extract give reason for an interesting and informative volume: 'Throughout the entire Victorian era the British soldier fought and died amid inhospitable alien terrain... he displayed courage and humour under appalling conditions to defeat superior numbers of such natural warriors as Sikhs, Maoris, Zulus, Pathans and Dervishes.'

During the 64 years there were more than 60 campaigns, including 400 battles, spread over the five continents. The author's style includes dramatic descriptive accounts even though his book deals with weapons and equipment. There are also fine photographs and a wealth of detailed illustrations by artist John Mollo.

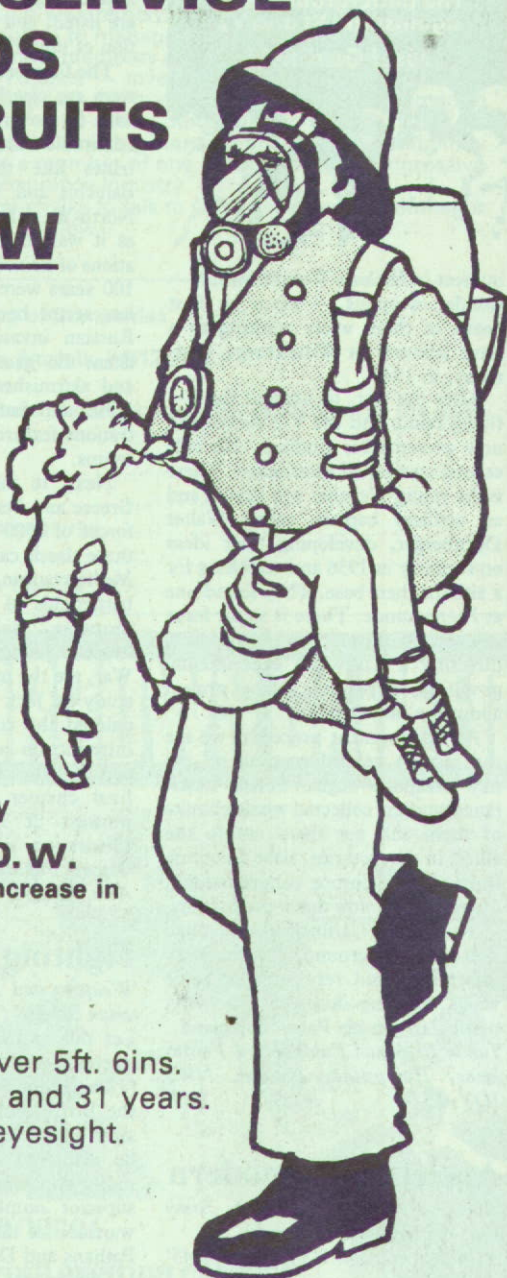
Wolsley dispensed with the pack and much that was in it, saying: '... it is absurd to expect a man to carry a portmanteau full of things on his back.' Suggesting a waterproof sheet to carry the bare necessities, he reduced the load by more than 13lb

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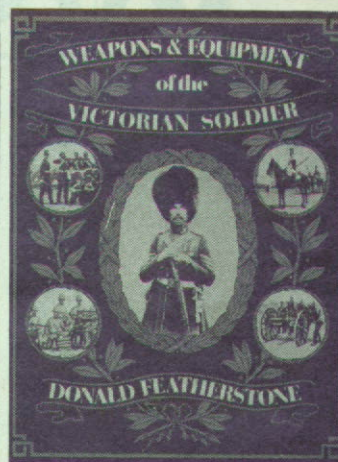
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BOOKS



to 43lb 2oz, which included the clothing worn and one day's rations.

Overall the author gives credit to the 'constant emphasis on regimental honour, tradition, comradeship and spirit which, together with high standards of duty, produced first-class soldiers.'

Blandford Press Ltd, Link House,
West Street, Poole, Dorset,
BH15 1LL, £5.95 **GRH**

Special forces

'Commandos and Rangers of World War II' (James Ladd)

'A steel hand from the sea' was how Sir Winston Churchill envisaged the commandos. They were formed out of the need to fight back when there was no land battlefield in Europe, as much to hit the enemy as to keep up British morale. Later in the war, joined by the rangers of the US Army Rangers and US Marine raiders, they

formed the spearhead force in a host of amphibious assaults.

With this excellent survey of Commando and Ranger activities Mr Ladd presents a real action pack. Under his lively pen, they all fight again — in the snows of Norway, the mangrove swamps of Burma, the jungles of Guadalcanal, crossing the great rivers of Europe, or struggling through the steamy heat of the Philippine Islands.

This is a well-marshalled and well-researched book which describes vividly the formation of these units and their considerable achievements. As an added bonus, Mr Ladd slightly exceeds his terms of reference to include such famous units as the Long-Range Desert Group and the Chindits, and there is a very useful appendix giving potted histories of special forces units.

Macdonald & Jane's, Paulton House,
8 Shepherdess Walk, London,
N1 7LW, £7.95 **JCW**



IN BRIEF

'Military Metal Shoulder Titles — Volume 1: Infantry' (Ray Westlake)

In this first of three volumes, British infantry shoulder titles are described in detail from regiments of the line to Territorial and cyclist battalions. The detailed text is complemented by more than 540 illustrations to provide a splendid source of information.

A particularly useful section deals with infantry regiments formed since 1958. Territorial formations have a chapter to themselves and a handy reference lists the titles held by various regiments of foot at the time of the 1881 reforms, the titles they assumed that year and any disbandments or amalgamations occurring after that date.

Ray Westlake, 3 The Arches, Villiers Street, London, WC2, £6.50

'Bombarden, Befestigungen, Büchsenmeister' (Volker Schmidtchen)

This volume, in German, deals with the development of heavy guns over 300 years from the 14th century. The author describes the weapons, their projectiles and manufacture, and explains the fortifications set up to counter them.

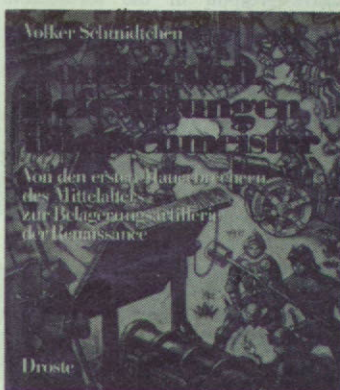
Among the 250 detailed illustrations are 16th century plans for siege cities at Valletta in Malta (just after the repulse of the Turks) and Nicosia in Cyprus.

Droste Verlag, Düsseldorf, W Germany, DM98

'Dispatches' (Michael Herr)

The Vietnam War may yet prove to be the most important political and social event of this century through the influence it had on the attitudes, morals and outlook of a whole generation.

This is one man's view of it. Mr Herr, a journalist, was commissioned by various magazines. He had time to think and consider, then to write — from the depths of his soul, tough, compassionate, sometimes frightened, but always there. There are sickening moments, inspiring moments, and at the end the reader — the Briton, at any rate — can be glad that Vietnam's war was not ours. Pan Books (Picador), Cavaye Place, London, SW10 9PG, £1.25



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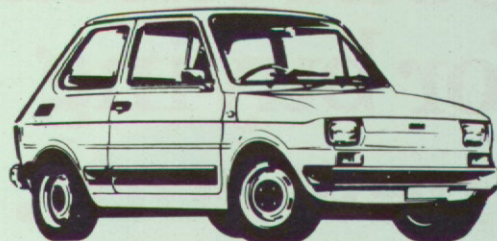
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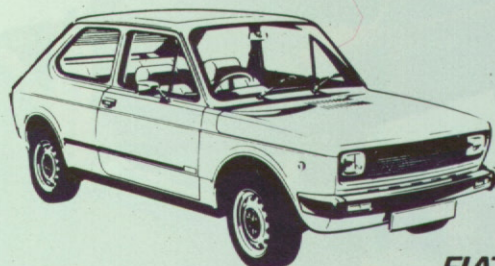
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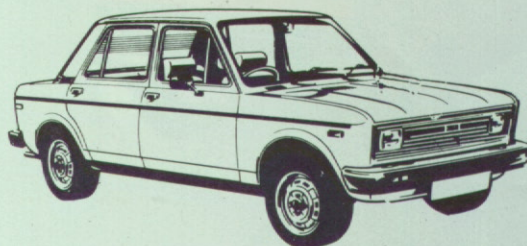
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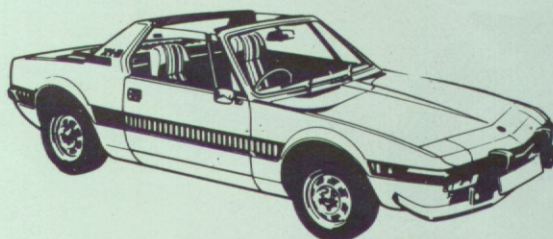
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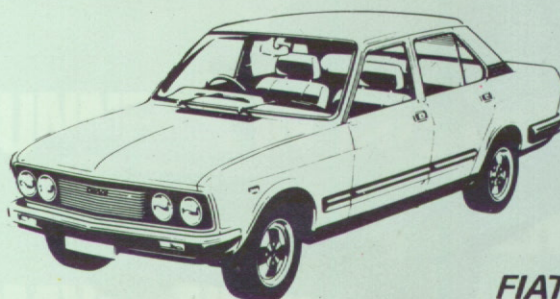
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