

February

1977

15p

Soldier



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FRONT COVER

A Nepalese greeting 'Namaste' between Captain Carole Murray, a Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps sister, and a 17-year-old TB patient in the British Military Hospital at Dharan. 'Namaste' has a literal translation of "I salute all divine qualities in you."

Picture by Doug Pratt.

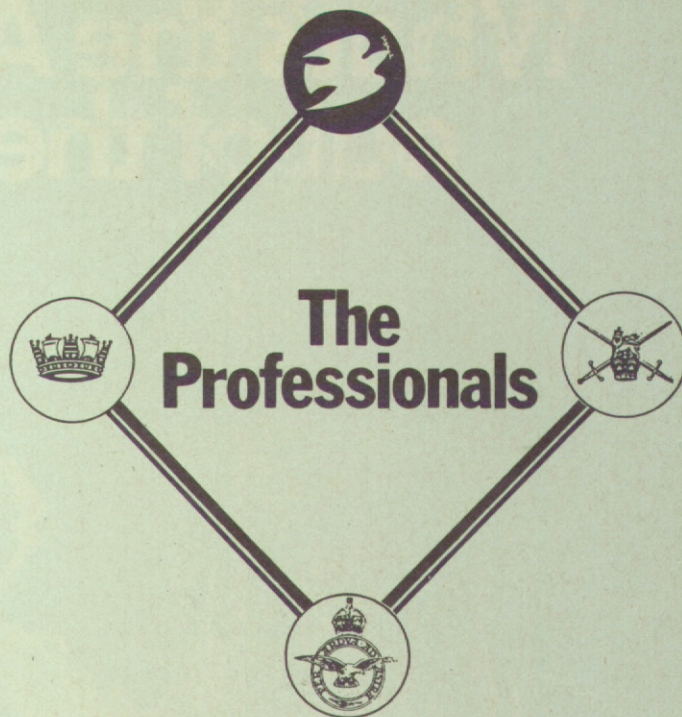


BACK COVER

Thousands of floating homes and above them one of the Army's latest Gazelle helicopters. The picture was taken at Aberdeen in Hong Kong and the Gazelle belongs to 656 Squadron, Army Air Corps, stationed in the colony.

Picture by Sergeant Brian Lawrence, Joint Services Public Relations Staff.

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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



FEBRUARY 1977

- 7 King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, royal salute, Hyde Park, London (Queen's accession).
- 26 Massed bands, Housenoid Division, gala concert, Royal Festival Hall, London (part proceeds to multiple sclerosis research and Service charities).

MARCH 1977

- 1 Jubilee Band Spectacular 1977 (in aid of Scottish war-blinded ex-servicemen) by the Scottish Regiments, Usher Hall, Edinburgh.

APRIL 1977

- 6 King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, gallop past, Regent's Park, London.
- 21 King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, royal salute, Hyde Park, London (Queen's birthday).
- 30 Presentation of Colours to 3rd (V) Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, Newark.

MAY 1977

- 1 Opening ceremony, Gathering of the Clans, Edinburgh (pipes and drums; four bands).
- 6 Royal Jubilee Pageant, Windsor (6-8 May).
- 6 Concert, Usher Hall, Edinburgh (three bands).
- 7 Closing ceremony, Gathering of the Clans, Edinburgh (two bands).
- 12 Royal Windsor Horse Show (12-15 May) (King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, musical ride).
- 14 Plymouth Tattoo.
- 14 Scoutarena, Stoneleigh (band).
- 18 West Midland Agricultural Show, Shrewsbury (18-19 May) (Light Infantry freetail team; two bands).
- 19 Devon County Show, Exeter (19-21 May) (junior band).
- 21 New Colours, 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, Minden.
- 24 Beating Retreat, Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh (Scottish Division massed pipes and drums).
- 26 Massed bands concert, Windsor (26-29 May).
- 27 Royal Artillery At Home, Woolwich (27-28 May).
- 27 Combined Cadet Tattoo, Gosport (27-29 May).
- 28 Oxford Young Farmers Show, Witney (28-29 May) (Royal Army Ordnance Corps 'Cannonballs' freetail team; band).
- 28 Burnley Army Display (28-29 May) (Royal Signals 'White Helmets' motorcycle team; Parachute Regiment 'Red Devils' freetail team; Junior Parachute Company 'Pegasus' gymnastic team; corps of drums; four bands).

JULY 1977

- 2 Plymouth Services Week (2-9 July).
- 4 Royal Show, Stoneleigh (4-7 July) (Red Caps).
- 6 Second royal tour of London.
- 7 Queen reviews British Army of the Rhine.
- 8 Depot Queen's Division Open Day, Basingstoke (Pentastars; White Helmets; Pegasus; two bands; junior band).
- 8 Edinburgh Army Display (8-18 July) (Golden Lions; band).
- 9 Artillery Day, Larkhill.
- 9 Basingstoke Tattoo.
- 9 Pudsey (Yorkshire) Show (junior band).
- 9 Royal Pioneer Corps Training Centre Open Day, Northampton (band).
- 9 Welbeck (Nottinghamshire) County Fair (9-10 July) (Cannonballs; two bands).
- 9 Derby Steam Rally (9-10 July) (band).
- 10 Royal Tournament preview march, Horse Guards Parade.
- 11 Royal tour of Suffolk, Norfolk, Humberside, Yorkshire and North East Counties (11-15 July).

NOTE: Later May events and June events were published in the January 1977 **SOLDIER**.

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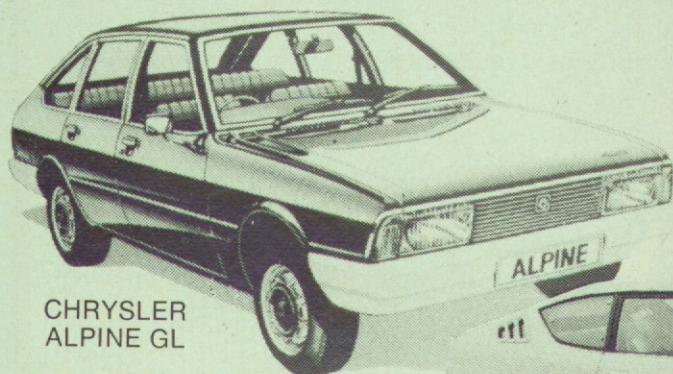


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Diary continued

- 12 Great Yorkshire Show, Harrogate (12-14 July) (Adventurous training display).
- 14 Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London (14-30 July).
- 14 Nottingham Military Display (14-16 July) (Red Caps 14 July; Pegasus 14-15 July; Royal Green Jackets freefall team; band; two junior bands).
- 16 Corby (Northamptonshire) Highland Games (16-17 July) (Household Division freefall team).
- 18 Dundee Army Display (18-21 July) (Golden Lions; band; pipes and drums).
- 19 East of England Show, Peterborough (19-21 July) (RA motorcyclists; Red Devils; Pegasus; Pentastars; two bands).
- 21 Sheffield Services Display (21-24 July) (Red Devils; Pegasus; three bands).
- 21 Malton (Yorkshire) Show (band).
- 21 Manchester Show (21-23 July) (Red Devils; combat display; two bands).
- 21 St Helens Show (21-23 July) (White Helmets; Red Devils; Household Cavalry Quadrille; Pegasus; two bands).
- 21 Aberdeen Army Display (21-25 July) (Golden Lions; band).
- 22 Stafford Carnival (22-23 July) (band).
- 22 Northampton Show (22-24 July) (band).
- 23 Cleveland Show, Middlesbrough (marching display; two bands).
- 26 Tyneside Summer Exhibition, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (26-30 July) (Red Devils; Pegasus; band).
- 26 Inverness Army Display (26 July-6 August) (Golden Lions; RA motorcyclists; band; pipes and drums).
- 27 Royal tour of West Midlands, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire (27-28 July).
- 28 Deal Regatta (28-29 July) (Red Devils; band).
- 30 Open Day, Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Engineers, Dover.
- 30 Gloucester Festival Fortnight (30 July-14 August) (band 12 August).
- 31 Open Day, Royal Armoured Corps Centre, Bovington.
- 31 Whitstable Regatta (band).
- 31 Knebworth (Hertfordshire) Air Display (Red Devils; band).

AUGUST 1977

- 3 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (3-6 August).
- 3 Bingley (Yorkshire) Show (junior band).
- 4 King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, royal salute, Hyde Park, London (Queen Mother's birthday).
- 4 Royal tour of Devon, Cornwall and Avon (4-8 August).
- 5 Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo (5-13 August).
- 6 Army Air Day, Middle Wallop.
- 8 Queen reviews County of Avon Volunteer forces, Bristol.
- 10 Royal tour of Northern Ireland (10-11 August).
- 12 Stoke-on-Trent Carnival (12-13 August) (band).
- 13 Sedgfield Show (band).
- 17 Cromer (Norfolk) Carnival (RA motorcyclists; two bands; pipes and drums).
- 19 Edinburgh Tattoo (19 August-10 September).
- 19 Reading Show (19-20 August) (White Helmets; band).
- 20 Darlington Show (band).
- 20 Hartlepool Show (20-21 August) (band).
- 22 Oulton Broad (Suffolk) Regatta (22-30 August) (Red Devils).
- 27 South Tyneside Flower Show, South Shields (27-29 August) (band).
- 27 Morecambe and Lancaster Army Display (27-29 August) (Red Devils; Pegasus; White Helmets; four bands).
- 27 Town and Country Festival, Coventry (27-29 August) (Lt Inf freefall; band).
- 27 Expo Steam, Peterborough (27-29 August) (Red Devils; RGJ freefall; King's Troop; band).
- 27 Quexpo 77, Birchington (Kent) (27-29 August) (Cannonballs).
- 29 St Albans Jubilee (RGJ freefall).
- 29 Eye (Suffolk) Show (Household Division freefall).
- 29 Aylsham (Norfolk) Show (RA motorcyclists).

SEPTEMBER 1977

- 1 Buckinghamshire County Show, Aylesbury (band).
- 2 Watford (Hertfordshire) Show (2-4 September) (Red Devils; band).
- 2 Birmingham Show (2-3 September) (band).
- 3 Seaham (Northumberland) Show (3-4 September) (band).
- 3 Richmond (Yorkshire) Show (band).
- 3 Buckinghamshire Show, High Wycombe (band).
- 4 Burma Star Association Day, Waterbeach (Household Cavalry Quadrille; RA motorcyclists; Pegasus; five bands; pipes and drums).
- 8 Glasgow Army Display (8-20 September) (White Helmets 12-20 September; Red Caps 12-14 September; band).
- 9 Cardiff Army Display (9-13 September) (Red Devils; band).
- 10 Horse and Horticultural Show, Henley-on-Thames (band).
- 11 Woodley Tattoo, Reading.
- 15 Swansea Army Display (15-17 September) (Red Devils; band).
- 15 Thame (Oxfordshire) Agricultural Show (Cannonballs; band).
- 17 Luton Musical Pageant.
- 17 Welwyn Garden City Water Carnival (band).
- 17 Basingstoke Show (17-18 September) (RA motorcyclists).
- 29 Careers Exhibition, Shrewsbury (29 September-1 October) (RA motorcyclists; Lt Inf freefall; band).

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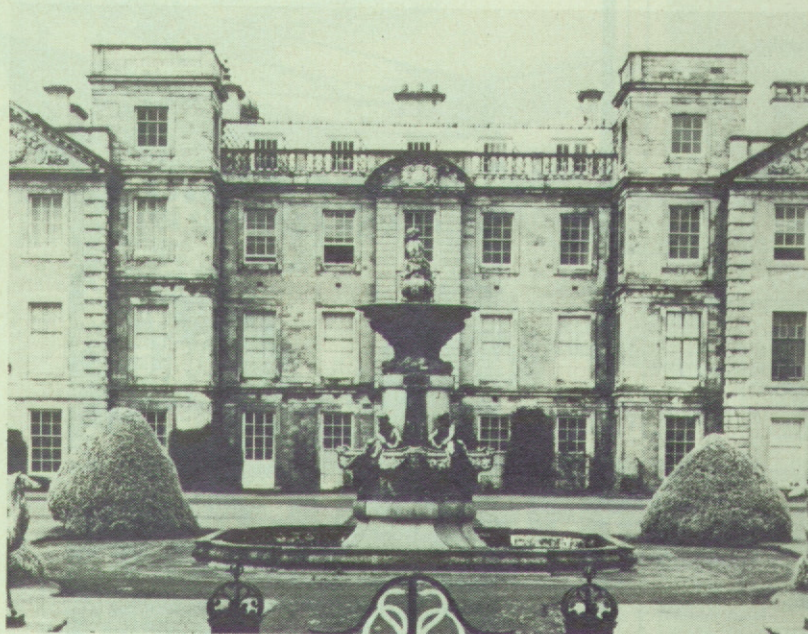
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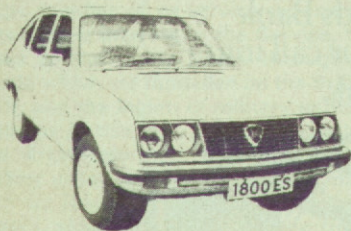
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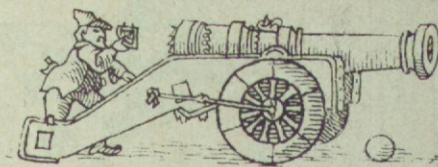
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Military Museums 49



THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

AS ONE WOULD expect, relics of the Iron Duke figure prominently in the museum of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment which occupies a suite of rooms in Halifax's Bankfield Museum. The splendid offering of Wellingtonia includes a gilt bust of Wellington, a suit of civilian clothes worn by the Duke, a long list of his many titles and highest military ranks conferred on him by foreign countries, a pair of those famous boots now known as 'Wellingtons,' one of his razors, and hair taken from the tail of Copenhagen, Wellington's gallant charger.

Another display centres on the camp bed used by Wellington at Waterloo and close at hand is a night cap marked with a W and a cambric handkerchief bearing the W monogram under a ducal coronet.

Waterloo relics abound. Typical are a cockade from a French officer's hat, a French cavalry sabre used against the 33rd — the 'Dukes' were formed from the 33rd and 76th regiments of Foot — and an illuminated plan showing episodes of the battle. An eye-catching feature of this section is the enormous Waterloo drum reputed to have been carried throughout the battle by Drummer J Helliwell. Also to be seen are a telescope belonging to Wellington and two white shirts remarkable for their similarity — one worn by the Duke of Wellington, the other bearing the imperial N belonging to Napoleon.

Other Napoleonic relics include a pair of spurs worn by the Emperor during his exile on St Helena and a pair of carriage lamps said to have been taken from the coach used when he fled the battlefield of Waterloo.

One of the regiment's eight Victoria Crosses has an honoured place. It was won by Private James Bergin of the 33rd at the storming of Magdala in 1868. Nearby is a presentation Mameluke sword and the uniform and decorations of another VC, General Sir Hugh Rowlands, who was a Colonel of the Regiment. The uniform and decorations of another Colonel, Brigadier-General P A Turner, can also be seen.

A treasured relic is the spearhead with tassel cord from the Regimental Colour of the 33rd carried at Alma, Inkerman, Sevastopol and Magdala.

Another prized souvenir is a fragment of the Queen's Colour carried during the Crimean and Abyssinian campaigns. While defending this Colour at the Alma, five officers and 16 sergeants were killed or wounded.

Reminders of the Crimea include a Russian side drum and a pair of cymbals, a Russian percussion carbine and a wooden box used by an officer of the 33rd throughout the campaign as a container for his personal possessions.

Both the 33rd and the 76th saw service in India and a relic of those days is the sword and dagger taken from the body of Typpu Sahib. The Abyssinian campaign is commemorated by a number of exhibits, the most important of which is the magnificent throne cloth of the Emperor Theodore captured during the storming of Magdala.

Regimental badges, buttons, shoulder plates and belt buckles are shown to advantage and in a good display of uniforms there is a collection showing the evolution of mess dress from 1872 to the present day, a 76th captain's dress uniform, the frock coat of a Duke of Wellington's Regiment captain as worn between 1902 and 1928 and a colonel's levée dress of 1881-1884. Volunteer uniforms are also well displayed.

World War One mementoes include a German airman's helmet and a British stick grenade while Italian and Japanese rifles and automatic weapons are among World War Two souvenirs.

John Jesse

Curator: Mr R A Innes
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SOLDIER to Soldier

It is now just six months since the expansion of SOLDIER News from its previous four to a monthly 20 pages. Those 20 pages have also taken in the old 'Left, Right and Centre' and 'Purely Personal' pages of the magazine, other news stories and sport. The newspaper-style treatment has enabled many more news stories to be presented and an extension of Army sport coverage. The 'shop floor' information has also been increased and, of course, SOLDIER News now includes families pages.

In short, the 20 pages of SOLDIER News keep soldiers — and their families — up-to-date on what is happening in the Army, particularly in relation to matters of day-to-day life in the Service.

To accommodate the news section while retaining all the magazine's features has meant an increase in the average number of pages. These last six issues contain a total of 376 pages, including a record 68 in the December issue, as against the 240 pages (regular 40-page issues) of some years ago. And SOLDIER's staff is fewer now than then. But while production, in terms of the magazine's size and its coverage of the Army, has considerably increased and, SOLDIER's staff feels, without any lessening of standards, this is no time for complacency.

SOLDIER's editorial aim is to inform and entertain the whole of the Army — Regular, Volunteer and cadet forces — plus the very large number of ex-service personnel who retain their interest in the Service, the soldiers of the many forces throughout the world which are modelled on the British pattern, and the legion of military enthusiasts. Success in this aim, particularly in keeping the Army informed, means achieving the widest possible readership — the magazine and its news section are more than ever before 'required' reading. Within the Army, that wide readership can be obtained through a comparatively few copies strategically placed, as they usually are, in messes, clubs and at other focal points. But this militates against the economic necessity to sell as many copies as possible to meet ever-increasing production expenses, especially printing costs which have doubled over the past few years and which are of course increased by larger issues.

To stay in business, SOLDIER must meet the financial obligation placed upon the magazine of balancing production cost by advertising revenue and sales income.

At the end of this first six months of the 'new look,' SOLDIER now invites commanding officers to take a hard look at their own magazine in the light of just two questions: Are you satisfied with the sales ratio in your unit?

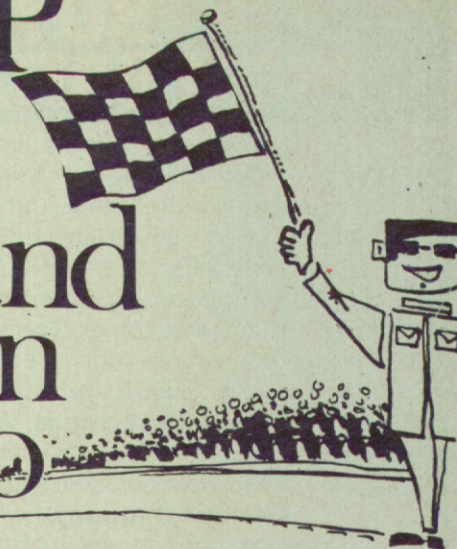
Are your readers happy with SOLDIER and the new SOLDIER News?

And if advice or help on sales is needed — the key to this is in ready availability of the magazine — SOLDIER will respond immediately to a letter or phone call (Miss D M W Duffield on Aldershot Military ext 2592 or 2587).

Suggestions on content are equally welcome, though not as easily met! Write to or ring Editor (ext 2585), Deputy Editor (ext 2586) or any member of the editorial staff.

Let's hear from you!

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You know where you are with Wimpey.

There is little to laugh at in the bomb-shattered streets of Belfast. But at Christmastide, patrols of British soldiers knew they had to keep smiling. The key was their ironic catchphrase . . .

GOOD 'ERE, INNIT!

'SMILE FOR BELFAST' urged the posters of a campaign to lend Christmas cheer to the strife-torn city. The soldier cocked his thumb at a poster, mimicked its grin and chortled "Good 'ere, innit" — the Army's slogan for its tedious tours of duty in Northern Ireland, now in their seventh year.

With a wry smile his fellow-soldier on foot patrol in Belfast's busy shopping centre explained: "If you don't laugh here, you crack up."

Lance-Bombardier Jock Cunliff and Gunner Tom McKernan were determined to keep smiling. There was plenty to frown about — separation from family and friends, loss of local overseas allowance back in Germany, the knife-edge four months of day-to-day living in the shadow of Northern Ireland's gunmen and bombers.

But they knew it would eventually end. Then it would be back to normal duties with 143 (Tomb's Troop) Field Battery of 49 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery — Jock to his Abbot self-propelled gun and Tom at the wheel of his Stalwart.

With two months gone and two to go, the regiment's gunners were now well used to the infantry tasks of their internal security role in Northern Ireland. They faced their second Christmas in three in Belfast and it was their third four-month emergency tour since the 'troubles' started. Said the commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Robin Duchesne: "Seventy per cent of the regiment know this patch quite well by now."

Jock Cunliff better than most perhaps. He had been on one of the previous tours and was there before as a dog handler based just outside Belfast. For him and his section colleague Tom McKernan, two days of Christmas week went like this:

It is 0630 in 'the best hotel in Belfast.' That's what they call the Grand Central

Hotel — the Gee Cee Aitch to its guests, the soldiers of 49 Field Regiment. Once the pride of Belfast's Royal Avenue, the hotel is now an Army barracks.

The two soldiers pull on combat kit and 'flak' jacket fragmentation vests for another day. There are five echoing flights of stairs to go down and, however insistent the 'quiet please' notices, the thump and squeak of boots on near-bare board and the occasional whistled tune or crackled radio message still disturb the sleep of shifts off-watch in the 24-hour cycle of duties.

In the ground-floor cookhouse, breakfast is do-it-yourself fried eggs on a big ever-hot griddle plus a selection of other ready cooked fried fare. Camouflage-clad figures

Story: Mike Starke
Pictures: Doug Pratt



A derelict house needs to be opened and searched so soldiers have to smash down old bricks.



Above: The mechanical sniffer gets its nose in. Below: A Civilian Search Unit is well guarded.



with red-rimmed eyes and grey faces contemplate the coming day. Rifles criss-cross the tables in front of the soldiers. Few talk.

The first cigarette of the day for Jock: "I gave it up four months ago but this place drove me to it again. There's so little entertainment possible here so this" (waving the cigarette) "is it." There are Services Kinema Corporation films and two cans of beer a day. Off-duty visits are limited and strictly controlled because of the danger.

A briefing at 0645 brings a change of plan. Instead of Serial Foxtrot Six — a foot patrol ('footsie') — Jock and Tom are detailed to help with the cordon for a search, following up a tip-off that one of three city-centre houses may be a hiding place for terrorist arms.

The tiny briefing room is packed with soldiers. From the walls stare hostile eyes of terrorist suspects photographed for the security forces' 'rogues gallery.' A non-commissioned officer — incongruous in beard, long hair and civilian clothes — outlines the plan.

Powerful engines whine under the strain of extra armour converting one-ton Humber troop carriers into the snub-nose 'pigs' that have become so familiar on the roads of Northern Ireland. The engines fade to a mumble and heavy doors clang open as the cordon-and-search group piles out into one of Belfast's streets of terraced houses.

Inside one 'two-up, two-down' the family is just getting up. It is 0715. Mum, dad and seven children from school age to teenage live in the four rooms. A show of petulance asserts a teenage daughter's allegiance. The soldiers shuffle shoulder-to-shoulder into the tiny home and stand awkwardly while the official preliminaries interrupt the domestic scene.

"Have you any illegally held arms or explosives or any large amounts of money?" "No sir, nothing at all like that."

The press of bodies now shuffles into a new configuration, equally uncomfortable, while the leader of the search team searches his team himself to satisfy the head of the house that his men have no valuables on them (they have all been previously warned to take off watches and rings and empty their pockets). This search is repeated at the end of the operation to avoid later accusations of theft.

A small black-and-white mongrel dog wanders bewildered through the forest of legs. Christmas decorations twinkle in the half-light and the seasonal sentimentality of a radio disc-jockey oozes unheeded into the crowded room. "It's a revelation, isn't it?" whispers one soldier, eyeing the makeshift sleeping arrangements with transparent distaste. The young soldiers are obviously uncomfortable in their work of sifting through personal belongings.

Searching a place with nine people's belongings plus all the impediments of domestic life takes some doing . . . and some time. One dresser top alone yields everything from packets of food to matches, torch, spanner, pocket calculator, baseball glove, cosmetics, flat-iron and a wooden money box . . . empty.

It is now 1020. Nothing spectacular has been found. None of the three houses contains any weapons. One, derelict, had its bricked-up window stoved in to reveal nothing more sinister than a gigantic pigeon loft.

For Jock and Tom it's back to their interrupted foot patrol in the city centre. At 1100 they get a break from the numbing cold of the wintry streets and return to the Grand Central. At its rear an enclosed unloading bay stands where the hotel's kitchen entrance once was. A doorway that rang to the clatter of refuse bins now echoes to the rattle of rifle bolts and the click of pistol hammers as weapons are made safe before going in.

The Christmas period has been busy. Jock and Tom have been working for up to 16 hours a day keeping bombs and bullets out of the city centre. As it turned out, the troops and police were successful in this. But, at the time, each duty stint brought its own physical and nervous tension in the battle of watching and waiting where the main enemy is a boredom which eats away the concentration so vital to the job.

So for Jock and Tom every moment of off-duty time must be put to good use, with rest a high priority. Meal breaks are honed down to the minimum (neither man has more than a snack lunch, preferring to eat a full meal at the end of the day), allowing the maximum period for sleep — to "get in some zeds."

With boots heavy and muscles pinched with cold after a morning patrolling, the two trudge up the wide hotel stairway — once the pride and joy of some maitre d'hotel. They pass a large notice describing the improvised physical training programme their sport-conscious regiment inherited. Confined to the Grand Central, the soldiers have to do their training indoors. Hence the 'stair-chase.' At some time of the day everyone is exhorted to dash up the five flights of stairs, two steps at a time, in one-and-a-half minutes. Then come down one at a time in a minute.

Jock eyes the poster: "Sometimes we do it — sometimes we're just too knackered. You'd be surprised the exercise you get just walking round in the city."

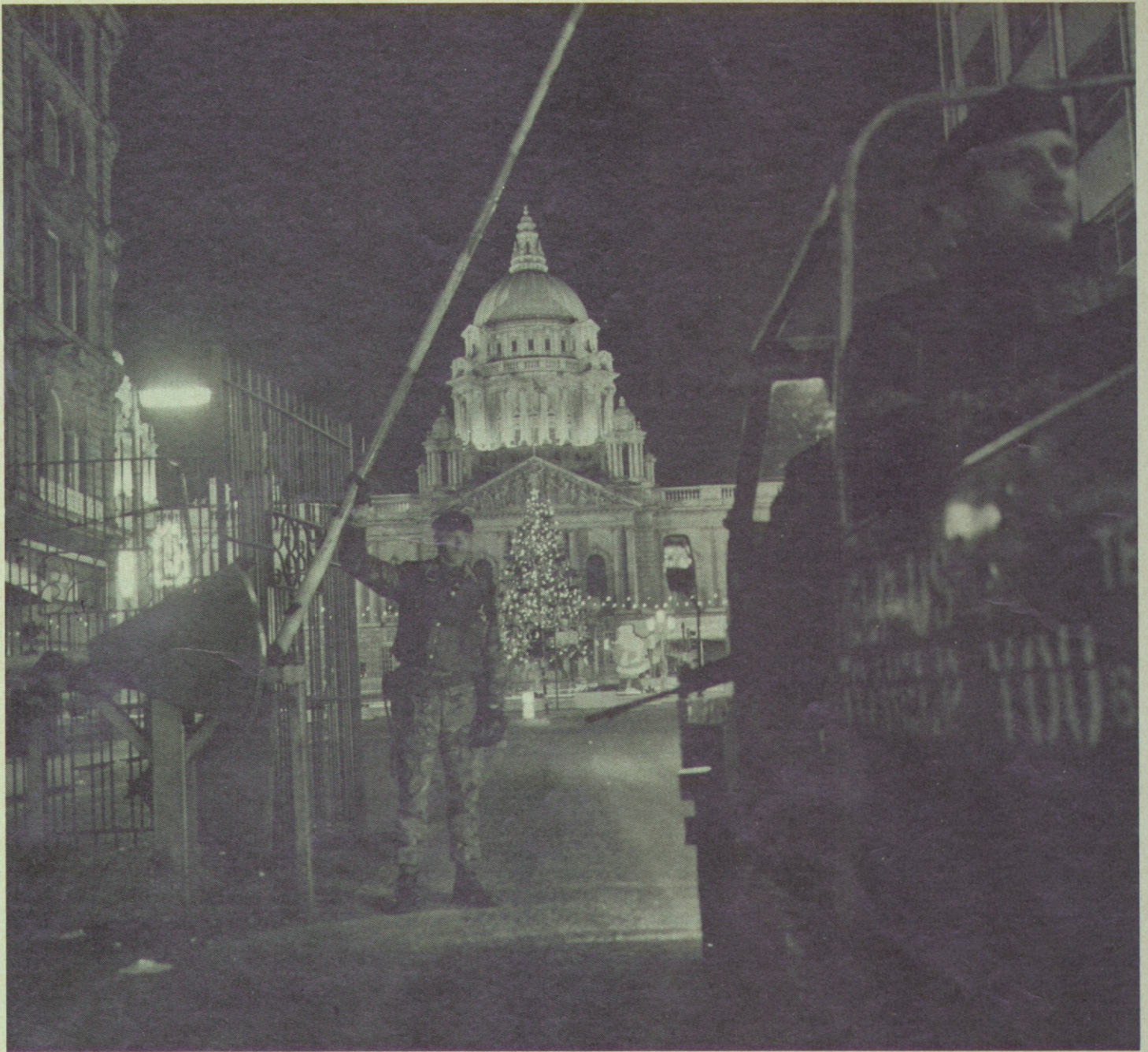
The hotel rooms have been made into two- or three-man billets. Jock and Tom are lucky. They are not on the front corridors where a massive terrorist bomb has cocked the whole of one side of the hotel up several inches to make the passage an uphill climb at one end.

Jock is in a two-man room. "They're what you make them," he says, surveying his own cosy home-from-home complete with neat curtains and easy chairs. Tom shares with two others. They have their own television hired for £13 for the tour from the 'golly shop' — a general store-cum-coffee-bar run by Asian civilians in the hotel itself.

At noon in the cookhouse the 'buzz' is that the IRA is going to "have a go" today at blitzing the city centre with incendiaries — a tactic used with deadly effect in Londonderry a couple of weeks earlier. Small fire bombs are easily concealed and planted in shops packed with highly inflammable Christmas stock.

Every night of this pre-Christmas week, Tomb's Troop battery sergeant-major, Warrant Officer 2 Tony Mallinder, and a band of volunteers accompanied by 'Wagtails' — dogs trained to nose out explosives — have been sifting through shops as part of Operation Mistletoe, a bid to keep the bombers' kiss of death from Belfast's busy Christmas.

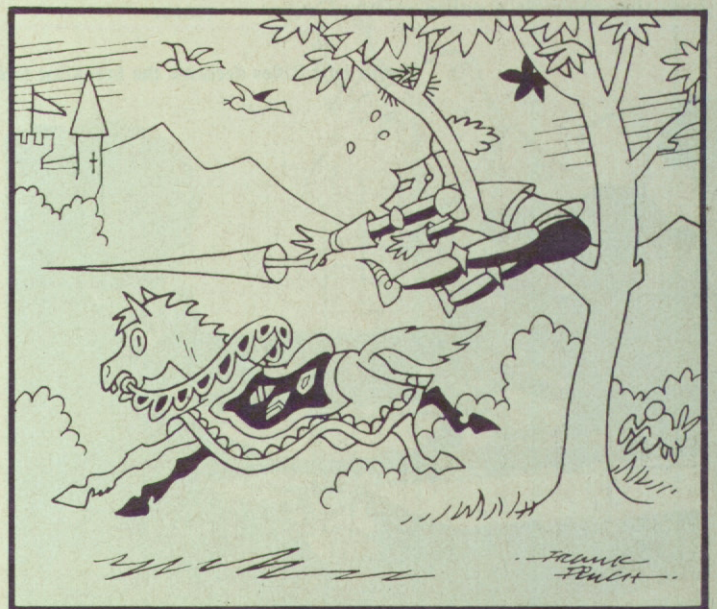
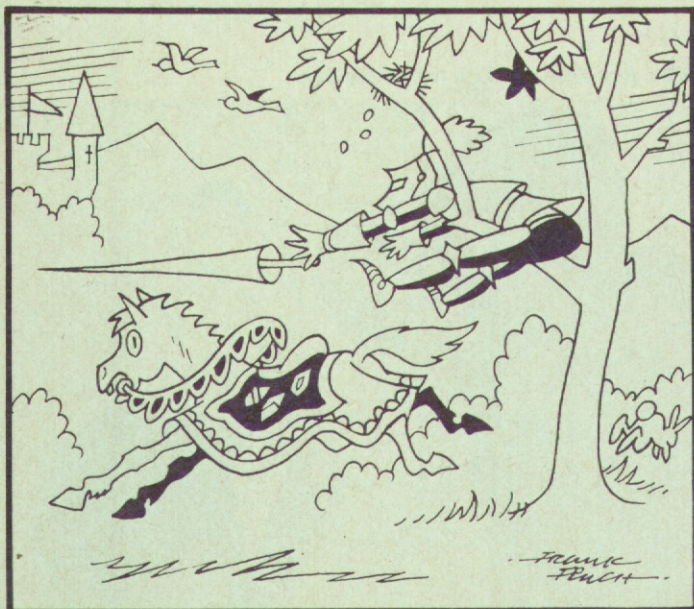
Each day has brought its crop of tip-offs that today would be the day. So Jock is



A mobile patrol leaves the Belfast segments for a Christmas watch.

How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences see page 34.



sceptical about the cookhouse news: "It's the same every day. They say this one's going to be the big one. There's so many soldiers out on the ground getting in so much information it's bound to seem like it."

By 1230 the two-man section is out again to stand for three-and-a-half hours at 'X-Ray 10,' one of the high metal-barred gates ringing the city centre with steel to keep the bombers out.

The soldiers' job is to guard the Civilian Search Unit (CSU) personnel who frisk pedestrians and search cars coming through the gate. When lorries and vans arrive, the troops can call in Wagtails for a thorough search. They know there is a lot at stake and they help out with the searching themselves when queues build up.

It is a tedious job for the CSU and they get a break every hour or so. It is even more tedious for the soldiers with less to do. But they have to stay alert while standing out in the cold for three-and-a-half to four hours at a time.

"You may occasionally see a soldier smoking when he's not supposed to," says Jock, "but the people who tell him 'Do this, do that' don't have to stand around here for four hours solid."

Persistent offenders may get extra duties for a crafty drag on a cigarette or taking an unscheduled tea break.

The cold begins to bite at X-Ray 10. Toes and fingertips numb even through black leather Army boots and gloves. To make matters worse, cheery citizens weave their way past the gate checkpoint shelter to a warm lounge bar beyond (Belfast bars, out of bounds to troops, stay open all day).

Talk turns to the major preoccupation of the regiment now the tour is half-way through — rest and recuperation, abbreviated to the magic formula R and R. Everyone gets a three- or four-day leave period during the four months.

"I'm one of the lucky ones," grins Jock. "I've drawn Christmas." In a few days he will see his wife and baby daughter again in Germany. Tom is happy with his 'draw' too. A Scot like Jock, he has been allocated the New Year period and looks forward to Hogmanay with family and friends north of the border.

A distant police siren wails through the rooftops. "There goes Belfast's national anthem," says Tom. The whine reminds them that theirs is a police role and every

effort is now being made to hand back more of the security of the Province to the civilian Royal Ulster Constabulary.

At 1600 the two relief soldiers come to take over, guns strapped to their wrists by the slings to stop them being snatched away — it has been tried.

The only city centre where you would regularly expect to see armed British soldiers is London. There they would be in immaculate dress uniform and marching in perfect step on ceremonial duties.

Here things are different. The dress is combat kit. Regimental badges are blacked to present no target at night. You walk some yards apart for mutual protection. Your rifle is held at the ready, a field dressing strapped with black tape to the butt . . . just in case.

Jock and Tom now have an hour off to thaw out and grab a meal before another 'stag.' Soon it's time to be off again. Out of the cookhouse and past the five pay-telephone booths always busy with soldiers, one hand over the ear to shut out the din of Belfast duties while the other ear rings with the voices of home.

This time the two-man section is detailed to 'X-Ray 23' in busy Castle Place in the city's heart. A contrast to X-Ray 10, this leads to a quiet business sector. The 'stag' starts at 1700 with buses roaring through the cantilever barriers, spewing diesel fumes into the soldiers' faces, and shoppers queuing to be searched in the CSU's shelters.

Giant plastic Santas adorn the grim grey metal cage and shop windows glitter with Christmas displays. Quite early on this Friday evening, revellers begin to relieve the monotony of the duty with alcohol-boosted good cheer.

"Some of the lads would give a quid to get this gate on a Friday or Saturday night," said Tom. For the soldiers the mostly good-humoured antics of the local people provide high spots of entertainment in a week devoid of normal recreations.

The show is in full swing at 2100 when the relief pair comes on. Jock and Tom are glad to get back into the warm and bed down for the night.

Saturday morning comes soon enough with another 0630 reveille. This is lucky in one way — it fits in with the normal breakfast mealtime again. Not all 'stags' do. For the peacekeeping task is a 24-hour-a-day job and some duty periods cannot avoid clashing with the ordered routine of a normal existence.

'X-Ray 7' — a relatively quiet entrance to a business area on Saturdays — is the guard duty post for Jock and Tom for three-and-a-half hours until 1100. The gate, with its CSU staff to guard, is a short walk across the main shopping precinct. Jock has to back-pack a heavy metal sniffer apparatus to use in searching lorries and vans full of packages.

The Heath-Robinson-looking device with its tubes, boxed body and gas cylinder imitates the action of a nose — complete with a noise like acute asthma. Lights indicate the absence or presence of explosives.

Somewhere on the radio network the boredom gets too much for a young soldier and a phantom whistle punctuates the rasping voices. A terse rebuke silences him. Jock and Tom recall a similar recent incident:

"Hello three, I'm choked off."

"This is three, say again call-sign."

"Hello three, I'm not THAT choked off."

Eventually 1100 comes with an hour-and-a-half off for lunch and a rest. Next is a four-hour foot patrol in the packed shopping precinct.

To be on the move comes as a blessed release for the two soldiers who have stood icy-footed all morning on the gate.

Jock window-shops for his wife and child back in Hohna while the Belfast crowds jostle around him with their bags full of parcels.

One is stopped every now and again and searched to make sure that the parcels are not deadly presents from the terrorists.

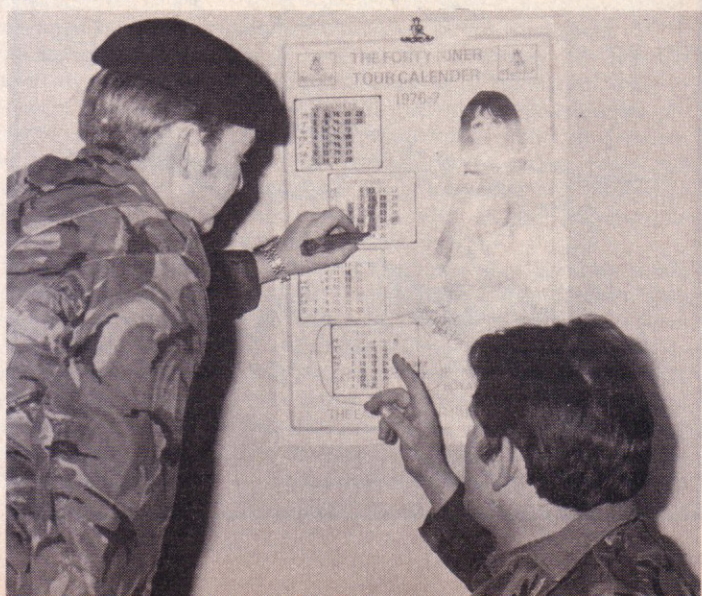
The luxury of a full two-and-a-half hours off follows the four hours on 'footsie' and then from 1900 to 2200 the end of the day is dragged out with another 'stag' on X-Ray 10 which is all but deserted at night.

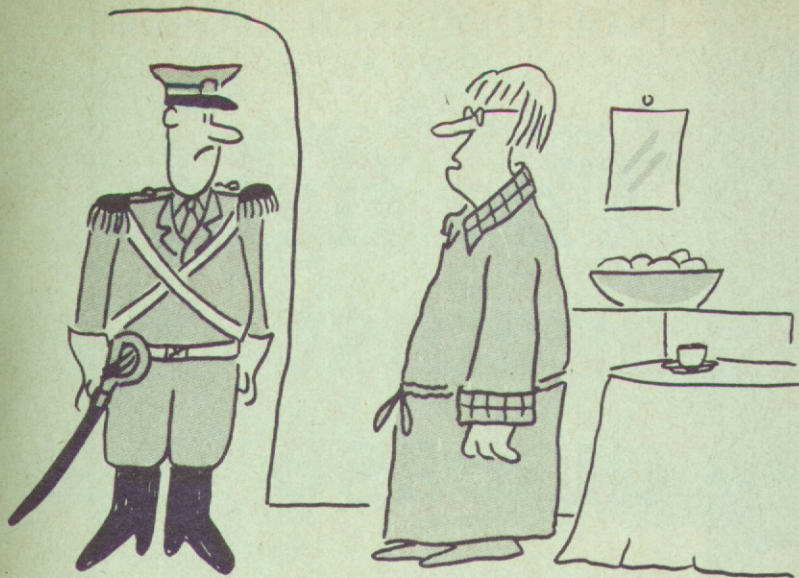
The only company for Jock and Tom is the crackle of commands from the radio handset and the occasional passing customer for the bar behind. Cars swish by on the cold, damp street outside the gate and the Belfast national anthem wails to them from time to time.

Back in the Grand Central that night, Jock ticks off another day on his four-month calendar the regiment had specially printed for them all. "It's one week and 41 days to go. That's just seven Sundays. It sounds quicker that way."

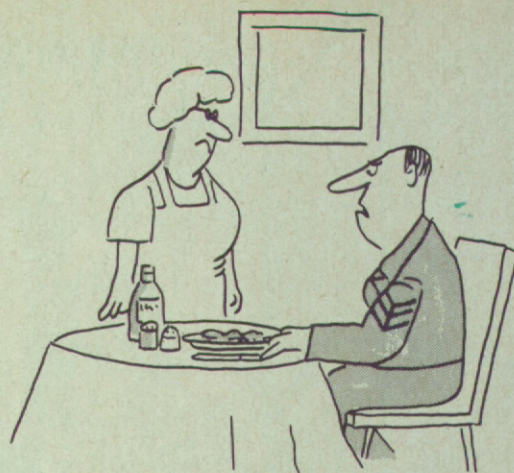
In the meantime there's nothing for it but to Smile for Belfast and repeat the watchword: "Good 'ere, innit."

Below left: Rifles decorate the breakfast table. Right: Jock (left) and Tom tick off the days.





"Before you go, don't forget to put out the dustbin."



"What's this, a survival course?"

HUMOUR

Martial Bliss



"Do you 19200763 Acting Lance-Corporal Chester Gummidge ACC..."

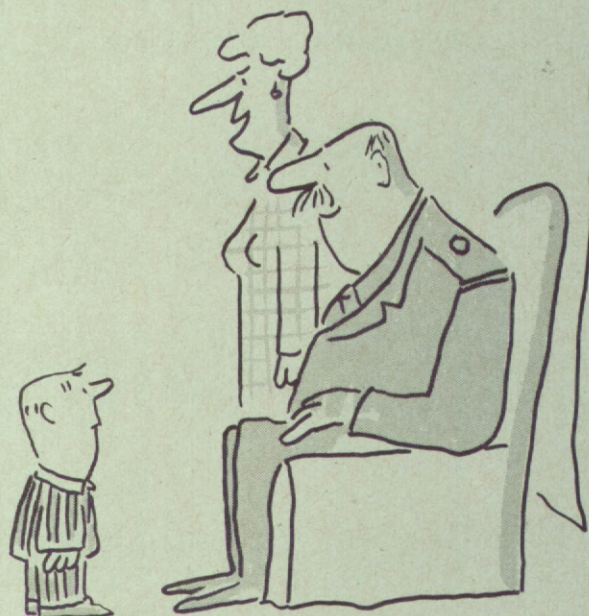


"I think I've found your trouble."

by
John Power



"I said what do you think of my sermon so far?"



"Salute Daddy goodnight, then off to bed."

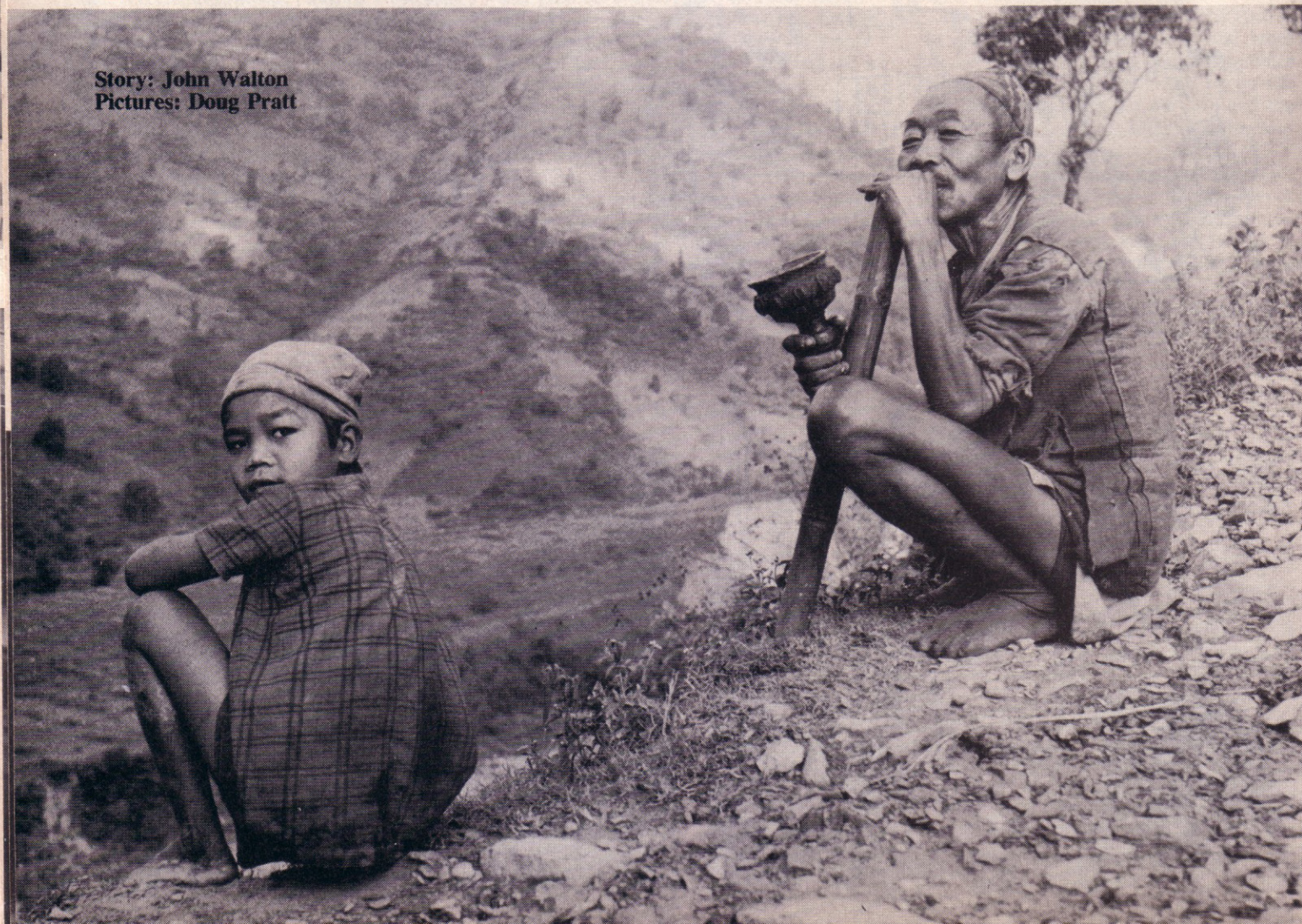
The fight against disease



Above: Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Mummery examines a patient during clinic.
Below: High on a hillside a villager puffs away peacefully on an unusual pipe.

In late 1943 Rifleman Indrajung Rai was hit in the head by a splinter from a Japanese grenade while serving in Burma. He went on pension in 1946 and little was known of him until in 1976 he came to Dharan seeking aid. He complained that he was unable to carry heavy loads on his back because the strap hurt his head. An X-ray showed the quarter-inch splinter lodged in his scalp and it was removed at the British Military Hospital. He can now wear a 'namlo' without pain for the first time in more than 30 years.

Story: John Walton
Pictures: Doug Pratt





Above: The scene outside Dharan cantonment as patients wait for the clinic.

IN THE BRITISH military cantonment at Dharan in eastern Nepal there is a military hospital. It started as a small hospital for Gurkha personnel. Later it extended its care to former Gurkhas and their families and now helps thousands of Nepalese sufferers spread throughout the hills of the area.

The BMH Dharan now has 75 beds and takes 1750 in-patients annually. About 350 babies are born there each year and its out-patient attendance tops the staggering annual figure of 30,000.

Tuberculosis, a disease which has been effectively beaten in Britain only in this century, is still the major scourge of the people of Nepal. The Nepalese Government is carrying out a mass vaccination programme for children and the British doctors are assisting in every way they can. For the ex-Gurkha soldier and his family the hospital offers every possible aid when TB strikes. Most are treated as out-patients and travel down

to Dharan for their tablets. Many walk for days to the hospital and are given medical supplies for three-month periods.

Malnutrition, leprosy and many strange and rare diseases are brought to Dharan. All the hospital's five doctors have to be jacks of all trades. Major Alan Burge, an ear, nose and throat specialist acting as a holiday relief, was astonished by the variety of cases he saw during his short stay. "I haven't been below the collarbone for years, except socially," he quipped. "Yet here I may at any time be called upon to carry out a Caesarian."

Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Mummery, senior medical officer, acts as part-time anaesthetist as well as a general practitioner. He told SOLDIER: "The wide experience we get repays us for the hard work we have to put in treating such a large number of people. We get a great deal of satisfaction doing a little to help the people of Nepal."

The 'village clinic' held each Tuesday is an unforgettable sight to Western eyes. As many as 200 people of all ages and from every direction gather outside the camp perimeter. Some have been carried down in litters, others on people's backs — there are no roads leading from the rugged hills where they live.

At the stroke of ten a Nepalese medical assistant appears. He admits those who already have appointments and then moves through the remainder giving admission papers to those who seem to be in the greatest need of medical attention. Usually some have to be turned away — the clinic just cannot cope with the vast numbers. Harsh though this may seem, it is one of the secrets of the success of the Dharan hospital. As Colonel Mummery says: "We work at a bed occupancy rate of 90 per cent. We have been very careful not to put up extra beds and have people sleeping in the corridors

Below: Ambulance Nepalese-style. Old lady brought from the hills by cart.



Below: Medical assistant processes the waiting would-be patients at Dharan.





Above: This little boy had an eye removed after a growth. Now he is progressing in hospital.



Above: Captain Joan Thornley, QARANC, with a tiny premature baby born at the hospital.



Above: Sergeant Andrew Jepperson and workshop manager Bhimbahadur Limbu show a leg.

because this will lower standards. What we can do for the people of this country is to have a hospital run to United Kingdom standards."

Each year a course is held at the hospital which will benefit many different parts of the Himalayan kingdom. Gurkha soldiers who are leaving the Army go to Dharan for a nine-month medical assistants' training course, part of the Overseas Development Ministry's Gurkha reintegration scheme. Last year, out of 36 men taking the course, 35 passed. One or two may stay to work at the hospital, others go to Gurkha welfare centres. But the majority, once they have their medical training, are able to work for the Nepalese government, in disease control or family planning projects, or can set up

their own dispensaries in their home areas.

Even the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers workshop at Dharan is drawn into the medical aid field. Distance is the great problem in Nepal and many patients who are carried into the hospital after snake bites and falls have serious infections and gangrene when they arrive — the only remedy being amputation.

When the amputee is ready for an artificial limb, Sergeant Andrew Jepperson, Royal Army Medical Corps, measures the stump and makes a plaster cast. The final mould is taken to the workshops where there is a large store of old artificial arms and legs shipped out from Roehampton Hospital in England.

The limb which is the nearest fit is

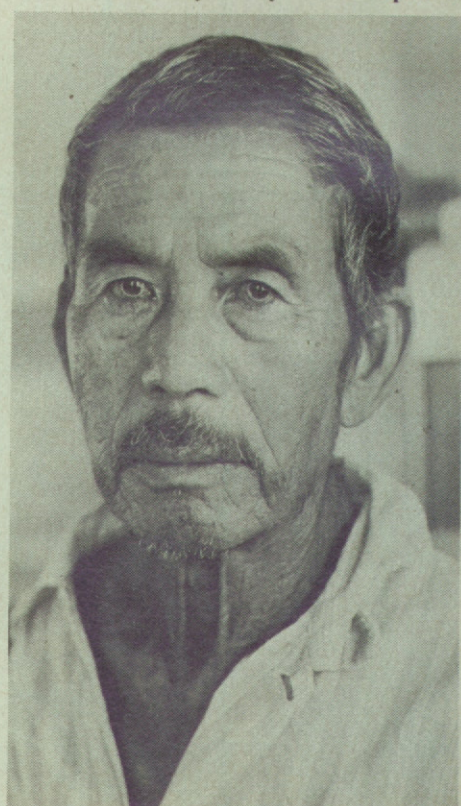
selected and minor adaptations are made in the workshops. Later the patient returns for a fitting at the workshops and the hospital gives its final seal of approval. This is done for all patients who have had amputations regardless of whether they are Gurkha pensioners or not.

One emergency which occurred during SOLDIER's visit vividly illustrates the teamwork and dedication which goes into the medical work at Dharan. A teenage boy being operated on was losing blood at a rapid rate and needed transfusions. Stocks of blood at the hospital are limited. But after a few phone calls British officers, wives and nursing staff donated blood which saved the boy's life. He was an orphan who had no connection with the Brigade of Gurkhas.

Below: Hospital dhobi — shortly to be replaced by modern machinery.



Below: Old soldier. Subahadur Prabhudoj Rai (74) was in the Army for 26 years. Now a patient.



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Soldier news

Block goes on recruiting

Recruiting offices have been told not to accept any more young soldier applications from 17-year-olds. The Army's requirement for new recruits has dropped away, says the Ministry of Defence.

Enlistment of young soldiers ceased effectively in January although no more applications were accepted the month before. But this will not affect school-leavers.

Because of his age, a young soldier may not leave his training unit after initial training until he is aged 17½ and he may not move with a field force unit to Northern Ireland or on certain postings overseas until he is 18.

The reason for the block on young soldiers, says MOD, is that more soldiers are choosing to stay in the Service longer and, as a result, recruiting requirement has dropped.

In normal circumstances about 1000 young soldiers would have enlisted and joined for training during the first three months of 1977.

But guaranteed vacancies will be honoured. In fact about 200 vacancies have already been awarded and have not yet been taken up.

It will still be possible for 'suitable' 17-year-olds to join as apprentices or junior leaders. But the majority applying at this age will be advised to come back again nearer the 17½-year point to be considered for normal adult entry.

"The Army needs a steady flow of young men of the right calibre," said an MOD (Army) spokesman.

"However the numbers needed must be related to the Army's current manpower and from time to time adjustments to these requirements become necessary.

"There are no plans at present to restrict the junior entry to apprentice colleges, junior leaders regiments or junior soldiers units.

Immediate school-leavers are not therefore affected by this measure."

Everest conquerors 'Bronco' Lane and 'Brummy' Stokes are awarded the BEM in the New Year's Honours Awards.

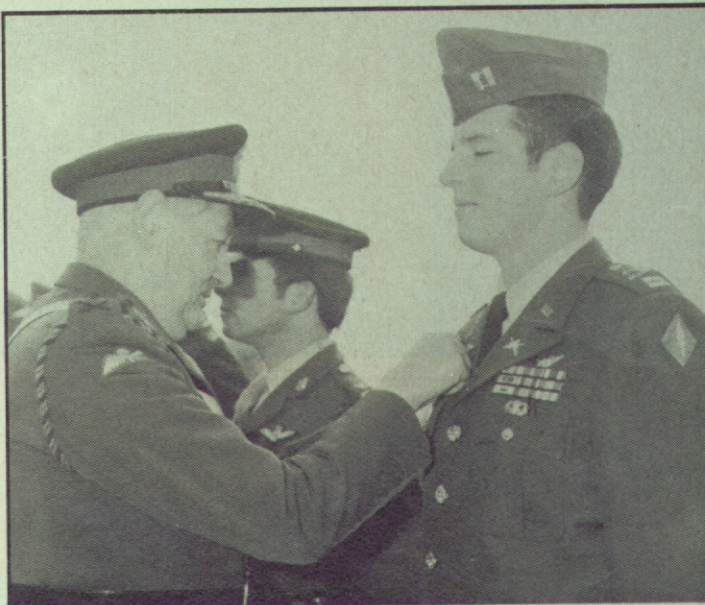
For the full list of Army honours, turn to News 17.

Widows pension

Some redundant servicemen may have outstanding contributions to the half-rate widows pension scheme which under current rules would have to be paid as a deduction from terminal benefits. These payments would attract income tax relief on the first £100 only.

But servicemen declared redundant may want to increase their payments to the scheme, up to a maximum 1¼% of annual salary for recovery during the remainder of their service.

Servicemen who have been declared redundant and who wish to change their contribution should do so through their unit paymaster. Officers should bring with them the most recent monthly pay service slip."



Veteran gets his wings

Captain Jim O'Toole of the United States Army was one of 13 pilots on parade at Middle Wallop, Hampshire, in December when General Sir Edwin Bramall, Commander-in-Chief United Kingdom Land Forces, presented wings to the passing out Army pilots course.

The students completed ten months of pilot training and received instruction on the Chipmunk basic fixed-wing training aircraft, the Bell G4 helicopter and the Sioux light army helicopter.

Captain O'Toole, a Vietnam vet-

eran, is an exchange officer at present serving with 655 Squadron, Army Air Corps, at Detmold in Germany. He successfully completed a Scout helicopter conversion course at the AAC Centre earlier last year. Before his current exchange posting, he commanded a ground cavalry troop, numbering some 150 men, of 101 Air Assault Division.

The occasion was unique for the Army Air Corps Centre since it was the first time that a four-star general had presented wings there.

New badge

Royal Marine Commandos have been presented with their own badge — a red fighting knife on a blue shield background.

The new badge was officially presented to Army elements of Commando Forces Royal Marines in Plymouth by General Sir Roland Gibbs. The badge was approved by the Army Badge Committee.

"For many years there has been strong feeling that there should be some visible recognition for those who accept the special challenge of the commando course and service with Commando Forces," said Colonel P C Bowser, at Commando headquarters, Devonport.

"At the end of the commando course a soldier is presented with his green beret, but when he leaves Commando Forces there was nothing to show for his achievement. The introduction of the commando badge meets this requirement."

Sales down, but profits up

Naafi sales slumped in the year ending 1 May 1976, although turnover for the year was an all-time record at £189,000,000.

This reverses the previous year's headlines when, although sales were up, profits were down.

Even so, the higher profits on falling sales meant that the increase of £20,000,000 over last year's turnover failed to match the overall price of inflation.

Presenting the accounts, Mr James Spooner, chairman of Naafi, explained that in the face of all this the corporation achieved a considerable improvement on last year, with a trading surplus up from £8,000,000 to £10,000,000. Of this, almost £6,500,000 was paid out to customers in rebate, discount and dividend.

About £1,500,000 went on improvements to Ministry and Service-owned properties, but this was met by a transfer from reserves created for this purpose and a further £577,000 set aside to provide funds for development.

Then £2,500,000 was added to capital reserve, reducing the requirement for borrowed capital on which interest is so high.

A total of £300,000 was allocated as extra rebate to Service central welfare funds, of which £167,000 went to the Army and £400,000 as rebate to ship and unit funds, enabling the rate of rebate to go up four per cent for at least a year, from 1 November 1976.

Although sales during the year continued to increase in cash terms, they were still failing to match the rate of inflation. This, said Mr Spooner, was in line with the experience of most retailers.

The previous best turnover figure

was £182,000,000, achieved in 1945 when HM Forces were almost 5,000,000 strong.

Extra rebate

Naafi's net profits each year are paid in the form of 'extra rebate' to the non-public funds of the Navy, Army and Air Force in proportion to the strength of each Service.

In 1975-76 the extra rebate amounted to £64,000 which, augmented by £92,722 from other sources, was distributed as follows: To commands for distribution — Regular Army £28,788; military hospitals worldwide £5007; TAVR/UDR £2112; other bodies — Army Benevolent Fund £50,000; Army Sport Control Board £54,745; other establishments (schools, clubs etc) £16,070.

(C2(AD))

NEWS 1

Stitch in time saves money

Pressure on the Army's clothing vote and the increased prices for materials have led to a call for 'good husbandry' within units.

"Good husbandry has many facets," says Brigadier M B Page, Director of Clothing and Textiles. "At its very simplest it includes the philosophy of 'a stitch in time saves nine' and also the wearing of clothing appropriate to the task being performed. It is inexcusable for instance to service a vehicle while wearing unprotected barrack dress trousers and heavy wool jersey."

Helmet

The evaluation of the Northern Ireland Helmet has been completed and a report is being prepared. The evaluation was closely monitored and information obtained was fed into development work on the prototype of the new GS combat helmet due for acceptance for troop trials in September/October this

year. The 2000 Northern Ireland helmets at present deployed in the province will remain but it is not intended to increase the quantities.

High combat boots

An extended development trial of 300 pairs of high boots on a worldwide basis has begun. The boot can be laced or a simple zip accessory can be attached for rapid putting on or taking off. Unfortunately this version may prove too expensive and an alternative cheaper version is being considered — in effect a calf-length version of the present DMS boot with improved water resistance.

Urban patrol boots

To meet an urgent Northern Ireland requirement a lighter boot has been developed providing good ankle support for urban patrol work. The calf-length boot weighs one pound less per pair than the DMS. Issues will start shortly to troops in Northern Ireland.

Socks

Army socks made of 80 per cent wool and 20 per cent nylon are currently being trialled. The new sock is expected to be more comfortable than the present all-polyester one.

Colour coding NBC suits

The colour coding system used to identify the year of manufacture of NBC suits has proved unsatisfactory and has been replaced by a numerical code.

Web equipment

The proposed updated version of the 1958 pattern equipment in a nylon butyl material is to be troop trialled for one year starting in April. The new material is slightly lighter and its principal advantages are that it does not absorb water and is easier to decontaminate. If successful it should enter service in 1979.

Scottish No 1 Dress jackets

A new standard pattern Scottish No 1 Dress jacket in archer green (barathea with gold piping for officers and warrant officer 1s, and serge with white piping for soldiers) has been approved. It is to replace all existing Scottish pattern Lowland and Highland No 1 Dress jackets except those for Queen Victoria School and the London Scottish Company of 51st Highland Volunteers.

Combat dress/rank badges

Combat dress badges of rank for soldiers are now on issue. Those for officers are under development and should be available early in 1978.

Metrication of headdress

Units are now receiving items of Service headdress which are metrically sized. There is no physical change in the size of the item — only the marking.*

(DCT)

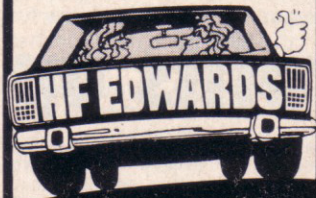


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Ancestral seat under fire



Some of the stately homes of Devon were in the front line when an armour battle ranged over the ancestral estates.

D (Royal Devon Yeomanry) Squadron, The Wessex Yeomanry, commanded by Major Noel Page-Turner, fielded Volunteers from their headquarters in Barnstaple and troops from Tiverton and Totnes. They split into opposing forces and went into action with B Squadron, The Life Guards, who joined them with Fox armoured cars and armoured personnel carriers.

The exercise began in the grounds of Powderham Castle, near Exeter, and during the next 24 hours ranged over two adjoining estates, Ashcombe and Ugbrooke.

Armoured cars had probably never before penetrated the parkland of the Powderham estate, well known for its more rustic population of deer. The Yeomanry had the use of it by courtesy of the Earl of Devon, whose son, Lieutenant Lord Courtenay, is D Squadron's training officer.

Ashcombe belongs to Captain Ranulph Rayner, the squadron's second-in-command. Ugbrooke Park, where the exercise ended, is the seat of the Honorary Colonel, Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.

Oman awards

The following awards have been made in recognition of service in Oman.

Distinguished Conduct Medal: Sergeant E Slater, The Cheshire Regiment.

Military Medal: Warrant Officer 2 M J Barry, Corporal R D Chappell, both Royal Engineers.

Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct: Sergeant J McK White, The Parachute Regiment.

Mentioned in Despatches: Sergeant W Blake, Scots Guards; Private L Cardy, The Royal Anglian Regiment; Lance-Corporal T Shanks, The Parachute Regiment. Lance-Corporal D B Anderson, The King's Own Scottish Borderers.

Lieut Lord Courtenay (centre) explains the terrain to Maj Noel Page-Turner (left) of D Squadron (Royal Devon Yeomanry), The Wessex Yeomanry, and Maj Christopher D'Oyly of B Squadron, The Life Guards.



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Courses are 'too popular'

A lack of instructors and cash has meant that some of the Army's adventurous training courses are 150 per cent over-subscribed.

And, says the Director of Army Training, Major-General Michael Gow, funds and manpower are unlikely to improve in the present climate and "indeed cuts of both may be inevitable."

"I have visited a number of these centres," he said, "and have been most impressed with the high professional standards and enthusiasm shown by instructional staff, despite the fact that the centres are working under difficult conditions."

In a report on the year's activities, General Gow said the "haphazard" system of finding instructors for adventurous training centres has largely been overcome now that nearly all instructor posts are found by the Army Physical Training Corps, which ensures that a master long-term posting plot can be maintained and expertise used properly.

Important

"I have no doubt in my own mind that adventurous training is now playing a very important part in Army life and, as time goes on, commanding officers will place more emphasis on its training value and morale importance."

During 1976, 6541 Army stu-

dents attended courses at Army centres and another 2655 went to RN and RAF centres.

Progress

In addition to adventurous training, "great progress" has been made in providing equipment and clothing for junior units to carry out external leadership training, which is similar to adventurous training and included in the training syllabus.

These juniors — about 6500 a year — join their units with experience in the various challenge pursuits which, added to the fact that all young officers and cadets at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, are now required to go on at least one adventurous training course, means that "knowledge and the desire to mount adventurous training expeditions in units is rapidly spreading. It must be the most cost effective form of training we have."

Sheila first again

Nearly two years ago Sheila Hatchell, a sergeant in the Women's Royal Army Corps, became the first woman to become an Army driving instructor. Now she has gone one step further and become the first woman in the Army to be a driving examiner.

This means that Sheila, who is a qualified heavy goods vehicle driver, can pass or fail anyone on their test — from a motorcycle to an articulated truck.

been interested in driving and cars and was re-allocated five years ago. She is a keen rally driver and will be back in Britain later this year as a Rhine Army driver in the Scottish



Sheila has recently finished her testing officers course at the Royal Corps of Transport school at Bordon — a course for which she has waited for five years.

"This has really fulfilled an ambition for me," she said, "because it is something I have wanted to do for such a long time."

"In fact I worked so hard to get on the course that I was determined to pass it."

Sheila is currently dealing with accidents with 2nd Armoured Division in Germany, but will be available to test drivers whenever necessary. On the course she not only had to learn procedures and marking of testing and the highway code, but vehicle safety as well. "It was a very tough course," she said.

Although she enlisted in the WRAC as a cook, Sheila has always

Rally behind the wheel of a Land-Rover.

At the moment she is lying second in the rally league for Land-Rovers in Rhine Army.

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12 MONTHS SERVICE

Yorkies meet Milan



A visit to the West German Army's Armour School at Munsterlager in Lower Saxony gave a useful bonus to the anti-tank platoon of 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire.

For they were shown the new Milan anti-tank system, effective against all known tanks to a range of two kilometres. The system consists of a wire-guided missile and launcher, together weighing 28 kg, and has a two-man crew. It is man-portable.

The weapon was developed by France and Germany and is already in service in their armies.

The British Army should be fully equipped by the end of the decade, complementing the long-range Swingfire missile which is vehicle-mounted.

Picture shows the Yorkshire soldiers being taught how to use the equipment by a German anti-tank instructor.

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Marathon walk raises cash

Three Royal Army Pay Corps non-commissioned officers have walked 300 kilometres from West Germany to the World War One battlefield of Ypres in Belgium to raise money for a war widows charity.

Sergeants Glyn Jones and Ian Jones and Corporal Alan Guy, all from British Army of the Rhine's Command Pay Office, hope to raise £400 by their marathon trek.

The money will be added to the £300 the Pay Office raised two months ago from an 80-mile walk to Arnhem where the film 'A Bridge Too Far' was being made.

The three laid wreaths at the Menin Gate at Ypres on Remembrance Day, on behalf of their own unit and The Black Watch, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, and 42 Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Said Glyn Jones: "We received a tremendous welcome from the Belgians. They are still very pro-British even 60 years after the end of the Great War."

The money raised by the trio will go to the Liverpool-based Jill Gee War Widows Trust which aims to send on a visit to Europe any widow who has not seen her husband's grave.

Cupid joins the ranks



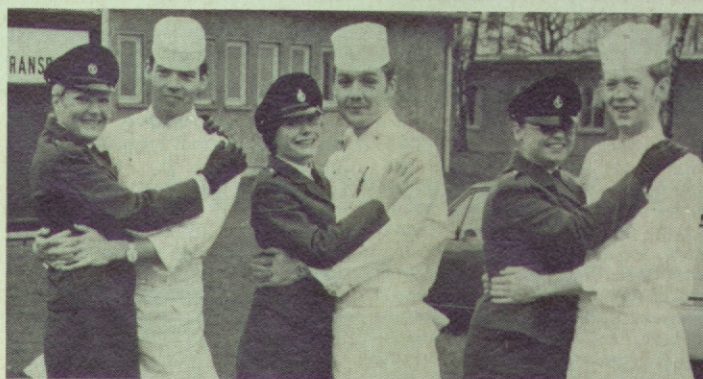
Romance blossomed for two young mounted police corporals in the streets of Aldershot. Corporals Judith Reeves and Graham Robinson of the Mounted Troop, 160 Provost Company, Royal Military Police, met while on mounted patrol.

The couple were married at St Columbus's Church, Billingham Cleveland, Graham's home town and they will live in Aldershot.

And Cupid's arrows have also been flying among the cottage pies and steamed puddings in the cookhouse of 68 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport. The lads of the Army Catering Corps who serve this British Army of the Rhine unit have hit on the right recipe for the Women's Royal Army Corps and the result is one couple married and two others nearly ready to take the plunge.

Pictured here are (left to right) Privates Frankie McManus and Alex Porter, Private (Mrs) Sonia Miles and Lance-Corporal Ken Miles, and Private Susan Soltysiak and Lance-Corporal Dick Flowerdew. All serve at 68 Squadron which supplies drivers for the vehicles serving HQ BAOR.

Says 22-year-old Frankie McManus, who comes from Middlesbrough: "I can't cook so Alex will be handy to have about the kitchen." And Sussex-born Dick Flowerdew from Halesworth is not worried by his future wife's lack of experience in slaving over a hot stove: "Susan's quite good at cooking omelettes. I don't like omelettes but I expect I'll get used to them."



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Defence cuts chop Para Log

To the strains of 'Goodbye,' one of the youngest regiments in the Army marched off the parade square and into the history books.

1 Parachute Logistic Regiment was formed in 1969 during an earlier defence cuts crisis. Now, in the latest round of cuts, it was decided that the parachute support elements had to be pruned even more drastically.

It must have been a poignant moment for Major-General Tony Farrar-Hockley, reviewing officer of the disbanding parade, at Aldershot, because he masterminded Para Log's inception in 1969 when he commanded 16th Parachute Brigade.

Then, the regiment was formed from elements of 16 Parachute Squadron; 63 Parachute Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport; 16 Parachute Ordnance Field Park, Royal Army Ordnance Corps; 16 Parachute Workshop, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers; 7 Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, Light Aid Detachment REME; and 16th Parachute Brigade Headquarters Light Aid Detachment REME.

Blessing

Although the demise of these units was regretted then, the formation of the regiment proved to be a blessing in disguise. It provided an immediate and permanent command structure for the brigade maintenance area in operations, and brought together such a wealth and diversity of talents that virtually any task could be undertaken.

In its seven years, the regiment has been represented all over the world on exercises and operations with the teeth arm units of the brigade. In 1972, Zulu Squadron was formed for an emergency tour of Northern Ireland as infantry.

Sport

On the sports field, too, Para Log made its mark. Individuals have represented the Army, Combined Services and national teams in various sports while regimental teams have won the Devizes-Westminster canoe race, for three years on the bounce, and the Army minor units boxing cup in the early 70s.

The tug-of-war team has been



legendary in Army and national circles over the past decade and the Army minor units rugby challenge cup, introduced three seasons ago, has been won each year by the regiment.

But what of the future? The regiment will be officially disbanded on 1 April 1977 when the parachuting capability of the Army will be reduced to a single battalion group. Some parachute-trained RCT soldiers will be retrained in the aerial delivery role, REME will form a parachute workshop detachment in 3 Field Workshop REME, as well as the attached tradesmen in the three parachute battalions.

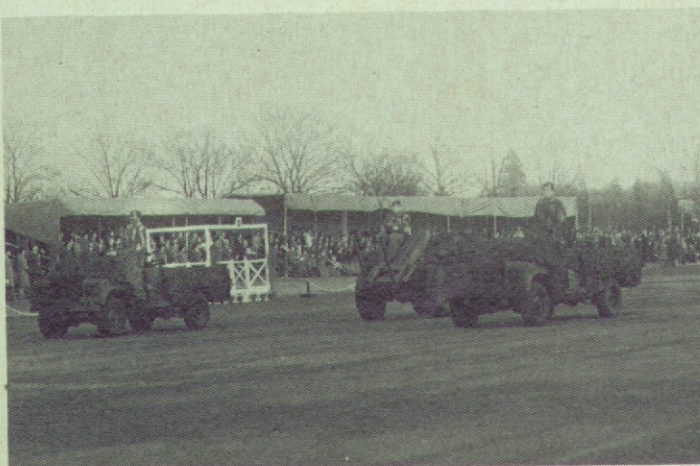
Some of Para Log's soldiers have volunteered for 22nd Special Air Service Regiment, and the remainder have returned to their corps worldwide.

● Above: Major-General Farrar-Hockley shares a joke while reviewing the parade.

● Below: On parade were airportable vehicles used during operations, including these Royal Corps of Transport Land-Rovers full of stores and equipment, and an Eager Beaver fork lift truck.

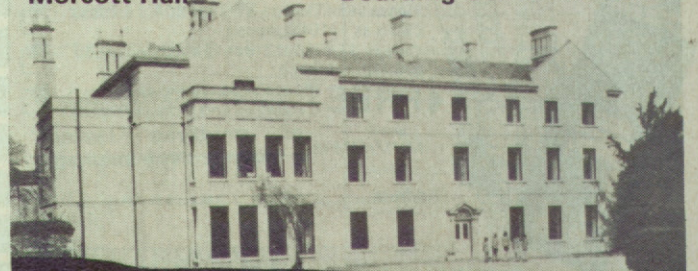


Bellerophon, in Greek mythology the rider of Pegasus, the winged horse, which is the symbol of airborne forces, shows clearly how he feels about defence cuts in this cartoon by Charles C Stadden, the military artist.



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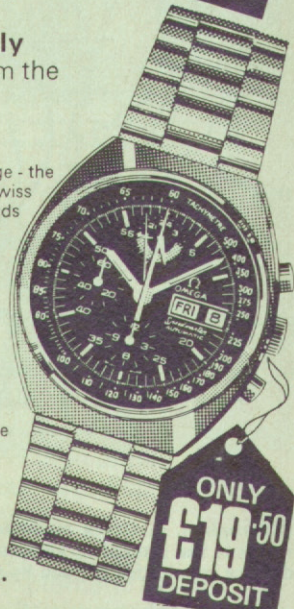
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Big day for Bishop family



The Bishop family held a double celebration in the Army Careers Information Office at Derby when daughter Catherine took her oath of allegiance.

Dad, Regimental Sergeant-Major Ray Bishop, is a member of the ACIO staff and Catherine's enlistment coincided with her parents' 20th wedding anniversary.

Mrs Sheila Bishop is a former member of Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps. Catherine is the 320th girl recruited by Sergeant Audrey Cox, Women's Royal Army Corps recruiter.

Catherine will begin training for the Royal Military Police and hopes for a commission when she is 19. She was presented with the Bible on which she swore her oath of allegiance.

As the daughter of parents both involved with the Army, Catherine

already has a good insight into the life and has travelled the world during her father's career. She decided to make it her career too when she began senior school.

And the tradition doesn't stop with Catherine. Her brother Tony has military ambitions.

Above, left to right: Sergeant Cox, Mrs Bishop, RSM Bishop, Lieutenant-Colonel C A Kiernan, Army Careers Officer, and Catherine read the oath of allegiance.

Christmas pud in desert



A ten-man expedition from 39 Regiment, Royal Artillery, mounted in three Land-Rovers, is making a 12,000-mile round trip to Oman. Christmas Day was spent in Dubai.

Called Exercise Quicksand and led by Major Henry Sawrey-Cookson, the expedition took 12 months from conception to reality.

Both Major Sawrey-Cookson and his deputy, Lieutenant Mike Riddick, are familiar with the area as they saw active service in the Oman during the Dhofar Campaign of 1969-75.

The three Land-Rovers (above) painted sky-blue with Sennelager-Muscat on the sides, pulled out of the regiment's barracks in Rhine

Army on 4 December on a journey which took them through Austria, Yugoslavia, Greece, Turkey, Iran and the United Arab Emirates to Oman.

A crossing of the Persian Gulf from Bandar Abbas to Dubai was made by dhow.

The aim was to reach Oman in 18 days and spend 14 days studying old forts and historic artillery pieces in the Oman before returning by the same route.

The expedition endured extremes of temperature from -20 degrees Fahrenheit in the Persian Alps to 115 degrees in the Oman and encountered both snow drifts and sand dunes.

Bulk of the cost was met by each man paying £200 for the privilege of freezing and baking and living by the vehicles during halts.



IN PARLIAMENT

Depot reprieve

Various moves and closures of establishments arising from the Defence Review were the subject of questions in the House of Commons. Mr Robert Brown, Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Army, told Mr Neville Trotter (Conservative, Tynemouth) that following talks with the staff and trade unions on the proposal to close the vehicle depots at Ludgershall and Ashchurch it had been decided not to close them before April 1980. Mr Brown said this was in the light of new information and developments. He added that talks on the proposals to close COD Chiwell would be resumed.

Later Mr Brown gave Mr Trotter details of the personnel strength of the new Army logistic headquarters to be established at Andover. He said it would be about 850, comprising 250 military and 600 civilian staff.

It would draw together the existing organisations of the Transport Officer-in-Chief (Army), Director of Ordnance Services, Director of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (Army) and Headquarters, Army Freight Organisation, all from London. In addition there would be the outstations staff from Headquarters Base Organisation RAOC, Didcot, and Headquarters REME Support Group, Woolwich. As a result, efficiency would be increased, overheads reduced and about 40 staff would be saved.

Again it was Mr Trotter who asked why it was no longer proposed to close the REME detachments in South Wales while closing that at Killingworth. Mr Brown said that detailed studies had indicated that the closure of the detachments at Sennybridge and Bridgend would be impracticable and uneconomic. An acceptable level of support could not be given to Army units located or training in the two areas from alternative sources. There would be a reduction in the work forces at each of the two detachments.

"The same factors do not apply to the closure of the REME workshop detachment at Killingworth, where it is operationally acceptable to transfer the Killingworth work load to the main command workshops at Catterick and Strensall."

Mr Brown also told Mr Trotter that the total number of vehicles currently held by the Army, including trailer-mounted equipments, was 90,792.

Irish MP, Mr Frank Maguire (Independent, Fermanagh and South Tyrone) asked how many members of the Ulster Defence Regiment had been involved in serious crimes and how many were under investigation.

Mr Brown said that since 1972 six UDR members had been convicted on murder or manslaughter charges; four of these were unconnected with terrorism, two being weapon-handling accidents. Six had been convicted of bombing offences and one of intimidation. In addition, four were currently facing charges on separate counts of murder, manslaughter, assault and armed robbery.

Aldershot's MP, Mr Julian Critchley, asked if any action would be taken within the Nato Co-ordinating Committee to encourage an agreement to limit the quality, if not the quantity, of arms sold to the Third World. The Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Fred Mulley, said the purpose of the committee was to maintain a strategic embargo against certain communist countries including the Soviet Union and China and

not to discuss limitations on the sale of arms to the Third World.

Sir Anthony Royle (Conservative, Richmond-on-Thames) wanted immediate action on the restoration of Wellington Barracks, London, in view of the dilapidation of the facade. Dr John Gilbert, Minister of State for Defence, said that until an examination had been concluded into the rebuilding proposal he was unable to announce any firm plans. The facade, a statutorily listed structure, would require attention soon.

Mr Eldon Griffiths (Conservative, Bury St Edmunds) asked why former soldiers who volunteered for the Army as long ago as 1940 and served for up to six years had still not received their campaign stars and medals; why applications were taking approximately two years to process; and how many might not live long enough to receive the medals during their lifetime.

Mr Brown said the rapid demobilisation at the end of World War Two meant that many people left the forces before the campaign stars and medals were ready for issue. When they became available, despite wide publicity, many thousands failed to apply for their medals.

As a result, belated applications were still being received at the rate of 5000 a year. Service records had to be checked carefully and although applications were dealt with as quickly as possible the current delay was about two years.

Mr Hugh Jenkins asked a series of questions about the Porton establishments. Dr Gilbert said that of 110,365 animals used there in 1975, 20 per cent were at the Chemical Defence Establishment and the rest at the Microbiological Research Establishment. Mice topped the list at 84,937 with rats at 12,418, guinea pigs 7926, monkeys 452, cats 20 and dogs four.

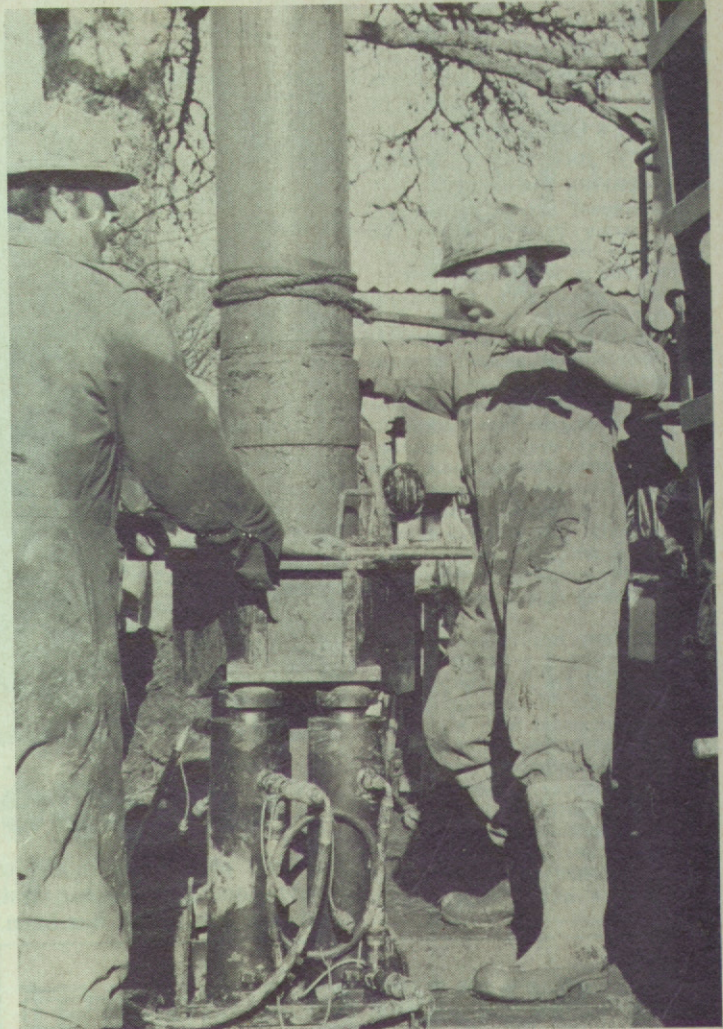
In the House of Lords the question of Chobham Armour was raised again. Nonagenarian ex-War Minister Lord 'Manny' Shinwell asked for an assurance that information being conveyed to the United States was on a basis of reciprocity. "Information of this kind, which is of great importance in terms of military strategy, demands a quid pro quo," he declared.

Lord Winterbottom confirmed that the agreement on the exchange of information with the United States was a reciprocal one.

Lord Shinwell: "Can my noble friend be more specific? We are giving information of considerable strategic importance to the United States. That country is in possession of very modern devices. Can we be assured that we are provided with information about those?"

Lord Winterbottom: "In so far as that is outside the scope of this question, yes, my lords."

Sappers turn on the waterworks



Gas and oil wells are often in the news nowadays but you don't hear much about the well drillers seen here, from 521 Specialist Team, Royal Engineers.

They spent six weeks in Northern Ireland working two shifts a day, seven days a week, drilling two fresh water wells. The team is based on Barton Stacey.

Picture shows members of the team unscrewing a raised section from the next in line.

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Rescue attempts rewarded

A modest hero whose exploit came to light only because of a newspaper report has been awarded the Commander-in-Chief's Commendation for Bravery just a few weeks after leaving the Army.

Ex-Sergeant David Slater (25), Royal Army Pay Corps, was at home in his mother's flat in Morecambe in September when an explosion ripped apart a neighbouring flat, trapping a 52-year-old woman and her aged mother in the fire that followed. Their screams awoke him.

Encouraged by David, the daughter jumped and he broke her fall, but the 82-year-old mother was too shocked to move. Using a ladder, he reached up through the flames and a shower of slates to pull her to safety by her ankles. She suffered extensive burns and died some weeks later but the younger woman recovered, suffering only broken ankles and shock.

David, now resplendent with a magnificent beard, a fitting embellishment for his hoped-for new career with the off-shore oil industry, was presented with his commendation at the Morecambe Army Careers Information Office by the General Officer Commanding North West District, Major-General Keith McQueen — a commendation he might have missed had not someone spotted the story of his bravery in a local weekly newspaper.



An abortive river rescue attempt has earned an Army apprentice a commendation for bravery.

Roddy Mackenzie, who is training to be a vehicle mechanic with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers at the Army Apprentices College, Arborfield, was presented (left) with the commendation by the General Officer Commanding South-East District, Lieutenant-General Sir James Wilson.

While he was on leave at home in Conon Bridge, Scotland, during the summer, Roddy went out walking with three friends. One went missing, and Roddy and the other two went to look for him. During their search they came across two other men looking for their companion who had got into difficulties while swimming in the River Conon.

He was found lying face down in the water. Roddy tried to get into the water from one bank but, finding the current too strong, ran to the other bank, dived in and pulled the man to the bank.

He applied artificial respiration which he had learned only weeks before at the college, but the man did not respond.

Choppers get new radio

The first production model of the ARC 340 airborne communications and homing system, the most advanced of its kind ever produced, has been delivered to the Army.

The system is designed for installation in the new Gazelle and Lynx helicopters and other helicopters already in service.

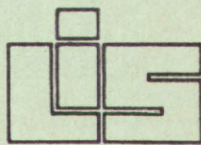
It enables the pilot and crew to keep in constant contact with troops on a battlefield, by operating several communications channels from the same helicopter simultaneously.

The system, developed by Marconi-Elliott Avionic Systems, also enables the helicopter to 'home' on to a desired objective with great accuracy and without impairing the system's multi-station

communication facility. It was designed to Ministry of Defence requirements geared to modern battlefield conditions. The total programme, including compatibility tests on a helicopter, led to the delivery in just under three years from the go-ahead, a record for such advanced equipment.

Say Marconi: "At a time when value for money in defence equipment is increasingly important and recognising the fact that delays in completing complex programmes make the biggest contribution to cost escalation, the programme is seen as a model of co-operation between the Ministry of Defence and its supplier."

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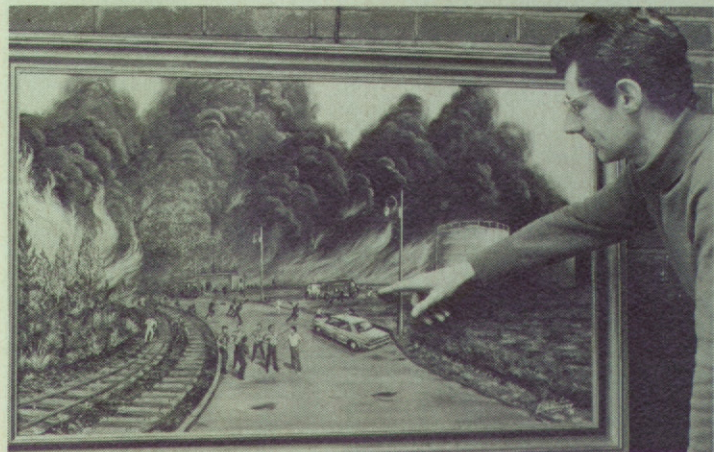
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That's me, says artist



One of the most potentially dangerous fires during the long hot summer was the outbreak inside the perimeter of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps Petroleum Centre at West Moors, near Bournemouth.

It took 29 fire engines and crews, plus countless soldiers drafted in, to keep the hungry flames back from the petrol dumps.

Now one of the firefighters, Mr L. Quintance, a modelmaker at the centre, has put the dramatic scene on canvas. In the photo he points to himself in the picture.

The painting was commissioned by the West Moors officers' mess and it is hoped that a limited edition of prints will soon be available for sale.

Eager Beavers roll on and off

In five months, men of 60 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers (The Beavers), have built from scratch a 188-foot 'roll-on, roll-off' terminal at RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus.

The facility is for a rapid turn-round of ships supplying British forces in Cyprus with military stores and vehicles. It cuts out the slow system of craning on and off the supply ships or going through the busy ports of Limassol or Larnaca.

When the terminal was opened by the Commander British Forces Cyprus, Air Vice-Marshal Roy Austen Smith, he spoke of the sappers' tremendous achievement in such a short time.

Soon after their arrival in Cyprus they constructed an 'island' of sheet steel piles driven into the sea bed to form a cellular structure. Some

4500 tons of aggregate were pumped in to make the structure solid and it was then capped with concrete. This 'island,' the jetty head, is the structure on to which a ship will drop its bow ramp.

The jetty head was then connected to dry land by the construction of a heavy girder bridge. Two smaller, similar structures, known as dolphins, were also built to be used as mooring points.

The squadron is about to move from Maidstone to Waterbeach as 60 Field Support Squadron.

Report by JSPRS, Cyprus.

Goodbye, says Stan, again

Stan Duncomb (61) has said his third and last goodbye to the Services. After a wartime career in the Royal Navy, nearly 20 years with the Army, and ten years-to-the-day with the Ministry of Defence as a civil servant, he is retiring to his Aylesbury home.

After working with landing craft in the Mediterranean during the last war as a lieutenant (Engineering) and participating in the Anzio operation, Stan left the Navy to join the

Army in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. He retired as a major with service in Palestine and Rhine Army behind him. At one stage he worked with Sir Ronald Bailey, inventor of the famous bridge system.

When he left the Army to become a civil servant, Stan went on to work on hovercraft and finally returned to Rhine Army where he has been responsible for railway equipment and amphibious bridges.

Golden Gurkha



A proud moment for Signalman Reshan Bahadur Gurung, at 22 years of age the youngest soldier working in HQ 48th Brigade Communications Centre at Sek Kong, as, on behalf of his unit, he receives a gold Comstar award from Air Chief-Marshal Sir Ruthven Wade, Chief of Personnel and Logistics at the Ministry of Defence.

The Comstar award scheme is designed to encourage efficiency in communications centres throughout the Services. To earn it a unit has to maintain a faultless record for message handling over a six-month period.

And Barry is in the gold as well

Private Barrie Bulch (18) of the Army Catering Corps, attached to 4 Light Regiment, Royal Artillery, has been presented with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme gold medal at Buckingham Palace by the Duke himself.

Educated at Usworth Com-

prehensive School, Washington, Barrie won his bronze and silver medals at school. When he joined the Army in 1974 he continued to compete in the scheme and completed his course with a 65-mile expedition over Dartmoor in September 1975.

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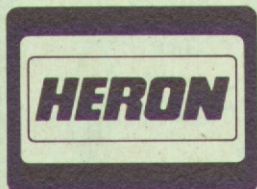
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Hong Kong farewells

Acting talent has never been regarded as a military attribute, yet 51st Infantry Brigade's farewell concert party revealed a surprising degree of expertise on the stage.

'Final Fling' it was called and 'Final Fling' it was, marking the demise yet again of 51st Infantry Brigade. The brigade has been formed a number of times, serving in World War Two, Cyprus, Brunei and, from 1968 until this month, in Hong Kong.

Every unit and nearly every individual contributed in some way to mark the disbandment in an unusual but highly successful way.

Its Gun Club Hill Barracks gymnasium was transformed by 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry, with the help of the Composite Ordnance Depot and 50 Command Workshop, into a beautifully decorated period concert hall. The turns were split equally between the units of

the brigade (which consists of 50% British, 25% Gurkha and 25% Chinese soldiers) and a music hall production by the Garrison Players, Hong Kong's premier amateur dramatic society.

There were Chinese lion dances, Gurkha traditional dances, barber-shop quartets from the teaching staff of the Army schools and hilarious original sketches from officers' and sergeants' messes of the battalions. The second act consisted of sketches from 'Molly's Music Hall,' by the Garrison Players.

The Army Catering Corps served 500 meals in 3½ minutes at the interval of each performance and pretty girls in period costumes from Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps and the Women's Royal Army Corps served 4000 pints of beer over the three nights!

More about Hong Kong departures on News 16.



For the third time, Captain Jim Robinson says goodbye to the Military Corrective Training Centre on Stonecutters Island, Hong Kong, and this time for good.

He served there as a company sergeant-major in 1967, then as regimental sergeant-major, and finally as the last commandant.

Now the centre has been closed, as part of the recent reduction in the size of the Hong Kong Garrison. Although according to the picture an inmate may have been forgotten!

The centre traces its origin to the Combined Military Penal Establishment which started in the former Murray Barracks on Hong Kong Island after World War Two and which housed Japanese war criminals as well as British Service law-breakers.

It moved to Stonecutters Island in 1969 and soon after this changed its name to Military Corrective Training Establishment.

Stonecutters Island lies in Hong Kong harbour, between the concrete jungles of Victoria and Kowloon.

It was an artillery stronghold before World War Two, part of the defences of Hong Kong, and the centre is in the old battery camp.

The ex-Military Corrective Training Centre now has a new role, as outdoor pursuits centre for the Service schools in Hong Kong.



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Jerricans phased out

The faithful old jerrican has had its day. Over the next few years the can will be phased out in favour of a more elaborate system involving a pipeline network, expanding fabric storage tanks and a fleet of road tankers of three sizes.

The old system of transporting petrol in small containers, even to the front line, is now considered time-consuming and costly.

The first production model of the biggest tanker, a 28-ton Foden which can carry 22,500 litres of petrol at a time, has just arrived at the Royal Army Ordnance Corps Petroleum Centre, West Moors.

At West Moors, the Royal Army Ordnance Corps has been given the enormous job of teaching the rest of the Army to use the new equipment. For officers, this means an intensive course on all aspects of petrol.

Training will be easier for the soldiers who will actually man the new fleet. Because the soldiers are trained in a much wider field of petroleum subjects, unit instructors only will be trained at West Moors who will then return to train driver-operators.

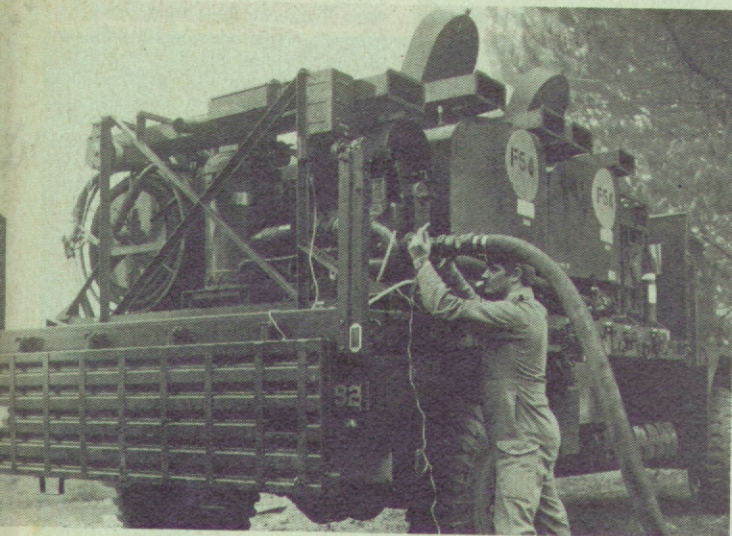
"It's a huge task," said Major Ian Ross at the centre. "The new system has to be implemented by 1980."

The three different sizes of vehicles will be used in a relay system. The biggest tanker (right) will move the fuel from the pipelines which already exist all over Europe to camouflaged forward fabric tank complexes.

Some of these fabric tanks can store as much as 30,000 gallons of petrol at a time.

The fuel is then transferred to 12,000-litre tankers (below, right) which in turn transfer to more manoeuvrable POD trucks (below). The PODs are simply trucks with their own tanks and storage equipment. They can refuel directly into tanks and other front-line vehicles.

The first 28-tonner is a left-hand drive model for Rhine Army.



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Survival in deepest Surrey

Tony Robson, an Expeditionary Forces Institutes/Royal Army Ordnance Corps reservist who normally works in Naafi's personnel department, will now be able to dish up tea in the howling winds and snow of the Arctic.

Fifteen members of Naafi/EFI took part in a weekend exercise, on the art of living in Arctic Norway, at the Naafi training centre near Esher, in Surrey. The course, codenamed Frigid Air, was conducted by instructors from 48 AMF/L Company, RAOC, Devizes.

The Naafi men were shown how to use Arctic gear and undertook a ten-mile route march in full kit through the Surrey stockbroker belt.



Meet the new English teachers

Two 15-year-old Queen's School pupils have been broadcasting English to the Germans.

Timothy Wawman (left), son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Ronald Wawman, and Philomena Ryan, daughter of Sergeant and Mrs George Ryan, both from Rheindahlen, have been taking part in West Deutsche Rundfunk English-for-Schools broadcasts.

Philomena, whose father works at 11 Signals Unit Communications Centre at Joint Headquarters was selected and broadcast last year. Timothy started his sessions with West Deutsche Rundfunk this year. His father is based at Medical Directorate, HQ BAOR.

West Deutsche Rundfunk broadcasts two programmes — English for juniors and English for seniors — and uses short plays to demonstrate structures of the language. German schools obtain booklets giving texts and vocabulary and native speakers are employed to give authenticity.

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And the bands played on

Just a year ago, Major Joe Cash promised to raise enough money — about DM 10,000 — to buy a computerised typewriter for the Wickede-Barge school in Germany for handicapped children.

And Joe, quartermaster of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers, kept his promise. Almost a year later to the day he returned to the school when the cheque was presented after a concert given by the band of the 2nd Battalion.

It was appropriate that the band should be there because their fund-raising efforts raised half the sum required.

Help, too, came from German friends of the Rangers who ran stalls at the battalion's open day to raise money for the fund.

The Rangers have spent a lot of time away from Germany this year but this did not stop them. While in Suffield, Canada, the hard-working cooks raised more than 1000 marks. But not all donations were so large. Two children emptied their money boxes and sent ten marks in pennies as their contribution.

When the cheque was presented,

two of the children presented Joe with a huge gingerbread man which they had baked themselves (below).



A new sound of music is coming from the band room at the King's Division Depot, Strensall, York — a sound which is different from the rousing marches and even the pop tunes rehearsed there.

Bandmaster Frank Renton has found that 16th and 17th century music is top of the charts with the junior bandmen.

The bandmaster, who has been with Army bands for 17 years, has included the 400-year-old music in his teaching curriculum to add 'polish' to the lads' playing.

The music, of the type Henry VIII might have chosen to be played from the minstrels gallery at one of his lavish court banquets, is described by the bandmaster as "fresh and clean and demanding perfection in playing from the musician."

Bandmaster Renton — an Associate of the Royal College of Music and bandmaster of The Gordon Highlanders for seven years before transferring to The Duke of Wellington's Regiment and going to Strensall last August — forms his 38 junior bandmen into small brass and woodwind groups to practise playing the vintage music (left).



Seven thousand people crammed into the Halle, Munsterland, Germany, for two fully booked gala performances by British Army bands. The show, to herald the Queen's silver jubilee year, was opened by the first public performance in Germany of the trumpet fanfare 'Silver Jubilee,' written and directed by Captain D R Kimberley, Director of Music of the Alamein Staff Band of the Royal Tank Regiment.

Bands taking part were The Blues and Royals, The Royal Scots

Dragoon Guards, Royal Tank Regiment, Irish Guards, The Royal Scots, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, and The Staffordshire Regiment.

Included in the three-hour musical extravaganza were the pipes and drums of six Scottish regiments (below) as well as German and English choral renderings. Also the York Junior School dancers, who earned two 'curtain calls' with their performance. Proceeds of the concert went to the German Red Cross.



Coo, a new recruit

The latest recruit to join 49 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, is a pigeon which pays daily visits to the regimental operations room in the centre of Belfast.

During the regiment's four-month tour, the pigeon has been a constant companion to ops room staff in the

Grand Central Hotel, and has kept them amused with his favourite trick of sliding down the sloping city centre map on the ops officer's desk.

Pigeons have often been conscripted into the Army in the past as messengers but this is thought to be the first time one has volunteered.

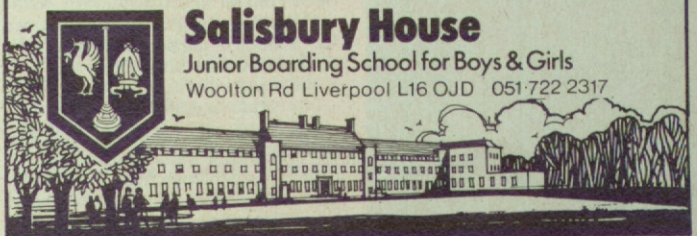


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The Spencer Report into Army welfare runs to 220 pages and has taken the committee of six a considerable amount of time and work to produce.

On sale from HMSO at £2.60, it is well worth reading. It is an excellent piece of research but the main recommendation for an Army social work service on the lines proposed by the committee has not been accepted.

Instead, an extension of the use of Ssafo and WRVS organisations is the answer, says the Ministry of Defence. Greater reliance will be put on local social services and pilot schemes of one year's duration are planned to see how feasible these suggestions are.

The committee did make a number of other recommendations and many have been agreed. I have selected just a few to talk about and next month hope to cover a few more.

The three main holiday journeys for handicapped children to visit parents overseas should all be free, instead of the present two now allowed. Costs for handicapped children who have to be escorted on the aircraft to BAOR for holidays by either mother or father, plus the cost of collecting, escorting and returning them to the airport, should be free. Steps are now being taken to make sure that this recommendation is fulfilled.

Telephone links are vital to families, especially when the husband is away, so the recommendation that more public telephones should be made available is welcomed. Because of vandalism, rented call boxes in community centres are preferred.

Youth has not been forgotten, and a project is now under way to find areas where Service children can benefit from integration with local and national facilities.

For many years the problem of transferring family health records has caused a great deal of worry, both when sent within the UK and to overseas stations. The Medical Directorate and Department of Health and Social Security have reviewed their procedures which are as follows.

Each individual family, either wife or husband, must inform their civilian or Army doctor immediately they are posted or leave the area. Give the date of departure and the new address.

Overseas, it is important to inform the medical centre when you are posted and your new address. The centre's doctors can then ensure that there is no delay in transferring documents. As soon as you arrive at your new address, sign on with the civilian or Army doctor, so that they can send off for your documents.

Next month I will have more information on play school premises, the formation of information centres and marriage guidance training.

Please do write in if you have any comments on the report. I would be pleased to have your views.

Anne Armstrong



ALL IN THE FAMILY with ANNE ARMSTRONG

A triple present!

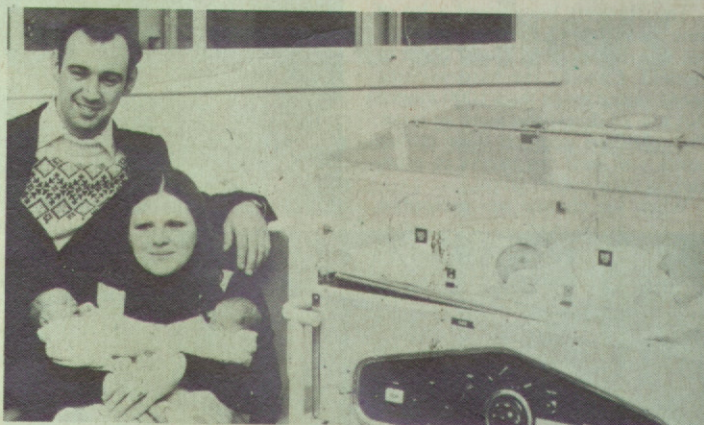
Christmas 1976 will certainly be remembered in the Lund family. For the Bradford couple it will always be the time they doubled the size of their family.

Pictured here at Royal Air Force Hospital Wegberg in West Germany are Trevor and Susanne Lund with the three new additions to their family. They already have a 21-month-old son, James.

The girl triplets, Jill (5lb 10oz), Alexandra (4lb 11oz), and Catherine (3lb 11oz) were born just before Christmas.

All but Catherine went home for Christmas at Krefeld where Trevor serves as a corporal with 16 Signal Regiment.

"We first knew about the triplets four weeks ago," said Trevor. "It came as a bit of a shock but Susanne and I are very pleased."



Scouts get the Chief's award



Six boys from two troops in British Scouts Western Europe have won their Chief Scout's Award. General Sir Frank King, Commander-in-Chief of British Army of the Rhine and Commissioner for BSWE, makes the presentations (left).

He presented certificates to David Bell, Andrew Mayer, John Ashbridge, Michael Mills and Andrew Mills of the 1st Wildenrath Troop, and Stephen Baldwin of the 1st Moenchengladbach Troop.

Anne's view

Remember that piece of news from the Department of Health and Social Security last month about family income supplement and how it can be paid abroad? I hear that already they have received enquiries which will hopefully end up with families receiving a back payment. Thank you, DHSS.

The Christmas Fair organised jointly by the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, and the Guild of St Helena raised £1900 for Army and local charities. The fair, opened by Kenneth Kendall, was in the Civic Hall, Camberley.

PS12 tells me that since October 1976, a widow can be offered up to £200 as an advance from gratuity by the visiting officer if she should need immediate financial interest. This applies both at home and overseas.

Guidance for playgroup leaders is given in two new publications from the Pre-school Playgroups Association. Both booklets, 'The Business Side of Playgroups' and 'Notes for Playgroup Leaders and Committees' cost 40p each from the PPA, Alford House, Aveline Street, London SE11.

There have been a few changes in claiming child benefit recently. Child tax allowances for children under 11 will not end in April 1977. Instead, it is proposed to reduce child tax allowance by £104 for the first child and £130 for each other child. These reductions will be made whether or not you claim child benefit.

Are you aware that if your husband is leaving the Army after six or more years he has a compulsory resettlement interview 18 months to two years before he is due for release? It is acceptable for a wife to attend this interview as well.

Child interim benefit will end in April 1977, but those who are getting that benefit will get the same amount (£1.50) in child benefit. They will get a letter from the Department of Health and Social Security telling them what to do.

Families, now's your chance to cash in on those auctions of surplus Service furniture.

There are two sales in the immediate future, both on RAF stations. The first is on Thursday 27 January at RAF West Drayton, and the second on Tuesday 1 February at RAF Colerne.

But remember that admission for viewing and to the sale is by catalogue only, available (price 20p plus 10p postage) from the auctioneers and salerooms.

Auctioneers at West Drayton are Fuller, Horsey, Sons & Cassell, 52 Bow Lane, London EC4 9ET, and at Colerne, Hobbs & Chambers, 'At the Sign of the Bell,' Market Place, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

Thanks to hot pot helpers

Mrs P is diabetic, blind and has lost a leg. But for a group of Army wives, she might not even have a square meal from one week to the next.

This highlights the complaint I hear so often that wives of servicemen do little to help the community because they are always on the move. This may be so, but do not forget the wide variety of help which a great many Service wives do give.

The meals-on-wheels service is a case in point. Throughout Britain there are many Service wives who devote time each week to make sure that their local sick and immobile get a hot meal, see a cheerful face, and above all hear a few kind words. Not forgetting of course that the service is a vital link for the social services, doctors and voluntary organisations who may be able to help.

To see a group of these wives in action, I went to Tidworth garrison where 28 meals are distributed every Tuesday and Friday to local old-age pensioners whose names have been supplied by the social services.

The task falls to a team of 12 wives who collect the meals from Tidworth Military Hospital for distribution.

My escort for the day was Mrs Jane Younger, a mother of three, who started in September and is the newest member of the group.

She explained that there are two rounds, one to cottages and the local old people's home and the other to a number of village homes.

But before we started we picked up Mrs Dora Ford, the service organiser, who was busy in the community centre preparing the pensioners' Christmas party. The party was paid for from a donation by the garrison thrift shop. The service itself has no funds.

"I had done meals on wheels in Arborfield," explained Mrs Ford, "so when the last organiser left, she asked for a volunteer to take over, and here I am 18 months later.

"With my husband at present in Northern Ireland, and my ten-year-old son Karl at school, I felt this was something I could do to help the community.

"We have a meeting every three months to plan the rosters, iron out any problems and if necessary contact our excellent area supervisor.



"We have a large problem at the moment and would be grateful if anyone can help with a solution. Tidworth Hospital is closing in March and as all the meals are cooked there two days a week, we will need a kitchen.

"I am trying to find a kitchen in the Tidworth area so that we can continue the service. At the moment, unless something turns up, it may mean we will have to collect the meals from Luggershall. This

will involve a lot of extra work for the volunteers and less of a service to the pensioners."

The menu for the day was Irish hot pot, mashed potatoes, cabbage, with steam pudding and custard to follow. Just the thing for a sunny but cold day.

The menu is changed every week and includes mixed grills, roasts, braised steak, plus salads in the summer.

The meals are prepared in the hospital by Army Catering Corps cooks. The day I visited, Staff-Sergeant Dennis Ifould was being helped by Corporal Frank Hattie and Private Eddie Briggs who also humped the insulated containers out to the waiting cars.

Mrs Pat Matthews, the other driver, could not stop to talk. "I must go," she said. "I cannot be late, because they worry if you are, which is sweet of them."

From my quick tour round it was obvious that despite all the various problems they may have, the group was determined to keep cheerful, which turned the drive into a long series of happy visits.

It was also obvious that the service was working. The pensioners were delighted to see a friendly face and have a chat. As one said to me, the 20p cost of the meal was worth it every time. "The meal is hot, fresh and delicious and it is brought by such charming people."

In all, it took about two hours to complete the deliveries to 28 pensioners by the group of wives and Army Catering Corps cooks. Hopefully this service will not die just for the lack of a kitchen in Tidworth. However volunteers are always needed.

If you think you can help in any way, please contact Mrs Ford on Tidworth 2487.

Picture shows Staff Ifould humping a food container to Pat Matthews's car. Organiser Mrs Ford helps Mrs Jane Younger load her car.

Readers' letters

able, the latter hopelessly inadequate and expensive. The expense for civilian families can be covered by the hospital social worker, League of Friends, or civilian car service, but again I do not believe Army hospitals look into this aspect of the problem which can be acute for the junior ranks.

Perhaps this is a problem not encountered by families in other garrisons. I am sure that if it is an Army-wide problem, it is one which the military authorities would be glad to hear about and to do their best to put right.

Incidentally, I noticed that in the recent leaflet on child benefit, issued in September 1976, it says "If you or one of your family have to attend hospital as a patient you may be able to get help with fares — for details ask at the hospital. . ."

So I imagine that all military hospitals will in future be able to assist families in this respect.

Felicity Brown

I have received word from UKLF that they are looking into the problem raised in this letter and hope to publish their reply in the March issue.

Extracts from a letter from Belize . . .

Belize, that romantic sounding little chunk of the Commonwealth in the Caribbean, is dirty, smelly and ugly, but at the same time fascinating.

So says Penny Notley, one of the few soldiers' wives stationed on the last British outpost on the American mainland.

She and her family live at Airport Camp, some 12 miles out of Belize City and bang next door

to the international airport. On the camp are five officers' and four sergeants' quarters.

"The quarters don't look much from the outside, but are very pleasant inside," she says. "Airport Camp has one of the two swimming pools in the country as well as tennis courts, squash courts, cricket fields, and a play park for the children.

"The camp is built on a swamp so sandflies and mosquitoes are a problem. However the hygiene squad usually comes round and smokes the areas round the quarters twice daily.

"The people in these quarters are with Force HQ and do 18-month tours while the rest of the men — some 900 — are on unaccompanied tours of up to six months.

"In Belize City itself there are at present three officers' and one sergeant's family in hirings. Mostly these houses are on the sub-standard side and furnishings are inadequate too. In the city is gathered the most amazing amount of nationalities, there is a great deal of socialising and the exchange of cultures is fascinating.

"Belize City is mostly wooden and termite-ridden but a few concrete houses are going up now.

It's dirty, it's smelly, it's ugly — yet it's fascinating. All imported goods are very expensive, but Belize grows its own spice — the tastiest I have ever had. Its main export is sugar.

"The best part of Belize is the cays, the sandy off-shore islands where the humidity vanishes and where the sands are clean and white and the sea all colours of green and blue — in fact all that you imagine the Caribbean to be.

"The main difficulty here is

boredom. You have so much spare time with little to do with it. It is essential to have indoor hobbies as the climate does not encourage many outdoor activities.

"There are two private schools and those of us with children send them to these. The education is good with the 'three R's' but sadly lacking in other subjects. Discipline is very rigid. Once the children master the local tongue, Creole, they settle down and do quite well, and they mix with all nationalities which is advantageous. But once the children reach 13 it would be essential to leave them behind in England.

"I think that 18 months here is enough, and I feel that when we leave, the gladness will outweigh the sadness."

**Penny Notley
Belize**

On good authority I hear that Penny Notley is working with the disabled in Belize. She teaches macramé and was asked to show her batik work at the opening of a local boutique. Belize will certainly miss her when she returns to England this month.

Dear Anne

As a foster mother of Army families' children I was asked to provide day care for two-year-old twins.

It appeared that the mother of the twins also had an eight-year-old boy who had been discharged from hospital after a serious accident.

However, the boy was still on crutches and needed to attend the hospital as an out-patient, several days a week. The mother became exhausted trying to cope with her family especially as she had to take the twins along to the hospital too.

She found that she had to take a taxi to the hospital because she could not get any Army transport, nor was the local bus service at all convenient. This seemed to me to be quite an extraordinary situation.

On enquiry, I found that the SSAFA social worker often heard of similar cases but that Army families were expected to rely on unit transport.

There are cases referred to hospitals from garrisons, and these too are expected to make their way to the hospital in unit, or public, transport. The former frequently is obviously not avail-

Guards end yet another era

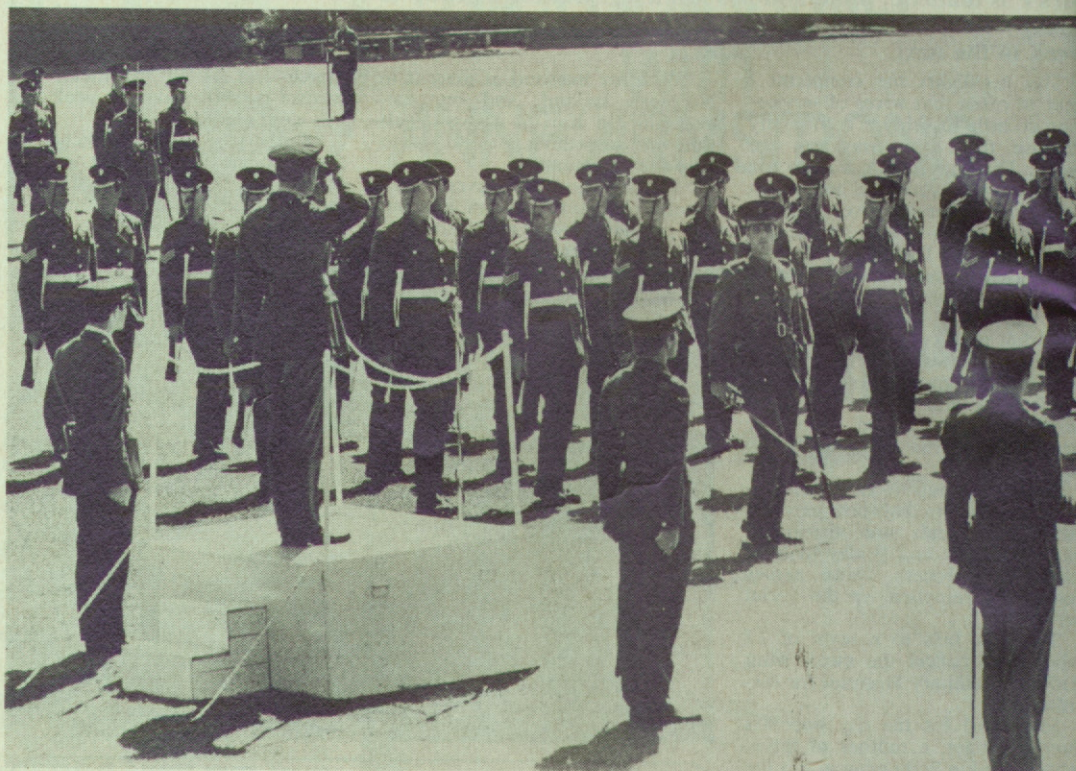
The final parade of 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards, in Hong Kong not only marked the end of their two-year tour, but the end of an era.

Under the terms of the 1975 defence costs agreement between the British and Hong Kong governments, the Grenadiers will not be replaced, leaving three Gurkha battalions and 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry, in Hong Kong.

Stanley Fort, the barracks which the Grenadiers occupied during their tour, will not remain empty, however. The Light Infantry are already in the process of moving from their noisy Gun Club Barracks in Kowloon to the quiet, lovely peninsula on which Stanley Fort is situated. At the same time, Gun Club Barracks is becoming the home of smaller units moving from various barracks in the Kowloon area which are gradually being handed over to the Hong Kong Government.

The Grenadiers marked their departure with a simple but impressive parade (right) on a bright, warm day before the Commander British Forces, Lieutenant-General Sir John Archer.

The Grenadiers have come home to Chelsea Barracks.



Star and Garter says thanks

The band of the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, has been presented with a certificate for distinguished service by the Star and Garter Home at Richmond.

The band has given a concert for the seriously disabled servicemen and staff at the home on Richmond Hill each Christmas since 1924, except during World War Two.

As well as the certificate, the badge of the home was presented to Colonel M ff Woodhead, School of Music Commandant, by Major-General John Sheffield, Star and Garter Commandant.

General Sheffield said the band had for more than 50 years made a notable and greatly valued contribution to the welfare and enjoyment of the patients at the home.

Citizen's arrest uncovers crime ring

Just a couple of days after arriving in Germany to take up his new appointment as General Staff Officer 2 (Public Relations) in 4th Division, Major Mike Pavitt foiled a bag-snatching attempt in true adventure-book style.

"My predecessor was running me around in his car showing me the Naafi's location and various stores and banks and we were, in fact, on the way back to the office when I spotted the incident several seconds before it happened.

"We were passing a bank and an old lady came out through the door closely followed by a youth who seemed to be acting rather suspiciously. He spoke to her and she tried to push him away; he then snatched her handbag and ran. Fortunately at this time the car was going quite slowly and I managed to jump out

and chase him. Luckily I caught him and held him until the police came."

It was not until after the arrest, however, that the full value of Major Pavitt's actions became known. Following the police's immediate investigations they broke a professional ring of housebreakers and bag-snatchers led and organised by a Fagin-type character who took in young offenders, newly released from prison, and tutored them in criminal practice in true Dickens style.

At a meeting of the district police committee, official thanks were expressed to Major Pavitt by the Oberkreisdirektor (the chairman of the committee).

"Major Pavitt's action in stopping the fugitive," he said, "has put the police on the track of three criminals, two of whom have already been arrested. Through his initiative he has supported the German authorities in a praiseworthy way."

The Oberkreisdirektor, Herr Dr Ragati, then presented Major Pavitt with a letter of appreciation and two LPs of organ and traditional music locally produced.

A spontaneous action of appreciation was also made by the well-known artist Wolfgang Heinrich who visited Major Pavitt's office to present him with one of his own paintings "as a citizen's thank-you for the brave actions."



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Everest beaters Brummy and Bronco get the BEM

The two soldiers who conquered Everest, and the leader of the Army's expedition, are among the 119 Army names in the New Year honours list.

Lieutenant-Colonel Anthony Streather, The Gloucestershire Regiment, is made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire. The British Empire Medal goes to the Special Air Service Regiment pair who reached the summit — Sergeant John ('Brummy') Stokes and Corporal (now Sergeant) Michael ('Bronco') Lane.

The full list is as follows:

GCB: General Sir John Gibbon, Master-General of the Ordnance.

KCB: Lieutenant-General R C Ford, Military Secretary.

CB: Major-General R W T Britten (now retired), Major-General G Burch (Deputy Master-General of the Ordnance), Major-General R L Dixon (Chief of Staff-designate, HQ AFNORTH), Major-General R W L McAlister (Major-General Brigade of Gurkhas), Major-General D J St M Tabor (GOC Eastern District).

CBE: Brigadier N A Butler, Colonel S H Chapman, Colonel D A B Crawford, Brigadier B N L Fletcher, Colonel P E Gerahy (now retired), Brigadier D B Rendell.

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Sport

Chelsea hammer Army

The gathering gloom of a winter afternoon drew a frosty veil over the Army's 1-6 hammering at the hands — or rather, feet — of a strong Second Division Chelsea.

The result was no surprise with the London soccer side fielding players such as Charley Cooke and Bill Garner and the Army did well to put a goal past John Phillips in the number one shirt. This was the work of Lance-Corporal Derek Meldrum (Black Watch) in the 20th minute after a defence mix-up by Chelsea.

With key defender Alan Goucher relegated to the touchline with a groin injury which kept him out of the match, and an off-form Dave Blanche unselected, the Army struggled to keep up with the nippy youngsters from Chelsea.

Newcomer Corporal Kenny Seed harried the opposition like a terrier but time and again Chelsea shot

Ashbridge, Cpl Mickey Doig, L/Cpl Alec Hamilton, Cpl Kenny Seed, QMSI Alf Coulton, SSI L Worby, L/Cpl D Meldrum. Substitute: Cpl Peter Moore.

Chelsea: John Phillips, Steve Perkins, John Sparrow, John Bumpstead, Micky Droy, John Dempsey, Lee Frost, Charley Cooke, Tommy Langley, Bill Garner, Clive Walker.

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holes through the weakened Army defence and had the measure of their attacks which lacked the determination and flair the front line is capable of.

Soccer Results

Army 2, Cornwall 2

Army 4, Oxford University 0

Army 2, Slough Town 6

Picture shows the Army packing their goal to stem one of those attacks.

After the match the Army camp was philosophical about its defeat contenting itself with the satisfaction of having had the experience of playing a top-class side whose sportsmanship, incidentally, was a credit to soccer's battered image.

Army: Tpr Dave Steadman, Cpl Paul Whitaker, Cpl Dave Stacey, Cpl Aly MacDonald, Spr G

Substitute: Trevor Aylott. Scorers: Langley, Bumpstead (2), Garner, Walker, Aylott.

Junior Tankies win again

For the second year running the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps, of Bovington Camp, Dorset, has won the Army Junior Leaders' Football Cup. This year the young soldiers from Bovington retained the trophy by beating the Junior Guardsmen Wing 4-2 in the final at Aldershot. The regiment also won the cup in 1957.

Writers' award

The Montreal Olympic gold medalist modern pentathlon team led by Army veteran Sergeant Jim Fox has been awarded the British Sportswriters Association team award as sportsmen of the year.

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Army still in the cold

The Army was represented in the Armed Services volleyball tournament, a first-ever made possible by the long-awaited recognition by the RAF of a sport which already has the official blessing of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines.

This leaves the Army out in the cold with followers of this popular game striving hard to get it put on the sporting map in their Service.

Nevertheless, a team under Sergeant Gordon Neale, of 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, once more took on the other three experienced Service sides and, with a bunch of new players in the squad, showed continued improvement throughout the tournament.

This was an American tournament with each team playing three games, each of three sets. The first game was between the Navy and Marines with the Navy winning in two straight sets.

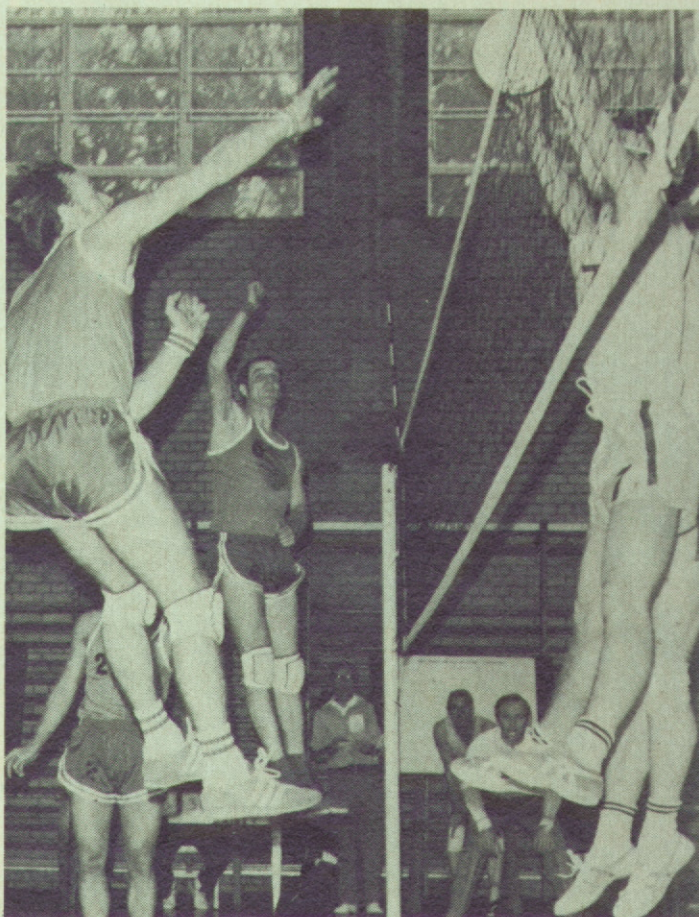
Then the Army took on the experienced RAF 'Harriers' and were beaten 8-15, 7-15 although at one stage in the second set they led 7-4. But the RAF, under national coach Peter Lancashire, made some changes from the bench and came back to take the set.

Then came the Army's first clash with the Navy. The Army squad was 11 strong and during this match it was decided to make sure everyone had a game. The change in line-up, however, seemed to sap confidence and the Navy ran out easy winners by two sets to love.

The Army stayed on court for the final game against the Marines. This was to prove their best game with the strongest squad on court. They narrowly lost the first set 11-15 and their efforts were rewarded finally in the second with a 15-9 win.

But in the last set the Army pace slowed and they let the Marines take an 11-6 lead before fighting back.

Despite the crowd's encouragement, it was too late and the Army went down 12-15. But the side was pleased enough with the achieve-



Above: Gunner Trenank puts one through the RAF defence.

ment of taking one set at least and the team was voted the most improved at the tournament.

The tournament was won by the RAF with the Navy runners up.

Of the Army's performance, Sergeant Neale said: "On the whole the team's performance was a 200 per cent improvement on the inter-Services games held last March."

"Warrant Officer 2 'Nobby' Hill

of the Royal Signals deserves a special mention for conjuring up a brand-new red strip for the team."

Now Sergeant Neale hopes to get the squad together this month for intensive training before the next inter-Services tournament, to be hosted by the Fire Services.

He is still interested in hearing from anyone who wishes to be considered for a trial. He can be contacted through 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, Caterham.

Fencers get to third round

Army fencers fought their way through to the third round of the Sporting Record Cup championship before being knocked out, in a contest attracting 32 top teams from all over the country.

In the first round the Army met Hydra team and beat them by 13 victories to three. In round two the Army met Combined Circles and won 10-0.

A hiccup in the organisation led to the normal seeding process for the third round being changed and a re-draw was made for the last round of 16 teams by direct elimination.

The Army drew Hydra under-20 team which contained three under-20 internationals who fenced very well indeed to beat the Army side 9-1. Lieutenant-Colonel J A G Moore scored the only Army victory in this match.

Representing the Army were: Moore, Lieut I Campbell (AAC), Sgt S Evans (16/5 L), QMSI J Larkham (APTC).

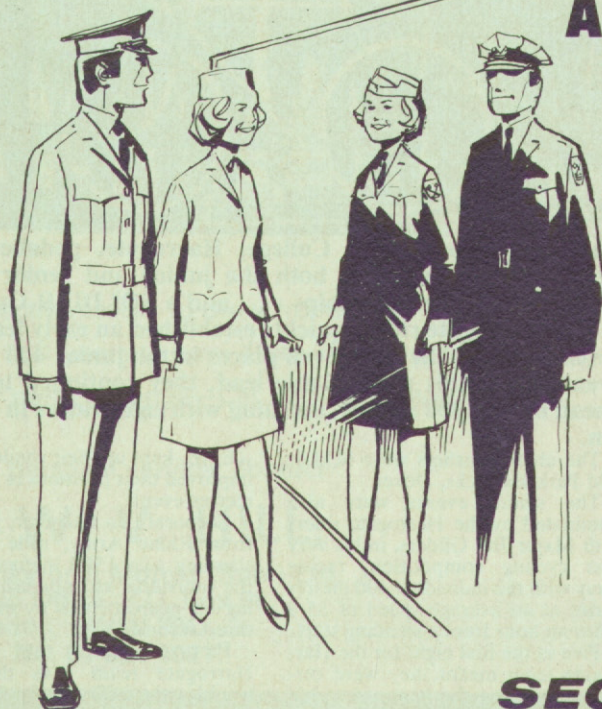
Sweet revenge

Although the Army fielded a strong team, they could not match the Civil Service out to revenge last year's defeat.

The Army started well with the sabre, finishing with a six bouts to three victory by SMI David Hughes and QMSI John Larkham (both APTC). Lieut-Col David Simpson (RAOC) fenced well but could not find his form.

The épée teams were closely matched with the Army winning 5-4. SSI Peter Brierley (APTC) maintained his tremendous undefeated form and RSM(SMI) Clive Eldridge (APTC) and Cpl Keith Hartshorne (RCT) gained one victory each.

But it was the foil that proved to be the Army's Waterloo. This was a complete disaster, a 0-9 defeat. The Army fencers were just not in the same league as their London opponents who fenced with great skill. The Civil Service won the match 16 bouts to 11.



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Park defeat brings hope

Hopes for a tri-Service victory again this year for the Army rugby team improved with a defeat by one of London's top clubs, Rosslyn Park.

The Army went down 8-30 to the civilian club but, considering this was the Army's first serious run-out, against a team which had been playing together all season, this was not a bad start, say selectors, particularly as there was only a 15-point gap up to almost the last ten minutes of play.

"This was very encouraging from

our point of view," said Lieutenant-Colonel Pat Dawson, secretary of the Army Rugby Union. "It showed that we have the makings of a good side, particularly as the forwards seemed to be holding them till the end."

This optimistic note was a far cry from the feeling after the last match of trials week, played the week

before the game against Rosslyn Park. In the last game of the trials, the Army side went down 0-9 to an enthusiastic Aldershot Services.

"The difficulty that the selectors have is that there is a great divide between playing well for a unit and playing well for the Army. A player has mentally to adjust to bridge that gap," said Army coach Lieutenant-Colonel Norman Bruce.

"There are weaknesses in the centre, locks, second and back rows.

We have players with the correct physique and talent and it is to be hoped that between now and the Navy match in March the players selected from unit rugby will gain in knowledge and experience from these coming fixtures."

Difference

This difference between the trials teams and the team which actually represented the Army was highlighted by Colonel Dawson who said there were too many Army caps not playing during trials week to make it a proper Army team.

"In the game against Shrivenham there was only one cap and against Aldershot Services there were two," he said. "The Army side in the trials bore no relation to the side which played against Rosslyn Park."

The team picked to face Harlequins on New Year's Day: S/Sgt G J Denholm (RAOC), L/Cpl B P Clesham (LI), Capt A D T Lerwill (LI), Cpl S G Jackson (RAMC), Cpl D B Reynolds (REME), Rev N W Drummond (RACHD), Tpr G Davies (QDG), Cpl N J Gray (RE), S/Sgt J B Mills (REME), Pte P M S Mills (Para), Capt J M Bowles (RCT), Sgt P D Smith (RAOC), Capt G D Lilee (RCT), Cpl S Peacock (R Sigs), Capt C J W Gilbert (DWR) (Captain).



Left: corporal David Spawforth (REME) gets the ball away to the Army backs after a loose ruck against Aldershot Services.

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The Harrogate riders quickly established an early lead with seven riders in the first seven places in the junior 400 metres event. From this unassailable lead, they continued to forge ahead in the 1000 metres, finishing with eight riders in the top ten.

The championships were held at Old Park Barracks, Dover.

The senior events were also dominated by the Harrogate riders with Major Jim Gilders, in his very first cycling competition, racing away with the individual 400 metres sprint at an average speed of 55.9 miles an hour from a standing start.

Five in the first eight for the Harrogate team meant they were certain of winning the team prize, but the Army Apprentices College, Arborfield, and Training Battalion,

REME, kept up their challenge and improved their positions in the 1500 metres event.

Corporal Len Bachelor, just back from Rhine Army, rode an outstanding solo 1500 metres to take the individual championship, beating his nearest rivals by more than three seconds.

Picture shows the winning Harrogate team with their two trophies, the RCT Cup for the junior championship and the SOLDIER Magazine Cup for the seniors.

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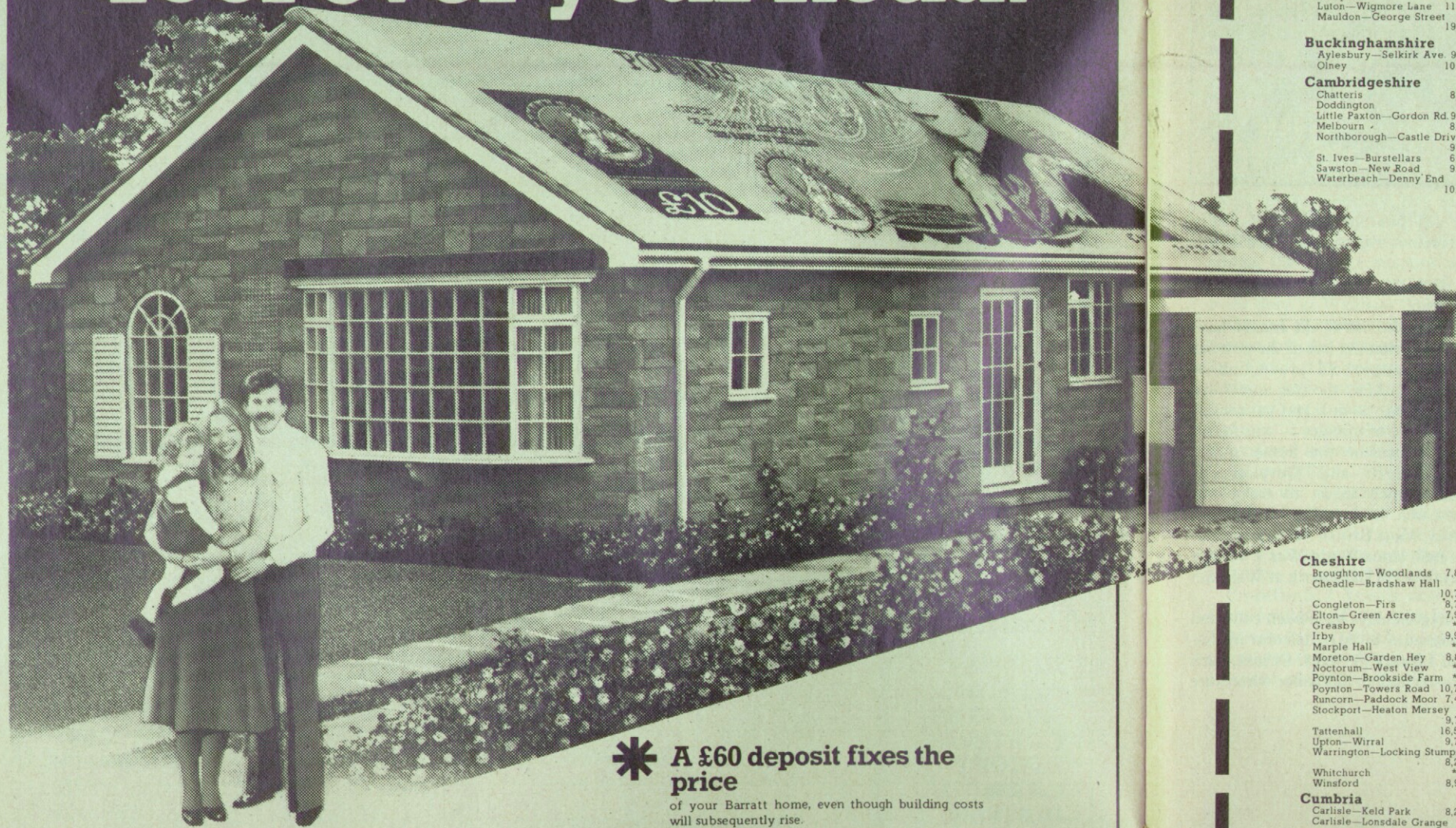
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✱ Future Developments.

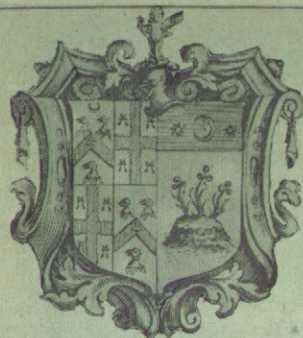


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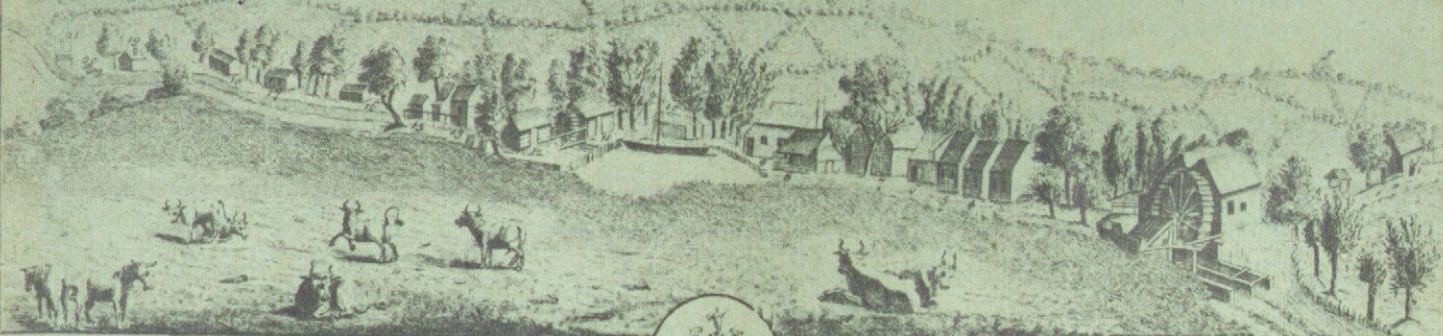




ERDE Waltham Abbey

MONKS, MILLS AND MISSILES

Story: John Walton (no relation)
Pictures: Paul Haley



To John Walton Esq. Proprietor of these Mills this Plate is humbly dedicated by his Obedient humble Servant J. Farmer 1785

WALTHAM ABBEY is an innocent-looking, pretty little town on the Essex/Hertfordshire border. Yet for hundreds of years it has been a centre for developing explosive materials used in countless wars of death and destruction. Indeed it may well have been those very monks who peopled the Abbey in medieval times who started the whole thing off — legend has it that gunpowder used at the Battle of Crécy in 1346 was made by the holy men.

Records of this time are far from adequate so legend, and stories of the monks supplying gunpowder to the Armada and to Guy Fawkes and his gang, have all to be taken with a grain of saltpetre.

First concrete evidence of a link between

Below: SOLDIER's camera captures an underwater explosion during its succeeding stages.

the Abbey and gunpowder is dated 1561. By 1735, John Walton's Powder Mills were established in the old Abbey grounds. They were described as being "esteemed the largest and completest works in Great Britain."

In 1787 the mills were sold by another John Walton to the Government for £10,000. They became the Royal Powder Mills and were under the control of Major William Congreve (father of William Congreve of rocket fame), then Deputy Comptroller of the Royal Laboratory at Woolwich.

From that time on, gunpowder production continued at Waltham Abbey. In World War One some 5000 people, mostly women on war work, were employed at the mills. During the early part of World War Two the Waltham plant was Britain's only source of

production of RDX, "the high explosive of World War Two."

In the winter of 1940-41 an enemy land mine put out of action the last of the powder mills and the centuries-old production of gunpowder ended. After the war a new use — which continued the link and yet took it forward into an age of missiles — was found for the site. It became the home of the Explosives Research and Development Establishment which exists to carry out chemical research into rocket propellants and explosives. Most British Service innovations in this field since World War Two owe their origin to the ERDE's work at Waltham Abbey.

Relics of bygone days have been collected in a small museum by Mr Malcolm McLaren, Head of Library Services. Others, such as powder boats and an old water wheel, are

dotted around the two sites, each of 250 acres. But the scientists who work at Waltham Abbey tend to look to the future rather than the past.

The establishment is divided into branches, each concerned with a different aspect of the propellants and explosives which go into today's shell, bullet or rocket.

Propellants 1 Branch deals with the development of propellants from nitro-cellulose or nitro-glycerine. Mr Ronald Ayerst agrees there are serious hazards involved when carrying out research work with this type of material.

"But nitro-glycerine is a tiger which can be controlled. There is no more risk in handling it once it is tamed than there is in handling ammunition. Nevertheless it is worth while spending money on safety and the buildings have mounds around them. We always keep the material in such a position that if it blows out it will miss other buildings. Every operation is written down and pasted up on the wall as a law and it is one of the jobs of the supervisors to make sure those laws are not broken."

One of the most important factors in these propellants is that they give off very little 'signature' — a smoke-free weapon is far less likely to be speedily put out of action. Swingfire, Vigilant and the Giant Viper, which propels charges across minefields, are among the current weapons which became available from research and development work done at Waltham Abbey.

One of the most important things is to ensure that the weapon is safe to the handler. This is why progress is slow and painstaking, with experiments having to be repeated time and time again. Says Mr Ayerst: "It is impossible to get anything off the ground in less than five years."

All propellants deteriorate. Some soften and run out of their motors, others harden and burst when fired. All these potential dangers have to be explored by storage and other trials to make sure they do not occur when the propellant is in service.

Propellants 2 Branch deals with composite propellants of two main types — plastic, development of which is confined almost entirely to this country, and rubbery. They are used in guided missiles, British space



Above: Women on war work. This picture is of guncotton moulding at Waltham Abbey in 1917.

research rockets and Service motors. Plastic propellant looks like Plasticine and has the same malleable qualities whereas rubbery propellant retains its shape.

Recently the ERDE has developed plastic propellants which can be used at very low temperatures. Some indication of the size of the plastic propellants industry can be gauged by the fact that the main production authority, the Royal Ordnance Factory, Bridgwater, has filled more than 40,000 rocket motors in the last 20 years or so.

The Process Research Branch develops processes for manufacturing specialised materials for the Ministry of Defence. It takes them up to pre-production quantity and, if only a small amount is required, it may do the entire manufacturing job.

Work on polymers has grown considerably in recent years — particularly as private enterprise is often no longer willing to meet specific Ministry requirements. Among the items being produced by Waltham Abbey at present are binders for defence purposes.

Fibre processing has involved grading asbestos fibre and more recently work on selecting fibres from waste paper pulp for

high-grade use. This has been so successful that the National Research Development Corporation has financed further work and it is hoped eventually to design a plant to sell commercially.

In the General Chemistry Branch, scientists spend much time in studying the decomposition reactions and stability of various explosives and propellants. Explains Mr N J Blay: "When the most common explosive was gunpowder, the most important thing was keeping water out. Nitro-glycerine etc decompose spontaneously and after a few years become hazardous and there is likely to be spontaneous combustion. Propellants containing the same ingredients can now be relied upon to remain safe for many years providing they are properly made in the first place and looked after reasonably well."

Some explosives tend to become inert rather than dangerous through the passage of time and again the object is to extend the product's Service life. For nothing to happen when a soldier pulls a trigger in action can be almost as dangerous as his weapon exploding.





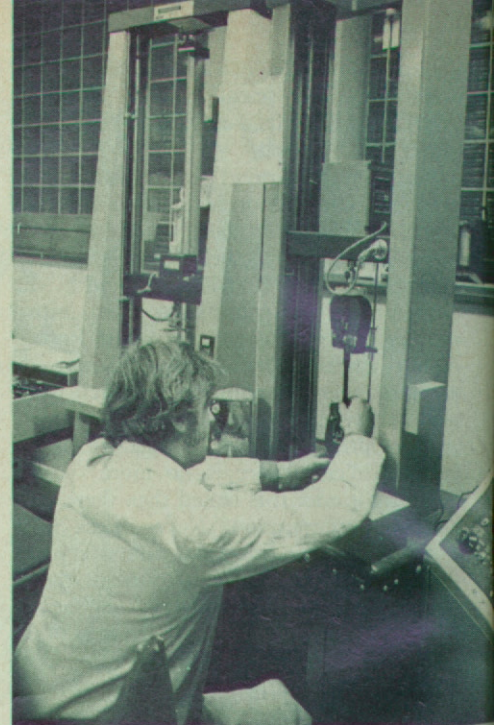
Above: Television programme with a difference. In control room of rubbery propellant mixer.

The Army provides most of the work for the Non-Metallic Materials Branch. This deals mainly with long-term research projects in rubbers and plastics as well as testing them for tropical exposure and weathering. This section is at present busy on a part-plastic pump for the Chieftain tank which will probably be cheaper than its present metal counterpart, and on a fan blade for the same tank. Already in Chieftains are ERDE-developed see-through lids for ammunition boxes.

And it was at Waltham Abbey that the idea was devised of filling with foam the plastic butt of the Army's current self-loading rifle to keep the butt rigid. At present some manufacturing is being done of ethyl cellulose tube for the Giant Viper and, at the same time, ERDE scientists are looking at the next generation tube.

It was in explosives that Waltham Abbey first made its name and there are still some big bangs going on ... In the 20-foot-deep Newton's Pool, eight pounds of torpex is lowered halfway down ready for detonation. The ground shakes and a waterspout rises to 70 feet. There is surprisingly little noise. Meanwhile, inside a nearby building, the

Right: Using a tensometer — a machine which is used to establish the breaking point of plastics.



pressure waves are being measured and studied.

These explosions, like most of the work at Waltham Abbey, are repetitive and carried out frequently. As a result of the data acquired the ERDE recommends specific explosives for specific tasks.

Today it is not only the explosive content of missiles which concerns ERDE. Now the outer casing and the motors are also within the province of the Establishment's Director, Dr F H Panton. He has become Director of the Rocket Propulsion Establishment at Westcott, Buckinghamshire, and the two establishments are in effect amalgamated.

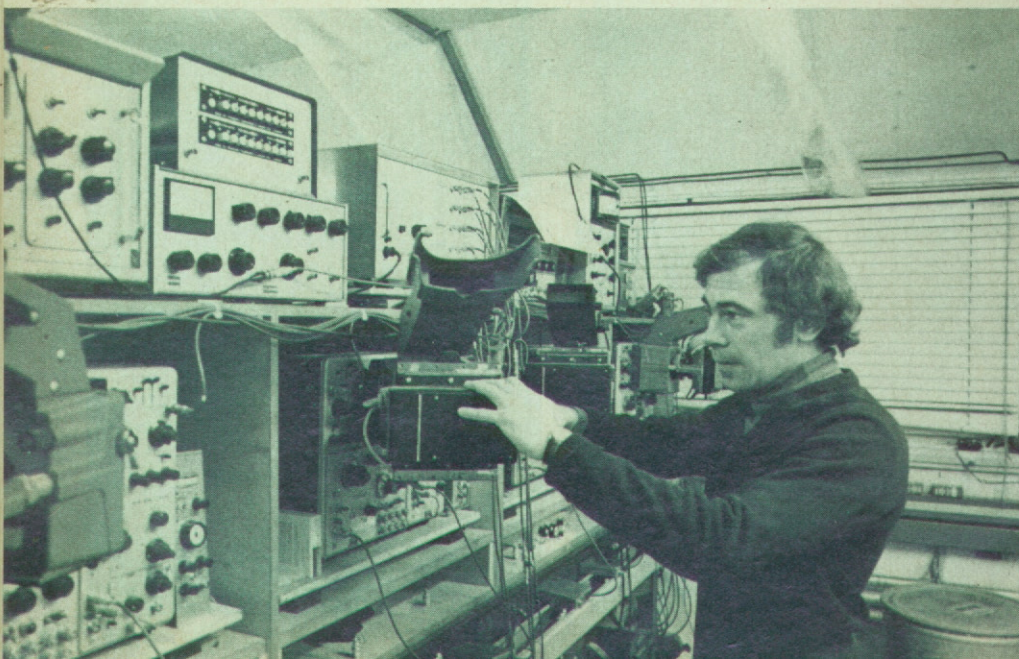
Eighty years ago a Strand magazine writer ended his feature on the old powder mills: "The tremendous energy that lay dormant in every building oppressed us, even though that energy slept behind massive traverses and walls ten feet thick; so we came away."

Those tremendous forces are not so evident as one goes through the laboratories of today's Explosives Research and Development Establishment. Yet if that writer was horrified by the explosives potential of the 1890s, what would his reaction be to today's secrets of Waltham Abbey?

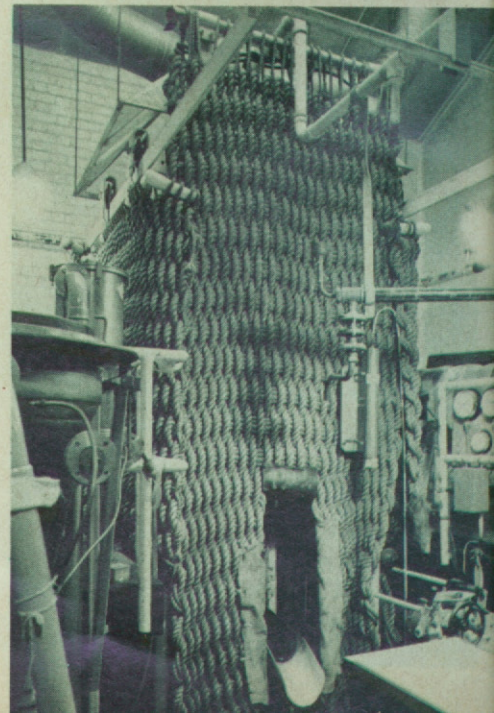


Above right: In the chemistry laboratory many are the experiments to analyse gases in propellants.

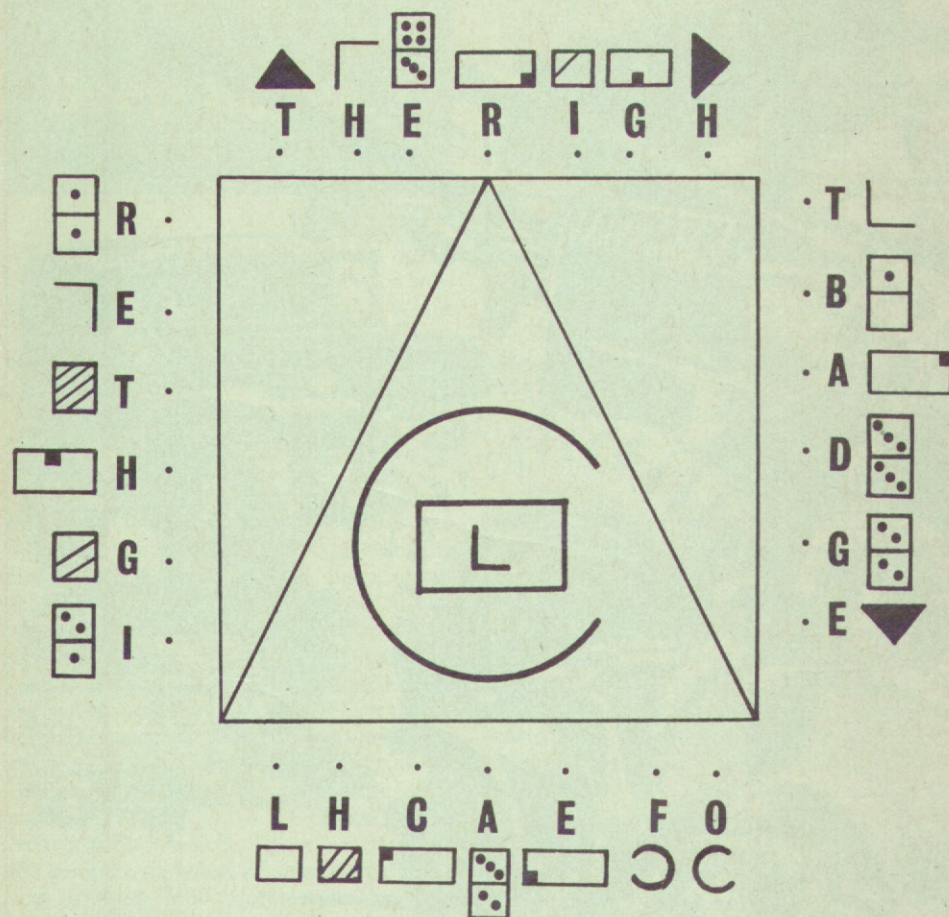
Below: Processing pictures of underwater bang.



Right: Blast mats surround a propellant press.



Strange device



COMPETITION 223

VISITORS to the home of Major Calamity are always intrigued by what appears to be some heraldic device hanging on the wall.

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"If you rearrange the symbols in their correct sequence," he says, "and take them in the order indicated by the badge in the centre, you will have additional information."

On what occasion did one of the major's ancestors honour the family name? Send your answer on a postcard or by letter, with the 'Competition 223' label from this page and your name and address, to:

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This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Monday 4 April. The answers and winners' names will appear in the June SOLDIER.

More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 223' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries.

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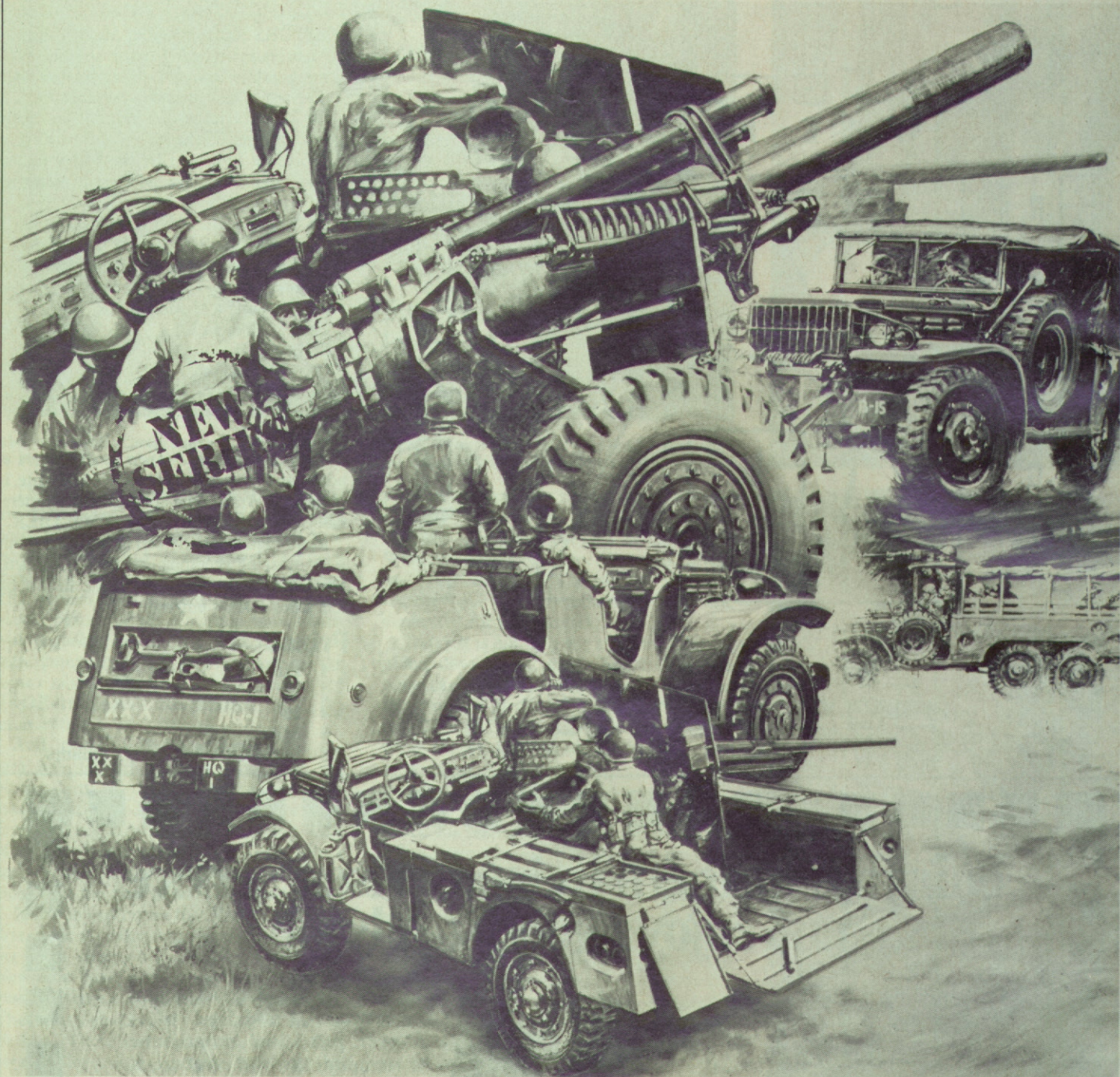
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MILITARY VEHICLES

Military models

Beep buggies

THE UBIQUITOUS Jeep carried gum-chewing GIs over mud, sand, snow or cobbled streets in nearly every theatre of World War Two. But there were other significant, soft-skinned personnel carriers such as the 1½-ton, six-wheeled truck (designated WC62/63) (top left) and the ¾-ton, four-wheel-drive vehicle (right) known as the 'Beep' or beefed-up Jeep.

While nearly 640,000 Jeeps were made during the war, production figures ran into 50,000 for the WC62/63 and 500,000 for the Beep. The WC62/63 and Beep, both developed by Dodge in the United States, are the subject of this month's main models from the British firm of Airfix. They are both in 1:35th scale, cost £2 each, and are in the same series as the WC56 command reconnaissance car and M6 anti-tank gun carriage reviewed in SOLDIER in October.

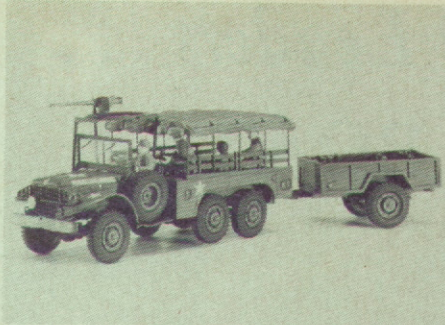
The six-wheeled truck can be built as the standard WC62 or as the WC63 which has a front-mounted winch. There are parts for the complex six-wheel-drive transmission, a ring-mounted M50 machine-gun, roll-top

canvas cover, miniature tools, a trailer and four figures as well as transfer decals for three different US Army units.

The Beep also comes in the standard WC51 version or winch-mounted WC52. It too has a trailer, simulated soft top and transfers for three different units. This vehicle, by the way, was supplied to the British Army under 'Lend Lease.'

Both kits are in appropriately coloured plastic parts, but for an authentic finish the main bodywork should be painted in Airfix 'olive drab' or Humbrol 'US Army olive drab' and given a final thin coating of matt polyurethane varnish.

Other recent releases from Airfix in the field of military models include packs containing 46 to 48 figures of Gurkhas, Australian infantry, Luftwaffe personnel (bottom right) and German paratroops, all from World War Two in HO/OO scale at 32 pence each, as well as 62 pence packs of 1:32nd scale German paratroops and (top right) US 7th Cavalry in action poses that would do justice to a John Wayne. HH



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Infantry Junior Leaders . . . ON A SLOW BOAT TO GAMBIA



Story: Martin Helm
Pictures: Public Relations, HQ UKLF

THE 120 JUNIOR LEADERS in their second term at Shorncliffe, Kent, have gone a lot further this year — nearly 8000 miles further in fact. After only six months with the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion they have just spent three weeks aboard the Royal Fleet Auxiliary's logistic landing ship Sir Lancelot, on a voyage to The Gambia in West Africa and back.

The ship was taking vehicles and supplies to the country for three company-strength exercises by 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment. The first exercise is now under way and the troops, with a group of Maidstone-based sappers, are the first Britons to train in the country since colonial days.



The Directorate of Army Training had the brainwave of providing useful experience for the junior leaders by allowing them to fill the vacant berths on the sea voyage. The only other soldiers on board were a troop from 51 Port Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, and four men from the sapper and infantry units taking part in the exercise proper.

After the first 36 stomach-settling hours on board, the junior leaders got down to the training they would have done at Shorncliffe except that their lecture rooms were dormitories, the deck, the helicopter deck and the recreation room. Said Major Mickey Warrender, Irish Guards, who commanded the party: "They had to miss out on drill but

Left: Physical training stint on the flight deck. Below: Signals instruction while on the voyage.



Above: Training with the GPMG on the rolling deck is harder than on land.

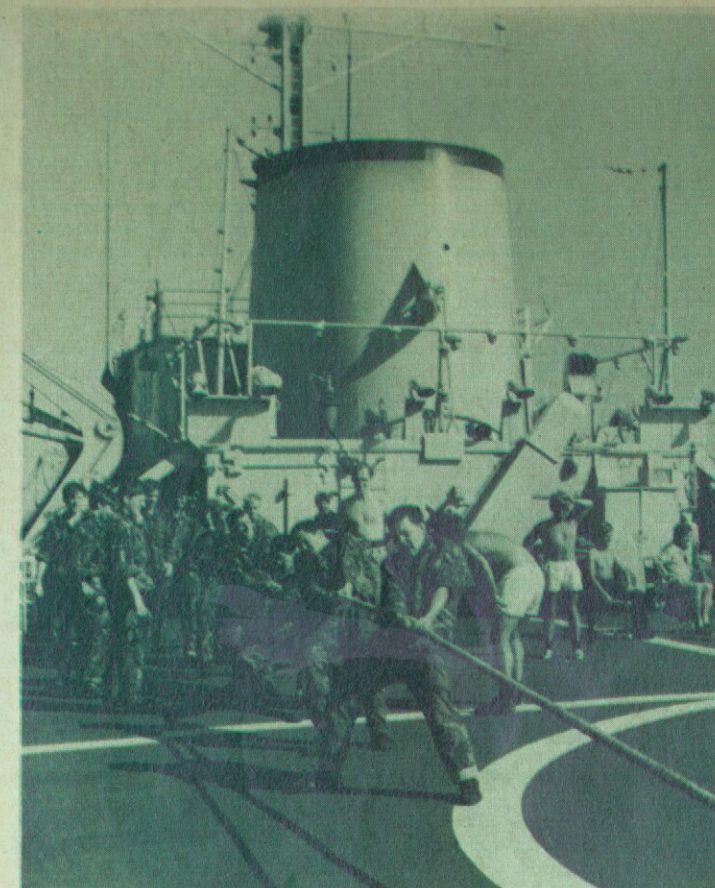
they got in more weapon handling and physical training. We had a flexible training programme and took full advantage of the ship's facilities."

Things were so flexible they were even able to fire .22 and air rifles from the ship's helicopter deck. On the nautical side they had lifeboat drills and had to cope with rough weather — particularly on the way back.

In The Gambia, a former British colony, just 300 miles long and 30 wide, the junior leaders helped unload vehicles at Bakau.

The lads became very adept at bartering with the locals for beads, muskes, carvings and spears.

Although it was the first time abroad for most of them, the Shorncliffe lads did not arrive unprepared. Lieutenant Wilf Telford and Mr Brian Allen, two of their instructors, gave them daily briefings on the Gambian climate, culture and way of life.



Above: Inter-platoon tug-of-war round pulleys on the LSL helicopter deck.

At first glance Maurice McNeill doesn't look much like a member of a ship's company. But Maurice, a 35-year-old warrant officer 2 in the Royal Corps of Transport, spends a lot of time afloat. He is ship's warrant officer aboard the Sir Lancelot and as such is responsible for all liaison between embarked troops and the ship's officers.

In the last few months, in addition to The Gambia, he has been to Denmark and Northern Ireland and he may be off to Vancouver shortly. The logistic landing ships, each of about 4500 tons, with a speed of 15-17 knots, rarely carry troops for long voyages but they sail all over the world with Army equipment and stores.



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Not in 1977

The recent announcement that Tidworth Tattoo will not be held in 1977 will disappoint many. I wonder if instead it would be possible to hold an event of reduced character to which the public could be invited. One possible solution would be to have an open day at Tidworth. The public would, I think, be interested in seeing how today's Army lives and works.

I visited the Aldershot Army Display as usual last year, with about half of Southern England, and would have followed up with the Royal Engineers' open day but for my holiday in Scotland. The only depot I have had a chance to see is Fort George, during that holiday. — **A G McGregor, 17 Hartley Road, North End, Portsmouth, PO2 9HU.**

Timing

I am in the book trade and recently had to send a consignment of brochures to a military establishment by our own company transport. Our driver was rather peeved because he had to off-load all the parcels by himself. Just as he had finished some soldiers and a lance-corporal came along full of sympathy and apologies for being just too late to help. Being an old soldier and having done my share of good honest skiving, I couldn't help laughing although the driver wasn't amused.

Of course it's many years since I did my service and I rather thought that all this modern technology had produced a super-efficient soldier but this incident shows that the squaddy and his attendant lance-jack haven't changed a bit — and I feel somehow pleased that this is so. — **Harry S Brand, 30 Salmons Road, Edmonton, London N9.**

Fort Ontario

I have accepted an invitation from the Central New York State Park and Recreation Commission to assist, as their British representative, in identifying and locating information and objects pertaining to military fortifications, early trading activities and British-Indian relations at the mouth of the Oswego River, New York.

One of the surviving fortifications, Fort Ontario (also known as Fort of Six Nations, East Fort and Fort Oswego) is being restored and developed as a New York State historic site. In particular I am instructed to attempt to find information and materials concerning the construction and use of Fort Ontario, mainly by British regiments from 1727 to 1814.

Among the many regiments based at Fort Ontario were: 1700 — 50th Regiment of Foot, 51st, 44th, 46th, 60th, 42nd, 55th, 8th. French and Indian War period: 1755-56 — 50th, 51st, Royal Artillery; 1759 — 44th, 46th, 60th, Royal Artillery; 1760 —

42nd, 55th, 77th (eight companies), 44th, 46th, 60th, Royal Artillery, The Rangers (Ogden and Whaithe). Revolutionary War Period: 1777 — 8th, 34th, Butler's Rangers, Royal Artillery.

These and many other allied regiments, the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, served at some time at Fort Ontario. The fort was also a base for military expeditions to Quebec, the Revolutionary War and the British West Indies.

The New York State Parks Commission wishes to obtain material and regimental crests of the above regiments for the new museum and I would be grateful to hear from any regimental historian who could help in our quest. A historical summary of Fort Ontario and information booklets are available from Wallace F Workmaster, Historic Site Manager, Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York 13126, USA, or from myself. — **David Dornan, Slough Express, 42 High Street, Slough, Berkshire.**

Challenge

Would any men in the forces be prepared to challenge us — the Grand Union Tactical Society — to a wargame of any period, although we specialise in modern battles, to see how we shape up against the 'Professionals'?

We meet bi-monthly at the TS Renown in Croxley Green, Watford, and although our club is not yet two years old we were awarded a trophy for the best-presented wargame at 'Call to Arms '76,' a wargaming convention in Luton and, a few months ago at the Watford Show, we put on a large Nato/Warsaw Pact game. This evoked great interest from men of the Royal Artillery who took part — on the Nato side of course. — **K C B Sheppard, (Motor Transport Officer, Grand Union Tactical Society), 5 Granville Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 5BE.**

Blood Alley

Your interesting article, 'The Secret of Blood Alley' (December), with its picture of Captain Middleton's grave, in fact conceals a story within a story.

'Bay' Middleton, one of the foremost riders to hounds of his time, was killed in the Midland Sportsmen's point-to-point race on 9 April 1892, the course of which he selected and laid out. Captain Middleton competed in the race and after it was found dead. Marks on the ground showed that his horse had over-jumped in a steep ridge-and-furrow field in the direction of Kineton Holt. The horse landed in the trough of a furrow, tripped against the next ridge and threw Middleton against the next ridge, breaking his neck.

Captain Middleton was the constant escort of Elizabeth of Bavaria, Empress of Austria and wife of Franz Josef. She shuttled between her homes in Austria, Hungary, Greece and the English hunting shires. Her son Rudolph killed himself and Marie Vetsera at Mayerling in January 1889, 'Bay' Middleton's death followed in 1892, by which time her other great friend, Count Andrassy of Hungary, was also dead.

Elizabeth wandered from one spa to another and from Cairo to Tangier, Naples and Lisbon, becoming known as 'The Lady in Black'. In September 1898, she was murdered by an Italian anarchist at Geneva.

And the three gaunt fir trees that surround Captain Middleton's grave? I would like to think they are Austrian pines. — **John Crouch (Victorian Military Society), 18 Tudor Court, Park Road, Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 0AH.**

The legend of a ghostly battle at Edgehill is an old one though it is usually said to have appeared in the sky and on the day or eve of the anniversary of the battle — the Christmas Eve story is new to me. But where do you get the figure of 50,000 men engaged in the fighting? This is surely an exaggeration? Most of the best-known accounts vary around 13,000 to 14,000 per side — not more than a total of 27,000 and except for Marston Moor the largest number engaged in a Civil War battle.

Further, the caption to the photo of the Naafi club sign (Prince Rupert) calls him "the man who led the doomed Royalist cavalry at Edgehill." Of all the Civil War battles, Edgehill was the one where Rupert's cavalry was supremely victorious — his right wing (led by himself) drove the Roundhead cavalry off the field as far back as Kineton. On the other wing the Roundheads put up a better show but the Royalist cavalry was generally victorious and certainly not "doomed."

Incidentally, apropos the photo of the Blood Alley corpse on page 21 — the ghostly figure on horseback looks

very much like the figure of Prince Rupert on the Naafi sign! Somebody skilfully superimposing negatives? — **G A Brine, 55 Pretoria Road, Streatham, London SW16.**

★ *SOLDIER's figures were taken from Eggenberger's 'A Dictionary of Battles.' And photographer Paul Haley would indeed agree that the spectral horseman is remarkably like the Prince Rupert sign! The whole article was of course slightly tongue-in-cheek and intended as a somewhat light entertainment for SOLDIER's December issue.*

Your article has some good points, but where did you dredge up the figures of 50,000 men engaged and 5000 killed at Edgehill? Most accounts of the battle state that the armies were fairly evenly matched at in numbers at somewhere between 13,000 to 15,000 each. The highest total of casualties I have seen quoted is 2000 killed. — **L Talliss, 40 Browett Road, Coventry, CV6 1AZ.**

★ See answer to letter above.

How observant are you?

(see page 15)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Position of cross on castle. 2 Plume of helmet. 3 Right edge of right branch above bird's nest. 4 Middle shield pattern on saddle-cloth. 5 Horse's right knee. 6 Lines on knight's right foot. 7 Beak of right bird. 8 Position of middle bird egg. 9 Grass below rabbit. 10 Skirt of knight's armour.

Commemorative covers

On 21 March the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia) will celebrate 400 years as a regiment and, on 1 April, 100 years as part of the Corps of Royal Engineers. To mark these two events the regiment is issuing a limited number of commemorative covers with a special cancelling stamp on 1 April.

Signed copies are £1 (signed by Chief Royal Engineer — 50 copies), 80p (Engineer-in-Chief — 100 copies), 70p (Honorary Colonel — 150 copies), 60p (Commanding Officer — 200 copies). Unsigned, 40p each. These covers will be on sale from 21 March from Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia), The Castle, Monmouth, Gwent, NP5 3BS.

To commemorate the Joint Services Expedition to Liverpool Land, Greenland, in May 1977, three philatelic covers are being issued. These are a plain cover with a drawing on the left face and special commemorative frank, at 40p; the same cover but signed and taken to Greenland, £1; triple-signed and taken on the longest trip, £2.50 each.

The covers will be allocated in the order that applications are received. Applications should be forwarded with cheque or postal order, made payable to JSE Greenland 1977, to Lieutenant B F Witts RN, Ward-

room, HMS Osprey, Portland, Dorset. If applicants wish their covers to be sent to them through the post, they should enclose a stamped addressed envelope not smaller than 7 x 5 inches.

Philatelic covers issued to commemorate the formation of 1st (British) Corps on 24 November 1901 are still available from Philatelic Officer, 1 (BR) Corps PCCU, BFPO 33.

The cover design incorporates the coat of arms of Aldershot in use when the corps was formed, the coat of arms of Bielefeld, Germany, and the corps crest. The 8½p stamp of the 24 November 1976 Christmas issue is affixed and in consequence the commemorative cover is also a first-day cover. Two special cancellation handstamps were used. Covers posted at BFPO Aldershot and franked British Forces 1901 Postal Service were flown to BFPO Bielefeld. Those posted at Bielefeld and flown to Aldershot were franked British Forces 1923 Postal Service.

Covers available are: Cover with 8½p stamp, 50p (indicate which handstamp impression is required); two covers with 8½p stamp forming a 'matched pair,' 80p; on request, additional stamps of the Christmas 1976 issue will be affixed — cost of stamps to be added to prices above.

Collectors' Corner

George Hammerschmidt, PO Box 3066, Tecumseh, Windsor, Ontario, N8N 2M3, Canada. — *In exchange for CEF badges and/or LS & GC medals, has following WW1 British cap badges available: Argyll & Sutherland, Scots Guards, Yorkshire Lt Inf, Royal Scots, Royal West Kent (officer/OR), Royal Engineers, Royal Scots Greys, Border, Coldstream Guards.*

R D Walsh, 21 Boardman Road, Kippa-Ring, Queensland, Australia 4020. — *Wishes buy History of the Grenadiers Indian Army also Traditional Indian Army uniforms, infantry.*

G J de Graaff, De Ruyterkade 110, Amsterdam, Netherlands. — *Seeks Denison camouflage smock, para harness, WW2 British combat knife with scabbard, early airborne helmet, rimless airborne helmet (with side flash preferred), US airborne jacket and combat trousers, camouflage coverall, USMC two-piece camouflage jungle suit, German WW2 camouflage items and Fallschirmjäger helmet. For cash or trade (has some German WW2 items for trade).*

Frank G Frisella, 1524 El Camino Real, San Carlos, California 94070, USA. — *Requires all types British medals also MGC, RFC and Gurkha groups. Also toy soldiers, related buildings and vehicles.*

Kenneth Forsyth, East Neuk, 1 Fife Place, Fairlie, Ayrshire, KA29 0BU. — *Has for disposal 23 Canadian and six Australian embroidered shoulder flashes, also 18 US embroidered flashes (mainly WW2 formation signs). For sale in respective lots or preferably*

exchange for UK cap badges, buttons (large) or formation signs.

Howard Ripley, 47 Shenley Road, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, MK3 6HE. — *Requires worldwide Army and colonial police buttons. Can offer worldwide military buttons and some British Army badges including Victorian.*

Michael S Gazo, 1644 Sauriol St E, Montreal, Quebec H2C 1X1, Canada. — *Seeks cap badges elite units especially SAS and French Foreign Legion. Has for trade Canadian Army and RCMP cap badges, shoulder flashes and command badges, also a few Rhodesian cap badges.*

D Collier, 32 Dee Place, Morriston, Swansea. — *For sale at realistic offer genuine, valuable complete collection 80 cap badges of all foot regiments WW1/WW2. Mounted in order of line seniority in glass wall case 3ft x 18in.*

2/Lieut Rajw Vasudevan, 84 AR, ACC & School, Ahmednagar, India. — *Requires worldwide cap and formation badges for new collection. Grateful all contributions.*

H Berry, 70 Brampton Road, Cambridge, CB1 3HL. — *Starting collection British Army cap badges old and new. Reasonable prices please.*

Dr Arthur Clift, Kirk Hammerton, 23 Durham Avenue, Bromley, Kent, BR2 0QH. — *Leopard skin for sale, cured, width across middle of back 13in, nose to tail 40in, skin of one leg damaged, no claws, flat head, £90 ono.*

A E Burnett, 7330 Karankawa, San Antonio, Texas 78223, USA. — *Requires items Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders — collar badges, shoulder*

Competitions

October's Competition 219 (Motor Show), compiled by a schoolboy reader, attracted a large and keen entry. Keen because competitors found that not only Lancia could be found twice but also Fiat and Iso. Either of these three was accepted as correct. The missing name was Peugeot.

Prizewinners:

1 WO2 P Russell, Sgts Mess, 3 R Anglian, BFPO 53.

2 Maj (Retd) A G Souter, 1 Churchill Grove, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire.

3 L/Cpl F Collins, Kiel Trg Centre, BFPO 108.

4 K G Parsons, 4 Church Lane, Ogbourne St Andrew, Marlborough, Wiltshire.

5 K E James, 58 Avondale Avenue, Staines, Middlesex.

6 Michael D Fox, 11 Hillside, London, SW19 4NH.

7 T McDonald, 37A Longridge Road, London SW5.

8 Careers Office, 1 Frederick Street, Hindley, Wigan, Lancashire.

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.

7 Para RHA. Farewell parade, Aldershot, 3 February, to mark departure 7 Para RHA from Airborne Forces. Salute taken by CGS. Parade followed by drinks, lunch and open afternoon, Lille Barracks. Hoped as many former members as possible will attend. Inquiries to Parade Adj, 7 Para RHA, Lille Barracks, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2NQ.

RHA Association, Trowbridge Branch. Annual reunion dinner, Sat 26 March, New Civic Hall, Trowbridge, Wilts. Ladies welcome. Tickets £2.75 each from Maj (Retd) J C Crowe, 55 Whiterow Park, Trowbridge, Wilts, BA14 0EQ.

titles, buttons especially brass or gilt, belt plates, books. Other regiments of Gaelic origin considered. Has to offer US uniforms, headgear, decorations, USMC items, police badges, books and manuals. Vietnam issue cammies, Green Berets, US Air Force patches and items available. WW1 items offered for hard-to-get tunics and other items.

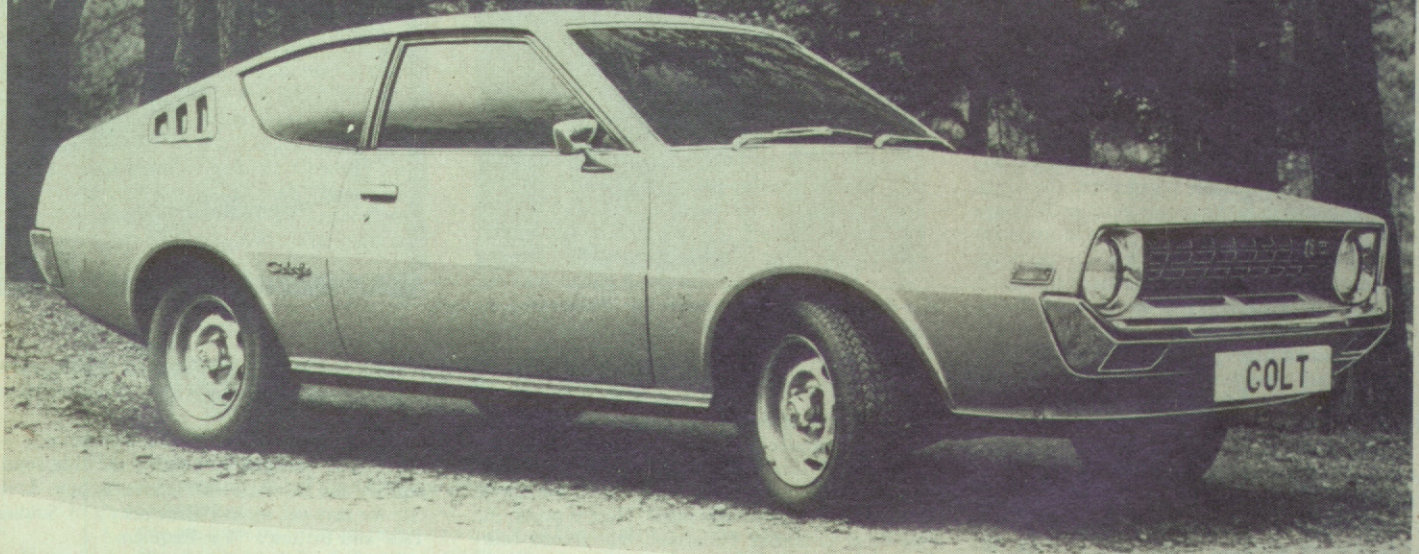
J Preston, 4 Woodpecker Avenue, Lowestoft, Suffolk. — *Has copies*

SOLDIER 1972-76 for disposal. SAE with inquiries appreciated.

A R Polaine, 25 Penzance Street, Kensington, London W11. — *Wishes to buy all types Elastokin and Lineol figures, military vehicles, tanks, guns, planes etc. Swops available.*

F L Sharp, 170 Walsingham Road, Childwall, Liverpool, L16 3NX. — *Seeks Colours presentation programmes, postcards, of Regimental Colours, Standards, Guidons, British Army.*

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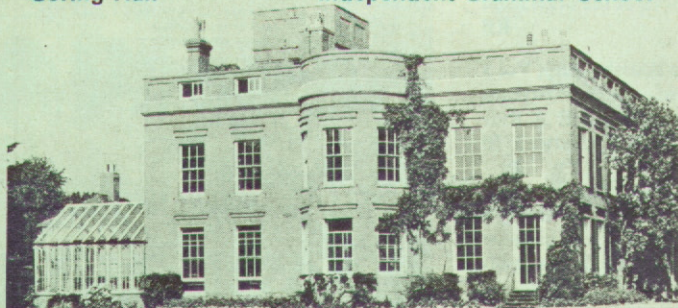
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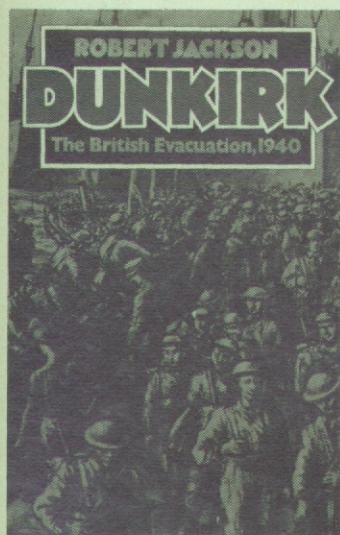
Books

Backs to the wall

'Dunkirk: The British Evacuation 1940' (Robert Jackson)

'Tank Trap 1940' (R Stanhope-Palmer)

In the welter of recrimination which followed the defeat of France, the tremendous courage of the French troops who did fight was overlooked. Many a British soldier would not have escaped via Dunkirk without the courage of his French counterpart. This is but one of the points made by Mr Jackson's admirable account of Dunkirk in which he paints a scene of mounting hopelessness as the defeated allies fought their rearguard actions against increasing odds, the gloom pierced by the occasional spark — Franklyn's tank attack on Rommel's 7th Panzer Division, for instance.



Mr Jackson has drawn on the recollections of many of those who were there — soldiers, sailors and airmen. It is a story that has been told often before, and often not as well.

Mr Stanhope-Palmer has a lifelong interest in history, particularly its military side and, as a chartered accountant, has often been dismayed by the many elementary arithmetical errors and contradictions which recur in accounts of the Battle of Britain. In effect, he conducts a probing audit of 1940-41.

He deplores, for instance, the unthinking acceptance that the Luftwaffe of July 1940 was as big as Goering bragged. It wasn't. He does not accept that RAF Fighter Command alone stood between Britain and invasion in 1940 — he points to the Navy, geography, Bomber Command, the troops who escaped from France, and the inadequacies of Germany's forces other than its army, any one of which, he feels, was enough to frustrate German designs.

From the British Army's point of view, Mr Stanhope-Palmer salvages

something from the ill-fated Greek expedition. Though the Balkan campaign was a rapidly won success for Hitler, to some extent it delayed the invasion of Russia.

1 Arthur Barker Ltd, 11 St John's Hill, London SW11, £4.50.

2 Arthur H Stockwell Ltd, Elms Court, Ilfracombe, Devon, £2.50.

JCW

Armour

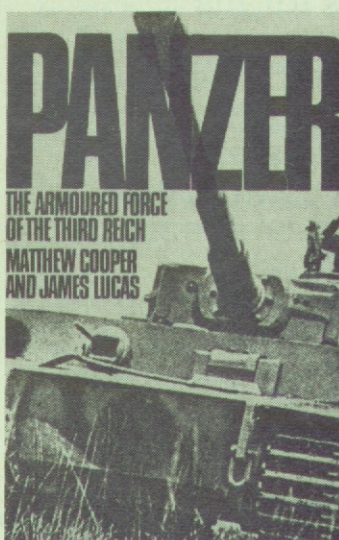
'Military Vehicles of the World' (Christopher F Foss)

'Oyslager Auto Library: Armour on Wheels to 1942' (Edited by Bart H Vanderveen)

'World War Two Tanks' (Eric Grove)

'Panzer: The Armoured Force of the Third Reich' (Matthew Cooper and James Lucas)

Mr Foss presents a profusely illustrated survey of what today's soldier rides in whether he be Australian, German (East or West), Russian, American, Chinese, Spanish or any one of 17 other nationalities. This is an invaluable book for the soldier who wants to know what his allies or the opposition possesses in the transport field and how to recognise the various vehicles.



Mr Vanderveen looks at some very odd designs as he surveys the armoured wheeled vehicle's development since the beginning of the century. Steam, petrol and diesel propulsion are featured and one can see clearly the lines of development of the armoured car and how it was reaching its ultimate form only in the middle of World War Two.

Field-Marshal Sir Michael Carver endorses Eric Groves's superb study of World War Two tanks and one can only agree with his verdict that it will be of great value to students, enthusiasts and even those already expert on the subject. Packed with excellent illustrations, some in colour, as well as accurate line drawings

which illustrate camouflage systems, it is deeply researched and covers tanks and self-propelled guns from little-known Polish, Japanese and Italian models to the Shermans, T-34s, Matildas, Churchills and Cromwells which drove the Tigers and Panthers from the battlefield.

Mr Cooper and Mr Lucas concentrate exclusively on the Panzers, the armoured spearhead of the Wehrmacht as it ranged across Poland, Flanders, France, Russia and North Africa humbling the world's most highly rated armies. Examining how the theories of armoured warfare were applied, the authors recall four operations in detail — the high-speed advance of Rommel's 7th Panzer Division across France in May 1940; the vast battle of encirclement around Kiev in the summer and autumn of the following year in which the Germans took 600,000 prisoners; the battle of Gazala in 1942, a prime illustration of the cut-and-thrust of bold Panzer tactics; and the brilliant individual action in the wooded, hilly country of Normandy in 1944 of SS Obersturmfuehrer Michael Wittmann, a company commander in a Tiger tank battalion.

That the Panzers eventually failed, say the authors, was due to the failure of Hitler and the High Command to grasp the implications of a new and revolutionary doctrine.

This, too, is an excellent and thought-provoking book.

1 Ian Allan Ltd, Terminal House, Shepperton, Surrey, £2.95

2 Frederick Warne & Co Ltd, 40 Bedford Square, London, EC1B 3HE, £3.95

3 Orbis Publishing Ltd, 20-22 Bedfordbury, London WC2, £4.50

4 Macdonald & Jones Ltd, 8 Shepherdess Walk, London, N1 7LW, £4.95

JCW

Irish infantry

The Wild Geese are Flying

JOHN HORSFALL



'The Wild Geese are Flying' (John Horsfall)

An intimate account of a closely knit Irish infantry regiment fighting with First Army towards Tunis in World War Two. A tale, incidentally, of the Irish Brigade, The Royal Irish Fusiliers, The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and The London Irish

Rifles, but particularly of the RIF ('The Faughs') and especially of D Company.

This was a typical Irish 'band of brothers' who developed as an effective fighting machine, knowing their worth and matching their confidence against any opponent. Their weaknesses are shown, too, but their own style of discipline held them together as a formidable entity which could suffer deprivations, hardships and the continuing casualties of war to grow stronger and more confident.

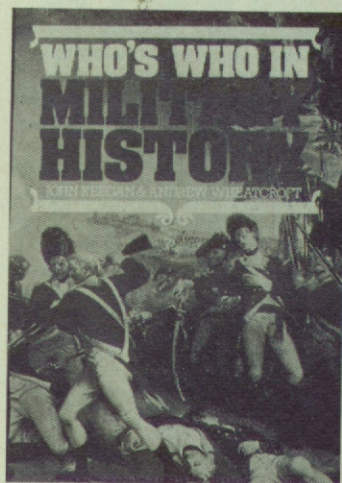
In battle they ate nothing — "we simply kept going on rum." When they did eat they accepted the 'compo' pack as "one of the most inspired rations ever served up to the British infantry. It lacked nothing."

The tale is told with typically dry Irish humour and is as descriptive of the difficult hill country as it is of the brotherly atmosphere which bound the Faughs and, indeed, the whole Irish Brigade together.

Roundwood Press Ltd, Kineton, Warwick, £2.30

GRH

Shapers of destiny



'Who's Who in Military History' (John Keegan and Andrew Wheatcroft)

This is a critical who's who of leading soldiers, sailors and airmen compiled by two practising military historians. The siege and fall of Constantinople in 1453 was chosen as starting point because although guns were used before then it was the Turkish cannon that finally battered a way through those ancient walls to establish a new age of warfare.

From Alexander of Tunis, that "beau ideal to Regular officers of his generation and an Irish Guardsman of legendary courage," to Zhukov, "in many ways the complete 20th century soldier," this book is an A to Z compendium of military leaders who have played their part in shaping destiny. There are Napoleon ("one of the great captains of history"), Wellington ("Britain's greatest general"), that "great captain" Douglas MacArthur, Foch ("one of the genuinely great soldiers"), Hitler who "must be given credit for conceiving or backing some of the best military judgements of the age," and many more.

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Books

Seven decades

'Let the Boy Win his Spurs' (E C Barton)

A very chatty tale, this autobiography, almost a nonstop monologue and full of day-to-day detail of personal events over seven decades. The author has a remarkable memory and, apparently, a photographic mind which enables his fluent style to portray happenings of bygone days.

E.C. Barton

Let the boy win his spurs



From schooldays to Sandhurst and very soon into battle at Loos, commanding a company of the Worcestershires and still not 19 years old. Then the Somme and Ypres, a broken arm from a shrapnel wound, and the Military Cross.

In 1919 he was serving with the West African Frontier Force where the Nigerian company sergeant-major was allowed four wives, "sergeants three, corporals two and privates one." During the 'troubles' in Ireland in the 1920s, with two comrades he captured Eamonn De Valera, for whom there was a reward of £10,000 — but not, of course, payable to a serving soldier.

There was further service in Turkey, Malaya and India with the Royal Sussex and a number of military commands in World War Two. A pleasant, full and varied story, set down originally on 'orders' from his family and well worth reading.

Research Publishing Co, 52 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, £3.90 GRH

Great names

'The War Lords: Military Commanders of the Twentieth Century' (Edited by Field-Marshal Sir Michael Carver)

This is a collection of studies of 43 of the great commanders of the two world wars, edited and introduced by Field-Marshal Sir Michael Carver, who commanded an armoured brigade in World War Two and eventually became Chief of the Defence Staff.

He has narrowed the field from 100 in his first short list and been compelled to confine the period

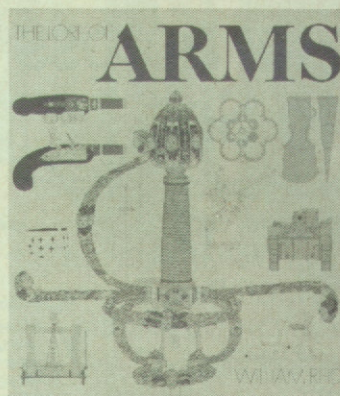
covered to the two wars. In spite of more than 600 pages, the studies, by authors such as Bernard Fergusson on Wavell, Correlli Barnett on Auchinleck and Lieutenant-Commander Peter Kempton Cunningham and Doenitz, have necessarily been limited. Nevertheless, their conciseness probably makes them the more easily readable as reference material.

Within the relatively short space for such an ambitious project the editor has gathered material that not only reveals the character and motivation of the men who controlled the action but also presents a fair overall picture of the two world wars.

The 'war lords' reviewed include Jellicoe, Haig, Hindenburg, Pétain, Kemel, Monash, Pershing, Trenchard, Dowding, Rommel, Harris, Alexander, Mountbatten, Slim, Yamamoto, MacArthur, Tedder, Montgomery, Eisenhower, Bradley and Patton. All military students will want this very readable gallery of the great.

Weidenfeld & Nicolson Ltd, 11 St John's Hill, London SW11, £10.00 GRH

Tome



'The Lore of Arms' (William Reid)

Tome, meaning 'a very large heavy volume,' can well be applied to this excellent work which employed 15 experts on the artwork alone. The text, by the Director of the National Army Museum and by no means heavy, is the result of 20 years' study of material including arms collections in more than a score of countries. The author was earlier for 13 years on the staff of the Tower of London armouries.

The illustrations show extreme detail and lead the reader through the work which extends from the early flint weapons, such as daggers, arrowheads and aborigine spearheads of prehistoric times, to the German Leopard tank of 1966. Here can be found in colour and clearness medieval armour showing its intricate composition down to the tiniest rivet, Australian war forks, early Italian and German pistols, swords of all arms and even the American pistol knife of 1837.

Guns, shells, rifles, grenades and helmets are all included, as well as mines, tanks and mortars up to and including World War Two. Many of

the tools and instruments used in the making of armour and weapons are included and there are details also of some fortifications. This well-produced and extensive volume will undoubtedly become a standard work of reference.

Mitchell Beazley Ltd, 14/15 Manette Street, London, W1V 5LB, £13.95 GRH

Resistance

'They Feared No Evil: The Women Agents of Britain's Secret Armies 1939-45' (James Gleeson)

After the German occupation of Western Europe, it was not long before Resistance organisations came into being, snowballing to a mighty force by D-Day. In this secret war, women were as important as men. In France alone 100,000 native Frenchwomen were active in the Resistance; 12,000 of them were captured and imprisoned and only 2000 of those survived the war.

The French section of the Special Operations Executive infiltrated 39 women agents into France by parachute, aircraft and boat between May 1941 and July 1944. It is their inspiring story which Mr Gleeson tells in this moving book.

Some of them are famous — Odette Churchill, Violette Szabo — but others are not so well known. Mr Gleeson tells the story of women like Pearl Witherington who led a Maquis unit in battle; Yvonne Baseden who survived capture and torture in Ravensbruck; Suzanne Charise who endured betrayal and imprisonment but managed to escape; the Nearne family of Jacqueline, Eileen and their brother Francis, who all distinguished themselves in SOE.

This is a book which may stand as a tribute to them all.

Robert Hale & Company, Clerkenwell House, Clerkenwell Green, London, EC1R 0HT, £3.95 JCW

Arnhem and Aachen

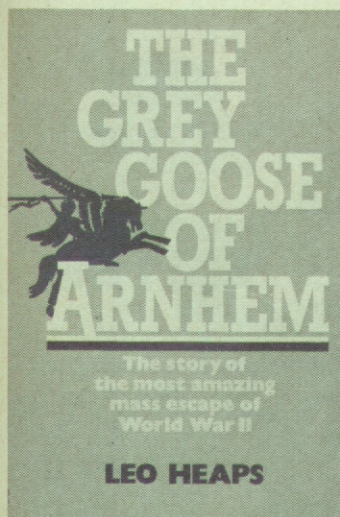
'A Bridge at Arnhem' (Charles Whiting)

'Bloody Aachen' (Charles Whiting)

Hitherto, Mr Whiting has scored several successes as a war historian by recalling forgotten or off-beat actions, or by telling familiar stories from the opposing point of view. His book on Arnhem is a worthwhile contribution to the literature of Operation Market Garden although he is up against the stiff opposition of Cornelius Ryan's best-selling 'A Bridge Too Far.'

One might argue with Mr Whiting when he writes '... the bloody defence of that cauldron (the Arnhem perimeter) was somehow elevated to the status of a victory, in much the same way that Dunkirk, the British Army's disastrous evacuation of the BEF from France in 1940, was transformed from the débâcle it was into a

Escape



'The Grey Goose of Arnhem' (Leo Heaps)

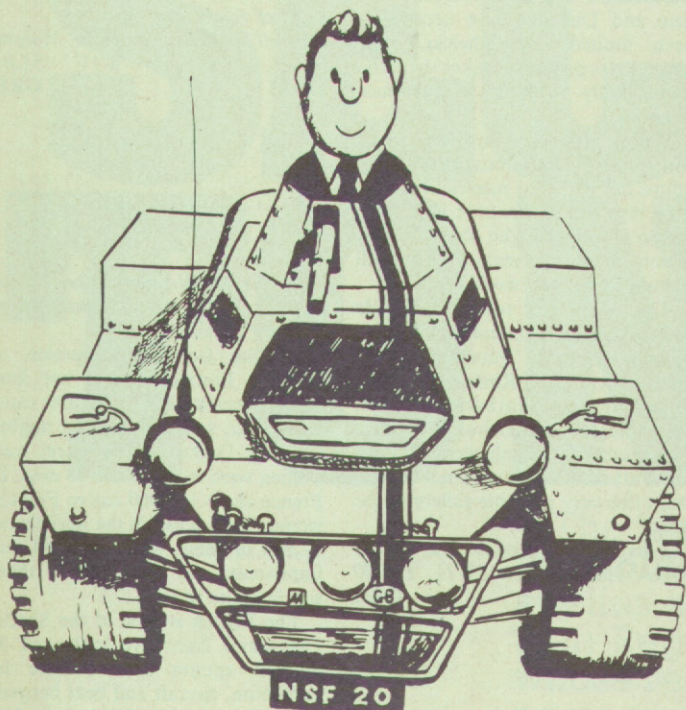
After the Battle of Arnhem hundreds of paras and glider troops, cut off behind the German lines, sought to evade capture. With the unstinting help of the Dutch Resistance, many were hidden throughout the Arnhem district but particularly in the small town of Ede, to the north-west of Arnhem.

Leo Heaps, a young subaltern in the 1st Parachute Battalion, was captured but made a daring escape and returned to organise the escape of the evaders — a story which is often overshadowed by the poignancy of the battle itself.

Among the wounded taken to St Elizabeth's Hospital, Arnhem, was Brigadier (later General) John Hackett. Since the hospital was in SS hands, he was promptly listed by British medics as 'Corporal Hayter' and, before the evacuation of the wounded to camps in Germany, was spirited out of the hospital. Eventually he was hidden by three old maids at Ede, next door to a Panzer billet where German soldiers were fattening a grey goose for Christmas.

After many adventures, he returned to the allied lines and a message broadcast by the BBC, 'The grey goose has flown,' told the old maids that their patient had made it.

This is a tremendous story, certainly the most amazing mass escape of World War Two. In telling it, the author pays homage to the valiant Dutch and his comrades-in-arms who achieved so much against such odds. Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 11 St John's Hill, London SW11, £4.50 JCW



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triumph.' Arnhem was in no way a victory but I think it would be true to say that the Paras of today regard it rather as the French Foreign Legion regards Camerone — as a defeat, disaster if you like, in which such great heroism was shown that the tradition of it is well worth preserving.

Mr Whiting is on much safer ground as he explores the US First Army's struggle for Aachen, that six-week slogging match in which the Wehrmacht and SS clung grimly to the ancient imperial city where, in 1000 years, 32 German emperors and kings were crowned.

Aachen was also a bastion of Catholicism in Hitler's godless state and, when the US Army approached, some 20,000 Aacheners, including their bishop, chose to disobey the order to evacuate the city. As the battle raged, they were literally in the crossfire, hounded by the Germans because they had disobeyed, by the Americans because they were 'the enemy.'

Aachen's ordeal is well worth recalling and Mr Whiting does the story full justice.

1 White Lion Publishers Ltd, 138 Park Lane, London, W1Y 3DD, £4.50

2 Leo Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £4.95
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Compendium



'Collecting Military Antiques' (Frederick Wilkinson)

This comprehensive survey opens with two useful chapters on the mechanics of collecting and some tips on care, display and research. Uniforms, helmets and headdress, badges, arms and armour, medals and decorations are all discussed and there is a helpful chapter on model soldiers. Several pages are devoted to the development of uniforms and it is interesting to learn, for example, that the British cavalry, splendid in their own right, were outdressed by the French under Napoléon. While a lone tunic may look a trifle lost in a

collection, a helmet or shako can be mounted with an immediate appeal which, says Mr Wilkinson, may be a reason for their popularity.

As well as a chapter on military oddments from 'a decorated clay pipe to a Victorian soldier's 'housewife,' there are sections on pay and mail, books and ephemera, police and a final chapter for the specialist in matters naval.

This well-illustrated book covers almost everything to interest the collector, including such humble items as postcards and cartoons. There is also an excellent bibliography plus a handy list of military museums in the English-speaking world.

Ward Lock Ltd, 116 Baker Street, London, W1M 2BB, £4.95
JFPJ

Mobs for jobs

MILITARY ELITES

ROGER A. BEAUMONT



'Military Elites' (Roger A. Beaumont) Allied units specially formed for fighting behind enemy lines had tied up Axis Reserves by "45 divisions in the Balkans alone" by 1944. These 'mobs for jobs' included the British Commandos, the Special Air Service (a purposely misleading title), and the Long-Range Desert Group which wiped out planes and vehicles and raised 'general hell' in the rear of Rommel's Afrika Korps.

They all thrived on sabotage and disruption and are some of the élite corps considered in this book. The Germans had the Brandenburgers seeking intelligence, disrupting and deceiving.

All these units were useful to effect surprise and disorganise the enemy but few of them survived the war. The then Major-General Wavell warned as early as 1936 that the threat of parachute troops was greater than their actual use; Russia, first to drop airborne troops in combat, was seeking a new élite.

The ultimate were the Japanese Kamikaze pilots. The author believes that guerrilla bands, street gangs, gangsters and some élite forces have much in common and his deductions and ideas are well worth considerable and wide study.

Robert Hale & Co, Clerkenwell Green, London, EC1R 0HT, £5.50
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