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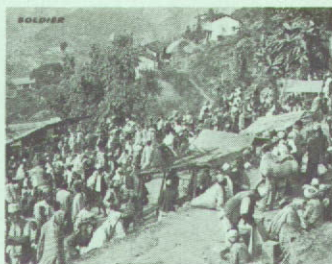
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**FRONT COVER**

Men of the Royal Marine Reserve Tyne take advantage of the variety of training opportunities on Otterburn ranges.

Picture by Leslie Wiggs.

**BACK COVER**

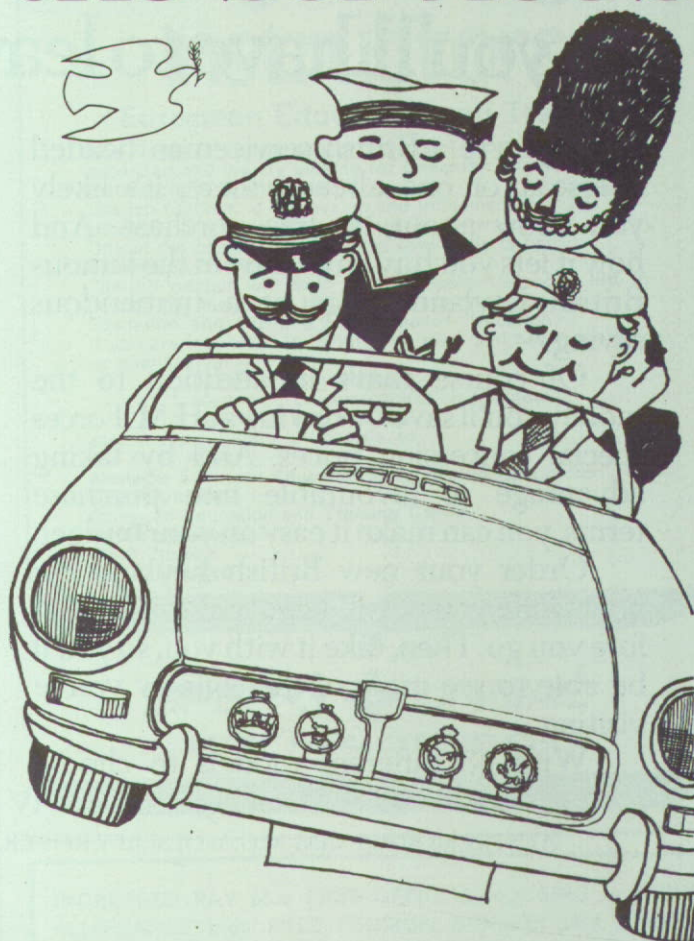
A market in East Nepal pictured by Lance-Corporal Peter Waddington on his trek to visit some of his ex-Gurkha friends.

(See pages 50-51).

Editor: PETER N WOOD (Ext 2585)
Deputy Editor: JOHN WALTON (Ext 2586)
Feature Writer: MICHAEL STARKE (Ext 2590)
Art Editor: FRANK R FINCH (Ext 2589)
Research: BILL SMITHERMAN (Ext 2591)
Picture Editor: LESLIE A WIGGS (Ext 2584)
Photographers: ARTHUR BLUNDELL, PAUL R G HALEY (Ext 2584)
Advertisement Manager: K PEMBERTON WOOD (Ext 2583/2587)
Distribution: Miss D M W DUFFIELD (Ext 2592)
Accounts: J ANDERSON (Ext 2593)

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SEE - THE - ARMY DIARY

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.

MARCH 1975

- 31 Shell Sport, Brands Hatch (Red Devils freefall team).

APRIL 1975

- 6 Queen Mother attends **TAUR Parade**, Hyde Park, London.
19 Kirklees International Festival, Huddersfield (7 Para RHA Black Knights freefall team).
21 King's Troop RHA gun salute, Hyde Park, London. Queen's birthday.
26 St Albans Grammar School Fête (junior display; junior band).
27 Shell Sport, Oulton Park (Red Devils).

MAY 1975

- 3 Queen Mother presents new Colours to 1st Battalion, The Black Watch, Colchester.
4 Cavalry Sunday, Hyde Park, London.
8 Fremington (Devon) Training Camp Display (SSAFA) (Junior Parachute Company Pegasus gymnastic team).
10 Blackheath (London) Village Fayre (Red Devils).
10 Glasgow KAPE (10-17 May) (two bands; **Royal Signals motorcycle display team White Helmets**).
14 Kneller Hall Band Concert.
16 Telford (Shropshire) Tattoo (16-17 May).
16 Devon County Show, Exeter (16-18 May) (infantry displays).
17 Boldon (Co Durham) British Legion Carnival (band).
17 Wiltshire Young Farmers Agricultural Show, Great Somerford (Royal Military Police mounted display team Red Caps).
17 Tulip Festival, Birmingham (band 17 May; Red Caps 23-24 May).
17 Shell Sport, Buxton (Red Devils).
18 Middlesbrough Show (White Helmets).
21 West Midland Show, Shrewsbury (21-22 May) (Red Caps; Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery, gymnastic display; six bands).
21 Kneller Hall Band Concert.
23 Royal Windsor Horse Show (23-24 May) (Household Cavalry Quadrille).
23 Aldershot Horse Show (23-25 May) (Red Caps 25 May).
24 Hadleigh (Suffolk) Show (Pegasus gymnastic team).
24 Tidworth Tattoo (24-26 May).
24 Gosport Combined Cadet Tattoo (24-26 May).
24 Worcester City Show (24-26 May) (junior soldiers unarmed combat; three bands).
24 Edinburgh KAPE (24 May-1 June) (three displays; two bands).
24 Pershore (Worcestershire) Show (Royal Green Jackets freefall team; band).
24 Otley (Yorkshire) Show (band).
26 Swaffham (Norfolk) Show (Pegasus gymnastic team).
26 Newcastle West End Festival (band).
26 Barnard Castle Meet (band).
26 Derbyshire County Show, Derby (band).
26 Hertfordshire Show, Redburn (Black Knights; band).
26 Surrey County Show, Guildford (Red Caps; Red Devils).
26 Shell Sport, Thruxton (Red Devils).
26 Hove Lions Fête (Red Devils).
28 Kneller Hall Grand Band Concert.
28 Suffolk County Show, Ipswich (28-29 May) (Pegasus gymnastic team; RGJ freefall team; band).
30 Wigan Army Display (30 May-1 June) (Royal Artillery motorcycle display team; Pegasus gymnastic team; Red Caps; Red Devils; three bands).
31 Salisbury Hospital Fête (band).
31 First rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
31 Bluecoat School, Sonning, Berkshire (Red Devils).

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DIARY continued

JUNE 1975

- 2 King's Troop RHA gun salute, Hyde Park, London (Coronation).
- 3 Household Division beats Retreat, Horse Guards Parade, London (3-5 June).
- 4 Kneller Hall Band Concert.
- 5 Royal Cornwall Show, Wadebridge (5-7 June), (White Helmets; bands, pipes, drums).
- 5 South of England Show, Ardingly, Sussex (5-7 June) (Red Caps; Red Devils).
- 5 Richmondshire Festival, Richmond Castle (two bands, drums, bugles).
- 7 Lord Mayor's Parade, Sheffield (band).
- 7 Stanley (Co Durham) Community Centre Show (band).
- 7 Glasgow KAPE (7-17 June) (band).
- 7 Chester Army Display (7-8 June) (Red Devils; three bands).
- 7 Second rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 7 Wolverhampton Fiesta Carnival (Red Devils; bands; display teams).
- 10 King's Troop RHA gun salute, Hyde Park, London (Duke of Edinburgh's birthday).
- 10 Three Counties Show, Malvern (10-12 June) (Red Caps).
- 11 Kneller Hall Band Concert.
- 13 Scunthorpe Families Day (13-15 June) (display team; band).
- 13 Essex Show, Chelmsford (13-14 June) (Red Caps; band).
- 14 Frimley and Camberley Cadet Corps Fête.
- 14 Wharfedale Show, Ilkley (band).
- 14 Halifax Gala (band).
- 14 Branksome, Darlington, School Fayre (band).
- 14 Laing Gala Day, London (White Helmets).
- 14 Vauxhall Motors Spectacular, Luton (RA motorcyclists; band).
- 14 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 15 Laying-up Colours 1st Battalion, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, Guildford Cathedral.
- 18 Lincolnshire Agricultural Show, Lincoln (18-19 June) (display team; Household Cavalry Quadrille).
- 18 Kneller Hall Band Concert.
- 19 Mercedes Show, Eastbourne (Red Devils).
- 21 South Tyneside Sports Week (21 June-5 July) (band).
- 21 Leighton Buzzard Carnival (Red Caps; band).
- 21 Airborne Forces Day, Aldershot (Red Devils; Pegasus gymnastic team).
- 21 Round Table Fête, Accrington (Red Devils; White Helmets).
- 21 Ripon Weekend Open Day.
- 22 Barnsley Show (White Helmets).
- 23 Mounted Military Tattoo, Paris (23-28 June).
- 25 Royal Norfolk Show, Norwich (25-26 June) (display team; band).
- 25 Kneller Hall Grand Band Concert.
- 27 Aldershot Army Display (27-29 June) (White Helmets; Red Devils; Red Caps; 16 bands).
- 28 Esher Show (Pegasus gymnastic team).
- 28 Welwyn Garden City Carnival (band).
- 28 Rushden Show, Northamptonshire (display team; band).
- 30 East Kent Army Week, Dover (30 June-5 July) (RE JLR gymnasts).

JULY 1975

- 1 Royal Agricultural Show, Kenilworth (Red Caps) (1-4 July).
- 2 Kneller Hall Band Concert.
- 3 Portsmouth Field Gun Show (Pegasus gymnastic team).
- 4 Poole (Dorset) Carnival (4-5 July) (band).
- 4 Royal Artillery (Woolwich) At Home (4-5 July).
- 5 Battle of Sedgemoor anniversary (5-6 July) (band; displays).
- 5 Military Musical Pageant (Army Benevolent Fund), Wembley Stadium.
- 5 Birkenhead (Yorkshire) Show (band).
- 5 Signal View, Worcester (White Helmets).
- 5 Hanworth (Middlesex) Carnival (Pegasus gymnastic team).
- 5 Village Fête, Bedmond (Herts) (Red Devils).
- 5 Chichester Combined Charities Show (Household Cavalry Quadrille).
- 5 Exeter Air Day (junior band).
- 5 Wordsley (Stourbridge) Gala (White Helmets).
- 6 Leeds Horse Show (band).
- 6 Oxted (Surrey) Village Fête (Red Devils).
- 7 Plymouth Services Week (7-12 July) (massed bands; freefall and PT displays).
- 8 Great Yorkshire Show (8-10 July) (Household Cavalry Quadrille).

- 9 Kneller Hall Band Concert.
- 10 Dorchester Carnival (band).
- 10 Finchley Carnival (10-12 July) (Pegasus gymnastic team).
- 10 Catterick 1875 (White Helmets).
- 11 Southampton Show (11-13 July) (Red Devils 12 July).
- 11 Kent County Show, Maidstone (11-12 July) (Red Caps).
- 12 Basingstoke Tattoo.
- 12 Open Day, Depot, Queen's Division, Basingbourn, Hertfordshire.
- 12 Calne (Wiltshire) Carnival (White Helmets).
- 12 Dagenham (Essex) Town Show (12-13 July) (Red Devils).
- 12 Artillery Day, Larkhill.
- 12 Pudsey (Yorkshire) Show (band).
- 12 Dengie 100 Fête, Southminster (Red Devils).
- 13 Preview march, Royal Tournament participants, The Mall, London.
- 13 Newport (Monmouth) Carnival (Pegasus gymnastic team).
- 15 East of England Show, Peterborough (15-17 July) (Household Cavalry Quadrille; three bands).
- 16 Kneller Hall Grand Band Concert.
- 16 Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London (16 July-2 August).
- 17 Bournemouth Fiesta (band, pipes, drums, bugles).
- 17 Malton (Yorkshire) Show (junior band).
- 17 Liverpool Show (17-19 July) (Red Devils; Pegasus gymnastic team; two bands).
- 18 Cheltenham Tattoo (18-19 July).
- 19 Masham (Yorkshire) Traction Rally (19-20 July) (White Helmets; band).
- 19 Howard School Fête, Welwyn Garden City (junior display; junior band).
- 19 Open Day, Fording Trials Branch REME, Instow, Devon.
- 19 Steam Rally, Polegate (19-20 July) (Red Devils).
- 20 Duddington Spectacular (Red Devils).
- 20 Taunton Tattoo (20-26 July).
- 20 Skegness Show (White Helmets).
- 21 Kirkby (Lancashire) Army Display (21-22 July) (Pegasus gymnastic team; Red Devils; White Helmets; three bands).

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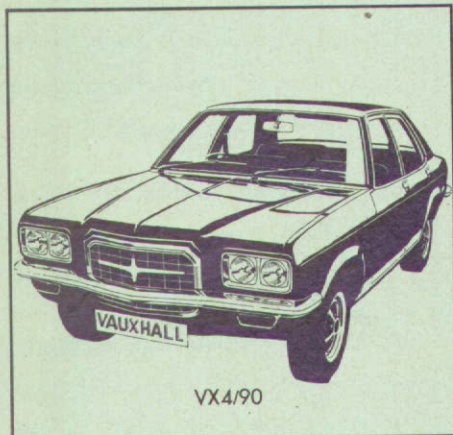
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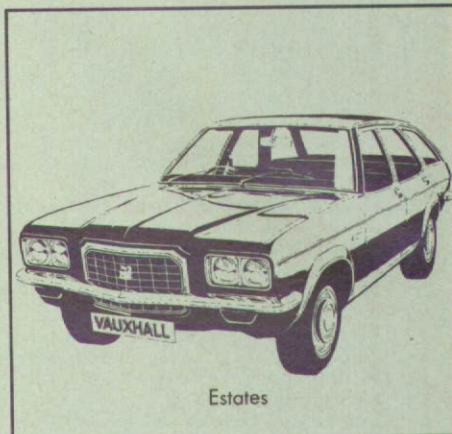
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SOLDIER to Soldier

More postal increases came into effect on 17 March and regrettably SOLDIER has to pass these on to readers. Some of the smaller increases of recent years were assimilated but this is no longer possible. Overseas postage has gone up by 54 per cent and is to rise again at the beginning of next year to complete an increase of 100 per cent. The list of SOLDIER's reader services on page 12 of this issue includes the new round of postal increases and also takes into account the higher cost of the latest delivery of Easibinders now being issued.



The first of the many prints offered in SOLDIER's reader services—the "D-Day" print—has now been sold out. This print was from a painting by Terence T Cuneo for the covers of the June 1964 SOLDIER which commemorated the 20th anniversary of the Normandy landings. Since the "D-Day" print, SOLDIER has marketed and sold the remaining stocks of four prints of the two world wars. These have now become collectors' items, particularly perhaps "Arnhem Bridge" and "Oosterbeek Crossroads," since it is very unlikely that any of them will be reprinted.



Queen's Gallantry Medal

A 19-YEAR-OLD Liverpool labourer, Francis Boyle, who is a part-time soldier in the 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve, has been awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal for his bravery in saving the lives of two parachutists who, like himself, landed at night in the Kiel Canal during a NATO exercise last September.

Private Boyle freed himself from his equipment and swam to the bank. Hearing a cry for help, he went back into the water and found a soldier whose canopy was entangled with his equipment. He dragged the man to safety and went to the aid of another who was too exhausted to swim although wearing a lifebelt.

When he got the second man to safety it was found that Private Boyle had an injured elbow and sprained knee. Nevertheless he had to be restrained from re-entering the water to look for other men.

The citation says of Private Boyle: "... he acted on his own initiative and with complete disregard for his own safety and beyond the normal call of duty. His conduct and bravery were up to the highest traditions of the Army."

Another young soldier, James Smart (18), was specially flown home from Germany to receive a bravery award for saving four children who were asleep in a blazing maisonette in London. He was presented with the Society for the Protection of Life from Fire framed certificate and a Hackney Council award for meritorious conduct.

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Royal Army Educational Corps

BOOKS, documents, pamphlets, pictures. These are the tools of the military educationalist and as such they feature prominently in the Royal Army Educational Corps museum, reflecting the development of education within the Army from the early 19th century to modern times. There are, however, other exhibits to whet the appetite of the military enthusiast including a small but interesting display of uniforms with good examples of the pillbox cap and austere dark-blue frock-coat worn until 1916 by the RAEC's forebears, the Corps of Army Schoolmasters, and the tunic, trousers and spiked helmet of an inspector of Army schools. Types of dress worn over the years from the uniform of a schoolmaster 1st class of 1854 to an officer's No 1 dress a century later are illustrated in water colours painted by members of the corps.

Authors connected with the corps are represented by a collection of books, among them "Lives of British Military Commanders" by a principal chaplain to the Army, the Reverend G R Gleig, who founded the Corps of Army Schoolmasters in 1846 when inspector-general of Army schools; "The Story of Army Education, 1943-1963" by Colonel A C T White VC, a former deputy colonel commandant of the RAEC; and "NAB 1: Portrait of a Politician" by the late Sir Gerald Nabarro, who joined The King's Royal Rifle Corps in 1931, transferred to the Army Educational Corps in 1934 as a sergeant-instructor and bought himself out in 1937 to start a new career as a businessman and politician.

Badges, buttons and shoulder titles include some good examples of the old AEC "open book" badge, replaced in 1951 by the present "torch of learning" motif which the corps assumed as its badge after being granted the title "Royal" by King George VI in 1946. An unusual exhibit is a beautiful stained-glass window which once adorned the chapel of the Royal Hibernian Military School, Dublin. It was found lying dusty and neglected in a cellar and later presented to the RAEC museum by the Association of Army Schoolmasters.

An old colour print of the Royal Military Asylum, Chelsea, founded in 1801 for the education of Army orphans and forerunner of the Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover, typifies the educational scene of the day with a view of three different classes being simultaneously instructed by their respective teachers in one large room. Other

items include third- and second-class certificates of education awarded in 1872 and 1873 to a corporal of the 77th Regiment, examples of Army newspapers and a case devoted to one of the biggest projects ever undertaken by the corps, the development of the examination system and teaching of English in the Indian Army. The work of the corps in the Far East and Africa is also featured.

Dealing with messages in cipher from routine signals to high level communications of the greatest importance was one of many activities assigned to the Army Educational Corps in World War Two and it is thanks to this that an historic piece of paper is now preserved in the museum—Churchill's "most immediate" message sent on 29 May 1940 to Lord Gort, Commander-in-Chief, British Expeditionary Force, concerning the evacuation from Dunkirk and decoded by Warrant Officer 1 W Macpherson.

This treasured relic was Mr Macpherson's duplicate copy of the signal and it was saved when all cipher material was destroyed on the sand dunes of La Panne before the evacuation of the cipher section on 30 May 1940.

John Jesse



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Story by Mike Starke
Pictures by Leslie Wiggs

Regular and Reservist soldiers,
Navy and Air Force pilots,
Belgian paratroopers, local police—
they all train at Otterburn

Midst Shot, Shell and Sheep



IN the late 1950s a Royal Artillery battery quartermaster-sergeant was serving in Germany when he received a posting order to Otterburn. He could not understand why he had been posted to another station in Germany. He had never heard of the Otterburn Training Area which nowadays sees some 28,000 men a year tramping its bleak fells on exercise.

This 60,000-acre area, fitting snugly against the Scottish border in the heart of the spectacular Northumbrian National Park, provides one of the country's largest live-firing ranges where rolling hills stretch away into the distance, dominated by the cloud-shrouded peak of the Cheviot, with scarcely a sign of human habitation.

Remoteness and ruggedness attract a wide variety of military activities to Otterburn. Troops from all arms of the British Army come here to exercise everything from basic infantry skills to the latest tank-killing techniques with the Swingfire missile. Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve soldiers share the ranges with Regulars and there is still room for other NATO nations' soldiers to exercise—Belgian paratroopers are regular visitors.

The other Services are not forgotten either—RAF pilots practise fighter ground attack as do Navy fliers. Even the local

police forces get a look in with facilities for them to do some training at Otterburn.

All in all, some 350 units pass through the gates of the training area each year. And on the camp they find accommodation for 1720 men with everything provided for a comfortable stay once the troops get back from work on the often inhospitable ranges. "We lay on everything for visiting units," said range liaison officer Captain Paul Piggott. "All they have to do is provide the men."

The training area's hatted camp is in two parts, both of which are undergoing improvements to make them that much more comfortable. Headquarters is on the edge of the training area about a mile from the tiny village of Otterburn itself while further north the other section of the camp, Redesdale, is on the site of the original camp set up in 1911 as a Royal Artillery testing range. The gunners used the ranges between the two world wars and it was after 1945 that Otterburn began to expand into the present all-arms training area.

Top: Snow grips the bleak fells of the Otterburn Training Area as gunners get in some practice on these vast ranges.

Right: A Phantom's re-heat rending the chill air as it climbs to top a ridge.





Labourer Willy Redshaw, who works on the Otterburn camp, is pictured here as a private in 5th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, the local Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve battalion. Willy did his National Service in the Royal Artillery and acts as limber gunner for the old 18-pounder which adorns the entrance to the headquarters at Otterburn Training Area. As an ex-gunner turned infanterier, Willy takes a fiendish delight in the legend that fusiliers stood behind the guns

on the field of battle to make sure no faint-hearted gunners decided to call it a day!

The gun Willy looks after is one of a pair found near Wooler, some 20 miles north of Otterburn, in 1948. The guns were believed to have been used for victory celebrations after World War One. Both were refurbished and the other was presented to the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill, in 1966 as a memorial to World War One gunners.

Behind the scenes, keeping the camp running smoothly for the visiting exercise troops, is a small army of civilians recruited from the rural communities around Otterburn. Some 160 people are involved and they far outnumber the tiny military element of the commandant, Lieutenant-Colonel Tony Yarnold, Captain Piggott, a Royal Artillery warrant officer, a Royal Engineers sergeant and a Royal Army Medical Corps sergeant whose two ambulances sometimes help out the local ambulance service.

The camp is a major employer in the depopulated fell-land and the people who work there—many are related to each other—take a family pride in their long association with the place. The tough existence of the hill farmer is one of the few other employments in the area and the ranges cover some 30 such farms.

Raising sheep among shrapnel and shell would seem to be a pointless exercise, but the needs of the soldier and the shepherd both seem to be met. As farmer Tom Carruthers told SOLDIER: "We could have a hell of a lot worse landlords." How do his animals survive the almost continuous military operations? Quite simply, he explained, some don't. But he compensates for the losses from shell and shot by keeping more of each year's crop of lambs and, of course, sheep killed by the Army are paid for. And this accounts for roughly half his annual loss of animals from all causes.

What about lambing time? Captain Piggott explained that the ranges are then closed from mid-April to mid-May.

Left: Some 130 Royal Marine Reservists from the Tyne area have access to the ranges. Here the Carl Gustav is fired.

Below: Both the Army and the civilian population are proud of good relations. The range liaison officer, Captain Paul Piggott, with farmer Mr Tom Carruthers.





Top: Royal Marines Reserve instructors practise what they preach with a GPMG.

Above: Plastic templates mark out safe areas for specific weapons on the map.

Furthermore there is never any firing between the hours of 1700 and 2000 each evening. A monthly bulletin is circulated to farmers on the range to warn where training will be taking place. This is a great improvement, said Mr Carruthers, on the one-time weekly warnings which gave no time to make proper arrangements on the farm.

Mr Carruthers thought long and hard when asked if there was one thing in particular he would rather the Army did not do. Yes, he wished heavy vehicles would keep off the land in wet conditions: "It makes such a mess"—the countryman's universal cry to the "townies."

Otterburn, in the heart of the once lawless border area, gave its name to a bloody battle in medieval times and the visitor nowadays can well imagine a wild-eyed warrior scrambling over the still rugged and desolate fells in search of plunder. But he is far more likely to see that soldier's better-trained and equipped modern counterpart perfecting his professional skills on what is one of the Army's top training areas.

Front-line Otterburn

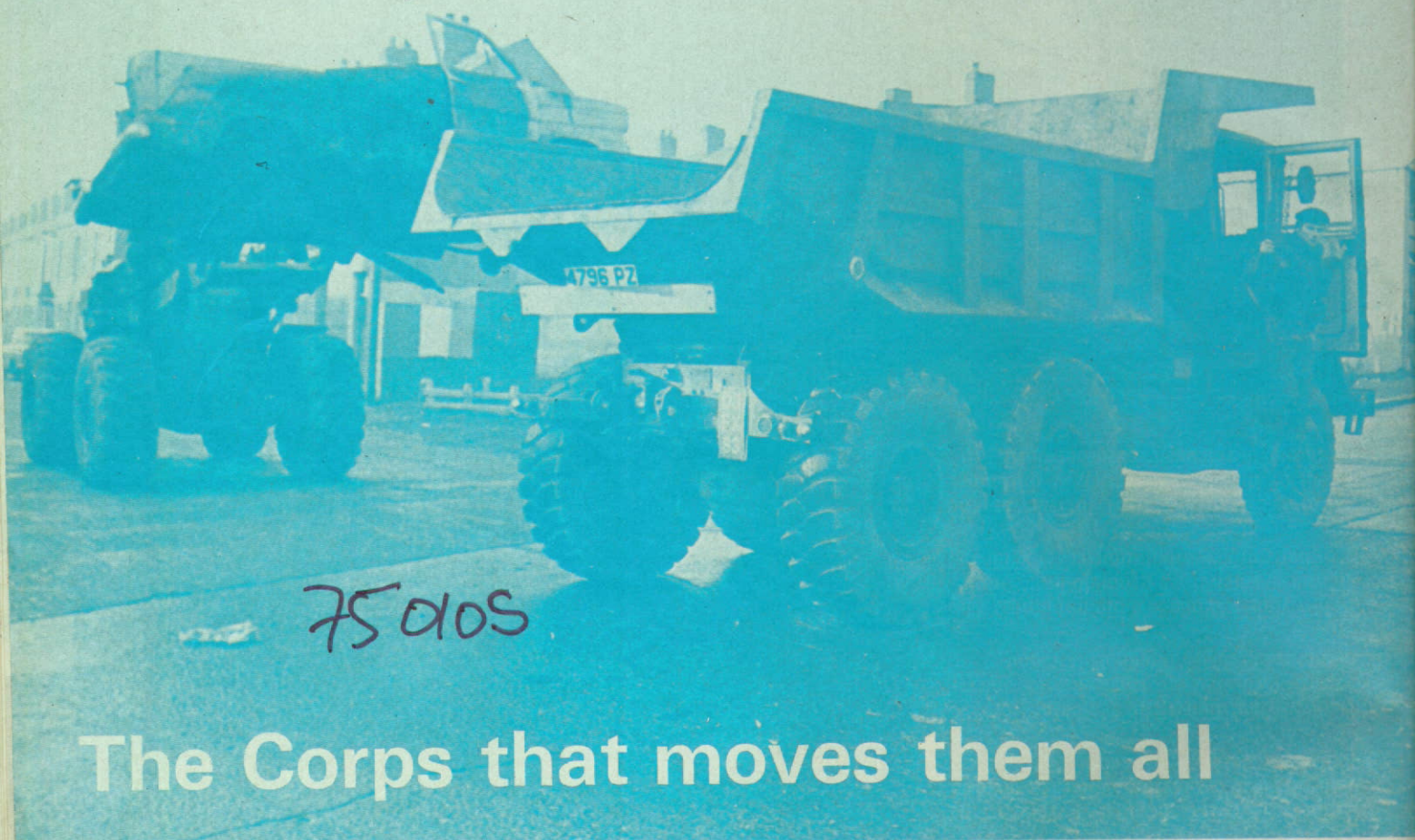
The battle of Otterburn was fought on a fine moonlit night on or about 15 August 1388. The nearest to war the now peaceful rural community comes today is the controversy over which of two sites was the actual battlefield. Undisputed is that a small Scottish army returning from a raid into Durham and Northumberland and commanded by James, Earl of Douglas, was pursued by a much larger army of Northumbrians commanded by Sir Henry Percy, son of the Earl of Northumberland and Warden of the East March, whose daredevil exploits had earned him the nickname "Hotspur." The outcome of the fight was a resounding victory for the Scots

who killed some 2000 men and captured another 1000 for the loss of 200 foot soldiers slain and 200 knights captured. Among the casualties was Lord Douglas himself and the captured knights were taken only when they got lost after pursuing their fleeing enemy. Hotspur was taken prisoner and, in days when fortunes could be made by ransoming important captives, he was released for the then princely sum of £2000.

Landlord of one of modern Otterburn's two small hotels is Mr J Douglas, of the Otterburn Tower Hotel, who proudly claims descent from the house of the Earl of Douglas. His business rival is the Percy Arms, named after his ancestor's old adversary. But the only contest between the two is for the patronage of the summer tourists who flock every year to this picturesque part of Britain.



Wherever the Army goes in Northern Ireland it finds...



The Corps that moves them all



SEVEN million miles a year roll away under the wheels of vehicles driven by men of the Royal Corps of Transport in Northern Ireland and the corps' movements staff in the Province has to keep men and equipment rotating through their emergency tours by land, sea and air. So it is hardly surprising that virtually all the corps has done a stint in Northern Ireland and most men can expect a tour there every thirteen months.

Five squadrons are on duty at any one time. One is resident for a two-year tour and four are posted on emergency tours of four months. The resident 26 Squadron has been in Northern Ireland for more than 50 years. Because of the emergency, it has been reinforced with 18 Squadron—once the amphibious DUKW squadron at Fremington in Devon—to make 18/26 Squadron. The residents, based at

Lisburn, with a troop at Ballykelly, provide garrison transport with cars, vans and buses as well as lorries, ambulances and specialist vehicles, including mobile libraries.

Roving province-wide is another general transport squadron whose heavy goods vehicle drivers are called upon to transport anyone and anything from the provost girls of the Women's Royal Army Corps on their way home to camp after a day searching pedestrians in Belfast's city centre to car hulks abandoned in a warren of side streets.

Doing this duty during SOLDIER's visit was 8 Squadron whose lightning flash symbol may be a reference to the fact that the squadron has not "struck" twice in the same place in the last year, having gone from its home base at Longmoor, Hampshire, to support the United Nations in Cyprus during the recent troubles and now to Northern Ireland to drive lorries, tippers and plant in support of infantry, engineers—and those police girls. The squadron's primary transport role is to maintain the Province-wide daily freight service which also carries soldiers' mail, vehicle fuel and rations. Serving with 8 Squadron on

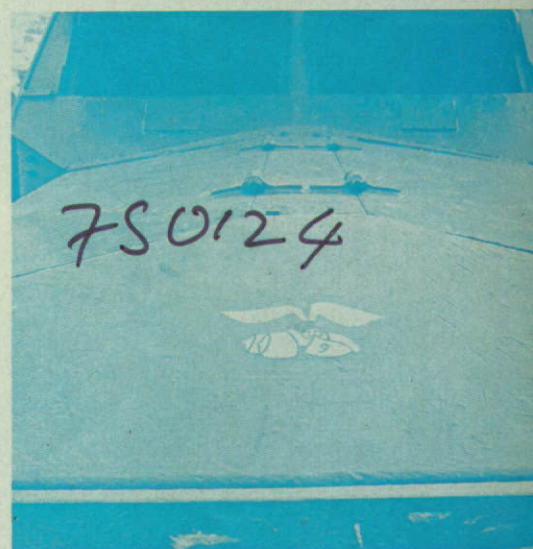
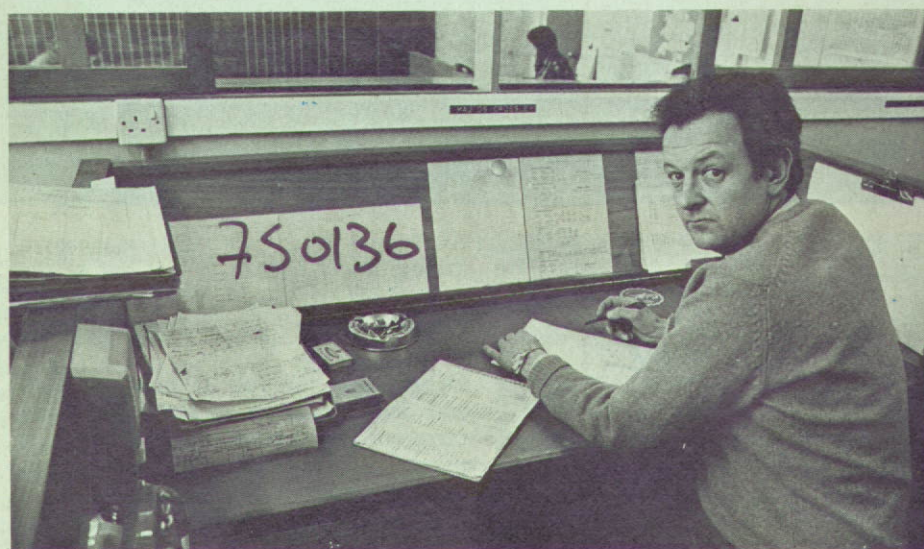
Top: One general transport job is to clear derelict vehicles from the streets. Here a wreck in the notorious Ardoyne is moved. Left: Hands more used to gripping a wheel cradle a rifle as Royal Corps of Transport drivers ride shotgun in an APC.

Right: LSL Sir Galahad disgorges equipment of 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, in Belfast (Army PR photo).

Below: The man with a moving job... Major Crossley at work in the movements office HQ, Northern Ireland.

Below right: When is a pig not a pig? The answer is when it's a groundhog. "Shiny" 9 Squadron's symbol adorns its vehicles.

Bottom: With an RCT driver at the wheel of this Humber "Pig," one more infantryman is released for other duty.



the tour is a troop from 47 Air Despatch Squadron from Lyneham, Wiltshire, whose wings have been temporarily clipped while they join their earth-bound colleagues in Ireland.

The squadron's A Troop, which supports the sappers in all three brigade areas, has its headquarters with 33 Field Squadron in Antrim Bridging Camp and operates ready mix concrete dump trucks, load carriers and plant trailers.

Three squadrons from Rhine Army drive the Saracen and Humber "Pig" armoured personnel carriers for the infantry. The 15-ton-plus Saracens are mostly found in rural areas and the "Pigs"—now heavily up-armoured from their original one ton to more than seven tons—are more often seen in urban areas. A squadron is assigned to each of the three infantry brigades in Northern Ireland and drivers are deployed under their section commanders to company locations and are found in more than 50 places throughout the province.

The Royal Corps of Transport was called in to support the infantry with drivers for their APCs early in the present crisis in order to free more infantrymen for the task for which they are trained.





Above and left: It's a tricky manoeuvre driving heavy tippers in and out of the narrow backstreets of Belfast, and even trickier in the hostile Ardoyne district.



Occasionally the role is now extended and drivers join in on the ground and carry out foot patrols and vehicle check points with as much expertise as their infantry counterparts.

Detachments driving APCs are attached to the same unit for the whole of their four-month tour and much emphasis is laid on the need for drivers to integrate with the regiments for which they provide wheels. They identify with their infantry colleagues and adopt for the duration such dress distinctions as the fusilier hackle, the para red beret or The Kings Own Royal Border Regiment red badge-backing.

Supporting 3rd Infantry Brigade, with its wide rural and border responsibilities, was 12 Squadron at the time of SOLDIER's visit. With 8th Infantry Brigade in Londonderry was 16 Tank Transporter Squadron whose Mixed Service Organisation forebears gave it the distinctive Polish eagle as its emblem.

The largest unit in the province was 9 Squadron whose "Pigs" have sprouted "day-glow" groundhog badges as they drive around the city in support of 39th Infantry Brigade. "Shiny Nine" deploys nearly 300 men in 27 different locations—more than half the province-wide number. Well over 150 vehicles are manned by the squadron, including five water cannon, now hardly ever seen on the streets of Belfast.

As well as supporting six units in the infantry role on peacekeeping duties, the squadron drives for Felix—the bomb

750126



disposal service with nine lives—and in line with the policy of integration with units they serve with, these drivers help where they can to set up some of the gadgets used to make safe the bombers' terror weapons. Chasing alarms false and real can clock up 1000 miles a month.

All this is a far cry from the AEC Militant Mark 3 ten-ton trucks the squadron is used to handling in Bielefeld. And the temporary huts—shared with 8 Squadron—of Moscow Camp, on low land by Belfast docks, are a far cry from the German base's well-kept streets.

Apart from the millions of miles a year motored by the corps on land, the call of the sea accounts for part of the Northern Ireland commitment. Tank landing craft (LCTs), manned by the corps' soldier/sailors from Gosport, bring mainly ammunition to Ireland to be beached away from the main ports. The corps is also responsible for organising voyages by the logistic landing ships (LSLs) which transport large units and their equipment to and from a tour.

This feat of organisation is just one of the tasks that falls to the movements staff. Land, sea and air travel in and out of Northern Ireland is masterminded from a small operations room at Headquarters Northern Ireland in Lisburn and handled on the ground by small detachments at docks and at Aldergrove airport. These cope each year with a movement of men and equipment equivalent in number to the entire British Army, making use of RAF and civil aircraft and civil shipping as well as military vessels.

Besides moving units in and out of the province, an important task is arranging travel for rest and recuperation leave so essential to troops serving in Ireland.

Tasks can range from the massive job of shifting a whole battalion to the delicate load of one regimental goat mascot en route to Berlin this month with 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales.

Flexibility is an essential of movement, as SOLDIER's two-man team found when stranded in Northern Ireland by a civil airline industrial dispute. Movements staff soon had the pair alternatively booked on an RAF flight back to England.

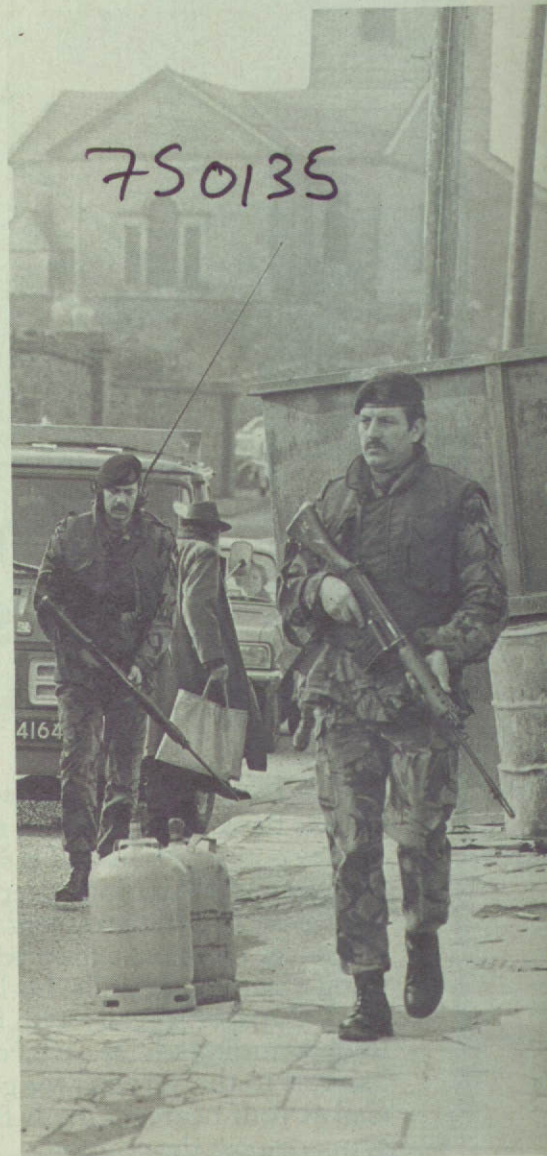
Since 1969 some 40 Royal Corps of Transport squadrons have served on emergency tours in Northern Ireland keeping the Army on the move to combat the terrorists. As one officer put it: "I date back to the days when we were the Royal Army Service Corps, and it's on a job like this in Ireland that you feel a real service is what you are giving."

Top: ... like the sign says ... but the RCT squadron involved makes no charge.

Below: With all that heavy plant in the road a soldier keeps this toddler safe.



750135





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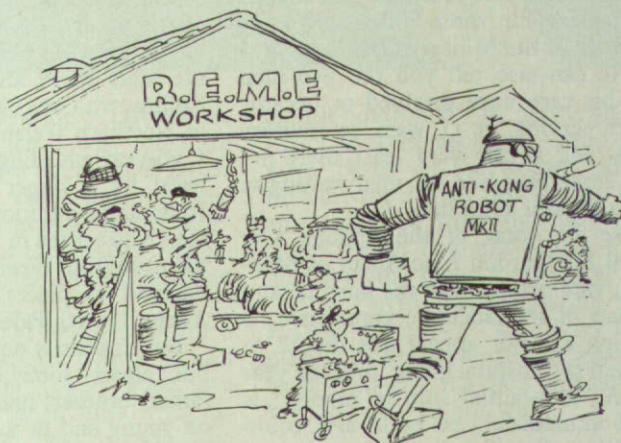
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Prompted perhaps by
"Dr Who" and "King Kong,"
LARRY comes up with

THE X FACTOR



Erskine Hospital looks to 2000 AD

IN the year 2000, a quarter of a century from now, Erskine Hospital for disabled ex-servicemen at Bishopton, near Glasgow, will possibly have solved the problems of caring for the men who were disabled in World War Two—which ended 30 years ago this year. Put another way, it means there will be men still suffering from the effects of World War Two 55 years after it ended.

This is only one of the many interesting statistics Colonel David Boyle, commandant of Erskine Hospital, prisoner of the Japanese for three-and-a-half years and holder of the Military Cross, can give you. He can also tell you the 350 men under his care were disabled or became ill after serving in 11 wars or military actions, and at the very least there are always something like 100 men waiting to get into Erskine Hospital.

These are some of the reasons why General Sir Gordon MacMillan of MacMillan, vice-president of the hospital and chairman of its executive committee, is launching a major appeal this month to help keep the hospital going until the year 2000. A "substantial sum of money" is needed immediately to build and equip a new wing of six four-bedded wards and two single-bedded rooms and in addition

there is the ever-increasing cost of maintaining these beds, the existing wards, residential cottages, service buildings, grounds, and the renewal of essential equipment.

Erskine Hospital is the largest establishment of its kind in the United Kingdom and is outside the National Health Service. Since it opened in October 1916 as the Princess Louise Scottish Hospital it has cared for 25,000 ex-servicemen and been maintained by public subscription.

The hospital still has two patients—one is 98 and the other 92—who fought in the Boer War and at the other end of the scale there are 23-year old George Collins, who was blown up by a land mine in Northern Ireland, and Henry Hatton, a 30-year old Englishman totally paralysed by a sniper's bullet in Northern Ireland. In addition there are about 100 men who served in World War One, more than 200 from World War Two and others maimed in places like Korea, Cyprus, Aden, Borneo, Palestine, Malaya.

But Erskine is not really about statistics but about somebody's husband, son, father, brother, uncle or fiancé who went off young and fit to fight for the cause of freedom and came back physically broken and without limbs. Sometimes it is not

quite as dramatic as that—the hospital has a number of men who were not hit by a bullet or blown up by a bomb or a mine but who just became desperately ill and could not be looked after anywhere else.

Erskine's policy for many years has been to take in, if there is room, any ex-serviceman regardless of whether he was wounded in action or whether he became ill and in need 20 years after his Service career. For that reason there are patients suffering from multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease and other forms of paralysis.

"Why couldn't all these men have gone into ordinary hospitals?" is a question sometimes asked of David Boyle. The answer is not simple. "There is an acute shortage of suitable long-term beds in Health Service hospitals. In addition the emphasis at Erskine is on long-term rehabilitation and a man can progress from the hospital to the workshops or cottages.

"In Erskine, too, we treat every patient according to his needs—mental and emotional as well as physical. We spend a great deal of money on mechanical and electronic aids like automatic page-turners, computerised typewriters, self-propelled wheelchairs, walking aids, all

Severely handicapped patient operates a computerised typewriter with his mouth.



to make a man do as much for himself as possible and to feel useful again."

George Collins, the young Clydebank man severely injured in Northern Ireland, sums up the Erskine philosophy: "I was in various hospitals where they did their best for me and I am grateful to them for it, but Erskine is the only place where I have been encouraged to feel like a man again and not a chronic invalid."

Many of the men of Erskine have regular and useful jobs in the hospital workshops where they do surgical boot-making and repairing, upholstery and furniture repairs, french polishing, printing, basketry, and cane furniture making. There is also the six-acre market garden which forms part of the workshops set-up. Workshop items and garden produce can be bought from the hospital craft and garden centre or from the hospital showroom at 103 Wellington Street, Glasgow.

The men who live in Erskine come from most strata of society, from model lodging houses to the halls of academie, banking and the law. They all have a common understanding created by the sharing of the same experiences under fire—fear, pain and comradeship. The 1939-45 survivors are aged from 50 to 65 but the men injured since then are considerably younger. With the right kind of care and attention they can live useful lives for many years to come.

Erskine has therefore to be more than a long-term hospital. It has to be a home to which its patients can invite a friend, where they can have a bit of privacy when they feel like it, where they can



play and laugh and develop as individuals and be creative. Which is why there are individual cottages for families, a games room, a canteen, twice-weekly films shows, bowling and putting teams, television in all the wards and day rooms, regular visits by outside entertainers and many other activities.

Where else would it be possible for a man like Frank McHugh, who is 98 and has no legs, to go out every week in a specially built car for a pint with his friends; for a man like Dan Samson, who is paralysed from the neck down, to use a

mouth-controlled computerised typewriter to write an 80,000-word romantic novel based on the Roman invasion of Britain; for a man like Roddy McLeod, also paralysed from the neck down, to study for an honours degree in mathematics at the Open University?

And David Boyle told me as I left Erskine Hospital: "Don't try to excite pity or be melodramatic in whatever you write. Just give the facts and say we need help to carry on our work."

Story by Harry Dramond

Part of the hospital workshops where patients do regular and useful work.



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FALLING in love—by parachute—was the order of the day for 9 Independent Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers, when after a four-month tour in Northern Ireland the 120-strong unit dropped on Hankley Common, a few miles from its Aldershot base—on St Valentine's Day. There to greet the sappers on the dropping zone were their wives, families and sweethearts.

The "lovers' leap" was the idea of the officer commanding, Major Mike Payne, who planned the drop as the unit's first parachute training of the year. The only casualty was a twisted knee, sustained by Mrs Mary McGill, wife of second-in-command Captain Ian McGill, when she stumbled on the rough ground in her eager dash to embrace her husband just after he touched down.

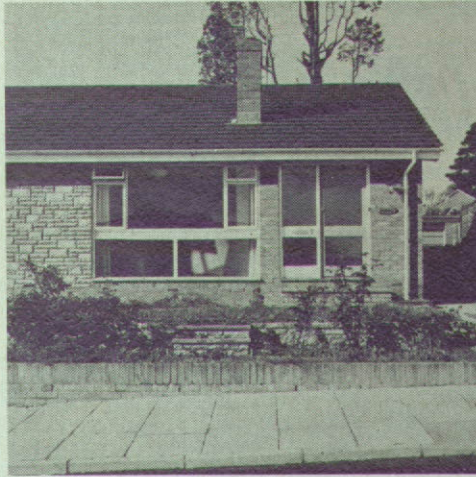
C130 Hercules showers Hankley Common with its cargo of homecoming sappers.

An overjoyed family crowds around dad before he gets a chance to stand up.

Mrs Mary McGill's eager dash cost her a twisted knee seconds after the photo



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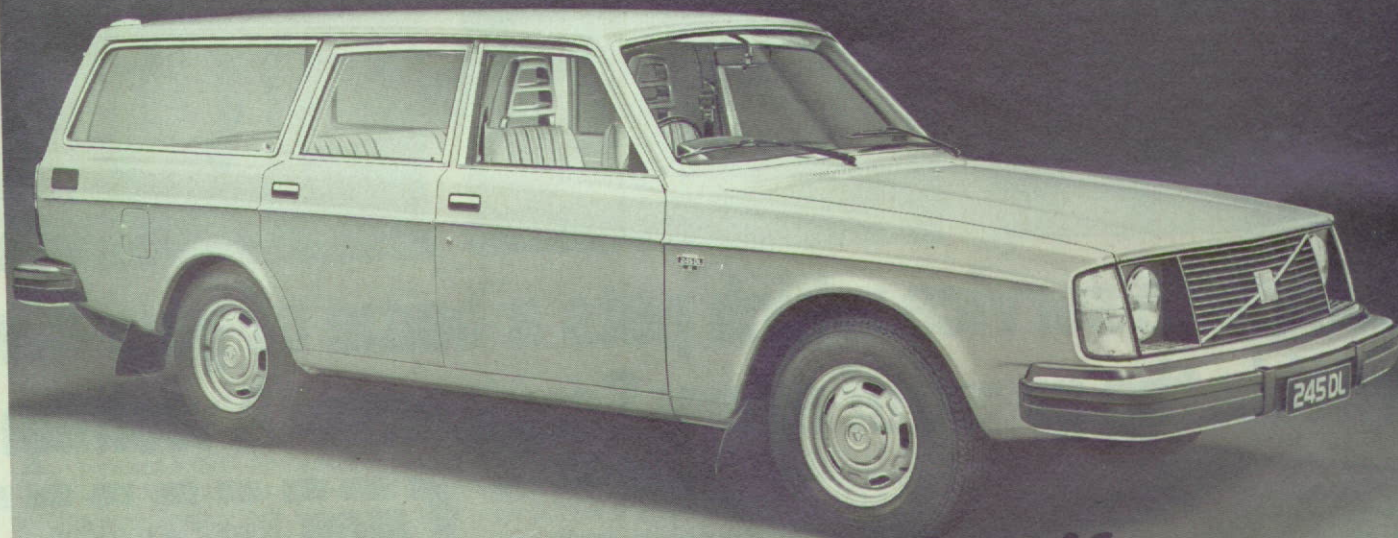
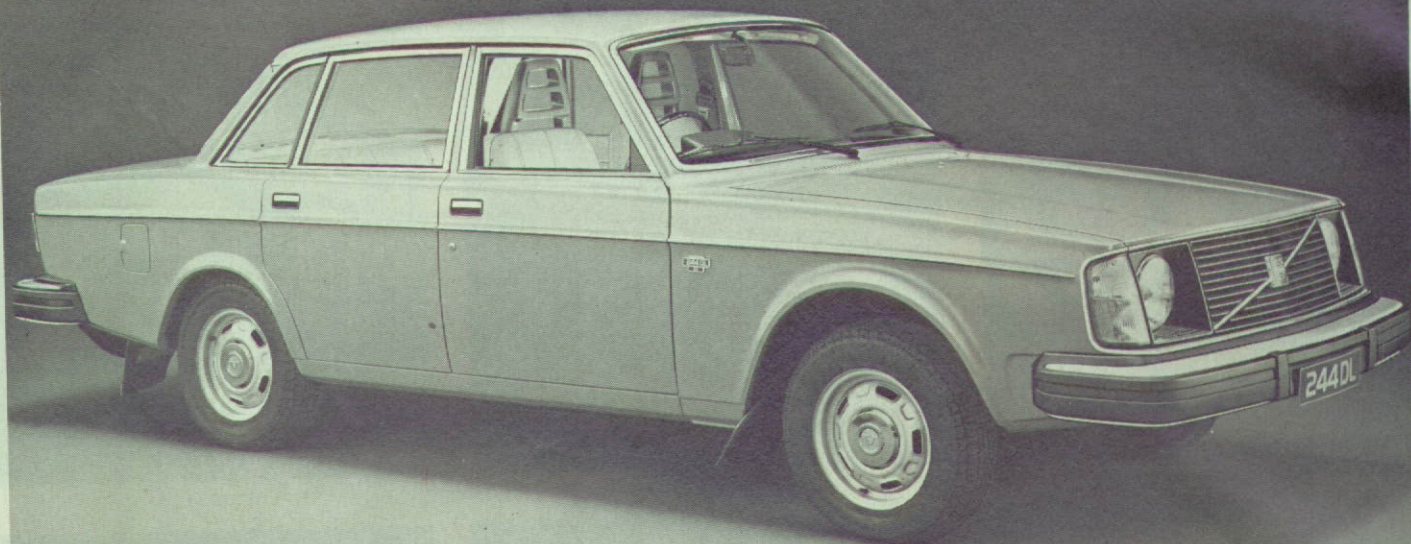
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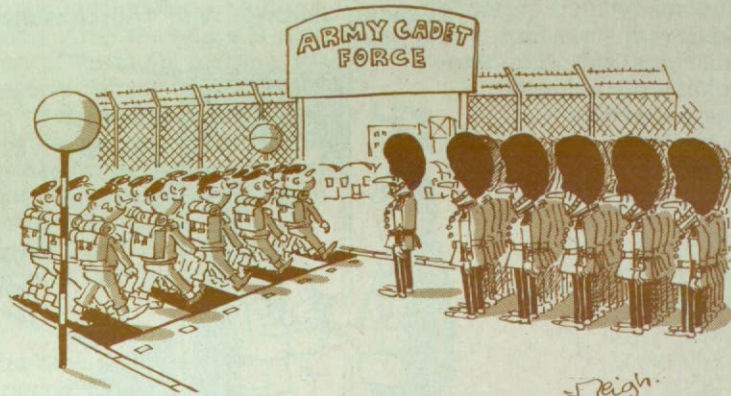
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VOLVO

MENTIONED IN PARLIAMENT

● The exceptional circumstances of the Cyprus crisis have led to considerable aid being given by the Forces to patch up the island's wounds after the recent inter-communal strife. This was revealed by Lord Winterbottom in the House of Lords in answer to a question from Lord Hylton. Answering for the Government, Lord Winterbottom explained that such aid usually came from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office but added: "In the exceptional circumstances in Cyprus the Services have been providing considerable assistance." This help has included offers to give a hand with repairs to Nicosia airport—a prime target for bombers during last year's conflict. In the meantime, Lord Winterbottom went on, the RAF and the Civil Aviation Authority were helping to provide essential ground equipment and air traffic control facilities at Larnaca airport. Many thousands of Greek and Turkish Cypriots sought shelter in the sovereign base areas from July onwards and the Services provided tentage, bedding, food and other essentials. Extensive use was made of RAF Akrotiri for the channelling of relief supplies and a number of refugees received treatment at Service hospitals.

● A bid to get rid of the Combined Cadet Force has been rebuffed in the House of Commons following a question from Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk (Labour, Ormskirk) who asked RAF Minister Mr Brynmor John if he would take steps to disband the CCF. Mr John replied he would not, adding: "All the evidence suggests that the Combined Cadet Force is fulfilling a useful function." Undeterred, Mr Kilroy-Silk later asked for a definition of that function and Mr John told him



the force was intended to provide a "framework of a disciplined organisation through which young people who wish to join may develop qualities of endurance, self-reliance, leadership and responsibility." It was also meant to encourage recruiting. As to evidence of the force's usefulness, Mr John said this was proved by the continued strength and vitality of individual contingents, and the high regard in which they are held by schools, coupled with the enthusiasm of members for the activities of the force.

● Some £33,000,000 went into winter woollies, webbing, worsted, water-proofs and whatnot for the Forces last year. And most of the cash went to British firms. The Commons was told by the Secretary of State for Defence, Mr William Rodgers, that textile goods to that value were bought by his ministry in the 12 months up to 31 December 1974. He was answering questions from Mr Frank R White (Labour, Bury & Radcliffe) who also asked what percentage of these goods was bought from British manufacturers. The answer was 96 per cent.

● Tidworth Garrison Hospital and the RAF Wroughton Hospital are to amalgamate if plans recommended by the Defence Medical Services Inquiry Committee are accepted. Army Minister Mr Robert C Brown announced the proposed link-up in answer to a question from Rear-Admiral M C Morgan-Giles (Conservative, Winchester) about the fate of the Tidworth hospital. Who will run the new joint hospital is the subject of a Ministry of Defence study said to be at an "advanced stage."

● There are 459 Army officers on a basic salary of £7000 or more a year, Mr Brown told the House in answer to a question from Mr Jerry Wiggin (Conservative, Weston-super-Mare). Categories listed by Mr Brown who fall into this income bracket are: Brigadiers and above, medical and dental officers with

MENTIONED IN PARLIAMENT *continued*

at least eight years' seniority of the rank of lieutenant-colonel and above, legal officers with at least six years' seniority of the rank of colonel and above and a few others who were not listed by the minister.

● Stricter controls on legally held arms in Northern Ireland are on the way, according to the Minister for the Province, Mr Merlyn Rees. Answering a question from Mr William Ross (United Ulster Unionist, Londonderry), Mr Rees stated: "I intend shortly to introduce fresh legislation to impose further and stricter controls over the number of firearms in Northern Ireland."

● It costs £1417 to train an Army vehicle mechanic, Mr William Rodgers, Minister of State for Defence, told the House in answer to a question from Mr Neville Trotter (Conservative, Tynemouth). Mr Rodgers added that the training was done with the maintenance of fighting vehicles in mind and incorporated heavy goods vehicle driver training in the course.

● Seventeen per cent of the defence equipment budget is spent on collaborative projects, Mr Rodgers said in reply to a question from Mr Julian Critchley (Conservative, Aldershot).

● A further query from Mr Critchley about replacing Lightning and Phantom aircraft in the air superiority role prompted Mr Rodgers to say: "Phantom FGR2s are being transferred progressively to the air defence role and will soon have replaced most of the existing Lightning force. It is planned that these aircraft will be replaced by an interceptor version of the MRCA in the early 1980s."

● The use of Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve troops in Northern Ireland has been considered from time to time but the idea has always been overridden by the need to keep the reservists to their full commitment in training for the roles they would take on mobilisation. This was Mr Brown's answer to a question from Mr Harold McCusker (United Ulster Unionist, Armagh).

● There are 523 doctors and consultants serving in the Army according to figures given by Mr Rodgers in answer to a question from Mr Ernest Fernyhough (Labour, Jarrow). With 146 consultants and 377 doctors, the Army has the



"Of course I wouldn't come to you with a trivial complaint like this if I was a civilian—I'd send for you!"

highest share of medical men among the three Services. Mr Rodgers also told the House that members of the forces and their families had an additional 164 civilian doctors employed to look after them.

NEW MARCONI RADAR ORDERED

Two Marconi 800 series tracking radar systems have been ordered by the Ministry of Defence. The equipment will be used as radar for control and trajectory measurement at the Larkhill and West Freugh ranges. The systems on order come from a family of military radars primarily designed for the control of weapons in a variety of land and shipborne applications. The 800 series includes surveillance radars and tracking radars and is supplied complete with control equipment for missiles or control or prediction systems for guns. The tracking radar can also be used in a surveillance role and can detect low-flying aircraft and sea-skimming missiles.

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

The Regular Forces Employment Association helps ex-servicemen find jobs in Civvy Street. Applicants should contact their local offices of the association. Addresses can be obtained from resettlement officers, post offices or employment offices.

RECRUITING BOOM

Army recruiting was up by more than a third in the last quarter of 1974 with an increase of 885 compared with the same period in the previous year, giving a total of 3437, a rise of 35 per cent. All three Services showed an increase, the overall rise being 31 per cent.



"Now tell me, why do you want to join the cavalry?"

REGULAR SERVICE FOR TAVR SOLDIERS

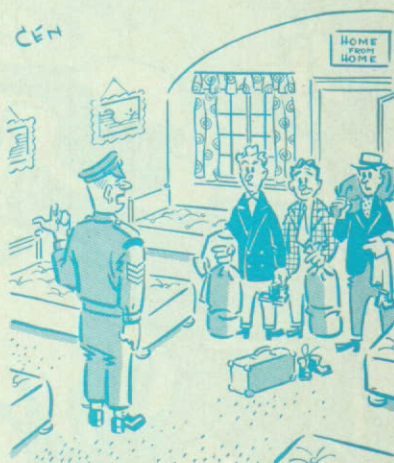
Following the success of the pilot scheme for Regular service by Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve officers, it is now possible for TAVR soldiers to volunteer for one year's full-time service with the Regular Army. The pilot scheme for this will be open to 200 trained TAVR soldiers, mainly corporals and below, in selected jobs and ranks. Applicants will be discharged from the TAVR for the period of their Colour service but must declare their intention to rejoin the TAVR afterwards. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, applicants must be under 30 years old. They must be medically fit and must have done 15 days' continuous training plus one year's obligatory training including one annual camp. After the year's S-type engagement, applicants may apply for an extension of up to six months. When discharged after this, applicants will have no Reserve liability. Applicants will have to do enough extra training to bring them up to the standard of Regular recruits but there will be no special "TAVR to Regular" course. Postings are to be worldwide and volunteers may state their wishes for eg regimental preferences. These will be met wherever possible but there is no guarantee of specific postings. An applicant will be accepted in his TAVR substantive or provisional rank. In cases where an applicant holds a rank higher than that offered under this scheme, he may voluntarily revert in rank in order to become eligible for selection.

(DM(A))

NEW BARRACKS IN COLCHESTER

The new Goojerat Barracks, Colchester, have become home for 19th Infantry Brigade's headquarters and ancillary units, formerly resident in Cherry Tree Camp. The original barracks were demolished in 1970 and the rebuild cost nearly £2,000,000.

(QMG)



"It's got central heating, hot and cold water, interior sprung mattresses, concealed lighting and fitted carpets, but you have to go just outside if you want the Naafi."

MRCA STAYS—OFFICIAL

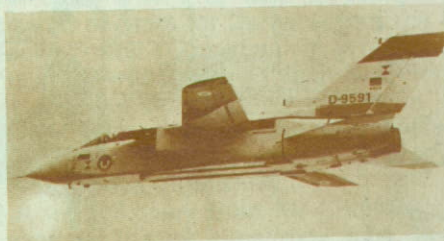
In a bid to scotch rumours that the multi-role combat aircraft (MRCA) is to be scrapped, Defence Minister Roy Mason has reaffirmed in a clear statement that this is not the case. He declared: "The United Kingdom Government is firmly committed to the MRCA project which is of major importance not only to the Royal Air Force but also to British and European industry. I know our partners are

MRCA STAYS—OFFICIAL

continued

equally committed. This is why last Autumn we agreed to go ahead with the next major phase of development."

The total planned requirement for MRCA is still 385 aircraft, Mr Mason added, although he warned that discussions are under way to slow down the annual delivery rate to the RAF to spread the cost over a longer period. The Minister dealt a glancing blow to speculation about rocketing costs of the project with a reference to a recent statement about ratios of costs so far to estimates, adding the comment: "Costs of the programme are very well under control."



The second prototype MRCA, based at the British Aircraft Corporation's Warton airfield in Lancashire, recently flew an intensive programme of five flights in two days. Among tests successfully completed in three flights on the first day were additional handling and stability control. The first flight on day two lasted one-and-a-half hours during which intensive handling, systems checking and a number of engine re-lights were undertaken. This was the first time the RB-199-34R-2 engine had been re-lit in the air and satisfactory results were achieved. The series of tests achieved more than was expected and items scheduled for later test flights were included.

DOMESTIC EQUIPMENT UNDER REVIEW

A tri-Service working party has assembled to investigate and report on the standard and scales of furnishing and domestic equipment used in married quarters and single accommodation by the three Services. Questionnaires are being sent to a representative sample of personnel in the three Services and a series of visits to headquarters, naval establishments, Army units and RAF stations in the United Kingdom and Germany is being planned. All personnel visited, and their wives, will then have an opportunity to air their views and say how they think things might be improved. The working party is headed by Wing-Commander R K Broadfoot with Major A C Futrell RAOC and Squadron-Leader J P Maling. The team will soon be joined by the naval representative, Lieutenant-Commander M Waller.

(FSSG)

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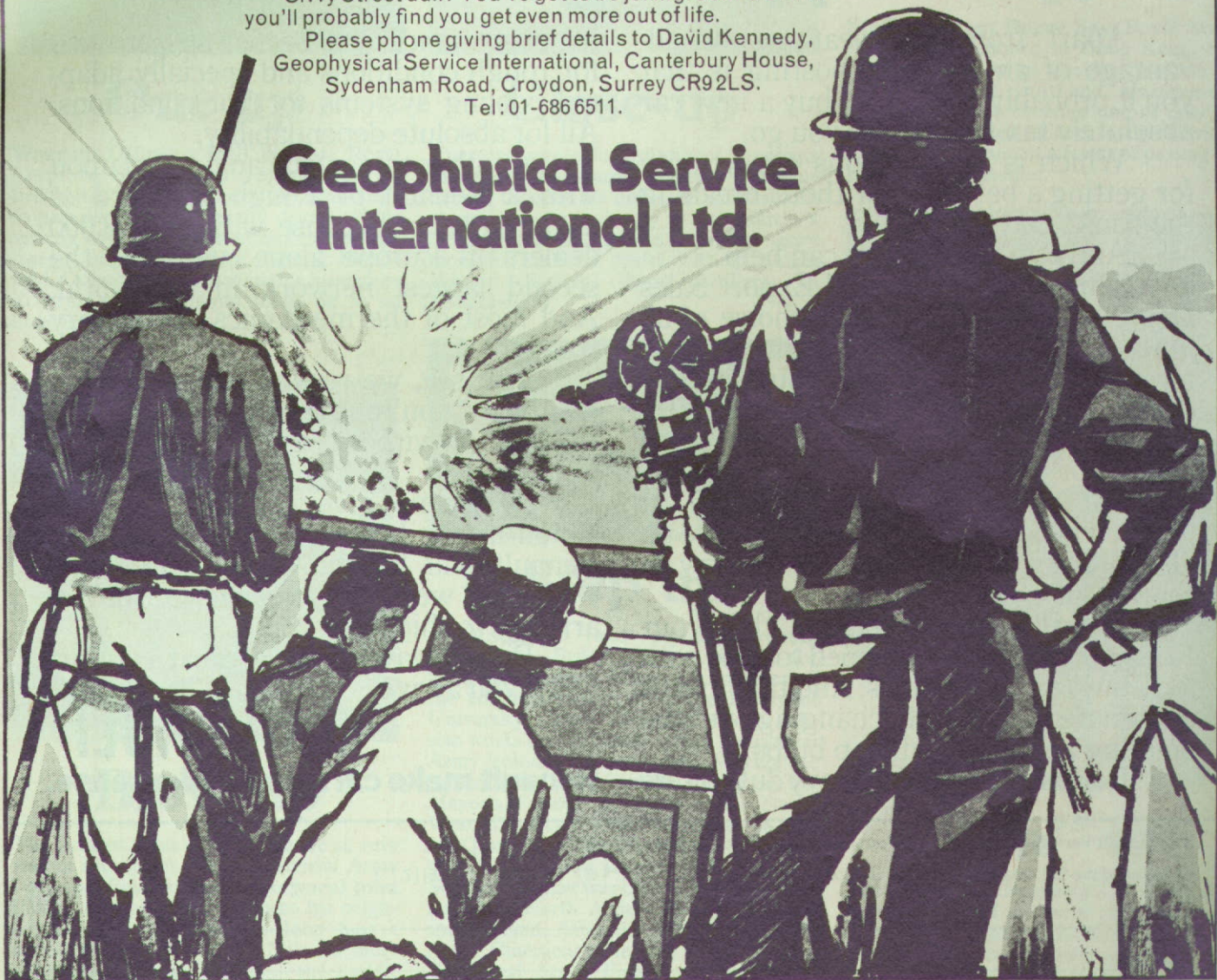
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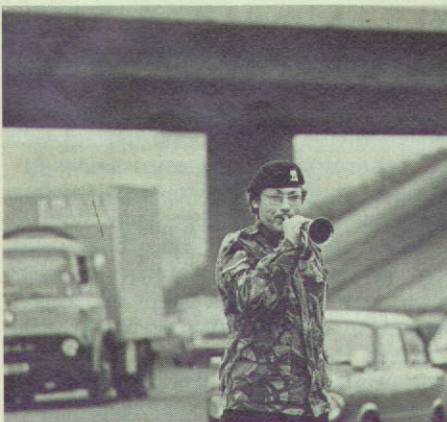
One up

Warrant Officer Phil Watton, Royal Corps of Signals, has become what is believed to be the first member of the corps to gain an Open University degree. He is serving with the Communications Projects Agency at the School of Signals, Blandford, Dorset. He began work for his degree in 1972. He now hopes to go on to an honours degree.



Close-up

There was something fishy about **Sergeant Martin Chapman's** hobby of skin-diving, thought his unit's pet goldfish. So he got into the swim by giving Martin a close-up training session in a few spare moments between duties with 42 (Alem Hamza) Battery, Royal Artillery, in Londonderry.



Blow-up

The strident tones of the bugle are all very well at camp, but when Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve **Lance-Corporal John Hill** started practising at home his neighbours blew their tops. So John beat a retreat to a place where a little bit more noise would go unnoticed... the middle of a nearby motorway. "Now I just get funny looks from the drivers," said John, "but no-one stops to complain."



Step up

More than 30 years' devotion to duty earned the British Empire medal for **Sergeant Sidney Idanov**, a member of the administrative staff of the Liverpool University Officer Training Corps who also works as a storeman with a Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve unit. Making the presentation of the medal jointly in the Mayor's Parlour were the GOC North West District (**Major-General Keith McQueen**) and the Lord Mayor of Liverpool (**Councillor Joseph Wilmington**). Sergeant Idanov was called up in 1940 and served in North Africa, France, Belgium and Holland. After the war he joined the Army Emergency Reserve and later the Territorial Army. Following a spell as a cadet instructor he joined the TAVR in 1967. (Picture courtesy *Liverpool Daily Post and Echo*).



One up, too

Staff-Sergeant Roger Say, Royal Army Pay Corps, stationed in Hong Kong, has been admitted as an associate member of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants. He becomes one of only 20 non-commissioned officers in the Services to join the institute as a result of passing its five-part examination.



"Ton" up

The Devonshire Regiment Old Comrades Association held a special birthday party to honour its oldest member, **Tommy Alsford**, who is 100 years old—and still marches in the annual reunion. Tommy joined the regiment in 1889 and finished as bandmaster, having served all over the world and seen action in three wars.



Warp and weft in peace and war

Story by John Walton

RIBBONS proudly worn on many a hero's breast, the chevrons and insignia decorating the sleeves of soldiers, sailors and airmen of many countries, even the band of a Salvation Army hat—all these and many other woven insignia are turned out in massive quantities by a factory in the mining town of Bedworth, near Coventry, for long a centre of the ribbon-weaving trade.

The firm of Toye, Kenning & Spencer is a member of the Toye group, descended from a business started by an exiled Huguenot weaver nearly three centuries ago. Today the firm produces almost all of British medal ribbons as well as supplying a host of other countries. For Vietnam it provided the American military authorities with a staggering 1,500,000 yards of ribbon and during the Nigerian civil war made ribbon for both sides. Indeed, Mr Stanley Oakey, technical and administrative director at Bedworth, still has a collection of all the Biafran medal ribbons—almost certainly one of few to have survived.

Mind you, things aren't what they used to be in medal ribbons. Before World War Two all were made of silk. This came from Japan and after Pearl Harbour the supply, not surprisingly,

Above: The checkered hatbands for the policemen's caps are woven by the loom.

dried up. So for the rest of the war Britain made do with a silk warp and a cotton weft (warp means the threads that run lengthwise to form the strips and weft is the thread which runs across and is inserted by shuttle—the latter is not visible and binds the ribbon together).

By the early 1950s silk was back again but was becoming progressively more difficult to obtain and more expensive. Toye, Kenning and Spencer, in consultation with the Army, carried out development work on substitutes and finally in the late 1960s the ribbon material was switched to rayon.

Ribbons, unlike the medals themselves, tend to wear out and Toye, Kenning & Spencer supply large quantities of ribbon for decorations awarded as far back to World War One and earlier. These are sold to leading dealers who supply the odd five inches of ribbon needed to refurbish great-grandad's gongs.

Toye's spent 200 years building up a thriving London-based business, which produced cords, threads, laces, braids and naval and military accoutrements,



only to see disaster facing it when khaki replaced the brightly coloured uniforms worn in the field.

But, by turning its skills to other markets such as friendly societies, masonic lodges and trade unions, as well as moving into metalwork, the firm weathered the storm. Now, products for the armed forces of the world are again a mainstay of the textile division at Bedworth.

The Bedworth looms span almost a century of technology. One machine, turning out gold fringes for uniforms, has been running since 1880; a new automated loom produces 200 yards of medal or cap ribbon an hour. The weavers operating these looms are all recruited locally. According to Mr Oakley, himself a third generation Coventry ribbon weaver, it takes two years for a girl to become really proficient. Nowadays many of the married women who spent their single days at the factory are back as part-time shift workers.

Badges of rank, chevrons, epaulettes, unit badges and even Girl Guide and Brownie achievement badges—all are produced at Bedworth. But the most skilled and complicated work is in the embroidery section where seamstresses produce Colours, trumpet banners and

Above left: Quality control is the job of the Ministry of Defence's own inspector.

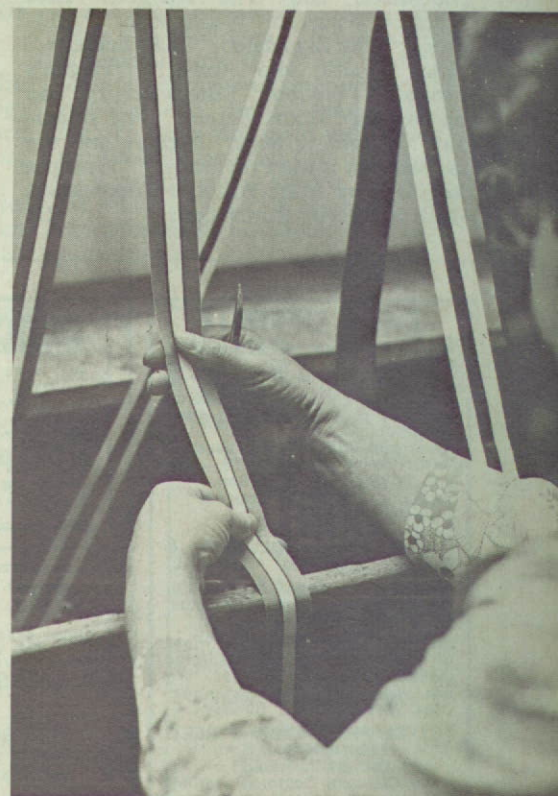
Above right: Sea of sergeants' stripes getting their finishing touches by machine.

Right: Ribbon for medals by the yard—and every inch is checked for any faults.

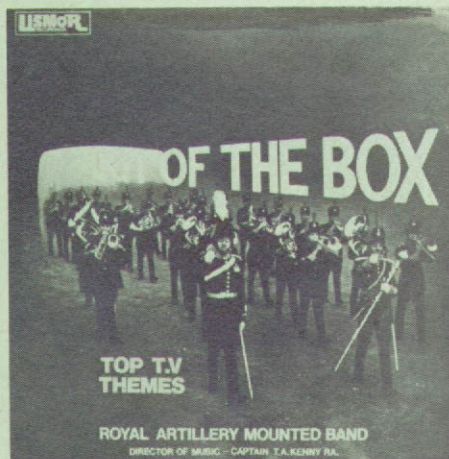
saddle cloths. To give an idea of the amount of intricate work involved, a Household Cavalry trumpet banner takes 550 hours' work while even a shabraque for a horse can need 250 hours.

Another fast-growing sideline for Toye, Kenning & Spencer is the production of regimental and unit ties. The unit gives a rough idea of what it wants and Toye's artists produce the design.

When Toye's first began to weave for the Army, Cromwell and his Roundheads were still within living memory. Now, nearly 300 years later, the firm is still in business and there can scarcely be a British serviceman who will not wear some product of its factory at some time during his career.



On Record



"Out of the Box: Top TV Themes" (Royal Artillery Mounted Band) (Director of Music: Captain T A Kenny) (Lismor Recordings LILP 5011)

Many of us enjoy the signature tune of a TV show more than the show itself, and would wish the tune to carry on to its end. Too often it subsides ignominiously. Although the sleeve does not say so in as many words, it implies that Captain Terry Kenny has arranged most or all of the items himself, and very effective they are. With the normal military band, and a discreet use of one or two other instruments and tuned percussion, he achieves a fresh and lively sound which gets very near the originals. The band backs him up with some good playing, very good in fact, but now that Army bands are updating their repertoires there is still room for more attack, detached playing, and precision from the middle of the band. They tend to be a bit muddy thereabouts.

By any standards this is a desirable LP for lovers of good tunes, nicely presented, and of great variety. It includes blockbusters like "Hawaii Five O," "Mission Impossible," and "The Avengers." Less frenetic offerings are "Nationwide," "Midweek," "The Big Match," "Clochemerle," "Alias Smith and Jones," "Hogan's Heroes," "Follyfoot," "Black Beauty" and the languid "Lotus Eaters." The ridiculous "Wombling Song" is there and the odd man out is the 17th century "Trumpet Prelude," by Marc Antoine Charpentier, which is used by Eurovision. **RB**



"Reach for the Sky" (Central Band of the Royal Air Force) (Conductor: Wing-Commander R E C Davies) (Studio 2 Stereo TWOX 1030)

With a band like this at his command I wish Wing-Commander Roy Davies could persuade the recording company to make a series of LPs covering the best of the military band's original repertory. Works by such as Gustav Holst, Gordon Jacob, Vaughan Williams, Walton O'Donnell, Hindemith, Schoenberg and many others, although appearing here and there on records made by British bands, need a definitive performance by this band.

"Reach for the Sky" gets yet another recording here, as does "The Battle of Britain" march, merely for the sake of an attractive record title. The remainder of the music has no RAF connection and, none of it was originally written for band. Two compositions by Canadian Robert Farnon are "Toronto City," a march, and his classic "Jumping Bean." A couple of Latin-American numbers for colour are "Tango Taquin" and "Latin Magic." What really shows the band off are the "Slavonic Dance No 7" by Dvorak and some of the ballet music from Rossini's "William Tell," while Trevor Sharpe's arrangement of "Waltzes of Richard Rodgers" demonstrates the band's versatility.

"Galloping Home" is the theme tune from "The Adventures of Black Beauty." The trombone and cornet trios of this band are by now nationally famous and after many years together their skill shows no sign of diminishing. Jack Helyer's "Tricky Trombones" is conventional stuff but the palm is taken by Gilbert Vinter's vivid night-ride on "The Dover Coach."

Reach into your wallets and buy "Reach for the Sky." Good light music needs a fine band for its performance. **RB**



"National Brass Festival, Royal Albert Hall, 1974 (Black Dyke Mills Band, Brighouse & Rastrick Band, Cory Band, City of Coventry Band) (Conductors: Sir Charles Groves and Ernest Tomlinson) (Soloist: Maurice Murphy (cornet)) (Decca SPA 369)

The annual feast of brass band music at the Royal Albert Hall provided, in October 1974, a first performance of "Cornet Concerto" by Ernest Tomlinson, so to me this disc is more welcome than the hotch-potch of Victoriana that used to emerge. Tomlinson has been writing for brass band for a quarter of a century but is better known for his light orchestral music, his popular "Little Serenade" serving as curtain-raiser to the new work.

In three movements, and opening with what must be an ordeal for the soloist in the shape of a fearful cadenza, the concerto is not a work for all comers; virtuosi only need apply, and in Maurice Murphy we have an artist of the first rank. Although easy to assimilate for musicians, the work will sound "modern" to others and need repetition before falling easily on the ear.

Another first performance from a composer of lesser pretensions is Ronald Binge's "Trombonioso." As its title implies it is good-humoured stuff, with "Three Blind Mice" as its basis, and of course for the trombone section. A new concert march to me is "Torch of Freedom" by our old Salvation Army friend Eric Ball; melodious and catchy but a touch sanctimonious I find.

Sir Charles, I'm sure, feels more at home with two overtures—Mendelssohn's "Ruy Blas" and Wagner's "The Mastersingers," and romps home an easy winner. **RB**

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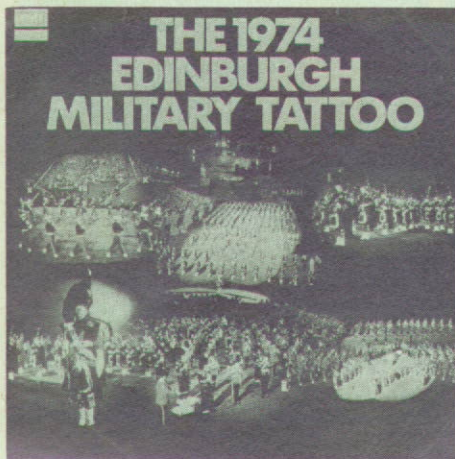
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"The 1974 Edinburgh Military Tattoo"

(Director of Music: Major James H Howe)
(Waverley SZLP 2140)

The 1974 tattoo continues on the same lines as usual and this LP contains at least the usual whole side of pipes and drums, with or without band accompaniment. The novelty for 1974 was the Sri Lanka Police Reserve Hewisi Band which makes some fine exotic noises with various oriental instruments and much percussion.

For the rest the bands and pipe bands of Scottish regiments and the band of the Scots Guards are under Major Jimmy Howe for the last time before his retirement. Previous popular visitors are here again in the pipe bands of Canadian TA regiments.

The recording is very good for a tattoo and achieves an open-air sound without too much loss of detail or balance.

Pipe music: "Bonnie Dundee," "Bugle Horn," "March of The Scottish Division," "Bonnie Strathyre," "King George V's Army March," "Miss Ada Crawford," "The Piper of Drummond," "Magersfontein," "Dark Island," "The Muckin' o' Geordie's Byre," "The Nut Brown Maiden," "Miss McLeod of Raasay," "The Fairy Dance," "Gillie Chillum."

Massed bands: "Fanfare for a Tattoo" (Howe), "Liberty Bell" (Sousa), "Medley of Overtures" (arr Howe), "Moonlight Serenade" (Miller), "Pennsylvania 6-5000," "Hootenanny" (Walters), "I Love a Lassie" (Lauder).

Finale: "Lass of Richmond Hill," "Scipio," "Abide With Me" and "Last Post," "Sleep Dearie Sleep," "Scotland the Brave," "We're No Awa' Tae Bide Awa'," "The Black Bear."

RB



"Sounds of Brass Series Vol 16: The Rochdale Band"

(Conducted by Norman Ashcroft) (Decca SB 316)

I don't recall reviewing a Rochdale Band disc before and found this one a most attractive and worthwhile effort. The programme is first class and beautifully conducted. I predict future successes for this band as large and liberal as its patron, Alderman Cyril Smith MP.

Adam Carse, a great academic and fine teacher, had a soft spot for brass bands and wrote several works for the medium. His "Processional March" is very catchy and, with several other items on this LP, well worth your money. Ernest Tomlinson's "Little Serenade" is now bidding to equal Ronnie Binge's "Elizabethan Serenade" in popularity.

Soloists from the ranks of the band play well in T J Powell's "Duo for Euphoniums" and in the cornet solo "Jenny Wren" by Roland Davis.

The remainder are regular repertory items, though not over-recorded. Prokofiev's saucy march from "Love of the Three Oranges" is an admirable foil for Elgar's solemn "Prelude" from "The Dream of Gerontius," and in dance rhythm we have a brilliant arrangement of themes from Chabrier's "España" by Drake Rimmer and two of the most popular of Brahms's "Hungarian Dances." A rare overture, "Le Domino Noir" by Auber, completes the list.

RB

"On Parade and in Concert" (The Training Command Band, Winnipeg)

(Director of Music: Captain Terence Barnes) (Century 21, Winnipeg, Manitoba, TCB-0015)

This band was originally part of the Royal Canadian Air Force and in 1968, on the unification of the Canadian Armed



Forces, brought in 22 members of the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery Band, hence some of the music included here. Now 60 strong and based in Winnipeg, it obviously has the normal role of a base command band with plenty of graduation parades. This is reflected in a lively yet steady approach to the performance of marches, the use of trumpets instead of cornets giving that extra edge.

I liked the sound of the band on and off parade but too many of the marches are so well known and much recorded that collectors may not be tempted. Of two new (to us) marches, "The Green and Gold" by a Warrant Officer Smeltzer is of no great interest but "Winnipeg 74" by Sergeant Fred Greenwood is well scored and has character. Although the regimental marches are listed as "Royal Canadian" they are the same as for the British Services: "Heart of Oak," "Royal Artillery Slow March," "My Boy Willie," "St Catherine's" (Royal Canadian Regiment) and "RAF March Past." The Scottish "Moray Firth" and the New Zealand "Invercargill" complete the parade section.

In lighter vein the lack of cornet tone is often disconcerting, as in a rare overture by Haydn to his opera "Orlando Paladrino," and in a lazy version of the Farandole from Bizet's "L'Arlésienne." In some attractive big-band items all is well and "Peanut Vendor," "Canadian Sunset" and "American Weekend" feature some slick arranging. To place this band well and truly in the French-Canadian belt the album ends with an uproarious version of "Auprès de ma Blonde." This LP celebrates the Winnipeg Centennial so should be available for some time yet.

RB

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Right: Coulton beats the goalkeeper to slam home the British Army's only goal.

Sport



BELGIUM RETAINS KENTISH CUP

THE brightest thing about the British Army versus Belgian Army match which closed this year's triangular soccer tournament for the Kentish Cup was the new floodlighting at Aldershot's military stadium.

The gloom of the home team's 3-1 defeat was only rarely lightened by flashes of good football. The British always looked the physically fitter side, despite the fact that the Belgians were all seasoned players with records of service with such notable teams as Anderlecht, but never seemed to be able to co-ordinate a concerted attack even after some promising moves at the start of what looked like becoming scoring chances. Even the one British goal lacked sparkle. The Belgian goalkeeper, Van Geersom, seemed as surprised as anyone when the ball trickled over the line at the speed of a slow-motion action replay rather than the real thing.

The tenth-minute goal by number 10, Staff-Sergeant Instructor Alfie Coulton, from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, was first blood of the match, albeit the only clot of it the all-reds could rub off on to the Belgians. For the 16th

minute brought the equaliser from Meersman—the Belgian number 10—and this was the score at half time.

As the second half tottered to a close, desperate probes failed to penetrate the Belgian defence. Hope seeped from the enthusiastic crowd which set the match to music with a virtually non-stop repertoire of soccer songs and even the encouraging notes of "all we are saying is give us a goal" took on the tone of a funeral march rather than a spur.

And then in the 72nd minute Courant smashed home a penalty shot to put Belgium ahead after British goalie Corporal Dave Smith, of 36 Engineer Regiment, was wrong-footed after a spirited Belgian attack and the British captain, Corporal Joe Ramsden, of the School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, postponed the goal by diving for the ball with his hands to palm it from the gaping goalmouth. Courant went on to score Belgium's third goal just a couple of minutes from time.

After the match the cup was formally presented to the Belgian captain a few feet from the plaque commemorating the instigator of the three-cornered contest between the British, Belgian and French Armies, Brigadier-General R J Kentish. When it started in 1920, the Kentish Cup tournament was dedicated

to the memory of the comradeship of the three armies in World War One.

Belgium's victory this year brings her total number of wins to 14, the same as Britain, with France having held the cup 18 times. There were mixed fortunes for the French side this year, with a 3-2 victory over Britain after receiving a 0-3 drubbing by the champions.

The Belgian captain raises Kentish Cup.



Belgium's goalie sweeps up a safe pass.



Ski-bob gunners triumph

WORLD and national honours have gone to a team of gunners who have mastered the fast-growing sport of ski-bobbing—a kind of sit-down, steerable ski-ing.

Having won the Army and BAOR championships in Austria, two of the Woolwich-based team went on to the world championships in Val d'Isère, France, where Bombardier Ted Clements (left) won the best British individual event, closely followed by Bombardier Winter-Smith (right).

Next came a five-man assault on the British national championships, held for the first time ever this year with Austria as the venue. Again Clements gained a first with Winter-Smith third and the rest of the team fourth, fifth and seventh places out of the field of 45.

KHUD—AND DID

THE Gurkhas' Khud race is one of the roughest, toughest athletic events you can find. Khud means mountain, and mountains mean foot-slogging... this is how the competitive Khud race built up.

When a unit marched through the passes of India's North-West Frontier it was protected by small groups of soldiers whose job it was to secure the high ground overlooking the column's route. So the speed of the march depended on how fast the pickets could get to the tops of the hills and down again. Friendly rivalry developed and hill racing blossomed as a sport.

The Gurkhas brought the Khud race to Hong Kong some 20 years ago since when it has been an annual event in the New Territories on a hill named—of all things—Nameless. After early experiments they settled on the present course which is nearly one-and-a-half miles long and on which the runners climb 1300 feet and descend 1350 feet. The average gradient is a lung-bursting one-in-two-and-a-half.

Leaders take some 12 minutes to get to the top and four or five minutes to get down. The climb is gruelling enough but the downward stretch over rough and rocky terrain is the more hair-raising. Less experienced competitors, their knees turned to jelly with the effort, somersault and roll down their headlong path to the tape. Luckily this year everyone got up and finished the course.

Two races feature in the event, one for ten-man teams from major units and the other for eight-man teams from minor units. Five teams entered the major units class and 7th (Duke of Edinburgh's Own) Gurkha Rifles repeated last year's win. The team was led by Lance-Corporal Mahen-



The ups and downs of Khud hill-racing.

drabhadur Suhwar who has won the race four times before and who was just one-tenth of a second outside the 16-minute ten-second record he set for the event in 1970.

There were nine entries in the minor units event and 1st Battalion, The Royal Hampshire Regiment, came in fifth as the best British unit. C Squadron, 1st Royal Tank Regiment, was sixth and 656 Squadron, Army Air Corps, seventh.

The biggest surprise of the day was the second placed man in the individual entries who ran with the minor units. He was the only sailor in the race—Able Seaman Stephen Hall of HMS Monkton. He learned of the race only three weeks before it and trained in the crowded streets of Hong Kong. "I got the shock of my life when I saw the hill," he told reporters. Next year he hopes to enter again after more training.

SAPPER CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPION

LANCE-CORPORAL Jeff Henry of the Royal Engineers became Army cross-country champion for 1975 when he beat more than 200 other runners from units throughout the United Kingdom and Rhine Army over a tough six-mile course at Pirbright, Surrey.

Before winning the Army championship he had also won the Army's London District and Eastern Area championships. A dedicated athlete, he runs regularly for Shaftesbury Harriers and his ambition is to represent Great Britain in the Olympic marathon event. He serves as an assistant physical training instructor with the Home Postal and Courier Communications Depot, Mill Hill, and is shortly going to the Army

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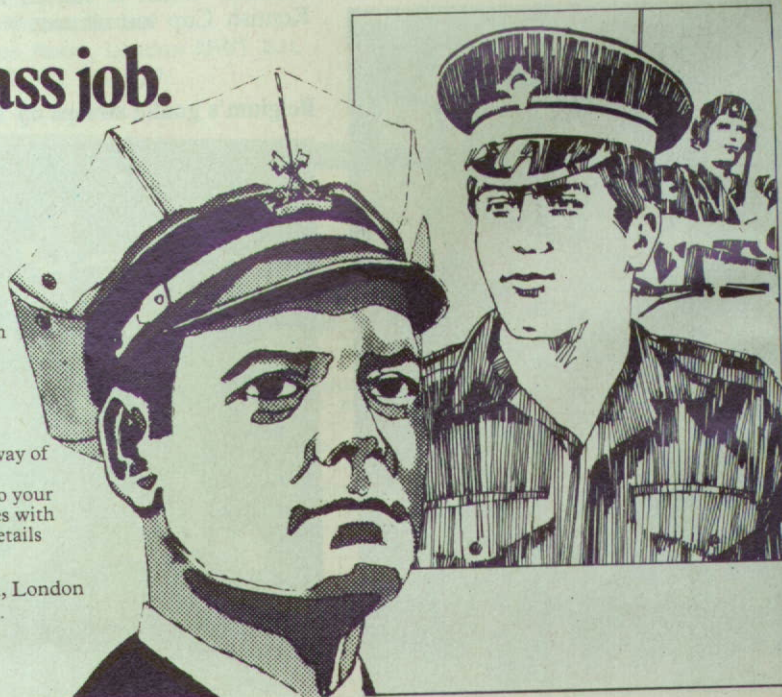
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Other results: Senior inter-unit team championship, major units: 1st 21 Sig Regt, 2nd 7 Para RHA, 3rd 10 PMO GR. Minor units: 1st 16 Para Hy Drop Coy RAOC, 2nd 216 Para Sig Sqn, 3rd HP & CC Depot RE. Senior individual championships, senior: 1st Henry, 2nd WO2 T Davies (7 Para RHA), 3rd Lieut G Grant (Depot Regt RA). Junior: 1st Sig P Madden (21 Sig Regt), 2nd Pte N C Wilson (POW Div Depot), 3rd Sig J E Wakenshaw (13 Sig Regt).

Army youth championships:—Inter-unit team, major units: 1st AAC Chepstow, 2nd AAC ACC, 3rd AAC Harrogate. Minor units: 1st Jun Sig Sqn, 11 Sig Regt, 2nd Jun Soldiers Coy, POW Div Depot, 3rd AAC RAPC. Individual championship: 1st App K J Dack (AAC Chepstow), 2nd Jun/Cpl D J Carr (Jun Sig Sqn, 11 Sig Regt), 3rd A/Sgt P A Sharples (AAC Chepstow).

Sports Shorts

SOCCER

COD Bicester meet 8 Sig Regt in the UK final of the Army Cup after Bicester beat 17 Port Regiment RCT 2-1 and 8 Sig Regt beat 14 AD Regt 7-2. The Army versus Southampton match in February was postponed. Infantry Challenge Cup first round results: 1 RHF 12, 1 RRF 2; 1 Cheshire 2, 1 Kings Own Border 3; 2 RGJ 3, 1 Green Howards 2; 2 Coldm Gds 0, 1 R Irish 8; 1 R Anglian 6, 1 DWR 3; 2 Para 15, 1 WG 1; 3 RRF 3, 1 Coldm Gds 2. 1 DERR and 2 RRF withdrew. Second round matches played at time of going to press: 1 R Anglian 4, 1 R Irish 1; 1 RWF 2, 2 Para 7.

FENCING

The Army A team won a resounding victory over the Navy's A team in an inter-Service match. But the Senior Service's honour was appeased by a win over Army women foilists by the WRNS. Results (Army representatives in brackets):—Foil: Army 7, Navy 2 (QMSI

D Truman (APTC), App G McDonnell (ACC), Lieut P Underwood (RE)). Epée: Army 6, Navy 3 (Sgt P Younger, Cpl S Birley, Cfn G Woodall (all REME)). Sabre: Lieut W Nowosielski (LI), QMSI Truman, App G McDonnell. Overall score: Army 19, Navy 8. Women's Services result:—Foil: Army 6, WRNS 10 (Capt R Wheelock, Capt L Cowley, Sgt Horton, Pte Billingham (all WRAC)).

BASKETBALL

Results of the Army junior basketball championships:—Major units: 1st AAC Chepstow, 2nd AAC Arborfield, 3rd JLR RE. Minor units: A Coy AAC ACC beat Y Coy Depot King's Div.

JUDO

Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery, won the inter-unit junior Army championship this year with AAC Chepstow the runners-up. Individual winners were:—Heavyweight: A/T Critchlow (AAC Harrogate). Light heavyweight: A/T Ridley (AAC Chepstow). Middleweight: App Hogg (AAC ACC). Welterweight: A/T Young (AAC Chepstow). Lightweight: A/T Webb (AAC Arborfield). Open: App Partington (AAC ACC).

BOXING

Army individual champions in their respective weights for the current year are:—Light flyweight: L/Bdr M Gregory (4 Regt AAC). Flyweight: L/Cpl J Spring (1 RWF). Bantamweight: L/Cpl N Phillip (4/7 DG). Featherweight: L/Cpl G Metcalf (Kings). Lightweight: L/Cpl R Curran (12 RSME). Light welterweight: Sgt B Ewin (3 RGJ). Welterweight: L/Cpl J Whiting (1 LI). Light middleweight: L/Cpl I Rene (10 Regt RCT). Middleweight: Bdr C Kelly (JLR RA). Light heavyweight: Sgt J Matthews (1 RGJ) (walkover). Heavyweight: L/Bdr C Williams (5 Hy Regt RA). Best loser in semi-finals (Sparta Trophy winner): Pte R Plant (1 Para). Heavily tipped 10 Regt RCT justified the faith of its fans by winning the Army inter-unit championship by seven bouts and 18 points to the four bouts and 14 points of 1 RGJ. The Kings Shield went to the victors and their worthy opponents earned the Noble Trophy. Results (10 Regt boxers first):—Bantamweight: L/Cpl S Callaghan beat L/Cpl D Donnison. Featherweight: L/Cpl S Johnson beat Rfn J Arnott. Lightweight: Dvr M Gannon beat Rfn M C Marsh. Light welterweight, 1st string: Cpl R Eldrett lost to Rfn G Harrison;

2nd string: Dvr P J Doyle lost to Rfn J Cheetham. Welterweight, 1st string: L/Col Z Rene beat Rfn M Oswald; 2nd string: Cpl R Dyer beat Rfn N Hurley. Light middleweight: Cpl E Dublin beat Rfn L A Williams. Middleweight: Cpl J Dwyer beat Rfn J H Roberts. Light heavyweight: Dvr R Dawkins lost to Sgt J Matthews. Heavyweight: Dvr V Rollock lost to Rfn H Miles.

The Army tied with the Royal Navy, five bouts each, in their leg of the inter-Services championship. Results:—Flyweight: Rgr J Wilson (R Irish Rgrs) lost to AB P M Jacobs. Bantamweight: L/Cpl N Phillip (4/7 DG) beat AB V Moore. Featherweight: L/Cpl A Metcalf (King's Div Depot) lost to L/Sea V Christopher. Lightweight: L/Cpl R Curran (RE) beat AB C Harris. Light welterweight: Spr B Cherry (RE) lost to AB P Kelly. Welterweight: L/Cpl J Whiting (LI) beat AB W R Green. Light middleweight: L/Cpl J Rudman (LI) lost to Cpl T Gunning. Middleweight: Bdr C Kelly (RA) lost to Mne K Dunn. Light heavyweight: L/Sgt J Kelly (Coldm Gds) beat SA R Greenacre. Heavyweight: L/Cpl G Yetton (REME) beat PO S Wilson.

HOCKEY

The Army under-22 versus Oxfordshire under-22 match was cancelled. Other results: Army 1, Teddington 1; Army under-22 0, Wiltshire under-22 3; Army 0, Maidenhead 1; Army 1, Oxfordshire 1; Army 0, Cambridge University 1; Army 0, Leicestershire 1.

RUGBY

Disappointing scores have marked a trail of defeats for the Army side in recent fixtures. Results: Lost to Cambridge University 9-14, lost to Nottinghamshire 6-40, lost to Headingley 6-24, lost to Bristol 4-10. The UK minor units champions this year are 1 Para Log Regt who beat 9 Indep Para Sqn RE in the final. The UK winners now meet the BAOR finalists.

SQUASH

The Army has emerged clear winners of the inter-Services championship this year, having scored 4-1 victories over both the RAF and Navy. The team has also clocked up some convincing wins in other matches. It beat Escorts 5-0, Camberley 3-2 and London House 4-1. A Combined Services side won all three matches in a tournament against Holland, Escorts and Combined Universities. The new Army champion is Lieut N H Stewart (R Sigs).

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The Airfix design team worked in close co-operation with Hawker Siddeley at Kingston-on-Thames and Harrier's chief designer, Mr J W Fozard, has been quoted as saying: "I know Airfix put proportionally as much expertise and



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There can only be minor, even hair-splitting, criticisms—the rivets are a bit

obtrusive, removability of the hatch and wing assembly to give access to the engine means these parts could work loose with use, and the multiplicity and minuteness of several of the parts with some inevitable distortion involves painstaking work scraping clean seam lines.

The kit comes complete with transfer decals for the Royal Air Force and United States Marine Corps at a mere £4.65. The real thing costs a little more.

Those whose pockets and modelling skills do not stretch to the Harrier can try Airfix's recently released P51D/K Mustang in 1:72 scale (left) and Ho/oo German reconnaissance set (Kubelwagen, SdKfz 222 and three figures) (below) each at 30 pence.

Also at 30 pence—cheap in price but not in quality—comes a French cuirassier of 1815 in the Airfix 54-millimetre Collectors Series. This figure, which can be modelled wielding either a sword or a pistol, is mounted on a rearing chestnut horse. The assembly instructions give

both front and rear views in colour which are of particular help to modellers.

Masters of the French Napoleonic plastic figure, Historex of Paris are now diversifying into 1:35th-scale World War Two German infantry figures in running, standing and kneeling poses. They are obtainable at 65 pence each plus eight pence postage and packing from Armour Accessories at 3 Castle Street, Dover, Kent. Not only do the uniforms have all the creases falling correctly but even reproduce the texture of the material. For those who want even more detail, Armour Accessories also produce accessory packs at 40 pence each including postage. The latest, set no. 4, includes items such as binoculars, packs, a belt of machine-gun rounds, water bottle, bayonet, belt buckles, iron crosses and Wehrmacht and Waffen SS insignia. Such items are not for the poor-sighted. They would need a magnifying glass to see them and a microscope for painting.

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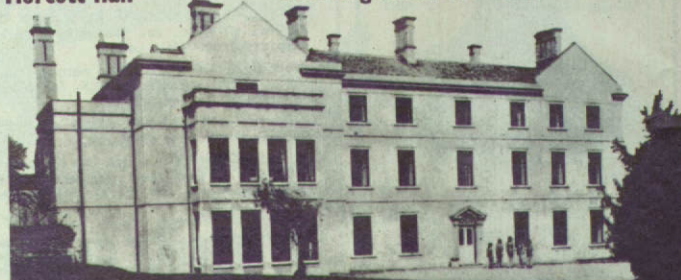
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MUCK OR NETTLES!

ONE of these 81 words does not "belong." It can be found by grouping the other words into pairs linked by "or" as in "in or out." Send your "odd man out" word on a postcard or by letter, with the "Competition 202" label from this page and your name and

address, to:

Editor (Comp 202)
SOLDIER
Ordnance Road
ALDERSHOT
Hants
GU11 2DU.

This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and closing date is Monday, 9 June. The answer and winners' names will appear in the August SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a "Competition 202" label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries.

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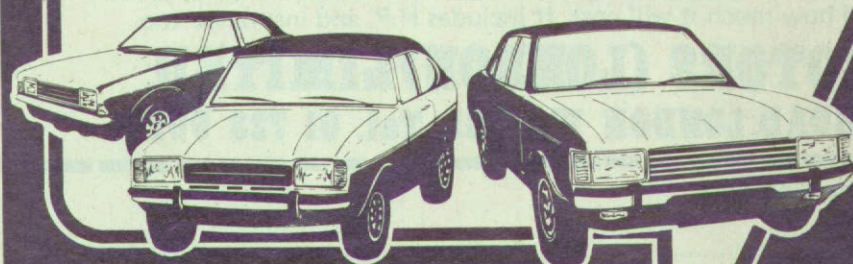
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LETTERS

Interrupted honeymoon

I was on honeymoon in Cyprus when the trouble flared up last July so I was especially interested in your article on the airlift in the October SOLDIER. The Cyprus-based troops did a good job and I would like to congratulate them and thank the signals regiment from Dhekelia which transported us from Famagusta,

the Royal Marines Commandos who received us at the base and the Royal Air Force at Dhekelia and Akrotiri. The co-operation and help given by all ranks showed devotion to their duty.—**Michel Foucart, Chaussée de Mons, 274, B-7800 ATH, Belgium.**

★ Thank you, M Foucart !

Long service medal!

How very refreshing to read in the January SOLDIER of the Northern Ireland awards given to servicemen for gallantry, irrespective of rank. Could this be the beginning of the end of class distinction in military awards?

The Queen's Gallantry Medal is a step in the right direction. Sadly requiring a rethink, however, is the subject of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Although officers of the TAVR and Cadet Force receive a medal for long service, the Regular army officer does not, neither is he awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

Now that we have three awards for bravery, irrespective of rank—Victoria Cross, George Cross and Queen's Gallantry Medal—would it be too much to ask that our servicemen be awarded, irrespective of rank, a medal for long service?—**Capt (Retd) G Purvis, 16 Deepdene, Seaburn, Sunderland.**

Malta tie

My Malta Garrison tie has become worn but the manufacturers will not provide a new weave unless I order a dozen ties. Before I place an order I want to be sure that I can sell them, so could anyone be entitled to the tie—a green Terylene/Crimplene with Maltese crosses in red

circles—let me know if they wish to buy one. The price is £1.22 plus VAT.—**T Toft, Bodkin Cottage, Queen Street, Chedworth, Gloucester.**

Frontiersmen

I was interested to read the plea by Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker (SOLDIER News, Jan) for the setting up of a Home Guard. Such an organisation has existed since 1904 in the Legion of Frontiersmen. In 1940, members over age for military service became members of the LDV on its formation, some as whole units, many becoming commanders and instructors.

Before the outbreak of the World War Two, Legion units had been training on 3.7 AA guns with the TA and helped to man the batteries which defended Liverpool and other cities during the blitz. Legion searchlight units had been in existence since 1920. Much of the credit for the speed with which the Home Guard became effective was due to these ex-servicemen who had kept up their training with the Legion of Frontiersmen between the wars. Today, membership is normally restricted to ex-servicemen and former members of Commonwealth police forces over age for the Reserve forces. It is felt that younger men should be encouraged to join these forces. Legion training is undertaken in



association with the TAVR, police and fire services to fit members to be offered to the Crown in an emergency. By its constitution the Legion can only undertake such service when called upon by the Crown.

Active squadrons are at present situated in London, Bromley, Kingston, Selsey, Harlow, Luton, Northampton, Cambridge, New Forest, Bournemouth, Exmouth, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Norwich, Manchester, Birmingham, Reading, Leeds, Blackburn, Preston and Hindley, with units under formation in Wareham, Southampton and Peterborough.—**Maj G W H Woods LF, Staff Officer (Press Liaison), AMICLE, 6 Belgrave Square, London SW1.**

Dress matters

I am very interested in the modern trend towards regimental distinctions—cap, beret and collar badge backings, coloured scarves and stable belts. I wish to collate information about these items and would be glad to hear from any reader who can help.—**J P Haynes, c/o ARL Design, Queen's Road, Teddington, Middlesex.**

Memories of Medicine Hat

I was very interested in the article (December) on the British Army Training Unit, Suffield, Alberta. It brought back memories of a four-month course in Medicine Hat where I qualified as a pilot in 1941. I think Suffield was a satellite or diversionary airfield, which begs the question in the article of looking for a bigger airfield or enlarging the strip at Suffield. What has happened to the old RAF field which could take large aircraft? Another memory of Medicine Hat is being rescued from a gloomy forces rest room by a Captain White of the South Alberta Regiment who, if I remember correctly, lived in South Street. This gentleman took me into his home and made me welcome, and if anyone serving there knows Captain White or his family I would like them to pass on my thanks to him and his family for their kindness all those years ago. It was typical of the generosity of the Medicine Hat population. It seems a bit of a dream now. We had to wait until the Bismarck got the chop before we could sail unescorted in a beat-

up old armed merchant cruiser. One last memory is of the top pupil of our course, Ken Farnes, the Essex and England fast bowler. Alas he was killed in a flying accident a week or two after returning to England. He was a grand chap.—**J D Wallis, 10 Longmoor Crescent, Woolston, Southampton, SO2 9FY.**

Scottish society

The Scottish Military Collectors Society exists to encourage the study of military history in all its forms. Although special attention is paid to Scottish and their affiliated regiments, the term military in the title embraces all units of every nation. Interest is shown by the collecting of militaria.

The annual subscription is £2.00 for UK members and £2.35 for overseas members. A quarterly magazine, Dispatch, which contains articles, reviews and readers' letters, is sent to members. Anyone interested should write to me for details.—**J B McKay, 17/14 St Andrews Crescent, Glasgow, G41 5SH.**

Not quite right

Who advises producers on military matters? For example, in an episode of television's "Upstairs Downstairs," a court-martial scene showed an officer wearing four medals which were not in their correct order and in the film "Oh, What a Lovely War" the band of the Irish Guards wore plain tunics. At that period they would have been braided.—**R J C Darley, 39 College Court, Hayle Road, Maidstone, Kent.**

★ Sometimes the TV/film companies use "military advisers" eg Maj P R Reid in the TV "Colditz" series, but even then are liable to depart from their experts' advice. In a World War One episode of "Upstairs Downstairs," we are told, there was a reference



NEW UNIFORM STAMPS

The Turks and Caicos Islands have issued a series of stamps depicting uniforms. The 5c shows a Spanish captain circa 1492 and other values and designs are: 20c—officer, Royal Artillery 1783; 25c—officer 67th Foot 1798; 35c—private 1st West India Regiment 1833.

QUEEN'S GALLANTRY MEDAL

The new Queen's Gallantry Medal, awarded for exemplary acts of bravery, replaces the award of the Order of the British Empire for gallantry. It will rank after the George Cross and the George Medal and before the Queen's Commendation.

Existing holders of the OBE for gallantry are not affected by the institution of the new medal, which is of silver and in circular form. It has on the obverse a crowned effigy of the sovereign and on the reverse a design of laurel leaves with the words "THE QUEEN'S GALLANTRY MEDAL" surmounted by

the crown. The ribbon is dark blue with a central vertical stripe of pearl grey bearing a narrow stripe of rose pink at the centre. The medal can be awarded to members of the British and Commonwealth Services irrespective of rank. It is however intended primarily for civilians and awards to Service personnel will be confined to action for which purely military honours are not granted.

A holder of The Queen's Gallantry Medal performing a further deed worthy of similar recognition could be awarded a bar to the medal.

LETTERS

more

to having seen something in **SOLDIER**—which did not start until World War Two. In the film "Khartoum" the story departed from history in depicting a meeting between Gordon and the Mahdi—which never took place. In "Zulu" there were anachronisms of a pistol and badge. Although a number of TV viewers and filmgoers find these errors irritating, it could reasonably be said that in the case of "Zulu," for example, they do not detract to any great extent from one's enjoyment of a good film. But of course there is no apparent reason

why TV/film companies should not get things right—there are plenty of sources where details can be checked.

Parkhurst parade

Older readers will probably know that many regiments carried out tours of duty at Albany Barracks, Parkhurst, Isle of Wight. I wonder how many realise that the present Parkhurst prison is built on the site of the old barracks and that the sports field area now contains prison quarters. The roads leading to the quarters are named after some of the regiments which served there ie Argyll Road, Buckingham Crescent, Cameron Close, Hampshire Crescent, Northumberland Road, Ulster Crescent and Wor-

cester Road.—**T Parrott, Robin Hood Street, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 2AW.**

Indian badges

Mr V J T Sharpe asked (Letters, February) why the 69th Punjabis Regiment has a Phoenician-type war galley on its badge. The regiment was granted the badge of the galley with the words "Khushi Wa Tari" by The East India Company to mark its willingness to serve overseas in the Burma War of 1824. Many Indian regiments were unable for reasons of caste to cross the sea.—**F White, 20 Melbury Road, Knowle, Bristol 4.**

I do not think there is any specific reason for the use of four crossed lances by the 2nd Lancers. This badge was worn by them in 1913. When they amalgamated with the 4th Cavalry in 1922 to form the 2nd Lancers they retained the lances to which was added a lion granted to the 4th Cavalry when it was the 6th Bengal Irregular Cavalry. This lion was a reward for efforts in Scinde and on the Baluch frontier.

Two works containing references to Indian Army badges are "Indian Uniforms" Vol I (Cavalry) and Vol 2 (Infantry etc) by W Y Carman and "India's Army" by Major Donovan Jackson. The latter book illustrates badges worn at the outbreak of World War Two by small sketches at the beginning of each regimental potted history.—**Brian D N Stevens, 20 Priory Avenue, Tollerton, Nottingham, NG12 4EE.**

TIGERS DISBAND

Tiger Company, 4th Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, is to be disbanded in July of this year. The 100 or so members of the unit will be posted elsewhere and it is expected that most will opt for battalions of the same regiment. The decision to disband has been taken in order to improve the strengths of battalions in The Queen's Division. Tiger Company was formed in 1970 when it was decided to retain at company or equivalent strength five major units which were due to be disbanded. Tiger Company represented 4th Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, which was, in turn, formed from The Royal Leicestershire Regiment. The company took its feline title from the Leicesters' cap badge. Since its formation, Tiger Company has served in Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Gibraltar and is at present a demonstration unit at Sandhurst—a role it held just before Mons Officer Training School amalgamated with the Royal Military Academy.

COMPETITION

December's competition (198—Variety is the spice...) was not quite perhaps as simple as it seemed at first sight, since every tree had to be checked to find the differences. There were eight trees in the predominant group, located at E1 A2 E3 J3 B4 C5 H5 and E6. Then came three groups each of seven trees, at F1 B2 H2 D3

MEDALS AND MODELS

Medals and decorations awarded to the Coldstream Guards are now on loan to the National Army Museum. A selection is on show in the uniform gallery. Medals for valour, long service, campaigns and in commemoration are on show as well as regimental insignia ranging from the middle of the 17th century to World War Two. These medals have never before been seen by the public and, although only part of the regimental collection, they illustrate clearly the long and remarkable history of the regiment. Also on show in the entrance hall of the museum is part of its collection of model soldiers.

Model warriors have been made from many different materials for use as votive gifts to the gods, for decoration, as toys and for military instruction. The history of model soldiers can be traced back to ancient Egypt but it was not until the 18th century that they were mass-produced. From then on the flat, half-round, solid- and hollow-cast figures began to make their appearance. Examples of all these types of model soldier are in the collection which also includes a representative display of William Britain's early hollow-cast figures and modern examples of slate, metal and rubber moulds for casting figures.

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Prizewinners:

- 1 Mrs Sheila Nulty, 54 Thornleigh Avenue, Eastham, Warral, Merseyside, L62 9BB.
- 2 Mark Brown, c/o WO2 M J Brown RAPC, 12 Lidbury Road, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London, NW7 1PX.
- 3 Pte Homer, 3 Pl, A Coy, 1 Glosters, BFPO 29.
- 4 WO2 D M Page, RAPC Trg Centre, Worthy Down, Winchester, Hants.
- 5 Cfn Lyons, LAD REME, 2 Queens, BFPO 106.
- 6 K Richards, 11 Westwood Drive, The Mount, Shrewsbury, Salop, SY3 8YB.
- 7 Fiona McConnell, Northern Ireland.
- 8 D B Hobson, 48 Brighton Road, Godalming, Surrey.
- 9 S/Sgt J Preston, 13 Sig Regt, BFPO 40.
- 10 R G Coase, Carnethic, Prestwich Park Road South, Prestwich, Manchester, M25 8PF.
- 11 S/Sgt D Morris, LAD REME, 1 Kings Own Border, BFPO 29.
- 12 Mrs D J Helson, AMTC, Silberhutte (Harz), BFPO 27.
- 13 Spr R M Bennett, 23 Engr Regt, MT Tp, 16 Fd Sqn, BFPO 36.
- 14 Mrs R Todd, 10 Empire House, Weir Hall Avenue, London, N18 1EA.
- 15 M Gahan, 157 Crescent Road, Manchester, M8 6UE.

REUNIONS

Royal Scots Dragoon Guards Association (Carabinieri & Greys). Annual dinner, Victory Club, Marble Arch, 3 May. Tickets from P O'Rourke, 17, Elm Grove South, Barnham, Sussex, PO22 0EJ.

Royal Military Police Association. Reunion dinner RMP Training Centre, Roussillon Barracks, Chichester, Sussex, 17 May. Limited male accommodation available. Details from Secretary RHQ/RMP, Roussillon Barracks, Chichester.

XVIII The Royal Irish Regiment and South Irish Horse Old Comrades Association. Annual reunion dinner, Irish Club, 83 Eaton Square, London, 7 June. Details from P J Boyce, 13 Sticklepath Terrace, Barnstaple, North Devon, EX31 2AY.

The Royal Hussars. Sixth annual reunion dinner, Barkers Penthouse Restaurant, Kensington, 3 May. Wives and family friends welcome. Tickets from Home HQ, The Royal Hussars (PWO), Lower Barracks, Winchester, Hants.

The Middlesex Regiment. Service of remembrance, St Paul's Cathedral, 2.30 pm, 17 May. Annual reunion Porchester Hall, Queensway, London, 7 pm, 17 May. Details from Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association, TAVR Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.

15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars Regimental Association. Annual reunion dinner, Civic Centre, Barras Bridge, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 17 May. Details from Secretary, Home HQ, 15/19 H, Fenham Barracks, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE2 4NP.



COLLECTORS' CORNER

Abdul Hanan c/o M H Geoffrey & Co, PO Box 27, Sialkot, Pakistan. Wishes exchange stamps. Will sell for £15 300 different metal cap and collar badges, British, Territorial and Pakistani.

J K Dymond, 28a Manor Park Road, London, N2 0SJ.—Wishes purchase 1892 pattern cavalry sword. Seeks photos badges etc RMP especially mounted or motorcyclists and similar of British civil police with information on variations in uniform between different forces.

Maj A F Jackman, Lansdown Grove Hotel, Bath.—Seeks programmes Aldershot Tattoo 1919-21, pre-1914; Tidworth Tattoo 1923, 1928, 1930; Northern Command Tattoo 1930-34, 1938. Also seeks illustrated souvenirs Aldershot Tattoo before 1927 plus 1928, 1932, 1939 (copies souvenirs 1931 and 1934 available in exchange). Also seeks Northern Command tattoo illustrated souvenirs 1930, 1931, 1935, 1936, 1938; Aldershot Tattoo postcards before 1929; Tidworth Tattoo postcards before 1930 also 1931 and 1932; Northern Command Tattoo postcards 1930-38.

D A J Lister, 11 Oakfield Avenue, Gilstead, Bingley, West Yorkshire.—Wishes purchase all Zulu campaign medals, especially 24th Foot, officers and OR; Indian Mutiny officers 1st Madras Fusiliers, books and medal rolls of above. Will

purchase or exchange spare medals. Peter Evans, Flat 1, 190 Ulster Street, Hamilton, New Zealand.—Has New Zealand Army cap badges, anodised buttons, shoulder flashes to exchange for current and old county regiment cap and collar badges, flashes, shoulder titles and divisional signs.

John Kiernan, 26 Irving Grove, Corby, Northants.—Wishes purchase books and illustrated magazines on American, Australian and New Zealand participation in Vietnam war.

N Hall, 2 Welch Road, Southsea, Hants.—Seeks parachute insignia, of the world and British officers uniforms 1880 to 1914. Wishes exchange or sell similar items, reference books, badges and titles. R D Walsh, 21 Boardman Road, Kippa-Ring, Queensland, Australia 4020.—Making collection Indian Army 1858-1947. Would like to correspond with others same interest.

B A Eggleton, 21 Thackeray Close, Hillingdon, Middlesex.—Wishes exchange book "Army Badges and Insignia of World War Two" (Guido Rosignoli) for cap badge 9th or 16/5th Lancers, KC.

Col G L D Duckworth, HQ 2 Div, BFPO 52.—Wishes purchase china models British WWI tanks, 4-6 inches long.

Sgt R B Adams, 1872, Western Parkway, Vancouver 8, British Columbia, Canada.—Seeks Seaforth Highlander regimental dirk.

CH Dewhurst, Strathallan School, Freeland House, Forgandenny, Perth, Scotland.—Wishes purchase American military and German officers cap badges. Has British steel helmet to exchange for five British regimental badges.

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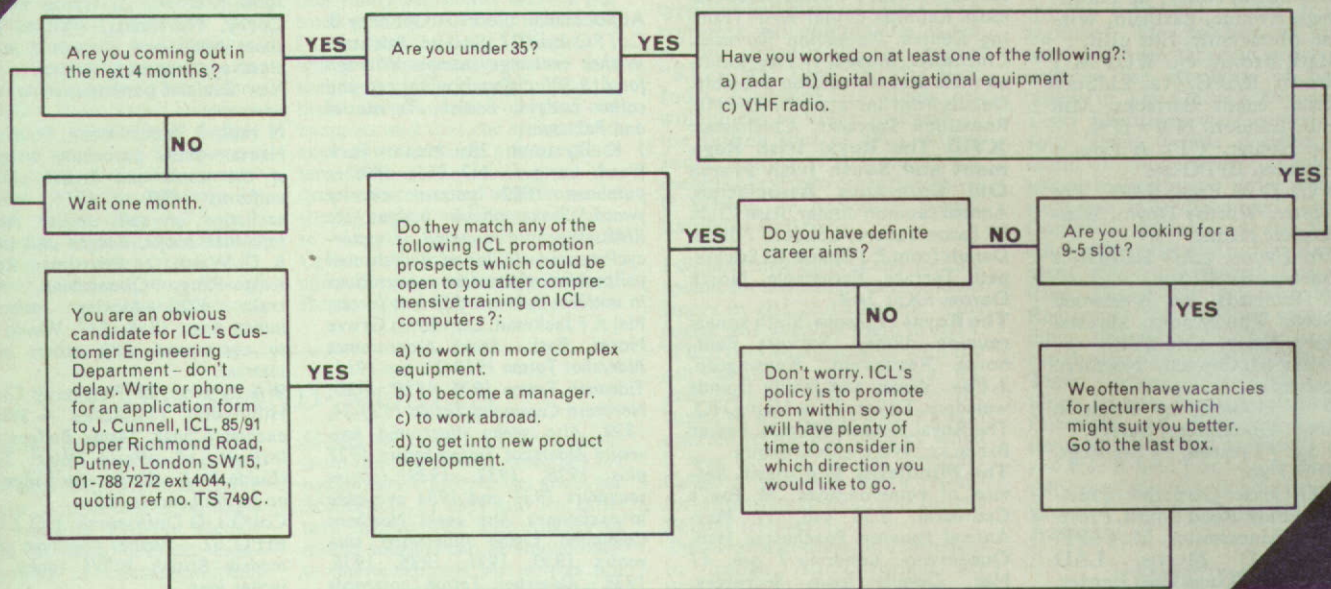
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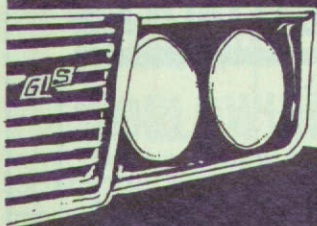


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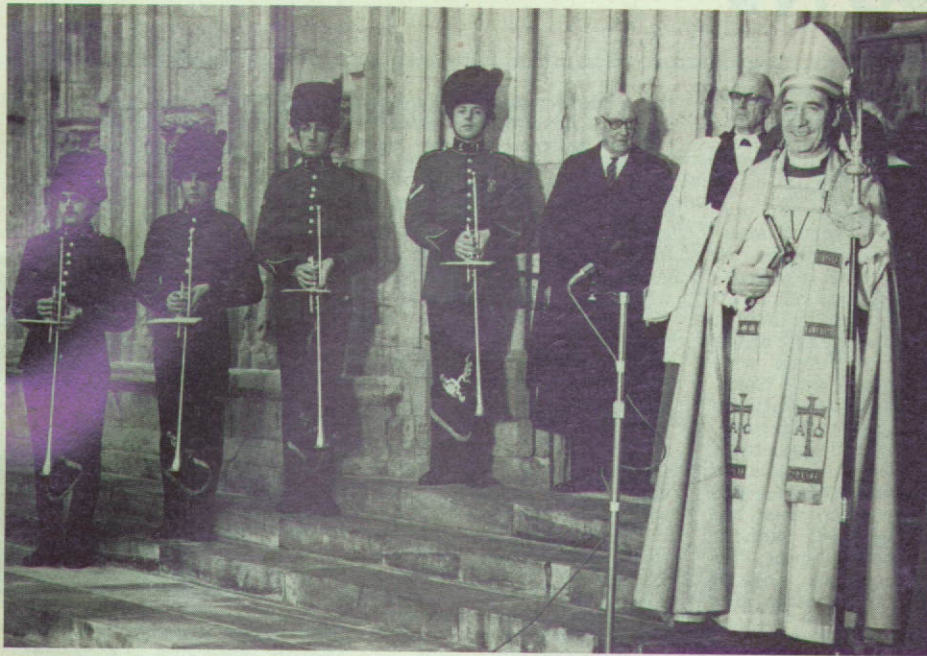
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Left, right and centre



Ten trumpeters from the Royal Corps of Signals, Blandford, Dorset, played a fanfare to mark the enthronement of the new Archbishop of York in York Minster. Some 35 other Army personnel from

Headquarters North East District, Depot The King's Division, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, 41 Command Workshop and the York Regimental Pay Office acted as ushers during the ceremonies.



Two 15-ton boilers formed an unusual "lift" for the Terriers of 240 (Tank Transporter) Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport (Volunteers), as part of a driver training exercise. The boilers were moved for the Kew Bridge Engines Trust

which plans to restore five early 19th century beam engines for public display. The two tank transporters had to make a 50-mile trip from Reading via the M4 motorway to the boilers' new home at Kew Bridge pumping station.

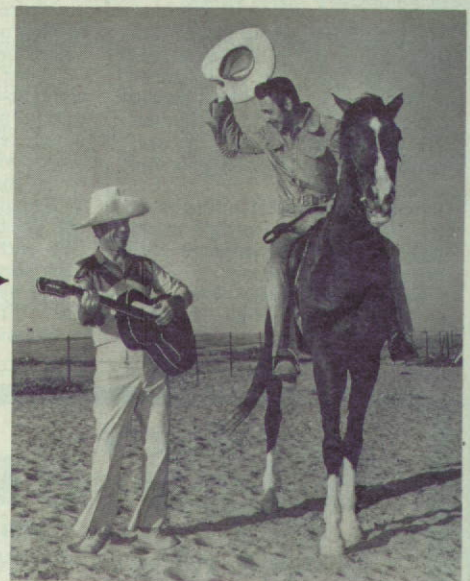


Shades of World War Two ENSA days ► came to Masirah and Salala in Arabia when a group of eight serving entertainers and a teacher turned up to put on a show for the Army and RAF personnel there. The Dhekalia Road Show, as it is called, was the brain child of Warrant Officer 2 Doug Wake, Royal Engineers, and his wife Joan, who originally planned the show for the sovereign bases on Cyprus to fill the gaps between CSE shows.

► The Commander British Forces, Lieutenant-General Sir Edwin Bramall, opened the Pilgrims Rest families club to complete the trio of such clubs serving Hong Kong's large quartering complexes. The clubs evoke the atmosphere of British pubs, but there are also a restaurant and take-away food counter for English and Chinese food. The Pilgrims Rest serves some 240 families. The first such club was the Kent Club, converted from two flats in a block of 133 hirings, and this was followed by the Osborn Arms, serving some 300 families.

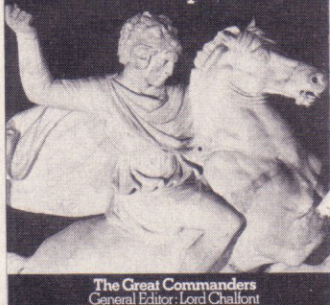


Prince Charles, who has just succeeded his father as Colonel of the Welsh Guards, presented the St David's Day leeks to the regiment this year. The traditional annual ceremony was accompanied by a drum-head service and parade.



Alexander the Great

Frank Lipsius



The Great Commanders
General Editor: Lord Chalfont

Still the Great

Alexander the Great (Frank Lipsius)

Alexander was a native of Macedonia, that mountainous region north of Greece inhabited by a tough, warlike shepherd race. His father, King Philip, fused it into a nation and humiliated the softer peoples in Thebes and Athens. It was the destiny of Alexander to continue his father's ambitions.

He had the qualities necessary for success. He was ruthless, imaginative (he adapted the traditional phalanx formation into a more effective wedge technique and devised a whole range of siege weapons, catapults, towers and battering rams), an excellent organiser (feeding and supplying troops 11,250 miles from his base) and above all he was lucky.

His defects were on the same enormous scale—he was superstitious, drank too much, was a creature of impulse and copied the worst features of orientalists. Why then, 2000 years after his death, should he still be "the Great"? The answer is obvious. Alexander led a small army from the Adriatic to the Indian Ocean and from the river Oxus to the Nile. He won tremendous battles at Granicus, Issus and Gaugamela and did much to break the age-old barriers between Asians and Europeans.

Another excellent addition to the "Great Commander" series, well-written and furnished with lots of fine illustrations.

Weidenfeld & Nicholson Ltd, 11 St John's Hill, London, SW11 1XA, £2.95 AWH

Books

Ladysmith

"Thank God We Kept the Flag Flying" (Kenneth Griffith)

The discovery of gold and diamonds in South Africa automatically meant war with the two small Boer republics of Transvaal and Orange Free State. To the astonishment of the British and the delight of the rest of the world the Boers moved with amazing speed to invade Natal. If they could take Ladysmith the way would be open to Durban.

The little, hot and dusty town in a natural saucer surrounded by hills was defended by Sir George White and some 12,000 men, but the Boers were not without advantages—superior guns, like the famous Long Toms, hosts of spies, superb marksmanship, inti-

mate knowledge of the terrain and very clever commanders.

The besieged British were determined "to keep the flag flying" even though the beer ration was cut, horses had to be eaten and enteric and typhoid fever were rife. Spirits were generally high; all they had to do was to hang on till Buller and Warren brought up the relief force. Despite the muddle, confusion and stupidity, the sheer courage and endurance of the ordinary British soldier enabled a breakthrough.

This is a first work by Kenneth Griffith, the film and television actor. It is a pity he indulges in so many personal asides—a crisper style would have made this a really effective study.

Hutchinson, 3 Fitzroy Square, London W1, £5.95 AWH

Thank God we Kept the Flag Flying

The Siege and Relief of Ladysmith 1899-1900

Kenneth Griffith



Against Israel

"Arab Guerilla Power 1967-1972" (Edgar O'Ballance)

"The Electronic War in the Middle East 1968-70" (Edgar O'Ballance)

Initially the Fedayeen aimed at guerrilla warfare inside Israeli-occupied territory on Algerian or Viet Cong lines. When this failed, the objectives became blurred and diverse. The Fedayeen caused unrest within Arab boundaries and Jordan and Lebanon resorted to force to control them. But the various factions still plan an independent Palestine and the destruction of Israel. Some are aiming at respectability and have even carried out purges of their own ranks. Others remain as intransigent as ever.

Major O'Ballance presents a thought-provoking and illuminating portrait of a movement which still has the power to wreck Middle East peace.

In his second book, Major O'Ballance traces the course of the electronic build-up which is now part and parcel of the Middle East scene.

We see an Israeli air force in the third Arab-Israeli war so outclassing the Egyptians that it

The Electronic War in the Middle East 1968-70



EDGAR O'BALLANCE

effectively ruled Egypt's air space. President Nasser sent off urgent appeals and Moscow, seeing total Arab defeat looming, provided SAM-2 guided missiles. The Americans responded by equipping Israel with electronic counter-measures (ECM) contained in pods attached to their Phantom aircraft.

Then began the game of electronic leapfrog with the equipment supplied to each side getting more and more sophisticated to counter developments on the other side.

Faber & Faber Ltd, 3 Queen Square, London WC1, (1) £4.50 (2) £3.30 JCW

Inspiration

"The Boxer Rebellion" (Richard O'Connor)

To most of us the Boxer Rebellion is a dimly recalled event in which a handful of stiff-upper-lipped soldiers and civilians of various nations held off screaming crowds of Chinese fanatics when the legation quarter of Peking was besieged for 55 days in 1900. Relief forces were sent and Western honour was restored.

In Chairman Mao's opinion, Mr O'Connor tells us, the event inspired a generation of youthful revolutionaries including himself. And Chairman Mao has pointed out that certain aspects of the recent Cultural Revolution are traceable to the Boxer Rebellion.

In this thought-provoking and compelling examination of the rebellion, Mr O'Connor looks at it from both sides of the barricades and shows how a mere "incident" in Western colonial history still casts its shadow over current events. Recommended reading for all students of modern China.

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Tanks and vehicles

"The Observer's Army Vehicles Directory" (Bart H Vanderveen)
 "Tanks and Transport Vehicles World War 2" (Edited by Bart H Vanderveen)

"The Funnies" (Geoffrey W Futter)

Taking his story up to 1940, Mr Vanderveen completes a unique three-part reference work on Army vehicles. This product of 30 years' research takes the reader on many a history-shrouded back-road, spanning the years from the time the military authorities saw the possibilities of motor transport to the year the world was plunged into its second global conflict.

Well over 1200 vehicles are illustrated with the emphasis on cars, field cars, trucks and artillery tractors, although motorcycles, fire engines, half-tracks, carriers, buses and armoured cars get a fair showing.

There are some delightfully off-beat vehicles, including the five-seater Delauney-Belleville, a huge brass-headlamped, search-light-equipped monster built in France for Tsar Nicholas of Russia. Other cars of note were the Mercedes-Benz 504K owned by Goering, and the G4/W31 six-wheeler favoured by Hitler and other Nazi leaders.

"Tanks and Transport Vehicles World War 2" is a colourful extension to the first two of Mr Vanderveen's "Obser-

ver" books, presenting a pictorial survey of a random selection of armoured and "soft-skin" vehicles featured in them. This is a lightweight production but has the merit of showing the various vehicles in action settings. The star turn is the Sherman, first seen in action at El Alamein in 1942 and still going strong in the Yom Kippur war 30 years later.

"The Funnies" refers to the fabled 79th Armoured Division with which Major-General Sir Percy Hobart wrote a great page in military history. One of Britain's greatest armoured warfare experts, he was hauled out of retirement to command the 11th Armoured Division, then to form the 79th, a division of specialist armour, and command it from 1942 to disbandment in 1945.

Flail minesweeping tanks, swimming tanks, flamethrower tanks, bridging tanks and other innovations were in the vanguard of the invasion of Europe, making a unique and incalculable—Monty's description—contribution to the success of the campaign in North-West Europe.

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2 Frederick Warne & Co Ltd, £3.75

3 Model & Allied Publications Ltd, PO Box 35, 35 Bridge Street, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP1 1EE, £2.75

JCW



Double agent

"Spy/Counterspy" (Dusko Popov)

The author, a wealthy Yugoslav-born playboy, was recruited by the Nazis as a spy—and promptly told the British, who took him on. Thus began one of the most remarkable espionage careers in history. He appeared to spy brilliantly for the Germans, satisfying their needs, but he also tipped us off that Operation Sealion—the invasion of Britain—had been cancelled.

Perhaps his greatest coup was the warning (albeit unheeded) he gave America of the Japanese plan to attack Pearl Harbour. The Germans had asked him to find out all he could about the harbour and a fellow spy told him the Japs were interested in the British success at Taranto. Drawing his own conclusions, Popov warned J Edgar Hoover, head of the FBI—and blames Hoover, whom he considered a paranoiac, for not passing it on.

In a fantastic career rivalling anything Ian Fleming ever dreamed up for 007, Popov organised spy rings in London, New York, Lisbon and Rio, as well as bringing in loads of vital information for British intelligence—all while appearing to be in German pay. This is one for the connoisseurs.

Weidenfeld & Nicolson Ltd, 11 St John's Hill, London, SW11 1XA, £3.75

JCW

New title

"RUSI and Brassey's Defence Year Book"

Brassey's Annual makes its 85th appearance under a new title but continues to make an authoritative contribution to the study of strategy, international relationships and related subjects. A new section devoted to weapon systems offers all the data essential to an in-depth study of current strategic problems.

Perhaps most valuable in the current context are the chapters on the continuing crisis in South East Asia, by Mr Michael L Walker, Director of the Institute of International Studies, University of South Carolina, and the fourth Arab-Israeli war of 6-24 October 1973, by Air Vice-Marshall Stewart Menaul.

Mr Walker declares the South East Asia Treaty Organisation to be a dead pact and paints a gloomy picture of the dangers confronting the area. He agrees it is a gloomy prospect for countries which lack even the necessary police forces to prevent arms smuggling and elementary local dissidence.

Air Vice-Marshall Menaul gives by far the best briefing on the 1973 Arab-Israeli war this reviewer has yet seen and discusses with keen perception the lessons of that war which should not be lost on the West.

Other topics include China's strategy in a changing world, the economics of a changing French strategy, Soviet-American relations, the strategic aspects of the energy crisis, US-Soviet balance in the Mediterranean, the defence of France and Western Europe, Soviet-Western arms talks, and the confrontation of the superpowers at sea.

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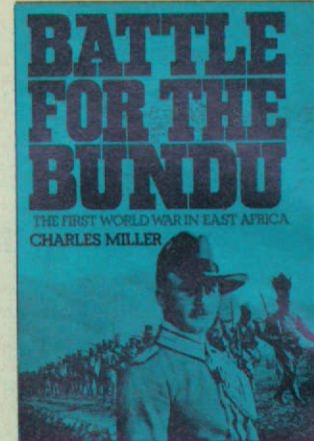
Books

Undefeated

"Battle for the Bundu: The First World War in East Africa" (Charles Miller)

Of all the field commanders of World War One there is none more worthy of admiration and respect than Colonel Paul van Lettow-Vorbeck. When the war broke out, he was commanding the Schutztruppe—a handful of askaris with white officers—in German East Africa. The colony was cut off by sea and surrounded by hostile territory.

Yet throughout the war, Von Lettow remained a force to be reckoned with. A strike here, another strike miles away, always avoiding the pitched battle which could prove his undoing. Half a dozen British generals tried to defeat him and all failed. Von Lettow did not formally surrender until 25 November 1918, a whole fortnight after the rest of Germany's armed forces had



ceased fire. In an odyssey which took him far to the south, into Portuguese East Africa, Von Lettow—he was not without luck—was never defeated and all the while he pinned down some 250,000 allied troops who could have been used in other theatres to better advantage.

Always readable, meticulous in his research, Mr Miller presents a splendid account of a campaign which is too often forgotten, the last of the "gentleman's wars."

Macdonald & Jane's Publishers, St Giles House, 49-50 Poland Street, London, W1A 2LG, £3.95 JCW

In Brief

"1: "United States Infantry, Europe, 1942-45" (Howard P Davies)

"2: "British Parachute Forces, 1940-45" (Howard P Davies)

"3: "British Eighth Army, North Africa, 1940-43" (Robin Adair)

"4: "Luftwaffe Air Crews, Battle of Britain, 1940" (Brian L Davies)

This new "Key Uniform Guides" series will be popular with military-minded people of all ages. Its editor is Brian L Davies, author of "German Army Uniforms and Insignia 1945," which proved to be a best seller. The guides are filled with information on the historical background to the exploits of the troops concerned and orders of battle. The types of uniforms and special accoutrements of the forces concerned are ably described in these 32-page booklets.

Arms & Armour Press, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London, NW3 1PR, each 95p (UK)

"Nurse at the Russian Front: A Diary 1914-18" (Florence Farmborough)

This is a book, and a long one, about disaster. Russia in World War One was as chaotic as one has been led to believe and Miss Farmborough, at the war's outbreak a nanny to the wealthy, determined to be a front-line nurse with the poor Russian infants.

Now 86, her thoughts and observations, and her photographs, have been turned into a book. It is a harrowing tale, of suffering and defeats and of one woman's efforts to do what she felt someone had to do. If you like books in diary form you will not be put off, but do take a week off to read it and a week to recover. It was

not for this reviewer . . . but it takes all sorts, as Miss Farmborough proved superbly. Constable & Co Ltd, 10 Orange Street, London, WC2H 7EG, £3.95.

Airfix Magazine Guide 4: Napoleonic Wargaming (Edited by Bruce Quarrie)

The Napoleonic wars are easily the best for wargamers, because they are the most fully documented in history and had the colourful figures capable of inspiring men—Ney, Murat, Picton, Moore and all the others.

In terms of wargaming attack and defence factors, Napoleon rates highest with 6 and 5 respectively. Wellesley rates 4/6 and Moore 4/5. As one might expect in a dashing cavalryman, Murat rates 5 for attack and only 3 in defence. Like many wargaming authors, Mr Quarrie aims to answer for others some of the questions which puzzled him at the outset. He thus produces an admirable introduction for all prospective wargamers.

Patrick Stephens Ltd, 9 Ely Place, London, EC1N 6SQ, £1.20

"The Observer's Book of British Awards and Medals" (Edward C Joslin)

This modestly priced book is aimed at the student collector and gives him a wealth of information in its 118 pages. It contains details of the orders of knighthood, gallantry and meritorious service medals and campaign medals. There are plenty of illustrations and the six coloured plates showing 131 medal ribbons ranging from the Order of the Garter to the Champion Shot RAF alone make this pocket compendium well worth the money.

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Across the World...

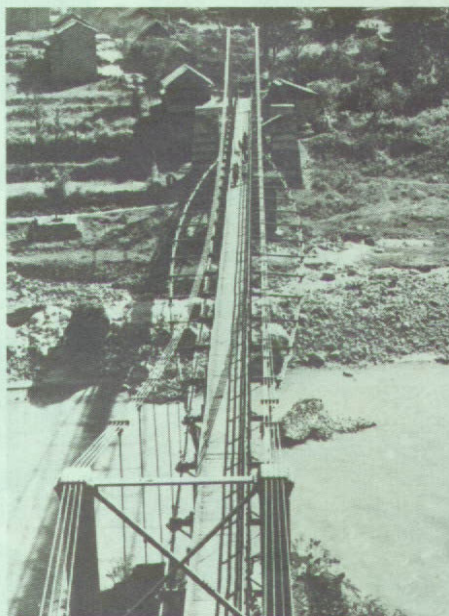


Above: Peter Waddington and his guide, Tsering Bahadur Gurung, in West Nepal.

Right: Bridge over Buri Gan Daki river at Arughat Bazar, also in West Nepal.

Below: On the way to Arughat Bazar the traveller spotted a stone split in two.

Bottom: A stay at this Himalayan hotel gave a chance to air the tent (right).



GURKHA Lance-Corporal Khumbahadur Thapa said it was impossible when the young British soldier he had befriended promised over a drink in Singapore that he would visit him in Nepal in nearly a decade's time.

But the now-demobbed Gurkha underestimated the determination of Peter Waddington who avowed "I don't like that word 'impossible'!" and fulfilled the pledge he made in 1966 by turning up in 1974 on the ex-Gurkha's doorstep in the remote Nepalese village of Dumripokhara.

Lance-Corporal Peter Waddington, now aged 27, was in 10 Port Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, in Borneo when he made friends with a number of the Gurkhas he came in contact with during his working days.

He came back to the United Kingdom from the Far East, but never forgot the promise he had made and started saving money for a trip to Nepal. "I saved about half of it," he recalled, "then I went and spent it all." Peter transferred to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and when he had managed to get together the £1000 he needed for his adventure, he took leave from 1 Combat Supplies Battalion in Rhine Army to cross the world and keep his promise.

He flew to Delhi and then went on to Calcutta and Darjeeling. After returning to Calcutta he set out for Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. A tiring bus and walking journey took him to the village where his friend now lives. "There were fun and games then," said Peter. "I had let him know I was coming but he didn't know the dates."

Apart from being an honoured guest, the visitor found he had arrived at the time of Dashera, the Gurkha celebration to mark the end of the monsoon. After a six-day stay with friends old and new, the now-nicknamed Peter Bahadur Gurung was an established "honorary" Gurkha and he set off on his travels again to meet more ex-soldiers who had served in the British Army.

He travelled some 300 miles between October and December, visiting Gurkha villages, sightseeing and looking at the British Gurkha farm project (a resettlement scheme for ex-Gurkhas at Lumle) and the Gurkha depot at Dharan Bazar where he met another old friend, Corporal Naren Rai, whom he had now met in five countries—India, Malaya, Singapore, the United Kingdom and now Nepal.

Guides and porters helped Peter Bahadur Gurung on his way around the Himalayan kingdom, a relatively small country some 500 miles long and 60 to

...to Keep a Promise

70 miles deep lying in a strip beneath the mightiest mountain peaks in the world. The traveller spoke very little of the language but found everyone friendly. "A lot wouldn't believe that a lance-corporal in the British Army could possibly turn up there."

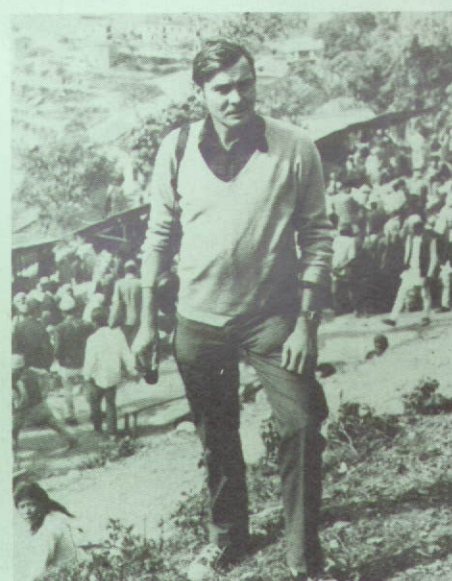
Now it's back to work and a new posting in Devizes, Wiltshire, with 10 Ordnance Support Battalion. But life seems a little dreary at the moment for Lance-Corporal Waddington after his adventure of a lifetime. He had never done anything like this before and, although he is an experienced walker, he had never previously marched for such distances. Every bend in the track brought a new surprise and every village a new set of friends. "I had a book with me to read to stave off loneliness," he said, "but I read just half a chapter in the whole two months."

Peter hopes it will be less than ten years before his next visit to Nepal. He has even considered settling among the hill folk who have become his firm friends. But this, he feels, is somewhat impractical: "In the villages, life is very hard indeed and in Kathmandu it's too expensive."

For the time being he must stay plain Lance-Corporal Peter Waddington. But he dreams of the day when Peter Bahadur Gurung can once more tread the hill-sides of Nepal and celebrate Dashera with the cheerful farming folk who have provided the British Army with some of its finest soldiers. ●



Above: The sunshine blazes through the clear air on a street in Arughat Bazar.



Left: The visitor poses against an east Nepal market background during his trek.

Below (see back cover): The bustle of Okhaldhunga market in Eastern Nepal.



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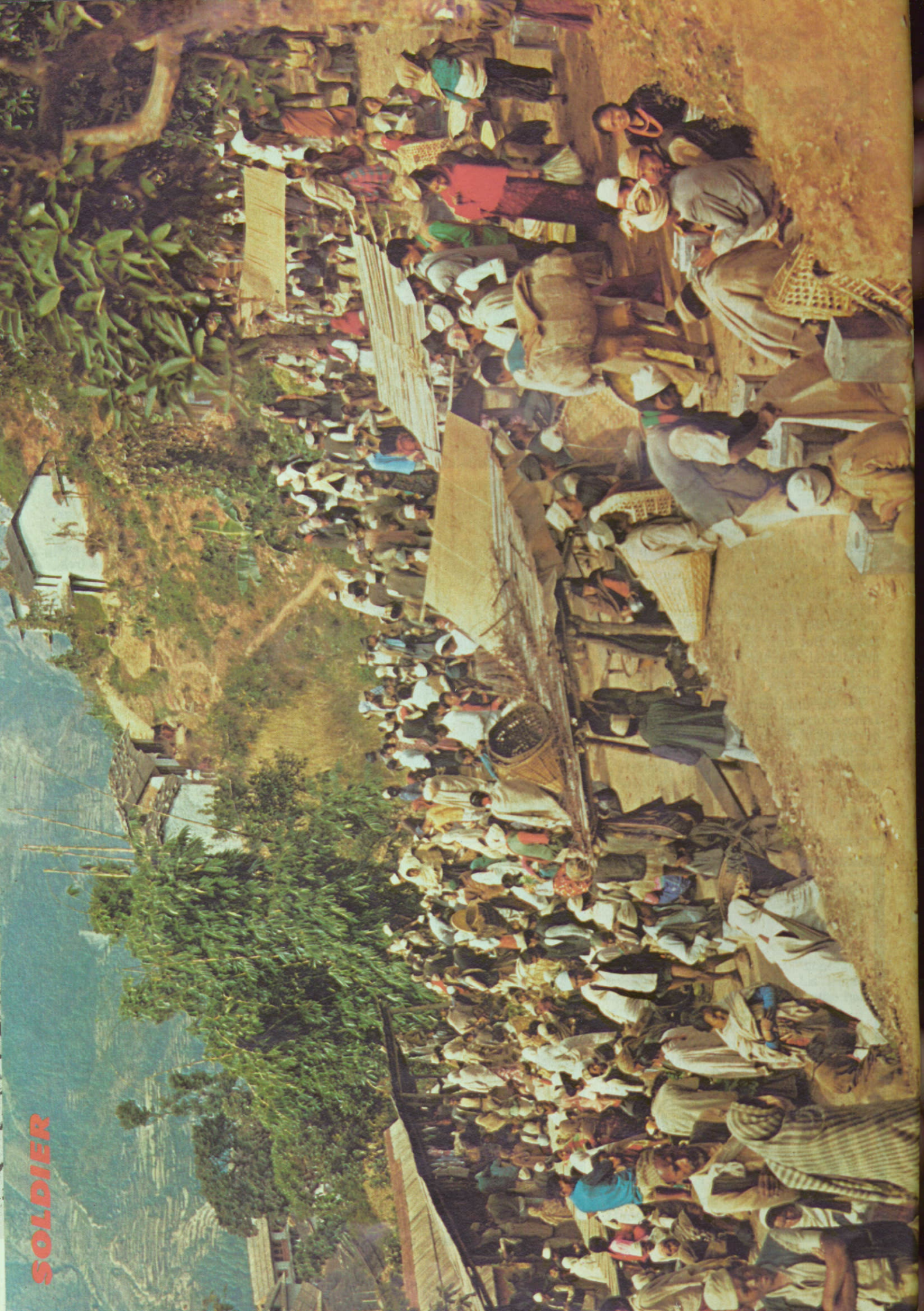
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