

March

1978

20p

Soldier

A close-up photograph of a man in a military uniform, wearing a dark blue cap and large headphones. He is aiming a rifle with a scope, looking intently through the lens. The background is blurred, showing some foliage and a building.

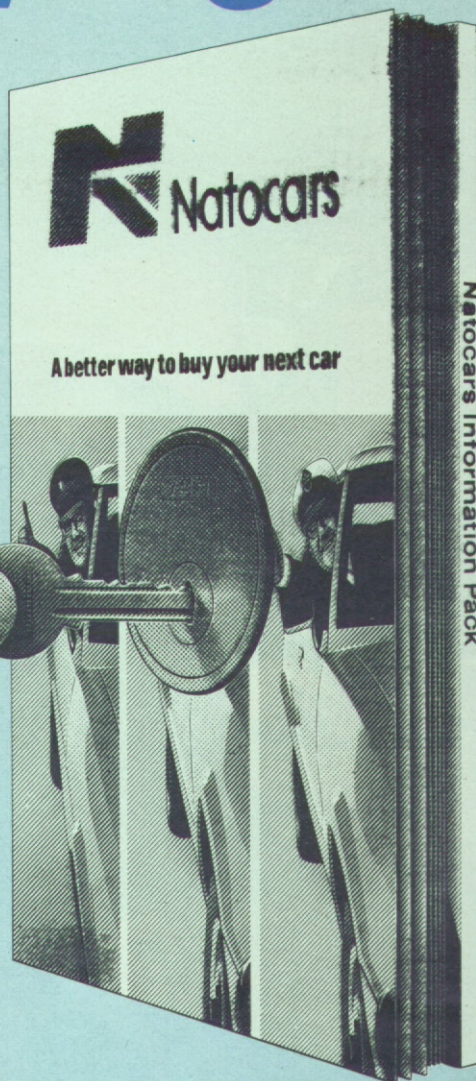
**RHINE AREA ANTI-SMOKING BLITZ
FOCUS ON THE UDR
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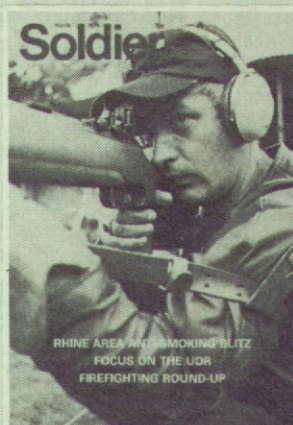
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FRONT COVER

Sergeant D Bright, of REME, a member of the Army smallbore rifle team which currently holds the inter-Services championship. *Picture by Doug Pratt.*

BACK COVER

An instructor from the Army School of Mechanical Transport guides a student in a Bedford lorry up a slippery slope. *Picture by Leslie Wiggs.*



4 No smoking

This month the signs go up all over Rhine Area to try to persuade soldiers to kick the habit. SOLDIER describes the campaign and looks back at Tommy Atkins' long love affair with Lady Nicotine.

10 New role for Ulster Defence Regiment

UDR part-timers go full-time to join their Regular Army comrades-in-arms in winning the war against the terrorists in the United Kingdom's strife-torn province of Northern Ireland.

36 Picking up the lingo

Wherever soldiers have served they have have picked up a smattering of the languages of the countries they have visited. SOLDIER looks at some phrases old and new they brought back to Blighty.



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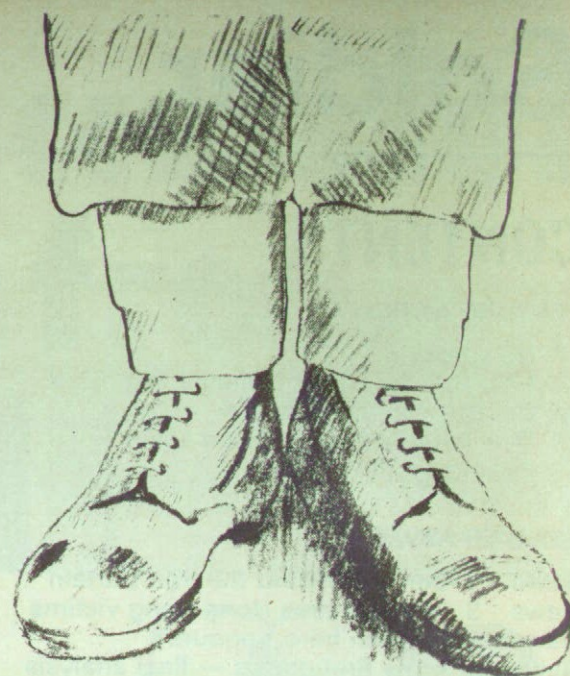
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RHINE AREA ANTI-SMOKING CRUSADE

FAGS OUT!



A MASSIVE anti-smoking drive is to be held among the 23,000 servicemen and their dependants in Rhine Area during March. The campaign, in an area bounded by Antwerp in the West and Dulmen, near Münster, in the East, will include mobile displays, a children's anti-smoking poster contest and mass handouts of anti-smoking literature. On 14 March there will be a special 100 per cent no-smoking day in which everyone will be asked to abstain voluntarily for 24 hours.

The campaign is the idea of the Commander Rhine Area, Brigadier John Moore, who told SOLDIER: "Everyone here is very keen on sport and fitness in general and we have found that smokers have been finding their battle fitness tests more difficult and they have not been in good shape at the end of sporting events."

Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), the London-based organisation of anti-smoking zealots, has been assisting the brigadier and his committee in planning the campaign and has provided literature. ASH

Director Mr Mike Daub declared: "What is being done over there is absolutely splendid from our point of view. We are hoping that this campaign will motivate people so that they give up for good."

Major Tom Soffe, secretary of the campaign committee, said there were 7000 soldiers and 16,000 dependants in Rhine Area and it was planned to distribute material to every one of them. "Smoking in Germany is heavy," he said. "My impression is that the Germans themselves tend to smoke heavily and the Service personnel over here tend to smoke heavily as well because cigarettes are so jolly cheap (22½p for twenty)."

Major Soffe said one of the major problems at the end of the campaign would be to measure its success, but Naafi had agreed to compare before-and-after sales of tobacco goods to see if there was any decrease.

The Royal Army Medical Corps has long been interested in reducing the amount of smoking in the Army and it provides health education for young soldiers as well as posters and leaflets are displayed in such

places as medical centres and hospitals.

A spokesman for the Directorate of Army Health told SOLDIER that over the years a number of surveys had been carried out on smoking in young soldiers. The surveys in 1959, 1966 and 1971 showed that there had been a gradual decline in the percentage who smoked. A further survey was carried out in 1976 but the results have not yet been published.

"Basically the surveys still show that more young soldiers smoke than their civilian counterparts and the ones who smoke seem to smoke rather more heavily." No official surveys have been made of smoking among adult soldiers although a civilian survey indicated that the armed forces were among the heavier smoking occupational groups.

But the spokesman revealed an important statistic from the Army's own surveys of

Below left: A wartime colour-sergeant belies his ogre-image to dish out the cigarette rations.

Below: Tommy trades the smoke of battle for a quieter smoke during the fierce desert strife.



young soldiers. This is that in soldiers followed up over a ten-year period from the ages of 15 to 18, there were more admissions to hospital for lung diseases and bronchitis of smokers than non-smokers.

"This shows that smoking has an effect on young people as well as on older people," he said. "Our health education is based on the fact that heavy smoking will decrease your physical fitness, increase your chances of lung disease and bronchitis, even at a relatively young age, and if you smoke regularly from 15 to 18 your smoking pattern will be established by the time you are 18."

Army policy towards smoking is that it is not attacked by decree or the use of Army discipline. Barrack rooms, messes, Naafis and so-on are regarded as the soldiers' homes when they are off duty and it is felt it would be wrong to treat a soldier in a different way from a civilian who is able to smoke at home.

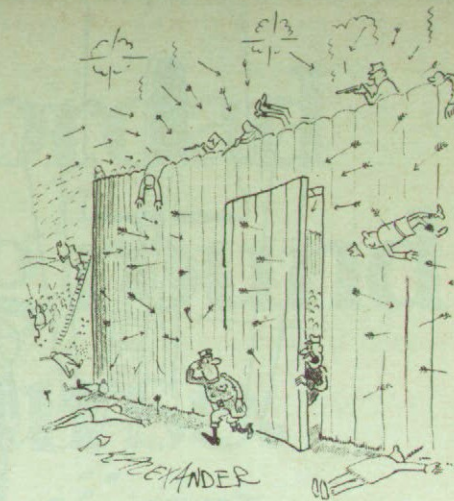
Smoking is sometimes banned in medical centres, hospitals and cinemas and units are asked to provide facilities for non-smokers if practicable — such as a separate room in a large mess.

The Rhine Army smoking blitz is only further evidence that the soldier's long

honeymoon with tobacco is ending. Even Field-Marshal Montgomery, a fervent non-smoker, used to hand out cigarettes to his men, and a quarter of a century ago SOLDIER wrote: "Today no high commander would willingly put an army into the field without seeing that his troops were assured of their cigarettes, even though he personally believed that smoking was ruinous to the health and that transporting tobacco was a misuse of the supply services."

It has been a long romance between the soldier and his Lady Nicotine. The habit spread across Europe in the Thirty Years War and Marlborough's soldiers marched to battle puffing short clay cutty pipes rammed with strong black roll tobacco. And in the Peninsular War both the British and French armies took to smoking cigars.

Wellington was anti-smoking and in 1845 he issued this order: 'The Commander-in-Chief has been informed that the practice of smoking by the use of pipes, cigars or cheroots, has become prevalent among the officers of the Army, which is not only in itself a species of intoxication occasioned by the fumes of tobacco, but undoubtedly occasions drinking and tipping by those who acquire the habit; and he entreats the offic-



"Don't forget, Carson, filter-tipped."

ers commanding regiments to prevent smoking in the mess rooms . . . and in the adjoining apartments, and to discourage the practice among the officers of junior rank in their regiments."

But in the Crimean War the British soldier saw French and Turkish troops smoking cigarettes and he soon followed suit. The cigarette, he discovered, was the perfect smoke for a soldier — easy to roll and light, cheaper than the penny cigar and ideal for a quick puff. And the soldier brought back the cigarette habit to Britain — it was speedily taken up by the tobacco companies — with reputedly a Scottish manufacturer named Gloag the first in the field.

Strange to say, when the British soldier took the cigarette habit home it was at first looked upon by civilians as effeminate!

By the time of the Boer War the cigarette had gained an important place in the soldier's life. Funds were set up in Britain for sending tobacco and cigarettes to men on active service and the Government arranged for all tobacco for the troops to be imported

Top left: Non-smoker Monty hands out fags.

Below: Message for today's Army: 'Put it out!'

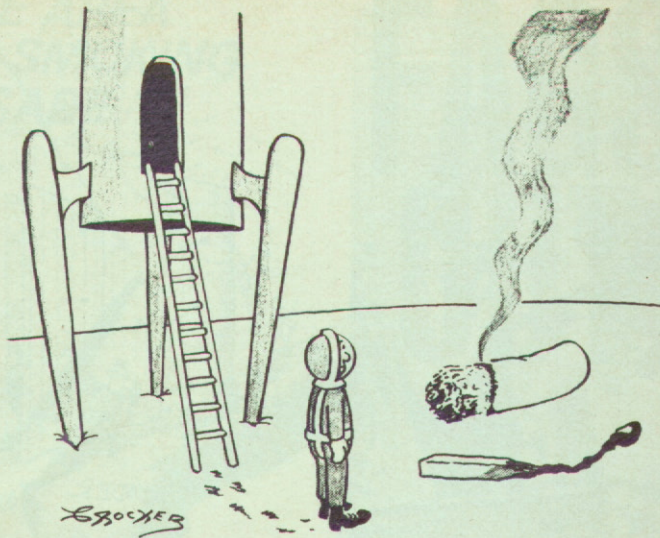


Story: John Watton



"How many times have I warned you about smoking on duty?"





into South Africa duty free. This pattern was followed in World War One with funds to provide free smokes for the troops — some of the royal gift boxes of this era are still to be found, complete with dried and wrinkled fags!

When cigarettes did not turn up at the front, letters home appealed for supplies and soldiers improvised with dried tea leaves and potato tops as tobacco substitutes. A famous cartoon of the time summed up the situation — captioned 'Arf a Mo' Kaiser,' it showed a soldier holding up the war while he lit his pipe. Most popular smokes at this time were Wild Woodbines and they gave the nickname 'Woodbine Willie' to the Reverend G E Studdert-Kennedy, a padre who simultaneously handed out both advice and cigarettes.

World War One converted thousands of men to cigarette smoking and for the first time women were smoking in public without being frowned upon. So by the time of World War Two the demand was greater

than ever before and supplying both the soldier and those on the home front presented new problems.

Throughout the war the War Office did its best to see that troops got their free issue of 50 cigarettes a week and that smokes were also on sale in the canteens. Not every command was always lucky — many troops in the Mediterranean and Far East had to make do with 'C to C' and the notorious 'V' cigarettes made in India. These were said to be so bad that even Arab traders would not take them in exchange for eggs.

And during the war there was a scheme by which people at home could send duty-free parcels of cigarettes or tobacco to friends or relatives serving overseas.

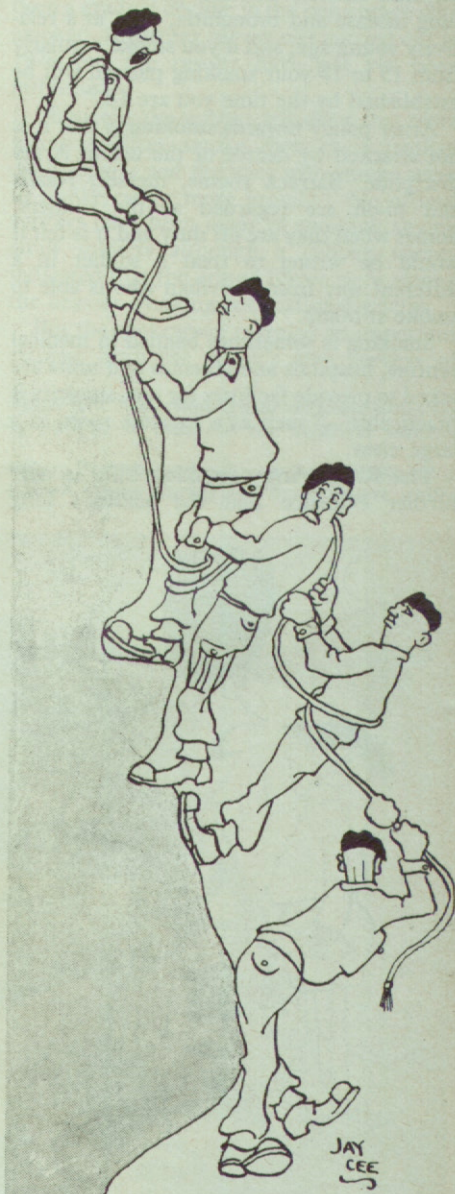
So to the post-war era in which the soldier-smoker serving overseas has continued to benefit from duty-free prices. It is therefore not surprising perhaps that smok-

Below: The war over, a British soldier — a box Brownie by his side — lights up in Frankfurt.



ing is still more prevalent in the Army than in civilian life.

Now, Brigadier Moore and the other Army anti-smoking campaigners are hoping to change all that. It remains to be seen whether their efforts will be more successful than those of the Iron Duke 130 years ago.



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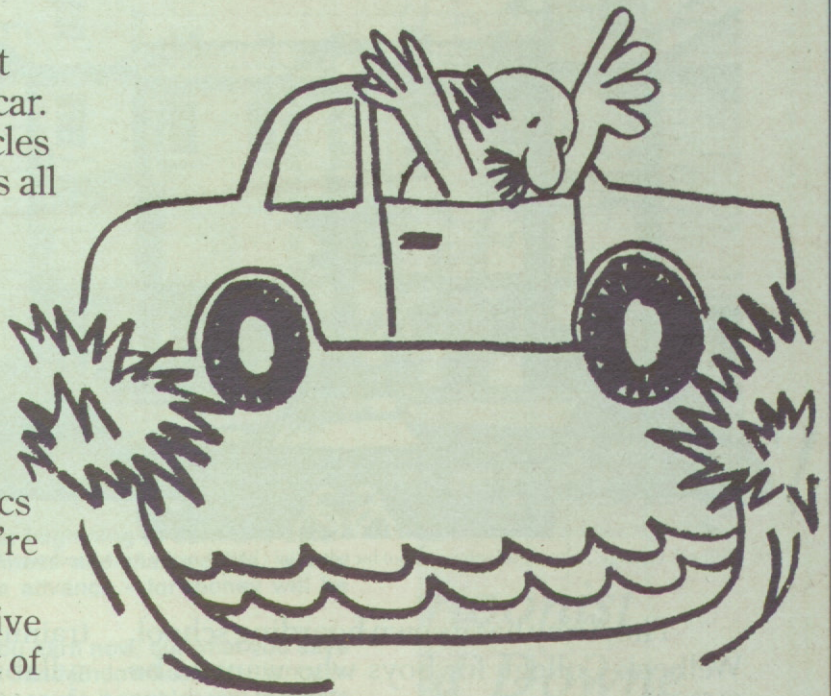
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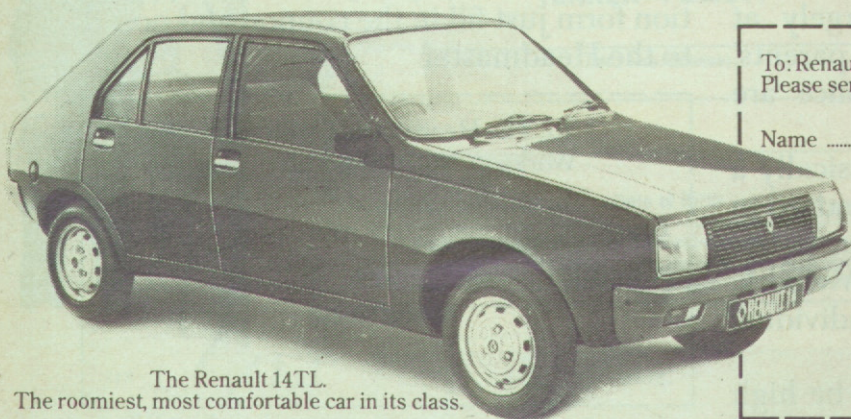
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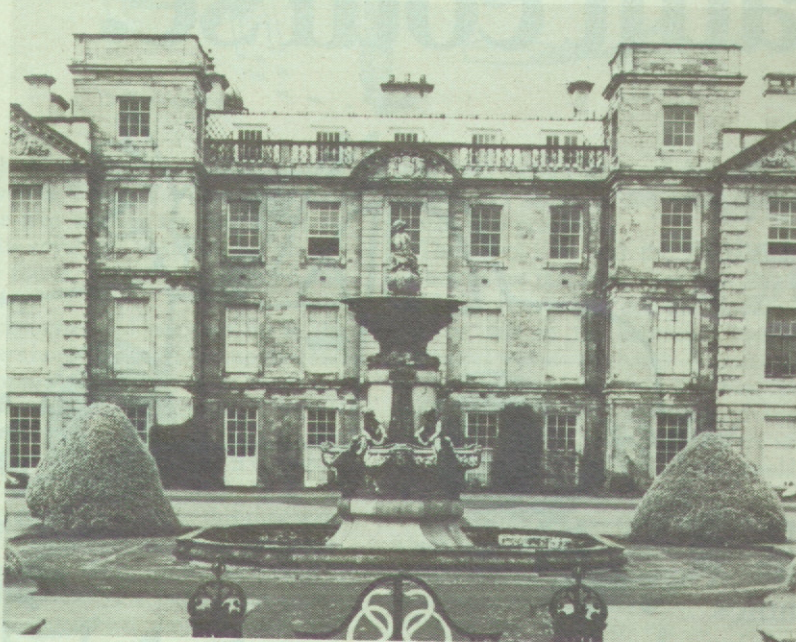
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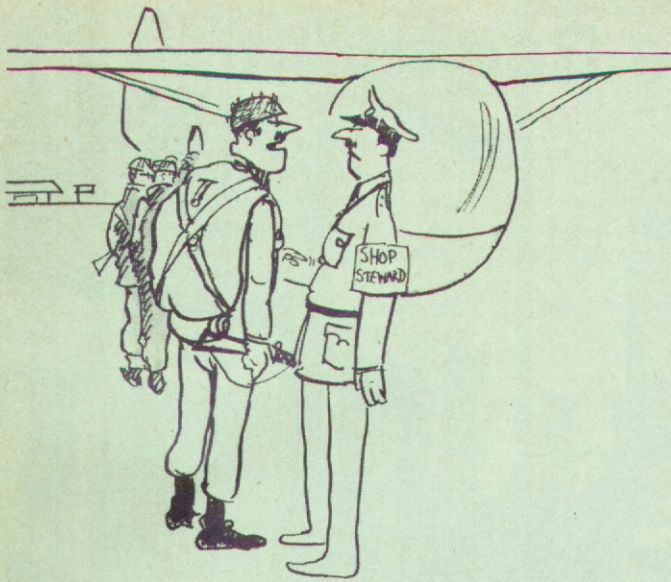
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Address _____

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F47



"Well, you can't shout 'Everybody out' at airborne forces!"



"Carry on, Brother."



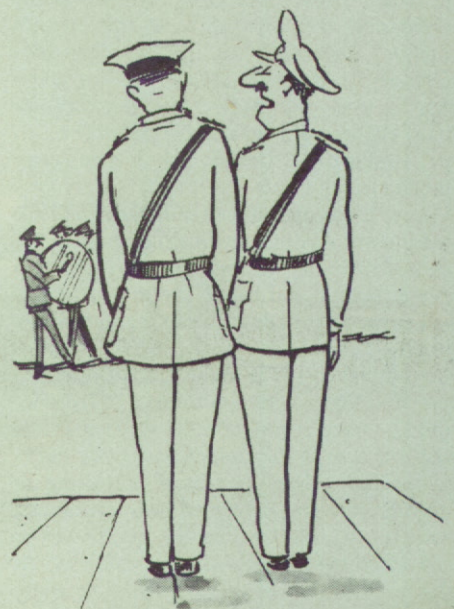
"We should black all night patrols."

GET FELL IN, BROTHERS!

Cartoonist
David Downe
anticipates the impact
of trade unionism . . .

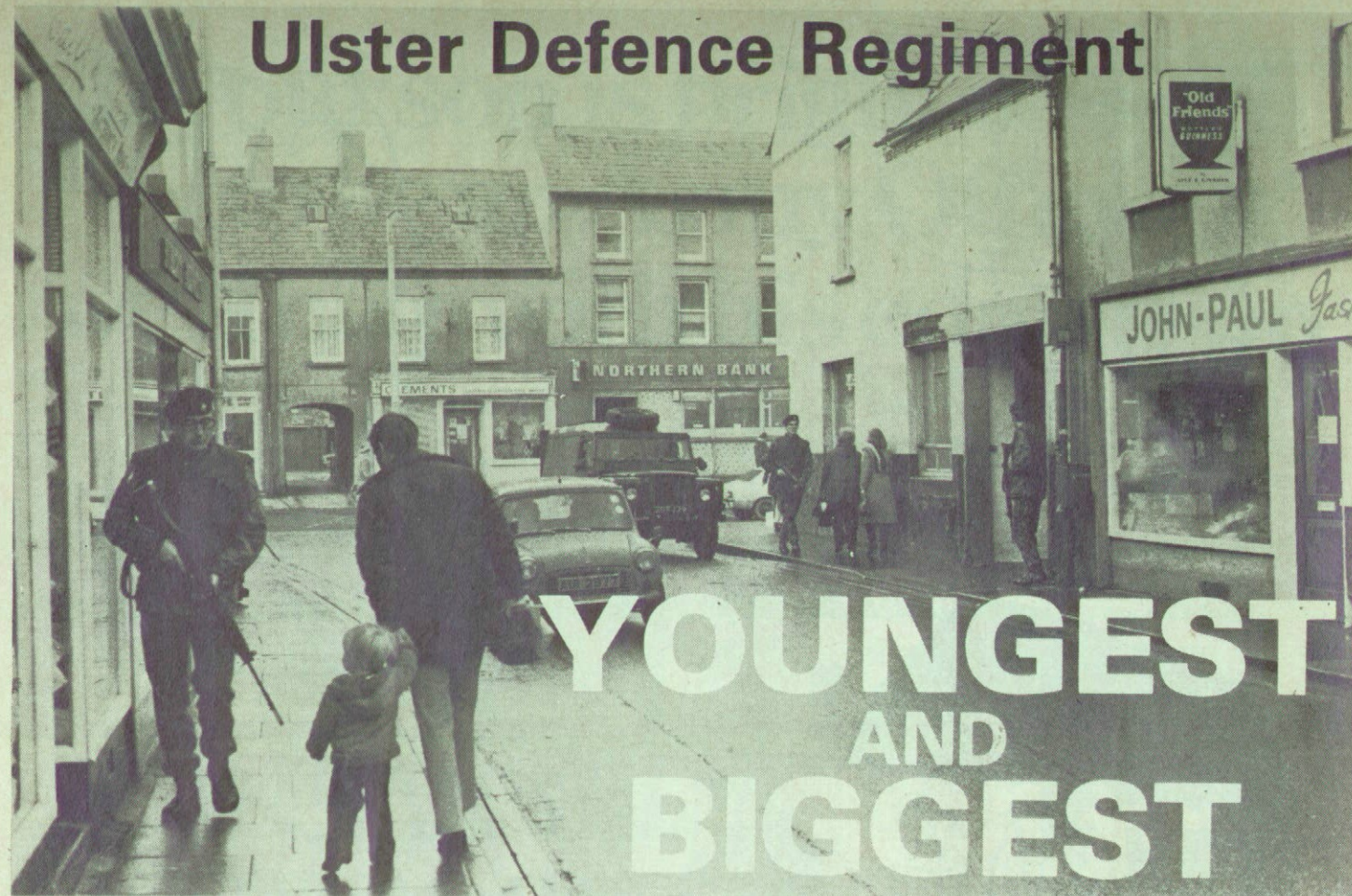


"If we do it that way we'll get a demarcation dispute."



"It's the regimental go-slow march."

Ulster Defence Regiment



YOUNGEST AND BIGGEST

SPEAKING to a conference of Ulster Defence Regiment company commanders in 1977, Lieutenant-General Sir David House, then GOC Northern Ireland, said: "Quite frankly I could not do my job without you."

It was a soldier's compliment to a unique regiment. The UDR began operational duties on the day it was born and developed its skills and character in the unforgiving atmosphere of 'The Troubles'. The regiment trained, worked and grew all at the same time in the gruelling and unglamorous task of internal security.

Perhaps because of the very pressures it had to contend with, the UDR grew up quickly from its 1970 beginnings. When the Secretary of State for Defence presented his estimates in February 1977, a paragraph in the White Paper gave some measure of the confidence and capability of the Army's youngest regiment: "... In six police divisions of the Province, the UDR has taken over in part or wholly from the Regular Army the task of providing immediate military support to the Royal Ulster Constabulary ..."

... It was announced in December 1976 that the number of full-time members in the regiment would be increased to give it a greater operational capability in daytime as well as providing administrative and training support ...

By October 1977, eight UDR battalions had TAORs — tactical areas of responsibility as the regiment calls those districts where it acts as the immediate Army back-up for the police. Increased recruiting of full-time soldiers — formed into 'operations platoons' — is providing the manpower to look after the TAORs during daylight. At night, part-time soldiers, including more than 600 women 'Greenfinches,' take over the job. The UDR now has just over 2000

full-time soldiers and about 6000 part-timers. 'Call out' can bring the part-timers out for spells of full-time duty, by companies or throughout the regiment, if Northern Ireland's security chiefs require the reinforcement.

The past 18 months have shown the growing effectiveness of the UDR, which began as an almost exclusively part-time force based in a shabby collection of old huts and converted factories and armed with bolt-action rifles.

Recruiting for the permanent cadre platoons is going well, according to the UDR's headquarters in Lisburn, County Antrim. With recruiting at its present pace, the full-time establishment could be reached by Spring. However, some of the eleven battalions have more fruitful recruiting areas than others and because the UDR soldier lives at home it is difficult to transfer a man from his local company to another serving where recruits are less numerous. Indeed the soldier cannot be transferred to another battalion without his consent.

The fact that the regiment has no role outside Northern Ireland offers a style of soldiering unique in the Regular Army — operational duty coupled with a settled home life. Apart from courses and perhaps a week's annual training camp in England, the UDR permanent cadre soldier can expect to do all his service on his own doorstep.

Among the new full-time recruits are soldiers who have already had a taste of UDR life as part-time members of the regiment. Others are Ulstermen with former Regular Army experience who like the idea of soldiering without the disrupted home life of the rest of the Army, and others still are non-Ulstermen who have married and settled in the Province, many of them during the eight years of 'The Troubles'.

But many of the UDR's new full-time applicants are young men with no previous military experience. Of 215 applications received in January, only 82 were from men with previous military service.

"The younger man is joining the regiment these days," said a recruiter. "We have Press, television and radio advertising campaigns but the most effective recruiter is still the satisfied soldier who tells his friends about the regiment. Job security is a factor, the outdoor life has an appeal and although some people probably wouldn't tell you so, there is a sense of patriotism about joining."

Increasing appeal to the young is reflected in the steadily dropping average age of the UDR soldier. A survey in 1976 put it at 32 with more than a third of the soldiers being under 25. Recruiters now reckon that the average age is probably about 30. The average age for just the permanent cadre soldiers would be about the same for any other infantry regiment in the Army.

Although the UDR has its own recruiting organisation, vetting of potential recruits is out of the regiment's hands. A vetting unit which liaises closely with the police is operated by Headquarters, Northern Ireland. Allegations against the sometimes lengthy vetting procedure have been made by both sides of the political spectrum in Northern Ireland. Republican sympathisers have claimed it is too slack, allowing Protestant para-militaries to infiltrate the UDR to train; Loyalists have complained the system is too strict, keeping out good men. After eight years' experience, the UDR itself is confident the system is as effective as it can be in preventing para-military or otherwise unsuitable applicants from joining.

Story: Allan Percival

Lieutenant-Colonel Joe Hordern, attached to the UDR from The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, commands 5th (County Londonderry) Battalion from headquarters on the old airfield at Ballykelly, north of the city of Londonderry. His battalion operates over 800 square miles of territory stretching in a great wedge shape from the shores of Lough Foyle to the western bank of Lough Neagh and including the rough Sperrin Mountains.

In the north of the area is his battalion's own 'patch' — its TAOR — and Colonel Hordern has two operations platoons to look after it during daylight and his part-time soldiers available at night. There are no plans for the TAOR to be increased at present, but the County Londonderry soldiers do not disguise their keenness to see a greater share of the security task in their county.

Said Colonel Hordern: "We work in support of the police and in co-operation with the other units in the county but there was a time when our soldiers may have felt they were at the beck-and-call of the Regular battalion — some of them thought we should be called 'rent-a-company.' But all that changed when we got our own TAOR."

"Full-time soldiers and part-timers enjoy the responsibility of the TAOR where they are the first-line back up to the Royal Ulster Constabulary policemen on the ground. And an advantage we have is the local knowledge of our soldiers coupled with continuity of service in the area — a UDR battalion does not pack up and go somewhere else after four months or 18 months. The new operations platoons of full-timers mean we can use these advantages effectively, round the clock."

Left: For a little boy in Northern Ireland a soldier with a rifle is no uncommon sight.

Right: Through the chicken mesh of a lofty sangar, a bird's-eye view of a border vehicle search.

Below right: No matter the time of day or night, a checkpoint may snare the enemy.

Below: The high sangar gives close cover to car searchers along the border with the Republic.



The soldier transferring to the Ulster Defence Regiment permanent cadre enrolls for three years. No longer or shorter engagements are offered by the regiment but after three years a soldier may re-engage by one to three years at a time. A soldier who changes his mind may give 28 days' notice to leave the regiment. There is no reserve liability.

A soldier is free to choose which battalion he wishes to serve with and cannot be transferred to a different battalion without his consent.

A soldier transferring to the UDR permanent cadre will find his previous service counts towards pay and pension — the same applies to a full-time UDR soldier transferring to a different regiment. Ex-servicemen accepted for the full-time UDR will find their previous service also counts towards pay and pension if they have been out of uniform for fewer than five years.

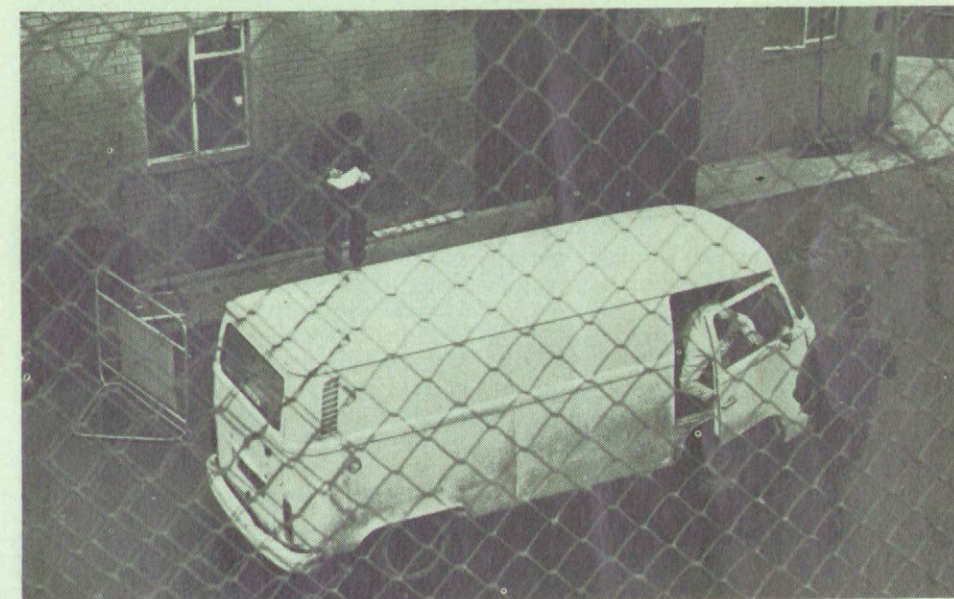
The permanent cadre soldier is expected to find his own home in Ulster because the UDR has no barracks or married quarters. The regiment can often help a soldier find a home through the housing authorities.

Officers are being recruited into the UDR permanent cadre. Majors are needed as adjutants and to command permanent cadre soldiers within battalions. Captains' appointments include seconds-in-command of permanent cadres and battalion operations officers, co-ordinating and controlling tasks in battalion areas. Subalterns are needed to command operations platoons.

Pension and gratuity schemes are in line with the armed forces pension scheme and former Regular service counts towards a UDR pension. Upper age limits on first appointment are 35 for subalterns and 42 for captains and majors, although in exceptional circumstances these may be waived.

There is no child education allowance.

Full details of permanent cadre service in the UDR are included in DCI 222/77 or can be obtained from the Recruiting Officer, HQ UDR, Magheralave Road, Lisburn, County Antrim.





Above: Fitness can save lives. It is as important to men of the UDR as to any other regiment.

Below: Training goes on despite the work load.

"Recruiting has improved and we are getting younger men, often persuaded to join by friends already in the battalion."

The full-timers — like all soldiers in Northern Ireland — are resigned to working long hours. Some of Col Hordern's men start at 5am and the operations platoons' responsibilities last at least until 9pm when the part-timers go out on duty. Some men check in to the Ballykelly headquarters the night before a 5am start and sleep in a small barrack room set up by the battalion. And like all UDR soldiers they travel to and from duty from their own homes. Some of them will say it is impossible to keep UDR membership confidential in the close-knit communities where they live. Eighty-two UDR soldiers have been murdered by terrorists since the troubles began and most of them were killed travelling to or from work or going from well-protected UDR centres to ordinary homes.



Lieutenant Norman Elder commands 5 UDR's operations platoon. He joined the permanent cadre after two years' part-time UDR service. "The full-time UDR is Regular Army soldiering," he said. "But you can't say it is the same as the Regular Army because we work only in Ulster. Pay, conditions and training are comparable with infantry units in the rest of the Army but bear in mind our more limited role. There would not be much point in spending time doing Nato-style anti-tank training for example. Running a properly set-up VCP (vehicle checkpoint) is more use to us . . ."

Lieutenant Elder's soldiers were taking over the Muff permanent checkpoint on the Londonderry-Donagall border, manning the sangars overlooking the Republic and checking a steady stream of traffic going either way. "This is one of the jobs we do but we can take on anything the rest of the Army would be expected to do in Northern Ireland except riot control — we're not trained for that and we have not the numbers of permanent cadre soldiers on hand anyway.

"We work long hours. It's not unusual to be out seven days a week and if there is

something special on we can be out at night as well, alongside the part-timers," he said. "Most people realise this when they join. It's an out-of-doors sort of job which a lot of people like. The wages are not great — whose are in the Army? — but I know one of my soldiers came to us from a job centre. He had been taking home £18 a week before he joined so that's one man who more than doubled his wages by joining the Army."

Sergeant David Palmer is an ex-Gloster who met and married a local girl while serving in the Province in 1969. He left the Army last year, settled in Northern Ireland and joined the UDR . . . "After 26 years in the Army it's in your blood. Coming from a Regular unit — or I should say a non-UDR Regular unit — you do notice some differences. You're serving in a regiment with a mixture of Regular soldiers and part-timers. The permanent cadre are Regulars, for example, but our company commander is a part-timer.

"And you've got to get used to things like a permanent cadre man — a Regular soldier — going off sick for a couple of days and bringing you a sick note from a civilian

doctor instead of reporting to the Army medical officer.

"Nobody can sign on for more than three years at a time. You can re-engage of course, and you can give 28 days' notice and leave whenever you want without buying yourself out or anything like that. And if the regiment has reason, it can give you 28 days' notice to leave. There are differences and sometimes the blokes may moan about what they think are injustices between full-timers and part-timers and the hours everybody has to work. But it's a young outfit and things will sort themselves out in time."

Across the Province from the Muff vehicle checkpoint and the 5th Battalion's operations platoon, in the UDR's purpose-built Lisburn headquarters, Brigadier Mervyn McCord, the regiment's commander, said: "One of our main weaknesses in the past has been the lack of a daylight capability but we are now well on the way to recruiting the operational platoons to provide this."

But the brigadier emphasised the continued role of the part-time soldier as the backbone of the UDR: "Recruiting for the operational platoons does not alter the fact that the main strengths and effort of this regiment depend on the part-time members. The dedication and devotion to duty of those part-time soldiers who, after a long day's work do an even longer night's work in the service of their fellow citizens, is invaluable and cannot be replaced.

"Regrettably, we have had to pay a high price in the number of those who have given their lives in this cause. But it is encouraging that an increasing number of young men and women are prepared to join the regiment and that recent recruiting has been at its highest level since the UDR was formed. More and more people are appreciating the efforts and following the example of the regiment.

"This can only be for the good of all."

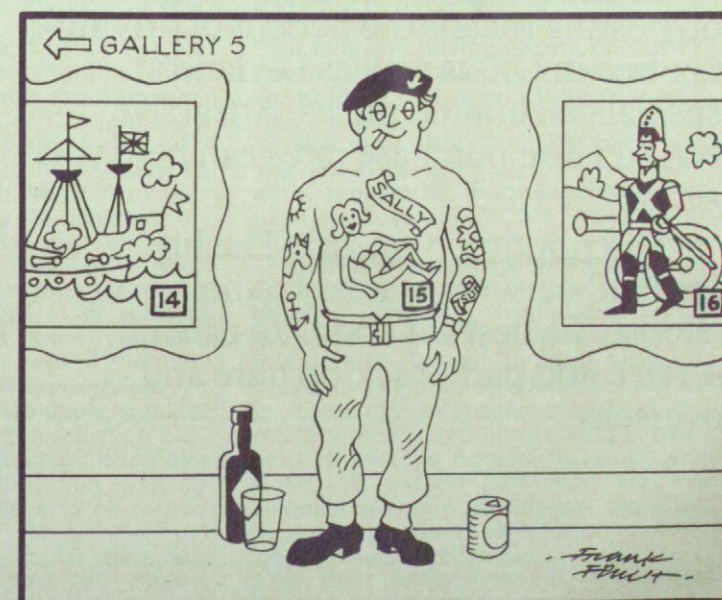
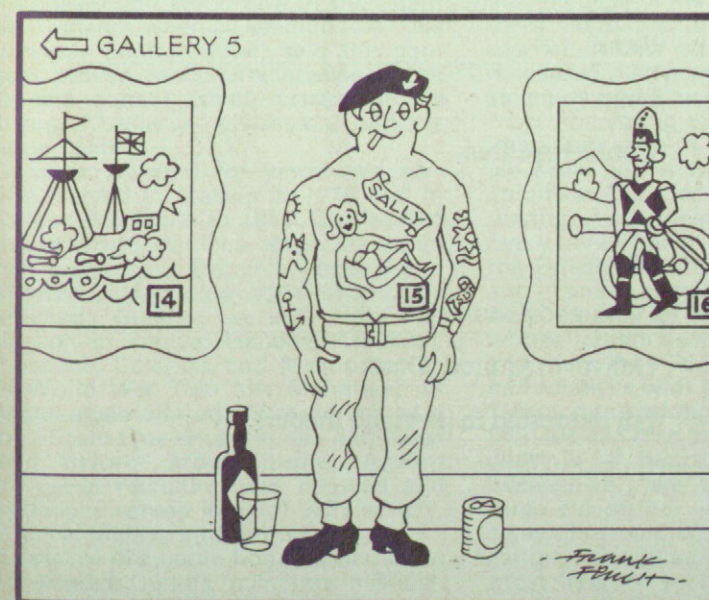
Top right: A section prepares to leave the tenuous security of the 'wiggly tin' for the streets.

Right: This time they leave their Land-Rovers behind to travel by 'chopper,' courtesy RAF.



How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences see page 32.



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SOLDIER to Soldier

"THESE tough, brown-faced, stocky little men who have served the British so loyally for well over 150 years and who I hope you feel serve Hong Kong equally well." The Gurkhas, of course — as described by Lieutenant-General Sir John Archer, Commander British Forces, Hong Kong, in a talk to a Hong Kong Rotary club on 'The Gurkha Soldier.'

The general, who is also Major-General, Brigade of Gurkhas, told his audience the enlistment of Gurkhas to serve with the British was born of chivalry and respect between soldiers. In 1814, tribes from the dominant kingdom of Gorkha had gained control of most of Nepal and were spreading into Northern India. The old East India Company was also expanding and there was a clash of commercial and territorial interests. An expeditionary force of British troops employed by the East India Company advanced into Nepal and after a bitter struggle the Gurkhas were reduced to only 600 survivors who "earned the undying admiration of the 4000-odd British troops besieging them for their refusal to give in until forced into near death by starvation," said General Archer.

"Men of this calibre were too good to dismiss lightly so a Treaty of Friendship was signed with Nepal and the offer made of enlistment into British service. They have served with us loyally ever since, even though Gurkha soldiers have never been British subjects or citizens, nor was Nepal ever conquered or made into part of the British Empire. The country remains independent with its own monarchy and is Britain's oldest ally in Asia."

Of the Gurkha regiments brought into being, 2nd Gurkha Rifles, two battalions of which are stationed in Hong Kong's New Territories, was one of the first raised and Gurkhas saw action in many campaigns during the 19th century. Their loyalty to the British Crown faced its first real test in 1857 during the Indian Mutiny. Gurkhas were the first soldiers to take action against the mutineers and stood firm to their oath of allegiance when all seemed lost. This unhappy confrontation, said the general, proved two characteristics of the Gurkha soldier which were still his strength today — his loyalty and his impartiality.

Gurkhas, enlisted for worldwide service, served in Malaya in 1876 and in Cyprus and Malta in 1878. On the first day of World War One, Nepal placed all her resources at Britain's disposal and allowed many extra battalions to be enlisted. Gurkhas served with distinction in France, Flanders, Gallipoli, Palestine, Salonika and Mesopotamia. In World War Two, the Maharajah of Nepal again offered his resources, at a significant time when France had fallen and Britain stood alone. Again, increased recruiting was allowed and battalions served in North Africa, Italy, Greece, Malaya and Burma.

A total of 482 battle honours had been awarded to Gurkha regiments in British service and countless individual awards

for gallantry or distinguished service, including 26 Victoria Crosses.

Recruiting was very much on a tribal basis and consequently battalions tended to have a character of their own. "It also means that, like Welsh regiments who have an endless number of soldiers called Jones, Gurkha names appear very similar with equally endless numbers of Thapas and Gurungs." When India became independent in 1947, four of the original ten Gurkha regiments joined the British Army and the remainder stayed with the new Indian Army which today had some 50 battalions of Gurkhas. The British Gurkhas were soon involved in the Malayan Emergency, then in Brunei in 1962 and in Borneo from 1963 to 1966.

There were now five Gurkha infantry battalions in the British Army — three in Hong Kong, one in Brunei and one in UK — as well as engineer, signals and transport regiments. There were 7000 men in all, largely British officers but with Gurkha commissioned officers up to the rank of major as well. The British Gurkhas were now recruited only from tribes living mainly in the high hills in central western and eastern Nepal. They were sons of small farmers and there were really only two options open to a young Gurkha boy from the hills — to farm his father's land or to enlist.

"Being mainly Hindu of the warrior caste, they rarely consider any other form of employment and anyway there is precious little opportunity in the hills where they are born," said General Archer. "They would lose status if they lost land and the link with the land is both a strength and a weakness. They are all proud, self-sufficient and independent people brought up in a stark environment having to grow food on land which I suggest would daunt even the toughest and most dedicated New Territories farmer."

The recruit came to the British Army as a tough, hardy and cheerful soul. He did not have much more than a primary school education, he had no social security and practically no access to modern medicine. His leave, once every three years, meant a long walk and, if married, for his wife and family too. He measured distances only in time and a seven-day walk was not at all uncommon. The young man of 17 might have little alternative to enlisting in the British Army but he was still very much a volunteer because Gurkhas liked soldiering — a profession to be proud of. Every family had at least one member in the British, Indian or Nepalese armies and in one Gurkha regiment alone there were 40 sets of brothers, 88 soldiers whose fathers served in the regiment, and more than 70 per cent of the men had relatives with previous service.

"Many more young men apply to enlist than we can take and the selection process is a heartbreaking business because so many young men — up to three out of four — have to be turned away disappointed."

All recruits signed on for 15 years and most would serve the full period because their pay and savings, and

pensions after leaving the Army, were their one means of acquiring money to buy land and build a house for themselves. If they did not reach the rank of sergeant in 15 years — and promotion prospects were competitive — they had to leave to make way for others. Above sergeant they could stay in longer, depending on the rank reached. The most senior, the Gurkha major — one per unit — could stay in for up to 32 years. Basic training in Hong Kong took 38 weeks. "This may seem a very long time to you," the general told his audience, "but these young men, straight from the hills, have to be taught things which you and I take for granted — how to switch on an electric light, how to flush a toilet and even how to tie up a pair of shoes." The Gurkhas passed out from the depot as trained soldiers capable of using all platoon weapons with skill. Most were very good shots and at the Army's Bisley championships in 1977, the Gurkhas came first out of 66 entries with five teams in the first six places.

Only a proportion of trained soldiers were accompanied by their families although almost all were married. Generally a soldier served unaccompanied for about six years before his family was allowed to join him in Hong Kong or Brunei. After three years his family would return to the hills, giving someone else a turn.

The unaccompanied rifleman's basic rate of pay was £12 a month, supplemented in Hong Kong by an allowance bringing pay up to £48 a month for the single soldier and £63 for the accompanied married man. In the UK, if the Gurkha's income exceeded £116 a month, he had to pay tax on anything beyond that at 34 per cent. "He may not be a British citizen but he cannot escape British tax."

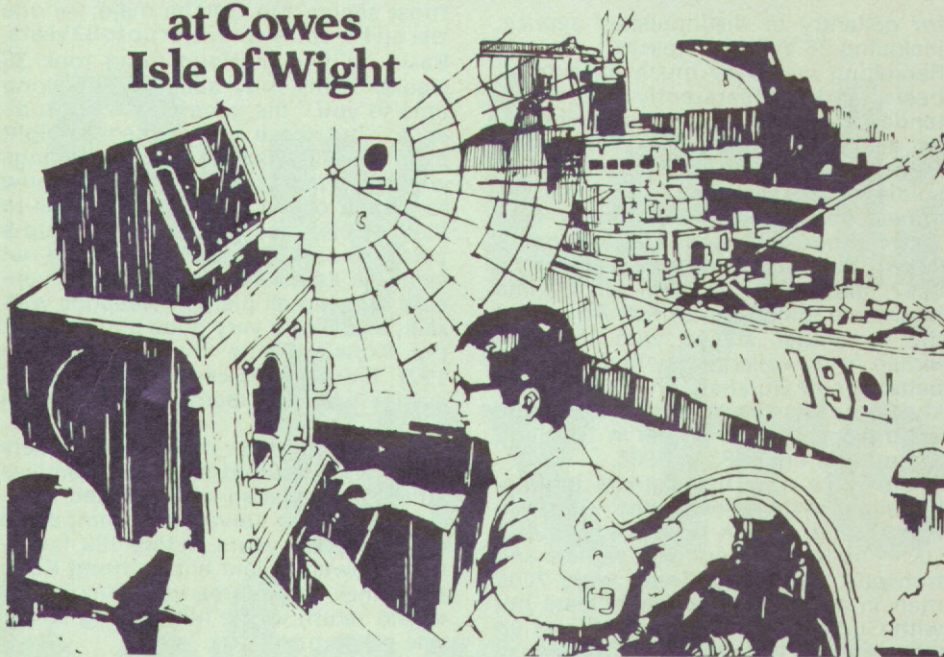
After 15 years' service, the Gurkha received a terminal grant — for a rifleman of £576, and for a Gurkha major it could be £1153. These rates, however small by Hong Kong standards, were determined by agreement by conditions of service in the Indian Army. "The Gurkha has very simple tastes," said General Archer. "He does not spend his money except to acquire goods to improve his eventual standard of living when he leaves the Army; or he buys gold. When you see a Gurkha wife, much of her adornment will represent her husband's savings, eventually to be used as currency in the years ahead."

"Having served with them, walked in their hills and having experienced their loyalty and enjoyed their hospitality, I am nothing less than a total convert," said the general. "Most Gurkhas speak English remarkably well so, when you see him in the street, either in uniform or in regimental mufti, you may feel disposed to speak to him. I know you will find him both polite and responsive. "Field-Marshal Lord Slim served with Gurkhas throughout his distinguished career. Of them he wrote: 'The Almighty created in the Gurkha an ideal infantryman, indeed an ideal rifleman, brave, tough, patient, adaptable, skilled in fieldcraft, intensely proud of his military record and unswervingly loyal. Add to this his honesty in word and deed, his parade perfection and his unquestionable cheerfulness, then service with the Gurkhas is for any soldier an immense satisfaction.'

"As their Major-General, I entirely agree."

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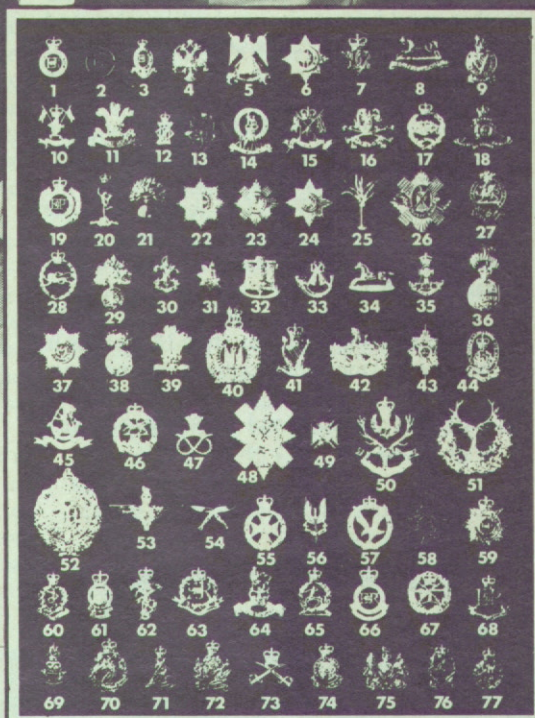


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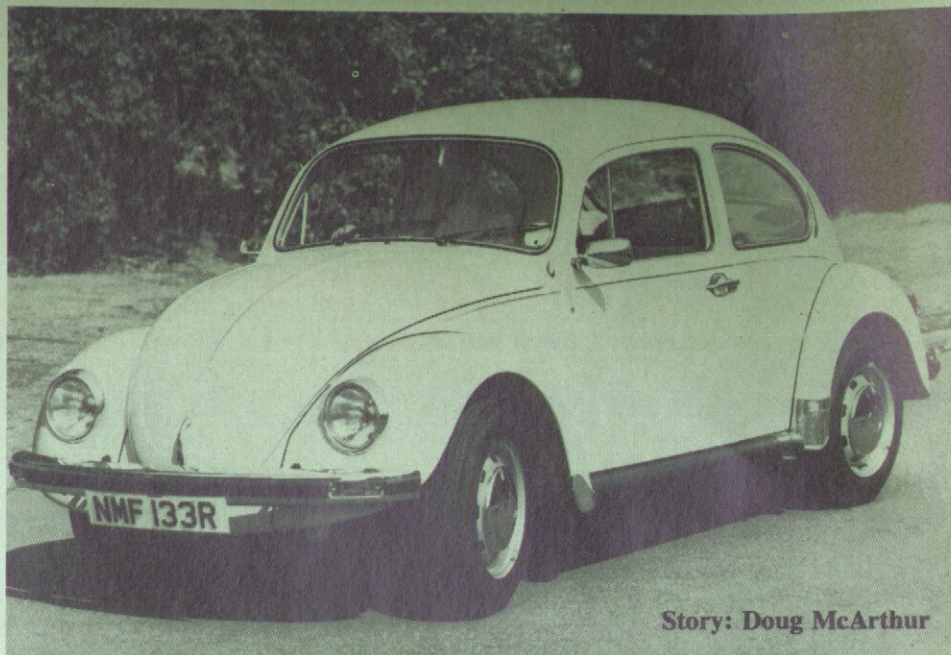
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Bye, Bye, Beetle



Story: Doug McArthur

ON 16 FEBRUARY 1946, SOLDIER gloomily reported that because of a chronic shortage of sheet metal and glass the Army's own car production line — in Germany — would probably have to close down. Now, 32 years later, that production line has switched off for good, ending one of the most remarkable chapters in motorcar history.

The car was the legendary Volkswagen Beetle. Although scoffed at by virtually every other car manufacturer in the world, nearly 20,000,000 Beetles were sold during its lifetime, proving that the customer, at least, admired its robust no-nonsense lines and reputation for reliability. But how many of those owners know that had it not been for the British Military Government in austere post-war Germany, there might never have been a Beetle sold on the open market?

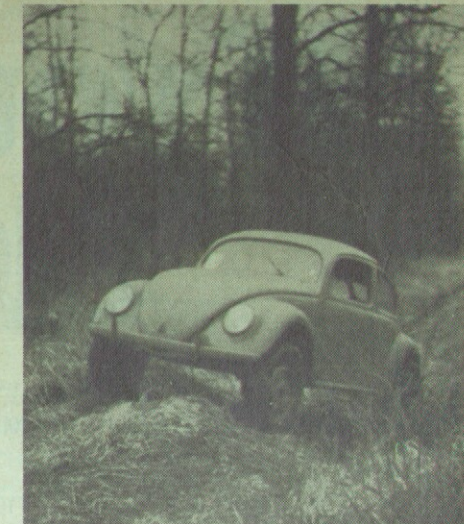
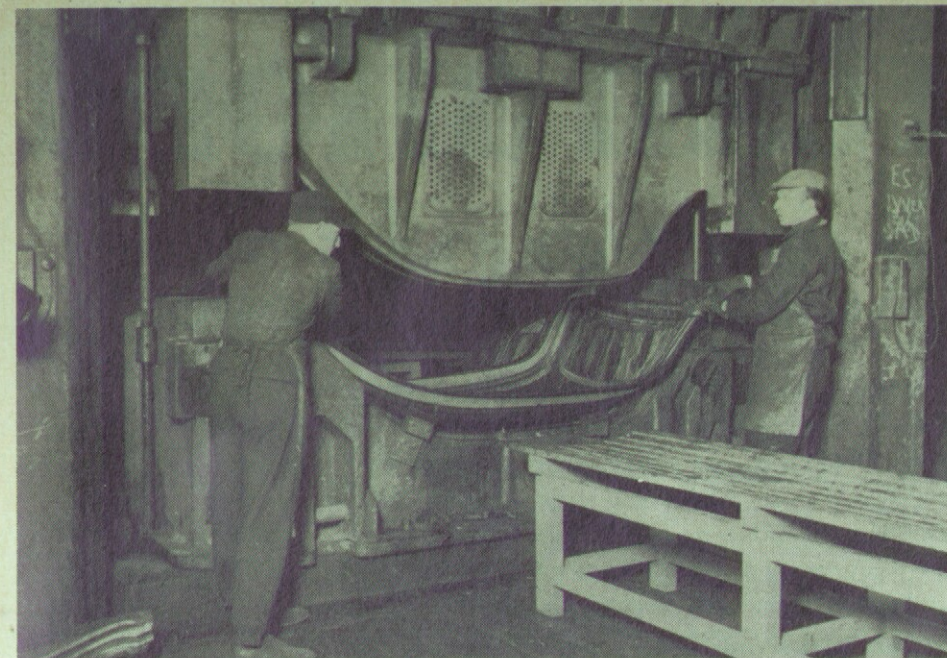
The £75 Volkswagen — literally translated as People's Car — was Hitler's brainchild back in 1934. He wanted a reliable car that would meet the worker's pocket and would not be a "class-separating barrier." Dr Ferdinand Porsche designed it and in May 1938 the foundation stone of a huge factory complex was laid at Wolfsburg. In just over a year the factory was complete, built almost entirely by Italian labour.

When World War Two broke out, the factory was two months old. A few saloon cars had been produced but these went to factory officials. In the expectation of early victory, the works were closed down for the duration of the war. But after 12 months it became obvious that victory was not just round the corner. At the end of 1940 the Luftwaffe moved in and work began on aircraft wings and later, rocket parts.

The German Army then took an interest in the factory and began turning out the Kübelwagen, the military version of the Volkswagen. In all, 55,000 vehicles including 14,000 Schwimmwagen — amphibious versions — were produced.

The factory was first bombed in 1940 but the brunt of the attack came in 1944 when two-thirds of the buildings were destroyed. After that, the machinery was quickly dispersed or removed, and output dwindled away.

And there the Beetle might have died. The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers moved into the now deserted factory and used it as a workshop. Then, in 1945, the British Military Government took over and, in a matter of months, production of the saloon car re-started, using German workers under British military leadership.



Left: German workers press the steel roof panel. Above: And they said it was too flimsy to last! Below: 1945, and the Beetle is back in business. Bottom right: The post-war engine assembly line. Bottom left: The roof shell after pressing.

All production was for the exclusive use of the occupying forces, apart from 500 vans for the German post office.

Bringing the works back to life was no easy job. Rubble and bomb damage had to be cleared away and first-aid repairs made to buildings still useable. Machinery had to be recovered, sometimes from dispersal points 50 miles away. The German administrative and production staffs had to be collected and turned into a team.

At the height of the British Control Commission's involvement, two Army officers — a major and a captain — controlled a workforce of 6000 men plus production, property and finance of the factory and the enterprises of the Volkswagen town of Wolfsburg. The factory had a contract for 45,000 saloons for British Army of the Rhine.

When it became obvious that the car was a going concern, the factory was offered in turn to the British and then to the American motor industries as war reparations. Lord Rootes headed the British team which flew to Germany to investigate the proposal and

on his team's recommendation the offer was rejected.

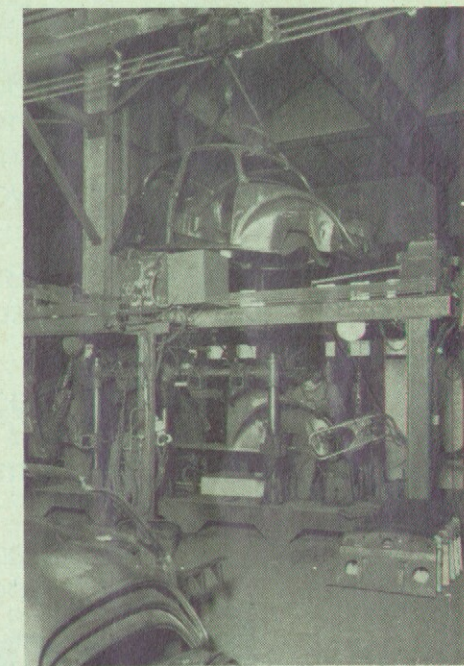
He said the Beetle was too flimsy, too noisy and did not meet the fundamental requirements of a motor car. He added that it would prove popular only for a few years.

Ford's advisers in America went one stage further. They reported back: "They are not giving us anything worth a damn."

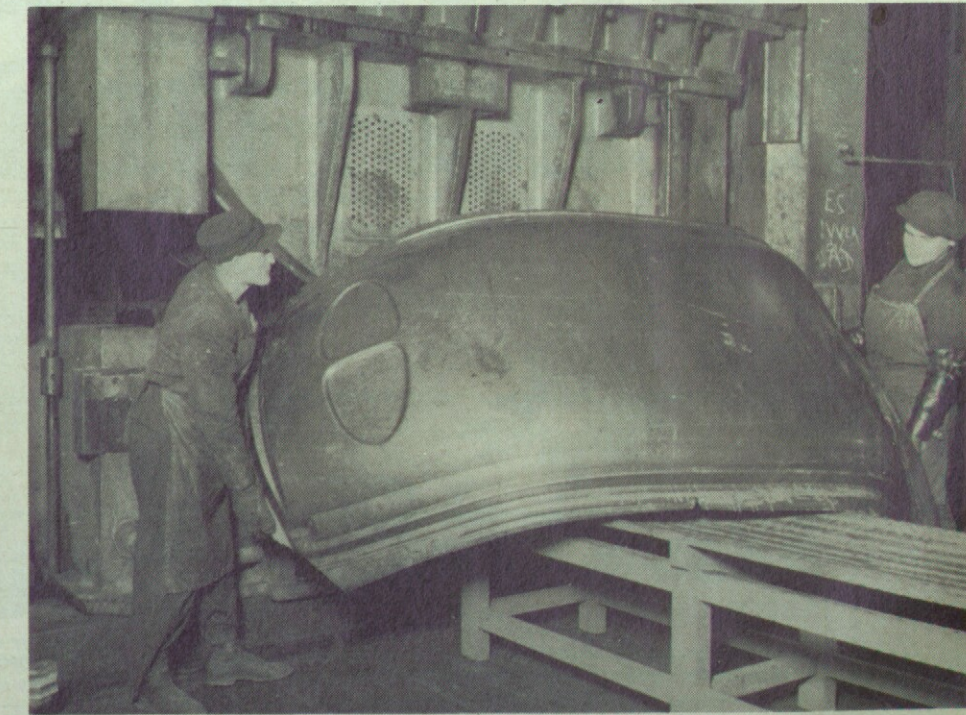
The military government finally relinquished control of the now-booming factory in late 1949 and the rest is history. The first two Beetles went on sale in Britain in 1952 but, by 1966, sales had increased to 19,405 a year and peaked at 33,525 in 1972. It is estimated that there are 300,000 cars still in use on British roads.

Now, with Volkswagen's new models gaining so much popularity, the Beetle has been phased out in Europe although it will still be produced at VW plants in Brazil, Mexico, Nigeria and South Africa.

But without the Army's original production line, the ubiquitous Beetle might well have died still-born.



Top: Some modifications, but still the same car. Above: Even the convertible has hardly changed.



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Humberdale			
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□ Pocklington	8,700		
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□ Scunthorpe-Revesby Ave	7,180		
Lancashire			
□ Bolton-Blackrod	9,250		
□ Bolton-Darcy Lever	10,150		
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□ Burnley-Reedley Park	9,450		
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□ Boston-Butterwick	8,620		
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□ Chapel St Leonards-Sea Rd South	9,530		
□ Cranwell-Church View	8,520		
□ Fleet-Eastgate Gdns			
□ Grantham	8,950		
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Scotland-Central			
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□ Coatbridge-Hillpark	13,250		
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□ Kilwinning-Kilniver	11,400		
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□ Loughborough-Ecclefechan	8,550		
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Mid Calder-Doonbank			
□ Renfrew-Fairways	13,600		
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S 01

General parts Iron Curtain

A British Army officer has been watching Soviet troops in action for the first time since World War Two. Major General Ted Burgess, Director of Combat Development, flew out to Russia to watch an exercise involving 25,000 soldiers about 600 miles south-west of Moscow.

General Burgess was in a party with Britain's military attaché in Moscow, Brigadier C D H Wilson, and observers from the United States and several European nations, to watch Exercise Berezina.

Warsaw Pact states have given notice of seven exercises in addition to Berezina and Nato observers have been invited to four of them. Britain and America had not previously been invited to send observers under the terms of the Helsinki Agreement.

Nato countries have notified 20 exercises and have invited Soviet observers to ten of them.

"Major General Burgess's presence at Berezina will be a welcome step towards achieving greater openness in military matters," said the Ministry of Defence. "Britain believes this contributes significantly to security and confidence in Europe."

"Obviously it is a tremendous

opportunity to get the feel of their Army as much as anything," said General Burgess. "Anything that allows me to see the Russian soldiers working properly will be of very great interest."

"I don't know too much about the area that the exercise will be held in, except that it will be very cold."

General Burgess is one of the first two post-war Sandhurst cadets to become major-generals. He was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1948 and his more recent appointments include Commander Royal Artillery 4th Division, and Director of Army Recruiting.

The general is not the first serving British soldier to part the Iron Curtain in recent years. The year before last a party from the Staff College, Camberley, visited their opposite numbers in the Moscow officers' staff college.

A return visit was made by the Russians to Camberley last year and



Major-General Ted Burgess

one of the high spots of their tour was to watch a presentation by a group of students — led by an American officer — on the Battle of Stalingrad.

The Russians rather stole the students' thunder by producing from their ranks a general who fought at Stalingrad.

Gütersloh to close

RAF Gütersloh, one of the major trooping airfields in Germany, is to be closed from April to air traffic — other than Harrier or Wessex — for essential repairs.

During this period — expected to last for 18 months from April 1 — trooping and charter flights will use Münster-Osnabrück Airport. The UK airport for trooping flights will still be Luton and transport will be provided at Münster-Osnabrück to take entitled passengers to and from their Army or RAF destinations.

RAF transport aircraft will use the German Air Force base at Wunstorf during the closure.

Full refreshment facilities are available at Münster-Osnabrück, where Customs and currency exchange facilities will also be provided. The airport is at Greven, 35 miles north-west of Gütersloh.

Military police will be routing to and from the new terminals for the benefit of passengers.

Equipment IS effective—MOD

"Whilst it is true that from time to time shortages in the provision of certain spares have occurred for reasons beyond the control of the Ministry of Defence or the Army, the facts simply do not support recent ill-informed comments."

So says the Ministry of Defence in reply to charges of ineffective and obsolete weapons in BAOR, levelled recently in the national Press. What has made these charges more damaging is that they are alleged to have come from 'worried officers.'

"There is wide misconception over the effect of the defence reviews," said a Ministry spokesman. "In fact they have had virtually no effect whatsoever on the equipment programme except for the cancellation of Vixen and RS 80."

Vixen was to be the new armoured car, and RS 80 is a rocket launcher.

"There has, however, been slippage due mainly to industrial problems in the UK. A great deal of progress is now being made and we are today in the midst of a dynamic equipment programme."

"No fewer than 40 new equipments are scheduled to be introduced into general service in the next year and a further 50 in the following four years, all of which should considerably improve our effectiveness."



In the new CVR(T) series of tracked reconnaissance combat vehicles, Striker, Scorpion, Scimitar, Spartan, Samaritan and Sampson are either in service or will be shortly (see SOLDIER, October 1977).

The new Lynx helicopter will start to enter service this year and will be issued to the Army Air Corps. As

Lynx comes into service the SS11 missile will be replaced by TOW — tube-launched optically tracked wire-guided missile.

Early deliveries have been accelerated on the new anti-tank weapon Milan, and development is proceeding on the light anti-tank weapon to replace the Carl Gustav and 66mm recoilless launcher.

The re-barrelling programme of the M109 gun is taking place now and is due for completion by May this year. This will increase the range and accuracy of the gun.

Picture shows Striker, the tracked rocket launcher in the CVR(T) series.

FALL IN

FALL IN

FALL IN

FALL IN

FALL IN

The Guards are renowned for their family traditions. But a father and no fewer than five sons have positively made one regiment a clan affair.

For Mr Angus McEwan's lads have all followed firmly in father's highly polished boot-steps by joining the Scots Guards.

Mr McEwan enlisted in 1945 and served with the regiment in the Far East and Rhine Army. His eldest son, Rory, joined in 1975 and is now serving with 1st Battalion.

Son number two, Conal, is serving in the same battalion as his brother after enlisting in 1976. Brothers Neil and Gregor signed on in 1977 and are at present at the Guards Depot where they were joined by the fifth son, Fergus, in January this year.

And to make sure his personal platoon was up to scratch at Pirbright, dad turned up too to brush up their drill.



Les on the lookout



Being on the lookout for recruits is not the only search Warrant Officer 1 Les Walker takes on . . . for he has been recruited to look for lost jewellery with his metal detector.

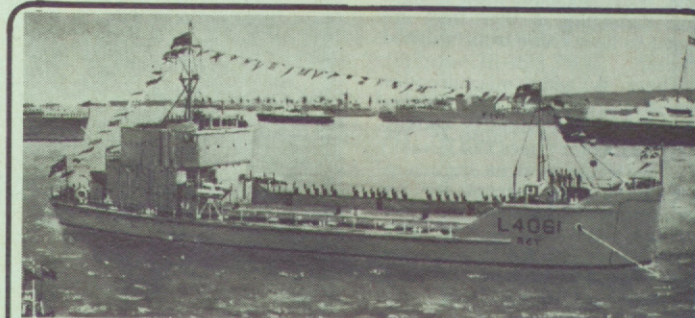
Les's treasure trail started when he was approached at the York Army Careers Information Office, where he works, to help find a lost ring in a girl's garden.

With military efficiency it took him just three minutes to sweep the area with his detector and find the missing ring. Since then he has been inundated with calls. One of his greatest successes (pictured with the anxious 'customer' looking on) was the recovery of a £400 diamond-and-sapphire ring lost at a fete.

Sounds like a big order

Grampian Reproducers Ltd, of Kingston-upon-Thames, has won a Ministry of Defence order worth £320,000 to supply its new mobile sound system to the Army. The sets will be used at tattoos, displays, ceremonial and sporting events and on other military occasions when independent facilities for broadcasting speech and music are needed.

The first of the new systems should be in use this Spring.



The first time that an Army ship has taken part in a Royal Navy Review — during last year's Jubilee celebrations — has been captured on canvas.

The picture was painted by Major Bill Wynn-Werninck, late of the Royal Army Service Corps, and shows Her Majesty's Army Vessel Audemer saluting the Royal Yacht Britannia.

Audemmer is a landing craft tank Mark 8 and is crewed by officers and soldiers of the Royal Corps of Transport.

The Jubilee review was also the first time that the Army Ensign had been flown on such an occasion. The flag is a blue ensign defaced with the Army badge — crossed swords surmounted by the crown and lion.

Quick thinking saves lives



Pictured is the sergeant (right) showing his commendation to three of the men who worked under his directions to save the motorists.

A Gurkha sergeant whose quick thinking and fast reactions saved the lives of three motorists during a flash flood last summer has been awarded the Commendation of the Commander British Forces Hong Kong.

Sergeant Lalbahadur Ale and seven men from the 1st Battalion, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles, snatched the three men from their car as it was swept away by swollen river waters near Pak Nai village in Hong Kong's New Territories last June.

Sergeant Lalbahadur received his Commendation from Brigadier Mike Carleton-Smith, Commander Gurkha Field Force, at a parade held at the battalion's Burma Lines barracks.

Brigadier Carleton-Smith also passed on the congratulations of the Commander British Forces, Lieutenant-General Sir John Archer, to the seven soldiers who were also involved in the incident.

The incident arose last June when the Gurkhas were returning to their barracks from the military firing range on Castle Peak. A sudden heavy rain storm flooded a river and made the ford by which the road crossed it impassable.

Despite warnings from Sergeant Lalbahadur, the three men tried to cross the river in their car but it was immediately swept away.

Under the direction of Sergeant Lalbahadur, the soldiers ran to a footbridge downstream and by holding on to both the bridge and the car managed to delay it long enough to get the two passengers out.

Realising that the driver could not save himself, all eight soldiers ran after the car, overtook it and, by forming a human chain, managed to grab the driver before the car was again swept away in the torrent.

Having rescued the occupants, Sergeant Lalbahadur and his men finally turned their attention to the car itself and eventually managed to anchor it with a rope to a tree further downstream.

'It is clear that Sergeant Lalbahadur Ale used his initiative and common sense and displayed leadership of a high degree,' said the citation accompanying the award.

'Had he and his men not reacted so quickly and positively, it is very likely that lives would have been lost.'

Sapper grenade returns

The Royal Engineers in Rhine Army have links with Hameln and the River Weser stretching back to 1946, so it is perhaps appropriate that the town has been chosen as the site of a new combat engineer training centre aimed at improving the skills of sappers and junior non-commissioned officers.

Plans for the centre were finalised in August last year and the official opening was by Brigadier John Groome, Chief Engineer 1 (BR) Corps.

He spoke of the sappers' association with Hameln and recalled that from 1946 to 48 there had been an engineer training centre in Gordon Barracks. The shoulder flash adopted and worn by them was that of GHQ Troops, 21 Army Group with a sapper grenade superimposed. This badge has been adopted as the sign of the new training centre.

Chelsea club is tops



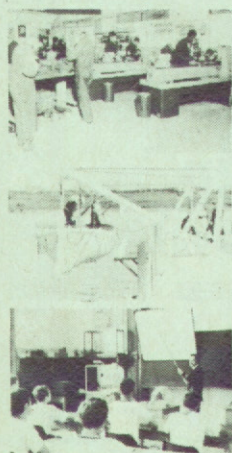
Soldiers in London's Chelsea Barracks have their own West End club . . . their Naafi. And it has just won a top prize for its excellence.

Men of the Welsh and Scots Guards who use the junior ranks club toasted the efforts of manageress Cicely White when she was presented with her handsome silver cup and a cheque for £115 by Mr Norman Dacey, Naafi's marketing director.

The Chelsea Barracks club topped the poll of clubs in Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales, the Midlands and London with points for its environment, sales performance, cleanliness and relationship with the units it serves.

In second place was the Castlemartin Club in Pembrokeshire which received £80, and third, Benbecula Naafi in the Outer Hebrides. Awards of £40 went to six regional winners and £20 to regional runners-up.

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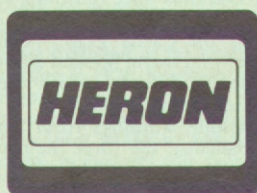
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Partners stamp friendship



The strong social and sporting ties which exist between Naschschubbataillon 1 and 1 (BR) Corps Postal and Courier Communications Unit, Royal Engineers, have been officially and ceremonially cemented with a 'partnership' parade at Hannover.

Formed up

More than 300 soldiers from the German logistic support unit and 200 from the postal unit formed up on the square. Music was played by the bands of 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, and Heeresmusikkorps 1.

Addressed

Following the inspection of the parade by Brigadier J W Bridge, Director of Postal and Courier Communications, and Oberst E Wetter, Chief of Staff Panzer-grenadierdivision 1, the two inspecting officers addressed the parade.

Brigadier Bridge said how pleased he was to be present at the partnership parade: "A true partnership is intended for the mutual benefit of those who enter into its contract. I feel confident that the partnership we are witnessing will flourish for the benefit of not only the members of the two units, but hopefully their families and the British and German communities generally."

Partnership

Oberst Wetter said the exchanging of partnership scrolls would seal an association that had grown in the last two years.

"It was not only the proximity of the two units in Hannover that brought about the affiliation, but also the similarity of their role.

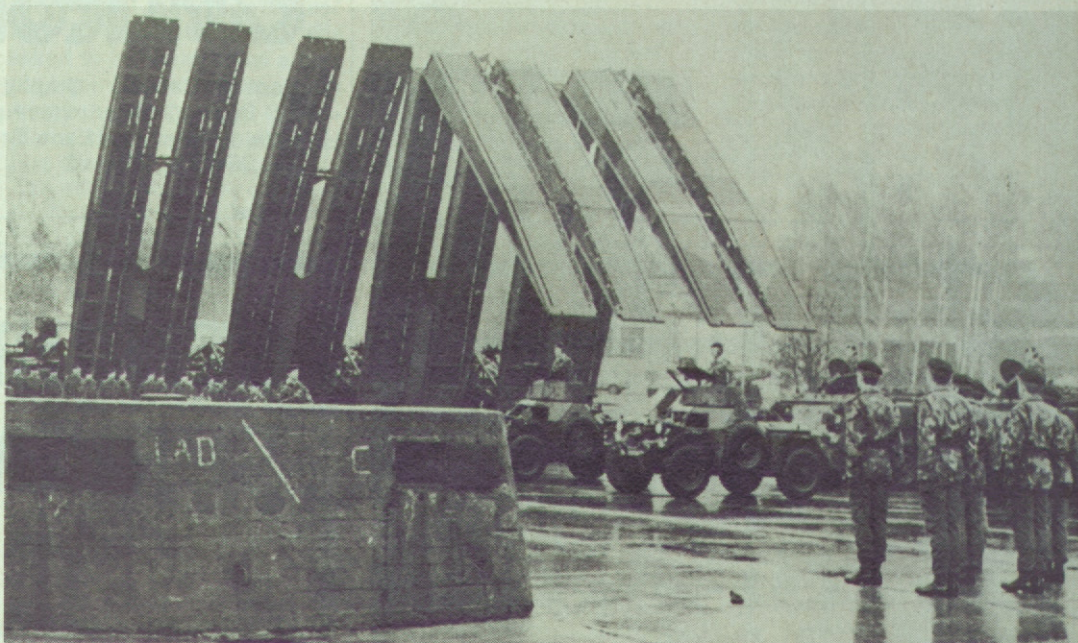
Friends

"Soldiers became friends on the many duty, social and sporting events in which they participated and this will guarantee a continuing and active partnership".

Sapper goodbye and hello

Chieftain and Centurion bridgelayers provide a dramatic steel awning for the final parade and drive-past of 31 Armoured Engineer Squadron, Royal Engineers.

The squadron, which has been in Osnabrück for the last seven years, now joins the Hohn-e-based 26 Armoured Engineer Squadron to form the new 26 Corps Armoured Engineer Squadron as part of the Rhine Army restructuring. The new squadron will be stationed at Münsterlager. The parade was inspected by Corps Commander Royal Engineers, Brigadier John Groome.



Romanu makes a Fiji first

A little piece of Royal Artillery history has been made in Northern Ireland with the promotion to warrant officer 2 of 37-year-old Romanu Naceva — the first Fijian to reach this rank with the gunners.

Romanu is obviously delighted — and so are his relatives on the island of Vanua Lavu in Fiji. Romanu is serving with 17 (Corunna) Battery, 26 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery.

He joined the British Army in the early 1960s, when about 200 of his fellow countrymen and women were recruited, and says that he has since had no cause to regret his decision. "I've been away from home for so long that I've got used to the colder weather of Europe, and given the same chances again I would do exactly the same thing — the Army is fine and it broadens the mind."

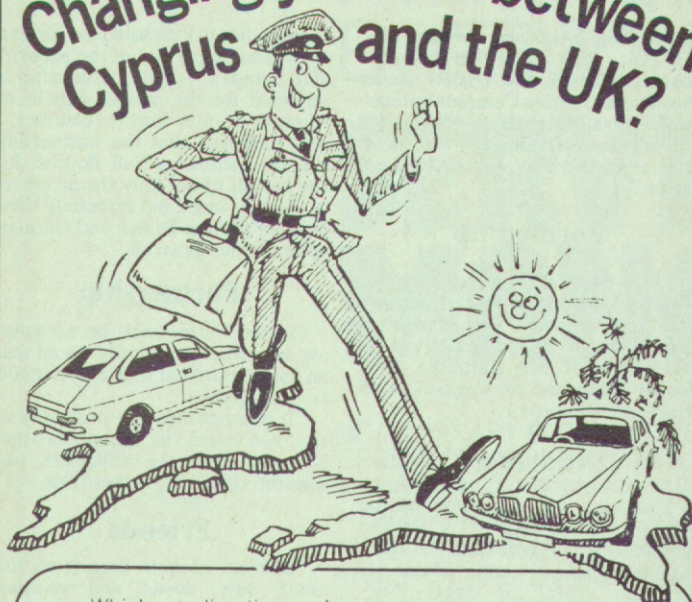
His wife Wainikiti Tavatri and children Marisilina Sauvakadua

(11), Paulo Sevania (7), and Makarita Dinaulu (3), are in Dortmund, where the regiment will return after its four-month tour. The children can all understand their parents' home language, but only Marisilina is learning to speak it — along with French and German.

Of the Fijians who joined the Army, about 70 are still serving, 20 of them with the gunners — and Romanu has four compatriots with him in 26 Field Regiment.

Picture shows Romanu starting out on patrol in a Saracen with some of his men.

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Redundancies hit school numbers

Redundancies in the Army have led to a greater number of girls than normal leaving the Royal Soldiers Daughters' School during the current school year.

So far it has been possible to fill these extra vacancies from the waiting list, but there are now about six vacancies available for the Summer term which cannot be filled in this way and more will be available for the Winter term 1978.

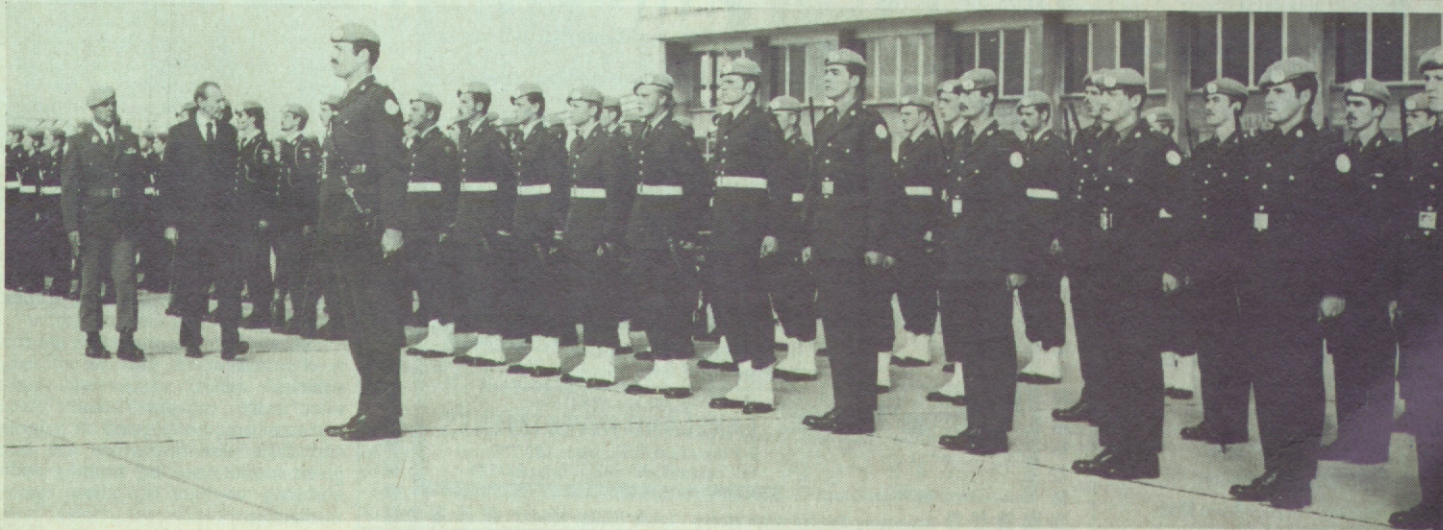
It is important that applications for vacancies for girls due to start secondary education next September should reach the school secretary by the middle of March. The address is Royal Soldiers Daughters' School, 65 Rosslyn Hill, London NW3 5UD (phone 01-794 7707).

For some years Trent College at Nottingham has offered Albert Ball scholarships and bursaries for sons of disabled and deceased members of the RAF, in memory of one of their most famous old boys, Albert Ball VC. The two Albert Ball scholarships for the RAF are to be retained, and the value is to be raised to £450 from September 1978, and this may be increased in cases of need if evidence of means is provided. It has now been decided to increase the number of Albert Ball scholarships to three, so that one of them may be open to personnel of the Army and Royal Navy.

In addition, there will be four bursaries available of £405 a year with effect from September 1978. These bursaries are available for the entry of boys from the age of eleven on 1 September, and in certain circumstances boys can be admitted from the age of ten-and-a-half. These bursaries are also available for the entry of boys from prep schools via common entrance at the age of 13.

Same beret— different uniforms

Men of 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment, currently part of the British contingent in the United Nations Force in Cyprus, formed part of the guard of honour paraded to greet UN Secretary-General Dr Kurt Waldheim when he visited the troubled island recently.



Cash comes rolling in

A total of £130,000 was raised in the Christmas appeal for Service firefighters, Ssafa has announced.

Here, Miss New Zealand (Michele Hyde) presents a cheque for £1000 to the chairman of Ssafa, Lieutenant-General Sir Napier Crookenden, as a special thank-you from Anchor Butter.

The cheque was in appreciation of the efforts of servicemen to save the butter factory when a fire next door to it was stopped from spreading only by an all-night battle.

The bulk of the cash was distributed before Christmas. Commanders of firefighting units were given discretion to allocate the money as they saw fit. Some gave out cash, others food hampers, gift vouchers, children's parties, pantomime visits or help with transport.



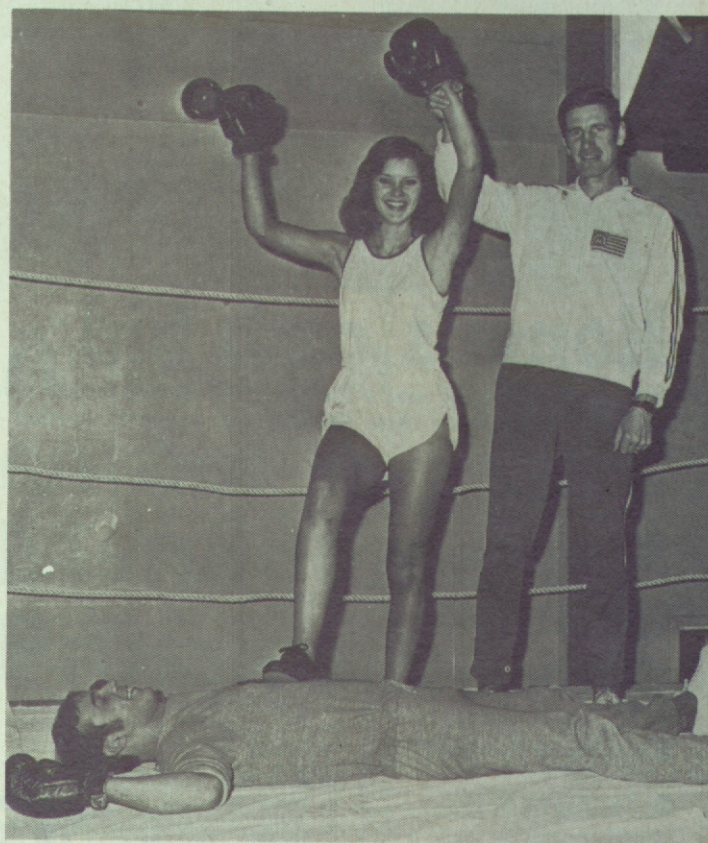
Sandy is the champ

The Royal Corps of Transport's 10 Regiment thought 17-year-old Sandy McAteer was a knockout when she asked to be adopted as a unit pin-up. So, as four times Army unit boxing champions, they decided she was just the girl for them.

So while most girls are concerned about getting rings on their fingers, Sandy sportingly opted for a square ring when she visited 10 Regiment in Northern Ireland where it is currently serving away from its home base in Germany.

The RCT 'bruisers' stuck strictly to Queens(berry) regulations, though, and treated Sandy gently during her visit. But she couldn't resist the comment that it had been "smashing."

Sergeant Leslie Georing is raising the winner's arm, and Lance-Corporal Leslie Lawton is the lucky opponent flattened by Sandy's charms.



Terriers get new gun



The first 105mm guns to be issued to a reserve unit will be 'broken in' this month at the Larkhill ranges.

The gun has been in service with Regular units for just over a year and now 289 Commando Battery, Royal Artillery, at East Ham in London, has received the new gun. The first live firing will be on Larkhill ranges in March.

Pictured unpacking a gun platform are (left to right) Gunner Geoff Hill, Sergeant Ron Gorman and RQMS Roy MacNaughton, watched by Major John Meggy, battery commander.

Nick smiles through to top prize

Lieutenant Nicholas Mercer has been awarded the Ambrose Pratt prize by the Young Officers' Wing of the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill.

The prize is awarded to the young officer 'who shows the best all-round improvement in officer qualities during his young officer course — one of the qualities being a sense of humour.'

The presentation will be delayed, as Lieutenant Mercer's unit — 26 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery — is on duty in Northern Ireland. He will be presented with his prize, a ceremonial sword, on his return from the Province.

He is currently troop officer with 159 (Colenso) Field Battery in Lurgan.

Rover to the rescue



An ex-Army Land-Rover has taken on a new life — as the first emergency animal rescue vehicle in Hong Kong.

For the last two months it has been undergoing renovations at the Royal Electrical and Mechanical

Engineers' 50 Command Workshop at Sham Shui Po — a task taken on voluntarily by the Army.

Then, fitted out with radio, ladders, lights, ropes and other emergency equipment, the vehicle was handed over by Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Gardner, Commander REME Hong Kong, to Mr David Marchington, chairman of Hong Kong's Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and the society's controller, Dr Robert Callow.

Bought by the society as Ministry of Defence surplus, the Land-Rover will be based at their headquarters in Kowloon.

From there it will be on 24-hour standby, answering calls from anywhere on Hong Kong Island, in the New Territories or Kowloon.

The society's 16 inspectors are to receive training in the use of the vehicles' special equipment. And since many call-outs involve the rescue of animals trapped on ledges and cliffs, the inspectors will be given mountaineering training and abseiling to back up their basic instruction.

Home's cash bid

Linburn, the residential centre for Scottish war blinded, has mounted a campaign to raise £80,000 for urgently needed improvements.

Linburn receives no State aid and exists wholly on the kindness of the public by donations, deeds of covenant and legacies.

"It's a long time since World War

Two and the men of Linburn are getting older and less able to cope," explained the Duke of Buccleuch, president of the Scottish National Institute for the War Blinded.

Now a new ward is needed and doors and corridors must be widened to take wheelchairs. Kitchen and laundry facilities need to be extended and more beds are required.

Donations should be sent to Scottish War Blinded, 38 Albany Street, Edinburgh.

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Dutch honour Arnhem hero

Major-General Johnny Frost fought to take the bridge at Arnhem, the legendary 'Bridge too Far.' Now, 33 years later, he has been 'given' it, with the best wishes of the townspeople.

The then-Lieutenant-Colonel Frost was in command of 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, who held one end of the towering bridge across the Rhine against a Panzer division for four savage and bloody days.

Although the operation failed and a large part of Arnhem was destroyed as a result, the link forged between the town and Britain is as strong now as it was then.

Which is why, when a new bridge was built to ease the town's traffic problem, the local authorities decided to name the old one after their old friend, John Frost.

But there was one problem. Bridges in Holland are never named after living people. Or rather they weren't because the Dutch Minister of Transport immediately agreed to Arnhem's request, and the old bridge is now officially the John Frostbrug.

On the day when the new bridge, the graceful Roermondspleinbrug,

was opened, Major-General Frost, now a farmer in Sussex, took part in the procession through Arnhem.

He was able to watch the new bridge being opened and then to ride back across the old one, which changed its name to his the moment he crossed it.

John Frost had got his bridge back.

Graves traced

At this time of the year, when many people are planning their holidays abroad, they may remember a relative or friend who died in one of the two world wars. They may want to visit the grave — but how can they find it? It is here that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission can help.

The Commission keeps records of 1,700,000 Commonwealth war dead buried or commemorated in nearly every corner of the world and is able to quickly give the location of a single grave among the many thousands.

Anyone who needs such information should send as many details as possible of the war casualty concerned (full name, unit, rank, date of death and so on) to the Commission at 2 Marlow Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 7DX.



Mystery stone

A heavy lump of stone which came with 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles all the way from Hong Kong to their present station at Church Crookham is causing some headaches — because no-one knows quite where it came from.

The brass inscription on the stone's base plate has been worn smooth by constant polishing and now the British Museum has been called in to help trace its history.

The stone is mentioned in a letter from a retired lieutenant-colonel, now a member of the regimental association, which shows that it was stolen in 1916 from ruins in the Ur of Chaldees, an ancient Babylonian

cophagus. But it had to be left.

"The looting propensities of the 2/6th GR resulted in the carrying away of a large basalt slab, which for some time had been regarded with longing eyes by everyone who visited Safah.

"This slab was thought by experts to be the lintel of a doorpost, and was very finely carved, showing the



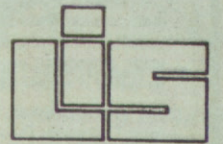
town. For a long time the heavy stone was used as a doorstep in the officers' mess bathroom at Abbotabad, but the rest is a mystery.

"In September 1916, and onward through the cold weather, two companies at a time for a fortnight, alternately with the 2/5 GR, were at Safah," reads the letter. "The chief interest of this place was its proximity to Ur of Chaldees. Many officers found the ruins very interesting, and a certain party made great efforts to disinter a sar-

lower part of an Assyrian figure. This was brought back on a hospital tonga (stretcher) and reposed for a long time in Rice's bathroom in Nasariyeh, to the great disgust of all who searched for it. It eventually found its way back to India and is (was) in the mess at Abbotabad."

The stone is now reposing in the entrance hall of the 6th QEO officers' mess. Any ex-Gurkha officer who can shed any light on the mystery should contact the Gurkha Museum at Church Crookham.

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Army fire hero's bravery

An Army staff-sergeant has been awarded the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct for his actions at the scene of a major fire in a London warehouse.

Staff-Sergeant James Nicholas Rogers, serving with the Depot Regiment, Royal Artillery, at Woolwich, was sent out as co-ordinator from the Service firefighting base at Armoury House, City Road, when a serious fire was reported at a Clerkenwell warehouse on 16 November 1977.

The citation to the award records that soldiers fighting the fire soon began to suffer from the effects of smoke and on at least a dozen occasions Staff Rogers went into the smoke-filled building to lead to safety teams attempting to locate the seat of the fire. Having ensured the safety and welfare of these soldiers, he briefed their replacements and returned with them into the building.

Staff Rogers supervised the evacuation of the building when he noticed that the structure had become unsafe. He was then told



that a fire officer had fallen through a pavement skylight into the basement of the building. Although the basement was filled with smoke and flames, Staff Rogers and another soldier placed a ladder through the skylight. He then descended into the basement and led the fire officer to safety.

The fire took more than six hours to bring under control and at the height of the blaze Staff Rogers had 11 Green Goddesses and their crews under his command.

'During the whole of this time, under adverse and totally alien conditions, Staff-Sergeant Rogers displayed courage of the highest order,' states the citation.

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Public praises the Battle of the Blazes



One of the great surprises of the nine-week firemen's strike was the overwhelming support given to soldiers by the general public. Probably not since the General Strike of 1926 has the Army been involved in such a sustained aid to the civil community. But in that confrontation the soldiers were seen as unwelcome strike-breakers. In the firemen's strike the public showed their support and admiration in a hundred different ways.

In all, 20,750 sailors, soldiers and airmen were involved in providing emergency cover with military precision in Operation Burberry. During that period they went to 37,247 incidents, ranging from chip-pan fires to multi-million pound blazes. Ten thousand of the firefighters were soldiers, most of whom received only rudimentary training before being sent out in their antique green Civil Defence fire engines.

But so popular did these old tenders — mothballed way back in the 'fifties — prove with the public that they were quickly known by their original nickname of 'Green Goddesses.'

At any one time there were 11,000 servicemen deployed on two shifts on actual firefighting duties, replacing 32,500 strikers.

Covering the whole of the UK with just 1000 Green Goddesses based at only 389 locations, using crews untrained in modern firefighting techniques, without breathing apparatus, and without specialised knowledge of their local areas, looked like an impossible task at the start of the strike.

The sprawling Strathclyde region, for instance, including Glasgow — 'the tinderbox of Scotland' with its notorious Victorian tenement blocks — had only 480 men from 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, filling in for 1959 full-time firemen. And their God-goddess ladders reached only to the second floor of the tenements.

The troops were moved into TAVR centres, cadet huts, police stations, a holiday camp and even Carlisle Castle. At first the only facility in many places was just enough space to stretch out a sleeping bag on the floor. Small wonder that one temporary billet achieved some notoriety in the Press when it was dubbed the 'Cockroach Hilton' by its unfortunate patrons.

But gradually conditions improved. Here again the generosity of the public was overwhelming. Television sets, books, games and most of the comforts of home were provided by grateful factories, shops and individuals, many of whom were for the first time seeing their Army at work.

'This showed the public that we are not just groups of bungling amateurs but rather that

we have the professional ability to get with it very quickly," said Major-General Henry Woods, General Officer Commanding North East District.

"Within 72 hours of moving into locations the temporary firemen were dealing expertly with outbreaks." Fingers were crossed, he said, because firefighting is so remote from a soldier's task but they soon learned to cope.

Christmas was the high point in the public's generosity. Probably for the first time, people were made to realise that, for the Army, time off is not a God-given right. Few units were stationed near their homes — most were in unfamiliar towns. But every drill hall had its quota of invitations to functions and soldiers were invited to people's homes for Christmas dinner.

Movable feast

Block leave went by the board for most, and as one officer said: "Christmas became a movable feast; we grabbed it when we could."

Several units even started waiting lists so that all invitations for Christmas dinner could be accepted.

"It was without doubt the best bit of public relations the Army has ever had," said one sergeant. "The public were right behind us and appreciated what we were doing. That made the lads feel really good."

At the start of the strike there were gloomy predictions of a holocaust with hundreds of people dying in burned-out buildings while soldiers stood by helpless. The

soldiers-turned-firefighters were initially a little apprehensive of what they might face, but the predictions turned out to be groundless.

Cope

With a fraction of the regular fire service's men and equipment, the amateur firemen showed that they could cope, and although it is true to say that the insurance companies took a knock, there was no significant rise in the number of injured and dead during the nine-week period compared with the same period last year.

The Army's policy of saving lives, then merely containing fires and stopping them spreading, rather than going into burning buildings to attack the heart of the blaze, paid off. There was more serious damage to property but the death list was kept to an 'acceptable' level.

According to the Home Office there were 203 deaths during the nine-week period — only a few more than during the same time last year. Before the strike the country's daily figures had been about 600 fires attended with an average of three deaths a day.

Averaging out the figures during the strike, there were 900 more calls and only 17 more deaths than expected. This includes the two Royal Irish Rangers killed when their Goddess skidded and overturned on black ice in Manchester. In all, 316 troops were injured during the strike.

Suspicious

"We are always a bit suspicious of statistics," said a Home Office spokesman, "because they can be affected by so many things like weather, or even by people using extra caution."

A great morale-booster was the addition of 33 specialist Royal Navy and Royal Air Force teams equipped with breathing apparatus, foam and cutting gear. As it turned out, these teams were invaluable in the factories and warehouses of the bigger cities.

Among the many people to pay tribute to the firefighters was the Defence Secretary, Mr Fred Mulley. He said that the emergency well illustrated "the splendid capacity of the armed forces to take on and discharge unfamiliar and demanding tasks at very short notice."

Mr Mulley stressed that in his own visits to Service firefighting units he had been greatly impressed by the positive attitude the Services had shown to the job in hand — and by the sympathy and support they received from the general public.

"The emergency placed tremendous demands on all servicemen and their families," he said, "not just the firefighters, but also all those filling the operational and training gaps that the situation created. The whole community has every reason to be grateful to them."

A bigger enemy than fires turned out to be boredom. No-one was prepared for the amount of time which had to be whiled away while waiting for a call. One section in North East District went for three weeks with only two chip-pan fires to relieve the monotony.

"Makes you realise why regular firemen are such good darts players," was one comment.

Some units, particularly gunner regiments, managed to take some of their equipment with them to keep up some form of training during off-duty hours, but many had to resort to watching programme after programme of children's TV shows to while away the hours.

Disrupted

The Ministry of Defence confirmed that recruit and employment training were seriously disrupted. Training and support organisations in all three Services were called on to bear the brunt of providing most of the manpower to try and avoid interfering with operational readiness or important exercises.

Because troops in Northern Ireland were already fully committed, a 350-strong squadron from 4th/7th Dragoon Guards from Rhine Army



A face shows human cost.

was flown in to provide firefighting cover in the Province. Between 50 and 60 specialists from the Navy and RAF were drafted in with 4th/7th, bringing breathing apparatus and special equipment.

An additional hazard in Northern Ireland was the terrorists. A fire bomb campaign started in September but, true to form, the IRA announced that this would be cancelled at the start of the strike as a gesture of solidarity with the striking firemen. So no-one was particularly surprised when they kept up their bombing campaign and booby trapped fire hydrants.

Because of this extra headache, the 4th/7th also had to provide guards for the firefighters, stretching thin resources even further.

A total of 824 calls was answered in the Province, of which 452 proved to be fires. The rest were hoaxes or false alarms.

One of the costliest fires in the nine weeks was also one of the earliest — when the £70,000,000 Tilbury B power station caught fire. The troops became operational on Monday 14 November and the power station went up only two days later.

"We really were thrown in at the deep end," said Colonel David Fladgate, chief fire liaison officer for Essex. "At the start we had three Green Goddesses there, plus retained firemen, but more were drafted in."

Without breathing apparatus the soldiers were driven back by acrid smoke and 15 police, troops and a

Continued on News 12

senior fire officer were taken to hospital suffering from smoke fumes. Damage was estimated at

£8,000,000. A fire chief said afterwards that in normal circumstances about 20 appliances with foam and turntable ladders would have turned

out to the blaze. But instead it was fought by 50 soldiers, police and part-time firemen with six Green Goddesses.

The 'amateurs' took longer to put the fire out, but put it out they did, and more importantly did it without loss of life.

Goddesses go back to mothballs



With light-hearted ceremony, Surrey's 'Green Goddesses' drove off parade at Blackdown Barracks, Deepcut, and back into 'mothballs.' And for their Royal Corps of Transport drivers and mainly Gurkha crews there were certificates from Surrey's County Fire Service — and free drinks.

In what was probably the only ceremony of its kind in the country, Surrey County Council senior members and officials visited the Royal Army Ordnance Corps Training Centre at Blackdown to express the county's thanks for the Army's coverage of Surrey during the nine-week firemen's strike.

On parade were 12 'Green Goddesses' and their firefighting crews from 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles, another 'Green Goddess' with its crew from Depot, The Parachute Regiment, and a Royal Air Force fire tender and

crew. On parade too were representatives of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, who kept the 'Green Goddesses' on the road, of Surrey military fire-fighting headquarters, located at Blackdown, and of the Army Fire Service, also based at Blackdown, which trained nearly 5000 soldiers in firefighting.

Inspecting the parade were the Chairman of Surrey County Council (Brigadier David Bastin), Chief Fire Officer (Mr Alfred Butler) and Chief Constable (Mr Peter Matth-

ews). The inspection music, appropriately including 'Keep the Home Fires Burning' and 'Consider Yourself... One of the Family,' was played by the RAOC Staff Band which itself went firefighting in neighbouring Sussex, at Bognor Regis, Chichester and Worthing.

Cheerfully

Thanking the troops, on behalf of the people of Surrey, for the vital work they had carried out so efficiently, unsparingly and, above all, cheerfully during the previous nine weeks, Brigadier Bastin said the Army had once again shown its great adaptability by coming to the public's rescue and playing a key role throughout the firemen's strike.

"It is difficult for members of the public themselves adequately to pass on their thanks and appreciation in situations of this kind," he said. "But you can be sure that throughout Surrey — and indeed throughout the country — there is a very real feeling of gratitude for the way in which the Army responded to the challenge and carried out

these unfamiliar and often dangerous duties.

Saving

"There can be no doubt that troops such as yourselves have been responsible for saving millions of pounds worth of property and a great number of lives. You have come through with flying colours and Surrey is proud of you."

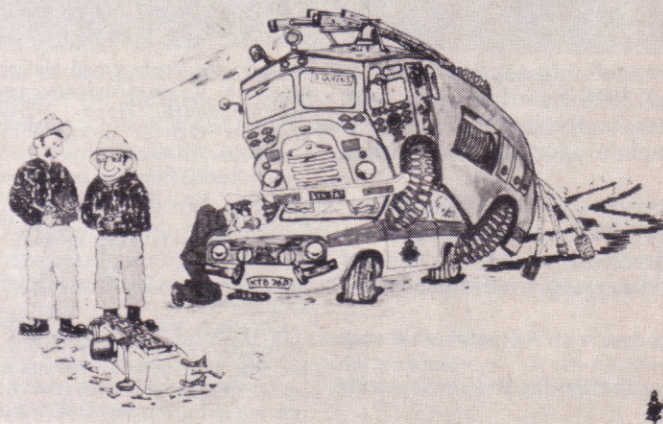
Brigadier Bastin then took the salute as the 'Green Goddesses' drove past and, with their fire bells tinkling for the last time, into retirement once more.

Finally, in Blackdown's Cannon Club, the Chief Fire Officer presented certificates from the County Fire Service to the drivers, fire crews, fire headquarters and police.

Quoting Napoleon's order of the day, 'Soldiers, I am content with you,' Mr Butler said: "I have been more than content and so have my officers who worked with each and everyone of you of all ranks."

Picture shows the Gurkhas with their fire helmets, given to them as souvenirs.

SOLDIER took a guess at what the cartoon firemen of 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, were saying in this drawing — presented to them by PC Ken Knipe by way of appreciation for the happy relations that grew between the unit and his colleagues in Merseyside Constabulary during the firemen's strike.



"I'd love to see the Chief Constable's face when he has to add a litter of green Panda cars to his fleet!"

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IN PARLIAMENT

Training 'not hit' by fire duties

In the wake of the firemen's strike, Mr Geoffrey Pattie (Conservative, Chertsey & Walton) asked if any attempt had been made to assess the cost of the serious dislocation of training caused by servicemen having to be engaged in fire service duties.

Dr John Gilbert, Minister of State for Defence, said it was a matter which had given the Government concern and added: "We are taking steps as far as possible to ensure that, where training courses are interrupted and are then subsequently completed, increases in pay which result from completion of training will be backdated, so that men do not suffer as a result of their participation in this activity."

Seven Labour MPs asked questions about the Government's proposal to increase arms spending annually by three per cent. Mr Fred Mulley, Secretary of State for Defence, said the defence budget estimates for 1978-79 would represent about four-and-three-quarters per cent of estimated gross domestic product compared with the previous five per cent.

The Government had decided to increase the defence budget by three per cent in 1978-79 and by a further three per cent the following year, subject to review in the light of economic circumstances. No decisions had been taken about subsequent years.

Mr Mulley continued: "Defence took its full share of the public expenditure cuts in 1976. Now that our economic prospects are improving, it is right that we should plan to contribute to the increase in Nato defence effort made necessary by the marked and continuing growth of Warsaw Pact military power."

Left winger Mr Frank Allaun (Labour, Salford East) declared: "Instead of showing utter contempt for the British people and the Labour movement by flouting the election pledge to reduce arms spending and actually increasing it, will the Secretary of State tell Dr Luns, the ever-demanding and propagandising head of Nato; to get stuffed?"

Mr Mulley said he did not think Mr Allaun would really wish that sort of message to be conveyed.

Other Labour members continued the attack with Mr Hugh Jenkins (Putney) declaring that in not carrying out the party's election pledge Mr Mulley was driving a wedge between the party and the Government.

In a discussion on Service pay, Mr Martin Flannery (Labour, Hillborough) returned to the subject of trades unions and declared that it was time the armed forces had trades unions and free collective bargaining.

Mr Mulley reiterated that he did not think trade union organisation of the armed forces would assist. One of the reasons that the Services did not want unions was that many of those who advocated them also advocated substantial reductions in defence expenditure, which would lead to redundancies.

Mr Robert Boscawen (Conservative, Wells) asked Mr Robert Brown, Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Army, if he was satisfied with the standard of postal services available between the United Kingdom and members of British forces and their families stationed in Rhine Army.

Mr Brown said he was.

Liberal Mr Emlyn Hooson (Montgomery) asked if there were any proposals to increase the size of the Army. Mr Brown said that measures to alleviate the effects on the Army of continuing emergency commitments were under consideration.

Kings aid refugees



Much-needed educational books, PT mattresses, sports equipment and carpentry tools have been donated to the refugee children at Vrysonlas school, Cyprus, by 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment.

The gifts were suggested after discussions between the school and the battalion. The school is close to the Eastern Sovereign Base Area where the Kingmen are responsible for security.

The presentation was made by Captain Mike Kelly (above).

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The Cyprus economy at last seems to be improving since the recent troubles, hotels are springing up again and the tourist trade is on the increase. But for the families on a so-called package holiday with the Army for two or three years, Cyprus can be a different story.

On my recent visit to the island, I was once again impressed by the way in which families utilise the climate and natural resources of the country to take advantage of all the opportunities that abound.

Amenities and facilities are self-generated — there are no grants from local authorities or state subsidies. Instead there might be a two-figure loan from perhaps garrison funds, but even this is raised mainly within the garrison.

Whether for adults or children, all the activities available have flourished completely on voluntary help. And although they may be far from home, these families do not forget the plight of the underprivileged in Britain. Charity fundraising plays a large part in their lives. Thousands of pounds have been raised for Ssafa, Wireless for the Blind and other organisations.

Local charities too have not been forgotten and, over the years, hundreds of pounds have been raised to help local suffering. No mean achievement considering that the same pockets are being tapped time and time again.

Once again I write of the esprit de corps that you will be hard pressed to find in communities outside the Services, which I found in such abundance among the families in Cyprus.

Despite all this there is the nagging fear at the back of people's minds that they must save hard while on the island in preparation for returning home. As one wife said: "Last time we were here we did the island properly, but this time we cannot pretend, we have opted out for the sole reason of saving some money — and save we must."

Anne Armstrong



ALL IN THE FAMILY

WITH

ANNE ARMSTRONG

Brighter wards a tonic



Brightening up children's hospital wards appears to be catching on in a big way. Now the Cambridge Military Hospital at Aldershot has followed the example set by those at Catterick and Woolwich (SOLDIER, October 1977).

The artist is Miss Anne Pitcher, a part-time teacher in the children's ward. She has already painted characters from 'The Wind in the Willows' over the walls of the entrance to the ward and plans to follow that up with 'Jungle Book' characters.



Rise in charges hits families

A 200 per cent increase in excess MFO baggage charges has meant a goldmine for Cypriot dustmen as Army families throw out household goods rather than pay for them to be shipped home.

The charges were raised late in 1977 — the first increase in Cyprus rates since 1968 — which has meant families disposing of washing machines, refrigerators, deep freezers, children's toys and kitchen items.

Most families try to sell their goods through the thrift shops or the Naafi notice board, but as the last resort the local dustmen will cart them away.

Families in every overseas station — including Rhine Army — have been affected by the rise, which has resulted in many families having to sell possessions before coming home.

Another worry for families is that the Ministry of Defence does not insure baggage handled by the moving agencies.

After more than six years in Rhine Army, one family decided to send its family possessions home to

storage in UK rather than transport them to Cyprus. The £254 transportation cost to UK worked out cheaper than the excess baggage charges that would have been levied had these possessions gone to Cyprus.

But now, in its new posting, the family has had forced to hire a washing machine and refrigerator.

There has been no increase in the baggage scales since 1948 and this, coupled with the pegging of boarding school scales to 1974 rates and the withdrawal of 72 items from quarter inventories since 1972, has not helped the position of families on the island.

Disturbance allowance and pay have not been raised sufficiently either to take into account these factors.

One family took 14 boxes and one crate from Germany to Cyprus in April 1977 and paid excess baggage on one, at a cost of £15. In August 1977, that extra cost jumped to £90. A neighbour sold her vacuum cleaner, washing machine, bookcase, toys and kitchen items, leaving only bare essentials, yet her baggage allowance was still exceeded to the tune of £120.

Families posted from Rhine Army

to Cyprus cannot have extra baggage shipped to UK and stored there free, so everything must either be shipped home at private expense or taken to Cyprus.

No allowance is made for families in hirings, yet they are advised to bring a large amount of extra items considered essential but which landlords do not provide, which normally come under the heading of excess baggage.

The allowance for families with children at boarding school has been cut to half a hundredweight per child — two suitcases — and a hundredweight remains at school.

It is argued that home is the school, and the children visit parents only three times a year, but no school trunk includes bikes, toys, record players, books, games and all the other hundred-and-one things that should be at home.

Statistics show that one in five families in Britain owns a freezer, and yet even washing machines and refrigerators are not yet considered part of the needs of a Service family. Perhaps the time is ripe for the Joint Services Quarters Committee to reconsider the need for refrigerators as it has done overseas. Families buy them for UK use and then have to

carry them round at their own expense.

The basic rate of disturbance allowance can be paid in advance, but not more than one month before the move, according to the Ministry of Defence.

The only way to get an advance on the child element is to get a letter from the new school saying that unless the child is dressed in correct uniform on the first day, he or she will not be admitted. Then an application can be made for consideration.

Removal expenses can also be paid up to one month in advance. These must be claimed on Army Form O 1768 and the Army will pay the lowest of three tenders submitted. But remember that in Britain you can use the military system. Apply to your transport officer for details.

An important point to remember is that excess baggage charges will be deducted in full, usually from the first pay slip in the new posting — which may well cause hardship when families need extra cash to settle in.

If the deduction is more than you can manage, contact your unit paymaster and ask to pay the bill by instalments.

Pay review report 'crucial'

Whether April — when the recommendations of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body are put before the Prime Minister — will bring good or bad news remains to be seen but, this year perhaps more than in any other year, their report will be crucial for Service families, writes Anne Armstrong.

Comparability of Service pay with that of civilians has been achieved twice in the last six years and then eroded — perhaps this year that lost ground will be made up.

An interesting question was asked recently: "Why don't the majority of servicemen's wives work, most civilian wives do?" On reflection I realised that now more and more agencies take it for granted that the family budget is usually assessed on two incomes, however small they may be.

Unfortunately for Service families, this second string to the bow is often impossible for the reasons that we know only too well. Most Service families have to rely completely on the husband's income.

Miss Jean Orr is Director of the Office of Manpower Economics. She explained to me that the Armed Forces Pay Review Body was appointed in 1971 to advise the Prime Minister on the pay and allowances of members of naval, military and air forces of the Crown and of any women's Service administered by the Defence Council.

The AFPRB, the Top Salaries Review Body and the Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body represent those people who have no machinery for settling pay rates by collective bargaining. All three review bodies have a common secretariat provided by the Office of Manpower Economics.

The AFPRB, said Miss Orr, has eight members, one of whom is a woman. All give their services free and they are totally independent of any political or military direction.

"If there was a permanent Service representation it would not then be truly independent. The review body's independence might be affected. But there is in any case a wealth of Services' experience among the members."

Most of the committee meet at regular intervals, and in addition they make many visits to Service stations. "They all have jobs to do and are not paid to serve on the review body but give their time freely."

Miss Orr explained that families are entitled to write to the board putting forward their views on pay, and board members meet many individuals when carrying out visits.

"We have been to Northern Ireland, Malta, BAOR. However we have never taken evidence from an individual other than on these visits, but we do receive a great deal of evidence from both MOD and civilian sources and of course from the Joint Services Job Evaluation Team."

"If there are aspects of pay and allowances on which we need more information, we instigate special studies."

"The review body decides on the evidence it needs and calls for it. The Services 'management' — the principal personnel officers — see the review body at regular intervals to make known their own views and the views of servicemen and women as they encounter them. And evidence is also given on behalf of the Government."

"The review body also gets a first-hand impression of the views on a good cross-section of servicemen and women on its visits and attaches great importance to these. Often if members are near a camp we will ask if they can visit, and the MOD also suggests places to visit".

Many wives are worried about pensions, especially widows' pensions. One worry is that pensions are linked to pay which means that servicemen leaving during a period of pay restraint could suffer from a depressed pension. I asked Miss Orr if the board could recommend that pensions should be based on the comparable rate and not on actual rates of pay.

"This is not a matter for the review body. Pensions in the public services are governed by Acts of Parliament and the review body's charter runs for pay and allowances. Although pensions are aligned to pay, recommendations cover actual pay and allowances. It is of course true that, when pay is constrained, the pensions of those who retire reflect that constraint. But in common with many other parts of the public services, the armed forces do have the benefit of an 'inflation-proofed' pensions scheme."

Miss Orr could not say whether the review body will publish full comparability tables showing how Service families stand in relation to other wage settlements that are now taking place.

"The review is going on now, the evidence is under examination. A great deal of work remains to be done and it simply is not possible to forecast what will be in the report to the Prime Minister."

"The review body makes use of evidence on earnings outside and earnings include the cast effect of



Miss Jean Orr

overtime pay, productivity deals and such like that have already come into effect in outside employment. We know of course that the picture is not a static one and naturally we have our eyes and our ears open to ensure that we have evidence of what is actually happening outside the Services right up to the time when a report is signed."

The review body is also concerned with the X factor, introduced in 1970 at five per cent for men and one per cent for women. This was increased in 1974 to 10 per cent for men and five per cent for women "to take account of modern circumstances."

Families are extremely worried about the fact that insurance is now essential, and that certain insurance companies will not accept Servicemen as clients because their pay is insufficient — according to their actuaries — to keep up payments. Was insurance a factor taken into account when assessing the X factor?

"I cannot recall that insurance has featured specifically in discussions on the X factor, but the need for it is obviously related to turbulence which is an important factor that most certainly is taken into account."

Servicemen pay UK rates of tax and national insurance but when serving overseas they and their families are denied most State benefits, for example FIS, unemployment benefit and supplementary benefit are not paid at all. Service families feel strongly about this. Was there anything Miss Orr could do about it?

"I can't really comment on this other than in very general terms. Certainly I can see the problem from the point of view of servicemen's families. But the fact of life is that these benefits are available only within the United Kingdom to everyone who qualifies alike — and a lot of people in all walks of life pay their taxes without necessarily getting the direct benefit of the facilities provided by them."

When the review body's investigations are finished the recommendations will be published so that everyone in the Services can read them.

The Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration seventh report (1977) draws attention once again to the anomalies that arise when pay increases are restricted at the same time as the pensions of those who have retired continue to move in line with changes in the cost of living. Because the pay increases permissible under the restraint measures have been substantially lower than the rise in the cost of living, those doctors and dentists who have retired since April 1976 receive lower pensions than those who retired earlier with the same length and pattern of service.

Perhaps if the doctors' and dentists' review body is allowed to comment on pensions the same should apply to the Armed Forces Pay Review Body.

It is now six years since the AFPRB's first report was made and due to the changes in present-day living perhaps the words 'all aspects' could be added to the terms of reference, allowing the board to comment on things like pensions and state benefits.

The key to helping deaf



The Blue Peter TV programme is running an appeal to provide sound equipment for deaf children in the remoter parts of Britain.

The scheme is called Key Note and

viewers are asked to send in old keys and Dinky toys. In Germany, BFBS TV, BFPO 23, is acting as receiving agent and already several pounds in weight of keys and toys have been

received in Celle. Here, the Ainsworth family, from 94 Locating Regiment, Royal Artillery, hands over a large bunch of keys to BFBS TV station manager Jim Luxton.

One goal does it!



Psychology and sound tactics boosted the skill of the Army's soccer players to a chance of gaining the coveted Kentish Cup international trophy that has not come home for seven years.

Skipper Corporal Micky Doig confided to SOLDIER that he had used a bit of wily Scots psychology to whip up his team's competitive spirit before the match. They went out to win and they were not disappointed.

And after scoring the only goal of the match, the second-half tactics of holding on to the slender lead paid off for manager Major John Smith, who said after the nail-biting match: "I was very pleased with our defence in the second half."

The leading light of that defence is undoubtedly goalkeeper Sergeant Instructor Dave Smith who glued his hands to every dangerous-looking ball and showed himself unafraid to take on the sharp and latterly desperate attacks of the French forwards — the spearhead of an undoubtedly strong side that was by no means easy to beat.

From the kick-off, the British were soon on the attack and QMSI Alf Coulton — the veteran skipper recalled to strengthen the side recently — was on form to dip a neat pass to Lance-Corporal Steve Tusz who shot woefully wide.

Lance-Corporal Jimmy Cook earned his place in the side for his ability to make extraordinarily long throws from the touch-line and these were a constant source of trouble to the French defence.

In the early minutes two goals were narrowly missed after his

efforts at throwing went to waste.

After 37 minutes the British went ahead. Blanche cleverly intercepted a French midfield move and floated the ball into the penalty area for Tusz to head it on towards the net. A desperate Patrice Bettiston, for France, tried to head the chance clear but he succeeded only in speeding the ball into the back of his own net.

A dressing-room dressing-down sent a different French side back into the fray. They looked altogether sharper and started to gain possession in midfield that had the British team worried at times.

The British substituted Lance-Corporal Willy Morton for Tusz in the 62nd minute and the French replied by bringing on Gilbert Zoomekind for Guy Mauffrey, the number 9.

From this point the British came back into the game and defended consistently to hold their lead. In desperation the French made an 82nd minute change, bringing on Eric Benoit for Oscar Muller, and four minutes later the British injected fresh blood with Lance-Corporal Bobby Steven coming on for the injured Staff-Sergeant Johnnie O'Rourke who had had a good game up to then.

Both teams fought hard to win this prestigious clash and gave no quarter. So all credit is due to Bel-

gian referee Jan Peeters who commanded his fifth Kentish Cup match with firmness and fairness.

The only black spot was when he had to show the yellow card to substitute Zoomekind for dissent, followed by the red to send him off for persisting in his argument.

Men of the match were clearly Smith in goal for the British Army and Desrousseaux, his French counterpart, at the other end of the park.

Looking forward grimly to the meeting with the cup holders, Belgium, on their home ground in Ostend, Skipper Doig said: "We're going there to attack. It's the only thing we can do."

British Army: SI Dave Smith

(APTC), L/Cpl Alec Hamilton (R Sigs), Cpl Aly MacDonald (REME), Spr George Torrance (RE), Cpl Bob O'Hara (R Sigs), L/Cpl Jimmy Cook (RHF), Cpl Micky Doig (RE), Cpl Dave Blanche (RCT), S/Sgt Johnnie O'Rourke (R Sigs), QMSI Alf Coulton (APTC), L/Cpl Steve Tusz (RE). Substitutes: L/Cpl Willy Morton (RAOC) for Tusz, L/Cpl Bobby Steven (RCT) for O'Rourke.

French Army: Jean-Marc Desrousseaux, Patrice Bettiston, Philippe Jeannol, Petrie Buisset, Jean-François Domergue, Thierry Tusaud, Jean-Marc Blaquant, Oscar Muller, Guy Mauffrey, Alain Olio, Bernard Zenier. Substitutes: Gilbert Zoomekind for Mauffrey, Eric Benoit for Muller.

Tug-of-war win



The determination to win is etched deeply on the faces of 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, team in the Army inter-unit indoor tug-of-war championships. But in both 560- and 640-kilo classes, they were pipped to second place.

The School of Electrical Engineering team from Arborfield won the 560-kilo class, and the Military Corrective Training Centre the heavyweight 640-kilo.

SEE seemed to put all their effort into winning the lighter weight because in the heavy event, while defeating both 1 DERR and Depot The Parachute Regiment in the eliminating pools, both these experienced teams came back to beat SEE in the following rounds, denying SEE the chance of winning both titles.

1 DERR again beat the airborne team but, as in the lighter weight competition, could take only second place, this time to MCTC, who

pulled well throughout the competition and finally disposed of the DERR with two straight pulls.

STOP PRESS

The tri-Service crew of Adventure had a miraculous escape on the Round-The-World yacht race when a Force 11 storm capsized the boat, whose mast reached an alarming angle of 20 degrees below the surface of the waves. Fortunately there were no injuries and the boat was able to continue to Rio. The latest fix for the SOLDIER chart was on 25 January when Adventure was at 47.34 South, 55.45 West (see News 18).



Sports shorts

Running

The chance of a place in the England team for the Commonwealth Games or the British team in the European Games next summer have dramatically improved for a young non-commissioned officer who beat international all-comers in a major distance run.

Lance-Corporal N C Wilson, of 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, won the Newport to Tredgar road race over 22 miles in a time of one hour 55 minutes 26 seconds, nearly five minutes ahead of his nearest rival.

Along the way, Wilson picked up a second-place trophy at the seven-mile stage and a first at the 14-mile stage. This performance, plus his results in the Berlin Marathon and London to Brighton race, is thought to be good enough to see him picked to represent his country soon.

Shooting

The Regular Army XX beat Hampshire XX in a smallbore prone rifle match by 3952 to 3933 but the country's reserves evened the honours by beating the Army reserves by 3895 to 3874.

Canoeing

Army sportsmen are being urged to take up a challenge that means travelling 125 miles in 17 hours.

Sounds leisurely enough. But challenge it is, for the trip is undertaken in canoes by entrants in the Devizes to Westminster Race at Easter each year.

And in the Army Canoe Union Newsletter, the union's chairman, Colonel D F Franks, throws down the gauntlet for all individuals and units with an interest in the sport. "Why not give the Devizes to Westminster long-distance race a go?" he asks. Why not. Anyone interested should contact him at CVHQ REME, Broxhead House, Bordon, Hampshire, or ring him on Bordon 3611 extension 342.

Fencing

Firefighting clashed with sword fighting and resulted in the postponement of the popular officers-versus-soldiers fencing match for the Mylne Cup.

The event will now be held in the last week of May, having been put back from January.

Rugby

A Dutch or Belgian team will be invited to compete in this year's Courage Army Sevens rugby tournament, on 26 April.

Last year a French team, from the aircraft school at Dax, fought its way through to the final only to be beaten by The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

Rackets

There was a larger than-ever entry for the Army rackets championships at Queen's Club, London, this year, with 21 players entered, including the defending champion, Captain David Reed-Felstead, who was top seed for the tournament.



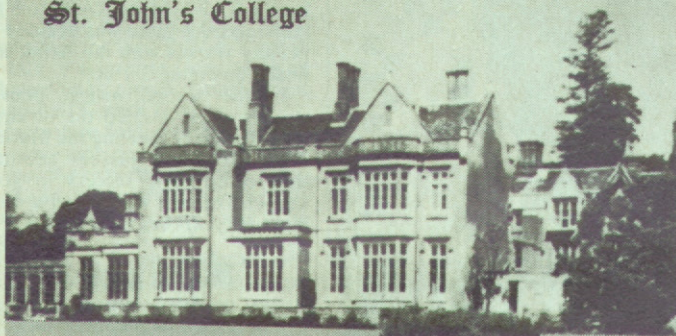
Curses . . . Foiled again!

The despairing gesture and the all-too-solid tree tell it all about motorcycle trials riding as Lance-Corporal Harry Steele takes an enforced break in the Rhine Army championships.

But it was not total disaster for Harry, of 8 Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, for he gained a second-class award for his performance in the tough two-day event and took third prize in the novice section.

Corporal Gwyn Barraclough emerged as the individual champion and his unit, 2 Armoured Division Transport Regiment RCT, won the team prize.

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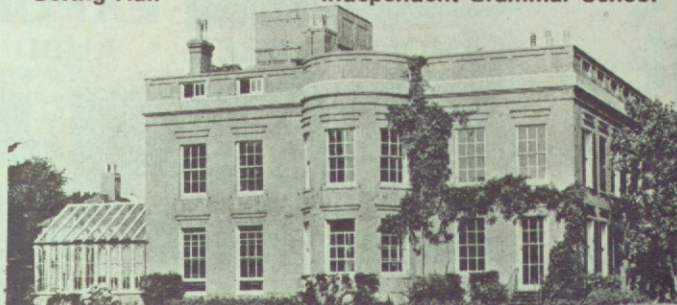
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Adventure heads home

The New Year brought the worst weather yet for the yachts on the Round-the-World race as Force Ten southerly gales buffeted the fleet just after the start of the third leg, which took them round the notorious Cape Horn.

The rough weather was a sharp contrast to the start of the leg a few days earlier when more than 50,000 Boxing Day spectators turned out to see the boats off as they left Auckland.

It was a congested start and the tri-Service entry Adventure crossed the line fourth, skippered by the Royal Navy's Lieutenant-Commander Ian Bailey-Wilmott.

The fleet kept in company in light airs for the first couple of days. Then as the wind freshened, Adventure reported her position on 28 December as 38.50 South, 17.53 East.

As the heavy weather struck, Chay Blyth's boat Great Britain II, on charter for the race, was reported to be in the lead on the water. On 4 January, Adventure was at 52.33 South, 16.51 West.

The gales did no major damage to Adventure but the crew was concerned over the unreliability of the main engine's starter motor. The engine is used to generate the electricity vital for transmission by radio.

The tri-Service entry passed Cape Horn off the southern tip of South America during the afternoon of 20 January.

At the Horn, Adventure was equal seventh on handicap, having dropped back a few places as she

coped with frustrating breakages including a steering gear failure that was luckily repaired.

But she shared seventh place at that stage with good company — Clare Francis's ADC Accutrac and the fancied yacht Debenhams.

As the Round-the-World fleet heads for home from Rio to Portsmouth, Adventure is skippered by the second Army sailor to wear the master's hat on the four-leg race. He is Lieutenant-Colonel Robin Duchesne, Royal Artillery (pictured

below). He has now crewed or skippered on most of the Royal Ocean Racing Club races during the past 20 years. His major long-distance experience has included three 1000-mile-plus cruises and races in the North Sea and Baltic and the return leg of the Sail Training Association's trans-Atlantic race in 1964.

He skippered the Royal Artillery yacht St Barbara II for an 1100-mile cruise three years ago which included a 340-mile race to Poland. This fascinating race with 54 other vessels involved, manned by 1500 young people from 11 countries, was the first — if not only — visit by a Service yacht behind the Iron Curtain.



'Black Mafia' is on form on the piste

Green Jackets — The Black Mafia — carried off two major trophies in the Army ski championships at Aschl in Germany.

Rifleman R Barber, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, won the individual slalom in one minute 33.79 seconds. Runner-up was Lieutenant A MacInnes, The Queen's Own Hussars.

The giant slalom for teams of four was also won by 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets. Here, Barber was accompanied by Lance-Corporals Jones and Butler — the best three of the four counted — winning in 9:38.84.

Pay Corps

cashes in on hockey pitch

Royal Army Pay Corps players have given a good account of themselves in beating top Army hockey teams and winning an inter-Service tournament to go forward to compete against civilian clubs in a major national championship.

An Army representative team had to be selected from two leagues organised to play off for the honour. The Pay Corps was one of ten corps and arms bidding for top place and its team finally won through to succeed for the second time in the four years of the competition.

Worst draw

In the Combined Services qualifying round the RAPC got the worst of the draw, having to play their two matches in succession against the RAF and a Royal Navy team drawn from the Royal Marines.

Penalty strokes

Appropriately, Strike Command for the RAF held the RAPC to a 1-1 draw and the game was decided on penalty strokes with the Army side finally emerging 3-1 up.

In the second match, penalty strokes again decided the outcome with the RAPC beating the Marines 3-2. The Army players admitted they owed their success to goalkeeper Tolhurst who saved a flurry of penalty strokes from all sides.

Home ground

The team now goes on to meet the South Runners-Up Club and West Runners-Up Club in the next stage of the Hockey Association club championship on 19 March, on the home ground at Worthy Down. At this quarter-final stage in the tournament the going is expected to get considerably tougher.

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Rugby centenary win forecast

Army rugby selectors are confident that their team will celebrate this month's big fixture, the centenary match against the Royal Navy at Twickenham, with a resounding victory, despite the string of defeats which preceded it.

In their opening games, the Army went down to Harlequins, Hampshire and London Irish, but even so each game seemed to improve overall team discipline and style although the disappointing fading away in the last ten minutes is still apparent.

The first encounter between the Royal Navy and the Army was in 1878 at the Kennington Oval. The Navy won. Regular fixtures started in 1906 and since then 60 games have been played, with the Army winning 31, the Navy 27, and two drawn.

"I think we can be confident," said Colonel Tony Ridings of the Army selection committee. "We had a much better start to the season than last year by having so many good players turn up for the trials."

"There was a much better cross-section than before and this gave the selectors a much better chance of picking the best squad."

"One interesting point was that we did see a few players who had not even been considered before, and that was a pleasant surprise."

Tickets for the centenary match are available from the ARU secretary at £1.50 West Stand and £1 elsewhere. Corporals and below 75p.

The Army were leading in their game against Hampshire right up to the last two minutes when a dropped goal snatched victory from their grasp.

But really the credit must go to Hampshire for their solid defence in the face of determined scrummaging followed up by piercing attacks from scrum-half Gareth Davies.

Hampshire fielded nine new players, who included three teenagers, against the experience of the Army side, and for a while it looked as though the civilians were going to be swamped.

In the end it was really a combination of good Hampshire tackling and Army handling errors which turned the tide and gave the county side a 12-10 win.

The score-line in the Harlequins game of 22-13 for 'Quins hides the fact that the Army were winning until well past half-time. Again, determination and discipline proved to be the Army pack's strength, which guaranteed Davies, at scrum half, plenty of ball. And it was from one such break from the half-way line that took him, jinking through a succession of 'Quins tackles, to score.

With the Army holding a 13-3 lead the Harlequins pack suddenly sparked into life. Throughout the game they had dominated the lines-out. Then they spread this domination to all forward departments, giving their backs plenty of space to operate. The Army was pressured into making mistakes which cost them three expensive penalties and two tries.

Even so, the game showed that the Army has little to worry about in three critical areas — the powerhouse of the front row, the speed of the wings and the tactical guidance of the half-backs.

This exposure to top-class civilian sides showed its dividends in the game against London Irish who,

with four full caps and ten county and inter-provincial players, only beat the Army 6-3. And although the Army could not cross the try-

line, there was some consolation that at least the Irish couldn't either and had to win by penalties.

Again the Army had to concede the line-out but determination to attack and run the ball bodes ill for the Navy this month.

One of the most encouraging features about Army rugby today is the strength of the under-21 side. In one

of their first games this year they convincingly beat London Irish under-21 by 16-11.

Domination of all facets of forward play allowed the backs plenty of room which they used to best advantage, sending winger Sapper Bassom over for two tries. Full-back Phillipson converted one and kicked two penalties.



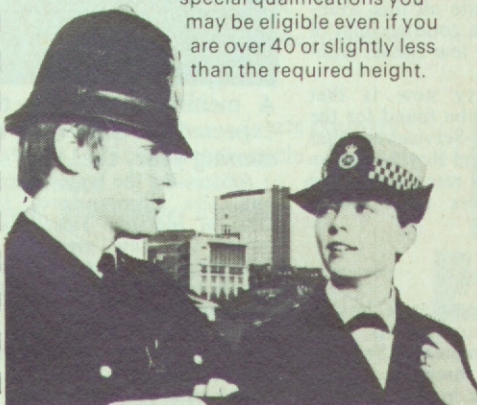
This Army try in the first half against Hampshire showed dominance.

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Army bobs along to victory



The 2nd Royal Tank Regiment's Pugh (left) and Potter

Top bobsleigh honours went to the Army at the British and inter-Service two-man bob championships on the new West German course at Winterberg.

The Army took the first four places, shared in the fifth and secured representation in all five officially declared British two-man bob teams which will be competing in forthcoming international events.

On top of this, Army bobsleighteam were selected for nearly all the places in the three British four-man bobsleigh teams. And all left for the world championships at Lake Placid, Ontario, with high hopes for top honours.

Supremacy

The Army's supremacy in this sport is underwritten by the continuing presence of world-class performers, five of whom have Winter Olympics experience behind them.

Three of these come from one unit, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards — the springboard of British bobsleigh success in recent years.

Veteran

Heading the field is 30-year-old QDG Sergeant Malcolm Lloyd, veteran of the 1972 and 1976 Winter Olympics. With Lieutenant Jeffrey Carey (24), from the same regiment, as his brakeman, Malcolm drove his bob into first place to win the British championship at Winterberg. They were the only pair whose aggregate time over four runs of the 1200-metre course was less than four minutes.

The reigning champions, both 1976 Winter Olympics competitors — Captain Duncan Jones of 21

Signal Regiment, and his brakeman, Lieutenant Sir Andrew Ogilvy-Wedderburn Bart, of The Black Watch — finished in second place.

Olympics

Third place went to another QDG team of Corporal Jackie Price (27) and brakeman Lieutenant Charles Hookey (24). Jackie competed in the 1972 and 1976 Winter Olympics.

A team from 2nd Royal Tank Regiment — Captain Roger Potter and Lieutenant Mike Pugh — took fourth position.

Major Jonathan Woodall, of 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, competing with a civilian partner, was in fifth place. He is well-known on the international bobsleigh scene and was the first winner of the Brabazon Trophy in 1967 on the St Moritz Cresta Run.

Aggregate times for the top five pairs were: Lloyd/Carey — 3 minutes 59.12 seconds, Jones/Ogilvy-Wedderburn — 4:00.47, Price/Hookey — 4:00.97, Potter/Pugh — 4:01.34, Woodall/Burghersh — 4:01.80.

Victory

Victory in the inter-Service championship went to the Army thanks to bob drivers Lloyd and Jones. The Brakeman's Cup went to Carey (16.53 seconds). Woodall took the Novices Cup as he was competing for the first time as a driver in the championship.

Slim pickings for boxing selectors

Army boxing selectors have had slim pickings this season due to the low number of entries for the intermediate championships and later firefighting duties keeping boxers out of the ring.

The intermediates provide the new talent for up-and-coming boxers and the low entry, coupled with unit moves, left selectors with far fewer choices than usual.

Difficult

It also made meeting fixtures difficult. But despite all this, available boxers gave a good account of themselves in the few classes competed in.

The only worry now is that enough talent can be found for the all-important inter-Services matches against the RAF and Royal Navy on which the Army's retention of the Combined Services team championship depend.

Beat

An Army representative boxing team beat its counterparts from West Wales in a match in Swansea by seven bouts to three.

The match was in aid of West Glamorgan Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal and spectators agreed they got their money's worth from a series of entertaining bouts.

Soldier-sailors are after members



A membership drive for the Army Sailing Association is expected to achieve a three-figure recruitment total in the coming year, the ASA's annual general meeting was told.

Addressing the largest-ever turnout, the Commodore, Major-General Marston Tickell, set the target for new members at a "three-figure number" and, with life membership still pegged at a mere £1, corps and regimental sailing associations as well as the ASA's clubs were urged to encourage more soldiers to join.

The new Admiral of the ASA, General Sir Patrick Howard-Dobson, Quartermaster-General, endorsed the commodore's words. He was taking over from the retiring

admiral, Field-Marshal Lord Carver, who has stood down after eight years in the job as the ASA's first-ever admiral.

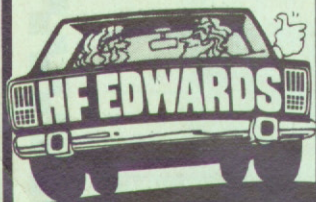
Lord Carver's last duty as admiral was to present ASA and Combined Services colours to Army crew members of Adventure, the tri-Service entry in the Whitbread Round-the-World race, including successful second-leg skipper Staff-Sergeant Dave Leslie (left) and Sergeant Sharon Hope WRAC, the only woman in the entry.



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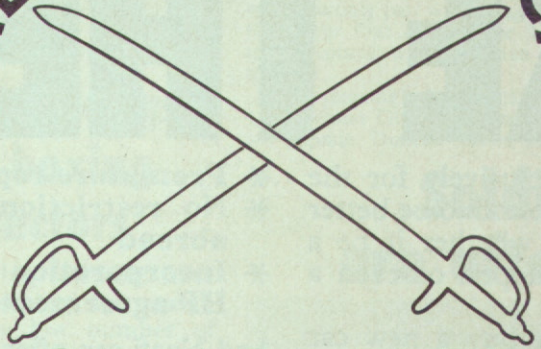
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THE FOUR FEATHERS



Story: John Walton



FORM INTO SQUARES with rifles at the ready. The Fuzzy Wuzzies and Dervishes are on the rampage again. Not in real life, of course, but on the silver screen where that durable classic, A E W Mason's 'The Four Feathers,' now appears in a sixth incarnation with a London royal première, in aid of Ssafa, on 27 February.

And I can report that the 1978 version is in the traditional film mould. Even the battlefield violence owes more to Cecil B de Mille than to Sam Peckinpah. In fact it is good family entertainment.

A tinkling piano updates the violins for the sob sequences and, as the sons of Empire do battle with the fanatical hordes of the Mahdi, the all-action sequences take one right back to the Errol Flynn/Douglas Fairbanks model.

There are those who deplore the tendency these days for film-makers to fall back on tried and trusted stories (another 'Thirty-Nine Steps' is on the way). And it is true that this is the sixth time that A E W

Mason's novel of Victorian derring-do has been filmed.

It all started in 1915 with an American silent version. This was followed in 1921 by a British film starring Roger Livesey. Eight years later the Americans came in with a version starring Richard Arlen, Clive Brook, William Powell and Fay Wray, of (first) 'King Kong' fame.

The first 'Four Feathers' talkie version appeared in 1939 and this was the most memorable to date. From the Sir Alexander Korda stable, it starred John Clements, Ralph Richardson, C Aubrey Smith and June Dupree. And there was the not-so-remarkable 1955 film with Anthony Steel, Laurence Harvey and Mary Ure which went out under the title of 'Storm Over the Nile.'

In this sixth and latest version, Beau Bridges, son of Lloyd, makes a passable stab at an upper-class English accent as Harry Feversham, the young cavalry lieutenant who is branded as a coward by three fellow



officers and his fiancée after he ignores a summons to Egypt in order to resign his commission.

Travelling under his own steam to the Sudan, he poses as an Arab and through a series of heroic deeds succeeds in getting the three cavalymen to take back their white feathers. Returning to England a hero, courtesy of *The Times*, he is finally reconciled with the delectable Jane Seymour in a tear-jerking climax.

Robert Powell plays Durrance, the young cavalry buck who vies for Miss Seymour's affections and loses his sight on the battlefield. Another of the feather-donating trio is Simon Ward, of 'Young Winston' fame.

Other excellent performances are from Richard Johnson as an anti-Mahdi Arab and Harry Andrews as the crusty old martinet, General Feversham. The film, presented by Trident Films in association with Norman Rosemont Productions, was shot at two English country houses with the Sudanese scenes being filmed in Southern Spain.



Above and top: Battle scenes as the Dervish hordes close in on the cavalry survivors.



Top: Robert Powell as the soon-to-be-blinded Jack Durrance, with Jane Seymour as Ethne.

Centre: No sex, we're British. Romantic scene between hero Harry Feversham and fiancée.

Left: Simon Ward returns the third feather to Ethne after Harry rescues him from jail.

Above: Blinded by flash, Durrance gets drink from Harry Feversham in his Arab disguise.

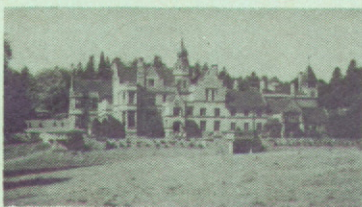


For Brigadier Charles Armstrong, a visit to the filming of 'The Four Feathers' at the Duke of Wellington's country seat, Stratfield Saye, near Reading, brought memories flooding back. The eighty-year-old brigadier, who is the father of *SOLDIER's* Families Page writer, Anne Armstrong, acted as a military adviser for the 1939 Korda version. Then a major, he was stationed in Khartoum with 1st Battalion, The East Surrey Regiment, and about 100 of his men were used for battle scenes actually shot in the Sudanese desert. "To all intents and purposes I became the right-hand man to the director, Zoltan Korda — at least as far as the Army was concerned," he recalled. "We spent about a month out in the desert and it was a damned good show from our point of view." Each day an Army truck went into Khartoum with completed film which was immediately flown home to England — "Had it remained out in that heat it would have melted," said Brigadier Armstrong (right, behind the camera).



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Women's Royal Army Corps

UNIFORMS of the late Princess Royal (pictured right) in the Women's Royal Army Corps museum are clear evidence of the affection and respect which members of the corps have for the lady who served them so well as their Controller Commandant. Her Number One dress with cap, gold-braided epaulettes and white gloves, Number Two dress with handbag and brown gloves, and her mess dress and court shoes, are shown in a central cabinet. The princess's monogram on the buttons is still featured on WRAC buttons today, a privilege for which she gave permission when the corps was formed.

Nearby can be seen both the service dress, greatcoat and cap worn by the Queen when, as Princess Elizabeth, she served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service, and the chassis of the Austin Seven on which she was taught driving and mechanical maintenance.

Other items of dress worth noting are the ATS dress worn by the Princess Royal when she was Honorary Controller for Yorkshire; an ATS other ranks uniform with Bakelite buttons; a 1917 Women's Army Auxiliary Corps worker's coat with three blue chevrons on the sleeve, denoting three years' overseas service; a Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps officer's tunic, with a unit administrator's badge of rank in a rose design, long skirt, gaiters and heavyweight shoes as worn in World War One; the uniform worn by Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan as Director of the ATS; and the captain's uniform, with four red chevrons for four years' service in the United Kingdom, worn by Mary Churchill.

A collection of badges and shoulder titles, an ATS drum-major's sash, a bronze bugle presented to C Company by the builders of a new ATS camp in Omagh in 1940, and a French Resistance armband worn at the time of the link-up with the Army of Liberation, are well presented.

A fairly rare item, as not many went to women, is the bronze plaque posthumously awarded to those killed in World War One. The plaque in the museum went to Worker Margaret Caswell, QMAAC. A small but growing collection of medals includes a King Christian X of Denmark Liberty Medal. A cane bearing the crest of the Army Educational Corps, presented to Sergeant J Clearey ATS for being the best student at the Bodmin Army School of Education, commemorates that she was the first woman to pass out top of the school, ahead of 140 men many of whom were university graduates.

Recruiting posters, a leave pass and a 1919 demobilisation ration book also catch the eye



and an amusing World War One postcard shows frightened German soldiers shouting "For goodness sake go back, here kom der WAAC."

Another reminder of World War One is a hard-tack biscuit issued as lunch to Miss Druitt, one of three QMAAC regimental sergeant-majors, on arrival at Boulogne in 1917. A more modern souvenir is the WRAC 1 car number plate used by the Duchess of Kent, the present Controller Commandant, for her visit to Singapore and Hong Kong in 1970.

The most valuable exhibit is undoubtedly the solid silver model of a Mark II 3.7-inch heavy anti-aircraft gun. This beautiful model, with its 1700 separate silver parts, commemorates the co-operation in peace and war between the ATS, later to become the Women's Royal Army Corps, the Royal Artillery and Anti-Aircraft Command.

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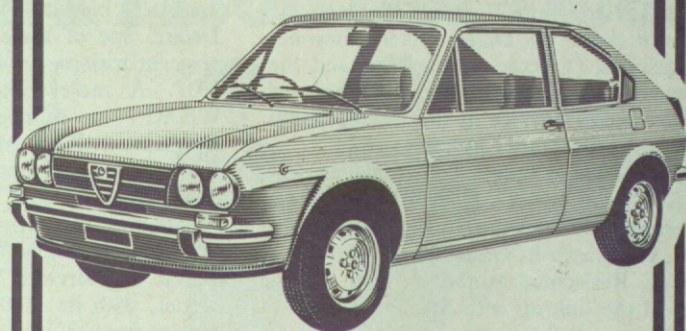
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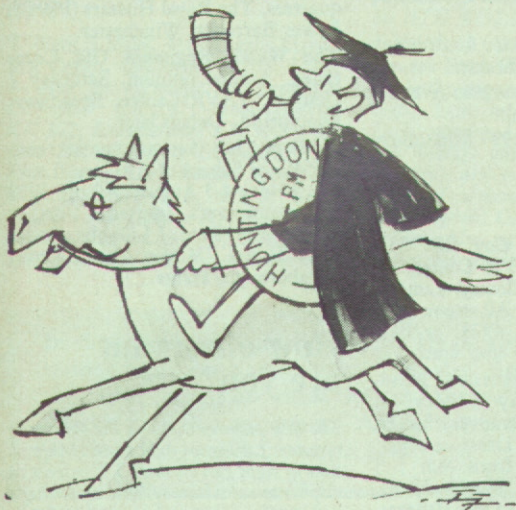
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Letters



Resurrection?

As a recent recipient of **SOLDIER's** Army badges poster, I was shocked at the apparent conglomeration of many well-known regiments which has taken place over the last few years. It is obvious that in the event of a full mobilisation many more infantry and cavalry regiments will be required. It would be interesting to know whether in such circumstances some of the 'old and bold' units would receive a new lease of life.

Would The Manchester Regiment or the Lincolnshires be revived? Will the 3rd Carabiniers or the 9th Queen's Royal Lancers see the light of day again? Or will we have such ridiculous extremes as infantry battalions converted to armoured formations, as in World War Two, while units such as the 14th/20th King's Hussars and 17th/21st Lancers remain amalgamated — because presumably no one has ever considered the question of reviving old regiments? — **Malcolm T Hobson, Zevenaar Strasse 13, 629 Weilburg, West Germany.**

Alamein reunion

Following the enormous success of last October's El Alamein reunion at Blackpool (the first time outside London); we have launched the Eighth Army Veterans' Association and published the first issue of the association's newsletter, 'The New Crusader.'

This year's reunion will again be at Blackpool, on 28-29 October. Association membership is £1 and forms are available from me. — **Alec Lewis (General Secretary), 7 Whinfell Road, West Derby, Liverpool, L12 2AS.**

WRVS and Naafi

The article on the withdrawal of the WRVS service from Germany (January) said 'Naafi decided that an overwhelming need for the WRVS clubs in Germany no longer existed.'

To put the record straight: Naafi is not empowered to take decisions on Service welfare policy and did not do so in this case. Such decisions are, quite properly, the prerogative of the

Services themselves (hence the variation in response between RAF and Army).

Naafi's part was merely to supply information on the cost to Naafi profits of providing the service. Because these profits are returned to the Services, this amount in effect represented a reduction in the amount of extra rebate paid annually to central welfare funds as instructed by the Service departments. — **Ronald Walker, Chief Public Relations Officer, Naafi, Imperial Court, Kennington Lane, London, SE11 5QX.**

Fall in 'Filers'

Mr A Worley (**SOLDIER** to Soldier, December) seeks a different term for 'other ranks,' but surely this would be just 'a rose by any other name'? In the Royal Navy, its seamen are 'rated' ordinary, able or leading, hence ratings. RAF airmen (who do not necessarily fly) are 'classified'. Is anyone suggesting that they should be known as 'classings' or that seamen should be 'ratified'?

I have always understood that, in the 18th century, regimental returns listed officers (commissioned), rank (senior non-commissioned officers) and file (junior NCOs and private soldiers). So 'filers' or 'filings'?

No, other ranks is correct, without any disrespect or dishonour, for they are just that. And far better that than in South East Asia Command where the designations were COs (commissioned officers), VCOs (vice commissioned officers), BOR (British other ranks) and IOR (Indian other ranks). — **F R Reed, 104 Cherry Garden Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN20 8HG.**

Boys Battery

I have been asked, as secretary of the reunion committee of the wartime Boys Battery, Royal Artillery, to make a point or two on the article 'Call of the trumpet' (**SOLDIER**, December 1977).

The training and testing of trumpeters did not end when the Boys Battery disbanded in 1939. The first boys — Bramley, Clarke, Hanson and Bone — of a newly formed Boys Battery arrived at the Royal Artillery Depot, Woolwich, on 24 November 1942. Newly joined youngsters were given seven-figure regimental numbers beginning with 1151; around March 1943 this block was changed to 1157.

Training of trumpeters began and the first were tested in June 1943 — Major (TIG) J R Guy, now at the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill, and I were among them. Boys considered proficient in all routine and emergency calls, on bugle or trumpet, had to face that great director of music, Lieutenant-Colonel Owen Geary. They had to know the calls perfectly and if they slurred a note they were doomed to a further period without crossed trumpets on the sleeve and to suffer such punishment by the senior trumpet-major as spitting out tea-leaves one by one to make them proficient at 'tongueing.' Qualified trumpeters were in great demand for funerals, opening of assizes and mess functions and the band played at weekly church parades and at 'Wings for Victory Week,' 'Warship Week' and 'Salute the Soldier Week.' At the latter the band marched past the royal family at Buckingham Palace. A painting of that event, with the band wheeling in Trafalgar Square, is to be presented to the Royal Artillery Sergeants' Mess, Woolwich, at our eleventh reunion on 7 October this year.

After mustering as gunners at 17½ years old, the boys were posted to 4

Field Training Regiment at Larkhill for nine months' training during which they qualified as drivers in addition to their other skills. Many of the older 'badgies' later served in such actions as the Normandy landings, Walcheren Islands, Arnhem, the Rhine crossing, and in Egypt and Palestine. Like our 'brothers' of the Fiddlers' Club, many 'badgies' were commissioned and some are still serving.

So there has been continuous gunner boys' service since 24 November 1942, with the 1151-1157 'badgies' the ancestors of the present Junior Leaders Regiment at Bramcote. — **T C Holden (ex-RSM), 6 Ingres Walk, Sholwer 2, Moorside, Oldham, Lancs.**

Belt up, Ronnie!

If Ronnie Barker ever appeared on parade looking as he does in the Natocars advertisement on **SOLDIER's** inside front cover, then I'd not fancy his chances with any RSM of my acquaintance, even though he appears to be a warrant officer 2.

Ronnie, just look at your belt! — **Cpl Colin Secker RADC (TAVR), 211 Durham Road, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland, TS19 0QA.**

**Reader Secker is not alone in spotting Ronnie Barker's incorrect dress. And the advertiser knows too — and likes it that way because it attracts attention!*

Side-drummers

Mr F M Waters is perfectly correct when he writes (Letters, January) that side-drumming, correctly performed, does not require a straight platform. But I would like to point out that music must move with the times and the ability required of a modern percussionist is just as technically complex as of any other instrumentalist. A contemporary drum section must pride itself on good, dynamic drumming to accompany the wind players, or perform a high-quality drum routine, and although it is possible to play with a traditionally placed side drum, it is far easier to adopt a modern style if the drummer has a flat surface to play on.

Although my own band is not military, we adopted the military style six months ago. Originally it was to make it easier to play rim-shots, but our drummers are now fully aware that it is easier to play many rhythms with a flat surface. There is the added advantage that a regimental badge is in an upright position, which makes for better presentation.

On another subject, as many band enthusiasts know, Lieutenant-Colonel Trevor Sharpe retires in March after 42 years devoted to Army music. I suggest that all who have enjoyed his style of music should encourage directors of music, bandmasters and record companies to make an album of Colonel Sharpe's arrangements and compositions. It would be a fitting tribute to a brilliant director of music and arranger for concert band, and could also bring enjoyment to thousands of people. — **M Hefford (Senior Drum-Major, Coventry School of Music), 6 Cumbernauld Walk, Walsgrave, Coventry, CV2 2GX.**

continued over

Commemorative cover

To commemorate the 900th anniversary of building the White Tower at the Tower of London, a special cover and handstamp are being produced to coincide with the Post Office historic building stamps issue on 1 March. The cover will depict the Tower of London, a yeoman warder and an original guard. The BFPS number of the special handstamp will be 9000 and the 9p Tower of London stamp will be used.

Cost of the signed covers: By Field-Marshal Sir Geoffrey Baker, Constable of the Tower of London, £8; by Lieutenant-General Sir Napier Crookenden, Lieutenant of the Tower, £5; by Major-General Digby Raeburn, Resident Governor and Keeper of the Jewel House, £5; covers signed by all three, £10 each.

Ordinary unsigned covers will cost 50p each.

The covers can be obtained from Philatelic Officer, HPCCD RE, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London, NW7 1PX, plus 7p postage.

'Staggering' prices for militaria



In a review of 1977 the firm of Messrs Wallis & Wallis, the militaria, arms and armour, coins and medals auctioneers of Lewes, Sussex, reports that 'some of the (militaria) prices obtained have been staggering.' A complete set of pre-1881 other rank Glengarry badges with some variations realised £5486 while an almost complete collection of officers and other ranks helmet plates, pre- and post-1902 types, fetched £9983. One of the rarest military headdresses, a grenadier officer's mitre cap of the 38th Regiment of Foot, circa 1750, although damaged and repaired, was sold for a 'princely' £3800. The firm also reports that there was a noticeable upward trend in prices for military and naval swords and eastern edged weapons, with high quality Arab swords and daggers much sought after. Japanese swords had always sold well and in the last sale of 1977 a pair (daisho) fetched £2000.

Wallis & Wallis's Military Heritage Museum, opened in October by Field-Marshal Sir Gerald Templer, had had many visitors, been filmed

twice for television and recorded twice for radio.

At a sale by Weller & Dufty Ltd, of Birmingham, a rare part uniform (left) of an officer in the Montgomeryshire Yeomanry Cavalry, circa 1911, fetched £360 and a walnut table top taken from the headquarters of Luftgau XI in 1945 by a Royal Air Force intelligence officer, made £160. Among the weapons, a scarce Prussian 16.2mm needle-fire military pattern rifle realised £370, and an extremely rare and massive Mauser anti-tank rifle developed by the Germans in World War One to combat British tanks, fetched £325.

Police print

It may interest some readers to know that the print featured in the Sussex Police recruiting advertisement on page 38 of the December SOLDIER is from an original water colour commissioned by me from Charles Stadden.

Colour prints of the original are available in a limited edition on a good quality art paper. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy would perhaps write to me. — **E Morley, Vennely, Arun Vale, Coldwaltham, Pulborough, West Sussex, RH20 1LP.**

The O'Rourkes

I am researching the history of the O'Rourke family and would welcome any information on deeds of valour or exceptional service by bearers of the name. The information is not for publication but would form part of the research I am doing into my own family history, bringing the subject into wider perspective. — **William P O'Rourke, 50 Twist Lane, Leigh, Lancashire, WN7 4DA.**

Competition

A disappointingly small entry indicates that 'Tri-partite' (Competition 232, November) was too tough. Answers to the first-stage questions: 1 Tedder, 2 Langrage, 3 Volkssturm, 4 Naseby, 5 Ironsides, 6 Wolfe, 7 Hanniball, 8 Barbican, 9 Tattoo, 10 Resistance, 11 Ensign, 12 Foch, 13 Red Cross, 14 Kitchener, 15 Lincoln, 16 Matchlock.

Transferred to the appropriate numbered spaces in the grid, the initial letters of these answers give: T—LV—N—I—! WH—B—T—RE—F—R K—L—M—?

Adding the letters of the phrase 'One gets an air enlistee a weapon' completes the grid to 'Twelve pennies! What better reason for killing a man?' (a quotation from Yeats's 'The Death of Cuchulain'). Which leads to the required answer of Royal Army Pay Corps.

Prizewinners:

1 Mrs A Hull, 15 Waverley Avenue, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear.
2 L/Cpl Rochester, A Sqn, Scots DG, Cambrai Bks, Catterick, North

Yorkshire.

3 R P Jenkins, 19a Griffith Street, Rushden, Northants.

4 Mrs T E Leslie, 6 McNeill Road, Larkhill, Wilts.

5 Maj M S Wilmot, Fetcham Lodge, Fetcham, Surrey.

6 R J A Clements, 6 Spinney Avenue, Goostrey, Cheshire.

7 T M Brown, 17 Tennyson Avenue, Gedling, Nottingham.

8 G H Bendell, 199 Midanbury Lane, Southampton.

Reunions

218 Army Troops Coy RE. 31st reunion dinner, TAVR Centre, 65 Parkhurst Road, Holloway, London N7, 1830 hrs 1 April. All enquiries to J Wilkinson (01-531 4973) or P T Beaton (01-435 9669) after 6pm.

The Queen's Own Hussars. Reunion dinner, Saturday 6 May, at Hanover Grand, Hanover Street, London, W1R 9HH. Dress optional. Tickets £3.75 each from Maj J S Sutherland (Retd), Home Headquarters, The Queen's Own Hussars, 28 Jury Street, Warwick, CV34 4EW.

ATS Didcot Garrison Group OC. Annual reunion, Saturday 8 April. Details from Mrs A Wagstaff, 127B

Collectors' Corner

P C Barr, 318 Claremont, Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60195, USA. — *Excellent prices paid for British infantry WBCs, officers and OR. Exchanges available for quality items.*

R Masters, 38F Ahorn Alle, Werl, BFPO 106. — *Seeks certain cavalry and corps Staybrite British Army badges to complete collection.*

James H Drummond, Box 1833, Peace River, Alberta T0H 2X0, Canada. — *Wishes buy or trade air force or civil airline insignia all countries, also cigarette cards, any subject.*

D Gregory, 78 Cleveland Close, Basingstoke, Hants, RG22 5AW. — *Seeks record, in good condition, 'The Splendour of the March' (Royal Marines, Deal, 1963).*

S Davies, 149 Priorylands, Stretton, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire. — *Starting to collect all airborne and specialist unit badges.*

S C Foote, PO Box 1899, Pretoria, Transvaal, South Africa. — *Wanted, by purchase or exchange: Helmet plates, pouch belt plates and cap badges of Cape, Natal and Transvaal colonies.*

R G Coase, 7 Highfield Court, Glebelands Road, Prestwich, Manchester. M25 5WE. — *Seeks offers for SOLDIER Jan 74 to Dec 75 or would exchange for copy Training Manual for Army Certificate A.*

John Martin-Stuart, 19 Ceg-y-Ffordd, Ffrith, Prestatyn, Clwyd, LL19 7YD. — *Seeks new anodised British Army cap badges in exchange for SOLDIER magazines 1950 (Nov, no back cover), 1953 (Oct, Nov, Dec), 1954 (Jan-Dec, except Nov, no back cover May), 1955 (Jan-Dec, except Jul, Oct).*

Sheldon Zeitchyk, PO Box 753, St B, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5P8, Canada. — *Vietnam and Angola veteran has badges, patches, militaria to trade for cap badges, patches and war books.*

C J Walters, 12 Dodds Crescent, West Byfleet, Surrey. — *Seeks pre-1930 postcards, particularly WW1. Can exchange or buy. (Phone Byfleet 48789).*

R M Coverdale, 29 Formby Close, Clavering Park, Hartlepool, Cleveland. — *Seeks German WW2 militaria. Fair prices paid.*

St Julians Farm Road, London, SE27 0RP.

The Royal Hussars. Annual reunion, Barker's Penthouse Restaurant, Kensington, 7.15pm, Saturday 6 May. Tickets from Home Headquarters, The Royal Hussars (PWO), Lower Barracks, Winchester.

The Welch Regiment Old Comrades. Annual reunion, Saturday 7 October, TAVR Centre, Broadway, Pontypridd. Details later.

Fiddlers Club. Seventh annual reunion, Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill, Friday 4-5 August. All pre-1939 RA trumpeters invited. Further details: Maj (Retd) J J Dobbs, Easter Ross House, Minley Road, Cove, Farnborough, Hants.

How observant are you?

(see page 13)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Flag on right mast of ship. 2 Size of right gun on ship. 3 Windows in ship's stern. 4 Mane of horse on soldier's arm. 5 'Crown' of badge on soldier's left arm. 6 Cloud in picture 16. 7 Middle bar of 'E' in 'GALLERY.' 8 Top right of frame of picture 16. 9 Ring of beer can. 10 Right epaulette of soldier in picture 16.

J W Hardie, 66 Stadcor Street, Wavell Heights, Brisbane 4012, Queensland, Australia. — *Wishes to sell or exchange for British medals or badges kc, West Point cadets metal Timpo — 24 cadets, Colour party (3), 20 bandmen.*

SFC M H Johnson, 27 Romerweg A3, Germenshiem, West Germany. — *Seeks para wings, cloth and metal; also interested in RM commando and special unit badges eg SAS. Has many US and Canadian swaps.*

I Stephen, 12 Wannock Close, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex. — *Seeks WW2 sleeve insignia of allied airborne (USA), 17th Airborne (USA), 23rd Hussars (Brit), 30 Corps (Brit), Princess Irene Brigade (Dutch), airborne troop carrier (USA), para collar dogs (Polish airborne). State prices (reasonable, please) or swaps wanted.*

Bob Scott, 5 Heathcote Gardens, Romiley, Stockport, SK6 4ER. — *Ex-sgt REME wishes buy REME magazines 1950s to present.*

D Embleton, Tile House, Southwell Park Road, Camberley, Surrey. — *Requires any pre-1955 SOLDIER, also any photos/data Belgian FN/FAL assault rifle.*

C E Brett, 28 Ashley Piece, Ramsbury, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 2QE. — *To complete two regimental badge collections requires Scots Guards piper's feather bonnet silver badge, Royal Scots Greys OR bearskin back badge (Hanover horse) and OR grenade 1901-1952. Good prices paid.*

David McCarthy, 117 Invercanny Drive, Drumchapel, Glasgow, G15 7AX. — *Has hpc 6th Bn, Royal Scots: glengarry badges 5th Cameronians, 1st Lanarkshire RV, 9th HLI officers (3-piece) silver and gilt, RSF officers qc gilt and other Scottish for exchange. Looking for Black Watch items.*

D R Beck, 1357 Pandora Avenue, Victoria, British Columbia V8R 1A1, Canada. — *Private collector will buy WW1 and other postcards pre-1920; also wishes buy 1976 Centennial illustrated British Machine Gun Corps book.*

Sig M Belton, 576 Rear Link Det, c/o 1 RGJ, BFPO 1. — *Seeks British and foreign medal ribbons. State price.*

Sgt Southwick, Sgts Mess, 9 Sig Regt, BFPO 58. — *Wishes buy LPs or cassettes band of 1st Bn, Cameronians.*

L/Cpl P D Tongue, c/o Band 2 RRF, BFPO 24. — *Seeks cap badges all regts and corps British Army. Will pay good money.*

William S Mills, 4104 Ingalls Street, San Diego, California 92103, USA. — *Has for exchange hpc duplicates Liverpool KK 297, Somersetshire KK 302, Leicestershire KK 301, Cheshire KK 309, East Lancashire 320, East Surrey 321, Border 326 WM, Gloucestershire 315, North Staffordshire 348, Leinster KK 353 (one for one hpc, two for one S/F). Seeks large 1855-81 button (will buy or swap).*

D Edwards, Cornerbays, Clos Fforddisa, Prestatyn, Clwyd, LL19 8TP. — *Seeks brass 'Trained Soldier' arm badge (Guards regts), also any WW2 plastic badges. Good regimental badges for exchange, or will buy. Also has for sale mess kit RA S/Sgt and mess kit RTR WO2 (Phone: 07456 3944).*

J Hadden, c/o Farrell, 3/8 Piershill Square East, Edinburgh, EH8 8BD. — *Seeks any records by British rifle regts, light infantry, Scots, Welsh, Irish, cavalry, Guards, Gurkha, English infantry and staff bands (pipe or military), also records and programmes Royal Tournament, Edinburgh, Cardiff, Suffolk, Colchester and Tidworth tattoos. Also seeks Decca record HLI Pipes and Bugles in Hi-Fi.*

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

See-the-Army DIARY

APRIL 1978

- 15 Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia) Freedom of Swansea.
- 23 National children's sponsored walk (in aid of Army Benevolent Fund), Crystal Palace, London (Royal Military Police 'Red Caps' mounted display team).

MAY 1978

- 4 Evening of Nostalgia (in aid of Ssaba), Royal Albert Hall, London.
- 5 Plymouth Services Tattoo (5-6 May) (NB not 9-12 August).
- 5 Newark Agricultural Show (5-6 May) (band; static displays).
- 12 Burslem Show (12-14 May) (band; static displays).
- 13 Market Rasen Show (13-14 May) (junior band; Royal Signals 'White Helmets' motorcycle display team; static displays).
- 17 Shropshire and West Midland Show, Shrewsbury (17-18 May) (junior band; Red Caps; The Light Division 'Flying Bugles' freefall team).
- 20 Long Eaton Carnival (20-21 May) (band; The Parachute Regiment 'Red Devils' freefall team; static displays).
- 20 Hinckley (Leicestershire) Tattoo.
- 20 First rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 20 Hadleigh (Essex) Farmers Club Show (Red Caps).
- 23 Massed bands, Household Division, beat Retreat, Horse Guards Parade, London (23-25 May).
- 24 Queen's Birthday Parade, Berlin.
- 24 Stafford Show (24-25 May) (band; corps of drums; White Helmets).
- 26 Aldershot Horse Show (26-28 May) (Royal Corps of Transport 'Silver Stars' freefall team; band).
- 27 Cannon Hill Festival, Birmingham (27 May-3 June) (band; junior band; Royal Artillery motorcycle display team; Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery, physical training display).
- 27 Second rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 28 Hove Lions Day (band).
- 28 Carrington Park Rally, Boston (28-29 May) (band; Flying Bugles; RA motorcyclists).
- 29 County Centenary Show, Derby (two bands; Flying Bugles).
- 29 Scottish/American War Memorial service, Edinburgh (junior band).
- 30 Royal Marines massed bands beat retreat, Horse Guards Parade, London (30 June-1 July).

JUNE 1978

- 2 Gosport Combined Cadet Tattoo (2-4 June) (NB Not 27-29 May).
- 3 St Neot's Riverside Carnival (3-5 June) (band; Red Devils; Junior Parachute Company 'Pegasus' physical training display).
- 3 Nuneaton Carnival (junior band; JLR RA PT display).

- 3 Wolverhampton Fiesta (3-10 June) (band 3 June; Pegasus 6 June; band 10 June).
- 3 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 4 Open Day, Scottish Infantry Depot (Glencorse) (Scottish Division 'Golden Lions' freefall team; bands).
- 10 Coventry Carnival (junior band).
- 10 Perkins Families Day, Peterborough (band).
- 11 Mayor's Carnival, Lincoln (11-12 June) (band).
- 11 Hungerford Steam Rally (11-12 June) (band).
- 14 Edinburgh Army Display (14-17 June) (Golden Lions; Pegasus; band; pipes and drums).
- 16 Essex Show, Chelmsford (16-17 June) (band; King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, musical ride).
- 21 Lincolnshire Agricultural Show, Lincoln (21-22 June) (White Helmets).
- 23 Aldershot Army Display (23-25 June).
- 24 East Midlands Gas Gala, Leicester (junior band; Red Devils).
- 24 Shoreham Air Day (24-25 June) (band).
- 26 Chesterfield Carnival (band; pipes and drums; Red Devils; White Helmets).
- 28 Royal Norfolk Show, Norwich (28-29 June) (two bands; Pegasus; White Helmets).

JULY 1978

- 1 Aveling Barford Show, Grantham (1-2 July) (band; Guards freefall team; static displays).
- 7 Catterick Army Display (7-9 July).
- 7 Southampton Show (7-9 July) (band).
- 8 Basingstoke Tattoo (8-15 July).
- 8 Airborne Forces Day, Aldershot.
- 8 Open Day, Royal Pioneer Corps Training Centre, Northampton (two bands; Guards freefall; RA motorcycles; JLR RA PT display; static displays).
- 9 Tercentenary parade, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, Edinburgh.
- 13 Norfolk Army Display, Earlham Park, Norwich (13-15 July) (four bands; corps of drums; Red Devils; White Helmets; Pegasus).
- 13 Kent County Show (13-14 July) (band).
- 13 Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London (13-30 July).
- 15 Highland Games, Corby (15-16 July) (junior band; pipes and drums; RA motorcyclists).
- 18 Dunfermline Army Display (18-19 July) (Golden Lions; Pegasus; band; pipes and drums).
- 18 East of England Show, Peterborough (18-20 July) (band; Red Devils; Red Caps; White Helmets).
- 20 Burntisland Army Display (Golden Lions; Pegasus; band; pipes and drums).
- 22 Aberdeen Army Display (22-23 July) (Golden Lions; Pegasus; band; pipes and drums).
- 22 Open Day, Light Infantry Depot, Shrewsbury (bands; Flying Bugles).
- 30 Open Day, Royal Armoured Corps, Bovington Camp.

AUGUST 1978

- 1 Tyneside Summer Exhibition (1-5 August).
- 2 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (2-5 August).
- 3 Bakewell (Derbyshire) Show (band; Flying Bugles).
- 4 Southsea Show (4-6 August) (band).
- 11 Stoke-on-Trent Carnival (11-12 August) (band; corps of drums; Flying Bugles).
- 11 Shrewsbury Show (11-12 August) (two bands).
- 17 Edinburgh Tattoo (17 August-9 September).
- 18 Reading Show (18-19 August) (band).
- 19 Skegness Carnival Week (19-25 August) (band; Pegasus; static displays).
- 25 British Timken Show, Northampton (25-26 August) (Guards freefall; RA motorcyclists; static displays).
- 26 Expo Steam, Peterborough (26-28 August) (Red Devils; White Helmets).
- 26 Town and Country Festival, Stoneleigh (26-28 August) (Flying Bugles).
- 27 Quexpo 78, Birchington, Kent (27-28 August) (band).
- 28 Leicester City Show (28-29 August) (Guards freefall; RA motorcyclists 29 August).
- 28 Walsall Show (28-29 August) (White Helmets 29 August; Pegasus 29 August).

SEPTEMBER 1978

- 1 Birmingham Show (1-3 September) (band; RA motorcyclists; Pegasus).
- 2 Guildford Town Show (2-3 September) (band).
- 2 Cosgrove Park Carnival (2-3 August) (band).
- 9 South Midland Tattoo, Banbury (NB not 27-29 May).
- 9 Freedom of Nottingham, 17th/21st Lancers.
- 21 Thame Show (band).
- 23 New Colours, 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, Edinburgh.
- 24 Laying up of Old Colours, 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, Ayr, and march past.
- 25 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, march through Glasgow.

OCTOBER 1978

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

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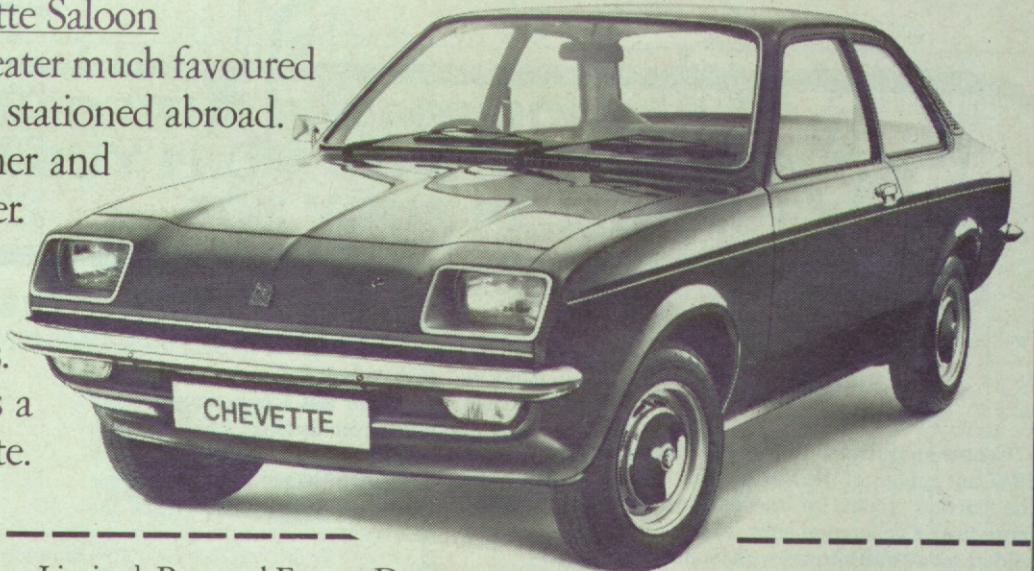
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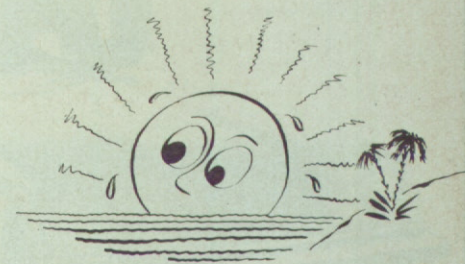
Wherever British soldiers have served they have added some of the local lingo to their rich repartee. Whatever their rank they are . . .

IN COMMAND OF THE LANGUAGE

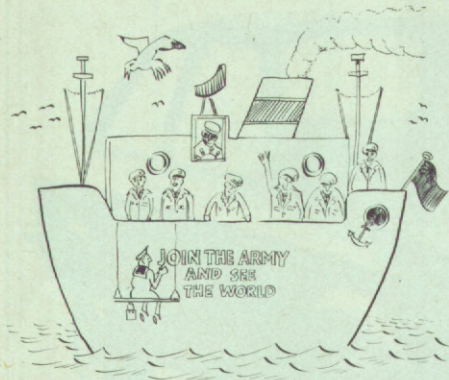


sangar (fortified outpost) as it did his Indian Army counterparts when they first picked up the words from the locals. And when that welcome relief vehicle hoves into view there are corners of the Army where it is still called a *gharri*.

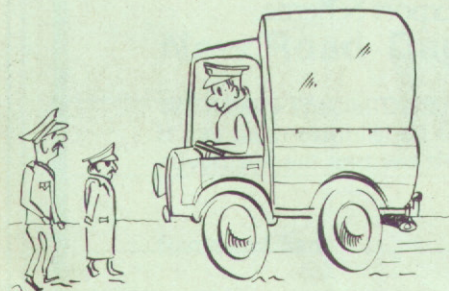
Now for a *shufti* at the Near East. World



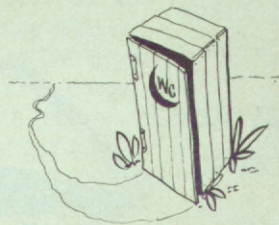
SOLDIERS used to be urged to join the Army to see the world. Inevitably while they looked, they listened too. And a good deal of what they heard in the outlandish tongues they encountered throughout the world they absorbed into their own everyday speech.



Centuries of British rule in India ended in 1947 but echoes of the Raj are still heard in the barrack rooms of the modern Army more than a generation later. Many a young soldier today still sprinkles *dhobi dust* rather than washing powder on his laundry, much of which — for the present at least — is *khaki* in colour after the Hindu word for dusty-coloured. Afterwards he may refresh himself with a cup of *char* in the Naafi.



Later he might enjoy a few beers and have to answer the call of Nature in the *khasi* but only older soldiers nowadays sleep it off in their *charpoy*. The younger generation took a



look at the shiny, wrinkled skin of the new padded sleeping bag and with graphic simplicity christened it a 'green maggot.'

Another survivor from the days of the Raj still haunts the ranks in the form of the poor soul said to have gone *deolali* (pronounced 'doolally'). Deolali was a famous rest camp some 100 miles from Bombay where a native at the gates would greet new arrivals by stamping their kitbags with a cipher attached to a stick he wielded. Hence the



original full phrase of *Deolali tap*, referring to the sharp blow, seeming to land on the newcomers' heads, which presumably resulted in a dazed condition.

It's a long way from Northern Ireland to India's North-West Frontier. But peacekeeping among hostile natives makes the modern soldier as *chokka* (fed up) in his

War Two and post-war service in Egypt, the Canal Zone, Palestine and later Aden resulted in a whole new vocabulary being captured by British Forces.

The cry of *backsheesh!* (money) accompanied by the beggar's outstretched palm for a hand-out entered the English language via the barrack gates as *buckshee* — which still means something is free or spare.

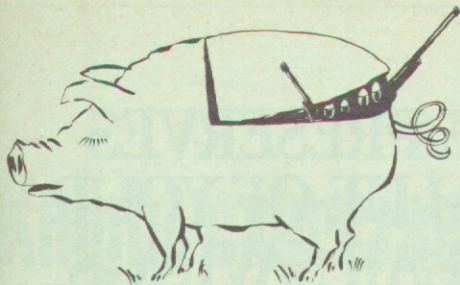
Rarely free and not so spare in many places were the *bints* who were likely to reject a soldier's manly charms if he was *mafeesh* (broke). The word has not survived even if the condition is still with us! For a soldier can still find himself short of *ackers* which was Canal Zone pidgin for the local currency of piastres and still refers to the coin of any realm.



There was not much to spend your *ackers* on in the Malayan Emergency if you were out in the *ulu* (jungle) in your *basha* (bivouac) or even in the scrub land of the *bundu*. All three words are alive and well and living in British garrisons to this day.

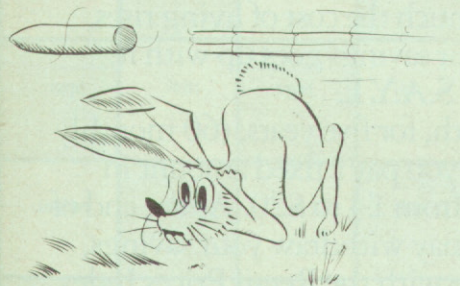
Surprisingly little German has joined the ranks of exotic terms pressed into service by soldiers worldwide over the years, considering that a third of today's Army is stationed in Germany.

There are two possible reasons for this. First many Germans speak very good English and more British soldiers are learning German than ever so that dealings between the two tend to be in one or other language rather than a mixture leading to the 'bor-



rowing' of words. Secondly, the British Army of the Rhine is a peacetime force and it seems that it is operational zones which provide the most new words to the language.

This brings us to Northern Ireland where, although the native tongue is the same as



that of the peacekeeping force, a whole sub-culture of words and phrases has developed over the eight weary years of strife.

The ballistically functional shape of the 'rubber bullet', the baton round fired to disperse rioters, soon earned it a ribald title

now made respectable by transfer to the phonetic alphabet as 'Romeo Delta,' meaning something that is no use or botched.

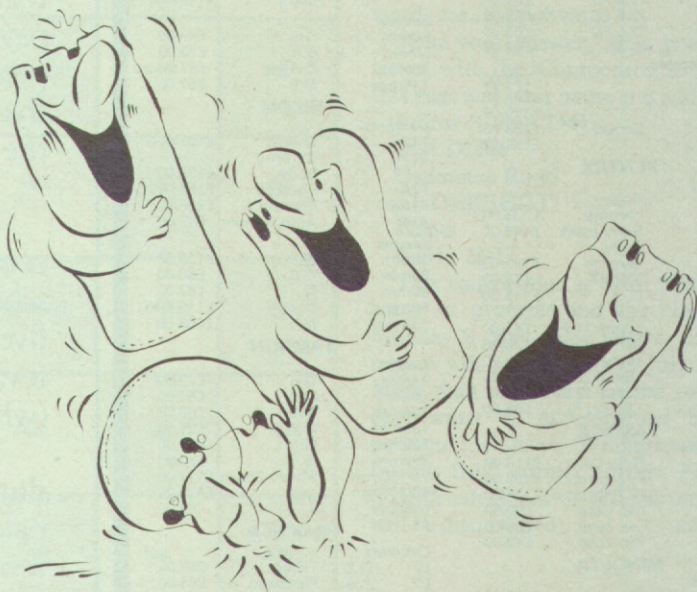
Pigs thrive in Ireland. But for the Army the word does not conjure up the chubby porkers snuffling in the fields. A 'pig' to a soldier is the armoured personnel carrier he patrols in with its long snout of a bonnet and the tortured squeal of its engine straining under the extra weight of armour that converted it from the old one-ton Humber vehicle.

Not content with adapting other people's languages for his use, the soldier has also

made adjustments to his own. And radio communications have affected a soldier's speech off as well as on the air. No one begs your pardon; they insist you 'say again.'

The soldier who finds himself on the right side of the sergeant-major is 'laughing kit-bags' and may well be 'chuffed to Naafi break.'

With a stroke of the pen, the Iron Duke of Wellington immortalised the eternal soldier as Tommy Atkins and the lad has grown up over the years learning to talk other people's as well as his own language. His wit and wisdom have been enriched by it.



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	forward,	being	it	body	through	never	left
kept	left;	must	the	must	the	In	the
incline	carried	to	the	turn	ground;	soldier	quit
the	turn	to	and	the	turn	as	but
forward	right,	being	the	it	the	the	must
to		on	pivot,	drawn	right	on	on
the		back	foot	body	a		

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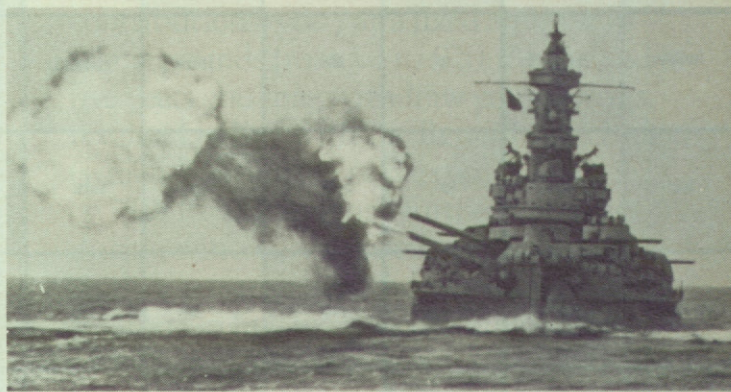
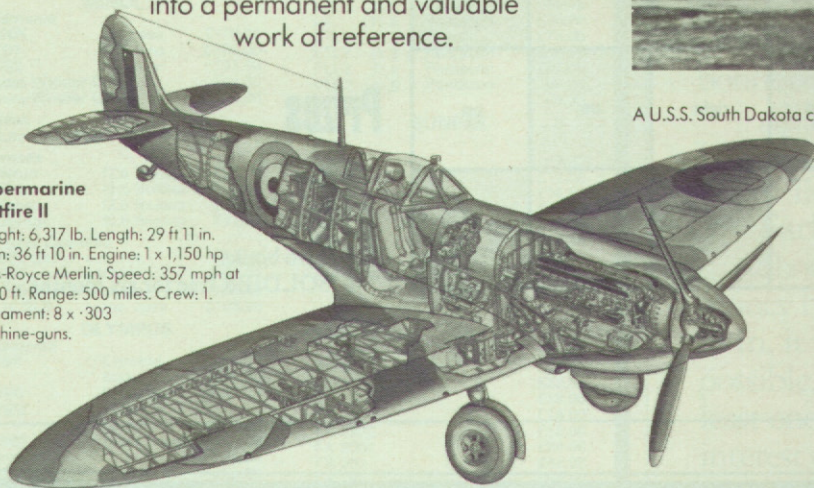
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BOOKS

More tanks

'The Illustrated Encyclopedia of the World's Tanks and Fighting Vehicles' (Christopher Foss)

'Tanks' (Richard Humble)

'Panzer' (Philip Warner)

'WW2 Fact Files: Axis Combat Tanks' (Peter Chamberlain and Chris Ellis)

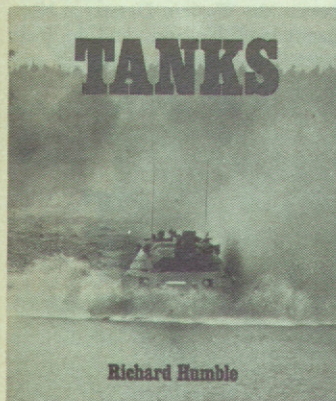
'Airfix Magazine Guide 26: American Tanks of WWII' (Terry Gander and Peter Chamberlain)

'Military Vehicles 1: Weasel'

One way to test an illustrated encyclopedia is to write down the names of half a dozen obscure subjects and check whether the author has included them — and like the expert he is, Christopher Foss has.

He even has the bizarre BIV Funklepanzer which served in the Wehrmacht from 1943 to 1945. It was a demolition vehicle, radio-controlled, which could deposit a large wedge-shaped charge among field fortifications to permit the advance of tanks. Its use in operations was rather limited and there are only scanty records of its deployment in the field.

Nevertheless it is worthy of inclusion in a book — a must for all tank enthusiasts — which covers tanks



and fighting vehicles, ancient and modern, of all the tank-building nations. It is packed with illustrations and drawings in colour and black-and-white, and at its price is a snip.

Mr Humble presents a history of the tank from the age-old search for a military juggernaut to the present day when thoughts of armoured fighting vehicles with the attributes of space capsules are not necessarily far from reality. In between, we see the first real tanks conceived and built, and their ever-improving successors — Matilda, Tiger, T-34, Sherman and all the others — locked in combat in World War Two.

We watch the development of the arms race and end with the imponderables — what purpose, for instance, could a radiation-proof tank possibly serve in a seared and contaminated world?

Mr Warner concentrates entirely on the history of the Panzers, their birth in the 1920s, the amusing cardboard practice models, their rapid development, and the devastating successes they achieved in Poland, France, Russia, the Balkans and North Africa. We see the Panzer virtuosos — Guderian, Rommel,

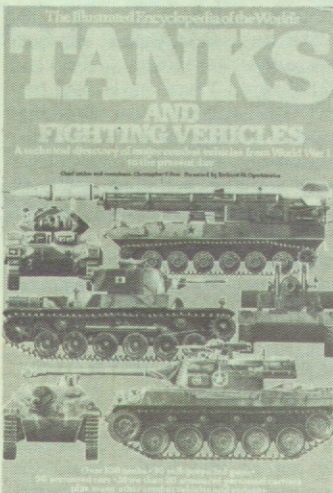
Reichenau, Hoth, Hoepfner and Manteuffel, to name but a few — drawing up their plans and fighting



battles of movement which could be compared only with sea warfare.

We see, too, the flaws in planning and organisation which were to prove fatal to the Panzers. They fought well to the end, but their strength ebbed as that of the allies grew. The rise and fall of the Panzers is one of the most fascinating periods of military history; Philip Warner does full justice to it.

Messrs Chamberlain and Ellis are a well-known and respected team. In this 'World War Two Fact File' they give us a swift, well-illustrated run-down on the tanks the Axis powers sent into battle. The inclusion of Japanese models seems a bit out of place, but they are interesting enough. There are the cameos, too. The Bulgarians, for example, were given 88 Pz Kpfw IVs in 1943 to form a national Panzer division. The



following year, those same tanks were used against the Germans.

Mr Chamberlain teams up with Terry Gander to deal with United States tanks of World War Two. As ever, the Airfix reputation is enhanced by the amount of information the authors managed to pack in. A worthwhile effort.

Finally comes a little paperback, the first of a new series, to describe the Weasel, that splendid little workhorse of the snow. Jeff Woods presents lots of statistics and pictures of the Weasel in all its variants to add a very useful volume to the military vehicle bookshelf.

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6 ISO Publications, Dept MM7, 483 Harrow Road, London, W10 4RG, 95p

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New series

'International Defense Review Special Series 4: Battle Tanks'

In the present world military situation, the main battle being fought is on the drawing board — the ever-necessary need to be up to date and, where possible, to keep one or more steps ahead of the opposition. And nowhere is this more true than in the field of the battle tank.

Britain and Germany are co-operating on the Kampfpanzer 3/FMBT 80; the Americans are preparing for the delivery in 1979 of the M1 General Abrams; the Russians have already taken delivery of the first T-64/T-72 range; and even smaller, non-aligned countries like Sweden and Switzerland are working on new projects for the next decade. Israel, too, has a new battle tank under development.

The cost must be phenomenal as the various countries pursue higher mobility, stronger armour, bigger firepower, greater hit probability and passive night vision capability.

And options have to be left open. Britain, for instance, is developing an improved Chieftain, albeit for Iran but, in the event of the Anglo-German effort producing no valid result, it would be acceptable to the British Army. The West Germans, too, are hedging their bets and will begin procurement of the Leopard-2 in Autumn 1979.

In the field of armour protection, on which almost every Western country is working intensively, British ingenuity has obtained a splendid breakthrough with Chobham armour.

On firepower, Russia has produced the 122/125mm gun for the T-64/T-72; West Germany is working on a 120mm smooth-bore gun; Britain is working on a 120mm rifled gun and, in France, plans are afoot to retro-fix the AMX-30s with a 120mm gun. Thus the struggle goes on, despite the belief expressed by some experts that the destruction of 190 Israeli tanks by Egyptians armed with Soviet AT-3 Sagger missiles and RPG-7 rocket launchers during the Yom Kippur War of 1973 spelled the imminent demise of the battle tank.

Nowhere can you get a better, up-to-date view of tank development than in this superb survey, published as one of a special series by International Defense Review in English, German and French editions. Each

contains a unique collection of articles on all aspects of defence technology.

Companion volumes are: 1 Air Defence Systems; 2 Combat Aircraft; 3 Warships and Naval Systems.

Interavia SA, PO Box 162, CH-1216 Cointrin-Geneva, Switzerland, £4.50 each

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Table top

'Napoleon's Campaigns in Miniature' (Bruce Quarrie)

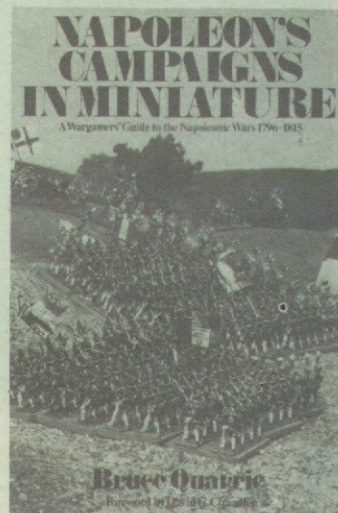
'Tank Battles in Miniature 4: A Wargamer's Guide to the Mediterranean Campaigns 1943-1945' (Donald Featherstone)

'The Old West — Part one: 1816-1900'

Tabletop warriors will welcome these three excellent additions to their libraries.

Bruce Quarrie takes us through all of Napoleon's campaigns from 1796 in Italy to Waterloo in 1815. He punctuates his account with advice on scales and tactics, lines of communication and medical services, and it comes as a surprise to learn from historian David G Chandler, who writes a foreword, that Kriegspiel, the wargame, is rapidly coming of age as a popular hobby. Time flies.

Donald Featherstone begins with the final assault in Tunisia, takes us across to Sicily, on to Italy and the landings at Anzio, and the battles for



the Gustav, Adolf Hitler and Gothic lines, and across to Southern France for Operation Dragoon.

Former tank soldier Major-General E V Strickland, who rode Churchill tanks into battle in Tunisia and Italy, commends this book for its accuracy. Both these books have applications, too, for the student of military history. Both give usefully concise outlines of the campaigns.

'The Old West' brings a bit of fun to the table top, laying out rules and conditions for 'Old West' games taking into account such features as saloon brawls, artillery, the appearance of drunks, and showdowns. Cow towns, range wars and trail drives also come into the reckoning.

The authors, Mike and Paul Blake, Ian and Lin Colwill, and Garth and Bren Rose, obviously enjoyed writing this pleasant excursion, and they offer "one last word of advice, especially for greenhorns and Easterners."

They say: "You don't have to believe in the Code of the West to enjoy these rules. In fact, it's a dog-gone handicap if you do! So hitch

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up your gunbelt and stride manfully out through them there batwing doors, and always remember — A man's gotta do what a man's gotta do."

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3 Skirmish Wargames, 24 Mill Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 1HN, £2.00

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Between the States

'Battles of the American Civil War' (Curt Johnson and Mark McLaughlin)

Of all modern wars, America's War Between the States is perhaps the most intriguing, marking as it did the watershed between the almost rigid formality of the Napoleonic era and the total war of the 20th century.

Notwithstanding his method of going into action, an officer of The Parachute Regiment once assured me that there had been nothing basically new in military thinking since the American Civil War. Everything, he said, had its parallels. Certainly, it was a war of many firsts. Railways, for instance, were a vital factor. So were the field telegraph and the observation balloon.

This war also saw the introduction of the magazine rifle, mines and tor-

diers, irrespective of the names they have been given, but the Germans were first in the field.

It is to those days that this accomplished writing team takes us back, to when a Red Army intelligence sum-

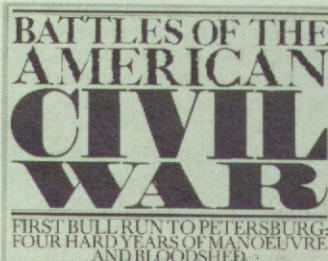


mary declared: 'Panzer Grenadiers are to be treated with respect... commanders should, when drawing up their appreciation of the battle-front, take full account of the German armoured infantry no less than of the German tanks, for they can be just as dangerous.'

Rarely were truer words written. The Panzer Grenadiers, both of the Wehrmacht and the Waffen-SS, were indeed formidable opponents and they showed it in Poland, France, Russia, the Western Desert, in Normandy and Holland, and in their homeland. This is an excellent and informative book.

Macdonald & Jane's Ltd, Paulton House, 8 Shepherdess Walk, London, N1 7LW, £5.50

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pedoes, ironclad warships and submarines. Each has an integral part in the story.

The battle descriptions, six from each author, are classics — lucid and authoritative. I have never read better. The authors, two Washingtonians, an historian and a journalist respectively, are to be congratulated on an excellent, well-illustrated book which will make them many friends they'll never meet.

Sampson Low, Berkshire House, Queen Street, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 1NS, £6.95

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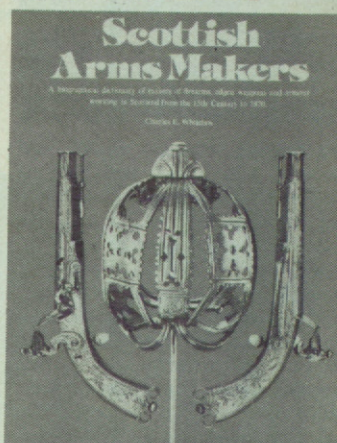
Armoured infantry

'Panzer Grenadiers' (James Lucas and Matthew Cooper)

By and large, the Panzer Grenadiers did not go into battle aboard the armoured tracked personnel carriers, as their name would imply, but in unarmoured, untracked lorries (very often, particularly in the Western Desert, captured ones).

Their title is thus best translated as 'motorised infantry,' the vital, second main component of the German armoured division. All the major armies of today include these sol-

IN BRIEF



'Scottish Arms Makers' (Charles E Whitelaw)

This remarkable biographical list of makers of firearms, edged weapons and armour working in Scotland from the 15th century to 1870 is awesome in its scope and detail. It includes such specialists as hiltmakers, bowyers and bucklers, makers of brigandines and halberds.

Notes on swords, with illustrations of signed basket hilts by Glasgow and Stirling makers, and a lucid description of the origin and development of the Highland dirk, are typical of five informative appendices.

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