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FRONT COVER

A prominent figure when The Light Division sounded Retreat on Horse Guards Parade was Bugle-Major Colin Green, of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets. He is pictured in the old dress uniform of The King's Royal Rifle Corps. He enlisted as a bugler in the regiment 16 years ago and is a keen collector of military band recordings.

Picture by Leslie Wiggs.



BACK COVER

The silver dome of the Mahdi's tomb in Omdurman glistens in the background as Staff-Sergeant John Bentley, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, strolls through the courtyard of the Khalifa's House—now a museum containing relics of that famous battle. John recently joined the British Army Training Team in the Sudan.

Picture by Arthur Blundell.

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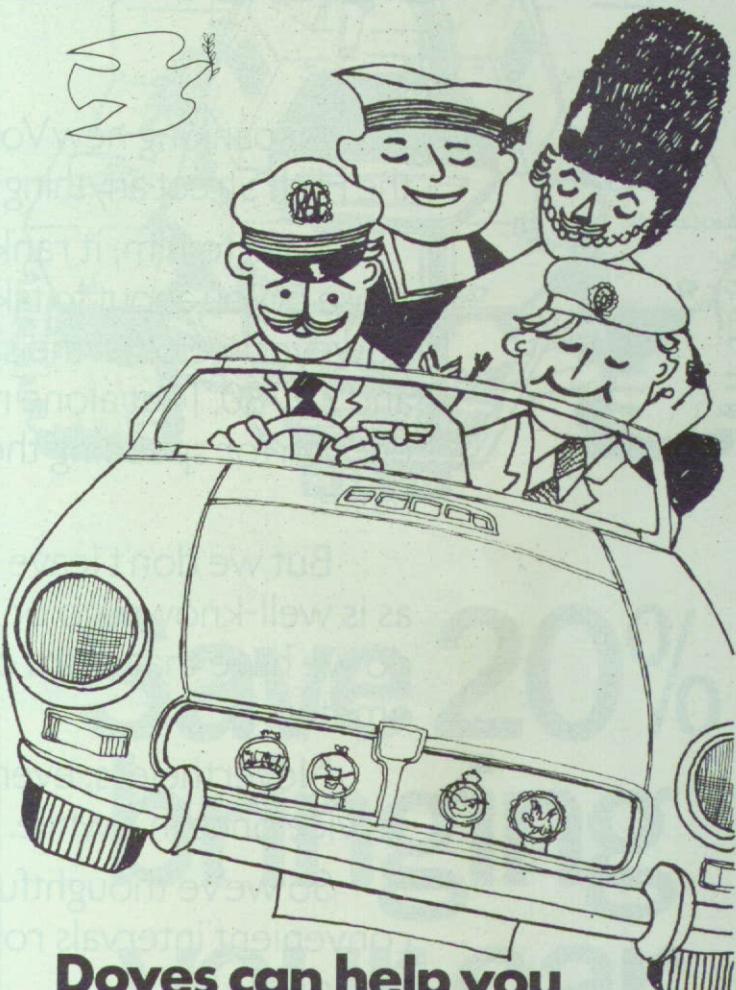
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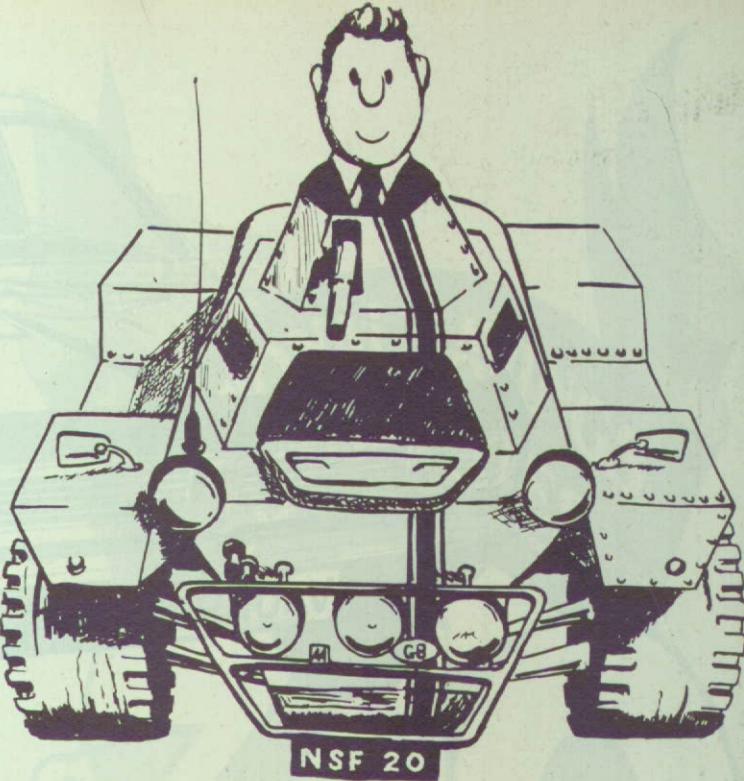
In this regular feature **SOLDIER** keeps you up-to-date on tattoos, open days, exhibitions, at homes, Army displays and similar occasions on which the public is welcome to see the Army's men and equipment. Amendments and additions to previous lists are indicated in bold type.

JULY 1974

- 17 Kneller Hall grand (band) concert.
- 18 Liverpool Show (Red Devils freefall team, band) (18-20 July).
- 19 Sheffield Tri-Service Display (Royal Military Police tent-pegging, Royal Artillery motorcycle display team, two bands) (19-21 July).
- 20 Corby Highland Games (display team, band) (20-21 July).
- 22 Warrington Army Show (RA motorcyclists, Red Devils, three bands) (22-23 July).
- 22 Plymouth Forces Week and Air Day (Black Knights freefall team, band) (22-28 July).
- 23 Cleveland Army Display (23-25 July).
- 25 St Helens Show (RA motorcyclists, Red Devils, band) (25-27 July).
- 25 Manchester Flower Show (Red Devils, band) (25-27 July).
- 25 Freedom of Melrose, The King's Own Scottish Borderers.
- 25 Inverness ACF Tattoo (25-31 July).
- 27 Peterhead Gala (Blue Arrows motorcycle display team).
- 27 Freedom of Wigtown, The King's Own Scottish Borderers.
- 27 Open Day, The Light Infantry Depot, Shrewsbury.
- 28 Royal Armoured Corps Centre Open Day, Bovington.
- 28 National Scouts Rally, Chatsworth (Red Devils) (28-29 July).
- 29 Freedom of Newton Stewart, The King's Own Scottish Borderers.
- 30 Freedom of Kirkcudbright, The King's Own Scottish Borderers.
- 31 Kilmarnock Festival Royal Signals motorcycle display team (White Helmets, Golden Lions freefall team).
- 31 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (31 July-3 August).
- 31 Royal Lancashire Show (Red Devils, band) (31 July-3 August).

AUGUST 1974

- 1 Freedom of Hawick, The King's Own Scottish Borderers.
- 2 Worcester City Show (Royal Engineers Junior Leaders gymnastic display) (2-3 August).
- 2 Hull Show (band) (2-3 August).
- 3 Freedom of Coldstream, The King's Own Scottish Borderers.
- 3 Open Day, Scottish Infantry Depot, Bridge of Don (Golden Lions, band).
- 4 Kingsway Hospital Show, Derby (White Helmets, band).
- 5 King's Troop RHA salute, Hyde Park (Queen Mother's birthday).
- 5 Turriff Show (Golden Lions 6 August) (5-6 August).
- 8 Bakewell Show (Red Devils).
- 9 Glasgow KAPE Show (Blue Arrows 10-11 August, pipe band 10 August, Golden Lions) (9-18 August).
- 10 Open Day, King's Troop RHA, St John's Wood Barracks, London.
- 13 Keith Show (Golden Lions).
- 14 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 14 Bingley Show (band).
- 15 Shropshire Horticultural Society Flower Show (King's Troop RHA) (15-18 August).
- 16 Edinburgh Tattoo (16 August-7 September).
- 17 Ashbourne Show (display team, band).
- 18 SSAFA 25th annual Air Display, RAF Church Fenton.
- 21 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 23 British Timken Show, Northampton (band 23 August, RA motorcyclists, Red Devils, White Helmets) (23-24 August).
- 24 Leeds Gala (band) (24-26 August).
- 24 Town and Country Show, Stoneleigh, Coventry (band) (24-26 August).
- 26 Watford Civic Outdoor Gala (band).
- 26 Walsall Show (Blue Eagles helicopter display team, band) (26-27 August).
- 26 Aylsham Show (band).
- 26 Hemel Hempstead Display (display team, band).
- 26 Rotarama 74, Worthing (RA motorcyclists, band).
- 28 Kneller Hall grand (band) concert.



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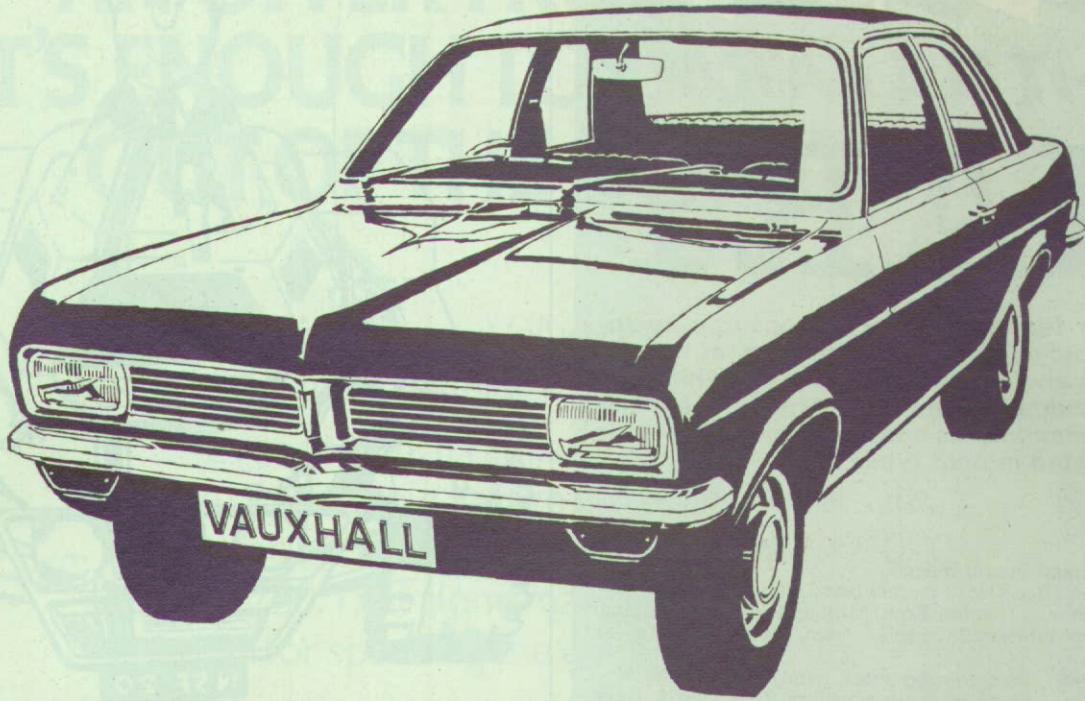
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DIARY

continued

AUGUST 1974 (continued)

- 29 Sheffield Show (band) (29-31 August).
- 30 Birmingham Show (two bands) (30-31 August).
- 30 Manchester (Heaton Park) Army Display (RA motorcyclists, Red Devils, RMP tent-pegging, five bands) (30 August-1 September).
- 31 Cadet Tattoo, Swindon.

SEPTEMBER 1974

- 4 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 6 Army Catering Corps Depot and Training Battalion at Home, Aldershot (provisional).
- 6 Bootle Army Display (RA motorcyclists, Red Devils, RMP tent-pegging, Blue Eagles, RAVC, seven bands) (6-8 September).
- 7 Hinkley Steam Fair (band) (7-8 September).
- 7 Deeside Army Display (White Helmets, Red Devils, two bands) (7-8 September).
- 7 Edmonton Carnival (RA display).
- 8 Burma Star Association Day, Waterbeach.
- 11 Kneller Hall final grand (band) concert.
- 14 Hoddesdon Town Show (RA motorcyclists).
- 14 Open Day, Royal School of Military Engineering, Chatham.
- 14 The Brent Show (Para, RAC, AAC, RAMC, RCT mobile displays) (14-15 September).
- 15 Plymouth Festival of Military Music (15-21 September).
- 21 Welwyn Garden City Water Carnival (Blue Eagles, band).
- 21 Army Benevolent Fund Show, Malvern (RA motorcyclists, band) (21-22 September).
- 21 Ringwood Carnival (massed bands).
- 21 Freedom of Cumnock, The Royal Highland Fusiliers.
- 24 Kettering Trade Fair (Red Devils, White Helmets, band) (24-27 September).
- 26 Wessex Searchlight Tattoo, Wessex Depot (26-28 September).
- 29 BLESMA 74 All-Services Spectacular, Aldershot (Free-falling, aerobatics, motorcycle display, RAF police dogs, Sealed Knot pageant, firefighting and police displays).

OCTOBER 1974

- 7 Royal Regiment of Fusiliers tercentenary celebrations (7-13 October)—3rd Battalion static displays, Birmingham, 7-8 October. Freedom marches, Birmingham, 9 October; Leamington Spa (morning) and Stratford-on-Avon (afternoon), 10 October; Sutton Coldfield, 11 October. New freedom deed and march past, Coventry, 12 October. Parade service St Mary's Church, and march past, Warwick, 13 October.
- 7 Gala Night (Army Benevolent Fund), Horse of the Year Show, Wembley.
- 13 Motor sports race meeting, Edinburgh (Golden Lions, band).

NOVEMBER 1974

- 2 Festival of Remembrance, Bristol (band).
- 9 Lord Mayor's Show, London.
- 30 Kneller Hall Band Concert (Army Benevolent Fund), Royal Festival Hall.

JUNE 1975

- 27 Aldershot Army Display (27-29 June).

JULY 1975

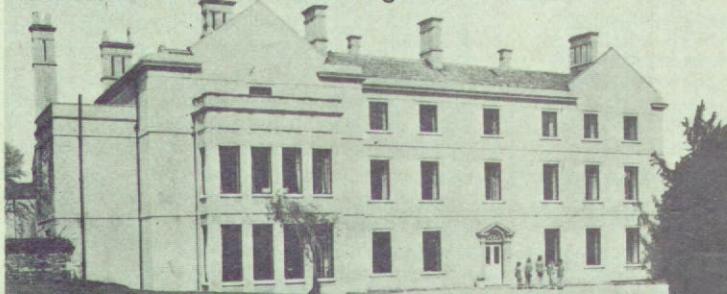
- 16 Royal Tournament, Earls Court (16 July-2 August).
- 25 Cardiff Tattoo (25 July-2 August).
- 26 Army Air Day, Middle Wallop.

AUGUST 1975

- 6 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (6-9 August).
- 22 Edinburgh Tattoo (22 August-13 September).

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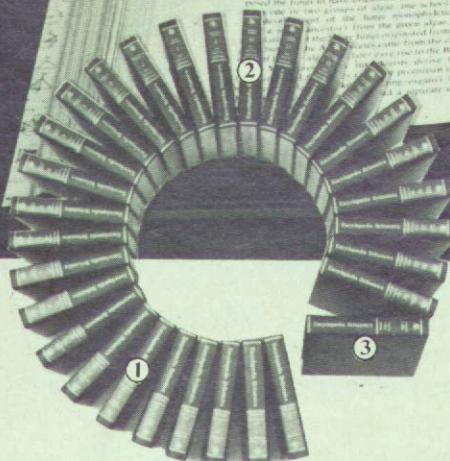
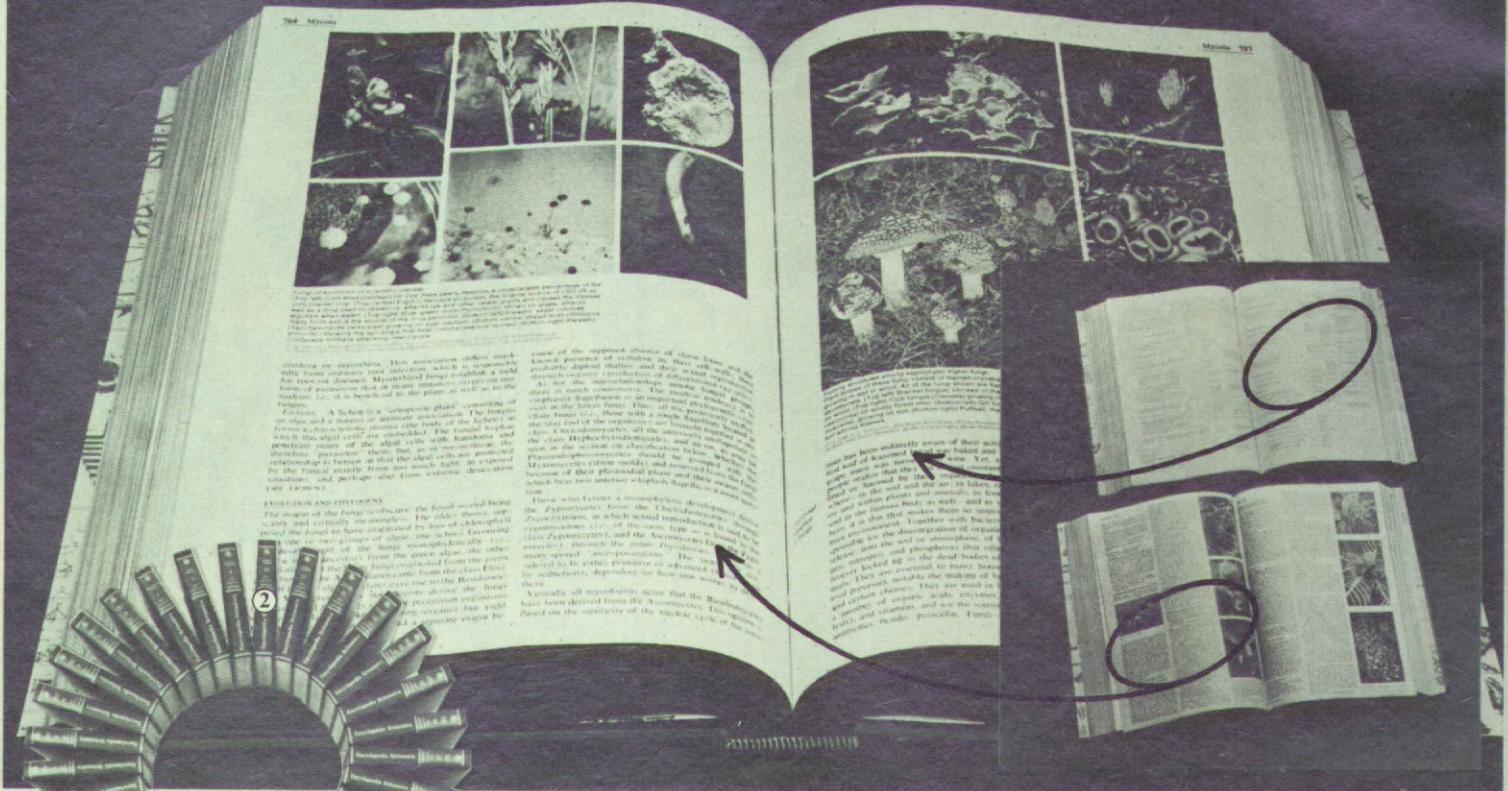
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SOLDIER to Soldier

"On Saturday 19 June I travelled from the Isle of Wight with my daughter, son-in-law and three grandchildren to the Aldershot Army Display. As an ex-Regular I would like to congratulate all personnel who organised and took part in the show. Where else in the world could you see a show like that for free? The children thought it was great."

On behalf of the organiser and all the participants, SOLDIER thanks the writer of this letter, Mr T Parrott, of Newport, IOW, and all the thousands who expressed their appreciation in other ways, particularly in the considerable contribution to the Army Benevolent Fund.

Despite the unfriendly weather everyone enjoyed "Britain's biggest free show" and once again demonstrated how close and friendly today is the link between the great British public and its Army. There is much to do and see at the major military displays—perhaps too much for a one-day visit—but there are other opportunities, many of them listed in SOLDIER's See-the-Army Diary, to take a leisurely look at the modern Army's equipment and to chat to its soldiers. They enjoy it all, too!



The colour booklet and ten-inch record "The Changing of the Guard" is now no longer available—stocks have all been sold and the firm which produced this popular item is not reprinting either the book or the disc.



SOLDIER regrets that after a spell of publication on schedule—normal publication day is the third Tuesday monthly—the July issue was a fortnight late. This was due to industrial action at the printers, culminating in a fortunately brief strike. The after-effect, however, is that this issue has also been subjected to some delay.



And yet more regrets... Because of rising costs, SOLDIER is withdrawing its two-year and three-year subscription rates. These long-term rates, introduced in July 1963, gave the reader the benefit of a small discount and reduced administrative work. But because of greatly increased printing costs and a number of postal increases, passed on to the subscriber in part, the two-and three-year rates are now uneconomical. And SOLDIER is still not allowed to increase its cover price of 7½ pence which has been unchanged since April 1966. Current one-, two- and three-year subscriptions will be honoured but the new annual rate will now be £1.47 (UK), £1.41 (BFPO) and £1.51 (elsewhere).

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The Gloucestershire Regiment

THE Gloucestershire Regiment has fought in almost every campaign in which the British Army has taken part. It served under Marlborough in the Low Countries, with Wolfe at Quebec, with Wellington in the Peninsula and at Waterloo, in India at Chillianwallah and at the Siege of Delhi, in the Crimea at Inkerman and Sevastopol, in South Africa, the two World Wars, Korea, Cyprus, Aden. These and other actions are recalled by relics and souvenirs displayed in the regimental museum in Bishop Hooper's Lodging, a picturesque timber-framed house traditionally associated with the Bishop's martyrdom in Gloucester in 1555.

Catching the eye on entering the museum is the blue streamer emblem of the United States Presidential Citation awarded to the regiment for distinguished service at Solma-Ri, Korea, in April 1951. This has pride of place in the Korean War case which also includes an enemy war drum, a blue cotton working suit issued to British prisoners-of-war, a field service cap with ear flaps, and a Chinese bugle captured with its owner during the successful assault by the 1st Battalion on the vital Hill 367, south of the Han River near Seoul.

Regimental uniforms ranging from the 18th century to the present day are exhibited with a variety of weapons, headdresses and accoutrements. These include a well-preserved example of an 1840 mess dress, a splendid pair of heavy silver epaulettes worn by an officer of the Gloucestershire Yeomanry and some shakos of 1855 to 1880, all in good condition.

Watercolour paintings of battle scenes and treasured old Colours belonging to the 28th Foot and 61st Foot, the old North and South Gloucestershire regiments respectively, which amalgamated in 1881 to become The Gloucestershire Regiment, adorn the wall of the staircase leading to an upper room. Here can be seen a fine collection of medals ranging from Military General Service Medals for the Egyptian campaign of 1801 to World War Two and the post-1945 campaign awards.

Specially noteworthy in the Peninsula War case are two solid gold crosses and

three gold medals. There follow Waterloo Medals, Indian campaign medals and a good collection of Crimean and Boer War medals, the latter including a rare Queen's South African Medal with six bars—Belfast, Diamond Hill, Johannesburg, Driefontein, Paardeberg and Relief of Kimberley—awarded to Private F Probert. A separate case is devoted to three of the regiment's nine Victoria Crosses and the George Cross awarded posthumously to Lieutenant T E Waters, who died of wounds while a prisoner-of-war in North Korea.

The 280-year-old story of the Glosters is further illustrated in the museum's collection of regimental badges and buttons. One display traces the changes in the regiment's famous back badge from the first diamond-shaped design of 1802, showing a sphinx above the word Egypt and the number 28, to the current issue.

Souvenirs of World War One include two trench notice boards poignantly named "Death Valley" and "Desire Avenue" and, to bring the story up to date, there are reminders of the regiment's involvement in Northern Ireland. One of these, a "flak" jacket, showing the gashes made by five bullets, saved the life of a Gloucestershire Regiment officer when a patrol he was leading came under fire in the Lower Falls area of Belfast.

Bishop Hooper's Lodging also houses an interesting museum of Gloucestershire folk life which is well worth visiting.

John Jesse

Curator:	Miss J Minay
Address:	The Gloucestershire Regiment Museum Bishop Hooper's Lodging 99-103 Westgate Street Gloucester
Telephone:	Gloucester 24131
Open:	1000 to 1730 Monday to Saturday
Closed:	Sunday, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Good Friday
Admission:	Free
How to get there:	Ten-minute walk from railway and bus stations or five minutes from city centre.

Next month: The Worcestershire Regiment

D-DAY



+30...

Trailing red, white and blue smoke, the Fouger Magisters of La Patrouille de France scream low over Utah beach to pay their jet-age tribute to the generation of D-Day.

Normandy again and a new generation looks on



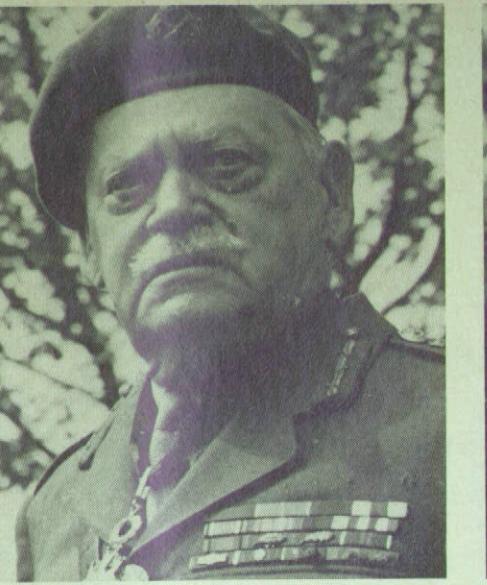
Story by Mike Starke
Pictures by Arthur Blundell



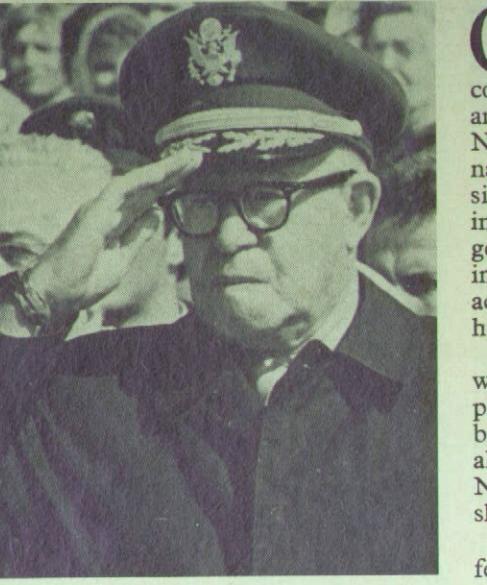
A guard of honour of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, with Colours flying, at Utah beach.

Left: Cheerful smiles marked the D-Day reunions as much as the acts of remembrance.

Right: Epitomising a new generation on Utah beach was astronaut Alan Shepherd whose feet have trod the moon.



General Sir Richard Gale, ex-commander 6th Airborne, remembers at Ranville.



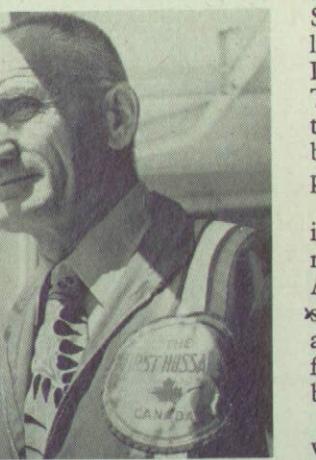
A US D-Day commander, General Omar Bradley, salutes the fallen at Utah beach

as the old generation looks back



Children of liberated France have no D-Day memories. But they lay wreaths at Ranville.

Left: Major Howard poses in Pegasus Cafe with Mme Gondrée whom he liberated on D-Day.



Right: A former Canadian soldier who crossed the globe to return to Normandy for the first time in 30 years.

ON D-Day—6 June 1944—American troops fought foot by foot up the sands of Utah beach on the Normandy coast. Among the VIPs at this year's 30th anniversary celebrations of the invasion of Nazi-occupied Europe was American astronaut Alan Shepherd who had trodden the silent sands of the moon during the intervening years—a striking reminder that a whole generation has passed since the D-Day landings and a whole new way of life has accompanied the space age Shepherd played his part in.

The largely French-inspired celebrations were said to be the last official ceremonies planned until the 50th anniversary and they brought thousands of D-Day veterans from all the allied countries back to the now quiet Normandy seaboard many of them last saw shattered with the turmoil of war.

They returned in luxury coaches on smart ferries. They took their ease in the summer sun of 1974 re-crossing a smooth Channel that had bucketed them into seasickness 30 years before as they struggled to find their sea legs, burdened with the paraphernalia of battle aboard cumbersome landing craft.

On the Sealink ferry Senlac—ironically named after the site of the Norman invasion of Britain under William the Conqueror in 1066—veterans of the Canadian 1st Parachute Battalion sported scarlet cowboy-style “bootlace” ties with bright red badges as woggles. As they mingled with ex-members of the British 9th Parachute Battalion in the ship's bar, wives sat back and listened as the memories flooded back.

A buzz of excitement halted the reminiscing as word went round that General Sir Richard “Windy” Gale, the commander of the 6th British Airborne Division on D-Day, was on board and envy greeted the whispered news from one or other of the party that they had managed to speak to him.

Bill Fleming, who had travelled all the way from Saskatchewan for the first time since 1944, sported the badge of The First Hussars, Canada, on his jacket, watched the approaching French coastline from the rail and mused: “It sure as hell is smoother crossing today than then.”

Once ashore the old soldiers were faced with a daunting array of ceremonies designed to cover the length and breadth of the coastline that invasion planners segmented into the five beachheads of Sword, Juno, Gold, Omaha and Utah—names etched into the legend of the largest-ever invasion force.

The ageing faces of the “old and bold” contrasted sharply with the fresh features of the uniformed contingents from today's armed forces of the United Kingdom, United States, France, Belgium, Canada and Holland. From Britain came soldiers from The Parachute Regiment and the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, backed by their bands and drums. Many of them were born ten years after D-Day. Many of their parents were mere teenagers on 6 June 1944.

For these young soldiers World War Two is history—not even a dim childhood memory. Theirs is the generation of Cyprus, Aden, Vietnam and Northern Ireland—skirmishing wars of the guerrilla a lifetime away from division upon division of armed forces confronting each other across the borders of what is now the NATO alliance.

Appropriately a landing ship, albeit post-war, was home for the British Army con-



bystanders seemed that little bit louder when the British contingents appeared.

Attention focused for two or three days on the inland area where the 6th British Airborne Division spearheaded one flank of the invasion forces in the early hours of 6 June 1944. The little town of Ranville became General Gale's headquarters soon after battle was joined and he is always an honoured guest when he returns. This year he led a simple wreath-laying ceremony and service at the peaceful walled cemetery in the town where he was joined by the allied contingents and American General Omar Bradley, another D-Day commander.

This was followed by the opening of a museum to the British gliderborne troops and parachutists who slid silently out of the night sky in those early June hours. The museum was designed by one of France's leading architects and has been stocked with material gleaned by members of the British Parachute Regiment over two years.

On the very day of the opening by General Gale, piper Bill Millin, late of the 4th Com-

mando, donated to the museum the pipes he played as Lord Lovat's personal piper when they landed in Normandy. First he retraced his steps across nearby Pegasus Bridge—named in honour of the airborne forces' symbol—and recalled how in 1944 he crossed the bridge with Lord Lovat at his side, his stick on his arm "as if he were taking a stroll across one of his country estates."

The museum, said a French official, was the last of five that have been built to commemorate D-Day. He added that its main object was to serve the present generation as a reminder of the past.

Piper Millin and his leader came close on the heels of the Paras who had secured the bridge with complete surprise. Between the new museum and the old bridge stands the first building to be liberated in France 30 years ago, a cafe, still run by 77-year-old Madame Thérèse Gondrée whose husband (he died just five years ago) hustled her and their children into the cellar as the Paras surrounded the building that morning in 1944. He was suspicious lest the soldiers were Nazis dressed as British troops to test his "loyalty."

Major John Howard, whose name is on a plaque above the cafe door as the liberator of the building, found a special welcome kiss waiting for him from Madame Gondrée when he arrived with other old comrades. He recalled that her husband knew the troops were genuine once he heard a cockney expletive—he knew no German could talk like that!

Soon 90 bottles of champagne Monsieur Gondrée had buried in the garden during the occupation were dug up to toast the liberators. German customers had been served a mixture of carbonated sugar water at exorbitant prices when they paid a call. The cafe became a first aid post and Major Howard's medical officer, Major J Vaughan, recalled that once the word got around about the champagne he was swamped with soldiers trying to report sick.

Parachutists once more dropped over the bridge this June in the form of a six-man team from The Parachute Regiment's display freefallers, the Red Devils. Using the highly manoeuvrable mattress-shaped Cloud canopies, they landed a few feet from Pegasus Bridge to a tumultuous welcome from the waiting crowd and congratulations from General Gale.

Flying their distinctive red Britten-Norman Islander was British Airways pilot Roger Mills who makes this his spare-time occupation. He made a low-level pass over the bridge after the display in honour of the glider pilots who flew in 1944. Among those was his father, Mr Arthur Mills, who was there to see his son's tribute.

Throughout the area permanent reminders of the invasion forces' presence in the little Norman towns and villages 30 years ago are found in street names honouring people and places across the Channel and Atlantic. In Asnelles, a sleepy seaside town that was once at the heart of the inferno that was Gold Beach, a special ceremony took place this June to name three streets Rue The Devonshire Regiment, Rue The Dorset Regiment and Rue The Hampshire Regiment. It is a short walk from them to the previously named Rue de Southampton and Rue du Major Martin.

The regimented calm of the ranks of old

tingents taking part in the celebrations. The

grey bulk of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary LSL Sir Bedivere was docked in Le Havre and daily convoys were disgorged from her bowels to dash some 100 miles to the towns and villages honoured and honouring with parades and wreath-laying ceremonies.

The programme took on the hectic atmos-

phere of a bloodless campaign itself as

musicians and guards of honour paraded

sometimes deep into the night with little

chance to grab a bite to eat or a few hours'

sleep before mustering again for another

soutie into the battlefields of yesteryear.

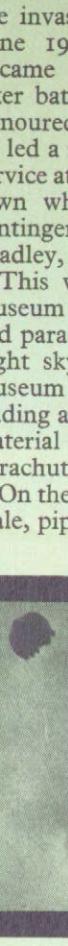
But the British arms always seemed to

swing highest, uniforms seemed best pressed,

feet seemed best in step and musicians best

in tune at each parade. And to British ears

the rapturous applause from the French



The self-inflating flexible glider wing parachute used by the Red Devils for the display at Pegasus Bridge (left) is a far cry from the paras' 1944 D-Day canopies (above).



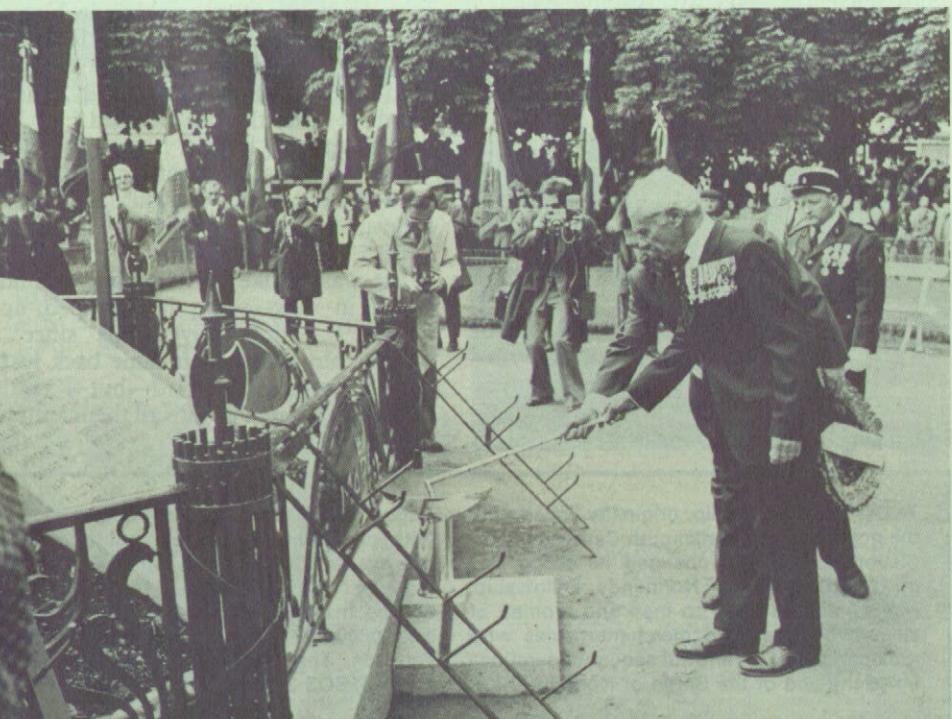
Rue The Devonshire Regiment taking its place on the street map of Asnelles in honour of infanteers who freed the town on D-Day.



A warm welcome from Flers in 1974. Road sign recalls places which provided hot receptions in 1944.

Right: General Roberts hands over roll of honour to a still grateful Flers.

Below: 11th Armoured Division's ex-commander lighting an eternal flame to the dead of 1914-18.



comrades, bandsmen and guards of honour from France and Britain surrounded by the fluttering flags hoisted at the town's wreath-decked war memorial was a far cry from the scene in 1944 summed up by the name of a nearby seaside hamlet: Le Chaos.

At attention in the front rank of the old comrades, ex-platoon sergeant Walter Saunders was casting his mind back to his D-Day in the 1st Battalion, The Dorset Regiment, when his platoon commander was cut down by withering fire on the beach at noon and he had to soldier on inland, the burden of responsibility for his men in the fierce fighting firmly on his shoulders.

Utah beach drew hundreds of American ex-servicemen to witness a march-past by the ubiquitous allied contingents and a fly-past by the French Air Force display team, La Patrouille de France, trailing red, white and blue smoke from their Fouger Magister jets as they dune-hopped over the crowd.

Allied flags stiffened in a seaward breeze that bit into the once supple joints of the American old soldiers as official speech followed official speech. The tributes became less audible as more and more D-Day veterans began to reminisce among themselves. A woman stopped to show a silk scarf in camouflage drab she wore around her neck. "This was made from the very parachute my husband landed with," she said. "See . . . it's still as good as new. He was writing me a letter and cutting the silk just after he landed when the Germans attacked. He stuffed the piece, letter and all, in his pocket and it stayed there three weeks until he got a chance to send it. It was filthy after all he'd been through but I cleaned it up, and here it is to this day."

Some miles inland the town of Flers was preparing its own reception for the return of men of the British 11th Armoured Division who liberated it in August 1944. The high spot of the two-day celebrations was the unveiling of a memorial on the main road just outside the town by the then commander, Major-General G P B Roberts.

The previous day had been marked with a parade and celebrations when General Roberts handed over a roll of honour of his division to the town and, in return, accepted an honorary citizenship of Flers on behalf of the division.

The gathering of old comrades at the memorial, joined by the band and a guard of honour from 3rd Royal Tank Regiment, was told that 1000 men had died fighting their way between the coast and Flers. And the 1000 or so survivors who had returned for the ceremonies were welcomed as warmly in 1974 as in 1944.

French families took individuals into their home to stay and the streets were decked with the French and British flags flying side by side. Lampposts were adorned with the black bull on gold background that was the old divisional emblem.

All over Normandy the parties of old comrades reformed to make their homeward journeys. Men now in middle-age had relived their youth and a remarkable page in modern history. They bemoaned the passing of the unity and sense of purpose they had brought with them on D-Day, but that was a generation ago. A new world strode through their bootprints on Normandy's beaches and on to carry a re-born Europe into the second half of the 20th century.



D-Day veterans . . . on wheels

BY D-Day plus one, General Eisenhower had more or less achieved his objective of getting more than 20,000 vehicles ashore in Normandy. In 1974, in honour of the 30th anniversary, enthusiasts from various places in Europe returned with a selection of nearly 100 World War Two vintage allied military vehicles to visit the old battlegrounds.

The trip was organised by the Military Vehicle Conservation Group which has branches all over Great Britain. Some 300 people went on the Normandy rally many of whom were not even born in 1944.

What was the attraction of military vehicles for these young men—and women—who had had no first-hand taste of the war? "Military vehicles are built to do a job—they're 'butch,' if you like," said 26-year-old Pete Salter. He shares an Austin K2 ambulance and a Hillman light utility "Tilly" car with two friends who call themselves the Oxford Military Vehicle Associates.

He went on: "We study the World War Two background—I've spent many hours in the Imperial War Museum. We make every effort to be authentic in every detail of fittings, finish and so on. When some accessories can't be found you may have to make them yourself."

One of Pete's colleagues, soap salesman

David Belcher (25), added: "Military vehicle collecting is something completely different. If you are mechanically inclined it gives you a great interest. These vehicles have a function—they're strong and well built—a delight because all that is non-functional has been cut out. On this trip we will do 300 to 400 miles with every confidence in our vehicles' endurance."

Rally secretary Keith Battrick confirmed there had been only a few minor breakdowns during the tour of British and American battle sites which he estimated had cost about £100 for each vehicle.

The enthusiasts were astounded at the welcome they received wherever they went with their convoy. Schoolchildren lined the route through villages as the veteran convoy passed and the drivers were moved to see older Frenchmen and women openly weeping at the sight of the old vehicles that had brought freedom to them 30 years ago.

The conservation group is based in Worthing and branches are forming, particularly in the Midlands, in growing numbers. There are plans for an international rally and talk of the possibility of repeating the Normandy trip every five years or so.

The group gleans its vehicles from dumps and farmyards—many of them are ex-American machines—and they are lovingly

restored to working order and refurbished in authentic colours. Several enthusiasts collect military uniforms too but are discouraged by the group's organisers from wearing them on rallies as a courtesy to both old and serving soldiers. Some ignored the advice in Normandy. But it was the convoy of vehicles which stole the limelight.



One veteran military vehicle not included in the conservation group convoy belonged to Bert Wardale, from Ripon, who turned up for the 11th Armoured Division reunion in Flers driving a 1942 Bedford QLR signal vehicle he has refurbished as a caravan. Bert drove just such a vehicle in Normandy in 1944 when serving in the Royal Army Service Corps with 213 Field Ambulance, then supporting 11th Armoured Division. He discovered the old Bedford in a Harrogate scrapyard, bought it for £75 and converted it himself, repainting the exterior with his old unit's markings. He uses the caravan for holidays and to support Royal British Legion functions. What was it like getting back behind the wheel in 1967 when he snapped up his find? "I hadn't driven one since 1945 but the old knack soon came back just like that. It runs like a bird—but I don't let anyone else touch it, I do all the maintenance myself."



The D-Day Fellowship, originally linked with the now-deferred Portsmouth Cathedral completion appeal, has changed its scope and title to D-Day and Normandy Fellowship. Membership is open to men and women of all armed forces and merchant navies who took part in D-Day and subsequent operations up to the end of the Battle of Normandy (19

August 1944), to their relatives and to those with close association with, or interest in, the events. Subscription, which is for life, is £2, or more if wished, and members' names will be inscribed in a book. Further details are available from the Reverend Ronald Paterson, The Vicarage, Swanmore, Southampton, SO3 2QT.

Humour



"There's that terrible rattling noise again!"



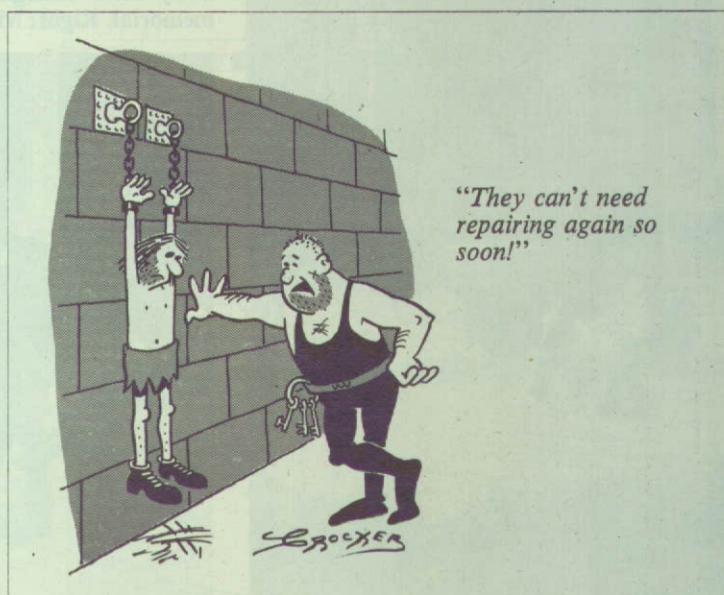
"Don't forget—hooped shirts are good guys and plain shirts are the baddies!"



"That's one ref you don't argue with!"



"Very nice—I'll take it."



"They can't need repairing again so soon!"

On the other side of the Wall

Story by John Walton/Pictures by Arthur Blundell

THE "rubberneckers"—a couple of soldiers, a couple of airmen but otherwise wives and families of servicemen—queue patiently to pay their two-mark fares to a girl wearing the familiar green of the Women's Royal Voluntary Service. She takes a careful look at each passport—a little green stamp showing a previous individual visit to the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) will exclude anyone from this Berlin military trip.

We board the coach and meet the guide, Major Bob Payn, Royal Army Educational Corps, who introduces himself in carefully modulated tones which will become familiar

during the next three-and-a-half hours. He admits he is still a novice courier but has been well briefed and displays a remarkable knowledge of the city.

Our journey begins. We drive past parks—"the Berliners like them because they mostly live in flats"—and through West Berlin's fabled shopping centre of Kurfürstendamm. On towards the Brandenburg Gate and Major Payn points out a row of impressive-looking street lamps as being designed by Albert Speer, Hitler's armaments minister.

Near Brandenburg we get our first glimpse of the infamous Wall—designed to stop East Berliners from defecting to the West.

On its western side two Russian soldiers stand impassively guarding the Russian war memorial. "There is a Royal Military Police post nearby because if there is any trouble we have to bring out our chaps to guard the Russians who are guarding the memorial," the major explains.

A mile or two further on we see the Wall again. Along its top are the rollers—loose-fitting pipes to defeat handholds of would-be escapers.

The oddly shaped Kongresshalle, known to Berliners as the "pregnant oyster" and presented to the city by the Americans, is followed by a British gift—a modern statue by Henry Moore. "It looks rather like two doughnuts," says Major Payn, "but I believe it represents a man and a woman."

We see the remains of Hitler's favourite railway station, drive past Lord Haw-Haw's house and at last approach the gateway to the East—the famous Checkpoint Charlie. "Put your cameras out of sight, military personnel wear their headdress, and sit tight," says our guide.

Major Payn checks us out with the British military police while from an observation

tower an East German peers at us through binoculars.

We drive slowly round a chicane erected to prevent vehicles crashing through the checkpoint, then stop and hold our passports up to the windows while an East German strolls round the outside of the coach to inspect them. The check over, he waves us on with a friendly grin and we are in East Berlin.

Visitors to the eastern sector in years gone by have described it as "like passing from a colour film to black-and-white" but things have changed in the last few years and the contrast is nowhere as great as anticipated. The people appear well dressed and fed, youngsters' hair is fashionably long and the first noticeable difference is the absence of illuminated advertisement hoardings. There are also many old buildings which have been restored to their former appearance rather than replaced by modern edifices.

Soon we see Nazi relics—Goering's Air Ministry, the bunker where Hitler met his end and the nearby Propaganda Ministry where Goebbels held evil sway. Then along the famous Unter den Linden and we see

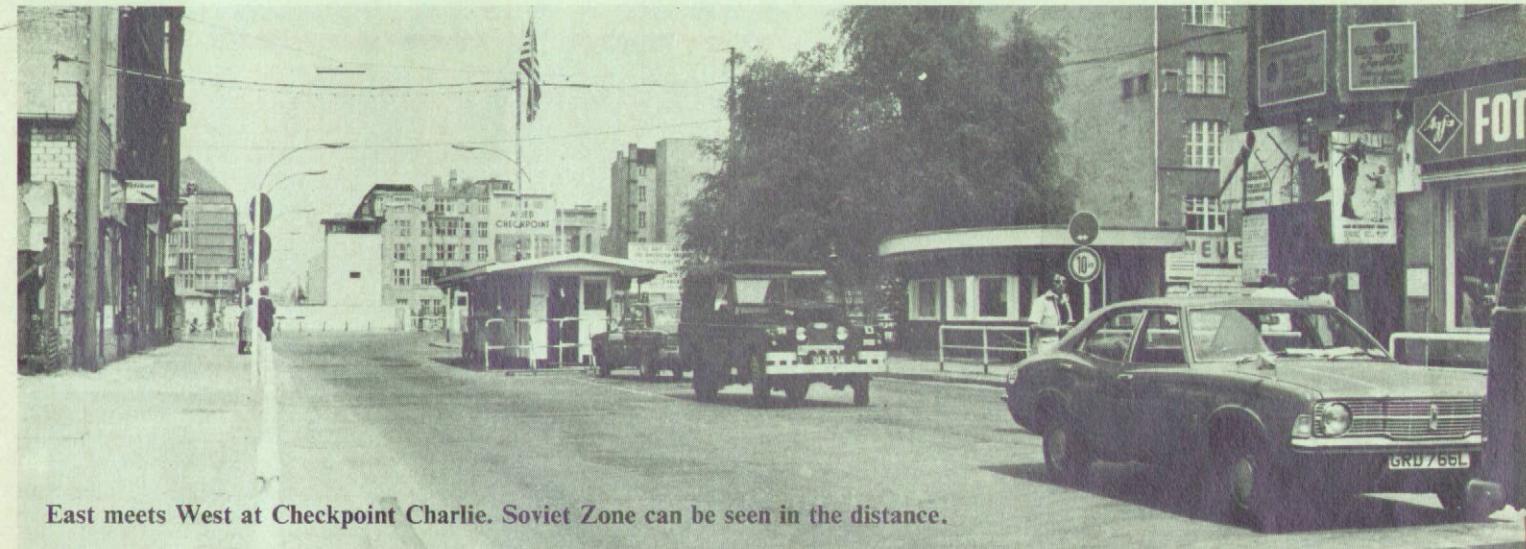
The military tours of Berlin go back to just after World War Two. Until the Wall was built in 1961 the coach drivers were German civilians but since that time the drivers have been British soldiers who can make use of the right of the occupying powers to travel to any part of the divided city.

Sometimes there are two buses, in which case a Royal Army Educational Corps officer is guide on the first while an officer from another unit, who has been trained by the RAEC at Spandau, will act as courier for the second coach. The Women's Royal Voluntary Service does the bookings and collects the two-mark fares which go towards running functions for British troops in Berlin. Each year the takings total about 7000 marks, representing 3500 trippers. Major Gerry Hoskins, group education officer and commanding 46 Army Education Centre, Berlin, is one of five officers acting as guides in rotation. He says: "Most of us enjoy doing it especially when you have an audience which responds if you crack a joke. If you just get an absolutely dead silence behind you it isn't much fun." Just like appearing on a stage . . . but in this case the performance is educational and has an important place in the political context of present-day Berlin.

Left: The radio tower in East Berlin, modelled on Moscow.

Above: The Berlin trippers peer excitedly out of the coach windows. Left: The radio tower in East Berlin, modelled on Moscow.

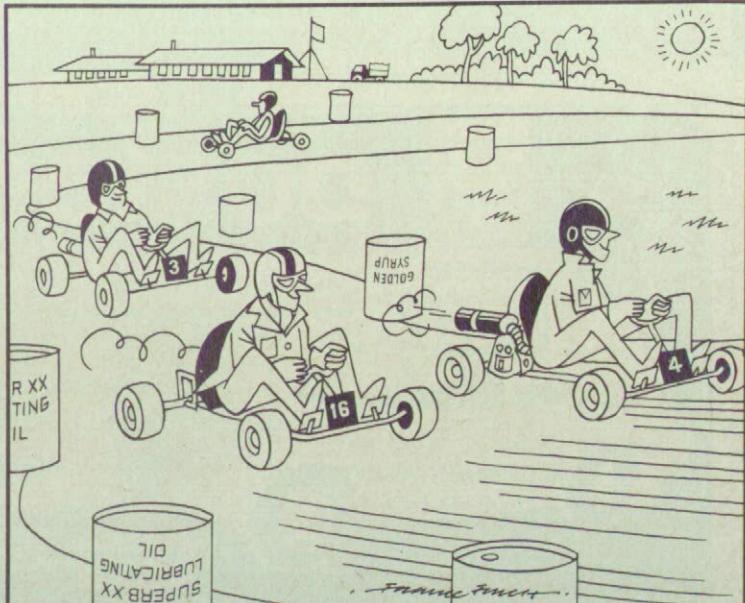
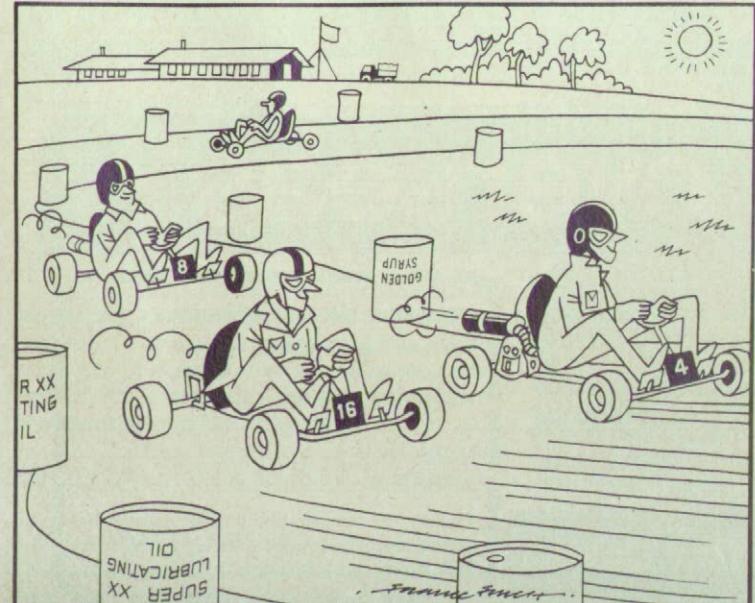
Below: Goose-stepping East Germans march away after changing the guard at a war memorial. Right: Major Bob Payn in action.



East meets West at Checkpoint Charlie. Soviet Zone can be seen in the distance.

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 44.



the Wall

continued



the memorial to the "victims of militarism and fascism" where later we shall attend the changing of the guard.

On to the showplace of East Berlin—the Moscow-modelled radio tower and Karl Marx Allee. Spacious, glittering buildings designed to show the benefits of the Communist system but, as Major Payn points out, there are still many slum areas in the sector. We pass another checkpoint and see East Berliners waiting for relatives crossing to see them. The visits, which cannot be reciprocated, are eagerly awaited.

Now for our half-hour stop in the East, the Soviet War Cemetery at Treptow Park. This was the first construction job carried out by the Russians and contains five graves each holding 1000 bodies. Here are buried, in full uniform, a general, a captain, a sergeant and a private soldier of the Soviet forces, all

facing towards Moscow. The statues depict Mother Russia and a Russian soldier crushing a swastika underfoot. The whole thing is vast and like all war cemeteries tinged with sadness for the loss of so much young life.

After the tour of the park there is just time for a quick drink of the East German equivalent of Coca-Cola (cheap but with an odd flavour) and then we are on our way back. We arrive at the Fascist victims' memorial just in time to see the changing of the guard. As the sentries goose-step into place a host of tourist cameras click—for most it is all too eerily reminiscent of the people whose victims are being remembered.

The tour is nearly over. As we approach Checkpoint Charlie again a car with British numberplates is being thoroughly searched by the East Germans, including the use of a mirror to inspect it underneath. But our cheery border guard ("Usually they are very glum," says Major Payn) is still on duty and after a fresh look at our passports he waves us back into the West.

Above: Statue of Russian soldier crushing swastika underfoot dominates Treptow. Below: The WRVS coach pulls away from the park.



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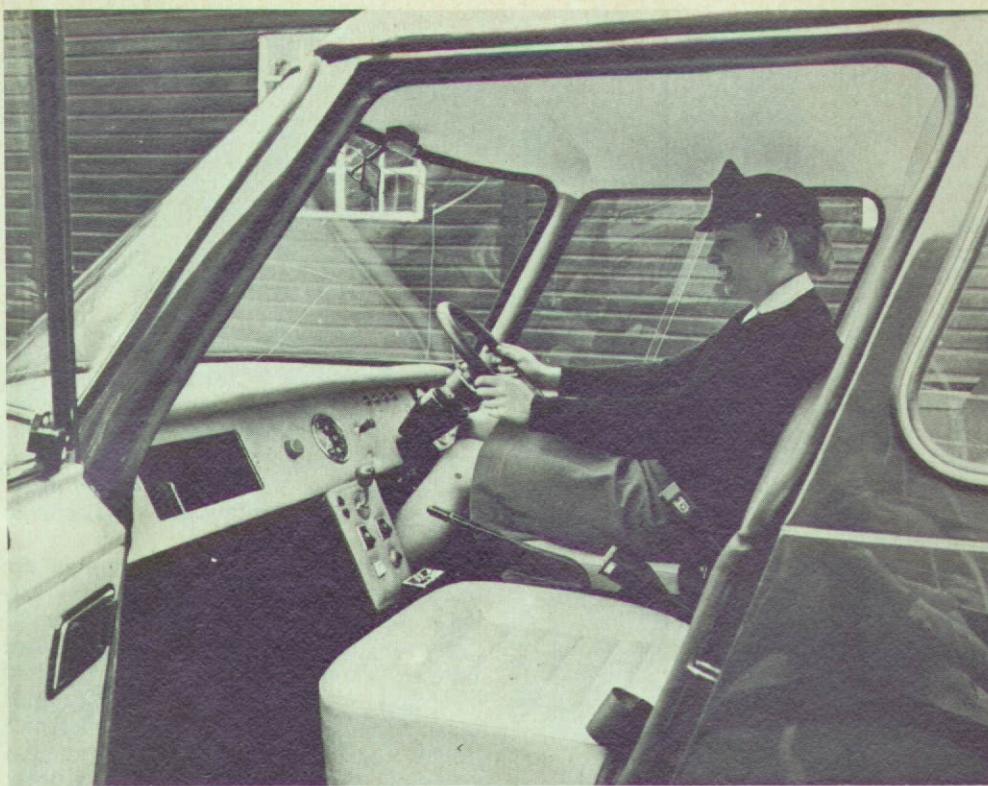
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It's the Enfield 8000

AN electric car, which will shortly be further tested in garrison areas in Berlin and Cyprus, was recently given a thorough six-week testing by 41 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, at Aldershot.

Driving the vehicle, which looks like a Mini but has entirely different qualities, was Private Linda Walker, Women's Royal Army Corps. It took her only a few minutes to master the 11-feet-long, five-feet-wide Enfield 8000, made by an Isle of Wight firm.

"It's much slower than an ordinary car and there's no acceleration but it's all right for town work," was Linda's verdict. "There are no gears and all you have to do is accelerate and brake."

The Enfield 8000 is the result of five years' research by Enfield. The model used for the Aldershot trials has already been bought by the Army and it was given a gruelling test including runs from Aldershot to Pirbright and Bordon.

Major Mike Nuttall, who commands the squadron, said he thought the car had great potential for use in garrison areas. It was cheap to operate and he estimated ten pence-worth of electricity would recharge the batteries to run up to 75 miles.

The battery charging can be done from the mains or from a standard Army genera-



"Where's the engine?" asks a puzzled Pte Linda Walker as she sees only batteries. Top: Linda at the Enfield 8000's controls.

tor and there is a cut out once the batteries are fully charged. The only problem in town areas might be noise—or lack of it. For the Enfield 8000 is completely silent and therefore gives no warning of approach. Its top speed is 42 miles an hour.



Major Mike Nuttall, officer commanding 41 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, points out the socket for charging the batteries.



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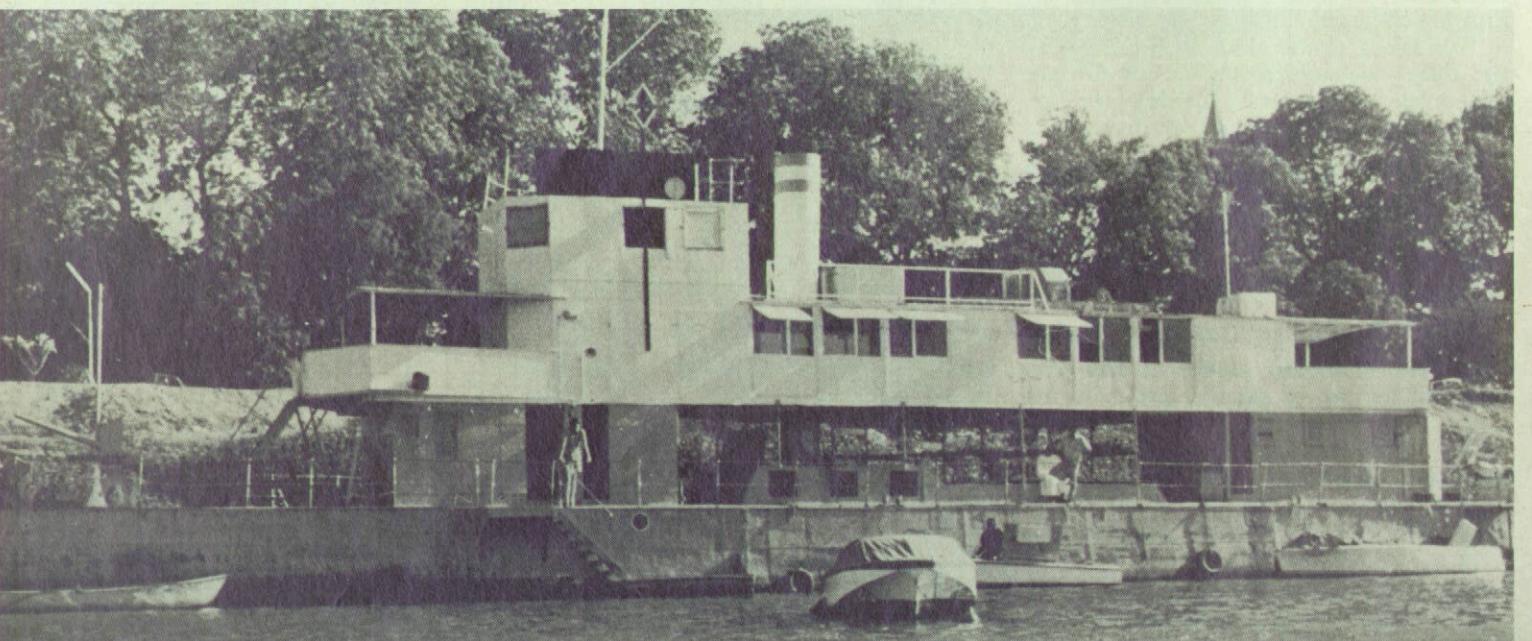
The Chief Constable's Office,
UKAEA, Constabulary
Building No 1,
AERE, Harwell, Didcot,
Oxon OX11 0RA

Taking Camberley to Khartoum

Story by John Walton
Pictures by Arthur Blundell



Students at the Military College, Wadi Seidna, tackle the fearsome confidence course. Below: Kitchener's gunboat, Melik, now converted to the Blue Nile Sailing Club HQ.



OMDURMAN . . . and the death-defying charge of the 21st Lancers. Khartoum . . . where Gordon met his fate . . . The names of these neighbour cities in the Sudan are inextricably bound up with Britain's military past. Now British soldiers are back again, after a gap of a few years—but only a handful and as advisors to the Sudanese armed forces.

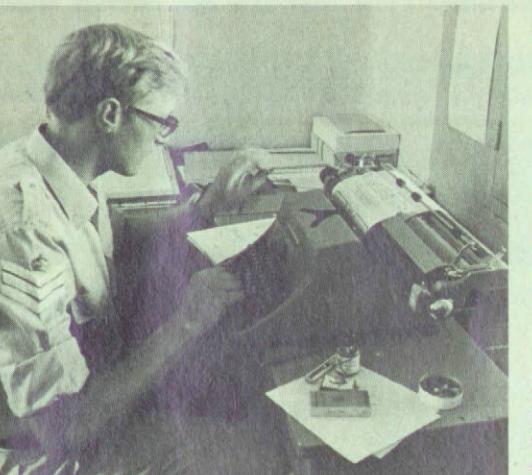
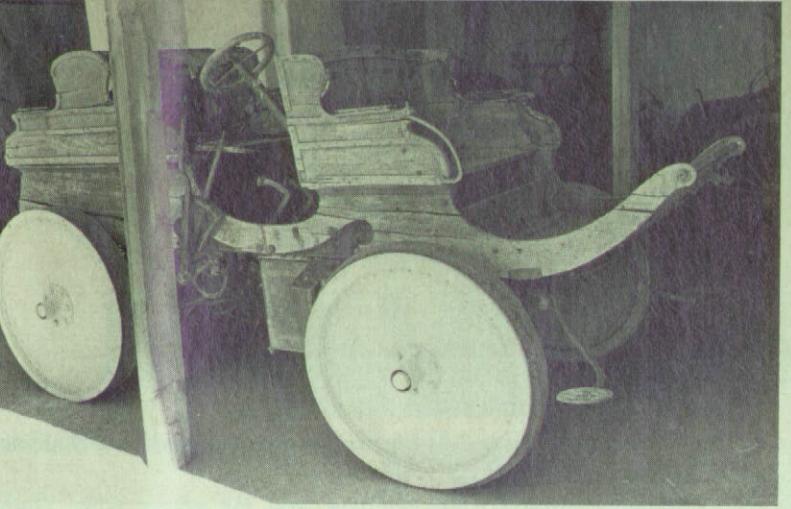
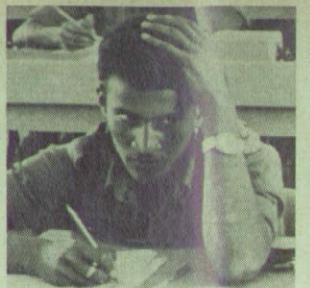
The British Army training team in the Sudan has been in existence for only two years. In 1969 the courses at the Sudanese Command and Staff College, which had been British orientated (with a British chief instructor) ever since the Sudan gained independence, went over to Soviet-style courses and instructors. But following an unsuccessful Communist coup in July 1971, Russian influence declined and in June 1972 the Sudanese requested a revival of British military assistance. The Russians, who had been instructing through interpreters and teaching tactics such as the defence of Stalingrad, departed.

The first head of BATT, Colonel Charles Millman, and his initial team members were rushed out to Khartoum. On arrival they had to search for houses, transport posed problems and there was only one typewriter and no duplicator.

Notwithstanding, both the senior command and staff course and the junior staff course at the college were soon re-organised on Camberley lines and since then the team has gradually expanded.

Chief Instructor now is Colonel John Oborne, 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards. His fellow instructors at the Staff College are Lieutenant-Colonel Ken Shepherd, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, and Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Wellings, Royal Corps of Transport (who has just completed his tour).

continued on page 24



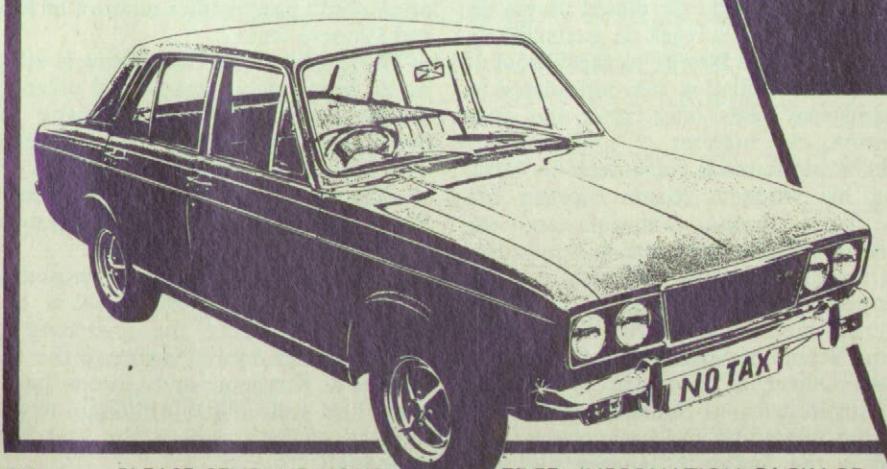
Arrol-Jonston motor-car used by Wingate when Governor-General of the Sudan in 1902.

Left: Staff Sergeant John Bentley has done a lot of typing since arriving in Khartoum.

Right: Colonel Oborne poses by the crest of the Staff College at which he now instructs.



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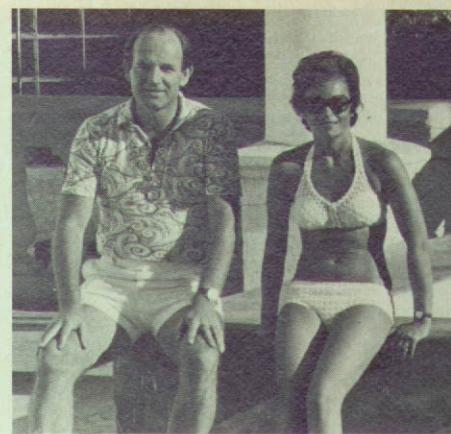
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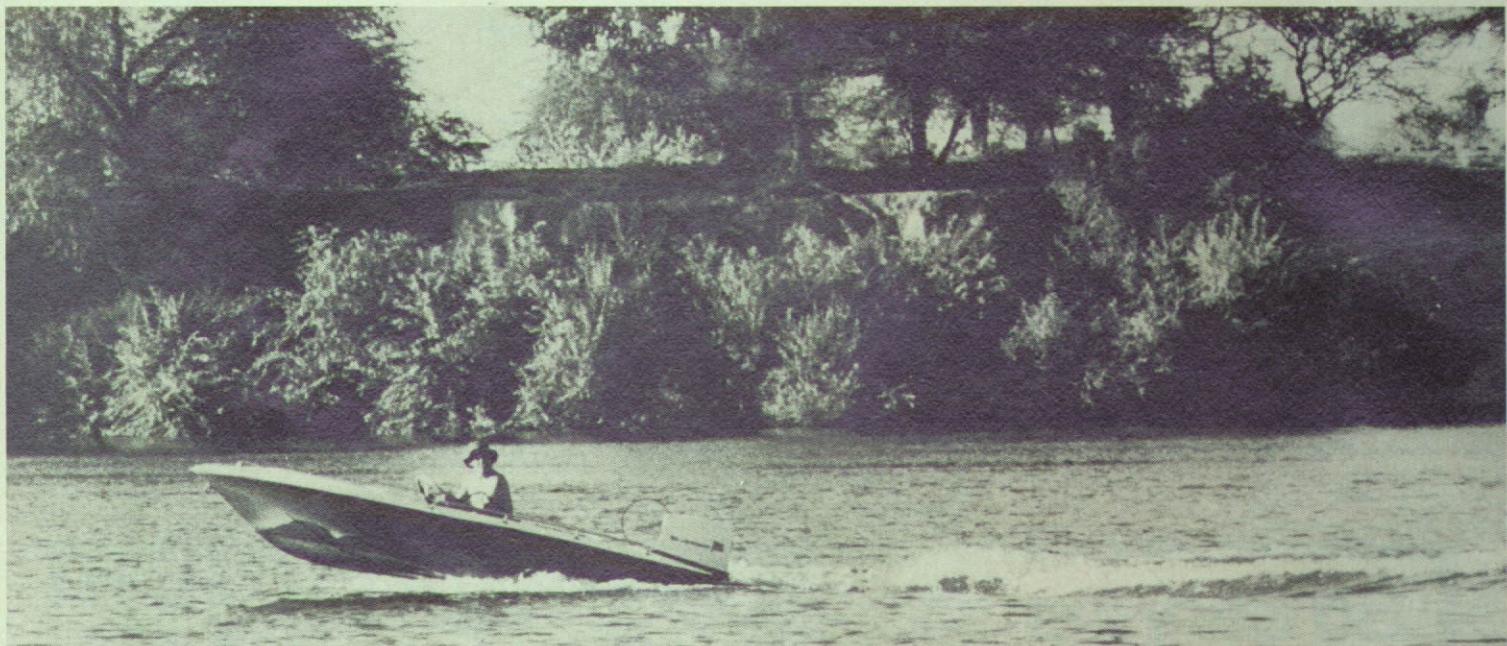




Left: Warrant Officer 2 Keith Austin instructing radio technicians.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Wellings and his pretty wife, Diana, relax at Khartoum's Sudan Club. They have now returned home.

Below: Lieutenant-Colonel Ken Shepherd puts the training team's speedboat through its paces on the waters of the Blue Nile river.



Under BATT guidance the first Sudanese long command and staff course, lasting nine months, was successfully completed. This autumn sees the start of another long course as well as a brigadiers and colonels course and another for junior officers.

In charge of the basic production job of all course material is Warrant Officer I Andy Anderson who is assisted by Staff-Sergeant John Bentley. Both Royal Army Ordnance Corps men, they have produced and typed vast amounts of course material, although the flow is expected to reduce as particular exercises are repeated.

Colonel Oborne describes the team's help as "fairly unobtrusive and entirely non-political." He adds: "I don't think it would be possible to have a happier relationship. I don't feel like a foreign advisor—I am the chief instructor." Colonel Hassan Osman Ibrahim, a Sudanese instructor at the Staff College, echoes his sentiments: "We are living as a family."

Until last year Major Fraser Morgan, Royal Army Educational Corps, was teaching officers in Northern Ireland. Now he is the first British advisor at the Military College at Wadi Seidna, some 15 miles from Khartoum.

The Sudan Military College was established in 1905 to train native officers for those Egyptian battalions whose soldiers were predominantly Sudanese. It closed down in 1924 but re-opened in 1948 on a completely different basis, as a branch of the School of Infantry. This affiliation was terminated in 1963 and five years later, after the May Revolution, the number of graduates increased sharply to reach 700 officers by 1972. Among his students Major Morgan has cadets from Uganda, Tanzania and the United Arab Emirates as well as the Sudan. He is teaching English and map reading and expects shortly to extend to military history and methods of instruction.

At the School of Signals near Omdurman Warrant Officer 2 (Foreman of Signals) Keith Austin instructs Sudanese radio technicians on upgrading and basic courses. He arrived in the Sudan in January this year from Catterick and has found that courses at the Sudanese School of Signals are very similar to their British counterparts both in length and content. "I love it out here and so do my wife and kids" he said. "We find the climate very healthy."

The team is completed by a Royal Army Ordnance Corps officer advising on stores

and ammunition sites and a new appointment from the Royal Armoured Corps, an officer to advise the Sudanese armoured corps, at present equipped with a mixture of Russian and Chinese tanks.

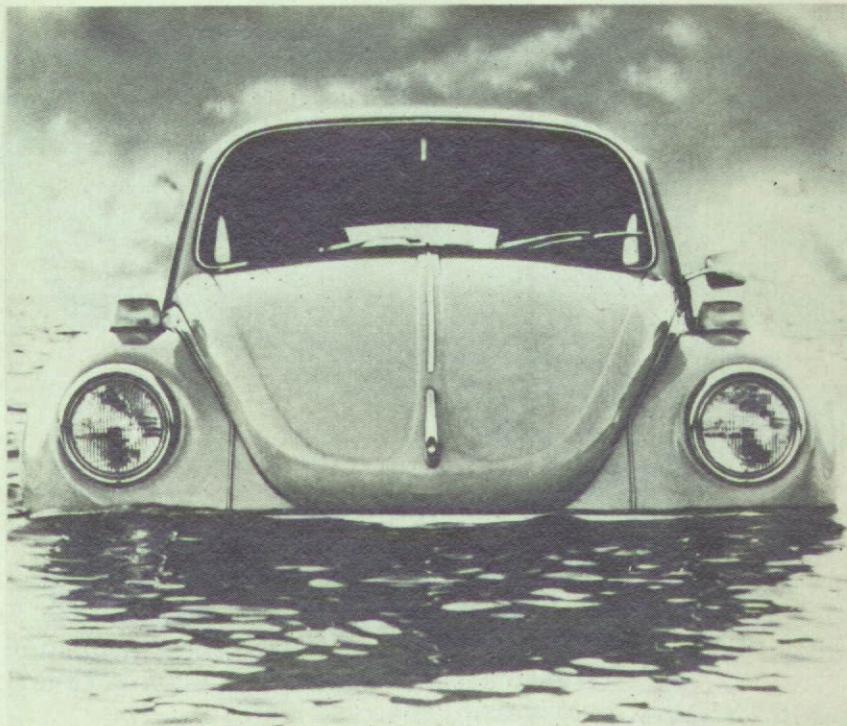
The social life in Khartoum is rich and varies from cricket, tennis and other sports to the Sudan Club where many of the British exiles while away their leisure hours. The Blue Nile Sailing Club is based on one of Kitchener's gunboats which came to Khartoum for the battle of Omdurman and has remained there ever since.

The Khalifa's House museum at Omdurman contains many relics of that battle and is near the glistening dome erected as a memorial shrine to the Mahdi. Statues of Kitchener and Gordon have long gone but still intact, although now in a military security area, is the 21st Lancers memorial.

Says Colonel Oborne: "Life in Khartoum is what you make it but there is plenty to be made."

"The people are very hospitable and charming and terrifically pro-British. The Sudan was not colonised or exploited in any way and their memory of the British can be nothing but good."

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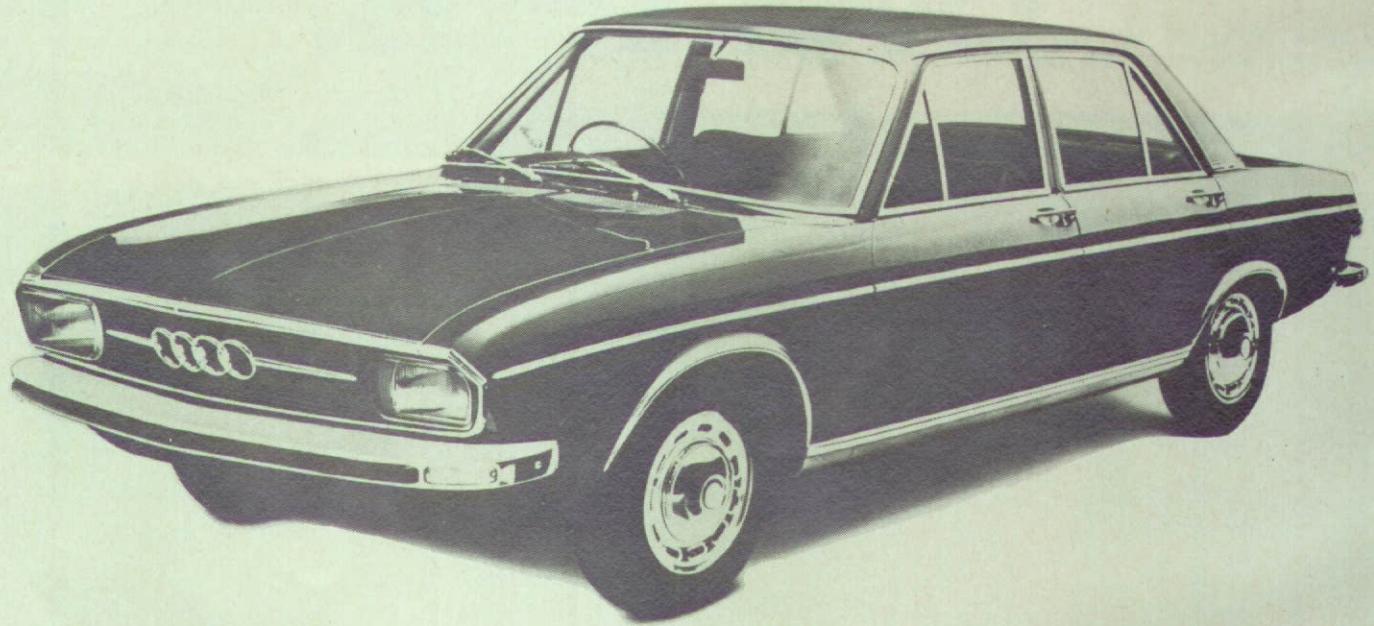
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SOLDIER

NEWS

Pull-out supplement SOLDIER August 1974

PAY RISE

The new rates of pay and charges announced on 29 May represent a real success for the Army's negotiators. Their task was to convince the Armed Forces Pay Review Body that the Services deserved to be treated exceptionally, that they were lagging well behind the civilian community and that they needed more than the basic 7% increase permitted under stage 3 of the Government's prices and incomes policy.

The stage 3 code allowed for a flexibility margin of 1% in order to adjust anomalies and increase efficiency, and a further unspecified premium payment for working "unsocial" hours. In the light of the evidence presented, the review body recommended the maximum increase in basic salary and was persuaded that the combination of the "unsocial" hours worked and the increase in the less attractive features of Service life merited an additional reward. As a result the X factor was raised from 1% to 5% for women and from 5% to 10% for men. The 1% flexibility margin was used to improve conditions for young entrants and to introduce a new 4-band pay structure for senior non-commissioned officers. Women's pay was also brought up to 97½% of men's pay. The special conditions in Northern Ireland were recognised and an allowance of 50p a day for service in the province was approved.

As a hedge against the rising cost of living, a "threshold" agreement was included—within a few days of publication of the White Paper the "threshold" had been breached and everyone up to the rank of brigadier became automatically entitled to a further £1.20 a week.



Pay and charges are reviewed concurrently. Pay must keep pace with changes in the cost of living; at the same time these very changes make a difference to the cost borne by the Ministry of Defence of feeding and accommodating the single and maintaining the quarters of the married. Much has been published about the steep rise in general rates throughout the country—well, the Ministry pays rates too and has to meet the heating and lighting bills and buy the groceries! This is why those in single accommodation were charged an extra 2p a day when the "threshold" was breached.

The "freezing" of rents announced in March by the incoming Government did not, apparently, apply to Crown property, but the review body agreed that it would not be fair to raise the serviceman's rent except by a few pence a week to help offset the increase in the general rates. It also agreed to keep the increase in food charges down to a minimal 5p a day.

Under the 1974 pay review some senior non-commissioned officers got a rise of 18%, senior officers only 5%. Naturally some were pleased, some were disappointed. Very, very few appreciated that whatever view they took of the outcome, it was not just decided "off the top of someone's head" but after months of presenting evidence, of arguing and persuading by the officers and staff at the Ministry of Defence whose principal concern is constant improvement in the Army's pay, pensions and allowances. The soldier has no trade union, no flamboyant negotiating "personality" constantly before the television camera and consequently is sometimes apt to feel that he has no advocate with the mighty, no one to plead his case alongside that of the miner, the railwayman or the postman. Not so—he may lack the ultimate weapon of the unions but he is not without a band of workers devoted to his cause. Nor, if it be closely examined, is the record of their achievements negligible.

In September 1971 the Government appointed a review body on armed forces' pay. This group of distinguished people was given the responsibility of keeping watch on the serviceman's pay. It is an independent body but, when making recommendations, it is bound to take note of any relevant legislation such as the present incomes policy. But who keeps the review body in the picture about the needs of the servicemen? As far as the Army is concerned, it is the Adjutant-General. He and his opposite numbers in the other two Services form a group known as the Principal Personnel Officers'

PAY RISE*continued from previous page*

Committee. Its chairman is the Chief of Personnel and Logistics, a post held by the Services in succession—the present incumbent is General Sir Richard Ward. By the time any argument in support of a change is presented to the review body, it is well tested and polished, having been tempered in the fires of two subordinate committees. At "two-star" level, the Director of Personal Services, as a member of the Steering Committee on Pay, will have taken a hand in shaping the submission. At grade I level, the matter will have been thrashed out by a body known as the Pay and Allowances Sub-Committee.

These two bodies comprise members of the three Services and civil servants of appropriate standing from the finance branches and they meet at frequent intervals throughout the year. They are not concerned solely with overall pay reviews but can and do settle minor financial matters with the Civil Service Department and the Treasury as and when they are raised. Increases in motor mileage allowance and the improvements in disturbance allowance are two recent examples.

Work is already in hand preparing for the 1975 review. Evidence is being collected and arguments prepared which it is hoped will convince the review body of the need for an early return to parity with the civilian which the soldier enjoyed in the period between 1970 and 1972.

(DPS)

ARMY WELFARE INQUIRY

An independent committee of inquiry has been set up by the Government to look into all aspects of Army welfare services; soldiers as well as their families are being urged to give their views to help the probe. The committee, under Professor John Spencer, who is head of the Department of Social Administration at Edinburgh University, will visit units in both the United Kingdom and Rhine Army during its investigations and is expected to report its findings at the end of next year.

One of the main topics under discussion will be whether there is a need for a network of social workers, as there is in Rhine Army, to help families in the United Kingdom. Many Army camps are some distance away from normal civilian social service agencies and it is argued that it might be more convenient to provide welfare help on the spot. With only one military member on the committee it is vital that Army personnel let the inquiry know their views. Evidence can be given in writing or in person to Mr D V Geen, Secretary, Army Welfare Inquiry Committee, Ministry of Defence, Room 204, Old War Office Building, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2EU.

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

The Army Benevolent Fund is the Army's central charity. It provides help for men or women who are serving, or who have served in the British Army, whether Regular, Territorial or war service, and for their families who are in real need. It gives this help by providing financial support to corps and regimental charitable funds to assist them in giving relief in cases which would otherwise be beyond their resources, and by supporting those national charities which are concerned with the well-being of the soldier, the ex-soldier and their dependants.

In the case of Northern Ireland, about £102,000 has been paid out in grants or interest-free loans over the last three years. In addition there are still veterans of the Boer War who are being assisted, as well as those who served in the two world wars and in subsequent campaigns. This is an enormous financial load, amounting last year to more than £900,000.

In cases of delay in receiving compensation from Government sources, the Army Benevolent Fund stands ready to make interest-free bridging loans where these are needed and this has prevented some of the hardship which those concerned would otherwise have suffered.

Readers who wish to donate should send to the Army Benevolent Fund, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London, SW3 FAO.

MENTIONED IN PARLIAMENT

● The late Duke of Gloucester's close connections with the Army formed the central theme of a tribute paid to him in the House of Lords by the Lord Privy Seal, Lord Shepherd, who said: "The Duke's great interest throughout his life was of course the Army which he joined in 1921, rising progressively through the ranks until he became a lieutenant-general in 1941 and a full general in 1944. His war service was as chief liaison officer in France to the British Expeditionary Forces when he was mentioned in despatches. He was especially proud of The Gloucestershire Regiment, of which he became Colonel-in-Chief. He was able to present the regiment with new Colours in 1952, not long after their heroic efforts during the Korean War where they won such honour and fame."

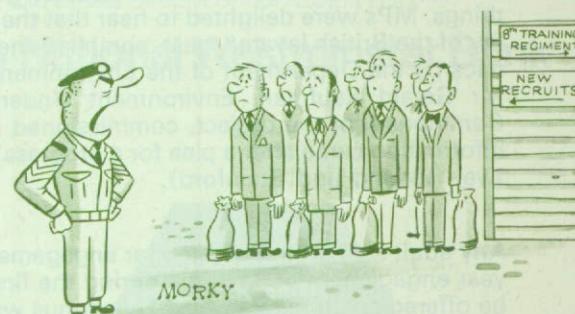
The Duke, a field-marshall, was born in 1900 and, as the last surviving child of George V, lived through the reigns of five monarchs. He saw two of his elder brothers succeed to the throne and his younger brother, the late Duke of Kent, killed in an air crash during World War Two. Tragically, his own son, Prince William, was destined to die in an air accident in 1972.

● The Minister of State for Defence, Mr William Rodgers, told the House of Commons that 395 personnel make up the 79 Army youth teams operating at an annual cost of

£1,200,000. In answer to questions from Mr Neville Trotter (Conservative, Tynemouth) he explained that the teams give practical assistance to youth organisations to provide young people with the opportunity to take part in character-building activities which might otherwise be beyond the scope of individual clubs. They also inform young people about Army life and encourage suitable potential recruits to join up.

● Defence Minister Mr Roy Mason announced a "small but hopeful improvement" in recruiting in answer to a question from Mr W J Biffen (Conservative, Oswestry). Mr Biffen went on to try to get the Minister to admit his own belief that "significantly larger" forces than those in service at present were needed for the nation's defence. But Mr Mason refused to fall into the trap and pointed out that the total strength of the armed forces is 349,000, showing a discrepancy, he claimed, of a mere one per cent over the year from the forecast strength of 353,000 planned in the 1973 Defence White Paper.

The Honourable George Younger (Conservative, Ayr), asked if the Army was participating fully in the recruiting improvement and was assured by Mr Mason that this was

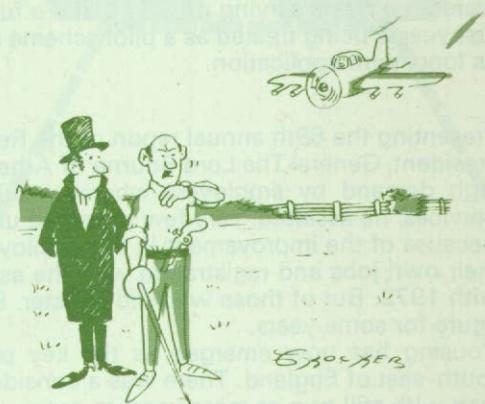


"I've never seen such an 'orrible lot of perishers, excepting, of course, the one of you whose father is a member of parliament."

so despite the fact that in the past the Army has suffered most and the RAF least in terms of drops in recruiting.

Still on the subject of recruiting, Mr Neil Kinnock (Labour, Bedwellty) asked if the minister agreed that if mansions were given to all naval sub-lieutenants and all Army captains this might have a remarkable effect on general recruitment, especially among homeless young people. Mr Mason sidestepped with the comment that if all servicemen could be offered homes it would "no doubt have a great effect!" But it was impossible yet to talk in those terms.

● The multi-role combat aircraft (MRCA) jointly developed by Germany, Italy and Great Britain, is due to make its maiden flight soon, Mr Brynmor John, Under-Secretary



"I told him, 'Choose your weapon and be here at six'!"

of State for the RAF, told the House of Commons. He dismissed rumours that the aircraft was going to cost £9,000,000 but refused to be pinned down to an accurate estimate when pressed by Mr Stan Thorne (Labour, Preston South).

● Mr Mason told the House of Commons that of the 1200 servicemen whose injuries have needed hospital treatment in the Northern Ireland conflict since 1969, those seriously hurt have numbered 177 and all of these have claimed compensation. He added that 76 claims have been outstanding for more than 12 months. He was answering questions from Mr Edwin Wainwright (Labour, Dearne Valley).

● The total male strength of the Ulster Defence Regiment has fallen this year by 301 to 7311, Mr Mason said, although the female members have risen by 125 to 440. Since 1 January the weekly number of applicants has averaged 40 men and 12 women resulting in a total weekly average of 33 enrolments. He added: "Despite the fall in numbers the regiment has continued to meet its operational commitments but it is obviously desirable that the flow of recruits should improve in order that the demands on part-time members should be relaxed as far as the operational situation allows."

MENTIONED IN PARLIAMENT*continued from previous page*

● There are hopeful signs that the long-awaited English television service for Rhine Army might be on its way. In answer to a question from Mr Peter Blaker (Conservative, Blackpool South) Mr Brynmor John said studies had shown that a live television service for British forces in Germany was feasible and consideration of the project was going ahead with representatives from the BBC, Independent Broadcasting Authority and the Independent Television Companies Association.

● Mr David Walder (Conservative, Clitheroe) asked what current major items of military equipment were of foreign origin—and was given an impressive list by Mr Mason. As far as the Army is concerned, the United States has supplied the Honest John tactical nuclear missile, M107 howitzer (175 mm), M109 howitzer (155 mm), M110 howitzer (8 inch), 66 mm light anti-armour weapon and the Sioux helicopter. Belgium is responsible for the Army's rifle, the 7.62 mm self-loading rifle, and Sweden has provided the 84 mm Carl Gustav anti-tank gun, 140/70 Bofors anti-aircraft gun and Volvo fully-tracked over-snow carrier. From France come the S11 helicopter-borne anti-tank guided weapon and the Alouette helicopter. Italy contributed the 105 mm pack-howitzer and Germany the M2 amphibious bridging equipment.

● Tailpiece: Just to show the seat of government always gets to the bottom of things, MPs were delighted to hear that the report of an investigation into the suitability of the British lavatory seat, commissioned from the Institute of Consumer Ergonomics by the Department of the Environment, should be ready by the end of the year. Mr Gerald Kaufman, Environment Under-Secretary of State, told the House of Commons that the project, commissioned in June 1972, was "well advanced." The information came after a plea for a progress report from Mr Kenneth Lewis (Conservative, Rutland and Stamford).

CASH BONUS ON OFFER

Any adult soldier on a three-year engagement who commits himself to a six- or nine-year engagement at any time during the first four-and-a-half years of his service will be offered a committal bonus. This bonus will be the same as the amount of committal pay he could have earned up to that point if he had originally committed himself to a six- or nine-year engagement, subject to a maximum of nine months' committal pay. It will be paid in a lump sum and will be taxable. The soldier will normally have to repay the bonus if he takes a premature voluntary release within 18 months of the commitment.

(DM(A))

TERRIERS AS REGULARS SCHEME

The scheme for granting Regular commissions to Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve officers (see **SOLDIER News**, September 1973) for a short-service engagement is proving of benefit to both the Regular and Reserve armies. The engagement offers six to eighteen months' Regular service with extension to a maximum of two years. The first application was commissioned in October last year and by June this year there were 36 officers serving on SSVC and a further five applicants in hand. The project's first year is being treated as a pilot scheme and will be reviewed this autumn to assess its long-term application.

(DM(A))

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

Presenting the 89th annual report of the Regular Forces Employment Association, the president, General The Lord Bourne of Atherstone, said ex-Regulars continued to be in high demand by employers wherever suitable vacancies arose. After leaving the Services, he asserted, very few remained unemployed for any length of time. Because of the improvement in the employment situation generally, more men found their own jobs and registration with the association fell by seven per cent compared with 1972. But of those who did register, 80 per cent were found work—the highest figure for some years.

Housing has now emerged as the key problem in resettlement, especially in the south-east of England. There was a considerable rise in inquiries about housing from men with still two or more years to serve.

In 1973 more than 5500 ex-Regulars took jobs in industry—a higher proportion of the total placings (8200) than the previous year. The expansion of the Government training schemes led to the highest-ever number of ex-Servicemen taking jobs as instructors.

The association now has 42 branches throughout the United Kingdom. There are 60 staff of whom 42 are employment officers and total expenditure this year will be about £107,000. The association is part of the Forces Resettlement Service. Half its expenditure is met from public funds and half from the Services' welfare funds.

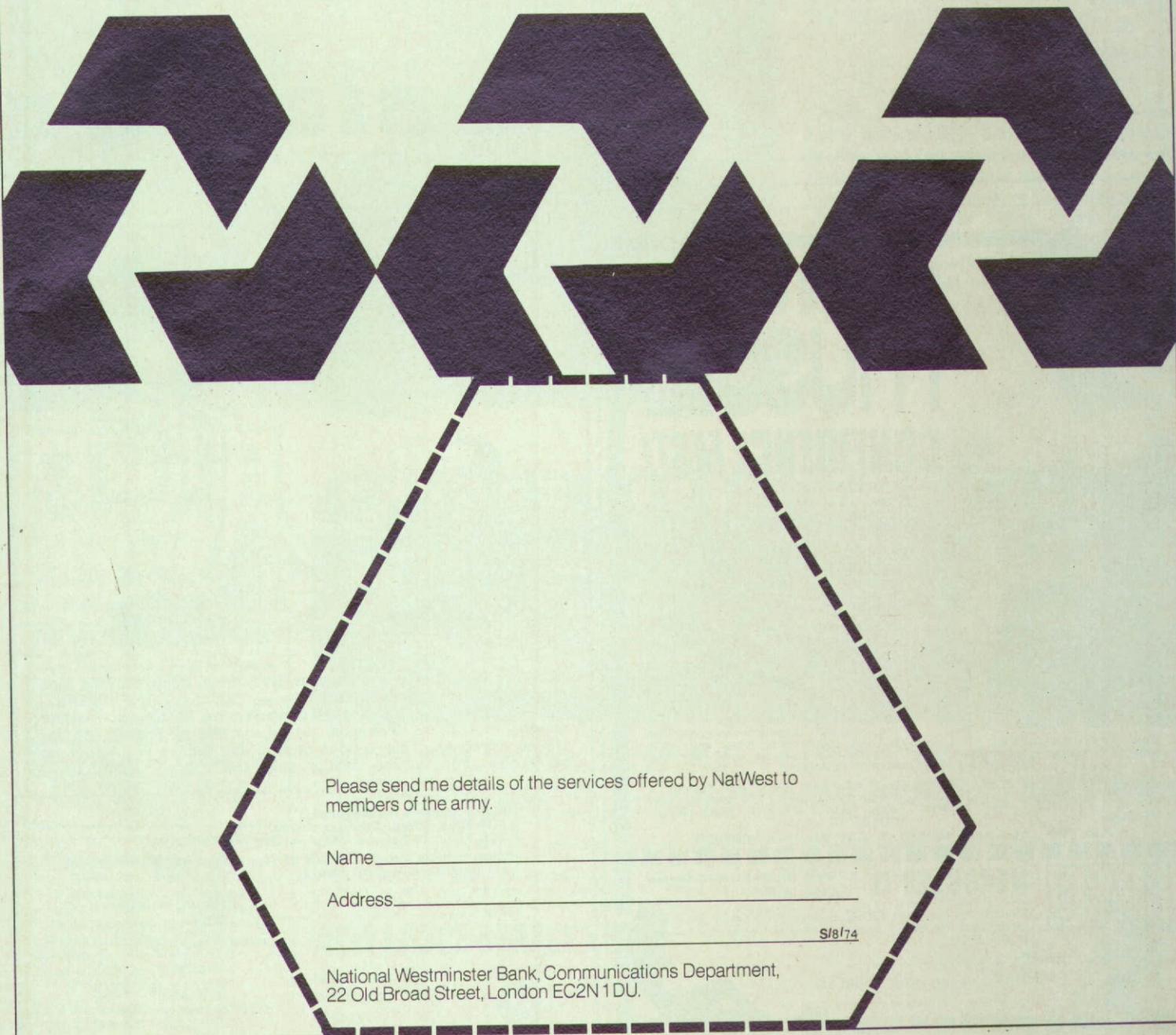
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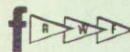
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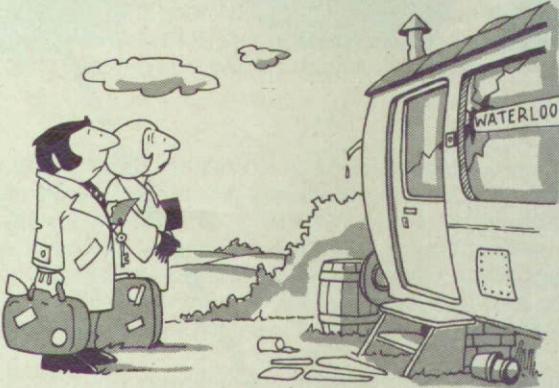
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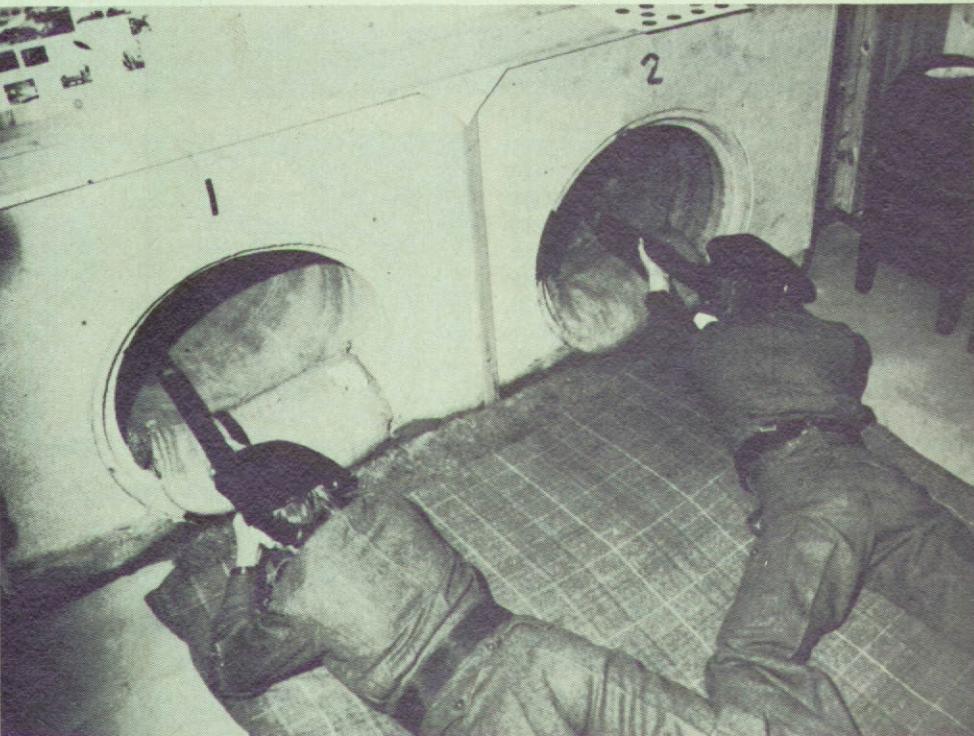
Left, right and centre



As Colonel-in-Chief of 1st Battalion, Queen's Own Highlanders, the Duke of Edinburgh donned kilt and sporran to visit the battalion in Osnabrück, Germany. After a full day of formal and informal contact with the Jocks and their families he went on to Paderborn the next day to see The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars.

Cadets at the West Riding Army Cadet Force headquarters find themselves literally in the training pipeline when they take their turn at firing on a novel .22 13-metre-long range. For the boys fire down 600mm diameter concrete pipes—there are two alongside each other—in a specially designed project claimed to have cut by about one-fifth the cost of building a traditional indoor range.

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A bronze plaque commemorating the re-siting of a statue of the Duke of Wellington was unveiled in the Ministry of Defence's Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, by the present 8th Duke. The first Duke of Wellington was Master-General of the Ordnance from 1819 to 1827 and the statue shows him in that role. Listed as being of special historic interest as an ancient monument, the statue was made in 1848 and first set up at Woolwich in 1863. It has had to be moved due to the contraction of the site which resulted in the closure of the Royal Ordnance Factory, better known as the Royal Arsenal.



Tim's People are a new folk group drawn from members of 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders, stationed in Singapore. All the soldiers concerned are from either the pipes and drums or military band. Already Tim's People have made a name for themselves and are in great demand, as they found (above) at a children's show they staged at a convalescent home for youngsters at Changi.

Little Karen Turner said it with flowers ▶ when the 17th/21st Lancers welcomed their Colonel-in-Chief, Princess Alexandra, on her first visit to the regiment for two years. The princess spent a day touring the unit and chatting to as many soldiers and families as possible. Before leaving Germany she also took the opportunity of visiting 3rd Battalion, The Light Infantry, where she met members of the rear party and families.



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Member of the Order of the British Empire (for gallantry): Captain M J Davison, Warrant Officer 1 F C Hodge, Captain P Maynard, all Royal Army Ordnance Corps; Warrant Officer 2 T J Farr, Grenadier Guards; Warrant Officer 2 P J Layton, The Royal Green Jackets.

Member of the Order of the British Empire (for meritorious service): Major M J Campbell-Lamerton, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment; Warrant Officer 1 D Connell, Warrant Officer 2 J A Wraith, both Royal Signals; Major B Goring, The Queen's Regiment; Captain M J Menage, The Royal Anglian Regiment; Captain K F Robbin, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire; Captain R H Whittington, Royal

Engineers; Major A P Wright, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment.

George Medal: Staff-Sergeant A G Griffin, Major J A Jackson, Warrant Officer 2 D Oldham, all Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

British Empire Medal (for gallantry): Sergeant F Haley, Staff-Sergeant I J F Munro, both Royal Army Ordnance Corps; Bombardier P Lyons, Royal Artillery; Sergeant R W Nicholls, The Royal Anglian Regiment; Corporal M H Smith, Royal Pioneer Corps; Corporal P K Sumner, The Royal Green Jackets; Trooper D G Woolley, Royal Tank Regiment.

British Empire Medal (for meritorious service): Staff-Sergeant C S Apcar, Intelligence Corps; Staff-Sergeant M L Hall, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

Military Medal: Corporal R J Tyson, The Royal Green Jackets.

Mentioned in despatches: Lieutenant N S Alderman, Staff-Sergeant A J Dicker, Lieutenant-Colonel L J P Morrish, Major J G T Southwood, Lance-Corporal R W St John, all The Royal Hampshire Regiment; Major W A Allen, Royal Tank Regiment; Staff-Sergeant L L W Bowen, Lance-Corporal R G Brooks, Warrant Officer 1 G Garrick, Warrant Officer 1 R Phillips, Captain W B Squires, all Royal Army Ordnance Corps;

Lieutenant-Colonel P H Brumham, Lieutenant M W Ewence, Bombardier G Lewis, Major M J S Reed, Major P L Troughton, all Royal Artillery; Sergeant N R Cox, Staff-Sergeant R J Wherry, Captain J A Wilkins, all Royal Signals; Staff-Sergeant S R Dicker, Intelligence Corps; Sergeant B J M Draper, 14th/20th King's Hussars; Warrant Officer W Elvin, Royal Air Force; Lieutenant-Colonel J R G N Eveleigh, Sergeant W Foxton, Staff-Sergeant C F Heyman, Corporal S L Holman, Lieutenant-Colonel R A Pascoe, Lance-Corporal D J Rimmer, Captain R J Rimmer, all The Royal Green Jackets; Major K H Hedges, Royal Army Medical Corps; Corporal J R Knight, Major H M L Smith, Captain R G Woodfield, all Grenadier Guards; Warrant Officer 1 G J Pinchin, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment; Major T M Plewman, Royal Military Police; Captain A J Shipley, Royal Corps of Transport; Private P A Smith, The Queen's Regiment; Private K Taylor, Women's Royal Army Corps; Captain A E Thompson, The Royal Anglian Regiment; Staff-Sergeant P Wilkinson, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment; Corporal A F Wood, Royal Air Force Regiment; Lieutenant-Commander R E Arnold-Shrubb, Royal Navy.

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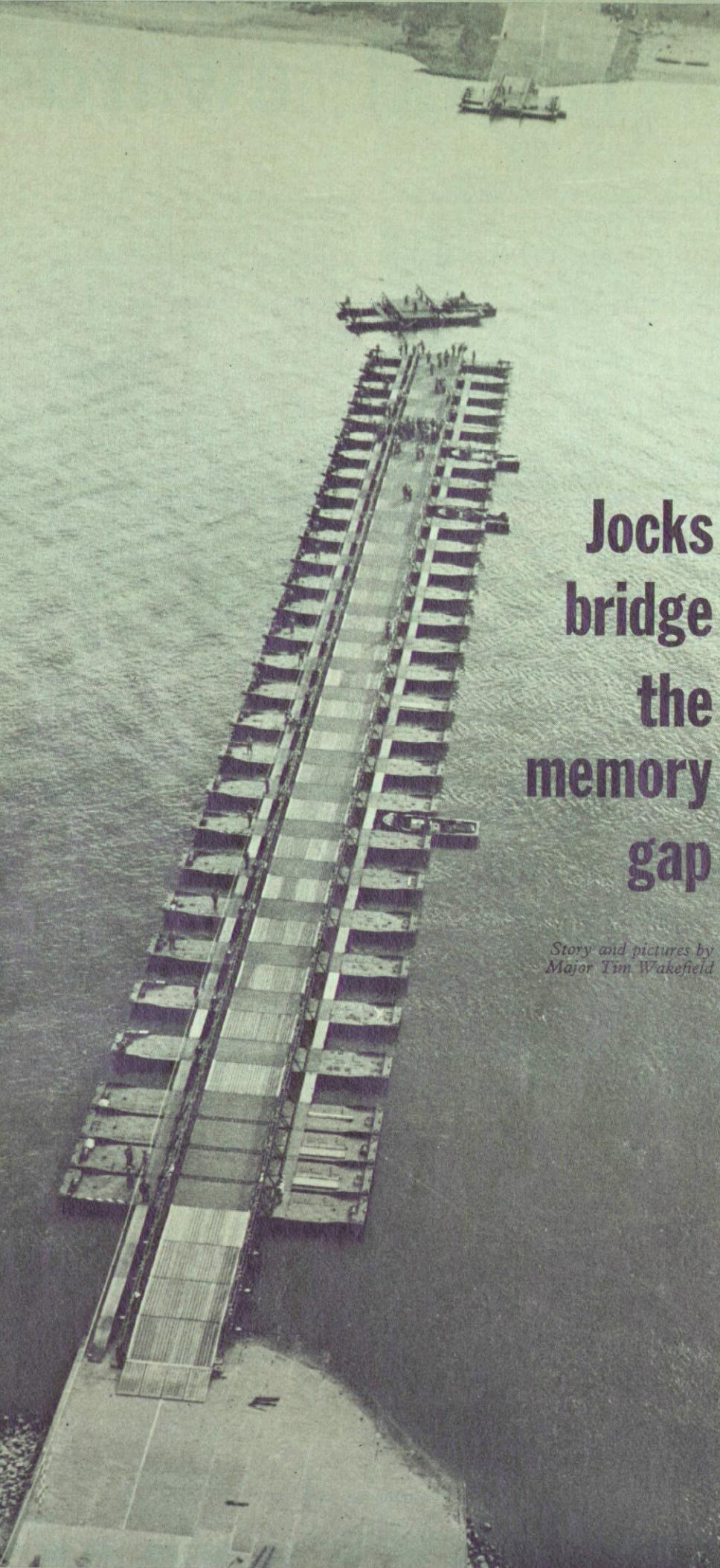
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Jocks bridge the memory gap

Story and pictures by
Major Tim Wakefield



THE sceptics said we could never do it!" was the triumphant comment from a Glaswegian sapper of 71 (Scottish) Engineer Regiment (Volunteers) as the final pin completed the 1016 feet and nine inches of bridge the unit had just put across the Rhine at Hönnepel, Germany. It was a moment of triumph for the sappers and a moment of history for the Army.

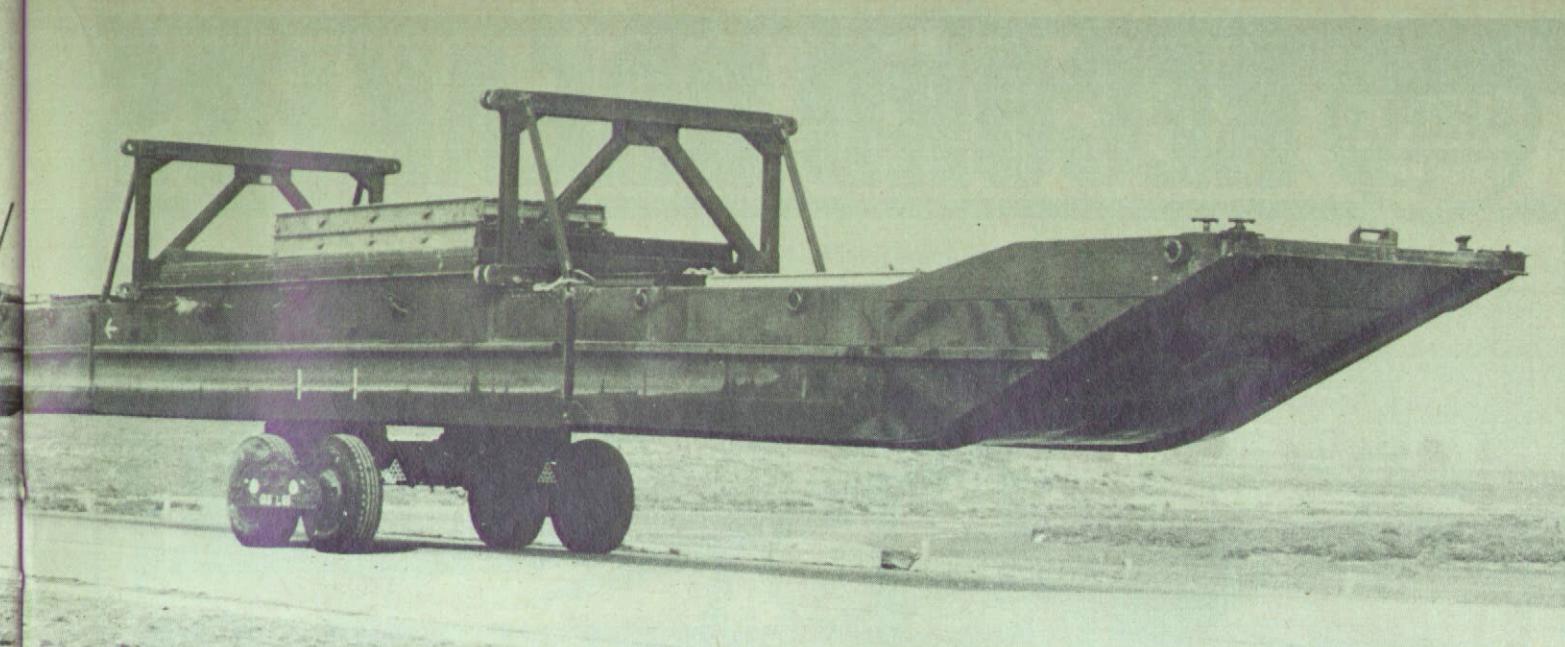
The bridge was a vital part of Exercise Cargo Canoe mounted by Northern Army Group to test the forward movement of stores from rear areas to a war zone. A total of 9000 British, German, Dutch and Belgian troops took part, the majority of the 1070 British being Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve soldiers from 71 (Scottish) Engineer Regiment and 154 (Lowland) Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport (Volunteers), both based at Glasgow.

The sapper regiment's task was to bridge the Rhine at Hönnepel some 15 miles west of Arnhem. It was the culmination of two year's training which had included practice camps at Stirling, Ripon and on the river Weser in Germany. It was an historic occasion, too—28 years earlier, 18 GHQ Troop Engineers built a bridge at the same site.

The four squadrons of 154 Regiment motored out via Hull and Zeebrugge to join the exercise, 221 Squadron from Glasgow and 222 from East Kilbride—both four-tonner lorry squadrons; 225 from Edinburgh and 251 from Troon—both ten-ton fuel tanker squadrons. On arrival in Holland they went into hiding near Eindhoven, crossed the Dutch/German border overnight and moved into hide positions some five miles from the Rhine. Their tasks were for the four-tonner squadrons to load stores at a railhead then cross the Rhine by ferry the next night, motoring north to the Munster area. The fuel tankers crossed further east and moved north-east of Köln, before re-crossing the Rhine by the Scottish sappers' bridge.

In March 1945, 30 Corps was given the task of capturing Rees and Haldern and establishing a bridgehead on the Rhine deep enough to allow bridge building. The

Left: Work continues on the north bank to close the bridge to a 150-metre gap for Rhine barges to ply as long as possible.



operation was nicknamed "Plunder." The corps' order of battle was Guards Armoured Division, 3rd British Division, 3rd Canadian Division, 43rd Division, 51st Highland Division and 8th Armoured Division. Under corps command for the Rhine crossing was 13 Army Group Royal Engineers commanded by Colonel F C Nottingham whose son, Major N P C Nottingham, is now serving at the Engineer Branch of Rhine Army Headquarters.

Major D G Tuite commanded 213 Field Company of 18 GHQ Troop Engineers who were to work on "Waterloo" bridge, as the wartime crossing point was dubbed. Within 48 hours of the bridge being built, Winston Churchill was there to see for himself and "To put my foot on the Ruhr." His comment, quoted by a Newcastle newspaper as he perused the bridge, was "Humph!" He then crossed by landing craft.

A little over 28 years afterwards, Major Tuite's place on the river bank was taken by Captain David Kirkpatrick, commanding 124 (Lowland) Field Squadron which set up a tented camp and laid out the Class 80 heavy floating bridge stores from 40 Army Support Regiment. All told, some 1124 tons of bridging stores were delivered, including plant machinery. The bridge itself weighed in at 996 tons.

Until the day the bridging was due to take place, the pontoons were launched and boat drills were practised with a detachment of M boats (tugs) from the German Army's 800 Heavy Engineer Battalion. Language problems were overcome with the help of German speaking Regular Sergeants Bob Wilkie and Bob Russell, both attached to 71 Engineer Regiment.

The exercise troops were not harassed by fighter aircraft or have to work under a smoke screen but they faced the very real enemy of time. The Rhine river authorities could close the busy commercial waterway only between 1600 hours on the Saturday and 0800 hours on the Sunday of the exercise week. This meant that all but 150 metres of the bridge could be built before

1600 hours on the Saturday and that at least a 150-metre gap had to be cleared by 0800 the next morning. The sappers started work on both banks of the river at 0600 on the Saturday and by 1000 all that remained for completion was the 150-metre gap.

The river police closed the waterway at 1600 and half an hour later gave permission for the centre section of bridge to be built. Two-and-a-half hours later Corporal Bill Crisp hammered home the last pin, making the actual bridging time six-and-a-half hours. Waterloo bridge on the same spot—admittedly under wartime conditions—had taken 18 hours.

The pipes and drums of the Scottish regiment, led by Pipe-Major David Samuel, made the first "test" of the bridge, followed by a ten-ton bridging crane. Then all through the night exercise vehicles were routed across it. The bridge was closed to

A heavy floating bridge pontoon, already assembled, moves to the launching site.

traffic at 0200 on the Sunday and by 0630 the regiment had the 150-metre gap clear. The first barge went through three quarters of an hour before the deadline.

Herr Robert Rheinder, a Hönnepel farmer over whose land the exercise had taken place, looked on with interest. As a lad of 16 he had watched the first bridge being built. But that had been by Regulars of an invading army. The part-time soldiers of the seventies had given up their spare time to come from the United Kingdom to prove they were ready to defend what is now part of a multi-national alliance.

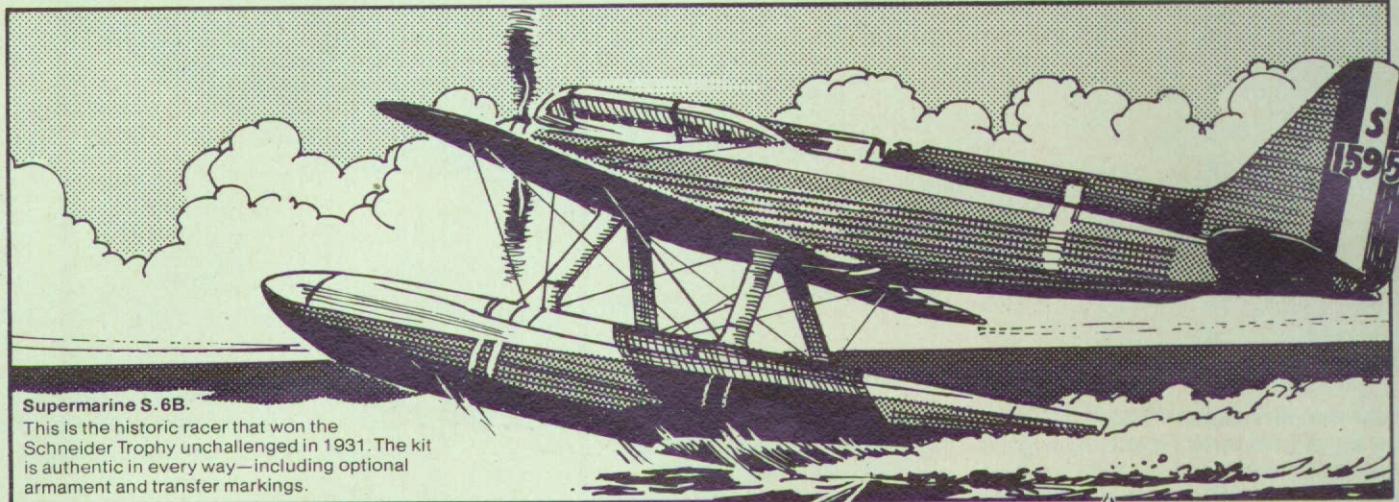


Right: First to cross the finished bridge is a Coles ten-ton bridging crane. The village of Hönnepel is seen on far side.



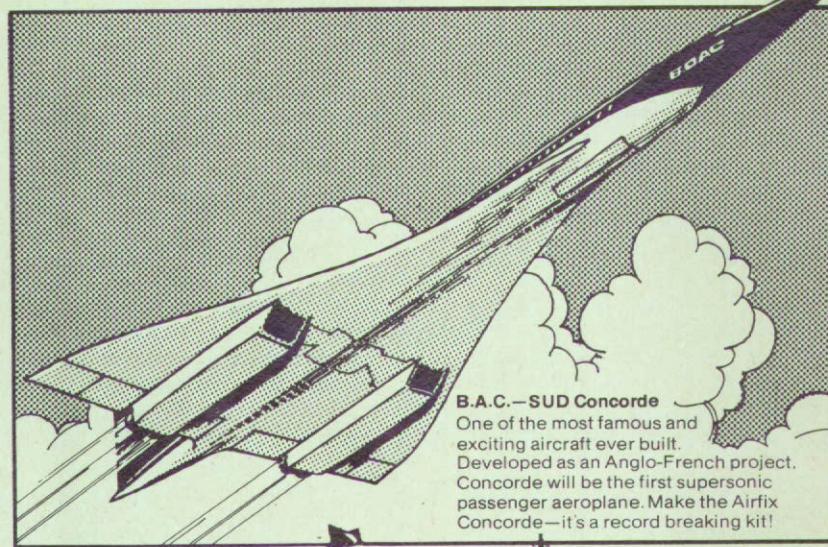
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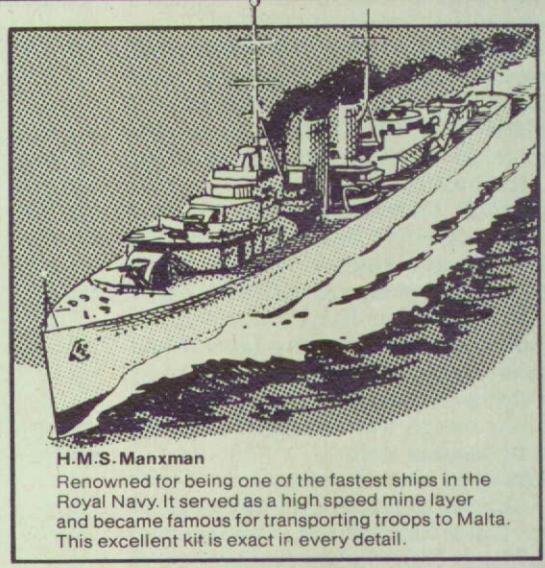
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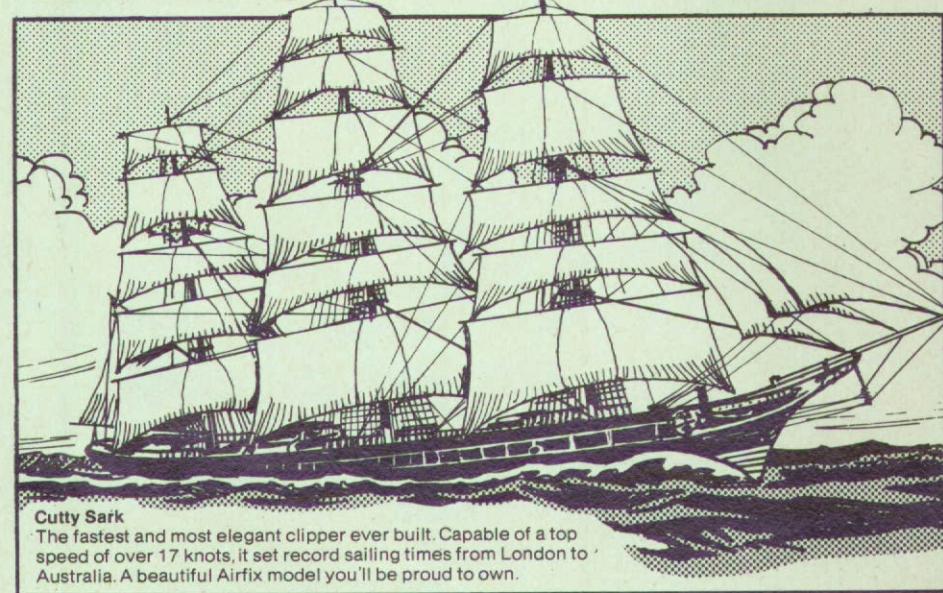
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Scorpion skirmishers

THEY were pirates in the sea of sand, with bristling beards and swirling Arab headdress, whooping and swooping out of the sun with flame-belching guns on the tranquil camps of unsuspecting enemy.

The desert raiders of the Special Air Service and Long-Range Desert Group earned the reputation of a phantom force in the North African campaign. Their role was both hide-and-seek (observing enemy movements from behind cover) and hit-and-run (striking as suddenly and lethally as a scorpion and departing as swiftly as they came). To the bewildered men of the Italian Army and Afrika Korps it seemed like a nightmare or mirage until they looked about them and saw the chaos of disrupted communications, dead bodies and blazing trucks and aircraft.

That short-lived phantom force is recalled in a plastic kit of a typical SAS jeep with two-man crew, from the Japanese firm of Tamiya, marketed in the United Kingdom by Richard Kohnstam (Riko) Ltd of 13 High Street, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP1 3AD. In 1:35th scale, it costs £1.20.

Mastery of improvisation is manifested in this model. Most of the radiator grille is

removed to facilitate cooling, a makeshift condenser of a cylindrical can is attached to the radiator by hosepipe, pierced steel plating for "unsticking" vehicles from soft sand is lashed alongside and a sand guard is fixed to the carburettor to prevent sand entering the engine—all this detail being incorporated into this miniature, four-inch-long model.

To add a further dimension to its 1:35th scale models, Tamiya has recently released diorama accessory sets of sandbags, jerricans and barricades at 35 pence each. The barricade set, however, lacks barbed wire. This requires some fuse wire, a small pair of pliers, nimble fingers and much patience.

For sheer attention to detail, Tamiya must be awarded 100 per cent for its latest version of the "Cent." The kit is basically the Mark III Centurion in 1:25th scale reviewed in SOLDIER in July 1973. It costs £9.99 (£1 more) and lacks the motorisation but the

hatches and covers are removable to reveal remarkable interior detail of the formidable-looking engine, driving controls and loading and firing mechanism of the main armament. Pictured below is a demonstration cutaway, the actual model coming intact.

Tamiya is given battle in the field of plastic model armoured fighting vehicles by the fellow Japanese firm of Bandai whose United Kingdom distributors are A A Hales Ltd of PO Box 33, Harrowbrook Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire. Bandai has managed to incorporate interior detail in its aptly named "pin-point series" in 1:48th scale, so far comprising a Sturmgeschütz III, Panzerkampfwagen VI King Tiger, Panzerspähwagen SdKfz 231 and Jagdpanzer Elefant. Tweezers are needed to handle the tiny engine and transmission parts and a magnifying glass to paint the figures. Prices are minimal too, from £1.25 to £1.65 each. HH



Tamiya's realistic kit of an SAS jeep makes this detailed model, only four inches long.

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Sport



Brig Percy Blake, Deputy Colonel of The Royal Irish Rangers, presents the RIR trophy to Staff-Sergeant Ken Smith REME.

REME tops at golf

THE Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers won the keenly contested Army Golf Association inaugural match play competition fought out at Tidworth between 15 corps and arms of the Army for the Royal Irish Rangers Bowl.

On the way to the final, REME—led by four-handicap Tidworth golfer Staff-Sergeant Ken Smith and including three-handicapper Staff-Sergeant Tony Jenkinson—beat the much-fancied Royal Army Pay Corps team which included Major Richard Drake, an ex-Army champion.

REME then disposed of the Royal Engineers and went on to defeat a very strong Army Physical Training Corps team in the semi-final. The final against the Royal Signals provided both players and spectators with all the tension of match play golf.

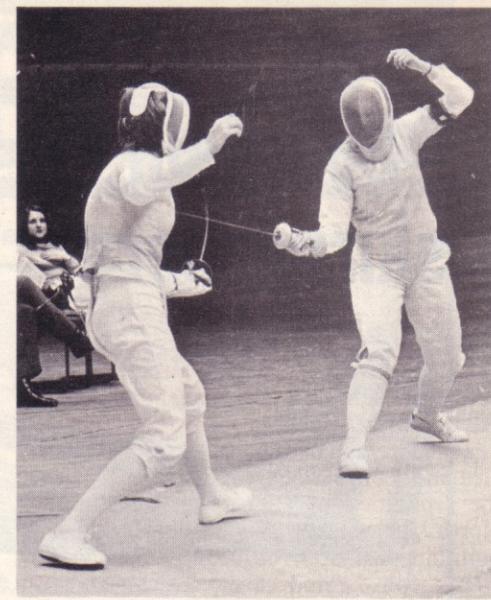
The Signals side was headed by Corporal Chris Carveth, the current Cornwall champion, and included Major Dick Carroll, ex-Army champion and Wiltshire county player as well as Captain George Heaney, a Cambridge golf Blue. But REME, undaunted, won by six holes to three.

In the plate event for those defeated in the first round, the Royal Artillery, led by current Army champion, Major Dick Fleming, who is also a Wiltshire county player and captain of the Army Golf Association, won the Royal Signals Trophy, defeating a strong Royal Army Educational Corps team whose outstanding player was Captain Keith Thomas (handicap two).

In the "consolation" Stableford event the infantry, led by veteran golfer Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon Shakespear, marched off with the REME Shield.

Fencers first

THE Army fencers emerged victors in a triangular inter-Services match against the RAF and Royal Navy with 33 victories to the RAF's 31 and Navy's 17. In the men's foil the Army scored eight victories to come second (Company Sergeant-Major Instructor T J Cooper 2, Corporal S R Evans 2, Corporal S A Graham 4). In the épée the Army came first with 13 victories (Company Sergeant-Major Instructor B R Matlass 5, Sergeant Instructor P J Brierley 5, Sergeant P J Twine 3). The Army won the sabre event too with 12 victories (Major A M Bell 3, Company Sergeant-Major Instructor D T Hughes 3, Staff-Sergeant Instructor J V Larkham 6). In the ladies' foil, the Army came third with 12 victories (Captain R Wheelock 2, Captain L Cowley 5, Sergeant M Parr-Morgan 3, Corporal L Carslake 2).



A thrust parried in the ladies' foil event.

Big turnout for first-ever angling contest

ANGLING—the United Kingdom's largest participant sport—lured 180 fishermen from all over Rhine Army, including 12 from Berlin, for the first-ever Rhine Army angling championships at Tallesee near Schloss Neuhaus, West Germany.

Although the turnout was good and the lake full of promise, bad weather resulted in a disappointing catch, most anglers blaming a stiff breeze. A combined bag of five pounds thirteen ounces was enough to win the individual prize on a stretch of water which can yield three times that weight on a reasonable day.

Corporal Arthur Floyd (Royal Hussars) hooked this top catch with some 40 fish, mostly roach. As well as giving him the individual prize, this contributed to his team, Detmold Angling Club, winning the championships.

The winning choice of tackle was a silver 14 hook with two maggots and float fished on 3.8-pound breaking strain line. But the haul scarcely tested to the limit Corporal Floyd's 90 Deutschmarks-worth of telescopic, hollow glass-fibre rod 4.5 metres long. The single largest fish hooked was a 1½-pound rainbow trout landed by Lance-Corporal Charles Hill (7 Signal Regiment).

Runners up to Corporal Floyd were: 2nd T Button (Kiwis) 4lb 1½oz, 3rd H Siddall (OGRARC) 3lb 3oz, 4th R Conway-Hyde (Nienburg) 2lb 1oz, 5th W Rowark



Corporal Arthur Floyd's winning catch made him Rhine Army's first champion.

(Inkermans) 1lb 15¾oz, 6th S A Ball (Herford Kingfishers) 1lb 9oz, 7th C Hill (Herford Kingfishers) 1lb 8oz. Section winners: A—W Roward 1lb 15¾oz, C Hill 1lb 8oz; B—A Floyd 5lb 13oz, K Bottomley 14½oz; C—H Siddall 3lb 3oz, S A Ball 1lb 9oz; D—T Button 4lb 1½oz, R Conway-Hyde 2lb 1oz. Team winners: 1st Detmold AC (total weight 6lb 9¾oz), 2nd OGRARC (5lb 7½oz), 3rd Kiwis (4lb 2½oz).

Army gymnasts British champions

THE Army gymnastic team, competing against the cream of eight British gymnastic clubs, won the British team title for 1974 in a championship where contestants are selected by invitation—which means only the leading gymnasts in the country take part.

Such a high standard of entrant brought a close and exciting match—throughout the two-and-a-half hours there was a neck-and-neck struggle for supremacy between Darlington, London and the Army. The final result

was decided only in the last round when a mistake by a member of the three teams meant disaster.

The Army team's effort on the rings, the last piece of apparatus, clinched the championship with the narrowest-ever margin of .05 of a mark and score of 185 points. Darlington came second with 184.95 and London third with 182.4.

Highlight of the championship was the Army team's effort in the floor exercises with a brilliant performance recording the highest

team score of the day in any of the six pieces of apparatus used in the contest. Staff-Sergeant Instructor W Norgrove (Army Physical Training Corps) was second in the individual competition between the 43 contestants with 51.9 points. First was Stan Wild of Leeds. Others in the Army's winning team were Company Sergeant-Major Instructor J Wilson (team captain), Staff-Sergeant Instructor (R H Dart (APTC) (team manager), Sergeant Instructor L Donkin (APTC), Sergeant J Purvis (Green Howards), Sergeant Instructor A McLean (APTC) and Quartermaster-Sergeant Instructor A E Dooley (APTC) (Army coach).

Not so successful were Army senior and junior teams which met Southampton Amateur Gymnastic Club and lost by 141.65 points to 161.85 and by 124.65 to 156.3 respectively. The best senior individual result was that of one of the British championship victors, Sergeant Instructor McLean, who came second.

Other placings: 4th Corporal D Scott (Royal Engineers), 8th Driver K Lynch (Royal Corps of Transport), 9th Sergeant P Kaufman (Parachute Regiment). Junior team's individual results: 2nd Apprentice Tradesman G Jones, 9th Sergeant I Parmley, 10th J Molloy (all of Army Apprentices College, Chepstow), 7th Apprentice Corporal P Clare (Army Apprentices College, Army Catering Corps).



Youth team seeks soccer trialists

WITH a successful first season behind it and the second season only a few weeks away, the Army Football Association youth team is looking for talent among young soldiers under 18 years old on 31 July this year.

Some of last year's team are still eligible and can form the nucleus of the new eleven. The veterans were responsible for six wins out of nine games played last season when a team was selected from some 40 young players who gave up a week's leave for trials.

Although Army youth teams represented their Service at district levels before the 1973-74 season, it was not until then that a team took the field as fully representative of Army youth in the United Kingdom.

In the Football Association county cup the team was beaten in the first round by London Youth 4-3. But the measure of this result is seen in perspective when it is noted that the London side went through to the final. In Inter-Services games the Army, as hosts in Aldershot, lost to the Navy 1-2 but held the RAF to a 1-1 draw.

The following Army youth players have been awarded their colours: Apprentice Tradesmen Peter Williams (Army Apprentices College, Arborfield), Norman Meadows (AAC Arborfield), John Pain (AAC Chepstow), Guardsman Paul Thompson (1st Battalion, Scots Guards), Guardsman Ian Bell (2nd Battalion, Scots Guards) and Rifleman Andy Park (2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets).

Sports shorts

CRICKET

Army versus RMA Sandhurst—Army 232 for 5 declared (Dvr L N Sanderson 46, S/Sgt R A Hall 44) and 8 for 1; RMA 174 for 8 declared (Marquis of Bowmont 107, 2/Lieut R W K McLean 4 for 43); match abandoned due to rain.

Army versus Kent 2nd XI: Kent 219 for 4 declared (D Laycock 95, C Rowe 75 not out) and 198 for 5 declared (C Tavare 111); Army 188 for 6 declared (Maj I M Vaughan-Arbuckle 59, Capt J F Morgan 44 not out) and 116; Kent won by 113 runs.

Army versus Nottinghamshire 2nd XI: Nottinghamshire 161 (2/Lieut R W K McLean 4 for 21); Army 111; Nottinghamshire won by 50 runs.

Army versus Berkshire: Berkshire 178 for 4 declared (P Bradbury 59); Army 179 for 2 (Dvr L N Sanderson 93 not out, Maj I M Vaughan-Arbuckle 65); Army won by 8 wickets.

Combined Services versus Oxford University: Combined Services 170 (Khan 5 for 71) and 198 (Lieut-Cdr R C Moylan-Jones 62, L/Cpl R J Davies 41, Khan 7 for 46); Oxford 300 (M Lloyd 109, I Khan 66) and 71 for 5 (Sgt R Flower 5 for 37); Oxford won by 5 wickets.

ATHLETICS

Results of the Army individual athletic championships for seniors and women held at Aldershot's military stadium:

100 metres: 1st Pte A Hyde (1 Queens), 2nd L/Cpl Shaw (21 Sig Regt), 3rd L/Cpl P Lawrence (2 RGJ). 200 metres: 1st Cpl C Dowie (21 Sig Regt), 2nd Pte A Hyde, 3rd Cpl J Harvey (JLR RE). 400 metres: 1st Pte Taylor (2 R Anglian), 2nd Cpl J Harvey, 3rd Sgt R M Bardwell (Queens). 800 metres: 1st Sgt S Turvey (21 Sig Regt), 2nd L/Cpl Hutchinson (1 SG), 3rd L/Cpl J Adams (2 RGJ). 1500 metres: 1st SI S Harrison (Depot & Trg Bn ACC), 2nd Sig Madden (21 Sig Regt), 3rd L/Cpl Hutchinson.

5000 metres: 1st WO2 P J Freeman (2 RRF), 2nd L/Cpl J S Henry (HP & CC Depot RE), 3rd Gnr T J Goodwin (Schl of Artillery).

3000 metres steeplechase: 1st SI E Turner (RMAS), 2nd Sgt P Dring (AAC Harrogate), 3rd SI C F Campbell (AAC ACC).

110 metres hurdles: 1st Cpl R Ramos (AAC Harrogate), 2nd L/Cpl P D Critchlow (19 Tk Tpr Sqn), 3rd Sgt I Haldane (7 Sig Regt). 400 metres hurdles: 1st SI L J Worby (AAC ACC), 2nd Sgt R Poynton (SEE), 3rd Lieut J Linford (JL Inf Bn).

Hammer: 1st WO2 D Bayes (10 Fd Wksp REME), 2nd Cpl A Phipps (42 Svy Engr Regt), 3rd CSM A Hughes (2 Gren Gds).

Shot: 1st S/Sgt E M Ricketts (19 Fd Wksp REME), 2nd CSMI R Baldwin (ASPT), 3rd Sgt T G Ratcliffe (Gds Depot).

Javelin: 1st WO2 N J Hart-Ives (REME), 2nd L/Cpl P N Albany (SEME), 3rd Sgt D Chappell (Int Corps).

Discus: 1st Sgt T G Ratcliffe, 2nd Lieut Field (3 R Anglian), 3rd Capt S C Grant (RMAS).

High jump: 1st L/Cpl P D Critchlow, 2nd Cpl D Moralee (AAC Chepstow), 3rd Pte A Hyde.

Long jump: 1st Cpl D Moralee, 2nd L/Cpl Chinyou (SEME), 3rd SSI A Coulton (RMAS).

Triple jump: 1st S/Sgt R A Allen (SEE), 2nd

Sgt Fred Irvine (Int Corps) spends his spare time in Hong Kong playing in goal for the colony's hockey club. When the club defeated the Portuguese club Macao 1-0 and took the coveted Spalding Cup, the local press said of Fred: "The man who really pulled Hong Kong to victory was 'keeper Irvine' . . . Nice one, Fred!"

Cpl DeCunha (3 R Anglian), 3rd Spr T J Barrett (45 Fd Sp Sqn).

Pole Vault: 1st Cpl D Moralee, 2nd Sgt Cribb (19 Fd Wksp REME), 3rd L/Cpl G Burton (244 Sig Sqn).

Women's results:

100 metres: 1st L/Cpl S Burgess (29 Coy WRAC), 2nd Capt E D Elliott (RA Ranges), 3rd Cpl L Carslake (CAD Kineton). 200 metres: 1st L/Cpl A Patterson (WRAC Bty RSA), 2nd L/Cpl S Burgess, 3rd Cpl L Carslake. 400 metres: 1st Cpl B W Jones (16 Bn RAOC), 2nd S/Sgt D F Lodge (WRAC Coll), 3rd Cpl Walters (WRAC). 800 metres: 1st Pte E Obeng (10 Sig Regt), 2nd Cpl B W Jones, 3rd Cpl M P Birt (WRAC Element).

100 metres hurdles: 1st Pte B M Lewis (10 Coy WRAC), 2nd L/Cpl A Patterson, 3rd S/Sgt D F Lodge.

High jump: 1st Pte B M Lewis, 2nd Pte L Y Hodge (WRAC Centre), 3rd Cpl B W Jones.

Long jump: 1st Pte B M Lewis, 2nd S/Sgt D F Lodge, 3rd L/Cpl A Patterson.

Discus: 1st Pte S J Goodwin (10 Sig Regt), 2nd WO2 J Dabbs (10 Coy WRAC), 3rd Capt H M Cary (AG 16 MoD).

Javelin: 1st Sgt B A Clewlow (ACIO Blackheath), 2nd Pte B E Castle (10 Sig Regt), 3rd L/Cpl J M McAleny (12 Dvr Trg Regt RCT).

Shot: 1st Capt E D Elliott, 2nd Capt H M Cary, 3rd L/Cpl A Patterson.

The Army Athletic Association pulled off a clear victory in a three-cornered match against the Metropolitan Police and RMA Sandhurst. The Army scored 157 beating the Police into second place with 128. Sandhurst came third with 69. The Army gained first places in 11 of the 17 field and track events staged.

TENNIS

The Army team failed to find its form in three early-season matches which were all lost. The Grasshoppers won at Cambridge 5½-3½, Hurlingham won 6-1 and Millfield won 5½-3½. But things improved with the match against the Queen's Club which the Army won 5-4. Even better was the showing against Reading University with the Army A team winning 7-2 and the B team winning 8½-½. But the Army met its match again with two county teams, losing 3-6 to Somerset and 2-7 to Hampshire.

CANOEING

A Great Britain team including Army canoeists came third in a ten-nation white water competition in Belgium, Italy and Germany. Team manager and coach was CSMI Cooper (APTC). Also in the team were SSI T Hewett, who was placed 3rd overall in the individual C2 class placings, plus SSI K Dyer and Sgt W White in the C1 class.

Other successes were recorded by L/Cpl Williams (36 Engr Regt) in an international contest at the National Water Sport Centre, Nottingham. He came first in the K2 500 metres, second in the 1000 metres and fourth in the 10,000 metres. His was the first British boat home in all three of these events.

SHOOTING

In the target rifle event of the National Small Bore Rifle Association championship at Bisley, the Army came first with 696 points. Second was the TAVR with 671 and the HAC were third with 628. At 900 and 1000 yards Maj D C N Genders was the Army's top scorer with 91.

TUG-OF-WAR

The Junior Parachute Company swept the board at the national youth tug-of-war championships in Aldershot, winning the 560-kilo event with 14 points and the 600-kilo with 12 points. Other placings, 560 kilos: JLR RA Nuneaton 13, JLR RCT Taunton 9, North Dorset Farmers 8, Jun Gdsmsn Wing Pirbright 7, Jun Soldiers Coy Wessex Depot 5, Jun Soldiers Coy LI Depot 4, AAC ACC 3, Walkern TOW Club (Youth) Stevenage nil, Jun Soldiers Coy Welsh Depot nil. 600 kilos: Jun Gdsmsn Wing 9, AAC ACC 6, North Dorset Farmers 5, HMS Mercury Petersfield 3, JLR RA Nuneaton 3, JLR RCT Taunton 1, Walkern TOW Club nil.

"In Step with the Shows" (The Midland Band of the Royal Air Force, directed by Flight-Lieutenant H B Hingley) (Great Bands Records GBS 1011)

This is the first time I recall reviewing a record by the Midland Band, even under its old title of No 1 Regional Band. And a fine band it is, producing some wonderful tone colours and having many skilled instrumentalists. As the record title implies, the programme is for the most part in quick march time and includes many famous marching songs from modern shows. A few waltzes and slow foxtrots get the treatment and still sound right.

I have no quarrel with the name of this branch of Emerald Records Ltd (Great Bands) in this case, but they will need to be careful which bands they choose to record. Great is a word not to use lightly.

Right up to standard on this LP are tunes from the following hit shows: "Paint Your Wagon," "Sound of Music," "Mame," "Funny Girl," "Jesus Christ, Superstar," "My Fair Lady," "Mary Poppins," "Cabaret," "Hair," "Half A Sixpence," "Oliver" and "Fiddler on the Roof." **RB**

"The Lilywhites" (Regimental Band of the 13th/18th Royal Hussars, conducted by Bandmaster B W Titley) (Grosvenor GRS 1021)

Forty minutes of nostalgia here for all cavalrymen and especially the 13th/18th. Although the recording is a bit woolly the things that matter most come across with true cavalry style and in the German marches one can almost imagine Kapellmeister von Titley strutting along in front. The cavalry trumpet is featured wherever possible but it was a pity "Old Comrades" and "Voice of the Guns" were hauled in as make-weights. A little more thought here and I could have recommended the whole disc to collectors.

As it is they may want the regimental music, which includes the slow marches of both original regiments plus "A Life on the Ocean Wave," "Balaclava March" and other music associated in one way or another with the regiment. Those two fine thumping German trumpet marches "Fehrbelliner Reitermarsch" and "Herzog von Braunschweig" are included and Beethoven's "Yorkshire March" makes a rare appearance.

The label is stingy in its recognition of composers, some appearing as merely the arrangers, and that great man of British music, Gordon Jacob, masquerades as Trad.

Also on this LP: "Review March of the 18th Hussars of Sachsen," "The Old Grey Mare" (Panella), "Cavalry Trumpet Fanfares (Regimental Call, Stables, Arrival, Finale)," "Evening Hymn and Cavalry Last Post" (Taylor), "Reveille," "Coburg" slow march, "John Peel" (Clive Richardson). **RB**



On record

"Music for A Royal Wedding" (A BBC recording from Westminster Abbey on Nov 14, 1973) (Choir of Westminster Abbey, Gentlemen and Children of Her Majesty's Chapels Royal conducted by Douglas Guest) (organists, trumpeters of the Royal Military School of Music (Kneller Hall) and 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards) (BBC Records REW 163)

I'm not sure that male readers will be interested in this disc for to most men a wedding is a wedding, but wives will love it and perhaps seek solace in the ageless poetry of the marriage ritual when feeling something less than cherished.

Robert Hudson, head of Outside Broadcasts (and formerly of Lords and the Oval), sets the scene and the Princess arrives to a fanfare heard as the Archbishop himself heard it, so you can hear again every hushed promise of bride and bridegroom, join in the hymns, responses, and help the Precentor with the amens.

Apart from the service there are the two anthems sung during the signing of the register, Vaughan Williams's great "Let All the World in Every Corner Sing" and Handel's "Let Their Celestial Concerts All Unite." You can hear Widor's famous and favourite "Toccata in F" and even the gallant Captain's regimental march played on the great organ of the Abbey.

I was only twenty paces from the bridal couple during the solemnities, the scene so brilliant under the arc lights that not even colour TV could fully capture the riotous colours of uniforms, banners, altar cloths and orders of chivalry. Yet I found myself, helplessly, watching these heart-warming events on my six-inch TV monitor screen—in black-and-white. There's a moral here somewhere. **RB**

"The Redbridge Phenomenon" (Redbridge Brass) (Grosvenor GRS 1018)

The phenomenon in question is the brass band formed from John Ridgeon's brass pupils in the London Borough of Redbridge. The speed at which progress was made towards contest standard was phenomenal indeed and no-one will deny them the fame and success they have achieved in very few years. This LP is an achievement in itself but not yet perfect by any means.

In a programme of marches of great variety there is much evidence of immaturity of technique and musicianship, particularly as to note-values and phrasing. In places you can actually hear the players saying "this is how the conductor said to play it, and by golly that's how we're going to play it". Good for the conductor; not always so good for the composer.

I liked Bryan Kelly's "Washington DC" march more than Edward Gregson's "March Prelude"—the two "modern" offerings which begin each side. Both composers do well for brass bands and all should be grateful for their work. Less grateful by far should we be for such old hat as "Flying Feathers" by Donald Osgood and Ronnie Hamner's surprisingly flaccid "March with a Beat." With classic examples in "The Prince of Denmark's March," Sousa's "Washington Post," "Amarita Roca" and even Maurice Johnstone's "Pennine Way," one cannot argue, but I draw the line at my old friend (ex-friend?) Tony Spurgin's "March of the Clowns." No wonder he uses a pseudonym. Jacques Picon indeed!—but I see his point.

To complete a quite acceptable and interesting record we have a somewhat dismal (for him) arrangement of "Sospan Fach" by Gordon Jacob and the well-known piece of Americana, "Bandology," by Eric Osterling.

Shows promise, and with application and attention to detail should make a fine band, as we say in the Army. **RB**

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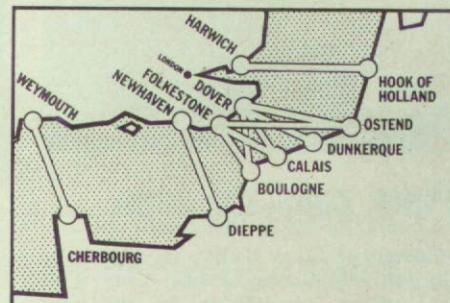
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Alabama bound

Captain Claire Montanaro has been selected as the first-ever Women's Royal Army Corps officer to go to the United States on an exchange appointment. She is off to Fort McClellan, Alabama, in January next year to instruct at the Women's Army Corps officer training establishment. Captain Montanaro, who is 24, clocked up another "first" in 1972 when she was posted to 2nd Division in Germany as the first-ever female assistant adjutant to the division's headquarters and signal regiment.



Cowboy Jim

Sergeant Jim Maulding, provost sergeant of 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, has always had a hankering to ride the range as a cowboy. So he took a break from an exercise in Canada to mosey down to the old corral,

saddle himself a horse and lit out for the prairie where he paused for a spell at a camp fire for a smoke, his trusty carbine across his knee in case any desperado varmints happened by.



Piper calls the tune

Lance-Corporal Tony Kelly, 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders, has won The Scottish Division competition for the best pipe tune. The contest, run by the Army School of Bagpipe Music in Edinburgh, attracted 49 entries from pipers in the division. Tony's tune, a march in 6/8 time, is to be called "The Scottish Division" and was played for the first time in public by the pipes and drums of his battalion in June when it was recorded for broadcasting. Tony joined the Gordons in 1964 and has composed several tunes since then, but this is his first to gain major recognition.



"Bird" colonel

Colonels in the United States Army usually have one of their generals to officiate at the promotion ceremony—reading the promotion order and fixing the silver eagle rank badges on the officer. But when **Lieutenant-Colonel Llewellyn P Rose**, United States Signal Corps, was elevated to full colonel in London, where he is serving with the US Army Staff, history was made when one of his own generals could not attend the ceremony. Instead, the job was taken by the British Signal Officer-in-Chief at the Ministry of Defence, **Major-General Max Sawers**.

Plucky cub



The bravery of ten-year-old Cub Scout Ian Gibson—son of Padre Alex Gibson of RAF Gütersloh—was honoured with the special presentation of the Chief Scout's Award for Meritorious Conduct by the Deputy Chief Commissioner of British Scouts Western Europe, Brigadier W S Mullin. When a Hallowe'en lantern set fire to a friend's clothes, Ian quickly put out the blaze by putting into practice what he had learnt as a fire-fighting Cub Scout, saving what could have been a tragedy. He took his friend home but did not mention the incident to anybody. But his Cub Scout leader found out about it and reported Ian's brave efforts.



Oh! Brothers!

"Family at War" has nothing on 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, which boasts 11 sets of brothers. Pictured here are seven of the sets during a jungle warfare training course in Malaysia. Centre front are the Grimee boys; Corporal Philip, Rifleman Harry and Corporal David. Left to right behind them are: Lance-Corporal

Carl and Rifleman Tim Glover, Riflemen Maurice and David Quail, Riflemen Chris and Bill Gledhill, Riflemen Tony and Bill Byrne (who have another brother, Thomas, joining them this summer), Riflemen Tony and Danny Thrower and Rifleman Bill and Corporal Colin Younger.



Von Haggis

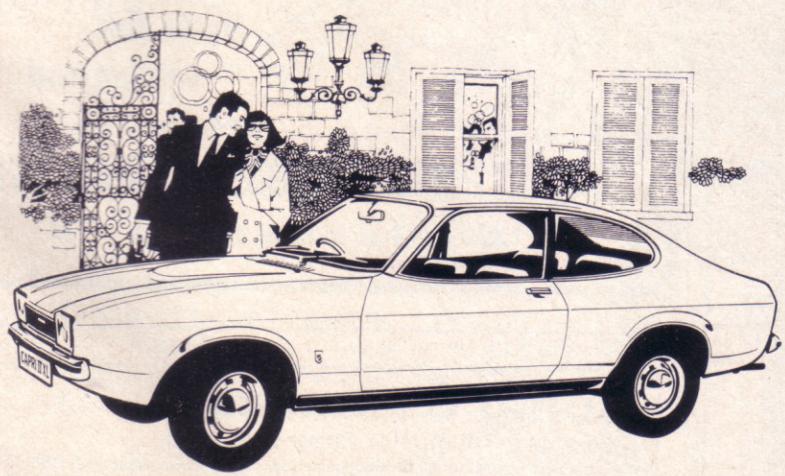
Corporal Peter Laythorpe, of Rheindahlen Garrison cookhouse in Germany, added a truly international flavour to a dish he prepared for a Moenchen-Gladbach clothing store's reception—he was asked to prepare a genuine Scottish haggis. Among the first to taste the dish were two dishy young British Airways hostesses, Hilka Aschendorf and Eva-Maria Kommrich from Berlin.



Top cop

Ex-Coldstream Guards Lance-Sergeant Anthony Peach emerged "top cop" from the intake of 50 recruits on a police course when he embarked on a second career after seven years in the Army. As the recruit who contributed maximum effort during the ten-week initial training, Anthony was presented with the baton of honour. He has now joined Surrey Constabulary as a constable following in the footsteps of his father who was 20 years a policeman. And just to keep the law well and truly in the family, Anthony's wife Edith is a traffic warden in Guildford where the new prize recruit will be based.

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Letters

GS Medal bars

I have followed with some interest the discussion concerning clasps that were proposed for the 1914-18 War Medal. United States forces which served in that war, while not receiving an equivalent of this medal, were awarded no fewer than 14 battle clasps and five service clasps to be appended to the Victory Medal.

It should be noted that before World War One medals were issued with quite a large number of clasps for war conditions which in no way matched World War One in their complexity of size, for example the African General Service Medal which eventually had some 45 bars and the South Africa (Queen's Medal) 1899-1902 with some 25 bars.

War-weariness was more than likely the real reason for the plan to issue the clasps being discontinued. We British are noted for our disinterest in anything military after a war in which we have been involved. For certain there was not the slightest mention of clasps for the War Medal here in Australia, but this would be more because our national character does not allow for those who would throw their chests out in pride, especially as the War Medal was such an ordinary award.

The only regret I have was that the idea of the Gallipoli Medal was not continued with although the French and Turkish armies both issued medals commemorating the defeat.—Noel Selway, 87 St Georges Crescent, Faulconbridge, NSW 2776, Australia.

SOLDIER welcomes letters. There is not space, however, to print every letter of interest received. All correspondents must therefore give their full names and addresses to ensure a reply. Answers cannot be sent to collective addresses. Anonymous or insufficiently addressed letters are not published.

Please do not ask for information which you can get in your orderly room or from your officer commanding.

SOLDIER cannot admit correspondence on matters involving discipline or promotion in a unit.

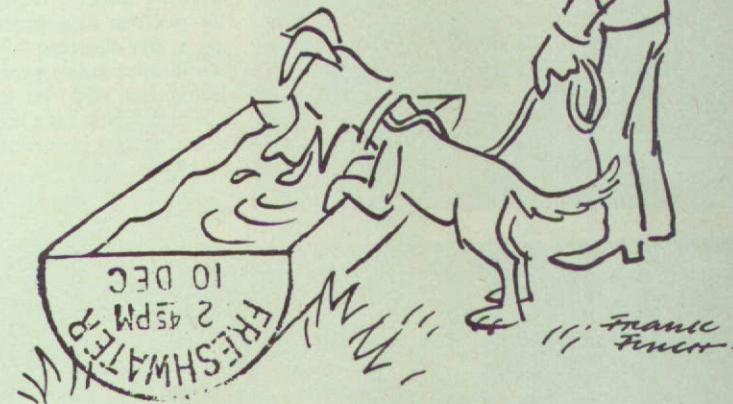
George Medal

The January article "Thirty-Five Heroes" on the reunion dinner of Royal Army Ordnance Corps George Cross and George Medal holders reminds one that there appears to be no association for holders of the George Medal as there is for the Victoria Cross and George Cross.

I should be happy to hear from anyone in sympathy with the formation of a George Medal association.—W E Green, 16 Ella Road, Thorpe Hamlet, Norwich, Norfolk, NOR 30S.

Crimean auxiliaries

I was interested in Mr D N Stevens's letter (April). William Ferguson Beatson, who commanded the Bashi Bazouks, was the nephew of my great-great-grandfather, Major-General Alexander Beatson,



Governor of St Helena and planner of the assault on Seringapatam.

Ferguson Beatson had been a lieutenant-colonel in the Spanish Army and then commanded the cavalry of the Nizam of Hyderabad. I have always understood that it was Ferguson Beatson, a war-experienced cavalryman, who nudged Brigadier Scarlett into launching the Heavy Brigade against the main mass of the Russian cavalry—the decisive action of the battle of Balaklava.—Brig M H ap Rhys Pryce (Retd), Glendon Cottage, 9 Tekels Avenue, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 2LA.

Border bloomer

Reference your June sport pages, I quote "There was a triumph at last for 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Border Regiment."

Sir, there was not! There is no such regiment. Our old friends across the border are The King's Own Scottish Borderers.

We, who achieved the triumph, are The King's Own Royal Border Regiment. It may interest your readers to hear that our main Regimental Headquarters is to move into Carlisle Castle next spring.—Col H J Darlington, Regimental Secretary, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, Regiment House, 69 Coulston Road, Lancaster, LA1 3JF.

Still marching

Letters have been published over the last few months mentioning Ord Hume marches and I am prompted to emphasise my suggestion in the August 1973 issue. It is all the more clear to me that an Ord Hume LP is much needed. I think that many readers would agree that a record on which there are only one or two of his marches, among a variety of others and pieces which have probably been repeated on a number of other records, is not what is wanted—there should be

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Auctioned weapons

A rare 9mm Persian contract 8-inch Luger has been sold at auction for £650 by Weller & Dufty Ltd, Birmingham. The Luger's markings include the Persian crest on top of the chamber and Persian crown and Islamic inscription on the breech. The serial numbering, toggle, safety markings and sight graduations are all in Islamic characters. The Luger, nearly new, sold with its attached flap holster, sling and double magazine pouch.

At the same auction an interesting 54-bore five-shot Adams 1851/52 model percussion revolver, with Crimean war connections, fetched £290. This revolver has a one-piece chequered walnut grip inset with a large oval silver escutcheon bearing the skull and crossbones insignia of the 17th Lancers. It was sold in its correct green baize-lined and partitioned oak case with maker's label in the lid. The case also contains a double cavity gunmetal mould for tailed ball and bullet, patent top Dixon bag-shaped copper flask with ring at base, cap tin, cleaning rod tip and bone box. The pistol is believed to have been carried by a subaltern in the 17th Lancers.

a whole LP devoted to the best of Ord Hume, as has been done with Sousa and Alford.

The list of marches which I suggested in my letter in the August 1973 issue should make a good Ord Hume collection; there is variety and probably something for everyone's taste. An LP on these lines could surely be produced as a result of research in existing band libraries.

—Maj R E C Cross (Retd), No 2 Officers Mess, RAF Brampton, Huntingdon.

Any fetchers?

I have about 12 to 14 years of back issues of SOLDIER stored in the Bronx. I will give them free to anyone able to collect them at my convenience.—Walter M Kaufman, 30 Park Avenue, Apt 12N, New York, New York 10016, USA (phone Murray Hill 3-1065.)

LANDING CRAFT MUSEUM

A collection of exhibits for the landing craft museum being formed at the Royal Marines' landing craft base at Poole is steadily increasing but still more material is required. What is envisaged in the long term is a collection of landing craft of all

types with photographs, information and curios.

Any reader willing to loan or donate photographs or models of landing craft and ships involved in landing craft operations is asked to contact the Curator, The Museum, Landing Craft Base, Royal Marines, Poole, Dorset.



Indian Cavalcade

Telling the story of the mounted troops of British India, a current exhibition at the National Army Museum illustrates the development of the Indian cavalry with particular emphasis on dress and way of life. From the late 18th century Indian cavalry served in the three separate armies of the presidencies of Bengal, Madras and Bombay which formed the military force of the East India Company. The story continues with the re-organisation of the regiments after the Indian Mutiny of 1857 and their service under the Crown until the departure of the British from India in 1947. The story is told by means of uniforms, paintings, prints, weapons, artefacts and photo-

graphs. Examples are displayed of the elaborate and richly decorated officers' uniforms designed in the European style and of the exotic Indian-style dress which on the grounds of comfort and practicality many regiments adopted later.

Other aspects of an officer's life in the 20th century are illustrated by scenes dealing with the officers' mess and with sport.

The final section covers the Indian cavalry on active service. The development of khaki uniform and its Indian origins are described and also the mechanisation and the part played by the cavalry in the two world wars. This exhibition is open until 29 September 1974.

Page 60. Grattan Catalogue. Nowhere else.

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BS

COMPETITION

Once the drift of April's Competition 190 (Talking point) was apparent, the rest was easy, as was reflected in a large correct entry. Completed vertical columns were rabbi, skirt, nasty, CO, picket, queer/odder, UFO, IOU, tom-tom, Louisa, us/we, Guy Fawkes, a e i o u, royal. Line 2, related to line 1 (He is not quite legal), read "A barrack room lawyer" and the missing three letters sought were B R L.

Prizewinners:

- 1 Mrs A Griffin, 16 Dilwara House, Mathew Circular Road, Tidworth, Hants, SP9 7PA.
- 2 WO1 W G Radbron, 36 Engr Regt, Invicta Park, Maidstone, Kent.
- 3 L/Cpl D O'Gara, A Sqn LAD, 5 Innis DG, BFPO 17.
- 4 Cpl R J Williams RMP, c/o 13 Queen Square, Highbridge, Somerset, TA9 3EZ.
- 5 P Whitwell, 315 Sydenham Road, London SE26.
- 6 WO2 T M Cross RAPC, RAPC Computer Centre, Worthy Down, Winchester, Hants.
- 7 Miss P A Duke, 58 Holly Walk, Middle Wallop, Stockbridge, Hants.
- 8 G H Bendell, 199 Midanbury Lane, Southampton, SO2 4GW.
- 9 T D Prouse, Kibo, Middlefield Lane, Newbold-on-Stour, Stratford-upon-Avon Warwickshire.
- 10 Capt A Philpott, 3 Tope Crescent, Arborfield, Reading, RG2 9NA.

COLLECTORS' CORNER



H G Frisby, 38 Alexandra Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancs.—Requires Royal Hampshire Regiment cap badge (other rank), and shoulder title; Singapore Guard Regiment and Brigade of Gurkhas cap badges. Also seeks stamp collectors.

J L Garland, 73 Upway, Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 8AA.—Seeks badges, buttons and other insignia of 121st, 199th, 208th and 218th battalions CEF, Irish Fusiliers of Canada, Irish Canadian Rangers and Irish Regiment of Canada. J P F Head, 12 Casemates, HM Tower of London, London, EC3 4AB.—Wishes purchase Royal Signals brass cap badge with either pattern of crown. Will swap or sell one brass RNZ Signal Corps cap badge with oval garter surround.

G R Dorman, 5 Ethelburga Drive, Lyminge, Folkestone, Kent, CT18 8JJ.—Requires information, badges, photographs and literature on auxiliary nursing, canteen and support services in both world wars.

G Paton, 77 Silver Street, St Peters, NSW 2044, Australia.—Seeks 2nd Life Guards title, collar flash and 1914 pattern button. Will purchase or exchange for current Australian badges, flashes, titles, buttons etc.

Wessex Depot closing

The Wessex Depot at Winchester, one of three depots of The Prince of Wales's Division, is to close in December. Thereafter junior soldiers of the Wessex regiments will train at the other two depots—Crickhowell in South Wales or Lichfield. Juniors of The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment and The Gloucestershire Regiment will go to Crickhowell, those of The Royal Hampshire Regiment and The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment to Lichfield.

There are at present 160 boys aged 16 and 17 in the Junior Soldiers Company of the Wessex Depot which is commanded by Major Peter Baxter, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment. The depot had its last intake of junior soldiers on 7 May. Subsequent intakes will start their training at the other depots and by the time Exeter closes, 48 of the present 160 junior soldiers will remain to be transferred. The rest will have passed out to adult service.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(see page 19)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Windows of left hut. 2 Number of third go-kart. 3 Wording on drum at left foreground. 4 Breast pocket of No. 16. 5 Trunk of middle tree. 6 Height of drum on right of third go-kart. 7 Road lines in front of leading go-kart. 8 Width of road at top right. 9 Size of flag. 10 Lines on helmet of No. 16.

REUNIONS

London & Home Counties Branch, The Staffordshire Regimental Association. Annual dinner-dance 30 November, Pier Hotel, Eastbourne, Sussex. Tickets £2.20 from Secretary, B J Harris, 15 Harold Close, Pevensey Bay, Sussex.

The Staffordshire Regiment. Annual reunion dinner 7 September, Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, 3 EU.

Staffs. Details from RHQ, Whittington Barracks.

Sergeants (The Royal Hampshire Regiment) past and present. Annual dinner and reunion, Newburgh House, Winchester, 7 September. Details from G R Price, Newburgh House, Winchester.

The Royal Welch Fusiliers Comrades Association. 50th annual re-union and general meeting 21-22 September, The Barracks, Wrexham. Tickets and programmes from branch secretaries or Secretary, RWFCA, The Barracks, Caernarvon, LL55 2DB, North Wales.

14th/20th King's Hussars (Northern Branch). Reunion, Manchester, 21 September. Details from Home HQ, 14/20 Hussars, Clifton, Manchester, M27 2PU.

9th Bn York and Lancaster Regiment (1939-45). 13th annual dinner, Sheffield, 26 October. Details from RHQ, Endcliffe Hall, Sheffield, S10 3EU.

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58/74



On the air

THE Chief Police Commissioner has been arrested and charged with divulging information prejudicial to the safety of the Regency. This followed his broadcast, the text of which was subjected to rigorous examination. It was noticed that the initial letters of the first five words of the Commissioner's speech spelled out the word "brand."

Further examination produced four other five-letter words with the same association between them. It was also noted that the speech made reference to the atomic number of the substance, the name of which, it was alleged, the broadcast revealed in full.

The relevant part of the Commissioner's speech was:

"Better reporting and new discoveries in the field of detection have resulted in a decrease in the crime rate. We should all be thankful for this. Today our records can highlight the areas in which such detection should be concentrated. Laws, in general, have the effect of providing a framework within which most of our work can be readily defined. Unfortunately we sometimes have to stray beyond this framework. Given legality, our work seems to take on an air of respectability; it was not always so. When a nation expects service, it must not also expect simplicity. Some eighteen to twenty years ago the situation was very different. I look forward to tomorrow with confidence . . ."

From the above extract from the Commissioner's speech can you state the name of the substance specified in the charge against him? Send your answer, on a postcard or by letter, with the "Competition 194" label from this page and your name and address, to:

Editor (Comp 194)
SOLDIER
 Clayton Barracks
 Aldershot
 Hants
 GU11 2BG.

This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and closing date is Monday 7 October. The answer and winners' names will appear in the December **SOLDIER**. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a "Competition 194" label. Winners will be drawn from correct entries.

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Books

Edward Ardizzone Diary of a War Artist



Staccato sketchbook

"Diary of a War Artist" (Edward Ardizzone)

This is a terse and honest account of the author's feelings and impressions—belly-aches and all. The leisurely style of Samuel Pepys is not to be expected in a chronicle of World War Two. Staccato for the most part, the entries yet reflect an artist's habit of observation, whether of a soldiers' band looking like "good boys from the local penitentiary" or the desolation of Rimini after a tornado of HE. It appears that even as late as 1944 a transit camp at Alex was still rousing its hapless inhabitants at 0330 hours for a five o'clock move off that never did till hours later.

The author is a stern critic of his drawings. They are mostly sketches made in unpropitious circumstances and are preparatory material gathered for watercolour paintings commissioned by the War Office and now in the Imperial War Museum. They convey atmosphere rather than detail and though unaided by colour show this artist's characteristic ability to capture the cold of winter, light filtering into a dark billet and sunshine on a landing beach. In the little posturing figures there is the inevitable Ardizzone exposure of human foibles and pomposity and he records for posterity a comic retinue of medical staff in descending ranks behind a hospital colonel doing his rounds.

The Bodley Head Ltd, 9 Bow Street, London, WC2E 7AL, £4.00 FRF

War photography

"Relentless Verity" (Peter Robertson) "The rebel marksmen of the far West did not give an amateur photographer much time with his 'quickest shutter,'" wrote Major James Peters, the gunner officer who was Canada's first war photographer, explaining why not all his pictures came out.

Another reason was that he had to load his film magazines under his regimental blanket at night, ruined some films by fingering to try to find out which way round they were, and got some the wrong way round. For all that he took some good pictures

of the North West Rebellion of 1885 which make up the first section of this collection from the half-million negatives, by Canadian military photographers, in public archives.

Official photographers came with World War One and are represented here by William Rider-Rider, an Englishman seconded from the London Daily Mirror. In World War Two the three Canadian Services had sophisticated photographic units. Their "scoops" included the first pictures to be released of both the Sicily and D-Day landings.

Pictures in this interesting album range up to 1970. The text is in both English and French.

University of Toronto Press: From Books Canada Ltd, 17 Cockspur Street, London, SW1Y 5BP, £4.90. RLE

Tempered steel

"Churchill as Warlord" (Ronald Lewin)

Anyone who has read the Alanbrooke Diaries will recall the almost daily anguish with which the field-marshall wrote. And 90 per cent of it was caused by Churchill. He subjected his commanders, particularly the Chiefs of Staff, to intolerable pressures, yet he was tolerated.

Alanbrooke, for instance, spent hour upon hour under stern cross-examination, questions laced with sarcasm and even vicious allegations of cowardice.

Mr Lewin recalls it all in a book which is the best one-volume study of Churchill at war it has been my pleasure to read. He paints a faithful picture of the warlord, giving credit where it is due but refusing to gloss over his failings and mistakes—and there were many.

Churchill had an obsession to attack in Norway—Alanbrooke, having demonstrated the uselessness of such an attack, was told: "I sometimes think some of my generals don't want to fight the Germans." One marvels at Alanbrooke's patience, but this was Churchill at his most imperious. Mr Lewin is not entirely happy with the treatment of Auchinleck and finds the sacking of Admiral North "impossible to condone."

Yet he finds that Churchill civilised the process of high command

The Thin Yellow Line

William Moore



and that those most subject to his imperious pressures were those who loved him most. And who of the alternatives, asks Mr Lewin, had a backbone of tempered steel? In World War Two, Britain needed a warlord—and he was the only one.

Mr Lewin makes excellent use of much recently released material and corrects many misconceptions and beliefs in a thoroughly worthwhile book.

B T Batsford Ltd, PO Box 4, Springwood Industrial Estate, Rayne Road, Braintree, Essex, £3.50 JCW

In the face of . . .

"The Thin Yellow Line" (William Moore)

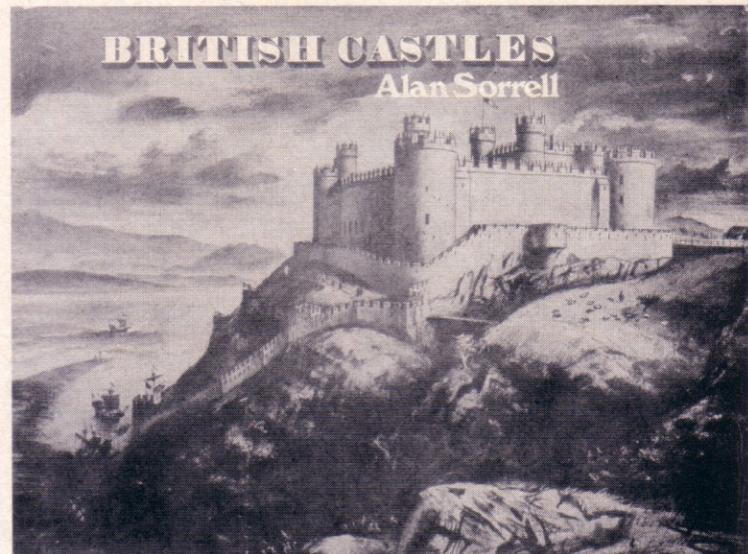
Today, any soldier with nerve trouble will face a psychiatrist; in World War One he was all too likely to face a court-martial and even a firing squad. Between 1914 and 1918, according to official figures, 346 men subject to the Army Act were executed by firing squads, including 55 from colonial and overseas contingents. This excludes 47 Indians executed after a mutiny in Singapore in 1915.

Much the biggest number, 261, had been found guilty of desertion (21 officers and 7361 men were tried for this offence and another ten officers and 531 men for cowardice). Apart from those court-martialled some were less formally despatched when seen (or thought) to be running from the enemy. A trial was rough justice. The prisoner was lucky if any officer in the hastily-assembled court had any legal knowledge. If found guilty and sentenced to death he might be reprieved or become an "example." There was no appeal.

Transcripts of proceedings were not available to next-of-kin who wanted cases investigated. They are still withheld until 100 years after the event, to the indignation of historians, including the author of this admirable book.

BRITISH CASTLES

Alan Sorrell



Motte and bastion

"British Castles" (Alan Sorrell)

The outstanding feature of Mr Sorrell's book is his reconstruction of 32 English, Welsh and Scottish castles as they were in the days of their prime. These lovingly detailed drawings can be matched to photographs of what is left of the castles today and bring the relics to life.

He recalls, in his introduction, contemporary pictures of medieval castles just before the challenge of the cannon, in which all is beauty with gleaming white walls and towers, red-tiled or pale leaden roofs tipped with gold, pennons flying. This was idealisation, but he sees it as intent to create bright and gay structures. The reality was different, thanks to the stench of medieval plumbing and the cold

and draughty rooms. This is a splendid book to take on a visit to Harlech, Tintern or Bothwell, but it would be helpful to take a dictionary too since Mr Sorrell omits a glossary of such words as motte, bastion and snuffer.

He puzzles, surprisingly, over why Archibald the Grim in 1380 went to the trouble of providing accommodation for pigeons in the walls of Threave Castle, near Dumfries. The answer is commonly known in Scotland—most great Scottish houses had their "doo-cotes" (dovecotes) the pigeons of which provided fresh meat in winter when hunting was not possible.

B T Batsford Ltd, PO Box 4, Springwood Industrial Estate, Rayne Road, Braintree, Essex, £2.30

RLE

CHURCHILL as Warlord



Ronald Lewin

The Bruneval Raid

Foreword by Admiral of the Fleet, the Earl Mountbatten of Burma

George Millar

There was certainly a case for them to be available in the 1920s when, posthumous honour apart, there were still widows in want of pensions and perhaps guilty men to take blame. Now the benefit of exposing them to the public gaze is only academic, yet they might still cause distress to families. It seems right that they should gather another half-century's dust.

Leo Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £3.95
RLE

Radar raid

"The Bruneval Raid" (George Millar) In February 1942 a company of The Parachute Regiment made a small, completely successful raid on German-held France. Its men dropped on the cliff-tops at Bruneval, between Le Havre and Etretat. They took the Germans by surprise, dismantled all the important pieces of a German radar station which had been interesting British scientists, took them down to the beach on a trolley and embarked on Royal Navy landing craft. Casualties were light, including only two killed.

It was a tiny item in a great war, but of disproportionate importance. It was the first successful raid using paratroops. It gave the boffins first-hand information on German radar progress. And it had a tremendous

effect on British morale, at that time in need of a boost.

The raid and its preliminaries make up only a small portion of Mr Millar's book which is subtitled "Flash Point of the Radar War." The rest is an account of the radar war, seen from both sides of the channel, the development of the Royal Air Force's photographic reconnaissance, and some activities of the French Resistance.

Strictly it may not all be relevant to either title or sub-title but it is thrilling stuff, written with gusto, and excellent reading.

The Bodley Head, 9 Bow Street, Covent Garden, London, WC2E 7AL, £2.50
RLE

Weapons books

"Commando" (Peter Young)
"Tank Force" (Kenneth Macksey) These two re-issues of "Weapons Books" in the excellent Pan/Ballantine Illustrated History of World War Two are written by men who fought with the weapons they so ably describe. Brigadier Young, a Dunkirk veteran, was one of the first to join the commandos and rose to command 1st Commando Brigade, winning a DSO and three MCs on the way.

He describes how the commandos were conceived to take the war back to the Continent, striking fast and hard and getting away. They raised alarm among Germans and morale in the occupied countries. The brigadier recalls their activities from their birth to the ill-fated raid on Dieppe in August 1942.

Major Macksey, another MC holder and former officer of the Royal Tank Regiment, tells the story of allied armour in World War Two. He starts with a swift survey of tank development, or lack of it, in Britain, France and the United States and follows with a tour of the battlefields—France 1940, Western Desert, Tunisia, Sicily, Italy, North-West Europe.

He makes all-too-brief excursions to Burma and the Pacific and closes as a new generation of tank—the Centurion—was rushed to Europe in an effort to try it out in combat before the war ended.

Pan Books Ltd, 33 Tothill Street, London SW1, £0.50
JCW

Legionnaire

"The Damned Die Hard" (Hugh McLeave)

The retreat from Mons. A battalion of The Royal Warwickshire Regiment, almost exhausted, enters St Quentin and its commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel John Ford Elkington, seeks food and shelter for his men. But the mayor believes their presence is dangerous; help will be forthcoming only if Elkington signs a promise to surrender if the Germans arrive. He signs.

The Germans did not come and St Quentin was spared. But not Elkington. His signature damned him. He was court-martialled for cowardice and cashiered. Knowing no other profession, and with the war still raging, he then joined the Foreign Legion as a private. At Artois, Souchez and Navarin Farm, 50-year-old Legionnaire Elkington

NAPOLEON'S PENINSULAR MARSHALS

Richard Humble

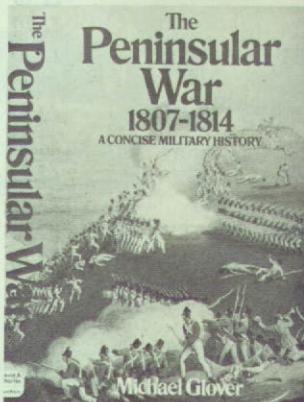


showed he was no coward. Hard-bitten Legion veterans respected this quiet man "who seemed to find his voice only in battle."

He was badly wounded at Navarin Farm and had been in hospital almost a year when learned he had been awarded the French Médaille Militaire and Croix de Guerre. Among those who read of his bravery was King George V who immediately had him reinstated in his old rank and seniority—and added the Distinguished Service Order to Elkington's awards.

Elkington's story had a happy ending but thousands of other Legionnaires lie in the four corners of the world—Mexico, Sebastopol, Magenta, Dahomey, Vimy Ridge, Verdun, Djebel Badou, Narvik, Bir Hakeim, Dien Bien Phu... Mr McLeave takes us on a stirring tour of the places where the Legion fought and died and paints a superb portrait of this élite corps.

Saxon House, D C Heath Ltd, Westmead, Farnborough, Hants, GU14 7RU, £3.25
JCW



Hearts and minds

"The Peninsular War 1807-1814" (Michael Glover)

"I have not come to France to plunder. I have not had thousands of officers and soldiers killed and wounded so that the survivors might pillage the French. On the contrary, my duty, and the duty of all of us, is to stop pillage, especially as we intend to support our troops from the resources of the country."

This rebuke to the Spaniards by the Duke of Wellington goes far to explain his extraordinary success as a soldier. Although his concern for supplies convinced the French that he was over-cautious, British troops could count on regular rations. Wellington was scrupulously

careful not to offend civilians. He insisted that food be legally purchased, looting severely punished and discipline rigidly enforced.

The French were encouraged to live off the countryside, whether friendly or enemy. What they gained in mobility they completely lost in goodwill. They left nothing but starvation and ruin and docile peasants were thus converted into fanatical guerrillas and implacable enemies. In bravery, stamina and fortitude the French and British were roughly equal. It was Wellington's skill in keeping his men supplied that guaranteed victories like Talavera, Vitoria and Salamanca.

This is a highly readable account of the Peninsular War backed by scholarly appendices and an excellent bibliography.

David & Charles (Holdings) Ltd, South Devon House, Newton Abbot, Devon, £6.75
AWH

Myth and truth

"Napoleon's Peninsular Marshals" (Richard Humble)

To many people Napoleon's 26 marshals are a unique and glittering brotherhood of heroes. The truth is very different from the myth. Some were fiery revolutionaries, some aristocrats. They were extremely jealous of each other, rarely co-operated effectively and were delighted when a potential rival was defeated. The only common factor was their courage in battle and their devotion to Napoleon.

Nowhere were defeats more common than in the harsh Spanish terrain where reputations crumbled all too soon. Jourdan quickly proved himself the worst French commander in the field and Victor was nearly as inadequate. Murat, Macdonald, Augereau and Bessières had themselves posted elsewhere. Even Ney, "bravest of the brave," petulantly quarrelled with his colleagues, especially Soult. The most efficient were Suchet and Marmont while the cynical Massena alone frightened Wellington.

This excellent little book, vigorously written and furnished with splendid plates, proves yet again how important in war is the personality of a commander.

Macdonald & Jane's Publishers, St Giles House, 49-50 Poland Street, London, W1A 2LG, £3.25
AWH

Contemporary account

"Annals of the Indian Rebellion 1857-58" (Compiled by N A Chick, edited by David Hutchinson)

"The well was narrow and deep, and on looking down you could only see a tangled mass of human limbs entirely without clothing." This eye-witness description of the bloody massacre of British women and children by Nana Sahib at Cawnpore is perhaps the most famous extract from Noah Chick's "Annals," first published in 1859. Himself a survivor of the siege of Lucknow, where he was a newspaper sub-editor, Chick knew many of the men and women who suffered during the Indian Mutiny. Their contemporary accounts capture the growing foreboding that all was not well—the resentment of Dalhousie's

The Damned die HARD

Hugh McLeave



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on both sides. An interesting addition to "The Makers of the Empire" series, this book has no nostalgia for long-lost imperialism but attempts an objective evaluation from the hindsight of a century later.

The mutiny was little more than a military revolt confined in the main to Bengal but it was accompanied by great cruelty from both sides as these testimonies bear out. Delhi, Lucknow and Cawnpore witnessed dreadful atrocities but strangely there were occasional acts of mercy and kindness, again

There are some attractive plates and clear maps as well as a necessary glossary.

Charles Knight & Co Ltd, 11-12 Bury Street, London, EC3A 5AP, £4.50
AWH

In brief

"British Artillery on Land and Sea 1790-1820" (Robert Wilkinson-Latham)

This author's works are well known to weapons enthusiasts. Here he gives a full picture of the state of military and naval artillery, its equipment, uniforms, side-arms, badges and buttons during the years when Britain and her allies were facing the menace of Napoleon's Grande Armée. The book would have fascinated Bonaparte himself as one of the greatest exponents of the tactical use of artillery—a skill, it is said, he developed early in life by bombarding his own Corsican home in a fit of pique.

David & Charles (Holdings) Ltd, South Devon House, Newton Abbot, Devon, £3.60

"British Cut and Thrust Weapons" (John Wilkinson-Latham)

When reviewing the hard-backed version of this book in SOLDIER July 1972, the £2.75 cost was remarked on as being expensive for all but the most dedicated. This comment seems to have been taken to heart and the same work is now available in paperback at virtually half the price. The same clarity of presentation as in the original is a boon to the devotee of cold steel and enthusiasts.

David & Charles (Holdings) Ltd, South Devon House, Newton Abbot, Devon, £1.35 (UK only)

"Army Badges and Insignia since 1945: Book One" (Guido Rosignoli)

In this companion volume to "Army Badges of World War Two" the author covers a period of considerable military reorganisation which inevitably involved changes in insignia. This up-dating volume is concerned with the insignia of the armies of eight nations: United Kingdom, Poland, USA, Italy, East Germany, West Germany, Russia and Belgium.

The 94 pages of more than 2000 illustrations—the majority in colour—should help solve for collectors many a niggling problem of identity. In the British section, for example, there are seven colour plates depicting 250 formation signs. Eight chapters of well-researched supporting text, one for each army, make this a handy and reliable reference.

Blandford Press Ltd, 167 High Holborn, London, WC1V 6PH, £1.65

"Small Arms of the World" (Joseph E Smith)

"Military Small Arms of the Twentieth Century" (Ian Hogg and John Weeks)

This "Jane's Fighting Ships" of

Military smallarms of the twentieth century



A comprehensive illustrated history of the world's small-calibre firearms, 1900-1973

small arms is now published in a revised and expanded tenth edition. Its 800 pages cover 42 countries and offer nearly 2000 illustrations. Weapons are identified and appraised with details of operation, design, stripping and reassembly plus performance and evolution. Additional sections deal with small arms ammunition and sporting arms. The encyclopaedia was first published in the United States over 30 years ago as a 100-page paperback—the latest edition claims to be the largest volume of its kind.

A companion to "Small Arms of the World," "Military Small Arms" looks at more than 800 weapons. It is a history of the small-calibre hand-held firearms issued to the world's armies in the troubled years of the present century. During this time there have been more radical changes in weapon design than in the previous 600 years. This rapid development is traced by the authors and makes a fascinating record.

1 Arms & Armour Press, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London NW3, £7.20 (UK only),

2 Arms & Armour Press, £5.60 (UK only)

"The Judo Instructor" (Colonel M G Harvey)

This is a revised and updated edition of a guide to the learning of judo first published in 1957 and aimed at both beginners and instructors. The author was commandant of the Army School of Physical Training, founded the Army Judo Association and was its chairman in 1973. While serving in the Far East he attended the Kodakan Judo College and other Japanese "Dojos."

Kaye & Ward Ltd, 21 New Street, London, EC2M 4NT, £1.50

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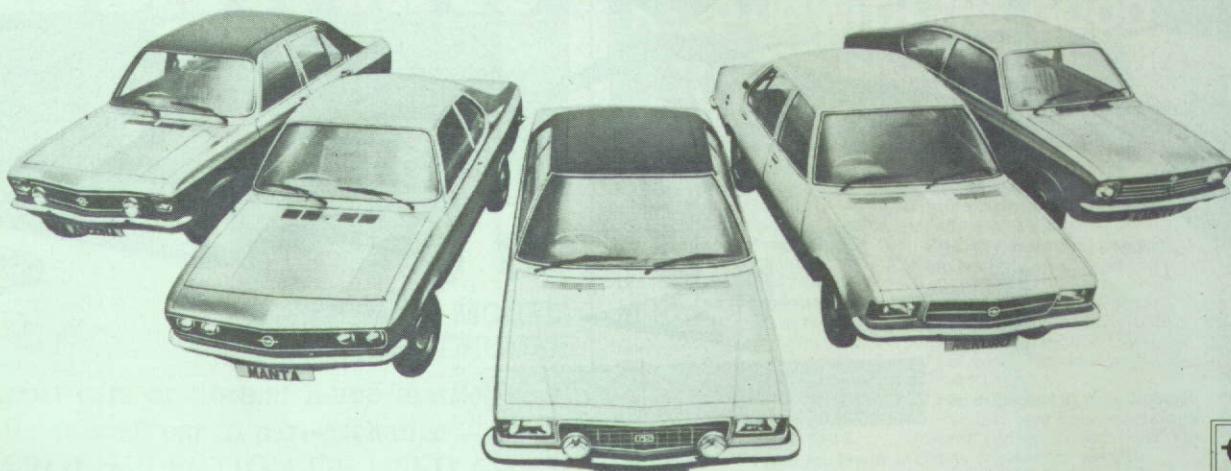
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The Good Companions

Story by John Walton

THE legacies of war are many and varied—poverty, starvation and disablement on the debit side and on the credit side a comradeship among servicemen which never seems to be matched in peacetime. This is evidenced by the multiplicity of old comrades' associations in Britain, perhaps the least known of which is based on the rugged steel town of Sheffield—the Fellowship of the Services.

Of 24,000 members of the Fellowship scattered in more than 300 branches (they are called messes) throughout the country, more than 7000 are in Sheffield—an odd fact because the organisation was originally launched in London and did not reach Yorkshire until 1931.

Mr Jack Hopper, Editor of the Fellowship's magazine, *The Uniform*, says that until comparatively recently many people thought the organisation was a secret religious cult. And although secretiveness is vigorously denied, membership is never-

theless exclusive and difficult to obtain.

A potential member must be an ex-serviceman sponsored by an existing member. His name is then published in *The Uniform* and any member can object to him. A screening process follows... "Just because you are an ex-serviceman does not necessarily mean you are suitable," says the General Secretary, Mr Eric J. Arthur.

The preliminaries take about six months and then the accepted candidate is initiated. Mr Arthur is understandably reticent about the initiation ceremony and the ritual which each mess follows at its monthly meetings but he did say that a bayonet and a "book of faith" were involved.

Each mess meeting has a home-grown concert of the old Naafi type—but smutty jokes are out. Says Mr Arthur: "We loathe obscenity and this blue stuff . . ." The comradeship at these mess nights takes a unique form. Each member when he arrives hands in a voucher; these are shuffled

and partners for the evening are drawn. Although members mix generally the partners remain close for that evening. Serving soldiers are barred from the ritual but are allowed as guests at mess concerts. Membership is still apparently booming (it was 15,000 a decade ago). Every concert ends with the singing of "Just a Song at Twilight."

Merely paying your subscription is not enough to remain in the Fellowship. Each man has to report to his section leader on his welfare each month or risk expulsion.

Mr Arthur explains: "A man has to be actively connected with us. You are pledged to make a monthly contact. We still include in our ritual how the men who came back from the First World War were neglected and suffered poverty. While there is more affluence than in 1918 there is a tremendous need for comradeship among men and loneliness is the thing we try to combat. We do not consider ourselves a social organisation but one with very serious principles."

There are many Companions who feel that the organisation's founder, Captain Cresswell White, would not have approved of a fairly recent development—the opening of social clubs in Sheffield, Sunderland and South Shields. To join these clubs you have to be a member of the Fellowship, but they are otherwise self-supporting.

The story of the founding of the organisation reads like a novel. Captain White's

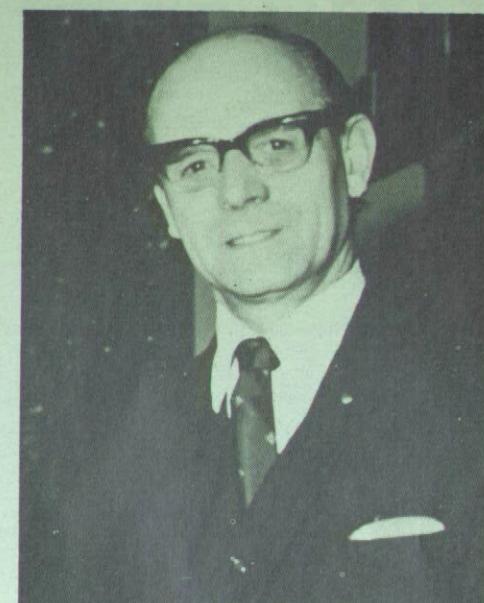
batman in World War One saved his life on three occasions and the third time he died in the captain's arms. After the war the captain used to walk the streets of London talking to ex-servicemen and he reached the conclusion that some sort of fellowship was needed where men of all ranks could meet on equal terms. Around a night watchman's fire in the East India Dock Road, Captain White, with an ex-Army sergeant and a former sailor hatched the society.

There are messes in Australia and one is shortly to be opened in New Zealand. Membership is restricted to three-generation British and Commonwealth citizens and at one time the Fellowship thought it might run foul of the Race Relations Board because of this ruling.

All of the officials are part-time and unpaid and religious, political and business discussions are taboo at meetings. Every month a collection is made and this is disbursed through a benevolent fund. All benefits are on a strictly confidential basis with only the mess almoner and the chief almoner knowing the recipient's name.

Eric Arthur and his many friends believe they have a message for all. In his words: "The underlying thing is whenever and wherever possible to assist your fellow men. Both the politicians and the country at large could learn from our principles."

FOS founder, Capt. Cresswell Fitzhubert Tayler White, ex-Wiltshire Regiment.



Mr Eric J Arthur, General Secretary of the Fellowship: "A lesson for the politicians."

Members of the Fellowship's Club in Sheffield have a drink in "Commonwealth Corner."



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