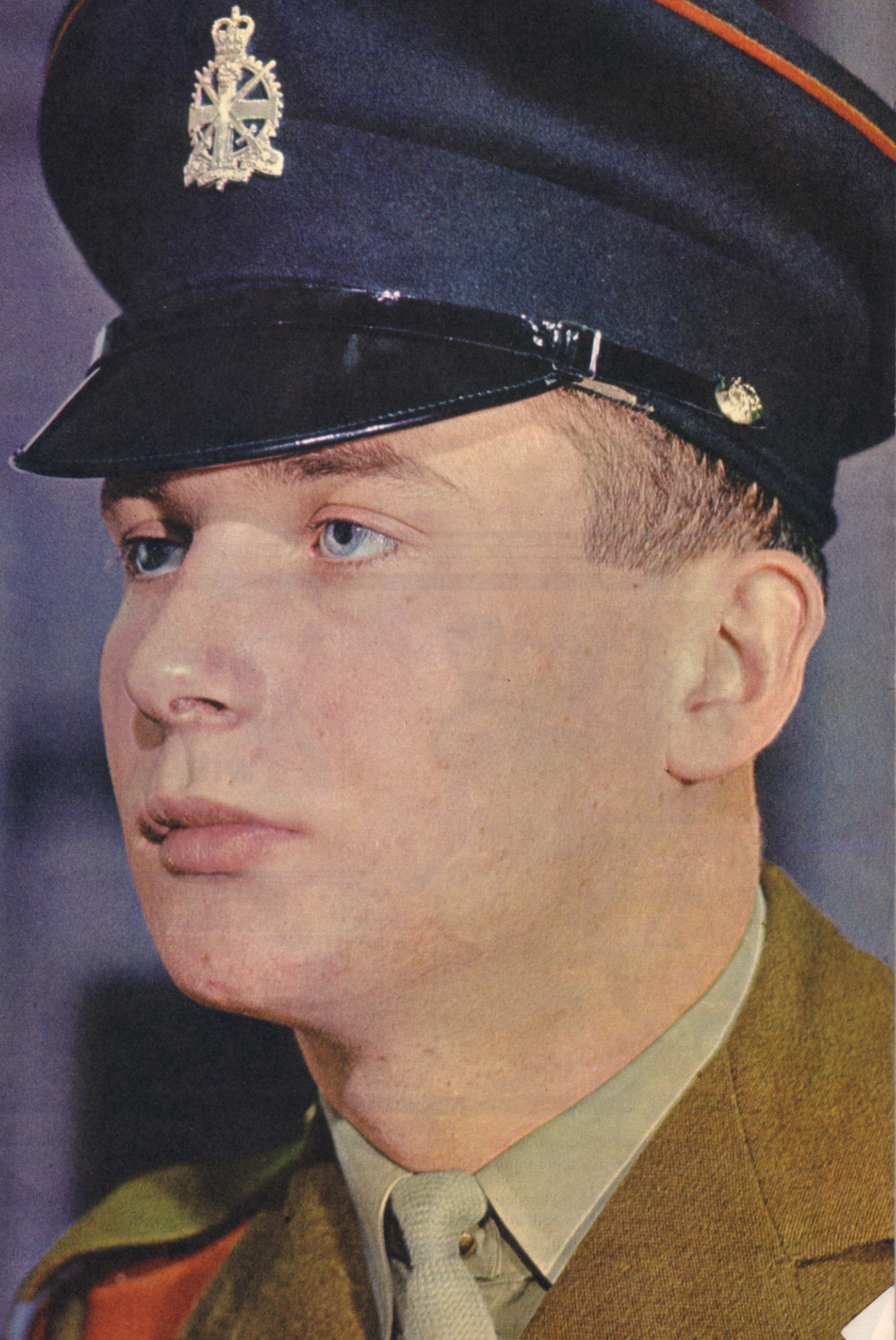


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SOLDIER



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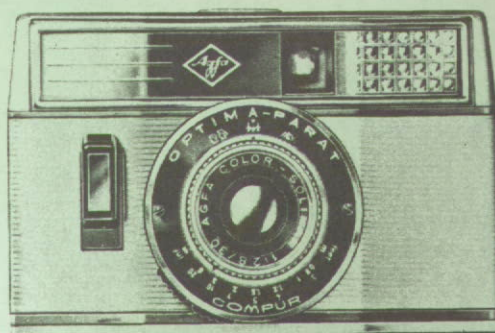
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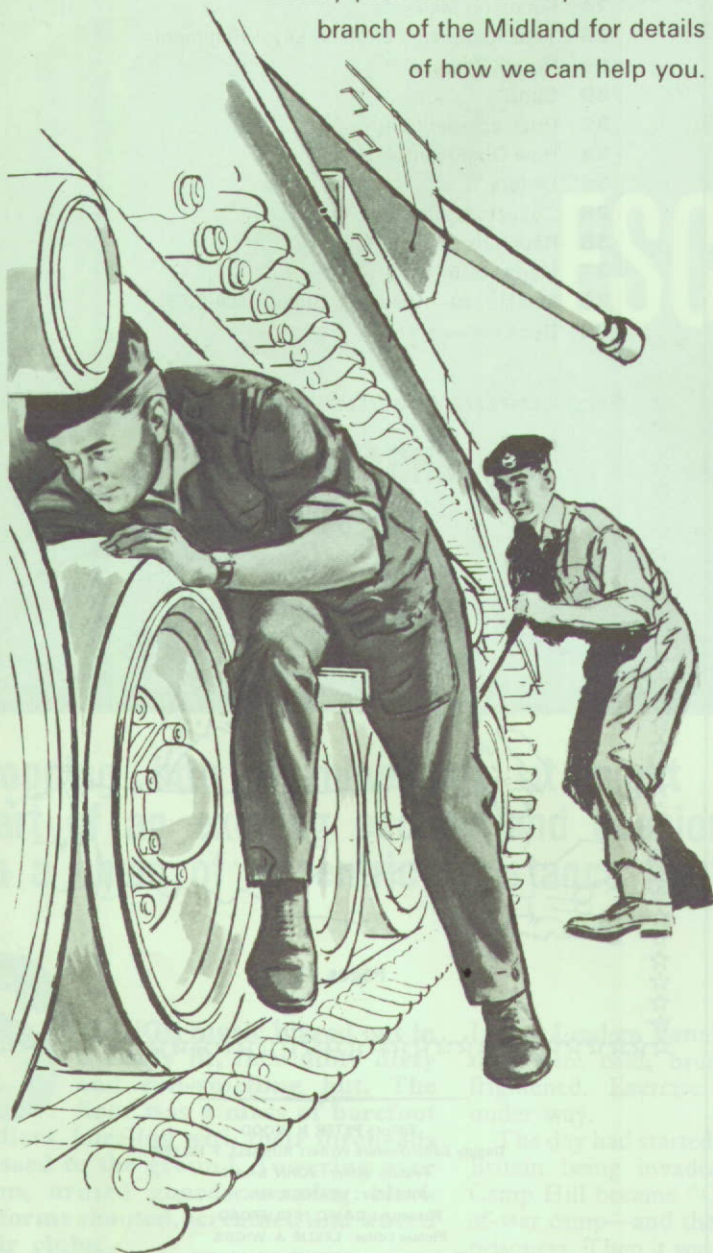
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SOLDIER

MARCH 1965

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by LARRY



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ESCAPE

Dropping into a mineshaft at night on a lonely hillside in Wales is the start of an exciting escape and evasion exercise which leads young soldiers, via a chain of eccentric resistance fighters, on an 80-mile trek to "freedom"

STRANGE music blared out in a dimly lit, incredibly dirty and evil-smelling hut. The floor was a mass of barefoot soldiers, kneeling with their foreheads pressed to the ground. Towering over them, armed guards wearing black uniforms shouted, screamed and waved their clubs.

One by one the soldiers were kicked on all fours into another room where they were stripped and searched. Under the dim red lights the oddly dressed interrogators—one chewing a black cigar—shouted and spat into their faces.

Made to bundle their clothes, the captives were shoved into yet another room where they dressed and were again forced to kneel and wait . . . for the unknown.

A few hours earlier it had all been a bit of a giggle for the older lads of the Infantry

Junior Leaders Battalion, Oswestry. Now they were cold, bruised and a little bit frightened. Exercise Pipeline was really under way.

The day had started with a briefing about Britain being invaded; their barracks at Camp Hill became "Camp Hell" prisoner-of-war camp—and they themselves became prisoners. Then it was amusing; now it was far from funny.

When they had all been stripped and searched, their cap comforters were pulled down over their faces and they were bundled into a lorry and driven out of "Camp Hell." In the next four days they were going to need every ounce of endurance, courage and confidence to complete the 80-mile trek through "enemy country" to the Welsh coast.

Pipeline is the final test for Infantry junior leaders before they leave the Bat-

talion and join their chosen regiments. And it is probably one of the most convincing escape and evasion exercises ever dreamed up by the Army.

With the smiles wiped off every face, the young soldiers were driven out in the pitch dark, stopping in a field apparently miles from civilisation. Still closely guarded by the snarling "enemy" soldiers, they were marched up a steep hill, led into a barbed wire compound and forced to squat in complete silence.

After nearly an hour of sitting motionless in the bitterly cold night air, a voice roared: "Right, comrade, first prisoner for interrogation."

The first junior leader was dragged to his feet and led away into the night. Stumbling over the turf he was taken to a tent where a "friendly" interrogator greeted him and tried to wheedle information.

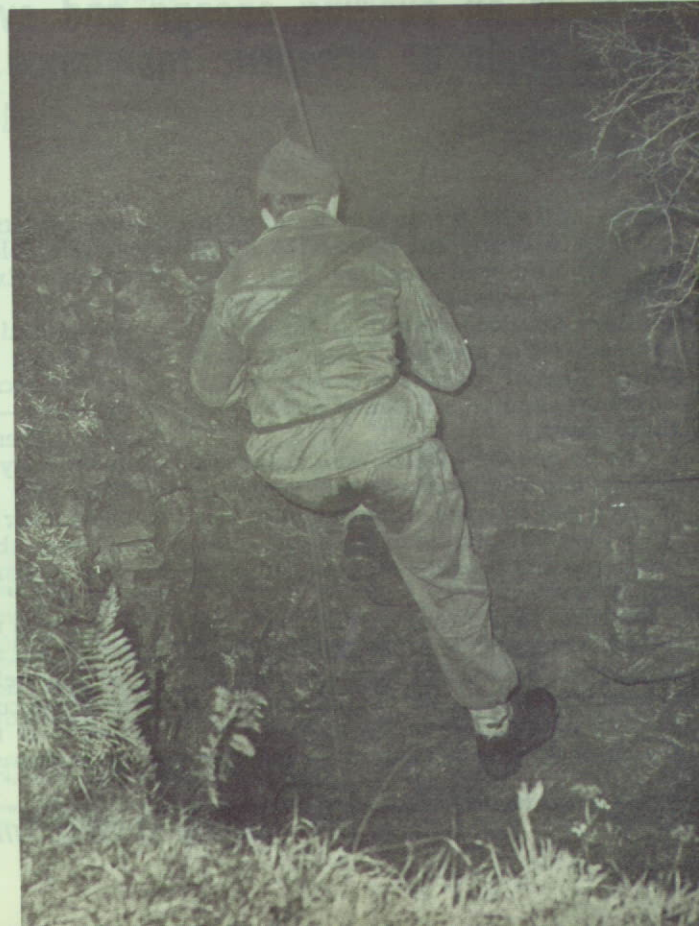


Left: Standing guard over the prisoner is a member of the feared 2nd (Tiger Bay Deaths Head) company of the enemy security police.

Right: By the light of a flickering candle, Willie the Plate shows enemy positions to the escapers before they leave on the next leg.

Below, left: The moment of escape at night as a friendly agent leads the Junior Leader away from the interrogation tent on a remote hill.

Below: Down an inky-black mineshaft one of the escapers *abseils* into the unknown . . .



Overleaf: Alone in the night an escaper jogs off along a disused railway track.



Above: On bicycles borrowed from a friendly agent, three escapers struggle up a hillside track with instructions that the "vicar" (instructor Lieutenant Tony Amos, below) will give them further help. Bottom: A lead mine where the soldiers were given food and shelter for a few hours.

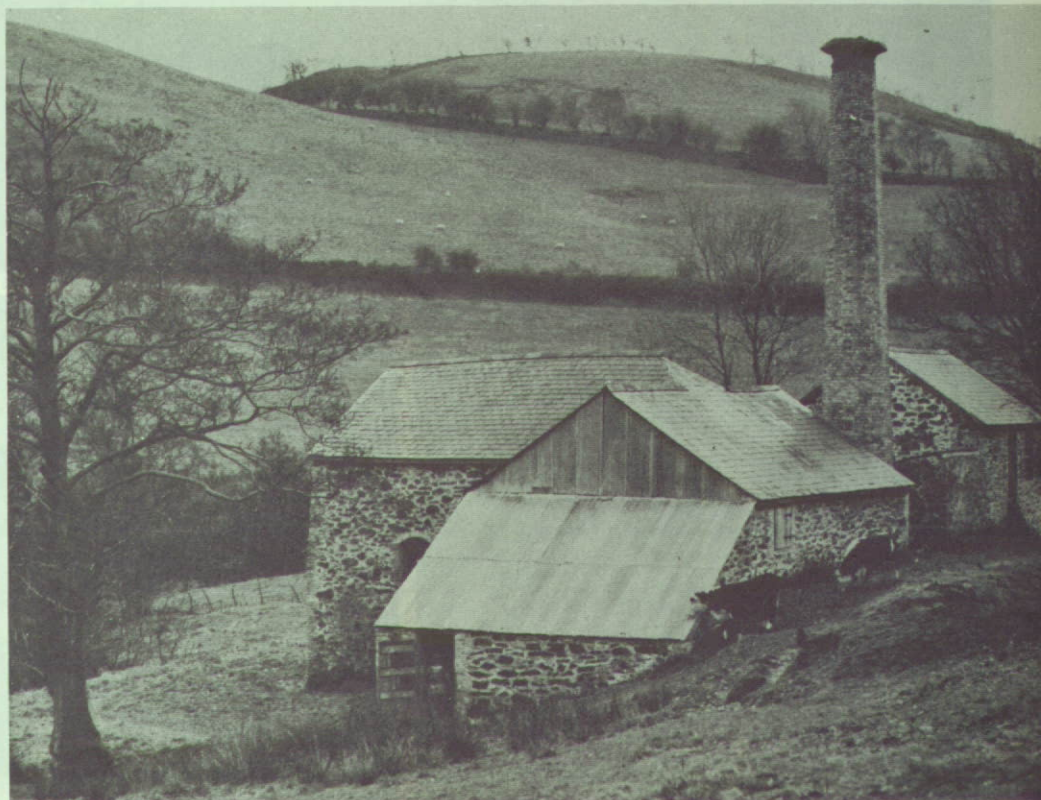


After a few questions the interrogator was urgently called away; during the seconds the junior soldier was left alone, the tent flap opened and a hoarse voice whispered: "Psst . . . follow me." Out like a shot after the shadowy figure, the first "prisoner" was in the escape pipeline. The night was criss-crossed with flashing torch beams and terrifying roars of "Escape! Escape! Get the dogs after him!" as, doubling after the "agent," the escaper arrived at a mineshaft—an inky black hole in the ground.

"Quick, quick," said the agent, "throw your kit down the mineshaft." Down it went, and the space of time before it landed seemed like an eternity. "Get these ropes round you, *abseil* down, follow the candles to the entrance of the cave and you will find a miner; he will help you," the agent whispered.

"But you must be quick. If the guards come this way I will have to let the rope go." With these words of comfort ringing in his ears, the escaper dropped into the slippery mineshaft.

Thirty feet down he landed with relief and groped around for his equipment. Then, squeezing through a crack in the



ESCAPE *concluded*

rock, he followed candles to the mouth of the cave where a pipe-smoking "miner" sat by a flickering candle.

With the help of a crude map drawn on a grubby scrap of paper the miner explained to the escaper where he should go and pointed out the general direction.

Off he stumbled, panting and sweating. Now he was alone, completely alone, in the dark without a light of any sort, map or compass. His only hope was to remember the miner's instructions. Over the fields he plodded, looking for the railway line and the platelayers' hut where "Willie the Plate"—another friendly agent—would help him.

Meanwhile other escapers were plunging down the mineshaft at regular intervals and in turn finding themselves alone in the night in search of Willie the Plate.

One by one they arrived at the hut after fumbling along the railway track, the sound of voices or a flash of light as the door opened leading them to their contact.

Sitting by a roaring fire, Willie the Plate briefed the soldiers in twos and threes, gave them each a map, candle, box of matches and details of "enemy positions." Speaking in a broad Welsh accent he

showed them a photograph of a lead mine and told them they would get help there.

Then he sent them off into the night, but at least this time with some company. By dawn they began arriving at the lead mine for a none-too-sumptuous breakfast and a few hours' rest.

From the mine they moved on in patrols of four or five junior leaders. First leg was on rickety old bicycles, then a long daylight trek across the mountains led them to the "vicarage" where "Father Amos," looking very pious in cassock and beret, gave them shelter until nightfall.

After midnight, boatmen led patrols down to a nearby lake where the fugitives stripped off their boots and socks, waded out to a boat (usually in below freezing temperatures) and rowed across the lake, setting off on the other side again with only verbal instructions.

The degree of credibility achieved by the instructors who run the exercise is fantastic. From the time they leave barracks until their return four days later, the junior leaders do not come into contact with any outsiders.

They are warned to keep clear of roads because of enemy patrols and are passed

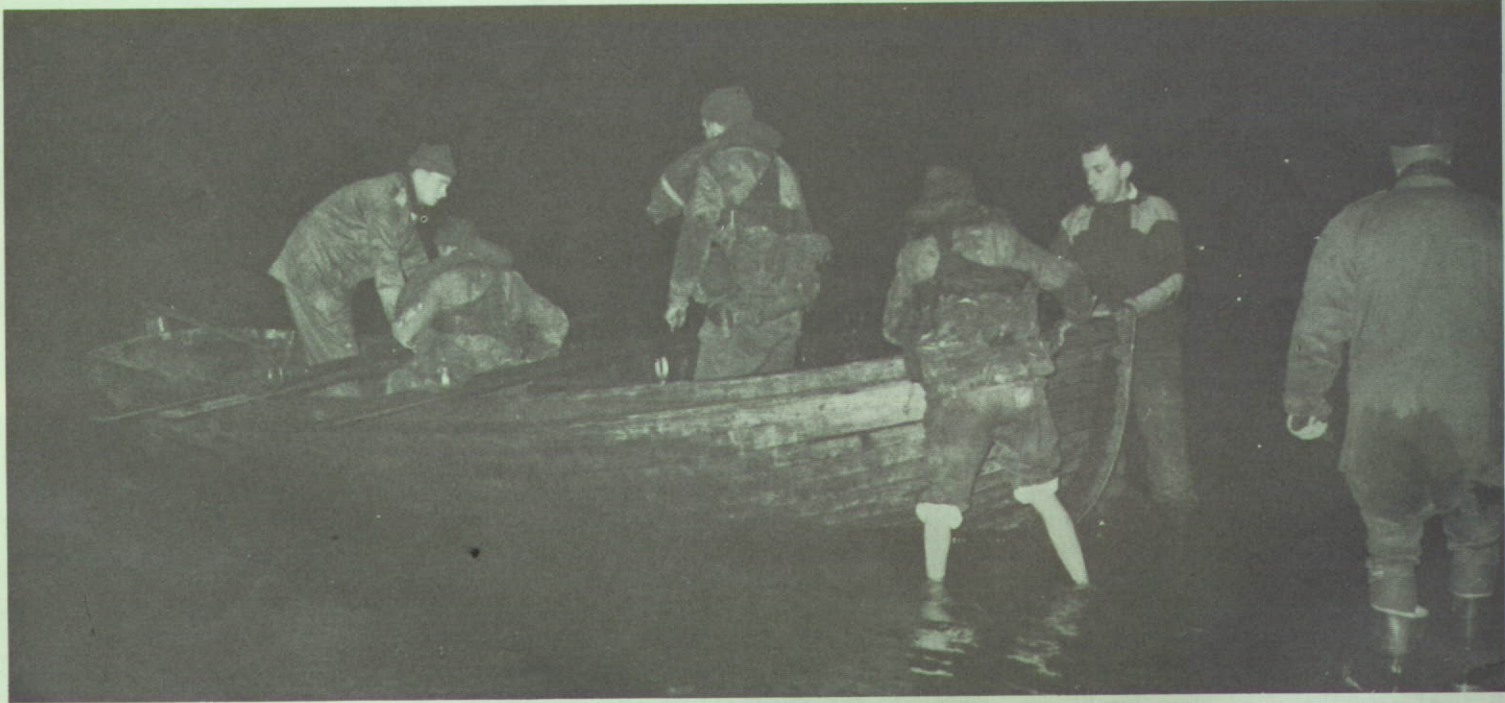
from "agent" to "agent"—all instructors dressed and convincingly acting the part. After the roughing-up at the barracks, the escape from the hillside compound and the drop down the mineshaft, it becomes all too believable for the young soldiers.

From the lake crossing they move over the hills until they arrive at a disused railway station where the "stationmaster" hides them and gives them food—an unplucked chicken and a rabbit for each patrol, which becomes a delicious meal for some and a culinary fiasco for others.

They rest until nightfall and then set off again along the railway track, lay charges on a bridge and fight off an ambush before arriving at a barn where the "jockey"—a giant of a man—pounces on them as they open the door.

The next stage involves rock climbing—routine for the average junior leader—and ends at a farm overlooking the sea, the first indication the lads get that their journey must be nearly ended.

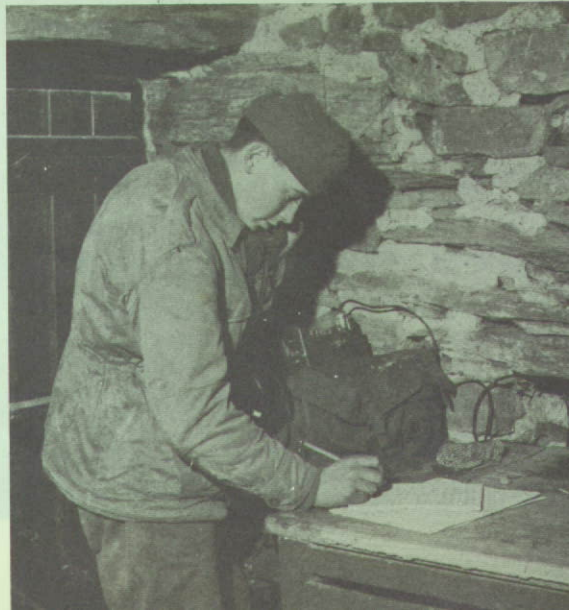
From the farm they radio in code to a ship at sea which will carry them off "to join the Army massing in Northern Ireland to liberate Britain." It is the end of the pipeline.



Above: At midnight, in below freezing temperatures, escapers waded out to a boat which is to carry them across a lake.



Left: Their escape is nearly complete as a junior leader radios in code to a ship at sea waiting to take them to "freedom".



Far left: The eagerly awaited lunch is an unplucked chicken—it gets a mixed reception from hungry and tired young soldiers.

SOLDIER

is 20 years old

TWENTY years ago, on 19 March 1945, **SOLDIER** made its debut as the magazine of the British Liberation Army. The end of the war in Europe was only two months away—to be featured in issue Number 5—and soon issue Number 13 was to record the defeat of Japan.

SOLDIER, like many other Army-sponsored newspapers and magazines, especially overseas, had been launched in war—rolling from the presses of a Brussels printing works to be rushed to men of the British Liberation Army, then preparing to assault the Rhine. Unlike the others, **SOLDIER** was to be the only magazine, in peace or war, to be produced officially for the British Army as a whole.

The war over, its existence was threatened but **SOLDIER** lived on to span two generations of soldiers and make its name in every country of the world.

It seems even more odd, in retrospect, that an Army magazine should not have appeared before 1945. **SOLDIER** was conceived in 1941-42, in the Western Desert, by the late Colonel S S J Fielding and Lieutenant-Colonel Youngman Carter, who were later to become the magazine's first and second editors. They prepared a dummy copy and "hawked" it around the War Office until finally official blessing was given.

Early issues (the first two were free) bore the tag "BLA Edition," for it was intended to print simultaneously in different theatres. But the end of the war and the rapid run-down changed this and instead the magazine's sale was extended to other commands and eventually to the public.

In the early years **SOLDIER** was sponsored by Army Welfare and while its general aim was to tell the Army about the Army, as it still does today, the magazine sought particularly to keep the soldier informed on release plans ("demob") then hung on every soldier's lips) and prospects in civilian life.

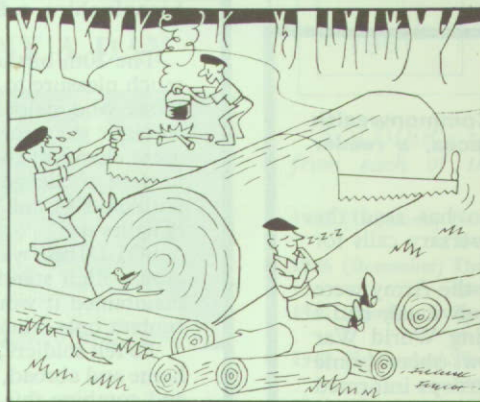
SOLDIER expounded, too, many other official announcements which were of direct interest to the troops, but the cynics who thought the magazine would be just another form of official instruction were mistaken. **SOLDIER**'s sales boomed and it rapidly established the unique personal relationship with its readers which today is still as zealously cherished.

At first each issue was the subject of a high-level "post-mortem" at which Welfare might ask Education whether a joke was in good taste. But after a short while

SOLDIER was given a very free rein and it has continued to enjoy the confidence of both reader and officialdom. No one has ever sat at the Editor's elbow; in fact he is less liable to influence or direction than are many newspaper or magazine editors from their proprietors.

SOLDIER's unique relationship to the Army and its soldiers is perhaps best illustrated in its letters service. On the one hand the soldier is free to express himself or ask a knotty question; on the other, every branch of the Army appreciates the value of this service and gives unstinting help, when sought, in providing the right answer.

Only a few letters—those of general interest—are published; the others are answered privately and often involve considerable research. For if there is an answer, **SOLDIER** will find it. It is not the magazine's job to provide answers which ought properly to be tracked down in the orderly room, but frequently unusual personal cases turn up which **SOLDIER**'s



This issue is also a special "birthday" for Frank Finch, **SOLDIER**'s Art Editor and the longest-serving member of the staff which he joined only a few weeks after the magazine was launched. On page 32 is the hundredth "How Observant Are You?", a feature which has a fascination for every reader, young or old, lowly or high-ranking. Frank Finch borrowed the idea from "Le Bled," the French Army newspaper in Algeria, and **SOLDIER**'s version has been copied by foreign military magazines and by the British Press.

letters expert pursues through Army branches. The file grows surprisingly fat, but at the end there is usually all-round satisfaction.

Letters come from soldiers and civilians

the world over, for the world is **SOLDIER**'s parish. Troops of the Commonwealth nations are as keen to know what is happening in the British Army, on which their own armies are modelled, as the British soldier himself. Canadians, Australians, Americans, New Zealanders, South Africans, Nigerians, Ghanians, Danes, Norwegians, Belgians, French, Dutch, Germans, Indians . . . they and many more are all regular readers and full of praise for a magazine which has few counterparts.

Then there are the civilians with an interest in all things military—collectors, historians, model soldier enthusiasts and war-gamers . . . And at home the British Legion, Army Cadet Force and Combined Cadet Force, Junior Army Associates, Territorial Army and Army Emergency Reserve. At home and overseas there are readers in the Women's Services, the Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Royal Air Force.

And everywhere the magazine pops up in likely and unlikely places—on book-stalls, in barber's shops, in Moscow's Central Library, in trains and ships, in Peking . . .

Down the years, too, **SOLDIER** has been the subject of questions in Parliament and made headlines in the national Press (on one occasion when a South Coast library banned the magazine because it objected to the pin-up). And it is proud of the times when, although a monthly magazine, it has "scooped" the world.

SOLDIER was first to tell the story of World War Two frogmen, to reveal the details of Operation Sea Lion (Hitler's plan for invading Britain) and to retrace the North-West Europe campaign from the Normandy beaches to Luneburg Heath.

More recently a **SOLDIER** team became the first journalists to walk up into the Himalayan foothills with a Gurkha going on leave; another team interviewed the Sultan of Muscat and Oman. As this issue goes to press a **SOLDIER** team is off again to break more new ground, in Swaziland.

Over the past 20 years the Army has pulled out from many overseas countries, but new commitments and new training areas take their place. Wherever the Army is stationed, **SOLDIER** will be there to tell the world what a fine job the British soldier is doing.

For **SOLDIER** needs no convincing that the British Army is an incomparably fine institution and that the men who serve in it are the world's best.

What they say—

Secretary of State for Defence (the Rt Hon Denis Healey, MBE MP):

This year marks the 20th anniversary of **SOLDIER** Magazine. Twenty years is a long time on any reckoning and it has brought great changes both in the disposition of world power and in the field of scientific development. We have seen new nations emerge; we have seen the older nations regrouped in new alliances; we have lived in the shadow of nuclear power with its menace—and its promise for the future.

Through it all the British Army has stood firm, quietly and competently meeting its new responsibilities. Many of you will read this in Germany or the UK; many more will be serving in Malaysia and Aden and other parts of the world that have long had a place in our military history.

Your traditional duties may have changed for, where once the Army garrisoned the frontiers of Empire, it now stands to in the joint defence of the new nations of the Commonwealth. But wherever you are, and whatever job you are doing, you are all sharing in the defence of the Western world—helping to stabilise unrest and helping to strengthen the Western alliance.

When this magazine was first published we had just won through the greatest war of modern times. Now, in 1965, we can look back on 20 troubled years to find that in keeping the peace the British Army has added fresh lustre to its already proud name.

Thank you for your help and good luck to you all.

Lieutenant (NM) W Wilson, RAMC, 16 Commonwealth Field Ambulance, Terendak Camp, Malacca, a reader since **SOLDIER's inception:**

SOLDIER is 20 years old! As one who has read the magazine since its inception I feel this anniversary calls for an appreciation.

Before 1939 the only magazines solely for the Army were corps and regimental publications and these obviously had a strictly limited circulation and appeal. During World War Two almost every theatre had its own news-sheet (some were quite elaborate efforts) which kept the troops informed on world news and local items of interest. I well remember the *Orkney Blast*, *Jambo* and the SEAC newspaper.

As things began to run down in 1945 these news-sheets began to disappear and many people wondered if there would be a magazine for the soldier in peacetime.

Then **SOLDIER** appeared to fill the need. In its 20 years it has steadily progressed and improved. It circulates in the British Army and in almost every country in the world.

As the Army's magazine it has well served its purpose in keeping the soldier informed of what is going on around him and of what is new in the way of equipment, weapons, vehicles, etc. Reports from various theatres serve to keep him in touch with current events. And **SOLDIER**'s articles, written for the soldier, have a different viewpoint to that of the national Press, so providing a valuable comparison.

As an ordinary reader I think **SOLDIER** is a most valuable magazine. Current affairs are adequately covered and the articles on individual regiments serve to remind soldiers and civilians of the glorious traditions which have been built up and which are still being added to today.

I wish **SOLDIER** continued success—it has a definite place in the Army of today and tomorrow.

Chief of the Defence Staff (Field-Marshal Sir Richard Hull GCB DSO ADC BA):

I have read **SOLDIER** since its emergence in 1945 as the successor to a splendid family of wartime magazines. Like them, **SOLDIER** was the product of soldier-journalists many of whom were or have become household names.

From its first copy to its 20th birthday this month, **SOLDIER** has maintained the high professional standards set in its early days in Brussels and Hamburg as the magazine of the British Liberation Army. It was soon to spread its wings and become available to the Army all over the world and later to be put on sale to the public.

Today, as it celebrates its 20th birthday, **SOLDIER** is still basically the British Army's house magazine, but it is read with equal interest by Servicemen and civilians of almost every country in the world. Particularly is the magazine popular in Commonwealth nations where it reflects the activities of an Army which has been the model of their own armies.

At home and overseas, too, it has many readers in the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines and the Royal Air Force and I hope **SOLDIER** will continue to play this part in bringing our Services closer together.

I wish **SOLDIER** a happy birthday and continued success.

B Griffin, Church Lane, Mareham-le-Fen, Boston, Lincolnshire, a **SOLDIER reader since 1945:**

The 20th birthday of **SOLDIER** is an event which brings much pleasure to many people—as much to the readers as to those who helped to found the magazine and produce it through the years. Twenty years could not pass without great changes; the old and familiar have gone, the new and untried challenge us, and it is a tribute to the enthusiasm, faith and vision of its staff that this lively magazine still delights us.

SOLDIER was never amateurish. From the beginning a very high standard of quality and taste was set. To have maintained it would have been sufficient, but **SOLDIER** is content only when that which is good is made even better.

To tell soldiers, ex-soldiers and civilians about the Army at home and abroad, in the past and future as well as the present, and combine this with the ingredients of a family magazine, was an ambitious and worthy concept.

The danger was that **SOLDIER** would be dull, stuffy, even officious. It has instead created a bond of goodwill with its readers which many publications have sought, but few have achieved.

SOLDIER succeeds in providing something for everyone in a happy blend of interest and pleasure. It brings home to the public, in articles that are always absorbing, often unusual, how the Army lives and works. In the regimental histories and vivid accounts of past battles **SOLDIER** has brought history to life and illustrated it with superb reproductions of old prints and specially commissioned paintings.

The sports coverage, the excellent book reviews, photography of remarkable quality, interest and uniqueness, and wonderful humour—all these contribute to the magazine's success. The introduction of the Easibinder last year was no speculation—"they" know that we want to keep **SOLDIER**!

Congratulations, then, on your 20th birthday. You have travelled a long road. You have fulfilled the hopes and dreams of your creators. You have given pleasure to so many in the past. May you long continue to do so in the future.

Front Cover



As **SOLDIER** looks back on its 20 years, the youngster on this month's front cover looks forward to the Army of tomorrow in which he will be a fully-fledged soldier.

He is 19-year-old Apprentice Tradesman Squadron Sergeant-Major C A Arundel, of Penney Squadron, Army Apprentices School, Harrogate. He has already served a year of his nine-year engagement and in August will leave Harrogate to join a Royal Signals regiment.

His father is Company Sergeant-Major A Arundel, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.



Wherever the Army is, at home or overseas, you'll find a soldier reading **SOLDIER**! Here, Cadet Lance-Corporal G Percival relaxes after an exercise.

FOR LESS THAN A PENNY A DAY

ONE hand behind his back, Major-General D A B Clarke leaned slightly forwards and nonchalantly pressed a button (right) at the Royal Army Pay Corps Computer Centre, Worthy Down, near Winchester. Within minutes, nearly 30,000 Regular soldiers had had 24 shillings each docked from their pay.

But this was no compulsory stoppage. They were paying their annual contribution, with the help of the computer, to the Soldiers' Widows Fund which has now been in existence for



Corporation which has also guaranteed exceptional losses up to £5000 in each of the second and third years of the Fund's operation.

Its purpose is to provide a sum of money for the immediate needs of the widows and dependent children of subscribers who die from any cause while serving on a Regular Army engagement. The money, at present limited to £350, is paid to the widow or guardian with the minimum of delay and formality.

Nor are there any complicated conditions of entry. Initial and subsequent annual contributions—less than a penny a day—are arranged by Regimental Paymasters.

All the soldier has to do—and no married soldier can afford to ignore the Fund—is apply to his orderly room to join. It is as simple as that!

Managing trustees of the Soldiers' Widows Fund are Major-General D A B Clarke (Director of Personal Services), Major-General N V Watson (Managing Director, Army Kinema Corporation), Major-General R D Coate (Paymaster-in-Chief) and Major R M Caton (Secretary of the Fund).

just 12 months and which has already paid out £350 each to the widows of 16 soldier-members who died during the year.

The Fund was established through the generous gift of £15,000 by the Army Kinema

Back Cover

1945	1946	1947	1948
1949	1950	1951	1952
1953	1954	1955	1956
1957	1958	1959	1960
1961	1962	1963	1964

SOLDIER's back cover this month illustrates a front cover from each of the magazine's 20 years. This is the key:

- 1945 (19 March) No 1 issue, with a message from Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery, C-in-C 21 Army Group.
- 1946 (December) The brigadier in trouble—Christmas scene painted by freelance artist Eric Earnshaw.
- 1947 (April) Spring cover by Signalman A F Wiles, a regular contributor to **SOLDIER** and **Punch**.
- 1948 (September) The coveted Sword of Honour of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.
- 1949 (March) Another Eric Earnshaw painting supporting an article on Army football.
- 1950 (May) Historical cover—Print of an officer of the 17th Lancers, circa 1850.
- 1951 (January) Pageantry—Drum-Major L Burlton, 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders.
- 1952 (March) The Queen, who acceded to the Throne on 6 February 1952.
- 1953 (June) Cover of the special Coronation issue.
- 1954 (October) Jungle scene painted by freelance Gordon Horner.
- 1955 (June) Trooping the Colour—water-colour commissioned by **SOLDIER**.
- 1956 (January) The Victoria Cross, instituted in January 1856.
- 1957 (April) The flags of NATO's 15 nations.
- 1958 (September) Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery, who retired from the Army in September 1958.
- 1959 (June) Arab soldier of the Aden Protectorate Levies' ceremonial Camel Troop.
- 1960 (August) Missile age—*Thunderbird* roars away from its test launching pad.
- 1961 (November) Regimental mascot cartoon by freelance Gordon Stowell.
- 1962 (September) Army *Enterprise* dinghies at Kai Tak, Hong Kong.
- 1963 (February) Army v London ABA—Sergeant Charles Garrigan (right) boxes Steve Hiser.
- 1964 (February) Scene from the film "Zulu" with Stanley Baker and Michael Caine.

REVIVAL of a REGIMENT

THIS month the formation of a unique Sapper regiment directly descended from the death-or-glory assault engineers of World War Two will be completed.

It is not so much a new regiment, but a revival of an old. And although nearly ten years have passed since 32 Assault Engineer Regiment existed, its name still smacks of the glamour of wartime days, despite subtly signifying a different approach by changing one word in its title.

Stationed at Hohne in Germany, the new 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment is the only unit of its kind in the British Army. Now fully equipped with *Centurion* tanks, the Regiment has the highly specialised and spectacular role of keeping the fighting tanks moving by fast bridge or track laying, clearing obstacles or mines, bulldozing paths, emergency demolitions and countless other tasks.

The *Centurion*-based equipment includes bridgelayers and AVREs (Armoured Vehicle Royal Engineers) equipped with a demolition gun, dozer blade and fascine carrier. The new *Centurion Ark* will soon arrive.

Assault engineers first gained their reputation in World War Two when it became obvious that tanks were needed to punch their way through or over obstacles. An assault engineer brigade was formed and was used extensively in Italy and Sicily, on D-Day and during the advance through the Normandy *bocage* country into Germany.

Often the assault engineers with their bridgelayers, flail tanks, AVREs and other special purpose tanks moved ahead clearing a path for the advancing army.

After the war they were reduced to one regiment—32 Assault Engineer Regiment—which was subsequently cut down to 26 Armoured Engineer Squadron and moved out to Germany.

It is this squadron that is forming the backbone of the new Regiment. Until recently it was the only unit in the Army still using *Churchill* tanks—a fact that created terrific maintenance problems. It meant keeping within the unit every single spare part down to the smallest nut and bolt.

The Squadron still has to organise a large amount of its own maintenance and in fact it was not until it was re-equipped with *Centurions* that it began to come into the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers field—the last armoured unit to do so.

As the only armoured engineer squadron supporting the whole of Rhine Army for many years the Sappers were kept very busy in their tanks the whole year round.



Fascines are nothing more than bundles of sticks and hollow metal tubes girdled by metal hawsers. These three pictures clearly show how this simple gadget can get a tank across a ditch that would otherwise have blocked its path. The fascine is released from inside the tank (top picture) and can be picked up and used again and again if required.



Staff-Sergeant John Bacon is serving his second tour with the armoured engineers.

Story by
RUSSELL MILLER

Pictures by
FRANK TOMPSETT



The Centurion Bridgelayers (left) is an impressive sight in action. Only one man is required to lower the bridge and pick it up after use. The stubby gun on the AVRE (above) is used for fast demolition and is accurate up to about 1000 yards.

German villages. AVREs are equipped with a 165mm gun which can accurately hurl 30lb of explosive 1000 yards to blow obstacles out of the way. Often during the war the spectacular success of the gun prompted Sappers into trying their hands as storm troops, but now the emphasis is more and more on support rather than assault.

In the event of a nuclear attack, for instance, the armoured engineers with their constant built-in protection would provide a survival engineer element to work in nuclear, biologically or chemically contaminated areas.

When the decision was taken to revive the old Regiment, one of the oldest units in the Royal Engineers converted straight from a field squadron to form 2 Armoured Engineer Squadron.

Each squadron of the new Regiment—at present there will be only two—will consist of three armoured troops, each comprising three AVREs and two bridgelayers, and an Ark troop.

The job of troop commander with the armoured engineers is reckoned by many to be one of the finest commands in the Army for a young officer. He works as a specialist with the Royal Armoured Corps and is usually quite independent.

Much extra training is involved for all raw recruits to the Regiment for they arrive trained in one Sapper trade and usually have to learn a completely new job before they can take their place. But they have the incentive of seeing lance-corporals commanding £80,000 tanks, an enviable and responsible job for a young soldier.

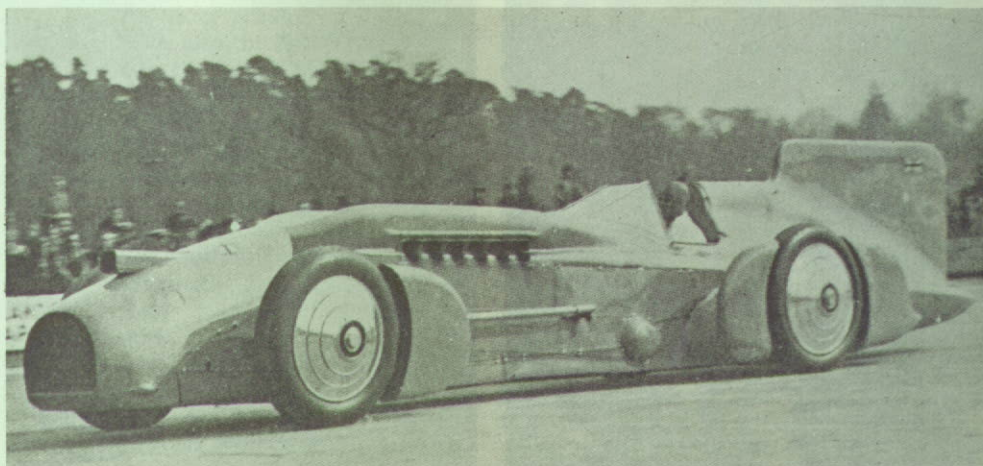
The Regiment still uses old half-tracks as fitters' vehicles; these and their 54-foot-long bridgelayers and AVREs present a formidable sight when negotiating tiny

It happened in MARCH

Date

11	Sir Malcolm Campbell, motor racing champion, born	1885
13	Battle of Stamford	1470
14	First trans-Atlantic broadcast	1925
16	The Long Parliament dissolved	1660
22	The Stamp Act came into force	1765

Year



Sir Malcolm Campbell at the wheel of Bluebird, his famous record-breaking car.

ON SHOW



BELOW

TWO Sappers quietly playing draughts were the star attraction of the International Boat Show in London this year—for they were lounging in a Perspex underwater house sunk in the Earls Court “harbour.”

It was an experiment in underwater living that drew thousands of curious spectators every day. And the men who volunteered to occupy the house during the ten-day show were all divers of the Royal Engineers.

Every day two Sappers spent 11½ hours in the “bubble” under the glare of arc lights and the eye of a closed circuit television camera. Their meals were packed in watertight containers and sent down to them.

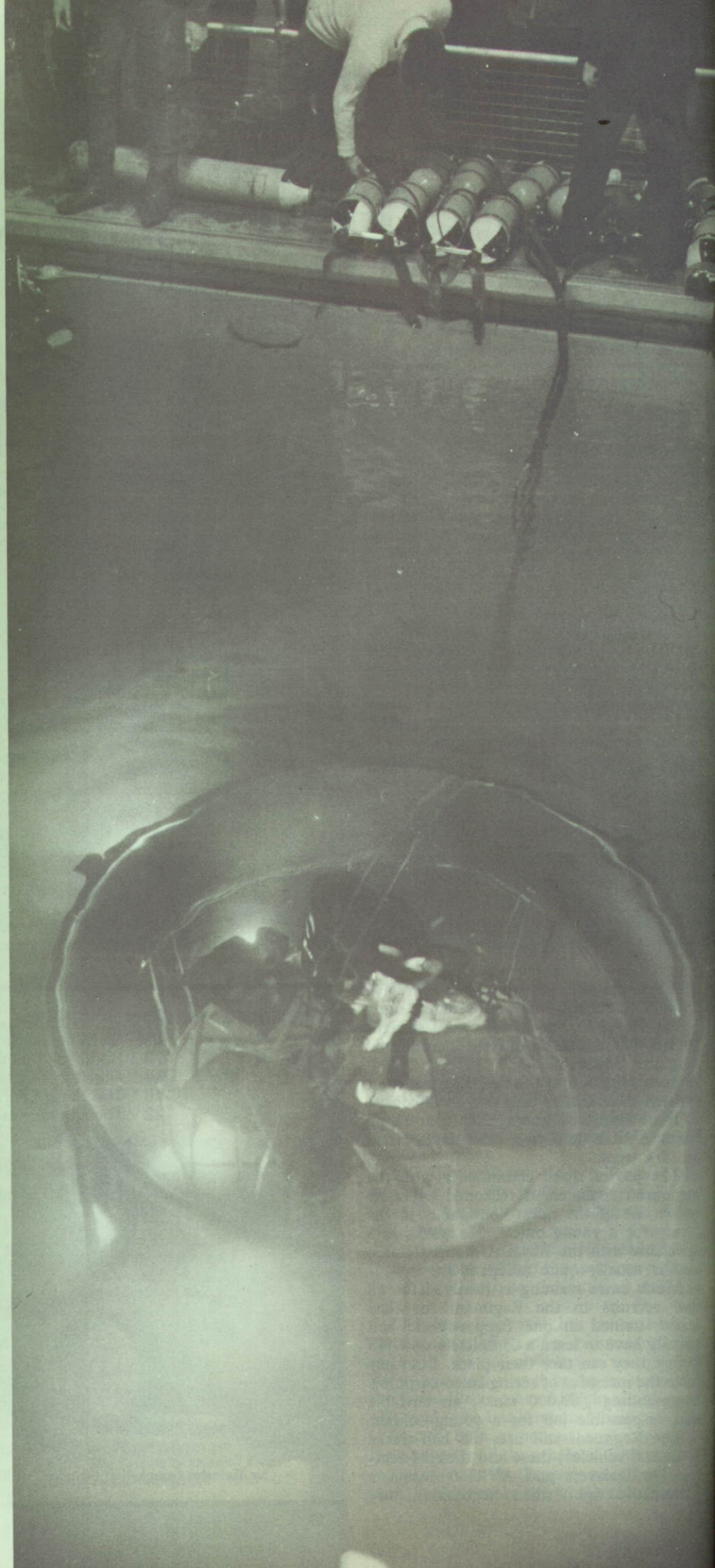
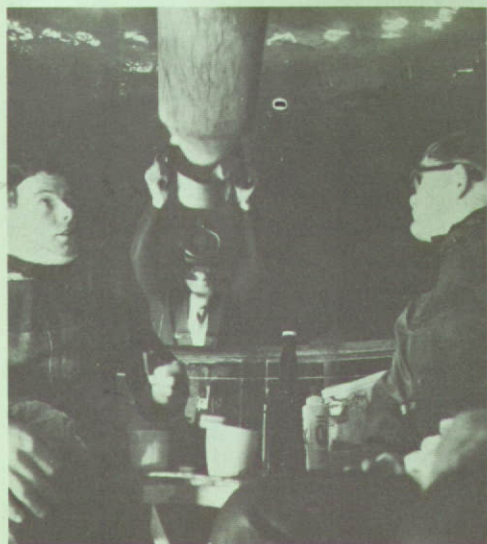
On one day Sapper Elwyn Jenkins spent the whole 11½ hours without breaking surface once during that time and claimed a British underwater living record.

Supplied with air from a bank of aqua-lungs at the edge of the harbour, the divers entered and left the house simply through a hole in the floor—the pumped air prevented it filling with water.

Inside they could strip off their breathing apparatus and make themselves comfortable, play cards or draughts and answer

Right: House under the water in the Earls Court “harbour.” One of the Sappers can be seen through the Perspex roof making himself comfortable.

Below: Inside the house, two of the divers have a mid-morning snack and watch a third pass over the roof behind a *Nautilus* underwater scooter.





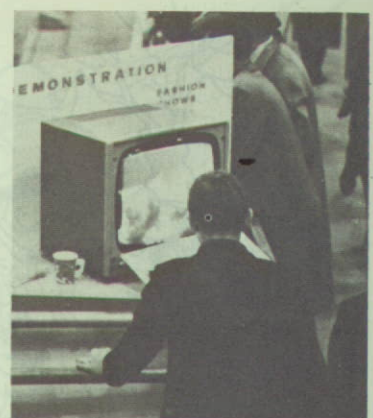
Corporal Mike Griffiths talks to a diver in the underwater house.



Sergeant Fred May checks the vital air supply to the men in the house.



A hot lunch wrapped in polythene is taken down by one of the divers.



Closed circuit television showed visitors what was happening below.

the interminable questions fired at them by spectators through a telephone link to the surface.

Through the Perspex roof they could see the rows of faces staring down at them and they could be seen from the surface. Easily recognised from below were Princess Margaret and her husband and Princess Alexandra. Princess Margaret asked several questions through the telephone link when Corporal Mike Griffiths was on duty below.

On another night the Sappers were told to return to the underwater house at midnight as the Boat Show was being secretly opened up for very important visitors.

Strict security arrangements were in force and the two men in the bubble waited expectantly, positive that such elaborate arrangements could only be for the Queen. Soon after midnight the VIPs arrived. The divers saw four tousled heads appear over the railings—the Beatles!

During the ten days more than 40 people actually visited the Sappers in their bubble, among them SOLDIER cameraman Frank Tompsett, diving with an aqualung for the first time.

For the first part of the Boat Show, an outside telephone was installed in the house



Right: SOLDIER cameraman Frank Tompsett (centre) gets a few tips from Captain Davy Jones (left) before visiting men in the underwater house.

Below: Plenty of time for a game of draughts for Lance-Corporal Pearson (left) and Sapper Jenkins during their day's duty underwater.



and one evening a newspaper telephoned from America to ask how the occupants were enjoying their underwater existence.

At regular intervals every day the Sappers left their bubble through the hole in the floor to give demonstrations with *Nautilus* underwater scooters and to pick up coins thrown into the harbour in aid of the St John Ambulance Brigade.

The idea of the experiment was born in the middle of last year and when Sappers at the Royal Engineers Diving School in Hampshire were asked if they would like to spend ten days sitting under water at Earls Court they enthusiastically agreed.

Building the bubble presented terrific technical difficulties and it arrived at Earls Court only six days before the show was due to open. Seven feet six inches in diameter and five feet high, it was designed to withstand pressures of up to six-and-a-half tons.

The seven divers worked in shifts—one complete day inside the bubble, one day on stand-by and one day off. Submerging at ten in the morning, they were very tired

men when they finally climbed out of the water at half-past-nine in the evening when the show closed, although one day was livened up when someone sent down a couple of bottles of champagne.

The experiment created several firsts—it was the first time people in Britain have been able to see life under water; it was the first Perspex structure of its type ever built and the first time British divers have been able to use such a house.

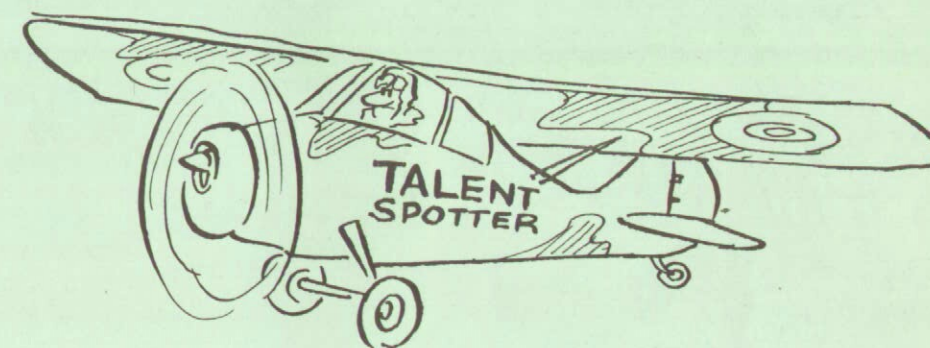
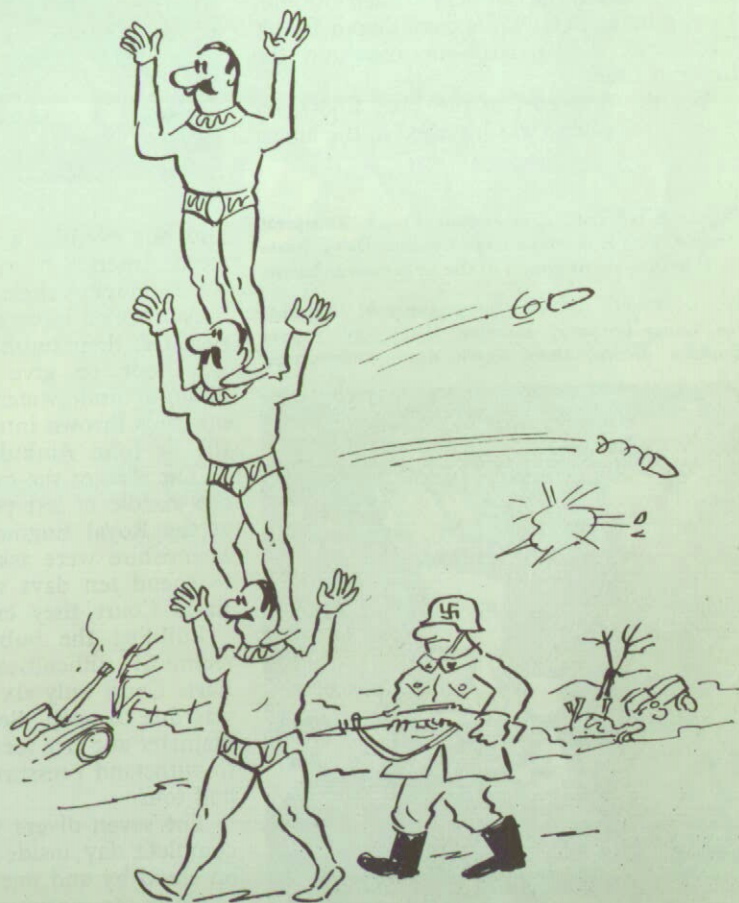
All the staff of the diving school took part and there was no break from work for them—they left London on a Sunday and started instructing a new course at the school the following day.

The divers were: Warrant Officer Jock Dineen, Staff-Sergeant John Wood, Corporal Griffiths, Corporal Bob McCann, Lance-Corporal John Pearson and Sapper Jenkins. Looking after the maintenance and air supply was Sergeant Fred May.

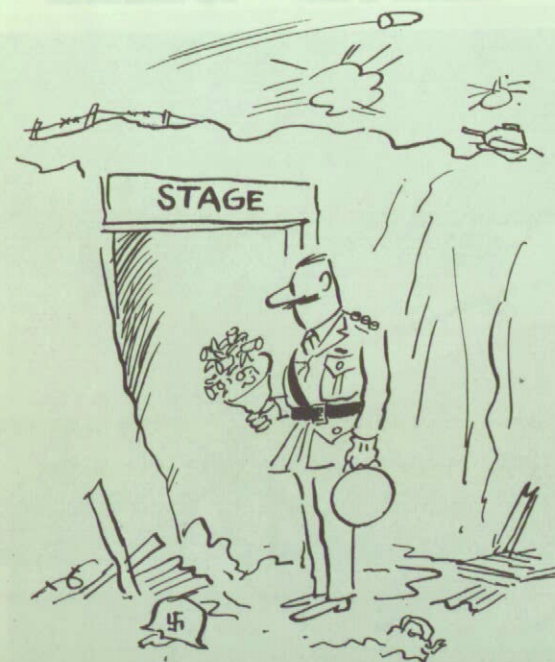
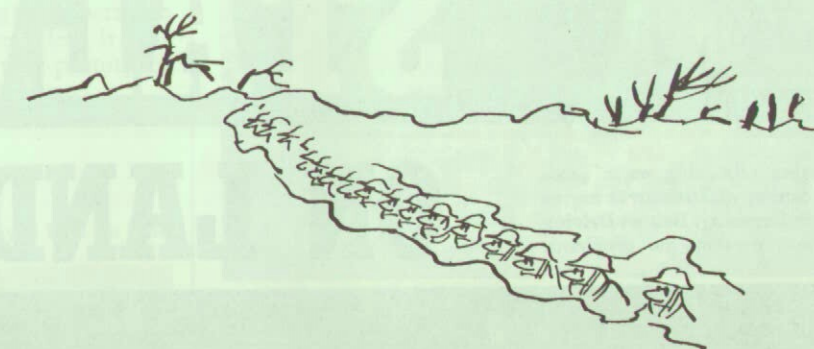
Seventh diver and leader of the team was the head of the diving school, a Royal Engineers captain with the thoroughly fitting name of—Davy Jones.



SHOWBIZ AT WAR



by **LARRY**





STALWART

ON LAND AND SEA

Above: Headlights glistening on a rain-soaked road, a convoy of *Stalwarts* moves out on exercise in Germany. Below: Driving up a sandy shore presents no problems.



EVEN IF *STALWART* WINS NO MARKS FOR BEAUTY, IT CERTAINLY SCORES FULL POINTS FOR ITS FANTASTIC HIGH-SPEED PERFORMANCE

AESTHETICALLY, an approaching *Stalwart* looks slightly ridiculous. It is vaguely reminiscent of a crab wearing a nappy. But in action on land and sea it is a formidable, awe-inspiring sight.

Across ditches, up muddy banks, down sheer slopes, through bogs, across beaches, into streams, through lakes, along rivers and up great boulders a *Stalwart* can go, effortlessly leaping and bouncing with little noise except the low, throaty gurgle of the exhaust.

It will plunge with confidence across country that would probably defeat all other known wheeled vehicles; it will dive into heavy seas, swim without fuss and climb out dripping like some hideously ugly prehistoric monster.

Now on issue to the Army, *Stalwart* is reckoned to be the finest high mobility cross-country load carrier in the world. Designed and manufactured in Britain by Alvis, it is one of the few completely new items of equipment to be introduced for many years which has been received with equal enthusiasm by all soldiers of all ranks from all Arms.

The good-tempered versatility of the new vehicle and its unique capabilities are now interesting armies of many other countries throughout the world.

Stalwart, of course, was given exhaustive trials before being accepted for the Army—and it came through with flying colours. Army drivers bashed trial *Stalwarts* back and forth across many different countries and even the most sceptical had to concede it was a winner.

The story of its development begins more than six years ago when the success of the well-tried *Saladin* armoured car and *Saracen* personnel carrier led to Alvis investigating the possibilities of extending the range with a load carrier.

In 1959 the first prototype was built by Alvis using the experience gained from the *Saladin* and *Saracen* fighting vehicles. It was received with cautious enthusiasm after trials. Further prototypes were built and the years of testing and modifying began.

Open hatches on top of the cab give *Stalwart* a pop-eyed look on land.



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In October 1963, the All Arms *Stalwart* User Trials were begun by the Equipment Trials Wing of the Royal Armoured Corps Centre at Bovington. Simultaneously, more sophisticated automotive trials were initiated at the Fighting Vehicle Research and Development Establishment.

These trials, including 180,000 road and cross-country miles and several hundred miles swimming, went on, sometimes day and night, in Britain and Germany for more than a year. All Arms were given the opportunity of trying out *Stalwart* and offering their opinions. A team was sent out to the Middle East to test the vehicle under hot weather conditions and *Stalwart* was in action with the Royal Army Service Corps during the Radfan operations in Arabia last year. Two were blown up on mines but no casualties were suffered by the crews.

A Royal Army Service Corps team drove to Copenhagen in *Stalwarts* to show them off to the Danes and created a stir by swimming across the harbour in front of the famous mermaid, soon after she had had her head replaced.

At the Equipment Trials Wing the reports were sifted, analysed and filed and the thousands of words that comprised the final report began to take shape. In November last year, *Stalwart* was officially accepted for the Army and some 450 vehicles have already been ordered.

One of the unusual sidelights of the new vehicle is that it has a particular appeal to every Arm. To the Royal Armoured Corps, who will be the major users of *Stalwart*, and for whom the vehicle was provisioned, it is particularly welcome as being capable of reaching and replenishing *Chieftain* tanks even in devastated areas impenetrable to ordinary lorries.

But in less glamorous roles it will be just as useful to the Infantry and the new Royal Corps of Transport when it comes into being in July. Its Sapper uses are obvious in an amphibious role; the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers can use it as a fitters' vehicle and are not too concerned about maintaining such a

A demonstration in Copenhagen harbour (above) caused quite a stir. Below: 11th Hussars practise swimming their *Stalwarts* in a German quarry pit.





The Stalwart is a 6x6 truck with a capacity of 10 tons. It is equipped with a 12-cylinder engine and a 4-speed gearbox. The vehicle is designed for off-road use and is capable of carrying heavy loads. It is a reliable and durable machine, suitable for a wide range of military and civilian applications. The Stalwart is a true workhorse, built to last and to perform in the most demanding environments.

STALWART



ALVIS OF COVENTRY ENGLAND

sophisticated newcomer; and the Royal Artillery have experimented with fitting a light crane and using *Stalwart* to replenish the *Abbot* self-propelled gun.

From the drivers who "cabbied" *Stalwarts* during trials in winter, there came only one consistent complaint—that it was bitterly cold work. With the engine mounted in the rear and no heater in the cab, he could not even close the hatches to try and keep warm as frozen condensation immediately covered the windows. Provision of a heater is now one of the modifications that will be included as a result of the trials.

Now it has been accepted, *Stalwart* is being introduced to all Arms of the Army on more familiar terms. To drivers it promotes no particular problems once they are used to the vehicle. The main difference is the driving position—which is mounted in the centre of the cab—and the non-slip differential which requires the vehicle to be driven the whole time.

Visibility on each side is more difficult than usual and requires much extra care at the beginning (when driving up a steep bank the driver completely loses sight of the ground and apparently heads for the sky). Power-assisted steering, too, requires some practice—while stationary the four driving wheels can be turned from lock to lock with one finger.

The driver's controls are conventionally positioned and, because of the rear-mounted engine, there are elaborate systems to warn of trouble, starting with flashing lights and ending with an ear-piercing siren that no one could ignore.

Unlike most other amphibious vehicles, *Stalwart* requires no preparation to take to the waves, other than to ensure that two bungs are in place (the officer who failed to do this and sank his country's only *Stalwart* shall remain nameless).

For choppy weather the driver can lower a splash board at the front (or bows, perhaps?) which keeps the water off the windscreen. Once afloat, he controls the *Stalwart* with two levers connected to steering vanes on the jet units which propel the vehicle up to five knots.

Should the marine jet units fail, the vehicle can still be propelled and steered to safety by the driving wheels. Approaching land, the driver has only to ensure that the wheels are pointing straight forward (an indicator in the cab tells him this), then drive up the bank and out of the water.

With a five-ton load, the *Stalwart* can follow a tank practically anywhere, and go a few more places besides. Quiet and fast, its advantages are obvious in re-supply. In fact, *Stalwart* can do practically everything but fly—and some drivers have almost made it do that, discovering in the process that landing can be pretty tricky!

The specification and performance figures of *Stalwart* are impressive. On land it has a maximum speed of a little more than 40 miles an hour and at sea it cruises at five knots.

It is capable of surmounting a gradient of 18 degrees (1 in 3) and crossing trenches up to five feet wide.

All six independently sprung wheels are both driving and braking and the front four are operated by the hydraulically-assisted steering.

The engine is the incomparable eight-cylinder Rolls

Royce B81 and the five-speed gearbox has full synchromesh. At sea *Stalwart* is propelled by two Dowty marine jet units mounted each side of the fully waterproofed hull. Two automatic bilge pumps are fitted, each with a capacity of 60 gallons a minute.

Even fully loaded with five tons of equipment, *Stalwart* still has a freeboard afloat of about 24 inches.

It is 8' 0" high, 20' 6" long, 8' 4" wide, weighs about eight tons and costs about £15,000.



Up a sharp incline on the RASC test track in Germany, a *Stalwart* displays its boat-shaped belly.

Cpl H Mudge RASC at the wheel of his *Stalwart*. The driving position is in the middle of the cab.

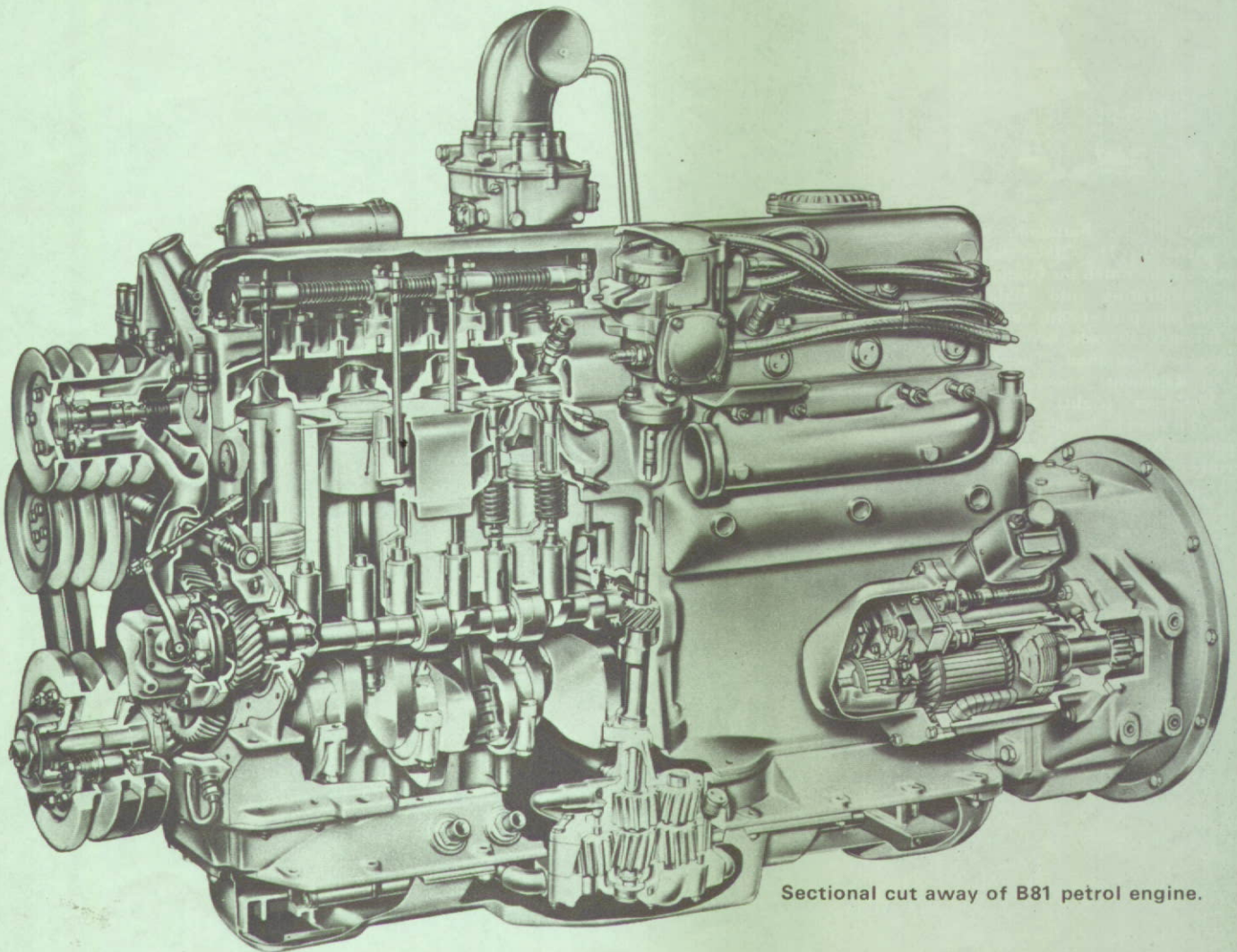


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Sectional cut away of B81 petrol engine.

FOCUS ON MALAYSIA

Largely surrounded by hate, Malaysia continues the non-stop struggle to protect her borders from incursions by trigger-happy terrorists. President Sukarno of neighbouring Indonesia has so far failed to meet the much-publicised deadlines by which he will have crushed the new-born Federation of Malaysia. His optimism is staggering, for watching the borders of Malaysia are British soldiers, the same men who just a few years back won the long and bitter struggle in these same jungles against an equally desperate enemy. They may be from the other side of the world, but the jungle is no stranger to them and, while they quietly get on with their job, Malaysia, after a difficult birth, grows strong.



Right: Men of 1st Battalion, Scots Guards, patrol the Thai-Malay border, constantly on the watch for Communist terrorists infiltrating into Malaysia. The Guards, now part of 28th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade Group, took over from 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment. Above, Maj Sir Gregor McGregor (right) discussing tracks in the remote border area with two departing Australians, Maj A Argent (centre) and Capt G Warland.





Above: A Gurkha and a Royal Ulster Rifleman share a sandbagged dugout facing the Indonesian border in Sabah. Their alert expressions were not posed—for only about 300 yards away Indonesian troops were reported to be massing.



Left: Unusual transport for the 4th Royal Tank Regiment. A few months ago they were fighting the Red Wolves in the Radfan mountain area of Arabia—now they change their *Ferret* scout cars for a longboat on a jungle-fringed river in Sarawak. Ignored by the woman doing her family wash, the patrols carry out house-to-house searches for hidden arms in riverside villages.



Above: Sergeant Mick Lines, 4th Royal Tank Regiment, checks identity cards at a surprise road block in Sarawak—a routine task that sometimes snares unsuspecting Indonesian agents.



Left: Working as quietly as possible and communicating only by signs, men of 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, ferry equipment across a muddy river in Johore State during jungle warfare training. Makeshift rafts of sticks and groundsheet will even carry heavy guns. The Red Devils were among the British reinforcements flown out to Malaysia when a full-scale attack from Indonesia was threatened a few months ago.



The red rose of Lancashire is incorporated in the collar badge of the Loyals.

THE LOYAL REGIMENT

GLOBE-TROTTING LANCASTRIANS



Fulwood Barracks, Preston, has been the home of The Loyal Regiment for more than a century.

PREDECESSORS of the globe-trotting Loyals occupied Fulwood Barracks, Preston, even before building was completed more than a century ago. Today The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire) still has its headquarters in the same grey stone buildings, cementing a link with the town that grows ever stronger.

Loyal in more than name alone, the Regiment can claim an impressive record of soldiering around the world and in recent months alone the 1st Battalion has served in Kenya, Swaziland, Hong Kong and New Zealand, as well as finding time to mount guard on Buckingham Palace during a brief stay in England. Currently it is in Cyprus on a six-month tour of duty.

It has been the same story throughout the Loyals' history. First raised as the 47th Regiment in 1741, they were soon off to fight the French in Canada and were chosen to form the centre of Wolfe's line on the Heights of Abraham at Quebec in 1759.

In the American War of Independence

the Regiment was at Bunkers Hill, where the dogged assault of the British Infantry brought despair to the enemy, and later as part of General Burgoyne's ill-fated column was present at the disaster of Saratoga. A few years later the Regiment reformed at Lancaster and in 1782 was first connected by title with Lancashire.

The 81st Regiment of Foot was raised in Lincolnshire in 1793 by Colonel Albemarle Bertie and because the local militia came forward to a man to join the new Regiment, it became known as the Loyal Lincoln Volunteers.

Just 13 years later the 81st won its first and most illustrious battle honour at Maida in Italy, where Napoleon's conquering armies tasted defeat for the first time. The Regiment saw very severe fighting in this battle and took part in the final charge with levelled bayonets that drove the French Infantry from the field, leaving behind 700 dead at the point of British bayonets.

Colonel James Kempt, commanding the 81st at Maida, picked up a tortoise on the



The motto of the Regiment—"Loyauté m'oblige" (I dedicate myself to loyalty)—was adopted from the family motto of General Bertie, who raised the 81st of Foot. His recruiting poster of 1793 makes gallant reading: "Those Loyal Heroes, who, ambitious of gaining Glory in the Honorable Profession of Arms, have now an opportunity of entering a Regiment where Honour and Happiness will be sure to reward their noble exertions for their King and Country, and a liberal pension will soften the sorrows of declining life, and procure a more comfortable competence than can be acquired by many years of hard labour. Every Hero will be provided with genteel clothing, fit for a Gentleman Soldier."

battlefield, ate it in his tent after the battle and then had its shell made into a silver snuff box—it is now one of the Loyals' proudest possessions.

In 1803 a Captain Maurice Furmer presented himself for duty with the 47th and, at the tender age of 17, found himself one of the senior captains in the British Army—he had been commissioned in his cradle.

At Inkerman in the Crimea, the Regiment won its first Victoria Cross when Private McDermond of the 47th saved the life of his colonel by rescuing him when he was wounded and surrounded by Russians.

Throughout the 19th century, both the 47th and the 81st fought in the four corners of the world. They were in India, Burma, West Indies, Gibraltar, at Corunna and in countless other campaigns. During the Indian Mutiny the 81st saved Lahore by its prompt action in disarming four native regiments. It later formed part of the force which captured Ali Masjid in the Khyber Pass during the Second Afghan War.

In 1881, under reforms introduced by an energetic war minister, the 47th and the 81st were amalgamated to become the 1st and 2nd Battalions of The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, and their home was officially established at Fulwood Barracks.

Sent to South Africa when the South African War threatened in 1899, part of the 1st Battalion found themselves the only

regular troops in the diamond town of Kimberley when it was put under siege by the Boers. The colonel of the Battalion assumed complete control of the town and its population and organised the defence for four months until the siege was at last raised in February 1900. The gallantry of the Loyals earned them the unique battle honour "Defence of Kimberley."

At the time of the amalgamation, the Volunteers from Preston, dating back to 1746, and from Bolton, where a Volunteer Corps was raised in 1749, became the 1st and 2nd Volunteer Battalions of the Regiment. These later became the 4th and 5th Territorial Battalions, both of which fought nobly during World War One. The 5th has remained as the Loyals' Territorial Battalion.

The Regiment was increased to 21 battalions in 1914. They went on to fight in every theatre of the war, earning glory dear in terms of human life. The 2nd Battalion spent the first part of the war fighting in German East Africa, sometimes finding the struggle against disease almost as severe as that against the enemy—but earned another battle honour unique in the Infantry, that of "Kilimanjaro."

In World War Two the 1st Battalion distinguished itself in the campaign that led to Dunkirk, being among the first troops to arrive in France and the last to leave. In North Africa, at the Anzio landing and in Italy it saw more than its share of the bitter fighting, while the 2nd Battalion, after a gallant fight, shared the fate of Singapore.

Other battalions fought in Europe and Burma earning a total of 21 battle honours. More than 1200 Loyals were killed during the war.

After the war the Loyals went to Palestine, where they were kept busy on internal security operations. In 1949 they arrived in Cyprus where the 1st and 2nd Battalions, representing the old 47th and 81st regiments, were officially amalgamated.

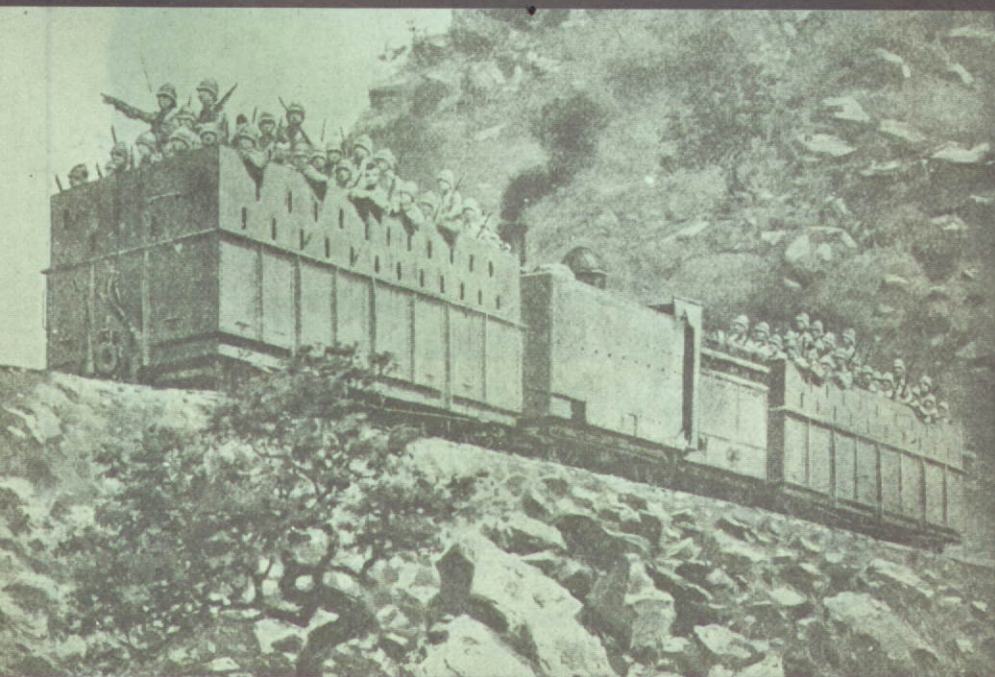
The following year they were rushed to the Canal Zone, followed by a spell in Trieste during the rioting. In 1957, after a tour of duty in England, the 1st Battalion sailed for Malaya to spend three years hunting Communist terrorists and earn a formidable reputation as jungle fighters.

Since then the Loyals claim an unrivalled record of globe-trotting and in the last few months alone have flown half-way round the world and back. Now in Cyprus with the United Nations peace-keeping force, the Loyals are already speculating on their next move . . .

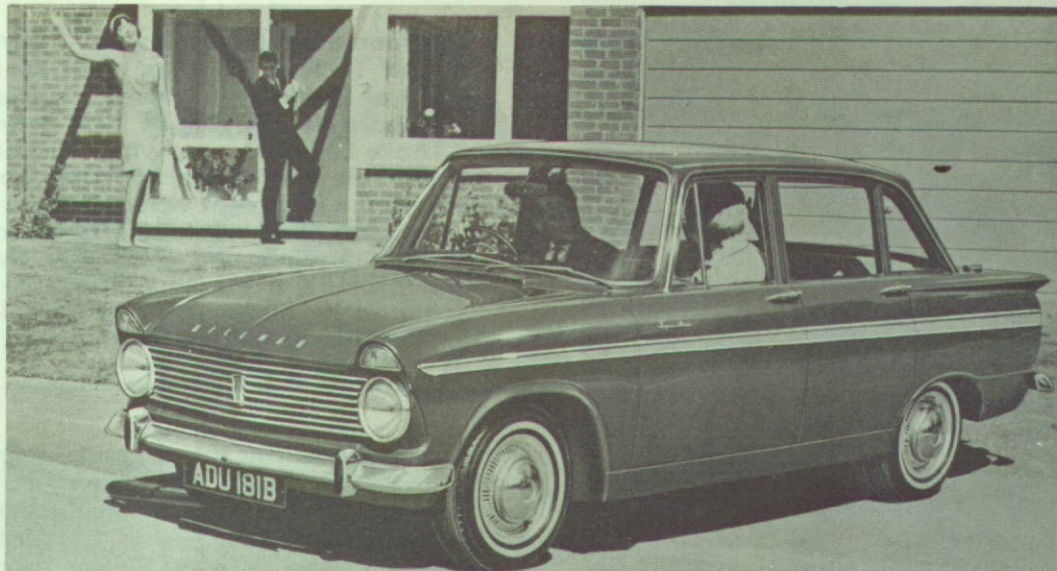
Above: Maintaining their globe-trotting record, Loyals flew to New Zealand to train last year.

Left: The Queen, Colonel-in-Chief of the Loyals, inspects the Regiment during a tour of duty at Chelsea Barracks in London in August last year.

An armoured train was used by the Loyals during the siege of Kimberley. They used it to break out of the town for short raids on the Boers, then quickly steam back to shelter.



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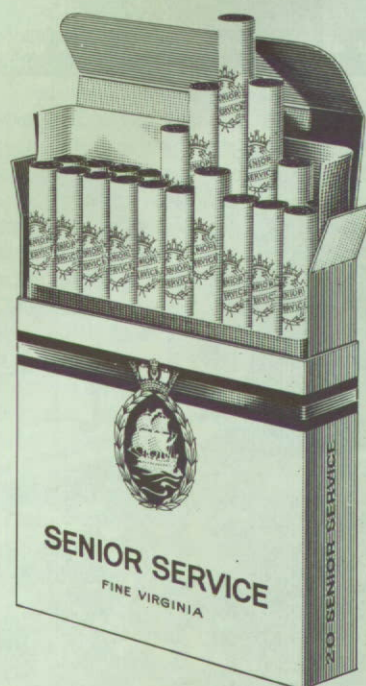
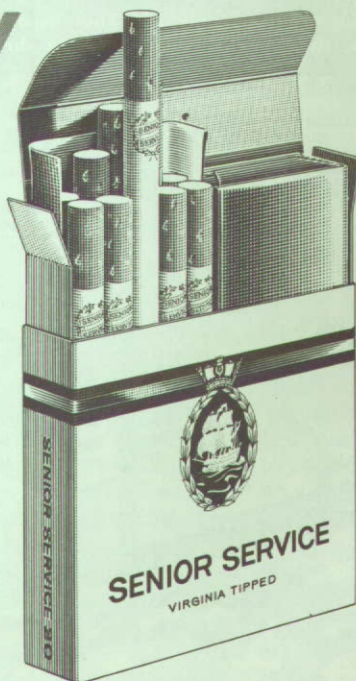
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PATROL TO PULPIT

Australian **Colin Lord** came to England to join the Scots Guards for three years to help him become a priest! "I want to prove myself," he said. "If I can stand the strict discipline of the Guards I will be able to take the equally strict discipline of theology college and priesthood back in Australia."

Now Guardsman Lord is with the 1st Battalion in Malaysia on border security work against Communist terrorists. The only Australian in the Regiment, he hopes eventually to join the Australian Army as a chaplain. He may seem familiar to many readers—apart from the name, he bears a striking resemblance to former **Academy Sergeant-Major J C Lord** of Sandhurst.



Leather gloves and combat jacket protect Sapper Barclay from the eagle's talons.

WOT, NO MASCOT?

Sappers **John Barclay** and **Charlie Coyle** had a problem on their hands when, intending to release it, they bought a starving young eagle for five shillings from an Arab in the Radfan mountains of Arabia—the bird was too weak to fly off.

They carried it back to 50 Independent Field Squadron camp at nearby



Purely Personal

Thumier, made a hutch out of an old packing case and fed the bird on raw meat. Elaborate plans were made to adopt him as the squadron mascot—but the eagle had other ideas. When he had recovered he slipped his leash while the Sappers were out working on new roads, spread his wings to their five-foot span and flew back to Radfan's towering volcanic crags.



ASSORTED MIXED

The only person not happy in this picture is the little girl astride **Corporal Arthur Godfrey's** shoulders. But when he and **Corporal Bill Outram** start handing out those "delicious and popular" Army hard-tack biscuits there will be smiles all round. The two soldiers were in a party of seven Royal Army Medical Corps men who gave up a free weekend in British Guiana to treat the natives in a remote jungle village.

Almost every villager required some medical attention and their children inexplicably seemed to consider hard-tack biscuits as the most succulent, and desirable, delicacy!

GET AHEAD

Pretty student **Heather McDonald** is a girl who designs and makes all her own clothes well ahead of fashion. And with her new trend-setting outfit, she chooses a floppy brimmed hat in jungle green which every soldier will instantly recognise as a notorious "hat, ridiculous"!

It belonged to a family friend who had been in the Army and when Heather came across it she decided it was just the thing to wear with her new suit. "I curled the brim, tried it on, liked it and have been wearing it ever since," she said. When she came strolling by **SOLDIER's** London offices, it was unanimously agreed that the hat looked much better on her than on soldiers (see top left picture on this page—no offence, Sapper Barclay!). So you soldiers in Borneo, curl the brims of your "hats, ridiculous" and you will be with the latest London fashion.



NASH AND DIXON ON TOP AGAIN

BBRITAIN'S Olympic bobsleigh gold medallists, Tony Nash and Captain the Hon T Robin Dixon, Grenadier Guards, triumphantly retained their world championship at St Moritz by a record margin of 3.27 seconds.

The margin separating them from the runners-up, Italy's ex-world champion crew, was the biggest achieved in a world championship.

Driver Nash, who was introduced to bobbing while serving with The Royal Dragoons in Germany, steered his dark blue shining steel sleigh with a mastery which proved that gold medal was no fluke.

Captain Dixon, the brakeman, handled his controls superbly and on their final run the British pair set up a new course record of one minute, 16.91 seconds.

Their margin of victory over the Italian pair was huge in a sport where every hundredth of a second has to be worked for both on the track and in preparation behind the scenes.

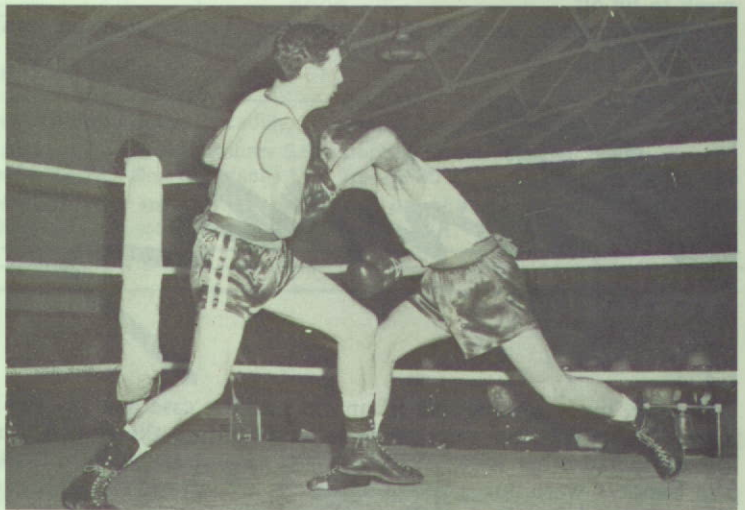
After the first day's runs, Britain held a slender lead but the following day the Italians ruined their chances on the first run and accordingly the British pair played it safe with Captain Dixon, pushing at the top, boarding the bob a couple of paces earlier than

Tony Nash (driving), who served in The Royal Dragoons, and Captain the Hon Robin Dixon, Grenadier Guards, speed to their Olympic Gold Medal.

he might otherwise have done—a fact that makes their record even more staggering.

A few days after their win, Nash and Dixon were in the British No 1 team for the Four-Man Bobsleigh World Championship, also held at St Moritz.

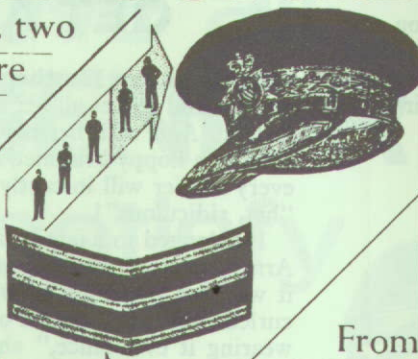
In the opening runs, Nash piloted his sleigh to fourth place but they later slipped to seventh place with an aggregate of five minutes 20.8 seconds. Britain's No 2 team, a Royal Air Force crew, finished a creditable 12th with its four-year-old bob.



Light-middleweight Lance-Bombardier T Little, Trials Establishment, RA (left), was outpointed by English international R Smith, Hampstead ABC.

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ARMY OUTBOXED BY LONDON

DUTY played havoc with the annual Army versus London Amateur Boxing Association match at Aldershot this year. With half their champions missing, the Army lost by four bouts to six.

It was the first time the contest had been held at Aldershot and in the circumstances the Army did remarkably well. Sensation of the evening was Lance-Bombardier Tommy Little, Royal Artillery, who put up a terrific fight against English light-middleweight champion Ronnie Smith. After surviving a first round knock-down, Little fought back with rare courage and gave Smith a lot of trouble—the decision in Smith's favour must have been close.

Lance-Corporal Colin Booth, Royal Army Service Corps, turned in a fine performance to outpoint lightweight Jim Reid,

former schoolboy and junior ABA champion.

Cruiserweight Corporal Bob Priestley, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, caused a stir by falling through the ropes in the third round. The referee stopped the contest at first but allowed it to continue when assured that Priestley had not been helped back into the ring.

RESULTS

Flyweight: A Humm outpointed Pte M Gregory (1st Bn, Cheshire Regt). **Bantamweight:** Bombardier R Woodcock (16 Regt, RA) outpointed J Chappel. **Featherweight:** C Smith beat Pte J Cranston (1st Bn, King's Own Scottish Borderers). **Lightweight:** Lance-Corporal C Booth (6 Training Bn, RASC) outpointed J Reid. **Welterweight:** F Goodman beat Lance-Corporal A Tibbs (16/5 Queen's Royal Lancers). **Light-middleweight:** R Smith outpointed Lance-Bdr T Little. **Middleweight:** E Smith outpointed Lance-Corporal B White (17 Recovery Vehicle Depot, RAOC). **Light-heavyweight:** Corporal R Priestley (Depot Bn, RAOC) outpointed C Wilson. **Heavyweight:** V Moore outpointed Corporal B Walters (REME).

SPORTS SHORTS

BOXING

Irish-born Guardsman Sean O'Sullivan, Irish Guards, boxed for England against Ireland in a thrilling amateur international match in London. He was narrowly beaten on points in the middleweight contest by John Riordan. The match was drawn, each team winning five bouts. O'Sullivan's brother Brendan, also of the Irish Guards, was capped for England last year.

The first of the season's inter-Services matches, between the Army and the Royal Navy, ended in a win for the Army by seven bouts to four. It was the first time the contest had been held in the West Country. Cleanest knock-out of the evening was scored by Private Peter Teasdale with a terrific right hook in the second round of his flyweight contest.

SQUASH

The Combined Services versus Combined Universities squash contest ended in a draw. The only Army representative was former champion Major M J Perkins who won his match 10-9, 9-6, 9-7.

CHESS

For the first time since the competition was started in 1851, a woman won the Krefeld town chess championship in Germany. She is Major Anne Sunnucks, Women's Royal Army Corps, the reigning British women's chess champion. Also the first foreigner to win the Krefeld competition, Major Sunnucks has represented Britain against the Soviet Union and has taken part in international tournaments in Yugoslavia, Italy and Germany.

HOCKEY

Lack of pace in the Army forwards was blamed for the Army's 3-1 defeat against Oxford University. The Army looked stronger in the opening stages but when Oxford's replacements, necessary through a crop of injuries, had settled down, they went on to win with confidence.

RUGBY

With a crushing 25-3 victory, the Army handed out a thorough drumming to Oxford University. Two goals, a penalty goal and four tries were more than a match for the University's single



penalty goal. Foundation of success for the Army was the solid pack of forwards who had the University beaten hands down in the line-outs and in the loose. The Army had control throughout the first half and led by 13-0. Soon after the restart the Army scored again but in the last 20 minutes Oxford produced some spirited play and scored their penalty goal.



Hillman *Huskys* usually have rather mundane tasks in the Army. But these three are different—they have been loaned by Rootes competition department to be used exclusively in rallies and other motor sport events by members of the Southern Centre of the British Army Motoring Association. Pictured on the right during the handover are three of the Army's top drivers, Sergeants S Scowan and A P Minto and Lieutenant E G Brown.

CAPTAIN KEEPS HER TITLE

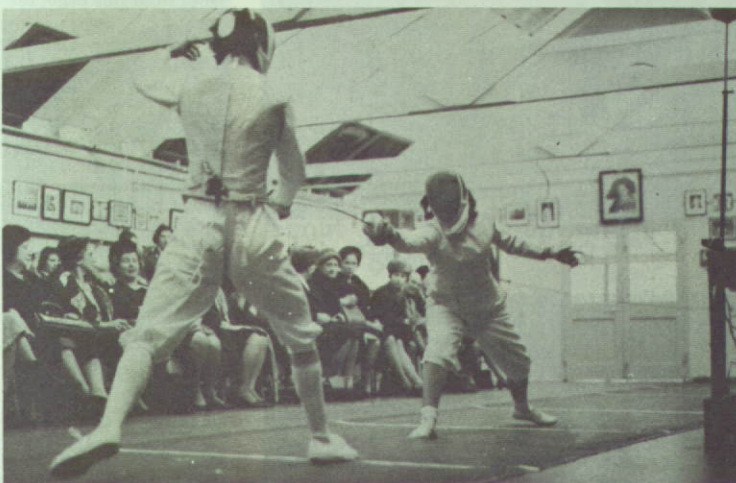
CAPTAIN WENDY SHIELLS, Women's Royal Army Corps, narrowly retained her title at the second Army women's fencing Chairman's Meeting at Aldershot.

Established last year to encourage fencers and improve the standard of fencing in the Women's Royal Army Corps, the competition was fierce and a barrage was fought to decide second and third places.

Sergeant Joanna Cheal fenced her way to second place, narrowly followed by Private Rosemary Morton. The other finalists were Second-Lieutenant Jennifer Barker, Sergeant Charmain Coleman and Corporal Sheila Collinson.

Brigadier Dame Mary Railton, Deputy Commandant of the Women's Royal Army Corps, presented the trophies.

Left: Corporal Sheila Collinson, one of the six finalists in the Chairman's Meeting, fences against Sergeant Joanna Cheal (right).



Above: Captain Wendy Shiells (left), who retained her title, meets Private Rosemary Morton (third). Left: The winner with her trophy.

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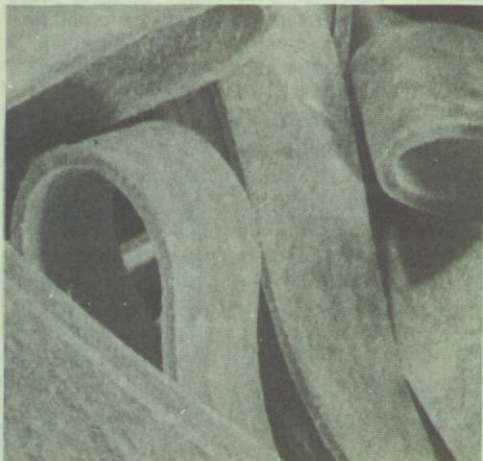


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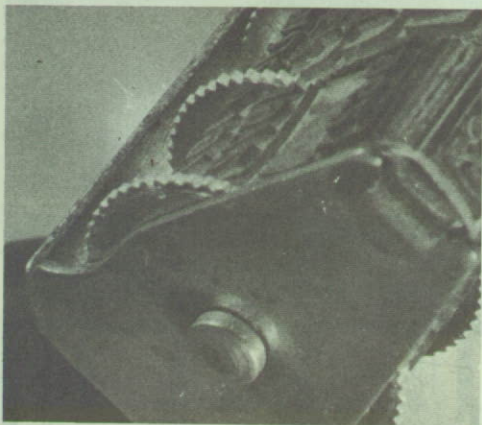
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THIS month's prize competition takes the form of a two-part picture quiz. First, here are five pictures, taken from unusual angles, of everyday objects to be found in the home or office, and in some cases in both.

Each object has a two-word name and, to make things easier, the black and white stars below each picture indicate the number of letters in each word.

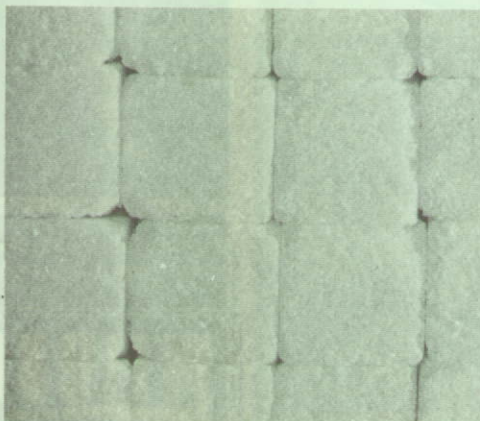
When you have identified the objects in the five pictures, take the 15 letters indicated by black stars and rearrange them to make two military ranks.

Then send the two ranks, by letter or postcard, with your name and address and the "Competition 82" label from this page, to:

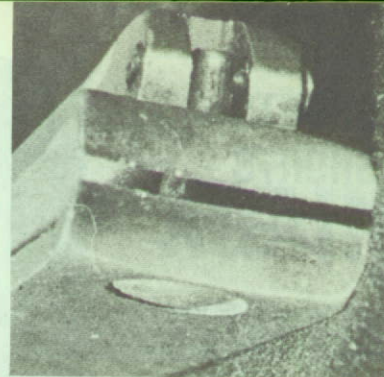
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Comp 82
SOLDIER
433 Holloway Road
London N7.

Closing date for this competition is Monday, 24 May 1965. Winners' names will appear in the July **SOLDIER**.

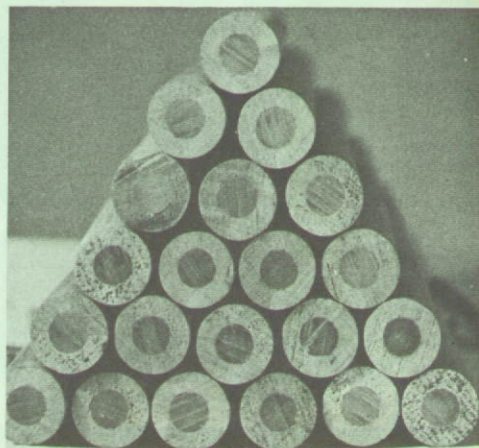
This competition is open to all readers at home or overseas. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a "Competition 82" label.



3 ☆☆☆ ☆☆☆



4 ★★★★★ ★★★★★



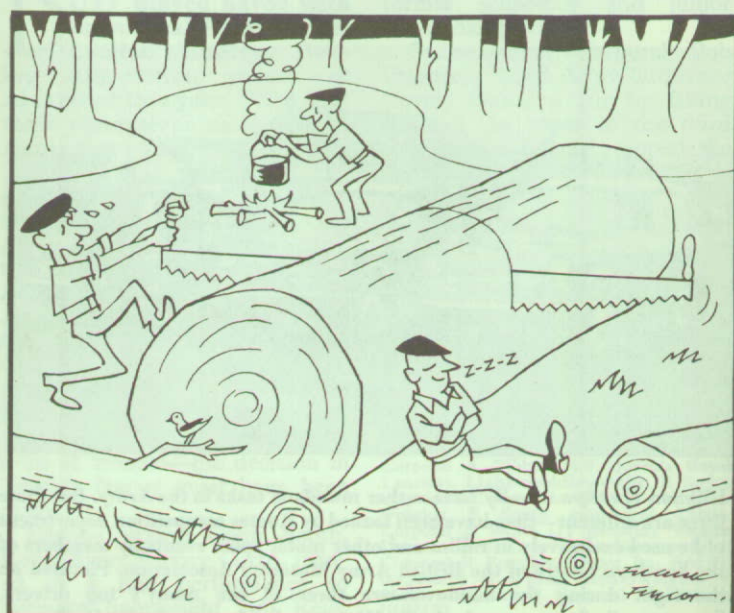
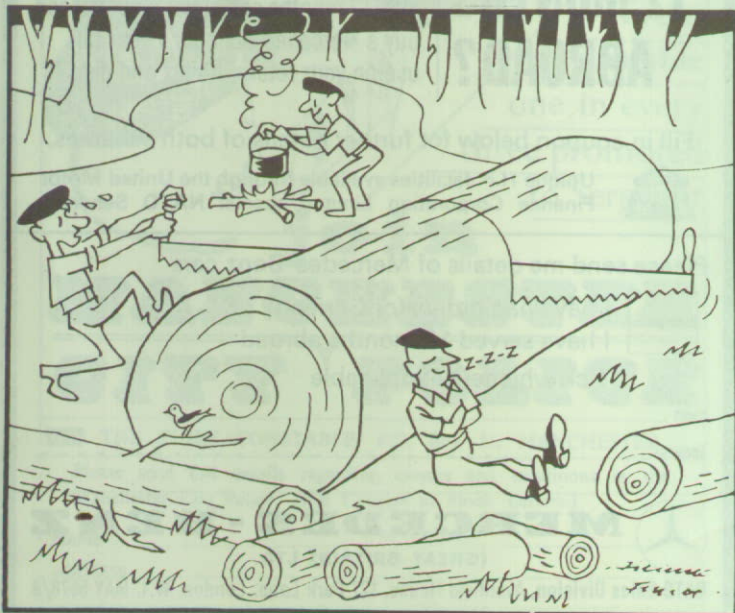
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How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike, but they vary in ten minor details. If you cannot detect all the differences, turn to page 36.



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There's always plenty of interest—because you're working with people', says Fred Kent, 31, an ex-bus driver. 'That's why I like the Prison Service. I believe it's a job that's really worth doing. Every day brings something different. And for a man like me, married with two children, it means a lot to know I've got real security and a pension to come.'



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Letters

Still in use?

I have tried to find which item of non-ceremonial military equipment has served the longest period in an armed force. I think the British Infantry mess-tin of the classic D-shaped pattern has the record. It came into existence in 1817 and so far as I know served some British overseas units as late as 1943. Can anyone help?—**A N Hvidt, Kildinggade 14, Copenhagen O, Denmark.**

First shot

"It Happened in February" did not mention that on 2-3 February 1915 the war against the Turkish Empire was opened by the Royal Field Artillery when the Turks attempted to cross the Suez Canal and invade Egypt.

The first shot in this battle was fired by Sgt H Parker of 253 Regiment, East Lancashire Brigade (Bolton Territorials). And ex-Sgt H Parker will be reading this SOLDIER today, although he will be using spectacles—his binoculars are now in the past.—**Ernest Parker, RA Records, Footscray, Sidcup, Kent.**

Ground to air

I read with interest Maj Laffin's article on the General Service Medal (January). As was quoted, the Kurdistan Campaign of 1923 was an outstanding example of combined operations and was the first occasion on which aircraft were used as troop carriers in military operations.

I served with the Signals during this campaign and the method of communication between aircraft and ground troops may be of interest. While the aircraft circled overhead we passed our messages to the pilot by means of a Popham panel laid out on the ground, the pilot acknowledging receipt of each "group" by Aldis lamp.

This method, long and tedious by present-day standards, was superseded by a somewhat "Heath Robinson" but much quicker method of attaching the message to a length of rope stretched across two upright poles like a clothes line. The pilot then scooped up the rope and message on a hook trailing from the plane, as shown in the picture (below). The pilot dropped his message to us contained in weighted coloured streamers.—**G Baldock, 1 The Green, Mossband, Carlisle, Cumberland.**



Cri de cœur

It is a great pity that Cadet Cpl Davis is so bitter in his criticism of the Territorial Army (*Letters*, January). His unit commander would tell him that the TA only fires the ammunition—it does not decide its allocation. Most Territorials would say there is hardly sufficient ammunition for the amount of shooting they would like.

Co-operation is really up to ACF unit commanders. Most TA units (and the Squadron under my command has an affiliated ACF squadron) are only too ready to help the up-and-coming youngsters. They regard them as the TA soldiers of the future.

Cdt/Cpl Davies also asks: "Why not give a little more to the ACF, and if necessary, a little less money, ammunition, transport, etc., to the TA?"

The answer is simple. The ACF is primarily a youth organisation—and a great many ACF officers want nothing to do with "all this Army training." The Territorial Army, is part of Britain's Reserve Army committed to tasks in the defence of the country—as Cdt/Cpl Davies will find out when he joins the TA in a year's time.—**Maj R M Lustig TD, R Sigs, C Squadron, 47 Signal Regiment (Middlesex Yeomanry) TA, The Drill Hall, Whitehall Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex.**

War of blunders?

The bridge N S Major refers to (*Letters*, December) was that over the River Dendre at Lessines. It was captured by Brigadier-General Freyberg VC DSO (later General the Lord Freyberg of World War Two fame) and a squadron of the 7th Dragoon Guards at 1059 hours on 11 November.

He was at the time commanding 88 Brigade, attached to 34th Division, and was ordered to prevent the Germans from destroying the bridge. During the last few days of the war the retreating Germans attempted to slow down the Allied advance by blowing bridges, etc.

It was imperative that as soon as the war was over the Allied troops should be able to reach the Rhine as quickly as possible to ensure the Armistice terms were immediately enforced. Thus there was a concrete reason for this action and for it Freyberg received a second bar to his DSO and the squadron leader was also awarded a DSO.

It must also be pointed out that few of the front-line units received the "Cease Fire" order before 0930 hours on the 11th. There is one other case I can find—of King Edward's Horse capturing a German field gun east of Ath just as 11 o'clock struck, but this



was entirely on their own initiative as it had been firing on them.—Lieut C R M Messenger RTR, Exeter College, Oxford.

Zulu War Memorial

On 5 December the "Sons of England" of South Africa and members of "The Memorable Order of Tin Hats" (a returned soldiers' organisation) held a ceremony of rededication in the Stanger Cemetery of the rebuilt Zulu War Memorial. This was erected by the British Army soon after the Zulu War ended in 1879 and as it was crumbling to bits we pulled it down and put up a polished granite stone in its place with



all the old names re-inscribed.

The British Consul and the British Senior Army Liaison Officer attended on behalf of the British Army. It was a well-attended and moving ceremony and the names of the British soldiers who died in this district so long ago will be remembered for a very long time.

Picture (above) shows Brigadier C V Halden, the Senior Army Liaison Officer laying a wreath on behalf of the British Army.—F Addison, Sinkwasi Beach, Darnall, Natal, South Africa.

Dettingen

R Rimmer was possibly confusing Dettingen, fought on 27 June 1743, with the Battle of Meenace on 17 February 1843. It may interest him and Lieut-Col R J T Hills that it has always been difficult to prove that King George II did in fact hand a twig of oak to a soldier of the 22nd Foot.

It is no more than a legend, although a strong one, that a detachment of The Cheshire Regiment, which was based in Minorca, was at the Battle of Dettingen in 1743. Unfortunately there are no existing Regimental records of that period to lend support, but the arguments put by Colonel Crookenden to the Army Council in 1933 were sufficiently strong to be accepted, as a result of which King George V authorised the wearing of the oak leaf by the Regiment on special occasions. Only one history book describes the incident at Dettingen and does not name the regiment.—G H C Driscoll (ex-Bandsman, 2nd Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment, 1925-1940), 28 Bramston Road, Harlesden, London NW10.

The Sten's a Sterling!

In the article on Exercise "Storm King" (November), a caption says Sgt S Kinson is cleaning his Sten gun. He is in fact cleaning a Sterling LaA2 9mm sub-machine-gun, having apparently just reached the stage of cleaning the bore with the pull-through and a piece of 4 in x 3 in flannelette.

The SMG has now replaced the machine carbine (to give the Sten its correct name) in the Regular Army although some Territorial Army and Cadet Force contingents still have the Sten on issue (mainly the Mk II version with the Mk V cocking handle).

It is to be hoped that this situation in the latter two organisations will soon be rectified and that both SMGs and SLRs will replace the somewhat outdated weapons at present used by cadets. It is difficult to train the soldier of tomorrow with weapons that are not even those of the soldier of today!—Sgt David J A Stone (Army Section, Calday Grange CCF), Tides Reach, 118 The Parade, Meols, Hoylake, Cheshire.

Any advance?

Now that a new General Service Medal (1962) has been instituted, I should be interested to know who claims to have gained the most bars to the previous medal (1918-1962). I have heard of one man with four bars but it would be possible for someone still serving to have seven bars (including the pre-war bar for Palestine).

Can anyone claim five or even more? —Maj A M Macfarlane RA, 113 Brughmuir Road, Perth, Scotland.

"Garry Owen"

"Garry Owen" was an old Irish march and had originally no connection with the British Army. Well before 1800 many British regiments had been stationed in Ireland for long periods and many Irishmen who enlisted presumably brought their own native tunes and airs with them. It is not surprising that such a stirring march became a favourite elsewhere.

The tune is recorded in William Campbell's "Book 16th of Strathspeys, Reels, Waltzes and Irish Jigs" (London, c 1790 et seq), it was the Regimental March of 18th Royal Irish Regiment, and today's march of 87th Royal Irish Fusiliers is an amalgam of "St Patrick's Day," "Garry Owen," "Norah Creina" and "Barossa."

"Garry Owen" was played by the 1st New York Regiment when it marched to Quebec in the fall of 1775 and at Waterloo by the 28th Gloucestershire Regiment which has another Irish connection perpetuated in the "Kinneag Slashers." "Garry Owen" is also the Regimental March of the 7th US Cavalry (the Regimental device also carries the emblazon "Garry Owen") and of the 69th New York Regiment (The New York Irish), the famous Fighting 69th. Both these regiments had many native Irish as well as American-born Irish in their ranks on formation.

History says "Garry Owen" was introduced to General Custer by Captain (Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel) Myles Watler Keogh, born in Ireland on 29 March 1840. Captain Keogh never served in the British Army. His first commission was in the Irish Battalion of the Papal Army in 1860. He then

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joined the United States Army and after distinguished service at Gettysburg and elsewhere he joined the 7th US Cavalry under General Custer and was killed with him at the Little Big Horn on 25 June 1876.

This tune has been heard in many lands and on many battlefields wherever the Irish dispersion has taken that race. And no doubt it will be heard as long as this troubled world of wars and warriors exists.—Lieut-Col J J M Sheridan (Retd), Sultan's Armed Forces Training Centre, c/o HQ Sultan's Armed Forces, Bait-al-Falaj, Muscat.

Perhaps I may be allowed to remind readers that this famous tune was the original Regimental March of our 1st Battalion (83rd Foot) and is still the official march of our own Battalion, The London Irish Rifles (Royal Ulster Rifles). Whatever may happen in America, "Garry Owen" is ensured of a permanent place in British military music.—Lieut L Mainwaring-Gardner, Curator, Regimental Museum, The London Irish Rifles (Royal Ulster Rifles), Duke of York's HQ, King's Road, Chelsea, London SW3.

GPMG, not Bren

The January cover shows a Gurkha soldier in a bunker squinting down his machine-gun. This is referred to as a Bren. Surely it was the General Purpose Machine-Gun?—M J King (Cadet, CCF), The Vicarage, Belmont, Durham City.

★ Yes. This is the GPMG in the light role—and without an ammunition belt! The transparency was supplied by a commercial picture agency (now chasing its Far East representative who, in any case, ought never to have been allowed to take a picture of a Gurkha purposefully manning an unloaded gun in a Borneo bunker!) The caption was not checked here as it should have been and, because of SOLDIER's staff shortage, the errors were not picked up at the proof-reading stage. Thank you, Cadet King, and many other readers, for writing in on this.

Christmas tree

SOLDIER's splendid picture of a front-line trench in 1915 (January) was taken before the advent of the steel helmet. I remember its coming to my battalion—one to each platoon.

I also blush to recall the effect upon the man who had to carry its extra weight on his "Christmas tree."—

myself!—Alfred A Payne (1st Coldstream Guards 1915-19), 33 Kent Drive, Hornchurch, Essex.

Knocking the naggers

In reply to F A Lewis (Letters, January), may I point out that "everyone concerned" did not, as he implies, see to it that the fixed 3.7in anti-aircraft gun "stayed that way." It was "that way" because of its inherent design, as a much simplified version of the mobile 3.7, to increase the numbers quickly after the Dunkirk debacle.

I fail to see why, except in the name of dishonesty, the generals should be blamed and vilified simply because they found it impossible to make bricks without straw. I did some soldiering of a sort before the war and it seems to me, bearing in mind the colossal inadequacies in equipment even before Dunkirk, that the generals performed prodigious feats of genius with what they had. The valour of the ranks speaks for itself. The Army, however, for a long time displayed certain weaknesses in its training methods and its promotion system.

It raises my blood pressure to see critics draw unfair numerical comparisons between the opposing Desert armies by including the British line of communication troops in the total because of their proximity, while carefully omitting to count Rommel's rear troops because they were strung out along the North African coast hundreds of miles back.

I read Corelli Barnett's reference to the 6-pounder anti-tank gun as giving some sort of parity. No reference to its shield which was made of "hoop iron" instead of armour plate. Whose fault was that? Not the generals'. Let's rename the controversial author Machiavelli Stroboli Corelli Barnett!—R J C Holmes, c/o G W Pescod, 2 Oakfield Terrace, Gosforth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 3.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(See page 32)

The two pictures vary in the following respects:

1 Third tree from left. 2 Number of logs on fire. 3 Branch the bird is standing on. 4 Bark lines at far end of big log. 5 Number of teeth on left of saw. 6 End of log in middle foreground. 7 Bird's tail. 8 Beret of soldier with dixie. 9 Third tree from right. 10 Grass in bottom left corner.

FALL IN—IN THREES!

Most readers had little difficulty in isolating "strong" as the left-over word in Competition 78 (November), although almost every other word turned up in the incorrect answers. The closing date was extended to allow of overseas entries.

Winners were:

- 1 Mrs R C Bishop, 25 Sandilands Road, TOWN, Merioneth.
- 2 A E L Meering, 20 Hamilton Road, Salisbury, Wilts.
- 3 Mrs E Townsend, 84 Oxford Road, Reading, Berks.
- 4 WO I Marsden, HQ RASC, Bestwood Lodge, Arnold, Notts.
- 5 A E Robinson, 34 Newbridge Hill, Bath, Somerset.
- 6 Mrs A B Cruickshanks, c/o Pipes and Drums, Royal Scots Greys, BFPO 38.

Groupings of the 39 words were: Lock, stock and barrel; hop, skip and jump; gold, frankincense and myrrh; bell, book and candle; reading, writing and arithmetic; hook, line and sinker; fair, fat and forty; guide, philosopher and friend; hung, drawn and quartered; sun, moon and stars; famine, sword and fire; red, yellow and blue; signed, sealed and delivered.

HALT!—WHO GOES WHERE?

Sorting out the soldiers' platforms, destinations, ranks, names and luggage in Competition 79 (December) foxed quite a number of competitors, the commonest mistake being a confusion of Sapper Leeds and Trooper Wick. About a third of the entries were correct.

Winners were:

- 1 2/Lieut J E Kenyon-Muir RA, 36 Hy Ad Regiment, RA, BFPO 34.
- 2 L/Cpl R S Moffat, 262 Signal Sqn, Dhekelia, BFPO 53.
- 3 P Dyer, 29 Rockleigh Road, Bassett, Southampton, Hants.
- 4 Mrs J Bridgen, 28 Stoney Lane, Broad Street, Kidderminster, Worcs.
- 5 Mrs J Lax, c/o HQ Bahrain Garrison, BFPO 63.
- 6 Sgt A E Scott WRAC, Army Information Office (Women's Services), Fore Street, Devonport, Plymouth, Devon.
- 7 J F Bevan, 54 Penylan Road, Roath, Cardiff.
- 8 Cpl P R Persey (CCF), The Willows, Wellington School, Somerset.
- 9 S/Sgt Eaton, PI Coy, Int Unit (BAOR), BFPO 40.
- 10 Sgt W Sawyer, School of Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

The correct answers were: Platform 5, Depart 1500 hours, destination Hull, Trooper Wick, suitcase only; 3, 1015, Perth, Craftsman Selby, suitcase with radio and badminton racket; 7, 2045, York, Driver Hull, duffel-bag; 4, 0930, Wick, Bandsman York, suitcase and guitar; 6, 1430, Selby, Sapper Leeds, holdall; 8, 1330, Leeds, Gunner Perth, suitcase and hockey stick.

COLLECTORS' CORNER

Colin J Phillips, 10 Bruce House, Preston Hill, Kenton, Middlesex.—Information wanted on camouflage systems and formation signs of World War Two Axis armies and of post-war foreign armies.

Patrick Cosgrove, 7 Mardale Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne 5.—Requires British and Commonwealth cap badges; will return in exchange any of Kipling's poems—Gunga Din, The Screw Gun, If etc.

Capt R Richards, Burnham Camp, Canterbury, New Zealand.—Requires British Coronation souvenirs all monarchs.

Sgt J H G Ralph, RHQ 18 Signal Regt, c/o GPO Singapore.—Requires out-of-print books; original, authentic photographs, personal snapshots, letters, diaries, documents etc World War One; welcomes correspondence with other Great War enthusiasts.

Lieut. R Livett, 24 Mary Elizabeth Road, Ludlow, Shropshire.—Requires Yeomanry, London or Commonwealth cap badges; will exchange for 159 copies of The War Illustrated May 1941 to April 1947, Vols 4-10.

J D Willcox-Jones, 6 Hensley Road, Bath, Somerset.—Requires Commonwealth stamps, wishes correspond with other collectors.

C/Sgt K G Lusby RM, Staff CPO Mess, Petty Officers Leadership School, HMS Royal Arthur, Corsham, Wilts.—Requires German helmets, all types, also East German Vopo helmets, Cyriot Turk-Greek helmets; correspondence welcomed.

R Courtenay, Yew Tree Cottage, Hill End, Chadlington, Oxon.—Requires British medals, cap badges, and shoulder flashes. Please write stating price.

Wm S Mills, 4104 Ingalls Street, San Diego 3, California, USA.—Requires following two numbered Glangary badges of 1874-1881 era—26th (horn and 26), 87th (RIF); will exchange CEF badges for them or any of following duplicate P/T badges—5, 7, 12, 13, 28, 30, 34, 48, 49, 52, 53, 58, 60, 62, 65, 89, 97, 100, 106—or will purchase.

REUNIONS

10th Royal Hussars Old Comrades Association. Dinner, Saturday, 1 May 1965, Porchester Hall, Bayswater, London W2. Apply Hon Sec, 10th Hussars Old Comrades Association, Hyde Close, Winchester.

Royal Fusiliers Association. Dinner, Saturday, 15 May 1965, Victory Club, 63 Seymour Street, London W1 (nearest Underground, Marble Arch). Tickets 10s 6d from Regimental Secretary, Royal Fusiliers, Tower of London, London EC3.

3 Base Workshop, REME. 16th officers annual reunion dinner Friday 19 March 1965, 6.30 pm for 7.15 pm, Trafalgar Suite, Whitehall Court, London SW1. All officers who served with 3 Base Workshop (or 3 Command Workshop) welcome. Bookings to Lieut-Col G R Riddick MC, REME, 30 Command Workshop, REME, Mill Hill, London NW7 (Phone Finchley 2611, ext 200).

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"Arnold thinks he's a born leader of men—but he can never find any born followers!"

MARCH 1915

Spring brought no thoughts to tickle a young man's fancy in 1915. In Europe it just meant starting the war again in earnest after the winter lull, and in March at Neuve Chapelle the first great battle of the year was fought after the biggest artillery barrage of the war. It resulted in more than 1700 German prisoners. This graphic drawing by the famous war artist Fortunino Matania shows British grenade throwers storming a German trench some where in France.



THE ARMY'S MEDALS by Major John Laffin

39: KHEDIVE'S SUDAN MEDAL 1896-1908



THIS interesting medal, awarded for various actions between 1896 and 1908, has no fewer than 15 bars and has actually been issued with as many as ten. This was the greatest number of bars awarded to any one campaign medal since the Military General Service Medal (SOLDIER, January 1962).

On the obverse is an Arabic inscription—Abbas Hilmi the Second—with the Mohammedan year 1314, that is 1897 by the Christian calendar. The reverse shows three stars and crescents in the centre surrounded by lances and flags. This design is superimposed on crossed rifles and a cannon with six cannon balls in pyramid. Beneath is the Arabic inscription "The reconquest of the Sudan 1314."

The bars are: Firket, Hafir, Abu Hamed, Sudan 1897, The Atbara, Khartoum, Gedaref, Gedid, Sudan 1899, Bahr-el-Ghazal 1900-02, Jerok, Nyam-Nyam, Talodi, Katfia, Nyima.

The bars of special interest to British recipients are The Atbara and Khartoum. Regiments present at the Battle of the Atbara River included 1st Royal Warwicks, 1st Lincolnshires, 1st Seaforths, 1st Cameron Highlanders and some Royal Artillery batteries. The bar for Khartoum was awarded for the Battle of Omdurman on 2 September 1898—it is unusual for a bar to be inscribed differently from the battle.

But Khartoum was a hallowed name because of General Gordon's death in the town which was entered immediately after the fight at Omdurman. Regiments present included four squadrons of 21st Lancers, 1st Grenadier Guards, 1st Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, 1st Royal Warwicks, 1st Lincolnshires, 2nd Lancashire Fusiliers, 1st Seaforths, 1st Cameron Highlanders, 2nd Rifle Brigade, a machine-gun detachment of the Royal Irish Fusiliers and men of the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers.

Medals with other bars are fairly rare to British soldiers and mostly went to Egyptian and Sudanese troops. For instance, only 18 men from the North Staffordshire Regiment and 18 from the Connaught Rangers received the bar for Firket; only five British Army officers, a naval officer and a few ratings received that for Bahr-el-Ghazal. Another 18 British officers were present during the Nyam-Nyam campaign in 1905, on the Belgian Congo border.

All the bars are named in both English and Arabic, but some medals were awarded without bars between 30 March and 23 September 1896. Medals issued to British troops have regimental details in sloping capitals while those to Indian troops are usually in script. Unfortunately, medals with most of the later bars were not named at all.

The ribbon is yellow with a broad blue stripe down the centre, symbolical of the Nile flowing through the desert.

Books

Behind the Burma front

"The Johnnies" (Lieutenant-General Sir Geoffrey Evans, DSO).

"REMEMBER thinking to myself as I shook hands with some of them—you are very much braver men than I can ever hope to be." From Field-Marshal Viscount Slim this was indeed a tribute to that tiny band of gallant men known as the "British Officer Johnnies" whose colourful and exciting story is now told for the first time.

The original ten volunteers, who were commissioned into the Army and wore uniform, were British, Anglo-Indian, Anglo-Burman or Anglo-Chin and came from the Burmese Forest Department or from the large timber companies operating in Burma before World War Two. Some had university degrees, some had worked their way up in their firms, but all had lived and worked in Burma for many years, knew the language and their own part of the country intimately.

The author recounts vividly the hair-raising exploits of this hand-

ful of courageous men and their extraordinary adventures far behind enemy lines in the maze of jungle, mountains and rivers of Japanese-occupied Burma from the retreat in 1942 to the great battle for Imphal in 1944 and the advance to Rangoon.

The book also describes in detail why and how the idea of sending these volunteers to live among the Japanese came into being and tells of the faithful Burmans, Chins, Kachins and Karens who accompanied them; of the methods adopted to outwit the Japanese and obtain valuable information; of the privations suffered by the Johnnies and how two met their deaths.

Few can be better fitted to tell the story of the Johnnies than General Evans. He was Brigadier General Staff of 4 Indian Corps at Imphal in 1943-44 and in addition to being in a unique position to assess the value of their work, he interviewed individual Johnnies and the Commander and Staff of 'Z' Force, of which they were the nucleus.

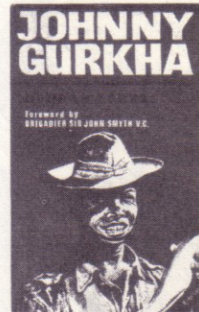
Cassell, 30s.

D H C

The Gurkha story

"Johnny Gurkha" (Duncan Forbes).

ONE hundred and fifty years have passed since the first Gurkhas joined the Army of Britain's East India Company. They have been serving under the British flag ever since, in fair times



and in foul, from Western Europe to Japan.

The hero of this book is the Gurkha soldier; his eleven regiments provide the setting. Today, Gurkha soldiers are spread as far and wide as ever, training in the hills of Wales and on the German plain, flying from the damp chill of Tidworth to the torrid heat of Aden, facing a continental enemy in the bitter ice and snow of the Himalayas and a hit-and-run terrorist in the

steaming jungles of Borneo, and patrolling two frontiers of China in Ladakh and Hong Kong, 2500 miles apart.

All this the Gurkha does with habitual indomitable cheerfulness and good humour and never a word of complaint for he is the last and most tenacious of a dying breed, the professional soldier.

Major Forbes, the author, is a serving officer in the Royal Army Educational Corps who knows the Gurkhas and their homeland well. He has included in his narrative two fascinating historical chapters on the Gurkha conquest of Nepal and the war with the British. He combines a shrewdly observant eye with a lively pen and an obvious affection and admiration for his subject. This book cannot fail to be of absorbing interest to every soldier whether or not he has had the privilege of serving alongside his Gurkha brother-in-arms.

Hale, 25s.

D H C

In the image of Ney

"General Jack's Diary 1914-18" (John Terraine).

TWO days before the outbreak of World War One Captain James Lochhead Jack, 1st Battalion, The Cameronians, noted in his diary: "We hope the French are again those of Marengo, Ulm, Austerlitz and Jena, with another Napoleon at their head."

Jack knew his Napoleonic history and from this book he emerges as a brilliant officer of the stamp of Napoleon's "bravest of the brave," Marshal Ney.

When young soldiers bobbed their heads down during the charge at Eylau, Ney, rising like a ramrod in his saddle, called: "Comrades, the enemy are firing in the air. I am higher than the top of your bearskins and they don't hurt me."

On 2 October 1918, Brigadier-General Jack, horrified at seeing men retreating before a German counter-attack at Ledeghem, drew his pistol and threatened to shoot anyone who passed him. The entry goes on; "One must make a joke. So although half expecting my cane, held up at arm's length, to be blown out of my hand, I swear the shells are too high to reach it."

Under the hand of the noted historian, John Terraine, the diary now reaches out to a far greater readership than Jack ever imagined. Here are all the horrors of trench warfare, its comradeship, the sense of loss at the death of a friend, the simple joy of a hot bath.

This diary is a valuable addition to the history of World War One. There have been scores of "I was there" books. With Jack's diary, you are there.

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MALACCA (Church of Scotland) and other main centres

CORRECTION

Because of a printing error the cost of "The Defence Mechanism of the Modern State" (Nagendra Singh) was incorrectly given in the January SOLDIER as \$5. The price of this book, published by Asia Publishing House, 447 Strand, London WC2, is £5.

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only
I had
the
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