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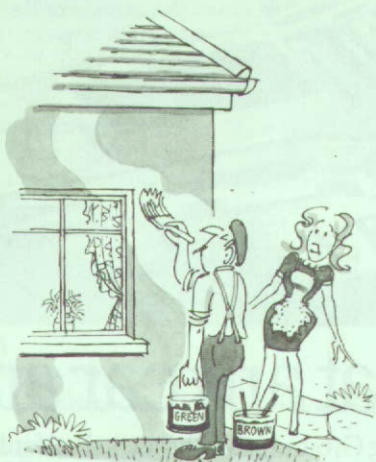
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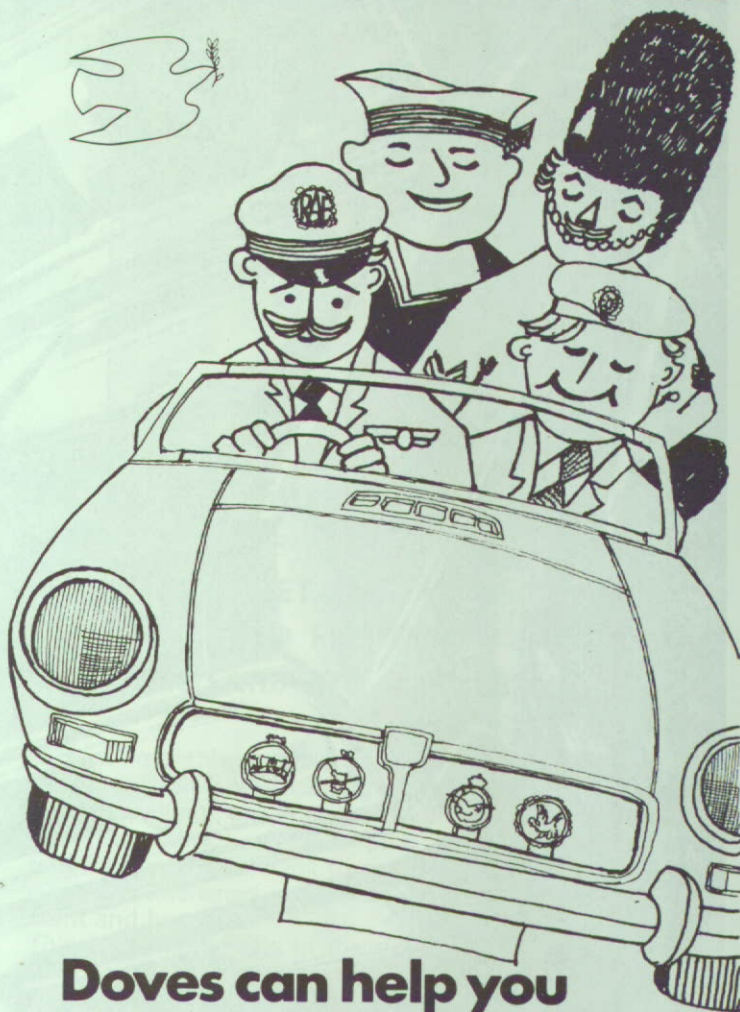


SOLDIER'S HOME by Arnold Wiles

(page 47)

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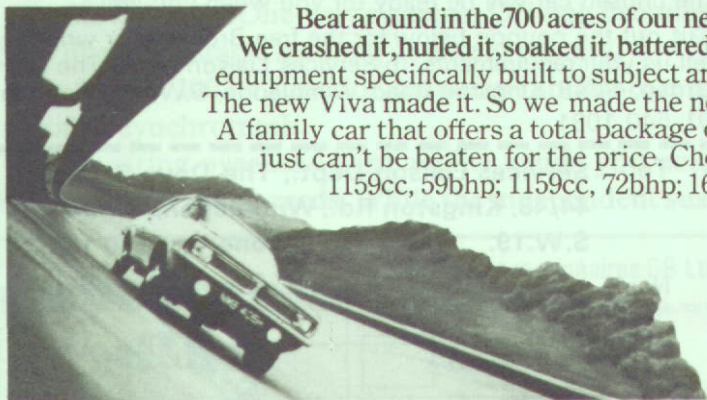
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SEE - THE - ARMY DIARY

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

FEBRUARY 1971

The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, royal salutes, Hyde Park, London, 6 February (anniversary Queen's accession), 21 April (Queen's birthday), 2 June (anniversary coronation), 10 June (Prince Philip's birthday), 13 June (Queen's official birthday), 4 August (Queen Mother's birthday).

5 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, mounts public duties, London (5 February-12 March).

APRIL 1971

9 Air show, Lydd (9-10 April) (band, Blue Eagles helicopter display, free-fall team).

25 Open day, Women's Royal Army Corps Centre, Guildford.

MAY 1971

12 Marlborough exhibition, Burlington Arcade, London.

12 Royal School of Military Music band concert, Kneller Hall, Twickenham.

19 Army recruiting display, West Midland show, Shrewsbury (19-20 May) (Red Devils free-fall team, Royal Signals White Helmets motorcycle team, bands).

19 Kneller Hall band concert.

22 Lord Mayor's show, Belfast.

26 Kneller Hall grand (band) concert.

27 Royal Ulster Agricultural Society show, Balmoral, Northern Ireland (27-30 May) (bands).

28 Military display, Dundee (28-30 May) (band, pipes and drums, motorcycle team, free-fall team).

28 Massed bands parade, Bielefeld, West Germany (28-29 May).

29 Tidworth tattoo (29-31 May).

29 First rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.

29 Watford carnival and fête (29 and 31 May) (band).

31 Aldington carnival (band).

31 Three-mile parade (with 11 bands) to launch Fourth Festival of London Stores.

JUNE 1971

2 Glasgow military display (2-13 June)

2 Household Division beats Retreat, Horse Guards Parade, London.

2 Kneller Hall band concert.

3 Massed bands parade, Dortmund, West Germany (3-5 June).

4 11th international festival of military music, Mons, Belgium (4-8 June).

5 Second rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.

5 Nuneaton carnival (5-6 June) (band and drums, Red Devils, Royal Artillery motorcycle team, Blue Eagles).

5 Open day, Army Apprentices College, Harrogate.

5 Lord Mayor's parade, Sheffield (band).

6 Battersea parade (Royal Tournament).

7 Scottish Division massed pipes and drums beat Retreat, Horse Guards Parade, London.

9 Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London (9-26 June).

9 Kneller Hall band concert.

11 Army recruiting display, Leigh, Lancashire (11-12 June).

11 Open day, School of Infantry, Warminster (or 12 June).

11 Gosport cadet tattoo, St George's Barracks, Gosport (11-13 June).

11 Military tattoo/trade fair, Sidcup (11-13 June) (band).

12 Chingford bonanza (band).

12 Porchester carnival (bands, arena events).

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DIARY continued

JUNE 1971

- 12 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 12 Army display, Catterick.
- 13 **Welsh 3000s, Snowdonia.**
- 16 **Kneller Hall band concert.**
- 19 North Wilts cadet tattoo, Swindon.
- 19 British Legion (County of Northumberland) jubilee celebrations, Whitley Bay (band).
- 19 Frimley/Camberley cadet fête (two bands, two arena events).
- 23 **Kneller Hall band concert.**
- 24 Carisbrooke Castle tattoo, Isle of Wight (24-26 June).
- 25 Massed bands parade, Minden, West Germany (25-26 June).
- 26 Open day, Depot The Queen's Division, Basingbourne.
- 26 Open day, 39 Engineer Regiment (Airfields), Waterbeach.
- 30 **Kneller Hall grand (band) concert.**

JULY 1971

- Opening of National Army Museum, London (**now November 1971**).
- Open day, Royal Corps of Transport, Northern Ireland.
- 3 Army display, Tewkesbury festival.
- 3 Military musical pageant, Wembley Stadium (in aid of Army Benevolent Fund).
- 3 Civic weekend and carnival, Doncaster (3-4 July) (band, motorcycle team, Red Devils).
- 7 Colchester tattoo (7-10 July).
- 7 **Kneller Hall band concert.**
- 8 **Sounding Retreat, Rifle Depot (Royal Green Jackets), Peninsula Barracks, Winchester (8-10 July).**
- 9 Southampton show (band and drums) (9-10 July).
- 10 Aldershot Army display (10-11 July).
- 10 Pudsey show (band).
- 14 **Kneller Hall band concert.**
- 15 Army recruiting display, Liverpool (15-17 July).
- 16 Army recruiting display, Birmingham (16-18 July).
- 17 Artillery day, Larkhill (changed from 31 July).
- 17 Weston-super-Mare dairy festival (17-24 July) (three bands).
- 21 Combined services tattoo, Gosport.
- 21 **Kneller Hall grand (band) concert.**
- 22 Army recruiting display, Manchester (22-24 July).
- 23 Army recruiting display, Stoke-on-Trent (23-25 July).
- 27 Dover tattoo (Dover Army week) (27-28 July).
- 29 Borough show, Northampton (29-31 July) (band).
- 30 Cardiff tattoo (30 July-7 August).
- 30 Suffolk tattoo (30-31 July) (now cancelled).
- 30 Hull show (30-31 July) (Red Devils).
- 30 Folkestone tattoo (Dover Army week) (30-31 July).
- 31 Army air day, Middle Wallop.

AUGUST 1971

- 1 Open day, Royal Armoured Corps Centre, Bovington.
- 3 Tyneside summer exhibition, Exhibition Park, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (3-7 August) (bands, Red Devils, motorcycle team).

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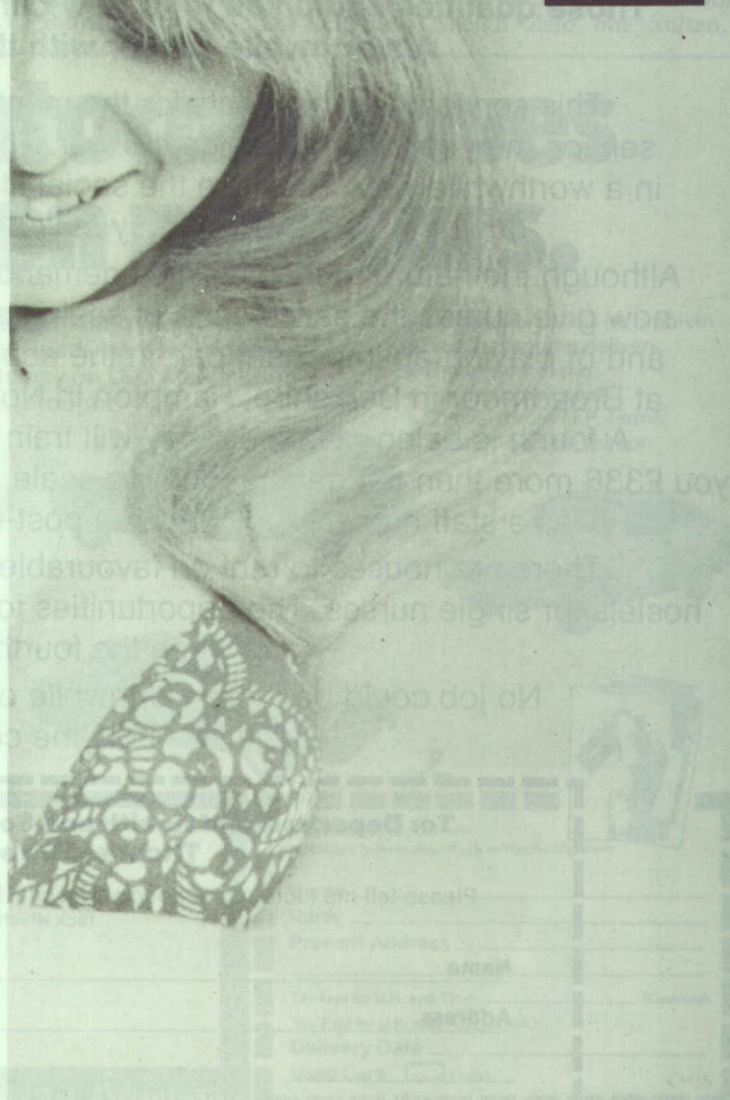
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IT was enough to give any young camel the hump, being an unwanted infant with the prospect of abandonment in the desert.

Then along came a Land-Rover patrol of 6 Squadron, 2 Infantry Regiment of the Abu Dhabi Defence Force. His bedouin owners, reluctant to carry him with them 30 miles to the nearest well, were only too eager to palm him off on the samaritan soldiers.

For two months he was cosseted and coddled, being fed on milk through the punctured fingers of a rubber glove stretched over a coke bottle. Now he has become a permanent resident of the squadron's desert camp at Suweihan in the

Arabian Gulf emirate of Abu Dhabi. The squadron's British officers have named him Pegasus.

"The trouble is that he has never seen any other camels and thinks he is a soldier. He even goes into tents and sits down on the beds," said the squadron's commander, Major Mike Joy.

Pegasus has developed some peculiar habits. He has found that if he pulls the safety clip out of a fire extinguisher with his teeth and bangs the plunger with his chin, lots of lovely cool foam spurts out over his face. He has also become addicted to cigarettes—preferring Rothman's king size—which he smokes through his nostrils. During the Arab fast of Ramadan, when

drinking, eating and smoking are forbidden in daylight, his five-a-day ration was abruptly cut off. Said Major Joy: "He got a bit niggly."

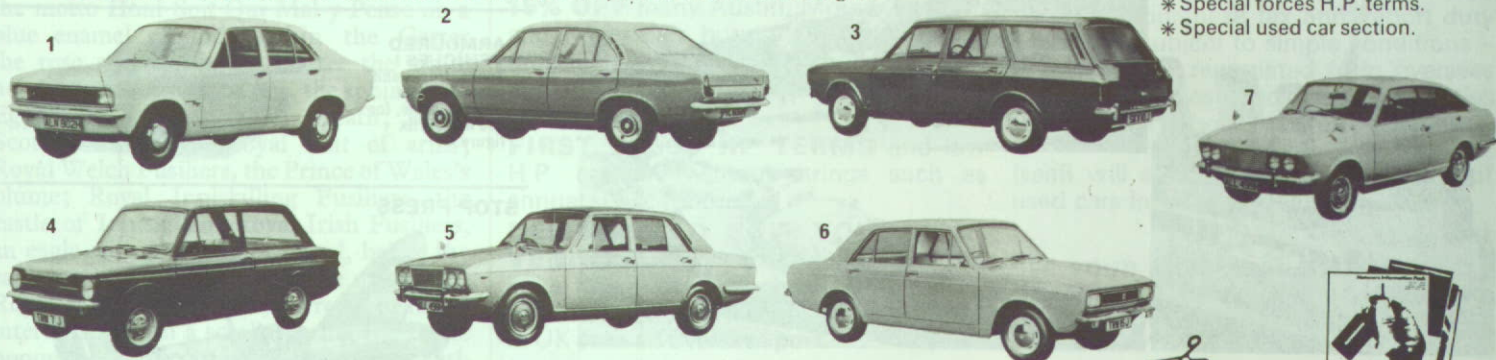
His staple diet is rice, *khubs* (a kind of *chapati*), dates and tea. But he is not averse to foraging among the waste bins, nibbling plants in the carefully cultivated gardens or simply taking a bite out of the side of a tent.

Pegasus, who will not be fully grown for another three years, is at present undergoing months of basic training—marching, standing still and following the commands of his handler. He is being groomed for the public parade in August commemorating the accession of the Ruler of Abu Dhabi, His Highness Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan.

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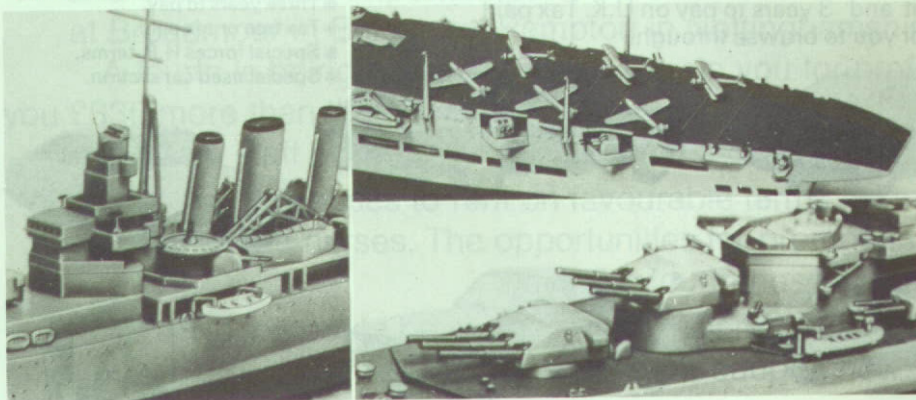
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Officer's fusilier cap 1900

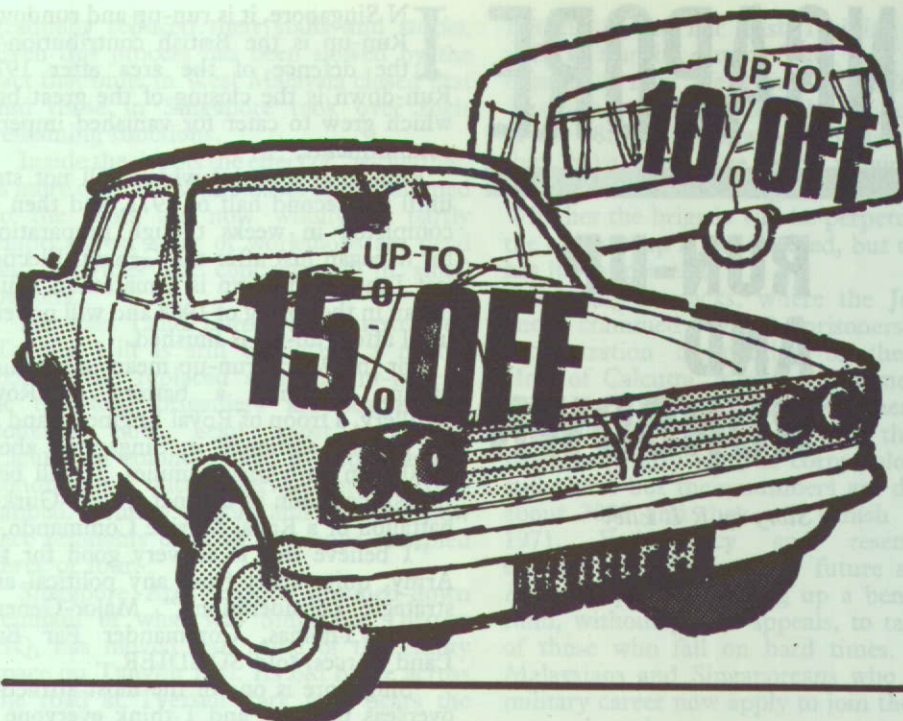
Pattern sealed 23 August 1898

The officer's fusilier cap was made of short bear or black racoon skin on a stiffened buckram frame. The caps varied in height from eight inches to nine and a half inches in the front, depending on the height of the officer. The chin chain was of burnished gilt interlocking rings lined with leather and black velvet.

In 1900 only two of the nine fusilier regiments were permitted to wear a plume. They were The Northumberland Fusiliers, who wore a 4½in red-and-white plume on the left side and The Royal Irish Fusiliers with a 6½in green cut feather also on the left side. The front of the cap was ornamented with a large gilt grenade with the badge of the regiment on the ball.

The badges were: Northumberland Fusiliers, St George and the dragon within a Garter inscribed Quo Fata Vocant; Royal Fusiliers, the Garter surmounted by a crown, the Garter being pierced with the motto Honi Soit Qui Mal y Pense on a blue enamel ground; within the Garter the rose and below the Garter the white horse; Lancashire Fusiliers, the sphinx over Egypt all within a laurel wreath; Royal Scots Fusiliers, the royal coat of arms; Royal Welch Fusiliers, the Prince of Wales's plume; Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, the castle of Inniskillen; Royal Irish Fusiliers, an eagle with a wreath of laurel, below the eagle a tablet inscribed with the number 8; Royal Munster Fusiliers, a wreath of laurel intertwined with a scroll bearing the battle honours of the regiment; within the wreath a shield of the province of Munster, the crowns in gilt and the shield in silver; on the bottom of the wreath a scroll inscribed Royal Munster; Royal Dublin Fusiliers, the arms of the city of Dublin; below to the right, on a tablet inscribed Plassey, the royal tiger; to the right, on a tablet inscribed Mysore, the elephant; below the tablets a scroll inscribed Spectamus Agendo; on either side of the shield a large spray of shamrock.

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SINGAPORE

RUN-UP AND RUNDOWN

Story by R L Elley

IN Singapore, it is run-up and rundown. Run-up is the British contribution to the defence of the area after 1971. Run-down is the closing of the great base which grew to cater for vanished imperial commitments.

Run-up is a sprint which will not start until the second half of 1971, and then be completed in weeks though preparations for it began just after the General Election last June. Run-down is a marathon which began in the spring of 1968 and will not end until after run-up is finished.

For the Army, run-up means a battalion group, including a battery of Royal Artillery, a troop of Royal Engineers and an air platoon stationed in Singapore, about 1400 men with their families. It will be a British battalion as distinct from a Gurkha battalion or a Royal Marine Commando.

"I believe this is all very good for the Army, quite apart from any political and strategic considerations," Major-General Walter Thomas, Commander Far East Land Forces, told **SOLDIER**.

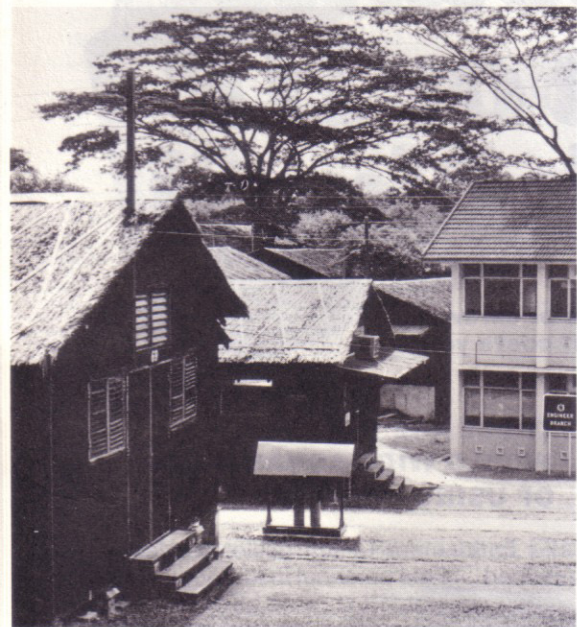
"Singapore is one of the most attractive overseas postings and I think everyone is pleased that it remains to offer the chance of a full accompanied tour. The Far East will keep up the variety of the Army's

training and, whether a man ever uses that sort of training operationally or not, it makes him a more versatile, more complete soldier."

Setting up the post-1971 "presence" is a complicated business which is being tackled with a lot of co-operation between the land, sea and air planners of all five nations involved.

Australian and New Zealand contributions to the defence of the area will be much the same in size as the British. Their forces will share with the British the problems of maintaining themselves overseas. For economy and efficiency the planners of the three countries are working to contrive as much integration as possible in the command structure, communications, supply, medical services and so on and in domestic matters such as finding quarters, schools and other amenities for families.

Both Singapore and Malaysia will be involved in the operational and exercise planning, for this is an equal partnership of the five nations. Singapore, as host to the Australian, New Zealand and British forces, has a big contribution to make to the domestic arrangements and Malaysia will provide the essential facilities for training in the jungle and on the beaches.



Attap-roofed "chicken sheds" (above) have provided comfortable accommodation for generations of HQ Far East staff officers since World War Two.

Above right: 1st Battalion, The Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, has taken over what was the Far East Training Centre's HQ in Nee Soon.

Right: 1st Bn, Royal Australian Regt, Selarang.

Opposite page: Part of Army's Chip Bee estate.



"There are many problems, none of which are, I think, insoluble," the Commander-in-Chief Far East, Air Chief Marshal Sir Brian Burnett, told reporters. The marathon rundown has gone two-thirds of its time and Air Chief Marshal Burnett reported in November that the number of troops and supporting civilians of all three Services in the area had been reduced from 74,000 to 39,000.

So far the effect has been mainly seen in West Malaysia where the Army has handed over all its bases except part of Minden Barracks, Penang, the Gurkha training depot at Sungei Patani, some small establishments in the Cameron Highlands, and the Jungle Warfare School.

In Singapore the progress of run-down is not so easily visible. Since it started the only major Army establishments handed over to the Singapore Government are the Kranji ammunition and vehicle depots and the island of Pulau Brani.

The depots and workshops which supported the troops who fought in the Malayan Emergency and the Borneo Confrontation still look the same from the outside, thanks to the process known as "withering on the vine." Instead of shutting up shop dramatically, establishments have

gradually reduced their staffs and stocks. Even this process has been slowed by the fact that units in West Malaysia closed first and those in Singapore took over their remaining functions.

Inside the depots the effect of "withering" is more obvious. Warehouses once crammed to the roofs are now wholly or partly empty; great areas of workshops are dead and activities are concentrated in small packets.

Far East Land Forces headquarters on Tanglin Hill is still busy, but a major-general has replaced a lieutenant-general at the top, brigadiers are scarce and colonels now head most branches. Lieutenant-colonels have moved into air-conditioning once reserved for the red-tabbed. Solitary majors and captains now face remnants of tasks that once occupied three or four.

Singapore Area HQ, a slimmed-down remnant of what was Singapore District HQ, has moved into some of the empty space on Tanglin Hill. Its old home across the road at Tyersall Park now bears the sign of the headquarters of an Australian and New Zealand support group.

Another visible change is at Nee Soon, remembered by thousands of British

soldiers as the Far East Training Centre and a transit camp. The bulk of its occupants now are New Zealanders and Australians, among them the headquarters of the 28th Commonwealth Brigade which they have kept alive since moving from Terendak at the beginning of 1970. Whether the brigade will be perpetuated in the new set-up is not decided, but the idea has its supporters.

Selarang Barracks, where the Japanese once crammed 17,000 prisoners in a concentration comparable to the Black Hole of Calcutta, is now the home of 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment.

Locally-enlisted soldiers with their gay *songkoks* (Malay hats) in corps colours are still about but their numbers are down to about 3000 and they will vanish during 1971. Redundancy and resettlement schemes provide for their future and the Army is quietly building up a benevolent fund, without public appeals, to take care of those who fall on hard times. Young Malaysians and Singaporeans who want a military career now apply to join their own national armies.

In November there were still 14,000 local civilians directly employed by the British Services but the number is dropping



Air Chief Marshal Sir Brian Burnett will probably be the last Commander-in-Chief, Far East.



And probably the last Commander, Far East Land Forces—Major-General Walter Babington Thomas.



Above: Part of the 400-bed British Military Hospital which will be a welcome addition to Singapore's health services. Below: The calm Straits of Johore provide perfect conditions for water-skiing.

every month. Some lucky ones will be able to carry on after the end of 1971 but how many has not yet been worked out; it will not be a big figure. For the rest there are pension and redundancy compensation schemes exactly like those which would apply to British civil servants at home, and for the younger ones prospects of new careers in Singapore's expanding economy.

Of the material made surplus by the closing of the base, some is being shipped to the British Services at home and in other

theatres, some will be needed in Singapore after 1971 and the remainder is being sold under arrangements with the local governments that make sure commercial markets are not upset.

"The run-down was very well planned in 1968 and it has hit amazingly few snags," said Major-General Thomas. "It has been, and still is, a huge but delicate task for the corps and services to reduce themselves and at the same time keep up our ability to carry out operational and training roles.

"Some adjustments had to be made to provide for the post-1971 force. It would have been silly, say, to get rid of equipment that the battalion group will need. But on the whole, the plan is going ahead with little change. Most of our soldiers know exactly where they stand, and where they will be posted in 1972. This we did not want to change and indeed we could not change without causing chaos.

"Basically we are treating rundown and run-up as two separate operations with a bit of overlap and not forgetting that we still have commitments as a fighting force."

For these commitments, Far East Land Forces still has teeth.

At Sembawang is 3rd Royal Marine Commando Brigade, including 95 Commando Light Regiment, Royal Artillery. At Nepal Barracks, 1st Battalion, 2nd Gurkha Rifles, keeps its kukris sharp.

From Dover Road, A Squadron, 14th/20th Hussars, sallies forth in its Saladins and Saracens on training in West Malaysia, and 249 Signals Squadron keeps up its "go-anywhere" tradition by sending detachments on distant exercises to both east and south. Gillman Barracks is still a Royal Engineer stronghold with tentacles on projects as far apart as Thailand and the Solomon Islands.

Land-hungry Singapore has eager eyes on the one-tenth of its area occupied by the British Services, only a small part of which will be needed for run-up. The Singapore Government has a special department to take over and develop its real-estate windfalls. Not much of its intentions has been published but the 400-bed British military hospital is scheduled to take a place in Singapore's growing health service, and St John's comprehensive boarding school will become an international school next academic year. The planners hope it will continue to educate British Service children along with civilian children.

The Pasir Panjang complex of stores and workshops is to become an industrial estate and housing estates will be built there and across the road on Kent Ridge, part of which has been earmarked for a higher-education project and the headquarters on Tanglin Hill is reported to have been offered to two Catholic schools whose present city-centre sites are ripe for intensive development.

Not surprisingly, as they gaze at their homes and work-places in this fastest-moving of all developing countries, British soldiers are heard to say, "I'd like to see this place in ten years' time."





FIELD-MARSHAL VISCOUNT SLIM

FIELD-MARSHAL Viscount Slim of Yarralumla was once irreverently but affectionately described by a soldier of his Fourteenth Army as "grumpy old Bill Slim in a sweaty bush shirt." This great soldier, who in World War Two achieved the impossible in Burma and who in peacetime was an outstanding Governor-General of Australia, would have been the last to resent that description.

His rugged face and jutting chin, forthright speech and unshakable belief in victory made "Uncle Bill" every soldier's ideal general. He had, too, a ready wit. Before the Burma campaign a cockney soldier shouted: "When the day comes, we'll all be behind you." Quick as a flash and with a friendly smile came the reply: "Don't you believe it, sergeant. When the day comes you will be a long way in front of me."

Of all the World War Two generals, Slim was probably the most frequently quoted. His observations were always

penetrating and imbued with the wisdom of experience.

Of courage he said: "I don't believe there is any man who, in his heart of hearts, wouldn't rather be called brave than have any other virtue attributed to him . . . Courage is not merely a virtue; it is *the* virtue. Without it there are no other virtues. True, you may be bad and brave, but you can't be good without being brave."

Of discipline: "True discipline is not someone shouting orders at others. This is dictatorship, not discipline. The voluntary, reasoned discipline accepted by free, intelligent men and women is another thing. To begin with, it is binding on all, from top to bottom."

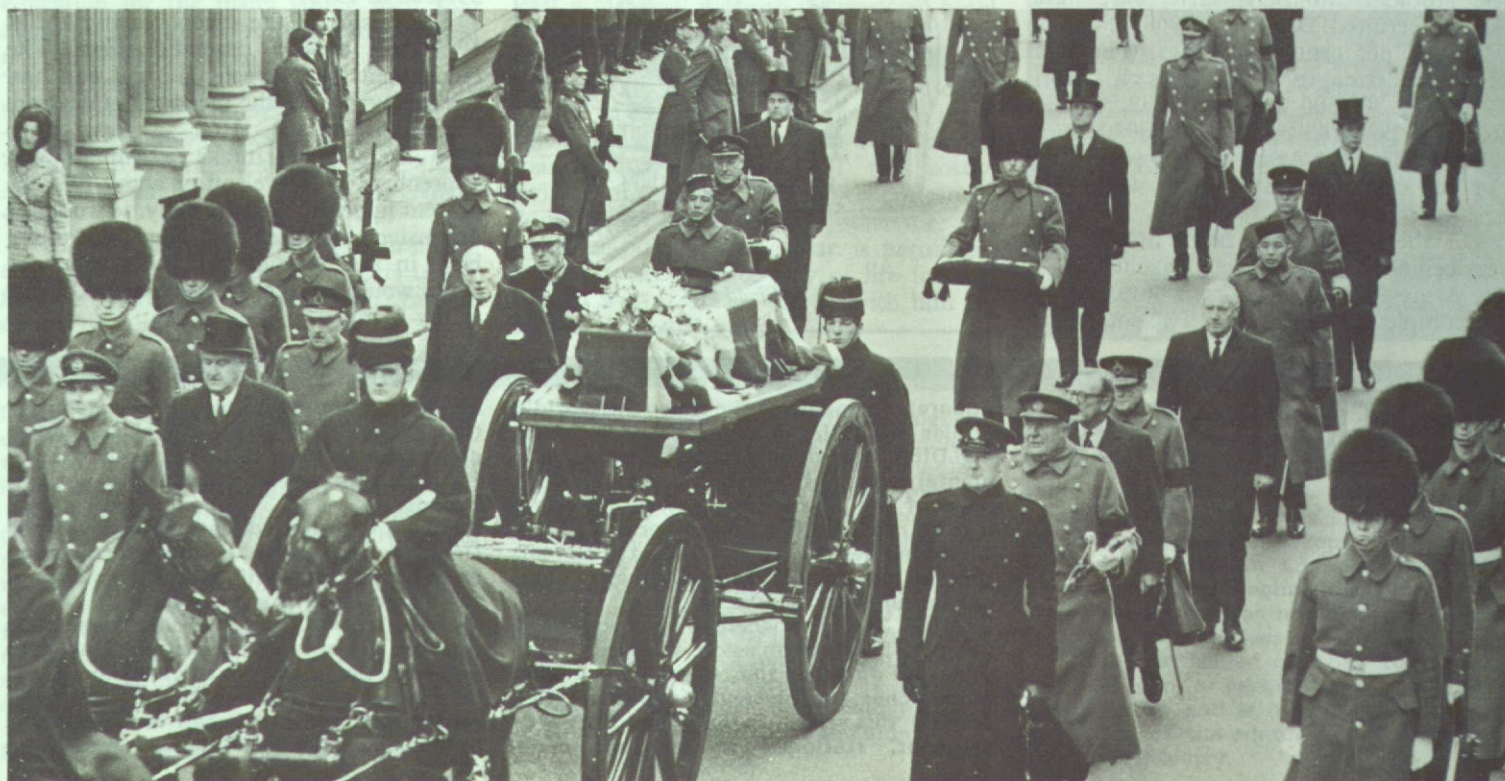
Of the British soldier: "It is not that he is braver than other soldiers. He is not, but he is brave for a bit longer, and it is that bit that counts."

"Endurance is the very fibre of his courage and of his character. He stays

where he is until he has won." And: "The British soldier, bless him, is a grim fighter but a bad hater."

Viscount Slim, the soldier who enlisted as a private and retired a field-marshal, was commissioned in The Warwickshire Regiment. At the end of World War One, during which he served with distinction at Gallipoli and in Mesopotamia, he transferred to the 6th Gurkha Rifles. In 1940 he commanded the 10th Indian Brigade, in March 1942 the 1st Burma Corps and late in 1943 became commander of the Fourteenth Army which turned "defeat into victory" in Burma.

After a period as Commandant of the Imperial Defence College, Field-Marshal Slim left the Army in September 1947 to become deputy chairman of the Railway Executive. A year later he was recalled to be Chief of the Imperial General Staff in succession to Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery. His final appointment was Governor and Constable of Windsor Castle.



Charter for BOYS

FROM 1 April all boys in the forces will have the legal right to reconsider their engagement terms when they reach the age of 18 and the option of continuing on their original engagements or shortening them to leave the Service at the age of 21.

This applies to all who enlist—or have already enlisted—under the age of 17½. All boys (junior soldiers and apprentices) and young soldiers (enlistments at 17½) already have the right to leave within the first six months on payment of £20. This right is to remain but payment will be abolished.

The new arrangement follows the Government's acceptance in general of the report of a committee headed by Lord Donaldson which enquired into terms of engagement and other conditions of service of boy entrants and young servicemen. The committee was set up in 1969 in view of the raising of the school-leaving age in 1972 and the lowering of the age of maturity to 18.

The committee spent eight months taking verbal evidence, reviewing written submissions and material dealing with various aspects of Service procedures and conditions, and in visiting training establishments, operational units and career information offices.

Some of the figures which helped to put the problem into perspective were: The Army recruited 20,100 in 1969 of which 9400 (47 per cent) were boys. The total other rank strength of the forces on 1 April 1970 was 309,500 of which 132,500 had joined as boys (43 per cent). Of 9400 boys recruited into the Army in 1969 some 1300 (14 per cent) elected to leave within the first six months.

On the other hand large numbers of servicemen prolong their engagements. In the Army 91 per cent currently extend on the completion of 12 years. The committee

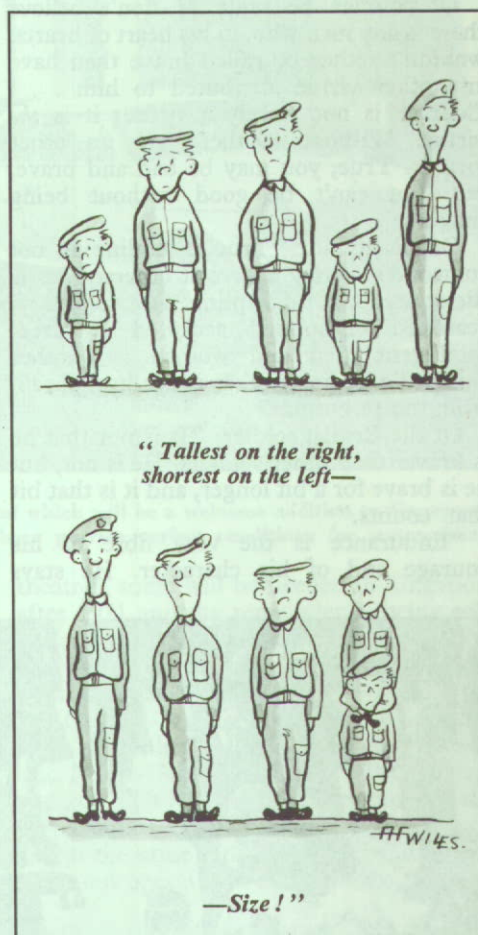
concluded that there was no suggestion that the forces consist substantially of men held against their will.

It recommended that enlisted boys, other than long-term apprentices, should have the option at 18 of confirming their original engagements or of reducing to three years and leaving at age 21. Apprentices with two or more years' training should have the option of confirming their original engagements or completing their training and then serving for five years. They would also have the option of foregoing further instruction and leaving immediately (at 18).

The committee felt that if a boy had been well trained over a long period he should give something back to the Service but he must be allowed the opportunity to opt out on attaining the age of maturity. If there was no binding clause some lads might enlist just for the training.

RECOMMENDATIONS AGREED

Lord Carrington, Secretary of State for Defence, in a statement in the House of Lords said the Government appreciated



the committee's reasons for differentiating between the two groups but felt that it was only fair to treat them alike. The first recommendation had therefore been agreed and all boys would have the option of confirming at 18 or leaving three years after their 18th birthday or on the completion of their training, if later. This means that a small group of apprentices would be required to complete their two-three-year training but would not be called upon to compensate by serving for another five years.

The Government also agreed to the recommendations of the committee to

- (a) abolish payment on discharge for boys;
- (b) relate the payment on discharge for adults directly to the amount of committal pay received i.e. the extra pay for commitment to long service;
- (c) abolish payment for discharge on compassionate and conscience grounds;
- (d) review enlistment documents with a view to simplification and clarification;
- (e) arrange for boys' enlistment documents to show clearly the date of the end of the engagement and age at that time;
- (f) consider the earlier discharge of regular offenders repeatedly sentenced to detention;
- (g) develop opportunities of training for a second career during service as well as immediately before discharge—the committee believes that resettlement should be in view throughout service and even before the prospective recruit signs.

EXTRACTS

Some points and extracts from the committee's report:

More than 80 per cent of all recruits are drawn from the 15-19 age group. The number of young men available for employment in this group was 1,470,000 in 1963, 1,100,000 in 1970 and is expected to fall to 960,000 in 1974. The 17 and under group from which boys can be recruited was 505,000 in 1969 and will probably drop to 359,000 in 1975.

The raising of the school-leaving age in 1972 will have a dramatic effect. The recruitment of 15-year-olds will end and the average age of the recruit straight from school will be 16½. After an initial steep drop the Army's intake of juniors and apprentices will level off at about half the present figure of 6500 annually. It would be expensive, however, to cease recruiting boys in this restricted 16½-17½ group as many would go to other careers and be lost to the Army.

SOLDIER TO SOLDIER

Squarely facing up to the times the world's armies are taking a new look at haircuts. SOLDIER has already noted that a regimental group of the British Army meets the need of the pop scene by wearing wigs. It is on record too, at the other end of the scale, and perhaps the unkindest cut of all, that a regimental sergeant-major took exception to too short a haircut.

United States servicemen have now been given official permission to wear wigs when off duty and they may also use false moustaches, beards and sideburns. Welcoming this news an American Air Force sergeant, stationed in England, com-

mented: "Our haircuts are even shorter than in the British Army. It makes so much difference to your life. It's really great." He added that a wig helped to get girl friends.

For its long-haired National Servicemen Denmark has ordered hairnets for wearing on duty. And they will be in the colours of the different arms and branches.

Australia's Military Board has relaxed its rules on haircuts and sideburns. Hair is to be neatly cut; down to the neckline it will be tapered and not square cut; the taper must begin at least one half-inch above the buttoned shirt collar. Sideburns may be no

Legal note

Persons under the age of maturity are not automatically immune from the consequences of their decisions. Although the law has always recognised their need for special protection in relation to contracts, and in general these are not binding on the infant but are on the other party, there are exceptions.

Contracts which are binding include those for goods and services for the subsistence (food, clothing, housing) of the infant and his dependants; to enable him to earn a living (contract with an employer); and to enable him to learn a trade (contract of apprenticeship).

However, enlistment into the armed forces does not involve a contract—engagement is at the discretion of the Crown.

"Boy recruits tend to do better than adult recruits and provide a high proportion of non-commissioned officers and many commissioned officers. The vast majority seem to settle down easily and enjoy their chosen career at least as well as most youngsters do in their early years working in a factory, on a building site or behind a counter. It would be absurd to scrap a system which in general works so well."

Suggesting that "Premature voluntary release" might be a more suitable description for "Discharge by purchase" which "is foreign to the times and should be modified," the committee felt that the money paid should be related to the committal pay received. "Since the man may even after three years have received over £500 in extra pay on the promise of a long engagement we do not consider it unreasonable for him to be expected to pay back a proportion of it if he does not fulfil his side of the contract."

But: "There should be no payment where there has been no committal pay." One of the 11 members of the committee disagreed and signed a note of reservation.

On the quality of Service training the committee said: "Here is an unacknowledged contribution to an educational problem with which the schools are still wrestling. For their own practical reasons the forces are pioneering an important and interesting variant on the theme of further education for the many young men who need it if they are to be personally fulfilled and fully productive in an economic sense. The forces are well equipped to perform this service to the country; they provide for the great majority of their boys a communal life and an environment of challenge and stimulus without counterpart in the civilian world."

"The armed forces have in fact for a long time been unacknowledged pioneers in the field of industrial training and further education; it is high time that due

acknowledgment was made. In the 'seventies civilian further education will doubtless continue to expand; but it would be a great pity if the Services' units were to lose their unique place in the total provision. They are residential establishments. They are almost the only residential technical institutions available for successive generations of young people who need them and need them for a great variety of reasons."

CONCLUSIONS

The Ministry of Defence assesses the annual cost of the changes to be about £6,100,000 (Army's share, £1,500,000) plus a capital cost of about £3,000,000. More boys will leave at 18 but it is believed that the relaxed conditions will encourage more to join.

The committee said: "Some phasing of our proposals may be necessary but we believe that without a commitment to make such changes early it will become increasingly difficult to maintain even the present levels of recruiting, at least for the Navy and Army, on a voluntary basis."

"The whole future of the volunteer force turns upon its success in recruitment; and success in recruitment depends on the human factors with which we have been concerned. If our recommendations are accepted it would be natural to expect at least a marginal increase in 'wastage' both during the training and subsequently. We record our view that what is technically 'wastage' to the forces ought to be considered in the context of the nation's most valuable natural resource, its reservoir of trained manpower, and of the costly civilian programme of further education designed to increase that reservoir. At whatever point a young man is permitted to change the Service way of life for the civilian way of life he carries with him an enhanced value."

longer than a line horizontally through the centre of the ear canal; must be evenly tapered and not thick or bushy; must not increase in width throughout their length.

Back at home the Royal Navy has also adopted a more liberal approach. Hair may now be grown "fuller" than in the past but must be cut so that it appears neat and tidy at all times. Sideburns are now allowed to the level of the bottom of the ear—but must be neatly trimmed. And beards are as ever—"permission to grow" is still required.



In offering (in the December issue) the

Illustrated London News military calendar for 1971, SOLDIER expected a modest demand. In fact there was an immediate rush for copies and the demand continued into the new year. Obviously readers want a military calendar and, looking ahead to 1972, the point is taken.

Incidentally the military equivalent of a gremlin sabotaged a sentence in SOLDIER's description of the calendar. This should have read "The calendar features 13 regiments, some of which have recently disbanded, reduced or amalgamated." Apologies to all who still stand alone!



MILITARY STAMPS

Antigua has released a set of five colourful stamps with the theme of uniforms of regiments who have served on the island. Subjects are:


Drummer boy, 4th (The King's Own) Regiment, in 1745 (half-cent value); Private, 4th West India Regiment, 1803 (ten-cent); Officer, Grenadier Company, 4th Battalion, 60th (Royal American) Regiment of Foot, 1809 (20-cent); Officer, Light Infantry Company, 93rd (Highland) Regiment, 1830 (35-cent); Private, 3rd West India Regiment (Light Infantry), in uniform adopted in 1858 at the express wish of Queen Victoria who had been impressed by the dress of the French Zouaves (75-cent value).

In describing the Tower of London's nightly ceremony of the Keys, the subject of the December front cover, SOLDIER said the escort of 1st Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, was "wearing the ceremonial greatcoat recently introduced for public duties in London for troops other than Guards regiments."

This greatcoat was not intended purely for ceremonial duties.

It was first issued on trial to the 1st Queen's, who for part of the time were on public duties, and is now on trial for the remainder of the winter by 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry.

Today's teenagers - tomorrow's "tankies"



THE resplendent figure of scarlet-and-gold peaked hat, Sam Browne belt and swagger stick drew himself up to his full five feet four inches and shouted authoritatively: "Parade 'shun . . . March off the passing-out troop!"

They were the final words of command given by 17-year-old Frank Tole in his appointment of junior regimental sergeant-major of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps, Bovington. And as his smart strides took him off the parade ground behind the graduating troop he began thinking of the career ahead of him—as a *trooper* in 2nd Royal Tank Regiment.

But diminutive Frank, and the other 15 to 17-year-olds who spend two years at Bovington, will have a head-and-shoulders start over ordinary Army entrants. In the past six years 99 per cent of the junior leaders have attained the educational standard necessary for promotion to staff-sergeant. All qualify as class three tradesmen in either tank gunnery or radio operating—some do both.

Above all their training is designed to develop character through leadership. It could be by leading a team of other boys up Ben Nevis, chairing a meeting at the NAAFI Junior Centurion Club, or through the chain of command of junior ranks. Junior RSM Tole, for example, is called "sir" by all other boys, works out fatigue and duty rotas, conducts kit inspections, can order a boy's name to be taken for dirty boots or a haircut, and is even able to put them on a charge. He readily admits: "Rank can get on top of you a bit." But then he always has adult Regimental Sergeant-Major Leslie Lerpiniere close at hand . . .

Of the regiment's 600 boys, 90 per cent are junior leaders—the Royal Armoured Corps' future warrant officers and senior non-commissioned officers. After joining a regiment it takes them an average six to seven years to make sergeant, but some reach this rank by the age of 22. The remaining ten per cent are junior bandmen, many of whom will go on to Kneller Hall; a few may even become bandmasters.

One former junior RSM, Tony Wallington, went on to win a special Regular commission. Lieutenant Wallington, 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, skier, canoeist, rugby player and ex-comprehensive school pupil, is now back at Bovington as an instructor. He pointed out: "If I had not joined the Junior Leaders I probably would have been shoeing and breeding horses or farming now. It gave me a far broader outlook on life and a lot more self-confidence."

Many have come straight from musty Victorian classrooms in smoky cities and from school dinners of fishcakes and processed peas. At Bovington they have a balanced diet, with steak, chicken and roast beef, and are accommodated in a purpose-built academy erected in 1965 at a cost of

Story by Hugh Howton
Pictures by Martin Adam





Top of page: Down-to-earth military training balances theoretical classroom study.

Above: Roaring engine and whirring wheels. The thrill of speed in a go-kart.

Above left: The physics laboratory. An experiment in progress.

Left: A long drawn-out *glissando*. Trombonist during practice on the square.

Opposite page, top: "Parade . . . 'shun!" Stentorian tones of Junior RSM Tole resound round the square.

Opposite page, bottom: Spotting the hits from the turret of a Chieftain tank on the Lulworth range.

£1,250,000. It has central heating airy lecture rooms and plate-glass windows looking out on to the green fields and forests of Dorset. There is a swimming pool, cinema, fencing salon and band block with acoustic practice rooms. And there are facilities for yachting, go-karting, mountaineering, beagling and skin diving.

Classes are as little as possible of the "chalk and talk" type. Active participation is encouraged. For example a military history class was split into two, with Rommel and his generals against Monty and his Eighth Army officers, to re-enact the battle of El Alamein on a sandtable with model soldiers and armoured vehicles. A lecturer advised on tactics. In current affairs classes they discuss such subjects as "The capitalist/communist confrontation" and "Should Britain give more aid to under-developed countries?"

The boys also do a "project," an essay of about 5000 words illustrated with maps, cuttings, drawings and diagrams. Subjects, of the boy's own choice, have included oil, Russia, Korea and the history of the local town of Wareham, once a military strong-point of King Alfred.

They play hard too. The present regimental teams are junior army champions in rugby and hockey, and runners-up in swimming. In the last annual competition of the South-West England Brass Band Association the regiment won five cups competing against adult brass bands.

While the bandsmen tune up their trumpets and clarinets with "Soldiers of the Queen," the junior leaders get accustomed to the powerful boom of the Chieftain tank gun and the staccato crackle of the Browning. Junior Sergeant Thomas Hughes described his first experience: "I felt a bit worried at first. I let fire with the Browning and saw the rounds going towards the target. Then I pulled the trigger. I heard a muffled bang and moved backwards with the recoil. I saw a big flash on the target and knew I had hit it. It's great kit. It's what you join the Army for."

Discipline is on a par with a boarding school and man's army unit. Reveille is sounded by a trumpeter at 0645 and a junior non-commissioned officer checks that all boys are in bed at lights out—2230 for the younger ones but later for seniors. Alcohol is forbidden, smoking is discouraged but there is no booking in or out of camp. Fashions like flared trousers and flower-painted ties are acceptable. "But I do not allow any form of 'gear' such as 'bovver' boots or effeminate dress like hippie beads," said the commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Mark Chirnside. "But we do not get anyone who wants this sort of clothing anyway."

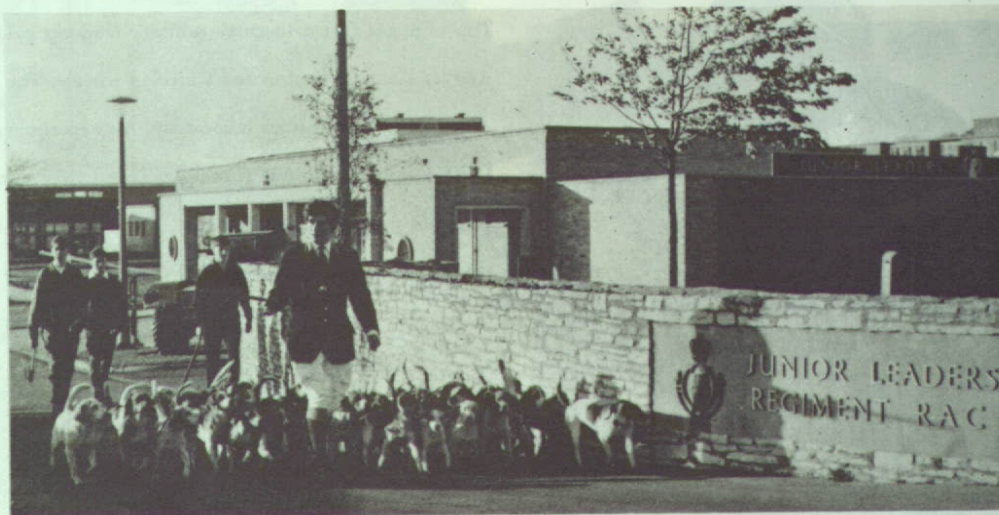
The junior leaders have done so much for the local old and needy—giving Christmas presents, moving furniture and running band concerts—that the nearby town of Wareham last year granted the regiment the Freedom of the borough. At the conferment ceremony one councillor commented: "Much adverse criticism has been levelled against the younger generation but I am convinced that given the right example, training and opportunity, such as is given to the Junior Leaders' Regiment, we could have the finest and best youth of the world today."



Above: Straight to the heart. A palpable hit during a fencing lesson.



Above: Hand-over-hand on the assault course. Below: Setting out with the beagles.



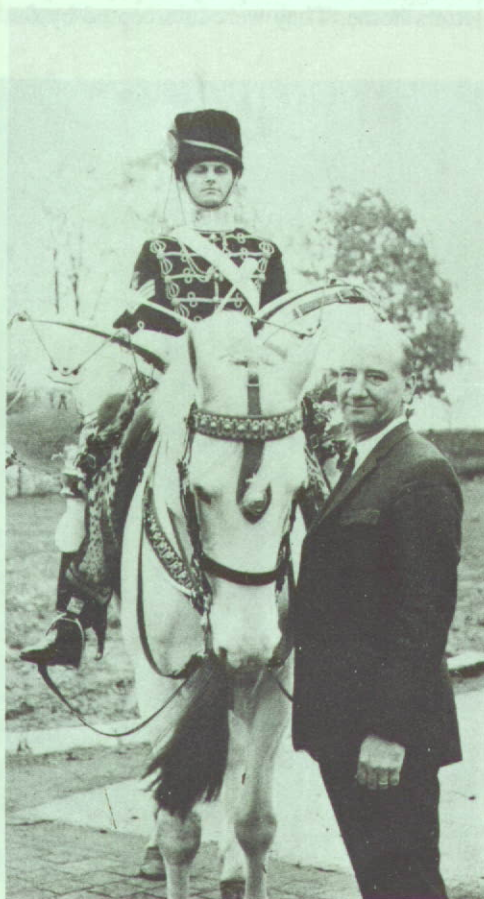
Purely Personal



Taped up

Corporal Peter Butler climbed up on the rostrum at Leamington Town Hall and raised his baton (above)—to conduct the Coventry Festival Band in the first public performance of his march "Rearguard." It was also his first appearance as the band's guest conductor although he had previously composed and

transcribed for the band. Corporal Butler, a clarinettist in the band of 3rd Battalion, The Light Infantry, comes from a musical family. His father plays the double bass and brother the fluegelhorn in the Alcester, Warwickshire, brass band, and his sister is a singer and pianist who performs in local shows.



Corporal conductor

Corporal Barry Carter's third stripe is more transient than most. He keeps it for just a few hours at a time whenever his regiment, The Queen's Own Hussars, has a ceremonial parade. He is the kettle-drum sergeant and astride Crusader, the drum horse presented by Princess Margaret in 1958, precedes the regimental band. When the regiment captured drums from the French at the Battle of Dettingen in 1743, King George III granted the privilege of maintaining a drummer to play them. The present drums, estimated to be worth £3000 are replicas of the originals destroyed by fire in 1855. Above: Sergeant Carter, Crusader and the last kettle-drum sergeant, **Mr Peter Langley**, who now runs the regiment's Naafi junior ranks club.



Pace-stick pass-out

He has bellowed at **King Hussein**, **General Gowon** of Nigeria, a plenitude of princes and a selection of sheikhs and sultans. Now **Academy Sergeant-Major Cyril Phillips** (above), who has dominated the parade ground at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, for the past seven years, has retired from the Army. He joined the Welsh Guards 36 years ago when, he recalled, "We lived on brown stew and bread and dripping." In 1940, then a colour-sergeant, he was

captured with the remnant of his unit at Dunkirk. During his five years as a prisoner-of-war he led a work strike of non-commissioned officers because they thought they were helping the German war effort and was sent to an underground prison in East Prussia. He will not be saying goodbye to ceremonial. His new post is superintendent of St James's Palace in London where he will wear the uniform of a sergeant in the Yeomen of the Guard.

SOLDIERS AND SURGEONS

Story by Hugh Howton

ARMED regulations insisted up to 1865 that recruits had good front teeth—for biting open cartridges and grenades. Early this century the Army began issuing dentures, to “sergeants of good character.” But today every soldier has the advantage of painless and skilled dentistry, thanks to advanced analgesics and the Royal Army Dental Corps.

During the South African War, 2000 men were sent home with bad teeth and

another 5000 were found unfit for fighting because they lacked teeth. An honorary dental surgeon went out at his own expense. He was followed by four more, sent by the Secretary of State for War under pressure from the British Dental Association. But the War Office was not finally convinced until 1914 when General Sir Douglas Haig suffered severe toothache and summoned a civilian dentist from Paris. Within a month a dozen dental surgeons were commissioned and attached to the Army Medical Corps in France. By the end of the war there were 850 Army dentists. And in 1921 the Army Dental Corps was formed.

World War Two was a different story. The corps' early 1939 strength of 237 officers and 325 men was increased tenfold. Dental teams worked in tents and trucks, hospitals and convalescent depots, field ambulances and casualty clearing stations. Some parachuted into Arnhem.

The Army Dental Corps, which this month celebrates its golden jubilee, won four Military Crosses and a Distinguished Conduct Medal in World War Two. The cost was high: 32 officers and 42 men killed and almost 100 taken prisoner-of-war. But

their work continued in the camps. In a POW hospital near Singapore patients were hypnotised when anaesthetics ran out and, in another camp in Siam, the only dentist among 10,000 prisoners constructed an adjustable chair from bamboo and rope. One officer, Captain (later Major-General and corps director) W F Finlayson, made himself a denture from vulcanised rubber after his front teeth had been knocked out by a Japanese soldier with a rifle butt.

Dentistry was not their only mission. They were soldiers too. Captain Julius Green, a prisoner-of-war in Stalag VIIIB at Blechhammer, used his skills in getting information gleaned from fellow prisoners and “reachable” guards back to the War Office.

He made invisible ink from chemicals supplied by the unsuspecting Germans. With it he drew a map of a synthetic oil plant, which was being built at Blechhammer, on the back of allotment forms sent home by soldiers authorising deductions from their pay for dependants. The normal channel of communication was by code (smuggled into camp by a prisoner) in letters home. They were intercepted by the



Above: A Jew who fooled the Nazis. Capt Julius Green in his improvised surgery at Stalag VIIIB.

Left: Dentistry in the desert. A mobile dental unit in operation at the Mareth Line in 1943.

Right: Operating amid ruins near the front line at Lanciano, Italy, 1943. Flashes are censored.

War Office, decoded, and then passed on. Occasionally Captain Green was able to send in "clear" by sneaking into the censor's office at night, "borrowing" his stamp and putting the messages into the bag of censored mail.

It was a dangerous game, the more so because Captain Green was Jewish. When taken prisoner he destroyed the identity discs which revealed his religion. "I underwent probably the most rapid conversion on record," he recalled later. "I became a Presbyterian, which caused a couple of C of E padres a great deal of amusement." Unluckily he was given away by a letter from an elderly female relative who wrote about visits to a synagogue and Passover festivities.

Captain Green was eventually declared "*Deutsch feindlich*" (unfriendly to the German people) and consigned to Colditz. But he survived, was repatriated, demobilised, and is now continuing in practice as a civilian in Glasgow.

In 1946, as a reward for devoted service, King George VI granted the corps its "Royal" prefix. At the same time the badge was redesigned with the motif of a

sword in a dragon's mouth and the motto "Ex dentibus ensis" (From the teeth a sword). This was from the Greek legend of Cadmus who sowed dragon's teeth which grew into armed men. The corps, however, is non-combatant like the Royal Army Medical Corps and Royal Army Chaplains' Department.

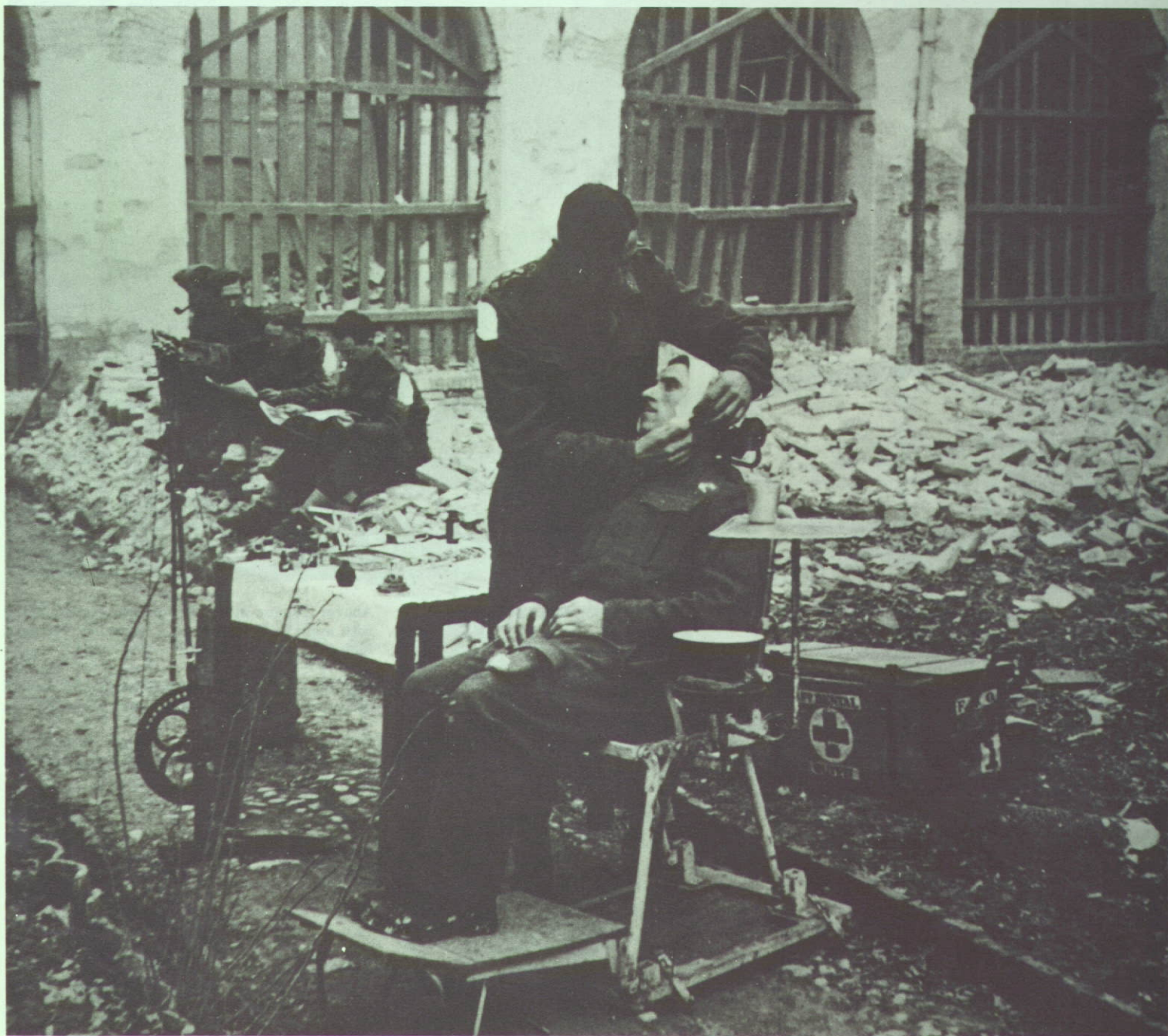
Today it is a very distinguished corps with five consultants and eight specialists holding the high qualification of Fellowship of Dental Surgery. Working side-by-side with surgeons of the Royal Army Medical Corps, Army dentists have performed operations to correct protruding jaws and replace damaged bone in the skull with metal or plastic plates. Two devices for immobilising a fractured jaw—known as acrylic splint and acrylated arch bar—have been made respectively by two senior officers of the corps. These devices, which are cheaper, lighter and easier to make than the conventional metal ones, have been adopted in civilian dentistry.

Army dentists, mostly commissioned as lieutenants while still at university, spend five years reading for a degree before

practising. Even in the ranks the training is long and exacting. After an initial course as dental clerk assistant, one can become either a dental technician (two years to AIII trade level) or a dental hygienist (six weeks in radiography and a further nine months leading up to the examination of the General Dental Council).

Dental hygiene is a popular job with women. "It is the thing for a dentist to have a pretty young hygienist to look good about the place and chat to the patients," said a warrant officer instructor at the RADC Depot in Aldershot. Just over half the Army dental hygienists are girls of Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps. But they are not just pretty faces. Apart from training in basic techniques like scaling and polishing, they give lectures on dental health in Army schools and establishments. One who left the Army recently now works as a research assistant with a well-known toothpaste manufacturer.

These other rank tradesmen are an integral part of the dental team, pointed out an officer—"without them the dental officer would have to work about 25 hours a day." At present dental technicians are up





to establishment, but there is a ten per cent shortage of hygienists and 30 per cent of dental clerk assistants. The gap is hoped to be filled by the middle of this year.

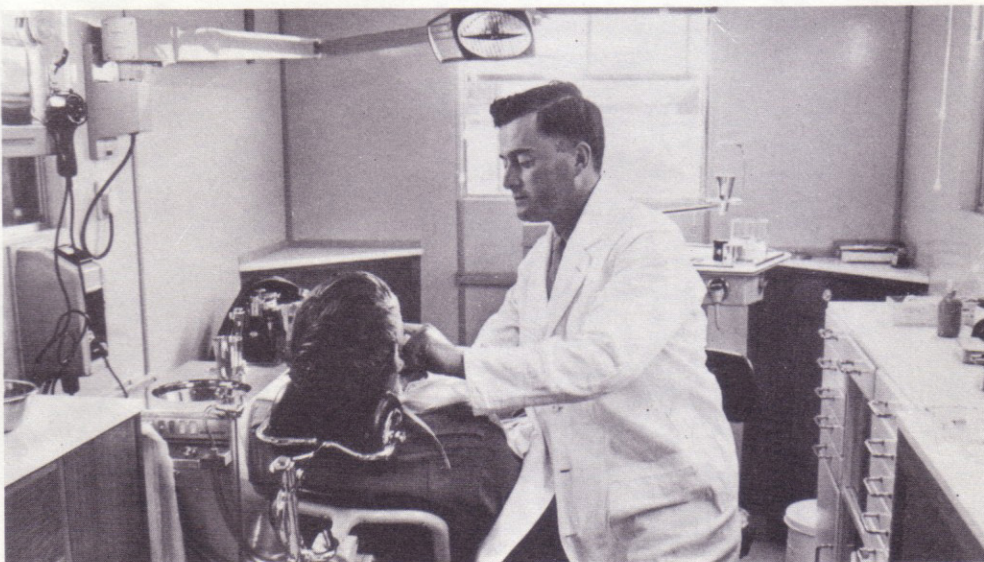
The Dental Corps has adapted to the modern Army's mobility and flexibility. It now has six fully-equipped mobile surgeries which have been in operation in Northern Ireland and in Caernarvon for the Investiture and dentists were included in the British Army Medical team in Jordan.



Above: Tongue-in-cheek humour. Sign daubing with a shaving brush, and a horseshoe for good luck.

Top left: War dog Sheba receives silver "crown" in Cyprus. Operation by Maj Lionel Kessel RADC.

Left: All amenities of the modern surgery and mobility too. Dental caravan at Caernarvon 1969.



On the ball

NOT quite Arsenal v 'Spurs and a 60,000 gate. This is Art Editor Frank Finch's impression of one of those hundreds of Army football games played in all weathers from snow and ice to burning sand and dirt pitches.

Frank Finch's monthly "How Observant Are You?" feature contains always ten differences between the two drawings. This month the feature moves to the competition page and he has run riot. There are more than ten differences and they are not all easily spotted.

Study the two drawings then send your list of differences, on a postcard or by letter, with the "Competition 153" label from this

page, and your name and address, to:

Editor (Comp 153)

SOLDIER

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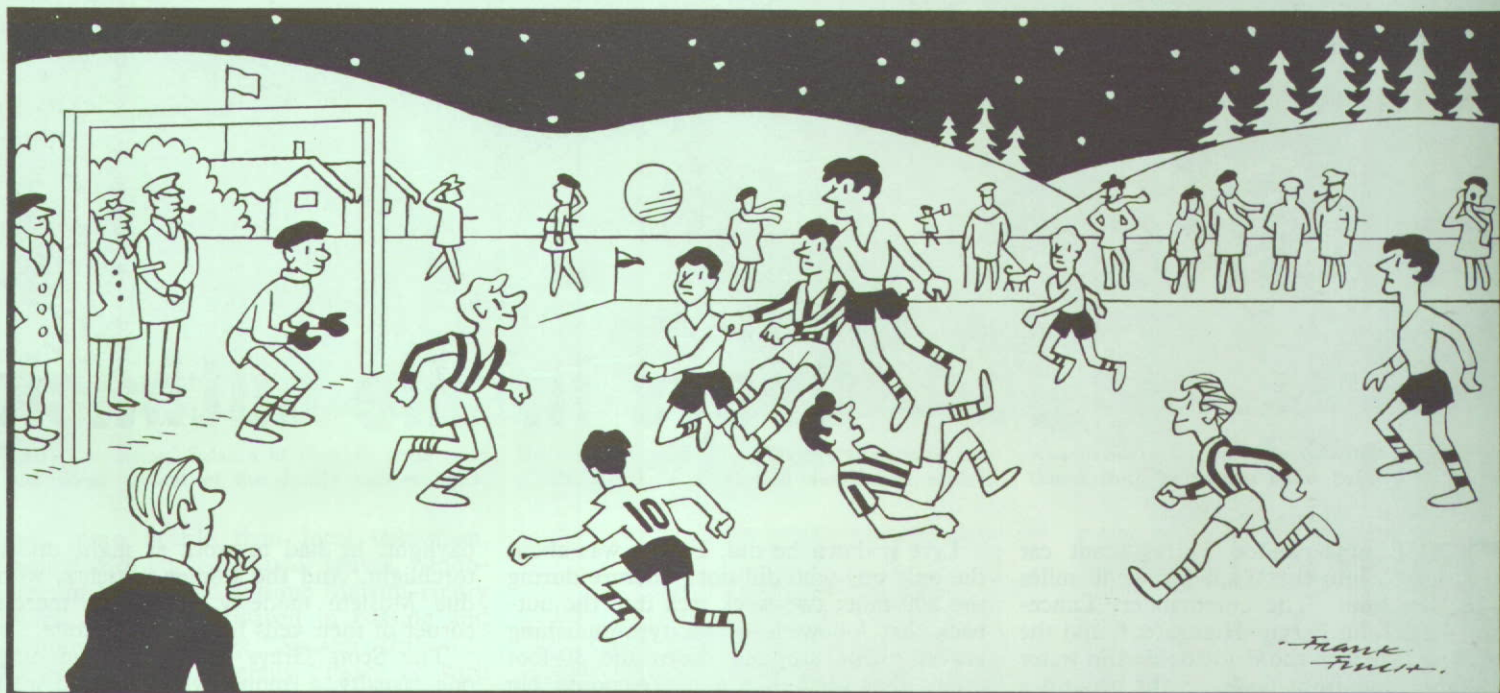
N7 6LT.

This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and closing date is Monday, 10 May. The answers and winners' names will appear in the July SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a "Competition 153" label. Winners will be drawn from correct entries.

Entries using OHMS envelopes or official pre-paid labels will be disqualified.

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 - 22-25 £1 each to winning entry from TAVR
- All entries are eligible for prizes 1-12.





Greys in the outback

THE pink-painted Ferret scout car sped into the Wadi Siji at 40 miles an hour. The commander, Lance-Corporal John Fergus Highgate, found the cooling breeze in the shady defile and water splashing up from pools on the ground a refreshing change from the blistering 130 degrees of the sun-scorched desert.

He began to feel happier. Ten minutes before they had had an unlucky puncture, but now they must be catching up the troop... Then suddenly there was a bump, hiss and shuddering skid.

Corporal Highgate cursed into his mutton-chop moustache. The offside rear tyre was in ribbons and they had already used the spare. He called up his troop leader on the radio: "Hullo One-Five, this is One-Five Charlie. We have had another one. We shall have to stop for at least two zero minutes to repair." The reply was sympathetic: "Roger. We will wait for you. Out."

It was not the end of the story. They were to puncture twice more on that journey. If it was not sharp stones on the track then it was sand caught inside the tyre and chafing the inner tube. Four punctures in one day. Corporal "Raggy Tash," as he was good-humouredly known to his mates of A Squadron, The Royal Scots Greys, certainly had a reputation to live down.

Live it down he did. For he was about the only one who did not puncture during the 800-mile, two-week trek into the outback that followed—across tyre-punishing gravel plains, up and down the 30-foot dunes that seem like a never-ending big dipper, bouncing over boulder-strewn tracks that bruise the body, past whirlwinds that whip up sandstorms which sting the eyes and through damp, clinging mist high up in the *jebels*.

A flag-waving, hearts-and-minds mission is undertaken once during its nine-month unaccompanied tour by each British armoured squadron stationed at Sharjah. It involves liaison visits to the Beau Geste forts of the Trucial Oman Scouts and meetings with sheikhs and local tribal leaders. The "minds" were influenced by the Scots Greys' firepower demonstrations of the 76mm Saladin guns and Browning machine-guns at desert villages—applauded by enthusiastic Arab audiences with shouts of "*Zayn marawakhid taman!*" (fantastic, marvellous!) The "hearts" was the job of Major John Edwards, Royal Army Dental Corps, who accompanied them. He made 70 extractions with troopers acting as nurses—cradling the patient's heads with their hands and holding their arms. Arab customs provided additional problems.

As it was the holy month of Ramadan, when blood must not be drawn during

daylight, he had to work at night under torchlight. And the women patients, with due Moslem modesty, lifted the merest corner of their veils for him to operate.

The Scots Greys themselves had only one casualty, a trooper who collapsed with heat exhaustion. He was evacuated by helicopter and he recovered within two days.

Explained a corporal: "You take a tablespoon of salt with your food. If you are feeling tired in the afternoon you take a spoonful of it with water. You recover in half an hour. It's as good as a pick-me-up."

Out in the open desert the sweat dries on your skin and you drink five gallons of water a day. In this, the hottest part of the world, the summer temperature soars to over 140 degrees. They say the mercury bursts out of the top of thermometers.

The column of Saladins, Ferrets, Land-Rovers and Bedford lorries—travelling in "linear spread" with 200 to 300 yards between vehicles—had to stop for 15 minutes each hour and a half to let the engines cool. As the sun sank swiftly below the horizon in orange and gold, they camped for the night in "close leager"—armoured vehicles forming a square with guns pointing outwards and soft-skinned vehicles sheltered inside. Such tactical formations are routine though they met no



Left: Desolation. Saladin at Sharjah amid sand and scrub—haunt of the deadly horned viper.

Below: "Unsticking" a Ferret with pierced steel planking which is carried clamped to vehicle.

Above: Surveying the scene camouflaged by camel thorn. Note hometown name painted on turret.

one more hostile than local tribesmen, armed with curved *khanjar* knives, bandoliers of bullets and antique Martini-Henry rifles, who simply waved in passing and shouted the greeting: "*Salaam Aleikum!*" (the Arab hullo, literally "Peace be with you.")

Even with the special balloon tyres the going was tough. One driver compared crossing soft sand with driving through ten inches of water. But map reading was the most difficult problem, with few landmarks, scarcely any roads, and tracks obscured by the shifting sands. The procedure was for the driver to call out every five miles with the navigator marking their positions on the map, allowing ten per cent for wheelspin on the gravel and soft sand.

Surprisingly there was only one bad breakdown—an elderly Saladin with nearly 10,000 miles on the clock, which had a new engine and gearbox flown out by Andover from Sharjah. The busy Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers technicians with the Scots Greys had to resort to improvisations such as repairing radiators with Araldite glue. As the light aid detachment commander, Staff-Sergeant Tony Toms, commented; "If only the manufacturers knew where their vehicles had been, it would be a wonderful advertisement for them."



Front cover

Consummate camouflage, not kinky pink. The armoured and soft-skinned vehicles of A Squadron, The Royal Scots Greys, have this unusual finish produced by mixing red lead with conventional buff colour paint and dusting it with fine sand before it dries.

A Squadron, stationed at Sharjah in the Gulf, is performing what is probably The Royal Scots Greys' last operational task before the regiment amalgamates in Edinburgh in July with the 3rd Carabiniers (Prince of Wales's Dragoon Guards) to form The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

Picture by Martin Adam.

EAST PAKISTAN DISASTER

JOINT-SERVICE RELIEF WORK

The largest relief operation Britain has ever undertaken was the delivery of food, clothing, medical supplies and personal aid to survivors of the cyclone which wrought havoc and killed hundreds of thousands of people in the Ganges delta, East Pakistan.

In Singapore the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, assisted by civilian personnel, worked round the clock to assemble and load supplies, medical stores, helicopters, powered assault boats and vehicles. Nearly every sapper in Singapore was involved in the rapid despatch of 59 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, with attached specialists and equipment.

Assault boats undergoing repair were quickly made serviceable and three hours after the order to move they were loaded into RAF Hercules aircraft at Changi 16 miles away.

Engineering plant operating on a project 30 miles away in Johore was brought in, cleaned and serviced during the night and loaded at the naval base next morning. Tubes improvised for well drilling down to 1000 feet were hurriedly manufactured to a pattern sappers had used in western Malaysia during Exercise Bersatu Padu.



Twenty of the new 17ft glass-fibre assault craft and their RM crews were flown in from England.

Staff of the Services Medical Supply Depot worked to the early hours preparing 12 tons of medical supplies worth more than £21,000. Other Army stores assembled during the night brought the total of official mercy gifts to £70,000. An appeal by Service chaplains, put out by the British Forces Broadcasting Service, brought gifts of clothing and shoes to churches specially opened as collecting centres. The gifts were packed and taken to the naval base during the night.

Meanwhile most of 3 Squadron, 32 Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, was standing by for East Pakistan but the move was cancelled when it was learned that there were no roads in the disaster area where vehicles could operate.

At 3 Base Ordnance Depot, demands arrived by telephone, signal, vehicle and hand while 75 British and locally enlisted soldiers worked through the first night to

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satisfy demands for the thousands of items required.

Practically every man of the Singapore garrison was involved in the first four days of the emergency operation, with the civilian staff, too, working at night. Thereafter there was a continuing airlift of supplies to the disaster area.

The assault ship HMS Intrepid and 15,000-ton fleet maintenance ship HMS Triumph sailed for the delta with 600 extra Royal Marine Commandos, Royal Engineers and other Army personnel. Also aboard were nine helicopters, 100 shallow draft boats, 270 tons of food, bedding, clothing, medical supplies and 70 vehicles and trailers. Included were 30 Gemini inflatable powered boats and three dories flown from Britain by the RAF.

On the same day 16 Royal Marines with ten glass fibre assault boats were airlifted from Britain to the delta. British forces in the Persian Gulf sent tents and food.

When the naval task force arrived off the Ganges delta a shore-based headquarters had been established at Patuakhali where 750 tons of food and supplies had already been flown in. Because of the difficult and ever-changing shallows in the delta the fleet anchorage was 25 miles away but the survey ship HMS Hydra had marked new navigational channels to facilitate the fastest possible movement of landing craft.

Over the first two days helicopters operating from Patuakhali distributed 100,000 lbs of food and clothing to the isolated devastated villages. Aviation fuel was flown in continuously from Singapore to keep the helicopters airborne for as long as ten hours a day.

Soldiers serving in the logistics ship Sir Galahad, which completed the task force, and the assault ship Intrepid, were involved particularly in communications. Sixty soldiers (British and Gurkhas) of 249 Squadron, Royal Corps of Signals, from Singapore, provided a vital communications system throughout the disaster area.

Sappers of 59 Field Squadron helped in the distribution of relief as well as tackling many professional tasks including the drilling of wells, repair of water pumps, reconstruction of tracks, assistance in building (including two schools) and the setting up of a water supply system at a forward base.

The relief force withdrew from Pakistan after distributing nearly 3000 tons of supplies. The people were grateful. One village arranged a party for sappers, others presented ceremonial knives and goats for a feast. The commander of the task force, Commodore Derek Napper, said: "We have done what we came to do. Every single man felt he was doing a worthwhile job."



Above: Hopeful Pakistanis watch as landing craft from HMS Intrepid deliver stores to the forward base of Patuakhali. Below: Soldiers and Marines leaving Intrepid for shore.



Below: Sappers with a Michigan. Servicemen everywhere were surrounded by Pakistanis.

LEFT, RIGHT AND CENTRE



With headlights illuminating the way in the pouring rain (left), a column of Ferret scout cars, armoured personnel carriers and mechanical diggers and graders drove past a saluting dais on Paderborn's Domplatz. The Burgermeister, Herr Schwiete, and two sapper units—26 Engineer Regiment and 44 Field Support Squadron—were saying goodbye after 12 years. During their stay in the town the sappers helped in snow clearing, improving sports fields and levelling sites for industrial estates. After the parade the Burgermeister presented them with a gold plate and oil painting of the Rathaus (town hall).



In Cyprus: Major the Duke of Kent, commanding A Squadron, The Royal Scots Greys, receives his United Nations Medal (above left), after a six-month tour with the United Nations Force in Cyprus, from the UNFICYP commander, Major-General D Prem Chand. In Germany: On a tour of 1st Division units of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, of which he is colonel-in-chief, Prince Philip (above, right) studies radiography of a Stalwart's steering system. The demonstrator is

Staff-Sergeant Keith Garrett, 7 Field Workshop. Still in Germany: As colonel-in-chief of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, Prince Philip, watched by Regimental Sergeant-Major W C Booth, signs the visitors' book (above, left) before dining in the sergeants' mess. And back at home: Prince Charles (above, right) engrossed in the mechanics of a sub-machine-gun shown to him by Lance-Corporal G Fitch, during a visit to 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment.



A fanfare of trumpets and a drum roll heralded the opening (left) of a new public house in Manchester. "The Hussar," on the site of the Hulme Cavalry Barracks demolished in 1914, has as its sign the badge of Lancashire's cavalry regiment, the 14th/20th King's Hussars. The first pint was drawn by the commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J M Palmer. He was accompanied in a toast by Lieutenant-Colonel N H Phillips who not only commands the cadre of The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry, affiliated to the 14th/20th Hussars, but is a director of Wilsons Brewery which owns the pub.



Borrowing a Canadian custom, 658 Aviation Squadron of the Army Air Corps celebrated its first anniversary with a "fly-in breakfast" (above) at a military sports field in Minden, West Germany. A hundred fliers of four nationalities arrived in 32 helicopters of all types and sizes. Because its commander, Major David Nichols, and many of the squadron are Scots or of Scottish descent, two pipers of The Gordon Highlanders piped in the visitors, the Gordons' band was there and the hangar walls were decorated with tartans. Breakfast was of porridge, kippers and bannocks.

Soldiers of 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards, on Exercise Gobi Dust with the United States 2nd Armoured Division in Texas, were able to afford some time for relaxation and visit places of interest and historical association. Guardsman Fred Kelly saw moon rock at the Houston Space Centre and Guardsman John Butcher (left) visited Fort Alamo where Davy Crockett was killed fighting the Mexicans last century. A troop of The Royal Hussars also took part in the exercise while United States troops trained in Britain.

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Maidstone Floatel

Story by George Hogan
Pictures by Martin Adam

GRIM and grey, she lies alongside Airport Quay in Musgrave Channel at the head of Belfast Lough. Two funnelled and riding high in the water, the 11,810-ton submarine depot ship was known as HMS Maidstone from her launching in 1938 until her sailing days were said to be over with transfer to the disposal list in 1967.

Maidstone was neither sleek nor fast but she played an important part in the Mediterranean and Far East in World War Two where she succoured and supported Royal Navy submariners.

They found refuge and rest in her spacious quarters while their vessels were being repaired, re-supplied and re-victualled. One of these submarine squadrons alone—the 8th—sank 400,000 tons of enemy shipping in the Mediterranean.

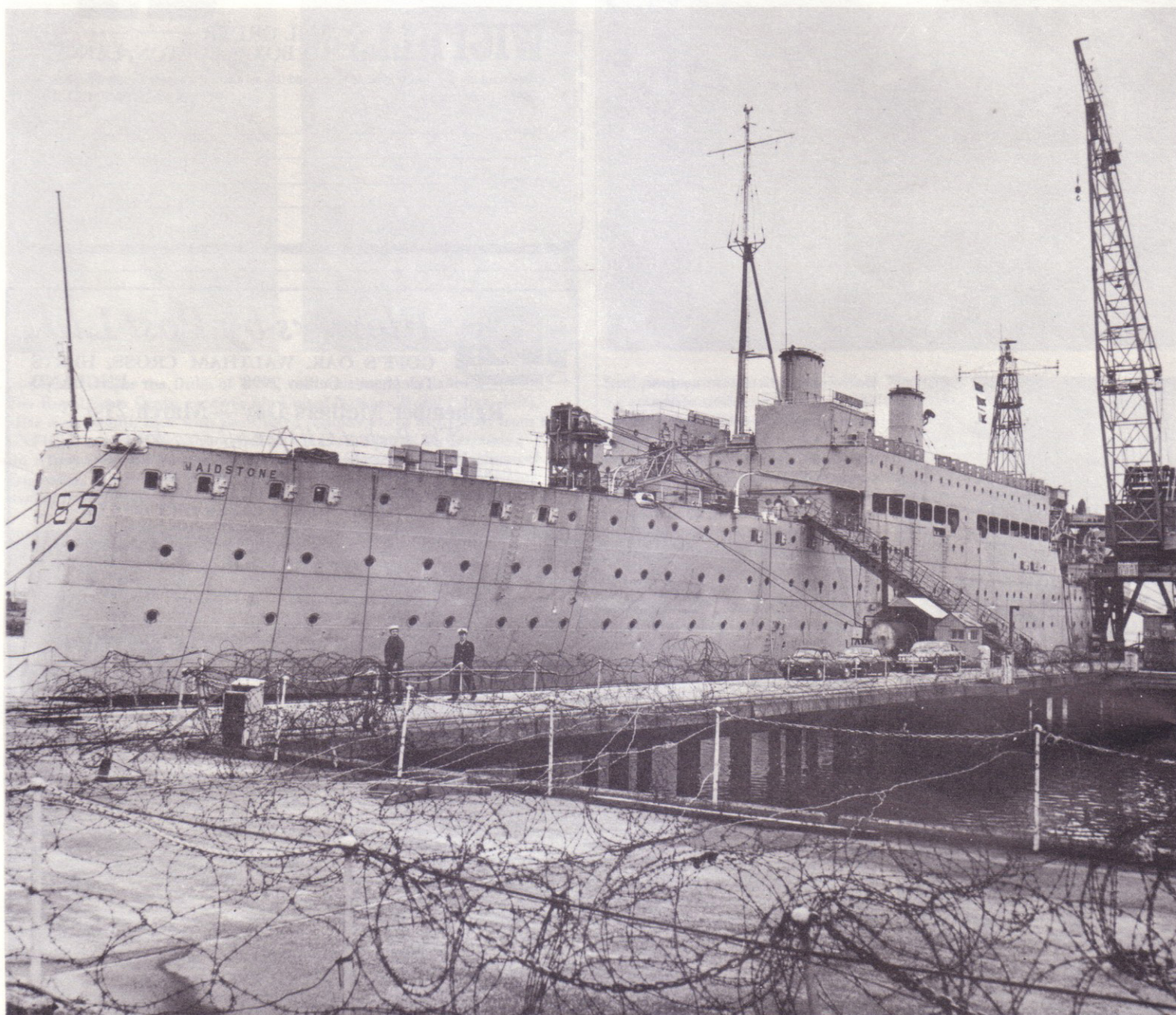
In 1958 the 20-year-old depot ship was extensively reconstructed to serve as the Navy's most modern nuclear submarine support ship and continued in that role until 1967. Then, the last commission ended, her company was paid off and the ship's bell handed over for safekeeping to the citizens

of Maidstone where today it rests in the Town Hall.

Somehow the shipbreakers never started to tear the vessel apart and in October 1969 Maidstone answered a new call to duty and was towed from Portsmouth to Belfast to be handed over to the Army. Now without the prefix "HMS" the old naval warrior is a floating barracks, unofficially but aptly called "Maidstone Floatel" by the man who signed for her—the ship's administrative officer, Major Terry Cripps, 14th/20th King's Hussars.

He has a small staff supplemented by civilian labourers and there is a naval party under Lieutenant-Commander Con Glanton which helps to maintain the vessel and provides naval divers for the whole of Northern Ireland.

There is accommodation aboard for 700 soldiers and the "resident" battalion has a holding party which varies in strength according to the operational situation in Belfast and the number of troops required to be tactically deployed in the city. When SOLDIER visited Maidstone, 2nd Battalion,



Maidstone Floatel, with accommodation for a battalion, is protected by wire and nets. The flags warn shipping: "Take it easy—divers below."

Coldstream Guards, was in occupation but there was less than a company living aboard.

Other units which have been based on Maidstone include 1st Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery; 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots; 45 Commando, Royal Marines; 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment; The Green Howards; The Gloucestershire Regiment; the Royal Air Force Regiment and now 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales. Maidstone has also been used as transit accommodation for smaller units.

The resident battalion flies its own flag when there is a complete unit, such as a company, aboard, while the naval party signifies its presence with the white ensign at the foremast instead of at the sternmast as in a naval-commanded vessel. Both flags are hoisted and hauled down daily with appropriate ceremonial—a bugler sounding for the the regiment and a quartermaster piping for the Navy.

Soldiers are apt to impose their way of life wherever they settle but some traditions survive all pressures. On Maidstone the

Navy's wardroom has become the officers' mess but the galley retains its naval name and the navy's chef has even superseded the Army's cook. "Mess deck" for living accommodation is never heard as the naval ratings on this relatively roomy ship had their own "dining space" and there was no need to follow the usual practice of eating in their sleeping quarters.

The Army has not taken to saluting the quarterdeck and units follow their own rules about saluting at other times. It could be dangerous to follow normal procedures in the narrow confines below decks.

Food is well cooked and there is an appetising variety. After breakfast there is tea at 10 am and a tiffin meal at noon with five choices of main course, such as fish cakes, individual steak pies, poached cod and eggs, buck rarebit and braised sausages. Dinner at 5 pm starts with soup and the five main dishes include roast. The galley can easily supply 350 meals but a full battalion would need two sittings.

Maidstone's Naafi—the only ship's canteen in the Army—is managed by Charlie

Bell who had been 30 years with the naval canteen service and never expected to be catering for soldiers. Mr Bell remembers the old troopships that served the British Army in India and the Far East while he was aboard warships. He served in Aden, Malta, Gibraltar, the Far East and New Zealand.

In Singapore he was aboard HMS Forth, sister submarine depot ship to Maidstone, whose layout was therefore familiar to him. He appreciated the rapid transformation of torpedo storage space and electrical workshops into a cinema and recreation room and a junior ranks canteen and bar.

Maidstone "floatel," protected against saboteurs by barbed wire entanglements on shore and by anti-mine netting below water, is a quiet and comfortable resting place after the streets of Belfast. It can be a refuge, as it was for the submariners, for short periods of relaxation between weeks of intensive operations.

Maidstone's sailing days may be over but the shipshape old warrior's usefulness is far from ended and the Army is happy that the breakers never gained control.




Coldstream Guardsman on gangway duty.



Army cook in unusual surroundings—the galley.



Many a tale from Naafi's Charlie Bell.



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TAVR PARA RECRUIT TRAINING

FALL IN for a fortnight!

Story: Hugh Howton
Pictures: Leslie Wiggs

PAGE 34

UP to the top of a 30-foot scaffolding climbed the para recruit. Then began a hair-raising walk across the two parallel bars. "Stop!" shouted the instructor.

"Raise your left leg. What's your name? What's your job?"

This is the "shuttlebar," used to test the confidence of potential paratroopers. "We can tell a lot about a chap by the way he reacts and moves on it," said an instructor. "Those with bags of confidence shout out



Left: Up and over—into a puddle of mud. Above: All right so long as your legs do not go limp.

Below: Barbed wire crossing. Painless except for No 1. Right: Shuttlebar, not for the nervous.



the answers. But if they refuse to do it or can't do it we know they will be no good jumping out of a plane."

Among the silver birch and chestnut trees off the Farnborough Road in military Aldershot, the Regular Army paratroopers' assault course sets similar tests. Like the "monkey run"—15-yard parallel wires slung between two trees which have to be crossed on hands and knees, and the "death slide"—a descent to the ground, holding on to a pulley, from a 45-foot high platform

down a 150-yard taut rope. But it is not really dangerous.

A fall is broken by a thick bed of soft leaves. And the worst accident ever known there was a fractured ankle.

But the assault course is still a stiff test for Regular recruits and even more so for civilians concentrating into just two weeks the training that Regulars spread over a ten-week period. The assault course was just one aspect of basic paratroop training undertaken by 125 men who had volun-

teered to serve in the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve with units of 44 Parachute Brigade (V).

Normally these volunteers do their basic training in their own unit drill halls over a period of nine or ten weekends. "You cannot get continuity, the muscles relax and they get soft," said a Regular Army instructor. "This way we are getting the maximum out of them and at the end of the fortnight we know whether a man is any good or not." A similar intensive two-week



Steel helmets, packs, and rifles at the high port. Starting out on the eight-mile route march.

course was tried six years ago and three-quarters of those recruits stayed on in the Reserve Army.

These 125 recruits joined as the result of an intensive recruiting campaign by 44 Parachute Brigade and most had never been in uniform before. They were thrown in at the deep end, taking a fortnight off work to live in barracks in "the home of the British Army."

Their training included six and eight-mile route marches in the rain, night stalking exercises in the mud, kit inspections, foot and arms drill, range classifications on the self-loading rifle and general-purpose machine-gun and "dry" instruction on sub-machine-guns, grenades and anti-tank weapons.

Among the 125 were a chemist, fitter, toolmaker, joiner, welder and chemical engineer. Harry Briggs, university graduate and computer systems analyst, volunteered because he "wanted to get fit, to do something different, something that was a challenge."

Private Piers Atherly David Storie-Pugh, who works on the Stock Exchange, failed the course at Mons Officer Cadet School and now wanted to prove himself in the ranks on what he considers is the Army's toughest course.

All but a handful of the volunteer recruits completed the basic training and will now spend a further two weeks on the parachute course at RAF Abingdon. Seven dropped out after the first couple of days but one hung doggedly on despite a strapped-up ankle, the result of an unlucky fall on the assault course.

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"Tattoo in Berlin" (Band of the Grenadier Guards conducted by Major Rodney Bashford) (Decca SKL 5042)

"Massed Band Spectacular" Volume Four (Colchester Military Tattoo 1970) (Drum Major MCN 4)

I am hoist with my own petard at last, reviewing another Colchester Tattoo and one of my own records, "Tattoo in Berlin." As readers will remember, I have always doubted the wisdom of recording tattoos live and have advocated recording in a studio or, if in the open, at least with the band static so as to achieve good balance. The Drum-Major sleeve ripostes: "... no studio interpretation could compensate for the spontaneous atmosphere of the arena and the reaction of the spectator." Here is your chance to judge—the Decca disc was entirely recorded in London NW6.

Does anyone buy a record to listen to the atmosphere? Surely the atmosphere need not interfere with the music? It can be used judiciously between items and even over the music when essential for realistic ends. If you wish to decide the argument for yourself, buy both records. A couple of items appear on each but of course one record was aimed at the British public and the other at the West Berliners.

Colchester Tattoo items: "Colonel Bogey," "Boom Bang a Bang," "Cabaret," slow march "Coburg," "Soldiers of the Queen," "A Banda" (follow the band), "Old Comrades," troop "Les Huguenots," "Cornet Carillon," "Victory Beating," "Semper Dixieland."

Side two: "Trek Trek and Rasa Sayang," "Adai Adai," "Barren Rocks of Aden," "The Black Bear," finale "Overture 1812" and "On the Square."

Berlin Tattoo: "Fanfare Royale," "Colonel Bogey," "Drummers Call," "Retreat," "Steadfast and True," "Les Huguenots," "Voice of the Guns," "In München Steht Ein Hofbräuhaus," "La Bostella," "Post Horn Galop," "Introduction, Act III" ("Lohengrin"), "Lili Marlene," "Le Régiment de Sambre et Meuse."

Side two: "The Vanished Army," "The Camp Sleeps (Lights Out)," "Field Calls (Advance: At the Double: Alarm)," "Army of the Nile," "Creation Hymn," "Field Calls (Advance: Charge: At the Double: Charge)," tone poem "Battle Ground," "Victory Fanfare," "Victory March," "Berliner Luft."

Participants in the Colchester Tattoo were the massed bands and corps of drums of The Queen's Division, massed bands of the Royal Artillery, Royal Brunei Malay Regiment, 1st Battalion, The King's Own Border Regiment, 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry, and the Royal Corps of Transport. "Tattoo in Berlin" was played by a section of the Grenadier Guards band.

RB



"The Regimental Band of the Scots Guards" (Songs from the Shows) (Director of Music: Lieutenant-Colonel S Rhodes) (Music for Pleasure MFP 1071)

This re-issue is a relic of the days when recording companies really spread themselves. These selections from five famous musical plays (with no cuts, all repeats, and corny modulating links), were played in palmier days on bandstands from Torquay to Dunfermline, the present home of Lieutenant-Colonel Sam Rhodes. If you are one of the many who miss your summer afternoons at the spa concerts or the beach bandstands then this is for you.

With a firm hold of the baton and no concessions to sentimentality, Colonel Sam will keep you awake in your deckchair as you hum your way through these great melodies—two Sigmund Romberg selections from "The Desert Song" and "The Student Prince," Rudolph Friml's "The Vagabond King" and "Rose Marie," and Jerome Kern's "Show Boat."

RB

"Festivalia '70" (The Coal Industry Social Welfare Committee (Yorkshire Welfare Committee) 21st annual grand festival concert) (Polydor Standard 2661 003 stereo)

This is another complete concert, in Sheffield City Hall, with three great colliery brass bands—Carlton Main Frickley, Grime-thorpe Institute and Markham Main—under Rae Jenkins (the festival's guest conductor since 1959), twelve Yorkshire male voice choirs, Eric Tindall at the organ and David Moore as euphonium soloist. The choirs are Castleford, Dinnington "Tigons," Dodworth, Houghton Main, Mexborough, North Gawber, Rossington, Sharlestone, Shafton, Wombwell, Brodsworth and Bullcroft, and Stainforth.

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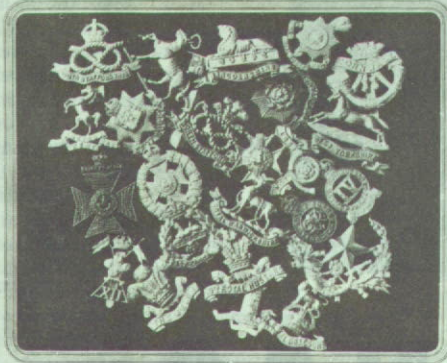
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varied programme of old pops spiced with one or two unusual (unsuitable?) pieces. Like all live concert recordings it has a few blemishes in balance between bands and choirs and near disaster on a couple of occasions when the percussion goes it alone without conductor.

The music: Medley of themes from film and TV, "Rose of England," "All Through the Night," "Joshua Fit de Battle ob Jericho," "All in the April Evening," "The Cavalier," "Light Cavalry," "Road to the Isles," "Rule Britannia," selection of Sullivan melodies, "Hallelujah Chorus" ("Messiah"), "Trumpet Voluntary," "Huntsmen's Chorus" ("Der Freischütz"), "Soldiers' Chorus" ("Faust"), "Bolero," "Roll Jordan Roll," "Onward Christian Soldiers," "Ritual Fire Dance," "Steal Away," "Battle Hymn of the Republic," "Overture 1812." **RB**

Marches of THE VANISHING REGIMENTS

BBC records



"Marches of the Vanishing Regiments" (Band of the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall) (Director of Music: Lieutenant-Colonel C H Jaeger) (BBC Records REB 895)

A sad, sad record, for this is a requiem not only to many regiments but also to the late Lieutenant-Colonel "Jiggs" Jaeger whose last recording it is. And it is probably your last chance to obtain a copy of these famous and historic marches. As a souvenir of "Jiggs" it is ideal, containing the marches of two regiments he served in—the 4th Hussars and The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

I find it inexplicable that some regiments whose names are still in the Army List are represented here yet the poor Durhams, who were sunk (not without trace), are omitted. Perhaps I have misapplied the title of this LP. The BBC are to be congratulated on making a start on a long-wanted project—the whole range of British Army music—so let's hope they continue. The series would sell for ever.

Now the music played: "Braganza" (The

Queen's Royal Regiment), "The Yorkshire Lass" (The East Yorkshire Regiment), "The Manchester" (The Manchester Regiment), "Litany of Loretto" and "Berkeley's Dragoons" (4th Queen's Own Hussars), "Within a Mile of Edinboro' Toon" (The Cameronians), "The Lincolnshire Poacher" (The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment), "I'm Ninety Five" (The Rifle Brigade), "Come Lasses and Lads" (The South Staffordshire Regiment), "Minden March" and "With Jockey to the Fair" (The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry), "The Days When We Went Gypsying" (The North Staffordshire Regiment), "Ca Ira" (The West Yorkshire Regiment), "Young May Moon" (The Sherwood Foresters), "Ap Shenkin" (The Welch Regiment), "God Bless the Prince of Wales" (12th Royal Lancers).

And on side two, "Coburg" (11th Hussars), "Lutzw's Wild Hunt" (The King's Royal Rifle Corps), "The Merry Month of May" (10th Royal Hussars), "One and All" and "Trelawny" (The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry), "The Warwickshire Lads" (The Royal Warwickshire Regiment), "A Southerly Wind and a Cloudy Day" (The East Surrey Regiment), "The Hundred Pipers" (The Royal West Kent Regiment), "The Royal Sussex" (The Royal Sussex Regiment), "L'Attaque" (The East Lancashire Regiment), "The Royals" (The Royal Dragoons), "Aida" (Royal Horse Guards). **RB**

"The Life and Times of Lord Mountbatten" (based on the television series by John Terraine) (Pye LM 101)

Lord Mountbatten's life and times will be remembered as a long-running TV series which you either loved or loathed. I found very few "don't knows" among my acquaintances. As a potted panorama of the first seven decades of the 20th century, held together by the thread of one man's career, I found it superb in its sweep and all-embracing pageantry. But if your tube had failed would you have listened to five solid hours of chat without a picture even though by some of the most colourful people in recent years?

Here, on three LPs at five guineas the set, it costs a guinea an hour to listen to the sound track of the TV series with, instead of an actual picture of the events being described, a great deal of verbal and musical rhubarb going on in the background. The great "Preobrajensky March" gets a bashing as it did on TV but the remainder of the musical effects are mostly puerile stuff and the dregs of "atmosphere" libraries—approach of doom, maniac pursuit, desolation, tension on timpani etc. This great man deserved better—Preobrajensky on its own cannot cope.

Strange how so many people consider Mountbatten not quite an admiral, not quite a supremo and paradoxically not quite a

viceroy. Those people should buy this set of records. In the list of honours and decorations after his name the DSO comes about twelfth. My old band sergeant always claimed he tossed a coin with five others for his MM but you don't toss for the Order of Merit. It is given in as simple terms as the Victoria Cross—just For Valour. Lord Mountbatten's merit is here for all to witness and your children will find him a painless Piers Plowman to an absorbing, if painful, 70 years of our history. So might you. **RB**

"Best of Brass" (The GUS (Footwear) Band) (Conducted by Stanley H Boddington and Harry Mortimer) (Regal Starline SRS 5033)



This is very much the best of brass—I have never heard more remarkable playing from any band. My only criticism is that brass bands, for some reason best known to themselves, will make needless and in some cases stupid cuts in well-known music. These musicians can play anything so I can only imagine that quantity of music on an LP is considered more important than quality and musicianship. The overture "Zampa" (attributed to Harold instead of Herold), in other respects breathtakingly played, suffers an outrageous cut that saves mere seconds. Why not omit some of the "novelty" items and give us all of a classic?

Nevertheless a marvellous pound's worth, the cornet playing in "Zampa" being worth more than that. The complete programme is: Overture "Zampa," march "Anchors Aweigh," waltz "Morning Papers," "Spanish Gypsy Dance," "Post Horn Polka," "Pomp and Circumstance No 1," "Knightsbridge" march, overture "Poet and Peasant," "March of the Cobblers," "Waltzing with Sullivan" (a fine medley by Gilbert Vinter), "Comedians Galop" and "Abide with Me." **RB**

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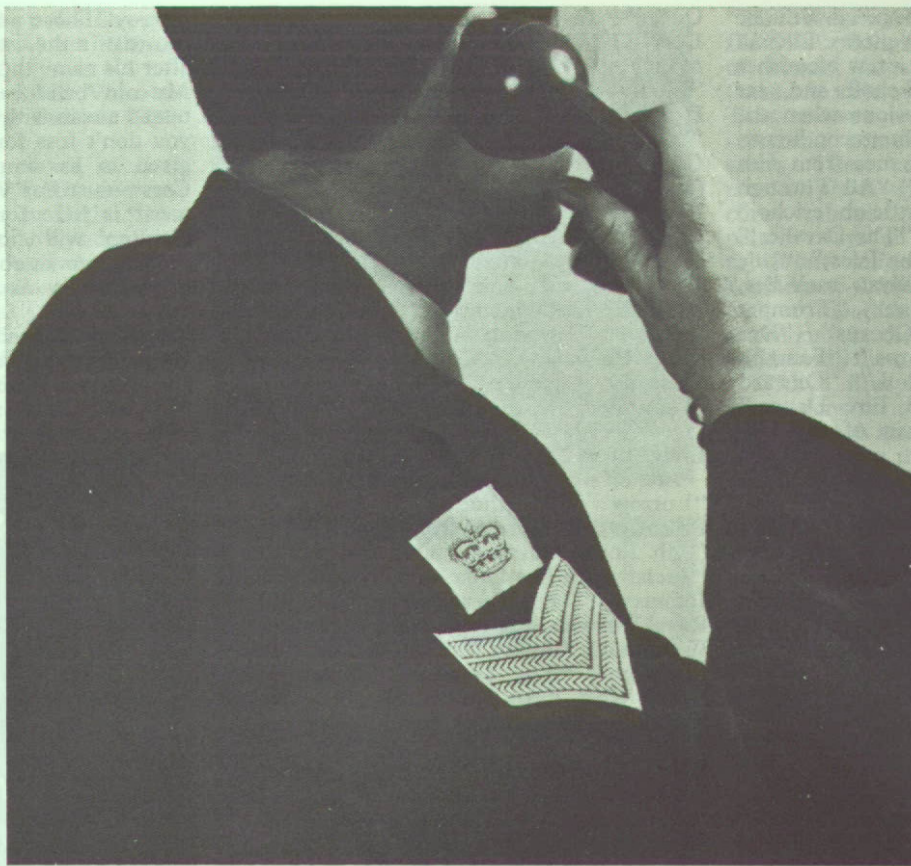
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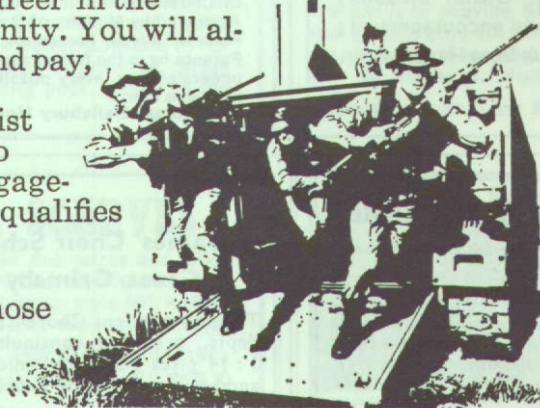
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Tin hats

Could somebody explain to me why the British Army is issued with such a heavy, clumsy, badly designed steel helmet?

It is a well-known fact that most soldiers detest wearing steel helmets because they are so uncomfortable and fall off at the most inconvenient moment.

Granted they give better protection than American helmets, but surely in this age of advanced technology a helmet could be designed to be comfortable and give adequate protection? Comments on this subject would be appreciated.—**D C A Mann, 26 Sylvan Avenue, Emerson Place, Hornchurch, Essex.**

★ *The Army is developing a helmet which will have none of these disadvantages.*

There are many points to be taken into consideration. In AFVs a helmet must allow the use of ear-phones and sighting of the gun, yet not be too large for the confined space of an AFV. Secondly, there is the requirement for a close-fitting helmet, for wear by paratroops, which will afford adequate ballistic protection but will not cause "head whip" when jumping. Finally there is the infantry requirement for a helmet giving adequate ballistic and bump protection when worn in APCs. A special helmet for AFV crewmen has reached an advanced stage of development. A lightweight helmet is also under development for paratroops and this might be acceptable also for use by infantry and supporting arms.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman adds:

"We are very alive to the requirement for improvement in this field. We have examined the helmets worn by all other armies and have noted the good points of each. Other armies are having similar problems. We are anxious that the final selection we make will be the best of its type that modern science can devise."

No mistake

May I say that I have enjoyed reading *SOLDIER* for a great number of years now. When I settled down to the November issue I spotted what must be this month's deliberate mistake.

This occurs in "Air Support Command Part Two," second paragraph. Surely the Argylls went to Hong Kong in July or August 1949 as part of 40th Division and left Hong Kong with 27th Brigade on board HMS Ceylon sailing for Pusan in 1950? I was serving with The Sea-

COMMEMORATIVE COVER

To mark the formation of 20 Maritime Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, successor to 20 Landing Craft Tank Support Regiment, a commemorative cover was issued on formation day, 1 February 1971. The envelope has a colour reproduction of a painting of HM Army vessel Abbeville (tank landing craft 4041) by Major B V Wynn-Werninck, and the envelope shows the RCT crest and maritime ensign.

The postmark is a special BFPO cancellation incorporating the RCT cipher and a drawing of the keys of the fortress of Portsmouth, of which the regiment's commanding officer, as senior Army officer in Portsmouth and Gosport, is the custodian. The stamp is the 9d Philypia commemorative.

The covers were flown to Norway on an Army SRN6 Hovercraft of 200 Hovercraft Trials Squadron, RCT, the reverse of the envelope carries the exercise Van Dyke BFPO postmark and there is a cachet showing the flight details in Norway.

Details from: Philatelic Officer, 20 Maritime Regiment, St George Barracks, Gosport, Hants.



LETTERS

forth Highlanders in Singapore and seem to remember the Argylls passing through on their way to Hong Kong.—**Capt D McKinlay TD, 78 Tabor Gardens, Cheam, Surrey.**

★ *No mistake here, deliberate or otherwise!* In our October 1950 issue we published pictures of the Argylls leaving Hong Kong on board HMS Ceylon. The following month's issue included pictures of Argylls both emplaning and in an aircraft about to leave Lyneham for the Far East, the point being that it then took eight days to fly reinforcements to Korea. Captain McKinlay is right in saying that the Argylls were already in Hong Kong in 1949; *SOLDIER* was correct in saying that men of the Argylls flew out (as reinforcements) to 27th Brigade.

For the LEP

Over the past 33 years Malaysian and Singaporean locally enlisted personnel (LEP) have served as uniformed British Army soldiers. Their loyal service has now come to an end and on 22 Feb 1971, the 33rd anniversary of the first local soldier enlisting in the Royal Artillery, a special philatelic cover will be issued depicting a Malay soldier in full ceremonial dress framed with the 15 regimental and corps badges worn by serving LEP.

The cover will be stamped with a new 2p decimal stamp and cancelled with the British Forces Postal hand stamp No 1149. A printed stiffener inside the cover gives a brief history of LEP in Singapore and Malaysia and their service wearing the following cap badges: RA, RE, R Sigs, RCT, RAMC, RAOC, REME, RMP, RAVC, RAEC, RADC, RPC, Int Corps, ACC and the Singapore Guard Regiment.

These covers, which are being placed on sale by 32 Regiment RCT, will cost 5s each and all proceeds will go to the British Army LEP (Malaysia/Singapore) Benevolent Fund. Orders with remittances should be sent to: **The Philatelic Officer, 32 Regiment RCT, c/o GPO Singapore.**

Gri de coeur

I left the Army in 1962 and joined the TA. The kit we were using was out of date and when we became the TAVR

we got more up-to-date kit but we are still using '37 pattern webbing. When is the TAVR to get '58 pattern webbing, or are we to carry on using '37 webbing as a mark of difference between TAVR and Regulars? After all, we are supposed to be on the same footing as Regulars.—**B R Toynce, 55 Lindsay Avenue, Acomb, Yorks.**

★ *A new web equipment called load carriage equipment is now under trial; the Ministry of Defence hopes to introduce it into service in 1975. It will replace the '37, '44 and '58 patterns of web equipment. It is also hoped to issue 1958 webbing equipment to some TAVR infantry units in the course of 1971.*

Lest we forget

After Remembrance Day our local newspaper printed an article, written with disgust, criticising the conduct of people in general during the service and the "silence."

It is my belief that people do not realise why we stand there. I cannot believe it is mainly ignorance. I am wondering if it is possible for you to tell me the number of casualties for both wars—killed and wounded. If I can get these figures I intend to include them in a letter to my local newspaper in the hope that it will jolt people. I feel very strongly on this matter.—**J Mills, 10 Burntwood Crescent, South Kirkby, Pontefract, Yorks.**

★ *British casualties in the two world wars were: World War One, dead 743,702, wounded 1,693,262; World War Two, dead and missing 403,195, wounded 369,267; civilian casualties dead and missing 60,359.*

Corps of drums again

I don't suppose I have read so much rubbish concerning the extinction of corps of drums and especially the fading of the fife (or flute) as in the last few issues of *SOLDIER*.

Perhaps some of these correspondents

can tell me how they judge present-day standards of corps of drums in places like California. As for telling those in power (drum-majors) that they had eight side drummers, a bass drummer and 16 B-flute players and played in two-four and six-eight—this is telling grandmothers how to suck eggs.

The only point on which I agree with John Harrington (November) is that any blame for a bad corps of drums lies on the head of the drum-major.

Fifes (flutes) of today are in low pitch to enable them to play with the band if they want to. This may be the reason why some critics have erred in thinking that corps of drums or fifes (flutes) are finished.—**Drum-Major Maloney, 1st Queen's Regiment, Montgomery Barracks, Berlin.**

Tobruk badges

Thank you so very much for your magnificent obituary (November) on Eighth Army formation flashes.

An account of how my idea was carried out appears in the November issue of *The Green Howards Gazette* in which the "unidentified" flash is mentioned. This is the Libyan flash—two battalions served with Eighth Army during the whole campaign, one during the entire siege of Tobruk town and harbour—quite a "hot spot."

The series of flashes was a unique and outstanding display which at once caught the imagination and, from 1946 to 1970, recalled with pride and gratitude the achievements of men from the worldwide British Empire which is now no more.—**P V V Guy (Lieut-Col Retd, late commander Tobruk Garrison 1946-49), Well House, Crockerton, Warminster, Wilts.**

The unidentified badge was that of the Cyrenaica Defence Force (CYDEF).

As many of your readers will know, the signs in Tobruk were painted on the wall of the bulk petroleum installation which for many years supplied petrol to both the Army in Tobruk and the RAF at El Adem.

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LETTERS

continued

In 1953 the local administration complained that the display failed to include the badge of the Senussi who assisted the allied cause during operations in the Western Desert in World War Two. To placate local feeling the CYDEF badge was then added. As it had to be inserted either at the beginning or the end to ensure the minimum amount of repainting its late inclusion won for it pride of place as the first sign on the wall. —Col A D Burley, Chilwell Garrison, Beeston, Nottingham, NG9 5HA.

It was, I suppose, because 70th British Division was never in Eighth Army that its sign is not shown, though its Tobruk record was second only to that of 9th Australian Division.

The story is perhaps of interest. The Australians were locked up in Tobruk in the spring of 1941 and withstood a considerable siege until relieved in September 1941 by 70th Division. The latter subsequently broke out in November and the siege was raised. This was known as First Tobruk.

Before entering Tobruk, 70th Division had been occupying Syria and was then called 6th Division. Someone thought up the clever idea of changing the division's number, so we left Syria as 6th Division and arrived in Tobruk a couple of days later as 70th. It took the enemy three months to realise the two divisions were one and the same.

After Tobruk the division sailed for Burma but no one thought of trying the same subterfuge again. How stupid can you be? The division did not arrive in Burma as had been planned; the Japs got there first. But after hanging about India for a year or so the 70th was turned into the Chindits. But that's another story! —Brig B T V Cowey, Deputy Secretary, Council of TAVR Associations, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London SW3.

National Militia?

Should it not be a matter of public concern that in the recurrent theme of National Service the pacifists find themselves, ironically, in alliance with the professional soldiers?

The pacifist regards military service as a warlike provocation even against proven and self-confessed enemies and sees lack of moral rectitude only in men who seek to defend their country against the Queen's enemies. The professional soldier distrusts the National Serviceman, no matter what his quality, because he regards his advent as disrupting the "regular" training programme and fears personal rivalry from cheaply paid soldiers—some of them more naturally gifted than himself.

Surely there is a simple, cheap and effective, solution which while contributing considerably to our future safety, would undermine our allies' well known hostility and criticism on this problem and would avoid antagonising our own Regulars. Why not a National Militia based on an intensive six months' infantry training with no obligation to serve abroad in peacetime or to serve on police duties at home and with no registration on a reserve?

The pay could be negligible or trifling, the preliminary physical standards by no means discouraging or oppressive. The relative simplicity of the organisation—no arrangement beyond squads of platoon strength—would keep the administrative burden on the regular instructors to a minimum. The daily hours could be fairly long—say ten hours per day—and the total period could consist of two months each of squad drill, rifle and LMG training and an assortment of brief courses such as personal camouflage etc. The number of enlisted could begin at 50,000 each half year.

Many men would undoubtedly later enlist in the Regular Army. The rest would be "set up" physically for life. In time of war men would have a sporting chance of survival. The traditional military calamities, which on innumerable occasions in the past have excited the derision of our enemies and allies alike, might well be avoided in the future.

COMPANY TITLES

As every soldier should know, a Tiger is a member of 4th Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, deriving his nickname from the badge of the battalion's fore-runners, The Royal Leicestershire Regiment. Now the name is officially recognised in one of six new titles approved by the Army Board for infantry units which were faced with disbandment or amalgamation but are now to soldier on at company strength of about 120 all ranks.

The 4th Royal Anglians, due to disband last September, become **4th Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment Tiger Company**. This spring they will be taking on a new role as a demonstration company for the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, and Mons Officer Cadet School.

The other new infantry titles are: **2nd Battalion Scots Guards Company**. The battalion was to have gone into "suspended animation" in March. Now, as a company, it will move in April from Pirbright to Edinburgh for training and recruiting duties in The Household Division.

4th Battalion The Queen's Regiment Albuhera Company. Albuhera, in Spain, was the site of a bloody battle in 1811 when the 57th Foot, ancestors of the former Middlesex Regiment, which became the 4th Queen's in 1966, held their ground against a vastly larger force of French. The 4th Queen's were to have disbanded at the end of December 1970 but as a company they left Canterbury in January this year for Shorncliffe, Kent, and recruiting duties in The Queen's Division.

1st Battalion The Royal Hampshire Regiment, Minden Company. Like the 4th Queen's the Royal Hampshires have chosen a battle honour for the new title. They were to have amalgamated with 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, last September but will now become a company in 19th Airportable Brigade at Colchester, moving from Netheravon, Wiltshire, in March. The Glosters remain at normal battalion strength.

1st Battalion The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's) Balaclava Company. Again a battle honour in the title. The Argylls were to have disbanded last November. As a company they moved in January from Fort George to Catterick for duty with 24th Airportable Brigade.

3rd Battalion The Royal Green Jackets R Company. Formerly due for disbandment in March 1972, the battalion will reduce to company strength on return from Cyprus to Netheravon, Wiltshire, in the spring. The company will join 5th Airportable Brigade. R was chosen for the company's designation because it is the first letter of the word rifle though the unit will not be known as the Rifle Company. The 3rd Green Jackets are descended from The Rifle Brigade.

These representative companies, as they are called, will be the first to be considered if additional units at full strength are to be formed in the future.

As already announced the 3rd Carabiniers (Prince of Wales's Dragoon Guards) and The Royal Scots Greys (2nd Dragoons) have decided to go ahead with their amalgamation in Edinburgh next June to form The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. They will, however, have an extra airportable squadron which could be employed independently.

The gunner unit, 14 Light Regiment, Royal Artillery, affected by the final phase of the planned run-down, will disband in June but a battery will be earmarked for re-activation when the manning situation makes this possible.

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Except for the cost of rifles—each man might well have his own rifle kept in a mobilisation centre ready for him in case of war—and that of food, accommodation and “pocket money,” the annual burden on the Treasury would be relatively small. The nation would benefit enormously in every possible way.—R J C Holmes (R/O), S/S Cliff Quay, Stephenson Clarke Ltd, Collingwood Buildings, Collingwood Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Military stamps

On page 16 (November) you refer to the 20th Foot mentioned on the 8d St Helena stamp illustrated among others on the front cover as being the present 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. This is incorrect; it should be the 4th Battalion, now disbanded and previously The Lancashire Fusiliers.

The 20th were stationed on St Helena from 1819, their task being to guard Napoleon. In 1820 Captain E Lutyens was appointed to be Napoleon's orderly officer. Later in the year, when Napoleon's health was failing, another officer of the regiment was called in—Archibald Arnott, the regimental surgeon. It is therefore more than likely that these two officers are the ones shown on the stamp in question.

It would be interesting to know why the date 1816 is printed on the stamp as the regiment was, I believe, in Ireland at that time.—Cpl D J Fisher RAPC, Central Pay Office, 4 Div HQ and Signal Regt, BFPO 15.

* **SOLDIER's** source was a *Crown Agents Stamp Bureau* publicity leaflet which says that the “8d value shows a surgeon and an officer (Light Company) of the 20th Foot in 1816. The 20th Foot, The East Devonshire Regiment, became The Lancashire Fusiliers in 1881 and is now absorbed into the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. **SOLDIER** should have spotted the incorrect association with the 3rd Battalion of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers—the regiment itself, on its formation, in fact dissociated the four former regiments and the four new battalions. The date 1816 appears to have no



specific connection with St Helena and may be simply a date on which specific references were available for the artist to draw the uniforms.

ACROSTICODE

The required answer to Competition 148 (September) was the quotation “You cannot qualify war in harsher terms than I will. War is cruelty, and you cannot refine it” and its author (General William T Sherman).

Answers to the acrostic clues were: A (left), FEW (centre) RIFLE (right) SAY; B (left) BLISS (right) SAHIB; C (left) BLOWS (right) SINEW; D (left) PALACE (right) FERRET; E (left) PILOT (right) PLUME; F (left) TRAIN (right) STALL; G (left) RAM (centre) MOUSE (right) NOW.

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1 Mario Zammit, 39 Rudolph Street, Sliema, Malta GC.

2 Mrs E M Ollett, 9 Pinfold, South Cave, Brough, Yorks.

3 R H Ryne, 137 Coleraine Road, London SE3.

4 WO II K Helsdown RCT, Tpt Branch, HQ Eastern District, Abbey Fields, Colchester, Essex.

5 Maj A R J Ainsworth R Sigs, 4 Littlecroft, Handford Lane, Yateley, Camberley, Surrey.

6 Sgt R Joyce RCT, 68 Sqn RCT, BFPO 40.

7 P Jeffs, 14 Mansfield Road, Hove, Sussex.

8 Maj E Newman, 31 Frere Avenue, Fleet, Hants.

9 Mrs R F Gray, Tannochbrae, 6 Brook Street, Warminster, Wilts.

10 WO II B D Stacey, Birmingham University OTC, Birmingham 15.

11 Maj (Retd) R E Kershaw, 181 Putney Bridge Road, Putney, London SW15.

12 Mrs Joan Mahood, 36 Donaghadee Road, Bangor, Co Down, Northern Ireland.

COLLECTORS' CORNER

S/FC L N Buckclew (US Army), 89 Augsburg, Glueckstrasse 18, West Germany.—Requires British Army cap badges in exchange for US Army insignia, crests and publications. All letters answered.

D Green, 8 Kent Road, Rushden, Northants.—Requires coloured chart showing army, corps and divisional signs of 21st Army Group published approximately May 1945. Will purchase or exchange for early copies of **SOLDIER**. All letters answered.

Cyril Edmond-Blanc, 39 Rue Charles Laffitte, 92 Neuilly, France.—Requires French metal badges worn in Syria, Lebanon and North Africa during World War Two, also Free French badges made in England. Can offer in exchange French enamelled badges and worldwide parachutist, commando and air force wings.

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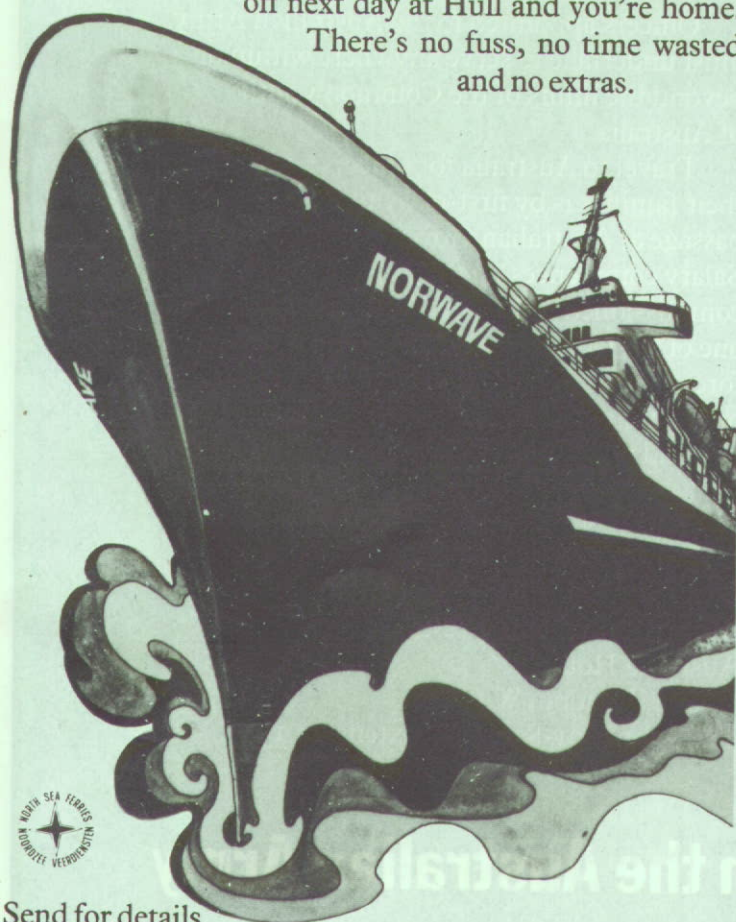
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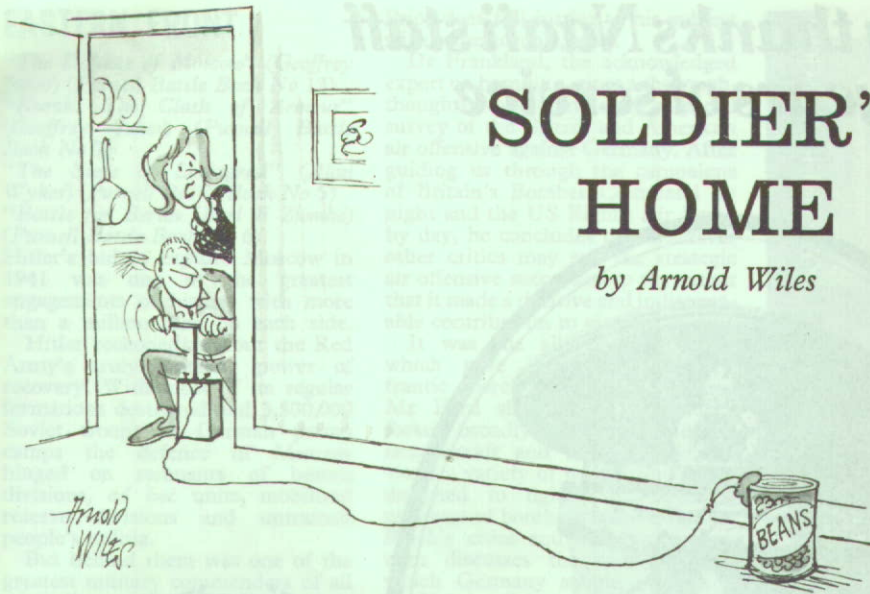
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EASTERN FRONT

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"The Siege of Leningrad" (Alan Wykes) (Purnell Battle Book No 5)
 "Battle for Berlin (Earl F Ziemke) (Purnell Battle Book No 6)
 Hitler's bid to capture Moscow in 1941 was one of the greatest engagements of history with more than a million men on each side.

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But behind them was one of the greatest military commanders of all time, Georgy Zhukov. Through his efforts the Germans were forced to embark on a retreat which was almost to become a rout. Mr Jukes, an authority on both the Wehrmacht and the Red Army, has produced an outstanding work on the decisive battle for Moscow. Can't we hope, therefore, for a more durable hard-back version?

This applies to many of the Purnell series including Mr Jukes's volume on Kursk, another great decisive battle of the war and the biggest tank engagement in history.

The Germans massed 50 divisions, 16 of them panzer, and set them on either side of the salient.

When the attack came, Kursk salient became a cauldron. It ranks with Waterloo as a decisive battle. Hitler's defeat was so appalling that the Germans were never again able to take the offensive on the Russian front. This again, is a superb treatment by Mr Jukes.

As the German retreat gathered pace, relief came to the city of Leningrad. On 27 January 1944 the blockade of this beautiful city was lifted—900 days after it was imposed. The people of Leningrad had shown the world how to fight and die; they withstood countless attacks, daily bombardment and the creeping terror of starvation. They endured the worst winter for 150 years and repelled every attack. Mr Wykes has produced an intensely moving picture of a city under siege.

And as Leningrad suffered, so did Berlin. Mr Ziemke tackles the battle from two important angles, the military and the personal—for in any city at war it is its people who suffer. He recreates graphically the atmosphere of the doomed city.

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WAR IN THE AIR

"Luftwaffe" (Alfred Price) (Purnell Weapons Book No 10)

"Bomber Offensive" (Nobel Frankland) (Purnell Campaign Book No 7)

"German Secret Weapons" (Brian Ford) (Purnell Weapons Book No 5)

When Germany went to war, her army and air force were the most powerful in the world. As General-leutnant Adolf Galland says in his introduction to Alfred Price's splendid history, it was a tactical weapon. Only when it was used as a strategic weapon (eg in attempting the systematic destruction of British industry and cities) did it fail. The Luftwaffe fought a long, savage but largely honourable war and kept its fighting spirit to the end, but its fate was inevitable. Flight-Lieutenant

Price does full justice to his subject with a memorable book.

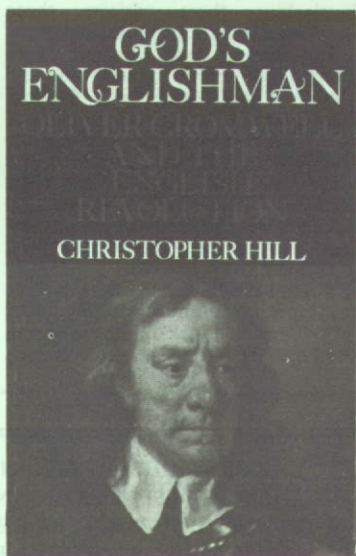
Dr Frankland, the acknowledged expert on bombing, gives a thorough, thoughtful and completely balanced survey of the British and American air offensive against Germany. After guiding us through the campaigns of Britain's Bomber Command by night and the US Eighth Air Force by day, he concludes that whatever other critics may say the strategic air offensive succeeded to the extent that it made a decisive and indispensable contribution to victory.

It was the allied air offensive which gave impetus to Hitler's frantic search for secret weapons. Mr Ford shows how the search forked broadly in two directions—anti-aircraft and revenge. He reviews a variety of rockets and shells designed to fight the increasing numbers of bombers hammering the Reich's cities and their industries, then discusses the rocketry with which Germany sought revenge—the V-1 doodlebugs and V-2 rockets.

He looks too at the attempts to redress the balance as the tide of war turned against the U-boats. The acoustic torpedo was a really ingenious device which could be fired in a different direction from its eventual trajectory. Then there was the schnorkel, which permitted a U-boat to recharge its batteries while remaining submerged.

Perhaps the most spectacular success, albeit too late to do any good, was the development of the jet engine, seen to its best advantage in the Me-262 fighter.

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FANATIC OR CHAMPION?

"God's Englishman" (Christopher Hill)

Few men have dominated their age so effectively as Oliver Cromwell. To some he was a crude religious fanatic and brutal soldier, to others a conservative dictator and champion of the non-conformists.

Cromwell was in no way responsible for the Civil War which had been maturing for decades. As a member of a family with traditionally vested anti-Roman Catholic interests he distrusted Charles I and his policy. His personal experiences as a local politician convinced him that the time had come to check the king's abuse of power. He therefore sided with Parliament.

Victory in the field brought no real settlement and inevitably Cromwell found himself forced to make decisions. The Presbyterian Parlia-



BOOKS

ment quarrelled with the Army and Cromwell sided with the latter. Soon he was head of state. In foreign affairs his record was excellent and England was greatly respected, but at home his record was dismal. Conscious of his failures and deeply disillusioned, he died at 59.

Cromwell's greatness lies in his seeing clearly the road ahead for England—a capitalist economy, developing empire, constitutional monarchy, rule of law and religious toleration.

There are some fine plates in this volume and the copious notes and

which fully bears out the rather lengthy sub-title: "A game for boys from twelve years of age to one hundred and fifty and for that more intelligent sort of girl who likes boys' games and books."

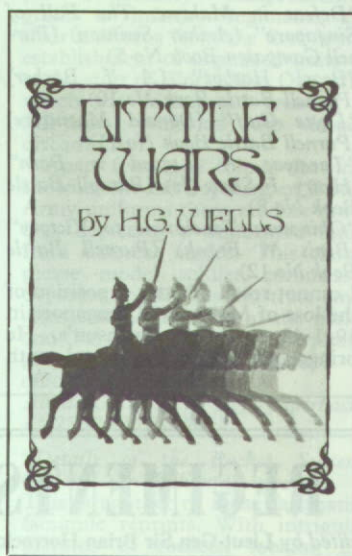
I would think this one is a must for all wargamers—those who have only a marginal interest cannot fail to be drawn by its appeal. J R Sinclair's delightful "nursery floor" drawings give pleasant variety.

Of equal interest to table-top warriors is Mr Featherstone's useful offering. Taking account of how wargaming has progressed in recent years to a point far beyond small-scale engagements which begin and end in a single evening, this book caters for the experienced devotee who seeks larger-scale battles and campaigns. At the same time, however, the relative beginner can appreciate it and no doubt improve his "game."

Under Mr Featherstone's pen Hannibal re-lives to fight the might of Rome, the French get another crack at Crécy, Agincourt and Waterloo. Statistics show that the French usually win when Waterloo is re-fought as a wargame. The American Civil War, the Boer War, an Apache uprising, punitive expeditions and engagements in World War Two complete the book. Again I don't see how the dedicated wargamer can resist it.

Wells: Arms & Armour Press, £1.70 (34s)

Featherstone: Stanley Paul, £1.75 (35s) JCW



excellent bibliography are what one might expect from its distinguished author.

Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £2.50 (50s) AWH

TABLE-TOP BATTLES

"Little Wars" (H G Wells)

"War Game Campaigns" (Donald F Featherstone)

H G Wells could with justice claim to have had a humble upbringing. There were many things he had to do without—one of them, important perhaps to a small boy, was toy soldiers. He made up for it later, however, as Chris Ellis points out in his introduction to this facsimile reproduction of Wells's 1913 classic.

With "Little Wars" Wells laid the foundation stone of the present increasingly popular hobby of wargaming. In doing so he presented a book of great charm and appeal

BY LAND AND AIR

"Breakout: Drive to the Seine" (David Mason) (Purnell Campaign Book No 4)

"Airborne Carpet" (Anthony Farrar-Hockley) (Purnell Battle Book No 9)

"By Air to Battle" (Charles Macdonald) (Purnell Weapons Book No 12)

"Sicily: Whose Victory?" (Martin Blumenson) (Purnell Campaign Book No 3)

David Mason dwells initially on the stalemate which developed a month after the D-Day landings. The American breakout, code-named Operation Cobra, struck with the speed of that snake. Mr Mason vividly describes how Patton's newly-arrived Third Army took up the chase and, while giving full credit to the hard-driving, limelight-seeking Patton, he also emphasises the key role of General John S Wood, commanding the 4th Armoured

Division which spearheaded the breakthrough at Avranches.

The latter also showed exceptional foresight in advocating an early wheel to the east instead of using valuable time to take the French west coast ports. The result was the Falaise pocket.

Major-General Farrar-Hockley goes several jumps ahead from Normandy to describe the daring plan for a thrust across the Rhine by using airborne troops to capture the four vital bridges across the Wilhelmina Canal at Eindhoven, the Maas at Grave, and the Waal and Lek at Nijmegen and Arnhem respectively. It was a brilliantly conceived plan and the first three bridges were taken but at Arnhem the 1st Airborne Division, dropped too far from its objective, found itself heavily engaged with strong German forces including armour.

General Farrar-Hockley, an experienced and distinguished parachute commander, imparts the feel of the battle. Deeply researched and well-detailed, this is at the same time a remarkably vivid account and an outstanding contribution to the Purnell series.

The general also writes an introduction for Mr Macdonald's survey of World War Two airborne operations. All the great ones are here—the Belgian forts, Crete, Bruneval, D-Day, Operation Market Garden, Sicily, Burma and New Guinea. It was not appreciated at the time that Crete was a Pyrrhic victory for the German paratroops, one in four of whom died. Malta was their next target but, after hearing of the losses, Hitler shelved the plan.

Mr Macdonald takes a look at the airborne forces of all the nations which used them in World War Two.

Airborne forces from both sides fought in Sicily but the question mark in Mr Blumenson's title refers to the campaign as a whole and in hindsight is entirely valid. Obviously the military victory went to the Allies; they took the island, secured their shipping in the Mediterranean, cracked the German-Italian alliance and gained valuable airfields.

Mr Blumenson thinks moral victory went to the Germans and Italians, the latter fighting far better than they are usually credited.

Macdonald, 43p (8s 6d) each JCW

SOLDIER BY BALLOT

"The Recollections of Rifleman Harris" (Christopher Hibbert)
There are in existence over a hundred diaries and memoirs of the Peninsular War, some by men who were virtually illiterate. One of the most interesting must surely be that of John Harris, cobbler, who told his story to an officer in 1814.

A Dorset shepherd, Harris was called by ballot to the Colours in 1802 and enlisted in the 66th Foot. While serving in Ireland he fell in love with the attractive dark-green uniform of the 95th Rifles and after a glorious night in a tavern volunteered for a transfer to this unit. In 1806 Harris was in Denmark and after service in Portugal and Spain, where he fought at Rolicca and Vimiero, he was on the ill-fated Walcheren expedition of 1809. Broken in health by fever he was never to be really fit again. Fortunately he had saved some £200 and mastered the trade of cobbling.

These are the bare facts of his tale but Harris relates it in a fascinating, rambling manner with lots of asides and back-tracks. He creates a vivid picture of war in the early 19th century—the firing-squad execution witnessed by 15,000 men, Irish Catholics and Protestants fighting with shillelaghs, macabre scenes at surgeons' tables in a churchyard, the horror of the retreat from Corunna and storms at sea.

A lively and most interesting work.
Leo Cooper, £2.10 (42s) AWH

FAR EAST AND PACIFIC

"Defeat in Malaya: The Fall of Singapore" (Arthur Swinson) (Purnell Campaign Book No 5)

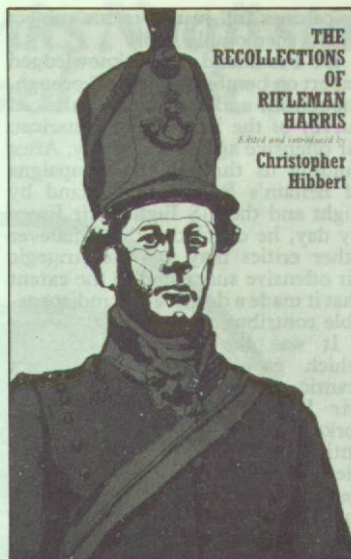
"Pearl Harbor" (A J Barker) (Purnell Battle Book No 10)

"Leyte Gulf" (Donald Macintyre) (Purnell Battle Book No 11)

"Tarawa: A Legend is Born" (Henry I Shaw Jr) (Purnell Battle Book No 8)

"Okinawa: Touchstone to Victory" (Benis M Frank) (Purnell Battle Book No 12)

I cannot recall a better exposition of the loss of Malaya and Singapore in 1941-42 than Mr Swinson's. He brings out clearly the brutal truth



THE
RECOLLECTIONS
OF
RIFLEMAN
HARRIS
Edited and introduced by
Christopher
Hibbert

that the battle was lost years before it started through the blindness and inefficiency, coupled with deliberate cheese-paring, of successive governments in the inter-war years. There was military failure, too.

Mr Swinson writes: "The British Army simply had not learned the art of operating in thick country and would not do so for another two years." His post mortem, admirably researched on both sides of the fence, is a valuable addition to the Purnell series on World War Two.

Simultaneously with the Japanese landing at Kota Bharu, Malaya, 351 carrier-borne Japanese aircraft raided Pearl Harbour, the US Navy's main Pacific base, and immobilised eight battleships, three cruisers, three destroyers and eight auxiliary craft.

But though Pearl Harbour was a tremendous blow, it was not the victory it could have been. Colonel Barker points out. The Japs certainly blundered in not waiting for the American carriers to return and again in not destroying repair facilities. Thus the main loss to America was the 2335 trained servicemen who lost their lives in the attack.

Colonel Barker gives a masterly summary of the attack and the steps leading up to it and draws a parallel with Togo's attack on the Russian base of Port Arthur 38 years earlier.

America soon went over to the offensive at Guadalcanal and turned the balance of naval power in her own favour by the brilliant victory at Midway. Captain Macintyre recalls the final, decisive defeat of the Imperial Japanese Navy at Leyte Gulf, the greatest naval battle of all time with no fewer than 282 ships and hundreds of aircraft taking part. The Japs lost four carriers, three battleships, nine cruisers and eight destroyers. American losses were one light carrier, two escort carriers and three destroyers.

Tarawa was a vital stage in the Americans' island-march towards Japan and the first amphibious landing against heavily-defended beaches. Mr Shaw, who fought in the US Marines during the war, places the battle firmly in perspective, explaining the problems of such an assault, the cost of the equipment required and the eventual vindication of the operation.

The lessons of Tarawa were used effectively on Okinawa, one of the bloodiest and most bitter battles of the war. Mr Frank, an official US Marine Corps historian, has distilled an excellent account of the land fighting.

Macdonald, 43p (8s 6d) each JCW

IN PRAISE OF GURKHAS

"A Child at Arms" (Patrick Davis)

"A man can become what he is expected to be. Our Gurkhas expected as much of us as of themselves. We grew better for being with them. Whatever drove us all to war, it was friendship, trust and loyalty to one another that kept us at it long after we might have preferred to be elsewhere." So Patrick Davis sums up the incentive which enabled him to discover that he was the man and soldier he didn't believe himself to be.

This is an acutely perceptive book by an emergency commissioned officer who fought in Burma with the 4th/8th Gurkha Rifles during the final stages of World War Two and took part in some sharp minor battles in one of which his battalion won a Victoria Cross. The main interest of the book is in the insight he shows into the characters and moral fibre of his brother officers



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and the Gurkha ranks and in the actions at company level. He is particularly good in his analysis of the qualities and characteristics of the average Gurkha soldier.

The first half of the book, dealing with the author's young officer training, is equally gripping. He appears to have enjoyed most of it apart from a short period at a certain training centre.

A beautifully written book which should appeal to all those who admire all men-at-arms and particularly those gallant gentlemen the Gurkha Rifles.

Hutchinson, £2.25 (45s)

RHL

LEOPOLD DEFENDED

"France: Summer 1940" (John Williams) (Purnell Campaign Book No 6)

The most important, and to me the most satisfying, part of Mr Williams's excellent book is his spirited defence of King Leopold of the Belgians. The unfair and inaccurate judgments passed on him in 1940 have continued to dog him.

Leopold fought with great gallantry for the 18 days until his army had no choice but to surrender. Its fate was sealed by the French collapse on the Meuse ten days earlier. Leopold gave his allies numerous warnings, all carefully recorded by Lord Keyes. Gort confirms this; and so does Weygand, one of Leopold's principal attackers, in his postwar memoirs.

The author adds: "King Leopold was later to be totally vindicated of all the charges brought against him." Yet neither Churchill nor Reynaud ever fully made an *amende honorable* to Leopold. It was a sad episode in an even sadder campaign.

Mr Williams drives through the campaign with the speed of Guderian's panzers. He recaptures the elation of the Germans and the gloom and bewilderment of the retreating allies.

In a typical foreword Captain Sir Basil Liddell Hart refers to the 1940 campaign in the West as "the easiest won victory in history." Sir Basil commends Mr Williams's book because it "clears away many myths, providing an able and illuminating account, a study in depth, of the dramatic and fateful events of 1940."

Macdonald, 43p (8s 6d)

JCW

TOP-LINE AIRCRAFT

"Me 109" (Martin Caidin) (Purnell Weapons Book No 4)

"Spitfire" (John Vader) (Purnell Weapons Book No 6)

"Zero Fighter" (Martin Caidin) (Purnell Weapons Book No 9)

"Pacific Hawk" (John Vader) (Purnell Weapons Book No 14)

The Me 109, as Generalleutnant Adolf Galland points out in his introduction to Mr Caidin's book, had a distinct character which did not forgive many pilot errors. The narrow undercarriage caused instability on take-offs and landings but once in the air its pilot had full confidence in his machine. Some 32,000 were built and even after the defeat of Germany production went on in Czechoslovakia and Spain. The Czech variant, the Avia C210, joined its old adversary, the Spitfire, as the first single-seat fighters of the newborn Israeli Air Force.

Mr Caidin presents a vivid and memorable picture of the long-serving Me 109 as does Mr Vader in his treatment of the Spitfire's story. Pierre Clostermann, the French ace who flew Spitfires while serving

with the RAF, wrote: "The Spitfire is typically British . . . Temperate, a perfect compromise for all the qualities required of a fighter . . . An essentially reasonable piece of machinery, conceived by cool, precise brains and built by conscientious hands."

Mr Vader comes up with little-known facts—those Spits of the Israeli Air Force were eventually sold to Burma; Spitfires were supplied to the US Army Air Force and flew 28,981 sorties, shooting down 256 enemy planes; other countries which took them into service included Russia, Turkey, Portugal, Greece, Egypt, France, Holland, Italy, Denmark, Norway, Czechoslovakia, Rhodesia, Syria and Argentina.

The Zero was the aircraft which administered the greatest shock to the Allied air forces. At one stage it was believed invincible. As Mr Caidin points out, for a while the Zero ruled the Pacific sky, its agility and hitting power unequalled. One American wrote: "Zeros were everywhere . . . The 67th pilots, in their heavy, lumbering P-40s, felt like a herd of cows being attacked on every flank by agile wolves."

The P-40 Kittyhawk, says Mr Vader, was a plane which never caught the popular imagination by its thoroughbred lines or its spectacular success. It was constantly denigrated by armchair aviators. It was Chennault who told his pilots to fight with their aircraft's best characteristics and Mr Vader shows how the Kittyhawk pilots eventually triumphed over the vaunted Zero.

Macdonald, 43p (8s 6d) each

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AYO GURKHALI!

"The Story of the Sirmoor Rifles" (Lieutenant Colonel E D Smith)

For more than 150 years the Gurkhas have served the British Crown with unsurpassed loyalty and gallantry. Of all the different races and creeds who have fought alongside English troops none have gained their affection, respect and admiration more than these cheerful, tough and altogether splendid little warriors from Nepal.

This is the story of the 2nd King Edward's Own Goorkha Rifles (they keep the old spelling.) Raised in the year of Waterloo, they have fought most gallantly for their former conquerors on many battlefields in many lands. For their magnificent defence, with the 60th Rifles, of Hindu Rao's house on the Delhi Ridge they were honoured by the title of "Rifles." Shortly afterwards Queen Victoria presented them with a "Truncheon" to replace the Colours they could no longer carry as a rifle regiment.

Your reviewer remembers, with pride, meeting in North Africa those two great characters of the 1st Battalion, the late Subedar-Major Labahadur Thapa VC and Captain (then Subedar-Major) Narbahadur Gurung. The former won an outstandingly gallant VC at Wadi Akarit; the latter was known throughout 4th Indian Division, to his huge delight, as NBG.

Now the dependants of the gallant Gurkhas are in need. All the profits from this book will go to the Gurkha Welfare Appeal fund. There could be no more worthy cause.

From RAO, 2nd KEO Goorkhas, Slim Barracks, Singapore, or Colonel R V Jackman, Lucas Green Farm, West End, Woking, Surrey, £1.25 (25s). Please include SAE and money orders made out to "Sirmoor Rifles."

RHL

IN BRIEF

"German Combat Uniforms 1939-45" (S R Gordon-Douglas)

Divided into four sections—service dress, specialised uniforms, infantry weapons, ranks and insignia—this 48-page booklet provides an excellent basic guide to the dress of the Nazi Army, Waffen-SS and Luftwaffe ground personnel. A handy table gives the equivalent German Army ranks from private to field-marshal with their British and American counterparts.

This revised and expanded second edition is a useful guide for collector, modeller or student of German militaria.

Almark, £1.25 (25s) (hardback), 87p (17s 6d) (paperback)

"Uniforms of the Scottish Infantry 1740-1900" (W A Thorburn)

This is a splendid little book of under 30 pages, easily read and furnished with many fine plates some of which are in colour. It tells how uniforms developed from the 17th century sash to the long gaiters and mitre caps of the early 18th century. The latter period alone saw 20 regular and 26 fencible regiments with an astonishing range of styles, but the most flamboyant and extravagant creations must surely have been in the years 1816-55 when gold lace, diced hats and tartan trews ran riot.

HMSO, Edinburgh, 30p (6s)

"British Infantry Regiments 1660-1914" (A H Bowling)

This is a companion to "Scottish Regiments 1660-1914" and between them these two books give a concise, yet remarkably comprehensive, guide to infantry regiments and their uniforms from the first formal establishment of organised units up to the start of World War One, after which the widespread wearing of full-dress uniforms was largely discontinued.

Apart from 114 colour drawings showing the development of British Army uniforms there are line drawings depicting a uniformed figure from different angles. This should please model soldier enthusiasts. Separate appendices illustrate small arms and headdresses of the period and there are some nostalgic photographs of Victorian groups of officers and soldiers.

Almark, 87p (17s 6d) (paperback), £1.25 (25s) (hardback)

"Details of the Rocket System" (Colonel Sir William Congreve)

This is another of those fascinating facsimile reprints. With intriguing pictures of rockets, looking like outside fireworks, being fired from tripod, pole and ship's mast, this 1813 manual was for the "information of the officers of the Rocket Corps and others whom it may concern."

There are instructions for the use of rockets, details of the strength of a troop of Rocket Horse Artillery, including such items as tumbrils, *bouches à feu* and forge cart, and sections dealing with the equipment of rocket cavalry, ammunition horses, horse-drawn rocket cars and ammunition.

The cost of these primitives of rocketry was laughable when compared with the thousands of pounds spent on today's weapons. Take the 32-pounder. Including case, cone, stick, rocket and carcass composition, labour and paint, it cost a mere £1 2s!

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UNDER, UP AND AWAY

A new recovery vehicle undergoing evaluation trials with Rhine Army revealed interesting features when it was demonstrated at Borsum, Germany, by 7 Field Workshop, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, during a visit by Major-General P H Girling, Director of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering.

The vehicle is an EKA/Volvo with type D recovery equipment mounted on a heavy chassis. It incorporates a 30-ton hydraulic winch and a non-slewing jib but the main feature is the hydraulically operated lifting boom which is extendable. With a set of simple yokes and adaptors—easily lifted by one man—the boom can raise the front or

rear of any vehicle for the purpose of towing.

The winch, jib and boom can be operated direct by levers housed at the rear of the vehicle or by remote control.

At the demonstration the EKA/Volvo lifted and towed away Land-Rovers and a four-ton Bedford truck each within three minutes. It also showed its power by lifting and towing a ten-ton Leyland recovery vehicle which itself was lift-towing a Stalwart.

The Volvo has shown that it can deal with awkward loads such as the Stalwart and its cross-country performance is said to be excellent.

Top: The EKA/Volvo recovery vehicle plays circus elephants at the demonstration, towing both the Leyland recovery and the Leyland's towed Stalwart.

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At ease on Keys Promenade. In the background are the massive bastions of Parson's Lodge Battery.

And now a promenade

FOR more than 250 years the British Army has defended Gibraltar against siege and assault. Sappers built fortifications and tunnelled the Rock. Their latest project, far from warlike, has been the improvement of Camp Bay to give an added boost to Gibraltar's tourist industry.

They built a promenade in this sweeping bay on Gibraltar's western shore, embodied in its design the symbol of the Keys of the Fortress of Gibraltar, and called it Keys Promenade.

The work, which extended and linked existing facilities to the smaller inlet of Little Bay, was carried out by 3 Troop of 20 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, during a routine visit from the United

Kingdom. It involved building a sea wall—appropriately, perhaps, at a time when the sea happened to be at its roughest—painstakingly paving the promenade itself in adverse weather conditions, making mushroom-shaped tables, constructing stone bench seats, erecting flights of steps, even setting up stands for gaily coloured beach umbrellas.

Finally they laid out a car park off the access road.

Today, thanks in no small measure to the efforts of these hardworking sappers, Camp Bay, once so difficult of access and uninviting of aspect, has been transformed into a bathing beach as colourful and sophisticated as any across the frontier on the Spanish riviera.

BACK COVER

The colourful, animated scene looking along Camp Bay to the Keys Promenade. Overlooking the bay from the cliff top are the Army's Europa married quarters and a new block of flats.



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