

January 1977

15p

Soldier



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FRONT COVER

A young soldier from the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) crouches expectantly in the bushes during an anti-ambush exercise. With the cut-back in the Hong Kong garrison the Volunteers are to take an increased internal security role in the Colony.

Picture by Doug Pratt.

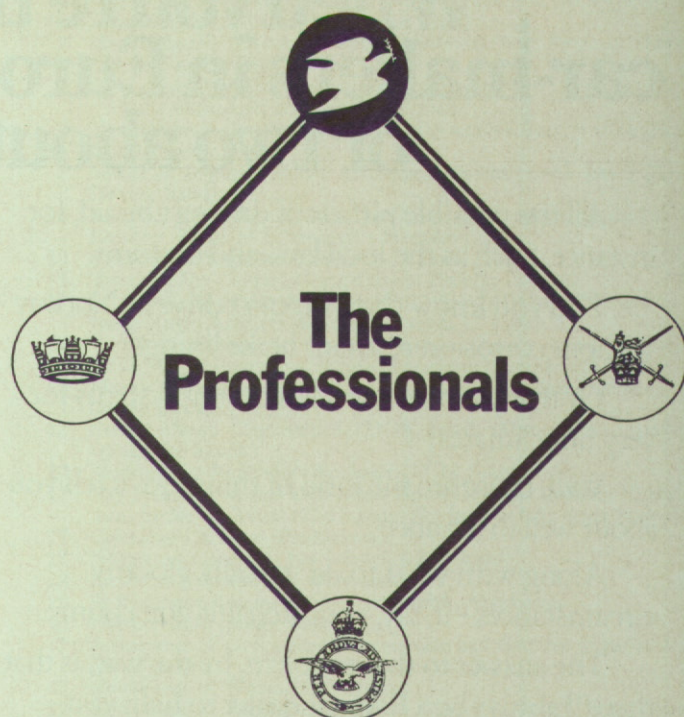


BACK COVER

A red-shirted Rhine Army player reaches for a high ball during the commemorative match against a team of Fijian servicemen celebrating 15 years of sharing their sporting talents with the British Army. The game was on the sixth anniversary of Fiji's independence.

Picture by PR HQ BAOR.

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 **RENAULT**

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

See-the-Army Diary



FEBRUARY 1977

- 7 King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, royal salute, Hyde Park, London (Queen's accession).
- 26 Massed bands, Household Division, gala concert, Royal Festival Hall, London (part proceeds to multiple sclerosis research and Service charities).

MARCH 1977

- 1 Jubilee Band Spectacular 1977 (in aid of Scottish war-blinded ex-servicemen) by the Scottish Regiments, Usher Hall, Edinburgh.

APRIL 1977

- 6 King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, gallop past, Regent's Park, London.
- 21 King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, royal salute, Hyde Park, London (Queen's birthday).
- 30 Presentation of Colours to 3rd (V) Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, Newark.

MAY 1977

- 1 Opening ceremony, Gathering of the Clans, Edinburgh (pipes and drums; four bands).
- 6 Royal Jubilee Pageant, Windsor (6-8 May).
- 6 Concert, Usher Hall, Edinburgh (three bands).
- 7 Closing ceremony, Gathering of the Clans, Edinburgh (two bands).
- 12 Royal Windsor Horse Show (12-15 May) (King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, musical ride).
- 14 Plymouth Tattoo.
- 14 Scoutarena, Stoneleigh (band).
- 18 West Midland Agricultural Show, Shrewsbury (18-19 May) (Light Infantry freefall team; two bands).
- 19 Devon County Show, Exeter (19-21 May) (junior band).
- 24 Beating Retreat, Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh (Scottish Division massed pipes and drums).
- 26 Massed bands concert, Windsor (26-29 May).
- 27 Royal Artillery At Home, Woolwich (27-28 May).
- 27 Combined Cadet Tattoo, Gosport (27-29 May).
- 28 Oxford Young Farmers Show, Witney (28-29 May) (Royal Army Ordnance Corps 'Cannonballs' freefall team; band).
- 28 Burnley Army Display (28-29 May) (Royal Signals 'White Helmets' motorcycle team; Parachute Regiment 'Red Devils' freefall team; Royal Military Police 'Red Caps' mounted team; Junior Parachute Company 'Pegasus' gymnastic team; corps of drums; four bands).
- 28 Long Eaton (Derbyshire) Carnival (28-29 May) (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers 'Pentastars' freefall team).
- 28 Otley (Yorkshire) Show (junior band).
- 28 First rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 30 Derby County Day (Pentastar).
- 31 Royal Bath and West Show, Shepton Mallet (31 May-4 June) (display; massed bands).
- 31 Household Division beats Retreat, Horse Guards Parade, London (31 May-4 June).
- 31 Hove Lions Day (band).
- 31 Glasgow Army Display (31 May-14 June) (Scottish Division 'Golden Lions' freefall team; band 31 May-5 June, 8-14 June).

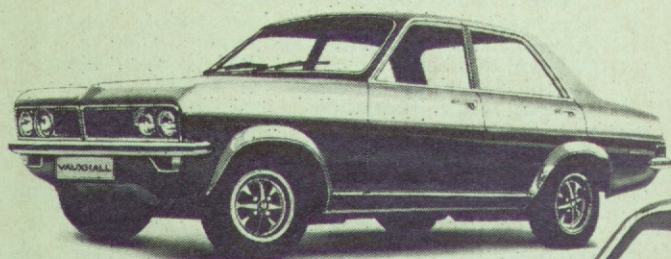
JUNE 1977

- 1 Suffolk Show, Ipswich (1-2 June) (Pentastars; band).
- 2 King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, royal salute, Hyde Park, London (Queen's coronation anniversary).
- 4 Open Day, Scottish Infantry Depot, Glencorse (Golden Lions; displays; bands).
- 4 Second rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 4 Lord Mayor's Show, Birmingham (band).
- 4 Birmingham Spring Festival (4-11 June) (band 4 June).

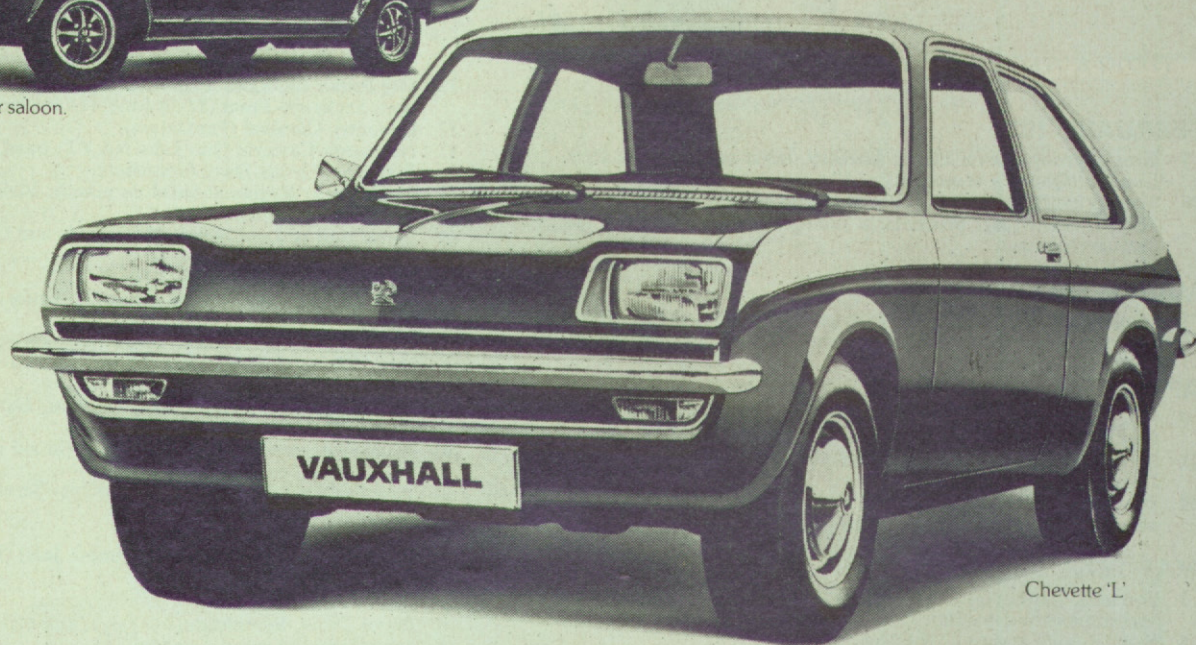
- 6 Atherstone, Coventry, Carnival (Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery, physical training display; junior band).
- 6 Hertfordshire County Show, Hartham Common (Red Caps).
- 6 Selby (Yorkshire) Carnival (junior band).
- 7 Massed bands Prince of Wales's Division beat Retreat, Horse Guards Parade, London (7-9 June).
- 7 State drive from Buckingham Palace to thanksgiving service, St. Paul's Cathedral, and Guildhall lunch.
- 9 Massed bands Household Division play on forecourt, Buckingham Palace, London.
- 9 South of England Show, Ardingley (Sussex) (9-11 June) (Red Devils; band).
- 10 King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, royal salute, Hyde Park, London (Duke of Edinburgh's birthday).
- 10 Scunthorpe Families Show (10-12 June) (band).
- 11 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 11 St Neots Riverside Festival (11-12 June) (White Helmets 11 June; Royal Artillery motorcycle team 12 June).
- 11 Vauxhall Motors Spectacular, Luton (Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Engineers, physical training team; band).
- 11 Mayor's Carnival and Water Festival, Lincoln (junior band).
- 13 Garter Service, Windsor.
- 17 Essex Show, Chelmsford (17-18 June) (Household Cavalry Quadrille; band).
- 17 36 Engineer Regiment Weekend (17-18 June).
- 17 HQ Prince of Wales's Division Open Day and Careers Exhibition, Stoke-on-Trent (17-18 June) (Lt Inf freefall; three bands).
- 17 Coventry Carnival (Pentastars).
- 17 Nuneaton Carnival (Jun Ldrs RA PT; band).
- 18 Airborne Forces Day, Aldershot.
- 18 36 Engineer Regiment freedom march, Maidstone.
- 18 Halifax Gala (junior band).
- 19 Royal tour of Lancashire, Merseyside and Greater Manchester (20-22 June).
- 22 Royal tour of Wales (22-24 June).
- 22 Lincolnshire Agricultural Show, Lincoln (22-23 June) (two bands).
- 24 Aldershot Army Display (24-26 June) (King's Troop, musical ride; White Helmets; Red Caps; Red Devils; four pipes and drums; 21 bands).
- 25 Royal Signals At Home and Reunion, Catterick (25-26 June) (White Helmets; band).
- 30 Military Musical Pageant, Wembley (in aid of Army Benevolent Fund (30 June-2 July).
- 30 Royal review of Reserve Forces and pre-Service cadets, Wembley Stadium.
- 30 First royal tour of London.
- 30 West Bromwich Carnival (30 June-2 July) (White Helmets).

JULY 1977

- 4 Royal Show, Stoneleigh (4-7 July) (Red Caps).
- 6 Second royal tour of London.
- 7 Queen reviews British Army of the Rhine.
- 8 Depot Queen's Division Open Day, Basingstoke (Pentastars; White Helmets; Pegasus; two bands; junior band).
- 8 Edinburgh Army Display (8-18 July) (Golden Lions; band).
- 9 Artillery Day, Larkhill.
- 9 Basingstoke Tattoo.
- 9 Pudsey (Yorkshire) Show (junior band).
- 9 Royal Pioneer Corps Training Centre Open Day, Northampton (band).
- 9 Welbeck (Nottinghamshire) County Fair (9-10 July) (Cannonballs; two bands).
- 9 Derby Steam Rally (9-10 July) (band).
- 10 Royal Tournament preview march, Horse Guards Parade.
- 11 Royal tour of Suffolk, Norfolk, Humberside, Yorkshire and North East Counties (11-15 July).
- 12 Great Yorkshire Show, Harrogate (12-14 July) (Adventurous training display).
- 14 Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London (14-30 July).
- 14 Nottingham Military Display (14-16 July) (Red Caps 14 July; Pegasus 14-15 July; Royal Green Jackets freefall team; band; two junior bands).
- 16 Corby (Northamptonshire) Highland Games (16-17 July) (Household Division freefall team).
- 18 Dundee Army Display (18-21 July) (Golden Lions; band; pipes and drums).
- 19 East of England Show, Peterborough (19-21 July) (Red Caps; RA motorcyclists; Red Devils; Pegasus; Pentastars; two bands).
- 21 Sheffield Services Display (21-24 July) (Red Devils; Pegasus; three bands).
- 21 Malton (Yorkshire) Show (band).
- 21 Manchester Show (21-23 July) (Red Caps; Red Devils; combat display; two bands).
- 21 St Helens Show (21-23 July) (White Helmets; Red Devils; Household Cavalry Quadrille; Pegasus; two bands).
- 21 Aberdeen Army Display (21-25 July) (Golden Lions; band).
- 22 Stafford Carnival (22-23 July) (band).
- 22 Northampton Show (22-24 July) (band).
- 23 Cleveland Show, Middlesbrough (marching display; two bands).
- 26 Tyneside Summer Exhibition, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (26-30 July) (Red Devils; Pegasus; band).
- 26 Inverness Army Display (26 July-6 August) (Golden Lions; RA motorcyclists; band; pipes and drums).
- 27 Royal tour of West Midlands, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire (27-28 July).
- 28 Deal Regatta (28-29 July) (Red Devils; band).
- 30 Open Day, Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Engineers, Dover.



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SOLDIER to Soldier

While collectors continue to worry over the current problems of 'run-on' manufacture, re-strikes and reproductions, another facet of Army cap badges has just come to light in a bulk order to a dealer for Cameronians badges. They were sought, by a reputable firm in Northern Ireland, apparently for the badge to be worn by a non-military marching band.

The firm's executive who placed the bid was under the impression that this was perfectly in order because the badge was of a departed regiment. He was quite wrong and could in fact have laid himself open to prosecution. The wearing of military uniform or insignia is governed by the Uniform Act of 1894 which states that it is not lawful for any person not serving in the armed forces to wear — without the Sovereign's permission — the uniform or any dress bearing regimental or other distinctive marks. The penalty for contravention is a fine not exceeding a modest £5 — the Act's original amount. It is, of course, permissible under the 1894 Act for a military uniform to be worn in the context of a relevant stage play, on duly licensed premises, and, says the Act, in a music hall or circus performance. Obviously the same premise applies to films and there would never be objection to the wearing of uniform or 'distinctive marks' in for example recruiting endeavours, advertising, pageantry or, in the case of badges, their mounting and display by collectors.

The point is that such usage must be prestigious and not in any way liable to bring the uniform into disrepute. Indeed the 1894 Act incorporates further maximum penalties of a £10 fine or a month's imprisonment for the offence of uniform being worn in such a manner or circumstances likely to bring contempt.

The fact that a cap badge, for example, is no longer worn — it may have been superseded by a later design or the regiment disbanded — is irrelevant. It certainly may not be worn by any organised body outside the Services. That Cameronians badge is indeed still worn — not by the Regular Army but by a unit and two platoons of the Army Cadet Force and a Combined Cadet Force.

So, while the order for Cameronians cap badges was placed in good faith, it should be known that this and any similar proposed usage is clearly illegal.

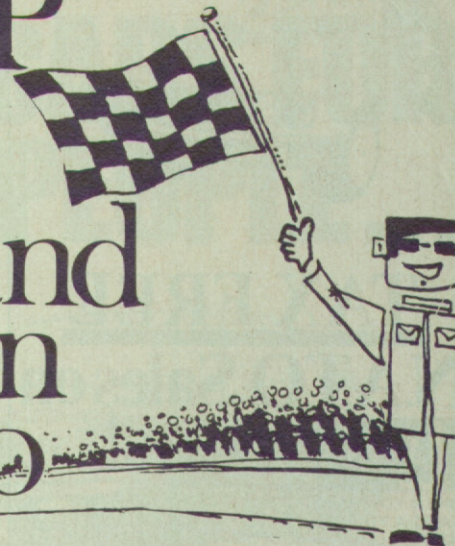
In this instance the order was not fulfilled — the dealer involved suspected that the proposed usage would be wrong and admirably preferred to lose the custom rather than risk bringing the Army into disrepute and perhaps also damage his own reputation for integrity.

Cap badge collectors would no doubt wish there were more people about of equal scruple.



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MILITARY MUSEUMS

48



The Queen's Lancashire Regiment

FULWOOD BARRACKS at Preston, said to be haunted by the ghost of a private soldier, is not only the new home of Headquarters North West District (see 'Cuerden away,' SOLDIER November 1976) but also houses the regimental museum of the 47th and 81st, The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire), now absorbed into The Queen's Lancashire Regiment.

Of the many fascinating exhibits on show the most famous is the silver-mounted Maida Tortoise. This treasured memento was picked up by General Sir James Kempt, then a lieutenant-colonel commanding the 81st, after the battle of Maida (1806) when a small British force landed in southern Italy and defeated Napoleon's hitherto invincible veterans. In the absence of the day's rations the colonel ate the tortoise for supper and subsequently had the shell mounted and made into a snuff box which he presented to the officers of the regiment. Stolen in Shanghai and captured at Singapore, it was eventually recovered, a little battered but still game. Adventures over, this much-travelled tortoise now rests in the museum except for a yearly outing to London for the regimental dinner.

At Quebec the 47th occupied the position of honour in the centre of the line and later became known as 'Wolfe's Own.' Documents, a portrait of General Wolfe and a portion of the pall used at his funeral — he was killed at Quebec at the age of 32 — can be seen. There are souvenirs of two famous sons of the regiment — General Sir Richard Farren, commissioned at 16 and who commanded the 47th at the 'soldiers' battle of Inkerman, and Major G Forster Sadleir who in 1819 became the first European to cross the Arabian desert on foot.

A display case full of souvenirs, including one of more than a hundred closely written letters from the Crimea to his mother and his photograph at the age of 87, recall General Farren; a sword presented by the Shah of Persia for helping to discipline his forces in 1813-15 reminds one of Major Sadleir. Among Crimean trophies are a set of six Russian drums and a large wooden double-headed eagle taken from the naval arsenal at Sevastopol.

A portrait of Lieutenant-Colonel R G Kekewich, who commanded 1st Battalion, The Loyals, at the siege of Kimberley, marks an important piece of regimental history — the regiment was awarded the unique battle honour, 'Defence of Kimberley,' for its lone stand against Boer attacks

on the diamond town. An exhibition of more than 800 medals and decorations includes the Kimberley Star given by the town of Kimberley to officers and men of the battalion. A medallion struck at the time of Wellington's death and presented to each of the pallbearers at his funeral, and some notable groups, can also be seen.

Outstanding among a number of swords is the blade presented to Major Harry Cooper, of The Loyals, inscribed ADC to the Marquess of Dufferin and Ava, Viceroy of India, and ADC to Queen Victoria and King Edward VII. Ancient and modern weapons, period and contemporary uniforms, and British and French helmets and shakos as worn in the mid-18th century, are well presented. Not to be overlooked in a notable collection of badges, buttons and belt plates is the early 19th century badge of the 3rd Royal Lancashire Militia. A magazine, Nor Iron Bars, remarkable for its ingenuity and variety and produced in secret by Loyals officers during captivity in Malaya and Korea, is also a 'must.'

Silver cups and other trophies won by Sergeant Jack 'Dusty' Miller, a famous Army boxer, have a case to themselves. A World War One German code book containing the complete order of battle of the 43rd and 44th German divisions at the battle of Givenchy and a booklet entitled 'The New Army in Training' by Rudyard Kipling, with a letter signed by the author to the commanding officer of the 47th, should not be missed.

Though this is primarily The Loyals museum, a section has been set aside for The Queen's Lancashire Regiment and is at present chiefly stocked with Northern Ireland souvenirs. A fine reference library of more than 500 military books includes Army Lists dating from 1791.

John Jesse

Curator: Major P A Mauldon (Retd.)
Address: The Queen's Lancashire Regiment
Fulwood Barracks
Preston
Lancashire
PR2 4AA
Telephone: Preston 716543 ext 413
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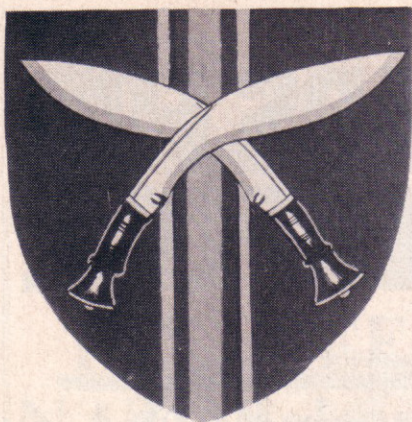
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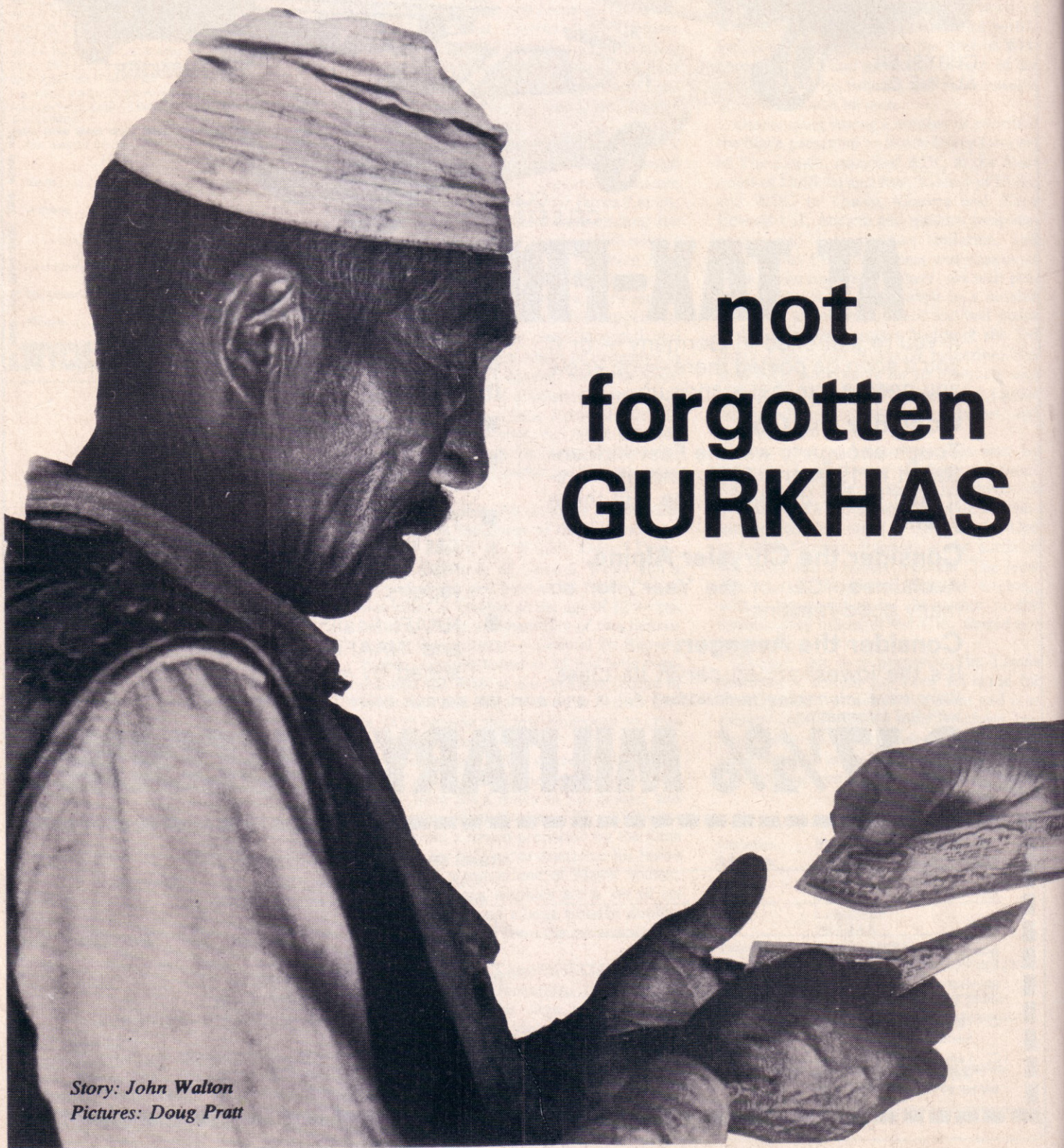
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A few years ago a million pounds was raised to help British Gurkha ex-servicemen and their families. How is the money being spent? How does Britain care for the Gurkha when he returns home to the remote Himalayan kingdom of Nepal? To answer these questions a SOLDIER team visited Nepal to see at first hand what is being done to help these former British soldiers. This is the first of three reports on the ...

not forgotten GURKHAS



*Story: John Walton
Pictures: Doug Pratt*



Above: Loaded down with grain and rice, ex-Lance-Corporal Tulbahadur Rai starts for home.



Above right: Captain John Purves makes his decision on one of the landslide damage cases.

AS THE NEPALESE hill villager stepped into the office at Headquarters British Gurkhas Nepal a sudden transformation came over him. Despite the local civilian clothing he was a soldier again, snapping out a smart salute to Captain John Purves sitting behind his desk.

Ex-Lance-Corporal Tulbahadur Rai had walked for eight days to the British cantonment of Dharan in eastern Nepal. His mission was to seek help for himself and his family after a landslide which had wiped out most of his worldly wealth. Land just below his house, perched high on a hillside, had been washed away and as a result part of the house collapsed. His total loss, including crops, amounted to £500 — a large amount of money in Nepal.

Captain Purves, second in command of the British Gurkha Depot, examined the case and awarded Tulbahadur 600 rupees (£30), 80 pounds of grain and six kilograms of rice. Not enough to cover his loss but sufficient to give him a fresh start. With his heavy load on his back the former Gurkha began the long trek back to his village.

That day Captain Purves investigated and dealt with ten cases of landslide damage. Basing his judgements on need, he awarded between 150 and 450 rupees to the remainder of the applicants. It is not a job he particularly enjoys: "You would always like to give more and yet there is always the feeling that there is a much needier case just around the corner, and invariably there is."

Below: Weighing out 80lb of grain awarded to help a man who has lost both house and land.

Each year when the monsoons come and the land is awash, the mountain dwellers of Nepal live with the ever-present danger of landslides. And during the hot, dry periods there is another danger — fire. A blaze can wipe out a whole village of thatched houses in a matter of minutes. Add to that floods and hailstorms which beat down the crops and the precarious existence is starkly revealed.

Both Captain Purves and Major Peter Ridlington, brigade welfare officer, have trekked through the hills gathering experience which enables them to make the assessments. They also have advice from Gurkha officers as well as the welfare officer's recommendation to help them. They stress that the compensation payments cannot be regarded as any kind of insurance scheme. If a man loses nearly all that he has, he will receive a large grant, but if he has strong sons to help him rebuild or if a substantial portion of his land is unharmed, the payments may be less. The essential thing is to see that no ex-soldier becomes destitute.

Aid and welfare work for the ex-British Gurkha has really come into its own in recent years. The £1,000,000 Gurkha Welfare Appeal is providing an income of more than £80,000 a year which is being spent on the ex-soldiers.

Before 1958 there were no Gurkha depots in Nepal and therefore contact with the former British soldiers was minimal. But with the establishment of Dharan in eastern

Below: It might be me one day. Young Gurkha recruit helps the ex-soldier to lift his heavy load.



Below: Tulbahadur prepares to wrap up his rice. He will eat it on the eight-day walk in the hills.



Nepal and another camp at Paklihawa in the west, the Brigade of Gurkhas obtained access to a lot of welfare cases. The first welfare officers were appointed.

Now there are 22 welfare centres plus seven medical posts in the areas of east and west Nepal traditionally used for Gurkha recruiting. Some are accessible by air but for most the only way to get there is on foot.

Each welfare centre is an ordinary private house. On the ground floor is a medical centre and office with sleeping accommodation upstairs. It is headed by a welfare officer, usually a retired Gurkha officer, assisted by a retired senior non-commissioned officer, a welfare assistant and a runner. The first three are paid from a Ministry of Defence grant and the runner's pay comes from a Brigade of Gurkhas scheme whereby each serving member of the brigade from top to bottom contributes a day's pay annually to welfare. None of the income from the appeal fund is used for wages and administration costs and Major Ridlington stresses that money is still desperately needed.

This is not surprising when you consider the number of people in Nepal who are eligible for help. For the welfare scheme has been extended to include not only Gurkhas and their families of recent times but all those who served in the old Indian Army before Indian independence as well as Gurkha members of the colonial Burmese and Assam forces.

"It is still a completely unknown quantity but it must run into hundreds of thousands," Major Ridlington told SOLDIER. "We hold all the discharge documents for our own people in recent years but we have only just begun to realise just how many others are involved."

With highly trained medical assistants the welfare centres are able to hold and issue

such drugs as penicillin. They also deal with many of the less serious cases of damage and hardship in their areas. The area welfare officer is authorised to issue up to 300 rupees in relief without passing the case on to Dharan, Paklihawa or the British defence attaché in the Nepalese capital, Kathmandu.

Other grants are given for the death of a breadwinner. These tend to be deliberately delayed somewhat for the intention is that the money should be used to help the deceased's family rather than to pay funeral expenses.

In many cases a once-and-for-all payment is unsuitable. If a man becomes disabled or incapacitated in any way he needs a regular income. Some have no Service pension and for others it is insufficient to live on by itself.

Figures for the last financial year show how much of the welfare money is being spent in Nepal. Fire compensation was £7081, landslides £13,313 and food shortages £12,766. In seasonal times of food shortage the grants are usually given in the form of grain and rice which have been bought earlier and stored in makeshift granaries within the camps.

Major Ridlington also has the task of administering the money for the Canadian (Gurkha Appeal) education and rehabilitation (CEDAR) scheme. Canadians, like the British, have a soft spot for the Gurkhas, having fought alongside them in World War Two. A few miles from Dharan, Gurkha ex-servicemen are building their own rest centre with Canadian money. Due to be officially opened in March, it will be able to accommodate up to 100 men overnight as well as having rooms for ex-officers and a meeting hall. CEDAR is also financing school extensions, new welfare centres, sporting facilities, water schemes, libraries and other capital projects.

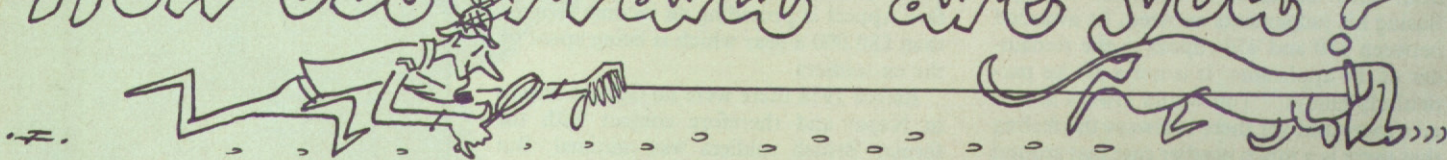
The centre will be a boon not only to the ex-servicemen of the Dharan area but to those who travel down from the hills to collect welfare grants and to thousands of pensioners. Pensions can be drawn monthly from Dharan, Paklihawa, Pokhara post or the British Embassy in Kathmandu. But distances and lack of roads mean that most men prefer to make the trek quarterly and many are unable to travel down at all. For these pensioners there is an annual pension-paying tour.

Until recently these walkabouts, one in the west and one in the east, tended to be reminiscent of medieval baggage trains or African safaris. Up to 25 men, including bearers and guards, spent several months marching through the hills, carrying large amounts of money with them. But today some of the journey can be done by air and there are also small banks scattered around the mountain villages. Although money is still carried there are police guards and the burden has been eased somewhat.

In eastern Nepal, where there are fewer roads, a reconnaissance trek is carried out. Lieutenant Mark Willis, this year's pension-paying officer, spent five weeks traversing the whole pension-paying route. On his way he arranged accommodation for his party for the real thing as well as liaising with local bank managers to make sure they had the necessary funds on the right day.

During the pension-paying trek the party will stay at the homes of ex-servicemen. They will arrange for their host to buy food and cook it and he will be paid for this. And one important point has to be remembered. Every pensioner has to be told the exact day on which the pension paying party will be in his area the following year. Once this information has been given there can be no change for there is no way of communicating with them again.

How observant are you?



These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences see page 29.





Finally Major Purnasing Limbu, a former Queen's Gurkha orderly officer, who has now become an area welfare officer, took SOLDIER'S team to see three disabled men. Just three cases among many but all of them indicative of the care and concern Britain still has for its former Gurkhas.

Corporal Dhanjit Rai, a pensioner, developed a muscular illness a year ago and already he can scarcely walk. He has a wife and five children. Major Purnasing Limbu visits him regularly and he receives a charity pension as well as occasional grants of clothing and money.

Kulbahadur Limbu has another rare disease which attacks the legs until they have to be amputated. Now equipped with artificial

Below: Variety of Eastern and Western garb as Gurkha pensioners collect their cash.



Above: Kulbahadur Limbu has lost his legs but Britain trained him in the watchmaker's art.

Below: One of the light planes which have made the Nepalese hillsides accessible to welfare men.





Above: Welfare officer Major Purnasing Limbu visits wheelchair-bound pensioner Dhanjit Rai.

Below: Paralysed by fall, Tirjahang Limbu is now a teleprinter operator at Dharan's Comcen.



legs and specially adapted car, he is the Dharan cantonment watchmaker. Before his illness he was a rifleman in Hong Kong and knew nothing of clocks and watches. Today, after taking part in a retraining scheme in Britain, he is the acknowledged expert and repairs all the timepieces on the camp.

Signalman Tirjahang Limbu left the Army in 1971. Three years later he fell 35 feet from a tree while chopping wood. Twelve men carried him for 18 days in a litter to the British Military Hospital in Dharan where it was found that he had a fractured spine, causing permanent paralysis from the waist down.

Tirjahang was only 27 at the time. He had a small son and his wife was eight months pregnant. But help was at hand. Because of his signals training it was decided to give him a course as a teleprinter operator. Now he works in the cantonment communications centre and lives in a house on the camp designed to cope with his Army-provided wheelchair.

All of these things, as well as scholarships to assist with education of ex-servicemen's children, are part of Britain's contribution. Brigadier 'Able' Dacre, who commands the British Gurkhas in Nepal, concedes that helping the British ex-soldiers alone could create jealousies among the rural tight-knit communities. However the villagers as a whole benefit from the funds provided from the British welfare scheme and Canadian CEDAR aid scheme. Use of the schools, water systems, bridges, rice mills and agricultural innovations so provided is certainly not restricted to ex-servicemen but benefits all.

"What we are doing," says the brigadier, "is to provide the only system of aid equating to that known in the Western world."

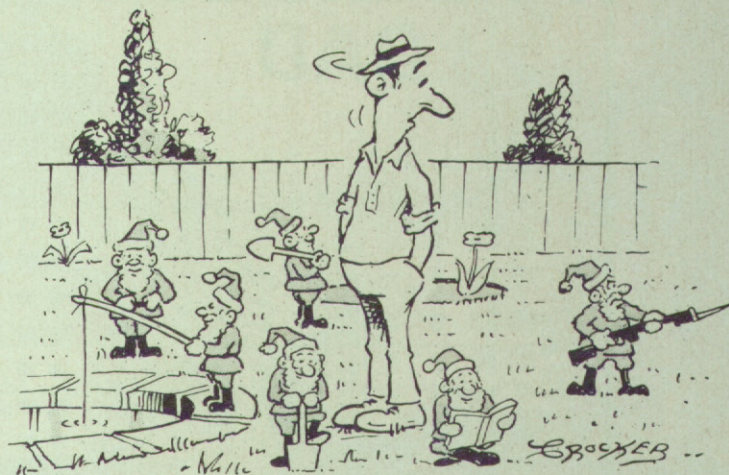
Next month: The fight against disease.

Humour



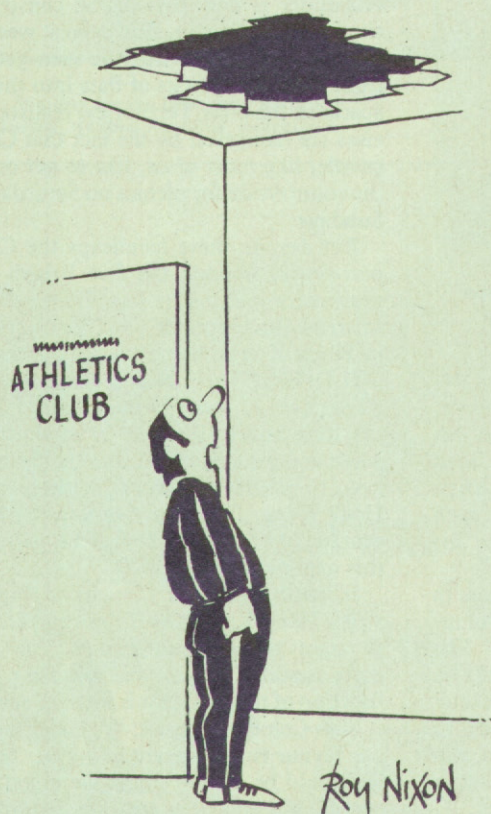
Roy Nixon

"First the good news — it isn't catching."



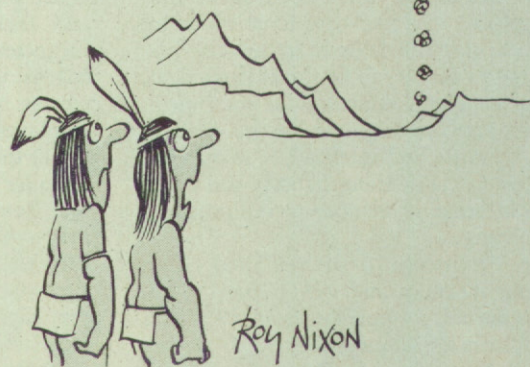
Roy Nixon

"... five feet nine, dark hair, medium build and he should be wearing a white carnation."



Roy Nixon

"Sorry, did I make you jump?"

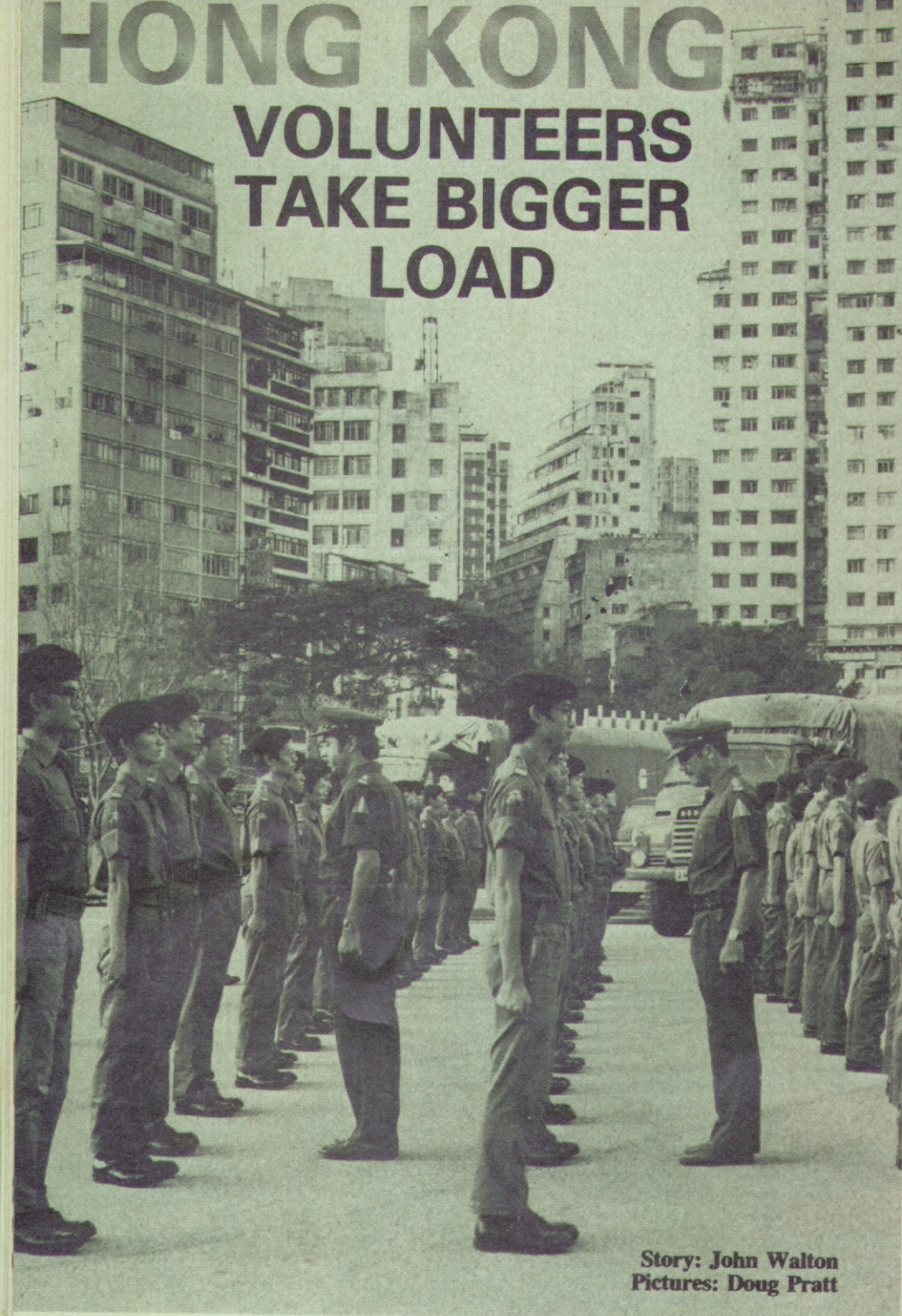


Roy Nixon

"It says 'Not much wind today, is there?'"

HONG KONG

VOLUNTEERS TAKE BIGGER LOAD



Story: John Walton
Pictures: Doug Pratt

Above: The crowded multi-storey blocks of flats in which most Hong Kong people live tower over the Volunteers' headquarters as the men are inspected by their officers on one of the drill nights.

WITHDRAWAL of one of the British Army battalions from Hong Kong at the end of 1976 has meant even more responsibility being placed on a part-time force which has already acquitted itself well in the colony for more than a century. The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers), at one time an infantry battalion but now concentrating on reconnaissance and internal security, has a vital role in maintaining stability and giving a greater sense of identity to the people of Hong Kong.

The Volunteers, a strictly Hong Kong Government unit and not a part of the British forces, comprises about 700 men. The officers are Chinese, British, New Zealanders, Australians, Portuguese and Indian — in fact anyone who lives in the colony is eligible to join.

But the bulk of the other ranks are almost

exclusively Chinese and there is fierce competition to become a member of the force. When recruits are needed the word goes out and there are far more applicants than vacancies. Strict medical vetting is carried out as well as security vetting and each recruit must have a release note from his employer.

For the Hong Kong Regiment operates in a similar way to the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve in the United Kingdom. The men spend one night every two weeks at their training premises and for one weekend a month they go out into the open spaces of the New Territories. Training there can vary from firing on a range to manoeuvres in the hills with Land-Rovers and Ferrets.

Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Gregson, who commands them, had TAVR experience with The Royal Yeomanry. He says: "I have



Above: Rifle at the ready as one of the men at camp looks out for a possible ambush.

found them to be exactly the same as men in the TAVR. When you come down to the basic things their problems are the same, they are as keen as the TAVR and there is very little change except you deal with chaps of an entirely different nationality."

Room to move in crowded Hong Kong will always be a problem for the Volunteers. At their headquarters on Hong Kong island the parade ground has been halved — the remainder is now part of the construction site for a new flyover. And even at weekends and annual camps when the men get away from the tower blocks of flats into the open spaces of the New Territories, realistic exercises are hampered by the fact that Chinese people, like most of us, like to get out into the countryside for picnics on Saturdays and Sundays.

But despite these handicaps the Chinese part-timers impress the five British Army permanent staff instructors. Corporal-Major Michael Mitcheson, of The Life Guards, out in Hong Kong for only a few weeks, told SOLDIER: "Their work is good. We get an 80 per cent turn out in the evenings despite the long hours they put in at work. And when you get a situation coming up they are keen to get out and work for the people of Hong Kong. I've done five tours of Northern Ireland now and I shall be passing on this experience to them."

If natural disasters such as typhoons strike Hong Kong, the Volunteers are there to assist the civil authorities. And while there is still a limited war role the primary function of the regiment is internal security.

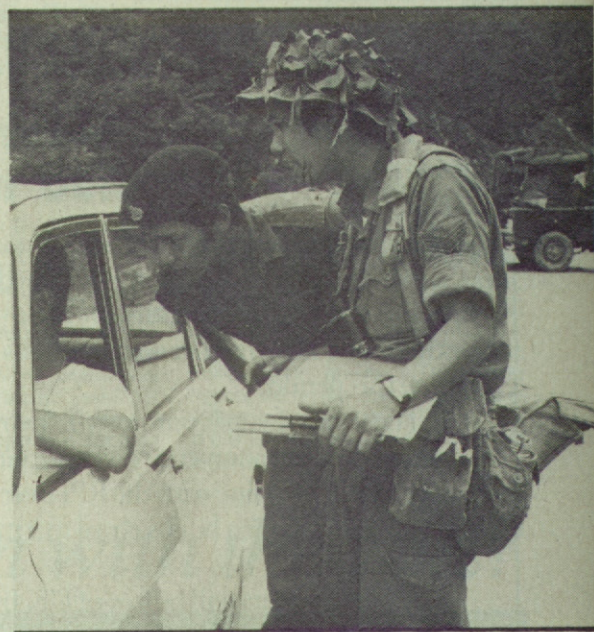
Says Colonel Gregson: "A major factor in our favour is that we are bilingual. In a riot we would be able to assess the mood of the crowd. We know the area, the customs and speak both the local and the Army language. Any help we would be able to give could only do good."



Below: Hong Kong Volunteer Junior Leaders on a field radio. (Picture by JSPRS Hong Kong).

Above: The graffiti says 'Made in China' but these men are all Hong Kong-grown soldiers.

Below: Familiar Northern Ireland scene recreated in the East. The vehicle check.



Below: Waiting for the instructor's word to load during weapon-handling instruction.



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Soldier news

Army says welfare system needs improving but...

NO to full-time social workers plan

The Army will not be getting a full-time social work service or longer tours of duty designed to cut down stress in Service families as recommended by the Spencer Report on Army Welfare.

Army chiefs agree that the welfare system the Army offers needs improvement but do not agree with the solutions put forward by the report. However, they feel the Army can offer alternatives.

The Spencer Report covers the two years' work of a committee of seven headed by Professor J C Spencer. The committee took evidence from a number of official civilian and military welfare bodies. During visits to Army garrisons more than 400 serving personnel and 200 wives were interviewed. Among individuals who gave evidence at formal sessions was SOLDIER's Anne Armstrong.

Rejecting the call for a social work service, the Army claims it can fill the bill either by expansion of the Soldiers' Sailors' and Airmen's Families' Association (Ssafa) or by relying more on existing services offered by local authorities' social services. One-year pilot schemes are planned to study the two options in action.

Average tours of duty of three years' length are recommended by the report which says that it puts a "high priority" on reducing "turbulence" in the home, "a factor which lies behind so many of the problems facing Army families."

But the Army has already taken action on one major proposal, that unit families officers' selection and training should be improved. An Army spokesman said: "Unit families officers will be appointed in all infantry battalions once the

restructuring from the recent Defence Review has been completed.

"UFOs for other field force units will be established when manpower cover can be found. In non-field force units, an officer will be designated to take on the duties of UFO."

(Turn to centre pages for a full report.)

No personal guns for UDR

The Ulster Defence Regiment is not to be issued with personal protection weapons.

"I am satisfied with the existing arrangements which allow for the issue of personal protection weapons to members of the UDR where this is considered necessary in the light of the threat," said Mr Robert Brown, Under-Secretary of State (Army), in reply to a question in the House.

Tax relief at last

Servicemen overseas will benefit from a new tax concession giving income tax relief on mortgages.

The Inland Revenue Department has agreed that house owners can keep the full mortgage interest income tax relief for successive periods of up to four years' absence provided the houses are re-occupied by the owner or a dependant for at least three months between absences.

The basic condition of the concession is that when a house is vacated there must be expectation of re-occupation within four years by the owner or his dependants. The concession applies whether the house is let or left vacant and is retrospective to 27 March 1974.

Further details can be had from the Ministry of Defence (PS4(d) (Army)).*

Recruiting down

Army recruiting in the July-September quarter dropped 13 per cent on the same period of 1975. Total recruits were 9016 of which 5662 were juniors. The lower figures are mainly due to the need to reduce manpower strengths to lower levels as a result of the Defence Review.*

African police action out

The Government has emphatically ruled out sending British troops into Rhodesia to police the country at any stage during the handover of power from the rebel Smith regime to a legal government.

Pressed on the subject in Parliament, Mr Anthony Crosland, Foreign Secretary, said: "The Government rules out under all circumstances the dispatch of British armed forces. As to international peace-keeping forces, United Nations, Commonwealth or whatever, this is something I am bearing in mind."

The Conservative MP for Banbury, Mr Neil Marten, asked: "Is not the danger that of communism?"

Mr Crosland replied: "There is an acute danger indeed but in my view there would not have been a threat of communism in that part of southern Africa now — and that threat should not be exaggerated — if the Smith regime had not refused to budge one inch for 11 long years."

Who's the goon with the gun?



"Come out, Milligan — I know you're in there." Harry Secombe goes with the guns, in this case an old 25-pounder from World War Two.

Harry found the gun when he spent a day with 22 Light Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery, at Kirton-in-Lindsey, South Humberside.

Harry, who saw service with the gunners during the war ("I was on your side actually") spent an hilarious afternoon with the Welsh gunners, many of whom come from South Wales.

He first met the regiment in May in Newport, Gwent, when he signed on as an 'Honorary Welsh Gunner'. It was then that he promised to visit them at Kirton.

After touring the camp and seeing the regiment's Rapier missiles he gave a special one-man show, supported by the Royal Artillery Staff Band from Woolwich.

Incidentally, the 25-pounder commemorates an action on Alem Hanz ridge in North Africa in 1941 when the guns held off a German Panzer division.



What a high-powered stirrer!

How about this for a super stirrer? Although all that brandy obviously needs well mixing.

The mixer is Quartermaster-General (designate) Lieutenant-General Sir Patrick Howard-Dobson, on a visit to Headquarters 7 Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, and 3 Tank Transporter Squadron RCT, in Rhine Army.

He was shown round by commanding officer Lieutenant-Colonel P S Mears, obviously an expert when it comes to the brandy addition to christmas cakes.

The cake mixing was watched carefully by Sergeant Britt and Lance-Corporal Maddison, Army Catering Corps.

Kids were signalmen for a day

School pupils in the South West have been able to try their hands as wireless, teleprinter and switchboard operators, thanks to the Royal Signals at Bulford.

The 26-strong team from 3rd Division HQ and Signal Regi-

ment, augmented by a girl from the Women's Royal Army Corps, toured 18 schools in a series of one-day stands.

Major Lee Tilson was in command of the tour and team leader was Sergeant Brian Robjohn.

The display comprised six vehicles and two tents housing a variety of equipment. Radio sets in

pairs worked to one another across the display, a long-range receiver monitored world news agency transmissions on a teleprinter, and another pair of teleprinters enabled visitors to type messages to each other.

Mifax equipment showed how maps and illustrations can be transmitted and an automatic

telephone exchange with a transparent panel helped the pupils to understand how it worked. There were opportunities also to work a manual switchboard.

On the lighter side, an exhibition of life equipment included a make-it-yourself bracelet demonstration using wire and a crimping tool.

The Generals drop in by chopper

Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Roland Gibbs, about to set off on a tour of units in the New Territories while on a visit to British Forces, Hong Kong.

Picture shows General Gibbs (left) with Lieutenant-General Sir John Archer, Commander British Forces, in a Gazelle helicopter of 656 Squadron, Army Air Corps, at the Harcourt Road helipad.

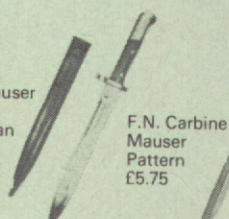


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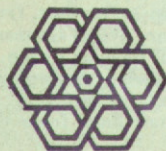
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Another Medical Corps first

"What's your line?" might be the question Major-General J H Page, Director of Personal Services (Army), is asking Second-Lieutenant Pat Purdy, the first commissioned pharmacist to serve with the Royal Army Medical Corps.

General Page took the salute at the RAMC Training Centre, Keogh Barracks, Mytchett, at one of the biggest passing-out parades of RAMC officers in recent years.

In all, 45 officers representing a cross-section of all commissions currently available in the RAMC, passed out.

There were post-graduate medical officers who had already spent a short time at the Training Centre where they were taught administration and basic military subjects before going to the Royal Military Academy for four weeks.

They then spent five weeks studying military medicine at the RAMC College, Millbank, before three weeks of special-to-arms subjects.

The non-medical officers were made up of administrative officers, some of whom were from direct entry commissions, and some from the ranks; technical officers included medical stores officers, a laboratory technician — and Miss Purdy, the first female non-medical officer in the corps.

Five officers were commissioned male nurses and will compete for further promotion with nursing officers of Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps. They have all had special training to help ease the load on the hard-pressed doctors in Northern Ireland.

There was also a commissioned quartermaster of the Royal Army Dental Corps on parade.

Supporting the officers on parade was a platoon of soldiers who had just completed recruit training and a platoon of senior RAMC apprentice tradesmen.

After passing out, Second-Lieutenant Purdy went to Tidworth Military Hospital and then to the Joint Service Hospital, Wroughton.

During her time at Sandhurst, she and the other female officers on the course had to undergo their basic soldier training which meant living out in the field, section attacks and physical training.

"I have worked in civilian hospitals," she said, "and I thought this would be a change, and so far it certainly has been."

As well as the passing-out parade at Keogh there was also the first warrant officers' convention in the Medical Corps. About 70 warrant officers gathered to discuss their jobs and their role within the Army.



Jubilee medal struck



Some 9000 Service personnel will be selected to receive a special medal being struck to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the Queen's accession to the throne in 1952.

The medal has been classified as an official medal to be worn when decorations are normally displayed. Some 35,000 are being minted.

The obverse shows a profile of the Queen and the reverse carries the inscription 'The 25th year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II 6 February 1977.' The ribbon is white with a central red stripe bordered by blue stripes and with red borders at the edges. Those selected for award of the medal will receive it in June.



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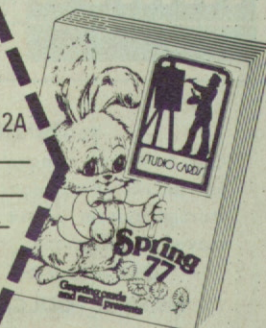
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Ex-POW new 'owner' of camp

After 50 years the Army is moving out of most of Sham Shui Po camp, in one of the world's most densely-populated areas to the north of Kowloon.

It was a moment for nostalgia when Major-General Ronnie McAlister, Deputy Commander British Forces, handed over the first five acres to Mr David McDonald, Director of Public Works for the Hong Kong Government. It was particularly poignant for two men who had suffered in Sham Shui Po as prisoners of the Japanese.

One was Colonel Henry de Barros Botelho, who was a wartime captain in the Hong Kong Volunteers. Outside Block 19, in which he was quartered as a prisoner for several months, he recalled how his fellow prisoners had scrounged material for a Union Jack. The flag was kept hidden until liberation and on 18 August 1945 it was hoisted at a parade in Sham Shui Po and the prisoners sang 'God Save the King' to the accompaniment of their own band, in which Captain Botelho played the saxophone.

The other was Mr Thomas Carr who went to Hong Kong in 1937 and was quartered in Sham Shui Po as a corporal in The Middlesex Regiment, working in the Force headquarters. After the battle, he was a prisoner in Sham Shui Po for a year before being shipped off to Japan.

When the ceremonial handover was complete, an envelope with documents relating to Sham Shui Po was handed to him. As estate secretary in the Public Works Department, he took charge of the site and its 25 buildings.

"I never thought I'd end up as 'owner' of the place," he said.

Since World War Two, Sham Shui Po has been used mainly by the Royal Army Service Corps, Royal Corps of Transport, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Gurkha Signals and Gurkha Transport Regiment. By the end of next

year a total of 33 acres of Sham Shui Po camp will have been handed over to the Hong Kong Government; its future development is to be housing, schools, community facilities and open space. The Army will keep another 13 acres which house 50 Command Workshop, REME and the freight section of the Joint Service Movements Centre.

Picture shows a handshake, from Major-General Ronnie McAlister to Mr David McDonald. Watching are Mr Tom Carr (left) and Colonel Henry de Barros Botelho.



What do you think of it so far?

Ern — he's the one with the short fat hairy puttees — and Eric joined the Army for the day (but you couldn't see the join) while filming for their special Christmas television show.

The two star comics Morecambe and Wise were on location in Aldershot with the Royal Signals White Helmets motorcycle display team for a hilarious World War One sequence for the show.

As they were digging into the past it was appropriate that they wore sapper insignia for their frolics in the Hampshire no-man's land.



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Sir Michael says goodbye —and hello



The Chief of Defence Staff, Field-Marshal Sir Michael Carver, presents the British Empire Medal to Staff-Sergeant Ronnie Harris, Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, during his recent farewell visit to the regiment in Osnabrück. The presentation gave them both an opportunity to renew an old friendship, begun when Ronnie was a member of the field-marshal's household staff.

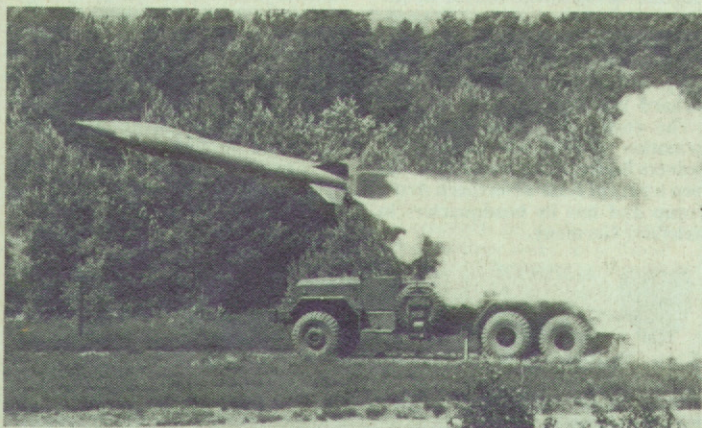
Saints alive, its the padre



The chance of seeing a real live 'Saint' must be rare nowadays but one was spotted by Staff-Sergeant G Wood, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, assigned to the Public Information Office at HQ AFCENT, when he attended a remembrance service at the British war cemetery in Sittard, The Netherlands.

Padre (Wing-Commander) Allan Vickers, RAF, appears at first glance to be wearing a halo, but closer scrutiny reveals that the halo is in fact a hat worn by a Royal Navy officer standing in the background.

Honest John 'demobbed'



Honest John has been fired for the last time by a British Army unit.

The three batteries of 24 Missile Regiment, Royal Artillery, each fired one rocket in salvo on Hohne ranges in North Germany, to mark the end of 17 years of deployment of Honest John in Rhine Army.

Honest John, the medium-range tactical nuclear strike rocket of allied forces in Europe, was introduced in 1954 and issued to Rhine Army in 1959. It is a free-flight rocket with a range of some 20 miles. It is now outdated and is to be replaced by the Lance missile.

The person responsible for technical safety at the ceremony at Hohne was Major David Lush, an instructor of gunnery. He is argu-

ably the most knowledgeable person on the history of Honest John's service with the British Army. In 1957 he was present in America at the first firing by the Royal Artillery and it was fitting that he should supervise the ending of this era of British Army weaponry.

Lance is a sophisticated modern nuclear rocket using pre-packed liquid fuel and has a highly-developed guidance system. It travels at supersonic speeds and can carry a nuclear warhead over ranges considerably greater than Honest John. This American missile, developed between June 1971 and March 1972, was first fired by a British unit last July at the rocket range in the Hebrides.

Falling pound hits war grave work

The fall in the value of the pound has hit the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The Commission has staff in 50 countries and sends cash to 140 so the sterling slump has been a major factor affecting costs, says its annual report.

But, by taking advantage of every new technique and evolving some of its own as well as a streamlining of its organisation, the Commission has kept the cost of its work down to 75 per cent of what it would otherwise have been.

More than 1,700,000 Commonwealth servicemen and women who died in two world wars have graves and memorials cared for by the Commission. The report says that increased living standards and easier travel have greatly increased the number of visitors to the war cemeteries and memorials. These totalled 2,000,000 last year.

"A question that is more and more frequently asked, particularly

by the young, is how and why these cemeteries and memorials came to be there. To answer this natural question it is planned over the next few years to provide at each cemetery and memorial a brief account of the campaign from which the casualties arose and the significance to the operations of that particular location."

The report says that in a few cases abuses and vandalism at war cemeteries has increased and it is hoped that the notices will reduce this. In addition it may become necessary to fence some sites.

Even now remains from both wars are discovered, particularly in Flanders and northern France when foundations are dug or a motorway constructed. These remains are then buried in a war cemetery.

The report goes on to describe the hazards met by gardeners working in the cemeteries. During the hot summer the Nijmegen fire brigade in Holland kept fire away from the Jonkerbos cemetery by watering the heather beds.

The tent moth caterpillar in Greece, nut grass in Tanzania, oxalis weed in the Mediterranean and rabbits, moles and insects almost everywhere — all have to be carefully controlled.

The report welcomes the taking over by local authorities of certain cemeteries but adds that many other sites remain neglected and are deteriorating. It adds: "Headstones or memorials in surroundings which are themselves neglected and invite vandalism can never be acceptable to the Commission as fitting commemoration for the Commonwealth's war dead. Any opportunity to restore the United Kingdom's neglected cemeteries to places of beauty and contemplative peace represents a worthwhile task although the necessary public funds will always be limited."

Parlez-vous Franglais?

No more reveille, no more generals or sergeants — this would be the prospect if the British Army followed the example of the French.

For these — and many other words of French origin — would be written out of the nation's dictionaries. This would be an English version of what the French have done to our language over there.

Orders have gone out to French soldiers to forget all the Franglais that has crept into Service life along with le weekend and le sandwich in civvy street. They now have to use pure French words for blunt Anglo-Saxon things like jet and tank.

Ah well, c'est la vie!

Hans Ueber



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Take a long look Down Under

British soldiers are taking a long look at Australia, and it's all part of their job. In fact 120 soldiers and Women's Royal Army Corps went to the Antipodes to see how the other half lives, and an equal number of Aussies and Kiwis swapped places with them to sample life in the British Army.

The soldiers, ranging in rank from private to lieutenant-colonel, served with corresponding units as part of an exchange programme — Exercise Long Look.

The idea of this exercise is to promote harmony between the two armies with an exchange of ideas, information and experience.

Captain Mary Mulhern (above left) is certainly finding the natives friendly. Captain Mulhern, of Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, took a break from her duties to visit the Lone Pine koala sanctuary with Australian Lieutenant Jo-Anne O'Reilly.

And some more bird life, this time for Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Corporal Gordon Prescott (far left) and Sergeant John Ross who met this eagle-eyed mascot of the Australian 2nd Cavalry Regiment based near Sydney.



Plastic 'better than rubber'

A more accurate plastic bullet has replaced the rubber bullet in Northern Ireland, the House of Commons has been told.

Mr Hugh Jenkins raised the question and asked what tests were carried out before the plastic bullet was introduced and why was it introduced in addition to the rubber bullet.

Secretary of State for Defence Dr John Gilbert told him that the rubber round was withdrawn towards the end of 1975 and replaced by the plastic (PVC) round which is more accurate, particularly at longer ranges.

"Like the rubber round, the plastic round was designed as a protective measure for use by soldiers in situations where it is judged to be the minimum reasonable force in the circumstances and when its use makes it unnecessary to use firearms."

Warrant transfer

Soldiers in hospital are now authorised to use separation warrants or, if too ill to leave hospital, to transfer warrants to their wives to allow them to visit the hospital.*

DPS (Army)

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Stamp remembers Buller

A first-day issue stamp has been released to commemorate the 75th anniversary of 1 (British) Corps in the Aldershot barracks named after its founder.

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home of the Royal Corps of Transport, messages were exchanged by telegram between the Mayor of the 'Home of the British Army,' Councillor Geoffrey Woolger, and the present-day commander of 1 (BR) Corps, Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Worsley.

The corps' first commander on formation in 1901 was General Sir Redvers Buller. Since June 1951 it has been a part of Nato's Northern Army Group and has its headquarters in Bielefeld, Germany.



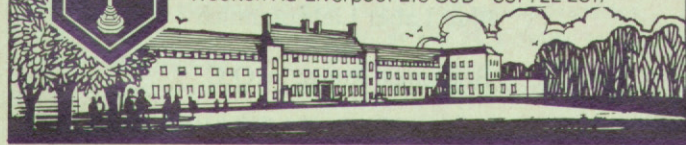
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Derek's big day



What do you do when you meet a real live Princess? In the case of tiny Derek Kent it was all too much for him and he burst into tears. Meanwhile his mum, Mrs Jean Kent, wife of Trooper Bill Kent, 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars, chatted with Princess Margaret.

Derek wasn't too happy but the Princess was and so was everybody else. She was in Cyprus visiting 3rd

Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, and C Squadron of the 15th/19th, both part of the resident British forces on the island.

During her visit to Episkopi, Princess Margaret saw football, hockey, volleyball, and tug-of-war contests. Highlight of the day for the princess was a demonstration of anti-terrorist techniques mounted by men of the two units.

Firefighters helped by 'coal-scuttles'

German coal-scuttle helmets seem to sit strangely on British soldiers' but that is what a team of would-be firefighters wore in a recent competition.

The team, from 1st Artillery Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron in Rhine Army, jumped at the chance to take part in the local civilian 'part-timers' fire-fighting competition and at their first attempt came a respectable sixteenth.

The team was trained by the Bundeswehr crash-and-rescue team on the nearby German airstrip. In eight minutes they had to assemble hoses and attachments to get water from a stream, then, using two men, put out a petrol fire with either foam or carbon dioxide, showing the use of ropes and breathing apparatus to protect themselves.

The next task was to knock jerrycans off stands using water hoses from the ground and the top of a ladder, then reload the trailer.

Picture shows Signal Ajden McLeod getting to grips with a fire.



Medical beards easier

Bearded soldiers may soon become more common than in the past. The policy on the wearing of beards on medical grounds has been relaxed in as much as the bearded soldier will now be discharged only when his retention would be detrimental to the Army.

The previous criterion was that only an exceptionally good and skilled soldier was retained.

The change of emphasis will not affect the Army's ability to discharge a soldier who is a nuisance and, as the wearing of a beard without authority is still in breach of Queen's Regulations, authority will have to be sought.

A skin specialist's report will be considered by a soldier's unit and this will be forwarded to MOD(PS 12(Army)) for a final decision. Any man authorised to wear a permanent beard will be medically examined every three years but if the beard is still necessary on medical grounds no further authority will be needed.

'Excused shaving' is quite different and any soldier who obtains this permission for medical reasons must shave again immediately his medical

condition is cured. Unit commanders may authorise 'excused shaving' for up to 28 days, next superior headquarters up to three months, command headquarters a further three months and MOD(PS 12(Army)) up to a total period of a year.

A beard will be neatly kept. Unlike the Royal Navy there is no requirement for it to necessarily be an old cigarette packet-type 'full set.'

It will be up to the individual commanding officer to decide what is 'neat and tidy.'

Service respirators give inadequate protection to anyone with 48 hours' growth of beard and should he need to wear a respirator on operations a bearded soldier will have to shave.

DPS (Army)

Volunteers' HQ names barracks

The Royal Corps of Transport Central Volunteer Headquarters' new home at the former RAF station, Spitalgate, Grantham, has been named Prince William of Gloucester Barracks.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, is Colonel-in-Chief of the RCT and the barracks are named in honour of her son, Prince William, killed in an air accident in 1972.

The main purpose of the headquarters is to train and administer a number of sponsored units of the Territorial Army Volunteer employing specialists such as vehicle drivers, port operators, heavy goods operators and personnel operating railway equipment. Sponsored units are those co-ordinated centrally on a United Kingdom basis.

The CVHQ, commanded by Colonel Arthur Bell, also gives basic training to all recruits of the Corps of Transport TAVR units and during the winter it is estimated that about 200 Volunteers at a time will be trained at Grantham.

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Howitzer bows out

More than 80 high explosive shells bursting simultaneously on the windswept sands of Denmark's Oksbol ranges marked the end of the 105mm pack-howitzer for 4 Light Regiment, Royal Artillery.

The climax of the tri-nation Nato exercise Bear Blow was also the end of an era for the Catterick-based regiment. Back in England again now, the gunners are being re-equipped with the new 105mm light gun.

Firing alongside them on the final two days of the exercise were two Danish artillery battalions, a German artillery battalion and a German mortar battery.

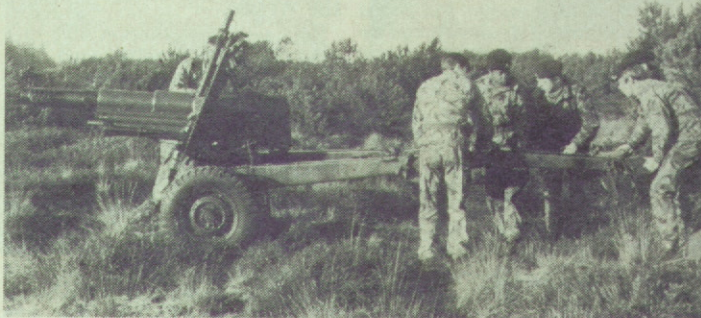
The regiment had another aim for the exercise as well. It recently returned from a four-month tour in Northern Ireland and was practising its speed in converting from its infantry to its artillery role.

They practised well, winning praise from the Danes and Germans for their camouflage and gunnery.

The advance party flew out to the Danish Air Force Base at Skrydstrup while the regiment sailed from Hartlepool to Esbjerg aboard the logistic landing ship Sir Lancelot.

New Fellows

General Sir Roland Gibbs, Chief of the General Staff, and Major-General PJ O'B Minogue, Commander Base Organisation, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, have been appointed Fellows of the British Institute of Management.



Water rescues rewarded

A fifteen-year-old cadet sergeant and an officer in The Gloucestershire Regiment have been awarded Royal Humane Society testimonials for making two separate rescues last year on consecutive days.

Drum-Sergeant Brian Faulder, of the Tewkesbury platoon of Gloucestershire Army Cadet Force, saved two young boys in a canoe on the Avon who had lost their paddle and started to drift towards lock gates. They were in water some 32 feet deep with a strong current at a spot where several people have drowned.

The boys began to panic so Brian dived in, swam 25 yards to the

canoe, caught hold of the towing rope and swam back pulling the canoe and its occupants to the safety of the bank.

Captain Leslie Ramsden, of 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, saved an elderly man from drowning in the English Channel while on holiday in Sussex. Captain Ramsden saw the 76-year-old swimmer in difficulties some 70 yards from the shore in rough seas. He plunged in fully clothed and swam out with another rescuer.

They found the victim unconscious and brought him back to shore. Captain Ramsden helped with resuscitation until an ambulance came.

The swimmer recovered fully later in hospital.

Tracked Rapier systems sold to Iran

Agreements covering substantial Iranian purchases of tracked Rapier air defence systems have been reached in Teheran between the British Aircraft Corporation and the National Iranian Oil Company and the Iranian Ministry of War.

They mean that the tracked Rapier purchases will be financed by cross-purchases of Iranian crude oil by BAC who will in turn sell it to Shell.

Mr G R Jefferson, BAC's Managing Director (Guided Weapons), commented: "The tracked Rapier system has been developed in very close consultation with the Iranian defence authorities in the light of experience gained through the recent Middle East wars. In consequence, it represents a most effective solution to the serious problems of providing low level air defence in forward areas, and at a unit cost well below that of any comparably effective system currently contemplated for this important role."

Operational

"Tracked Rapier embodies substantial elements of the towed Rapier system, which has been fully operational with British forces in Nato and with the Imperial Iranian Air Force for some time."

Including missile production and comprehensive technical support services and facilities, the potential value of the package which has been approved will be some £400,000,000.* (BAC)

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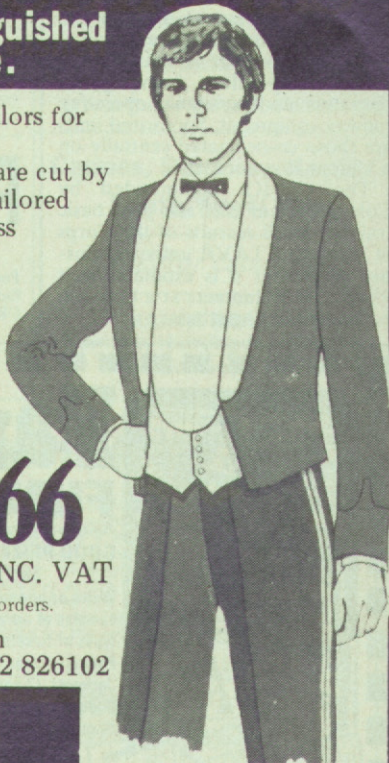
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Saudi Arabian Defence Minister Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud wearing ear defenders — chin-strap style because of his head-dress — for a tank gunnery display on the firing ranges at Lulworth during his visit to the Royal Armoured Corps Centre.

The Army was demonstrating its armoured vehicles — including Chieftain — for the prince who has thousands of millions of pounds to spend on defence contracts.

On his visit the prince also saw the Navy's new plastic-hulled minesweeper and RAF aircraft.

Gas rescue saves children

Six men of 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, have received awards for saving the lives of four children who were lying unconscious in a gas-filled Belfast flat.

Corporal James Barr was awarded a GOC's Commendation and Privates John Brown, Christopher Docherty, Patrick Ellis, David Henderson and Peter Winslow received Royal Humane Society certificates from Major-General Frank Kitson, GOC 2nd Armoured Division, at a ceremony on the square at Mercer Barracks, Osnabrück.

The citation described the rescue operation: "A foot patrol commanded by Corporal Barr was operating in the Divis Flats complex. The men were moving along Cullingtree Row when they noticed a strong smell of gas. They managed to trace the smell to 4 Cullingtree Row and, after knocking repeatedly on the door, which produced no reply, forced an entry.

"The patrol was met by an almost overwhelming concentration of gas fumes but nevertheless moved downstairs into the flat and found Mrs Lonsdale lying on the sitting-room floor with her three sons, aged eight months, nine and ten, lying beside her. "All four appeared to be unconscious. After opening the windows the patrol carried the four unconscious people out of the flat on to the corridor, and searched for

the source of the leak.

"The gas was found to be coming from the cooker and, having turned off the gas, the patrol searched the flat. A six-year old daughter was found in a bedroom and also taken outside. The flat was checked again and emergency services summoned.

"Other members of the patrol had meanwhile managed to revive the four children with help from the neighbours. Despite Corporal Barr's and Private Brown's efforts at mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and heart massage, and although the ambulance men administered oxygen when they arrived, Mrs Lonsdale never recovered consciousness.

"The initiative, prompt action and disregard for their own safety displayed by the whole patrol undoubtedly saved the lives of the four children and everything possible was done to try and save Mrs Lonsdale's life."

Picture shows Major-General Kitson making the presentation. Behind him is Lieutenant-Colonel Scott-Elliott, commanding 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.



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Spencer report: A blueprint for Army concern

Although the Spencer committee has seen two of its major recommendations shelved by the Army, it concludes that most servicemen and their families cope well with what it describes as "the vicissitudes of Army life."

But it maintains that many of them can expect at some time to need someone to turn to for advice or assistance when in difficulties.

The traditional system of regimental care and responsibility has served the Army well, the committee's report states, and adds: "...now it exhibits a commendable degree of concern." The system is based on a principle that the commanding officer is a kind of universal father-figure responsible for the welfare of the men he commands and their families.

In the United Kingdom — the report does not deal with Rhine Army in detail — commanding officers have relied on help from officers and their wives and, more recently, from housing commandants, Ssafo social workers or Women's Royal Army Corps welfare assistants who are specially trained at Bristol University.

But the report expresses deep concern about the effect on family life — and families, it says, exceed servicemen in the Army — of a husband or father being away for long periods on unaccompanied duties. Frequent postings at the present average rate of some two years account for what the report describes as "turbulence" which upsets family life and especially children's education.

These stresses, the report goes on, give rise to "complex cases of social distress" which are beyond the abilities of officers and their wives to cope with. Hence the need for fully trained and experienced social workers to complement, but not replace, the existing regimental system.

So the committee came up with the idea of a special full-time Army social work service offering an effective and confidential service to all ranks. But, unlike the committee, the Army itself feels this need can be met by expansion of Ssafo or by relying more on local authorities.

resources. At present there are five Ssafo social workers and nine WRAC welfare assistants in the United Kingdom.

Ssafo has said it does not want to take on the whole load of the proposed service the Spencer report envisages, but is reported as being prepared to shoulder some of the extra burden.

Obligation

The other alternative due to be tried out in a year-long test period is greater reliance on local authority social services. The Army argues

that this is only asking local bodies to carry out their statutory obligation to serve the whole community — both military as well as civilian. It further claims that this plan would lead to greater integration of the military with the civilian community, and would offer a degree of continuity important to social support for the soldier returning to Civvy Street from Army life.

Existing Army welfare services offer a "desirable level of choice," the Spencer report says.

But it adds that there is a need for more co-ordination and more effective training to improve the quality of immediate advice and assistance.

The mobility of the Army crops up again as a deterrent to the effective use of community facilities the report feels is necessary and in need of developing. It calls for specially trained social workers to stimulate and encourage the aptitudes of soldiers and their families for social activities.

But the Army sees no way out of the current tour-length commitment. But it points out that, since the committee report, the number of unaccompanied tours has been reduced.

Postings

Apart from operational needs, the Army argues that with only seven overseas postings available now, infantry units have a theoretical cycle of 14 years to get to them all and care is taken to share out the attractive and unattractive postings. In the case of armoured units, the cycle is as long as 17 years and with a longer tour length even full-career soldiers would not get their share of overseas trips.

But a vital factor, the Army points out, is that the interests of the unmarried soldier must be taken into account and a reduction in movement for the sake of the married soldier could well remove some

The Spencer Committee, so called after the chairman Professor John Spencer, Professor of Social Administration at Edinburgh University, was set up after a debate in the House of Commons on the 1974 defence estimates. It was to "review the welfare provision for Army personnel and their families in the United Kingdom during and at the end of their service, in relation to the services provided by local authorities; to consider ways of preventing or ameliorating social and domestic difficulties; and to make recommendations."

of the attraction of Army life for the single soldier, namely variety and the chance to travel.

The committee also found that post-service accommodation presented a problem and stressed the need to impress on all ranks the importance of providing for this as early as possible.

It was felt that more positive help

More public telephones in married quarters areas should be made available if the Post Office can provide them.

An educational programme on alcoholism, directed at helping all ranks and their families, should be mounted.

The Service Children's Education Authority should publicise more

be made for handicapped children of Army parents serving overseas.

Barrack rooms should be divided into smaller units wherever possible.

The Ministry of Defence should try to see that the response to requests for repairs to quarters is improved.

More families in the United Kingdom should be encouraged to provide their own furniture.

To help cope with the problem of isolation, there should be a more liberal interpretation of the regulations governing the use of transport for non-duty purposes and consideration should be given to the use of hired transport when Army transport is unavailable.

Many of the recommendations are being acted on. Some are not. In any event, the Spencer report will prove a talking point for some time to come and — with luck — it should lead to vast improvements as far as serving soldiers are concerned.

ON THE WHOLE WOULD YOU SAY ARMY LIFE HAS BEEN BETTER OR WORSE THAN YOU EXPECTED

Ranks	better	worse	as expected	no answer	base (100%)
Young single soldiers	59	23	17	1	206
Young married soldiers	42	34	21	3	165
Older married soldiers	63	12	19	6	173
Young married officers	40	20	30	10	65

was needed to encourage house purchase during service or to provide sufficient cash for this by the end of service.

Apart from the priority recommendations a number of other suggestions were made by the committee. These included:

WRVS Welfare Officers should be provided in all junior and adult units in the UK on a full-time or part-time basis according to numbers.

The wives of officers and senior non-commissioned officers should no longer be regarded as the official but unpaid right hand, in welfare terms, of the commanding officer. But there is a useful job for volunteers and they should have out-of-pocket expenses reimbursed.

Suitability as a first point of welfare support should be the prime consideration in the selection of estate wardens.

The most effective measures for the detection, treatment and protection of children at risk should be devised and introduced. The arrangements for the protection of such children overseas should be reviewed to ensure their rights and the interests of the family are fully safeguarded.

Community centres should be provided on a scale of some one to 100 married quarters.

Pre-school playgroups should be part of a barracks' establishment.

Experimental information centres should be placed in certain married quarters to see if there is a place for citizens' advice bureaux for the Army.

WAYS IN WHICH WIVES' LIVES WERE CHANGED WHEN HUSBANDS WERE AWAY

	wives of young soldiers	wives of older soldiers	wives of young officers
Felt isolated, lonely	68	55	60
Restricted social life	40	30	30
Illness, depression, irritability	26	12	15
Needed more help and contact	25	9	15
Frightened of intruders	21	16	15
Difficulties with children	17	33	25
Neglected self and household	17	7	20
Worry over husband	16	9	5
Added responsibility	9	13	30
Practical difficulties of husband's absence	3	10	25
More freedom and independence	2	6	15
Emotional difficulties in reuniting	2	1	5
Other ways	23	19	25
Not changed	3	12	5
Base	100=124	100=161	100=53

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Prospectus: The Secretary, St. John's College, Coolhurst, Horsham, Sussex. Tel: Horsham 2424.

Well, hello Soldier

When British sailors from Nato's Standing Naval Force Atlantic visited the Belgian port of Ghent recently they heard of the plight of 20 year-old Air Trooper Steve Ogden, of Peterborough, lying prone in a nearby hospital, victim of a road accident.

Air Trooper Steve, a driver/signaller of 665 Squadron, Army Air Corps, was returning to Britain after a major Nato exercise in Germany when the vehicle in which he was a passenger was in collision on a motorway near Ghent. His Army chum who was driving was killed instantly and Steve was trapped for some time with his neck broken in four places.

While in hospital this cheerful young man, who has been in the Army for three years, has had a regular stream of visitors from the local British community who have provided him with a television set with



special viewing lenses and control buttons. His number of callers was boosted when HMS Norfolk, the guided-missile destroyer flagship of Commodore J H Cox, commander of the seven-ship multinational Atlantic Force, entered port.

Pictured here are 18-year-old Mike Cheshire, a marine engineer mechanic from HMS Norfolk, and Chief Petty Officer Dennis Fairchild of the commodore's staff (extreme left), with the patient.

Young chefs' first

Lytham, stately neighbour of Blackpool, is the home of a Lancashire ACC detachment, just a few months old, that has a unique distinction.

The Lytham detachment is the first ever to be badged to the Army Catering Corps and this was celebrated ceremonially when the 26-strong detachment was presented with an ACC flag by Lieutenant-Colonel Tony Barnett, assistant chief catering adviser, No. 2 Region.

The flag was the gift of the ACC Apprentices College at Aldershot.

The ACC link is no casual arrangement. Blackpool, whose annual total of visitors must rank among the highest in the country, has a catering task of immense proportions and this is probably why it contains one of the best catering colleges in the UK.

Cooking

It is there that many of the Lytham Cadets are destined to go for, as pupils at the nearby Ansdell High School, cooking features strongly in their school curriculum and those with chef careers in mind already go for training in local hotels.

At least one, though, has very different ideas. Thirteen-year-old Cadet Philip Cookson, of Curzon Road, St Annes, and, like his fellow cadets, a very smartly turned-out youngster, has his eyes firmly fixed on an ACC career as soon as possible.

Innovator

Local business man Frank Hoyle, who served first in The King's Own Royal Border Regiment and subsequently in the ACC, from which he retired in the rank of major some two years ago, was the innovator of this uniquely badged detachment and largely instrumental in its formation in February this year.

The detachment, commanded since mid-October by local police officer Lieutenant Derrick Dixon, is to visit the ACC Training Centre next year when the Lancashire Army Cadet Force goes to camp at Crookham near Aldershot.

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A growing number of terrorists are being caught red-handed, says Mr Roy Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

In a November security situation report to the House of Commons he said that 1037 people had been charged with terrorist crimes in 1976, including 88 with murder and 89 with attempted murder.

"The greater efficiency of the security forces and the people's revulsion from violence are closing the net on terrorists. They know they cannot win.

The police and the Army perform their difficult and onerous duties with skill, bravery, tact and compassion that could not be equalled by forces anywhere else in the world."

Mr Bryan Gould (Labour, Southampton Test), asked if Mr Mason agreed that the law on Government compensation for criminal injuries in Northern Ireland was urgently in need of review and that the Act had

been shown by the case of one of his constituents to be totally inappropriate for the purpose of effectively compensating widows of soldiers killed in Northern Ireland.

Mr Mason said the provisions were under review. Although the weekly amounts in many cases might seem relatively small for a soldier's widow, it must be borne in mind that they stretched over a period and, with full benefits, including pension, could be quite large sums.

The Government was satisfied that security procedures to exclude terrorists from the Ulster Defence Regiment were as stringent as possible — both for applicants and serving members.

Mr Robert Brown, Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Army, gave this assurance in the Commons in his reply to a question from Mr Paul Rose (Labour, Blackley) which was asked "in the light of the convictions for murder of members who were also members of the UVF."

PARLIAMENT PAPERS

Mr Tom Litterick (Labour, Selly Oak), asked questions about courses at the Joint Warfare Establishment, Old Sarum. Mr Robert Brown, Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Army, said that 587 Service and 80 civilian personnel attended the courses. Those on joint warfare, tactical air support, tactical helicopter operations and psychological operations were attended exclusively by Service personnel. Civilians attended a senior officers' study period, a senior officers' joint warfare course and psychological operations courses. In addition there was a short induction course for civilian administrative trainees.

Aldershot's MP, Mr Julian Critchley, asked if the Minister was satisfied with the field radio communications between allied forces in Germany and if not what plans he had for their improvement. Dr John Gilbert, Minister of State for Defence, said the present arrangements were basically satisfactory but there remained a need for some improvement in inter-operability. Britain was participating fully in work co-ordinated by Nato to achieve this.

Replying to another Critchley question, Dr Gilbert said Nato policy, in which this country was playing a full part, was to develop standard markings or colour codes appropriate to specific ranges of equipment. Good progress had been achieved in many fields, including the marking of vehicles, aircraft and ammunition.

Mr Richard Mitchell (Labour, Southampton Itchen) asked about Army training establishments in the United Kingdom. Mr Brown said there were about 70 and the estimated costs in the current financial year, excluding capital costs and the pay of those being trained, were about £140,000,000.

Mr Critchley also wanted to know about plans to introduce a helicopter-borne anti-tank missile into Rhine Army. Dr Gilbert said the SS11 had been in service on Scout helicopters since 1971. An evaluation of the Franco-German HOT and the American Tow missiles as armament for the Scout's successor, Lynx, was under way and a decision was expected in 1977.

Last year four armoured fighting vehicles valued at £50,000 were lost through mishap. Mr Brown told Mr David Mudd (Conservative, Falmouth & Camborne).

Replying to questions from Mr Neville Trotter (Conservative, Tynemouth) Mr Patrick Duffy, Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Navy, said it was not intended to call one of the new-style small divisions in Rhine Army the

Guards Division, and that 71 FH70 howitzers were on order.

Mr Ivor Clementson (Labour, Luton East) asked whether it was ministerial policy to allow the firing of rifles containing rubber pellets by schoolchildren in the course of visits by Army representatives to schools. Mr Duffy said visits were made with the consent of education authorities and headmasters. The aim of visits was to present a realistic picture of Army activities and this involved displaying weapons in current use, modified to render them safe. Appropriate safety precautions were taken and there was adequate supervision at all times.

Rhine Army featured in a number of discussions following on oral questions to the Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Fred Mulley. Mr Hugh Dykes (Conservative, Harrow East) said that when Mr Mulley "had the courage to visit BAOR," would he explain that now Germany was considering separate loan facilities for Britain to rescue the Government, apart from the International Monetary Fund facility, everything would be all right and the Government would not have to pull our troops out of Nato?

Mr Mulley said it was not through lack of courage that he had not visited BAOR, indeed he had been there on previous occasions. It was all a matter of time. He continued: "It would not be appropriate to discuss the financing of our troops in BAOR. I wish to make clear that we have no plans to withdraw our forces, but we need to make it clear to our allies that substantial foreign exchange costs are involved."

Mr John Cronin spoke of an intolerable burden involved in British support costs as a result of the devaluation of the pound and the revaluation of the mark and asked if it was not high time for Germany to take some effective action to reduce that burden.

Mr Stephen Hastings (Conservative, Mid-Bedfordshire) wanted to know about Rhine Army's spares position and current restrictions on petrol and ammunition for training purposes for the Army and RAF. Dr Gilbert said temporary shortages had occurred from time to time but there were not general spares shortages in BAOR at present. Petrol and ammunition restrictions were not impairing training programmes.

Mr Hastings said that to keep the Army short of ammunition and training facilities was damaging to morale as well as efficiency. Sir John Langford-Holt (Conservative, Shrewsbury) referred to the enormous diversity of weapons used by each member of the alliance. What was being done to standardise spares

and weapons? Dr Gilbert said the picture was not as gloomy as painted by Sir John although there was always scope for improvement in the standardisation of Nato weapons and weapon systems.

Discussions on offset arrangements with the West German Government were continuing, Mr Mulley told two questioners. One of them, Mr Gwilym Roberts (Labour, Cannock), suggested that the Germans should be told: "Now pay up, or else!"

The other, Mr Ronald Atkins (Labour, Preston North), asked if it was not time Germany was scared into coming to a decent offset agreement. Negotiations had been proceeding for over 12 years without a suitable agreement being reached. If Rhine Army was brought home it would provide extra employment for British civilians. Mr Mulley said he could not see how that would increase employment in Britain and it was not the Government's intention to do that. To adopt Mr Robert's tactics would not "reach the best conclusion."

After he was told that no assessment had been made of savings if British forces in Europe were withdrawn and disbanded, Mr Hugh Jenkins (Labour, Putney) asked if one could be made and said the information would be valuable. Mr Mulley: "I am reluctant to indulge in an exercise of accountancy which would entail a lot of man hours when I do not see the need for it."

Combining careers information offices of the three Services might save money, said Mr Alec Woodall (Labour, Hemsworth). Mr James Wellbeloved, Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the RAF, said co-location of information offices could bring about a significant saving. In the last ten years, 57 had been co-located and the position was regularly reviewed.

"In the interests of comprehensive education," Mr George Rodgers (Labour, Chorley) asked former education Secretary Mr Mulley if he would curtail special allowances made to allow servicemen's children to attend fee-paying schools.

Mr Mulley: "No sir. My primary concern is with the interests of the Armed Forces and I am satisfied that the educational needs of their children in the special circumstances of Service life could not be met if reliance were placed only on the limited boarding school facilities available within the maintained system."

Mr Rodgers protested that the policy was contrary to the Government's comprehensive policy and asked if Mr Mulley would use local authority boarding schools. Mr Mul-

ley said a considerable number went to local authority schools of which there were very few.

There were no plans to reduce the force of 55,000 men on the European mainland in advance of mutual and balanced force reductions, Mr Mulley told Mr Norman Tebbit (Conservative, Chingford). Mr Tebbit: "Then what on earth was the Prime Minister blabbering about in his stupid 'Panorama' broadcast a couple of weeks ago?"

Mr Mulley said he did not regard that as a proper question. Mr Callaghan had merely been putting the facts on record, namely that a substantial part of Britain's overseas indebtedness was due to the stationing of forces overseas.

Sponsored units of the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve had benefited from the 1976 upsurge in recruiting, although not to the same extent as independent units, Mr Robert Brown told Mr Geoffrey Pattie (Conservative, Chertsey and Walton).

Mr Pattie said the units were 4000 below their establishment of 12,000 and asked if a one-year tour of duty with the Reserve could not be made a requirement for a soldier ending his Regular tour of duty. Mr Brown did not think that would alter the situation. The units were composed of key specialists who did the same jobs in the Army as in civilian life.

The giving-away of the secrets of the British-developed Chobham tank armour concerned several members. Mr Peter Hardy (Labour, Rother Valley) invited the Opposition Front Bench to explain why they "so carelessly gave away secrets that could be extremely valuable?"

Mr Cranley Onslow (Conservative, Woking) said the first exchange was in 1965 and the second in 1968. But Mr Brown maintained that no detailed information was given before 1972.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind (Conservative, Pentlands) asked what steps were being taken to end the use of the Pentland Hills for live firing by the Army. Mr Brown said that a committee had recommended that firing at Dreghorn should cease and that in order that this could be done a new range should be built at Castlelaw. It was intended to put these recommendations into effect.

Estimated cost of maintaining a horse at the Royal Army Veterinary Establishment, Melton Mowbray, was £1100 a year, Mr Brown told Mr Marcus Lipton (Labour, Lambeth Central). There was no extra cost to public funds and no additional work was involved in looking after horses during the winter because of hunting.

Anne's view

I was amazed to discover the actual cost of electricity through a fascinating brochure from the Electricity Council (A Guide to Running Costs). For instance, did you know that a two-kilowatt heater costs £2.60 a week if it is on for eight hours a day? At the October rate, a fully electric three-bedroom, four-person house will spend £310 a year in electricity, says the Electricity Council.

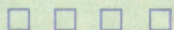
Many Army families are in all-electric houses so how can we help cut the cost of these bills? That £310 bill includes hot water heater, night storage radiators, automatic washing machine, cooker, fridge-freezer, vacuum cleaner, colour TV, iron, kettle and lighting.

Electricity is sold by the unit and the average national cost is 2.31p (unless you have an off-peak white meter, when it is 1.129p. Check with your electricity board for the exact cost of a unit.

While a two-kilowatt heater costs £2.60 a week for eight hours a day, a six-hour evening session watching TV costs 2.31p and one week's cooking for a family of four uses 28.30 units. The most costly items are heating water and using the cooker and washing machine.

The white meter tariff is the answer but then you must become a night-time family, which is not much help to families with young children, although night storage heaters and water heaters can take advantage of the cheaper off-peak terms.

To get this leaflet, send an SAE to the Electricity Council, 30 Millbank, London SW1, and ask for Leaflet EC 3232.

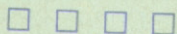


With the increasing number of electrical gadgets now on the market, from vacuum cleaners, floor polishers and table lamps to husbands' do-it-yourself electrical tools, safety first makes common-sense. Unshuttered multi-socket outlets are widely used by Service families to overcome the lack of power points in quarters. They are also often brought back from abroad.

A tragedy has occurred. A plug that had been used in one extension outlet had been removed and not replaced, leaving an empty unshuttered and interesting hole available for exploration by tiny fingers — which ended in electrocution.

These unshuttered multi-socket outlets are potentially dangerous. If you have one, replace the plug and check for safety. If you are thinking of buying one, ask for the shuttered type and so prevent tragic accidents.

Remember these are the potential dangers: Accessibility to live contacts; lack of fuse protection leading to overloading and fire danger; leads stretched by users, exposing the wires; and children attracted by sockets and poking pins or other small objects into them.



With reference to last month's article 'A Real Home From Home' the address to write to is: House Mother, Alexandra House, 6-8 Berthon Road, Bull Point, St Budeaux, Plymouth.



ALL IN THE FAMILY with ANNE ARMSTRONG

Self-help wives beat boredom

Our husbands returned recently from a six-month tour in Belize and we are hoping that this outline of our activities will start an exchange of ideas from other wives' clubs to help everyone benefit during long separations.

We started by holding coffee mornings every week. Sometimes it was just a get-together (normally at the end of the month when money was scarce!), but at other times we had bingo, an 'Old and new sale,' cake stall, tupperware, jewellery, china, baby foods and summer cooking demonstrations a film on house pests, and a Marks and Spencer sale of seconds.

One Sunday a month we had a luncheon following church. The first Sunday we had fish 'n chips brought along by a couple of enterprising wives in their van. On Mothering Sunday all mothers were given a posy of violets before going to a lunch cooked by the wives. Another Sunday the commanding officer was back from a trip and he brought along a film on Belize. On American Independence Day we had another lunch cooked by the wives followed by the band playing as some wives sang, impersonated and danced to the music.

There was an Easter party for the children, who adored the Punch and Judy show and ate far too much of an enormous Easter cake!

We held a baby show and a sports day for the children and had a raffle for a phone call to Belize.

Outings were very popular and we went to Marwell Zoo, Longleat, Tidworth Tattoo, the circus and, when the weather got warmer, Bournemouth twice, Swanage, and Highcliffe-on-Sea.

Every Wednesday morning, soldiers' wives ran a crèche from 9.30 to noon. We went bowling twice a month and played volleyball every week.

To arrange everything, we held committee meetings once a month when we discussed what we were going to do next!

Now that the men are at home, we have two coffee sessions a month. Bowling is still run every other Thursday as it is a huge success. We are having a Christmas shopping expedition, a children's party, a teenager's party, a wives' dinner, and a trip to the pantomime, and companies have held their individual luncheons and dinners.

We are trying to build up funds for when the men go to Northern Ireland in February. To do this, we are raffling a Christmas food hamper.

But what we really need is some more ideas, as we are quickly running out.

Mrs Dawn Champion
Mrs Jane Sivillean



A happy New Year to all families — and here is some good news from the Department of Health and Social Security.

In the November issue I wrote about the Family Income Supplement and pointed out that it had recently been increased. If you and your husband earn less than the level of income specified in the FIS leaflet (1 July 1976) then you may well be entitled to a family income supplement, but do remember that one member of your family — not counting the children — must be in the UK when you make your claim.

If your husband is a private or lance-corporal on Pay Band One or Two rates of pay, with one or more children, you must check because you could be eligible for this family income supplement for 52 weeks. However, if you are both posted abroad while receiving the supplement you will be unable to cash the remaining unpaid orders in your order book while outside the UK.

I have been in touch with DHSS and they were most helpful. They have advised that families receiving the supplement who are posted overseas should take the following action!

Return the order book

immediately to DHSS Family Income Supplement, Poulton-le-Fylde, Blackpool, FY6 8NW, attaching a short letter saying why the order book is being returned.

Give the date of your departure and your address abroad and ask DHSS to make arrangements for the uncashed portion of the order book to be paid to you.

If you need any more help, contact your unit families officer, Ssafa or Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Arrangements have been agreed between the DHSS and the Army for payment of the new child benefit for one-child families serving overseas.

Families page in September explained the payment system in the UK but there is a different procedure for servicemen abroad.

For servicemen abroad now, with their wives still in the UK, the wife should claim child benefit in the normal way. Claim forms for a first or only child and explanatory leaflets are available in buff envelopes in post offices. Claims should be submitted now, or as soon as possible after the birth of a child. From 4 April 1977, weekly payment will be made by order book, encashable at post offices.

Cold winds can't beat these wives

It is always much more difficult returning from an overseas posting if the new home is on some isolated camp miles from anywhere.

This is exactly what has happened to 22 Light Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery, which has just returned from Dortmund in Germany. The 360 families are getting used to the English weather now and the cold winds that sweep across the open countryside round their new home at Kirton Lindsey, a former RAF station.

Despite the difficulties that the families have in their desolate home, particularly with quarters scattered over a wide area, they have made a united effort under the direction of the commanding officer's wife, Mrs Delia Smith, to fill the gaps, and already have several thriving ventures under way.

One of the real problems is that the families are so scattered. Some live quite near Newark, 37 miles away, but most live within a ten-mile radius of camp round Scotter, Scunthorpe, Gainsborough and Broughton with 140 families and 11 RAF wives in Helmswell, five miles away.

When I went to visit them recently I saw the new thrift shop, which coincided with the weekly Thursday coffee morning and a crèche run by officers' wives to let mothers take a rest from their children, and enjoy the morning. Coffee was served by the regimental sergeant-major's wife, Mrs J Thomas, who arrived recently, and a group of volunteers ably led by Mrs J Toyer and Mrs E Beaton.

Mrs P Marks, who runs the thrift shop and is the wives' club treasurer, says the shop is a thriving concern. I was tempted to buy a large flowery elephant, the handiwork of Mrs Jackie Flouder, but unfortunately I was too late and it had already been bought by someone with an eye for a bargain.

In the case of the serviceman abroad now, as a lone parent, or accompanied by his wife who will still be abroad in April 1977, the Service paying authorities will have responsibility for paying child benefit as agents for DHSS. Payments will be combined with other allowances and paid as part of salary. The Service authorities will make the necessary arrangements.

A serviceman abroad now as a lone parent or accompanied, who will return to UK before April 1977, should make an immediate claim for child benefit as above on his return to UK.

Servicemen in the UK now but going abroad, accompanied, before or after 1977 should, in the absence of any other instructions from Service authorities, return to the local social security office any current child benefit book immediately before departure — and get a receipt for it. Service authorities will make the necessary arrangements to claim and receive payment abroad on production of the receipt.

Anne Armstrong

Tupperware parties are run by Mrs G Rogers who is now an area manager covering a 20-mile radius. She told me that the wives arrange bring-and-buy sales. Mrs M Becher added: "There is always something on. I have been with the regiment some time now and have been on every outing. Next week to add to my list I am off with the wives to see a steelworks. We also have shopping expeditions and visits to the coast."

Everyone was talking about the fashion show and who was modelling what. The show took place at the community centre at Helmswell under the watchful eye of Company Sergeant-Major M Butcher. "My wife works just across the road at the Naafi as a cashier," he told me. "Nearly all the staff are wives and it is good that they offer this kind of employment — otherwise there is very little about."

The community centre is undergoing a facelift. Some parts had not been decorated since the Americans left in 1958, but when completed it will give the families a terrific morale boost and the weekly discos should be marvellous.

The centre also has a hairdresser and I discovered that CSM Butcher ran a junior football squad, as well as darts, badminton and netball teams for the families.

While I was there I managed to visit the two playgroups. The one in the centre has 40 youngsters who were undoubtedly enjoying themselves under the eye of Mrs J Knight, an RAF wife, and Mrs A Kirk from the regiment. "This is something that is needed," they said, "and we enjoy doing it."

The other playgroup operates from the wives' club on camp where Mrs S Parker and Mrs V Mackey are in charge.

While I was there, I listened to Mrs

P Johnson, one of the helpers, teaching the attentive three-year-olds some songs.

Because of the distance from medical facilities, the civilian doctor visits Helmswell and also runs a baby clinic. The nearest civilian hospital is some 14 miles away and the nearest RAF hospital 30 miles away. So planning the arrival of a new baby can be tricky!

I have not been able to mention all of the activities at Kirton Lindsey but it was certainly heartwarming to see everyone making the best of what is a very difficult problem — and obviously enjoying doing it.



There was a greeting for Jack Warner, (Dixon of Dock Green) who had just opened the Ssafa Christmas Market at Chelsea Barracks, from Lady Bramall, wife of the Commander-in-Chief UKLF, when he visited her magnificent china and glass stall, at which General Sir Edwin Bramall was busy selling throughout the day.

The market, with wonderful support from all three Services, drew a bigger crowd of shoppers than ever and has already made a record profit of £29,000, with donations still coming in.

Below: Jack Warner (left) and Lady Bramall.

youth column : youth column : youth column : youth column : youth column : youth column : youth column : youth column : youth column :

Martin sails through test

Martin Steer, the first representative of Army youth to win the Amory award, receives his certificate from Major-General M Tickell, chairman of the Army Sailing Association.

After the presentation, Martin said he had just left Dover College where he was a house prefect and corporal in the Combined Cadet Force, and was now a farm student in Somerset before joining Seale Hayne agricultural college and hoping to become a farm manager.

As well as his other interests — riding, running, shooting, swimming and rugby — Martin also has a good voice and has been heard with the school choir in many cathedrals and on the Continent.

Martin is now entitled to a second cruise as an Amory award winner. If he shows leadership potential he may become a watch leader on future cruises, then watch officer and skipper. Twelve previous award winners took part in the Tall Ships Race 1976.

Well done, Martin, as our first representative of Army youth to win



the award, and congratulations to David Lofthouse, our other representative, who did extremely well.

Boys over 15 in 1977 who would like to be considered for next year's cruise, write to me c/o SOLDIER.

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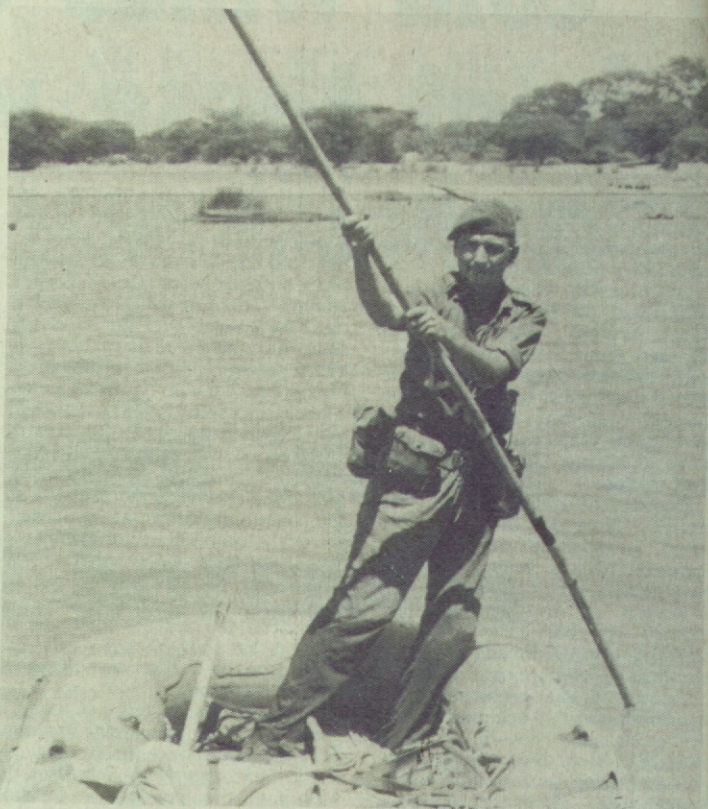
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Tana keeps its secrets



The very latest survival equipment often had to give way to more basic means of travel in a three-month expedition to find the source of Kenya's River Tana, high on Mount Kenya.

Major John Richardson, of the Royal Army Medical Corps (Volunteers), was reduced (above) to punting his inflatable in the shallow reaches of the River Tana.

The expedition along the 800-mile river was made by a 30-strong team of scientists, medical research workers, zoologists and five soldiers.

Taking part were Captain Paul Turner, The Queen's Own Hussars; Captain Robert Williamson, The Royal Green Jackets; Captain Harley Nott, Royal Engineers; Major John Richardson, Royal Army Medical Corps (Volunteers); and

Lance-Corporal Andy Windspeare, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

For the white-water section through hitherto unexplored rapids, an eight-man team was chosen and led by Paul Turner, a veteran of the 1973-74 Zaire River expedition.

The Tana expedition made history when its men plunged a manned boat over a 20-foot waterfall and became the first to navigate the Kora Rapids from top to bottom. After first sending over an empty boat, Captain Turner, Captain Williamson and a photographer climbed aboard the second inflatable craft and clung for their lives as it went over. The boat almost cap-sized twice and one of the crew was nearly thrown out.

The Tana, whose source high on Mount Kenya is still a mystery, is unexplored for most of its length. It has abundant wildlife and is the home of remote tribes who have little contact with the outside world. There is the additional hazard of a mild form of smallpox called tanapox.

The attempt to find the river source was made by a mountain squad led by Captain Nott and including Captain Williamson and Major Richardson. They climbed the relatively easy Point Lenana but their summit attempt was beset by gales, sleet, snow and fog.

Later, while practising on Point Piggott at 16,200 feet, Nott and Williamson vanished into the cloud and were cut off by a blizzard. They managed to make their way down after spending the night on a nine-inch ledge.

Three members of the expedition were forced into a tree by an angry rhino, one of the boats was charged by a hippo and four new species of birds were recorded.

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Mike shows the Army how to shoot



Boxing hopefuls

The Army intermediate boxing tournament revealed some promising potential talents, 11 of whom gained places in the grading list from which Army representatives are picked.

The listed boxers are: Bantamweight — L/Cpl D Murphy (1 RWF), featherweight — Pte D Easterbrook (206 Coy RPC), lightweight — J/Cpl V Wheeler (JLR RE), Ptes C Manning (RMP Trg Centre) and P Devanney (1 Para), light welterweight — Pte T Cannon (1 BW), welterweight — L/Sgt P Pettit (Gds Depot), light middleweight — L/Cpls L Lawton (10 Regt RCT) and C Barrett (206 Coy RPC), middleweight — Dvr K Charles (10 Regt RCT), heavyweight — Rfn D Richardson (1 RGT).



Saints and soldiers got together to swap skills in a joint training session on Salisbury Plain.

But the 'Saints' in this case were the 40-strong playing and management staff of Southampton Football Club whose holy nickname blessed the FA Cup last season by winning the Wembley Cup Final.

The soldiers were 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, who invited the soccer stars to join them for a day.

In the morning it was the visitors' turn to show off their talent in a training session which took the form of a short-time football match. The large crowd had a chance to admire the skill of international players such as Mike Channon (England) (below) the captain, Peter Rodrigues (Wales), and Ted McDougall and Jim McCalliog (Scotland).

The Anglians, semi-finalists in the Army's Infantry Football Cup last year, were on form too and provided a good test for the Southampton professionals. And even though the battalion, which is recruited

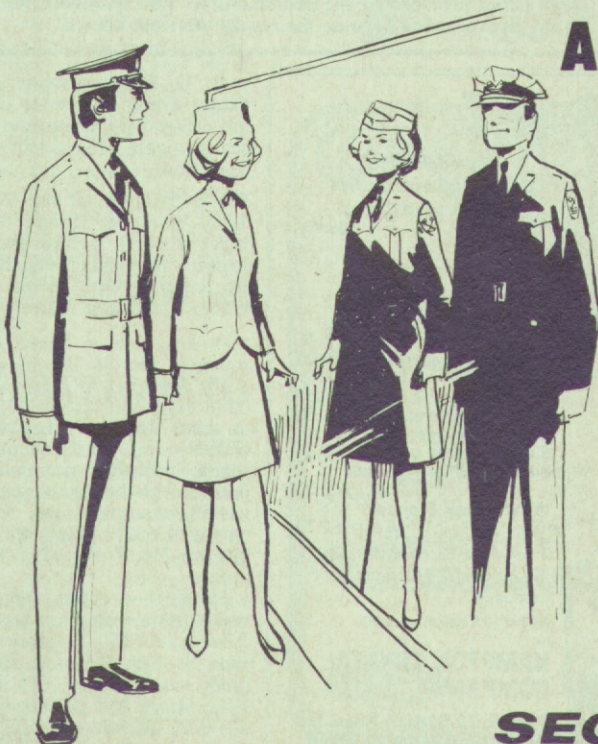
from East Anglia, supports Ipswich or Norwich almost to a man, its soccer fans gave a hearty cheer to Southampton's 2-0 win.

Then it was the soldiers' turn to show their professional expertise and the soccer players, more used to shooting at goal with their feet, exercised their trigger fingers on the ranges to shoot at targets with a variety of infantry small-arms. Then there were rides in Scimitar tracked reconnaissance vehicles and a seasonal mid-winter look at Arctic warfare equipment.

Again Mike Channon had a chance to try some shooting this time (above) with a Carl Gustav anti-tank weapon.

Reserves hammer University

An Army soccer side fielding no fewer than seven reserves hammered Oxford University 4-0 at Oxford. The full first team had earlier beaten Northern Universities 2-1 at York. The Junior Soldiers' Challenge Cup winners emerged as Scottish Infantry Depot, Bridge of Don, who beat Junior Signalman's Wing, Newcastle, 4-2.



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Sports shorts

HOCKEY

The Combined Services hockey team was beaten 1-3 by Slough College. The RAF — as inter-Service champions — provided five of the Services team and the Royal Navy two. The four Army representatives were: Lieut C C Jarrett-Kerr, Capt R J Sandy, L/Cpl S W Dove-Dixon and Cpl F G Rodgers.

SQUASH

The Army looks set to score a runaway victory in the Cumberland Cup at squash in the third division of the championship which the Army has entered this year for the first time. At the half-way stage, with seven matches played, the team has dropped only one game, being beaten 2-3 by Epping. The latest wins were against Lambton Lions (5-0) and North, Middlesex (4-1). The second half of the tournament starts this month.

Other results: Army 3, Surrey 2; Army 0, RAC 5; Army 4, Hertfordshire 1; Army A 3, Wimbledon 2; Army A 4, London House 1.

SAILING

The British national Kestrel dinghy championships will be staged at Netley Sailing Club ASA this year. Two other major national events — a heat and area final of the Dunhill/Royal Yachting Association team championships — will also take place at the Southampton Water Army/civilian club. The club's new season opens in March with the spring series of Sunday races as well as cruising facilities for dinghy sailors in a fast-expanding club whose membership climbed from 50 to more than 350 last year.

FENCING

The Army's fencing season got off to a good start with a 17 bouts to ten win over Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. Although the Army win looked convincing enough, the score did not reflect a rather more balanced series of bouts with the Army not over superior. The foil match was very evenly contested with the Army's two newcomers, Haniver and Johnstone, fencing well. The match was clinched in the last bout giving the Army a 5-4 victory. Epee also proved an even match with the last bout giving victory to RMAS 5-4. But the Army sabre team was far too strong for the opposition. Hughes lost only one bout leaving a win for the Army 8-1.

Representing the Army were

Lieut-Col J A G Moore (RA), Lieut B Lillywhite, SMI D Hughes, QMSIs J Larkham and D Truman, SIs T P Johnstone, W A Haniver and D J Hoard (all APTC).

BOXING

A Combined Services boxing squad with seven Army members won both of two matches in Sweden against Scandinavian teams which including several national champions. And a 'best boxer' prize went to Rifleman H Miles who defeated Swedish champion A Johansson on points in a light heavyweight clash. All the British boxers were given a deafening ovation by the spectators for their prowess in the ring.

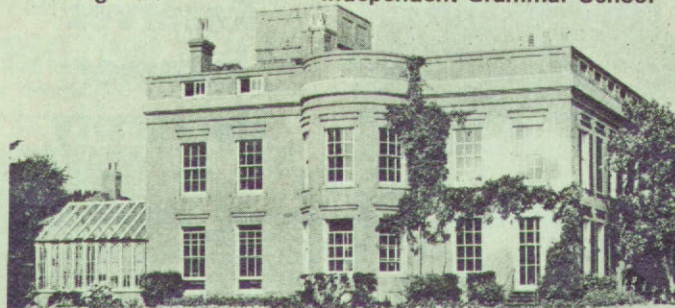
Results of the first tournament — Light welterweight: AB W R Green beat P Nyman. Welterweight: L/Cpl Z Rene beat J Schlyter (Swedish champion). Light middleweight:

L/Cpl T Williams beat B Mortenson (Danish champion). Junior middleweight: Pte P Rickis lost to T Astrom. Featherweight: LPT V Christopher beat P Ekeld. Lightweight: Cpl S Holdsworth beat L Fodar (ex-Hungarian champion). Light heavyweight: L/Cpl Dawkins lost to K Cristenson. Heavyweight: SA R M Greenacre lost to J Anderson (Danish champion). Combined Services won 6-3.

Several of the squad boxed again in the second match two days later which again ended in a 6-3 win for the British. Results — Bantamweight: LS P Jacobs beat J Antonen. Featherweight: Christopher beat T Johansson. Lightweight: Holdsworth lost to O Lundby (Swedish Olympic representative 1976). Light welterweight: Green beat J Oleskog (Finnish champion). Welterweight: Rene beat L Larsson. Light middleweight: Williams lost to A Parri. Light heavyweight: Miles

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Last-minute sponsorship allowed the Army's top rally drivers to take their place on the starting pad in the Motor/RAC Rally of Great Britain. Lieutenant-Colonel John Hemsley and Major Richard Skinner — veterans of the London to Sydney and World Cup Marathon rallies — have been placed in most of the major rallies. The performance of their Rover 3500 in the Motor/RAC event was monitored to the last one-hundredth of a second by Bernhard Dorsay digital display stopwatches provided by the manufacturers who sponsored the pair. At the time of going to press the results were not known.

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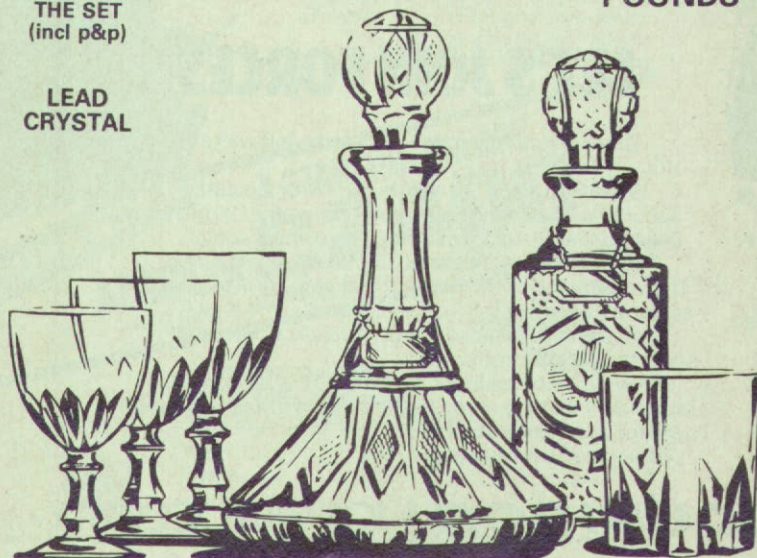
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beat O Thorbjornsson. Heavyweight: Greenacre lost to G Davidsson (Swedish champion). Light heavyweight: Mne A Price beat J Anderson.

The part-timers of the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve Proved a match for their 'professional' counterparts at boxing when they beat the Regular Army by six bouts to four in a match at Harrogate.

GYMNASTICS

A shock defeat for L Cpl B Beck (DWR), last year's winner of the senior individual trampoline competition, in the Army senior gymnastics championships, 1976. He managed 67.02 points but was pipped by Pte T Fry (LI) with 67.6 points.

Results — Army Olympic Six competition, voluntary exercises: SI J Purvis (APTC). 1st grade competition: L Cpl G Jones (RE). 2nd grade competition: Cpl M Salter (LI). Rings and pommels (optional): L Cpl M Johnson (RGJ). Senior team trampoline: 1st 1DWR A, 2nd 3 LI A, 3rd JLR RCT A.

Ref teaches in Ethiopia

A team of British soccer experts — including one from the Army — is taking part in a £1,000,000 scheme to improve the game in the Third World.

In response to requests from Third World countries, FIFA initiated the project which has been sponsored by Coca Cola. Project One of what is now known as the Coca Cola World Development is to give Ethiopia the benefit of the knowledge of experts in the fields of soccer administration, coaching, medical matters and refereeing.

The Army Football Association's secretary, Major Alan Dobson, was picked to instruct in refereeing. Administrative training was given by Dennis Follows, former secretary of the FA. Professor Frank O'Gorman advised on medical matters — he was doctor to the triumphant England World Cup squad in 1966. Midland regional coach Kevin Verity was the fourth team member.

These four made up the first group to tackle the project. Other teams are expected to follow to a number of nations from pools of soccer experts in Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Germany and France.

Anglians walk off with honours

Cyprus Walkabout — the annual orienteering contest open to Service teams from the United Kingdom and Europe — ended in a 'home' win for 3rd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, which is currently the resident infantry battalion on the island.

The battalion's B team (right), comprising Captain John Walsh, Corporal Andy Twell and Lance-Corporal Jim Devaney, completed the punishing 60-mile course in ten hours 31 minutes, 82 minutes ahead of their nearest rivals.

In fact, the Royal Anglians hogged the honours in this year's Walkabout. Their three teams were among the first four finishers. Only A team of 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, foiled the clean sweep by taking second place.

The two-day event aims to provide a test of team work and physical endurance combined with a high standard of map-reading. And this year 80 teams from Cyprus, Malta, Germany, Masirah and the UK set out in pursuit of the coveted Silver Boot trophy.

They covered a five-checkpoint course within a six-mile corridor from Episkopi garrison to the training area at Troodos more than 6000 feet up in the mountains. After an overnight stop the teams returned to Episkopi over an equally gruelling route demanding the highest standards of stamina and running.

Three Women's Royal Army Corps girls, Captain Val Batchelor, Captain Sheila Johnsey and Sergeant Anne Deeley, finished the course and carried off the ladies' prize.

The prize for the best overseas team went to the B team of 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, which finished seventh out of the 17 teams which completed the course.

Yoicks! it's the beagles

The ancient sport of beagling — hunting to hounds on foot in pursuit of hares — is at the height of its season now and several Army packs cater for its devotees nationwide.

Regular meets started in October and go on until mid-March and packs are to be found in Aldershot, Catterick, Colchester, Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and the School of Infantry.

The picture shows a recent meet of the Aldershot beagles which thrive on two meets a week, on Wednesday and Saturday, to exercise the limbs of its 40 or so couples of hounds — hunted 20 at a time — and its members who turn out in strength at weekends, sometimes topping 100, and midweek when some 30 stride out after the pack.

Picture shows beagles at the kill, with hound master Roy Clinkard.



School win

The high reputation of the United States Army (Europe) rugby XV was dented by the School of Electronic Engineering President's XV with a resounding 46-13 win at Arborfield. But it was a good game full of action from start to finish and the visitors have been asked to make a return next year to try again.

Fencers revenge

The Army Fencing Union chalked up its third successive win of the season by defeating Cambridge University by 16 victories to 11. This reversed last year's resounding 22-5 win for the varsity team. Representing the Army were: Lieutenant-Colonel J A G Moore, Sergeant-Major Instructors D Hughes, C Eldridge, Quarter-master-Sergeant Instructor D Truman, Staff-Sergeant S R Evans, Staff-Sergeant Instructor P Brierley, Corporal K Hartshorne.



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Black belt wins silver

A teenage soldier has walked off with a silver medal in a major international judo contest.

Apprentice Tradesman Richard Armstrong (17) represented Great Britain in the European junior judo championships in Poland and was only beaten in the end by the Russian junior champion at light middleweight.

Richard is an apprentice at the Army Apprentices College, Arborfield, where he started his Army career just a few months ago. He is a first dan black belt judo exponent and current junior welterweight champion of Great Britain.

Glen first

Army 800-metre running star Lieutenant Glen Grant was the first Army runner home — and second overall — in a cross-country event against the Universities Athletic Union. But the Universities' team were clear winners with 29 points. Army A was second with 54 and Army B third with 107. Glen Grant's time was 29 minutes 58 seconds. The other best placings for the 23-strong Army team were Staff-Sergeant Instructor E C Turner (30 minutes 48 seconds) and Warrant Officer 2 T Davies (31 min 10 sec.)

Amateurs all set to show the pros

Brain rather than brawn is the strength of the Belgian Army soccer team due to meet the British this month in the first round of the Kentish Cup tournament.

The Belgian coach, Commandant Albert Bers, revealed in an interview with his armed forces' magazine VOX that the 1977 Belgian squad will contain the usual mixture of national and international professional players he can call on since his army contains conscripts.

He added: "The Army team has a tendency to become more and more a team of intellectuals. The average age of the players is about 22 years — that is to say they are physically stronger than lads of 18 or 19. At this age they already have four or five years' experience of first division football where they have acquired solid experience."

The French too can call upon professional players for their team in this annual three-cornered international contest. The British Army

relies on its squad of professional soldier-players whose footballing status is technically amateur. But they manage to hold their own against some of Europe's best to produce exciting and entertaining football each year in the series.

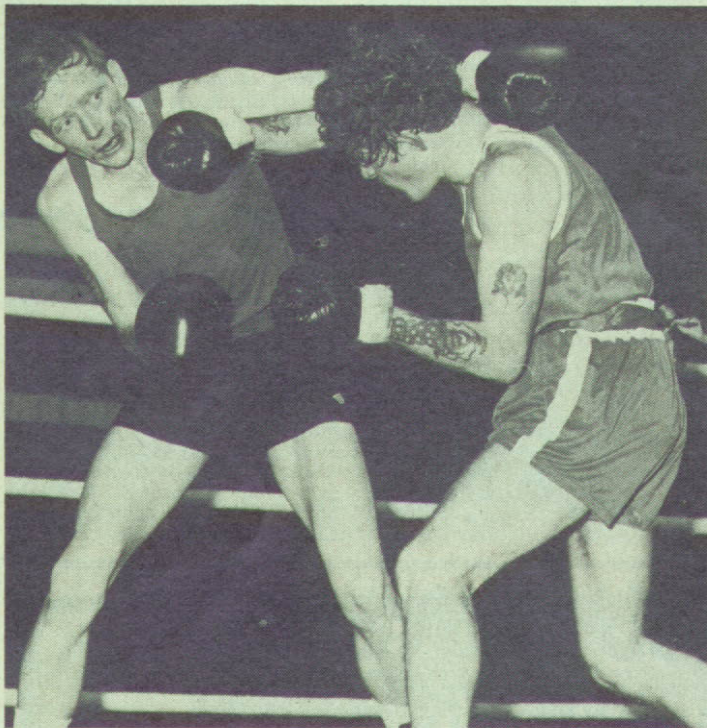
The British have not won the cup for five years — the Belgians have dominated the scene since 1970. But this year, with the England v Belgium game being played at Aldershot, the 'home' team has high hopes of a good result to take to Paris for the leg against France.

Commenting on the British team, trainer Quartermaster-Sergeant Instructor Eddie Green said: "In the last few seasons the Army has played a defensive game with a 4-4-2 formation relying on quick breaks to score. This year we're playing an attacking game with win-

gers. In the Kentish Cup we will be out to score goals."

He has rearranged the field into a 4-3-3 formation with one of the three forwards free to 'float' between the front row and midfield. This vital role has to be given to an in-form player on the day and one of several Army strikers is in the running to get the job against Belgium.

Last year the British Army beat the French at Aldershot with a convincing 4-1 hammering but went on to lose to the Belgians at Anderlecht — a fiercely partisan ground which was home to a couple of the Belgian army side. This year the Belgians — favourites for the cup again — have to meet the British on their home ground (Aldershot Football Club's Recreation Ground on 26 January at 1930) in the first match of the tournament. And as Eddie Green says: "If we can beat them it gives us a good chance against the French."



Gloves are off for final

The major units team boxing final in Germany this month is all set to be a needle-match return of last year's clash.

On the same night that 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, beat 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, in Aldershot, to take the United Kingdom Army title, boxers of 10 Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, were hammering their way into the Rhine Army champion throne in Germany. They beat 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots.

The two teams met last year when the Green Jackets toppled the reigning RCT champions from their title in a surprise win with a convincing score. The infants look set to be favourites themselves this year after beating the Welshmen by 19 points to 13 and winning eight of the 11 bouts.

Left: L/Cpl Johnson (10 Reg RCT) (right) and L/Cpl Queen (1 RS). Below: L/Cpl Hawkins (1 RGJ) plants a left on Fus Hawkins (1 RWF).



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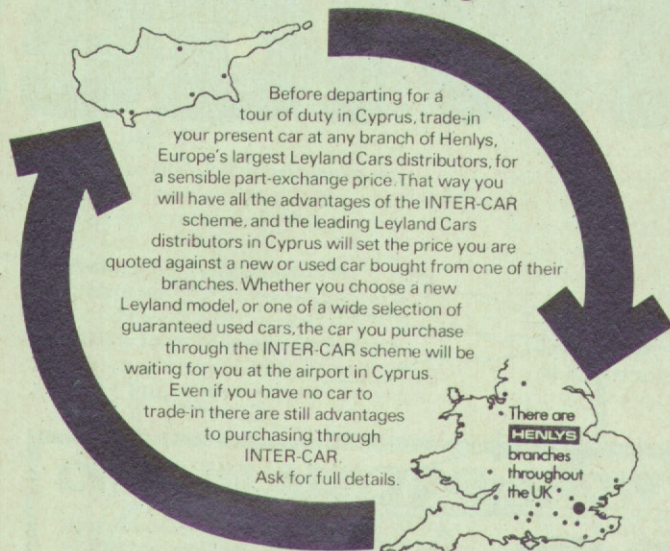
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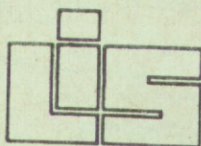
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[illegible]

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1976

Barratt

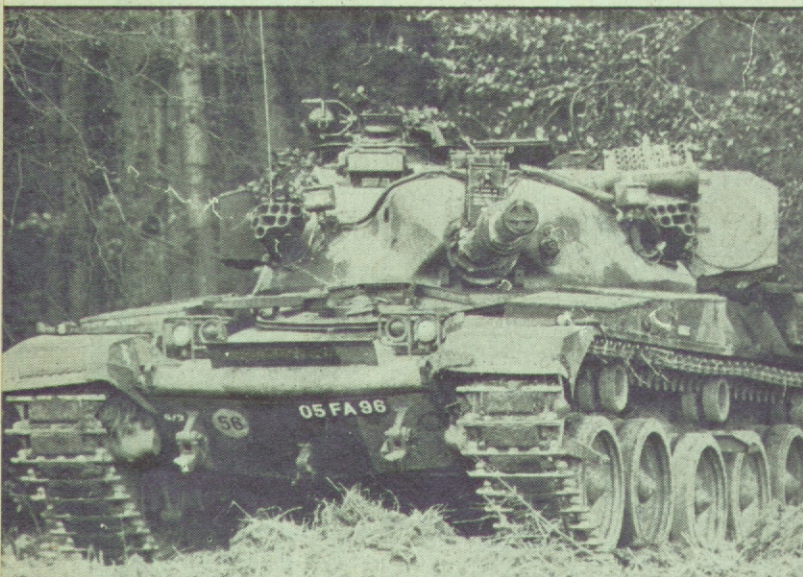
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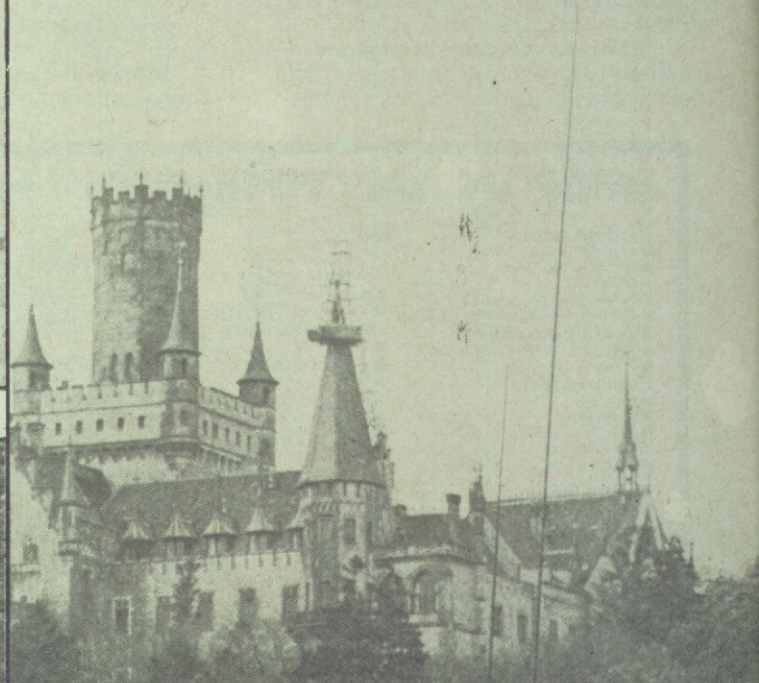
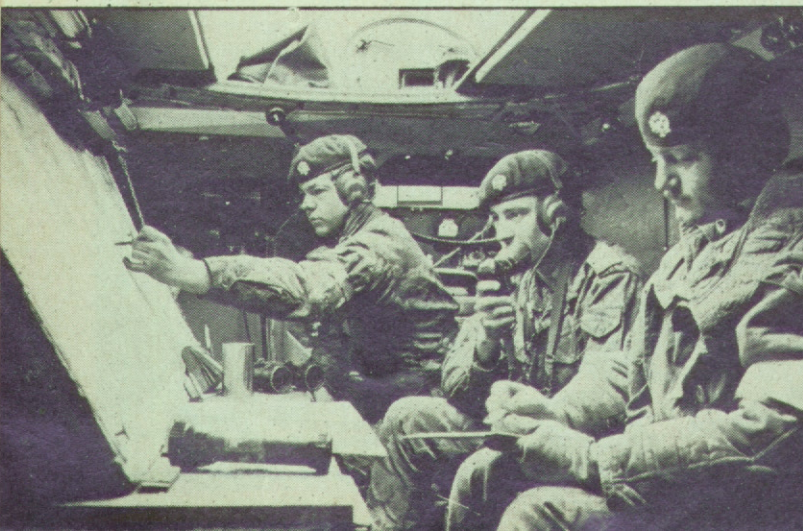
SPEARPOINT



Above: Irish Guards move up under smoke.

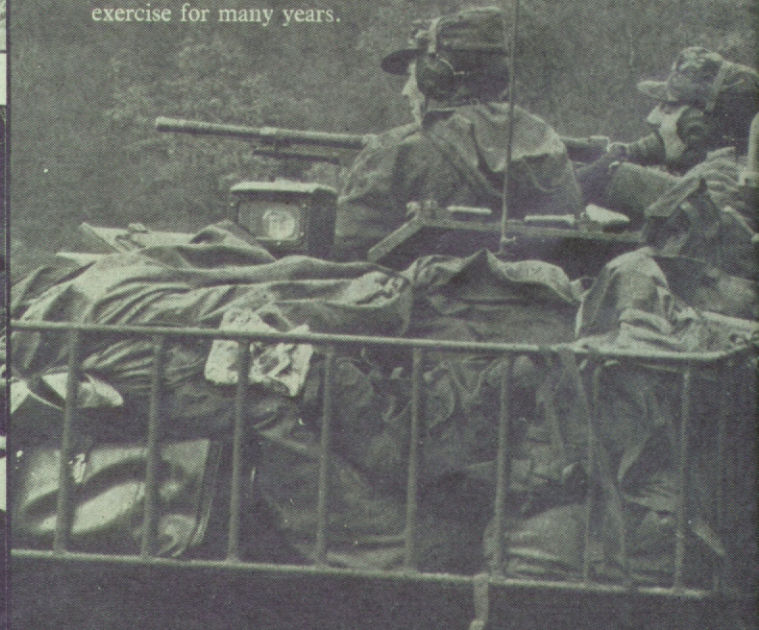


Above: Chieftain. Below: umpire control post.



"THAT GENERAL BROWN should come down here and see us before he goes on about how we are finished as an Army. My boys would show him a thing or two," declared an Irish Guards sergeant, deep within his leafy hide.

The mud and petrol stains on his combat kit bore evidence that he had not even managed to take his boots off for at least a week. He had a definite lived-in look but he cared enough about "winning the exercise" to still laugh at the "enemy". The sergeant was in a replenishment team from the Irish Guards Battlegroup on the British Army's biggest and most expensive exercise for many years.





Above: Irish Guards return to their personnel carriers.



Above: Any minute now an attack is expected.

Exercise Spearpoint was designed to test the new command structure of the Army's fighting formations. Some 18,000 troops, 400 tanks and more than 1000 tracked vehicles of the British, American and Danish armies, plus aircraft from 2nd Allied Tactical Air Force, were mobilised in Lower Saxony.

Although this was primarily an exercise in command, combat teams on the ground entered into the spirit wholeheartedly. That Irish Guards sergeant was full of the way he had beaten his 'enemy.' "We had some Americans boxed in for 36 hours and we stopped their supply column getting through," he said. "It was great. We kept attacking in a 432 and shouting 'Where's your General Brown now?'"

This was perhaps an insignificant example of a soldier's pride and of his reaction to recent comments on the British Army by the American General. But it was obvious that the 'Brits' were aware of something new happening and were keen to make it work.

The last defence cuts slashed the British Army to what has been described as 'bed rock.' The new command structure that has emerged is designed to get more troops into the front line and at the same time reduce overheads.

In Rhine Army this has meant the demise of the famous old brigades such as the Guards Armoured and 7th Armoured and replacing them with the more nebulous tank forces, two to each of the four new armoured divisions. It has also meant the creation of a new formation — 5th Field Force. This new structure is made up from the 100,000 men Britain has declared to Nato, 55,000 of

whom are permanently stationed in Germany.

The most important feature of this restructuring is the removal of brigade headquarters and the reduction in the number of armoured regiments and mechanical battalions in a division to two and three respectively. The gunners have been reduced to two regiments and the sappers to one but these new regiments are all bigger than their predecessors — four squadrons in an armoured regiment, four companies in a mechanised battalion, four batteries in each artillery regiment and four squadrons in the engineer regiment.

There are also a helicopter regiment, an armoured reconnaissance regiment and logistic units.

Battle groups can be created from the five armoured regiments and mechanised battalions, each consisting of combat teams according to the task in hand. Before battle, the divisions would be reinforced with Regular and Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve units from the UK to increase their strength from 8500 to 14,000 men.

Last year's trials of this new reorganisation established that it could be made to work, but with modifications. Particularly, direct command of battle groups by a divisional commander proved too be too great a burden on one man. So it was decided that each new armoured divisional headquarters should deploy two task force headquarters, each commanded by a brigadier to exercise tactical command of battle groups. In peace these brigadiers are deputy divisional commanders and garrison commanders.

Of more immediate interest to the soldier

on the ground is the concentration of some functions. Economies have been made by taking away from the combat arms a large chunk of their transport and giving it to the Royal Corps of Transport. In addition the old armoured regiment and battalion reconnaissance troops have been concentrated into new divisional reconnaissance regiments of the Royal Armoured Corps. The long-range guided weapon, Swingfire, has been handed over to the Royal Artillery and all helicopters have been centralised into regiments of the Army Air Corps.

The TAVR has been integrated more closely than ever before in the order of battle, emphasising the importance of deployment from the UK and giving the TAVR a vital role in Rhine Army. This is the one-Army concept in action.

The exercise itself was a complex defensive battle between Orange forces, under Major-General Nigel Bagnell, attacking from the direction of the East German border and being stopped by Blue forces, from the new-style 2nd Armoured Division under Major-General Frank Kitson, before the latter conducted a major counter-attack.

Orange forces — the British 4th Division and some American and Danish units — were organised as a Warsaw Pact motor rifle division.

A major feature of Spearpoint was the large amount of logistic traffic. Not only were the combat units being tested but the all-important logistic units were put through their paces with realistic loads and distances.

To an outsider, one of the more unusual aspects of the exercise must have been the phlegmatic attitude of the majority of the

Below: A Carl Gustav anti-tank crew lines up on its target.



Below: Chieftains reform under cover of woods.



SHIFT MAINTENANCE TECHNICIANS (MECHANICAL) and SHIFT MAINTENANCE AUXILIARIES

Due to expansion, vacancies have arisen at the Humber Refinery for Shift Maintenance Technicians (Mechanical) and Shift Maintenance Auxiliaries.

THE JOBS

Shift Maintenance Technicians (Mechanical):—

Are involved in carrying out maintenance of oil refining process machinery including pumps, compressors, turbines, fans etc., mechanical handling equipment, and process plant such as boilers, heat exchangers and furnaces.

Shift Maintenance Auxiliaries:—

Are involved in rigging and slinging, scaffolding, driving and operating cranes (e.g., 6 ton and 12 ton), heavy vehicles, fork lift trucks, stores issuing, refuelling equipment, and general assistance in the overall maintenance function.

The duties of both positions include being members of the Refinery's Emergency Team. The necessary training will be given.

THE APPLICANTS

Shift Maintenance Technicians (Mechanical):—

Must have completed a full-time apprenticeship in a Mechanical Engineering trade. Experience of maintenance of process plant and equipment would be an advantage, as would a City and Guilds Craft/Technicians Certificate, and/or Ordinary National Certificate, and/or 2nd Class D.T.I. (B.O.T.) Certificate of Competency.

Shift Maintenance Auxiliaries:—

Should be experienced in lifting techniques, the use of lifting equipment, and preferably have had several years' experience of installation and/or maintenance of heavy engineering equipment. Some knowledge of general stores procedure would be an advantage. The successful applicants must hold a current Driving Licence, and be capable of becoming part of the Refinery's Shift Maintenance Team.

For both positions, the successful candidates will receive specialised training as necessary.

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These vacancies are open to both male and female candidates. Anyone interested should write, in the first instance, for an application form to:—



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3DW.



Above: Eager Beaver fork lift and Stalwart.

German people to vast numbers of tanks and trucks rolling over hundreds of acres of ploughed fields, into woods and through villages — although, of course, the summer crops had been harvested.

Damage could amount to over £1,000,000 and had the weather been less kind would have been even more. A damage control organisation of military staffs, engineers, civilians and civil police repaired much damage as it occurred and quickly assessed compensation.

Visitors to Spearpoint included the Duke of Edinburgh who met men of the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers — he is Colonel-in-Chief of both — and Mrs Anne Armstrong, US Ambassador to the UK, who made a flying visit.

Below: Thirsty vehicles need frequent re-supply.



Below: A power drill digs trenches in a hurry.

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GETTING INTO PRINT

Story: Mike Starke
Pictures: Paul Haley

FROM ALL OVER the world soldier-craftsmen come to a small training school on the Surrey/Hampshire border to learn that — for their military careers at least — the pen is mightier than the sword.

Commonwealth specialists as well as a handful of British Royal Army Ordnance Corps soldiers study printing, from start to finish, at the corps' Employment Training School at Deepcut.

Although small, the school's printing branch is the only one of its kind and is large enough to teach and up-grade the Army's own 35 to 40 serving printers. These are working in departments in Germany at Viersen, in England at the Central Ordnance Depot, Donnington, at Huntingdon, Old Sarum and Blackdown as well as at the Northern Ireland Army Headquarters in Lisburn where they print the popular weekly newspaper *Visor*. There is even a one-man detachment in Naples working with a Nato headquarters.

But other trainees are spread all over the globe in Commonwealth armies. At present the branch is training three soldiers from Sierra Leone and a Jamaican. A Malaysian

Reynolds Motors



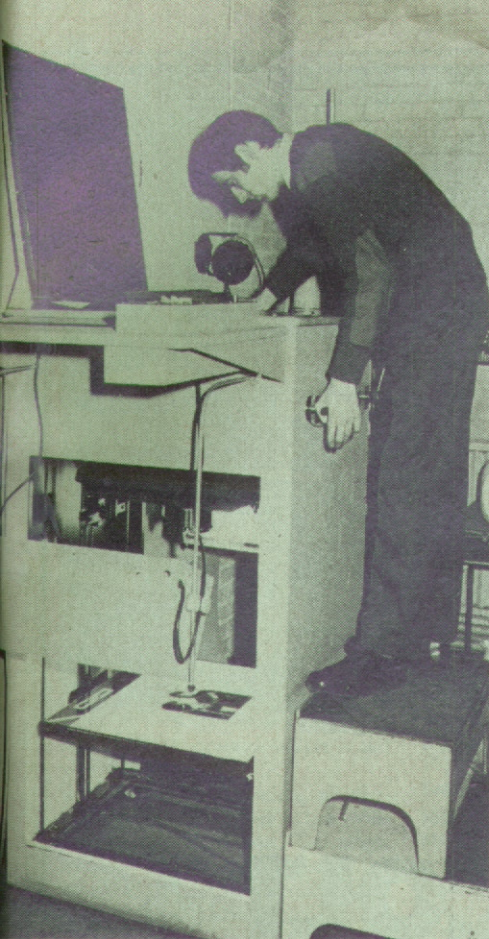
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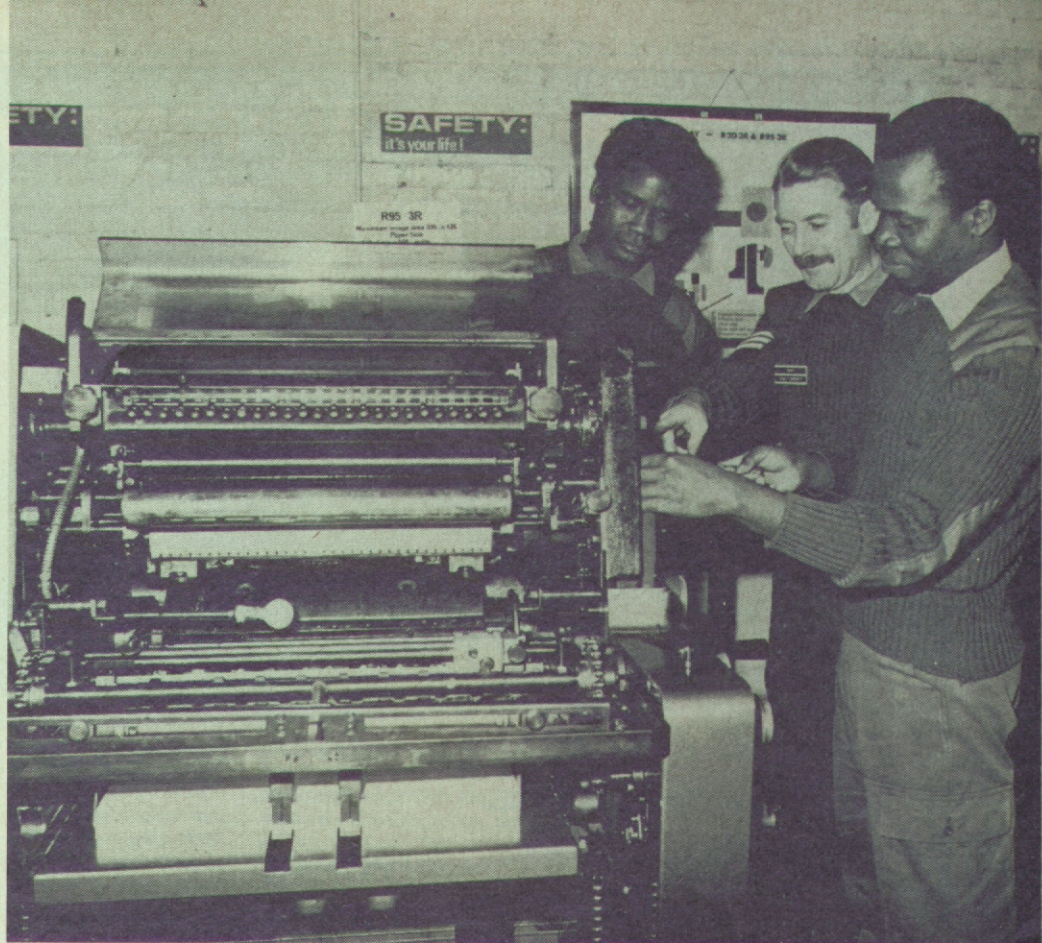
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Left: An Army printer retouches a negative before the making-up of a printing plate.

Below: Private Neil Roylance at varityper. Real jobs are used as exercise to economise.



Above left: A student working at the photo separation machine early in the processing.

Above: Sergeant Len Salisbury instructing two Sierra Leone students in offset-litho.

has just finished the 40-week course and Nigerians have been taught in the last 12 months.

A 'flow system' of intakes ensures best use of the training branch and allows individual attention from the tiny staff of non-commissioned officer instructors. Two students are taken in every two-and-a-half months, continuously filling spaces in one department left by previous pairs who have moved on in their course to the next section.

The course starts in the art department where trainees learn about design and layout as well as typography. They then move on to the photo-mechanical engineering department where they are taught to produce photographic negatives and plates. At the third stage they are introduced to the offset-litho printing machines and they finally study print finishing — trimming and cutting as well as binding.

A mixture of theory and practical work is used on the course and the history of print is part of the syllabus. The comprehensive course also presents a mixture of trades which is virtually unknown in the civilian counterpart of the print industry. The soldier-students get a chance to compare their work with that of civilians by visits to outside firms and exhibitions during the course.

The man in charge of the branch, Warrant Officer 1 Bob McCusker, commented: "After the course they have a sound basic background. From here they can start to specialise." Later, 'graduates' from Deepcut return to take six-week courses to upgrade from Class 3 to Classes 2 and 1 in the trade.

They join the often-unsung army of back-room boys. But in this case — in one sense at least — these specialists have always got their names in print.

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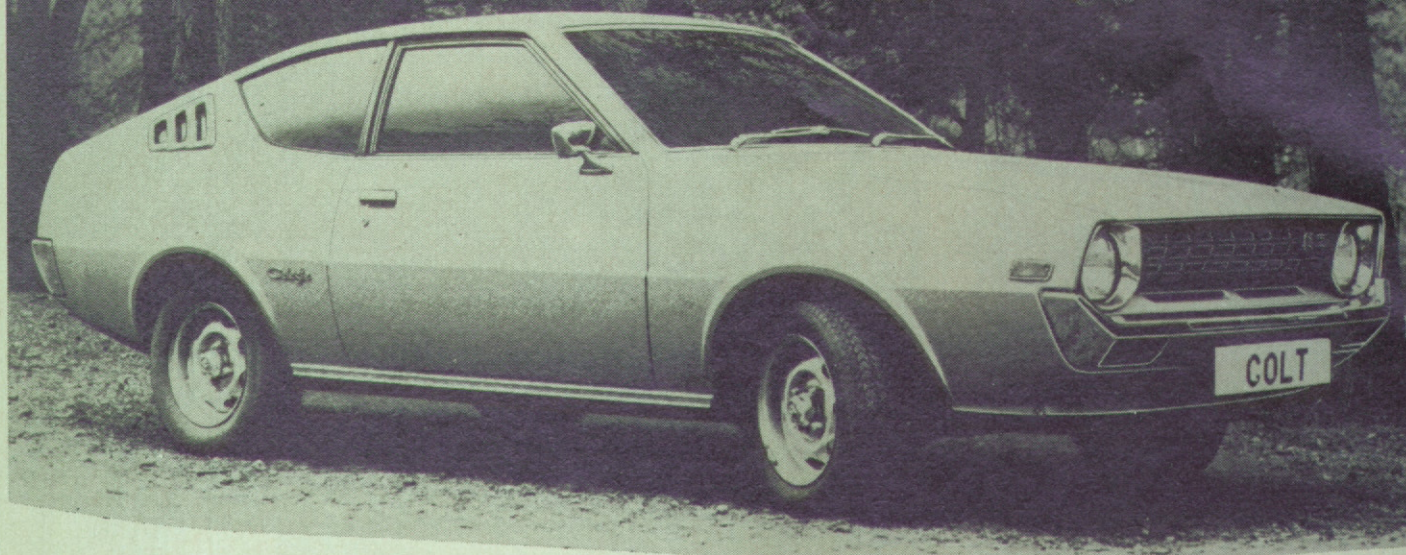
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Letters

Operation Leros

As a serving soldier in 34 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, I felt I had to write concerning your article 'Cuts Strike Home' (December).

This article refers to my squadron's commitment on Operation Leros, the task of renovating a permanent training camp on the Soltau/Lüneberg training area. This involved the construction of three large ablution blocks, a tank washdown, widening of roads and other construction work. Using soldiers in preference to civil contractors for this job saved time and saved the taxpayer 1,000,000 Deutschmarks which can now be allocated to other works services to improve the soldiers' lot. This task also gave an opportunity for sapper tradesmen to practise their trades to civil standards on a worthwhile task — practice which is not normally available.

With regard to separation, no married soldier likes it but it has to be accepted in a field unit. The single soldiers who form 60 per cent of the squadron dislike long periods spent at Tidworth and like the chance to go abroad.

So projects like Operation Leros, although causing separation of husbands from families, also give the sapper the chance to practise his trade, which gives job satisfaction and, in this case, a saving which can be used to better other Army facilities. Perhaps your article should instead have been titled 'Training Saves Deutschmarks.' — **S/Sgt A E Wickham RE, 34 Fd Sqn RE, Swinton Barracks, Perham Down, Andover, Hants.**

Sabre Society

Readers who have not heard of it may be interested in the Sabre Society, a military historical society which was formed five years ago and is based on the Napoleonic Wars, setting out to recreate certain units from that period in all details from uniforms to drill. More members are needed and particularly more serving or ex-serving members of the Regular Army and Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve to bolster the lads who have never previously worn uniform. The main units within the society are the First Foot Guards (British) and 1er Régiment de Grenadiers de la Garde Impériale (French). Each has supporting artillery and members are particularly required for the Garde Artillerie (French) which has a full-size 12-pounder artillery piece.

Most units have a lower age limit of 18 with younger members providing musicians. Only one unit, the Garde Artillerie, has a defined limit to its catchment area — its members must be within travelling distance of Wakefield so that regular gun drills can be maintained.

Interested readers wanting further information are asked to contact me. — **David W Paget, 70 South Terrace, South Bank, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, TS6 6HJ.**



New history

I have been tasked with writing the history of the 3rd Division from 1809, when divisions were first formed, in the Peninsula, to 1977 when 3rd Division moves to Rhine Army to become 3rd Armoured Division.

I am particularly interested in obtaining material to support the periods 1914-18 and 1939-45 and the period between these wars. I would appreciate hearing from readers who served in 3rd Division during these periods and who possess material such as photographs and correspondence which would add interest to the proposed history. — **Lieut-Col R R McNish, Glebe House, Wylde, Warminster, Wiltshire.**

ACF and GVC

Like Sergeant-Instructor Holmes's detachment (Letters, October) we too have many applications from girls wanting to join the Army Cadet Force and, like others, we inform them of the Girls' Venture Corps which is supposed to be the female equivalent of the ACF.

But we find they do not want to join the GVC, usually because they want to do what the boys do — shooting, camping, soldiering and exercises. It seems that in the GVC they get drill, housecraft, mothercraft, flower arranging and things like that, plus a little map-reading, typing and running local cadet canteens.

Confectioners put fancy wrapping on their goods — youth organisations, especially pre-Service units, should do the same and then deliver the goods. There should be junior or cadet units for girls; youngsters are crying out for Service life today for they want to be led, not left to their own devices. Aid in this direction can help to defeat the vandalism and hooliganism that is threatening everyday life. — **WO2 D R Timson, C Coy, The Royal Anglian Regiment, Cadet Training Centre, Market Harborough, Leicestershire.**

Cavalry badges

We have recently started an old comrades Combined Cavalry Association of East Anglia here in Ipswich. Quite a number of ex-cavalry men have joined and the association is thriving. Members have asked for the old cavalry badges to be displayed in a glass case in our meeting room but so far we have not been able to obtain the 22 badges involved.

Could any reader help? The associa-

tion would be prepared to pay for the badges and postage, if necessary. The badges required are: The Life Guards, Royal Horse Guards, 1st King's Dragoon Guards, The Queen's Bays, 3rd Carabiniers, 4th/7th Dragoon Guards, 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, 1st The Royal Dragoons, The Royal Scots Greys, 3rd The King's Own Hussars, 4th Queen's Own Hussars, 7th Queen's Own Hussars, 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars, 9th Queen's Royal Lancers, 10th Royal Hussars, 11th Hussars, 12th Royal Lancers, 13th/18th Hussars, 14th/20th Hussars, 15th/19th Hussars, 16th/5th Queen's Royal Lancers and 17th/21st Lancers. — **B E Moore, 281 Clapgate Lane, Ipswich, IP3 0RW.**

First flight

Your museums feature (November) says of The Northamptonshire Regiment: "In 1932 the 1st Battalion became the first unit, not only in the British Army but in the world, to be transported complete with equipment by air."

Historians will know that this is not strictly true. The first air move involving troops took place on 4 May 1924, eight years before the Northampton's move. This original move involved five officers, 12 non-commissioned officers and 53 men of 1st Battalion, The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. They flew, complete with weapons (including machine-guns and Lewis guns) and ammunition from Baghdad to Kinkuk in northern Iraq. The company group included Royal Army Medical Corps personnel.

It may well be that the Northampton were the first full battalion to deploy by air but they were certainly

not the first unit to do so. — **Maj J P B Condon, 1 R Irish, Little Rissington, Gloucestershire, GL54 2NF.**

Ernst in earnest

During the visit of 93 (City of Bath) Squadron ATC to Braunschweig in August I was approached by Herr Ernst Rudek, of 6 Museumstrasse, 33 Braunschweig, West Germany, who is extremely anxious to contact any of the prisoners-of-war of whom he was in charge during World War Two, or their descendants, or veterans of their units. Above all he would like to attend a reunion and, I understand, is willing to travel to do so.

Can any reader help to put him in touch with ex-prisoners? — **T H Geake, Conifers, Old Midford Road, South Stoke, Bath, BA2 7DQ.**

Reunions

7 Para RHA. Farewell parade, Aldershot, 3 February, to mark departure 7 Para RHA from Airborne Forces. Parade followed by drinks, lunch and open afternoon, Lille Barracks. Former members welcome. Inquiries to Parade Adjt, 7 Para RHA, Lille Barracks, Aldershot, GU11 2NQ.

How observant are you?

(see page 12)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Width of path round left of inn. 2 Height of tree. 3 Curtain of house left of tree. 4 Wing mirror of car. 5 Skating soldier's right hand. 6 Right leaf of rushes by bridge. 7 Door of house second from left. 8 Rear bumper of car. 9 Hair of girl skating behind soldier. 10 Chimney stack of house left of tree.

Collectors' Corner

This column is open to bona-fide collectors, not dealers. Announcements are made free of charge as a service to readers. Subsequent correspondence must be conducted direct between readers and not through SOLDIER.

Maj J H Burningham, 34 Deneside, East Dean, Eastbourne, BN20 0JG. — *Wishes buy campaign medals, gallantry groups to named recipients. Good prices paid.*

D Embleton, 29 Upper Gordon Road, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 2HJ. — *Requires pre-1960 copies SOLDIER, also 'The Unquiet Peace' (Maurice Tugwell), 'Shoot to Kill' (Brig R Miers), 'Introduction to Violence' (M Cornish).*

J C Elliott, 73 Isabella Street, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 1M7, Canada. — *Seeks Intelligence and airborne combat insignia all Nato countries, also combat clothing, webbing and accessories. Will exchange for Canadian stuff.*

Richard A Corkum, 244 Elvin Street, Staten Island, New York 10314, USA. — *Wanted: Unbound set Illustrated London News 1939-46 in good condition.*

Cecil E Prescott, Prescott House, 9 Cooperage Lane, Gibraltar. — *Requires following officers' helmet plates KC 1901-14 to complete his collection: Royal Scots, East Yorks, Notts & Derby (Sherwood Foresters), Connaught Rangers, APTC.*

A P Hamakers, Rusthoekstraat 42,

Scheveningen, Netherlands. — *Will exchange Dutch beret badges for British and Commonwealth cap/beret badges.*

Cpl R Mulley, 2 Grafton Terrace, Station Road, Bordon, Hants. — *Seeks cap badges British Army for new collection.*

S J Convery, 52 Lyndale Avenue, Eastham, Wirral, Merseyside, L62 8DF. — *Requires reversible ski jacket, new or old, white camouflage or green. Will buy or exchange for German or British badges.*

David McCarthy, 117 Invercannay Drive, Drumchapel, Glasgow, G15 7AX. — *Has 9 HLI and Glasgow Highlanders post-1939 (blunt edges) cap badges in exchange for 1, 2 or 3 BW. Also 9 HLI officer's three-piece badge in exchange for Highland Cyclists officer's badge.*

Beat Gottier, Gartenstrasse 24, CH 3800 Unterseen, Switzerland. — *Seeks tank and special forces British Army badges, has Swiss Army badges in exchange.*

C/Sgt R Boardman, 1 Kings, Warcop Tg Centre, Appleby, Cumbria. — *Wishes buy militaria items (state price) of old Manchester Regiment and King's Regiment (Liverpool).*

Graham Hicks, 22 Meadow Vale, Codsall, Wolverhampton. — *Wishes buy military campaign medals; also requires one set collar and epaulette insignia (sgt) R Irish Fusiliers dress tunic circa 1917.*

At auction

A very rare .36 London Navy Colt model 1851 single-action percussion revolver (bottom right) was sold for £1250 at auction in an arms and armour sale by Weller & Dufty Ltd, of Birmingham. Listed as 'an exceptionally fine example of these sought-after pistols,' it was in a chamois-lined black leather holster.

At the same auction, £250 was paid for a museum-grade copy of a Field-Marshal Hermann Goering's parade baton (right) while a rare model (top right) of an early 18th century field gun and limber, probably made in

the mid-19th century for a museum, fetched £420.

The Lewes, Sussex, firm of Messrs Wallis & Wallis obtained at auction £1050 for an early Victorian officer's full dress uniform (below, left) of the 11th Hussars worn by Lieutenant-Colonel Inigo Jones. A rare Prussian Garde-Kurassier Regiment parade helmet (far right) fetched £670 while £900 was paid for another rare copper gilt helmet (right) of The King's Dragoon Guards. A 1796 pattern light cavalry officer's sabre realised £225 and a rare Georgian cavalry officer's sabre of the 10th Light Dragoons fetched £240.



Competition

Fewer than a quarter of the entries for Competition 218 (September — Eyes Down!) came up with the correct differences. There were exactly 20: Lower post of broken fence, first N in 'CONFECTIONERY,' thickness of front offside tyre, hub of front nearside wheel, handle of van's rear door, number of sticks of rock inside van, chimney of house, height of cliff wall to right of house, black bush at foot of cliff, R in 'BEWARE,' Jeep's wing mirror, number of planks in Jeep, Jeep's registration letter, width of Jeep's bumper, lines on road, nearest coping stone on wall at bottom right, fingers of soldier's right hand, lower window of house, soldier's left shoulder, van's exhaust pipe.

Prizewinners:

- 1 L/Cpl P Lowbridge, HQ Sqn, 10 Regt RCT, BFPO 39.
- 2 Mrs F Davis, 12 Beckenham Road, Beckenham, Kent.
- 3 William Lavender, 63½ Ardbeg Road, Rothesay, Bute, PA20 0NN.
- 4 Dvr P Coyle, 3 Tk Tptr Sqn RCT, BFPO 16.
- 5 Rfn M Parisi, 7 Pl, B Coy, 2 RGJ, BFPO 52.
- 6 Ralph Vaz, Apartado 1992, Lisbon, Portugal.
- 7 Sgt M Earsman, c/o 23 Morriston Road, Bishopmill, Elgin, Morayshire.
- 8 Cpl A Henderson, BMH Dhekalia, BFPO 58.
- 9 Sgt G Cox, SSD Dolmen, 15 COD RAOC, BFPO 44.
- 10 Miss Alison Bolton, c/o HQ RA 2nd Division, BFPO 22.

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Choose your weapon — mine's a sword!

Sailors returns to zoo with kangaroo's head

21	19	5	5	17	2	5	14	16	17
	3	11	25	16	22	7	25	9	26
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COMPETITION 222

THIS MONTH'S competition is a three-part teaser. First, solve the clues and enter the answers in the boxes of the clues grid. Then transfer these letters to their appropriate numbers in the other two grids. Finally, take the ten initial letters indicated and arrange these into one word which relates to the whole competition.

Send your answer — this one word — on a postcard or by letter, with the 'Competition 222' label from this page and your name and address, to:

Editor (Comp 222)

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This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Monday 7 March. The answers and winners' names will appear in the May SOLDIER.

More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 222' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or official pre-paid labels will be disqualified.

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Books

Awards

'The Medals, Decorations and Orders of the Great War 1914-1918' (Alec A Purves)

This book, dealing solely with the awards of World War One, is divided into four sections — the allies and associated countries; the central powers ie Germany and her allies; the neutral countries; and the emergent nations such as Czechoslovakia, Finland, Hungary and Poland.

Great Britain and the British Empire are well represented, from the Victoria Cross to the 1914 Star and the Distinguished Flying Cross to the Allied Victory Medal. The medals of 20 nations are reviewed in this first section. In the next, perhaps the most interesting, are medals of the German Empire.

Each medal, whatever its nationality, is described in detail and many are illustrated. An informative introduction and four pages of ribbon charts in full colour complete a collector's vade-mecum.

J B Hayward & Son, 17 Piccadilly Arcade, Piccadilly, London SW1, £5.00 JFPJ

**The Medals
Decorations &
Orders of the
Great War
1914-1918**
Alec A. Purves



Men of destiny

'Soldiers as Statesmen' (Edited by Peter Dennis and Adrian Preston)

Hindenburg, Franco, Byng, Eisenhower, de Gaulle — all successful soldiers who afterwards became outstanding statesmen — are discussed in depth in this interesting book. Five erudite essays on five remarkable men of whom perhaps Viscount Byng of Vimy, modest, even embarrassed at finding himself bracketed in such illustrious company, may well be the first to command the reader's attention. It concentrates on his governor-generalship of Canada, at a difficult time in the history of the dominion, from which he emerges as a man of "perfect dig-

nity, refraining in the face of severe provocation from engaging in argument or recrimination."

The remaining four — Hindenburg, the old general called from retirement in 1914 and later to become president of the Reich; Franco, dictator of Spain; Eisenhower, the only professional soldier to live in the White House in the 20th century; and de Gaulle, distant, aloof and eloquent — are each dealt with in essays as remarkable for their revelations of character as for their biographical astuteness.

Croom Helm Ltd, 2-10 St John's Road, London SW11, £5.95 JFPJ

**SOLDIERS as
STATESMEN**



Edited by Peter Dennis & Adrian Preston

'Wolfe's Own'

'The Loyal Regiment' (Michael Langley)

A product of the troubled years of the mid-18th century, the Loyals saw service in Canada at Louisbourg and Quebec. So important was their contribution to the winning of this new land that they were called "Wolfe's Own."

In the 19th century the Loyals fought the French in southern Italy, retreated with Moore to Corunna, died of yellow fever in the West Indies, pursued pirates off the coast of Arabia, faced hordes of Maharrats on the plains of India, stormed Burmese stockades with the bayonet, endured Afghan sniping on the North-West Frontier, repelled masses of Russian infantry at Inkerman and saved the Punjab in the 1857 Mutiny.

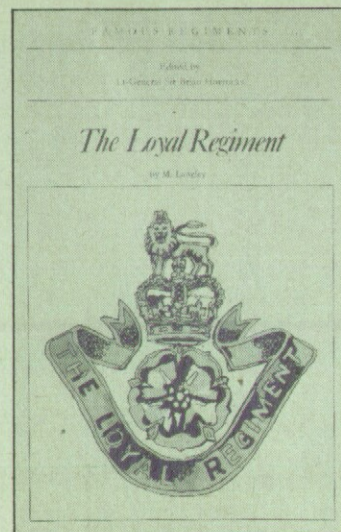
In the two world wars they gave of their best. In the former their 68 battle honours included Loos, Somme and Passchendaele; in the latter their 21 battle honours listed Dunkirk, Gothic Line and Singapore Island. The total cost, for both wars, was something like 9000 dead.

Afterwards came service in Palestine, Malaya, Swaziland and other widely scattered postings. On 25

March 1970 the Loyals amalgamated with The Lancashire Regiment to form The Queen's Lancashire Regiment. One chapter closed and another opened.

Well worth reading, like all the volumes in this 'Famous Regiments' series.

Leo Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £6.50 AWH



Tracks and wheels

'Airfix Magazine Guide 17: 'British Tanks of World War Two' (Terry Gander and Peter Chamberlain)

'Tank Battles in Miniature 3: A Wargamer's Guide to the North-West Europe Campaign 1944-1945' (Bruce Quarrie)

'Modell Magazin War Album 1' (Edited by Heinz Birkholz)

'Licensed to Carry' (John Aldridge and Alan Thomas)

Mr Gander and Mr Chamberlain combine to produce a brief outline of British tank development to 1939, following up with wartime development. There is a chapter on American tanks in British service plus details of British designs — Matilda, Churchill, Valentine, Crusader, Cromwell etc. Information, compressed and concise, makes it a quick reference source for all military enthusiasts and modellers.

Bruce Quarrie's latest effort covers tank warfare in a period not usually found in wargamers' guides. He uses the same format as in his previous books on the desert and Russian campaigns, giving a brief chronology, eye-witness descriptions, maps, technical data and army organisation, the whole being anchored to wargamers' requirements. Other aspects of this campaign covered include parachute and glider activity, amphibious assault, naval gunfire support, tank and anti-tank gun data, as well as information on air support and anti-aircraft fire.

Heinz Birkholz's offering, though rather expensive, contains a valuable collection of rare military, naval and aviation photographs. Since they are contributed by readers of Modell Magazin, they are mainly of German origin and will thus be of most

interest to modellers specialising in Luftwaffe and Wehrmacht types.

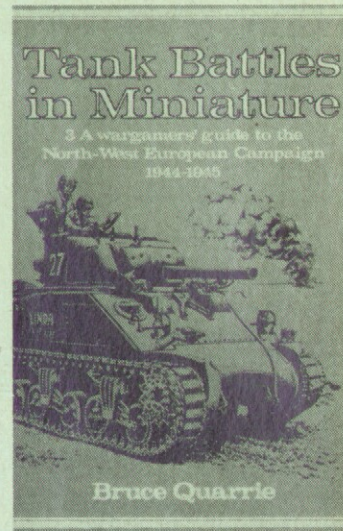
Mr Thomas and Mr Aldridge recall Leyland's 80 years in commercial transport. This Motor Transport Magazine special is a useful chapter in the history of the British motor manufacturing industry. Of particular interest to modellers, wargamers and military transport enthusiasts is the chapter 'At War.' Guy, Scammell, Crossley and Coles vehicles are all pictured in military 'livery' and there is a K2 Austin ambulance which really got around. Abandoned by the BEF at Dunkirk, it was taken by the Germans and saw service in France, Germany and Russia before being recaptured by British troops in 1944. Austin's comment: "It needed an engine and brakes overhaul."

1 Patrick Stephens Ltd, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB3 8EL, £1.40

2 Patrick Stephens Ltd, £3.95

3 Argus Books Ltd, Argus House, 14 St James Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, £2.75

4 IPC Transport Press Ltd, Dorset House, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LU, £1.25 JCW



Understatement

'Japan at War 1937-1945' (Christopher J Argyle)

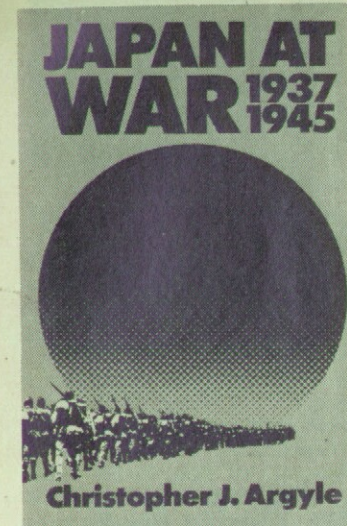
The war against Japan was waged over vast expanses of ocean, across huge areas of land and through countless islands; it was a war of many facets and it would seem impossible to condense an account of it into one slim volume.

By describing it largely from the Japanese viewpoint, however, Mr Argyle presents a lucid and concise account of the war from its origins in the 'China incident,' provoked after the setting-up of a puppet regime in Manchuria, to the day when the Japs were bludgeoned into unconditional surrender by atomic bombs.

At that point the Japanese emperor made his first-ever radio broadcast in which he admitted that the war situation "had developed not entirely to Japan's advantage." Most translations of Hirohito's Imperial Rescript give the word 'necessarily' instead of 'entirely,' but it makes little difference to the fact that this must be the 20th century's masterpiece of understatement.

Mr Argyle adds a useful appendix on Japanese industry in war and an even more useful chronology of Japanese history beginning in 1542 when Portuguese explorers discovered Japan.

An ideal book for the student seeking a quick run-down of the Far Eastern war, or as a clear introduction to a very complicated subject. Arthur Barker Ltd, 11 St John's Hill, London SW11, £5.00 JCW

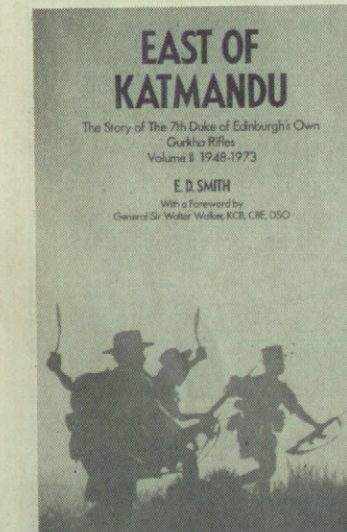


Jungle men

'East of Katmandu: The Story of the 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles, Vol II 1948-1973' (E D Smith) Few regimental histories are as exciting and enthralling as those of Gurkha regiments and this one is no exception. It covers the tumultuous years in which all the Gurkha battalions played a magnificent role in the Malayan Emergency and in the later Confrontation in Borneo.

The author, Brigadier 'Birdie' Smith, now Colonel of the 7th Gurkha Rifles, is unstinting in his praise of the soldierly qualities of these tough Nepalese hillmen, mostly Limbus and Rais from 'East of Katmandu.'

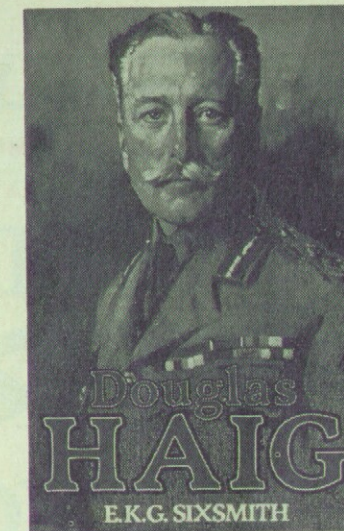
He tells how in the long jungle campaigns against both Communists and Indonesian terrorists, the Gurkhas evolved their own highly effective form of fighting, making the



treacherous and inhospitable jungle their own. A book to warm the hearts of all admirers of the Gurkhas.

The book is notable, too, for the hard-hitting foreword by the 7th's former Colonel, General Sir Walter Walker, who draws some marked comparisons between British operations in Malaya and Borneo and those of the Americans in Vietnam. Indeed, 'East of Katmandu' is worth buying for its foreword for General Walker, as ever, says things which need saying.

Leo Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £8.50 JCW



C-in-C

'Douglas Haig' (E K G Sixsmith)

A study in depth of the famous World War One leader, including his service as a young officer when he already had the ear of royalty and, even as captain, was reporting direct to the Adjutant-General, Evelyn Wood, on the conduct of military events in Egypt, the Sudan, India and South Africa. The author follows Haig's career, showing the individual behind the man who was "destined to be Commander-in-Chief of the largest army ever put into the field by Britain and to command it in circumstances more difficult than any that have ever existed before or since."

In 1914, Haig wanted the expeditionary force held back until the Territorials had reinforced it and been trained so that 300,000 men could be put into the field to make a decisive impact. His suggestion was not acted upon.

Although somewhat inarticulate, his Service training and active successes as a young officer, and his belief in his strategy in Europe, enabled him to stand against criticism and maintain the morale of his troops. When French morale was at breaking point he relieved the pressure on their front, thus preventing the wholesale mutiny that could have lost the war.

He retained the confidence of his own troops to the end and it is almost certainly this fact that prevented Lloyd George from removing him. Weidenfeld & Nicholson Ltd, 11 St John's Hill, London, SW11 1XA, £5.95 GRH



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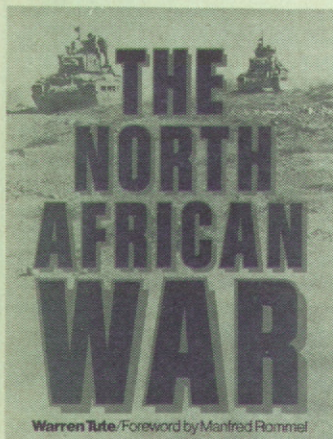
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Books



Epic struggle

'The North African War' (Warren Tute)

In this admirable volume, Mr Tute presents a vivid picture of the epic struggle which extended over three years and thousands of miles of desert from the Nile to the Atlantic. More than a million allied and Axis troops were engaged, plus thousands of ships, tanks and aircraft.

Almost alone among World War Two battlefronts, the North African campaign permitted each side the luxury of chivalry. In a foreword, Rommel's son, Manfred, writes: "It is generally agreed that the North African front was, by and large, characterised by a degree of mutual respect and probity which did not always apply on other fronts. This fairness must stand to the credit of all ranks, both German and British, and it was an attitude which was repeatedly evident in the speeches and writings of the British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill."

Mr Tute fights all the great battles again and takes us along the corridors of power where delicate political decisions were being made. Roosevelt and Churchill, Hitler and Mussolini, Churchill and Stalin all

had consultations which had a vital bearing on North Africa as, indeed, did the actions of the men of Vichy.

It is pleasant to find Wavell and Auchinleck given due credit for their achievements. In this context, it is interesting to note the comments of Laurence Cotterell, an ex-Desert Rat, whom Mr Tute consulted on the Libyan campaign.

One of his notes reads: "Remember the widespread unpopularity among the desert troops, particularly the old hands, of Montgomery who was very much a politicians' general and a civilians' general, and whose military support came only from the 'new boys' he brought out with him from England." Maybe Monty was lucky, maybe he did have the supplies and the tanks at the right time, but there is no denying he won the battles.

Sidgwick & Jackson Ltd, 1 Tavistock Chambers, Bloomsbury Way, London, WC1A 2SG, £6.50 **JCW**



War diaries

'Fifteen Rounds a Minute: The Grenadier at War 1914' (Edited by J.M. Craster)

It is amazing how, in the drudgery, bitterness and squalor of war, especially a war of movement, individuals can find time to make extensive entries day after day in personal diaries — quite apart from the fact that they are disobeying orders when

carrying diaries into action. Nevertheless, these records of the moment are often so fascinating that the reader feels the rain that soaked, the mud that oozed through the puttees and the ache in the marching legs.

From such diaries and letters written by officers of the Grenadier Guards between August and December 1914, the editor has produced this interesting volume. Mons, the Marne, the Aisne and Ypres are all part of regimental history now but here in the day-by-day words of Major 'Ma' Jeffreys (eventually General Lord Jeffreys) and others the marching, the actions, the hunger, the fatigue and the camaraderie live once again.

The Germans, too, were writing: "For four days... been marching 24 miles a day... The men stagger forward... faces coated with dust... uniforms in rags... like living scarecrows..." How did they, British and German, find the time, the energy or the inclination to record it all?

MacMillan London Ltd, 4 Little Essex Street, London, WC2R 3LF, £4.50.

GRH

Sobering

'The Soviet War Machine' (Edited by Ray Bonds)

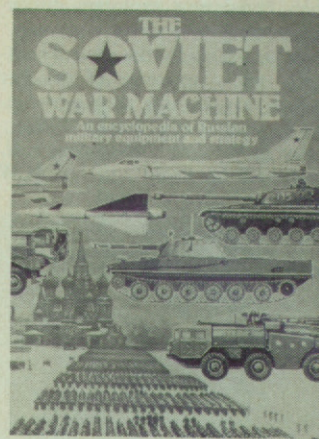
'Soviet Strategy in Europe' (Edited by Richard Pipes)

These two books are required reading for anyone with an interest in the defence of the Western world, and Western Europe in particular.

The first is a splendidly illustrated survey of today's Soviet armed forces. The publishers claim with justice that it is the most comprehensive compilation of authoritative fact and powerful illustrations on Russia's armed might ever to appear between two covers.

Contributors are Captain J E Moore, Bill Gunston, Air Vice-Marshal S W B Menaull, Brigadier Shelford Bidwell, Professor J Erickson, P H Vigor, Kenneth W Gatland, Dr James E Dornan and Christopher Donnelly. They paint a fascinating, sometimes alarming, picture of the great Soviet build-up; they discuss strengths and weaknesses and they emphasise that Russia now has so many people planning, designing,

developing and producing armaments that the potentially more powerful Western nations can no longer compete. It is a sobering thought.



The same applies to 'Soviet Strategy in Europe' in which European and American authors present a broad spectrum of expertise in political, military, and economic analysis on the general theme that détente in itself will not bridge the chasm between world views of East and West.

Contributors include Professor Pipes, Michel Tatu, Lothar Ruehl, Christopher Cviic, Thomas W Wolfe, Professor J Erickson, Philip Hanson, Michael Kaser, and John and Pauline Pinder.

Their topics include Moscow's view of détente, decision-making in the USSR, Soviet policy and the domestic politics of Western Europe, Soviet-East European relations, Soviet military capabilities and intentions in Europe, Soviet military posture and policy in Europe, Soviet economic relations with Western Europe and vice-versa.

They show clearly that though détente in the early Seventies has softened the hard outlines of confrontation between East and West, many of the basic conflicts remain unresolved and new sources of potential confrontation have arisen.

Neither book offers a great deal of comfort to the Westerner but both deserve the widest possible readership.

1 Hamlyn Publishing Group, Astronaut House, Hounslow Road, Feltham, Middlesex, £4.95

2 Macdonald & Jones's, Paulton House, 8 Shepherdess Walk, London, N1 7LW, £9.75 **JCW**



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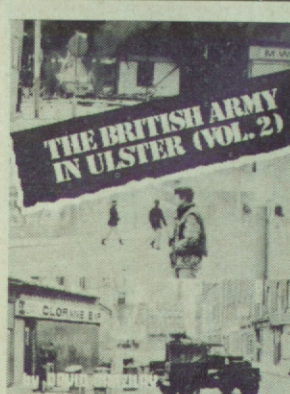
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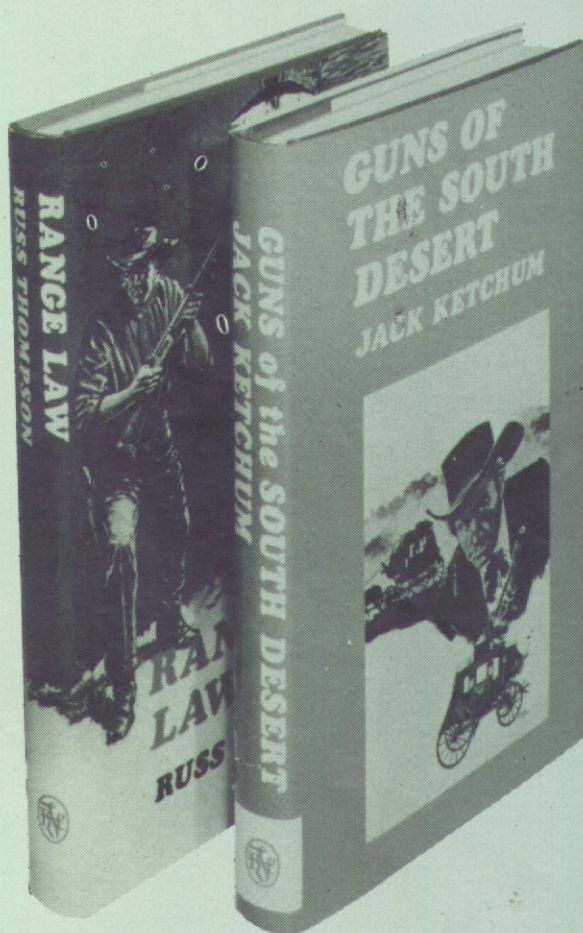
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