

Soldier

A close-up, low-angle shot of a soldier in profile, wearing a helmet with a clear visor and a camouflage uniform. The soldier is holding a rifle, with the barrel and magazine visible. The background is a bright, hazy sky.

20p

OCTOBER 1979

**THE LOAN RANGERS
CHEPSTOW APPRENTICES
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Subscription (13 issues): UK/BFPO £3.72; Elsewhere £4.56
SOLDIER News subscription (26 issues); UK/BFPO £3.50; Elsewhere £3.85.

Send UK cheque/UK postal order/international money order and state when subscription is to start and to whom to be addressed.

Editorial, photographic, advertising and circulation enquiries should be addressed to SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, ALDERSHOT, Hants, GU11 2DU (phone GPO Aldershot 24431, military network Aldershot Military).
SOLDIER is published by the Ministry of Defence and printed by Eden Fisher (Southend) Ltd, 555 Sutton Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex. Crown copyright 1979.

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In some establishments officers and their wives organise clubs and groups for themselves, where they can share common interests, such as sport, and families can meet and make friends in sociable surroundings. It's unofficial, and not everyone wants to take part, but for those who do, it's an enjoyable extra.

This is one of a series of advertisements about the Prison Service today. If you would like copies of the whole series, together with further information, send in the coupon to Home Office, Freepost, London SW1E 5BR. (No stamp needed).

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**A service
for society**

'From Greenland's icy mountains to Africa's coral strand . . .' — the words of the now passé hymn could almost be used to describe the British Army's loan service personnel. At present 416 people are on loan to the armies of 20 other countries — 187 officers and 229 soldiers. In this special feature **SOLDIER** looks at life in some of these postings.



THE LOAN RANGERS

THE FIRST thing to get straight about loan service agreements is that they are not the same as exchanges. The soldier who goes on loan generally has his salary paid by the army he is joining, except in some of the poorer countries where it is paid by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The largest teams at present are in Brunei and Oman (each with 92) with the numbers working steadily down through Kuwait (82), Nigeria (42), United Arab Emirates (19), to a single man in Malaysia and Singapore.

How are people selected? In the case of officers, the staff who administer loan service from Lansdowne House in London hold a selection board to fill posts from applicants recommended by manning branches. With non-commissioned officers the selection is done by the record office itself.

All posts are accompanied except from Oman, where majors and below are unaccompanied, and Antarctica. Some personnel wear their British Army uniform and others go into the uniform of the country. All get

their normal overseas allowances and in addition are paid a special loan service allowance to compensate for the fact that they may be living in relatively primitive conditions.

Sometimes loan service comes to a speedy end — such as in Iran where the downfall of the Shah meant moving out 30 soldiers at very short notice. But the overall figure has remained constant for some years and three new countries are expected to take advantage of the scheme shortly.



BERMUDA



Above: The badge of the Bermuda Regiment.

BERMUDA, a British colony, is not in fact one island but several — now mainly joined together by causeways and bridges. It is 700 miles off the North American continent and has a population of 50,000 — the majority of them black.

The Bermuda Regiment was formed in 1965 from an amalgamation of the Bermuda Military Artillery and the Bermuda Rifles. Its structure is based on that of a British infantry



battalion and its manpower is found from an annual computer ballot of Bermudian young men between the ages of 18 and 33, who are conscripted for three years. Some of these elect to stay on at the end of their compulsory service.

The British seconded personnel consist of a training major, an adjutant and three warrant officers 2. All are currently found from The Royal Anglian Regiment because of a

Above: British major with men on exercise. wartime affiliation between the Bermudians and the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment.

The roles of the regiment, which are guidelines for training, are internal security, ceremonial guards and parades, assisting in the event of natural disaster, community projects, assisting youth organisations, especially cadets and assisting the police against infiltrators and saboteurs.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

IF YOUR GEOGRAPHY IS WEAK it is best to say that the United Arab Emirates will be found at the toecap on the boot of Arabia. If your map is old the Emirates may be shown as the Trucial States. They comprise seven independent sheikhdoms formed into a loose but effective union when the British departed in 1971.

Oil has transformed the Emirates into a modern bustling business and industrial community. But the past remains — ancient houses with wind towers nestle beneath multi-storey office blocks; goats and camels mingle with cars and lorries. Outside the towns the desert stretches to every horizon and shimmers in the burning sun.

The Armed Forces comprise some 33,000 all ranks. Seventeen of the 19 seconded posts are found in Dubai and include gunnery instructors, an infantry weapon training instructor and a radio mechanic.

The Arab soldier is friendly, intelligent and anxious to learn. For seconded personnel the requirements are easy to quantify — a complete knowledge of the job, a sense of humour, patience and the ability to accept a far greater degree of responsibility than would be required for a similar post in the United Kingdom.

Family life is good. There are first class medical facilities and schooling is excellent up to the ages of eight or nine. Thereafter most parents elect to send their children to British boarding schools.

ALSO IN THE GULF is Qatar — a promontory lying north/south off the

Brigadier M L Barclay in the desert.



Saudi-Arabian mainland into the Gulf. It produces about 750,000 barrels a day of crude oil and has the third highest income per head in the world.

The Armed Forces are about a Brigade Group strong and have a small, close knit loan service element of four Army and three Royal Navy personnel. The Army appointments are all in the Force Communication Unit and are mostly Royal Signals. The three warrant officers wear officers' badges of rank while on loan service and carry out officer

functions, which will stand them in good stead for eventual commissioning at home.

Living in Qatar is very pleasant. The climate is good and even in the hottest months of the year the excessive heat and humidity is offset by air-conditioning in every building.

On the social side, leisure activities tend to centre round the beach but there is also squash, tennis, soccer, rugby and golf (complete with 'browns' rather than 'greens') available.

NIGERIA

IT WAS 1976 when a party of British Army officers and their wives arrived in Nigeria to assist in the establishment and running of a Nigerian Army Command and Staff College at Jaji, 30 kilometres north of Kaduna and surrounded by bush.

The team's first task was to prepare a syllabus for a year-long command and staff course for Army majors who had passed an examination similar to the British one. Instruction (with modifications), rôles, capabilities and equipment were based on the Camberley model. However, before these preparations were complete the team ran two six month courses for senior officers who had not previously had the opportunity of overseas Staff College training — and these were widely acclaimed by the Nigerians.

Two courses have now been run. The second, which ended last June, was for 100 students, five of whom were from the Navy and Air Force and two from Ghana.

The British team has increased rapidly since 1976. A junior command and staff college course, which includes a British lieutenant-colonel and four majors on its staff, has been established; a separate Army team supports the School of Infantry; a Royal Air Force team is also present and a Royal Navy team may arrive soon.

All the British staff, with the exception of



the RAF instructors, are housed in a large cantonment at Kaduna. Those concerned with the Army senior command and staff course comprise a brigadier as Chief Instructor, a major, a staff captain, two colonels and 14 lieutenant-colonels.

The latter work in rotation as part of five writing teams covering tactics, training, organisation, logistics and joint operations. The students are keen and intelligent with their enthusiasm, thirst for knowledge, humour and capacity for hard work far out-

Above: Directing Staff confer at the Junior Division Command Staff College.

weighing their lack of experience.

There are some frustrations arising from the college's rapid expansion, such as lack of telephones and an uncertain electricity supply. However, the Nigerian characteristics of quick decision and action are achieving many improvements far faster than the British are accustomed to. Jaji will soon constitute a centre of military education of which any nation would be proud.

continued over

NIGERIA

Continued

The Junior Division of the college opened in April 1978 and runs staff courses for junior captains of the Nigerian Army. The course lasts 13 weeks and the syllabus is based on Warminster.

Of the eight officers of the Directing Staff, four are British and four Nigerian and in addition there is a British lieutenant-colonel, who runs the division.

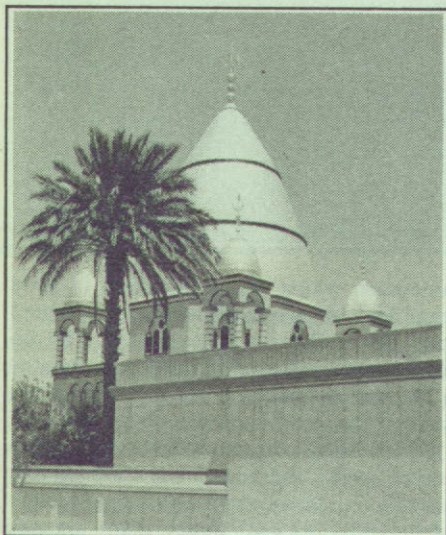
The advisory team for the Nigerian Army School of Infantry arrived in Nigeria in January 1978. Courses it runs are Company Commanders; Young Officers; Officer and Senior NCO's Jungle Warfare and Combat Survival; Platoon and Section Commanders; Skill at Arms; and Drill Courses for warrant officers and senior and junior non-commissioned officers.

Because of the shortage of administrative support the team had to go back to first principles in teaching without the use of sophisti-

cated training aids, lecture theatres or complete ranges. This is no bad thing as when students return to their units they too will have little of this type of support.

Development is continuing, support for training is increasing, more and more Nigerians are graduating and gaps in the Nigerian Army senior military education are being closed. The team has the satisfaction of knowing it has started important courses and projects which will be of great benefit to the Nigerian Army.

SUDAN



SUCCESS ON LOAN SERVICE with the British Army Training Team Sudan is the art of taking the rough with the smooth. It can be rough, not only physically, but in dealing with a society with an entirely different viewpoint. A society where a breakdown is the Will of Allah and not a spur to corrective action; one where minor decisions are put off — and up — until the Army Chief of Staff has to decide the allocation of a quarter to an officer; where nothing happens until it has become a crisis.

Yet there is ample compensation for all these problems. The Sudanese themselves have a well deserved reputation for being the nicest people in Africa or the Middle East. Your wife can wander unaccompanied in the dark souk alleys of the evening market in perfect safety. If her car breaks down, hundreds of hands will push her to safety and not a few will pay for her taxi fare home as well.

At work, whether you are the Armoured, Signal or Educational Corps advisor or you teach in the Command Staff College you will

Left: Tomb of old foe, the Mahdi at Omdurman.

find compensations for hard service in a hot climate.

The People's Armed Forces have expanded enormously over the last seven years and done so on the uncertain basis of incorporating into the Army men from Southern Sudan who had been fighting against it for 15 years. At the same time there has been a complete change from Soviet equipment and doctrine to a variety of Western equipment and a British doctrine, modified to suit conditions in the Sudan.

The rate at which improvements occur may sometimes be frustrating to the BATT member who is only seconded for 22 months. But each improvement is of great value to a force still trying to find its feet and strengthens a major ally of the United Kingdom.

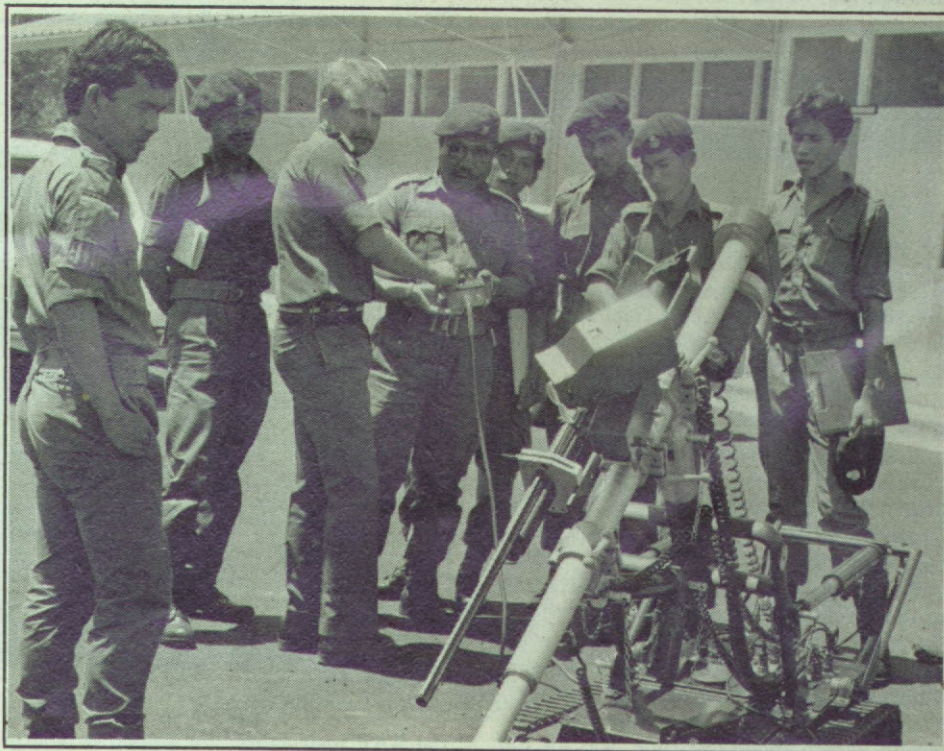
It is not always an easy life but there are many other Britons with whom you can share your problems. Sailing home from an evening barbecue along the Nile, or unexpectedly meeting a former student who shows he is applying what you have taught, are great compensations. And the money is good as well.

BRUNEI

THE TITLE, THE ROYAL BRUNEI MALAY REGIMENT is perhaps something of a misnomer today. It is certainly royal and the Sultan of Brunei is a familiar figure at regimental occasions. It is also predominately and deliberately Malay. However, the word regiment with its Army overtones, implies a grouping of land based units. In fact the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment is a superbly equipped tri-service force, with fully operational land, sea and air components, its own supporting arms, and all necessary training and logistical units. In other words it is the National Defence Force of a small and fiercely independent state.

The Islamic Sultanate of Brunei is a self governing sovereign state in association with the Commonwealth through its treaty relationship with the United Kingdom. In 1983 Britain will have responsibility for conducting Brunei's external affairs although the links will remain and loan service is expected to continue.

The country lies on the northern coast of Borneo with the mixed population of 180,000 clustered in small towns or kampongs along the relatively fertile coastal strip or up one of the four main rivers. Good roads are few and rivers are the natural highways for many people. The climate is typically tropical, characterised by uniform temperature around 82 degrees Fahrenheit, high humidity and heavy rainfall, although conditions are less extreme on the coast. Most of the hinterland is covered by tropical rainforest.



Above: WO1 S J Emerson shows 'Wheelbarrow.'

The regiment was formed in 1961 as an embryo infantry force which would eventually take its place in the order of battle of greater Malaysia. In the event Brunei retained her independence and 18 years later it is 3,000 men strong with plans to develop to 5,000 over the next decade.

Today there are some 120 loan servicemen with the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment,

drawn from all three Services, Army ranks range from sergeant to brigadier, with the number divided more or less equally between commissioned and non-commissioned elements.

The majority of these men are increasingly involved in training or in providing technical and administrative support, rather than in filling purely command appointments. This is in line with the policy of handing over

control to local officers as soon as possible. On the other hand, because of continued development and the introduction of new and often very complex equipment this programme of 'Bruneisation' is only reducing the scale on which loan service involvement expands. The number of loan servicemen is still expected to rise by another 40 or 50 in the next few years.

Regardless of rank or appointment the loan serviceman in Brunei will be faced with responsibilities and opportunities which he is unlikely to meet in British service. He will

probably work harder than ever before, because his sense of responsibility will develop and he will quickly see how much still needs to be done and how his own time is barely sufficient.

He and his family, providing they have an outward looking and moderately adventurous approach will find much to enjoy in the Brunei environment. The loan service element is closely integrated and accepted by local servicemen and the cultural differences which exist are not underlined.

Brunei is a Muslim state but there is a

degree of tolerance not always to be found in the Middle East and other Islamic states. British families feel free to move about with little restraint, confident that they will receive a friendly welcome everywhere.

The building of married quarters has still not caught up with the expansion of the regiment and there are waiting lists in most camps. Families may have to spend up to six months in local hirings but these are generally comfortable and well appointed and seldom more than a few miles from a husband's place of duty.

BANGLADESH



January this year and only five months were available for the small team of officers to write, type, proof-read and print a course of six months duration.

The prospects were daunting and a high casualty rate of indifferent typists soon developed. To add to the difficulties the new building allocated to the college was still being built, there was no air-conditioning and the monsoon with its accompanying humidity was in full spate.

A great breakthrough came when a rare passing RAF Hercules brought in a rotary printing press from Britain. BMAT was then really in business and with all hands being applied to pen, typewriter, printing press and binding machine, the college was duly opened on time by the President — although it was a close run thing.

The Bangladesh Army is very young. It rose like a Phoenix out of the ashes of the 1971 war when Bangladesh broke from Pakistan. Its officer corps is composed of those who took part in the war as freedom fighters and those who, less fortunately were stationed in Pakistan during the conflict and ended up being interned for two years.

The raising and expansion of the new Army was rapid and much was accomplished, despite great shortages in essentials such as clothing, equipment, accommodation and even training pamphlets. By 1976 General Zia was conscious of the lack of staff training for his middle ranking officers. There was a need for higher military training for lieutenant-colonels aged 28-32 commanding major units and for colonels, not much older, commanding brigades or acting as

arms or services directors at Army Headquarters.

The priority task of BMAT is to run four short courses of six months duration for colonels and lieutenant-colonels. Then in March next year the first long course of eight to nine months will be conducted at the more usual level of senior captain and major.

Originally the college was intended to be a joint services establishment, which explains why the British team includes both a Royal Navy and an RAF officer. But the severe shortage of officers in the Bangladesh Navy and Air Force precluded this. The course is consequently Army-orientated with the Navy sending one student and the Air Force three on each course. But a separate Air Wing will be set up with the advent of the first long course.

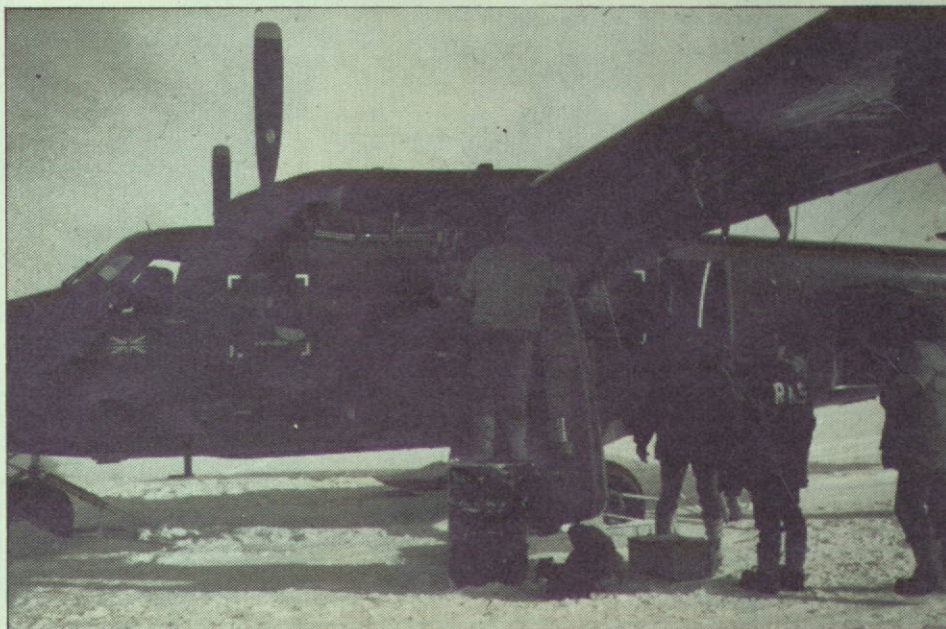
The syllabus is very much on Camberley lines adapted to local conditions. Now, with the third course over, BMAT is fading away. Only the commander, Brigadier T A Gibson as chief instructor, is staying on to plan and see through the first long course and two RAF officers will raise and conduct the new Air Wing.

Despite various inevitable frustrations, the team has enjoyed its challenging task and the time has gone remarkably quickly. Its work has been considerably helped by the keenness of the students and the fact that the official language for officers in the Bangladesh Army is English and its organisation and staff system almost identical to the British Army. To quote the motto of BMAT it has all been 'No Problem' — well almost no problem!

ANTARCTICA

ANTARCTICA IS A CONTINENT OF SNOW AND ICE, a continent of winter darkness and summer light, a continent set aside for scientific research. To carry out that research the British Antarctic Survey, a civilian organisation, maintains five stations occupied year round and uses two twin Otter aircraft.

Periodically, the Survey asks for volunteers for loan service to fill key roles in its operations. In recent years, Service personnel have served as radio operator mechanics, diesel mechanics, ionospheric technicians (radar) and aircraft mechanics. Aircraft mechanics accompany the twin Otters to Antarctica each summer (October to March) while other personnel are usually engaged for a tour of about eighteen months involving



Right: Working on Otter engine in Antarctica.

continuous duty on an Antarctic station for twelve months.

During the Antarctic winter each station's only contact with the outside world is by radio. The personnel on the station are thus responsible without outside help, for maintenance of all equipment and services. Since all are specialists, domestic chores are shared. Living and working together, a very close-knit community is quickly established.

The completely isolated existence and the cold may not appeal to everyone but it does so greatly to many. Three of the six service personnel at present in Antarctica have requested an extension of their tour to allow them to spend two years on their station.

OMAN

IN OMAN, Loan Service provides excellent and challenging opportunities. At present, there are nearly one hundred officers and NCOs serving with the Sultan of Oman's Land Forces (SOLF), in a great variety of posts in the teeth arms, technical services and trades, and on the Staff.

In 1958, at the time of the Jebel Akhdar Campaign, the first seconded officer arrived to command the Force which then was little more than two battalions strong. In 1960, the

Force expanded to some 2,300 all ranks including the formation of the Sultan of Oman's Air Force.

The war in Dhofar in Southern Oman from 1963 to 1975 saw a rapid increase in the size and capability of the Armed Forces to its present level of 20,000 all ranks.

In 1977, the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) split into three separate, autonomous organisations: Sultan of Oman's Land Forces, commanded by a British seconded Major General; Sultan of Oman's Air Force, commanded by a seconded Air Commodore, and Sultan of Oman's Navy, commanded by a seconded Naval Commodore.

SOLF has two operational brigades. The Headquarters of the Northern Oman Brigade is based at Muaskar al Murtafa'a (MAM), about 30 miles from the capital, Muscat. Headquarters Southern Oman Brigade is based at Salalah, nearly 600 miles to the South. The Force Headquarters is also at MAM.

Of the eight infantry battalions, the Frontier Force, the Southern Regiment and the Western Frontier Regiment, which are manned by Baluchs, are based permanently in Dhofar. The remainder are available for operations where required, and the normal tour for battalions in Dhofar is nine months, before roulement to the North.

In Dhofar extensive patrolling and ambushing is carried out from secure bases to prevent border incursions from South

Yemen. SOLF has a great deal of experience and expertise in this.

In support of the brigades, there is an artillery regiment, equipped with the new 105mm Light Gun; an armoured car squadron, equipped with Saladin and TOW; a field engineer squadron and a signals regiment. Ordnance services, medical services, transport and EME are based in both the north and south. There is also a large training regiment where seconded NCO's are much in evidence.

The normal tour of duty for seconded officers and NCO's is 20 months, and they work alongside Omani Arabs, Pakistanis and Indians, British contract personnel and Baluchs.

The rapid development taking place in Oman has led to a considerable increase in the European population and a corresponding increase in social life and sporting facilities. Most team and individual sports (including cricket!) are played, and the hot climate is ideal for bathing, sub-aqua, fishing, water skiing and sailing.

Facilities also exist for riding, shooting, mountaineering and parachuting. Unaccompanied officers and NCO's may accommodate their families on holiday, and leave and pay are extremely good.

There is ample opportunity to travel in Oman, where the people and terrain are as fascinatingly different from each other as if they were separate states.

KUWAIT

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE to join that élite set who live in a tax-free haven, even if only for two-and-a half years? To worry about exchange rather than inflation rates? To complain of endless sunshine rather than enormous fuel bills? To find yourself turning to the financial before the sports pages? All this and more, can be yours when you volunteer and are accepted, for a tour with the Joint Services Kuwait Liaison Team.

Once trained in colloquial Arabic, most of you will find yourselves in a hot, sometimes very hot, dusty climate helping members of the Kuwait Armed Forces to master complicated modern equipment, and to attain quickly those skills which have taken you so long to acquire — a task few will fail to find challenging if not always satisfying.

In compensation for the frustrations of often difficult working conditions, most people work summer hours throughout the year, live in air-conditioned accommodation which is seldom less than excellent, and have the opportunity to join in a social life unequalled

almost anywhere.

Excellent schooling, handy shops, beaches and mess facilities more than compensate for that unchanging Middle Eastern atmosphere that characterises life in the Gulf. For Kuwait is a modern state dominated by the rapidly growing city itself where the modern co-exists with the traditional.

There is little that is unobtainable, and the restrictions inherent in an Islamic society can be overlooked when set against the attraction of a life-style still lacking the pressures of the Western World and dominated by sun and beach.

Below: Small arms instruction in the Academy.



GHANA

COMMONWEALTH MILITARY ADVISORY TEAM Ghana was established in July 1976, at the request of the Ghanaian Government, to assist in setting up and running a Ghana Armed Forces Staff College. The present team consists of a British colonel, who is the Commander of CMAT and Deputy Commandant of the Staff College, four British lieutenant colonels and three Canadians. The Commandant of the College and the remaining directing staff are Ghanaian officers and the administrative wing is also staffed by Ghanaians.

The Ghana Armed Forces Staff College is a tri-service command and staff college run on very similar lines to the British staff colleges. The course lasts twelve months and is geared to take sixteen Army students and eight students from both the Navy and the Air Force.

The third course started in May 1979 and the students include two Nigerian officers; other African countries have been invited to

send students on future courses.

The college is situated less than a quarter of a mile from the sea about five miles from the centre of Accra. The majority of the British members of the team live in three bedroom air-conditioned bungalows about a mile away, furnished to British Army scales with British furniture. The Ghana Government pay a full-time servant for each member of the team.

The climate is tropical with no distinct

seasons but the coolest period is between June and September.

Ghana's people are charming and their reputation for friendliness and hospitality is well deserved. There is a great diversity and richness in the customs of the numerous ethnic groups and the many traditional ceremonies are colourful, noisy and fascinating.

Excellent opportunities for travel exist both within Ghana and to the other West African countries. For the adventurous,

Timbuktu can be reached by Range-Rover in a week. Within Ghana there is a rich variety of plant, bird and animal life and there are game parks which, although not as populated as the East African game reserves, have an interesting selection of animals, including elephants.

There are many facilities for recreation and the present team members' activities include, sailing, tennis, golf, swimming, riding, polo and squash.

BELIZE

AS THE TEMPERATURE touches 90° and the humidity keeps pace, thunder rolling around the sky is the harbinger of the torrential rain which is to follow. It signals the beginning of the wet season in Belize which follows the clear skies of the long hot period from February to the end of May. The climate is ideal for the growth of lush tropical vegetation and forests. It is also ideal for the growth of the Belize Defence Force (BDF).

The BDF is just 18 months old and having reached about battalion strength, is about to be launched into the second phase of its development. To guide, teach, train and command the Force through the vital years of growth, a small loan service team of four officers and four warrant officers and senior NCO's was established in 1977.

Named Price Barracks, the BDF camp is 'brand spanking new'. The married quarters are some of the most modern houses in Belize and are air-conditioned as is Force Headquarters. Life in Belize is no sinecure but it does have its compensations. Just off shore is the second largest barrier reef in the world which is dotted with small cayes (sandy

Right: One of the compensations in Belize.



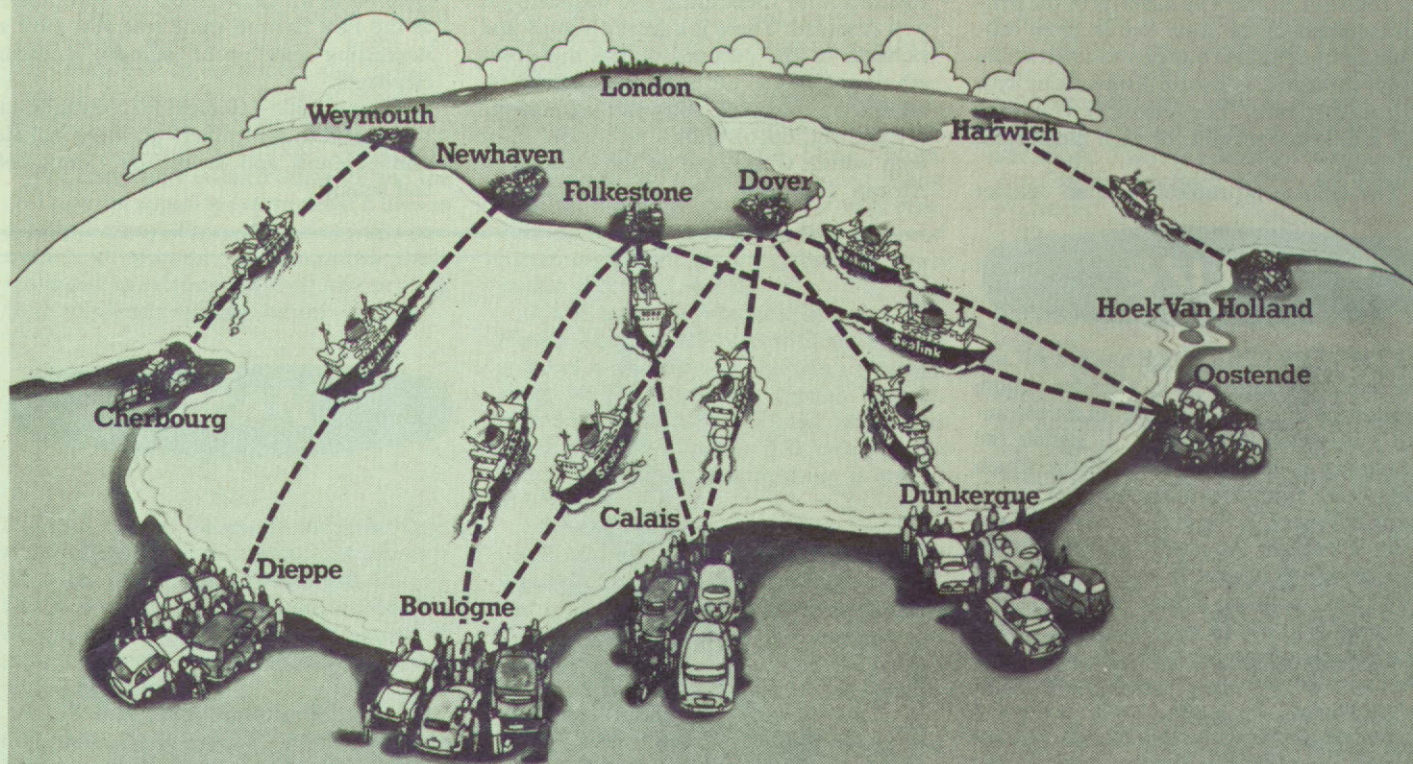
islands). For snorkelling, scuba diving or just lazing in the sun it is extremely difficult to beat. Archaeology enthusiasts can explore the fascinating Maya ruins dotted over dif-

ferent parts of Belize and for those interested in flowers and plants, apart from it being all around, the Mountain Pine Ridge is within easy access.

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 turn to page 57.





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SOLDIER to Soldier

EVEN among the ranks of the Army Physical Training Corps (where the whole thing started) there are doubts being expressed about the relevance of the Basic Fitness Tests (BFTs) which use a series of simple athletic exercises to assess soldiers' fitness to fight.

The more cynical mutter darkly about it being "just a matter of time until the first heart attack." The more thoughtful question the value of testing a man's ability to run 'x' miles in 'y' minutes relative to his efficiency as a soldier.

No one doubts the need for a soldier — even in today's mechanised warfare — to be fit in mind and body. But it is felt that stamina is more important in this context than the ability to achieve short, sharp times over short, sharp distances at the trot.

One soldier recently drew the comparison between a top class athlete at a certain distance being hopeless at a further mark and his own BFT as a trial of his real fitness to fight.

The point he made was; it's all very well being able to run a mile in ten minutes or so. But it's not so clever if your military objective in battle is two miles away and you are puffed out in 11 or 12 minutes!

It is thought that the general fitness training at unit level (which the Army Physical Training Corps are experts at) is far more value in the long run than the short runs that make up BFTs.

★

IT is arguable whether domestic dogs have any place in the nomadic society of the Army with its routine of two and three year tours involving regular upheaval. But given that a large number of Army personnel acquire poodles of one kind or another and then have to

move back to the United Kingdom from abroad at a later stage, it has recently been suggested that the Army itself should provide a quarantine system.

It is not proposed that this should be free but it surely could be cheaper than the expensive private quarantine charges currently existing. Perhaps this is a job for the Royal Army Veterinary Corps. It would certainly ease the misery of having to destroy a perfectly healthy animal. More important still, it would prevent an owner smuggling a dog in illegally in defiance of the rabies regulations.

Of course, there is the other argument that pet dogs have no place in the ranks in any case. Certainly, those living in garrison towns where the wretched animals get abandoned/shut up/killed off or whatever would agree with this. After all, a real dog lover would be more concerned that his pet got sufficient exercise and attention than seems to be the case with so many owners both in and out of uniform.

★

OVERHEARD in the mess: Senior Staff-Officer to junior cavalry officer: "Tell me, Fortescue; what earthly use do you see the cavalry having in modern warfare?"

Fortescue: "I suppose, to lend tone to what would otherwise be a mere vulgar brawl!"

★

IT IS a regrettable fact that due to staff shortages, sickness and other factors beyond our control SOLDIER's Readers' Services have fallen from their usual quick and reliable standards.

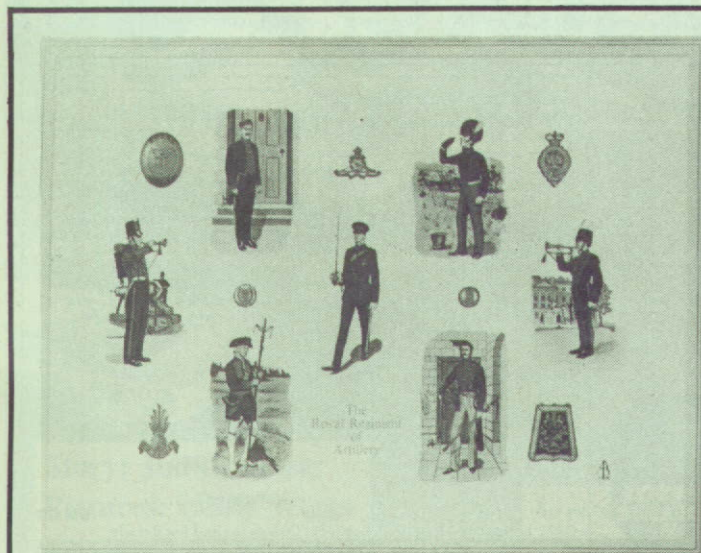
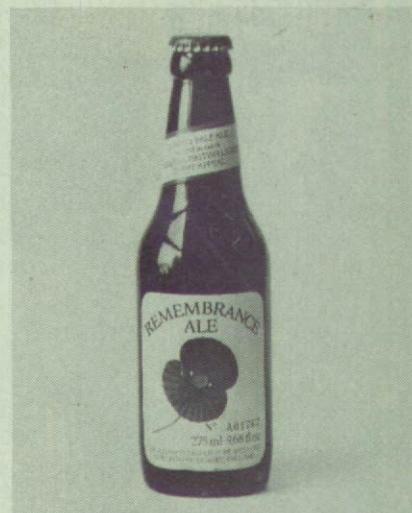
This has prompted a number of calls and letters from readers about their orders. There is a considerable backlog

of mail to be dealt with and delays of up to four weeks are possible in the immediate foreseeable future. We do ask readers to bear with us until we are back to full strength and can hopefully bring the service back to normal. In the meantime "Please don't shoot the pianist — he's doing his best!"

★

IF YOU want to help the British Legion this year you can have a more permanent and tasty record of your support than a poppy. For Eldridge Pope, the Dorset brewery, has brought out a special bottle of 'Remembrance Ale' — part of the profits going to the Legion.

'Remembrance Ale', a strong pale ale, comes in an individually numbered bottle and can be kept as a collectors' item (if you can resist the temptation to open and drink it). And the Legion will benefit by 24 pence for each dozen sold in Eldridge Pope's outlets, which are mostly in Wessex.



UNIFORM 'buffs' and other devotees of military dress and insignia can now obtain a new attraction from SOLDIER. In strictly limited numbers we are marketing four new prints by Alexandra Blake featuring The Household Division, The Scottish Division, The Corps of Royal Engineers and The Royal Regiment of Artillery.

Each print includes uniforms, badges and buttons both past and present — all superbly detailed in full colour against a white background with parchment surround. There is an accompanying 'key sheet' describing the items featured.

Each print measures 20 by 16½ inches including the two inch surround. Prices per print, including postage and packing are: United Kingdom (including Northern Ireland) £3.40; BFPO £3.00; Elsewhere £3.20. Orders should be addressed to SOLDIER (AB1), Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU, with cheques, postal orders and international money orders expressed in sterling and made payable to Command Cashier UKLF.

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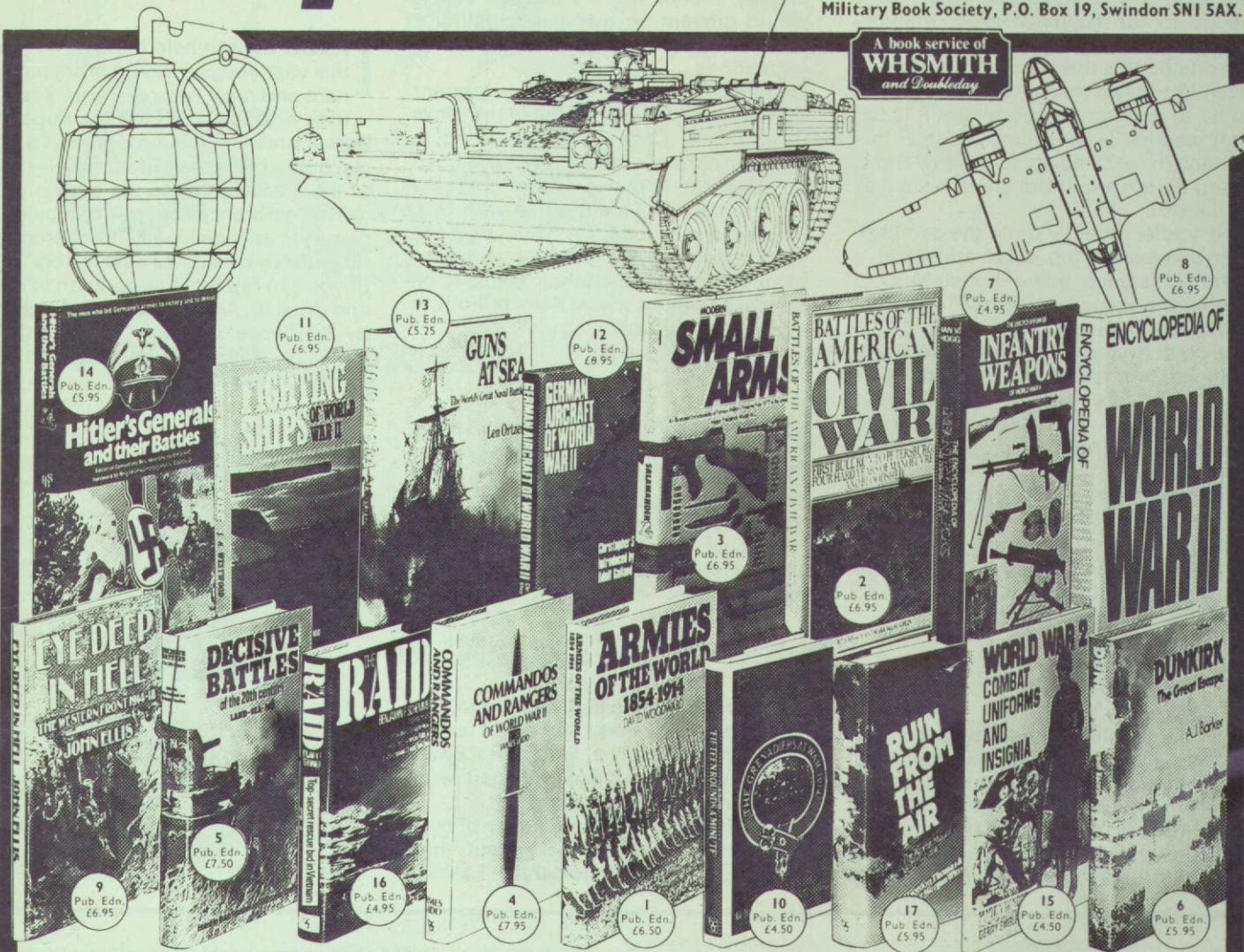
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Army Apprentices College Chepstow

The Bridge between School and the Army

FOUR HUNDRED TEENAGE BOYS have just begun their first term at boarding school — and a new way of life which begins at 6.30 am with Reveille! They are the latest intake at the Army Apprentices College at Chepstow, which will be home for most of them for the next two years.

Since 1924 the college has been producing soldier-tradesmen for the Royal Engineers, Royal Corps of Transport and the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. According to the Commandant, Colonel Peter Rosser, the accent is on the word 'soldier.' "I suppose we are really like a college of further education,

because we take boys at 16 after leaving school. We're certainly similar in many ways to a boarding school, but remember this is a military unit, too, and one would like to feel that this is the main impression. Our task is to give the boys a trade and a bit of education about the Army and the world."

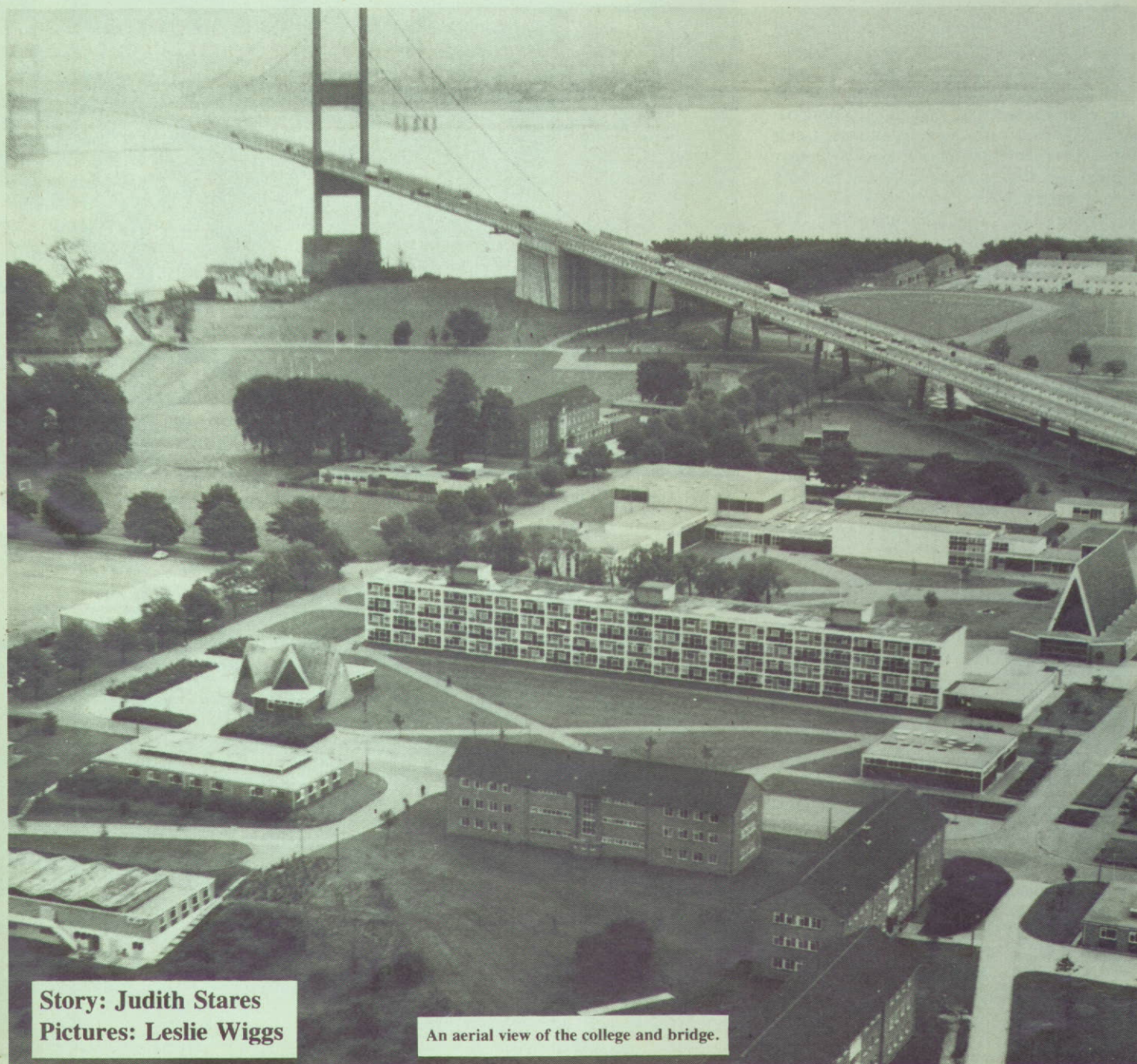
To the newcomers both the Army and the world can come as a bit of a shock, for most of them have never left home before. "There's quite a bit of homesickness — there's bound to be," admits Colonel Rosser. "Life here is considerably less permissive than in the civilian world. But most of them take to it

like ducks to water."

The college, which was once a POW camp, occupies a prime position on a peninsula of Gloucestershire, although it comes under the command of GOC Wales. With panoramic views of the dramatic Severn Bridge and the ozone carried up from the Bristol Channel, it is no surprise to find most recruits extremely enthusiastic about their new lifestyle.

The present total strength of apprentices is 800, and their working time is divided between military training, trade training and education, with a substantial helping of PT and sport. Since most of the boys go on to become sappers, the undisputed do it yourself experts of the Army, the skills to be learned are appropriately practical. The choice ranges from Field Survey Technician, Marine Engineer, and Design Draughtsman, through to carpentry, welding, painting and decorating and bricklaying. The HQ building itself was the work of apprentices back in 1933, and is still unanimously voted the best built block on the camp.

In addition to learning a trade, every boy is expected to select two hobbies for weekly



Story: Judith Stares
Pictures: Leslie Wiggs

An aerial view of the college and bridge.

continued over

attendance, and with over 50 activities on offer it is unlikely that anyone can legitimately complain there is nothing to suit him.

"Our policy is to keep the boys busy," says Colonel Rosser. "When they are not working they are allowed to go out from lunchtime on Saturday to Sunday night, if they are not required. But they all have to be back at a specific time, and for the younger ones this is earlier."

Under the Donaldson rules, all junior servicemen must be given the right of free discharge in their first six months, but after that they are then obliged to stay in the Army for at least three years after leaving the college. "We hope that having given them all this expensive training they will make it a lifetime career — and a lot of them do."

Passing-in parade is half-way through the first term, and by that time most of the recruits will be over the worst of any homesickness and beginning to enjoy the facilities. Many of them opt to join one of the bands. Chepstow has three — Drums, Pipes and a brass band. "It only takes a year to learn how to play a tune," claims Captain Peter Cooper, the adjutant and President of the Band.

The idea of continuing schooldays may not appeal immediately to the average 16-year-old, but a big plus in the Army 'school' is that you get paid. A monthly net income of £75 at 16, after all expenses, food and accommodation have been paid, is a very tempting factor after years of nominal pocket money. "It may sound generous to begin with, but the boys are restricted in the amount they can spend. They are only allowed £7 a week at first. The rest goes into their bank account," warns Colonel Rosser.

Nevertheless, apprentices can collect their total earnings when they go on leave, and what they spend it on is obvious from scanning the car park. The boys can have a car when they are 17 (they even learn to drive 'on the house'), and there is plenty of evidence that many of them are proud owners of the latest registration letter. Even more impressive is the array of motorbikes, which are obviously the favourite form of transport. "We run courses to show them how to ride

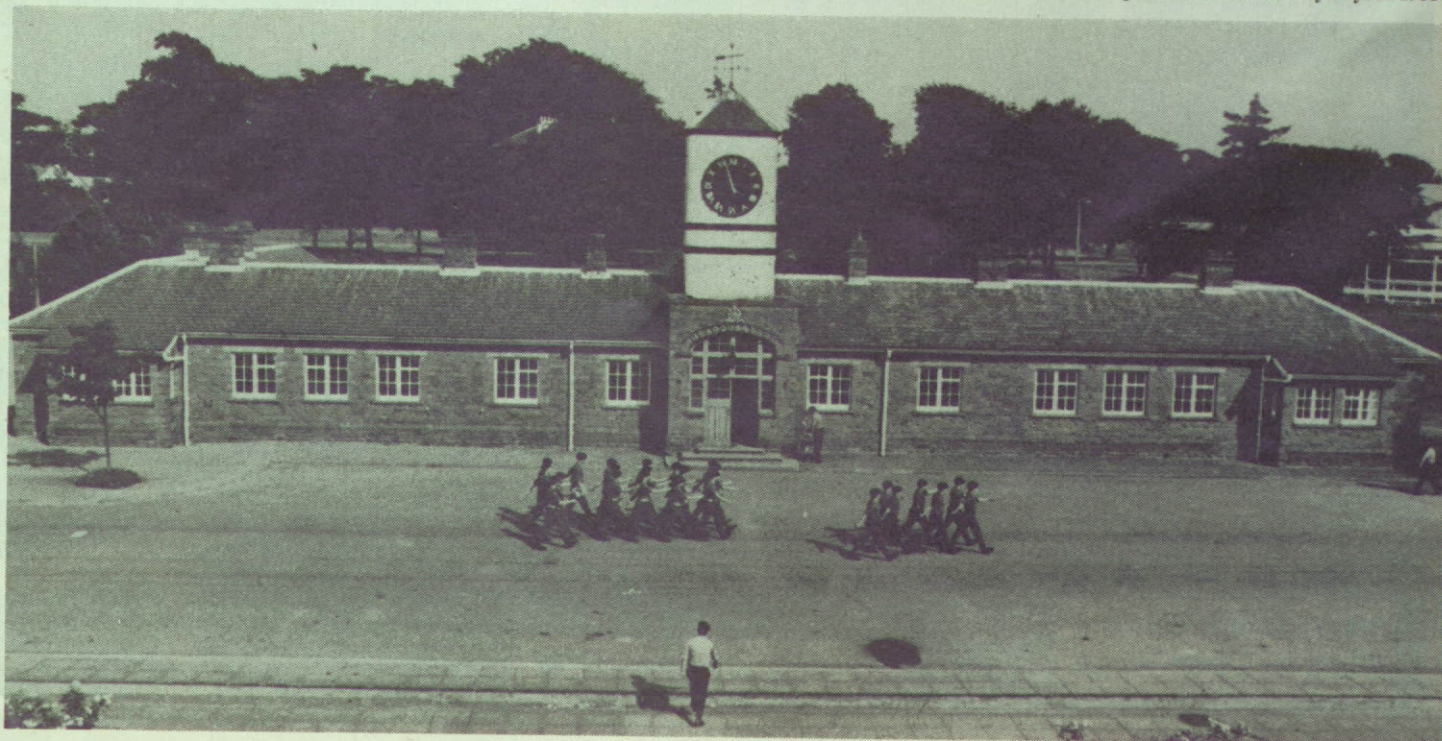


Above: Under the cover of the Severn Bridge but still pretty tough — the college assault course.



Above: Apprentices bricklaying in summer sun.

Below: Headquarters block built by boys in 1933.



properly. No course — no pass — no bike!"

About 50 per cent of the boys have a father who has served in the Army at some stage. Keeping up the family tradition in more ways than one is Apprentice RSM Andrew Smart, an 18-year-old from Camberley. His father is a WO2 in Germany with the Blues and Royals. "There is no question about what I wanted to do," he says. "I chose the trade of Design Draughtsman and I have signed on for nine years."

In this 'army within an army' selected boys are appointed as apprentice warrant officers and NCO's, and then given responsibility for the control of appropriate features of college life. To hold the rank of Apprentice RSM is perhaps the highest honour, and Andrew is currently proving his worth as a chip off the old block, for his father was also a Junior RSM at the college.

"I was very nervous when I was told I had been chosen for the interview with the Commandant. It was a case of the best out of three of us — one from each Company. But we only had to wait a day for the results, so it wasn't too bad. One of my main jobs is to take the main parades, and while I'm in uniform I have to carry my drill baton and wear my wristband. Some of the other boys are in awe of me now — as I was of the RSM when I was younger!"

His ambition is promotion — possibly going on to Sandhurst. "I really fancy being an officer." But as soon as he leaves the college at Christmas he will hand over his baton to his successor and will once more be on the bottom rung of the ladder. The taste of power is, literally, just that. "We like to give the boys the chance to make any mistakes here," says Major John Quin, Officer Commanding 'B' Company. "In man-service mistakes can be inconvenient or even dangerous, so we hope that if they are going to do anything wrong they will get it all over while they are here and under tight supervision."

A stroll through the tranquil grounds of the camp gave many glimpses of the variety in the apprentices' lives. A group of plant operator mechanics were putting an excavator through its paces — learning how to crush a beer can! The bronzed backs of carpenters and plumbers toiled in the sun outside their workshops. "We have to warn them to be careful," says Major Quin. "Sunburn in the Army is a self-inflicted wound and you can be charged for it." Outside the soil laboratory mixing cement was shown to be something of an art form, while the metal workshop revealed rows of would-be welders learning how to be 'spot-on'.

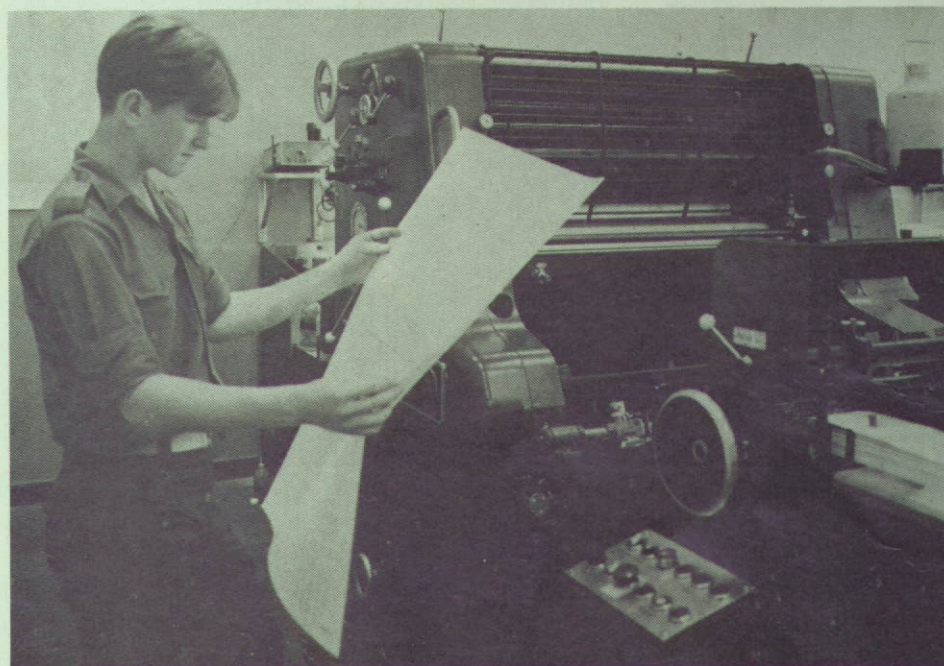
Two joints a day is par for the course, although according to the civilian instructor it takes 20 years to get them perfect. After welding practice, they will then go on to either work in one of the blacksmiths' forges, or on sheet metalwork. Not that these junior blacksmiths are ever likely to shoe a horse. They will be combat engineers, and ordinary fighting soldiers in the field until their special skills are needed. Then they might be called on to make a part for a tank out of a raw bit of metal with the aid of a mobile forge. Tanks that leak are just not on, so it comes as no surprise to learn that the success rate for the City & Guilds examinations in this subject is very high.

Apprentice Gordon Greenwood from Prestwick in Ayr has been at the college since January and is the youngest 16-year-old



Below: Print technician examines proofs.

Above: Apprentice design draughtsmen at work.



there. The trade of metalworker was his first choice. "My brother was in the Army and he encouraged me to join up. I was a bit homesick at first, but now I think it's great. I'm definitely going to sign on when I'm 17½, and I've talked a couple of my friends into joining, too." Appropriately enough for a Scot, Gordon elected to learn the Pipes as a hobby. He cautiously admits to getting on all right. "I'm looking forward to being in a Band next term. When I go home on leave I'll be taking my pipes to keep in practice. I expect my Mum will be sick of hearing them by the time I come back!"

Like the apprentices before him, Gordon has had to learn to cope with his own domestic chores. "I either wash my shirts by hand or go down to the camp launderette." For those who are less confident there is a laundry service at a small charge, and a dry-cleaning contract available. But most boys are happy to wash their own 'smalls', although their total wardrobe is likely to be more bulging than it ever was back home. For education periods they wear normal uniform; for an industrial trade then it's boiler suits and 'scruff order'; then there is camouflage kit for military training and their No 1 parade uniform for special occasions.

Twice a week, for two 40-minute periods, it is PT. Corporal Gary Cross from Bristol is an 'old boy' of the college, and is now back as a PT instructor. Chepstow boasts the only under-cover assault course in the Army. Canopied by the massive Severn Bridge, it is an obstacle course to make most first-timers turn pale, but Corporal Cross reckons that after six weeks most of them can make it without too much trouble. "There is a lot of technique involved. Even for jumping a ditch properly you have to be taught. Although the course is under cover it does get very windy here, so it really is no easier — it just means the boys don't get wet."

Certainly, the Basic Fitness Test will hold no terrors for any apprentice at the end of his two years here! A quick survey of the group who were being put through their paces revealed a couple of lads who had lost two stone apiece! But they were outweighed by other growing boys who had gained even more! "All the parents comment on the amazing difference they see after only six weeks," says Major Quin. "It's easy to tell whether a boy has been tackling the assault course during the morning by looking at his lunch plate. Sometimes there is hardly room for the gravy!"

continued over



Above: Memories of bygone days (unit picture).



Above: Apprentice Cpl Stephen Wells welding.

Below: Learning about different types of shell.



Meals are self-service, and in charge of the 'food factory' is Staff Quartermaster Sergeant Frederick Green — the Master Chef. He admits that plain English cooking goes down best. "We did try some unusual dishes, but then we had the request 'Could we have the exotic food without the sauces?', so we gave them up."

Once a month there is a Mess meeting and two apprentices from each of the three companies can go and have their say about the menu. Steak is offered every day, along with almost every other type of meat, fish or fowl, and the salad bar could put any hotel buffet to shame. The only item to 'throw' the new boy could be the trough of boiling water at the entrance to the dining hall. But when he learns that dunking your cutlery in this means no volunteers for washing up he will soon think it's a good idea.

Kevin Sharpe, aged 17, from Cheltenham, would no doubt modestly disclaim the title 'top of the class', but he has been stacking up the credits since he joined the college three terms ago as an apprentice carpenter. He has won the First Year prize for carpentry and joinery, the Earl Wavell Memorial Award for his Outward Bound Course, and the Barnett Shield for music (he plays the cornet in the band). Not surprisingly, he is going to sign on for nine years and hopes to go on to a Clerk of Works course.

With a home only 40 miles away, he is one of the lucky ones who can get back there every weekend. He's needed, too, for he plays the trombone every Sunday in the Salvation Army! In spite of swapping one uniform for another he insists he still gets a bit of time to wear his blue jeans. Originally, he wanted to be a bandsman in the adult Army, but his successes now mean he is currently being considered as officer material. About the college he has this to say: "It has been easier than I thought it would be. When they say 'It will make a man of you' it's a bit frightening. But I've got to admit it has lived up to my expectations."

They are sentiments most apprentices will echo, and the happy atmosphere extends to those in charge as well. "We all get caught up in a flush of enthusiasm," admits Colonel Rosser. "All the boys are here because they want to be and because they enjoy it. It really is a very satisfying place to be."

'We'll Meet Again' . . .
**ENSA STARS BACK
TOGETHER**



Above: Anne Shelton leads cast in the finale.

TWO LADIES on the back of an American Army truck singing 'Roll out the Barrel' to the accompaniment of an accordion and with a very primitive amplification system. Sitting on the side of the vehicle are half a dozen GIs and Tommies enthusiastically clapping and singing along.

A familiar sight throughout the world in the early 1940s as professional and amateur artistes battled to keep up the morale of Allied troops facing the Axis menace.

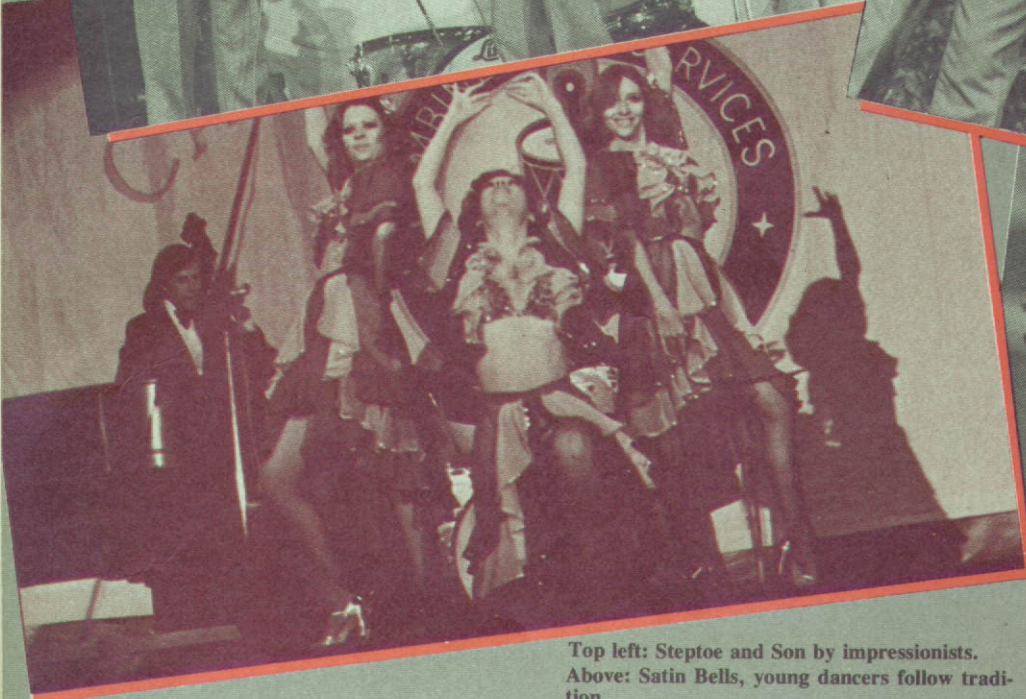
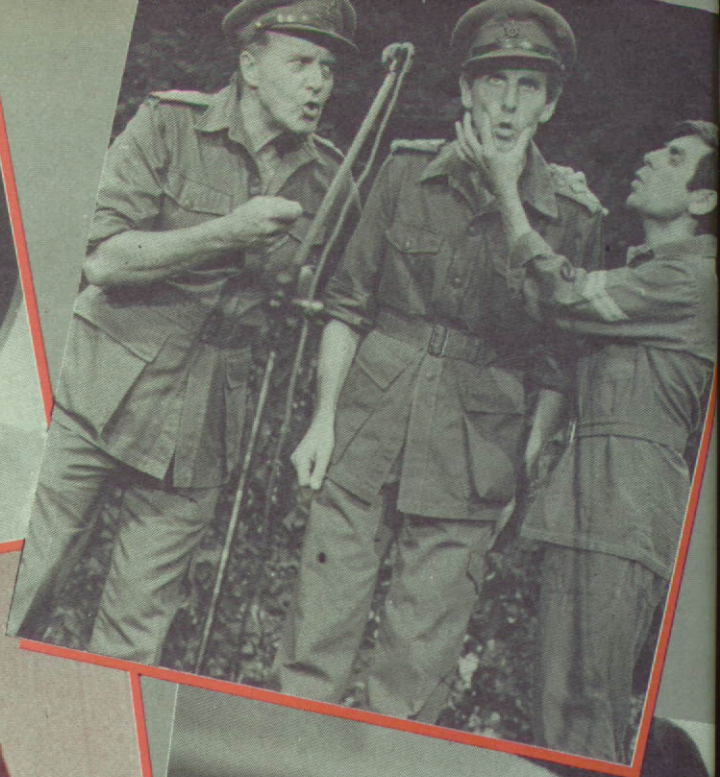
But this nostalgic interlude was on a green in the tranquil cathedral city of Salisbury in the autumn of 1979 and the 'soldiers' were members of the Dorset branch of the Military Vehicles Conservation Group, who like to dress up in vintage uniforms when they display their old wartime motors.

It was exactly 40 years since the day war broke out — and also exactly 40 years since ENSA (Entertainments National Service Association) was born. And, thanks to a

continued on page 20



**Story: John Walton
Pictures: Doug Pratt**



Top left: Steptoe and Son by impressionists.
Above: Satin Bells, young dancers follow tradition.

Top right: How to do a James Cagney impression!
Above: Workers playtime, Reg Le Ponti and dummy.

former Women's Land Army Girl living quietly in Salisbury, the wartime entertainers were holding a reunion which was bringing many of them together for the first time since the war.

Miss Bette Anderson, the only lady member of the Salisbury Militaria Society, specialises in researching the efforts of women in the Second World War, which she says is not very well documented.

"I suddenly thought that something should be done to celebrate ENSA's 40th anniversary and wrote to Charlie Chester about it," she told SOLDIER. "He broadcast my letter and before I knew where I was I found myself organising the event."

Miss Anderson was a little disappointed with the turnout. Only about 50 of the old entertainers turned up out of the hundreds who were eligible — but the enthusiasm of those who did come more than outweighed this. And among those who sent best wishes were Dame Gracie Fields, Joe Loss and Harry Secombe.

The two, still glamorous ladies, who gave the tailboard concert were Doreen Thompson and Helen Russell. Doreen, who is a firm favourite at Burma Star Reunions, recalled that when she signed her first contract with ENSA at £7 10s a week her father thought there was a catch — he was earning £3 less!

She travelled throughout the Middle and Far East and was once described 'the girl with plenty of oomph'. Today she runs her own business in Derby and still has 'oomph'.

"They were really enjoyable days," she told SOLDIER. "It was all glamour, with small waists and bosom. And our hair was curled until it bled."

Helen still sings and acts in the North-East and she appeared in the Geordie series 'When the Boat Comes In'. Just like so many old soldiers she faked her age in order to join ENSA.

"When I was 14 I was auditioned at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, but was told that I was too young," she said. "Three weeks later I went back and told them that I was 16 and was accepted."

There was a special exhibition of wartime memorabilia and a 'Workers Playtime', which included Dorset yokel comedian, Billy Burden. Then a Sunday afternoon get together in which yarns were swapped.

But the finale was a three hour concert in Salisbury's City Hall arranged by Derek Agutter, head of Combined Services Entertainment, the successor to ENSA. It ranged from three young dancers who had just been to Northern Ireland to artistes who had toured in Malaya, Singapore, Aden, Cyprus in the EOKA emergency, Korea and back to the Second World War.

What more appropriate team to appear than the 'It Ain't 'Alf 'Ot Mum' cast from their summer season at Bournemouth? Jimmy Perry, the creator of the series was also on hand to tell SOLDIER how the famous series came about.

"I was a sergeant on ack-ack in the Royal Artillery in the Far East," he said. "When the war ended they did not send any more ENSA shows and all the fighting units did their own shows — some were very good and some were awful. Without a shadow of a doubt that is the secret of its success — that it is based on something which actually happened."

There were others with happy memories too. Like 69-year-old Arthur Jones, from Teddington, Middlesex, a road manager for shows in Germany and Austria just after the war when he toured in an old Bedford lorry.

Or soprano Lois Bard, who toured Britain for most of the war. She recalled one very close shave while she was singing on stage in Dover in 1941.

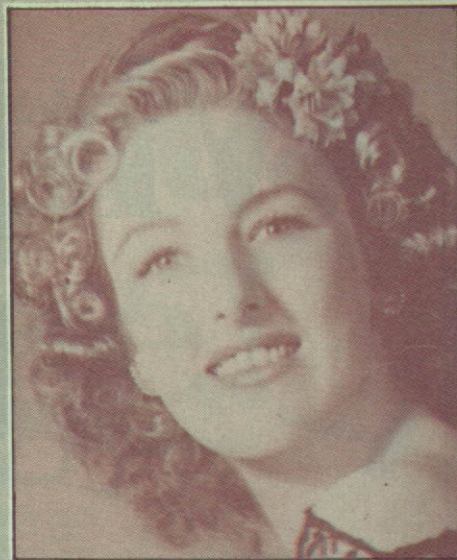
"Planes were dropping out of the skies all around us — it was a dreadful sight," she said. "Suddenly a young airman jumped on the stage and brought me down with a Rugby tackle — seconds later a plane crashed right by us." But the show went on in the ENSA spirit.

Anne Shelton, one of the forces' wartime favourites while still in her teens, summed up the success of the reunion when she told the old entertainers at the end of the concert: "Don't let's leave it for 40 years before we have another one." In the words of one of their favourite wartime songs, 'We'll Meet Again'. And it could be soon for there are plans to make the reunion an annual event.



Below: Before the show members of the 'It Ain't 'Alf 'Ot Mum' troupe pose outside the hall with trumpeters of the Irish Guards who came down specially to perform the opening fanfare.

Above: Doreen Thompson (left) and Helen Russell launch into a tailboard concert with Dorset fans in military uniform providing a vintage touch. Right: Doreen as she was in her ENSA days.



Folk singer Bonnie Dobson.

Left: Anne Shelton and 'Cardew the Cad' with the lady who made it possible, Miss Bette Anderson.

Souvenir brochures from the ENSA Reunion are available at 50 pence plus postage from Bette Anderson, Rectory Cottage, Boyton, Warminster, Wilt BA12 0SS.

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Worthing -	*
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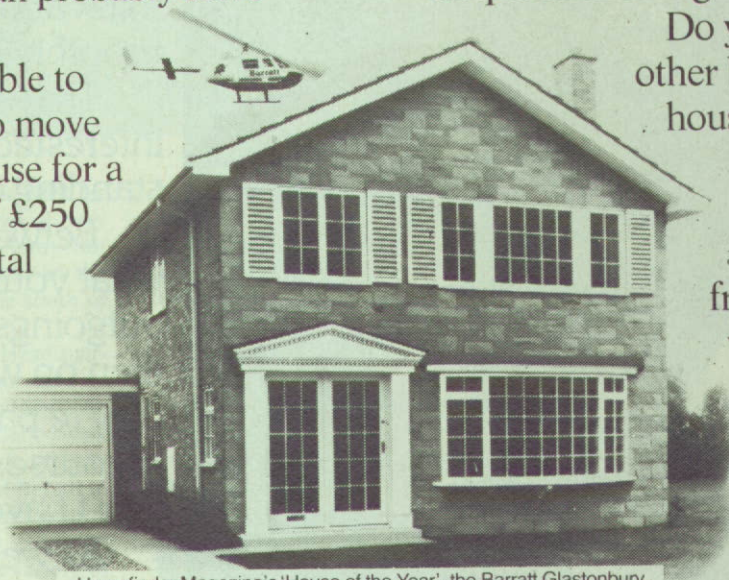
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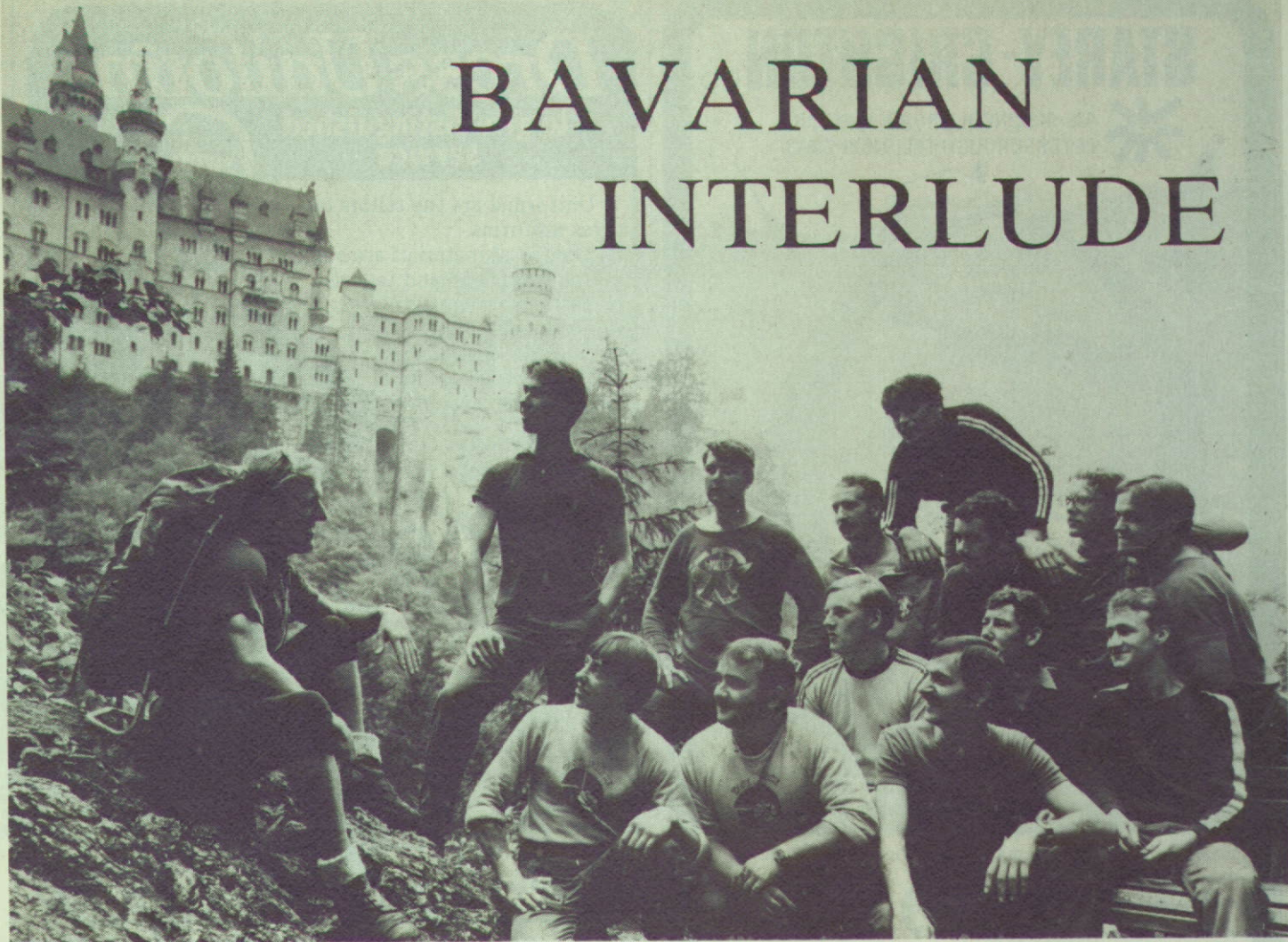
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BAVARIAN INTERLUDE



AS A WELL-EARNED pat on the back for successfully coming through a series of busy exercise periods, a German-based Army unit has been rewarded with two weeks in the idyllic Bavarian countryside in the south of the country.

Men of 4 Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment have got used to being away from their barracks so they were well-prepared for the fortnight under canvas.

But after sampling the hectic life of exercises they found the pace entirely different in the holiday atmosphere of the tourist resorts they chose to camp among.

There was a chance for a wide variety of serious adventurous training activities including canoeing and rock climbing. Emphasis was laid on developing leadership skills, especially on a 24-hour trek into the Bavarian Alps to the Austrian border.

The 200-strong party was split into small groups and group members took turns to take charge and show their initiative in order to complete the task in hand.

Even so, there was time to take a breather, and the party took the opportunity to visit the fairy-tale Schloss Neuschwanstein, built in the last century by King Ludwig II of Bavaria. It took 17 years to build and in more recent years gained international fame as the back-cloth to scenes from the Walt Disney film 'Chitty, Chitty Bang-Bang.'

For the more active, spare time was taken up with skating — both the ice- and roller-variety — and boating.

The party was also introduced to an entirely new form of orienteering — crypto/cyclo orienteering. This consisted of the

basic principle of orienteering (using map-reading and navigational skills to get from point to point) but was done over a 30 kilometre course on bicycles with the added refinement of having to solve cryptic clues on the way to discover the next checkpoint's whereabouts.

It proved a popular variation on the orienteering theme with participants as well as observers who could see its potential as a new tool in developing leadership skills.

Above: The picturesque castle Neuschwanstein, where much of the film 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' was shot, provides an imposing backdrop for a well-earned breather.

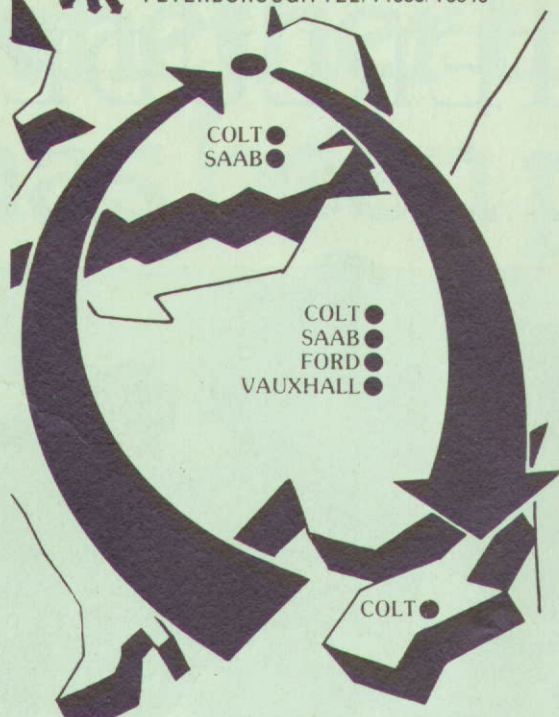
Below: Novice canoeists show good form in an idyllic Bavarian setting after less than half an hour of their first lesson.



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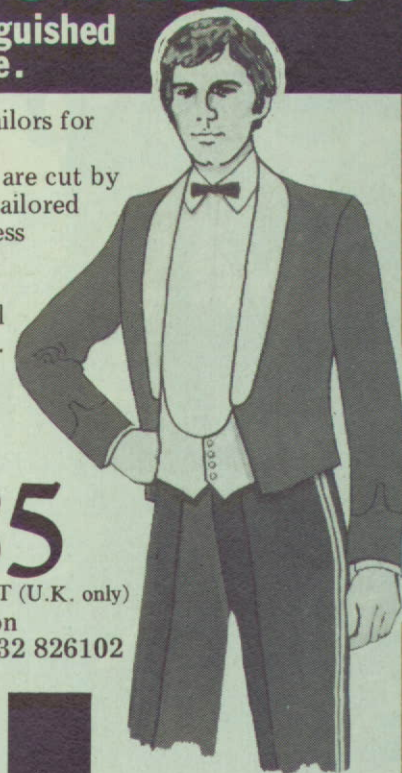
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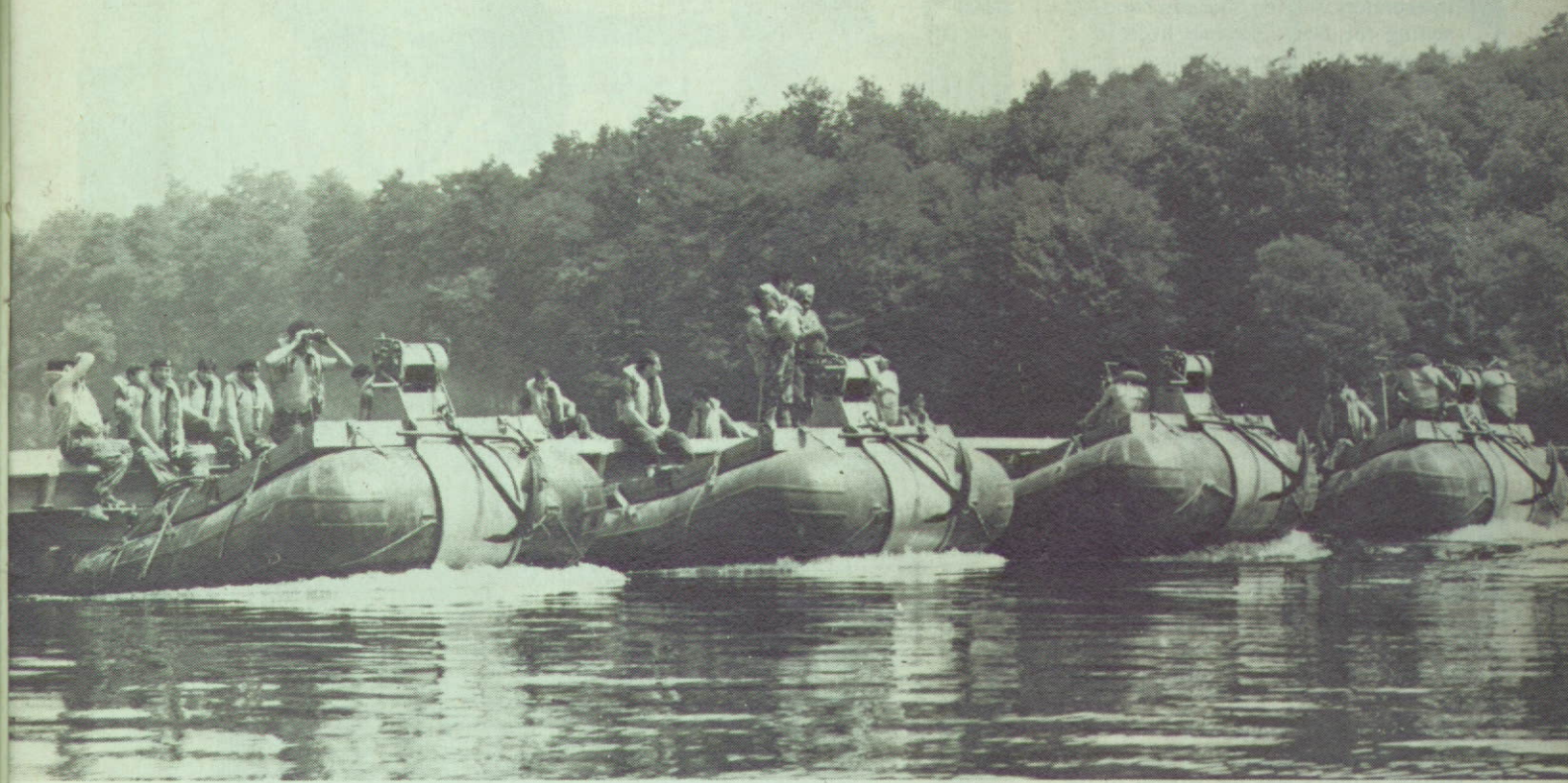
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SOL 5



SAPPERS' BRIDGE OF SIZE

ARMY SAPPERS from Waterbeach have just become something of a tourist attraction along the banks of a Piedmont river ten miles from the Italian 'Lake District' building their own Lake Maggiore 'monster' . . . an 18-ton floating pontoon ferry.

Nearly 120 men from 34 Field Squadron, 39 Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers, are back from a three-week ferry building exercise as part of an annual Nato exchange programme called 'Ponte Vecchio'.

Based in barracks at Bellinzago, north of Novara (a town 25 miles west of Milan), the visiting sappers built and dismantled an impressive Italian riverside pontooned ferry bridge three times in as many weeks.

The Waterbeach engineers were flown to Cameri Novara military airfield in two RAF Hercules transport aircraft for their Italian training interlude adding to the unit's practical experience already gained in Germany, Belize, The Gambia and Kenya.

They were hosted by 131 Pioneer Engineers Battalion (Ticino), a support unit of the 31st 'Centaur' Armoured Division. The 'Brits' lived in barracks on the 25-square-kilometre base housing a 2,000-strong population almost entirely made up of 57-pence-a-day conscripts who serve in the Italian Army for just 12 months.

Bridge-building activities were centred on a convenient 200-metre-wide stretch of the smooth-surfaced, 150-mile-long River Ticino, which is the largest river to flow from Italy's second largest inland 'sea', the nearby 80-square-mile Lake Maggiore.

The British engineers declined the offer of thigh-high waders as they strode purposefully into the less-than-fragrant waters of the Ticino, a river with deceptively strong mid-stream under-current.

Normally, it takes 65 trained Italian Army engineers one hour to build such a ferry. The British, with a troop of 35 men untrained in its techniques, were assembling it in about 90 minutes.

Each rubber pontoon sprang into the resilient strength fitting to its rôle within eight minutes helped by an 8-horse-power, two-stroke engine pumping air through 16 hoses into the four limp black pillows.

The result was a twin assault boat-driven ferry bridge comprising four 39-foot-long, rubber pontoon dinghies, connected side by side, straddled with a dozen hefty alloy girders and adjustable on-off ramps at either end, capable of carrying fighting armour such as the 40-ton Leopard tank on the 15-foot-wide carriageway.

Designated a Class 50 Krupp-M.A.N bridge of German design, this particular type of ferry went out of service with the Bundeswehr in about 1965.

It was a 'monster' that the River Ticino had seen but a few times before as the 90-foot-long, river-borne road cruised, wheeled and turned with its life-jacketed sapper passengers aboard. Smoke belched from the two hard-pressed 50-horse-power outboard motors propelling the huge ungainly craft along the 40-foot-deep waters.

Another aspect of river work for the visit-

Above: The pontoon ferry moves off down river.

ing British engineers was assault boat training.

Overall, preparation for the exchange visit had been researched by visitors and hosts alike. With an eye to furthering mutual understanding, about a dozen officers and Senior NCO's from the Waterbeach contingent had taken the trouble to learn some basic Italian. They produced their own phrases on sheets of foolscap; phrases thought to be essential both socially and technically.

But it was the Italians, perhaps, who really won the day.

- They sign-posted all the relevant areas of the camp at Bellinzago in English alongside their permanent Italian-language partners.
- They made available tourist brochures, not only of the immediate area but those of Florence, Venice and the Aosta Valley.
- They compiled a special, self-produced, 25-page book on local information dealing with the unit's history, barrack activities, cultural and tourist information, train and bus timetables, postal charges and price lists of drinks and snacks in the various messes.
- They produced 100 sets of tubes of toothpaste, bars of soap, shaving cream, five-razor-blade packs and even tins of black and brown shoe polish.

Italian exercise

continued from page 27

- They fielded a five-man team of English-speaking Italian conscript interpreters wearing blue arm bands stating the fact. One had lived in Brooklyn for three years; another had worked for nine months in a British Columbia timber mill; and another was the English-born son of a Marlow, Buckinghamshire, restaurant owner — Italian, of course!

Lieutenant-Colonel Pietro Novali officer-commanding 131 Pioneer Engineers Battalion since last October said: "We are very happy to have the British soldiers here. It's proving to be an interesting experience and I think we are learning a great deal from this exchange visit".

Equally complimentary was Major Douglas Fisher, officer-commanding 34 Field Squadron who said: "The Italians have really pulled out all the stops for us and made us feel extremely welcome".

The exchange visit got under way with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Bellinzago village war memorial in remembrance of 172 dead who gave their lives not only in the First World War but also in the Eritrean Campaign of 1896.

Two troops of British and Italian engineers attended a ten-minute parade when two of the visiting sappers laid the wreath to the accompaniment of a 35-piece band.

Language difficulties did not seem to prove too much of a headache for the Waterbeach detachment. They had left little to chance having scoured the talents of the British Army to come up with no less than three Italian-speaking personnel, including a Women's Royal Army Corps captain.

Bridge-building apart, the British sappers had the chance to shoot with Italian weapons on the ranges, use the explosives and demolition devices and watch mine-laying techniques.

In the Alpine region to the west, each troop of 34 Field Squadron took weekly turns for mountain training with soldiers from the famous Alpini Division at Aosta, nestling in the famed valley with nearly one hundred medieval castles, manor houses and fortresses and within sight of Europe's tallest peak, the 15,782 foot Mont Blanc. Short and long trips were organised, some with overnight bivouacs.

On rest and relaxation weekends the Waterbeach men had the chance to walk across more solid, permanent bridges such as that like the Rialto, straddling the 3,800-

It's not every day that a British Army pay sergeant has the chance to deal in high finance going into millions but that was just the case for Army sharp-shooting Sergeant Dennis Mouncey.

Dennis of the Royal Army Pay Corps, attached to the Royal Engineers during Exercise Ponte Vecchio reckoned he handled some 40 million lire (nearly £23,000) which passed across his desk as pay in the pockets of the 120-strong detachment.

Dennis, who joined the Army in September 1964, has served in Singapore, Denmark and Belize and is an Army marksman.

He won the Army Pistol Tickle Competition in the Pairs Event at Colchester last year, scoring maximum marks and has competed at Bisley for the Royal Army Pay Corps in the Rifle Event. Dennis was also champion shot on the rifle and sub-machine gun in 1978 and runner-up in the pistol contest.

In 1975 he was the North-West District Army rifle and sub-machine gun shot.



Above: Lance corporal Frank Bridgman meets a Bersaglieri sentry complete with plumed helmet.

metre 'S'-bended Grand Canal in Venice and in Florence, the 600-year-old jewellers' shop-adorned Ponte Vecchio.

During the visit to the sinking city, Venice, with its 400 gondoliers, 150 canal-network 'streets' and 400 bridges, a 'business' trip was laid on for the British visitors to the Engineering Amphibious Headquarters.

As the Piedmont-based British soldiers quenched their off-duty thirst with litres of wine and ice-cold, Italian-brewed, German beer or tucked into various pizza and pasta



Above: Major Douglas Fisher.

Left: Sapper Dick Wakem gets life jacket brief.

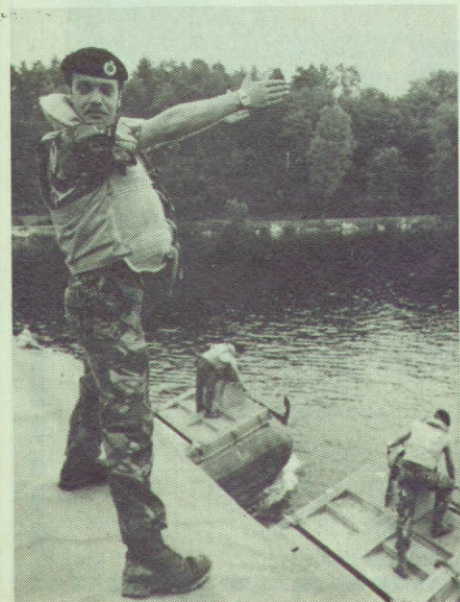
Below: Sapper Kim Harper relaxes in Venice.

dishes, some 70 Italians — said to be the best from the host unit — were under training at Waterbeach.

Hard on the heels of a sweltering Wimbledon and the efforts of their countryman Adriano Panatta, the Italian engineers learned the ways of British Army building technology in the field, saw demolition demonstrations and tried their hand on the small-arms ranges.

They also found time to visit neighbouring Cambridge and, of course, the 'must' for all tourists, a weekend trip to London and its sights.

Below: Navigation instructions to assault boats



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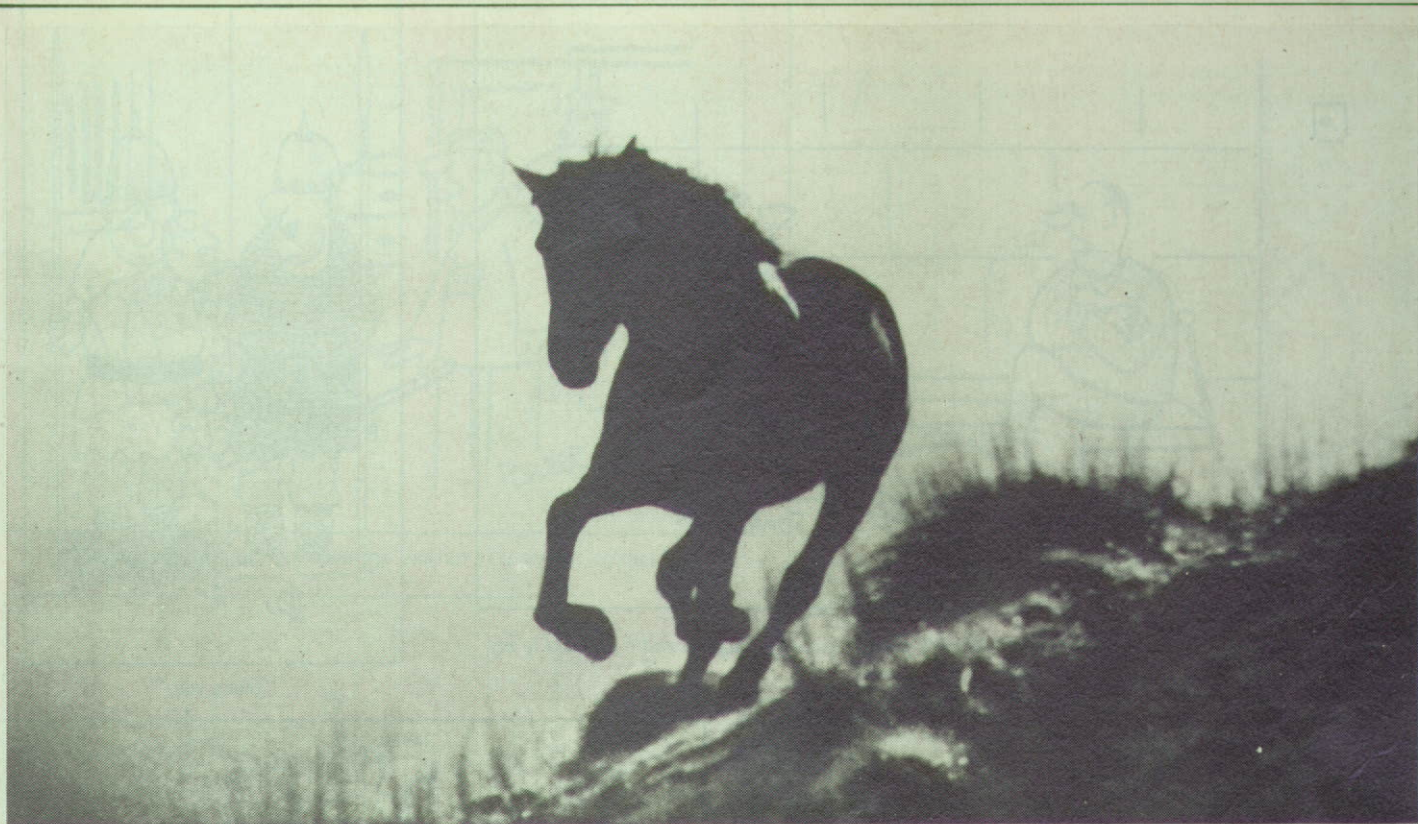
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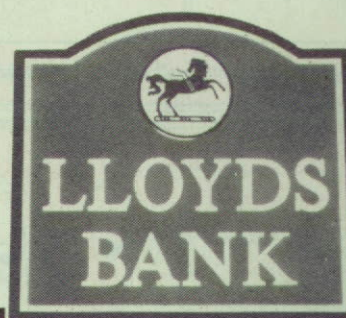
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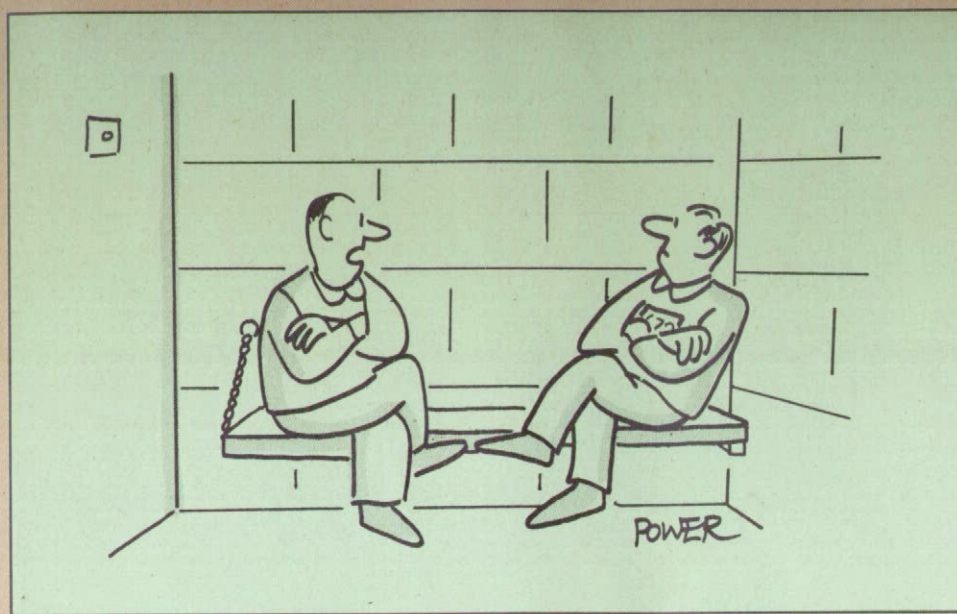
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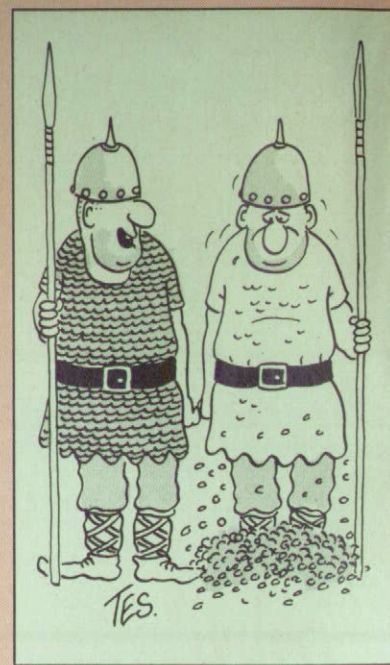
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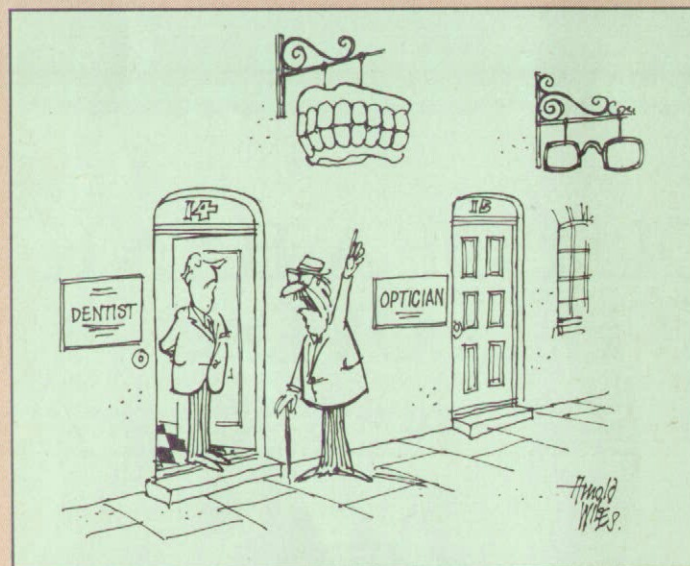
"Bless you!"



"Do you realise that harbouring a deserter is a serious offence?"



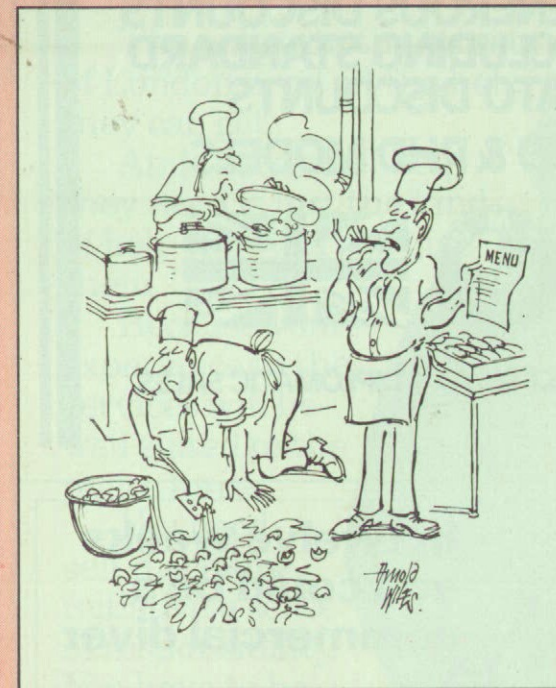
"My daughter tells me you're in the dental corps."



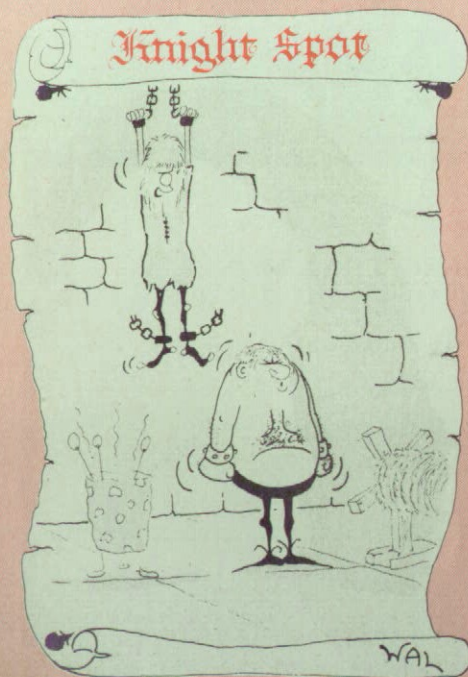
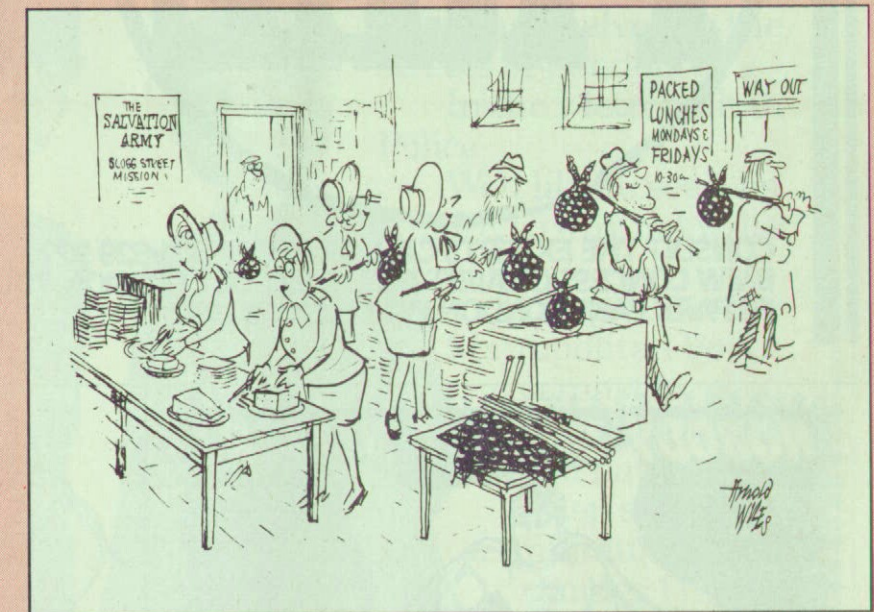
"I don't care what opticians do — I still say it's in shocking bad taste."



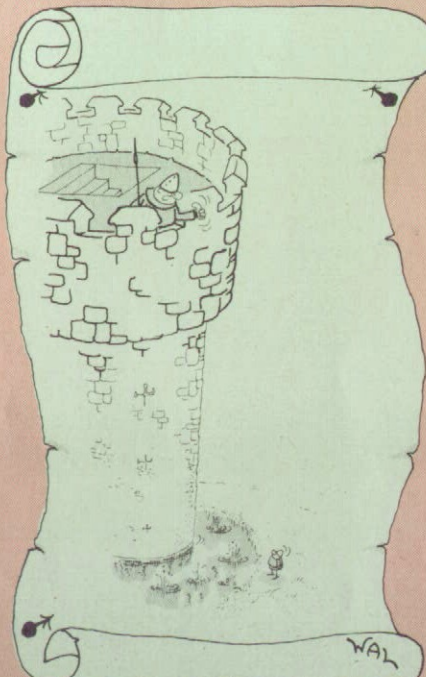
"For goodness sake, ask him about his diving exploits"



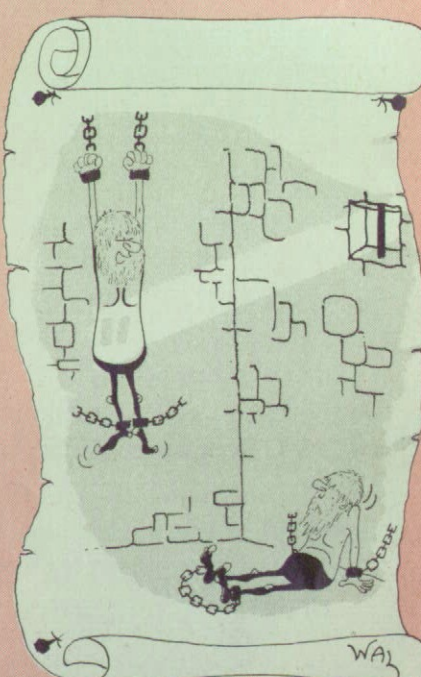
"How do you spell omelette?"



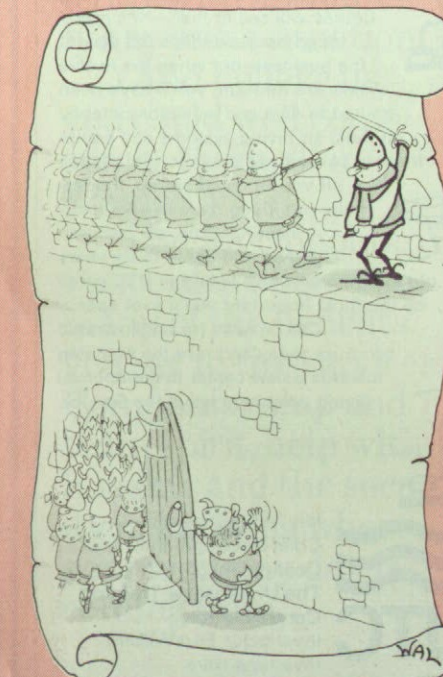
"... you're going bald ...!"



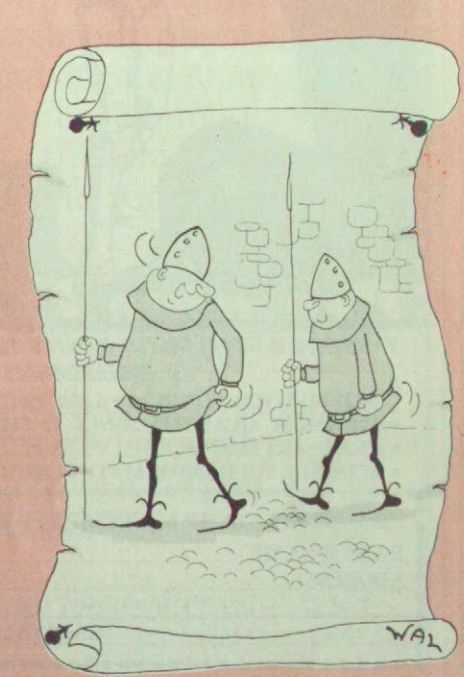
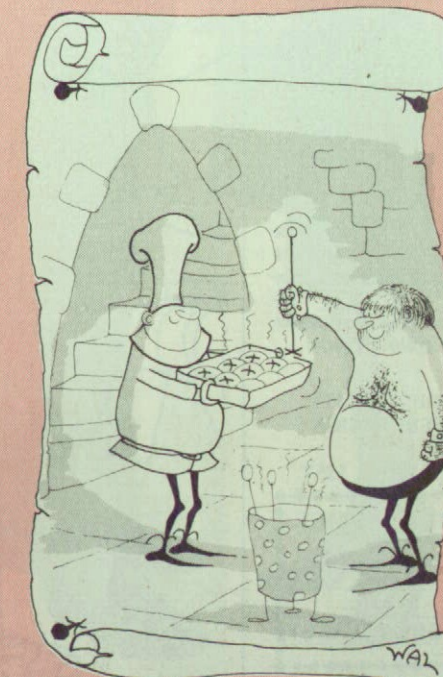
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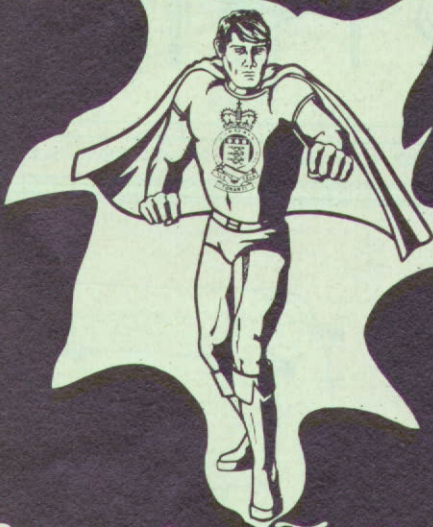


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THE METROPOLITAN POLICE





**Dreaming of running your own pub
when you leave the Army?**

It's not all beer and skittles . . .

Joining the pub-trade brigade



Story: Mike Starke
Pictures: Paul Haley
and Leslie Bryce.

Top Left: A practical lesson in bar dispense.

Above left: Mastering mechanics of barmanship.

Top right: Catering class in Donhead's kitchen.

Above right: Demonstrating barrel-tapping skill.

MANY A SOLDIER dreams of running his own pub once his Service career is over. But the amber-tinted customer's-eye view of pub life, seen through the bottom of a thirstily drained glass, often obscures the reality of the day-to-day work involved in being a good licensee.

So the Brewers' Society has set up two 'universities' of the pub trade designed to ensure that would-be landlords step behind their bars with their eyes open — and with a sound grounding in the complex techniques involved in running a successful pub.

The two training centres — one at Donhead St Andrew on the Wiltshire/Dorset border and one at Buxton in Derbyshire — take students from all walks of life, mainly in husband-and-wife pairs and intending to embark on a second career. And a relatively high proportion come from the Armed Services.

SOLDIER followed in the footsteps of the Army students among the 5500 putative publicans who have passed through Donhead House in its ten years as a training centre.

"We've had everyone from colonels to corporals and two brigadiers as well," said Mr Ron Bell, Principal of Donhead House and — like all the staff — an ex-licensee himself. But they still have to go straight down to the cellar to learn how to clean out the beer pipes and rank disappears down the drain with the dregs.

For the students soon realise that while some aspects of their previous career will give them some qualifications for running a pub, no-one can walk through the door of that most uniquely-British of institutions and expect to be able to provide an efficient, profit-making service without a great deal of training and guidance from the more experienced.

During the two-week residential Public House Operational Management Course (sessions run from Monday to Friday and cost £85 per person per week, recoverable from the Services Resettlement organisation by members of the Forces) students learn that running a pub demands an enormous amount of technical knowledge about the products, the way they are produced and how they must be kept and served.

They are taught how to maintain clean and hygienic conditions from the cellar upwards and how to prepare and keep food fresh.

Then there are the rules and regulations — most of them found in the Law of the Land — which must be learned and observed. These are many and complex and constantly being altered or updated.

The licensee must also be able to fulfil all the requirements expected of a substantial businessman, and students are introduced to the details of complicated accountancy and the problems of good employee relations.

Above all, they find they have to have a natural gift for good hostmanship so essential in a British pub, and it is the Brewers' Society's experience that this art is best applied by husband and wife teams. But at Donhead couples soon learn that there is a world of difference between being able to live successfully together and to work in harmony.

Often the otherwise happiest of couples find the strain of continuous sharing of duties from early morning to late night (a landlord and landlady's lives do not

begin and end with the opening and closing hours) can be overwhelming.

At Donhead the couples share every role. Husbands have to learn to prepare food; wives are trained to operate the cellar machinery. And because the courses are designed so that students spend a lot of time actually operating the training bars, couples have a foretaste of working together and can decide whether or not they want to go ahead and find a pub of their own.

As Ron Bell commented: "It's not just a case of dispensing beer and bonhomie. It's a business like any other, although in this trade a landlord must be able to project his personality."

This is where the wide variety of people and backgrounds comes in. A person ideal to run a pub in the heart of an industrial city

might be disastrous in a rural inn serving a farming community — and vice versa. So the watchword of the trade is finding 'horses for courses'.

But all study the same subjects in their fortnight at Donhead House. The syllabus is split into three topics covering cellar management (everything from the brewing process to the control of keys, stock, deliveries and the return of empties) and bar dispense dealing with the serving of the ever-widening range of drinks available, the attributes of a good barman and the one-hundred-and-one other details that smooth the passage of a drink to a customer's lips — and his money to the till in return.

Thirdly, the courses cover general subjects which take students through the maze

Below: Ron Bell, Donhead's Principal, and his wife Mavis pose behind the students' own bar.



of legislation involved in running licensed premises, the management of staff, hygiene, safety and security plus the financial aspects and, lastly, that all-important matter of the licensee's rôle as 'mine host'.

A shorter one-week course is also available to study catering for pub food. This is not a cookery course but more concerned with catering management.

Would-be landlords who 'graduate' from Donhead are not guaranteed a pub automatically. There are more applicants than posts for landlords, be they owners, tenants or managers. But it certainly helps if a prospective employer knows a candidate has been Donhead (or Buxton) trained.

Nor is 'graduation' a foregone conclusion. Said Ron Bell: "If I feel someone is not going to make a licensee, I say so." Students sit exams half way through and at the end of their course and Ron Bell — in consultation with his small staff — makes written reports on each student.

It is no accident that the general subjects instructor, Mr Ronald Bain, is an ex-schoolmaster as well as an ex-licensee. He pointed out the problem that many of his students at Donhead have not been in a classroom for some 40 years and need some time to adjust. Ex-Service students find this a less difficult hurdle as a rule, having been involved with continuation training courses during their careers.

Many students arrive at Donhead with little or no 'behind-the-bar' knowledge of pubs, unaware of the difference between a sherry and a perry, a port and a porter. Surprisingly, the training centre does not forewarn and forearm its students with introductory literature before they come, although it does recommend the comprehensive textbook 'Innkeeping' which covers practically every topic they need to know about.

The art of keeping a pub — it is only partly a science that can be taught and learnt

— rests with the individual. But he or she is certainly helped on his or her way by the all-embracing course at Donhead House. And the importance of proper training is emphasised by the fact that many licensing authorities and even some brewery concerns insist on licensees having been trained in their craft.

It all underlines the fact that running a pub is far from the simple life it seems from the comfort of the customer's side of the bar. As SOLDIER was told at Donhead House: "You don't retire *into* a pub — you retire *out* of it!"

Application forms for the Brewers' Society Training Courses can be obtained from: The Courses Booking Secretary, The Brewers' Society Training Centres Ltd, 42 Portman Square, London W1H 0BB.

Below left: Students serve students at meals.

Below: Donhead House was once a big rectory.



After visiting Donhead House, SOLDIER went to a pub run by an ex-Army landlord and his wife who had done the courses to see the other side of the coin . . .

Among Donhead House's many successful ex-military graduates are Geoff and Denise Thorning who are tenants of Courage's thriving 'Shoulder of Mutton' pub set in a delightful rural corner of north Hampshire at Hazeley Heath.

Geoff decided to go into the licensed trade after a career in the Royal Army Pay Corps and Denise herself is not without Army experience having once served with Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps.

The Thornings took both the two-week pub management course and the catering course at Donhead, but not without some

breathing space in between. Said Geoff: "I'd advise anyone to split the courses. It's too much to do them all in one go."

Of Donhead House, Geoff said: "I found it totally relaxing and peaceful in its beautiful setting. It's an ideal place to study and superbly equipped from a student's point of view with its lecture rooms, training cellar and the working student bar where you all have to take a turn."

Before going to Donhead, Geoff was lucky enough to have a friend who let him gain experience in his own pub. He admitted this is difficult to do while still serving in the

Army but for nine months he persevered, working in the evenings and weekends. He recalled: "My friend started me off in the cellar for three weeks before he would even let me near the bar, but in the end I was able to run the place for him in his absence. I wanted to do this to convince people I was serious and this real live experience was supplemented by the course at Donhead."

He found out about the course more or less by chance during one of his regular lunch-time walks through London while posted to the Ministry of Defence. He spotted the Brewers' Society premises in Portman



Above: Successful Donhead 'graduates' Geoff and Denise Thorning outside their Hampshire pub.

Square, rang up and was given details of the courses offered to would-be landlords.

Several points about the course stick out in his memory: "I found it extremely useful for a number of reasons. For one thing, it teaches you the right way to do things. My friend's ways were not always necessarily absolutely the correct way as taught at Donhead — under pressure in a pub you can't always get everything just right and there are short cuts individuals may work out for themselves quite satisfactorily. Although I must say I've found I haven't deviated from what I was taught at Donhead.

"Another advantage for me was that I learnt how to handle a range of different brewers' products with the different fittings and maintenance that they involve. Donhead takes you through the whole spectrum. This gives you the confidence to take a pub, whichever brewery serves it.

"And — very important — I was taught safety precautions. Carbon dioxide gas cylinders for instance, can be lethal, so you have to know what you're doing with them.

"The legal training, too, was invaluable. I learnt the day-to-day aspects of the law as it

applies to the licensee — particularly with regard to children and young persons.

"And the other general studies about wages and accounting were very useful to those who were not knowledgeable about these things, although my Pay Corps background obviously helped me, personally, with this.

"When it came to the bar dispense side of things, I found that what Mr Arthur Cooper (Donhead's Deputy Principal) had to tell us was most informative. What he taught me has stuck with me to this day."

Geoff went on to stress that by far the biggest battle in getting your own pub is the campaign to find one suitable to you — and to which you are suited. What he calls his 'inn-quest' started two years before he was accepted as the tenant of 'The Shoulder of Mutton'.

He and Denise registered with several brokers, the estate agents of the trade (they were given a list of them at Donhead), and their serious search started six months before his retirement from the Army.

In their case, they set a broad geographical limit south of a line drawn roughly from Bris-

tol to The Wash and their 'inn-quest' took them to some 100 pubs. A friend (also, coincidentally ex-RAPC) looked at 250 pubs before finding the right one and spent some £40 travelling 1,000 miles a week on his search.

Geoff and Denise whittled down their choice to three pubs and were finally offered two of them. They opted for 'The Shoulder of Mutton' because: "Being from a military background we felt we'd be meeting the sort of people we would mix with best, this being a military area."

But the choice is not only that of the licensees. The trade is careful who it lets behind its bars as well as following the maxim of finding 'horses for courses'. Geoff and Denise had been interviewed by their brokers before being registered to establish their basic suitability. But that was not the end of it. Once they had expressed an interest in a pub after informal and formal visits, the brewers involved had interviewed them with some 15 to 20 other couples before putting them on a shortlist of three.

Even then, their troubles were not over. Geoff recalled: "The first day in this pub was an absolute nightmare. We got up at about four in the morning at home in Christchurch to be at Hazeley Heath by 9.30. At 10.30 I was in court to get my licence then had to rush straight back to take over the place as a going concern. Denise had to work in the pub too and get our accommodation straight for us to sleep in that night. We finally got to bed about three the next morning.

"In that first few months we could have packed it all in if we hadn't had a good training — that's what enabled us to carry on. It's trying and tiring — no-one should go into it thinking it's just a social job.

"I get up at six each morning and have no time to stop until half-past three in the afternoon. Then we have a break until 5.30 (except for the 'phone ringing) and — as we have a supper licence — we rarely shut our doors until midnight or get to bed before one-o'clock.

"But if you go about it professionally you get a lot out of it. There's nothing more satisfying than to have people coming back when they're passing through as well as your regular customers who stay with you all the time."

With his military background, Geoff particularly enjoys welcoming back officers who have been customers while at Sandhurst, for instance. The bar is lined with regimental plaques they have given him: "Each plaque has a little story behind it for me and the people who gave them come back as friends rather than just customers."

Geoff emphasised the importance of couples going into the trade together: "A pub has to be run by a husband and wife team — there is no successful pub, to my mind, without a good landLADY and unless a wife is as enthusiastic as a husband, it's going to fail. It puts a tremendous strain on a marriage. As it happens, Denise and I enjoy working together. But even so, the pressures do build up."

But at the end of the day (long as it is for Geoff and Denise) they are very pleased with the five years they have spent as mine hosts at 'The Shoulder of Mutton' and look forward to even more pleasure to come. As Geoff concluded: "We're enjoying it more and more as we go on."

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81



Imperial War Museum (Part I)

THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM illustrates and records every aspect of the two World Wars and other military operations involving Britain and the Commonwealth since August 1914. It has been in its present home, formerly the central portion of Bethlem Royal Hospital or Bedlam, since 1936. The collections cover all three Services but the emphasis in this article, which will concentrate on World War One, and the following two will be on the Army.

Trench warfare, as one might expect, is particularly well illustrated. There are signalling lamps, a Verey Light pistol, a German message-carrying mortar shell, a British smoke candle, sniping equipment, body armour, knives, grenades and even clubs. There are examples of the harness worn by Red Cross dogs and another section concentrates on the work of the carrier pigeon. There is a pigeon parachute, a message book and a model of a mobile pigeon loft of which the British Army had 150 housing nearly 22,000 birds by the end of the war. Among the more curious items are a trench-knife based on an ancient Welsh pattern and used by raiding parties of the 9th Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers, a German man-trap designed to deter British patrols from venturing into no-man's-land and a British steel helmet fitted with a chain mail visor.

Of special interest in a collection of historic pieces of artillery is the 13-pounder which fired the first British shot in France in the Great War, the 5.5-inch gun from HMS Chester on which Boy Jack Cornwell was serving when he won the Victoria Cross at the battle of Jutland, a British 4.5-inch howitzer generally regarded as the best weapon of its type in 1914 and a 9.2-inch howitzer. Then there is the 18-pounder which fired 16,513 rounds in France from September 1916 until November 1917 before being re-lined, a six-barrelled 150mm Nebelwerfer, literally 'fog-thrower' and nicknamed 'Moaning Minnie' by British troops — first used to put down smoke screens and later as an HE rocket launcher — and a French 18-pounder. Backed by a picture of its inventor, Hiram S Maxim, one of the first Maxim machine guns has a case to itself.

For uniform enthusiasts there is a wide variety of dress. To mention but a few: a 1917 Army Service Corps 2nd-Lieutenant's service dress, a 3rd Guard Uhlan's field service dress of 1914, a Belgian and American private's FS dress, the magnificent parade uniform of a German Cuirassier, the full dress with red plumed helmet (1900) of a Lieutenant-Colonel of the 12th (Prince of Wales's) Royal Lancers, a Royal Scots Major in FS dress (1916), a French poilu's working kit and examples of various Gunner uniforms such as an RA Major's full dress, an RHA 2nd-Lieutenant's full dress (both 1914), an RFA Major's service dress and a Royal Garri-

son Artillery gunner's winter service kit worn on the Western Front in 1917.

Among several pieces of uniform equipment are an aiguillette worn by an equerry to the Prince of Wales, a Life Guards officer's pouch, Russian breast badges and a Totenkopf, or Death's Head, plate and scroll as worn on the front of the busby of the 1st and 2nd Leib-Husaren Regiments.

The development of the British military rifle is well covered and our old friend the Brown Bess introduces a whole range of weapons up to 1888 while a .455 Lancaster four-barrelled pistol, a Colt single action army model of 1873 and an example of that most elegant of British military side arms, a Smith and Wesson, the second of three models made for the Imperial Russian Army in 1873, are among a number of interesting pistols and revolvers.

'Ole Bill,' one of a number of London Transport buses pressed into service to take British troops to the front occupies a prominent position while a wide range of miscellanea includes such items as a British periscopic rifle rest or 'sniperscope,' a lined container used by the Germans for taking hot food to the front line, British and German field wireless sets and, rather surprisingly, a cross-bow used for launching grenades found in a German trench in 1915.

To add realism, the whole fascinating display is accompanied by nostalgic music — the strains of Tipperary, the sound of men marching to the front and whistling Mademoiselle from Armentières, exploding shells and the rumble of gunfire.

John Jesse

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CADETS TASTE TERRIER TRAINING . . . AND DON'S DOFF GOWNS FOR GUNS



TO GIVE them a taste of what life is like with the Territorial Army, Army Cadets from Peterborough and Prince William School, Oundle, spent two weekends training with Headquarters Company, 5th Battalion (Volunteers), The Royal Anglian Regiment, on the sprawling Stanford training area in Norfolk.

Activities for the first weekend included helicopter emplaning and de-planting drills in readiness for the highlight of the training — a flight over the area in an RAF Wessex. Section advance-to-contact drills were also practised under the expert guidance of Sergeant Tommy Binley, Defence Platoon Commander.

The inevitable night exercise was organised for the cadets but unfortunately the ground was somewhat boggy and — owing to diversions — the attack did not go in at the time 'agreed' between 'friend' and 'foe'.

The exercise director tried to hasten the call to arms by firing a Very flare, but all this achieved was to set fire to a bush. Eventually contact was made and the exercise brought to a close.

The incident of the burning bush seemed to influence the weather with the next day dawning warm and sunny. To round off the weekend the cadets had theoretical and practical instruction in vehicle camouflage in a defensive setting.

A different category of training was offered in the second week beginning with the setting up of a camp site in the woods at Tofts strip.

First of the activities was a session on the assault course. And like true infants the young cadets set off to negotiate the bogs, bushes and woods — their leader (map in hand) striding ahead of them until he noticed they were falling behind and had to keep on calling a halt.

Gremlins had apparently been out in force wearing their 'ten-league' boots and there seemed to be more tracks on the ground than the map. But determination overcame the confusion and the delays were only brief.

Back at camp there was weapon training in preparation for a night exercise and field firing the following day. Competition was high among the Terriers and this filtered through to the cadets when it was their turn to fire.

As well as military skills to be sampled, the cadets got a chance to taste Army food. The verdict cannot have been bad with one four-foot-two gourmet tunnelling through a baker's-dozen sausages among other culinary delights!

From a report by WO2 E Sharpe

MEANWHILE a swift move from the north of England to the 'Southern Flank' of Salisbury Plain enabled officer cadets of Northumbrian Universities Officer Training Corps to test their skills in Exercise Phantom Bugle. The exercise was designed to gauge the ingenuity of potential battle group and combat team commanders under training at the School of Infantry. An ideal way of doing that, it was thought, was to introduce an OTC in the role of 'enemy'. This was the first time OTCs have taken part in this exercise and the directing staff expressed themselves well pleased with the part they played.

The exercise began with the officer cadets fully demonstrating their vivid imagination as they played their part as refugees.

When battle commenced, Junior Under Officer Ian Grime led his helicopter assault on a bridge and beat off an armoured counter-attack with no question of it being 'A Bridge Too Far'. Soon all objectives had been captured and the opposing forces had been driven well back.

To test their flexibility the infants were asked to change their allegiance to the 'friendly' forces next day. During this part of the exercise close support was given by the OTC gunners with their 25-Pounder guns re-living past glories by firing at tanks over open sights.

The Royal Armoured Corps troop, reinforced by a detachment of the Royal Yeomanry commanded by Lieutenant George Doughty — himself an ex-OTC man — simulated some frontal assaults.

Sex equality was not forgotten in the field and the Women's Royal Army Corps contingent took to hurtling across the plain in armoured personnel carriers. Competition was fierce as to who made the fastest 'brew' during the brief stops in their lightning dash.

Ground attack aircraft were called up at various phases and the officer cadets got a chance to see what to expect if camouflage precautions are not adequate. Even an upturned face is a give-away.

"Are you sure that this is the right bridge?" Officer Cadet Stephen Harrison appears to be asking his Platoon Commander, Ian Grime.



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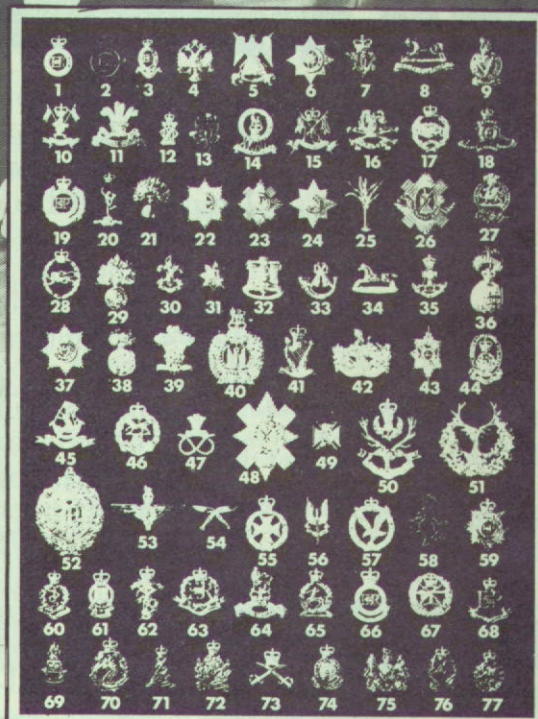


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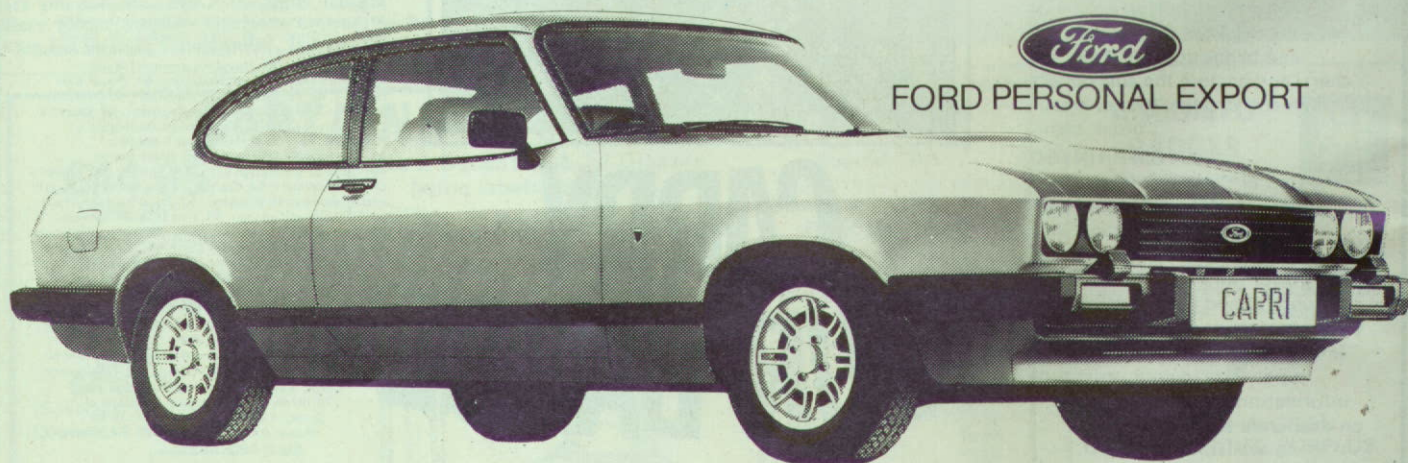
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'Diamonds in the Sky' (Central Band of the Royal Air Force) (Conductor: Wing-Commander John Martindale) (EMI Studio 2 Stereo TWOX 1076). The diamonds refer to the RAF's diamond jubilee of 1978 — and what a musical celebratory feast they give us. It is also John Martindale's debut as conductor of this fine band. May he long continue to think up programmes like this even if the old and unbold do complain. Never mind, John, it will be me who gets the letters.

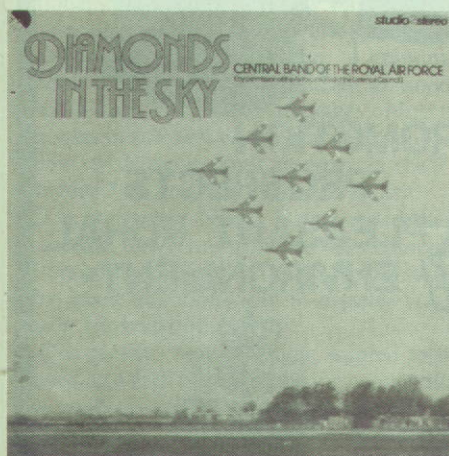
This record is brilliant and needs little comment from me, so may I spread myself for a paragraph on recorded band programmes? Oft duplicated, yes, but I have already dealt with that aspect. What riles us, gentlemen, is your oft-repeated requests for the same old junk, such unadulterated tripe as Friedemann's Slavonic rhapsodies, cliché-ridden marches by nonentities, old-hat Victorian excrescences such as 'Sizilietta,' or 'The Glow Worm.'

From letters over the years all the 'unrecorded masterpieces' would go on to a couple of LPs. What then? I repeat, there is always someone buying Stars and Stripes for the first time.

So now to these gems from the sky-masters: Berlioz's 'Rakoczy March,' the German TV lottery theme 'A Place in the Sun,' the march from Dag Wirén's 'Serenade for Strings,' Haydn Wood's march 'Whitehall,' and the 'Blue Devils' march of Charles Williams.

The 'Popular Song' from Walton's Facade suite, TV themes from 'The Sweeney,' 'Duchess of Duke Street' and 'Enemy at the Door,' a perky little arrangement of the Laurel & Hardy tune 'Dance of the Cuckoos,' Morton Gould's 'Pavanne,' a flute trio by John Martindale ('Ted's Dancing Music') and 'The New Wings Suite' which won the competition for a work to celebrate the RAF diamond jubilee.

A pity I shan't be around when the centenary is celebrated. **RB**



'The Rambling Soldier; Life in the lower ranks 1750-1900' (Roy Harris, vocalist, with instrumental accompaniment and chorus) (Fellside FE 017, Workington, Cumbria). This collection of soldiers' songs supplements Lewis Winstock's Songs and Music of the Redcoats, reviewed a few years ago, and is a selection of ordinary soldiers' ditties from Roy Palmer's book The Rambling Soldier.

The atmosphere of the canteen singer with his wistful melancholy and air of improvisation is nicely caught, and monotony avoided by the restrained use of concertina, whistle, fife and chorus. Not exactly the stuff one hears in the Naafi nowadays but pure gold to those like me whose meat and drink is the mystique of the old redcoat army.

Let Roy Harris take you back a century or two with such as 'Balaclava,' 'Muddley Barracks,' 'I Would that the Wars were all done,' 'Thirteen Pence a Day,' 'The Scarlet and Blue,' 'Lass of Swansea Town,' 'The Drum Major,' 'The Hungry Army,' 'Banks of the Nile,' 'Chelsea Quarters,' and the immortal 'McCafferty,' who aimed at his Captain but shot his CO by mistake. The disc should be a free issue to all dissatisfied soldiers of the 1970s. **RB**

'Tribute to Bravery' (Band and Choir of the Royal Regiment of Wales) (Conductor: Bandmaster J G Lewis) (DR Records, DR 6, 36 Garrick Gardens, West Molesey, Surrey).

This being the centenary of the heroic happenings at Rorke's Drift we have had romantic representations of the battle with Zulu warriors at something of a premium at the Wembley Musical Pageant and at Kneller Hall where the hordes appeared somewhat Polynesian, Malaysian, and West Indian in origin. All good fun though, with a fair amount of spurious Welshery around and some fine Zulu war-chanting from all ranks.

Mr Lewis's own march 'Tribute to Bravery' gives us a lively start, and he immediately goes into the attack with a vivid battle scene portraying the events of the fateful day. A master-stroke this, for it sets us up as willing recipients of all that follows, not all of which has much bearing on declared intent. If the battle had been saved for the usual grand finale I for one would have listened with growing restiveness to such as 'Speed your Journey' from Verdi's Nabucco, 'Triple Crown' march, 'Max Boyce on the March,' 'Lord of the Dance,' and Dick Ridings's march 'Rorke's Drift.' As it is they complement, if not enhance, a musical



tribute for which we were skilfully prepared.

In 'The Noble 24th,' a Victorian ditty subtitled 'Vanquished Not Disgraced,' and in 'Lord of the Dance' Corporal Jones (who else?) is joined by the choir in attractive renderings, and Mr Lewis supplies a nice medley of Welsh tunes for the band, including the famous Vesper Hymns of the Regiment.

But with the title chosen, and the bloody scene of battle on the sleeve, all depended on the musical representation of the skirmish for the success of the record. All is well, for Mr Lewis has done a good cobbling job on Welsh tunes, bugle alarms, regimental marches and songs, interlarded with sounds of strife, gunnery and Zulu taunts. I await with scarcely concealed impatience anniversaries of Hastings and Agincourt. In the absence of musketry the sound engineers will be in a quandary, and it'll be back to the horse's neigh and clash of cook-house carving knives.

The double sleeve bears a plan of Rorke's Drift and an account of the action. **RB**

'Tribute to Werl' (Band of the 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment) (Conductor: Bandmaster P E Hills) (Music Masters 0556).

No need to explain to post-war soldiers that Werl is one of the pleasanter towns in West Germany which have been home to many a battalion of the British Army. It is also one of those townships where a special rapport is sometimes achieved between the townsfolk and the soldiery, hence such records as this — and many another. And if the regimental band gives concerts of this quality and variety then their hosts will be the first to appreciate the gesture, for their own army and town bands tend toward the stodgy to say the least.

Nothing very ambitious here but meticulously and effectively played, with fine precision and above all a sense of rhythmic drive. Three of the items are a nod towards Werl itself, the song-march 'Heidi,' a little potpourri 'Auf Lustige Fahrt,' and at a push Wagner's march 'Nibelungen.' The potpourri is the sort of thing the

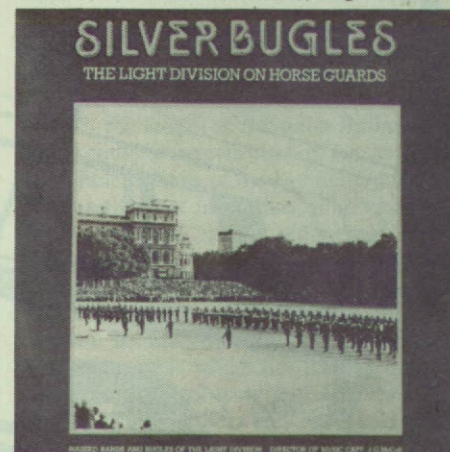
Germans have to listen to from their own bands, and nicely proves my point. The remainder of the programme is typical of recent band records, perhaps too typical, but shows the players off to advantage. Marches 'Under the Double Eagle,' 'Red Square Review,' 'The Glorious First' (by Mr Hills), 'Standard of St George,' and the regimental quicksteps; post horn solo 'The Huntsman,' 'Star Wars,' theme from 'Shaft' and ditto from '2001' all, as I have said but insist on repeating, of high quality performance.

From RHQ, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, price £2. **RB**

'Silver Bugles' (The Light Division on Horse Guards) (Director of Music: Captain J G McColl) (HQ Light Division, Winchester, Hants).

What now seems to have become an annual event has been recorded for your delectation. On three nights this year the massed bands and bugles of the Light Infantry, The Royal Green Jackets, and the 2nd KEO Gurkha Rifles beat an astounding retreat at anything between 140 and 170 paces to the minute on that hallowed piece of ground known as Horse Guards, which normally is subjected to a steady 108 to 116 pounding. And do the crowds love it! A special cheer for the immaculate little Gurkhas of course, and an awed hush when the buglers break into double time. What the uninitiated don't know is that the double is a dawdle after keeping your heels on the ground at 160. As a Green Jacket, a Lancer, and finally a Guardsman I've done the lot, but the ravages of my rifle days are with me yet; I still take two paces to my wife's one on a country ramble.

Lots of Assembly and other bugle calls, and what amounts to a quick run through the bugle-march repertory with 'Mechanized Infantry' (Mc Bain, 2/KRRC), 'Jellalabad' (James, SLI), 'St Cross' (McColl, RGJ), 'Road to the Isles,' arr Pinkney (KOYL & RGJ), 'Five to One,' a Light Infantry medley (Fitch, LI Bde), 'Light Division'



(La Ronde Legere, Bashford, 2/KRRC), 'Light Infantry' (Plater, OBLI).

The Gurkha feature includes 'Men of the Hills' (Bently) and 'Marching Thro' Georgia,' the Retreat ending with the ever popular 'High on a Hill,' 'Crown Imperial' (Walton), 'Evening Hymn,' 'Retreat' and the 'National Anthem.'

Sgt Kasolovic is the fine solo bugler at the moment and his antics during a version of 'Post Horn and Echo,' though more restrained here than on Horse Guards and at Wembley, are well worth hearing. High C is a low note to him.

From Capt McColl, HQ Light Div, Peninsula Bks, Winchester. Price £3.90 inclusive. **RB**

IN BRIEF . . .

'Championship Bandstand' (GUS (Footwear) Band) (Conductor: Harry Mortimer) (EMI ONCR 514).

Nothing new and nearly all old on this one, with a life-saver in Gilbert Vinter's great 'Captain Cook — Circumnavigator.' Otherwise traditionals like the cornet solos 'Silver Threads' and 'Facilita,' the awful overture 'Marinerella,' a couple of marches and a hymn tune, and to lighten the encircling gloom the 'Thunder and Lightning Polka.'

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AN EDUCATION FOR LIFE

SOLDIER reader David Lazell takes a light-hearted look back on his National Service days

DURING THE winter of 1949-50, I shared an ageing Nissen Hut with a hardy group of individualists, all National Servicemen, belonging to various corps, mainly RAOC and REME.

A detachment of the Pioneer Corps was situated just across the road, but we rarely saw those energetic lads — though once, when a youthful lance-corporal and conscious of my new prestige, I was sent into those lines on an errand, and it was like entering another world. I did not see one set of blankets folded to regimental pattern: well, even the RAOC recruits managed *that*!

The great lesson I learned from that winter influenced my life, thrusting me forth into the uncertain waters of adult education. For the Army, in handling the thousands of National Servicemen arriving every other Thursday, found a considerable educational need on its hands.

If our unit was any measurement of that need, it seemed that about 60-75 per cent of the National Servicemen required education in the basics. Most of the men joining up could only read and write to a very limited extent, and struggled with quite modest tasks in arithmetic.

As far as I recall, the measurement in educational attainment and ability was recorded on a scale from 21, by tens, to 81. My own scale mark was 41 (I had been to grammar school, where I had been bottom at woodwork and art, but good at languages). Most of the men in the unit were registered at 61 or below, with the greatest number in the 71 category — a very low rating of ability.

The lads in the Nissen Hut revealed their problems, and I was asked to help compose letters home, requests to the RSM. and so on. That good intentions lead to disaster was a lesson I learned quickly.

One recruit, Private Hogg, wanted to be placed on a fork lift truck driving course, but was unable to write the simple memorandum to the officer concerned. I even gave him a model, in the form of a simple request in large simple lettering. But he could not copy it.

Finally, I taught him a simple verbal request. He committed this to memory, asked for an interview, and recited the speech. His request was granted, and I glowed with pride — my first pupil. However, he managed to wreck two fork lift trucks during the course, by hurtling round a corner too quickly. The Army, ever forgiving, gave him a second chance, I am pleased to say!



"Stand by your beds!"

Another indication of the low standard was the reading matter available — the worthy publications from D C Thomson, 'Dandy' and 'Beano', of course, with a few other comics. I even saw one rather tough REME fellow gazing at the now-departed 'Chick's Own'. He had discovered that this comic broke words into two component parts, to aid reading, and was using it as a basic teaching text.

I was not *intentionally* a snob. National Service was a shared experience, if it was anything, with the rigours of life in the late 1940s/early 1950s.

I collected my weekly copy of 'The Listener' (then a mere 4d) and polished off large tomes borrowed from the Education Centre, and did not realize my good educational fortune until a graduate spending a year or two in the RAEC told me the extent of the problem.

His life revolved around classes in English and simple mathematics, with bunches of recruits coming in at two-hourly intervals. Sgt Williams sighed that all his ideas for experimental education had been abandoned. Even the RAEC officer, a dedicated and diligent major, seemed a trifle daunted. Sometimes, I passed the Education Centre and heard sounds of training within, as hefty 20-year-olds recited simple rhymes aloud, as an exercise in verbal expression.

The grammar school contingent at the unit was very evident, partly because of its eccentricity although this might have been chance. Among the brighter recruits was a rather short, affable man who had trained as a teacher. He had an obvious flair for

dramatics, and whenever we had weekend manoeuvres, insisted on heavy disguise, as a farm labourer for example, (looking like one of the 'Wurzels', but worse) and then scouting out the layout of the opposing side.

I was always surprised that he escaped having a thunderflash heaved in his direction, but his earnest reconnoitre was perhaps the best performance in the entire training weekend. I was not surprised to learn that he subsequently abandoned teaching, and went into television — including a quite famous pop show — and is now creating a name for himself.

My own weakness was playing the violin. A colleague in the next hut, also a teacher, said he was always amazed that my playing could somehow still the usual bedlam of an overcrowded Nissen Hut. Ironically, I was subsequently charged with having an untidy bedspace, because my dusty violin case was on display. That was my sole affront to Army authority.

One night, after lending a few shillings to a Welsh lad, Mackay, for a meal in the NAAFI, he said he would do something special for me in return. As I was about to go out I thought no more of Mackay's glowing promises. However, on my return, I discovered that he had painted my violin case and decorated it with large white flowers and leaves plus my initials in large gothic letters. He was the decorator of the unit!

When I next took my violin home and had to walk the length of Swindon Railway Station, I could sense every eye on me, as though I was first violinist of the London Symphony or something as important. The violin was finally recruited into a regimental church service so I believe I can claim to have been the only regimental violinist in Ordinance!

During the early nineteen fifties, the Army decided to lift educational standards and began a process which has transformed the British Army into, truly, 'the Professionals'. This edict meant that every NCO in the unit, regular soldiers especially, had to obtain the relevant certificate, if this had not already been gained.

The Army Certificate of Education was in three classes — 1, 2 and 3. The First Class,



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"How will you have it boys, too hot or too cold?"



PHELVIN

"Hair restorer?"

which I sat and obtained in 1951, included English, Mathematics, History, Geography and a General Affairs paper, as far as I recall. That First Class Certificate was perhaps equivalent to GCE 'O' level, with the Second Grade a reasonably good CSE. The Third Class was a basic test of competence in English and Mathematics.

The news that all the tough old Regulars had to sit down and pass exams struck consternation all round. This had nothing to do with their being soldiers, I hasten to add, but more with their being middle-aged. Ask anyone over the age of forty to suddenly sit down and write answers to an examination, and he will usually gasp, look aghast, and maybe seek liquid sustenance.

A further irony was that the grammar school contingent, which included various NCO's on the headquarters staff (I was eventually Pay NCO) were excused the examination.

I recall one sergeant, who had a 'down' on grammar school lads, staring sadly at me, as he contemplated taking the Army exam later in the day. He said eventually, "Your boots aren't very bright, corporal." But there was none of the usual fire in his voice, none of the usual 'get up and go'. He was as nervous as a lad facing his first day at school.

There was only one persistent examination disaster. It took the shape of a lance-corporal who, whilst energetic and able to make himself heard over vast distances, had no idea of handling exams. He kept taking the Third Class and failing.

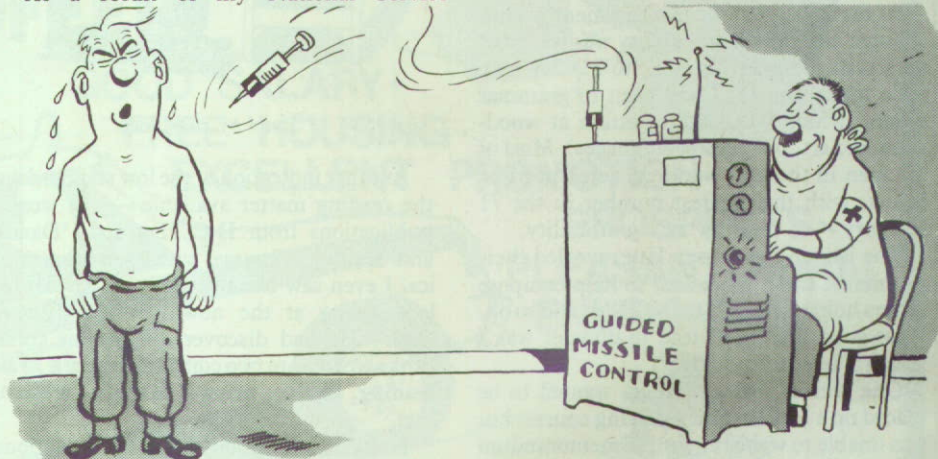
We could tell when he had failed, because he was always transferred from the Regimental Police to the Coal Yard, from white blanco to coal dust on his trousers. After a while, he was always returned to the Regimental Police, where he started throwing his own weight about, instead of those sacks of coal. Until, alas, he took the exam again, and failed.

Although life at the time was hard, in terms of food and living conditions (we were living in austerity Britain, remember) the Army took up a burden that it was not really meant to shoulder, that of making up for the lost education of its recruits. Much as they grumbled about Army life, many men returned to 'Civvy Street' far more able to manage their own affairs, than when they had originally joined up.

As my own education had been disturbed by evacuation from London, in 1939 and 1940, I assumed that the National Servicemen with whom I lived, had also lost essential tuition because of the war. Yet, even today, there are very many young people who are hardly able to express themselves or to handle basic mathematical problems.

Those ill-informed folk who say that National Service should be re-introduced to 'teach young people some discipline' and so on would really inflict a similar burden upon the forces, in the matter of education. Mind, it would have its advantages; if the Army were regarded as the College of the Schools' Lost Causes.

As a result of my National Service



experiences, I went into part-time youth work, and a host of adult education activities, which subsequently landed me in college on a social science diploma course. But I think I learned more about education, whilst in my National Service, than ever I did over my books and essays.

A final memory, from my original training days at Aldershot in 1949. I had hardly settled in to the old Salamanca Barracks, when I was told to report to the Army Education Centre for 'special duties'. On arrival, I was informed that, with a few other carefully chosen lads, I was to be photographed for Army publicity.

We had to listen to gramophone records, played on a somewhat old gramophone (the Army did not have all the modern equipment it needed in those days, and certainly not stereo!) Immersed in the music, we would be photographed by the publicity team, the pictures subsequently being used in displays all over the country.

Under the circumstances, I looked as attentive as I could, and was photographed for about an hour, then dismissed. I was promised prints of the photographs, but they never turned up.

Just before I left Aldershot, a few months later, I asked the RAEC sergeant at the centre if the photographs had been used. Realising that I was as gullible as any rookie could be, he said with great emphasis, "They are being used all over the country!" Perhaps that is why they had to continue with National Service.



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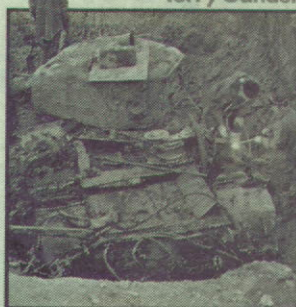
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BOOKS

MILITARY ARCHAEOLOGY

Terry Gander



A collectors' guide to 20th Century war relics

'Military Archaeology: A Collector's Guide to 20th Century War Relics'
(Terry Gander)

Mr Gander offers a very useful introduction to the subject, including such basic hints as matching your project to your resources — it is no good going in for the preservation of military vehicles unless you have the garage space to shelter your treasures.

One subject which seems to have plenty of possibilities still is pillboxes in Britain. About 15,000 were built in World War Two and about 4000 of them remain. One enthusiast is working to get preservation orders slapped on some of the survivors.

A particularly interesting chapter has a dozen World War Two pictures with the author's comments on them. Most are in some way wrong (like gunners improperly grouped round their weapon) and the others leave questions unanswered. It reminded this reviewer that *SOLDIER* had a fine pictorial bloomer in an early issue, a front cover that included a Bren gun with the cocking handle on the wrong side — the German printers used the colour transparency back to front.

The book concludes with five completed projects that obviously kept their authors happy for months. *Patrick Stephens Ltd, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB3 8EL, £5.50* **RLE**

RLE

'World War II Small Arms' (John Weeks)

'Having been missed by numerous German riflemen between 1940 and 1944, I have often wondered why the Germans, so clever with mortars and light machine-guns, were such rotten shots on the rifle. Well, now I know,' writes Brigadier Peter Young in a

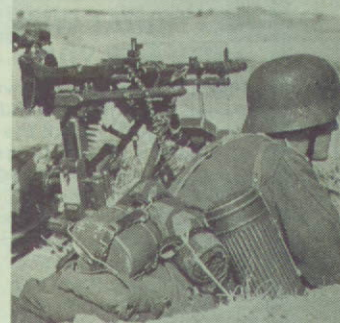
The Germans were cleverer over sub-machine-guns. Not allowed to make their own, they redesigned their 1918 maschinen pistole and leased manufacture to Belgium and Switzerland. These countries sold them all over Europe, where the Germans were able to capture stocks in 1940 at no cost.

On the other hand, in Britain, an

WORLD WAR II

SMALL ARMS

John Weeks



arms manufacturer who wanted to make the Thomson sub-machine-gun under licence was told in 1938, 'the British Army is not interested in gangster weapons.' It got very interested at the end of 1939 when patrols met Germans with sub-machine-guns. Britain made a false start with the overweight Lanchester but hit the jackpot with the Sten, of which 3,500,000 were made.

There is a mass of interesting information in this book, not only for the collector but for those quite ignorant of the subject, for whom there is a chapter on how small arms work. Each type of weapon is illustrated and there is a cutaway drawing of its works.

Orbis Publishing Ltd, 20-22
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£4.95 **BLE**

RLE

'The Observer's Book of Aircraft' (William Green)

More than 100 fixed-wing and 30 rotor craft are described in this 1979 up-date. They are new, or variants of old, aircraft. That old friend of soldiers, the Hercules, appears because the RAF is going to have 30 of its fleet 'stretched' by 15 feet.

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This month's competition features some of those cards — all you have to do is to answer the question posed about each one. Three alternatives are given to make your task easier.

The competition is open to all readers at home or overseas and the closing date is Monday 10 December. The answer and winners' names will appear in the February SOLDIER. More than one entry can be

submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 255' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or pre-paid labels will be disqualified.

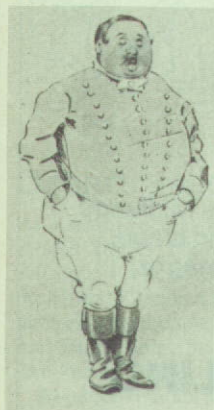
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b) Coldstream Guards 1801
c) 6th Dragoon Guards 1828



3) This is the uniform of:
a) A Rear-Admiral
b) A Vice-Admiral
c) An Admiral



4) One of 'Britain's Defenders' he was:
a) Kitchener
b) Haig
c) French



5) A well known centre forward. He is:
a) Tommy Lawton
b) Dixie Dean
c) Bill Shankly



6) First World War Leader. He was:
a) Petain
b) Joffre
c) Foch



7) 'Ceremonial and Court Dress' for the 1911 Coronation for:
a) A Garter Principal King of Arms
b) A Military ADC
c) A Lord Lieutenant



8) This medal is:
a) The DSO
b) The Military Cross
c) The Victoria Cross



9) A soldier from 'Military Uniforms of the British Empire' — he is from:
a) Madras Sappers and Miners
b) Burma Rifles
c) 10th Gurkha Rifles



10) What Military Headdress is this? He is:
a) Highland Regiments feather bonnet 18
b) Officers Full Dress fur cap 5th Regiment Foot 1874
c) Royal Engineers Full Dress busby 185



11) A famous sailor, he was:
a) Admiral Beattie
b) Admiral Jellicoe
c) Thomas Masterman Hardy



12) This famous airman was:
a) Colonel Cody
b) Bleriot
c) Santos Dumont



13) This ship from the 'Story of Navigation' is:
a) Nelson's 'Victory'
b) 'The Cutty Sark'
c) Columbus's 'Santa Maria'



14) This is the uniform of:
a) Officer 42nd Foot 1825
b) Private 42nd Foot 1815
c) Officer Royal Scots 1914



15) Another uniform. It is:
a) Officer 42nd Foot 1825
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c) Private 42nd Foot 1815

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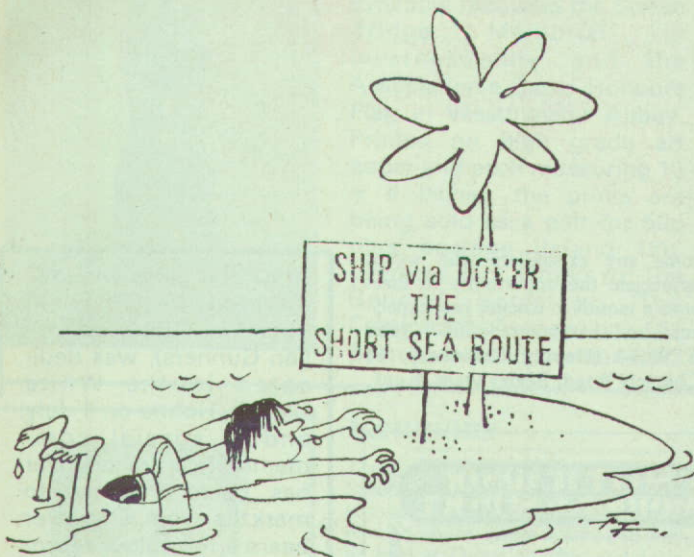
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LETTERS



Desert delicacy

As a serving officer in the Canadian Armed Forces I am currently interested — and trying to assist an authorised Canadian historian — in gathering material concerning Kinmel Park Camp, St Asaph, Wales, also known as Bodelwyddan.

At present it is not decided whether an extended essay or short book will eventually be produced.

Any information concerning this camp during the period of World War One would be appreciated. Especially needed are maps, sketches or diagrams of the camp as it was during the Great War. — **Maj J A Séguin, 444 Tac Hel Sqn, Lahr/Schwarzwald, West Germany.**

Information

Fresh meat is often hard to come by in this country but, fortunately, imported tinned corned beef can be bought without difficulty. This brings back memories of the 'bully beef' rissoles that our cooks used to produce in the Western Desert during World War Two — by far the most attractive way of serving 'bully'. Unfortunately, I have no recipe for cooking these rissoles. Can any of your Army Catering Corps readers help? — **Lieut-Col (Ret'd) C G Lakin-Smith, PO Box 246, Eket, Cross River State, Nigeria.**

New medal

I have had a 'Valiant Heroes Medal' struck at the Birmingham Mint to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Armistice in 1918. I have had this medal presented or posted to all known World War One veterans living in or near Birmingham.

I would willingly send one anywhere in the United Kingdom in return for a donation of £6 to our association (postage would be extra for overseas). Since I advertised in Birmingham that I would give one free to all local veterans I have had my list of veterans swelled to over 600. It

is for this reason that I can no longer send the medals without payment.

The design was made to my instruction by Mr Rex Spencer, former head of design at ATV. — **Edwin Gumbley, Hon Secretary, 1914-18 Veterans Association, 106 Saint John's Avenue, Kidderminster.**

Keri plea

I was in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve No 1165519. I was trained at Halifax, Nova Scotia, but failed on medical grounds for air crew. I became a nursing orderly and when I was first captured in Singapore in February 1942, I continued in this capacity as a POW at Changi Gaol. At the end of the Japanese War, I was awarded a Mention in Despatches 'for services rendered whilst in Japanese hands'.

Whilst on a working party from Changi, three of us NCOs slipped off and got aboard a sampan. We drifted for 6 or 7 days at sea with no drinking water. At night fish 'flew' aboard and we ate the flesh raw. We were rescued by a Dutch flying boat. The largest fellow amongst us, who we thought was just sleeping it off, was found to be already dead. After intensive hospital care, I recovered. My companion did not.

I was flown to Java Batrin and from there to Tilajap where there was a secret camouflaged airstrip. The Nippon bombers flew over and dropped everything they had on board. I awoke three days later — POW of the Japanese No 81.

After a time I was marched to Tansong Priok Camp and was put in charge of an isolated house which I used as a dysentery hospital, nursing the men without medicine and with only bad food. I prepared for burial at least 560 prisoners who died whilst under my care. The bodies were taken away in a blanket and after the dead person was interred, the blanket was issued to another POW.

I was asked to sign a form called IJA (Imperial Japanese Army recruiting form). I refused and was for 24 hours given the Chinese water treatment. I

was securely fastened under a stand-pipe water tap and the guards regulated the tap to drip slowly and irregularly onto my bare head in the burning sun. Afterwards I was released and asked again the sign the IJA form but I insisted that I was illiterate and could not sign my own name. Eventually, the Nipponese gave up.

Among the 6,000 prisoners in the camp were many Gurkhas who suffered terribly. I always wanted one of the Gurkha army issue Keris and the two skinning knives which were in the same sheath. I wonder and beg please if any of your Gurkha readers has a spare Keri that has become a burden to him. I would be most grateful to give this a very good home. — **Leslie F H Newport, 18 Swinburne Road, Donnington Bridge, Oxford OX4 4BG.**

Crimea art

I am researching 19th century British paintings, watercolour drawings and sketches which depict scenes of the Crimean War of 1854-56. The aim of the research is to consider their art historical importance in the context of mid-Victorian society, in a dissertation for the Department of Art History, Yale University.

I would therefore appreciate receiving information concerning the whereabouts of pictures of battles, camp life at Balaklava, the hospitals at Scutari or the effects of the war on soldiers' families in Britain. Any information about pictures not held in major public collections would be especially welcome.

I would be glad to correspond with others who share an interest in the subject. — **Matthew Lalumia (Visiting Fellow), The Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, 20 Bloomsbury Square, London, WC1A 2NP.**

Camouflage

Perhaps it is some element in the British character which makes us so much more interested in our enemies than in ourselves, but it is a sad fact that military historians now know far more about the uniforms, weapons and organisation of our former enemies in the two World Wars than about the British and Commonwealth armies.

A great deal of effort is devoted to research into Nazi Germany, for example, but very little into wartime Britain. Many records relating to the British Army have already been lost over the years and information on some aspects of its activities is surprisingly hard to find.

I am trying to discover details of the camouflage schemes applied to British Army vehicles since the turn of the century, but very little information on this subject seems to survive and much of it is contradictory. This is a subject which, apart from being interesting in its own right, has a considerable practical value for model makers and for the growing number of enthusiasts who preserve and restore old military vehicles. It is also a matter of some interest to artists commissioned to paint pictures of battles or events in which various regiments have taken part.

In the hope of obtaining new information on this subject and clarifying the information already available, I should like to enlist the help of **SOLDIER** readers. Could anyone who has served in the British or any Commonwealth army since 1900 and who can remember the colour scheme applied to his unit's vehicles please contact me? It would be especially helpful to know the type of vehicles used and the markings which were applied to them, but this is not essential.

I will refund all postage. In addition, if anyone can supply copies or extracts from official orders relating to camouflage schemes I will pay any copying charges involved. — **G D McLaughlin, 38 Tippet Close, Greenstead Estate, Colchester, Essex, CO4 3UJ.**

Only Brit

As the only Englishman working in this unit (as a civilian inspector) I look forward to receiving and reading **SOLDIER** with great interest.

I wonder if any reader can help me to trace comrades with whom I have lost touch since I emigrated here 12 years ago after serving 22 years with the Royal Engineers. Comrades who remember: 6 Engineer Base Depot, Hamburg (1946-9); Egypt, Suez 1950's; Fortress Engineer Regiment, Gibraltar 1957-60; or 1st Divisional Engineers, 1st Field Squadron, Nienburg 1960-67 — **Ex-Sgt C Machin, c/o Melbourne Workshop Co., RAEME, Miles Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000, Australia.**

Uniform colour

In the August **SOLDIER** you featured an article concerning the Army's proposed new uniform. It included a photograph of four posing soldiers displaying the various forms of trousers in 'dark green, chocolate and light tan' — however the photograph in my copy appeared in black and white!

SOLDIER would appear to be one of the best methods of keeping the soldier informed. White I appreciate the extraordinarily high cost of colour printing I would have expected such a subject to be both topical and interesting to the average soldier. I feel it should have taken preference to the already much publicised horsemen and parachutist shown on front and back covers. — **Captain R Williams, 652 Squadron Army Air Corps, BFPO 801.**

Unfortunately none of the colour pictures taken of the new uniforms were deemed to be of sufficiently high standard to grace **SOLDIER's** covers. But our sister paper, **SOLDIER NEWS**, has already carried colour pictures of them.

New blood

Members of the London branch, Royal Hampshire Regiment Comrades Association recently organised an evening of entertainment in aid of the British Epilepsy Association. Many military associations organise similar social functions and we feel that some of the financial benefits

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For all information please write to ISIS, (Dept. F) Kinlet Hall, Bowdley, Worsley, Merseyside, L34 3AY, or phone 029-924 357 or 218. Please state the area in which you wish to find a school.

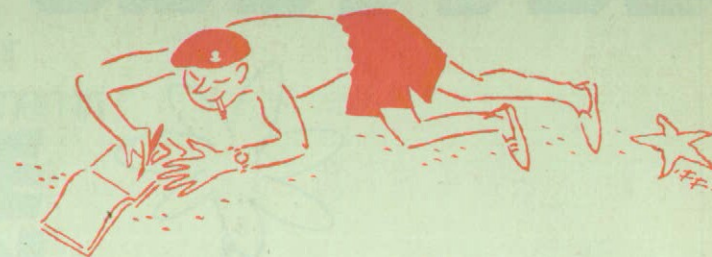


LETTERS CONTINUED

from them could be used to assist charities.

The London branch meets on the third Wednesday of every month (excluding September) at the Sergeants' Mess, 10th (V) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment TA at the Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea (near Sloane Square Tube station).

We have a group of loyal members who attend regularly but we are all over 60 years of age. Unless we have new and young blood we shall simply fade away. We are most anxious and eager to welcome any of your readers or their friends who have had any connection at all with the Royal Hampshires. In fact we would wel-



come any ex-soldiers who would appreciate the opportunity to meet once a month to discuss past experiences and share comradeship — **John E Wood (Deputy Chairman)**, 16 Chievely Road, Bexleyheath, Kent.

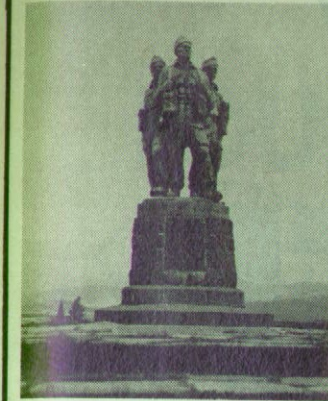
A stained glass window, donated by 49 Field Regiment (The East Anglian Gunners), was dedicated in the White Church, Hohna on 1 July and a special commemorative postal cover has been produced to mark the event. The cover bears a full colour reproduction of the window, carries the 13p Race Horse stamp and has been postmarked by FPO Hohna 1 Jul 79. Only 980 have been produced including 100 signed personally by the artist. Write to Capt A Dainty, RAPC, 49 Fd Regt RA, BFPO 30, enclosing a remittance *plus 9p stamp*. Prices are: Cover with 13p stamp — 50p; Cover with 13p stamp signed by artist — 75p; Cover with 2 x 13p stamps (gutter pair) — 75p.

A special commemorative cover is being issued by The Royal Hussars (PWO) — 'The Cherry-pickers' to celebrate the tenth anniversary of their amalgamation.

Bearing the new definitive 10p stamp it will be cancelled with a special handstamp BFPS 6979 (incorporating 1969 and 1979) and available from 25 October.

The colourful cover will have an insert and depicts the regimental cap badge together with associated dates and titles. It will be priced at 50p and there will be a special limited quantity signed by the present Commanding Officer and priced at £1. Profits will go to the Regimental Benevolent Fund.

Orders, with s.a.e., should be sent to the Philatelic Officer, The Royal Hussars (PWO), Cambrai Barracks, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire, DL9 3PZ.



The Commando Association has two new colour prints available featuring the Spean Bridge Memorial in Inverness-shire and the Association's Battle Honours Flag in Westminster Abbey. Printed on high grade art paper and each measuring 10 x 8 inches, the prints are being sold as a pair for 50p plus postage (inland 12p, overseas 25p). Orders to: The General Secretary, The Commando Association, 122 Brompton Road, London SW3



Reunions

The Duke of York's Royal Military School Old Boys Association. The annual November remembrance reunion of the above association will be held at Dover on 10th and 11th November 1979. Details from the Hon Gen Secretary Mr A Sadler, 1 Bushy Road, Fetcham, Leatherhead, Surrey. Telephone Bookham 52093.

RAVC Association — 51st AGM and Reunion Dinner, RAVC Training Centre, Melton Mowbray, Saturday 6 October. Details from Hon Secretary, RAVC Association, MOD(AVR), Droitwich, Worcs.

The United Kingdom amicale (old comrades' association) of the French Foreign Legion was recently reconstituted and we are seeking to extend our membership by contacting all who have at any time served in the

Legion and are in possession of the Legion's certificat de bonne conduite. A reunion is planned to take place in London next April to commemorate the anniversary of Camerone. John Yeowell, 10 Trinity Green, Mile End Gate, London E1.

Competition

It seems from the entries submitted for Competition 251 — Three Rounds Rapid — that sinking a fleet is more difficult than positioning it. Most of you worked out the possible positions of the submarines correctly but only half managed to sink the fleet without wasting any ammunition — and a few would still be fighting now...

Prizewinners —
1st. Mr P Longbottom,
42 Mayfair Road,
Dartford,
Kent.

- 2nd. Major W J Pugsley, 'Clover Cottage', Winsham Road, Knowle, Braintree, N Devon.
- 3rd. Mr T M Brown, 17 Tennyson Avenue, Gedling, Nottingham.
- 4th. Mr R F Chadwick, 28 Marion Avenue, Shepperton, Middx.
- 5th. 129 Cpl Bilcliff, Depot Sqn, DR RE, Brompton Barracks, Chatham, Kent.
- 6th. Major M G Fossey, 8 Field Squadron RE, Swinton Barracks, Porham Down, Andover, Hants.
- 7th. Mr George Andrews, 7 Hayman Road, Minehead, Somerset.
- 8th. 23921174 Sgt B G Summers, Sgts Mess, 9 Sig Regt, BFPO 58.

How observant are you?

1 Openness of barber's scissors. 2 Position of 'Blow waving' sign. 3 Sergeant's cap badge. 4 Bottom of letter 'T' in 'Toni's'. 5 Position of jars in window. 6 Mouth of man in centre portrait. 7 Sergeant's chevrons. 8 Foot of left curtain. 9 Height of door. 10 Sergeant's shoulder title.

exchange with the following: 3MMs to RFA: Royal Scots; Royal Highlanders, 1 BDV silk flag 6" x 4" old to RSF, badge and battle honours, 1 Sam Browne belt c/w sling in good condition. Would also sell any of the above

Cpl Roger Lovibond, 1st Light Infantry, Lucknow Barracks, Tidworth, Hampshire. — Wants negatives of photos showing following: Belize — particularly the Punta Gorda San Ignacio and all jungle areas including Sibun and all Menonite areas. West Germany — particularly those of Lemgo and Bad Salzungen and all countryside areas. Brunei — any photos including jungle areas. Sarawak — the area of Miri particularly. Any photographs of jungle areas. Ulster — any photos of West Belfast or the border areas with patrols. Willing to pay for negatives to be posted to me. Return guaranteed if requested.

T Howarth, 12 Abbots Crescent, St Ives, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. — For sale, 13 volumes 'The Great War', published 1914-19 and profusely illustrated. Offers. Write, or phone St Ives 63013 (evenings).

H K Yeoh, 5 Chin Ho Square, Penang, Malaysia — Seeks books on 'The Second Household Cavalry Regiment', by Roden Orde (Gale & Polden, 1953) and 'The Sergeant-Major' by James Leasor (Harrap 1955). Please state price and postage.

Mr B J Green, c/o Bax 533, Bracebridge, Ontario, Canada — Seeks clean copies of SOLDIER Magazine: 1960 Jan-Dec; 1961 Jan, Feb, Mar, June, July, Dec; 1963 Jan-July; 1964 Jan, Feb, July-Dec; 1965 May; 1966 Jan-Dec; 1967 Jan-Dec; 1968 Jan-Dec; 1969 Jan-Dec; 1970 Jan-Dec; 1971 Jan-Aug, 1972 Jan-May, Aug, Nov; 1973 Jan-Nov; 1974 Aug.

Collectors' corner

G Cocking, 5 Woodedge Avenue, Dalton, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD5 9UX. — Wants one khaki army beret — with leather band and without pompom, in exchange for original Nazi Army officer's silver cap Eagle. All letters answered. Gifts accepted.

Major J G Mayes, HQ 4th Armoured Division, British Forces Post Office 15. — Is researching a new regimental history of The King's Regiment from 1685 to the present day and would be grateful to receive any information on the Regiment, such as personal stories, letters, newspaper cuttings, old regimental histories and documents. All material offered would be returned.

Leonard Peltier, 644 Isbister St, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2Y 1R1, Canada. — Would like to purchase military covers (commemorative or FDCs or with Mil Post marks) or will trade French Para badges/patches or Canadian covers.

Samuel Mitchell, 78 Glenfield Road, Lurgan, Craigavon, Co Armagh, N Ireland. — Wants North Irish Horse King's Crown, white metal. For exchange RIR Pipers staybrite, large type; KOSB King's Crown, white metal; RA King's Crown, RAMC King's Crown, KOSB Queen's Crown, staybrite. Or will pay fair price.

R C Harvey, 4 The Greenway, Wickford, Essex, SS11 7NU. — Wishes to purchase WW1 coloured Airborne parachutes and supply containers.

E Barber, c/o O'Neill, 29C Fieldway Court, Birkenhead, Merseyside L41. — Is compiling album 21 years British Army in Battledress 1939-60. Would welcome photos during that period worldwide locations, especially WW2 (N Africa).

Col D Thornton, Pepper's Farm, Burton Lazars, Leicestershire, LE14 2UP. — Wants copy SOLDIER Vol 3 No 10 from December 1947 to complete set.

C/Sgt A Axworthy, Army Careers Information Office, Netherholme Centre, Worksop, Notts. — Collects medals to Grenadier Guards, also Household Brigade journals and magazines 1880 to 1976. Please send price and details.

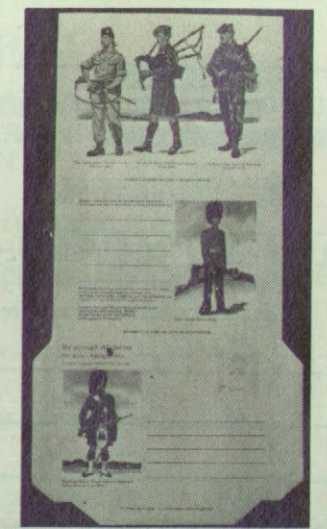
A J Kelly, 26 Howard Road, Plymstock, Plymouth, PL9 7OT. — Wants to purchase regimental magazines of Irish Infantry regiments and North Irish Brigade.

H J Pike, 35 Hauteville, St Peter Port, Guernsey. — Interested in all Canadian badges especially CEF. Also Rhodesian badges, 17th Rhodesia Field Battery, Rhodesia Air Askari Corps, SR Commando Training Unit, SR Interment Corps, SR No 1 Training Signals, SR (Depot) Signal Corps, SR Medical Corps, Nyasaland Defence Force, SR Defence Force. Also interested in collector lists.

Arthur H Silvester, Khanspur, 6 Old Court Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 6LW. — Wants MM to RHA, CSM to RHA c/w Bar Northern Ireland, Polish Monte Cassino Cross. Spurs also wanted. Would purchase or

SCOTTISH UNIFORMS AIR LETTER

On 29 August 1979 the Post Office issued the second in their series of three coloured pictorial air letters depicting the uniforms of the Scottish regiments. Shown this year are Scots Guards, The Royal Scots, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, The Cameronians and The Black Watch. Work is already in hand for the 1980 issue which will show The Gordon Highlanders, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and the Golden Lions Free-Fall Parachute Display Team.



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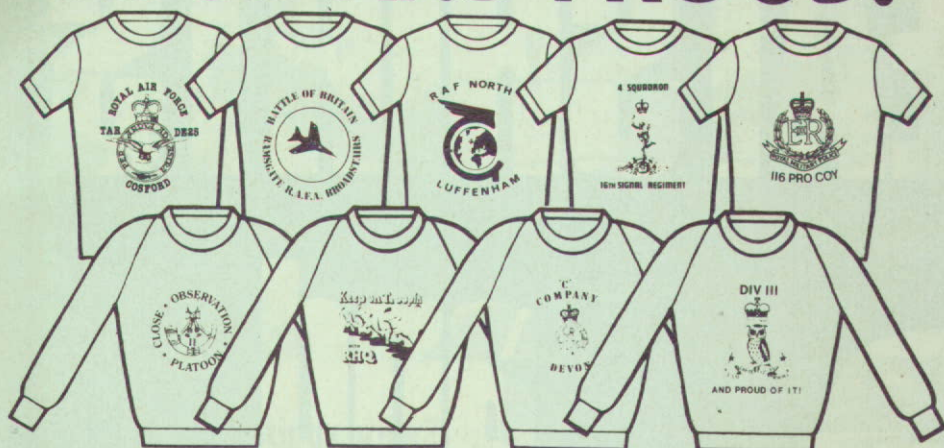
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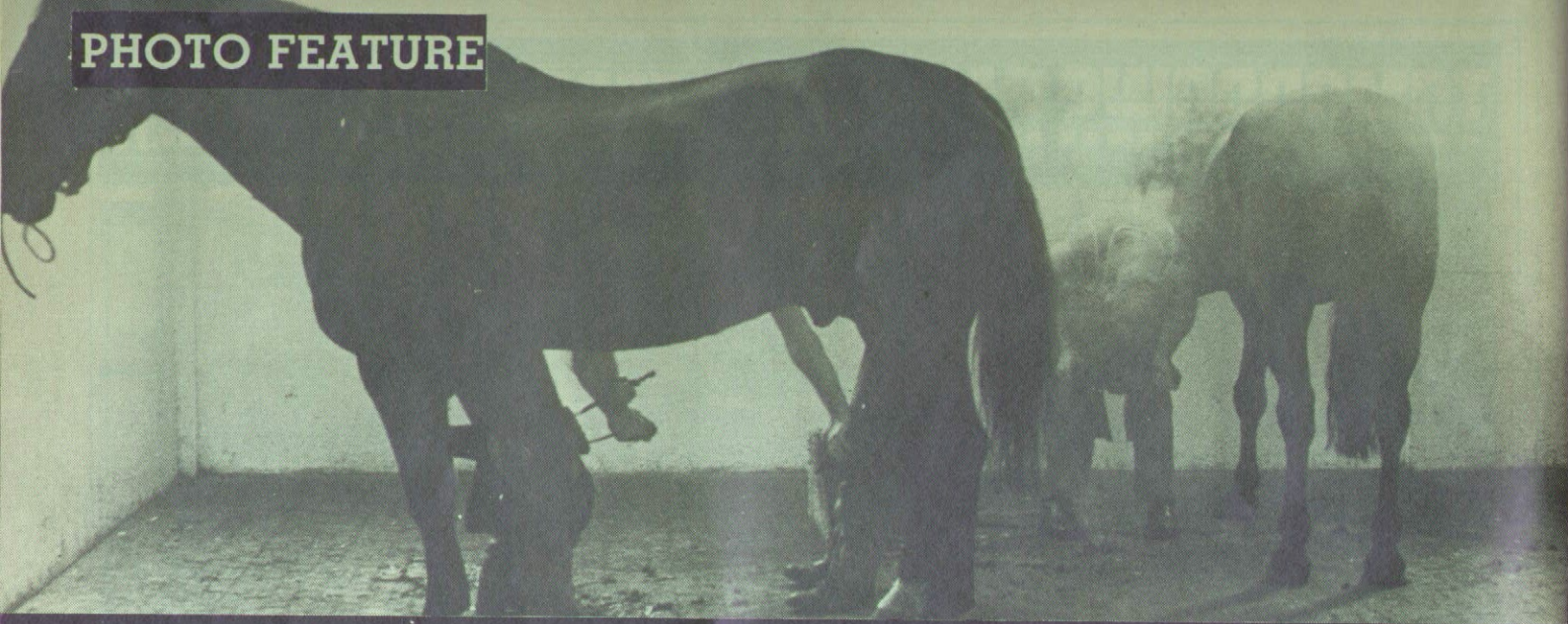
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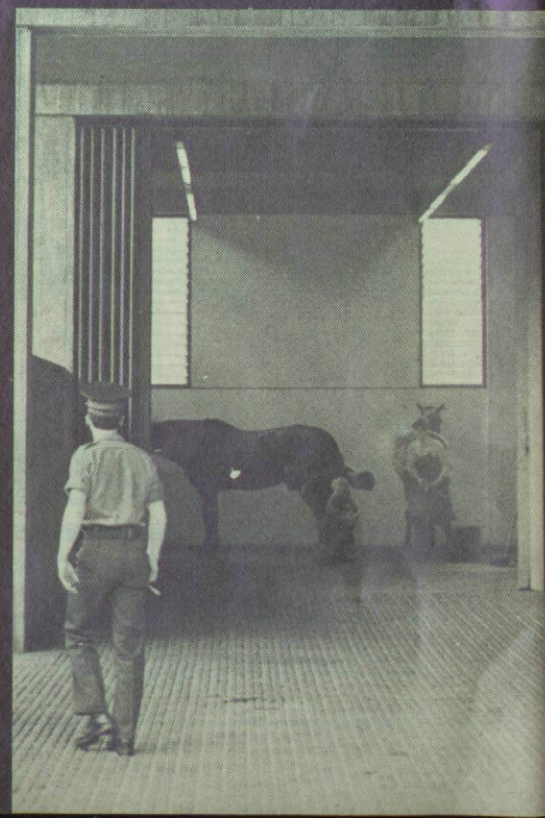
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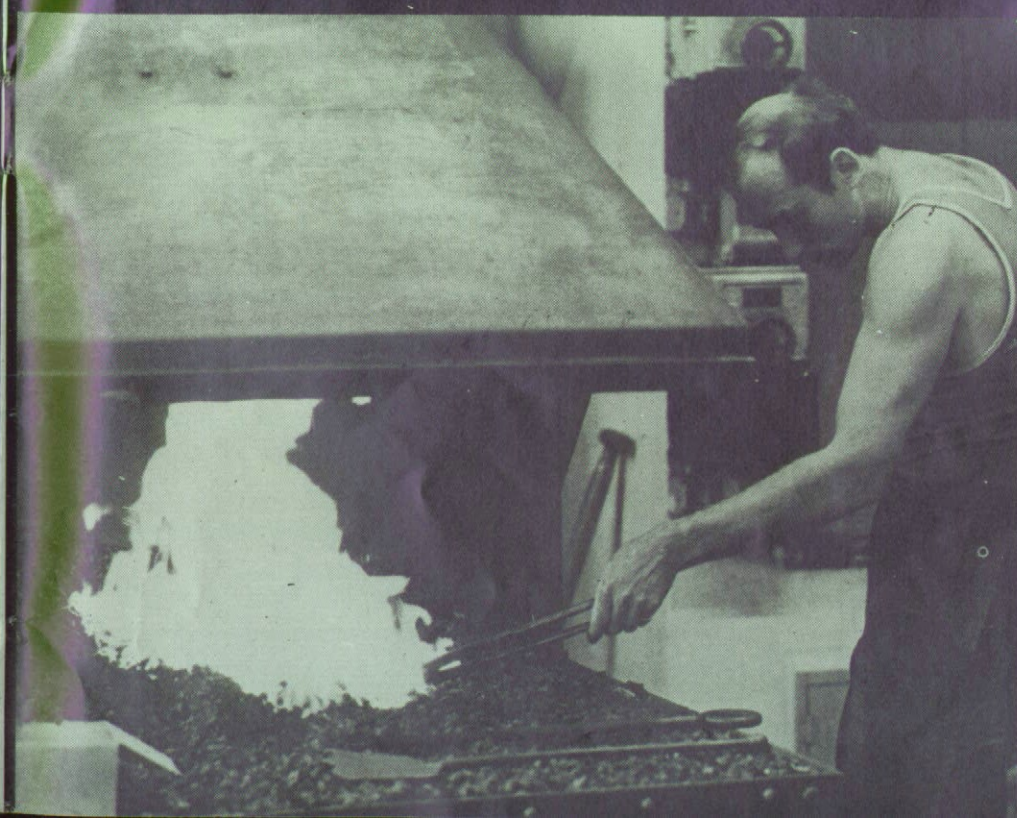
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Shoeing all the Queen's horses



YOU DON'T REALLY EXPECT to find a farrier's shop in the heart of London — not these days anyway. But when you realise that the Household Cavalry has 249 horses for its ceremonial duties in the capital and that there are also 18 Foot Guard horses, it's not surprising that a 16 strong staff at Knightsbridge are kept fully occupied with shoeing. Nowadays the horses in London are mostly operating on hard metal roads — which means that shoes wear out a lot quicker than in days of yore. So a horse gets reshod every calendar month. There are still one or two other farrier's shops around in London although most of the practitioners are getting a bit long in the tooth. In fact from time to time the Army farriers have to help out the Metropolitan Police when their reshoeing is affected by such things as holidays or sick leave. The 16 farriers are badged to either the Life Guards or the Blues and Royals. In addition to the London jobs there is a posting for one man to Germany and six months tours for another in Cyprus. Trained to very high standards by the Royal Army Veterinary Corps at Melton Mowbray, the Army farriers are in great demand when they retire from the Service. Says the Farrier Major, Warrant Officer 2 William Warren: "Providing they don't go to Kent or Sussex, which are the counties most densely populated by farriers there will be more than ample work for them." SOLDIER photographer, Paul Haley, went to Knightsbridge and managed to recreate for readers the atmosphere of a trade which until this century was one of the most vital for any army on the move.



Soldier

