

September 1977

20p

Soldier



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FRONT COVER

Final inspection at St James's Palace from Mr Cyril 'Phil' Phillips, Sergeant-Major of the Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeoman of the Guard, and Major Bruce Chard, an Exon of the Guard.

Picture by Paul Haley



BACK COVER

A Scorpion and Scimitar from Waterloo Troop, Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, roll off an old river ferry near the Belize border with Guatemala. A patrol from 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, covers.

Picture by Doug Pratt

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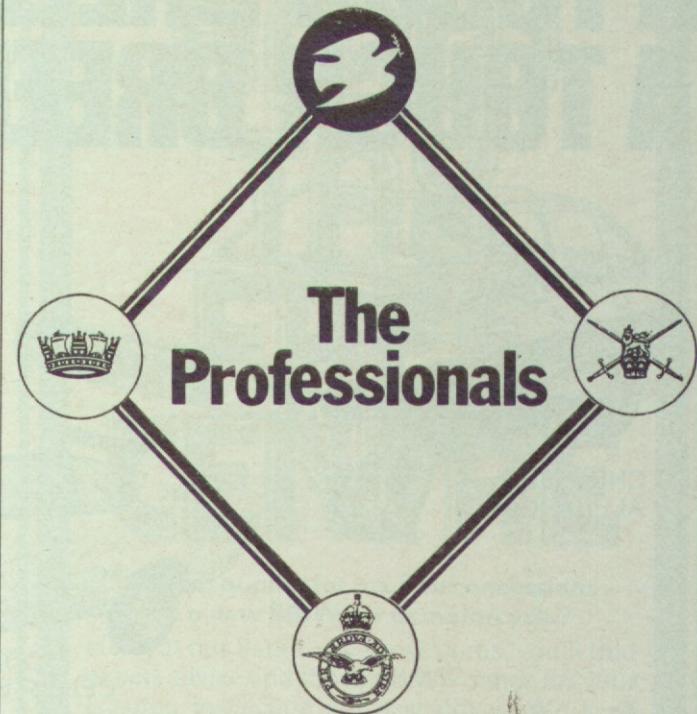
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In this regular feature **SOLDIER** keeps you up-to-date on tattoos, open days, exhibitions, at homes, Army displays and similar occasions on which the public is welcome to see the Army's men and equipment. Amendments and additions to previous lists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

See-the-Army Diary



AUGUST 1977

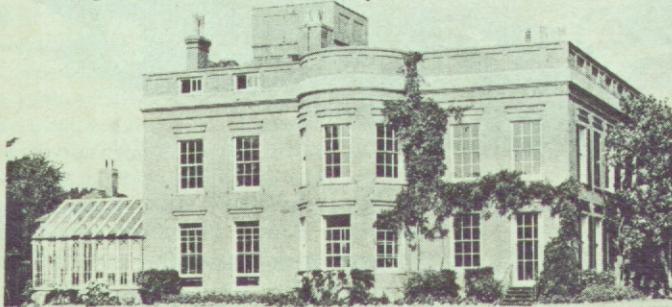
- 29 St Albans Carnival (RGJ freefall; Red Caps).
- 29 Eye (Suffolk) Show (Household Division freefall).
- 29 Aylsham (Norfolk) Show (RA motorcyclists).
- 29 Carlisle Historical Pageant, Carlisle Castle (29 August-3 September).
- 31 Kneller Hall Band grand concert.

SEPTEMBER 1977

- 1 Buckinghamshire County Show, Aylesbury (band).
- 2 Watford (Hertfordshire) Show (2-4 September) (band).
- 2 Birmingham Show (2-3 September) (band).
- 3 Brighton British Legion Show, Hassocks (Red Caps).
- 3 Seaham (Northumberland) Show (3-4 September) (band).
- 3 Richmond (Yorkshire) Show (band).
- 3 Buckinghamshire Show, High Wycombe (band).
- 3 Centenary celebrations occupation of Wellesley Park Barracks, Halifax, by The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.
- 4 Burma Star Association Day, Waterbeach (RA motorcyclists; Pegasus; five bands; pipes and drums).
- 5 Wolverhampton Tattoo (5-10 September).
- 7 Kneller Hall Band grand (final) concert.
- 8 Glasgow Army Display (8-20 September) (White Helmets 12-20 September; Red Caps 12-14 September; band).
- 8 Cardiff Army Exhibition (8-14 September) (band).
- 10 Horse and Horticultural Show, Henley-on-Thames (band).
- 10 Welwyn Garden City Hospital Fête (Red Devils).
- 10 Romsey Town Show (Red Devils).
- 11 Woodley Tattoo, Reading.
- 14 Swansea Army Exhibition (14-18 September) (band).
- 15 Thame (Oxfordshire) Agricultural Show (Cannonballs; band).
- 16 Prisoner-of-War reunion concert, Fairfield Hall, Croydon.
- 17 Luton Musical Pageant.
- 17 Basingstoke Show (17-18 September) (RA motorcyclists).
- 17 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars and The Northumberland Hussars, freedom march, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
- 18 Newbury Show (Red Caps).
- 21 Massed bands 52nd Lowland Volunteers beat Retreat, Plymouth Hoe.
- 24 Welwyn Garden City Water Carnival (Red Caps; band).
- 24 Prince Charles presents new Colours to 4th (V) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, Llanelli.
- 29 Careers Exhibition, Shrewsbury (29 September-1 October) (RA motorcyclists; Lt Inf freefall; band).
- 29 Royal Army Veterinary Corps freedom of Melton Mowbray.

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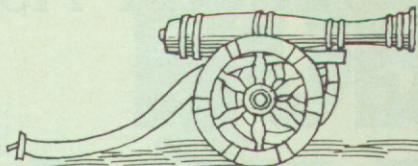
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S5



ARMY PHYSICAL TRAINING CORPS

TWO THINGS quick to make an impression in the Army Physical Training Corps museum are the photographs and mementoes of the Twelve Apostles, as the 12 non-commissioned officers who founded the corps in 1860 under Major F Hammersley are affectionately known, and the general theme of the soldier-sportsman which characterises the museum and its choice of exhibits. The 12 originals all came from different regiments as do all men entering the corps today.

Photographs of the first Army gymnastics class at Oxford in 1860 include views of the gym, the key of which is now a treasured exhibit, and the intrepid twelve before and after their initial course of instruction. A lively print of the old headquarters gymnasium in Wellington Lines, Aldershot, depicts members of the corps demonstrating various aspects of physical training. This gym was demolished in 1962, after a century of use, in favour of the much larger Fox gymnasium overlooking the Aldershot military stadium.

A group of early apparatus includes dumbbells, Indian clubs and a massive demonstration sword known as the 'lead cutter' because it could slice through a sheet of lead, while a letter written in March 1860 by General Sir Richard Airey announces the appointment of a committee to enquire into the formation of an Army physical training corps.

A founder member of the Royal Tournament, the APTC displays an impressive range of silver trophies and a selection of tournament souvenirs, notably an 1896 programme showing the name of Second-Lieutenant Winston Churchill, 4th Hussars, as competing in the officers' sabre, riding and jumping competitions.

A well-presented range of medals includes a replica of the Victoria Cross won by Lieutenant-Colonel H Daniels in World War One when he was a company sergeant-major in The King's Royal Rifle Corps before transferring to the APTC, and a group including five foreign decorations awarded to Colonel R B Campbell, inspector of physical training from 1918 to 1923.

Each exhibit has its own story and close association with the corps like the belt worn by Sergeant Donald Lynch embellished with military emblems and a coloured miniature of the girl he eventually married, and the bronze bust of Field-Marshal Montgomery, first colonel commandant of the APTC, standing alongside a commemorative medal and letters written in his own hand. Historic

photographs show the Army boxing team of 1918 with such immortals as Jim Driscoll, Jimmy Wilde and Bombardier Billy Wells; the APTC football eleven of 1946 boasting all-time greats like Denis Compton, Joe Mercer, Billy Wright and Tommy Lawton; and a World War Two group including Matt Busby and Stan Cullis, both instructors at the time.

The uniform, sword and medals of Lieutenant-Colonel J Betts, the first physical training instructor to be commissioned into the Army Gymnastics Staff as a master-at-arms, and a portrait of Colonel Sir George Malcolm Fox, inspector of gymnasium 1890-97, catch the eye before leaving for the museum's second room.

Displayed here are a number of miscellaneous items such as a competition .22 pistol found in the Berlin sports stadium after the war, the Olympic blazer of Bill Nankeville, of 1500 metres fame, and a photograph of the 1908 Olympic lightweight wrestling champion, Sergeant-Instructor G de Relwyskow, who introduced a system of hand-to-hand fighting for patrols in World War One. Here too are badges and buttons, track suits, fencing blades, and an oil painting of Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon J Scott Napier, inspector of physical training from 1897 to 1905, who was responsible for the establishment of the present Aldershot Command swimming pool.

Finally, the original 'scrapbook' meticulously compiled by Major Hammersley. Regarded by many as the most fascinating and significant item in the museum it was the start of a scrapbook tradition which has been kept alive ever since.

As part of the historical record of the corps, the visitor should not miss the Boxing Room with its full-sized ring in which Joe Louis Barrow, better known as Joe Louis, once fought, and the non-slip floored Fencing Room, reputed to be the finest in England.

John Jesse

Curator: Major T L Fletcher (Retd)
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S107	DRINK COASTERS , Gun motif on Red			
	—each	.30	.55	
S107a	" Gun motif on Blue	.30	.55	
	—each			
S86-S88a	TEA TOWELS Irish Linen—4 patterns			
	—each	1.09	1.48	
P48C	POCKET NOTEBOOKS	.54	.77	
P48B	" "	R.A. Cypher— with telephone index	.50	.70
P15a	CONFERENCE PAPERS FOLDER , gold embossed RA CYpher	1.87	3.00	
P20	Dinner Place Cards .. (per 100)	1.51	2.09	
P49	Identity Card Holders, R.A. Badge (quantity prices much reduced)	.26	.51	

SILVER PLATE				
S119	Water Goblet with R.A. Cypher—each	7.08	7.32	
S118	Wine " " " —each	6.09	6.45	
S123	Brandy " " " —each	6.33	6.62	
S122	Liqueur " " " —each	4.74	5.22	
S117	Oval Tray with "R.A." Cypher—each	17.21	16.96	
S121	Round " " " (Gallery)—each	27.56	27.49	
S69	PAPER KNIVES (Steel) with R.A. Cypher	.90	1.07	
S129	CLOTHES BRUSH , Leather covered, handle embossed R.A. Cypher	1.89	2.20	
S115	SUIT & DRESS COVERS , Zip Front, Satin P.V.C.	4.93	5.78	
S58	SERVINETTES (Paper) White with R.A. Cypher in Red Size 15" x 15"—per 100	1.22	1.89	
WEEKEND CASES —Blue Canvas				
S55	Holdall	2.88	3.87	
S56	Suitcase	3.54	5.23	
Regimental Christmas Cards, Selection of Regimental Postcards, Miniature Medals supplied to order. Blank Posters, R.A.A. Badges, Standards. Transfers, etc.				

Standards, Transfers, etc.

SOLDIER to Soldier

The range of designs of the popular regimental drum ice buckets offered by SOLDIER's Reader Services has been increased again, by another nine, to a total of 133. The new designs available are: Royal Tank Regiment; 1st Battalion, The Jamaica Regiment; Royal Canadian Military Institute; 8th Canadian Hussars; Canadian Grenadier Guards; The Royal Canadian Hussars; The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada; Royal British Legion, Scotland; and The Highland Light Infantry.

SOLDIER wishes to offer its sincerest apologies for the inclusion in the letter "Medal Mania" in the July 1977 issue of an extremely offensive allusion to King Leopold III of Belgium.

The range of pewter figures has also been extended. The new figures are: 20RM/1 Drummer, Royal Marines, 1976; 21RM/2 Royal Marine Commando, 1976; 22RM/3 Officer of the Duke of York and Albany's Maritime Regiment of Foot, 1664; 23MP/1 Sergeant, Royal Military Police, 1977; 24TB/1 Ensign of The Buffs, 1811; 25WK/1 Private, Royal West Kent Regiment, Kohima, 1943; 26PL/1 Captain, Princess Louise's Highlanders, 1890.

New figures available as variations of the private, internal security dress, are: 10UBR/28 The King's Own Royal Border Regiment; 10UGH/29 The Green Howards; 10ULI/30 The Light Infantry Regiment; 10UMP/31 Royal Military Police; 10UQRH/32 Queen's Own Royal Highland Regiment; 10URM/33 REME; 10URO/34 RAOC; 10UBW/35 The Black Watch; 10UUR/36 The Ulster Defence Regiment.

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use Naafi HP Please tick whichever applies

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TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE REGULAR FORCES

Make sure of your vote for as long as you serve

To be able to vote your name must be on the Register of Electors.

Arrangements for the registration of members of the Armed Forces and their wives or husbands have been made easier by a recent Act of Parliament. With effect from 16th February 1978, you and your spouse once having been registered as Service voters will remain registered, and entitled to vote at Parliamentary General and By-Elections and Local Government Elections, until you leave the Forces. Your registration might also be necessary to enable you to vote at any future referendum.

To be included in the Register of Electors which comes into force on 16th February 1978, and all subsequent registers while you continue to serve, you must, provided you are 18 years of age by 15th February 1979, make a **SERVICE DECLARATION** on form F/Vote/33 which you should have received by now from your Unit or Ship. If not, ask for one. (You should, if you are married, also receive form F/Vote/34 for your spouse to complete.)

- * Wives or husbands of members of the Armed Forces are no longer able to register as civilian voters and it is important that you obtain a form F/Vote/34.
- * The forms must be signed and dated not later than 10th October 1977 (15th September 1977 for N. Ireland constituencies).
- * You should then send the form to the Electoral Registration Officer at your local council office at home*, using envelope F/Vote/37 provided, to reach him not later than 16th December 1977.
- * If you, or your spouse, are not 18 years of age by 15th February 1979 you should complete form F/Vote/33 (and your spouse should complete form F/Vote/34) now. This will ensure that, provided you are still serving, you will be included in the Register of Electors and be able to vote as soon as you are 18 years of age.

Fill in your form NOW or you may lose your vote.

* Chief Electoral Officer Belfast by 15th December for N. Ireland residents.

**Your vote matters
-don't lose it**



At the Army School of Ammunition, Germans, Americans and Italians learn from British instructors about the explosives side of the new Lance missile. Meanwhile, in Germany, British and Belgian non-commissioned officers are instructed in Lance's ground equipment and electronics. This joint training is only part of a new scheme which will grow and grow as more and more Nato armies adopt the same equipments . . .

EUROTRAINING: NATO'S NEWEST WEAPON



Story: John Walton
Pictures: Doug Pratt and Leslie Wiggs

THOSE CLASPED HANDS on the Common Market 50 pence piece were supposed to be symbolic of the new united Western Europe. And in one field of co-operation — military training — Western Europe has recently taken a great step forward.

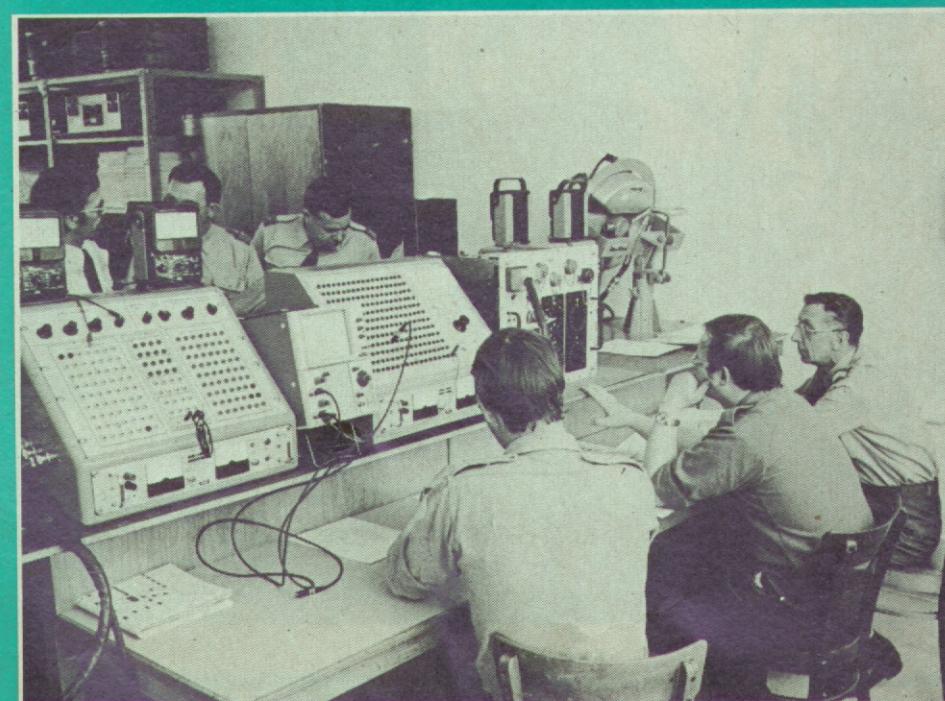
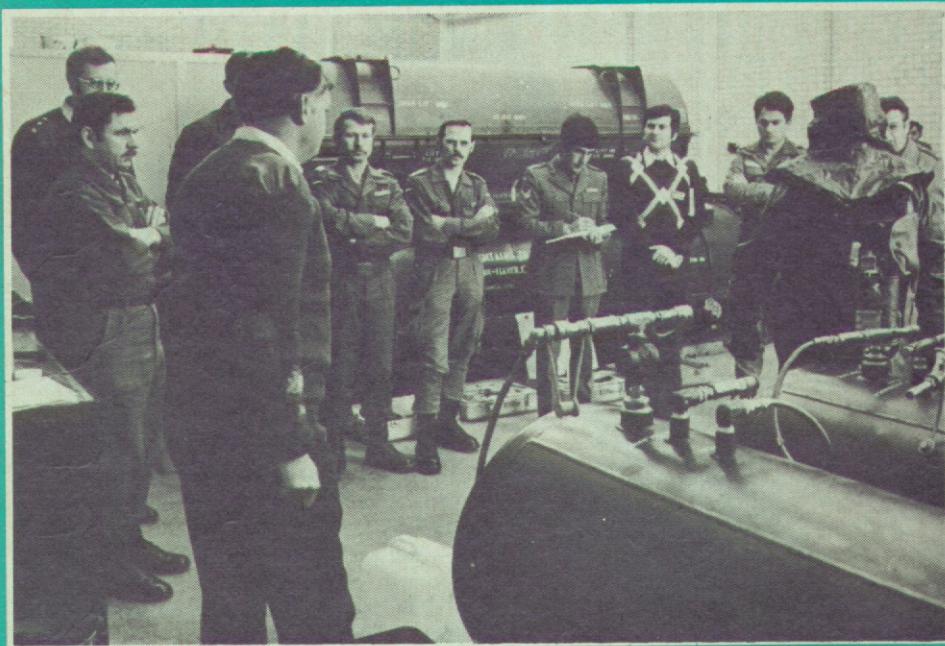
The moves towards standardisation of Nato equipment have meant that it makes sense in both economic and Alliance terms for soldiers of the various Nato forces to learn about new equipment together. And the Lance ground-to-ground missile, which is coming into service with several nations, provides the ideal subject.

At the Army School of Ammunition an explosives technicians' course on Lance had ten students — a mixture of Germans, Italians and Americans from the US Forces in Europe.

Captain Joe Hastings told SOLDIER that one of the main possibilities that had to be guarded against was leakage from a rocket which had been in an accident. It contained two very nasty and toxic chemicals which could poison a man on touch or by inhalation of fumes. To make matters worse, if the



Above: British sergeants get their first look at Lance in the open — on the tactical launcher.



two chemicals — the fuel and the oxidiser — met, they would burst into flames.

"We train with water and about 50 per cent of this course is concerned with the safe draining of the missile," he said. "The propellants are sealed in when the missile is made in the USA and the chances of a random leak are a million to one. But there is always what might happen in an accident on the range."

In addition to the technicians' courses the ASA runs courses for storemen on the system and these include anyone who is likely to be involved in operations, such as clerks, drivers and forklift truck operators.

British instructor Warrant Officer 1 Tom Galloway revealed that he and his fellow instructors trained in the United States for three months before they took on the Euro-training courses.

The course deals with how the missile works in detail, how fire control works and safe storage and transportation. It ends with practical and written examinations. Students build up missiles and take them to bits and practise site and pump decontamination drills.

Giant American Staff-Sergeant Kenneth Smith finished helping to fit a decontamination suit on Italian Warrant Officer 2 Giorgio Vacca (at least a foot smaller). Then he gave his verdict: "This course is very interesting because we have found that each of us does one or two things in a different way and we have had discussion about which is best."

Over at the German Army Technical School near Aachen, four senior non-commissioned officers of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, together with four Belgians, were learning from German instructors about the electronics side of Lance.

None of the Britons had any experience of Lance before joining the course. But, said Sergeant Pete Wreford: "We know a fair amount about it now. It's a good course."

Top left: Nato students being taught the fuel system at the British School of Ammunition.

Top right: British instructor makes a point, using a cutaway model of Lance's fuel system.

Centre: Italians, Germans and Americans connecting two sections under British tuition.

Left: British and Belgian students practising fault-finding at the German Technical School.

The British students have an advantage over their Belgian colleagues for although the instructors are German the instruction is in English the official language for all Euro-training instruction.

Even this has some problems. Sergeant Les Murray explains: "A lot of their instructors use Americanisms rather than English and we have to work out what they mean. For instance they never talk about fault-finding — it's always trouble-shooting."

Chief instructor Lieutenant-Colonel Gero Weiss said that the German Army teaches students from all the countries in the weapons systems partnerships. They run courses on electronics, ground equipment and carriers — in fact everything needed to maintain the equipment.

"We follow the procedures given in the manual and also go into more detail," he said. "We want the student to understand what he is doing and not to just turn knobs."

Italians, British, Dutch, Belgians and Greeks have attended courses at the Technical School. All live in, and studying German Army life at such close quarters can again be educational.

Staff-Sergeant Geoff Prankett told **SOLDIER**: "We are used to a sergeants' mess system which is non-existent here. We eat in cookhouses with other ranks from corporals upwards and have made quite a few German friends to drink or play cards with."

The school is sited in an area which does not see many British soldiers and the four men found local people very friendly and interested in them. Said Sergeant Wreford: "The German camp is very quiet — the people here are a lot less noisy than British soldiers."

Sergeant Trevor Lancaster said he was impressed by the modern techniques employed by the Germans and all four men said they had discovered a tremendous amount

Top right: Earnest German and American soldiers side-by-side in the British classroom.

Centre: Training in UK on washing down Lance tools and equipment with neutralising liquid.

Below right: Practising washing down procedure for fuel leak — dressed in protective clothing.

Below: S/Sgt Prankett and Sgt Lancaster, at the German school, checking for malfunctions.





Top left: German student in UK renewing air purifying pack in protective breathing set.

Left: International card game in non-commissioned officers' club, German Technical School.

Above: Taking every precaution while practising fuel leak routines at the British school.

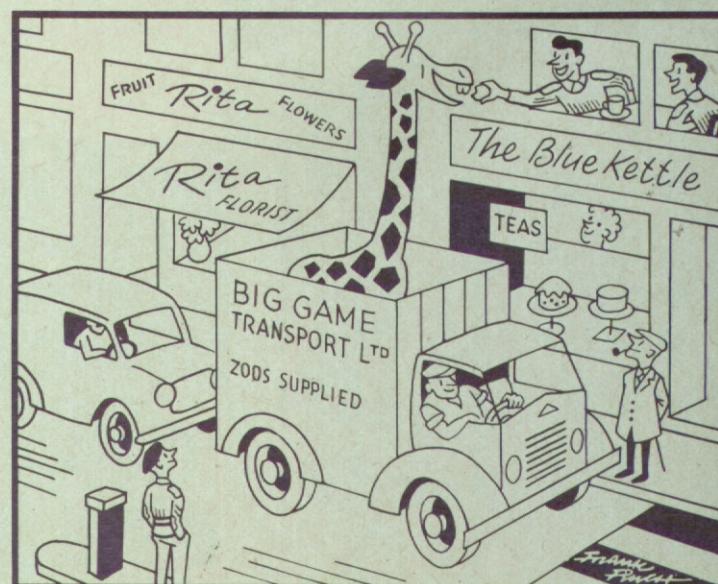
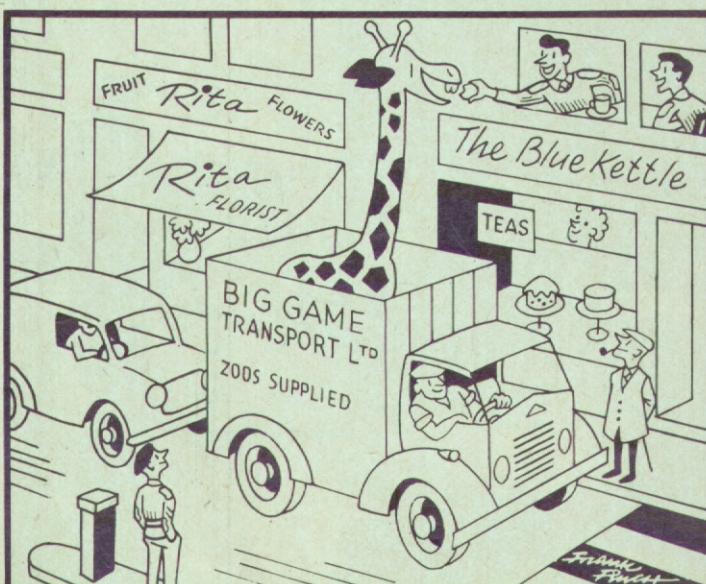
about Lance from the fault-finding tests in which Colonel Weiss and his instructors insert malfunctions into the system and leave the students to find them.

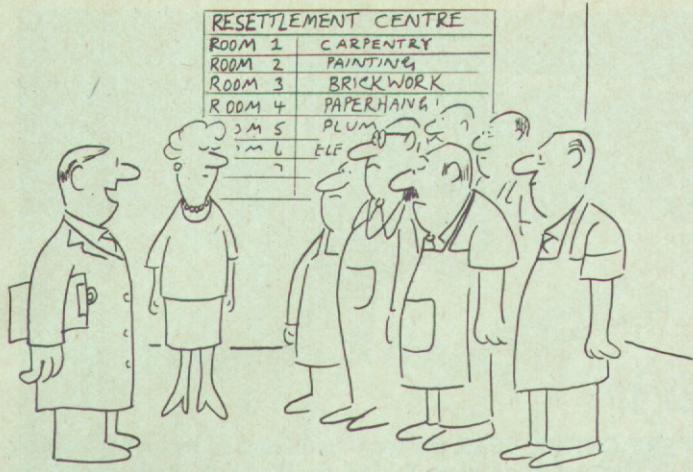
But the training on Lance is only the tip of what is likely to become a very big iceberg as weapons become more standardised. And joint training is less costly, more effective and ensures closer co-operation between allies. Already the Germans are training long-range patrols from other countries, the Italians are offering courses on parachuting and Alpine training, and other Nato and Eurogroup members are offering and taking part in a wide variety of courses.

Eurotraining is obviously here to stay.

How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences see page 37.





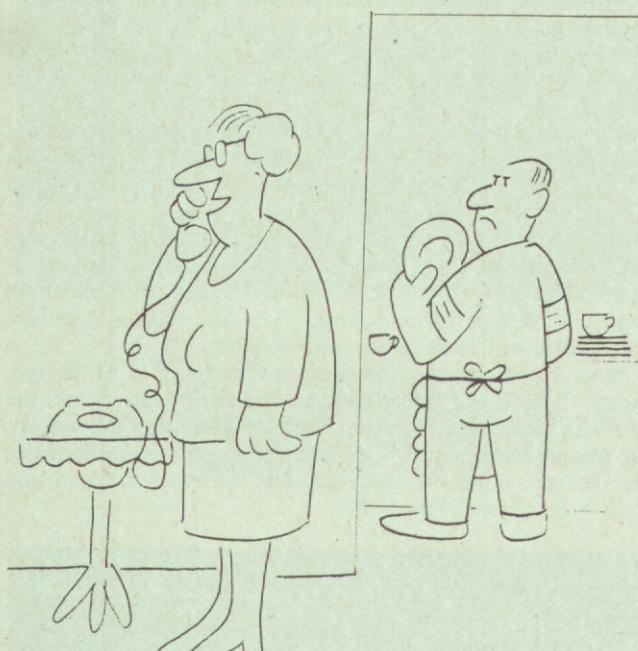
"To prepare you for when you go home, Mrs Mitchell here will pass among you each day, criticising and making disparaging remarks."



HOME FRONT

"Come, come, sir, we're digressing again!"

Cartoonist 'Power' comes up with his own ideas on running 'Bricks and mortar,' the Army's popular and practical resettlement courses in house maintenance



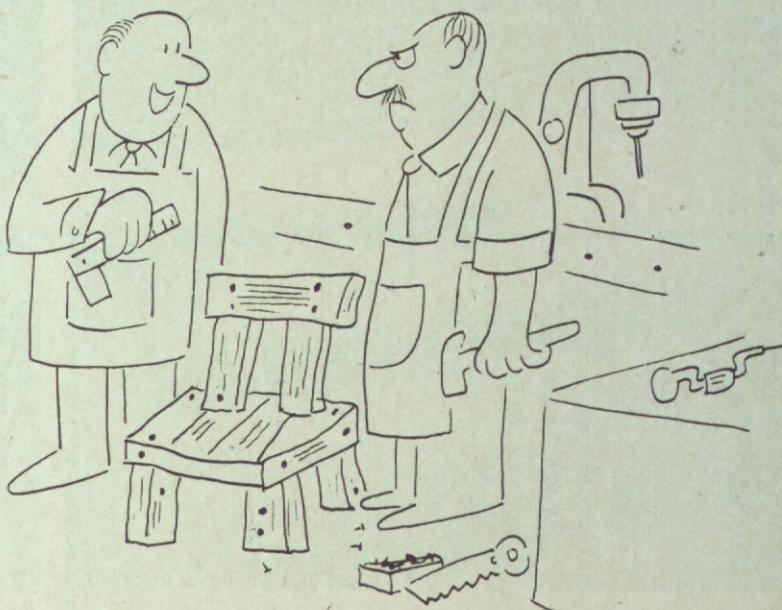
"He's on a resettlement course."



"He went on a resettlement course and resettled with a 23-year-old blonde in Brighton."

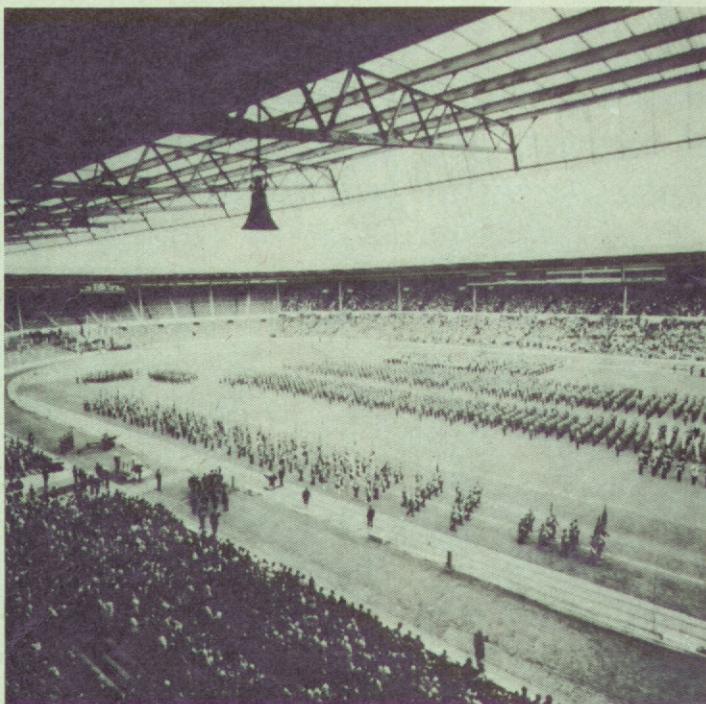


"Constructive criticism is part of the course, major."



"I bet G Plan are getting the wind up."

Silver Jubilee MILITARY MUSICAL PAGEANT



1 The Queen takes the salute as the Colours, Guidons and Banners are marched off at her review of the Reserve Forces and Cadets.



2 Opening fanfare of the Military Musical Pageant. Centre: The Light Division bugles; rear, mounted bands, State trumpeters.

EVERY OTHER YEAR the band 'buffs' and all who enjoy military music and spectacle have flocked to Wembley Stadium for the Military Musical Pageant. In this Silver Jubilee year the Army's bands, corps of drums, bugles and pipes and drums were joined for the first time by bands of the Royal Marines and Royal Air Force in a show extended to three evenings. The opening evening was attended by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh and followed Her Majesty's review in the stadium of the Reserve and Cadet forces (see SOLDIER, August, News 7).

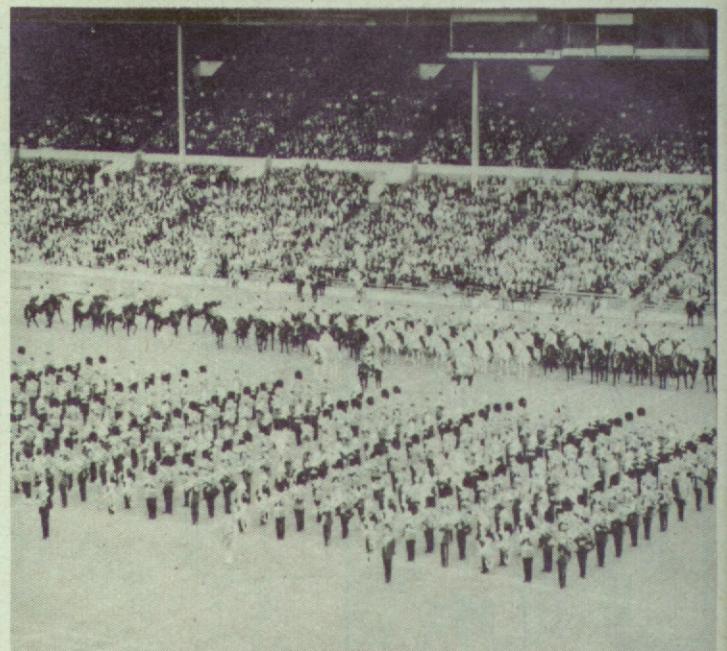
The opening fanfare by the mounted bands, State trumpeters, fanfare trumpeters, cavalry trumpeters and massed bugles set the pattern of dazzling colour, precision of drill and the tremendous sound.

Then came 'All the Queen's Men' with the mounted bands and trumpeters joined by the five Marine bands, the four RAF bands and the Guards. 'Skirl o' the Pipes,' with bands, pipes and drums of Scottish, Irish and Gurkha regiments featured once again at Wembley the popular traditional Scottish dancing. 'Crown Imperial,' closing the first half, grouped the bands of all three Services in the shape of an enormous crown flanked by the letters ER pinpointed by torches.

As ever the greatest applause, from audiences which could not have been more appreciative, greeted 'Silver and Green' — the massed bands and bugles of The Light Division with their distinctive slow, quick and double marching.

'Dancing Waters,' a hundred-foot-long electronically controlled complex of fountains, made a spectacular addition to the performance of 36 bands in 'Happy and Glorious,' leading into the grand finale with its 2000 performers from 70 bands, pipes and drums, bugles and corps of drums of all three Services.

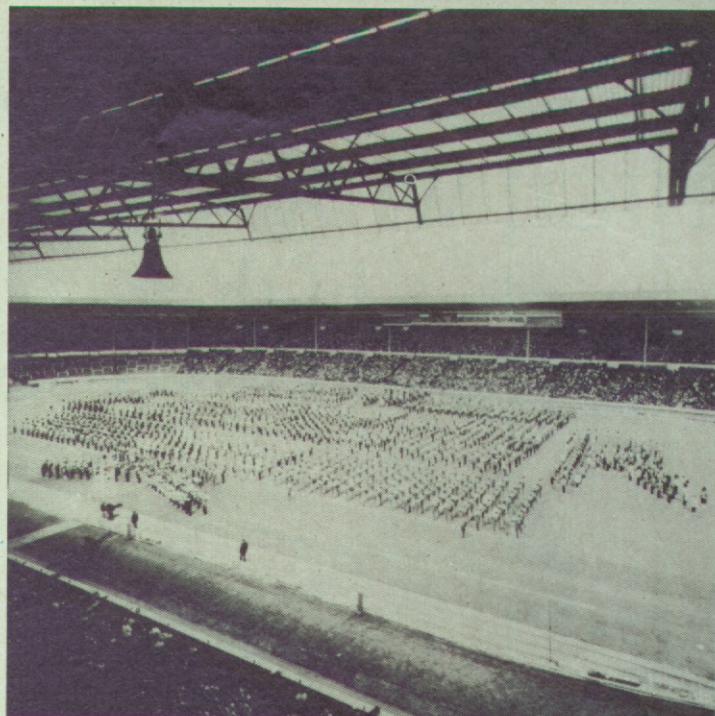
The musical director was Lieutenant-Colonel T le M Sharpe, Coldstream Guards, the Army's senior director of music, and the producer was Major A F Jackman, Royal Artillery (V). Proceeds from the pageant were in aid of the three principal Service charities — King George's Fund for Sailors, Army Benevolent Fund and Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund.



3 A section of 'All the Queen's Men' with bands of the Royal Marines, Guards, Royal Air Force and the mounted bands.



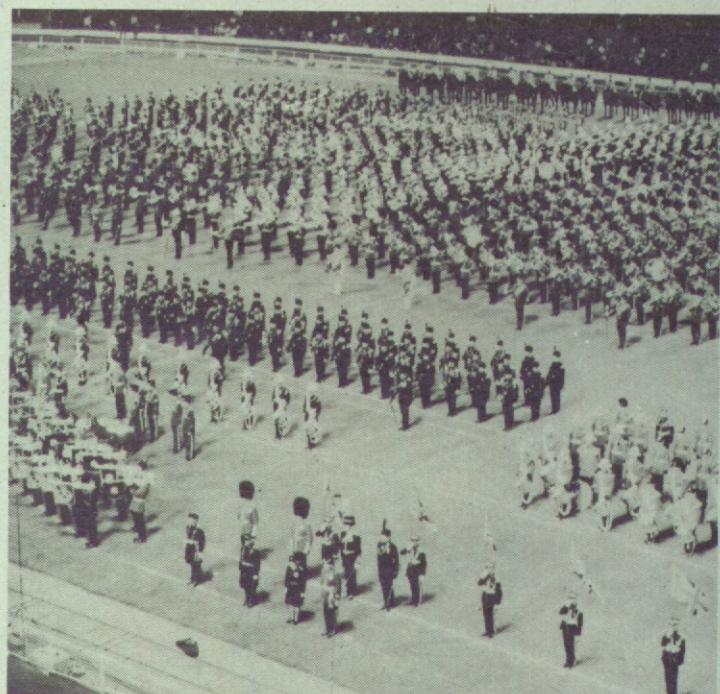
4 Traditional Highland dancing, in 'The Skirl o' the Pipes,' to the bands, pipes and drums of Scottish, Irish and Gurkha regiments.



5 'Crown Imperial', with bands of all three Services shaping a huge crown flanked by 'ER' picked out with flaming torches.



6 Led by Bugle-Major Green, the massed bands and bugles of The Light Division on the march during 'Silver and Green.'



7 Section of 'The Grand Finale,' with more than 2000 performers in 70 bands, pipes and drums, bugles and corps of drums.

The pictures on these pages (one of the review and six of the Musical Pageant) are available to readers as a set of seven machine colour prints, each 8 x 8 inches. Order from SOLDIER (MMP), Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU, enclosing UK cheque, UK postal order or international money order: UK £4.00 (including postage/VAT), BFPO £3.70 (including postage), elsewhere £3.90 (including postage).

The 'Silver Jubilee Musical Pageant' souvenir programme is available at 50 pence (including postage) from Army Benevolent Fund, G Block, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London (Tel: 01-730 5489). The programme gives full details of the musical pageant and the Reserve and Cadet Forces review.

Elephant Island expedition

NICE WEATHER FOR PENGUINS



FOR ONLY THE THIRD TIME since discovered by Sir Ernest Shackleton in 1916, Antarctica's Elephant Island — and its satellite islands of Aspland, Eadie, O'Brien, Clarence and Gibbs — have been lived on by man. This time it was a 16-man Joint Services expedition led by Commander Chris Furse, Royal Navy, and including six soldiers.

The six Army men were Captain J P Bayliss (Royal Army Educational Corps), Sergeant-Major E Bright (The Royal Green Jackets), Captain J W Chuter (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers) Lance-Corporal L S Hunt (Royal Corps of Transport), Captain C J Hurran (Royal Engineers) and Lieutenant A J N Simkins (Royal Artillery).

Each of the 16-man party had specialist tasks. The expedition's aims were to study the bird and fish life, geology, botany, weather and many other aspects of the grim and forbidding islands of Antarctica.

For the first two months they worked in groups. Commander Furse and six men explored the Gibbs and Aspland island groups while the others were on Clarence Island. Treading often where man had not been before, they explored a number of icy peaks — as well as learning to live with thousands of penguins.

The final period was spent on Elephant Island, which is some 24 miles long and includes several hitherto unclimbed peaks. Here 22 men of Shackleton's expedition had wintered in 1916 before being rescued.

During the 21 days at the final camp site, Lieutenant Simkins reports, there were gusts of Force Eight or more for over half the time. The islands lived up to their reputation for foul weather — and it seems unlikely that anyone other than scientists and servicemen will ever want to emulate the feats of the 1977 Elephant Island expedition.

From a report and pictures by Lieutenant A J N Simkins.

Top: The camp site on O'Brien Island complete with some of the ever-present local penguins.

Far left: Lieutenant Andy Simkins, Royal Artillery, climbing an icewall on O'Brien Island.

Centre: Home sweet home. Captain Chris Hurran, Royal Engineers, improving his snowhole. Below: Not a mist-shrouded island which the two canoeists are approaching, but an iceberg.



THE RAIN FALLS MAINLY ON THE PLAIN

Story: John Walton
Pictures: Paul Haley

FOR THE FIRST TIME since its formation on Territorial Army restructuring ten years ago, a North Country volunteer regiment went on annual 'summer' camp on Salisbury Plain — and its men met the worst weather most of them had ever seen.

During the fortnight's stay on the Plain the 550 men of 156 (Lancs and Cheshire) Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, endured almost constant drizzle, thunderstorms, biting winds and wintry temperatures. Their vehicles, ranging from veteran Leyland Hippos to new Fodens, slithered across swampy tracks and even stuck from time to time.

But the indomitable Mancunians and Merseysiders plodded on. Said their commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Cecil Tanner: "The enthusiasm they showed in these very difficult weather conditions made

the exercise a great success." And a dripping Corporal Edwin Cowan, fresh from guard duty in a thunderstorm, declared: "The weather has made us a bit downhearted but we've still enjoyed it."

The four squadrons, located at Liverpool, Birkenhead, Manchester and Bootle, usually hold their camps separately. But this year's camp is likely to be followed by other regimental camps. Said Colonel Tanner: "In time of war we would be together so we have been able to practise our operational role in as real circumstances as possible."

Based at Westdown Camp, the Volunteers, using 150 wagons, were able to spread themselves around Salisbury Plain and exercise at such diverse places as North Tidworth and Porton.

Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Dickie, second-in-command, said they had relied on

their own resources as far as possible although the fact that they were in a military area had been helpful.

"We drew our own petroleum for the whole exercise, staffed Westdown Camp ourselves and relied entirely on our own Army Catering Corps cooks."

Each squadron also carried out a rations lift to a cold store at Peterborough from the Royal Naval Victualling Depot at Botley near Southampton. More than 400 tons of stores were moved in the four lifts.

Major Bob Jones, commanding the Liverpool squadron, told *SOLDIER*: "They unloaded the stores themselves at Peterborough using Eager Beavers. Some of the lads who had never driven these before were driving them like sports cars within a few minutes." He was echoed by a permanent staff instructor, Warrant Officer 2 Joe



Cleghorn: "They are hard workers and really do graft. They drove all the way to Peterborough, worked hard all day, had a little rest and then drove back."

There were lots of gas drills in NCB 'Noddy' suits. And the Royal Air Force obliged with a couple of air strikes by Hunter jets coming in at treetop height.

Naturally the camp placed great emphasis on driving and there was even a driving school at Westdown where drivers were tested and upgraded.

When some of the older sweats called at the village shop and post office at Tilshead, just down the road from the camp, they got a shock. For serving behind the counter was postmaster Major Fred Luty, from 1967 to 1969 the regiment's first training major.

The senior cook was a dietician by profession, another cook worked in a soap factory and other jobs included dockers and even an undertaker. Said Colonel Tanner: "Most of our men are not professional drivers and this camp has given them some variety from their normal life."

As the rain falling mainly on the Plain spattered into their mess tins, the Scousers and Mancunians all agreed — 1977 'summer' camp would never be forgotten.



Above: "Halt and state the password" demands soaked-to-the-skin Corporal Edwin Cowan.

Top: Talking shop. Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Dickie meets the ex-training major, Fred Luty.

Centre: The jerrican march. The regiment drew all its own petroleum supplies for the exercise.

Left: Driving through a quagmire is sticky work — but that's how it was with rain on the Plain.

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WHEN YOU GET OUT, WE'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU.

WHEN you've been in the armed forces for a while, you take certain things more or less for granted.

Companionship, for example. Esprit de corps. The feeling of belonging. Call it what you will. It doesn't exist in civvy street.

And many ex-service people who were convinced that they'd be happy when they

got out find it hard to settle and make friends.

Then again, many civilian jobs offer no possibility for people who've been in the forces to exercise the abilities their training has given them.

The Metropolitan Police on the other hand, offers a career which can use the self-discipline, initiative and sense of responsibility that service training bestows.

We also offer companionship and team spirit not far removed from that in the forces. (You'll realise this the first time you witness the response to a radio call for "Constable in need of urgent assistance...")

Everybody turns out.

Another similarity is the feeling of security you get from knowing where your next pay day is coming from. We don't have strikes or lay-offs.

All in all, it's not surprising that a large number of ex-service people make successful careers for themselves in the Met.

We'll be waiting to welcome you when you get out with a place to live and a good starting salary.

And if you're ex-service, you're eligible up to the age of 45.

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Address _____

Age _____



LONDON'S 8,000,000 PEOPLE TAKE A LOT OF LOOKING AFTER. COME AND GIVE US A HAND.

Soldier news

A day to remember

By Terry Stockton

THE IRA promised a day to remember for the Royal Jubilee visit to Northern Ireland. It did turn out to be a day to remember — but not in the way the terrorists had planned. One of the tightest security nets ever seen in the Province was able to cool trouble before it had a chance to really start and IRA confrontations were confined to predictable areas.

At the end of her two day visit to Northern Ireland Her Majesty the Queen sent the following message to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr Roy Mason: "Please convey my warm thanks and those of the Duke of Edinburgh to all those who by their care and effort have contributed to the success of our visit. We leave this evening with happy memories of the past two days, much gratitude for the kindness with which we were received and hopes for the future of all who live in the province."

Traditional

The first day of the royal visit saw the most military involvement when Her Majesty paid a visit to Hillsborough Castle only a few miles away from Army Headquarters at Lisburn and the traditional residence for Governors of Northern Ireland.

The royal party's first sound of welcome on the tour was provided by a twenty one gun salute fired by 102 Light Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery (TAVR). The salute was fired from the cliffs at Bangor as the Royal Yacht Britannia entered Belfast Lough.

After being introduced to the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland, Lieutenant General Sir David House the Queen inspected a guard of honour drawn from all eleven battalions of the Ulster Defence Regiment under the

command of Major Bill Knox of 6th (County Tyrone) Battalion. Throughout the ceremony music was played by the Band of the Royal Irish Rangers and castle sentries were the North Irish Militia (4th Battalion, Royal Irish Rangers).

Investiture

The inspection completed, Her Majesty moved into Hillsborough Castle where she performed an investiture ceremony. Among the recipients was the GOC who was presented with his Knight Grand Cross announced earlier in the Jubilee Honours List.

Highlight of the day for 2500 guests invited for the afternoon programme was the royal garden party in the grounds of Hillsborough Castle in perfect summer weather. It was the first chance for the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh to meet the people of Northern Ireland, among them many members of the security forces and their families.

It was at Coleraine University that the royal couple were able to meet the youth of the province at a specially organised festival, among them representatives of the Army Cadet Force, Combined Cadet Force, Naval Sea Cadets and the Air Training Corps who provided displays.

Earlier in the day the Provisional IRA told the media they had breached the security cordon at the

university, but this was proved to be false and the visit went ahead unhindered.

Throughout the two day royal visit security in Northern Ireland was tight and the Security Forces could be seen doing their duty all over the province. Troops on the ground were strengthened by the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards in their Spearhead role and by the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters who were retained in the province after completing a four month tour of duty. Together with a full-scale callout of the Ulster Defence Regiment it raised the level of security forces to 32,000.

Disturbances

Trouble throughout the province was kept to a minimum but terrorist disturbances in Belfast led to the death of Private John Harrison of the 3rd Battalion, Light Infantry, who was killed by a sniper while safeguarding the public at the site of a suspected car bomb.

Other soldiers were injured by Republican rioters in the Falls Road area when a Sinn Fein march tried to breach a security cordon to reach the city centre after being barred by the police. Later that evening Major Tobin Duke of The Gordon Highlanders was shot and seriously injured in West Belfast while supervising the removal of burnt out cars.

The visit of Her Majesty the Queen was clearly a great success. On the operational side, the avowed threats and intentions of the Provisional IRA came to nought and the whole programme was completed without disruption or incident. Let all be in no doubt that this was due to the massive suppressive and preventative operations by the Security Forces including immensely painstaking, intensive and continuous searching, patrolling and surveillance activities. All the Security Forces can be justly proud of the indispensable part they have played in enabling a great occasion involving Her Majesty the Queen to have been completed so successfully. For the service part in the operations the credit belongs to you and your men, well done and thank you.

Lt-Gen Sir David House
GOC Northern Ireland

Sharon's the only girl

Sharon Hope, a 23-year-old WRAC sergeant has been named as the only woman in the tri-Service entry in the Round the World Yacht Race.

Sharon, an instructor at the Army Physical Training School at Bulford will be the first Servicewoman to take part in the gruelling race. She had to undergo a punishing series of tests to qualify for her place, beating 300 men hopefuls in the process.



Alert Lester is in the money

Craftsman Lester Newman could well be the richest soldier in the Army, and all because of his alertness.

Lester, now stationed in Germany was on exercise at Stoney Castle Ranges, Pirbright, when he disturbed two men burying boxes in the heathland. When he approached them, the two men drove off.

Lester, then a Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers recruit gave the registration number of the van to an officer, who passed it on to the local police, which led to the tracing of a gang which had been stealing diamonds, gold and other valuables from Heathrow Airport over a four year period.

Now all this could mean a reward of about £150,000 for Lester, ten per cent of the value of the recovered property.

With the car number clue detectives made inquiries, then about 80 police, some armed, made raids on five addresses, where most of the loot was recovered. Later, eight men were convicted at the Old Bailey and jailed for up to 13 years for the Heathrow strongroom robberies.

Although Lester has not actually got the cash yet, he has been offered an all-expenses paid holiday for two by British Airways.



Quartering charges

SOLDIER regrets that in last month's article on quartering charges (page NEWS 13) the figures given in bold type were the 1976 weekly charges.

The 1977 current weekly charges for Type B and Type C quarters are in fact as follows:

	Type B	Type C
Rent	£4.73	£5.37
Rates	£1.81	£2.31
Furnishing	£1.14	£1.30
Maintenance	£0.58	£0.61
Total	£8.26	£9.59

Four crews in all will take Adventure, a 55ft ocean racing sloop round the world. Sharon will be on the first leg from Portsmouth to Cape Town.

Only two men in the crews have previously taken part in round-the-world races, Captain Peter Enzer, Royal Engineers and Staff-Sergeant David Leslie, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

"This is a deliberate policy", explained project manager Commander Peter Jack, "Every effort has been made to choose crew members who have not previously been round the world, in order to spread advantages of this kind of adventurous training as widely as possible."

A debate in the House of Lords on the Reserve Forces was sparked off by a question from Earl Cathcart. He asked what reductions were to be made to the Reserve Forces and stockpiles of key stores as a result of the recent series of cuts in defence expenditure and to what extent the cuts would reduce our ability to transport essentials to Rhine Army in time.

In his maiden speech, Earl Avon, son of the late Prime Minister, said he was currently a vice-chairman of

Commons something about the boys with the red beret.

He said that wherever the regiment had fought, it had fought well and with honour. Whenever there had been a problem in the postwar period it had not only been ready and willing to serve but had been the spearhead of any force put into the field.

He said the disbanding of the reserve division and its turning into a brigade was a shameful day. Because of that action by a Conser-

(Conservative, Croydon Central) that worldwide the Ministry of Defence owned 75,000 automobiles. This figure included all cars, other passenger-carrying vehicles, motorcycles, load carriers and a wide variety of purpose-built vehicles. It excluded armoured fighting vehicles, mechanical handling equipment and other specialist vehicle equipments.

Mr Dennis Canavan (Labour, West Stirlingshire) wanted to know about the cost of the Jubilee celebrations. Mr Fred Mulley, Secretary of

modation and food charges, but this had happened over the whole range of civilian employment. It happened when they met their food costs.

Later Mr Mulley referred to leave warrants. He said there was no reason why servicemen should have to pay tax on them. It was a somewhat complicated issue which had still not been fully sorted out with the Inland Revenue.

Mr Michael Mates (Conservative, Petersfield) asked about the allowance for single men serving in

PARLIAMENT PAPERS

the Greater London TAVR Association. He believed that any more cuts in expenditure on the Reserves at this moment could seriously harm their efficiency, credibility and even their morale.

It was a time when consideration should be given to expansion rather than to curtailment. Increased importance was being given to the TAVR by making many of its units on mobilisation an integral part of the Army in Germany. Having given them this task, the TAVR should have been equipped and established to work alongside Regular battalions.

Lord Avon said this had not been completed. There was a general shortage of radio and FFR vehicles; infantry battalions were equipped with Wombat and not even with Moba; they had a smaller allocation of Carl Gustavs and some of their equipment was old.

The TAVR remained our only reserve against the unknown and at 60,000 strong it was ludicrously small. It also provided a shopwindow for the armed services with its drill halls up and down the country.

Lord Westbury said that aggressors could be at the Channel ports in one week. How could we get out reserves from the United Kingdom and Ulster to BAOR in less than one week? It was not possible.

Replying for the Government, Lord Winterbottom gave a categoric assurance that the ability substantially to reinforce BAOR, RAF Germany and to provide reinforcements of all three Services for Nato headquarters, was unaffected by recent cuts both in terms of the level of reinforcement and the speed at which it could take place.

The Government was committed to returning to Germany within 72 hours in an emergency those units temporarily redeployed to Northern Ireland. The TAVR was also ready to move at very short notice — many units with a Nato role had a proportion of their equipment stockpiled in Europe and there was close contact between the units and formation commanders.

On equipment, Lord Winterbottom said TAVR units should be similarly equipped to Regular units with a similar role. As part of this policy the new Fox armoured car was being delivered to the TAVR in advance of some Regular units and it was intended that they, as well as the Regulars, would receive the Blowpipe low-level air defence missile system and Milan anti-tank guided weapon system.

Tory MP Mr Jim Spicer (Dorset West) served six years with The Parachute Regiment so he took the opportunity to tell the House of

vative Government, vast areas of potential reserve forces had been left untapped. These were men who wanted to do something more exciting than was available with other TAVR forces.

Mr Spicer said the Government now seemed determined and intent upon destroying 16th Parachute Brigade and turning it into just one parachute battalion. He asked why such an élite force should be destroyed "just because some people think that the day of the parachutist is over."

It was penny wise and pound foolish to destroy the morale of an élite corps such as The Parachute Regiment. The termites were in the wood and were determined to destroy what was worthwhile and would stand the country in good stead.

Mr Spicer asked if the decision to break up the Regular parachute brigade and the 44th Parachute Brigade could be reconsidered. He expected short shrift from the Minister but his appeal was to people of the country and the many hundreds of thousands who had worn the red beret with pride and now saw its destruction.

The Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Army, Mr Robert Brown, agreed that the red beret had become a byword for toughness and bravery. At Arnhem he had been one of those who had hoped to relieve the airborne forces but had not got through.

Mr Brown said that under the new organisation each of the three battalions of The Parachute Regiment would undertake an active airborne commitment as part of 6th Field Force. The other two battalions not operating in that role at any given time would take on other infantry roles.

Although the present 44th Parachute Brigade (Volunteers) was shortly to disband, the three volunteer parachute battalions would continue to exist as part of The Parachute Regiment and would continue to receive parachute training.

Mr Brown said the Army must be run with a judicious mixture of head and heart. If it was run solely by the head we might end up with a spiritless piece of machinery. If by the heart, by sending cavalry against tanks.

"Times change and military roles change with them. Fusiliers lose their fusils, lancers their lances. Grenades and rifles are not confined to grenadiers and riflemen. But the retention of these distinguished names and traditions is important to the British Army and long may it remain so."

Mr Brown told Mr John Moore

State for Defence, said the cost of the participation of the Household Cavalry in Jubilee events in Scotland was £42,000. Total cost to the Ministry for the Jubilee, including the Fleet, Reserve Forces, Army and Air Force reviews, was about £330,000.

The Opposition chose forces' pay and conditions for a Commons debate (brief report, August SOLDIER News, Page 6). It was led by Sir Ian Gilmore (Chesham and Amersham) who said the forces had not only lost confidence in the Government but in the Armed Forces Pay Review Body. He would have thought the charges for accommodation could have been abated this year or an immediate pay award granted with the increased charges postponed for six months.

There were now 14,000 married quarters unoccupied and Sir Ian contended that they were being priced out of the market by the accommodation charges. Servicemen could not afford to live in the quarters which were specially provided for them. Meanwhile the Government lost the rent.

Mr Robert Brown: "Bloody nonsense."

Sir Ian said the Review Body was now regarded as an arm of the Government and not as independent. He asked what requests had been made by members of the Review Body that they should be released from the strict letter of the Government's incomes policies and how many had wanted to resign but had not got through.

Mr Mulley said the Services and the community were entitled to know what the Opposition would do if they had responsibility. They had not indicated that they would restore the cuts which had been made and there was no indication whatsoever over the whole range of Opposition policy.

The whole tenor of Sir Ian's remarks had been that the armed Services should be taken out of the pay policy and Mr Mulley did not believe that the Services wanted this — because they realised how vital economic recovery was.

Mr Mulley said he knew "by remote bush wireless" that some of the members of the Review Body were perhaps thinking of resigning. But this was not because they were against Government pay policy but because of the unfair criticism to which they had been subjected in the House and the press. No representations had been made to him because the Review Body well understood the pay policy.

Mr Mulley said he understood the reaction of the Services when their increase appeared to be almost whittled away by increased accom-

Northern Ireland which had remained at 50p per day while soldiers serving on the southern side of the border were receiving £1.50 per day for the same job.

Mr Mulley said the special allowance when the Conservatives took office was zero and when they left office in 1974 it still stood at zero. He accepted that there was a case for review but the allowance was caught by pay policy.

He said the rigid nature of the first two pay rounds had produced some distortions and these would be put right in future rounds of the policy. He gave an assurance that the needs of the armed forces would be taken into account.

Mr Ernest Perry (Labour, Battersea South) put in a few words for the garrison in Gibraltar. He said they were confined in a very small space with nowhere to go and suggested that an agreement might be made with the new Spanish Government so that they were allowed to enter Spain.

Some of the serving soldiers in Gibraltar had to put up with rotten housing conditions and if it was to be continued as a station they should be provided with decent accommodation.

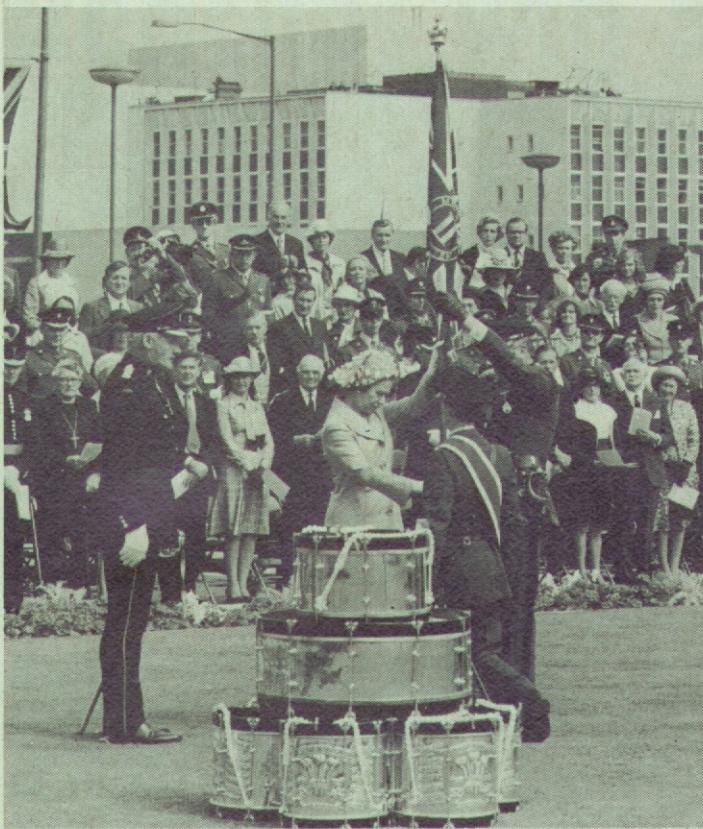
There was a novel suggestion from Mr Philip Goodhart (Conservative, Beckenham). He said that when a soldier went on his first Northern Ireland tour he should receive the present 50p a day increase in pay. On his second tour he should receive twice as much and every time he went on a fresh emergency tour the amount of extra money should be increased by 50p a time.

"It is after all the men who keep going back to Northern Ireland who find the task most wearisome, boring and tedious. It is they who deserve the greatest reward."

Dr John Gilbert, Minister of State for Defence, announced improved arrangements for compassionate leave and travel at public expense for members of the forces stationed abroad. Hitherto they could travel home at public expense on the death of a wife or child but only on the death of a parent if their presence at home was considered essential. This restriction has not been lifted and it would also apply to a wife on the death of one of her parents. The entitlement was already given to servicemen in Germany and the United Kingdom.

Tory member, Mr Winston Churchill (Stretford) had his knuckles rapped by the Deputy Speaker when he tried to refer to Service pay and conditions after the moving of the draft Army, Air Force and Naval Discipline Acts (Continuation) Order 1977.

Jubilee Colours for Mercians



The chequered history of 2nd Battalion, Mercian Volunteers, has been highlighted by the presentation of Colours by the Queen — the first TAVR battalion ever to receive Colours from Her Majesty.

The battalion received its new Colours in Birmingham's Hall of Memory Gardens during the Queen's whistle-stop Silver Jubilee tour of the Midlands.

"Although you are a newly formed battalion, you represent the old county regiments of Cheshire, Staffordshire and Worcestershire and have inherited a history of loyal service to the crown spanning more than 200 years," the Queen told the battalion.

"I remember the occasion in 1962 when I presented Colours to the North and South Staffordshire battalions in Wolverhampton and no doubt many of you here now were also present on that occasion.

"I look upon these Colours as the symbol of the spirit of your regiment and I am sure that they will serve as an inspiration to those of you on parade today and to those who will follow afterwards."

The Mercian Volunteers came into being only in 1967, on the reorganisation of the Territorial Army into the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve.

Effectively each of the three county battalions — Cheshire, Staffordshire and Worcestershire — was reduced to company strength and the surplus manpower deployed to TAVR III units, a low category

reserve with a very reduced state of readiness, equipment and training. These units contained men from various regiments and corps and were eventually reduced to seven-man cadres in 1969.

On expansion in 1971, a number of new Home Defence battalions were formed from these cadres. One of these was the Light Infantry and Mercian Volunteers.

The battalion continued to recruit despite the mixed dress, no common cap badge and different speeds of marching between the light and heavy infantry and went on to raise another rifle company at Walsall, officially recognised in 1975.

Then in March 1975 the Light Infantry and Mercian Volunteers disbanded and 2nd Battalion, Mercian Volunteers, was raised in its place with a new headquarters at Shirley, Birmingham. The two light infantry companies separated and joined 5th and 6th battalions. The Light Infantry, and with the transfer from Mercian Volunteers of the Cheshire Company, the new battalion was complete.

Benevolent fund tops the million mark

For the first time more than £1,000,000 has been disbursed in relief work by the Army Benevolent Fund. The chairman of the fund, General Sir John Mogg, announced this at the annual meeting of the fund's control board.

Introducing his report for the year ended 31 March 1977, he said this reflected the "splendid response" from the public and the Army to the fund's appeal and the fact that administrative costs had been kept very low. Relief work included some £200,000 for those who were probably least able to help themselves — the elderly and the children. Loans on compassionate grounds to serving soldiers, or to soldiers' widows, had also reached their highest level to date.

Stressing the value of the fund's partnership with corps and regimental associations, Field-Marshal Sir Geoffrey Baker, who presided, pointed out that together their total disbursements in the same period exceeded £1,680,000 — this again was a record.

New issue

Lightweight trousers are to be reintroduced into the temperate scale for all Regular soldiers at two pairs per man and for TAVR soldiers at one pair each. Issue of the first pair to Regulars will start in Northern Ireland this August with the second pair being issued next April. The TAVR will receive their pair during May 1978.

To compensate, green and black overalls will be withdrawn from soldiers and they will revert to a unit pool system.

'Stars' find a home

The Three 'stars' of a hundred Gaumont wartime newsclips have been dusted down and refurbished and will now be on view for the whole nation to see.

Monty's wartime caravans, from where his victorious campaigns in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and North West Europe were master-minded, and where the Germans surrendered on Luneberg Heath, are now on show at the Imperial War Museum in London.

The exteriors of the caravans were restored and repainted by 43 Command Workshop, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, at Aldershot.

The museum's conservation staff refurbished the interiors so that they now appear as they did at the end of the war. For example, the photographs of German generals and the pastel of Rommel in the office caravan are those which Monty used to study while trying to anticipate his opponent's moves.

Bob knew his drill



Pearly white smiles all round at the Royal Army Dental Corps headquarters in Aldershot as Lance-Corporal Robert Nemes (left) receives a bronze medal from the Commandant, Colonel E J Bowen.

The medal was the first prize in the intermediate examination for dental technology of the City and Guilds London Institute. And Bob beat a large number of civilian dental technicians to win it.

Morcott Hall



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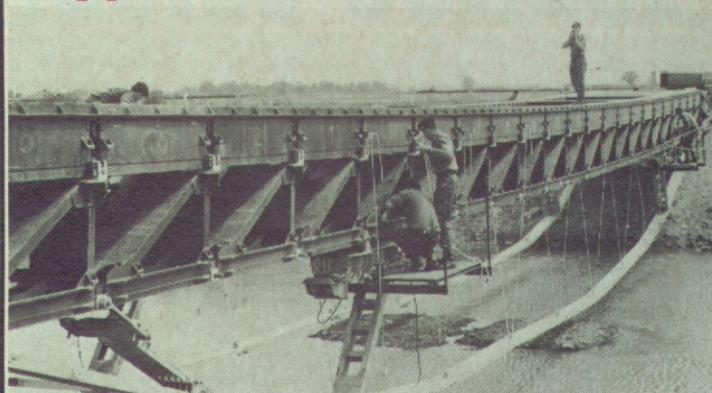
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Sappers at work...and play



We have fairies at the bottom of our airfield! But they are nothing to get alarmed about. For the past month 39 Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers, has been host to Fairey Engineering Ltd and MVEE (Christchurch) at Waterbeach, Cambridge.

The visitors were there to support 53 Field Squadron (Airfields) which had the task of testing and then demonstrating the construction of a reinforced medium girder bridge. This reinforcement increases load capability from an armoured personnel carrier to a Chieftain tank.

The demonstration day was attended by about 100 visitors, many of them potential buyers from overseas. The building troop excelled itself by putting the bridge together — all 22 bays of it — in one hour and 26 minutes.

Above: The reinforcement is tensioned.



Proving that she has other talents than looking beautiful stretched across the Sun's Page Three, is Nicki Debuse, who showed she could pull a fair pint when she opened the rebuilt pub, "The Pick and Shovel," at Waterbeach Barracks, Cambridge.

The pub is a joint venture between 39 Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers, and Naafi. The regiment's tradesmen built a brick bar, lowered the ceiling and completely redecorated the room with red hessian wall covering.

Naafi, apart from providing financial assistance, refitted their side of the bar and completely refurbished the room.

The pub opening and the cheap beer (5p a pint) donated by the local breweries made a fitting start for the regimental open day. Nicki soon found herself part of a squadron 'It's a Knockout' team and proved very popular when she gave out the prizes accompanied by a kiss.

Chefs supreme



The fruits of victory, sampled by Major Sidney Denham and Warrant Officer 2 Barry Gray, Scotland winners of the Meal of the Year menu competition.

The competition is sponsored jointly by the Wine Development Board and Caterer and Hotelkeeper magazine and has drawn entries from hotels, restaurants and catering establishments from all over Britain.

The idea behind the competition is to find the chef/manager team which puts forward the best balanced combination of food and wine with an eye for originality and value for money.

Major Denham (left) and WO2 Gray, both of the Army Catering Corps, were presented with their prize, three cases of wine, in Edinburgh. The semi-finals of the competition will be held this month and all semi-finalists will receive £50. First prize is £1000.

In their centenary year

Redcaps win Sword of Peace

Yet another distinction marks this year's centenary of the Royal Military Police with the award, for the first time to the corps, of the Wilkinson Sword of Peace.

The corps' 2nd Regiment, based in Belfast since its raising on 1 July 1973 specifically for duty there, won the Army's 1976 Sword of Peace for its establishment and maintenance of good community relations in the Province and its practical assistance to the needy of all ages.

The three Service swords were presented by the Chief of the Defence Staff, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Edward Ashmore, at the annual luncheon in the Cutlers' Hall, London, to Lieutenant-Colonel J L Moffat, commanding 2nd Regiment, RMP, Commander T J K Sloane RN (Senior Officer Hong Kong Squadron) and Group-Captain J W Price, commanding RAF Laarbruch.

The Army citation, read by General Sir Roland Gibbs, Chief of the General Staff, said that planned projects emphasised the regiment's continued communication with the public. Once contact had been made, the civilian organisers of homes and clubs often invited members of the regiment to continue their visits.

Examples of these projects were the Bawnmore Children's Home and the Ben Madigan Old People's Home. A loan of tents and sleeping bags to the children's home awakened an interest in camping and members of the regiment regularly visited and joined in activities. Reading material and pictures were given to the old people's home where the soldiers' visits were most appreciated.

Spontaneous help varied considerably and amounted to giving practical assistance to members of the community whatever their need. Examples were fixing the plumbing in an old people's home, arranging a school outing, looking after lonely old folk or organising a helicopter for a camping expedition.

Especially appreciated was what has become a mammoth Christmas toy collection. Old toys were repaired by members of the regiment in their spare time and distributed to under-privileged children.

The citation concluded: "On account of their voluntary welfare activities, 2nd Regiment, Royal Military Police, have built up an excellent reputation in Belfast and have brought great credit to the Army."

The Royal Navy's Sword of Peace went to the Hong Kong Squadron for its community relations work among the islands it patrols and with the youth of Hong Kong. Royal Air Force Laarbruch was recognised because of its outstanding relationship with people in nearby Dutch and German communities.

Among the guests at the luncheon, who were welcomed by Mr D Randolph, chairman of Wilkinson Match Ltd and Wilkinson Sword Ltd, was Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk, as Lord Lieutenant of West

Sussex, the county in which the Royal Military Police has its corps headquarters and depot at Roussillon Barracks, Chichester.

Turn to News 13 for the Redcap centenary celebrations.

Right: Admiral of the Fleet Sir Edward Ashmore presents the Sword of Peace to Lieutenant-Colonel Moffat.

Below: What the award was all about — Redcaps deliver gifts and find time to play with children in a home.



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Places for January, 1978

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Prospectus: Admissions Officer, 34 Heather Avenue, Scrabth, Gt Yarmouth, Norfolk.

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

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Prospectus from the Headmaster

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Brits do better than ever

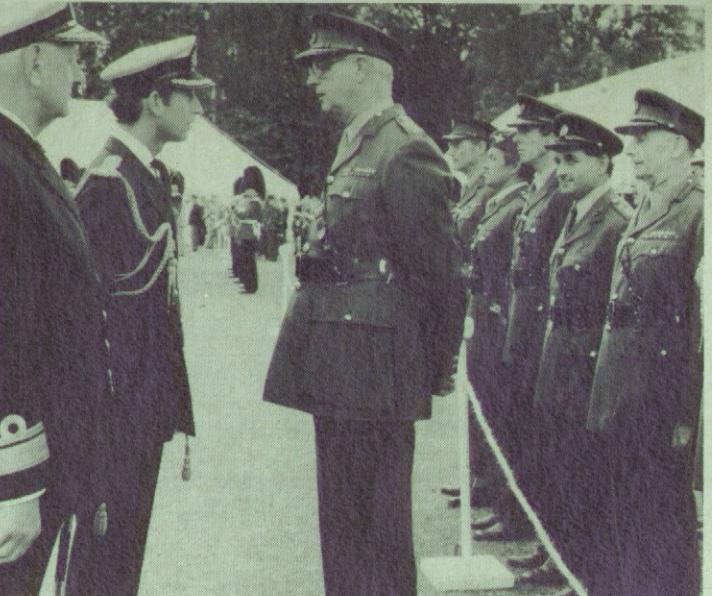
The international Camberley games, a kind of mini Olympics for reserve officers, proved to be another triumph for America and Norway, but for the first time ever a British team was up among the winners.

The series of competitions with a military slant is an annual event between most of the Nato nations, plus France. This year Britain was the host nation.

The USA won the overall competition, Norwegian teams came second, third and fourth, France came fifth and Britain sixth. The other British teams were 16th, 27th and 28th.

The 200 reserve officers took over the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, for a fortnight for the competitions, which were all staged round the Camberley area.

While the more junior officers were pitting their strength and skills against each other, their seniors were discussing the role of the reserve officer in Nato — which was the theme of the twelve-nation congress of the Inter-Allied Confederation of Reserve Officers, held in London for the first time.



Above: Officially opening the congress in London, Prince Charles meets the head of the British delegation, Colonel G S H Dicker. Left is Rear-Admiral P G Sharp, president of CIOR.

Below: Captain Jim Graham (USA) draws a bead on the target, watched closely by his coach.

Volunteers, Territorials and Cadets.

But if the 'brass' had time for sightseeing, their more junior colleagues certainly did not. They had a full training programme before being launched into the first competition, the shooting on Ash ranges.

The three-man teams had to fire the SLR, LMG and 9mm Browning and an early boost for the British team was Second-Lieutenant Phil Sargent's convincing first place in the SLR competition. This was followed up by a fourth in the same competition by Second-Lieutenant Nick Putnam.

The delegates also found time for a full round of sightseeing, plus a military presentation by the Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, General Sir Harry Tuzo, and Major-General Peter Shapland, Director

The best British orienteering

The congress brought together more than 1000 delegates from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, West Germany, France, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and the USA. The president of the CIOR (Confédération Interalliée des Officiers de Reserve) is Rear-Admiral Philip Sharp, one of the few officers who began a naval career in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and then went on to high rank in the Royal Navy.

The congress was officially opened by the Prince of Wales and in a very busy week the delegates split into groups to discuss the status and motivation of reserve officers, psychological defence, exchange visits, and civil defence.

The delegates also found time for a full round of sightseeing, plus a military presentation by the Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, General Sir Harry Tuzo, and Major-General Peter Shapland, Director

The best British orienteering

The man who organised the Camberley Games, Lieutenant-Colonel Andy Amos, had mixed feelings about the British team.

"I have no yardstick to judge the competition," he said, "because I have never seen it before, but from my point of view it has been very worthwhile and very easy to run.

"I think the TAVR has a great deal to do to achieve the standard of physical fitness achieved by some of the nations who take this competition seriously. The basis is physical fitness and there is no doubt that on your own it is very difficult to attain, but if you can train as a group you have much better motivation.

"Considering that the British team has trained for only five weekends and one full week, the standards achieved are very good and it looks as though this is the best the British team has done in the six times they have entered the competition. Then again they are on their home ground and are firing their own weapons. The orienteering is over country they are familiar with, even if they have never been over the actual ground before. But that doesn't belittle their efforts because they have done very well.

"The team members live far apart and getting them together, because of their normal working environment, is not easy. Half of them are at university and so training clashes with exams, and university activities may well take priority or distract from this once-a-year affair.

"The Regular Army offers as many facilities as it can and much time is given up by Regulars at weekends to organise messing, training equipment and facilities, but somehow this isn't enough.

"It may be that because CIOR has been exposed this year, then other people may become interested.

"What has been nice to see is the camaraderie between all the teams and, let's face it, that is what Nato is all about. It really has been something to see all these young officers all getting on so well together, despite their language problems. It's a pity that the opposition are not here to see it."



team came seventh and was badly adrift on distance estimation. But even so it kept to within 40 points of the Norwegian winners.

Lieutenant Andy Wood, who skippered the main British orienteering team, has been in the competition for three years running.

The swimming was held in the RMA pool. But this was no ordinary swimming competition. The teams all wore denims and had to swim

in the international games

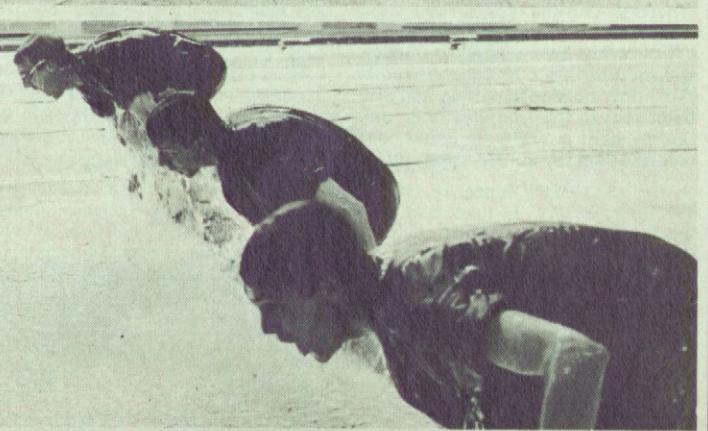


Above: Where the hell are we? A German team all at sea in the orienteering.

Below: Danish over-35 team pitches grenades at end of the orienteering.



Right: How it should be done. British over-35s on the obstacle race. Bottom: The British A team all together on the obstacle swimming race.



hard course both technically and physically, and our over-35 team, 'the geriatrics' have done better than ever overall.

"The main difficulty has been finding time in which to train. The week before the competition we were training 12 hours a day.

"The spirit in the team has been excellent, but most of what we have managed has been a do-it-yourself effort. What we could do with is much more coaching from the Regular Army. We have had some help from the Small Arms School, but it was a different instructor each week. What we really need is a first-class coach who is, say, in the top five at Bisley."

This year each Army district was instructed to call for volunteers and the result was a greater number coming forward. Even so, the home country could still field only four teams whereas most of the visitors had six.

Another obstacle was the calibre of the opposition. "A lot of the foreigners join reserve forces to

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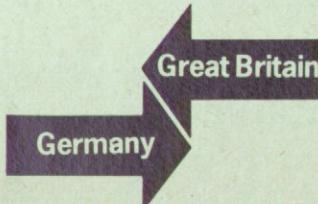
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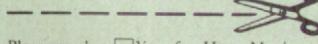
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Gurkhas on earthquake mercy mission

Just two-and-a-half minutes was all it took for an earthquake to devastate Guadalcanal in the South Pacific.

The earthquake, which measured 7.2 on the Richter scale, left 12 people dead and another 12 missing on the small atoll in the Solomon Islands.

A tidal wave flooded part of the south end of the island and destroyed a bridge, while the earthquake damaged buildings, roads and more bridges. But the most serious damage was the shattering of the surface of the 900 square kilometres of interior, causing a multitude of landslides and damaging and threatening villages and gardens.

Then the Queen's Gurkha Engineers were called in from Hong Kong. The Solomon Islands are a British colony due to become independent later this year, and it was imperative that a proper damage survey was carried out as soon as possible.

Twenty-four hours after the disaster, Major Nick Tomlinson, the Gurkha Engineers' second-in-command, and Captain James Anderson, were airborne from Hong Kong. Four days later they were followed by four Gurkha sappers.

The greatest problem facing the disaster relief committee working in Honaria, capital of the Solomons, which lies on Guadalcanal's north coast, was assessing the degree and effects of the damage in the island's inaccessible hinterland, and it was to this mammoth task that the six Queen's Gurkha Engineers were assigned.

Following two aerial reconnaissances, one by a Royal Australian Air Force helicopter which had also been sent to the island to help, and one by light aircraft, the team concentrated on the south of the island,

which had been the worst hit.

During the next few weeks, patrolling mainly on foot although air, sea and road transport were used where possible, and employing local bushmen as guides and carriers, the Gurkha sappers inspected about 138 kilometres of the southern coastal belt. They visited on foot 102 villages in 16 separate river valleys, checked out a further 11 villages in the mountainous interior — again by foot — and investigated by air and on foot reported river blockages.

"Even so," said Major Tomlinson after the team's return to Hong Kong, "we covered only a tiny proportion of the affected area. A thorough ground reconnaissance would take a lot of men and a lot of time, most of it simply in travelling."

With daily subsidiary earth tremors, some of them reaching strength four on the Richter scale, patrolling in the river valleys and the interior was nerve-wracking to say the least. Throughout the island there were landslides and blockages but the greatest danger came from the steep valley sides, where dislodged boulders, trees hanging only by their roots, and weakened earth banks, hung ready to crash down.

The results of the team's survey are now with the Guadalcanal Council disaster relief committee in Honaria, which is using them to decide relief priorities during the next six months of heavy rains and continuing earth tremors.

Eagle flies for Redcaps



It was the Day of the Eagle (Adler Tag) in Osnabrück, Germany. The word of command was in German and two dozen British troops fell smartly in with the unfamiliar drill.

... Not a scene from an old war movie but a far happier and more friendly occasion as men of the present-day British and Bundeswehr armies got together to receive battle efficiency medals.

Major-General Peter Leng, Colonel Commandant of the Royal Military Police, and General Major Alexander Frevert-Niedermeier, Deputy Commander 1st (German) Corps, presented the Bundeswehr medals (eagle) and the German National Sports Medal to 23 officers and non-commissioned officers of 112 Provost Company RMP.

The occasion was a double first for the Redcaps. It was the first time that these awards had ever been won en masse and probably the first time that a mixed Anglo-German parade had used German drill and words of command.

Picture shows Gen Leng pinning the sports medal on L/Cpl Paul Dredge.

Goodbye to the guns

The last exercise under the 7th Artillery Brigade banner in Germany also proved to be the swansong of two of the weapon systems — the Thunderbird missiles of 36 Heavy Air Defence Regiment and the 40/70 Bofors guns of 16 Light Air Defence Regiment.

16 Regiment is to return to Britain for conversion to Rapier and 36 Regiment is disbanding.

The air defence exercise, codenamed Whirly Gig, involved more than 2000 troops from British, American and German units and, to add to the international flavour, air sorties were flown by RAF, Danish, Belgian, Dutch, German and American aircraft.

The brigade deployed with 12 Light Air Defence Regiment (Rapier), 16 Light Air Defence Regiment and 36 Heavy Air Defence Regiment. They were joined by 37 Squadron, RAF Regiment (Rapier), a battery of 110 Flakbattalion's Bofors of the German Army, plus Hawk Missile and Vulcan cannon batteries of 108 Air Defence Group, US Army.

Helicopter support came from Army Air Corps Scout and Gazelle, RAF Wessex and US Army Huey and Jet Ranger aircraft which performed the gamut of tasks from resupply to medical evacuation.

A live 'enemy', from 7 Field Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, carried out harassing attacks on foot and by helicopter, and in fact towards the end of the exercise the 'friendly forces' became so proficient in the art of ground defence that one unit managed to capture an entire raiding party complete with Wessex helicopter and pilot.

Picture shows General Sir Frank King, Commander-in-Chief BAOR and Northag, being shown the workings of an American Vulcan cannon.



Know any ex-officers in distress?

The Officers' Association relieves distress among ex-officers and their widows and dependants, with financial grants, help in finding places in residential homes for the elderly, nursing and convalescent homes and assistance with fees.

It has a country home in South Devon for elderly male ex-officers and a bungalow estate in Hertfordshire for disabled ex-officers and their families. It gives help and advice on retired pay and pensions

and in the preparation of appeals regarding pensions.

The association also has a clothing store for ex-officers in need and its resettlement and employment department helps any unemployed ex-officer to find work.

If you hear of any ex-officers or their widows in distress, please tell them to write to the General Secretary, The Officers' Association, 28 Belgrave Square, London, SW1X 8QE (phone 01-235 8112).



My, what big teeth you've got! Major Trevor Gough (left) tries out new gnashers which have been fitted to the tiger mascot of 7th Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment (V). The tiger, being held by Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant 'Tanky' Turner, was taken to the Royal Army Dental Corps Centre at Aldershot for refurbishing before the move of the battalion's officers' mess from Northampton to Leicester.

Agreement at last

For the first time in Scotland, a formal agreement has been reached for the conservation of animal and plant communities, on a Ministry of Defence training range, Barry Links, Angus, covering some 2300 acres of sand dunes.

Barry Links are among the most important remaining sand dune systems in East Scotland and to safeguard their conservation

interest a sanctuary zoning system has been established so that military training can continue while at the same time the important wildlife areas are maintained.

An advisory committee made up of the Army in Scotland, Nature Conservancy Council and the Scottish Wildlife Trust, has produced a management plan for Barry Links in the light of the two main uses.

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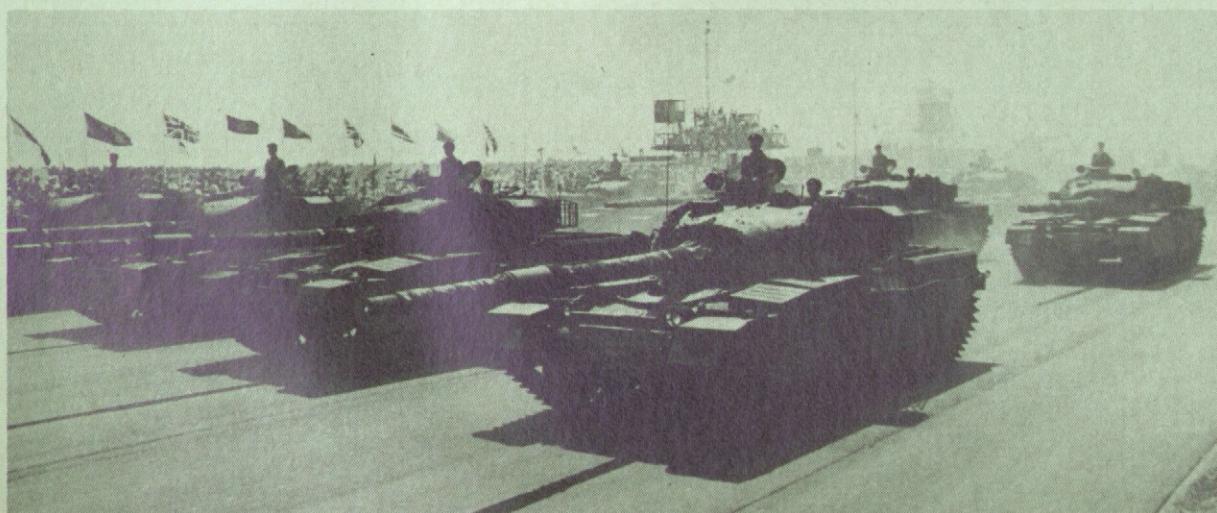
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The Army Salutes Her Majesty



Above: The Chieftain gun barrels dip to the Queen.

Left: The tanks thunder past the saluting base.

Above right: Gazelles zoom low in the finale.

Right: Dust flies as the armour starts up.

Below: Three cheers for Her Majesty.



A shattering cacophony of sound heralded the Army's own special Jubilee tribute to the Queen in a way that can only be described as most untypically British. Tank after tank, gun after gun loomed out of the choking red dust which hung over the old German airstrip at Sennelager to rumble past Her Majesty in a stock-check of military might reminiscent of Moscow's Red Square.

But perhaps it was because this line-up of nearly 600 armoured vehicles — the might of 4th Armoured Division — has never before been seen on a scale of such majesty that it was all the more impressive and overpowering.

The tanks, guns and armoured support vehicles, all in their drab camouflage, stretched into the fading distance, so many of them were there, until, like sleeping giants, they all awoke, sending up a huge roar and belch of diesel smoke as a quarter-of-a-million horsepower started up at once.

Major-General Nigel Bagnall, commanding 4th Division, led the parade in his armoured personnel carrier, and then the ground trembled underfoot as the four-abreast

Chieftains rumbled past the Queen. As they reached her their guns swivelled menacingly towards her before dipping in salute. Overhead, Scout and Gazelle helicopters buzzed low over the armour before dipping in their own special airborne salute.

Then came the guns, the 105mm Abbots, eight-inch howitzers, 155mm and the new Lance surface-to-surface guided missiles. The Royal Engineers paraded their new combat engineer tractor, the Chieftain bridgelayer and the bar mine layer. The Royal Corps of Transport, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Royal Army Medical Corps and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers were all there.

But the finale of the drive past was left to the 16th/5th Lancers who waited until the approach to the saluting dais was clear then charged down in true cavalry style to salute the Queen in their new Scorpion medium reconnaissance vehicles while, keeping station only feet above them, roared a flight of Gazelle helicopters.

The modern military might was the reason why the parade was held in Germany but no less important

for the spectators was the display given by 750 men of the massed bands, corps of drums and pipes and drums who started off the proceedings.

The bands, in their scarlets, tans, greens and blues made a brave splash of colour against the assembled ranks of drab armour and, if anything, this was intensified when the Standard, Guidon and Colour parties of 24 regiments serving in BAOR and Berlin marched on to await Her Majesty.

When the Queen did arrive, she came with proper ceremony. She had a Sovereign's escort of The Blues and Royals in scout cars and was received by a 21-gun salute fired by E Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, on their 25-pounders.

The one horse on parade, drum horse Dettingen of The Queen's Own Hussars, must have particularly pleased the Queen. She personally chose the seven-year-old grey for the royal stables and Dettingen was then given to the regiment by the Queen Mother.

General Sir Roland Gibbs, Chief of the General Staff, told the Queen that the 4th Armoured Division represented the Army worldwide.

"Despite our other commitments, Britain's future security lies firmly in the highly successful Nato alliance. It is therefore very fitting that we should ask Your Majesty to carry out your Silver Jubilee review here in the Federal Republic of Germany and in the presence of the President, Dr Walter Scheel, and Frau Scheel," he said.

In reply, the Queen also emphasised Britain's commitment to European defence.

"The presence of military representatives from the members of Nato is a mark of the very close and growing co-operation that exists in defence as well as in other ways between the various countries of the alliance.

"I am conscious of the unwavering loyalty of the Army, and am deeply grateful for it. Its tasks have been many and varied but at all times those who have served in it have retained unchanged the fundamental personal qualities which the soldier needs to do his duty — self-discipline, courage, tenacity, cheerfulness and good humour."

After lunch the Queen visited the static displays and talked to many soldiers and their families.





Above: The parade through Chichester.
Below: Not everyone found the going easy.

Above right: The Shape team marches into Roussillon.
Below right: US Marines on the Downs.



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Happy Birthday Redcaps

It was enough to make any self-respecting crook go pale. There were cops everywhere. Dozens of civvy police, hundreds of Redcaps. Not to mention foreign and military police from all over the world.

They had all converged on Chichester to celebrate the centenary of the Corps of Royal Military Police and there as well were many hundreds of civilians who joined in the fun and helped to make the weekend go with a real carnival atmosphere.

The weekend started on the Saturday with a dinner for the old comrades, then early on Sunday morning came the main public event, a march across the rolling Sussex Downs.

The march was split into four distances of ten, 20, 30 and 40 kilometres and the 3000 marchers could choose what distance they wanted to walk. By and large, families stuck to ten kilometres with the stronger individuals and military teams opting for 40. In between, the 20 and 30 distances were well covered by Scouts, cadets and some of the WRAC teams.

Every marcher who completed his or her chosen distance was given a commemorative medal.

Overseas contingents came from Canada, USA, Belgium, Netherlands, West Germany, Italy and France. There was also a cosmopolitan team from Shore, representing Nato, which included Greek, Norwegian, Danish and Turkish military police, led by a Scots piper.

The Royal Belgian Gendarmerie actually walked along the Downs to get to Chichester and, not to be outdone, German paratroopers dropped on to Goodwood airfield, accompanied by an officer and three warrant officers of the Royal Military Police.

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As the marchers filed wearily back into Roussillon Barracks, the home of the Royal Military Police, they were presented with their medals. Then, after a short rest and a visit to the beer tent, the official teams changed into their best uniforms and the civilians tidied themselves up for the ceremonial parade through Chichester.

The salute was taken by the Mayor of Chichester, Councillor T M France, and Lieutenant-General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, General Officer Commanding South East District.

Appropriately enough the first team to march past was the Chichester Police team, followed by the Military Police mounted section of horses and new BMW motorcycles, then a mounted troop in the uniforms of the 21 cavalry regiments from which the first non-commissioned officers were drawn to form the Military Mounted Police way back in 1877.

The crowd also raised a cheer for the oldest man on parade, Regimental Sergeant-Major Mac McLellan, ex-Military Policeman and now a Chelsea Pensioner, who escorted Miss Leonora Jones, 1977 Carnival Queen of Littlehampton, in a VIP police Land-Rover.

Leopora presented the marching prizes.

Above left: German MPs walk down a leafy track.

Above centre: The strong arm of the law can come in handy . . .

Above right: . . . As this girl found out.

Above: Belgian MP gets a little first aid.

The Sunday celebrations were the corps' open festivities; Monday was reserved for the corps' private observances.

Sir Robert Mark, the recently retired commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, reviewed the parade, which included the international military police detachments.

After a drumhead service conducted by the Chaplain-General, the Venerable Archdeacon Peter

Mallett, the parade marched past Sir Robert, with the multi-coloured uniforms and flags from the foreign contingents making a brave show with the Royal Military Police's own dark blues and reds.

In the afternoon the Provost Marshal, Brigadier Mike Matthews unveiled the Royal Military Police memorial statue, a 12-foot high sculpture of a Redcap mounted on his horse.

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The Families Page celebrates its first birthday this month. During the past year many of you have contributed articles, letters and suggestions. The result has been that on a number of occasions we have been able to find out some answers and in some cases been able to put some anomalies right. We have also been able to give an airing to many topics and, I hope, given you some interesting stories at the same time.

From the end of August I shall be talking to BFBS listeners each week on the BFBS UK programme. I hope to cover subjects of interest so do let me know if you have any which you would like discussed on the air.

We have some answers this month from UKLF and MOD on a variety of subjects, but it has to be accepted that with the closure of both Tidworth and Colchester hospitals the cost of travel to other Service hospitals may well be high.

Naafi has also replied to the recent publicity given to soldiers having to pay duty on cars brought from Germany and how they can help. They have also commented on the withdrawal of some medicines from their shelves. This is an inconvenience but the medical centres will help with drugs.

The points you raised both in Northern Ireland and BAOR have not been forgotten and they are with MOD at the moment. As soon as I get some answers, I will publish them.

One matter I hope will be resolved soon is that of forces' pay. This was highlighted in the House of Commons recently when Mr Fred Mulley, Secretary of State for Defence, was asked how many officers are currently in receipt of rent rebates and he replied "about a dozen." This follows on from the last defence debate, which revealed that no fewer than 8000 soldiers are on rent rebates.

We may well have some good news next month about the de-furnishing of quarters in BAOR, so watch out for that.

When I wrote in the June SOL-DIER about the Coldstream wives in Londonderry, I referred to the 1st Battalion. It was of course, 2nd Battalion, Coldstream Guards. My apologies to both battalions and the wives.

Do keep writing in, and I hope our second year will be an interesting and useful one.

Anne Armstrong

Wives guide on its way

November should see the issue of the Wives Guide to every woman married to a soldier.

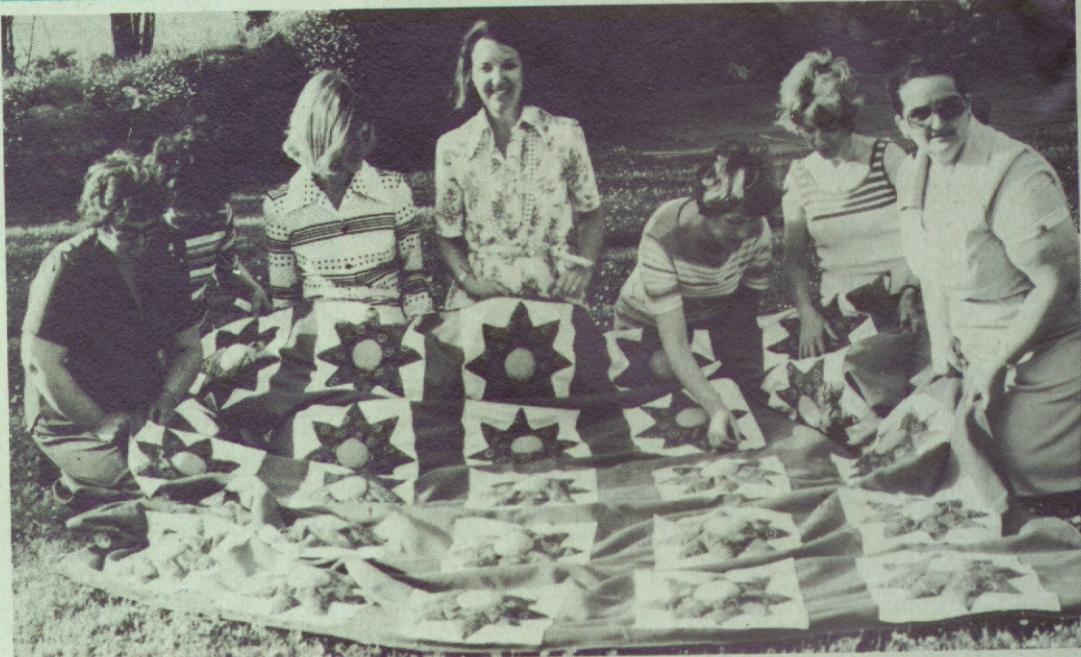
I had thought for many years that such a guide would be useful but it was not until the 1975 Ssafa conference that the idea became a reality.

Hopefully I have tried to make it easier to read, so it is taking the form of a flip-up book. I have not been able to put everything in but



ALL IN THE FAMILY

WITH
ANNE ARMSTRONG



This magnificent quilt has been a labour of love for the wives of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers, in BAOR, especially as it will help to send a party of handicapped Irish children on holiday.

The fully lined American patchwork quilt took the wives 14 days to make. It will be raffled and the money sent to the Mayor of Ballymena to help some of the town's handicapped children to go on holiday to the Isle of Man.

"Our aim was to help more children to go," said Mrs Teresa Synott, "and perhaps send the parents who have two or more handicapped children on the holiday as well."

"My name is Angela Sharp, I am 14 years old and I live with my family in Palace Barracks, Holywood.

"When my dad first told me we were going to Northern Ireland I was a bit upset, as I thought we would be restricted in our movements. However I have since discovered that this is not so. There are plenty of activities to keep us occupied. We have a swimming club, activities in the gymnasium and our youth club, which we run ourselves with some help from a few adults. We hold discos on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and even have our own disco equipment which we paid for ourselves with the help of a jumble sale and a sponsored dance.

"Apart from all this, I also go along to a club in Holywood which is run for physical and mentally handicapped children. This came about after my mum and Mrs

Graham had gone along one evening to see them and one of the ladies who runs the club said it would be nice if some of our teenagers would play with the children. Six of us

Youth Column Letter

therefore put our names down; the others are Karen Jordan, Leslie Manson, Mandy Topping, Anita Maria and my sister Geraldine. We spend two nights a week with them — one evening at their clubhouse in Holywood and another at the swimming pool in Palace Barracks.

"This weekend the children went away for the weekend to Cabra Towers in Newcastle (this is a holiday home for handicapped) and Mandy Topping and I were invited along. We left here on Friday, just after lunch, and returned on Sunday afternoon. We did some pony trekking and shopping. The rest of the time was spent just generally enjoying ourselves. It was a most enjoyable weekend and we hope to be able to do it again next year, although by then we will probably be packing up again to move on to our next posting.

"I won't say I'll be sorry to leave, but when the time comes to go, I know I'll have made lots of new friends and will have many pleasant memories to think back on, of my stay in Northern Ireland."

Step forward, Annie Oakley

During my recent travels, talking to Army wives I've found a lot of support for the idea of a wives' .22 shooting competition. SOL-DIER has agreed to provide a trophy and the contest will be open to all wives of serving soldiers both in teams or as individuals. Results can be collated by post. What about it, ladies? Please let me know if you are interested.



Following her recent trip to Germany, Anne had some questions to ask Naafi about their service to BAOR. Here are the replies as the

Spotlight falls on Naafi

There is only one sure way to avoid paying import duties and taxes when bringing a car from Germany to Britain, says Naafi, and that is to buy it 16 months before departure.

This arises from recent publicity after a soldier drove his gleaming new sports car to Britain when he was posted home and was stopped by customs at Dover. He had owned the car just a little longer than a year — which should have cleared him of paying the import duties and tax — but he had served four months in Northern Ireland during that time. Despite the fact that the car had stood in Germany for the whole time, he had to pay the duties, which amounted to more than £800.

A Naafi spokesman said he understood that at one time the Ministry of Defence bore this unwelcome extra cost but the numbers involved grew to such an extent that they stopped it, "and now they warn people going to Germany that they should buy their cars at least 16 months before they plan to return to UK."

"For our own part we do offer customers a premature repatriation scheme which gives them protection for 75 per cent of any car tax, VAT or import duty they might have to pay in the event of a premature posting back to UK, provided they take out the policy within a specified period of starting their tour abroad. The specified period varies from six months for a two-year tour to 12 months for a tour of three years or more."

"As far as Ulster is concerned, our car sales people tell me that service in Northern Ireland will 'not result in a claim being inadmissible' — in other words if Corporal Bloggs started a two-year tour of Germany last month, bought a car this month, served in Northern Ireland between July and October this year, and was posted back to UK in June 1978, he would be covered. However I must stress that this is for premature repatriation only and is aimed to cover the person who, through no fault of his own, finds himself suddenly posted back to UK

before he has time to serve out the required 12 months."

The Government has proposed controls on the sale of pain killers (analgesics) which would ban self-service sales of many drugs and limit counter sales to small packs.

Which is why Naafi in BAOR has already withdrawn several lines. "You may have noticed that the pack sizes are smaller than before and, wherever possible, safety packs — which really means child-proof packs — are the order of the day.

"For example, Paracetamol and travel sickness pills no longer appear on our shelves.

"This is all in the cause of safety", says Naafi. "If you need a strong drug it will be prescribed and issued by your medical officer but, whatever the source and however they are packed, keep drugs and medicines out of children's reach. And that goes for any other dangerous

substances such as bleach and weedkiller.

"It's a sad fact that a constant stream of under-five-year-olds are treated in hospital every year after swallowing liquids or tablets.

"As is the case with so many things the space restrictions in our shops make it impossible for us to stock the complete range of the thousands of toys and games on the market. Apart from the popular Christmas toy fairs, much of the regular year-round demands from the shops is met by Angel toys in Germany. If a customer wants a particular toy which is not readily available she should ask the manager to put it on his next toy order to see if Angel can supply.

"Please ask the customers to raise any queries they may have with their local Naafi manager who will usually be able to deal with most of them on the spot — if he cannot

they will be resolved at the shop's next customer relations committee meeting.

Gift Token

"The question of a gift token scheme of some sort being introduced is under constant review but we keep coming up against two major stumbling blocks. The first is the need to have a scheme that would be sufficiently flexible to cope with the many different currencies Naafi is using worldwide. The second is the 'entitlement to deal' question. A voucher would be of use only if the recipient as well as the sender was entitled to use Naafi services — a fact which puts severe restrictions on the scheme. However, you can rest assured that if we do come up with the answers we will not be slow in introducing a scheme.

Mothercare

"We are satisfied that the current and developing range of baby products available in the shops from Marks and Spencer and other suppliers, and through the Littlewoods catalogue, is sufficient to meet demand and that to add Mothercare to the range — even if we had space to do so — would only fragment the market. As far as acting as a mail order agent for Mothercare is concerned we did approach them some time ago but they elected not to supply us on an agency basis.

Clarks Shoe catalogues

"Copies of the catalogues are issued for 'inspection only' to all the smaller Naafi shops but, Naafi points out, do please order in time to avoid delays.

Coke dispensers

I saw this excellent dispenser at the Hereford Garrison Youth Club and thought it might be of use to other clubs.

Naafi says: 'We do not' supply these direct but act as a link between the customer and the suppliers who lay down minimum uptake figures before they will provide a machine. These are: 3500 drinks per month for postmix machines, that is those where the concentrate is supplied to be mixed by the machine on site, or 600 drinks per month for premix supplies machines carrying ready-mixed drinks. The Naafi district manager is the person to contact."

Mural rules OK



Mrs Stephanie Ann McGurk likes to paint on walls. But she is no vandal and her work is much sought after.

Take her latest mural, in the Mixed Services Organisation canteen in Rheindahlen, of four pretty young girls setting out to pick grapes. The almost life-size mural certainly brightens up the canteen and must rekindle memories of home for the expatriates in the MSO, who come from Poland and other Eastern European countries.

The canteen users obviously approve of the mural, to the extent that they wanted it coated in varnish so that "it will last for ever."

of getting to hospital by public transport. Both categories are permitted to use military transport, under specific conditions laid down in military regulations, provided it is available. However, military transport is established for other purposes. It is therefore normally not available to carry dependants to hospital for treatment, although in some areas it has proved necessary to provide a military bus service for military patients to the military or joint Service hospital concerned, which is also available for the use of dependants when seats are available.

When the doctor, whether a civilian general practitioner or an RAMC medical officer running a families clinic, considers that special transport must be provided to convey a patient to hospital for treatment, he can requisition transport from the local authority ambulance service. For the return journey and

for any other journeys to hospital for follow-up treatment, it is the responsibility of the hospital authorities to make the necessary arrangements if special transport is required on medical grounds. It must be emphasised that the decision as to whether or not special transport is justified rests with the medical authority concerned. The Army medical services are aware of the facilities available to them from local ambulance services and can call on them when special military transport is not available.

If the doctor does not consider special transport is required for medical reasons, the patient should normally travel by public transport. In view of the distances between married quarters and hospitals to which dependants may be sent, this can put patients to considerable expense. The DHSS makes provision for people in receipt of families income supplement, or on low

incomes which do not qualify them for the supplement, to receive financial help with the cost of their travel to hospital under certain circumstances. Civilian hospitals normally have a social services official to whom application should be made for financial help when the patient goes to hospital. Military hospitals have no such official and, although the hospital authorities are prepared to complete the required certificate of attendance for treatment, it is necessary to make any claim through the local security office. The rules for claiming are outlined in DHSS leaflet H11 of November 1976.

The Army Pay Services and the Housing Commandants Organisation have been alerted to the existence of these facilities and will be prepared to assist servicemen and their dependants to obtain help from the DHSS.

Dear Anne,

You raised with this headquarters the difficulties which some Service families have in travelling to hospital for treatment as patients in the United Kingdom. Your letter implied that families who attend a clinic run by the Royal Army Medical Corps or who are sent to a military hospital do not get the same help with transport as those who attend a civilian-run clinic or are sent to a civilian hospital.

The Ministry of Defence policy is that Service dependants in the UK are treated as ordinary members of the public with regard to travel to medical appointments and any assistance towards their travel costs is a matter for the Development of Health and Social Security.

There are two different categories — patients who require an ambulance or other special transport because of medical necessity, and patients who are medically capable

Haway the lads!



A good Army breakfast would set anyone up for the day, even a team of hungry footballers. Huddersfield FC was the team, and its lads have just completed a short pre-season tour in Germany, where they played three games, two against Army teams.

The team spent five days in Verden with 1st Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment. They beat 1st Division 5-1, drew with 4th Division 2-2, and lost to local German team FC Osterholz 0-1.



Dead-eye Steve

Junior Leader Steven Robinson, from the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion, Shorncliffe, takes careful aim under the watchful eye of his coach. He was one of 30 young

soldiers taking part in the junior soldiers individual championship at Bisley. Eventual winner was Junior Leader Richard Aitken, also from Shorncliffe.



Belize team members with a large crayfish caught on the reef.

Army diving teams have been trying to bring up wrecks from different parts of the world — with varying results.

A team from 1st Division in Germany flew to the Bermuda Reef just off Belize to practise lifting heavy objects from the sea bed and to locate, chart and assess the condition of a number of wrecks, while a joint Service expedition with four Army men went to Kenya for an underwater project in Mombasa harbour.

The Belize team — from Verden Sub-Aqua Club — hit trouble almost straight away. They set up their base camp under a palm tree on Cay Caulker, a sparsely inhabited atoll off the coast and within minutes were hit by a sudden squall and virtually washed out.

Another problem the divers had to contend with was land crabs. It was not uncommon to find up to 30

at a time in the hut each morning.

But, undaunted by these setbacks, the divers started off their programme by locating the Blue Hole — featured by Jacques Cousteau in his TV underwater series.

The Blue Hole (see also SOL-DIER March 1975) is a 200m circular entrance in the coral reef leading to a vast under-sea cavern with the sea bed almost 140m below — well beyond the team's diving limits.

On subsequent dives they encountered bull, nurse, thresher and hammerhead sharks as well as rays, octopus, moray eels and barracuda.

But as far as locating wrecks was concerned the exercise was not very successful. Apart from one or two rusting hulks above the waterline on the reef, the remaining charted wrecks had either broken up and moved considerable distances or been covered by the sands of time.

Meanwhile over in Africa the other team had slightly better results. Local skin divers had recovered pottery, porcelain and a bronze cannon, from wrecks in Mombasa harbour. The materials were identified as late 17th century of Portuguese origin.

In the 59 days of diving the team was closely involved with photography, both surface and underwater, and conservation of timber and artefacts from the wreck.

About half the wreck was exposed in this first season, along one side and the keel from amidships to the stern. Visibility was poor — sometimes down to six inches — so the divers never saw the complete wreck site.

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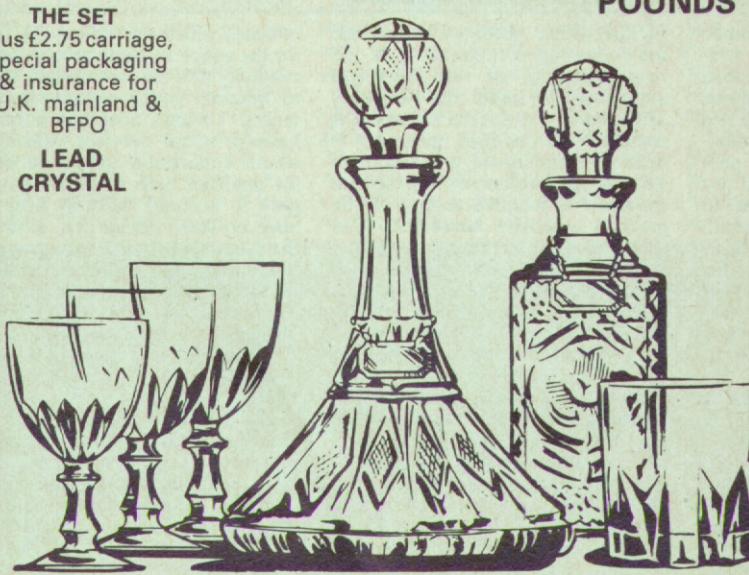
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Mixed fortunes for batsmen

Army cricketers have taken a mauling at the hands of county elevens. But they clocked up a good win against Glamorgan and another success against the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

Having won the toss at Sandhurst, Army XI captain Major R M G Brooks partnered Lance-Corporal S W Dove-Dixon to put on 40 for the first wicket. At lunch the Army was 84 for two. Brooks batted soundly and Cameron-Hayes — after an uncertain start — showed good form.

At close of play, RMA were 84 for four. Budge had an impressive spell of 11 overs for 12 runs and two wickets.

On the second morning Clark completed a fine century before RMA declared 11 runs behind, having batted 21 overs more than the Army. The Army opening pair quickly notched up 50, then Dove-Dixon had to retire hurt for 31. Two wickets fell quickly but Daniel — scoring 94 in 80 minutes — added 137 with Brooks.

A well-timed declaration left RMA 207 to win, but Clark was very well caught by wicket-keeper Homewood from the first ball and, apart from a sound 39 by Campbell, the remaining RMA batsmen had no answer to the medium pace bowling of Nurse (six for 12 in 13 overs) and the leg breaks of Slocombe (three for 25 in ten overs) and the Army won by 114 runs with four overs to spare.

Army: 182 for seven (declared) (Brooks 40, Cameron-Hayes 30, Lawson three for 48, Ford three for 51) and 195 for two declared (Daniel 94, Brooks 56). RMA: 171 for five (declared) (Clark 100) and 92 (Campbell 39, V E Nurse six for 12, Slocombe three for 25). Army won by 114 runs.

Canterbury's classic ground was the scene of a meeting with Kent's 2nd XI but a planned two-day match was rained off into a 55-over first day and 55-over second day.

The Army started badly and never recovered in the face of accurate bowling and excellent fielding. Graham bowled seven overs for eight runs and two wickets. Brooks batted soundly for his 33 out of a total of 61 for eight but of the others only Sharland reached double figures. Indeed, the last wicket partnership of 20 was the highest of the innings.

Kent: 154 for eight (45 overs) (Howegego 50, Budge four for 20), Army: 83 (31.3 overs) (Brooks 33). Kent won by 71 runs.

For the 55-over match next day, Brooks won the toss for the Army and he and Dove-Dixon put on 40 for the first wicket. Lerwill batted brightly until he was leg-before for 28. Two unnecessary run-outs occurred in quick succession and only Daniel batted successfully against steady bowling and good fielding.

Army: 160 for eight (55 overs) (Daniel 46). Kent: 161 for two (35.3 overs) (Wiener 109). Kent won by eight wickets.

A three-day match against Oxford University found the Army XI lacking Shore and Lerwill while the university side was at full strength just before the Varsity match. Oxford won the toss and batted steadily until being all out by 1710 on the first day.

The Army had a disastrous hour and a quarter then against very hostile bowling by Gurr, Wingfield-

Digby and Savage, the latter achieving the hat-trick and taking four wickets in five balls. At close of play the Army were 34 for six.

Nurse, with a brave innings of 52, rallied the Army tail until he was leg-before with a total of 103. After losing their first wicket at 12, Oxford enjoyed some batting practice, three men reaching 50s before declaring and giving the Army one-and-a-half hours' batting.

Sanderson and Brooks opened with a sound stand of 37 but Brooks and Gilson were both out before close of play when the score read 54 for two. Next morning Sanderson completed 50 before being caught at slip, from a careless stroke, with the score 69 for four.

With six batsmen out for 99, the Army was in a bad way. But McLean and Dove-Dixon batted very well against the spinners to add 54 for the seventh wicket before McLean was brilliantly caught at mid-wicket. Dove-Dixon enjoyed himself at the expense of Marks, hitting six sixes and three fours in his 54, made in 48 minutes. Cameron-Hayes and Presland added 30 for the last wicket and the 210 total was not a bad achievement in such august company.

Oxford: 270 (L'Estrange 54, Marks 50, Gilson five for 72) and 234 for six (declared) (Pathmanathan 78, Kayum 66, Tavare 59). Army: 103 (Nurse 52, Savage five for 35) and 210 (Dove-Dixon 54, Sanderson 50, Marks five for 83). Oxford won by 191 runs.

The Army versus Sussex 2nd XI at Worthing was the first of the season's genuine 55-over matches. Sussex won the toss and batted first on a slightly unpredictable wicket. After an opening stand of 50, steady bowling — particularly by Presland, Gilson and Sanderson — held the total down to 145 for eight in 55 overs.

A marvellous piece of fielding at short leg ran Gilson out at 19 and although five batsmen reached

double figures, the Army was never in the hunt and the innings closed for 104 — a disappointing result.

Sussex: 145 for eight (K Smith 34, Gilson three for 24, Sanderson three for 22). Army: 104 (45.4 overs) (Cheatre four for 17). Army lost by 41 runs.

The Oval was the setting for the match against Surrey 2nd XI. The Army won the toss but Brooks was out fairly quickly. Gilson and Sanderson put on 67 for the second wicket but again, although four of the remaining batsmen got into double figures, no-one made a noticeable score. Gilson batted excellently for his 61 although seldom getting past a well-set field marshalled by Fred Titmus. Presland again bowled well and fast but with little luck. After losing two wickets for 41 the Surrey third-wicket pair knocked the runs off without further loss.

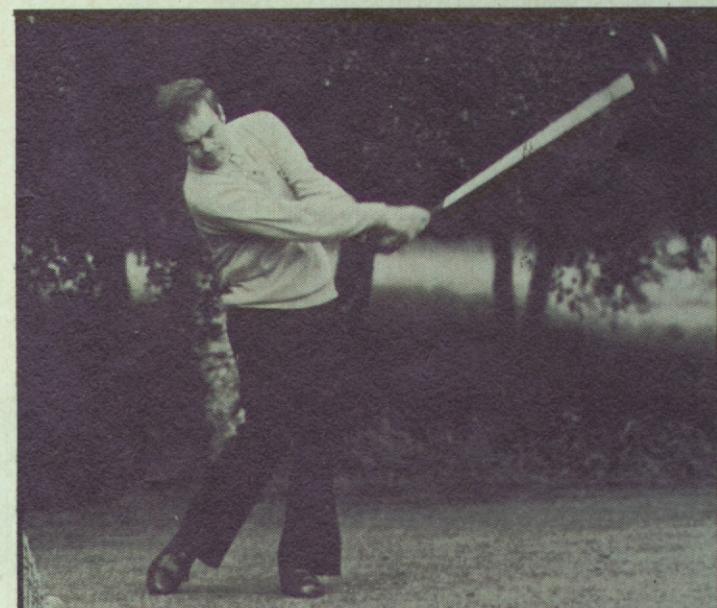
Army: 174 (54.2 overs) (Gilson

61, Burrows four for 40). Surrey: 175 for two (45.5 overs) (Lynch 84, Payne 61). Army lost by eight wickets.

At Crickhowell, Glamorgan's 2nd XI batted soundly against steady bowling, particularly by Presland and Sanderson, backed up by the best Army ground fielding this season. Needing just under four runs an over, the Army soon lost Gilson. Brooks and Sanderson, both batting soundly but without a sense of urgency, put on 155 for the second wicket before Brooks was caught for 82 — including 12 fours.

Williamson batted steadily and Sanderson scored the winning run with seven overs to spare. His 93 not out included ten fours. An excellent tonic for the Army teams.

Glamorgan: 206 for eight (55 overs) (Jones 80, Sanderson three for 50). Army: 208 for three (48 overs) (Sanderson 93, Brooks 82). Army won by seven wickets.



Defending his UKLF 72-hole championship title, Lance-Corporal Ian Grey drives from the first tee at Little Aston. He won the title last year and held it this time by beating Warrant Officer 1 Bob Hanna, captain of the Army Golf Association, into second place.

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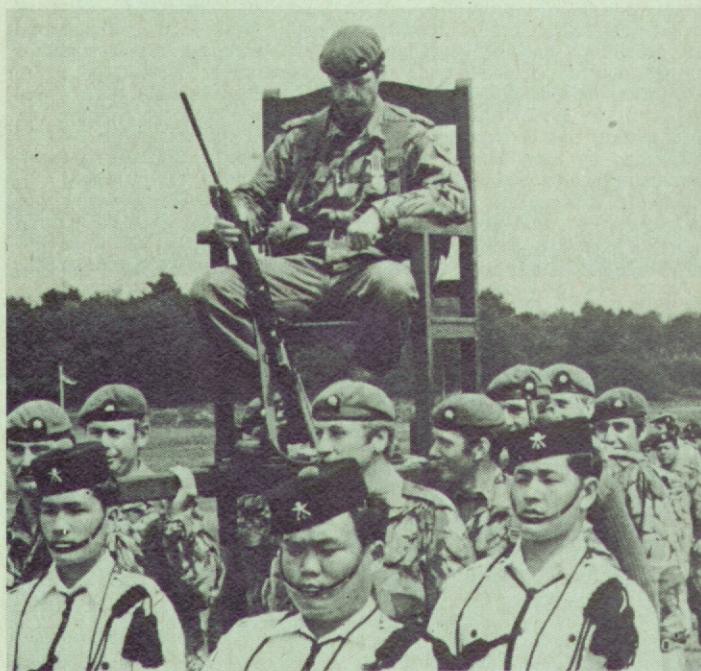
AUDI

Top shot gets the chair

The Army Queen's Medal at Bisley went this year to champion shot Captain A P Domieson (below) of 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, who scored 858, with Lieutenant D F Harding (10th Gurkha Rifles) on 848

in second place and another Gurkha officer, Captain R M Colman (2nd/2nd Gurkha Rifles), on 839 in third.

The Methuen Cup — shot for since 1896 — was the highlight of the Combined Services meeting with all four Services competing. This year the Army did well and The Light



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Division scored 977 to win the cup plus the Prince of Wales's Cup and the REME trophy.

The Scottish Division was second with 959 and the Royal Marines Training Group third with 936. The 29 entries each represented divisional-sized formations.

In the Army meeting the KRRC Cup was a clean sweep for the Gurkhas with 2nd/2nd winning with 828, the 10th second (799) and the 6th third (798).

When it came to the inter-Services long-range rifle match, the RAF came out on top with 554 points, beating the Royal Navy by two points and relegating the Army to third, nine points behind the leaders.

But the Burdwan trophy was taken by the Army with 27 points, avenging themselves over second-placed RAF (21) with the RN third on 18.

The United Services match, with teams of eight rifle shots, ended with a 1385 score for the Regular Army

Split second pips Glen

Army running star Lieutenant Glen Grant was just 0.6 of a second away from a win in the Nationwide AAA championship 1500 metre race.

Had the Rhine Army-based runner run the 3 minutes 40.3 seconds which is his own Army record for the distance, he would have won the national event with ease.

As it was, he had to be content with an honourable second at 3 minutes 43.8 seconds in a tournament that brought together some of the world's best, including New Zealand and Kenyan aces who lent sparkle to the proceedings.

followed by the Canadian Forces with 1292 and the RAF with 1259. The lowest score by an Army shot was 163 — which was the highest score by anybody last year.

The Army also won the sub-machine-gun match, scoring 994 to the Royal Marines' 908 and Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve's 903.

The Army just failed to win the Whitehead pistol contest, coming second with 768 to the Navy's 786. The RAF trailed third with 753.

In the Service Pistol Cup, Chief Petty Officer M J Reid (RN) scored 111 with Sergeant M B McIntyre (10th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment), second on 108.

The inter-unit championship was won by 10th Gurkha Rifles with 171. Second were The Royal Green Jackets (170) and third the Canadian Forces (162).

The Duke of Hamilton contest, shot only between the Army and Navy, was won by the Army 1385 to 1247.

Record broken

Army 200 metres sprinter Corporal Steve Hall, Royal Signals, bettered his own Army record by 0.2 of a second when he clocked 21.6 seconds in a three-cornered athletics match against Hampshire and Surrey AAA.

Even so, Hall was only second in the event to Surrey's D Laing who beat him by just a tenth of a second.

But in the 100 metres, fleet-footed Hall won in 10.8 seconds to equal an Army record which has stood since 1971.

The Army athletes did enough to earn an honourable second place with 126 points to Surrey's 174. Hampshire trailed third with 86.

Triumph for Jim's successor

The Army emerged convincing winners in the inter-Services modern pentathlon championships with a total of 15055 points, well clear of their nearest rivals, the RAF with 13836.

The vacuum left by the retirement of Olympic medallist Lieutenant Jim Fox is now filled by Army champion Staff-Sergeant Instructor Peter Brierley — a former team mate of Fox — whose skill and experience helped considerably to lift the Army to victory.

The competition opened with the riding event over a tricky course and uneven ground which really tested both horses and riders. Craftsman Tony Woodall, of the School of Electronic Engineering, Arborfield, had the best ride, scoring 1030. Lieutenant Mike Quick, 22 Locating Battery, Royal Artillery, was second with 1016 and RAF Corporal Threlfall third with 996.

Team winners were the Army A team, comprising Brierley, Woodall and Craftsman Kevin Chesham, also of SEE. The team scored 2748.

Fencing was next and Brierley stamped his superiority on the event, winning with 1126 points. Woodall came second with 1042 and Mr Simon Baldry, of the Modern Pentathlon Association of Great Britain, third with 1000.

Brierley was relegated to third place in the shooting event with only

912 points, with the Navy second and RAF a surprise first as Junior Technician Peter Whiteside shot a superb 197 target points to score 1066 pentathlon points. Petty Officer Tim Kencally was second with 1022.

Swimming followed close on the heels of the shooting and Whiteside scored another first here, tying for first place with Able Seaman Flaherty 1272 points. Kencally was third with 1264.

The situation after four events took an interesting turn with Whiteside assuming the individual lead from Brierley by 4214 points to 4162. Woodall was still third on 4086 and the Army A team still led the RAF team, with 11,632 points to 10,647.

Finally came the running and Brierley pulled out all the stops to win the event with 1201 points. Whiteside could manage only fifth place with 1120 points and so lost the individual honours to Brierley who finished with a total of 5363 points with Whiteside second on 5334. Woodall retained third place with 5236.

Sports shorts

Swimming

The Army won the inter-Services swimming, diving and water polo championships against their opponents from the Royal Navy. In the swimming event the Army scored 76 points to 64, in the diving 13 points to seven, and in the water polo 17 to four. J/Bdr Wake set up a new 110 yards butterfly record for the Combined Services books — subject to ratification — with a time of 1 minutes 8.7 seconds.

One record was broken in the Army junior individual swimming championships. And Junior Bombadier Wake, of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery — which hosted the event at Bramcote — dominated the pool for several races as well. He snatched a second record in the team event.

Breaststroke, 110 yds: 1st A/T Wood (AAC Arborfield) 1min 21.3sec, 2nd A/T Cpl Burke (AAC Chepstow) 1:21.5, 3rd A/T Wallace (Arborfield) 1:23.8. 220 yds: 1st Wood 3:04.7, 2nd J/Tpr Watson (JLR RAC) 3:07.0, 3rd Burke 3:16.9.

Backstroke, 110 yds: 1st A/T Robinson (Arborfield) 1:20.9, 2nd A/T Pointing (Chepstow) 1:21.7, 3rd A/T Regan (Arborfield) 1:26.3. 220 yds: 1st J/Bdr Wake (JRL RA) 2:41.2 (junior record), 2nd Pointing 3:06.0.

Butterfly, 110 yds: 1st Wake 1:09.3, 2nd A/T Williams (Chepstow) 1:19.3, 3rd A/T Cridland (Arborfield) 1:24.0.

Freestyle, 110 yds: 1st A/T Sgt Mitchell (Arborfield) 1:03.6, 2nd J/Tpr Baugh (JLR RAC) 1:04.0, 3rd J/Gnr Sheppard (JLR RA) 1:07.9. 220 yds: 1st Cridland 2:30.5, 2nd A/T Rollinson (Chepstow) 2:43.0, 3rd A/T Muir (Chepstow) 2:49.0. 440 yds: 1st J/Cpl Beaver (JLR RAC) 5:40.5, 2nd A/T Corroyer (Arborfield) 5:48.4, 3rd J/Gnr Monks (JLR RA) 5:52.3.

Medley, 220 yds: 1st Wake 2:35.6 (record), 2nd Williams 2:49.5, 3rd A/T Smith (Chepstow) 3:19.8.

Springboard diving, 1 metre: 1st J/Bdm Phinn (Scottish Div Schl of Music) 143.8 points, 2nd J/Pte Paterson (Jun Para) 139.8, 3rd J/Ldr Dean (Inf JLB) 118.1.

Team championship, major units: 1st Arborfield (84 points), 2nd JLR RA (68), 3rd Chepstow (68). Minor units: 1st W (JS) Coy Depot King's Div (22), 2nd Jun Para Coy (19), 3rd RAMC AAC (14).

Running

Ultra-long-distance runner Staff Sergeant Fred Howell, 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars, came fourth in the Hillingdon 50-kilometre track race at Uxbridge in a very strong invitation field.

Fred, who has set his sights on a record attempt in the White City 24-hour race later this year, needed to do well at Uxbridge to impress officials of the big race responsible for invitations to take part.

But although Fred only managed fourth, his time of two hours 59 minutes 13 seconds was a creditable effort in company which included the holders of seven world records and the Australian national champion.

After 125 laps of the stadium, the winner was D Ritchie of Scotland, the current world record holder,

who narrowly missed breaking his own world record. H Keating and J Mouat, both of England, were second and third respectively.

The multi world record holder, C Woodward of England, finished sixth and the Australian champion, M Thompson, was eleventh.

revolver contest when he lost the title he held to PC Edwards on Zealous who was third to Oliver last year. Oliver came back though to win the skill-at-arms mounted event and Wilkinson-Sword Trophy for the best aggregate score for the two events.

Royal Tournament

All five under-20 year-old fencing events at the Royal Tournament this year went to the Army. Individual foil, épée and sabre events were soon under their belts before the team title and champion-at-arms crown fell to them too.

The Army has almost a clean sweep of all the fencing events with the senior event dominated by pentathlete Staff-Sergeant Instructor Peter Brierley and Army School of Physical Training Commandant, Lieutenant-Colonel John Moore, Royal Artillery.

For the fifth successive year, Colonel Moore won the champion at arms title but he had to be satisfied with second place in the master swordsman event to Squadron Leader L Wall RAF.

The foil and épée titles went to Peter Brierley. In the foil event he defeated ten rivals losing only to Warrant Officer 2 B R Matlass, Grenadier Guards. Colonel Moore took the honours in the sabre final.

Maximum possible points (40) assured Corporal Oliver, Royal Military Police, of the tent pegging title once more — he won last year too. Riding Jill, he beat Corporal Champion (also RMP) who scored 36 points.

But Corporal Oliver was not so lucky in the sword, lance and

Gymnastics

SSI Jim Purvis (APTC) was among the top British gymnasts to compete against a team from the People's Republic of China at Wembley during its first-ever visit to Europe. The Chinese — once world-beaters at gymnastics — may well enter the international arena again by joining in the Moscow Olympics.

Athletics

Women's Royal Army Corps Private Vinessa Head bettered her Army record shot put of 15.30 metres with a 15.52 metres effort to gain her third place in an international athletics match against the Finns on their home ground in Oulu. This helped towards the 98 points to 59 trouncing which the British girls gave the Finns. The men meanwhile lost by three points (113-110).

Pentathlon

SSI Peter Brierley is the new Army modern pentathlon champion after winning the five-event tournament with 5035 points. Second was Lieut M Mumford (RE) (4949) and third Cfn G A Woodall (REME) (4922). The REME A team (L/Cpl D Archibald, Woodall, Cfn K Chesham) won the inter-unit team championship with 12649 points. Their B team (Sgt C Jamieson, Cpl B Moss, Cfn A Smith) was second

with 9503. Junior champion was Pte C Younger (REME) (3248). Guest individual winner was J/Tech Peter Whiteside (RAF) (5024).

Red Devils freefall team member Corporal Scotty Milne has retained the British national parachuting championship he won for the first time last year.

Scotty led an eight-man team representing the Army — rather than individual units as in previous years — at the event in Hereford.

He also took the overall style championship in the eight-day skydiving tournament to bring his total of first places in major national events to eight over the last three years.



In addition to his own first placings at this year's championships, he was a member of the Red Devils contests team that came second in the four-man accuracy competition.

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Dragoons are in the swim

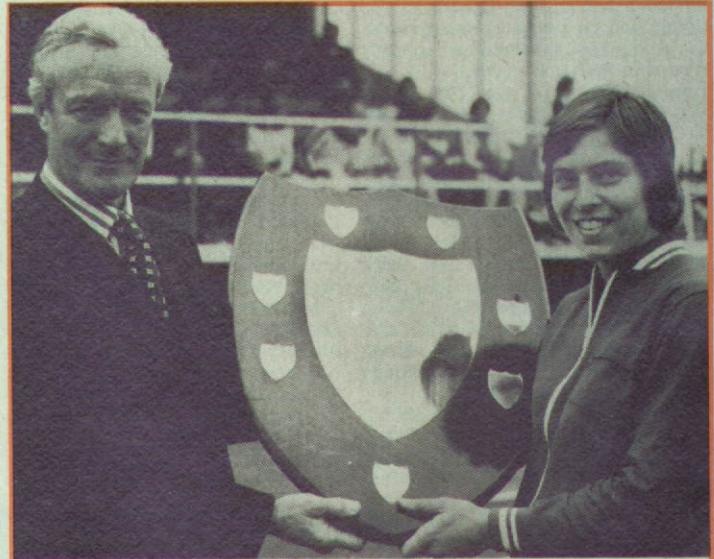
The 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards just managed to hang on to their Army major units swimming title by beating 36 Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers, by only one point. The Dragoons took the title for the first time last year from the sappers who had previously dominated the competition.

But if the sappers were disappointed about not reclaiming their title at least they had the consolation of winning the water polo as convincingly as always. They beat the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps, 12-5.

One of the surprises of the championships, at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, was a team

from 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles which entered the breaststroke relay for the first time and came second.

Staff-Sergeant Instructor D Belamby, of the Academy, scooped the pool in the diving by winning both the three-metre springboard and five-metre firmboard events.



Corporal Ann Patterson receives the women's inter-Services athletics championship trophy from Air Chief Marshal Sir John Aiken after the Women's Royal Army Corps team beat the WRAF and WRNS at RAF Cosford. Ann is a leading Army women's sprinter.

Didn't they do well?



Men of the giant-killing Military Corrective Training Centre tug-of-war team are the Army's United Kingdom 640-kilo champions as a result of their remarkable performance at the Inter-unit championships in Aldershot. There they beat five other teams, including The Gordon Highlanders, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment and the Guards Depot, losing only to the Army champions from Rhine Army,

39 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. This is a fine achievement for a unit just over 100 strong which entered the tug-of-war for the first time this year.

Much of the credit goes to Sergeant Phillip Ellis, team captain, who trained the team throughout. The MCTC's 560-kilo team also did well, coming second in the UK and third in the Army championships at the same meeting.

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Searchlight celebration



THE HAIR may be a bit greyer, the middle-aged spread may have spread a bit further, but for the men of 2nd Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery, the old spirit of wartime comradeship still soldiers on, as bright now as in those dark days of war.

In fact it was the regiment's job to lighten those dark days, with their questing pencils of light in the sky, pinpointing enemy bombers. And to remember that vital task, each year the remaining ex-members of the now disbanded regiment meet again at their old billet, Cranborne in Dorset.

This year's meeting was a real red-letter day for the old sweats for they were celebrating their 21st anniversary. And there to help them celebrate were the Royal Artillery Alanbrooke Band and the Bournemouth Moose Centre Choir.

Even the little village church at Cranborne was not forgotten, for on display for the first time were the sanctuary carpet and altar vases, donated by the association, which will stand in the church with the altar frontal, supper frontal, lectern and bible the members have donated over the years.

One association member missed at the service was Charlie Coward, who was to read

Left: A final polish by Spr Ron Augeste before a searchlight goes on display.

Below: A bevy of glamorous grans. During the war they played a vital defence role.



Story: Doug McArthur
Pictures: Ron Lane

a lesson but who died at Christmas. Charlie was taken prisoner in France and was the POW hero whose experiences behind the wire led to his immortalisation in the book and film 'The Password is Courage.' He was a battery sergeant-major and after the war gave evidence at the Nuremberg trials against his persecutors.

Every year the reunion starts in the Royal British Legion Memorial Hall at nearby Wimborne which gives everyone the chance to relive again those younger days when mortgages and tax problems were pushed to one side. Then next morning the official service at Cranborne Parish Church, accompanied by the Alanbrooke Band and the Moose Choir.

And just to help them remember what their job was all about, the only remaining searchlight unit in the Army, 873 Movement Light Squadron, Royal Engineers (TAVR), came down to light up the British Legion Hall and was then on display after the church service.

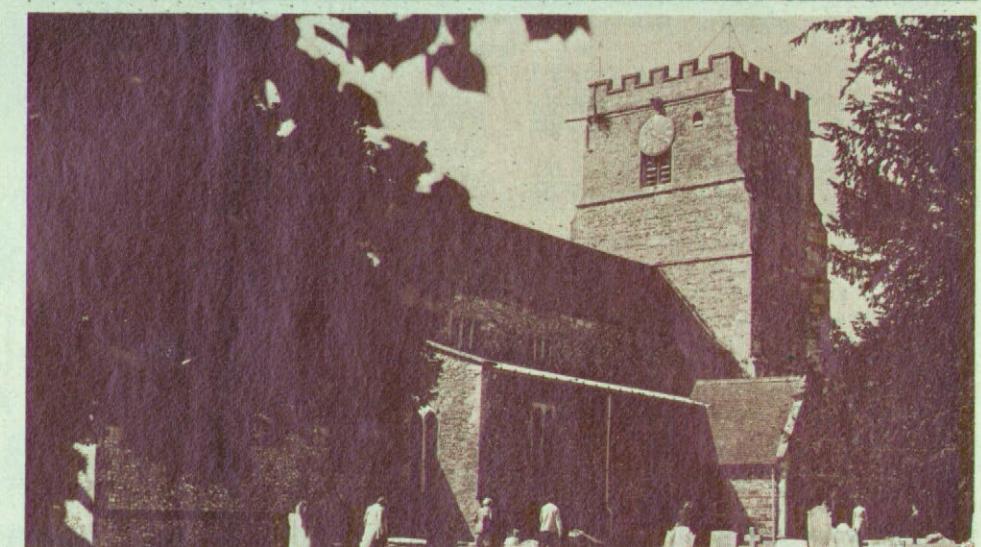
The two searchlights must have been particularly interesting to the old soldiers, because the Acton-based searchlight squadron's lights date back to 1935, making them probably the oldest kit still in service with the Army. But even they have now finally had their day and will soon be replaced by smaller Land-Rover-based lights.

Joining in the regiment's celebrations was a handful of women who would not now mind being described as glamorous grans. But during the war years they had one of the most responsible jobs in the defence of London. They were the forerunners of the only all-female searchlight regiment whose crucial job was to light up the London skies during the blitz.

Meg Thompson, Mary Simpson and their friends were in A Troop of 301 Battery, formed as an experiment to see whether the girls could cope. And they certainly showed that it could be done.

"It started as an experiment," said Meg, "and it was really primitive. We had no electricity or toilets, but we showed we could manage, and eventually built up to

Below: Rita MacDonald: "This used to fit me".



Top: Old comrades relive their memories.

become the 93rd Searchlight Regiment."

The unit started round the old Luton Airport, before moving into London where it was also used to illuminate wrecked buildings for rescue work. On VE night the girls had the honour of lighting up the Victory V sign behind St Paul's which figured in so many end-of-war photographs and paintings.

"Some of it was fun," said Mary, "but we all remember the occasions when a bomber would come straight down the beam at us, firing as he came, trying to put out our light. Usually he never got the chance because we would douse first then run like hell, but sometimes we got caught out."

The 2nd Searchlight Regiment was reformed, after a mauling in France, from the remnants of the regiment who escaped at Dunkirk, and after a minimum of training was moved to its new headquarters at Boveridge House, Cranborne. The four batteries in the regiment, 4, 5, 6 and 475, were then dispersed throughout the county and beyond and it was here that their searchlights probed the skies for the Luftwaffe on this vulnerable coastline.

There was also the added headache of the 'hush-hush' Telecommunications Research Establishment, nerve centre of Britain's fledgling radar system, guarded by 5 Battery. The Luftwaffe tried several times to knock it out, but before a really heavy raid could be planned the whole establishment — including searchlights — was moved from Swanage to Malvern.

Above: The picturesque Cranborne Church.

After D-Day, the regiment went back to France. Although its original role was anti-aircraft defence it changed to infantry support and was used to floodlight the German retreat. At the end of the war each battery formed its own reunion association, and in 1956 the regimental association was formed.

Membership climbed steadily and peaked at 450 but, with age taking its toll, the list has dropped again to 350. The members are scattered all over the world, but for one ex-ATS girl, even 6000 miles could not stop her from getting to the reunion.

Mrs Jean Weaving made her pilgrimage from Vancouver, Canada, where she emigrated just after the end of the war. Jean was the sergeant in charge of 4 Battery operations room at Edmondsham House, Cranborne.

The guiding light behind the association is Les Scott, ex-5 Battery, who now lives in Wimborne, and is secretary and treasurer.

"I used to bump into one or two of the lads and I started to think that it would be a good idea to have a proper get-together. I had two attempts which were disappointing, then a third and final one, which if not successful would have been the last. Luckily we had a good turnout and we have gone on like that ever since."

"It is on these occasions when we meet that over the years the hardships of Service life are forgotten and we only — albeit nostalgically — remember the pleasant things, the happier times, the friendships and the comradeship."

FROM STALAG 383 TO THE SILVER JUBILEE



Above: Union Jack-draped coffin of a comrade of Mr Phillips who died while in Stalag 383.



DEATH WAS HIS CELL MATE for a whole week. "Work or we shoot!" That was the daily threat as 'Phil' Phillips — his six-foot two-inch frame wasted to nine stones by three years of captivity since Dunkirk — was brought with his comrades into the daylight from the evil-smelling depths of their underground prison in East Prussia.

As the guards cocked their Schmeissers yet again, the tough 28-year-old Welsh Guardsman thought: "This must be my darkest hour." Perhaps it was, although the rebellious prisoners did win the right to refuse to work.

But his fate hung in the balance once more in the closing days of the war at another camp, Stalag 383 in Bavaria. As the Americans drew closer, war-weary SS guards wondered whether to shoot the prisoners or surrender to them. The SS forced a smile and handed over their weapons.

So fate decreed that 'Phil' Phillips — 14 stones these days, his tattered battledress replaced by a magnificent uniform of scarlet and gold — would symbolically guard the person of Queen Elizabeth II during the glittering ceremonies of Her Majesty's Silver Jubilee.

From the comfort of a deep armchair in his spacious apartment at St James's Palace, Mr Cyril 'Phil' Phillips, now 62 and Sergeant-Major of The Queen's Bodyguard of The Yeoman of the Guard, dismissed the dark days of the war with an elegant wave of the hand. Modestly, he said that most of the 81 members of the élite bodyguard could tell similar tales.

But by any standards the story of this big man from Chepstow in the Wye Valley is remarkable.

Thursday, 17 December 1970, was a good day for 'Phil' Phillips to reflect on a past well spent. At the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, 116 officer cadets were passing out at the Sovereign's Parade reviewed by Field-Marshal Sir Gerald Templer. Academy Sergeant-Major Phillips, then 55, was leaving the Welsh Guards after 36 years for a new life in the Yeomen of the Guard, a royal bodyguard founded in 1485 by another Welshman, Henry Tudor, King of England, and the oldest military corps in the world.

It was the sixteenth Sovereign's Parade stage-managed by ASM Phillips. Six thousand cadets, many of them senior officers now, had been his respectful

Right: Stalag 383 watchtower, secretly photographed at great risk by Mr Phillips's friend.



Above: Company Sergeant-Major Phillips lends a helping hand during the Palestine emergency.

Below: The Sergeant-Major of the Yeomen of the Guard in close attendance at Westminster Abbey.



Story: J B Wright

charges. Nine foreign princes, three sheikhs and a sultan had been among them.

No doubt all of them would have agreed with his remark on that day: "I abhor bad language but I am a firm believer in loud words of command."

As the band played and the adjutant's charger mounted the steps of Sandhurst's Grand Entrance, it was a time to reflect . . .

To reflect on that day in 1934 in Cardiff when at the age of 18 he joined the Welsh Guards and went to Caterham where the diet was such as to stick in the mind as well as the stomach — "brown stew, bread and dripping and onions."

To reflect that as a member of the Prince of Wales's Company of the Welsh Guards he took part in King George V's silver jubilee. Later he marched in red tunic and bearskin at the coronation of George VI.

To reflect on the lighter side of a young guardsman's life in the thirties before the grim reality of a soldier's lot on the shelled and mortared approaches to Dunkirk. There, as a colour-sergeant, he was involved in a rearguard action before his unit was overrun and he 'went in the bag' for five years.

These were not passive years. He was one of a group of non-commissioned officers who refused to labour for the Germans and were banished to that subterranean gaol in Prussia. Later, in Stalag 383, he was among those handcuffed for long periods when Hitler ordered Repressalien after Dieppe. A fellow prisoner at the time was Sergeant Fred Mulley of The Worcestershire Regiment, now Secretary of State for Defence. And when the SS guards called it a day, Colour-Sergeant Phillips formed a platoon and joined the Americans in a battle against diehard fanatics.

To reflect on the British Army post-war — Palestine, Berlin, the young Queen's coronation, an earlier spell at Sandhurst as sergeant-major of Old College, to Kenya as regimental sergeant-major of 11th Battalion, The King's African Rifles. And other memories — an extra in a film with



Another royal occasion, at Salisbury Cathedral, with the Yeomen of the Guard on parade once more.

Elizabeth Taylor; adviser on drill and dress for a Thames TV series, 'Frontier,' about a fictitious regiment in 19th century India; a game of golf with seven generals against a show business team; his MBE . . .

And so to today. After that final Sovereign's Parade he became the first person to hold the twin posts of Superintendent of the State Apartments at St James's Palace and Sergeant-Major of The Queen's Bodyguard, of which he is the only permanent member.

During the last seven years he has been at the monarch's side at all the great occasions of State in a role that stretches back into deep history. From the orderly room in St James's Palace he musters the part-time Bodyguard, all handpicked for their distinguished military records, and parades them in Friary Court before they leave by coach

for the centre of the Royal stage.

He is a giant among equals — a superb sergeant-major among super sergeant-majors. Mostly, the magnificent 81 are former 'high-powered' warrant officers of the Army, Royal Marines or RAF. Together they can muster 500 medals and close on 2000 years of military service.

"It's like a brotherhood," says their sergeant-major.

As he leads them through centuries-old drill — "a partisan (or pike) is a different kettle of soldiering from an SLR!" — his immaculate pedigree is apparent in every measured step.

It is all a very long way from that dungeon in wartime Germany for a man who epitomises that hoary old saying, "Old soldiers never die." In his case, they don't even fade away.

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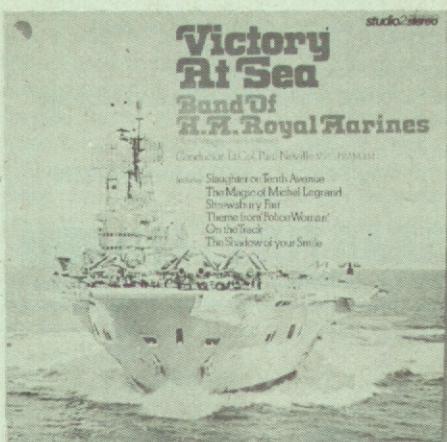
'Marching with the Sappers' (Band of the Royal Engineers (Aldershot) (Conductor: Captain S Patch) with the Pipes & Drums of 71st Scottish Royal Engineers (VR) (Pipe-Major: J Bissett) (Drum-Major: E Hanratty) (EMI NTS 117)

In these columns a march disc must stand or fall by its contents rather than by its quality, although I think this one will attract on both grounds. The marches are played with a fine lift and apart from Alford's 'Thin Red Line' are not much recorded. Since the record was made in Scotland it was a good idea to enlist the services of a Territorial unit, and Blankenberg's march of that name makes a sound start to the programme.

Arnold Safroni's 'Under the Old Flag' is well worthy of wider recognition, and arrangements of the traditional 'Doon Haemers' and 'Scots Wha' Hae,' one quick and one slow, would make useful additions to the repertoire. 'The Trossachs,' on the other hand, is by a man who served 26 years as bandmaster of the KOSB — W Fitz-Earle — and has a definable something which stamps it as a Kneller Hall student's march. James Howe's 'Pentland Hills' and Ellis's 'Scottish Emblem,' plus the corps march 'Wings,' complete the band's contribution.

The pipes and drums give a medley of well-known tunes on each side and to me sound well up to standard, although they were formed as recently as 1956 on the reorganization of the reserve forces.

RB



'Victory at Sea' (Band of HM Royal Marines School of Music) (Conductor: Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Neville) (EMI Studio Two TWOX 1058)

No, you haven't heard this one before. Royal Marine records tend to go for a title which allows, sometimes on tenuous grounds, of a seascape sleeve with warships in full cry. Their sales gimmicks may therefore be backfiring on them, for I certainly would have passed this one on a bookstall as already in my collection.

The band is in fine form in a lively programme of mostly TV and film music. Richard Rodgers, the composer of so many popular songs and shows, is here represented by his two more ambitious works — the now classic scene from 'On Your Toes,' 'Slaughter on Tenth Avenue,' and the music for 'Victory at Sea.' The former is inextricably part of one's film-going youth — worth buying just for the nostalgia.

Paul Neville's own march 'Shrewsbury Fair' is a very catchy example in the traditional style, and Bob Barratt's 'March of the Cobblers' another, dedicated to the GUS (Footwear) Band. One of the greatest marches ever written, Victor Herbert's 'March of the Toys,' is here updated in an arrangement that almost succeeds in hiding the tunes; they are great enough, and better left to stand unadorned with fripperies.

For the rest we have an attractive 'The Shadow of Your Smile,' as a trombone solo, 'The Ironside Theme,' 'The Kojak Theme,' 'Police Woman' theme and a feeble out-of-place Jack Simpson xylophone solo, 'On the Track.' The gem of the collection though is a medley of tunes called 'The Magic of Michel Legrand,' arranged by Ray Woodfield, a man who adds much of character to all RM records.

'A Beating Retreat Spectacular' by the Combined Bands and Corps of Drums of The Prince of Wales's Division (Conductor: Captain Gordon Turner) (Decca SB716)

Under their divisional director of music the nine regiments of The Prince of Wales's Division were represented on Horse Guards Parade in a ceremonial Retreat beating which took place during Jubilee Week. Very spectacular and successful, I'm told, and the Prince of Wales took an hour off from his other duties during that hectic week to take the salute.

The music, except in name, is not aggressively Welsh, and was of course recorded before the occasion. An 'Antiphonal Fanfare' by Sir Arthur Bliss heralds the massed bands to Alf Young's great march 'Royal Birthday' and Panella's 'On the Square.' The Corps of Drums beats the 'Drummers Call' and plays 'The Conquering Hero' and the 'Mercer' march, after which the

presume the performance to be more or less immaculate. There are too many tunes to mention, 38 in all, divided as usual into medleys of several 4/4 marches, hornpipes, jigs, 6/8 marches, strathspeys and reels.

To this sassenach the selection appears to be of the lesser-recorded melodies, and all the better for that, an' a' that.

RB

'The Music of The Queen's Lancashire Regiment' played by the Band of the 1st Battalion (Conductor: Bandmaster G H Leask) (Music Masters 0516)

This regiment derives from four Lancashire regiments — the old PWVs, Loyals, East Lancs and South Lancs — and our grandfathers will have known of its roots in such outlandish places as Somerset, Cambridgeshire, and Nottinghamshire. Music from most of these old regiments is included here, with a few marches of lesser regimental importance as make-weights and, due to the poor quality of recording, is strictly for the old and bold, and loyal.

The regimental music is the new quick march past, a combination of 'L'Attaque' and 'The Red Rose,' 'The Lincolnshire (Somerset) Poacher,'



band and drums play Bizet's 'Toreadors March,' 'Triple Crown' (a medley of Welsh airs), 'English Airs' and an effective rendering of the march which Sousa dedicated to 'The Royal Welch Fusiliers.'

Side two has Duthoit's 'The Staffordshire Knot,' Major R A Riding's 'Rorkes Drift' march, and 'The Children of the Regiment.' The finale comprises a fanfare 'Ich Dien,' 'Long Live Elizabeth,' a tribute to Elgar with 'Hail Glorious Day' and 'Land of Hope and Glory,' hymn tune and 'Sunset.' And it's about time writers of sleeve notes knew that Dr Gordon Jacob, not Jacobs, arranged the National Anthem used on most royal occasions.

RB



'Lancashire Witches,' 'God Bless the Prince of Wales,' 'The 47th Regiment,' 'Lancashire Lad,' 'Mountain Rose' and 'Long Live Elizabeth,' the new slow march of the new regiment.

Associated music, if only tenuously, is the old troop 'The Regimental Colour,' R W Tulip's fine march 'The Prince,' another march called 'Quebec,' 'Dover Castle,' 'Rawtenstall Annual Fair' and some bits of 'Battle of Waterloo.'

Available from PRI, 1 QLR, Saighton Camp, Chester, price £2.50 plus 25p postage.

RB

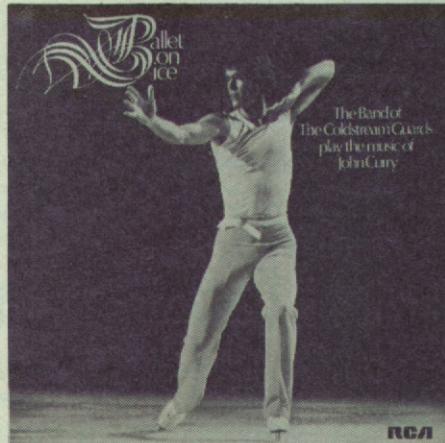


'Highland Gathering' (The Pipes & Drums of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards) (Pipe-Major: A J Crease) (Drum-Major: D G McCroskie) (Pye PKL 5560)

Under the direction of the original player of the original 'Amazing Grace,' Pipe-Major Crease, we have here a selection from the repertoire of the regiment whose new name fell so strangely on old soldiers' ears, yet after only six years has become a household word. Many regiments have fought bloody battles over centuries for less.

I am no judge of the finer points of piping but, since the band is now graded A1 at Lloyds (or its Scottish equivalent in piping circles), one can

'Ballet on Ice' (The Band of the Coldstream Guards plays the music of John Curry) (Conductor: Captain R A Ridings) (RCA PL 25024) At first sight this may seem to be another disc trading under a false, or forced, title. But no, the Master himself confirms on the sleeve that all the music played here is part of his repertoire and



enhances various aspects of his art. The band, with effective aid from harpist Marie Goossens, sails through John Curry's skating programme without a single slip, slide, or misjudged sept or spiral. Although (not being a fan of the silver rink) I cannot imagine what gyrations he could possibly get up to during 'Pomp and Circumstance.'

John Curry is hardly the character, I would have thought, to portray the barbarism of Borodin's 'Polovtsian Dances,' but the old-world romanticism of Drigo's 'Le Corsaire,' Minkus's 'Don Quixote' and Meyerbeer's operatic ballet-music must suit him down (whoops) to the ground.

For warming-up purposes he uses the 'Radetzky' march, and for featured dances the obvious 'Skater's Waltz,' 'Sailors' Hornpipe' and 'Greensleeves,' all of which make up a pleasant and melodious programme regardless of extra-musical associations.

RB

brass in brief

'Brass Aria' (The Royal Doulton Band) (Conductor: Edward Gray) (Pye Top Brass TBX 3014)

Another 'Magic Flute' overture on this one, but the remainder highly desirable rarities for the most part. 'The Duchess of Duke Street,' 'Jaws' and Acker Bilk's 'Aria,' to name but a few. And 'Queen's Own' march, 'Bal Masque' (Percy Fletcher), Harry James's 'Trumpet Concerto,' 'Carnival in Paris' (not the one), 'Autumn Song,' 'Trumpet Piece,' 'Mood Indigo' and Gounod's 'Queen of Sheba' grand march.

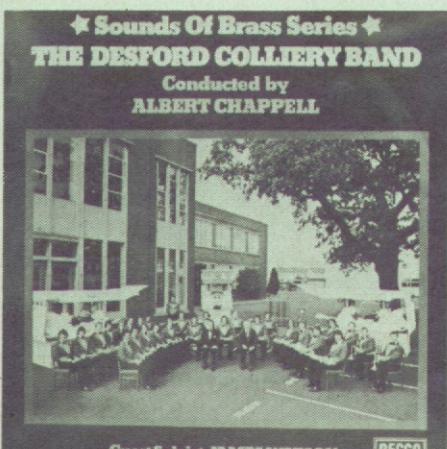
RB



'Sounds of Brass: Desford Colliery Band' (Conducted by Albert Chappell) (Decca SB 328)

A well-worth-having disc of some new and newish music, including 'The Seventies Set' by Gordon Langford, Gareth Wood's 'Concerto for Trumpet and Band' played by James Watson of the RPO, 'Portuguese Party' by Gilbert Vinter, and Eric Ball's 'Morning Rhapsody.' Lollipops are 'Aida' march, 'Slavonic Rhapsody No 1' and 'The Magic Flute' overture.

RB



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Belize's busy medics



WHEN THE GARRISON in Belize was recently reinforced in the face of threats from Guatemala, the arrival of many new men threw extra strain on accommodation and facilities.

A few weeks earlier, SOLDIER's Doug McArthur and Doug Pratt had been in the central American dependency. Here they report how the Force Medical Reception Station, built and equipped for a company strength, was coping with its added responsibilities . . .

"At times we have had 17 beds crammed into a nine-bed space," said Colonel Bob Smith, in charge of the station. "This emphasises the point and that's when you get to the stage of having people wandering about the camp when they should be bedded down."

The station is a minor military hospital and has to deal with every injury that soldiers incur.

But in a real emergency, such as a recent case when a soldier was brought in with serious head wounds after a hunting accident, the British Defence Staff in Washington co-operates. The soldier was flown by ambulance jet to a neurological hospital in Miami.

The local civilian hospital is used frequently for X-ray and laboratory facilities and patients are often sent there for surgery and emergency treatment. The MRS will deal with small fractures, dislocations and heat exhaustion.

"The hospital is very much out on a limb," said Colonel Smith, "and that means we have to be ready to move very quickly. There is always one doctor on call; the other is usually up-country. The two of us also cover landings and take-offs at the airport and we also give briefings on the local creepy crawlies, snakes, vampire bats and spiders.

"This is real soldiering here in Belize, and we get our fair share of it. It is very busy compared with some places, not probably in the number of patients but in the number we have to hold and our response to emergencies."

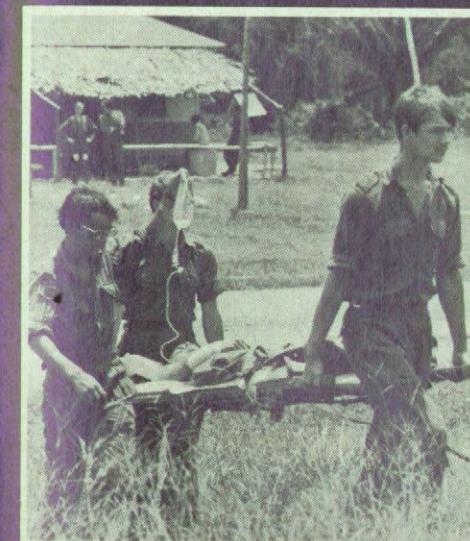
"We also have tropical diseases to cope with. A soldier out chopping down trees



Top: Patient requiring urgent medical attention being flown to Miami from Airport Camp.

Centre: Ambulance outside 'Mash HQ RAMC' — the Force Medical Reception Station.

Left: MRS ward with patients Cpl John Boston, L/Cpl Moore, L/Cpl Patterson, Pte McMichael.



Top left: RAF doctor Flt-Lieut John Morris gives saline drip to Jungle School patient.

Top right: Medic Pte Jock McLaughlin making comfortable heat-exhausted Pte Mike Cooke.

Above: Treatment continues as Pte Cooke is carried to Puma helicopter for flight to MRS.

struck into a fire point tree which spits out sap. The sap went straight into his eyes, which had to be washed out, and he was given pain-killing jabs and then had to be winched out of the jungle."

The hospital has been left behind as Airport Camp, the Army's administrative centre in Belize has grown. It is the oldest building on the camp and has only one ward with nine beds.

On hand are the two doctors, one environmental health sergeant, one sergeant specialist treatment assistant, one sergeant SRN, one lance-corporal and battalion medical personnel. The hospital can call on some men for temporary duty.

The hospital works closely with the Puma squadron and the RAF aeromedics are well used to winching down into the jungle to whisk out a patrol casualty.

In a recent incident a soldier fell out of a lorry on a resupply run to the south of the colony and broke his arm.

It was pouring with rain and at night on an almost completely overgrown jungle cart

track. The lorry crew radioed for help and a Puma 'scrambled.' With deft flying and nerve the pilot landed on the road between the trees and took the soldier on board.

Lance-Corporal 'Skins' Moore was working at the new Rideau Camp when he went down with appendicitis. He was evacuated by helicopter and landed on the lawns in front of the Belize City civilian hospital. The appendix was dealt with and then he was sent to the Airport Camp hospital for convalescence.

"This is the sort of thing that happens all the time," said Colonel Smith. "What we really need is more space."

But there is a ray of hope on his horizon.

Extensions to the existing hospital have been approved in principle and the detailed plans are now being studied by the medical corps.

"This will be a brick extension and eventually we hope that the old building will be replaced altogether, but space on the camp is at a premium and we have to keep working at the same time," said Colonel Smith.

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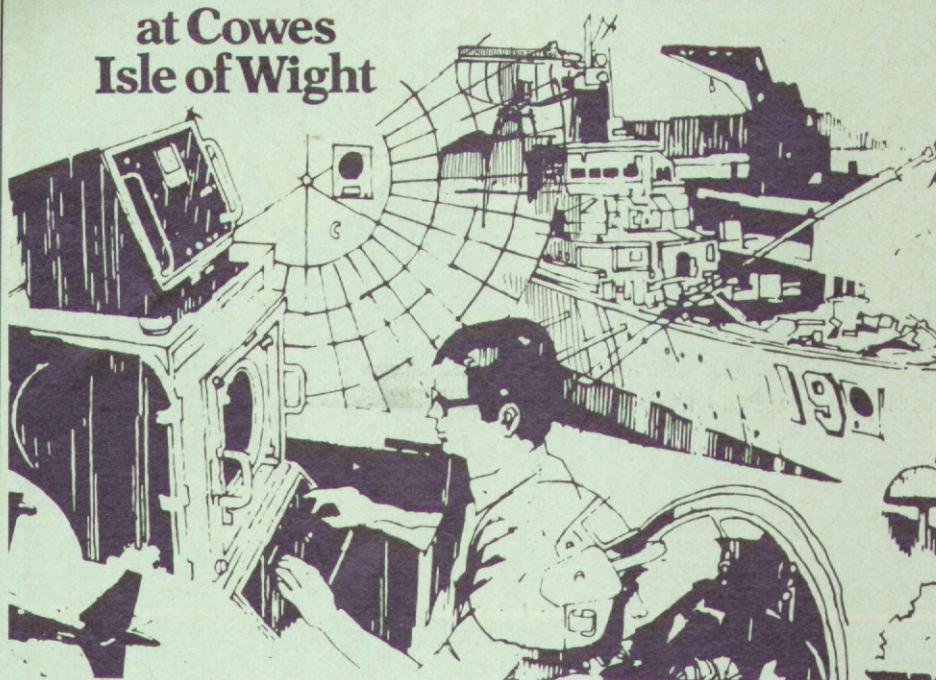
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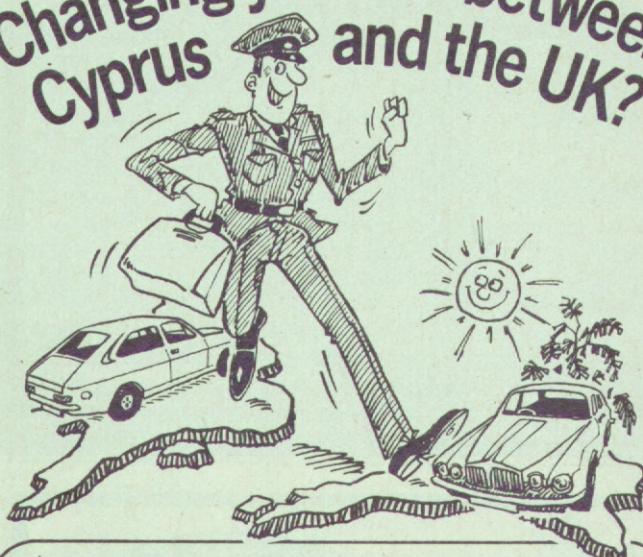
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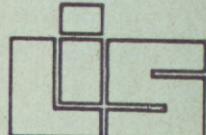
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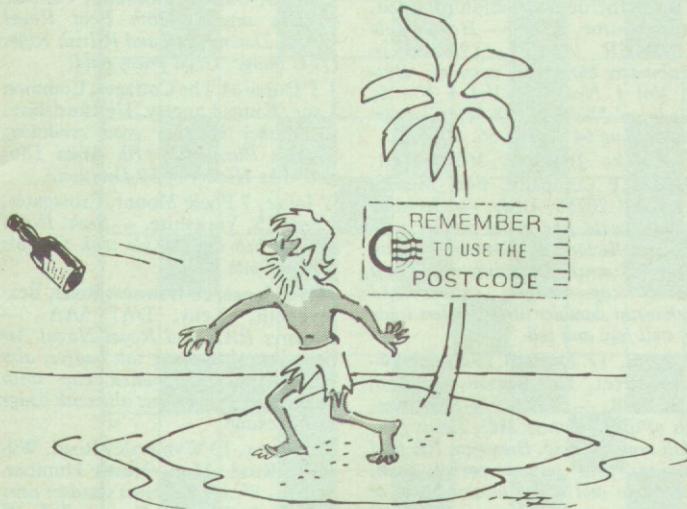
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LETTERS



'Freedom'

As one, now rising 78, who is proud to have served in The Durham Light Infantry, I was both interested and pleased to learn that Stockton-on-Tees had conferred her 'Freedom' upon The Light Infantry. It would be churlish indeed to cavil at this gesture of goodwill although, viewed in perspective, it may be that the honour is bestowed upon the borough as much as upon the regiment.

The proliferation of these 'privileges' must not however obscure the fact that there is nothing to prevent even the most junior of the Queen's officers marching the Queen's men upon their lawful military occasions through any town — with one notable exception — with all appropriate pomp and panache. Nor can any myrmidon of Bumbledom say nay!

The sole exception is the City of London where this closely guarded privilege has been the perquisite of certain regiments for three centuries. — **Maj G K Wenham-Strugnell, Haylings Lodge, Leiston, Suffolk.**

*Maj Wenham-Strugnell is correct in saying that the conferring of 'freedoms' is that of an existing right, except in the City of London. But the custom has such a long history as to have become

traditional and it is in fact a very acceptable and tangible recognition of the close links which exist between towns and cities and the Army's regiments, corps and establishments. Many infantry regiments have held the privilege — the right to march through the town 'with bayonets fixed, bands playing and Colours flying' — for a long time and these have been passed on after amalgamations. In more recent years the infantry has been joined by cavalry and gunner regiments which now have specific recruiting areas, and the practice has also spread to West Germany.

School visit

I would like to contact World War One British soldiers who fought at the Somme or Vimy Ridge. Recently my school, Forest Boys, Horsham, organised a trip to the battlefields and at the Somme we found many artillery shells fired by the Germans at the British lines. On the return journey we stopped to see the preserved British and German front lines, only 50 yards apart, at Vimy Ridge.

Those of us who went on the visit agreed that it was well worth it. — **David Parker, Selehurst Farm, Cott, Lower Beeding, Horsham, Sussex.**

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Restoring

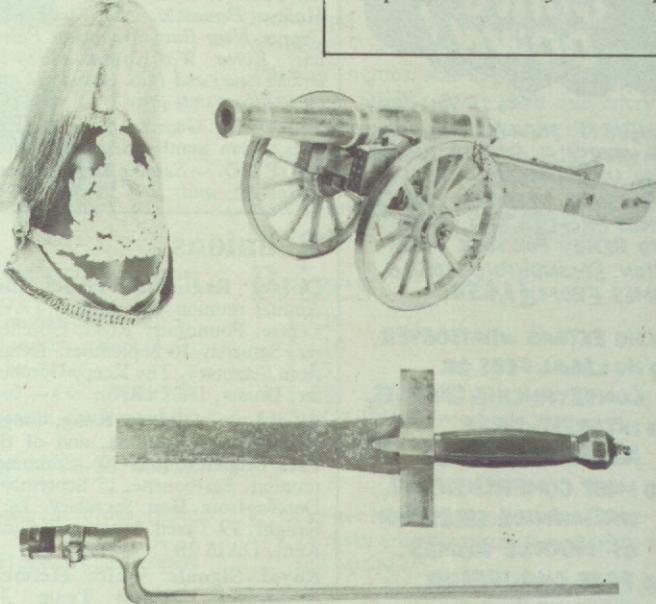
I am in the process of restoring an ex-Army vehicle — a 15cwt Morris Commercial C8/GS truck. It was built in 1944 with the serial Z5813042, renumbered 28YS17 and then rebuilt with the number 43RG54. I would be very grateful for any information on this vehicle and for any handbooks etc on Morris Commercial WD vehicles. — **P Woodage, 27 Bourne Road, Pangbourne, Reading, RG8 7JT.**

How observant are you?

(see page 14)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Height of Rita's doorway. 2 Side lamp of lorry. 3 Tie of soldier feeding giraffe. 4 Marking in front of giraffe's upper neck. 5 'B' in 'Blue.' 6 Base of right cakestand. 7 Width of white side of traffic bollard. 8 Window in top left corner. 9 Coat lapel of man on pavement. 10 Lorry driver's cap.

At auction



This rare Albert pattern helmet (above, left) of 'The Staffordshire Yeomanry, circa 1875,' was sold for £240 at auction by Weller & Dufty Ltd, Birmingham. A large-scale model, nearly three feet long (top, right), of an English brass-barrelled field gun of about 1810, fetched £180. An extremely rare US socket bayonet (above) for the 1873 Winchester repeating musket realised £25 and £20 was paid for a possibly rare Gladius-style side-arm (above, centre).

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K P Darke, 10 Wakefield Close, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B73 5U7. Collector wishes trade or sell surplus buttons, military and other. Send list of swaps/requirements and sae.

SFC Mike Johnson, 565-50-7001, 293rd MP Company, Fort Meade, Maryland 20755, USA. — Germany bound, would like make contact with fellow collectors in Germany. Main interests Scottish, Canadian and Royal Marine cap badges, collars and cloth/metal shoulder titles. Prefers trade but will buy and sell.

W Field, 12 Dolland House, Newburn Street, Kennington, London, SE11 5LR. — Seeks 1914-1939 manuals of drill, Vickers MG, Lewis gun, small arms training, Bren gun, RE field training, field service pocket book, searchlight and sound locator books or any relevant books to start a cadet unit library. Funds limited but all postage refunded.

A F Lawson, 47 St Andrews Street, Walkerville, South Africa 5081. — Seeks relics, souvenirs and trophies WWI/WW2 to add to large collection. Will buy or trade.

Mrs L Jones, 28 Bowness Road, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA7 5AA. — Requires RAF and Royal Naval Air Squadron cloth flying suit badges, also Royal Hussars peaked cap with badge, and brown beret also with badge and backing.

K Proctor, 10 Wymersley Road, Wilsley Road, Hull, North Humberside. — Wishes buy brass shoulder titles T/4 and T/5 E Yorks; T/7 W Yorks/Leeds Rifles; T/13 and T/25 County of London; also large button, shoulder foxes, arm badge and cloth shoulder title East Riding Yeomanry.

Robert Lang, Strand Hotel, Builth Wells, Breconshire, Wales. — Seeks one each R Sigs and WAFF cap badges.

Claygate, Esher, Surrey, KT10 0EX. — Seeks records by pre-merger regimental bands eg Buffs, Som LI, S Lan R, Welch, KSLI, Foresters, RB; also presentation of Colours to RRF 1970.

Stan Adams, 1030 Falgarwood Road, Unit 58, Oakville, Ontario, Canada. — Seeks urgently 86th Foot Royal County Down badge and R Irish Rifles QVC badge. Good prices paid.

J T Doran, 4 The Cottages, Common Lane, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire. — Wishes buy, in good condition, 'Taurus Pursuant' (11th Armd Div) and 'The History of 50 Division.'

T Joyce, 7 Poole Mount, Crossgates, Leeds 15, Yorkshire. — Seeks Royal Marine belt and buckle with Queen's crown. State price.

Mrs L Jones, 28 Bowness Road, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA7 5AA. — Requires RAF and Royal Naval Air Squadron cloth flying suit badges, also Royal Hussars peaked cap with badge, and brown beret also with badge and backing.

K Proctor, 10 Wymersley Road, Wilsley Road, Hull, North Humberside. — Wishes buy brass shoulder titles T/4 and T/5 E Yorks; T/7 W Yorks/Leeds Rifles; T/13 and T/25 County of London; also large button, shoulder foxes, arm badge and cloth shoulder title East Riding Yeomanry.

Robert Lang, Strand Hotel, Builth Wells, Breconshire, Wales. — Seeks one each R Sigs and WAFF cap badges.

50723 after 6pm). Send stamped addressed envelope for tickets (payable WRAC Association, Northern Area Committee) not later than 15 September.

Competition

Only a third of the entrants in 'Dive! Dive! Dive!' (Competition 226, May) came up with the right answer — that a maximum of five submarines could be positioned, at B6 D2 E4 G4 G6.

Prizewinners:

1 Sgt H A Lovegrove RACC, MS/A Branch, HQ Land Forces, BFPO 53.
2 S G Knight, 116 Jarvie Avenue, Plains, Airdrie, Strathclyde.
3 D Learmonth, 18 Rastell Avenue, London SW2.

4 M B St John, 21 Harringay Crescent, Red Hall, Darlington, Co Durham.

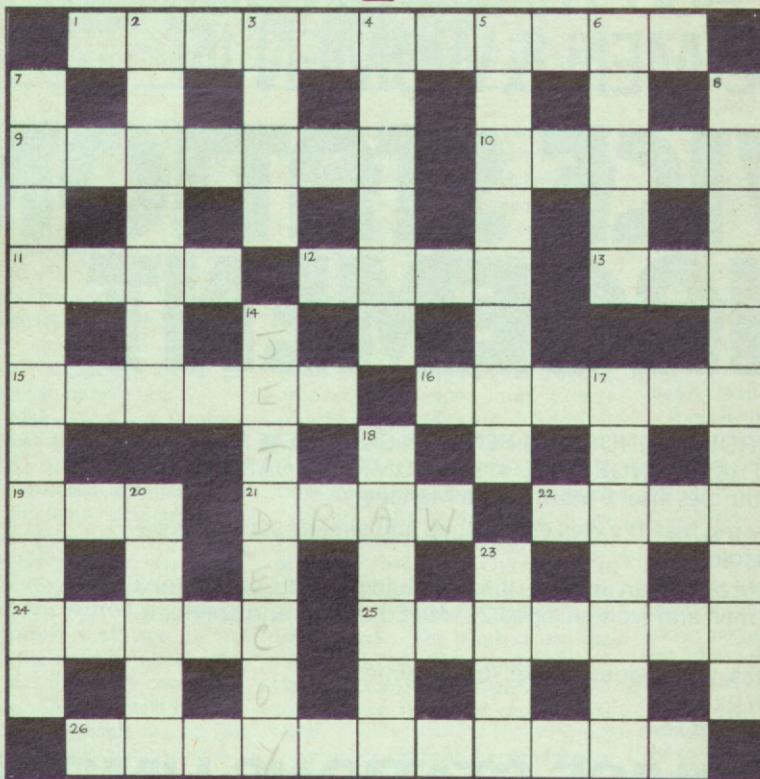
5 2/Lieut C S I Renwick 16/5 L, Q Quartering, HQ BAOR, BFPO 40.
6 Roger Clear, 383 London Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex.

7 S/Sgt N Scott, RAFC Computer Centre, Worthy Down, Winchester.
8 E G Simpson, 16 Munro Road, Bushey, Hertfordshire.

Welsh Guards

To mark the 60th anniversary of the formation of the Welsh Guards a series of 12 paintings has been commissioned from military artist Charles C Stadden. Each plate depicts a selection of uniforms covering in great detail the regiment's first 60 years. The set is being considered an important part of the regiment's history and so will be issued in a limited numbered first edition of 500 which will be mounted in a dark-blue album with gold lettering. Each plate is mounted with its own caption and descriptive text and can be removed for framing if desired. The album will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. It can be bought from HQ Welsh Guards, Kings Buildings, Dean Stanley Street, London, SW1P 3JQ, at £25 including postage and packing in the United Kingdom. An additional £1.50 is necessary for overseas mailing.

Couplets



Clues

- A Open a double laceration and death
Will come quite soon from lack of breath (6)
- B Had change of a shilling around 49
After buying a sword of Spanish design (5)
- C Now here is a body (I hope you don't mind!)
Just cut off its foot, it's the technical kind (5)
- D In weapon practice, if there was such a test,
The Artists Rifles would surely be best (4)
- E Disorder he left once therefore became
Formation of troops which goes by this
name (7)
- F Some of the wiring for field telephone?
Or what signalman does, his muscles to tone
(6)
- G A wedge with which machine to lock
Is surely not made from any such Rock! (3)
- H Troublesome children of whom we all tire
Except, perhaps, chaplains with brimstone
and fire (4, 7)
- I Royal Irish point out that, even if wooden,
An arrow with such ferrous point is a good
'un (4, 3)
- J Cy, Joe and Ted, as result of a fracture,
Make bait for a Hunter they're hoping to
capture (3, 5)
- K Expertise such that when you behead

- L It's certain that you can make him quite
dead (4)
- M The enemy fixes with murderous stare;
See what weapons you use for a dare (4, 7)
- N Cohort and legion led by a star,
But leading them where? — Oh, to a bar! (4)
- O But bang away loudly — I'll be without
organs (2, 4)
- P No fears do I have (when confronted by
Gorgons?)
But bang away loudly — I'll be without
organs (2, 4)
- Q To be this is partaking of drugs (what
stupors!)
From where the colonel reviews his troopers
(2, 5)
- R To set up an outpost you may well be
bidden,
But for this kind you'll have to make sure
it's well hidden (5)
- S Fairly tired after night as a sentry?
Now you can quietly sleep if fragmentary (5,
6)
- T Now you can quietly sleep if fragmentary (5,
6)
- U Engineers lichen in which no bird went -
Oh!
- V Is part of a saint that is kept as memento (5)
- W Closet from which the small class goes
And out of that no O group shows (3)

COMPETITION 230

AGAIN FROM Tom Hughes, former Royal Army Pay Corps sergeant now in Nepal, comes this second alphabetical crossword.

Each of the 26 answers begins with a different letter of the alphabet, as indicated in the clues, and each has to be fitted into the grid. There is no need to send the completed grid or a copy of it. Simply list your answers, using the numbers in the grid (these numbers have no other significance) and send your list on a postcard or by letter, with the 'Competition 230' label from this page and your name and address, to:

Editor (Comp 230)

SOLDIER

Ordnance Road

ALDERSHOT

Hants

GU11 2DU.

This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Monday 7 November. The answers and winners' names will appear in the January 1978 **SOLDIER**. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 230' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or official pre-paid labels will be disqualified.

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- 1 £15
- 2 £10
- 3 £5
- 4-5 £3
- 6-7 **SOLDIER** free for a year
- 8-10 **SOLDIER** free for six months

- T I've got PSA which toils around there
To make these for warship — they're canvas
and square (8)
- U Here is a major — can you see him up there?
He's really quite bright though we hear that
he's bare! (4)
- V A kitbag maybe is not worth a smile
And this kind of bag is somehow as vile (6)
- W The Regular Army gets regular pay
To carry on a war in this way (4)
- X Kiss the steward and take the advantage
of Army pay scale's extra percentage (1, 6)
- Y WO Sigs in store if you need —
Salt of the earth, this farmer breed (6, 5)
- Z Soar away, said the Somerset man.
And there in safety, stay you can (4)

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Books

Lack of support

'Panzer Army Africa' (James Lucas) The war in the North African desert never had the dedicated backing of the German High Command or of Hitler. This appraisal, the first in the English language from the German viewpoint, shows there was no appreciation in high places of the difficulties of Rommel's task.

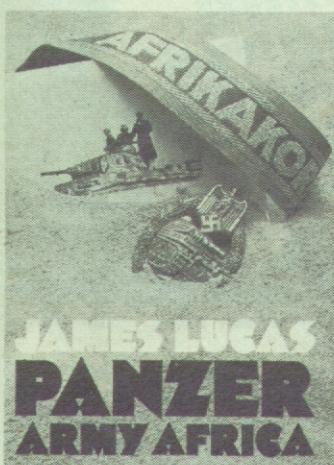
Hitler would agree and promise men, guns and fuel, but the promises were never fulfilled. Always the amounts despatched were far below even the minimum required, while Malta-based aircraft and submarines, plus Royal Navy surface vessels, cut down the convoys and air trains by as much as 50 and even 80 per cent.

The Germans were new to the desert and the Italians, whose colonial territories they were endeavouring to protect, briefed them late and badly, not even passing on the fact that diesel was preferable to petrol.

Nevertheless, Rommel was an active, inventive and daring commander and his troops were quick to learn. He adapted to the terrain and advanced and attacked in self-contained 'boxes' with massed armour.

Rommel led from the front, flying over his advancing columns and even directing individual units. Had he received all the support he asked for, could there have been a different result to the Desert War or would Malta and the Royal Navy still have cut off the Fox's tail?

Macdonald & Jane's Publishers Ltd, 8 Shepherdess Walk, London, N1 7LW, £6.95 GRH



Conspirators

'The History of the German Resistance, 1933-1945' (Peter Hoffman) Among stories of resistance to the Nazis, that of Germany itself is a minor one, partly because when the Nazis seemed to be winning, most of Germany was behind them, but also because the Nazis countered opposition so ruthlessly that about 3,000,000 Germans saw the inside of

concentration camps between 1933 and 1945, and many others were imprisoned or executed elsewhere.

Yet all through the years of Nazi rule there was a high-level opposition with a central figure in Colonel-General Franz Halder, Chief of the Army Staff. In 1939, when Hitler was planning to launch his offensive in the West, Halder visited him for weeks with a pistol in his pocket, prepared to shoot him down. Another conspirator, Admiral Canaris, wrote that Halder listened to everything and then produced threadbare excuses for doing nothing.

Halder had almost faded from the conspiratorial picture by the tragedy of 20 July 1944, when Colonel Count Claus von Stauffenberg left a briefcase containing a bomb in Hitler's conference room. The bomb caused the Führer no more than superficial injuries and the Gestapo rounded up the conspirators. It was the end of resistance.

Professor Hoffman has produced a massive and comprehensive book in which 534 pages of main text are followed by more than 300 pages of notes, appendices and index.

Macdonald & Jane's, Paulton House, 8 Shepherdess Walk, London, N1 7LW, £15.00 RLE

On top

'Soldiers on Everest' (Jon Fleming and Ronald Faux)

The Army's Everest expedition cost five lives, four of them in the preliminary trip to Nuptse the previous year, and frost-bitten extremities for the two Special Air Service men who made it to the summit. Was it worth it?

Rather diffidently, the authors suggest it may have been. True, the losses on Nuptse reduced the team's potential so that it had to stick to the well-trodden (by Everest standards) route pioneered by the Hunt expedition in 1953, and there were no 'firsts' for it to tick off. But the Army Mountaineering Association was probably the smallest club to attempt Everest and, by using 'sahibs' as high-altitude porters, put 34 climbers on the mountain, half of whom got to the South Col — records of a sort.

Certainly the expedition's patron, the Prince of Wales, has no doubts about its value. In a foreword, he writes "... I, for one, could not be more proud of their notable achievement."

One way of describing that achievement might be as the ultimate in adventure training. Not only did it practise to the utmost the skills and qualities adventure training is meant to develop but it also caught the attention of the world.

Ronnie Faux, The Times man in the team, writes with professional skill; Major Fleming describes life

higher up the mountain with less clarity, but for adventure training organisers he has much to say about his work as organising secretary, and others contribute appendices on rations, radios, money, medicine, oxygen, cameras and birds.

HMSO, Publications Division, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London, EC1P 1BN, £2.00 RLE

North v South

'The Secret War in the Sudan 1955-1972' (Edgar O'Ballance)

"The only certainty is that a great many people were killed in this war and many more died because of it, but no one knows exactly how many," writes Major O'Ballance.

It made little impact on the rest of the world, this 17-year war behind the 'Grass Curtain,' because (unlike Biafra) it was kept out of bounds to journalists.

When the British left, the mainly Arab and Muslim North sought to dominate the South, mainly Negro and Christian or animist. The South was so hazy about its own aims that at one time four 'governments' and five parties all claimed to speak for it.

The Southern forces were badly armed, organised and disciplined. In the earlier stages they lived as bandits rather than rebels and, not having read the teachings of Mao, antagonised the people over whose areas they operated. Equally ham-fisted, government troops burned hospitals and medical centres in the south to deprive the people of medical treatment.

Major O'Ballance records what is known of the fighting — not a great deal — and skilfully traces a way through the tangled political story.

Faber & Faber, 3 Queen Square, London, WC1N 3AU, £5.50 RLE

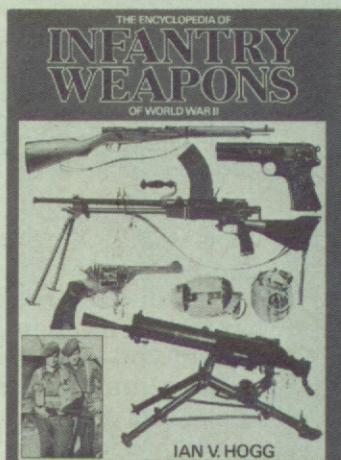
first rumblings of discontent were heard and reported by junior officers, the misgivings of the sepoys might well have been allayed.

This account of the Delhi 'siege' — the loyal force was not large enough to encircle the city — gives detail of courage and determination hampered by timidity and lack of initiative by the commander of the field force, Brigadier Archdale Wilson, who was suffering from a stomach ulcer.

The attack on the almost impregnable fortress and its capture was effected by many fewer than 13,000 troops against 40,000 well-trained and desperate mutineers. A fine victory, organised mainly by a sapper, Colonel Richard Baird Smith.

Macdonald & Jane's Publishers Ltd, 8 Shepherdess Walk, London, N1 7LW, £5.95 GRH

Weaponry



'The Encyclopedia of Infantry Weapons of World War II' (Ian V. Hogg)

This is a fine volume for the military student and the teenager taking an interest in the military world. All the 'standard issue' infantry weapons used in World War Two are here; there were others used — even obsolescent and obsolete — that are not chronicled because they were not officially issued during the period.

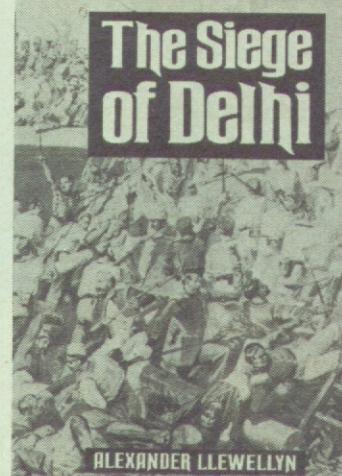
The encyclopedia catalogues and illustrates only infantry weapons, which means that flame-throwers, for example, which were issued to infantry in the British and Japanese armies only and to the engineers of other nations, are merely referred to and not examined in detail.

Pictures and drawings clearly illustrate the weapons and there is full detail of length, weight, calibre, feed system, operation and of manufacturers, plus short histories and observations by the author. Items dealt with include pistols, rifles, sub-machine-guns, machine-guns, mortars, infantry guns, anti-tank rifles and launchers, grenades and small arms ammunition.

There are full-page action pictures in full colour and others in black-and-white showing weapons in use in the field. This large, handsome work is written by an expert who was a master gunner, served 28 years in the Army and later became a Royal Military College of Science instructor.

Arms & Armour Press, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London, NW3 1PR, £4.95 GRH

Discontent



'The Siege of Delhi' (Alexander Llewellyn)

Perhaps the siege of Delhi, indeed all the countrywide events following the mutiny of the sepoys of the Army in India in 1857, need never have happened. Had General Hewitt acted immediately and despatched a force to overtake the unorganised mob of mutineers from Meerut, Delhi might never have been held by them.

Had the matter of the greased cartridges been investigated when the

In the van

'Corps Commander' (Sir Brian Horrocks with Eversley Belfield and Major-General H Essame)

This is fine reading, tracing the course of the war across Europe from Normandy to the surrender in the heart of Germany. Told from the viewpoint of a corps commander, the account lacks the close contact and detail that regimental and unit narratives usually possess but gives a balanced view and looks into the minds and characters of the senior leaders, particularly Montgomery.

Lieutenant-General Sir Brian Horrocks's 30 Corps was in the van most of the way and enjoyed liberating excited French and Dutch communities as well as enduring the tough break-out from the Normandy beachhead and later the hard fighting within Germany. The narrative naturally reveals much of General Horrocks's own character and line of thought.

While the corps commander could recount faithfully only the battles within his own zone of advance, the broader feeling of the more general conflict is attained through narratives written by Eversley Belfield.

SIR BRIAN HORROCKS CORPS COMMANDER



WITH
EVERSLEY BELFIELD
& MAJOR-GENERAL H. ESSAME

Students will be particularly interested in General Horrocks's account of the agonising thrust towards Arnhem; the 'little-known' battle of Geilenkirchen; the Ardennes, in which 200,000 Germans with all their armament, including 2000 guns, assembled without allied intelligence gaining any intimation of the attack; and the battle for the Lower Rhine bridgehead.

Sidgwick & Jackson Ltd, 1 Tavistock Chambers, Bloomsbury Way, London, WC1A 2SG, £6.95

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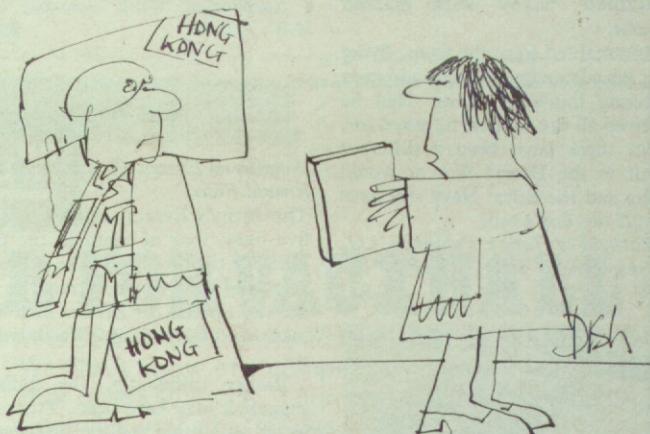
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In brief

'The Fields of War: A Young Cavalryman's Crimean Campaign' (edited by Philip Warner)

These are letters from the Crimea to his family by Temple Godman, who sailed to the war in 1854 as a 22-year-old lieutenant in the 5th Dragoon Guards. He was in action only in the successful charge of the Heavy Brigade at Balaklava, but his military curiosity sent him around as an observer.

His accounts of the hardships of living in a tent on the Crimean winter and of the huts he built himself, his appreciation of the boxes of goodies from home and his ideas on diet are as engrossing now as they were to the relatives to whom he wrote.

John Murray, 50 Albemarle Street, London, W1X 4BD, £5.95

"The Military Eitzen" (Kurt Hilmar Eitzen)

From adjutant and abso-bloody-ly - in German simply unbdingt - to zone of action or-zippy, this 550-page German-English English-German military dictionary contains just about every word that can be expected to crop up in the martial tongue. It covers not only the Army but also the Royal Navy and RAF in the multiplicity of its terms and has been compiled with true Teutonic thoroughness.

This new edition of a truly comprehensive dictionary should have a well-earned place on the shelves of every military establishment - especially in Germany.

Verlag 'WEU/Offene Worte,' 65 Kaiserstrasse, Bonn, West Germany

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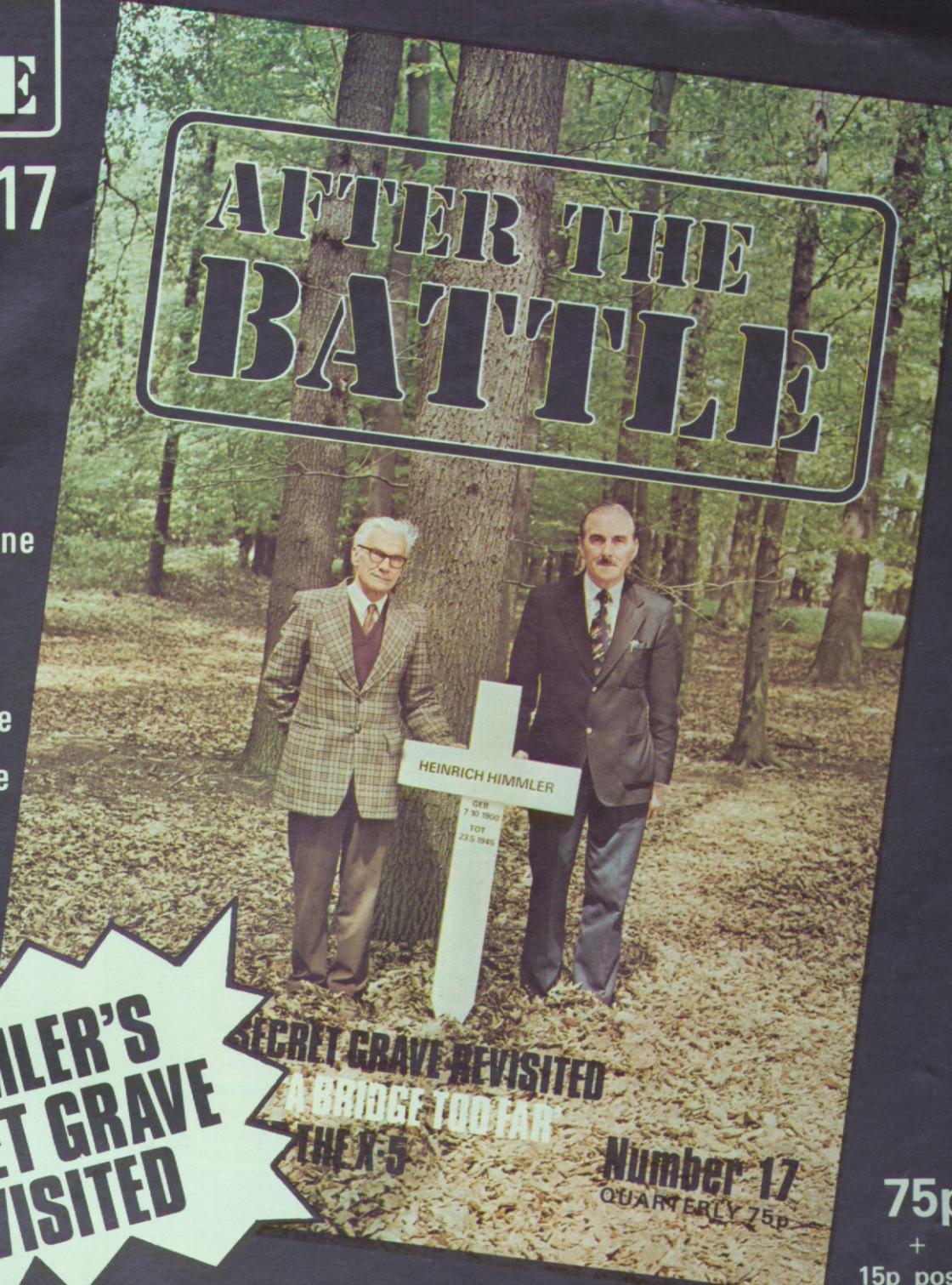
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