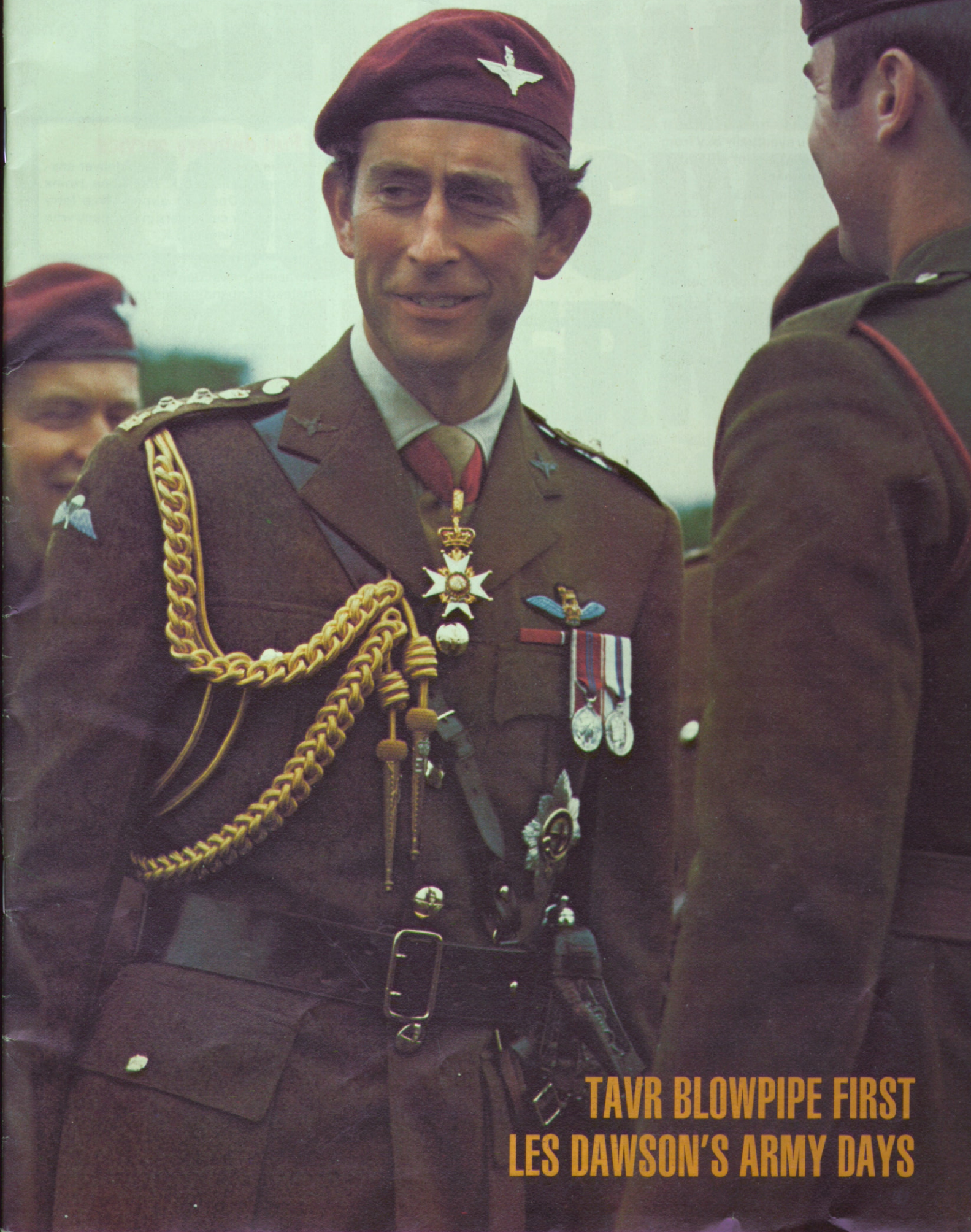


OCTOBER 1978

20p

Soldier



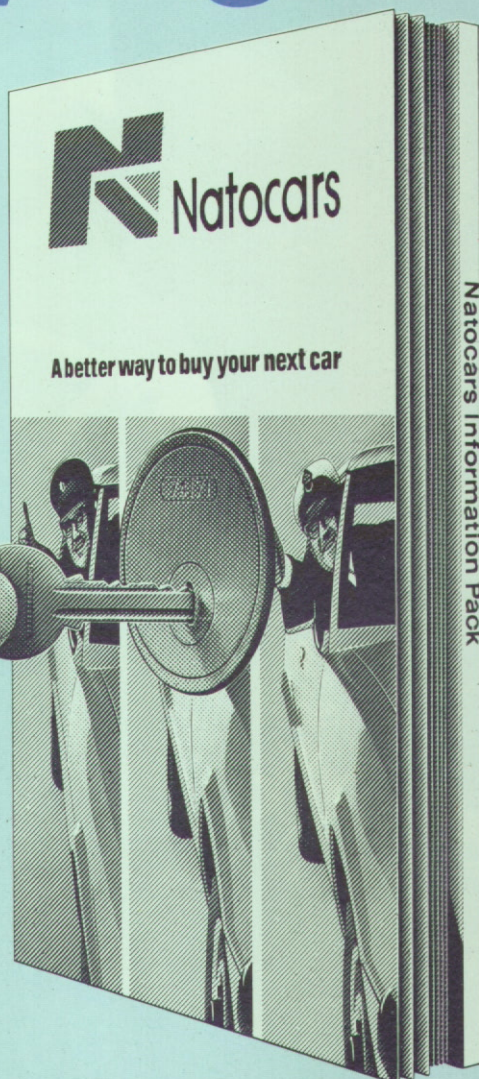
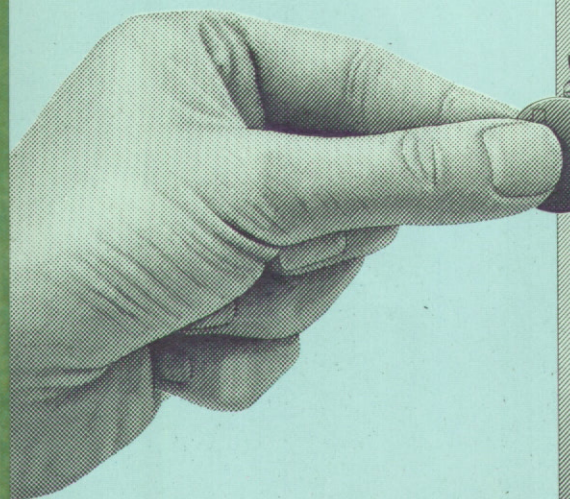
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6 Northag's four nation signallers

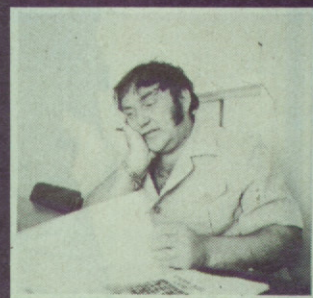
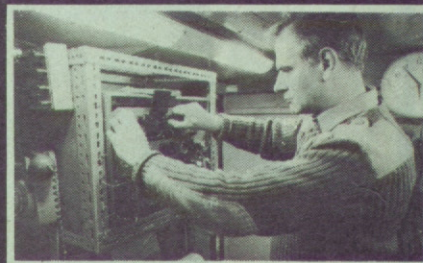
Technical experts from four Nato countries work together to keep a vital defence force's communications up to scratch.

22 Terriers fire Blowpipe

In the remote Highlands of Scotland a Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve unit is the first of its kind to get the Army's latest low-level anti-aircraft missile system to train with.

26 Les Dawson's Army memoirs

The lugubrious comic star of stage and screen reminisces about the time he answered the call of Queen and Country to join the Army.



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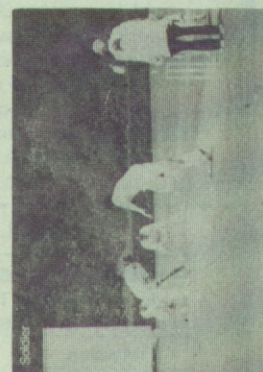
FRONT COVER

Prince Charles, as Colonel-in-Chief of The Parachute Regiment, inspects the parade at Airborne Forces Day in Aldershot.
Picture by Doug Pratt.



BACK COVER

The Army, on its way to becoming inter-Services cricket champions, batting against the Royal Navy after beating the RAF.
Picture by Doug Pratt.



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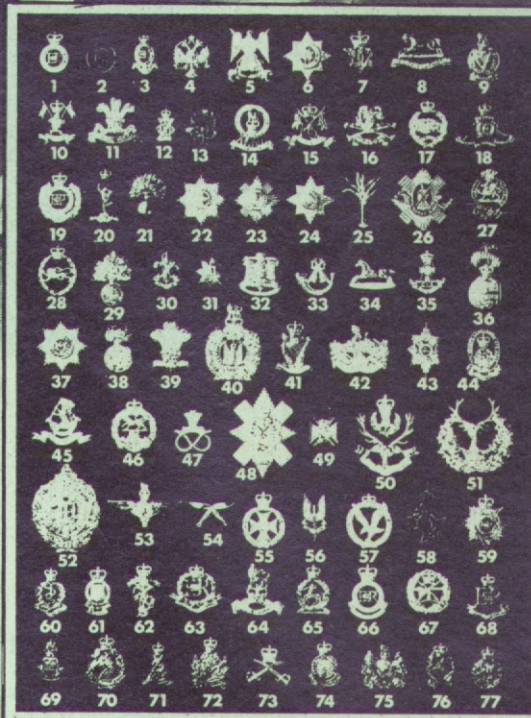


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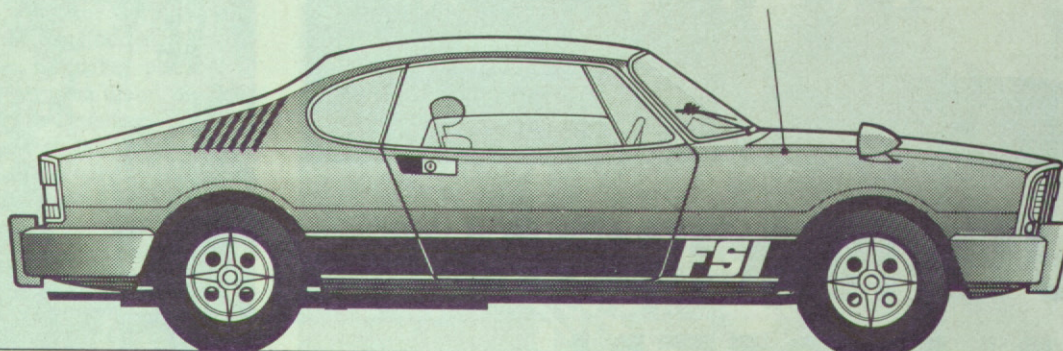
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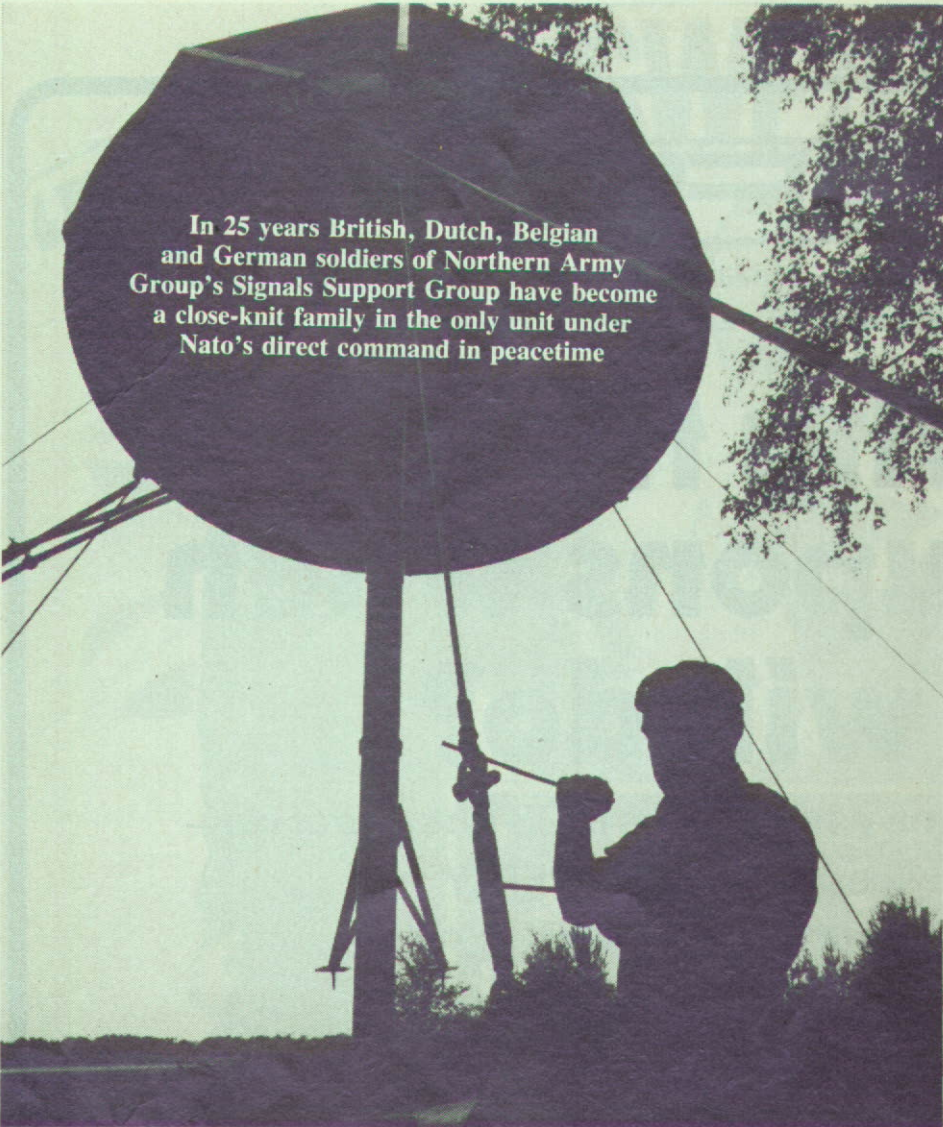
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In 25 years British, Dutch, Belgian and German soldiers of Northern Army Group's Signals Support Group have become a close-knit family in the only unit under Nato's direct command in peacetime

FOUR-NATION SIGNALMEN

IN ANY ARMY, communications are important. In an army made up from four different countries and four different languages they are absolutely vital.

In Northern Army Group (Northag), 200,000-strong in peacetime, 500,000 strong in war and responsible for a 200-square-mile area of Northern Germany, there are four corps — British, Dutch, Belgian and German. In peacetime the separate corps are all under national command, coming under Nato command only in time of war. But within Northag, communications are so important they are dealt with by a unique signal group run by men and women from all four nations and the only Army units under Nato's command in peacetime. This is the Northag Signals Support Group.

SOLDIER visited the group during its exacting Exercise Canary Caper, so called because of the distinguishing band of yellow which German signalmen wear on their epaulettes. The exercise stretched the group to its limit as it relayed information and instructions to and from the four national corps to the Northern Army Group commander.

Northag Signals Support Group is commanded by a German colonel and is rightly proud of its unique status. The official Nato languages are French and English, and although no-one argues that there may be breakdowns in communication by men working in a language foreign to them, for a multi-national outfit like the Signals Support Group, the problem hardly arises. The group has been around since 1952, and since then the men involved have picked up a wealth of experience in how to get the job done within the Nato family.

"We are very fortunate really," said Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Gregory, the British deputy commander, "because we mostly work in English and there are laid-down standards to which everyone conforms. In practice most of the British soon pick up working German and those words which are common and frequently used in military circles are well-defined."

Somewhat frustratingly for the signalmen, there seem to be more breakdowns in communication between English-speaking armies than between the European armies working in a second language. For instance

if an American operator asks 'Are you through,' he means 'Are you finished?' But a 'Brit' asking the same question is asking whether you have been connected yet. Similarly the word 'engaged' means to an American that you are 'through' and not that the number is 'engaged.'

"The group has been doing this job for 25 years now," said Colonel Gregory, "and it works well. During this time a Nato Northag language has been evolved which suits everybody, but don't forget that as well as the language difference, we are also dealing with the complete spectrum of soldiers. There are our British Volunteers, about half of the German, Dutch and Belgians are conscript, then we have the British TAVR plus reservists from Holland and Belgium. Quite a collection!"

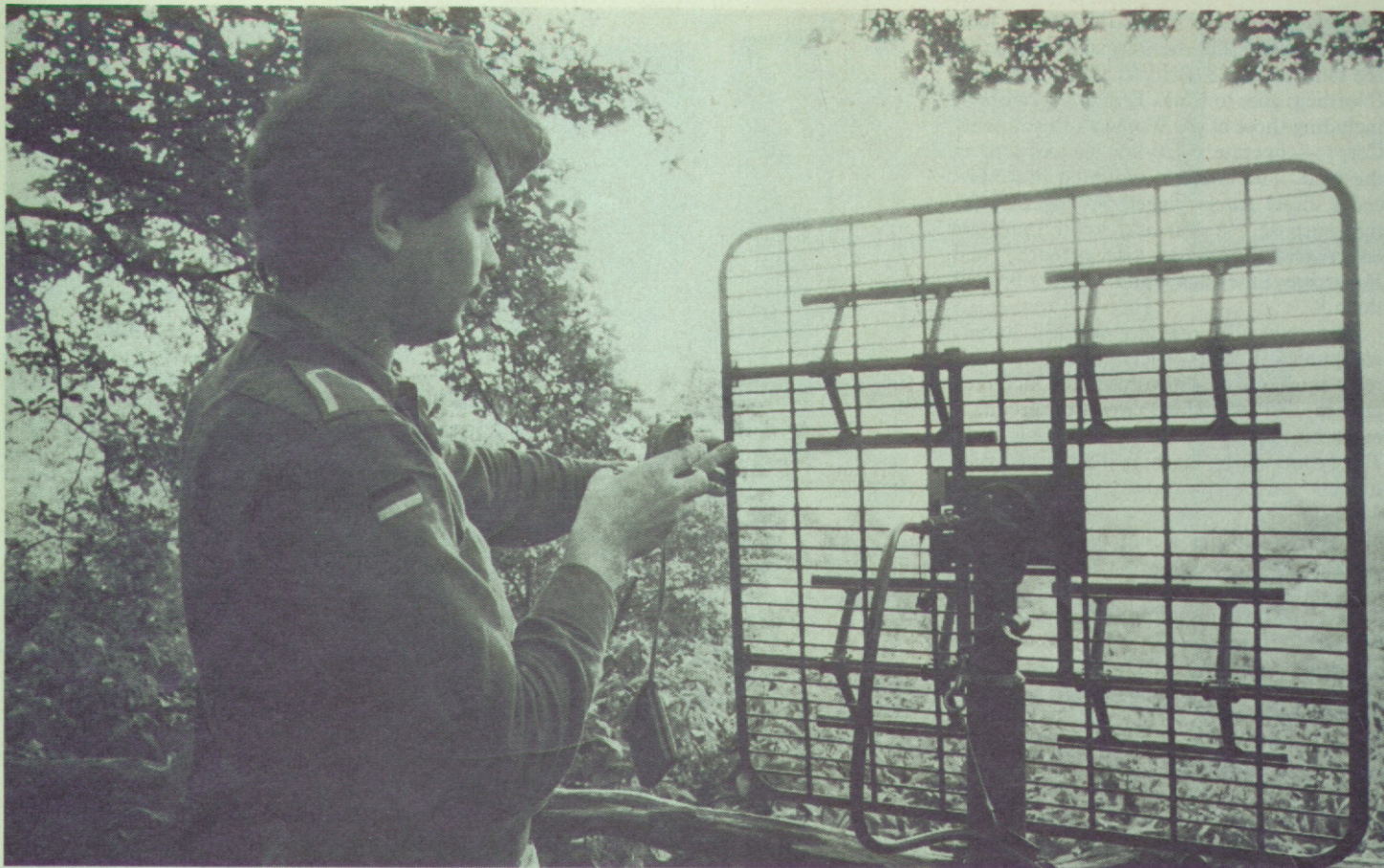
The Support Group is run by a normal brigade-level staff for a group of about 1500 soldiers. At the beginning each nation involved was given its own areas of responsibility which were clearly defined so that each unit has its own role.

When the support group goes to war the first job is cable-laying — no small feat considering the distances involved. Laying, or 'building' cable is the job of the Dutch contingent, the 1st (Netherlands) Signal Squadron. On a big exercise, the Dutch can lay hundreds of miles of cable and then, just as important, recover it all afterwards.

A by-product of the Dutch fluency in



Story: Doug McArthur
Pictures: Paul Haley



other languages is their 'parcel post.' Major Charlie Spinhoven explained: "In the beginning of Nato, when the Germans and British started to work together there was a language barrier, so whenever possible a Dutchman was put between them, because most Dutch speak both languages. Then it seemed obvious to give us the job of courier because of the borders we have to cross and the different languages necessary for the job."

Now the couriers carry all over Europe plans and maps and documents which cannot be transmitted and, here again, the Dutch cover a lot of ground. Major Spinhoven estimates that in just one exercise his couriers drove the equivalent of nearly twice round the world.

"When we build cable, it's just like starting a new factory," he said. "You start your programme, then you have to link it. That's what we do, but for me, what is just as important is the way we do it in this international army of ours. It is very important for the young people here to work together."

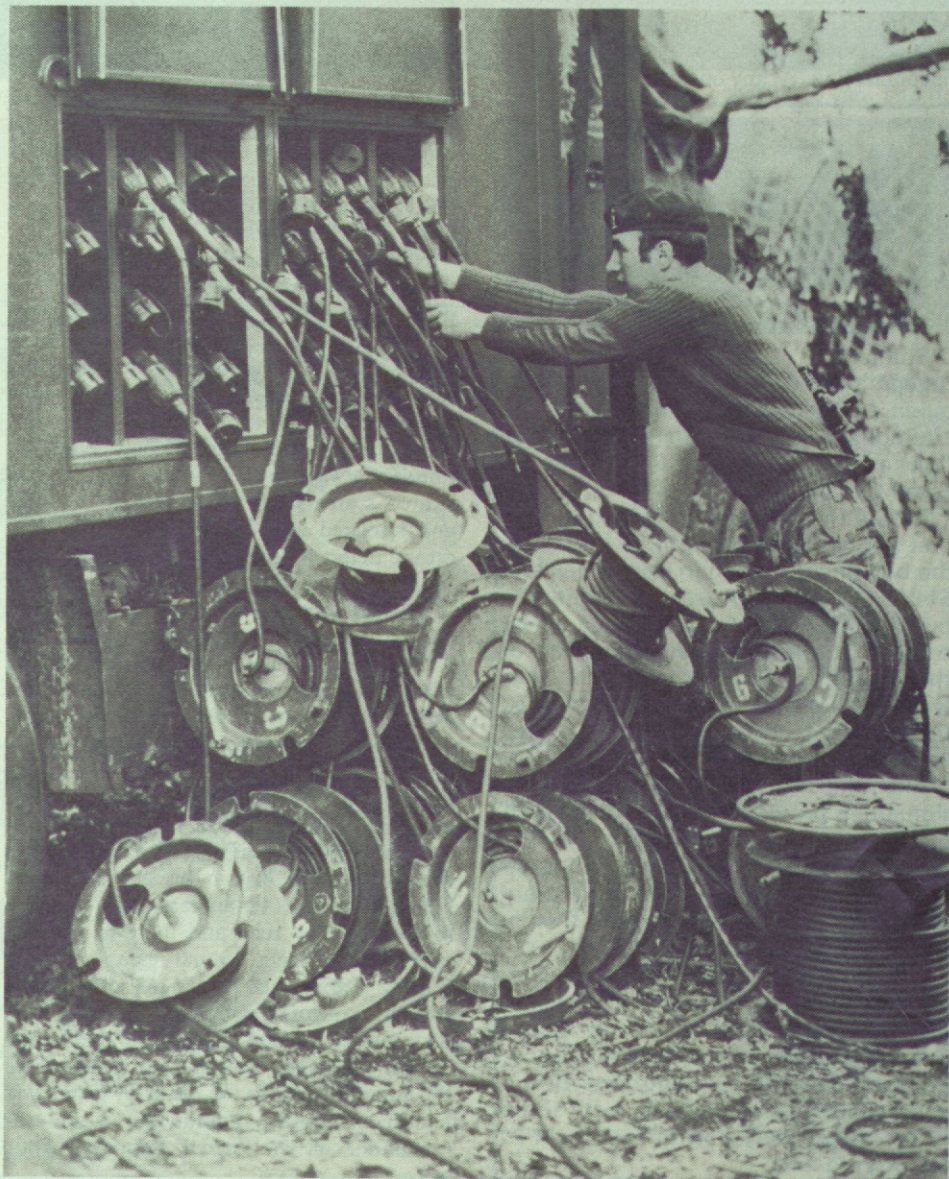
"My boys have to put up with doing their National Service, but at the end they will have learned a lot. They will have learned how to get on with other Europeans, and that when you are all on the ground together there is not much difference between nationalities and we can all work well together. I don't think this — four nations actually working together in one spot — happens anywhere else."

The 840 (German) Signal Battalion manages the radio relay, a series of radio connections between the four corps and headquarters in both voice and teleprinter equipment, and runs constant checks on the systems to ensure that each channel is properly connected.

The British responsibility is at the heart of

Above: A German signalman aligns his radio relay antennae with the help of a compass.

Below: Spaghetti junction as Signalman Jock Blair connects a cable to the control vehicle.



Top left: Erecting the tropospheric scatter disc.

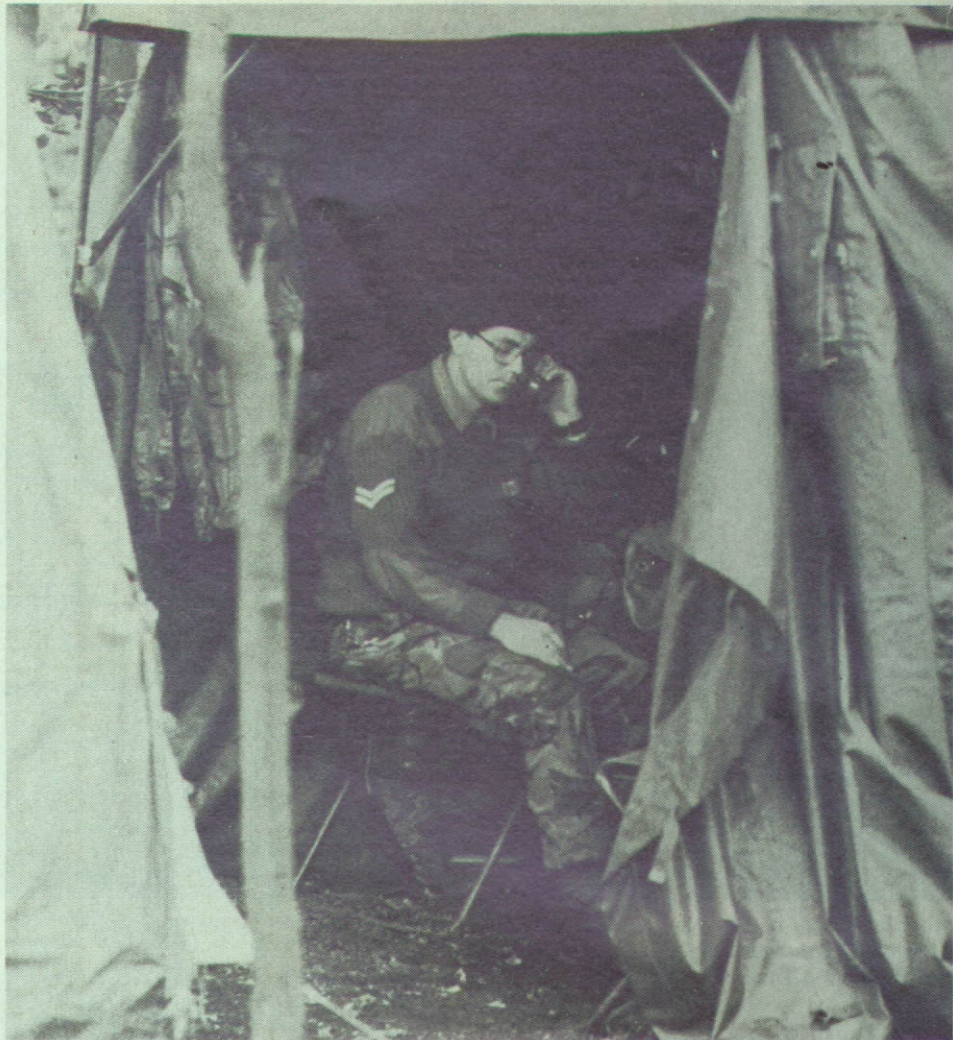
Left: Signalmen from four countries share guard.

the whole system. When the Dutch have laid their cable and the Germans have set up the radio relay, 28 (British) Signal Regiment (Northag) goes to work. British operators — including those of the Women's Royal Army Corps — operate a 120-line switchboard in the field. The board is mounted in a Mercedes diesel truck, rigged up specially for this purpose. "As far as I know there are only two of these vehicles in existence," said Major Ray Etheridge, "and we have both of them."

The unit also operates a fully mobile computer, TARE (telegraphic automatic relay equipment), which reads the incoming message, decides which circuit or circuits it must be routed to, and then transmits it. The beauty of the machine is that the whole process can be completed in milli-seconds with far fewer operators and equipment. Now only two vehicles and 20 men can man a 24-hour torn tape system which pre-TARE took 120 men and nine vehicles.

Because TARE is a 'high-speed electronic moron' and can do only what it is told, the operators are always the most skilled men in the message centre. TARE can accept a certain number of errors but mistakes in programming cause rejection, increasing handling time and delaying the message.

The British unit also operates a mobile tropospheric scatter link, which is yet another science fiction alternative means of communication. It shoots out at the troposphere a super-high frequency signal which is then bent back to earth and scattered. It is collected again by the receiver and is of sufficient strength for use as a telegraph or telephone link. At any one time, 60 channels



can be used on this machine, which means 60 messages being passed all at the same time. Theoretically this machine can transmit worldwide but it is used for connecting headquarters and obviates the need for a chain of radio relays.

Northag has the only mobile 'tropo' system in the British Army because of the distances the unit has to cover. Similarly, because the unit is always in a remote tactical position, it has to be self-supporting and carries its own small logistic back-up team with it.

At the back of the strategic planner's minds is always the worry that these sophisticated systems will be located in wartime and knocked out. Even if the group does escape detection there will be times when it has to move or shut down for other reasons. It is then that the Belgian contingent, 13 (Belgian) Signal Company, goes into action.

The Belgian unit is really a fail-safe on normal high frequency radio. Whenever the commander is out of contact with his corps, 13 Compagnie Troupe de Transmission can link up on a point-to-point basis. This simple but important task is vital considering the area that Northag covers.

In wartime, the support group would be reinforced from Britain by the men of 35 Signal Regiment (Volunteers), who travelled to Germany by road and ferry to join the exercise for their annual camp. During Canary Caper, the regiment provided a standby executive switch for Northag and, for only the second time, used the second TARE computer. At one stage the whole of the communications for the army group was handled by the Volunteers while the remainder of the Signal Support Group moved.

"The regiment as a whole has been stretched to the limit on this exercise, particularly by its complex nature and also by the sheer demand for circuits. And this is the first time we have taken over a complete switch," said Foreman of Signals Bob Plum. "Working with foreign armies has a value both in the problems it produces and the people you meet. Liaison has been very good and co-operation has been excellent."

After the exercise, several of the regiment were sporting the distinctive blue cravats worn by the Dutch linemen. Two troops of Volunteers were detached, one joining the Dutch on cable work and the other the Belgian radio troop. "These people of 35 Regiment, they work very good," said Belgian ex-para Lieutenant Freddie Raes. "All my soldiers are national servicemen and are picked for their high intelligence and they have to work hard here. The Volunteers worked in very well."

Although Canary Caper stretched the support group to the limit, one unit could not join in because its normal workload was just too high to switch men and equipment. That unit, the Air Support Radio Squadron, was set up to connect air support and Second Allied Tactical Air Force, both on the ground and in the air. This unit is completely international with Dutch, Belgian, German and British working in complete harmony. Captain Chris Heynen, the Dutch second-in-command, explained that when a request for air support came in from any of the four corps, the unit would flash the request to the air support operations centre.

"When the strike is on," he said, "forward air controllers manage the plane from the ground from a vehicle with two radios, one to the pilot, the other to our radio site,



Soldiers of 35 Signal Regiment (Volunteers) and 840 (German) Signal Battalion assisted the local fire brigade at Lüdinghausen in North Germany to fight a fire in a block of flats, while on Ferall Canary Caper.

Before the fire was at its height, several people were thought to be still in the building. Signalman Ron Jones and Staff Sergeant Eric Rose dashed into the building to help anyone overcome by smoke. During the ensuing search of the building Ron discovered ten-week-old baby Ariane Wagner, who had been left behind in the confusion, and carried her to safety.

After the fire was under control the signalmen provided the occupants with blankets and cups of tea.

The following day the villagers thanked the signalmen and gave them strawberries and cream and freshly baked cakes as a reward.

Picture shows, left to right: Signalman Jones, Signalman Lythe, Staff-Sergeant Rose, Corporal Alderson, Sergeant Humphreys, Lance-Corporal Barr, Stabsunteroffizier Brand and Staff-Sergeant Glanville, with some of the debris they had to move out of the blazing flats.



and the pilot's in-flight report can be relayed between Two ATAF and Northag. During a long exercise with everything on the ground we are responsible for all high-frequency radio in the static area. "Wherever possible the in-flight detachments would be relayed through by men of the same nationality."

Yeomen of Signals Tony Young added

that whenever any of the four nations — or all four at once — wanted air support, the unit was involved. "That means that we are always at full stretch."

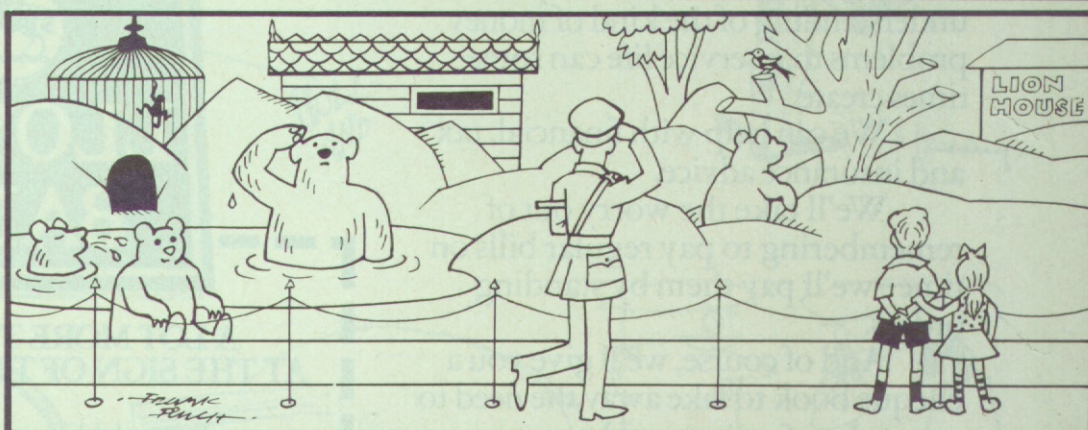
For many soldiers, Nato is merely a word. Even today the traditional British distrust of other Europeans has not been completely eradicated. The Signals Support Group is

the practical proof that Nato can, and does surpass petty national jealousies, rivalries, and even those old bogies of language and equipment differences.

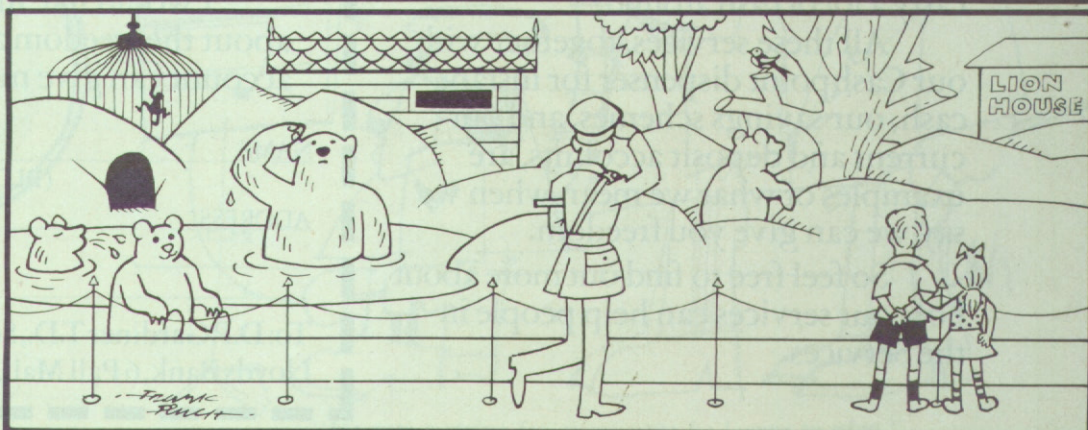
Above left: A TAVR signalman sits in the radio terminal trailer, commonly known as a fish frier.

Above: The fully mobile 120-line switchboard system was designed specially for the group.

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 43.





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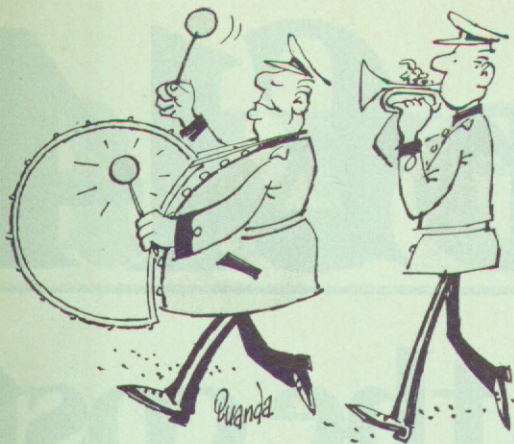
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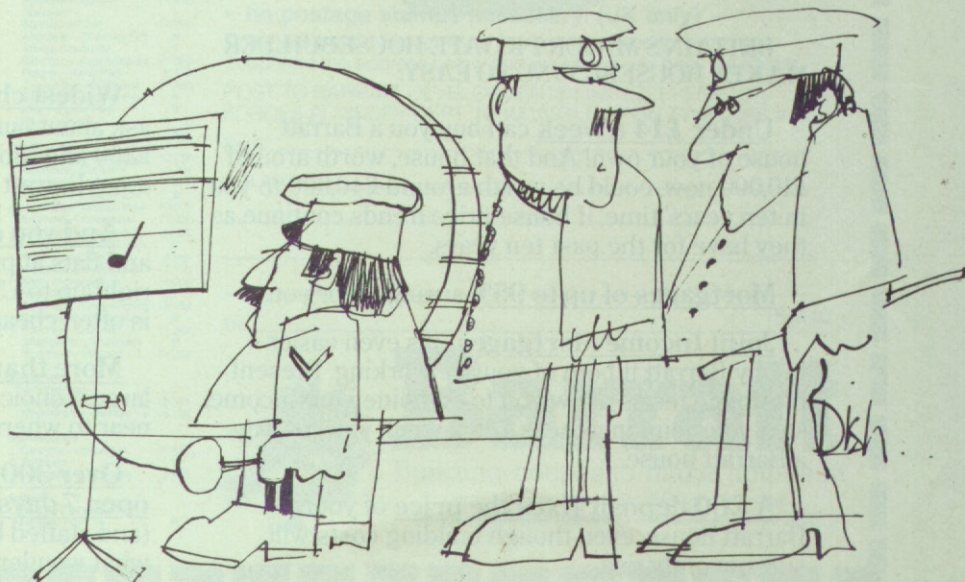
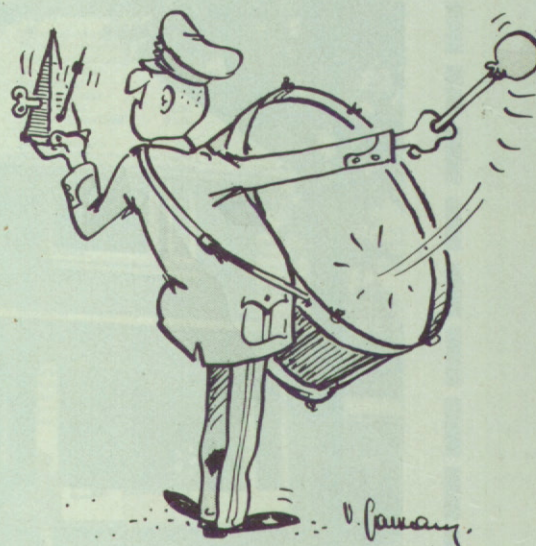
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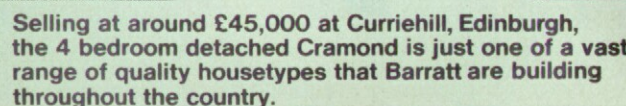


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HIGHLANDERS' DOUBLE CENTURY

IT HAS BEEN a memorable year for Scottish regiments. Already The Royal Highland Fusiliers and The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards have celebrated 300 years of service; this month, in the highland city of Elgin, the Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons) will commemorate the 200th anniversary of the raising of the Seaforth Highlanders.

In fact only the last 17 years of that time has been spent as Queen's Own Highlanders. It was in 1961 that the new regiment

was toasted in whisky as the Seaforths merged with an equally famous regiment, the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. That first toast was at Redford Barracks in Edinburgh; an hour later the new regiment performed its first public duty by taking on guard duties at Edinburgh Castle.

The American War of Independence led to the formation of the Seaforths. The Earl of Seaforth had lost his title and estates because he joined the Jacobite rebellion of 1715, but his son did not take part in the '45

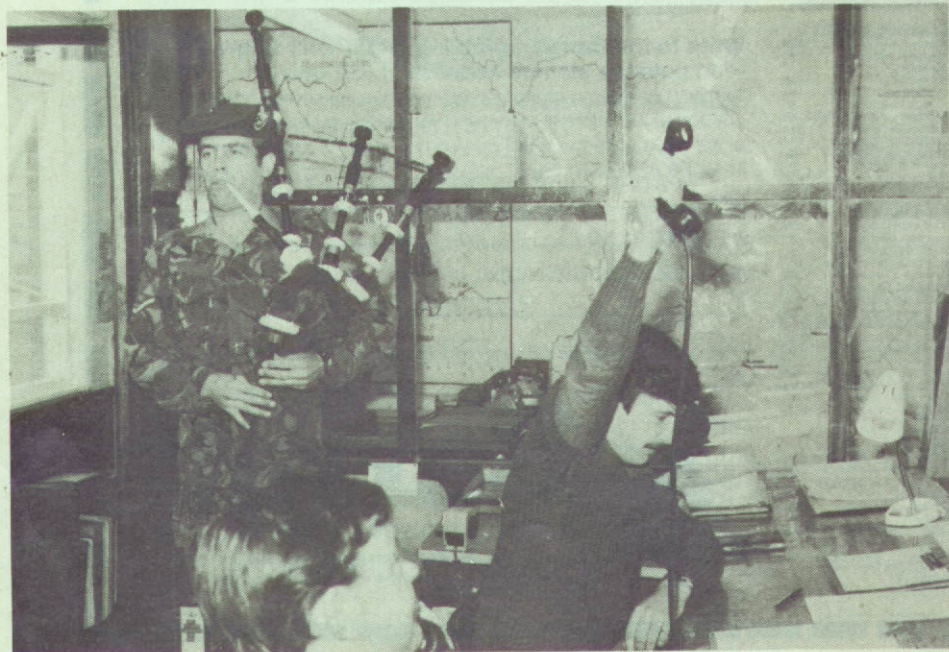
rising and King George III restored the title to his grandson.

The grateful Earl offered to raise a regiment to fight in America and this was embodied at Elgin in May 1778 (the anniversary celebrations were postponed to October because of the present regiment's Northern Ireland commitments). Named as Seaforth's Highlanders, it started life as the 78th Regiment but was re-numbered 72nd in 1886.

In 1793 the earl's cousin, Francis Humberstone Mackenzie (afterwards Lord Seaforth) raised another regiment, the 78th Highlanders. These two regiments, both raised in the same part of the Highlands and by the same family, the Mackenzies of Seaforth, amalgamated in 1881 to form the 1st and 2nd battalions, Seaforth Highlanders.

The 79th of Foot, or Cameronian Volunteers, was raised in 1793 at Fort William by Major Alan Cameron of Erracht (later Lieutenant-General Sir Alan Cameron). In 1806 the title was changed to the 79th Regiment, or Cameron Highlanders. As it was considered that the prevailing red of the Cameron tartan would clash with the scarlet, the MacDonald sett was selected for the regiment with the addition of the yellow stripe of the Clan Cameron and the omission of three red lines of the MacDonald tartan. This design has since been known as the Erracht tartan.

All three regiments soon saw active service. The 72nd garrisoned the Channel Islands in 1778 and in 1781 repulsed a French raiding party. There followed a dis-



astrous ten-month voyage to India during which 150 men, including the colonel, the Earl of Seaforth, died of scurvy or other diseases. But after reinforcement the regiment took part in the siege of the French fortress of Cuddalore. The 72nd also formed part of the expeditionary force which wrested Ceylon from its Dutch masters and brought it into the British Empire.

In 1792 the 78th and 79th joined the Duke of York's army in the Netherlands and after a hard campaign against overwhelming odds were forced back into Germany by the French armies of the Revolution. On the return of the 79th to Britain, it was proposed to disband the regiment and draft the Highlanders into other formations. This was contrary to a promise given to Cameron when he raised them and he successfully contested the drafting order.

In 1794 too, a second battalion of the 78th was raised and granted the title of The Ross-shire Buffs. It took part in the capture of the Cape of Good Hope in 1795 but shortly afterwards amalgamated with the 1st Battalion and the whole regiment went to India in 1797.

The 79th gained their first battle honour in 1799 against the French at Egmont-op-Zee in Holland and subsequently formed part of an expeditionary force which in 1801 forced the French to surrender and evacuate Egypt. For its part in this campaign the 79th was granted royal authority to inscribe upon its colours and appointments the badge of the Sphinx superinscribed 'Egypt.'

The 78th Highlanders took the field in 1803, under Major-General the Hon Arthur Wellesley (late the Duke of Wellington), against the Mahrattas who, aided by the French, threatened British power in India. Near the village of Assaye, Wellesley found himself opposed by a Mahratta army six times as strong as his own. A stream lay between the two armies and Wellesley crossed an unguarded ford with considerable loss. On his order, the British line advanced and broke the Mahratta lines.

Then, wheeling to the right, the British advanced on the enemy's second line, where they were momentarily held by enemy cavalry and heavy fire from both flanks and rear, Mahratta gunners having feigned death when over-run. But finally the enemy were totally routed. The corps engaged in the battle were entitled to bear an elephant with 'Assaye' on their Colours and the East India Company presented a third Colour to the three British regiments which took part.

Another 2nd Battalion of the 78th was raised in 1804 and went to Italy two years later in an expeditionary force supporting Naples. Within a week it was at grips with the French and took part in the successful battle of Maida. The following year this battalion was in action against the Turks but lost its colonel and 160 others near Rosetta.

In 1806 the 72nd formed part of the Highland Brigade which fought the Dutch in the Cape of Good Hope. Two years later the 79th were in Spain and in January 1809 fought at Corunna. That year the 72nd received a blow from a different quarter. King George III directed that Highland costume be discontinued and for 14 years the Highlanders were forced to wear the white facings and pantaloons of the Line.

During the Peninsular War the 79th were engaged in the defence of Cadiz, the battles of Busaco, Fuentes d'Onor and Salamanca,



Top left: The year is 1961 and a new regiment has been born — first guard duty at Edinburgh.

Opposite: The actual 200th birthday celebrated by piper playing regimental march over radio.

Top: In Aden in 1955, Seaforths move forward to picket high ground while their convoy passes.

Above: Rebellion in Brunei and the Queen's Own Highlanders surround a hostile kampong.

the occupation of Madrid, the siege of Burgos, the battles of the Pyrenees, Nivelle, Nive and Toulouse. Meanwhile, the 1st Battalion of the 78th Highlanders went to Java, drove out the French and stayed for five years.

At Waterloo the 79th formed a square in the centre of the Duke of Wellington's position and threw back assault after assault by dense columns of French infantry. Then came the wild Highland charge which routed Napoleon's formations. Close on 500 of the 79th were killed or wounded and the remnants of the battalion ended the battle commanded by a subaltern.

In 1823 it was back to Highland dress when George IV ordered that the officers and men should wear trews instead of the kilt and bear the title of The 72nd or the Duke of Albany's Own Highlanders. During the Crimean War the 79th were at the battles of Alma and Balaclava and in the expedition to the Sea of Azov. The 72nd joined the 79th in the Highland Brigade before Sevastopol.

In 1857 the 72nd, 78th and 79th were all hastily moved to India as the Bengal Army mutinied and the greater part of Northern India rose in rebellion. In the storming of the rebel-held city of Kotah, Lieutenant A S Cameron of the 72nd won the Victoria Cross. The 78th and 79th were at Lucknow and at the end of the Indian Mutiny eight Victoria Crosses were awarded to members of the 78th.

While personally presenting them with new Colours in 1873, Queen Victoria directed that the Cameron Highlanders should be known as 'Queen's Own.'

During the Afghan War the 72nd marched to Kabul and a Victoria Cross was won by Lance-Corporal G Sellar during the storming of the Asmai Heights. In 1881 the 72nd and 78th were united into the 1st and 2nd battalions, Seaforth Highlanders; the 79th remained a single battalion until 1897 when a second battalion was raised.

The 1st Battalion of the Seaforths took part in the defeat of Egyptian Army mutineers at Tel-el-Kabir in 1882. Also in Egypt, in 1884-85, the Camerons served with the force which ascended the River Nile for the attempted relief of General Gordon. When the news was received that Khartoum had fallen, the operation was abandoned. Two years later, at Omdurman, they took part in the successful conclusion of the campaign.

During the South African War the Seaforth 2nd Battalion joined the Highland Brigade in a series of battles and operations until peace was signed in 1902. The Camerons were also active against the Boers and, at Nooitgedacht, Sergeant Donald Farmer won the Victoria Cross.

During World War One, 19 battalions of the Seaforth Highlanders were raised, of which nine fought in the war. At Sanniyat,



Above: Present-day Northern Ireland duty-Privates J Shaw and T Torbet watch the border.

Corporal S Ware won the Victoria Cross and the losses were so heavy that for a short time they merged with an equally decimated 2nd Battalion, The Black Watch, to form 'The Highland Battalion.' In 1917 the attack was renewed, Baghdad captured and the Turks cleared from the area — another Victoria Cross went to Sergeant T Steele.

The remaining battalions did all their fighting in France and Belgium. Every one of the seven Seaforth battalions engaged on the Somme in July 1916 was again in the line at the end of the battle in November. Drummer W Ritchie, 2nd Battalion, received the Victoria Cross.

At the opening of the Battle of Arras in 1917 the same seven battalions, plus the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, were in action. The 2nd Battalion captured Roeux, Lieutenant D Mackintosh being awarded the Victoria Cross.

During the remainder of the year, battalions were at Ypres, where Sergeant A Edwards (6th Battalion) won the Victoria Cross, Passchendaele and Cambrai, with a VC for Lance-Corporal R MacBeath, 5th Battalion. In the final actions of the war all eight battalions were again engaged and Sergeant J Meikle, 4th Battalion, was another Victoria Cross winner. During the war, 8432 Seaforth Highlanders died.

There were nine battalions of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders in the war — and nine were committed to battle. Their greatest action was at Loos in 1915 when five battalions took part and suffered heavy casualties. For their heroism in this action, two Cameron Highlanders were awarded Victoria Crosses — Corporal James Dalglish, Pollock at Hohenzollern and Lieutenant-Colonel Angus Douglas-Hamilton (posthumously) at Hill 70. Private Tollerton won the VC in the bitter fighting on the Aisne in 1914 with the 1st Battalion.

In World War Two, seven battalions of Seaforth Highlanders were in action. The 6th Battalion was evacuated at Dunkirk while the 2nd and 4th battalions were surrounded at St Valery-en-Caux and spent the rest of the war as prisoners in Germany. A new 2nd Battalion was formed in Scotland after Dunkirk. At El Alamein the final and decisive attack was carried out by two brigades, one of which was 152 Brigade, comprising 2nd and 5th battalions of the Seaforth and 5th Battalion, Camerons.

General Montgomery later wrote: 'The Highlanders went into battle in the moonlight with pipers playing and in the fighting that followed the Highland Division gained a name for itself that will never die.'

In the invasion of Sicily, four Seaforth battalions were engaged. The 6th Battalion was in the van of the invasion of mainland Italy and distinguished itself in the Italian campaign. The 1st Battalion was active in the reconquest of Burma while the 2nd, 5th and 7th battalions landed in Normandy in June 1944. The 1st Battalion, Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, took part in operations before Dunkirk and then sailed to India — fighting in Burma so well that it was selected to go to Japan as the representative Scottish unit.

The 2nd Battalion went to Egypt and took part in General Wavell's campaign culminating in the capture of Sidi Barrani with more than 2000 prisoners. During the Sudan and Eritrean campaign one of the Keren Hills was given the name 'Cameron Ridge' to commemorate the gallantry of the battalion's assault on it.

Returning to the Western Desert, the battalion was captured at Tobruk in June 1942, fighting on for 24 hours with one Gurkha battalion after the remainder of the perimeter had capitulated. The 4th Battalion was subsequently renamed 2nd Battalion and took part in the bloody battle of Cassino.

The 5th Battalion (TA) was at El Alamein and Sicily and then withdrawn to England to take part in the Normandy landings on D-Day Plus One. In September 1944 it avenged the 4th Battalion by entering St Valery, where the 4th had surrendered.

On the reduction of the Army in 1948, the 1st and 2nd Seaforths were amalgamated into the 1st Battalion, which was serving in Malaya, while the 2nd Battalion Cameron Highlanders, went into suspended animation.

The newly amalgamated Queen's Own Highlanders sailed to the Far East and Changi Barracks, Singapore, moving in 1962 to Brunei to quell a rebellion. Since then the regiment has served in Germany, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

This month's celebrations will include the granting of the Freedom of the District of Moray, an apt commemoration for what happened in Elgin 200 years ago and led to such a long and distinguished military history.

The Seaforths claimed to have the first sergeants' mess in the British Army. When the 72nd was raised it had not enough officer vacancies to provide for all of Lord Seaforth's relations. Those whom he could not make officers he made sergeants and the sergeants organised a sergeants' mess so as not to be outdone by members of the family who were in the officers' mess.

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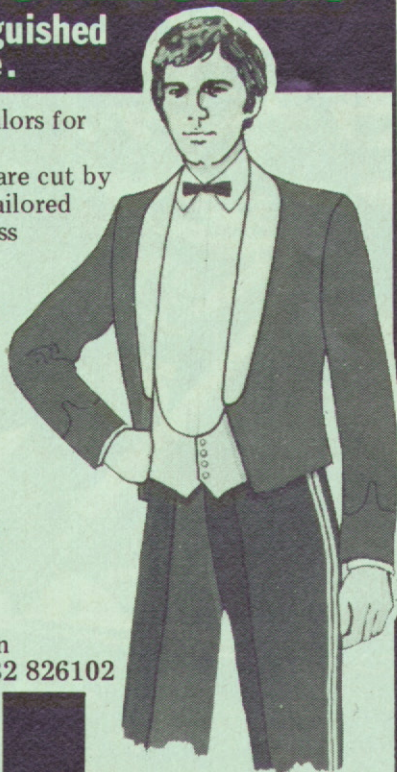
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IRISH GUARDS VISIT GHANA



'MICKS' TURN TO 'TOFFEES'

EXCHANGING their red tunics and bearskins for bush hats and olive green combat kit, more than a hundred men of 1st Battalion, Irish Guards, flew to Africa for a jungle training exercise based on a remote part of Ghana's Ashanti kingdom where few Westerners have ventured in recent years.

In the month-long reciprocal exchange, Ghanaian troops trained on the ranges of Salisbury Plain.

Drawn from 4 Company, Irish Guards, and normally engaged on public duties at Windsor Castle, Buckingham Palace, St James's Palace and the Tower of London, the guardsmen sweated it out in 93-degree winter temperatures in the jungle some 55 miles north-west of Kumasi, the historic Ashanti capital.

Only hours after the British arrival, the Ghanaians had adopted their own special

name for the visiting soldiers . . . the 'Toffees.'

When they were not tactically outsmarting the 'enemy' lurking in dense jungle beneath slender wa-wa and sopora trees towering to the height of ten-storey office blocks, the 'Micks' were hurling out handfuls of sweets to swarms of grinning, yelling children as the convoys of canvas-topped, four-tonners nosed their way slowly into each community.

'Hello, Toffees!' — the shout would start at one end of the red-earth main street, to be orchestrated down its entire length past schools, bustling open markets and a miscellany of other traders. Business stopped as hands waved their unbridled welcome in an uninhibited, heart-warming gesture of joy to see the 'Toffees' en route to or from their jungle 'war games.'

The last time the British had been involved in such an exercise was in 1971 and, before that, in 1968. The Ghanaian



Above: The heat takes its toll on a gun-toting guardsman in the heart of the Ghanaian jungle.

Left: The 'Toffee' guardsmen go down a treat in the remote villages unused to Westerners.

Right: Friendly Ashantis bid farewell to new acquaintances they had made among the 'Micks.'

Forces, trained by the British decades ago and still grateful for it, were equally pleased to see the Irish Guards. Co-operation was willing and, despite a lapse of seven years, went remarkably well.

The 120-strong company started its pre-exercise play at Achiasi (some 2½-hours' convoy drive up-country from Accra), the site of a former sawmill and now probably the best jungle warfare school in West Africa. The school was opened in November 1976 by Brigadier F W K Akuffo, then Commander of the Ghana Army. Now, following the recent bloodless 'transfer of power,' he is Lieutenant-General Fred Akuffo, Head of State.

At the school, the guardsmen learned the dangers of heat exhaustion and heat stroke, the precautions to be taken against malaria and the treatment of snake bites. They soon came to terms with scorpions, hornets, the four varieties of snakes — including the black cobra — and other unwelcome predators that could visit a section's camp at any time.

A sound piece of wartime advice from Field-Marshal Slim is prominently posted on one signboard at the school. It firmly reminds: 'There are no non-combatants in the jungle.'

The guardsmen practised their jungle navigation, river crossing techniques by rope, raft or coracle, skirmishing, laying ambushes, and jungle tracking where even a freshly up-turned leaf can reveal much of what a sharp-eyed patrol needs to know.

Each of the men, before leaving Windsor, had personally handled a snake (of the harmless grass variety), brought from Bristol Zoo for the day.

The young soldiers soon needed to put into practice everything learned from lectures and manuals, ending in a four-night stay deep in the jungle. In an emergency they knew they would have to eat frog but not toad, or a steaklet of plump well-cooked ekusie rat (it had tasted good at the Jungle Warfare School). Perhaps roasted porcupine, a parrot, a massive snail or even snake meat would go down equally well. For 'afters' there was always pineapple, paw-paw, cassava, cocoa-yam or avocado pear.

Hard lessons had been learned by both sides at the finish of the exercise as the weary guardsmen and Ghanaians made their way along jungle tracks in single-file to the four-tonners.

To sustain the Irish Guards company during the month-long stay, RAF transport aircraft flew out 8900lbs of food, 600lbs of medical supplies, 3000lbs of Naafi stores, 800lbs of signals equipment and, not surprisingly, 770lbs of 'spuds' in 14 sacks!

After the exercise the 'Micks' toured Kumasi, Ghana's second-largest city, founded three centuries ago. Later, they made the six-hour trip over good and indifferent roads to the coastal plain town of Winneba, to the west of the capital, Accra, for some well-earned rest and recreation.

From a report and pictures by Army Public Relations, HQ United Kingdom Land Forces.



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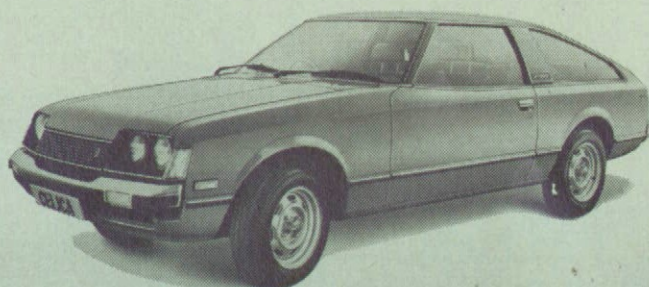
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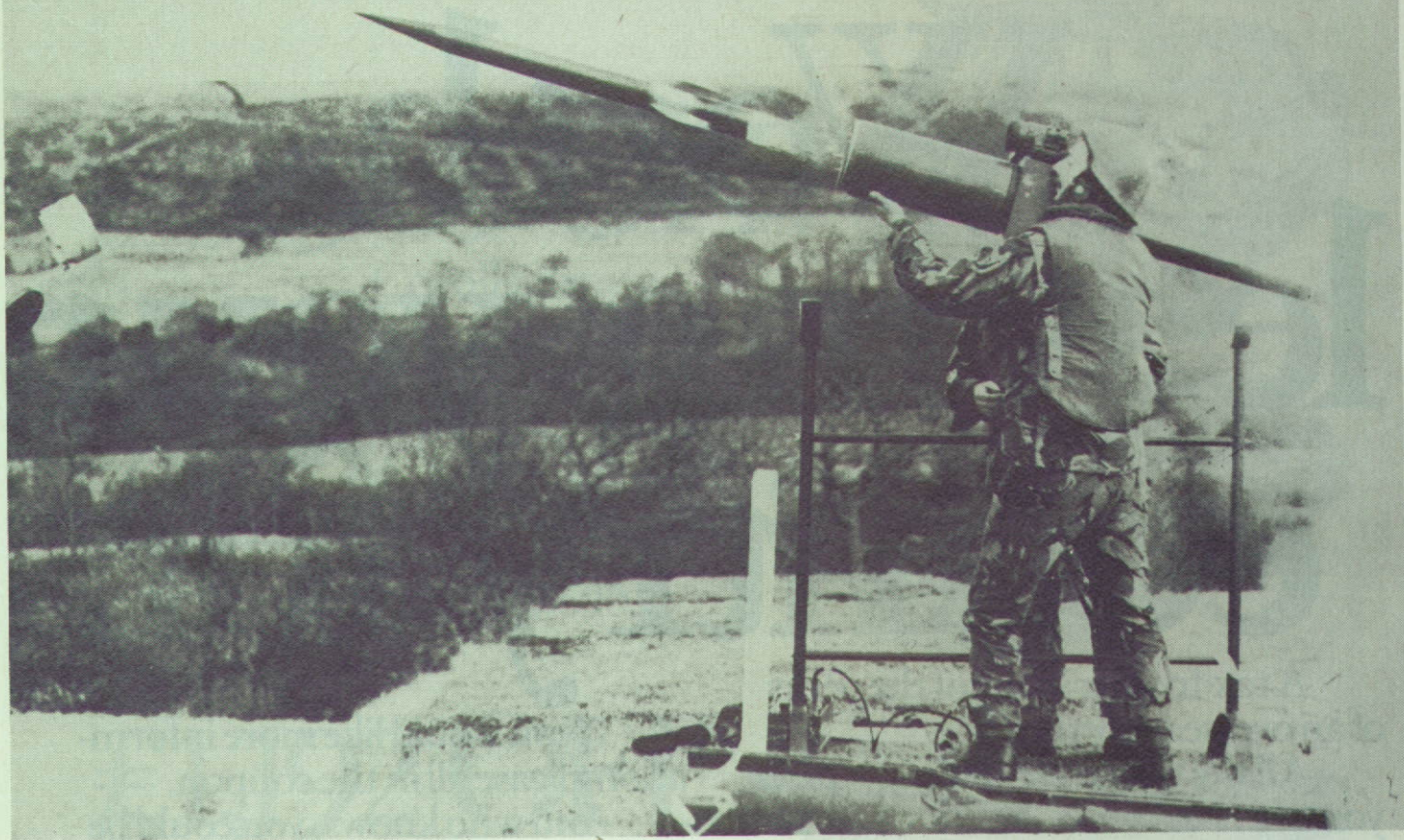
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TERRIERS BLOODED ON BLOWPIPE

ON THE WEST COAST of South Uist in the Outer Hebrides, a wild rocky peninsula juts out defiantly into the stormy Atlantic. On the headland, just above where the white breakers crash on to the rocks, stands Range LA4, an unromantic name for the superb setting which for four weeks was 'home' for the 'part-time' soldiers of 103 Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery (The Lancashire Artillery Volunteers).

The men, from Merseyside, the Greater Manchester area, Bolton and St Helens, did not have much time to admire the scenery. They were too busy making military history as the first Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve Regiment to carry out live firings with Blowpipe, the Army's new low-level air defence weapon.

Firing the missile was the climax of nearly a year's hard work for everyone in the regiment from its commanding officer to the newest gunner. Being the first Territorial unit to be equipped with Blowpipe — received ahead of many Regular units — brought its problems as well as its undoubted rewards.

The regiment's Regular training major, Major Tony Gaite, summed up: "Each operator has been required to put in many more hours' training than his normal TA

commitment requires of him. Some have found the extra work just too much, but the majority have stuck at it. Everyone at this camp has made 1500 simulated firings on a



Story: John Turner
Pictures: Tony Bobin



Top left: Blowpipe blasts off, going in for the kill against 'enemy aircraft' — here a drone,

Above: Admiring glances from waiting Volunteers taking turns to fire the low-level Blowpipe.

Bottom left: Lathe operator L/Bdr Brian Schofield (20) moves forward to launch his Blowpipe.

trainer version of Blowpipe and they have achieved the necessary high percentage of 'kills' with their last 200 simulated firings."

Blowpipe, a shoulder-held, one-man-operated guided weapon which reaches supersonic speeds, will give the regiment vastly greater firepower than when it was equipped with the 40/70 Bofors Gun. Blowpipe is normally deployed by teams of four men in Land-Rovers, which not only cuts down dramatically the length of the convoy when a battery is on the move but also gives much greater flexibility of deployment than conventional guns.

In war, the regiment would be deployed in support of British Army of the Rhine and next year the Lancashire Artillery Volunteers will be practising this role in West Germany.

After 103 Regiment, the two other regiments which make up 23 Artillery Group, which has its headquarters in Chester, are due to convert to Blowpipe over the next two years. These are 102 Regiment, which recruits in Northern Ireland and Scotland, and 104 Regiment with batteries in Wales and the Midlands.

The group commander is Brigadier J R

Rigby, who visited all three batteries of 103 Regiment during the Hebrides training. Comparing Blowpipe with traditional guns, he said: "One could describe an anti-aircraft gun which puts a lot of bullets into the air in a short time as a sort of deterrent weapon, but you have to expend a lot of ammunition before you are likely to shoot an aeroplane down. With a guided weapon it is the man and his missile against a single target with quite a high probability of destroying that target."

And destroy targets with astonishing accuracy was just what the Lancashire lads did. With battery pride at stake, there was naturally keen anticipation among the operators before the first firings. The value of the long months of preparatory work soon made itself shown as, one by one, the operators made their way to the lonely firing point to confront a target towed by a Royal Air Force Canberra aircraft or an electronically-controlled model target aircraft launched from the ground.

The biggest cheer for a fine piece of marksmanship went up when Staff-Sergeant Alan Lord, of Droylsden, blasted one of the small target aircraft right out of the sky with his second missile. Any missile passing within about four metres of the target is regarded as a 'kill' for the missile has a proximity fuse, but to score a direct hit on one of the tiny model aircraft targets is a rare feat of skill and marksmanship.

Each battery was required to fire its quota of 96 missiles in a week, no easy achievement in view of the uncertain Hebridean weather which can severely curtail target-flying. One battery, 209, which recruits from Manchester and Bolton and has its headquarters in Belle Vue Street, Manchester, got off to a splendid start by firing 36 missiles on the first day, only five short of the one-day record for the range.

Troop Sergeant-Major Don MacRae, an ex-Regular soldier who works as a welder in Wigan, explained: "We are trying to cram six weeks of a Regular course into a fortnight, which is a lot of hard work." This was echoed by Major Gaite: "It has been a fine camp. Everyone firing here has worked

extremely hard and the excellent results they have achieved bears this out."

The battery is now looking forward to going to Germany next year on deployment. Hopefully, this may not be too far from Paderborn, Bolton's twin town, and plans are already afoot to make the visit a memorable one.



Above: Lieut-Gen Sir David Scott-Barrett, GOC Scotland, tries his hand with the new weapon.

Below: S/Sgt Alan Lord holds the tailplane of the drone he downed with his deadly Blowpipe.



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SOLDIER to Soldier

M meet your new SOLDIER News — as informative as ever but now bigger, brighter and more colourful as a separate newspaper. While we forecasted last month that this was a possibility in October, we could not be certain until a printing contract was signed, sealed and delivered. Which left SOLDIER's staff with no time at all to give anyone adequate warning of the change — and only five days in which to prepare and pass for press this first 16-page issue.

We said, too, that the new tabloid format would allow greater use of colour, and offer more scope for news stories and pictures. All this, including full-colour photographs, you will find in your new-look News. We hope you like it.

To recap again, it is planned to issue SOLDIER News monthly for six months and then move to fortnightly frequency. During the six-month period the newspaper will carry a price tag but will be issued free with the magazine. At fortnightly stage both SOLDIER News and SOLDIER will be priced and sold separately.

Let us know what *you* think of your own newspaper.

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H earty congratulations to Jackie Smith on winning Britain's first-ever gold medal in the world parachuting championships. Hitting the five-centimetre disc ten times out of ten after leaving the aircraft at 2600 feet, it was reported, she scored maximum points in the women's freefall accuracy event to take the gold from the usual American and East European dominance in this sport.

Jackie, aged 26 and now a shorthand typist from London, is of course well known to both the Army and the general public as the former Women's Royal Army Corps sergeant who wore The Parachute Regiment's maroon beret as a member of its 'Red Devils' freefall display team.

During her service she had strong opposition from the gentler sex at national level and her performance in the world championships is therefore all the more praiseworthy since this was in an event attracting the top parachutists from 30 countries. And doubtless she would be the first to acknowledge her debt to the Red Devils who, in a man's world, adopted and trained her as one of themselves.

Jackie is one of the latest sportsmen and women who have availed themselves of the facilities a Service career offers and reached international standard — in recent years the name of Bill Tancred, the discus thrower, and the conquering Everest team, readily spring to mind. And, of course, still serving, are runner Lieutenant

Glen Grant and Olympic gold medallist Captain Jim Fox.

Going further back, many international sporting personalities, particularly perhaps boxers, initially learned their crafts and made their names in the Army. Today there is less and less chance of this happening as civilian facilities for sport improve, international standards continue to rise and competitors' ages decrease. Swimming champions now retire before they are old enough even for junior military service! But at least in some sports, notably biathlon, where endurance and experience still count for more than youth, the Army continues to compete at the highest level.

Facilities for training and competition are less readily available and out-of-pocket expenses higher in those sports and games which are not officially recognised — and in these days of stringent financial control it is not easy to gain admission to the list. This is one of the problems which faces the Army Sport Control Board, the body responsible for organising and governing the 'recognised' sports. Next month the ASCB celebrates its diamond jubilee and the November SOLDIER will be looking at its growth and achievements over those 60 years.

D espite its initial rapid growth it did seem that the Forces Wives' Association might be something of a nine days' wonder, to disappear quietly from the headlines after announcement of the Services' pay package, pay being the primary reason for the association coming so quickly into being. But while the association may have somewhat changed its objectives and lines of approach, it is still making itself heard and is determined not to be ignored.

No doubt it has had problems in its tri-Service structure in that conditions for both men and wives vary considerably between the Services. But the association has certainly made the point that there is a need for some form of close liaison between Service wives and the policy makers in Government departments controlling their environment. Having seen the effect of a proportion of their number taking the bit between their teeth, even to the extent of marching on Downing Street, most Service wives are not going to be content without the knowledge that they have some machinery through which their representatives can make their points direct to higher authority.

An acceptable system of electing representatives would have to be carefully worked out but once in operation it could do only good — on the one hand

establishing a direct link for the wives' viewpoints and, on the other, providing a ready made feedback, particularly in the home where so often, and so often rightly, the criticism is that the province of woman is designed by man.

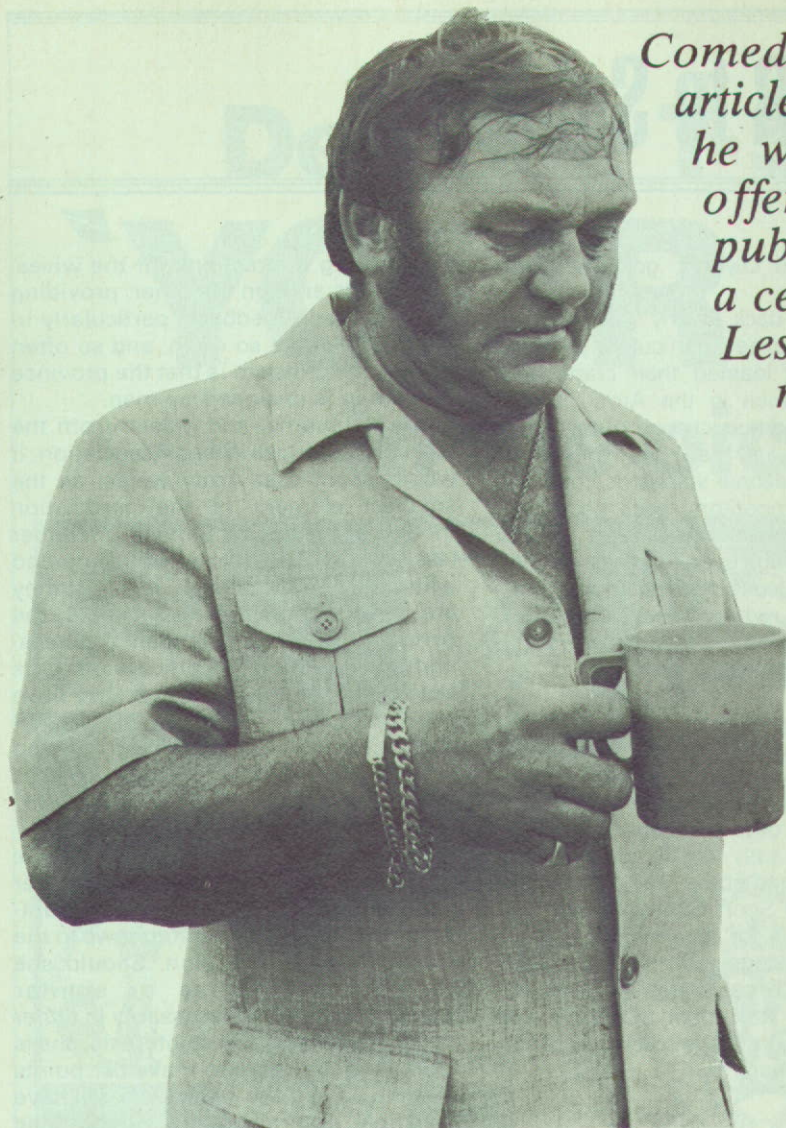
In the meantime, and indeed from the birth of the Forces Wives Association, it would seem that Army wives, as the smallest element of the association though of the largest Service, are either less vociferous or less discontented with their lot. More likely it is that they are better served by, for example, the Army's housing commandant organisation and unit families officers than the sister Services. And, too, that they have their unique Service outlet in SOLDIER with our own Anne Armstrong keeping them well informed in the families pages and readily, when necessary, taking up the cudgels on their behalf.

Everyone recognises that the Army wife is a 'free agent,' unconstrained in her right to approach her Member of Parliament, write to or give interviews to the Press, radio or television. Should she consider that these or similar approaches are not necessarily in either her's or the Army's best interests, she is more than welcome to make her points to Anne Armstrong — and she will have the triple assurance of a sympathetic ear, the knowledge and experience of a Service wife, and no question of any repercussions in her husband's direction. And, if her point is of general interest and published, she will be helping her fellow readers of the families pages.

Not that it is suggested that Anne Armstrong and the families pages should necessarily replace any future representative liaison — but they are there now and always ready to help.



Comedian Les Dawson's first-ever article he wrote for publication, when he was a National Serviceman, was offered to SOLDIER — it was not published. More than a quarter of a century later we make amends as Les comes up with some hilarious reflections on his Army life . . .



MEMORIES ON PARADE

I WAS RECENTLY accorded the distinct honour of being personally escorted around that spartan, sprawling cantonment known to most intelligent deserters as Aldershot.

As I gazed with growing pride at the myriads of khaki-clad gallants milling about outside the MO's office, I confess that so great was my emotion I had recourse to swallow deeply from a hip flask. I always carry an ample quantity of alcohol on my person in case I should sustain a severe snake bite. I also carry along a snake . . .

Tears welled unbidden to my eyes as I strove to find the courage necessary to quaff a mouthful of Army tea — a liquid that is quite capable of stripping the outer layers of copper from a lavatory cistern or dissolving the small intestine of a musk ox.

A rather spotty officer, and he was spotty, I'm afraid — in fact he blew his nose on a braille handkerchief — gave me a sandwich that was so old it was probably prepared in Kitchener's bivouac. I was curtly informed by a rather vague 'brass hat' that the cut back on military spending was so acute that the new weapons were coming from Airfix.

I was saddened at the thought of a diminished Army. I still recall my days as a trooper with The Queen's Bays, 2nd Dragoon Guards, with nostalgic relish. Despite what it says in my Army discharge book, I am not an alarmist, although I must admit there is a germ of truth in the rumour

that I tried to surrender to the Germans in 1953.

I still discuss my role in keeping the peace in Europe just after the war and I've still got all my white feathers. We Dawsons are of warrior stock — in fact the first Dawson, Albert, was a direct descendant of Elric the Peculiar, the only Viking ever to get mugged in Gateshead. My great-grandfather fought

with Wellington — they couldn't trust him with a gun. At the Charge of the Light Brigade, my great-uncle rode into the valley of death — the only trouble was, he rode sidesaddle.

My father cancelled a holiday in Jersey because he heard about the Battle of the Flowers . . . What a supreme coward he was — he was in Dunkirk when the first shot was



" . . . A bugler with General Custer . . . "



fired and under a commode in Crewe when the second one went off. When war was declared in 1939, he was the only man I know who went to night school to learn how to live without a trigger finger.

Perhaps the one member of the Dawsons who saves our pride was Beauregarde Dawson, who was a bugler with General Custer and stood by his side at the massacre of The Little Big Horn. As the Indians closed in for the kill, Custer trumpeted: "I shall wear my scarlet trousers so that the Redskins won't see my blood." Beauregarde said in reply: "I think I'll wear my khaki ones."

My Army career was not an illustrious one. My uniform was so ill-fitting I became a model for a burst frankfurter. Whenever I fired off a rifle, the bang caused me to leap into a thicket like a startled fawn. I found cleanliness most irksome. I'm not saying that I came from a dirty family, but the safest place to keep money in our house was under the soap.

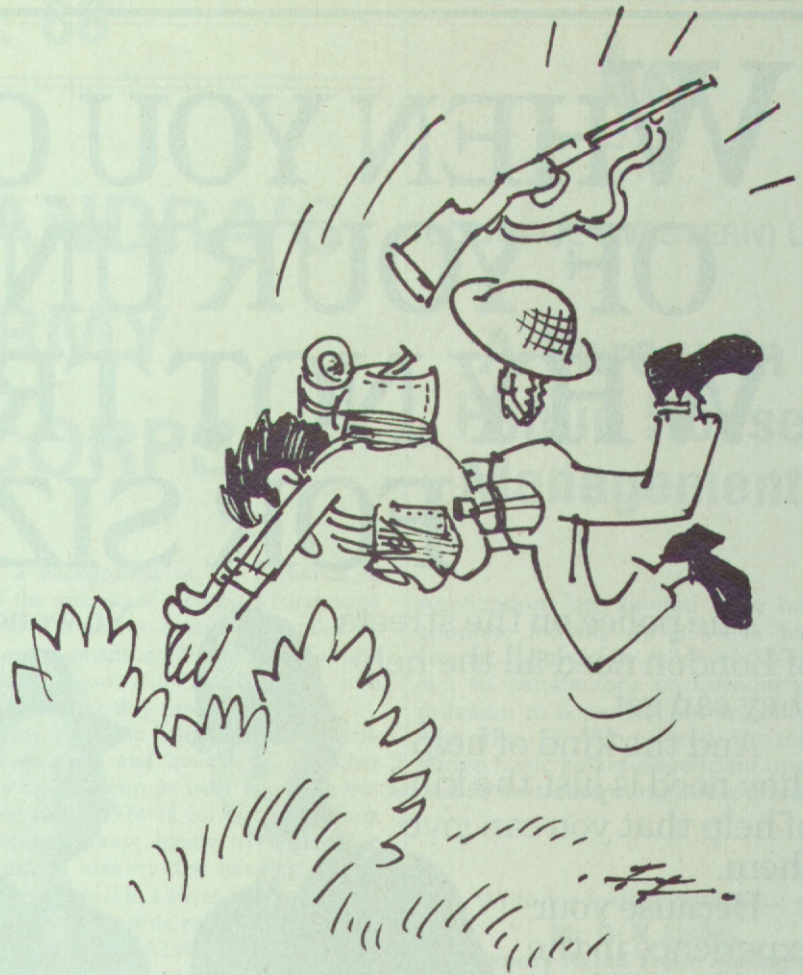
When my National Service was near the end, the Korean War broke out and Clement Attlee, for some absurd reason, put six months extra on my time. I screamed and drummed my heels but I still had to do it — and I have never voted for a Labour government since. I think the Army did me the world of good though . . . Before my enlistment, beer made me ill; now, thanks to the character building I endured at Catterick Camp, the thinking man's Belsen, I'm only ill when I'm not drinking beer.

So here I sit on the verandah of my highly acclaimed Wimpey-style Mandalay bungalow, sipping a mint julep and listening to the wife playing her records of Hitler's speeches, and I look back on my military service with a sort of tenderness. And that's one thing about me, I'm intensely patriotic, as well as a bloody liar.

Should this barren rock of ours, so heavily drenched in history, ever be threatened by a force of arms again, then by the Lord Harry I'll be the first to go and demand a sick note.

They can keep their atomic warheads. Nuclear fission? I throw back my head and howl in derision. In the final analysis, it is the common soldier who gets the Black Market going. I must close now, the old wound throbs — the one I received in the face of Naafi prices. My dear mother-in-law has arrived home from her job on the Wall of Death and I have to scrape the cinders off her jackboots. I close with the words of General Wolfe: 'A friend in need . . . is a pest.'

Les Dawson



" . . . The bang caused me to leap into a thicket . . . "



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THE METROPOLITAN POLICE



QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S ROYAL ARMY NURSING CORPS

THIS SPACIOUS, well-arranged museum in the beautiful pine-wooded grounds in Aldershot of the old Royal Pavilion, built for Queen Victoria in 1856, records the history and achievements of the Army Nursing Service from 1854 to the present day.

Starting with the Crimean War, the museum's prime exhibit is undoubtedly the basketry, leather and wooden carriage used by Florence Nightingale, who landed at Scutari in 1854 with 38 nurses. This was the first time that female nurses had been accepted in military hospitals as part of the Army Medical Services. Then there is the communion set she bought for wounded soldiers in Scutari Hospital while numerous personal relics include photographs of her from a young woman to old age, letters written in her own hand and a picture showing the 'Lady with the Lamp' at work.

Display cases contain a replica of the hospital dress worn by Miss Nightingale, the Nursing Service's first uniform bonnet with its characteristic large bow, the grey fur cape given by Queen Alexandra, first patron of Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, to nurses going to France in World War One, and a khaki World War Two cape with the cloth badges of units with which the wearer had served sewn on the inside — thus avoiding the eagle eye of a disapproving matron. Close by are examples of the straw hat tied with a scarlet ribbon and parasol issued to nurses during the Boer War.

There are some good groups of medals and a rare Royal Red Cross Medal and bar awarded to Dame Maude McCarthy, Principal Matron during World War One. A tribute to her popularity is the so-called 'Friendship Cloth' bearing the embroidered signatures of her many friends, among them Lord Kitchener and Baden-Powell. The medals of World War Two Matron-in-Chief Dame Katherine Jones are also displayed with personal mementoes.

Another batch of souvenirs tells the story of Dame Margot Turner, who rose to the highest rank in the corps. Typical are her notebook and log of what happened at Palembang camp where she was a prisoner-of-war, and a set of surgical instruments she used in India. Then there is the belt embroidered by Nursing Sister Woodman illustrating life in a Japanese PoW camp.

Two signed photographs of Queen Alexandra, a group of smiling nurses taken

against a background of the pyramids, a view of the interior of a hospital barge used in World War One to evacuate wounded by canal, and a snapshot of the first Gurkha girls setting out for England to join QARANC, inevitably catch the eye.

A penny Victorian ballroom guide, a collapsible lantern and pouch, a stretcher bearer's candle lamp as used to search out wounded in the 1914-18 conflict, a smelling salts container kept handy by ambulance crews and an identity disc hanging from a chain with a pencil in a silver case are among a host of miscellaneous exhibits. Not to be overlooked are the QAIMNS banner carried in the 1919 Victory Parade, an invalid feeding cup of World War One and a sputum flask.

Heroic, self-sacrificing work was done by the nurses helping the pathetic survivors of German concentration camps and a reminder of those grim days is the rosary made from little pieces of rubber picked up by a priest in a work gang in Belsen and given to Sister M Hicks.

Finally, a quilt bearing the embroidered signatures of 250 Canadians who had paid 50 cents each towards the purchase of food parcels for their fellow countrymen serving overseas, and the Freedom scroll of the Borough of Aldershot awarded to Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps on 27 June 1973. This was the last Freedom scroll to be bestowed before Aldershot became part of the Borough of Rushmoor.

John Jesse

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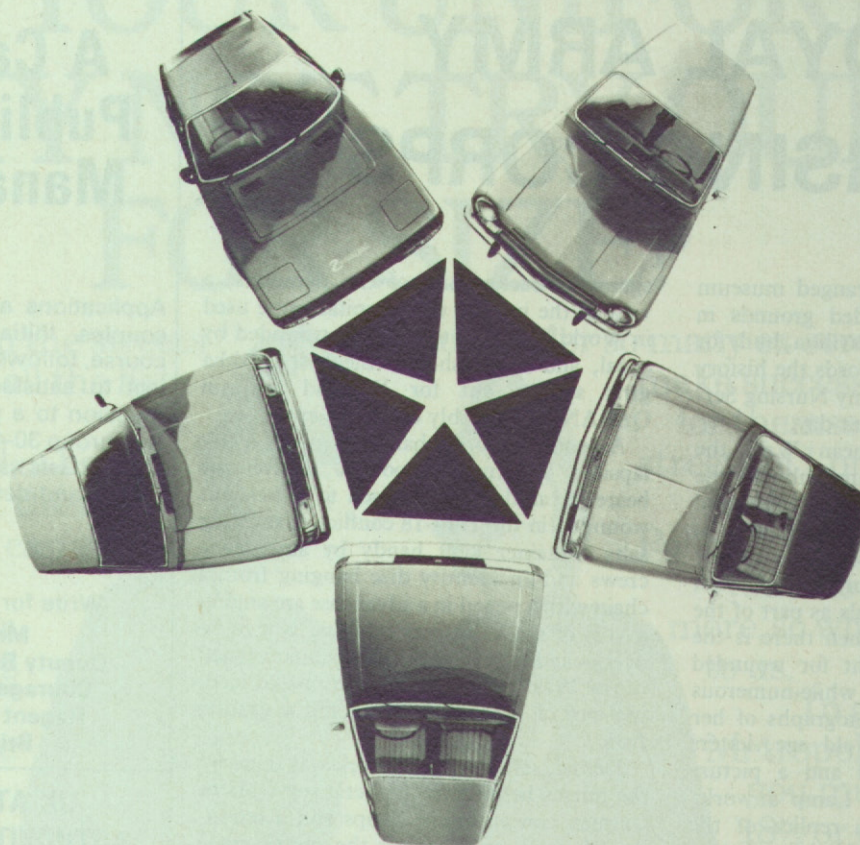
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FLAGSTAFF HOUSE RETIRES FROM THE ARMY

Story and picture: Joint Service Public Relations, Hong Kong.

FLAGSTAFF HOUSE, the oldest residence in Hong Kong and for 132 years the home of 54 British generals as well as a Japanese admiral during World War Two, has been finally vacated with the removal of Major-General Roy Redgrave, Commander British Forces, into a new residence halfway up the Peak on Hong Kong Island.

The building, which has remained virtually unaltered over the years, was designed in 1843 by Mr M Bruce, the then Inspector of Buildings, for Major-General C D'Augular, the first General Officer Commanding in Hong Kong.

The general, who was also Lieutenant Governor, was at first accommodated in a temporary structure, which was destroyed by a typhoon in 1841. The permanent building was called Headquarters House right up until 1932.

An interesting point is that originally the house stood just above the harbour. But reclamation on the waterfront over the years has resulted in it now standing some 300 metres away from the seafront.

The design of Flagstaff House is such that the high-ceilinged public rooms, with their gently turning fans, remain cool without air conditioning throughout the hottest and stickiest Hong Kong days.

The future of the house remains in the balance. It will be handed back to the Hong Kong Government, with Victoria Barracks, as part of the defence costs agreement. The Governor will occupy it briefly while structural alterations are made to Government House but no final decision on its future has yet been made.



Major-General Roy Redgrave receives the Union Flag from guard commander Corporal Ganbaprasad Rai after it had been lowered for the last time.

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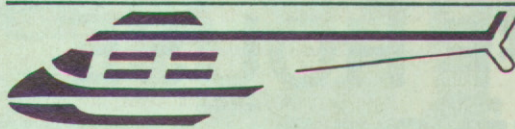
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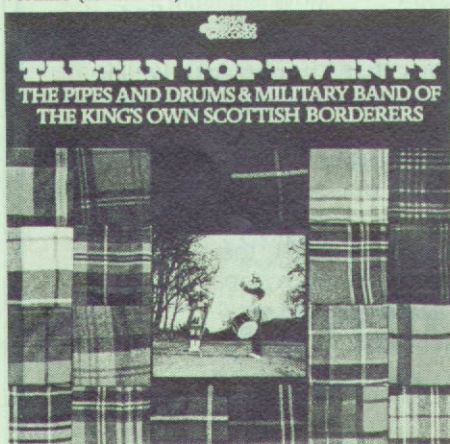
'Pipes Up! Canadian Champions!' (Pipes and Drums of the Toronto Scottish Regiment) (Pipe-Major: John Wakefield) (Drum-Major: Norman MacKenzie) (World Records WRC-282)
I do not intend reviewing this record in detail for I doubt if you would have the pleasure of comparing Canadian piping with Scottish of that ilk. I had 80 Canadian pipers with me for the 1970 Edinburgh Tattoo and as I remember they were compared unfavourably with local talent from British regiments. The situation was similar to that of the Jock pontificating on a landlord's row of whiskies when we all knew they came from the same barrel under the counter. Seventy eight (or nine) of my 80 knew Motherwell better than Montreal and Killiecrankie better than Québec.

Here are 41 marches, reels, drum fanfares, slow airs, strathspeys and the like, all played, I'm sure, with true Scottish fervour and traditional skill. They ought to be. **RB**

March, strathspey and reel: Arthur Bignold, The Shepherd's Crook, Lexy McAskill; 6/8 marches — Cameron MacFadyen, Donald MacLean of Lewis, Rab's Wedding, Col Robertson, Dr Ross's 50th Welcome to the Argyllshire Gathering; 3/4 marches — Castle Dangerous, Land of My Youth; 4/4 marches — MacPherson's March, Lunder, The Intercontinental Gathering, Flett from Flotta, Scotland the Brave; medley selection — The 78th Regiment, Laird of Drumblair, Coulter's Candy, Lady MacKenzie of Fairburn, Hail to My Country, The Kilt is My Delight, Kate Dalrymple, Doug's Jig, The Skillet, Stornaway Bay, Glasgow Week in Hamburg, The Auld Hoose, Roes Amang the Heather, The Mason's Apron, Pidgeon on the Gate, Reel, Alan MacPherson of Mossparck, The Man from Skye; drum fanfare and slow airs — The Flower of Scotland, Mingulay Boat Song; hornpipes — Newmarket House, Ina MacKenzie; a tribute to the regiment — All the Blue Bonnets are Over the Border, The Flowers of the Forest, The Toronto Scottish Regiment, Auld Lang Syne.

'Tartan Top Twenty' (The Pipes and Drums and Military Band of The King's Own Scottish Borderers) (Great Bands Records GBS 1014) (Cassette: KGBC 1014)

For we Sassenachs, and I suspect for most Scots, a record with a neat alliterative title like this should be attractively varied in its musical content — not 45 minutes of piping all in one key and at one volume (fortissimo).



This is definitely one for a party and equally interesting as fireside-listening fodder. Rhythms, pitch, volume and styles are well mixed by dint of restrained use of the military band, accordion, drum-breaks and, most important of all, the use of solo and concerted piping alternately.

Of its kind very good and almost, I repeat

almost, had me tapping a fugitive toe or two. But the programme makes little or no attempt to tap the resources of Scottish national fervour, waiting there in their music to be whipped up into an orgasmic frenzy of midnight patriotism. I reckon that I, in spite of being born within sound of the Bells of Ouseley, could make a record using only the tunes played on this disc that would send the Irish and Welsh climbing the Scott Memorial in ecstasy, let alone the Scots. And I'll not be giving away hints on how to do it. I've been caught before. But a wee bottle of my favourite heather-water might elicit an explanatory hiccup. **RB**

Side one: Amazing Grace; medley — The Skye Boat Song, Highland Cradle Song; medley — My Love She's But a Lassie Yet, The Bluebells of Scotland; Blue Bonnets o'er the Border; Campbelltown Loch; medley — Mairi's Wedding, The Black Bear.

Side two: Scotch on the Rocks; The Dark Island; medley — The March of the Cameron Men, Horo My Nut Brown Maiden; medley — Flower of Scotland, Soft Lowland Tongue o' the Border, These Are My Mountains; medley — The Road to the Isles, Wi' a Hundred Pipers and a' and a'; medley — Scotland the Brave, Highland Laddie.

'The Auld Alliance: France/Scotland' (La Batterie-Fanfare de la Garde Républicaine de Paris, conducted by Lieutenant Bernard Gallais) (The Pipes and Drums of 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards, directed by Pipe-Major Linden Ingram) (EMI Waverley SZLP 2154)

The 1977 Edinburgh Tattoo saw a brief visit from the Garde Républicaine 'batterie,' not to be con-



fused with its fine military band. The batterie is what it sounds like and, although drawing upon the same musicians, uses drums and brass to some extent, if not to excess. To vary this somewhat ear-bending noise, producer Ray Horricks alternates with traditional Scottish pipe music, plus one item using a wind octet from the regimental band of the Scots Guards.

It was a heaven-sent opportunity to celebrate the Auld Alliance in music and francophiles will relish the chance to buy half-a-dozen or more of the ancient marches militaires of the French Army. These are 'Retraite Françaises,' 'Marche Française' (Lully), 'Marche des Soldats de Robert Bruce' (a quaint rendering of a famous Scottish tune), 'Marche des Mousquetaires du Roy,' 'Marche des Dragons du Roy,' 'Marche du Pre-

mier Consul' and 'Marche des Bonnets a Poils.'

Both 'sides' include their Reveilles and the pipes and drums play 24 traditional tunes. The ancient 'Scots March' is played by a mock band of the 18th century plus two drums without snares — and very effective too.

I cannot say that I am enamoured of batterie-fanfare type bands on disc, but given a dish of pâté, a Camembert and a yard of bread by a French roadside, they can entertain me during lunch any time they like. **RB**

Also on this record: Johnnie Cope; medley — Pipe-Major Ross's Farewell to the Scots Guards, Dornoch Links, O'er the Bows to Ballindalloch, Devil in the Kitchen, Barney's Balmoral, Flower of Scotland, Paddy O'Rafferty, My Land; El Alamein; Erin, Far o'er the Sea; Retreat; The Green Hills of Tyrol; When the Battle's o'er; medley — 8th Bn Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders' Farewell to the 116ème Regiment du Ligne, Loch Ruin, Laird of Drumblair, Miller of Drone, Lexie Macaskill, The Steamboat; Marche Tactique; medley — The Cameron's Quickstep, Because He Was a Bonny Lad, Mingulay Boat Song, Mull of Kintyre, Fiddly Tune, I Laid a Herring in Salt; Highland Laddie.

'Stafford Knot' (Music by the Band of The Staffordshire Regiment) (Conducted by Bandmaster WO1 M F Lee) (Music Masters 0526)

I usually dread seeing a regimental record among my pile, just in case it is only good enough to recommend to members of that particular regiment. It happens, but here is one you can all be sure of enjoying. For dynamism, precision, tone and tuning (to name but a few of the points we listen for) I cannot remember a better, even from a Guards band, but it is something else which separates this band from the herd — style. To end my eulogy I recommend it not only to the general public but to other bandmasters as well. This is what a band programme should sound like, and all done without the essential ingredients of flute and Eb clarinet.

The regiment is fortunate in having dedicated to it one of the very few marches to make the



grade apart from Kenneth Alford — 'The Staffordshire Knot' by a former bandmaster of the South Staffords, W J Duthoit. It sets a standard at the very start of the disc which allayed all my fears and from then on it only gets better.

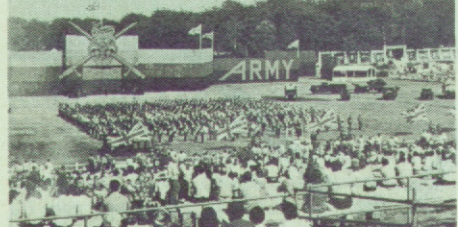
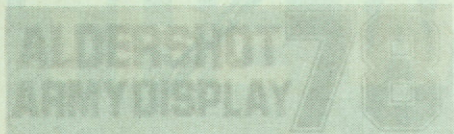
Arnhem was an important battle honour so several items remind us of this and the sleeve is Terence Cuneo's painting of Lance-Sergeant Baskfield winning his posthumous Victoria Cross. 'A Bridge Too Far' of course and A E Kelly's fine march 'Arnhem' which, like Duthoit's march, won a prize at Kneller Hall for the composer. Other aspects of regimental life are remembered with the Norwegian 'Gamel Jeger March,' Henrion's 'Fehrbelliner Reitermarsch' (played for once in true style), the wistful old tune 'Soldier Alone,' specially arranged by Mr Lee, and three regimental marches, 'The 80th Regiment Slow March,' 'God Bless the Prince of Wales' and two of the greatest folk tunes ever to be adopted by a regiment, 'Come Lasses and Lads' and 'The Days We Went a-Gipsying.'

Erickson's 'Toccata for Band,' Trevor Sharpe's arrangement of 'Mexican Hat Dance' and the

tuneful suite 'The Shipbuilders,' by Peter Yorke, make up a record you will play again and again.

Also available from BSM, Band of The Staffordshire Regiment, Hyderabad Barracks, Colchester, Essex, £2.99 plus postage and packing. **RB**

'Aldershot Army Display 1978' (Bands of the Corps of Royal Engineers (Aldershot Staff Band), Royal Corps of Transport, Royal Army Medical Corps, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers; Pipes, Drums and Bugles of 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles) (Senior Director of Music: Major P W Parkes) (AAD 2)



'Disgusted of Tooting' is at it again. Sir, I do not mix my drinks, nor are my opinions a musical cocktail. I quite clearly prefer a cleverly done mock-up of a tattoo to the thing itself, except of course occasionally, and I have never deviated from this opinion, or almost never.

What I can't abide, ever, is the musical content of a tattoo recorded in a studio or static on a barrack square, with little effort made to simulate movement or reality, as when a massed band steps off with nary a word of command. The unreality is compounded when the sleeve purports to portray the contents by depicting a scene of colourful pageantry on a vast arena, flags flying and audience agog with amazement.

So not many marks for this one. The music is all right of course, so is the sleeve except for someone's German grammar.

Marches by the massed bands are 'The Great Little Army,' 'Radetsky March,' 'Fredericus Rex,' and 'Bond of Friendship.' Bands and pipes play 'Going Home' and the Gurkha pipes, drums and bugles contribute 'Queen Elizabeth's Own,' 'Regimental Fanfare,' 'Drum Call,' Farewell to Nigg,' 'The Marquis of Huntly's Highland Fling,' 'Sound of Sleat,' 'Flett from Flotta' and 'The Steamboat.'

Other massed band items: 'Old England Medley,' 'Floral Dance,' 'Trumpet Prelude,' 'Ode to Joy,' 'Ca Ira,' 'Rule Britannia,' 'Zapfen Streiche,' '1812 Overture,' 'Vivat Regina' and 'The Black Bear.'

This record is available from SOLDIER (AAD782), Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU, at £2.32 (UK), £2.15 (BFPO, except Northern Ireland) and £2.43 (elsewhere), including postage and packing. There is no cassette. **RB**

'National Anthems of the World' (The Band of the Grenadier Guards) (Conducted by Major F J Harris and Captain Derek Kimberley) (Decca MOR 504)

My chief interest in this disc was of course to compare the Grenadiers of the 1950s with those of 1978. To have the two bands playing alternately had to prove something or other — it proved the obvious, that regimental bands, given good bandmasters, develop an individual sound. It is the result of influences of technique and style passed down unknowingly from generation to generation. Not all these influences would be accepted without question by other nations but, for better or for worse, it is what the British Army is all about.

So, played by the band of the Grenadier Guards



in its own inimitable way, are 24 anthems which could come in useful. Don't phone Kneller Hall when you are caught napping — buy your own. **RB**

Anthems are: 'The Star Spangled Banner' (United States); 'Ja, Vi Elsker Dette Landet' (Norway); 'Österreichische Bundeshymne' (Austria); 'Hymn of the Soviet Union' (USSR); 'Mexicanos, Al Grito Guerra' (Mexico); 'As-Salam Al Malaki As Saud' (Saudi Arabia); 'Wilhelmus Van Nassouwe' (Netherlands); 'Wallah Zaman Ya Selani' (Egypt); 'Jana Gana Mana Adhinayak' (India); 'La Brabançonne' (Belgium); 'Inno Di Mameli' (Italy); 'Swiss Psalm' (Switzerland).

'La Marseillaise' (France); 'O, Canada' (Canada); 'Kong Kristian Stod Ved Højen Mast' (Denmark); 'Imperial Salute' (Iran); 'Marcha Real' (Spain); 'Du Gamla Du Fria' (Sweden); 'Hatikvah' (Israel); 'Deutschland, Deutschland Über Alles' (Germany); 'Advance, Australia Fair' (Australia); 'Isiklal Marsi' (Turkey); 'Hino Nacional A Portuguesa' (Portugal); 'God Save the Queen' (Great Britain).

'Band of The Green Howards (Alexandra, Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire' (Conductor: Bandmaster J W J Dawson)

At present serving in Berlin, where this record was made by the Telefunken-Decca company, the Green Howards have long been known to graduates of Kneller Hall as 'a good band regiment.' This means not that they always have a good band but that as a regiment they like and appreciate their band. And well they might, for on the evidence here it seems to be in good working order both on and off parade.

The acoustics are rather swimmy but the playing is crisp and lively enough to survive in a programme of marches and light music. On parade we have another 'Radetsky,' 'Staffordshire Knot' and 'Preobrajensky March,' after which there are four new or newish offerings in 'I Love a Sousa March' (a song-march the great man would hardly have accepted as homage, two by Roland F Seitz called 'Grandioso,' based on Hungarian tunes, and 'Brooke's Triumphal March,' with 'Alma Drums' by Mr Dawson commemorating the capture of five Russian drums by the regiment.

In lighter mood the band avoids gimmickry and plays as a normal military band except for one big-band number in 'Black Magic Woman.' 'Cable Car,' 'Salute the Duke' (a tribute to Duke Ellington), tunes from 'Shaft' and 'New Sounds of the Carpenters' should go down well with everyone, and 'Bonnie English Rose' to end with makes it a 'must' for the lads of Richmond Hill.

Available from Bandmaster, 1 Green Howards, BFPO 45, at £2.70 including postage and packing. **RB**

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'The World of Brass Bands Vol 5' (Decca SPA 533) (Cassette KCSP 533)

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Rastrick bands and the James Shepherd Versatile Brass provide excerpts from their past repertoires in 'Nibelungen March,' 'Intermezzo' ('Cavalleria Rusticana'), 'Theme and Variations' (Hummel), 'Overdale,' 'Slavonic Rhapsody No. 1,' 'Morning Rhapsody,' 'Portuguese Party,' 'Scherzo' (Boeckl) and a couple of pops. **RB**

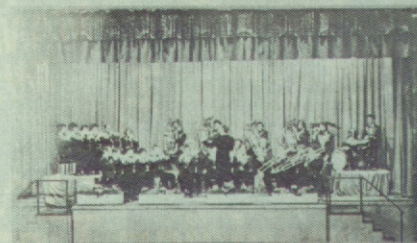
'Sounds of Brass Series: The City of Coventry Band' (Conducted by Kenneth Dennison) (Decca SB 332) (Cassette: KBSC 332)

'Trumpet Spectacular' (Bing), 'Dubinuskja' (Rimsky-Korsakov), trombone solo 'Love's Enchantment,' 'Tintagel' suite (Denis Wright),

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KENNETH DENNISON

'Bell Bird Polka,' Marche Héroïque' (Saint-Saens), 'Sundown' (Barsotti) and that monstrosity from the brass band world, a 'Grand Selection' from Dvorak's New World Symphony. **RB**

'The Standard of St George' (The Royal Doulton Band) (Conductor: Ted Gray) (Pye Top Brass TB 3015) (Cassette: ZCTPB 3015)

Apart from the old pops 'French Comedy Overture' and Alford's 'The Standard of St George' there are the more modern 'Star Wars' theme,



'Who Pays the Ferryman,' 'The Sunshine of Your Smile,' 'Devil's Gallop' (Dick Barton's tune), 'Smoke Gets in Your Eyes,' 'Bassomatic,' 'Snowy White Polka,' 'My Old Kentucky Home,' 'Serenity' and 'Sousarama.' **RB**



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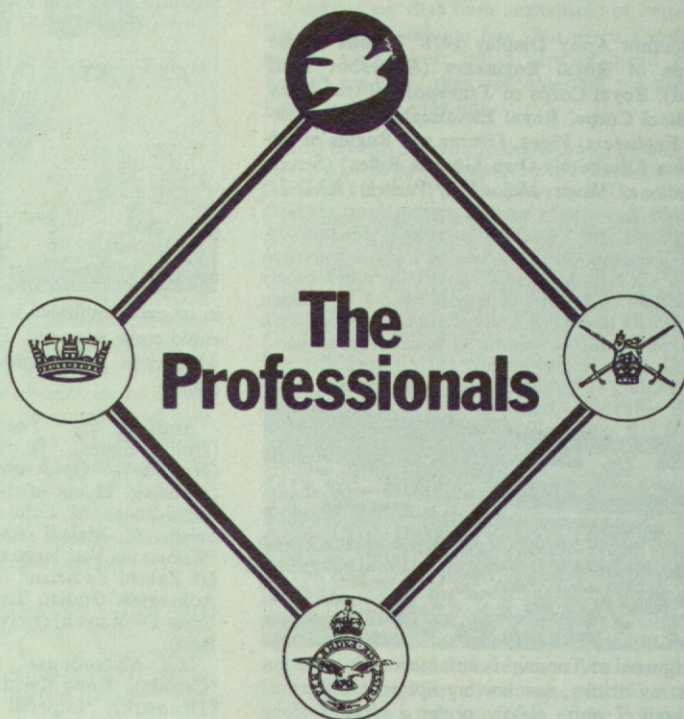
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SAPPERS SERVING THE WORLD

Story: Mike Starke
Pictures: Paul Haley

AMID THE APPLE ORCHARDS of the Vale of Evesham the Army nurtures its own kind of plant — heavy engineering plant and equipment which comes from sapper units all over the world for repair or modification at Long Marston, near Stratford-upon-Avon.

Headquarters Engineer Resources sprawls over some 455 acres of the valley floor, its massive sheds and stores parks fed by more than 19 miles of railway track and eight miles of roads.

The heart of the complex is 31 Base Workshop Squadron, Royal Engineers, which works on the projects that come in from far-flung corners of the globe. As well as tackling repair and modification jobs, the squadron is also called upon to manufacture items from scratch.

Half the unit's 130-strong staff are civilians, most of them high-grade tradesmen. The majority of the military element are at least Class 2 tradesmen and they get continuation training towards their Class 1 while at Long Marston.

The 'sharp end' of the squadron is to be found in its three vast sheds, dedicated to plant repair, construction and metal trades respectively. But a complex production control scheme plans the work flow with times for specific jobs carefully gauged to fulfil the requirements of the productivity deal to which the staff work. This is all backed up by planning and drawing offices and an inspection centre. There is also a Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers workshop on the site.

Repair and manufacture tasks usually emanate from sapper units in the field. In the case of a repair job, the piece of plant is shipped in to Long Marston's plant park where it is held until the base workshop squadron is ready for it. All manner of vehicles are clustered round the repair shed for attention. One oddity at the moment is a vast stone crusher in for overhaul.

A forest of neatly stacked bridging sections of all types make up a massive bridge park, and an engineer spares park to keep things ticking over for parts is also on site.

The variety of tasks passing through Long Marston is endless. They range from refurbishing Gibraltar's historic gates to making wooden components for close-quarter ranges in Northern Ireland; from applying non-skid surface to the Army's entire stock of

medium girder bridge decking to maintaining the Royal Engineers mobile display trailer.

Metal workers are currently constructing huge diving tanks for training purposes as well as stout embrasures for the corners of sangars in Northern Ireland to protect troops on duty there.



An entire section is devoted to glass fibre work and a project under way at the moment is to manufacture equipment bins to attach to vehicles. The same craftsmen carry out repairs on the Army's considerable stock of glass fibre Bosun dinghies sailed by soldiers worldwide.

All three Services are provided with unit and formation badges drawn up and manufactured by silk-screen processing at Long Marston. Large sign boards are also produced, using heat-sealed lettering.

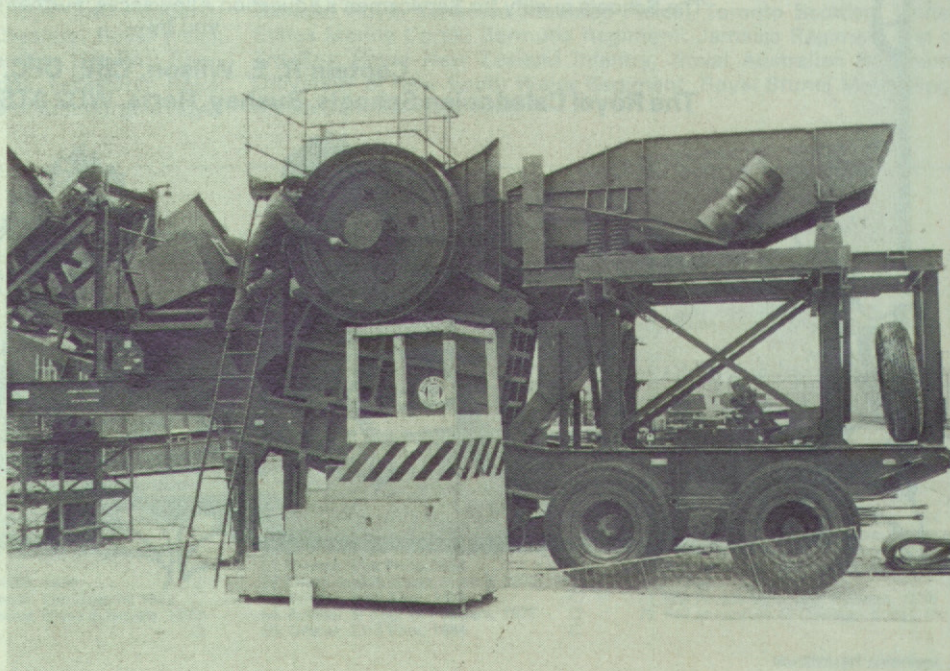
The squadron is one of only two units of its kind in the Army. The other is 21 Army Support Squadron in Germany which is mainly responsible for sapper equipment in Rhine Army.

But the Long Marston squadron supports sappers worldwide, helping them maintain their corps' proud motto of 'Ubique' (Everywhere).

Top: Civilians work alongside soldiers at the base. Here a welder is pictured at his work.

Left: Parts from Gibraltar's ancient gates remade at Long Marston. (Unit photograph).

Below: One of the biggest pieces of plant at Long Marston is this massive stone crusher.



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57 Officer, 30th Foot, 1742
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59 Paratrooper, Parachute Regt, 1975
60 Private, Company of Artificers, 1772

Set 6

61 4 RM in Zeebrugge raid, 23 Apr 1918

62 RM Bde in Belgium, Aug 1914

63 RM and Light Inf changing sentries, 1855

64 RM commandos, 1944

65 Marine marksman, 1799

66 RM bugler, 1973

67 Officer of Marines, 1799

68 RM at Bat of Tamai, 13 Mar 1884

69 Grenadier, Villier's Marines, Gibraltar, 24 July 1704

70 RM landing craft deckhand, D-Day, 1944

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Miscellaneous: Honourable Artillery Company; Household Division; Staff College; Royal College of Defence Studies; Army Catering Corps Apprentice College; George IV; Royal Jersey Infantry; Royal Navy; Royal Marines; Royal Air Force; Atholl Highlanders; Royal British Legion Scotland; University of London OTC.

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continued overleaf. ►

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| 10 Mounted sentry, Blues and Royals, 1974 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 21 Drummer, Royal Anglian Regiment, 1974 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11 Pipe-major, Black Watch, 1975 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 22 Private, 24th (South Wales Borderers), 1879 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Minimum order two prints. Any two prints, £1.10 (UK/BFPO), £1.16 (elsewhere); three, £1.60/£1.66; four, £2.15/£2.20; five, £2.65/£2.71; six, £3.06/£3.08; seven, £3.56/£3.56; eight, £4.08/£4.10; nine, £4.66/£4.68; ten, £5.16/£5.18; eleven, £5.68/£5.73; twelve, £6.12/£6.16; thirteen, £6.62/£6.66; fourteen, £7.12/£7.12; fifteen, £7.64/£7.66; sixteen, £8.16/£8.20; seventeen, £8.74/£8.80; eighteen, £9.18/£9.26; nineteen, £9.68/£9.76; twenty, £10.18/£10.28; twenty-one £10.70/£10.90; twenty-two, £11.20/£11.40.

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1GG/1 Grenadier, First Regiment of Foot Guards, 1735 ☐; 2SG/1 Private, Light Company, Third Regiment of Foot Guards, 1828 ☐; 3PR/1 Private Parachute Regiment, 1974 ☐; 4CG/1 Private, Light Company, Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards, 1815 ☐; 5FG/1 Grenadier à Pied, La Garde Impériale, 1815 ☐; 6FH/1 Trooper, 1st Regiment of Hussars, La Garde Impériale, 1815 ☐; 7CL/1 Private, winter dress, American Continental Line, 1776 ☐; 8CG/1 Grenadier, Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards, 1776 ☐; 9QR/1 Officer, Queen Dowager's Regiment of Foot, 1680 ☐; 10Private, internal security dress*; 11—; 12NJ/1 Private, 3rd New Jersey Regiment, 1777 ☐; 13SG/1 Pipe-major, 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards, 1937 ☐; 14ES/1 Sergeant, 31st Regiment of Foot, 1840 ☐; 15GG/1 Private, Grenadier Guards, 1839 ☐; 16FG/1 Chasseur, La Garde Impériale ☐; 17RS/1 Private, Battalion Company, Royal Sussex Regiment, 1775 ☐; 18WM/1 Drummer, 57th Regiment of Foot, 1811 ☐; 19LG/1 NCO, Life Guards, dismounted in Queen's review guard order ☐; 20RM/1 Drummer, Royal Marines, 1976 ☐; 21RM/2 Royal Marine Commando, 1976 ☐; 22RM/3 Officer, 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 ☐; 27GJ/1 Bugler, Royal Green Jackets, 1977 ☐; 28MC/1 Officer, Royal Marine Corps, 1775 ☐; 29RM/1 Private, Royal Marines, 1805 ☐; 30RM/1 Colour-sergeant, Royal Marine Light Infantry, 1868 ☐; 31AS/1 Pipe-major, Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, 1977 ☐; 32LI/1 Bugler, Light Infantry, 1977 ☐; 33BR/1 NCO, The Blues and Royals, 1978 ☐; 34GR/1 Piper, 6th QEO Gurkha Rifles, 1977 ☐.

*Available, with appropriate dress differences, for following corps/regiments: 10UQR/1 Queen's Regiment ☐; 10USG/2 Scots Guards ☐; 10URA/3 Royal Anglian ☐; 10UDG/4 4th/7th Dragoon Guards ☐; 10UCG/5 Coldstream Guards ☐; 10URF/6 1st Battalion, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers ☐; 10URF/7 2nd Battalion, RRF ☐; 10URF/8 3rd Battalion, RRF ☐; 10UAS/9 Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders ☐; 10URT/10 1st Royal Tank Regiment ☐; 10UL/11 Life Guards ☐; 10URH/12 15th/19th Royal Hussars ☐; 10UGG/13 Grenadier Guards ☐; 10URA/14 Royal Artillery ☐; 10UCR/15 Cheshire Regiment ☐; 10UCR/16 A Company, Cheshire Regiment ☐; 10UCR/17 B Company, Cheshire Regiment ☐; 10UCR/18 C Company, Cheshire Regiment ☐; 10UCR/19 S Company, Cheshire Regiment ☐; 10UWF/20 Royal Welch Fusiliers ☐; 10URL/21 9th/12th Royal Lancers ☐; 10UWG/22 Welsh Guards ☐; 10UHL/23 Royal Highland Fusiliers ☐; 10ULR/24 Queen's Lancashire Regiment ☐; 10URS/25 Royal Signals ☐; 10URE/26 Royal Engineers ☐; 10UGJ/27 Royal Green Jackets ☐; 10UBR/28 King's Own Royal Border Regiment ☐; 10UGH/29 Green Howards ☐; 10ULI/30 Light Infantry ☐; 10UMP/31 Royal Military Police ☐; 10UQRH/32 Queen's Own Highlanders ☐; 10URM/33 Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers ☐; 10UOR/34 Royal Army Ordnance Corps ☐; 10UBW/35 Black Watch ☐; 10UUR/36 Ulster Defence Regiment ☐; 10URE/37 Royal Engineers (combat) ☐; 10URT/38 3rd Royal Tank Regiment ☐; 10URH/39 Royal Hampshire Regiment ☐; 10URCT/40 Royal Corps of Transport ☐; 10UWR/41 Duke of Wellington's Regiment ☐; 10URS/42 Royal Scots ☐; 10URL/43 17th/21st Lancers ☐; 10UQR/44 Queen's Regiment (Londonderry) ☐; 10ULI/45 Light Infantry (combat) ☐.

SOLDIER PRINT SOCIETY REGIMENTAL EVENT PRINTS (First edition) by Charles Stadden

(15 x 8 ins, 380 x 203 mm)

- 1 The Highland Light Infantry — Gibraltar 1777
- 2 The 31st (East Surrey) Regiment — Sobraon 1846
- 3 Coldstream Guards — Capture of Gibraltar 1704

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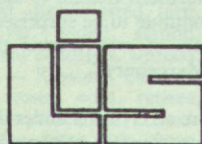
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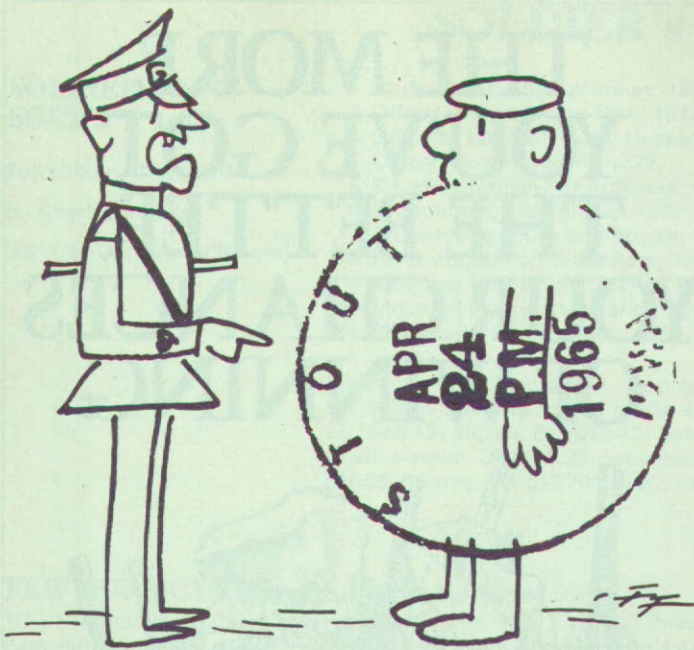
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Letters

Think again

In reply to Mr Les Hillaby's letter (July) about conditions in today's Army, we are serving in 1978, not 1938, and his comments appear to be based on that era. Admittedly we have good trades but what use are they when we are treated like imbeciles when applying for jobs on leaving the Army?

As for his free hospital, dental and optical treatment — utter rubbish! We pay the same NHS contributions as the civilian populace but probably unlike Mr Hillaby and thousands of others in Civvy Street, we use these facilities less because we are fitter and healthier than the average 'civvy.'

Yes, the food is good — 60 per cent of the Army are married and their wives cook it! Would Mr Hillaby's comments be the same if he had to pay for it? Free travel abroad? What free travel? Does he mean a free flight once every three years?

We also think he has overlooked the fact that most of us pay on average £40-£60 a month in income tax.

As for discipline — gone are the days when you needed someone to think for you. Today's soldier doesn't need a nursemaid. — **Six NCOs, BFPO 16.**

Proud as he may be of his military service, Mr Hillaby appears to be rather out of touch with the Army of today. His comments on the quality of food, facilities, travel etc today are correct but no one would deny that conditions have improved since 1938 — but not all changes have been for the better.

Income tax has long been imposed on Service personnel and the minimal pay rises grudgingly awarded are swallowed in inflation and automatic increases in accommodation charges etc. The average serving soldier, no matter how good his trade training, is paid far below what most civilians

regard as a living wage. The supreme irony was underlined last Christmas when troops stood in for firemen striking for higher wages. It is well known that the average fireman's wage was already far above that of his military counterpart before the strike.

What of Northern Ireland? Would the Army of 1938 have tolerated being spat upon in the streets of the United Kingdom without retaliation? Twenty years ago the Army would have been allowed to settle the Northern Ireland problem in months rather than years and would not have been stabbed in the back by so-called 'independent inquiries' and other such pandering to the enemy.

The taxpayer who forks out, as Mr Hillaby says — and I repeat that the soldier is also a taxpayer — has no respect for the Army or its vital role of defence of the realm. Who cares when another soldier is killed in Northern Ireland?

I left the Army in 1972 and have since worked in several foreign countries as a mercenary. In this capacity I have found that the people I have fought for have at least been grateful for my help and, even though I have not always received payment for my services, I have at least had the satisfaction of being allowed to fight the enemies of my own country without hindrance from the British Government or people.

Both the IRA and the Cubans in Angola get their arms from the same place and so the two are, in effect, extensions of the same threat to my country. A brigade of mercenaries, devoid of interference from those who do not understand counter-insurgency, could clean out Northern Ireland in two months, but then so could a brigade of British Regulars under the same conditions.

I am hardly surprised at the number of ex-soldiers from Britain joining foreign para-military units. As I was, they are probably relieved to be

allowed to get on with the job without being messed about.

A friend of mine is currently working 40 hours a week in a factory and earning £85 a week before tax. Compare that with the wages of a soldier doing more than 80 hours a week in Northern Ireland — and do not then continue to be surprised at the numbers of men leaving the Army. — 'Mercenary.'

Are all civilians under the impression that Service personnel do not pay income tax? I am getting a bit cheesed off with hearing and reading that the civilian population pays for Service personnel's food, accommodation, medical, dental and optical treatment, and travel warrants.

Service personnel, Mr Hillaby, are taxpayers, paying the same rates as you and I. They pay the same national insurance contributions. Only in Northern Ireland will you find single or unaccompanied married personnel receiving free board and lodging. A married member of the forces, wherever posted, when accompanied will pay for food, quar-

ters, clothing and fuel. Dental and medical charges are paid from national insurance contributions only when posted overseas.

And, Mr Hillaby, there is as much hardship in 1978 as in 1938. So give the forces credit where credit is due. They do an excellent job, often thanklessly from the civilian population — and they all pay tax. — **Mrs K Carr, c/o Cpl S Carr, 177 Pro Coy RMP, BFPO 801.**

Key question
Anyone have an old piano for sale? I am the WRVS with the Services in Belize and recently had to pay an extortionate amount to hire a piano for a farewell concert. With Christmas looming ahead it would be marvellous to have a piano of our own for the entertainment of all the unaccompanied servicemen out here. — **Mrs M M Witcombe WRVS, Officers' Mess, Airport Camp, BFPO 12.**

*Better still, does anyone have an old piano to give away? Let **SOLDIER** know and we'll fix it to ship it out.

Collectors' Corner

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

A C North, 30 Preston Street, Timaru, South Island, New Zealand. — *Seeks SAS and Para equipment, berets, badges, web, uniforms etc, also 1958 pattern web and DPM combat uniforms in good condition, also RM, RN and AAC pilot and other aircrew wings. Please state price, or will exchange for NZ badges.*

G W Andrews, 7 Hayman Road, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 5PA. — *Has military bands on 78rpm records, including pre-war Aldershot Command tattoos, for offer. List if required.*

S Peacock, 17 Somerhill Court, Somerhill Avenue, Hove, Sussex, BN3 1RQ. — *Complete set Tradition 1-76 in binders, near mint condition, £100. Purchaser to collect.*

Masters Stephen and David Young, 102 Chiltern, Aylesbury Estate, Portland Street, London, SE17 2DD. — *Young collectors, eight and six, would appreciate help in building collection of British/Commonwealth insignia. Some*

insignia, mainly US, for exchange, but will purchase at reasonable price.

John D Smale, 72 Old Ford Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex, BN4 5HA. — *Seeks any photographs, snaps or negatives — on loan for copying or will buy — of RASC launches. In particular Dickens, Generals, Battlefields, Rivers and Derby Winners classes but all 'Fleet' vessels are of interest. Postage refunded.*

T Cassidy, 15 Halton View Road, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 0TS. — *Will exchange early 1900 Border Regt officer servant's uniform in green beige with swallow-tailed jacket and solid brass buttons for old cap badges.*

Arthur H Silvester, Khanspur, 6 Old Court Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 6LW. — *Collects British campaign and foreign medals, particularly awards to RHA. Current needs MM (RFA or Royal Highlanders), exchange or cash adjustment; LSGC (GV, GIV, EII). For sale, commemorative medallions, value £100 plus, accept £80 ono.*

D Fisher, 21 Eastfields Fairstead, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 4SG. — *Seeks all types badges (Staybrite or metal) of armoured corps, tanks, infantry etc; also Royal Marines badge and collar dogs. Willing to buy.*

B Reader, 72 Gresham Avenue, Lillingdon, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV32 7RA. — *Seeks badges, buttons, belt buckles etc Warwickshire Regt (6th Foot), including Volunteers,*

Prisoner-artists

A departure from the usual art exhibitions at the Imperial War Museum is 'Prisoners of War Art' in which most of the drawings are not by eminent artists but by men, some with no formal training, who sought either a form of escape or to compile a record of the conditions of their imprisonment.

These drawings are a unique and touching commentary on life in prisoner-of-war camps both in Britain and abroad and were often done in secret at considerable risk. The artists often had to resort to stealing paper; paint was made from clay or root juices, and in one instance an artist used his own hair for brushes.

The humorous side of camp life is seen in magazines and concert programmes; in contrast are the nightmarish existence in Changi Camp in Malaya during World War Two and the immeasurable suffering of men working on the Burma-Siam railway — 12,500 prisoners died in a year along its 273 miles. Notable material includes World War One drawings of Ruhleben civilian camp by Nico Jungman and of Alexandra Palace by Rudolf Sauter. The Far East in World War Two is represented by the work of John Mennie and Philip Meninsky, and the war in Europe by John Worsley, the youngest commissioned artist and the only one to be interned in Germany.

The appeal of the drawings lies in their expression of feelings about the camps. What comes over most of all is the overwhelming will to live and optimism even in the face of direct adversity.

This exhibition is open on weekdays (10am to 5.50pm) and Sundays (2pm to 5.50pm) to 22 October. Admission is free.

Militia, Yeomanry; also 2nd Warwick's (24th Foot). Will buy, or many British badges for exchange.

V H Gough, 81 Churchwalk House, Walker, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE6 3DJ. — Requires RFC metal S/T brass imperial service breast badge, G/M NF W/M collar (right looking left), Volunteer and Terrier cap, collars, plus S/Ts 1883-1921, NF. Has items in exchange.

J/Dr K Russell, Ford Tp, 57 Sqn, Jun Ldrs Regt RCT, Azimghur Barracks, Colerne, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN14 8PN. — Seeks following Staybrite cap badges: Black Watch, General Service Corps, APTC, RADC, RAEC, RMA Band Corps, AAC, DWR, 16/5 Lancers. Will exchange KOSB, RSDG, RS, Worc & Sherwood Foresters, Gordons, Glosters, Argyll & Sutherland, Para, RMP.

Dirk Bolden, 232 The Heights, Northolt, Middlesex, UB5 4BY. — Wishes exchange Calcutta Scottish Glengarry badge for either Bombay Scottish cap badge, Toronto Scottish Glengarry badge or small London Scottish regimental badge or brooch.

D Embleton, Tile House, 25 Southwell Park Road, Camberley, Surrey. — Has large amount duplicate SOLDIER magazines for sale, all 1950s and 1960s.

W Lavery, 3 Jellicoe Drive, Belfast, BT15 3LA. — Starting collection of cap badges, collar dogs and medals. Willing to receive advice and pay any reasonable price.

Mrs L Jones, 28 Bowness Road, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA7 5AA. — Requires RAF cloth squadron badges. Willing to purchase.

F A J Wright, RR/2, Knowlton, Province of Quebec, JOE IVO, Canada. — Will trade Canadian para wings (flat, yellow maple leaf) and pilot wings (padded, QC) for two RAF WAG half wings (padded); also have rare illustrated book, 'First Steps to Tokyo' (RCAF in Aleutians 1944), Canadian Grenadier Guards and Royal Montreal Regt flashes for trade. Need RAF Regt and RAF Ferry/Transport items.

Reunions

AAC OBA. All ex-Arborfield and Carlisle apprentices and past members of staff. Penultimate reunion in the college will take place 14-15 October. Write to Hon Sec, OBA, Army Apprentices College, Arborfield, Reading, RG2 9NJ, for details.

The Welch Regiment Old Comrades. Annual reunion, Saturday 7 October, TAVR Centre, Broadway, Pontypriid. Tickets £2.75 each; limited overnight accommodation available. Details from V D Williams, 41 Cole Bank Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 8EZ.

Royal Army Veterinary Corps Association. Annual general meeting and reunion dinner, Saturday 7 October, RACV Training Centre, Melton Mowbray. For details apply Hon Secretary, RAVC Association, Ministry of Defence (AVR), Droitwich, Worcestershire, WR9 8AU (phone: Droitwich 2323 ext 32).

Eighth Army Veterans' Association. El Alamein reunion, Blackpool Winter Gardens, Saturday 28 October. Parade, cenotaph service and march past, Sunday 29 October. Details from General Secretary (Alex Lewis), 7 Whinell Road, West Derby, Liverpool, L12 2AS.

The Royal Welch Fusiliers Comrades Association. Annual reunion and general meeting, The Barracks, Wrexham, 8-9 October. Tickets and

programmes available from branch secretaries or on application to Secretary, RWFCA, The Barracks, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 2DB.

The Sherwood Foresters Association. Reunion, Chesterfield, 21 October.

9th Battalion (1939-45), York & Lancaster Regiment. Annual dinner, Saturday 21 October, Endcliffe Hall, Sheffield. Details from Regimental Secretary, RHQ The York & Lancaster Regiment, Endcliffe Hall, Endcliffe Vale Road, Sheffield, S10 3EU.

Duke of York's Royal Military School Old Boys' Association. Annual remembrance reunion, Dover, 11-12 November. Details from Hon General Secretary, A Sadler, 1 Bushy Road, Fetcham, Leatherhead, Surrey (phone: Bookham 52093).

Coldstream Guards Association (London Branch). Ladies night dinner, dance, cabaret, Friday 20 October, Mecca Plantation House, Mincing Lane, London EC3, 7.30 for 8pm until 0030 hrs. Tickets £6.00 each from F J Witney, 6 Sunnyside Road, North Edmonton, London, N9 9SW, by 16 October.

14th/20th King's Hussars. Northern reunion, Saturday 4 November, Manchester. Details from Home HQ, 14/20H, TAVR Centre, Clifton, Manchester, M27 2PU.

Competition

'Terrorist' (reading from left to right) and 'Saracen' (from top to bottom) were the answers, taken from ringed letters, to June's Competition 239 ('One for 1?').

Words in the crossword were: Across — Restore, inserts, contorted, seat, donor, scan, roasted, nitre, die, rends, rota, neat, disinterested, tern, Eden, anise, tat, ended, station, anno, Aries, area, distorted, aniseed, sorties. Down — Reasons, Canasta, attrition, tact, roses, odes, retires, rondo, Ann, taste, toad, tart, consideration, rote, tier, nitre, nee, osteo, Dresden, ends, eaten, adit, contend, soonest, ideates.

Key to the conversion from numbers to letters was: 0 = N, 1 = D, 2 = O, 3 = S, 4 = C, 5 = I, 6 = R, 7 = E, 8 = A and 9 = T.

Prizewinners:

1 P G Wright, 45 Ferndale, Waterloo, Portsmouth.

2 P Barton, c/o Col G H Barton, M and L. Division, IMS, Nato, BFPO 49.

3 Miss J E Sowray, 9 Barry Walk, Mount Pleasant, Rogerstone, Gwent.

4 Mrs D E Dean, 40 Pollard Close, Hooe, Plymouth, Devon.

5 WO1 J A Earl ACC, HQ Directorate ACC, St Omer Barracks, Aldershot, Hampshire.

6 Mrs B Stacey, c/o Capt B D Stacey, 46 Comd Wksp REME, BFPO 806.

7 Col T S Leonard, BMH Munster, BFPO 17.

8 E Darlow, 42 Connaught Road, Worthy Down, Winchester, Hampshire.

How observant are you?

(see page 9)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Pinnacle of monkey house, 2 Mouth of bear second from left. 3 Ripples by saluting bear's left shoulder. 4 Top left foliage of tree above officer. 5 Beak of bird. 6 Officer's pocket flap. 7 Top sawn branch of right tree. 8 'N' in 'LION.' 9 Girl's right hand. 10 Girl's left stocking.

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

SEPTEMBER 1978

- 23 New Colours, 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, Redford Barracks, Edinburgh.
- 24 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, march through Cumnock and Ayr; old Colours laid up in Auld Kirk, Ayr.
- 26 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, march through Glasgow.

OCTOBER 1978

- 14 Queen's Own Highlanders bicentenary parade, Elgin.

MAY 1979

- 4 Newark Agricultural Show (4-5 May).
- 12 Harpenden (Hertfordshire) Carnival.
- 12 Market Rasen (Lincolnshire) Show (12-13 May).
- 15 Hinckley (Leicestershire) Tattoo.
- 19 Hadleigh (Suffolk) Farmers Club Show.
- 19 Long Eaton (Derbyshire) Carnival (19-20 May).
- 26 Hemel Hempstead (Hertfordshire) Carnival.
- 26 Hertfordshire Agricultural Show, Redburn (26-27 May).
- 27 Carrington Park Rally, Boston, Lincolnshire (27-28 May).
- 28 Derby County Show.
- 30 Suffolk Show, Ipswich (30-31 May).

JUNE 1979

- 2 St Neots (Cambridgeshire) Riverside Festival. (2-3 June).
- 9 Mayor's Carnival, Lincoln (9-10 June).
- 15 Essex Show, Chelmsford (15-16 June).
- 20 Lincolnshire Agricultural Show, Lincoln (20-21 June).
- 23 Military Musical Pageant, Wembley Stadium (23-24 June).
- 23 Gas Board Gala, Leicester.
- 24 Chesterfield (Derbyshire) Carnival.
- 27 Royal Norfolk Show, Norwich (27-28 June).
- 30 Aveling Barford Show, Grantham (Lincolnshire) (30 June-1 July).

JULY 1979

- 7 Open Day, Depot Queen's Division, Bassingbourn (Hertfordshire).
- 7 Open Day, Royal Pioneer Corps Training Centre, Wootton (Northamptonshire).
- 14 Corby (Northamptonshire) Tattoo and Highland Games (14-15 July).
- 17 East of England Show, Peterborough (Cambridgeshire) (17-19 July).
- 27 Northampton Borough Show (27-29 July).

AUGUST 1979

- 2 Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo (2-11 August).
- 2 Bakewell (Derbyshire) Show.
- 2 Leicester Army Display (2-4 August).
- 4 Colchester (Essex) Carnival.
- 4 Cromford (Derbyshire) Traction Rally (4-5 August).
- 15 Cromer (Lincolnshire) Carnival.
- 24 British Timken Show, Northampton (24-25 August).
- 25 Expo Steam, Peterborough (Cambridgeshire) (25-27 August).
- 26 Eye (Suffolk) Show (26-27 August).
- 27 St Albans (Hertfordshire) City Carnival.
- 27 Aylsham (Norfolk) Show.
- 27 Moorgreen Show, Nottingham.
- 27 Leicester City Show (27-28 August).

SEPTEMBER 1979

- 8 South Norfolk Tattoo, Attleborough.
- 8 Hoddesdon (Hertfordshire) Carnival (8-9 September).



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Fabricate large structures, vehicle bodies and hulls, up to the size of a tank. Previous experience of modern techniques of manual metal arc and gas shielded welding processes an advantage. Understanding of Imperial and metric dimensions and ability to work to sketches is desirable.

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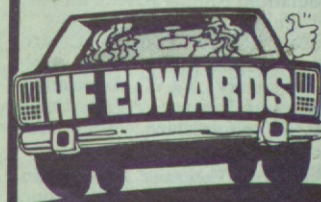
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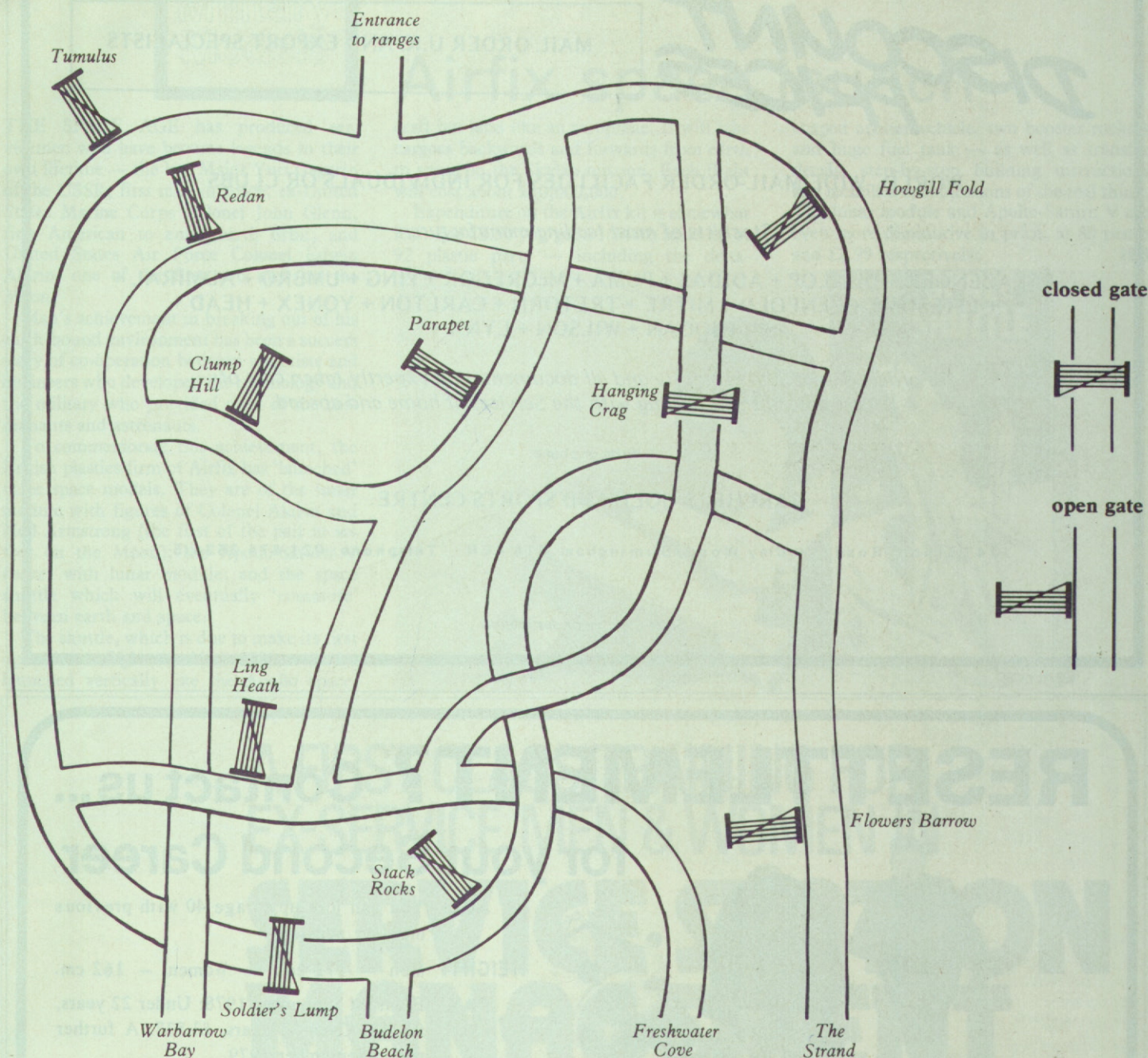


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TO THE BEACH

COMPETITION 243



ABOVE is a sketch map of a coastal range area. The four beaches are open to the public as often as possible but, when firing takes place, some or all have to be closed, depending on the number of units using the ranges.

The range commandant on this occasion needs three ranges but can keep one beach available to the public. He finds that to achieve this he need open (or close) only two gates.

Whether on foot or wheels, members of the public must stick to the fenced roads and, where roads cross each other at different levels, they may not switch from one road to the other.

The question is, which two gates did the commandant have opened or closed, and which beach did the public use? Send your

answer on a postcard or by letter, with the 'Competition 243' label from this page and your name and address, to:

Editor (Comp 243)

SOLDIER

Ordnance Road

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This competition is open to all readers at home or overseas and the closing date is Monday 11 December. The answer and winners' names will appear in the February 1979 **SOLDIER**. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 243' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or pre-paid labels will be disqualified.

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Books

Emblems

'Military Flags of the World 1618-1900' (Terence Wise)

Flags spanning some 300 years of history, from the time when military formations known as regiments came into being, are reviewed in this handy little volume. From the guidon carried by von Tilly's Dragoons in the early 17th century (the oldest known dragoon guidon in existence, having been made before 1609), to banners borne in the Colonial Wars of 1870 to 1900, the international spectrum is well covered.

Introductory notes touch on a number of interesting points such as the seven main classes of flag in



medieval heraldry, flag terminology, design, meaning and value and how regimental Colours 'became a symbol, intrinsically valueless, extrinsically priceless, an object through which new men acknowledge their loyalty to those who had given their lives in the past, a living symbol of the spirit and honour of the regiment.'

Nearly 400 flags, each illustrated in detailed colour, are fully described both historically and technically in this informative and instructive work.

Blandford Press Ltd, Link House, West Street, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1LL, £4.50 JFPJ

Classic

'Jane's Infantry Weapons 1978' (Edited by Denis H R Archer)

A close-up picture of Soviet marines using the 7.62mm RPD light machine-gun, followed by three pages of explanatory text, pictures and diagrams, may give some idea of the detailed investigation behind each item in this world classic for the infantryman. This is but one of hundreds of entries in pages devoted to the infantry weapons used by all countries of the world. The tome includes 1900 photographs and line drawings and the editor was assisted by three other specialists concentrating separately on rifles, ammunition and armoured fighting vehicles.

All infantry weapons are described and are classified in four general sections — point target weapons (including pistols, rifles, machine-guns and cannons), area weapons (grenades, mines, flamethrowers and mortars), anti-aircraft and anti-tank weapons, and armoured infantry vehicles. There is a section on sighting and surveillance systems, while a new section on battlefield communication gives an indication of current trends and descriptions of imminent systems, with full pictorial and diagrammatic detail.

Jane's Yearbooks are famous for the editors' overall appreciation of world military developments in a political context. In this volume it is pointed out that the supply of arms today to the third world is little different to the supply in 'colonial days.' Then they were issued free; now they are charged to the emergent nations. Political criticism of this aspect of the international arms trade is, therefore misleading.

Regarding Nato and the defence of Western Europe, the editor believes that Western interests outside the continent should be adequately protected.

Macdonald & Jane's Publishers Ltd, 8 Shepherdess Walk, London, N1 7LW, £29.50 GRH

First of two

'The Collector's Illustrated Guide to Firearms' (Martin Miller)

In this first of a two-volume series the author has deliberately omitted reference to priceless museum pieces and concentrated on the 'middle range of the market' and, therefore, within the means of the average private collector.

The arms extend through matchlock, wheellock, snaphaunce, flintlock and blunderbuss to modern rifles, pistols and sporting guns. Included are pepperbox pistols, air weapons and curiosa such as 'boot-leg,' knife, dagger and axe pistols. There are also pistols shaped like walking sticks, penknives and a ten-shot 'harmonica.'

All the weapons are illustrated, some shown in their cases, and the captions give full detail to enable easy identification by both collector and dealer. There is also a fully illustrated section on powder horns, flasks and cap dispensers.

This is a well-produced volume that could be of considerable assistance to the collector, whether beginner or experienced, and a useful reference book for all, including the dealer.

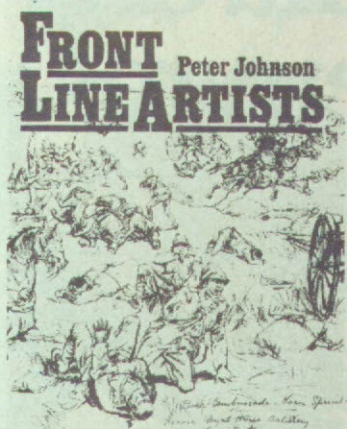
Barrie & Jenkins Ltd, 24 Highbury Crescent, London, N5 1RX, £10.00 GRH

War in pictures

'Front Line Artists' (Peter Johnson)
The frustrations of one's own attempts to make drawings during World War Two sharpens appreci-

ation of the exploits of the artist-reporters described in this interestingly written account.

Melton Prior, drawing for the Illustrated London News in the Ashanti War, found it necessary to add a double-barrelled gun to his sketching kit. Suddenly confronted by two warriors, he shot both. Later he was pressed into service to hold



down a soldier whose leg was being amputated in the field. No wonder 'he hardly ever found time to draw.' Yet, he and other artists maintained a steady flow of pictures to their editors.

World War One saw the end of free-roving artists, though many enjoyed 'official' status. Among these was Paul Nash, who said, 'I was not allowed to put dead men into my pictures.'

By World War two the camera was ousting the pencil. Several official artists were at work but the only Briton named is Ronald Searle, for his non-official eye-witness sketches of Japanese prison atrocities. Cassell Ltd, 35 Red Lion Square, London, WC1R 4SG, £6.95

Espionage

'Take Nine Spies' (Fitzroy Maclean)
In this splendid book, Sir Fitzroy Maclean brings his powerful narrative gifts to bear on nine 20th century spies who, in one way or another, have gained their place in history. They are Mata Hari, Alfred Redl, Yevgeni Azef, Richard Sorge, William Martin, Elyeza Bazna, Kim Philby, Gordon Lonsdale and Oleg Penkovsky.

The hapless Mata Hari and William Martin, the famous 'man who never was,' hardly qualify as spies, but their stories are worth telling. Philby and Lonsdale need little introduction, nor really does the brilliant Richard Sorge, who performed so superbly on behalf of Stalin while convincing the Japs that he was an ardent Nazi.

Balkan intrigue is supplied here by Bazna, the notorious Cicero, who, as valet to the British Ambassador to Turkey, systematically pinched a host of secrets — only to be paid off by the Germans with forged banknotes.

For double-dealing, Azef takes the biscuit. While working for the Tsar's secret police against revolutionaries, he plotted with those same revolutionaries the assassinations of the Tsar's uncle, the Grand Duke Sergei, and the Minister of the Interior, Plehve.

Alfred Redl, head of the Austrian Secret Service before World War One, spied for Russia for ten years before he was uncovered by his own protégé, Major Max Ronge.

The star spy, however, is Oleg Penkovsky, the Russian colonel who, sickened by Communism and convinced that the Kremlin was trying to provoke an atomic war, freely gave his services to the West and is credited with supplying the information which enabled Kennedy to call Khrushchev's bluff during the Cuban missile crisis.

Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 11 St John's Hill, London, SW11 1XA, £6.95 JCW

Eastern Front

'The Russian Front: Germany's War in the East, 1941-45' (Edited by James F Dunnigan)

'The Russian War 1941-45' (Text by A J P Taylor)

Even today it is difficult for the average Westerner to comprehend the sheer vastness of the war in Russia — at one time, the front stretched from the Arctic Ocean to the Caucasus. It was a titanic struggle and it was there, on Russia's endless steppes, that Hitler's war was decided. Without allied aid, the Russians probably could not have achieved what they did, but the fact remains that by

Continued overleaf



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Continued from page 49

every measure the Russian Front was the grandest and most horrifying.

With masterly conciseness and objectivity, Mr Dunnigan and his co-authors — Stephen B Patrick, Edward McCarthy, Colonel Trevor N Dupuy and David C Isby — present a comprehensive and lucid account which can be thoroughly recommended as an ideal introduction to the Russo-German War. The bibliography gives wide-ranging advice on further reading.

That doyen of historians, Mr A J P Taylor, confesses to being 'stunned and inspired' by the album of photographs — the work of Soviet war cameramen — which he introduces. One cannot disagree with him. It is a book devoted to the Soviet people, 20,000,000 of whom died, and he emphasises that they did not endure the war for conquest or to spread communism. They fought for their homes and a peaceful existence.

He asks: 'How could a people who suffered 20,000,000 dead, or Soviet statesmen who saw their state come near to destruction, seek another great war? Those who look at these photographs... will perhaps agree that the Soviet people are a great people who deserve our sympathy and friendship.'

Again, one cannot disagree, but we have to remember that friendship is a two-way traffic. These pictures show the depth of suffering experienced by Russia and give a clue to that country's deep-rooted distrust of the outside world. If they help us to understand that, we are half way to understanding Russia and, hopefully, on the road to lasting peace.

1 Arms & Armour Press, Lionel Leventhal Ltd, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London, NW3 1QQ, £6.50

2 Jonathan Cape Ltd, 30 Bedford Square, London WC1, £6.95

JCW

IN BRIEF

'The First Ten Years' (Gregory Blaxland)

This informative booklet covers, as its title implies, the first ten years of The Queen's Regiment. An opening section on regimental events gives the reader a short, pithy background to the formation of the regiment and this is followed by a review of its distinguished service in Northern Ireland and elsewhere. The final pages are given over to regimental, Territorial and Volunteer detail.

In a nutshell here are a few pages of concise regimental history which could be useful to future historians and will certainly help the present day enthusiast.

Regimental Headquarters, The Queen's Regiment, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1JY, 30p (including post and packing UK)

'English Poetry of the First World War: A Bibliography' (Catherine W Reilly). Almost unbelievably no fewer than 2225 poets of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, servicemen and civilians, who personally experienced World War One, are listed in this remarkable bibliography. In addition there is a supplementary list of wartime poets from other English-speaking nations.

This is a fascinating work and one marvels at the industry of the author. From household names like Rupert Brooke and Edmund Blunden to virtually unknown poets like Lieutenant John Still, of The East Yorkshire Regiment, or W J Rich, author of 'The Blinded Hero,' and hundreds of others, many only identified by initials, the very completeness of this book will be invaluable to students of the poetry and history of a troubled and tragic period.

George Prior Associated Publishers, Rugby Chambers, 2 Rugby Street, London, WC1N 3QU, £14.95

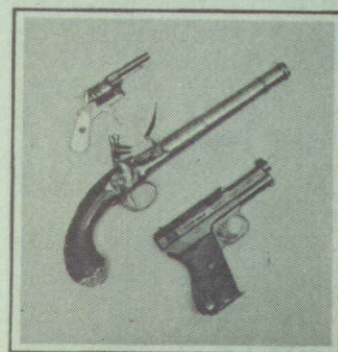
'The Observer's Book of Firearms' (Nicholas du Quesne Bird)

This strongly bound pocket-sized book of pistols and rifles shows 'the development of the gun from the most primitive hand-held cannon to the most sophisticated assault rifle.' It is a very informative little book and admirably accomplishes its purpose.

The Observer's Book of

FIREARMS

NICHOLAS DU QUESNE-BIRD



It also dispenses much information about acquiring, examining and caring for weapons.

It is of especial interest to the beginner in firearms collection and even gives a 1547 explanation for the devils that ride bullets and cause them to miss targets, but 'cannot remain seated on a spinning ball' fired from a rifled barrel.

Frederick Warne (Publishers) Ltd, 40 Bedford Square, London, WC1B 3HE, £1.25

'The Second Book of Wargaming' (F E Perry)

A useful and inexpensive addition to the wargamers' library. Mr Perry examines and advises on such topics as crossing rivers, gas warfare, night fighting and trench warfare, support services, seaborne invasion and island defences.

Argus Books Ltd, 14 St James Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, £1.75

'Path to a Pub' (T E Chilton)

After 30 years in the licensed trade, Mr Chilton offers this little booklet by way of passing on his business experience for the benefit of those going into the pub line. He includes tips on the kind of house to go for — tenanted, managed or 'free' — describing the differences and appends lists of useful addresses including breweries large and small and Members of the Association of Valuers of Licensed Property.

T E Chilton, 13/14 Ailingworth Street, Brighton, Sussex, 40p



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