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Good batsmen don't blink

By TOM GRAVENEY

WELL, it's a good theory. And there's probably a lot of truth in it. If you're facing a spin bowler when the ball hits the ground and breaks – that's the moment a mere flicker of an eyelid can lose you your wicket. Mind you I'm keen on this theory because it seems people who blink least are those with brown eyes. So you can guess what colour mine are . . .

When business gets hectic, I enjoy helping out.

Out of the crease and into the local

Cricketing shop-talk takes place mainly in the local. And why not? After all, a cricket match, the village green, and a pub are the traditional makings of a day's enjoyment. 'Course, it's a while since I played on the green but the feeling's just the same. After a match – into the bar for a good pint and a chat. What could be better?

When a team of cricketers get together over a drink, a lot of thoughts and ideas are exchanged. We never tire of the game or talking about it. I enjoy a drink, people, atmosphere, in fact everything that makes a pub a good place to be.

Never Stumped

Y'know there are a lot of good pubs around – wherever I've played cricket I've always found one to suit my taste. So when people ask me where I like to relax – I'm never stumped for an answer.

Like Tom Graveney – look in at the local

SOLDIER

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Contents

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INFANTRY

The Future

Within the next two years the Regular Army's infantry structure is to be radically reorganised. This will result in

The present ten brigades and three large regiments being reorganised into five "divisions" named

THE QUEEN'S DIVISION (12 battalions), comprising The Queen's Regiment, The Fusilier Brigade and The Royal Anglian Regiment;

THE KING'S DIVISION (11 battalions), The Lancastrian Brigade, The Yorkshire Brigade and The North Irish Brigade;

THE PRINCE OF WALES'S DIVISION (11 battalions), The Wessex Brigade, The Mercian Brigade and the Welsh Brigade;

THE SCOTTISH DIVISION (eight battalions), The Lowland Brigade and The Highland Brigade; and

THE LIGHT DIVISION (seven battalions), The Light Infantry Brigade and The Royal Green Jackets.

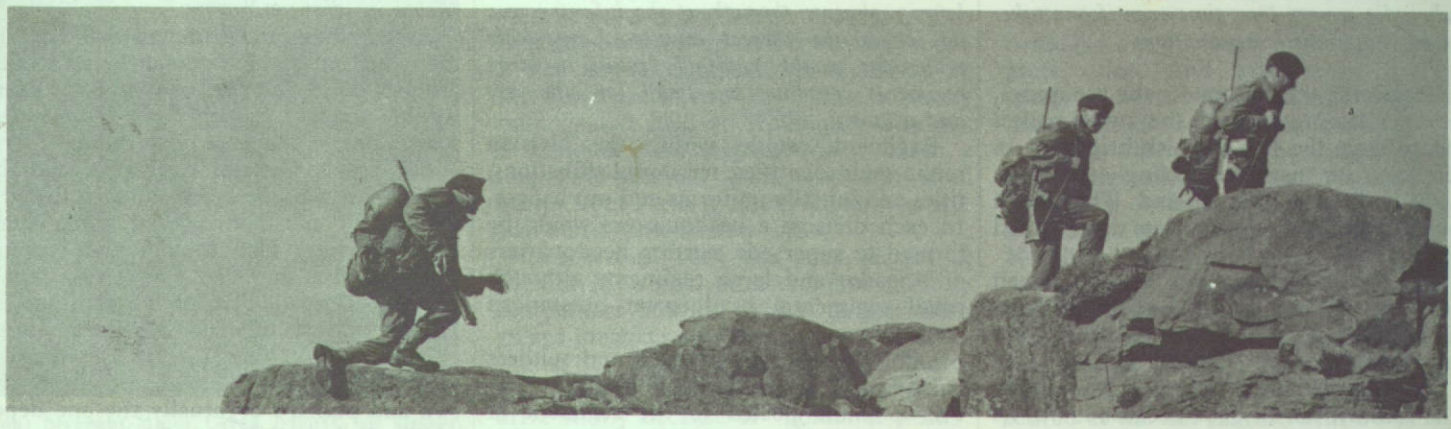
A new name for the Brigade of Guards—The Guards Division.

Divisional headquarters replacing headquarters of brigades and large regiments.

Eventual rationalisation of dress within divisions and introduction of divisional cap badges.

A single colonel commandant of each division. The end of councils of colonels.

The Parachute Regiment is not affected by the reorganisation which will be introduced by stages from July next year and completed mid-1969. Brigades and large regiments will preserve their identities, territorial affiliations and titles. The Army Board has rejected a Corps of Infantry as "unwieldy and impersonal."



"Preserving the best features"

MR Denis Healey, Secretary of State for Defence, told the House of Commons that the aim of the infantry reorganisation "is to meet the needs of the future while preserving the best features of the regimental system."

He said: "*It has become clear that the present groupings are too small to meet the needs of the future. These larger groupings will allow for contraction or for expansion with the least possible difficulty. In the new organisation it will be easier to smooth out inequalities in manpower as between one battalion and another. The reorganisation will also make for efficiency in recruit training and economy.*"

At a press conference Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Harington, Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff, referred to possible cuts in infantry strength.

He said the new concept "*is designed to cater for any reductions without further reorganisation*" and added: "*We (the Army Board) were influenced particularly by the possible reductions in the infantry in the immediate future and also in the longer term.*

"*We do not yet know what the reductions will be nor do we know over what period they will be made, but they could be considerable. It is therefore important that the new structure for the infantry should be able to absorb any likely contraction.*"

Mr Gerry Reynolds, Minister of Defence (Administration), told a questioner: "*I do not think from just a statement on reorganisation of the infantry you will be advised to deduce anything on cuts other than what in fact has been said, namely that this is an organisation which we think can endure for a very long time even if one takes the most pessimistic assumptions . . .*"

Explaining the reasons for the groupings, General Harington said the two smallest groups were the two Scottish brigades—in deference to national feeling—and The Light Infantry Brigade and The Royal Green Jackets, which had a deep-rooted affinity.

The Welsh Brigade was being grouped with the Wessex and Mercian brigades because all their recruiting areas were contiguous.

The North Irish Brigade was going with The Lancastrian Brigade because it was its nearest neighbour and had in its area a large Irish population. It had been decided to include The Yorkshire Brigade in this group. The North Irish regiments would retain a depot in Northern Ireland as a special case.

The Queen's Regiment and The Royal Anglian Regiment also formed a group.

"*Each of these groups,*" he added, "*has access to one or more of the main sources of recruits, a point which will have even greater importance in the future than it has had in the past.*

"*The Parachute Regiment has special characteristics which make its grouping with any division unsuitable . . .*

"*The Brigade of Guards is already of a reasonably appropriate size and for this reason and because of its traditional responsibilities should clearly continue as a group of its own.*"

Explaining the reason for choice of "division" as a title General Harington said: "*We wanted a new title for a new organisation and division is a good name. It is an old infantry name and has a nice sound about it. It fits in well with the fact that they are being formed by an amalgamation of brigades.*"

Reorganisation would improve the imbalances of strength between one brigade or large regiment and another, was the answer to uneven quality of manpower and would make it possible to concentrate recruit training into fewer depots.

A Corps of Infantry had been rejected. "*A single organisation devoid of intermediate groups would because of its size be too impersonal and also unmanageable . . .*"

General Harington went on: "*In the light of the scale of reductions, which in the long term the infantry might suffer, and our conclusion that larger groupings of infantry were required, it became clear that current Army Board policy of evolution to large regiments throughout the infantry was no longer the correct answer. Large-scale reductions would inevitably result in large regiments becoming too small for efficiency and economy . . .*"

Regiments would within the division retain their identities, territorial affiliations, titles and initially uniforms and cap badges. In each division a headquarters would be formed to supersede existing headquarters of brigades and large regiments although small regimental headquarter outstations would remain.

Officers would be gazetted and soldiers enlisted into the division although whenever possible posted to the regiment of their choice. They would be on respective common rolls with the possibility of free movement when necessary among regiments of the division. Basic training would be on a divisional level.

Each division would have a colonel commandant, if possible a senior serving officer. He would be assisted by a deputy colonel commandant, a full-time brigadier, replacing the brigade or large regiment colonel. There would be no council of colonels but the colonel commandant would have the benefit of the advice of the colonels of individual regiments.

General Harington said the new system would be implemented in three phases.

PHASE ONE would be a period of administrative planning under the divisional brigadier who would be appointed on 1 January 1968. It would be completed by the middle of next year.

PHASE TWO, beginning on 1 July 1968, would be marked by the appointment of the colonel commandant, the setting up of divisional headquarters and the introduction of the common roll. The headquarters would gradually take over the responsibilities of brigade and large regiment headquarters for manning and recruit training and by mid-1969 would have absorbed them.

PHASE THREE would begin on 1 July 1969. The divisional concept would be further developed and such measures as rationalisation of dress taken.

Answering a question, General Harington said: "*Our idea behind rationalisation of dress is not to try and produce standardisation for the sake of it and we only hope requests for standardisation will come from within the division.*"

Asked about the common roll he said they did not foresee people being moved around "*just for the sake of it.*" There would not be "*great flows to and fro, particularly in the more junior ranks.*"

On depots General Harington said the purest aim was one depot for each division —but this must involve at some stage extra building. They thought that without much trouble they could have two depots to a three-brigade division, perhaps one for holding and the other for recruit training.

They hoped that the Welsh Brigade Depot at Crickhowell might be one of the two and perhaps eventually the one depot of The Prince of Wales's Division.

HAMMER AND TONGS

TO the dedicated it is music, to the casual observer it is a violent assault on eardrums. Horses seem indifferent—most of the time.

Amid the sound of five or six farriers beating horseshoes into shape some high-spirited thoroughbred occasionally rebels and lashes out with a graceful rear leg. But, as farriers will tell you, this is all part of the game.

Top: Sergeant-Major Green (right), his striker, flashing hammers and hot metal and (above) the Sergeant-Major races to end in the time limit.

And the game is competitive farriery, one of the more unusual "sports" in which the Army indulges. At the School of Farriery at the Royal Army Veterinary Corps Training Centre and Depot, Melton Mowbray, they take it very, very seriously. You could detect disappointment in the voice of the School's Farrier Sergeant-Major William Green when he admitted: "I could have done better." He was talking about the School's open competition in which some of the country's best civilian farriers took part.

Sergeant-Major Green, the only soldier placed, came fourth. But it was a near thing. Only one point separated him from the winner, a young man who shoes the Queen's horses.

The judge, Mr M J Clark of the Worshipful Company of Farriers, said he had never seen such a general high standard. One feels the horses were well contented, too!

The annual competitions organised by the Corps are in two parts. First is purely military and held at Wellington Barracks in London. Here Sergeant-Major Green, a tough 36-year-old Scot who has shod horses from Perth to Hong Kong, won this year's first-class farriers' class.

The second part, the open classes at Melton Mowbray, attracted four military competitors and 19 civilian farriers from village practices all over the country.

The School of Farriery is a placid place. Nearby is a sign exhorting motorists to drive slowly because of "horses at work."

On competition day the peace was somewhat tarnished by the clang of metal on metal emerging from a long shed in which horses were on one side and furiously-engaged farriers on the other. A layman had difficulty deciding exactly what was taking place. Luckily Major S C Moffat, honorary organising secretary, was around to explain.

"Competitors are given certain tasks to do within a time limit. The judge looks for a foot prepared to receive the shoe and a shoe that fits the foot the competitor has prepared. One of the criminal things is to shape the foot to fit the shoe. The shoe should be made to fit the foot," he declared.

"A well-made and well-fitted shoe is an extension of the foot."

Mr Clark, an elderly Oxford man, was a ubiquitous father figure—strict, fair, popular and obviously in love with farriery.

Each competitor had a striker, a helper to do the heavy work. Only the competitor is judged but obviously a good striker is of great value. And with heavy hammers crashing down within inches of vulnerable limbs mutual confidence is essential.

Speedy farriery can be dangerous. But part of the military farriers' training at the School is safety precautions. No one should get between the fire and the anvil. Nothing should be left lying on the ground to injure or frighten the horse. Long-handled tools are used.

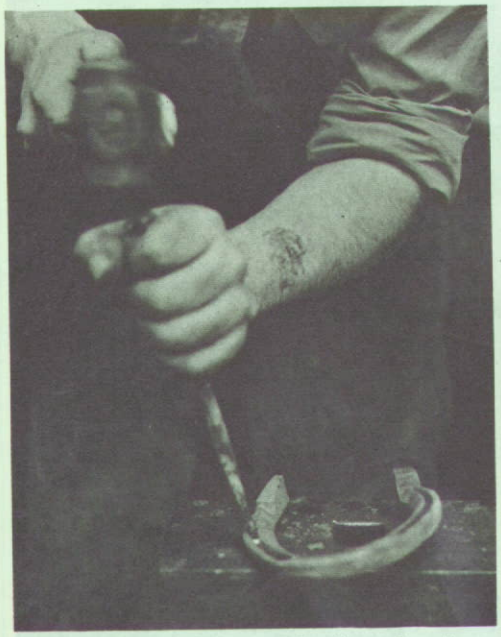
The Army entry was small because of the absence of the Household Cavalry, busy with parades. And one competitor retired at the last minute with a bad back.

Farrier "Tex" Gamble of the School won the Wellington Barracks competition

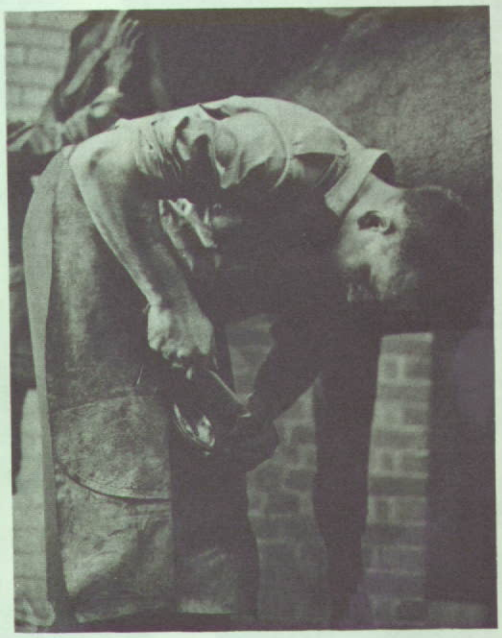
HAMMER AND TONGS

continued

Near the Farriery School is this weather-vane.



The metal has cooled; now the shoe takes shape.



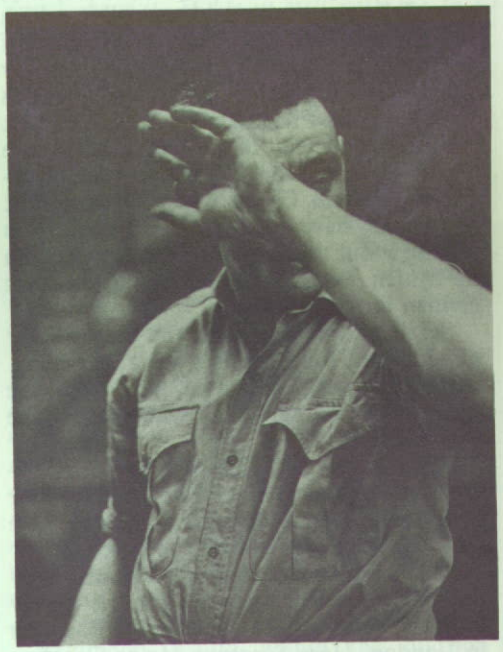
Sergeant-Major Green nails on a finished shoe.

Smoke gets into the eyes of another competitor.

FRONT COVER

Hard at work on the anvil is Farrier Sergeant-Major William Green, of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps School of Farriery at Melton Mowbray, an Army farrier champion. He is pictured here during the Melton Mowbray open farriery competitions. He served his apprenticeship in Perth, Scotland, before joining the Army and has tended Army horses all over the world. Picture by ARTHUR BLUNDELL.

Warm work. The Sergeant-Major takes a breather.



Judge Clark expertly examines the fitted shoe.

for second- and third-class farriers, a commendable effort to say he had been shoeing only for seven months. Alas, the battle on his home ground proved too tough for him.

One of the tasks in the class won by Sergeant-Major Green was to make a surgical shoe. This is usually done under the supervision of a veterinary officer and is to correct an injury or poor gait.

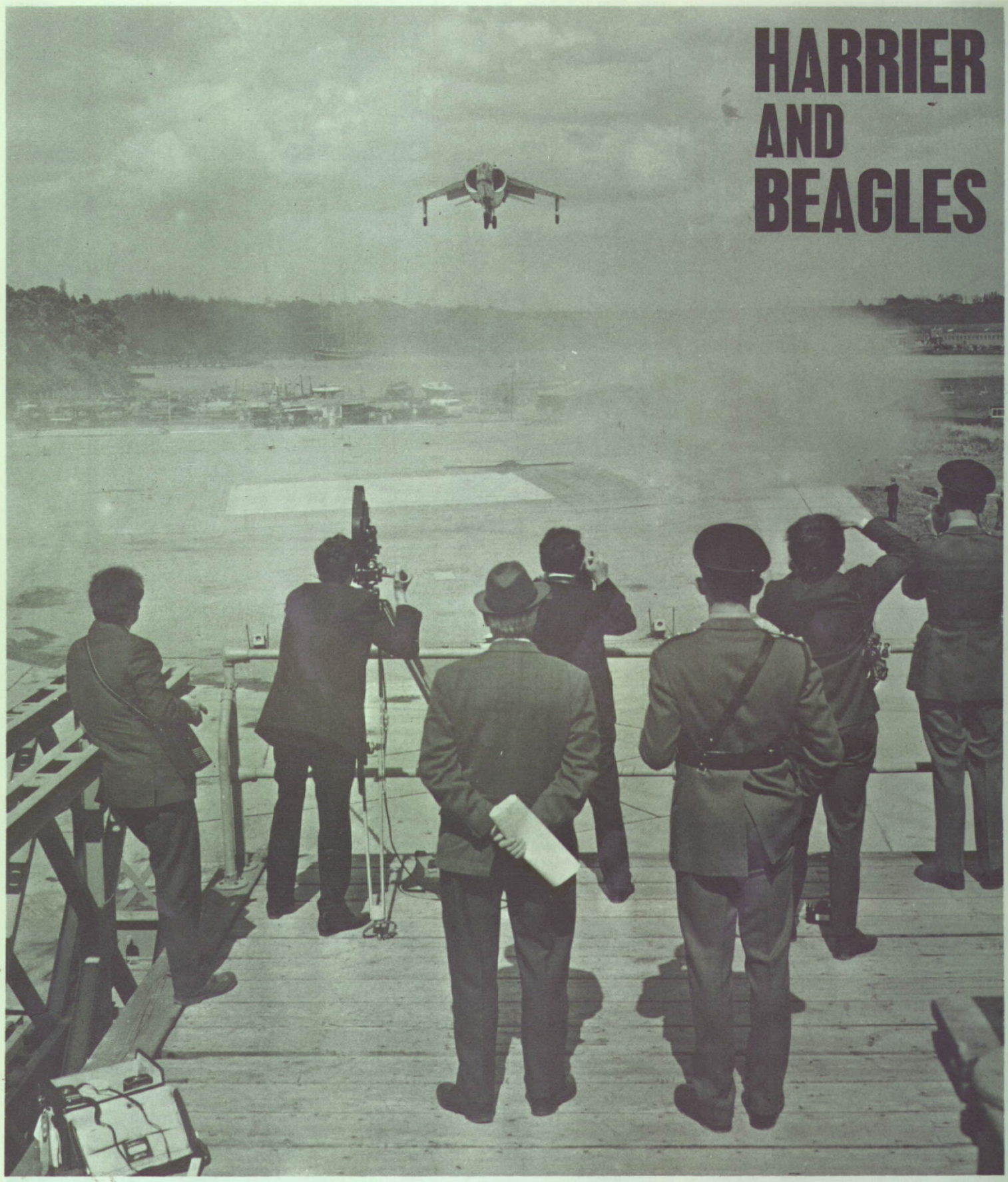
Picking up valuable tips were two Ghanaian soldiers on a course at the School. Their Army, they said, had about 300 horses and ten farriers.

The horses certainly took it all very nobly. One did get a little restless and spectators were warned to give him a wide berth. Said Major Moffat: "A 'green' horse is a bit chary of this sort of thing but the military horses are shod every month or six weeks and become very much used to having it done."

Some Army farriers—there are more than 30—are members of the Worshipful Company of Farriers; others are aiming for membership. There is a close link between the Company and the School of Farriery. Indeed, the Company paid for the prizes at the Melton Mowbray competition.

The Worshipful Company tests Army farriers for membership at the School and sends its own apprentices on two-week courses there. It is a profitable partnership born out of a mutual regard for an ancient and honourable craft.

HARRIER AND BEAGLES



Story by JOHN WRIGHT
Pictures by PAUL TRUMPER

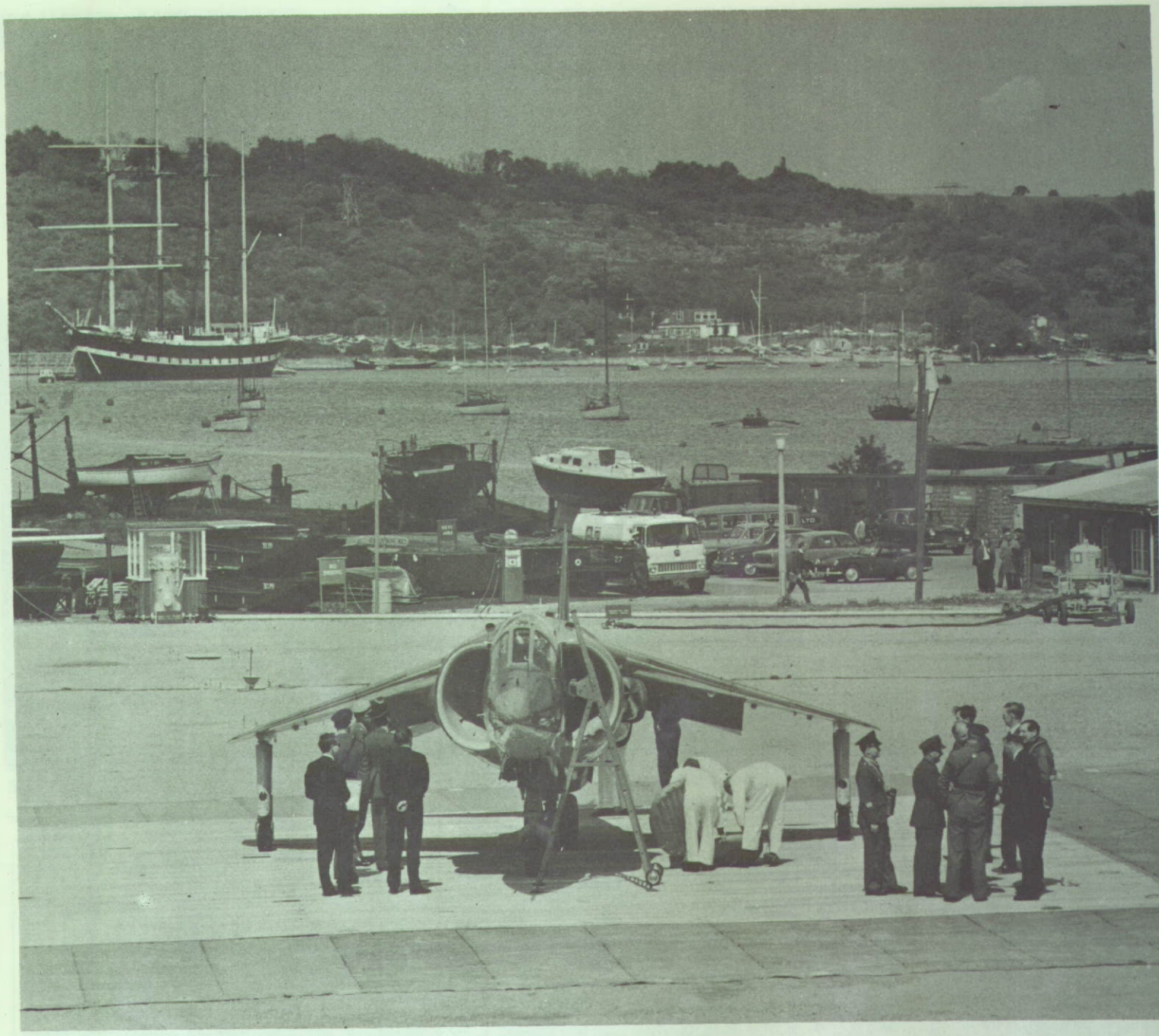
Clouds of dust and a cluster of eager cameramen as the Hawker P1127 approaches the landing pad.

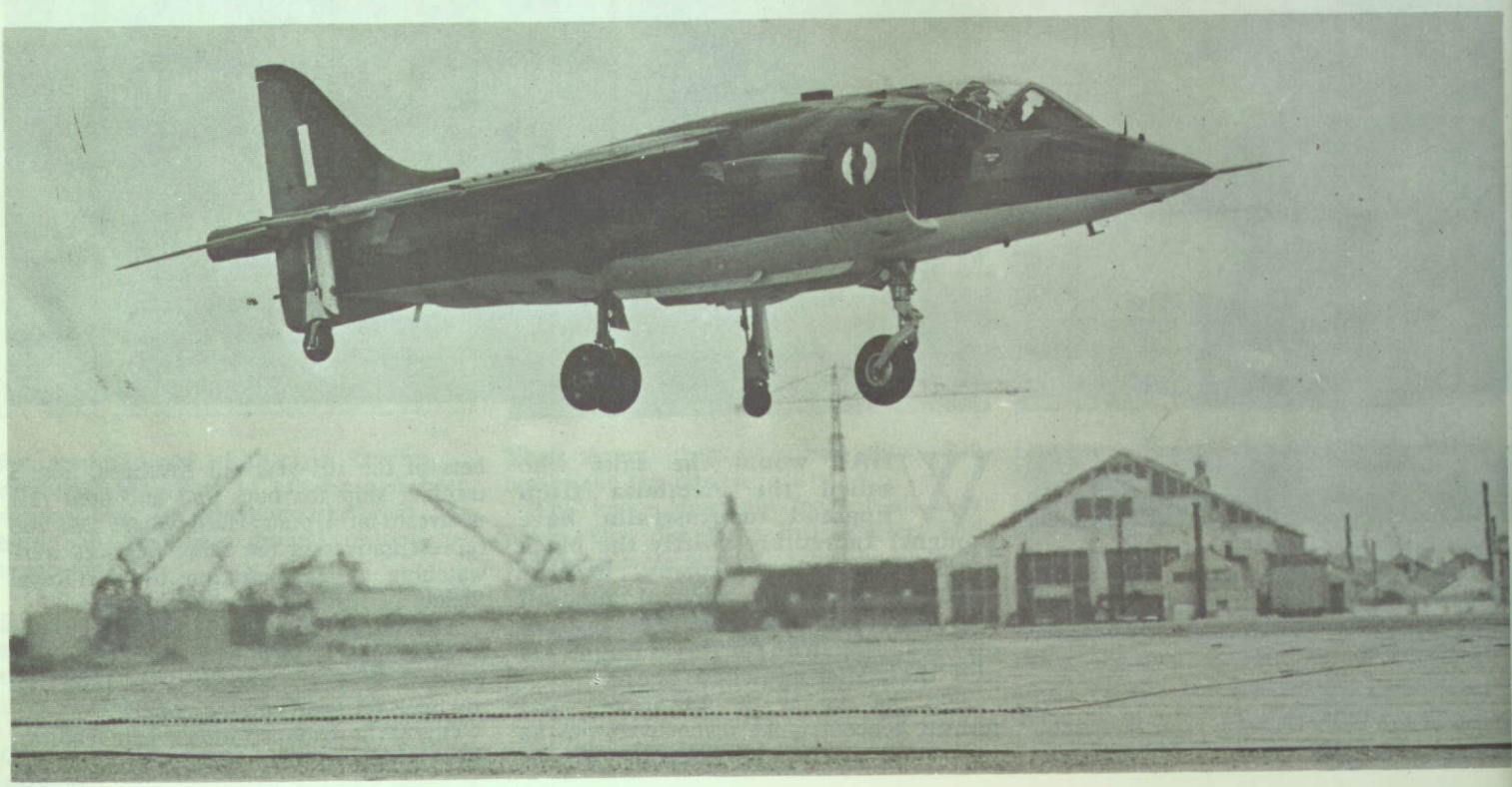
WHAT would the salts who sailed the Arethusa from England to Australia have thought? Incredibly swiftly the black speck over the Medway became Britain's fantastic vertical take-off and landing aircraft, the P1127, literally dropping in on the Royal Engineers and their distinguished guests.

And the din as the jet aircraft performed helicopter-like manoeuvres on the river bank was enough to shiver the timbers of the 101-year-old Arethusa, now a training ship for boys and anchored just upstream of Upnor Hard where 200 top representatives of the three Services were watching a demonstration by the Royal School of Military Engineering.

The Harrier, as it will be called when it goes into service with the Royal Air Force next year, landed yards from the top brass on a pad laid by sappers.

One of the demonstration's main features, this landing pad comprised a mat, 50 feet





square, of aluminium planks lying on a membrane, 84 feet square, of neoprene-coated nylon. The mat, on which the 'plane actually lands, protects the membrane—which keeps down dust and protects ground crew from flying stones and debris—from heat and blast.

The membrane weighs nearly half a ton and was laid by a non-commissioned officer and eight men in about 20 minutes. The aluminium took a non-commissioned officer and four men a further four hours to lay. Slow work—but it was the first time they had done it and the ground was hard for the dome-headed pins.

The equipment, which weighs a total of four-and-a-half tons, will undergo troop trials soon. It is better than anything designed before but improvements are still sought. There is great interest in the work on a membrane with a "hot" centre capable of withstanding the onslaught of the jets. This would do away with the need for the aluminium planking.

Although the Harrier, flown superbly by Hawker Siddeley's chief test pilot, Bill Bedford, was a spectacular part of the School's demonstration, it shared star billing with a prototype Pathfinder vehicle. This has been designed to cross a river early in an operation to provide a source of power for other vehicles less happy in water or those encountering difficulty in leaving the river.

As a free-crosser the Abbot 105-millimetre self-propelled gun is difficult to control. But the Pathfinder's fast winch, with its three-ton pull, guided it with ease across the six-foot-deep Upnor artificial lake at five miles an hour and up a 20-degree bank.

Next to cross was an armoured personnel carrier of 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment. It made its own way across at two knots but needed the Pathfinder to pull it up the slippery far bank.

Then the Stalwart asserted its independence in no uncertain way. It plunged at high speed into the lake and, propelled by its jets, surged across at four knots. The Pathfinder was waiting at the top of a 17-degree slope to help, but with the combined power of its wheels and jets the Stalwart scorned aid. On a steeper slope the Stalwart might have been glad of the help of this new Army vehicle lifesaver.

The Pathfinder itself is well equipped to ascend steep banks. If in difficulties it can fire rockets into the bank and haul itself out.

There were demonstrations of bridging, including the use of floating bridges soon to be replaced by more advanced ones designed for nuclear war conditions.

Much interest was shown in a raft built of airportable bridge equipment and rubber floats. It is powered by four outboards and has a crew of nine. The parts can all be carried in a Hercules aircraft or in five Land-Rovers and trailers. Undergoing extensive trials at the School, it is hoped to have it in service next year.

Also on display was a swim board operated by frogmen which can transmit signals about river profiles through a black box system to a gridded screen. This could be of great help in reconnaissance for river crossings.

Mainspring of the display were men of 20 Field Squadron, 36 Engineer Regiment, who carried out their watery tasks commendably well considering that until recently they were far away from water in South Arabia.

And there was a deliciously irrelevant ending to the proceedings—a march past by the Royal Engineers beagle pack.

The Hawker Siddeley P1127 will be the first vertical take-off and landing aircraft in squadron service in the world. Fifty have been ordered. The aircraft at Upnor was one of six development P1127s.

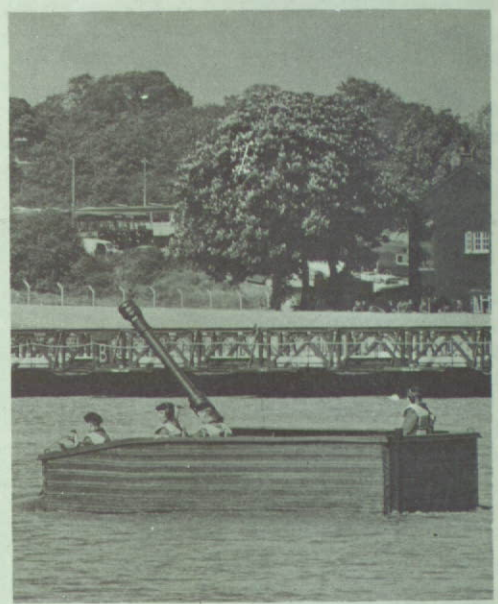
Design study was started in 1956-57 and the prototype first hovered in 1960. The first transition flight was in 1961. With the Royal Air Force it will have the Pegasus Six engine and two 30-millimetre cannon.

On display at Upnor was a lighting system for the landing pad developed by the Blind Landing Experimental Unit of the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Bedford. This includes a "traffic lights" system to warn the pilot of obstacles and a method of providing contrasting areas of light and shade which help him to judge height above the ground.

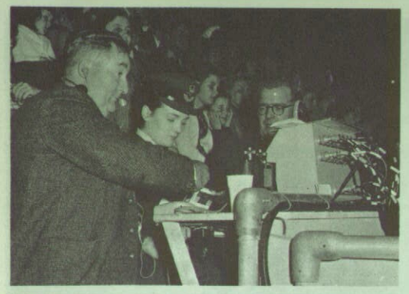
Top left: Safely down. Behind is the Arethusa.

Bottom left: Terrific din but impressive sight.

Below: Pilot Bill Bedford talks to a spectator.

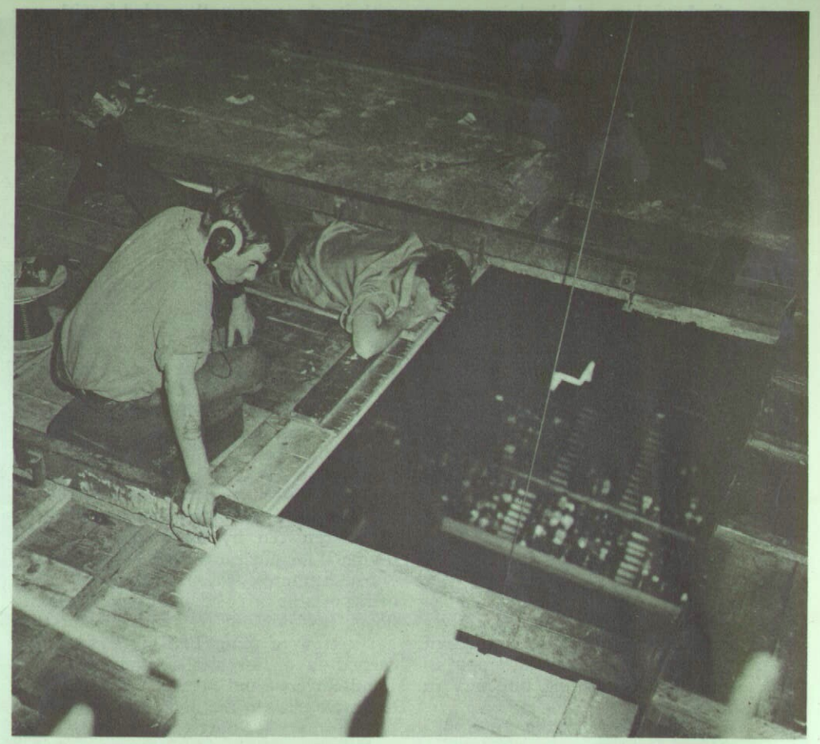


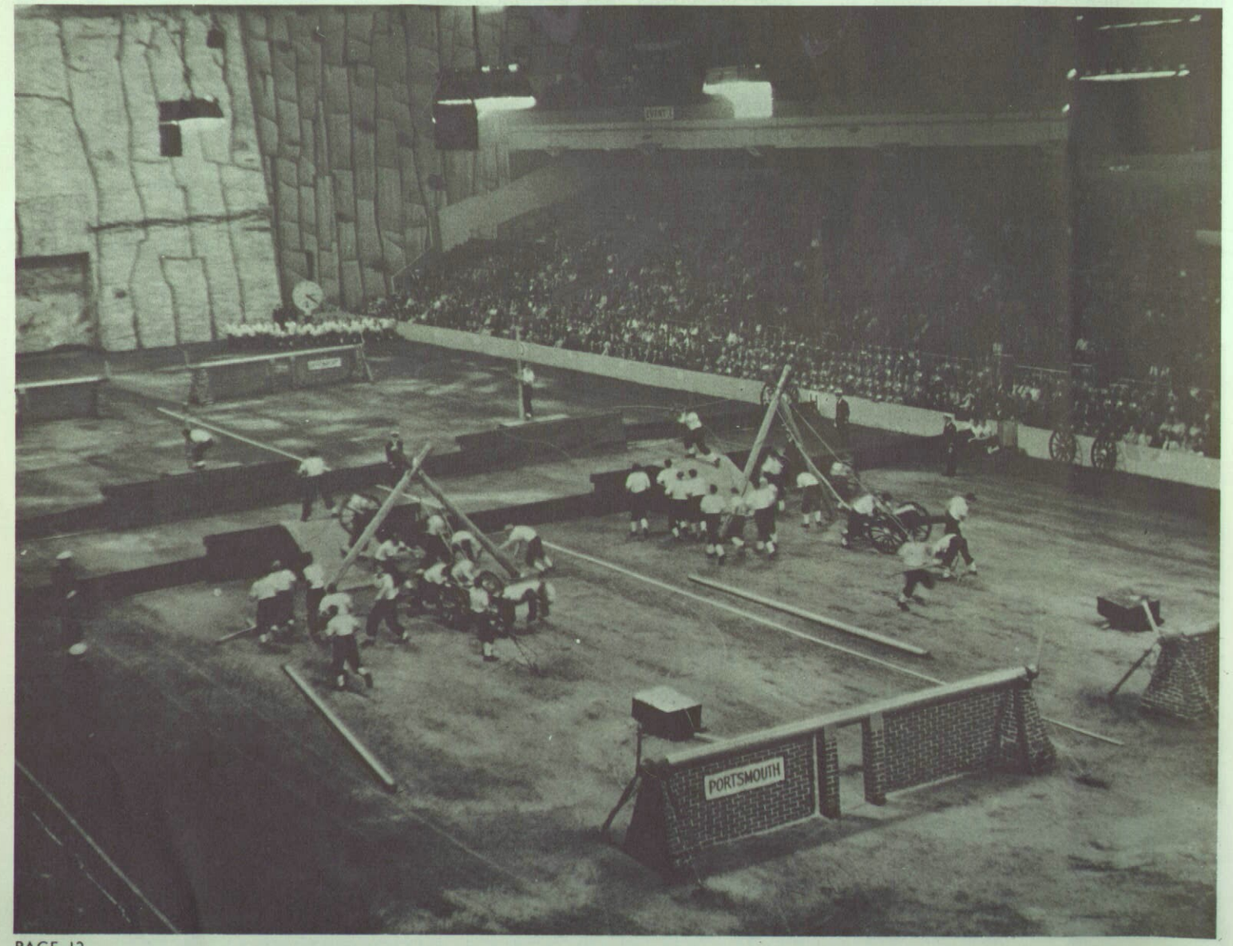
Left: Stalwart shows off for the benefit of the watchers and (above) the Abbot goes for a swim.

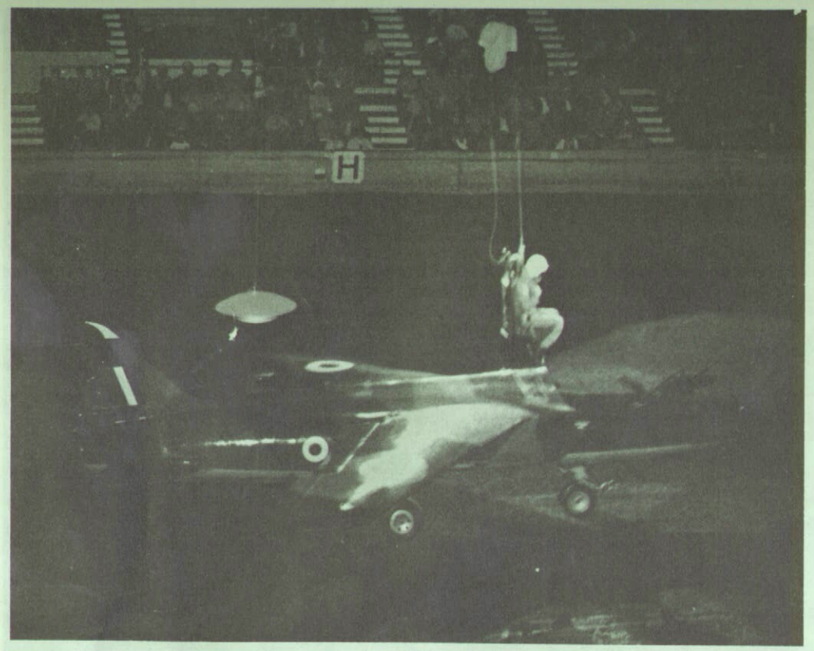


Above: The Tournament's nerve centre with radio contact with all parts of the arena. Right: In the roof, men control a parachute which is part of the exciting RAF display.

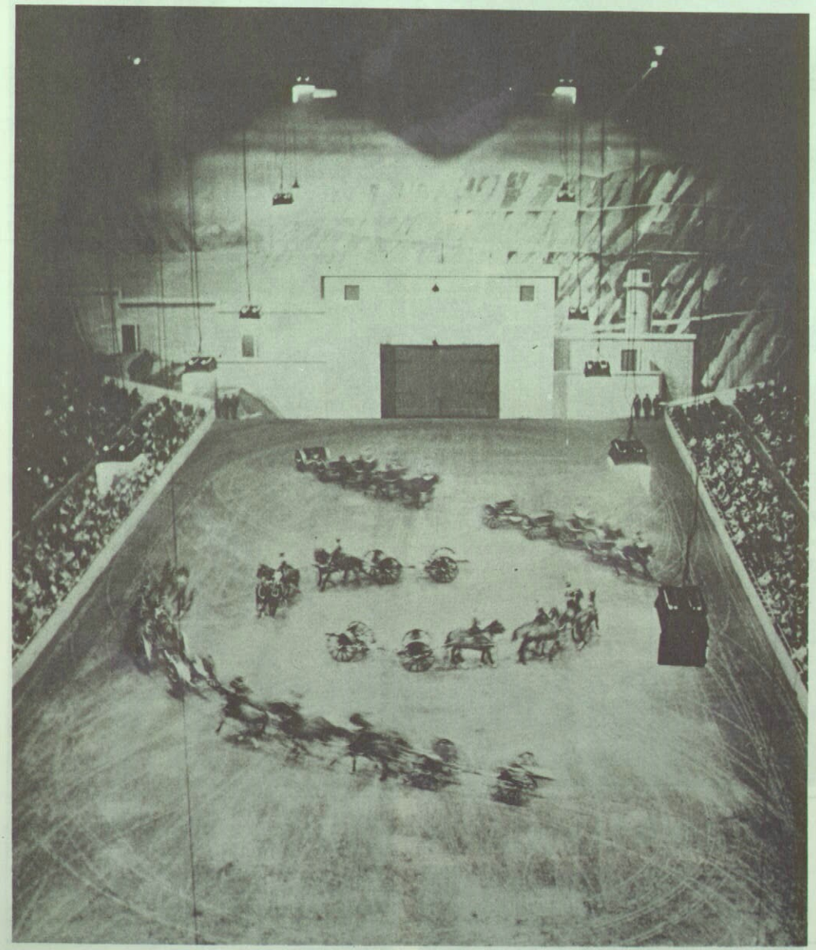
IT'S THE SERVICES SHOW!







Above: A pilot is ejected from his aircraft—part of the realistic RAF display. Bottom left: The ever-popular Royal Navy field gun competition. Below: Musical ride of the King's Troop.



AS this year's Royal Tournament thrills thousands the men whose meticulous planning ensures that the show runs like a giant piece of clockwork will be already thinking of next year's event.

Yes, it takes a year to produce the 17 days of glittering spectacle. And many spectators prepare for the next Tournament by booking for it during the current one, often asking for the same seats.

Behind the Tournament is a policy-making three-Service committee. Vice-chairman and responsible for detailed planning and running is Colonel B L Gunnel who says:

"Object of the Tournament is two-fold—to raise money for Services charities and to popularise the Services in the eyes of the public. The programme is designed so that it is a combination of the traditional and more modern aspects of the Services."

Each Royal Tournament costs more than £100,000 to stage.

At the moment participation is restricted to British and Commonwealth troops. So when planning begins this is the framework within which the committee works. But there are three displays that are "musts"—the Royal Navy field gun competition, the Royal Horse Artillery musical drive and the massed bands feature.

Then at least one display is allocated to Commonwealth troops. About six gaps are left to fill. Usually one goes to the Royal Navy, one to the Royal Marines and two each to the Army and Royal Air Force. All Services are then asked to put forward display suggestions.

Colonel Gunnel declares: "The primary object is to entertain the public rather than demonstrate new Service techniques. For instance, last year the Royal Navy put on a display of anti-submarine warfare designed to entertain as well as educate people in the technique."

A committee meeting is held in November to agree the form the Tournament will take. Then it is decided what men and equipment will be needed.

In April, Colonel Gunnel visits the units concerned to see them rehearsing. He says: "This rehearsal business is a delicate problem. If the chaps start training too early there is a danger that they will become bored, but if they begin late they can easily get into a muddle during the display. Half the art is having the men and women taking part in good temper and humour."

Earls Court is taken over by the Tournament organisers a week and a day before the show starts. Usually it is nothing but a shell. During the following four days the arena and seats are erected, the floor put in and the prefabricated camp built.

Then the administration moves in and on the Sunday before the Tournament the publicity march through Battersea Park takes place. During the next two days there are detailed rehearsals.

The displays teams come to Earls Court trained and rehearsed and usually it is just a matter of fitting them in with management, lighting and commentating. On the Tuesday a dress rehearsal is held and on the following day is the private view—a purely charitable affair which usually attracts the best house.

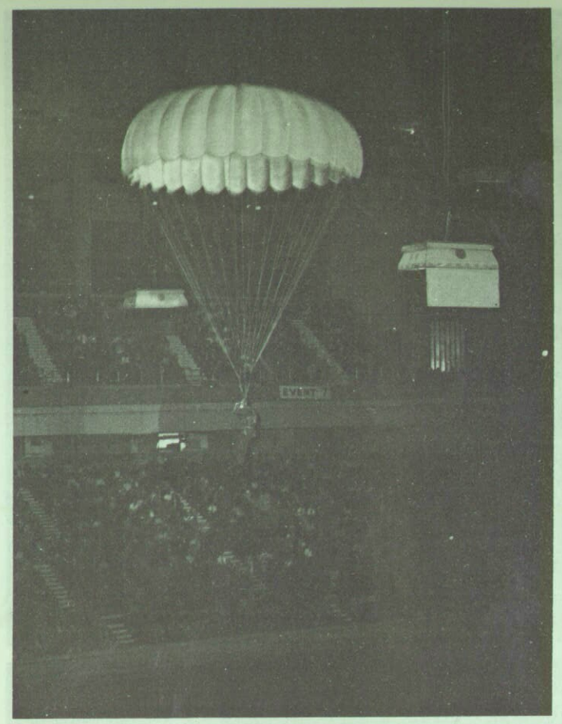
The first public performance is on the Wednesday evening and there are two shows a day except for Sunday and Monday.

Colonel Gunnel has a staff of volunteers, some serving and other ex-Service. Commentator is Dr John Reid, formerly of the Royal Air Force, who has been doing this expenses-only job for seven years The team handling roof winches and such things as parachute equipment is under Squadron-Leader John Reed, a serving Royal Air Force officer. And the arena master is Lieutenant-Colonel "Jumbo" Preston, who travels from his home in Majorca to manage the slick entrances and exits.

The Household Brigade provides a commandant, adjutant, quartermaster and regimental sergeant-major to control the Army personnel involved while the other two Services provide administrative staff in proportion to their strengths. All work under the Army commandant.

"We are financially independent," Colonel Gunnell says. "Over the years we have built up reasonable reserves and every year we finance the production out of money collected at the box office.

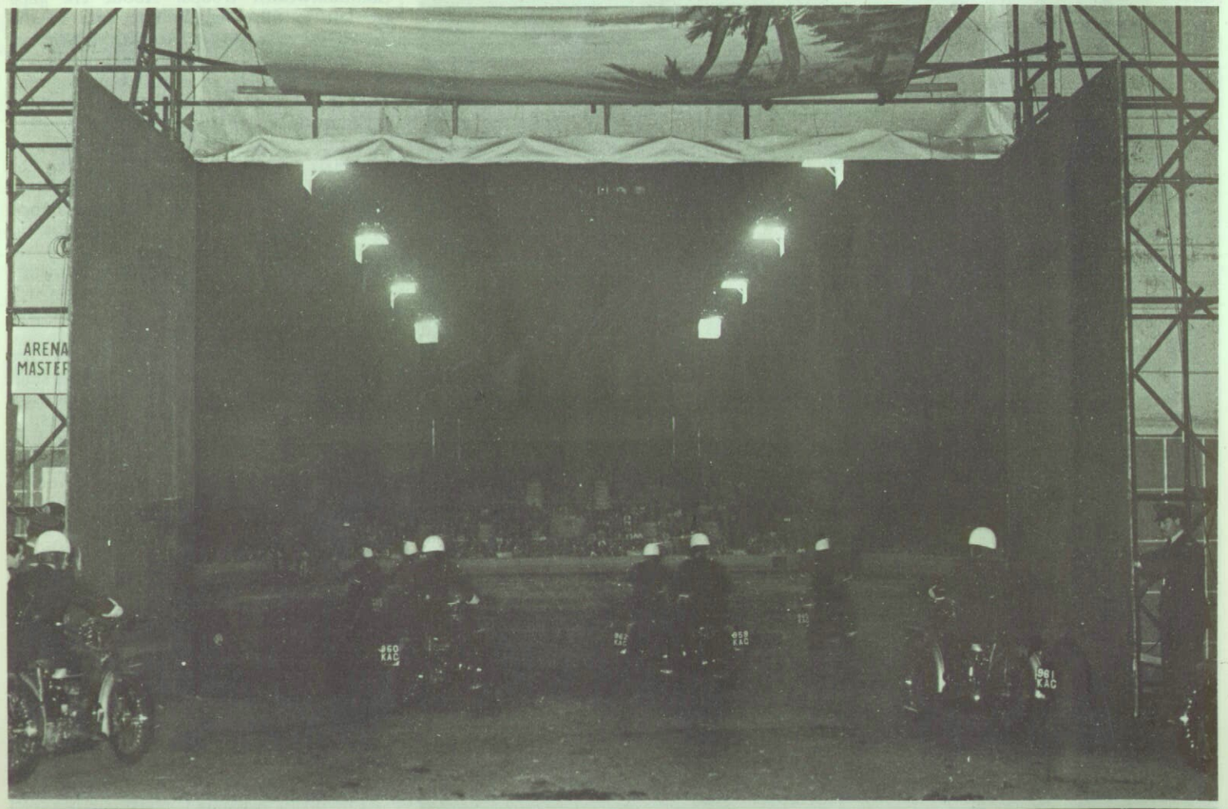
"When we have finished the Tournament we deduct expenses, put a small amount into reserve and give the rest to the Ministry of Defence to divide among Service charities."



Left: Thrills galore when the RAF goes to work.

Right: The Royal Marines —always a big attraction.

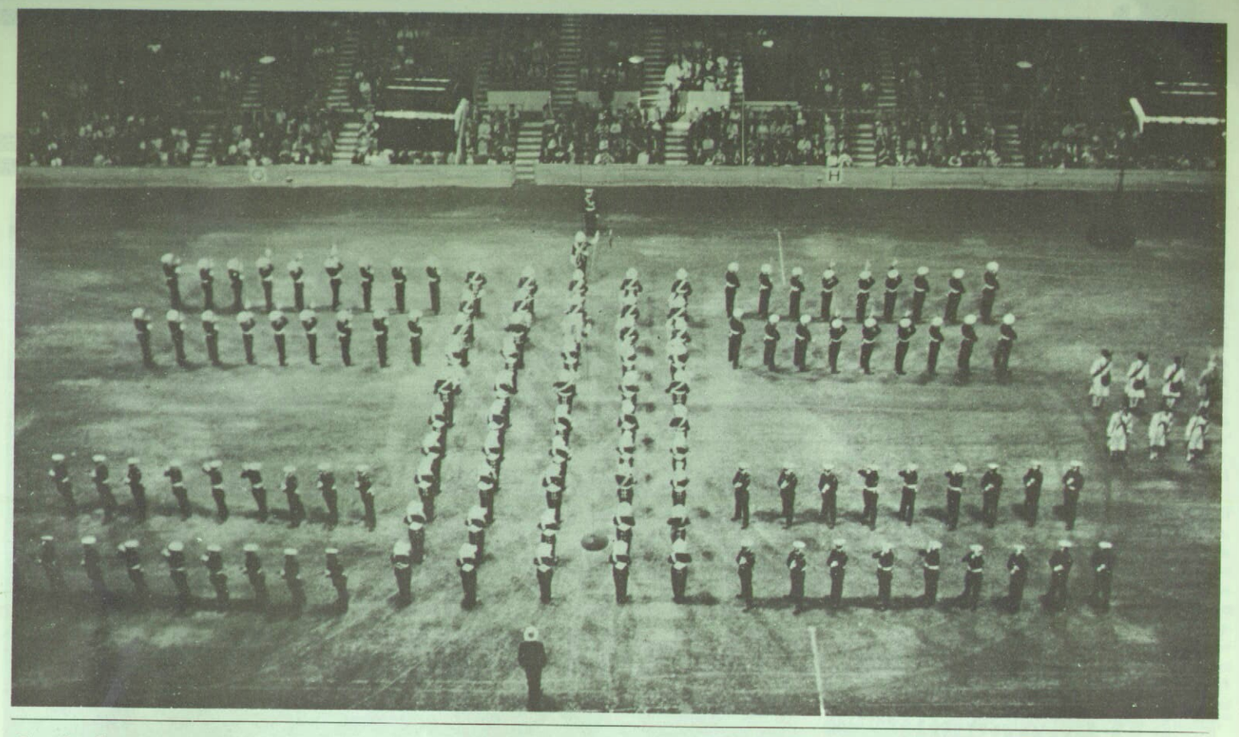
Below: The Royal Signals motor-cyclists roar out.



The Royal Tournament "camp" at Earls Court is built to accommodate about 1200 performers and administrators. They sleep and eat there and a special NAAFI is set up for them.

Another administrative problem is "booking" VIPs to take the salute from the Royal Box at each performance. They range from the Queen and other Royalty to the heads of the three Services, the Lord Mayor of London and the Services' senior officers.

On the last night the salute is taken by Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery—the privilege has been his ever since he was Chief of the General Staff.



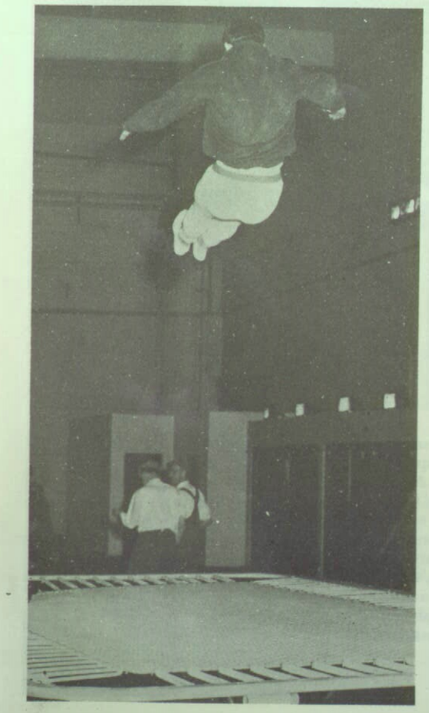
For the first time since 1958 this year's Royal Tournament will include the massed pipes and drums of the Lowland and Highland Brigades, including The Royal Scots, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, The Cameronians, The Black Watch, The Queen's Own Highlanders and The Gordon Highlanders.

Making their first appearance are the band, drums, dancers and singers of The Jamaica Regiment. The Royal Navy will present a realistic display in which a fully-manned diving bell will descend from ship's level to detonate an undersea mine.

The Royal Marines will stage a series of relay races between two crack teams, the climax of which will be a ski run at speeds up to 40 miles an hour down a slope of simulated snow.

The Royal Air Force Regiment is 25 years old this year and its display will vividly portray duties of guarding airfields and dealing with emergencies. Ceremonial will be provided by its Queen's Colour Squadron. The RAF will provide a police dogs display and massed bands, including that of the Women's Royal Air Force.

The golden jubilee of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents is being marked at the Tournament by an inter-Service vehicle-handling competition involving two teams each from the Royal Marines, Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force. It will include a Land-Rover obstacle course under combat conditions and a test for girl mini-drivers of the Services.



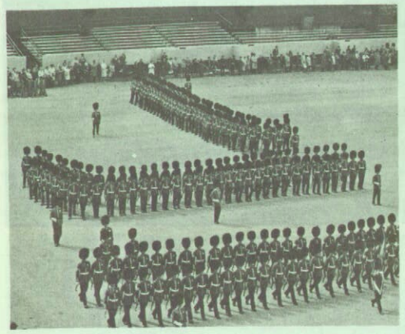
Left: Last-minute practice on the trampoline before facing an audience. Above: A horse of the RHA gets fed after the show.

BACK COVER

Not a youth in mod clothing but one of the soldiers of 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment, who mounted guard in uniforms of 1705 at Walsall Town Hall recently and were inspected by the Mayor. The ceremony stimulated great interest. Perhaps some teenagers picked up a few sartorial hints towards the current craze for Army "gear." Picture by Arthur Blundell.

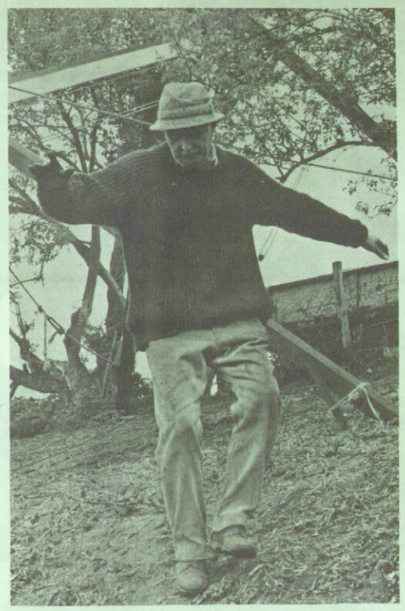
LEFT RIGHT & CENTRE

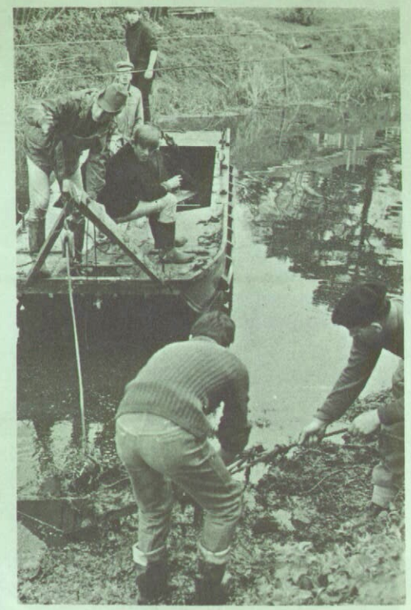
The brigade of bowlers (right) was photographed during the guard mounting ceremony on Horse Guards Parade, London, when six off-duty Guards officers appeared on the sidelines in "London dress." A Brigade of Guards regulation stipulates that officers will wear an ensemble of stiff white collars, dark suits and bowler hats and carry umbrellas until six in the evening. After six the dress order changes to "soft collar" and the sartorial cards come into their own. Meanwhile, the guard mounting ceremony, as can be seen from the picture below, is a Household Brigade occasion similar to the Queen's Birthday Parade.



Familiar sight, but an unusual load for this Wessex helicopter. Long after the wreck of the Torrey Canyon ceased to make news, troops worked on to clear the tanker's oil from polluted West Country beaches. The 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, called for Royal Air Force help with the last stage of the operation, the washing down of inaccessible coves on the Cornish coast. The Wessex (left) airlifted 40-gallon drums of detergent to the cliff-top above Polpry Cove near Land's End. The spraying teams roped down to the beaches and spread the detergent from hoses lowered to them down the cliff face. Later 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, relieved the Fusiliers and took over the headquarters at Penzance and the detachment locations at Camborne and St Ives.

Thirty-eight madcap tricks like this (right) make up a typical display programme by the Royal Signals Motorcycle Team. This year it will appear at 30 events up and down the country before the season winds up in September with an appearance in the Berlin Tattoo. The team has performed all over the world since it began with a horseback display in Aldershot 40 years ago. Usually the first display of a new season is a press show at Catterick, but in 1967 the team broke with tradition to say an anniversary thank you to the manufacturers of its Triumph motorcycles. Before Coventry City kicked off for their league match against Wolves, the team thrilled a crowd of 40,000, including many workers from the Triumph factory, with a sneak preview of the show the rest of the country was to see later on.





Canals seem to have an irresistible appeal for General Sir Hugh Stockwell. Eleven years after leading the highly controversial operation to save the Suez Canal, General Stockwell (far left) is engaged in a battle (left) for another waterway, much closer to home. From his cottage on the brink of the Kennet and Avon Canal, the 63-year-old general is powering a plan to open up a stretch of it for boating. Weeds and mud are choking a 15-mile run between Wooton Rivers and Devizes, but not a single lock interrupts the stretch and Sir Hugh wants to see boats sailing on it. Willing as he was, he realised that it was a job for more than one man and formed a junior division of the Kennet and Avon Trust with volunteers from local youth organisations and the Army School of Primary Education at Corsham. When operations started, General Stockwell led from the front in a helmet-like tweed hat, sweater and soiled trousers. While taking a break from dredging, the former commander of the Allied Land Forces at Suez in 1956 issued this communique: "We were pretty bogged down on that occasion but we managed to get things sorted out and make the Canal free again for shipping. We are hoping to have the same success with this operation." What did the soldiers think of having a general in command? "I think that now I am retired they are less frightened of me."

Gurkha soldiers defended his country during the Indonesian Confrontation and the Sultan of Brunei is grateful. In Singapore recently, he presented (above) a cheque for £50,000 to Major-General A G Patterson in recognition of services rendered to the State of Brunei by Gurkha units. When Brunei was threatened, Gurkha troops were the first to fly in and, as a brigadier, General Patterson commanded a Gurkha brigade. The Nepalese soldiers were represented at the presentation by Major Itasing Gurung. The £50,000 will be used by the Brigade of Gurkhas Welfare Fund to build student hostels at the Nepal depots of Dharan and Paktihawa where the fund sponsors high schools. General Patterson said the hostels would be seen by Gurkha soldiers and pensioners and would be appreciated as a very generous gift.

When Marlborough College's Combined Cadet Force inaugurated a new signals troop, it paraded before a distinguished group of Old Boys who have achieved high rank in the Royal Corps of Signals. The Army's Signal Officer in-Chief, Major-General P E M Bradley, headed a deputation which included four brigadiers and four colonels, all still serving. General Bradley presented badges to boys who have already taken and passed a signals course and took the salute (above). The new troop intends to make signal training more attractive in the Combined Cadet Force and hopes to interest boys in taking commissions in the Royal Corps of Signals. The venture has been well-backed by the Regular Army. The Corps band played at the inauguration; 30 Signal Regiment is giving the troop valuable aid on the training side.

HIS FILLET SOLE WON THE DAY

GAS, temperature and standards all ran high when the finals of the Army Cookery Competition were fought out over a battery of scorching ranges at Aldershot. And for the information of any cynics who think that "Army" and "cookery" go as well together as war and peace, chips came nowhere.

No disrespect to the Grenadier Guards who won the first cookery competition way back in 1896, but it is doubtful whether they would have recognised many of the delicious dishes served at the 1967 finals—much less been able to cook them. With the results turning on hairbreadth marking, the individual competition was a gruelling struggle between seven well-matched ace cooks.

The favourite and eventual winner of the individual championship, Staff-Sergeant Tony Jackson, jovial, and a well-rounded advertisement for good food, felt the strain as much as anyone. Four hours of tension brought beads of sweat to his forehead and when he said at the end, "It gets tougher every year," you knew what he meant.

Finals day was the culmination of nine months of cook-offs within the United Kingdom and Rhine Army districts and commands. The survivors, 15 teams of three and seven top-notch individuals, started preparing their test meals in the Army Catering School kitchens at seven in the morning. Although the competition was not a cooking rally against the clock, the cooks were pressed to present in time their four-course meals for 12 people.

A steam screen from boiling saucepans veiled the proceedings in a fog of battle through which the team members weaved from stove to sink on urgent missions. Aromas from a score of different dishes curled along the corridors giving spectators an instant to savour braised beef before it was supplanted by jugged hare, veal or rare-grilled steak.

Nervous hands made clattering music as they dropped utensils and, well after the start, fingers still quivered like jellies. What's this? Spilled fat in the individual kitchens has erupted in a gout of flame. The invigilator, all for turning off the gas, is meeting strong resistance from the competitor concerned. The two men on either side stolidly ignore the flames licking their pots, and stir on. Eventually the blaze is quelled.

The judges' call for the next dish allowed no delay for last-minute repairs and, right or wrong, the cooks paraded before the white-coated arbiters. The judges rewarded their hours of labour over the stoves by taking mousebites from each dish and hastily downing a glass of water as though suspecting poison.

They probed the meat, dissected the purple sprouting broccoli with a fork and peered like visionaries into the depths of the soup. The points sheets were carried by hotfoot runners to a central scoreboard where punters and pundits watched with mounting excitement. "Yes," said a form-studying major, "Jackson's cooking to his usual high standard." And, in tones approaching adoration, "His fillet sole was absolute perfection."

The mixture as before for Staff-Sergeant Jackson (centre) who clinched the title for the third time.

Tight squeeze for a WRAC competitor putting a cream decoration to a finals day pudding dish.

Actually there was something genuinely remarkable about the fillet sole and it probably swung the competition for Jackson. It is served with a glazed sauce extremely difficult to get right. Tiny variations in the ingredient proportions can turn what should be a mouth-watering wonder into a curdled disaster.

Twice a dismayed Jackson withdrew his dish from the grill and surveyed the wreckage of curdled cream. The third time it was immaculate—which is why Staff-Sergeant Tony Jackson, technical instructor at the Army Catering School, is indisputably the Army's finest cook. Four attempts in the championships have brought him a second place and three outright wins—the first as a National Service lance-corporal.

The unit title was won by a team from the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery, and 12 Company, Women's Royal Army Corps, headed the WRAC teams. In the hospital cooking competition a team from the British Military Hospital, Iserlohn, entered with two previous successive wins to make it a hat-trick.

AT solemn intervals the superseded 25-pounders spoke their last word. The empty crashing of blank rounds faded quickly into silence until the next gun in line took up the refrain of salutation and gushed a blue cordite haze over the escort party slow-marching another of the British Army's famous gun-howitzers into obsolescence.

Twenty and more years after its heyday as the standard British field artillery weapon of World War Two, and in Germany where it wrought so much destruction, the 25-pounder was at last passing out of service with the Regular Army. The death was neither sudden nor unexpected. In recent years new guns have been challenging loudly for the 25-pounder's role, but the old friend of half-a-million wartime gunners refused to be hustled from the scene.

Premature reports of the gun's phasing out have been peremptorily and effectively squashed by the roar of 25-pounders engaging operational or practice targets somewhere in the world.

This time there was no mistake, no exaggeration. The funeral was categorical and the last serving 25-pounders were booked for one-way rides to the knacker's yard. The programme to re-equip the field artillery with the Abbot self-propelled gun in Germany and the 105mm pack-howitzer elsewhere is now complete.

With the arrival of the new, it fell to 14 Field Regiment, the last unit to make the changeover, to provide the trappings and ceremonial of a formal farewell to the old.

The parade at West Riding Barracks, Dortmund, coincided with the Regiment's imminent return to the United Kingdom after a five-year tour in Rhine Army. Was the parade for the gun or the Regiment? "The gun *is* the Regiment" said a bombardier, and in a reproachful phrase he summed up the Royal Artillery's feeling for the 25-pounder.

In 1940 the Royal Artillery was archaically and shamefully armed with modified World War One guns. Although deprived of a proper trials sequence by the rush to bring it into service, the 25-pounder instantly earned the thanks, admiration and confidence of the gunners. They gratefully accepted it as the gun the artillery needed to discipline the battlefield and in their courageous hands it played no small part in the winning of the war.

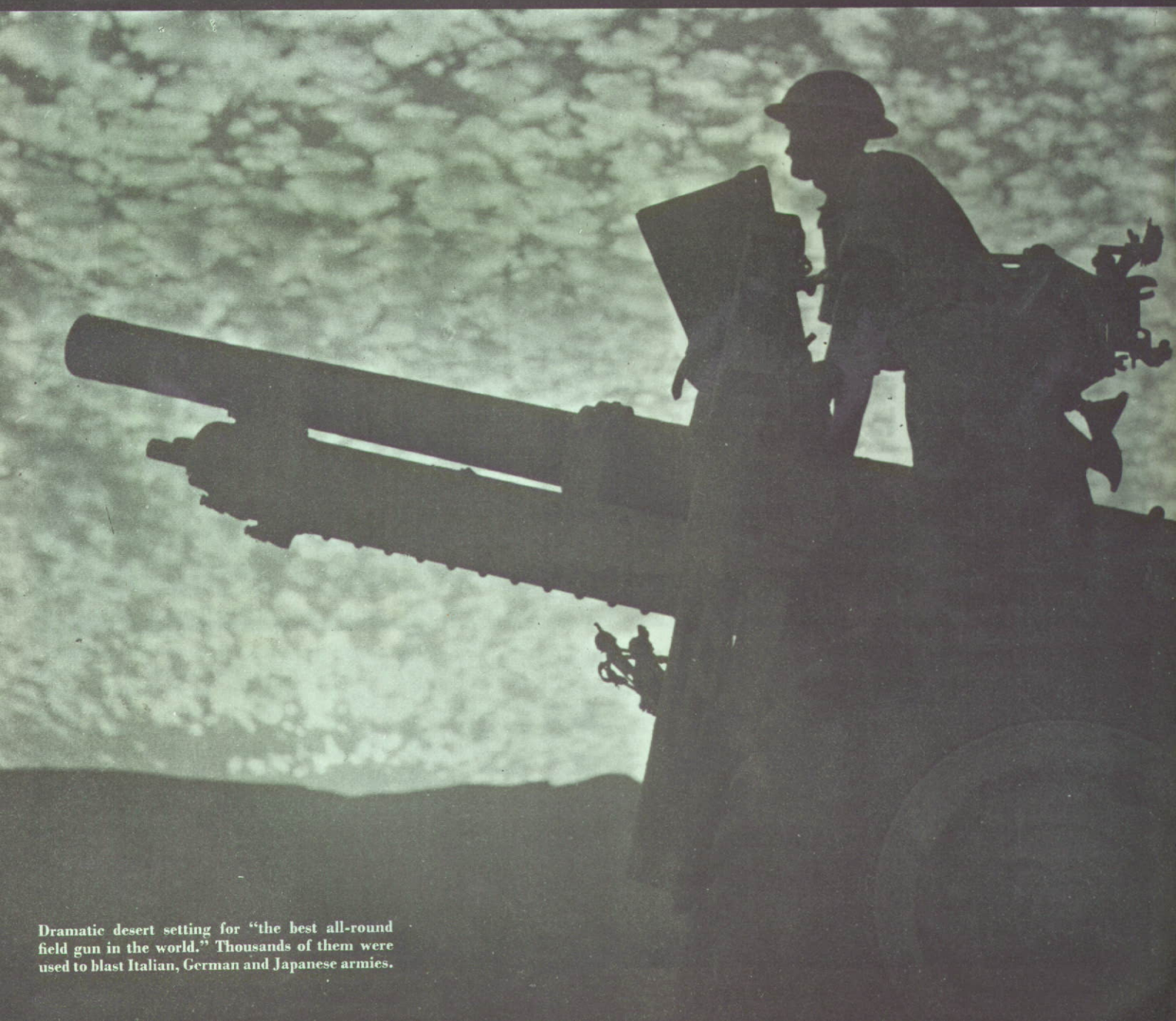
In his end-of-the-war message to the Royal Artillery, Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery wrote: "The gunners have risen to great heights in this war . . . The contribution of the artillery to final victory in the German war has been immense. I think all the other arms have done very well too. But the artillery has been terrific . . ."

Since the gunners, however brave, would have been helpless without the right guns, the tribute to the men is also praise of the 25-pounders with which they fought.

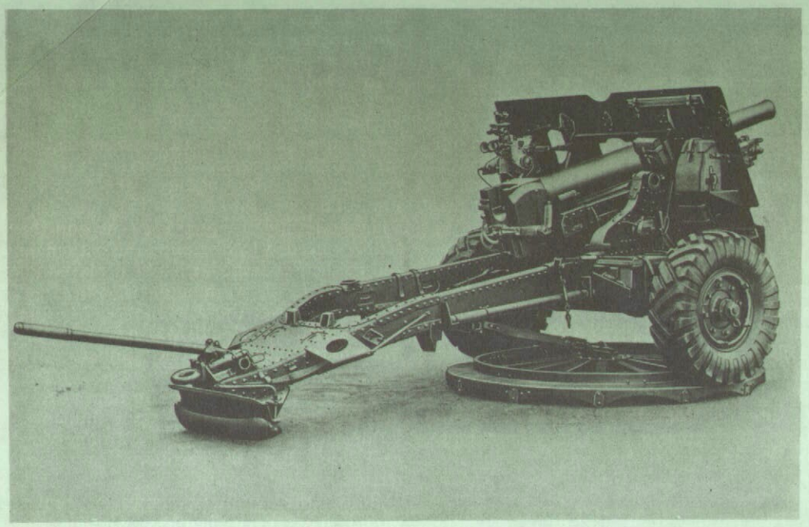
The 14 Field Regiment guns, last fired in earnest on the Hohne ranges in March,

IT WAS A GOOD GUN

Story by JOHN SAAR



Dramatic desert setting for "the best all-round field gun in the world." Thousands of them were used to blast Italian, German and Japanese armies.



were brought to their last parade in mint condition. In the preceding weeks they had been stripped down to bare metal and repainted so carefully that they should have had khaki-coloured Rolls-Royces to draw them. The gunlayers' seats bore the varnish sheen of table-tops and the leather sight-cases were polished to a lustrous gloss. On the armoured shields hung drag ropes surgically swaddled in white bandage and shovels with chromed blades and scraped shafts.

Call it bull if you insist, but understand that the gunners themselves saw it as the care due to a well-loved family retainer retiring after two-and-a-half decades of faithful service. The spirit was typified by Gunner John Kearney sneaking out in his track suit two hours before he was due on parade to brush a last and probably unnecessary coat of black paint on the trooping gun's tyres.

"I've worked on this gun nearly every day for two years and it's skinned my knuckles many a time. But I'm sorry to see it go," he said.

Observation being habit to senior officers, the six British and one German general in attendance surveyed the parade ground in a former Hitlerian barracks as they arrived. The crowd standing beneath the chestnut trees fringing the tarmac numbered hundreds of Britons and Germans, but it was the guns standing muzzle to muzzle in a veritable 25-pounder *concours d'elegance* that caught and held their gaze.

The Adjutant-General, Sir Reginald Hewetson, lingered over his rounds as inspecting officer like a man unwilling to hasten the parting. Yet the moment came and the trooping gun was trundled round the parade by a 15-man escort while 200 gunners stood in rigid watch and its fellows barked their staccato hail and farewell.

And that was the exit of the 25-pounder as an operational gun from the British Army.

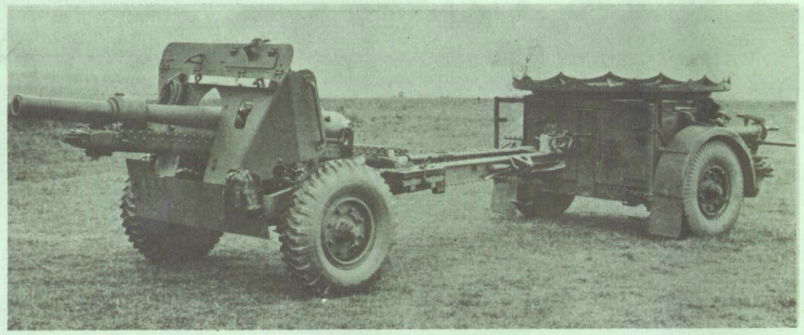
Gone but not banished: The T & AVR will still be equipped with them and Regular regiments will retain some for training purposes until a huge supply of surplus ammunition has been exhausted. Lingering in the memory long after the parade was General Hewetson's thoughtful comment on the retention of the 25-pounder by other of the world's armies. "In future," he said, "it is more likely to be used against us than for us."

The reluctance the Royal Artillery showed in releasing its 25-pounders may have been a hangover of the lengthy struggle it waged to get them. By 1920 the Royal Regiment had shelved one world war with the rest of history and was shaping up for the next. Prime priority was a replacement for the horse-drawn 18-pounder field gun, which lacked lethality and range. The 25-pounder, when it eventually came, was a world-beating winner but the general issue in 1940 was not a day too soon by any gunner's reckoning.

Firing mainly shrapnel, the 18-pounder was a killer to infantry in the open during World War One but tackling entrenched Germans with it was like trying to crack a walnut with a toothpick. The infantry also complained that the maximum range on the more powerful of its two charges was still too short.

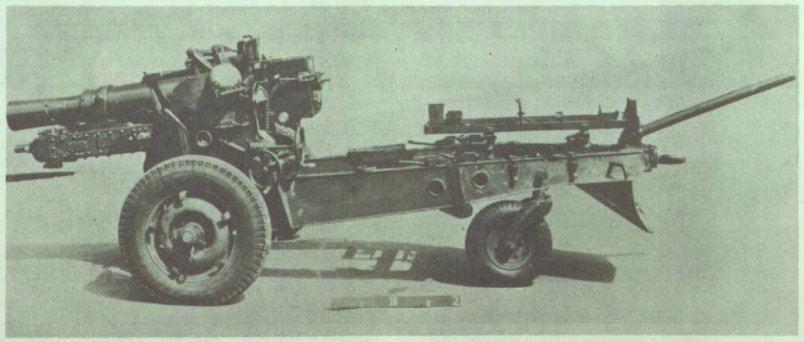
Against the general agreement that a new gun was needed was simple arithmetic —bigger shells fired over longer ranges added up to a heavier carriage and an all-up weight beyond the strength of six good horses. Mechanisation solved that one and a request to the Armaments Research and Development Establishment for a weapon to replace the 18-pounder and its howitzer brother, the 4.5-inch,

Above: For the duration of the war the 25-pounder was a constant companion to half a million British gunners. Absent from the end of this barrel is the muzzle brake. It was not brought into service until 1943.

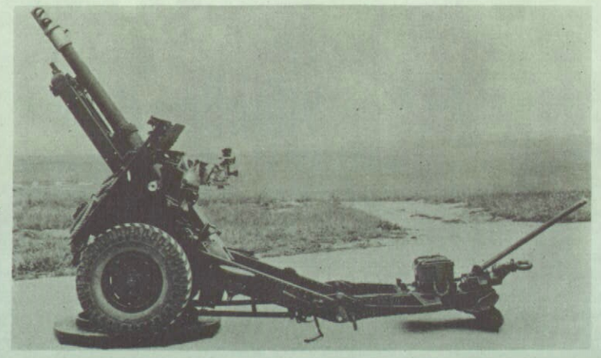


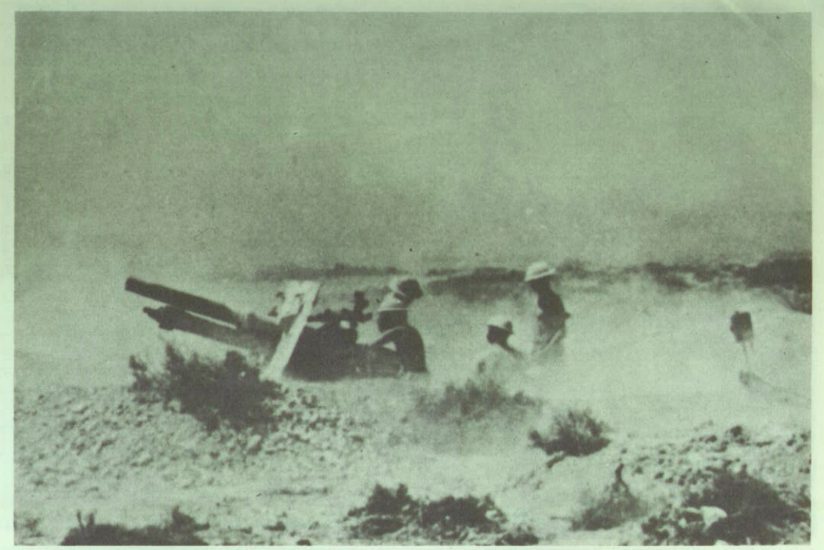
Right: The first year of the war was fought with this stopgap gun—an 18-pounder bored out to take a 25-pound shell. One old gun lost at Dunkirk bore an antique 1912 date.

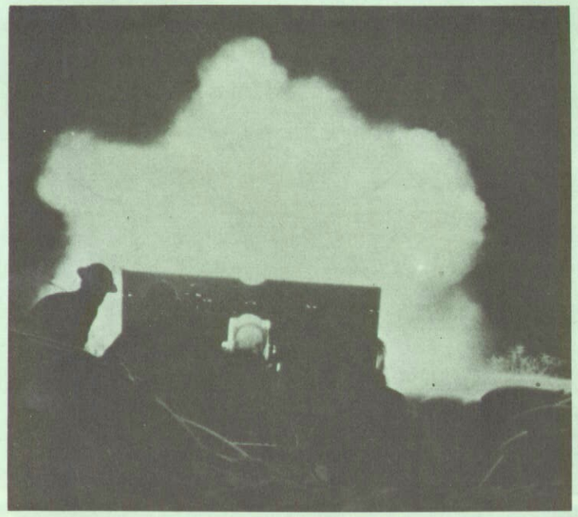
Right: Barely recognisable as the same gun was this semi-pack version of the 25-pounder. The third wheel, shorter trail and barrel made for easier handling.



Right: The hinged trail and high elevation earned this mark the nickname "Praying Mantis." The intention was to improve the crest clearance for war in mountain areas.



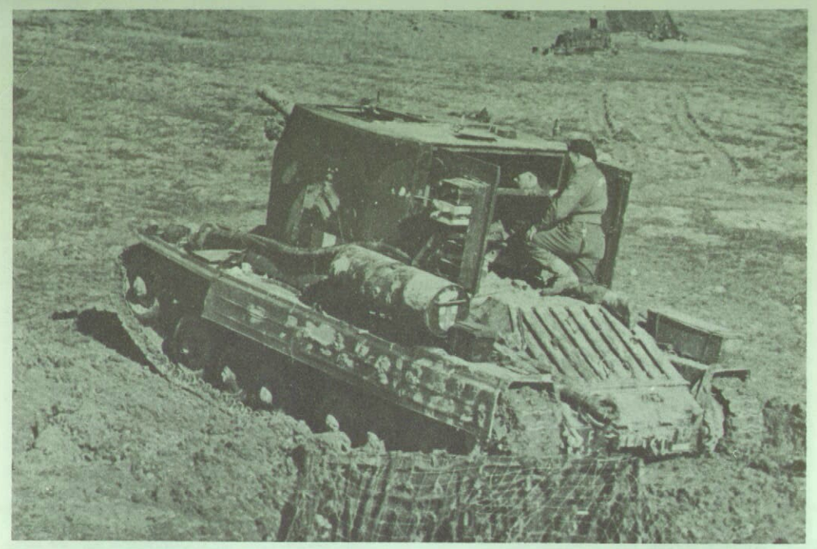




Above: A 25-pounder crew in action near Tobruk. As the standard Western Desert anti-tank gun in 1940-41, the 25 was the bane of Rommel's armour.

Left: Night bombardment of the Desert in progress —probably at El Alamein where 834 25-pounders fired a million rounds.

Below: In the Far East the 25-pounder gun shortened many a Japanese life. The target here is a Japanese position in Pinwe.



Above: Called "Bishop," this combination of 25-pounder and Valentine tank chassis was the forerunner of the Abbot.

Right: Safety, reliability and durability were the qualities gunners admired in the 25-pounder. This submersion was no worry.

Below: Away goes the first 25-pounder shell of the Korean War. Batteries were heavily committed.

resulted in 1935 in a prototype gun-howitzer to fire a 25-pound shell.

In contrast to the reactionaries in other arms who turned their back on mechanisation, senior artillery officers were sufficiently far-sighted to press for the 25-pounder at the expense of draught horses. The gunners' stumbling block was the nation-wide passion for disarmament and an inability to prise experimentation money from the country's cash box.

Trials went so slowly that as late as 1938 the Director of Artillery was still deliberating on a basic design dilemma—the choice of trail.

The split trail was ready for production when regimental gunners raised their voices for the combination of box trail and platform. This democratic reversal of a staff decision gave the 25-pounder one of its most valuable qualities, a swift 360-degree traverse.

Perhaps because they were desperate for an effective weapon the Royal Artillery chiefs accepted as a compromise the 18-pounder bored out to take a 25-pounder shell. With these makeshift mongrels the gunners did their damnedest to defend France and Belgium in 1940. Their wholesale abandonment in the Dunkirk retreat was a blessing in disguise. The Mark II 25-pounder, as issued in 1940, offered a choice of five charges, weighed 1.75 tons and would fire a 25-pound shell seven-and-a-half miles at a muzzle velocity of 1750 feet per second.

From first shot to final withdrawal this year, the gun underwent only one major modification. When the 20-pound supercharged anti-tank shot was introduced in 1943 to counter the German Panther and Tiger II tanks, the characteristic muzzle brake was added to the barrel end to cope with the heavier recoil.

Jungle and mountain warfare and an air mobility requirement called for a number of different carriage designs, among them the high elevation "Praying Mantis." Extremely successful in the last year of the war, although mysteriously dropped later, were the Bishop and Sexton self-propelled 25-pounders mounted on Valentine and Ram tank chassis.

Although the designers gave the 25-pounder the capability to engage tanks for the protection of artillery areas, nobody imagined that they would spend two years shooting at practically nothing else. Following the dismal failure of the anti-tank two-pounder in the Western Desert battles of 1940-41, the 25-pounders were the mainstay of British anti-tank defence. The field battery crews fought some hot battles over open sights against rampaging tanks.

Winston Churchill declared in 1941, "Renown awaits the commander who first in this war restores the artillery to its prime importance upon the battlefield." The commander was Montgomery and the battlefield that saw the restoration was El Alamein in October 1942. The 25s nobly played the role of kingmaker for Montgomery and 834 of them fired a million

rounds in 12 days. The tough and accurate 25-pounder brought about the reassertion of British artillery dominance which lasted until the war's end. The flexibility of the 360-degree platform made possible huge concentrations of up to army strength on single targets.

One of the finest 25-pounder actions of the war was fought by 172 Field Regiment at Sidi Nsir in 1943. In a day-long battle against the guns, armour and infantry of a panzer division, 155 Battery manned its guns until ammunition dumps were blazing and tanks were physically over-running its positions. The 25-pounders in the battery fired as many as 1800 rounds per gun on that memorable day. Later, other batteries of the Regiment amply revenged the gallant losers of Sidi Nsir.

Fighting in Burma in 1943, 129 (Lowland) Field Regiment was ordered to position its guns on a 9000-foot mountain. It seemed impossible, but the gunners towed, hauled and winched their 25-pounders up precipitous tracks and harrassed and baffled the Japs from the very summit.

The Salerno landing was in jeopardy until field batteries broke up a threatening German counter-attack. This action yielded documentary evidence of the weapon's killing power, one tank commander counting 200 enemy dead and wounded in the concentration area. In the Anzio bloodbath the infantry leaned heavily and confidently on the artillery, one 25-pounder firing 706 rounds in 24 hours.

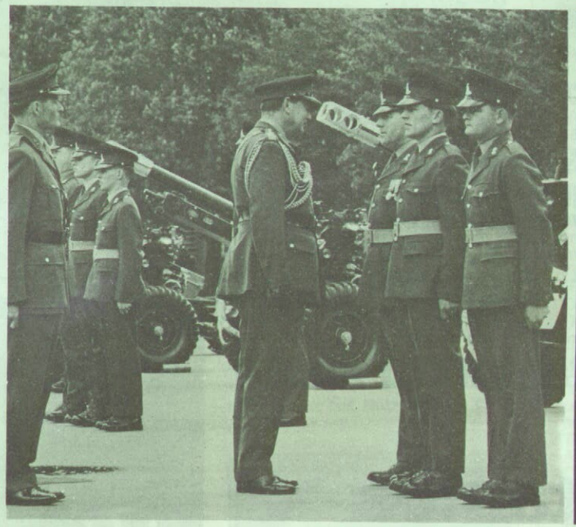
In Italy, 25-pounders were enlisted in psychological warfare when the Germans tried to provoke dissension between Britons and Americans. An American battery engaged a cookhouse on Hitler's birthday, firing 51 shells, one for each of Hitler's years. The 25s weighed in with leaflet shells wishing Mr Schickelgruber a happy birthday and promising him a further ration next year if he survived.

The 25-pounder's contribution to the final defeat of the German army began 11,000 yards off the D-Day beaches when self-propelled guns opened fire from landing craft, and the field gunners were in at the death in 1945.

For five years, wherever the British waged war, there were 25-pounders in action. The United Kingdom alone manufactured 12,500 guns and 75 million shells. At a rough count, more than 400,000 British gunners manned the 25-pounder and to this huge total must be added the Commonwealth soldiers also equipped with it. In the post-war years the National Servicemen were trained to feed the gun and many of them were in action in Korea and Malaya.

The story of the gunner is the story of the gun. They towed it and dragged it round the world. They lived in its shadow and died in its service. Conscientiously they cleaned it; gallantly they fought it. When naught else remained but capture they loyally blew it up.

It was a good gun.

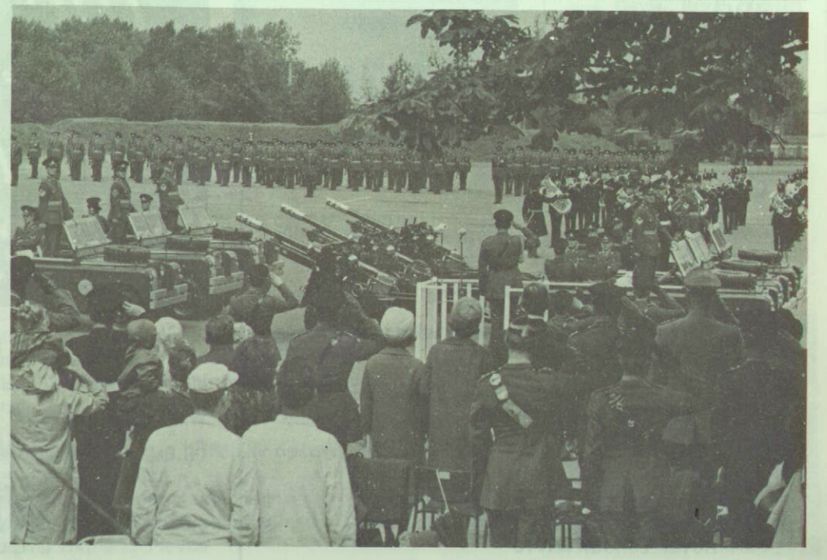


Above: Men of 14 Field Regiment escort the 25-pounder into retirement from the Regular Army.

Left: Question-time, but not about the gun. Like all old soldiers the Adjutant-General knows the 25-pounder inside out.

Below: On a parade ground in Germany, 25-pounders are trooped once and for all by the Regular Army.

Parade pictures by ARTHUR BLUNDELL



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Purely Personal

Yvonne wins a gold

This 18-year-old Army nurse (right) climbed Ben Nevis and walked 50 miles in the Highlands. She helped young people and tended an old woman's garden. And all for a medal—the Gold Medal of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. **Private Yvonne Jack-Barker,** a student at Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, Millbank, London, goes to Buckingham Palace this month to receive her Award certificate.

Still on parade

Soon ex-Coldstream Guardsman **John Critchard** will take his place among the famous. For Mr Critchard, head carriage attendant at London's Dorchester Hotel, has been photographed and "measured" for a place at Madame Tussaud's Waxworks in London. His likeness will stand next to those of Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton. He is seen (below) at the Waxworks with the images of the Beatles.

We'll meet again

The "Forces Sweetheart," singer **Vera Lynn,** talks (below) with **Mr James Boyden,** Under Secretary of State for the Army, at a luncheon at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. It was given by the Army Board to honour leading entertainers who had given their services at an Army Benevolent Fund Royal Variety Show.

Face of the voice

Here is the face of a man whose voice has been familiar to British soldiers in Aden. **Flight-Sergeant Len Porter** (right), Royal Air Force, has returned home after heading the Aden Forces Broadcasting Association, which provides 14 hours of broadcasting a day and is run voluntarily by Servicemen. As Director of Broadcasting he was responsible for every aspect of the station's work. Shortly before leaving Aden, he received the Commander - in - Chief's Certificate of Commendation for outstanding efficiency.

The recently ended Confrontation with Indonesia is recalled by awards to Servicemen.

The Military Cross goes to **Major Alan Middleton Jenkins,** 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles, and **Lieutenant (Queen's Gurkha Officer) Bhagisor Limbu,** 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles. Major Jenkins commanded a company which trailed an enemy group for a fortnight and finally eliminated all of them. Lieutenant Bhagisor's platoon killed 27 enemy; he accounted personally for seven of them.

A bar to his Military Medal goes to **Lance-Corporal Nainabahadur Rai,** 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles, who killed an enemy at close range in thick jungle.

Other awards: Commander of the British Empire—**Brigadier Peter Raymond Leuchars,** formerly Welsh Guards, Commander of 11th Infantry Brigade; **Brigadier Stafford Nugent Floyer-Acland,** formerly The Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry and The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, now at Headquarters Northern Command; and **Brigadier David George House,** formerly Royal Green Jackets, Commander of 51st Gurkha Infantry Brigade. Order of the British Empire—**Lieutenant - Colonel Walter Michael Wingate - Gray,** The Black Watch and Special Air Service; and **Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon Eastway Dennison,** Royal Army Ordnance Corps. Member of the British Empire (Military Division)—**Major Peter Steward Davis,** Royal Signals; **Major James Cullens,** Army Air Corps; and **Major Peter James Lewis Driscoll,** Royal Signals.

It happened in JULY

Date		Year
4	Battle of Hittin	1187
6	Brooklands Motor Racecourse opened (pictured today)	1907▶
6	Last London tram ran	1952
7	Treaty of Tilsit signed	1807
9	Treaty of Saadabad signed	1937
10	Telstar, communication satellite, launched	1962
11	Battle of Courtrai	1302
15	Social insurance came into effect in Britain	1912
16	Moslem Era began	622
20	First Battle of Plevna	1877
21	Tate Gallery, London, officially opened	1897
22	Battle of Salamanca	1812
24	Menin Gate Memorial unveiled	1927
26	Independence of Liberia proclaimed	1847
30	Second Battle of Plevna	1877

COLDSTREAM GUARDS

SAVED BY A RIOT

BUT for a riot the glorious Coldstream Guards could never make their double claim to be the oldest Corps by continuous existence in the British Army and sole representatives by lineal descent of the first British Regular Army, Cromwell's New Model.

In January 1661 the monarchy had been re-established in England. The axe that had already fallen on most of the New Model Army was hovering over the Coldstreamers, then named Monck's Regiment of Foot.

Then rioting in London necessitated "stern repressive measures" by the Regiment and it was then decided to keep the Coldstreamers for the Sovereign's security. So on 14 February 1661 they mustered on Tower Hill, laid down their arms and formally disbanded but were immediately ordered to take up their weapons as personal Guards to the Sovereign.

The Coldstreamers had set off on the path to glory—a path that led them to Waterloo, the bloody battlefields of World War One, and the Western Desert. And along every yard the Coldstreamers proved themselves worthy of their motto, Nulli Secundus (Second to None).

Ten years after the Tower Hill ceremony a lyrical gentleman called Thomas Gumble wrote:

"The Town of Coldstream, because the General did it the honour to make it the place of his residence for some time, hath given title to a small company of men whom God made the instruments of Great Things; and though poor, yet honest as ever corrupt Nature produced into the World, by the no dishonourable Name of Coldstreamers."

The General he mentioned was Monck. In 1650 Cromwell wanted to confer a command on the then Colonel Monck. Because he had fought with the Royalists in the recent Civil War the chosen regiment did not want him. So half a battalion was taken from each of two regiments of the New Model Army and formed on the Border into Monck's Regiment of Foot.

In the year following the Protector's death, General Monck, by now commanding the Army in Scotland, moved his headquarters to Coldstream on the River Tweed. His troops suffered greatly from cold and privation. And because of their cheerful spirit during this bad period they earned the title of Coldstreamers.

On 1 January 1660 Monck started his historic march to London, which he reached on 3 February. The Coldstreamers took up quarters for the first time at St James's and were soon dealing with the disturbances that marked the Parliament's last months.

When Monck died in 1670 the Regiment was given to the Earl of Craven and became officially the Coldstream Guards. It was formed into two battalions in 1684.

The Regiment was heartily involved in the turbulent happenings of the 18th century—Walcourt, Namur (the first time all three Guards regiments were brigaded), Malplaquet, Fontenoy (where they lost 250 dead and wounded) and so on.

When Napoleon appeared on the scene the Coldstreamers were already steeped in battle honour, and they were to add to this at Waterloo.

Most of the Coldstreamers were in the farmhouse at Hougoumont, scene of the fiercest fighting. The French had obtained possession of the farm outworks and forced their way through the gateway when Lieutenant-Colonel Macdonnell, commanding the Coldstreamers, drove them out of the courtyard with a handful of men and managed to close the gates. The farm and nearby orchard were held to the end of the battle.

The 2nd Battalion's casualties at Waterloo were the heaviest of the two brigades of Guards—eight officers and 300 men.

Now to the Crimea. Alma, Inkerman, Sebastobol—the Coldstreamers were there. At Alma the 1st Battalion won praise for its ordered precision and discipline under fire. And when the Victoria Cross was instituted in 1856, four Coldstreamers were among the first recipients, for valour in the Crimea.

In 1897 Parliament sanctioned a third battalion which was to exist until Army reorganisation in 1959.

The story of the Coldstream Guards in World War One is a tremendous record of gallantry and suffering. Losses were incredible. One of the Regiment's finest achievements was on 15 September 1916 on the Somme. Near Ginchy the Guards Division attacked on a two-brigade front with the three Coldstream battalions in the front line—the first (and only) time the Regiment was in action as a whole.

Losses on that bloody day, as they heroically achieved and consolidated their objectives, were 40 officers and 1326 men! Two years before, at Ypres, the 1st Battalion was practically wiped out—only 80 men under the only unwounded officer, the Quartermaster, survived.

In recognition of the gallantry shown by the Brigade of Guards during World War One the King ordered on 22 November 1918 that privates should in future be known as guardsmen.

Europe once more took the blood trail in 1939 and the Coldstreamers were in at the start. Both the 1st and 2nd Battalions were in the British Expeditionary Force. After a great fight against hopeless odds by both battalions, 2nd Battalion was one of the last units off the Dunkirk beaches.

The 3rd Battalion was involved in the fierce desert fighting in North Africa during the early years. In May 1942 it defended Knightsbridge Box near Tobruk for 17 days until surrounded and forced to retire. In the final assault of the Western Desert 2nd and 3rd Battalions fought side by side and the 3rd's great gallantry in the attack on the Mareth Line fortifications in Tunisia is remembered with pride. Later both battalions moved to Italy.

It was during this war that the Coldstreamers became mounted footguards. The 1st Battalion was re-formed after Dunkirk into an armoured battalion of the Guards Armoured Division. A fifth battalion formed in 1941 as part of the same Division but in an infantry role.

Within a month of D-Day the Division was in Normandy. Here the 4th Tank Battalion of the Regiment won fame. The success of the breakout from Caumont was chiefly due to the dash of the Coldstreamers' Churchill tanks in seizing the vitally important Hill 309.

Soon after the war the Regiment was back to three battalions and since 1945 has been performing the duties that have been the lot of the British soldier in recent years—Palestine, Malaya, Tripoli, Egypt, Cyprus, British Guiana, Germany, Kenya, Aden . . .

Today, for the first time since 1913, the 1st and 2nd Battalions are together in London at Chelsea Barracks impressing visitors with ceremony. Where next?

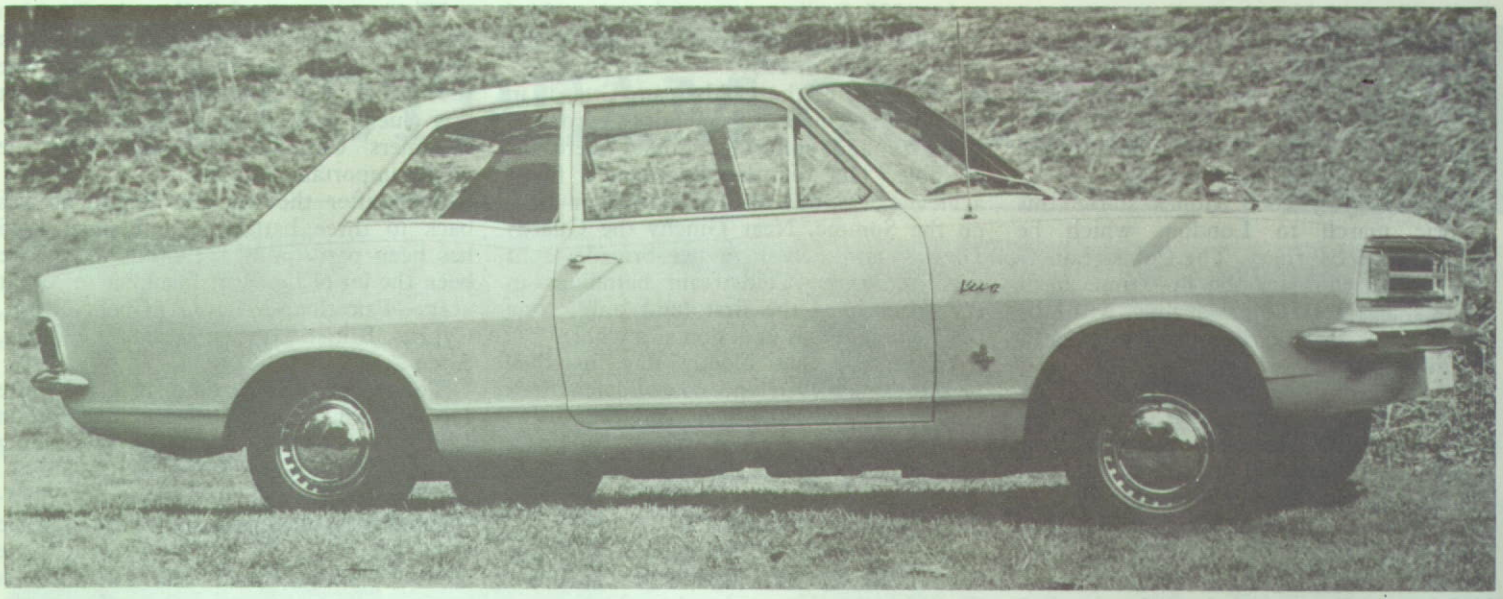
Whatever their next stations the Coldstreamers can be trusted to carry out the tasks demanded of them with the same fortitude with which their predecessors bore the rigours of a grim December on the Scottish Border and won for themselves the title of Coldstreamers.

Men of 2nd Battalion in Mauritius in 1965 after being flown there to reduce tension.

Left: Coldstreamers on the Somme, 15 Sep 1916. The three battalions charged in line; Grenadier and Irish Guards followed. Above: This is how tourists see the Coldstreamers.

Above: The French storm the gates of Hougoumont but are bravely held back by the Guards.

What a bonus! No purchase tax on the all-new Viva



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MOENCHENGLADBACH RHEINDAHLEN: *Egbert Menke, Erkelenzerstrasse 8, 405 Moenchengladbach-Rheindahlen.*

SOEST (WESTPHALIA): *Feldmann & Co. Gmbh, Arnsbergerstrasse 7, 477 Soest (Westphalia). Or General Motors Continental S.A., West German Sales Department, Noorderlaan 75, Antwerp, Belgium.*

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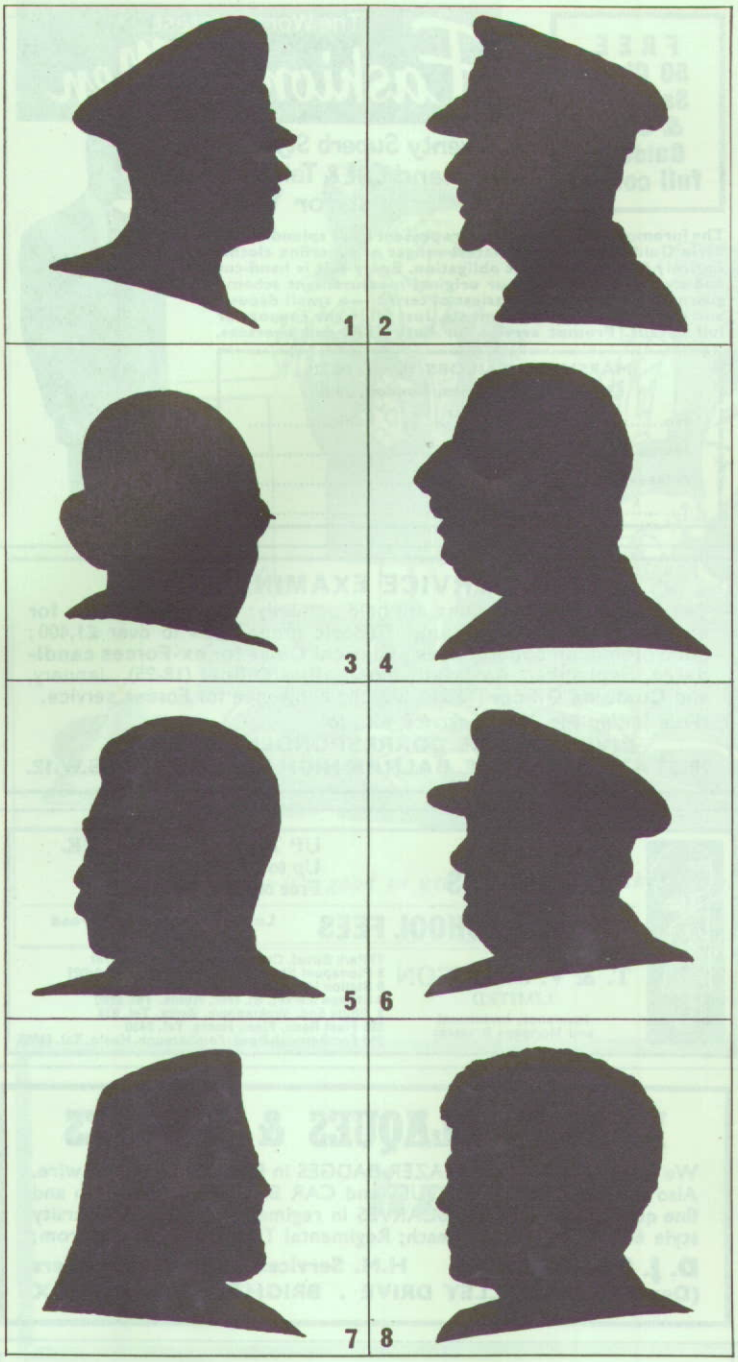


COMPETITION 110

FAMOUS AND INFAMOUS

"I know the fez but I can't remember the name," as the comedian said. There are no fezzes in these eight silhouettes but some varying forms of headgear which should help you to place the face.

These are all silhouettes of men who were or are men of destiny. All you have to do is name them. Send your answers, on a postcard or by letter, with the "Competition 110" label from this page, and your name and address, to:

The Editor (Comp 110)
SOLDIER
433 Holloway Road
London N7.

This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and closing date is Monday, 11 September. Answers and winners' names will appear in the November SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a "Competition 110" label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct solutions.

PRIZES

1 £10 in cash
2 £5 in cash
3 £3 in cash
4 £2 in cash
5 Three books
6 SOLDIER free for a year
7 SOLDIER free for six months

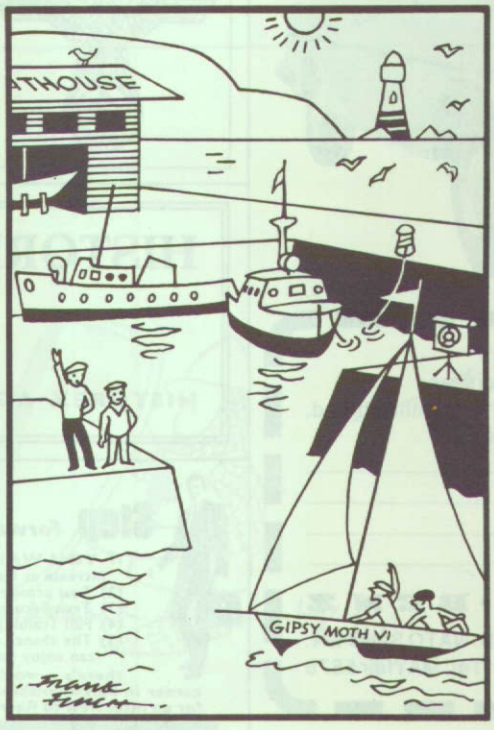
WHAT'S IN A NAME?

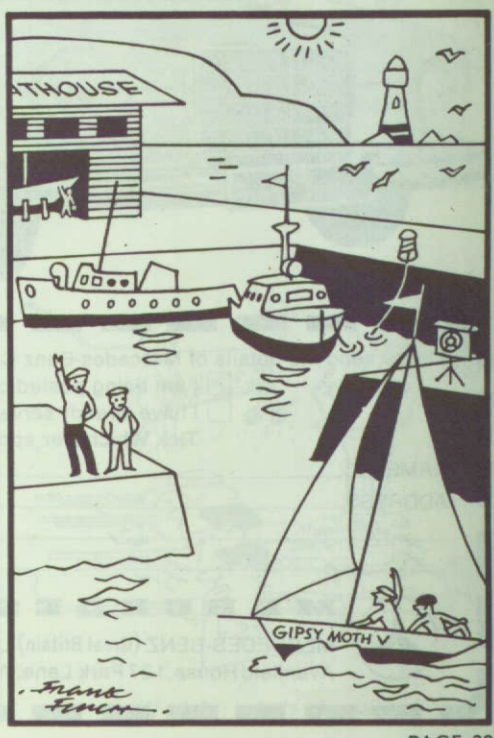
An error in Competition 108 (May) will have misled some prospective competitors. The aircraft in the top right picture is not a Beaver, as was intended, but a Pioneer. The word Beaver is required to complete the acrostic.

Because of this error the competition closing date is now extended to Monday, 11 September, and answers and winners' names will appear in the November SOLDIER. Entries already received which have assumed Beaver as the identification, will be accepted.

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 34.





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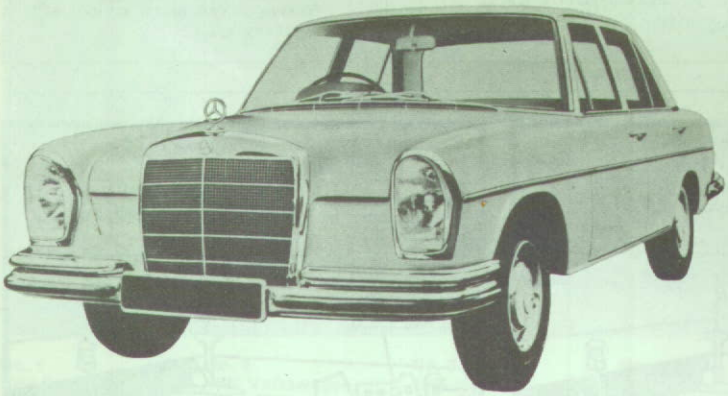

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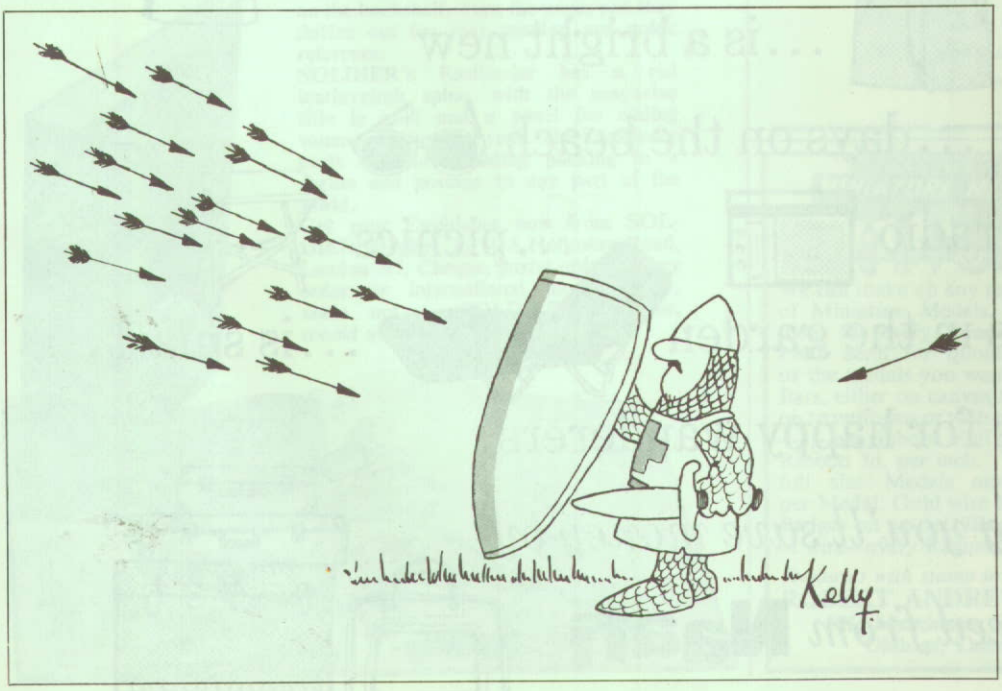
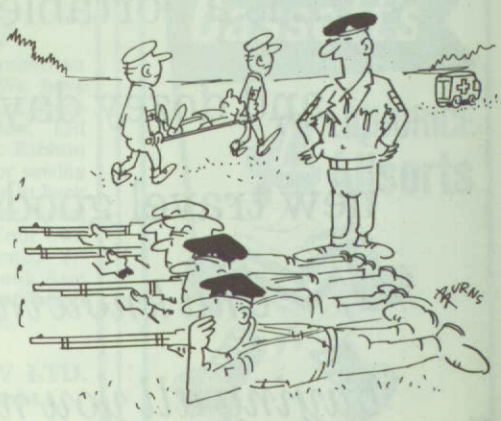
"Oh boy—it's good to get into civvies at the end of the day!"

"Now that's what I call being dressed to kill!"

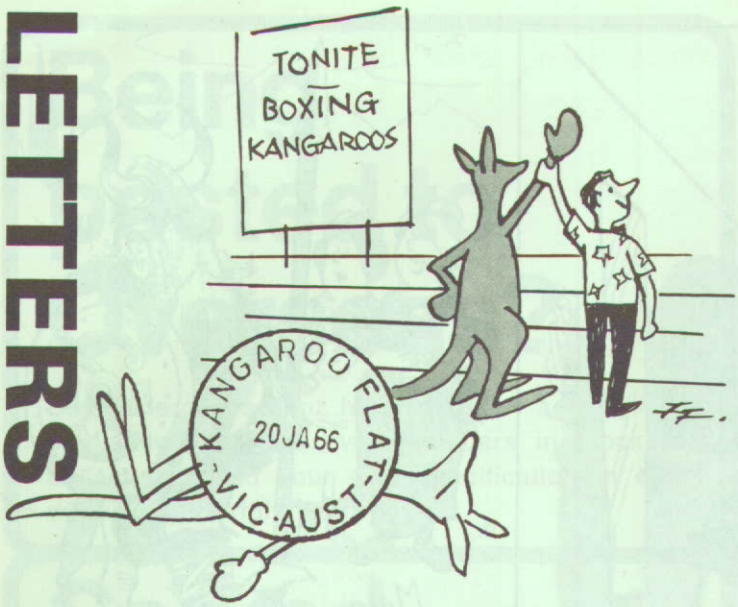
humour





"All right, who's the sniper?"

LETTERS



Scots in blue berets

Let no one accuse me of stirring up inter-clan rivalry, but your article (April) which stated that The Royal Highland Fusiliers were the first Scottish regiment to wear the United Nations blue beret needs some slight amplification.

The first representatives from a Scottish regiment to wear the beret were a platoon of 31 all ranks from 1st Battalion, The Black Watch, who were attached to 3 Div HQ & Signal Regiment at United Nations HQ outside Nicosia, Cyprus.

We went to Cyprus in February 1964 and spent a few weeks as British troops, then in March we converted overnight to become United Nations troops.—**Lieut P R Sugden, 1 Bn, The Black Watch, BFPO 29.**

Tommy's tops

The picture of the "Universal Tommy" (March) brings to mind the book "War Correspondent" by Australian author Frank Legg. In this book the author describes how, in New Guinea in 1943, he was asked to give a lecture to American air crews. The lecture was to be his own choice and his subject was "The best all-round soldier in the world—the British Tommy." Quite a compliment from an Australian!—**F Acres, 48 Supply Coy RAOC, Perham Down, Hants.**

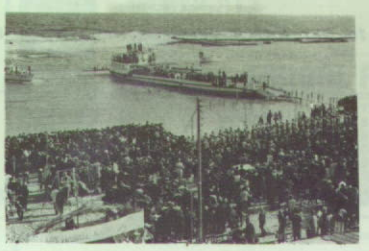
Come in PL2 and PL4

As an ex-Service officer (RNVR and Army), founder, and divisional commander from 1957 to 1959 of the Port and Marine Unit of the Cyprus Police Force, I was delighted and proud to see the two police launches PL2 and PL4 on duty in Famagusta harbour during the Epiphany Day ceremony (March).

They seem to be as trim and smart as ever and clearly recognisable from former Colonial days when the formation was first "roughed out" on the corner of a table in Famagusta Police Station with the joint experience of similar units in Palestine, Malaysia and the Thames River Police.

Inter-Service co-operation and maritime activities seem to be as strong as ever. Former colleagues in Cyprus, I salute thee!—**J L E Wise, 95 Palewell Park, East Sheen, London SW14.**

Below: The two police launches (PL4 on the left) flank the Army Z craft.



Another triple MM

I have read the recent correspondence in SOLDIER on triple holders of the Military Medal.

It may interest readers to know that E Quartermaine won the MM three times while serving with 6th (Service) Battalion, The Northamptonshire Regiment, during World War One. He won the medal as a lance-corporal, a first bar when a corporal and a second bar as a sergeant.

His brother, G Quartermaine, won both a Distinguished Conduct Medal and a Military Medal with the same Battalion during the same period.—**Maj D Baxter, Gibraltar Barracks, Barrack Road, Northampton.**

South African War

Through the courtesy of SOLDIER's columns we would like to appeal to veterans of the South African War who served in the Transvaal under Brigadier General Dartnell from January 1901 onwards to contact us. We are in need of individual accounts of certain operations that took place after the above date.—**N Gomm, Secretary, The South African Military Historical Society, 47A Princes Street, Troyeville, Johannesburg, S Africa.**

First Freedom

The statement in the article "Freemen of Iserlohn" (April) that "it is the first such honour to be granted in the Federal Republic to a regiment of any nationality" created quite a stir here for it is not correct.

In 1964 a similar honour was granted to 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, when it was given the freedom of the city of Soest, a neighbour of Iserlohn in Westphalia.

On 4 July 1965 the Regiment exercised its privilege by marching through the streets of Soest with drums beating, Colours flying and bayonets fixed.—**Mrs R Lauriks, c/o Sgt H C Lauriks, 2 RCR Sgts Mess, CFPO 5050.**

★ *SOLDIER is glad to set the record straight.*

Medals for museums

In the November SOLDIER you were good enough to publish a letter from me about ex-Sergeant Edwin Broomhall RAMC who won two bars to his Military Medal during World War One.

Since then this gallant old veteran, though severely disabled and 76 years old, has travelled down from Staffordshire to Aldershot to present his medals to the RAMC Historical Museum. After the presentation Mr Broomhall and friends were conducted round the Museum (below) and later entertained in both the sergeants' and officers' messes.—**Maj-Gen R E Barnsley (Rtd), RAMC Historical Museum, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hants.**

The Royal Highland Fusiliers

Delivery of magazines takes some time here and it was only today that I read the March letters in which Mr H N Peyton retails a Canadian's views on the dress of The Royal Highland Fusiliers. While the unnamed Canadian is entitled to his opinions I think these should not have been generally circulated without investigation.

The dress of our Pipes and Drums and of the Military Band is not a haphazard collection but was thought out by our Amalgamation Committee before January 1959; when this was done the dress of The Royal Scots Fusiliers and of The Highland Light Infantry were considered, as were the normal customs pertaining to dress in Scottish regiments.

The following may clear the air:

1 The Regimental No 1 Dress is blue doublet and Mackenzie trews, with the Glengarry bonnet. This is worn by the drum major and the buglers, with the normal accessories; the drum-major wears a bearskin in accordance with Royal Scots Fusilier practice.

2 The pipers wear the usual form of Highland dress pertaining to pipers of Scottish regiments; that is to say the kilt, doublet and Glengarry with plaid and sword belt.

3 The drummers also wear Highland dress. This was decided on at the request of The Highland Light Infantry and the HLI custom of wearing the feather bonnet and fly plaid in No 1 Dress was continued.

4 The military band wears the full dress of the Regiment, with feather bonnet and plaid as was done in The Highland Light Infantry.

From this it will be realised that the drum-major, buglers and military band wear Royal Highland Fusilier No 1 and full dress respectively, with certain additions in the case of the first and last named, and that the pipes and drums conform to The Highland Light Infantry form of dress.

The "dog's dinner" therefore has four ingredients and all of these are both rightful and proper; nothing was added or dreamed up nor was the ensemble thrown together without thought.

As a parting shot let me hasten to add that there is no need to regret the "destruction" of The Royal Highland Fusiliers or The Highland Light Infantry. Both are very much alive in their new identity and to us the phrase "The Regiment" means The Royal Highland Fusiliers, The Royal Scots Fusiliers and The Highland Light Infantry.

We do not ask "What were you in before amalgamation?" (a phrase much used south of the Tweed), but "Which side of the family are you?" should it be considered necessary to make the differentiation anyway.—**Maj D I A Mack, HQ Singapore District, GPO Singapore.**

EYES DOWN

Despite the odd number of differences, about a third of the entries for Competition 106 (March) were correct. The differences were all obvious but some competitors proffered other disparities which in fact were printing faults. These were mainly a white dot on the black side of the window display, a small black dot under the window picture of the weightlifter, and the thickness of Frank Finch's signature.

Prizewinners:

1 Cpl G Mitchell, Alma Coy, 1 DWR, BFPO 36.

2 J A Beauchamp, 10 Mendip Gardens, Yatton, Bristol.

3 Pte and Mrs G Parkes, 3 Commando Bde OFP RAOC, c/o FAFB, Singapore.

4 Dvr T Mahoney, 9 Sqn RCT, BFPO 39.

5 WO1 F St C Burt REME, Scales Branch E REME, Haha Road, Woolwich, London SE18.

6 SAC Day, Supply Sqn, RAF Laarbruch, BFPO 43.

7 Pte G Southam, Yorkshire Brigade Depot, Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Strensall Camp, York.

8 A/T R Wood, C4 B Coy, AAC, Arborfield, Reading, Berks.

9 Roderick K Trueman, c/o Hylands Hotel, Filey, Yorks.

10 SQMS Cunningham, 11 Trg Regt RCT, Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Crookham, Hants.

11 J Byrne, 41 East Street, Waterloo, Liverpool 22.

12 Cpl Gooden, 1st Queen's Regiment, BFPO 17.

The differences were:

1 Door handle of ambulance. 2 Arrow of "WAY IN" notice. 3 Light bulb in shop window. 4 Cross on first-aid box. 5 Second line of roof tiles. 6 "G" in "BUILDING." 7 Size of arm muscle on picture in window. 8 Height of pillow in ambulance. 9 Buttons on coat of leading ambulance man. 10 Lettering on door of ambulance. 11 Right weight on picture of weight-lifter. 12 Cat's hind legs. 13 Hair of left man in shop window. 14 Dots on weight-lifter's leopard skin. 15 Nail supporting picture of weight-lifter. 16 Back of cap of right ambulance man. 17 Curtain in left of top window.

Children's Education

The diversity of educational facilities in the United Kingdom offers opportunities for children of all abilities, but this variety can itself be confusing to parents. The Institute of Army Education provides a service of advice to serving Army parents on all matters relating to the education and future careers of children, especially those who suffer mental and physical handicaps, at home and overseas.

If you require advice you should apply through the Chief Education Officer to the Commandant, Institute of Army Education, Court Road, Eltham, London SE9. All enquiries are treated in confidence.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(*see page* 29)

The two pictures vary in the following respects:

1 *Man in boathouse.* 2 *Pennant on launch.* 3 *Seagull on right below horizon.* 4 *Name of sailing yacht.* 5 *Number of portholes on boat with funnel.* 6 *Front window of launch.* 7 *Stripes across lighthouse.* 8 *Right arm of short man on quay.* 9 *Gull on boathouse.* 10 *Height of mast of boat with funnel.*

COLLECTORS' CORNER

H J Pike, 35 Hauteville, St Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands.—*Has for exchange Royal Guernsey Militia badges (very rare, 1931-40). Open to any offer in badges.*

A G Miller, 154 Fisher Street, Malvern, South Australia.—*Offers lists for exchange of scarcer British military cap badges, some Yeomanry, a few British Colonial and CEF, also 50 Australian varieties. Also 60 UK police helmet plates (K/C period). Replies only to lists of military offers in return.*

Sgt E de Groote (Reserve), Watersnepstraat, 12, Wondelgem (Ovl), Belgium.—*Requires worldwide badges: parachute, commando, marine, SAS or equivalent, also camouflage uniforms and items. Exchange or purchase. Can supply all Belgian current badges, camouflage gear, US combat jackets, high boots etc.*

R E Gilmore, 1133 King Street, Greenwich, Conn 06830, USA.—*Collects British and Canadian cap badges. All enquiries answered.*

H Dujardin, Meubles, Carvin 62, France.—*Requires 1940 period British private soldier's uniform. Will exchange Nazi field cap for glengarry or Australian/New Zealand/American headdress 1940-44 period.*

J D Lamb, 28 Hull Bridge Road, Beverley, Yorks.—*Requires worldwide militaria of all kinds, particularly badges and medals. All offers answered.*

D C Angus, 7 Calton Crescent, St Ninians, Stirling, Scotland.—*Requires cap badges Connaught Rangers, Royal Irish and Prince of Wales's Leinster regiments. Also helmet plate (1881-1914 period) any English county regiment.*

D Stevenson, Block N, MF Hostel, Corsham, Wilts.—*Requires British and Commonwealth cap badges, collar dogs and shoulder flashes, especially Irish Guards and Royal Marines. Single issues SOLDIER 1953. All correspondence and lists welcome.*

G Dawson, 43 Well Ings, Kendal, Westmorland.—*Collects badges. Requires militaria 34th and 55th of Foot, Border Regiment, TA and Regular, Cumberland and Westmorland Militia and Volunteers. Correspondence answered.*

R Hughes, 91 Bagot Street, Wavertree, Liverpool 15.—*Requires cap badges regiments affiliated to The Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Cameron).*

P A Leslie, 36 Sandhill Park, Belfast 5, Northern Ireland.—*Requires information World War Two British Army vehicle signs, particularly unit serial numbers and arm-of-Service colours.*

W Comrie, 78 Edgell Road, Staines, Middlesex.—*Urgently requires all SOLDIER back numbers up to and including Dec 1953—replacements for personal copies lost in flood.*

W Daniels, Spoorwegstr 40, Arnhem, Holland.—*Collects all British parachute and airborne militaria, particularly photographs and books about Battle of Arnhem.*

REUNIONS

PORTSMOUTH ROYAL MARINES EX-BUGLERS DINNER CLUB. Reunion and dinner Portsmouth, Saturday, 7 October 1967. Portsmouth RM ex-buglers wishing to attend please write to Bugle-Major R Smith, Band & Drums Office, Royal Marine Barracks, Southsea, Hants.

THE GORDON BOYS' SCHOOL. Prize-giving and annual inspection at the School, Saturday, 22 July. Mr Stainforth, late Master of Wellington College, will present prizes; inspecting officer, Admiral Sir Varyl Begg. All old boys very welcome.

Imp à go-go

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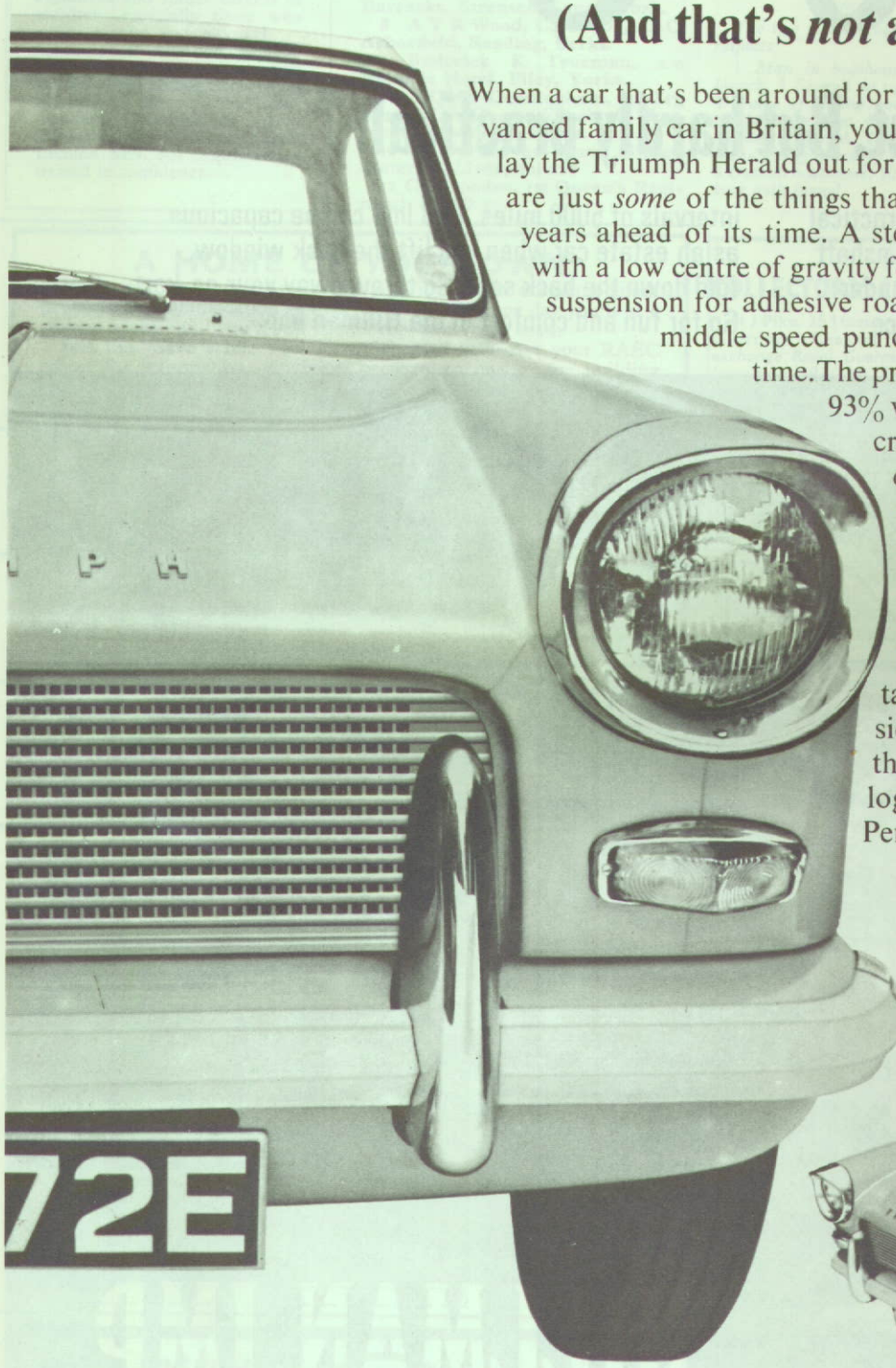


LEYLAND TRIUMPH

Triumph puts you safely ahead

JULY 1917

In 1917 the cost of a cartridge case was seven shillings. After every advance, in this case the spring battles of Vimy and Messines, the cases were salvaged from the battlefields in their tens of thousands for return to Britain and re-issue.

BOOKS

EMIR OF THE RIF

"Abdel Krim" (Rupert Furneaux)

During the Twenties—the decade in which the civilised world turned its back on war—it was Abdel Krim who made the headlines. Sometimes called the Sultan of the Rif—more correctly the Emir—he led the Berber struggle against Spanish oppression in Northern Morocco.

He has a place in history as a great captain and a great leader of men. In his heyday newspaper readers delighted in reports of yet another *débâcle* for the corruption-ridden Spanish Army.

The *Daily Mail* sent its top man, George Ward Price, to scoop the world's Press by interviewing the mysterious Abdel Krim. But though Price reported his views, his aims and some of his achievements, it is only now that Mr Furneaux does full justice to Abdel Krim.

In 1920 Krim warned the Rif Caids that their independence was threatened. Nine months later this village judge was an international figure. He set out with a *harka* of 125 men and, with a force which never exceeded 600, routed a whole Spanish army. Eighteen thousand Spaniards died. It is fantastic but true.

When General Primo de Rivera, the Spanish dictator, announced a withdrawal, the Rifi were waiting—the Spaniards lost one general, six lieutenant-colonels, eight majors, 175 other officers and 17,000 soldiers.

Abdel Krim and the Rif were left in peace. Then came war with the French. Krim was if anything pro-French and sought only friendship with Europe's greatest military power of the Twenties.

It seems, however, that in making his tribal alliances to unite the Berbers against the Spaniards—a task which included the ending of blood feuds and inter-tribal strife—Krim committed himself to what he called his "fatal decision."

Some fringe tribes had been admitted to the *liff*—the alliance—and when the French, fearful of Krim's success, began building frontier forts, the Beni Zerual, in whose territory the forts were erected, invoked the *liff*. Krim could not refuse; it was a matter of honour.

He went to war with France—and the Spaniards returned to the fray, striking at Krim's rear and pitilessly massacring women and children in Krim's home town, Ajdir. In the French forts the Foreign Legion held on, giving time for the French Army to rally under Petain. Krim's republic was doomed.

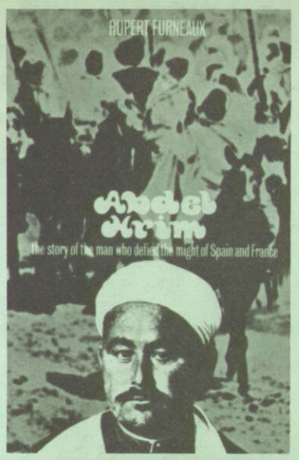
After surrendering he was interned at Reunion, escaping at Port Said in 1948 en route for France. He died a free man in 1963.

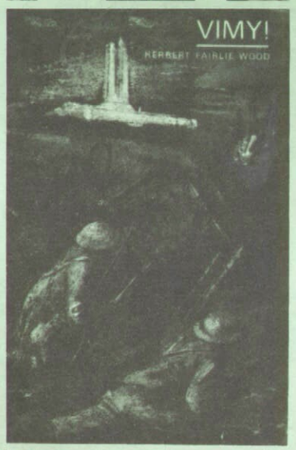
Secker and Warburg, 35s **J C W**

TESTING GROUND

"Vimy!" (H F Wood)

Take a ridge, honeycomb it with tunnels, embed heavy machine-guns in cement pillboxes, festoon it with coils of barbed wire in depth, support it with batteries of howitzers and mortars, man it with tough,





battle-tested mountain troops, give it resolute commanders and air protection by the fastest fighter planes in the world. That was Vimy Ridge in 1917.

It sounds impregnable and it very nearly was. But the aggressively confident volunteers of Canada decided that it could be taken. Railroads and gun emplacements were laid and supply depots established, including 42,000 tons of ammunition in the forward areas. More than 800 guns, double those at the Somme, were brought up. Raids nightly probed the enemy line for a flaw in his defences.

At last everything was ready. The battle was not prolonged but it was certainly fierce. Cleverly controlled artillery fire and air observation created the conditions necessary for fast ground movement by the infantry. The Germans, as always, fought with skill and courage, but their lines crumpled according to plan. Canada had won a great battle.

But Vimy Ridge was more than a battle for Canada. It proved to be the testing ground of will-power which helped her people to become a nation. Never again would the profane, sceptical and irreverent Canadians be regarded as Colonials.

This book catches the atmosphere of the build-up to the final assault, but it is a pity that so little is devoted to the actual fighting. Here and there is occasional repetition and the most important map is spoiled by the use of poor colours. However, the plates are very fine and it is encouraging to find sympathy expressed for the German soldiers in what they called their "Week of suffering."

Macdonald, 35s **A W H**

UNRAVELLING A TANGLED MAZE

"Strategy of Action" (Général d'Armée André Beaufre)

This new work forms a "triptych" with General Beaufre's "Introduction to Strategy" and "Deterrence and Strategy." Deterrence and action are negative and positive concepts in the same field and, although they may overlap, require complementary consideration.

Deterrence depends to a large extent on sheer credibility, which may include certainties; action strategy includes implementation, which means the margin for error is much smaller.

General Beaufre describes this book as "no more than a first attempt to unravel the tangled maze of factors bearing upon action." He studies action in relation to political diagnosis and the trend of history, and divides action strategy into two "modes"—the direct, in which military force plays the preponderant part, and indirect, with military force playing a secondary role.

He returns to his theme that strategic thinking must be continuous, covering both normal and exceptional periods, because it is the only method of analysis which enables approaching danger to be foreseen and warded off in time. Strategic action is periodic; strategic thinking permanent.

Faber and Faber, 25s **R L E**

THE REBELLION THAT LOST AND WON

"The Algerian Insurrection, 1954-62" (Edgar O'Ballance)

Major O'Ballance has enhanced his reputation as a businesslike military writer with three previous books on insurgent wars, in Indo-China, Greece and Malaya. This story of events in Algeria is in the same style, a clear, uncluttered account of what happened, with comment limited to a minimum.

Nobody could accuse the author of sensationalism, but rebellions are necessarily sensational and this one had even more startling drama than most.

Five of the principal rebel leaders were kidnapped in a Moroccan aircraft. By 1958 the French Army in Algeria, unrestrained by weak governments at home, had assumed almost unlimited powers. Its officers were taking part in politics and made no secret of their discontent with Paris policies. Paris took precautions against a feared invasion from Algeria; paratroops from there in fact landed in Corsica and helped a rebel committee to take over.

There was internecine fighting on both rebel and French sides. Early in 1960, Europeans in Algiers, disturbed by events, manned barricades in defiance of the Army.

In 1961 came that abortive revolt by the generals, when France again prepared for invasion by her own troops. This was beaten in part, says the author, by the transistor radio. This allowed the troops to hear Government broadcasts from home and produced a reaction of sabotage and disobedience to the rebels.

When the fighting against the Muslim rebels was over, soldiers and police had to face a new wave of terrorism, this time from discontented European *plastiqueurs* of the OAS, led by some of the ex-generals whose own revolt had failed. All this makes thriller-like reading, despite Major O'Ballance's calm approach.

Unlike most insurrections of recent years, it was one in which Communists played little part. And it was a rebellion which was soundly beaten in the military field yet achieved its aim—by victory in the political and diplomatic fields.

Faber and Faber, 36s **R L E**

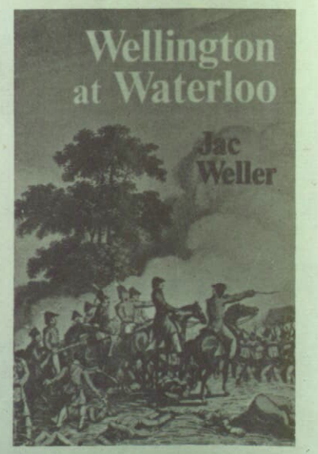
THE BETTER MAN WON

"Wellington at Waterloo" (Jac Weller)

Many people still believe Wellington was lucky at Waterloo and that the better soldier was defeated. Jac Weller's latest volume should finally put paid to this misconception.

It does so by using a comparatively new technique in describing a battle. The reader is placed in the Duke's position and at any stage of the conflict has no more information than Wellington had. The result is the capture of the excitement, tension and doubt missing in the more orthodox accounts.

Outnumbered, outgunned, lumbered with unreliable allies—the Dutch and Belgians refused to charge and the Hanoverian cavalry ran off—Wellington showed the ability to seize the initiative when the crucial moment arrived. Always calm, brave and patient he simply exploited his opponent's errors.



The details of Waterloo are a reminder of the sheer ferocity of the fighting. Ten thousand men fell at Hougoumont Farm alone and when the noise of battle drifted away some 44,000 dead and wounded from the two armies lay in an area of only three square miles. Many of these unfortunately lay unattended for several days. The French lost 30,000 dead and 7,000 captured. But the cost was not light for Wellington—10,000 men, including almost 700 officers, had fallen.

For more than a century military writers have pondered why Napoleon failed. The French have sought to lay the blame on Grouchy and Ney, while the Germans have stressed the timely arrival of Blücher. But Weller, and as an American he must surely be the least biased, holds that the basic fault was Napoleon's unwillingness to manoeuvre and his preference for massive frontal assaults.

This fine volume has sections devoted to tactics and weapons as well as some very good photographs and really excellent footnotes.

Longmans, 63s **A W H**

OPERATION MUSKETEER

"The Suez Affair" (Hugh Thomas)

Operation Musketeer, the British and French attack on Egypt in 1956, must rate as the most controversial military operation of the 20th century. Its repercussions are still being felt—to some extent it colours France's attitude to British entry to the Common Market.

No one looks back on Suez happily. For Britain and France it ended with ignominious withdrawal and both countries condemned by the United Nations.

Egypt, despite gaining the canal and a "victory" over imperialism, found her much-vaunted military prestige in tatters.

Israel gained a great military victory, aided more by Britain and France than either cared to admit. But she, too, finds the memory unsettling. And the United States met painful diplomatic failure.

The author is best remembered for his brilliant study of the Spanish Civil War. He turns his talents to the tangle of Suez with equal skill, producing a remarkably clear and vivid picture. He has made a deep study of everything that has a bearing on Suez—he has interviewed members of the Cabinet, politicians, diplomats, officials and the military commanders of the British, French and Israeli forces.

He examines closely and analyses every stage of the crisis and from the military viewpoint comes up with some lessons which have no doubt been learned. For instance, "the timing of the moment to begin the operation was so delayed as to lose all chance of swift victory."

The operation did, however, prove the importance of aircraft carriers in limited war. The amphibious assault, also, was carried out with great efficiency. But the field commanders were deprived of information. The Cabinet knew the Israelis' intentions but General Stockwell was kept in the dark.

Mr Thomas concludes: "The whole idea of a 'great expedition' to restore national pride as well as to internationalise the Canal appears, again like that of Alcibiades (to Sicily), to have been doomed from the start."

Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 36s **J C W**

IN BRIEF

Bellona Military Vehicle Prints

Series Eleven features the German Panzerkampfwagen IV Ausfuerung D, British AEC armoured command vehicle Mk I and the American Medium T6 and light M22 tanks.

The Panzerkampfwagen IV went into production in 1939 and was used in France in 1940 and in North Africa. A painting of one of these tanks as used by 21st Panzer Division of the Afrika Korps is on the cover of this series—future sets will all have colour covers.

The six-wheeled ACV (AEC) Mk I was produced towards the end of 1944 and had four-wheel and six-wheel drive.

Forerunner of the Sherman tank was the medium T6, an experimental model utilising components of the M3 series but housing its 75mm gun in a 360-degree-traverse turret.

The light Locust tank was produced between April 1943 and February 1944 to meet an airportability need. Large numbers were shipped across the Atlantic for British and American troops but only a few saw action—those landed in Hamilcar gliders to support the Rhine crossing by 6th Airborne Division in March 1945.

Series Eleven is rounded off with details of the Nahverteidigungswaffe, a close-in 92mm defence weapon fitted to German armoured vehicles in World War Two.

Merberlen Ltd, Badgers Mead, Hawthorn Hill, Bracknell, Berks, 4s (series ring binder 9s)

"Jackson's War" (Ray Rigby)

The author of "The Hill"—successful as book, play and film—sets this novel's scene in the Western Desert. His "hero," Corporal Jackson, is another military misfit in as unscrupulous and scurrilous a malingering bunch of civilian-soldiers as, it is fervently to be hoped, never actually served in the Royal Army Service Corps/Expeditionary Forces Institutes. But improbable as the story may be, it is compellingly told.

W H Allen, 25s

"And So To Germany" (A C P Brading)

The author was third mate of a merchant ship sunk by a German raider in the Indian Ocean in 1940. He gives a simple account of his experiences as a prisoner on the raider, and some of her captures during the weeks which followed, and up to the time he went into a prisoner-of-war camp in Germany.

Arthur H Stockwell, 10s 6d