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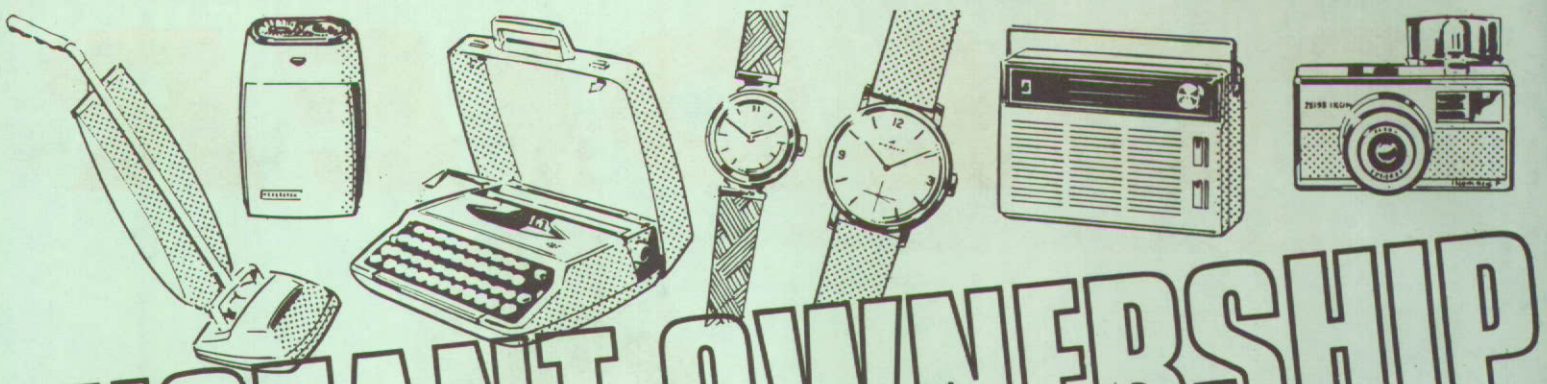
# SOLDIER



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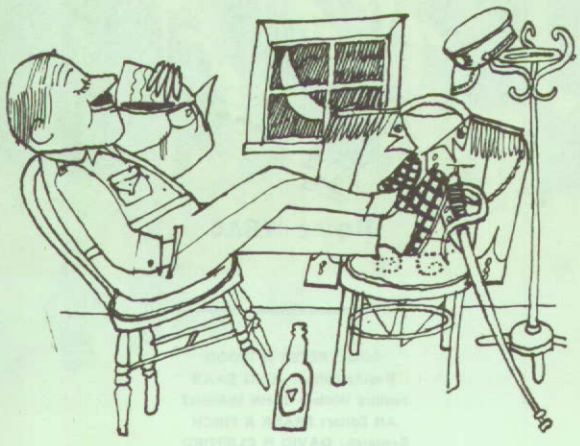

**G**unners, Guardsmen, Engineers.
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**N**ever-put-on-drafts-men,
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**S**how by upturned glass what brew
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# SOLDIER

APRIL 1967 Volume 23, No. 4


## Contents



**WRAC-OF-ALL-TRADES *by* DIK**

**Drying WRAC**


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The ordeal begins. Nearby lies the wild country where progress consists of a snow-shoe shuffle.

# "Three minutes to the top"

**THE mountain pass called Way of the North Man has become the most important thing in their lives. They—British soldiers in Norway—know its attainment means respite for tortured limbs. But they loathe it because it never seems to get any nearer.**

Sometimes the pass, more than 3000 feet high, disappears from view as swirling snow creates a "white out." In this white night who can tell whether that nearby is a few feet or a few hundred feet?

In big snow-shoes and white camouflage the 60 men—mechanics, signallers and medics—look like a lost flock of phantom birds. Harnessed like huskies to heavy toboggans, burdened by bulky Bergen rucksacks, the soldiers struggle slowly and silently upwards.

When they left Mjolfjell, a winter sports centre near Bergen, a few hours ago and began the testing ascent many were resentful that they, skilled technicians, had to endure such exertion. What was the infantry for?

Now they regard Nordmannaskardet, the pass, as a challenge to the honour of their various Corps. A rumour that an officer has bet that the two hotch-potch

Story by JOHN WRIGHT/Pictures by PAUL TRUMPER

**Above: Quick start to the long walk. At line's end muscles will take over from Norwegian Railways. Below: Shooting on skis in snow storms was part of Hardfall training. Getting down posed problems.**

platoons will not reach the top before nightfall spurs them on.

The sledges, which each carry a section's survival equipment and weapons, are mainly Canadian and aluminium; some groups have the pinewood Norwegian toboggan or pulk.

These greatly reviled although undoubtedly essential vehicles result in strange orders assailing cold ears. Non-commissioned officers yell "Saddle up" and "Let 'em roll" or "Move 'em out" punctuated by "Mush!" A corporal mutters: "I'll never ill treat a carthorse again."

The snow-shoes, also Canadian, were damned by almost everybody at first. But without them the men would be now as helpless as a polar bear in Piccadilly. Progress is slow, especially compared with that of the tough instructor-guides, Norwegian officer cadets, who flash by gracefully on skis.

Fresh energy surges through the struggling radio-linked column as the word spreads—"Three minutes to the top."

Half-an-hour later they reach the top. Then the agony of the eight miles that have taken all day to walk is dismissed with a few well-chosen expletives and minds turn to scoff and kip.

Swiftly the sledges are unloaded and tents erected in snow holes. Care taken now means the difference between a comfortable night and one of cold sleepless endurance.


A 105-millimetre pack-howitzer equipped with skis on test with the Volvo over-snow carrier (above). Below: British soldiers on skis surprised the Norwegians and occasionally damaged their own limbs.

Training Company Sergeant-Major of Hardfall 3, Thomas Hughes, 22 Locating Battery, Royal Artillery, applies "lipstick" issued to guard lips against cold. He wears an issued Norwegian cap.

Above: Canadian snow-shoes, heartily disliked at the start, proved their worth in deep snow. Below: Norwegian instructors won bouquets from everyone. Here is one demonstrating ski waxing.

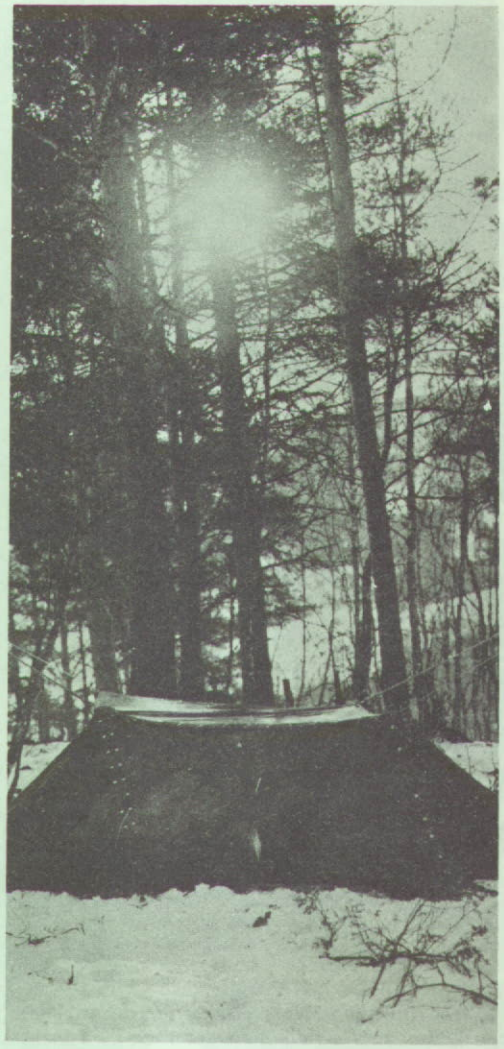
Food is cold almost as soon as it leaves the tins but none the less welcome. The wiry Norwegian cadets, under their system already experienced soldiers, love the Irish stew and treacle pudding compo that the British so readily abuse. In return they make Norwegian-style coffee.

Then it is into sleeping bags. During the night the temperature drops to minus five degrees Centigrade and there is a biting wind. It is not very cold by local standards but too cold for those who have succumbed to the natural temptation after a hard day's slog to flop thoughtlessly without adequate preparation.

Getting up is an ordeal best forgotten. Afterwards begins the long trek downwards with sledges slithering playfully on the gradient. Now the sun is shining and the sky is multi-coloured. Eventually the tree line is reached and the hardy little birches are greeted like old friends. Soon the trees thicken as pine make an appearance and the procession crosses little streams where there are blue ice patterns of great beauty.

After six miles the column passes colourful little houses nestling in the snow. This is the farming community of Giljarhus, journey's end. And a brisk snowball fight brings to an end the climax of Exercise Hardfall 3.

Next day the men are again in the clouds. But this time they go by cable-car to a



**Left: Home for the night. British troops proved that with the right precautions sleeping in snow is no hardship. Right: Time for snow-shoes. But they carry on their packs Norwegian plastic ones described by the few who tried them as "useless."**

Among those participating in Hardfall 3 were men of 22 Locating Battery, Royal Artillery; 8 Infantry Workshop, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers; 3 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers; 3rd Division Headquarters and Signals Regiment, Royal Corps of Signals; 19 Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps.

Also taking part were men of 1st Battalion, The Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry. But the Battalion was more in prominence during other stages of the exercise, flying to Norway by companies. Since taking part in Winter Express last year the Battalion has seen six months' service in Aden.

Hardfall 5 must have been old hat for "B" Company. Ten days previously they returned from similar training in Canada.

**Below: Clever use of clothing defeats the cold. Main thing is to avoid perspiration and retain warmth at halts. Right: Troops used this cable-car to relax on the smart ski slopes. Far below are the town of Vossevangen and Tvildemoen Camp.**

friendlier mountain where they mess around to their heart's content on the smart ski slopes.

Exercise Hardfall's aim was to train British troops of NATO's Allied Mobile Force (Land) to live, move and fight in severe winter conditions. The exercise was in five parts with soldiers staying for two-week periods at Tvildemoen Camp, headquarters of the Norwegian Army's 10th Infantry Regiment, in the winter sports area of Voss.

Hardfall 3 was for 150 support troops of Britain's AMFL contingent. As they trained in winter warfare the difficulty was that it was not cold enough. Indeed, on some occasions it rained instead of snowed.

Despite this the men received skilled skiing instruction from the Norwegian cadets (in Phase 3 one cadet was the son of an Olympic gold medallist). Over enthusiasm often resulted in broken bones or sprains.

A critical look at British cold weather kit after last year's Exercise Winter Express in Northern Norway resulted in the Hardfall trial of a scale of personal equipment part-Canadian and part-British with some Norwegian items. Popular among the men were the extremely warm Canadian combat suits with a fur-edged hood and the Canadian rubber overboots. Canadian underwear was another winner.

Grafted on to the training were equipment trials. The Volvo over-snow carrier was tested in a gun-towing role with the 105-millimetre pack-howitzer to discover its suitability for the gunners. The Army Air Corps tried out Scout helicopters and a Beaver aircraft among the mountains of Voss.

Winterisation of vehicles was under scrutiny. On trial were such items for Land-Rovers as improved interior heaters, engine pre-heating equipment, canvas skirts to retain warmth and window blinds to combat freezing. Lack of extreme cold was a problem here, too. During Hardfall 3 a test team moved east in an effort to find lower temperatures. Traction in the snow was another trial subject.

But Hardfall's main aim was to teach the British soldier of AMFL to come to terms with conditions that can kill if not taken seriously.

Quietly-spoken Colonel Magne Stangeland, of Norway's 10th Infantry Regiment, praised the behaviour of British troops in the winter sports town of Vossevangen. They received a warm welcome from local people and Norwegian Television gave them a spot. As always, the British soldier entered into the spirit of things, and soon his presence, often in combat kit, at smart *aprés-ski* dances was taken for granted.

# AUTOMATED ARTILLERY

Story by JOHN SAAR / Pictures by ARTHUR BLUNDELL

**BARRING an issue of walking, talking battlefield Daleks to the infantry, the Royal Artillery are way out in front with robot warfare. Computers have made a giant impact on commerce and industry; now the Gunners have conscripted 76 synthesised brains for active service.**

The computers are the major element in an artillery control system called FACE due to go into service at the end of next year. FACE elasticates to Field Artillery Computer Equipment and is the joint product of Elliott-Automation Limited and, via the Ministry of Defence, the School of Artillery and the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment.

Ahead of any other European army, Britain will employ computers in the combat area. As a real breakthrough in artillery control, FACE is a small revolution and it will put the Royal Artillery on the crest of the technological wave. Halcyon days for the Gunners, and ominous news for enemies likely to come under the automated fire. Within seconds of ingesting target information the computer puts up the bearing and elevation on a figure-board that flickers with action like a rioting pin-table.

Mounted in Land-Rovers or armoured personnel carriers, FACE will be available to every battery. The tin slave's prodigious mathematical capabilities will take the drudgery of calculation out of gunnery. The result is automation as she was intended; the men are easier to train and their work less tiring; shooting is faster, more accurate and less vulnerable to human error.

Active British interest in computers dates from the appraisal and rejection of an American system in 1959. Elliott's pondered and produced a prototype for evaluation.

The computer used was from the previous generation of this fast developing industry. Large and cumbersome, it fitted with difficulty into a trailer to lay a diffident claim to mobility, yet it readily proved the concept sound.

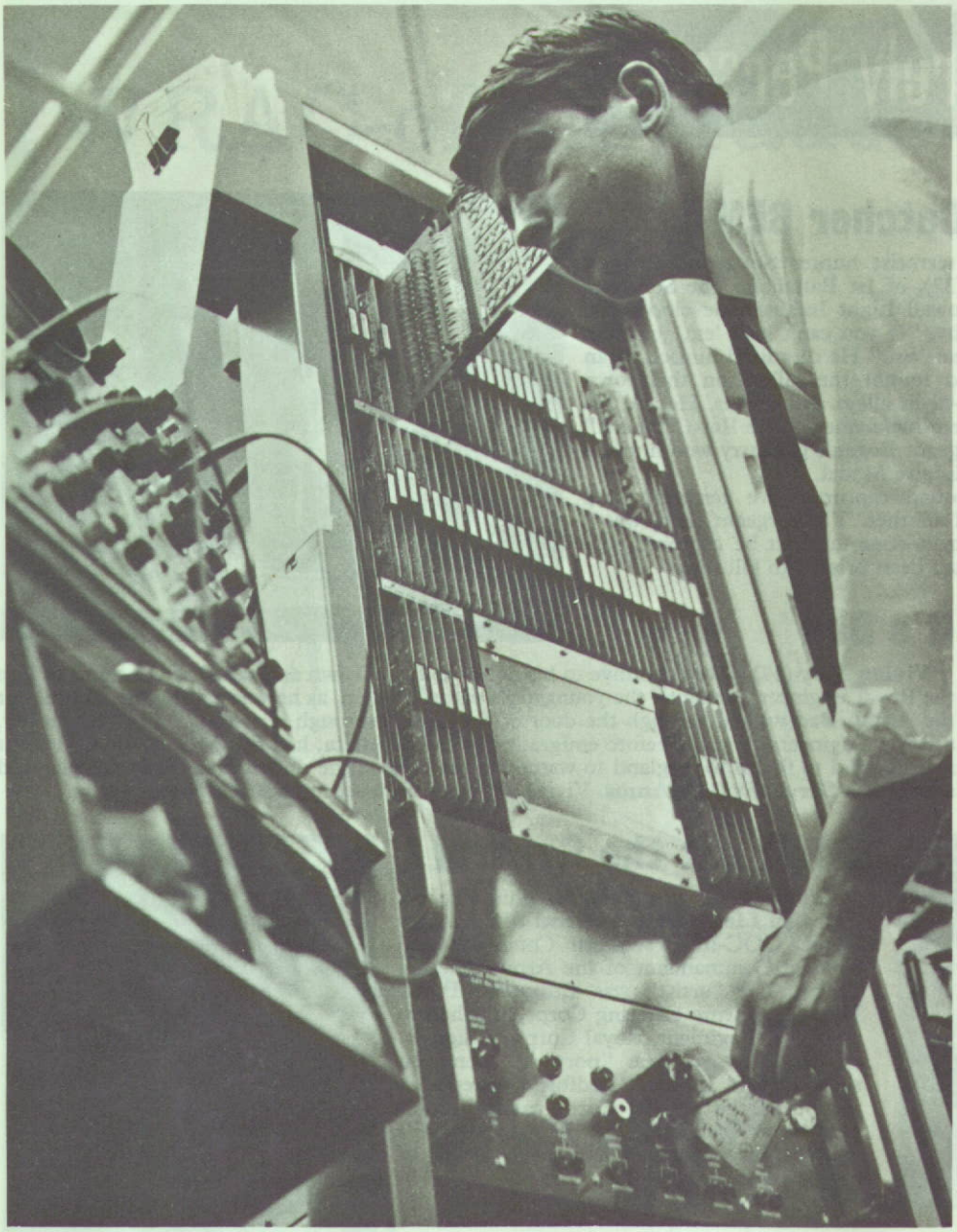
FACE incorporates the 920B mobile computer originally designed for another military purpose and since adapted for use in research and industry. After exhaustive environmental tests in hot and cold rooms and jolting cross-country marathons in Land-Rovers, the makers declare the system's reliability "rugged" and say that on average it will function for 300 hours between failures. The computer itself has a predicted span of more than 1000 hours between failures.

As the controlling unit for a battery of six guns, FACE will supplant the gunners who laboriously work to the formulae of gunnery science with logarithm book and slide-rule.

Good gunnery depends on the correct solution of complex and inter-related sums. The exact position of each gun must be calculated by the survey team and a meteorological group also working behind the guns supplies data on weather likely to affect the shell in flight. The battery command post blends this mass of information and modifies the result with ammunition temperature, gun barrel wear and radioed corrections.

Add in changes of target, the necessity of recording events, imagine a battery in action round the clock and the prognosis is strain, fatigue, a slowing down and, eventually, mistakes.

The survey team guards against error by comparison of answers from two men working separately on the same problem.



**Top left: The introduction of FACE will mean faster, more accurate and more versatile shooting by modern artillery like the self-propelled Abbot.**

**Left: A Trials Wing soldier "types" information on the console. The FACE system is to be mounted in Land-Rovers or armoured personnel carriers.**

**Right: A FACE system computer undergoes final pre-delivery checks. The Gunner order for 76 computers is the largest ever placed in Britain.**

The untiring, unboreable computer is obviously a "cleaner" way of producing orders for the guns and it will save time and manhours.

FACE will slash the delay in bringing artillery into action from a new position from 45 minutes to ten. The School of Artillery Trials Wing visualises the FACE vehicle as being in voice, line and radio contact with the guns.

The operator is the computer's ever-present jockey and mouth-piece, and the designers stayed awake at nights to make his relationship with it as strain-free as possible. In the techspeak jargon of computerites—practically incomprehensible to laymen—Elliotts smugly dub the console "the most significant 'in action' man-machine interface."

In the same vein they talk about "hardware" (the physical presence of the computer) and "software"—the intangible data programmed into it. The preparation and installation of these conditioned reflexes entailed months of work by programmers who became experts in gun drill and ballistics. Presumably it adds a solid sum of sterling to the £12,000 cost of the basic computer.

The operator feeds the computer's mercurial appetite with raw data as it reaches him from the guns and rear areas. The computer is linked in platonic friendship with a teleprinter and receives from it the latest meteorological forecast. When the answers gleam in neon at the top of the console the operator reads off the elevation and target bearing to the gun crew. (In time, no doubt, a more sophisticated computer could be equipped with a "speak-your-weight-machine" voice to carry out even this task.

A rapid change of programming tape adjusts to a battery of different calibre and six buttons key the computer to give laying instructions to the six guns individually. FACE will record up to 30 targets and can quickly direct changes in the fire plan.

An important innovation likely to find many commercial applications is the fully portable field testing equipment which will enable an Army engineer with no special knowledge of computers to trace and rectify faults on the site, and in minutes rather than hours.

If a FACE vehicle were knocked out in battle, the battery would reckon to borrow time on another computer or revert to a simplified version of the method presently used.

In support of the battery FACE systems the surveyors are to be equipped with specially programmed 920B computers, and development work on a meteorological computer system is at an elaborate advanced stage.

As soon as Elliott's system comes into service, a major peacetime advantage will make itself felt. It now takes at least 12 weeks to train a gunner to operational standards. The same man will be able to direct a computer to do the job after only 20 hours of instruction.

The world's only gun data system with computed weather, survey and servicing facilities will allow the Royal Artillery to make devastatingly full and fast use of the versatile ammunition, guns and rockets in its armoury.

## COVER PICTURES


**FRONT**

**Portrait of a parachuting priest. The Reverend Paul Abram and two other 16th Parachute Brigade chaplains made a joint descent on to Hankley Common, Surrey. The Bishop to the Forces, the Right Reverend John Taylor Hughes, flew to the dropping zone in a helicopter to watch the jump. Picture by Army Public Relations photographer Corporal Bob Leitch.**


**BACK**

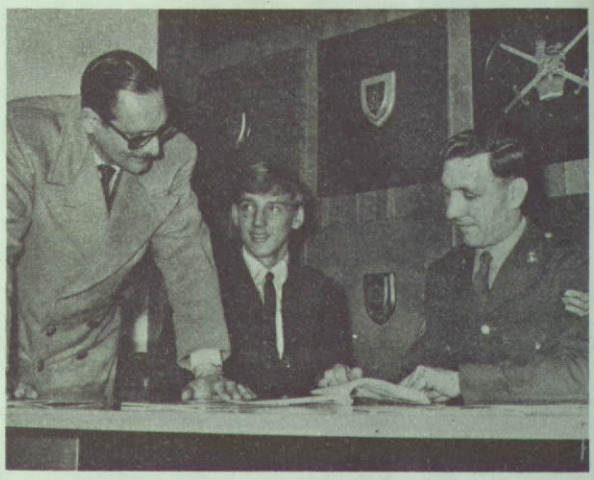
**If Private George Raines looks less than happy on the Army's stand at the Camping and Outdoor Life Exhibition, Olympia, perhaps he was thinking of all his friends in The Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry doing some genuine skiing in Canada and Norway. George was on the synthetic ski slope—the Army's main exhibit—as a member of 28 Army Youth Team.**

# Purely Personal

## Rat-Catcher BEM

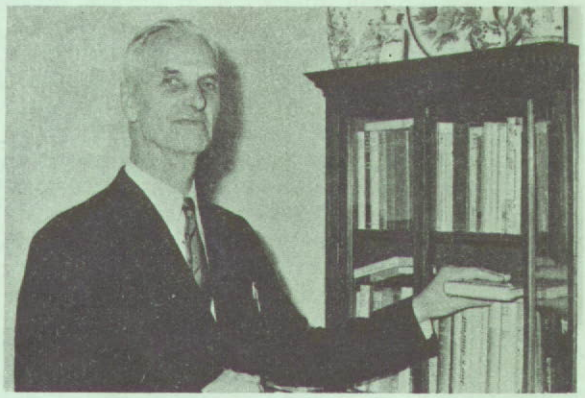
Aden terrorist hunter **Sergeant Robert Bogan** (32), of 1st Battalion, The Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry, developed the philosophy, "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em —and beat 'em." He disguised himself as an Arab and fought the killers on their own ground—ill-lit alleys and sewers. He and his squad were nicknamed "The Rat-Catchers." And Sergeant Bogan's gallantry won him the British Empire Medal.

The squad captured five terrorists and wounded another. The sergeant (left) was a marked man—one terrorist he captured personally had been briefed to kill him.



## It's Dad

**Vivian Moy** (17) waved goodbye to his father at Cape Town and sailed for England to join the Royal Engineers. Imagine the youngster's surprise when, as he was getting the facts about the Army, Dad walked through the door of the Middlesbrough recruiting office! His father, a Royal Engineers sergeant before emigrating to South Africa, had business on the Continent and decided to fly on to England to watch Vivian sign on the dotted line. They are pictured above with **Sergeant Pete Amos**. Vivian has since been accepted as a sapper.



## Don't eat the General

Captured in cake icing is this likeness (right) of **Lieutenant-General Sir Antony Read**, GOC-in-C Western Command and Colonel Commandant of the Army Catering Corps. The "artist" was **Corporal Peter Dau** (22), Army Catering Corps, attached to 22 Signal Regiment, Royal Corps of Signals, in Rhine Army. The "portrait" won him second place in the "inedible centrepiece" section of the 1 (BR) Corps catering competition at Bielefeld. Usually the corporal's work is very edible—but whoever heard of eating a general?

## Story's end

When **Mr Albert Webb** used to tour the country as a flautist with the Band of the Welsh Guards he collected children's books. For, orphaned at an early age himself, he gained immense pleasure from reading to his only daughter. The collection grew and grew. And at Sotheby's in London recently it fetched nearly £6000 by auction. Mr Webb's constant search for new stories had resulted in some 1000 items described as "one of the finest and most extensive collections of children's books and juvenilia in Britain, if not in the world." Mr Webb (pictured above), now 64, was a Regular Soldier for 29 years.

## PhD for the Major

It's now **Major John Spackman**, Doctor of Philosophy! The Royal Army Ordnance Corps officer won the degree as an external student of London University for a thesis on improvement of rubber by carbon, and an oral examination. He is pictured left outside the Albert Hall after receiving his degree. Major Spackman's thesis followed research at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham. Now he is with the guided weapons branch of his Corps' Ammunition Inspectorate Headquarters at Didcot.

## In the family

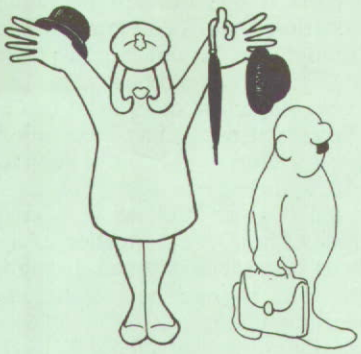
It was quite a family affair, really—the unveiling of a clock presented to the Royal School of Military Engineering at Gillingham, Kent, by the local Council. The Mayor, **Councillor Desmond Banning,** performed the ceremony. Among the guests was his uncle, **Mr Fred Banning**, a Chelsea Pensioner. And both belonged to another "family," the Royal Engineers. Mr Banning, now 82, was a company sergeant-major; Councillor Banning was a major. They are pictured together above.

# WRAC-of-all-trades

*With apologies to the WRAC*
*who rightly prefer to be called W-R-A-C*
*and not "wrack"*

*by* **DIK**

VEGETABLE WRAC



HAT-WRAC

SHIP-WRAC

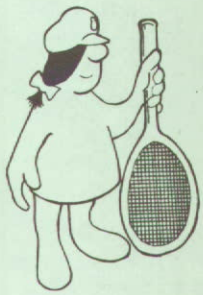
WRAC AND RUIN

WRACMANINOV

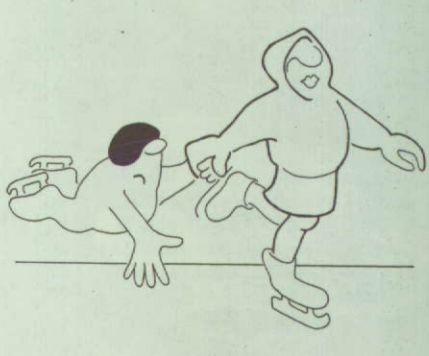
PIPE-WRAC

WRAC WITH PINION


TORTURE WRAC



TENNIS WRACETTE



ANNAWRAC

# THEY KEEP THE COLOURS FLYING

**IN an age where "handmade" is almost a bygone boast, the Royal School of Needlework is a wonderful, unbelievable anachronism. The stream of officers who call to commission Colours, Standards, Guidons or banners for trumpets or pikes, leave mid-20th century Knightsbridge for a long gone past when they step over the threshold.**

Gently shunning the marvels of mass-production science, preferring the handed-down methods of an age-old craft, the embroidery mecca of the world cares only to produce exquisite work of quite old-fashioned beauty. Styles and scenes have changed little since Princess Christian, daughter of Queen Victoria, founded the school in 1872.

In the cloistered hush of the high-ceilinged workroom the embroiderers pick out elaborate, vividly coloured designs on silk or velvet. Often their needles are being wielded with infinite care on the Army's business. The three Services, with the churches and wealthy private individuals, keep the order books full with requests for new work and for the repairs which the embroiderers execute with the same consummate care.

The production schedule—and the phrase is hopelessly incongruous—is staggering—a single Colour requires the combined efforts of three embroiderers for six months. Even at between £450 and £650 the Army is clearly getting a bargain. Embroiderers' wages are not exciting.

Miss Margaret Bartlett recalls the visit of a time-and-motion expert and his bewildered exit: "He threw up his hands in horror and left. I think he was just out of his depth. When he left he said to me, 'I simply don't know how you do it.' "

Working on Colours, after the original design has been traced from a College of Heralds' drawing, is a painstaking procedure. While the Colour is held under tension in a frame, the embroiderer stitches the two sides simultaneously.

What of that labour-saving invention the sewing machine? Well, the Royal School of Needlework knows it exists but chooses to ignore it for most of the time. There is a sewing machine available in fact and it is used for assembly work and extensively in the preservation of old Colours.

Preservation and repair work is viewed both as a duty to the original embroiderer and as a privilege. Fading Colours, with the ravages of decay in full cry, often arrive at the School for first-aid treatment before laying-up ceremonies. The process is more of an embalmment than a facelift. The rotting fabric is gingerly laid between layers of nylon net which so strengthens the flags that they will hang until they become dust. In the Guards Chapel alone there are 25 Colours netted by the School's workers. Accompanied by a desperate plea for help, one Colour came from South Africa as a heap of fragments in a tobacco tin. Adroit detective work and feather-light handling restored it to a frail whole.

Repairs to the Colours still on the active list are always rush jobs with the orphaned Regiments keeping up a steady pressure for the return of their prized emblems sooner than possible. Old hands in the workroom compare these occasions with the late nights and overtime weekends spent in putting the finishing touches to the Queen's Coronation Robe.

Determination that the craft should not die is a powerful feeling in the School. A realistic appreciation of the necessity of recruiting youngsters started a two-year apprenticeship scheme in 1962. Most of the girls join as school-leavers on the recommendation of a needlework mistress and rapidly settle down in an atmosphere akin to devotion. While learning their craft from simple exercises they spend two days a week in the classroom. There is much to absorb—embroiderers may know 100 or more stitches.

Through these embroiderers-in-training and part-time students—there have been as many as 138 in a week—the School has become the British centre of instruction in the craft. As a nation-wide hobby embroidery was never more popular and the school draws constantly from an invaluable fund of experience to advise growing numbers of inquirers.

The sale of painted canvases to home embroiderers stimulates interest and rounds out the School's budget. A minute watch on costs is one modern phenomenon the institution has been unable to avoid. Although the School is non-profit making and receives yearly grants from City livery companies, costs must be covered.

Royal patronage has been enjoyed since Queen Victoria dubbed the School "Royal" in 1875, three years after Princess Christian started it at an address in nearby Sloane Street. The Queen Mother is a working patron very much in touch through Princess Alice who is president of the 14-member governing council.

In founding the School Princess Christian declared that she wanted to offer a profession to gentlewomen finding themselves in reduced circumstances in an age when ladies of good breeding did not work. Yet nowadays the apprentice embroiderers sitting in rows, diligent heads bent over their work, are lively young girls in their 'teens and early 'twenties.

The missing gentlewomen were located for SOLDIER by Sir Anthony Frost, chief executive officer of the Distressed Gentlefolks Aid Association. "Most of our people are so old and doddery, poor things, that most of them don't do anything really. They just sit at home and concentrate on staying alive."

**Delicate work requires close attention and this young apprentice peers closely at her needlework . .**

**. . . The students have their own workroom for study and practical work. Next door is the . . .**

**. . . sanctum of the skilled embroiderers. Miss Ruby Essam has been sewing for 50 years.**

Story by JOHN SAAR / Pictures by ARTHUR BLUNDELL

The art of needlework as taught to apprentices in the Royal School has changed little down the centuries, but the painted canvases (below) sold to home embroiderers are new-fangled inventions in comparison.

## SOLDIER *to Soldier*

It's great. It's fab. It's gear. It's all those and more if it's any form of military uniform as worn in the current Carnaby Street and Chelsea-sponsored craze. This is obviously just an extrovert phase but it is one which inevitably provokes criticism. Many people regard this wearing of military or quasi-military uniform as offensive, particularly ex-Servicemen to whom it can be a personal affront.

It is in fact illegal under an Act of 1894. This makes the wearing of military uniform or any dress having the appearance of military uniform unlawful, except in certain circumstances, and carries a maximum fine of £5. The lawful exceptions are stage, music hall, circus and bona-fide military performances, extended by assumption to include the post-Act cinema and television.

Another section of the Act makes it an offence to wear a military uniform in such a manner or in such circumstances as to be likely to bring contempt upon that uniform. Here the maximum penalty is a £10 fine or a month's imprisonment.

In practice no one worries too much about the wearing of military uniforms at a fancy dress ball or in a carnival procession and the civil police—for this is a civil and not a military matter—would not normally bring proceedings against these youngsters unless perhaps a breach of the peace were threatened or the offender was drunk and disorderly.

The Army and the ex-Serviceman naturally disapprove but can do little about it. Military uniforms do reach the second-hand shops although the main source—surplus disposals—has now taken much more stringent measures. Now not only are buttons and other insignia being removed but the clothing is being ripped to make it usable only as rags.

The answer, except in cases where the uniform is being brought into disrepute, lies perhaps in tolerance. This is a passing craze and perhaps there is subconsciously something good behind the natural peacock instinct and material comfort and warmth of military clothing.

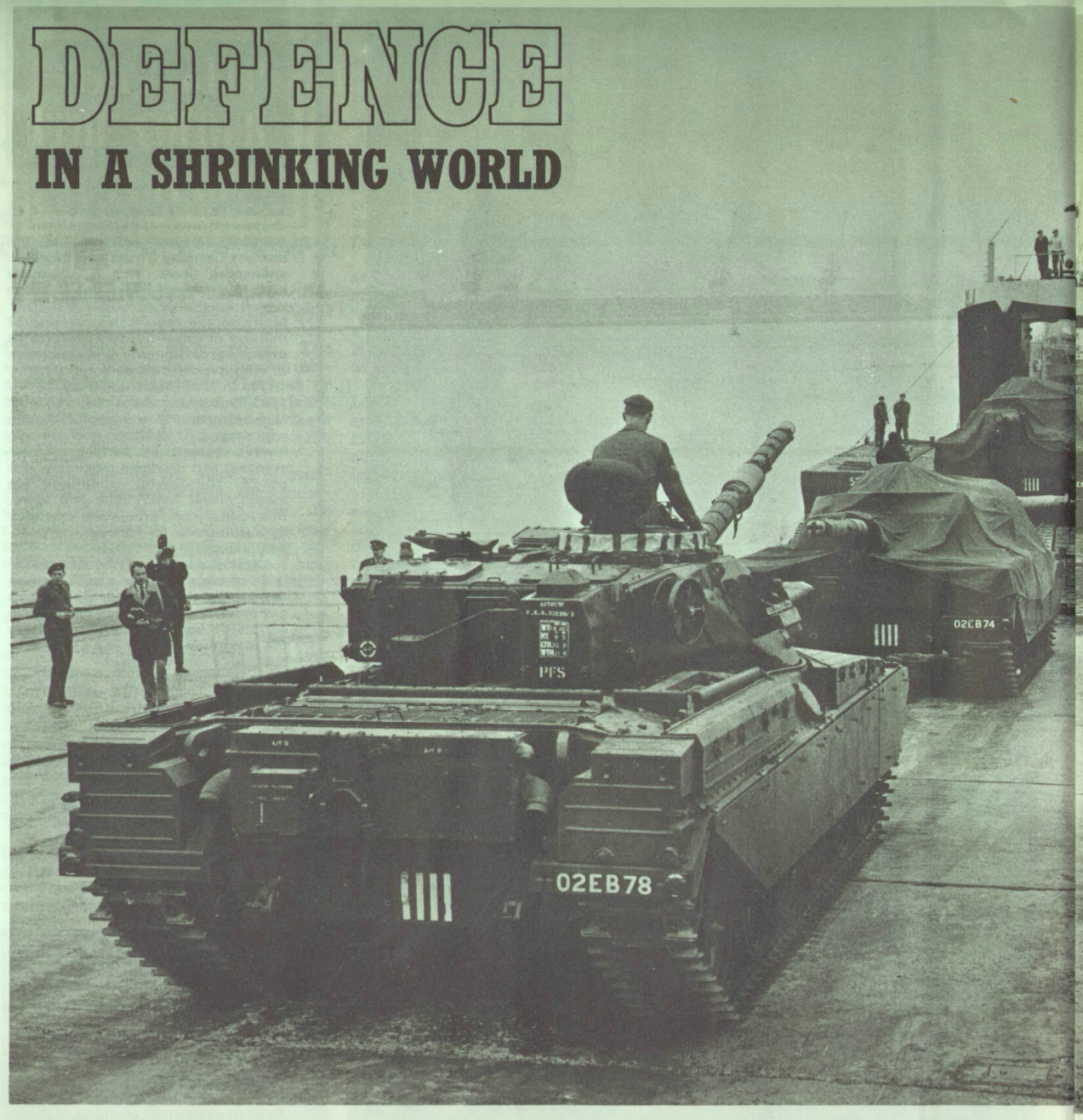
Perhaps it is simply that today's youngster is much more stultified in his quest for adventure.

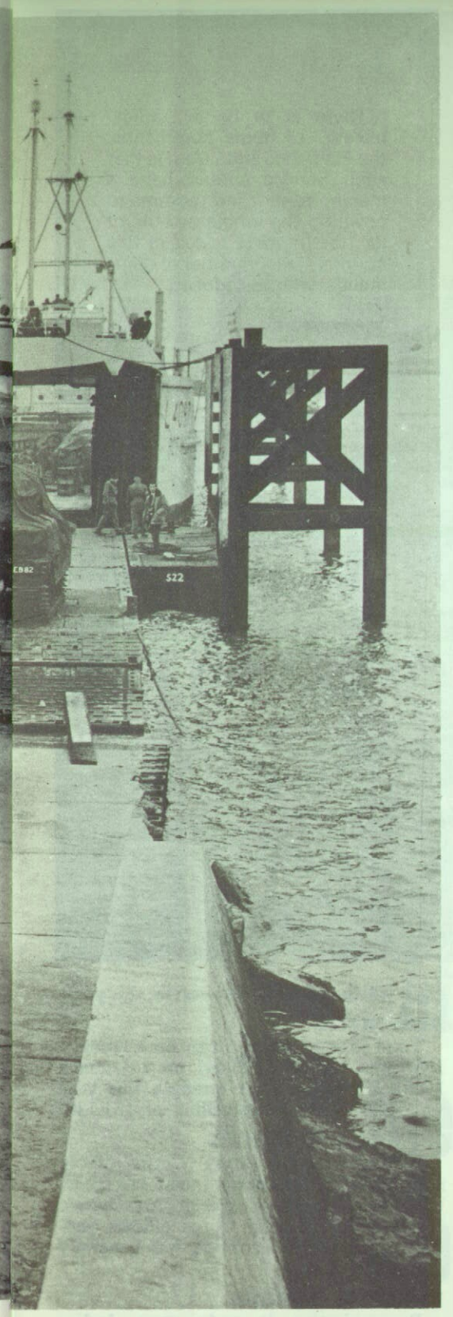
★

SOLDIER offers its apologies to readers for recent delays in publication. These have been caused mainly by staff shortages. The magazine has a minimal staff and editorial or photographic vacancies are never filled for at least three months.

With the recent arrival of a feature writer and, after more than a year's gap, a photographer, the two staffs are once again at full strength. The effect will be to bring SOLDIER back to its normal publication day.

# DEFENCE
## IN A SHRINKING WORLD



**SOON the sky will be full of soldiers coming home from the world they have long regarded as their oyster. What will life be like when they leave their VC10s? Some answers are contained in the Defence White Paper.**

The eventual return of 30,000 Servicemen will present a "formidable" housing problem, it is admitted. Special measures are being taken. And, the Statement says, "it is important that the relationship between the Services and the community should be easy and beneficial to both."

First, housing. The Army's requirement for United Kingdom married quarters will rise from 39,000 to 43,000. About 2000 of these will be completed this year and 1700 in 1967-68. Waiting families will be accommodated in additional furnished hirings, specially purchased houses, mobile homes and caravans.

Expenditure in 1967-68 on permanent married quarters, house purchase and mobile homes' sites is expected to be £16.5 million and on hirings £2.27 million.

An extra hostel will provide temporary accommodation. Service families isolated from social amenities will be provided with community centres. Work is continuing on renovation of temporary camps for short-term accommodation of homecoming soldiers.

Next, the relationship with the community. The Statement declares: "It has always been one of the functions of the Armed Forces to aid the civil power when asked to do so. This kind of help takes many forms already." It quotes the Army's help at Aberfan.

"Service personnel and equipment are used for repairing roads, bridging and demolition; civilian patients are treated in Service hospitals; and Service communications are provided at big public occasions.

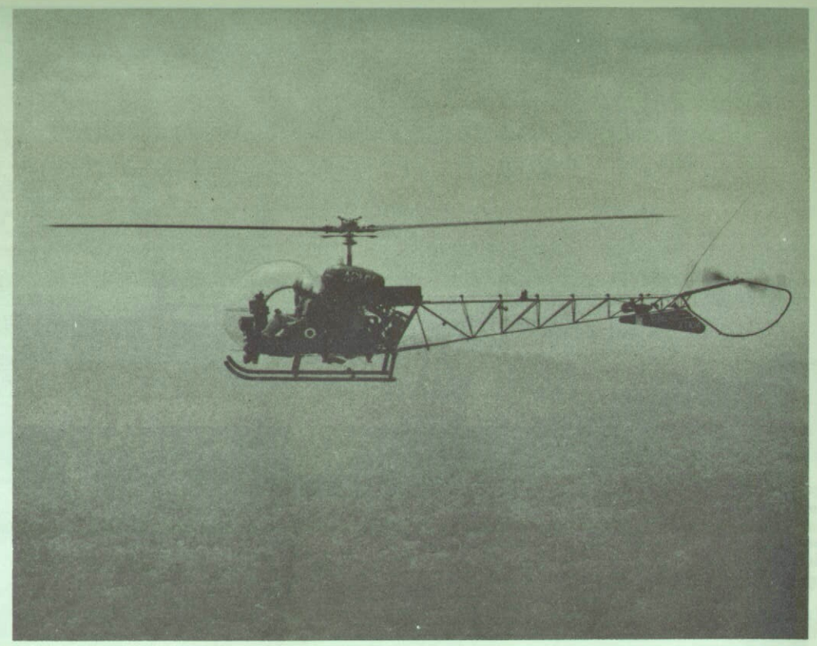
"The Government is studying the scope for developing further the peaceful use of military forces in this country."

Of the future of combat forces the Statement says: "The Government is concerned to settle the size and shape of the Forces for the next decade in a way that will provide the maximum possible stability for the men and women who are making their career in the Services." But final decisions must await NATO discussions.

Deployment of our forces has been greatly affected by the end of Confrontation with Indonesia. The campaign, it is stated, "was a fine example of what British Forces can do outside Europe to maintain international stability."

Without their contribution much of South-East Asia might have collapsed into



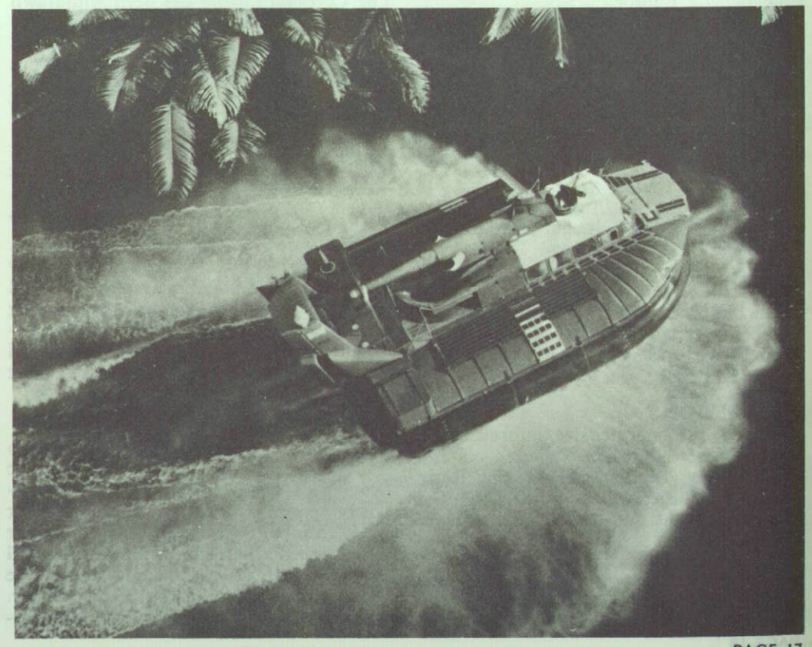


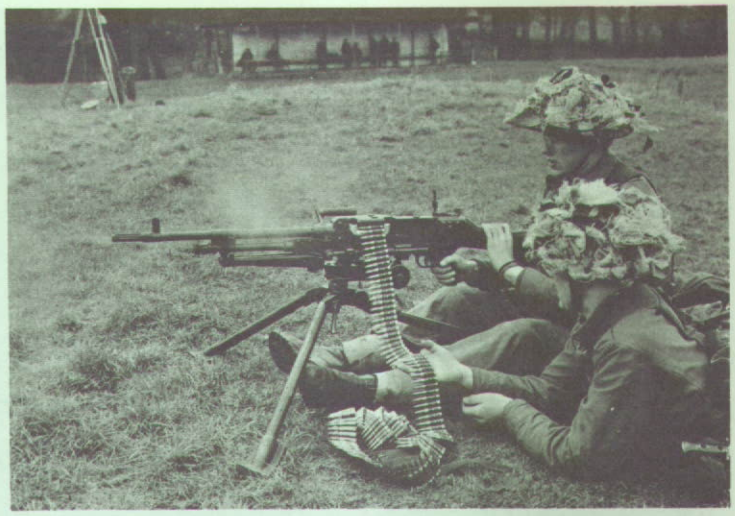
**Above: Sioux helicopter—the Army is getting more.**

**Left: More Chieftains for armoured units in BAOR.**

Cost of our Forces in Germany poses a special problem, the Statement says. NATO is essential to our security and we must continue to make a worthwhile military contribution. But the foreign exchange problem has added urgency to the reappraisal of NATO strategy. The British Government has agreed to make no changes in troop or supply disposition of its forces in Germany that would affect their combat capability before 1 July this year. But, the Statement adds, accommodation is now being prepared in Britain in case it proves necessary to reduce our forces in Germany.

**Below: Hovercraft—more development and training.**





Right: GPMG—it will continue to replace the Bren.

Below: Caravans await some returning families.

There is to be a "radical review" of home commands, the Estimates state. Aim is that each Service should have a major front - line command covering the whole or bulk of its "teeth" units based in this country. Total number of commands will be reduced.

disorder perhaps with the risk of general war. But the aim is that Britain should not again have to undertake operation on this scale outside Europe.

On Aden, which we leave in 1968, the Statement looks forward to increased United Nations help. Meanwhile the three Services are working in difficult circumstances "with the forbearance, loyalty and zeal that the country expects."

Other points of interest to the Army are:

## REDEPLOYMENT

New facilities in Australia are under discussion. Further reduction in Malaysian forces will be made this year. The Brigade of Gurkhas, which played an "outstanding part" in Confrontation, is being reduced from 14,000 to 10,000. Small reductions are being made in Hong Kong. About 2000 soldiers and airmen will leave Cyprus by the end of the year.

## EDUCATION

There will be extensive improvements in the higher education of young officers. A new inter-Service college, the Royal Defence College, will be established and federated with the three Service technological colleges into a single Royal Defence Academy.

## EQUIPMENT

Extensive re-equipment of field artillery for support of European ground forces will be complete early this year. New guns are the Abbot and the American M109. The Corporal missile has been withdrawn from service. Still in Germany, infantry will get more tracked armoured personnel carriers and Carl Gustav anti-tank weapons and in 1968 certain units will get the Swingfire guided anti-tank weapon, now undergoing trials.

Night-fighting equipment is increasing. Trials are continuing of a night sight that may be fitted to every infantryman's rifle.

## RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Next year this will cost £260 million. There will be work on a light Army helicopter, a net radio system for field communication and Army weapon-locating radars. Being developed are a new lightweight close-support gun for the Royal Artillery and a replacement for the Ferret scout car.

## TRAINING

Introduced this year will be a course to train junior instructors of recruits on basic training; a course to teach tactics to infantry sergeants; and an increase of four weeks in infantry recruit training. A Junior Infantrymen's Battalion at Shorncliffe will take over from regimental depots the training of junior soldiers for the infantry. Men will be trained for the Army's hovercraft, which will come into service this year.

## STRENGTH

Total strength of the Army on 1 January 1967 was 195,697 (193,641 on 1 January 1966). The adult male strength this year was 2230 short of the ceiling of 181,130.

## WOMEN'S SERVICES

Women's Royal Army Corps officer recruiting was extremely good last year, but the shortage of Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps officers persists. Other rank recruiting was generally successful.

## RESERVE FORCES

Reorganisation is under way. Indications are that recruiting for the Volunteers of the new Territorial & Army Volunteer Reserve from the Territorial Army and Army Emergency Reserve will not fall far short of establishment, and will be reasonably satisfactory for the new Territorials.

## CADET FORCES

Total strength of the Army sections of the Combined Cadet Force and the Army Cadet Force is 76,500. Reserve Army reorganisation will mean big changes in training support and accommodation of the Army Cadet Force. Training deficiencies will be remedied by the Regular Army.

Above: Happiness on skis, as portrayed here by Private Pat Bowen, of the WRAC Platoon, Berlin.

Left: It was first time on skis for most of the girls and like all would-be skiers they found that falling was much easier than getting up.

Below: Lance-Corporals Catherine Johnston (left) and Janette Fry, who are both drivers with NATO.

# It's tough at the top of Europe...

BUT 15 members of the Women's Royal Army Corps on a survival course in Central Norway refused to get cold feet. They bounced through this test of endurance and stamina in a way that might have raised a few eyebrows among British troops of NATO's Allied Mobile Force (Land) on similar training in Exercise Hardfall in another part of Norway. And they wound up the week by beating Norwegian women soldiers in a snow shoe race.


Right: Can't reach these capitals on skis. "Still, it's not bad here," thinks Lance-Corporal Anne Byers, a clerk at NATO Joint HQ, at Rheindalen.

# FREEMEN OF ISERLOHN

Top: For the marching Fusiliers and their music—a great reception from the crowd. Above: For the inhabitants of Iserlohn—a Regimental drum, here being handed to the Oberburgermeister by Lieut-Col Pender.

**WHEN the men of 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, return to Scotland from Germany next month they will leave behind them 55,000 friends—the people of Iserlohn, in Westphalia.**

And Iserlohn's way of marking that friendship and saying thank you for outstanding good relations between Highlanders and citizens was to bestow on the Regiment the unique honour of the Freedom of Iserlohn.

It was the first such honour to be granted in the Federal Republic to a regiment of any nationality, including German.

An estimated 20,000 people watched as the 400 Scots marched through Iserlohn's narrow streets "with flags flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed," led by their Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon Pender.

During the 45-minute march, headed by their pipe and military bands, the Scotsmen passed two saluting bases. On one was Brigadier D A H Toler, Commander of 4th Guards Brigade. On the other, flanked by German panzer troops, was Iserlohn's Oberburgermeister, Herr Gunther Einert.

In some places the Highlanders had to close up shoulder to shoulder to pass through the enthusiastic crowd. The march ended in the largest square where every man received a glass of schnapps and the Commanding Officer proposed a toast in German to the people of Iserlohn.

Then it was presentation time. The Colonel gave Herr Einert a Regimental drum emblazoned with the battle honours of The Highland Light Infantry and The Royal Scots Fusiliers, which formed the present Regiment. He also handed over a colour picture of various uniforms worn by officers and men.

The Oberburgermeister gave the Battalion the Freedom Charter, a parchment scroll written in German and English, after reading it in both languages. He tied to the drones of the pipes of Pipe-Major David Aitken a banner embroidered with the Regimental crest on one side and the Iserlohn coat-of-arms on the other.

Soon the men who won the hearts of 55,000 people will be at Fort George near Inverness, but with a proud addition to their history!

*From reports by Army Public Relations, British Army of the Rhine.*



Above: This banner will remind the Scots.

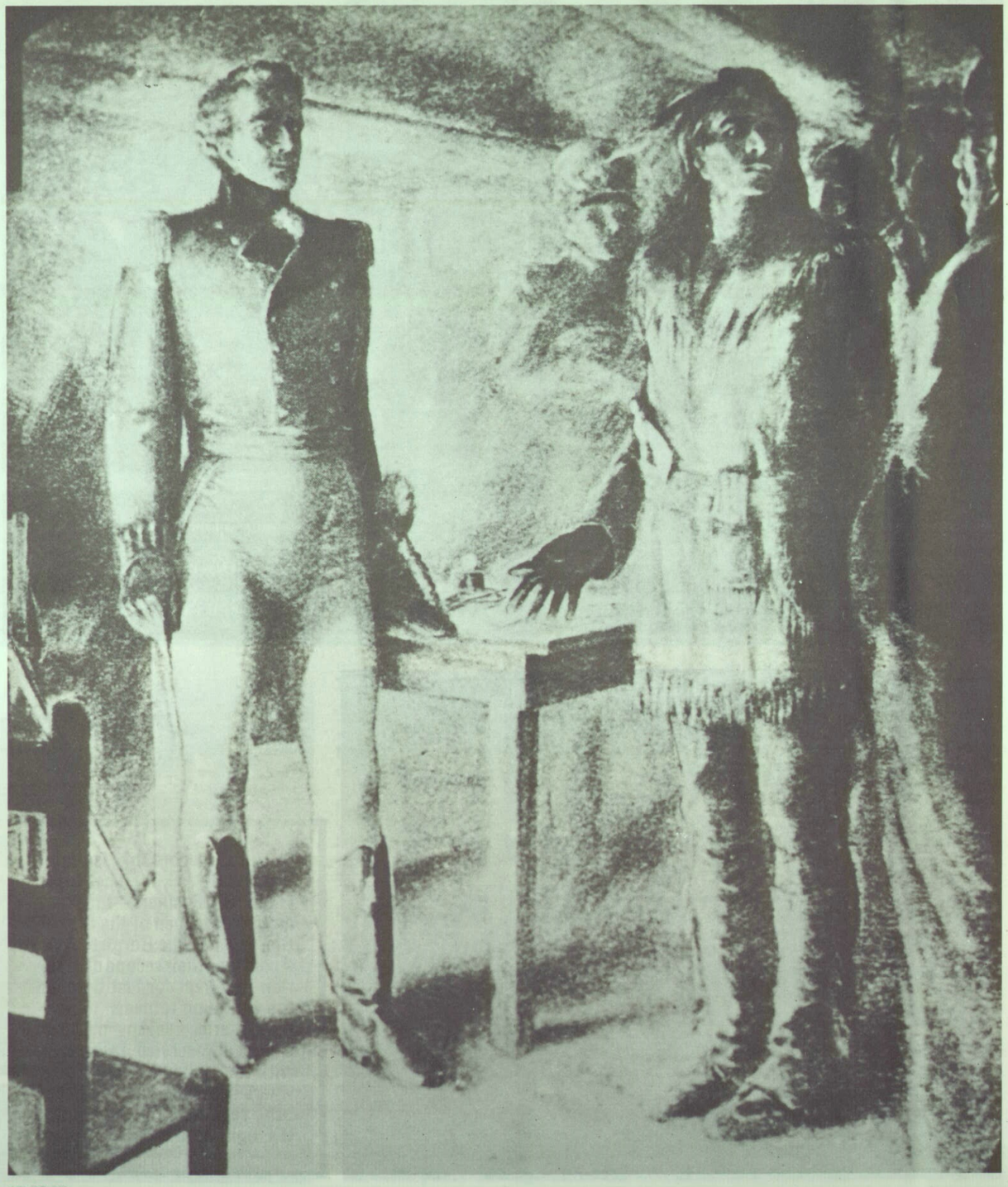
Top left: "Flags flying . . . bayonets fixed."

Bottom left: It was good fun for children.

The Freedom of Iserlohn was a hat-trick for The Royal Highland Fusiliers—they are already Freemen of the City of Glasgow and the Burgh of Ayr. And it was their second distinction in a year for last October the Battalion returned to Germany after seven months' emergency service in Cyprus with the United Nations Force where it became the first Scottish regiment to wear the UN light blue beret.

**This year Canada celebrates its Centenary. This is the story of a British General, born in the Channel Islands, who saved embryonic Canada from an American invasion at the beginning of the 19th century. Without him Canada might not have become the great country she is today. They call him . . .**

# HERO OF CANADA



**WHEN the United States declared war on Britain in 1812, General Widgery, a member of Congress, boasted of Canada: "I will raise a company and take it in six weeks."**

But the Americans had not reckoned on a certain Major-General Sir Isaac Brock of the 49th Foot. Due to his military skill, leadership and boundless energy, Canada was not overrun by the invader. He saved the country for the Empire and made it Canadian for ever.

Brock died when the Americans were raising the white flag, struck by a ball in the chest. He was held in such high esteem by his enemies that they sent a letter of condolence and after the funeral fired minute guns "as a mark of respect due to a brave enemy."

Born on Guernsey in 1769, Isaac Brock lived in the heart of St Peter Port in a grey granite mansion on which there is now a commemorative plaque. His ambition was to be a soldier. His elder brother John was a captain in the 8th King's Regiment and in 1785, when Brock was 15, he was appointed ensign by purchase in the same regiment.

He later changed to the 49th and at 28 was a senior lieutenant-colonel. The Duke of York declared that Brock "made the 49th one of the best regiments in the service out of one of the worst."

Under Sir Ralph Abercromby and Sir John Moore, Brock was second-in-command of land forces on the ill-fated British expedition to Holland in 1799. Then in 1802 the 49th sailed to Quebec. Soon the Regiment was sent to Upper Canada, now Ontario. It was then a wilderness of forests and lakes. Soldiers hated the life and desertions to the United States were frequent. Brock did his best to prevent this by treating his men with exceptional kindness.

In 1808 he became brigadier, in 1811 a major-general and three months later "President and Administrator of the Government of Upper Canada." This gave him the status of both civilian and soldier.

Canada was in a dangerous position when faced with American invasion. Not all members of the House of Assembly were loyal to their country and in Upper Canada there were fewer than 1500 troops guarding a 1300-mile frontier.

At a special session of the House, Brock made a strong plea for unity to "teach the enemy that a country defended by free men, enthusiastically devoted to the cause of their King and Constitution, can never be conquered."

When the American General Hull invaded Canada at Sandwich on 12 July 1812, he met no opposition. Alarmed, Brock decided to confront Hull near Detroit and on 8 August he was ready with boats and men. After a rough journey, during which Brock's boat hit a rock, got swamped and was refloated, the force of 300 soldiers reached Amhertsburg. Hull decided to withdraw and Sandwich was immediately taken by Brock.

The whole territory of Michigan surrendered and Brock's services in this short campaign were highly appreciated by the British government, which rewarded him with a knighthood.

One reason for Brock's success was the inclusion of Indians in his forces. Before the attack on Detroit an Indian whom Brock took into his confidence traced on a piece of birch bark a map showing streams to be crossed, groves for shelter and approaches to the fort. When the Indian, Tecumseh, first met Brock, after listening to a brief speech by the General, he told his assembled warriors "This is a MAN!"

After a short truce Brock decided to make for the Niagara frontier and prepare for the inevitable attack. He had 2000 bayonets—four companies of the 41st, six of the 49th and York, Lincoln and Norfolk militia—and 200 to 300 Indians.

With this force he had to guard 36 miles of the Niagara River. The Americans were commanded by Van Rensselaer whose objective was the heights above the Canadian village of Queenston, seven miles from the northern end of the river.

On the night of 12-13 October, Van Rensselaer threw his advanced guard across the rapids, just above Queenston, at a point completely commanded by an American six-gun battery. Some boats were carried too far downstream but ten, carrying about 225 men, crossed and returned for a second load. The movement was spotted by British pickets and, before dawn, opposition was beginning. At Queenston there were the two flank companies of the 49th and two more of the York Militia.

Brock himself arrived alone at seven that morning, having outridden his aide-de-camp. He went to the edge of Queenston Heights, overlooking the scene. The Heights were believed impassable and he sent the infantry to force back an enemy landing party.

Suddenly musket balls began to fall around him and he was forced to retire by a rush of some 150 Americans who had climbed the cliff and reached the crest. Brock escaped, summoned 90 Regulars and militia and advanced to recover the vantage point. They charged and were pushed back. But reinforcements, 90 men of the York Militia, were on the way.

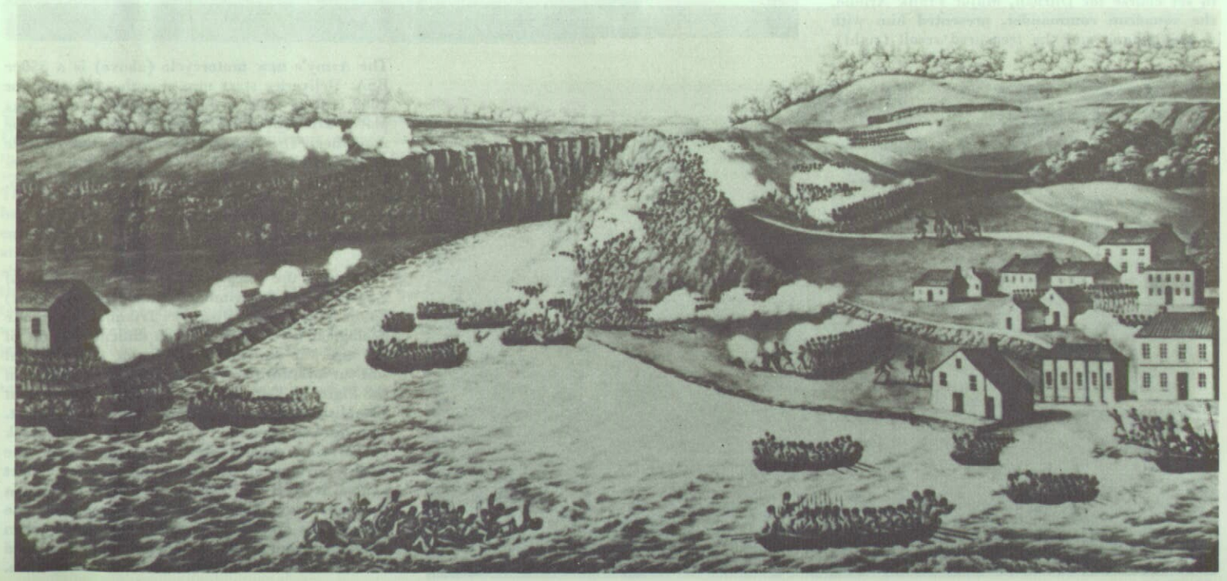
At the moment he was giving orders to a messenger, Brock was struck in the right breast by a ball that passed right through his body. He fell from his horse but before dying told an officer to conceal his fate. His body was carried to Queenston and hidden under a pile of blankets.

Brigadier Sheaffe arrived from Fort George with four companies of the 41st and 200 Indian warriors. From the other flank at Chippewa came 100 more Regulars.

Sheaffe advanced up the Heights. The attack was completely successful; the Americans were tired and disheartened by the absence of reinforcements. Pressing on, Sheaffe's men took many prisoners and saw the boats leave for the opposite shore with remnants of the enemy.

Isaac Brock had not died in vain.

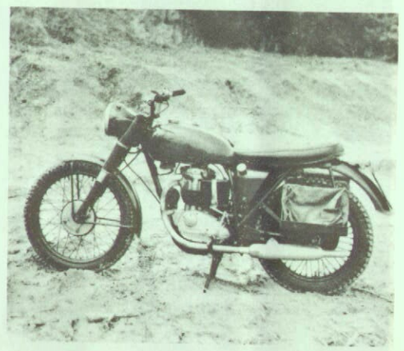
**Left: Brock and Tecumseh, his Red Indian ally. Below: Queenston Heights, 13 October 1812—the Channel Island warrior's last, fatal battle.**



# left, right and centre

In the rugged up-country areas of Aden three officers and eight sergeants of the Brigade of Guards are training four battalions of Arab troops. Instruction goes on until May when the four battalions of Federal Guardsmen under tuition join the Federal Regular Army which will be largely responsible for safeguarding Aden after the British withdrawal. Teachers and pupils see importance and urgency in their task. It may not be too long before Sergeant David Kennedy's protege is levelling his rifle in earnest.


In the cabin of the trimaran he is sailing round the world, New Zealander Tom Corkhill keeps a scroll appointing him to honorary membership of the British Army. He treasures it as a memento of the help and friendship he received from 10 Port Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, at Singapore. Badly battered by storms on the voyage from Australia his 25-foot boat Clipper One was in urgent need of repair. By lucky chance he came across 10 Port Squadron and the soldiers were impressed by his grit and determination. They "adopted" him on the spot and fed him for three weeks while various leaks and a damaged rudder were repaired. When the trimaran was shipshape once more and 24-year-old Tom ready to set course for Durban, Major Frank Arnold, the squadron commander, presented him with a unit plaque and the treasured scroll (right).



The Army's new motorcycle (above) is a 350cc BSA. Deliveries start next month. An order for 2000 costing close to half a million pounds was placed after three years of tests on 20 prototype machines. The motorcycle was proved capable of working in temperatures from 0 to 110 degrees Fahrenheit and in water up to 12 inches deep.

Traversing the steep slopes above the village of Aberfan, two experimental Army vehicles (left) have helped the Disaster Tribunal to make geological investigations. The difficult terrain of the tip was slowing progress on the essential soil surveys until the Dynatracks were sent from the Fighting Vehicles Research and Development Establishment, Surrey, where they were on test. The tracked personnel carriers made easy work of carrying experts and their stores over the slushy surface of the mountain. After a short course at FVRDE, Sappers of 53 (W) Division Engineers were able to service and maintain the Dynatracks on the site, calling for spares when necessary from FVRDE. When a fault developed in a selector, an FVRDE fitter was flown down.

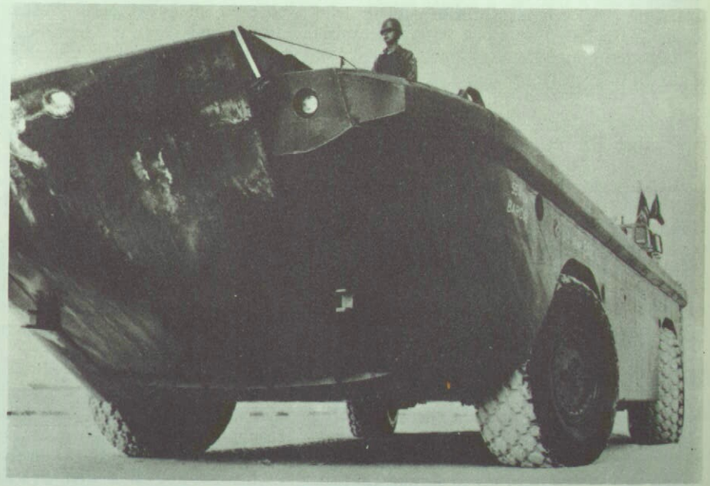


Hovercraft of all shapes and sizes interest 200 Hovercraft Trials Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, now under training at Gosport. The first batch of trainee-pilots emerging from an SRN-6 (left) find training areas no problem. The shifting Goodwin Sands, given a wide berth by all ships, offer all the freedom for manoeuvre they need. The one-man flying saucer (above) is a Hoverbat construction kit model which is also being used for instruction.

Lieutenant-Colonel Geoffrey Horner owes his life to the two Army doctors flanking him above, a ball-point pen and a kitchen knife. He was at his home in Singapore when a fierce reaction to a throat infection blocked his windpipe. His wife and eight-year-old daughter carried the alarm to two Royal Army Medical Corps officers who live nearby. Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Meers (right) came at the run across gardens separating the houses. Lieutenant-Colonel Bob Evans (left) arrived in time to catch Colonel Horner as he fell unconscious. The British Military Hospital was three miles away and in three minutes Colonel Horner's brain would have been irreparably damaged by lack of oxygen. The doctors knew that only an emergency tracheotomy operation could save his life and they did not have a penknife, much less a medical kit, between them. Colonel Meers dashed to the kitchen and selected a four-and-a-half-inch knife. He left Colonel Evans to make the throat incision and was desperately casting round for an improvised breathing tube when he saw a Biro. A short section of the hollow barrel was quickly inserted in the windpipe and Colonel Evans began blowing to induce breathing. Colonel Horner recovered consciousness in 20 minutes and left hospital 16 days later—owing his life to lucky coincidences and two resourceful doctors.

The Territorial Army could have asked for no finer exit line than a first-ever victory in the Duke of Edinburgh's Trophy competition. Since the contest was opened in 1956 to units of which the Duke is Colonel-in-Chief or Colonel Commandant, it had always been won by a Regular unit. But last year 12 men of 4th Battalion, The Wiltshire Regiment, beat eight Regular units, including two Royal Marine Commandos, and five Territorial units. Before they all posed on the steps of Buckingham Palace for the group picture (left), the Duke of Edinburgh said some warming things about the team's performance in his 36-hour test of shooting, running, marching and swimming. They totted up 1016 points—just half a point ahead of 4th/6th Battalion, The Royal Berkshire Regiment, who gained a second trophy which the two Territorial battalions have won between them six times in nine years.

With the giant dimensions of a prehistoric monster, the United States Army's latest amphibious vehicle is definitely not the answer to Britain's crowded roads. BARC (right) weighs 100 tons and is big enough for the aft cabin to fly a flag. The four tyres are almost ten feet tall and weight one-and-a half tons apiece. Each contains enough rubber for 600 ordinary car tyres. On the secret list, with other interesting information on this military juggernaut, is the method used for changing wheels or repairing punctures. Advantages? Simply this: What other vehicle in the world will haul a cargo of 60 tons or 100 fully equipped soldiers over land or water? Britain's nearest equivalent is the World War Two DUKW—more prehistoric in age than appearance. It weighs a mere six tons and four hundredweights and is likely to serve on into the mid-1970s. Agreement has not been reached on a successor.



The KDG's Daimler armoured cars led the final victorious advance of the North African campaign across hundreds of miles of Tunisian desert in 1943.

# FAR FROM INDIFFERENT FIGHTERS

**WHILE modernists howl for the abandonment of traditional titles, the foot and armoured car patrols of 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards prowl round Aden's troubled thoroughfares in a role foreseen centuries ago and explicitly described by their title. They patrol the simmering township on foot or in vehicles with equal pluck and proficiency.**

Since the birth of the British Army the soldiers named after their original dragon muskets have always fought as mounted infantry. A clumsy author made the dragoons a laughing stock with the ambiguous comment that they were trained "to fight indifferently on horse or foot." The joke is now stone dead, killed in the long-forgotten battles and never-to-be-forgotten campaigns of two world wars, and daily rebutted in Aden.

Proof that the dragoons fight courageously whether mounted or on foot is to be found in the war diaries of the two Royal cavalry regiments that formed the Queen's Guards by amalgamating in 1959. The Queen's Bays (2nd Dragoon Guards) and 1st King's Dragoon Guards had shared so many experiences and battle honours that the blending was natural, friendly and an amalgam of strengths.

Both were raised in 1685—and for the same reason—to counter a threat to King James's throne by the Duke of Monmouth. The titles of the two regiments changed so often and yet were often so similar that the final merging was the end of a bewildering tangle for military historians.

The King's Dragoon Guards were formed as the Queen's or 2nd Regiment of Horse and fought at Blenheim, Ramillies, Oudenarde and Malplaquet. George I recognised the Regiment's performance in these battles with a retitling in 1714 to King's Own Regiment of Horse. That name endured until 1746 when George II ordered the final change to 1st King's Dragoon Guards.

The other half of the 1959 partnership suffered an even more confusing nomenclature and soldiered for 230 years before finally becoming The Queen's Bays (2nd Dragoon Guards). It began life as the Third Regiment of Horse and became the 2nd (Queen's) Dragoon Guards two changes later in 1746. Although the custom of mounting the Regiment on bay horses began in 1766, not until 1921 was it fully recognised with retitling to The Queen's Bays (2nd Dragoon Guards).

Under the appreciative eye of King William, the Bays distinguished themselves in their first action, the Battle of the Boyne. In the same campaign the King's Dragoon Guards were commended as "a brave and valorous corps."

By 1766 the price of a lieutenant-colonelcy in the King's Dragoon Guards had risen to £5350 and dandyism had reached the ridiculous extreme of requiring recruits to be no shorter than five feet eight inches yet not taller than five feet ten. But the demands of fashion did not diminish the fighting spirit. The King's Dragoon Guards saved the Prince of Brunswick's Army at Corbach with a desperate last charge against the French and in the same year of 1760 the Bays won their first battle honour for a charge at Warburg.

A brazenly deceptive recruiting poster spoke of "the glorious state of ease and independence which he cannot fail to enjoy in the King's Dragoon Guards." Waterloo came soon after and not only did the dragoons fail to enjoy it but 129 of them failed to survive it. With the other regiments of the First Cavalry Brigade the King's Dragoon Guards made three stirring assaults on the French. Afterwards Wellington rode over to give the survivors his heartfelt thanks. The Bays were not at Waterloo and had celebrated Gazala Day before amalgamation, yet they gladly accepted that the new unit should celebrate 18 June as Regimental Day.

The fortunes of war next favoured the Bays who won two Victoria Crosses and a battle honour during the Indian Mutiny. The feelings of the King's Dragoon Guards who sailed to Calcutta only to be told there were no suitable horses can be imagined. However the voyage had taken them part way to China where they eventually rode against the Tartars and saw this campaign end with the bloodless surrender of Peking.

South Africa was the next zone of conflict and the Zulu War despatches of August 1879 were filled with the story of



A country where 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards can always be sure of a friendly reception is Austria. Their double-headed eagle badge is recognised everywhere as the arms of the late Emperor Joseph I of Austria. The Emperor was Colonel-in-Chief of the King's Dragoon Guards from 1896 to the outbreak of World War One. It would have been an impossible embarrassment for the Regiment to wear an enemy badge so it was replaced by a five-pointed star. The eagle badge was restored in 1937 and has passed on to the Queen's Dragoon Guards.

The collar badges worn by all ranks are smaller versions of the Bays' badge—a laurel wreath topped by a crown and enclosing the word BAYS in old English lettering. A Bays custom maintained in the Queen's Dragoon Guards entitles lance-corporals to wear two stripes and squadron quartermaster-sergeants to wear four.

Resupply of ammunition on the Alamein battlefield for a Bays tank (above). Below: Armoured cars of the KDG C Squadron leave Tobruk to lead the break-out after an eight-month siege.

the King's Dragoon Guards catching Cetshwayo, ex-King of the Zulus, after a 16-day pursuit. The South African War was a saga of privation, hardship and small reward for both regiments.

In common with the rest of the cavalry the Bays and King's Dragoon Guards spent World War One hoping for the return of their style of warfare and taking their turn in the trenches. At last, in the war's dying months, the Bays were given their head at Harbonnizres and routed the Germans with a wild onslaught.

World War Two saw the two regiments more appropriately mounted—the Bays in tanks and the King's Dragoon Guards in armoured cars. They swiftly showed their mettle—the former in the Gazala Line and the latter during the siege of Tobruk from April to November 1941 when the King's Dragoon Guards' activities ran the full gamut of perimeter patrols, dismounted actions and finally the forward screening of the epic breakout. Thrown into Gazala only a month after going into the Western Desert, the Bays were among the last troops to withdraw to the Alamein Line after 19 consecutive days in action.

On the successful winding up of the North African campaign the two dragoon regiments landed in Italy for the grindstone conflict that was to last up to the cease fire for the Bays. The King's Dragoon Guards ended four years of combatant warfare in Greece.

After amalgamation the Queen's Dragoon Guards enjoyed six leisurely years at Wolfenbuttel in Germany. Viewed from the eye of the Aden hurricane, the troopers now recognise those six years as the calm before the storm. Two squadrons were serving in Borneo in 1965 when a move took them to Aden.

In the past tragic months the Queen's Dragoon Guards have faced a sordid campaign of vilification and terrorism with calm resolution. For them at least the end is now in sight. In July they come home for a welcome rest with a return to Germany and conversion to tanks in the offing.

**For the first time since the amalgamation eight years earlier, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards were reviewed by their Colonel-in-Chief, Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, in Northern Ireland last year.**

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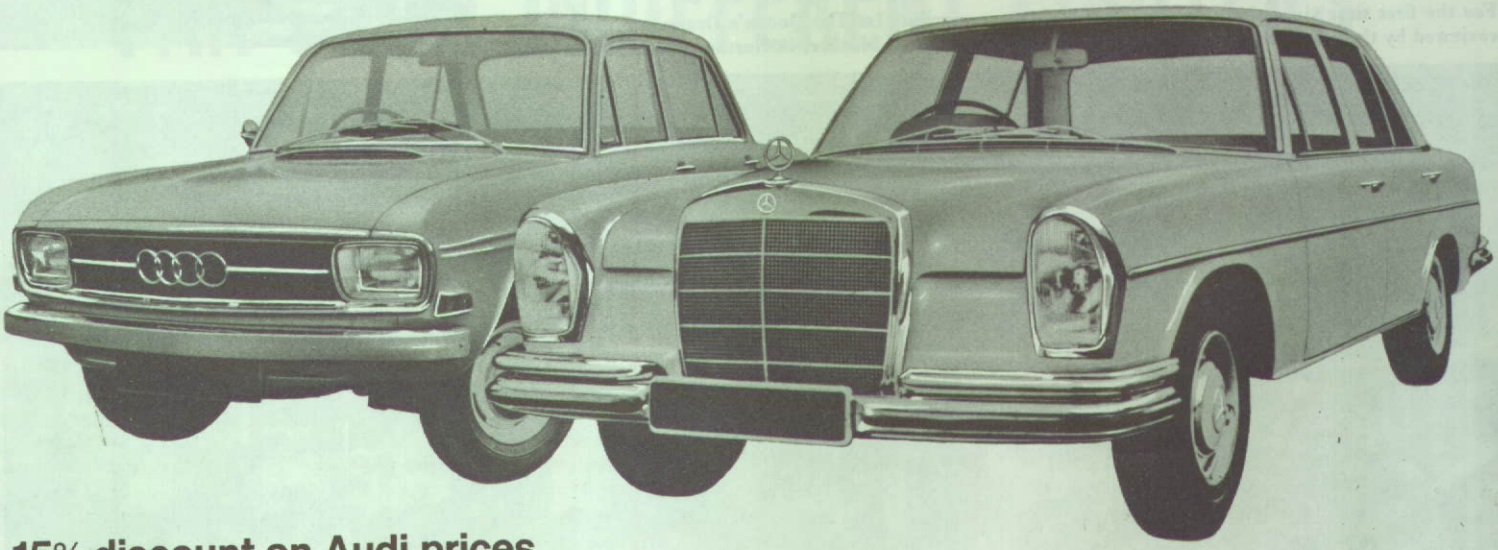

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# ODD MAN OUT

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Send your "odd man out" word on a postcard or by letter, with the "Competition 107" label from this page and your name and address, to:

**The Editor (Comp 107)**
**SOLDIER**
**433 Holloway Road**
**London N7.**

Closing date for this competition, which is open to all readers at home and overseas, is Monday, 12 June. The answers and winners' names will appear in the August SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a "Competition 107" label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries.

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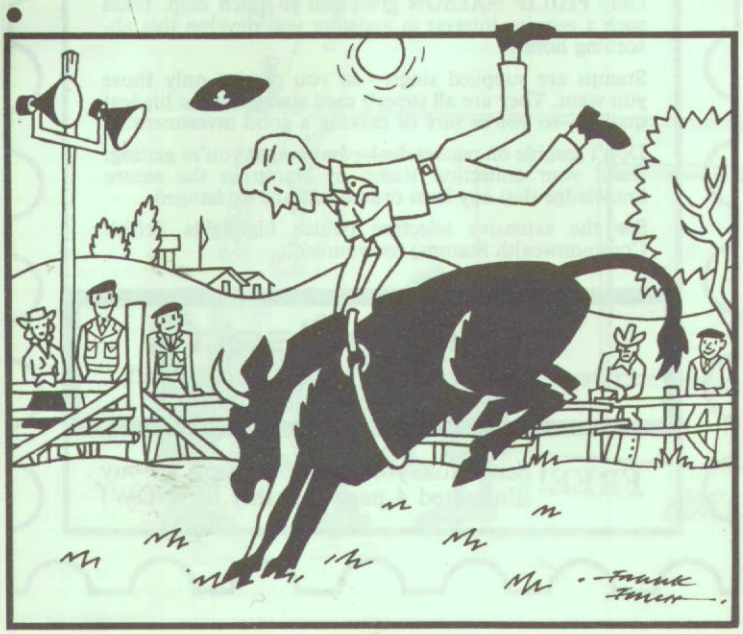
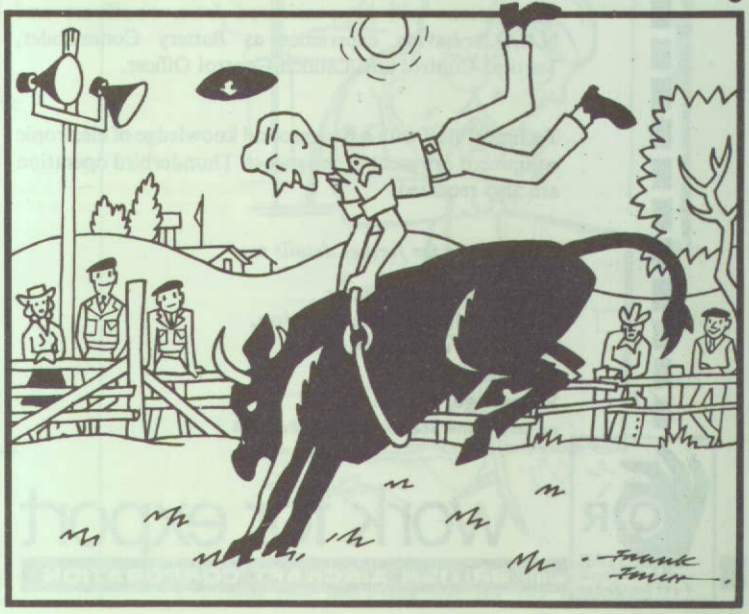
| Jeff | Ben | Goliath | here | jowl |
| rank | fast | Remus | hear | Tom |
| wide | down | cheek | right | Jack |
| there | about | Hero | sweat | Harry |
| blood | lemon | bib | tucker | Castor |
| Scottish | thither | file | number | stripes |
| hammer | Romulus | in | Midland | everywhere |
| charity | deliver | high | Leander | London |
| centre | Pollux | hope | hither | rogues |
| David | name | sickle | stars | stand |
| faith | tears | under | Mutt | take |
| obey | over | peace | plot | hard |
| rank | war | treason | put | Dick |
| port | Jill | vagabonds | Bill | out |

## HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

These two pictures look alike, but they vary in ten minor details. Look at them very carefully. If you cannot detect the differences, see page 34.



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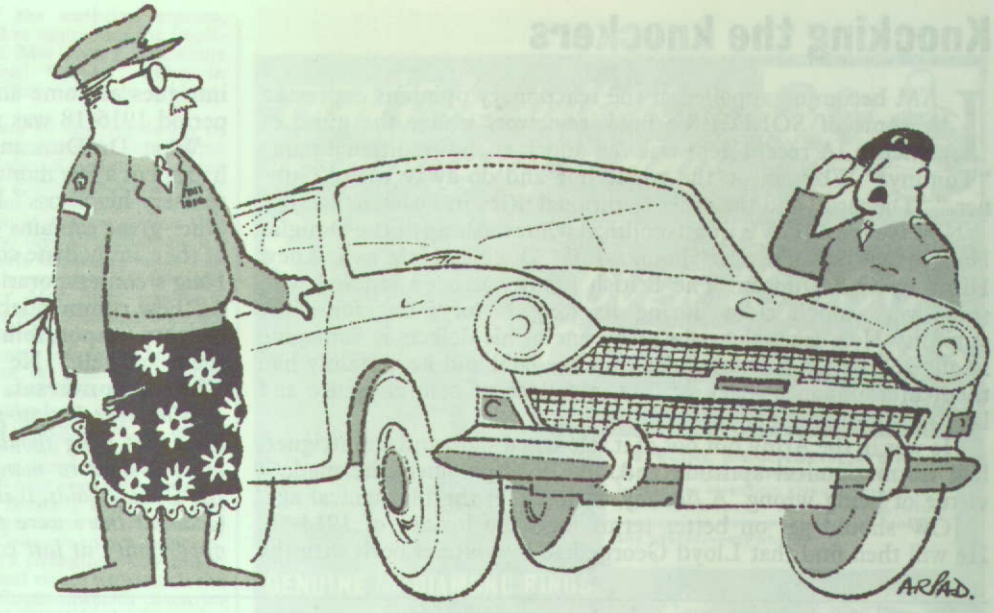
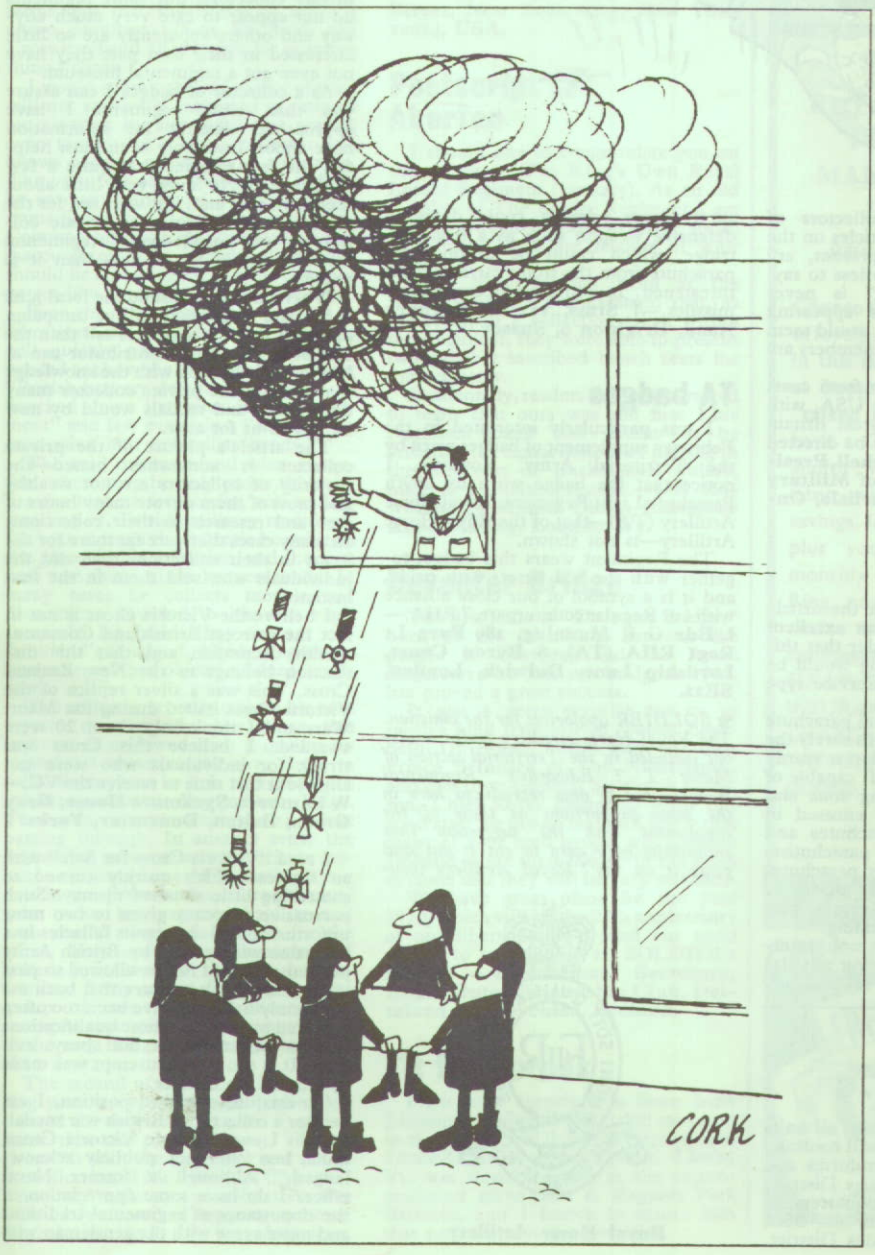



*" Would you please phone your wife Sir . . . . . it's rather urgent."*

# H·U·M·O·U·R





*" Map reference D.3? This looks like the spot, sir . . . "*


*" It's the real thing, isn't it darling, you're not just marrying me for my cooking? "*

## Knocking the knockers

I AM becoming appalled at the reactionary opinions expressed by some of SOLDIER's book reviewers under the guise of criticism. A recent gem was the knock at the traditional name "Tommy." Why not go the whole hog and do away with "Gunner," "Diehard" and the other traditional titles and *noms de guerre?*

Now we have JCW's quasi-political whitewashing of the Douglas Haig image in his review (January) of "Douglas Haig as I Knew Him" by G S Duncan. The British Army has been saddled with some very rough rides during its long history, but for sheer stupidity Haig takes the palm. Any one of his defects is damaging in any soldier. In a commander they are fatal and he certainly had them in abundance—lack of foresight, lack of commonsense and lack of comradeship.

He was in the Army but not of it. He was a snob and an intriguer, had no mechanical aptitude and, like his apologists, he made a virtue of being wrong. A donkey walloper in the mechanical age.

JCW should get on better terms with the history of 1914-18. He will then find that Lloyd George had to contend both with the intrigues at home and the Central Powers too. The lesson of the period 1916-18 was not lost on Winston Churchill.

What Dr Duncan has written is a *de profundis*. Perhaps if he had spent a few months up at the sharp end in 1917 "helping Christ to carry his Cross" he might not have been so charitable. All the other great captains of history have been viewed through the eyes of their immediate comrades, but where are the other eulogies from Haig's contemporaries?

"Few commanders in history," states JCW, "have carried such weighty responsibilities as Haig and fewer still have shouldered them so well." He must be joking.—**C Clancy, 55 Furzehill, Chard, Somerset.**

★*Whatever "quasi-political whitewashing" means, I stand by my view that Haig shouldered his responsibilities well. No general before or since had so many men under command and, whatever opinion Mr Clancy holds, it is now generally accepted that despite his blunders (I admit there were plenty) Haig rose to greatness in* 1918 *when the opportunity at last came to show he was a brilliant soldier.—J C W.*

# LETTERS

### The Border Regiment

While I realise the inadequacy of the space available for such a task as that of giving a brief history of The King's Own Royal Border Regiment (January), I feel that it does less than justice to the Regiment, particularly to the 55th (Westmoreland Regiment) which is mentioned only *apropos* its union with the 34th.

The action in China during last century was responsible for the dragon superscribed "China" on the badge and Regimental Colours of The Border Regiment, and on the new buttons. Another point of interest is the Regiment's claim to have founded the first regimental school in, I think, 1768.

The 34th is also credited with being the first regiment to provide its soldiers with an evening meal!—**P Heap, 7 Fulney Road, Sheffield 11.**

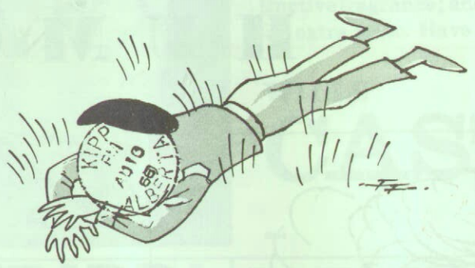
### Larry's War Museum

I thoroughly enjoyed Larry's cartoons (January), but someone should tell him the difference between shrapnel and shell splinters!—**"Gunner."**

★*Larry writes: "Very encouraging, this interest, but I am still in the dark on shrapnel versus shell splinters! My Army service was strictly non-combatant apart from Saturday nights outside the Portsmouth NAAFI—the Navy generally won!*

### Canuck collectors

At the last executive meeting of our Society I was asked to relay to you our congratulations in putting out such an informative and superb magazine. Whenever we hold our regular meetings my subscription copies of SOLDIER are displayed for general perusal and many favourable remarks have been passed.




Our members being collectors of medals, badges etc, your articles on the British Army past and present, are much appreciated and, needless to say, your "Collectors' Corner" is never missed. From the names appearing therein from time to time it would seem that a good number of our members are also subscribers.

Our membership reaches from coast to coast in Canada and the USA, with many members living in Great Britain also, and any enquiries may be directed through me.—**Harvey Mitchell, President, Canadian Society of Military Medals and Insignia, Carlisle, Ontario, Canada.**

### Para-pods

I was most interested in the article "Skydiving to War" in your excellent January number and consider that this form of military parachuting would be ideal for the Special Air Service type of operation.

For the more conventional parachute attack up to battalion strength surely the powers that be must develop a sturdy and very fast VTOL aircraft capable of hovering over the dropping zone and discharging 50—100 men encased in para-pods fitted with parachutes and scanners. In this way the parachutists would be unencumbered by parachutes and would have a far better chance of survival during those dangerous moments immediately after landing.

In these days of 2000 mph interceptors equipped with homing missiles surely some scientist could devise a defensive weapon such as a heat cartridge, which could be dropped by parachute from the troop carrier, when threatened, in order to decoy enemy missiles.—**J Sims, 111 Hollingbury Road, Brighton 6, Sussex.**

### TA badges

I was particularly interested in the February supplement of badges worn by the Territorial Army. However, I notice that the badge worn by 289th Parachute Light Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery (TA)—that of the Royal Horse Artillery—is not shown.

The Regiment wears this badge, together with the red beret, with pride, and it is a symbol of our close alliance with our Regular counterpart, 7 RHA.—**L/Bdr G R Manning, 289 Para Lt Regt RHA (TA), 8 Byron Court, Lordship Lane, Dulwich, London, SE22.**

★*SOLDIER apologises for the omission. The Royal Horse Artillery badge is also not included in the Territorial section of Major T J Edwards's "Regimental Badges" but is now reproduced here in the same proportions as those of the supplement with the supplement with the suggestion that enthusiasts may care to cut it out and paste it on the "Royal Artillery (continued)" space on page 23 of the February SOLDIER.*

### Sale of medals

I read with interest the article "Victoria Cross for Sale" (January). While I agree in general with the article there is another side to the story. It is all very well for regiments to wax indignant when VCs in which they are interested are sold at high prices to private collectors, but some regiments do not appear to care very much anyway and others apparently are so little interested in their own past they have not even got a regimental museum.

As a collector of badges I can assure you that, while regiments I have approached directly for information have almost invariably been most helpful, the fact remains that quite a few of them seem to know very little about their own past and, if it were not for the research and activities of private collectors, our knowledge of regimental histories would be far less than it is today.

When one looks around the local junk shops and finds trays full of campaign medals I think it is no less sad than the sale of a VC. Your contributor can at least console himself with the knowledge that without the private collector many decorations and medals would by now be lost to us for ever.

The article's picture of the private collector is somewhat biased—the majority of collectors are not wealthy and most of them devote many hours of care and research to their collections. In many cases they care far more for the items in their collections than did the individuals who sold them in the first instance.

I believe the Victoria Cross is not in fact the scarcest British and Commonwealth decoration and that this distinction belongs to the New Zealand Cross. This was a silver replica of the Victoria Cross issued during the Maori Wars and I think only about 20 were awarded. I believe this Cross was struck for individuals who were not eligible at that time to receive the VC.—**W Lambert, Sycamore House, Grey Green, Belton, Doncaster, Yorks.**

I read "Victoria Cross for Sale" with an interest which quickly turned to something little short of dismay. Such persuasive advocacy given to two most unfortunate and dangerous fallacies in a magazine widely read by British Army personnel should not be allowed to pass unchallenged. I am aware that both are commonly held and have been too often repeated by persons whose qualifications to pass judgement are not always evident. It is time some attempt was made to redress the balance.

To establish my own position, I am neither a collector of British war medals nor do I own a single Victoria Cross, much less "five not publicly acknowledged." Although a former Naval officer I do have some appreciation of the importance of regimental traditions and quite agree with the gentleman who observed that "The Victoria Cross is the most treasured possession of the Regiment."

Certainly the increase in the number of regimental museums is one of the most satisfactory modern developments in a world too willing to abandon old customs for others not necessarily better because they are new. The museums provide visual reminders of the sacrifices made by other generations who, in their day, also served with honour. Thus they perform a function useful in the education of future generations and perhaps vital to the nation as a whole.

None of my comments is directed at regimental museums or the acquisition of VCs and other decorations by those institutions. But, as Chairman of the Committee on Orders and Decorations of the American Numismatic Society in New York City, I must object to the entire tone of your article reflecting as it does a misconception about medal collectors which, I know from experience, is strongly entrenched in the minds of many professional military men.

This misconception is perhaps conveniently, if not relevantly, illustrated by the last two sentences in the story. Mrs Margaret Pratt, who "has spent five years researching a book on the Victoria Cross," is quoted as follows: "One man said to me over the telephone, 'I wish I'd bought more when they were cheap.' Cheap! I wish I could have slapped his face."

Mrs Pratt very neatly pinpoints the main issue. There has been a too casual acceptance of the view that the medal collector is only buying other men's valour. In the example you provide, normal human interest in prices has been translated by the alchemy of a curious feminine logic to mean that the collector regards the VC and decorations for combat heroism only in monetary terms and that the desire to make a cheap purchase means he holds the Cross itself and all it stands for as something "cheap."

I would submit that this point of view will not survive if subjected to rational examination by any intelligent reader, even though he is not a collector and knows nothing about medal collecting. The very fact that the opinion is held by so many and heard so often should immediately lay it open to suspicion. Common opinions are ill-informed and inaccurate opinions. British military men should be able to rise above the constant parrot-like repetition of such nonsense.

Even the most elementary attempt to investigate the medal collector as a type will quickly provide all the evidence needed to show the real facts of the case. "British bravery decorations" are never knocked down "without frill or sentiment" and few ever join a "melancholy procession into unfamiliar hands."

The true collector (and what exceptions there may be only prove the rule) has the highest respect for, and understanding of, British military traditions. On both sides of the Atlantic he subjects the pieces in his collection, and the men who won them, to the keenest study. In many cases he collects medals and decorations awarded to his own regiment. In his hands they are not unfamiliar "gilt edged, highly negotiable investments" but objects of deep sentiment.

The collector actually creates his own private museum. In one sense this museum is endowed with a quality no regimental museum can ever hope to rival. Each piece in it is regarded with affection, understanding and knowledge. The owner is never a casual visitor just passing through. In another sense the regimental museum and the private collector are complementary. Each plays a part in the preservation of traditions of great value but extreme fragility and each should receive full credit for the effort. But, even more important, I believe it is time that those in the professional Army ceased denigrating a fine group of men who are among the strongest and most informed supporters of the very things they themselves hold most dear.

The second of the two fallacies marring your story might perhaps be considered the more unfortunate. I cannot agree that the place of *every* Victoria Cross "is with the Regiment and not in the collection of Mr Snooks in Chicago." The only collector who boasted five VCs I have heard of happens to be an Englishman and not an American. Regardless of the statistical aspects, however, I fail to appreciate the implications behind Mrs Pratt's statements about "untraced Crosses" being in America and "not publicly acknowledged."

I am unaware of any regulation or accepted custom, either in the United States or the United Kingdom, requiring owners of VCs publicly to acknowledge their possessions. It is difficult to place much credence in the suggestion that "there is a good case for forbidding the export of Victoria Crosses to other than Commonwealth countries." One might almost suspect Mrs Pratt was once "bitten" by an American and does not remember the experience with any pleasure. Although I devoutly hope this was not the case, the possibility (among other things) does serve to cast some doubt on the soundness of her notions.

It would be much easier to ignore Mrs Pratt if you had not quoted her at such length in a Service magazine and if her point of view was not so plainly self-defeating. Basically I think she and myself are in agreement about aims but at loggerheads when it comes to means. One of Britain's strengths today lies in the traditions and values with which she endowed the Commonwealth countries and the United States in the formative stages of their national development. The Victoria Cross probably embodies more of these values than any other single material object.

To infer that there is something almost morally wrong about VCs being owned by Americans (or other collectors) is mischievous beyond belief and quite passes the bounds of my understanding. Every VC in American hands today renders a service to Britain, and the things she stands for, of which the heroes who won them can well be proud.—**James C Risk, 20 Commerce Street, New York City, New York 10014, USA.**

### Postscript to Aberfan

I should like to congratulate you on the article on The King's Own Royal Border Regiment (January). As an old member of The Border Regiment I am sure it brought a glow of pride to all "our boys" who are readers of your magazine.

After their yeoman work at the Aberfan disaster I understand that, as the result of a collection taken within the Regiment, they were able to present two suitably inscribed bench seats for the cemetery.

Incidentally, readers may be interested to learn that ours was the first Line Regiment band and drums to be accorded the signal honour of playing in the forecourt of Buckingham Palace, hitherto a Guards preserve.—**J K Edwards, 39 Mount Close, Castlebar Road, Ealing, London W5.**

### Deventer Bridge

The first issue of "Deventer Bridge," born of the friendship between the people of Deventer and the Royal Engineers who built our bridge in 1945, has proved a great success.

It was a great surprise for us to receive kind letters from Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip and our own Prince Bernhard of The Netherlands, also one from General Sir Frank Simpson, Chief Royal Engineer. With this good start we can go on and I know that many of your kind people will come to Holland to see their friends in the years to come and they will be very welcome.

We have great plans for the year 1970, which will be the 25th anniversary of our liberation. We send our good wishes to you and to all SOLDIER's readers. — **Dick Haas, Secretary, Anglo-Dutch Friendship Club, Deltalaan 45, Deventer, Holland.**

### Fit for heroes

I am most surprised to learn from Lieutenant-Colonel Wylie that my letter in the October SOLDIER implied that Lance-Corporal Rambahadur Limbu VC was uncomfortable in the accommodation given him at Regents Park Barracks, and I hasten to assure him that such was not my intention.

## And W lives on too

The famous "W" sign of 53rd (Welsh) Division, which fought with distinction in two world wars, lives on in the new Territorial & Army Volunteer Reserve. The Division, which was formed in 1908, ended a formation on 31 March when the new Reserve came into existence. However, all units in Wales of the T & AVR will continue to use the "W" sign on uniforms and vehicles as a symbol of Wales District, the new title of the headquarters in Brecon previously known as 53rd (Welsh) Division (TA) Wales District.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143. 1 Diamond. 1st payment 77/6 and 8 payments 72/6 or Cash price £32.17.6
507. 5 Diamonds. 1st payment 115/- and 8 payments 107/6 or Cash price £48.15.0
308. 3 Diamonds. 1st payment 33/- and 8 payments 29/- or Cash price £13.5.0
922. Gold Wedding. 1st payment 7/6. 8 payments 10/- or Cash price £4.7.6
362. 3 Diamonds. 1st payment 33/- and 8 payments 31/6 or Cash price £14.5.0
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*"Do you mind running from side to side—the men need moving target practice!"*

I have no need to be assured that the staff of the units in the barracks went out of their way to make him very comfortable—I had no doubts on this point at any time. What shook me was the newsreel flash on television in which L/Cpl Rambahadur was shown with his son walking down an *outside iron staircase* with a backing of *whitewashed walls* surely a relic of the Victorian era and not in line with modern barrack buildings.

I experienced those same stairs and walls in 1934 and again in 1939 and even in those days we were told that the barracks had been condemned. Hence my surprise at seeing something which I thought had been abolished years previously.—**Maj F H Blackburn, 53 Devonshire Road, Mill Hill, NW7.**

## Isle of Wight

I am gathering material for a military history of the Isle of Wight and wish to get in touch with individuals who have served there. In particular I require photographs of troops, fortifications and coastal artillery in the Isle of Wight and Spithead and also personal reminiscences.—**2/Lieut G C Van-Orden, Clarendon Hotel, Shanklin, Isle of Wight.**

## HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(*see page 29*)

*The two pictures vary in the following respects:*

1 *Position of rider's beret.* 2 *Left thumb of spectator third from left.* 3 *Right pocket of spectator second from left.* 4 *Tuft of bull's tail.* 5 *Bull's right horn.* 6 *Bull's right hind hoof.* 7 *Flag in camp.* 8 *Door of right hut.* 9 *Rider's left heel.* 10 *End of lower rail in front of cowboy.*

## PARTY TIME

Faced by hundreds of recondite answers to Competition 103 (December), SOLDIER's editorial staff forsook its offices for the Army Central Library on the floor below to check the answers, with the help of the Royal Army Educational Corps, in innumerable reference books.

Prizewinners were:

**1 Maj F W Arnold RCT, 10 Port Sqn RCT, c/o GPO Singapore.**

**2 D R Hordle, Kingston, 127 Lydyett Lane, Barnton, Northwich, Cheshire.**

**3 S N Jones (Cpl, Bedford School CCF), 17 Pemberley Avenue, Bedford.**

**4 Lieut John T Raines, HQ Bty 69th Arty Gp—MCC, Friesing, Germany, Box 177, APO 09207.**

**5 T J Blad, 3 RTR, BFPO 38.**

**6 Miss Gillian Geaney, 9 Ingleby-moor Crescent, Darlington, Co Durham.**

**7 Maj Val Noble ACF, Welton House, Magdala Road, Mapperley Park, Nottingham.**

**8 Capt W M Kerr, The Anglo-American Centre, Via Mameli N46, Cagliari, Sardinia.**

**9 Cadet D V Erskine Crum, Eton College CCF, Wotton House, Eton College, Windsor, Berks.**

**10 WO II J Tasker, 524 Sqn RCT, Walton Street, Hull, Yorks.**

**11 J/Gnr M J Hedges, Ironside Tp, 39 (Roberts) Bty, Jnr Ldrs Regt RA, Gamecock Barracks, Bramcote, Nuneaton, Warwickshire.**

**12 No award (British Army Gurkha).**

**13 Pte Webb WRAC, 10 Coy, Thornhill Barracks, Aldershot, Hants.**

**14 Lieut B Hogarth RAANC, BMH, Cameron Highlands, Tanah Rata, Pahang, West Malaysia.**

**15 Pipe-Maj D R Plumbly, c/o PO Box 799, Johannesburg, South Africa.**

## REUNIONS

**10th Royal Hussars Old Comrades Association.** Annual dinner 6 May, Portchester Hall, Bayswater, London W2, 6.30pm. Parade Hyde Park, 7 May, 11.00am. Apply Capt A Standing, Hon Sec, 1 Westminster Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire.

**9th/12th Royal Lancers Old Comrades Association.** Reunion dinner 6 May, London SW1. Germany trip 28 June–2 July 1967. Details from Hon Sec, 10 Rose Drive, Chesham, Bucks. (Tel: Chesham 3562).

**Military Provost Staff Corps Association.** Reunion dinner, Saturday, 15 July, Berechurch Hall Camp, Colchester. Details from Hon Sec, MPSC Association, Berechurch Hall Camp, Colchester, Essex.

**Royal Army Ordnance Corps Association.** Annual reunion dinner, Victory Ex-Services Club, Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2, 15 April 1967. Tickets £1 from RAOC Secretariat, Deepcut, Camberley, Surrey.

**15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars.** Annual reunion at Derry & Toms, Kensington High Street, London W8, Saturday, 6 May, 6.30 for 7pm. Details and tickets from Maj J R Laing, Home HQ, 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars, TA Centre, Debdon Gardens, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 6.

**The Gloucestershire Regimental Association.** Annual reunion dinner for members at Bristol, 29 April. Tickets from Secretary, Robinswood Barracks, Gloucester.

**The York and Lancaster Regiment.** Officers annual luncheon and dinner, London, 26 May. Details from RHQ, Endcliffe Hall, Sheffield 10.

**The York and Lancaster Regiment (9th Bn 1939/45).** Reunion dinner, Sheffield, 20 May. Details from RHQ, Endcliffe Hall, Sheffield 10.

**XIIIth Annual Armourers Reunion,** Saturday, 3 June, Royal Green Jackets Hall, 56 Davies Street, London W1, 6.30pm. Open to all past and present armourers or artificers weapon in RAOC or REME. Details from Capt G W Walker REME, HQ Eastern Command, EME Branch, Hounslow, Middlesex. Applications close 30 May.

**Distinguished Conduct Medal League.** Parade, inspection by Duke of Kent and church service 2.15pm, 11 June, Chelsea Barracks. All holders of DCM. Details from Sec, London Branch, 224 Portman Buildings, Lisson Grove, London NW1.

## COLLECTORS' CORNER

J Bell, 76 Grasmere Crescent, Sandylands, Kendal, Westmoreland.—*Requires cap badges of R Dragoons, R Scots Greys, 4/7 RDG, SWB, R Green Jackets and Gordons.*

C E Blanc, 2 Rue Bourdelle, 91 Chilly-Mazarin, France.—*Requires Free French, Foreign Legion, worldwide parachutist and commando badges and wings. Offers in exchange French beret and breast badges, air force wings and many para and commando badges.*

Mrs Dwars-Cools, 7 Wyckstr 11, The Hague, Netherlands.—*Requires badges, pictures, histories and brochures of all Allied women's corps and medical corps.*

D Whitecross, 20 Elgeda Flats, Leslie Street, Vereeniging, S Africa.—*Wishes exchange photos of contemporary S African and British uniforms for similar Canadian and British (pre-amalgamation, especially Scottish).*

G Christian, 200 East 21st Street, New York 10010, USA.—*Requires insignia French and Spanish Foreign Legions; Spahis; Chasseurs d'Afrique; Zouaves; Senegalese; Tirailleurs etc; Shanghai Defence Forces; Belgian Congo Native Forces; German E Africa Native Forces. All lists welcomed.*

Cpl R Poulin, 895 Avenue Levis 6, Quebec P Q, Canada.—*Collects military cap badges.*

C W Harris, 33 Copthorne Avenue, Bromley, Kent.—*Requires all back numbers of SOLDIER from March 1945 to March 1950 inclusive.*

J D Willcox-Jones, 6 Henley Road, Bath, Somerset.—*To complete collection requires SOLDIER Mar, Apr, Jul 1955; Jul 57; Jun 58; Jan, Feb, Mar 59; Aug, Sep 60 and Jan, Mar and Jun 61 issues.*

R A Kennett, 55 OMQ, RAF, Leconfield, Beverley, Yorks.—*Requires worldwide badges and medals, particularly German. Also helmets, bayonets and drill grenades.*

R M Hayward, 95 Hall Road, Handsworth, Birmingham 20.—*Collects worldwide military parachutist wings, beret badges and insignia. Exchange or purchase. Correspondence welcomed.*

H Power, 50 Blackfriars, Oswestry, Shropshire. — *Requires British Army badges, will exchange.*


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**13/18th Royal Hussars (QMO) BFPO 16**
**Royal Lincolnshire Regiment**
**Royal Norfolk Regiment**
**Returned Services Association, New Zealand**
**RAF Thorney Island, Emsworth**
**RN Association, Portsmouth**
**South Wales Borderers, RHQ**
**South Wales Borderers, BFPO 15, Berlin**
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Donations from units or from individuals will be gratefully acknowledged and further information can be obtained from:—

*The Organiser, D-Day Cathedral Appeal, Cathedral House, Old Portsmouth.*


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# April 1917

In the early hours of 9 April 1917 a Canadian infantry battalion advances to do battle for Vimy Ridge. It was a great day for the Allies, the finest victory of the war and an exhilarating portent for the British Army after sanguinary horror on the first day of the Somme offensive. By noon the assault troops were fighting three miles deep in the German lines and sending back clusters of prisoners from the ten-mile front.

At stake was the crucial feature of Vimy Ridge, a seven-mile down transformed by two years of toil into the bristling northern bastion of the Hindenburg Line. Enslaved Belgian civilians had been forced to finish the line to house the German Army at the end of a tactical withdrawal.

The grim barrier of sunken forts and loopholed emplacements could not be smashed without brilliant artillery support and this time it was available. The thoroughness of the preparations is instanced by the laying of 1000 miles of signal wire to a depth of six feet in the British rear areas.

The bombardment opened three weeks before the advance and for the last two days the fire from 3000 guns thwarted German efforts to send up food and reinforcements to their forward positions. The effect was devastating. High explosive shredded the bunkered defences to an unrecognisable morass. The chain was broken and there remained only isolated groups of men and machine-guns. In contrast to this ordeal the British, Canadian and Australian troops assembled for the attack in the safety of caves and tunnels dug centuries before by rich merchants.

The defence was hopelessly disorganised and the attackers were instantly successful. Typical of the infantry's field day was the relative ease with which the Canadians captured Vimy Ridge itself. Skirmishing tanks made short work of troublesome strongpoints and the signs of total collapse seemed promising enough for the cavalry to come forward. A captured German brigadier wept with shame. When the main battle ended six days later, Allenby's men had taken 13,000 prisoners and captured more than 200 guns. The Germans narrowly avoided a complete breakthrough by sending all their reservists to the front, but their military resources and morale had been severely dented.

*Imperial War Museum*

# BOOKS

## 1939-45 IN RETROSPECT

*"History of the Second World War"*

Like a famous predecessor of World War One this work is being issued in weekly parts of which there will be 96. Publication started last October.

The method provides a reasonably painless way of buying a work of major price. It also, perhaps, offers an inducement to reading since 28 pages a week are far more digestible than nearly 2700 at one go.

The first striking feature is the high quality of the illustrations. The editors have selected some extremely dramatic photographs, many in full colour, and have not stinted space in presenting them. Reproduction is first-class. The maps, too, are colourful, uncluttered and easy to understand.

Captain Sir Basil Liddell Hart is the editor-in-chief and a contributor, and association with the work will not detract from his illustrious reputation.

The editor of this history is Barrie Pitts, a military historian of a younger generation who himself fought in World War Two.

The 200 contributors include writers from many nations so that events can be seen from several sides. Thus the Polish campaign is outlined by the editor, then the German side is told by General Walther K Nehring (chief of staff in Guderian's panzer corps), a Polish divisional artillery commander gives the defenders' story and a Red Army colonel describes Stalin's jackal-like descent on the corpse of Poland and the subsequent occupation by the Red Army.

When it is completed this work should provide an account as trustworthy as any of its contemporaries of more academic pretensions—if less detailed—but far more readable and easy to dip into.

*Purnell, 3s 6d weekly* **RLE**

## CHASING THE BOMB

*"The Virus House" (David Irving)*

When the news broke, on 6 August 1945, that the atom-bomb had been exploded over Hiroshima, nobody was more surprised or appalled than ten German atom scientists detained in Britain. Their feelings were caused less by humanitarianism than humiliation. The Allies had succeeded where they had failed.

Their efforts had been great but dogged by confusion, by rivalry and by the ever-worsening plight of Hitler's Reich. Unlike their Anglo-American counterparts they were directed by scientists and not military commanders.

Things might have been different but for a secretary. The Reich Research Council decided to explain its secret nuclear work at a two-part conference. The first, to which great men of the Nazi Party and Services were invited, was to comprise eight short, popular lectures; the second had a long list of scientific papers.

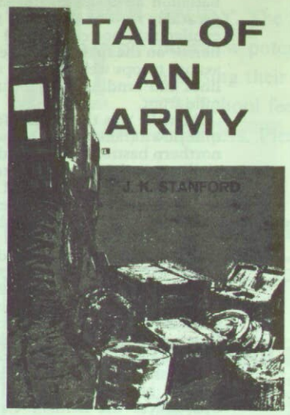
The secretary mixed the agendas and Goering, Himmler, Bormann, Raeder and others, blinded by science, politely declined their invitations and so the chance to interest them was lost.

The Virus House was the code name given to a nuclear centre set up in the grounds of Berlin's Institute of Biology and Virus Research to build a first reactor.

A major set-back came in 1942 when a distinguished researcher indicated that graphite could not be used as a "pile moderator." This error was not challenged and the Germans were henceforth tied to "heavy water." Their principal source of "heavy water" was in Norway and the epic sabotage of the plant and the sinking of a ferry bearing its last stocks, by Norwegian saboteurs of the Special Operations Executive, were described by one of the German physicists as the main factor in their failure. Both these sabotage operations are related interestingly and in detail.

The Germans placed too much emphasis on theory and until the last months of the war there was no urgency to get a uranium pile "critical." Their desperate efforts in the dying Reich to reach this vital stage make an exciting chapter.

By this time an Anglo-American mission was hot on the trail. Lest the Germans had set up a reactor and were using Rhine water to cool it, samples from the river were sent back to Washington for analysis. A joker included a bottle of Rhone wine labelled "Test this for activity too." Back came a message that the wine showed radio-activity and demanding more; after a physicist had wasted ten days collecting samples it was realised that radio-activity was natural in the waters of that region of France.




In April 1945 the British planned to send parachutists to two of the remaining research centres to kidnap scientists and documents. The plan was dropped because by then a scientist working for the mission knew enough to advise that the German project was "not worth one sprained Allied ankle."

It was, however, worth enough for the mission to scurry around grabbing as much as possible of its men, documents and materials to keep them from the Russians—who still managed to get a good share. This comprehensive and well-written history is the first to make extensive use of that material.

*William Kimber, 50s* **RLE**

## WASTE NOT, WANT NOT

*"Tail of an Army" (J K Stanford)*

A veteran of World War One, Colonel Stanford determined to get into World War Two and took the only course open to those over 45—he joined a National Defence Company and guarded the Ordnance Depot at Didcot.

Next he transferred to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps as a non-technical officer and went to France, Egypt, the Western Desert and North-West Europe. For much of his service he was an inspector of equipment, searching for waste and putting a stop to it.

It was not an easy job nor as effective as he would have liked since he was rarely permitted to inspect operational units, but nevertheless he discovered many a scandal. In Egypt, tracing 6000 vehicles, he reported that thousands had been stripped in the desert for spares while hundreds had crept into repair units which never admitted having them.

A surprise meal-time check outside a sergeants' mess revealed 28 vehicles not on the unit census.

Quartermasters incurred his wrath. Expensive and rare tools lay in stores for years despite fierce orders that they should be handed in. A field battery held 100 surplus tyres not one of which fitted any of its vehicles. A tank squadron in the desert carried round seven surplus shirts per man.

"You chaps have frightened back tons more stuff than you have found," the inspectors were told.

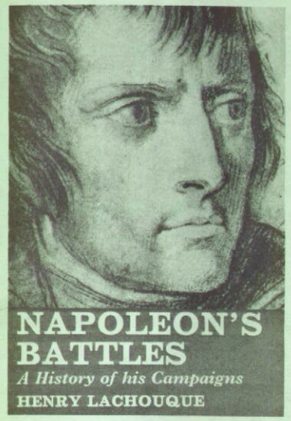
He has much to say about "personal commandeering" of captured enemy equipment. In particular he deplored that officers in operational units were having to make do with inadequate binoculars while excellent captured ones disappeared or emerged on civilian necks at Cairo race meetings.

When Second Army was shouting for a second suit of battledress and a third blanket for each man, in Brussels he found men in static units with three battledress suits and sleeping on civilian beds with six blankets each. One reason for the blanket shortage was that stretcher pillows found their way on to ambulance drivers' beds with the result that each casualty had to have a folded blanket under his head.

One of the worst cases of deliberate dishonesty was a gang of six deserters near Bruges who lived by stealing vehicles. They had their own billet, woman cook, workshop and unit sign and gave themselves ranks from corporal to lieutenant. They worked undetected for several months and were caught by accident. Another gang was found out because it tried to open an imprest account with a false number.

From all this he sounds a warning: "Waste and over-insistence on welfare, hand-in-hand with a relaxation of discipline . . . may one day bring down an army from the back."

*Phoenix, 25s* **RLE**




## MILITARY GENIUS

*"Napoleon's Battles" (Henry Lachouque)*

How would you assess an officer-cadet who was constantly absent without leave, had several reprimands from his superiors, was undersized, thin, callow, jerky of movement and unkempt? An officer who earned only 42nd place in a military academy class of 48? Not very highly? Well, you could be wrong, because that was the early career of Napoleon!

The astonishing thing about this military genius, apart from the historical accident that made him French rather than Italian, is his youth. Napoleon was 27 when he fought the Battle of Rivoli and only 46 at Waterloo.

As if born to command he could impose his will on and inspire enthusiasm even in the polyglot army of Swiss, Spanish, Illyrian, Croatian and Portuguese with which he invaded Russia. Indeed some 300,000 of the invaders were not French. On the same magnificent scale were his battles, such as Borodino, "the battle of the century", with its enormous artillery duel and the 85 generals listed among 80,000 casualties.

The secret of his military success lay partly in his personality—his zeal for order and action, dynamic imagination, offensive spirit and ability to reason logically—and also in his reading. His study of military campaigns revealed to him the value of concentrating effort, to have numerical superiority at the right place and the right time, of striking rapidly at interior lines of communication.

Thus his decisions were quick and it was as if he always knew the purpose of the enemy commander. Even as early as his Italian campaign of 1796-97 these methods won him 160,000 prisoners, 170 standards and 1100 cannon.

But Napoleon was not simply a military leader. Despite the fact that France had had 20 years of war the nation was prospering. The population had risen substantially and vast amounts were spent annually on such unmilitary activities as museums and orphanages.

This most interesting volume, written in great detail by an eminent scholar and product of Saint-Cyr, contains many refreshing facets for British readers—the overall part played by Britain against Napoleon was small, the French invaded Russia because of Russian threats to Poland, and the retreat from Russia was possible because of Russian incompetence.

*Allen and Unwin, 52s 6d* **AWH**

## in brief

*Bellona Military Vehicle Prints*

Series Ten covers the German 15cm GW Lorraine Schlepper of 1942 and World War One A7V Sturmpanzerwagen, the Italian Carro Armato Tipo M13/40 tank and Czechoslovakian-made Panzerjaeger 38(t) Marder III.

The Lorraine Schlepper combined the Krupps 15cm howitzer of World War One and one of the large numbers of French vehicles captured after the collapse of France in 1940.

Production of the Sturmpanzerwagen, the German reply to the new British tank, began in October 1917. This tracked armoured vehicle had a crew of 18—commander, driver, two gunners, two loaders, six machine-gunners and six mechanics-cum-machine-gun loaders—each of whom received an Iron Cross on joining the armoured service.

The Italians entered World War Two with the eleven-ton M11/39 as their main battle tank. It was replaced in 1940 by the M13/40 with its heavier armour and a 47mm anti-tank gun added to the two 8mm Breda machine-guns. This tank saw service in North Africa (where many were captured and used by the Allies), Greece and Yugoslavia.

The Panzerjaeger Marder III was a Czechoslovakian tank taken over after the German annexation and used as the main equipment of three of the ten panzer divisions invading France.

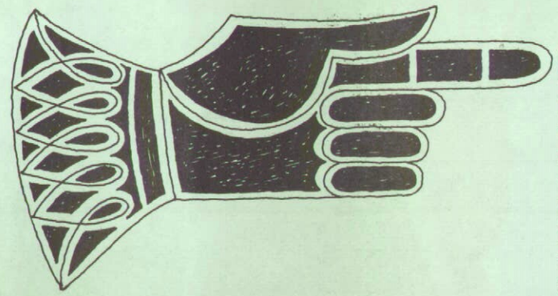
*Merberlen Ltd, Badgers Mead, Hawthorn Hill, Bracknell, Berks, 4s (series ring binder 9s)*

*Commonwealth War Graves Commission Report*

The Commission's 47th annual report gives a résumé of its work for the year ended 31 March 1966 as well as information on war cemeteries and memorials spread throughout the world.

As the number of people travelling from this country overseas rises yearly, so too does the number of visitors to war cemeteries throughout the world. This report includes photographs of cemeteries and memorials from Belgium, Canada, Ceylon, Crete, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, New Zealand, Rumania, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey and Egypt.

*HMSO, 6s*

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Dusseldorf (YMCA)
Fallingbostel (YWCA)
Hamelin (Church Army)
Hannover (Salvation Army)
Herford (YMCA and YWCA)
Hohne (YMCA)
Hubbelrath (YMCA)
Iserlohn (YMCA)
Krefeld (YMCA)
Lippstadt (Church Army)
Minden (Salvation Army)
Moenchen-Gladbach—Main HQ (YWCA)
Munster (Church of Scotland and Toc H)
Osnabruck (Church Army)
Paderborn (Toc H)
Sennelager (Church Army)
Verden (Toc H)
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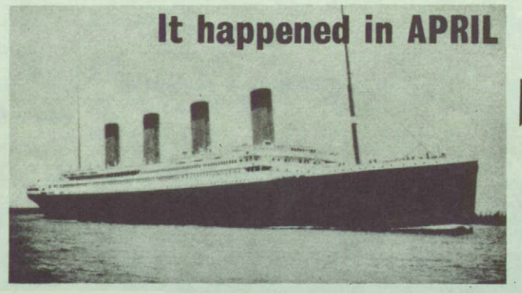
Tobruk (Salvation Army)
FAR EAST
Hong Kong (European YMCA)
Singapore (Commonwealth Services Club)
Malacca (Church of Scotland)

and other main centres.


## It happened in APRIL



| Date | | Year |
|---|---|---|
| 6 | USA declared war on Germany | 1917 |
| 9 | Canadians stormed Vimy Ridge | 1917 |
| 14 | SS TITANIC sank on maiden voyage (night of 14/15) | 1912 |
| 15 | Malta awarded George Cross by King George VI | 1942 |
| 16 | Channel first flown by a woman, Miss Harriet Quimby | 1912 |
| 17 | Turkey declared war on Greece | 1897 |
| 23 | Shakespeare Memorial Theatre opened at Stratford-on-Avon | 1932 |
| 25 | Guillotine first erected in Paris, at the Place de Greve | 1792 |
| 26 | Guernica, Spain, destroyed by German aircraft | 1937 |
| 28 | Japan regained her sovereignty | 1952 |


SPORT
IN THE
ARMY
28