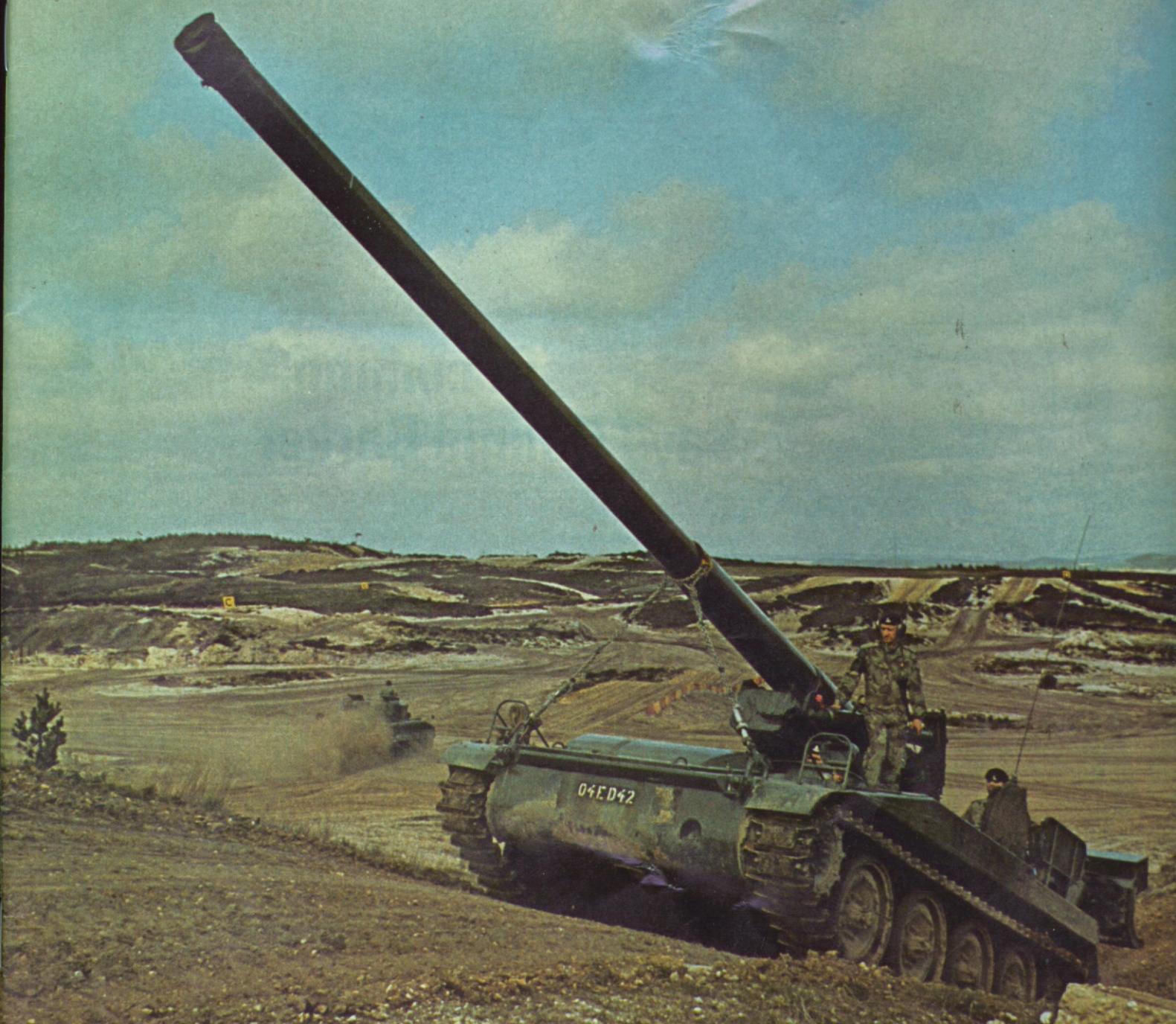


JULY 1976 ★ 15p

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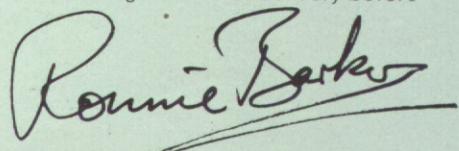
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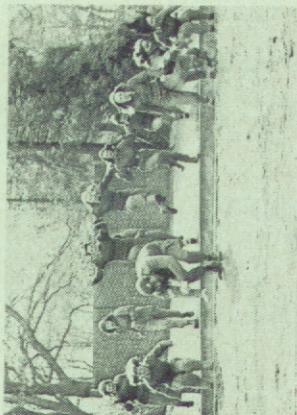
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SOLDIER



FRONT COVER

The giant barrel of the M107 self-propelled gun looms menacingly across the skyline during a mobility demonstration by the Royal Armoured Corps at Bovington. Picture by Doug Pratt.



BACK COVER

Sergeant John Pickering, an instructor at Frimley Park Cadet Training Centre, with girls from St Bartholomew's School, Newbury, CCF training at Frimley. Picture by Paul Haley.

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SEE - THE - ARMY DIARY

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

JUNE 1976

- 21 Port Talbot Military Exhibition (21-25 June).
- 23 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 23 Lincolnshire Agricultural Show, Lincoln (23-24 June) (Royal Signals "White Helmets" motorcycle display team; three bands).
- 25 Aldershot Army Display (25-27 June) (Parachute Regiment "Red Devils" freefall team; King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery; REME Land-Rover display; junior soldiers and WRAC PT and gymnastic display; hot air balloon; light music concert; 15 bands).
- 26 Lord Mayor's Parade, Cardiff (Red Devils; two bands).
- 26 Rushden (Northamptonshire) Show (arena event).
- 26 Campus Fête, Sheffield (Army Air Corps "Blue Eagles" helicopter display team).
- 26 Lord Mayor's Gala, York (26-27 June) (Blue Eagles; Scottish Division "Golden Lions" freefall team; band).
- 26 Chesterfield Borough Carnival (White Helmets).
- 28 Steam Festival, Stamford (Blue Eagles).
- 28 Cardiff Military Exhibition (28 June-1 July) (White Helmets, Red Devils, bands).
- 30 Kneller Hall Band grand concert.
- 30 Royal Norfolk Show, Norwich (30 June-1 July) (Royal Corps of Transport "Silver Stars" freefall team 1 July; two bands).

JULY 1976

- 1 Plymouth Army Week (1-3 July) (two bands).
- 2 Royal Artillery At Home, Woolwich (2-3 July).
- 2 Hook, Goole, Gala (2-4 July) (band).
- 2 Newport (Monmouthshire) Military Display (2-4 July) (Red Devils, three bands).
- 3 Airborne Forces Day, Aldershot.
- 3 Signal View 76, Worcester (3-4 July) (Royal Military Police "Red Caps" mounted display team).
- 3 Newby Hall, Ripon, Traction Rally (3-4 July) (Royal Army Ordnance Corps "Cannonballs" freefall team).
- 3 Laying up old Colours, 1st Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters, Derby Cathedral.
- 3 National Military Historic Vehicles Rally, Winkfield, Berkshire (3-4 July) (band).
- 3 Aveling and Barford Show, Grantham (band).
- 3 Eynsham (Oxfordshire) Carnival (arena event).
- 3 Birkenshaw Show, Bradford (band).
- 4 Wilton Spectacular, Wilton House, Salisbury (displays, mock battle).
- 4 Leeds Horse Show (band).
- 4 SSAFA Air Display, RAF Church Fenton, Yorkshire.
- 5 Bedmond (Hertfordshire) Village Fête (Silver Stars).
- 6 Scottish Military Tattoo, Washington, USA (6-11 July).
- 7 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 7 Massed bands display, Larkhill.
- 9 Southampton Show (9-11 July) (Red Caps; band).
- 10 Artillery Day, Larkhill.
- 10 Bedford Regatta (Red Devils; band).
- 10 Catterick, Army Display (10-11 July) (White Helmets; Red Devils; Junior Parachute Company "Pegasus" gymnastic team; ten bands).
- 10 Basingstoke Tattoo.
- 10 Hatfield (Leeds) Show (band).
- 10 Hatfield Show (10-11 July) (Silver Stars).
- 11 Royal Tournament preview march, The Mall, London.
- 14 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 14 Royal Tournament, Earls Court (14-31 July).
- 15 Kent County Show, Maidstone (15-17 July) (band).
- 15 Liverpool Show (15-17 July) (Red Devils; White Helmets; two bands).
- 16 Cheltenham Tattoo (16-17 July).
- 16 Corby (Lincolnshire) Show (16-17 July) (Queen's Division junior PT team; three bands).
- 17 Masham (Yorkshire) Traction Rally (17-18 July) (band).
- 17 Hatfield Carnival (band).

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DIARY

continued

- 17 Beaumont School Fête, St Albans (junior display; junior band).
- 19 Cleveland Army Band Week (19-23 July) (two bands).
- 20 East of England Show, Peterborough (20-22 July) (Pegasus; two bands).
- 21 Kneller Hall Band grand concert.
- 22 Manchester Show (22-24 July) (Red Devils; White Helmets; two bands).
- 22 St Helens Show (22-24 July) (Red Devils; two bands).
- 22 Malton (Yorkshire) Show (junior band).
- 22 Deal Regatta (22-24 July) (Royal Green Jackets freefall display team; **Blue Eagles 24 July**; band).
- 23 Northampton Show (23-25 July) (Cannonballs; two bands).
- 24 **Westergate Fair, Goodwood (24-25 July) (Red Caps)**.
- 24 Cleveland County Show (three bands).
- 24 Army Display, Aberdeen and Dundee (24-29 July) (Golden Lions; White Helmets 26-29 July; band; pipes and drums).
- 24 Hastings Carnival (Blue Eagles).
- 24 Sutherland Agricultural Show, Dornock (7 RHA freefall team "Black Knights").
- 25 Air Display, Shobden (Blue Eagles).
- 25 Eastbourne Regatta (Silver Stars).
- 27 Tyneside Summer Exhibition (27-31 July) (two bands).
- 28 Driffield (Yorkshire) Show (band).
- 28 **Flower Show, Sandringham (Blue Eagles)**.
- 30 Hull Show (30-31 July) (band).
- 31 Edinburgh Army Display (31 July-8 August) (Golden Lions; Blue Eagles 2-6 August; band; pipes and drums).
- 31 **Festival 76, Lambeth (Blue Eagles)**.

AUGUST 1976

- 1 Open Day, Royal Armoured Corps Centre, Bovington.
- 1 Knebworth Park (Hertfordshire) Air Display (Blue Eagles; band).
- 4 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (4-7 August).
- 4 Bingley (Yorkshire) Show (band).
- 4 Gloucester Festival (4-7 August) (Silver Stars; White Helmets; band).
- 6 Bakewell (Derbyshire) Show (Red Devils).
- 7 Brighton Carnival (band).
- 7 Biddenden (Kent) Spectacular (band).
- 7 **Traction Rally, Castle Howard, Yorkshire (7-8 August) (Blue Eagles)**.
- 7 Doncaster Carnival (7-8 August) (Blue Eagles).
- 8 Wandsworth Show (Red Caps).
- 9 Cleethorpes Festival (9-10 August) (Blue Eagles).
- 13 Derwentside Show, Consett, Co Durham (13-14 August) (band).
- 13 Gloucester Show (Silver Stars).
- 14 Hartlepool Show (14-15 August) (band).
- 14 York Sportsmen's Gala (Blue Eagles; band).
- 15 Air Display, Coventry (Blue Eagles).
- 15 Bromley Show (Silver Stars).
- 17 Edinburgh Tattoo (17 August-11 September).
- 18 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 18 Cromer Carnival (Cannonballs; Royal Artillery motorcycle display team; band).
- 20 Reading Horticultural Show (20-21 August) (Red Caps; band).
- 20 Worthing Fiesta (band).
- 21 **Somerset Agricultural Show, Shepton Mallet (Blue Eagles)**.
- 21 Darlington Show (two bands).
- 24 Army Display, Derby (24-25 August) (Blue Eagles; REME freefall team; RA motorcyclists; bands).
- 25 Gillingham and Shaftesbury (Dorset) Show (Black Knights).
- 25 Kneller Hall Band grand concert.
- 26 Blackpool Services Display (26-29 August) (Blue Eagles 26-27 August; Pegasus; RA motorcyclists; four bands).
- 27 British Timken Show, Northampton (27-28 August) Red Devils; Red Caps; King's Troop; RA motorcyclists; two bands).
- 28 **Leeds Gala (28-30 August) (band)**.
- 28 Expo Steam, Peterborough (28-30 August) (Blue Eagles; band 29-30 August).
- 28 South Tyneside Show (28-30 August) (band).
- 28 QUEXPO, Birchington, Kent (28-30 August) (Cannonballs 30 August; band).
- 30 Worthing Fiesta (Rotorama) (Red Devils; RAC hot air balloon; band).
- 30 Leicester City Show (30-31 August) (Blue Eagles 30 August; two bands).
- 30 Eye (Suffolk) Show (RA motorcyclists).
- 30 Aylsham (Kent) Show (band).
- 30 Hemel Hempstead Carnival (Red Devils; arena event; band).
- 30 Sevenoaks Show (Silver Stars).
- 31 **Basildon District Show (Red Caps)**.
- 31 Barrow Army Display (31 August-1 September) (Pegasus; Red Devils; Blue Eagles; RA motorcyclists; three bands).

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AIRFIX NEW MODELS FILE

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The British Eighth Army was formed after some of the most fierce battles of the Second World War along the North African coast.

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In November 1941 Operation Crusader relieved the beleaguered fortress of Tobruk. A counter-attack by Rommel early in 1942 forced the allied armies back to El Alamein. However, following a major battle, the Eighth Army forced the Germans to retreat and finally on May 13, 1943 on the Cap Bon Peninsula the African campaign ended.

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SOLDIER to Soldier

Just over a decade ago SOLDIER reported (November 1965) on the plight of the Fovant Badges Society which was having difficulty in maintaining the giant regimental badges carved in the chalk of the Wiltshire Downs, most of them by troops in World War One. Grants from various sources and practical work by the society (formed by local ex-members of the World War Two Home Guard) and Army units were insufficient for the mammoth annual cleaning. So the society appealed for £2000 to produce an annual income to maintain the badges in perpetuity.

Today, inflation has reared its ugly head and once more the former Home Guard men of three Wiltshire villages are hard pressed to keep the badges in shape.

Mr William Langdon, the society treasurer, told SOLDIER: "The badges have to be cleaned every year. We cannot afford to clean them by contract and we are very fortunate that boys from a local Borstal institution help out with the actual work. But the materials themselves cost about £300 a year and our income is currently running at less than that."

Many individuals and old comrades associations already subscribe to the Fovant Badges Society. Any SOLDIER reader wishing to help should send his or her donation to Mr W J Langdon at Naish's Farm, Compton Chamberlayne, Salisbury, Wiltshire. Sightseeing note: At Fovant there are two groups of badges — Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry (cut after World War One), YMCA, 6th City of London Rifles, Australian Imperial Force; The Wiltshire Regiment (cut after World War One), London Rifle Brigade, Post Office Rifles, The Devonshire Regiment. These groups are now linked by the Royal Signals badge, added by units of the corps at the invitation of the Fovant Badges Society in 1971 in recognition of the units' maintenance work in previous years. The badges of the 7th City of London Regiment and The Royal Warwickshire Regiment are at nearby Sutton Mandeville and a map of Australia is at Compton Chamberlayne.

*

Three further designs—Canadian Scottish, Royal Montreal Regiment and The Rifle Brigade—have been added to the range of 113 regimental drum ice buckets listed under SOLDIER's Reader Services in the June issue. Regrettably, because of increased postal costs, the prices given in June have had to be increased to £6.35 (UK), £5.85 (BFPO) and £6.80 (elsewhere).

Awards

The following awards have been made for service in Oman:

Military Cross: Major A R Turle, The Royal Green Jackets.

Distinguished Conduct Medal: Corporal B J Bond, Special Air Service Regiment.

Mentioned in Despatches: Sergeant A Kent (deceased), The Cheshire Regiment.

The Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct has been awarded to Lance-Corporal John Pringle, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, for rescuing a comrade after a road accident in Northern Ireland.

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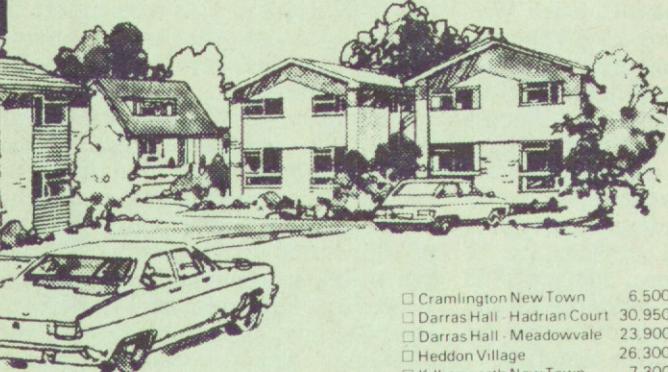
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Military museums: 42

The Shropshire Yeomanry & Shropshire RHA Museum

RELICS dating from 1795 line the walls of this well-arranged drill hall museum to tell the story of the Shropshire Yeomanry and Shropshire Royal Horse Artillery, the latter being absorbed by the Yeomanry in 1967 after 107 years' independence.

Featured in the entrance hall are some good examples of Shropshire RHA uniforms and a notable collection of porcelain. A particularly handsome piece is the Brimstree Loyal Legion cup made at Coalport in 1799 while the Oswestry Rangers jug and mug bear the stirring legends "Success to the Shropshire Cavalry," "In Defence of our King and Country" and "To protect our families and property." A 1st Shropshire Artillery Volunteers helmet bears the unit's badge before its amalgamation in 1880 with the Staffordshire Artillery Volunteers to form the 1st Shropshire and Staffordshire Artillery Volunteers.

Portraits of Charles II and his younger brother James II, painted on their accession, catch the eye in the main hall. Two other noteworthy paintings portray Lieutenant-Colonel William Cludde, the Shropshire Yeomanry's first commanding officer (1795), and Major John Dorset Bringhurst, killed at Waterloo with the 1st King's Dragoon Guards, both pictures being remarkable for the accuracy of the uniforms. The museum's well-displayed collection of uniforms gives connoisseurs a good opportunity of comparing, for instance, the pre-1855 scarlet-and-silver lace uniform of the North Salopian Yeomanry with the unit's later blue-and-silver lace dress.

Guidons include those of both the North and South Salopian regiments of yeomanry cavalry, the first Guidon of the North Shropshire Yeomanry Cavalry with its Hanoverian coat of arms, the Guidon of the Apley Troop of the Brimstree Loyal Legion (1799) and the World War Two flag of 76 (Shropshire Yeomanry) Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery, emblazoned with the unusual signs of 6th AGRA, Eighth Army and 2nd New Zealand Division — which make it something of a rarity.

A case full of Shropshire Yeomanry swords of various periods will interest specialists as this is the only yeomanry regiment to have the Life Guards state sword blade — note the distinctive "Loggerheads" badge mounted on the hilts. This ancient military badge of the county — three leopards' faces taken from the Royal Arms — has been worn by Shropshire men-at-arms since the 15th century.

A rare 1827 beaver shako has pride of place in an impressive collection of

yeomanry headdress items including many helmets bearing Hanoverian and Victorian crests. Nearby a comprehensive group of hand guns ranges from flintlock to automatic pistol. Uniforms, insignia, carbines and other exhibits relating to the Shropshire Imperial Yeomanry, which served with distinction in the South African War (as the 13th Company of the 5th Battalion) are also well represented. Ranking high among the museum's most treasured items are relics of Sergeant Harold Whitfield, who won the Victoria Cross at Burj el Lisaneh, Palestine, in March 1918, when the dismounted Shropshire and Cheshire yeomanry regiments amalgamated to form 10th Battalion, King's Shropshire Light Infantry. On display are his sword and helmet and the rifle he used when winning the VC.

A medal group belonging to Thomas Monks who as trumpeter to Sir James Yorke Scarlett sounded the charge of the Heavy Brigade at Balaclava, a boot-jack belonging to Field-Marshal Lord Methuen, a Shropshire Yeomanry centenary medal struck in 1895 and a pair of World War One wire cutters are just a few of the miscellaneous souvenirs to be seen in this wide-ranging museum.

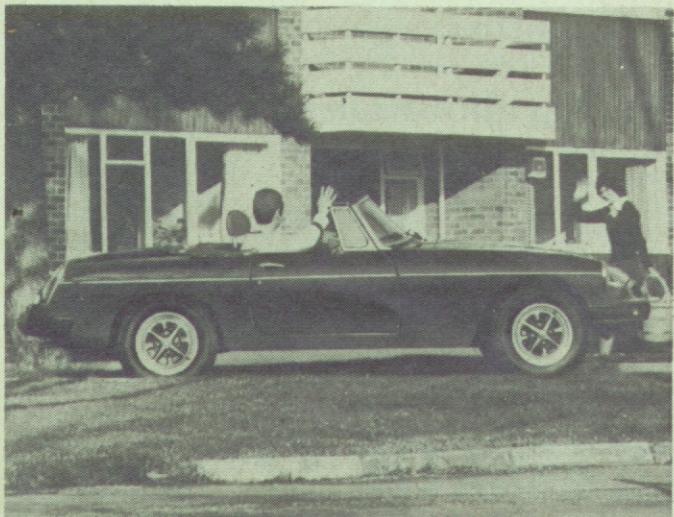
A complete set of regimental records from 1795, original correspondence, and photographs dating from the 1870s, are housed in a records and muniments room. Today, 95 (Shropshire Yeomanry) Squadron of 35 (South Midland) Signal Regiment (V) and C (Shropshire Yeomanry) Squadron of The Queen's Own Mercian Yeomanry train in surroundings which constantly remind them of their fine heritage.

John Jesse

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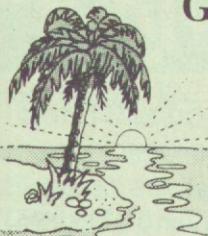
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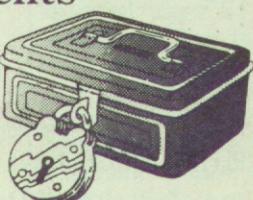
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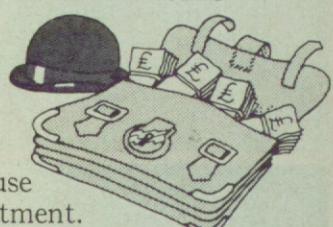
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For the first time ever, one small club – the Army Mountaineering Association – achieves the ultimate challenge and in a feat of sheer endurance two British soldiers stand on top of the world . . .

The Army conquers Everest

From reports by Onslow Dent,
Army Public Relations,
HQ United Kingdom Land
Forces

It was the moment of triumph, an achievement of planning and sheer endurance as two British Soldiers, Sergeant John ("Brummy") Stokes and Corporal Michael ("Bronco") Lane, stood on the roof of the world. Almost 23 years after Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing first conquered Mount Everest the British Army had tamed the world's highest peak.

As the worst blizzard of the season struck the mountain the two soldiers had been forced to spend all day and a second night huddled in their tent 1500 feet below the summit before they could make their attempt. The Sunday morning of 16 May dawned fine but snow conditions were very bad as from Camp Six at 27,500 feet the pair set out for the top. Said "Brummy" Stokes: "It felt like taking one step forward and three steps down."

It was four hours before they reached the South Summit — in good conditions it would have taken an hour and a half. As they moved up to the main summit the cloud came down; when they reached the 29,028-foot peak at 3.15 pm there was very little to see — the rarest view in the world was denied them. They stayed only a few minutes before starting on the descent in almost completely white-out conditions.

They were still some 700 feet above their Camp Six at 7 pm and the steps they made on the way up were hard to find. They had only one bottle of oxygen each for the whole climb and were in danger of running out. They searched about and dug in the snow for two partly used bottles they had left above their camp but were looking in the wrong place. Fortunately a slight break in the cloud for a minute or two enabled them to see the bottles quite some way off. They realised they would



Cpl "Bronco" Lane
on the final climb to
Everest's summit.

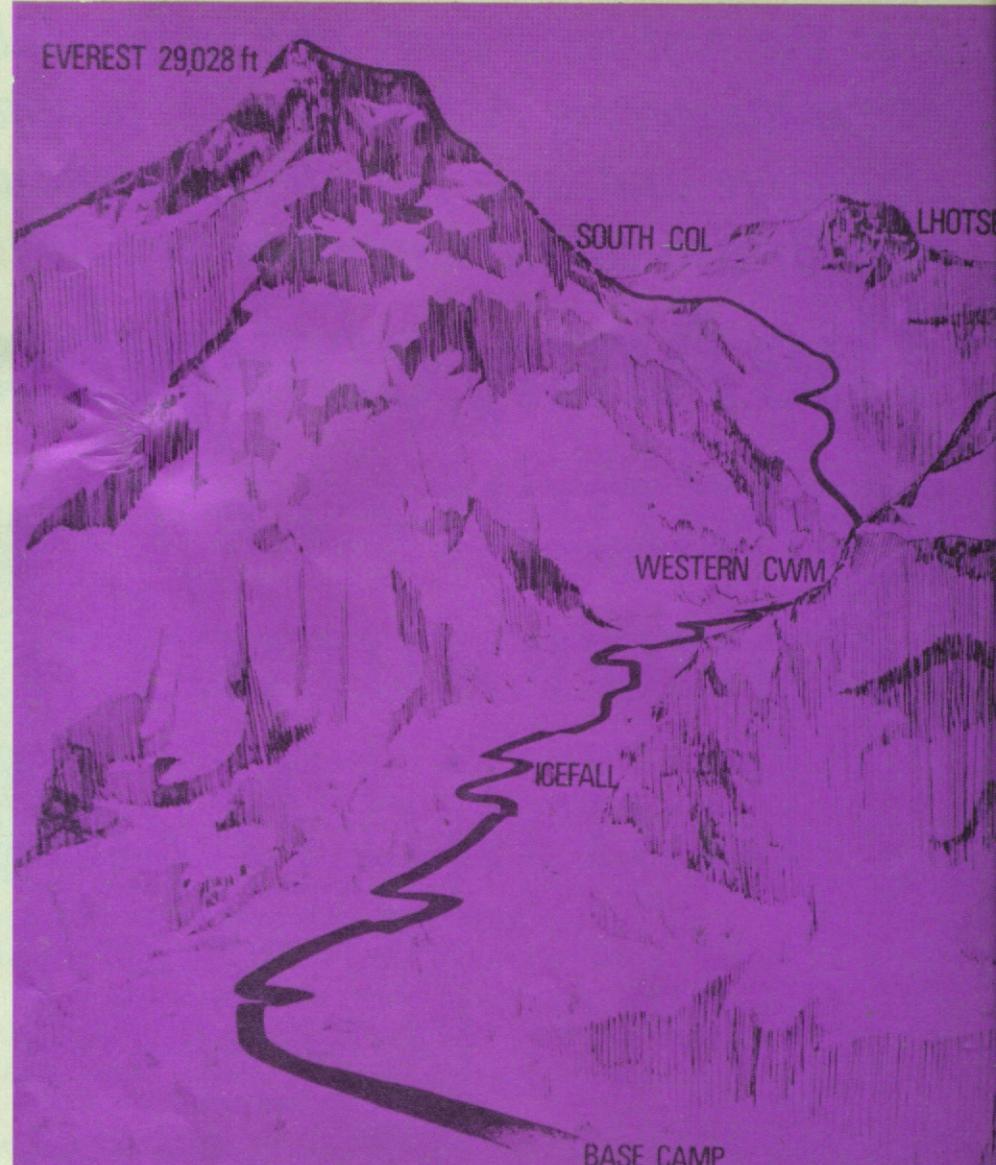


Starting the precarious crossing with rope and metal ladder of one of the many crevasses in the Khumbu Icefall.

be unable to reach their camp and dug a shelter in the snow to spend the night at over 28,000 feet. Sharing the oxygen, they kept themselves as warm as possible and sat it out until morning.

Because the pair had not returned, Second-Lieutenant John Scott and Captain Pat Gunson had moved up to and spent the night at Camp Six. Sacrificing their own chance of an attempt on the summit, they escorted "Brummy" Stokes and "Bronco" Lane down to Camp Five. The victorious pair were suffering from frost bite and on the way down "Brummy" Stokes developed snow blindness after losing his snow glasses, but he recovered from this after a few days. From Base Camp the pair were flown by helicopter to Kathmandu where they arrived in high spirits to rest and recover from their ordeal before joining the whole expedition on 27 May for the return home.

It was a fantastic feat of sheer endurance by the two summit heroes and a unique achievement by the expedition under its leader, Lieutenant-Colonel Tony Streather. The ultimate challenge to mountaineers had been achieved for the first time ever by the members of



Sketch of the route from Base Camp via the Khumbu Icefall, Western Cwm, South Col and the south-east ridge.

one small club, the Army Mountaineering Association.

The association's 33 climbers, who included three reservists, had faced severe weather conditions and the tragic death of one of their comrades. In four-and-a-half weeks, after Base Camp was established at 18,000 feet, they forced a route through the treacherous Khumbu Icefall to establish Camp One at its brink, made their way through the ice of the Western Cwm with its dangerous crevasses, set up Camp Two halfway through this high glacier valley squeezed out between Everest and Nuptse, and pitched Camp Three at the head of the Cwm at 23,000 feet. Ahead lay the steep climb up the Lhotse face and the long traverse across the face to the South Col, linking Lhotse with Everest, from where the assault on the summit was launched up the south-east ridge of the world's highest mountain.

After their RAF flight to Kathmandu via Hong Kong, the team spent only a few days in the Nepalese capital before setting off in three separate parties on the 180-mile walk to Base Camp. This 15-day trek with Nepalese porters, many of them women, carrying kit and

camping gear, took the climbers across the grain of the country — down into deep green valleys, across foaming torrents and broad swift rivers, and up the far hillsides. Though all enjoyed the walk, it was, as one member put it, "no picnic." On some days the team trudged upwards for 5000 feet followed by a toe-stubbing descent.

All were full of praise for the excellent meals prepared by the Nepalese cooks — Captain Nigel Gifford, in charge of catering, had arranged enough fresh food and Army packed rations to satisfy the most demanding appetites. Members of the expedition followed their own particular interests during the walk. Captain Tim King collected glorious orchids and also red ants for a study project; Lieutenant-Colonel John Peacock busied himself with his flower press and camera; Sergeant Roy Francis was king of the team's back-gammon league; big John Scott and Captain Phil Neame dashed along at high speed, keeping themselves going with their own brand of chat and repartee; Lieutenant-Colonel Dick Hardie had to take two of the Sherpa girls' loads across a swaying single-plank



Dwarfed by the mountains, Sgt Stokes and Cpl Lane are silhouetted at the entrance to the Western Cwm.

bridge slung high above a torrent — and learned how to carry a 60lb load slung from a headband.

After crossing the highest pass at almost 12,000 feet, they plunged down to 5000 feet to the deep gorge of the river Dudh Kosi which drains the whole Everest area. Then they turned northwards, winding in and out of deep ravines before reaching Namche Bazar, the chief village of the Sherpa country, where they were joined by the high-altitude Sherpas. A thousand feet above Namche stands the famous monastery of Thyangboche and here the three walking parties joined up to attend a puju, a religious ceremony for the Sherpas at which prayers were said for the safety of the expedition.

At 14,000 feet the party spent some days at an acclimatisation camp with training climbs on the surrounding mountains. Major Jon Fleming, leader of the ill-fated expedition to Nuptse, took a small group to his old base camp and there they fixed and engraved stainless steel plaque to commemorate their four friends who were killed on the mountain nearly a year ago.

Meanwhile the advance party, under

the expedition leader, Tony Streather, pressed on to establish Base Camp on 24 March at 18,000 feet. It was Tony Streather's 50th birthday and also the 21st anniversary to the day of setting up base camp for the first ascent of Kanchenjunga, at 28,146 feet the third highest mountain in the world. Tony Streather was a member of that 1955 expedition and reached the summit to become the first man to climb two peaks of more than 25,000 feet.

The Everest Base Camp was a bleak and desolate place on the Khumbu Glacier, which is about a mile wide at that point. John Peacock described it: "Think of a mass of sand dunes 20 feet high, cover them over with white granite rocks anything from a few inches across to six-foot boulders. Then remove the sand and replace it with ice that creaks in the night and you may have some idea. Platforms have been levelled among the hummocks — and sometimes on top of them — for tents, including a skilfully built stone cookhouse roofed with a canvas tarpaulin. Between the tents are piles of ration boxes, equipment, oxygen bottles, etc. Two radio aerials drape cable



The ultimate challenge

Nearly a quarter of a century has passed since New Zealander Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing first reached the summit of Mount Everest and almost every year since then the world's expert mountaineers have tried harder and harder ways to reach the top. No other mountain presents quite the same test of endurance, no other demands such careful and detailed planning of the assault. It remains and must always remain the unique and ultimate challenge.

The opportunity to climb Everest is rare. The Nepalese Government has earmarked the mountain for other expeditions for every year into the 1980s. The Joint British and Royal Nepalese Army expedition was not only the first time that a small mountaineering club had tackled a challenge on this Goliath scale but it was also the only chance for this generation of Army mountaineers.

The members of the expedition contributed one month's pay — a total of £10,000, or one-fifth of the anticipated budget. Regiments and corps sponsored their own representatives and the Army Mountaineering Association supported the venture to the limit of its resources. An Army-wide appeal met with an immediate and generous response. Various trusts in the mountaineering world supported the expedition and there were generous contributions from industry.

In the harsh and uncompromising conditions on Everest, where personal ambition must take second place to the common objective, the experience and discipline of working in a team provides an unparalleled opportunity to develop qualities of character all too often neglected in modern life. The benefits of such training do not remain solely with those taking part for they in their turn will train others. It is for dividends such as these that the Army supports and invests in expeditions to all parts of the world.

With Himalayan experience reaching back in some cases more than seven years and, in the case of the leader, since 1950, the Army Mountaineering Association fielded a strong team. Its history includes ascents of Tirich Mir, Annapurna 1, Mentosa and Indrasan and a further ten peaks of lesser standing. Hardest of all was last year's attempt on the 25,850-foot Nuptse where the difficulties, of a higher order than those normally expected on the Everest route, had all been overcome before tragedy struck, killing four climbers and robbing that expedition of success.

Message from Major-General J M Brockbank, Chairman of the Army Mountaineering Association:

I would like to take this opportunity of saying that this splendid achievement would not have been possible without the magnificent support and encouragement of corps, regiments and individuals of the Army. You gave us £18,000. I am delighted that the team has been able to justify the confidence placed in them by getting to the top. On their behalf I would like to say a very sincere "Thank you."



Sgt John "Brummy" Stokes (30), 22 SAS.



Cpl Michael "Bronco" Lane (31), 22 SAS.



Lieut-Col Tony Streather (50), Glosters.



Capt Sir Crispin Agnew of Lochnaw (31), RHF.



Flying Officer Geordie Armstrong (36), Royal Air Force.



Capt Mervyn Bridges (31), Royal Engineers.



Maj Henry Day (33), Royal Engineers.



Maj Jon Fleming (39), Parachute Regiment.



Sgt Roy Francis (27), 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards.



Capt Nigel Gifford (29), Army Catering Corps.



Capt Pat Gunson (36), REME.



Lieut-Col Dick Hardie (41), Royal Army Medical Corps.



Maj Ivar Hellberg (33), Royal Corps of Transport.



Capt Philip Horniblow (47), RAMC.



Capt Chris Johnson (28), Parachute Regiment.



L/Cpl Steve Johnson (26), Royal Engineers.



Capt Douglas Keelan (32), Royal Marines.



Capt Mike Kefford (28), 7th DEO Gurkha Rifles.



Capt Tim King (30), Royal Army Ordnance Corps.



Capt Brian Martindale (49), Royal Pioneer Corps.



Maj John Muston (41), Royal Army Ordnance Corps.



Capt Philip Neame (29), Parachute Regiment.



Capt Peter Page (31), Royal Engineers.



Lieut-Col John Peacock (44), REME.



2/Lieut John Scott (27), Parachute Regiment.



Capt Terry Thompson, Royal Marines.



Capt Philip West (27), Royal Artillery.

The remaining six members of the Joint British and Royal Nepalese Army Expedition to Mount Everest 1976 were:

Cpl Basantakumar Rai,
Cpl Nandaraj Gurung, Cpl Narbu Sherpa, all 7th DEO Gurkha Rifles; Maj Bhagirath Narsingh Rana, Cpl Bishnu Bahadur, Subedar Krishna Bahadur, all Royal Nepalese Army.



Oxygen mask off, Sgt "Brummy" Stokes standing on Everest's summit.

over the scene. The orange, red and green tents lend colour to a drab foreground. But all around are great mountain peaks so high and close they appear to lean on you. It is like being in a goldfish bowl with mountains painted on the glass."

Tony Streather's plan was for the advance party to take a preliminary look at the great Khumbu Icefall, barring the approach to Everest, as soon as they could but without making any serious attempt on it. Dick Hardie, Pat Ganson, John Scott, Phil Neame and Captain Chris Johnson took turns to find a way through the incredibly tortuous ice, about a mile long and rising for 2000 feet before it begins to flatten out into the Western Cwm.

This continually moving mass of groaning, menacing ice — a vast chaos of crazy, precarious towers, minarets and pillars interspersed with the seemingly bottomless blue-green depths of crevasses — was possibly the most difficult and dangerous part of the ascent. Metal ladders were used to bridge 20-foot-wide crevasses and 8000 feet of safety rope wound its way upwards. At one point, just as Pat Gun-

In their few minutes on the peak, Cpl "Bronco" Lane anchors a pennant.

son had hitched himself on to the rope while crossing an ice cave, the whole thing collapsed beneath him, sending him swinging 30 feet into space. He escaped with minor cuts and bruises.

Camp One, at the top of the icefall, was established on 3 April but, in order to get to it, climbers had to descend a 40-foot ladder into an unbridgeable crevasse and then climb out by another ladder of similar length. The route was then pushed on to find a site for Camp Two, about halfway through the Western Cwm. Major Henry Day, Captain Terry Thompson, Flying Officer Geordie Armstrong, Captain Phil West, Roy Francis, Major Ivar Hellberg and Captain Peter Page took the lead and were joined by Tony Streather while other climbers worked on a pulley system to get stores across the huge crevasse to Camp One. On 8 April, Camp Two was set up at 21,000 feet.

Tragedy then struck. On 10 April, Terry Thompson and Geordie Armstrong pressed on to open the route towards the head of the Western Cwm. They returned to Camp Two but a little later it was noticed that Terry Thompson was not in his tent. A search

revealed that he had fallen to his death in a 50-foot crevasse. Henry Day went down a double rope and with great difficulty a lifting harness was fitted around the body. Several attempts were made by a Nepalese Army helicopter to land at the top of the icefall to recover the body for burial in the British Cemetery in Kathmandu but this had to be abandoned because of bad weather and high winds. Captain Thompson was buried by his comrades on 15 April near the place where he was killed.

Despite the shock of this tragic event, the expedition decided to press on but, for almost a week, bad weather with snow and strong winds hampered progress. On 21 April, Camp Three was established at 22,600 feet at the foot of the Lhotse Face. Full use of the camp was delayed by snow until 24 April. As soon as the weather subsided, the camp was occupied by four climbers, Jon Fleming, Nigel Gifford, Captain Crispin Agnew and Geordie Armstrong.

The Base Camp was then run down and stores and equipment were moved up to Camp Two which became the Advanced Base Camp. The climb from the original Base Camp to Camp One at

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Everest meal at Base Camp. Left to right: Pat Gunson, Phil Neame, Chris Johnson, Dick Hardie, Steve Johnson.

the top of the icefall took three hours and another four-and-a-half hours were needed to reach Camp Two. To save time and energy the climbers operated a ferry system with a stores dump half-way along the route. Advance Base eventually held up to 24 members of the expedition with all the equipment and stores required for the next four camps on the way to the summit. The first Base Camp then had only a small administrative element with a doctor and the radio link to Kathmandu.

With Advance Base fully operative, the expedition surged forward on the steep ascent of the Lhotse Face and, on 30 April, Dick Hardie, Chris Johnson, John Scott and Pat Gunson established Camp Four halfway up the face at 25,000 feet, then probed the long traverse halfway to the South Col before being replaced on 4 May by Geordie Armstrong, Henry Day, Lance-Corporal Steve Johnson and Phil Neame.

This new leading foursome reached the South Col and the location for Camp Five in the afternoon of the following day. It was hoped to move up stores and equipment to establish the camp on 6

May but the weather suddenly changed. For the next six days fierce winds gusted across the mountains, bringing progress to a halt. Oddly the weather was exceptionally hot, causing extensive melting below in the icefall and breaking up large areas of ice to create chaotic conditions. The whole area was a mass of new crevasses and convulsions of the surface were an hourly experience. The route between Camp One and Advance Base became completely impassable.

All hands at Advance Base then tackled the difficult and dangerous task of repairing the route, replacing ladders and ropes and bridging new crevasses, work which had been the constant occupation of Roy Francis, Peter Page and Phil West.

When the high winds subsided, Dick Hardie and Geordie Armstrong pressed on to establish Camp Five at 26,200 feet on the South Col, on 12 May. Jon Fleming, Dick Hardie, Geordie Armstrong and Henry Day helped to set up Camp Six late in the afternoon of 14 May, just below the South Summit at 27,500 feet, and then withdrew to Camp Five.

Two days later history was made — the Army had conquered Everest.

Lieutenant-Colonel Tony Streather, leader of the Everest 1976 expedition and the Army's most experienced Himalayan mountaineer, climbed his first mountain at the age of 24 when, while serving in India, he was one of the summit party of a Norwegian expedition which made the first successful ascent of Tirich Mir (25,236 feet).

On the strength of Tirich Mir, Colonel Streather asked to be considered for the Hunt expedition to Everest in 1953 but was turned down through lack of experience and knowledge of climbing techniques. About the same time he was invited to join an American expedition to climb K2, at 28,250 feet the second highest mountain in the world. He sold his car and gave up smoking and drinking to raise £350 to buy mountaineering kit and went off to the Himalayas with the Americans.

At first all went well but at less than 3000 feet from the summit a climber developed blood clots in his legs. The attempt was abandoned and all efforts were concentrated on getting the sick man down the mountain. A climber roped to Colonel Streather fell 300 feet, dragging most of his comrades after him. Amazingly they were held by one man but the leader was concussed and all suffered terribly from exposure, exhaustion and frost bite. The sick man plunged to his death in the blizzard; the others stumbled down the mountain in nightmare conditions.

In 1955 Colonel Streather was one of four British to reach the summit on the only ascent of Kanchenjunga, the world's third highest mountain at 28,146 feet. A year later he led an Oxford University expedition to Haramosh in the Karakoram range in Kashmir — an epic tragedy in which two of four climbers died and one lost both hands and all his toes with frost bite. Colonel Streather was badly frost-bitten but emerged as a remarkable leader of great courage.

In 1959 he became a founder-member of the Army Mountaineering Association and led the first training expedition to the Karakoram that year.

Captain Philip Hornieblow who is a reservist of the Royal Army Medical Corps, made history in operating successfully on Corporal Basantakumar Rai, of 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles, at Camp Three, at 22,600 feet. It was the first time a surgical operation had been performed at such an altitude.

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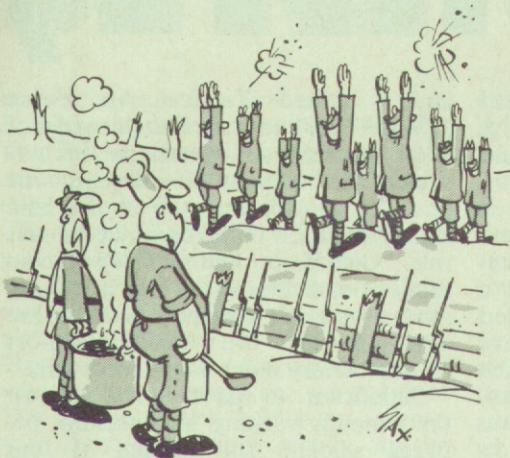
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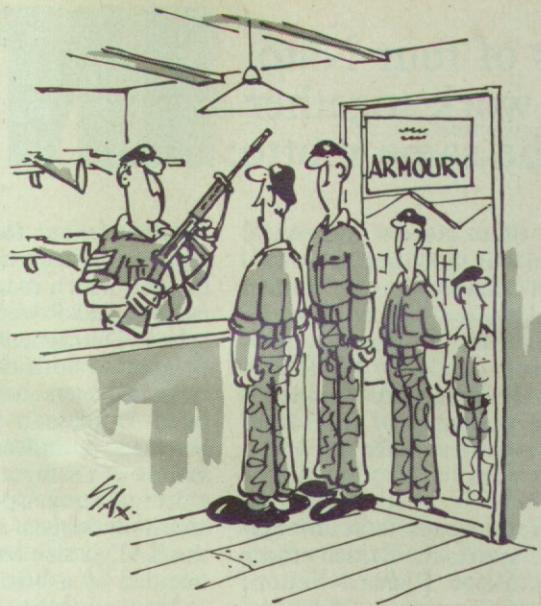
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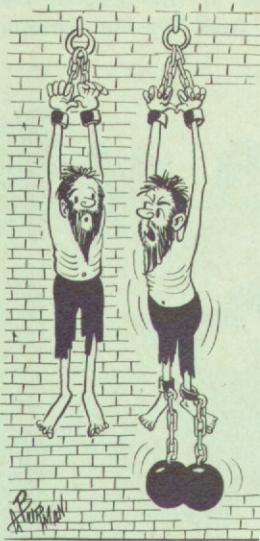
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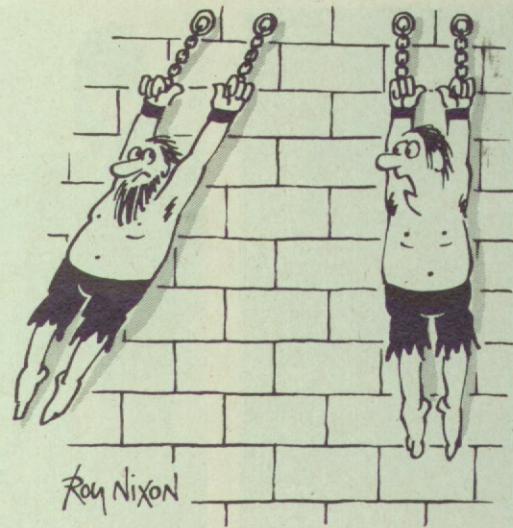
"I have a feeling the men aren't too happy about the food."



"I'd like one with a mahogany butt."



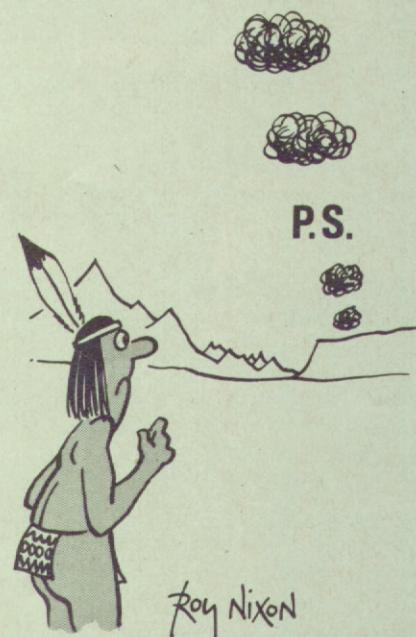
*"You're too short,
he said."*



"Have I offended you?"



"Too much starch."



confidently claims that the high-grade National Servicemen from the other nations are of such a calibre that they work as well as Regular troops despite the fact that they have not got the same military background.

In fact, the civilian skills and professions of the conscripts are put to good use within the unit. A generator shed, designed by British sappers, was built by conscript craftsmen whose civilian jobs were carpenters, bricklayers and labourers. The Dutch contingent converted part of their barracks into "The Dutch Inn," a bar (with television and games) colourfully decorated by a commercial artist-conscript with professional expertise that would grace any high-class place of entertainment. This inn is used by all the company in off-duty hours for the unit's members do not just meet at work — their social lives are intertwined too. "Only by this sort of getting together at work and play do you get to know each other and build

Below: Mini-World Cup as the four nations compete at the Dutch Inn.

the necessary unit spirit," said Major Felton.

Language difficulties? None, apparently. Between English (the official Nato language), German and a smattering of French, communication is quite easy within the company. People soon get into the habit of giving careful and explicit instructions and within the nationally demarcated platoons that nation's language is spoken. "As far as possible we encourage people to carry out their business in another language, however badly they may speak it," said Major Felton. "Somehow it all gets across."

But he confesses to having once been a victim of the language barrier himself. Near midday he sent a Belgian driver on an errand to his office. The driver was carrying his lunchtime roll at the time. "Take care of my dog," said the OC, warning the driver to look out for the pet Alsatian snoozing in the office. Obedient to the letter, the young soldier

Bottom: Round the bar all men are the same. They relax with their beer.

misinterpreted the warning as a special order and promptly fed his sandwich roll to the animal!

This pet is not the only dog to be found inside the company's compound for the unit has a mascot in the massive 12½-stone-plus form of Leo, a St Bernard. Leo was given to the company by its affiliated German Bundeswehr unit, Ausbildungs Kompanie 7/10, based in the Black Forest. It is here that some 100 men a year go from Rheindahlen base for survival and ski training.

His RCT handler, Lance-Corporal Gordon Willbye, is outweighed by Leo whose bulky form is daily sustained by four pounds of time-expired meat bought from Naafi.

Leo and the soldiers of the unit are living proof of a close international co-operation in Nato. "We are Nato soldiers, a Nato unit," the company's printed briefing states. And working days are proof of that motto: "In unity, strength."

Below: Company mascot Leo, with his handler, L/Cpl Gordon Willbye.



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NEWS

Pull-out supplement SOLDIER July 1976

PAY QUERIES ANSWERED

The details of the 1976 Forces Pay Review were announced on 3 May and, as expected, the main recommendation was that servicemen on adult rates of pay should receive the full £6 pay increase except for those earning over £8500 who would not get any increase. These recommendations were in line with the Government's pay policy and as such they have caused little adverse comment from officers and servicemen. However, the Pay Review also gave details of increases to food and accommodation charges for single servicemen, and increases to married quarter charges. These increases have led to a number of queries of which the four main ones are:

"What is the basis of married quarter charges?"

"Why are pay rises given and then reduced by increasing charges?"

"If those earning over £8500 do not get a pay rise, why should their charges be increased?"

"Why is the increase in charges, in percentage terms, higher than the rises in pay?" All these questions are really inter-related and it is hoped that the following notes will provide answers to those and similar questions.

Since 1970, married quarter charges have been based on four elements. The first one is **rent**, which is based on the average of UK local authority rents and this includes basic maintenance and repair to the house or flat. However, as local authority statistics are only available 12 months after the period to which they relate, servicemen pay rents one year behind those paid by equivalent council house tenants.

The second element is **rates**, which are based on the average annual contributions paid by MOD in lieu of rates (including water rates). This rate element is also based on contributions paid one year previously.

The third element is a **charge** for the use of furniture, furnishings and household equipment in the quarter. All items are assessed as having a life of 20 years and the depreciation charge is based on the prices of ten years ago. This sum is then further reduced by 30% to reflect such factors as the lack of choice over the design or colour of the various items.

The final element in the married quarter charge is for **additional maintenance** which covers the work carried out on Service quarters which is in excess of the usual local authority commitment to their houses. This includes such work as maintenance of fixtures and fittings, and maintenance of utilities (gas, electricity and water, including heating systems). The resulting figure does not include the cost of additional decoration caused by frequent changes of occupation as this is not considered to be a fair charge to the serviceman. As far as the single serviceman is concerned, his accommodation charge is calculated as a percentage of married quarter charges and includes a small element for heating and lighting. Accommodation charges (and food charges) have in recent years been reviewed annually at the same time as pay has been reviewed and this has led to the assumption that pay rises are given with one hand and then immediately taken away with the other.

However, these increased charges reflect the increases already borne by the civilian community and those in the Services who own their own houses. For example, the new 1976 increases to quartering charges reflect the 40% average increase to rates already suffered by private householders in April last year; they also reflect the increase in rents already borne by council house tenants and the overall increase in the cost of living of over 20% during the last 12 months which affects such things as the costs of maintenance and upkeep of houses.

In effect the Services review system results in the serviceman in barracks and in quarters being protected over the last year because increases in charges are postponed for up to twelve months. The alternative would be for charges to be increased when costs rise (which is what happens to other members of the community) and this would be irrespective of the timing of the pay review.

What all this means is that as long as accommodation and food charges for the Forces are related to comparable charges to civilians, then increased charges for servicemen are likely to be included in a pay review whereas civilians may have suffered similar increases during the previous twelve months. Indeed, this year, if charges had not been increased by the amount indicated by a comparison with civilians, this would have been considered (under the Government's anti-inflation policy) as a concealed subsidy, the cost of which would have had to be charged against the £6 pay award, thereby reducing the amount payable.

It is not true that civilians have found their housing costs have been restricted to the percentage increases of any pay rises they have received in the last twelve

months; nor is it correct to assume that those civilians who have not received a pay rise have not had to suffer considerable increases to their outgoings. As there can be no question in these difficult times of the Services being given special privileges, it follows that the serviceman must bear the same financial burden on the same terms as those in the rest of the community. This year this has led to average increases in married quarter charges of about 18% and this fairly represents the recent increases suffered by civilians (including those earning more than £8500 per year).

No one is under any illusion that the 1976 Pay Review has given anyone a higher standard of living and for most servicemen their purchasing power is likely to be less in real terms during 1976 than it was after the 1975 Pay Review. However the Government's pay policy is the same for everyone, servicemen and civilians alike, and there is no soft option for any section of the community. Some sacrifice of our living standards is necessary at present in order to avert the far worse danger of soaring inflation and the Services must bear a fair share on the same terms as the rest of the community.

(DPS)

INFANTRY BATTALION REORGANISATION

First effects of the 1975 Defence Review re-organisation are now appearing in the organisation of some infantry battalions. For instance a new organisation for mechanised battalions was trialled in Rhine Army late last year by 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry, and early this year by 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire. The results of these trials are now being processed and they will result in an establishment for the mechanised battalion which will be adopted first by 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, in March 1977 and by all mechanised battalions in April 1978.

Last month (June), 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots, moved to Germany in the special role of nuclear convoy escort battalion. For some years past this task has been carried out by a mechanised battalion but the Royal Scots will adopt a new organisation tailor-made for the task in which the whole battalion will be mounted in wheeled rather than tracked vehicles.

Other infantry battalions will no longer be referred to as airportable. New organisations for two different types of infantry battalions are being evaluated during the remainder of this year by 1st and 3rd battalions, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. When the lessons from this have been assimilated, all airportable battalions will convert to the new establishments between July 1977 and April 1978.

(D Inf)

WOMEN IN THE ARMY



Members of the Women's Royal Army Corps today are just as good as those who served with the Auxiliary Territorial Service during World War Two, Brigadier Eileen Nolan, Director WRAC, said in a British Forces Broadcasting Service programme. She said women who joined the Army today still had great motivation. Now that the WRAC are driving heavy goods vehicles, Brigadier Nolan was asked if she thought the corps was likely to take on more tasks that were once associated only with male soldiers. She replied: "We drove heavy goods vehicles all through the war so this is nothing really very new and I'm glad we are getting the opportunity to do it again. I think there are quite a lot of jobs which we could still do which we are not doing at this present moment. We hope that they will be opened to us. All I would say is that I think everybody else feels this too. This will happen in time but we've got to produce the good recruits to do the jobs."

(DPR)

TAVR REGULAR SERVICE

The pilot scheme offering short service volunteer commissions to Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve officers has been successful and is to continue. The scheme was introduced in October 1973 and enabled both male and female TAVR officers to apply to serve with the appropriate arm of the Regular Army for a period of from six to 18 months. The scheme's aim was to enable officers to gain experience and training which would be of subsequent value to the TAVR and in the meantime fill

COMBAT RECONNAISSANCE VEHICLES

existing captain and subaltern vacancies in the Regular Army. Exceptionally, majors would be accepted by the Royal Army Medical Corps and they might be accepted at the discretion of other arm or service directors.

The pilot scheme proved very successful and the majority of the 60 vacancies were filled. The scheme will now continue but within existing Army manpower cover and subject to review in 1979. Further information is available from unit commanding officers.

(D/DM(A))

A whole new family of combat reconnaissance vehicles will join Scorpion in service with the British Army over the next few years. Scimitar, which is similar to Scorpion but mounts a 30-millimetre Rarden cannon, will be with most reconnaissance troops in armoured regiments this year. Although these vehicles will ultimately be centralised under the Army restructuring plans, armoured regiments will still be allowed a clear 18 months with the new equipment. However, because of the pending changes, it has been decided that mechanised battalions will not now receive Scimitar.

Striker, which mounts the Swingfire long-range anti-tank guided weapon, will be introduced into Rhine Army next year and will go into service in the United Kingdom in the Guided Weapon Regiment, Royal Artillery, in 1978.

Spartan, the armoured personnel carrier of the family, will initially be deployed to Blowpipe troops in Rhine Army during 1977. It will spread to other Rhine Army users between 1977 and 1980, followed by United Kingdom units.

Sultan, the command vehicle, will be deployed in parallel with Spartan. It will be used by most arms to replace Saracen and in a few cases FV 432.

Samaritan, the ambulance version, will be issued mainly to armoured reconnaissance regiments and is due into service in 1978 while Samson, the recovery vehicle, will go to those units which are to have an appreciable number of CVRs. In-service date will be late 1978.

The wheeled CVR is Fox. It is already in service in the United Kingdom undergoing trials and the second squadron is due to receive its Fox this summer. The only Fox vehicles for Rhine Army will go to the armoured reconnaissance regiment in 5th Field Force early next year. The remaining vehicles for both the Regular Army and the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve will enter service in late 1977 and early 1978.

(DASD)

MENTIONED IN PARLIAMENT

Stores issues

● Replying to questions from Mr Jim Lester (Conservative, Beeston), Mr Robert Brown, Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Army, said that the number of stores issues from each of the central ordnance depots in 1974/75 was: Chilwell 1,067,220; Donnington 2,537,664; Bicester 901,901. He added that the administrative cost per issue was £3.09 at Chilwell, £1.13 at Donnington and £4.88 at Bicester.

Sites for gypsies

● Mr Bruce Douglas-Mann (Labour, Merton, Mitcham and Morden) asked if there were any Ministry of Defence sites or establishments within Greater London or the South-East which might be suitable for temporary use by gypsies. Mr William Rodgers, Minister of State for Defence, said it was for civil authorities to consider the accommodation needs of the civil community, including gypsies.

Restructuring

● In a supply debate on the Army, Mr Cranley Onslow (Conservative, Woking) said any criticisms he might make were not directed at individual servicemen, who were servants of Government policy. He paid special tribute to the troops in Ulster, saying "I do not believe it possible to praise them too highly."

Turning to Rhine Army, Mr Onslow said there were problems and anxieties surrounding the restructuring of the Army as a result of last year's defence review. The situation was likely to arise in which virtually all the barracks in which British troops were stationed were likely to be the wrong size and even in the wrong place. The same would be true of quarters. "A barracks which is at present ideal for a tank regiment or infantry battalion will no longer necessarily suit the regiment when its number of tanks is increased or the battalion when it has a larger number of companies." Mr Onslow said morale was undermined by the effect of cuts in truck mileage and training time and by the shortage of vehicle spares. There were to be cuts in domestic fuel and clothing for the Army. He added: "If this only meant that the heating in some of the headquarters or office blocks is to be cut down, I would not mind so much, but I do not think we can particularly relish the idea of sending threadbare and shivering troops out on training or other duties."

Mr Brown said that as a result of the defence review and the further pruning which was being done, the forces were highly cost-effective. He continued: "We have a duty to ensure that the armed forces give the country the best value for money. It is also important for the morale of the forces, for their professionalism and pride in their work. We cannot afford to waste servicemen's talents or their time — these commodities are far too valuable."

Mr Brown said the overall aim of the Army restructuring plan was to reduce overheads while maintaining the front line. This would be achieved by manning broadly the same number of equipments with more than 15,000 fewer military and 11,000 fewer civilian personnel. "In order to do this we are having to make changes in the organisation of the Army that are as far-reaching as any it has undergone in peacetime. Practically no formation or unit establishment will be unaffected. Our reserve forces will be more closely integrated with the Regular Army — the concept of 'one Army.' As a result we shall be able to get away from the usual practice of cutting the front line first; indeed we shall be able to carry out this reduction without the loss of a single cap badge."

The re-organisation plans provided for a carefully phased programme of trials in BAOR and evaluation. A preliminary assessment of those trials, already completed, said Mr Brown, showed that the Army's plans had been generally validated and welcomed in Rhine Army. The new-style battle group had positive advantages. The only area where the report had indicated that significant change was required was in the command and control arrangements within the division. It had therefore been decided that each new armoured divisional headquarters should be given the capability of being able, when required, to deploy two tactical command posts to exercise direct operational command of battle groups as the need arose. It was also planned to increase the number of deputy divisional commanders at brigade level within the divisions from the one originally intended to two. This would involve no increase in the numbers of planned posts for brigadiers and above.

Practice ammunition

Questioned by Miss Janet Fookes (Conservative, Plymouth Drake), Mr Brown said he was satisfied that the quantities of ammunition made available for practice were sufficient for that purpose. Shortages in supply of an individual nature occurred from time to time but the position had improved over the last few years and should continue to do so.

Brigade headquarters

Secretary of State for Defence Mr Roy Mason told Mr Cyril Townsend (Conservative, Bexleyheath) that he would be only too pleased on his next visit to Germany to examine the arguments which prompted the Germans to remodel their army on the brigade system at a time when our defence cuts were doing away with brigade headquarters. Mr Townsend also asked Mr Mason to look closely at problems of collaboration which were likely to arise.

Compensation rates

Mr Richard Crawshaw (Labour, Toxteth) asked whether compensation for dependants of servicemen and civilians injured overseas as a result of terrorist activity had kept pace with inflation. Mr Rodgers said rates had been increased in respect of assessments made on or after 19 November 1975. The maximum sum now payable for a 100 per cent disablement was £14,500.

Additional payment

Since the Northern Ireland additional payment of 50p per day was introduced in April 1974 the retail price index had risen by 41.9 per cent — therefore 71p was now the equivalent in purchasing power to 50p on the date the payment was introduced — Mr Brown, in reply to Mr Ian Gow (Conservative, Eastbourne).

TAVR recruiting

In the House of Lords, veteran, Lord "Manny" Shinwell asked if the Prime Minister would consider making a broadcast urging young adults to associate themselves with various units of the auxiliary forces. Lord Winterbottom, for the Government, said there were clear signs that the recent publicity campaign for the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve had been most successful in terms of recruiting and the reserve and auxiliary forces of the other two Services were already well recruited. Although it did not appear that a Ministerial appeal for recruits was necessary at present, the Prime Minister associated himself with Lord Shinwell's sentiments. Lord Shinwell said the reserve position was far from satisfactory although it was better than it had been. He asked Lord Winterbottom to emphasise to Mr Callaghan the importance of the project and added: "If at any time I am to be rebuked for appearing to instruct the Prime Minister, may I say that my only qualification is that many years ago he was one of my junior Ministers." Lord Clifford of Chudleigh put in a plea for the restoration of National Service and the Earl of Kimberley asked if the Government would consider mounting a recruiting campaign in schools to encourage young Boys to become Territorials on leaving school. Lord Winterbottom pointed out that the various cadet corps had no fewer than 130,000 members.

The financial year 1975-76 was an excellent year for recruiting to the Services with the Army showing the most notable increase as well as an improvement in the quality of the entrants. It now seems clear that the raising of the school-leaving age had a purely temporary effect on the recruitment of juniors as over the last two years the entry of juniors had returned to previous levels. Last year's Army total was 26,142, a rise of 5098 or 24 per cent on 1974-75.

(DPR(A))

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On record

"The British March King: Alford Conducts Alford" (The Band of HM Royal Marines, Plymouth Division, conducted by Major F J Ricketts) (EMI ONE-UP OUM 2104).

For collectors only, this disc. Being re-issues from the original 78s, made in the 30s and early 40s, the sound reproduction is very restricted in range and poor old Fred had a solo cornet player of bleating tone and constricted technique who wouldn't last a day in the present band.

And the great man himself is revealed as only human. His tempi are wayward and, even once set, he does not always maintain them. Logical and reasoned changes of tempo are wholly acceptable but Alford proves here only that a composer is rarely the best ambassador of his own works.

Allowing for the advances in recording techniques since 1940 this record, and many others I have heard, makes the likes of me feel good. All recorded evidence proves that modern bands are better and the bandsmen better musicians if not better players, just as all the photographic evidence proves that the Guards troop the Colour as well or better than in the halcyon days of the parade-ground generals. I have a marvellous photograph of the Grenadiers band in 1910 with one man out of step, the instruments held at all angles and the drum-major looking down at a dog at his side.

Strangely enough Alford wrote seventeen marches — and I have just written my seventeenth. For the last time of asking would any gramophone company . . . **RB**

On this disc: "Colonel Bogey," "The Thin Red Line," "Dunedin," "On the Quarter Deck," "By Land and Sea," "The Great Little Army," "Standard of St. George," "The Middy," "HM Jollies," "Voice of the Guns" and "Colonel Bogey on Parade."

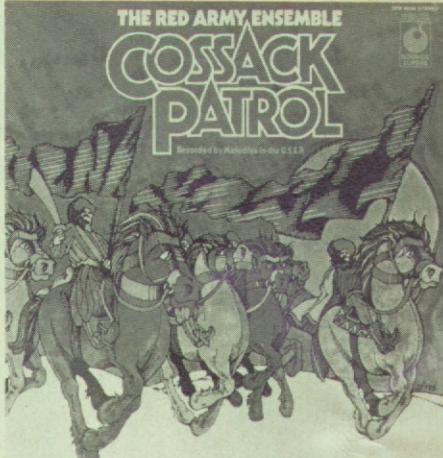


THE BAND OF HM ROYAL MARINES PLYMOUTH DIVISION CONDUCTED BY MAJOR F.J. RICKETTS

"Cossack Patrol" (The Red Army Ensemble) (Music for Pleasure SPR 90022)

This fine record takes me back more than six years to my very first review for *SOLDIER*, and I am tempted to merely repeat every word I wrote then. The Ensemble was then under its first Director, Alexander Alexandrov, who master-minded its formation and evolution into the world-renowned company of artistes it is today. His son Boris has inherited father's gifts and has enlarged the scope and variety of performance.

Alternatively gay and nostalgic, the songs are put across with tremendous verve and colour, aided by fine solo singing, choral backing and a band of superb skill which includes the whole family of balalaikas, accordions and strings. And the songs con-



tinue to charm by their names alone. Who could resist "Evening on the Roadstead," "The Sun Has Set Behind the Hill," "You Are Ever Lovely," "I Shall Never Forget You" and "I Know, Friends"? More typically Russian are "Polyushko-Polye" (the famous Cossack Patrol), "The Fine Don Fellows," "The Cliff," "Poem of the Ukraine," "Machine-gun Cart," "Vasya Vasilok" and "John Reed Walks to Petrograd."

The last song mystifies me and, since it is sung in Russian, I was able to gather only that it commemorates the exploit of a John Reed in as fine a marching song as you are ever likely to hear. Lucky John. **RB**

"Happy Music" (Royal Artillery Mounted Band) (Director of Music: Captain T A Kenny) (Lismore LILP 5031)

And I wonder what Alford would have thought of this one. Happy music, indeed! Not a single bit of oompah, exotic modern instruments and rhythms, and no marches. Worse still, no Alford marches. But I'm sure he would, if alive today, get used to it and be right in there with bossa-nova bogeys and HM Jollies country-style of his own.

Captain Kenny makes very good use of the many talents of his musicians to produce, à la James Last, a baker's dozen of easy-on-the-ear tunes designed to soothe your cares away. From about thirty young men he manages to coax most of the sounds known to that gentleman and the result is entirely creditable and successful, a fine example of making the best of what you have. I liked every bit of it.

In addition to the title piece get yourself other happy music with "The Masterpiece," "The Mexican Whistler," "Here, There and Everywhere," two items by Captain Kenny — "On the Flipside" and "French Horns Country Style" — "Gypsy Blood," "Who's Sorry Now?," "Zacatecas," "Mediterranean Honeymoon," "Clarinade" for clarinets, "The Merry Matelots" and Harold Walters's "Bossa Nova." **RB**



"The Best of British" (The Band of HM Royal Marines, Commando Forces) (Conducted by Captain W W Shillito) (Decca SB 711)

Here is the same band 26 years later, although no player now survives from Alford's days. How he would have welcomed the sheer professionalism of these descendants — not a squeaky clarinet or bleating cornet in sight, and the band plays with sure insight into the music.

The format of this disc is very attractive and fully conforms to its title. There are examples of the best in British music from Arne and Handel up to Lionel Bart, the Beatles and Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Marches are "Seventeen Come Sunday" (Vaughan Williams), "Colonel Bogey," "Suite in Eb" (Holst) and "Edinburgh Castle" (Laurie Johnson). John Gower sings "Simon the Cellarer," "Down among the Dead Men" and Noel Coward's "Mad Dogs and Englishmen." Apart from excerpts from Handel's "Water Music" and the final "Britannic Salute" the programme is modern, with the fine Beatles tune "Norwegian Wood," selections from "Jesus Christ Superstar" and "Oliver," and Sydney Torch's "Drumsticks for Two." **RB**



THE BAND OF
HER MAJESTY'S ROYAL
MARINES COMMANDO
FORCES Conducted by
Captain W.W. Shillito

Brass in brief

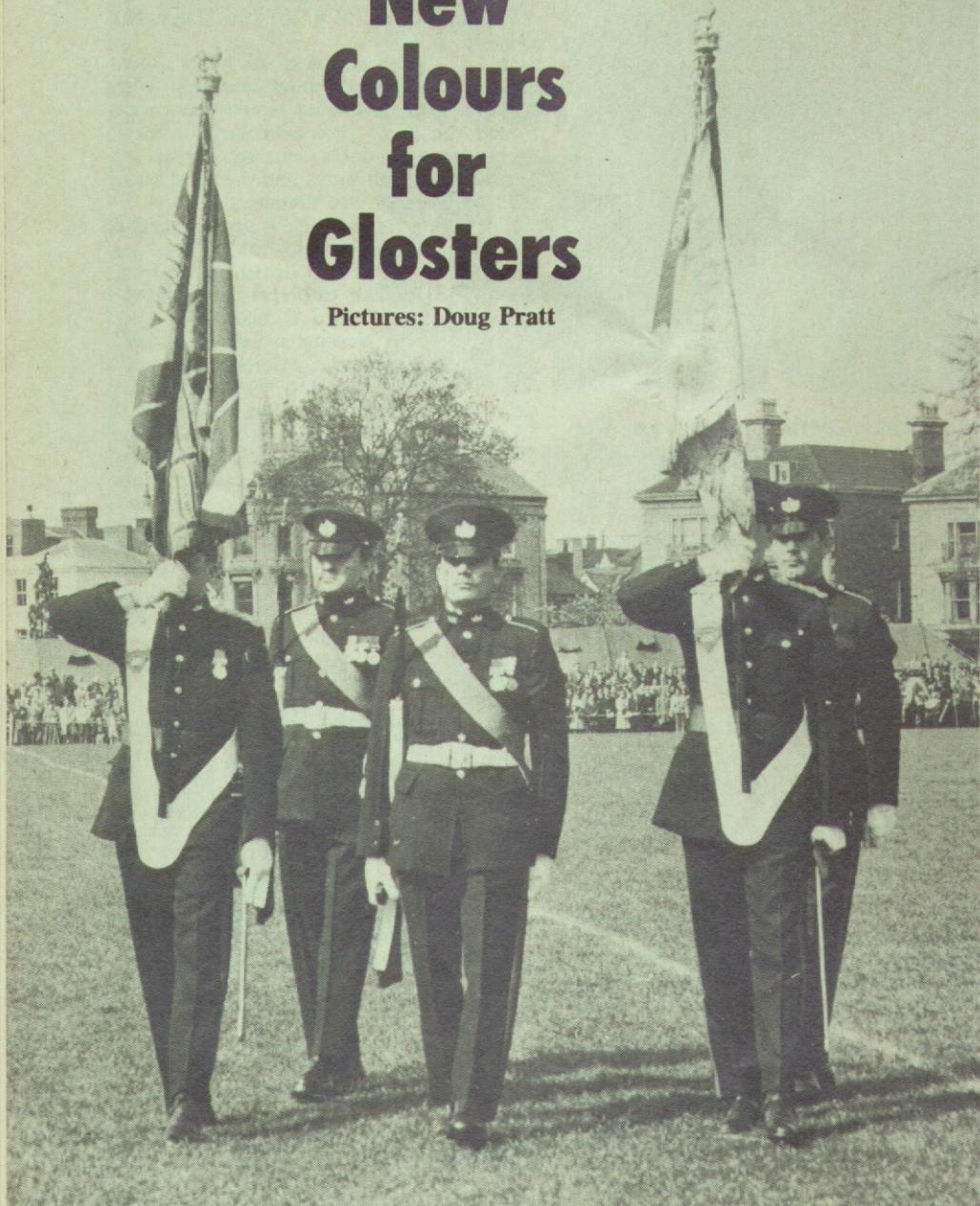


"Sounds of Brass Series: The Stanshawe (Bristol) Band" (Conducted by W B Hargreaves) (Decca SB 322)

Stanshaw lose nothing in comparison with "The Best of the GUS Band" (reviewed June 1976) in performances of two items on their disc — "The Thieving Magpie" and the waltz "Gold and Silver." Bantock's overture "The Frogs" (of Aristophanes), the "Finale from Tchaikovsky's 5th symphony," "Berceuse de Jocelyn," "Grandfather's Clock," "Hava Nagila" and the polka from "The Bartered Bride" complete a great programme. **RB**

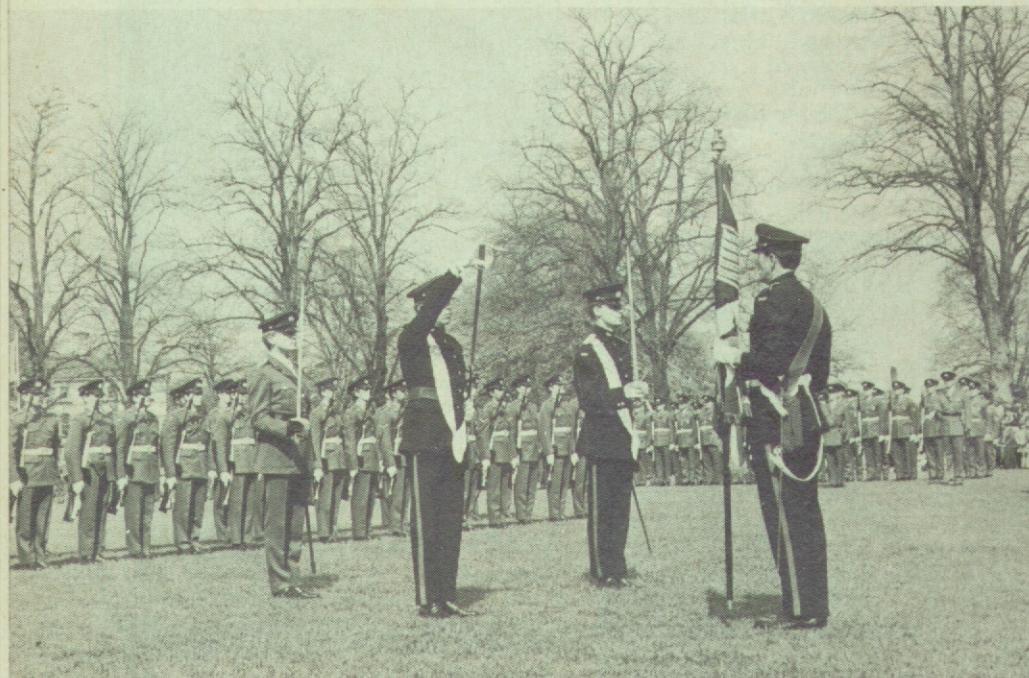
New Colours for Glosters

Pictures: Doug Pratt



Above: Gloucester citizens watch as the old Colours are marched off parade.

Below: The old Colours are handed to the ensigns before the final trooping.



APPROPRIATELY on the 25th anniversary of the three-day Korean War battle of Imjin, in which it played such a heroic part, new Colours were presented to 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment.

During the battle the hopelessly outnumbered "Glorious" Glosters hung on grimly as hordes of Chinese soldiers surged forward to the Glosters' positions, surrounded them and finally overwhelmed them by sheer weight of numbers. The battalion lost 112 men.

The Colour presentation ceremony in the placid park at Gloucester was a marked contrast to the fierce battle 25 years ago. But Imjin was not forgotten during the proceedings as the Duchess of Gloucester fixed the Solma-Ri streamer to the pike of the Regimental Colour to mark the award of the Distinguished Unit Citation by order of the President of The United States after the Battle of Imjin. The streamer and a "flash" worn on the shoulder of the men's uniforms symbolise this award.

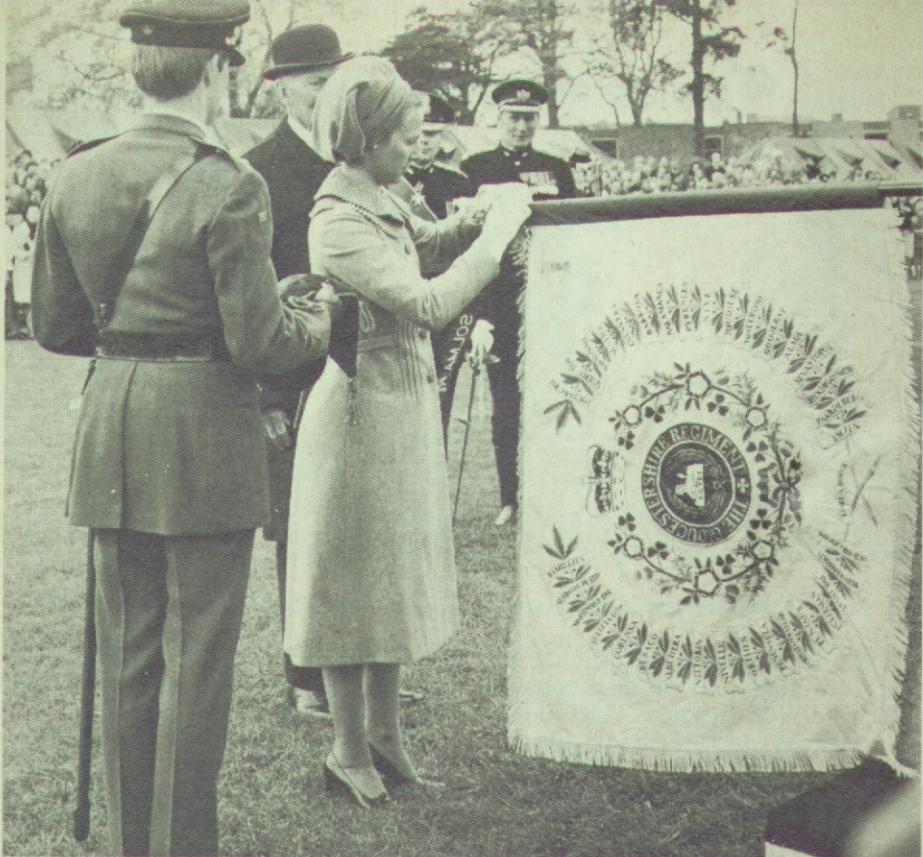
Accompanying the Duchess for this part of the ceremony was Colonel J P Carne VC who commanded the battalion at the battle and was captured shortly afterwards. Many veterans of Imjin were present including Major-General A H Farrar-Hockley, adjutant of the Glosters at the time.

Before the streamer was fixed, the new Colours were presented by the Duke of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, during a parade of some 400 men of the battalion.

On the Sunday of the weekend of ceremonial, the old Colours were laid up in Gloucester Cathedral and a commemoration service was held for the men who lost their lives at Imjin. After the service, the battalion marched through the city with drums beating, Colours flying and bayonets fixed, exercising its right to the Freedom of Gloucester granted in 1945.

On with the new. The Duke of Gloucester presents the new Queen's Colour.





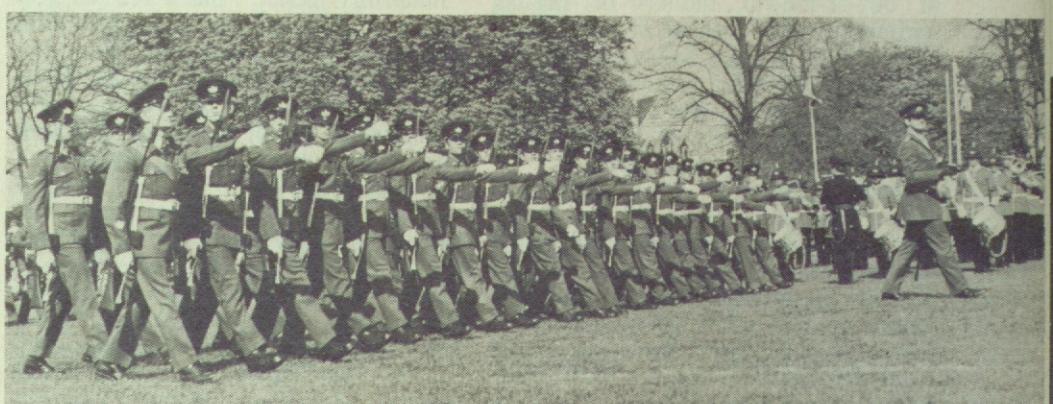
Above: The Duchess of Gloucester ties the historic Solma Ri streamer.



Above: The "Glorious Glosters" are inspected by the Duke of Gloucester.

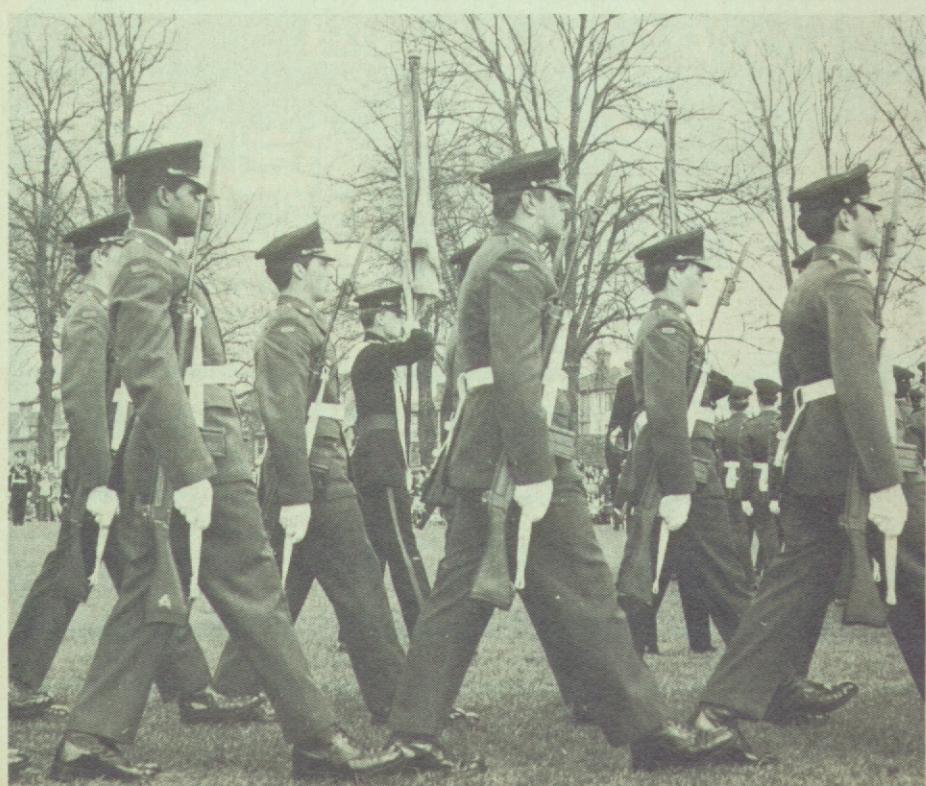


Above: The Duke takes the Royal Salute, as their Colonel-in-Chief.



Below: Parading the new Colours for the first time—a proud moment.

Below: The last act. The old Colours are laid up in a ceremony in the Cathedral.



Military models



Waffen SS infantry share living space with white mice in schoolboys' pockets, parade-ground guardsmen rub shoulders with portraits of Uncle Fred and Auntie Flo on the mantelpiece, and Napoleonic lancers tilt at plastic windmills which are souvenirs of Holland.

All are familiar figures in the field of model soldiers. But now new ground is being broken by the Northumberland firm of New Hope Design with a range of out-of-the-rut models of rag-tag regiments of the Indian Mutiny, flamboyant 16th century Swiss mercenaries with ostrich-feather plumes, a "Dad's Army" rifleman of the Local Defence Volunteers and a Royal Flying Corps observer in a "maternity jacket."

Managing director David Winter, a former flight-lieutenant in the Royal Air Force, says: "We are all basically romantics here." He explained: "Some of our competitors still produce a refined version of the tin soldier with a glossy finish. There must be several hundredweights of figures with bearskins and red tunics."

Men of mettle



Left: Models complete to small details.

Right: The "Old Guard" represented.

Model soldiers, he thinks, should not be just "dummies on which glamorous uniforms can be displayed" but should be "portrayed as real living people."

The Royal Flying Corps pilot proves the point. Although casually pulling on his gloves, his narrowed eyes and pursed lips betray the tension felt before aerial combat. On the other hand, an RFC observer, wearing the distinctive wrap-over tunic known as a "maternity jacket," has a relaxed grin as he is about to munch a sticky bun and quaff tea from a tin mug. To add to the authenticity the instruction sheet includes a facsimile of the page of a diary of an actual lieutenant observer describing a dog fight with Halberstadt single-seaters.

The figures, in standard 54-millimetre scale, vary in price from £1.20 to £1.80 plus VAT and come in plastic packs with explicit painting instructions. They are marketed under the "Old Guard" banner and are available by mail order from New Hope Design, Rothbury, Morpeth, North-

umberland, NE65 7QJ. Send a stamped addressed envelope for lists. Catalogues are 50 pence each.

"Old Guard" figures are made in the traditional way from white metal formed in a spinning rubber mould by centrifugal force. By careful design and craftsmanship they achieve a crispness normally associated with the modern method of producing figures by injecting plastic into an engraved steel mould. Indeed it is by small and subtle detail that each is characterised — a swirling bandana on the helmet of an officer in the Indian Mutiny, a Landsknecht mercenary with a stolen chicken hanging from his halberd and a Coldstream Guards officer wearing a "pill-box" hat at a very rakish angle.

But for micro-miniaturisation try the firm's new range of armoured fighting vehicles in 1:285th scale — that is, less than one inch long. They include a US 2½-ton truck, Jagdtiger and Nashorn self-propelled gun. The price matches the size, at 40 to 72 pence plus VAT per pack of five.

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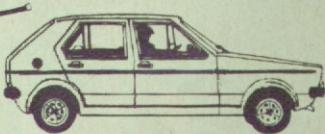
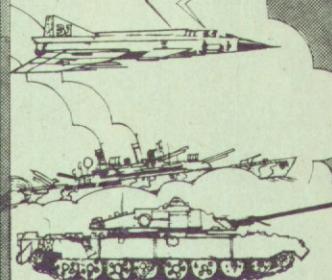
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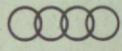


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COMPETITION 217

Editor (Comp 217)
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 Ordnance Road
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ALL these 90 words can be grouped in pairs, two trios and a quartet but two of them, while militarily linked, are "outsiders." Rearranging all the letters of these two words, you can spell a battle; using some of the letters, you can nearly spell the particular campaign. Which letter is missing?

This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Monday 6 September. The answers and winners' names will appear in the November **SOLDIER**. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a "Competition 217" label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries.

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SPORT

Up-and-coming volleyball

THIS year for the first time an Army team entered the annual inter-Services volleyball tournament, now in its fourth year. And although the newcomers did not win any trophies, they gained the admiration of fellow players for their determined efforts to put their sport on the map. At the beginning of the tournament the Army team was given a morale-boosting five-minute ovation after being introduced by Mr Roy Pankhurst, Sports Council official and tournament organiser. Another burst of applause bade the team farewell at the end of the two-day contest.

The Army volleyballers, led by Sergeant Gordon Neale, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, are seeking official recognition of the sport. Sergeant Neale discovered that the Royal Navy and Royal Marines both "recognised" volleyball two years ago and says that the RAF is "hovering on the brink." He adds: "No-one at the tournament could understand why the Army had not taken up this physically demanding and exciting sport."

There is a feeling in official circles that mounting pressure from within the sport could lead to recognition in the foreseeable future. However, acceptance of a new sport in the current financial climate might mean an already accepted sport going to the wall to balance the books. Another argument advanced against volleyball is that it is a "social" game rather than a hotly competitive one and its present informality is part of the attraction for devotees.

But Sergeant Neale is pressing on with his campaign and calling for more opinions from the Army as a whole (he is to be found at the Army Careers Information Office, 48 Woodgrange Road, Forest Gate, London E7). He is pleased with the response already from readers who saw the first volleyball article in *SOLDIER* (March 1976) and promises answers to all in due course. In the meantime he is planning an Army trial match with a view to entering civilian and Service events.

Eight teams took part in the inter-Services event: Royal Navy, RAF, Royal Marines, Army, Prison Service, Post Office, Police Cadets and Fire Service. The tournament was run on a 28-match programme with everyone playing seven games on a two-set basis. The Army team played four games on the first day and three on the second.



Front: Laborde, Rasiqa, and Hill.
Back: Reagan, Bond, Neale, Hoare.

Although they had never played together before, their enthusiasm and sportsmanship won the respect and admiration of both players and officials. But their inexperience showed and, with only one player of National League standard, they failed to win a game.

The tournament was won for the fourth time by the Fire Service, this year pressed harder than before by the Navy, second, and the RAF, third.

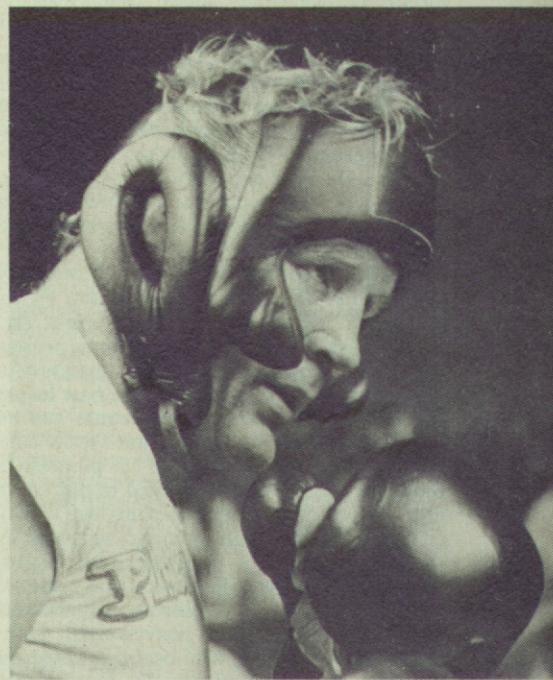
Table tennis title

ANOTHER "Cinderella" sport, table tennis, got a shot in the arm when Army players gained wins in the first-ever inter-Services championships at RAF Stanmore Park.

Lance-Corporal B C Varnham, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers, and partner Signalman P Giles captured the men's doubles title, defeating the RAF pair, Sergeant B Clements and Corporal K Philipson, 21-15, 26-24 in a close-fought contest. Giles (pictured below) went on to beat the RAF's Corporal R Hatton 21-15, 21-17 in the men's plate competition.



Dunn in style



TERRITORIAL Army Volunteer Reserve sergeant and world heavyweight title contender Richard Dunn (31) failed in his bid to wrest the top boxing honour from Muhammad Ali in Munich. But even the less than modest "Louisville Lip" conceded that Richard had been a worthy opponent.

The bout went to Ali in the fifth round when the referee stopped the fight after Dunn had been floored several times — but bounced back to his feet to take the mandatory eight count.

In the early stages of the fight, Ali's legendary speed was not quite enough.

to evade some useful punches from the Yorkshireman, who serves as a part-time soldier with 4th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, in Pudsey. But in the end the experience and expertise of the champion proved too much for the Briton.

Dunn had the consolation of a handsome six-figure share of the purse, though, and still reigns as British and Commonwealth as well as European heavyweight champion.

Flying high is 20-year-old Lance-Corporal Brian Beck, who is defending his British national trampoline championship, a title he gained last year. He serves with 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, in Aldershot, which is handy for working out at the Army School of Physical Training. He has taken most of the trampolining crowns going, including the Army senior individual, Yorkshire and Scottish championships as well as the national title. He took up the sport only in 1973 and in that year became Army intermediate champion.

Travis—master of the mat

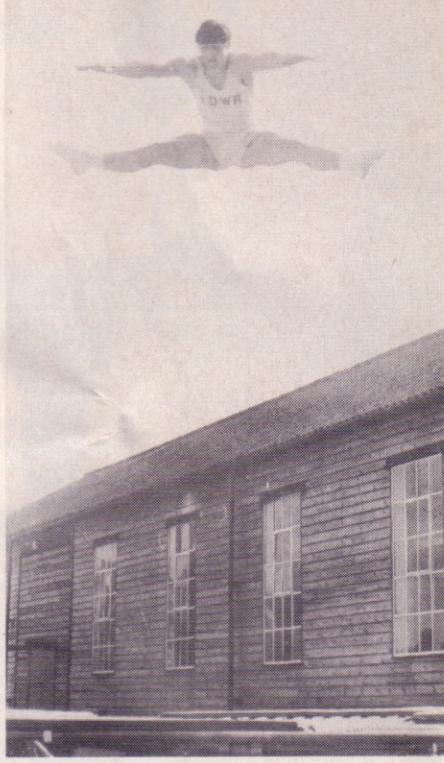
Corporal S Travis (3rd Dan) dominated the Army judo championships once more, winning both the light heavyweight and open (Class B) titles. His opponent in both finals was Sergeant C Millings who, despite formidable 1st Dan experience, was no match for Travis who won by a throw from a pick-up in their first contest and a strangle in the open bout.

Another worthy performance was by Bombardier W Connor, the Rhine Army champion, who won the welterweight and open (Class A) titles. Sapper Young proved a good opponent in both these matches to earn the Mitchell Trophy for the best losing finalist. Their welterweight bout was so close that it went the full distance with Connor winning by only a "yuko" (5 points). In the open final Connor managed to put on an arm lock to earn a full ten-point win.

The UK team championship was won by the Royal School of Artillery. They pulled off an excellent semi-final win (four bouts to one) against 4 Light Regiment, Royal Artillery. Full credit to their heavyweight, Donnathorne (green belt) who beat a 1st Dan. In the final they met an equally tough team from the School of Electrical Engineering. Although the three-to-two result looked close, the School of Artillery won the first three bouts, so victory was never in doubt.

The final of the Army team championships between the School of Artillery again and 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, currently based in Berlin, proved a fitting climax to the two-day contest. After four bouts, the score was two all with the outcome depending on the final pair. In this, Bombardier Siddell brought off an excellent shoulder throw to make the School of Artillery the new champions.

Individual championship details. Special Kyu Class A (light): Cpl P C Mullen (RPC Trg Centre). Special Kyu Class B (heavy): Gnr B Herron (40Fd Regt RA). Heavyweight: Sgt S Browning (MPSC MCTC). Light heavyweight:



Travis. Middleweight: Cpl M D Williams (Depot RE). Welterweight: Connor. Lightweight: S/Sgt P Hull (REME QDG).

McPentathlon runners up

A THREE-MAN team from the Depot, The Queen's Division, Bassingbourn, came second in the ninth John Player annual Highland pentathlon at Aviemore, Scotland. Lieutenant John Rogerson was third in the individual overall placings and Quartermaster-Sergeant-Instructor Bill Pegler was fourth. The third team member, Sergeant John Graham, was placed 15th.

The competition consisted of swimming 100 metres, skiing a 40-gate giant slalom course, G target curling (ten stones each), .22 rifle shooting (ten shots) and running a 2000-metre cross-country course. Thirty teams from all over Britain took part, representing 14 ski clubs (one was from Switzerland), five universities, one curling club, one naval, one Marine, three RAF and five Army units.

Bearrsden Ski Club, a Scottish-based team, scored a hat trick by winning for the third year running as did their captain, G Crawford, who won the victor ludorum prize for the third time with a record 5108

Not all the glory went to Southampton and Manchester United at the Wembley Cup Final. The usual capacity crowd was entertained by young soldiers from the Junior Parachute Company's gymnastics team "Pegasus" by way of a "warm-up" (below) for the main event. The team has been going for only a couple of years but has already established itself as a popular attraction on the show circuit.



points. The Queen's team scores were: Rogerson 4873, Pegler 4250, Graham 3954. Medals were presented by the Chieftain of the Games, ex-Parachute Regiment Captain John Ridgway who rowed the Atlantic with Chay Blyth.

The Queen's Depot result was the best ever for an Army team, beating the Army Physical Training Corps third place achieved in 1973.

Right: Ex-Parachute Regiment Capt John Ridgway, Chieftain of the John Player Highland pentathlon, congratulates the individual third, Lieut John Rogerson. The other members of the team event runners-up, from Depot, The Queen's Division, are QMSI Bill Pegler (left) who was fourth in the individual event and (right), Sgt John Graham, 15th in the individual event.



Sport shorts

PENTATHLON

Sgt Jim Fox REME has been selected to represent Great Britain at modern pentathlon in the Montreal Olympics with civilians A Archibald, D Nightingale and A Parker. Parker and Fox took part in the international "pipe opener" in Hungary recently but were not well placed.

CHESS

The SOLDIER cup for the champion Army chess player goes this year to Sgt Les Hobson REME. Runner-up in the championships, held at SEE Arborfield, was Sgt Harry Jones (Kings). Third was Mr A Walter. The contest was run as a Swiss tournament of eight rounds. A TAVR captain and one civilian — Mr Walter (ex-REME) — were among the 22 competitors.

JUDO

Inter-Services judo championships 1976, at RAF Sealand: 1st Army, 2nd RN, 3rd RAF. Scores: RAF 3, RN 7; Army 8, RN 1 (one draw); Army 10, RAF 0. Representing the Army were S/Sgt P Hull (REME), SSI C Johnston, SIs T Dolan and G Bryson (all APTC), Sgts S Browning (MPSC) and D Lyons (RA), Bdr W Connor (RA), Cpl M Williams (RE), Cpl S Travis (RPC) and Dvr J Archer (RCT). There followed a Combined Services v NW District BJA match which the latter won 7-3. Army players in the CS side were Hull, Dolan, Bryson, Browning, Williams, Travis and Archer.

FENCING

The Scott Cup for the Army champion-at-arms in fencing has gone to the Commandant of the Army School of Physical Training, Lieut-Col J A G Moore. Results — Senior individual, foil: 1st SSI J V Larkham (APTC), 2nd Cpl S A Graham (R Sigs), 3rd Moore (RA). Epée: 1st Lieut T E Belson (Glosters), 2nd SSI P J Brierley (APTC), 3rd WO2 B R Matlass (Gren Gds). Sabre: 1st Moore, 2nd QMSI D T Hughes (APTC), 3rd Maj A M Bell (RE). Under 20s, foil: 1st Pte S F Kelly (R Anglian), 2nd O/Cdt J Carins (RMAS), 3rd A/L/Cpl G L N McDonnell (AAC ACC). Epée: 1st Sig C Lumley (R Sigs), 2nd J/Dvr Watson (JLR RCT), 3rd A/T A Cooke (AAC Harrogate). Sabre: 1st A/T Jones (AAC Harrogate), 2nd Carins, 3rd A/T/Cpl Arundel (AAC Harrogate). Three-man team contest: 1st Cambridge Univ

OTC, 2nd AAC Chepstow, 3rd RMAS. Senior inter-unit contest: 1st RMCS, 2nd RMAS, 3rd AAC Harrogate. Junior inter-unit contest: 1st JLR RCT, 2nd AAC Harrogate, 3rd AAC Chepstow.

Women's foil: 1st Capt R Wheelock, 2nd S/Sgt G Horton, 3rd Pte Mayne (all WRAC). IPAT competition, foil: 1st Hughes, 2nd SSI B Lillywhite, 3rd SI M Dixon. Epée: 1st SSI S McNeish, 2nd Dixon. Sabre: 1st Lillywhite, 2nd McNeish, 3rd SSI P Lumsden (all APTC). APTC championships (qualifying for Army individual championships), foil: 1st Larkham, 2nd QMSI D D Truman, 3rd Hughes. Epée: 1st Brierley, 2nd Lillywhite, 3rd Larkham. Sabre: 1st Hughes, 2nd Larkham, 3rd Truman. Professor Coulon Cup for APTC champion-at-arms: Larkham.

A three-cornered fencing match between the Army, Wales and the RAF brought mixed fortunes, but some spectacular performances, for the Army. The match was decided on the "pool unique" system and in the consolidation of victories the Army beat the RAF by 16-11 but lost to Wales 12-15. Only two fencers, Lieut-Col John Moore (RA) and L Edwards (Wales), came through the day undefeated. QMSI D T Hughes and SSI P J Brierley (both APTC) had only one defeat recorded against each of them.

SHOOTING

The Prince of Wales's Division scored a unique double by winning the inter-corps target rifle match at Bisley, having just won the inter-corps smallbore target rifle match in its inaugural year. The target rifle match was fired at 300, 600, 900 and 1000 yards. The POW Division team was entirely from 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, captained by Lieut-Col J H Bryant, the 1975 Army Service rifle champion.

Other results — Smallbore standing and kneeling match: Regular Army 1013, Yorkshire 971. Smallbore prone rifle match: Regular Army 3931, Kent 3929; Regular Army reserves 3885, Kent reserves 3900.

SWIMMING & WATER POLO

Results. Willie Mellors international quadrangular water polo tournament, at HMS Caledonia, Rosyth: 1st Scotland, 2nd Ulster, 3rd RN, 4th Army. Scores: Ulster 7, Army 5; Scotland 10, Army 2; RN 6, Army 3. Army team tour of the North of England results. — Swimming: Halifax 64, Army 43; water polo: Halifax 9, Army 2. Swimming: Leeds Carnegie 39, Army 68; water polo: Leeds 7, Army 4. Swimming: York City SC 65, Army 44. Subject to ratification the latter contest produced two new Army records: 100 metres breaststroke (A/T M

Burke AAC Chepstow) old record 1min 18.3sec, new 1:16.6. 100 metres freestyle (SI M Gibson APTC) old 57.0, new 56.5.

BOXING

Combined Services Selection v London NW Division dinner boxing tournament, at Harrow Leisure Centre. Lightweight: AB L Harris (RN) lost to D Laxen. Light welterweight: Pte P Wharmby (3 Para) beat R Butler. Welterweight: L/Cpl C Sexton (1 BW) beat D Springer. Lightweight: L/CoH A Hough (Gds Depot) beat SAC Powell (RAF). Light middleweight: AB N Croombes (RN) beat M Francis.

MARATHON

Entering the event for the first time, a team from the Depot Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, wrested the Keswick-Barrow walk challenge trophy from a team from Rolls-Royce and Associates Ltd in this year's marathon 40-mile charity walk from Keswick to Barrow-in-Furness. Begun ten years ago when the ship's company of HM nuclear submarine Resolution was challenged by a department of Vickers shipyard at Barrow to walk the distance, the marathon has grown into the biggest event of its kind in the country. Now a sponsored event, it raises money for Cumbrian charities and this year's cash total was more than £15,000. Sgt G Mitchell and Cpl J Baker from the RCT team were placed joint sixth among the 843 walkers who completed the course. Some 1750 started and weather in the early stages was very bad — three entrants received medical attention for exposure.

BASKETBALL

After the basketball finals held at the Army Apprentices College, Chepstow, the junior major units champions this year are Army Apprentices College Arborfield with AAC Chepstow second and Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Engineers, third. Minor units champions are A Company, AAC Army Catering Corps, with C Company, AAC Chepstow, second.

Second place in both junior and senior inter-Service basketball championships had to satisfy the Army teams. Results — Juniors: Army 64, RAF 33; RN 64, Army 40; RN 59, RAF 57. Order of merit: 1st RN, 2nd Army, 3rd RAF. Seniors: RAF 69, Army 52; Army 90, RN 75; RAF 81, RN 59. Order of merit: 1st RAF, 2nd Army, 3rd RN.

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Purely Personal

Susan in the swim

Sergeant Susan Johnson's everyday work teaching road safety and crime prevention to Service children in Hong Kong took a dive when she plunged into a course in personal survival in the Services swimming pool. But once she had passed the test, she got back into the swim as a Women's Royal Army Corps policewoman.



Top piper retires

Captain John MacLellan, Director of Army Bagpipe Music, was honoured at a special ceremony in Edinburgh Castle to mark his retirement after 40 years in the Army. At a lunch attended by a guest list that read like a Who's Who of the piping world, Captain MacLellan was presented with a silver salver contributed by all 16 "piping" regiments of the British Army and bearing their badges. Captain MacLellan joined The Cameron Highlanders as a 15-year-old boy piper in 1936, later transferring to the Seaforth Highlanders and becoming pipe-major at only 20. He later joined the Army Piping School as chief instructor in succession to the famous **Pipe-Major Willie Ross**. In 1968 Captain MacLellan made history as the first piper to be commissioned as a piper when he was appointed the first Director of Army Bagpipe Music. He is succeeded by Captain Andrew Pitkeathly (pictured left, with Captain MacLellan and salver).



Star spot

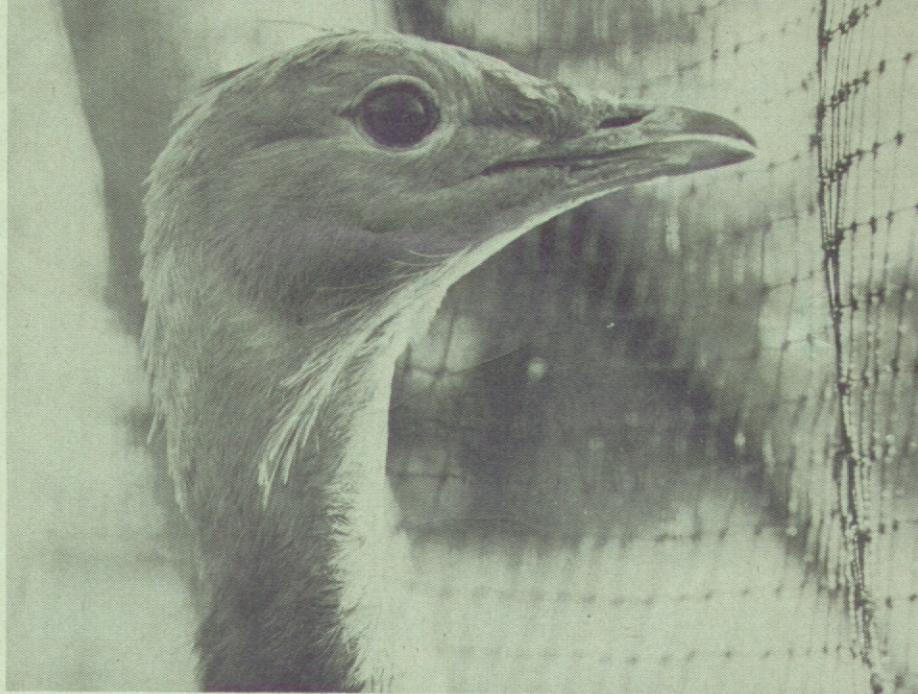
Asian amateur singing contest finalist **Private Wallace French**, Army Catering Corps, got a star spot (above) with guest artists **The Bachelors** when he reached the last 12 of 400 entrants in the competition. Although he did not win, Private French declared: "It was a great experience singing against different nationalities."



Brain of BFG

A "Brain of British Forces Germany" title has gone to 33-year-old **Elizabeth Fruer** (right) who is head of the administrative services of the Property Services Agency in Joint Headquarters, Rheindahlen. The contest was broadcast by the British Forces Broadcasting Service and Elizabeth entered after replying to an advertisement in the British Forces Network magazine Listen.

Bustards are back



IN mediaeval times they lived on Salisbury Plain in great numbers — large and beautiful birds. They were good eating too — the Lord Mayor of Salisbury had one served at his banquet each year. But in the 18th century, with new farming methods, more hedges and trees, the Great Bustard went into a rapid decline both on the Plain and in its other haunt, East Anglia. By the early 19th century only a few stragglers remained in Wiltshire and the last breeding of the bird which is the county emblem as well as that of the Royal School of Artillery was about 1830. Just another casualty in a long list.

Now bustards are on the Plain again, and conservation experts are hoping

that in a ten-acre pen set in the middle of the Chemical Defence Establishment at Porton will be hatched the first bustard chicks in England for all those years. Of course it may not happen this year. Mrs Barbara Fergusson, secretary of the Great Bustard Trust, which imported the ten-strong bustard flock, says that the Portuguese immigrants may not yet be old enough to breed.

The ultimate intention is to release quantities of bustards on to the Plain again — but it will take some years of careful breeding before this is possible. And they will be prey to all kinds of

Above: A majestic bustard surveys an English area his ancestors thrived in. Below: A pen means hope for success.

predators, including of course, man. During high winds last winter, one bustard was blown out of the fox-proof pen and rapidly snaffled by a marauding Reynard.

But Mrs Fergusson is undismayed: "That one did not have a chance because it had been penned and its wings were clipped. Once they can fly they can escape and they can also run very fast — in fact records show that at one time they used to be coursed with greyhounds."

Bustards normally eat grasshoppers and other small insects, corn, seeds and small mammals such as mice. At Porton they have a very good supply of the latter — white mice bred for experiments at the establishment, but surplus to requirements, end up as bustard meals.

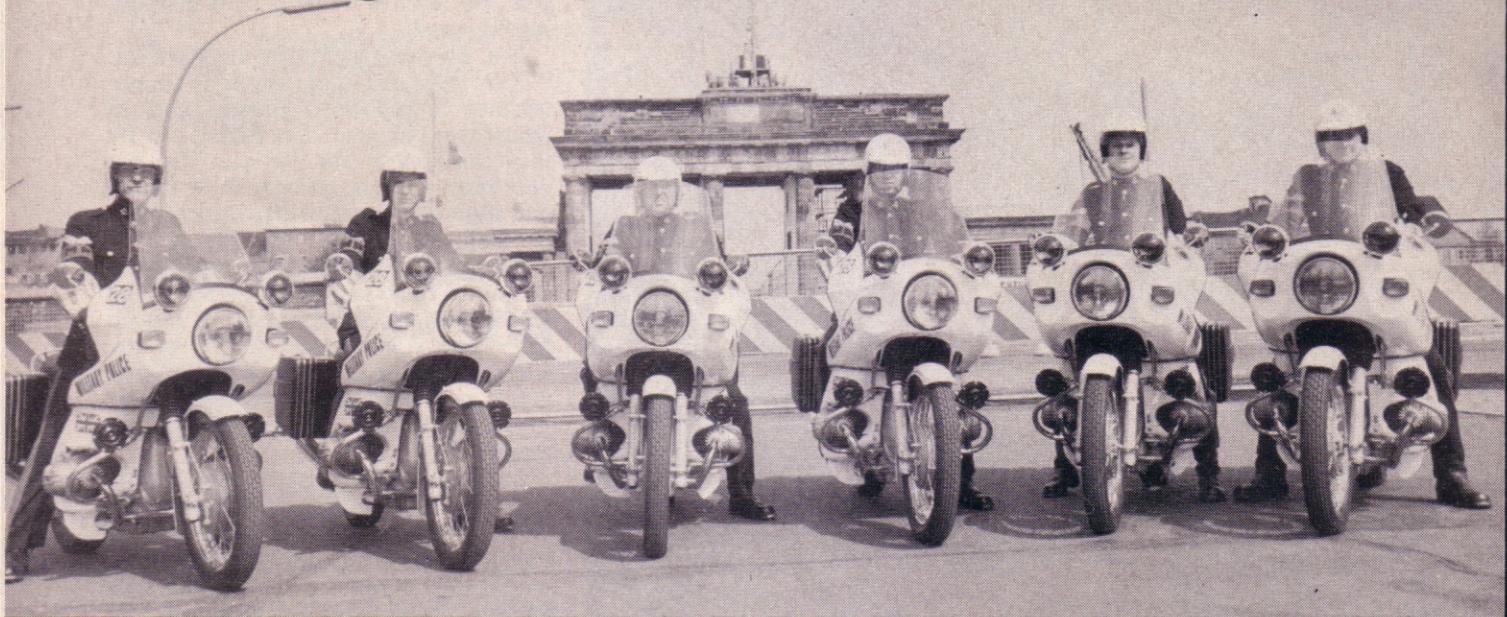
Mrs Fergusson is full of praise for the Ministry of Defence for allowing the Trust to set up its bustard sanctuary at Porton: "If it was not for that pen, where they have a certain amount of privacy, we would not have a hope." If the breeding is successful (earlier experiments on a smaller scale failed), and the bustards are turned loose upon Salisbury Plain, Mrs Fergusson, a farmer herself, feels they have a good chance of becoming permanently re-established. "Most farmers today are conservation minded," she says. "We do not wipe things out just because they damage a bit of corn."

Whether that happens depends on a lot of factors — bustards are shy, retiring birds of uncertain mating habits. The Bustard Trust wardens in their hides at Porton this month will be keeping their fingers crossed — and an eye on the four cock birds. When they are courting they blow out a pouch and distend their necks to the size of footballs.

One bird gave this display last year — a repeat performance could mean the project will be a success.



Left, right and centre



Three serving members of the "Glorious Glosters" were in Korea for the 25th anniversary of the Imjin Battle which immortalised the part played in the Korean War by The Gloucestershire Regiment. Captain Glyn Smart (left), Lance-Corporal Alan Chambers and Private Paul Dee (right) spent a day touring the battlefield and attended the 25th anniversary ceremony when wreaths were laid in memory of the battle. Lance-Corporal Chambers said: "My uncle fought here and was a prisoner-of-war from 1951 to 1953. I feel very honoured to have had the chance to attend the memorial service." Private Dee's father, who is still serving, was in D Company at the battle and was taken prisoner. His son said: "I was delighted to go to the Imjin site. I won't get the chance again."

Six white motorcycles — BMW R60/6 machines — have gone into service with the Royal Military Police in Berlin to assist the Redcaps in city patrols. Each machine is equipped with radio and panniers containing traffic accident kits. They also carry an Alcotest breathalyser kit. The six soldier motorcyclists have been trained by the West Berlin Police Force with whom they will work in an operational role.

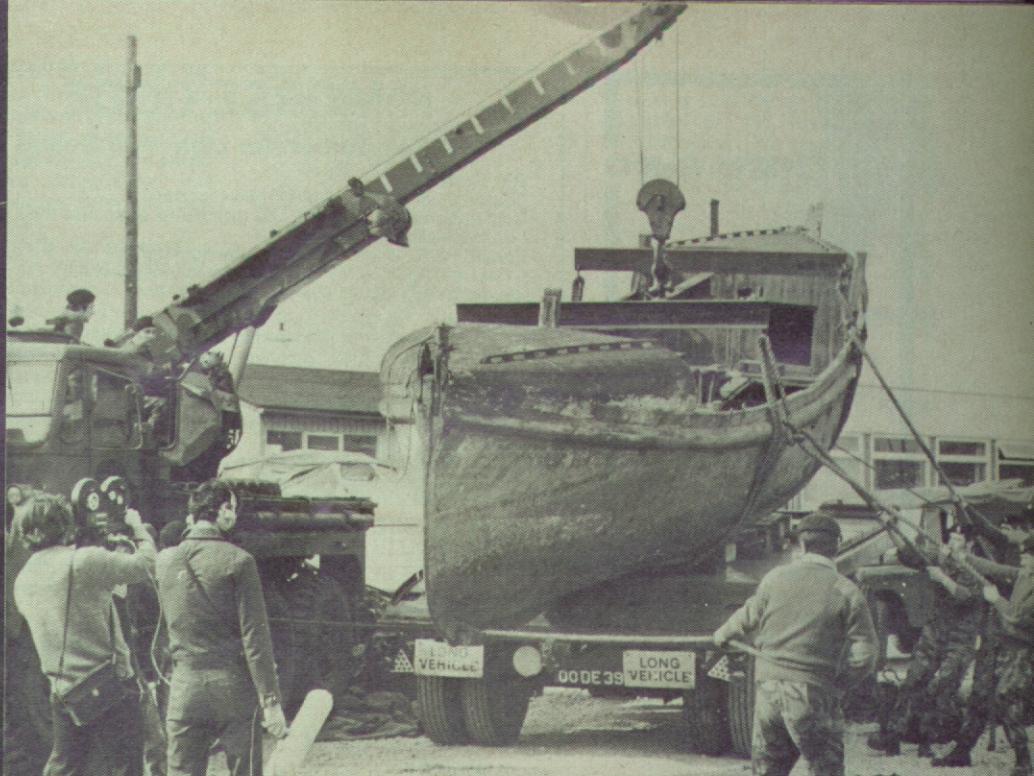
◀ Bandsman Norman Montefusco, of 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, is once again top of the pops with the Army. For he has once more won the title of top individual Army singer at the annual BFBS Army pop contest. First placed group was Roundabout, from the Training Battalion and Depot, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, and the best folk group was The Circassian Circle, from 5 Airportable Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron.



Princess Anne, Colonel-in-Chief of The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, visited the 1st Battalion at Colchester and was introduced to the new ram mascot, Derby XXII, on his first official parade. The princess also inspected the quarteguard before touring the battalion's barracks.



Nine Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve soldiers from 118 Recovery Company (V), Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Northampton, have helped recover a derelict and waterlogged historic lifeboat from the River Trent for transportation to a museum in London. The soldiers responded to an appeal from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution for the recovery of the Grace Darling-type boat stranded on a sandbank near Nottingham. The boat is one of only three built in 1903. It was based on the west coast of Scotland and was credited with the saving of 75 lives before being taken out of service in 1933. The RNLI wanted to recover the craft to take it to the Robin Knox-Johnston ship museum at St Katharine's Dock, London.



Members of the Army Careers Information Office and 2 Army Youth Team, both based at York, recently took part as extras in the film "The Seven Percent Solution," a Sherlock Holmes mystery, which is due for general release in September. From left to right are Bombardier Jeff Cooney, Sergeant Terry Speight, Staff-Sergeant Gordon McNeill, Warrant Officer 2 Ron Graham, Sergeant Terry Robson, Sergeant Sid Stubbins and Warrant Officer 1 Les Walker.

Rhine Army has said "goodbye" to the last of its Beaver aircraft in a final salute at RAF Wildenrath. As the engines stuttered into silence in the hangar of 669 Squadron, Army Air Corps, a page of Army aviation history closed. The six aircraft have now been sent to St Athan in Wales for storage. Six other Beavers will continue in service — with the British Army Training Unit, Suffield, three in Northern Ireland and two at Netheravon.



Coached by Sergeant Dale, The Lord Mayor of Liverpool (Councillor Owen Doyle) fires the riot gun on Englin-ton ranges, near Londonderry. During a two-day visit to 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment, the Lord Mayor visited its soldiers in Londonderry, Claudy, Strabane and Sion Mills. For part of the visit he was accompanied by Mr J Dunn, a Liverpool MP who is Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Agriculture for Northern Ireland.



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Books

Men-at-arms

"Napoleon's Artillery" (Robert Wilkinson-Latham)

"Spanish Armies of the Napoleonic Wars" (Otto von Pivka)

"The Royal Green Jackets" (Christopher Wilkinson-Latham)

"Medieval European Armies" (Terence Wise)

Four more in this popular paperback series, all well illustrated, including colour plates, and with considerable detail in the text.

The first title illustrates Napoleon's conviction that artillery was fundamental to his war-machine. He was among the first to realise that massed guns are the secret of victory: "Les canons commes toutes les autres armes doivent être réunis en masse, si l'on veut obtenir un résultat important." Not surprisingly, by 1814 his Grande Armée had 103,000 artillerymen.

Mr von Pivka's contribution clearly reveals the weaknesses experienced by the Spanish armies — almost devoid of discipline, poorly clad and fed, the infantry officered by untrained arrogant amateurs, the generals jealous of each other, the cavalry without horses. Fortunately the Spanish peasant had a genius for guerrilla warfare.

The story of The Royal Green Jackets starts in 1741 with the raising of the 43rd Foot which merged in 1881 with the 52nd Foot (established in 1755) to become The Oxfordshire Light Infantry and later The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. The 60th Foot, or Royal Americans, was formed in 1755 and became The King's Royal Rifle Corps in 1881. The 95th Foot achieved fame as The Rifle Brigade. In 1958 the three regiments were formed into battalions of The Green Jackets Brigade and early in 1966 became a "large regiment" as The Royal Green Jackets.

Terence Wise's book is a reminder that there have always been men willing to sell their military skills and risk their lives for a price. This was very true during the period 1300-1500 when Europe saw few years of peace. Naturally, it was a field day for such mercenaries as Gascon Crossbowmen, German Landsknechten and Italian Condottiere.

Osprey Publishing Ltd, 12-14 Long Acre, London, WC2E 9LP, £1.50 each

AWH

Complex general

"The Years of MacArthur: Volume II 1941-1945" (D Clayton James)

Few generals are permitted to survive shattering defeat to wreak revenge in resounding victory; even fewer survive to dictate the terms at the end of the war. Douglas MacArthur did both.

When Pearl Harbour was treacherously attacked, MacArthur was commanding the recently-

formed US Army Forces in the Far East, based in the Philippines. In front of the Japanese onslaught, his disorganised forces crumbled, falling back to Bataan and the island of Corregidor. MacArthur was ordered out shortly before the bastion's surrender.

From Australia, he organised a new South West Pacific command, stemmed the Japanese advances in New Guinea and, going over to the offensive, began the long march to Tokyo Bay. We saw in Volume One the many contradictions in MacArthur's complex character. As World War Two progressed they became even more apparent.

Though he came to symbolise America's will to beat the Japs, the complexities of his make-up still defy analysis. He could show rare courage and was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honour; yet he could refuse to visit combat areas



and was nicknamed Dugout Doug.

When his forces were meagre and his logistic support more so, he fought with brilliance and boldness; yet when reinforced he could be guilty of wasting his resources, at times replacing boldness with inexplicable hesitancy. A complex man indeed but, after reading this excellent book, we at least understand him better.

Leo Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £7.50

JCW

Big guns

"German Artillery of World War Two" (Ian V Hogg)

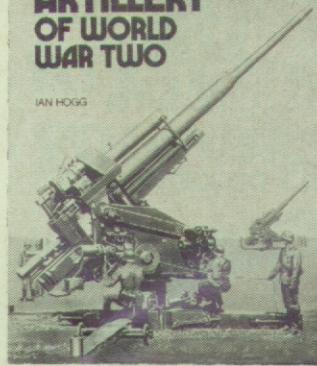
A well-illustrated catalogue of German guns including the "secret weapon" captured in the Western Desert in 1941 — the 2.8cm schwere Panzerbüchse 41 (heavy anti-tank rifle) with a "squeeze bore" which tapered towards the muzzle to increase the velocity and penetration of the projectile.

The largest gun ever seen, the 80cm Gustav Gerät (Dora to the troops), weighed 1329 tons and could fire a seven-ton concrete-piercing shell more than 23 miles. Had it been further developed it might have tossed missiles from Cap Gris Nez over an arc of southern England bounded by Portsmouth, Luton and Lowestoft.

The 21cm Kanone 12 in Eisenbahn Lafette (a development of the Paris gun of 1918) had an exceptionally long barrel — 109 feet — that needed bracing to prevent it bending under its own weight, while the 15cm Hochdruckpumpe

GERMAN ARTILLERY OF WORLD WAR TWO

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had side chambers along the barrel which fired in turn to increase the projectile's velocity.

All kinds of artillery from mountain to coastal, from anti-aircraft to railway, are fully detailed and the 400 photographs and drawings augment the extensive data.

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GRH

tactical fields. If the author errs at all, it is in allowing Burgoyne the benefit of too many doubts. Nevertheless, Burgoyne is a man who excites interest, and General Lunt does full justice to a colourful and largely attractive personality.

Macdonald & Jane's Publishers, 28 Shepherdess Walk, London, N1 7LW, £5.50

JCW

Women in war

"Heroines of World War II" (Robert Jackson)

These are spine-tingling and often terrible tales of remarkable women of courage and fortitude, strength of will and determination, each caught up in the web of war. Women of ordinary circumstances like Nancy Wake, young Australian bride of a Frenchman, who drove an ambulance in France in 1939, escaped south when the French Army collapsed and quite by chance became a freedom fighter.

When the going became too hot even for "White Mouse," as she was known, Nancy escaped to Eng-



Gentleman Johnny

"John Burgoyne of Saratoga" (James Lunt)

Major-General Lunt is the 16th Colonel of 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers since John Burgoyne was appointed by King George III in 1763. He could be forgiven, therefore, if he was at pains to present the most favourable portrait of Burgoyne. But he is too good a historian to permit regimental pride to warp his judgement and in this excellent book strikes a very fair balance between Burgoyne's many detractors and his more ardent apologists.

He faces up to the fact that Burgoyne was an unsuccessful general whose surrender at Saratoga in October 1777 put paid to any claim to a place among the "great captains." Yet his troops loved him. Gentleman Johnny, they called him — and they meant it, for there were few ranking officers in the British Army who cared so much for their men, who recognised that each one was a thinking, human being. He was years ahead of his time in this respect.

But a general who surrenders must have made a mistake somewhere along the line — and Burgoyne did, both in the strategic and

land. Yet soon she was back as a fully trained leader and commanding the 7000 men of the Maquis of the Auvergne. Luckily she survived the war and was honoured by Britain, France and America.

Others died terribly after long imprisonment in filthy conditions, practically starved and horribly tortured. These heroines suffered trial by sea, jungle and sadists. Their courage is immeasurable. In spite of the horrific stories this is a book to cherish that your grandchildren may know of the courage of women who never lost their faith.

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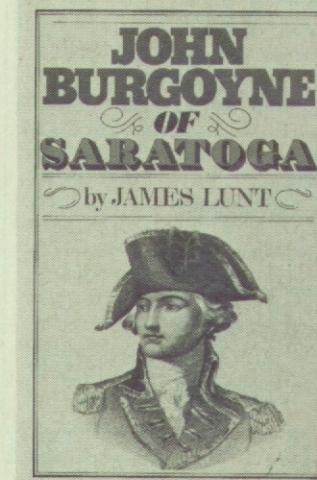
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Shall we?

"The Art of Warfare in the Age of Marlborough" (David Chandler)

This treasure trove of interesting facts explains the tactics of the times, the weapons, equipment, organisation and training of the "teeth arms." With these basic facts Blenheim, Culloden, all the battles from 1688 to 1748, can be better appreciated in "three-dimensional" shape and colour.

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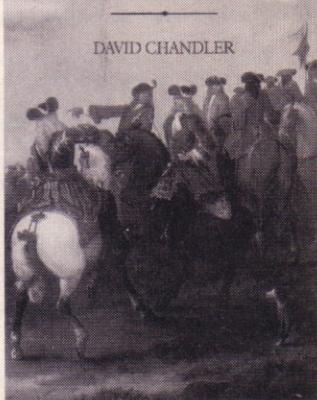
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DAVID CHANDLER



when they played an important part in any campaign.

Here we learn that the hussar companies of the early 18th century were "somewhat democratic," the captain being expected "to take the advice of his troops before attacking the enemy" — and they really did argue it out beforehand. There was already a type of light infantry in the armies of Europe until fire power improved and tactics were changed to use it in massed volleys. The British Army's Brown Bess was the best musket in general issue in Europe around 1730 — en masse, 2000 men could fire 10,000 shots in a minute. Some 7,800,000 of these muskets were used all over the world during its lifetime of more than 130 years.

This book is worth slow reading and long study. Useful appendices include a long detailed list of the major land battles and sieges.

B T Batsford Ltd, PO Box 4, Springwood Industrial Estate, Rayne Road, Braintree, Essex, £6.95 GRH

says, in a desperate attempt to escape from what seemed to them to be an intolerable situation. And they knew from the start they had no prospect of outright victory.

The tentacle rays of the Rising Sun were to reach far into China, to the Indo-Burmese border, to the approaches to Australia and to a thousand Pacific islands. Lines of communication achieved phenomenal lengths and the Japs were first contained and then slowly driven back. Great sea battles were fought over vast areas of ocean by fleets which never sighted each other. The carrier and its aircraft were the queens of battle, displacing the heavy artillery of the battleship. Battles raged through the jungle-clad hills of Burma and the islands of the South Pacific, grim slogging matches where often the Jap defenders died to a man.

Mr Collier recalls it all in a concise and well-conceived book. It is a very useful survey covering Japanese expansionist plans from the end of World War One to the débâcle of 1945.

As a young man, Michael Lindsay went to teach in China soon after the Sino-Japanese war broke out. He quickly found himself helping in the anti-Japanese war effort and when, in 1941, the American-sponsored Yenching University lost its extra-territorial status, Lindsay and his Chinese wife had a narrow escape from the Japanese police. A keen observer and photographer,

The Unknown War

North China 1937-1945



he offers a profusely illustrated account of the war against Japan in North China.

In the history of World War Two, this is a unique book. It contains the only photographic record by a foreign observer who worked in the Chinese Communist organisation. Lindsay and his wife travelled widely, meeting all the later Chinese leaders including Mao Tse-tung, Chou En-lai and Chiang Ching, Mao's third — and very influential — wife.

"The Unknown War" certainly fills an important gap in the history of the struggle against Japan and, indeed, of the 20th century history of China itself.

1 Sidgwick & Jackson Ltd, 1 Tavistock Chambers, Bloomsbury Way, London, WC1A 2SG, £5.50

2 Bergstrom & Boyle Books Ltd, 22 Maddox Street, London, W1R 9PG, £5.95

JCW

Rising Sun

"Japan at War" (Basil Collier)
"The Unknown War: North China 1937-1945" (Michael Lindsay)

Few wars have been fought with greater ferocity than that between Japan and the Western powers, yet Mr Collier describes it as a war which should never have happened. It was launched by the Japs, he



Basil Collier

**JAPAN
AT WAR**
an illustrated history of the War in the Far East, 1931-45

In brief

"Sedgemoor 1685" (John Whiles)
It was a poor outlook for the men of Monmouth's rebel "army" when they opposed King James's troops on Sedgemoor, Somerset. Their cavalry was soon overwhelmed. The infantry could not be persuaded to advance but fought heroically. Monmouth fled early but when the battle was won the

real slaughter began — the King's troops mercilessly killing the rebels wherever they crept into hiding.

Later, Judge Jeffreys sentenced more than 500 to be drawn and quartered in the cruel manner of the day and another 600 to be transported into slavery.

Picton Publishing, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN15 2AA, 95p

"The Soviet Soldier: Soviet Military Management at the Troop Level" (Herbert Goldhamer)

A useful study of the training, discipline, morale and indoctrination of the Soviet soldier and field officer and of the administrative control system by which the day-to-day operations of Russia's forces are regulated.

It is based on an analysis of Russian unclassified military journals and newspapers and does not, therefore, contain very much that is new but will nevertheless be of great interest to readers wishing to direct their studies eastwards. It is clearly and lucidly written and an excellent example of just how much information one can pick up from unclassified sources.

Leo Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £10.00

"Pitman's All-in-One Motoring Books"

A new series of motoring books designed to help the man who does his own car servicing. Lots of servicemen are of a mechanical bent and they should welcome a book of this nature related to their own vehicle. The first nine titles cover five British Leyland ranges — the Mini, 1100/1300, Marina, Allegro and Maxi as well as the Vauxhall Viva, Ford Cortina and Escort and Datsun Cherry. Soon the list will be extended to take in the Chrysler Avenger, Datsun Sunny, Volkswagen Beetle, Ford Capri, Chrysler Hunter and Vauxhall Victor.

Running out at 116 pages each, the books include at-a-glance trouble-shooting charts as well as full wiring diagrams. If the mechanical ability and the tools are there, then with one of these books the amateur enthusiast should be able to handle just about any servicing problem.

Pitman Publishing Ltd, 39 Parker Street, London, WC2B 5PB, £1.95 each

"Airfix Magazine Guide 13: The French Foreign Legion" (Martin Windrow)

This is a splendid and worthwhile introduction to one of the world's toughest and most respected fighting forces. Briefly and lucidly, Mr Windrow takes us through the Legion's battle honours — Crimea, Italy, Mexico and the glorious Battle of Camerone, France and Africa 1867 to 1914, Tonkin, Dahomey, Madagascar, World War One, the Rif wars, action against the Druzes of Syria, World War Two and Bir Hakeim, Indo-China and Dien Bien Phu.

Uniforms, badges — and the changes in both — are described and there is a run-down on the Legion of today, still serving abroad in places like French Guiana, Djibouti and Tahiti. A good buy.

Patrick Stephens Ltd, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB3 8EL, £1.40.

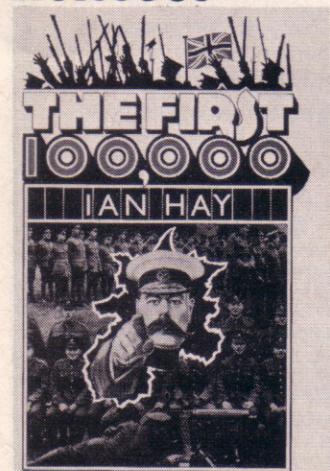
"Official Rules of Sports and Games"

The twelfth and updated version of this now standard reference work gives a clearly laid out exposition of

26 sports and games, each compiled with the complete co-operation of its governing association. It has even noted the metrical of Rugby Union whereby the line known to all players as The Twenty Five has become 22m.

Kaye & Ward Ltd, 21 News Street, London, EC2M 4NT, £5.25

Reissues



"The First Hundred Thousand" (Ian Hay)

This masterpiece, first published in 1915, portrays the initiative, growth and maturing of the body and spirit of the first 100,000 of Kitchener's volunteers. It is an inspiration, even 60 years later, to observe the evolution of individuals into disciplined teams and into self-reliant, reasonably well-trained soldiers with stamina, grit and the ability to keep going however tough the conditions.

This book tells the story of them all — indeed the story of every soldier, even today.

Seeley Service & Co Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £3.95

"Napoleon's Campaign in Poland 1806-7" (F L Petre)

This reprint of a work first published in 1901 is praiseworthy for the author's belief that maps should include every place mentioned in the text.

By the end of the Polish campaign, Napoleon was at the peak of his power and had eliminated Prussia and Russia, leaving only England to subdue. But the campaign had been tough and brought him a number of reverses before final victory at Friedland. The bad roads, icy and slimy conditions, sub-zero temperatures and the determination of the Russian soldiers were all well-remembered when he prepared carefully for the 1812 adventure. It was not until Moscow that memory failed him.

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

"Nancy Wake: The True Story of a Very Brave Woman" (Russell Braddon)

Published originally in 1956 and reviewed in *SOLDIER*, January 1957. Biography of an Australian girl, married to a wealthy Marseilles industrialist, who joined the French Resistance and was awarded the George Medal, the Croix-de-Guerre three times, American Medal of Freedom and French Resistance Medal.

White Lion Publishers Ltd, 138 Park Lane, London, W1Y 3DD, £3.95

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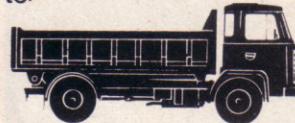
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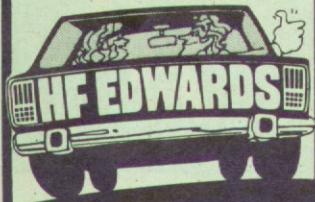
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Letters

Strike down the band

As the conductor of a civilian "military" band — in the heart of hostile brass band country — may I make a genuine, heartfelt plea to Service musical directors and bandmasters: please don't let the military bands down! I go to concerts by Army bands these days and get upset when I have to listen to bored bandmasters talking down to audiences (why? orchestral or brass band conductors don't do this!), corny jokes, corny music, skilful musicians dressing up in funny costumes leaping about the stage, bands imitating gramophones running down, unbalanced bands and bored musicians playing in a mechanical fashion.

At a recent concert by a Guards band — which shall be nameless — a woodwind section consisting of flute, oboe, seven B-flat clarinets, two alto saxes, tenor sax and bassoon battled against eight cornets, six trombones, four horns, two euphoniums, three huge basses, string bass/bass guitar and three percussion. One wonders what Lieutenant-Colonel Adkins would have thought of such a balance. Thank heaven for the Central Band of the RAF — outstanding professional musicians, the bands of the Royal Marines — they never look bored, and finally the Lewisham Concert Band. Where, oh where, can one buy a record of this great band?

As an ex-Army man, I am fully aware of the duties Army bandmen have to perform — parades, guard mountings, beating Retreat, etc etc. But I think that the general public, and especially people who admire and support military bands, would like to hear something with a little higher musical content than "Hootenanny," "Music of the Minstrels" and "American Patrol."

Surely one doesn't have to go to Kneller Hall to learn to play this type of music, entertaining though it may be.

You may think that this is a nasty, carping letter. But I write it because I love the military band and want to see it go forward to reach a greater audience and thrill people with its varied tone colours and wonderful music. Finally, I realise that one cannot generalise about Army bands because I have heard so many fine ones, for example: the bands of the Household Cavalry, but I think the points I have raised are valid and relevant to the current military band scene and I offer these criticisms in a constructive spirit. — **Stuart Price, 17 Sweet Briar Lane, West Cross, Swansea.**

March to "Ringo"

During 1974 the BCOF (British Commonwealth Occupation Force) Association was formed at Ballarat, Victoria, Australia, with the object of social gatherings to re-live old times. Although Australian service was mainly in Japan, we have UK members who saw service in Japan and Europe. Readers who served in BCOF may be interested to know that we have a badge on the theme of the colour patch and that recently at Maryborough, Victoria,



we marched as a group for the first time, at an ANZAC Day ceremony. We have too our own banner and the Maryborough City band played our own march "Ringo", an arrangement of a Japanese song popular in those days.

I would like to hear from ex-members of the force and perhaps in the near future a similar organisation may be formed in the UK as is now happening in New Zealand. — **Eric Butler, 1123 Eyre Street, Ballarat, Victoria 3350, Australia.**

Back together

We have recently formed a Midlands branch of the REME Association

which has resulted in bringing together 14 ex-members of REME who served alongside each other in the Western Desert in 1st Army Tank Brigade Workshop, RAOC, later REME. We are organising a get-together in the Birmingham area and I would be glad if any other ex-members of this unit would contact me. — **Brig Cliff Gough (Retd), 4 Cremorne Drive, Knowle Road, Stafford, ST1 0DR.**

Annuity up

Other "old-timers" may like to know that the annuity awarded with the Meritorious Service Medal is gradually catching up with us "old 'uns." I have been told that I have been awarded the annuity, dated back to 1 April — and not the £10 of the past but a total of £62.57 added to Service pension. I received the medal in 1950, five years after discharge, having served for 26 years. — **P J Brown (ex-WO1 RAC), 20 Levisham Street, Fulford Road, York, YO1 4BL.**

Soldier Royal

The dominant theme of this exhibition at the Imperial War Museum is the late Duke of Gloucester's role as the personal representative of the Sovereign. Illustrating this is a display of uniforms with accoutrements from 1922 to 1974 covering all three armed Services. A unique collection of decorations and medals comprises all three of the senior British Orders of Knighthood. There is also a group of foreign orders from Japan, Siam, Abyssinia and other nations. The Duke's personal life and private interests are illuminated by personal mementoes and family documents. The exhibition is open on weekdays, 1000 to 1745, and Sundays, 1400 to 1745. Admission is free.

Canadian museum

As part of my family's museum organisation I have formed a Canadian military museum to preserve military and civilian effects of Canada and the enemies she faced during the South African War, World War One, World War Two and the Korean War. I have been gathering material relating to the Canadian contingents that served with United Nations forces in Korea, Indochina, the Middle East in 1957, Belgian Congo, Yemen, Kashmir, in Cyprus in 1964, with the ICCS in Vietnam and which are serving in Cyprus and Egypt. If readers have any old material such as pictures of Canadian troops or newspapers describing their service, would they care to donate any of it to this historical cause? Any gifts would be well taken care of and displayed, with proper acknowledgment of the donors. — **Tim Jamieson, Director Jamieson Museum Ltd, 306 Gertie Street, Moosomin, Saskatchewan, SOG 3NO, Canada.**

Kendal exhibition

For the last five years, in conjunction with local authorities and fellow-collectors, I have organised an exhibition of militaria, uniforms, badges, edged weapons, photographs etc, past and present, the main items being of local regiments. This year's show is in the Council Chamber, Kendal Town Hall, Cumbria, from 25 to 28 August. Local readers will be welcome. Admission is free. — **G Dawson, 43 Well Ings, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 5LN.**

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Competition

"Top & Tail" (Competition 213, March) was fairly simple and could have been short-circuited by anyone who recognised and turned up the quotation from "Treasure Island." The sixth and twelfth words required were IT and PLODDING, the continuation of the given quotation being, "I remember him as if IT were yesterday as he came PLODDING to the inn door."

Prizewinners:

- 1 Lieut-Col D H McLellan, HQ Maritime Wing, Army School of Transport, Marchwood, Southampton.
- 2 Mrs A Davies, 43 Steyning Road, South Yardley, Birmingham.

Signal View cover

A commemorative cover (envelope size $6\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ inches) depicting a signaller adjusting a Clark mast will be on sale at the Royal Signals show, Signal View, at Worcester from 1 to 4 July. A 7p Stephenson's Locomotion stamp, cancelled by the Combined Services hand-stamp (serial 1000) will be used.

Covers can be bought from the Postal and Courier Communications stand at the show; there are 100 signed by the Chief Signal Officer, United Kingdom Land Forces, at £1.00 each, the remaining 1900 at 25 pence each. Postal applications will be accepted by Philatelic Officer, 14 Signal Regiment, Norton Barracks, Worcester, up to 28 June 1976, cheques and postal orders made payable to PRI 14 Signal Regiment and 6p added for postage (ten covers or more, postage free).

- 3 Robert Ducat, 8 Priory Cottages, Lunthead, by Forfar, Angus, Scotland.
- 4 WO2 B H Bertram, M Flight, 45 Cdo Gp RM, Condor, Arbroath, Scotland.
- 5 S/Sgt N Scott, RAPC Computer Centre, Worthy Down, Winchester, Hampshire.
- 6 G H Bendell, 199 Midanbury Lane, Southampton.
- 7 Mrs Marjorie I McDonald, 37A Longridge Road, London SW5.
- 8 L/Cpl Heptinstall, SHQ Tp, B Sqn, 13/18 Hussars, BFPO 30.

Collectors' Corner

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

J Arnold, Westfield, Hawkhurst, Kent.—Has for disposal 1972 issues (12) of SOLDIER, £1.20 incl postage. Urgently seeks all copies SOLDIER 1945-54 inclusive.

N S Orr, Sydehead, Beith, Ayrshire, KA15 1LE.—Wishes sell collection Army buttons and badges, singly or in lots. SAE for list.

G Ewing, c/o Dog Section, HM Prison, Maidstone, Kent.—Requires prison badges, prison relics, worldwide.

William Gunn, 15 Clarendon Road, Pitsea, Basildon, Essex, SS13 2BL.—Wishes purchase regimental journals Glasgow Highlanders, also seeks information on disbandment, parade photos etc.

Barbu Alim, Apt 1631, 5055 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22311, USA.—Wishes exchange American military LPs or band records for British Army regimental band LPs; willing purchase some British LPs.

W G Fleckney, 14 Buckland Path, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO2 7DB. Wishes make contacts to exchange views, photos and items of uniform of Service and civil mounted-type uniforms.

W B Dodsworth, 15 Mereworth Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Offers sought for 45 of 51-part WW1 "I Was There," published 1938 — eye-witness accounts, all battle-

fronts and services. Good condition. G Dawson, 43 Well Ings, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 5LN.—Requires all items Westmoreland Rifle Volunteers; will buy or exchange.

E Lawson, 18 Sherrock Gardens, Hendon, London NW4.—Army Cadet collector aged 12 requires British modern Staybrite cap badges. Will trade for Parachute Regiment cap badges. Limited funds.

Gene Christian, 3849 Bailey Avenue, Bronx, New York 10463, USA.—Seeks all items related to Shanghai, Tientsin etc Volunteer Corps; Chinese Maritime Customs; Yangtse gunboats; Chinese Forces pre-1949; Flying Tigers; Camel Corps; Foreign Legion; French, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, Belgian, Portuguese colonial; international brigades (Spain); mercenaries, Devils Island (Cayenne). J McNish, 38 Victoria Road, Fallings Park, Wolverhampton, West Midlands.—Has Burgess flintlock gun, SOLDIER issues 1967-76, foreign fire and army badges. Will exchange for British fire service insignia or any swords or German daggers.

N J Richardson, 15 Overslade Crescent, Coundon Creen, Coventry, CV6 2AW.—Wishes correspond with other collectors of medals, decorations and badges British, British Commonwealth and foreign, all armed forces, police and fire brigades. Has 200 medals/decorations for sale or exchange and a few badges. Will buy items offered at sensible prices.

John A Jackson, 13331 96th Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5E 4B5, Canada.—Wishes buy Eb cavalry trumpet pre-war, Coldstream Guards pre-war band sword scabbard, 95th Foot powder horn, green cord for 95th Foot bugle, Elcho bayonet.

K Karunakaran, 649 Alexandra Road, Singapore 3.—Wishes buy cap badges Royal Marines, 14/20 Hussars, R Regt Fusiliers, R Irish Rangers, Gordon Highlanders, 17/21 Lancers, Queen's Own Highlanders, Royal Hussars, Gurkha Transport Regt, 6 QEO Gurkha Rifles, 7 DEO Gurkha Rifles, 10 PMO Gurkha Rifles. Please state (reasonable) prices.

G J de Graaff, Amsterdam, De Ruyterkade, 110, Netherlands.—Requires Fallschirmjäger and SS helmet/camouflage clothing etc, SS/WH/LW uniforms (and parts), caps etc. Has for trade, or eventually for sale, 40 different authentic Nazi swords/daggers, pennants, badges and black Panzer uniform (tunic and trousers).

Reunions

Army Physical Training Corps Association. Annual reunion dinner 7.30pm, Saturday 18 September, Army School of Physical Training, Aldershot. Tickets and details from Association Secretary, ASPT, Queen's Avenue, Aldershot, Hampshire.

The Dorset Regiment Association. Annual reunion and dinner, Saturday 11 September, TAVR Centre, Poundbury Road, Dorchester. Details from Secretary, The Keep, Dorchester, Dorset.

Hong Kong, Singapore, Ceylon Gunners RA 1924-50 and Pack Artillery 1920-39. Reunion Eastbourne, 24 July. Details from Mr D A Knight, 79 Tyrrell Avenue, Welling, Kent.

1 Parachute Logistic Regiment. Final parade 1500 hrs 10 December, Montgomery Square, Aldershot, followed by evening stag social in Maida Gymnasium. Christmas all ranks dance evening Saturday 11 December, Maida Gymnasium. All past and present members most welcome to all events.

14/28 Field Regiment RA. Annual dinner and reunion 2000 hrs, Saturday 9 October, HQ RA Sergeants Mess, Woolwich. Names and remittances to WO2 T Spurr RA, HQ BAOR, BFPO 40. Overnight accommodation can be arranged.

The West Yorkshire Regiment and the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire. Annual reunion and White Horse Ball, Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Streatham, Saturday 2 October. Particulars from Secretary, W Yorks and PWO Regimental Association, Imphal Barracks, York Y01 4HD.

Coldstream Guards Band. Dinner-dance and reunion, Lyceum Ballroom, Wellington Street, off Strand, London, Friday 19 November. Tickets £5 each from L/Cpl R A Janes, Coldstream Band Club, Duke of York's HQ, King's Road, London, SW3 4RX.

The York and Lancaster Regiment. Sergeants Dinner Club annual dinner, Endcliffe Hall, Sheffield, Saturday 18 September, 7.30 for 8pm. Those wishing to attend should inform RHQ not later than 10 September.

Royal Hibernian Military School Association. Reunion, Duke of York's HQ, Kings Road, Chelsea, 11 September. Details from Hon Sec, E Dillon, 62 Grosvenor Crescent, Hillingdon, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB10 9ES.

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Story: John Walton / Pictures: Paul Haley

Combined Cadet Forces



Annies get their guns

HERE'S a new look about Combined Cadet Forces in major co-educational schools these days — some of the cadets look a bit more effeminate than of old. Before any peccy old colonels say this bears out what they've been thinking for a long time, we hasten to explain — girls are being admitted to Combined Cadet Forces for the first time.

It all started a year or two back at Oakham School in what used to be Rutland. In 1971, nearly four centuries after the school's foundation, girls were admitted for the first time. Soon after that the school's headmaster asked the Ministry of Defence if the girls might join the CCF. Air-Commodore T P Seymour, a retired officer who represents the Royal Air Force on the joint Cadet Executive, remembers it well: "Up until that time we had not given much thought to the matter. We had to see whether the training was suitable for girls."

A committee found that forward-looking headmasters believed allowing girls to join the cadets was part of equal-



Above: On the left is uniform Oakham girls dislike. Right—the one they like.

Below: Oakham girls do signallers duties for the Royal Artillery section.



ity of educational opportunity. Oakham was one of five co-educational schools selected for a pilot scheme involving 124 girls, of whom 86 were attached to the Army. The girl cadets were given exactly the same training as boys and, as a result of the pilot scheme, Ministry of Defence permission was recently given for the formation of more mixed CCFs. Another dozen schools have already applied and more are expected.

To take up the new scheme a school has to have a minimum of ten girls taking part with a maximum female quota of 25 per cent of the contingent.

While the change is likely to spread throughout the co-educational field, it has been decided that the Benendens and Roeddens will not be allowed to form all-girl cadet forces. And it is not likely to be extended to the Army Cadet Force, the Air Training Corps or the Sea Cadets — all of which already have female equivalent organisations. "Our reason for opening the CCF to girls in schools was to offer them an additional educational opportunity which you could not say about ACF detachments around the country," says Air-Commodore Seymour.

At Oakham, Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Stevens, who commands the CCF, has found that girls were an instant success. He told *SOLDIER*: "They showed themselves well able to compete with the boys on all aspects of training and had little difficulty in passing all three obligatory parts of the Army Proficiency Certificate — shooting and safety, orienteering and drill." All of the first 24 girls accepted qualified for proficiency certificates and some of them even went on to take subjects like battlecraft. Shooting was perhaps the most popular CCF subject and last year Oakham achieved another first when a girl was one of their competitors at the schools meeting at Bisley.

Ginnie Measures, an attractive 16-year-old, has won three medals for shooting in the Oakham team. She is also the Leicestershire ladies small-bore champion. But asked if she intended to join the Army she replied with a blunt "No fear!" Other girls in the Oakham CCF learn methods of instruction in the non-commissioned officers' cadre or join the signals section and even the Royal Artillery section.

Gym mistress Mrs Jane Pierse, a former Women's Royal Air Force sergeant, is waiting for her Army commission. She took a number of Oakham girls to annual camp in Sussex last summer and was impressed with their standard of watermanship and rock-climbing.

Colonel Stevens is well pleased with the venture. He says: "We viewed it with some trepidation but I'm confident that with girls in the CCF its aims are being fulfilled."

So is Air-Commodore Seymour. His verdict: "We are delighted with the way it has gone. It adds to the competitive spirit within the CCF, encourages the boys to smartness and some of the girls are already showing up as fine advertisements for the whole cadet force."



He's not really saying "Get your 'air cut, you 'orrible lot!" It's all in fun.

Left: Newbury girls visiting Frimley Park Cadet Centre try watermanship.

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