

DECEMBER

1978

20p

Soldier



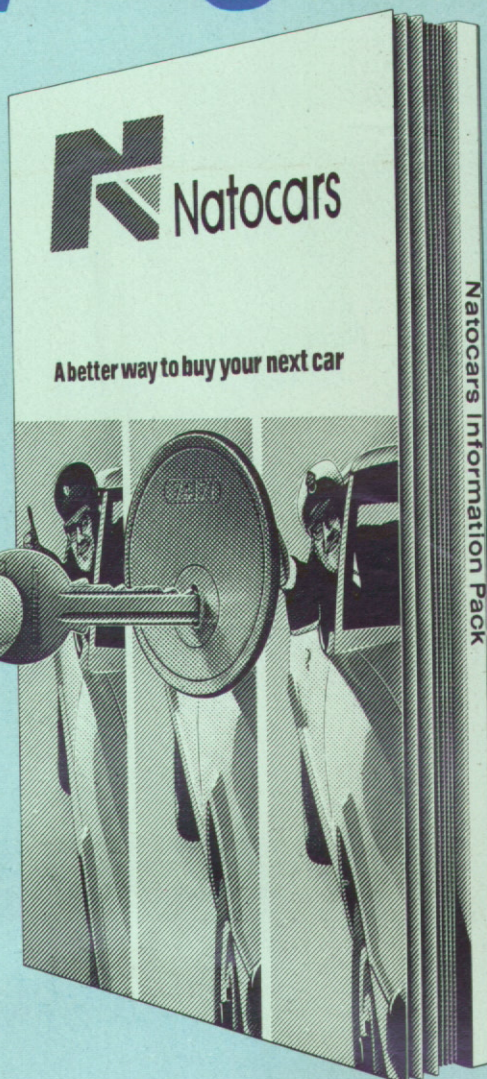
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4 Royal Engineers in Canada

Road building, bridge building, playground building, observation tower building — just some of the tasks performed by 52 Field Squadron (Construction), Royal Engineers, during a summer in Canada

11 Tower of London's 900th anniversary

Built by the Norman conquerors, the Tower of London played an important part in British history for centuries. Today it is regarded mainly as a tourist attraction — but soldiers still live and work there

24 Army caterers' Christmas 'rush'

Mountains of plum 'duff' and turkeys, multitudes of mince pies — these are just some of the extra burdens thrown on Group Catering Headquarters at Aldershot at this time of year



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FRONT COVER

Chief Yeoman Warder Mr Leslie Varley has a festive smile as he marches through a snowstorm on the nightly Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of London.
Picture by Doug Pratt.



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BACK COVER

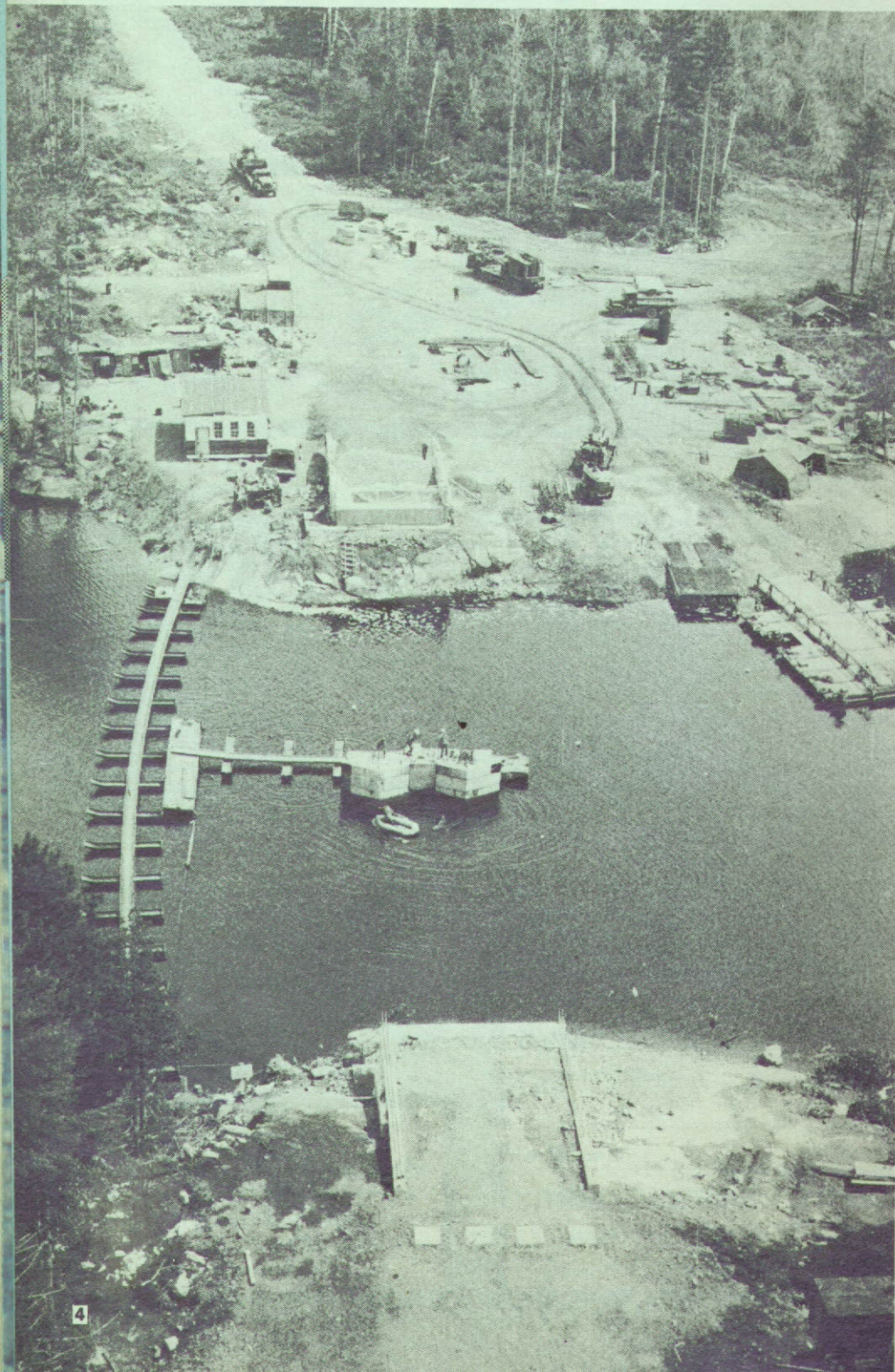
A scene familiar to British troops on Nato exercises in Norway. Here, Norwegian soldiers show the quickest way to get around in the snow that blankets their country in winter.
Picture by Leslie Wiggs.



WATERLEAP 1978

STRIKE BOUND SAPPERS BEAVER AWAY

Story: John Walton



BESET BY ALL KINDS of biting winged insects and prevented from completing their main project by a Canadian civilian strike, 200 men of 52 Field Squadron (Construction), Royal Engineers, found themselves performing an assortment of tasks during their four-month 'Waterleap 78' exercise in the rugged training area of Pettewawa, 120 miles north-east of Ottawa.

For the sappers, from Perham Down, Tidworth, the bridge building and road making tasks were a change from their usual role of airfield tasks such as rapid runway repair (until reorganisation they were part of 39 Engineer Regiment (Airfields) at Waterbeach).

Said the squadron commander, Major John Bennett: "The plant operators who usually work on airfield damage repair never get any practice in building roads and at first they went at it in a tremendous rush. It took them two or three days before they slowed down to the sort of pace which they could keep up all day."

Main task for Waterleap 78 — the latest in a line of sapper exercises in Canada — was to complete a river bridge begun last year by 9 Independent Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers. That squadron had been unable to finish the job because of problems with drilling equipment.

Not long after the Perham Down men arrived it became obvious that the four large steel bridge beams being made by an Ontario firm would not be available in time for the bridge to be completed. In fact the strike which caused the hold-up ended only a few days before the British party flew back.

Even if the strikers were not working, the sappers meant to and they were soon engaged in a series of jobs around the Pettewawa training area, the home of Canada's Special Service Force, including the Canadian Airborne Regiment.

On the bridge site the pre-advance party had continued with the drilling and the sappers completed the pier. Meanwhile they were road-building at two different locations

Top left: Homeward bound. After spending a summer in Canada the sappers board a VC10.

Left: On the bridge site — started by one lot of sappers in 1977 and continued by 52 Field.



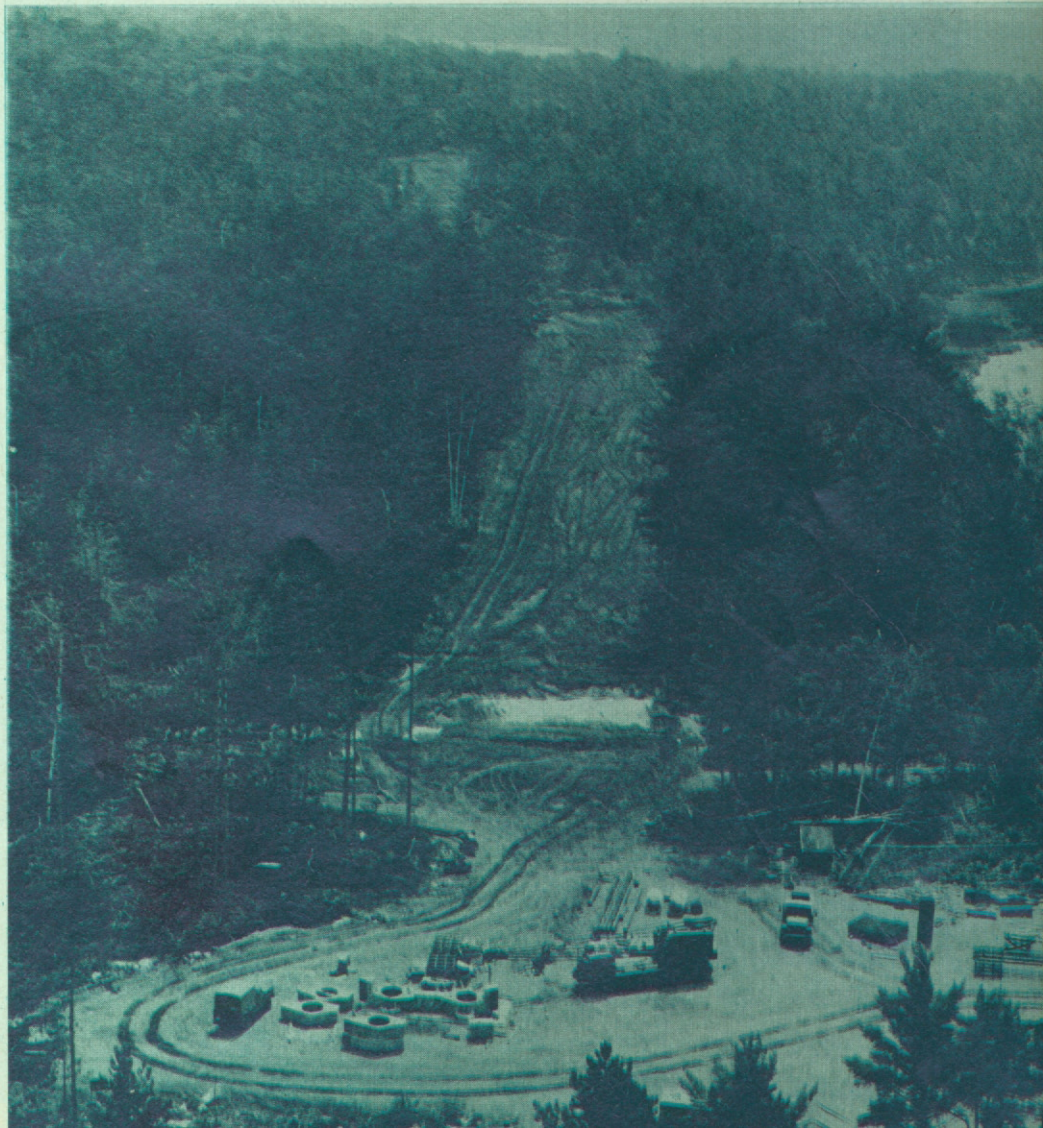
— one paved road which had originally been scheduled and another three-kilometre road which had to be started from scratch.

The exercises, plus other work done by Canadians, are designed to give the 900-square-mile Pettewawa range an alternative supply route during range firing — a kind of ring road around the perimeter of the training area.

Road-making in this terrain is a tough business. Solid granite barred the way and there was a lot of blasting. The largest single bang was when 8000 pounds of explosive were used for rock shifting. The force of this blast was such that a piece of rock shot across the river for about a mile and landed on the verandah of a cottage. The not-too-happy owner came round and presented the rock back to the sappers!

Even the British High Commissioner, Sir John Ford, was given a piece of the action. When Sir John called at Pettewawa to look at the work and unveil a commemorative plaque, he was called upon to detonate 2500lbs of explosive and remove a rock outcrop which a civilian road contractor had been unable to penetrate.

Sappers always work like beavers but Waterleap 78 gave 52 Squadron the chance to study the real thing. Unlike the chirpy little heroes beloved of American cartoons, the beavers at Pettewawa are the size of a large dog. To drain the land for the new section of the Forks Island road, the sappers had to demolish the home of a colony of



Top: Drilling into the rock before blasting it away to make way for road construction.

Right: One of the new sapper-built roads forces its way into the forests of Pettewawa range.

beavers. Made out of twigs, mud and rotting vegetable matter, it was dug away, but the evicted animals made several attempts to rebuild their lodge before finally bowing to the inevitable.

Sergeant Barry Prior knows a lot about building work at Pettewawa. A veteran of Waterleap 76, he found himself back on the road. He told SOLDIER: "The main problem we had was that we lacked heavy enough kit to cope with all the rock shifting."

In the humid Canadian summer, sappers sweltered in the cabs of vehicles designed to withstand the terrible cold of the Canadian

winter. And all the time there were insects. Said Sergeant Prior: "First we had black flies, then deer flies, then what looked like houseflies — but which also bit — and there were mosquitoes all the time. I've done a couple of tours in the Far East but this is the worst place for bugs that I've ever known. Everything bites."

In addition to the three main tasks the sappers removed a World War One Inglis bridge and replaced it with a modern steel girder bridge. The Inglis bridge was refurbished and erected within the base area. A new 30-foot-high observation tower was erected on the ranges, and was soon in use

One sapper took time out during his trip to set a new world underwater diving record of five days, 21 hours and 30 minutes — beating the old record by 15 hours. Lance-Corporal Steve Cook (22) raised almost two thousand dollars for charity by his marathon immersion. According to local newspaper accounts his hands were so bloated and wrinkled when he emerged that he was unable to hold his celebration glass of champagne between his fingers.



for a demonstration of Special Service Force skills and equipment. On the beach area of the Ottawa river a children's playground was built.

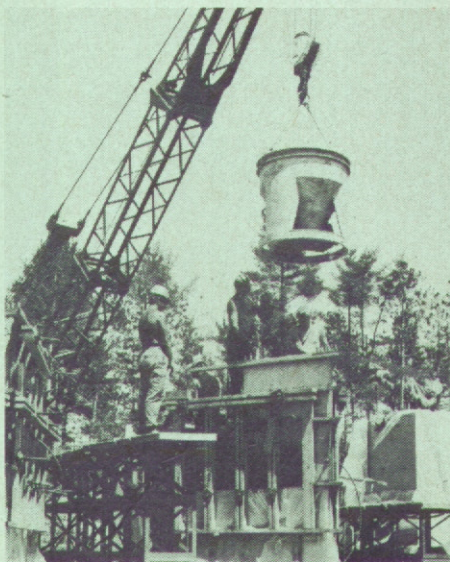
The sapper party included 11 men of the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve from London and Glasgow, a university cadet and university-based officer. There were also two Royal Corps of Transport crane drivers.

It was not all work and no play during the tour. Every man was given sufficient leave to go travelling and the squadron's divers (as well as swimming the three-mile wide Ottawa River) drove right across to the other side of Canada, spent three days at the Canadian Forces' Diving School, then drove back — a round trip of 6000 miles in ten days.

Squadrons organised their own sporting events — shooting, canoeing, sailing, athletics, basketball and broomball, a deadly game played on an ice rink in plimsolls and clutching a witch's broom.

Relationships with the Canadians? "They got on very well," said Major Bennett. A masterpiece of understatement, for one sapper married a Canadian girl and several others got engaged. One of them, Corporal Stuart Morrish, who planned to buy himself out of the Army on his return to England, said: "I enjoy Canada more than England by a long way. I shall be coming back as soon as I leave the Army and will get a job in the construction trade."

Black bears, which were fed in all innocence by the sappers until three local teenagers were killed by a bear; chipmunks,



Top: Canadian Chinook removes Inglis bridge.

Above: Crane lowers block into position on pier.

Right: Clearing lines of sight for surveyors.





Top: Warrant Officer 2 Terry Reilly presents the High Commissioner with a souvenir rock.

Top right: Sir John Ford unveils the plaque on the road site. Inset shows plaque wording.

Above: Sticky moment as vehicle gets bogged down during one of the wetter times on road.

which caused havoc in the kitchens and dining rooms; moose, skunks, groundhogs — all were encountered during the day's work.

As the sappers prepared to leave for England their pleasure at going home was tinged with disappointment that they had been unable to finish the bridge — and plans are afoot for a return visit in 1979 to complete the job.

But in the new roads, the playground, the observation tower and the resited bridge, they had left permanent reminders of their workmanship. They would have been delighted to hear a Canadian lady tell SOLDIER: "I've heard a lot of people say that you can tell which is the British road — because it's the best on the base."



Page 18, The Citizen, TGIF, Friday, Sept. 29, 1978

Is this you?

We mean is that your scene taken at Molly McGuire's? It is?



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If you're the lucky person we picked, just tear out the photo and bring it to The Citizen where Mrs. Loran is the donation donor.

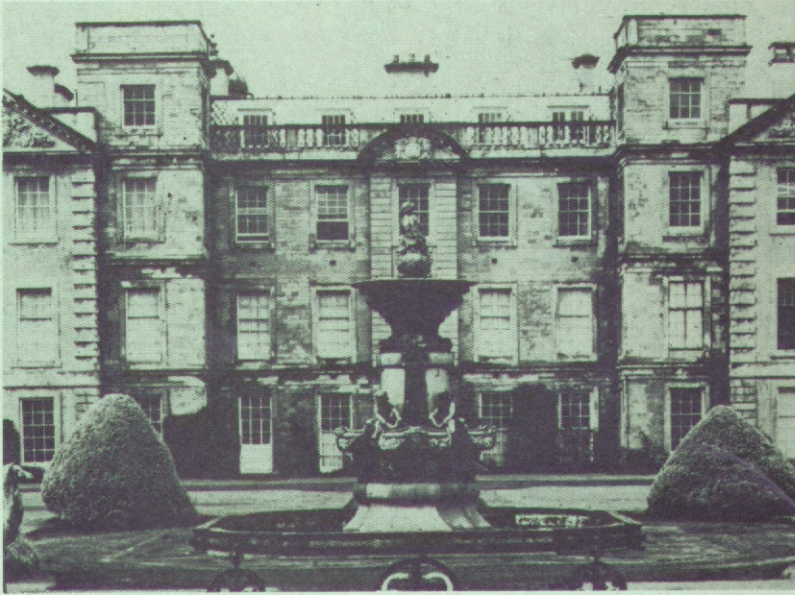
One sapper, Lance-Corporal Willie Trainor, had a surprise as he scanned the entertainment section of the Ottawa Citizen while sitting in the airport lounge at Ottawa just before his return to the United Kingdom.

For there was his own face grinning out of the pages of TGIF (Thank God It's Friday), taken while at an Ottawa night-spot. But that was not all, for Willie was the first winner of a new competition in that his picture had been circled.

Willie cancelled his seat on the waiting Royal Air Force VC10, booked himself on a Hercules cargo plane which would be taking off a couple of hours later — and went straight down to the Citizen offices.

But as luck would have it, the department which would have given Willie his set of glasses was closed on Saturdays. So a weary Willie took his long and spartan journey by Hercules in vain — his prize of a set of beer glasses was later collected for him by a squadron officer.

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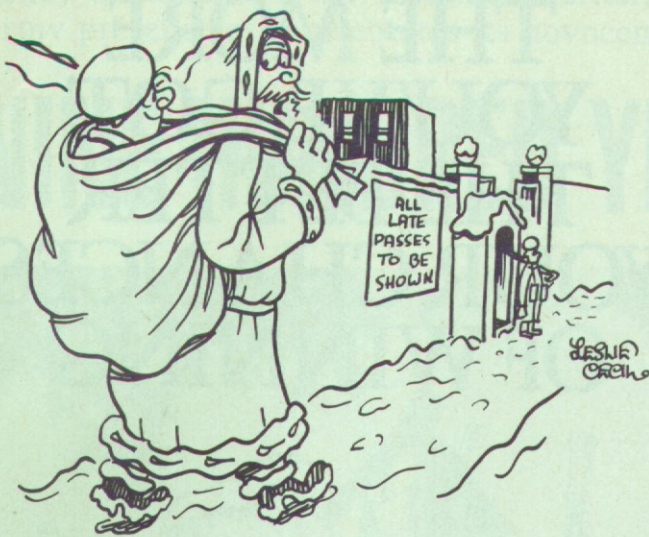
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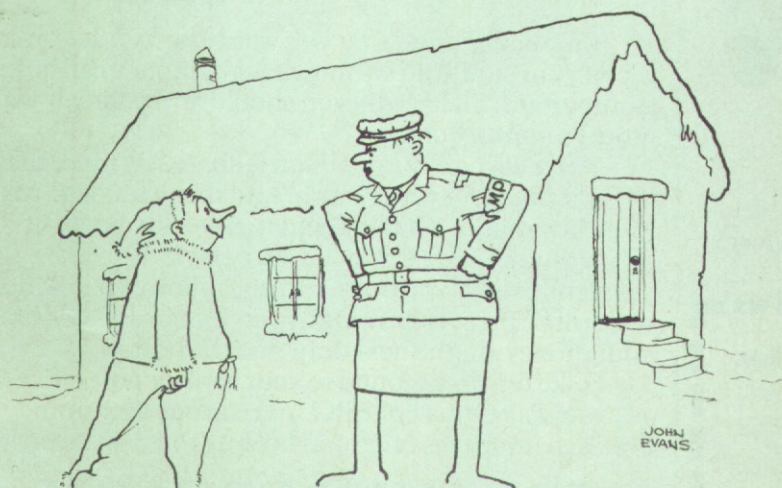
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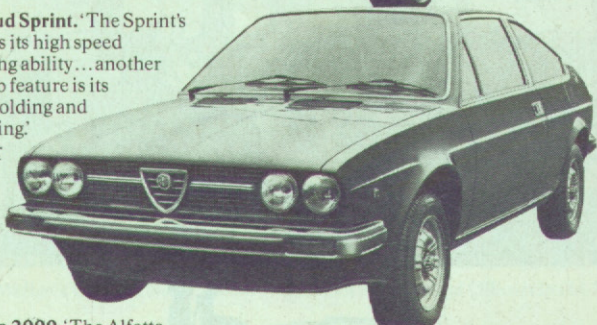
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NINE HUNDRED YEARS A FORTRESS



Story: John Walton
Pictures: Doug Pratt

FOR NINE CENTURIES the brooding fortress known worldwide as the Tower of London has etched its name indelibly into the history books. For centuries it was the scene of dark deeds, of treachery and medieval power politics and of public executions on nearby Tower Hill. And throughout those years there have always been soldiers inside its grim stone walls.

Today that military presence is diminished. William the Conqueror's once formidable edifice has taken on the role of a tourist mecca which attracts up to 3,000,000 visitors annually — Americans clutching their not-now-so-valuable dollars, Japanese peering inscrutably at an island heritage the other side of the world, and visitors from every other nation under the sun.

But what is often lost sight of is that the soldiers pacing up and down or standing immobile on guard duties still have a real role to play at the Tower. For it is still a royal palace — although not used as a residence by a monarch for centuries. And it houses the priceless Crown Jewels.

The only serving officer who actually lives and works in the Tower today is Lieutenant-Colonel John Feathers, who rejoices in the title of The Receiver of Fees as well as being Deputy Governor (Administration).

Colonel Feathers is responsible, as sub-accountant to the Department of the Environment, for all the money which pours into this top-of-the-league tourist haunt. In Silver Jubilee year those takings from entrance tickets and the gift shop totalled a staggering £3,000,000. His unique appointment evolves from the fact that the Tower of London was Britain's first ordnance depot — in fact until the Crimean War it was the main storehouse for armaments.

The first uniformed military officer from the Army Ordnance Corps was posted there in 1903 and Colonel Feathers is the 20th occupant of the position. Now the amount of ordnance stored at the Tower is very small and the fee receiving and administration has become the major part of the job.

The three senior appointments at the Tower are also held by military men, although they are no longer on the active list. Field-Marshal Sir Geoffrey Baker is Constable of the Tower and Lieutenant-General Sir Napier Crookenden is Lieutenant of the Tower. The Resident Governor and Keeper of the Jewel House is Major-General Digby Raeburn who, like Colonel Feathers, spends most of his working life in civilian clothes except for special parades and ceremonies like Beating the Bounds, held every three years.

General Raeburn has been at the Tower for seven-and-a-half years, having extended from the usual five-year incumbency. He describes his job as 'general day-to-day management.'

What is it like to live in a place like the



Left: The Yeoman Jailer, Mr Robert Harton.

Above: Changing over sentries at the Tower.

Tower which is so steeped in history? Says the general: "It is very pleasant — during the hours when the public are not here it is very quiet and beautiful."

Of course there are problems attached to living in a fortress which is locked and securely guarded at night. Any visitor to one of the quarters must have his car out of the grounds by 9.30 pm — or it is there for the night. No-one may leave the Tower after midnight and any resident seeking readmission after the witching hour must have notified in advance his intention of being late. And after 3 am there is no admission at all until the gates are unlocked at 6.45 am.

But homes inside the Tower are certainly burglar-proof — with soldiers on sentry duty throughout the night. And among those who live in the complex are the Yeoman Warders of the Tower, popularly known as 'Beefeaters' — the origin of this name is lost in the mists of antiquity although there are various theories.

The Yeoman Warders (there are 37 of them, including three supervisors) are not to be confused with the Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard although their costumes are similar. In fact they are all automatically members of that body although their full-time duties at the Tower leave little time for other ceremonial.

To join this august body a man has to be under 55, in possession of the Long Service & Good Conduct Medal or its auxiliary or reserve force equivalent, and have at least 18 years' service. Service with the Army, Royal Air Force or Royal Marines is the criterion (the Navy is not eligible). Once approved, a candidate must wait for a vacancy.

Chief Yeoman Warder since 1974 has been Mr Leslie Varney, a former regimental sergeant-major of the Royal Army Service Corps. He is responsible for the allocation of

duties among his men, who are all technically civil servants but have to act as a disciplined body. Here their Service background is of paramount importance. Retirement age is 65, but once a man has been a Yeoman Warder he remains a member of that body until he dies and can attend all ceremonies at the Tower (but he does not retain his uniform).

Yeoman Warders live in quarters within the Tower — some very old, some very modern and, unlike Army quarters, they are let unfurnished. Their duties cover 24 hours of every day with someone always on duty and responsible for the security of the Tower.

It is as guides that the Yeoman Warders excel. Before a new recruit is allowed to carry out this duty he has to take a history test. Mr Varney and General Raeburn are taken on a tour of the Tower while the prospective guide gives his version of its past. If he knows his stuff he becomes a guide. Says Mr Varney: "That side of the work brings out the individuality in them. They are very much better guides than the couriers who come with the tourist groups — simply because they can go into it in so much more detail."

Yeoman Warders' full state dress dates back to 1552 while their blue undress uniform was instituted by Queen Victoria in 1858. Their state coats are embellished with the Tudor rose, the shamrock, the leek and the thistle, to represent the four quarters of the United Kingdom, surmounted by a crown.

On state occasions the Yeoman Warders carry a partisan (a long-handled spear) and a sword; Mr Varney carries a mace. Yeoman Jailer Mr Robert Harton, a former regimental sergeant-major of The King's Shropshire Light Infantry, carries a ceremonial axe. This axe has sinister antecedents. In former

days, when a prisoner returned to the Tower by boat after his trial, he was accompanied by the Yeoman Jailer and axe. If the blade pointed towards the prisoner he had been condemned.

The most recent execution at the Tower was in World War Two when a German spy was shot on the miniature rifle range. In World War One, several other German infiltrators met the same end. Nowadays the only firing which takes place is from the official saluting base overlooking the Thames, where the Honourable Artillery Company fires 25-pounder gun salutes on the arrival in London of state visitors.

At one time Yeoman Warders could buy their places for the sum of £309. If they lived long enough they could eventually retire and sell the position for the same sum. This led to a toast given each time a new man is sworn in: 'May you never die a Yeoman Warder.'

The Duke of Wellington altered this recruitment system. During his period as Constable of the Tower he decreed that 'none but gallant, deserving and meritoriously discharged sergeants of the Army shall be appointed warders at the Tower.' Today the minimum rank requirement is warrant officer or colour-sergeant.

Housed within the Tower is the regimental headquarters of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. One of its ancestor regiments, The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), was raised at the Tower in 1685 for the protection and movement of the Royal Train of Artillery. And in 1949 the regiment returned home to the Tower, where it had its depot, and used the Waterloo barrack block.

When The Fusilier Brigade was formed in



Every night of the year the Tower of London is locked in the time-honoured Ceremony of the Keys, which dates back to its days as a state prison. Many prisoners were then allowed to walk about inside the Tower but, as dusk approached, the bell on top of the Bell Tower rang to warn them to return to their quarters.

It was also necessary to secure the gates to prevent unauthorised entrance and exit after dark. As attempts might be made to seize the keys from the official responsible for locking up, he was provided with a military escort.

This remains the essence of the nightly ceremony. The Chief Yeoman Warder, with an escort of soldiers from the Tower Guard, locks, in succession, the outer, Middle Tower and Byward Tower gates.

He then goes to the Bloody Tower arch where he is challenged by a sentry. The Keys, having been identified, are then carried through the arch, saluted in form by the Tower Guard and taken for custody to the Governor's residence.



1958, a new depot was set up at Sutton Coldfield, but the regimental headquarters remained at the Tower and when the present 'large' regiment, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, was formed in 1968, it became headquarters for all the battalions.

The only serving soldiers of the regiment actually based in the Tower are regimental recruiters. But Colonel Bill Etches, regimental secretary, feels that the regiment is lucky to have its headquarters in a building with which it has such historical associations. And upwards of a third of all the visitors to the Tower, perhaps as many as a million people a year, visit the regimental museum — making it probably the best attended of all Britain's military museums.

Nine hundred years after those Norman conquerors first built the Tower, it slumbers on, and who is to say it will not be there in another nine centuries? And with it the half-dozen or so ravens, on official ration strength, and of whom legend has it that if they leave, the kingdom will fall.

Centre (left to right) Major-General Raeburn; his deputy, Lieutenant-Colonel Feathers, and some more feathers — one of the Tower ravens. Left: Mr Bob Manser displays the fusil derivation of the fusiliers outside their headquarters.

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FLUTTERING BRIGHTLY in the winter sun, the coloured signal flags proclaimed the wry message — 'Going for a song.' Two tugs nursed their geriatric charge into the main shipping channel and a vessel that has served the forces since the end of World War Two set off on her last brief journey.

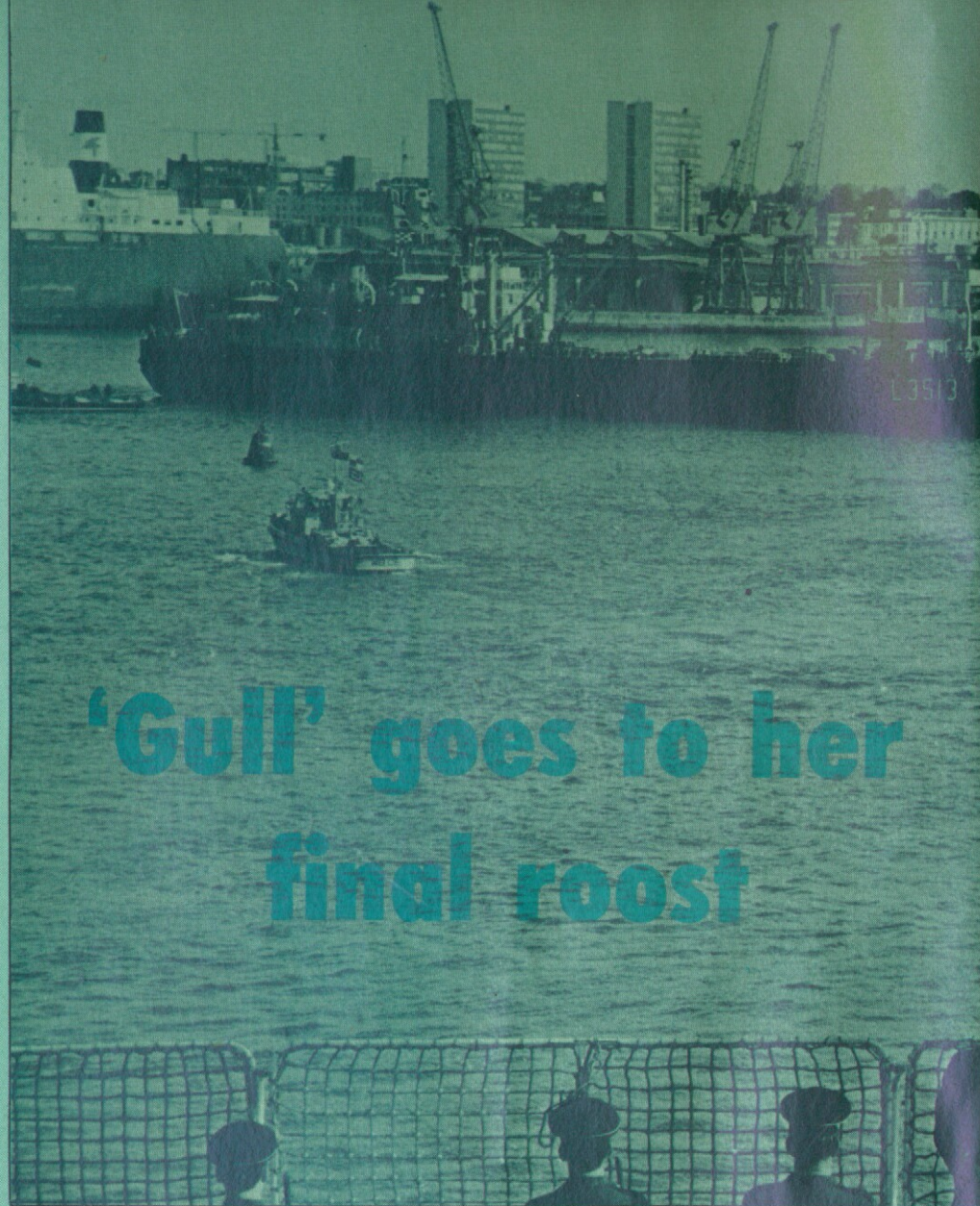
Landing Ship Tank (LST) Empire Gull steamed out of service from the military port at Marchwood on Southampton Water to sail the few miles to Portsmouth's naval dockyard to await 'disposal.' The Royal Fleet Auxiliary crew who had clearly become attached to their veteran vessel clung to hopes that their old 'Gull' would earn a new lease of life with a new owner somewhere ("Someone from South America or somewhere could find a job for her . . . only needs a bit of re-plating . . .")

They shunned the dread lurking in the backs of their minds that the 'Gull's' wings would finally be clipped by the searing flame of the breakers' blow-torches.

In recent years her bluff black hull has been a familiar sight butting through the Channel between Marchwood and the Continent carrying matériel to re-supply Rhine Army. But her history spans 33 years, going back to her launch date of 9 July 1945 at Lauzon, Quebec, in Canada. As LST 3523 she was destined for assault on the Japanese mainland, but this never happened.

After the war, she became HMS Trouncer and was mothballed on the Clyde until 1956. She was then dusted down and re-named Empire Gull as one of 12 LSTs recalled for service. These were based at Malta, Aden and Singapore. The Atlantic Steam Navigation Company operated the Empire Gull for the Ministry of Transport until 1961 when she was taken over by the British India Steam Navigation Company.

During these years she spent most of her time in the Mediterranean, including evacuation of the main British headquarters from Libya in March 1970. Later that year, 'Gull'



'Gull' goes to her final roost



Story: Mike Starke
Pictures: Paul Haley

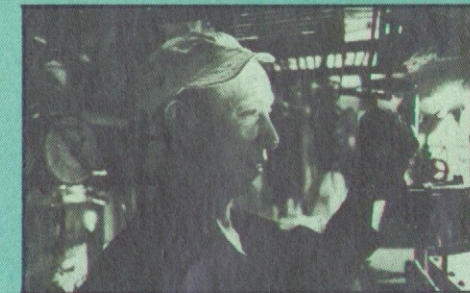
member. Making up the bulk of the ship's 347 feet six inches length and 55 feet three inches beam, the cargo area could take a length of 120 pallets, six deep and two high — each weighing a ton.

It was approaching the moment of departure from Marchwood. A Chinese sailor poured that last touch of oil and fresh water lubrication on the idling engine and Colin Johnson checked the dials for the umpteenth time. "Just think," he said sadly, "In a couple of months' time — if nobody buys them — whoosh! a blow torch will slice through this lot."

On deck the crew busied themselves casting off from the modern RFA landing ship logistic Sir Galahad which had cradled the 'Gull' under her lofty grey flanks on her next-to-last berthing.

The massive streamer of the white paying-off pennant bellied to show its elongated Cross of St George and there was speculation as to whether it was long enough to record the traditional one foot per month of service such streamers are supposed to show.

A quarter guard from 17 Port Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, saluted the departing veteran and the corps' corps of drums beat out a farewell. The sirens of the



Left: Empire Gull sets sail for Portsmouth. Far left: 'Going for a song' say flags on mast. Below: On the bridge of the old campaigner. Above: Chinese seaman at work below decks.



was taken over by the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and has spent the last eight years sailing between Marchwood and continental ports. To the casual observer, 'Gull' was a bleak black block of a ship with little to recommend her to the eye. But to her 61 crewmembers — predominantly Chinese with 12 British officers — she was a unique and beloved craft.

The Chinese cooks eschewed the modern electric cooker in their galley, much preferring the ancient diesel-fired range. But this was the equipment that did the job, like the 'Gull's' pride and joy — its engines. The last true 'steamer' in the RFA, 'Gull' boasted a gleaming pair of four-legged, triple-expansion steam reciprocating engines glistening to the last with the oil and water mixture that lubricated them.

Second-Engineer Colin Johnson lovingly demonstrated the smooth action of the polished brass controls. With a mighty head of steam tamed to turn the hissing engines over at a mere ten revolutions a minute, the massive rods and cams in the crank pit slid smoothly back and forth to idle the screws in forward or reverse gear at the touch of a lever.

Turning to an enamel-faced dial, the engineer twirled the brass pointer of the traditional bridge to engine-room telegraph. "We test these frequently to make sure

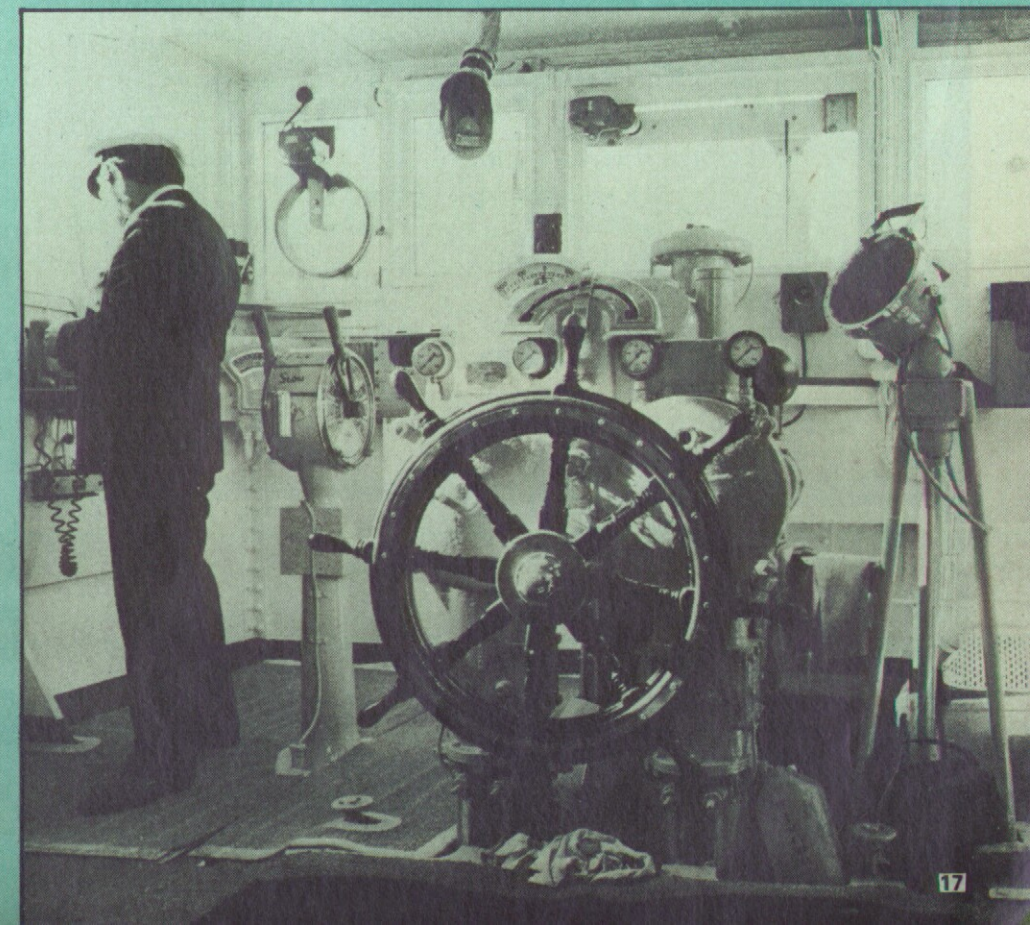
they're working properly," he said, and a reassuring clangour from the dial repeated his message to show all was in order.

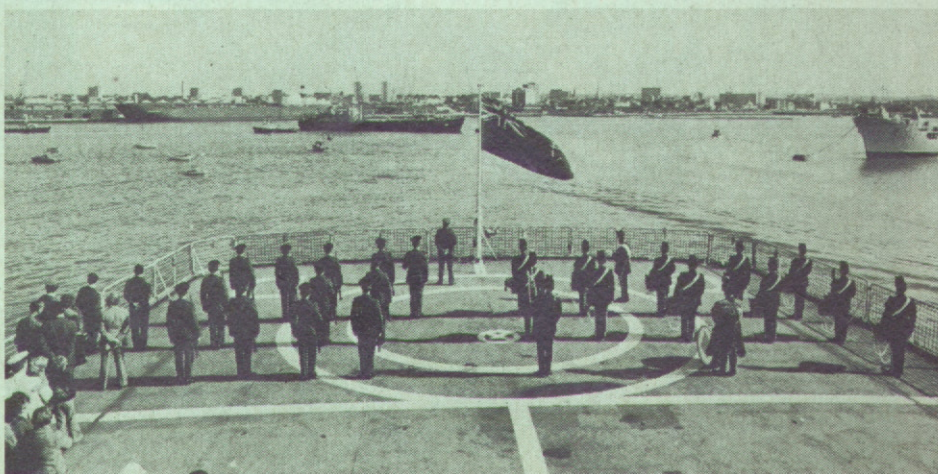
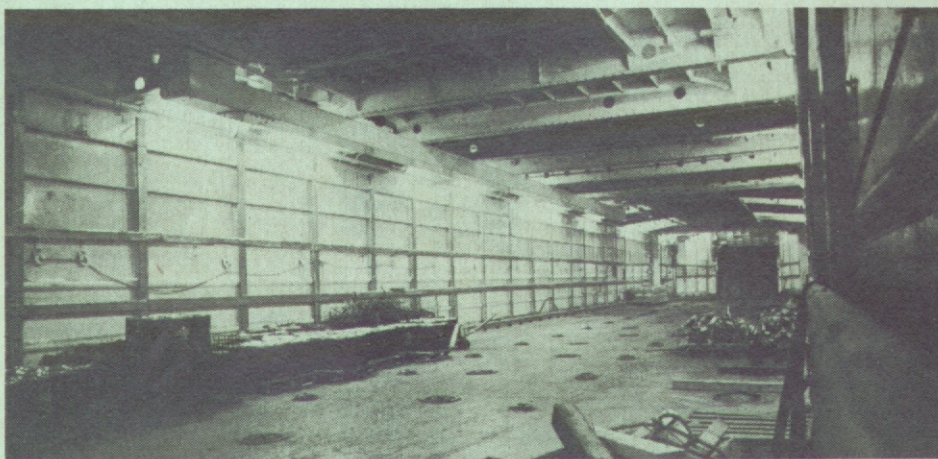
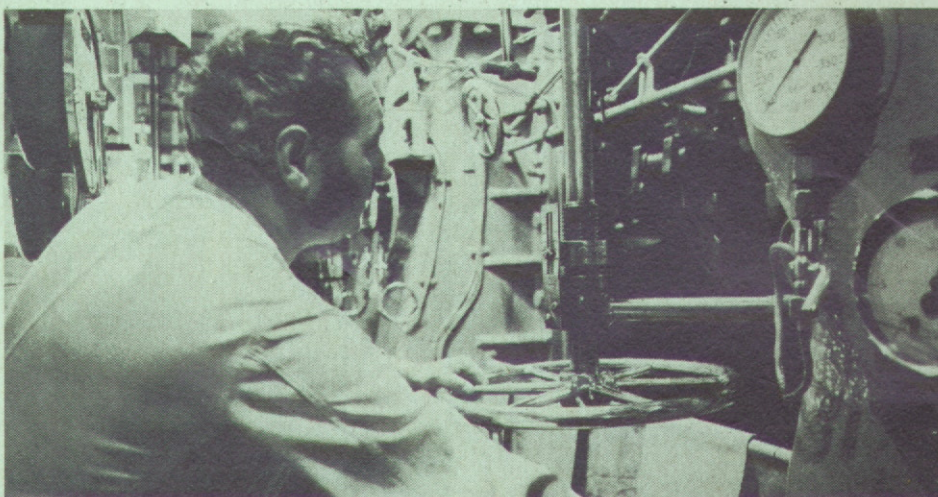
In the boiler room itself, isolated from the rest of the ship by an air lock, blasts of cool air fought a losing battle with the heat. Here were two aged three-drum Yarrow boilers each heated by four oil-fired burners. Roaring flames at 2000 degrees Fahrenheit radiated a livid glow from the small apertures into the furnaces. The fearsome heat was turning water into 200lb per square inch steam, gripped firmly into the boiler jackets by one-foot-thick insulation brick still too hot to touch with a bare hand.

"God knows what would ever have happened if one of these had gone up," mused Colin Johnson. "I reckon the poor blighters down here would have less than thirty seconds . . ." But the ready smiles on the faces of the Chinese stokers showed they had never worried about such a dreadful fate.

Back in the engine room, massive gauges pointed out the progress of the harnessed steam to the gently turning engines. Some of them were originally used in the mighty locomotives of Canadian Pacific engines drawing trains across the sea of prairie in North America.

Away from the hiss and din of throbbing machinery was 'Gull's' cavernous hold — "Just like a big shoe box," said a crew





Empire Gull's last skipper was Captain Marshal Downham, who was surprised by his crew on the last night before 'Gull' went out of service by being presented with a magnificent watercolour of the ship, set in the Channel seas so familiar to the ancient craft in recent years. A feature of the painting which Captain Downham prizes as a treasured possession is the 'autographing' by the crew on the back . . . mostly in Chinese!

RFA vessels in the port trumpeted their own throaty valediction, drowning 'Gull's' plaintive whistle which left a stream of steam in the clear air as the only indication that she was replying.

The ancient engines of the 'Gull' pushed her steadily further from the dock and the small crowd of well-wishers melted away from the deck of Sir Galahad, leaving the ship itself to speak for them from the signal flags that fluttered from its mast — 'Farewell Gull.'

Top: Oil-fired galley used by Chinese cooks. Above left: Second Engineer Colin Johnson. Left: The cargo hold now lies strangely still. Below left: Drums and quarter guard see her go. Below: Brass pointer of engine room telegraph.





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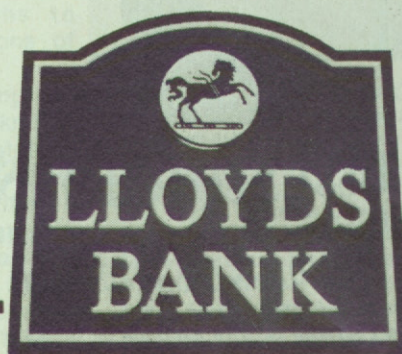
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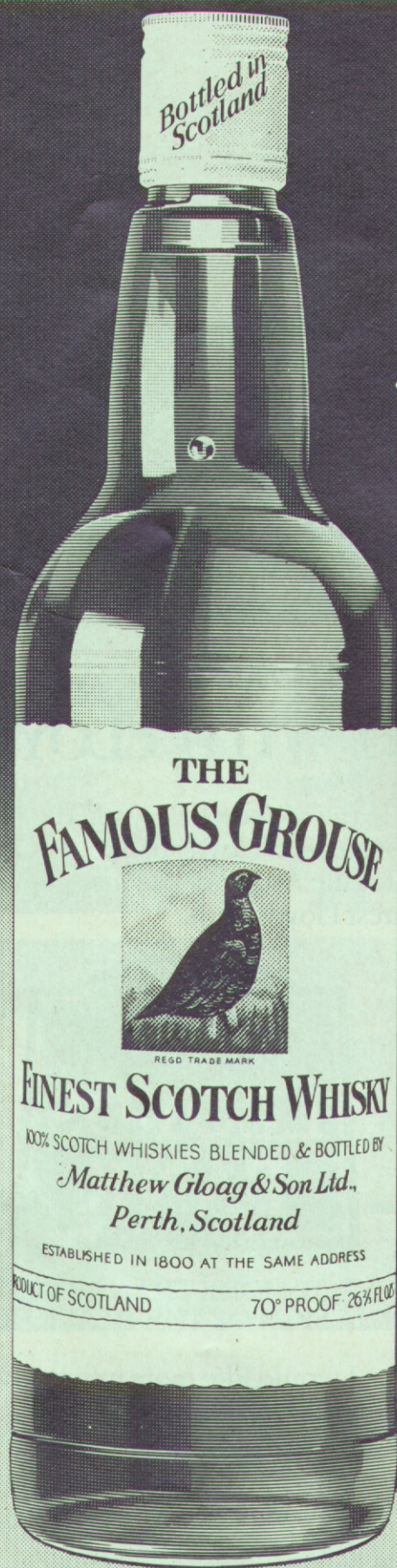
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SOLDIER to Soldier

Life certainly ain't wot it used to be. Out of the window have gone so many familiar things — pounds, shillings and pence, old counties . . . even Yorkshire, a nationality to its natives, has officially (though only officially) shed its ridings.

The last local government reorganisation has had an unexpected effect on an old custom involving the Army — the granting of a 'freedom' by a city or borough to a corps or regiment.

The Borough of Wokingham, in Royal Berkshire, planned to grant its 'freedom' to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers — the corps' 'home' has been at nearby Arborfield since REME's formation in 1942. But under local government reorganisation, Wokingham became a town council and was advised that it could no longer therefore grant a 'freedom.' Instead, in the words of its mayor, the town has conferred on the corps 'the highest honour a town council can bestow, that of honorary townspeople.' "In this modern age," added the mayor at the ceremony (see SOLDIER News, page 12), "we think this is a far more meaningful title and aptly describes the happy integration of the corps and Wokingham which has evolved since 1942."

A few Royal Air Force stations have already been similarly honoured but it is thought that the officers and men of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers are the first in the Army to become 'honorary townspeople.' The new civic honour is in fact simply a matter of terminology and confers neither more nor fewer rights than a 'freedom' — the corps now has by council resolution the 'Freedom of Entry to the Town of Wokingham under Arms and with full ceremonial.'

The wording of a 'freedom' scroll or illuminated address differs from one city or town to another but generally confers the right in perpetuity to march through the city or town with 'bands playing, Colours flying and bayonets fixed.' And corps or regiments so honoured exercise that privilege whenever they are able — first, of course, courtously seeking civic approval.

It has been, and will continue to be argued that, outside the City of London, a local authority is not entitled to grant a 'freedom.' This on the premise that Her Majesty's Services may march where, when and how they will — subject of course to conforming with traffic regulations.

This is very much a minority point of view. The majority acceptance is that a civic honour — whether 'freedom,' 'status of honorary townspeople' or 'adoption' — confirms and strengthens local links between the Army and the civilian population. The honour is not lightly bestowed and it is proudly

received. And if ceremonial and tradition tend to be belittled today, this was certainly not apparent in Wokingham where hundreds of local people turned out to enjoy the big day — the panoply of the mayor, led by mace-bearer (an old soldier with an imposing row of medals), flanked by the beades, the councillors in their robes and cocked hats or tricorne, and the contrasting spectacle of band and 450 marching soldiers.

★

In the few years of their existence the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association's Venturers have done more for the disabled than a thousand flag days. But — amazingly — they are being threatened with extinction. And — even more amazingly — from within their own organisation, BLESMA itself.

The aim of the group — all limbless ex-servicemen themselves — is to prove to fellow victims and the public at large that the loss of an arm or leg is no reason for failing to lead a full and active life. To this end the group has staged well-publicised feats that would daunt many a non-disabled person. They have parachuted into the sea, canoed across the Channel, climbed Snowdon and taken up sailing.

But now there are BLESMA members who argue that the Venturers' efforts negate some of the effect of protracted and less dramatic campaigns to improve pensions and conditions of limbless ex-Servicemen.

SOLDIER has followed the progress of the Venturers closely and knows the last thing they will do is act helpless and allow themselves to be set apart from the rest of us. And quite right too!

● With courage a young Venturer who lost a leg in Northern Ireland said: "I used to play sports and when I came out of hospital my frustrated energy went into heavy drinking. But then I joined the Venturers and by doing things with them, regained that feeling of challenge which sport can give."

● With determination another added: "They said they wanted to put me in a home when I lost both legs. I said 'no way' and went off on my own and got a flat."

● With good humour a third told a non-disabled friend who complained of a weight problem: "You should worry. I weigh thirteen-and-a-half stones and I'm only three-foot-nine!" He lost both legs in World War Two.

This combination of courage, determination and good humour radiates from all the Venturers and contributes largely to their unrivalled success in advancing the cause of limbless ex-Servicemen. The same combination will continue. SOLDIER wholeheartedly wishes them the best of luck.

ON RECORD

'The Royal Tournament 1978' (Massed band from the Foot Guards; bands of 3rd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment; 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers; 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers; The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment; 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry; 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment; Pipes and Drums of the Irish Guards; Pipes, Drums and Bugles of 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles; Band, Pipes and Drums of the Royal Hong Kong Police) (Senior Director of Music: Captain D R Kimberley) (EMI SCX 6589) I'm not certain whether I'm reviewing the record or the actual show, the one unfailingly conjuring up the other. And receiving a still wet copy of the record inscribed by the producer 'I hope you like it' somewhat pre-empt the vitriol.

But all choking aside, when two tattoo experts like Michael Parker and Derek Kimberley get together you can expect 'happenings' which, without warning, even to those who have seen it all, can either catch you napping with pleasurable shock or catch your throat in unashamed emotion.



The set pieces, like the King's Troop drive, the naval gun race, RAF physical training display and other self-contained acts have their own in-built drama and excitements, brook little or no interference from the producer and have no place on disc. It is in the musical items where imagination is required — where, without it, you may as well buy a copy of the 1812 Overture and call it a day.

On the principle that a book stimulates the reader's own imagination, whereas with a film you are stuck with the director's vision of things, you would do well to listen to this highly picturesque and vivid representation of the tournament.

Briefly, because the sleeve notes were printed long before the music was decided, you have the opening massed bands item, (preceded by a brilliant 'Novo Centenary' fanfare by Derek Kimberley) which includes a 'London Medley' of Cockney-cum-A A Milne tunes, 'The Mull of Kintyre' and a bugle waltz, 'Bavarian Bugle Boy,' which might be termed 'somewhat plagiaristic.' The band and pipes and drums of the Royal Hong Kong Police give a musically charming selection of Scottish and Chinese tunes (the Lion Dance you will have to imagine), and the Gurkha pipes, drums and bugles play a selection of well-known Nepalese tunes such as 'The Marquis of Huntly's Highland Fling.'

The finale, as ever, is the crux of the matter, and here you can dream your way not to 1812 but to 1815 with a clever adaptation of Beethoven's music to another Wellington victory — Vittoria, Waterloo, what does it matter, they're both on the same line now.

Yes, indeed I did like it, and think you will.

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TONS OF TURKEY AND DOZENS OF DUFFS



Story: Mike Starke
Pictures: Paul Haley

THE CHRISTMAS DINNER shopping list reads like a housewife's nightmare — nearly four-and-a-half tons of turkey, two tons of gammon, more than a ton of Christmas pud and nearly two tons of Christmas cake. Not to mention 17,500 mince pies, 100 Old English pies, 150 yule log cakes (complete with robins) and 6000 Christmas crackers.

This was all in a day's work for a unique Army unit providing festive fare for 10,500 personnel in the Aldershot area. The everyday needs of the same people are met throughout the year by Headquarters Catering Group from its custom-built complex nestling in the shadow of the Army Catering Corps tower block at St Omer Barracks, Aldershot.

Started as a pilot scheme more than ten years ago, the Catering Group concept saves time and money by centralising supply and preparation of food for 90 locations within a 20-mile radius.

The group's commanding officer, Colonel Dennis O'Reilly, explained: "The strength of the system is that it takes the catering chores away from units, especially the accounting." The latter is computerised at the headquarters' offices, producing monthly accounts for all the units it serves.

The group's purpose-built complex, in operation since 1973, has two main departments. The supplies department handles some 700 items of grocery, 160 frozen and 60 fresh items, including weekly orders of 97,000 eggs and 32 tons of potatoes, 28,381 Pintas of milk and more than three tons of baked beans.

Top: Just part of the daily production — a girl cook puts icing on the top of Bakewell tarts.

Left: Part of the range of Christmas fare. It includes hors d'oeuvres, hams and boned turkey.

More exotic fare has to be supplied to Gurkhas stationed in the unit's catchment area who tunnel through 3000 pounds of rice a week plus 300lbs of dhal (lentils) and the aromatic herbs and spices that form the ingredients of the Gurkhas' famous curries.

The more cosmopolitan taste of the British soldier nowadays is reflected in the regular order of 800lbs of ravioli a week.

Two baker's dozens of Army Catering Corps cooks and six Women's Royal Army Corps cooks, backed up by civilian staff like the supplies department, are involved in the production side of the operation, starting work at five every morning to get prepared food to units by lunchtime.

Semi-automated production lines (full automation would be uneconomical for the quantities involved) dice and mince, slice and chop through mountains of meat a week in the butchery section.

The larder section stamps out thousands of pasties and steaklets a week as well as 26 miles of sausage rolls a year — nearly half-a-mile a week.

Pastries are also prepared, from mass-produced doughnuts to the gaily decorated Christmas yule log cakes for this time of year. No fewer than 40,000 small cakes a week are baked to satisfy sweet-toothed soldiers.

Speed and efficiency of despatch are essential to the unit's task and a fleet of eleven five-ton delivery lorries fans out from the loading bay each day, packed by a Royal Pioneer Corps detachment on the staff.

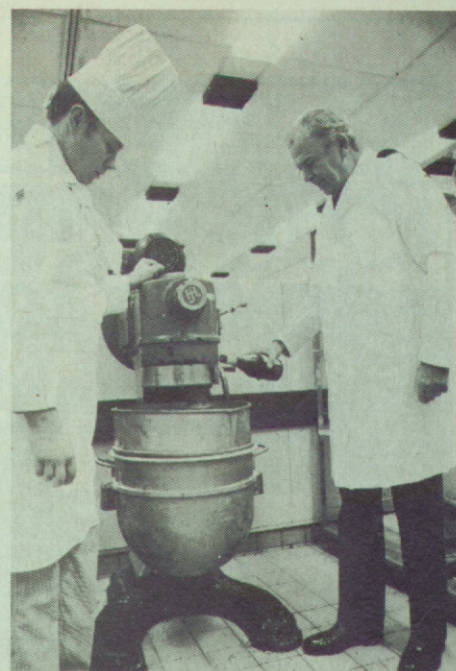
All the stores needed are bought in bulk through Naafi and the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, ensuring the economy of bulk buying plus the strictest quality controls required. "Anything below standard goes back," commented Colonel O'Reilly tersely. The unit is scrupulous in its insistence on supplying only pure foods with none of the additives that make modern processed food more like products of chemistry laboratories than of field and farm.

Originally envisaged as a pilot scheme to be copied elsewhere (see *SOLDIER*, May 1968), Headquarters Group Catering has proved over the years that its economies in time and money work properly only where there are concentrations of static units, as in Aldershot with its corps and regimental depots and training establishments. Most other garrison areas throughout the Army have a higher proportion of shifting populations which would defeat the object of the concept.

When the project started in the mid-sixties it fed some 4500 people in 36 separate places and the success of this led to an expansion to serve 7100 in 65 locations from a collection of huddled offices, a converted kitchen and dining room, and old garages. With the new custom-built complex, capacity steadily expanded to allow the 10,500 present 'customers' to be served in 90 locations.

This mini-army marches on its stomach to the tune of some £3,000,000 a year in terms of the food passing through Group Catering. The volume of the provisions involved bemuses even the unit's administrative officer, Captain Daphne Stanley-Johns. She said: "As a housewife, I find this staggering — the sheer volume of stuff going through here."

And as the Army's Christmas revellers stagger from their groaning boards —



heaped with those tons of turkey and pounds of pud, courtesy of Headquarters Catering Group — they can raise their glasses in salute to that unit's unique year-round contribution to their creature comforts.

Top left: Working the Cornish pastie machine. Top right: Colonel Reilly pours in 'pud' brandy. Centre: Chef rolling out the puff pastry. Above left: A long line of sausage for rolls. Above: Mrs Eunice Harris checks in crackers.

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CAPITAL LETTERS PLEASE



Throughout the ages, soldiers away from their families at the festive season have forged a link with home by writing letters to their loved ones. One thousand nine hundred and seventy eight years ago a lonely Roman Legionary might have taken up papyrus and stylus to write his . . .

SOLDIER'S LETTER HOME

Palestine Colony

Dear Mater,

It looks as if I won't be back in Rome for the Solstice Bacchanalia again this year. Our Century is on standby for Op Tax to keep the locals in order.

I suppose it'll make a change from the boredom of routine pax-keeping duties but you'd think these Palestinians could choose some other part of the year to do their mass-tax-gathering.

To make matters worse, they insist on everyone going to their home towns to pay their dues. This means chaos on the roads and we've had to set up a lot more VCPs (vagrant check points) to make sure their camels and asses aren't carrying contraband. Of course, REME — the Roman Empire Mammal Examiners — bear the brunt of this.

Not that we in the RCT (Roman Camel Trains) haven't had our problems. We thought we were getting the new Dromedary instead of our old Bactrians. But they tell us the Senate has sold them all to Persia.

Mind you, the locals here have got their troubles too. There were so many of them in one little village for the tax gathering where we patrolled the other day that some poor woman had to have her baby in a barn surrounded by the mangy cattle they breed round here.

They said the local pub was fully booked and couldn't take her and her husband in. To cap it all, three of their scruffy shepherds came out of the hills, bold as you please, just to stare at the poor kid.

These people just don't seem to make sense to us sometimes. But we've got a Pictish slave in our camp who says things are just the same where he

comes from. The Gods help us if the Emperor ever takes it into his head to send us to conquer the slave's little island up north.

As if we didn't have enough on our plates with Op Tax, the Centurion has told us to smarten up our Number One tunics for not just one but three royal visits at once. Something about some eastern kings heading for that same little village I told you about.

So with all this going on, your gift of an amphora of oil for the lamps in our barracks was all the more welcome. The only luck we seem to have had recently is that we haven't had to use that much of it. For if we sit by the east-facing windows we can get quite enough light from a very bright star that has been shining here recently.

I can't say when I'll be coming home to Rome yet. There seems to be no sign of the Pax Romana being maintained if we pull out of here. I must say, we'd like nothing better than to go home like the 'Legions Out of Palestine Movement' want. But I'm sure the Palestinians would only start fighting among themselves again — and that could go on for hundreds of years, our soothsayer says.

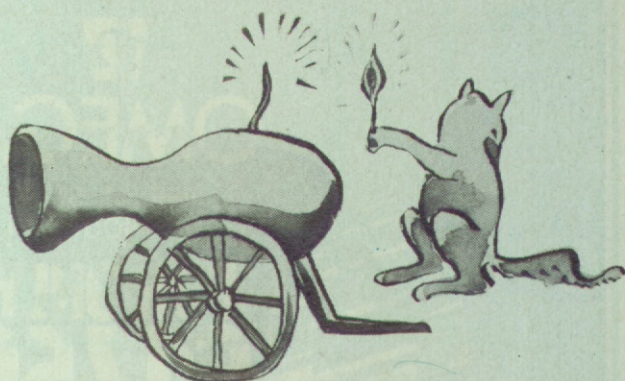
Even now there's a rumour that the local king has some crazy idea of introducing the death penalty — wait for it — for all infants! I ask you, what barbarians. What it needs is some new young leader with a whole new set of ideas to get some sense into them all.

But that's local politics, and you know the Roman Legionary rules on that — we have to wash our hands of it.

Your devoted son,
Caius

With a look to the future and the prospect of an Army trade union, the Privates' Union of Soldierly Solidarity — PUSS for short — SOLDIER offers its seasonal pantomime . . .

PUSS IN BOOTS DMS



THE SCENE is the office of the Commanding Officer of 1st Battalion, The Militant Volunteers ('The Closed Shops').

Seated at his desk, the CO is immaculate in his new khaki boiler suit. Even so he tries to brush some Marx (correction, marks) from his bib-and-braces.

Enter the Regimental Sergeant-Major — a woman, thanks to the PUSS ruling on

sex equality.

CO: 'Morning, comrade RSM.

RSM: 'Morning, comrade colonel.

CO: What has the battalion voted to do today?

RMS: Well, they've decided to go through all the new recruits' kit bags to remove the field-m Marshals' batons that decadent recruiting used to promise them. I've told 'em straight — they're in the Army now. We'll have none of yer bleedin' namby-pamby class distinction here.

CO: Good show . . . I mean, sound dogma, RSM. What else is on?

RSM: Else? Nothing else, comrade. No time.

CO: No time?

RSM: No time. Surely you remember — on a show of hands in the parade square the lads overwhelmingly decided that reveille should be at 1200 hours, Naafi break at 1215, lunch 1230 to 1500 (to allow for drinking-up time) and the rest of the day to themselves.

CO: Of course. Decadent of me to forget. I suppose that'll mean me volunteering for a session of self-

criticism in the all-ranks mess tonight?

RSM: Definitely, brother colonel. The lads need a laugh . . . I mean lesson in democracy.

CO: That reminds me, what's happened about the battalion dinner night?

RSM: Glad you asked. Since our last strike gained us a £500-a-day flat rate with treble overtime and danger money for looking at pictures of potential enemies, the lads have decided that battalion funds can run to buying the London Hilton for future dinner nights. The Dorchester was the lads' first choice but the Royal Engineers snapped that up last week as a snack bar for field squadrons.

CO: Well, never mind. The Hilton will be jolly . . . er, jolly good as an object lesson in the sickening wastage indulged in by the bourgeoisie.

RSM: I thought you'd see it like that, brother colonel.

CO: Just one more thing. Could you ask the lads for a show of hands on my motion to get my hair cut? I find it falls over my eyes when I'm reading the Thoughts of Chairman Mao, and we can't have that, can we?

RSM: Quite so. I'm sure there'll be no problem. As long as the hair is still below the collar at the back.

CO: Oh good. Now if you'll excuse me, I must dash. I've got to meet some Russian generals. They're demanding pay parity with our private soldiers before they will consider being even a threat to us.

RSM: Go carefully with them, brother colonel. They're a wily bunch. Before you can say Jack Jones they'll be demanding higher productivity from us . . . brush-fire wars, guerrilla campaigns, confrontations, all that sort of thing. The lads just won't have it.

Look what happened last time a shot was fired in anger. A soldier claimed he was being victimised and the entire Brigade of Guards came out in sympathy and boycotted the Queen's Birthday Parade in protest.

I'd leave it to PUSS's treaty committee to work out if I were you.

CO: Perhaps you're right. I'll get back to writing my Army memoirs.

RSM: What are you going to call it, brother colonel?

CO: Well, I thought 'The Thin Red Line' might be approved by the lads on a ballot.






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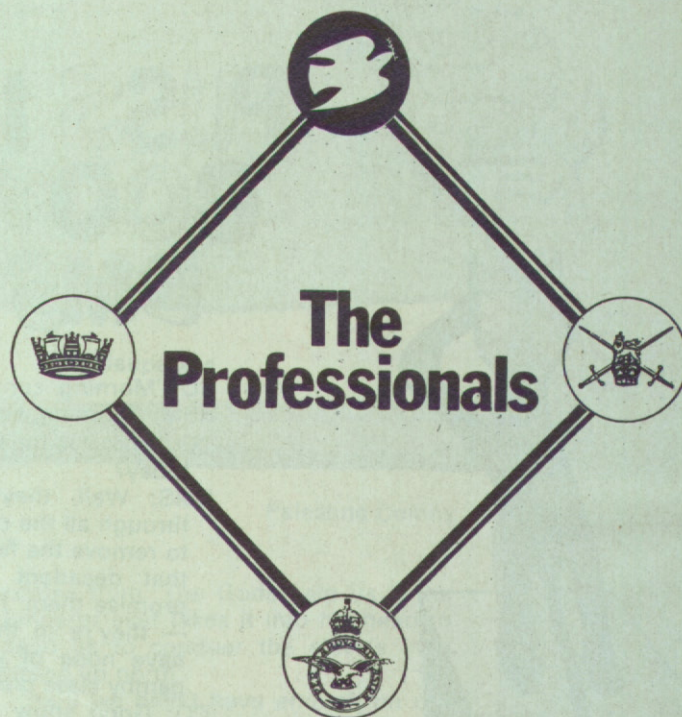
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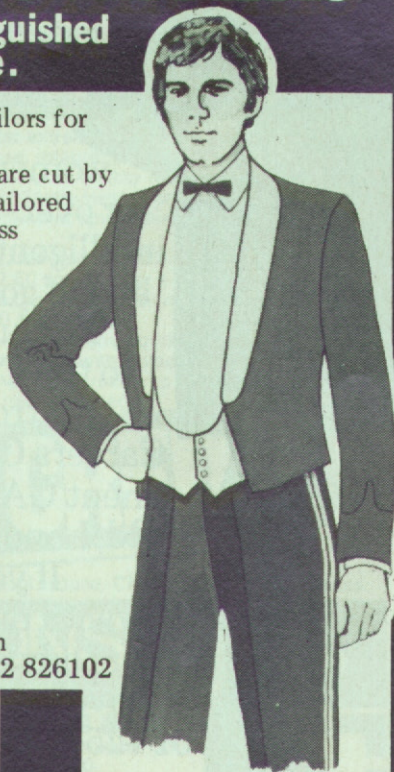
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SIDI SALEH 1941

Defeated Italians surrendering in their thousands to men of 2nd Battalion, The Rifle Brigade, are depicted in this Terence Cuneo print, available from SOLDIER. Commissioned by the Rifle Brigade Club and Association, this colour print measures 23½ x 18 inches (actual picture area 17½ x 12½ inches). On 6 February 1941 a fast wheeled column was detached from 7th Armoured Division to cut off the Italians retreating out of Cyrenaica along the coast. The column reached the coast road at Sidi Saleh during the night of February 7/8 and took up position with 2nd Battalion, The Rifle Brigade, supported by gunners, astride the road. For the next 36 hours they beat off repeated infantry and armour attacks and at the same time 4th Armoured Brigade was attacking the Italian flank some ten miles to the north. By 9 February the Italians were defeated and surrendered 25,000 men, the army commander and 15,000 men surrendering to the 2nd Battalion.

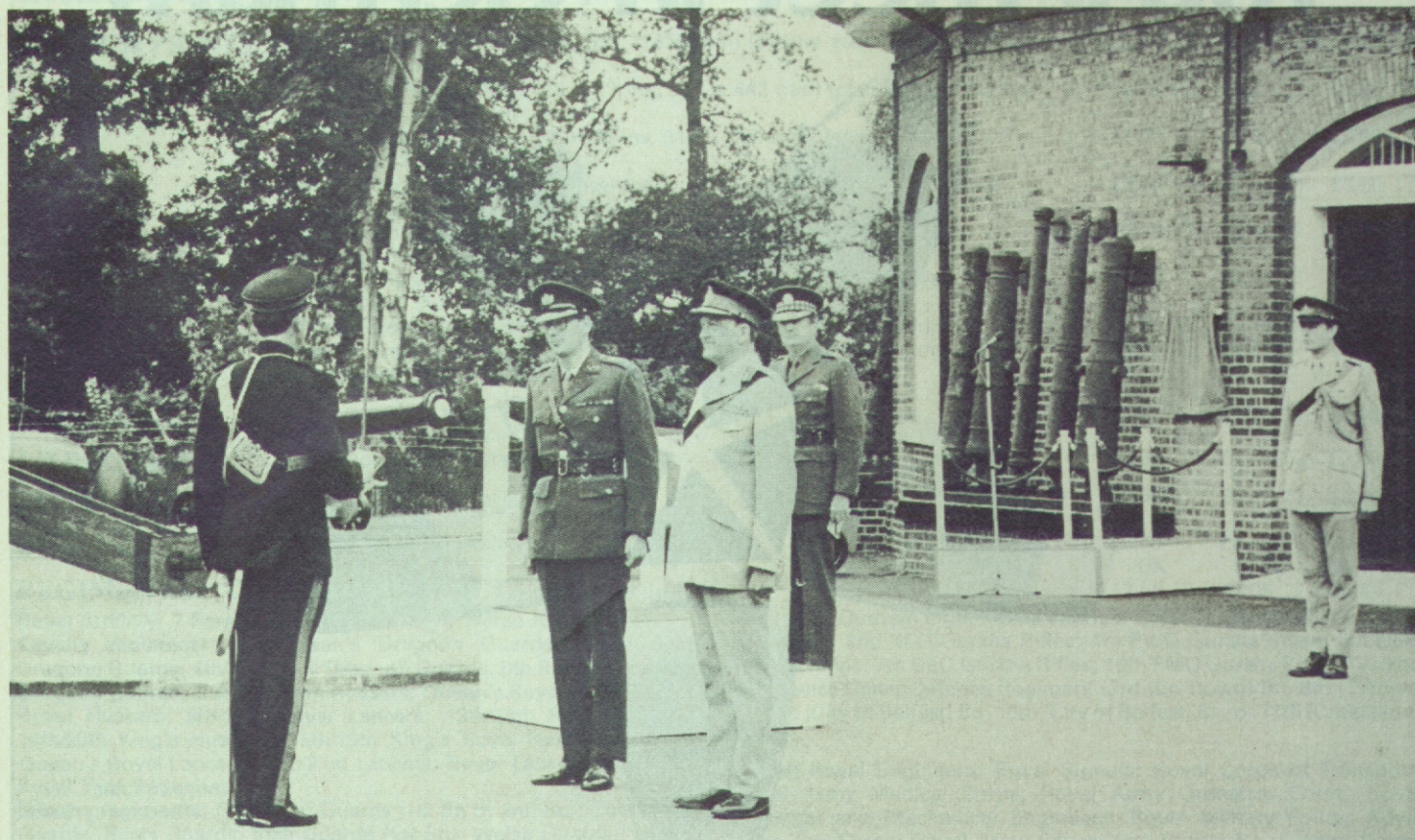
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Three hundred years of the Master Gunner



ON 1 DECEMBER 1678 Captain Thomas Silver drew his first two shillings a day in the post of Master Gunner of Whitehall and St James's — with 11 other gunners (paid sixpence a day each) — for his 'extraordinary attendance on six cannons placed in St James's Park.' Thus began a Royal Artillery appointment which this month celebrates three centuries of continuous existence.

The guns in Captain Silver's charge did not fire in anger but were used on ceremonial occasions to fire salutes as the guns of King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, are today. The inclusion of 'Whitehall' in the captain's title referred to a disused train of guns which had previously been mounted there.

At first glance the job looks something of a sinecure. But records show that life was not without its hazards for the first Master Gunner, for he had the additional task of demolishing houses in London to prevent the spread of fire. An official document of 27 June 1695 says: '£100 to be given to Captain Silver as advance on his pay as Firemaster to the Grenadiers to enable him to go to Bath for the cure of his wounds and broken leg.'

This 'sub' represented more than a year's pay for that part of the captain's job for which he got five shillings a day — more than he got as Master Gunner.

But there were 'perks' of the fireman's duties . . . if they could be collected. A petition from Captain Silver and his gunners to the King in 1682 pleaded: 'Petition for a reward, his Majesty having allowed them £40 in consideration of their pains and hazards in blowing up houses in the time of

any fire, they having been lately in that service at Wapping commanded by the Duke of Albermarle and having not yet received any of the royal bounty for this last service as formerly.'

Nor did the unfortunate captain's money troubles stop there. He was supposed to receive an allowance for coal and candles to heat and light their quarters at St James's Park, but this was allowed to get well in arrears until the poor man's bid for £245 15s 0d was swept away by his masters in 1705 with the terse pronouncement that 'There is no fund for these arrears.'

Despite his trials and tribulations — including spells of overseas service — Captain Silver remained in office until his death in early 1710. He was followed by Lieutenant-Colonel Jonas Watson, after whose death at Cartagena in 1741 the post became Master Gunner of St James's, the 'Whitehall' reference being dropped. The title has remained the same to this day.

From Captain Silver's day until 1864 the Master Gunners occupied Gun House, situated in Spring Gardens on a site which is now on the north side of Horse Guards Parade. Gun House was demolished in 1885. The last Master Gunner to reside there was Field-Marshal Sir Hew Dalrymple Ross who held office from 1864 to 1868.

Master Gunners were paid up to the early years of this century although the last one to receive pay for the job (Field-Marshal Earl Roberts) was rewarded with only 3s 4d a day — not much more than the first incumbent more than 200 years earlier.

The Master Gunner is always a distin-

The Duke of Gloucester and Master Gunner about to inspect the parade at the Rotunda.

guished Royal Artillery officer. But there was one intriguing exception — an unnamed non-commissioned officer who held the office from 1770 to 1782.

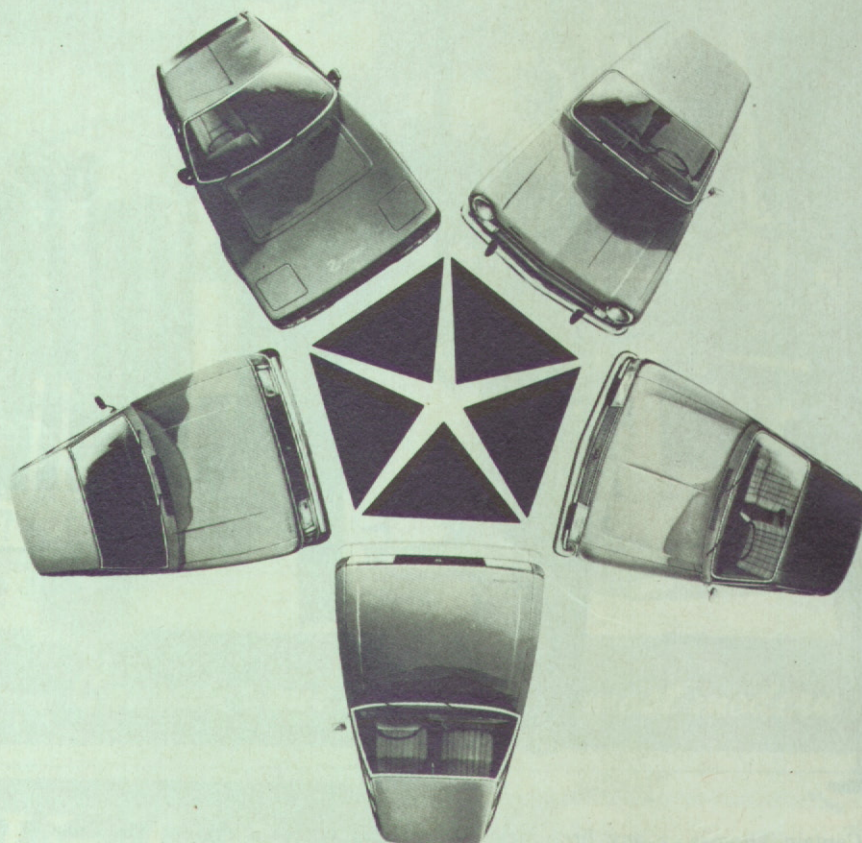
Nowadays the appointment represents the serving head of the Royal Artillery, second only to the Queen, who is Captain-General of the Regiment. The 26th and current Master Gunner, who took office in 1977, is General Sir Harry Tuzo.

At celebrations to mark the tercentenary of the office — held jointly with the bicentenary of the Royal Artillery's Rotunda Museum in Woolwich — General Tuzo said: 'Perhaps the other (Master Gunners), stretching back to Captain Thomas Silver in 1678, are casting an eye in our direction and no doubt criticising the arrangements.'

'The unnamed non-commissioned officer who held the office from 1770 to 1782 must, in particular, derive quiet amusement from our celebration. Only his tenure is dignified in the official history as a 'Working Appointment.' It is made clear by implication that the other holders enjoyed a sinecure. The five field-m Marshals and fourteen general officers who have filled the office would not all label it as a complete rest cure.'

'But they would, as one voice, agree that to be granted the opportunity to serve as the head of the great family of gunners and to occupy this historic post is a thing to be cherished. And so today we honour past holders, exhort the incumbent to greater efforts and look to those of the future to do even better.'

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Set 1	22 Trooper, 2nd Dragoons, 1805	Set 4	56 Pipe-major, Black Watch, 1975
1 Sergeant, 95th Foot, 1809	23 Bugle-major, 68th Foot, 1846	37 Drummer, R Regt of Wales, 1973	57 Officer, 30th Foot, 1742
2 Rifleman, 60th Foot, 1812	24 Officer, 20th Foot, 1769	38 Private, 19th Foot, 1873	58 Sailor, Royal Navy, 1975
3 Drummer, 29th Foot, 1694		39 Piper, 25th Foot, 1770	59 Paratrooper, Parachute Regt, 1975
4 Private, 46th Foot, 1746		40 Guardsman, Welsh Guards, 1973	60 Private, Company of Artificers, 1772
5 Officer, R Irish Rifles, 1900		41 Mounted trooper, Life Guards, 1973	
6 Officer, 27th Foot, 1733		42 Goat-major, R Regt of Wales, 1973	Set 6
7 Officer, 87th Foot, 1809	25 Drum horse, Blues & Royals, 1972	43 Drum-major, Royal Marines, 1973	61 4 RM in Zeebrugge raid, 23 Apr 1918
8 Officer, 82nd Foot, 1829	26 Drum-major, 9th Foot, 1810	44 Officer, Royal Jersey Militia, 1772	
9 Corporal, 47th Foot, 1770	27 Officer, King's Troop RHA, 1972	45 Drum-major, Staffordshire Regt, 1972	62 RM Bde in Belgium, Aug 1914
10 Private, 5th Foot, 1773	28 Officers, 13th/18th Royal Hussars, 1922		63 RM and Light Inf changing sentries, 1855
11 Drum-major, 6th Foot, 1800	29 Officer, Royal Artillery, 1772	46 Officer, R Irish Rangers, 1972	64 RM commandos, 1944
12 Sergeant, 7th Foot, 1814	30 Pikeman, 1st Foot, 1633	47 Drum-horse, Life Guards, 1972	65 Marine marksman, 1799
	31 Drum-major, Devon & Dorsets, 1973	48 Airman, Queen's Colour Sqd RAF, 1973	66 RM bugler, 1973
Set 2			67 Officer of Marines, 1799
13 Officer, Argyll & Sutherland, 1972	32 Standard-bearer, 15th/19th Hussars, 1973	Set 5	68 RM at Battle of Tamai, 13 Mar 1884
14 Bugle-major, R Green Jackets, 1972		49 Officer, 39th Foot, 1757	69 Grenadier, Villier's Marines, Gibraltar, 24 July 1704
15 Grenadier, 37th Foot, 1759	33 Officer, 4th/7th Royal Dragoons, 1743	50 Drum-major, Welsh Guards, 1975	70 RM landing craft deckhand, D-Day, 1944
16 Guardsman, Scots Guards, 1972		51 Private, 41st Foot, 1854	71 RM Forces Volunteer Reserve, 1948
17 Private, 33rd Foot, 1702	34 Officer, 1st KDG, 1815	52 Drum-major, Scots Guards, 1975	72 RM at capture of Oswego, 5 May 1814
18 Officer, 34th Foot, 1702	35 Standard-bearer, Life Guards, 1973	53 Private, 24th Foot, 1879	
19 Private, 31st Foot, 1702	36 Standard-bearer, Blues & Royals, 1973	54 Fusilier, R Regt of Fusiliers, 1975	
20 Caliverer, 3rd Foot, 1572		55 Officer, 23rd Foot, 1854	
21 Drum horse, 3 POW Dragoons, 1896			

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continued overleaf. ▶

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by Charles Stadden

(16 x 11 ins, 405 x 278 mm)

- 1 Drum-major, Royal Marines, 1973
- 2 Officer, King's Troop, RHA, 1972
- 3 Officers, 13th/18th Royal Hussars, 1922
- 4 Officer, Royal Artillery, 1772
- 5 Private, Company of Artificers, 1772
- 6 Drum horse, Life Guards, 1972
- 7 Drum horse, Blues and Royals, 1972
- 8 Paratrooper, Parachute Regt, 1975
- 9 Mounted sentry, Life Guards, 1974
- 10 Mounted sentry, Blues and Royals, 1974
- 11 Pipe-major, Black Watch, 1975

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 12 Drum-major, Queen's Regiment, 1974 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 13 Fusilier, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, 1975 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 14 Private, 41st (Welch Regiment), 1854 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | 16 Standard-bearer, Blues and Royals, 1973 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 17 Drum-major, Scots Guards, 1975 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 18 Sailor, Royal Navy, 1975 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 19 Piper, Ulster Defence Regiment, 1975 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 20 Standard-bearer, Life Guards, 1973 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 21 Drummer, Royal Anglian Regiment, 1974 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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*Available, with appropriate dress differences, for following corps/regiments: 1OUQR/1 Queen's Regiment ☐; 1OUGS/2 Scots Guards ☐; 1OURA/3 Royal Anglian ☐; 1OUDG/4 4th/7th Dragoon Guards ☐; 1OUCG/5 Coldstream Guards ☐; 1OURF/6 1st Battalion, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers ☐; 1OURF/7 2nd Battalion, RRF ☐; 1OURF/8 3rd Battalion, RRF ☐; 1OUAS/9 Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders ☐; 1OURT/10 1st Royal Tank Regiment ☐; 1OUL/11 Life Guards ☐; 1OURH/12 15th/19th Royal Hussars ☐; 1OUGG/13 Grenadier Guards ☐; 1OURA/14 Royal Artillery ☐; 1OUCR/15 Cheshire Regiment ☐; 1OUCR/16 A Company, Cheshire Regiment ☐; 1OUCR/17 B Company, Cheshire Regiment ☐; 1OUCR/18 C Company, Cheshire Regiment ☐; 1OUCR/19 S Company, Cheshire Regiment ☐; 1OUWF/20 Royal Welch Fusiliers ☐; 1OURL/21 9th/12th Royal Lancers ☐; 1OUWG/22 Welsh Guards ☐; 1OUHL/23 Royal Highland Fusiliers ☐; 1OULR/24 Queen's Lancashire Regiment ☐; 1OURS/25 Royal Signals ☐; 1OURE/26 Royal Engineers ☐; 1OUGJ/27 Royal Green Jackets ☐; 1OUBR/28 King's Own Royal Border Regiment ☐; 1OUGH/29 Green Howards ☐; 1OULI/30 Light Infantry ☐; 1OUMP/31 Royal Military Police ☐; 1OQHR/32 Queen's Own Highlanders ☐; 1OURM/33 Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers ☐; 1OURO/34 Royal Army Ordnance Corps ☐; 1OUBW/35 Black Watch ☐; 1OOUR/36 Ulster Defence Regiment ☐; 1OURE/37 Royal Engineers (combat) ☐; 1OURT/38 3rd Royal Tank Regiment ☐; 1OURH/39 Royal Hampshire Regiment ☐; 1OURCT/40 Royal Corps of Transport ☐; 1OUWR/41 Duke of Wellington's Regiment ☐; 1OURS/42 Royal Scots ☐; 1OURL/43 17th/21st Lancers ☐; 1OQUR/44 Queen's Regiment (Londonderry) ☐; 1OULI/45 Light Infantry (combat) ☐.

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(15 x 8 ins, 380 x 203 mm)

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A helping hand towards Civvy Street

JOBS ON THE CARDS

MAJOR EWEN MACINTOSH bent over a machine on his desk. He had a small marked card in his hand. Into the machine went the card — there was a whirring noise and half a minute later seven different cards were spat out.

What Major MacIntosh was demonstrating was the latest automatic aid to the Army in finding jobs for those returning to civilian life. Called a high speed card selection device, it matches up men and jobs rather in the same way as a computer dating service claims to find your most suitable partner.

During those 30 seconds the machine had sorted through 220 cards — each representing an officer or senior non-commissioned officer whose departure from the Army was pending. Each card is marked with relevant details such as age, salary required, qualifications and so on — in this case only seven had been found to be suitable for that particular job.

Major MacIntosh and his machine sit high in London's Empress State Building as part of the Army Resettlement Employment Liaison Cell. He has a job bank and a man bank and the machine can read 600 cards in a minute with 240 variables.

No wonder Colonel Jock Moffatt, who heads the Resettlement Branch for the Director of Army Education, declares: "This is a great step forward for the Resettlement Service which should benefit everyone."

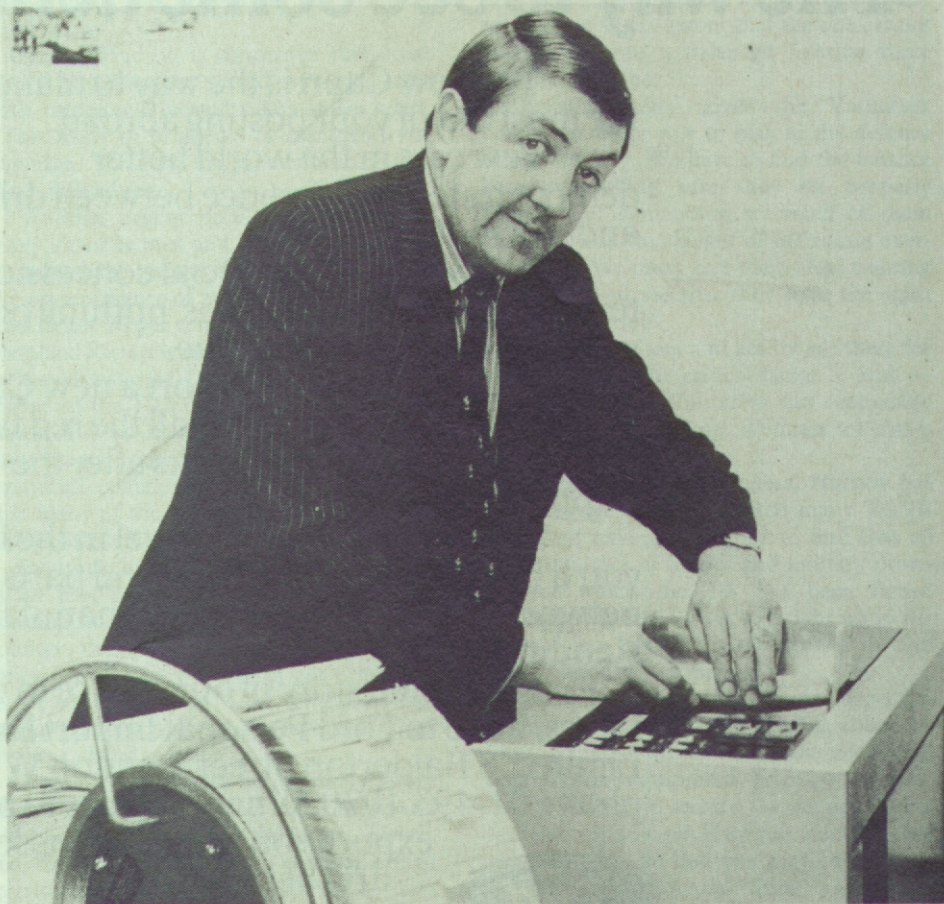
The Army takes resettlement very seriously these days. Colonel Moffatt explains the current reasoning: "We have an obligation as a good employer to prepare people for a second career and to assist them in finding a job when they go out. And there are good reasons why we should do this in the Army's interests — recruiting should benefit from people knowing that they are going to get every possible assistance in the transition to civilian life. In fact we are finding that people at the Army careers information offices are saying that they are considering joining up but want to know what the Army will do to help them prepare for a second career when they leave."

Nothing is left to chance. It is compulsory for every soldier who has served for six or more years to be interviewed about what he intends to do on his return to 'civvy street.' Eighteen months before he is due to go out he has an interview and a second six months before leaving the Army.

For officers and warrant officers the interviews are by a lieutenant-colonel in the Royal Army Educational Corps and an expert from the Professional Executive Recruitment Section of the Manpower Services Commission. The interviews are not compulsory for officers but three-quarters of them do make use of the service.

Sergeants and below are interviewed by an RAEC major who, in the United Kingdom, is accompanied by a representative of the Employment Services Division of the Manpower Services Commission.

There are six lieutenant-colonels carrying out job interviews and 36 majors, some full-time and others part-time. They are



available to give advice in the United Kingdom and Germany, and at regular intervals elsewhere.

Before the interview the soldier fills in a form outlining how he sees his future in civilian life. He lists his qualifications, the type of job he wants, his family circumstances and in which part of the country he wants to live. At the actual interview he will be encouraged to talk about these aspirations and will be told if he is being too ambitious or not ambitious enough. The interview will also cover such things as council houses or house purchase.

The Army runs a wide range of resettlement courses both at the centres in Catterick and Aldershot and elsewhere. There are also one-day courses on particular industries, courses on the techniques of applying for jobs, courses held in and on particular regions of the country and many others.

Until the employment cell started about three years ago, the Army did not involve itself in helping people to get jobs when they went out — apart from holding resettlement courses and issuing vacancy circulars.

Said Colonel Moffatt: "We felt there was still a massive area left untapped. There were many industries which did not appreciate the skills and quantities of people leaving the Services. This was at least partly because the older people in management had an image of the Army of perhaps 20 or 30 years ago while the younger people in personnel had never been in the Services at all."

Lieutenant-Colonel John Duncan, of the Army Resettlement Employment Liaison

Above: Major MacIntosh and card machine.

Cell, said it was tasked to create an awareness in industry and commerce of the skills, qualities and experience of people leaving the forces. It acted as a focal point to bring together potential employee with potential employer.

Colonel Duncan said that details obtained at the interviews six months before a man was due to leave the Army were fed into what was basically a job matching service. For officers and senior non-commissioned officers the card matching machine would match up within certain guidelines although the final decision on a man's suitability rested firmly with the employment officers and ultimately with the man and his prospective boss.

Colonel Moffatt told SOLDIER that in the first two years of operation, results had been encouraging. From 1700 companies ranging from multi-national giants to small family businesses, a total of 4500 vacancies had been disseminated. Where servicemen applied, the success rate for placing was about 60 per cent, which was high.

Today's Serviceman may be in his early forties at retirement and never have been for a job interview — having joined up straight from school. From an isolated and specialised military life he is to be thrown into the cauldron of the commercial world with its profit motive and complex industrial relations. To see that this transition takes place smoothly and beneficially is the job of the Army resettlement people.

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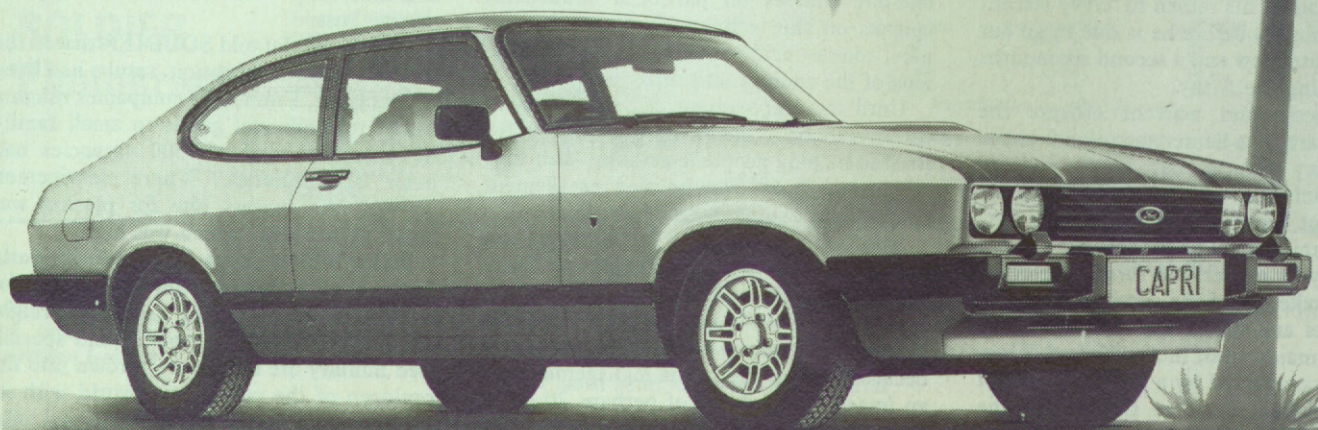
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Meet the Inspector-General

SINCE SPRING of this year the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve has had an Inspector-General — Lieutenant-General Sir Peter Hudson. It was the first appointment of its kind — and now the general has had time for a long, cool look at the Reserve Army, what does he think? He gave his views in this interview for SOLDIER.

General Hudson has been Deputy Commander-in-Chief United Kingdom Land Forces since March 1977. Among his responsibilities in this post is keeping a watch on Army training throughout the United Kingdom; included in this brief are the field forces and the Logistic Support Group, both with many Volunteer units.

Now, as Inspector-General TAVR, General Hudson has additional responsibilities. He is the focal point at HQ UKLF, at Wilton near Salisbury, for all TAVR matters and maintains a close liaison with the Director of Volunteers, Territorials and Cadets at the Ministry of Defence. He aims to strengthen the links between the Regular and Territorial armies and so further the 'One Army' concept. He represents UKLF on the advisory committee of the TAVR. And he will build up on the close relationships which exist between the Regular Army and the TAVR associations.

"This is a fundamental change," he says. "It means our Volunteer reserves are no longer independent formations, raised and progressively strengthened to fight in long wars. They are now trained and equipped to be mobilised and deployed in this country or overseas within days to complete the order of battle of Regular field formations — and to fight with them from the moment the battle begins."

General Hudson accepts that Regulars and reservists differ in many characteristics. "But," he says, "they have equal status when it comes to allocation of operational, logistic and training priorities."

"Many of our problems lie with the TAVR infantry. I believe that eventually all TAVR battalions should have an establishment similar to that of Regular battalions. This need not be identical but should allow for TAVR battalions — including those earmarked for operations within the UK — to be the same 'shape' as Regular battalions, with battalion headquarters, HQ company, support wing and, desirably, four rifle com-

panies. Moreover, when given the same role as a Regular battalion, a TAVR battalion should have the same type and scale of equipment."

General Hudson is concerned that some TAVR battalions are spread over wide areas with companies located many miles apart. "This leads to problems of command and manning. We must try gradually to reduce these difficulties."

"Another urgent problem is the loss of many valuable men and women — the need to reduce the annual TAVR wastage from the present figure of nearly 30 per cent to at least below 20 per cent." Because of this the Shapland Report was called for and presented to the Ministry of Defence Advisory Committee on the TAVR in July. It will be seen historically as the key to subsequent improvements in the conditions of service and overall effectiveness of the TAVR. It is hoped that many of the report's recommendations will be implemented next year.

The inspector-general lists other priorities as the need for increased publicity and the winning of strong support throughout the country, the revision of pay and bounties, a quick decision on whether or not to rename the TAVR, and the need for new time-saving training aids to improve the effectiveness of drill nights.

General Hudson says he is acutely aware of the main issues facing the TAVR and what needs to be done for the future. Aware, too, that the TAVR is raised and maintained 'territorially' by the associations, a fact which he believes is not always fully appreciated.

One immediate problem is that although many people currently use the phrase 'One Army,' not all are clear what is meant by it. "We must make the concept both understood and effective. Rising defence costs — particularly those directly related to the soldier, like pay and accommodation — are forcing every nation to rely more and more on reserve forces for their national security and defence treaty obligations."

"Scandinavian countries and West Germany talk of 'Total Defence.' The United States refer to the 'Total Army.' We call it 'One Army.' These all imply the integration

Below: Visiting 4th (V) Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, the Inspector-General prepares to fire an 84mm Carl Gustav anti-tank weapon.

of volunteer reserves and regular forces to form one army of two complementary and interdependent elements which are mutually supporting to the extent that the one cannot be formed into a balanced fighting force without the other.

"Present policy gives the Volunteer reserves a major role to play in the defence of our country. We have to find the balance between making sure they are properly trained and demanding so much of them that they run the danger of becoming overwhelmed. We must give them clear training objectives and see that they have the right kit to do the job."

"The enthusiasm and ability are there for all to see. But the critical factor is time — the spare time a Volunteer can reasonably give to military training. We must see that it is profitably used."

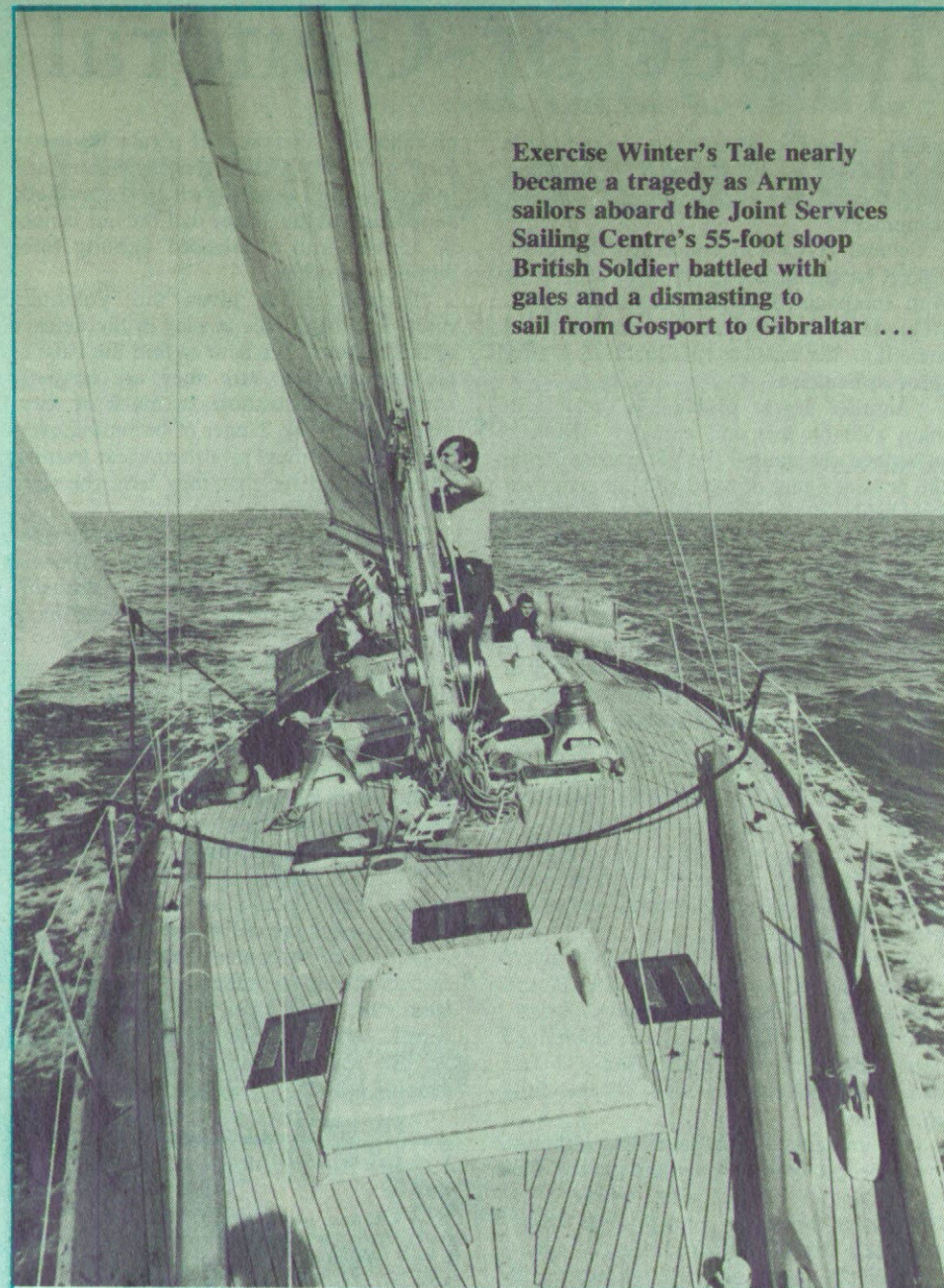
For all Territorials, General Hudson has this message: "I have visited many TAVR units and have never failed to find that all those qualities of service and military prowess for which the TA has been famed through two world wars and right up to the present day have been maintained — and indeed are often surpassed."

"I am honoured to be your inspector-general. I will do all I can to bring about the improvements we all know are needed in organisation, equipment, training and pay. And I will try to reduce the administrative load, which now takes up too much of your valuable time, so that you may concentrate on the really essential thing — military training."

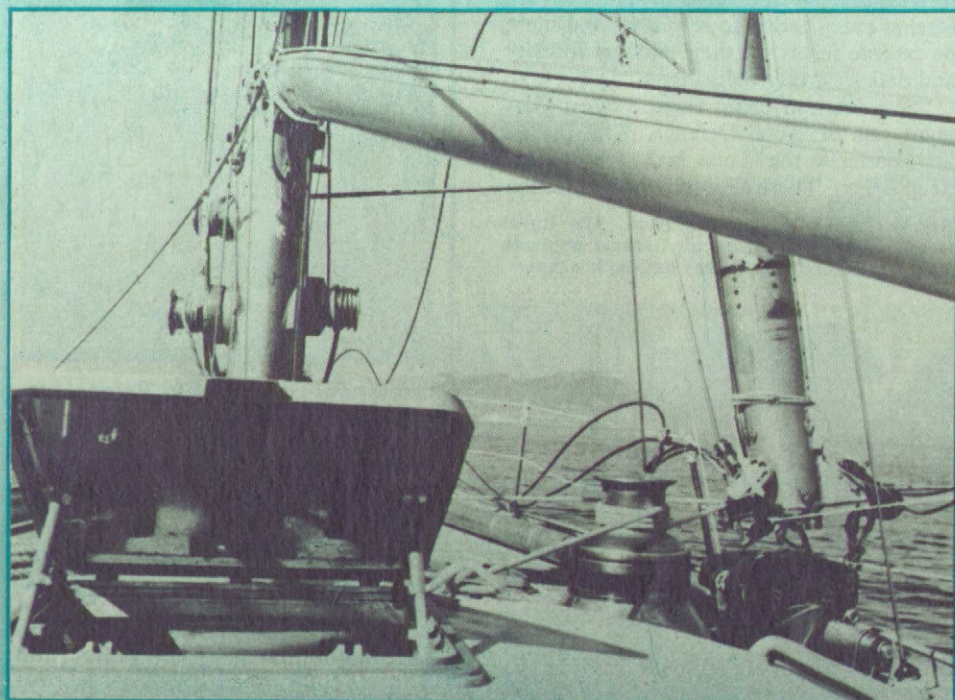


Lieutenant-General Sir Peter Hudson, who is 55, was commissioned into The Rifle Brigade in 1944. He has served at regimental duty and in staff appointments in England, Northern Ireland, Cyprus, Germany and Norway, and was mentioned in despatches on operations in Kenya and Malaya. His connection with the Territorial Army began in 1952 when he became adjutant of the London Rifle Brigade Rangers for two years. From 1973 to 1975, as GOC Eastern District, he was closely involved with Volunteers of many arms and services.





Exercise Winter's Tale nearly became a tragedy as Army sailors aboard the Joint Services Sailing Centre's 55-foot sloop British Soldier battled with gales and a dismasting to sail from Gosport to Gibraltar ...



A personal account by Captain Alistair Buchan, Royal Army Educational Corps

BRAVING THE OCEAN WAVES

WE HAD BEEN fighting the gale all day, forcing our way towards Ushant through waves that came at us relentlessly. Every other wave hissed, curled its fist and smashed down on the deck in a flurry of spiteful spray.

Nearly everyone was seasick. We had only just cleared Gosport and had no time to find our sea legs. Those on watch sailed the boat, tried to avoid the worst of the spray and made unending hot drinks and salty butties. Those off watch lay on their bunks and pretended to sleep. We were all tired and it showed ... only the wind stayed fresh.

There were the usual alarms and excursions. Shipping lanes to be crossed and recrossed as we worked slowly down the Channel. Fishing boats without lights to be avoided ... somehow. And, every hour, putting on the headphones and tuning into impersonal radio beacons for a fix.

The gale was to last another day and a half. Thirty-six hours with Ushant never seeming any nearer and then, almost without noticing it we were through, officially into the Bay of Biscay. We saw nothing of Ushant. The last land we had seen and identified was Portland Bill. There was a rumoured sighting of Start Point but that rain-shrouded hump could have been anywhere wishful thinking wanted.

Enough of the Channel. We were busy laying out our defences for the coming battle with Biscay, home of gales and nasty weather.

Biscay and becalmed! Standing to, we were ready for more gales and instead found we were having to decide whether or not to switch on the engine and disturb the peace. It was unbelievable and better luck than we deserved. We had a timetable to keep and exercises wait for no man. There was no time to be wasted loitering in the Bay. We swung the engine into life.

People surfaced and looked at the sun in amazement. The smell of cooking reminded everyone you could do more with food than bring it up. Lines were rigged and wet clothing and sleeping bags strung out to dry. Feet, freed from seaboots, showed their

Top: WO2 Barry Pritchard makes an adjustment to the main sail fine reaching in the Solent.

Left: The broken mast and de-rigged boom make a frame for the welcome sight of Gibraltar.

pallid toes the light of day. The duty free was brought out of the heads and tasted. The Ambre Solaire was broached and tan hunting began in earnest.

Dolphins, amazed at this unnautical sight, surfaced in threes and dived away shaking their heads. It had not been like this in Drake's time. What was the world coming to?

For the first time the sextant was brought out in earnest. Amazingly it worked. Or rather the sums worked out though taking the sights had their own touch of comedy. It was just possible to see the horizon on the top of the swell and then only for a second. Was it on? Yes? No? Yes? Try again. This was something textbooks fail to mention.

On the morning of the fifth day, land appeared. The committee agreed it was Spain. A show of hands said it was the north-west corner of Spain and finally it was unanimously agreed to be Corunna. We went in. It was Corunna.

Corunna is an emotive word to Green Jack-ets. A visit there could not go unmarked. Carried lovingly through the tempest was a specially made plaque commemorating the retreat to Corunna during the Peninsular War. This was to be presented to the Mayor of Corunna, which meant bringing out carefully hidden suits.

We were almost at the Town Hall before anyone remembered the plaque. It was still in its well-padded box aboard 'Soldier' — a fast sprint and the plaque arrived on time. The presentation went well. The mayor received his plaque and, in turn, presented a model of a local landmark to the regiment and gave each crew member a memento of their visit. Time for photographs and off to the tomb of Sir John Moore to lay a wreath.

This is in a small, beautiful garden overlooking the town. In the centre is the simple stone tomb. Between the crew and Sir John Moore stood generations of riflemen all paying their tribute. It was worth the gale.

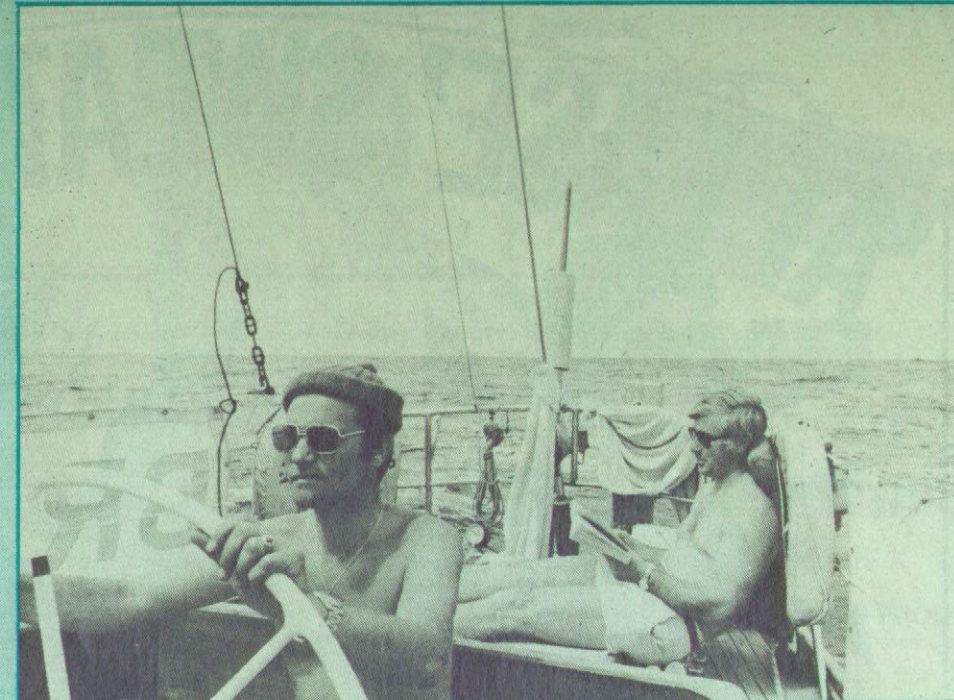
Time to leave. Off with suits, on with jeans and away. Lazy sailing. The gentle wind effortlessly carried the spinnaker by day and slept at night while we motored. Finisterre, a name from the shipping forecasts, slid by in a calm pocked by patches of wind. It was idyllic. Fishing boats of all shapes and sizes abounded, each with their own idea of the proper signals to be carried. All were treated as hostile. Even on the edge of the main channel into Lisbon a boat was laying nets. Since we were sorting out a minor hassle on the engine he was less than funny.

Lisbon lies along the River Tagus like a drowning man hanging on to a straw. It is a city of tremendous bustle. Everyone is going somewhere ... fast. Old cars, old trams and old buses race along the streets and posters on every corner seemed to announce a different revolution on every day of the week.

The sail to Cadiz was a return to peace. Those off watch sunbathed, read and slept. Those on watch sunbathed. At Cape St Vincent, a monument to the battle between land and sea, we turned right and strolled along the Algarve before angling towards Cadiz.

It looked as though we would arrive just before dawn. No problem, it was an easy entrance. Lights were reported coming up

Top: a lull before the storm as the watch gets in a bit of sunbathing off the Spanish coast.



fast astern. Fishing boats?

"That first one looks like a warship," I risked announcing.

"Yes," agreed Leo, who had the binos.

I wiped the spray from my glasses.

"The second looks like a warship as well."

"You don't get many civilian aircraft carriers," said Leo in his capacity as naval liaison officer.

Deflated, I turned to the problem of avoiding the American Navy. They were making for Rota and on our present course we would disappear under the first warship — a permanent dipping of colours. We were in open water. There was no doubt in our minds that under sail we had right of way, but did the Yanks play the same rules? We waited in hope and gybed in disappointment to gain some room and then gybed again to slip under the uncaring bows of the aircraft carrier. We did not dip.

Cadiz is unique. The oldest city in Spain, it is built on a low spit of land barely half a mile wide. It is a city of a thousand alleyways. Each is just wide enough to take a car and all are crowded, noisy and hot. A tourist brochure delight but not a place to stay.

From Cadiz to Gibraltar is just over sixty miles, a day's hop. We left in the afternoon, expecting to arrive early the next morning to hand over to The Queen's Regiment to take 'Soldier' on to Malta.

Once clear of Cadiz the wind died and the engine came alive. Trafalgar, a miserable spit of land despite its romantic associations, appeared; beyond were the lights of Africa. It was a funny feeling to realise we had sailed to another continent.

As we turned into the Strait of Gibraltar the lights of Tangier became visible. The wind put in an appearance, a headwind Levanter from the east, but for all that it would allow us to sail into Gib. It quickly built up to a steady 20 knots and we rushed through the night. It was a good feeling.

The writing of the five o'clock log was interrupted by the mast breaking. Everyone rushed on deck, tramping over each other in their eagerness to see the chaos. The mainsail was in tatters, the jib gone and the top of

the mast swung not too gently from the cross-trees. Spray was everywhere and the deck was heaving around like a drunk trying to prove he was sober.

Two and a half hours to drag in reluctant sails, tame randy shrouds and lash the remnants of mast in a mesh of lines. Everything was clear except for the topping lift which had disappeared under the hull in a great, unmoveable loop. No amount of pulling would persuade it to come in. If we started the engine there was a good chance it would foul the prop. Disaster loomed. More heaving. This way. That way. Nothing.

We had to get underway before we made an unintended landfall on Coney Island. Hobson's choice. The engine was flashed up and put into gear with all fingers crossed. There was no shudder, banging or unusual noises. We had power and jumped from the frying pan to the fire in one magnificent leap.

The problem was simple. We were thirty miles from Gib and used three-quarters of a gallon an hour. There were 16 gallons in the tank and every other wave stopped us dead, giving us a maximum speed of just under one knot. Then the radio chose this as the best time to go AWOL and passing ships behaved as though dismasted yachts were beneath comment. Like it or not, we were on our own.

We went north into Tarifa Bay, taking the waves beam on and rolling alarmingly. The remains of the mast did not like it but like all broken bullies it went no further than bluster. Safely tucked up in the lee of Tarifa, we tidied up the wreckage, had a hot meal, sunbathed and watched the topless beauties on the beach. By evening the wind had died and we crept out to sea hugging the coast until Gib came into sight.

Four hundred yards short of the mole the fleet tender came alongside. We would have loved to have seen them sooner ... much sooner. "We'll escort you in," called the captain, resplendent in his whites.

I prayed to the gods that look after the interest of diesel engines and shouted back: "Thank you. I think we can manage from here." And we did.

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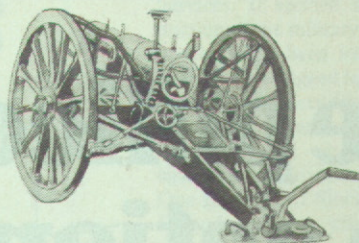
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THE SHERWOOD FORESTERS

NOTTINGHAM Castle appropriately houses the main regimental display of The Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment) but there are also secondary displays in Derby and Newark museums.

In the castle, a splendid group of 45th and 95th shakos is complemented by a fine array of dress which includes a range of Sherwood Foresters uniforms from 1881 to 1914; the scarlet uniform of Ensign George Mac-Donell, killed on a scaling ladder at the siege of Badajoz; a colour-sergeant's shell jacket; a Notts Militia officer's coatee and a Derbyshire Militia officer's mess kit.

Two leather-bound notebooks contain regimental orders of the period when the 45th served in North America, an ornate 18th century powder horn and a 1745 flintlock pistol are among a group of rare exhibits, while powder and shot measuring ladles (1850-60), a bullet mould of 1840 and a mid-19th century wooden button stick also command attention.

Two Colour belts carried by the 95th throughout the campaign rank high among Crimean relics. These also include a Russian sword found on the battlefield at Inkerman, a Russian side drum taken at the Alma and, rather unexpectedly, a Russian bootjack. Among Colours hanging in the museum are the Regimental Colour of the 95th, later 2nd Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters, carried throughout the Crimean War and Indian Mutiny; remnants of the Colour borne by the 45th from 1819 to 1839; and the King's and Regimental Colours carried by the 45th from 1839 to 1881.

The insignia and uniforms of General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien, Colonel of the Regiment from 1905 to 1930, are shown alongside letters he wrote to his mother when commanding the 1st Battalion during the Boer War. In a fine collection of some 1400 medals there are eight Victoria Crosses won by Foresters, a 14-bar Military General Service Medal awarded for service in the Peninsular War to Sergeant J Nixon, and an impressive series of Crimean War medals with bars for Alma, Balaclava, Inkerman, Sevastopol and Azoff (Naval).

A rare collection of regimental badges and shoulder plates is displayed near an assembly of firearms and swords of different types and dates.

World War One mementoes abound. Typical are a 1914 stick grenade, a Mark I Mills bomb, an operational map sent by carrier pigeon during the third battle of Ypres, a German soldier's mug and water bottle, German bayonets, egg bombs, wire cutters and a sub-machine gun.

A special case has been set aside to commemorate Captain Albert Ball, an honoured son of Nottingham and one of the top three British air aces of World War One. His Victoria Cross and other medals, including a DSO and two bars, French Legion of Honour and the Russian Order of Saint George, are shown alongside more personal items such as his wrist watch.

World War Two relics include an Italian signal pistol and two Nazi daggers, one ceremonial, the other with a saw-tooth edge. Moving on to reminders of more recent conflicts, from Malaya there are an air despatch case and a Communist forage cap, a carved Laotian tribal sword, a Russian Simonov semi-automatic rifle with bayonet attached and a primitive native-made gun used by Mau Mau terrorists in Kenya.

No description of the Sherwood Foresters museum would be complete without a special reference to the regimental ram. The head of Derby I, who marched more than 3000 miles with the 95th and was present in six actions, has a place of honour. Nearby are his dress coat with 45 battle honours emblazoned on either side, his bell and India Medal with clasp 'Central India.' A replica of the medal is worn by his successor on ceremonial parades and since the amalgamation with The Worcestershire Regiment the ram mascot is on the strength of 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment.

From 1877 to 1963 the regimental depot of the Foresters was at Normanton Barracks, Derby, and it is appropriate that uniforms, medals and various other items of militaria are on display in a room of Derby Municipal Museum. The third museum, at Newark, houses the 8th (Territorial) Battalion's collection, covering its early days as the Nottinghamshire Volunteers to more modern times.

John Jesse

Curator: Major G E Dodd (Retd)
Address: Nottingham Castle
Friar Lane
Nottingham
Nottingham NG5 5LE
Telephone: 0115 955 516
Open: Monday to Sunday 1000 to 1745; from October to April the museum closes at 1645
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Next month: The Wiltshire Regiment



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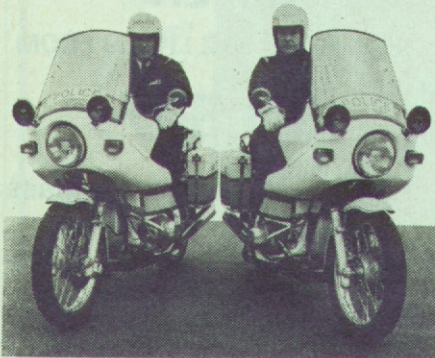
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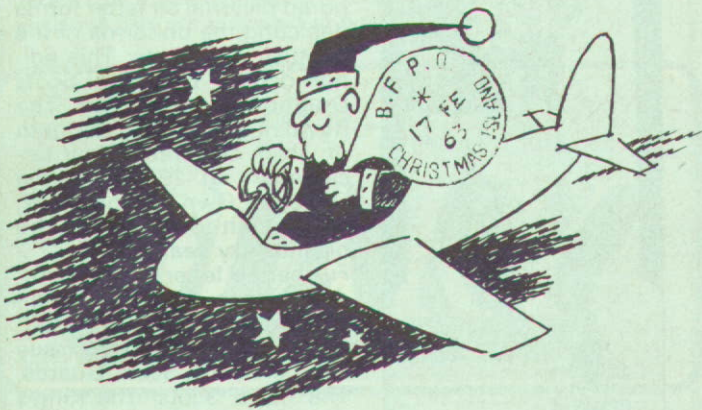
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Letters



SOLDIER welcomes readers' letters. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor. Anonymous letters are not published.

SOLDIER cannot admit correspondence on matters involving discipline or promotion in a unit. Serving readers should not ask for information available within their units.

Korean veterans

We have just formed the National Association of Korean War Veterans (UK) and are looking for members from the regiments and corps that served in Korea from 1950 to 27 July 1953 and on policing duty. We also need members to raise branches — a London Branch has been formed and its secretary can be contacted on 01-764 5470.

The association's aims are to raise funds for functions and to help members who fall on hard times, or members' widows and children. We plan to hold reunions, preferably where members can spend a weekend with their families.

As president, my own aim is to record the fallen of the Korean War with a plaque on war memorials or, where there is no memorial, in churches of the families' choice. The Korean War and its dead have been forgotten except at the Royal British Legion's annual remembrance services.

Our subscription is £1 a year and donations too would be very welcome. — **Graham A Granville, 200 Bath Road, Bridgwater, Somerset.**

Back-and-sides

Three cheers for Mr Barber and his views (Letters, August) on today's Army haircuts. In my National Service days (1947-49), when our RSM gave an order for an SB and S, the unit barber really gave a 'short back-and-sides' a good inch above the ears all round. Excellent style though and also good for morale.

No doubt the servicemen of today are far more efficient with all the modern machinery and equipment — if only they would take more pride in their appearance. You're doing an excellent job, lads, and I'm not taking the mickey when I say you would look ever so much smarter with much shorter hair. — **B G Butcher, 31 Walpole Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, Dorset.**

Redcoats

The author of your October article ('Micks' turn to 'Toffees') describes men of the Irish Guards as very properly 'exchanging their red tunics and bearskins for bush hats and olive green combat kit' before starting a month's exercise in Ghana's Kingdom of Ashanti.

It may interest him and the guardsmen concerned to know that in 1895, before taking part in the expedition which deposed the tyrannical King Prempeh of Ashanti, the men of 2nd Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own West Yorkshire Regiment, were ordered to exchange the khaki drill which they had previously worn in Burma for thin red serge jackets and blue trousers, the absorbent qualities of which dress made it, in the opinion of the authorities, a more suitable garb for wear in the humid climate of Ashanti.

The campaign included a march of 145 miles in each direction from Cape Coast Castle (on the coast 90 miles west of Accra) to Kumassi and back which, according to one officer who took part, lasted five weeks, one day and 15 hours. It was probably the last occasion on which British troops wore scarlet on active service. — **Maj R F Tomlinson (Retd), Regimental Secretary, Regimental Headquarters, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, Imphal Barracks, York, YO1 4HD.**

Fireman's view

As an ex-Regular but a serving fireman, I cannot let the remarks on pay and conditions in the October letters go without comment. Certainly the lads on the streets of Belfast deserve a substantial pay increase and a good case could be made for combat pay. But what about the corporal in Germany on £40 a week with local overseas allowance, duty free drink, cigarettes, car and petrol, plus a massively subsidised flat or house — all paid for by the taxpayer. I defy any soldier in Germany to say that he does not bank most of his LOA or alternatively spend it on expensive music centres and other electrical 'goodies' — which was the vogue during my service there.

I have no axe to grind with the Army. I enjoyed my nine years and know the British Army to be one of the finest — one day it will prove to be the steadiest in Europe. Pay has

always been a sore point with the Services. It seemed with the introduction of the military salary that the problem had been solved but obviously pay has lagged lamentably since then. The Services deserve better and I hope they get it but, please, no more whining or snide remarks against the firemen.

One final point. Since the Northern Ireland troubles started in 1969, more than 70 firemen have been killed on duty. The Regular fire service is one-sixth the size of the Regular Army. — **Robert Kennelly, 18 Ffordd Gerdinan, Tonteg, Church Village, Mid-Glamorgan.**

Biarritz wing

The 'In Parliament' feature in the September News reported that Baroness Ward asked in the House of Lords whether the 'academic institution set up in the south of France after the last war to which members of the armed forces of the United Kingdom still exists; or if not, when was it disbanded?'

Since no official answer was forthcoming, I wrote to Lady Ward to say that the establishment to which she referred was evidently the Biarritz wing of the All-American Army University — the other wing being located at Shrivenham. It was opened in the autumn of 1945 with 50 British officers and men among the students. By December the number of vacancies for British servicemen had been reduced to 30 but, in case any readers are anxious to apply for a place, the establishment closed early in 1946.

It was somewhat similar to our own formation colleges and I included a brief account of it in a thesis which I wrote a few years ago on these colleges. Although a copy of this work can be found in the archives at Beaconsfield, it is hardly surprising that the Royal Army Educational Corps could not find the information when approached on the original question since there would be no reason to connect the two types of institutions as we had no such college anywhere in France. — **Lieut-Col C P Love RCT(V), Marymede, 27 Ryeworth Road, Cheltenham, GL52 6LG.**

'38 to '78

Oh dear, oh dear — 'Mercenary' (Letters, October) really has some axe to grind. Perhaps I might be allowed to balance the argument a bit and tell a few 'truths' about the Army of 1978.

First, 'Mercenary' talks about the Northern Ireland situation with, alas, ignorance of Irish history. Would the Army of 1938 have tolerated being spat on, he asks. No, it didn't, and the British withdrawal in 1921 after bloodshed and world pressure left quite a legacy — an embittered and divided people. The situation will not be solved by force, either by the IRA or brigades of mercenaries.

He complains about our role. Is not the Army's role to do the will of its political masters? Was this not understood when 'Mercenary' 'freely' enlisted? And the pay? Well, I can appreciate the difficulties of a married man with children in Britain, but a single man (and some

married) aged 18 and above, on a nine-year engagement and posted to Germany, receives after all deductions approximately £50 a week to spend on — wait for it — himself!

Then a magic figure of £85 a week gross is mentioned for a civilian job. Subtract travelling expenses, rent, food, heating, lighting and taxation and what is left? The answer is less than our £50. And the lads serving in Northern Ireland do not pay board and lodging — but then they are doing their job, are they not?

The soldier of today has a tremendous opportunity to travel (even without warrants), save money and pursue an almost unlimited variety of hobbies — if he can be bothered — in his free time, of which he has plenty. And don't let the jeans and T-shirts give a false impression of poverty — the bars in the garrison towns are never empty, neither are the 'chippies' and the 'take-aways' and alcohol is consumed as if it were going out of fashion.

I'm glad 'Mercenary' is a mercenary. My enemies are the enemies of freedom; his enemies are whomever he is paid to fight against. An Army full of his ilk would invite the question of how long our precious democracy would survive. — **'Not-quite-so-mercenary.'**

*The writer of the above letter is a private soldier currently serving in Germany.

REGIMENTAL PLATES



Two new regimental plates, for The Royal Scots and The Royal Hampshire Regiment, now complete the planned series of 12 limited edition plates for unamalgamated British infantry regiments.

The unifying theme of the 12 plates is the centred Regimental Colour framed by a union wreath. Each plate is decorated in 24-carat gold and enamels on fine bone china and each edition is limited to 500. The plates are individually numbered and in presentation boxes. The two new plates are available from Mulberry Hall, York, YO1 2AW, at £65 each (UK).

Six of the 12 regiments — The Royal Scots (raised in 1633), The Green Howards (1688), The Cheshire Regiment (1689), The Royal Welch Fusiliers (1689), The King's Own Scottish Borderers (1689) and The Parachute Regiment (1940) — have never experienced amalgamation.

The 'other' unit

With reference to your item 'Bye-bye Bofors' (News, September) it may interest readers to know that the other 'TAVR gunner unit' is 102 (Ulster and Scottish) Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery (Volunteers).

We had the distinction of being the last Volunteer regiment to fire in the air defence role rather than the ground role. Our Volunteers come from as far afield as Arbroath, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Newtownards and Coleraine. — **Lieut-Col R N D Hornby, 102 (Ulster and Scottish) AD Regt RA(V), BFPO 801.**

Chindits

Association secretaries of regiments and corps whose members may have taken part in the Chindit campaigns in Burma in 1942 and 1944 may be interested to know that there is a national Chindits Old Comrades Association that has been in existence for many years.

A reunion is held annually. Applications for membership and details should be made to me. — **Col J S Lancaster (Honorary Secretary), 118 Springhill Lane, Lower Penn, Wolverhampton.**

Competition

Despite the English of 19th century King's Regulations, the majority of competitors correctly solved August's Competition 241 ('Knight Music').

The answer was: 'The Establishment of a Regimental Band is to consist of a Serjeant as Master, and Fourteen Privates, as Musicians; but these men are to be effective to the service as Soldiers — to be perfectly drilled — and liable to serve in the ranks on any emergency; this number is not to be exceeded under any circumstance, excuse, or arrangement whatever.'

Prizewinners:

- 1 Maj C N Cullen, 18 Fairview Road, Woodthorpe, Nottingham.
- 2 G A Gladman, 33 Victoria Road, Harborne, Birmingham.
- 3 WO2 D Smith, 3 Sqn, 9 Sig Regt, BFPO 58.
- 4 G Maynard, 45 Barfield Road, Thatcham, Berkshire.

5 S/Sgt R J White, Sgts Mess, 9 Sig Regt, BFPO 58.
6 L/Bdr A Cuddon, RA Display Tp, Depot Regt RA, Woolwich.

Collectors' Corner

Lieut J C H Nelson, PO Box 206, Simonstown 7795, South Africa. — *Collects military badges worldwide. Has South African badges for exchange.*

Jaroslav Tůma, Slivenec 169/3, 152 00 Praha 5 — Hlubocepy, Czechoslovakia. — *Wishes exchange army badges, medals, cap badges, air force and para wings, Czechoslovakia, Polish, DDR, also military publications and gramophone records. Particularly interested in air force metal wings.*

R D Walsh, 21 Boardman Road, Kippa-Ring, Queensland 4020, Australia. — *Wishes to buy history of 4th and 5th battalions, 6th Rajputana Rifles (Outram's and Napier's Rifles).*

Timothy Walls, 10 Glenavie Park, Jordanstown, Newtonabbey, Co Antrim, Northern Ireland, BT37 0QW. — *Young collector (14) seeks RG7 shoulder flash, RMP button(s), AAC badge or button(s) and any Scottish regiment badges or buttons. For exchange has Inniskillings shoulder flash, 60th Rifles buttons, gunners Staybrite, 'Britain's Wonderful Fighting Forces' (wartime), issues 1-7 WW2 mag (mint) and RM history.*

G E Simpson, 100 Trinity Road, Luton, Bedfordshire. — *Seeks copies of J Taylor's 'The Devons' (1951), G D Martineau's 'Royal Sussex' (1955) and J H Dumbrell's '2nd Bn Royal Sussex' (1925).*

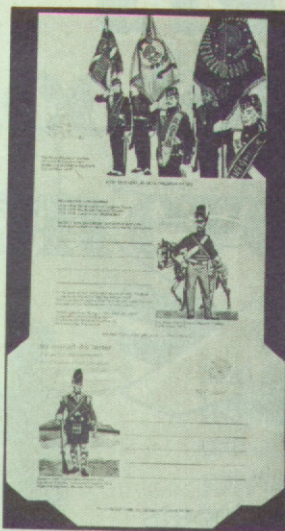
J A Callander, 432 Derrett Close, Beswick, Manchester 11 3SH. — *Seeks Scottish inf TA shoulder titles; has similar to offer in exchange.*

N Smith, 27 Winchester Way, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 8DD. — *Requires Household Cavalry belt complete, or sword slings, also RCMs cap.*

L G Shute, 113 Eastmere, Liden, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN3 6LG. — *Wishes contact collectors, or willing to obtain on repayment miniature wines, spirits etc, sealco bottles home and overseas.*

J Cook, 172 Battenhall Road, Worcester. — *Collects lead soldiers and wishes to buy — any number considered,*

SCOTTISH UNIFORMS



The Post Office has produced the first of a series of coloured pictorial air letter forms depicting the uniforms of the Scottish regiments. This edition depicts The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and The Royal Highland Fusiliers, both of which celebrated their tercentenary in 1978, and the Queen's Own Highlanders, for which 1978 was the bicentenary year.

Further air letters will be produced each August to coincide with the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Next year's issue will be of the Scots Guards, The Royal Scots, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, The Cameronians and The Black Watch.

particularly Britain's. No item too small. Write with details or send, stating price.

Mrs Joan Fillingham, 97 Harris Street, St Helens, Merseyside. — *Seeks copy D-Day book published by Daily Express in 1950s, also 'Blue Tapestry' (story of the WRNS) by Dame Vera Loughton Mathews.*

R J C Darley, 39 College Court, Hayle Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6PB. — *Seeks Coldstream WO's arm rank badge, Victorian; also c/sgt's and Royal Military School cap badges, Victoria and Edward VII cyphers.*

Duane Larkin, c/o Sgt J E Larkin, O Tp, Gurkha Sig Sqn, BFPO 1. — *Young schoolboy (14) seeks British and American infantry equipment 1900 to date; also any special forces equipment and badges eg PPA, SAS, SBS etc; also any British QC cap badges.*

L Hillaby, 85 Ward Point, Hotspur Street, Lambeth, London SE11. — *Seeks copy of book 'I Bought a Star' (biography of Col Firbanks, Coldstream Guards), now out of print.*

W Barrington, 25 Gardner Street, Pendleton, Salford 6, Lancashire. — *Ex-Loyal seeks Volunteer items — badges etc — of The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. Top prices paid.*

Sean Stafford, c/o S/Sgt Stafford, 4 ADOC RAOC, BFPO 41. —

Eleven-year-old has following badges to swap: Blues & Royals, Catering Corps, Devon & Dorset, Engineers, Hampshire, Household Cavalry, Ordnance Corps collar dogs, Para No. 1 wings (gold and silver braid), RASC and RCT, UN cloth badges, Welch Fusiliers, 7th Armd Inf Div (German). T B Spire, Ivy Lea, 55 Buxton Old Road, Disley, Stockport, Cheshire. — Seeks prints 'The Bridge at Arnhem' and 'Oosterbeek Crossroads' — both by David Shepherd.

Edwin de Groote, Goudvinkenlaan 19, B-9720 De Pinte, Belgium. — *Has for sale or trade bound issues SOLDIER end 1949 to 1978. All reasonable offers accepted.*

A F Austen, Tantallon, Langford Budville, Wellington, Somerset. — *For £10, postage paid, 35 items including 16 woven badges (War Office embr 3, Combined Ops 3, CDO Sigs etc), 19 metal (6 Federation of Malaya, set pre-war R Sigs, RAOC etc), Iron Cross & Labour Medal, SEATO 1956 conference paperweight. First order secures.*

L Glen, 15 Coltsfoot Close, Wickhambrook, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 8UP. — *Offers stamp covers, 30th anniversary 'Operation Husky' (invasion of Sicily, D+3), signed by OC Troops, £3 each incl postage.*

Under the hammer



Old soldiers never die! These model soldiers depicting South Australian Lancers in service dress, packed in their original box (above), realised £65 at auction by Messrs Wallis & Wallis, of Lewes. The officer's bell-topped shako badge (above right) of the 82nd (Prince of Wales's) Volunteers fetched £210 at the same auction.

The Birmingham firm of Weller & Dufty Ltd sold for £340 an extremely rare 13mm Mauser single-shot bolt-action anti-tank rifle (above left) while a 6.62mm instructional, cut-away, rifle fetched £252 and a Bren light machine-gun (left), similarly sectioned and cut away, realised £210. Among the European swords and daggers a very rare Royal Engineers field officer's 1857 pattern sword fetched £85 and an infantry officer's 1803 pattern £120.

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

See-the-Army DIARY

DECEMBER 1978

- 2 Kneller Hall Band and Trumpeters, Kathleen Livingstone (soprano), Michael Collins (clarinet), Richard Edwards (trombone). Bach Choir (Director: Sir David Willcocks), Kenneth Kendall (compère), Royal Festival Hall, London (in aid of Army Benevolent Fund).

FEBRUARY 1979

- 27 Band Spectacular, with the Scots Guards, The Scottish Division and Mrs Helen McArthur, Usher Hall, Edinburgh (in aid of Scottish National Institution for the War Blinded).

MAY 1979

- 4 Newark Agricultural Show (4-5 May).
- 16 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 19 Harpenden (Hertfordshire) Carnival.
- 19 Hinckley (Leicestershire) Tattoo.
- 19 Hadleigh (Suffolk) Farmers Club Show.
- 19 Long Eaton (Derbyshire) Carnival 19-20 May).
- 25 At Home, Royal Artillery, Woolwich (25-26 May).
- 26 Gosport Combined Cadet Tattoo (26-28 May).
- 26 Barnard Castle Meet (26-28 May).
- 26 Hemel Hempstead (Hertfordshire) Carnival.
- 26 Hertfordshire Agricultural Show, Redburn (26-27 May).
- 26 Mexborough (Yorkshire) Gala.
- 26 Military Pageant, Winthorpe Showground, Newark, Nottinghamshire (26-27 May).
- 27 Carrington Park Rally, Boston, Lincolnshire (27-28 May).
- 28 Derby County Show.
- 28 Hertfordshire County Day, Hertford.
- 30 Kneller Hall (grand) band concert.
- 30 Suffolk Show, Ipswich (30-31 May).
- 31 Review of the Scots Guards, Horse Guards Parade, London.

JUNE 1979

- 2 Impel '79 Doncaster (2-9 June).
- 2 St Neots (Cambridgeshire) Riverside Festival (2-3 June).
- 2 First rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 5 Beating Retreat by massed bands of The Household Division, Horse Guards Parade, London (5-7 June) (6pm 5 June, 9.30pm (flooding 6 and 7 June).
- 6 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 9 Second rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 9 Halifax Gala.
- 9 Mayor's Carnival, Lincoln (9-10 June).
- 13 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 15 Essex Show, Chelmsford (15-16 June).
- 16 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 20 Lincolnshire Agricultural Show, Lincoln (20-21 June).
- 20 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 23 Airborne Forces Day, Aldershot.
- 23 Military Musical Pageant, Wembley Stadium (23-24 June).
- 23 Gas Board Gala, Leicester.
- 23 Rotherham (Yorkshire) Tattoo (23-24 June).
- 24 Chesterfield (Derbyshire) Carnival.
- 27 Kneller Hall (grand) band concert.
- 27 Royal Norfolk Show, Norwich (27-28 June).

- 29 Hook (Yorkshire) Gala (29 June-1 July).
- 30 Aveling Barford Show, Grantham (Lincolnshire) (20 June-1 July).

JULY 1979

- 7 Airborne Forces Day, Aldershot (changed to 23 June).
- 7 Birkenshaw (Yorkshire) Show.
- 7 Open Day, Depot Queen's Division, Bassingbourn (Hertfordshire).
- 7 Open Day, Royal Pioneer Corps Training Centre, Wootton (Northamptonshire).
- 8 Royal Tournament March, The Mall, London.
- 10 Great Yorkshire Show, Harrogate (10-12 July).
- 11 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 11 Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London (11-28 July).
- 14 Corby (Northamptonshire) Tattoo and Highland Games (14-15 July).
- 14 Durham County Show, Middlesbrough.
- 14 Pudsey (Yorkshire) Show.
- 17 East of England Show, Peterborough (Cambridgeshire) (17-19 July).
- 18 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 21 Adwick (Sheffield) Gala.
- 25 Kneller Hall (grand) band concert.
- 27 Northampton Borough Show (27-29 July).
- 28 Cromford (Derbyshire) Traction Rally (28-29 July).
- 28 Redcar Carnival (28 July-4 August).
- 28 Cleveland County Show, Middlesbrough.
- 31 Tyneside Summer Exhibition, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (31 July-4 August).

AUGUST 1979

- 1 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 1 Bingley (Yorkshire) Show.
- 2 Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo (2-11 August).
- 2 Bakewell (Derbyshire) Show.
- 2 Leicester Army Display (2-4 August).
- 3 Hull Show (3-4 August).
- 4 Colchester (Essex) Carnival.
- 8 Kneller Hall (grand) band concert.
- 11 Sedgefield, Middlesbrough, Show.
- 11 Castle Howard Steam Fair, Malton (11-12 August).
- 15 Cromer (Norfolk) Carnival.
- 18 Skegness (Lincolnshire) Carnival (18-25 August).
- 18 Darlington Show.
- 18 Hartlepool Show (18-19 August).
- 18 Horse of the Year Show, Doncaster.
- 18 Eston (Middlesbrough) Play Week (18-27 August).
- 24 British Timken Show, Northampton (24-25 August).
- 25 Expo Steam, Peterborough (Cambridgeshire) (25-27 August).
- 25 Durham City Show (25-26 August).
- 26 Eye (Suffolk) Show (26-27 August).
- 27 St Albans (Hertfordshire) City Carnival.
- 27 Aylsham (Norfolk) Show.
- 27 Moorgreen Show, Nottingham.
- 27 Leicester City Show (27-28 August).
- 27 Leeds Gala.
- 31 Sheffield Show (31 August-2 September).

SEPTEMBER 1979

- 1 Turnditch and Windley (Derbyshire) Show.
- 1 Sealham, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Show (1-2 September).
- 1 Wolsingham, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Show.
- 1 Guisborough Festival (1-2 September).
- 1 Keighley (Yorkshire) Show.
- 2 Luton (Bedfordshire) Show.
- 8 South Norfolk Tattoo, Attleborough.
- 8 Hoddesdon (Hertfordshire) Carnival (8-9 September).
- 8 Stanhope, Middlesbrough, Show.
- 15 Stokesley, Middlesbrough, Show.

JUNE 1980

- 27 Aldershot Army Display (27-29 June).

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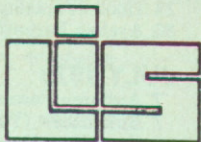
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Leeson Street patrol

Soldiers move through rubble-filled streets amid damaged and upturned cars. An all-too-frequent city scene in the Northern Ireland of the early 1970s and now vividly depicted by Terence Cuneo in his painting 'The Leeson Street Patrol.' Commissioned by officers of The Royal Green Jackets, this painting is available in colour print form to SOLDIER readers.

The print measures 23 x 17 inches (actual picture area 17½ x 11½ inches) and depicts an incident on 13 September 1971 when a decision was taken to patrol in force the whole of the Falls area of Belfast. The aim was to flush out gunmen and snipers and a patrol of R Company, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, was fired on in Leeson Street with a battle ensuing.

To: SOLDIER (LS5), Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

Please send me the Terence Cuneo print 'Leeson Street Patrol.' I enclose UK postal order/UK cheque/international money order for UK £2.10 ☐ BFPO £1.96 ☐ Elsewhere £2.10

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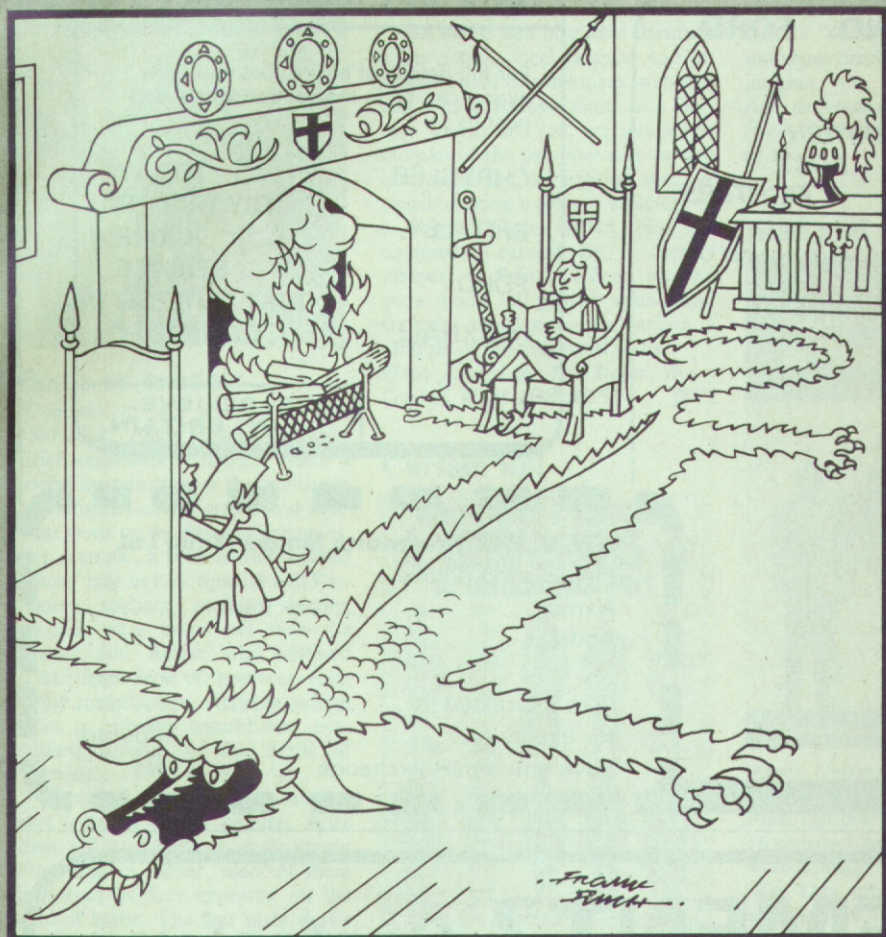
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COMPETITION 245



DAYS OF OLD when knights were bold inspired this month's bumper prize competition in which artist Frank Finch goes slightly berserk with his usual 'How Observant Are You?' monthly teaser.

No-one seems to be quite sure just how many differences there are between the two drawings but there are certainly more than the normal ten. Addicts, enthusiasts and all others are invited to provide the solution.

Study the two drawings carefully then list your differences, on a postcard or by letter, and send with the 'Competition 245' label from this page and your name and address, to:

Editor (Comp 245)
SOLDIER
Ordnance Road
ALDERSHOT
Hants
GU11 2DU.

This competition is open to all readers at home or overseas and the closing date is Monday 12 February 1979. The answers and winners' names will appear in the April 1979 **SOLDIER**. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 245' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or pre-paid labels will be disqualified.

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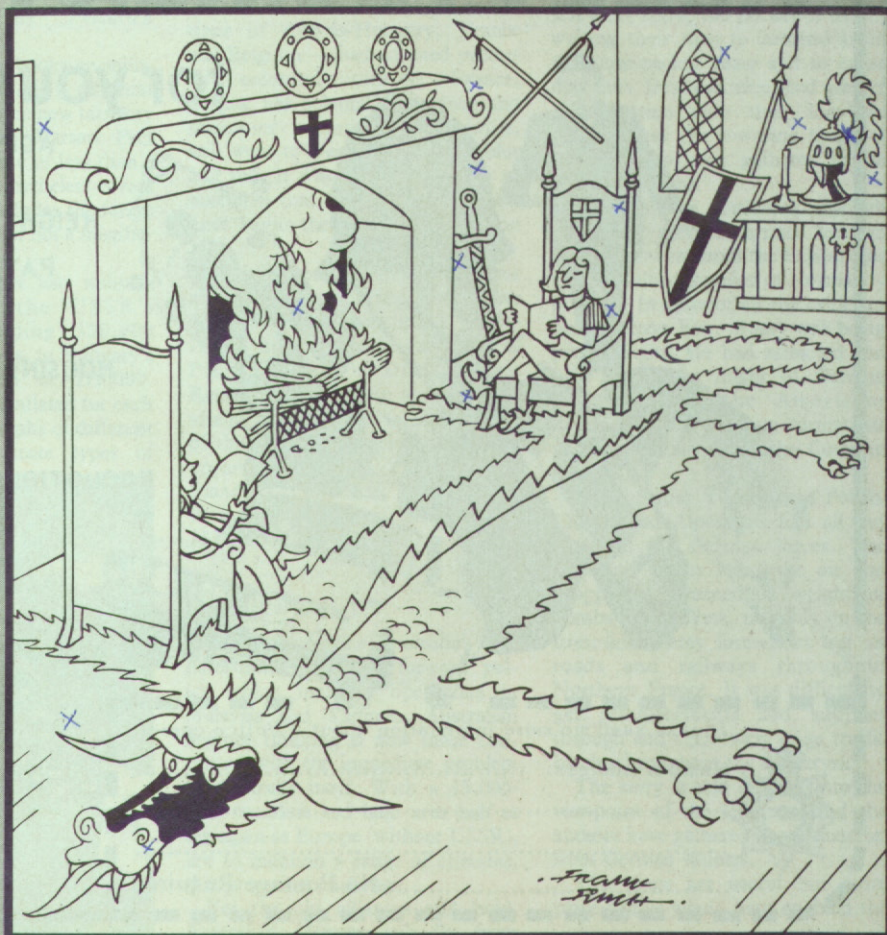
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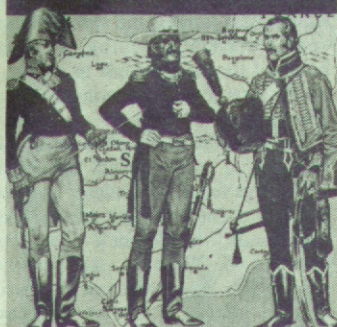
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Books

Uniforms of the Peninsular War 1807-1814



Boots or sandals

'Uniforms of the Peninsular War 1807-1814' (Philip Haythornthwaite) Brief explanatory chapters make a useful introduction to the multitude of uniforms, campaign kit and footwear worn by the Peninsular armies. For example, a brief section headed 'Shoes' tells us how Spanish and Portuguese soldiers, used to wearing sandals, were better off than the French and British who suffered either from lack of boots or their faulty manufacture. Another section gives a hitherto unpublished eyewitness account of the battle of Talavera.

Titbits of information abound to give a useful overall picture. More than 150 uniforms are meticulously illustrated in colour, most of them portrayed as they appeared on the field of battle. The first plate shows Sir John Moore with a general officer of hussars and this is followed by a whole series showing uniforms worn by French drum-majors down to the outfits of Spanish guerrillas and Portuguese militia.

Each plate is accompanied by a detailed description to make this book an informative aid to wargamer and military historian alike.

Blandford Press Ltd, Link House, West Street, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1LL, £4.25 JFPJ

Reference

'A Source Book of World War I Weapons and Uniforms' (Frederick Wilkinson)

Varied and well presented as they



are, it is not so much the uniforms and weapons as the multiplicity of equipment from body armour to wire cutters used by soldiers in World War One that makes this book such a useful reference. Rifles, revolvers and pistols, machine-guns and lorries are also pictured and briefly described but it is the workaday array of items that catches the eye and holds the attention.

Gas masks and primitive alarms of a gas attack, steel helmets and an assortment of trench knives, webbing and even crossbows found in a German trench in 1916, are just a few samples of the paraphernalia carried into action by the fighting man. A trench-digging machine, a picture of a dummy horse loaded with the equipment carried by a cavalry trooper, a British officer wearing snow boots of plaited straw, and German ski troops, are among a number of miscellaneous shots.

Ward Lock Ltd, 116 Baker Street, London, W1M 2BB, £2.95 JFPJ

Curtain up!



'Army, Navy and Air Force Uniforms of the Warsaw Pact' (Friedrich Wiener)

Many indeed are the books on military uniforms but this one is different in that it seeks to probe new territory — the dress of the Warsaw Pact armies. A slim volume of less than a hundred pages, it nevertheless covers much ground and includes the forces of Yugoslavia although not a member of the pact.

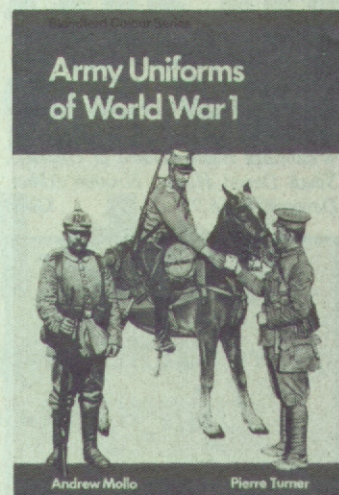
An interesting page lists military strengths from the USSR's 25,000,000, including 350,000 strategic missile troops, to Hungary's modest contribution of 170,000. Badges of rank are tabulated for each country and photographs of different services clearly indicate types of

uniform worn in a variety of circumstances.

The section dealing with vehicle and aircraft insignia has some good pictures of light tanks and training aircraft while an armoured personnel carrier bearing the Soviet Marine Infantry sign on its bow plate and side armour is shown negotiating deep water. A feature of the book is the coloured illustrations which succinctly cover a wide range of uniforms, headgear, badges and rank insignia.

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

Blue and red



'Army Uniforms of World War I' (Andrew Mollo)

Field and peacetime uniforms of the 16 metropolitan armies and air forces which fought in Europe in World War One are here described and analysed. An interesting introduction makes the point that by 1914 most countries — with the notable exceptions of Austria-Hungary, France and Belgium — had adopted protective coloured uniforms. France, despite her colonial experience and numerous attempts to modernise, still went to war in traditional blue and red. It was only after a year of hostilities that French military dress gave way to the more muted horizon blue.

From gloves to boots the uniforms and equipment of officer and soldier are searchingly investigated. A feature of this book is the excellence of Pierre Turner's illustrations. Remarkable for their accuracy and vitality, they make a valuable record of this important period of military apparel.

Blandford Press Ltd, Link House, West Street, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1LL, £3.50 JFPJ

Challenge

'The Defence Force of Australia'

After many years of a 'forward' policy which included operations in Malaysia and Vietnam, Australian defence thinking is now more concerned with the immediate problem of Australia itself. With a 15,000-mile coastline and land area half as big again as Europe (without USSR), not to mention a range of climates, that is quite a challenge.

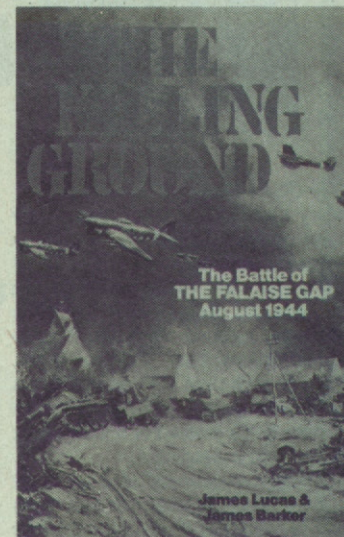
Yet the old alliances still hold. Australian Mirages still fly from

West Malaysia; co-operation, including exercises, still goes on with countries of South East Asia and the South West Pacific. This collection of articles by senior members of the defence staff describes in 56 (rather expensive) pages how 70,000 Regular servicemen are organised, trained and equipped for their far-flung responsibilities.

Sidelight: With all Australia's empty space, the armed forces still have trouble finding land for bases and exercises. It seems that suitable places with adequate communications are coveted by other users and environmentalists. Just like crowded Britain.

Army Quarterly and Defence Journal, 1 West Street, Tavistock, Devon, £3.30 RLE

Bottleneck



'The Killing Ground: Battle of the Falaise Gap' (James Lucas and James Barker)

'The Typhoons circled in the cloudless skies above the pocket of death, waiting their turn to descend upon the close-packed mass and to cause new fires, fresh casualties and greater consternation with their low-level passes above the cowering heads of the groups of men gathered in the roads and paths.'

This was the bottleneck through which two German armies tried to escape eastward from the Falaise area after the allied invasion of Normandy in 1944. In spite of all the criticism heaped upon him, Monty was being proved right. He had attracted and held down the might of German armour while the Americans developed their fighting formations and broke loose from the Cotentin Peninsula.

Now British, Canadian, Polish, French and Americans had all but encircled the German forces. The allied air forces ruled the air and dropped a tremendous weight of bombs and rockets, not only on the front-line enemy formations but on roads and railways throughout Northern France. It was difficult to get reinforcements and supplies through and there were huge traffic blocks throughout the countryside.

The story is told chiefly from the viewpoint of the Germans and the authors have gathered much material from German sources.

The maps are useful but more place-names would have enabled the

continued over

action to have been followed more closely.
B T Batsford Ltd, 4 Fitzhardinge Street, London, W1H 0AH, £5.95
GRH

Gliderborne



'The Glider Gang' (Milton Dank)
 They took on the job because they were bored with waiting to fight as infantrymen. Thousands volunteered for a risk that was new — piloting non-engined planes into battle areas and then fighting alongside the airborne troops they had conveyed. Even though tired after several hours of arduous flying, many preferred to go into battle instead of withdrawing to rest and repatriation.

Danger surrounded them— many gliders failed to reach their objectives and hundreds of men perished in the sea. Other craft crashed on land but many survived the hazards of flight and flak and their passengers fought heroically in Sicily and Normandy, at Arnhem and on the Rhine.

The author, a glider pilot with an American group, flew a number of missions into Southern France, Holland and Germany, but this highly readable story also includes the exploits of British pilots and planes and the airborne troops who flew in them.

The pilots were a breed apart, tough, resourceful, independent and ready to fight with the best. The story is dramatic, descriptive and full of personal reminiscences. There are useful maps and some interesting and historic pictures.

Cassell Ltd, 35 Red Lion Square, London, WC1R 4SG, £6.50
GRH

Airborne

'Assault from the Sky: A History of Airborne Warfare' (John Weeks)
 Napoleon had a plan to invade Britain and part of that plan was the dropping of 10,000 men from 2500 balloons. Too crazy to be successful at that time, but the airborne idea was to be used successfully on a number of occasions in World War Two with powered aircraft, parachutists and non-engined gliders.

Today, helicopters ('as common in Vietnam as the Jeep was in World War Two') are tending to outdate parachutists and the airborne elements of the Western powers are falling almost into obsolescence. Not so with the Russians, who pioneered

mass airborne operations in the 1930s and still demonstrate their confidence in speed and over-flying effectiveness by maintaining a large airborne force.

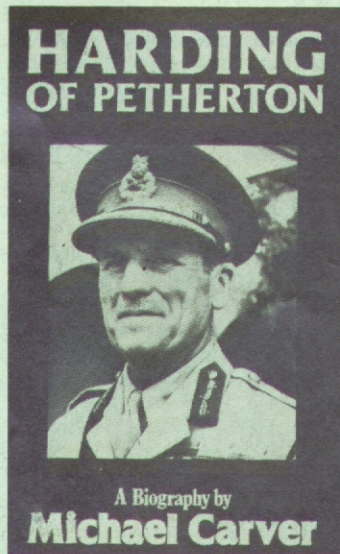
The author, Colonel Weeks, wore the British red beret for more than 20 years. He has gathered together the facts about the training, equipment and weapons of five airborne armies — British, American, Japanese, German and Russian. He traces development from the earliest days and records how the 'assault from the skies' prospered and had problems in Crete 1941, Sicily 1943, the Pacific 1942-45, North West Europe 1944-45, and the Far East, Middle East and Congo in the 1950s and 1960s.

He believes airborne forces are still essential in a modern army and warns that Nato's air troops are but a fraction of the USSR's airborne army. The work is fully illustrated with dramatic and detailed photographs and maps.

Westbridge Books (David & Charles), South Devon House, Newton Abbot, Devonshire, £6.95
GRH



Merited



'Harding of Petherton' (Michael Carver)

While some have greatness thrust upon them or benefit by circumstances of birth or quirks of fate to attain high office, 'John' Harding's advance to field-marshal, and eventually the Barony of Petherton, was merited all the way. Starting as a Post Office Bank clerk, and almost by chance becoming a Territorial Army officer, his experiences in

World War One in Gallipoli and the Middle East gave him a desire to continue as a Regular Army officer.

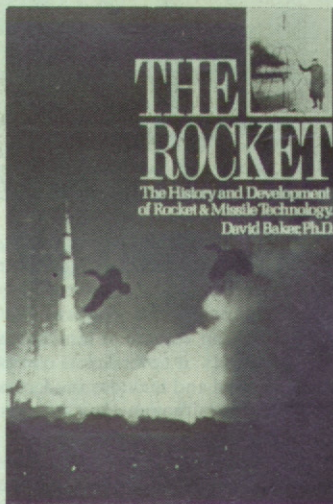
Field-Marshal Carver's biography reads more like a military history and indeed Harding's life was swept along in the current of the dramatic events of the times. Steered, perhaps, rather than swept, for Harding, whether as chief of staff, general commanding in the field, or governing administrator, always painstakingly worked out the orders that enabled armies to gain victories and statesmen to secure successes.

Through the North African campaign and northward in Italy, especially as Chief of Staff to Alexander, it was Harding's military knowledge, brilliant appreciations and painstaking working out of plans, that took the armies ever forward. Later, as commander at Trieste, in the Far East during the early Malayan terrorist troubles and the Korean War, and as CIGS during the Mau Mau rebellion in Kenya, his expert knowledge and quiet forcefulness enabled him to cope with many postwar problems.

He was badly wounded when commanding the 'Desert Rats' but recovered to fight again. When Governor of Cyprus, he slept over a terrorist bomb planted under his bed.

Weidenfeld & Nicolson (Publishers) Ltd, 91 Clapham High Street, London SW4, £8.50
GRH

Rocketry



'The Rocket: The History and Development of Rocket and Missile Technology' (David Baker)

Used for more than 2000 years, the rocket has developed its vast potential only in the last 20. The only discovery that can propel itself in a vacuum, it now provides the means for man to escape from Earth, to travel in space and, perhaps, to gather energy resources to boost his life on this reducing planet.

The rocket can also deliver devastation accurately and catastrophically with terror and effect far beyond any previous destructive power. So it is both the potential saviour and the ever-ready hair-triggered agent for the oblivion of man.

This tome-sized volume, with its 490 illustrations, traces the development of rocketry from the early Chinese firecracker to the United States' Saturn rocket which took man to the moon and now, surpassed, is

relegated to a museum. The book goes beyond, through Polaris, Poseidon and Titan to the re-usable piloted shuttle which will take experiments into the 21st century.

The story deals in full detail with the past and present and forecasts future developments, even to the creation of enormous space satellites to convert sunlight into electricity and to beam it to Earth along microwaves. Also forecast is a vast orbiting space station carrying several hundred thousand people in a huge, slowly rotating tube creating its own gravity.

This is a most detailed study of rocketry, a work which harnesses knowledge for all — student, layman and expert. Pointing, as it does, to the way ahead, the author's quotation from H G Wells is significantly appropriate: 'For man there is no rest and no ending ... when he has conquered all the deeps of space ... still he will be but beginning.'

New Cavendish Books (distributed by Eyre Methuen Ltd, 11 New Fetter Lane, London, EC4P 4EE), £12.50
GRH

IN BRIEF

'Handguns 1870-1978' (Ian Hogg)
 A soldier's best friend is his handgun. Here the author reviews the world's best weapons available between 1870 and 1978. Colt, Webley, Smith & Wesson, Enfield, Mauser, Luger, Browning, Beretta and Tokarev are among those examined in detail. The illustrations by John Batchelor are excellent and many are in colour.

This is a useful book which also contains some dramatic photographs of German, American, British and Russian soldiers at war, as well as Texas rangers of the 1890s.

Phoebus Publishing Co/BPC Publishing Ltd 1978, 169 Wardour St, London, W1A 2JX, £1.25

'Accidents Happen' (Ann Welch)
 'It is quite difficult to invent a new accident,' begins the author brightly. She then goes on to show how accidents, many ingenious, invent themselves. Her examples are nearly all from flying light aircraft or gliders, boating and diving; they are interesting and entertaining and practitioners of those sports could well find some useful reminders in her pages — she also tries to generalise about accidents and in this she is far less readable or convincing.

John Murray (Publishers) Ltd, 50 Albemarle Street, London, W1X 4BD, £2.95 paperback, £5.95 hardback

REISSUES

'The Commando Memorial, Spear Bridge'

This brochure, first published in 1965, is reissued with the picture of the wartime Commando flashes now printed in colour for the benefit of those collectors whose interest was roused by the black-and-white version in the original edition. Also reproduced is a concise history of the Army Commandos by Brigadier Peter Young.

Commando Association, 12 Brompton Road, London, SW3 1JE, 30p plus 12p postage and packing



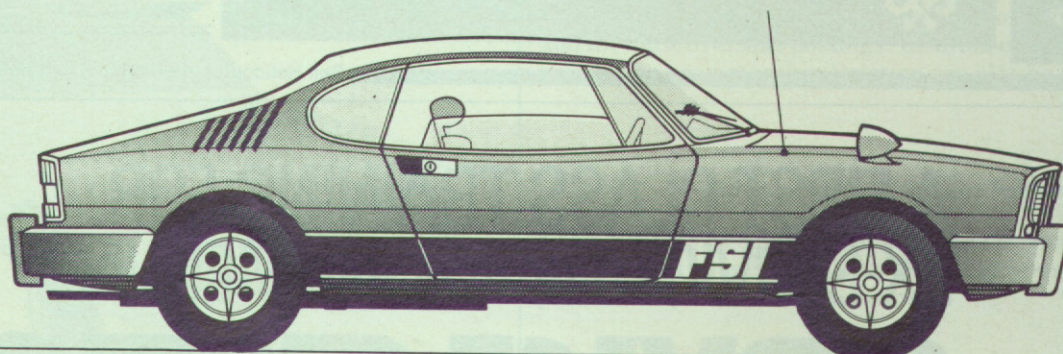
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