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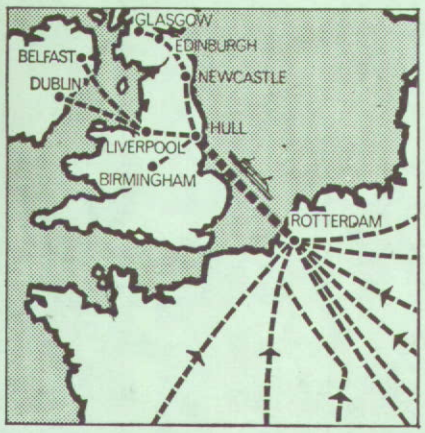

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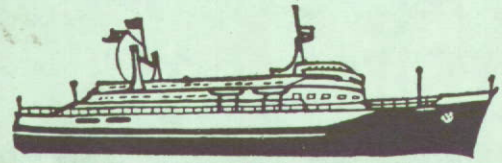

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SOLDIER

JANUARY 1968 Volume 24, No. 1

Contents

POT LUCK (page 33)

". . . and as soon as we're captured, what does Little Creep say? 'I'll make the toast,' says Little Creep!"

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SOLDIER, the British Army Magazine, is published for the Ministry of Defence by Her Majesty's Stationery Office and printed by Harrison & Sons, Ltd, 134 Blyth Road, Hayes, Middlesex.

EDITORIAL inquiries: Editor, SOLDIER, 433 Holloway Road, London N7 (01-272 4381).

CIRCULATION inquiries (except trade): Circulation Manager, 433 Holloway Road, London N7 (01-272 4381). Direct postal subscription: 21s 0d a year, 40s two years, 57s 6d three years (all including postage).

TRADE distribution inquiries: PO Box 569, London SE1.

PHOTOGRAPHIC reprint inquiries: Picture Editor, 433 Holloway Road, London N7 (01-272 4381).

ADVERTISEMENT inquiries: Advertising Manager, SOLDIER, 433 Holloway Road, London N7 (01-272 4381).

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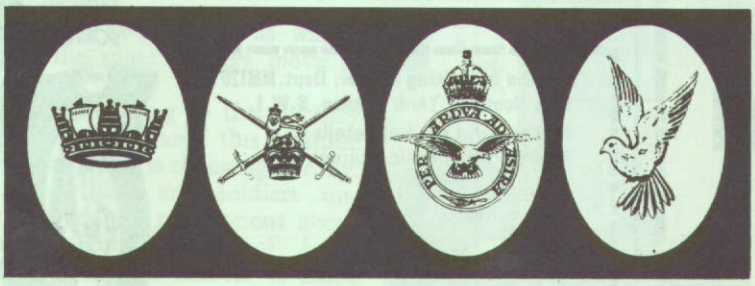

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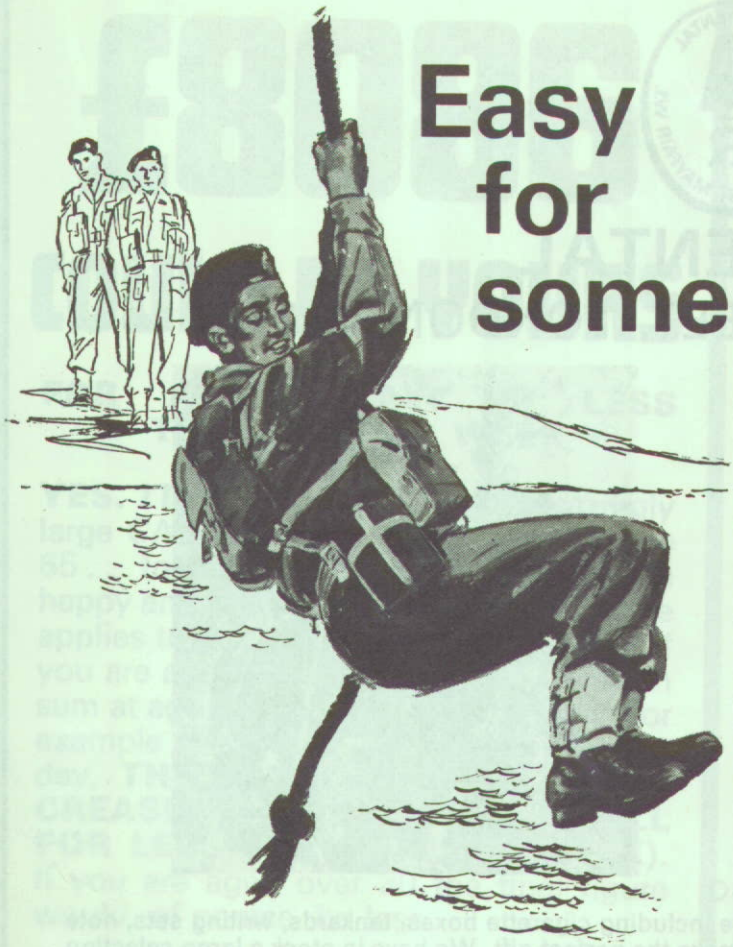

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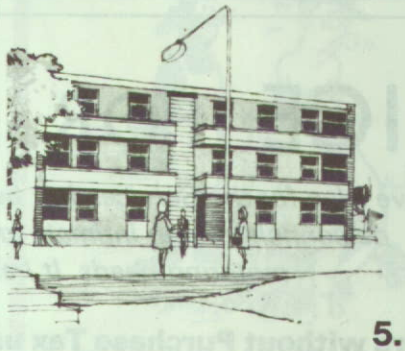

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There's a soldier at the bottom of my garden

Story by JOHN WRIGHT/Pictures by LESLIE WIGGS

MANOR Park is very much the same as hundreds of other housing estates in the prosperous commuter-belt south of London, and the man who lives at Number 12, Sycamore Court, is similar to thousands of other men hereabouts . . .

A large, comfortable-looking individual, he lives in his pleasant two-bedroomed house with his wife and teenage daughter and commutes 18 miles a day to work. If he meets his neighbour at Number 29 they are quite likely to talk about a petition to improve the refuse collection or road dangers faced by their children on the way to school.

All around live ordinary men with ordinary jobs, ordinary wives and ordinary children. Yet the tenants of Numbers 12 and 29 are soldiers. Manor Park, Uckfield, Sussex, may be similar to other estates in the vast conurbation of the south-east but there is *one* difference. Here the Army has moved in.

Of the estate's more than 1000 houses, 332 are being occupied by Army families living cheek by jowl with civilians, sharing with them the problems, the crises and the delights of moving into a new house.

To help solve accommodation problems created by the rundown of overseas bases the Army has bought, or is buying, about 5000 homes in 30 locations all over the country. Most are new houses on new estates built with civilian homeseekers in mind. Uckfield is the largest single purchase.

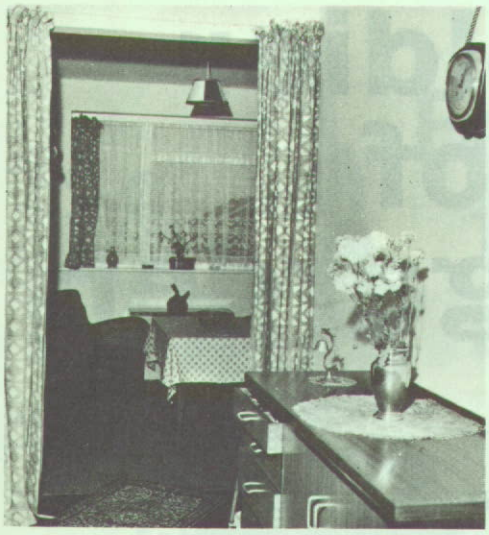
The British civilian has a habit of talking in glowing terms of his country's brave soldiers when they are several thousand miles away defending the country's interests at great personal risk.

But he is apt to be not quite as warm-hearted when the same soldiers move in next door.

With soldiers returning to this country in ever-increasing numbers, this attitude must change. Perhaps it is changing already. At Uckfield, civilians and soldiers undoubtedly have mutual reservations about each other but the invasion of Army families has not on the face of it made Manor Park different from any other housing estate. As the soldiers say, "Why should it?"

Top: These houses at Uckfield are graceful, on an open-planned estate—and they belong to soldiers. Above: His neighbours go to work in grey suits but Sergeant Archer goes in service dress. Left: Sergeant Archer and his family at home.

That man at Number 12, Sergeant Archie Archer, says: "I prefer this to living in married quarters. It is not like being in the Army." His house is in a quiet leafy backwater a few hundred yards from Number 29, Corporal Derek Bennett's three-bedroomed house where he lives with his wife and little girls. "Lovely to get away from the barracks," he says. "And living among civilians is a good thing—prepares you for when you leave the Army."



Above: Individual—yet most furniture supplied by the Army. Corporal Bennett's home, Uckfield. Right: Passers-by may guess from the German car but not from the house that the occupant of No 29 is Corporal Bennett of The Queen's Regiment.

Sergeant Archer and Corporal Bennett are both of 1st Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, based at Hobbs Barracks, Lingfield, Surrey, 18 miles from the estate. The Regiment, recently returned from Germany and soon bound for an unaccompanied tour in Bahrein, has been allotted 160 houses on the estate; the rest have gone to The Queen's Own Hussars.

The majority of the 5000 homes are new. You cannot buy old houses in blocks and those in ones and twos pose big administrative problems.

In some cases this cannot be helped. At Felixstowe, for example, buying individual houses here and there and outside the town was the only answer.

All over the country the Army has been buying on a scale never attempted before—Plymouth, Worcester, Catterick, Edinburgh . . .

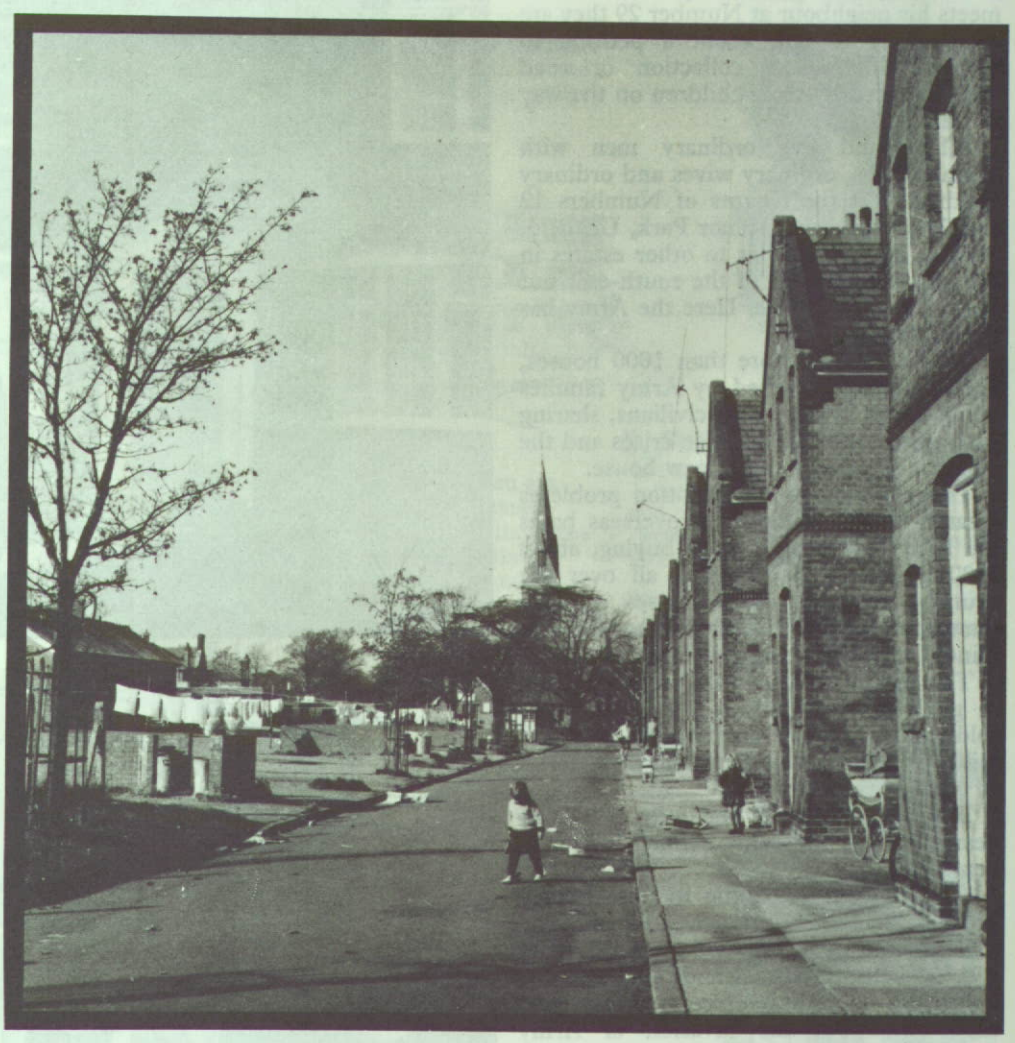
The policy has been to buy houses already planned or built for prospective civilian buyers; the Army has not directly commissioned houses from developers, although it has undoubtedly on occasions held out "carrots" to them.

The purchase of these houses was foreshadowed in last year's Defence White Paper which said the eventual return of 30,000 Servicemen would present a "formidable" housing problem and that special measures were being taken including specially-purchased houses.

Eventually, as more and more married quarters are built, the houses will be sold off. So besides helping to solve a pressing problem the homes represent a worthwhile investment.

When a unit comes home from overseas to an existing garrison, the names of its families go into a "melting pot" with those of the families already there, and the new homes are awarded to families on the basis of the Army's points system. So it may be that the shiny new houses will not go always to families from overseas but to existing members of the garrison. In a single unit station a homecoming unit may go straight into new homes because of the absence of competition.

Among the 5000 homes are some rented



The Army's new houses all over the country are a far cry from these old Aldershot married quarters.

from local authorities—at Richmond in Yorkshire, Barnard Castle in County Durham, and Harlow New Town, for example. Local authorities, most with housing problems of their own, have been very helpful wherever possible.

Problems have occurred in some cases as the Army has moved in. At Worcester, where 1st Battalion, The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, has moved into houses, a local residents' association objected to the density of Army houses on an estate. Difficulties were resolved and a welcoming committee was set up, sponsored by the Mayor.

Its members called on families to see if there was any way in which it could help, and invited them to take an active part in the life of the city.

At Plymouth, as the first 186 Army houses on a 400-home estate were opened, a civilian neighbour was quoted as saying: "I have nothing against the people themselves; some of them are very nice. But I feel the value of our houses has been reduced because the Army has moved in."

A soldier who has perhaps been risking his life daily in Aden while his wife has been shopping in terrorist-haunted streets and his children have been going to school under armed escort cannot help but be hurt by such an attitude!

Brigadier James Majury, who opened the houses, appealed to the civilian families "to give us six months to prove that our families can integrate themselves. I think they will find they have first-class neighbours."

In some cases Army families are being helped to become "first-class neighbours." One booklet issued by a regiment to its families moving into houses on a civilian estate contains this advice under the heading NEIGHBOURS:

"These houses do not form a 'patch' but are interspersed with houses occupied by civilian residents. There is no doubt that your behaviour and the behaviour of your family will be viewed critically by the civilian residents.

"Your actions, will therefore, reflect on the Army and, what is more important, on the Regiment. It is up to you to ensure that your family's behaviour is above reproach at all times. It is suggested that the following simple code, if adhered to, would obviate any adverse criticism.

"1 Keep your house and its surrounds clean and tidy.
2 Ensure that your children are well behaved and under control at all times.
3 Keep pets under control.
4 Keep the volume of television and radio down to a minimum."

The bulk of the houses purchased by the Army are three-bedroomed but there are some two- and four-bedroomed houses—equating to the various types of married quarters. Every house has a slightly different scale of fittings depending on the builder, but the Army makes sure that everything—including a full set of furniture—is provided for the tenant. As one soldier put it: "The Army has even supplied the baby's potty and the alarm clock in our bedroom!" Many of the houses have garages, irrespective of the rank of the occupier.

About an eighth of the 5000 homes are flats. There are also some bungalows although the Army is not terribly keen on them. It is a matter of fitting the circumstances. At a base in Wales, bungalow-chalets are being leased as the only alternative was to have the families living more than daily travelling distance from the camp.

The ceiling is £4500 for a soldier's house, £5000 for an officer's house (these are difficult to find). In some cases nothing like the former amount has been spent on a soldier's home. A more realistic average has been £4000. Obviously when you are buying 100 houses at a time they work out a lot cheaper!

Eventually everybody will be well accommodated to Army standards, but in some stations there has been or will be a time lag.

At Fort George in Scotland, 75 caravans were used for 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, while their houses were completed. Caravans are used in "bridging" operations.

There is an increase in the number of hirings being taken on; in some cases the Army is taking over whole boarding houses. Mobile homes are being used. In some cases families have to find their own accommodation but to help them the home-to-camp distance has been increased to 20 miles.

When there is no other answer there are special short-term hostels for families.

The plan is that as each unit returns home it will see something happening to accommodate it.

And in many cases that "something" will be a brand new house of a standard never even dreamed of by the troops of long ago—but well deserved by Britain's soldiers of the 'sixties.

Above: A kitchen any housewife would be proud of. It's in an Army house at Barnard Castle. Forty-four on a new council estate are for troops.

Mrs June Taylor (left), whose husband is in 2 Field Regt, RA, was one of the first to move into the Barnard Castle estate with her two small sons.

Left, Right and Centre

When fire destroyed the 53-year-old St Mark's Church in Seremban, Malaysia, the congregation of 700 faced the problem of raising £9500 for a new building. While the church and local organisations began money-raising efforts the Army stepped in and saved the rebuilding fund almost £400 by demolishing the wreck and levelling the site. About 20 men of 59 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, moved in with bulldozers and mechanical saws to work in the nineties day after day. St Mark's was the only Anglican church in the state of Negri Sembilan and for many years was attended by the Army garrison in Seremban.

▲ In sunny informality the Queen takes the salute in Palace Square, Valetta, from 1st Battalion, King's Own Malta Regiment, after she had presented new Colours to the Battalion. Behind the Queen is part of the Governor's Palace on the wall of which is the plaque commemorating her father's award to Malta of the George Cross.

◀ Berlin's "Wall" means to most people the barrier, now in part heightened, in the old centre of the city. But the East Germans are slowly building another wall on the opposite side of West Berlin to replace the wire which still forms most of the perimeter. Corporal R A Malloch, 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Highlanders, out on a routine patrol, takes a look from his Ferret at an East German tower on the other side of the new wall.

Pin-up for the day at the graduation ceremony of the Junior Tradesmen's Regiment, Rhyl, was Miss Yvonne Ormes, an 18-year-old blonde, who won the Miss Sunny Rhyl bathing beauty contest. Before attending the graduation parade, Miss Ormes opened the Regiment's new indoor ski slope.

The Victoria Crosses won by the Sartorius brothers, both then captains and both eventually major-generals, have been presented, with their 14 other medals and decorations, to the National Army Museum. Only two other brothers, Major C J S Gough, 5th Bengal European Cavalry, and Lieutenant H H Gough, 1st Bengal European Light Cavalry, have won the Victoria Cross. Captain Reginald William Sartorius, 6th Bengal Cavalry, earned his Victoria Cross and the CMG during the Ashanti War of 1873-74 and his retriever "Bell" was presented by "The Ladies of Lancashire" with a gold collar which has also been given to the Museum. Captain Sartorius also held the Mutiny Medal, Indian General Service Medal with Bhootan clasp, East and West Africa Medal with Coomassie clasp and Afghan Medal 1878-80. His brother, Captain Euston Henry Sartorius, 59th Foot (2nd Battalion, East Lancashire Regiment), won his Victoria Cross in the second Afghan War in 1879. He also held the CB, Afghan Medal 1878-80, Egypt Medal 1882, Order of Osmanieh, Khedive's Egyptian Star 1882, Queen Victoria Jubilee Medal, King Edward VII Coronation Medal, King George V Coronation Medal and Bronze Medal of the Royal Humane Society. All the decorations have been presented to the National Army Museum by Mrs Mary Sartorius (pictured left with the Museum's Director, Mr John Paris), widow of Colonel Gerald Sartorius, Reginald's son, who died in July 1967 and was the last man to bear the family name.

Field-Marshal Earl Alexander of Tunis, Colonel of the Irish Guards, says goodbye to the Regimental mascot Shaun at a special parade in Elizabeth Barracks, Pirbright. Shaun, who has served with the 1st Battalion for seven years, is retiring to a home in Scotland. His successor, Fionn, is a year old and has yet to undergo "basic training" before he can attend regimental parades.

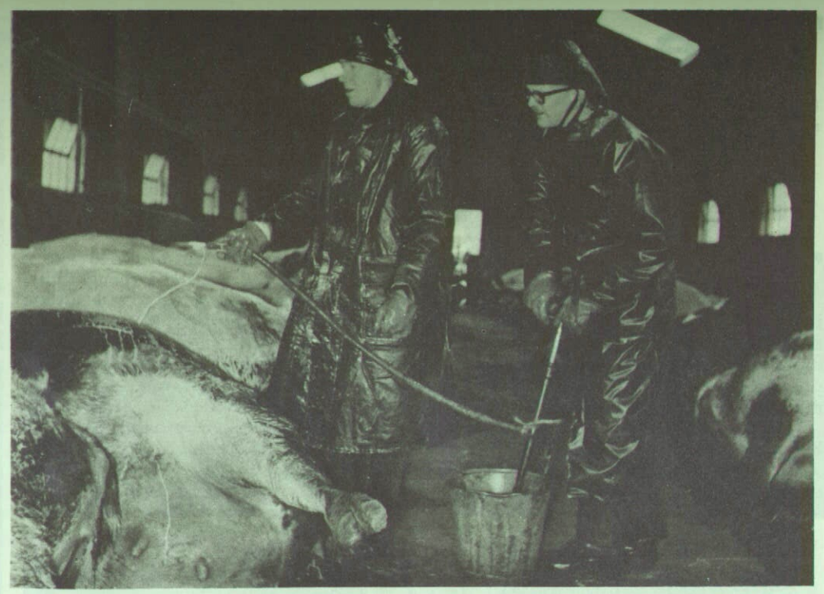
Digger, mascot of 7 Signal Regiment in Herford, West Germany, is dead. He collapsed and had to be put down only ten days after he had reached the height of his career—promotion to Warrant Officer I (Dog). He is pictured being invested with his badges of rank by Major W Parkes, second-in-command, at a special parade before 100 officers and men. Digger joined the Regiment in 1953.

General Sir Michael Carver, Commander-in-Chief Far East, and Malaysia's Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman, are looking at some of the 140 British and Commonwealth unit badges now embellishing the interior walls and ceilings of the Malaysian National Monument in Kuala Lumpur. The badges, including those of Gurkhas, the Australian and New Zealand armies, Rhodesian units and the King's African Rifles, share space with crests and insignia of all the ships, squadrons and units which took part in the Malayan Emergency. Still to be added are similar mementoes of the recent Borneo Confrontation.

◀ Latest amenity for Service families in Johore Bahru, Malaysia, is the Attap restaurant, a handy meeting place near the NAAFI and garrison welfare facilities for wives' clubs, quick lunches or family dinners. Lack of cash and the proposed rundown East of Suez squashed earlier plans for the restaurant—then the Army offered a bungalow and the Royal Navy produced money to fit it out.

Soldiers from Aldershot area maintain disinfectant-soaked pad at Cookham Bridge, Berks.

In Oswestry area: Well-protected men of 17 Training Regiment, RA, spraying disinfectant on a farm.



Large amount of fuel needed delayed carcass burning. Here RAVC personnel disinfect waiting bodies.

THE INVISIBLE ENEMY

Above: What the headlines were all about—innocent victims of a deadly disease. Below: Foot-and-mouth operations room at Saighton Camp, Chester. Officers of 14 Light Regiment at briefing.

AS the creeping horror of foot-and-mouth disease brought animal slaughter on a vast scale to the lush pastures of Britain's countryside—and heartbreak to its farmers—the Army was heavily involved in a task that injected fresh vitality into the prosaic phrase "aid to the civil power."

It was grim work. As they toiled amid the funeral pyres that were once lusty cattle and sheep, the soldiers understandably lost their appetites for meat and were fed an alternative fish and chicken. Some suffered a rash from disinfectant. But their efforts—still continuing as SOLDIER went to press and the number of slaughtered animals neared 300,000—won praise from many people in many places ranging from the Ministry of Agriculture to a farm over which the smoke still hung . . .

While the Army was busy fighting the outbreak—as Christmas approached, 700 men were engaged—the disease was hitting back. Because of the risk of spreading the epidemic, Army movement all over the country was restricted and training areas were closed or used sparingly.

The disease had some curious effects on Army life. Helicopters dipped their skids in disinfectant baths before landing; an armourer of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers serviced humane killers for the Ministry of Agriculture; young soldiers passed out of brigade training depots and boys' units in Western Command without their parents watching because of a ban on outside spectators at ceremonial parades. . . .

Western Command was where the Army fought and was hit hardest, for it was in the area covered by Western Command that the disease raged most fiercely.

In North-West District, men of 14 Light Regiment, Royal Artillery, 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, Lancastrian Brigade Depot, 17 Training Regiment, Royal Artillery, and 1st Battalion, The Lancashire Regiment—moved in from Catterick—were involved, mostly in disinfecting farms when outbreaks occurred and in some cases slaughtering and disposing of bodies.

In West Midland District, men from the Light Infantry and Mercian brigade depots, 1 Engineer Stores Depot, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment (from Felixstowe in Eastern Command), 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire Regiment (from Bulford in Southern Command), and 22nd Special Air Service Regiment, joined in the fight.

Veterinary officers and non-commissioned officers from the Royal Army Veterinary Corps Depot at Melton Mowbray were on hand to give expert help. They included an officer normally employed with The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery.

In Shropshire 100 Royal Air Force men in groups of ten joined the fight. Almost all training areas and open ranges in Western Command were closed, including Castlemartin and Sennybridge. Sports fixtures were cancelled and men were not allowed leave until seven days after they had been doing foot-and-mouth work.

What was it like down on the farm during those grim days during which many a proud herd was slaughtered in the interests of the majority? A sergeant of 17 Training Regiment, Royal Artillery, in charge of a "foot-and-mouth squad," says:

"There were 20 mature cattle in the main cowshed, 20 young cattle in two other stalls and 350 sheep in a makeshift pen in the yard. The vet had confirmed the disease the day before and shot three badly-infected cattle. . . . Gunners Barton and Dowling were detailed to tie sacking over the heads of these animals to prevent virus being spread over the yard when the cattle were hauled out by tractor one by one to a burial pit in an adjoining field.

"The pit, 30 yards long, five yards wide and 18 feet deep, had been dug by a large mechanical shovel. We had also a small bulldozer for pushing the dead animals into the pit and filling it on completion. The gunners were shown how to connect and disconnect the chains from the animals' feet for dragging. The animals' stomachs were slit to prevent bloating which would tend to push up the soil after filling in.

"We began spraying the dead animals' sheds but on the arrival of the slaughterers the real work started. While part of the squad continued spraying the others began their 'chain gang' work. First to die were the mature cattle followed by the young ones and sheep. . . .

"The gunners were involved in holding the sheep while they were dispatched and loading them on to the trailer and the bulldozer bucket. When all the animals were dead it was 1730 hours and dark. . . ."

There were lighter moments. The Sergeants' Mess of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, took along its fruit machine to keep members amused during intervals in the grisly work.

Northern Command was severely affected by the outbreak. Most training came to a grinding halt with the closure of training areas and movement restrictions. In Southern Command, Dartmoor was completely closed to soldiers and training on Salisbury Plain was strictly controlled. Tanks stayed on the Plain at night, covered with canvas sheets, instead of using the roads. Fifteen London bridges and various sections of road were covered by straw soaked in disinfectant in an effort to halt the disease.

And so the fight against the invisible enemy went on. If the soldiers grumbled sometimes—and who, after hearing what they had to do, can blame them?—they could content themselves with the thought that for many years to come farmers would remember not only the sorrow of their loss but the humour, cheerfulness and the physical help of the soldiers who came to their aid.

The Services' contribution to restricting the foot-and-mouth epidemic has not gone unnoticed:

Mr Fred Peart, Minister of Agriculture: "We are engaged in a struggle against the most serious epidemic of foot-and-mouth disease this century. I am most grateful for the magnificent job that the Armed Services are doing in helping us combat the spread of the disease. The work is often hard and distasteful but it has to be done if we are to overcome this terrible scourge. I am sure that with everyone's help we shall succeed."

Mr G T Williams, President of the National Farmers' Union: "After last year's outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Northumberland the National Farmers' Union asked that the Army should be brought in to assist in any further serious epidemic.

"At that time no one imagined that such a catastrophic outbreak would again so swiftly strike Britain's farms. But strike it did—and within a week, as soon as it was perceived that an emergency had indeed arisen, the Army was on the scene.

"No one who has witnessed the efforts made by the various units involved can have anything but unstinted admiration. The Army has, in fact, gone to battle.

"The training and discipline of all concerned have been of untold worth in the front line of defence against this dreadful scourge, and have been an invaluable reinforcement to the efforts of veterinarians and the police and the farming community itself.

"It has not gone unnoticed in the afflicted areas that quite a large proportion of the troops involved are very young men, in all likelihood unblooded in battle. The manner in which they have got 'stuck in' to a number of very unpleasant jobs has been widely commented upon, and I would like to add my personal tribute to all that has been done."

Mr Graham Wooley, a Cheshire farmer: "Like most of the Cheshire farmers who have had soldier labour I was most impressed with and grateful for the efficient and disciplined way the soldiers tackled the unpleasant work."

The Short-haired Intellectuals

Story by HUGH HOWTON

TWO hundred GIs have been training side by side with British troops in England for the first time since World War Two. And SOLDIER found that the conventional image of the gum-chewing GI Joe is as outdated as boogie-woogie and Fred Astaire movies.

First Sergeant Ken Smith, whose service has spanned 22 years, said in his slow Kansas drawl: "The modern GIs sure are a new breed."

He stirred his billy can of coffee with a ball-point pen and remarked thoughtfully, "In World War Two we had to take anyone and everyone. Nowadays GIs are a lot younger, about 18 to 22, and more intellectual, many having been to college. They don't get knocked around so much now but they are still good soldiers."

Typical of the new generation GI is Sergeant Bernard Deamicis. In his student days he translated the whole of Caesar's Gallic Wars from the original Latin, an

continued on page 16

Above: This is the first time in England for all but a few of the 200 GIs. Lieutenant-Colonel John Baker, commanding the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment, welcomes their commander, Captain Lance Patterson. The Cheshires and the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers hosted them for much of their three-week stay. The GIs visit was a reciprocal arrangement, because men from both English regiments trained with them in Fort Carson, Colorado, twice—in 1966 and in 1967.

Right: The tank is a British Centurion but the troops are American. With war whoops and blank-blazing carbines, they captured an "enemy" wood held by the Cheshires near the village of Imber on Salisbury Plain. They drove into "battle" in FV 432 armoured personnel carriers and Centurion tanks following only three days' familiarisation training. "They have done very well," said a British driving instructor. "The FV 432 driving course is normally three weeks."

The British FV 432 armoured personnel carrier is "a real fine vehicle," thinks Specialist (Fourth Class) Gary Vogelgesang. "We have the M 113, which runs on gasoline, as the normal personnel carrier, and the M 113 1A, powered by diesel, which has a mortar mounting. Yours can do both jobs. Not only that, it is multi-fuelled and has faster acceleration." Specialist Vogelgesang is pictured above in the driving seat of a FV 432.

The GIs, whose own battle rations include boned-chicken, turkey loaf and steak with gravy, get a first taste of British "compo." Surprisingly many of them preferred it, saying their own food was too rich. One veteran sergeant, who has 18 inches of plastic tubing in his digestive tract through a war wound, commented: "Hot canned bully beef on exercise is the greatest." Tea was popular. One admitted drinking "half a gallon a day."

They call it a "chrome-dome." Sergeant Carlton Taylor (above) arrived complete with his chromium plated helmet at RAF Lyneham after the six-hour transatlantic trip in a Lockheed transport jet. He wears the helmet, together with white gloves, spats and belt, while on Honor Guard. "It looks real sharp, just like your guardsmen in their busbies outside Buckingham Palace," explained one of his fellow soldiers appreciatively.

Above: A lone British soldier makes a last-ditch stand while GIs advance like a swarm of locusts.

"Gee, it's real quaint," said Sergeant Bernard Deamicis (above left) of this 1904 De Dion. Its owner, Mr George Hartley of Wakefield, was on his way back from the London to Brighton Veteran Car Rally when he was buttonholed by these two inquisitive GIs. At home in Ohio, Sgt Deamicis has a 120mph Oldsmobile. "In the States we have long, wide highways where you can really open up," he remarked. "But I wouldn't dare go over 100 miles an hour over here."

Two-year-old Amanda Brown had come all the way from Barnsley to see Stonehenge but she was much more fascinated by this monumental GI. Specialist (fourth Class) Bill Gehring, who is 6ft 4in, observed: "People all think Americans are a race of giants. I guess my size is big compared with the average guy in England, though." A former owner of Triumph TR4 and Austin Healey Sprite sports cars, Bill explained: "I had to fold myself up like a jack-knife before getting in."

How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences see page 29.

from page 14

undertaking that would tax a scholar at an English public school. But his bookish, bespectacled appearance is belied by his impressive row of war ribbons earned in Vietnam. "I spent a year there, I wouldn't like to go back there again, but if my country wanted me to go I would."

Twenty five years ago the GI battle diet (K rations) consisted of dehydrated meat and vegetables and canned oatmeal biscuits. Nowadays they have C rations—boned chicken, turkey loaf and steak in gravy.

Their literary taste has changed too. No longer does the average GI stuff Superman and Dick Tracy comics in his back pocket. Instead he reads the news magazines Time, Life and Newsweek, studies German and Vietnamese phrasebooks, and thumbs through Playboy (which intersperses high-brow articles with long-lashed lovelies).

While the wartime GI was at least twice as well off as his English counterpart, his take-home pay is now about the same, claims First Sergeant Smith. A single soldier in the US Army, having just completed basic training, gets $120 a month (£12 10s a week on the new rate of exchange). Of this, 18 per cent goes in tax, and he has to pay for laundry and extra uniforms after the initial free issue.

In the '40s, GI Joes came courting English girls with candy bars and silk stockings. Their successors have been carrying on the amorous enterprise. Sergeant Deamicis, among many with address-book additions, related one encounter: "I met a girl in a Laundromat and asked her to go bowling. She said she planned on going to a dance with her sister and would I like to come. I jumped at it because I don't usually get this first time success in the States. We took a cab to some village hall where we danced some rock 'n' roll. When I offered to get the drinks they said they only wanted 'cokes' because after half a pint of beer they were 'away.' They were real decent girls. I am going to write to them when I get home."

The wartime GIs were attracted by the "New Look," but their successors have been captivated by the mini-skirt.

One thing that has not changed is the close-cropped haircut. First Sergeant Smith deplores the new fashion for long locks. "Why, some guys back home have hair so long that they have to wear bathing caps in the swimming pools," he protested. When his men were packing for the return trip, he growled at his platoon sergeants: "When we land there won't be nobody that will leave the area until I've looked at his hair."

Discipline is a more complex problem in the US Army than in the British. Of the 200 men who came on this trip, nearly two thirds were draftees (National Servicemen) and 40 per cent had served in Vietnam. Second-Lieutenant Brookes McCallister, a clean-cut college graduate from Ohio, explained: "Your army is very professional. They play their exercises right up to the hilt in completely authentic warlike conditions. We have a great bunch of men, but with so many draftees it becomes more of a war-game. The Vietnam returnees have already played it for real. Understandably, such men are primarily interested in going home on furlough to their wives and girl friends, and in what jobs they are going to do when they leave the army."

The US Army—more than ever before—has a high percentage of coloured men, not only negroes but Puerto-Ricans and Hawaiians. There is a close-knit camaraderie, almost like that of an English county regiment, that is sadly untypical of the American social scene. This spirit has risen from the ashes of Korea and Vietnam where white and coloured have lived, fought and died side by side.

FRONT COVER

The United States Army goes into "battle" on Salisbury Plain. Two hundred GIs of C Company, 2nd Battalion (Mechanised), 10th Infantry Division, flew 8000 miles from Fort Carson, Colorado, to exercise in England with units of the Strategic Reserve and familiarise themselves with British Army weapons and equipment.

Men of The Durham Light Infantry are evacuated in a Vietnam style air-lift (above) while their colleagues (below) await the impending GI attack during Exercise Full House on Salisbury Plain.

Above: Man with the beaming smile is Private (First Class) Alan McCummings from Rising Sun in Maryland, USA. The lady is his "grandmom." Alan's mother, a GI bride, went to the United States in 1946. He took the opportunity of a day off, during Exercise Steer Pike, to visit his maternal grandparents, Mr and Mrs Cecil, whose home is at Blakeney which is in Gloucestershire.

Jocks, in scrimmed helmets and lifejackets, disembark from the boats (above). Lieutenant-Colonel Donald MacLennan, Commanding Officer of 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Highlanders, briefs the officers (below).

Jocks and GIs

JOCKS and GIs stole across Berlin's River Havel in assault boats at the dead of night to make a surprise attack on an "enemy" encampment in Grunewald Forest.

The Jocks were from 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Highlanders, and the GIs from the 4th Battalion, 18th Infantry.

It was all part of Exercise Team Spirit, the most closely integrated operation between the Highlanders and Americans since the Korean War.

The two battalions exchanged officers for the three days of the exercise. This particularly pleased the US battalion's second-in-command, Major Willard Esplin, since he has Scottish ancestry.

The exercise was controlled by Brigadier David Tabor, commanding Berlin Infantry Brigade. Its aim was to give troops of both nations the opportunity of working together and observing each other's tactics.

It happened in JANUARY

Date		Year
3	National Playing Fields Association granted Royal Charter	1933
4	Burma became independent republic	1948
10	London's Underground inaugurated	1863
18	Captain Cook discovered Hawaii	1778
18	Siege of Leningrad raised	1943
23	Tripoli captured by British	1943
24	Gold discovered in California	1848
24	First Boy Scout troop formed, in England	1908
28	Latvia became independent	1918
30	Hallé Orchestra's first regular public concert	1858
30	Adolf Hitler appointed Chancellor	1933
31	Great Eastern launched	1858

Bully for the quarterbloke!

THE Army's present stores accounting system is based on the assumption that "everyone in the Army is a criminal, and of these quartermasters are the biggest criminals."

So says Major Jon Littlewood of the Army Work Study Group at Guildford. Major Littlewood was a member of a team led by Lieutenant-Commander Peter Gould, Royal Navy, which devised a new system that will put trust in quartermasters, cut paperwork by 60 per cent and save £10,000 annually in forms.

He and his colleagues, who have spent a year on research, discovered that quartermasters—"men of scrupulous honesty with a high standard of personal and professional integrity"—are like Sinbad bowed down with a burden of unnecessary paperwork and are hamstrung with red tape.

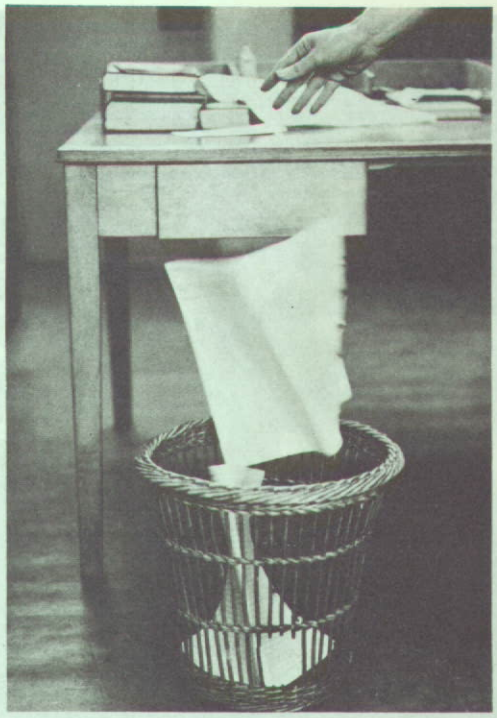
For example, 60 per cent of a quartermaster's paperwork arises from items costing less than £3, which represent only a half per cent of the total value of stores and equipment in his unit.

A further third of his work is caused by a time-consuming and irritating write-off and disposal system for unserviceable items—to get rid of even a broken kettle or worn-out paint brush a special board of officers has to be convened and a multiplicity of forms completed.

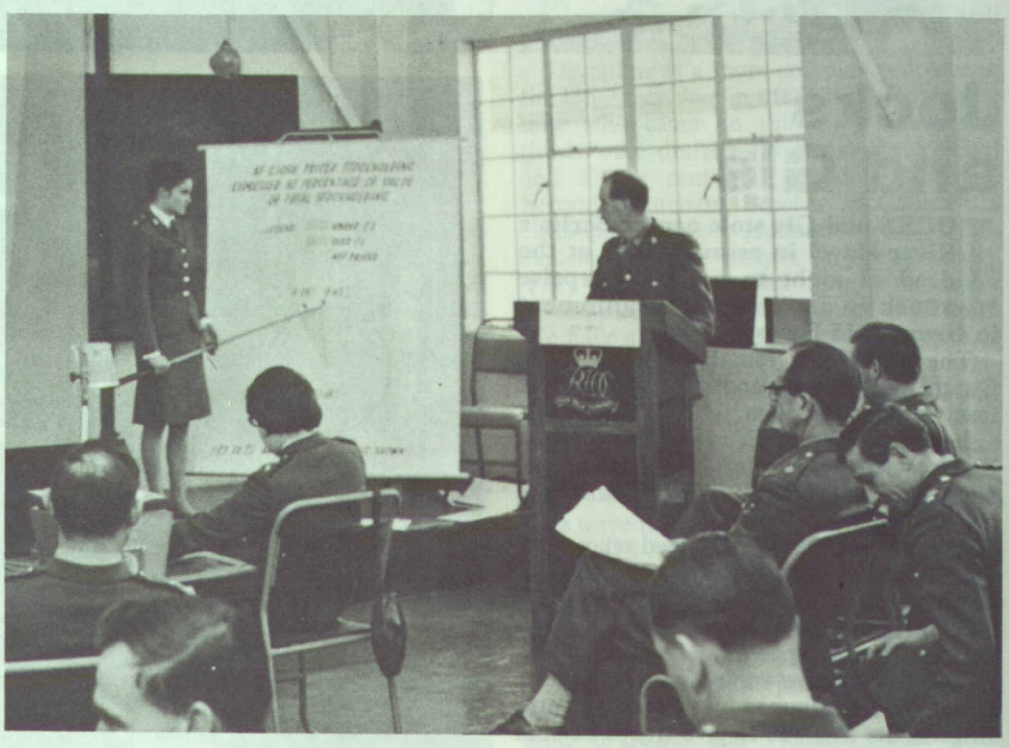
Major Littlewood, himself in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, says of the present system:

"It is very largely based on one devised shortly after the Peninsular War in an attempt to prevent enterprising members of the commissariat from making large fortunes by nefarious activities on the side." Today's quartermasters, not unnaturally, resent the lack of trust placed in them.

Under the present system—scarcely changed since 1906—each item, from a tin opener worth 1s 6d to a £200,000 Chieftain tank, has a separate account sheet, filled in by hand.



Left: The old Unit Equipment Account Sheet (AF B6528), an unwieldy 14in x 13in, is scrapped. It is replaced by a card only a quarter the size.



Below: The new accounting system is explained to quartermasters at the School of Ordnance, Blackdown, Hampshire. Major Jon Littlewood, who is at the lectern, is assisted by two Women's Royal Army Corps subalterns. They are 2/Lieut Pauline Bainbridge (standing, with pointer) and 2/Lieut Mary Rook (seated, operating the projector).

Above: Capt Tony Clare, technical quartermaster of 40 Light Regiment, Royal Artillery, in Bulford (one of the trial units for the new system), is pictured with his new and old accounts. The 3000 account sheets in bulky binders (right) have been reduced to 250 cards in clip files (left). Commented Capt Clare: "The new system is first class. Quartermasters now have a managerial role rather than being nut, bolt and washer men."

These account sheets (Army Form B6528, and their binder, Army Book 404) are to be scrapped and replaced by simple index cards listing only the exceptions to the unit's equipment table.

The new system, which comes into effect in July, divides stores into "unstarred" and "starred" items.

There will be no account sheet for the unstarred and inexpensive items such as hammers and hot water bottles but their issue will be closely controlled by the unit.

It will be the responsibility of the unit quartermaster to decide when unstarred items become unserviceable and how to dispose of them (whether by burning, putting them in the dustbin or, if they have scrap value, sending them to the appropriate depot).

The starred items (such as tanks, radios and weapons) will be recorded only on a deficiency and surplus basis. In an ideal situation, when a unit has exactly the right number and types of starred stores there will be no account other than its equipment table.

Only deficiencies and surpluses will be recorded on the index cards.

The new system does not apply, however, to accommodation stores, rations or petrol, oil and lubricants.

And it will mean little change for the individual soldier. He will still have to sign for stores and pay if he loses them through negligence.

A team headed by Colonel Willie Anderson, of the Ministry of Defence, and including Mr George Navey, the Army's Chief Store Auditor, is to visit all major troop locations in Britain, Rhine Army, Near East and Far East to explain the new system in one-day presentations.

Two attractive Women's Royal Army Corps subalterns will also go along to operate the visual aids (slides and charts) and, in Major Littlewood's words, "lend glamour to what is a rather difficult subject to put over."

PURELY PERSONAL

DOUBLE DATE

The epic row across the Atlantic by Captain John Ridgway and Sergeant Chay Blyth of The Parachute Regiment continues to have repercussions. With their wives (above) the rowers went to Buckingham Palace to receive awards from the Queen. Captain Ridgway was made a Member of the British Empire and Sergeant Blyth got the British Empire Medal. Normally the latter is presented by a local official but an exception was made in this case so that both men could attend the investiture together. A few days later the Ridgways' five-month-old daughter Rebecca Louise (above) was christened at St Paul's Cathedral. It was, Mrs Mary Ridgway said, "a perk of the decoration."

COOK-GENERAL

For technical reasons Christmas pictures cannot be included in January editions of SOLDIER. Which is why we are grateful to Major-General D L Lloyd Owen, commanding Near East Land Forces, for providing us with this seasonable picture some time before Christmas. Generals are invariably correctly dressed for any occasion and when General Lloyd Owen stirred the Christmas pudding at Dhekelia Sovereign Base Area he wore the cooks' regulation headgear—of course!

80 YEARS OF MONTY

Recently he became an octogenarian—and to celebrate his 80th birthday Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein posed (right) for this picture at his home, Isington Mill, Alton, Hampshire. The tank is a casket containing his scrolls of Honorary Freemanship of Leamington Spa—a casket presented to him by the town.

IN FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS: 1

Sixteen years ago Colour-Sergeant H Buxcey of The Gloucestershire Regiment was killed at the Battle of Imjin River in Korea. Recently his son Robert (above) completed training at The Wessex Brigade Depot, as a recruit to The Gloucestershire Regiment. At the passing-out parade he received a prize for best rifle shot. And the name of his training platoon? The Imjin IV Platoon.

IN FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS: 2

Sergeant Ronald Gibney, recruiting sergeant at the Southend-on-Sea, Essex, Army Careers Information Office, marches to his office (above) with his latest recruit—his son Jeffrey, aged 19. Jeffrey passed an examination qualifying him for training as a Royal Signals electronics technician, and Dad was happy to help him with the formalities!

THE END

IT is typical of today's fast-moving world that a word on everyone's lips one minute is banished to a far corner of the mind the next—and moves equally quickly into the history books.

Ask a man in the street what happened on 29 November 1967. In all probability he will reply with a blank stare.

Ask the British Forces what happened on 29 November 1967. They will reply: "We left Aden."

Already the gun battles that stained the streets of Crater, Sheikh Othman, Ma'alla and Steamer Point with British and Arab blood are a thing of the past. The wave of violence that unlike Canute the British Serviceman was able to divert, if not halt, no longer has a British beach to dash against. Aden—both the colony and the South Arabian Federation—has become the independent People's Republic of Southern Yemen.

We have gone for good.

A description of the former Aden Colony reads: "It consists of two extinct volcanic craters forming rocky peninsulas joined by a flat sandy foreshore enclosing the only good harbour along the Arabian coast." A British soldier in Aden last year would have put it differently.

In an atmosphere of savagery, cruelty and bloodshed the British soldier had a job to do. He did it well. It now only remains to record the last chapter of the story of Britain's 128 years in Aden—a story that ended in the last days of November with the withdrawal, mercifully peaceful, of British soldiers and airmen and their comrades of the Royal Marines.

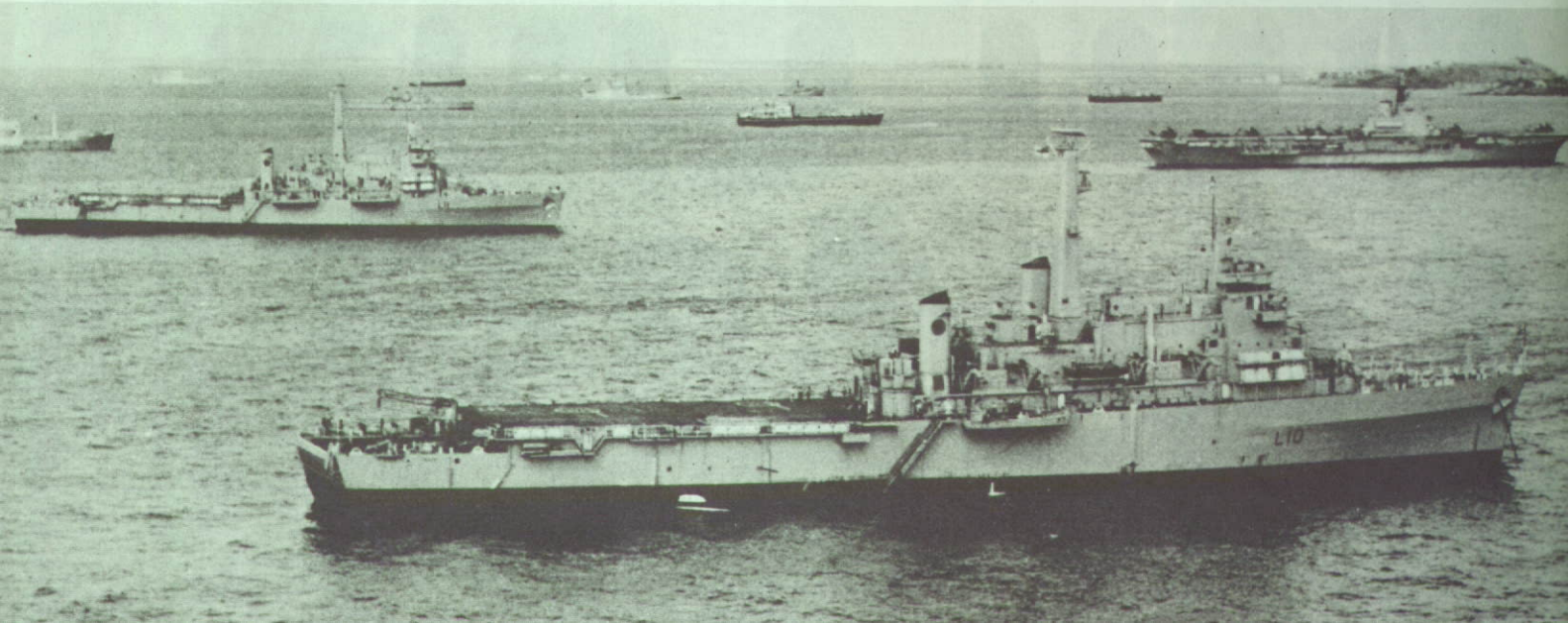
Top left: The piper plays "Barren Rocks of Aden" as Argylls prepare to leave Crater. Bottom left: He wasn't taking any chances! Below: Lieut-Col Colin Mitchell, Argylls' CO, plans his evacuation.

Above: Men of The King's Own Royal Border Regiment pull out of Steamer Point past a line of Arab troops waiting to take over their posts.

Left: Crater—Maj-Gen Philip Tower, GOC Middle East Land Forces, on a tour of area, inspects an armoured vehicle of The Queen's Own Hussars.

Far left: The last post in Aden is a quayside one for these two alert men covering troops of Royal Corps of Transport leaving Steamer Point.

Below: The naval task force. In front is the assault ship HMS Fearless, behind (left) is her sister Intrepid and (right) Commando ship Albion.



Intense naval activity as seen during the withdrawal was nothing new to Aden. Above: Units of the Royal Navy photographed off Aden 104 years ago. Plundering of a British ship led to capture of Aden in 1839 by East India Company and British occupation. Below: Early picture of Steamer Point.

A Royal Navy Wessex helicopter (above) patrols Ma'alla, former home of hundreds of Service families. Below: No more patrols down insanitary back alleys, no more dodging grenades. The Argylls are home.

SOLDIER *to Soldier*

The story and pictures on pages 12-13 of this issue are grim. But foot-and-mouth is a grim disease; grim, too, is the policy of extermination which will soon, it is to be hoped, stamp out the affliction.

SOLDIER tells this story to bring home to everyone the seriousness of foot-and-mouth and to show what a magnificent job the Services can do in time of national disaster.

These soldiers and airmen were not volunteers, but there would have been no shortage had volunteers been sought, for in peace or war the British Serviceman has always been close to the land.

His help in the present emergency has earned him the gratitude of farmers and strengthened, at least at his level, the links which have sometimes been strained in the eternal struggle over the use of land for the training which the soldier needs for his primary task.

For one unit the fight against foot-and-mouth was no novelty—1st Battalion, The Lancashire Regiment, battled against the disease when in Swaziland (SOLDIER, April 1965), putting a cordon round the contaminated area to stop the movement of cattle, and distributing leaflets to the Swazis.

The Battalion is also the subject on pages 24-25 of the "Your Regiment" series—it is due to amalgamate, probably by 1971, with The Loyal Regiment.

*

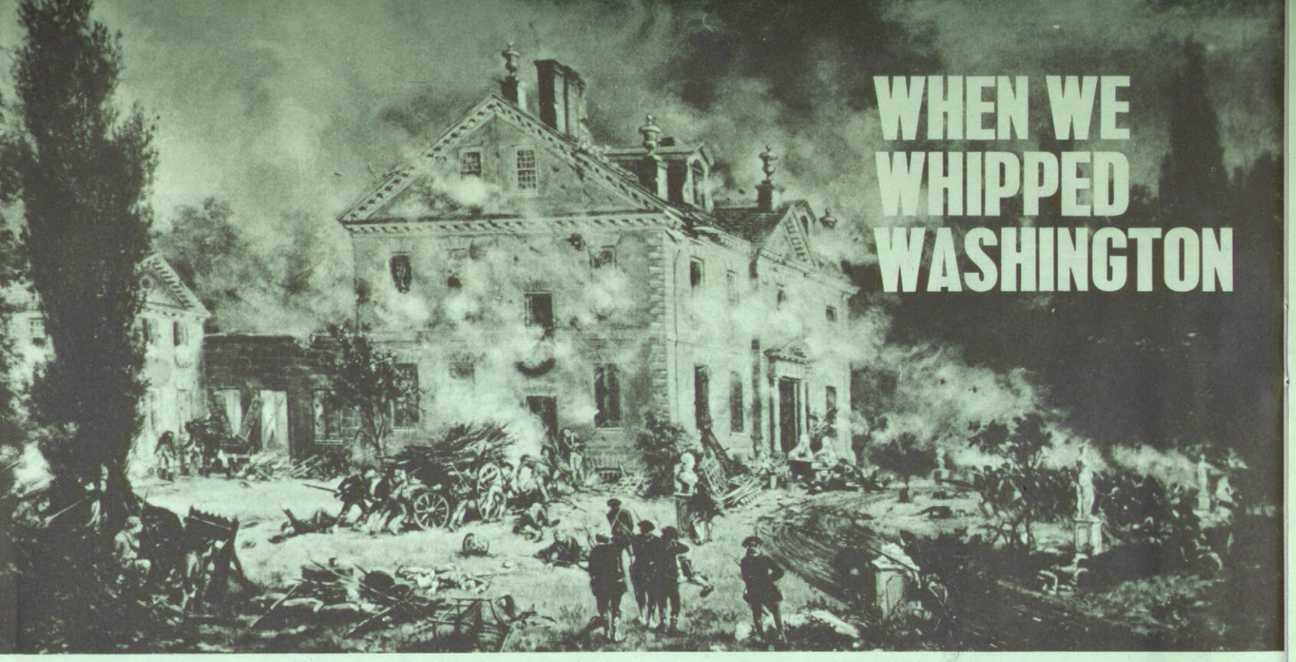
The lack of General Certificate of Education Advanced levels will no longer bar a young man, if he has the other necessary qualities, from becoming a Regular Army officer.

A new Special Regular Commission has been introduced in all arms and most support services which is open to candidates with five Ordinary level passes or their equivalents. The commission will be for a minimum of 16 years leading to a pension with opportunities for further service, but officers may apply to resign at any time.

Promotion can be to major and, to a limited extent, to lieutenant-colonel, and officers will be eligible for all Army courses including staff training. Pay, gratuities, retired pay and terminal grants will be the same as for officers with permanent commissions.

Some 300 officers are needed annually in this category and it is expected that about half will come direct from civilian life and half from short-service officers and from the ranks.

Entrants will initially be trained at Mons Officer Cadet School, but later on training will be at the Royal Military Academy.



WHEN WE WHIPPED WASHINGTON

YOUR REGIMENT: 60

THE LANCASHIRE REGIMENT

THEY turned the tables on us at the Boston Tea Party. But we had moments of glory in the American War of Independence. One of them was the day we gummed-up the Yankees at Chew House.

"Chew House"—a pleasant, renaissance mansion—was the home of Pennsylvania Chief Justice Benjamin Chew. The British forces, who had just captured Philadelphia and marched through the town singing "God Save The King," requisitioned the house for their headquarters.

This ruffled the cocky Americans. General George Washington, with 11,000 fresh troops, decided to make a surprise attack on 4 October 1777. Two hundred battle-weary British soldiers—the 40th of Foot (later The South Lancashire Regiment)—made a fighting retreat through the village of Germantown, then barricaded themselves into Chew House.

The Yankees foolishly decided to assault this pocket of resistance instead of by-passing it. They bombarded the house with four cannon at point-blank range. The British held out with bulldog determination. The Yankees stuck to the siege single-mindedly. Blinded by a thick fog and choked by acrid powder fumes, they fired wildly and hit their own men. The battle raged for nearly three hours. Meanwhile the main British force, six miles away in Philadelphia, was alerted and had time to reorganise and come to the relief.

The Yankees fled in panic leaving 1400 dead, wounded and prisoners. The British casualties were three officers, three sergeants and 26 soldiers.

"It was a bloody day," wrote Washington to his brother, "would to Heaven I could add that it had been more fortunate for us." By restraining the Yankees, the 40th almost certainly saved General Sir William Howe's Army from defeat.

To commemorate this action, the Colonel of the Regiment had a medal specially struck and presented to the officers and men of the 40th. This award, the Germantown Medal, is unique and was a forerunner of the present campaign medals.

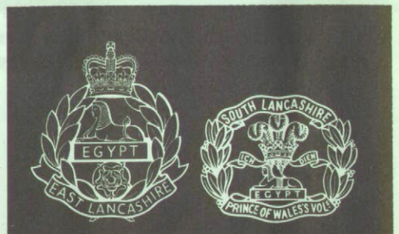
On a bright summer day in 1815, church bells in England heralded the great victory of Waterloo where the 30th and 59th (later The East Lancashire Regiment) and 40th Foot all distinguished themselves.

Battle broke out at noon on 18 June. The 30th formed a square in the front line. That square was never broken even though it was pounded by artillery and charged by cavalry 11 times in two hours. But the Regiment paid a heavy toll. After Wellington gave the order to advance, he turned to one of his staff and asked: "What is that square lying down?" The answer—"That is the position from which the 30th have just moved." At the end of the battle, remnants of the 30th advanced in line and routed the last of the Imperial Guard with one volley. The gallant 30th lost two thirds of its officers and men killed or wounded.

The 40th were first held in reserve but later moved into the front line. They stayed firm under continuous attacks by infantry, cavalry and artillery. Twelve sergeants were killed or wounded in defence of the Colours which were shot to ribbons. In the evening they repulsed Napoleon's last desperate cavalry and infantry attacks, but lost their commanding officer. The Duke of Wellington rode up and personally gave them the order to advance. They charged the French infantry, took part in the recapture of La Haye Sainte and followed up the rout of the broken French Army.

The 59th guarded the right flank, saw little action and were unscathed. But they took part in the pursuit of the retreating French forces to Paris.

For their steadfastness and discipline, both the 30th and 40th were awarded the battle honour "Waterloo" and allowed to encircle their badges with a laurel wreath.



Cap badges of The East Lancashire (left) and The South Lancashire regiments.

The battle is commemorated annually.

The 59th and 82nd, eventually to be amalgamated, were soon afterwards linked by tragedy. Troopships, returning them after their capture of Paris, were wrecked on a reef during a storm off Ireland. The men took to the boats but there were few survivors. The church bells that had heralded victory sounded a death knell. . . .

Thirty-nine years later, on the other side of the world, the 40th fought the "Battle of Eureka Stockade." This was the only time in Australian history that troops have been used against the civilian populace (apart from aborigines and convicts). It was a day of dishonour, not for the gallant redcoats and doughty diggers but for the incompetent authorities in Victoria.

The Germantown Medal. On the reverse is an engraving of Chew House under attack. This was the first medal commemorating an action specially struck and presented to a Regiment by its colonel.

Chew House in the village of Germantown, Pennsylvania. The Yankees lay siege with cannon at point-blank range. Unable to see because of fog, they hit many of their men.

They had imposed an impracticable tax—30 shillings a month in the form of a licence—on everyone who mined for gold. Enraged diggers demonstrated in the town of Ballarat and burned their licences in public. The alarmed authorities called in men of the 40th Foot and Suffolk Regiment. The diggers built a stockade of overturned carts and stone slabs.

At 3 am they were surprised by a bayonet charge and defended themselves with pikes made by the local blacksmiths. It was a swift and bloody battle. Captain Wise, of the 40th, and four of his men, were killed. Sixteen bearded, suntanned bodies lay dead in the dust. The rest, 125 of them, were marched off to jail, but the majority were released the next day.

Just over a century ago the Chinese Dragon was breathing fire and lashing its tail at foreign imperialists. But St George was undaunted.

It was in Canton, a major trading port for tea and silk, in 1857. Britons and other Europeans were assassinated and their property burned. Britain demanded compensation, free access for her subjects in the city and a complete fulfilment of treaty obligations. The local ruler, Vice-Regent Yeh, refused. Retribution came promptly. The 59th, with British marines and French troops, came ashore under cover of day and night bombardment from Navy gunboats. They captured two forts and commanding hill positions. The losses were: British 96, French 34 and Chinese 200. Within days the allied force entered the city, confiscated its treasure and dispatched Yeh to Calcutta as a political prisoner. The British and French troops did not evacuate Canton until three years later.

The 59th were the only British infantry regiment to receive the battle honour "Canton." A bell, captured from a temple at the time, is still preserved in The East Lancashire Regiment's Museum in Preston.

The Relief of Lucknow in the Indian Mutiny, Maori Wars in New Zealand, the Crimea, Afghanistan and South Africa—The South Lancashire and The East Lancashire regiments had a formidable record of battle honours before 1914.

During World War One, The South Lancashire Regiment was expanded to 20 battalions and The East Lancashire Regiment to 17. They fought on every major battlefield. The most heroic, and horrific, action was at the Somme. For a week without pause the greatest array of artillery then known to man had been "softening up" the German positions on a ridge overlooking the Somme. But the fields of Picardy became a graveyard for two-thirds of the officers and men of the 30th.

D-Day dawned dully. The men of the 40th—one of the two assault battalions of the 3rd Division selected to land at Normandy and establish the initial bridgehead—had a rough crossing. They slipped out of their landing craft to be met by rifle, machine-gun and mortar fire. Casualties were surprisingly light: Five officers (including the CO) and 13 other ranks killed, 89 wounded and 19 missing.

General Miles Dempsey, Commanding Second Army, paid this tribute: "Wherever I go I meet Lancashire men. They are acknowledged the world over to be very tough fighters. A battalion of South Lancashires assaulted the beach on D-Day on the left of the Second Army front and gained all their objectives. They have been in action ever since, and in some of the thickest of the fighting. They are a terrific lot of chaps."

The Lancashire Regiment, which can trace its history back to 1689, has a proud tradition of gallantry. It has 12 Victoria Crosses, the first won by Lieutenant and Adjutant (later Major) Mark Walker in the Crimea, and the last by Captain (now Lieutenant-Colonel) Harold Ervine-Andrews, whose company covered the retreat at Dunkirk, and who personally killed 17 enemy with his rifle and many more with a Bren gun from a barn roof.

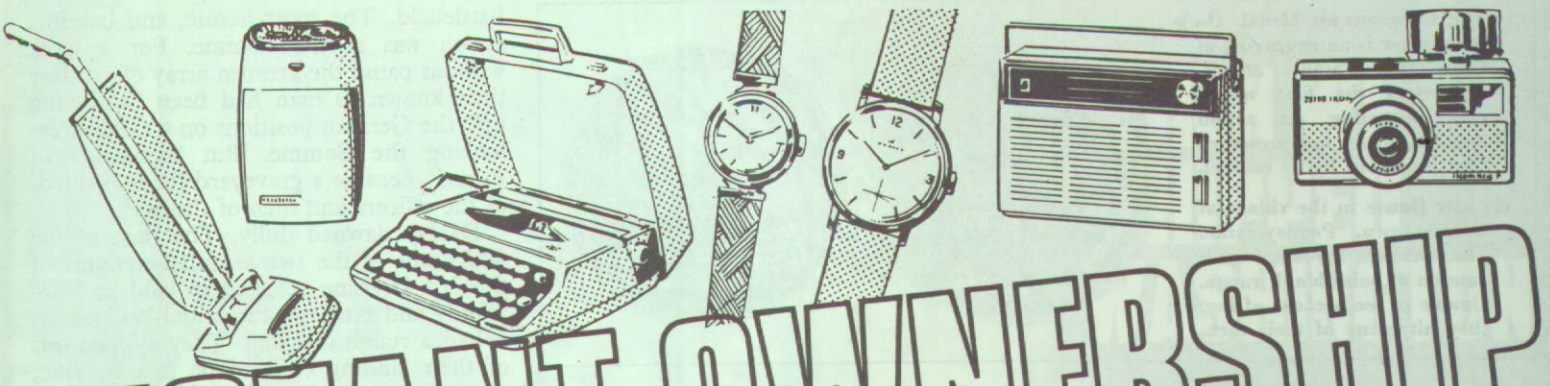
The South Lancashire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's Volunteers) (40th and 82nd) and The East Lancashire Regiment (30th and 59th) were amalgamated in Hong Kong in 1958 to form The Lancashire Regiment (PWV). The new Regiment bears all the battle honours of its predecessors on its Colours. It has a heritage of famous nicknames—"The Excellers," from the Roman numerals of the 40th Foot (XL), and "The Lily Whites" (The commanding officer of the 59th insisted that the white facings on the scarlet tunics be kept well blancoed while on the retreat during the Peninsular War).

The Regiment—its 1st Battalion is at present in Catterick—faces another amalgamation, this time with The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire). It will be completed by 1971 but the new name has not yet been decided.

The last chapter in the eventful history of The Lancashire Regiment was recorded last year during its nine-month emergency tour in Aden. It was in the heat of the action. With true British phlegm the Lancashire men held their traditional Waterloo Day ceremony as usual on 18 June, in the grounds of Government House; the Colonel of the Regiment took the salute, the men put laurel leaves behind their cap badges and the junior officer, Second-Lieutenant Angus Young, stood up to read the Waterloo Day citation. But fate turned full circle. The Regiment's oldest great battle honour was the valediction of its youngest officer. Second-Lieutenant Young, just 20 years old, was killed by a sniper's bullet two days later.

The man with Hitler is Colonel George Crosfield, who won the DSO in 1916 while serving in 1st/4th Battalion, The South Lancashire Regiment. The picture was taken at Berchtesgaden, then the Fuehrer's Alpine holiday retreat, in 1937. The "Comite International des Anciens Combattants" (an international committee of World War One ex-Servicemen not only from Britain and her allies but also Germany and Bulgaria) had just been officially set up in Berlin with Colonel Crosfield as secretary. He and 80 other delegates were invited to Berchtesgaden. There Hitler—himself a corporal in World War One—told them that the German Government was composed almost entirely of ex-Servicemen, and added: "Ex-Servicemen know that war is a great but also a terrible experience. Therefore, ex-Servicemen have only one wish and that is that never again should there be anything of this kind." Two years later world war had broken out again. Colonel Crosfield, head of the Warrington firm making Persil, was also a national chairman of the British Legion and honorary colonel of 4th Battalion, The South Lancashire Regiment.

The Regiment's most famous member—Earl Attlee. As Captain C R Attlee, he is pictured with fellow officers of 6th (Service) Battalion, The South Lancashire Regiment, at Aldershot in 1915. His company was the last to leave Suvla during the evacuation of Gallipoli. He was severely wounded in the capture of Turkish trenches in Mesopotamia in 1916 and sent home to convalesce. Earl Attlee, Labour Prime Minister from 1945 to 1951, died on 8 October last year. His memorial service, in Westminster Abbey, was attended by an officer and eight warrant officers and sergeants from The Lancashire Regiment.



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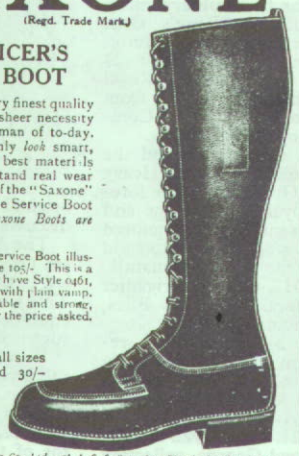

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JANUARY 1918

A crisp, white carpet of snow covered the Western Front in January 1918. With it came an uncanny peace. Soldiers—with wreaths of snow rimming their helmets—trudged through the whirling flakes like white ghosts.

There was little fighting between the deadlocked armies. The real enemy was the cold. These contemporary advertisements show ways of combatting it.

Between two and three million gross of Oxo beef cubes were issued to British soldiers in World War One (Oxo cubes remained 1d each right up until 1952. A six-cube pack now costs 1s 5d). The Church Army had 800 centres where men could get a hot bath and steaming mug of tea (now they only have nine).

At home in Britain there were rationing and queues. Each person was limited to ¼lb of butter or margarine a week. Many butchers' were closed and costermongers were selling both the meat and fur of rabbits. People took to eating in communal kitchens. A typical menu: Soup 2d, meat pie 3d, raisin roly poly 2d.

MAPLE LEAF

The Canadian flag is incorrect in the picture in your article on Dieppe (October). Being Canadian, this error was spotted somewhat quickly. Is this your fault? Things like this should be looked into more carefully. **—Hugh McIlwraith (aged 13), c/o Cpl McIlwraith RCAMC, 155 M Bty, 5050 Germany.**

● *Thank you, Hugh, and for your painting of "The true flag of Canada," reproduced here. The proper flag was flown at Dieppe—the maple leaf does not appear fully because the flags, in the absence of a strong wind, were hanging in furls.*

Royal Chapel

I am carrying out research into the history of the Royal Chapel which formed part of the old Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, and would appreciate any information on this no matter how small or unimportant it may seem.— **Cpl C D Cartwright RAMC, Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Southampton SO3 5GZ.**

Model soldiers

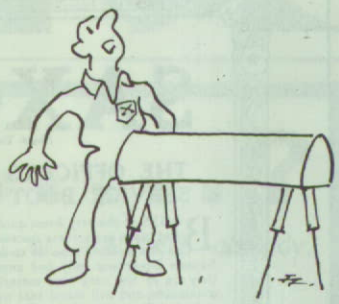
Readers may be interested to learn of the formation of the Scottish Model Soldier Society. This Society is holding national meetings in Edinburgh and Glasgow and monthly branch meetings are being held in both cities. Its journal is *Dispatch*, a bi-monthly with an international circulation and containing a wealth of information on models and military subjects. Anyone interested in joining the Society should write to.— **P Gouldesbrough, 60 Braid Road, Edinburgh 10.**

Tank history

Your article "From Little Willie to Chieftain" (November) incorrectly records that Ernest D Swinton, one of the inventors of the first military tanks, was an officer of The King's Own Lancaster Regiment. In fact Swinton (later Major-General Sir Ernest D Swinton) was an officer of the Royal Engineers, in which he served from 1888 to 1919, and later Colonel Commandant of the Royal Tank Corps.

He also raised and commanded the Tank Unit (then called the Heavy Section Machine Gun Corps), the forerunner of the Royal Tank Corps and parent of the present Royal Armoured Corps, but at 48 was deemed too old to command it in the field. His mantle, at Cambrai in 1917, fell on Brigadier (later Major-General Sir) H J Elles, another Royal Engineers officer.

Major-General Swinton had a remarkable career in civil life. Retiring from the Army in May 1919 he was Controller of Information in the department of Civil Aviation at the Air Ministry until 1921. From 1922 to 1925 he worked for Lloyd George, collecting material for the latter's war memoirs, and then until 1939 was Chichele Professor of Military History and War in Oxford University and a Fellow of All Souls' College.—**F T Stear, Secretary, Royal Engineers Historical Society, Institution of Royal Engineers, Chatham, Kent.**



Your statement that Ernest Swinton can claim the credit for inventing the first tank perpetuates a myth largely created by Swinton himself.

Essentially the British tank was the result—as most inventions are—of a long evolutionary process in which many men such as Captain Levavasseur, Captain Burstyn, Captain L E de Mole, the officers of the Armoured Car Division of the Royal Naval Air Service, Lord Hankey and Sir Winston Churchill among others played a part of greater importance.

Swinton fostered his exaggerated role in his book "Eyewitness" which he did not publish until 1932. His idea of building a tracked armoured vehicle was very probably the result not of original thought but the outcome of discussions with Colonel Hankey.

The Admiralty Landships Committee set up by Churchill in February 1915 led to the development of the first tank. This Committee had decided on a gun-equipped "landship" before Swinton suggested a "machine-gun destroyer."

If individuals are to be credited with the invention then the strongest claims can be put forward for Flight Commander Hetherington, Royal Naval Air Service, and Commodore Sueter, Director of the Admiralty Air Department. The technical knowledge of these two, allied to Churchill's genius for turning theory into practice, led to the building of the first "Little Willie" by William Foster and Company of Lincoln.—**Maj E A Clayton RAEC, 67 Gulland Close, Bushey, Herts.**

It is stated in your article that during the last offensive of the war about 2000 British tanks—Mark IVs and the lighter Whippets—were in action etc etc. The tanks used in the final offensive were Mark Vs and not Mark IVs. My own battalion had the Mark V.

In "Tanks 1914 to 1918, the Log Book of a Pioneer," Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Albert Stern says: "On August 8th (1918) the attack was made on a front of ten miles. The attacking troops were the Canadian and Australian Corps, the 3rd Corps, three divisions of cavalry and the whole of the Tank Corps, except one Brigade which was still armed with Mark IV machines and was training its men on the Mark V."—**L G Whall, Brook Cottage, Egg Pie Lane, Hildenborough, Kent.**

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Indian Army

I am writing the history of the Indian Army from the days of the Honourable East India Company to the present time. There must be much relevant material, both published and unpublished, in the hands of families in the United Kingdom, and I should be most grateful if any one in possession of such material connected with the Indian Army would please write to me giving full details and also allow me its use during my projected visit to the UK in the near future.

I would also gratefully accept any material made available as a gift or otherwise. Items of particular interest to me are histories, photographs, paintings, uniforms, medals, regimental accoutrements etc.—**Lieut-Col B N Majumdar ASC, 725 A, P Block, New Alikar, Calcutta-53, India.**

Flute music

I have been trying to obtain music for the flute and side drum printed by Boosey and Co under "Boosey's New Drum and Fife Journal." Unfortunately the firm's master copies and printing plates were all lost during the last war.

Since the flute has lost its following in the last 20 years or so, other corps of drums at home and abroad who have music libraries and do not want their flute parts might perhaps like to send these to me so that I can complete the "Boosey Collection."—**Cpl N McIsaac, Corps of Drums, Command Coy, 2nd Bn, The Royal Anglian Regt, Normandy Barracks, Felixstowe, Suffolk.**

COLLECTORS' CORNER

R W Driscoll, 21 Norah Lane, Mid Higham, Rochester, Kent.—*Requires photograph, negative or painting of 5.5in gun/how in action in Normandy 1944.*

K E Fry, 3 Nimegen Way, East Dulwich Grove, London SE22.—*Requires British Army cap badges and World War Two insignia, campaign medals, clasps etc; will exchange stamps, foreign coins, duplicate badges; all correspondence answered.*

H V Gilpin, 23 Cherry Tree Drive, Abingdon, Berkshire. — *Wanted, one shoulder title of 21st SAS (Artists Rifles).*

Maj R J Bragg, 3 Norbreck Avenue, Liverpool 14.—*Requires books on airborne forces and commando, especially "Commando Men" (Samain), "Parachute Padre" (McLuskey), "The Big Drop" (Marlow) and "Raiding Forces" (Read); all letters answered.*

J F Lamport, 2064 Carrick Street, Victoria BC, Canada.—*Collects Naval cap tallies, offers Canadian cap tallies in exchange.*

W H Smith, 25 Saddlewood Avenue, Didsbury, Manchester 19. — *Requires coloured postcards of full dress uniforms of 9th Lancers and The Durham Light Infantry.*

ACROSTICODE

One competitor commented that the September Acrosticode (Competition 112) was much easier than its predecessor. One hopes he is now struggling with page 31!

The vertical clue in the acrostic was Sandhurst, the complete acrostic being:

L A S T S
F L A I L
P E N N A N T
S O L D I E R
A R C H E R S
D E F U S E D
B A R R A C K
T A S T E
C I T E D

The decoded message read: "The British Army's senior other rank is the Academy Sergeant-Major."

Prizewinners:

1 Sgt A E Box WRAC, Army Careers Information Office, 19, Irongate, Derby.

2 Lieut-Col D S Hutton RAMC, Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, Millbank, London SW1.

3 WO I T A N Nicholls RADC, Depot & Training Establishment RADC, Aldershot, Hants.

4 William M Somerville, c/o Surveyor's Dept, Courthouse, Coleraine, Co Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

5 Mrs Coral Smith, Reception Office, Depot & Training Battalion ACC, Aldershot, Hants.

6 Maj J D Naughton, Depot Queen's, Canterbury, Kent.

7 Maj W R A Selbie RCT, 11 Training Regiment RCT, Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Crookham, Hants.

8 Maj M K Wilson, HQ West Midland District, Belle Vue, Shrewsbury, Salop.

9 Sgt M B Lee RCT, HQ RCT 1 (Br) Corps, BFPO 39.

10 WO II R W Shaw, 11 Hussars, c/o Army Careers Information Office, 35 Colston Avenue, Bristol 1.

11 Maj P Ratchford RAPC, Army Pay Office, Rogers House, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancs.

12 SAC Stewart, HQ AFG, BFPO 63.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(*see page 15*)

The two pictures vary in the following respects: 1 Water-reed on extreme right. 2 Stripes on soldier's sleeve. 3 Button of left pocket. 4 Tooth of water-snake. 5 Lines on fish's tail. 6 Right foreleg of mammal on left. 7 Palm second from right. 8 Turn-up of left sleeve. 9 Bottom of right gaiter. 10 Size of right epaulette.

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Address ..... WO

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ACROSTICODE

COMPETITION 116

HERE is another SOLDIER acrostic-code teaser. Enter the answers to the clues in the acrostic, then transfer the letters to their appropriate squares in the message, which is divided into words, and finally decode the message.

Two of the acrostic's vertical columns indicate the source of the message.

Send your complete solution (acrostic and decoded message) on a postcard or by letter, with the "Competition 116" label from this page, and your name and address, to:

The Editor (Comp 116)
SOLDIER
433 Holloway Road
London N7.

This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and closing date is Monday, 18 March. The answers and winners' names will appear in the May SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a "Competition 116" label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct solutions.

A	A1 P	A2 O	A3 M	A4 P	A5 A	A6 J	A7 O	A8 U	A9 R
B		B1 W	B2 I	B3 T	B4 H	B5 E	B6 T		
C	C1 P	C2 I	C3 N	C4 U	C5 S	C6 H			
D			D1 L	D2 O	D3 C	D4 K	D5 S		
E			E1	E2	E3	E4 U	E5	E6	E7	E8
F		F1	F2	F3	F4 O	F5	F6	F7	F8	F9
G			G1	G2	G3	G4	G5	G6		
H	H1 +	H2	H3 H	H4	H5	H6	H7			
J			J1	J2	J3	J4	J5	J6		
K			K1 Y	K2 E	K3 A	K4 R	K5 N			

ACROSTIC CLUES

A Madame inspired a regimental nickname

B Modern kind, often heard from youngsters (two words, 4 and 2) . . .

C . . . and this is really the end!

D Shining example of non-military headdress—and a problem for A!

E Goose talk?

F Soldier in charge of the butter!

G Mostly machine-gun most

H Ecclesiastical dignitary

J Palm—and hand-woven

K Long for 12 months and more

H1	F3	E6	F9	D5	B5 T	K5 N	B1 W		E4 U	A4 P									
E2	C6	F8		H2	D2	G6			J4	H6									
C4 W	H3 H	A7 O		A3 M	C1	C5	F7	G3	F5	F6									
B6 T	F4 O		A6 D	B3 T	J5	;													
D3	A9 R	G5	K3 A	E1	G1	A1 P			K4 R	G4	B2 I								
G2	K2 E	F2		D4	C2	H5			J3	D1									
B4 H	E3	E7	H7	J6	F1	E5	C3		E8	H4									
A8 U	J1	A5 A	J2	K1 Y	A2 O														

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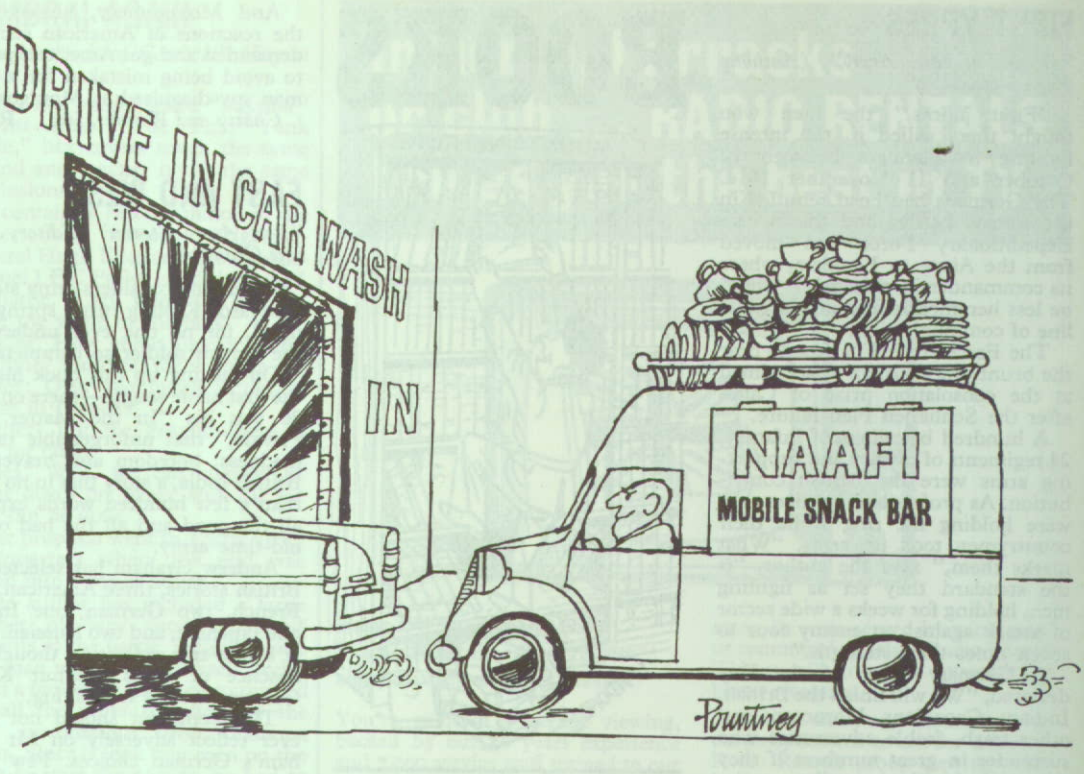
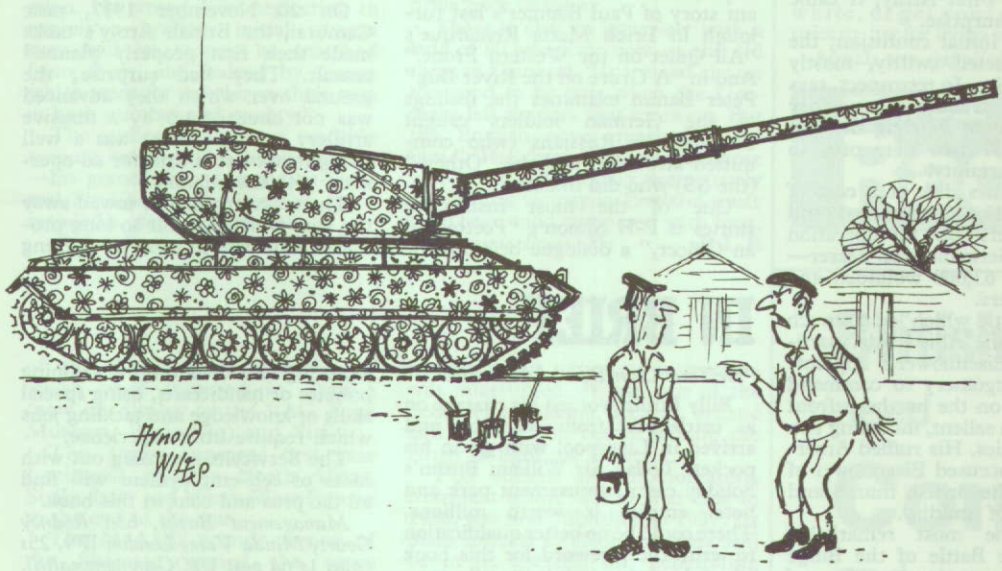
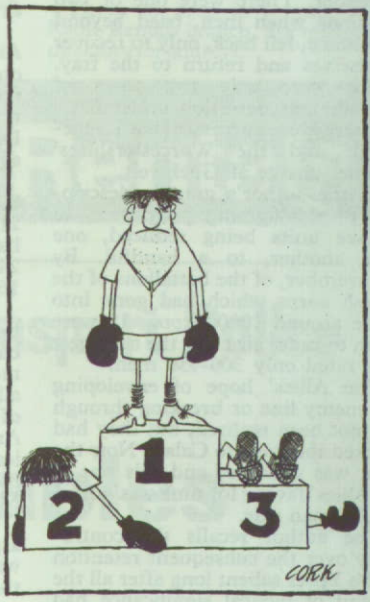
HUMOUR



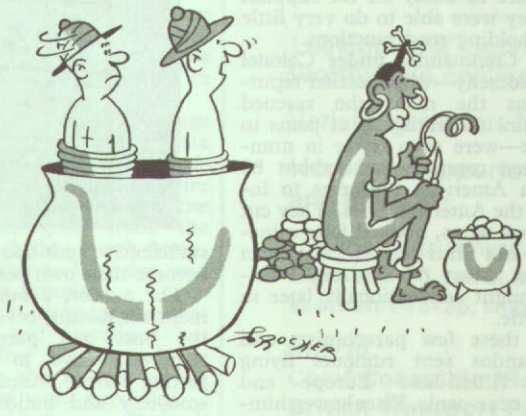


" Very pretty, Hogsworth, but we'll stick to regulation camouflage if you don't mind."



POT LUCK

" The boys would like to thank the officer for the pleasure of his Company."



" Hey—the fire's gone out!"

" There was once an Englishman, an Irishman and a Scotsman . . ."

BOOKS

FIRST YPRES

"Death of an Army" (Anthony Farrar-Hockley)

"First Ypres," the men who fought there called it, the intense fighting in Flanders between 12 October and 11 November 1914. The Germans had been rebuffed in the Marne battles and the British Expeditionary Force had moved from the Aisne to Flanders, where its commander-in-chief felt it would be less hemmed in and nearer to its line of communication.

The Force arrived in time to bear the brunt of a German attack aimed at the consolation prize of Calais after the Schlieffen Plan failure.

A hundred battalions of infantry, 24 regiments of cavalry and supporting arms were the British contribution. As professional soldiers they were holding the ring while their countrymen took up arms. "What marks them," says the author, "is the standard they set as fighting men, holding for weeks a wide sector of attack against an enemy four to seven times their strength."

A German Order of the Day declared, "We will finish the British, Indians, Canadians, Moroccans and other trash, feeble adversaries who surrender in great numbers if they are attacked with vigour."

The British "trash" did not surrender. There were one or two occasions when men, tried beyond endurance, fell back, only to recover themselves and return to the fray. There were only two cases of cowardice or desertion under fire.

There were successes like Langemarck and the Worcestershires' bayonet charge at Gheluvelt.

As the author's graphic description of the fighting progresses, so we see units being reduced, one after another, to a handful. By 1 November, of the battalions of the British corps which had gone into battle around 1000 strong, 18 were down to cadre size and the strongest nine rated only 300-450 men.

The Allies' hope of enveloping the enemy line or breaking through had not been realised, but they had blocked the push to Calais. Now the front was stabilised and this was in the Allies' favour for time was not on the German side.

The author recalls the controversy over the subsequent retention of the Ypres salient long after all the ground of tactical significance had been captured by the Germans. "Some at least," he says, "however misguidedly, felt that the Army should hold on to what it could because they had fought for the ground; they had hallowed it with the blood and bodies of comrades with whom they had soldiered all over the world through a lifetime."

Arthur Barker, 30s **RLE**

BATTLE OF THE BULGE

"Hitler's Last Gamble" (Jacques Nobecourt)

The Germans' Ardennes offensive of December 1944 was, in the words of General Alfred Jodl, Hitler's chief of operations, "the desperate venture, the sortie from a fortress threatened with starvation."

The battle was complex and full of interest, and this detailed account, translated from the French, makes good reading.

Hitler's last fling was prepared behind a veil of secrecy which excluded even Field-Marshal von Runstedt, commander-in-chief in the West. Security and a deception plan paid off. When the blow fell on the American First Army, it came as a complete surprise.

In spite of initial confusion, the Americans reacted swiftly, mostly on local initiative. In retrospect, says the author, it is easy to say they would win. In the swirling snow of December 1944 men were prey to agonising uncertainty.

Win the Allies did, at a cost of 8000 killed, 48,000 wounded and 21,000 prisoners. But the operation had cost the Germans even dearer—24,000 killed, 63,000 wounded and 16,000 prisoners.

It was a battle which led to much bickering on the Allied side, particularly over Eisenhower's appointment of Montgomery to command all the troops on the northern front of the German salient, including two American armies. His ruffled American generals accused Eisenhower of being under the British thumb and Montgomery of timidity.

One of the most remarkable aspects of the Battle of the Bulge was the disproportionate effect of the activities of a handful of German parachutists and Skorzeny's Commandos.

Probably no parachute operation has been mounted under greater difficulties than Lieutenant-Colonel Baron Friedrich-August von der Heydte's on this occasion. In the event he mustered 300 of his 1200 men behind the American lines, but they were so badly off for supplies that they were able to do very little about holding road junctions.

The Commandos under Colonel Otto Skorzeny—whose earlier reputation as the man who rescued Mussolini the author is at pains to debunk—were even fewer in number. One company sent about 80 men in American uniforms to infiltrate the American lines. They cut telephone wires, marked false minefields and mis-routed American convoys. Most of Skorzeny's brigade fought conventionally later in the battle.

But these few parachutists and Commandos sent rumours flying across Allied-held Europe and caused near-panic. Eisenhower himself was subject to strict security precautions because there was a rumour of an assassination party heading for Versailles to attack him. And Montgomery, uneasy over the reactions of American sentries, demanded and got American papers to avoid being mistaken for a German spy disguised as Montgomery.

Chatto and Windus, 50s **RLE**

EAST AND WEST

"Best Army Stories" (Editor, Andrew Graham)

When one considers army stories, Rudyard Kipling first springs to mind, for no one ever understood the British soldier so completely.

On picking up this book his was the first name sought—there on page 30 was his "In the Matter of a Private," that unforgettable tale of madness, boredom and bravery in British India, a story that in no more than a few hundred words explains all the good and all the bad of the old-time army.

Andrew Graham has selected ten British stories, three American, four French, two German, one Indian, one Japanese, and two Russian. This is a first-rate collection though the absence of Hans Helmut Kirst's Gunner Asch is mystifying.

This comment should not however reflect adversely on Mr Graham's German choices. Few passages portray more forcefully the hopelessness of war than the poignant story of Paul Baumer's last furlough in Erich Maria Remarque's "All Quiet on the Western Front." And in "A Grave on the River Bug" Peter Bamm examines the feelings of the German soldiers caught between the Russians (who committed atrocities) and the "Others" (the SS) who did likewise.

One of the most instructive stories is P-H Simon's "Portrait of an Officer," a dialogue between the author and a French officer, Larson. It dates from the French phase of the fighting in Vietnam which ended in 1954. Larson describes two officers, one a Vietnamese on the side of the French, the other a Viet Minh lieutenant whom he had to interrogate.

Generally speaking, Mr Graham's selection covers just about every facet of military life from the pens of authors like C S Forester ("The General"), Ambrose Pierce ("Killed at Resaca" and "An Occurrence at Owl Creek"), Conan Doyle ("The Last of the Legions" and "A Straggler of '15"), Thomas Hardy ("A Hollow Amid the Ferns"), Leo Tolstoi ("War and Peace"), Jules Romains ("Counter-attack at Morte-Homme"), Siegfried Sassoon ("Sherston's Progress"), and includes Guy Chapman's "A Passionate Prodigality" which captures so evocatively the limbo when war has ceased and peacetime has not really begun.

Soldiers will enjoy this anthology if for no other reason than that in each story there is someone they know—or someone just like him.

Faber, 21s **JCW**

CAMBRAI

"The First Tank Battle" (Robert Woollcombe)

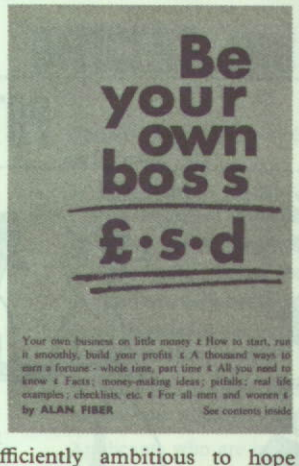
On 20 November 1917, near Cambrai, the British Army's tanks made their first properly planned assault. They had surprise; the ground over which they advanced was not churned up by a massive artillery barrage; there was a well thought-out battle drill for co-operation with the infantry.

The tanks crushed or towed away the wire which had for so long produced stalemate in infantry fighting

IN BRIEF

"Be Your Own Boss" (Alan Fiber)

Billy Butlin worked his passage on a cattleboat from Canada and arrived in Liverpool with £5 in his pocket. Today Sir William Butlin's holiday camp, amusement park and hotel empire is worth millions. There could be no better qualification to write the foreword for this book which he recommends "to all enterprising men and women who are



sufficiently ambitious to hope to become their own boss."

The author, a business management consultant, covers the work of the boss and personal qualities required, ways to raise money, getting started, running a business smoothly and building up its income. He suggests a host of opportunities in office-type work, jobs with people, salesmanship, shopkeeping and other retailing, manufacturing and inventing, developing hobbies or handicrafts, using special skills or knowledge and tackling jobs which require little experience.

The Serviceman coming out with ideas of self-employment will find all the pros and cons in this book.

Management Books, 63a Rodney Court, Maida Vale, London W9, 25s (plus 1s 6d post UK/Commonwealth).

"Sword, Lance and Bayonet" (Charles ffoukes and Captain C Hopkinson)

Facsimile reproduction of the original 1938 edition, now hard to find. Charles ffoulkes was Master of the Armouries at the Tower of London and first curator and secretary of the Imperial War Museum.

The authors cover in considerable detail the swords of the British Army, which have existed in an astonishing variety of shapes, and there are notes on naval swords, belts (including the Sam Browne), slings and knots, lances, bayonets and staff weapons, and an appendix on muskets, rifles and carbines.

Arms and Armour Press, 37s 6d

Bellona Military Vehicle Prints

Series Thirteen is entirely devoted to three tanks—the German Panzerkampfwagen Tiger Ausf E; American medium tank M4A3E2 (75mm gun, Wet) assault, Jumbo; and the British A30 Challenger Mk I.

Seven of the 12 pages, including a colour cover painting and a double-page spread of seven different views to the usual scale of 1:76 (4mm to one foot), are devoted to this version

and lumbered victoriously across the German trenches. The tank, at last, had the opportunity to prove itself, and took it.

The attack scythed through the formidable Hindenburg Line. In Britain, church bells pealed, crowds cheered and the newspapers ran enthusiastic headlines.

There had been one hold-up, at the village of Flesquieres where a determined and strongly positioned German artillery battery had carried out an anti-tank shoot worthy of a place beside many of the epics of World War Two.

This check at Flesquieres, and the breaking of a canal bridge by a tank, were subsequently given as the reason why the cavalry did not carry out the next step in the plan, cutting the four railways leading from Cambrai into German-occupied France. The author offers good reasons for doubting whether the cavalry could have done this anyway.

There was nobody else to exploit the tanks' success. Such reserve infantry divisions as existed were produced only later to avert defeat. So a brilliant plan came to nothing because it was starved of resources. Cambrai, for all its significance in the history of mechanised warfare, changed nothing on the Front.

Field-Marshal von Hindenburg thought subordinate British commanders were not equal to the situation. He wrote: "By neglecting to exploit a brilliant initial success they had let victory be snatched from them, and indeed by troops which were far inferior to their own in both number and quality."

The author of this very readable account writes with a family interest —his grandfather, Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Woollcombe, commanded a corps at Cambrai.

Arthur Barker, 45s **R L E**

CAMBRAI AGAIN

"The Ironclads of Cambrai" (Bryan Cooper)

This is a rather more "popular" account than "The First Tank Battle," but covers much the same ground and reaches much the same conclusions.

It contains a reconstruction of the conversation between Brigadier-General Hugh Elles and Lieutenant-Colonel J F C Fuller which launched the battle. They wanted a raid to prove the value of the tank.

Fuller: How about further along the front? Cambrai for instance?

Elles: Over the toughest trench system in France?

Fuller: But the ground there is ideal for tanks.

Elles: Well, we can suggest it. Put it down on paper and I'll see what can be done.

The proposal went to Third Army Headquarters where the raid was turned into a major attack.

The author has included a large number of very good first-hand accounts of the battle, including one by a man who found himself under fire in a tank with the engine stopped and all the other members of the crew unconscious from exhaust fumes. Since it took four men on the crank to start the engine, he had to shake three into life before he could drive back to safety.

There is also an interview with a lady of 80 who lives now, as she did then, in Cambrai. "It seemed almost too good to be true when the Germans left the city that morning. But the English never reached Cambrai." The disappointment of those who heard bell-ringing prematurely celebrating victory in England must have been mild compared with hers.

Souvenir Press, 35s **R L E**

of the Tiger, early examples of which were captured in Tunisia (now on display in the RAC Tank Museum, Bovington) and Sicily.

The Tigers appeared first near Leningrad, then in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and North-West Europe to the end of the war.

The M4A3E2 assault version of the Sherman earned the name Jumbo because of its tubby look. It was made by the Grand Blanc Tank Arsenal to co-operate with infantry in North-West Europe.

The British Challenger came into being as an adaptation of the Cromwell cruiser to carry the 17-pounder anti-tank gun. Although the result was not entirely satisfactory, 200 Challengers were ordered (the German Tiger had just appeared) as a stop gap. Before the Churchill and Centurion were available, another stop gap, the more readily converted Sherman Firefly, took over from and eclipsed the Challenger.

Bellona Publications, Badger's Mead, Hawthorn Hill, Bracknell, Berks, 4s plus overseas postage; subscription scheme and ring binder available.

"Blasting and Bombardiering" (Wyndham Lewis)

"Bombardier," said the adjutant, interrupting squad drill, "what is all this Futurism about? Are you serious when you call your picture 'Break of Day—Marengo?' Or are you pulling the public's leg?"

Since the picture was an abstract, there was some reason for the adjutant's question, but Bombardier Lewis's reaction was mainly resentment that his period of instruction was interrupted. It was one of the penalties of having been an artistic and literary lion before joining the Army to fight the Kaiser.

This volume of autobiography, from just before World War One to 1926, was first published in 1937. Its main interest to soldier-readers will be in its cheerful but penetrating descriptions of life as a gunner subaltern on the Western Front.

Calder and Boyars, 42s

"The Bellona Manual of Military Field Works of the 18th and 19th Centuries"

This latest offering in the Bellona range offers some interesting comparisons with modern electronic defences and reminds one that some of the oldest defences are still relevant today—for example the abatis of sharpened points used in the Malayan Emergency.

There are 38 Indian ink drawings by William Holmes which illustrate both obstacles (abatis, *chevaux de frises*, ditch, *trous de loup* and wire entanglements) and field works, the latter with examples from the Crimea, South Africa, North America, Sudan, France, Waterloo and the North-West Frontier.

Mr Holmes's drawings are not clinical views and elevations but detailed and live sketches of the military life in the context of the obstacle or field work portrayed.

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The exercise begins in earnest and the men prepare to go over the sea to Hoy in the very early morning.

ONLY THE CHICKENS WERE CHICKEN

For two-and-a-half years he roamed the world—from the jungles of Borneo to the Colorado desert of the United States—to write features for SOLDIER. This Orkney exercise was his last story for SOLDIER. Now John Saar—former newspaper reporter, National Service and Territorial Army officer, free-fall parachutist, SOLDIER feature writer and latterly Deputy Editor—is in New York. At 28 he has landed a job as a journalist with Life magazine.

ISAAC Moar, weather prophet and postmaster on the wild Orkney island of Hoy, glanced at a sky as black as a bottle of Guinness, drove a boot into the sodden bogland and said: "It'll be gae tough for them."

There were 100 of them—soldiers of Headquarters and Signal Squadron of 39th Infantry Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron on a three-night survival exercise.

Corporal Bill Ballentine munched the charcoaled exterior said to act as a preservative for the long-dead chicken within. As transport corporal in the Brigade headquarters, his normal survival measures are a full petrol tank and a spare tyre. Squatting by his side in the heather a wild-eyed character was trying to supercharge a runty

continued from previous page

fire with slices of cheese. Was he also MT? "I should say I'm empty. Haven't had a thing to eat all day."

Captain Jasper Archer of 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards was not faring well. Eyes streaming from the woodsmoke, he crouched low over his fire and gazed dismally at a hash that would have disgraced a Mexican jail.

Guilt from the bare-handed slaughter of a chicken accounted for his misery. "I felt so sorry for it," he said.

Armament Sergeant-Major Desmond Loat was confident that survival belonged to the least squeamish. He swung his chicken's neck as though he were swinging a three-tonner in mid-winter.

Later in the exercise he had the good fortune to run over a duck. Beheaded, plucked and disembowelled, it was bubbling in a pot before you could say "Who Killed Cock Robin?"

The two men responsible for this state of affairs are firm believers in the policy best expressed by a Russian general as, "Train hard, fight easy"—a philosophy unfortunately accepted by only a minority of the British Army.

Brigadier John Strawson and his Brigade Major, Major Tony Jeapes, were appointed to 39th Brigade early last year. And the Brigadier's training policy, ruthlessly administered by his staff, calls for individual training and demands fitness, intelligence, adaptability and endurance from every soldier.

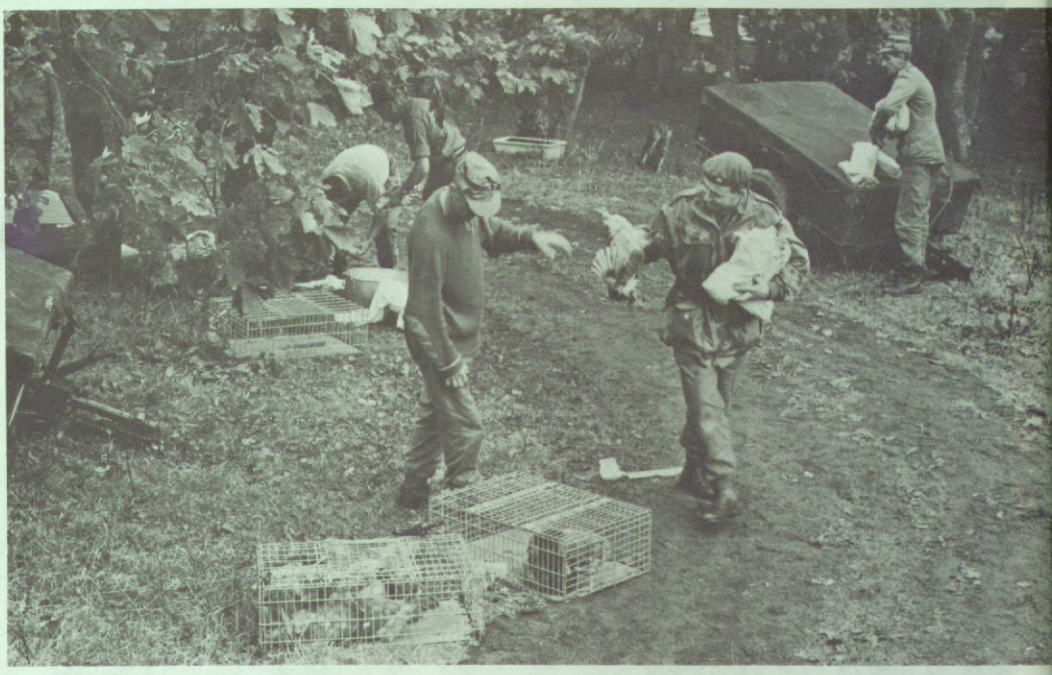
The major units of the Brigade, which is stationed in Northern Ireland, were to be unusually taxed in a transportless exercise called "Coral Sea." Before that could happen the Brigade headquarters staff, due to act as enemy, had to win their spurs in the Orkneys.

Now that most of the traditional training areas overseas have won their independence the Orkneys, where 20,000 Servicemen were garrisoned in World War Two, must return to favour. The 39th Brigade exercise was important in its own right—even more so as a pacemaker for the return of troops to one of Britain's finest and friendliest training areas.

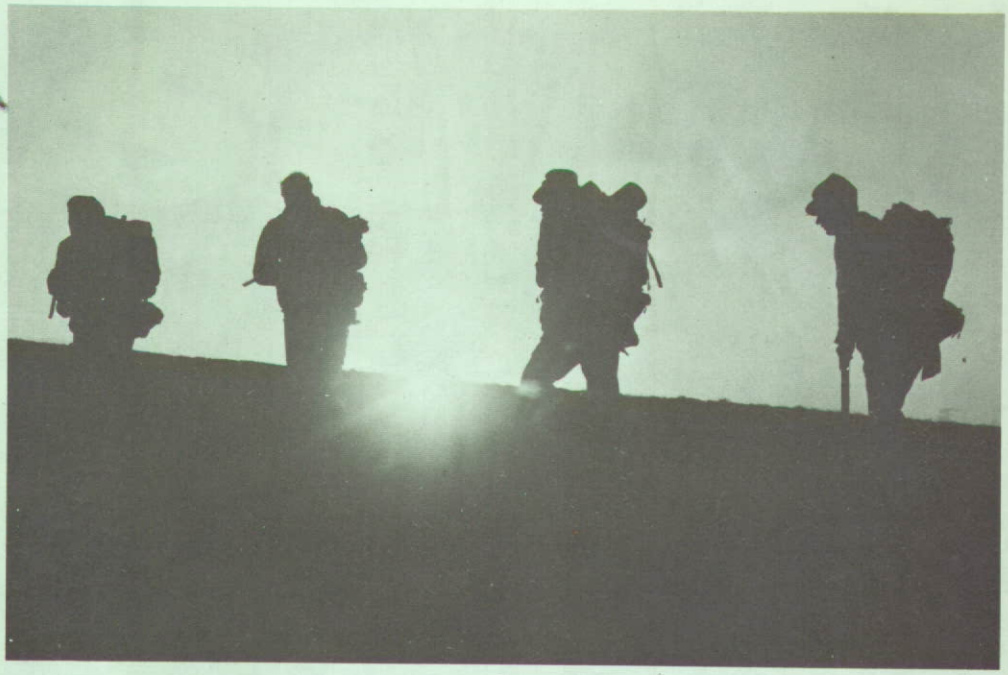
Transportation was easy and cheap. The soldiers sailed steerage in the Royal Corps of Transport's tank landing craft Audemer. As they stepped off the ship on to the Orkney mainland Major Jeapes, a towering six-and-a-half footer, stepped into his element. A crash programme of films and lectures based on his experience on operational tours with the Special Air Service Regiment acquainted the escaper-to-be with resistance to interrogation, survival techniques and escape and evasion.

The standard of concentration during the talks improved sharply after a preliminary exercise had proved that the information was not only useful but essential. The debriefing was no comfort for those who got lost—"sheer stupidity . . . amateur nonsense . . . that just will not do."

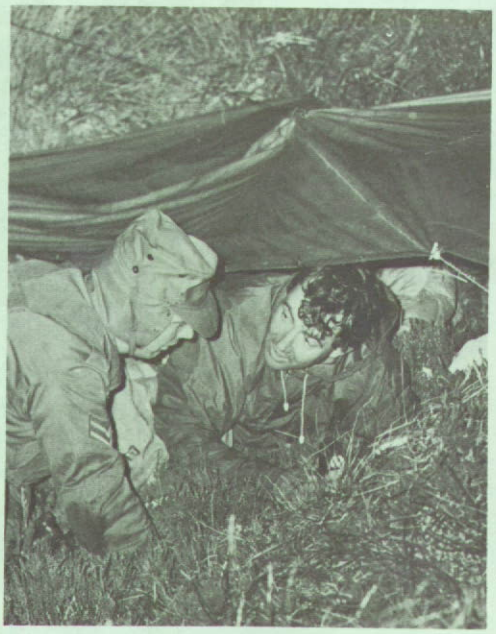
You wouldn't think that a bird would fall into this sort of trap. But Major Jeapes said it would.



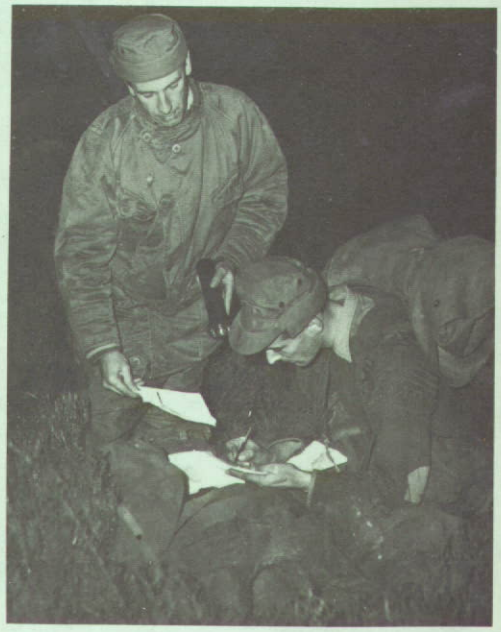
Above: Live chickens are collected and (below) a patrol lays up for the day in unwelcoming peat.



Wild, cold, wet, uninviting—the Orkneys can be all these. But they can also be very beautiful.



Above: Man on the run meets friendly "contact."



Above: Bogs welcome those who do not take care.

Below: This is not exactly Chicken Maryland . . .

Below: Soon they will remember this as luxury.

The sun was gleaming through the windows of the mess hall in an old Royal Artillery camp where headquarters were based. "Looks like it'll be a nice night for a stroll," said a hard-looking sergeant-major as he passed out the briefing maps. Sixteen patrols of four were to be dumped on the island of Hoy, an unfriendly treeless place where civilisation is on the retreat. They were to lay up by day, making what shelter they could from *ponchos*, and travel by night to make their rendezvous with contacts who would help their escape.

The directing staff called for 12,000 yards of movement a night for three nights. Food on Exercise Scapa was ample but raw—a chicken apiece, four herrings, tea, sugar, a pound and a half of cheese, onions and carrots.

They boarded Audemer on a cold rainswept dawn and found shelter as they could as the ugly grey craft butted in lonesome splendour across the Scapa Flow, favourite anchorage of Britain's great naval fleets in two world wars.

From the moment they trudged out at dusk on the first day the patrols were embarked on one of those elemental experiences where time blurs and fatigue blocks out all thought but a deep-willed determination to keep going.

The rain was practically incessant and turned Hoy into a sodden flypaper that made walking a slippery, sapping labour. In the dark the swollen streams were awesome obstacles that meant immersion to the waist at least—and woe betide those who slipped.

Casualties were heavy, as anticipated—more than 20 per cent fell out through illness or injury. The emergency flares carried by each man were used only once but that resulted in a placatory middle-of-the-night telephone conversation between Brigadier Strawson and the secretary of the local lifeboat. For the most part the casualty evacuation system worked smoothly with Sioux pilot Sergeant Ken Brett flying regular patrols to spot and extract the lame.

Major Jeapes said: "In the past, soldiers relied on their officers to lead and face them in the right direction. This won't work now. There has got to be self-discipline.

"In this exercise men are being forced to go on and achieve something through their own endeavours. The best will have gained immeasurably. The bad will know how bad they are."

As Isaac Moar said, "It'll be gae tough for them." He was dead right. But then it had to be.

BACK COVER

Soon these soldiers will find that the ground on which they are landing is no friendlier—and not much drier—than the cold, uninviting sea across which they have paddled from the comparative comfort of Audemer.

Pictures by PAUL TRUMPER