

December 1976

15p

# Soldier





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*Ronnie Barker*

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### FRONT COVER

Checkmate! A highly detailed Napoleononic chess set — strictly for the wealthier player — shown here depicting the end game between the two great adversaries at Waterloo.

*Picture by Paul Haley.*



### BACK COVER

Christmas is coming... but that does not mean that vigilance can be relaxed in Northern Ireland where this patrol from 8th Battalion, Ulster Defence Regiment, was on duty.

*Picture by Les Wiggs.*

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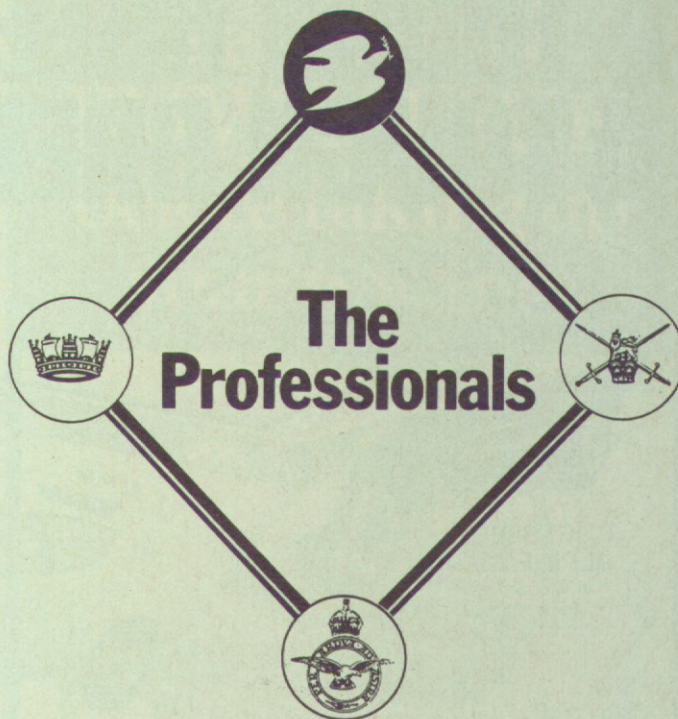
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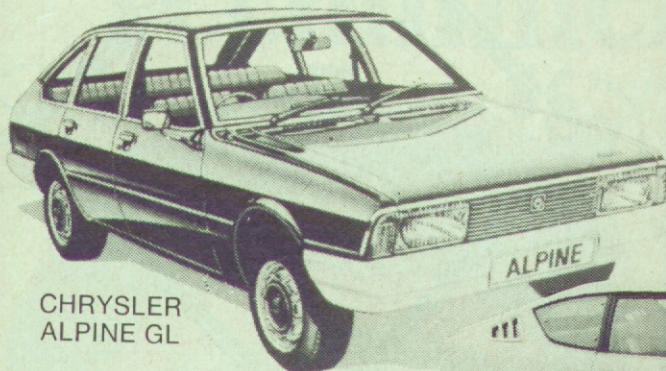
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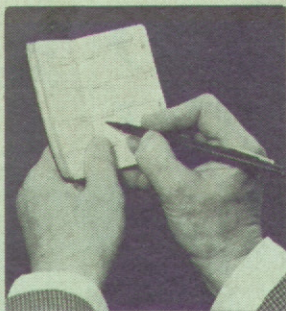
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In this regular feature **SOLDIER** keeps you up-to-date on tattoos, open days, exhibitions, at homes, Army displays and similar occasions on which the public is welcome to see the Army's men and equipment. Amendments and additions to previous lists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

## See-the-Army Diary



### NOVEMBER 1976

- 27 Kneller Hall Band and Trumpeters concert (in aid of Army Benevolent Fund), Royal Festival Hall, London.

### FEBRUARY 1977

- 26 Massed bands, Household Division, gala concert, Royal Festival Hall, London (part proceeds to multiple sclerosis research and Service charities).

### MARCH 1977

- 1 Jubilee concert (in aid of Scottish war-blinded ex-servicemen) by the Scottish Regiments, Usher Hall, Edinburgh.

### MAY 1977

- 6 Royal Jubilee Pageant, Windsor (6-8 May).  
26 Massed bands concert, Windsor (26-29 May).  
27 Royal Artillery At Home, Woolwich (27-28 May).  
28 First rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.  
31 Household Division beats Retreat, Horse Guards Parade, London (31 May-2 June).  
31 Royal Bath and West Show, Shepton Mallet (31 May-4 June) (display).

### JUNE 1977

- 4 Second rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.  
4 Open Day, Scottish Infantry Depot, Glencorse (Scottish Division 'Goldon Lions' freefall display team; displays; bands).  
7 Massed bands Prince of Wales's Division beat Retreat, Horse Guards Parade, London (7-9 June).  
7 State drive from Buckingham Palace to thanksgiving service, St. Paul's Cathedral, and Guildhall lunch.  
9 Massed bands, Household Division, play on forecourt, Buckingham Palace, London.  
11 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.  
13 Garter Service, Windsor.  
24 Aldershot Army Display (24-26 June).  
30 Military Musical Pageant, Wembley (in aid of Army Benevolent Fund) (30 June-2 July).  
30 Royal review of Reserve Forces and pre-Service cadets, Wembley Stadium.

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## SOLDIER to Soldier

It was to have been just a giggle, perhaps even a belly laugh — the appearance of trade union leaders in a Morecambe and Wise television comedy sketch. But there were objections, the sketch was scrapped and the giggle has gone. Let us be thankful that at least the would-be participants were happy to poke fun at themselves. For it will indeed be a sad day should the British ever lose their sense of humour.

Down the years the British soldier's sense of humour may not have won him battles, campaigns or wars but it has stood him in good stead in many an adversity. Knee-deep in mud, sweating through jungle, roasted in the sun or sand-blasted in a desert storm, he has always found something to laugh at.

Perhaps not oddly the adversities of battle engender more military humour, in the form of cartoons, than the relative calm of peacetime. This is what Frank Finch, SOLDIER's now-retired Art Editor, has found in his 31 years on the magazine. And of course wartime has produced its household names in this field such as Bruce Bairnsfather in World War One and Jon, with his Western Desert 'Two Types,' in World War Two.

The perennial Army joke still turns up in innumerable variations, and repetition, on such themes as the camouflage tree, cookhouse, sergeant-major, drill squad and medical inspection room. But the percipient artist, even though the number who can draw on personal military experience diminishes, moves with the times. One of Frank Finch's favourites was the drawing of an officer nonchalantly resting an elbow against a cabinet of electronics, with the comment from another officer "You have just started total war, Smithers."

Simplicity is the essence of a good cartoon, coupled with the subtlety of line and conception which, says Frank Finch, were to be found in earlier days. Now, he comments, there is generally less variety of style and "the idea nowadays seems to be to make a cheap crack and never mind whether the cartoon is drawn badly or well."

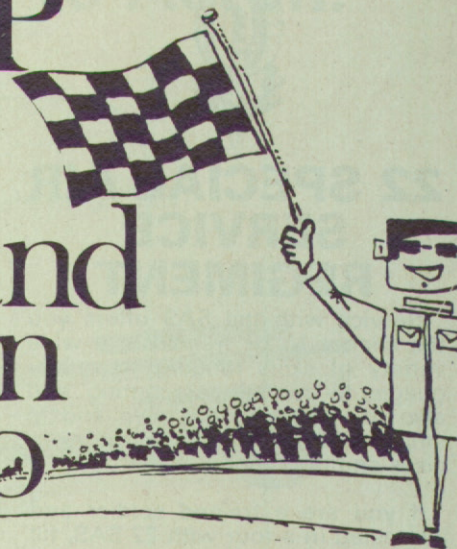
Frank was too kind a man ever to criticise an offering when rejecting it, but rejection it has always been if idea or drawing did not meet SOLDIER's standards.

★

To the list of regimental drum ice buckets given in the October SOLDIER (Reader Services, page 33) should be added three further designs which are now available: 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles, Seaforth Highlanders of Canada and Royal Canadian Artillery.

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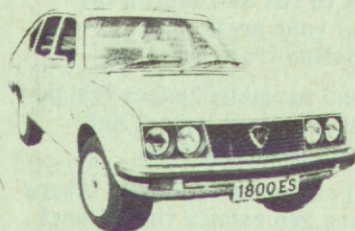
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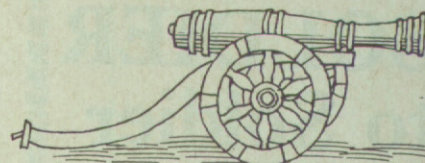
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## MILITARY MUSEUMS

# 47



## Royal Pioneer Corps

IN MILITARY terms the Royal Pioneer Corps is a mere youngster. Formed on 17 October 1939, it has as yet little tradition and history but its museum has nevertheless much to offer the inquiring military mind. The primary display of purely Pioneer interest is relatively small but a secondary show of weapons, cap badges and general militaria is wide-ranging and well presented.

A Labour Corps shield found behind the fireplace of a local garage, and Chinese Labour Corps collar badges, are among a group of World War One items while a bugle used in France by 64 Company, Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps, in 1939-40, is also displayed. In 1940 the AMPC became the Pioneer Corps and in November 1946 the distinction 'Royal' was granted by King George VI.

Among World War Two exhibits are pictures of the Lancastria, sunk by enemy action on 17 June 1940 off St Nazaire with the loss of 2500 men of whom 415 were Pioneers; the ensign flown by the SS Fort la Montée in which Major M E Elson and a party of Pioneers were killed while fighting a fire on 4 August 1943 at Quai de Fécamp, North Africa; and the George Cross won by Corporal James Scully who for seven hours bodily supported a bomb-shattered building in Birkenhead while planks were put in place to rescue a trapped man and woman.

Many famous men who served as Pioneers in World War Two are remembered in the museum. There is an original Giles cartoon recalling that the artist was once a Pioneer; the blazer and cap of Yorkshire and England cricketer Captain Maurice Leyland represent one of many famous sportsmen who served in the corps.

British, French and Italian firearms can be seen in a display which includes a Russian light machine-gun at Suez in 1956 and an American tear gas gun. A small collection of uniforms and some items of general interest such as an identity card issued by the Germans during their occupation of the Channel Island of Jersey, a World War Two emergency ration pack, bayonets of various dates and a parang presented to a Pioneer by the headman of a Borneo long house are also worth noting.

A red, gold and black dress sash worn by Italian officers who accompanied Mussolini on his march on Rome in 1922, a Beretta pistol and holster and a bronze German-Italian medal which was never issued

because the event it was struck to commemorate never materialised — the capture by the Axis of North Africa, Egypt and Suez — recall the desert war. General Sir Frank Simpson and Lieutenant-General Sir John Cowley, two former colonel commandants of the Royal Pioneer Corps, flank Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery in a signed photograph. Nearby are a silver salver presented by the War Department Civilian Staff Association of Malaya, two tankards made from brass salvaged from the North African battlefields and a massive sports trophy fashioned by Japanese prisoners from melted down water bottles.

Cavalry and infantry blades include a Japanese Samurai sword named Katana and reputed to be more than 400 years old and a jagged-edged Brunswick pattern side arm of 1855. In a fine display of more than 60 pistols are a .455 Webley-Fosbery of 1890, a .31 Colt of 1852, a Belgian 'peppercorn' pocket pistol and an Austrian .32 revolver.

A signed photograph of Hitler and a special issue of the Hamburger Zeitung announcing his death, Iron Crosses, a paddle from a rubber dinghy belonging to a Nazi bomber shot down over Essex in 1940 and two German mothers' medals — a bronze for producing one to four children and a silver for four to six children — are prominent in a German display. The gold medal, incidentally, went to mothers of six or more offspring.

Photograph albums, scrapbooks and two huge wall plans of the prefabricated Mulberry Harbour, so dear to the Pioneers and which played a vital role in the Normandy landings of June 1944, round off a visit to this young and expanding museum.

John Jesse

Curator: Major C M Cusack (Retd)

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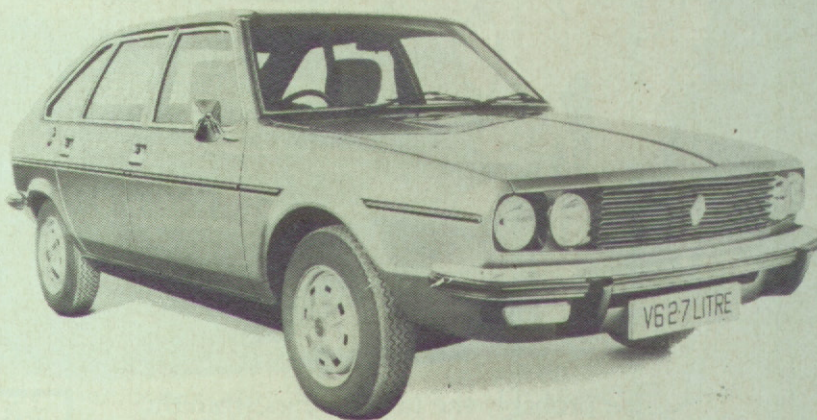
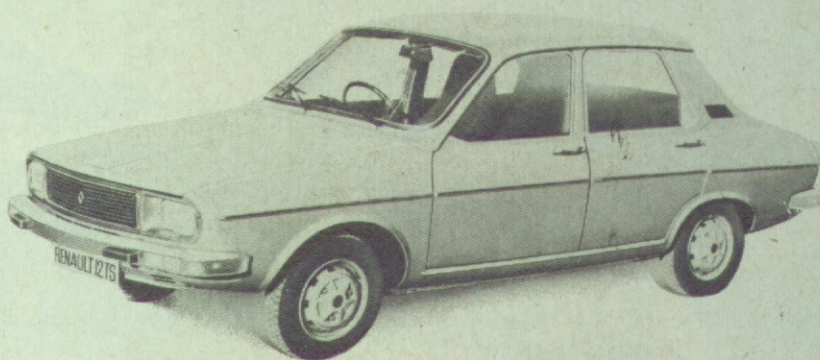
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# Drawing to a close

*After 31 years on SOLDIER, Art Editor Frank Finch lays down his pen and brush*

WORLD WAR TWO was still raging and SOLDIER was only a few months old when Frank Finch joined the magazine's staff as an artist. Now, 31 years later, he has been forced into retirement by ill-health. But he has literally left an indelible mark on SOLDIER's pages.

The art staff of five when Frank joined dwindled to just himself, and as Art Editor for many years now he has been responsible for the overall design and layout of the magazine — the all-important skill that makes each page attractive to the reader.

A native of Leyland, Lancashire, Frank worked before the war as a commercial artist for advertising agencies where he developed his delight in humorous sketches. Later he was to become a cartoonist of some note with drawings accepted by Punch, Tatler, Men Only, Everybody's, John Bull and national newspapers. His first acceptance was in 1944 when he sent a single drawing from Africa to Punch in London.

At the time he was a Royal Army Medical Corps staff-sergeant in Kenya, working on the local Army command's magazine Jambo — and the RAMC was using him to produce illustrations (often from microscope slides) of parasites and bacteria connected with tropical diseases.

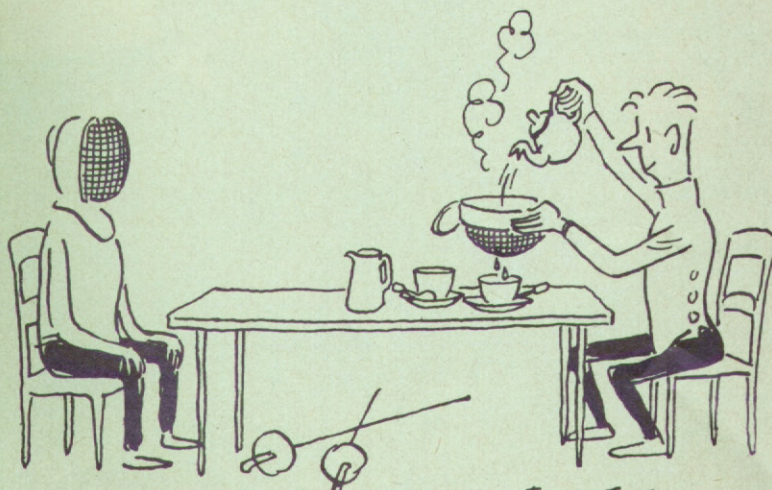
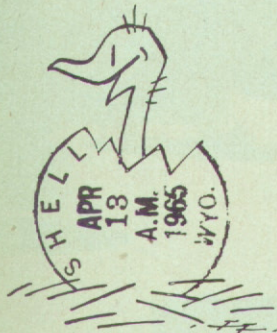
Back home on leave after VE Day in 1945, Frank was posted to SOLDIER, then housed in London's fashionable Eaton Square. In those days he used to produce paintings regularly for the colour front as well as a wealth of cartoons inside the magazine. He was an early member of the British Cartoonists' Club which included such household names as Larry and Bill Tidy whose work is seen daily nowadays.

Frank can claim one unique record as the only member of the staff to be featured on the front cover. In a January 1946 issue he appears in uniform, with his back to the artist, studying a gallery of soldiers of the past in a drawing by a staff illustrator of the time, Eric Earnshaw. But Frank is unique as a person, too. All who have worked with him have enjoyed his affability and his gentle, perceptive humour.

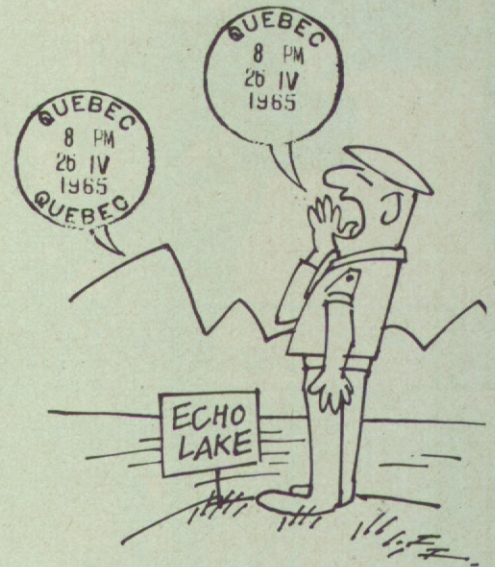
Frank plans to continue drawing in retirement and to contribute his 'How Observant Are You?' feature which has delighted and teased so many readers down the years.



*"I sometimes feel I shall remain a half colonel all my life."*



*"Zip comes the H-Bomb and you with a button undone—where should we all be?"*







On the Eire border in County Fermanagh members of 11 UDR keep watch.

The tremendous risk involved in being a member of the UDR is indicated by a series of boards in the regiment's headquarters. It records the names of 60 members killed by terrorists and it is significant that of these only a dozen died on duty. The rest were assassinated in their homes, travelling to and from duty or on their way to or from work.

The hours they work are always long. John Robinson, a young married man, goes on duty an average 16 nights a month as well as nearly every weekend. In addition he does his normal daily job.

Down at Omeath near the border with the Republic, members of E Company, 3rd (County Down) Battalion, are spending Saturday manning a permanent vehicle checkpoint. Among them are several Greenfinches. Sergeant Alison McLaughlin,

an air traffic controller, tells SOLDIER: "When I joined the UDR I didn't have any particular convictions but now the regiment is my whole life. I go straight from work to the UDR and vice-versa. I have no social life at all."

Later we move to another flashpoint border area in County Fermanagh. Here we see men of the 11th (Craigavon) Battalion from Portadown at work in unfamiliar terrain. They are in the company selected for PRUDR (Province Reserve, Ulster Defence Regiment), a new concept for the regiment. This scheme, started last January, means that each weekend a company of the regiment is on standby to go anywhere in the Province. It could relieve a Regular Army unit for other duties or may carry out special tasks.

In this wild part of Fermanagh the visitors have a daunting task. Perhaps a million Christmas trees cover the area. Underneath one or two of them there may be 'presents' and their job is to find them.

As we walk up a muddy track with green fields around us, Major Tom Brown, company commander, briefs us. "This area is one of the main routes for explosives coming through from the south. The two crossing points have been blocked off but we believe that terrorists bring the explosives up to the border by car, carry them over and bury them somewhere."

Peppered with deserted houses (no-one can live here in safety any more) the area has that Hitchcock stillness which makes the flesh creep. As a patrol peers across the border, watching for any signs of movement, the search teams go into action. At the border is a local guide, Lance-Corporal Kenneth Dunlop, of the 4th (County Fermanagh) Battalion. He tells what it is like to live only six miles from the border and to be in the part-time Army. "Some terrorists came to my house and left a 200lb bomb. Fortunately my father saw them and shouted at them. The fellow was just lighting the fuse when my brother opened up on them. They had to leave the bomb and it didn't go off."

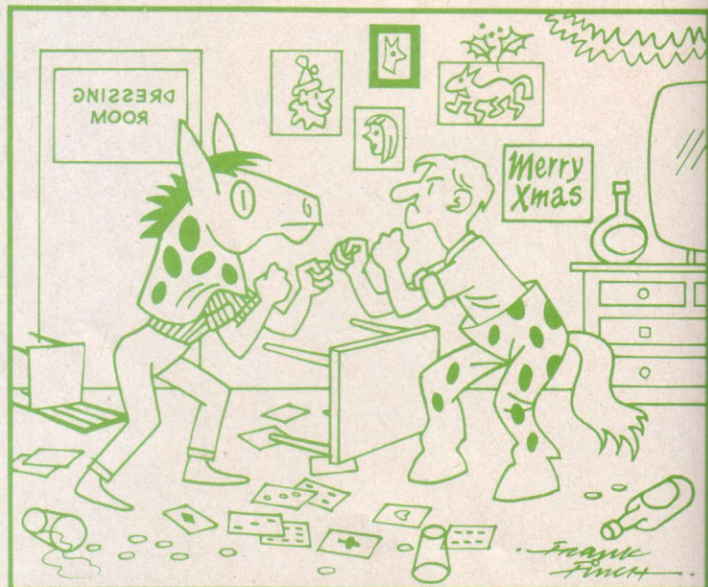
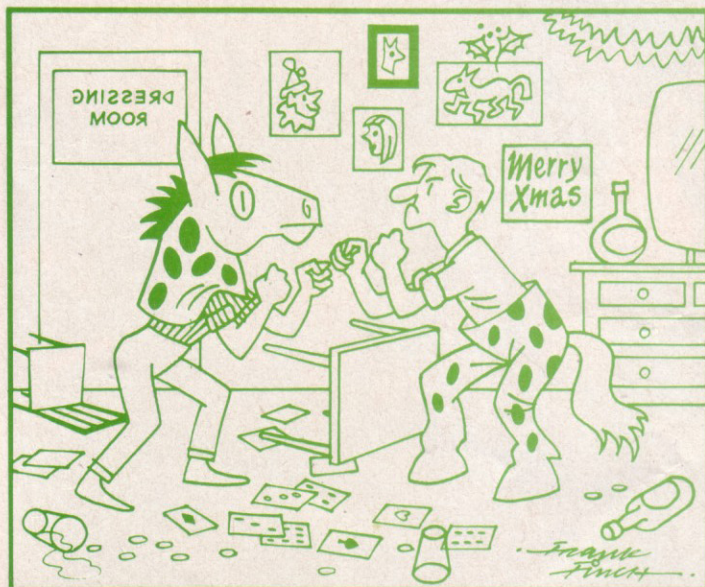
"There is always tension here. If anyone comes and knocks on a door after dark there is no way they will get in. The worst problem is coming home at night when you finish duty — you have to vary your times and routes."

Meanwhile Corporal Leonard Davies, of The Royal Welch Fusiliers, is going through a deserted farmhouse with his Labrador 'sniffer' dog, Scamp. To our amazement he reveals that he has been in Northern Ireland for four-and-a-half years, the last three of them with Scamp. "I have been with Scamp

# 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 41.







An 8 UDR searcher probes for hidden weapons in a derelict farmhouse deep in the country.

in Londonderry, Lurgan and Omagh and in that time he has found 4000lb of explosives. I love the work here — every little thing he finds is something less to be used against us.”

The next day sees us with 8th (County Tyrone) Battalion patrolling some potentially dangerous Republican territory. Our route to the rendezvous point takes us through grim housing estates — their walls smeared with slogans such as ‘Remember ’16’ and ‘Wounded Knee by Provos.’ Even a peaceful-looking village is said to contain many Republican sympathisers.

Eventually we find the patrol by a deserted farmhouse, almost the twin of the one we saw in Fermanagh 24 hours earlier. Again a Labrador is busy sniffing its way

Right: The commander of the Ulster Defence Regiment, Brigadier M N S McCord, is local.

through piles of straw stored in the derelict building. Sergeant Jack McMenemy tells us that the house has come under suspicion because a neighbouring farmer reported that his dogs had been barking a lot at night.

A grizzled farmhand drives slowly past in his tractor and touches his forelock in Benny Hill yokel style. “Who’s that? Is he all right?” the sergeant asks one of his men. Turning to us he says darkly: “We are always suspicious if someone comes to look at us. This is a bad area where anything can blow up and has done. There’s quite a few baddies around here.” The truth of this statement is borne out by the experiences of one member of the battalion who has survived three assassination attempts.

That night sees us out again — this time





in Antrim where 9th (County Antrim) Battalion operates in an area which has a strong Protestant majority — so the UDR has to cope with Loyalist extremists as well as imported IRA gunmen. The main problems for this battalion arise from the fact that most of the men work on shifts in three major factories. When they are called out full-time there has to be considerable co-operation and liaison with the factory bosses who would otherwise find their work force practically denuded.

Brigadier McCord acknowledges that the UDR has to be on guard against any possible infiltration by extremists. About one in eight applicants are rejected, although this would be for a variety of reasons.

The brigadier says that UDR members are strictly vetted before acceptance and, because it is a locally based regiment, anyone up to no good would soon be identified and discharged. Any man with a criminal record is debarred from joining. Even politics are out: "We follow exactly the same principles as the Regular Army. A man has to make a choice between being an active politician and a soldier — he cannot be both."

This year UDR men trained in England for the first time, at Warcop. Four battalions will go there for training in 1977. It is all part of the professionalism which prompted General Young to tell SOLDIER: "The increase in their ability on operations is remarkable. They are absolutely flat out all the time and how they sustain it I don't know. I am full of admiration."

"The Regular Army now regards them more highly than they have ever done and they have shown themselves to be perfectly capable of carrying out security operations. We could not sustain the tempo of operations without them."

During its visit, the SOLDIER team saw, to the accompaniment of much pipe skirling, the opening of two new UDR centres—one in Belfast and one at Kilkeel in the ancient kingdom of Mourne. They are among a number of new centres springing up throughout the Province — further proof of Brigadier McCord's claim that "the UDR is here to stay."



Members of 8 UDR search for hidden terrorist matériel in a lonely lane.



A car in County Down gets a going-over at a UDR vehicle checkpoint.

Below: Constant vigilance is one of the answers to surprise terror attacks.







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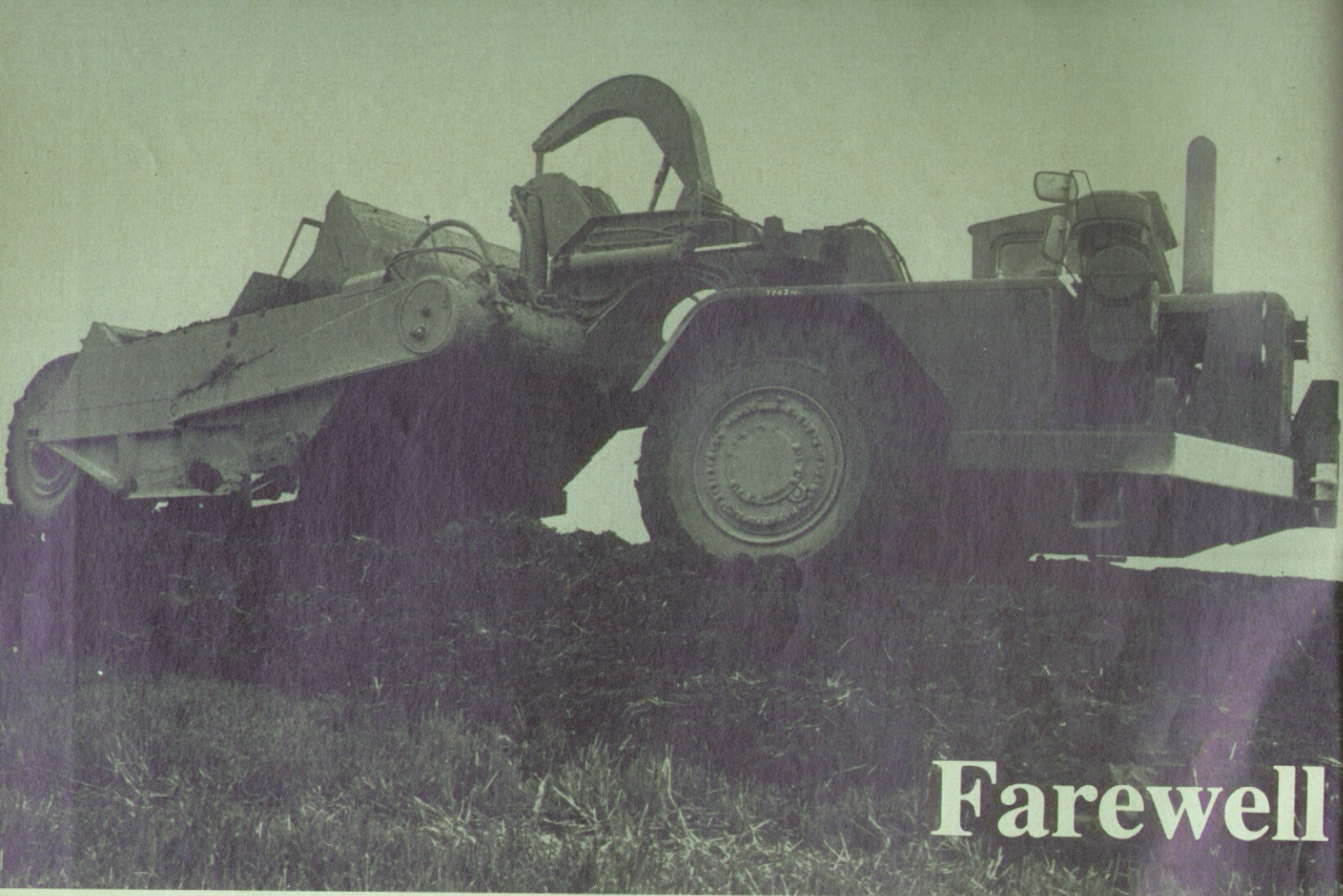
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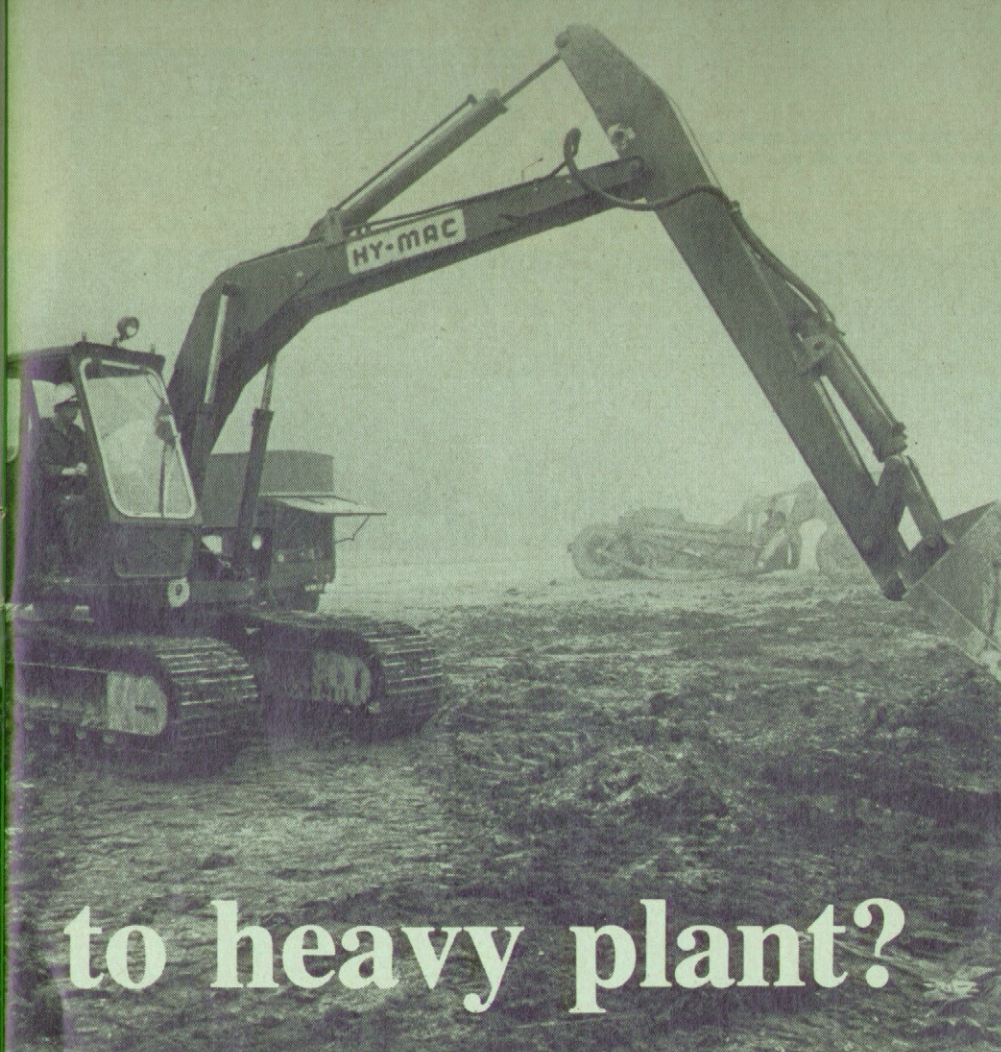
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# Farewell to heavy plant?



Story: Mike Starke  
Pictures: Doug Pratt

ment based at Ripon, not very far away. Eighteen major items of heavy earth-moving plant were brought in for the job — a job only 66 Squadron could undertake for the Army since it is a unique unit providing the only pool of such specialised equipment to support troops all over the world.

Massive soil scrapers, bulldozers and graders spent three months gouging the featureless airfield's flat surface into a series of special sections for the four-kilometre-plus circuit.

There are water, mud and sand hazards as well as an artificial hill. A spectacular 2.5-metre drop incorporating old airfield blast walls will simulate crevasses for tracked Volvo Arctic troop carriers and a carefully graded 'knife-edge' feature has been constructed to test drivers of the six-wheeled Stalwart vehicle.

Other test sections have been built, including a tree hazard where some 250 to 300 stumps have been put in the ground to represent trunks learner-drivers must avoid.

During recent years, 66 Plant Squadron has been called to tasks throughout the United Kingdom as well as overseas jobs in Kenya, Canada, Malawi and Hong Kong. And by using troops to do the Driffield conversion, the taxpayer has been saved a good deal of money which would have been spent on civilian contracts.

But this might be one of the last jobs the unit is called on to do. For the defence cuts sword of Damocles hangs over the heads of the heavy plant specialists and is destined to fall in 1978 unless a last-minute reprieve results from efforts now being made to save the unit.

And as the vehicles of the possibly doomed squadron rolled out of Driffield, the students and instructors of the revitalised Army School of Transport, transplanted from Longmoor, moved in to take over the cross-country circuit that may turn out to be a living memorial to the plant squadron. ●

Top left: Soil gouged from a field is deposited by this mighty earthmover to form a raised track.

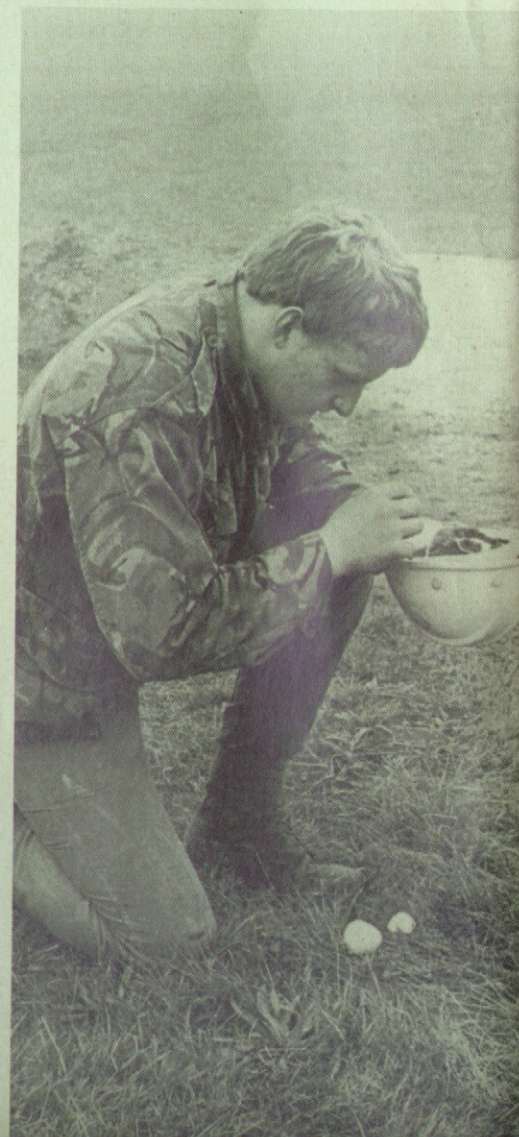
Above: A Hy-Mac operator, Lance-Corporal John Danforth, digging in beside old hangars.

THE ROAR of powerful engines on the flat plain of RAF Driffield was not the ghostly echo of past glories on the World War Two airfield but the heralding of a new era for the deserted hangars and weed-grown runways.

For the old airfield is to become a vital part of the Army's new driver training operation which is concentrating from its far-flung outposts in the south of England to Leconfield and Driffield areas of Yorkshire.

And the roaring engines were those of Royal Engineers' heavy plant working flat out to build a special driving circuit designed to present students with every conceivable hazard during training.

This task force was made up of some 40 men all told — 2 Troop of 66 Plant Squadron from Longmoor in Hampshire supported by a section of combat engineers and artisan tradesmen from 38 Engineer Regi-



Detailed planning goes into a task like this. Here Sapper Alan Peadon pores over the blueprints.

Left: Sapper John Stevenson finds new use for his hard-hat — gathering Driffield mushrooms.

Right: The squadron is part of the 12 Engineer Brigade whose badge is seen on this big digger.



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Turn down the lights, draw nearer to the flickering Yule log in the grate, and follow our faltering footsteps on the quest for . . .



## The Secret of 'Blood Alley'

AUTUMN MISTS hung in the quiet hollows that Sunday afternoon in the heart of rural Warwickshire. But the still of the afternoon was to be shattered by the cries of men, screams of horses and the clash of steel drowned in their turn by the roar of cannon that sent billows of acrid smoke swirling over the horrific scene.

For this was Edgehill, the setting for the first battle of the Civil War in 1642 when some 50,000 Royalist Cavaliers and Parliamentary Roundheads clashed near the sleepy village of Radway. In tactical terms, the battle was indecisive. But for some 5000 men it was very decisive. For they lay dead as the two armies withdrew from the field, nowadays in the middle of the Army's Central Ammunition Depot at Kineton.

Within a year of the battle a pamphlet was published describing the ghostly reappearance

of the troops who fought and perished there. Witnesses quoted included clergymen, a Justice of the Peace and several Army officers who had recognised fallen comrades.

The story goes that on the Christmas Eve following the battle local people heard the beat of distant drums accompanied by the fearful din of battle punctuated by the agonised screams of its victims. Then suddenly battalions of soldiers appeared locked in a phantom conflict which went on before the horror-struck villagers for some three hours. Witnesses hurried to Kineton and signed declarations of what they had seen with the result that many people from the surrounding area went to Edgehill the following evening and witnessed the dreadful vision themselves.

A week later the spectral struggle is reported to have happened again, this time lasting an hour longer. Stories of the sightings reached the ears of King Charles I, leader of the Royalist armies, at Oxford, and he sent officers to inquire into the matter.

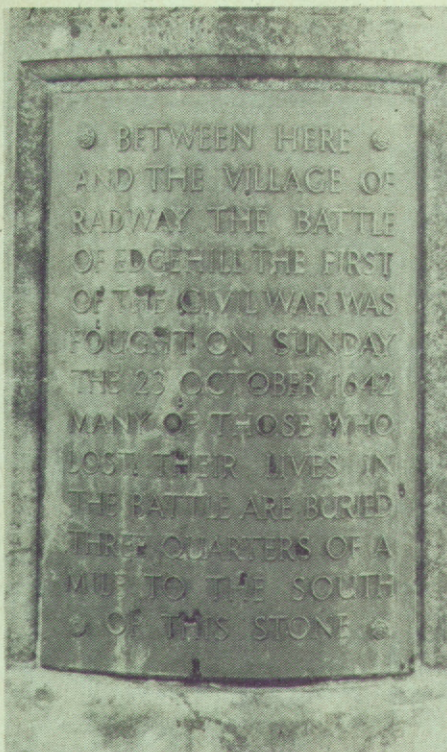
These too saw the weird vision and recognised some of the combatants. All this they testified on oath before the king.

The steep escarpment of Edgehill itself still glowers down on the flat valley below and the rural landscape has changed little since the seventeenth century. But relative newcomers are the Army's ammunition experts in their Kineton barracks which are surrounded by widespread bunkers where explosives are stored. One is next to the site of the Edgehill battlefield through which now runs a pathway dubbed Blood Alley for the strange and unaccountable events that have happened there, many believe as a result of the stirrings of the unquiet souls of the battle's dead.

Blood Alley curves around a copse where more than 400 of the fallen Cavaliers and Roundheads are said to be buried in an unmarked mass grave. Even in daylight the overhung pathway excludes a cloying gloom and the rustling breeze seems to whisper the names of the slain behind the leaves of trees that have sprung up over their corpses.

**Ghosted by Mike Starke  
Spectres by Paul Haley**





◀ A simple circular plinth records the events of the battle. Another stands at the edge of the copse.

▶ The camera never lies... or does it? A shot of Blood Alley with the notorious copse on right.



◀ At night the RPC dog section's old farmhouse headquarters is an eerie place indoors or out.

▶ Private Robert Geldard tries to get reluctant guard dog Whizz to brave ghoulish Blood Alley.



It is here, to this day, that the anniversary of the battle on 23 October is viewed with apprehension by the Royal Pioneer Corps security guards who patrol the area at night with their fierce guard dogs. Apprehension not just because the night of the 23rd always brings its crop of ghost hunters who have to be kept away from the ammunition dumps, but chiefly because of the inexplicable occurrences that punctuate the night.

"Two years ago on the anniversary, our dogs Smiler and Max refused to go down Blood Alley," said the RPC security Sergeant Paddy Tubridy. Both animals — snarling alsatians — are veteran guard dogs which will attack any intruder without hesitation. But that night there was something in the air that caused even their stout hearts to quail.

Sergeant Tubridy continued: "In Blood Alley you always get a weird feeling. One night I was down there and a great white owl swooped down and just missed me. I nearly buckled at the knees." He also pointed out a tree on a corner of the copse which he has

repeatedly seen stay still on the windiest of nights while its neighbours sway with each gust.

Lance-Corporal Michael Dunn confirmed the strange aura of Blood Alley: "You get an awful feeling down there — a cold feeling inside. I always run through it, I don't mind admitting."

His colleague Corporal Kevin Thom has noticed another strange phenomenon: "Down Blood Alley the wind doesn't blow and the rain doesn't get to you even when you walk in the middle, clear of the overhanging trees. When I say there's no wind, there's none unless a pheasant takes off suddenly... then you take off too!"

The patrols cannot avoid Blood Alley. It is the path to their headquarters in a disused farmhouse, Thistle Farm. The house and its outbuildings — now kennels for the guard dogs — are a mere stone's throw from the notorious copse and it is perhaps this proximity which has something to do with other manifestations that have been observed at the farm.





▲ Captain Middleton's grave is surrounded by a trio of gaunt fir trees that are part of a legend.

A Royal Pioneer Corps dog handler takes that lonesome road towards Blood Alley — and fear. ►



"H-Halt! Who's ghost there?"

"In the beginning," said Sergeant Tubridy, "I had to use two men on duty at night before we had the full-sized patrols we have now. One man wouldn't stay in this place on his own."

The 18th century farmhouse looked peaceful enough in daylight. But at night . . . "One night we were walking past this building on patrol and all the lights went on and off, on and off. We came in and looked around and heard an inside door close. But search as we may, we couldn't find a soul," recalled Corporal Thom who confirmed the reports of others that footsteps were regularly heard pacing up and down on the first floor which is now a store. The creaking of cooling timbers at night? Or the echo of the restless spirit of a Cavalier or Roundhead cut down in the nearby field?

One night, whoever — or whatever — haunts the old house came closer to the duty guard. A non-commissioned officer in command of the watch looked on in horror as the handle of a downstairs door next to his camp bed slowly lowered into the opening position. He turned out the guard from the next room and they burst into the corridor beyond the door which led only to a locked outside door. There was no-one there.

Ironically, the bloodstained land of the Edgehill battlefield was to claim another victim more than two hundred years after the battle. Captain W G Middleton was killed in a point-to-point accident on the very spot where the opposing armies had fought.

The captain was eventually buried on the site of his fatal accident and a simple marble slab records his name and the year of the tragedy, 1892. Whether by natural accident or some more mystical design, nothing

grows on the spot except three gaunt fir trees. Sergeant Tubridy pointed out that no branches grew on the sides of the trunks facing the captain's grave. And on some nights, he says, one of the trees exudes a liquid "as if it were bleeding."

But Sergeant Tubridy has even stranger tales to tell and these concern the living, not the dead, in this much-haunted area. "I do spot checks on the lads at night to keep them on their toes," he explained, "and many's the time they've been seen or heard where they have not been." One incident particularly sticks in his mind: "One very foggy night I lost my direction a bit with a colleague and in the middle of a field we heard a Land-Rover door close and then identified the voices of the duty crew we knew were meant to be patrolling nearby.

"We heard the vehicle drive off and it startled the sheep around the field. The fog cleared a bit and we got our bearings in the dark and made for the headquarters. We found the Land-Rover had not been used that night and when we returned to the field in daylight we found it was so enclosed that the vehicle could not possibly have got in there."

Can it be that supernatural forces concentrated in the area by the carnage of 1642 are so strong that they affect spirits of the present too? Or is it all a myth sustained by successive generations for more than three hundred years? Sergeant Tubridy, who has known the troubled ground for four years as a security man and practical-minded soldier, summed up the hauntings: "There's no doubt that some of the things said to have happened here are imagination. But then there are others. As for them, well . . ."







▲ A group who dress up as Cavaliers and Roundheads drink a toast to 1642.

▶ A Naafi club recalls the man who led the doomed Royalist cavalry at Edgehill.

▼ Edgehill's local pub had the only spirits seen there on that night — in 'optics'!



**W**hile Kington can boast an army of ghosts, the Army lists a fair number of other hauntings.

For more than 200 years soldiers on duty in the Tower of London have claimed to have seen apparitions. In the winter of 1864 a sentry was found unconscious at his post and was duly court-martialled. But in evidence it was revealed that he had merely fainted as a result of challenging a figure in the Tower and finally attacking it with his bayonet only to find the weapon met no resistance. A witness corroborated his story and he was acquitted.

Wiltshire has its military ghosts at Woodmanton where tramping feet and headless horses on the site of a Roman battle have scared many people for at least two centuries. But the invention of ghost stories to keep superstitious yokels indoors was a favourite ruse of smugglers and Wiltshire is in the middle of the ancient M1 smugglers' trail from the coast to London.

A sight of Wild Eric in Shropshire would seem to be imminent. He was a soldier who fought against William the Conqueror and later sided with him. He is said to appear in times of national danger but has not been seen since Crimean War days.

Tidworth is said to have a ghostly drummer who beats out a tattoo to draw attention to his claim that he was unjustly charged with theft, an allegation which led to the confiscation of his drum.

In the 1800s a Coldstream Guards sergeant let the side down by murdering his wife and throwing her headless corpse in the canal. The unfortunate lady got her own back by returning as a spectre and frightening the living daylights out of her husband's colleagues in Wellington Barracks.

Army drummers seem to have cornered their fair share of the haunting market. Among many reported up and down the country is the lad of Cortachy Castle in Scotland who was indiscreet enough to fall in love with his master's wife, the Countess of Airlie.

The Earl discovered the romance and had the lad sealed in his own drum and hurled from the highest turret in the castle. It is said the drummer now returns beating his drum in triumph when death or misfortune are about to descend on the family.

But ghosts appear abroad as well. The legless ghost of a Gurkha soldier shot by bandits in 1951 is said to have caused consternation at a police training centre in Malaysia. The ghost of a Japanese officer is reputed to have been heard — but not seen — in Malaysia too.

A veteran tank crew returned to the Western Desert after World War Two and had their nostalgia heightened by the appearance of a phantom 'quad' gun tractor. It moved slowly towards them and vanished suddenly. All three tankies discounted the idea of a mirage.

The Rock of Gibraltar has recently come up with its ghost too. A Canadian sapper officer is said to have tried to find the legendary underground route to Morocco by which the Rock's apes came to Europe from Africa. The officer and his dog never returned from their exploration and their ghosts are said to walk in the vaulted caverns the officer and his men gouged out of the inside of the rock and which are still used by the Army.

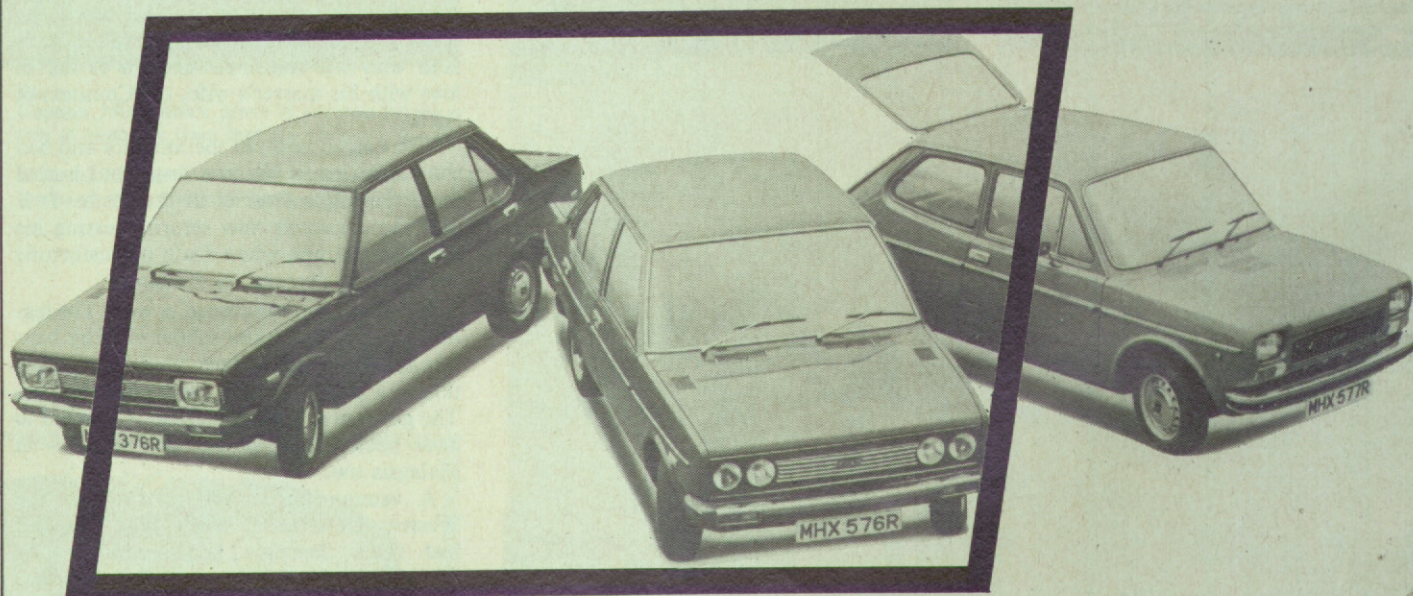


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S03



# Soldier news

## Visit raises Curtain

A corner of the Iron Curtain has been lifted with a four-day study tour to the Soviet Union by a party of British Army officers.

Eight students from the Staff College, Camberley, led by their commandant, Major-General John Stanier, went to Moscow by invitation of the Russians to meet their opposite numbers at the Frunze Military Academy. It is hoped that a return visit will take place next year.

The students — captains in their early 30s on a year's course at Camberley to develop their military knowledge and understanding for further command — turned many heads in the Soviet capital in their unfamiliar uniforms. They were accompanied by a member of the staff of the Defence Ministry's Directorate of Army Training, and by Brigadier Peter Bush, the British Military Attaché in Moscow.

### Soviet

The Frunze academy is for junior officers in the Soviet Army in their 20s and 30s who take courses there in practical aspects of command, military history, tactics and communications.

The invitation was sparked off following ex-premier Sir Harold Wilson's visit to Moscow last year followed by the Soviet foreign minister's return visit to London last March when it was agreed to develop a wide range of official contacts between the two nations in the spirit of accord developed by the Helsinki Agreement.

A Defence Ministry spokesman commented: "We hope the visit has improved mutual understanding between those with similar military trades."

### Wreath

In Moscow the British party placed a wreath at the tomb of the Unknown Soviet Soldier.

On his return to England, one of the party, Major Charles Wright, declared that the visit had been "fascinating" and compared the British Army with the Russian Army by commenting "The size of their army takes some getting used to plus the fact that they are extraordinarily disciplined — too much so, if anything — there's not much room for flexibility."

"But they're a relatively cheerful lot who compare well with those outside their army. And it's definitely the 'in' thing to be in uniform."

Major Wright said there will be a visit from the Russians to Camberley in the spring of 1977 when it is hoped that the Russian students will be shown a thorough view of "the real democratic way of life," as Major Wright put it.

Picture shows Major-General M I Stolk, Soviet Military Attaché in London, greeting Major-General Stanier on his return from Moscow.



## Angus, the 'braw blaw'

The Grant's whisky piping championship, now regarded as the greatest overall test in the solo piping world, has been won by Glasgow-born Pipe-Major Angus MacDonald, who is pipe major of the Guards Depot at Pirbright.

In the great hall of Blair Castle, home of the Duke of Atholl, at Blair Atholl, he narrowly defeated last



year's winner, John Burgess, a teacher of piping at Dingwall.

John McDougall, of Badenoch, who won the piobaireachd section of the championship, was third.

Angus MacDonald, whose family comes from Lochaber, won £200 and is the holder, for a year, of the Balvenie Trophy, a magnificent silver-chased drinking horn.

His success completed for him a unique treble as he is now the holder of the Bratach Gorm (the 'Blue Banner') won in London; the Gold Banner, won at the Mod in Aberdeen; and the Grant's trophy.

## Blisters boost Red Cross

Lady Wilson, wife of the General Officer Commanding South East District, Lieutenant-General Sir James Wilson, has presented a cheque for £3700 to the Hampshire Red Cross. And it was soldiers' blisters that helped raise the money.

For the cash was raised in May on an 800-strong sponsored walk on two eight-mile circuits around Minley Manor and the Royal Engineers training area at Hawley.

Lady Wilson, a vice-chairman of the Hampshire branch of the Red Cross, presented the cheque on November 22. Both she and Sir James went on the walk.

## Milan agreement signed

The British infantry is definitely to have the Franco-German anti-tank weapon Milan. This has been announced by Dr John Gilbert, Minister of State for Defence.

Milan is a medium-range anti-tank weapon system for infantry which is effective against all known tanks to a range of two kilometres. It comprises a wire-guided missile and launcher, together weighing 28kg, and has a two-man crew. It is man-portable.

The weapon was developed collaboratively by France and Germany and is in service in their armies. It will be in service with the British Army before the end of the decade, complementing the long-range British Swingfire missile which is vehicle-mounted.

Dr Gilbert said: "The Government announced in September 1975 that we intended to procure Milan, subject to the achievement of satisfactory terms. These have been obtained and include manufacture in Britain of all the systems required, following a small initial purchase to accelerate introduction into service with operational units."

British manufacture will be by the British Aircraft Corporation's Guided Weapons Division as prime contractor. Arrangements have been made between BAC and the Franco-German consortium Euromissile, and accepted by the three Governments, leading to full participation by BAC in sales to other countries.

In all, by the early 1980s, about 2000 jobs could result for British industry.

As part of the arrangements the three countries have agreed to collaborate in any future enhancement of the Milan weapon system and to explore "scope for collaboration in the development of the next generation of anti-tank guided weapons."

## Will they meet again?

Dame Vera Lynn led the singing of 'We'll meet again' in a packed Festival Hall in London at the last planned reunion of the Eighth Army commemorating the anniversary of El Alamein.

Three thousand veterans of the legendary World War Two battle in North Africa, which was Britain's first major victory of the war and which made Monty's name a household word, packed into the hall and many more were left outside when they could not get tickets.

After the reunion ceremonies attended by Prince Charles, the 'Old and Bold' danced the night away in the Festival Hall foyer to the band of the Irish Guards.



## Hutted camp to close

The Army is giving up Heathfield Camp, Honiton.

The camp is being handed over to the Property Services Agency of the Department of the Environment, except for one hut which will be made over to the Territorial, Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association for use by the Air Training Corps.

Disposal of the camp will be a matter for the Property Services Agency. The normal procedure is to offer surplus camps first to other ministries and Government departments and then, if none of these is interested, to the local authorities. After these procedures a camp still not disposed of is normally offered for sale by auction.

Heathfield Camp, a hutted camp, was built in 1939-40 and covers 59 acres. It can accommodate 800 troops. The last Army unit there was 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, which left to go to Germany in January 1971. It was used in the autumn of 1972 to house Asians evacuated from Uganda. Meanwhile it has been held as reserve accommodation for the Army but is now surplus to requirements.

The Army married quarters at Honiton, totalling 139 houses, are being retained. They are allocated to families of servicemen serving in various parts of the South West.



## A stirring mixture for Dharan

When Major Mike Dickinson and Warrant Officer 1 Dougie Harrold visited Dharan in eastern Nepal recently they found quite a problem. The Nepalese cooks serving the British Gurkha headquarters did not know how to make Christmas puddings. So the two Army Catering Corps men took time off to teach the civilians in the British officers' mess the Yuletide art. Using mainly local ingredients they made a giant pudding — enough for both messes and for all the British Community at Dharan. Picture shows Mr Harrold explaining things in stirring terms.

## Father and son go back to school

It must be unusual for a senior serving Army officer and his son to study identical subjects at the same faculty of the same university at the same time — albeit on opposite sides of the lectern.

Brigadier Reg King, who has been awarded a Service Fellowship, takes up his appointment as an honorary visiting research Fellow at Bath University where Peter, his eldest son, started an electronic engineering degree course in the electronics department this month.

The brigadier will be carrying out research into certain aspects of speech and signal procedure under the direction of Professor William Gosling who is head of the School of Engineering and professor of electronic engineering at the University. Peter was awarded a Civil Service Procurement Executive scholarship earlier this year.

Brigadier King, 48, was commanding the Training Brigade, Royal Signals, and Catterick Garrison. He was commissioned into the Royal Signals in 1949.

## These redcoats are really Yankees



Look out, the redcoats are coming' . . . only these redcoats are Americans.

The men are dressed in the uniform of the 10th Regiment of Foot which fought at Lexington, Concord and Bunker Hill in the American Revolution. Each piece of equipment has been painstakingly researched to make sure that it is a perfect copy of the uniform of 1776.

The modern counterparts visited Britain as part of the United States bicentennial celebrations and found time to give a display for the pensioners at Chelsea Hospital.

They marched into the 1776 Exhibition at the National Maritime Museum and also visited the home headquarters in Lincoln of The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment, to which they are affiliated.

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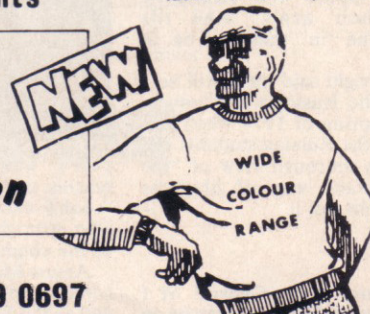
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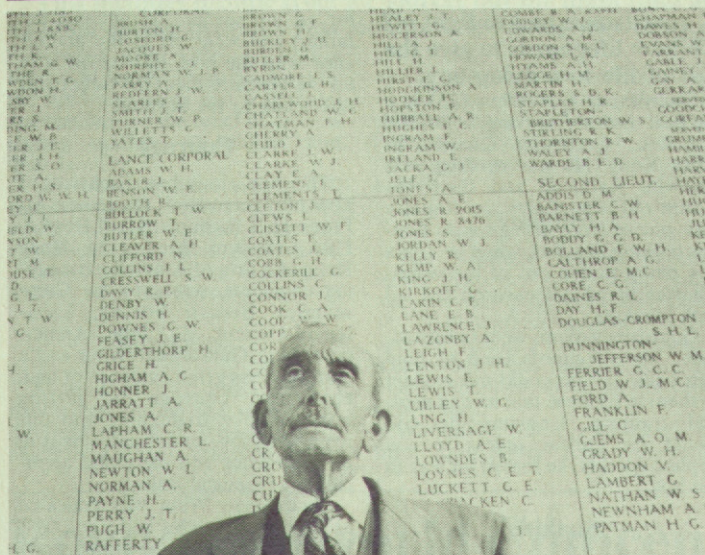


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# £26,000 'down the drain'



## Charlie's war

The horrors of World War One, the so-called Great War, have long since dimmed and to an extent been eclipsed by the relatively more recent World War Two, but not for Charlie Brown.

For Charlie is an Old Contemptible, and he still has such a tale to tell about the trenches of Vimy Ridge and the Somme that Anglia Television took him back there to attempt a reconstruction of those horrific times through the eyes of a man who was in the thick of it.

Charlie, now 84, served in the Royal Engineers attached to 4th Guards Brigade. He was at the Front from October 1914 until 1918, apart from two six-day periods of leave.

"I volunteered to join up, because if you volunteered they gave you £5 and that was a lot of money in those days," he said.

During his time at the Front, Charlie fought at the Somme, Vimy Ridge, Arras, La Bassée and Ypres, and he revisited these battlefields with the camera crew, as well as visiting his brother's grave at Richeburg.

A party was laid on in Charlie's honour by the Arras branch of the Union Nationale de Combattants, the French equivalent of the Royal British Legion, and he was presented with an inscribed tankard.

"The trip was a very big experience for me," said Charlie, "not only because I saw what France is like now, but also because I was able to see how the TV people worked." The trip brought back a host of memories — of rain, mud, rats, lice and bully beef and biscuits. But Charlie treasures the memory of his "wonderful pals" and of the stories told to keep up hard-pressed spirits.

"Some memories don't bear thinking about. You go to some places and the trenches are still there, like at Vimy Ridge, but lots of them have changed. You see a cornfield where there were open graves and now there are lots of small wooden crosses."

The Anglia programme cost about £6000 to make and was

shown just before Armistice Day in November.

Picture shows Charlie in front of the roll of honour at the Menin Gate, Ypres, Belgium.

Dishonoured cheques are currently costing Naafi some £26,000 a year, according to Mr Norman Furse, the corporation's financial director.

In addition to accepting cheques as payment for goods, Naafi — unlike most retailers — will also cash cheques for its customers. A charge of 6p is made for each cheque cashed, but the £26,000 is incurred over and above the costs covered by these charges and after crediting any collection charges received in respect of dishonoured cheques.

This sum is largely attributable, says Naafi, to collection costs on dishonoured cheques for £5 or less — which are currently accepted, in the UK, without the support of a cheque card. Cheques encashed for greater amounts must be backed by such a card.

"This is £26,000 'down the drain' which should be swelling the profits

we return to our customers," says Mr Furse.

### Cheque card

"This facility to cash cheques at the Naafi shop or club is greatly appreciated by many of our customers, particularly if their quarters are a long way from town and the nearest bank. Therefore, to avoid withdrawing this facility and at the same time to reduce costs we have had to instruct our UK staff that all cheques cashed from 1 November 1976 must be supported by a banker's cheque card.

"This means a slight inconvenience to our customers but I am sure this is better than raising our charge for the service."

## Rudolf's Toc H lamp goes out

The thankless task down the years of guarding Nazi war criminal Rudolf Hess in Berlin's Spandau jail has been relieved to some extent for British soldiers by creature comforts provided by Toc H.

Now the job has passed to another charitable organisation in the divided city — Wesley House. But the Toc H lamp, far from dimmed, shines on at Checkpoint Charlie in the Berlin Wall where tea is served to British soldiers when they are on duty there.

The annual report of Toc H reveals that defence cuts to the Army have not so far had an adverse effect on the organisation's Service clubs in Rhine Army. Turnover is still rising, it is claimed.

A chapel has been opened at Münster and a kiosk will shortly serve the isolated station at Wulfen near the Dutch border.

## Newcomers provide court guard

Chester's newest soldier residents — 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment — provided much of the colour for the ceremonial opening of the city's Crown Court, attended by the Lord Chief Justice of England.

The battalion, now stationed in Chester after its recent 18-month duty tour in Ulster, provided the judge's 49-strong guard of honour and the band and corps of drums for the ceremony.

### Arrival

Fanfare trumpeters from the battalion announced the arrival of Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice, with the Hon Mr Justice Wien and the High Sheriff of Cheshire, Mr C C Taylor, at Chester Castle where the Crown Court is situated.

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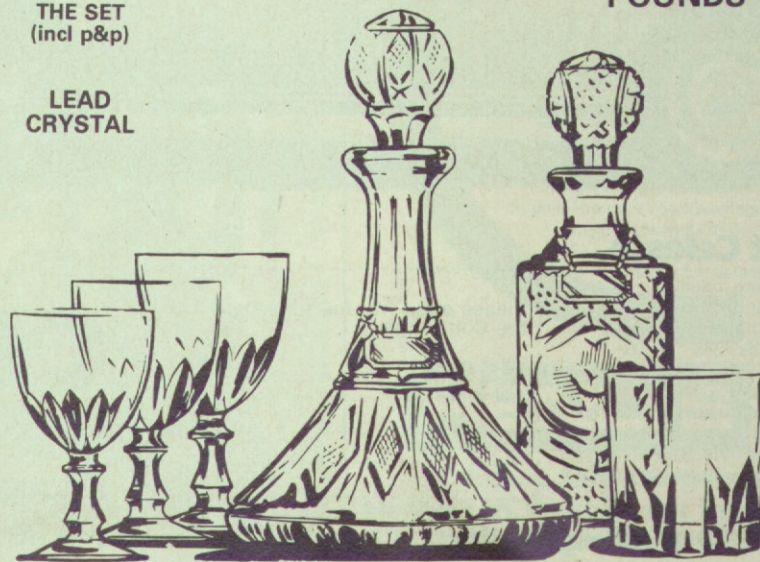
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## Kiss of life hero fights lifeguards

**A guardsman had to fight off Chinese lifeguards to give the kiss of life to a dying boy.**

Guardsman Ken Winn (25) is a medical orderly serving with 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards, in Hong Kong. He was strolling with his wife Kathleen and their 19-month-old son Garry at Repulse Bay, one of Hong Kong's most famous bathing beaches, when he saw a boy being pulled out of the water. Chinese lifeguards covered the lad with blankets.

Guardsmen Winn went to investigate. The lifeguards tried to hold him back and he could not explain to them in Chinese that he had medical training. Knowing first-aid would be useless unless it was applied quickly, he forced his way to the boy.

### Striking

He found the boy's heart had stopped and immediately began the resuscitation treatment his Army training had taught him, emptying water from the boy, striking him on the chest and giving him mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

While he was doing this, another Chinese lifeguard, under the impression that Ken was interfering with a dead body, grappled with him and Ken had to free himself.

He kept up mouth-to-mouth resuscitation until the boy was conscious and could give his father's telephone number. Then he phoned

for an ambulance, telephoned the father, and went off in the ambulance with the boy, leaving his wife on the beach to meet the father and direct him to the hospital.

### Courage

The boy, Jonathan Richards, is now fully recovered. His father, Mr Frank H B Richards III, of Boston, USA, resident director in Hong Kong of a firm of American consulting engineers, wrote to the Commander British Forces, Lieutenant-General Sir John Archer, describing Guardsman Winn as "a man who has given evidence of high character, courage in getting involved in a frightening and difficult situation, sound judgement in an emergency and successful application of medical skills."

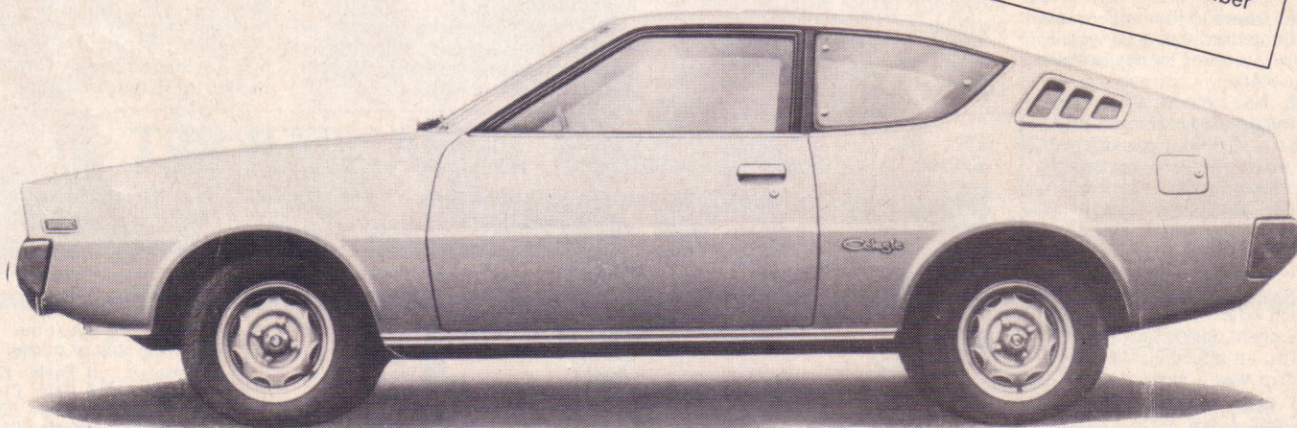
Guardsman Winn was educated at Copleston School and Civic College, Ipswich, and joined the Army in 1967. He received a Commendation from the Commander British Forces, Hong Kong, for his action. He has served in Northern Ireland, Germany and British Honduras as well as Hong Kong.

The Winns have been in Hong Kong nearly two years.

**Picture:** Major-General Ronnie McAlister, Deputy Commander British Forces (left), who presented the Commendation, with Mrs Winn, Guardsman Winn and Mr Frank H B Richards III, father of the rescued boy.

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# Cash rolls in to £1m fund

For the first time ever, the Army Benevolent Fund's annual income has topped £1,000,000. This includes income from all sources but the main fund at £792,102 showed an increase of £22,000 on the previous year despite there being no unexpected 'windfalls.'

Between April 1975 and 1976 a total of £1,042,311 was given out by the fund and corps and regimental associations for the relief of distress among soldiers, ex-soldiers and their families.

The fund now has a total of 880 supplementary allowances, paid weekly to aged and impoverished ex-soldiers and their dependants. Among them is still a number of widows from the Boer War.

## Bursaries

A total of 172 bursaries was maintained during the year at 12 different homes or schools for the children of soldiers who died on ser-

vice or soldiers' children from deprived homes or orphans. Also 471 children were given free holidays at Pontins holiday camp — 100 of them sponsored by Sir Fred Pontin himself.

## Wounded

The Northern Ireland Special Relief Fund was set up three years ago and has paid out more than £176,000 in grants and loans. In the case of young widows, assistance had mainly been directed towards helping them to set up and furnish new homes.

Wounded soldiers discharged from the Army have received

grants to make a fresh start in civilian life and to buy furniture and other necessities.

The fund's annual report says that the Army's current redundancy programme has given even greater emphasis to the importance of the ABF's resettlement loans scheme. Under this scheme, help is given to soldiers nearing the end of their engagements who would not otherwise be able to set up their own homes before receiving their terminal grants.

Last year's loans amounted to £291,000.

## Medical

The fund gave compassionate grants totalling nearly £15,000 to soldiers prematurely discharged from the Army on medical or compassionate grounds. Grants were made to the Regular Forces Employment Association, the Officers' Association and 16 national charities catering for disabled soldiers.

Mentally handicapped children of soldiers present special problems because the family is on the move and often stationed in remote areas both at home and abroad. The fund, in co-operation with the Army and the Guild of St Helena, has helped to care for these children by financing extensions to the MacIntyre Homes.

## New scheme will help home wanters

A new 'Save as you serve' scheme to help Servicemen buy homes of their own after their military careers has been started.

The House Purchase Savings Scheme provides a simple means of saving with a building society against the day when the serviceman wants a home of his own. All the societies taking part in the scheme have agreed to give special benefits for servicemen including:

Special consideration when an application for a mortgage loan is made.

Acceptance of a firm promise of employment as one of the conditions for a loan being made instead of requiring the applicant to be established in a civilian job.

Provision of advice on housing in the chosen area and the price range appropriate to the applicant's means.

The deposit on a £12,000 house may be in the region of £1200. Legal and professional expenses will add up to some £400 extra so the savings target in this case should be around £2000. If furniture is required, this figure ought to be doubled.

Paying in £4 a week for 12 years to a building society offering seven per cent interest, on which tax has already been paid, nets the saver some £3818. Further details can be had from unit pay offices.

## Round-the-world Comcen



A silver smile on the face of Private Janet Woodcock (above) marks success for Hong Kong's Joint Communications Centre as she receives a Silver Comstar award from Brigadier Walter Robertson, Deputy Commander North West District, visiting the colony in his capacity as Colonel, Gurkha Signals.

It was the centre's second success in the inter-service Comstar award scheme — was awarded a silver commendation in 1972.

Janet, from Whitby, Yorkshire, and in the Army for three years exactly at the end of October, received the award on behalf of the centre.

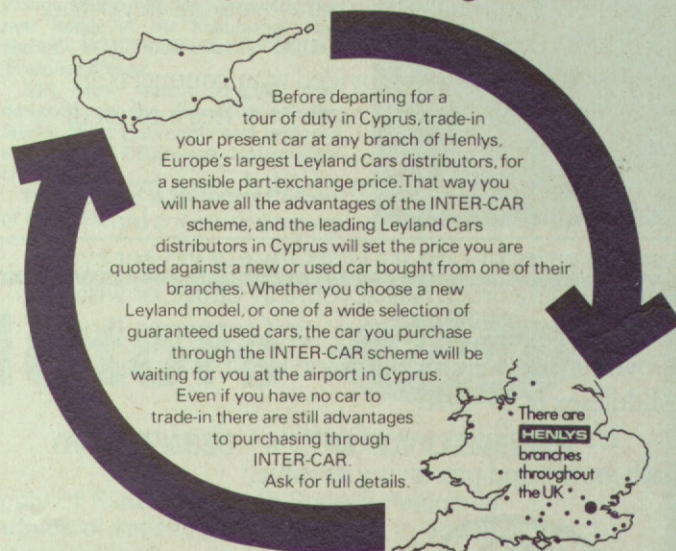
The Comcen at Shorncliffe has also been awarded a Comstar by HQ Defence Communications Network.

Colonel M A Atherton, commander of the Dover/Shorncliffe Garrison, makes the presentation (below) to supervisor Mr Ivor Jones and the Comcen staff.



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# Harka is first to 'drop in'



After just a few short weeks' training, Lance-Corporal Harka Gurung has become the first Gurkha soldier to be a crowd-thriller as a display freefall parachutist.

On loan to the Royal Corps of Transport depot in Aldershot from Hong Kong, Lance-Corporal Gurung took time off to train for

two and a half months with the Rhine Army Parachute Association at Bad Lippspringe where he gained his C licence entitling him to appear as a display parachutist.

The first audience to admire his expertise was at the Coventry Army Show where he jumped in as a guest of the RCT's Silver Stars team.

# Bandsmen back in business

**A decision in the House of Lords has been music to the ears of an Army band which has been trying to get the cash to replace destroyed instruments.**

Lord Tranmire led a chorus of requests with a plea that at least a proportion of the cost of The Green Howards regimental band instruments should be found from public funds.

He said: "This case is that of a gallant regiment who lost their regimental property when it was under the care and protection of Her Majesty's Government. Therefore the matter is now urgent. It happened more than two years ago."

For it was then that the band was silenced by a terrorist attack on The Green Howards' Yorkshire camp, resulting in the destruction of the instruments. A further discordant note was that it was found the instruments were under-insured.

But the House of Lords unanimously approved Lord Tranmire's clarion call — a measure of harmony achieved only seven times in the last 16 sessions of Parliament, he pointed out.

Lord Shinwell orchestrated the pleas with the information that at least seven ex-ministers of defence were among the throng who had approved the move and Lord Winterbottom, as a spokesman for the ministry in the House of Lords, promised to pass his colleagues' wishes on to the present minister himself.

So at last the Government has relented and agreed to make what Lord Winterbottom was at pains to point out was a "purely ex-gratia payment solely on a 'good employer' basis," to go towards the sum needed to re-equip the band. No figure was revealed but some £11,000 was needed before the band can strike up again.





## Fred goes on a flying walkabout

Mr Fred Mulley, Secretary of State for Defence, is fitted for his flak jacket on his first visit to Northern Ireland.

The new Defence Secretary was on a flying visit to the Province to visit the security forces.

He met the General Officer Commanding, Lieutenant-General Sir David House, then took a quick walkabout to meet as many troops as possible during his short stay.

## Concorde first

Appropriately enough Mr Mulley was on hand to help the Services Booking Centre pass a new milestone shortly afterwards when he became their first passenger booked on to Concorde.

The minister had to attend a cabinet meeting in London that morning, and then a meeting in Washington that afternoon.

Only Concorde could cope with this timetable.

The commanding officer of SBC, Wing-Commander Clive Naylor, presented the souvenir Concorde tickets to Mr Mulley at Heathrow.

## Charter link boosts funds

The welfare fund of 1 (British) Corps in Germany has been boosted by a DM4000 cheque.

The cheque marks the first year of operation of Airlink, the air charter welfare service which provides a cheap but reliable link between servicemen and their families stationed in Germany and their relatives in Britain.

The service was introduced and is operated by 25 Transport and Movement Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, in conjunction with Sightseeing International Travel Limited and Laker Airways, using BAC 1-11 jet aircraft.

Airlink has so far operated between the Münster and Osnabrück (Graven) airport in Germany and Manchester in the United Kingdom but, if the need can be established, it is hoped to develop services to other UK airports.

## Judith is stepping on air

Staff Nurse Judith Bickley feels on top of the world . . . walking on air, even — as she steps into space a mile above Germany in her new-found sport of freefalling.

Judith, who works at the British Military Hospital, Rinteln, was determined to follow in the slipstream of her husband — a sergeant with 20 Field Workshop, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. He took up parachuting some time ago.

"It was very thorough, enjoyable, frightening but also exciting," enthused Judith. "I knew what to expect because my husband is a sport parachutist, but participation beats watching any day."

She paid £16 for a two-week, 15-descent course at the Joint Services Parachuting Centre in Sennelager to gain her wings.



## OTC gets own badge



Prince Philip officially presents the new badge of the Edinburgh and Heriot Watt Universities Officer Training Corps.

The new badge (right) was designed on the formation of the Heriot Watt University and replaces the existing Edinburgh Universities OTC badge.

Prince Philip is Honorary Colonel of the OTC.



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## New force gets WRAC help

The all-male Jamaican Defence Force is to have a women's section and to help set it up they have called on the expertise of the Women's Royal Army Corps.

Major Joan Blakewell has been seconded from the WRAC Centre, Guildford, where she was adjutant, to Jamaica for a six-month tour to help set up the new force.

"At the moment I don't know quite what I will be doing out



there," said Joan before she went, "but I have been told that all will be revealed eventually."

"All I can do is speak from 14 years of experience in the job and talk to them off the cuff."

Already 100 basic recruits have been picked and are undergoing training and five Jamaican officer cadets are going through the WRAC College at Camberley.

"I don't yet know what trades they will be expected to take up," said Joan, "but I expect this is one area I will have to advise on."

## Naafi's 400 shops and clubs in England and Wales will soon be stocked from just two massive depots, one of which is already in operation.

An ultra-modern warehouse opened in Lincoln two years ago is now working flat out to supply more than 20,000 items to 135 shops and clubs, including a weekly quota of one and a half tons of frozen chips.

A feature of the depot is a new telephone selling system using punched cards to get in direct con-

Naafi monthly rebate payment to unit funds has been increased from three per cent to four per cent. The increase was announced at the October meeting of the Naafi council in London.

Discount or dividend stamps for individual customers at Naafi shops remains unchanged at five per cent.

Writing to commanding officers to advise them of the change in rebate rate, Naafi's managing director, Mr Edward MacGowan, said that every effort was being made to return rapidly to five per cent rebate. But he added a serious word of caution about the period for which this increase will endure: "The framework within which Naafi operates — that is, the strength, deployment and spending power of the Forces — and the continuous fluctuations of the economy which afflict Naafi like its competitors, mean that Naafi's profitability will tend in the foreseeable future to be highly volatile."

tact with purchasers. Orders are taken down on colour-coded forms and items loaded on specially designed interlocking trays to send out.

The other new depot — the larger of the two, and at Aldershot — is nearing completion. This will service the remaining 265 Naafi establishments nationwide. Transport plays a big part in the new twin-

depot operation and the Aldershot warehouse, with up to 50 different-sized vehicles, expects to send its loads on journeys totalling some 5000 miles a day.

Economy is the motive for the new system and for another Naafi innovation which is expected to save some £300,000 a year by moving part of the London headquarters staff to Nottingham.

## Karen is the tops



A Women's Royal Army Corps lance-corporal drove off with no fewer than four prizes in a major inter-Service driving contest.

In the London Area Driver of the Year competition, Lance-Corporal Karen Bates of 419 Troop, Royal Corps of Transport, emerged with the Southdown Cup for the best Service driver, the Morris Trophy for the best lady driver, the Army trophy for the best Army driver and the DOE Cup for the best Class C driver. She also shared the best ladies team prize with her colleagues in the troop, Corporal Veda Walker and Lance-Corporal Brenda Trail.

The girls had to undergo a series of tests driving a four-ton lorry, minibus and Ford Escort as well as showing they knew all the ins and outs of the highway code.

A fourth troop member, Sergeant K Smith, won the best Ford driver prize to net for 419 Troop six of the 13 trophies in the contest.

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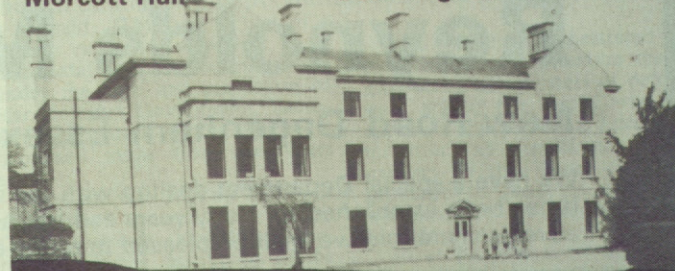
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## Cuts reduce green beret gunners

The "Nine-Five" gunners have lost their independence, thanks to the defence cuts.

The Royal Artillery's 95 Commando Forward Observation Unit, stationed with the Royal Marines at Hamworthy (Poole), is now under command of 29 Commando Light Regiment, Royal Artillery, which has its headquarters in Plymouth. 'Nine-five' now becomes 148 (Meiktila) Commando Forward Observation Battery, remaining in Poole at a reduced strength.

The change is part of the defence reorganisation but is designed to affect the unit's role and capability as little as possible. The lower establishment was achieved by normal wastage and only two members of the unit were left on reorganisation, including the commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Bob Redford, who handed over to his second-in-command, Major Charles Boulter, after two-and-a-half years in command.

### Unusual

The job of the unit is unusual. It consists mainly of directing the fire of naval ships' guns on to targets inland, usually in support of an amphibious operation. This is done by small parties, including a Royal Navy radio operator, which can be deployed ahead of the main force. So all ranks have to be commando- and parachute-trained and some are also qualified as divers.

Their interesting and exciting role takes them all over the world and much of their time is spent away from Poole on exercises with the Royal Navy and Royal Marines. Ten different countries have been visited this year and one party is permanently stationed in Malta with 41 Commando, Royal Marines.

The salute at 'Nine-five's' final parade in October was taken by Major-General Roger Ephraums, Major-General Commando Forces,

RM. About 80 men were on parade, accompanied by the Royal Artillery Mounted Band.

## 'Right dress'—civvy style



A critical examination before the marks are allocated. Judges Major Annabelle Cunningham and Stella Baines, fashion adviser for the Singer Company, had a very difficult job to sort out the winner of the BP Travel Clothes Design contest organised with the Women's Royal Army Corps.

The girls of Tivdale Comprehensive School in the West Midlands were the winners at the finals at the WRAC College, Camberley, and they went with the boys of Radyr Comprehensive in Wales, who won the BP Buildacar competition at the School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, Bordon, to a special display stand at the Earls Court Motor Show.

## Pilgrimage to Walsingham

The first Combined Services pilgrimage to the national shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk attracted about 300 people — with a high proportion in uniform.

The pilgrimage, arranged by the United Services Catholic Association, was led by the Right Reverend Gerard Tickle, Roman Catholic

Bishop-in-Ordinary to HM Forces, followed by the principal chaplains of the three Services.

Administrator of the shrine, the Reverend R W Connolly, preached the sermon which was followed by a short address by the bishop.

The RAF College band from Cranwell played during the service.

## Gunners on target

Top prizes in this year's gunnery contest for Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve batteries of the Royal Artillery have gone to gunners from Luton and Coleraine, Northern Ireland.

The competition is sponsored by the National Artillery Association and the Sunday Times and the cash and trophy prizes were presented by the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Lindsay Ring, at the Mansion House.

The guard of honour in the forecourt was provided by 100 Medium Regiment (Volunteers) from Grove Park, London, with the band of the Lancashire Artillery Volunteers from Liverpool.

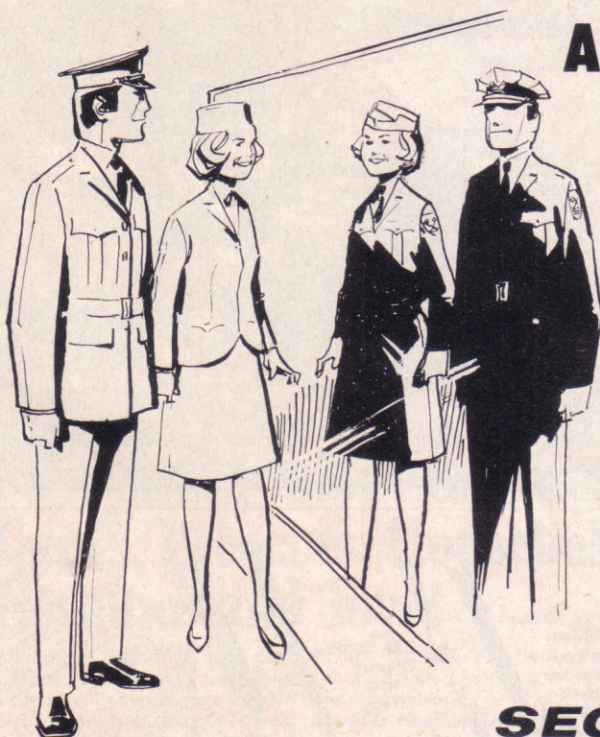
Full results — Medium artillery: 1st 201 (Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Yeomanry) Medium Battery (Volunteers), Luton (Queen's Cup, £100); 2nd 204 (The Tyneside and Scottish) Medium Battery (Volunteers), Newcastle-on-Tyne (NAA Cup, £50). Air defence artillery: 1st 206 (Ulster Light Air Defence Battery) (Volunteers), Coleraine (Sunday Times Trophy, £100); 2nd 213 (South Lancashire Artillery) Light Air Defence Battery (Volunteers), St Helens (Manorbier Trophy, £50). Taurus Trophy for best observation party: 211 (South Wales) Light Air Defence Battery (Volunteers), Newport. Light air defence HQ battery competition: HQ Battery, 103 (Lancashire Artillery Volunteers) Light Air Defence Regiment, Liverpool. University competition: 1st Oxford University Officer Training Corps (University Challenge Cup, £50); 2nd Leeds University OTC (£25).

## Martial arts?

Scenes of Nelson's cabin on HMS Victory, a foot patrol in the Lower Falls, Belfast, and a zeppelin raid on London in 1916 were among 450 exhibits at the Armed Forces Art Society's 51st annual exhibition at the Chenil Galleries, Chelsea.

The vast majority of paintings, though, were far removed from situations of strife. Aubrey Sykes, president of the Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolours, and of the Pastel Society, who was a captain in World War Two, showed four watercolours of flowers.

Altogether about 140 artists, both serving and retired, showed all types of work in watercolours, oils, pastels and acrylics.



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# Terriers show their teeth

Sitting in a cold, damp and dirty slit trench for most of the night, then forcing yourself to run with full kit and rifle, cannot be too many people's idea of fun.

Yet that is exactly what more than 1500 'Terriers' did recently on Exercise Clarion Call III at Stanford Training Area, near Thetford.

The aim of the exercise was to provide practical all-arms training for the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve infantry battalions in Eastern District, and train them it certainly did. Working with the infantrymen were helicopters, armoured cars, artillery, anti-tank guns and mortar fire-control teams.

One feature of the exercise was low-level strafing by RAF Hunters in a ground attack role.

The defending forces were from 7th (V) Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, from Northampton, Melton Mowbray, Leicester and Wellingborough, and 3rd (V) Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, from Newark, Retford, Nottingham and Derby. Support came from elements of The Royal Yeomanry, 307 Battery (South Notts Hussars), The King's Surrey Yeomanry from Croydon and Royal Engineers from 73 Engineer Regiment.

## Mortars

The mortars and anti-tank guns were manned by men from 5th (V) Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, and communications by 70 (Essex Yeomanry) Signals Squadron.

Their enemy was TAVR parachutists from HQ 44th Parachute Brigade and 10th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, plus men from 16 Independent Company, young soldiers from Depot Guards Division and the Armoured Corps Wing of Cambridge University Officer Training Corps.

The heliborne paras were supported by 664 Para Aviation Squadron.

"This was a very valuable exercise," said Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Dawson, of 7th Royal Anglians. "The object was to broaden the whole basis of training for the battalion, and that is what we did."

## Worked

"Before this, we had never really worked with gunners, tanks, armoured cars and mortars."

"This is the first time we have had a full all-arms infantry exercise at brigade level since our formation in 1971."

"So really this has been the highlight of our training and on a scale we have never had before."

Colonel Dawson's words were echoed by Brigadier David Stileman

who added that he was pleased with the amount of sustained hard work put into the exercise.

"It has been of value to see command and control and tactical skills brought out," he said. "These can be improved still more, but the overall efficiency of the TAVR is not surprising considering the enthusiasm which radiated from every slit trench and everyone's obvious willingness to learn from mistakes."



● Above: Officer Cadet Barbara Cookson, from Cambridge University OTC, the best-looking Saracen commander on the exercise.



● Left: The enemy, 10 Para, dashes in under smoke.

● Right: The Foresters wait for the attack to start.

● Below: The University and Yeomanry armour charges around the beleaguered farmhouse like Indians attacking the Seventh Cavalry.

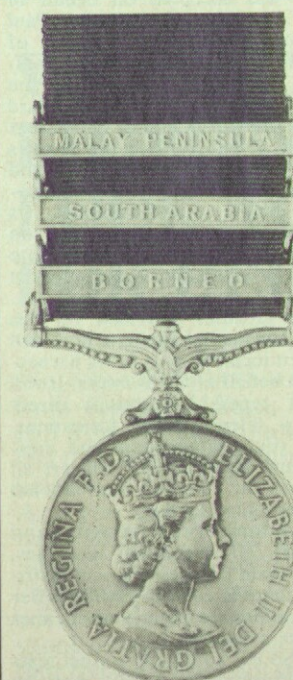


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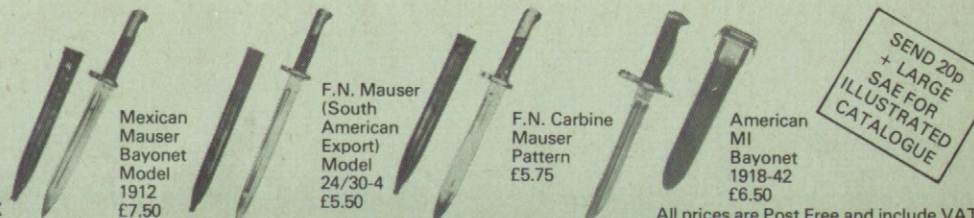
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## Old boys go back to college

More than two hundred ex-apprentices of the Army Apprentices College, Chesham, returned for a nostalgic reunion recently.

The programme for the weekend included games against the current apprentices, a dance, the annual dinner of the Old Boys Association and a church parade to commemorate the college's foundation.

The parade, in October, was led by Colonel Cyril Morgan, the first Old Boy to serve as president of the Beachley Old Boys Association. On parade was Mr R Goodall of Plymouth who was a member of the very first intake of apprentices into the college in 1926.

The Beachley reunion has been held every year since World War Two and is regularly attended by many of the 2300 members of the Old Boys Association who are now living all over the world.

Above, right: the Commandant of the Army Apprentices College Chesham, Colonel J G T Polley, and the president of the Beachley Old Boys Association, Colonel Cyril Morgan, welcome Mr R Goodall of Plymouth to the college annual reunion.

## Sheds open

The Hong Kong Joint Service Movements Centre's new freight sheds, the first visible results of the 1975 Hong Kong defence costs agreement, have been officially opened.

The sheds have been provided by the Hong Kong government to replace the old storage facilities at Sham Shui Po Camp which is being handed back for re-development.



## £1m computer 'best in NATO'

A computer worth more than £1,000,000 will soon be providing the British forces in Germany with the most sophisticated message routing facility to be found within Nato.

When commissioned it will serve as the gateway for message and data traffic between Germany and the rest of the world and, it is claimed, will significantly speed up the delivery of signals and mean a considerable saving in deployed personnel.

At a handing-over ceremony in Rheindahlen, the 6540 ADX computer was accepted on behalf of BFG by Wing-Commander Paul Dollimore of the Ministry of Defence Air Signals staff. The computer has been developed by the Data Systems Division of Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd of Great Britain. It will replace the Army's traffic routing centre at Krefeld and the Royal Air Force's communications centre at Rheindahlen. Its complex circuitry allows for an automatic switch to a duplicate computer in the event of component failure.

The facilities provided by this electronic marvel illustrate how well modern technology is being harnessed on behalf of the Services. It will accept typed instructions direct from a teleprinter of formations, units, route information and message text and instantly convert all this into the standard international military coded format.

It automatically accepts and assesses all incoming messages, stores them if necessary, and distributes them in correct priority order to all addresses as and when lines become available.

It also has a memory so that texts and transmission details may be checked at any time. Operators may monitor its operation or override its programmed priorities, and at the touch of a button call up information on its own operation or the communications network.

Working on the project for STC's Data Systems Division were two ex-members of the Royal Corps of Signals. Colonel Dennis Thomas is general manager, and Major (TOT) Peter Thomson product manager for computer switching systems.

This benign electronic 'big brother' will be fully operational and serving the British Forces in Germany before the end of the year.

## Northern Ireland awards

The following awards have been made for service in Northern Ireland between 1 February and 30 April 1976.

**Officer of the Order of the British Empire:** Lieutenant-Colonel P F B Hargrave, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment.

**Member of the Order of the British Empire:** Major L H Brown, Royal Corps of Transport; Squadron-Leader R G Harris, Royal Air Force; Major R M Llewellyn, The Royal Welch Fusiliers; Captain H Lock, Intelligence Corps; Major M A Parish, Royal Military Police.

**Military Cross:** Captain R J Lees, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment.

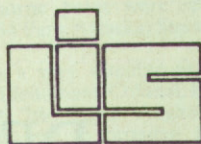
**Military Medal:** Private R Buchanan, The Royal Scots.

**Queen's Gallantry Medal:** Sergeant P B Thacker, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment.

**British Empire Medal:** Sergeant A D Innes, Royal Signals.

**Mentioned in Despatches:** Captain K P A Barclay, Staff-Sergeant D S Roy, both The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders; Major E H Barker, Royal Engineers; Sergeant B K Barnes, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment; Lieutenant-Colonel J C V Biles, Captain J A C Deakin, Captain H N Fairman, Warrant Officer 2 J W Ponting, Lance-Bombardier B Smith, Major R B H Young, all Royal Artillery; Corporal D Bradley, Private V R M Smith, both The Parachute Regiment; Major A E F Cowan, Lieutenant-Colonel P M Davies, Sergeant J D A Linton, Lieutenant R L Scott-Bowden, all The Royal Scots; Major J J D Cox, Scots Guards; Lieutenant D F Davies, Women's Royal Army Corps; Corporal R G Gibson, Royal Marines; Corporal J T G Gillies, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment; Warrant Officer 2 J Oakley, Corporal C J Rodziewicz, both The Queen's Regiment; Lieutenant-Colonel J D Railton, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards; Major C A G Wills, 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars; Lieutenant-Colonel E I Wirgman, The Royal Highland Fusiliers; Captain P L W Wood, Army Air Corps.

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# Alpine paras earn their 'wings'

Italian parachutists are presented with their British wings by Brigadier Geoffrey Howlett, commanding 16th Parachute Brigade, after their successful drop on to Hankley Common near Aldershot.

The Italians, from the 4th Italian Alpine Army Corps, were on an exchange visit to Britain, while A Company of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, took part in Exercise Tower Bridge in the Dolomites.

While the Anglians carried out mountain training, the Italians made several drops in the South of England and also on the Isle of Skye, where they took part in British mountaineering exercises.

Most of the Italian company are ski mountaineering parachutist instructors with commando training. It is probably the only company in the world trained to parachute in hazardous terrain and operate high above the snow-line.

The Italian Ambassador, His Excellency Roberto Ducci, watched the Hankley Common jump.



## IN PARLIAMENT

### Nuclear test in the 'States

A British nuclear weapon was exploded in America this summer for test purposes. The Nevada experiment was highlighted by Miss Jo Richardson (Labour, Barking) when in the Commons she asked the Defence Minister, Mr Fred Mulley, the reason. He replied the test was "necessary in order to maintain the effectiveness of the British nuclear deterrent."

Twenty-four million pounds may sound a lot of money. But it is only one half of one per cent of the total defence budget and is the amount spent by the Armed Forces in the last year on recruiting. This was revealed by Mr James Wellbeloved, Under-Secretary of State for the RAF, in answer to a question from Mr Kenneth Lewis (Conservative, Rutland and Stamford).

Britain's reserve forces number some 243,000 men and women, Dr John Gilbert, Minister of State for Defence, told Mr Emlyn Hooson (Liberal, Montgomery).

The Army accounts for more than half the figure with 176,000 and the rest are fairly evenly divided between the naval, Marine and RAF reserves.

A question on Northern Ireland from Mr Michael McNair-Wilson (Conservative, Newbury) prompted Army Under-Secretary of State Mr Robert C Brown to tell the House that to date this year 975 people arrested by the security forces had been charged with terrorist offences and some 650 terrorist weapons, 58,000 rounds of ammunition and more than 20,000lb of explosive had been found.

A lucky 13 men have shared £163,250 of taxpayers' money as compensation awarded as a result of 'interrogation in depth' by security forces in Northern Ireland, Mr Mulley told Parliament. He was answering a question from Mr George Cunningham (Labour, Islington South and Finsbury).

Brize Norton — the Services international airport in Oxfordshire run by the RAF — is not going to be handed over to the civil authorities as an airport. Mr Douglas Hurd (Conservative, Mid Oxfordshire) drew Members' attention to a suggestion from Hertfordshire County Council that Brize Norton be used as a civil airport. But Mr James Wellbeloved replied: "We have no plans to do so."

The number of servicemen made redundant has nearly doubled in the last year, it was revealed by Dr John

Gilbert. Mr Richard Luce (Conservative, Shoreham) asked for the statistics and was told that in 1975, 551 men were made redundant and, up to 31 August 1976 a further 1054 had left the same way.

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Donations and information: Major The Earl of Ancaster, KCVO, TD, Midland Bank Limited, 60 West Smithfield, London EC1A 9DX.



## British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association

GIVE TO THOSE WHO GAVE—PLEASE



The Chaplain-General's message this Christmas is one which I hope we will try and fulfil next year. So let us remember all those families and relatives who are unable to be together this Christmas, particularly those with husbands on duty at home or abroad, and wish a quick recovery to those in hospital.

Our families pages are just four issues old and still very new. I do hope you may have found some of the stories and articles interesting, so do write and tell me your thoughts and I will do my best to follow up every letter.

Starting in the New Year, I hope to visit BAOR and Northern Ireland, giving me the opportunity to meet more families and giving me even more views for our pages.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year — and may Christmas 1976 be a happy one.

*Anne Armstrong*

## How's this for an idea?

Dear Anne,

I am writing to say that I think it would be a rather good idea if we could have a section in the families page for requests, such as birthday greetings, and anniversaries for husbands and friends and we could also contact old friends by way of this communication.

Mrs P M Cooper  
Martin Close  
Tidworth.

### THE EDITOR REPLIES:

This idea, particularly for contacting old friends in this fast-moving Army, is certainly an interesting one, and perhaps we may find some space in the future to give this kind of service. It would really depend on what demand there was and space limitations.

Write in and let us know how you feel about this. We would also be interested to know how you feel about the new Soldier NEWS, and the families pages in particular.

## Anne's view

Chip pan fires are increasing. They happen so quickly and wreak so much damage that it is a wonder more people do not use the simple guards which have been available for some years. A cheap and effective guard is on sale at Woolworths under their own Winfield label.

This new guard, a multi-purpose screen, costs only 59p and has been investigated by the Fire Research Station. It simply sits on top of the pan and although the mesh is wide enough to strain water through, it is too close to allow spattering fat. And as well as a spattershield and strainer it can also be used as a steamer. An interesting application, says Winfield, is that the screen can be placed on top of a pan of boiling water and then used to melt frozen butter, which can sit on top in a dish.



The Army gave all-out support to this year's SSAFA Christmas Market at Chelsea Barracks, London.

The Royal Engineers made themselves responsible for the bottle stall, the Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers for books, the Royal Corps of Transport for Christmas gifts, the Royal Signals

NEWS 14

# All in the family with Anne Armstrong



## Real 'home from home'

How would you like to join your husband for a holiday on that romantic-sounding unaccompanied posting? Are the children the problem? Well, there may be an answer.

I wonder just how many families and unit families officers know about Alexandra House, the United Services short-stay residence for Service children at Plymouth.

To find out more about Alexandra House I visited the home and was welcomed by Mrs Judy Russell, a charming young house mother who, after four-and-a-half years as a matron at a boys' school and with Norland nursery training behind her, runs the home. Once inside one could feel the homely atmosphere as four pairs of curious eyes, plus those of the home's pet dog, watched our arrival.

"Happiness comes before anything," said Judy. "The children have the run of the house and use it as if it was their own home."

The house is two D-type quarters made into one, so is very similar to many Service quarters.

Judy took me upstairs to see the view from the bedrooms which look out over the Tamar to Jupiter's Point where you can see the ships of the Royal Navy at anchor.

Judy continued: "This is a holiday home for children from the Royal Navy, Army and Air Force and they can stay for up to 28 days.

"We can accept twelve children at any one time from babies to teenagers, and I must impress that it is not an institution but a holiday home.

"We have outings every other day during the holiday, including picnics on the beach and moors and visits to the zoo and monkey sanctuary. Other activities go on all the year round, like swimming, and I do make a point of taking the children to see the visiting attractions which come to Plymouth."

Before we left the beautifully decorated and double-glazed bed-



rooms, Judy mentioned that two of her previous holiday guests had rung up and asked if they could have another holiday.

Downstairs in the kitchen, Mrs Margaret Williams, a grandmother, was ironing brightly coloured striped sheets while a holiday guest chattered away to her. She said the children love to help with the cooking, under supervision of course, and they always ask for chicken and chips!

The playroom has a long blackboard on one wall which the Royal Marines kindly put up.

"But," continued Judy, "it would be a great help if we could have some more toys, games, books and outdoor play equipment. Toys do get broken and worn out with fair wear and tear."

I asked Judy: "How do parents apply, say if father was abroad and mother had the chance of joining him for a much-needed holiday, or a family sickness with mother taken

into hospital, or a family bereavement?"

"Well," she replied, "parents can write or phone me direct, but I do have to liaise with the appropriate welfare officer as a formality. And we cannot take children with working mothers. The parents are sent an admission form to complete. At the moment the majority of guests are from naval families, but this may be because Army families do not know about us."

Lieutenant-Colonel Charles McLaren, the comptroller, explained that Alexandra House is a charitable foundation for the benefit of children of servicemen and women, originally founded at Devonport in 1839 as a female orphanage. The home has changed a lot since then and in 1972 became Alexandra House as it is known today.

Picture shows Mrs Russell and her assistant, Miss Cook (left), and some of the children.

for perfumery and cosmetics, the Royal Artillery for sweets and the Royal Army Ordnance Corps for the tombola. The Royal Army Medical Corps and Royal Army Pay Corps jointly ran the household stall and the Household Division a supermarket.

All proceeds go to Ssafa, which cares for the families of all three Services, both during and after their service.



Lady Jackson handed over as warden of the Guild of Saint Helena to Lady Howard-Dobson at a guild council meeting in London. During her busy two-and-a-half years 'in

the chair' as warden, the guild has celebrated its centenary and continued its work for Service charities, in particular helping handicapped children of Service families.

There are 49 branches of the guild throughout the world and they work closely with the chaplains wherever British servicemen are stationed to promote Christianity in many practical ways; it is interdenominational and members are wives, mothers and daughters of present and past servicemen and civilians connected with them.



Remember my story about Cathy Larby (October) and the problem

she had of not being able to stay away from her kidney machine for too long? Well, Cathy has already had her Christmas present in the shape of a portable Haemo-Dylen machine, which means that she will be able to go on holiday with her family this year.

The unit was donated by Lambeth Renal Unit in conjunction with St Thomas's Hospital.



Next month I will be talking about safety in the home, and particularly about electrical plugs and sockets.



# Animals all part of the service

'Get me to the church on time!' may be the cry of many brides but to arrange to get a live, eight-foot bear to the Garrison Church in Berlin on time was a very different matter.

The Chaplain-General to the Forces, the Venerable Archdeacon Peter Mallett, recalls: "The problem was that the bear poked his head out of the truck when it stopped at the traffic lights and a German cyclist fell off his bike with fright!"

Many families remember the appearance of a variety of animals as visual aids at family services — a horse, a chameleon, a pig and even a young lion; a rumour did go around in BAOR but an elephant didn't quite make it.

With a twinkle in his eye and an infectious smile, Padre Mallett mentions that, lacking inches, there have been occasions when he has needed a box to stand on so that he can be seen above the pulpit.

Bright orange curtains and covers adorn his office, a converted stable block at the home of the Royal Army Chaplains' Department in Bagshot Park. Beautiful grounds surround the main building which houses the offices and accommodation; among the many courses run there are the twice-yearly counselling courses which wives of officers and senior non-commissioned officers can attend and also enjoy the lovely grounds, the peace of the chapel and the interesting museum. Visitors are welcome there.

Archdeacon Mallett lives in a quarter with his wife Joan and their three children, Judy, Pippa and Jonathan. Over the years, Joan has taught part-time in many BFES

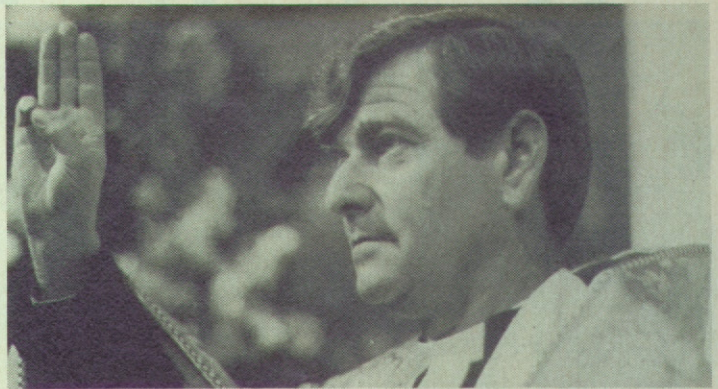
schools and has been an active member of the Guild of Saint Helena of which she is now deputy warden.

I asked the Chaplain-General to tell me what he did before he became an Army padre. "After a spell, toward the end of the war, on air crew training in the RAF, I chose to work for 2½ years underground in a Nottinghamshire coalmine.

"At my ordination, I received a letter signed by 300 miners wishing me well and telling me that they would all stand for a minute's silence just at the time I was to be ordained.

"Then on to St Oswald's, Norbury, as curate before joining the Army for three years — and here I am, 22 years later! At heart I am a parish priest; it's always a great joy to take weddings of friends met whilst in the Army and christen their babies."

The Chaplain-General is off to Northern Ireland and will probably see some of your husbands on his visits around the Province. He hopes that as many families and soldiers as possible will take the opportunity of meeting and talking with him.



## Chaplain-General's Christmas message

"Christmas, oh it's really all about people — about people being important. Indeed in God's view so important that almost two thousand years ago He chose to invade human life and history in the person of that tiny baby born in a stable at Bethlehem. The story of that event is well known and the effect that invasion had on the lives of individual people and on human history isn't difficult to see.

"We get just a glimmer of what it is all about by noticing the transformation in people during the Christmas period. It's a time of giving — not only of presents but of

quite a lot of goodwill. It's a time of showing we care for the other person and of letting him feel that he matters. What a pity it lasts for so short a time.

"The trouble is for most of us that the story starts and ends at Bethlehem. If only we would let the baby grow up and watch what He did and listen to what He said and take what He offers, not only would the message become far clearer, but I've an idea we should find in it lies the answer to so many of the problems of living that bedevil us.

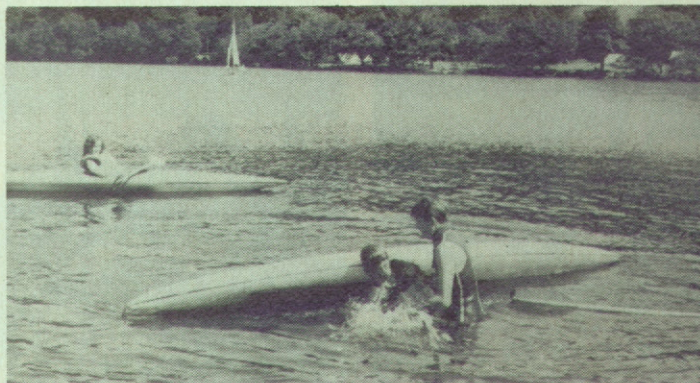
"A Happy Christmas to you all — all the year round!"

# Thunderbirds are go in Woolwich

Our first contribution for this column comes from The Thunderbird Youth Club, Royal Artillery, Woolwich. The club leader, Mrs Shirley Bowles, is the ILEA part-time youth leader and is helped by both paid and voluntary helpers.

She says the aim of the club is to provide a comprehensive programme and pleasant atmosphere for young people to meet and enjoy themselves (the club is opposite the main RA camp entrance). Formed in 1972 by voluntary helpers, it welcomes all boys and girls from 7-18 years to join either the junior or senior club. Monday night is club night, 6pm to 9pm, with a senior disco on Thursday nights. Coffee bar, pop music, indoor games, painting and the use of the gym are available. Members can also join swimming, shooting and canoeing sections.

As the club is affiliated to the LFBC and the LUYC this enables members to take part in a variety of activities such as training courses, weekend camps, inter-club competitions, both cultural and sporting,



and also enter the ILEA and Greenwich Borough youth events.

August saw the third adventure camp in Snowdonia, but none of the activities could take place without a certain amount of time given to fund-raising.

In the picture, two of the members get a ducking as part of their canoe training.

Shirley has an urgent request. Does anyone know the whereabouts

of a secondhand pottery kiln? (Shirley is an expert potter).

If you are in Woolwich or going to Woolwich, find out about the Thunderbirds. Shirley will help all members find something of interest to do. Or write to Mrs Shirley Bowles, Thunderbird Youth Club, c/o The Depot Regt RA, Woolwich SE18, or to me.

As a birthday treat for my son we saw a 1929 New York gangster film, Bugsy Malone (U), now showing in London before general release. It was a welcome change from the hard violence, death and destruction we see so much of on TV and cinema screens.

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# Sappers, by royal appointment

The Queen got a taste of what it is like to be a sapper when she laid the foundation stone of the new £10,000,000 Gibraltar Barracks at Hawley in October.

Her Majesty is Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Engineers and before the ceremony she saw how sapper recruits are selected and trained, followed by demonstrations of specialist operational training involving helicopters, armoured and other vehicles, bridging and boat-work plus an assault landing by commando sappers.

Frogmen and divers showed off their skills in Hawley Lake. The essential aim of the visit was for the Queen to meet and talk to as many people as possible and although the demonstrations showed professional expertise, it was all done in a light-hearted way, including frogmen marching p-p-p-penguin style from the lake side.

Accompanied by Prince Philip, the Queen laid a foundation stone on the site of the new barracks under construction for the two RE training regiments.

In the afternoon the royal couple toured a specially mounted static display in the grounds of Minley Manor, HQ of 11th Engineer Brigade, with its themes of the sapper as a combat soldier and aid given to worldwide civil communities, youth, sport and adventure.

The Queen showed special interest in some of the displays on view particularly an RAF Harrier in a camouflaged hide, minelaying, the 'wheelbarrow' for clearing bombs, and map-production surveys.



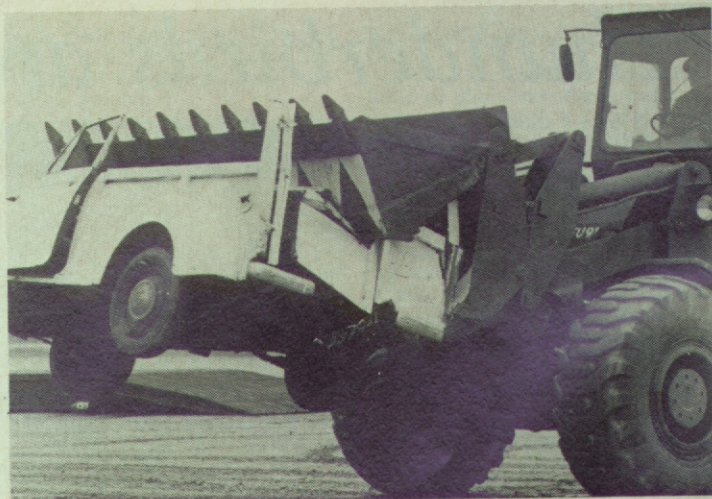
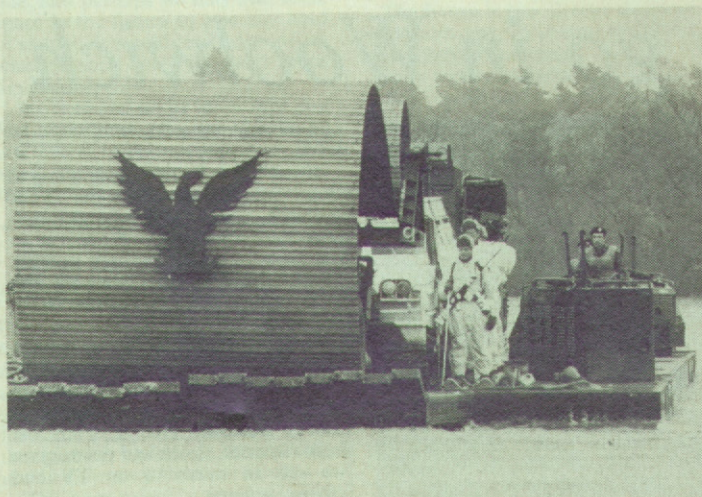
● Above: Her Majesty talked to as many families as possible.

● Right: Flipping divers from the RE Diving School at Marchwood and RE Junior Leaders from Dover have their own special waddle-past.

● Below left: A heavy ferry lands a Class 30 trackway dispenser to lay a road up the beach, capable of taking the weight of tanks. The troops are in Arctic combat kit.

● Below right: This is how sappers deal with roadblocks in Northern Ireland. The heavy plant is an Allis Chalmers tractor.

**PICTURES BY  
SGT JIM DICKSON**



## Self-help soldier-sailors

Young soldiers may now find it a lot easier to become sailors thanks to a new facility just outside Aldershot.

For 3 Training Regiment, Royal Engineers, has built a new sailing club and workshop at Hawley Lake which will be open to all soldiers and dependants in South East District.

The new buildings, opened by General Sir James Wilson, General Officer Commanding South East District, in October, would have cost about £50,000 to build but for the spare-time labour given by men of the unit. This self-help brought the final cost down to about £9,000.

"I am delighted that the work is finished and we can now offer this facility to families as well as the sailors," said Lieutenant-Colonel Tony Mornement, of 3 Training Regiment.

"The club is a neutral ground which is not tied to rank at all, where all ranks can meet on equal terms. We are keen on training young soldiers to sail here, but it is never going to become a racing centre."

When the Queen visited the Royal Engineers at Minley Manor, she showed a keen interest in the new clubhouse and saw some of the club dinghies out on the lake.

The old club was built in 1958 by Royal Engineers using two second-hand wartime pre-fabs. It was originally purely a Royal Engineers sailing club but in 1968 became the Aldershot group of sailing clubs within the Army Sailing Association.





## New trophy, thanks to gold medallist

Montreal Olympic gold medallist — and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Sergeant — Jim Fox has presented a trophy, named after him, for the winner of the Eastern District annual cross-country championship. The now retired star pentathlete hands over the cup to the GOC of the district, Major-General David Tabor. Getting in on the act was Jim Fox's ex-RSM, retired Captain Fred Cross, who seems very pleased to have got hold of the Montreal gold medal its winner had brought along.



## Record breakers rewarded

Top Army athletes have been honoured for their achievements in Service matches during the last season.

Six sportsmen — and women — have been named to receive the special challenge trophies awarded annually for the most outstanding single performance in the Army individual, inter-Services and Combined Services championships.

English national runner Lieutenant Glen Grant, Depot Regiment Royal Artillery, again took the Cotterell Cup senior track events trophy for winning the inter-Services 1500 metres in a new record time of three minutes 48.1 seconds. He now holds the Army and inter-Services records in both the 800 and 1500 metres.

### Jump

The field events trophy for seniors goes to Sapper Tony Rose, of 36 Engineer Regiment, for his performance in the inter-Services championships when he made a 7.05-metre leap in the long jump.

Steeplechase specialist Signalman Stephen Lancashire, stationed in Yorkshire with 8 Signal Regiment, has the junior track events trophy. He won the 200 metres steeplechase in the junior individual

championships in a time of five minutes 56.8 seconds. This is an Army junior record and rates fifth in the United Kingdom for the year.

Private Martin Annis, of 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, wins the field events junior trophy for his javelin throw of 62 metres in the junior Army versus Navy match. This was another Army record and enough to rank him, too, fifth in the United Kingdom in 1976.

### Record

The women's track events trophy is awarded to Sergeant Jan Vassell for her time of 58.7 seconds in the 400 metres event in the inter-Services championship — again, a new Army record.

Shot putt champion Private Vanessa Head — twin sister of an Army and Wales discus expert — wins the women's field events trophy for a putt of 15.05 metres in the women's Combined Services versus Surrey AAA meeting. She holds the Army and Welsh records at 15.39 metres and the inter-Services record at 13.96.

Almost half the Great Britain squad in the up-and-coming sport of ladies' handball, which will make a bid for European honours next year, are serving members of the Women's Royal Army Corps.

Ladies' handball is the nation's newest Olympic sport, having been included in the Montreal games for the first time. The Great Britain team now training for the European tournament — where the game has caught on with a vengeance — is drawn from the English and Scottish national teams.

And of the 16-girl squad, six are members of the WRAC — Staff-Sergeant Sue Taylor, Sergeant Elaine Boden, Corporals Marcia Bass, Anne Patterson, Diane Thornton and Carol Skrzypczak.

As part of the 18-month training programme building up to the European Nations Cup, the officials of the British Handball Association arranged a friendly international with Holland at Derby.

The match was very fast with the England team opening the scoring. This was quickly countered by the Dutch but it was quite obvious by half-time that the more experienced visitors were far from having everything their own way.

The interval score was 6-2 to Holland and had it not been for a fine acrobatic display by Anne Patterson in goal the England deficit could

have been much bigger. The final score was 12-5 to Holland.

National handball coach John Timmins training three WRAC players: In goal, Cpl Anne Patterson, Cpl Marie Bass (in headband) and Cpl Diane Thornton.

## Stadium blow

Major Army sporting events will suffer deep into the winter as a result of the summer's freak drought.

For many fixtures due to be held at Aldershot's military stadium — venue of a number of Army-wide matches in a number of sports — have had to be rearranged as a result of the turf there being scorched to death.

During the long, hot summer, when there was an official ban on watering the ground, athletics events had to carry on and the grass all but disappeared from the central area.

Now the whole stadium turf has had to be re-sown with fresh grass seed and there is a complete ban on its use until probably as late as March.

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# Angling — official at last

To celebrate the long-overdue recognition of angling as an official sport, Army anglers from all over northern Europe gathered in Germany for this year's Rhine Army championships near Hamelin — home of the Pied Piper.

Recognised as the biggest participator sport in the United Kingdom, angling gained its official Army recognition last summer, thus allowing soldiers to claim time off to take part.

And 535 of them journeyed to two big lakes at Doktor See for the championships from Germany itself, Holland, Belgium and West Berlin.

Champion team for the year after the day's fishing was the A team from Hamelin Garrison with the 2nd Division Royal Corps of Transport C team a close second and The Blues and Royals A team third.

Top individual was Manchester soldier Sergeant Bill Williams, of the RCT team, with a total catch — all bream — of 53.5lb. Second was Corporal Mick Wylie, Royal Engineers, from the Hamelin team, with 46.41lb.

The fishing contest started at eight in the morning in mist which later dispersed to herald good fishing weather. But the hot summer had taken its toll of the water and although fed by the Weser the lakes were far from full and some anglers were unfortunate in drawing shallow areas to fish. One disappointed



competitor reported he had had to wade out 15 metres to get in deep enough for the water to be just below the knees of his waders.

Now that angling has been established as an Army sport it is hoped that some of the superb fishing available in central Europe will be visited by Army fishermen.

Already — and before official blessing for the sport was given — many of the established and enthusiastic soldier anglers on leave have fished magnificent waters in Denmark where the ever-hospitable Danes have now started organising matches with local teams challenging the visitors.

Picture shows Private Nigel Cheetham and a magnificent netful of bream which weighed in at 44lb 3oz.

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## Sports shorts

### SQUASH

The Army's squash season has had its best-ever start highlighted by an unbeaten performance in a first-ever entry in the national Cumberland Cup championship. Entered in the third division, the Army side won its first four matches against Cambridge Park, Hazlewood, St Thomas's Hospital and Charing Cross Hospital 5-0.

Other results: Army 3, Oxford University 2; Army 5, Wiltshire 0; Army 0, Civil Service 5; Army 3, Cambridge 0; Army 3, BP 2; Army 4, Weybridge 1; Army 4 RMAS1; Army 3 Blackheath 2; Army 1, National Westminster Bank 4; Army 4, Pippis Hill 2. The Army championships have been fixed for 5-10 February 1977 on 16th Parachute Brigade's courts in Aldershot.

### SOCCER

There have been mixed fortunes for the Army's senior and junior soccer teams in recent matches. Results: Army 0, Essex 3; Army 2, Civil Service 2; Army Youth 3, Hertfordshire Association of Boys' Clubs 2; Army Youth 2, Gloucestershire FA (FA County Youth Cup) 4.

### SHOOTING

The Army won two out of three events in the annual two-day long-range smallbore target rifle match against Wales. Results — Air rifle (highest possible score 2400): Army 2079, Wales 2082. Prone, standing and kneeling (HPS 2400): Army A 2176, Wales 2011, Army B 1958. Long-range (HPS 4000): Army 3896, Wales 3847. Representing the Army were: Lieut-Col R H McKeith (RAMC), Maj P Martin (DERR), Maj J White (RE), Capt D Cuthbertson (SASC), Lieut A V Glasby (RAOC), WO1 MCE Gosling (RAOC), WO2 C G Hanslow (Staffords), WO2 J O'Brien (REME), S-Sgt T E Watts (RAMC), Sgt W K Boxall (RAOC), Sgt F R Ede (REME), Sgt N W J Minty (DERR).

### ORIENTEERING

Top junior Army orienteers this year are the lads of the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate. On the Ringwood Forest Course they won the overall team trophy as well as carrying off the major units title and individual first place.

Major units runners up were AAC Chepstow. AAC Arborfield was third. Minor units champions were the Royal Army Medical Corps Apprentices followed by the Royal Army Pay Corps Apprentices. The Junior Signalmen's Wing, 11 Signal Regiment, came third.

Cumbria ACF was first in the Army Cadet Force class and Welbeck College CCF first in the Combined Cadet Force class.

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# Army's 'own' sport spotlighted

A major international conference was hosted by the Army School of Physical Training in Aldershot when biathlon coaches from 11 nations met to discuss the future of the sport.

The Army has a particular interest in biathlon, which couples the two skills of skiing and shooting, since Britain's top exponents are soldiers. The British team for the last Winter Olympics was entirely from the Army. And chief host to the Aldershot conference was the commandant of the Army School of Physical Training, Lieutenant-Colonel John Moore, himself a biathlete and international fencer.

The Union Internationale Pentathlon Moderne et Biathlon was responsible for the annual week-long conference, held in Great Britain this year rather than in France which had also put in a bid for the honour. Last year it was in St Moritz and the year before in Sweden.

## Theoretical

The Aldershot conference concentrated on the theoretical side of the sport — an absence of snow made practical work impossible — and lectures covered topics such as the physiology and psychology of sport and even a discourse on sport injuries.

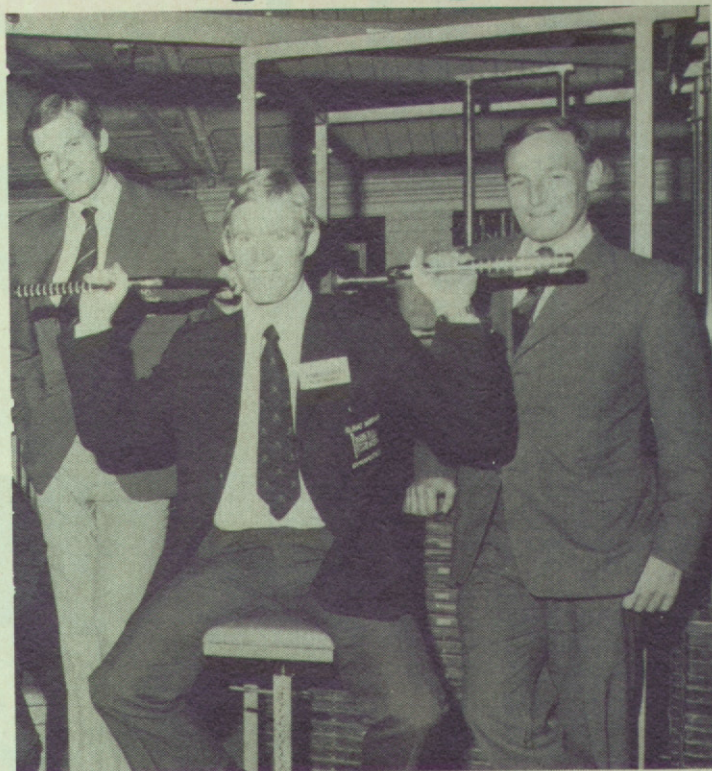
Worldwide representation came from Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, Rumania, Rus-

sia, Sweden, the United States of America and Switzerland as well as the United Kingdom. The all-Service British biathlon team and their coaches were there to benefit from the exchange of ideas following a summer of training in Aldershot too.

## Stars

There too were some of the Army's top sporting stars: Major Mike Campbell-Lamerton (ex-captain of the British Lions rugby team), Lieutenant Glen Grant, (British 800 and 1500 metres representative), Sergeant Jim Purvis, (British gymnastics team), Lieutenant Tim Belson (British fencing team in the 1976 Olympics), Sergeant Malcolm Hirst (British biathlon team at the 1972 and 1976 Olympics), Captain Mark Phillips (British three-day event team in the 1972 and 1976 Olympics) and Lieutenant-Colonel Dick Hardie (member of the triumphant 1976 Army Everest team).

Picture shows Sgt Jim Purvis trying the all-purpose 'polygym' out for size and (left) Lieut Tim Belson and (right) Lieut-Col D Hardie.



## Royal couple miss prizes

Civilian and Service riders joined a field which included top equestrians Captain Mark Phillips, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, and his wife, Princess Anne, at the Army and Royal Artillery hunter trials at Larkhill.

But the royal couple did not find themselves in the winners' frame all day except for a £3 prize for Captain Phillips for coming fourth on Evening Breeze in the novice individual trial.

Open intermediate: 1st Mr M Felton on Mr Chips, 2nd Miss E Capes on Lysander IX, 3rd Mrs B Parker on Topic II. Services intermediate: 1st Gnr Bird (Kings Tp RHA) on Even Star, 2nd Maj Walsh (RHA) on Moonlight Lady, 3rd Capt Lang (RHA) on Reveille. Open hunter trial: 1st Service rider WO2 Varley (Household Cavalry) on Zing, 1st RA rider 2 Lieut Beese on The Lieutenant.

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# Rugby men limber up



The nucleus of the Army's rugby side is pictured here in its Combined Services colours with the CS coach, Lieutenant-Colonel Norman Bruce, as the start of the new Army season of major fixtures looms. After trials this month, the team selected will meet Harlequins on New Year's Day and Saracens a few days later on 5 January. Later in the month come clashes with Surrey and Gloucester sides as well as the London Irish and Oxford University.

Players pictured left to right are: Cpl Brian Reynolds (REME), Cpl Willie Williams (1 DWR), Cpl Stephen Peacock (R Sigs), S/Sgt John Mills (REME), Cpl David Spawforth (REME), Capt Chris Gilbert (1 DWR), Cpl Stephen Jackson (RAMC), Cpl John Morgan (REME), Lieut Peter Wright (1 King's Own Borderers) and Cpl Norman Grey (RE).



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 **PLESSEY**

**The Army's Fijian rugby players have celebrated 15 years of sharing their sporting talents with the Services by staging a special match in Rhine Army.**

It was back in 1961 that some 200 Fijians joined the British Army, bringing with them their own style of rugby noted for its flexibility and cheerfulness.

Since then, not only have the Fijians served with the Army in almost every theatre of operations, but they have boosted Army rugby and can claim at least three Army caps to their credit.

Earlier this year the 35 Fijian servicemen in Rhine Army decided to mark their record of rugby by challenging the Rhine Army XV on the eve of the 6th anniversary of Fijian independence.

The match, at Rheindahlen, was watched by a large crowd including the Deputy High Commissioner of Fiji, Mr Jack Takala, a former international rugby player. The Fijians prefaced the match with their now familiar war dance.

The Fijian team, with an average age of 35, was undaunted by the youth of the BAOR side and was never far from the ball. But the strength of the younger men — especially in the scrum — made the ball elusive to the Fijians who were eventually beaten 33 - 4.

The score did not do credit to their play, though. They had several near misses and when they did score the applause was deafening.

Picture shows Ratuga, Cagilaba and Vodo covering a BAOR break by Kendall and Glasby.



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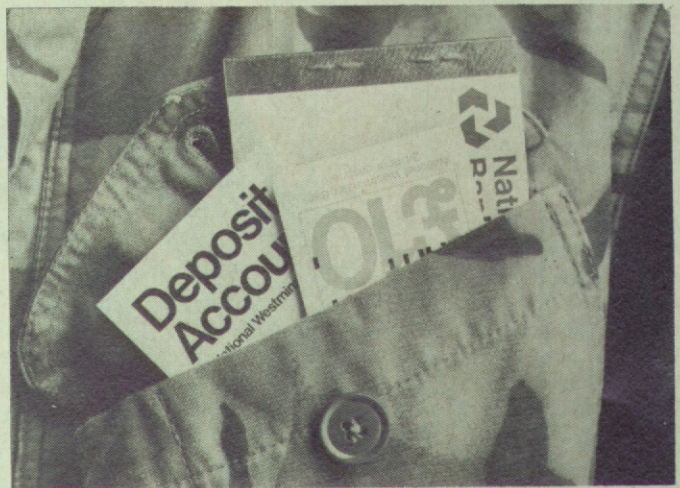
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S.12.76



# THE GERMANS THOUGHT THEY'D FOUND THE SUPREME AERIAL WEAPON.



The spectacular success, enjoyed by the JU 87 Stuka in the opening campaigns of the Second World War, made the German Air Staff believe that they possessed an invincible aerial weapon.

In these early campaigns, troops were demoralised by the JU 87's powerful dive; pockets of resistance were crushed from the air; armoured formations were blasted with incredible accuracy. And refugees came to dread its ominous approaching scream.

Then, heady with success gained in the Polish and French campaigns, during which aerial opposition had been minimal, the Stuka units entered the Battle of Britain.

And met defeat.

But in its short operational career, this ugly dive bomber gained an almost legendary reputation, as a symbol of terror and destruction.

The new Airfix model provides full detail throughout, from the two crew positions to the miniature Junkers Jumo engine with its detachable panels.

Sliding cockpit panels, a unique working ball-mount for the rear machine-gun, a hinging bomb cradle and movable control surfaces are all features of this remarkable kit. Two sets of authentic decals are provided, one for an aircraft flown during the Battle of Britain and the other for a tropicalised JU 87B operated in North Africa.

## Technical Details

Date of Origin	1933
Wing span	45 ft. 3 ins.
Length	36 ft. 5 ins.
Height	12 ft. 8 ins.
Top Speed	242 m.p.h.
Engine	1,100 h.p. Jumo 211
Range	370 miles



**Models of perfection**



# Military Models

## Drawing-room dog fight

THE THROATY ROAR of the Spitfire and the scream of the Stuka will soon be heard again as the veteran aircraft of World War Two fight it out over the fir trees — in 'front' rooms at Christmas. Both come as kits from the model firm of Airfix, the Spitfire (below, right) as a 'Same-day flyer' suitable for children aged eight and over and the Stuka (top, right) as a sophisticated 'Super-kit' for advanced modellers.

The Spitfire has elastic power and actually flies. The Stuka can be fitted with a battery-operated propeller motor but doesn't. The sound effects have to be improvised by adolescent aviators.

'Same-day flyers' can be made in moments since they come as pre-painted, polystyrene parts which simply slot together. There are three sizes, costing respectively £1.95, £2.75 and £5.95, which include not only the Spitfire but a Mustang, Cessna, Me 109, Hawk glider and Fokker Friendship F 27. In case of engine failure, extra motive power (elastic bands) is provided.

The 'Superkit' is in large 1:24th scale with a recommended retail price of £6.29. The 350 parts build up into a model of 22½-inch wingspan complete with pilot and gunner figures, interior cockpit detailing and an engine so realistic it looks about to roar into life. There is an instruction leaflet with exploded diagrams and coloured illustrations, as well as transfer decals for alternative versions — one based in Libya in 1941 and the other a Stuka which crashed on a farm near Chichester during the height of the Battle of Britain.

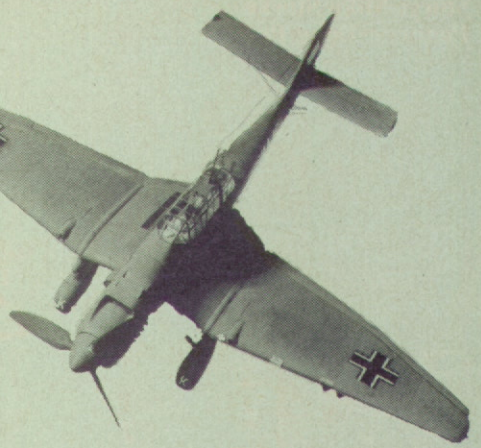
The whole family can join in the fun of armchair aviation with the new 'Fighter Command Game' (below) from Airfix. This

is played on a clear plastic screen (representing the sky) fitted into a baseboard (representing rival airfields). Tiny plastic Spitfires and Me 109s move along a 'flight path' of holes in the screen. The number of holes is indicated by the throw of a dice. When a friendly aircraft moves into an enemy hole the enemy is 'shot out of the sky;' when it moves into one occupied by another from its own side there is an 'aerial collision' and both friendly aircraft are lost. There are additional rules for flying out of the sun,

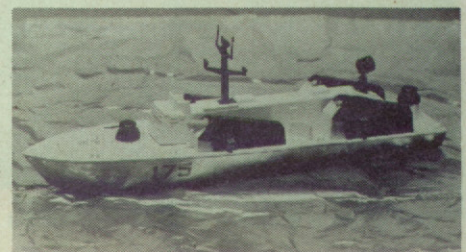
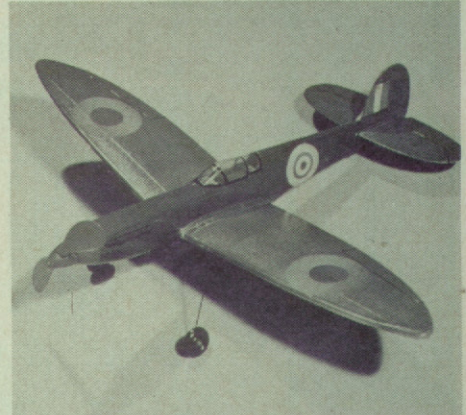


cloud cover, barrage balloons and anti-aircraft guns. Hours of enjoyment can be had for an outlay of £3.49.

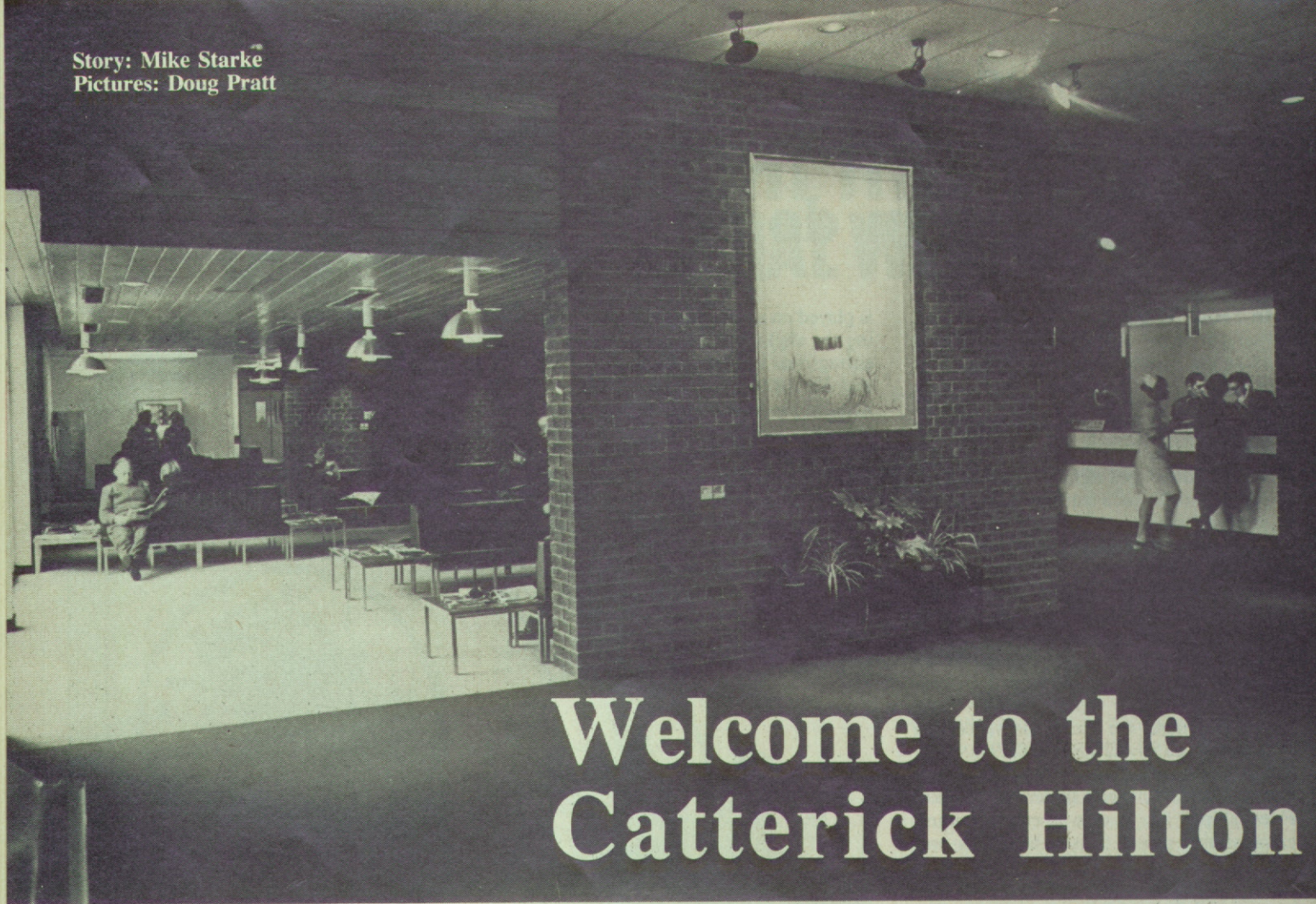
When stocking up for Christmas, do not forget Dinky Toys. The latest additions to the range of military models are a Leopard anti-aircraft tank (above) at £3.05, AEC transporter and Chieftain tank at £3.99, an armoured car (based on the Ferret but with



an added tank turret) (above) at 85 pence, and for marine modellers a Mark 1 corvette and (foot of page) OSA 2 missile boat, both at £2.15. These models have working parts such as spring-loaded guns that fire plastic shells, rotating turrets, and tracks and wheels that turn freely — so do not leave them near granny's sofa or under the feet of inebriated uncles. **HH**







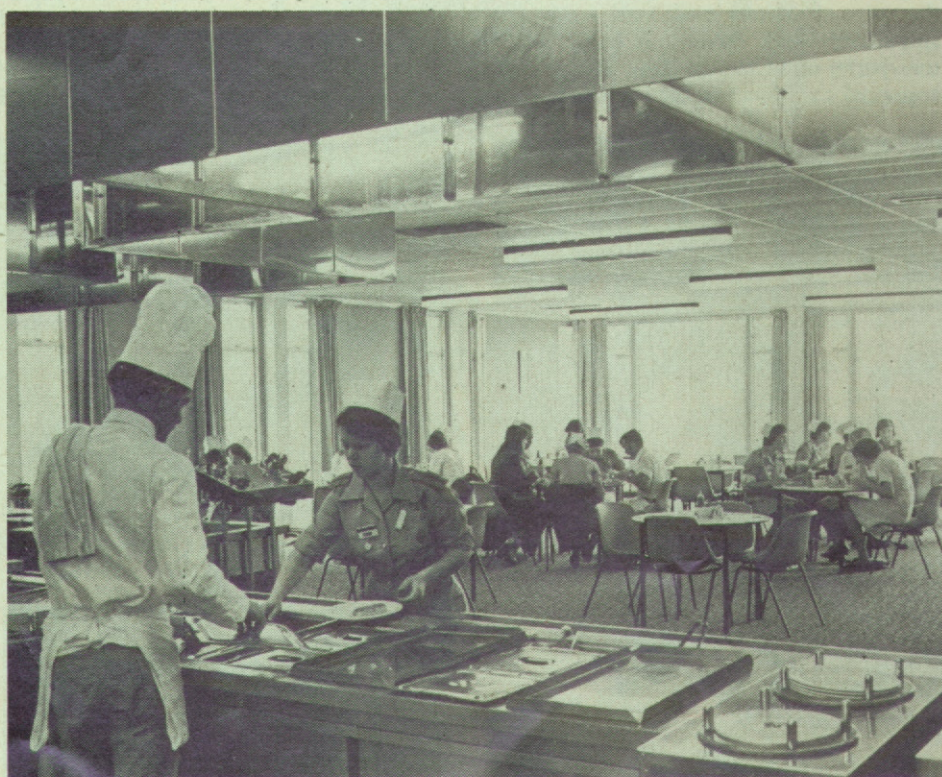
# Welcome to the Catterick Hilton

BARE AND ECHOING tiled corridors plus the all-pervading smell of disinfectant — these are among the lasting memories of hospitals worldwide. But not of the new Army hospital in the north of England which has been unofficially dubbed 'The Catterick Hilton.'

The Duchess of Kent's Military Hospital

— the opening ceremony, by the Duchess, was in October — is the first purpose-built military hospital in the United Kingdom since its predecessor was opened in the same garrison in 1916. Most other military hospitals are conversions of earlier barracks.

As you walk into the new hospital's reception area, only the spotless uniforms of the



Fitted carpet is a feature of the staff restaurant as well as (top) the patients' reception hall.



Civilian patient Mrs Audrey Masterman has her needs at push-button command with the console.





medical staff give away the nature of the building. Patients and visitors are greeted by warm-toned wood panelling and wall-to-wall carpet; corridors are lined with prints and paintings. And above all there is an absence of that disinfectant smell. "The idea being to make this *not look* like a hospital," said the commanding officer and resident otologist (ear, nose and throat specialist), Colonel Ray Gathercole.

He is one of five full colonels on the premises, the others being the consultant physician, obstetrician, pathologist and Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps matron. This illustrates the seemingly top-heavy rank structure of the Royal Army Medical Corps where the medically professional needs of a 'unit' like a hospital dictate staffing rather than a strictly military chain of command.

Nor is the high standard of qualification demanded in a general hospital such as this confined just to the top brass. Two of Catterick's sergeants have just gained their Master of Science degrees.

The total staff of some 400 or so is split roughly three ways between RAMC, QARANC and civilians. Colonel Gathercole is happy with the numbers he has working with him on the military side although his civilian industrial staff is 15 per cent down because of defence cuts. He has overcome this by redeploying personnel and commented: "We're just learning to live with it. We're not unique in this problem."

Like the staff, the patients can be categorised in thirds too. Some are servicemen from the local Army and RAF units, there are Service family patients and spare capacity is taken up by local civilians.

There is no firm contract with the

National Health Service but The Duchess of Kent's Hospital takes in people from nearby Richmond, Swaledale and Wensleydale as well as road traffic accident victims from a 25-mile section of the A1 trunk road which passes only a few miles from Catterick.

The hospital was built for 210 beds, but to cope with current needs it is established and equipped to take only 170 patients. Gone are the old-fashioned wards with rows of beds on each side. At Catterick, patients are fitted into cosy six-bed wards with every modern convenience including a handy palm-sized push-button console to summon up everything from the duty nurse to your favourite radio programme.

A pupil nurses school for the state enrolled nurse scheme, teaching some 20 or 30 at a time, and the hospital's administrative offices are the only parts of the building above ground-floor level. The single-level concept makes life easier for patients and staff alike and is considered the ideal for a hospital where overall space — as in Catterick garrison area — is readily available.

As a complete general hospital, The Duchess of Kent's offers surgical, orthopaedic, medical, ENT (ear, nose and throat), psychological, pathological, paediatric and dental facilities plus all the back-up systems such as X-ray, dispensary and remedial gymnasium.

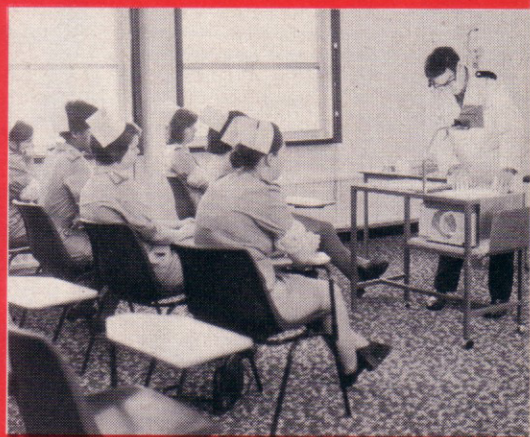
To set out patients' individual meals on their plates, the hospital kitchen has the new Gannymede system which transports each plate along a moving conveyor belt in front of a series of servers each responsible for putting one item on the plate. The place settings, complete with food, are then wheeled round the hospital in a 'train' of insulated trolleys pulled by an electric tug.



Colonel Gathercole works as a consultant as well as commanding the new Catterick hospital.



Left: Family visiting time in one of the wards.

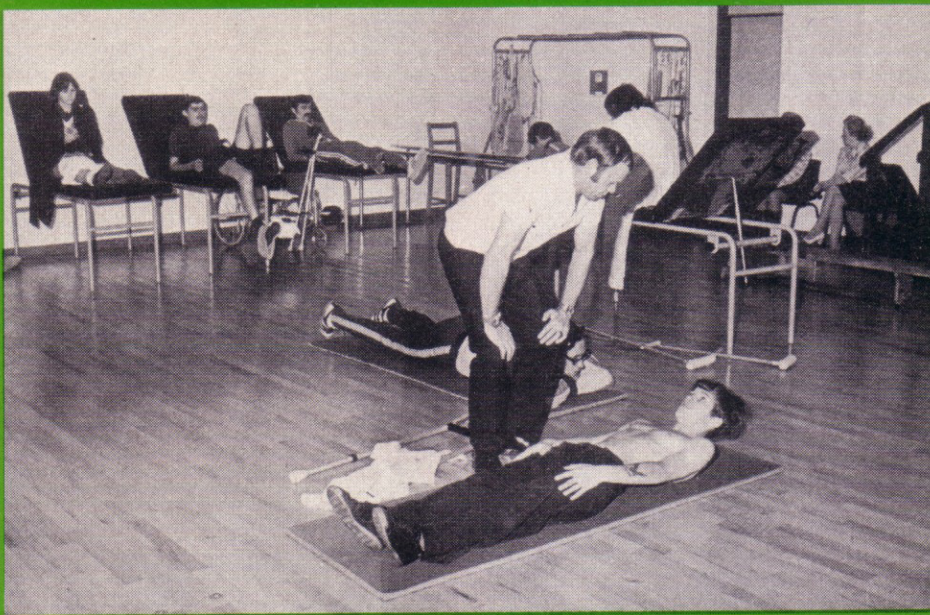


Visual aids help a lecture in nurses' school.

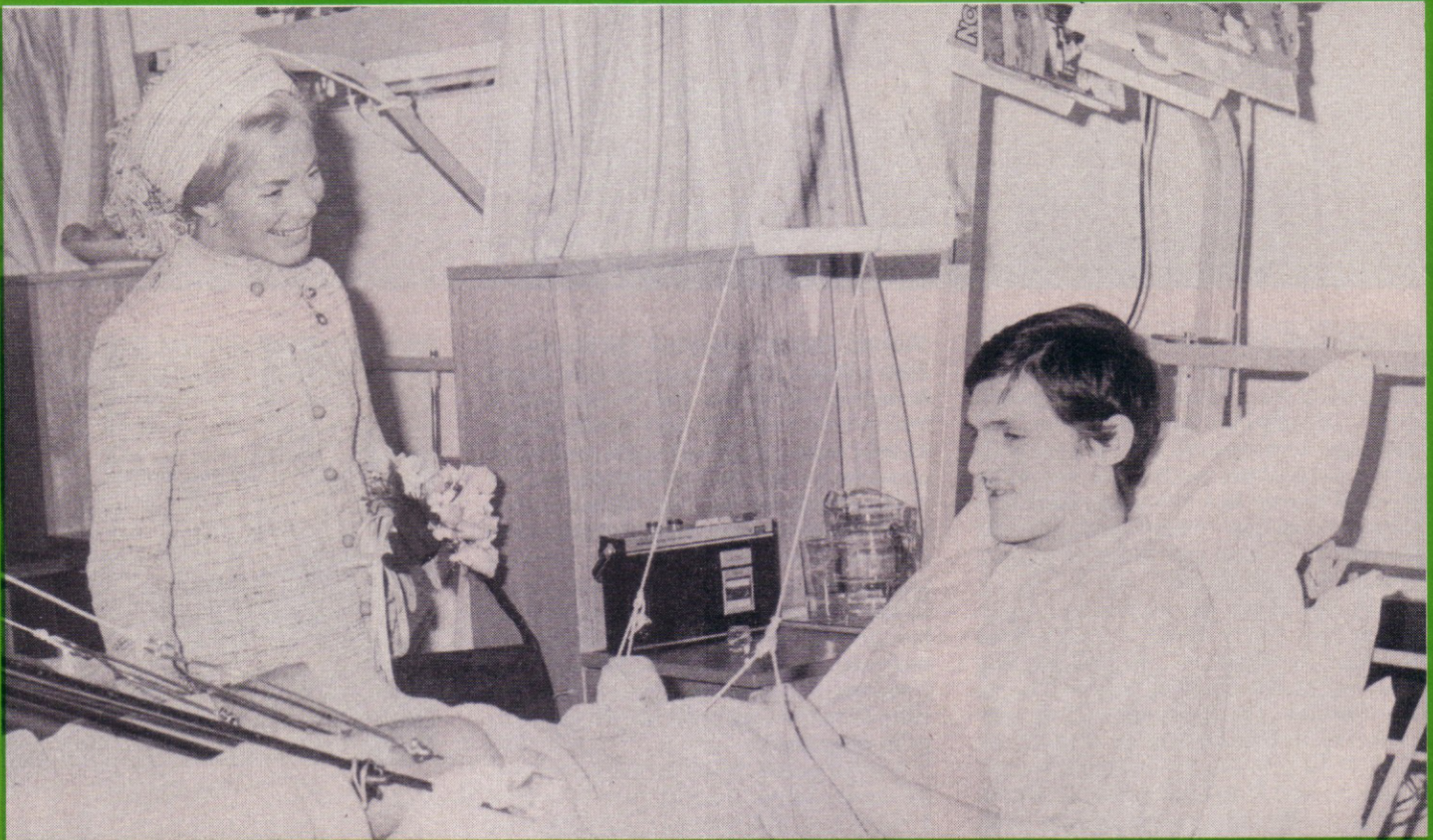


A 'gravy train' sets off with patients' meals.





Remedial gymnast WO2 George Wallace is a vital link in the convalescence chain. Right: a pathology laboratory machine counts blood cells.



The Duchess of Kent (above) toured the wards at the opening of the hospital (bottom right).

The system is quick and efficient, the operators say, but it takes some one dozen people to keep the 'production line' flowing. Another innovation is a 24-hour 'still room' where all drinks for the patients, from their late-night cocoa to their mid-morning orange squash, are prepared. So there's no more old-fashioned 'brewing up' in the wards themselves.

All this did not spring up overnight and the new hospital itself has been some years in the building. The first turf was cut on site in 1971 and the RAMC took the building over from the contractors in March this year. The first patients came through the doors in May after the old hospital had been run down to take only emergency cases.

Some 40 patients had to be transferred

from the old to the new hospital, "It was quite a job, but it went very well," recalled Colonel Gathercole. The official opening by the Duchess of Kent — whose striking pastel-shade portrait dominates the entrance foyer — took place on 6 October.

But the building of the hospital complex itself was phase three of the whole operation.

Harden Barracks, accommodating the soldiers and nurses, were built way back in 1970 and a combined QARANC and RAMC officers' mess was completed in 1973. "It's all within one complex which is really rather splendid," commented Colonel Gathercole.

And 'splendid' is the reaction of patients, too, during their visits to the 'Catterick Hilton.'





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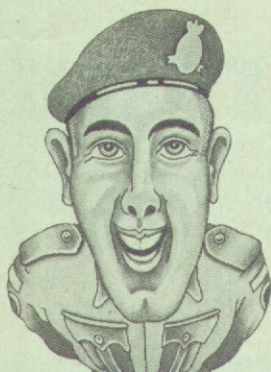
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'What will YOU be doing in 1977?' is the question posed by this year's Army Calendar and month by month it pictures what soldiers will be doing worldwide as they go about their wide variety of tasks on land, sea and in the air.

They will be helicoptering over Hong Kong, driving over German rivers on the back of amphibious bridges and swishing through Arctic snows on skis. These and many more illustrations enliven each monthly sheet in full colour and make the whole calendar well worth keeping long after 1977 has come and gone.

For a third year, SOLDIER is marketing the calendar specially for its readers and past experience has proved that it is as well to order quickly to avoid disappointment.

The Army Calendar 1977 is now available at £1.00 (UK, BFPO and elsewhere) including postage and packing. Fill in the coupon below and post it NOW.

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# on record

'The Royal Military Music Show — Münster 1975' (Alamein Staff Band, Royal Tank Regiment; Regimental Band, Scots Guards; bands of 1st Battalion, The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders; 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment; 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment; pipes and drums of 4th Royal Tank Regiment; 1st Battalion, Scots Guards; 1st Battalion, Irish Guards; corps of drums of 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment; Hiltrup 1848 Werkschor; Knabenchor vom Schlaun-Gymnasium; choir and dancers of York Junior School; Caroline Patrig (vocalist) (Directed by Captain A R Beat, Scots Guards) (Produced by Captain D R Kimberley, Alamein Staff Band RTR) (RMS 101)

This mammoth recording project has been on sale in BAOR for some time but is now offered to others. Halle Muensterland is one of those vast edifices which, like Earls Court, can cope with a horse show one day, an ice show the next and a concert such as this at any time. Five bands and three pipes and drums give a most impressive concert aided by German choirs and a choir and dancers from the local British school. It all comes in an attractive album of two discs, obtainable at £4.00, including postage, from Record Sales, HQ 4th Guards Armoured Brigade, BFPO 17.

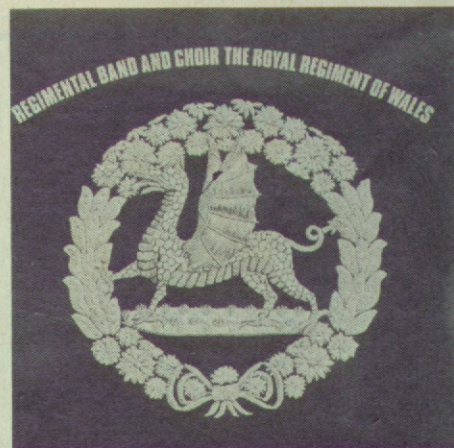
I do not usually wax enthusiastic about massed band 'spectaculars' but this is exceptional in several ways, not least in the quality of the music and the performance of it. It is so obvious that players and audience alike are enjoying it that the listener is caught up in the original highly charged atmosphere. One is hauled in immediately and by the scruff of the neck by Berlioz's brilliant overture 'Roman Carnival.' This piece suffered a little from the sheer size of everything but the general effect was tremendous.



Spread over the four sides are 'Elvira Madigan,' a fine medley of 'Sounds of Simon and Garfunkel,' Wagner's 'Nibelungen March,' a flugel solo ('I Left My Heart in San Francisco'), 'River Kwai March,' the old Eilenburg favourite of 'The Mill in the Black Forest,' the great march 'Hoch Heidecksburg' and (since the concert was in December) a Christmassy finale with 'Great Songs for Christmas' and 'A Christmas Festival.'

The pipes and bands play 'Morning Has Broken' and 'Amazing Grace,' the choirs sing Grieg's marvellous 'Landerkennung' and Wagner's 'Sailors' Chorus' (from 'The Flying Dutchman') and the children gave an unseen display to excerpts from 'Thus Spake Zarathustra' and 'Mars' from Holst's 'The Planets.'

Perhaps the concert gains something from the listener knowing, and hearing, that more than 6000 Germans were in there rooting for us, the British. In these times we can do with a bit of that



and, as a Briton, I was in there rooting too. Congratulations to all and a loud cheer from me when I can get rid of the lump in my throat. **RB**  
'Regimental Band and Choir, The Royal Regiment of Wales' (Bandmaster: J G Lewis) (RRW 501)

Here's a bit of Welsh Wales all the way from Berlin, where the 1st Battalion is currently stationed. This is not only a band that can play with style, skill and enthusiasm but can sing so well that even my toes remained unclenched. Well, perhaps my little toe twitched in 'Song of the Jolly Roger,' but in the Welsh song 'Cyfri'r Geifr' and the American folk song 'Sloop John B' nary a flicker.

In a 'Tribute to Tom Jones' (of Pontypridd), Lance-Corporal Ivor Jones (of Caerphilly) is completely professional and wisely makes no attempt to ape his namesake, giving the songs a new look with his own brand of showmanship.

From the band as instrumentalists we have a popular Berlin march, 'Berlin Bleibt doch Berlin,' Clare Grundman's 'Welsh Rhapsody,' the catchy tune 'Paloma Blanca' and a new selection of music by Henry Mancini. Three of the regiment's marches, 'God Bless the Prince of Wales,' 'Ap Shenkin' and 'Men of Harlech' are included, the latter being repeated as a finale by the choir.

Highly recommended and obtainable from Bandmaster, 1 RRW, BFPO 45, at £2.50 including postage and packing, or from Major Bromham, 4 (V) RRW, Maindy Barracks, Cardiff, again at £2.50. **RB**

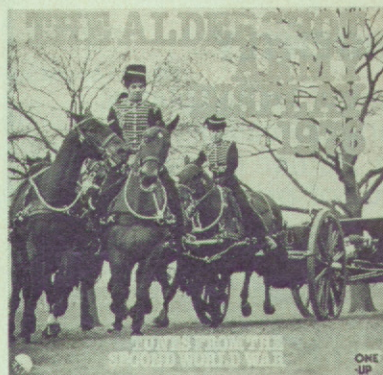
'The Aldershot Army Display 1976: Tunes from the Second World War' (Massed bands, conducted by Major W Allen, of The Royal Hussars; 15th/19th The King's Hussars; Royal Artillery Mounted Band; Royal Engineers (Chatham); Royal Engineers (Aldershot); Junior Musicians Wing (Guards Depot); 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment; 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment; 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment; 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment; Royal Corps of Transport; Royal Army Ordnance Corps; Women's Royal Army Corps; The Brigade of Gurkhas) (EMI ONE-UP OU 2137)

With 14 bands in the arena at Rushmoor, a house band and a musical drive from the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, the live display must have been something to see. Unfortunately many of us did not see it and this LP must stand or fall by its content.

Even then the music, as in all tattoo records, is interrupted and smothered by sundry whizzes and bangs. So once again it is a matter of whether you want the musical programme fortissimo all the way.

You have had it all before but someone might need all these tunes on one disc: Massed bands — 'Soldiers of the Queen,' 'Men of Harlech,' 'Scotland the Brave,' 'St Patrick's Day,' 'Lincolnshire Poacher,' 'Goodbye Dolly Gray,' 'British Grenadiers,' 'Lilliburlero.'

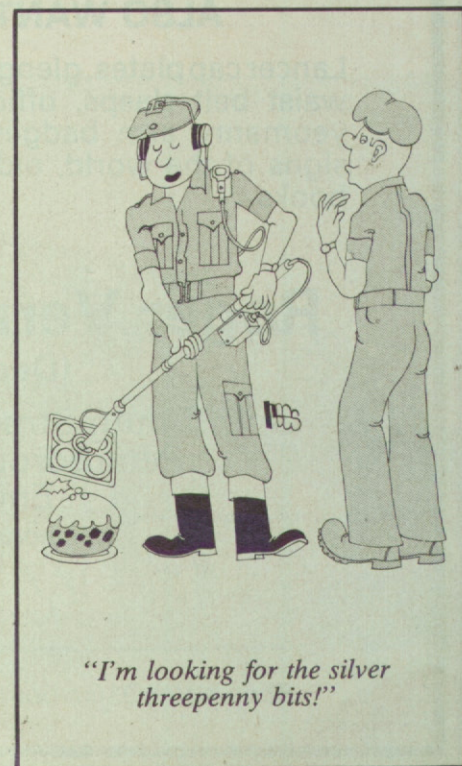
Band of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers — 'Bonnie Dundee,' 'Royal Artillery



Slow March,' 'Old Towler,' 'Gary Owen,' 'Hunting the Hare,' 'Round the Marble Arch,' 'Come Lassies and Lads,' 'The Galloping Major,' 'Light Cavalry,' 'Post Horn Galop,' 'John Peel.'

Finale — 'Run, Rabbit, Run,' 'Roll out the Barrel,' 'Lili Marlene,' 'In the Quartermaster's Stores,' 'We're Gonna Hang Out the Washing on the Siegfried Line,' 'Colonel Bogey,' 'Battle of the Valiant Years,' 'Boys of the Old Brigade,' 'We'll Meet Again,' 'Land of Hope and Glory,' 'National Anthem,' 'There's Something About a Soldier.'

The whole thing hangs together pretty well and Bandmaster Mortlock of 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, has done some effective arrangements and some efficient welding. **RB**





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A tented camp is background to rebuild works.



Sappers make up a mix of concrete ready for use at Reinsehlen camp.

## Cuts strike home

DEFENCE CUTS have taken on a special meaning for some soldiers — for they have come to mean cuts in the time spent with the family. In an effort to economise, jobs that would normally have gone to civilian contractors have been taken on worldwide by Army units capable of doing the job, wherever local civilian agreement has been reached.

Troops have buckled down to the work as and when demanded but they cannot conceal their disappointment at having to spend so much time away from their families.

Typical is 34 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, based at Perham Down, near Tidworth. It has just finished a three-month project in Germany renovating a permanent Army camp at Reinsehlen near Soltau.

Before this project, the squadron spent four months in Northern Ireland and two months in Cyprus — all within the space of a year. It now faces the possibility of another unaccompanied tour, this time to Gibraltar.

An officer admitted the squadron's separation from families was a "big problem" and added that the other two squadrons in the regiment were also "hard pressed." But in the nation's hour of need the mathematical equation of soldiers' labour being cheaper than that of local civilians adds up more readily than the human equation of separation.

The work 34 Field Squadron undertook in Germany — Operation Leros — was on the vast encampment at Reinsehlen and involved improving its services for occupying units

using the Soltau/Luneburg training area.

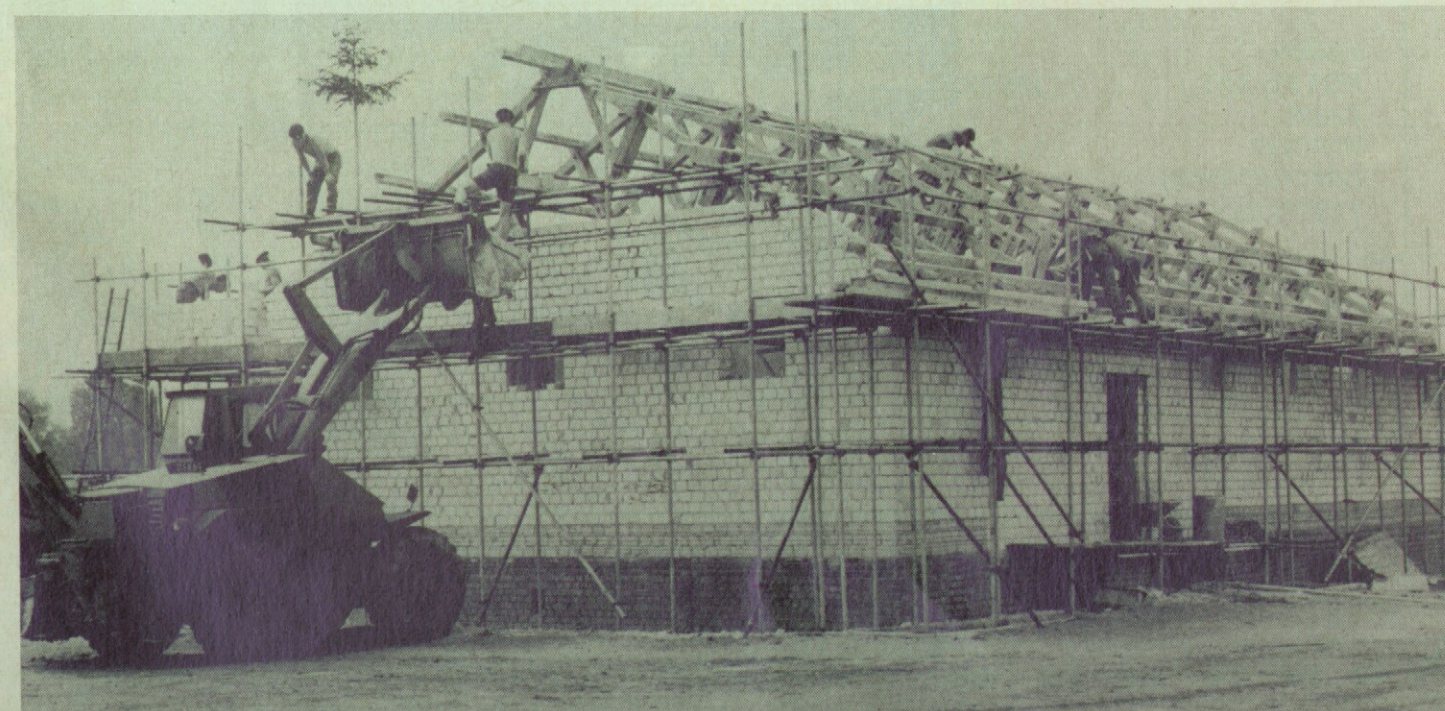
The varied work included building three new ablution blocks, a tank washdown, a tank roadway and a B vehicle servicing and washdown complex. The tank washdown was specially constructed to conform with German water pollution and conservation rules. Filter tanks were sunk underground to sift out oil and soil from the used water and pumps were installed to return the water to a header tank for re-use on more tanks.

Back in Britain for a while, the squadron has settled down to more familiar engineer tasks — the combat engineering training needed after long spells on other jobs. For a short time at least, the sapper motto 'Ubique' ('Everywhere') includes home.

The tank washdown filter system is put in place.



A traditional tree tops the new edifice German civilians helped to build.





# Motoring Minors

Story: John Walton  
Pictures: Doug Pratt

Two battered jalopies weave their way in and out of obstacles with schoolchildren driving.



A RUST-RAVAGED Ford manoeuvred its way round some empty oil drums. Following close behind was a Vauxhall in a similarly dilapidated condition. And the drivers' heads could scarcely be seen behind the steering wheels — which was not surprising as they were both only 14 years of age.

Neither the cars nor the drivers would be allowed upon the road but here both were permissible. For this was the playground at St George's School in Hong Kong where learning to drive is all part of the day's schoolwork.

Captain Jim Atkinson is the man who has put the 'L' into lessons at St George's. He takes five to six hours a week off from his

post as Principal of Kweun Tong Vocational Training Centre to become a driving instructor. In the last 13 years he has taught more than 3000 children to drive: "When these children leave school they can handle a car perfectly and all they need is traffic experience to be able to pass the test."

The 'old bangers' which are used are donated either when their condition compels their removal from the road or when the serviceman owner is ending his Hong Kong posting. Little maintenance is done on them and once the batteries are worn out the pupils have to resort to push-starting. But this may change shortly for the Army is building for the school a garage where there



The roar of motorcycle engines fills the air as helmeted youngsters negotiate a test track.



will be the chance to do some repair work.

The fourth, fifth and sixth forms drive cars as part of the school curriculum while for the younger children it is an optional activity. Motorcycling is also taught to a group of boys of all ages, whose parents have given their permission.

The motorcycles are in considerably better condition than the cars — there is a much bigger safety factor to consider. Says Captain Atkinson: "We overhaul them very carefully. It is very easy to overhaul a motorcycle." The motorcyclists go to the school on Saturday mornings to practise formation riding and displays. Most have their own crash helmets although the school



also has two ex-Army dispatch rider helmets.

All sorts of schoolboy-orientated methods are used. For instance in reversing a stick of chewing gum is hung on a string and the driver has to reverse to a spot where he can reach out and take the chewing gum with his teeth while keeping both hands on the wheel.

Captain Atkinson believes that Service schools are particularly well placed to have driving on the curriculum. He points out that they often have large playgrounds or can use Army parade grounds or airstrips. And many Service families buy old, cheap cars and then find them too worn out to sell

A chewing gum reward for students who make a good job of reversing. Left: Captain Atkinson puts pupils on the right road as good drivers.

when they move on to their next posting.

He also feels that teaching children to drive will mean that they will not "go roaring off into trouble" as soon as they get their first motorcycle later in their teens.

"When they are old enough to drive on the road they will make inevitable mistakes of judgement and meet situations of difficulty and danger, but they will, essentially, remain in control. This is St George's special contribution towards road safety in the eighties."

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

in the TAVR, in many cases regardless of pay, there will be no great changes in bounty payments. It will be only when strengths and attendances fall that any genuine bounty increases will be awarded and these will undoubtedly be too little and too late.—M Logan, B Coy, The Green Howards, The Yorkshire Volunteers, TAVR Centre, Stockton Road, Middlesbrough, Teesside.

★ The call-out bounty, of £50 except for the few on limited call-out liability, has indeed remained unchanged since 1967. The Ministry of Defence considered earlier this year whether this bounty should be reviewed but came to no conclusion. It is possible that there will be a review at some time in the future. The call-out bounty, incidentally, is intended to bridge any gap before receipt of full-time pay.

## Army 'fag' cards

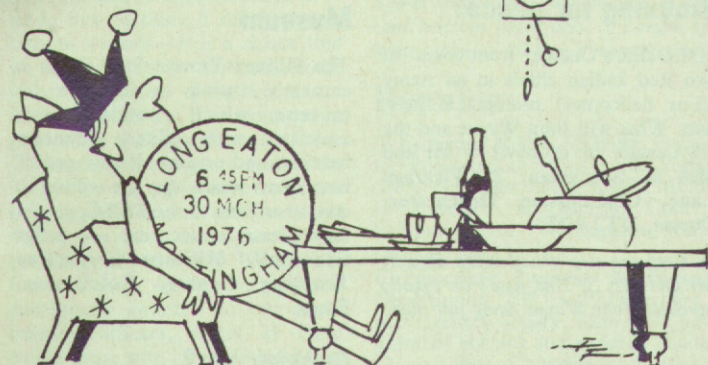
The first set of military cigarette cards issued since before World War Two has recently appeared in packets of Black Cat Filter and Black Cat No 9. They follow a successful re-launch of cigarette cards last Spring by Carreras Rothman — the first by a major tobacco firm since cards were withdrawn to conserve wartime paper. The 50-card set, entitled 'Military Uniforms,' will appear in 50 percent of packets and will run simultaneously with a series of birds. It fea-



tures the five regiments of The Guards Division, beginning with a musketeer from the King's Royal Regiment of Guards in 1660 and traces uniforms through to that of a regimental sergeant-major in 1960. An illustrated album costs 50p. In a foreword to the album, military historian Mr W Y Carman writes: "In modern times the guardsmen are constantly serving overseas — in armoured vehicles, as a parachute company and even as a Special Air Service squadron, training in both tropical and Arctic climates. But the popular appeal to London visitors is to see them engaged in their precise and colourful traditional duties carried out in an impeccable manner not to be matched by other nations."

ously on the production of 'bandshow' programmes. The alternative of musical up-grading by way of good, original arranging and exercise of the full military band potential, was hampered by the musicians' insistence on reproducing sounds not their own, ie pseudo brass band, organ or orchestra. My own service in the Army and with staff bands was for but 30 years. I am

# Letters



## Jubilee medal?

I presume that in 1977 a jubilee medal will be awarded to celebrate the 25 years of the Queen's reign. May I suggest to the Army Council that this medal should first be issued to all officers, warrant officers and non-commissioned officers of the armed forces who have served the Queen continuously since the day in 1952 on which she came to the throne. There are some, particularly officers, who have no medals at all to show for 25 years of service and the award of this medal would at least accord some recognition of their loyalty.—WO2 P G Taylor, 39 Medium Regiment RA, BFPO 16.

on board ship — an American assault landing craft from North Africa to Salerno — as unpaid lance-corporal. Led five men against 23 Germans and dislodged them by a trick without a shot fired. Assumed (illegally?) command of a company one night as a corporal platoon commander — and got away with it. As corporal, acting platoon sergeant, shouted to General Mark Clark — and again got away with it.—George Randell, c/o Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, 32 Belgrave Square, London, SW1 8QP.

## TAVR bounty

Reference Staff-Sergeant J B Harris's letter (September) suggesting a long-service TAVR bounty, why increase the bounty for the long-serving few? If they want extra pay they could attend on a few more weekends — their experience will be appreciated and their pockets filled. While the training bounty has been increased — something we all appreciate — the main call-out bounty has not changed since the incorporation of the TAVR in 1967. Allowing for inflation, and on a par with pay increases, this should have gone up four- or five-fold. But while soldiers continue to serve

## Entertainers?

Teeth will surely grind if further comment is added to 'Strike down the band' (Letters, July), but Mr Price's restrained remarks deserve support. I could have replied direct to him but that would seem like striking the waiter for the inadequacies of the chef. I shall concentrate upon the kitchen. Although tacitly understood, it is worth re-iterating that in the field of entertainment we receive the choice of the majority, rarely the preference of the minority and never what is good for the whole. The incongruity of soldier-musicians acting in the manner Mr Price describes poses three questions. Are Army bandsmen 'entertainers' in today's understanding of the word? Is their business in fact show business? If so, should they not be better at it and who should ensure this? Audiences originally welcomed the diversion of 'comedians' in bands and the apparent success, difficult to contest, was supported by many officers. Directors of music and bandmasters were left much to their own devices and, provided they remained within the compass of their vocation, were granted a freedom not duplicated in the Services. Comedy was possibly a cheaper and speedier substitute for overall musical improvement. It was not easier — directors and bandmasters who fancied the trend worked ardu-

## Records

I wonder if any of the following qualify as records? Fired two-inch smoke mortar bombs at the sergeant-major and missed him by a few feet — and survived among the men. With another fusilier in North Africa presented the CO with the exact location of the battalion on army form double-blank when no officer knew how to counter local magnetic iron-ore deposits. Held the appointment of OC Troops

## British Week Exhibition Commerzbank Bielefeld

The Commerzbank AG Bielefeld will be holding an Exhibition in June 1977. The Exhibition, an insight into life in Britain, is intended to give the customers information on the British way of life and its traditions.

A feature of the Exhibition will be devoted to military displays, photographs, models, etc.

If you are in possession of any of the following and are willing to loan them to the Commerzbank for the period of the exhibition (2 weeks) please contact

Mr G Detmar  
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Other items which may be of interest.

# COMMERZBANK





## more letters

unable therefore to say when it was, in addition to their other duties, that regimental bands became looked upon as an untapped source of income. I do recall that in the mid-1950s certain bands became as celebrated for the humorous content of their programme as others for their musical standards. As comedy enhanced both reputation and income, the pattern was adopted and sealed.

In contrast, the reaction of those appalled by what was happening did not make itself immediately felt – this section of the public was not given to effective outburst.

If through indifference or by intent that most unique of institutions, the British military band, is radically altered, we are ourselves responsible – good taste and fashion are as relevant to music as to any other medium. They are balanced between men's endurance and his need for change. They are 'in' or 'out' by common consent.

Now to the future. We may rely upon it that those responsible for the retention and maintenance of our military bands will act in accordance with the dictates of necessity. Bands will conform economically and artistically as required or they will not perform at all. We may be equally certain that what we see and hear meets in most respects the requirement and tastes of our times.

The sole consolation to those still dissatisfied is that applause is not man-

datory nor is concert attendance compulsory.—**G E Mansfield, 34-19 33rd Street, Long Island City, New York, NY 11106, USA.**

## History

I am at present trying to collate the history of the Military Provost Staff Corps. If any readers have any documents, letters, photos etc that might be of use in my research, I would be most grateful if they would loan them to me. All items will be returned unless the lender requests otherwise. — **Sgt T M Hearn, Military Corrective Training Centre, Colchester, Essex.**

## Eight-day slog

I wonder if among older readers there are any who were on that eight-day footslog across France with 18 Company, Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps, from 8 June 1940 (a week after Dunkirk) until evacuated from St Malo on 16 June.

This tough little unit landed in France on 12 September 1939, built up massive railway supply dumps for the BEF near Nantes and near Rennes and, until the old GWR engines were sent over, its men man-handled whole truck loads of railway lines, sleepers and equipment and erected their own Nissen hut quarters during that bitter winter of 1939.

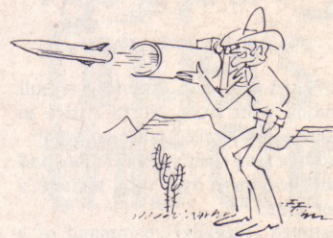
On that eight-day march they covered the miles via Louviers, Evreux, Dreux, Chartres, Le Mans

and St Malo, hungry, unshaven and worn out. Not until the fifth day did they get their first real meal in a cafe at Chartres. I often wonder what happened to 18 Company's much-liked officer commanding, Captain Booth.—**John Churchill, (ex-Seaforth Highlanders), 34 Princedale Road, London, W11 4NJ.**

## Siouxing for peace?

SOLDIER's October front cover (of two Red Indian chiefs in an Army Sioux helicopter) prompts a question. What will John Wayne and the US Cavalry etc do now? — **Mr and Mrs K Spackman, 20 Vicarage Lane, Charminster, Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 9QF.**

★ *Keep one step ahead is the answer, Mr and Mrs S! And here's an equally up-dated John Wayne doing just that!*



## Bluebell

In his review (On record, August) of 'Sounds of Battle,' RB does not point out that the Boer War marching song 'Bluebells' is in fact the sad account of a girl named Bluebell whose sol-

dier sweetheart did not return from that war ('Sadly they tell the story, tell how he fought and fell, no thought of fame or glory, only of his Bluebell.')

But, in extenuation, RB is hardly old enough to remember the Boer War! — **T S Cunningham, 6 The Lindens, Prospect Hill, Walthamstow, London, E17 3EJ.**

## Museum

The Military Provost Staff Corps is earnestly trying to improve its museum which contains relics associated with military detention barracks and prisons. If any readers have items which they are willing to donate or loan to the MPSC, would they please contact me. — **S/Sgt Glasspell, Military Corrective Training Centre, Colchester, Essex.**

## Dunkirk bar?

As much as I sympathise with reader H Jubb (Letters, August) and his plea for a Dunkirk bar to the 1939-45 Star, it is difficult to see how this could be done without doing equal justice to others. The ranks of those who could claim similar recognition are legion and the mind boggles at the thought of what might follow – 'Kohima' on the Burma Star, 'Arnhem' on Mr Jubb's medal, 'Tobruk' on the Africa Star, to say nothing of 'Scharnhorst' on the Atlantic Star and 'Java Straits' on the Pacific Star. 'Imjin' on the Korean Medal would not be amiss either.

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Mr Jubb certainly has a point and is to be congratulated for opening yet again what must surely be the most vexed subject of discussion in our forces — the award of campaign medals and insignia. What I would suggest however is a more unified approach rather than efforts by isolated groups to win recognition. There are many deserving cases for an award and all these will have to be taken into account. I refer particularly to wounds — it is a shame that we have not so far instituted some visual recognition of the fact that a man or woman has been wounded in the service of their country.

Of course we must guard against the temptation to copy some countries and dispense medals too freely but we are way down the league table of the forces of the world. Were it not for the many foreign awards and decorations awarded to our high-ranking officers, many of them would retire with comparatively bare chests! — **John D Shaw, 52 Ivy Leigh, Liverpool, Merseyside, L13 7ER.**

## Tunisia

I have been commissioned to write a book on the Tunisian campaign 1942-43 and to this end would be most grateful if any veteran of that campaign would be prepared to give me a personal viewpoint of the fighting and, if possible, lend me photographs for possible inclusion in the book. — **Maj C R M Messenger, 23 James Road, Camberley, Surrey.**

## Collectors' Corner

R Hatherley, 28 Clover Court, Calverley, Pudsey, Yorkshire, LS28 5SY.—*Seeks British/foreign medals.*

John Walton, 18 Hinstock Close, Farnborough, Hants.—*Collects early military and other cigarette cards. Has similar for sale/exchange.*

T L Hewitson, 3 Foxcover, Ashington, Northumberland, NE63 0TR.—*Requires anything connected with 5th Foot (Northumberland Fusiliers) — Regular, Militia, Volunteer battalions, especially India, GS, Hazara 1888, North-West Frontier 1908 and Mutiny medals, also uniform prints.*

P J Rafferty, 27 Pattens Road, Warwick, CV34 5TE.—*Wishes exchange British Army badges (metal) for set 60 Stadden uniform postcards, mint condition. SAE.*

Richard Burford, Larchwood Cottage, Upton Grey, Hants, RG25 2RG.—*Requires brass cap badges, shoulder titles etc, of British Army regiments, especially tank regiments, SAS, Artists' Rifles and Popski's Private Army, also badges US Army and Marines. Please state lowest prices.*

C E J Harris, 10 Derwent Drive, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN4 9TB.—*Requires British Army cap badges at sensible prices.*

M S Elliott, 12 Hardy Close, Thatcham, Newbury, Berkshire. — *Wishes obtain WW2 plastic badges Light Infantry regts. Will purchase or exchange.*

Gilbert Bayliss, Greenacres, 9 Lower Radley, Abingdon, Oxon. — *Will pay good price for set OR yellow Hussar cap lines complete with sliders. (Required to complete OR 1911 uniform 19th Royal Hussars, eventually for 15th/19th museum).*

John Harland, Beulah, 12 Vawdrey

## How observant are you?

(see page 14)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Position of clown's portrait in its frame. 2 "N" in "Dressing." 3 Ace of clubs. 4 Lower left spot on horse's neck. 5 Handle of middle drawer. 6 Top left corner of table. 7 Spikes on left holly leaf. 8 Pips on top card between black aces. 9 Length of lower table-leg. 10 Ear of man on right.

## Reunions

**17 Company RASC, 1939-45.** If you are interested in meeting old comrades, please get in touch with Mr B H D Hewett, 30 Gladeside Court, Succombe Hill, Warlingham, Surrey, CR3 9JG.

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

**16 Para Bde Pro Unit and 1 Para Pl (V).** Stag reunion, TAVR Centre, 132 Upper Tulse Hill, London SW2, 25 Mar 77 (units disband 1 Apr 77). Rough and ready accommodation (sleeping bags and camp beds) available; buffet. All personnel who served with the units at any time, whether RMP or not, are invited and should inform OC 16 Para Bde Pro Unit RMP, Provost Barracks, Maida Road, Aldershot, Hampshire, by 31 December.

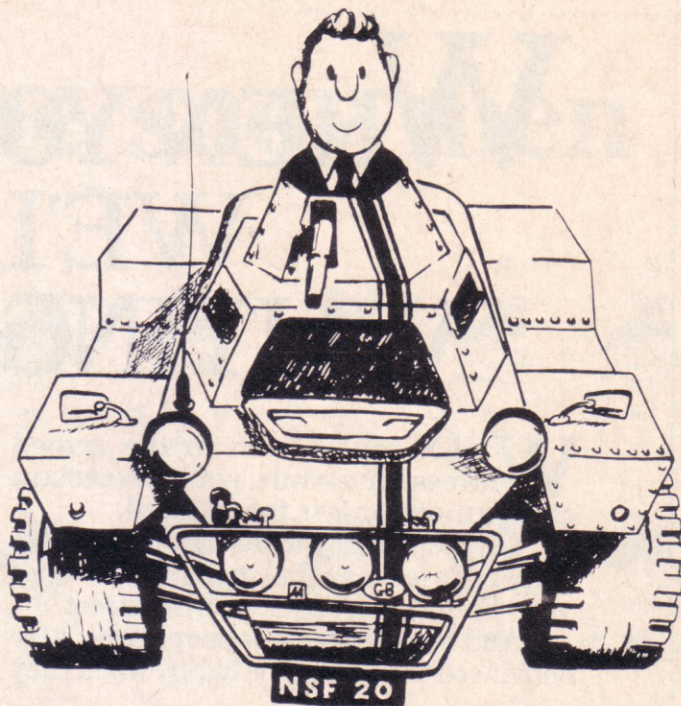


Road, Drayton, Norwich, Norfolk, NR8 6EL. — *Collectors British military, fire service and police badges eagerly sought to arrange exchanges. Several interesting badges available.*

N S Major, 26 Buxton Road, Brighton, Sussex, BN1 5DE. — *Has 900 genuine British Canadian, Australian and NZ cap badges to exchange for battalion, regimental and divisional histories British Army, or bound volumes The Navy & Army Illustrated.*

S W Elliott, Crosswinds, Georgetown Park Estate, St Clement, Jersey, CI. — *Eager obtain all types inert grenades, shells, fuses, mines, shellcases, small arms cartridges and any books, pamphlets etc relating to same.*

F A J Wright, 4280 Dorchester Boulevard W, Westmount, H3Z 1V7, Quebec, Canada. — *For sale or trade: 58th Westmount Rifles cap and collar badges (officers); 1st Tank Battalion (Canada, Babin 32-1) with four large buttons to match (officers); XI Overseas Battalion (Babin E-11) cap badge (OR); Khaki University cap and collar badges (officers) (Babin 42-3); assorted pre-1914 Canadian Militia buttons (large). Seeks Imperial Yeomanry, Scottish cap and sporran badges, waist belt clasps.*



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All in all, it's not surprising that a large number of ex-service people make successful careers for themselves in the Met.

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This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Monday 7 February 1977. The answers and winners' names will appear in the April 1977 SOLDIER.

More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 221' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or official pre-paid labels

(and there has been a noticeable increase in these recently) will be disqualified.

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...in a buttered roasting tin, lay the duck on top and place in the pre-heated oven. It is not necessary to butter the bird. Cook for 1½ to

# BOOKS



## Ayo Gurkhali!

*'Better to Die: The Story of the Gurkhas' (Edward Bishop)*

The Gurkhas again — the "stocky hillmen from Nepal" with the "short strong legs" who have such a great advantage in mountainous country and whose dedication to the life of the warrior makes them "the bravest of the brave."

This is their story from the beginning of their close association with Britain following the Nepal War of 1814-16. A story often of courage against great odds and always of faithfulness to the British sovereign. From the earliest days they found kinship with those other highlanders, the Scots, especially the Seaforths and the Gordons who campaigned alongside them in Northern India.

Soon they formed their own pipe bands, adapting the haunting music to their own rapid marching. On the Tibetan frontier in 1889 they set a record of marching as disciplined troops at 18,000 feet, which is typical of their all-round toughness for they know no boundaries of physique, determination or courage.

They served beside the British soldier in the Indian Mutiny of 1857 and defeated German troops at Givenchy on the Western Front in 1914. They

were in the Western Desert and Europe in World War Two and in Burma with Slim's Fourteenth Army. Always they have been in the thick of the fighting and friend and foe alike know their battle cry: 'Ayo Gurkhali!' — 'Here come the Gurkhas!'

*New English Library, Barnard's Inn, Holborn, London, EC1N 2JR, £3.95 GRH*

## Prestige

*'German Uniforms of World War II' (Andrew Mollo)*

More than 200 remarkably clear photographs illustrating facets of German uniform immediately before and during World War Two are an outstanding feature of this remarkable book. By outlining the development and, as the war wore on, the deterioration of Nazi military, naval and other uniforms, the author describes in some detail what was actually worn and demolishes the popular concept created by cinema and television. To the pre-war German and to the Nazi a uniform, one



can almost say, was all important and the pleasure and prestige gained from belonging to a uniformed organisation, be it military or civil, was irresistible.

An acknowledged expert on Teutonic uniforms, Andrew Mollo puts us wise on many aspects of German military dress and equipment. For instance, standard bearers when trooping the Colour wore a gorget, bandolier and special arm badge on the right upper sleeve; to commemorate the close co-operation and comradeship between the Navy and mountain troops, sailors who had served in Narvik began to wear (unofficially) the edelweiss in their headgear.

The white winter outfit worn in the Russian campaign, the desert kit of Rommel's army in North Africa, kit worn in the invasion of Yugoslavia, Greece, Crete and in many other campaigns are dealt with knowledgeably and in detail to give this book the stamp of true authority.

*Macdonald & Jane's Ltd, Paulton House, 8 Shepherdess Walk, London, N1 7LW, £6.95 JFPJ*

## From Cabul

*'Journal of an Afghanistan Prisoner' (Lieutenant Vincent Eyre)*

In every story of a setback to British arms one awaits and expects the recovery. Here there was none. Disaster followed disaster. Unpreparedness, mismanagement, tactical incompetence and treachery led to the withdrawal of 4500 troops plus about 12,000 camp-followers from Cabul in 1842. As they made their way through the narrow defiles in the mountains, in the bitter cold of winter and supposedly under escort of the tribes, they were repeatedly betrayed and systematically slaughtered.

Eventually 12 ladies with their husbands and 22 children were offered succour with the 'escort.' Except for 76 officers and men who became captive, the force struggled on, frostbitten and hungry, cut down day by day until one man alone struggled into Jellalabad. The captive families were marched about the country for nine months, suffering indignities, earthquake, robbery and murder before eventual release



through bribery. An amazing tale that has its lessons even today.

*Routledge & Kegan Paul Ltd, 39 Store Street, London, WC1E 7DD, £5.95 GRH*

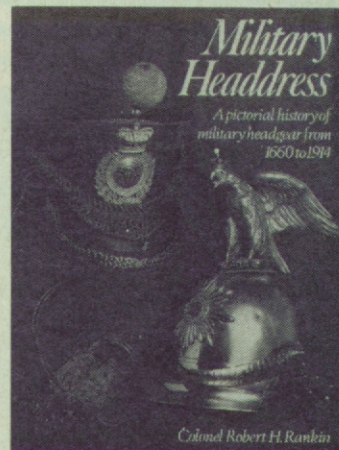
## Vade mecum

*'Military Headdress: A Pictorial History of Military Headdress from 1660 to 1914' (Colonel Robert H Rankin)*

Although the origins of military uniforms are customarily dated to around the late 17th century, men long before wore some distinctive form of headgear to identify themselves as members of a military unit. This first comparative study devoted exclusively to military headdress is in effect a pictorial study involving nearly 250 illustrations each accompanied by a detailed description.

Headdress has always played a big part in the creation of a unit's image — the legendary silhouette of Napoleon's Imperial Guard owed

much to their tall bearskins, the Prussian spiked Pickelhaube will always be associated with the German infantry, the plumed helmet of the British Household Cavalry still draws admiring spectators to the changing



of the guard in Whitehall and there is the distinction of the flat topped 'czapka' of the Polish lancer.

For collectors, military headdress has always been a favourite if only because it is an item complete in itself and comparatively easy to display — Colonel Rankin offers the specialist a vade mecum on the subject.

His book opens with a highly informative introduction and goes on to treat the evolution of the ordinary head covering into soldiering's more practical, grandiose and colourful caps and helmets. There are chapters on shakos and képis, bearskins and busbies and a few useful pages on storage cases and cap covers. An essential reference for the collector.

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

## 'Patchwork Army'

*'The Battle of Blenheim' (Peter Verney)*

This most interesting account of Marlborough's campaign of 1704 includes the 500-mile-long march to the Danube, the storming of the Schellenberg at Donauworth, the "rape" of Bavaria and actions after Blenheim.

The Schellenberg was considered well-nigh impregnable but Marlborough surprised the French by attacking, immediately after an exhausting march. It was here that the English Foot "gained their reputation for unflinching courage and unsurpassed gallantry."

The author gives a very full account of the composition and day-by-day movement of Marlborough's 'Patchwork Army' and a stroke-by-stroke, almost minute-by-minute record of the long day's fighting that produced the great victory of Blenheim, the battle that brought England "a freedom and confidence she had not known for a hundred years." Again Marlborough gained surprise and by the end of the day the forces of France, superior in num-





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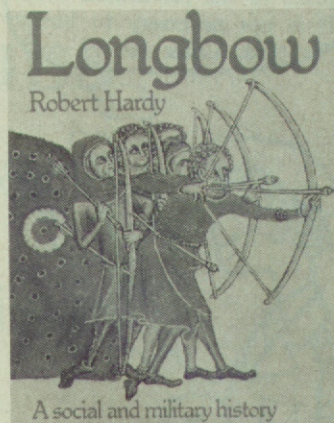
## The Archers

'Longbow: A Social and Military History' (Robert Hardy)

The author, well known as an actor on stage, film and television, spent 15 years of "delighted research" into the history of the longbow and has written two television documentaries on the longbow and the Agincourt campaign. He has produced a very readable book based on this once important weapon and dealing with the social and military history of the days when it was at the height of its glory.

The story of the longbow is followed from prehistoric times to the present day with accounts of battles such as Bannockburn, Dupplin and Halidon where the English were learning the tactics of longbow battle shooting. There are very exciting descriptive accounts of the campaigns leading to Crécy, Poitiers and Agincourt and including detail of the rates of pay, and the costs and numbers of weapons and other materials.

The more recent use of the long-



bow in North America and in present-day sport — by ladies as well — is also reviewed. There is much detail about the designing and making of bows and arrows and the author has succeeded in proving that the expert bowman was a true craftsman and artist and a deadly accurate and formidable warrior. A foe the élite of the French Army learned to dread.

This book is a delight to read and the many diagrams and pictures greatly augment the text.

Patrick Stephens Ltd, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB3 8EL, £7.50 GRH

## IN BRIEF

'Panzer Colours: Camouflage of the German Panzer Forces 1939-45'

(Bruce Culver and Bill Murphy)

This lavishly illustrated book, with 69 colour illustrations by Don Greer and more than 170 black-and-white photographs, presents the World War Two history and practice of German camouflage — now acknowledged as the most sophisticated system yet devised. The authors cover the evolution and variation of colour schemes and tackle weathering, application and use of foliage.

Camouflage effects for individual fronts are clearly shown in chapters on the invasion of Russia and the Afrika Korps in North Africa. Considerable leeway was given to commanders in deciding on suitable camouflage schemes; indeed the choice of additional colours in the last two years of the war was left entirely

to field commanders. A useful reference for modellers and military vehicle enthusiasts.

Arms & Armour Press, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London, NW3 1PR, £4.50

'Japanese Infantry Weapons of World War Two' (George Markham)

Pistols, rifles, machine-guns, grenades, mortars, ammunition — every type of weapon used by the Japanese infantry in World War Two — is examined, and in many cases illustrated, in this handy, well-produced volume.

A chapter on ancillary weapons includes interesting paragraphs on flame-throwers, incendiary and smoke bombs and an extremely unpleasant poison grenade loaded with a solution of hydrocyanic acid that gave off cyanide gas when exposed to the atmosphere. Swords and bayonets are briefly dealt with and ammunition, always a problem in the Japanese army, is probed in some detail. A complex subject economically and efficiently handled. Arms & Armour Press, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London, NW3 1PR, £4.50

'The Vandyke'

This tongue-in-cheek look at The Royal Scots Guards is a book of cartoons by Trooper Brian McPherson (MACO) which tell the story of the regiment's first five years since amalgamation. Its aim is to attract recruits into the regiment. The original design and idea are by Major Jonathan Hall.

Home Headquarters, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, The Castle, Edinburgh, EH1 2YT, or PRI, Scots DG, BFPO 36, 80p

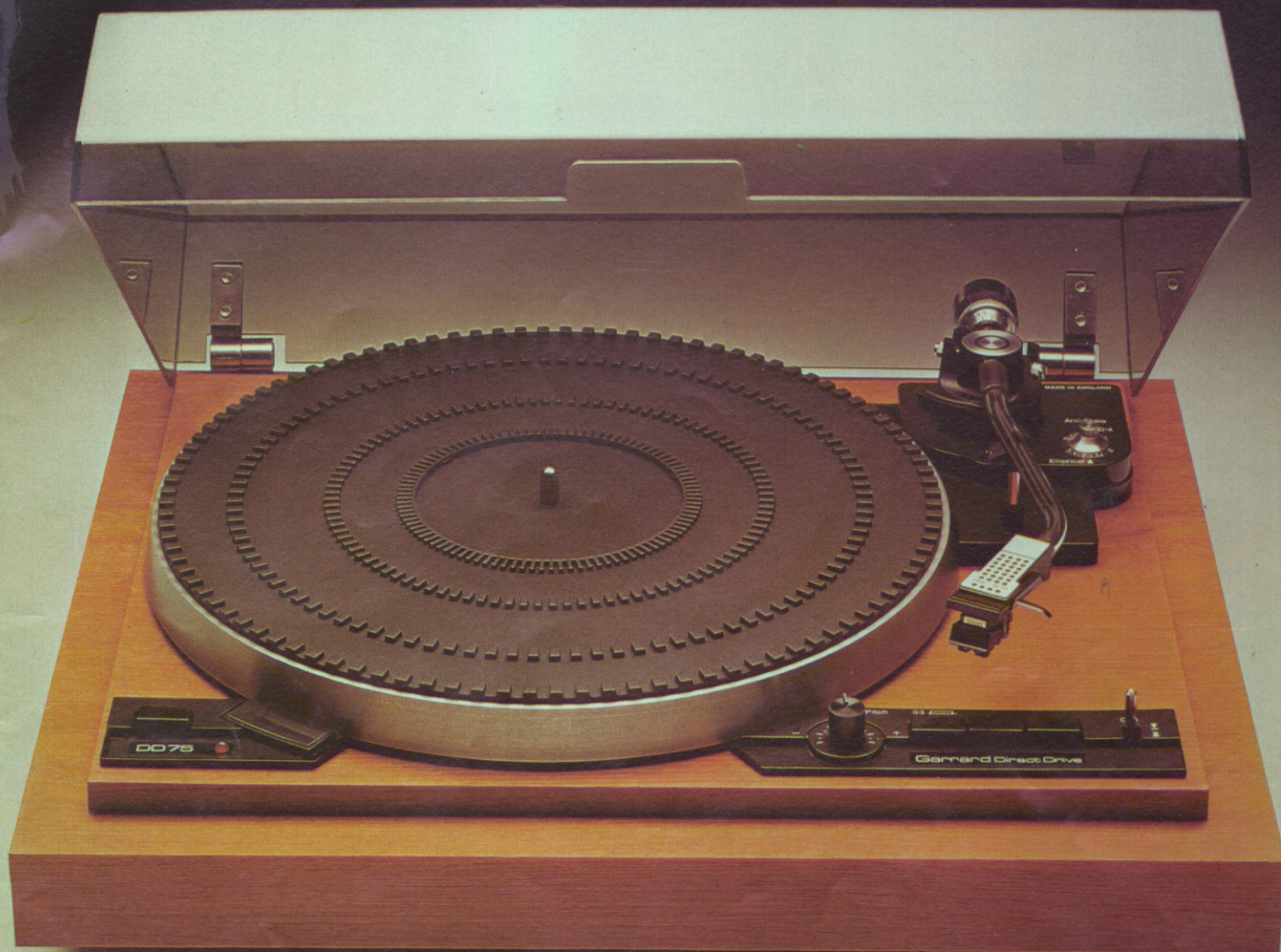
## PANZER COLOURS

Camouflage of the German Panzer Forces, 1939-45





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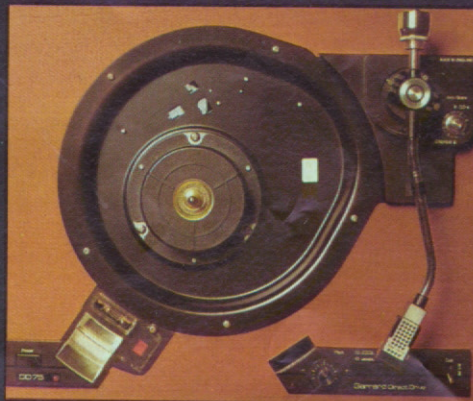
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