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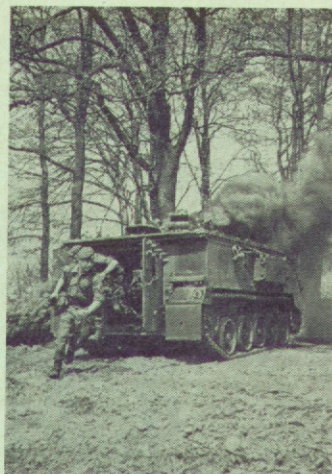
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### FRONT COVER

A member of F (Sphinx) Parachute Battery, 7th Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, fires a Sterling sub-machine-gun during small-arms training in Wainwright, Canada.  
Picture by Paul Haley.



### BACK COVER

Men of the Irish Guards practising debussing and dispersal from an FV 432 armoured personnel carrier in their role as mechanised infantry serving with Rhine Army in Germany.  
Picture by Doug Pratt.

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# SEE - THE - ARMY DIARY

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

## JULY 1976

- 24 Westergate Fair, Goodwood (24-25 July) (Royal Military Police "Red Caps" mounted display team).
- 24 Cleveland County Show (three bands).
- 24 Army Display, Aberdeen and Dundee (24-29 July) (Scottish Division "Golden Lions" freefall team; Royal Signals "White Helmets" motorcycle display team 26-29 July; band; pipes and drums).
- 24 Hastings Carnival (Army Air Corps "Blue Eagles" helicopter display team).
- 24 Sutherland Agricultural Show, Dornock (7 RHA freefall team "Black Knights").
- 25 Air Display, Shobden (Blue Eagles).
- 25 Eastbourne Regatta (Royal Corps of Transport "Silver Stars" freefall team).
- 27 Tyneside Summer Exhibition (27-31 July) (two bands).
- 28 Driffield (Yorkshire) Show (band).
- 28 Flower Show, Sandringham (Blue Eagles).
- 30 Hull Show (30-31 July) (band).
- 31 Edinburgh Army Display (31 July-8 August) (Golden Lions; Blue Eagles 2-6 August; band; pipes and drums).
- 31 Festival 76, Lambeth (Blue Eagles).

## AUGUST 1976

- 1 Open Day, Royal Armoured Corps Centre, Bovington.
- 1 Knebworth Park (Hertfordshire) Air Display (Blue Eagles; band).
- 4 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (4-7 August).
- 4 Bingley (Yorkshire) Show (band).
- 4 Gloucester Festival (4-7 August) (Silver Stars; White Helmets; band).
- 6 Bakewell (Derbyshire) Show (Parachute Regiment "Red Devils" freefall team).
- 7 Brighton Carnival (band).
- 7 Biddenden (Kent) Spectacular (band).
- 7 Traction Rally, Castle Howard, Yorkshire (7-8 August) (Blue Eagles).
- 7 Doncaster Carnival (7-8 August) (Blue Eagles).
- 8 Wandsworth Show (Red Caps).
- 9 Cleethorpes Festival (9-10 August) (Blue Eagles).
- 13 Derwentside Show, Consett, Co Durham (13-14 August) (band).
- 13 Gloucester Show (Silver Stars).
- 14 Hartlepool Show (14-15 August) (band).
- 14 York Sportsmen's Gala (Blue Eagles; band).
- 15 Air Display, Coventry (Blue Eagles).
- 15 Bromley Show (Silver Stars).
- 17 Edinburgh Tattoo (17 August-11 September).
- 18 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 18 Cromer Carnival (Royal Army Ordnance Corps "Cannonballs" freefall team; Royal Artillery motorcycle display team; band).
- 20 Reading Horticultural Show (20-21 August) (Red Caps; band).
- 20 Worthing Fiesta (band).
- 21 Somerset Agricultural Show, Shepton Mallet (Blue Eagles).
- 21 Darlington Show (two bands).
- 24 Army Display, Derby (24-25 August) (Blue Eagles; REME freefall team; RA motorcyclists; bands).
- 25 Gillingham and Shaftesbury (Dorset) Show (Black Knights).
- 25 Kneller Hall Band grand concert.
- 26 Blackpool Services Display (26-29 August) (Blue Eagles 26-27 August; Junior Parachute Company "Pegasus" gymnastic team; RA motorcyclists; four bands).
- 27 British Timken Show, Northampton (27-28 August) Red Devils; Red Caps; King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery; RA motorcyclists; two bands).
- 28 Leeds Gala (28-30 August) (band).
- 28 Expo Steam, Peterborough (28-30 August) (Blue Eagles; band 29-30 August).
- 28 South Tyneside Show (28-30 August) (band).
- 28 QUEXP0, Birchington, Kent (28-30 August) (Cannonballs 30 August; band).

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# DIARY continued

- 30 Worthing Fiesta (Rotorama) (Red Devils; RAC hot air balloon; band).
- 30 Leicester City Show (30-31 August) (Blue Eagles 30 August; two bands).
- 30 Eye (Suffolk) Show (RA motorcyclists).
- 30 Aylsham (Kent) Show (band).
- 30 Hemel Hempstead Carnival (Red Devils; arena event; band).
- 30 Sevenoaks Show (Silver Stars).
- 30 Basildon District Show (Red Caps).
- 31 Barrow Army Display (31 August-1 September) (Pegasus; Red Devils; Blue Eagles; RA motorcyclists; three bands).

## SEPTEMBER 1976

- 1 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 2 Buckinghamshire County Show, Aylesbury (band).
- 3 Watford Show (3-4 September) (band).
- 3 Sheffield Show (3-4 September) (band).
- 4 Rye Carnival (Black Knights).
- 4 Seaham (South Shields) Show (4-5 September) (band).
- 4 Bury Army Display (4-5 September) (Red Devils; Red Caps; Pegasus; RA motorcyclists; four bands).
- 4 Hinckley (Leicestershire) Steam Fair (4-5 September) (arena event).
- 4 Amptill (Bedfordshire) Cheshire Homes Fête (Blue Eagles; Red Devils).
- 4 Keighley (Yorkshire) Show (band).
- 4 Richmond (Yorkshire) Round Table Show (band).
- 4 County Agricultural Show, High Wycombe (Red Devils; band).
- 5 Burma Star Association Day, Waterbeach, Cambridge (Red Devils; Blue Eagles; RGJ freefall; three bands).
- 5 John Carter's Historic Warplane Air Rally and National Historical Military Vehicles Rally, Booker, High Wycombe.
- 6 Guildford Town Show (Blue Eagles; Red Devils; band).
- 8 Kneller Hall Band final grand concert.
- 11 Steam Fair, Tring (11-12 September) (Blue Eagles).
- 11 South Norfolk Tattoo, Attleborough.
- 11 Welwyn Garden City Hospital Fête (Red Devils).
- 11 Henley Show (band).
- 11 Glasgow Army Display (11-19 September) (Golden Lions; White Helmets; band; pipes and drums).
- 12 Woodley (Berkshire) Tattoo.
- 13 Mid-Wales Army Exhibition (13-18 September) (Blue Eagles 13-15 September; Red Devils; Red Caps; band).
- 16 Thame (Oxfordshire) Show (band).
- 18 Tidworth Carnival (Blue Eagles).
- 18 Ringwood Carnival (Blue Eagles).
- 18 Stokesley (Yorkshire) Agricultural Show (junior band).
- 18 Welwyn Garden City Water Carnival (Red Devils; band).
- 18 Basingstoke Show (18-19 September) (Blue Eagles 19 September; band).
- 20 Army Display, North Wales (20-25 September) (Red Devils; White Helmets; band).
- 22 Careers Exhibition, Coventry (22-24 September) (Silver Stars).
- 27 Careers Exhibition, Stafford (27-29 September) (RA motorcyclists).

## OCTOBER 1976

- 2 Open Day, Light Infantry Depot, Shrewsbury (RGJ freefall; band) (NB Date changed from 19 June).
- 3 National Savings Diamond Anniversary, Stratfield Saye, Hampshire (Red Caps).

## NOVEMBER 1976

- 13 Lord Mayor's Show, London.
- 13 Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall, London.
- 27 Kneller Hall Band and Trumpeters concert (in aid of Army Benevolent Fund), Royal Festival Hall, London.

## MAY 1977

- 27 Royal Artillery At Home, Woolwich (27-28 May).

## JUNE 1977

- 7 Massed bands Prince of Wales's Division beat Retreat, Horse Guards Parade, London (7-9 June).
- 11 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 30 Military Musical Pageant, Wembley (in aid of Army Benevolent Fund) (30 June-2 July).

## JULY 1977

- 7 Queen reviews British Army of the Rhine.
- 13 Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London (13-30 July).

## AUGUST 1977

- 3 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (3-6 August).
- 5 Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo (5-13 August).
- 20 Edinburgh Tattoo (20 August-14 September).

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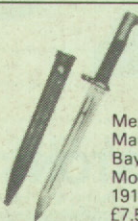
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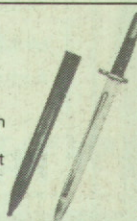
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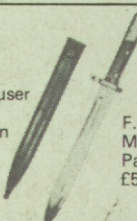
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## SOLDIER to Soldier

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★

The regard in which loan service British officers, non-commissioned officers and men are held is exemplified in the tributes paid to the late Brigadier R J Pope, Commander of the Abu Dhabi Land Forces in the Persian Gulf, who was tragically killed in a helicopter crash. The immediate local reaction was a message of official—and personal—condolence from the head of the Abu Dhabi Defence Forces, Shaikh Khalifah bin Zaid, followed by similar messages, a personal call on Mrs Pope by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and a stream of more than a hundred officers and other ranks—Arab, Pakistani, Jordanian, Sudanese and Egyptian—paying their personal homage.

★

While respecting Mrs Pope's preference for a simple funeral, the Abu Dhabi Defence Forces gave their commander a formal farewell on an impeccably conducted parade. Many dignitaries followed the gun carriage the fifteen miles to the cemetery where the military content of the interment was to have been confined to sounding the Last Post by three buglers. But there waiting were Shaikh Khalifa and others and more than a hundred officers who had already attended the parade and in some cases the church service.

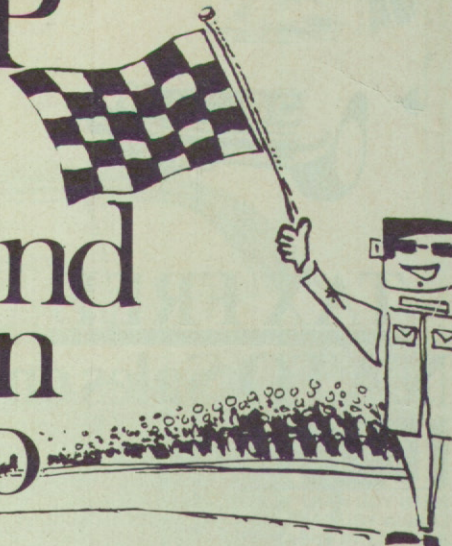
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This personal tribute of his command reflected the qualities of a man who "drove the Force from headquarters to infantry section" and himself unremittingly, taking only two days' leave in 29 months. He poured out training instructions, admonitions and encouragement unceasingly and effectively without causing offence to Arabs or others. And when his troops were on hard tack in the desert, so was Brigadier Pope.

★

During his service with the Defence Forces he established the current concept of its operations, raising the efficiency of its soldiers and units. His tour was exceptionally extended because of his efforts and achievements. His is a living memorial—the force for which he gave his all.

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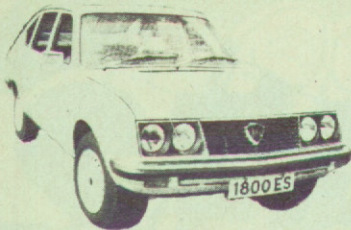
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## Military Museums: 43

### The Naafi Historical Collection

**T**HIS comparatively new museum, opened in January 1974, tells the story of Naafi (Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes) from its beginnings to the present day. Naafi is the forces official trading organisation and is in business to serve members of the Services and their families wherever they may be stationed. It took over from the Navy and Army Canteen Board (set up in 1917) on 1 January 1921 and the museum brings together some of the objects which make up the story of Naafi and its predecessors from before World War One to today.

Ancestors of the modern Naafi girl can be seen in pictures of Kit Ross, a famous camp-follower who enlisted in Marlborough's army in a successful bid to find her lover and was twice wounded before her sex was discovered, and Mother Mary Seacole, who served as a camp-follower in the Crimean War.

From these somewhat remote figures we move on to the actual khaki cap and tunic of a lance-corporal serving with the Expeditionary Force Canteens of World War One, a roll of honour and the 1918 price list of the EFC in Mesopotamia. Next, an old poster advertising "Cinderella" marks Aldershot Command's first pantomime and the start of Naafi's connection with entertainment and the wartime Naafi-financed shows organised by ENSA.

Crested World War Two crockery and glassware, now surprisingly rare, can be seen in a display case which also contains cutlery, teapots and a Codd bottle. This ingenious mineral container, named after its inventor, and now much sought after by collectors, has a "glass alley" in its neck.

Displays of photographs and souvenirs include a hand-written note to the Naafi manager at Algiers from Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery requesting Christmas provisions for his personal headquarters mess. Another exhibit is a copy of a cheque for £10,500,000, the largest ever drawn in the history of the corporation, payable to the Treasury and representing the balance of a running account during World War Two.

A Royal Navy uniform as worn by a canteen manager of the Naval Canteen Service is shown alongside a photograph of the amenity ship *Menestheus* (11,000 tons). Staffed by 120 men of the NCS, the *Menestheus* served to the British Pacific Fleet everything from buns to beer brewed in "the world's only floating brewery."

Two flags are displayed nearby—a Union Jack rescued from Naafi headquarters at Famagusta, Cyprus, in 1974, and a 1976 pennant which Naafi flew at the now-closed RAF staging post on Gan in the Indian Ocean. A



plaque pays tribute to Naafi's contribution to the Battle of Britain—the gift in 1941 of a Spitfire aptly named "Counter Attack."

Coloured pictures of such Naafi standbys as Madeira cake, pork pies and sausage rolls catch the eye while an impressive array of copper piping, funnels and jugs proves to be an old set of wine-bottling equipment. An exhibit to interest stamp collectors is a set of Naafi postal seals issued in Egypt and overprinted "Xmas Seal." These were used by British troops stationed in Egypt sending letters home at a reduced rate.

Badges, buttons and insignia worn by Naafi personnel are on view and some campaign stars and medals have a case to themselves. Nearby is a table laid for two as in a wartime canteen flanked by two attractive models of Naafi girls. One wears the "sugar-bag blue" overall of the war years and the other is in the smart grey dress of a canteen supervisor of the 1960s. Another case is devoted to uniforms worn by members of the RASC and ATS/Expeditionary Forces Institutes during the 1939-45 war.

A look round this small but interesting museum leaves one in no doubt as to the truth of Naafi's motto, "Servitor servientum"—"The servant of those who serve."

**John Jesse**

**Custodian:** George G Turnbull

**Hon Curator:** Howard N Cole

**Address:** Headquarters Naafi  
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**Telephone:** 01-735 1200 Extension 580

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**Next month: The Royal Green Jackets**





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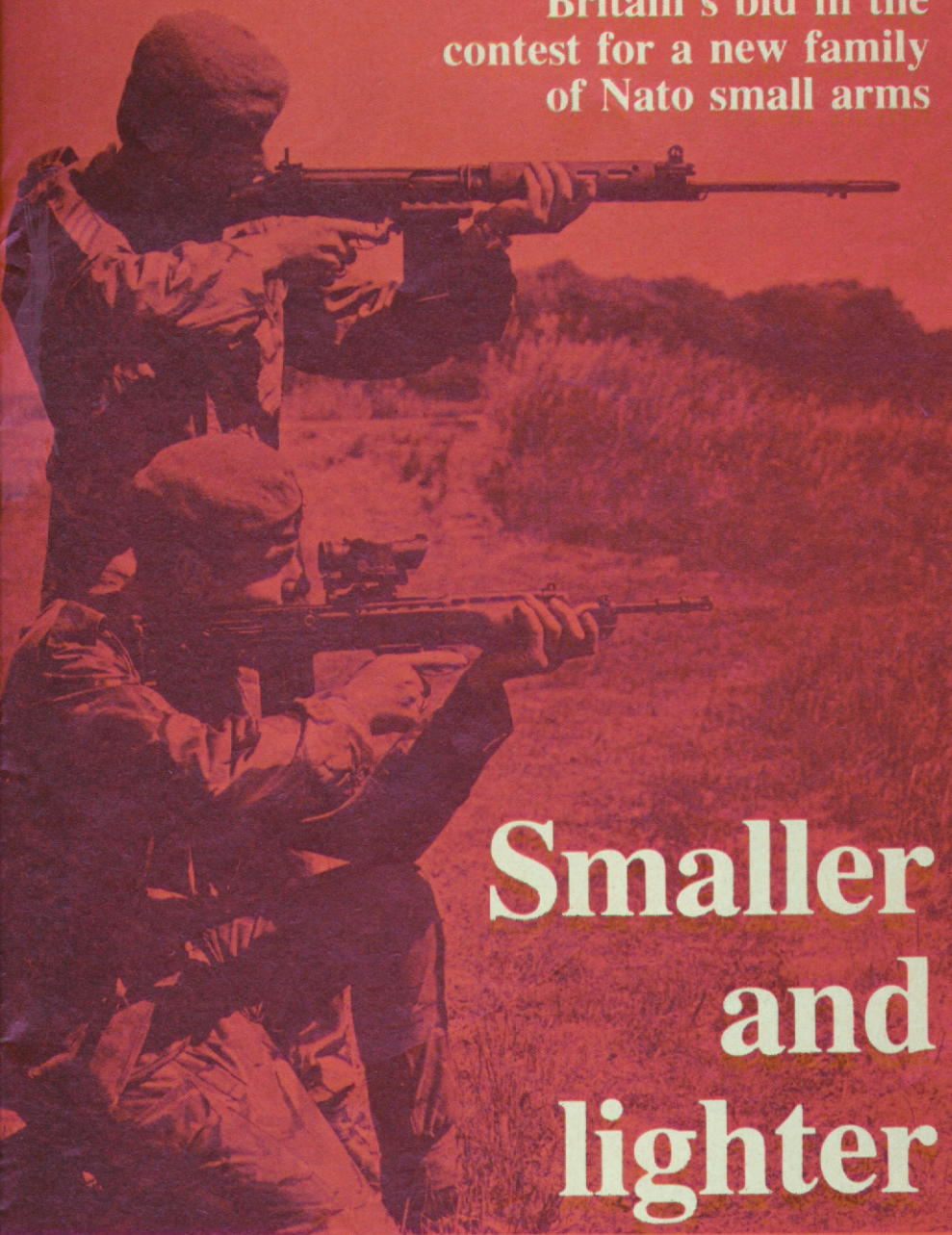
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## Britain's bid in the contest for a new family of Nato small arms



# Smaller and lighter

**S**EVEN point six two" is instantly recognisable in the soldier's vocabulary as the ammunition calibre of his personal weapon for more than 20 years — the self-loading rifle.

So how does "four point eight five" grab you? For this is the tiny calibre fired by a new system which could be in service in the 1980s if British-developed weapons come out on top in Nato trials for a new family of small arms.

The Royal Small Arms Factory has produced two weapons designed to replace the SLR, the Sterling sub-machine gun, Bren light machine-gun and the general-purpose machine gun for the infantry. The new individual weapon and light support weapon (light machine-gun) both fire the tiny — but power-packed — 4.85mm round. The new calibre means that both weapons are considerably lighter than the existing SLR and GPMG.

The basic rifle, fully loaded, including the optical sight with a low-light capability, weighs 9 lbs 1 oz compared with the 12 lbs 7 oz of the SLR. The new rifle can fire grenades. The light support weapon is less than half the weight of the GPMG — 11 lbs 9½ oz as opposed to 27 lbs 5oz.

One hundred rounds of the new ammunition weigh less than half that of the same number of 7.62mm standard Nato rounds, which all adds up to a much lighter load for the infantryman in the field.

The new small calibre was chosen after lengthy investigation as the best size to meet battle requirements. Performance is rated as at least as effective as the current 7.62mm round which has been criticised as being too powerful for infantry needs.

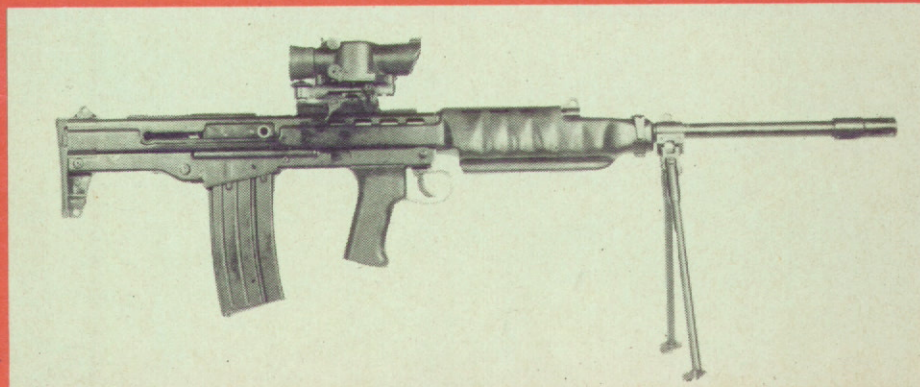
The new weapons are much smaller and easier to handle than existing service weapons. Single shots or bursts of fire can be selected at the flick of a switch. Reduced recoil is a great advantage to the user and the optical sight picks out the target with a clearly defined pointer making target acquisition a simple matter. The two weapons have some 80 per cent common components which gives a high degree of interchangeability and ease of maintenance.

No decision on the introduction of the new system can be taken until after the extensive Nato trials which are taking the United States' 5.56mm calibre M16 "Armalite" as a starting point and "control" in the evaluation of competitors for the Nato standard.

It is believed that the Belgians plan a system based on a 5.56 calibre and the French are developing a different 5.56 rifle. The Germans, too, are expected to be in the running with a rifle chambering an even smaller round, at 4.3mm, than the Enfield.



Top: The new rifle with its stubby stock and, below, the bipodded LMG. Both are fitted with a new optical sight with low-light capabilities.

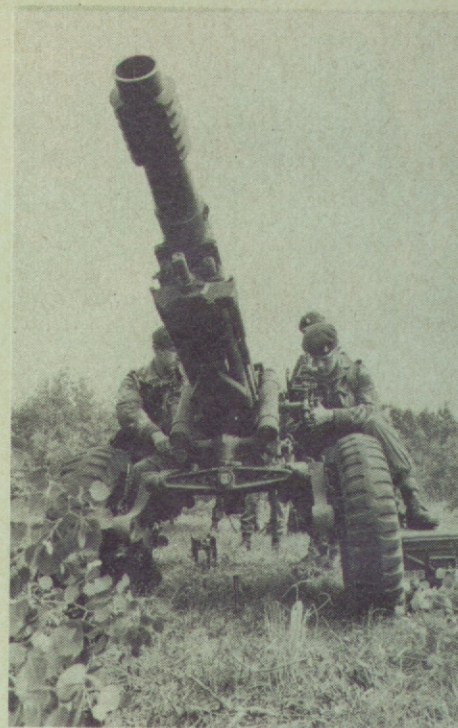




*With only a few months left to wear their coveted red berets, men of 7th Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, went to Canada for their last major exercise . . .*

## Prairie swan-song

Story: Mike Starke/Pictures: Paul Haley



The sights are adjusted ready for firing the 105mm pack-howitzer gun.

“ON the first of April, nineteen hundred and seventy six, parachute qualification pay was withdrawn from the members of the 7th Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, thereby effectively ending the regiment’s parachute capability.”

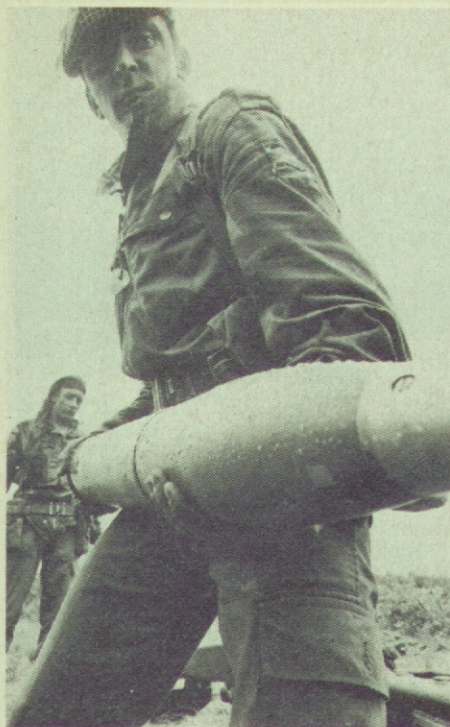
This declaration has been made in the visitors’ books of both the officers’ and sergeants’ messes of the regiment on pages that mark the closing of a chapter in the relatively short history of airborne soldiering.

Artillery support for airborne forces has been provided by 7th Parachute Regiment and its predecessors since before the end of World War Two. This role will cease in March next year when the brigade sheds its parachute artillerymen who will then become 7 Light Regiment RHA in the new 5th Field Force in Germany.

The regiment has just completed its last major exercise as an airborne unit on the vast prairies of Canada. It flew to Camp Wainwright, Alberta, with its 105mm pack-howitzers which have been with the regiment since the beginning way back in 1961. In fact six were drawn in 1959, in the days of 33 Parachute Light Regiment, Royal Artillery, and the remainder in 1961. Commanding officer Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Cornock said of them: “Firing at Wainwright they will—as it were—be firing a last salute to the regiment being all together for the last time as a parachute unit.”

He joined the regiment as a subaltern soon after its formation and recalls that the present Regimental Sergeant-Major, Warrant Officer 1 Dave Allmond, signed on at about the same time as a gunner. Colonel Cornock believes this illustrates the family nature of the regiment which he attributes to its soldiers being drawn together under the symbol of the red beret as parachute soldiers.





Drizzle dews a deadly shell as it is man-handled into the breech for firing.

Canadian "Deuce-and-a-half" trucks were the basic means of transport.

But the object of the exercise in Canada was not merely a salute. There was work to be done. The 450-strong party included some 50 men from 16th Parachute Brigade's Vigilant Platoon who had accompanied 7 Para RHA on its last emergency tour in Northern Ireland. The regiment's own strength had recently been made up by the addition of some 100 men from 20 Regiment, now itself disbanded.

The extensive ranges at Camp Wainwright offered wide open spaces for the regiment's three batteries—I (Bull's Troop), G (Mercer's Troop) and F (Sphinx) Battery—to practise gunnery and their small arms skill. Live firing was possible too in this vast prairie land where locals think nothing of driving for a night out to the nearest big town, Edmonton, all of 140 miles away. And on that drive the sight of more than one car every 15 minutes or so begins to look like a traffic jam.

In between exercise periods the parachute artillerymen were able to take stock of surroundings which are so different from anywhere back home. The first thing the visitor notices is the sheer size of the prairie area, emphasised by the flatness of the land which stretches away as far as the eye can see.

The gently undulating wheatland is relieved by copses of silver birch and thousands of lakes, large and small, each with its quota of beaver lodges—the beaver is not considered a nuisance by the prairie farmers who let him breed in relative peace. Almost dead straight roads impose a rectangular pattern on the terrain, linking the often tiny townships that huddle close to the railway with the lofty grain silos alongside.

People are few and far between (the whole of Canada's population is under half of that of the United Kingdom and its surface area many times greater). This makes them friendly and hospitable; always happy to invite visitors into their often quite small homes snugly clad in metal insulation to withstand the well-below zero temperatures of winter which contrast strongly with the blistering heat of high summer.

The exercise period fell somewhere between the two extremes and, despite some wet and chilly nights, conditions in the field were no problem. It was all action out on the ranges, in fact. As Major Tony Harnett, commanding I Battery, said at a briefing in a clearing in the birch woods: "I want you to go flat out. That's what Horse Artillery is all about—first and fastest."

But it was not to be all work. For part of the near-two-month period, the regiment drove the 350 or so miles west into the spectacular Rockies for adventure training. This was to include canoeing, mountaineering and fishing from a tented camp set up in the Cline River area next to the raging green torrent of the ice-cooled North Saskatchewan River which is fed by the icefields and glaciers looming over the valley.

In the mountains the silver birch trees give way to lofty conifers. But



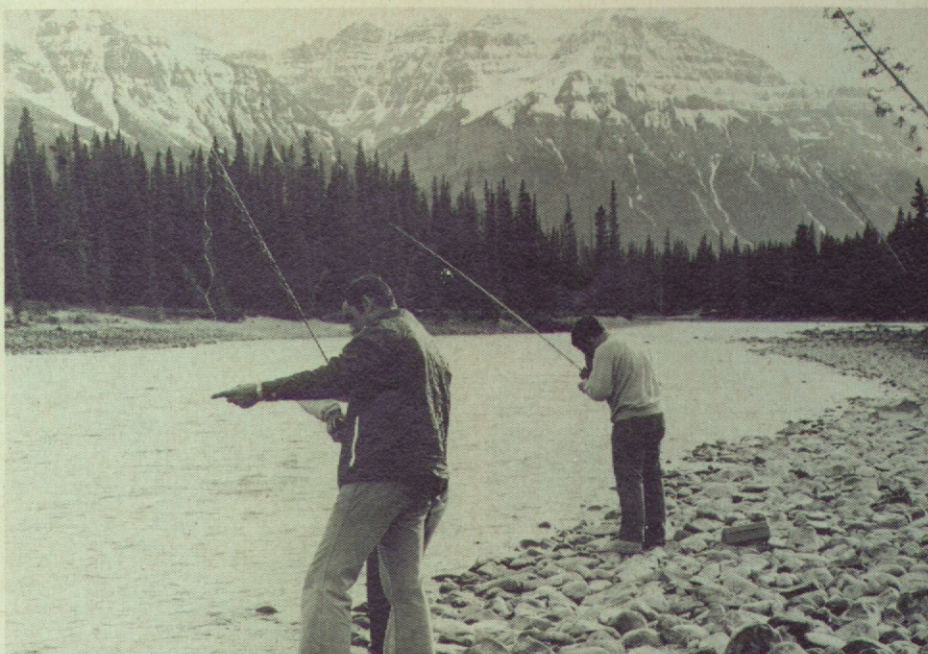


even these hardy evergreens cannot survive above a certain height and the bare peaks jut skywards for thousands of feet, their flanks laced with a filigree of snow. Below the lowering mountains the camp was warmed by a massive log fire each day for the clear, crisp air froze at night while the flame also warned off the area's fulltime residents—grizzly bear, coyote, wolf and cougar.

But 7th Parachute Regiment, and its predecessors in parachute artillery since World War Two, have seen stranger lands and faced fiercer adversaries. Formed in time for the Rhine crossing as 53rd (Worcestershire Yeomanry) Air Landing Light Regiment (raised from the 53rd (Worcestershire Yeomanry Anti-Tank Regiment), the parachute artillery went on to serve in Palestine, Germany, Cyprus, Egypt, Suez, Jordan, Kuwait, Bahrain, Aden, Muscat, Oman, Libya, Sharjah and, of course, Northern Ireland. Exercises have taken them worldwide.

The airborne role has changed little over the years but the unit's name has altered. In 1947 it became 33 Airborne Light Regiment and later changed to 33 Parachute Field Regiment, then 33 Parachute Light Regiment. The three RHA batteries in the present regiment were drawn from the then 4th Regiment, RHA, which then became 4 Light Regiment, Royal Artillery. Ironically it is this regiment which is coming to Aldershot to take over Lille Barracks from 7 Para RHA when the latter goes to Germany in March 1977 equipped with its new British light guns (with which it will start training in September) as 7 Light Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery.

The red beret will have gone. The loss is deeply felt as family bereavements are. Asked if he missed the 65 pence a day parachute pay cut off last April, a bombardier summed up the feelings of the regiment: "It's not so much the money..." The saddened eyes looking out from beneath the red beret completed the sentence.

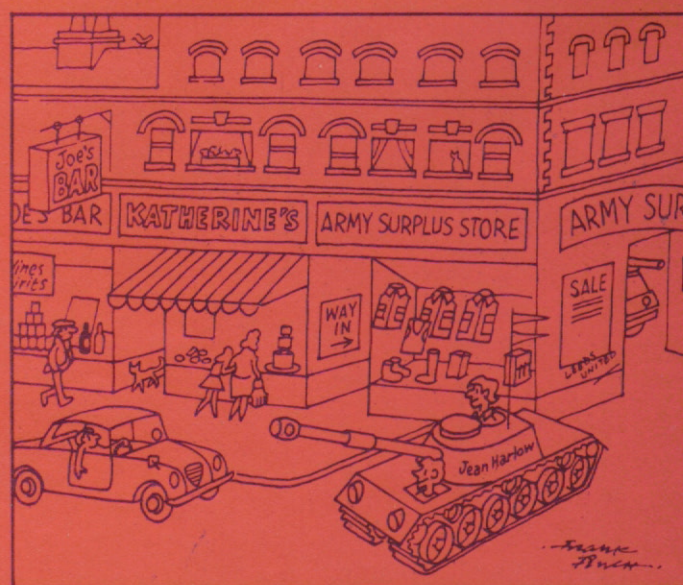
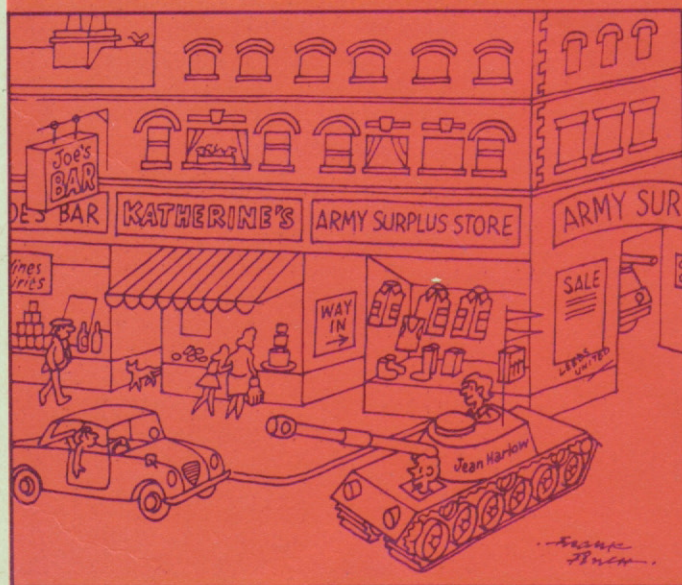


Above: Anglers ignoring the awe-inspiring Rockies in the quest for some fish. Below: Maj John Bowyer (centre) was in charge of the Rocky Mountain trip.

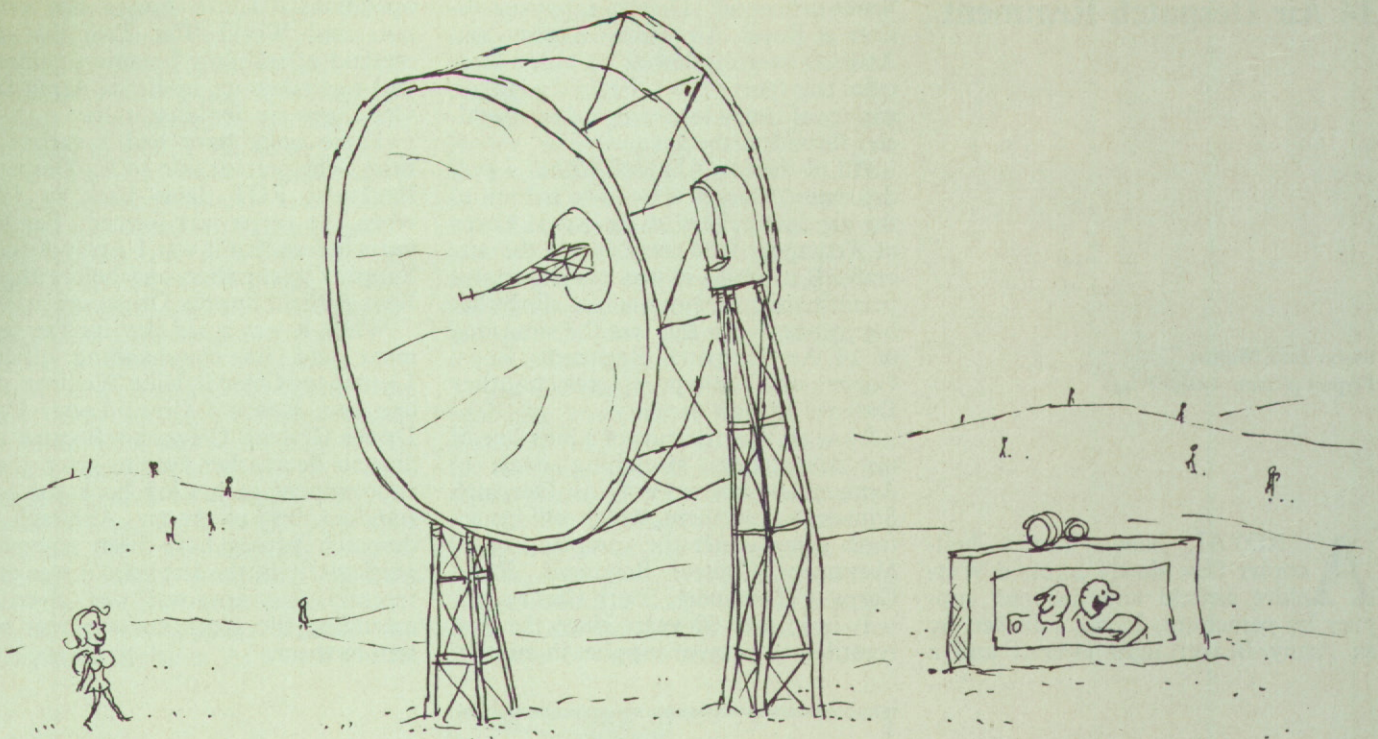


## How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences see page 39.

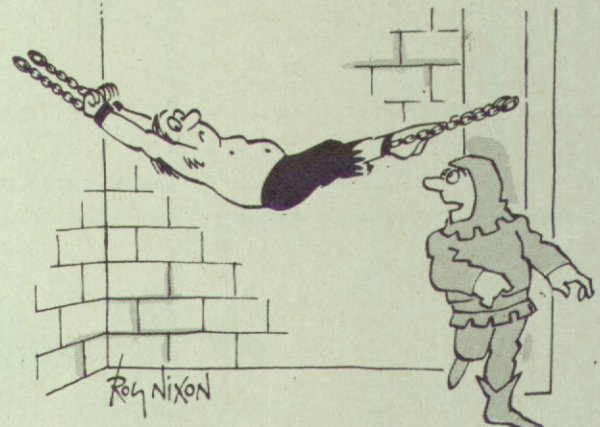
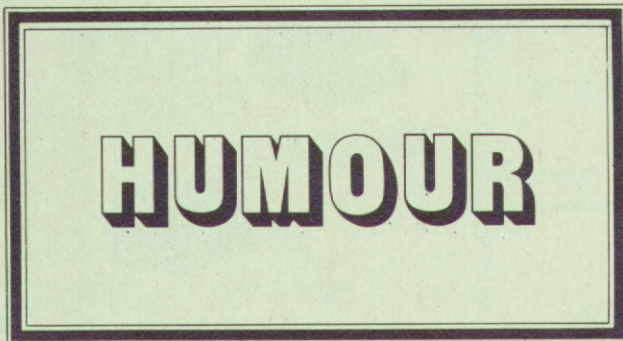




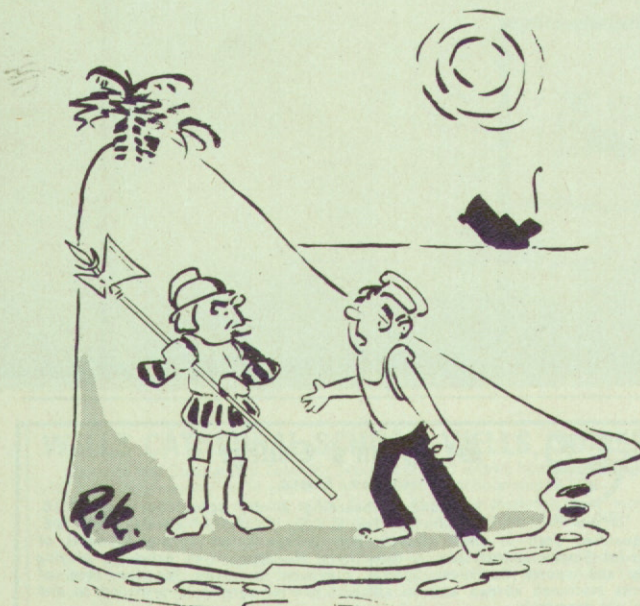


ARTHUR REID

*"Approaching from the west — forty, twenty-four, thirty-six!"*



*"Night-night!"*



*"Been here long?"*



*"... the password? Swordfish? No? Fruitcake? No? Rainbow? No? Anchor? No? Silver coin? No? Elephant tusk? No? ..."*



## 14 Air Despatch Regiment

# The last delivery

Story: John Walton  
Flypast picture: Leslie Wiggs

A ROYAL Navy Wessex helicopter flew slowly across a Wiltshire airfield and dropped supplies by parachute. It was followed by an Army Beaver light aircraft and a

Scout helicopter. Then in rapid succession a Royal Air Force Argosy and Andover were followed by three Hercules transport planes. From the latter a variety of heavy loads, including a vehicle, floated to the ground.

All of the loads landed within a pre-determined target zone — a tribute to the air despatchers of the Royal Corps of Transport who were inside the aircraft. But while it was an impressive performance it was not an altogether happy one — for this was the swansong of 14 Air Despatch Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, yet another Defence Review casualty.

Now all that remains of a long line of air despatchers stretching back to Arnhem and beyond is 47 Air Despatch Squadron, Lyneham, which will henceforth come under the command of 29 Movement Control Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, South Cerney.

It is in fact 60 years since the first recorded air drop of supplies in military

operations at Kut-el-Amara. But it was not until World War Two that the method of resupply became significant and was taken on by Royal Army Service Corps air despatch units.

These units have had a variety of titles. The present title 14 Air Despatch Regiment RCT dates back to 1965 when the corps was formed. For five years before that it was 1 Army Airfield Supply Organisation and before that 1 Rear Airfield Supply Organisation.

While it was a sad day for the regiment and its commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Wellings, for one man it was a Green Letter Day. Driver Graham Crawshaw became the first air despatcher ever to get a green endorsement to his log book for outstanding duty in the air. Although air despatch heroes have been common, particularly in the last war, it was only recently that approval was given to extending the green endorsement system to them.

On 30 October 1974 Driver Crawshaw was in an air despatch crew in an Andover aircraft from Lyneham. During the despatch of a pair of containers a restraint loop snagged, causing both containers to jam on the aircraft ramp.

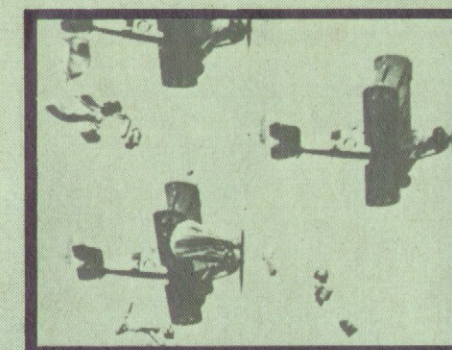
Said the log book endorsement: "Driver Crawshaw quickly assessed the situation and acted with commendable speed, cutting the nine-foot restraint loop. This action resulted in the release of the containers and freed the aircraft from a most dangerous situation."

It was at Arnhem in September 1944 that air despatchers really wrote their names into the history book. During the battle 900 men of 48 and 49 Air Despatch flew 600 sorties in three days during attempts to resupply 1st Airborne Division. Of these 216 were shot down and 116 were eventually listed as missing or killed. And their sacrifices were to little avail as only about one-seventh of the supplies reached the beleaguered division. As a result of its

role at Arnhem the Air Despatch Group was awarded the right to wear a formation sign of a yellow Dakota on a blue background.

Among those at the final fly-past was Henry King, ex-Royal Air Force navigator of a Dakota at Arnhem. The aircraft was hit and Flying-Officer King saw the despatchers still dropping supplies with the engine blazing furiously. After the order to bale out he was blown out of the aircraft and landed safely — but he did not see the gallant air despatch crew again.

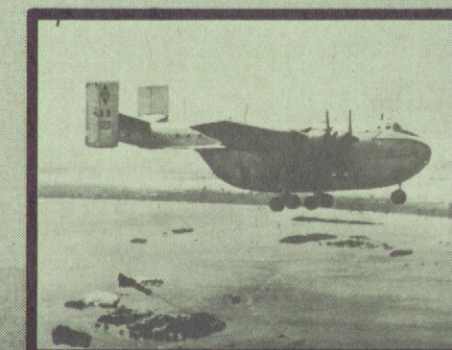
"Air Despatch is by no means dead" declared the official fly-past programme. And proof of this came with the dropping of a vehicle on a medium stress platform. This is an innovation for the Royal Corps of Transport — something which the Lyneham squadron has now taken over from the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. Even while aircraft of the past were recording what had gone by, a new door was opening.



Left: Early days — this picture is believed to be of Wapitis dropping supplies. It dates back to the 1930s.

Below: In World War Two, air despatch came into its own. On the left the signal is given to drop while (right) Commonwealth forces in the bitter Burma campaign are resupplied by air.

Recent drops have been more peaceful but just as helpful. Left: Flood relief in Kenya; (right) free food drop, Nepal.



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## Latter-day D-day



**A** JUNE day on the Normandy coast resounded once more with the clatter of machines of war 32 years after the same beaches had brought the massive D-Day force to France to drive back Hitler's armies of occupation.

Object of this new "invasion" was to

**Far left:** A dumper truck wades to the shore wheel-deep in the water.

**Left:** One of the Michigan tractors being offloaded from Sir Lancelot.



practise the techniques of beach landing as 51 Port Squadron Group, Royal Corps of Transport, with elements of French and German forces, mounted Exercise Forte with a flotilla of nine vessels and more than 300 men.

At the small seaside resort of Merville-Franceville-Plage, a few kilometres east of D-Day's "Sword" beach, some 400 tons of ammunition, 100 tons of engineering stores and 80 vehicles destined for Rhine Army were offloaded. First vessel to arrive was the Royal Fleet Auxiliary logistic landing ship Sir Lancelot. Two 126-foot-long Mexeflote rafts weighing 90 tons each were lowered from her sides to be loaded with plant for handling the stores ashore. Drawing only inches of water although carrying some 126 tons each, the rafts crept to within feet of the shore. On the beach 51 Port Squadron Group was reinforced by a troop from 52 Port Squadron, staff officers from 17 Port Regiment and Rhine Army drivers from 38 Squadron and 4 Division Regiment.

The officer commanding, Major Peter Robinson, set up his beach control in the huge Merville promenade car park overlooking the beach. From there he watched the first supplies arrive from the RFA cargo vessel Empire Gull which anchored one-and-a-half miles off shore with its 400-ton cargo of ammunition. Beachmaster Captain David Nicholas radioed for his task force—two landing craft (ramped, powered lighters), two Mexeflotes and two work-boat/firetenders. They converged on the ship and emptied her hold.

Calculation of the tides and shifting sands had to be carefully judged for on the flat Normandy beaches boats can soon ground before being offloaded if incoming tides are missed. Despite rough weather and unfavourable tides, Empire Gull was unloaded in just over a day. But bad luck dogged the next two arrivals. A tank landing craft carrying new vehicles for Rhine Army beached in stormy weather and soft sand trapped a dumper truck until rescuers were able to haul it up the beach.

So, further out to sea, the LCT transferred her cargo to Sir Lancelot which had returned with more vehicles and engineering stores. Trouble struck again as a shackle on Sir Lancelot's stern ramp snapped. But the RCT's movement machinery swung quickly into action. A berth was found for the LSL to offload at Caen some miles inland and she sailed up the Caen Canal, passing Pegasus Bridge and the little café beside it which was the first building in France to be liberated by the invasion forces on D-Day.

The ammunition for Germany was driven to a nearby railhead, Land-Rovers for Rhine Army were "piggy-backed" aboard ten-tonner lorries and a two-mile-long convoy set off across France. The lock gates at Ouistreham disgorged Sir Lancelot back into the sea at the canal's end and she headed home to Britain, the task complete.

*From a report by Army PR, HQ UKLF.*

## Northern Ireland awards

**T**HE following awards have been made for service in Northern Ireland between 1 November 1975 and 31 January 1976.

**Commander of the Order of the British Empire:** Brigadier D W Anderson.

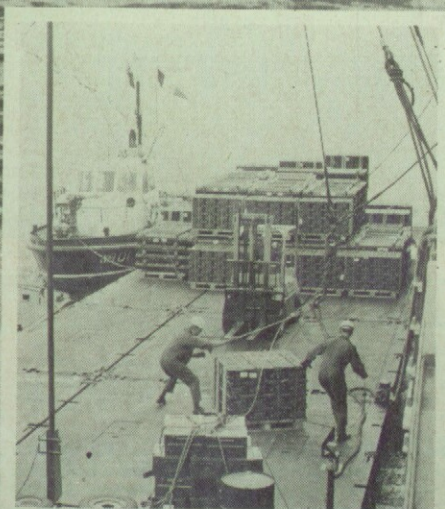
**Officer of the Order of the British Empire:** Lieutenant-Colonel J H Beatty, Lieutenant-Colonel P M Underhill, both Royal Army Ordnance Corps; Lieutenant-Colonel R G Elliott, Royal Artillery; Lieutenant-Colonel C N Last, Royal Signals.

**Member of the Order of the British Empire:** Major S S Caney, The Light Infantry; Major H A Woolnough, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment.

**Queen's Gallantry Medal:** Corporal W C Hatton, Sergeant J Hill, both The Parachute Regiment; Staff-Sergeant C J Kilduff, Sergeant P Mitchell, Staff-Sergeant P J Sanders, all Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

**Military Medal:** Corporal K J Mallon, The Royal Anglian Regiment.

**Mentioned in Despatches:** Corporal F W Bant, The King's Regiment; Lieutenant-Colonel C M J Barnes, Major J S Houchin, Corporal L Sadler, all The Royal Anglian Regiment; Captain R F Brooks, Warrant Officer 2 I Forbes, Warrant Officer 1 C K R French, all Royal Signals; Captain(OEO) W Burnip, Royal Army Ordnance Corps; Lieutenant-Colonel R R F Cowe, Captain J Lamidey, Sergeant W J Wiseman, all The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers; Major D J Delius, Lieutenant R C B Nutting, both 13th/18th Royal Hussars; Warrant Officer 2 H W N Fynn, Sergeant R D Jones, both Intelligence Corps; Wing Commander K O Harding, Royal Air Force; Lieutenant R N Hine, Royal Tank Regiment; Lieutenant-Colonel J E Killick, Warrant Officer 2 G P Shields, both Royal Artillery; Sergeant R E King, The Royal Scots; Corporal R A Marshall, Major A W Stavert, both The King's Own Scottish Borderers; Corporal D Prior, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment; Staff-Sergeant R K Swift, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment; Lieutenant-Colonel C L Tarver, The Queen's Regiment; Captain E Tait, Royal Engineers.

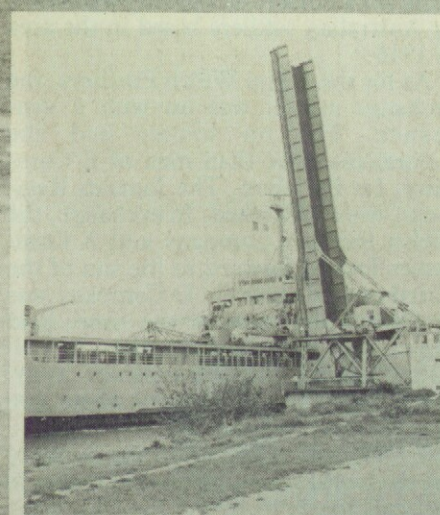


**A Land-Rover splashes ashore from a Mexeflote section on the exercise.**

**Left:** Two workboats stand by as a load of ammunition is transferred.

**Right:** The Merville coastline is the background to the unloadings.

**Far right:** Pegasus Bridge is raised to let the Sir Lancelot pass under.







Australians getting used to a Wessex helicopter drill. Diggers leap out of the hovering Wessex on their training.



Lance-Corporal Stuart Buder getting down to renovations. Cans of frosty Foster's lager—"tinnies"—being downed.



## When Diggers meet Taffs . . .

# "G'day" means "Bore da"

**T**UBES meant tins of cold lager to men of B Company, 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, until they made an exchange trip to England and discovered the wonders of the London Underground system. The "Tube" was just one of the fascinating differences the Diggers found — others included cheap clothes and warm beer — on their visit to 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, at Tidworth, Hampshire.

The exchange has become an annual event involving British Army infantry and their Australian counterparts. While the visitors from Enoggera, near Brisbane, were here, the fusiliers' B Company was training with 5th/7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, near Sydney. And they too were having their share of fun, visiting Canberra — the nation's capital — as well as a remote sheep station in the outback.

The exchange soldiers have to get

used to handling their hosts' army equipment and it is intended to show each group the contrasting approach to military roles employed by both. To the Australians, the concept of a close-knit Nato alliance concentrating on defence of several nations in a variety of ways is new. Even recent battle experience of the British and Australians contrasts. They have served in Viet Nam while British troops help keep the peace in Northern Ireland.

Australian company commander Major Jim Rule said: "We're used to jungle war but now we're going over to a home defence role involving mechanisation. So it's useful to see Nato's style."

The Welsh battalion made every effort to make the Australians feel at home. The unit's Naafi managed to find some Foster's lager — an Australian staple diet — as well as some Australian wine for the more delicate palate. Visits

to London and an exercise period in the Lake District were planned and the Australians took time out to refurbish a massive map of Australia hewn into the chalk on a hillside at Fovant, Wiltshire, by Australian soldiers based in the area in 1916.

As for the Royal Welch Fusiliers, the exchange season was on with a vengeance. For no sooner had the Australians gone than men of E Company, 1st Battalion, The Jamaica Regiment, were welcomed. In exchange, the Welsh Support Company and A Companies looked forward to the sun of the Caribbean. Meanwhile D Company was in Cyprus for some of the time. Said Major Tim Bible: "It stretches the battalion having three companies away. But we are very enthusiastic about getting exercises abroad."

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## NEW LOOK FOR SOLDIER NEWS

This is the last SOLDIER NEWS in its present form. Next month's supplement will have more pages, pictures and news and will incorporate the sport, "Left, Right and Centre" and "Purely Personal" pages of the magazine.

The new look SOLDIER NEWS, with a newspaper style layout, will in effect add a newspaper to the qualities which have made SOLDIER such a firm favourite for more than three decades. Make sure of your copy now.

SOLDIER NEWS was launched in November 1972 as a four-page pull-out supplement containing news and information from Ministry of Defence sources in an easily digestible form. Its success has paved the way for the new expanded SOLDIER NEWS. There will be no increase in the price of SOLDIER whose two publications in one will remain the best fifteen penceworth on the market.

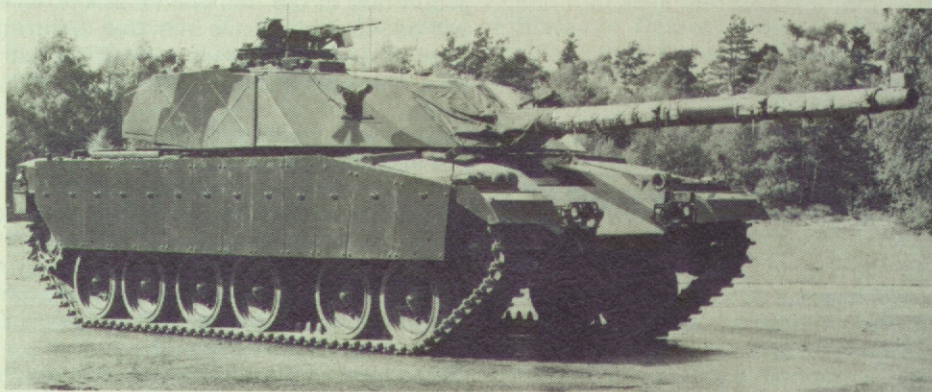
## CHOBHAM ARMOUR

A completely new type of armour which "represents the most significant achievement in tank design and protection since the Second World War" was revealed to the world's Press by the Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Roy Mason, in London.

The new armour, known as Chobham Armour after the Military Vehicles and Engineering Establishment, where it was invented and developed, provides a high level of protection against all forms of attack including anti-tank weapons. The way in which it gives this protection is still secret. Inquiring pressmen attempted to quiz Mr David Cardwell, Chief Scientist for the Army, about this but he refused to be drawn and eventually Mr Mason drew a veil over the matter with a blunt: "What it is made of and how it works is a secret—and a secret it shall remain!"

Mr Mason announced that 18 months ago Britain signed a new contract with Iran for a supply of improved Chieftain tanks. The order, worth more than £500,000,000, will give the Shah more than 1200 of the tanks fitted with the new armour. They will be known as "Shir Iran"—Persian for the Lion of Iran.

But the British Army will not get the new armour for some time. Mr Mason said our Chieftains were only half way through their lives and to replenish the whole fleet with Chobham Armour would cost £100,000,000—which was not economic.



The British Army's experimental tank, equipped with the new Chobham armour, produced by the Military Vehicles and Engineering Establishment at Chertsey.

The West German and American governments have been given information on the new armour so that they can, if they wish, take advantage of it in tanks which they are introducing in the early 1980s. Mr Mason explained; "They have much bigger fleets than we do and it is their practice to replace them on a half-generation basis—a practice which would not be economic in our case."

Mr Mason said this would be in the common interest of Nato and was a good example of British co-operation with Nato in the interests of common security. The next generation of main battle tanks was planned for introduction in the late 1980s. A collaborative venture with the West Germans to meet this need was being worked on and the tank would have the new armour, which would be developed to provide even greater effectiveness.

Total development costs of Chobham Armour have been rather more than £6,000,000—a very small outlay for such an advance. Mr Mason said the new armour meant that Nato tanks of the future would have greater survivability and in the long term it would make a valuable contribution to reducing the numerical imbalance between main battle tanks of Nato and the Soviet Union.



## **NEW MILITARY METEOROLOGICAL SYSTEM**

Marconi Space and Defence Systems has announced what it describes as "a new cost-effective approach to the provision of meteorological information for use in the field." The MILIMETS military meteorological system is based upon the AMETS equipment, well proven in the British Army.

MILIMETS will compute highly accurate meteorological data for use in field artillery computing systems or its output can be used for manual computations. The complete system is contained in two Land-Rovers plus a tracking radar trailer towed behind one of the vehicles. It is easy to deploy and uses the same basic units as AMETS but is said to be much more economically packaged. The data processing equipment is virtually identical to that used in FACE which allows users of both systems to have common spares, training, test equipment and base workshop facilities.

Each MILIMETS unit is a self-contained mobile meteorological station using data processing equipment linked directly to a tracking radar. Main purpose of the system is to provide reliable information to firing batteries in a form which will enable fast response to a call for fire, with first salvo effectiveness. (Marconi)

## **EDUCATION FOR PROMOTION**

Changes in the system of education for promotion come into operation this year. The present system has been in operation for five years, during which time it has been kept under review. The views of sergeants and warrant officers with experience on the receiving end of the education scheme, as well as those of commanding officers, have carried great weight with the review body responsible for recommending changes.

In making changes, major considerations have been to make the Education Promotion Certificate and the Education Promotion Certificate (Advanced) as relevant as possible to the requirements of the ranks of sergeant and warrant officer and as interesting and useful as possible to the individual student.

The new "communication skills" syllabuses at both EPC and EPC(Adv) give greater weight to the oral aspects of the subject. This reflects the importance of effective spoken communication in the jobs that senior non-commissioned and warrant officers are likely to do. "Contemporary World Affairs" has been renamed "The Army in the Contemporary World" and the subject matter of the new syllabus is linked very firmly to the role of the Army and the individual soldier, both in society and in the world. The pilot scheme in South East District has been generally well received.

Another renaming is from "Military Administration and Elementary Management" to "Military Management". The administration element will account for a far lower proportion of the marks and, at EPC level, practical testing of management skills will be introduced. It is intended to introduce the practical element into EPC (Adv) later. The sergeant or warrant officer has essentially a practical role in his function as a manager and practical testing should make the subject more realistic and useful. (DAEd)

## **INDIVIDUAL EXCHANGE SCHEME**

An individual exchange scheme, called Exercise Long Look, starts in August between the British Army and the armies of Australia and New Zealand. A total of 120 all ranks from junior non-commissioned officers to majors, drawn equally from the United Kingdom and Rhine Army and from almost all arms and services, will exchange on a four-month unaccompanied tour with 90 Australians and 30 New Zealanders. Two officers of Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps and five members of the Women's Royal Army Corps will exchange with counterparts in Australia and New Zealand.

Broad aims of the exercise are to widen the military experience of selected officers and non-commissioned officers and to strengthen the traditional close ties between the three Commonwealth armies. Each individual will live and soldier in a host unit as a working number. Even the exercise airlift is a mutual effort—a Royal Air Force VC 10 will lift the contingents between Britain and Singapore and Royal Australian Air Force and Royal New Zealand Air Force Hercules will do the lift between Singapore and Sydney or Wellington. Staging arrangements overnight in Singapore will be by the New Zealand Army. (DAT)

## **SIX-DAY KETCH CRUISE**

As a result of the item in May's SOLDIER NEWS, two teenagers have been chosen to take part in a six-day cruise on the 48-ton ketch Rona this month. They are David Loftus (16), son of Warrant Officer I W Loftus, REME, and 18-year-old Martin Steer, son of Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Steer RA.

## **NEW HOME FOR CHERTSEY SOLDIERS**

Work recently started on four new accommodation blocks being built by the Department of the Environment's Property Services Agency for the Military Vehicles and Engineering Establishment, Chertsey. The project is expected to take about two years to complete. It comprises a barrack block, mess block, Naafi and junior ranks club and offices, stores and education facilities. (DOE)

## **RECRUITING**

Army recruiting in April, at 1634, reflected lowered recruiting requirements. The level of application and advance bookings for recruits is satisfactory. (DPR)



## NAAFI-SCHWEPPES DEAL

Naafi has signed a new agreement with Schweppes to continue producing Schweppes minerals under licence in Germany. The new ten-year agreement gives Naafi licence to manufacture and bottle such drinks as tonic water, ginger ale and soda water at its mineral water plant in Krefeld for sale to its customers in Germany, Berlin, Holland and Belgium. The first agreement was in 1960 and Naafi production of Schweppes drinks now runs at more than 300,000 bottles a year.

(Naafi)



Christopher Seaman, secretary of Naafi, signs the contract. Watching is Jack Willett, chairman of Cadbury Schweppes (Europe).

## MENTIONED IN PARLIAMENT

### Gurkha reductions

Details of how announced reductions in the strength of the Brigade of Gurkhas would be achieved were given by Mr Brown, Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Army, in reply to Mr Eric Moonman (Labour, Basildon). Mr Brown said it was planned to achieve a reduction in strength of 1,000 by an amalgamation in the course of 1978 of the two battalions of 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles — the Sirmoor Rifles. "Personnel made surplus by the amalgamation will be dispersed to other units, thereby enabling redundancies to be kept down to about 450 and to be spread among the brigade as a whole," Mr Brown added.

### Rhodesian recruiting

Preliminary investigation did not confirm that attempts by the Smith regime to recruit British Servicemen for military service in Rhodesia had met with any significant success, Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Defence, told Mr Gwilym Roberts (Labour, Cannock). Mr Mason said he had called for a full investigation of the allegations.

### Northern Ireland cost

Estimated extra cost of military operations in Northern Ireland in 1975-76 was £60,000,000, Mr Mason told Mr Robert Bradford (United Ulster Unionist Council, Belfast South). The figure does not include the cost of Regular service pay and other items of normal maintenance expenditure which would have had to be met if there had been no emergency.

### Land retained

Mr Andrew F Bennett (Labour, Stockport North) asked why only 38 acres of Ministry of Defence land at Basingbourn had been released when the Nugent Committee had recommended the release of 75 acres. Mr Brown told him that 38 acres had been disposed of and the remainder retained firstly to provide a camping site for visiting Army and Combined Cadet Forces and secondly because an irregularly shaped piece of land contained the only mature trees on the site and these varied the terrain for training. Other trees were being planted on other parts of the Basingbourn site but it would be a long time before they reached maturity.

### Cost of BAOR

Mr John Ovenden (Labour, Gravesend) was told by Mr William Rodgers, Minister of State for Defence, that the estimate for maintaining British troops in Germany in 1976/77 was £413,000,000. He then asked what efforts were being made to increase the West German contribution "which, over recent years, has been derisory compared with the cost of maintaining British forces in Germany." Mr Rodgers agreed that the offset Britain had been receiving in recent years had fallen short of the figure he would like to see, partly because of exchange rates and partly because of inflation. He hoped a solution would be found which was satisfactory for both sides.

Following an attack on the German contribution, from Mr Ernest Ferneyhough (Labour, Jarrow), Mr Rodgers said he had been less than fair in referring to default. Britain had received £220,000,000 under a 1971 agreement which the Germans had faithfully honoured. He added: "I should say that we maintain our forces in BAOR out of self interest, as part of our collective security through Nato, and not just out of kindness."



## **Northern Ireland accommodation**

Much had been achieved in the last four years in providing and improving accommodation for troops on four-month unaccompanied tours in Northern Ireland, Mr Brown told Mr Sydney Tierney (Labour, Yardley). Mr Brown said new camps had been completed at seven sites while building currently in hand in Belfast and Londonderry would mean that the ships Maidstone and Ramehead would no longer have to be used as emergency accommodation after the end of this year. Substantial sums had also been spent on improvements to emergency accommodation and on general improvements to amenities. There were no plans for further programmes of major expenditure but day-to-day improvements would be made as required.

## **TAVR recruiting**

In the first quarter of 1976, 5551 recruits joined the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve, Mr Brown told Mr Richard Crawshaw (Labour, Toxteth).

## **Resistance to interrogation**

Replying to questions from Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk (Labour, Ormskirk), Mr Rodgers said training in resistance to interrogation was carried out under close supervision, including the attendance of medical officers. Over the last 16 years no cases had come to light where this training had been shown to have permanent effects. Last year 169 men had voluntarily taken part.

## **Winter survival**

Annual expenditure on winter survival courses for servicemen was of the order of £30,000 and last year 162 persons took part—Mr Rodgers, replying to Mrs Winifred Ewing (Scottish Nationalist, Moray & Nairn).

## **Service voting**

During a debate in the Lords on the Representation of the People (Armed Forces) Bill, the Minister of State, Home Office, Lord Harris of Greenwich, welcomed the Bill but said that it could not be brought into force this year. A new system of registration for members of the forces, their wives and husbands, would necessitate some amendments to the existing regulations. More importantly, amendments to and reprints of the relevant forms of Service declaration were required and this could not be done in time for the next register because the Service authorities had already distributed the existing forms. It was intended to bring the whole Bill into force at once in time for the register after next. The Bill, which in effect restores the pre-1969 situation, was read a second time and committed to a House of Lords Committee.

## **"OUR DAY"**

More than 1100 people were at the Royal Garrison Church, Aldershot, for the 1976 "Our Day" gatherings organised by the Soldiers' and Sailors' Scripture Readers Association. The association says this is proof of a resurgence of interest in its work.

## **RESETTLEMENT**

Looking for a job in civilian life? If so, you are urged to contact your local office of the Regular Forces Employment Association. Branch addresses and telephone numbers can be obtained from Resettlement Officers, Post Offices or Employment offices. (RFEA)

## **EURO TRAINING**

In June 1973 Euro training was established by the Defence Ministers of Belgium, Denmark, West Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Holland, Norway, Turkey and the United Kingdom. The aim was to cut down overheads by common training, especially when a new weapon came into service among several nations. The United States and Canada also participate.

The introduction of Lance was a major factor in promoting Euro training in the Army field due to the United Kingdom and Germany offering courses. At the British Army School of Ammunition 40 German all ranks will have passed through the ammunition technician and storeman courses by the end of this year. In 1977, Germans will be joined by Belgian, Dutch and Italian students.

In Germany this year, 94 Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers personnel will do maintenance courses at the Schule der Technischen, Aachen-Eschweiler, and next year another 29 of them will be joined there by Belgian and Dutch students. In 1977, 12 Gunner NCOs will do the artillery detachment commanders course at the Raketen Schule der Artillerie, Geilenkirchen, with 27 Dutchmen. (DAT)

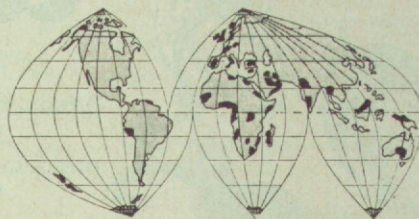
## **TO ANDOVER**

The Army's new Logistic Executive (SOLDIER News, March 1976), which was originally scheduled to be at Bicester, is now to be at Andover on the site vacated by the Royal Air Force next year. The executive will start at Andover in July 1977 and will be fully functional by the following March. (DQMG)



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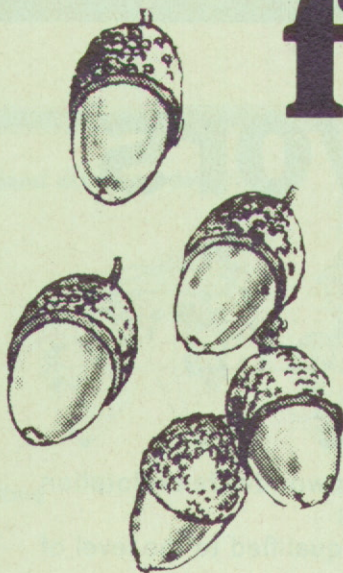
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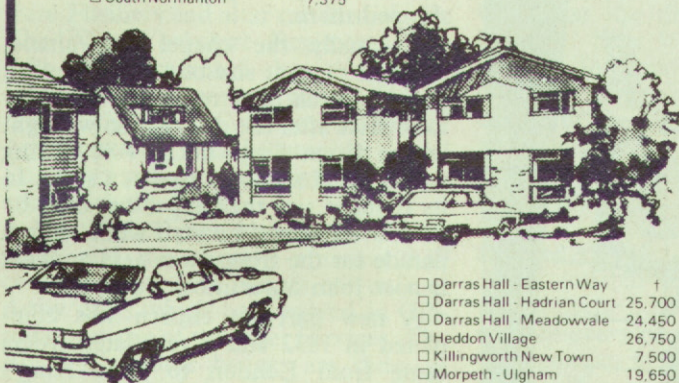
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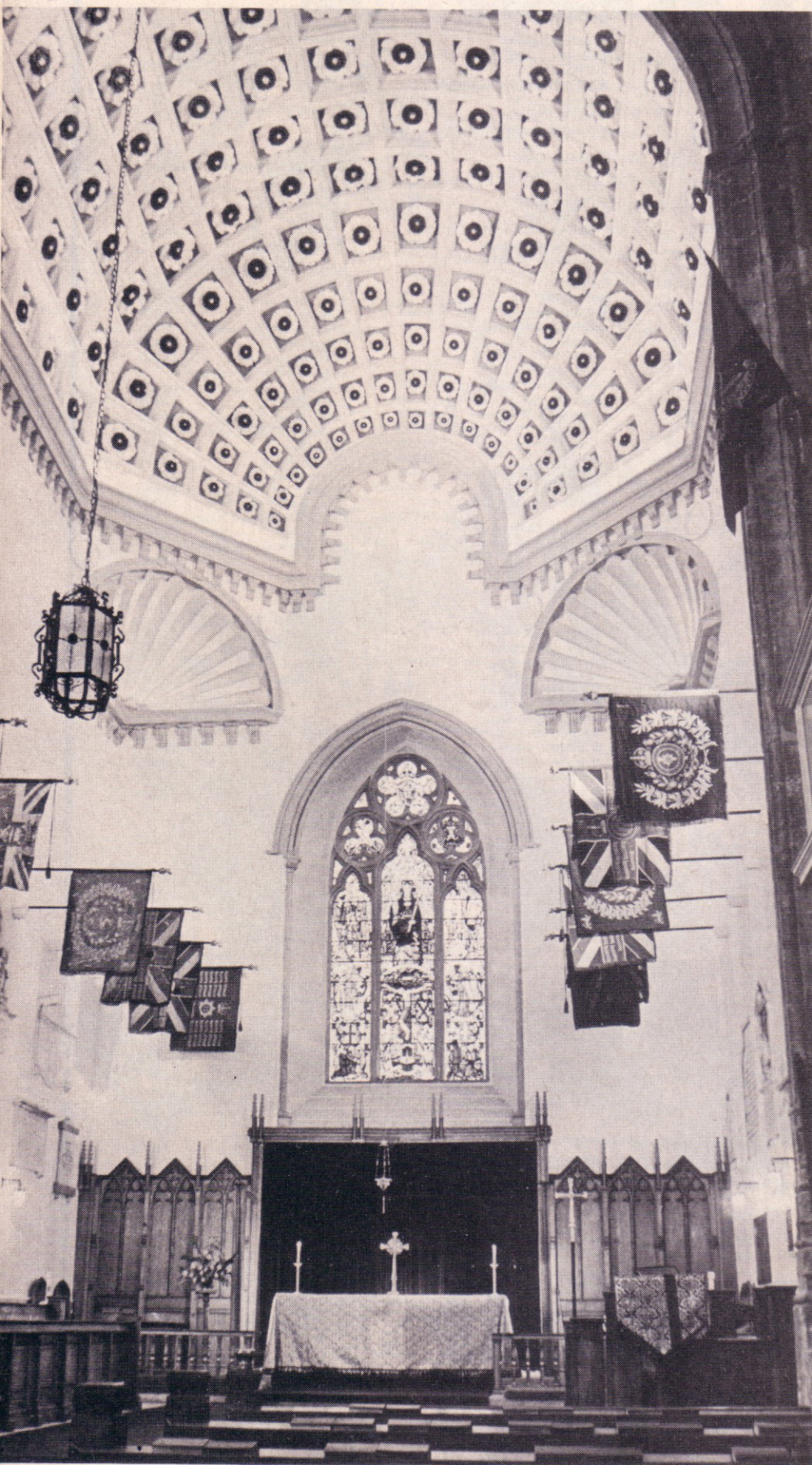




# The Chapel on The Rock

Story: Mike Starke

Pictures: Doug Pratt



**I**N the labyrinth of narrow streets forming the town which is the heart of Gibraltar it is easy to miss the unassuming entrance to King's Chapel, a building revealing a wealth of information about the Rock's past and present. King's Chapel is the Governor's chapel and the Garrison Church for the Army in Gibraltar — the Navy uses the newer Cathedral and the RAF worships in its own chapel.

Built in the middle of the sixteenth century, King's Chapel is one of the oldest military churches in the British Army, starting life as a church of the Franciscan Order. The convent next door is now the Governor's residence. In 1540 a pirate expedition from Algiers attacked Gibraltar and the monks and nuns took refuge in the walled part of the town. The convent was pillaged but the monks and nuns returned after the sea-raiders had left with their booty.

For a century and a half the convent carried on its normal monastic existence under the government of Spain. In 1704 a force under Admiral Rooke captured Gibraltar for the British. The surrender terms stated that all inhabitants who cared to stay could do so unmolested and that religious practices could continue unchanged but the monks and nuns preferred to leave for Spain. In 1728 the convent became the Governor's residence and the chapel was the only place of Protestant worship in the fortress. It was served by military chaplains but both troops and civilians worshipped there.

Originally the chapel was almost twice its present size of a small English parish church. The reduction probably took place after the destruction wrought in the Great Siege of 1779-82 during which the chapel was used as a store. In its reduced size the chapel was used by the Governor and his staff while church parade for the troops was held on what is now John Mackintosh Square.

A new garrison church was completed in 1832 and a year later orders came from London to close King's Chapel. In 1842 the new garrison church was elevated to the cathedral status it still holds and an increase in the congregation led to the re-opening of King's Chapel in 1844. It was re-decorated and restored in 1877 and in 1888 handed over to the War Department which took over responsibility for its upkeep.

Adornments added to the chapel included a triptych, on the wall behind the altar, painted in 1944 by an officer of The Black Watch. It depicts the Lamb flanked by St Francis (patron saint of the founding Order) and by St Bernard, patron saint of Gibraltar.

This process of restoration came to a climax in 1948 with a plan to provide memorials to the regiments which served at the capture of Gibraltar in 1704 and its defence during the Great Siege. This scheme was well on its way to completion when the ammunition ship *Bedenham* blew up during unloading on 27 April 1951. The explosion smashed all the chapel windows and



doors, damaged the nave roof and ceiling, some of the laid-up Colours and memorial lanterns plus the triptych. Restoration under the direction of Mr Ralph G Covell made good most of the damage and new stained-glass windows replaced those destroyed in the blast.

Among the chapel's treasures is the Queen Anne communion set. The chalice and paten are silver, engraved with the royal arms of Queen Anne and hallmarked 1710-11. It was probably the first permanent set given to the chapel after the British capture in 1704. There is also a plated salver bearing the arms of General Eliot — Governor during the Great Siege — and a wooden-handled silver alms dish.

The monuments concerned with the 1948 memorial scheme include Colours laid up by Coldstream Guards, Grenadier Guards, The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, The King's Own Regiment, Royal Marines and The Royal Sussex Regiment. Memorial lanterns were presented by the Royal Artillery, The Dorset Regiment, The East Surrey Regiment, The Essex Regiment, The King's Own Royal Regiment, The Northamptonshire Regiment, The Royal Sussex Regiment, The Somerset Light Infantry, The Suffolk Regiment, The Border Regiment and The Cameronians, most of which have since been absorbed by amalgamations.

A pair of standard candlesticks was presented by The King's Own Scottish Borderers, an altar cross by The Lancashire Fusiliers and altar candlesticks by The West Yorkshire Regiment. The font was presented by the Royal Engineers to commemorate the formation of the First Company of Soldier Artificers who later became the Royal Engineers who have such a close association with the Rock.

Many other presentations have been made and the chapel's entrance hall contains crests and badges not only of Army units which have served in Gibraltar but also of the other Services. The Royal Air Force badges are those of squadrons which fought from the Rock in World War Two, including 458 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force, and 22 Squadron, South African Air Force. There are naval badges from HMS Childers and HMS Plymouth.

The collection of Army badges is being added to constantly by units stationed on the Rock or visiting for training.

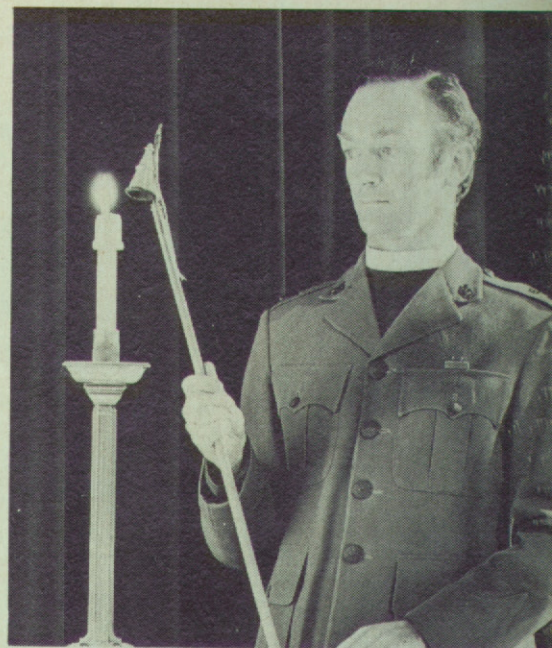
The first feature to strike the visitor's eye is the colourful ceiling at the east end of the chapel made of stone bosses in a Spanish rose pattern said to date from the 16th century. Close inspection of the memorial plaques on the walls reveals touching insights into personal tragedies that have punctuated the often turbulent history of the Rock. The picturesque language of bygone days adds warmth to the cold stone masons used to spell out the memorials' messages.

Records of the chapel go back as far as 1769 which the present senior chaplain, Padre Patrick Stanley, says is "very unusual for an Army church." And entries in the parish register give an insight into the everyday trials and tribulations of the chapel and its users. That for Thursday 17 November 1887 records mournfully: "Pouring wet morning — no congregation." A note of exuberance creeps into the entry for Christmas Day the same year: "Psalms chanted for the first time."

These entries came from the pen of the Reverend P F Raymond whose tenure of office was not without its problems. Clearly annoyed, he made the following entry in red ink on 9 November 1887: "With reference to the position of the new organ, this day dedicated to the service of God, it is due to the Chaplains and DORE (Royal Engineers) North, in charge of King's Chapel at the time the chamber was built, to have it distinctly stated for general information that the organ chamber being placed in the north west corner of the chapel was entirely contrary to their wish which was that the original plan of erection in the north east of the chapel (which had been sanctioned by the War Office) should be adhered to. The late Governor, Sir John Adye, insisted upon the organ being placed in the position it now occupies in spite of every protest."

The organ is still in that position — mute testimony to the heated exchanges that must have passed between the Reverend Raymond and Sir John.

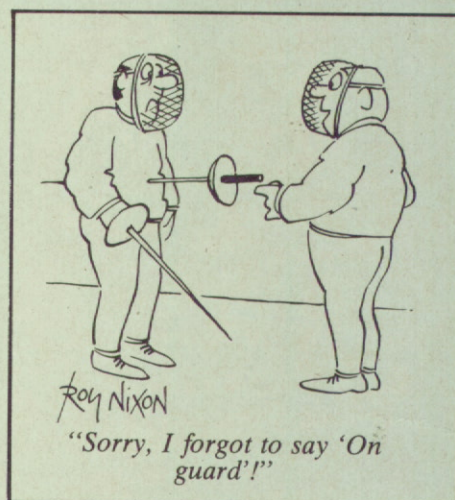
More peaceful days now occupy the time of the present incumbent, Padre Stanley, who takes a keen interest in his



Padre Patrick Stanley stands at the altar of King's Chapel on Gibraltar.

chapel and its history. It was he who wrote a pamphlet about the building which was of enough interest to visitors between July 1975 and January this year for 1000 copies to be taken away.

He says: "It's a fascinating place. I'm no great lover of churches just for the sake of looking round them but this place has definitely got something." And the attendance of regular worshippers and holidaymakers bears that out.



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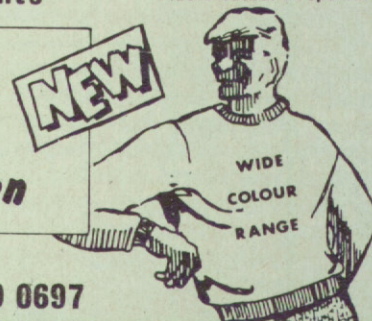
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◀ Flaming June was followed by flaming July as blazes broke out on tinder-dry heath and moorland. In north Yorkshire the biggest moors blaze for years was more than the Forestry Commission and fire brigades could handle and soldiers — up to 100 at some stages — from 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, based at Catterick, 38 Engineer Regiment from Ripon and recruits from Depot, The King's Division, were all called in to help. In the Aldershot area all units were put on alert and the Royal Military Police sent them out as and when required. Among these firefighters were men from the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Royal Army Medical Corps, Royal Corps of Transport, Army Catering Corps, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and Royal Engineers. Massive blazes broke out, many of them on training areas.

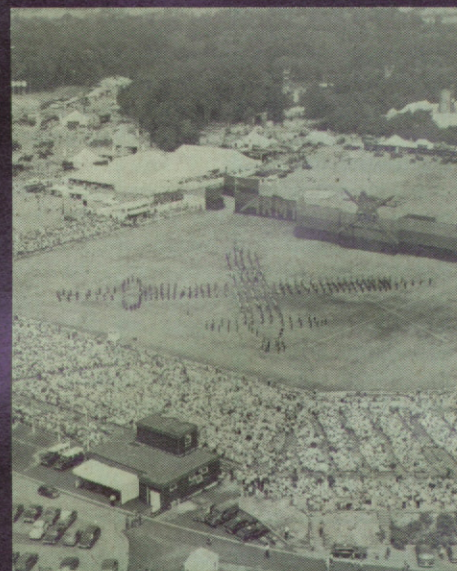
## Left, right and centre

Sioux helicopters of 7 Flight Army Air Corps begin their fly-past as they come in over the 1936 Olympic Stadium in Berlin. In the foreground a vehicle screen is formed by Berlin Infantry Brigade and tanks of B Squadron, 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards. The occasion was the Queen's birthday parade.

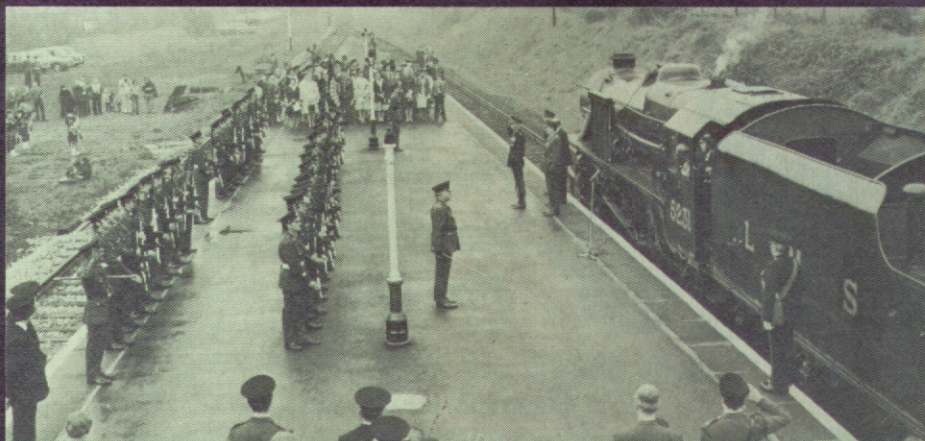


◀ Breakfast time for Tom Hughes and his "family," including the cat. Tom, a former sergeant in the Royal Army Pay Corps, has become "father" to a dozen destitute, handicapped and orphan boys in Nepal. Tom was posted to the Dharan Area Pay Office in eastern Nepal in 1967 and realised the children needed help. After his two-year tour he went home, was discharged and returned to run the children's home.

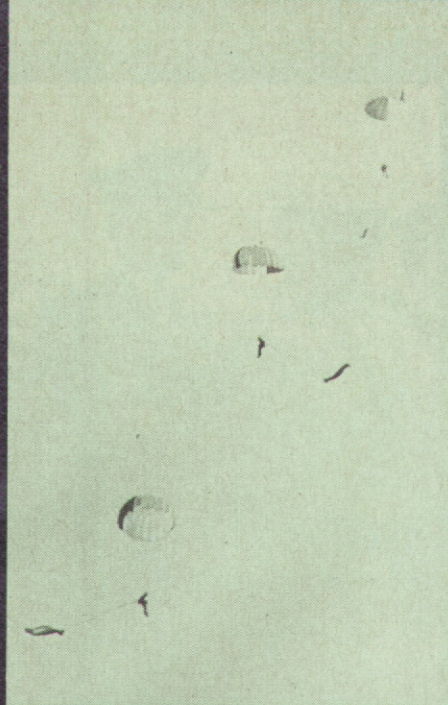
Start of the arena spectacular at ▶ Aldershot Army Display, with the massed bands depicting crossed swords. This year the crowds were down — because the weather was too good! The stifling heat is thought to have sent many potential show visitors in search of the nearest swimming pool or beach.



It must be a long time since a steam ▶ railway engine was named after an Army battalion. The engine, belonging to the Main Line Steam Trust Ltd, was named "3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment" in a ceremony at Quorn and Woodhouse railway station in Leicestershire. The battalion's Regimental Colour and guard were on parade as well as the Nottinghamshire Army Cadet Band and the Seaforth Highlanders (Leicestershire Section) Pipes and Drums.







▲ Quick thinking and thorough Red Devils training saved Tom Davies from disaster when his parachute failed to open on his first jump. After a bad exit from the aircraft, Tom plummeted earthwards until he remembered his training at the hands of Red Devils freefall team Sergeant-Major Ted Lewington and pulled open his reserve chute just in time. Even so, he hit some telegraph wires before landing relatively unhurt. Tom was one of 45 first-time jumpers of all ages and both sexes who "did their thing" to raise money for charity. Each was sponsored for £100 to go to Bromley Society for Mentally Handicapped Children of which Mr Davies is chairman. Composite picture shows Mr Davies on his way down.

A year or two back the Royal Engineers freefall team, "The Eagles," was one of the country's leading competition display teams. Then it split up due to postings. Recently the team re-formed for the Royal Engineers demonstration at Rheindahlen and gave a parachuting farewell to Major-General E M Mackay who completes his service this year as Chief Engineer Rhine Army. Pictured (left to right) are Captain Roderick MacDonald, Lance-Corporal Arthur Collingwood, Corporal John Pope, Lieutenant Jonathan Orr, Corporal Bert Tate, Sapper Kelly Sargent.



▲ A one-hundred-year connection between The Queen's Regiment and the town of Guildford was celebrated when soldiers of the Queen's marched through the town. Heading the procession were men of the 6/7th (Volunteer) Battalion in various uniforms worn by the regiment over the last century. Also taking part in the centenary celebrations were the 3rd Battalion and 5th (Volunteer) Battalion.



▲ Major Helen Meechie, Women's Royal Army Corps, who commands 10 Company, WRAC, at Aldershot, will in September become one of the first two women officers to be admitted as students to the National Defence College, Latimer. Major Meechie holds a degree and a diploma in education. Aim of the 43-week course is to prepare British officers for higher staff and command appointments by giving them a broad education in defence problems in political, economic, scientific and military fields.



▲ Grandmother Mrs Frieda Gumm is pictured being enrolled as a "Big Wheeler" by Major Chris Mahon, commanding 19 Tank Transporter Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, after driving a mighty Antar complete with its Chieftain tank load. Looking on are the Antar's regular crewmen, Lance-Corporal John Smith (left) and Driver Duncan Halliday. Mrs Gumm, a member of the Institute of Advanced Motorists, asked the Army if she could drive a tank and Major Mahon fixed it for her. She steered the 50-plus ton Chieftain around the Bulford parade ground and then had a go on the Antar carrying the same tank on its back. Handing over the Big Wheeler certificate, Major Mahon said: "Not even some drivers we train are nearly as good as that!"





◀ Turning the clock back 50 years for an Army display at Worcester proved a tight squeeze for men of 30 Signal Regiment from Blandford, Dorset. The only uniforms available from the 1920s were for men less than five feet six inches tall. So the call went out for signallers short enough to fit the old khaki outfits from the Royal Corps of Signals museum. Volunteers had to squeeze into tight riding breeches, puttees and spurs, a jacket buttoned to the chin and a tin hat. A museum spokesman said the pint-sized uniforms had probably been used in boys' service long after going out of fashion in the rest of the Army.

Lieutenant N P Parker, Royal Artillery, receives his Army pilot's wings at Middle Wallop. Making the presentation was his father — Brigadier R J Parker, late Army Air Corps and now Commander Army Air Corps, United Kingdom Land Forces.



A letter to the Queen resulted in ▶ a special day out for three Brighton brothers who expressed an interest in the Army. Terry Ansell (11), who wrote the letter, and brothers Mark (9) and Raymond (13) were guests for the day of the Royal Military Police in Chichester. They were given rides on horses from the RMP's mounted troop, fired guns on a range and had lunch with recruits. And at the end of the day they were adjudged "first-rate material" by their hosts while both Terry and Raymond declared they had set their hearts on an Army career now. Mark said he was still making up his mind.



Like father, like son, clearly applies in the Mitchell family. For Gunners Michael (21) and Malcolm (19) followed in the footsteps of their father, Captain John Mitchell, to join 7th Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery. Michael has served with I Battery for three years and Malcolm with F Battery for two. They've still got a long way to go to catch up dad who has been with the regiment since 1960  
▶ with only a three-year break.



◀ Princess Alexandra finished a visit to Rhine Army units with a look at the 17th/21st Lancers. After inspecting a guard of honour, she presented the Long Service & Good Conduct Medal to Regimental Sergeant-Major George Neil, Warrant Officers 2 Eddie Thompson and Peter Griffin and Staff-Sergeant Ernest Day. She also presented a Meritorious Service medal to Sergeant John Mesher who had just completed 31 years' continuous service with the regiment. And before seeing the rest of the regiment at work and play, the princess had a presentation herself in the form of a bouquet from four-year-old Kirsty Bartlett, daughter of Corporal Richard Bartlett.



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## New-look Netley

**T**HIS year's Army individual dinghy championships attracted a record entry, including national and international prizewinners. The event was run by the Netley Sailing Club for the first time and staged at the UKLF dinghy sailing centre, Netley, the club's home base.

The centre is now run by resident chief instructor Staff-Sergeant Ken Foskett with the help of another instructor, Driver Ray Graham. For almost all the year the centre is used to train courses in dinghy sailing but Ken Foskett explained that recently he has placed more emphasis than before on developing the potential of the club itself. The club has opened membership to civilians as well as soldiers and there are now more than 260 people on the books compared with some 50 last year. A major attraction in the "new-look" scheme is the weekly handicap race on Sundays.

There were some beginners trying their hand in the individual championships but the field of 26 was peppered with seasoned yachtsmen, including Captain Mike Brooke, Royal Engineers, who crewed for Rodney Pattison to win the European Flying Dutchman championships in 1975 and Second-Lieutenant Tim Corfield who was last

year's 420 class national champion. There too was Warrant Officer 1 E J "Dusty" Miller, the national Bosun champion in 1974 and Army Bosun champion in 1975.

The championships started in appalling conditions with rain being driven across Southampton Water by an ever-rising wind that gusted above force seven. Racing had to be abandoned after only one race which had taken its toll of boats and crews as a large proportion of the starters capsized. This first race was won by Captain Brooke and his crewman Major J Rayner, also Royal Engineers. Second was another sapper boat in the hands of Captain P M Wallace and Sapper Rowe, a former junior Army sailing champion. Third were Miller and Lance-Corporal A Holt.

Day two dawned with wind and rain still lashing the water but the force of the breeze slackened enough to allow good sailing and spinnakers were soon billowing in the four races that followed. Miller and Holt won the first with a Royal Engineers pair, Corporal P Smith and Lance-Corporal T Sinkinson, another ex-junior champion, in second. Third was Corfield with his crew Officer Cadet R Furse.

Corfield and Furse won race two with Smith and Sinkinson second again and Brooke and Rayner third. Miller and Holt re-established their domination in the third race and were followed over the line by Corfield and Furse, then by two Royal Army Pay Corps contenders, Captain D Peerless and Captain R Till.

Miller started well down the field in

## Sport



**The eventual winners, Miller and Holt, sense with a grin that victory is in their grasp as they run for home in a Bosun.**

the final race but carved his way through his rivals from ninth place to first, a position he held: Smith and Sinkinson were second yet again and Captain C L Elliot, Royal Engineers, with Warrant Officer 1 C Hurn, Army Physical Training Corps, were third.

Each crew was allowed to "discard" its worst performance of the series. This left Miller and Holt champions with Smith and Sinkinson second, and Corfield and Furse third.

## Champion orienteers



**Captain Alan Meeking receives his cup as Army orienteering champion from BAOR C-in-C, Gen Sir Frank King.**

**W**EST Germany was the venue for this year's Army orienteering championships which have become something of an international event with army teams from the United States, Germany, France and the Netherlands competing as guests in the three-day meeting. The carefully planned course was set over ten kilometres in thickly wooded slopes on the Deister Hills in Lower Saxony.

Daily showers of heavy rain during the previous fortnight turned what might have been a fast but steep course into a tortuous and slippery test of endurance. The first day was a practice event held over similar ground in a different area of the hills. Conditions gave the competitors a good idea of what was to follow. The already heavy ground was further dampened by drizzle which turned to heavy rain.

On the second day the individual contest took place with the men running 10.9 kilometres through 20 checkpoints and the women 4.8 kilometres through 11 checkpoints. Outright winner and Army champion was Captain Alan Meeking, Royal School of Electronic Engineering, Arborfield. The best Rhine Army competitor, in second place, was Captain Robin Pook, 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment. At the end of this event the leading team was 22 Engineer Regiment with the 2nd French Corps A team sec-

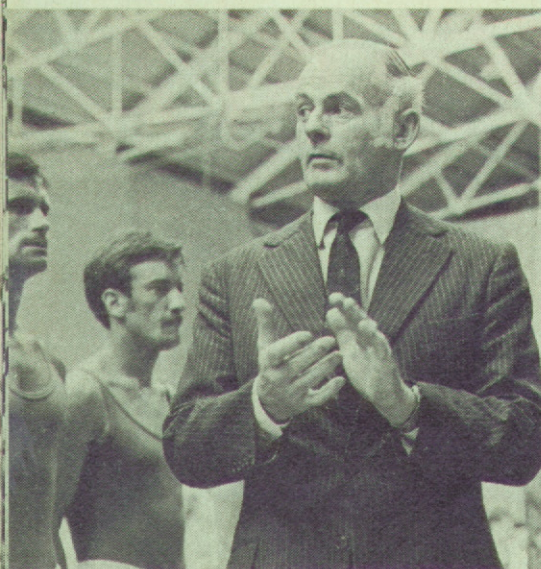


**Rhine Army champion Captain Robin Pook, second overall in Army event.**

ond. HQ 1 (British) Corps was third.

The last day showed no improvement in the weather for the team relay but it was clear that the United Kingdom teams, with more competition practice, were going to set the pace. The winning team was 22 Engineer Regiment from Tidworth with a total time of 14 hours 20 minutes. The 2nd French Corps A team was second in 14 hours 48 minutes and 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, third in 16 hours 26 minutes. The leading Rhine Army team was HQ 1st BR Corps, fourth overall in 16 hours 57 minutes.





General Sir Cecil Blacker applauds the APTC on his very last day in the Army.

## King of the castle

**A**LDERSHOT'S Fox Gymnasium was converted into a castle for the night thanks to cleverly painted hessian — and king of that castle was the Colonel Commandant of the Army Physical Training Corps who specially asked to spend the last day of his 40 years in the Army with the corps.

The hessian castle formed a backcloth to the assault-at-arms display the corps mounts every year to show off physical training work through the ages. This has been an annual event since 1863 and usually takes about half an hour to perform before an audience of VIPs and families.

This year it was specially fixed to coincide with the last day in the Army of General Sir Cecil Blacker, Adjutant-General and Colonel Commandant of the corps. Nor does his connection with the physical training world stop here for he still takes daily runs and regularly takes on instructors at the Army

School of Physical Training in wrestling bouts.

So this year's assault-at-arms display lasted an hour and a half, starting with a medieval pageant showing villagers being terrorised by grasping tax collectors ... until they had the magic of physical training revealed to them, after which they could give as good as they got.

The display then demonstrated Army physical training as it has developed in the last hundred years or so from the dumbbells and clubs of yesteryear to the excitement of adventure training the modern soldier enjoys. Period costume and exact wording of commands from old manuals lent authenticity to the scenes.

The climax was a finale by the corps' high-horse gymnastic display team bouncing higher than ever. And there was more to come in the presentation of a special Wilkinson Sword to the corps for the considerable amount of work it has recently done to help the civilian community, especially in assisting with the television Superstars event where top sportsmen compete at a variety of skills.

## Army gymnasts win bronze

**T**HE Army Gymnastic Union firmly believes in including younger gymnasts in its championship sides. This bold policy that it is hoped will bring the British team gymnastic championship back to the Army paid off when the Army took third place — and bronze medals — in the

1976 men's team gymnastic championship of Great Britain at Maidenhead.

Seven of the leading civilian gymnastic clubs in the country entered for the blue riband title and the Army newcomers, supported by the experienced Sergeant-Instructor J Purvis and Sergeant-Instructor J Moger, gave a good indication that it will not be long before the team championship returns to the Army which has held the title many times in the past.

Purvis, who just missed being a member of the British team for the Montreal Olym-

pics, gave a sparkling display of advanced gymnastics and headed the individual placings. His vault with a score of 9.15 was outstanding as were his high bar and floor routines.

Darlington came first with 186.55 points with Hendon second on 181.95 points. The Army scored 177.10. Representing the Army were QMSI J Wilson (team coach), SIs Purvis, Moger, D Scott, A McLean, G Sharp (all APTC). Reserve was A/T A Halladay (AAC Arborfield) and team manager was Cpl M Salter (LI).

## Transport of delight

**T**HE cross-country team from the Depot Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, Aldershot, was delighted with its first-ever performance in the 40-mile Keswick-to-Barrow Cumbrian March. For

the team carried off the Rolls-Royce Challenge Trophy for the best team from outside Barrow.

The course was a rugged one across the fells and very steep climbs of the Lake District. In difficult rainy conditions the ten-man team set off at 0630 with more than 1800 other competitors. Sergeant Mitchell and Corporal Baker had good runs to finish 6th and 7th in under five hours. The rest of the team finished the course well inside the standard time. The others taking part were: Major French, Corporals Cavan, Ewers and Hodgkins, Lance-Corporal Thompson, Drivers Brown, Booth and Ball. The team plans to defend the Rolls-Royce Trophy next year.



Team captain of the Depot Regiment RCT, Corporal Baker, with the cup.



## Marathon winner

**U**LTRA-long-distance runner Sergeant Fred Howell, 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars, has added the Isle of Man 40-mile road race trophy to a growing list of honours he has gained in his specialised sport.

Fred found himself up against tough opposition as he faced most of the British ultra-marathon stars plus a strong international entry from Australia, New Zealand, Germany and South Africa.

Sergeant Fred Howell, who has now added the Isle of Man 40-mile marathon to his list of triumphs.

The Isle of Man race is an annual event over the TT motorcycle course, starting and finishing on Douglas Promenade. The first 29 miles of this year's race was a battle against the elements with all the competitors running in driving rain. At the start of the climb up Snaefell, Fred was lying second. He fell back to fourth after a series of attacks of cramp but on reaching the summit found himself back in second place.

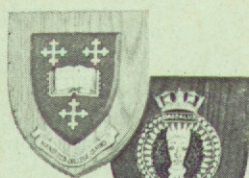
By now the rain had turned to sleet and mist, cutting down visibility to less than six metres.

After 34 miles, Fred caught up with leader Ian Burgess of Southampton and charged ahead to win by four minutes in a time of four hours and seven seconds. This win adds considerably to Fred's growing reputation as a marathon runner. He came fifth in the international 100-mile race held by the Road Runners Club of Great Britain recently and is now ranked ninth in the world in the marathon sport.









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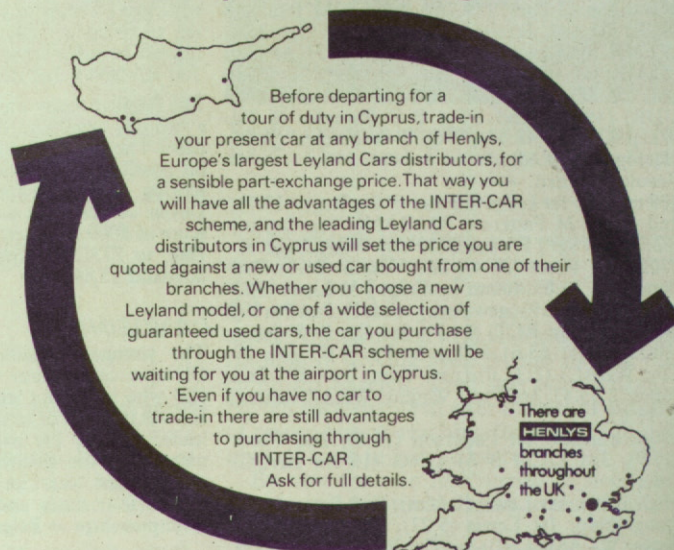
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# On record

**"Military Music of Three Centuries"** (The London Bach Ensemble directed by Trevor Sharpe, Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, with Frank Boyden, Nicholas Bush, Raymond Bryant, Eric Halfpenny and Edward Croft-Murray) (Saga 5417).

This fine record is a reissue of one made years ago when Lieutenant-Colonel Sharpe was staff bandmaster at Kneller Hall. With the greater sales and growing interest in military music I'm sure it will make an impact it hardly achieved in the early 1960s. It deserves to.

Although instrumental tone was coarser in the 17th and 18th centuries, here you have a fair representation of what bands of those times, based on the classic ensemble of two oboes, two clarinets, two horns and two bassoons, sounded like. Much of the music is of course written to include other instruments such as flutes, trumpets, trombones and serpents, but totally lacks the muddy ensemble of the modern band. All is transparency and light.

Played by experts, most of whom learned their musical craft in the Army, you have here not only the sound of earlier bands but the music they played, including what may be some of the original tunes for trooping

the Colour; "Grand March in Eb Major" (Sir Henry Bishop), "March and Troop Music in C" (anon), "The Prince of Denmark's March" (Jeremiah Clarke), Feldpartita in Bb Major" (attributed to Hayden), "Suite in Bb Major" (anon) and "Suite in C Major" (Pezel). **RB**



**"Pipes and Drums of The Royal Irish Rangers"** (Lismor LILP 5036)

No credits are given on the sleeve and no battalion is mentioned so I cannot give the credit to those responsible for what, to my Sassenach ear, sounds like a first-class performance. The tunes are mostly Irish but played of course on the Scottish pipes — and for those about to take up pen and paper the word Sassenach is of Irish origin, spelt "sasenach."

So far as variety can be obtained from such a restricted medium as pipes and drums, it has been obtained, and for addicts I have no doubt the programme will come as a welcome change from the more familiar Scottish tunes. Thirty-five of them are arranged in groups under the headings "Slow Marches," "2/4 Marches," "4/4 Marches," "Hornpipes," "Retreat Set" and "Retreat Marches." There is also an interesting medley of "Regimental Duty Tunes," a "Drum Salute," the regimental march "Killaloe" and the beautiful "Oft in the Stilly Night" played as Lights Out.

Of the many melodies too numerous to mention one can but envy a nation with such treasures as "Eileen Allanah," "Erin Far o'er the Sea," "The Rakes of Mallow" and "Paddy's Leather Breeches." I have always

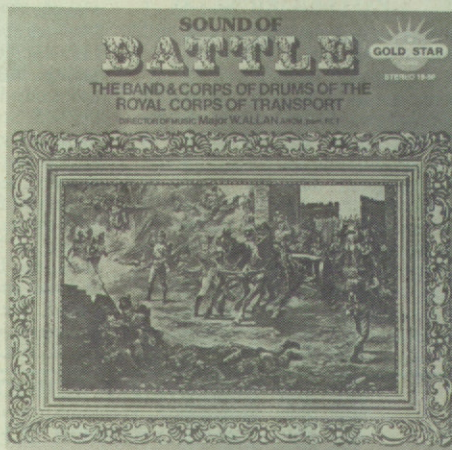
mourned the fact of being conceived in Co Dublin and (such are the vagaries of Army postings) being born in the less-lush pastures of Hounslow Barracks. **RB**

**"Sound of Battle" (The Band and Corps of Drums of the Royal Corps of Transport)** (Director of Music: Major W Allan) (Redifusion Gold Star 15-50)

I have to chide someone, presumably the conductor, for two aspects of this disc. The title is not justified by the programme of music and the sleeve says "In 1976 the band will make its 25th appearance at the Horse of the Year Show which, if not a record, must be unique." I'd hate to remind Major Allan of how many years the Grenadiers have been playing at the Chelsea Show.

"Sounds Soldierly," as this disc might have been called, has songs and marches from the Boer War and the two world wars, ending with the corps march, "Wait for the Wagon," "Sunset" and the Coronation version of the National Anthem. There is a new march, "Son of a Soldier," and a rare Ord Hume offering called "The Front Line" (without battle sounds), otherwise nothing for collectors but plenty for fireside fusiliers.

Marching songs are: "Soldiers of the Queen," "Bluebells," "Goodbye Dolly Gray," "Mademoiselle from Armentières," "Take Me Back to Dear Old Blighty," "Goodbye-ee" and "Lilli Marlene." Marches: "Machine Gun Guards," "The Voice of the Guns," "The Contemptibles," "Army of the Nile" and "Army and Marine." **RB**



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# LETTERS

## Gentleman Tommy

My father drew a shilling a day when a private in World War One. My pay was eightpence a day in 1918 and I "allotted" fourpence of this. I lined up on Fridays for what was left of the 2s 4d a week after stoppages. Cash was still handed over on pay parades when I retired in 1945.

So I particularly liked, and was pleased to see, this announcement by the Paymaster-in-Chief in the June SOLDIER: "New rates of pay will be in bank accounts on 1 June 1976." Gentleman Tommy!—G R Hogan, 5 Queenswood Road, St John's, Woking, Surrey, GU21 1XJ.

## Taffy calling

Would any of my mates who served in 48 Squadron, 38 Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers, on Christmas Island between January 1958 and December 1958, please write to me, or telephone if in the London area.—D T James (ex-Spr Taffy James 901, formerly of Llanelli), Frogmore House, 11 Lawrie Park Road, London SE26 (01-659 2023).

## Medal mart

At a local auction I noticed among the lots several sets of World War One medals and three gallantry awards — two Military Crosses and a Military Medal. All these items went for a substantial sum to, I believe, a militaria dealer and will doubtless be sold to collectors.

Is it right that medals and decorations should be bought and sold? I feel that awards for bravery, distinguished service and for service in war should not be traded. When the recipient dies the award or medal should go to relatives and, if not wanted, then to the recipient's regiment, corps or unit or be returned to the Crown.

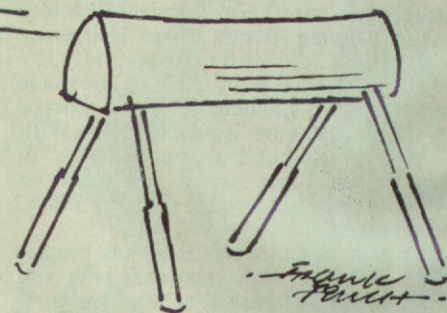
This would surely be more fitting and respectful than the present "exchange and mart" set-up where

years of service and gallantry can be bought by those who require a "good investment."—Murray Flinton, 44a Granville Road, Sevenoaks, Kent.

## Dunkirk bar?

Attempts have been made in the past by various people, but without success, to get recognition for those who served at Dunkirk. We of the Dunkirk Veterans Association, who survived the inland battles and Dunkirk itself, received in 1943 the 1939-43 Star — and this was worth having. But as the war went on it was extended to 1945, called the 1939-45 Star and reduced to the status of a general service medal. So we lost our campaign medal which denoted, as did the 1914 Star, that we served from the beginning.

And we must not forget those who served in Norway, in Commando raids, the Lofoten Islands etc and in naval and air battles within this period. Please give all the support you can in our fight for recognition



for a 1939-43 bar to the 1939-45 ribbon. All ideas are welcome.—H Jubb, 18 Grammar School Road, Hull, HU5 4NZ.

## How observant are you?

(see page 16)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Cat in first floor window fifth from right. 2 Left curtain of first floor window second from left. 3 Left bottle in window of Joe's Bar. 4 Number of lines on car radiator. 5 Pocket of centre shirt in window. 7 Tail of Katherine's cat. 6 Wellington boots in window. 8 Left leg of far left man. 9 Offside headlamp of tank. 10 Sill of top window third from left.

## Competition

A mass of figures in "Computer Language" (Competition 214, April) did not deter a large number of readers who came up with the right answer, that the computer translated into French and would have printed that out as 0006 0618 0514 0308 0001 or, in brief, 0618 0514 0308.

Prizewinners:

- 1 Miss S L Clack, Paddock End, Kimpton, Andover, Hampshire.
- 2 G A Gladman, 33 Victoria Road, Harborne, Birmingham.
- 3 Pte A W Martin, MT (Admin Coy), 2 R Anglian, Gordon Barracks, Gillingham, Kent.
- 4 R C Santon, 56 Meadow Road, Earley, Reading, Berkshire.

5 C Scholfield, 110 Rochester Drive, Bexley, Kent.

6 Michael Treton, 181 Mornington Road, London.

7 J Boyne, Heathlea, Grenadier Road, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hampshire.

8 M Edmenson, 27 High Street, Princes' End, Tipton, West Midlands.

## Reunions

**The Royal Welsh Fusiliers Comrades Association.** Annual reunion and general meeting at The Barracks, Wrexham, 4-5 September. Tickets and programmes available from branch secretaries or from Secretary, RWFCA, The Barracks, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 2DB.

## The Royal Norfolk Regiment.

Annual reunion dinner at TAVR Centre, Aylsham Road, Norwich, Saturday 25 September, 6.30 for 7pm. Annual association service, Regimental Chapel, Norwich Cathedral, 26 September, 10am. Details from Regimental Secretary, The Royal Norfolk Regiment, Britannia Barracks, Norwich, NR1 4HJ.

## Devonshire Regiment Old Comrades Association.

London Branch 50th anniversary dinner and dance, 25 September. Ladies invited. Details from D Fitzgerald, 119 Nightingale Road, Carshalton, Surrey.

**301 By, 93 SL Regt RA.** Reunion, Connaught Rooms, Holborn, London, 23 October. Details from Mrs P Dakin (Cpl Milling), 6 Lerryn Road, Bridgemary, Gosport, Hants, PO13 04G.

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Further particulars from The Headmaster.

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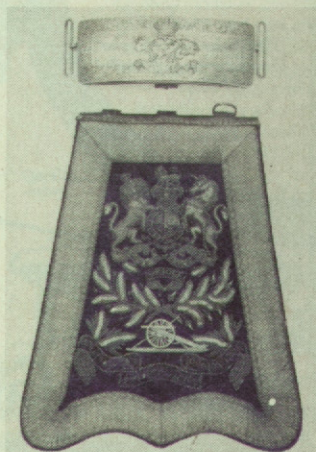
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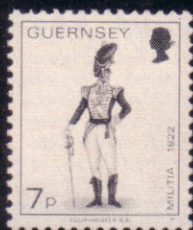


This Victorian cavalry officer's silver flap dress pouch and Victorian officer's full dress sabretache of the Royal Artillery were sold for £80 and £130 respectively at auction by Messrs Wallis & Wallis, of Lewes, Sussex.

At an earlier sale, a rare volunteer officer's shako of circa 1812 fetched £850, a rare late 19th century parade mitre cap of the 1st Garde Regiment Zu Fuss made £290 and a late 19th century uniform of the Papal Guard £210. A rare officer's scarlet coatee of the 60th (Royal American) Regiment of Foot, circa 1810, was bought by the National Army Museum for £250.



## New stamps



The United States bicentennial is celebrated in three stamps issued by The Gambia. The 25 butut shows an American Militiaman, the 50 butut a member of the Continental Army and the 1.25 dalasi (100 bututs to a dalasi) depicts in the minutest of type the Declaration of Independence. From Guernsey come two more stamps, the 5p of a field officer in the Royal Guernsey Artillery, 1895, and the 7p of an officer, Grenadier Company, East (Town) Regiment, 1822.

**Beachley Old Boys Association.** Annual reunion 1-3 October. Particulars from Hon Sec, BOBA, Army Apprentices College, Chepstow, Gwent, NP6 7YG.

### Collectors' Corner

Gregory L. Singer, 2988 Worden Street, San Diego, California 92110, USA. — *Wishes purchase or trade US shoulder sleeve insignia or enamelled distinctives for British band and corps of drums LPs, regimental police brassards and regimental/corps brass shoulder titles.*

John T. Bayliss, 5 Bellara Crescent, St Albans, Victoria 3021, Australia. — *To complete set of Royal Australian Regiment Vietnam tour books requires 2 RAR Anzac Battalion, black cover, volumes one and two 1967-68 and Mission Vietnam 4 RAR 1968-69.*

G. C. Hogben, CQME, Private Mailbag, Rockhampton, Queensland

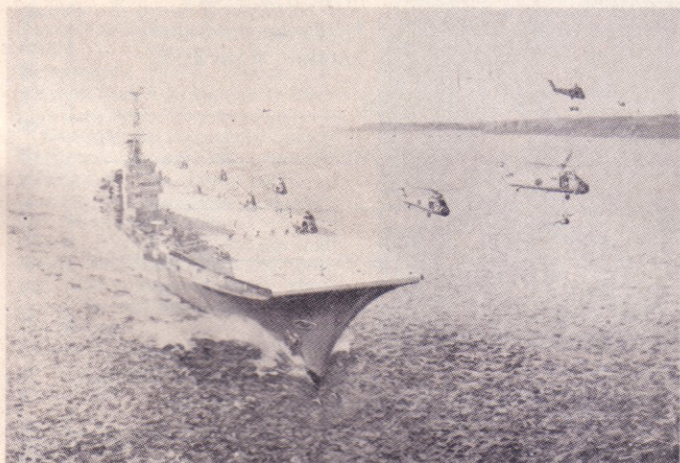
4700, Australia. — *Wishes purchase British Army and Commonwealth cap badges to enlarge recently started collection.*

R. Campbell, Passchendaele, Old Main Road, Fosdyke, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE20 2BH. — *Will exchange various WW1 postcards bearing German field post station frankings for similar British cards or cavalry badges. SAE.*

R. Smythe, 29 Charlotte Road, Wallasey, Merseyside. — *Pensioner starting collection modern Army cap badges requires most infantry badges. State price etc.*

D. Mills, Barnhill, Ridge, Wareham, Dorset. — *Collects OSD bronze cap and collar badges; will buy or swap. Send SAE for list of spare cap and collar badges and shoulder titles.*

J. Howarth, 15 Lawrence Street, Preston, PR2 3DT. — *Wishes purchase cap badges Essex and Suffolk cyclists bi-metal, 8th Argylls white metal (8th A & SH scroll), Seaforths 5th Bn Caith and Suth, officer's with feathers, silver. Some good exchanges.*



### BULWARK PRINT

Soldiers who have served in HMS Bulwark will be interested in limited edition prints of a painting of the ship commissioned by the Royal Marines from Keith Shackleton. Prices are: Artist-signed print £5.00; unsigned print £1.00 (both plus post and packing 70p up to two prints); Hogarth framing under plain glass £6.00 extra; modern framing and heat sealing (unsuitable for signed prints) £6.50 extra. Framed prints are available only on collection from Clarendon Galleries, Southsea. Orders to Corps Secretary, Royal Marines, Eastney, Southsea, Hants, with name, address and cheque.

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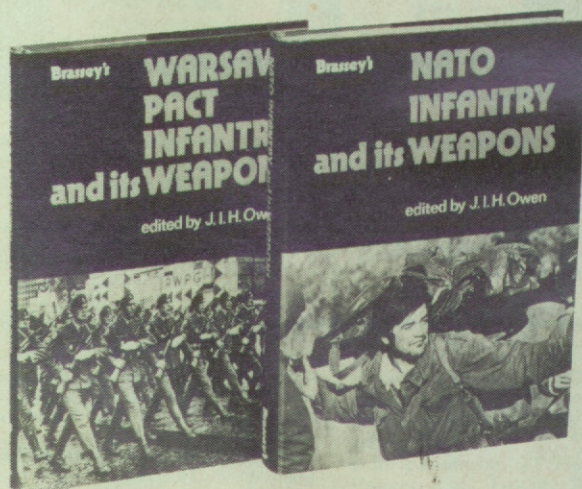


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# BOOKS

## NAPOLEON

"Leipzig" (Per-Eric Jansson)

Although Napoleon lost an army in Russia in 1812, within a year he was operating in Saxony with 163,000 men and 700 guns. But Russia, Prussia, Austria, Sweden and the United Kingdom were determined to destroy him and three huge armies began slowly encircling him at Leipzig. Although he was aware of the odds against him, Napoleon was confident he could out-general Schwarzenberg, Blücher and Johan as he had done before. Unfortunately, mid-October 1813 was very wet and the roads around Leipzig were too soft and boggy for the speedy movement of cavalry; before long, sickness spread among the infantry divisions.

Despite these problems, Napoleon fought his way back to Leipzig and for four days held off Russian Cossacks, Prussian grenadiers, Austrian hussars and Swedish jaegers (as well as a troop of the Horse Artillery, the only British unit involved). Then he escaped to the west with 80,000 men, but lost 70,000 men killed or captured, 28 eagles, 325 guns and 49 generals.

This is an interesting addition to the "Great Battles" series. The colour illustrations are particularly fine and the explanatory notes clear and helpful.

Almark Publishing Co Ltd, 49 Malden Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 6EA, £1.50 AWH

## BODYGUARD

"The Household Cavalry Regiment" (Roy Manser)

The Life Guards and The Blues and Royals have been in existence since the mid-17th century and have long been associated with ceremonial duties in London. However, it would be quite wrong to imagine they are "toy soldiers" or simply there for decoration. Apart from their duty of protecting the sovereign they are all "real" soldiers. If proof is required, a glance at their battle honours would suffice — Dettingen, Waterloo, Paardeberg, Ypres, Somme, El Alamein and NW Europe to mention but a few.

Naturally the Household Cavalry Regiment has over the centuries gathered a whole host of particular customs and traditions and these are admirably explained in this reference work which details their music, Standards, dress and insignia. The many coloured plates reveal the richness of the colours and designs.

Almark Publishing Co Ltd, 49 Malden Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 6EA, £2.00 AWH

## MUTINY

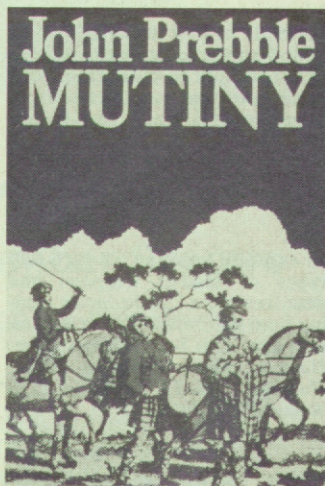
"Mutiny" (John Prebble)

When first raised, the Highland regiments were no more than cannon fodder, used and abused by their new early 18th century English overlords — acting with the connivance of clan chiefs. Unfed, unpaid, poorly clad, often un-equipped, the Highlanders provided a vast untapped source of soldiers for Britain's ever-

increasing colonial wars and imperial expansion.

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John Prebble recounts in a most readable book the awful results of military disobedience and the absolute despair of these Scots lads who,



let down and not knowing to whom to turn, banded together and turned against their orders and officers.

This first-class book is required reading for anyone interested in the deviousness of military politics and the history of famous Scottish regiments in particular.

Martin Secker & Warburg Ltd, 14 Carlisle Street, Soho Square, London, W1V 6NN, £6.90 PC



## AT FIRST HAND

"Assault in Norway: The True Story of the Telemark Raid" (Thomas Gallagher)

This new offering on an old subject, the raid on the heavy water plant at Vemork, tells the tale from the viewpoint of those who took part in the raid, those who planned and schemed for years... and tells it at first hand.

Helped by those still alive who had a major hand in this most momentous of commando raids,

Mr Gallagher has given us a racy book which I recommend.

That the raid succeeded is almost a miracle. But succeed it did and we must all ponder on what might have happened had it not done so. The claim that it was the most important of all secret service missions of the war is surely justified.

Macdonald & Jane's Publishers, Paulton House, 8 Shepherdess Walk, London, N1 7LW, £3.95 PC



## BLITZ

"The Fall of France May-June 1940" (Robert Jackson)

"The Guns of Dakar" (John Williams)

The German invasion of Holland, Belgium and France in 1940 was one of the most effective and devastating campaigns in history. The panzer march through Belgium and France was the supreme example of the blitzkrieg in action and, in this excellent little book, Mr Jackson views it from the purely military aspect which in the past has tended to be overshadowed by the political activity. The events are complicated and made more so by the obvious chaos which reigned in some headquarters; the gloom is brightened by the steadfast bravery of the troops.

Mr Jackson shows that it was a campaign whose lessons, in many respects, still hold good today and are worthy of study.

Mr Williams deals with one of those forlorn hopes which occurred shortly after the fall of France — the bid by Britain, backing the new Free French movement of De Gaulle, to wrest Dakar from the Vichy government. A convoy carrying 7000 British and French troops, escorted by warships, was supposed to occupy Dakar to prevent the Germans doing the same. Everything went wrong. The landing was abandoned and the convoy retired to Freetown with several warships damaged. It had been a fiasco from start to finish.

Ironically, it was learned later in the war that when the Anglo-French force retired, the French governor-general ashore was preparing to surrender because his ships and forts were almost out of ammunition.

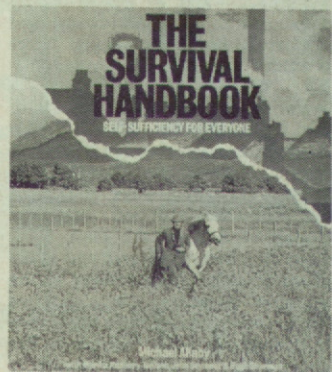
Mr Williams gives a lively and gripping account of the expedition. 1 Arthur Barker, 11 St John's Hill, London SW11 1XA, £4.50

2 William Heinemann Ltd, 15 Queen Street, Mayfair, London, W1X 8BE, £3.90 JCW

## BACK TO NATURE

"The Survival Handbook" (Michael Allaby)

Subtitled "Self Sufficiency for Everyone," this book tells us how to look after ourselves by fully utilising those wonderful gifts of nature from which our increased sophistication has driven us away. The necessary prerequisites to self-sufficiency are time, determination and old-fashioned hard work. It is not beyond us to grow what we require in a garden or allotment. It is also not impossible



to make what furniture we need or to weave material.

Further, this book explores exciting "new" discoveries like solar energy, the power of the wind and elementary do-it-yourself building. The principal author and his three assistants point out that we are at the whim of a self-imposed helplessness but it is in our power to snap out of it and start doing things for ourselves if we so wish.

Macmillan London Ltd, 4 Little Essex Street, London, WC2R 3LF, £4.50 PC

## ON THE DANUBE

"Blenheim" (D S V Fosten)

Marlborough devised an incredibly daring plan — in torrential rain he flung a pontoon bridge over the Maas and with 21,000 men and 2000 wagons set off on a 300-mile march to Vienna. The logistic problems were enormous but he had prepared well — camp sites, foot inspections and periodic ruses to confuse the enemy.

On the banks of the Danube the two armies came face to face. The Franco-Bavarian force numbered 56,000 men with 90 guns; Marlborough's army of British, Dutch, Germans and Danes had only 52,000 men and 66 guns. The French commander, de Tallard, thought he had plenty of time to make his dispositions and was somewhat dilatory. Marlborough, aided by Eugene, knew the village of Blenheim was the key to success and, if he could suck in the mass of French infantry into its narrow streets, that victory was his.

So it proved. Some 20,000 French and Bavarians fell, 14,000 were taken captive with 300 standards and 60 guns. Marlborough had won a great victory and French ambitions were laid low.

A very good little addition to the



# MORE BOOKS

"Great Battles" series, especially in the appendices on tactics, drill and artillery.

Almark Publishing Co Ltd, 49 Malden Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 6EA, £1.50 AWH

## SENSITIVE

"Marlborough the Man" (Bryan Bevan)

It is the fate of great men that lesser mortals see only their greatness and forget or are blinded to their more cosy human failings and attributes. The great Duke of Marlborough, about whom so much has been written, most in adulation, was but a man... and as Bryan Bevan shows us in this fascinating and important book, he was at times ordinary and totally comprehensible.

Far from the popular picture of the imperturbable soldier, Marlborough was a highly sensitive man with a meteoric temperament, riding the crest of a wave of success one minute, plunged into the slough of despair the next. Like most men he had a Jekyll and Hyde character, his urbane reserve hiding a love of money — a love satisfied by his wife Sarah whose astuteness in this aspect of life made up for her occasionally quarrelsome nature.

Marlborough was an artist by nature, liking to be liked and feeling personal slight more deeply than most. He had a genuine fondness for the ordinary man.

Mr Bevan has given us a succinct portrait to aid further reading.

Robert Hale & Co, Clerkenwell House, Clerkenwell Green, London, EC1R 0HT, £5.50 PC

## UBIQUE

"The Royal Engineers" (Derek Boyd)

The sappers have been everywhere. They were at Hastings in 1066, at Crécy in 1346 and they built scores

of fortifications to discourage French and Spanish invaders. They made their reputation at Gibraltar where they withstood a three-year siege. On the retreat to Corunna they stayed behind to blow bridges and later made the lines of the Torres Vedras impregnable. They stormed the walls of Badajoz, fired the White House in Washington, blew the Kashmir Gate at Delhi in the Mutiny and played a vital part in the defence of Rorke's Drift.

Their talents were just as valuable in days of peace — preparing Ordnance Survey maps, building the Rideau Canal in Canada, using the first field telegraph in the Crimea, constructing a road from



Calcutta to Peshawar and giving Abyssinia its first railway.

Modern warfare gave the sappers an opportunity to experiment with searchlights, balloons, camouflage, flamethrowers, tanks and poison

gas. Their work was always essential and rarely spectacular — maintaining military railways, carrying out demolitions, clearing minefields, laying booby traps and levelling airfields. Perhaps their greatest achievement in World War Two was the massive Mulberry harbour.

It must have been very difficult to write this history as there is so much material from which to select. The author deserves credit for a well-written and fascinating addition to the "Famous Regiments" series.

Leo Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £4.95 AWH

## IN BRIEF

"The Ordeal of Alfred M Hale" (Paul Fussell)

Alfred Hale was 40 when he was called up for service in World War Two. A modest amateur musician and composer, he was what would now be described as "a sensitive man." During those, for him, miserable years of service as a batman in the Royal Flying Corps, he wrote down all that happened to him and all his innermost thoughts. His biographer is an American.

Alfred Hale survived his ordeal, in my opinion the better for it. But judge for yourself — it is certainly a worthwhile task.

Leo Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £4.95

"Swords and Daggers" (Eduard Wagner)

Mr Wagner has hit the target with a comprehensive book on "cold steel" which not only gives a good deal more solid information than glossier and more expensive tomes but is also modestly priced for a hard-backed book. This alone must make it attractive to younger enthusiasts who are some of the most devoted followers of this subject.

The author devotes 45 pages to

an excellent guide to the parts and types of bladed weapons and describes some 250 examples ranging from the Bronze Age to the present day. This book is good value. Hamlyn Group, Astronaut House, Hounslow Road, Feltham, Middlesex, TW14 9AR, £1.50

"Alex: The Life of Field-Marshal Earl Alexander of Tunis" (Nigel Nicholson)

First published in 1973, reviewed in SOLDIER, August 1973, and now in paperback form. The author suggests that at Alamein ("as untidy and costly a battle as any previously fought in the desert") Alex might have intervened twice but placed complete trust in Montgomery, and similarly allowed Montgomery to endanger Anglo-American relations in Sicily.

Pan Books Ltd, Cavaye Place, London, SW10 9PG, £1.50

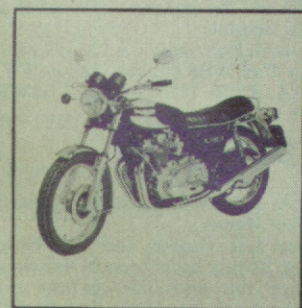
"The Observer's Book of Motorcycles" (Robert M Croucher)

The motorcycles of more than 50 manufacturers in 15 different countries are described in this pocket-sized book. Machines of every type,

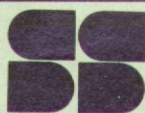
size and age are noted, illustrated and briefly summarised. There is a key to technical specifications and a short chapter on the motorcycle then and now. Remarkable value at under a pound.

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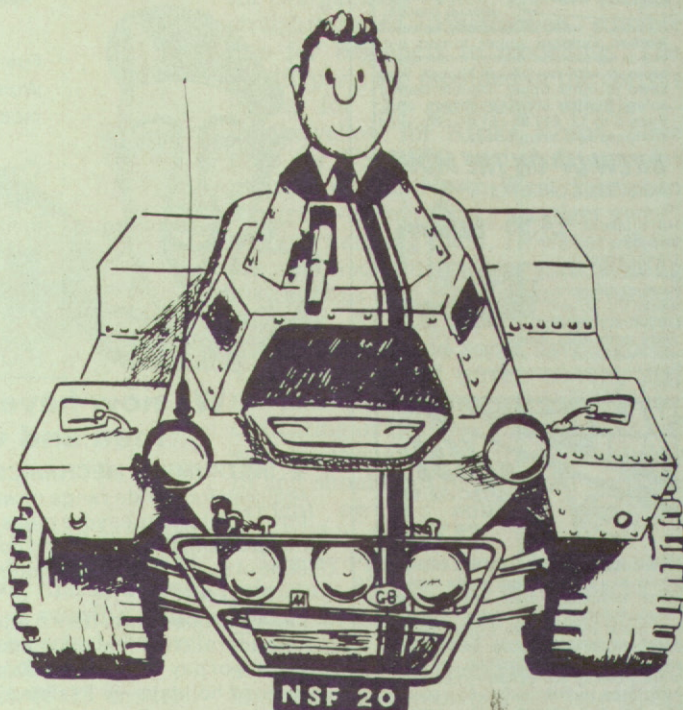
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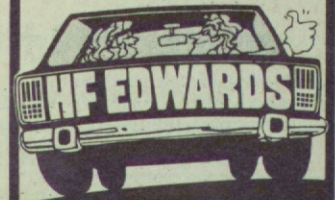
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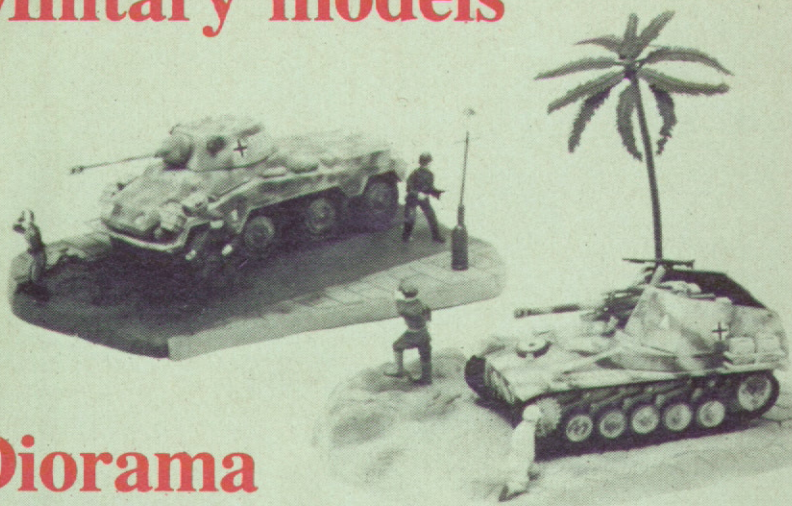
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# Military models



## Diorama Drama

**C**ARDBOARD which cracks, Plasticine that squelches underfoot, sand that treads into the carpet and plaster of paris which puffs up into white dust clouds — all these are materials used to make diorama displays for military models.

Now the London firm of Lesney has come up with some kits that replace frustration with fascination. Its new 1:76th scale armoured fighting vehicles all have scenic accessories for making battle-scarred backgrounds. These include a diorama base representing

caterpillar track marks in mud and shell holes in the roadway, a damaged brick wall and broken railway track, a road sign and street lamp, a swaying palm tree and even the sun-bleached skull of an ox on the desert sand.

The range so far is of 13 models: German Panther Ausführung G, Panzer II, Panzer III Ausführung L tank, Jagdpanther tank destroyer, Wespe self-propelled gun, Puma armoured car and Hanomag half-track; Russian T 34 tank; American Chaffee tank and M16 half-track; British Humber armoured

car, Comet tank and British version of the Sherman Firefly. Each kit costs 35p.

The models, which are each about three inches long, are in an ideal scale for wargaming. They are of simple, straightforward construction suitable also for beginners to modelling. The plastic parts are moulded in the correct colour for the particular vehicle — orange/yellow for Afrika Korps, olive drab for US AFVs and dark grey for panzers of the North-West European theatre — so modellers can "get away" without painting them. However, there are coloured illustrations and painting instructions for the more advanced modeller. All kits come complete with transfer decals and some have figures. The wheels rotate, turrets traverse and the tank tracks clip together without cementing or heat sealing. One word of warning though — the tracks are a tight fit and should not be mounted until the cement on the running gear has thoroughly dried.

Lesney Products began business with miniature die-cast cars in tiny packs — hence their trade name "Matchbox." Their range of racing and vintage cars and dragsters has been greatly extended and they have branched out into dolls, games and souvenirs as well as fighters, bombers and warships. For a catalogue send a 6p stamp, with your name and address and quoting SOLDIER magazine, to Lesney Products & Co Ltd, Lee Conservancy Road, Hackney, London, E9 5PA.

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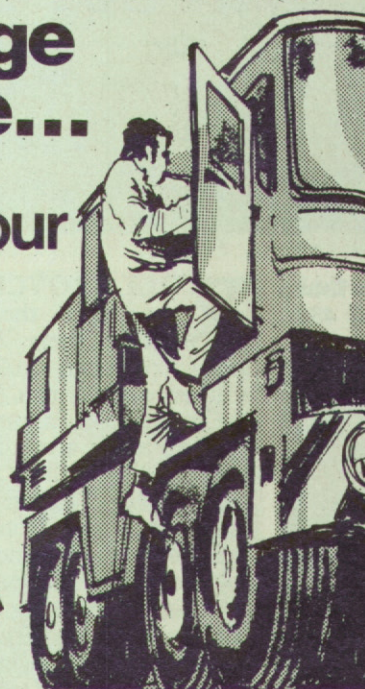


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# Rolls-Royce Riflemen

Below: The Irish Guards workshop deals with repairs to the FV 432s.

**R**OLLS-ROYCE staff cars once sped the very top brass about their business. Nowadays, powerful Rolls-Royce engines still serve the British Army by whisking the mechanised infantry into battle.

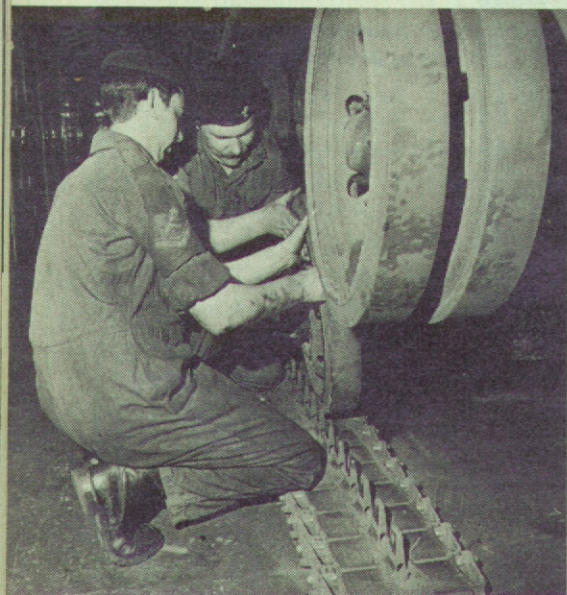
The FV 432 armoured personnel carriers used by today's infantry are powered by diesel engines from the legendary motor manufacturers and provide the protection and mobility required in the defence of Europe's Nato nations.

Military thinking today envisages conflict involving armour and infantry working closely together with a flexibility that only mobility can give. Lieutenant-Colonel R T P Hume, commanding 1st Battalion, Irish Guards, explained: "The infantryman is the key man in battle and to enable us to take part in our Nato role in defence of Europe we have got to have mechanised infantry. Any conflict will be largely an armoured conflict, getting to objectives. So the infantry has got to

be able to move across country at the same speed as the tanks. There's no difference in the way we fight — just the method of getting there to fight."

To this end a mechanised battalion like the Irish Guards finds itself committed to two battle groups which also contain tanks from another regiment, in this case 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, co-located with the battalion in Germany. These mechanised battle groups are sub-divided into combat teams, some with more infantry than tanks, others weighted to favour armour. Colonel Hume added: "We never would fight now as before — simply as 1st Battalion, Irish Guards. I would command one of the battle groups with tanks in it." And, naturally, the two units do a lot of training together.

The Irish Guards took on their mechanised role in December 1974 at the start of their current three-year tour in Germany. With a ten-year gap since their last mechanised involvement, the





new skills had to be learned from scratch. The infantrymen concentrated particularly on driver and radio training to fit them for their new role. The Army School of Transport at Bordon, Hampshire, echoed to the roar of those Rolls-Royce engines as the handling of the tracked personnel carriers was mastered. Training with the battalion's wheeled Stalwart and Ferret vehicles had to be done too.

The requirement for three times as much radio work in the mechanised role meant that guardsmen were learning many semi-technical skills as well as their basic infantry work. The impact of this re-training on the soldiers' life was explained thus: "Instead of carrying everything on his back, he had a vehicle to do it for him. But this did not just make for an easier life for him. For he was expected to do more and do it more quickly."

As far as Colonel Hume was concerned the long and meticulous training to reach the high level required made for a "tremendous spirit" being forged in the battalion as it was welded into a new fighting force. He believes this stems from the need for interdependence rather than the previous independence bred into the infantryman.

The battalion's weapons are unchanged. The rifle companies carry their guns with them in their FV 432s and support weapons can be mounted on the APCs. The anti-tank platoon operates Swingfire wire-guarded missiles from the FV 438 — derived from the 432 — and can mount Wombat anti-tank guns, complete with wheels, in seconds inside a 432.

The Irish Guards will return to the pomp and ceremony of royal duties in London at the end of their present tour. Once again they will see sleek Rolls-Royce limousines — but they will not forget the Rolls-Royce diesels that will power them to battle should the call ever come.

**Right: A class learning all about mortar handling at the battalion base.**



**Left: The Wombat anti-tank gun can be quickly mounted inside the 432.**

**Below: "Ballina" breasts the waves of the bumpy exercise area terrain.**





**SOLDIER**

