

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 25 PENCE • 10 SEPTEMBER 1984

# SOLDIER





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**BARCLAYS**



## CONTENTS

- 6 News
- 8 People
- 10 TA Topics
- 13 SOLDIER to Soldier
- 14 Cambridge Hospital
- 16 Army Conservation
- 17 Farnborough Air Show
- 20 Profile: Jim Davidson
- 21 Man Who Picks the Pin-ups
- 22 All in the Family
- 25 Rangers in Montego Bay
- 26 Saxon on Exercise
- 28 Bovington Museum
- 30 A Dog's Life
- 34 Union Jack Club
- 36 Lest We Forget — to music
- 37 NAM Collection
- 38 Mail Drop
- 39 Competition
- 40 The Dyeing Trade
- 41 Sappers in Norway
- 49 Sport

FRONT COVER: GPMG mounted on Saxon, the Army's latest APC, photographed during Exercise Gryphons Gold, a warm-up for Lionheart.

BACK COVER: Army dog Monty with handler Lance Corporal Sid Gillam, searches for mines at the RAVC Training School, Melton Mowbray.  
Both pictures: Doug Pratt

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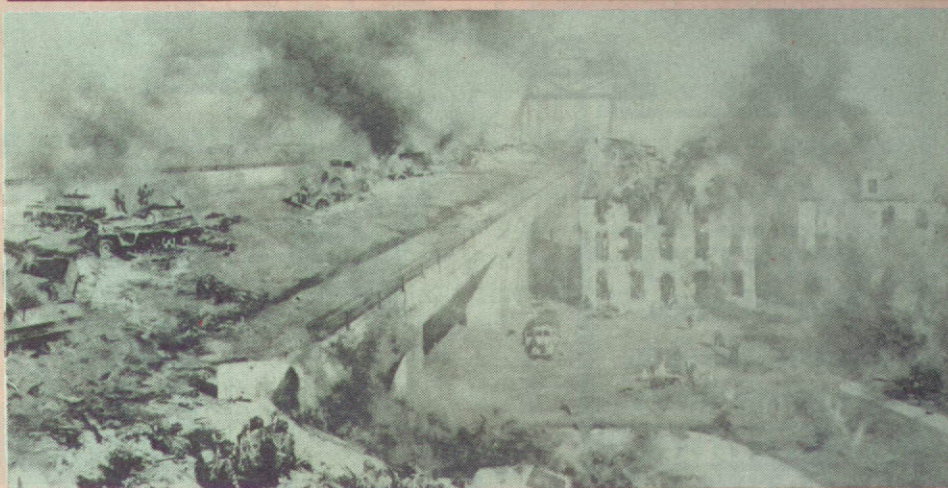
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# SOLDIER

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Artist David Shepherd's painting of Arnhem Bridge.

## SOLDIER Salutes the Heroes of Arnhem

**T**HIS YEAR has seen the commemoration of several major wartime operations from 40 years ago; soon it will be four decades since the events of Arnhem of September 1944 and Operation Market Garden.

On Saturday the 22nd — two Royal Air Force Hercules will fly in 120 paratroopers at mid-day for an airborne drop over the historic Dutch city as their mark of commemoration to their sister unit colleagues of the time.

Most of the jumpers will be coming from the 10th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment with 30 parachutists coming from the Regular 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment who jumped at Arnhem, a couple of men from 9 Engineer Squadron, RE and other units.

One of the jumpers will be Captain James Redman, the Regimental Medical Officer at The Depot, Parachute Regiment, Aldershot who will be meeting his father in a unique way; dad jumped with the PARAS at Arnhem. But this time, his father will be on the ground scanning the sky for the incoming Hercules at 800 feet at the stroke of noon.

Other events planned to commemorate the epic and endurance of Arnhem in the face of tremendous odds include the unveiling of a monument at the King Willem III Barracks at Apeldoorn in honour of the Airborne Military Hospital which was temporarily organised there after the battle.

Arnhem was the epitome of perseverance and determination when the lightly equipped 1st Airborne Division, expecting little resistance, was dropped during Operation Market Garden. It found itself

fighting two German panzer divisions of tanks, self-propelled guns, armoured troop carriers and flame-throwers.

The 2nd Battalion, 1st Parachute Brigade reached its objective, the main road bridge over the River Rhine in the centre of the town, but could not cross it.

They fought tenaciously for four days and nights, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy while awaiting the advance of the Second Army which had been expected in 48 hours.

The attempt to capture the railway bridge caused the enemy to destroy it when the first British troops were on it and the pontoon bridge had been burned.

Efforts by four battalions to relieve the 2nd were unsuccessful and the remainder of the airborne division formed a perimeter to the west of Arnhem where they, too, were encircled.

After eight days with few supplies about 2,000 of the original 10,000 men made their way south across the Rhine to join up with Second Army, but only after suffering considerable privations and bombardment.

They had lost 1,200 killed and 6,500 captured but had killed or wounded 3,300 Germans. It took the Allies seven more months to capture Arnhem.

German observers wrote of Arnhem: "The British paratroopers fought like lions. They made themselves strong in houses and gardens. Every window became a fire-spitting fortress, every basement a machine-gun nest. Only when the roof crashed in, the walls crumbled and the whole house was about to be devoured by a sheet of flame did they leave these strongpoints."



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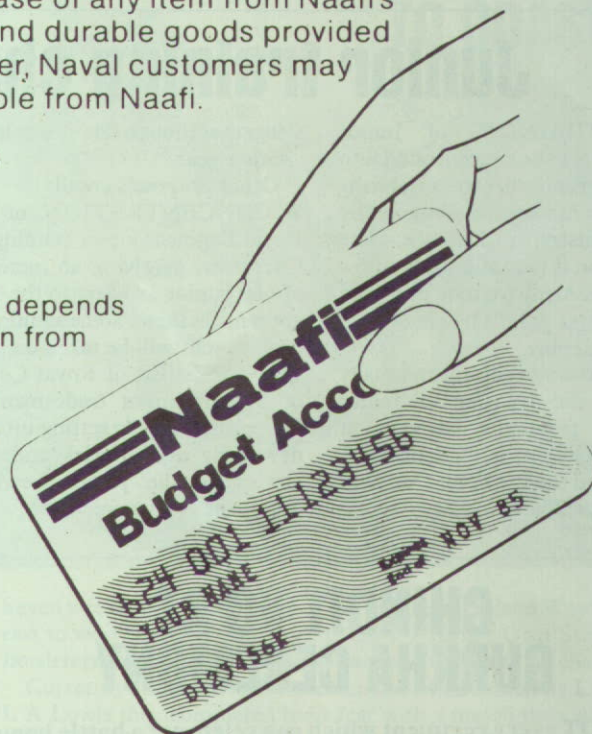
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L CPL Dave Arnott, of the RAOC Stores Section, 39 Heavy Regiment Workshop in BAOR, is lucky to be alive.

Dave was on exercise recently in the Wewelsburg area of Germany when he was struck by lightning.

"It was a terrible night," he said. "We were in a hide in a forest and suffering the effects of a heavy thunderstorm. It was my turn for a two hour stag as sentry and I wasn't really looking forward to spending it in the downpour."

"I left my warm, dry truck and set off through the trees heading

for my trench. What seemed like the next instant, but was in fact 10 minutes later, I woke up in the back of a Land Rover en route to a civilian hospital."

Lightning has struck his left foot and torn his boot apart. He suffered burns to his left leg, and an impression of his combat jacket zip was burned on his chest. His eyesight and hearing were also affected.

## LUCKY ESCAPE FOR DAVE

None of his injuries were serious and he is now fully recovered.

The left boot that he was wearing when he was struck has been polished and mounted on a wooden plinth next to a lightning bolt, with a plaque bearing the inscription: TO COMMEMORATE YOUR LIGHTNING PROMOTION TO ACTING CONDUCTOR.

Story and Pictures: Sgt Bill Ashton.



Lucky Dave.

## Junior training changes save £ millions

THE TRAINING of Junior Soldiers is to be concentrated into a smaller number of establishments, it has been announced by the Ministry of Defence. The revelation is part of a study into a report on Army training prepared by General John Groom — the Groom Report.

The development will eventually involve the transfer of junior training from the barracks at Cwrt-y-Gollen at Crickhowell, Wales and the Bridge of Don near Aberdeen. These will be given up

altogether though not "for at least another year."

Other proposals entail:

- CONCENTRATION of all Royal Engineer junior training at Chepstow, involving an increase of 660 Junior Leaders to the 740 apprentices there. Some additional civilian staff will be taken on.

- TRANSFER of Royal Corps of Signals junior tradesmen to Harrogate with the setting up of a new wing at Catterick and the closing of the Junior Leaders Regiment at Ouston.

- FORMING a secondary Infantry Junior Battalion at Ouston.

- ESTABLISHING Infantry Junior Wings at the Guards Depot, Pirbright and the Light Division, Flowerdown, near Winchester.

- AMALGAMATING Royal Corps of Transport and Royal Army Ordnance Corps Junior Leaders' training at Colerne.

Resulting from these changes alternative uses for the Old Park Barracks at Dover and the Alma/Dettingen Barracks at Blackdown

are being considered.

The Ministry of Defence says that this concentration of training will in no way detract from the current high standards and it will achieve significant savings of finance and manpower.

As well as reductions in running costs there will be a capital saving of over £8 million and more than 100 civilian jobs.

There will also be considerable scope for redeployment of military manpower from training to more operational duties.

## CHINDIT VC AT GURKHA CEREMONY

IT'S NOT every regiment which can celebrate a battle honour by having a VC holder from the battle attend and take part in the celebrations. But the 1st Battalion, 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles did, celebrating the Battle of Maongung (Burma).

The celebrations were in Brunei and Honorary Lieutenant Tulbahadur Pun, VC, travelled from his mountain-kingdom country of Nepal to take part.

At the time of the Maongung action in 1943, the 3rd Battalion, 6th Gurkha Rifles formed part of the famous Chindits together with the South Staffordshire Regiment, Lancashire Fusiliers and the King's Regiment. They were flown to Burma in a deep penetration operation designed to harass the Japanese forces.

In a series of bloody battles the objectives were taken at great loss to the Chindits and three VCs were awarded. In taking the all-important town of Maongung the Gurkhas fought their way across difficult swampy terrain to take the town. At one point they were held up by well-placed machine gun bunkers.

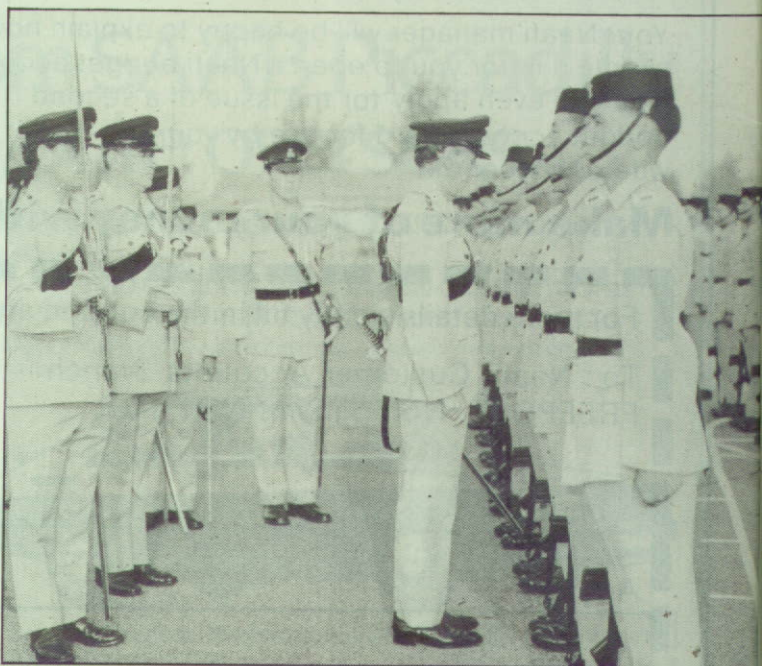
It was at this point that Rifleman Pun won his VC. Single-handed

he tackled one of the main bunkers with hand grenades and his kukri, killed all the occupants and allowed the advance to proceed.

During their celebrations, four decades later, the battalion had a second historical link when their parade was inspected by Commander British Forces Hong Kong, Major-General Derek Boorman, a Staffordshire Regiment soldier.

During the regimental weekend there was a full-scale parade, Nepalese dances and a sports day. Added to this were curried lunches, cocktail parties, an officers' mess ball, and Beating the Retreat.

The 6th Gurkha Rifles return to Hong Kong from Brunei later this year after a two-year stint of duty which saw Brunei's full transition to independence and a visit from the regiment's colonel-in-chief, The Prince of Wales. The Nepalese Royal Family also visited the area.



Major-General Derek Boorman inspects the parade.

## Ypres Salient Re-visited

A PARTY of ten Old Contemptibles from the Folkestone branch has made a pilgrimage by ferry and coach to Mons, Le Cateau and the Ypres Salient to commemorate the outbreak of the First World War.

The party laid a wreath at a civic reception in tribute to the Belgian Army led by the late King Albert of the Belgians. The graves of the first British dead were on the itinerary as well as the scene of the first encounters along the line of the Mons Canal.



# AND NOW — THE OMANI PIPERS!

THE SULTAN of Oman's Band of the Royal Guards (South) — all 187 of them, including bandmen, dancers and support staff — were appearing in this year's Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

The Band comprises more than 150 musicians forming a military and pipe band trained by their Director of Music Lieutenant-

Colonel Tom Crichton, formerly of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. He is assisted by Pipe Major George Johnston, ex-Scots Guards and Drum major Mike Monaghan, lately Drum Major of the Queen's Own Highlanders.

Adding colour to the Edinburgh events, the royal band was appearing in Omani costume. The

headcloth worn was a turban, the long green coat and maroon trousers with each man wearing at his waist the khanjah, a curved knife which is the equivalent of the Highland dirk.

The pipers wear a plaid of the Douglas Tartan of The Cameronians. The musicians themselves are descended from the African

bodyguard once maintained by the Sultans of Oman, recruited from their former possessions in East Africa.

The royal band's programme consists of Omani and traditional pipe and military music, incorporating a marching display.

A very special feature is the performance of a traditional Arab dance by a troupe of boy and girl dancers. Normally, this is only seen by invited guests at Arab festivities.

## 3,000 FT — ON TO A BEER MAT

TEAMS FROM every unit in the British Army, including those from BAOR, Cyprus and Hong Kong, were taking part in the this year's Army Parachuting Championships at Netheravon as SOLDIER went to press.

The main individual events included precision landing from a height of 3,000 feet on to a target less than the size of a beer mat and

a style event from 6,600 feet followed by a series of six manoeuvres, including turns and somersaults.

Groups of four took part in CRW or Canopy Relative Work, leaving the aircraft at 9,000 feet and free-falling until 2,200 feet. During the 35 seconds of free-fall contestants had to carry out five pre-set aerial formations.

Teams from the armies of Spain, Germany and Oman were taking part in the events which used three aircraft, a Cessna, Pilatus Porter and a Britten Norman Islander.

Netheravon is the home of Joint Service Parachuting and, during the year, three 9-week courses are held to train novices and polish the techniques of those with many years' experience.

## THEY LOAD 20 TONS

THE RAO and RCT drivers worked hard behind the scenes in supplying victuals for the four Royal Navy minehunters anchored off RAF Akrotiri, Cyprus, for a couple of hours en route for mine clearance duties in the Red Sea.

They transported and loaded some 20 tons of supplies ranging from strawberries to acetylene gas, from Instant Whip to lubricating oil.

In addition, more than 5,000 lbs of fruit and vegetables were provided by one Limassol grocer, 600 litres of milk from a Nicosia dairy and 240 lbs of turkey breast from a local farmer.

The Army also helped see on its

way eight different frozen meat commodities totalling 3,000 lbs from various Cypriot suppliers. Some 50 different items of dry provisions ordered by the Royal Navy were also taken aboard.

Throughout the weekend RAO suppliers and RCT drivers moved the goods to the small harbour of RAF Akrotiri, where ratings from the ships and a platoon of Scots Guards, the resident Sovereign Base battalion, loaded stores into the waiting RCLs.

In the joint spirit of Service co-operation, two RAF Hercules landed at Akrotiri with heavy spares for ships lying half-a-mile offshore.

## VERBOTEN!

If you were thinking of returning home from BAOR with some German sausage in your suitcase, forget it! The import of dry sausage, boneless pig meat, or even fully cured pig meat is verboten from Germany.

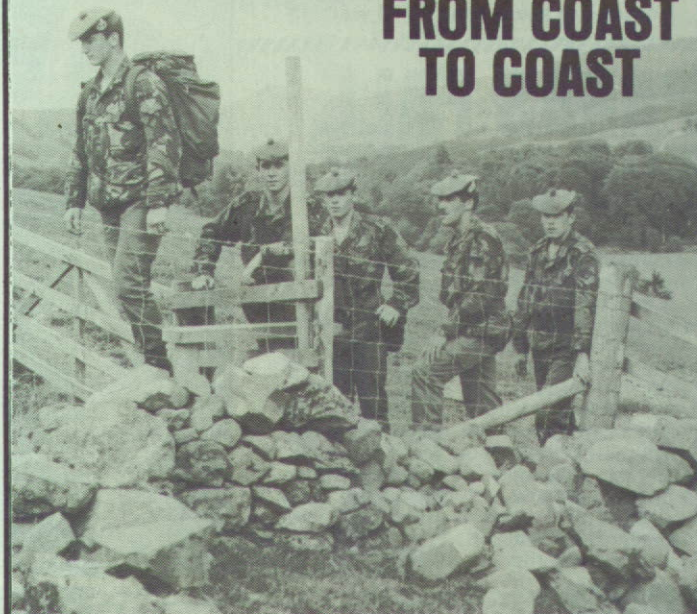
The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has just revised its meat import regulations, and pig meat and pork products are foods which are not to be imported from most places.

The list of countries from which

travellers may return with meat and meat products now totals 33. But no meat or meat products can be brought back from Spain, Portugal, and some African countries, and no uncooked fresh meat from Greece. China and Singapore are almost completely on the excluded list too.

The list is long and detailed. If in doubt, the best thing is to ask, The Import/Export Section of MAFF is in Tolworth, Surrey, tel 01-337 6611.

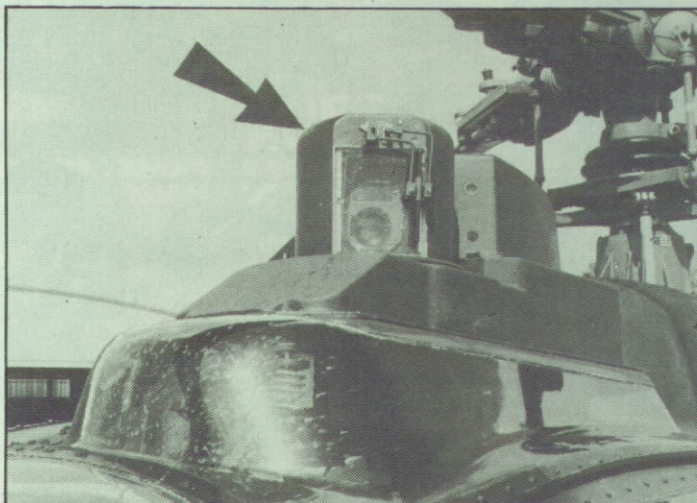
## BORDERERS MARCH FROM COAST TO COAST



Seven weeks after the opening of the Southern Upland Way from east to west coasts of Scotland, C COY 1 King's Own Scottish Borderers marched the 208 miles raising over £300 for charity.

Currently stationed in Colchester and commanded by Lt Col L A Lewis they completed their feat with a march through the town of Moffat where a salute was taken by the Lady Mayor.

## ROOF WITH A VIEW



You've seen it in the futuristic Blue Thunder TV series; now 4 Regiment Army Air Corps has the first of four roof-mounted observation aids for its Gazelle helicopters.

The equipment provides a magnified image of targets from

the air, so the 'enemy' can be identified from greater ranges and in more detail.

The four received by the AAC are original development models which will be used during Exercise Spearpoint; standard equipment will enter service in 1985.



## Sharp-eyed John cracks 'copter bugs!

The sharp eyes and skills of Corporal John Cole have earned him high praise and a commendation.

John collected his award from Brigadier P. R. Duchesne, Chief of Staff of the UN Force in Cyprus, for spotting cracks in helicopter parts.

If the components had been fitted they could have caused a flight safety hazard. But John's smart work prevented that.

Based at 70 Aircraft Workshop REME, Middle Wallop, he is on a six-months' tour with the UN Force in Cyprus which controls the buffer zone between the Turkish and Greek cease-fire lines of the 1974 war.



CORPORAL JOHN COLE, BRIGADIER DUCHESNE: sharp eyes rewarded.

## PARAS FALL FOR BRIDES

**Latest Red Devil to get married is Lance Corporal Terry Guildford, but he won't be the last.**

When Terry, 23, married his bride, Carol, at Broadstairs last month, six of his pals from the Army's crack free-fall parachute team "dropped" into the reception.

The stunt was their way of wishing the

couple all the best. But now it looks as though the paras will be "falling" for more brides as three more Red Devils are about to tie the matrimonial knot.

Private Mark Forbes is about to marry in Aldershot, as is Sergeant Keith Hopper, while Private Davy Trick is away in the US of A to take his vows.

### QUICK

Nice surprise for Mrs Yvonne King when colleagues gathered in her office in the Legal Branch at HQ 1st Armoured Division, Verden, to present her with a BAOR Certificate for 12 years meritorious and loyal service to the Army. The presentation was by Lieutenant Colonel John Murray, Head of 1 Arm Div legal section.

### SPOT

### QUICK

After weeks without news of the Joint Services Brabant Island team wintering in the Antarctic, the latest message tells that all is well except for tent problems. With winds up to 90 knots, they live in their tiny tents or snowholes making them the first Antarctic expedition to winter there without huts.

### SPOT



It was flowers for a lady when the 1st Battalion The Royal Hampshire Regiment celebrated the 225th anniversary of the Battle of Minden, the main regimental day of the year, with Mrs Gordon Lennox, wife of Major General

Bernard Gordon Lennox, GOC Berlin, on the receiving end of a bouquet from Private Gary Donald. The GOC took the salute which was followed by a service of remembrance conducted by the Rev Paul Abram and Fr Peter Phillips.

## Sandhurst gets listed

Six Victorian lamp-posts in the grounds of the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, Camberley, are among protected buildings and items in a new list issued by the Department of the Environment.

Cataloguing buildings of special architectural and historic interest for Surrey Health District, the list includes the Staff College gates and entrance lodges in London Road, Camberley.

## Border chief retires

Berlin's chief border watcher Jack Bell has retired after 23 years. He joined the British Frontier Service in 1961 — the year of the Wall — to head eventually the BFS team whose job it is to patrol the 410 miles of East/West German border.

Jack has seen some big changes along the Wall and the border and the gradual closing of escape routes to the West.

Successful East/West crossings average out at about 24 over the past ten years, but few make it today, says Jack.

## FLOWERS FOR A LADY ON R HAMPS' DAY

## PEOPLE EXTRA

Hopeful candidate for the title of TV's Mastermind is 30-year-old Corporal Ian Mackillop. A pharmacy technician at Aldershot's Cambridge Military Hospital, Ian takes up position in the famous black leather chair, ready for a grilling by quiz-master Magnus Magnusson in November. "He's well-read and has an excellent general knowledge," said the hospital's chief pharmacist Captain Jane Yates. Unavailable for comment, Ian is no stranger to the terrors of the TV camera. A year ago he took part in ITV's *The Krypton Factor* reaching the quarter finals. This time he's hoping to collect the magnificent glass vase presented by the BBC and the top title that goes with it.

**Aims of 26 Engineer Regiment's Open Day were simple: complete the annual six-a-side football competition, give the families an enjoyable day out and raise cash for handicapped children.** Nineteen teams from subunits, squadrons and messes entered the football contest, Page 3 girl Sue Simmonds, *Miss 26 Engineer Regiment*, was about, and the weather stayed sunny. Stalls competed with Smurf rides for the children and a sponsored egg-eat and a Lynx from 3 Regt AAC drew big crowds who generously raised more than DM 5,000 for charity. Winners of the football KO were Lance Corporal Kev Dailey's Workshop team who beat the Corporals' Club, to be presented with their prizes by *Miss 26*.



## 'Tankies' tame road run for kids

**Eighteen pairs of 1 Royal Tank Regiment runners have galloped over 200 miles of Cyprus roads and terrain to raise cash for crippled children.**

Each year 34 Squadron of the Royal Air Force sponsor the charity run and challenge all units on the island to produce 36 runners to complete the course.

Never backward in coming forward when the gloves are off, the 'Tankies' teams from 'C' Squadron whizzed over the tracks and roads in 31 hours 47 minutes — faster than any previous attempt.

To cap a fine effort for a worthy cause, the lads met up with Lady Langley, wife of Major General Sir Desmond Langley, Sovereign Base administrator on the island, to present her with the cheque.

Man selected to do the honours on behalf of the squadron was Trooper Michael Cowes, who handed the 'lolly' to a smiling Lady L.

### QUICK

Winner of 1 RHA's Best Gun Trophy was E Battery, headed by Sergeant Nick Hamson. He received the trophy from Lieutenant Colonel Mike Willcocks.

### SPOT

# HOOP STUNT PUTS JANET IN HOT SEAT

**Army Social worker Janet Stevens' burning ambition to raise money for SSAFA, the Services charity, has had her truly put through the hoop by one unit.**

Janet, 38, has challenged 12 major Army

units around Bulford and Tidworth to come up with daring tasks for her to tackle in aid of the

Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families' Association. She has dubbed the efforts the 12

Labours of Hercules.

Bulford's Logistic Support Battalion took Janet at her word by ordering her to ride a motorbike over a ramp and through a hoop of fire — even though she has never ridden a bike before.

To make it even tougher they made Janet's death-defying leap the highlight of their Families' Day which meant doing the stunt in front of hundreds of soldiers and their families.

But the unit didn't send her in 'cold'. They provided training for the ordeal which included learning how to 'jump' a bike off a ramp.

Janet now has four of her '12 Labours' under her belt with eight to go.

Those completed included this latest hoop of fire test, firing a 105mm light gun, driving a 16-ton truck and eating and drinking while wearing an NBC suit.

Those to come include parachuting into the sea, looping the loop in a glider and riding a powered hang glider.

There are more tests to come if Janet is to complete her self-imposed mission. It's not yet known what they are.



**TROOPER MICHAEL COWES, LADY LANGLEY:** smiling in a good cause.

## R Scots take on a Kadett

**Young soldiers and their wives of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards are to get cheap driving lessons.**

The battalion has been loaned a car by a garage in Paderborn — the unit is based at Sennelager — which will make a nice change from their Chieftan tanks.

**A brand-new Opel Kadett, it has been lent to them free and lessons will be given at a much reduced cost by regimental driving instructor, Corporal Edward Taylor.**

First in the driving seat was Major Melville Jameson who accepted the car on behalf of the unit.

# PEOPLE

## FACES and PLACES

### QUICK

Bomb disposal hero Major Stephen Hambrook, RE, who lost a foot clearing minefields in the Falklands, has completed a 40 km march over the South Downs in aid of charity.

### SPOT

## Pedal-power helps wheel in the £5

**On the day cancer victim Sergeant Jimmy Hagan of the Irish Guards died, two significant events took place.**

The first was he was awarded the British Empire Medal for his courage in battling with the disease and for his inspiration to fellow sufferers; the second was the arrival of his tandem bike from BAOR. Jimmy died in May.

Now a team of four

clerks from Regimental HQ at Woolwich have ridden 320 miles on Jimmy's bike to raise £2,667 for Service cancer sufferers being treated at Woolwich.

The money will go towards buying new medical equipment.



**HAGAN'S BIKE AND CREW:** money for fellow service sufferers at Woolwich.





## TOPICS

### Volunteer Police Cycle Train with Success

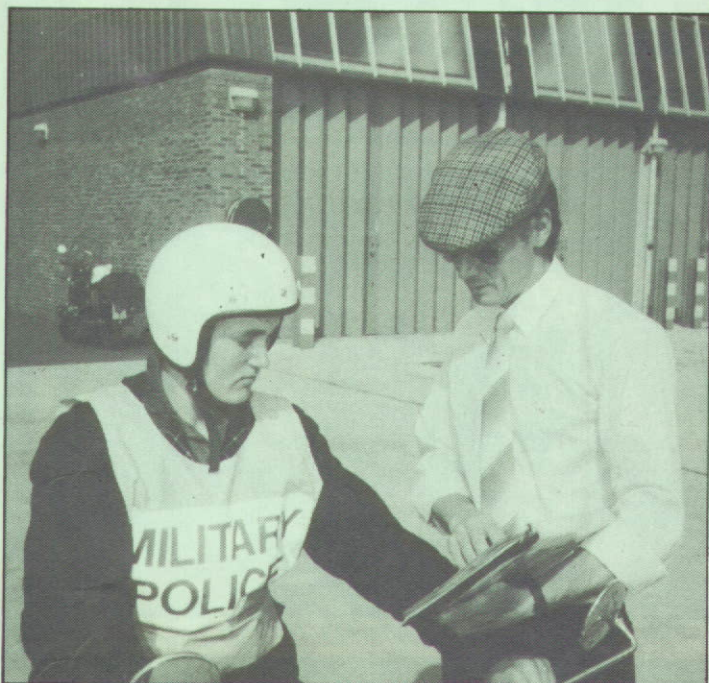
MEMBERS of 252 Provost Company, Royal Military Police (Volunteers) have been getting their motor cycle training specially imported to their base at Stockton-on-Tees from Hull.

It all came about when Les Stanley, a former Warrant Officer, was given a contract to teach motor cycling skills to the volunteer RMPs.

Les runs the Bikeland training park at Cottingham near Hull on North Humberside. From his own Army experience he knew the difficulties of getting maximum training time into a weekend, so he thought the best solution was to take his facilities up to Stockton and teach 252 Provost Company on their home patch.

The work rate by both instruc-

Les Stanley tests the knowledge of Lance Corporal Nigel Ashworth.



# MANCHESTER 'MASH' ARE WINNERS

THE NORTH West Territorial Army Association and the North West Region of the Trustees Savings Bank joined forces for a special commemoration of the TA's 75th birthday.

Together they organised a Community Awards Scheme to cover the five counties of the North West. Judging the winner was a tough job for the panel of judges but eventually the award went to 207 General Hospital from Manchester, Lancaster, Blackburn and Macclesfield.

207 raised almost £3,000 for Rochdale's Hospice appeal through such diverse activities as two first time sponsored parachute jumps by medics and nurses, a sponsored 'Go North on a Fiver' trail (which took two members of the hospital almost to the Arctic Circle — courtesy of the RAF) and through participation at displays in Rochdale.

As a result of their award they can now add another £500 to the fund. Mr Joseph Turner, North West Regional Operations Manager of TSB, sporting a Border Regiment tie, was joined by GOC N W District, Major General Philip Davies, for the presentation of the winners cheque and framed certificate to a delighted Colonel

John Bowman, CO of 207. (See picture).

The Bootle and Southport based 238 (Sefton) Squadron, 156 Transport Regiment, RCT, and 213 Air Defence Battery, from St Helens and Widnes received Awards of Special Merit. Certificates of Merit went to C Company, 4th Battalion, the King's Own Royal Border Regiment, Barrow, 234 (Wirral) Transport Squadron, Birkenhead, 107 Field Squadron, St Helens,

Huyton and Birkenhead, and A Company, 5/8th Battalion, the King's Regiment, Liverpool.

Major Chris Vere, who helped organise the Award Scheme, said: "I'd like to think that we will find a way for the Volunteers to show how important a place they have in community life. It ought to be a national event — perhaps every other year — parallel to the Wilkinson Swords of Peace."

Col John Bowman (left) about to receive cheque.



## FAIL YE NOT...

SIGNALLERS from the 6th/7th (Volunteer) Battalion, the Queen's Regiment, have good reason to be on the ball for the Second Foster's Quadrathon.

Under the command of Regimental Signals Officer, Captain John Ross of Brighton, they have the job of providing signals support for this extraordinarily gruelling event which starts with a two mile swim from Brighton beach, continues with a 32 mile race walk to Tunbridge Wells and a 100 mile cycling race to Brands Hatch and around the grand prix circuit, and ends with a 26.2 mile marathon to Gravesend town centre.

It took last year's winner, Richard Crane of Britain, just under 16 and a half hours to complete the 158.2 miles.

Staff Sergeant Robin Thornton, who is in charge of maintaining the communications from Brighton to Gravesend, has issued his men an ominous promise: "This is going to exercise our new Clansman radios to the full and any signaller who fails to maintain communications will be entered for next year's Quadrathon!"

6/7 Queen's Second in Command, Major Roger Lowans, sees Exercise Quadrathon as excellent practice for the signal troop in support of the battalion's home defence role of guarding key points and protecting lines of communication.

"On this occasion we will be providing communication cover over a wide area and that is a great test for the signallers," he said.

## SHORT MOVE

BATH'S TA unit — the 6th Battalion, The Light Infantry, has officially moved into its brand new HQ — just 300 yards down the road from their former Upper Bristol Road premises.

Sharing the new buildings with the 200 TA personnel will be Bath's Army Cadet Force and Air Training Corps units.

New facilities at the HQ, which has about three times the space, includes lecture rooms, a .22 range,

a fitness training room, kitchen, messes and vastly improved accommodation.

As SOLDIER went to press, Field Marshal Lord Harding of Petherton, the Light Infantry's most celebrated soldier, was due to perform the opening ceremony. Later followed the Sounding of the Retreat by the band of the Lancashire-based 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry, in Victoria Park.



Smiles through the cam cream from Officer Cadet Simon Flett (left) and Second Lieutenant Ben Bathurst.



## Two centuries of volunteers

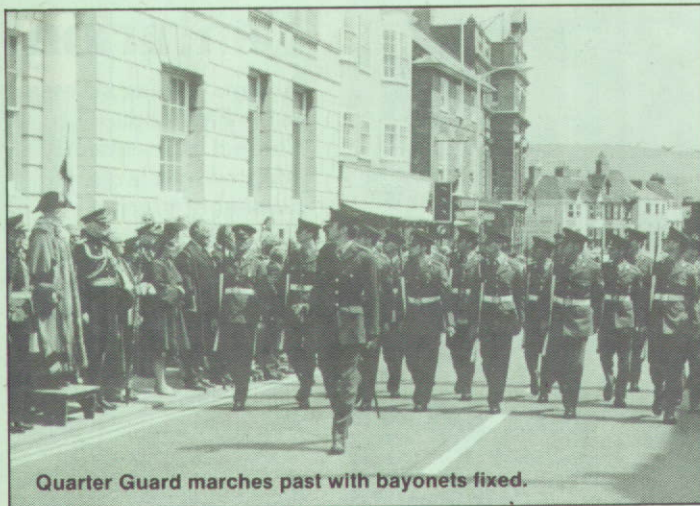
A LONG tradition of volunteer service has been recognised in East Sussex by the granting of the Freedom of Lewes to 200 Field Battery, Royal Artillery (V).

200 Field Battery from Brighton are part of 100 (Yeomanry) Field Regiment, RA (V) and the successor to the Sussex Yeomanry and the Sussex Artillery Volunteers.

The Yeomanry were first formed

in 1761 and officially recognised in 1797, while the Artillery Volunteers go back to the comparatively recent date of 1859.

So over two centuries of volunteering soldiering were being celebrated when 200 Field Battery marched through the streets of Lewes accompanied by the band of the Royal Regiment of Artillery and some of their own 105 mm light guns.



Quarter Guard marches past with bayonets fixed.

## BAKERY NOW TA'S PRIDE

A FORMER bakery — it once produced Mother's Pride bread — is the new home of Merseyside's Independent 55 Signal Squadron. Major General John Badcock, the Master of Signals, was there at its official opening to unveil a commemorative plaque and inform the assembled squadron that the Regular Army could not fight without the support of the TA.

Noting the 62 men and women on parade, the Master of Signals added: "This is an indication of your success in this area. It reflects great credit on you, the North West TAVRA, your employers and wives and families. To all of you, thanks from the Royal Corps of Signals."

Major General John Badcock unveils the plaque. ►

## 'SEAPORT' ON THE PLAIN

"NOT quite the curtain-call for Hamlet" said 20-year-old 2Lt Hugh Stables of the Light Infantry as he prepared to take part in Bristol University OTC's main four-day exercise (Exercise Seaport) held on Salisbury Plain recently as part of their Annual Camp training. The exercise involved all of Bristol's 200 strong OTC contingent of infantry, signallers, engineers and gunners. Hugh, reading History, is a Regular officer at University under the University Cadetship Scheme. At present he is serving with Bristol's own armoured troop and was a Ferret driver for the exercise.

"Beats walking I suppose," he quipped, "but in this heat, only just."

For a signaller's verdict on the exercise, O/Cdt Simon Flett, studying Law, commented "Its been tough, but very enjoyable." Needless to say the 'tough' bit was using the new voice procedure, as 2Lt Ben Bathurst, who hails from

the West Country and is reading Geography, confirmed.

Highlight of the exercise was a full scale infantry and armoured assault on Beaches Barn feature, watched by the commander of the newly resurrected 43 Wessex Bde, Brigadier Nigel Still CBE, and members of the University's Military Education Committee. The 'enemy' were provided by men from Seven Division RMR also based at Bristol.

Was the exercise a success? "Yes indeed" was the verdict of 21 year old Mechanical Engineering student Joanna Doran WRAC, who had a series of demanding but enjoyable command tasks at the OTC's main camp at Chickerell, near Weymouth.

"Seaport II was a demanding exercise from which we all learned a lot," said the Unit's CO, Lt Col Mike Kelsey REME(V). Next year the OTC hopes to train in an even more rugged environment — the mists of Warcop.

## ROYAL DENTIST

A UNIQUE honour has been conferred by the Queen on a Welsh dental surgeon and Territorial Army commander.

For the first, and perhaps only time, the appointment of Honorary Dental Surgeon to Her Majesty the Queen has been bestowed upon a Territorial Army Colonel as opposed to a Regular Army Officer.

Colonel Derek Stafford (53) whose appointment was announced in the London Gazette was until January this year the Commanding Officer of 203 (Welsh) General Hospital of the TA based in Cardiff. He is also well known in leading medical circles as Reader and Consultant

in Restorative Dentistry at the Welsh National School of Medicine and University of Wales College of Medicine.

Colonel Stafford was a veteran of National Service from 1955 to 1957 and joined the TA in 1964 in the Royal Army Dental Corps.

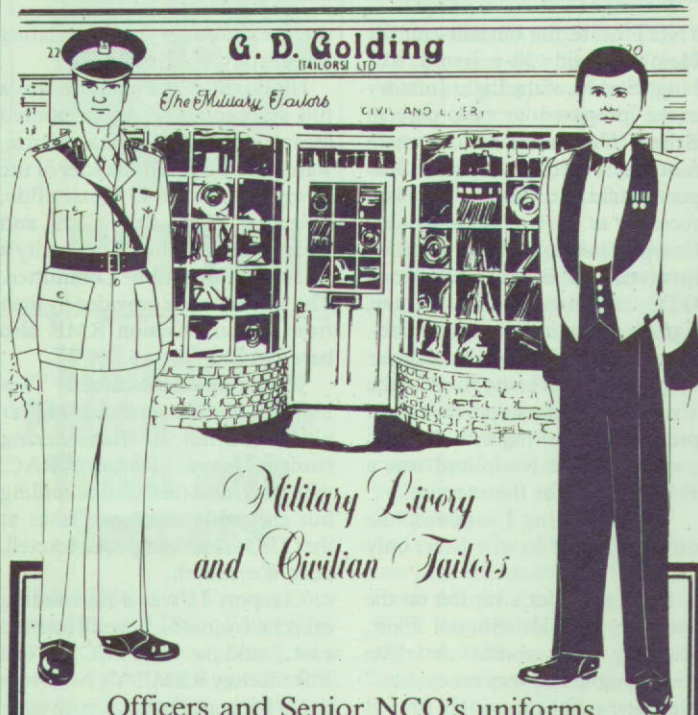
He transferred from 207 (Manchester) General Hospital to 203 (Welsh) General Hospital, Royal Army Medical Corps (Volunteers) in November 1969.

His sporting interests reveal him as a fine shot on the rifle and he has represented the Army, TA, Lancashire, England and Great Britain in numerous county and international matches.





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# SOLDIER to Soldier

**T**HAT tireless campaigner on behalf of wildlife, Lieutenant-Colonel Norman Clayden, has now turned his attention to the Falklands and with the aid of MOD Public Relations has produced a special wall poster for troops posted to the islands which identifies birds and animals found in the South Atlantic.

The idea is to help Servicemen to identify the indigenous wildlife and then to protect it under the slogan 'Look, Leave Alone and Let Live'. Colonel Clayden's only regret is that so far he has been unable to visit the islands to see the wildlife for himself.

The indefatigable colonel, now approaching his 12th year as the MOD conservation officer, reports a number of recent successes — most notably the discovery of the most complete palaeolithic axehead ever discovered in Britain.

The axehead was found on Salisbury Plain by one of his archaeological groups following some cable laying for a field exercise. It is now being examined by British Museum experts.

At the site of the new Flowerdown barracks near Winchester Colonel Clayden has managed to create two conservation areas which contain scarce butterflies and orchids and will not be disturbed by the contractors.

And now comes news (p16) that the Council of Europe is awarding Dorset County Council a diploma for its nature conservancy effort in the eastern area of the county — and that includes the Army's ranges at Lulworth.

★ ★ ★

**S**OLDIER readers may have been a bit confused to read in the Sunday Mirror (19 August) that SOLDIER has called a halt to pen-pal letters because there are 'not enough soldiers to go round'.

Especially as the previous issue of SOLDIER announced that there would have to be a temporary halt to pen-pal letters *because the magazine has so big a backlog that we can't keep pace with printing them.*

Former nurse Jennifer Armitage of Runcorn, Cheshire, was apparently unhappy with SOLDIER. The Sunday Mirror quoted her as saying: "It is nonsense for the Army to say they've got too many girls who want to be pen-pals. It is the exact opposite. There are not enough women to go round."

Editor Peter Howard would no doubt have

been puzzled if he had seen the Sunday Mirror story. It was Peter that the Sunday Mirror quoted as giving the reason for SOLDIER's action. But Peter was on holiday in France at the time of the alleged quote.

The Sunday Mirror did speak to the Managing Editor. And the reason they were given for the temporary stopping of pen-pal letters was the truth. SOLDIER has been so inundated in them for some time past that it can't cope. That's what we had already said in SOLDIER.

Ah well, isn't there something about "not letting the truth spoil a good story?"

★ ★ ★

**T**HERE's good news, and bad for SOLDIER readers this issue.

The *good* news is that our special readers' offer made last week under which you can obtain free (except for the cost of post and packing) an £11.50 book on the Yom Kippur War, if you take out an annual subscription to SOLDIER, is still available.

The *bad* news is that because of the forthcoming increase in postal rates, the cost of an annual subscription will have to rise.

You still have time before the increase in the annual subscription to take advantage of the offer of Israeli General Avraham 'Bren' Adan's personal account of the Yom Kippur War 'On the Banks of Suez'. All you do is fill out the subscription form on Page 47 of this issue of SOLDIER, and send £11 for your 25 issues of SOLDIER, plus £2 to cover the cost of postage and packing on the book. You will then receive FREE the 512-page book, but please allow 21 days for delivery. Fuller details of the book were given in the last issue of SOLDIER (Vol 40/17 dated 27 August).

The offer is limited to NEW subscribers resident in the UK, and the number of copies available is also limited.

As from 3 Sept, the Post Office has increased postal rates for both home and overseas post. As a result, SOLDIER will have to increase its annual subscription charge to £11.25 for UK and BFPO addresses, and £13.25 for other overseas subscriptions. The increase will take effect on 1 October.

SOLDIER must still be among the best 25 pence worth obtainable in magazines, even with the increased postage. Every issue we receive letters of congratulation, and the latest

to land on the Editor's desk is typical of many. Blushingly, we quote ex-Gunner (now Mr) A J Jewell, of Morden, Surrey, who writes: "As an old soldier of 1941-46 I just wish to say I am now the recipient of SOLDIER after 38 years of being out of touch. Your magazine has given me the old family feeling lost for so many years. It feels great to be back in touch with the young 'uns. Once a soldier, always a soldier. Viva la RA."

Thanks Mr Jewell.

★ ★ ★

**T**HE men of the Ammunition Inspectorate RAOC BAOR have brought home one of the American forces in Europe's highest awards to their allies.

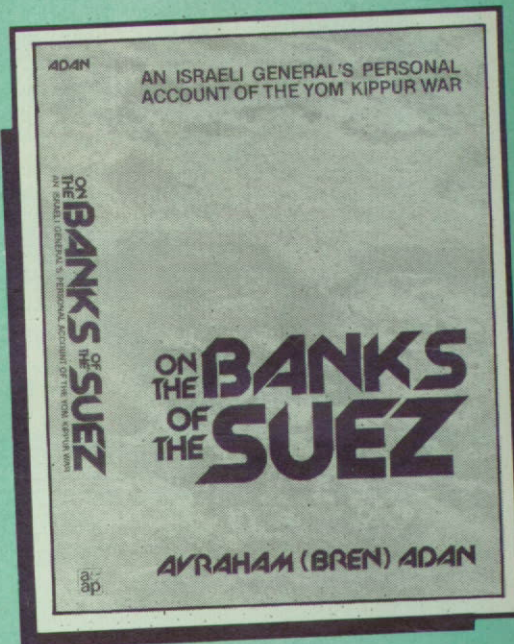
It is the Project Partnership Award, given annually to the British, Belgian, Dutch, Canadian or French company sized unit that has done most to further a working and social relationship with the American Forces.

The award in itself is praise enough for the men of the Ammunition Inspectorate, but as a unit of only twenty-nine military personnel, based at Herford and Walsrode, to have won in competition with units four times their size is exceptional.

★ ★ ★

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## SALLY DANIELL visits Aldershot's Cambridge Military Hospital and finds that

# It's the place to be ill in comfort

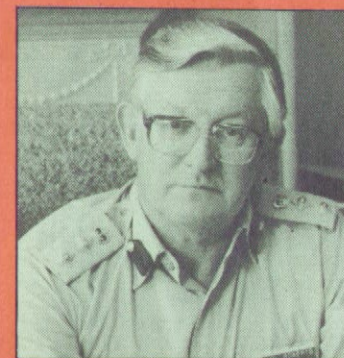
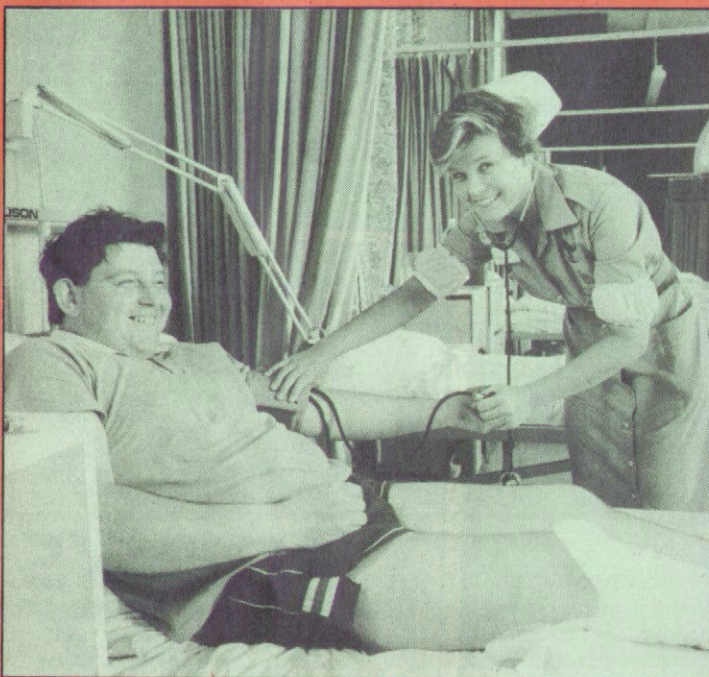
**B**UILT over a hundred years ago, the Cambridge Military Hospital is one of the few Victorian Army buildings left in Aldershot. Its famous clock tower is the town's principal landmark and serves to remind residents and itinerants alike of the Army's long association.

The Cambridge was originally built as an interconnected series of regimental hospitals — hence its comb-like shape of a 500 metre spinal corridor with wings jutting out at intervals. Since its erection, infilling has meant the architect's original design is virtually unrecognisable from the ground.

An increased workload and developments in medical science ensured the old system of regimental hospitals became impractical.

**Next best thing to Mum. Q/Private Kelly feeds a young patient. (Top)**

**Cheerful nurses mean cheerful patients as Lance Corporal Vincent Lagadu learns from Nurse Sarah Montgomery. ◀**



and gradually the gaps between the wings were filled with Nissen huts, portakabins and otherwise hastily erected piles.

Building is currently going on with a new brick-built pathology department replacing the age-old, Nissen-hutted Leishman Laboratory and there are plans for extensive reorganisation which combines the Cambridge and its sister hospital, the Louise Margaret Maternity Hospital under the same command.

Everything else about the Cambridge is fully up-to-date, providing a modern comprehensive hospital service for Army personnel and their dependants in most units in south-east and south-west UK including some RAF establishments.

Its secondary role is the care of dependants from overseas, offering a unique mother-and-baby unit where a sick child need not be separated from its mother during treatment.

In addition, it provides a 24-hour accident and emergency service and is the Army reference centre for all diseases of the chest. There is also a central agreement which commits 30 per cent of its beds to civilians and support to various outstations, such as field ambulances, within the hospital's dependent area.

**Commanding Officer, Colonel Lomax Roberts. ◀**

**Flowers and plants help brighten up the Gynaecology Ward. ▼**

**Pictures: Paul Haley**



All major clinical departments are to be found in the hospital — sixteen in all — except psychiatry. A team of six REME technicians service and repair over a thousand pieces of equipment and the stock of potions and pills in the dispensary runs well into four figures partly because of its resupply commitment to outstations.

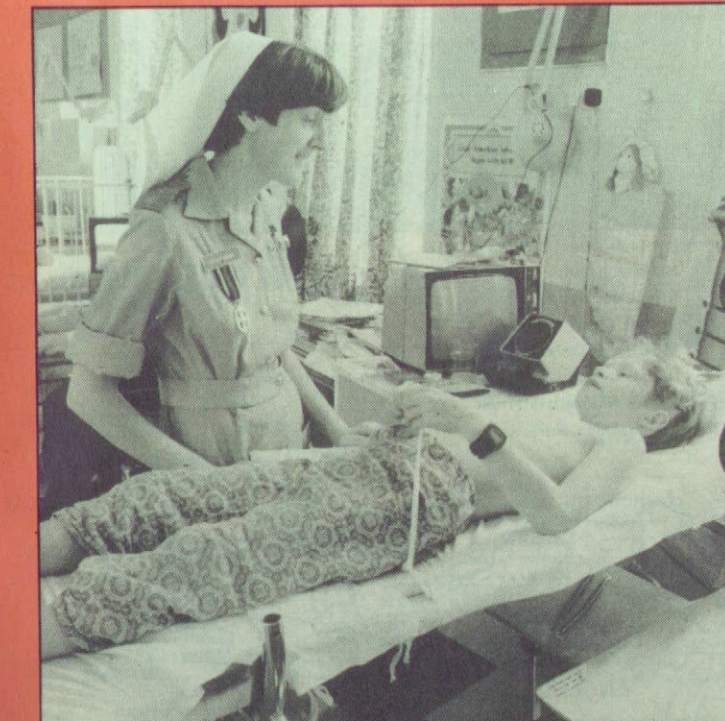
With its 243 beds — and the capacity to stretch to 400 if required — statistics show an annual throughput of 8,000 in-patients plus 30,000 each of outpatients and casualties. A fair workload, but because the Cambridge is the Army's main training hospital, it means a highly favourable patient/staff ratio.

On the training side, there are specialist training modules for doctors as well as facilities for QA nurses, RAMC and regimental medical assistants, operating theatre technicians, clinical measurement specialists, the TA and overseas students.

Catering for and supplying all the departments is a major exercise, especially considering that up to 30 operations a day are performed. Apart from all the usual hospital stores items such as linen, the Central Sterile Supply Department, recently equipped with modern machines (Autoclaves) ensures that all sterilisation is done on the premises and that ready-to-use sterile supplies are dispatched to dependent units.

In the field of hospital catering the 800 staff — under the present command of Colonel Lomax Roberts — believe that theirs is unbeatable. Thanks to the high standards and dedication of Captain John Carson ACC, the hospital recently won the accolade of

**Plenty to amuse ward-confined kids on the Childrens Ward. ▼**



THE Children's Ward at the Cambridge is always a hive of activity. Not only are there play-groups for the little ones, but a full-time nursery-school teacher is employed to cover schooling missed by medium and long-stay patients.

Teacher, and well-known local authoress, Anne Pitcher believes it is important for children to learn as much as they can about the area in which they live and with this in mind she set her charges to compiling a history of Aldershot.

First, they had to read widely on the subject and then write

up and illustrate what they considered to be the most interesting aspects.

Now their efforts have been rewarded with the publication of a little book tracing the town's history from a rural community to the arrival of the Army from the first tented camps to the concrete jungle we all know — and love? There are also sections on both world wars and the Falklands War.

Appealing snippets of information emerge such as the derivation of the name which comes from the old English word 'alorsceat' meaning 'wood



producing the best hospital food in the Army.

Judging by the menus in the patients' kitchen this was easy to believe as mouthwatering confections passed on their way to the wards for afternoon tea.

Warrant Officer 2 (SQMS) Jim Graham assured us the standard never falters and he and his team produce "three meals, two of three courses a day, seven days a week, twelve months a year."

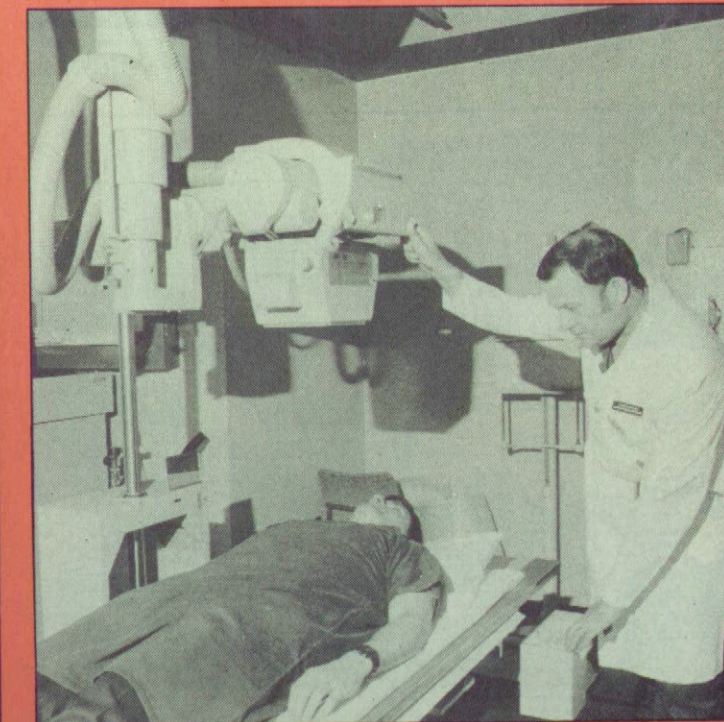
Various sub-kitchens produce similar 'rosette' fare for staff restaurants and messes all over the complex including the RAMC and QARANC Officers' Messes and Junior Ranks Mess.

Although the Army medical services have been unable to resist the renaming of nursing grades (SRNs are now RGNs and SENs are EN(G)s) Colonel Roberts is pleased to affirm that Matron is still Matron instead of Senior Nursing Officer.

"I much prefer it," he says. "Everyone knows precisely who she is. She comes on my rounds with me and knows all the patients. I think it is important for them to know who the head nurse is."

To the observer, two aspects of

**In Radiology, modern computer-based X-ray equipment ensures fast, accurate service. ▼**



of Alders'. 'Aldershot' has in fact been spelt 19 different ways since recorded time.

The illustrations are delightful and include a drawing of the first plastic surgery operation performed in 1916. Five-year-old Stephen Munro's effort to depict the Mons Officer Cadet School will no doubt remind many of their time spent there.

A limited number of copies are available for just £1 (£1.16 p&p) from Miss Pitcher, Bedside Tutor, Ward One, Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot. Any profit will be spent on educational needs for the ward.

**With games and TV, children feel it is almost like home.**

life at the Cambridge Hospital stand out: first, the colour. The wards are brightly painted with none of it peeling off the walls and the added luxury of carpet gives the place a comfortable, homely feel.

Secondly, the cheerfulness of the staff. No tired and testy nurses here but rather a smile and a welcome born of complete dedication and job satisfaction. If you are going to be ill, you may as well be ill in comfort and the Cambridge is the place to be. ■



**T**HE COUNCIL of Europe is so impressed with a corner of Dorset and its nature conservancy effort — including 7,500 acres of the Army's live firing ranges at Lulworth — that it is to present the County Council with a diploma later this month, writes Graham Smith.

The award, to be presented by Signor Gaetano Adinolfi, the Council's Deputy Secretary-General is made for "fine examples of protected landscapes and for conservation schemes of international importance."

Previous winners have been the Peak National Park in Derbyshire, the Camargue in southern France and Lüneburg Heath in BAOR.

The Council of Europe which has a 'parish' of some 400 million people was founded in 1949 and ranges from Turkey to Iceland.

Of particular mention in the diploma award is the 6½-mile-long Purbeck Heritage coastal stretch and the Army's southern extremity of its ranges — they get 150 days' usage annually — which span from Lulworth Cove to the village of Kimmeridge on the littoral.

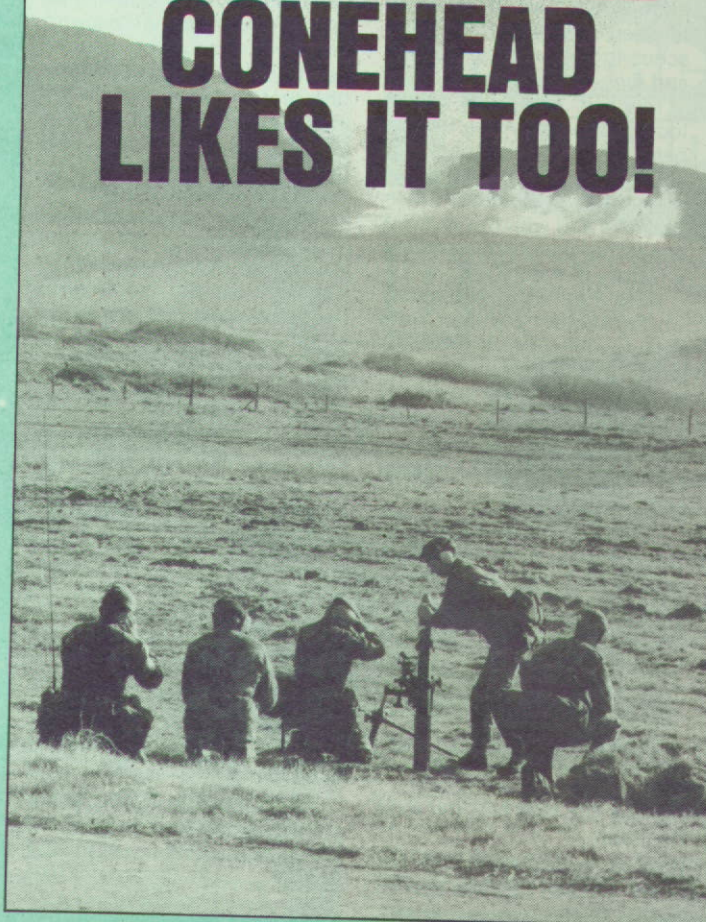
Mr Roland Tarr, the Heritage Coast Officer with Dorset County Council said: "This award recognises the success of those concerned with the conservation of Purbeck in resolving many pressures and conflicts which there are in this very beautiful part of Dorset."

"All the people who manage land in Purbeck should take due credit for this award including for their part the Army who have opened up walks from Tyneham village to Lulworth Ranges for the public, including the Dorset Coast Path."

"The Army has made facilities available for exhibition facilities and there are, currently, such

Range walkers on the Lulworth Ranges.

# LONG-WINDED CONEHEAD LIKES IT TOO!



displays in Tyneham village school-room, one in the church and a number of other outdoor venues.

"I think it is important that we should all recognise each other's contribution."

Flora and fauna abound on the ranges as shells from 30 mm Rarden cannon, for example, streak out to distant targets from vehicles like the Fox wheeled armoured recce car.

This summer, the British Army

An 81 mm mortar fires, but flora and fauna like the Army's ranges.

Equipment Exhibition staged two firepower mobility demonstrations in the area, heavy shells, machine gun fire and smoke rounds hurtling into the gentle heathland's limestone and chalk contours against designated targets.

Gunnery crews on heavy field pieces like the FH-70 or main battle tanks like the Chieftain or Challenger probably little realise that out to sea beyond Bindon Beach is a fragment of the Fossil Forest — a relic from the age of the dinosaurs.

It is, they say, possible to see great bosses of 'burs' of tufa deposited around the stumps of fallen trunks of trees that once flourished in the dirt beds.

Sadly, much of the fossil remains have been removed by unscrupulous collectors over the past century.

The local conservation society is well aware that the Lulworth Ranges have a wealth of wildlife, since the heaths, bogs, grasslands and woodlands, seashore and cliff, streams and ponds provide an exceptional number of habitats for native plants and animals.

Flora like Wild Thyme, Scabious, Squiancywort and Stemless Thistle. Other such as Vetches and Trefoils, Cowslips and Wild Parsnip, and Milkwords — all thriving on chalk or limestone.

Added to this are Gentians, Wild Cabbage and even Orchids!

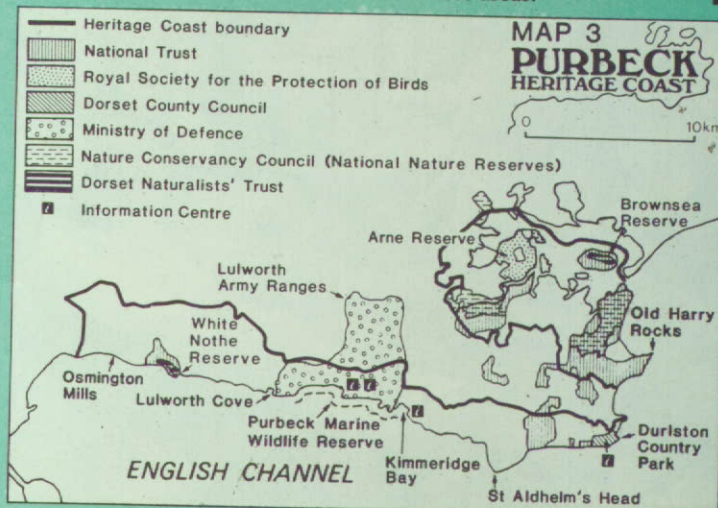
Insect life is equally varied as men and machines manoeuvre for the best firing positions. Insects like butterflies — Small Skippers, Dark Green Fritillary and Marbled White — and grasshoppers and crickets with names like the Long-Winded Conehead, Cepero's Groundhopper and the Grey Bush Cricket.

Skylarks and Meadow Pipits and sea birds make their homes near the ranges over which the occasional roe deer or sika might bound to lie-up in the woodlands near Bindon Hill.

Lieutenant-Colonel Grant Oliver, RTR, Commander Royal Armoured Corps Centre and chairman of the Ranges Conservation Committee told me: "Over the past ten years we have made great efforts to improve all aspects of the ranges for public access. We have our own range wardens to make sure that areas are safe after live firing sessions. We also allow access to major conservation groups."

"I think the RAC should take pride in the fact that their ranges have fallen within and take a share in this diploma award by the Council of Europe."

"We have worked out a very good modus operandi of matching and balancing requirements of Army training, the increasing requirements for conservation and allowing the general public access to these areas."



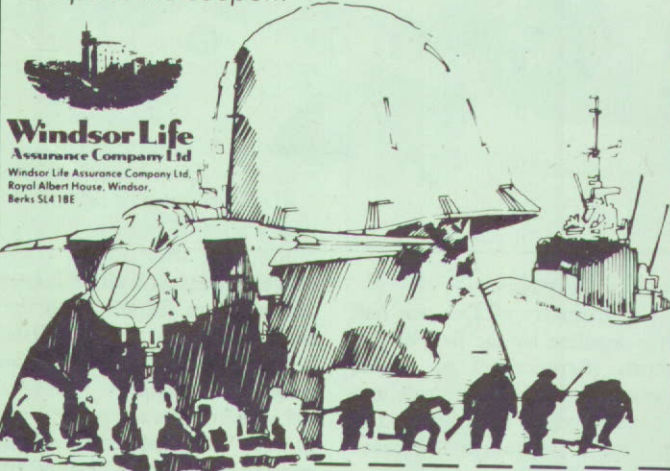






## "EVERYONE SAYS THAT A SERVICEMAN HAS SOME SPECIAL QUALITIES"

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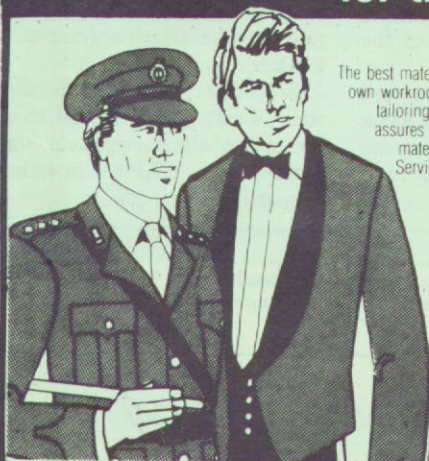
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# JIM'S ONE OF THE LADS



**I**T IS EASY to see why comedian Jim Davidson is popular with soldiers: he is young, lively, down-to-earth — and blue. He also has a lot of time for them.

This son of a former Gunner is, in fact, Army barmy. His military friends span all ranks and all arms and he is prepared to travel thousands of miles to entertain them. He visits units world-wide — in UK, including Northern Ireland seven times, Germany, Cyprus, Belize, twice to the Falklands and he hopes to make it a hat-trick later in the year.

It was as an artiste with Combined Servcies Entertainment, that, as he put it, he 'first got into soldiers — if you'll pardon the expression!' He was so impressed by the troops when he first went to Northern Ireland that he wanted to know more about Forces personnel and matters military. The more he learned, the more his interest grew and his knowledge of ranks, regiments, corps, vehicles and hardware is probably more than that of many people actually in the Army.

He followed the fortunes of the Task Force avidly during the Falklands War and what he doesn't know about the battles at Bluff Cove and Mt Tumbledown — a picture of which hangs in his hallway at home — wouldn't even interest the experts.

"I'd even thought of applying to go on Mastermind" he told me, laughing. "The only trouble is, I'd look a right twit when they ask me

the general knowledge questions!"

For his part in the multi-national peace-keeping force in Beirut, Jim was made an honorary member of the 16th/5th Lancers when he visited them for three days. His kids were not impressed, though: "They say, what a crappy soldier you are — you only lasted three days!"

The story about Jim's bit of trouble in Belize is now legend but he could not resist telling it just once more. It concerned a fight he got involved in after he and a few pals had been visiting a certain house in Punta Gorda where the lady occupant is, he says, 'more famous in the British Army than Churchill'. Somebody pulled a knife on him and being a self-confessed coward he made a run for it back to camp hotly pursued, or so he thought, by someone else who was only making his own timely escape from the fray.

"I've told that story so many times" he said, "and other people have exaggerated it so much that instead of knife I'm up to a Phantom jet now!"

Jim is always one to do a favour for the Army and as such, is a bit of a soft touch when it comes to putting on a show. Once when visiting Cyprus on holiday with his wife, he was spotted and asked if he would perform for the troops. He ended up doing two performances, one for the British contingent of the United Nations peace-keeping force and raised £500 for the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association

(BLESMA) for whom he says he would like to do more.

"I try not to charge for the shows I do for the Forces. I don't know why, really, but I suppose it's a bit hypocritical saying 'well done, lads, you're doing a great job' and then asking them to pay for it."

## Story by: Sally Daniell

Once in Germany, the Cockney comic was playing to a 8,000-seat theatre where the two front rows had been reserved for senior officers. "Only they all came in late, didn't they, and I didn't 'alf take the piss as they sat down. Everyone else thought it was great and I reckon that's the biggest laugh I've had from the Army!"

Anyone who saw Jim's *This is Your Life* will have seen Eamonn Andrews present him with the red book while a band of the Royal Irish Rangers serenaded him on his doorstep. He first met the Rangers down in the Falklands and was very quickly taken to their hearts.

The most moving Forces show for the East-end entertainer was when he performed for the crew of HMS Sheffield exactly one year after the ship was hit by an Argentine Exocet missile. "It really was sad and I felt very touched when the Captain presented me with a plaque and book from all of them.

"But I suppose the best one I've

Jim shares a joke with friends from 16th/5th Lancers.

done for the Army was in Belize during a hurricane. I'd been at the Junior Ranks Mess and by the time we got back to the Sergeants' Mess, dinner was finished and we were told we couldn't get anything to eat. Well, there was this bloke who said 'Don't worry, leave it to me' and he disappeared somewhere. He came back five minutes later, poked his head round the door and said 'steak or pork chops?' Now that's initiative!

"I don't know why soldiers like me — and it's not for me to say — but perhaps it's because I can talk to them on their level and I'm open and honest with them. I love doing shows for the Army 'cos they look after you so well. I suppose it's the discipline that makes them do their best for you and they treat you like a human being.

"I don't get barracking from an Army audience. I don't allow it! Anyway, if they start barracking, I just barrack them back. No, but seriously, if they start any of that, it means there's something wrong with the act and that's down to me."

And with that he signalled the interview was over by stripping off his shirt to get changed for a show at Winchester's Theatre Royal. Not particularly wishing to see the trousers come down as well, I made my excuses and left saying I looked forward to seeing him in Aldershot — one place at least, he is guaranteed a full house. ■



# JOHN THE 'RAT' PICKS THE PIN-UPS

**P**IN-UPS, beer, pay, food. Any one of those could head a young soldier's list of priorities.

But ask John Mason of *The Sun* and he leaves no doubt that girls are way out in front!

"Specially our Page Three girls," said John. Shuffling through a thick pile of letters he said: "Look at this lot. We just can't keep up with their demands."

The 'demands' were from soldiers throughout the world asking John — pleading in some cases — to send prints of *The Sun's* famed Page Three pin-ups.

"Each day brings a batch of requests with most coming from the Falklands," said John, 66, grey-haired and a grandad.

"I've sent so many pictures of Page Three girls there I think the place must be plastered with them."

"But when the lads finish their time and head for home, they take

their Page Three pictures with them.

"Then, when the next unit arrives, they write asking for more — just like *Oliver Twist*!

"That's fine. But we haven't always sufficient prints to meet all requests, so we spread them as best we can," he said, sliding another half-dozen 16 x 12 glossies into a cardboard tube labelled South Atlantic.

Currently topping the lads' list of favourites is curvy blonde

Samantha Fox, an outstanding beauty who is fast making a name for herself in the modelling world.

"Demand for pictures of Samantha are quite heavy," said John, who while posting pictures of pin-ups to soldiers, does not choose the daily eyeful for Page Three admirers.

"That's left to the Editor. He decides which girl will adorn Page Three," said John.

Now retired from journalism proper he spends two days a week answering pin-up pleas from soldiers.

But in his time he has held top editorial posts on a number of national papers and on one Army newspaper.

"That was *Tobruk Truth*, a



John Mason producing his *Tobruk* news sheet.

wartime publication of which I was reporter, editor and printer and published every day of the week.

"I was a Corporal clerk in the RASC and my job was to produce the sheet and get it on the ration truck for delivery round the *Tobruk* harbour area.

"Easier said than done. For Rommel was hammering us, and every day two big guns — 'Salient Sue' and 'Bardia Bill' — would lob shells into the area."

But John did produce his paper and he did it by taking a shorthand note of the BBC's news broadcasts, typing it all up and then operating the duplicator.

"I took over the TT from an Australian called Bill Williams," he said producing a letter from his old Aussie pal. "He was the first and I the second and last editor of the sheet.

"I last saw him 43 years ago, but I might be seeing him next year when *The Rats of Tobruk Association* hold their world-wide reunion of those who were there while Rommel bashed at the door.

"The Association is very strong 'Down Under', but we do have branches in the UK.

"It was through them I found out about Bill Williams. Now we are corresponding. There's a lot to tell."

Meanwhile, John continues to meet the needs of the Army in a different sort of way.

Somebody once said a good picture is worth a 1,000 words, and although an editorial man to his fingertips, John Mason wouldn't disagree with this.

Judged by the demand for his Page Three beauties, he'd probably put the figure nearer a million.

● The picture of John in his London office was taken by *Sun* photographer Don Price, who was a Staff Sergeant on the staff of *SOLDIER* 35 years ago.

Words by John Margetts.

JOHN MASON: pin-ups, plaques and 'demands'.





# ASK ANNE

I wrote in *SOLDIER* on 16 July '84 and discussed on my weekly BFBS-UK broadcast the problems faced by parents and teenagers overseas.

Here are some of the letters received to highlight their feelings on 'the cost of a teenager abroad'.

Submissions have been placed before the DHSS Review on Supplementary

Benefit and Child Benefit and young people by MOD and SSAFA.

I have also placed a submission before the DHSS Review on Maternity Benefit and Maternity Pay.

I am writing in response to your talk on BFBS the other day about dependants of serving members of HM Forces who are unable to get work or Social Security benefits. I understand you asked for the views of BFG members.

My situation is that I have a son, now 17 years old, who having left school, is now in the position of being unable to obtain work and cannot get any benefits of any kind here in Germany.

Due to family circumstances, there is absolutely no option to him living anywhere but with me here in Germany. He is totally dependent on me for everything, food, keep, clothing and spending money, and is just losing his self-respect at not being able to start standing on his own two feet.

In the interests of family unity, wife and children follow Servicemen when they are posted out of the UK. However, this is sometimes at the financial loss due to the very limited work opportunities here for wives, but more importantly for children of Servicemen who are unable to work and for which there are no Social Security benefits available. F/S, BFPO 42. Depending on where you live in Germany, your son can have access to the BFG YTS scheme. But for some, access is difficult and the type of course required may not be available.

However, your letter highlights graphically the problems faced by parents, and even after a YTS scheme the teenager still does not even get Supplementary Benefit and as I see it is totally disenfranchised by the very country his parents are serving — even the vote is denied them.

If you could send me a breakdown of the cost of keeping a teenager on your

husband's wages it would help with gathering evidence on 'the cost of a teenager abroad'.

Dear Anne, I was wondering if you could help with a problem I have come across since being here in Germany. We have been here for six months and as yet our medical centre has not received our records from our previous doctor in Northern Ireland. I have written to the NHS Central Register in Southport, Lancs, but as yet have received no reply.

Perhaps you could tell me why it should take so long for the records to be sent.

Two of my daughters have heart complaints and I find it very disturbing that our doctor cannot refer to their medical records. — Mrs T, BFPO 32.

Dear Anne, Thank you for sending copies of correspondence between Mrs T and yourself.

It has been ascertained that the relevant medical records were received from Northern Ireland on 31 May (4 months after the initial request) and despatched to the Medical Centre at BFPO 32. We apologise for any distress or inconvenience caused by the delay.

In order to alleviate this problem we are now operating a 'reminder' system for medical records not received within 3 months of our application. This includes Service Medical Centres as well as FPCs. We hope that this action will avoid such delays as those experienced by Mrs T. National Health Service Central Register, Southport.

Dear Anne Armstrong, Thank you for your letter of 14 June. I am pleased to inform you that all my medical documents have now arrived at the Medical Centre. — Mrs T, BFPO 32.

Mrs T's letter is just one example of what can be achieved by a wife writing and raising an issue which has been troubling her. As a result other families will benefit and we must also thank the Service record department at Smedly Hydro who have responded so positively to a problem.

## ONE PARENT FAMILIES

Over the past few years I have had a number of letters from one parent mothers who are under 18 and living with their parents overseas, as they have nowhere else to go. For some they have always been overseas with their parents.

Difficulties have been encountered by them in obtaining Child Benefit, One Parent Family Benefit and they receive no Supplementary Benefit.

So I submitted a paper to the Social Security Advisory Committee when

they called for representations on the draft regulations on the Child Benefit (Residence and Persons Abroad) Amendment Regulations 1984 (SI 1984 No 875).

Ten organisations and two individuals, one myself, were received by the SSAC.

I am following up my submission to see how this small group stand and that they will be regarded as part of the group who are exempt from the new regulations.

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## OPINION

CAN I run a mail order catalogue agency? Can I do hairdressing in the quarter? Do these count as business?

Rules, I know, must protect other people's interests. However, I think a much more open policy is now required on working at home and the information must be made available to wives. At present many wives, through fear, do not apply to work from their quarters as if it's something to be ashamed about. There is the fear they will be turned down, that husbands will get into trouble. They may think that officers' wives have a better chance of obtaining permission than soldiers' wives.

It would be helpful if, for example, picture framing, hairdressing, cookery, printing, dressmaking, secretarial work, computer/data processing, arts and crafts were acceptable.

For many families a second income is essential, yet due to the nature of Service life employment is often not possible and in some areas extremely limited.

The other sad thing is that some people, it is reported, have already flouted the import regulations, in, say, running an agency for mail order catalogues, or importing items for sale. The few who do abuse the regulations penalise possibilities for the rest.

I sincerely believe that times have

changed since Queen's Regulations were written and a more helpful interpretation of the rules and regulations would be helpful. Nowadays such self-employment should be encouraged and helped. I hope that Service wives' initiative will not once again be curtailed.

Anyone contemplating part-time activities should read the following regulations:

a. Queen's Regulations for the Army 1975, paragraphs 5.076 to 5.079.  
b. Army General and Administrative Instructions Volume 2, Chapter 62, paragraphs 131 to 137.

c. For use of a married quarter for business purposes, Queen's Regulations paragraph 5.663, which is set out below.

"5.663. Use of Service married quarters for profit making activities. No member of a family to whom married quarters have been allotted is to be permitted, whilst occupying them, to use them in any way for the formation or operation of any club or business or other association having for its object private business for profit or to use government quarters for the purpose of any trade without first obtaining permission from the commanding officer. Any breach of these regulations is to be regarded as misbehaviour and will render the family liable to eviction from married quarters. In case of

doubt the advice of the next superior headquarters is to be obtained."

It is interesting to note that the majority of applications received by MOD are approved, although some limitations may be imposed. When the application reaches MOD it is checked to ensure that there are no contractual complications from the Government's point of view, and no security implications. If you are going overseas then each Command has its own local rules forbidding the import of tax free goods in bulk for the purpose of passing them on to another person (even those entitled to import tax free goods for their own personal use).

Servicemen are permitted to engage in business activities or part time work outside their normal duty hours provided it is not connected with their official duties, and a Commanding Officer may approve temporary employment during normal leave, or occasional part time employment during off duty hours.

However, any Serviceman who wishes to take up off duty employment of a continuing nature requires Ministry of Defence approval in addition to his Commanding Officer's permission. This includes acting as a one-man firm or as an agent for any commercial firm, or even as an unpaid director.

Obviously, the Commanding Officer will have to be satisfied that the outside activity will not interfere with the individual's duties. The Commanding



Officer may also have to consider granting permission for the use of a Service married quarter for profit making activities.

Again, the majority of applications received by MOD are approved, although some limitations may be imposed.

Any Serviceman who has difficulty in interpreting the rules should consult the unit adjutant or administrative officer, who may consult the G1 staff at higher formation.

*Anne Armstrong*

Home tel: Camberley 29653

## COT DEATHS

Two thousand babies between the ages of one week and two years die suddenly and unexpectedly each year. In 1,500 of these cases, no adequate cause of death can be found by post mortem.

Such tragedy can happen to anyone in UK or overseas. This is what happened to Stan and Eileen Carpenter earlier this year when they lost their second child while serving with his regiment in Germany.

Stan Carpenter wrote to say they had received tremendous help from the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths and would be running in the Berlin Marathon to raise money for the foundation.

Lady Limerick, Executive Vice Chairman explained that Service parents, wherever they are serving at home or overseas, can write, as did Stan and Eileen Carpenter.

The foundation supports and helps bereaved parents, sponsors research into the causes and prevention of sudden infant deaths, and also acts as a centre for information about cot deaths for both parents and professionals. It has leaflets and most helpful guidelines both for parents and for GPs health workers who come in contact with parents who have lost a baby.

Sponsor forms and donations can be sent to L/Cpl Stan Carpenter, c/o 1st Bn Irish Guards, Oxford Barracks, BFPO 17.

## EQUAL PAY

'EQUAL Pay for Equal Work' has for some years been the cry of many people, and came a stage nearer with the passing of the Equal Pay Act in June.

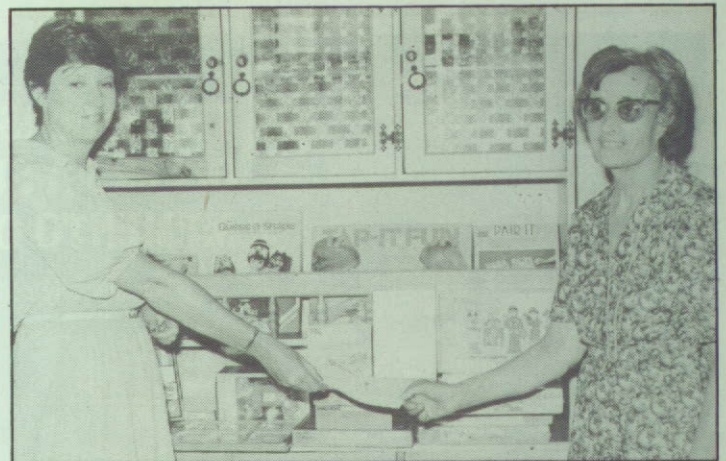
The Equal Opportunities Commission has published a leaflet 'Equal Pay for Equal Work' which outlines the three grounds on which a person can now claim equal pay with a member of the opposite sex.

Since 1 Jan this year equal pay can be awarded where a person of the opposite sex is doing:

- 1) the same or broadly similar work;
- 2) work which has been rated the same under a proper job evaluation scheme;
- 3) a different job which is of 'equal value' in terms of, for example, the effort, skill, decision making and other demands it makes but it has not been evaluated under a job evaluation scheme.

The booklet Equal Pay for Work Equal Value, a guide to the amended Equal Pay Act (2) is available free from: The Publicity Section, EOC, Overseas House, Quay St, Manchester, M3 3HN.

## FETE BUYS TOYS



St Stephanos Home for Retarded People in Limassol had been given a cheque from the Guild of St Helena in the Episkopi Base to cover the cost of a number of educational toys. The funds were raised at the Sailors, Soldiers and

Air Forces Association and Guild of St Helena fete held last year at Episkopi.

Picture shows Mrs Denise Field presenting the cheque to Mrs Anthoula Phesilou, Chairwoman of the Home.

## TIP: COMPASSIONATE LEAVE

Are you posted overseas? If you are, then you may need a little buff card 'Compassionate Leave from Overseas — All Ranks in the Army — Compassionate Travel from Overseas — Wives'?

Make sure you ask your unit for Buff Leaflet Army Code No 14603 Revised 8/83. This card tells you what to do if circumstances arise which make it necessary for you or your wife to return temporarily to UK for compassionate reasons eg very serious illness or death of parents etc.

The card gives telephone numbers to contact at the Ministry of Defence, and what information is required, so that immediate action can be taken to get you or your wife back to the UK.

Ask your NOK or family to keep the card handy and follow the correct procedure to avoid unnecessary delays.



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# It's a great bay for the Royal Irish!

**I**RISH REELS gave way to Jamaican reggae as 140 men from "B" Company, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers headed out to the sun-kissed Caribbean and Montego Bay on an exchange scheme with the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF).

"I think we got the better end of the deal," said Sergeant Leo Callow, "as the Jamaicans took over our residence in Dover's Connaught Barracks."

The Rangers flew out in style. Aboard a 747 'Jumbo' via Nassau in the Bahamas.

Based at Montpelier camp, a former school not far from the surf-splashed millionaires' playground of yore, the first week was spent acclimatising — not just to the burnishing sun but to the food as well.

The rifle platoons were soon into their jungle training programme; a scenario which revealed that some insect bites were worse than those of the NCO's. The rivers, too, were fast and deep.

Montego Bay's delights at week-ends were a mixture of non-stop reggae at every street corner and the locals trying to swap sun tan lotion and the like for cash with the visiting fair-skinned soldiery.

But reggae had to take a back seat on occasion for, by all accounts, demand soon soared for the lilt of Lance Corporal Roberts' pipes. And, in fact, both he and Bugler Shane McGookin were invited to play for 'Miss World' at a fashion show, much to the emerald-coloured envy of their pals.

The niceties over — those like VIP entertaining of various



Pictures by Sgt Leo Callow

Rangers pick up some tips from footballer Cyril Regis, on holiday in Jamaica.

Jamaican dignitaries at top brass bureaucratic level — the going got tough ... up to the Cockpit Country, the island's toughest terrain.

A company group made a day's walk beneath the jungle canopy, to a location called Windsor which became their base for a week. From here, platoons practised their patrolling skills for the final exercise to be held in the John Crow Mountain range.

But it was not all jungle and the humping of Bergens in an 85-degree stamina-sapping environment. There were days off for each platoon at a beach camp set up at Discovery Bay (Columbus had something to do with it way back in 1492 or so).

Azure skies and sandy strands burning under foot soon made the

Rangers temporarily, at least, forget their return for another 12 days amid the twisting lianas of the rain forests.

This manoeuvre — Exercise Silent Sanctuary — was held on the eastern end of the island and involved a 100-mile boat trip for the infantrymen courtesy of the Jamaican Coast Guard.

Sgt Callow recalled: "Little did we know that you had to be an expert in levitation to remain upright with your stomach inside your body on a turbo-driven Jamaican Coast Guard boat."

Feet back on land the Company set out on a moonlit march from the harbour of Port Antonio (Erroll Flynn once had a private island near there) bound for the heights of the John Crow Mountain ridge.

It took an hour to climb a 2,000

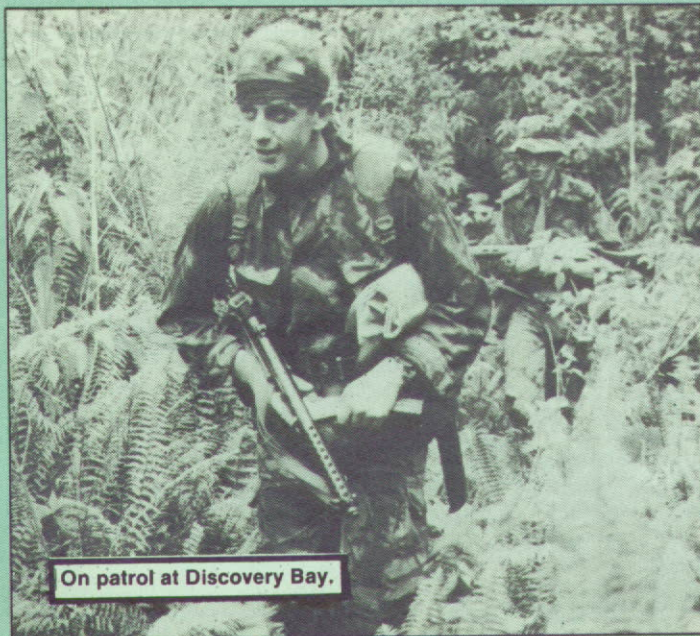
foot hill and just half as long to descend it.

The next ten days saw many lessons learned, hazards met — and the start of the rainy season; showers deluging the Rangers for up to 11 hours at a time.

Battles were fought in an alien setting and tactics well learned.

Sgt Callow, summing up the exchange training said: "The Rangers were made superbly welcome by the JDF who soon gained a reputation for going out of their way to be helpful, whatever the request. To register their thanks the Rangers presented their hosts with a scale model of the Blue Ridge Mountains which had taken more than two months to make ... back in Dover!"

The Royal Irish departed as they had arrived; by 747 'Jumbo'. ■



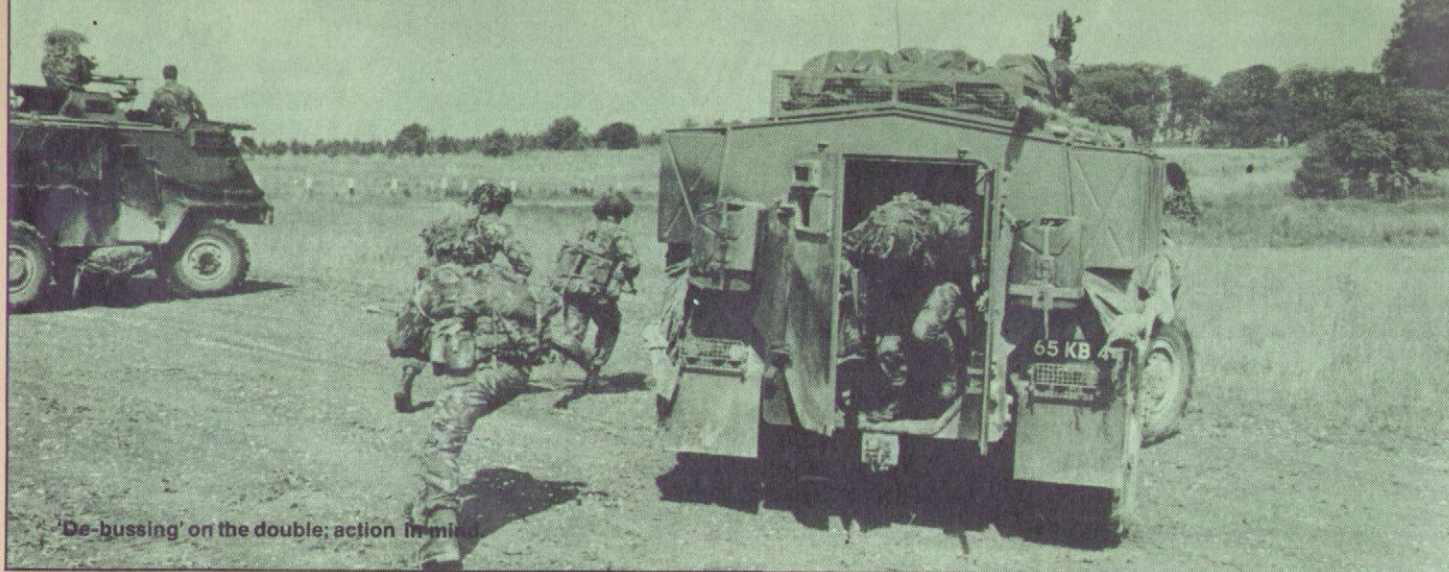
On patrol at Discovery Bay.



Lance Corporal Robert Bratty and Bugler Shane McGookin meet up with Miss World, Sarah Jane Hunt from England.



# SAXON INVADERS IN WESSEX - AGAIN



'De-bussing' on the double; action in mind

**P**ROUD first-time owners as the Army's initial trials battalion on the vehicle in tactical environments, the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, purposefully deployed the 272 miles southwards from their North Yorkshire moorland garrison home to the more gentle contours of Salisbury Plain.

Their two-fold reason: to show off, as a battalion, the Army's latest wheeled armoured personnel carriers — their Saxons — during the two-week annual Field Training Exercise (FTX) Gryphons Gold, a warm-up for this month's massive Exercise Lionheart, BAOR's biggest exercise exposition of tactical manoeuvres in postwar years.

The King's Own Royal Border Regiment based at Catterick has the distinction of being the first regiment to be equipped with the 8.64 tonne unladen weight armoured 'battlefield taxi' with its capacity to carry ten men and their kit.

The first vehicle had been delivered to them in January; the last just a week before their Salisbury Plain forays.

All of their 43 examples of the various types — they cost from £75,000 to £90,000 — were driven south without hitch to the Salisbury Plain venue in preparation for an integral work-up for this month's vast venture on the North German Plain.

Major Christopher Warren, the regiment's second-in-command, told me: "It's still very early days in the trials of Saxon with the regiment and, because they are so new, we are having to evolve our own tactics with them."

"We have had some basic teething problems with them and there are going to be mechanical things, inevitably, that have to be put right. We drove all 43 down here the 272 miles from Catterick without a breakdown or anything. At the moment, we have only one being repaired."

"Saxon is going to give us quick mobility around the battlefield from one engagement to another. They are not fighting vehicles. Saxon is also going to give us a degree of armoured protection from small arms fire, harassing artillery fire and will enhance our air defence capability."

The Danish DISA mount for the GPMG would, he hoped, have the Hughes Chain Gun as its firepower replacement late next year.

The manufacturers of Saxon — G K N Sankey Ltd — say the

protection given by Saxon is 'unsurpassed by any other known wheeled vehicle and also many tracked vehicles'.

Saxon, they add, affords protection against small arms calibres (5.56 mm and 7.62 mm) ball and AP, anti-tank mines of up to 9 kg and artillery 155 mm HE air bursts. Additionally, the vehicle can withstand many improvised explosive devices (IEDs) favoured by some specialist forces to disrupt main supply routes, staging areas and concentration zones.

Major Warren added: "Saxon is easy to maintain and has a range, on full fuel, of 260 miles. The vehicle also has its own integral communications. Each infantry company is equipped with 13 vehicles."

The Army has ordered 297 Saxons, delivery at the rate of 110 a year and total delivery scheduled

by March 1987. It also has an option on 200 more between March 1987 and December 1988.

Likely users of Saxon will be troops from 19 Brigade — in addition to 24 Brigade — and elements of UKMF.

Lieutenant-Colonel Nick Holland, REME, SO 1 Weapons (GAV) of the Ministry of Defence's Directorate of Fighting Vehicles and Engineering Equipment, confirming that the Hughes Chain Gun replacement could be in service aboard Saxon next October, said: "Saxon fills a mobility gap in BAOR which has been needed for years and years. It's a jolly good concept."

Saxon, says the Army provides a cost-effective solution to the problems of equipping military units with armoured mobility along autobahns or cross-country tracks at speeds of up to 60 miles-an-hour.

Should an axle be broken during an engagement the Saxon can be into a field repair workshop and out again within eight hours.

Trials on the type were extensive involving some 10,000 miles of driving over a three-month period and more than 250 hours of night testing before acceptance into Army service.

The King's Own Royal Border Regiment is part of 24 Infantry Brigade, the all-Regular infantry brigade within 2 Infantry Division which has its headquarters at Catterick.

Both Exercises Gryphons Gold and Lionheart will complete the major trials phase of Saxon for the regiment.

Even so, Gryphons Gold — large by UK standards — involved

some 4,000 men from elements of 22 units including five infantry battalions and sappers and gunners.

Though the accent was on Saxon, infantrymen on the Plain were drawn from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, from Catterick; the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry, based at Weeton, Lancs; and the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers, located at Dover.

Playing the part of the well-seasoned 'enemy' — they had taken the same role during the recent Exercise Phantom Bugle, the UK's largest, quarterly all-arms mechanised exercise — were men from the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, based at Tern Hill near Market Drayton.

For the first time, too, in its new role as a Saxon battalion with a BAOR reinforcement role, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment worked with a squadron of Chieftain main battle tanks furnished by B Squadron, 4th Royal Tank Regiment, from nearby Tidworth.

Gunners on the Plain during the latter-day invasion by the Saxons were supplied by 26 Field Regiment, RA, while sapper support came from 51 Squadron, RE, at Ripon.

Some of the logistic support players on Exercise Gryphons Gold were fielded by 21 Ordnance Company, RAOC; 210 Signals Squadron, Corps of Royal Signals; 24 Field Ambulance, RAMC; 15 Field Workshops, REME; and 15 and 60 Squadrons, Royal Corps of Transport.

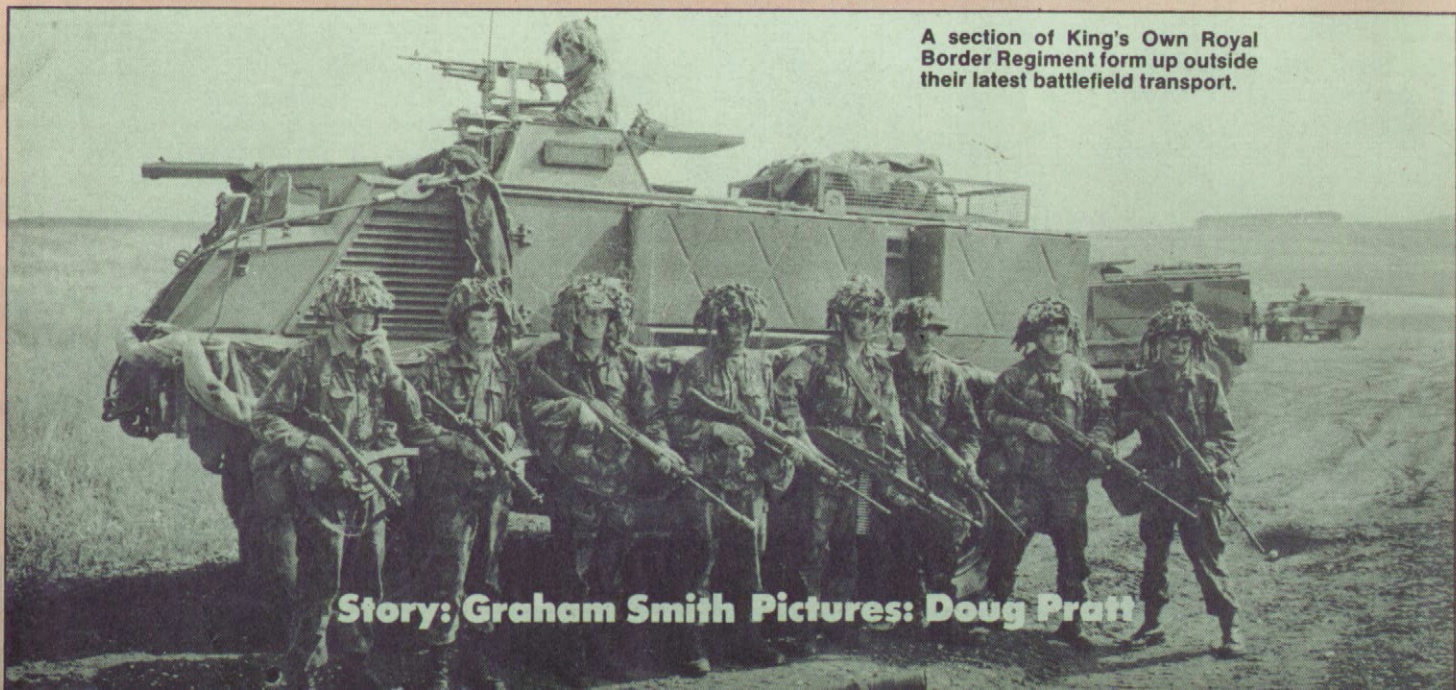


A Saxon lurks in the woods: GPMG on its DISA mount.

The fog of battle. Saxons and soldiers' teamwork.



A section of King's Own Royal Border Regiment form up outside their latest battlefield transport.



Story: Graham Smith Pictures: Doug Pratt

## 'FORMIDABLE' CHAIN GUN

DESIGNED BY Hughes Helicopters as the planned secondary armament for MCV-80, it is confirmed that the power-driven 7.62 mm Chain Gun with continuous fire capability will be mounted on Saxon late next year. It is manufactured by the Royal Ordnance Factories.

Among its important design characteristics are short inboard length and ease of maintenance. Its main advantage is the extremely high reliability obtained from a controlled rate of fire with stoppages virtually unknown.

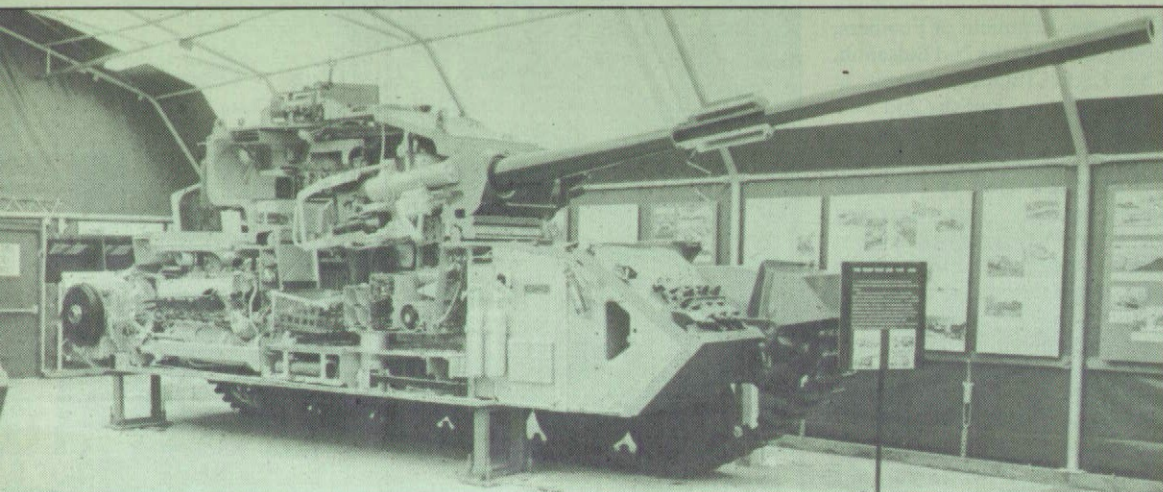
A simple mechanical action driven by a powerful electric motor eliminates problems associated with belt lift. Forward ejection of empty cases reduces toxicity to ten per cent of current co-axial machine guns, say the manufacturers, adding that the 7.62 mm Hughes Chain Gun is a 'formidable weapon system for present and future generations of lightweight armoured fighting vehicles'.

Specifications: Cyclic rate of fire... 570 rpm: Inboard length... 275 mm: Inboard width... 150 mm: Inboard height... 160 mm: Barrel length... 703 mm: Barrel weight... 2.925 kg: Overall length... 1,250 mm: Overall weight... 17.858 kg: Muzzle velocity... 862 m/s.

Ammunition: Ball L2A2 normal service round for operational use. Tracer L5A3 bright trace to 900 m, dark ignition to 55 m (min), 140 m (max). Blank L13A1 crimped round for training purposes. Ball, tracer and blank supplied in the linked form, each steel disintegrating belt linking 200 rounds.



**THREE YEARS** ago the fortunes of the Tank Museum at Bovington were 'stagnating' and its finances were 'lousy' according to Curator, Lt-Col George Forty. Now — writes Graham Smith — like a Phoenix from the ashes, the museum is really bringing its guns to bear on...



**T**HE APPEAL to the general public of mechanised armour-plated warfare on the battlefield is going from strength to strength and nowhere more so than in the Army's Tank Museum at Bovington, Dorset, which is forging ahead under an expansion and modernisation project.

Said to house the globe's largest — and best — collection of armoured vehicles, all 158 of them form nine nations, the museum is gradually growing bigger and better within its 3½-hectare confines thanks largely to the untiring efforts and an inspired Appeal Fund for £1 million last year by its Director/Curator, former Royal Tank Regiment Lieutenant-Colonel George Forty who left the Service in 1977.

So far, the six-phase money-raising appeal has raised a total of £431,000 which has been translated into a new entry block, a self-service shop, fencing, improvements to the toilets, a picnic area, offices, a library, an 80-seater restaurant, a 40-seat cinema/

seminar block and many other facilities. But another £500,000 is still needed to complete the museum whose history goes back to 1923.

The Tank Museum is one of the busiest Army museums outside London and attracts more than 200,000 visitors a year of all ages, and up to ten per cent of those from overseas.

Now there are 40 staff in support of Lt-Col Forty but three years ago the story was very different.

He told me: "Three years ago the Tank Museum reached a watershed in its 61-year existence. Despite having the largest and most comprehensive collection of armoured fighting vehicles in the

The cut-away Centurion shows all: a labour of love by apprentices at the Royal Ordnance Factory at Barnbow, Leeds.

world and being visited by thousands of people every year it was slowly stagnating. Revenue was small, staff minimal, exhibits overcrowded and in need of preservation.

"The museum lacked many basic facilities such as a decent-sized car and coach park, restaurant, self-service shop, offices or a video theatre. Clearly, something radical had to be done and it was decided to tackle the problem in three ways.

"We got Ministry of Defence approval to institute admission charges, planned this ambitious expansion and modernisation programme and launched the appeal to fund the expansion. We are now half-way through the expansion programme."

## Tanks for the memory

He added: "We have started charging for admission. When I arrived here the museum's finances were lousy because we were taking roughly a penny a head. We instituted charges and from April 1983 until August 11 last year we had 101,106 visitors. In the same period this year we have had 117,920 visitors. I don't believe that shows any resistance to people having to pay to enter."

An agreement has been signed, he said, with the Ministry of Defence for the next 50 years allowing the museum to retain a major proportion of the admission charges set against running expenses which is split 50:50 with the Ministry.

"We have quadrupled the staff which at least means a lot of people have been taken from the dole queues around here which is no bad thing," he said.

The library is being computerised as part of a customer facility and certain segments of the museum will be hired out during the off-season to organisations like the Rotarians. The 40-seater video cinema/seminar complex already houses £25,000 worth of equipment.

It is hoped to channel those efforts towards the 20,000-plus schoolchildren who visit the Tank Museum annually. The museum has also gone into publishing in concert with HMSO and Lt-Col Forty himself, a freelance writer, has already written 18 books.

Parts of the museum have all the fun-of-the-fair connotations for the youngsters. Items like the sound-tracked 40 mm Bofors anti-aircraft gun engaging, in juvenile hands, an attacking aircraft with the Stuka-type sound effects. Or the 10 three-minute video kiosk showing famous tank battles. And the tank simulator plotting a ride

Tanks galore in one of the main display halls.



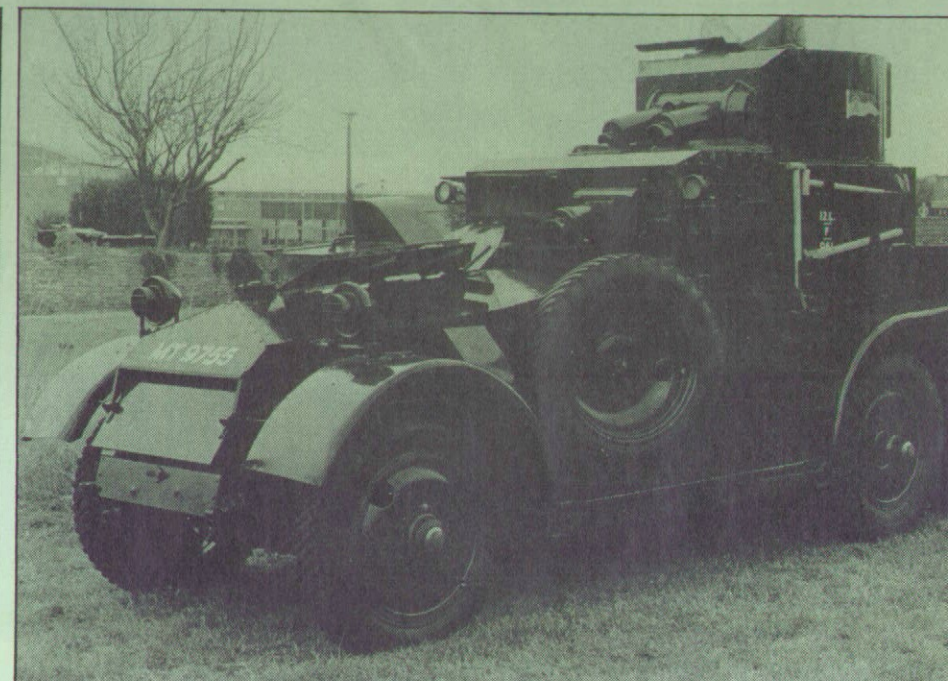
The 1938 model Light Tank Mark VIB. It carried a crew of three and mounted two machine guns in the recce role.

across the tank training areas around Bovington.

A dozen new vehicles have been acquired over the past year and are either on show or being renovated. A major plan for next year is to see several of these time-expired battlefield spartans on the move around a test track with its picnic area vantage point.

By way of a preview the museum has just shown off four such veterans in a gentle mini-mobility display.

Vehicles like the sole surviving 1920 Rolls Royce armoured car, Mark 1, 1920 pattern driven by Stuart Tansley, 7, a pint-sized holidaymaker tries out the sound-effect 40 mm Bofors air defence game for size.



The 1931 Lanchester armoured car, the last survivor of its type. They were armed with three machine guns.

one of the Wardens; a three-man Light Tank Mark VIB 1938; a 1930 Lanchester armoured car; and a 1½-ton Kettenkrad German half-track motor-bike combination of the type used by the Afrika Korps for message running and liaison work in the Western Desert.

Driving it, in uniform, for the benefit of the media and bemused, sandwich-munching spectators was museum librarian, David Fletcher.

"It's easy enough to drive," he said but added: "I certainly wouldn't want to drive any distance in it. It's agony!"

Among other new vehicles to take pride of place under the museum's protection is a world's first; a cut-in-half Centurion tank, rent down the middle, stem to stern, to show its inner workings, a labour of love by apprentices at

the Royal Ordnance Factory at Barnbow in Leeds. It took them two years to complete and the help of a 35-ton crane to install it at Bovington.

The Tank Museum — its patron is the Duke of Kent — was opened in 1923 as the Royal Tank Corps Museum but now it covers all regiments of the Royal Armoured Corps with displays of armament, power plants, transmissions, radios and memorabilia.

Lt-Col Forty, its fifth curator, said: "The museum's existence under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Defence (Army) is — both a Corps and Regimental museum. It's also a registered charity with a board of trustees and the museum is normally on the itinerary of every VIP visiting the RAC Centre.

"We are always anxious to improve the scope of our exhibits — we would very much like to acquire a light American M3 Honey tank to complete the range — but, first and foremost, we must raise a further £500,000 to complete the building programme and enlarge our main exhibition hall.

"We shall then be able to lay out the collection in a logical, easy-to-follow manner and properly tell the story of armoured vehicle development from its beginnings just before the First World War up until modern times.

"The British invented the tank, so it is only right and proper for us to preserve this important part of our national heritage."

Librarian David Fletcher mobile in the Afrika Corps Kettenkrad.



**Pictures:  
DOUG PRATT**





No fuss. Quiet stealthy work for the mine detection dog. He makes only one mistake. ▲

Captain Andrea Gallard preparing inoculation serum for the new intakes. ▼



Heavy padding to protect every part of the body when training guard dogs to make an arrest.

**W**HAT DOES it take to apprehend intruders and gunmen, seek out arms and explosives and detect the presence of mines? Well, in many cases it requires four legs, strength, speed and a good nose — preferably a wet one.

Man has used his friend the dog for centuries to do much of his dirty work. Armies in the Middle Ages clad dogs in spiked armour and sent them forward to face the enemy. During World War Two, the Russians packed explosive on dogs' backs and detonated it by antennae as they ran under indicated enemy tanks.

The British Army has, of course, never been so cruel but it does recognise its canine colleagues' superior capability in certain tasks. A dog is fast, powerfully built and, when required, extremely ferocious.

For more sensitive work, his sense of smell is infinitely better than man's and he is cheap to run.

All he requires in return is the respect and affection of his handler, a dry kennel, a daily bowl of meat

and a handful of hardtack biscuits.

Not much, is it, for almost a lifetime's devotion to duty? Yet there is something else a dog gets from service in the Army and that is an undeniably high degree of job satisfaction.

At the Army Dog Training School, part of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps Training Centre in Melton Mowbray, what immediately impresses the visitor is that the dogs are happy, fit, well-fed and eager to work.

They come to the school when they are about two years old, often donated by people no longer able to look after them for one reason or another.

Sometimes it is because the dog is simply too hard to handle as a family pet or because the family has split up. As Captain Tony Rossell, Officer Commanding said, the school would not get half its dogs if it were not for divorce!

Part of the school complex, which is committed to producing around 240 fully trained dogs a year, is given over to the new intakes. Here the former family pets are kept in isolation from other

dogs because of the risk of disease and carefully assessed for three weeks before being taken on for training.

From then on, if he is successful, he gets a new identity. Goodbye Rover and Fido, hello Khan and Cimba — you're in the Army now!

Commanding Officer of the Training Centre, Colonel Scott Moffat explained that any breed of dog can be trained for specific tasks but in terms of Army duties two breeds in particular are recognised as most suitable. These are the German Shepherd (or Alsatian) and the Labrador.

"We do not object to training any dog," he said "as long as it is capable and has the right mental approach to the tasks it is being asked to perform. But we are a production line here really and ninety-eight per cent of our work is training protection or guard dogs.

"We know the German Shepherd responds well and we really don't have the time to investigate the capabilities of other breeds."

Another important factor in breed selection is that the dog must look the part: "He has to be the right size for a start," said Colonel Moffat. "A trained toy poodle might well be wholly committed to his job too, but he wouldn't frighten anyone."

Similarly, bitches are not favoured because they tend to be kinder, softer and smaller.

Breeding is not a viable proposition for the Army because it costs too much. Since Army dogs start work at between two and three years old, the investment in a dog's puppyhood in terms of food and care would be disproportionate to its working life of three to eight years.

With the specialist dogs (that is, the mine detection and arms explosive search dogs) size is less important but temperament and intelligence more so — and the Labrador fits the bill.

After all, if you are the guy treading carefully and prodding gingerly for mines, you want a dog beside you that is steady, unexcitable and has a professional, intelligent approach to his work.

A mine detection dog is taught to sit down immediately he sniffs out a mine. He is then rewarded with a biscuit which is gone in one gulp before he is off again stealthily searching. There is no fuss.

As Captain Rossell said wryly: "A mine detection dog only ever makes one mistake."

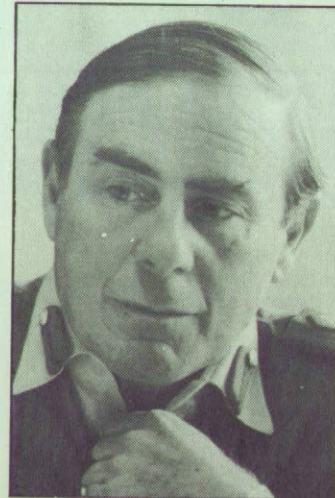
A protection dog's training takes about three months; a specialist dog twice as long. But no matter what category, the dogs all start out with the same basic training, — learning obedience and the five basic words of command — heel, sit, down, stay and come.

"Other words, like attack, leave and seek, come later" explained



Sack and sleeve baiting designed ▲ to increase the dogs' aggression.

Private Paul Bunker (left) and Tony Wilson with ▼ dogs Sable and Jaffa ready for their obedience routine.



Commanding Officer RAVC Training Centre, Colonel Scott Moffat.

Captain Rossell, "and depend on the category. This stage of training is just the nursery school, if you like, where they learn to learn.

"We also teach them agility. This is not circus work but an essential skill for the dog during the course of his work. The other thing they learn about here is their relationship with the trainer: he must have rapport with his dog otherwise he can't train it."

continued on page 32



Story: Sally Daniell Pictures: Doug Pratt



RAVC dog trainers train the dogs initially but towards the end of their course they are linked up with unit handlers who also attend the school for a two-week course or three months if they are to work with a specialist dog. By that stage a dog pretty well knows his job and it is questionable who is training whom.

The whole RAVC Training Centre runs to about 360 acres which allows plenty of scope for training. All training aids are real, including the mines, and where dogs are being trained to search buildings, vehicles and even trains and aircraft, these are conveniently available either on site or through the cooperation of local owners.

After a hard day's training, the dogs are returned to the warmth of their kennels and the caring ministrations of WRAC kennel-maids. These girls, who are as devoted to their charges as the trainers, help clean out the kennels and take care of the dogs' grooming.

Cunning canine psychology is used during grooming and the dogs are always muzzled. Since this is a pleasurable experience, the dogs do not connect the muzzle with anything unpleasant.

When they need to be muzzled for any other reason, like a visit to the vet, they will not turn or fret.

Kennelmaid Private Doreen Bunker has been at the school for eighteen months and loves every minute she is working with the dogs and says she has no wish to leave.

"That's not to say we don't have our sad moments," she said. "You can't help getting attached to the dogs and it can be heartbreaking when they're posted particularly if they go overseas. You know you won't see them again then because of the quarantine restrictions. That's my favourite at the moment," she said softly, pointing to a magnificent German Shepherd, lying prone and looking very sorry for himself.

"His name is Cimba and I don't think he likes being in the Army! But he'll be all right soon."

Doreen is not the only Private Bunker at the school for her husband, Paul is a trainer there. School marriages are quite common it seems, which is not surprising since at least a love of dogs is shared by all. Of the kennelmaids, Captain Rossell quipped: "We kid them that they arrive as grooms but leave as brides!"

"I must say that their job is not an easy one. When these girls apply to come here I tell them that for most of the year it is hard, physical work outdoors in all weathers.

"I paint the blackest picture possible so it is only those who are really keen that come through. After all, you see, if the girls aren't

happy then it affects the dogs."

After their rations of favourite food, kennelmaid care and a good night's rest, the dogs are up again and ready for another day's training. After basic training the protection dogs are sub-categorised and training varies depending on the type of establishment they are destined to guard.

The security dog is trained to guard installations where there is legal movement by the public. He is taught to show aggression and to arrest potential malefactors but he must not bite.

The guard dog is used in establishments where there is a perimeter fence and no entry to unauthorised personnel. He bites.

These dogs can run at 30mph, ears back, tail out and muscles working in perfect synchronisation to effect maximum power.

The impact of his body is flattening — a man stands little chance of remaining on his feet. Once down he is held by the dog's jaws if struggling or paralysed with fear at the dog's ferocious fangs and snarling maw. It is an awesome sight.

The security arm-true dog is a cross between these two and now used in most MOD sites where there is limited access but secure areas within the complex. This is a new type of dog and has only been in use since last year. As his title suggests, he is taught to bite only the arm in making his arrest.

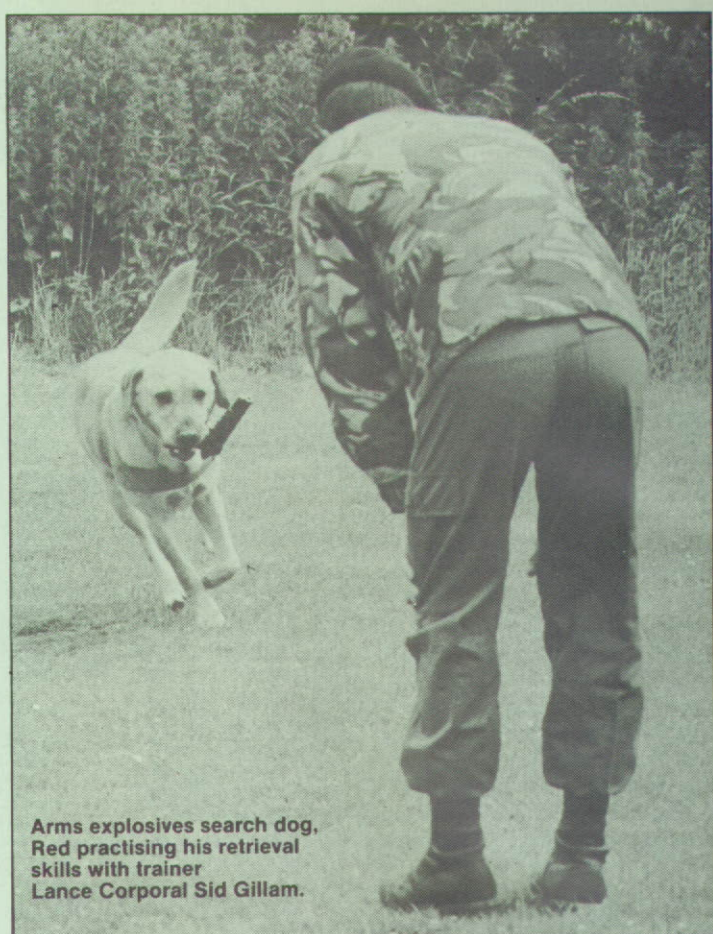
It is important to stress that all Army dogs will only act on command from their handlers. Otherwise they are quite docile and no real threat to humans. On the other hand, if a dog has just been working and is excited it is common sense to keep one's distance!

All dogs in the Army, in both UK and overseas, pass through the school and are professionally trained. On completion of their training they are sent to user units worldwide to take up duty. Periodically they return for refresher training. As Warrant Officer (RSM) Alan Bowen, the Chief Trainer explained: "It is rather like having your car serviced — the dog comes back here if he's got a bit lazy or is out of training just to put him on form again."

One thing trainers try to avoid during the whole process is their dogs becoming "padding-happy". Unavoidably, trainers playing the role of the delinquent must protect themselves and the dogs can get accustomed to tearing the padding rather than the body.

Sack, switch and sleeve baiting are designed to correct a padding-happy dog while at the same time encouraging his natural aggression.

Dogs at various stages of training are lined up and kept on a short lead by their trainers. Then one trainer goads them all into fury



Arms explosives search dog, Red practising his retrieval skills with trainer Lance Corporal Sid Gillam.



An awesome sight. Laughing gear with a difference.

until the trainers give them the command to attack.

"It's a curious thing" said Captain Rossell, "but dogs are far more aggressive in groups than on their own. One dog barking and snarling gives all the others confidence and then they're all at it. I suppose it is a bit like a drunk in the pub saying 'Hold me back, or I'll kill him!'"

Some softer animal lovers might balk at this sort of training but let us not forget that these are

working dogs that save the Army manpower. (One dog can do the job of four foot patrols.) They also save lives. That alone justifies the training but this aside, there is no doubt the dogs enjoy leading a useful life with the Army.

"You see, you have to remember" reminded Captain Rossell, "that it is all a marvellous game to them. They're happy when they're working because it stops them getting bored."

This appeared to be true of the humans at the Melton Mowbray school as well — man and dog working in perfect harmony. ■



After 80 years of providing bed and board for thousands of visiting Servicemen, London's Union Jack Club is looking at ways of solving its current...

# CUSTOMER CRISIS



Story: John Margetts Pictures: Doug Pratt

ROOM WITH A VIEW St Paul's Cathedral is on the right.



**M**ORE BEDS than customers. That's the simple, but major problem facing the Union Jack Club in London. For 80 years the club has provided millions of travelling and visiting Servicemen with meals and beds.

Until a few years ago it was well used, but now only about half of its 400 single and 63 family rooms are occupied at any one time.

Sited opposite Waterloo station and within minutes of the capital's bright lights, the club has been a landmark to countless Servicemen over the years.

But over the past four its attraction has dwindled.

A suggestion that the club was heading for its own Waterloo was vigorously denied by Club Comptroller Brigadier John Ghika.

"Although we have an occupancy problem in that we are not attracting sufficient numbers of Servicemen and women to stay here, this is definitely not the beginning of the end of the Union Jack," he said.

"While the rates for our rooms are cheap by London standards — £9.50 for a single, £17.75 for a double — we are not getting customers in the numbers we need.

"As an inducement we even reduced rates for children between three and 12 from £6.20 to £5 a night, and for those under three it's free.

**THE CLUB'S FRONT ENTRANCE**  
Opposite Waterloo and just minutes from the West End.

"But the days of large numbers of Servicemen and their families visiting and spending time in London are receding.

"Of course, the recession and the reduced size of the Services have affected us, but London is an expensive place and Servicemen are spending their money on such things as cars and mortgages."

Club secretary Mr Lewis Moulton put it bluntly when he described London itself as a "rip-off."

But he also pointed out that "it's a different world today. No longer do we have a vast Army at Aldershot anxious to get to London for a few days on the town and a room at the club," he said.

"Neither is the Navy at Portsmouth in any great numbers, nor at Chatham.

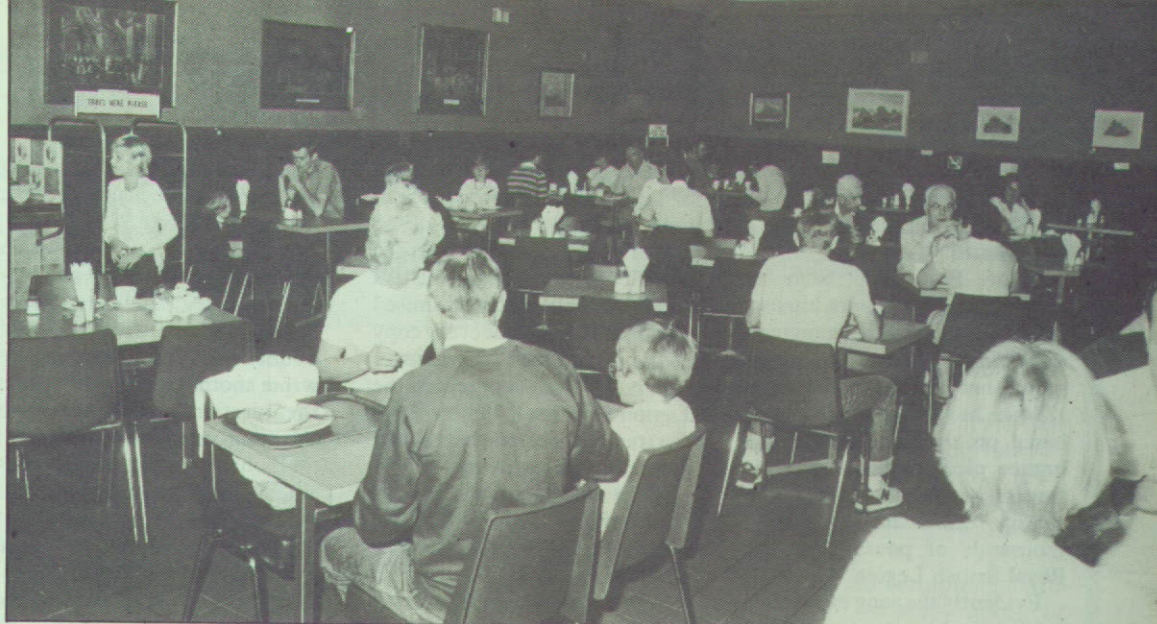
"And, of course, the days of Servicemen travelling through London and staying overnight on their way to their next posting no longer really applies, since most troop movements are now by air and they go straight to the airport."

Added Brigadier Chika: "The





**COMFORT FOR THE STAFF**  
Linda Andres relaxes in her room.



**THE DINNING ROOM**  
Families are welcomed.

fact is London is no longer the centre of gravity for the Services. That and the cuts in the Forces have hit us hard."

But even if the club is having a rough financial ride, it has not reduced its 24-hour services in any way even though staff has been cut from 130 to 108 over the past four years.

Twenty-four storeys high with a families block linked by walkways, the club was rebuilt ten years ago at a cost approaching £4 million.

It has all the mod-cons of a medium-class London hotel and is within minutes of the West End and theatreland.

But that alone, it seems, is not enough to attract today's Servicemen and women in sufficient numbers to keep the club's finances on an even keel.

"Our last good trading year was 1979," said Lewis Moulton. "Then we had a surplus of £99,000 on a turnover of £870,000.

"But since then, because of the



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recession, increased costs and a lack of customers we have been making losses and working on a knife edge.

"One simple answer to the whole problem would be for every Serviceman and woman to contribute a small annual membership subscription.

"If it was only £1 a year it would solve our problems overnight. But as membership is free and automatic to all non-commissioned ranks, that cannot be done."

### THE FUTURE

So what does the future hold for the club? If the Services are not using it and subs cannot be levied, what will happen?

To answer this and scores of linking questions the trustees of the UK have set up a committee to plan the club's future. Called *The Way Ahead*, it aims to produce a scheme which will take the club into the next century.

Again firmly dispelling any idea of a shutdown, Brigadier Ghika said: "The first thing they have done is to prepare a list of 22 questions which will be sent to 3,000 Servicemen and women."

Randomly selected by computer, the names have been divided proportionately between men and women, single and married. Now the Brigadier is hoping for a good response which will point the way for the UJ of the future.

In the meantime the club is looking to ex-Servicemen to boost trade.

"If an ex-Serviceman can show proof of service, then he can become a member of the club," said Lewis Moulton, adding that he thought the future of the club lay in that direction.

"We've considerably widened our scope for business," he said.

"Already I have had inquiries from an ex-US Marines association who want to stay here when visiting London, and we've even extended membership to all NATO troops and their families, not to mention police forces throughout the UK, the prison and ambulance services and many similar organisations.

"If the rooms are not used by serving Servicemen, they might just as well be used by others. It's another way of raising cash and customers."

But this is just the start of the



**HEROES REMEMBERED**  
Visitors scan the honours board.

UJ's campaign to attract people outside the Forces to fill their hundreds of rooms. And the halfway signs are that, unless they pull in more clients by the end of their financial term, they could be heading for another bumper loss.

### NOT THE END

Although it sounds dramatic it's not the end by any means, for as Brigadier Ghika said: "We are a self-supporting charity which means we have to generate our own income.

"And while we cannot afford to go on losing money, we have substantial assets and are well endowed. We (the club) also own the freehold of the site on which the UJ stands."

Whether that valuable freehold will ever be sold and the club relocated from its South Bank site depends on many factors, not least among them the response of the 3,000 recipients of the questionnaire, and whether *The Way Ahead* committee can see their way clearly enough to produce the right answers and signal a bright future for the Union Jack.

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# "Lest we forget" in song

**W**HETHER they will be singing — as opposed to intoning "Lest We Forget" at future Festivals of Remembrance is a matter of some interest to Mike Sammes, the composer and guiding light of the singing group that bears his name.

Mike has set to music a lyric based on the familiar remembrance pledge and he and his singers have made it into one side of a record which could raise thousands of pounds for the Royal British Legion.

Evidently the song has attracted favourable attention within Legion circles, but whether it will be included in this year's Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall is still uncertain as programme details have already been finalised.

Quite apart from the privilege of his song being performed at the Festival, Mike Sammes would like to see its debut for the benefit of the Royal British Legion as well. He has promised 10p to the Legion for every copy of the record sold by whatever means. But for every record the Legion sells itself they will get the standard dealer's cut of 43p, giving them a grand total of 53p.

Thus with the song on stage and copies of the record on sale out in the foyer, Mike reckons they could sell a couple of thousand copies at the Albert Hall this November, which would mean a profit for the Legion of over £1,000.

Ironically the Remembrance song came into the project as something of an afterthought. Originally Mike Sammes was

asked to look at a lyric by song writer Peter Buchanan on the subject Arnhem.

He loved the words which described the courage and endurance of the "Red Berets" who landed at Arnhem, but had doubts about the music. So he wrote another score. Then came the question of what to put on the other side of the record.

"I had a chat with Peter Buchanan," he recalls, "and various ideas went to and fro. And suddenly I said: 'Wait a minute, what's the slogan they use at the Albert Hall every November on the Festival of Remembrance — Lest We Forget!' "I am sure that when you look around the hymn books and the sorts of things they use in remembrance services there is nothing which actually says we

must remember.

"So he went off and wrote some couplets and rang back half an hour later and I said 'Marvellous as much of that as you can turn out' — which he did to such an extent that we've now got two spare sets of lyrics which we can never use!"

Mike is particularly impressed with Peter Buchanan's talent for lyric writing. "Its extraordinary," he says.

They've already composed a song about the Mary Rose and a mini musical called "Tommy and Joe" — the experiences of Tommy Atkins and GI Joe in the Second World War — which has been used as background music by Major Tonie and Mrs Valmai Holt's battlefield tours for veterans.

Robert Higson

## On the Record

with Rodney Bashford

*Music In Memory — Band of the 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment.*

*Conductor: Bandmaster T. E. Pickering — Music Masters MM0601*

The title might imply to the casual buyer a sombre programme, perhaps commemorating the heroic (and

therefore almost certainly of fatal consequence) past deeds of the Regiment. The commanding officer,

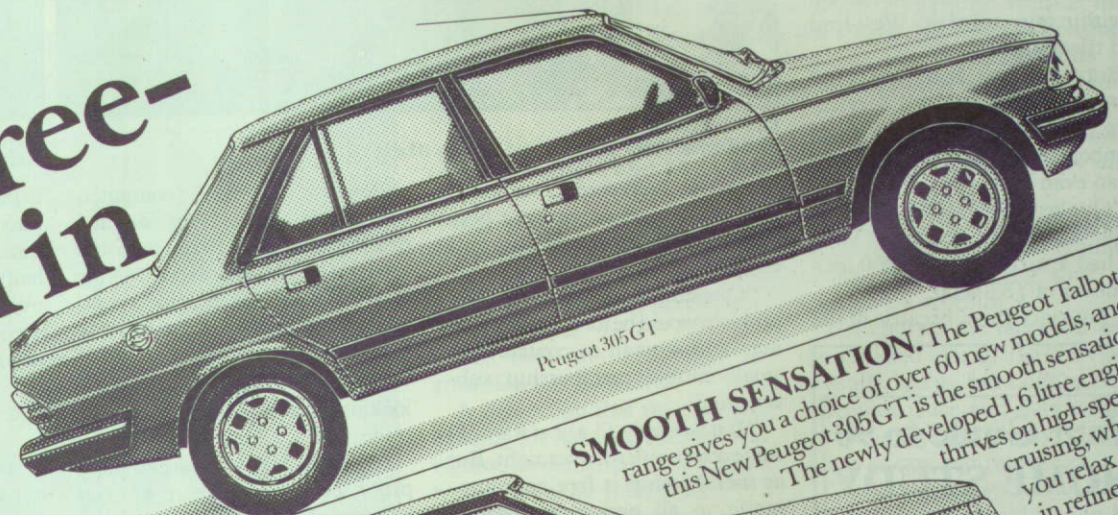
in his sleeve notes, finds a more tenuous pretext for its use which I find unsupportable.

A pity, for the record is a wow, a term I have never yet found reason to use for military band records. Apart from being light music of the highest quality the band, the conductor, and the sound technicians achieve a remarkable punch (again a new word for me) which strikes home right from

the start, and only lets up for a couple of minutes during the one item which might fulfil the expectations of that casual buyer.

The record should be bought not casually, but with pleasurable anticipation, from The Bandmaster, BFPO 1, record or cassette £5.50 inclusive, or from Music Masters, or Regimental Headquarters, The Castle, Chester.

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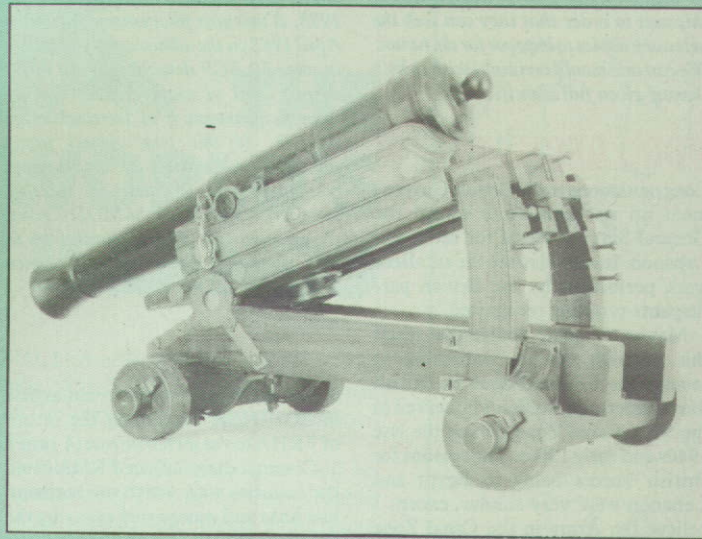


# KOEHLER'S DEPRESS CARRIAGE

**T**HE fiercest of Gibraltar's many sieges lasted from 21 June 1779 to 3 February 1783, when it endured a blockade by 44 line-of-battle ships, supported by hundreds of smaller craft, and an army of almost 40,000 French and Spanish soldiers with 200 heavy guns and mortars. Yet the garrison of British and Hanoverian troops and the Gibraltar townsfolk not only sat tight behind their defences but kept the enemy under almost constant fire.

The nature of their military effort meant that a new gun carriage had to be designed, as much of the artillery had to shoot downwards from batteries high on the Rock.

With virtually every gun a muzzle loader, the gun carriages then in use could not be depressed sufficiently to fire



down on targets in the bay.

To simplify loading a steeply angled barrel, Lieutenant George F Koehler, RA, devised a new gun carriage. The lower of two grooved planks joined by a spindle was hinged to the

front of an ordinary carriage and the barrel fixed to the upper plank.

The breech end could be lifted and set at any angle. After each shot the barrel could be swung to one side on the

spindle for loading instead of having to be run in and charged from in front.

John Spilsbury, of the 12th Foot, wrote in his journal on 1 February 1782 that he had 'tried Lieut Kayler's (sic) depress gun carriage which answers from the heights'.

As the abstemious, sharp-mannered Koehler made no attempt to hide his contempt for many of his brother officers, he was not the best loved character in Gibraltar, but he was the man for the occasion.

Not only was he the Governor's friend and valued adviser, but like so many 18th-century soldiers, he was a competent artist and a clever engineer whose gun carriage made close approaches to the Rock distinctly risky.

A wooden model on loan to the museum from the Trust shows how ingenious it was.

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## 'Perhaps the bravest man I ever knew...'

### and now, he cannot bear to turn a corner



Six-foot-four Sergeant 'Tiny' G't'r'e, DCM, was perhaps the bravest man his Colonel ever knew.

But now, after seeing service in Aden, after being booby-trapped and ambushed in Northern Ireland, Sergeant 'Tiny' cannot bear to turn a corner. For fear of what is on the other side.

It is the bravest men and women from the Services who suffer most from mental breakdown. For they have tried, each one of them, to give more, much more, than they could in the service of our Country.

We look after these brave men and women. We help them at home, and in hospital. We run our own Convalescent Home and, for those who are homeless and cannot look after themselves in the community, our Hostel gives permanent accommodation. For others, there is our Veterans' Home where they can see out their days in peace.

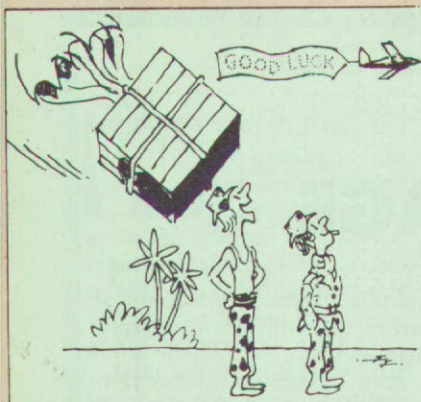
These men and women have given their minds to their Country. If we are to help them, we must have funds. Do please help us with a donation, and with a legacy too, perhaps. The debt is owed by all of us.

*"They've given more than they could - please give as much as you can."*

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Got something to say, a point to make or a story to tell? This is your page to exchange your news, views, comments and opinions. All we ask is that you keep it brief and include your full name and address. Write: Mail Drop, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

## CHOC & CRISPS

On a recent Brigade Mobilisation exercise we were issued with a packed meal which consisted of: a packet of crisps, a Picnic Bar, a pack of three biscuits, a boiled egg, three baby rolls, three packets of butter portions, one triangle of processed cheese, half a square metre of clingfilm, a plastic knife and the inevitable cardboard box. No drink.

At a time when Britain's diet is under question and when most families are conscious of the need to provide a nutritious and healthy diet, why does the Army continue supplying expensive sweets as a substitute for a proper meal? For the same cost as packets of crisps, chocolate bars, biscuits and even plastic knives any civilian caterer could come up with a healthy packed meal.

On the day in question I and my colleagues had to survive on this one 'meal' for 14 hours.

Those who boast they provide for us so well should look inwards and take stock of the changes required immediately to bring the Army's caterers in line with the current national awareness of the need for a proper balanced diet. And those who squander public funds on chocolate and crisps should hang their heads in shame. — **Captain Alan Greveson LI(V), Sorrel Brae, Collingham bridge, West Yorkshire.**

From the Army Catering Corps Headquarters: Clearly the meal provided was inadequate for the time stated and something certainly is amiss. Army policy

# MAIL DROP

is to feed soldiers to the highest possible standard that circumstances allow and the efforts of the Army Catering Services are well geared to meeting the challenge that the Reserve Army poses. It would be invidious to comment further without knowing all the circumstances, but we would hope that the writer complained to this unit in order that they can seek the necessary advice to improve for the future. We can and would certainly wish to help them if given full identification.

## GOOD DECISION

Congratulations to the British Government on its decision to award the General Service Medal for service in Lebanon. It is good to see the excellent work performed by the British participants properly recognised.

Maybe the same people that made this decision can do something to reverse the injustice done to British Servicemen and women who served in the Suez Canal Zone during the late 1940s and early 1950s. The reasons for British Forces being in Egypt and Lebanon were very similar, except I believe the Army in the Canal Zone were, in the early stages, far more actively and personally involved in armed conflict with the insurgents. Unlike today's Army, the Regular soldiers of the post-war years (1946-56) were required to serve in overseas postings on active service for years at a time, and not just a few months. This was the case in the Canal Zone and yet these concerned received absolutely no recognition for service to King/Queen and Country. — **Derek M Parker (ex Goldstream Guards), PO Box 997, Mount Isa, Queensland 4825, Australia.**

We reported in *SOLDIER* 27 August that the 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards has also been awarded the Wilkinson Sword of Peace. — **Ed.**

## NO GIRLS

I am nearly 15 years old and one of hundreds of girls who want to join the Army on leaving school. I have tried in the meantime to join the Army Cadet Force but I cannot find a unit that will take girls. Why, is this? It seems very unfair. — **Clare Johnson, Rose Cottage, Wey Lane, Saham Toney, Wotton, Norfolk.**

From the Directorate of the Territorial Army and Army Cadet Forces: "The

Army Cadet Force owes its origin to the junior militia which was formed in 1860 to counter the scares of invasion by Napoleon III. Since then the ACF has been essentially a youth organisation catering for boys between the ages of 13 years and 18 years 9 months. Women adults were admitted as instructors in 1978. A two year pilot scheme started in April 1982 on the admission of girl cadets in some 50 ACF detachments out of an overall total of nearly 1,600. One of those detachments is at Dersingham in Norfolk. If this trial should prove successful the number of detachments accepting girls is likely to increase considerably provided the MOD is given the extra money. The biggest problem to date is finding enough suitable women officers and WOs/NCOs."

## WORKS LINKS

I read with interest the recent article in *SOLDIER* concerning the return of 7 RHA to the airborne role (4 June).

Commanding Officer 7 RHA listed the counties with which the regiment had links and was quoted as saying the regiment looked forward to renewing links with these counties.

The county of Worcestershire was not listed which very much surprised me since historically 7 RHA has strong links with the county and, in particular, the Worcestershire Yeomanry who now of course serve within our squadron and also A Squadron (WWY) of the Queens Own Mercian Yeomanry. — **Staff Sergeant D Smart, Signal Squadron, 67th Queen's Own Warwickshire and Worcestershire Yeomanry, New Broad Street, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6HW.** From the Commanding Officer, 7 RHA: It is true the regiment is historically linked with the Worcestershire Yeomanry. More recently, however, the regiment has taken on responsibility for recruiting in the counties referred to in the *SOLDIER* article. For mainly recruiting purposes we are looking forward to fostering our links with these counties. On historical grounds, we are of course, very keen to renew links with Worcestershire and the omission of that county from the list can only be put down to an oversight on our behalf.

## ARMY TIES

You asked readers to let you know their families' Service. May I tell you of mine? Our father was called up in 1914 and his three sons followed him into the same regiment, the 1st Battalion the Hampshire Regiment (now prefixed Royal). We all served together through the twenties, thirties and forties although Dad retired in 1936. We all were awarded LS & GC medals as well as the MSM. One of our brothers-in-law and his son also served in the same regiment over the same period.

Two officer uncles, brothers of our mother enlisted as bugle boys in the 60th Rifles, served in the Boer War and the First World War and both were awarded the MC. My father-in-law served for 21 years in the Worcestershire Regiment and the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. His son enlisted in the Royal Engineers at the outbreak of World War Two, took part

in the evacuation of Dunkirk, the D-Day landings and also Arnhem. He went on to Korea and was discharged as a Warrant Officer 1 after 25 years service. — **Tom Parrot, 21 Wallace Court, Newport, IOW.**

## Collectors Corner

R Andrews, Mount Cottage, South St, Great Chesterford, Essex CB10 1NW. Has Hitler Youth belt, will exchange for British and colonial cap badges, titles etc. Some British badges for exchange as well.

Robert Lewis, Roselands, 5 Great Headland Road, Preston, Paignton, Devon. Seeks complete US Army/Air Force general's service dress. Height 5", waist 36", head circumference 23" approx.

## Reunions

**The Glasgow Highlanders, HLI,** will be holding their annual reunion in the County Hotel, Newcastle upon Tyne on Saturday 6 October 1984 at 6 for 6.30pm. All information from: A G B Mason, 65 Bellevue Road, Edinburgh EH1 4DJ. Tel No: 031-556 4201.

**The York and Lancaster Regiment.** The 70th annual reunion and dinner of The York and Lancaster Regiment Sergeants' Dinner Club will take place in Sheffield on Saturday 6 October 1984. The annual dinner of the 9th Bn (1935-45) The York and Lancaster Regiment will take place in Sheffield on Saturday 30 October 1984. Details of both from: Regimental Secretary, RHQ Y&L, Endcliffe Hall, Sheffield S10 3EU.

Calling all ex-Servicemen of West Indian origin, **West Indian ex-Servicemen's Association UK,** 165/167 Clapham Manor Street, London SW4, tel: 01-627-0702. We offer Advice Counselling and Resettlement Assistance in Education Housing and Employment. You are welcome on your return to the United Kingdom to our Social and Cultural Evenings. Please do not hesitate to write or call us at any time.

## Competition

In Competition 342, 'Army Connections' you had to take one letter from each line of the square to make a nine letter word which had something to do with the Army. These were *Aldershot, Battalion, Brigadier, Fusiliers, Garrisons, Gibraltar, Grenadier, Manoeuvre and Pensioner.* Prizewinners were: 1st Cpl M Baber, 52 Sangro Road, Perham Down, Tidworth, Hants. 2nd Capt (QM) I Beck, 1st Bn Scots Guards, Elizabeth Bks, Pirbright, Surrey. 3rd Mrs F Weekes, 11 Old Park Close, Old Park Bks, Dover, Kent. 4th Sgt J R Wall, 31 Dukes Park, Aldershot, Hants. 5th Mrs S Halsey, Det 23 PC Sqn RE, BFPO 57.

## How Observant Are You?

1 Top of flag pole; 2 Middle cross-window of castle; 3 'G' in 'Good'; 4 Dragon's right eye; 5 Top spike on dragon's neck; 6 Referee's right thumb; 7 Referee's right shoe; 8 Length of knight's sword; 9 Size of cross on knight's chest; 10 Girl's hair.



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# THE WORLD'S ISLANDS

**W**OULD you like to win £50? That's the prize SOLDIER is offering this issue for the correct solution to its competition.

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Make sure of your chance of winning £50 by ordering your regular copy of SOLDIER now.

The rules of the competition remain the same. It is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 12 October. The answers and winner's name will be announced in our issue of 5 November.

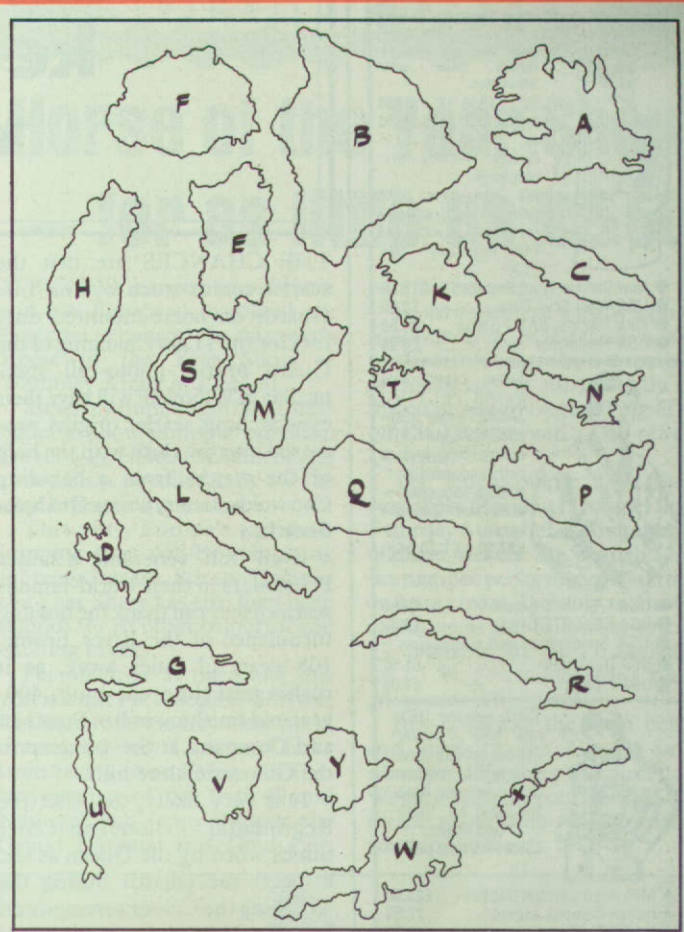
More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 346' label.

In the case of a tie, the winner will be drawn by lots. No correspondence can be entered into.

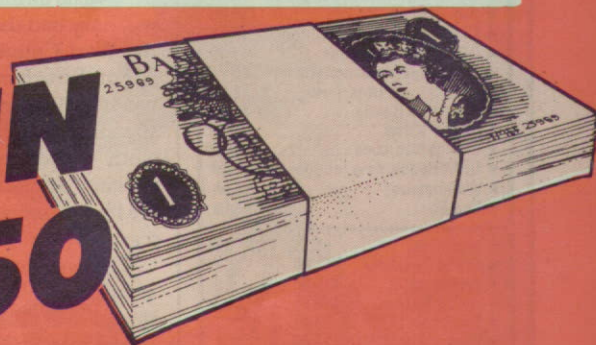
Send your answers by post card or letter with the 'Competition 346' label, to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

Here, in outline, we present twenty-two of the world's islands. Some are large and some are quite small. But we have not shown them to scale.

List the islands alphabetically under the letters given — A to Y minus I, J and O. Name each island and add its location.



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# Stroud's dyeing industry keeps the Army well-attired

THE CHANCES are that the scarlet tunics worn by the Life Guards on horse-mounted duty rota for the 11 am Changing of the Guard tourist photo-call spectacular in Whitehall will have their eye-catching scarlet origins processed into the cloth with the help of the waters from a babbling Cotswolds stream, writes **Graham Smith**.

Even the venerable Chelsea Pensioners in their world-famous scarlet livery can thank the tinkling turbulence of the River Frome, 108 peaceful miles away, as it rushes past the stone-built, 400-year-old finishing mill of Strachan and Company at Stroud deep in the Gloucestershire hills.

It is very likely, too, that the Regimental Colonel-in-Chief tunics worn by the Queen as she inspects the Guards during the Trooping the Colour ceremony on her official birthday at Horseguards will have had the dye originated in the West Country.

For Strachan's is one of only two textile firms in the country specialising in making high quality cloth — ten per cent of it for military application — in which are impregnated any of six graded scarlet dyes.

They import the finest merino wool and subject it to 20 processes spread over six months before the scarlet material is made up, under separate Ministry of Defence tender elsewhere, into resplendent tunics.

Cuttings from the dyed-in-the-wool lengths are sent to the headquarters of the Ministry of Defence's Quality Assurance Department, Stores and Clothing, at Didcot, for rigorous inspection usually by a sophisticated spectrophotometer, which can pick up light reflections from cloth.

A far cry from the days when the British soldier went to war in his scarlet tunic — said to mask the seeping of spilled blood — when the process of staining the uniform to its particular hue was achieved by the use of cochineal, the dried bodies of insects which live off Mexican cactus and whose properties were used in the making of scarlet and carmine dyes.

Today, Strachan's estimate they turn out nearly six miles of cloth in the half-dozen scarlet dyes used in military tunics every year.



And it was ever thus.

In February 1642, for instance, King Charles 1, being 'credibly informed', sent a letter from his Court of Oxford to his 23-year-old, Czech-born 'most trusty and entirely beloved' nephew, Prince Rupert, asking him to tour local cloth mills — including that of Stroud — to acquire 'great quantities of cloth canvas for supplying ye great necessities our soldiers have of suits'.

Prince Rupert, a colonel of a cavalry regiment when he was only 16, a veteran of the Thirty Years' War, carried out his uncle's wishes though the amount of the order placed at the Stroud mill is not readily on record.

The firm makes the covers for casino tables at Monte Carlo. John McEnroe clinched Wimbledon victory this year with tennis balls covered in cloth supplied by Strachans. World professional snooker championships use their billiard cloths, too.

The £100,000 of cloth designated annually for scarlet military

apparel is immersed in scarlet liquor, a synthetic organic oil-based dye stuff, part of an overall process involving the factory's total output which calls for the daily use of some 200,000 gallons of water from the stream.

Yet the water by itself is not suited to the dyeing processes. Its properties are those of hard limestone.

Mr Brian Pegler, the sales director of Strachans, said: "Do you know that we cannot grow azaleas or rhododendrons in this area and we get furred kettles as well? But we can still make an extremely high quality cloth using this water. Nevertheless we consider ourselves a craft industry and not a machine industry."

He is very proud of his firm's military tradition. "It's nice to know that soldiers on ceremonial duties are wearing such prestigious items as ours," he added. "I suppose we have made a small contribution to the British tourist trade around the streets of Westminster over the years."



# SAPPERS BUILD IN SUMMER SNOW

**T**HE NORWEGIAN Army has something to thank 35 British sappers for during their recent foray to the 'Land of the Midnight Sun' in a bid to build Artillery Points there.

Exercise Trig Norge 84 took the British party well within the Arctic Circle courtesy of an RAF Hercules into Tromso from where the men — mostly field surveyors — were driven to their first camp base.

While the UK basked in temperatures nudging the 80s, the sapper surveyors braved the rigours of snowstorms in mid-summer. The snow turned to rain and the 'mossies' moved in for the humid kill thereafter.

Errors and misunderstandings there were, too. Like the driver who filled his petrol driven Land Rover with diesel fuel. Snocats recovering beleaguered Land

Rovers and irate wardens chasing field parties from nature reserves.

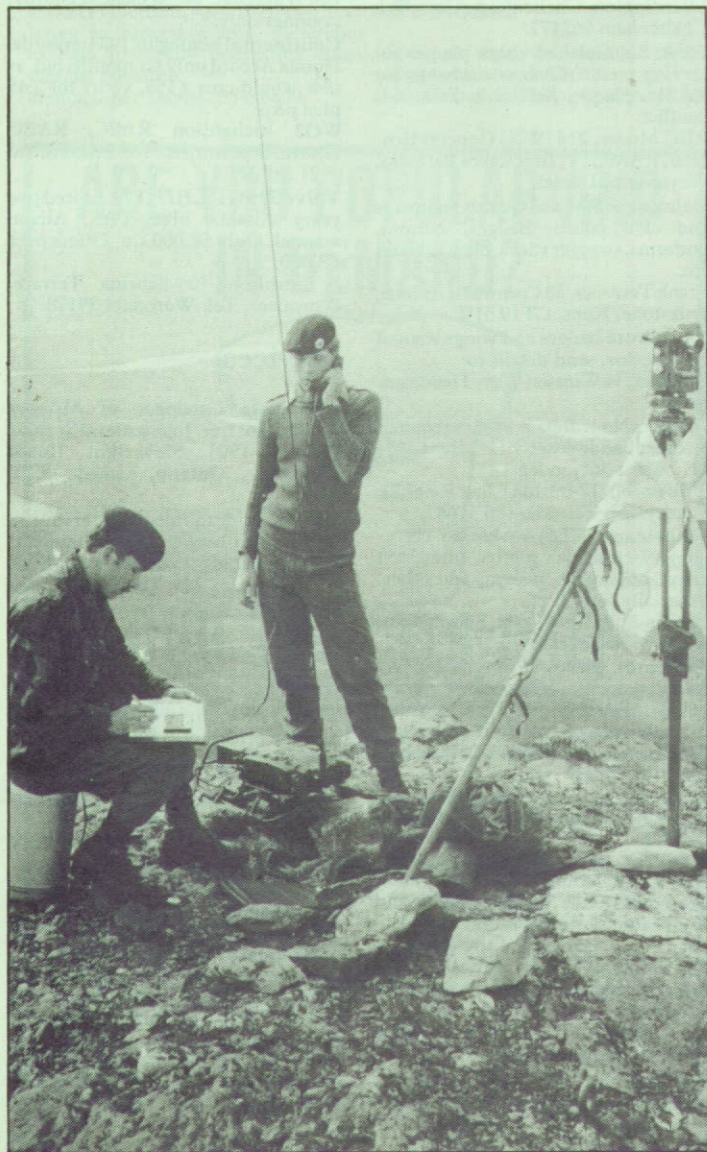
Yet Exercise Trig Norge 84 was the fourth exercise of its kind for 19 Topographic Squadron, RE, in recent years and the building of artillery points for the Norwegian Army did get well under way.

The next move was south to Setermeon for the rest of the exercise stay in the Infantry Battalion's Home Guard Centre. Detachments moved out to two offshore islands.

There were incidents best left unlogged. Such as the 140 km round trip to reach a point just 15 kms distant. There was the 'unclimbable hill'. That was taken in just 30 minutes!

In the end, the sappers may not have seen much of the Midnight Sun but managed to fix their 175 artillery points in seven weeks.

LCpl John Reddington checks in with base location.



## Special SOLDIER OFFER

### Horse of the Year Show — for as little as £2.50

TOP SHOW jumpers from Britain and the European mainland are expected to compete in this year's Horse of the Year Show at Wembley Arena in London.

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Personalities at the show this year include Pat Koechlin-Smythe, Liz Hartel of three-day event world dressage, Jenny Loriston Clarke from racing, Ann Ferris, the first lady winner of the Irish Grand National, and Jenny Pitman, the Grand National and Gold Cup

winning trainer.

By arrangement with Wembley Stadium Ltd, SOLDIER is able to offer its readers seats at matinee performances at substantially reduced prices, giving a saving of £3 off the £7 seats and £1.50 off the £4 seats.

The Horse of the Year Show runs from Monday 1 October until Saturday 6 October. Reduced price matinee tickets are available for the matinee performances (starting at 2 pm) from Tuesday to Friday inclusive at the following prices: £7 available for £4; £6 available for £3.50; £5 available for £3; and £4 available for £2.50.

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A limited edition of 30 prints signed personally by the respective artists has previously been offered and a few are still available at £7.50 each. Unsigned prints, identical in all other respects to the limited editions are now offered for sale at £3.00.

Both can be sent by post to anyone enclosing cash/cheque/PO including 45p for second class postage and packing, UK wide only. Cheques/POs made payable to RHF Museum Account Fund please. Apply to: The Regimental Secretary, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 518 Sauchiehall Street, GLASGOW G2 3LW.



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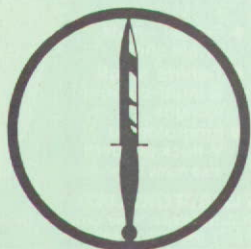
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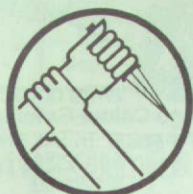
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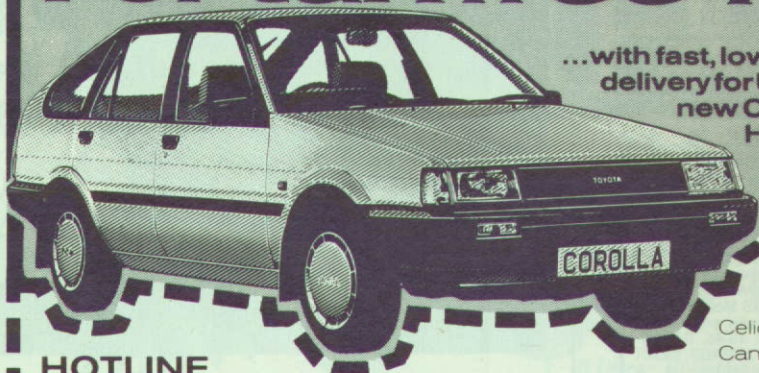
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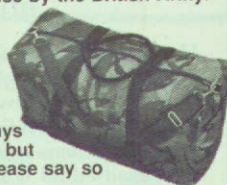
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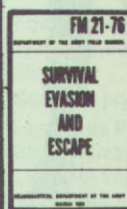
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Chairman Army Rugby Union Colts

**T**RIALS for the Army Colts Rugby side will be held at Aldershot on Saturday 13 October 1984 and players must be under 19 on 1 January 1985 to be eligible.

Traditionally Army Colts Rugby is extremely well supported by the Army Apprentices Colleges and Junior Leaders Units but I am convinced that we miss quite a lot of talent elsewhere. Three players who were eventually "capped" in the Inter-Services Colts Championship last season were drawn to our attention by civilian clubs for whom they had played before joining the Army. They were in adult units which did not put their names forward.

I hope that by giving Army Colts more publicity we will overcome this problem by identifying such players much earlier. Details of the trials will be put out to all units asking for nominations shortly but if good players come to light after the trials their details should be sent in without delay to: Major D J Skinner, AAC, Hon Secretary, Army Rugby Union Colts, Headquarters Aldershot Garrison, Cavans Road, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2LQ. Telephone Aldershot Military 3131.

Last season we had a very successful Colts side which won the Inter-Services Colts Championship and inflicted impressive

year's side.

Of the players who are available again there are several exciting prospects, notably Private George Graham (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders) who played for Scotland at Under 18 level last season and Gunner Mike Stewart (40 Field Regiment RA) and Apprentice Dean Ryan (AAC Chepstow) who were selected for the Potential England Colts Coaching Course held at Taunton School this Summer.

Army Colts have 14 fixtures. In the past more of the home fixtures have been played at Aldershot but next season more are to be played at Junior Unit locations; for example Durham County will be played at AAC Harrogate and Leicester at the Junior Leaders Regiment RA at Bramcote. This is a new policy which I hope to expand further if it is successful and which I hope will encourage Rugby in Junior Units.

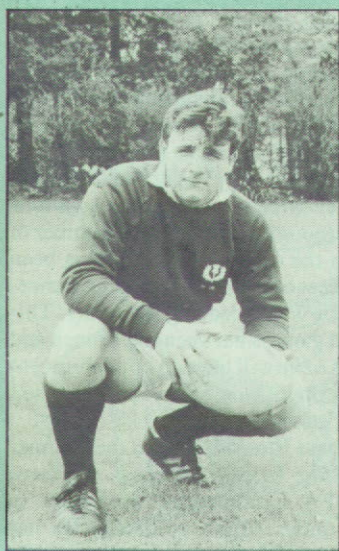
The playing of fixtures against the odd County side is also an innovation which I hope will help to raise our standards even more.

The side will be coached again next season, as last, by Captain Graham Frobisher, REME and Mr Derek Price, who as a civilian lecturer has been teaching young soldiers academic subjects as well as Rugby for a number of years.

## Prospects

It is also the Army's turn to take charge of Combined Services Colts Rugby which is run by each Service in turn for two years at a time. In addition to the nine Army "capped" players there are another seven from the other two Services who will be of Colts age again, so the prospects here are bright too. The Combined Services season culminates in the Area Matches (Preliminary England Trials) in January 1985 when they play the South. Prior to this they play two matches in Wales, against Cardiff and District and Bridgend and District, which will be watched by the Welsh Selectors, plus two other matches in England against Rosslyn Park and London Welsh.

So there is plenty for the young Army Rugby player to aim for. A successful and exciting season is in prospect and I am looking forward to it enormously.



Private Graham.

defeats on such well known clubs as Bridgend, Orrell and London Welsh. It was a young side and nine of the players "capped" in the Inter-Services Championship are of Colts age again, which augurs well for another successful season. However, I am a great believer in healthy competition and I hope to see a lot of new talent emerging and challenging for places in this

# Hi-Ho Silver!



**SILVER** medallist Sergeant Kriss Akabusi, APTC pictured here with his wife and seven-week-old baby, Ashanti sporting her Dad's trophy from the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games, is the Army's champion 400 metres athlete and ranked amongst the top four in Britain.

Considering he was placed 40th in 1982, beat the country's number one Phil Brown in 1983 and selected for Britain's 4 x 400 metres relay team in the 23rd Olympiad, Akabusi's rapid progress has certainly justified all his hard training at Southampton Athletic Club.

The 26-year-old Paddington born former Junior Signaller, helped his team win the Silver medal, setting a new British and European record of 2 mins 59.13.

After his return from "smog city" Kriss said he was tired but very proud: "All my dreams of the last six years have come true."

## MORGAN SWIMS IN

ONE name dominated the results of the Army Individual Swimming Championships this year and that was Sapper Shawn Morgan of 3 Training Regiment, RE.

In just his second year in the Army he fulfilled his last year's promise as the Army's best swimmer and came first in the 200, 400 and 800 yds freestyle, 100 yds backstroke and the 4 x 66½ yds

individual medley with at least a two second lead.

In the women's events, Private Tracey Neale won the 100 yds butterfly in which she set a new record at last year's Inter-Services Championships, and the 4 x 33⅓ yds individual medley.

In the diving SSI Danny Brown, APTC took first place in the mens three metre springboard and five metre highboard competitions, well ahead of runner-up Corporal Phinn of 1QOH.

Sergeant Symmonds, WRAC did equally well in the women's one metre springboard and five metre highboard.

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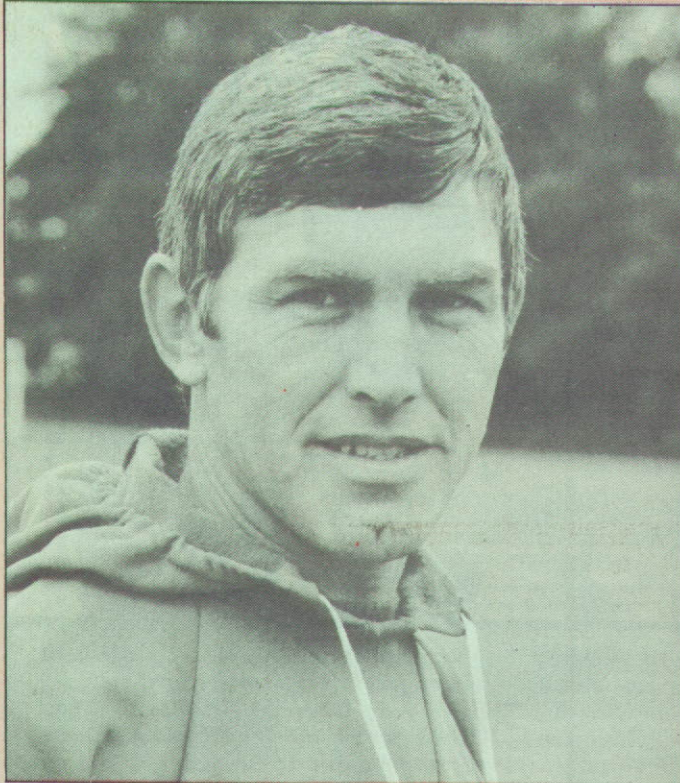
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# FOOTBALL CRAZY!

**A**LFIE COULTON starts the new Soccer season knowing that it will be difficult to equal his achievement last time out when his four year Combined Services Kentish Cup campaign finally paid dividends and the civilian club he coaches won promotion for the second year in succession.

Alfie, or QMSI Coulton as he is officially

known in the Army, is one of those rare people who can achieve wonders not just by the skill he passes on while coaching but by his ability to inspire players to greater heights than they would have thought possible.

His feat in putting together a team to take on and beat the slick young professional from the Belgian and French Armed Forces last season was not exactly a case of making a silk purse out of a sow's ear but it was one which certainly defied all the odds.

He has been football crazy ever since as a little lad in Preston he used to visit the famous Preston North End (then a mighty First Division club), with his grandad.

"I used to spend a lot of time with him watching games and we also used to go to Fulwood Barracks where lots of great professional players were doing their National Service. On Wednesdays we would go to inter-unit games there and he would point out these great players."

Alf played himself for North East Cheshire schoolboys but when he joined the former Junior Leaders REME at Arborfield the sport took a back seat for a while. But while in Germany he played at unit divisional level and also for the local team at Celle — "this rekindled my appetite for the game."

Just as 1984 was to prove a watershed year for him so was 1967. He got married that summer and also joined the Army Physical Training Corps. A few months later he had an Army trial and soon he was a fixture in Army sides. "This was despite the fact that I made my debut at the ripe old age of 24."

Despite this late start Alfie holds a record which is unlikely to be beaten. He appeared in 22 Kentish Cup matches in a row and the same number of Inter-Services matches before retiring. A year missed and he was back again for another season to make 24 matches in each competition.

In 1968-69 and the following season he was a member of the only two Army sides to win the Kentish Cup following the departure of young professional stars at the end of National Service. This was to inspire him with hope when he took over as Kentish Cup coach four years ago.

It was the first time that RAF, Navy and Royal Marines players had been included although both the Continental countries had always fielded Armed Forces sides.

"A year before we had lost 6-1 to the Belgians and I realised at the time that was the writing on the wall for a purely Army side," Alfie recalls. "I knew that if we were to compete it would have to be done on a squad system over a period of time. I worked hard on ensuring that members of the squad made regular appearances no matter where they were and that is what eventually brought success."

Originally he felt it would take three years to achieve success — but despite good gritty performances the Kentish Cup obstinately remained on the other side of the Channel. But last season most of his players remained and the battle was finally won.

"It was nice to see all the pieces come into place. My greatest delight was for the players because having played in the competition myself I knew the problems they faced."

Now he is in the happy position of defending the Cup they wrested. He sees it as a new challenge although there will be a number of new faces in the squad — some having been posted overseas and others, including Lance-Corporal Phil White, leaving the Army. This year the first game is between the French and the Belgians so he will have an opportunity to weigh up the opposition before the Combined Services go into action.

Windsor and Eton are now in the Premier Division of the Isthmian League and have made the FA Cup proper two years in succession under Alfie's guidance. He has two more years left in the Army and eventually hopes to take up an outside job in football.

"My ambition is to work full time as a professional coach — hopefully in League football. But it won't be easy to break through. I would be happy to go abroad to work if I had to."

If any British club needs a reference for Alfie Coulton's coaching and motivation ability every member of the Combined Services teams which have played under his tutelage in recent years would be more than happy to supply one.

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