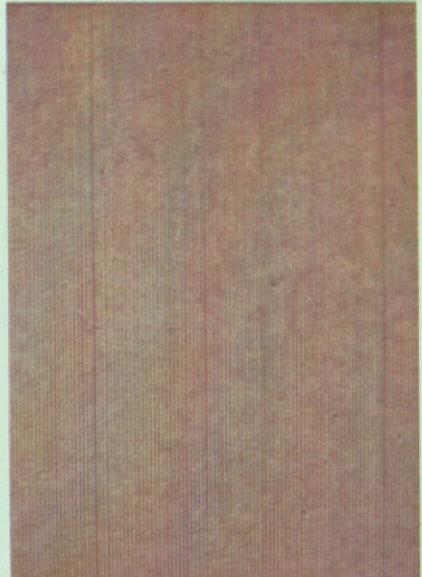


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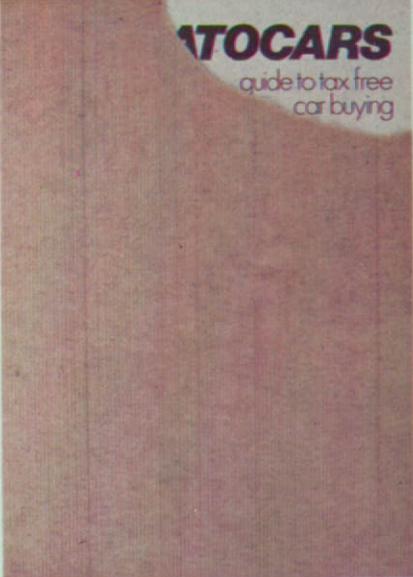
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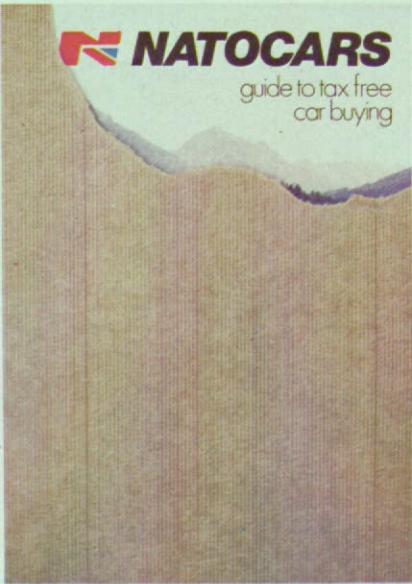
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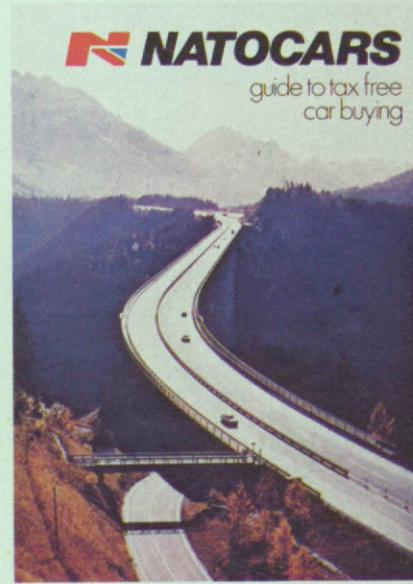
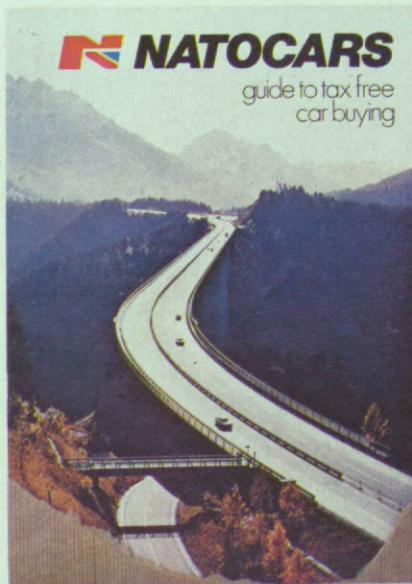
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FRONT COVER

A chilly reminder of winter's approach — Scimitars of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars fly the flag in Norway during Exercise Anorak Express earlier this year.

Picture by Doug Pratt



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The recent Cyprus Walkabout. With temperatures nudging the nineties this team would probably rather have been on the mule bringing in the grape harvest. Story — page 10.

Picture by Les Wiggs



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Editor: BOB HOOPER (Ext 2585)

Deputy Editor: JOHN WALTON (Ext 2586)

Feature Writer: GRAHAM SMITH (Ext 2590)

Art Editor: JOHN RUSHWORTH (Ext 2589)

Picture Editor: LESLIE A WIGGS (Ext 2584)

Photographers: DOUG PRATT,

ANDY BURRIDGE (Ext 2584)

Advertising Circulation: Mrs C WILKINSON (Ext 2592/2587)

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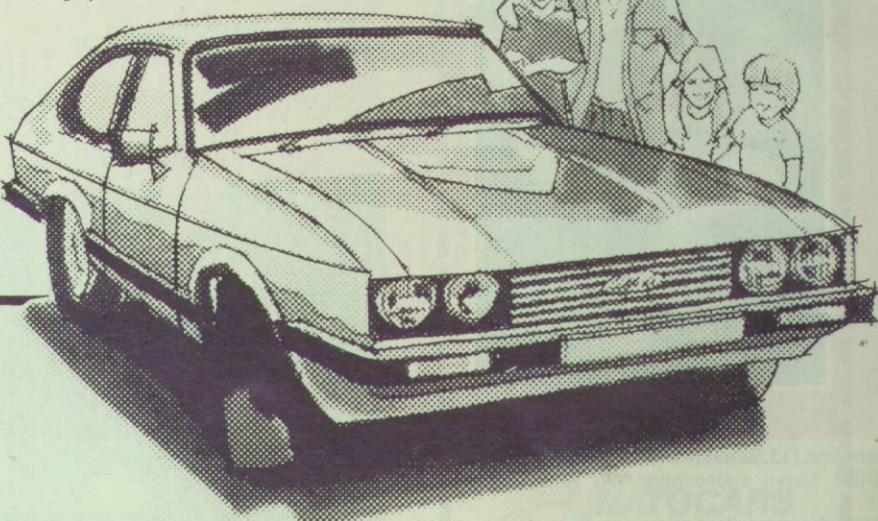
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ANVIL FORGES NATO STRENGTH



Above: 17th/21st Lancers ready for action.

Below: Ferry boat's a-comin' — into Tekirdag.

WHEN ALEXANDER THE GREAT and his 40,000-plus Army, including cavalry, set out on their 12-year conquest of Darius III's corrupt Persian Empire, they deployed from Macedonia through Turkish Thrace and across the Hellespont (the Dardanelles) over a bridge of boats into Asia Minor.

Twenty-three centuries later, nearly 3000 men from four nations, part of Nato's elite 'fire brigade', Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (Land) — AMF (L) — have just played out a 'war game' over 300 square

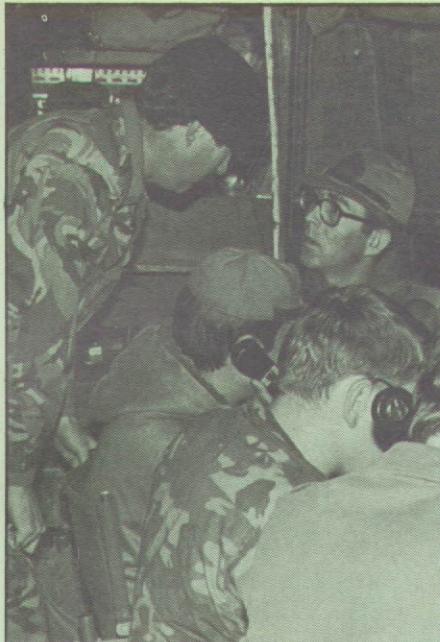
miles of the same, rolling terrain on the alliance's vulnerable right flank during Exercise Anvil Express 80.

And again, just like Alexander's Army, they found themselves surrounded by history in the making. For the Force was exercising against the week-long background of Turkey's third coup in 20 years.

A dusk-to-dawn curfew was imposed, exercise play was rigidly confined to its designated area and special passes were needed to make even the shortest journeys

Story: Graham Smith





Above: The Fire Direction Office at Force HQ.
on public roads with Turkish soldiers 'riding shot-gun'. Movement outside the exercise area had to be authorised and then only with armed escorts.

Nearly 900 British troops plus 18 vehicles and trailers were air-lifted in 20 Lyneham-based Hercules sorties while 437 vehicles and complementary trailers were taken by sea in three specially-chartered Scandinavian ferries to the south-eastern Balkans peninsula where Europe meets Asia.

It was the first time a Nato exercise had been held in Turkey since the troubles of 1974 and the turbulent political situation attendant in that country thereafter.

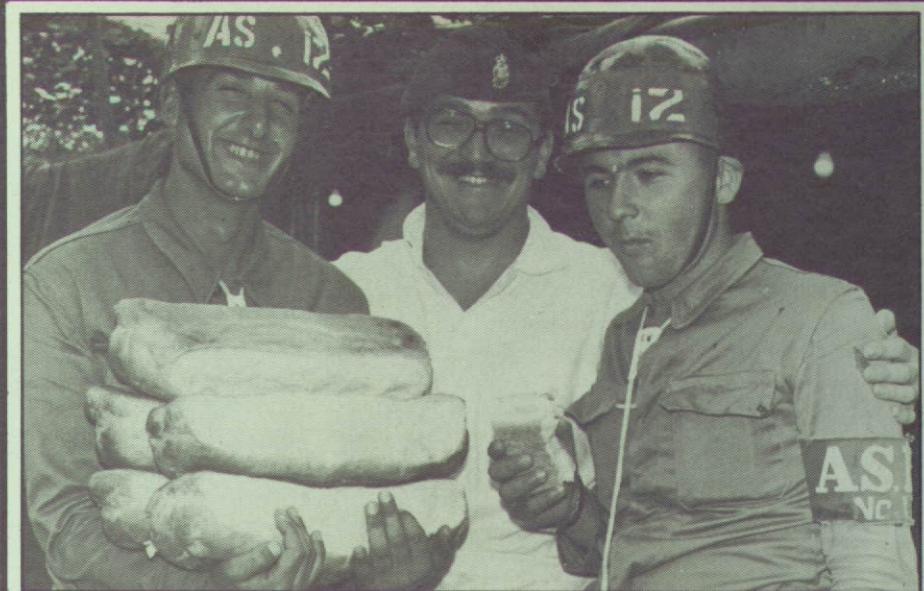
Troops from Britain, Germany, Italy and the United States were involved in the three-week exercise scenario which — like its bigger brother Crusader 80 — formed part of Saceur's Autumn Forge series. Another participating country, Belgium, had decided not to attend.

The United Kingdom, with 888 men, fielded the biggest contingent; Italy, with 258 personnel, the smallest — most of them serving with medical units and a large field hospital.

A total of 1283 vehicles, trailers and armoured cars took to the undulating Thracian arteries while 15 helicopters lifted off into gin-clear skies.

Major Roddy Young of the King's Own Scottish Borderers, the Public Information Officer at HQ AMF (L), sited at Seckenheim, 10 miles north-west of Heidelberg, said: "We like to be seen as a microcosm of all that is best in Nato because of the continually close integration of the seven nation Force."

Britain's contribution to the Turkish field training exercise included men from the Tidworth-based 'B' Squadron, 17th/21st Lancers (the 'Death or Glory' boys) who, with their Scorpions and Scimitars, comprise the Force Reconnaissance Unit; Logistic Support Battalion from Devizes; 249 Signal Squadron, 158 Provost Company, RMP, a Swingfire Troop from 32 Guided Weapons Regiment, 42 Squadron, RCT and 84 Intelligence and Security Company, 263 (Air Portable) Field Cash Office and 21 Postal and Courier Squadron, RE, all from Bulford; 48 AMF (L) Company, an element of 10 Ordnance Support Battalion,



Two Turkish military policemen helped to make some Anvil Express baking history, aided by Private Colin Rhodes, by sampling the last batch of exercise bread to be produced in the 20-year-old oil-fired air portable bakery of 48 Company Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Devizes.

Master baker WO1 Bob Ross said: "Turkey was its farewell appearance. The next time AMF deploy we shall have a new all-electric containerised field bakery powered by two 40KW generators and transported in two

four-ton trucks.

"It will bake 350 loaves an hour against the 240 of the old one. Hand kneading will also be a thing of the past which should please the lads."

During the exercise Mr Ross and his ten bakers produced 23,383 loaves for appreciative international stomachs at a rate of 2000 a day. Like bakers the world over they worked like galley slaves and Mr Ross commented: "We've had one day off. All we've seen of Turkey is the ground from the bakery to the mess tent."

RAOC, from Devizes; Force Artillery HQ with 22 Locating Battery and Survey Detachment from 2 Field Regiment, RA, based at Larkhill; a detachment from 6 Field Ambulance, RAMC, from Aldershot; 50 Movement Control Squadron, a component of 29 Transport and Movements Regiment, RCT, from South Cerney; air and ground support crew plus Gazelle helicopters from 2 Flight, Army Air Corps, Netheravon; Forward Air Support Control personnel; and 70 Aircraft Workshops, REME, from Middle Wallop.

The Royal Air Force flew out a detachment of battlefield support assault Puma helicopters and groundcrews from 33 Squadron, RAF Odiham, part of RAF Strike Command's 38 Group.

During the two-and-a-half day airborne deployment phase the four participating countries in Anvil Express mounted more than 60 aircraft sorties ferrying out over 90 vehicles and trailers plus nine helicopters by Hercules, Transalls and a giant American C.5 Galaxy, the world's biggest aircraft.

These aircraft were landing at Bandirma air base on the Turkish mainland at an average rate of one every 50 minutes.

By sea, the trio of chartered ferries brought in two dozen personnel, 1186 vehicles and trailers plus two helicopters on the nine-day trip from the embarkation ports of Southampton, Cuxhaven in Germany and Livorno, Italy, for the initial build-up at the port of Tekirdag, a 7th-century Greek settlement which is now a market town exporting flax and, literally, millions of sunflower seeds.

At the Bandirma airhead, a sizeable Holding Area was set up under canvas with

enough tentage alongside the runway's grass flank for 500 men who had to wait up to nine hours at a time before moving off to the nearby port facility of the same name.

History ironically reveals that Bandirma was a 13th-century base for Latin crusaders operating against the Greeks of Asia Minor.

From there, the Ace Mobile Force faced a three-and-a-half hour crossing of the inland Sea of Marmara to Tekirdag to meet up with the military armed escorts and the further prospect of a two-hour, 50-mile convoy trip to the Forward Base located near a town called Corlu (pronounced 'chor-loo').

Each man had to be self-sufficient in food and water for three days during the 'wait-in' at Tekirdag while convoys were assembled for the lumbering move across country.

One British 'squaddie' observed: "Blimey, it's just like Salisbury Plain out here but with tons of flipping sunshine!"

A specially diverted Istanbul-Bandirma ferry was pressed into service for crossings by leading elements and activation groups from the Force including the UK's Logistic Support Battalion.

During the next two days the faithful ferry plied across the Sea of Marmara on five occasions taking the rest of the exercise warriors.

The German contingent were curiously kitted out with several pounds of cloves of garlic. Not for them, though, any fear of a certain Transylvanian count appearing under the full Turkish moon. The garlic had a dual purpose; the first to lower blood pressure in the Thracian heat, the second for smearing on boot soles . . . a deterrent against any interest shown by a local broad-headed species of viper.



Above: Achtung! Men of German 8 Mountain Bty enjoin the battle on the vast Thracian plain.

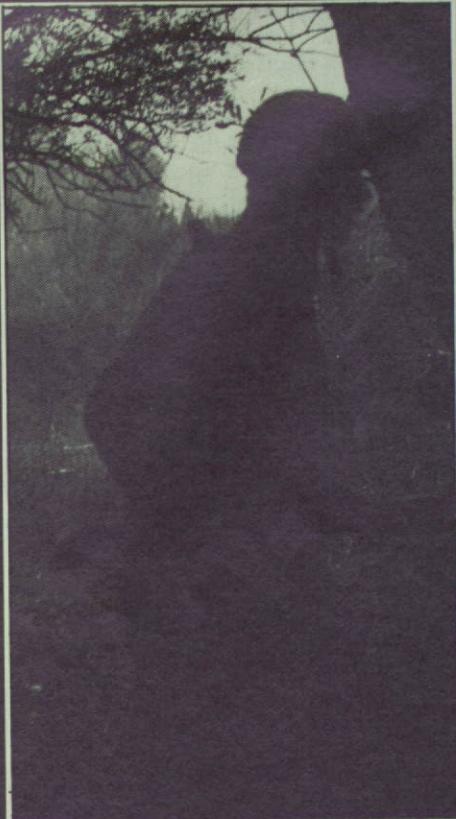
Above: Living firing by 33rd Turkish Arty Regt.

Right: Maj-Gen Mike Reynolds, AMF(L) Commander, Lt-Gen Sir Frank Kitson, UKLF Deputy Commander, General Evren, coup leader (front right), receive US briefing.

Below: Looming up — a modified M48 Turkish tank rumbles across the exercise area.



Below: German infantry in battle demo action.



Helmut Spang, a 34-year-old German senior NCO is a veteran AMF soldier. "There is a strong esprit de corps here. I am one of those many soldiers who is back for his seventh exercise," he explained. "I feel a certain pride in wearing my AMF badge, you know, and I am always pleased to meet old serving friends again and again."

AMF, in fact, holds three field training exercises every two years, one of these traditionally on the northern flank.

Taking part in their first voice-secure exercise with 18lb Clansman radio sets amid an international force, 249 Signal Squadron from Bulford provided HF and VHF radio communications for all phases of the exercise and during deployment and redeployment.

And 50 Movements Control Squadron brought five Royal Signals-trained RCT personnel to operate their particular communication needs during the vital transition from the airhead to the exercise area. They used Racal 931 sets, purchased specially for the job.

To prepare for Anvil Express all five participating countries had sent national support representatives to South Cerney in Gloucestershire for a week beforehand to co-ordinate details of the huge airlift to Turkey.

Phase One of the exercise play centred on deterrence in a scenario of 'fast rising tension'. Multi-national patrols prowled along a four-section notional border or buffer zone some 50 miles south of Turkish Thrace's border with Bulgaria, 'pending the arrival of the AMF Force in its full role of support to a threatened Alliance nation.'

A fifth and, less accessible, section was monitored by helicopters in the 9271-square-mile province which borders both Bulgaria and Greece.

As one senior AMF officer commented during the patrolling phase: "We are not exercised enough on the southern flank and this is a serious military training programme."

Deterrence, however, was deemed by Exercise moguls to have failed and a combat phase started with the host nation fighting a delaying action before eventual withdrawal



and with the AMF making an advance-to-contact before also falling back to adopt a defensive posture.

One of the VIP spectators who dropped in by 'chopper' for lunch and a grandstand view of the action was General Kenan Evren, leader of the coup, and chairman of the Turkish General Staff. Also present was General Sir Frank Kitson, Deputy C-in-C, United Kingdom Land Forces.

Local incursions were made and a counter-attack launched to retain the defensive position.

Lt-Col Joachim Spiering, Chief of Staff, Operations, AMF (L), said: "We are following the Exercise script very closely."

Despite martial law conditions, Turkey fielded nearly an infantry battalion as the 'enemy' plus a tank company from its 5th Corps. The AMF comprised five battalion

Above: The 'Death-or-Glory' boys at it again. groups each bringing its own HQ and two rifle companies plus a Company HQ which took part in the Command Post exercise aspect only.

Turkish forces set up a higher HQ in the latter stages of Anvil Express when command of the AMF passed to them. And during the last week, AMF and Turkish artillery and mortar units took part in a live-firing exercise called Anvil Barbara.

Commander of Anvil Express was AMF (L)'s recently-appointed supremo, 51-year-old Major General Mike Reynolds, who said of his new post: "I enjoy international soldiering. It's a great experience to work with people from other nations. This is one of the most exciting commands I could ever hope for and, already, it's proved to be the most interesting."

Pictures: Steve Bird and Ron Hudson



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THREE SOLDIERS from the Episkopi Garrison literally walked away with the 'Silver Boot' trophy for this year's Cyprus Walkabout. In unseasonably blistering weather, with the temperature nudging into the nineties, Warrant Officer 2 John Sach, Sergeant Pete Johnson and Corporal Paul Palmer finished 69 minutes ahead of their nearest rivals in a time of 13 hours 42 minutes and 15 seconds.

For Pete Johnson, it was a return with a vengeance to the Troodos-and-back trek. Last year, he was in a team which was leading at the end of the first day — but on the descent his knee gave way and his team was ruled out.

Good map reading as well as fitness are the requirements to succeed in this gruelling Army fixture. But John Sach says he is a confident map reader — and so he should be as a Royal Engineers surveyor from the Army's map depot on the island. And Paul Palmer works in the map store!

The team had trained twice a week for six weeks before the event and they had put special emphasis on map reading, feeling that their basic fitness was already up to the level needed to win.

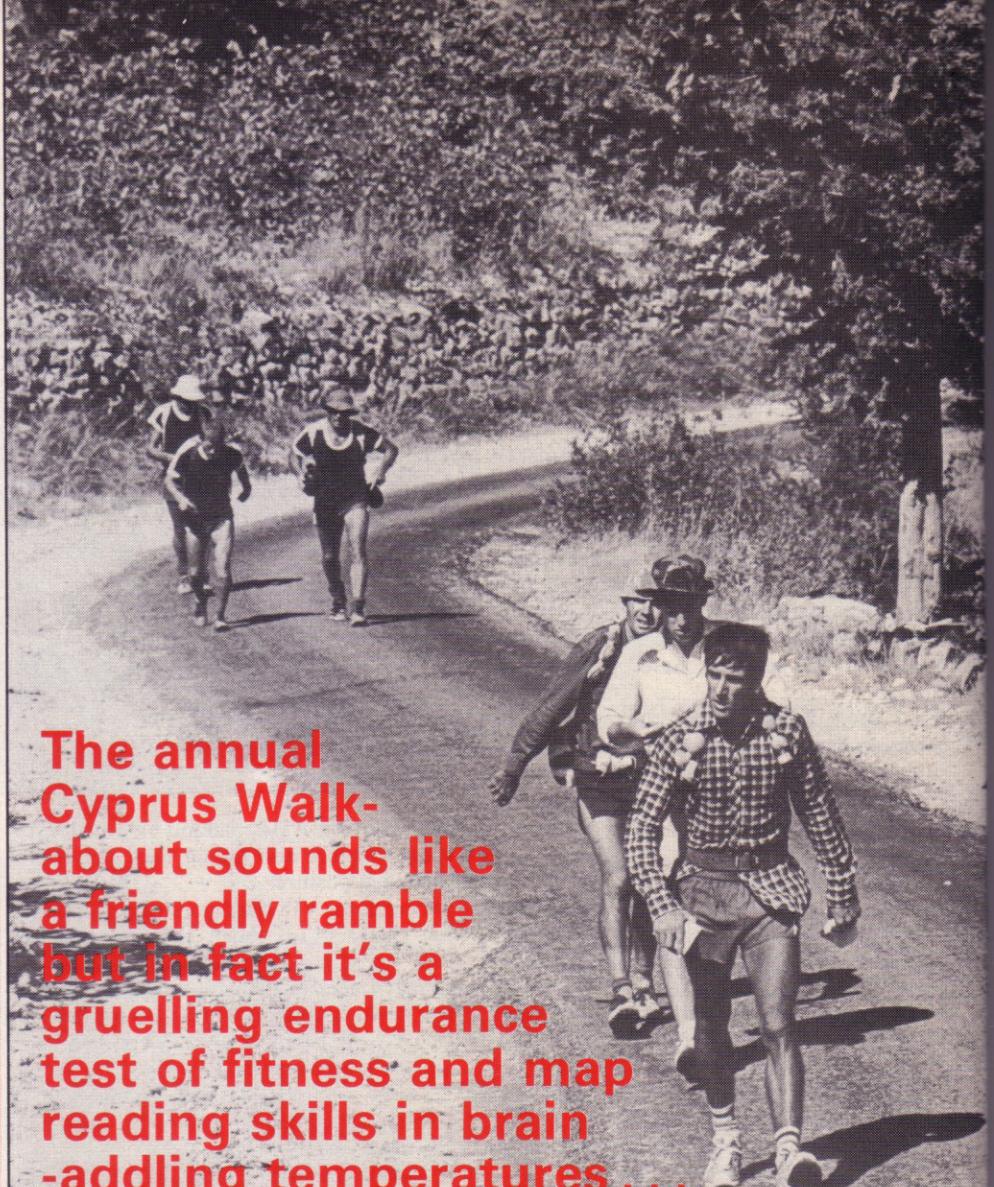
Runners-up were a team who proved that experience and stamina can overcome youth and strength in this kind of event. The Episkopi Hash House Harriers in the guise of Lieutenant-Colonel Bob Cooper (CREME Cyprus), Mr Hugh Bettley and Mr Dave Robb clocked 14 hours 51 minutes and 15 seconds — despite a total age of 105.

Hash House Harriers take part weekly in what is basically a paperchase. Says Hugh, who is Civilian Establishment Pay Officer for Cyprus: "We are totally non-competitive except when it comes to Dhekelia Hash House Harriers — they drink Carlsberg and we drink Keo!"

Competitive or not, the Harriers have found that their basic fitness and team spirit have always enabled them to do well since they started entering Walkabouts.

Right: The only way to win in this competition is to keep putting your best foot forward all the time.

Below: Hearty applause as the winning ladies' team from 12 Signals Unit arrives at the finish.



The annual Cyprus Walk-about sounds like a friendly ramble but in fact it's a gruelling endurance test of fitness and map reading skills in brain-addling temperatures . . .

The Long March



Hugh and Dave, who won the all-island orienteering championships earlier in the summer, finished in the third place team in the 1979 Walkabout. Prior to this year's event they and Colonel Cooper trained three afternoons a week for five months.

Using the shade of trees whenever possible and drinking plenty of water to replace fluid lost through sweat, the Harriers found themselves battling against teams with combined ages as low as 60.

Said Colonel Cooper, on his first Walkabout: "I thought it was very hard because of the heat. Next year I shall be 40 and I have already decided to enter the veterans' section".

Petrol restrictions and a reduction in RAF aircraft visiting the island nearly led to a last minute cancellation of the Walkabout. As it was, UKLF teams were cut to two and some overseas competitors faced a long wait before they could return to base.

But when the final briefing took place some 73 three-man (or woman) teams were ready for the fray to hear Major Jeremy York, head of the organising team for the 3rd Battalion, The Light Infantry, give a list of do's and don'ts.

Of these, all but a handful were from Cyprus — including one UN mixed team of a Briton, a Dane and a Swede. In addition to the two UKLF nominees, there were three from Rhine Army and six from UK-based RAF teams.

Ladies were represented by six teams as well as the occasional female member of unit teams. And there were four veterans teams plus a team from King Richard's School, Dhekelia.

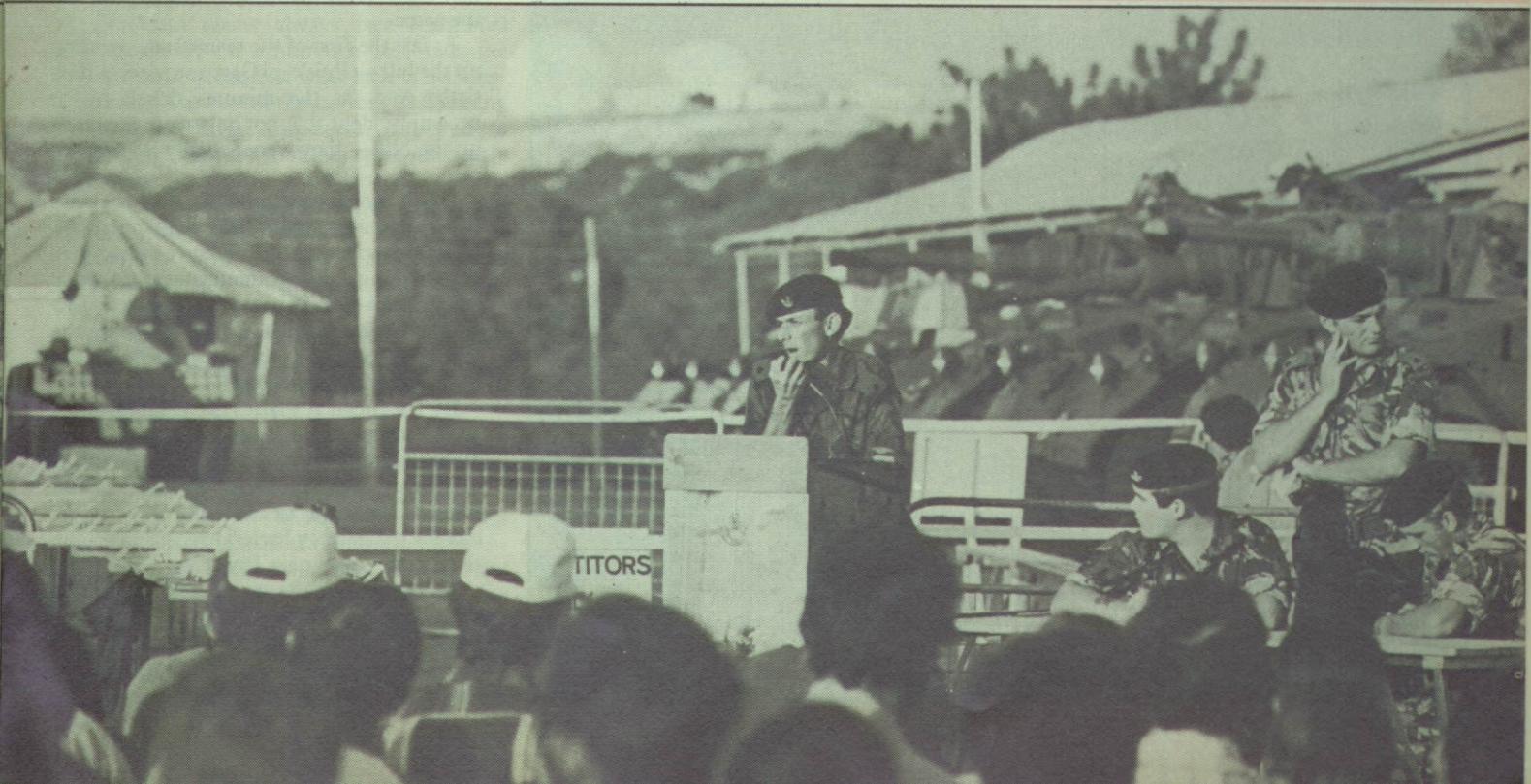
"If you must drop out please do it at a checkpoint," Major York told them. "All too often search and rescue teams have been sent out for teams that have just decided they have had enough and disappeared."

continued on page 12

Top: The Episkopi Hash House Harriers team who put their paperchase training to good effect.

Centre: Another uphill battle was replacing lost fluids. Marchers kept on topping up their flasks.

Below: "It's going to be tough" Major Jeremy York warns the 73 teams at the final briefing.



Medical instructions followed. Plenty of water would be needed and they should fill up their flasks at every checkpoint. And the visiting teams were advised to cover their necks and shoulders against the sun — with the promise that there would not be much sympathy for anyone who finished up with sunburn.

The sun was creeping over the horizon at 5.30 the next morning as the team drawn first went marching briskly away from the motor transport square in Salamanca Barracks at Episkopi. That honour went to three wives from 12 Signals Unit — Mrs Isobel Collis, Mrs Judy Sharpe and Mrs Karin Downs.

The remaining teams then left at one minute intervals — most turning left towards the distant Troodos, topped on Mount Olympus with its communications 'golf-balls'. But one or two teams, having taken their first look at the course, decided to travel the first leg as far as possible by road — and turned right. It would mean a greater distance but possibly easier walking.

As the sun rose higher in the heavens it was obvious that it was going to be an unusually hot day for Cyprus in October. By mid-morning the leading teams had already passed through the second checkpoint with a motley stream of marchers following in their wake.

Some had already been disqualified or fallen by the wayside and many others were carrying scars of combat as they slipped and slid down the rugged hillside to the welcome watering hole. There were bandages around knees and ankles and scarlet ribbon slashes across gorse-scratched legs.

At the fourth checkpoint, back on the road but still a two mile uphill slog to the finishing point at Platres, the 3 LI monitoring team was having trouble with its radio communications. But they had been told enough to know that there would be no record times this year. In 1976 a team from 3rd Battalion,

Below: Teams had to report at all checkpoints.



Above: The most senior ranking competitor?



The Royal Anglian Regiment, set a fastest time of 10 hours 31 minutes but last year's winners were almost three hours slower than that and it looked as if 1980 would be much the same.

At last the first of the teams came striding up the hill — Episkopi Garrison, drawn thirtieth. And, as the minutes ticked by, it became evident that not only were they first up the hill — they were actually leading the race.

It was more than an hour before the next two teams appeared — the Episkopi Hash House Harriers 'B' team followed closely by three young Light Infantrymen, Corporal Alan Smith and Privates Bryan Rackstraw and Raymond Purnell. But at that stage the Episkopi Garrison had scorched into an impressive 39 minute lead.

By the finish at Platres the D Company 3 LI 'C' team had actually passed the Hash House Harriers and were ten minutes ahead of them on time. But the leaders still had a 38 minute advantage to carry into the second day for the journey back down the mountain to Happy Valley near Episkopi.

As the rest of the teams and individuals straggled in, it became obvious that only about half of those who had started would be going into the second day. Strict rules govern the Walkabout since a tragedy in the early



Above: Communications had to be first class.

Right: The smiles that say everything. The Episkopi Garrison team with coveted Silver Boot.

days of the competition when two competitors perished after being stranded in snow and staying undetected until the next morning.

No cross-country walking is allowed after dark so any teams not reaching the last-but-one checkpoint sufficiently early to make the next stage in daylight are eliminated.

Eventually 38 teams finished the first day — but two of these were not to start out the following morning. Safe in the leave centre with their big lead the Episkopi Garrison team were quietly confident. "We shall be starting one and two minutes behind the second and third teams so all we have to do is to keep them in sight."

In fact the garrison men passed both those teams and went on to add another half-an-hour to their first leg lead. But the Hash House Harriers moved into second place to beat, by ten minutes, the young Light Infantry trio. Fourth were 62 Cyprus Squadron, Royal Engineers 'A' team.

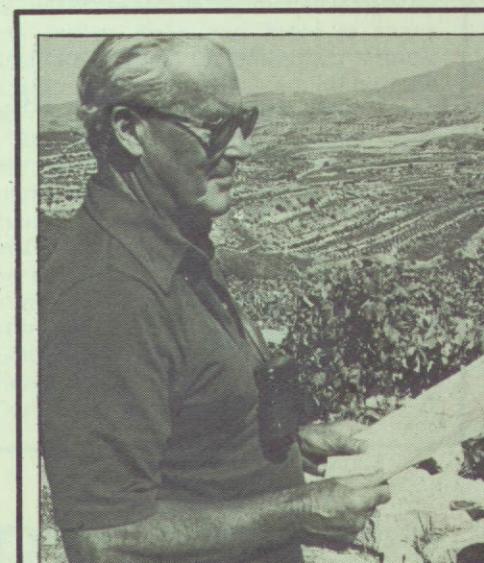
Of the 73 teams that had set out the day before, only 34 made it to the finishing line. But there were a number of additional individual finishers — many of them grouped into composite teams of 'survivors'.

Overseas teams always face additional problems in an endurance test like the Walkabout because of their lack of acclimatisation. The best of them, from 28 Training Squadron, Royal Engineers, did well to finish eighth overall but they were still nearly three hours adrift of the winners.

For the ladies, the laurels went to Griffin Ladies from 12 Signals Unit — Mrs Lynn Bromley, Mrs Sue Hill and Corporal Caroline Brodie — with a time of 21 hours 45 minutes. It was quite a family celebration for Lynn and Sue — their husbands Corporal John Bromley and Corporal John Hill were in the 12 SU 'A' team which claimed overall fifth place.

The veterans award, for three competitors with ages totalling more than 120, was taken by a UK trio from RAF Benson.

So the Cyprus Walkabout is over for another year. The resident battalion wins the trophy more often than not but this year had to settle for third place. But in 1981, with the benefit of longer acclimatisation, they promise to be foot-slogging it out once more as the teams — like the Grand Old Duke of York — march up the hill and down again. •



This year's Walkabout was a swan-song for Lieutenant-Colonel Louis Sanderson, who has been responsible for devising the last 11 competitions. Next summer he is retiring from his Retired Officer Post as G3 Training at Headquarters Land Forces Cyprus.

Enjoying his last fling, Colonel Sanderson told SOLDIER: "When I first started, the Walkabout was a very amateurish sort of affair. People have become much more competitive and professional about it — but you can say that about any sport in both civilian and Army life today".

The colonel is not saying a complete goodbye to the Walkabout though. He is to be back next year — as a spectator.

Story: John Walton

Pictures: Leslie Wiggs

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What do the following all have in common: Australia, Brunei, Canada, Cyprus, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Holland, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Northern Ireland, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Rhodesia, Sri Lanka, Turkey, United States and Wales . . . ?

Answer — they've all seen members of the British Army this year and they've all yielded stories for **SOLDIER**.

From the searing heat of the African bush to the icy wastes of the Arctic circle, from the wild, lonely shores of Benbecula to the busy, bustling streets of Berlin, our 'scribblers' and 'snappers' have done their best to keep you in touch with the vast span of activities undertaken by British soldiers the world over.

As always, our friends in the Army have gone out of their way to make us welcome. To all of them who have answered our questions and put up with our picture-taking in the last twelve months, we say a sincere Thank You.

Above all, our thanks to you — our readers — for your opinions, your advice, your wisdom and your encouragement. Stay with us — and we'll try and bring you even better, brighter stories in 1981.

Merry Christmas to you all. And a peaceful New Year.



Are you intelligent, observant, agile in mind and body and equipped with a wide general knowledge? Then don't hide your brilliance under a bushel. Now's your chance to be a TV star!

Granada's popular programme *The Krypton Factor* — dubbed 'Television's Toughest Quiz' — will be back on screen again next year. And the search is already on in earnest for potential 'Superpeople' to take part.

The quiz is in five parts aimed at testing candidates' ability to think at speed, their powers of reasoning, perception, memory and — finally — their general knowledge.

But it's not just a competition for egg-heads. What makes *The Krypton Factor* different is that it tests muscles as well as minds. Every candidate has to undergo the rigours of a tough Army Assault course designed by the Army Physical Training Corps and supervised by 12 APTC instructors.

The course is at Holcombe Moor Training Camp near Bury in Lancashire and is nearly 300 yards long with 20 obstacles culminating in a 250ft 'Death Slide'.

Would-be contestants aged between 16 and 60 (last year there were about 10,000) are sent a 14 page questionnaire to answer which includes a variety

of problems and tests. The best 500 are then invited to TV studios around the UK for further tests before the final 32 contestants — plus 8 reserves — are selected.

Granada TV pay all travel and accommodation expenses and contestants also get an appearance fee for their ordeal.

And for the eventual winner there's not only the kudos of being voted Superperson of the Year, but a handsome silver trophy to keep valued at over £1000.

Stephen Leahy, producer of *The Krypton Factor*, is convinced that many soldiers possess just the qualities his programme is looking for. So if you think you fit the bill, write to him at Granada TV, Manchester 3. Closing date for entries is 31 January.



We still have some copies of the 1981 Army Calendar available. But hurry. Time — and stocks — are running out. Each month features a different Army job with a picture of one of the men or women performing it. In full colour, the calendar measures 15½ inches across by 11½ inches deep and there is space beside each date for brief diary entries. It will make an attractive addition to the home or office and an ideal gift.

SOLDIER is offering the calendars at the same price as last year — £1.80 for UK/BFPO readers and £2.00 for those living elsewhere, post and packing included. Remittances, as usual, should be by UK cheque, UK postal order or international money order *expressed in sterling*. They should be sent to **SOLDIER**, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants but should be made payable to Command Cashier UKLF.



Reports have reached us that the American Army may soon be really stepping out in style. This time in brown, calf-gripping suede combat boots which need no polishing,

SOLDIER to Soldier

just a quick dust followed by a silicone waterproofing spray.

Full tests on the fancy fashion footwear start next year. But it seems our own Stores and Clothing Research and Development Establishment at Colchester have known about this development for some time and are taking it quite within their stride.

SCRDE's shoe-scientists have been busy for some time on developing our own improved version of the combat high boot. Field trials are now completed and a report is now awaited from the Army Personnel and Research Establishment at Aldershot.

Britain's Army, after all, is the only member of Nato which does not have a combat high boot in current service.

A sanguine member of the trials unit at SCRDE commented drily on the Yankee suede-bashers: "Well, I suppose the American equivalent of the RSM will now be able to pick out the really smart soldier on parade more easily. He'll be the one who shaved his toe-caps!"

Where will it all end we wonder? Perhaps our friends across the Big Pond will give up marching altogether — and just do the soft-shoe shuffle instead.



Still on the subject of footwear, our team who visited this year's Cyprus Walkabout (see page 10) were intrigued to learn about the Mystery of the Missing Boot.

Sporting trophies have a habit of making unscheduled disappearances. The original FA cup disappeared never to be seen again and the World Cup was stolen, only to be discovered by a sniffing dog.

Someone, somewhere is the unauthorised owner of a Cyprus Walkabout 'Silver Boot' — just like the current trophy pictured in our article.

The facts are as follows. The original trophy was a well worn boot GS, painted in silver and presented by Captain A G Bull of REME in 1965, but it did not last too well and it was decided to make a more permanent boot. The one chosen was of brass covered with chromium plating. But, at a later stage, a unit which had won the trophy sent it back by post for the next Walkabout.

To everyone's amazement the boot had been smashed into fragments. It turned out that at some stage a switch had been made — the shattered boot was of silver painted plaster of Paris and was one of several trial designs which had been rejected.

A new boot had to be made and to this day no-one knows what became of the original brass one except the culprit.

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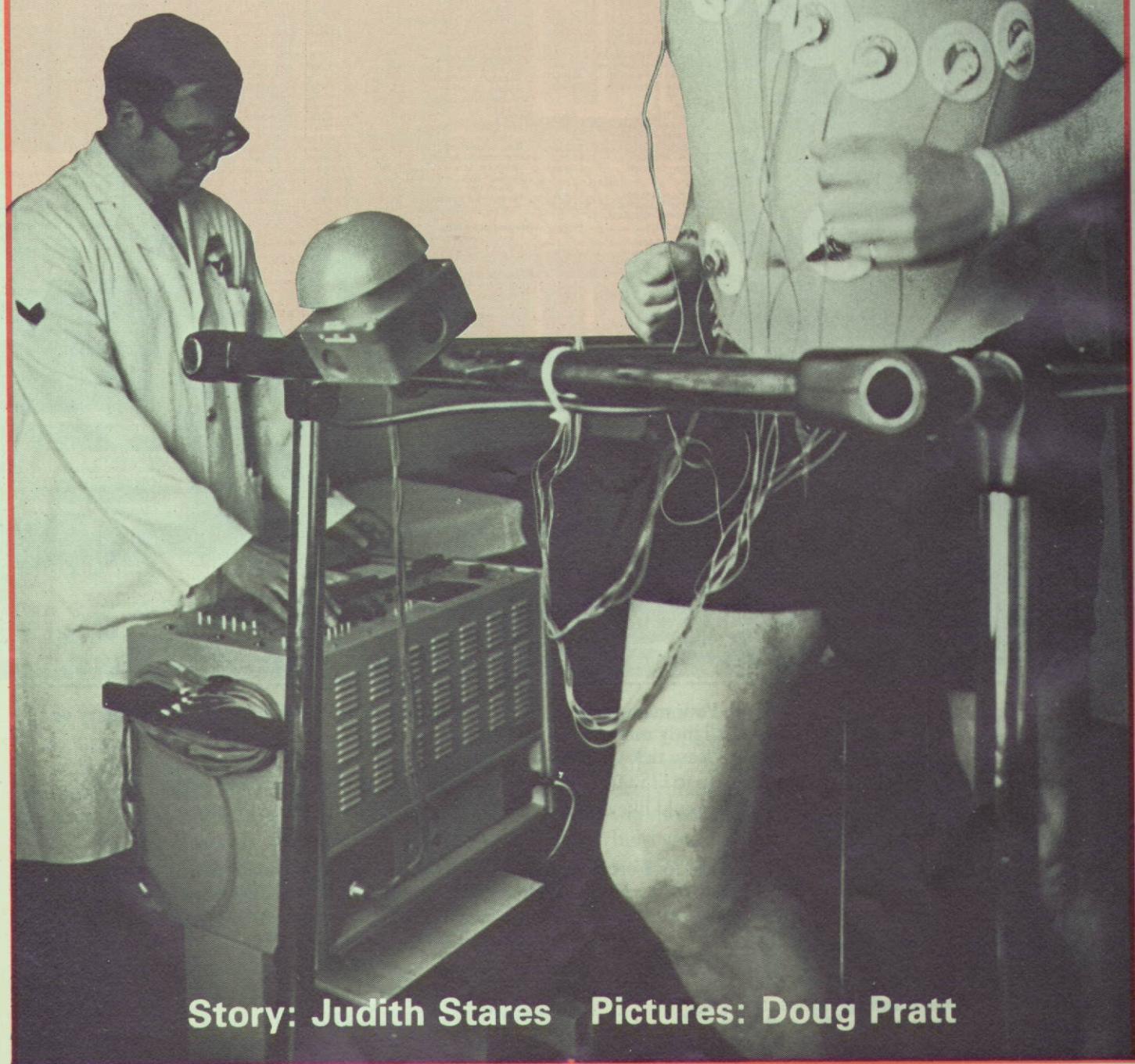
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THE SCHOOL THAT PUTS LIFE ON TO YEARS



Story: Judith Stares Pictures: Doug Pratt



IF HEALTH SPAS and tranquil seaside hotels are suffering a recession, it could well be the fault of the Joint Services School of Remedial Gymnasts in Woolwich, where 'convalescence' is a dirty word!

"Our brief is to beat injury by physical activity," explains CO, Captain Denis Duncan. "If you take the motto 'Get fit, keep fit and re-fit' then we come under the re-fit category."

To a layman the title of Remedial Gymnast immediately conjures up the image of a sympathetic Physical Training Instructor giving private coaching to all those below-average agility pupils who never quite managed to spring over the wooden horse. In fact, all RGs are PTIs and their role is certainly sympathetic, but their purpose is to get you past your Basic Fitness Test, not the Olympics Selection Board.

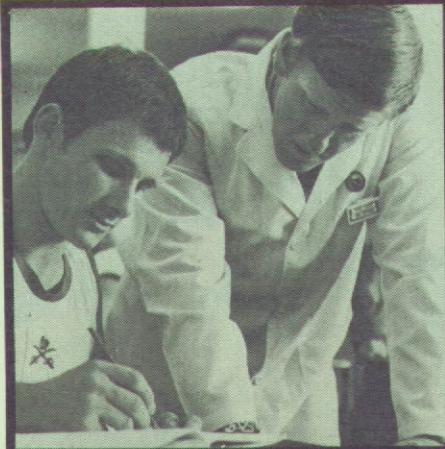
The Services started the idea of rehabilitation during World War Two. It was found that by sending wounded servicemen to special centres to carry out prescribed exercises, the recovery time was much quicker

Left: Major David Emsley on exercise test.

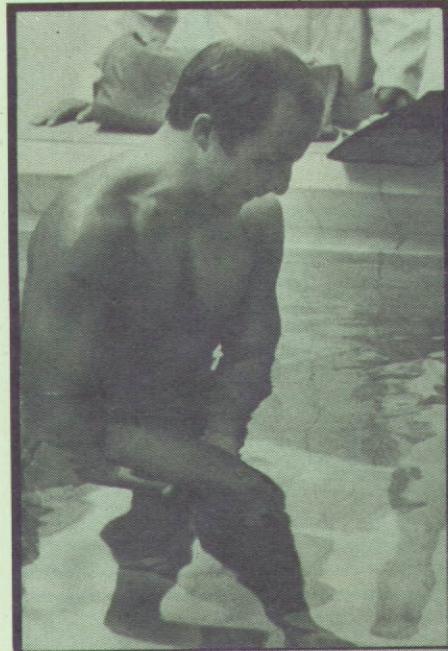
Above: First student class through Woolwich.

Captain Alan Noble, RAMC is a State-Registered Nurse but a patient at the moment, tended by his physiotherapist daughter in the hydrotherapy pool. "I had a blocked femoral artery and they brought me over here from Germany. Now I'm in the gym every day, cycling away to get my leg back into shape."





Warrant Officer David Clay is the third tutor at the School, though prefers wearing shorts and vest to the full-length white coat. He accompanied the British Biathlon Team to the Winter Olympics at Lake Placid and went with the Combined Services rugby team to America, where he was not only the RG, but the 24th player, too! "Christmastime is the only week I ease off my training," he laughs. In October he is being seconded to civilian life on a sandwich course for a year to become a qualified teacher in adult and further education.



QMSI Alan File is the other ex-student and now staff RG at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. "You could say I am a fully-fledged layer-on of hands," he quips. His only complaint is that time spent in the hydrotherapy pool washes off his suntan!



Capt Trudy Furness, multiple sclerosis victim.

than if they were sent to languish in a sanatorium or swish hotel.

"They found it was quicker and cheaper to rehabilitate than to retrain, so they picked PTIs as group motivators and gave them a medical background," explains Captain Duncan. "When the NHS was set up, there was already this nucleus of trained people, and now it is commonly accepted that activity is the thing."

The School at Woolwich, sponsored by the Army, is attached to the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, where students can gain first-hand clinical experience. A typical course includes PTIs from all services, plus an in-fill of prison officers and civilians with appropriate P.Ed. qualifications. Since moving from their previous HQ at Chessington last year, the course capacity has increased to 18 — all volunteers, who spend two years' extra training, even though their ultimate qualification will not give them any financial or promotional advantage.

Captain Duncan runs the School with the aid of his deputy, Warrant Officer Brian Key (RAF), and two other full-time tutors. The present course will be the first to have started and completed their training in the new building, and just to be there is an honour in itself.

"We only take the best," admits Captain Duncan. "There are far more applicants than we need. At a three-day selection course we choose those with a good experience of PT, 'O' levels in Biology and English Language, and that most vital ingredient of all — a 'caring' attitude. All of them must be prepared to work hard. Because of their background they are basically physical animals, not academics, and they usually find they have to burn a lot of midnight oil to keep up with the theory side."

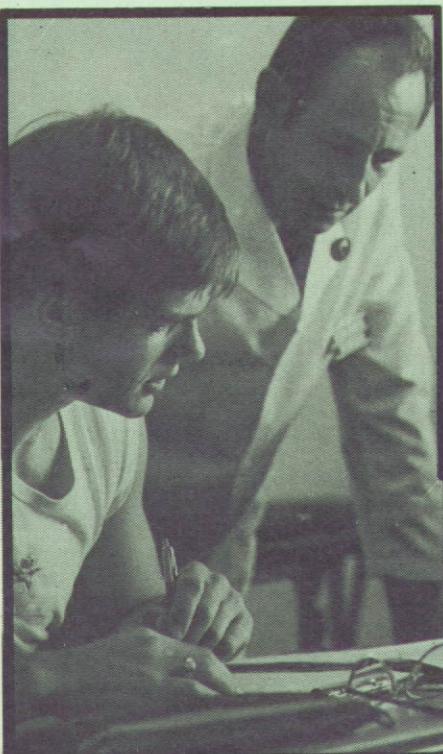
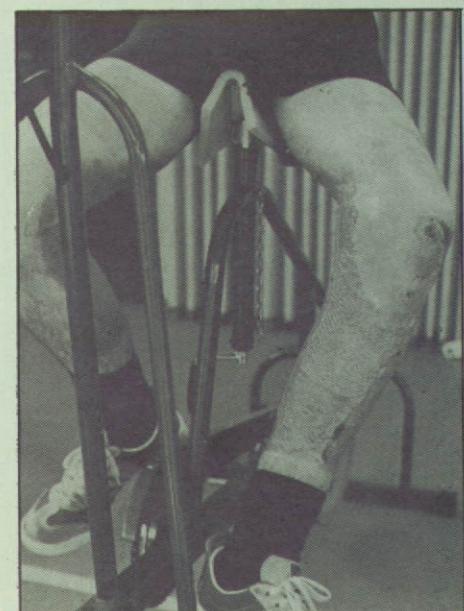
Sergeant Jenny McMahon is the only member of the WRAC amongst the present students, and will be only the second member of the Corps to qualify when she completes the course next year. Already a PTI, her motivation to help others came from a different source. Jenny is one of the survivors of the 1974 M62 bomb attack by the

IRA on an Army coach, and spent nearly three months in hospital herself.

"I was conscious of the need to exercise even then, so I used to try and do what I could even when I was in bed. To me, being an RG is going to be an immensely satisfying job, even though the results take longer. At the moment my main problem is my own fitness. There is a lot of sitting, listening to lectures, which is very hard. We are all used to being on the go all day, and found the inactivity very difficult at first. I'm sure I'm getting round-shouldered!"

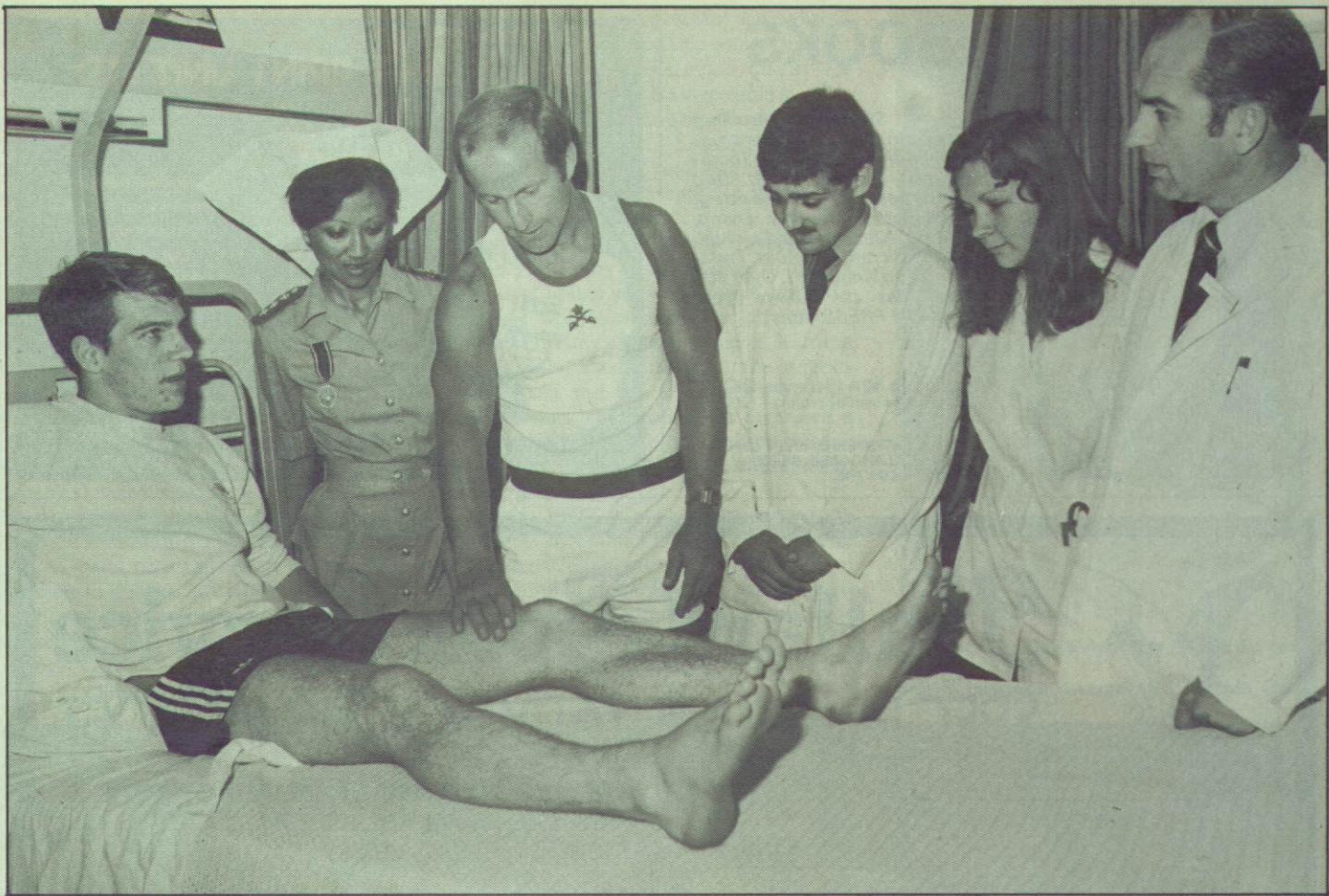
Staff Sergeant Colin Campbell endorses that the course is tough, although he has just successfully completed his finals and is now off to Chessington to put his training into practice. "I didn't actually volunteer — I was nominated," he admits with a smile. "I was given a couple of years' notice, so I went to night school to do some 'O' levels. I felt that to do the course would be a much more purposeful job than just being a PTI.

"There's certainly no incentive financially — we often say that it has precisely the same effect on your pay packet as doing a one-week



Warrant Officer Brian Key from the RAF is the only qualified teacher in adult and further education on the tutorial team. As the unit is recognised by the Council for the Professions Supplementary to Medicine, a qualified teacher is an essential requirement.

Cycling exercises to stretch skin tissues as part of the graft-surgery treatment for burned legs.



badminton course! But now I'm qualified I feel a better PTI for it. I thought I knew it all before I started, but I realise now how ignorant I was. The physiology of the body is very complex."

Nobody can accuse Colin of not practising what he preaches. He runs twice a day, totalling over 70 miles a week. After sitting his final practical exams at Cardiff University, he got the bus to drop him off seven miles from home so that he could get his 'ration' in! "I run for the Army, 1500 metres and cross-country, so I've got to keep in training if I'm to stay competitive."

But competition isn't really the name of the game. The RG's basic philosophy is about survival. Heart disease has become a virtual epidemic in the Western world and Captain Duncan has initiated a unique Cardiac Rehabilitation Course, which is organised by second-year students.

"It is for people who are at risk, either because they have already had some form of coronary problem, or have failed their BFT through general lack of fitness. It lasts three weeks and is extremely intensive."

The average age range is 35 upwards, and all ranks are put through the same routine. Their first General has recently been taking the 'cure' which is programmed from 9 am to 4 pm daily. This runs the gamut of music and movement, circuit running, swimming and weight training.

"In years gone by, heart patients were advised to bed rest. Now we can actually get a fair number of them to pass their BFTs again. The heart is a muscle and we make the best of it. You try and change their life style, reduce their weight, stop them smoking and increase their activity. We nag them through the course and really try to indoctrinate them. There are no commercial gimmicks like Health Farms! You must alter their

priorities. It is sometimes difficult to convince people, but ninety-five per cent of our patients keep it up."

The average week may begin with a sedate ward round, but thereafter it's non-stop action. Whether it's Pumping Iron, Fighting the Flab, or having a 're-fit', the gymnasium is fully utilised by those who are inspired to minimise their disabilities and maximise their potential.

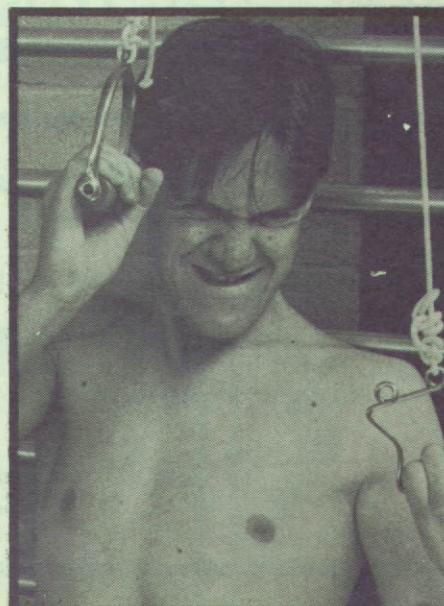
QMSI Ray Herd is one of the School's ex-students, now qualified and in charge of the gym. "I volunteered because I thought it was a natural progression from doing a PTI's job. The PTI works with people who are already reasonably fit — he only rarely meets anyone below that standard. Now I get people who are completely unfit, maybe only able to move one part of their body, and it's a

Above: QMSI Alan File discusses patient care. completely different thing to bring them through.

"I love the job. It doesn't suit everybody to work with sick people, but it is very rewarding and there is a great deal of job satisfaction, particularly as you have an end product. You don't get an end product with a fit person, but with an injured person you have the satisfaction of getting him fit enough to return to his unit."

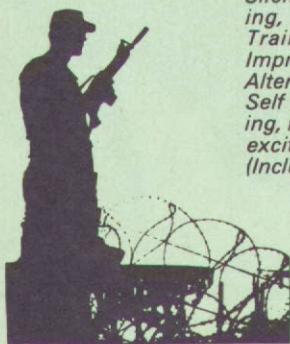
Like all his colleagues in the profession, Ray has an impressive keep-fit programme himself. "I play squash, run, and do weight training. I used to be an Army athlete, and I think it's important to keep fit so that I can be a good demonstrator."

On the receiving end of this enthusiasm are a variety of casualties, who at one time would



Officer Cadet Paul Ream in the hydrotherapy pool had to have an operation before he joined the Army! "I dislocated my shoulder playing rugby two years ago and it was not properly repaired, so I failed my medical. I came here and the surgeon said 'have an operation' — so I couldn't really refuse! It was worth it, though. Before, I couldn't swim properly or play cricket without discomfort. Now I spend all day in the gym and I'm confident I shall be A1 in another month. It is much better to get up and at it rather than lie around. People get better more quickly when they are doing something for themselves. The longer people stay in bed the more they lose confidence — I know that's how I felt."

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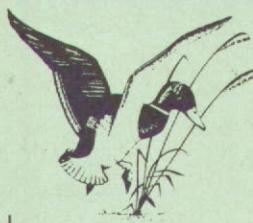
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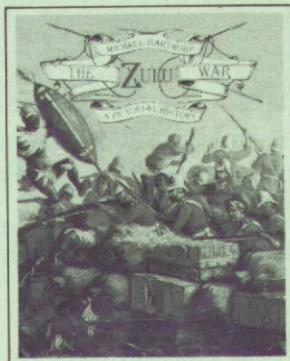
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have been 'write-offs', but who are proving that the get-up-and-go attitude can work miracles.

Corporal David Smith was rejoicing to sit up for the first time in nearly two months. After falling 40 ft from the top of a telegraph pole whilst on duty in Cyprus, a broken spine has changed his life to that of a wheelchair bound paraplegic. But far from being the end of the road, exercises in the gym have convinced him that he can make a new beginning. "I've been coming down here for two weeks now. They are building up my arm and shoulder muscles until they really ache, but soon I will be independent again. I shall be able to get myself out of bed and into my own wheelchair."

Similar optimism is shown by Trooper Colin Hewer who had extensive burns during an accident with his unit in Germany. "Now that my skin grafts are complete they are giving me a lot of difficult exercises to do to bring elasticity back to the soft tissues. I'm expecting to go back to join my unit next month, and I shall certainly be keeping up the exercises in the gym there."

Lance Corporal Nigel Baird from the Junior Leader Regiment is more fortunate

than most, though his problem is weightier! He has lost one stone and two pounds in eight days and in civilian life could qualify for Slimmer of the Year! This incredible feat was accomplished by a combination of exercise and a 500 calorie diet. "I couldn't pass my BFT and I was always getting out of breath, so I volunteered to come here. I'll never be fat again," he said fervently.

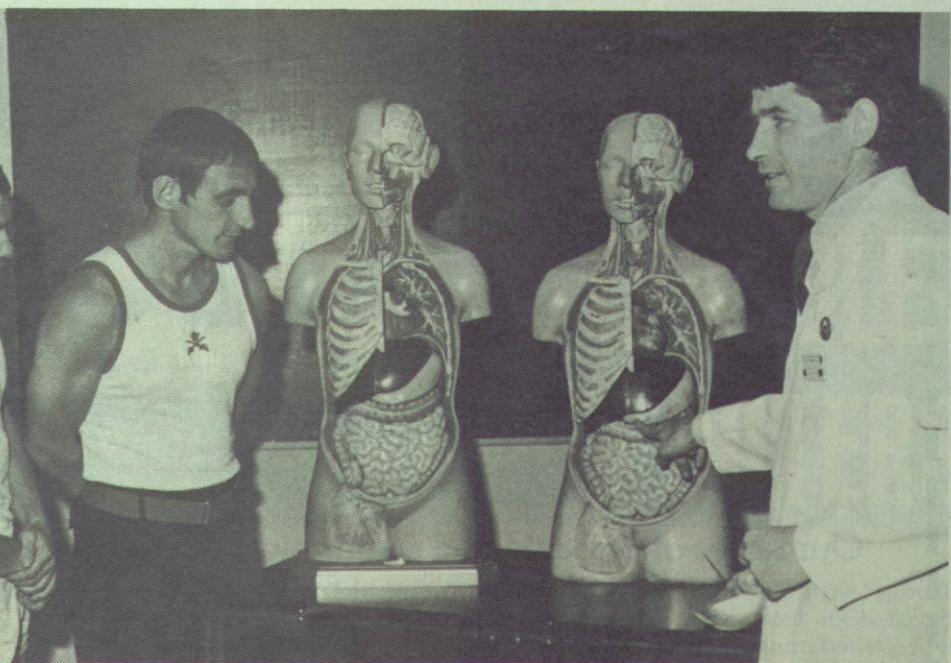
Proving that an RG's work covers every disability is Trudy Furness, once a nursing sister and Captain in the QARANC until MS (Multiple Sclerosis) made her an invalid. Now she is a daily visitor to the gym, learning to walk again. She is also one of the longest-stay patients and one of her most moving moments was when colleagues organised a whip-round to provide her with an electric typewriter and got DJ Noel Edmunds to present it.

But sentiment is not usually part of the treatment. As Captain Duncan says: "We're not here to add years to a person's life, but to add life to their years! Exercise is about controlled overload. It is pushing a person as far as possible within the safety limits. We should all exercise every day because it is a necessity of life."

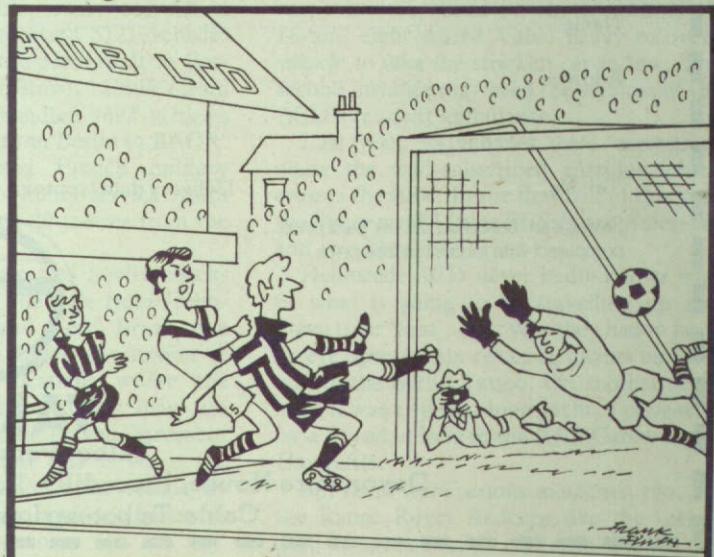
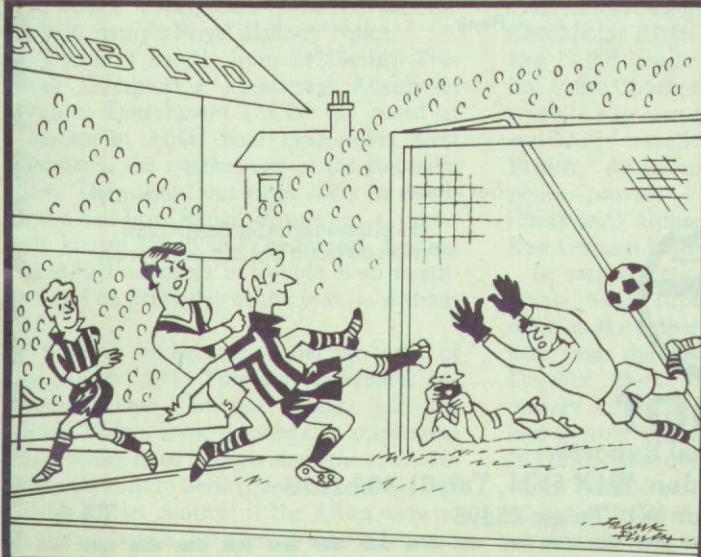


Above: QMSI Ray Herd helps first sit-up case.

Below: Instructor George McAllister in class.



How observant are you?



These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences, turn to page 59.



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On Berlin's
motorway
to the West
Graham Smith
meets the
Army's . . .



Above: Driver's eye view of Checkpoint Bravo at eastern end of corridor near Berlin.

Right: Cpl David Paynter and wife Sheila bound for another Autobahn 'sweep'.

Pictures:
David Morris



THE 104-MILE STRETCH of Soviet-controlled dual carriageway autobahn between Helmstedt and West Berlin may not be one of the world's most picturesque motorways. But it must lay claim to being one of the best policed as it ram-rods its austere route across East Germany — policed by the German Democratic Republic's Volkspolizei (VOPOS) and the British Army's Royal Military Police.

Two-man patrols from 247(Berlin) Provost Company's 21-strong Autobahn Control Detachment (ACD) are based at Checkpoint Alpha near Helmstedt, West Germany, the western end of the autobahn link. They travel out twice daily in three-and-a-half-litre Range Rovers on a round trip known simply as 'The Sweep', looking for Allied motorists in trouble in all weathers and on every day of the year — without fail.

Without fail because, under the terms of the August 1945 Potsdam Agreement between Britain, America, France and the Soviet Union, it was decided that at least one daily sweep must be done along the autobahn (the only road to Berlin open to the Allies and under Soviet control) if the Allies were to maintain access between West Berlin and West Germany. That task has been carried

out unstintingly by the British ACD at Helmstedt ever since.

Only the Naafi wagon, they openly admit, makes more trips up the autobahn in one week (three of them) than any one of the two-man teams on the sweep shift. And the Naafi wagon plies the 231 miles to Berlin from Herford — and back!

In the first six months of this year, Allied Checkpoint Alpha processed 5121 vehicles and 13,005 people from Helmstedt to Berlin. Sister Checkpoint Bravo, 12 miles from Berlin's city centre, handled 3692 vehicles and 12,717 travellers from Berlin to BAOR. British, American and French military police provide a 24-hour service from Checkpoint Alpha, just 20 metres from the East German border.

In each direction are two Soviet checkpoints. Sierra Alpha, one mile from Helmstedt at Marienborn and Sierra Bravo, one mile from the Allied Bravo checkpoint at Drewitz. Both are locations where the unwary or inexperienced driver may run into trouble with British Travel Document (BTD) procedures, and this is when the sweep patrols can come to the rescue by taking an Army Russian-speaking interpreter along to sort matters out.

Each day at 8.30 am a sweep vehicle

leaves Checkpoint Alpha to arrive, a couple of hours and 102 miles later, at Checkpoint Bravo. They make the return run at 2.30 in the afternoon.

Many times the runs are boring and uneventful. But a two-man mobile team may come across a breakdown or a traffic accident involving an Allied vehicle. In the first case, they may send for the Detachment's 16-ton, eight-gated Volvo heavy recovery vehicle to take the stricken car in tow. The second instance may need the services of the ACD's resident ambulance.

Last year, 98 vehicles were 'recovered' along the well-subscribed corridor which crosses the Elbe. In the first half of this year the figure was 21 (nine British, ten American and two French).

Helmstedt ACD never really knows who or what is going to be travelling up and down their 'beat'. Last year they had to keep an eye open for six circus elephants on their way to the Berlin Tattoo. On another occasion, it was a 40-foot-long yacht, a prize won by a Spandau lady in the RAF Gatow Open Day raffle.

But there were serious moments, too, for the Range Rover Redcaps like the mercy dash of special drugs to Berlin to save the

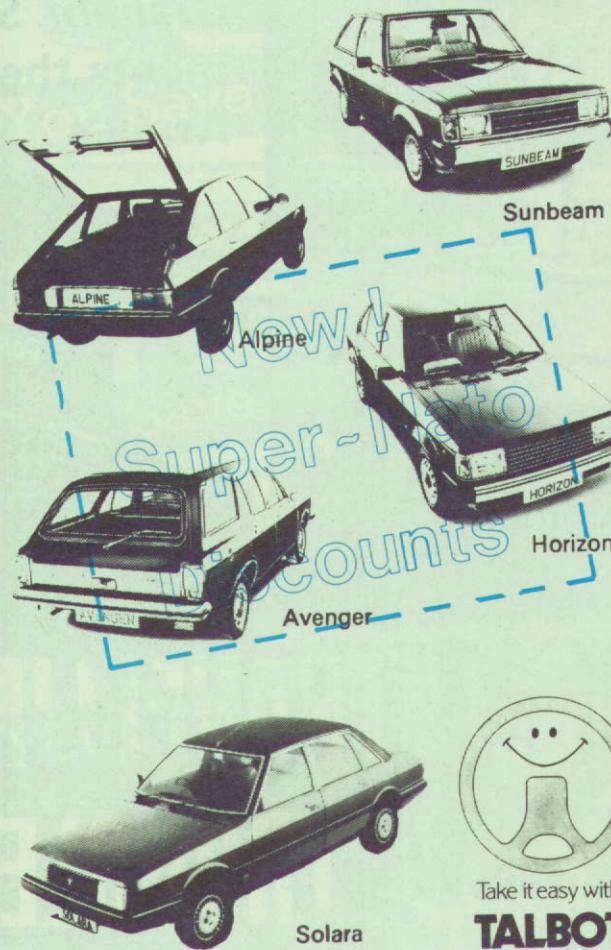
continued on page 27



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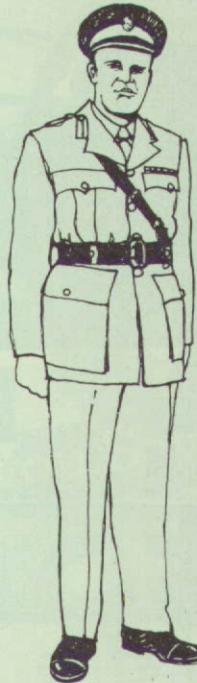
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life of a small baby who was unable to take natural milk from his mother or cow's milk. The drugs had been rushed to Checkpoint Alpha from the British Military Hospital at Rinteln and then to Berlin. The baby lived.

"Easter is the busiest time for us because the motorists from Berlin are just like migrating birds", said 24-year-old Corporal Steve Higgs, a veteran of some 220 round trips along the corridor's concrete causeway. "The Caravan Club pilgrimage to Berlin can also give us quite a sizeable headache."

Allied travellers in cars are allowed a minimum of two hours to make the autobahn trip, keeping to the speed limit of 100 kilometres (62 miles) an hour. If they have still not turned up after five hours then the sweep patrol is turned out to find them.

The work cycle is a long one for the men of 247 ACD who, as well as the two Range Rovers, have an Opel Admiral Saloon, the £40,000 recovery vehicle, an ambulance and a three-quarter-ton Land-Rover recovery vehicle (all serviced by three REME personnel) to back them up.

They work a 12-day system comprising two day duties (one on the duty desk, the other at the checkpoint), two days on the 'sweep', two days of routine police duties some 40 kilometres away at Wolfenbuttel, two night duties (desk and checkpoint) followed by four days off. One of the patrols is a man and wife team who, happily, get the same time off together.

The patrols advise on weather conditions, of likely hazards and of detours in force on the two-lane highways to and from Berlin. They may also be involved in the 20-minute briefing and documentation sessions for Allied drivers about to use the corridor and due to pass through the three other checkpoints along the old E6 from Berlin to Hanover and Nuremberg.

The duty ACD personnel will loan comprehensive dual-purpose travel packs (covering both directions of approach to the autobahn) including a breakdown card, maps, the BTD, precise details of the route to be taken and, more importantly, clear instructions on what to do in the event of a breakdown.

If there is an accident, the travel pack tells drivers not to make statements to the East German police (not recognised by the British military authorities) and not to let any injured Allied personnel be moved by Soviet or East German soldiers or ambulances.

In the case of a mechanical breakdown the advice is to stop another Allied traveller, give him the breakdown card and then wait to be recovered, even if the fault is repaired.

If a traffic law infringement happens, such as speeding, Allied motorists are told not to pay fines or tolls; not to allow any search of vehicles or people in it; not to admit liability for any alleged offence and, if necessary, to request the presence of a Soviet officer, pending the arrival of the Military Police and an Army interpreter.

Travellers are also told not to leave the autobahn; not to stop or park in areas occupied by Soviet or East German troops; to keep to the speed limit and to obey all traffic signs.

The sweeps are well kitted to deal with most motoring calamities. In the capacious back of their four-wheel-drive Range Rovers they have traffic cones, a first aid kit, a fire extinguisher, a bass broom (for broken glass), crow bar, shovels, tow chains, lamps,



Above: ACD recovery unit at Checkpoint Alpha.

Below: Checkpoint Bravo view towards the East.



day-glow jackets, jerry cans of petrol and water, a traffic incidents box (full of forms) and, of course, direct radio links to each end of the autobahn.

247 Provost Company's Autobahn Control Detachment, financed on the Berlin budget, is housed in a purpose-built barracks complex opened in 1971, a couple of miles from the neatly-planned market town of Helmstedt.

There are welcome washing and shower facilities with limited transit accommodation for those who may have a long delay at Helmstedt due to adverse weather conditions on the autobahn, especially after an eight-hour drive from Zeebrugge.

Uppermost in the minds of the ACD

personnel at all times is the vital importance of maintaining unopposed Allied access to the autobahn.

In the harshest of winters, a sweep will turn out and complete its icy run up the bitter snow-crusted corridor even though it may take up to six hours to reach Berlin.

Dick Pink, the sergeant-major in charge of the ACD, says: "Control from the RMP point of view is by strict enforcement of regulations which have political and legal significance on the preservation of the rights to use the corridor."

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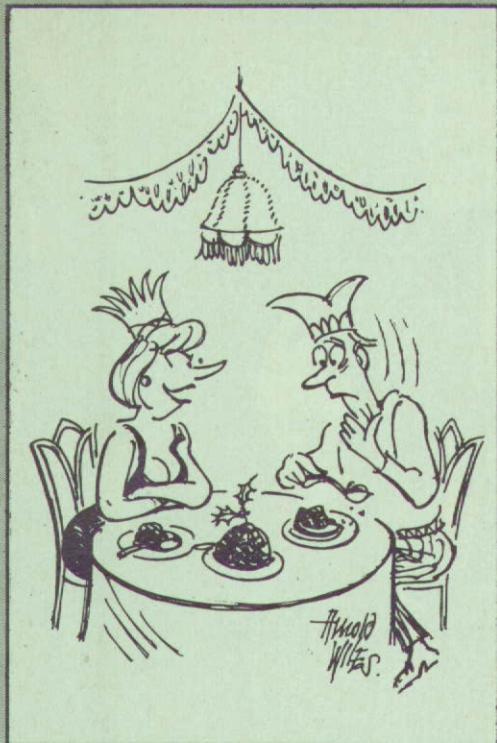
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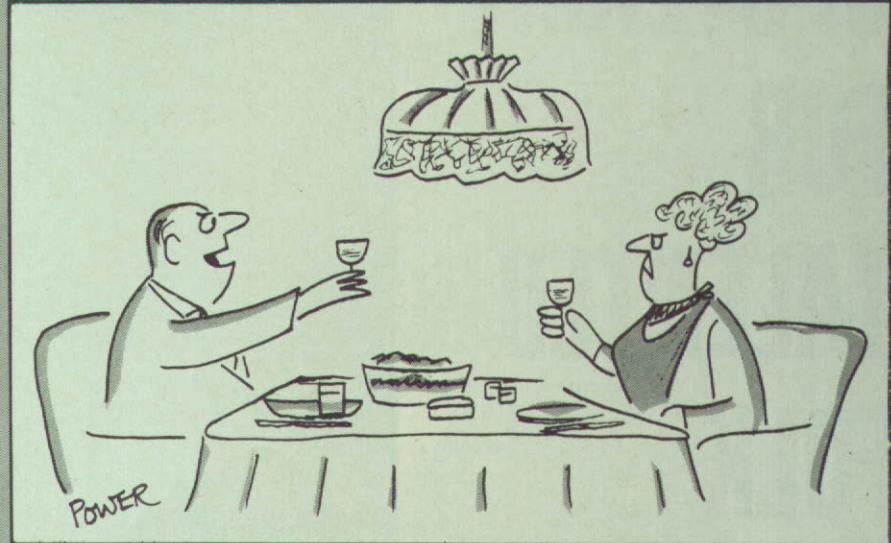
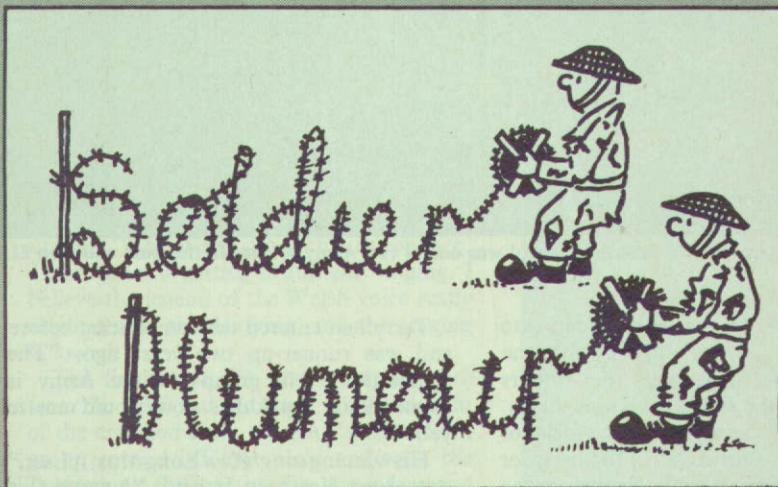
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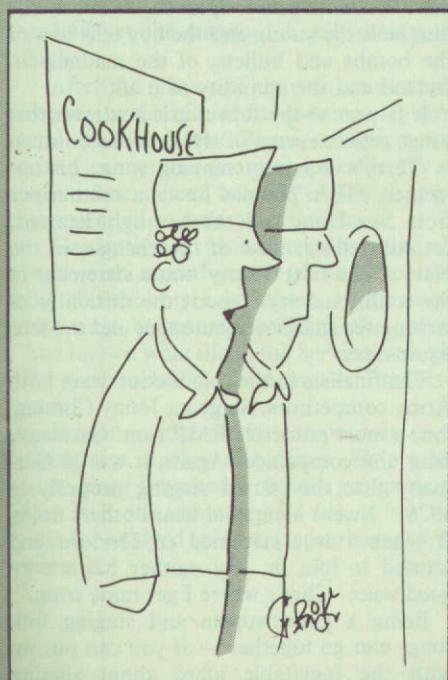
"Of course it tastes of turps.
Who stirred his paint in my food mixer?"



"To 35 years of guerilla warfare!"



"Did you find out who sent that ticket for the
Regimental Reunion Dinner?"



"Ye gods, Chalkie! They're eating it!"



SPOTLIGHT FOR TALENTED FOLK

**Story:
Ann Beecham**

**Pictures:
Andy Burridge**

BACKSTAGE THE TENSION WAS MOUNTING as the finalists in the Services Folk Competition 1980 tried to look casual and unconcerned, telling themselves (and everyone else) that their shaking knees were the result of Croft Original, not nerves.

Right now it seemed irrelevant that they had successfully come through the earlier heats in the competition, beating hundreds of other entries to reach this last stage. The knee-knocking moment had arrived when they had to go on stage in front of an audience, 'live' at the Spotlight Club, Brize Norton, knowing that their performance was being recorded for BFBS and BBC local radio programmes.

Entries were up on last year and the standard is getting higher every time. In the original composition section alone, there were over 80 entries from Servicemen and Servicewomen in UK, BAOR, Cyprus and Gibraltar.

The competition begins about April when groups and soloists are asked to submit their recordings. BFBS and BBC local radio stations offer the use of their recording facilities so that all the tapes are professionally produced and nobody gets an advantage.

'Eggy' Ley, the head of the Music Department at BFBS, has the mammoth task of sifting the entries in the first stages. A musician himself, he has been involved in the folk competition for a number of years, so he knows what to look for.

"It has to be something ear-catching", he explained. "I am a jazz musician and can approach it with a completely open mind. I'm not involved in that sense and can see things from the periphery."



Sergeant Jenny Currington, a BAOR 'Redcap' was one of two Army soloists in the final and won £150.

Some 90 entries chosen are divided into heats of 15 for judging. Those with the highest scores, not necessarily the winners of each heat, go through to the semi-finals. Most of the BFBS stations put out a series of programmes featuring artists in these earlier rounds and building up to the finals over the weeks. Then come the finals themselves with two entries in each class competing for the glory, the trophy and the cheque.

The solo and group performers had to battle it out at Brize Norton, but the judges had already been defeated in the original composition class. They were quite unable to decide between two entries and finally awarded a joint prize. Their chairman, Geoff Love, explained: "We have never had a tie before. Every year the standard gets higher and higher. We had a terrible job judging this year and if it goes on we'll have to have six prizes — let's hope it does."

The two finalists in this class, Sergeant Terry Ford and Marine Engineering Artificer Thomas Lewis, each received a cheque for £100 and a six-month share of the Army Benevolent Fund Challenge Cup. Introduced by David Allen, compere for the evening, they performed their own songs in front of an enthusiastic audience.

Sergeant Ford, from REME, started singing when he was in Germany. He taught himself to play guitar and started writing when he found there was a shortage of songs he wanted to sing.

"You get a feeling for songs and I can't find too many songs that I can get into, so I write my own."

Terry had entered the competition before and was runner-up two years ago. "The standard of folk groups in the Army is tremendous. Squaddies now would amaze you."

His winning song 'How Long Must it Last?' was about Northern Ireland. "I wrote this song just after Warrenpoint. It is about a young kid who goes to Northern Ireland and dies. When he gets to Heaven, St Peter tells him he is too young and the boy tells him of the bombs and bullets, of the madness in Ireland and the stupidity of it all."

It is part of the folk music tradition that songs reflect events of the time. In contrast to Terry's intensely moving song, his co-winner, MEA Thomas Lewis a submariner from *Sea Lion*, had taken a light-hearted, yet still telling, view of the changes in the Navy. 'The Last Shanty' was a statement in the traditional style about the difficulty of writing sea shanties about radar and modern equipment.

The finalists in the solo section were both Army competitors. Sergeant Jenny Currington, a most attractive RMP from Germany, sang unaccompanied. Again, it was in Germany that she started singing properly in 1975. "I went along and heard others doing it when I was stationed in Herford and wanted to join in. My mother has a very good voice. That's where I get mine from."

Being a policewoman and singing folk songs can go together — if you can put up with the inevitable jokes about singing policemen and arresting performances — although a 'folksy' image is not one that the

The unique appeal of Max Boyce from Wales.
"School swots turn into sergeants," he cracked.
"I was in the Army — but I'm better now."

Redcaps usually project.

"It's an escape for me," said Jenny, "but you have to practice, practice, practice. It's hard work and you have to keep at it."

Her rendering of 'The Water is Wide' was full of feeling. "It is good to sing unaccompanied because then you only have yourself to blame and don't have to worry about someone else letting you down. But it can be nerve-racking when you're there on your own."

"I try to get into a song to get the feeling of it over. In 'The Water is Wide', I think of my parents who are away from me and it makes it more melancholy."

And it works: Jenny carried off the Royal Artillery Challenge Cup and £150. Runner-up, Sergeant Mike Mooney, was quick to give Jenny her due after the results were announced. "I was quite expecting it. She's a very good singer." Mike has had a successful year so far and his narrow defeat in the final should not mar that. He is in the PT Corps and is attached to 50 Missile Regiment RA at present, in Minden.

"Folk is an outlet for me when I need to calm down at the end of the day," he explained. "I wish I could do more really."

Mike plays at the Krankenvolk Club in Iserlohn twice a week and combines his singing with an impressive athletics record. He is the current Army and BAOR pole vault champion.

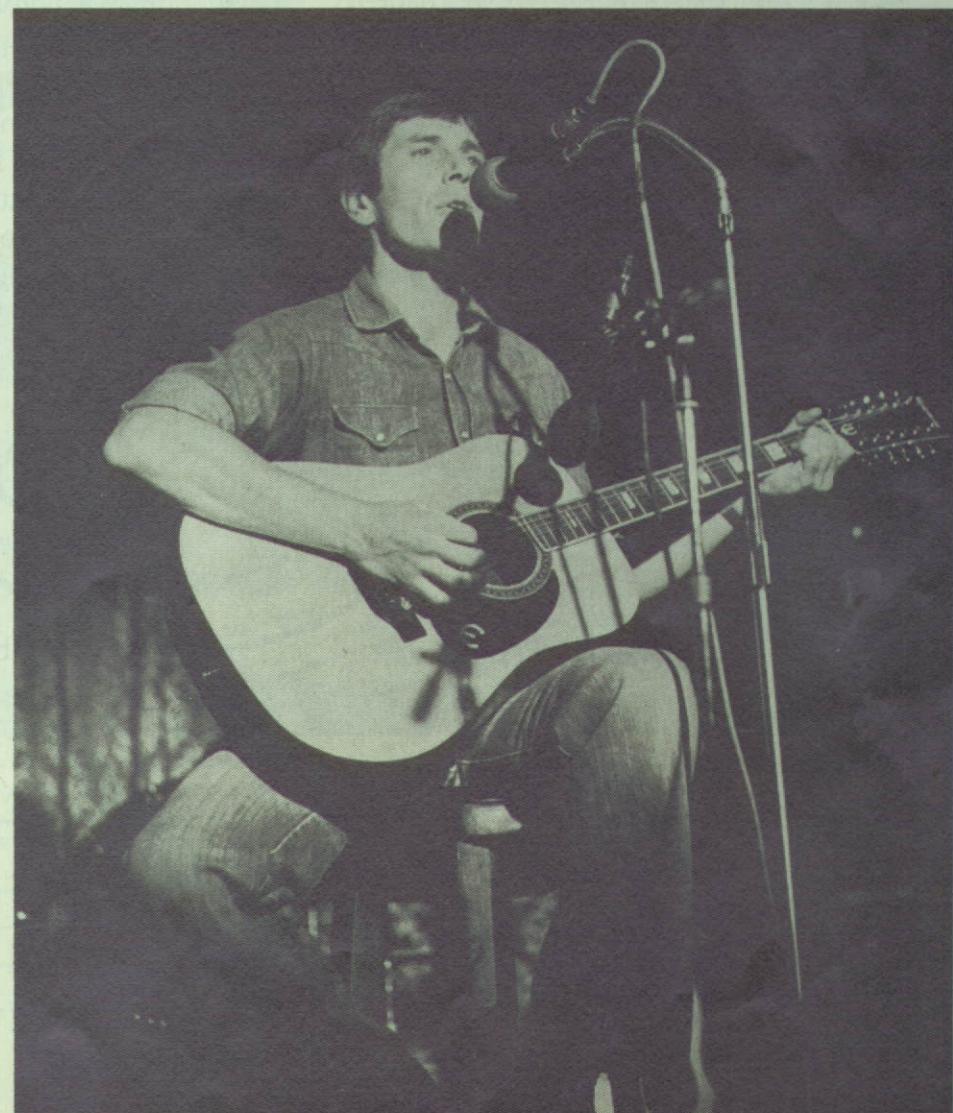
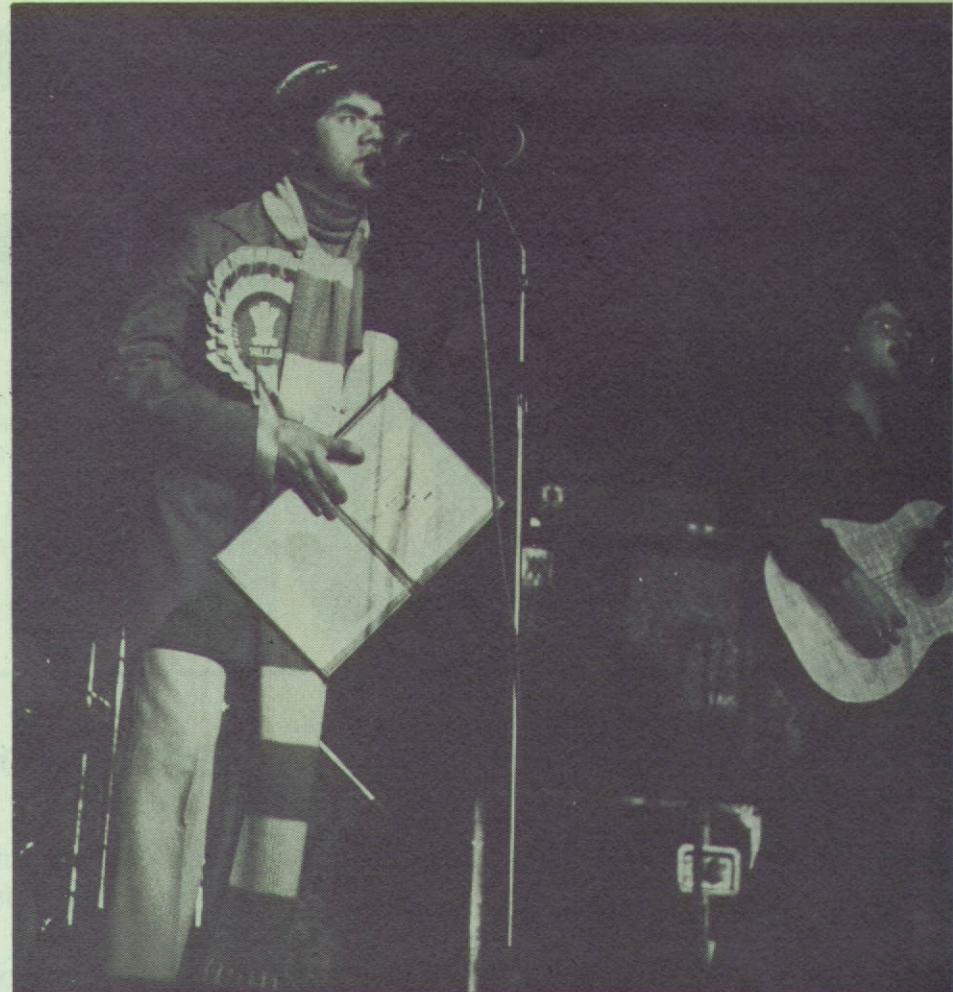
Singing is probably in his blood. His father sang ballads and set Mike the example. He has his theories about the Welsh and singing: "The Welsh are such a happy race. Their outlet is getting drunk and singing. I believe the legend of the Welsh voice really originated in the drinking, and the singing followed!"

The finalists in the group section were from the RAF and the Navy. To the delight of the crowded club, the RAF's Dava Rant group carried off first place and took the Professional Folk Artists Challenge Cup and £300 back to RAF Kinloss. One of the biggest problems folk groups in the Services face is the ever-present threat of being posted yet the standard is still remarkably high.

After the tension of the competition came the top of the bill for the evening. Dynamic and brilliant, Max Boyce, complete with giant leek and an enormous scarf in the red and white stripes beloved of Welsh rugby supporters, erupted onto the stage.

He captivated his audience in inimitable style with reminiscences about school and his theories on how school swots usually turn into sergeants, confiding that he too had known what life in the Services was like: "I used to be in the Army — I'm better now!"

His praise for all the competitors in the finals was sincere and direct. "It's a long time since I worked with folk groups in the first half of a show and I'd like to say how much I enjoyed it. I am glad to say — I was there."



Right: Sergeant Terry Ford received £100 cheque and half share of a Cup for his composition.

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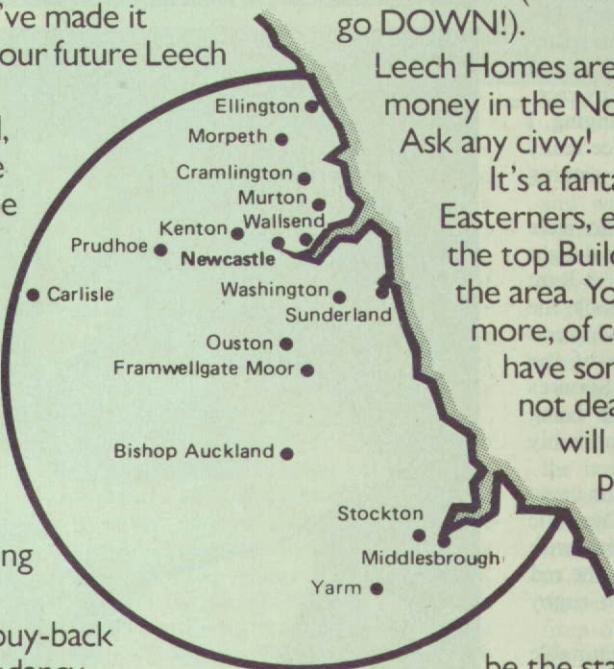
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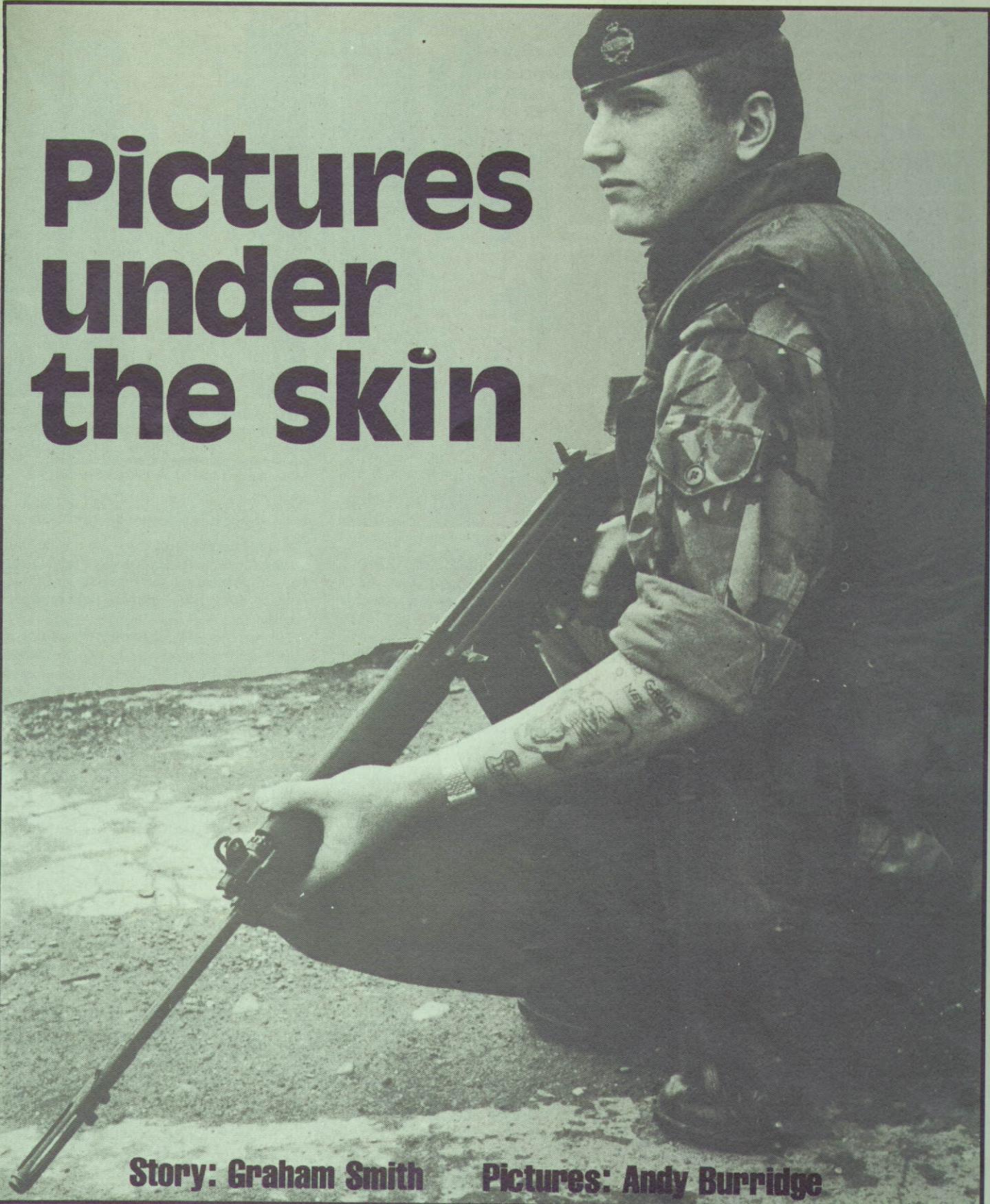
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Pictures under the skin



Story: Graham Smith

Pictures: Andy Burridge

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE, they say — or does it, in every case? Certainly there must be many less painful ways of promoting the personal image than having one's skin impregnated with vegetable dye by thousands of minute perforations under the needles of a tattooist's drill.

Most medical officers agree, says the Ministry of Defence, that ninety per cent of soldiers who indulge in this extroverted art form do, in later life, regret with some obvious embarrassment those lusty moments of adolescent yesteryears when they daringly thrust their way with some

mates into a tattoo artist's cramped studio to emerge not only bemused, but bandaged, sore and smarting for hours.

Yet young soldiers are still falling in regularly to 'get needled' for art's sake according to one highly-reputable practitioner, Mr. Bill Skuse, 47, who operates a small, spotlessly clean salon in Aldershot's High Street with his auburn-haired wife, Rusty, (née Field). Rusty holds pride of place in the *Guinness Book of Records* as Britain's most tattooed lady. She has 2500 of 'em that would cost £8000 today, displaced at strategic places round her *corpus delecti* . . . most places

except her hands, face and inner thighs.

"I own and ride a horse regularly," explained Rusty, a former WRAC radar operator-turned-driver, "and tattooed thighs would rub raw."

Their studio, usually best patronised on a Saturday afternoon, offers any of 3500 designs ranging from £1.50 for a name to £68 for an eagle proudly planted on a chest.

Bill Skuse is a member of the British Guild of Tattoo Artists and his family have been tattooing torsos and most parts of the anatomy for three generations.

Snakes . . . skulls . . . flowers . . . dragons

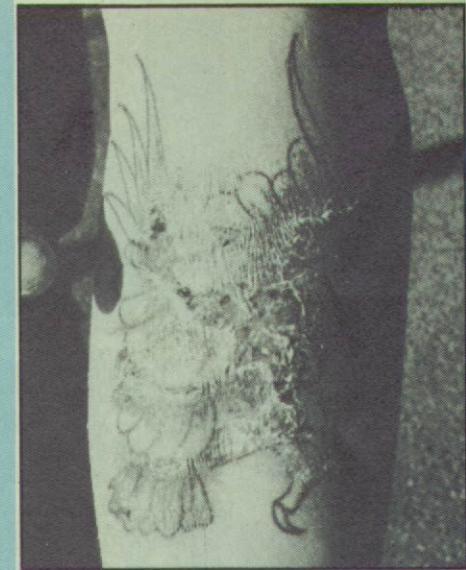


... hearts ... shapely girls ... stars ... bluebirds ... religious insignia and, of course, girls' names continue to be the firm favourites among the 'squaddies'. At least, in the latter case, the standard classic ballad 'I've got you under my skin' takes on a whole new, permanent — very permanent — meaning.

Two well-used, four-letter words — LOVE and HATE — still adorn the sturdy fingers of many a soldier world-wide. Mum and Dad come in for prominent remem-

brance, too.

But it was ever thus. The Greeks pioneered the rigours and blood-letting of those early pictorial graffiti techniques and, like everything else, must have had a word for it. And long-muted Egyptian mummies sequestered in ornate sarcophagi still bear the marks of hypodermic imprints and art work mixed amid the hieroglyphics. More sinister, the Nazis used the technique on their luckless victims penned in concentration camps.



Left: Saturday afternoon in a garrison town — waiting for opening time and designs on them.

Above: One that went quite septic and ugly. This tattoo needed special antibiotics course.

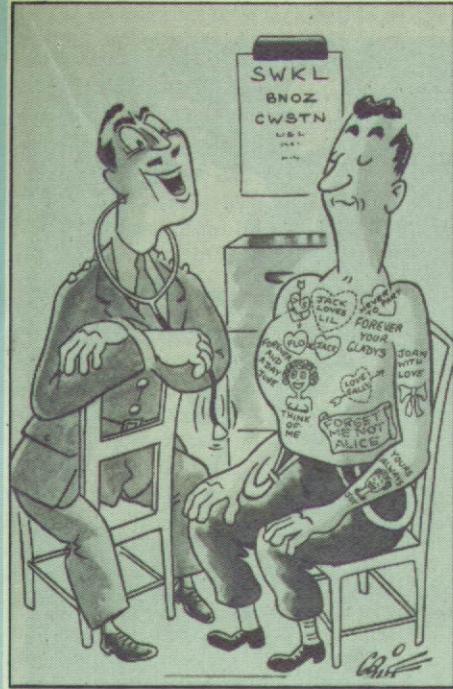
Below: A family outing to the Skuse studio — husband-wife logo is applied by Rusty Skuse.

Europeans probably came across the skill during the days of the 'big ships' plying the Far East where, say the experts, the Japs as in many things today lead the field for sheer quality.

No part of the anatomy, it seems, is sacred from the probings of the tattoo artists' high-speed drill. Sanctuary has been found inside the lower lip while one anonymous and modest man insisted on ... tartan testicles!

The 'squaddie', like other aficionados of





'And what do you do in your spare time?'

the art-loving acupuncture set, opts for his share of the bizarre, the devout and the near-obscene, the latter category even boasting a pair of 'here's-looking-at-you-kid' eyes peering from a pallid rump.

Psychologist pundits in the past have labelled the group image identity cult of those who flinch under thousands of needle pricks as being 'emotionally immature and suffering from neurotic conflict'.

There are some among the military who are on record as having lost out on jobs or promotion on account of the colourful chronicles on record in the public eye. But others too, have progressed, as short-sleeve order rig will testify in any Officers' Mess.

Private Steve Ryan, 20, of the Royal Pioneer Corps, had no regrets. "My thin arms were bare before and just looked stupid. Now it's great," he said.

With a 'Dad-Mum-Steve' logo on his left arm, Steve spent £1-a-minute for a quarter-hour session at a local tattoo salon near his unit.

"I have no regrets," he beamed, "but this is my first and last tattoo."

Barry Stolton, a 21-year-old Parachute Regiment aspirant, did regret his actions — with good reason.

"It all started out as a dare. After that it became habit-forming," he confessed.

Barry has 49 of the 'habits' worth £200 on his body; the cheapest cost £1.50, the most expensive £30.

"I regret it all now," he admitted. "People look at you when you are in shirtsleeve order. If I had the chance I'd have them all off. Not many birds like tattoos either. People have asked if I got them in prison or overseas. Most of them were done in a South Coast studio."

Barry, a veteran of 22 hours in tattoo salons, added: "I really wish they weren't there, but I don't lose any sleep over it. I hear it costs about £50 a square-inch to remove tattoos by skin graft surgery. I have a dragon on my stomach and I couldn't sit down because the work on it creases the stomach."

"I tell my mates: it hurts, it's expensive and I regret it — and so will you. I've never encouraged anyone."

But these two lads and countless thousands of others have been in very good company. King Harold slain at the Battle of Hastings in 1066 was, it is claimed, positively identified by a tattoo mark over his heart. There, inscribed for the total of his longevity, was his wife's name 'Edith'.

On a somewhat larger scale and later scuppered, at his wife's suggestion, by skin graft surgery, the late President John Kennedy had a battleship emblazoned across his chest, 'anchored' there during war-time.

Another King — George V — boasted a dragon on his arm, while Edward VII took a fancy, when in the Far East, to a Cross of Jerusalem design. He later acquired more privately catalogued tattooed tableaux.

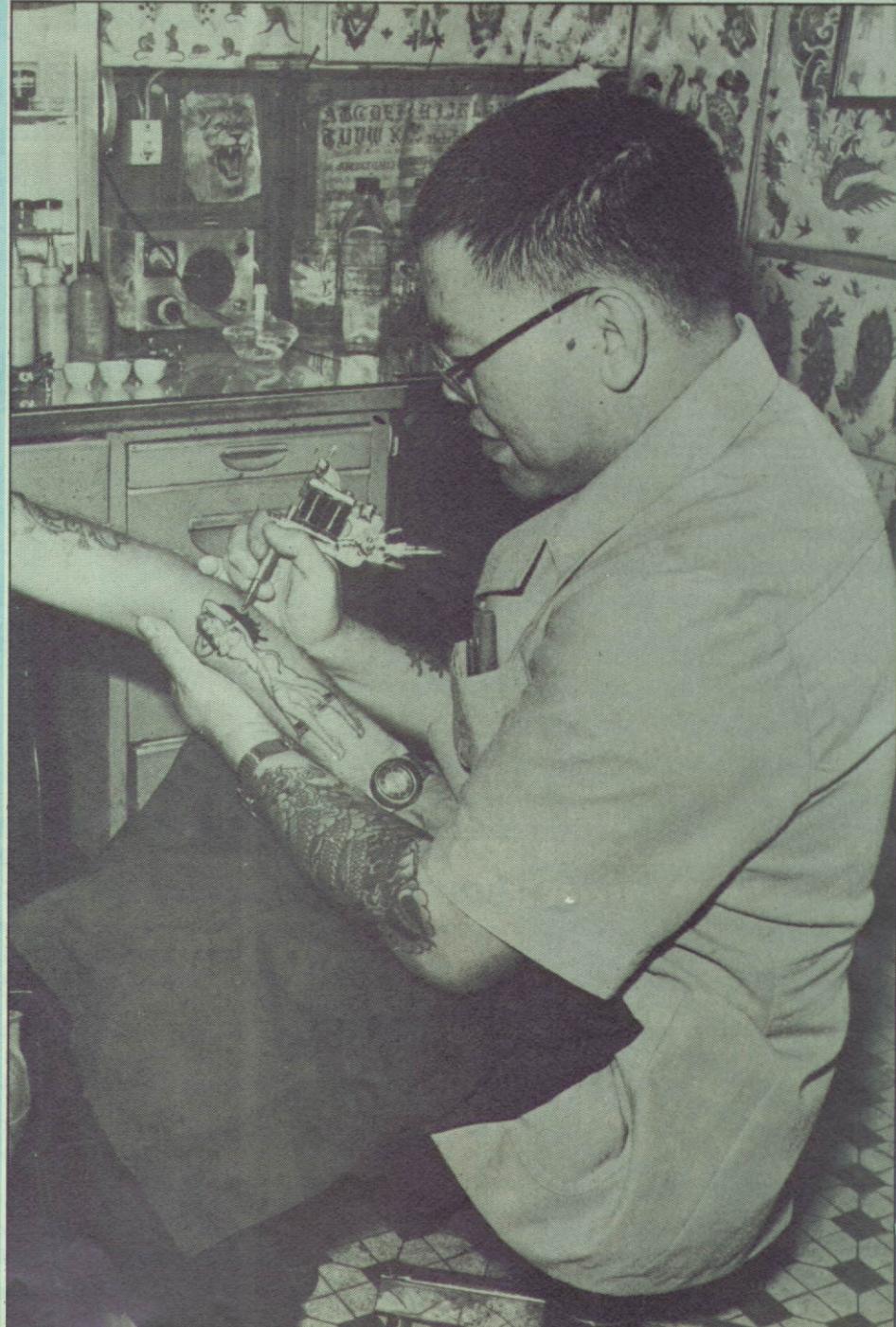
Members of the fairer sex have been no less enthusiastic in undergoing the rivettings of the high-speed drills that trace and colour their routes over unsullied skin.

It is known that Sir Winston Churchill's mother submitted to one. More recent recipi-



Above: If a picture paints a thousand words ...

Below: Rick's Wanchai Hong Kong studio scene. But it's out of bounds to British Servicemen.



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ients to the concept have included Marianne Faithfull and the late, lusty Janis Joplin.

Rusty Skuse, 36, purposefully landscaped for pictorial posterity in all but her hands, face and inner thighs has not been 'added to' for five years.

"I did it for a dare and started with a skull and cross bones," she explained. "I was stationed in Guildford then. Now I estimate about 85 per cent of my body is covered in tattoos. After my first tattoo I just couldn't stop. I was posted away to Wales, came back to Aldershot, popped down to Bill's studio one day and got a devil's head. It built up from there. You become addicted and it's very hard to explain to someone else."

Private Rusty, was invited to leave the Army. Later, in 1976, she was invited to become Bill's wife. In parallel with Rusty's withdrawal from the WRAC there was, about ten years ago, a girl petrol pump attendant who had 58 stitches inserted after the removal of an eight-year-old tattoo to get into the Army. She failed . . . on minimum height requirement!

Rusty reckoned that only 50 per cent of the studio's customers were from the Army and some of those — the younger ones — come in "laughing, giggling, shoving one another and each exhorting his mate to go first".

But there can be serious pitfalls in the quest for lifelong personalised skin-tight picture galleries . . . usually caused by the back-street operators who reputable tattooists refer to as 'scratches'.

Lieutenant-Colonel P J Blackburn, a Preventive Medicine Consultant at the Ministry of Defence, advises: "From the medical point of view there are risks of hepatitis unless tattooing is done under strictly sterile conditions.

"Tattoos are extremely difficult to remove and can be a source of embarrassment in later life. Most medical officers would agree that about ninety per cent of soldiers later regret having been tattooed."

This health hazard from slipshod tattooing was endorsed by Warrant Officer Mike Davis, Senior Tutor at the Royal Army Dental Corps School of Dental Hygiene.

He said: "We, in the dental world, are particularly interested in fresh tattoos and closely question anyone who has one asking where he had it done. Maybe it was in Hong Kong or Belize or wherever. If it is a new tattoo then we send them to their MO for a blood check as a precaution against hepatitis which is contagious."

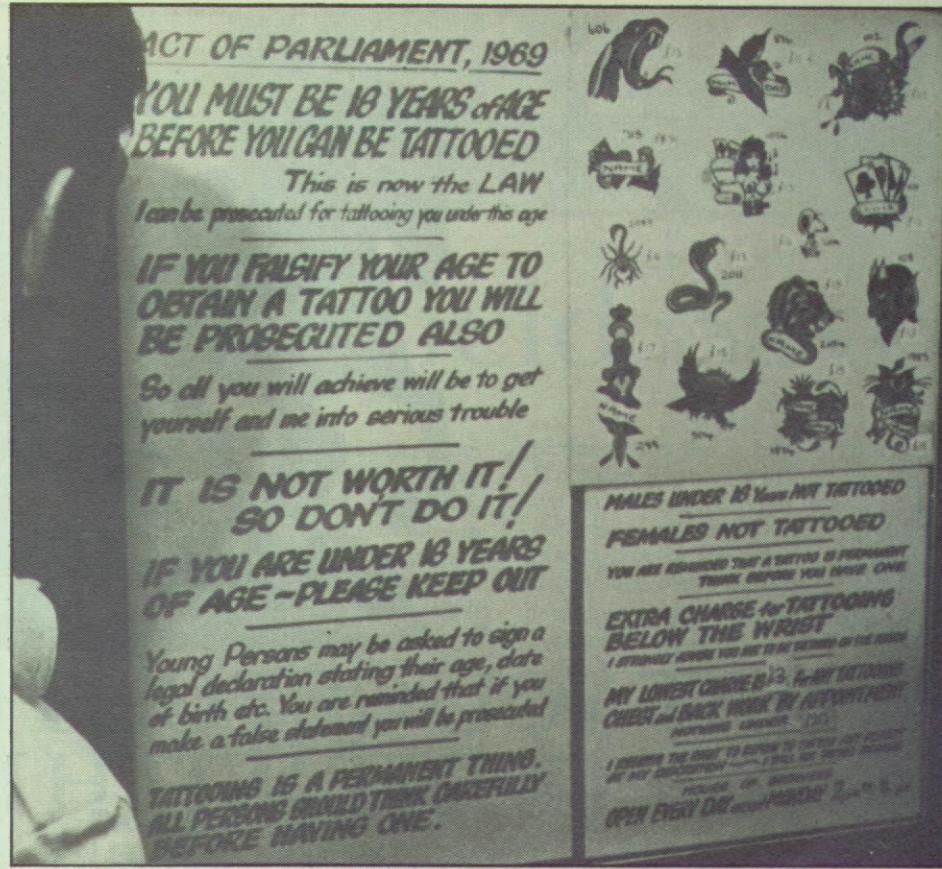
WO Davis added: "But although it is a case for concern the occurrence of hepatitis, fortunately, is very rare. I've been here for four years and I've not heard of one instance reported."

All tattoo parlours, in fact, are out of bounds to Service personnel in Hong Kong due to the risk of hepatitis.

There are two basic methods of removing unwanted pellicular works of art or uncherished names from the public record.

One is by skin graft surgery which inevitably leaves scars over the once revered allotments of nostalgia. They are hard to remove, painful and — costly.

The second method is by another tattoo, a sort of 're-vac', using special acid-based substances like Chinese White, tannin, glycerine, phenol and hydrogen peroxide which gradually absorb the colourings of the original non-toxic inks.



Above: Bill Skuse spreads out an eagle's wings.

Bill Skuse, a diligent dermatographist with the welfare of his clients very much at heart, rigorously slates the back-street 'scratches'.

"Walk into any reputable studio and the professional practitioner will have an autoclave steam steriliser of the type used in hospital operating theatres," he said. "The studio will be clean and very tidy. The scratcher, by contrast, will use the same palette and pots of ink which have been contaminated by the blood of previous clients. He should throw the ink away after every use.

"If you are going to have a tattoo it must be administered professionally. The scratcher, on the other hand, can under-cut the reputable tattoo artist and work at half the price. They just don't bother about hygiene, using the right colours or sterile needles. They will practise their bad craft on

Top: a sign in his studio lays down the law.

anybody almost for the price of a drink."

Bill and Rusty have exacting rules when they are at work. Clients must, by law, be 18 and over.

"For a start, if any client staggers in or his speech is slurred — he is out!", said Rusty, "even if he has been tattooed before."

Unfortunately, not all soldiers learn their lessons. One 20-year-old Geordie Para Regiment trainee painfully showed SOLDIER a three-week-old tattoo which was going septic and for which he had been prescribed a course of antibiotics. He had paid a-pound-a-minute for a fortnight's unnecessary pain and bad art work.

Surely, that would be his first and last tattoo? "No", he grinned sheepishly trying to put on a 'hard' face. "I'll go to a better tattooist and get it covered when it heals up."



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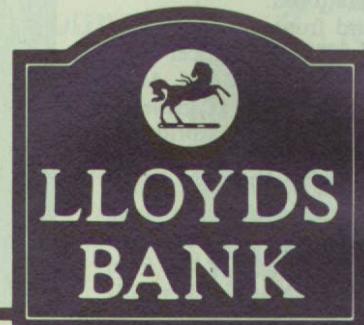
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A GRATEFUL NATION voted a large sum of money to buy the Duke of Wellington, or the Great Duke as he was universally known, a house and estate worthy of him. In 1817, after considering many far grander homes, he chose Stratfield Saye. Today the house is not only a shrine of Wellingtonia it also bears witness to the Duke's inventiveness and his eye for comfort. He installed central heating in the passages, blue patterned china water closets in many of the rooms and specially adapted chairs for reading.

In the hall, six tricolour banners hanging from the gallery are typical of those presented by Napoleon to each Department of France and were given to Wellington on his entry into Paris after Waterloo. The smaller French flag at each end is presented by every Duke of Wellington to the Sovereign at an annual ceremony as a form of 'rent' for Stratfield Saye.

The library with its splendid ceiling has hardly changed since the death of the first Duke. Many of the books are from Napoleon's own collection and were acquired by the Great Duke who was bilingual. Two treasured locks of hair can also be seen. One is from the head of George Washington, the other from the mane of Copenhagen, the Duke's favourite charger which he rode throughout the battle of Waterloo. Here too are Wellington's batons and sashes as High Constable of England, Field-Marshal of Hanover, Prussia, Russia and England and Captain-General of Spain. In the Music Room are the Duke's travelling bookcases and many other interesting souvenirs.

Aptly named is the Print Room, the walls of which are literally covered with prints of landscapes, antiquities, sporting and military subjects, the latter including a series depicting French cavalry lance exercises. Next comes the Gallery. Features of this impressive room are the two slate fireplaces, the pre-Revolution French furniture and a series of bronze busts including the Sun King, Louis XIV of France, and King Charles I of England.

From the Gallery to the Small Drawing Room with its portraits of various members of the Wellesley family, among them a painting by James Thorburn showing the Great Duke in the last year of his life with four of his five grandchildren. A feature both of this room and the Large Drawing Room is the French wallpaper, still flawless, which was chosen by the Duke in 1838. Also in the main drawing room is a collection of pictures taken from the baggage train of Joseph Bonaparte when he fled from the battlefield during the closing stages of the battle of Vitoria in 1813. Among the booty were

pictures from the Spanish royal collection. When their identity was discovered Wellington ordered that they be returned to King Ferdinand VII who in turn replied: "His Majesty, touched by your delicacy, does not wish to deprive you of that which has come into your possession by means as just as they are honourable."

In the Dining Room a mahogany table is set for ten with a silver and silver-gilt service presented to the Duke, then Sir Arthur Wellesley, by the officers who served under him in India. Family portraits hanging in this room include one of the Duke's father, the first Earl of Mornington, a portrait of his elder brother, the Marquess Wellesley, who was Governor-General of India, and a portrait by Hoppner of the Duke as a young man in the uniform of a Colonel in the 33rd Foot, now the Duke of Wellington's Regiment of which the present Duke is Colonel-in-Chief.

In the Billiards Room the table itself belonged to the first Duke and over it hangs the original oil lamp now converted to electricity. Here too are three uniforms, one of which is of exceptional interest — Napoleon's Chasseurs à Cheval dress uniform which he intended to wear, had he been victorious at Waterloo, to mark his entry into Brussels.

The stables, which formerly housed some of the first Duke's carriage horses, now contain a fascinating collection of Wellingtonia. The small telescope the Duke used at Waterloo, a pair of his boots, his razor and strop are but a few of the many relics on view. There are reminders of his service in India and the campaigns in Portugal and Spain while a stall devoted to Waterloo shows, among other things, the 'mule box'. This was strapped to the pack saddle of a mule and contained the Duke's maps and message pads while also serving as a mobile desk.

The steel-spiked umbrella which he used during the Reform Bill riots, his hearing aid, walking stick and death mask are among the many items in the sections dealing with his political life and retirement.

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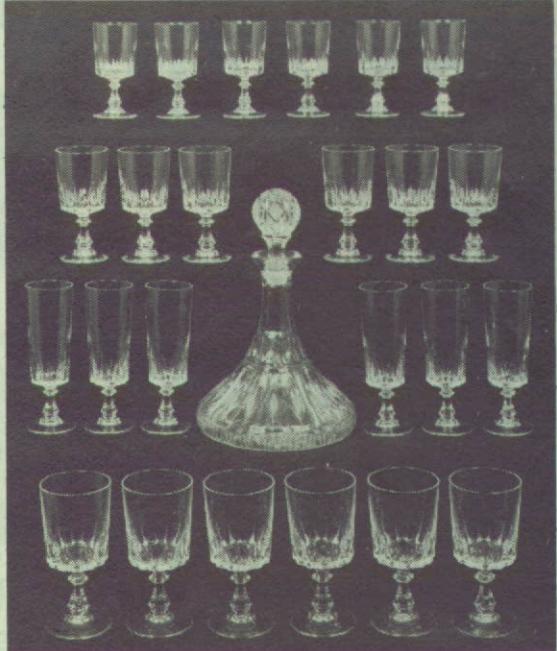
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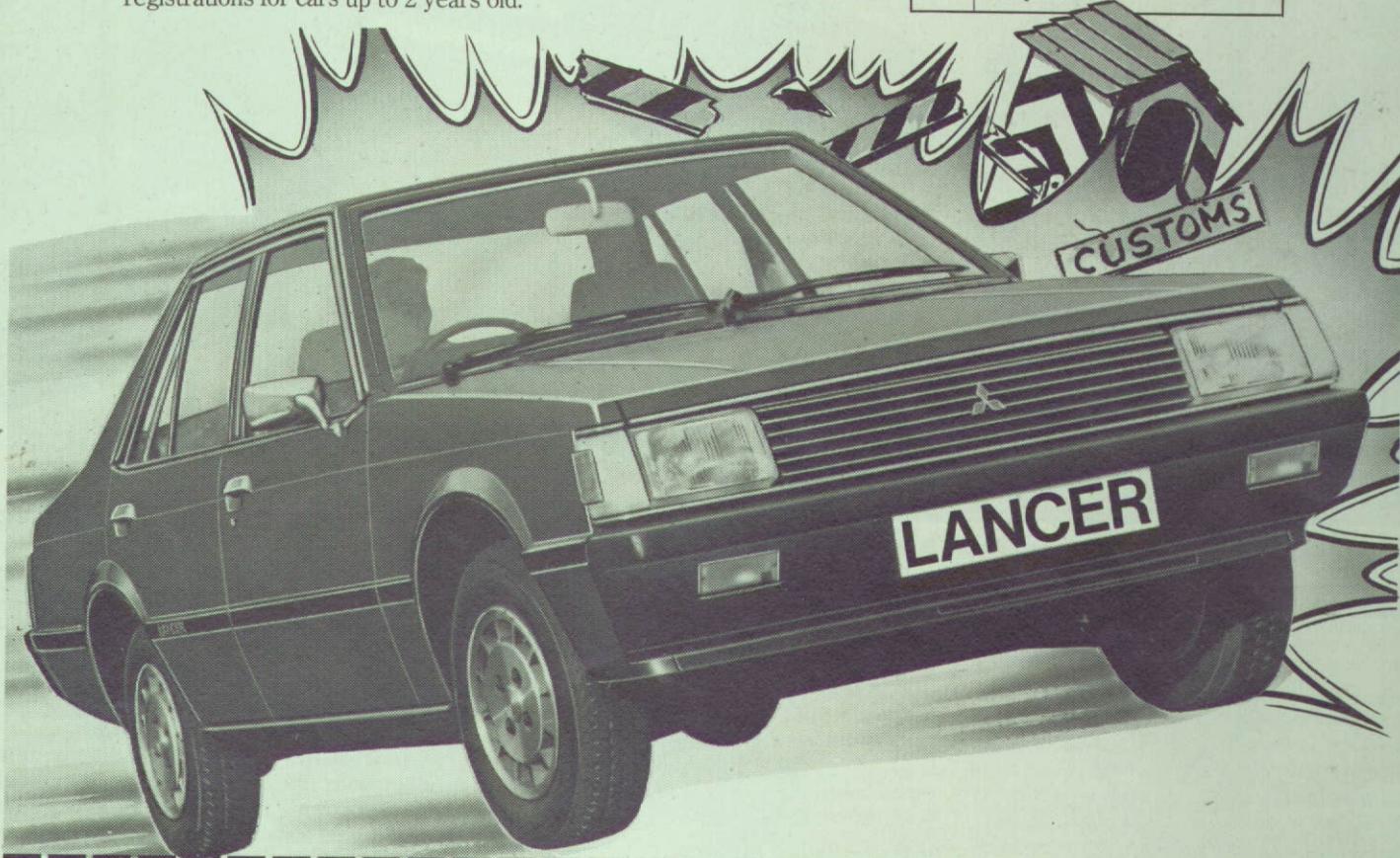
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3	Mercedes-Benz	5.6
4	Mazda	6.7
5	Toyota	7.3
6	Datsun	7.5
7	VW	8.6
8	Opel	9.6
9	Ford	10.1
10	Audi	10.2
11	BMW	10.6
12	Renault	11.4
13	Fiat	13.8
14	Talbot	14.9
15	Volvo	16.7
16	Peugeot	17.7
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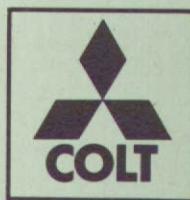
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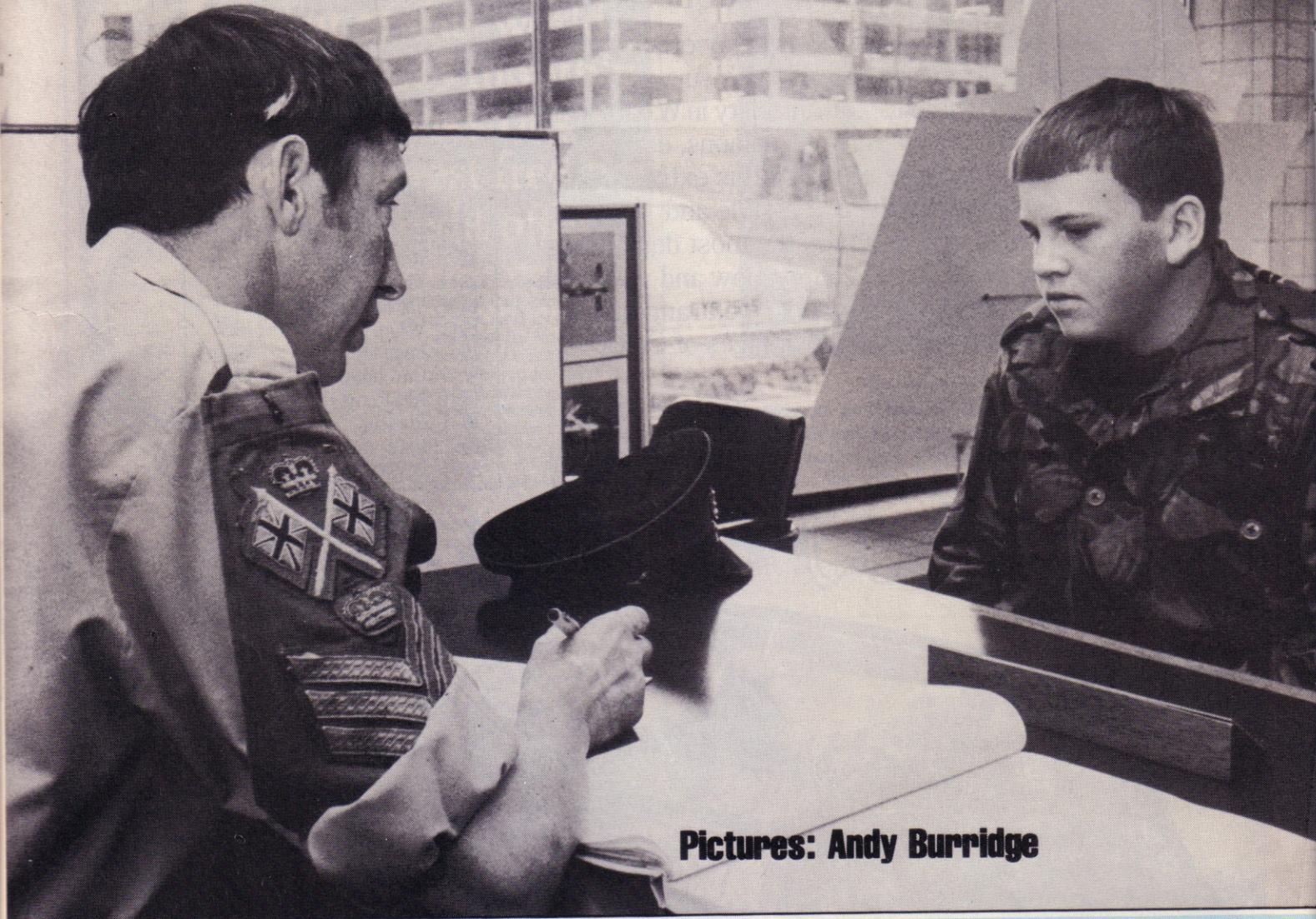
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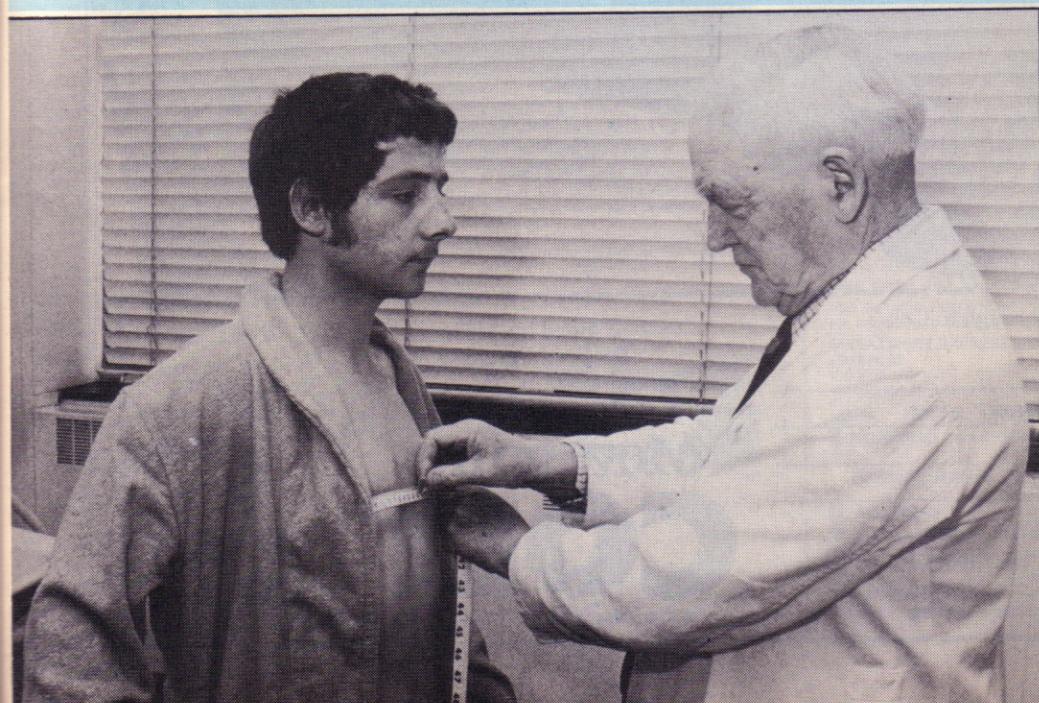
An Army career is becoming increasingly sought after as intake figures show.
JOHN WALTON went to Nottingham to meet would-be recruits and recruiters.

KNOCKING ON THE ARMY'S FRONT DOOR



Pictures: Andy Burridge

Above: Army cadet dreams of the day he joins up. Below: Medical examination conducted by Dr Thos Nolan.



IT WOULD BE a very unusual soldier who had never been in one. And yet most soldiers never visit one again after beginning their Service career. For these premises scattered up and down the country are really the entrance hall to the Army's house — the Army Careers Information Offices.

The ACIOs vary in size and scope from one room opened occasionally in a small market town's drill hall to massive, often tri-Service, establishments in the heart of big cities. SOLDIER visited one which comes somewhere in the middle — at Nottingham, said to be the archetypal medium sized city.

The office at Nottingham is manned by all three Services and is situated plum in the city centre. But the Navy and RAF still recruit entirely independently and the only things which are shared are the building and its heating.

The Army office covers the whole of the county of Nottinghamshire, incorporating a population of around one million. There is a subsidiary office at Worksop, an office in



Mansfield manned on a casual basis and interviews are also conducted at various Job Centres in the county from time to time.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Willson-Lloyd, the Army Careers Information Officer, reports a significant rise in recruiting this year in line with the national trend. And the quality of recruits is also better. Lest it should be thought that this was entirely due to the employment situation he points out that Nottinghamshire's jobless figures are by no means as bad as in other areas of the Midlands and North.

The ACIO staff comprises two officers, a sergeant-major and 13 recruiters, including a woman sergeant. The regiments who recruit in the county (The Worcester and Sherwood Foresters, the 17th/21st Lancers, the Grenadier Guards and the 1st Royal Horse Artillery) are usually represented but Colonel Willson-Lloyd stresses that their job is to recruit for the Army as a whole and not for their own particular cap badge.

Warrant Officer 1 Barrie Doran-Thorp, of The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, is the unit RSM. He told SOLDIER: "We have a very relaxed atmosphere and we all get on. The recruiters are all senior NCOs and we hope they will be able to work on their own without supervision. If I have to ask them to do something, hopefully they will do it straight away. If the whip has to be cracked it has to be cracked but the number of times I have had to do it is negligible."

Most readers of SOLDIER will know just what happens when a chap rolls up to see about joining the Army. But it is worth reiterating — especially as it has changed so much over the years since the days of the 'Queen's shilling.'

On arrival the would-be soldier takes a 40 minute long test embracing reading and basic aptitude. If he fails to pass the basic requirements he does not go onto the next stage of a medical — which all saves time and money.

But if he is deemed suitable he is then

checked over by retired RAMC officer, Dr Thomas Nolan. He attends at the ACIO on four days a week and reports: "The general health of those I see is quite good. But I find people with doubtful eyes and chests and occasionally get people with a hole in the heart who are completely unaware of it.

"During the war I went out in the African bush and they paraded 10,000 Negroes in front of me and I picked out 2000 for the Army. Now we are a lot more particular and we reject people for peacetime service who would be accepted in wartime.

"The great majority of the boys are clean, pleasant and well mannered. But some of them come to see me after they have had their first lot of training and the difference is astounding."

Mr Doran-Thorp confirms this: "When they return they have filled out. A wet boy has become a man."

People who want to go in for some specialised trades in the corps have to take another special test. If they fail they can come back for a second stab six weeks later but there will be no pressure put on them to just join up anyway.

"Wherever possible a guy is given the job he wants to do providing he comes up to 'spec' and that when he goes to the selection centre at Sutton Coldfield there are vacancies in his job," says the RSM.

After the would-be recruit has had a long talk with a recruiter about the Army and his prospects, he will be called forward to the selection centre. Usually the gap between the man coming in off the street to enquire and actually joining up is a matter of weeks, but it has been known for one to walk in at nine o'clock with his correct references and be in the Army by lunchtime.

Enlistments also take place at the ACIO and SOLDIER was present as 16-year-old Nigel Bird took the oath of allegiance which dates back to the reign of Charles II.

Nigel, who was on his way to the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery at Bramcote, was told by Colonel Willson-Lloyd:

Above: Tri-service careers office in Nottingham.
"There will be periods when you will get homesick. But in the Army there are enjoyable times and there are also tough times."

From that day he was a soldier — but on unpaid leave until he reported to Bramcote. And for the day's attendance for enlistment he was paid the modern equivalent of the 'Queen's shilling' — £4 plus £1.25 expenses.

Captain Diana Rorrison, the Careers Officer for Women's Services, has a brief which extends beyond Nottinghamshire into four neighbouring counties. But, while female recruiters are used for the in-depth interviews for women recruits, Captain Rorrison will often interview men as well.

Female recruits all end up at the WRAC Centre at Guildford or the QARANC Centre at Aldershot. Says Captain Rorrison: "It's the all round person we are looking for so we do a bit of weeding out at this level. Some may have all the paper qualifications but there is no way they will get through selection."

Both the standard and the number of female recruits is rising — particularly with the extension of WRAC personnel into more technical areas, she adds.

So how do the recruiters set about attracting people? Well, there are advertisements in the local papers, visits to schools, KAPE tours and exhibitions at events ranging from big county-wide shows down to village fetes.

There is also the use of what are known as 'satisfied soldiers' — men with perhaps a couple of years service who can be spared by their units for a short spell. They return to their home county and their old schools and go round meeting people.

The ACIO staff stress that the 'satisfied' soldiers are told not to sugar the pill — they must give a true picture, warts and all. "There is no better way to sell the Army than through someone who is satisfied with his lot," is the policy.

Unlike one or two other areas, relationships between the Army and the local

continued on page 45



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authorities in Nottinghamshire are good — and the same applies to the general public. It's said that a man who walks through any town in the county in his uniform gets used to the nods, waves and smiles.

Says Mr Doran-Thorp: "I feel the more we get to know what goes on in this county the better it is. Many of us have been down a coal mine — and the miner makes a great soldier because he has all the basic qualities of training we are looking for. He's used to discipline and hard work."

What the Army does not want today is the hooligan or petty criminal. The old idea of magistrates that offenders should 'go away and join the Army' no longer holds water.

Says Colonel Willson-Lloyd: "If a chap has a criminal record that shows proven criminal tendencies we will turn him down. And if he is found to have a record after he joins the Army, out he will go and disciplinary action can be taken against him."

The sort of lads they do want were exemplified by 15-year-old Simon Dutton, who sat in the office in Army uniform. He will be joining as a junior soldier next May but is so keen on the Army life that he wore his Army

This month one of the senior NCOs at the Nottingham Careers Office will don a scarlet costume and white beard and will reappear as 'Sergeant Santa'.

Every year the office writes to local schools and youth organisations and asks them to collect together as many serviceable toys as possible. The Lord-Mayor of Nottingham and Sergeant Santa then deliver toys to a childrens' home selected by the Lord-Mayor — arriving in a Land-Rover made up to look like a sleigh.

But the response has grown so much over the years that there are far too many toys for one home — four-and-a-half tons last year. So they are distributed to other homes and needy places throughout Nottinghamshire.

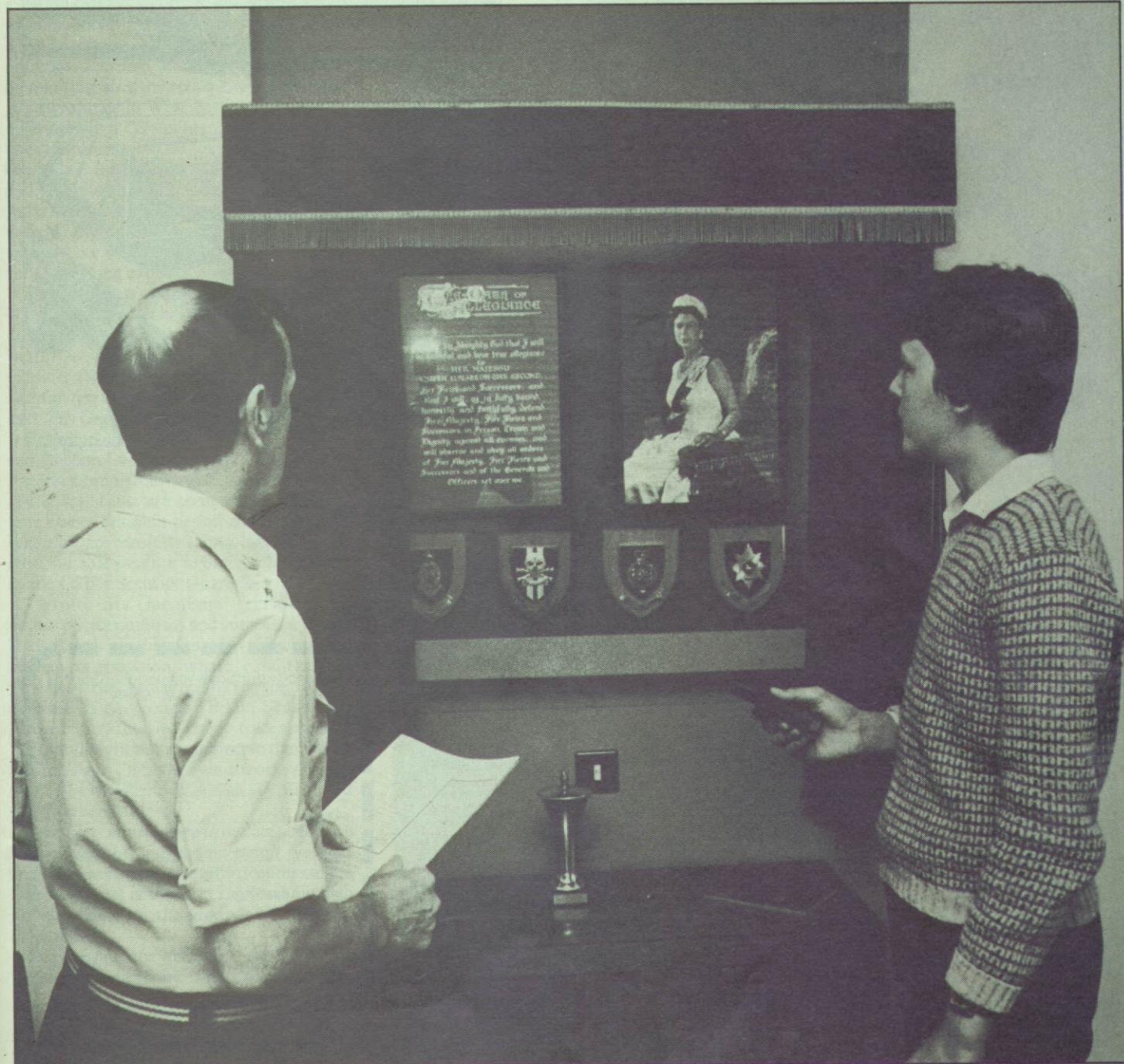
cadet uniform for his preliminary interview.

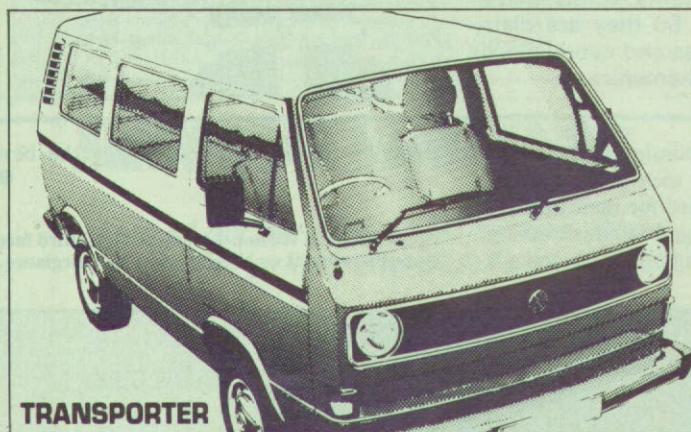
No longer are young men pulled off the streets without any regard for their quality. They are often encouraged to finish taking their exams before joining up. For in today's



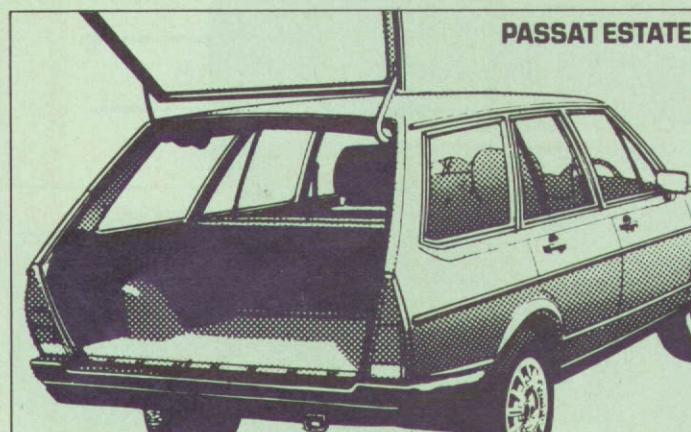
Army, to borrow a phrase, 'only the best will do.'

Below: Colonel Willson-Lloyd and Nigel Bird face Queen's portrait as Nigel pledges his allegiance.





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Concluding our series on Berlin, this month a unique German unit celebrates . . .

THE GREEN AND WHITE FLAG fluttering bravely outside the Smuts Barracks headquarters of the German Service Unit in Berlin's ancient township of Spandau forges a poignant reminder of the past in this, the unit's 30th year.

For many of the original members of the unit (some of whom are still with it) were ex-prisoners of war and the white half of the flag represents the German surrender at the end of World War Two and the green half the hope for the future when offered by the victorious Allies.

This hope was reinforced in December 1950 when Britain showed its trust in a very practical way by forming the German Service Unit. It was set up to provide an armed and disciplined civilian force in uniform capable of relieving British troops from guard and security duties in West Berlin.

Originally a 'Watchman' organisation of two companies, the GSU carries out the same role today. But with increased commitments and responsibilities it has developed into a fully fledged security guard unit complete with a guard dog section (with some 30 animals on strength) and a small labour section making a total of more than 200 men.

Only German nationals can serve in the GSU and they must be between the ages of 18 and 52. But not all recruits have come from Berlin — the unit once boasted a black member from the United States who qualified for recruitment because one of his parents was German!

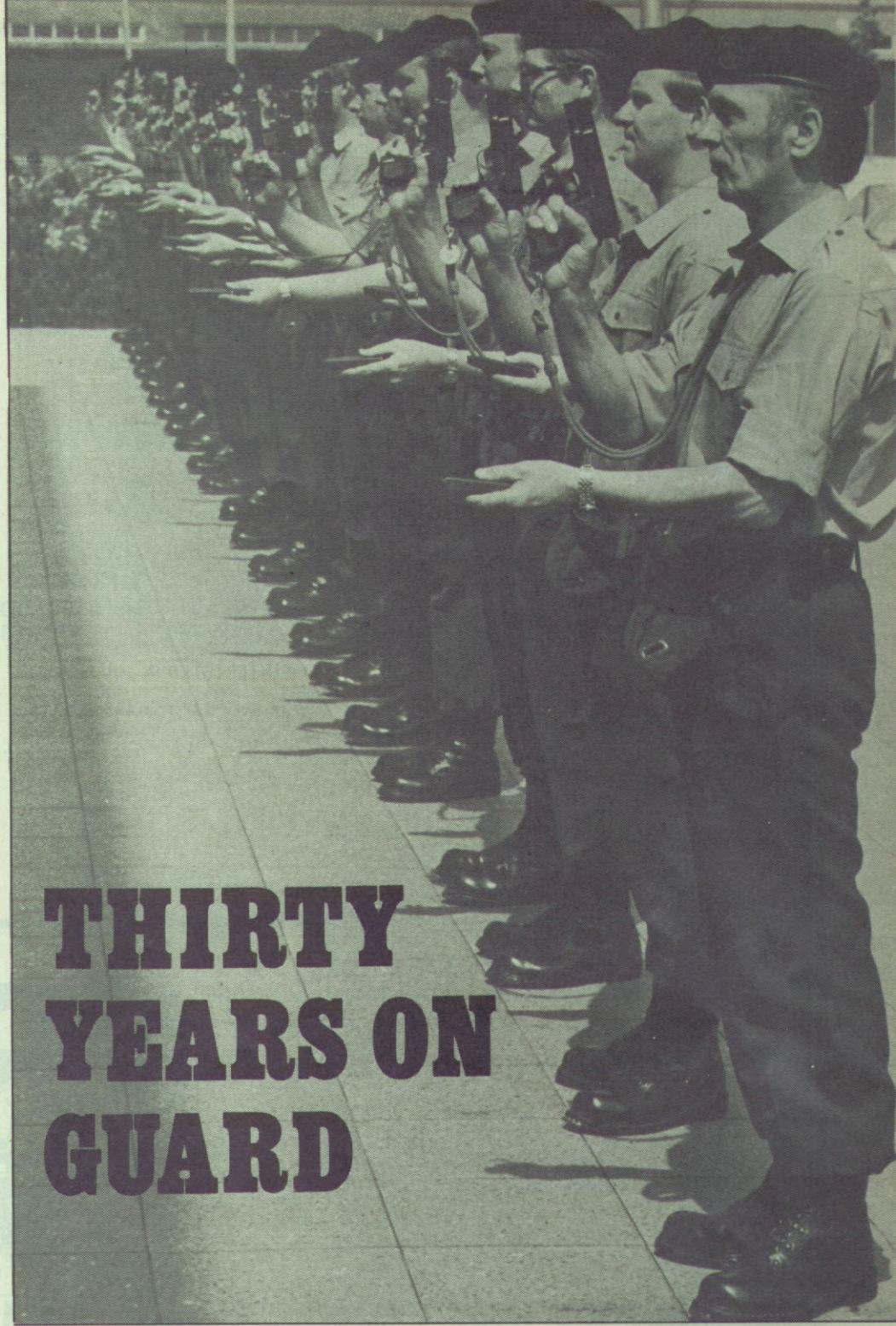
Personnel are interviewed by the Pioneer and Civilian Labour Unit and then again by the unit administrative staff. About a quarter of the applicants are accepted for an initial four weeks' training period and during this time they are carefully scrutinised. Only the most suitable pass out to become Watchmen in the GSU's Security Guard Sections.

Despite its members' crisp green military-style uniforms and automatic pistols loaded with six live rounds, the unit is a civilian organisation whose conditions of work are strictly governed by the special local agreements between the Berlin Senator for Finance and the two major trades unions. Working conditions are subject to the civilian labour laws. There is a unit works council elected by the members and all are permitted to join trades unions.

Strict procedures have to be complied with in the event of disciplining a unit member and these have to be carefully documented in case an appeal is made to the local Civilian Labour Court on the grounds of wrongful dismissal.

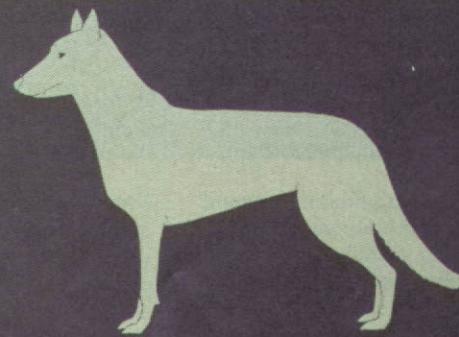
But despite the fact that the unit is a civilian organisation, it is unique in that

continued on page 49



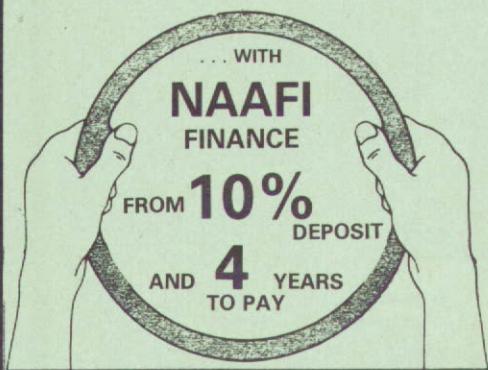
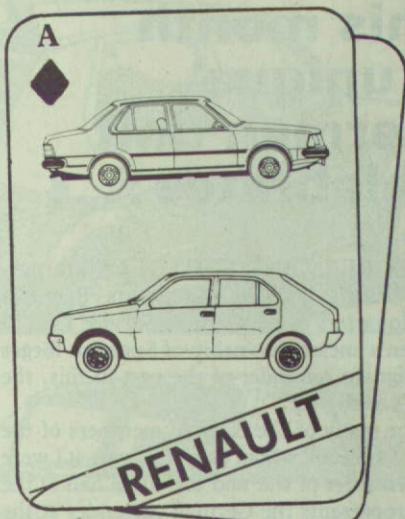
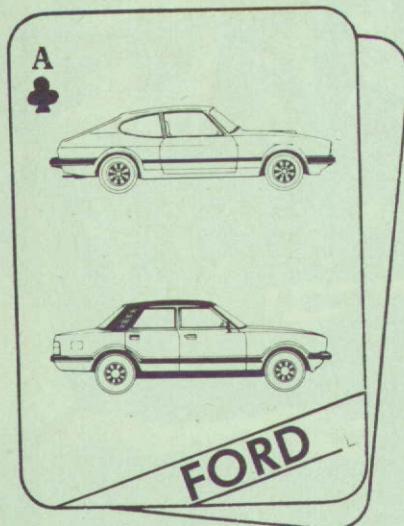
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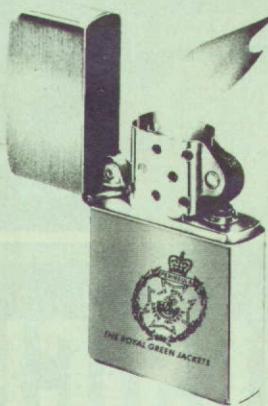
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Right: A prisoner is taken during an exercise

Below: On guard outside the British Residency

Guard Sections carry arms and have powers of arrest.

A traditional pride in high standards of discipline and turnout is handed down by older members of the GSU, many of whom have served with it since its formation in 1950. The lead is given by Staff Superintendent Wolfgang Schiller (who equates in rank to a major), a founder member of the unit and now the senior German officer.

The present organisation of the GSU consists of a unit headquarters, administrative element and a guard company. The latter maintains a company HQ, two guard platoons each of some 100-plus men and controls the unit transport, kennels and recruit training.

Commanding the unit is the Commanding Officer of the Berlin Garrison Administrative Unit. But the only permanent member of the unit at its Smuts Barracks base is a warrant officer 1, currently WO1 Maurice Kent of the Royal Military Police. He is entitled the British Supervising Element and answers to the CO for the unit's operational and administrative activities.

This responsibility is shared with Herr Schiller whose long association with the GSU bears witness to his dedication to the unit.

The unit's headquarters houses some 65 single members and is equipped to sleep the entire unit, dormitory fashion, in the event of an alert.

The rank structure of the GSU equates to military status with superintendents as officers, senior foremen as warrant officer 2, foremen as sergeants, chargehands as corporals, senior security guards as lance-corporals, security guards as privates and recruits and watchmen as recruits.

The unit operates twelve hour guard duty shifts throughout the year manning a total of nearly 40 posts at a dozen key installations throughout the British sphere of influence in West Berlin. These range from the city-centre Naafi shopping complex to the headquarters and barrack areas and the official residence of the British Commandant on the banks of the Havel Lake.

Again, civilian rules govern the working hours of the shift system and the maximum allowed is 86 hours per 14 days. In addition to the 12 hour stints, an additional hour each shift is required for inspection and hand-over. So each man gets a long weekend off every fifth week and a 36 hour break on one of the intervening weekends. The system allows for a total of 186 hours for retraining each year. Starting pay equates to nearly £120 per week.

Despite their civilian status, the GSU members respond readily to their paramilitary training and discipline which crams nearly 140 periods of instruction into the four-and-a-half weeks recruit training.

Included in the syllabus are courses in weapon training (both with the 9mm Browning pistol and the Self-Loading Rifle), drill, physical training, radio procedures, fire fighting, English language instruction, security duties (involving the recognition of some 40 passes), first aid and German penal law.

Monthly retraining periods concentrate on shooting, alertness training (drill and PT), security briefings and radio training.



Dog handler courses are run for the unit's 60 handlers (two per dog on strength) and the three week courses cover familiarisation with the dogs, care and grooming, obedience training and attack-and-scare tactics.

The unit takes part in exercises and augments the guard force when the Garrison practises an alert. It is no wonder after its

intensive training that the GSU prides itself on its abilities to survive in the field alongside professional military units. And in carrying out its guard duties under the orders of the Berlin Field Force, it relieves a large number of those military personnel from the onerous task of guard duties at British installations in Berlin.

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BOOKS

Tanks enlarged

'Blitzkrieg: Armour Camouflage and Markings 1939-1940' (Steven J Zaloga)

Not just another book about tanks, but one with a specific purpose. It concentrates in one volume the armour used in the early lightning campaigns of World War Two by Germany, Britain, France, Belgium, the United States, Poland, Holland and the Soviet Union. The 135 black and white photographs, selected from European national archives, include many not previously published.

There are 16 pages of detailed coloured drawings showing armoured vehicles and insignia connected with the various campaigns. The volume is large size, 11½ inches by 9 inches, which allows scope for enlarged photographs of action pictures. The text explains the markings, insignia and camouflage used, records some

BLITZKRIEG

Armour Camouflage and Markings, 1939-1940
Steven J Zaloga



contemporary impressions and discusses possible reasons for the use of certain colours.

Also included are the Orders of Battle of the armoured units of Belgium, France, Germany, Holland, Poland and the British Expeditionary Force. This is undoubtedly a book of value to modellers and a useful addition to the bookshelf of the tank and armoured car enthusiast.

Arms and Armour Press, Lion Leventhal Ltd, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London NW3 1QQ, £6.95

GRH

Handy weapons

'Combat Handguns' (George Nonte and Edward C Ezell)

Once upon a time a good handgun was handy and went 'bang' and on its appearance it became a deterrent, like the nuclear bomb, rather than a tool actually used for killing. Things have changed, at least in American police circles, where the Washington, DC force lays down that guns may be used only in extreme circumstances "but once you've unholstered it, then the rules are that you are shooting to kill".

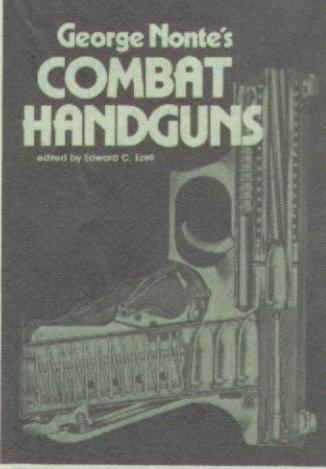
And so this is a very serious and detailed book, appropriate as much, and perhaps more, to the professional handgun user than to the hobbyist,

and assuming that you use a pistol to save your life in combat.

It starts off with a discussion on the relative merits of revolvers and 'auto-loaders', coming down heavily on the side of the latter. In spite of the bad press automatics have had for 75 years, the authors reckon they are now more reliable than revolvers.

After some history of the development of both kinds of handgun, there are chapters on selecting, testing and evaluating the weapons, detailed evaluations of current production models and some blank evaluation tables in case you want to do a bit of checking for yourself.

A chapter on 'customised' handguns has the contradictory information that, to keep the price down, some gunsmiths have developed 'standard pattern custom handguns', which means they do the same modifications on a lot of guns. Of course,



you can 'customise' your own pistol, and there is a chapter on how to do that.

There is some detailed, and rather gruesome, detail on the effects of various kinds of ammunition on animal (including human) tissue.

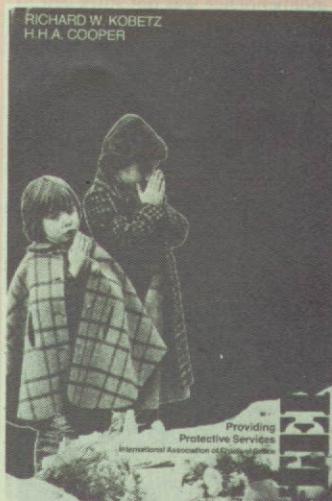
By the time you have got to the end of this book, you have the firm impression that there is not much left to be said on the subject.

Arms and Armour Press, 2-6 Hampstead High St, London, NW3 1QQ, £11.95

RLE

They have here endeavoured to define the different classes of terrorists ("Crusaders, Criminals and Crazies" is an over-simplification) and systematically discuss the various aspects of the subject and how to combat the threats to life and property.

Chapter headings give an indication of the coverage. They include: Targets of Terrorism; Tactics; Assassinations; Kidnapping; Hostage Taking; Bombing, Firesetting and Contamination; Extortion. The IRA's subversive activities are mentioned only as part of the general pattern of terrorism, not as the specific problem it is in Northern Ireland, but there is much useful information for all in this volume. Two conclusions are worth



always keeping in mind: "Terrorism knows no frontiers" and "Terrorists generally strike where they feel the enemy is weakest... Attacks... are rarely haphazard... enterprises are rarely mounted out of the blue. What does occur is that the warning signs are not properly appreciated or are ignored".

International Association of Chiefs of Police, 11 Firstfield Road, Gaithersburg, Maryland, USA

GRH

Casting blame

'The Fall of South Vietnam' (Stephen T Hosmer, Konrad Kellen, Brian M Jenkins)

As a Rand Corporation research study, the authors interviewed 23 former high-ranking South Vietnamese officers and four civilians on their 'perceptions' of the causes of the collapse of South Vietnam in the spring of 1975. Not surprisingly, much blame is cast on the abandonment of Vietnam by the Americans, on whom

the South Vietnamese had come to rely too much, even to the extent of troops having 'forgotten how to walk' in the days of plentiful American transport. But there was, of course, more to it than that, and students of the tragedy will find a great deal of interest in this expensive and not very large volume.

Frederick Warne, 40 Bedford Square, London, WC1B 3HE, £12.95 (A Leo Cooper book)

RLE

Daring deeds

'Who Dares Wins: The Story of the Special Air Service, 1950-1980' (Tony Geraghty)

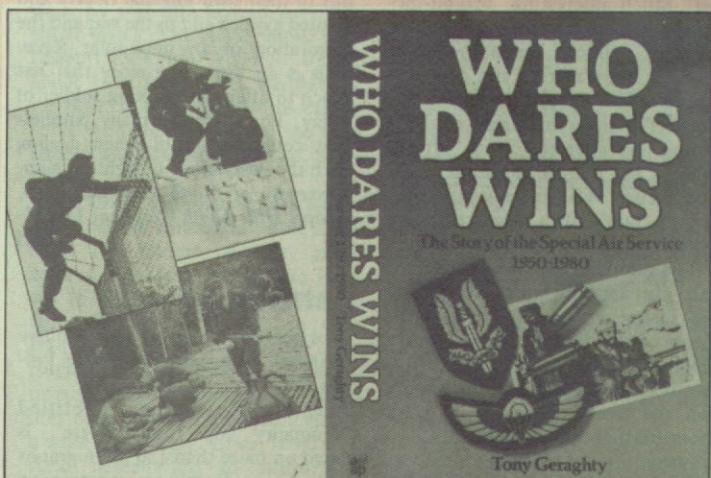
"Someone able to speak six languages while disguised as a bottle of Guinness."

"We are a bunch of misfits who happen to fit together."

Neither of these two fun descriptions of Special Air Service soldiers, of course, does justice to this most professional, versatile and controversial of military families. It is also one of the most security-conscious in its dealings with the press, and one might wonder how Mr Geraghty, defence correspondent of the Sunday Times, got close enough to it to write this informative and entertaining book. The book's publicity suggests the answer: like the Special Air Service he is an enthusiastic free-fall parachutist.

He briefly sketches the story of the World War Two Special Air Service in his introduction. He really begins with its rebirth in the Regular Army in 1950 (at which time a regiment already existed in the Territorial Army). The new unit was formed with the idea of putting troops into the jungles of Malaya, where the 'Emergency' was raging, for longer periods than the seven days regarded as normal for infantry. In the Borneo confrontation, the normal SAS jungle tour was to be five months. The job was to harass and ambush the enemy and to win the trust of the local inhabitants and, with the addition of intelligence gathering, this became the basic role of the unit.

Later roles included acting as, and training, bodyguards for Third World leaders and hostage rescue. This last job came gloriously to public notice last May with the attack on the Iranian embassy in London, of which the author gives a fuller account than has so far appeared. He records that the SAS received the public acclaim with cynical amusement, pointing out that nobody had noticed that only four days earlier an SAS trooper commander



gun in order to meet the Germans on equal terms. It became the basic American tank in World War Two and was widely used by the British Army, Indian and other Commonwealth formations. It was ready in time for Alamein. This volume, which includes front line photographs, and is largely based on interviews with Sherman veterans, records what it was like to live and fight in these armoured vehicles.

The Panzerkampfwagen III was already in use in Poland in 1939. It was steadily developed and became the 'workhorse' of the Panzer division, being produced in huge numbers. The text records their development and use during the war, details of construction and armament and also the organisation of a Panzer Division in 1941 and a Panzer Company.

Osprey Publishing Ltd, 12-14 Long Acre, London WC2E 9LP, £2.95 each

GRH

On the trail

'Fundamentals of Physical Surveillance' (Raymond P Siljander, BA)

This book was written by an American police officer as a guide to policemen engaged in duties of watching or following suspected persons. It includes urban, rural and undercover surveillance, on foot and by vehicle, in uniform and in plain clothes. It is basic in its approach and includes methods of outwitting suspects, camera work, radio 'bumper beepers' (a means of following 'bugged' cars), electronic light intensifiers, binoculars, telescopes, camouflage, simple but effective disguise — and so on.

The qualifications needed by a successful surveillant are detailed although the author admits that "there is no one kind of individual who is ideal" for the work. Although intended for American civil police the book may have some points of interest for prospective police and intelligence personnel in the British Army.

Charles C Thomas, Springfield, Illinois, USA. United Kingdom distributors: P T J Enterprises, Capel Farm, Llangorse, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7UL

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Strong string

'The British Army: A Concise History' (Jock Haswell)

Any book which attempts to tell the entire history of the British Army in 40,000 words is bound to be, as the author himself admits "rather . . . like a lot of holes joined together with string". Nevertheless, Mr Haswell's string seems to be pretty strong, for the holes are never in danger of causing his book to fall apart.

In a highly entertaining style, Mr Haswell takes us through the early origins of the British Army, from the 'house-carles' of the Saxon Kings, through the religious fervour which inspired the New Model Army, into the increasing professionalism of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and finishing on the streets of Northern Ireland. Inevitably, there is no room for highly detailed accounts of specific campaigns; many of the more obscure are just mentioned in passing. Nevertheless, Mr Haswell does strike a nice balance between show-

ing the broad trends by which the Army developed and recounting specific incidents of glory or calamity. The campaigns of Marlborough, the American War of Independence, the Napoleonic wars, the Crimea, the Boer War and the two World Wars are all here in telling resumé. In addition, there is an interesting commentary of the changes in public attitudes towards the Army, from the contempt of the eighteenth century to the acceptance that the soldier, too, was a human being which came about as the nineteenth century wore on.

An ideal book for beginners in military history and those wanting a quick reference. It is easy to read, reasonably priced and profusely illustrated with contemporary drawings and photos.

Thames and Hudson, 30 Bloomsbury St, London WC1B 3QP. £3.50 IJK

Excellent tale

'Whaley — The Story of HMS Excellent, 1830 to 1980' (Capt John G Wells)

In 1830, HMS Excellent, an old ship moored in Portsmouth harbour, became the Royal Navy's first gunnery school. She was succeeded by other ships, which were renamed Excellent, but over the years two mudbanks, known as Whaley, were turned by convict labour into Whale Island and gradually the gunnery school moved on to it and Excellent became the Royal Navy's first shore training establishment. To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the gunnery school, Captain Wells,



a former Captain of Excellent, has produced this new history, and a delightful read it is.

Whale Island has not always been the most popular naval establishment. If it was famous for its gunnery it was notorious for bull. In the 1930s it could justly be accused of spending too much of its students' time on the parade-ground and too little on the newly-developing science of anti-aircraft gunnery. But it contributed much to the progress of naval artillery as well as training the men who worked the guns. It also sent off its students and staff with proud and happy memories, as testified by the author's scores of anecdotes of ebullient students, innovative staff and crusty warrant officers.

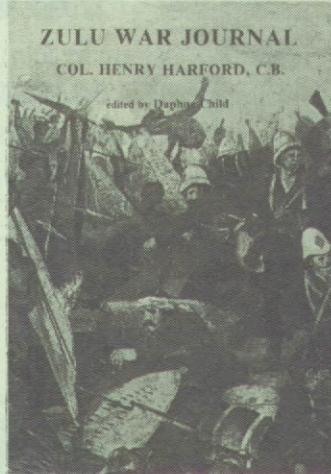
The gunnery school very properly had a long association with the School of Artillery at Larkhill, and in World

War Two began training Royal Artillery officers to observe naval gunfire or act as Army liaison officers on warships. There was a more slender link with the Queen's Regiment. At the Battle of the Glorious First of June, in 1794, a company of the Queen's Royal Regiment served as marines in Lord Howe's flagship, *Queen Charlotte*. That *Queen Charlotte* was succeeded by another *Queen Charlotte* and this in turn became the third *Excellent* when it replaced the gunnery school hulk in 1859. This devious association was much valued by both sides and in 1924 the Queen's ceremoniously authorised *Excellent* to use their march, 'Braganza'.

Guns gave way to missiles and the last gunnery students passed out in the early 1970s, but *Excellent* lives on as a general training establishment with roles which include nuclear, biological and chemical defence, leadership, photographic and internal security training, and discipline and ceremonial.

Anniversary Office, HMS Excellent, Whale Island, Portsmouth, Hampshire. UK £5.50 plus 50p postage and packing; abroad £6.50 plus p and p RLE

Vivid journal



'Zulu War Journal' (Col Henry Harford, Editor Daphne Child)

Although born in England, Henry Harford spent much of his childhood in Natal, South Africa. In 1870 he returned to join the Army, but, on hearing that a war was imminent in South Africa with the Zulus, he resigned his position as Adjutant of the 99th Foot, and offered his services to the South African Field Force. As a Zulu speaker who knew South Africa well, he was attached to a unit of native levies, The Natal Native Contingent; *Zulu War Journal*, written about 1920 from notes scribbled at the time, is an account of his experiences with them in one of the most famous and dramatic Colonial 'Small Wars'.

Harford's Battalion was attached to the central column invading Zululand. His literate, modest, good-natured reminiscences begin in January 1879, and follow his adventures through the subsequent Isandhlwana/Rorke's Drift campaign. It is a tale full of fascinating insights into the problems and pleasures of commanding native levies in nineteenth century Africa, laced with vivid descriptions of skirmishes, scrapes and panics. Harford was in

the fore of the action at Sihayo's Kraal, the first of the campaign, and distinguished himself by pursuing Zulu snipers into some caves where they had taken refuge. Sent out with a patrol on the 21st of January, he missed the awful fate which befell the camp at Isandhlwana on the 22nd, but describes how his party returned to find the camp destroyed and its defenders slaughtered. His account of life in the camp at Rorke's Drift in the aftermath of the two battles, when further Zulu attacks were expected daily, and where men slept in the open on muddy ground in night after night of pouring rain, is a perfect picture of squalor.

Most dramatic of all, however, is his account of the search for the Queen's Colour of the 1/24th, lost in the Buffalo River on the day of Isandhlwana. Harford accompanied one of the patrols sent to look for it, and describes finding the bodies of Lieutenants Melville and Coghill, the search through the debris amidst the shallows of the river, and, finally, the triumphant moment when he spotted the Colour itself.

This is an excellent eye-witness account of the Zulu War. Thanks to Miss Child's meticulous editing and annotation, the casual reader will have no difficulties in following events and will find this first-hand tale of Victorian adventure hard to resist. For the Zulu enthusiast, it is a must.

Shuter and Shooter (Pty) Ltd, Gray's Inn, 230 Church Street, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. R7.25. IJK

Scaling heights

'German Mountain Troops' (Bruce Quarrie)

As is usual with the *World War Two Photo Album* series — of which this is No 15 — this volume contains over 150 photographs with concise captions. There is a map to show the area and scope of operations and an introductory chapter to set the scene and record details of the fighting, the formations, personnel, arms and equipment. There is also a chapter dealing with the selection of the photographs which come from the Bundesarchiv at Koblenz.

The German mountain troops were concentrated in elite formations wearing the Edelweiss badge which eventually expanded to eight divisions. They operated in mountainous areas from the Arctic Circle to the Mediterranean, including Norway, Poland, France, Russia, the Balkans, Italy and Crete. The pictures show the clothing, badges, insignias and weapons they used in the different theatres and also record some of the awesome terrain they encountered and the stark weather conditions they experienced.

The researchers deserve praise for the selection of the pictures in this *Photo Album* series — which is extending to 20 volumes — as they have had to search through a million 35mm celluloid and some 20,000 glass negatives, most of which did not have even contact prints to aid their identification.

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S 12

249

**Soldiers from
Bulford have
been putting
their backs
into an
unusual
restoration
project...**

**Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Rona Pratt**

Bird on the hill

A HUGE WINGLESS BIRD, more than 60 years old, can now be clearly seen once more on Salisbury Plain — and all thanks to the Army. But curious ornithologists who rush to Wiltshire with field glasses and cameras may not find quite what they bargained on. For the bird — a kiwi — is cut out of a hillside just five miles from Stonehenge and has been back-breaking brought back to full public view by the superfit soldiers of 249 Signal Squadron from Bulford.

The giant kiwi, with its 420-foot-long body, boasting a 150-foot-long beak and flanked by 65-foot-high letters — 'NZ' — was first hewn out of the chalky Plain during World War One by New Zealand troops based at Sling Camp as they strove to beat boredom waiting for troopships to take them home to the other side of the world.

Neglect and undergrowth cloaked the cuddly silhouette so carefully sculpted by pick and shovel.

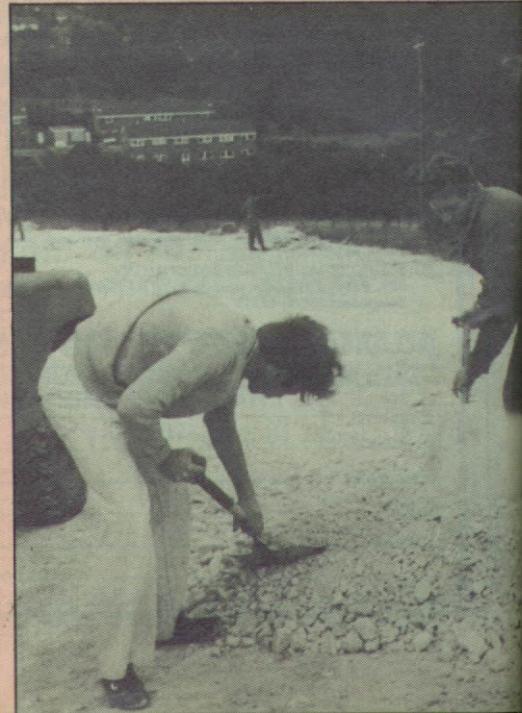
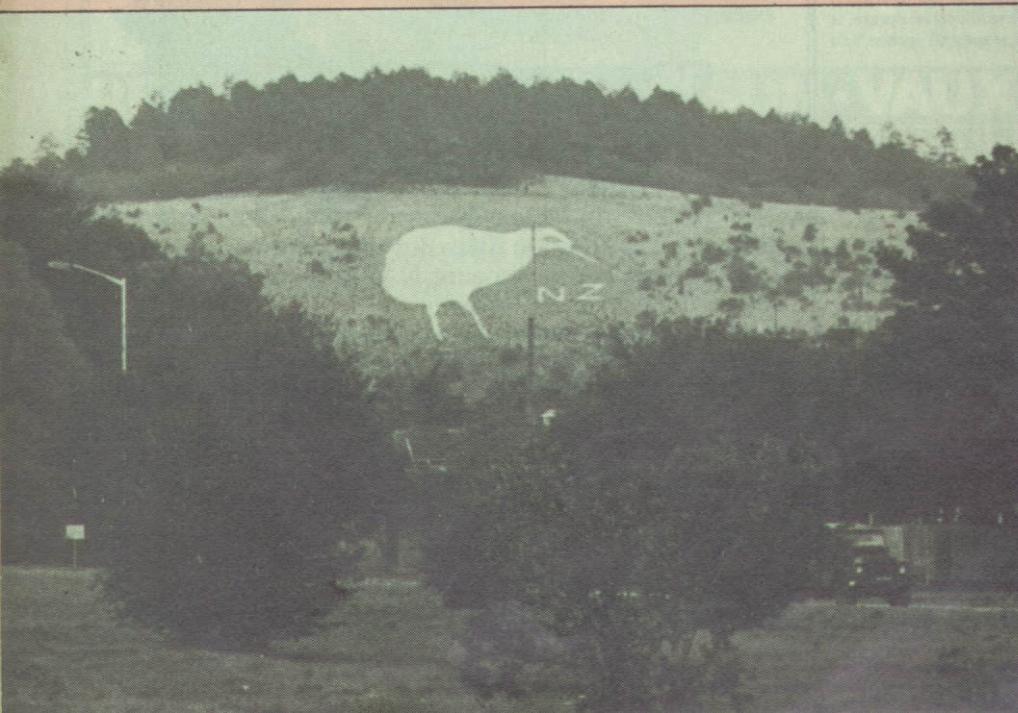
It was last brought out of hiding in 1967 when the work was undertaken by the 1st Battalion of the Royal Ulster Rifles who were stationed appropriately in Kiwi Barracks, Bulford.

Subsequent restoration attempts were foiled by cost. The Bulford and Tidworth Administration Unit (BATAU) hunted around for civilian contractors to do the work but took one pace smartly backwards when tenders came in ranging from £1600 to £4000.

A world-renowned shoe polish firm with the kiwi as its tin-top logo has also shown great interest.

Left: 'Chopper's' eye view of 249 Sqn on kiwi.

Below: Distant view puts kiwi in perspective.



But it was the men of 249 Signal Squadron (motto: *Wir haben keine Probleme, nur Lösungen* — We have no Problems, only Solutions) under their go-ahead OC, Major 'Danny' Fisher, who decided to do something positive and practical to help revive the Commonwealth curio in chalk.

They, after all, are used to studying the Kiwi and its habitat at close quarters. They daily run a course of seven miles around the area and up that particular slope with its 1-in-1 gradient known cynically as 'cardiac hill'.

Working in four-hour shifts, 40 men at any one time, they achieved this modern-day labour of Hercules in just three days — and that meant taking no less than 20 tons of chalk up the hill.

It was an operation, though, that could have gone wrong from the very outset.

Major Fisher explained: "When we started out on the project — it had become very much a personal thing with me — we took a four-tonner down to Boscombe Down, where they are building shelters, to get our chalk from there. But it was the wrong colour — pink! So we switched with our picks and shovels to a self-made quarry above married quarters about 400 yards below the kiwi itself."

His lads not only mined the chalk but carried it to the top of the hill Chinese-coolie style in sand-bags — about 10,000 in all.

Now it is planned to maintain the kiwi — grid co-ordinate 200439 — twice a year 'for perpetuity'.

Sons and daughters of the all-volunteer labouring force who attend the Kiwi school in the village also plan to help look after the landmark. Among them was six-year-old Peregrine Fisher who went about his task with enthusiasm.

249 Squadron got its expertise in hillside badge maintenance from its experience on the Fovant Badge, that of the Royal Corps of Signals, which is carved into the chalk amid Salisbury Plain's 92,000 acres.

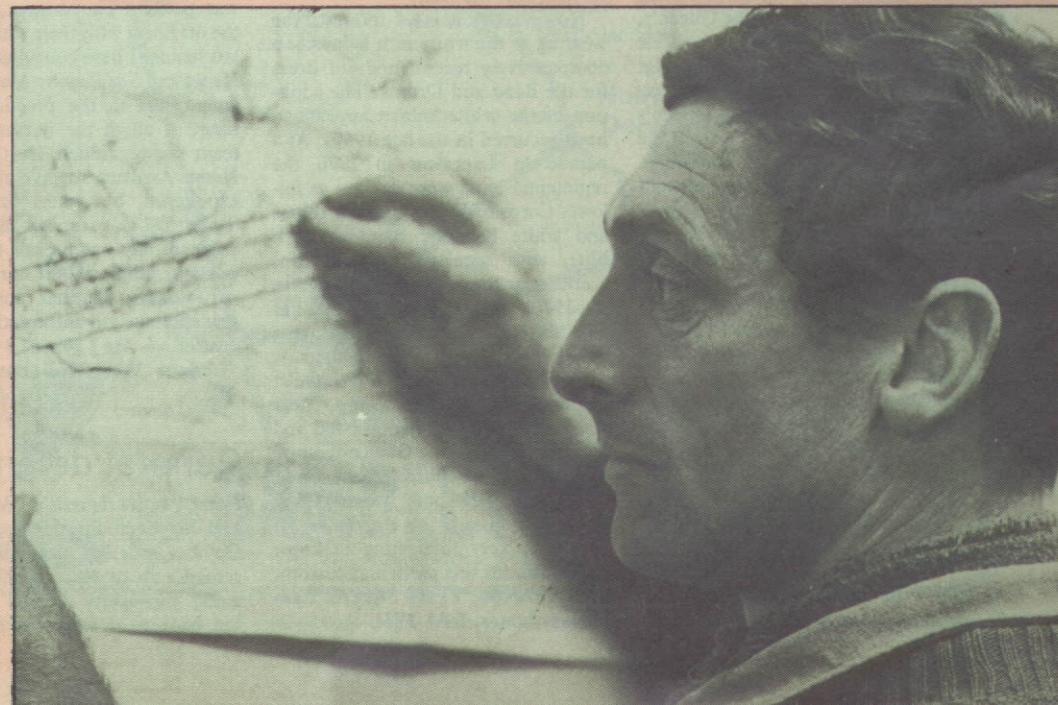
Major Fisher said: "During the whole three days of the operation I never got one moan about doing this job of restoration. Everybody did it willingly and with a smile."

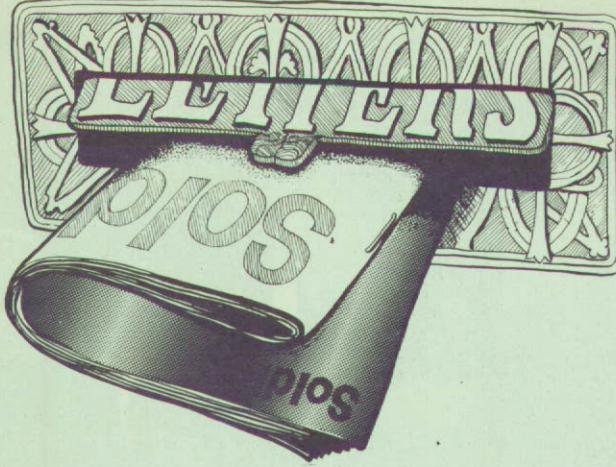
Below: Restoration in progress by 249 Sig Sqn.
Below right: Maj. 'Danny' Fisher sizes it up.



Above: S. Sgt. Vivian, a kiwi and a class.

Below: Hi-ho! End of a happy shift.





Queen's glory . . .

I enjoyed your August museum article about the glorious Queen's. It brought back old memories to me, after serving with the 1/6th Battalion, 7th Armoured Division, in Normandy and Holland during World War Two and being wounded twice.

I felt I had to visit the museum and I was delighted with it. As soon as the staff saw my Queen's blazer badge, they gave me a great welcome. The museum is a must for any old Queen's.

Keep up the good work in SOLDIER. — S Mountain, 44 Abbotsbury, Great-Hollands, Bracknell, Berkshire.

... and scarf story

I read with my usual interest the museum article in the August issue of SOLDIER, in fact more so than usual as I am particularly interested in the Queen's and recently paid a visit to Clandon House. I think, however, your reporter is in error when he speaks of the scarf "crocheted by Queen Mary". This is, I am sure, the scarf presented to Col Sgt Clay of the East Surrey Regt which is in the museum. This is one of eight scarves claimed to have been knitted by Queen Victoria during the South African war. Four of these were given to men of colonial units — one each to Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa. The other four went to NCOs of the four regiments of Hilyard's Brigade consisting of the 2nd Battalions of the Queen's, Devons, East Surreys and West Yorks. The one presented to Col Sgt Ferret of the Queen's is in the regimental museum of the Queen's Regiment at Canterbury. Most of the others are also in Service museums.

The press of the time rather went to town on the subject of these scarves and a number of extravagant claims were made, such as that they were a higher award than the Victoria Cross. Three of the British recipients were actually awarded the DCM.

Some years ago the Journal of the Order and Medals Research Society published a series of articles clarifying the matter. — G W Harris, 4 Rutherford Close, Stoneleigh, Epsom, Surrey, KT17 2NB.

Pithy remarks

May I be permitted to make two comments with regard to your

October edition?

Firstly, may I bring to the notice of the ex-bandmaster of the 17th/21st Lancers who reviews the 'On Record' section, that in his comments with regards to former bandmasters of the King's Own and the Border regiments, he omitted to mention that one of the most noteworthy bandmasters of the King's Own was Basil H Brown, who was bandmaster of the King's Own Royal Regiment Band stationed at the Regimental Depot and HQ at Bowerham Barracks, Lancaster during World War Two and who became Director of Music at Kneller Hall. Whilst not wishing to deflect in any way the achievement of 'Tommy' Chandler, who became Director of Music, HM Welsh Guards, after a period with the Royal Tanks, I felt I should bring Basil H Brown's achievement to the attention of your reviewer.

Secondly, in the Letters column of the October issue one of your readers, S M Waters, commented on the July cover photo showing the Corps of Drums of the King's Own Royal Border Regiment, whose head-dress is the white pith helmet as issued to HM Royal Marines. The King's Own Royal Regiment, which was the former 4th Foot raised in 1680, as the 2nd Tangier Regiment, was known in the year 1704 as The Royal Regiment of Marines — hence the adoption of the white pith helmet commemorates this ten year period of service with the fleet.

However, if it is of interest, the wearing of the white pith helmet is a comparatively recent mode of dress for the Band and Drums. The adoption of the white helmet appears to have occurred in the late 1960s. At a parade in Lancaster in 1970 the regimental band were dressed as follows: Corps of Drums, scarlet tunics and white helmets; Band in dark blue, with regulation peaked cap, scarlet cap band. Sometime later in the 1970s on their next appearance in Lancaster, the Band and Drums were clad in scarlet with white helmets.

One further point, in 1976 whilst stationed at Wootton Camp, near Blackpool, the Regimental band and corps of drums of the Gloucestershire Regiment wore pith helmets (not white) but dark blue, when taking part in a parade at Lancaster. It would be very interesting to know the reason for this particular custom. — R W Howson, 5 Park Square, Lancaster, Lancs, LA1 3EH.

Old hat

Mr Waters (Letters, October) will be interested to know that the 1st Bn, The Border Regiment wore white foreign service helmets at the Diamond Jubilee Review on Laffan's Plain, Aldershot, in 1897.

There is a photograph in the Lawrence Collection in the National Library of Ireland showing a fusilier regiment taking over the Dublin Castle Guard from a rifle regiment. While the guard are wearing racoon-skin fusilier caps, the drummer is wearing the white foreign service helmet. — C M Humphreys, 2 Bosmere Court, 991 Bristol Road South, Northfield, Birmingham, B31 2QT.

Late laughter

It takes five months for SOLDIER to march this far so, belatedly, we would like to say that we found the article 'Short Back and Sides — For Bearskins!' (April) most interesting and informative. In the Australian Army we had a similar problem with the emu tufts worn by members of the Australian Light Horse. It became so difficult to keep the tufts in trim that finally they were turned loose. Western Australia has had a plague of emus ever since. — Members of the Ceremonial Section, Department of Defence, Russell Offices, Canberra, ACT 2600, Australia.

Riding the off

When I was a lad in the 1920s an uncle who had been in India as a 12th Royal Lancer prior to the 1914-18 war told me that the RHA used to ride the off horse. In my own soldiering days, although the Horse Gunners operated alongside the Cavalry, I never remembered to raise the subject with them.

However, I have recently received a triptych by James Morris about the British Empire and on the limp cover of the third volume there is shown "a detail from *The Royal Horse Artillery under Fire* by George Scott in the National Army Museum". A long column of guns is crossing a pontoon bridge over a river and the uniform appears to be of the South African war period. The drivers are riding the off horse with their whips in their left hands. I have consulted the book *Horses and Saddlery* by Major Tylden who refers to the practice, at one time, of all of the horses in a gun team being ridden in the Bengal Horse Artillery to give the officers experience, but states that General 'Bobs' had this stopped. But there is nowhere any mention of the driver, as such, riding the off horse.

I wonder whether any of your readers have any information on this matter. — Mr J Ward, 9 Southfield Gardens West, Edinburgh, EH15 1RL.

General defence

I feel I must remark on Major General Sir Cecil Smith's letter in the October issue. I do not doubt that his remarks about Major General Hicks being improperly dressed by having his badges of rank on the wrong

shoulder are perfectly valid. I am not certain how many people, other than a General, would realise this, but it seems to me remarkably odd that one General should draw the attention of the whole of your readership to such a small mistake by a fellow General. I find the whole matter very distasteful. — Colonel D B Long, 44 Sandylands Promenade, Morecambe, LA3 1DW.

I have before me two copies of your magazine, that of July 1980 (page 14 refers) and that of October 1980 (page 50 refers).

I wish to take issue, in your columns, with Major General Sir Cecil Smith on behalf of Major General W Hicks, GOC North West District.

I do so with some trepidation for to be 'steam-rollered' by two Major Generals, should I prove to be wrong, might be a painful process.

I met General Hicks only once. He was on a flight from Nairobi in 1960, of which I was OC. My wife has also met him.

We are both distressed and alarmed at this attack upon an officer of the Coldstream Guards. If there is one thing that the Brigade of Guards do well, aside from fighting, it is dressing. Neither General Hicks, nor his soldier servant (and other guardsmen, I suspect) would dream of turning out incorrectly.

The plain fact is that, on the left shoulder, the slip-on title shows the sword facing to the rear. On the right shoulder the same slip-on title will show the sword pointing to the front. It is as simple as that: Manufacturers produce only one type of slip-on title.

I hope that Major General Smith will forgive me for interfering in a dispute which, it seems to me, is one between an old and a very 'modern Major General'. — Major S H Windsor, 23 St Ledgers Road, Bournemouth, BH8 9BA.

Half truth

I must take issue with Mr J E Tindle of Queensferry, Deeside who states that "Officers commissioned from the ranks during the war were eligible to apply for the LS & GC medal if they had completed 12 years service in the ranks."

This is only a half truth: officers commissioned from the ranks were only eligible to apply for the LS & GC medal if they had completed 12 years' service in the ranks and had a total of 18 years service. — Capt H Crossley (Retd), 146 Cardigan Terrace, Heaton, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE6 5HS.

Enemy aid

Whilst recently sorting out some junk I found an old souvenir of mine, a pamphlet issued to me when I was a PoW in Stalag VIIA in 1944. The Germans were trying to get Allied Forces PoWs to volunteer to fight the Russian Forces, and the pamphlet contained these lines:

Whether you are willing to fight in the front-line or in the service corps: we make you this solemn promise: Whoever as a soldier of his own nation is willing to join the common front for the common cause, will be freed immediately after the victory of the present offensive and can return to his own country via Switzerland. All that we have to ask from you is

the word of the gentleman not to fight directly or indirectly for the cause of Bolshevik-Communism so long as this war continues.

Do any readers know if, in fact, any Allied PoWs did volunteer to fight under the terms set out in this pamphlet? — J Bingham, 24 Cloisters Road, Luton, Beds, LU4 0NQ.

Were you there?

For several years I have been trying to trace ex-members of 79 Assault Squadron, Royal Engineers, who were involved in the liberation of the isle of Walcheren in November 1944 and especially my village Serooskerke on 8th November 1944. Are the crew-members of the LVTs or Buffaloes still alive and does anyone know their names and addresses? — Mr J C van Winkel, Noordweg 59, 4353 AS Serooskerke (Walcheren), The Netherlands.

Boy soldiers

I am writing a complete history of boy soldiers from 1650 onwards for a British publisher, and am anxious to contact serving and ex-boy soldiers to whom I would like to distribute a questionnaire. — A W Cockerill, Apt 221 Atkin Court, 294 McDonnel St, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada.

Competition

Working out the ages of 'The Bairns' (Competition 265) didn't seem to prove too difficult judging from the mostly all-correct entry. For those who are still puzzling over Tartan-

burn's youngsters however, the answers are as follows: Macleods (1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 11); McAlpins (1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9); McQueens (1, 3, 4, 7, 11); McLeans (1, 1, 5, 13); MacGregors (1, 5, 7, 11); MacPhersons (4, 6, 12); MacDonalds (14).

Prizewinners: 1 R H G Travers-Bogusz, 77 St Thomas's Road, Hardway, Gosport, Hants. 2 Mr H Millar, 17 Riverside, Dunning, Co Antrim. 3 Capt J MacDougall, ASUNI(E), RAOC, BFPO 801. 4 Mr C Trelawny, St Martin, Helston, Cornwall. 5 Cpl Galloway, TM Troop, 1 Sqn, 9 Sig Regt, BFPO 58.

6 L/Cpl and Mrs S McCulloch, TM Troop, San Sebastian Bks, 3 Armd Div, HQ & Sig Regt, BFPO 106.

7 Tony Newton, Area Careers Adviser, Yardley Careers Centre, Church Road, Birmingham, B25 8WX.

8 Major R O Nebel, 69 Farley Road, Selsdon, S Croydon, CR2 7NG.

How observant are you?

(see page 23)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1. Top spectator in grandstand. 2. Right chimney-pot of house. 3. Corner-flag pattern. 4. Top of left player's right stocking. 5. Net-line above crossbar. 6. Photographer's hat. 7. Boot studs of player third from left. 8. Lines on middle player's left boot. 9. Hair of left player. 10. Pattern at base of ball.

Gen Natale Dodoli, Academia Militare, Modena, Italy. Wants to purchase or exchange with Italian army enamelled metal badges, British Navy metal badges.

Mr W Field, 12 Dolland House, Newburn St, Kennington, London, SE11 5LR. Requires 1914-1939 manuals of small arms training, infantry training, drill, Lewis Gun, Bren Gun, RE Field Training and Field Service Pocket Book. Also Capt Yaprell Doring's book 'Ribbons and Medals', and the American Civil War record 'Blue and the Grey'.

Mr L Glen, 15 Coltsfoot Close, Wickham Brook, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 8UP. Has for sale stamp covers, 30th Anniversary 'Operation Husky', Invasion of Sicily. Signed by Lieut L Glen, OC Troops, D+3 of the Invasion, with descriptive leaflet. £5 each.

K Neilson, 96 Bawdlands, Clitheroe, Lancs, BB7 2LA. Wants camouflage DPM jacket (size 40). Will swap or buy. Has many badges and buttons all crowns. Will refund postage.

ANAW Dale E Johnson, VS 41, Training Bldg 979, NAS North Island, San Diego, California 92135, USA. Wants US Navy VS, HS, VP and VQ Squadron patches. Willing to buy the above.

SFC Mike Johnson, Bty A, 2d Bn, 56 ADA, APO New York 09095, USA. Wants Nato badges: Defense Command North Norway (metal and cloth).

Maritime Air Forces Mediterranean (metal), Mediterranean Northeast (metal and cloth), Fifth Allied Tactical Air Force (metal and cloth), Benelux sub-area (metal), United Kingdom Air Force (metal), SHAPE Technical Centre (metal and cloth), International Military Staff (metal and cloth), Programme Training Centre (metal), Standing Naval Forces Channel (metal), Allied Land Forces Zealand and Nato School.

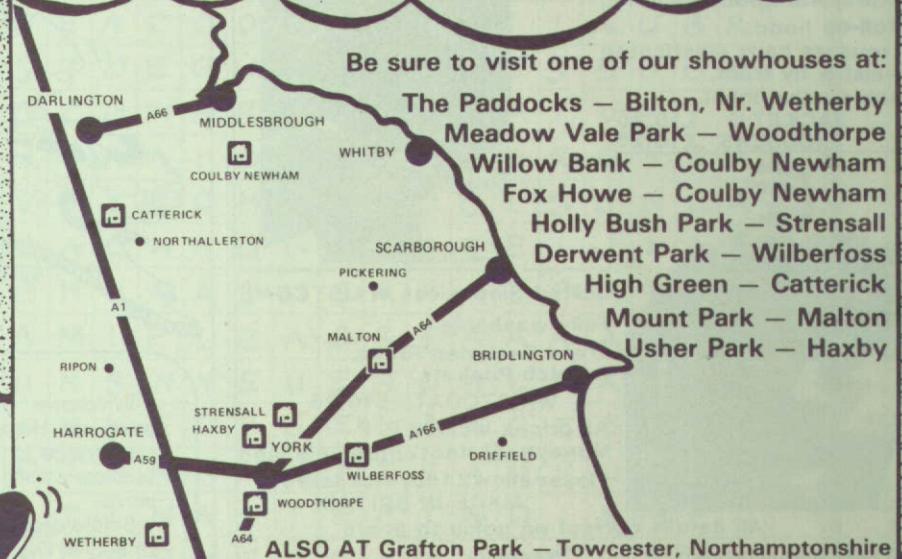
A D Barrowcliff, 4 Court Close, Patcham, Brighton, BN1 8YG. Seeks 'A History of the Royal Sussex Regiment, 1701-1953' by G D Martineau, any other histories of the R Sussex and back numbers of the Roussillon Gazette. Also metal cap badges, collars, shoulder titles and cloth insignia of the R Sussex 1881-1968, insignia of Sussex Home Guard, Army Cadet Force, VTC and Sussex Schools CCS, OTCS, JTCs and CCFs. Campaign and gallantry awards to R Sussex 1881-1968. He would like to get in touch with other R Sussex collectors and ex-members of The Regiment to collect information. Some badges and medals to swap or will pay fair prices.

M J Miles, 38 Sarel Way, Horley, Surrey. Has for sale French Foreign Legion and French Colonial Para badges, some rare.

P J Rafferty, 27 Pattens Road, Warwick, CV34 5TE. Wants British military first day covers, in mint condition only.

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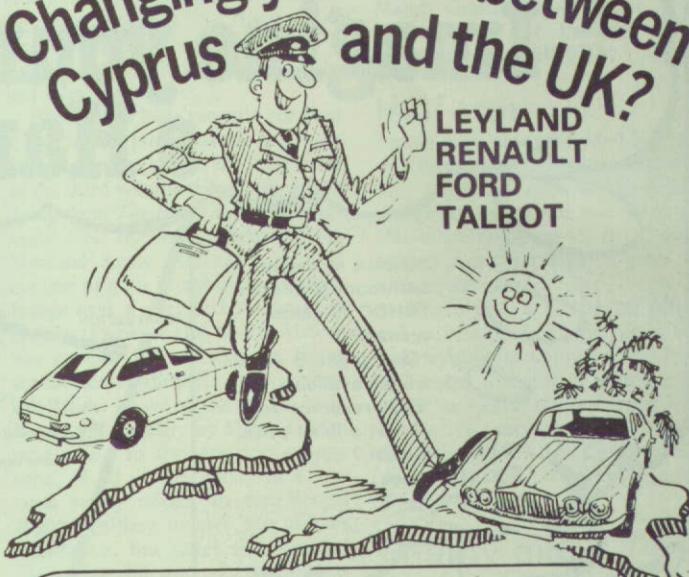
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BATTLE HONOURS

CHRISTMAS IS COMING — and that means time for another bumper puzzle and bumper prizes.

Included among the letters contained in the square shown are the names of one hundred battle honours gained by units of the British Army from TANGIER onwards. Some of the units which gained these honours are still with us today — albeit minus a second battalion: for example The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) — the old 42nd and 73rd Foot. Some have been merged under a new title but have retained the old traditions and the battle honours gained before the merging: eg The Royal Scots Fusiliers (21st Foot) and the Highland Light Infantry (71st and 74th Foot) being now The Royal Highland Fusiliers.

Some of the old regiments have been lost for ever — The Royal Munster Fusiliers (101st and 104th Foot) and The Royal Dublin Fusiliers (102nd and 103rd Foot). But these regiments made history as regiments of the old Honourable East India Company and carried honours on their colours rarely or never met with elsewhere. They, of course, gained many more honours after coming into

the British Army after the dreadful days of Meerut, Lucknow and Cawnpore.

Some honours have been gained by one unit only when fighting an individual campaign: some have been gained by several regiments forming part of an Army as in the campaigns of Marlborough and Wellington.

However, in the square of 625 letters are the names of one hundred battle honours. These names may be read in any of eight different ways — but always in a straight line — horizontally (left to right and right to left); vertically (downwards and upwards); diagonally (higher left to lower right, higher right to lower left, lower left to higher right and lower right to higher left). The spelling of the names is that used on colours and/or appointments of the cavalry and infantry units concerned.

It is suggested that the names be listed alphabetically — a method of arrangement which will prove of benefit to all . . . competitors and checkers alike. Letters may be used more than once if necessary.

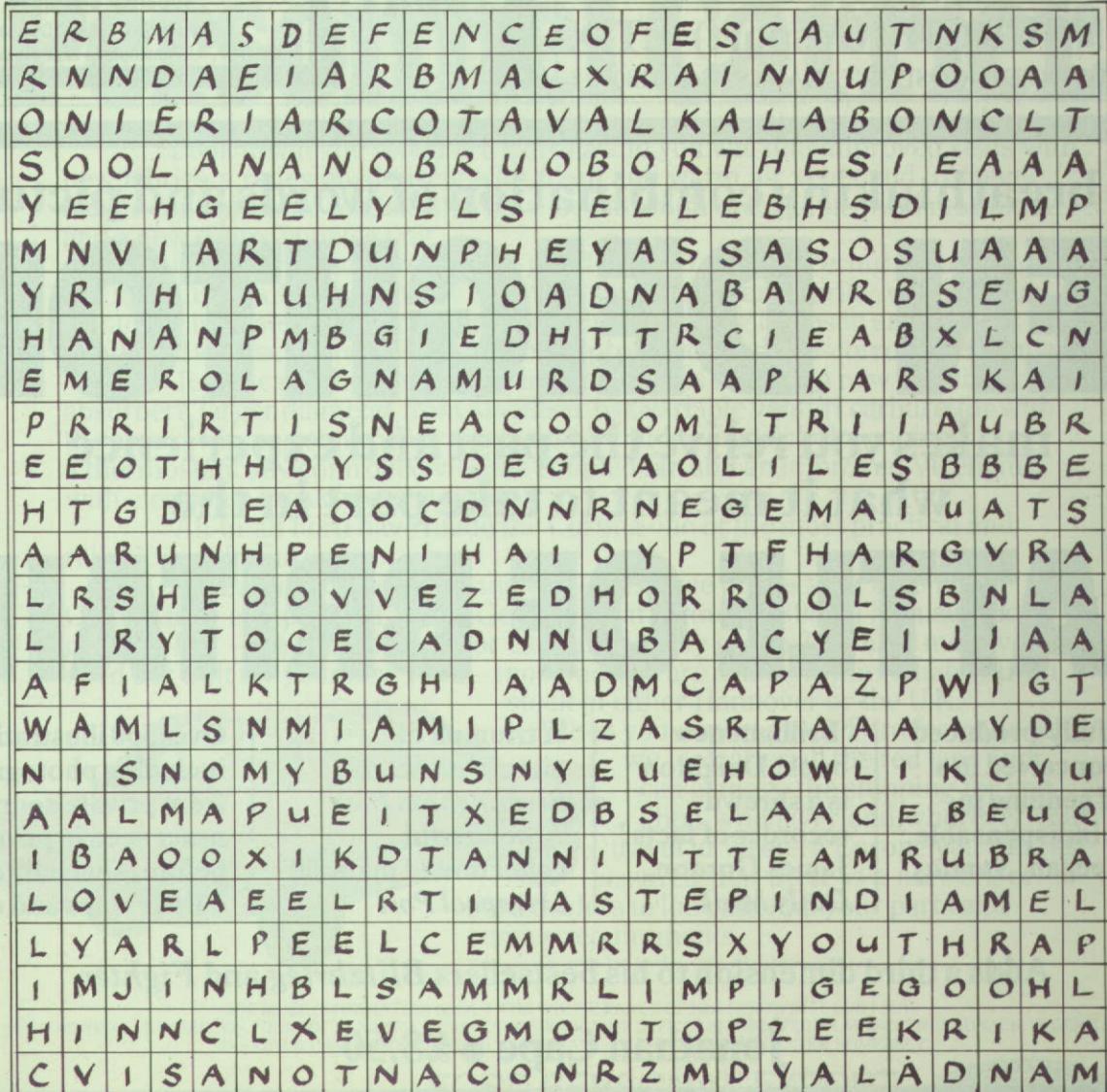
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The closing date for the competition is Monday 2 February 1981. The answers and winners' names will appear in the April '81 SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 269' label. Prizes will be awarded according to the number of correct answers submitted — ties to be resolved by drawing lots. Entries using OHMS envelopes or pre-paid labels will be disqualified. ●



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