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# SOLDIER



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## FRONT COVER

Drummer Kevin Savage of 2nd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, sounds the start of Exercise Bugle Call in Cyprus — story on page 26

Picture by Doug Pratt

## BACK COVER

Junior Leader Steve Morris mans a radio link to assist in recording the catches during the European and All England Inter Service Beach Angling Championships at Folkestone. The weather was so bad that all most of the anglers caught was a cold — report on page 43.

Picture by Les Wiggs

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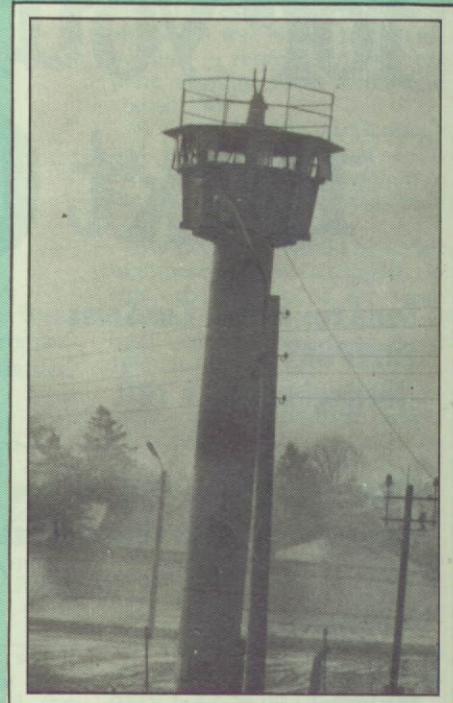
# SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

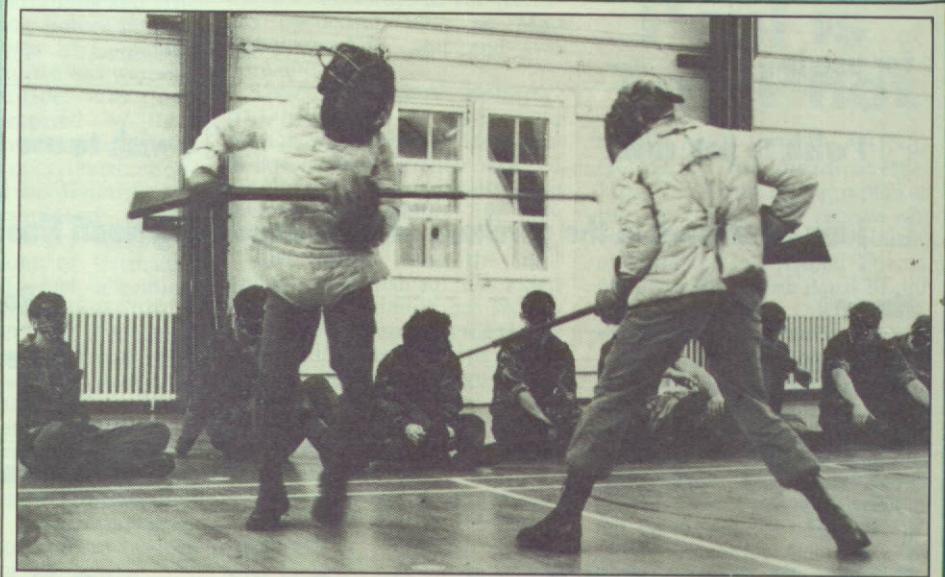


Deep inside the Arctic Circle British soldiers practise digging in for a very cold war — page 14

Why the Berlin Wall is falling down — page 11



The exclusive art of fencing — with bayonets — page 33



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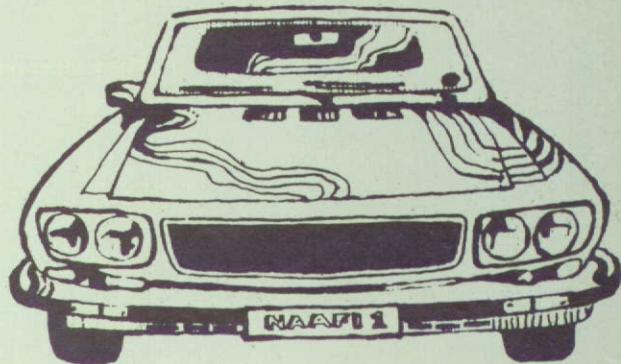
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# SOLDIER to Soldier

GOOD NEWS for traditionalists from the IAPR — Nato's International Army Personnel Register. The decision to decimalise the cavalry, announced in the last issue of SOLDIER, has been shelved — at least for the time being.

So famous names like the 9th/12th Royal Lancers and 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards are to remain and we shall be spared having to learn metric equivalents such as the 0.75 Lancers and 0.57 Dragoons.

No sooner had the proposed changes been announced than SOLDIER — and the IAPR — were being bombarded with indignant phone calls and letters from inside the Army and out. Heart seizures in the plush denizens of the Cavalry Club were reported as well as several cases of apoplexy in various regimental headquarters.

The national press — notably the Daily Mail — was swift to report the proposals and even comment on them in an editorial. And soon the shockwaves of wrath from the outraged anti-metric lobby were reverberating through Nato's corridors of power in Brussels.

So now the IAPR has bowed to pressure. And Britain's representative on the Register, the much-criticised Lieutenant-Colonel A Legge Poole, admits that they have been forced to concede defeat.

"We thought the Army would see the point of going decimal," he said. "But in the end sheer pressure of popular opinion — particularly from readers of SOLDIER — has forced us to have second thoughts. Now it will be at least another year before we can even consider putting forward these proposals again."

Well done readers for making the top brass in Brussels think again. And well done the IAPR and Colonel Legge-Poole for being big enough to admit that perhaps their proposals were just a little foolish.



Soldiers at the scene where three of their colleagues died.

## THREE DIE IN BELFAST AMBUSH

THREE MORE SOLDIERS have been murdered in West Belfast. Nine civilians were also hurt when terrorists opened fire on a patrol which had just set out from the heavily guarded Springfield Road police station.

### Rhine Army hampered by cuts — MPs

SPENDING CUTS are threatening the training and efficiency of British Forces in Germany, the House of Commons Defence Committee has warned.

The committee said that BAOR is hampered by fuel, spares and ammunition restrictions and its operational effectiveness would be diminished if the problems continued.

The report, which follows a fact finding tour of Germany, says the RAF fuel allocation should be restored immediately to its 1979 level. The number of flying hours per pilot had been reduced progressively at a time when the demands of complex, fast jets had become greater.

Barrack accommodation is also criticised and one member of the committee likened it to Salvation Army hostels while equivalent American accommodation looked like four star hotels.

An MoD spokesman declined to comment on the report until a formal reply had been made.

The three soldiers who died were Rifleman Nicholas Malakos, 19, from South London; Rifleman Anthony Rapley, 19, from Oxford; and Rifleman Daniel Holland, 22, from South East London. All were members of the 2nd Battalion the Royal Green Jackets and all were unmarried.

Mothers in the busy street threw themselves over their children. Other people dived for cover in doorways as the terrorists opened up with an M60 heavy machine gun and two Armalite rifles.

To set their ambush the terrorists had held an 81-year-old woman, her daughter and son-in-law, hostage in their terraced house for 11 hours. They set up their weapons behind the curtains of an upstairs room.

The deaths bring the total number of British soldiers killed in Northern Ireland since 1969 to 348 — 28 of them from the Green Jackets. It is the regiment's third tragedy since last May when four died with an RCT driver when their Saracen was blown up. A fifth died in an incident two months later.

### MEDAL FOR HERO

CORPORAL PHILIP Hartley who lost two legs in a terrorist attack in West Belfast last year, has been awarded the Military Medal.

## LOA cut — more to come?

AS EXPECTED there are to be substantial cuts in rates of Local Overseas Allowances for servicemen in Germany.

In a written Commons reply Defence Minister for the Armed Forces, Mr Peter Blaker, said the cuts would range from 10 to 27 per cent of the existing allowance. Some of the cuts will be introduced progressively between now and January next year — but there is to be another review in the autumn.

In his reply Mr Blaker explained that LOA is a tax free compensatory allowance paid to meet the extra cost of serving abroad. It was bound to change, he said, in response to different price movements at home and abroad.

A recent review in Germany had shown clearly that LOA rates were too high in relation to the cost of living there and ought to be reduced.

But because it would be unfair to impose sudden and significant cuts, the reductions for those most affected would be phased over nine months from April 1982 to January 1983.

The allowance for a single corporal will drop from the present £2.32 per day to £2.09 per day on April 1. A single captain will drop from £3.74 to £3.37 but there will be no further cuts for either under the present review.

A married corporal will drop from £6.70 per day to £6.03 on April 1, to £5.36 on October 1 and to £4.91 on January 1.

A married captain will drop from £6.85 per day to £6.03 on April 1, £5.36 on October 1.

### Paul is Top Phot

SERGEANT PAUL MONTGOMERY of headquarters UKLF is Army Photographer of the Year and will receive the coveted trophy from the Minister of State for the Armed Forces, Mr Peter Blaker, on April 20. Pte David Brunning, 1 R Anglian, was highly commended.

Two of SOLDIER's photographers earned awards. Paul Haley won the *The Army is Fun* category and Doug Pratt was runner-up for the best black and white print. The Army Photographer of the Year prize went to Sgt Dave Morris of HQ UKLF. Other categories were won by Capt Franciszek Antolik, 2 Royal Anglian, Sgt Diane Newton 49 Sqn RCT and Cpl Leo Callow 2 RIR.

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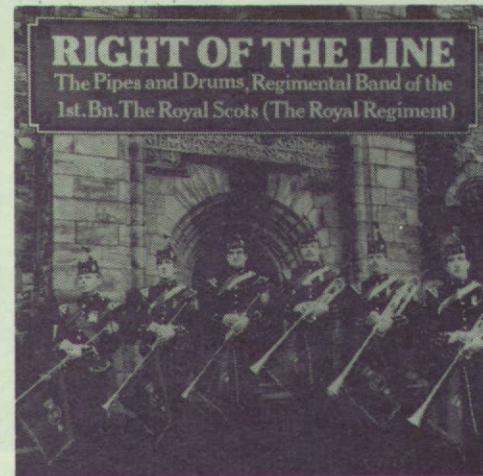
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# EOD teams join forces

A NEW JOINT Services Explosive Ordnance Disposal operations centre has been set up in the South of England to co-ordinate the bomb disposal operations of all three Services.

The newly created nerve centre will mean that in future the nearest qualified squad can be rapidly deployed to an incident or discovery instead of, as in the past, single service teams operating on near their own bases — often sent there from great distance.

The centre, an organisation within 11 Ordnance Battalion (EOD), RAOC, will have round the clock responsibility for co-ordinating the activities of teams from 20 locations, working in co-operation with police and civil authorities in the whole of Great Britain.

## LOCAL LINKS STRENGTHENED

A NEW SCHEME to strengthen relations between the Army and the local German population has been launched in Bielefeld, headquarters of 1 British Corps.

The scheme, brainchild of Brigadier John Skinner, involves linking groups of officers, soldiers and their wives with teachers and senior pupils in German schools in the area.

Once links are set up groups sort out for themselves meetings and activities to suit their own tastes. In the pilot scheme six groups from local RAOC units are linked with six local schools.

The scheme is specifically intended to foster lower level contacts within the aegis of the long-established Anglo/German Society. The next stage is likely to be a three-way link to include a BFES school.

## PENDGE



The Queen being welcomed to the Pakistan stand during her tour of a special exhibition by overseas students at the Army Staff College, Camberley. The exhibition was one of the highlights of the visit during which The Queen also saw students at work and planted a tree on the front lawn.

## FIRST WOMAN CO TAKES OVER

A 37-YEAR-OLD HOUSEWIFE who originally joined the TA for a hobby has become the first woman to command a regiment of the British Army.

Lieutenant-Colonel Jean Blackwood, wife of a music lecturer, took over as CO of 37 (Wessex and Welsh) Signals Regiment with headquarters in Bristol and a home defence role covering communications for the West Midlands, Wales and the South West.

More than two-thirds of the TA volunteers serving under her are men but that is not likely to be a problem. "The men of the regiment are used to having WRAC officers," she said. But she did admit to being slightly nervous about her new job: "Because whoever comes after might depend on my success."

Describing her appointment as a "great honour" Lt Col Blackwood said that in theory the job was part-time although many would consider it nothing of the sort. She plans to work three weekdays and most weekends.



Lt Col Blackwood returns a smart salute as she arrives to start work.

"I don't think of myself as a woman when I am doing the job," she said, "I think of the job. I am not an aggressive women's libber but I do think women should be given the opportunity to train, develop and use their abilities and skills."

At other levels of command, including two years as the regiment's second-in-command, she had found that men reacted positively.

"Sometimes you have to make unpopular decisions and it is never nice to be unpopular," she continued. "But it is part of the job and something you must accept."

Lt Col Blackwood began her TA career with a WRAC independent company 20 years ago. Encouraged by her father, a Regular Army major, she had become a commissioned lieutenant by the time she transferred to 37 Signals Regiment when it was formed in 1967.

## Briefly

Mr Stuart Lightfoot, an enterprising 59-year-old amputee from Bedford plans to complete a 251 mile sponsored trip from London to Paris by wheelchair. He hopes to raise funds for the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association and the Royal Air Forces Association.

★ ★ ★  
The Simfire Mk II extended range weapons effects simulator is to be manufactured in Japan under a 10-year licence to supply the Japanese forces.

★ ★ ★  
The first 15 black officers from the British-run Zimbabwe Military Academy to be commissioned in the national army have graduated.

★ ★ ★  
A stained glass window in memory of Field Marshal Sir Geoffrey Baker will be dedicated at a special service in the Royal Memorial Chapel, Sandhurst on Sunday June 20. Tickets for reserved seating are available from Maj N Gulliver, HQ RMAS, Sandhurst.

★ ★ ★  
Coles Cranes Ltd have won an Army order for 27 of its 315M truck cranes.

★ ★ ★  
Ordnance Services Viersen is to receive the Freedom of the German town on May 8.

## Para WO dives to rescue

AN ARMY WARRANT Officer became hero of the hour when a young father and his baby son were trapped under water after their car had somersaulted off a seaside pier.

The car landed on its roof with only the wheels above water. WO 2 Derek Amos of 2 Para was on leave in Mevagissey, Cornwall when he saw the incident and promptly dived to the rescue.

He brought up 22-year-old Royal Navy PT instructor Russell Slee and then dived again to save eight-month-old Jonathan.

A local doctor who had been fishing in the harbour gave the baby artificial respiration and later both father and baby were said to be recovering satisfactorily in hospital.

An eye witness described WO Amos as "a real hero. He seemed to be under the water a very long time before he came up with the baby. I thought the child must be dead."

And a police spokesman said: "He seems a modest sort of chap but he did a wonderful job. Without his presence of mind and courage there would have been a terrible tragedy."

# NEWS VIEW



## Last Farewell ▲

The Army has finally said goodbye to Farnborough — after nearly 100 years. The first Balloon Section, RE, was established at nearby Browning Square in 1890 but now the Gazelles of 656 Sqn AAC, have finally said goodbye. As part of the UK command reorganisation they have moved to Netheravon to join 1 Infantry Brigade.



## Gun Girls ▼

Following closely in the footsteps of the WRAC, the girls of the TA have begun their weapon training. But like their Regular counterparts, the emphasis is on self-defence. This group from 39 (City of London) Sig Regt tried their hand with the SMG during a training session in Kent.



## Cover Up ▶

Q Pte Dawn Hillman of 219 General Hospital (V), Portsmouth, was a bit reluctant to use the 'cam cream' when her unit visited 2 Wessex to get some idea of infantry training. But a bit of friendly persuasion from L/Cpl Nigel Tulk solved the problem.

## Bonny Lass ▶

There was a cool breath of home for these three soldiers of 1 Scots Guards when British Caledonian's Jackie Macklin flew in to visit them in Hong Kong. There was a VIP welcome for her from Pipe Sgt Ian Rodgers, Drummer Fergus McEwan and Piper David Johnston.

## Open Wide ▶

It is usually the simulated injuries which catch the cameraman's eye during 'MASH' exercises but toothache can be just as painful in wartime so the dental surgeon is an important member of the team as this victim found out when 2 Field Hospital from Aldershot deployed to Stoney Castle.

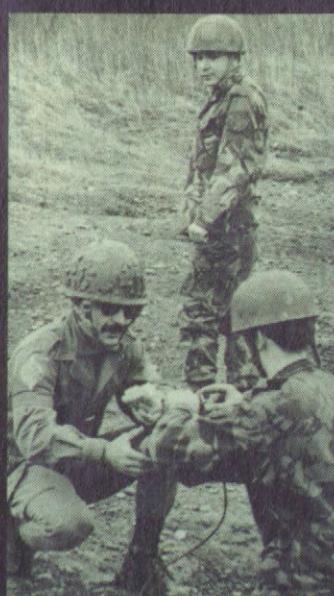
## Ooh Ta!

A very happy Sgt Edward McMahon receives congratulations, the Gauntlet Trophy and a cheque from Brig Tony Stagg after 'A' Troop 208 Bty, 103 AD Regt (V) had been judged 'Best Troop in the Regiment'. Looking on is an equally happy Lt Col Mike Taylor.



## Top Shots ▲

L/Cpl Michael Mansell, left, and Pte Alan Surry were part of the 3 R Anglian team which won the first inter-command GPMG sustained fire competition at the School of Infantry, Warminster, by a margin of more than 200 points. The UKLF teams took the first three places.



## Tradesmen ▼

As well as the more serious side of life, humour was in the air when the Royal Engineers demonstrated their combat capability to military attachés of 30 nations. The tradesmen's giant tools made sure everyone got the message but we missed the plumber with his lavatory seat marked "for officers only!"

## Grub Up ▶

"Dinner is served," says Army chef Sgt Bob Gilroy during an exercise in Norway. Bob, also a chef in civilian life has been in the TA for 24 years and is currently attached to 1 PWO who have just returned from their fourth winter in Norway (see page 14).



## Double First ▲

In both World Wars 4 RTR was the first British unit to cross the Rhine and now a former CO, Maj Gen Martin Sinnatt, has presented a plaque to the town of Rees to mark the assault on March 23, 1945. Here he picks out the crossing point for the Mayor, Herr Josef Tasch.

## Pope's Bridge ▼

In good time for the Pope's visit to Wales, men of 108 (Wales) Field Sqn Royal Monmouthshire RE (Militia) have built a bridge over the River Taff so that the Pontiff can reach Pontcanna Fields where he is to celebrate Mass in June, immediately after his arrival in the Principality. He will use the bridge again when he goes to Cardiff Castle for lunch.



## Tough School ▶

Although France is no longer a member of the Nato Military command structure a limited number of soldiers from allied armies in Europe still get put through their paces at the French Commando School at Breisach. This time it was the turn of 30 men from 15/19 H and 3 RTR. But although it is a tough course the most serious injury, a broken leg, was sustained on the football field.

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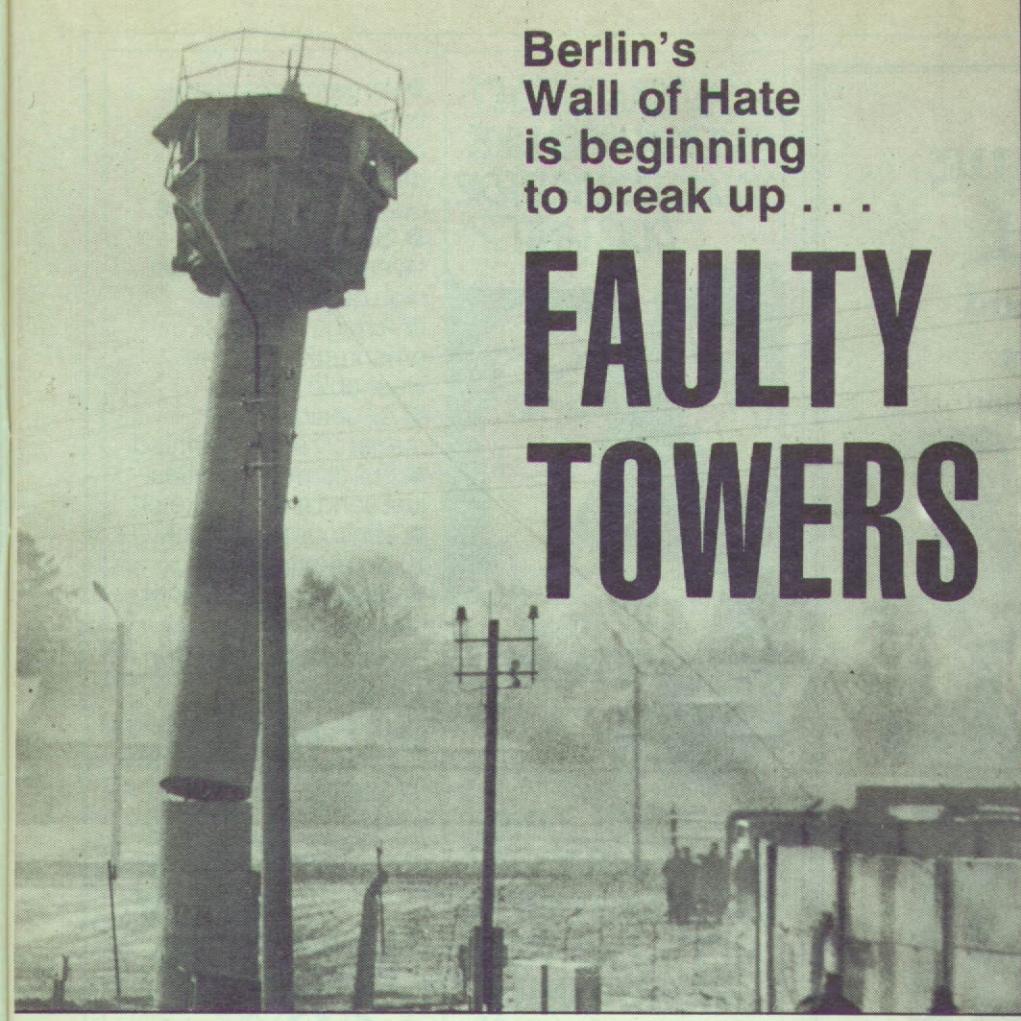
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Berlin's  
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# FAULTY TOWERS

**T**HE INFAMOUS Berlin Wall that divides the one-time capital of Germany is coming down at last.

For two decades the Wall of Hate has stood as a gaunt reminder of the tyrannical rule that pens in the people of East Germany.

Ever since the fateful 13 August, 1961, when Berliners awoke to find the barrier of steel and concrete slashing a brutal scar across their city, no amount of hot air from politicians has managed to get a single brick of it removed.

But now the wintry wind that whips across the bleak Prussian plains has started to achieve what all that talk could not.

For hundreds of menacing watch towers that form the most vital part of the 100-mile wall and wire complex surrounding West Berlin have begun to crumble before the icy

blasts of the gale-force winds.

Now in their 21st year, the concrete structures are proving they were literally 'Jerry' built and horrified East German border guards have been hurled to the ground inside their toppling towers.

The red-faced red guards of the 14,000-strong Grenze-Kommando border patrols have now set about pulling down the remaining 'goon' towers to replace them with new ones.

Fusilier Howard Lycett, of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, did not spare the guards' blushes when he snapped them going about Operation Faulty Towers.

The 20-year-old fusilier was on patrol with Sergeant Michael Richards on the Allied side of the Wall when he came across the extraordinary scene.

He said: "Luckily I had my camera with me at the time. We patrol the Wall daily to note any changes the border guards make in



Fus Lycett and Sgt Richards on Wall patrol. ▲

◀ A crumbling tower is pulled down. ▲

their routine on the East side. But we never dreamt changes as drastic as this might be going on. Neither did the East Germans, come to that!"

Fusilier Lycett is one of 3000 British troops in Berlin. They form part of a 13,000-strong Allied presence of British, Americans and French who have been in West Berlin since the end of World War Two.

Apart from garrison troops, including a Sapper squadron, Berlin is currently 'home' for 2 RRF as well as 1st Battalion, The King's Own Border Regiment and 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers.

Armoured support is provided by the tanks of D Squadron, 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards.

Story: Mike Starke

Surveying the debris of a fallen tower. ▲

East German guards watch the West. ▲



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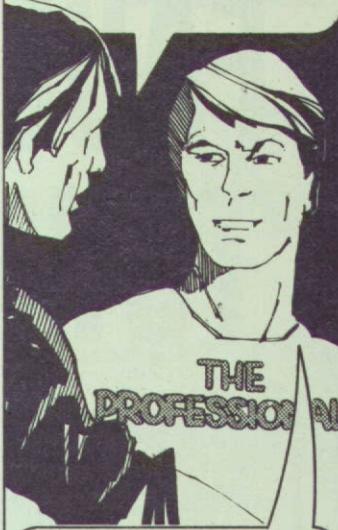
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# HOW SUE'S PIN-UP DREAM CAME TRUE

RATHER LIKE a modern-day Cinderella, Army nursing stewardess Private Sue Morgan wanted to change her everyday image on the ward at the Duchess of Kent's Military Hospital, Catterick Garrison, where she works in her own words, with her "hair tied back in a bun, wearing little black granny shoes and looking as plain as anything."

But unlike the girl in the fairy tale, Sue, who is just 21, serving in the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, did not want to go to the Ball, try on a glass slipper or even meet Prince Charming. She just wanted to be a pin-up in **SOLDIER**!

Once the best recruit in her QA intake at Aldershot 15 months ago, Sue decided to do something positive about it and, putting her daydream to one side, slid pen across paper in a letter to the editor of **SOLDIER** on the strength of a previous full-colour, back cover pin-up featuring Miss Kate Sampson caught in demure pose by staff photographer, Paul Haley.

Sue mused: "I wouldn't mind doing that!"

In her letter to the Editor, Sue wrote: "I would like to nominate myself — with a push from the lads in my ward — as a future pin-up. If this is at all possible, I would be grateful if you could send me details on how to go about it. I'm keeping my fingers and toes crossed."

**SOLDIER** did better than send details: it despatched **SOLDIER**-bird man Haley to tackle the task.

Now the very proud possessor of her own small portfolio of pictures, the Yorkshire lass, in obvious excitement, managed to tell **SOLDIER**: "I didn't think I could look like that. Eee... they're marvellous! It's all just amazing. I'm really pleased.

"I'll take some home to my mum in Bradford and see if she agrees with me that they're nice. I'll even give some to my admirers — I've got one or two. Ooh! That sounds big-headed doesn't it; it's not meant to be. I may even send one to my ex-boy friend — he's in the RAF — and he may want me back. Maybe I'll get a lot of fan mail. Perhaps..."

So what now? More poses... more dreams-come-true?

"No, this will be it," said the level-headed lass from Bradford. "I



enjoyed it and was quite nervous about it at first. But once is enough."

And the lads in her minor surgery ward; her willing co-sponsors?

"We knew she could do it and we're not disappointed with the results, either. We'll see her in a totally different way from now on," one of them confided.

But, sadly, like the fairy tale, all good things must come to an end — for the lads at Catterick that is! The hospital's Cinders-on-celluloid is being posted to the British Military Hospital at Rinteln, BAOR, in the summer. ■

**Sue with some of her Catterick admirers.**



**Story: Graham Smith  
Pictures: Paul Haley**

In Norway's coldest winter on record 1500 British troops have been practising...

# PLAYING NATO'S ACE

EVERY CARD PLAYER knows the value of an ace. It's the single pip that can make or break a winning hand. Nato has some 'aces' too — among them the ACE (Allied Command Europe) Mobile Force.

The ACE Mobile Force (AMF) is Nato's multinational 'fire brigade' — with a difference. Arriving before hostilities begin, it adopts a deterrent role on the flanks of Europe in Norway, Denmark, Italy, Greece and Turkey.

Britain's contingent to the Force — some 1500 troops in all — have just returned to the UK from Exercise Alloy Express. Deep in the mountains of Northern Norway, they have been practising their combat and survival skills in Norway's coldest winter on record with temperatures down to -40°C.

Gunners, sappers, signallers, infantrymen and a wide range of vehicles with arctic capabilities have deployed north of the 70th parallel to exercise with contingents from six other Nato nations.

In modern hostilities there are no static trench lines and all parts of an army must be able to fight and survive under any conditions. This is particularly true for a relatively small hard hitting force, like the AMF.

So service in the AMF demands a very high standard of unit and individual training. Operating deep inside the Arctic Circle at least once a year requires the ability to survive and exercise in temperatures many degrees below freezing.

In a country where a farmer will get up to work his animals at three o'clock in the morning to prevent them from freezing to death, the British contingent are particularly aware that just to survive such elements is half the battle — should it ever be joined.

Moving up to 20 kilometres a day on skis and snowshoes, pulling pulks (Norwegian Army sledges), laden with tents and survival stores, and carrying rucksacks, these hardy warriors in white from Leeds, Leicester, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Pimlico fully realise the importance of unfailing teamwork.

Agonisingly bitter winds plummet the temperatures rapidly and for troops more used to warmer climates the bitter cold can be as much an enemy as any opposing forces.

Soldiers of ACE Mobile Force cannot rely on creature comforts available to civilians. At best, they share a round 'Yensi' tent with some nine others all warmed by a naph stove that needs careful filling and constant attention (it can flare up and destroy a tent if not handled properly). At worst, they dig in often rock hard frozen snow to make a rough 'Gapahoeck'. This brushwood shelter at least offers protection from the wind, whose chill factor can be a killer, and reflects some escaped body heat from its icy walls.

The infantryman resorts to skis or snowshoes and soon learns why Norway is the home of the Langlauf — cross-country skiing. He may curse the muscle wrenching lop adopted to propel the hefty military skis

— known ironically at 'Nato planks' — but he knows that attempts to walk unaided through snow plunges him waist, even neck, high in drifts every other step.

Contingents from Canada, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Italy, America and the UK make up the Force. The United Kingdom contributes some 40 percent of the manpower when operating in the north and 30 percent when in the south, a major commitment to Europe's insurance policy for peace.

At the sharp end of the AMF is the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, a key element in the infantry. The Battalion, based in Bulford, Wiltshire is now in its fourth year of its attachment to the AMF and has become well accustomed to the rigours of winter warfare in Norway.

Supporting the Yorkshiremen in a close reconnaissance role is a troop of Scimitars from the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars. The British Cavalry also provides the AMF armoured 'recce' squadron in the form of C Squadron of the 16/5 Lancers. These Staffordshire men, operating forward of the main forces in their Scorpions with lethal 30 millimetre cannon, are tasked to collect information about the enemy.

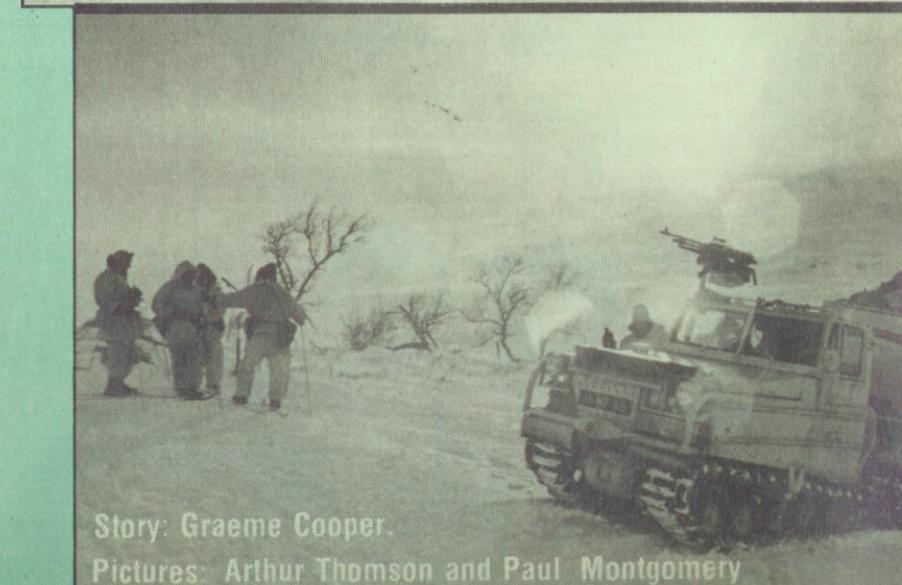
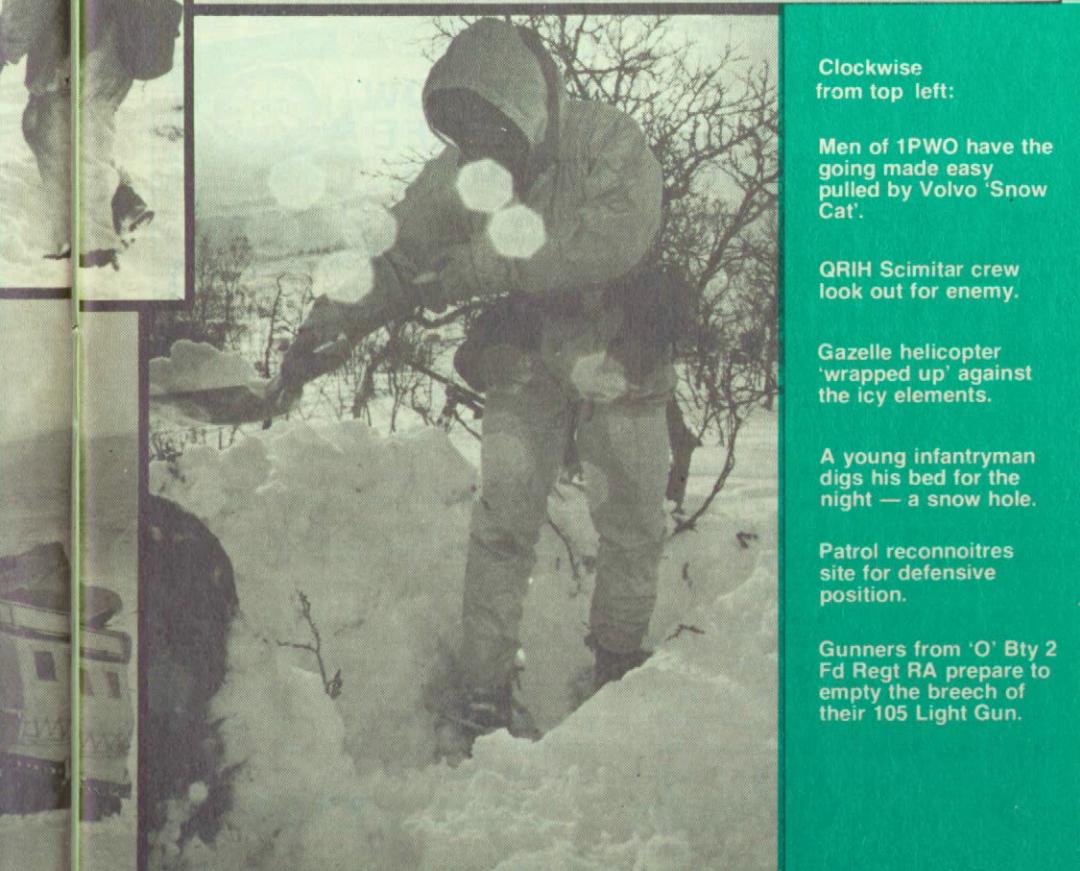
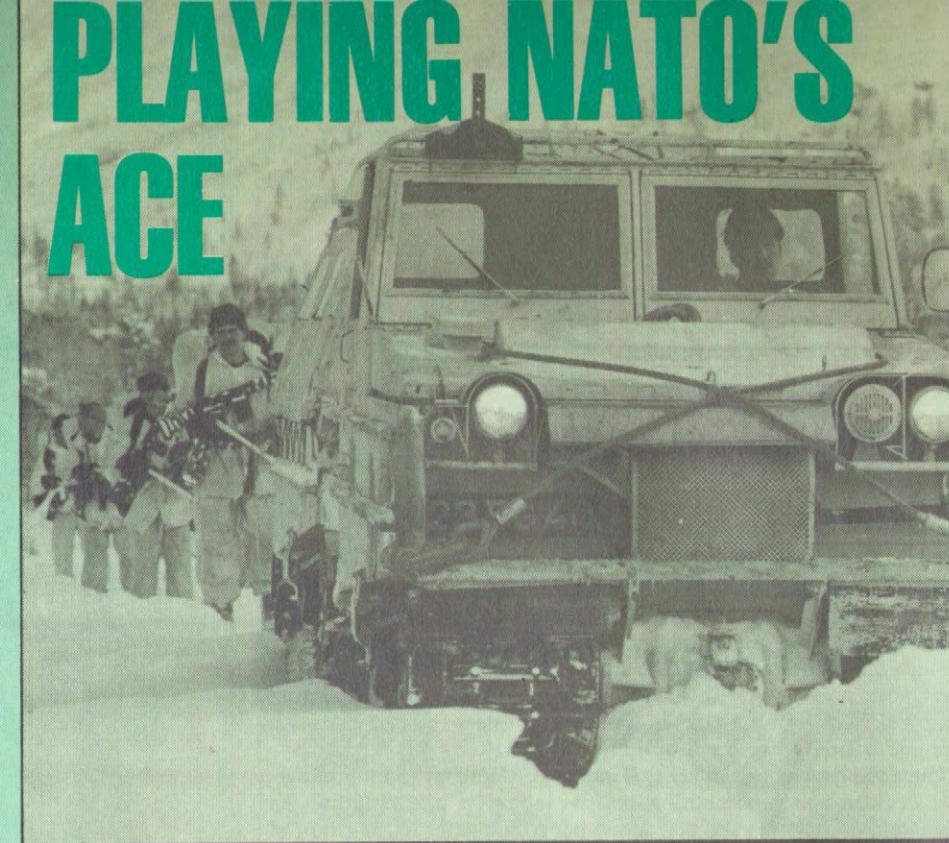
Mancunian gunners in 'O' Battery, 2nd Field Regiment, Royal Artillery support their rivals from Yorkshire with the air-portable light gun, a formidable weapon of notable firepower. Yet more gunners come from Survey and Locating Troop of 22 Locating Regiment and Zulu Troop 32 Guided Weapons Regiment, Royal Artillery. The former, like the recce squadron, are responsible for gathering information; the latter, for destroying armour at close ranges.

In addition the Independent Field Troop of the Royal Engineers, the sleek Gazelle helicopters of 2 Flight Army Air Corps, communicators from the Royal Signals and movers from 50 Movement Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, feature prominently in the contingent.

Clothing, feeding, fuelling and administering the British contingent, as well as the rest of the AMF, is the task of the Logistic Support Battalion. Snowshoes, ski wax, lip-salve, longjohns, ammunition and arctic rations of high calorific value are only a few of the necessities required for the soldier to survive and fight in the snow. The 'Loggies' supply them.

Four Pumas are supplied to the AMF helicopter unit — 33 Squadron, Royal Air Force, from Odiham in Hampshire. These speedy giants with two engines, each capable of producing 1350 shaft horsepower, can quickly transport a fully equipped section of ten men with skis, pulks, bergens and weapons into combat positions. And the Light guns and men of 'O' Battery — as well as the vital stores supplied by 48 Company, Royal Army Ordnance Corps — can be moved around the windswept arctic wastes at will.

The airborne and ground based equipment in use with the ACE Mobile Force has been tried and tested in arctic conditions over many years, but any kit is only as good as the men who use it. The men who serve in the British contingent are undoubtedly part of an efficient, well motivated and colourful force — a winning ace up Nato's sleeve. ■



Story: Graeme Cooper.

Pictures: Arthur Thomson and Paul Montgomery

Clockwise from top left:  
Men of 1PWO have the going made easy pulled by Volvo 'Snow Cat'.

QRIH Scimitar crew look out for enemy.

Gazelle helicopter 'wrapped up' against the icy elements.

A young infantryman digs his bed for the night — a snow hole.

Patrol reconnoitres site for defensive position.

Gunners from 'O' Bty 2 Fd Regt RA prepare to empty the breech of their 105 Light Gun.



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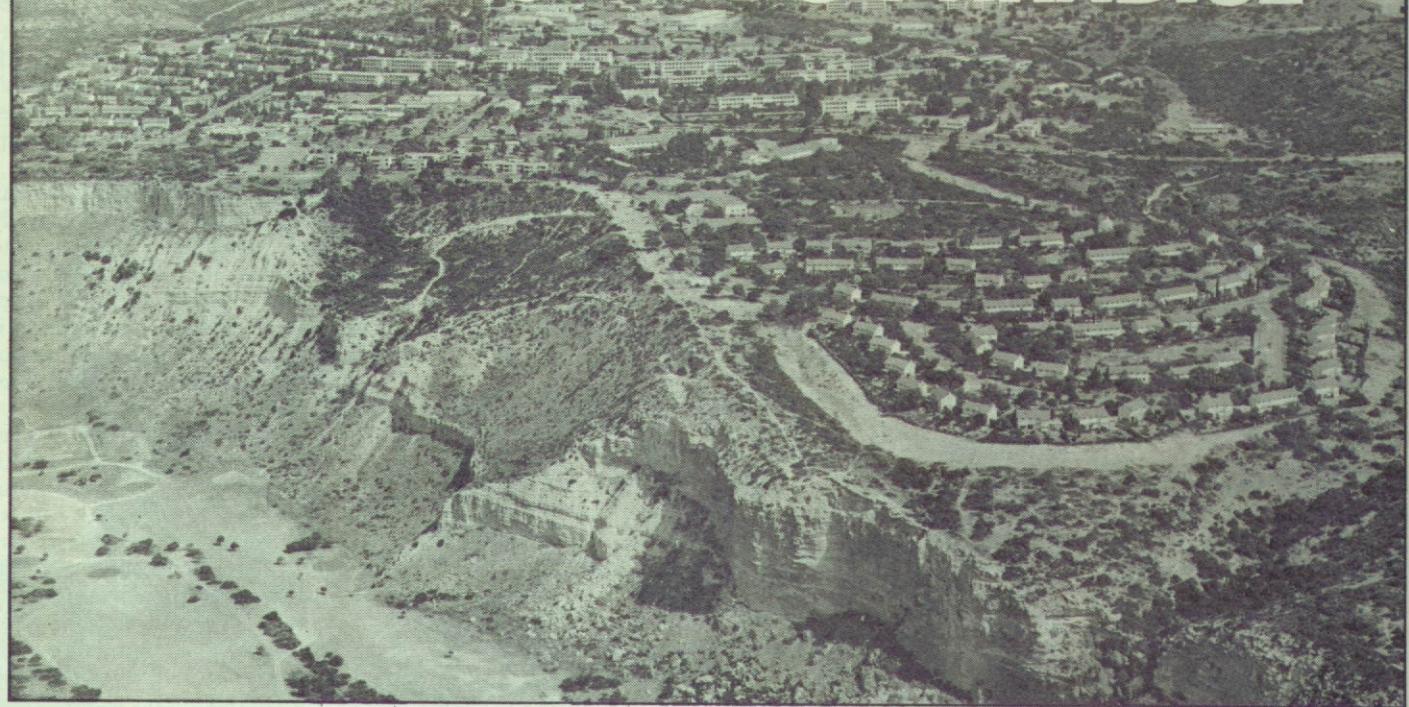
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# A SPORTSMAN'S PARADISE



CYPRUS IS A BEAUTIFUL island of sun, sea, sherry and citrus fruits but there are a few thorns even in this bed of roses as those who live there will tell you. A two-year posting is vastly different from a two-week holiday.

Headquarters for Land Forces Cyprus is at Episkopi Garrison in the Western Sovereign Base Area and the garrison has its full complement of HQs, staff and quarters. The rows of whitewashed buildings line pleasant drives and crescents with views from the cliff tops and out across the blue sea.

Apart from the majority of the staff who are accommodated at Episkopi, there are another 200 families, mostly of the resident battalion, quartered at Berengaria — 'BG' — Village some 15 miles away, and 300 more families in hirings in the nearby town of Limassol. These are usually the families with few points and Captain Penny Gold, SO3 Discipline and Personal Services, said they are the biggest problem.

"Young families with young children are the most vulnerable and are in the most difficult place." They do, however, come under the paternal eye of Sergeant Major John Moore, the estate warden at Berengaria for the last five years, and he irons out any problems that they may have.

Some families, though, prefer to live in the Cypriot community. Frances Thompson is in Cyprus for her fourth tour and has enjoyed living in Limassol. "I liked living in Limassol before the coup. It was a very happy tour then and we made our own life in Limassol. The local people were friendly and, if you treat them right, they treat you right. This is a very open camp here and there isn't such a sense of community."

Episkopi Garrison does indeed seem to sprawl over a sizeable area but the social life is concentrated around the central build-

## An aerial view of Episkopi perched on the cliff tops.

ings. There are numerous clubs and units have their own social clubs for a drink and meeting people in relaxed surroundings. There are also special interest clubs which cover everything from bridge to archaeology.

The Astra cinema is well patronised, especially by the single soldiers, and there is a flourishing theatrical society, which produces an annual Shakespeare play in aid of charities in the beautiful setting of nearby Curium. This amphitheatre is also the scene for musical evenings and fortnightly con-

certs throughout the summer, under the velvety evening sky set with twinkling stars.

|| 'Lots of people come out with the idea that it's hot all the year round — but we do have a winter and you do need woollies.'

The commercial life of the garrison revolves around 'Dodge City' an aptly nicknamed cluster of shacks that house the banks, the Naafi, a general store, fruit shop, leather shop, travel agents, taxi ranks and a flower shop with the recent addition of a "Wee Woolworths". It is as well that the basic necessities of life are available at the garrison as transport from Episkopi is something of a problem.

The local bus service is very poor but there are good flying taxis — they pack you in and go about 90 miles an hour but they

are cheap and that's the way to travel," said Penny Gold. Travel in these long Mercedes must be classed as an experience, particularly as the roads are generally rough and the standard of Cypriot driving basic — neither of which makes movement easy or enjoyable.

A half hour run, however, will bring you to Limassol, a popular tourist centre during the season. Leather goods, pottery and fruit are extremely cheap and a handmade shirt can cost as little as £5, a little over £5 sterling. A word of warning though from Frances: "The cost of living is very expensive for brand goods. My husband uses Sensodyne toothpaste and a 60p tube at home costs £1,500 mils here."

Major David Kirkwood, the Paymaster at Episkopi, confirmed that Cyprus can be expensive. "Cyprus is not a posting where people save money. The price of goods in the shops is quite high and even with LOA people feel that, by and large, they are worse off than in UK. In fact, the standard of living here is high too and people tend to go out and find entertainment rather than sit in. The great thing actually is that people enjoy Cyprus and don't have the same compunction to save as they do in UK."

Eating out in Cyprus is cheap and there are many well-patronised establishments in the villages west of Episkopi Garrison — among them the Eagles Nest, the Famagusta Tavern, and the Kyrenia Bar, where pork chops, kebabs, mezes (a seemingly endless succession of small dishes) and seafood are invariably well-cooked and can be the basis of a good night out.

Time can lie heavy on your hands when there is no television. The evenings are long and the early (7am) start is amply compensated for by a lunchtime finish most days. BFBS provide 24-hour radio which has local

continued on page 18

news and music and is listened to avidly, but it is small wonder that fitness fever is very much a part of the Cyprus way of life.

The island is essentially a sportsman and sportswoman's paradise. There are extensive facilities for all water sports, including wind-surfing, water-skiing, swimming, sailing and sub aqua diving in the clear water off the coast. There are opportunities to ride at a minimal cost, play polo, ski, play squash, tennis, golf, football and rugby or simply keep fit by jogging.

Happy Valley is one of the landmarks in the WSBA. It is a concentration of sports pitches, tracks and stables which, as it is watered with effluent, remains relatively verdant throughout the scorching summer and makes a refreshing change from the parched countryside around.

It is one of the amenities that Berengaria residents have to do without on their doorsteps. 'BG' has a distinct character of its own not least because of its huddled-type quarters. But Sergeant Major Moore can point unhesitatingly to the advantages of life there. "We are self-contained here," he says, "and the really nice thing about this place is that it's in the middle of Cyprus proper. We have a good bus service to Limassol that comes along every hour or so and we are near one of the best spots on the island, Lady's Mile Beach.

"People know their neighbours here and there's a good community spirit. You associate yourself with the village and it's like a huge family. BG used to be a place that people avoided but not any more. It's taken a bit of time, but it's good now. I could live in Epi, but I'm here instead." Nothing can beat personal recommendation of course.

The Berengaria quarters were put up 25 years ago as a short term policy designed to provide accommodation for the next ten years. They are now classed as substandard and therefore cost less, but there are plenty of extras at BG on top of the basic amenities.

The community centre houses the video room and the weekly bingo sessions, the village has its own Scouts, Guides, Brownies and Cubs as well as yoga and judo classes. There is a swimming pool, netball and squash courts and a new five-a-side football field.

In the centre of the village, a small shopping area comprises a Naafi, hairdressers, gift and camera shop, near the medical centre, the Ssafa clinic and the church. BG even has its own padre now — a few years ago they had to share one with Episkopi. The children can attend the creche, play school and primary school and there are buses that take the secondary school children to St John's School in Epi.

Major Kirkwood was full of praise for the education on the island. "The education here is superb. St John's has got all the facilities, including a computer. There are small classes and very bright classrooms and

from casual encounters with British soldiers but, as Major Kirkwood suggested, "A soldier with a bit of nounce can find pretty girls in the hotels in Limassol." This is particularly true during the long tourist season when the town is crammed with holidaymakers.

Corporal Geoff Prewitt is a keen footballer and is a single soldier, although he is due to be married soon and is looking forward to having his wife out in Cyprus with him. "If you're into sport, it's great over here. It's even nicer if you're accompanied and nice for your wife too. A lot of things pass you by otherwise."

One problem with a Cyprus posting can be the claustrophobia of living in a relatively small area, but there is ample opportunity to leave the island and take the trip, or trips, of a lifetime. Visits to the Holy Land, Egypt and Lattakia are most popular, Athens is only an hour's hop away by air from Larnaca and it only takes a weekend to see some of the sights of Syria.

Getting home to the UK is not so easy, particularly since RAF flights arrive and leave Akrotiri just once a week now. Indulgence flights can be a cheap alternative to the expensive British Airways flights but are risky except in the off-season.

Cyprus is an island of extremes. The 1974 troubles left the Greek Cypriots with a strip of coastal plain in the south flanked by the Troodos mountains in the centre of the island. This gives a tremendous variety of climate and countryside and one of the more popular tourist attractions is to ski in the morning on the slopes of Troodos and then to spend the afternoon swimming and lying on the beach.

The island does have more than its fair share of sunshine but the sun does occasionally give way to rain and colder temperatures. Frances Thompson came out with a dire warning as she dispelled a prevalent myth. "Lots of people come out with the idea that it's hot all the year round — but we do have a winter and you need woollies." ■



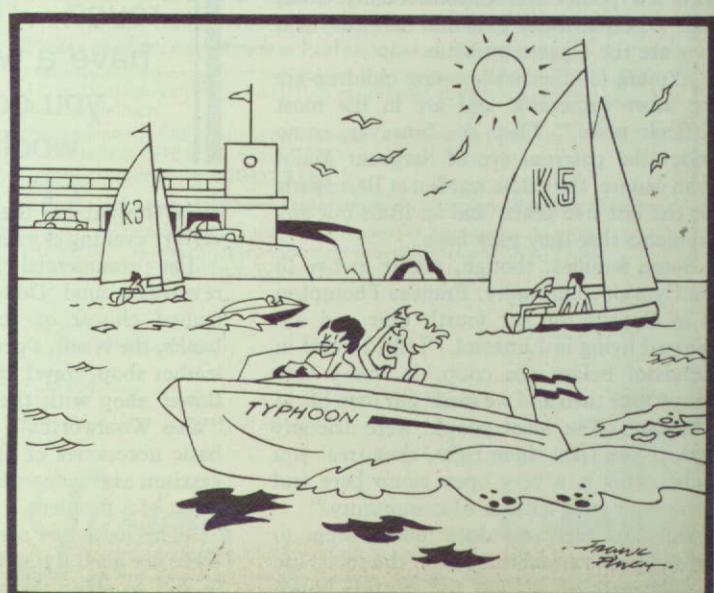
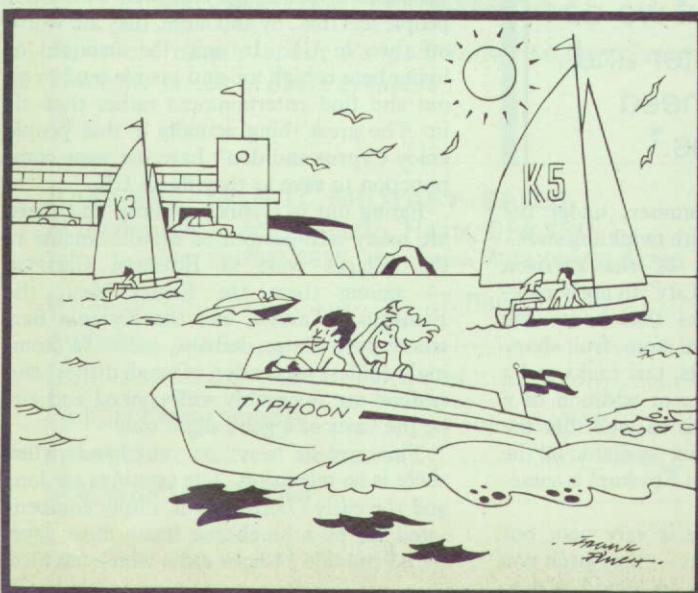
Berengaria Village has a completely different character.

as a parent I'm very pleased with the schools."

There are those, particularly single soldiers and those who don't enjoy sport, who do not enjoy Cyprus. This is often as a result of the lack of opportunity to meet a girlfriend. Local girls are usually well protected

## 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 37.



# THE BUTCHER'S BOY WHO HIT THE HIGH NOTES



ONE OF THE Army's best known faces, at the forefront of major parades and tattoos for two decades, will soon be falling out for the last time. The owner of the famous mutton chop whiskers, Bugle Major Colin Green, is leaving the Army after 23 years and will be retiring to North Yorkshire.

Behind the fierce looking whiskery facade Bugle Major Green is an engaging man who has obviously enjoyed his years with Army music. From a small boy he wanted nothing more than to join up.

He joined the Army cadets in Bournemouth and before graduating to the Territorials became a bugle major in the cadet force. Then he joined 256 Light Ack Ack, Royal Artillery and was a founder member of the unit band.

But it looked as though his dream of being a regular soldier would come to naught when the young Colin was rejected on grounds of a slightly flat left foot — until an encounter which sounds like something out of a comedy series or a boys' paper.

‘... we used to save our money and go down into Belfast on the back of a three tonner to have a right rave-up ...’

“I was a butcher's boy and was just about to go out with a basket of meat one day when I saw this chap riding by on a bike wearing a green uniform with red facings.” The man turned out to be a recruiting sergeant and after a short conversation the sergeant pedalled down to the recruiting office followed by the butcher's boy on his cycle and wearing the traditional striped apron.

“When we got there he advised me to stand slightly over to the left for my medical. I passed, took the oath and was given a warrant to go to Winchester the following day for an interview.

“Meanwhile the meat in the basket was cooking in the hot sun. And my boss was getting 'phone calls asking what had happened to it. I flew round and delivered the warm meat to the customers and then went back and said 'there's the bike — I'm joining the Army tomorrow'. He went berserk. I then went home and told my parents.”

Joining the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets (The King's Royal Rifle Corps) as a bugler Colin went to Ballykinler in Northern Ireland. The year was 1959 and things were very different to today.

“When I tell young soldiers that we used

to save our money and go down into Belfast on the back of a three tonner to have a right rave-up they look at me as though they wonder if I'm talking about the same place. I really enjoyed that posting.”

His first major engagement with the band and bugles was at the famous Madison Square Garden in New York — the birthplace of the regiment. Soon he was promoted to lance-corporal and the battalion was in Berlin.

“We were there when the Wall went up — it was a frightening thing and I must admit we wondered if we would be coming out of there.” In Berlin the bugle major died suddenly and the young corporal was catapulted into the position.

Over the next few years Bugle Major Green was to travel all over the world — to British Guiana, Malaya and Borneo, to Japan as part of a ship's band and to European venues like Arnhem, Larzac and Copenhagen.

Perhaps the biggest event he was ever concerned with, apart from the Wembley Pageants, was the American Bicentenary celebrations in Washington in 1976 with nightly performances before vast crowds.

In 1977 he was awarded the British Empire Medal, the Jubilee Medal and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal — all in the space of a few weeks.

The following year, after 19 years with 2 RGJ, he moved up to the bugle major's position at the Rifle Depot in Winchester. “One of my first jobs there was to form a composite bugle section in the depot and the Light Infantry. I called it Rentasection and it went round the countryside augmenting bands who required us.”

Even then his globe trotting was not over. For he took the band of the school of music as a ship's band starting off at Las Palmas and visiting Gibraltar, Malta, Egypt, Turkey and then on to the French coast.

During all those years as a bugle major Colin had a distinctive profile. It began with a waxed moustache which earned him the name 'Kaiser Bill' when he was stationed in Germany. This developed into the mutton chop whiskers.

“It has been a trademark wherever I have been, together with the unique way we walk our parade canes known as the Rifle Walk. We walk as though we are carrying an umbrella.”

Looking back over two decades of Army music Colin Green feels that it has improved: “We have got a little bit more professional. We used to take young lads who did not know anything about music whatsoever but that doesn't happen now. It's been a long time and the biggest part of my career has been at the top. I'm going to miss it terribly.”

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**SERVICE FAMILIES** of thirty years ago moved around the world with the minimum of personal belongings. Today, there is a growing desire among families to make their quarters more individual and personal and many more families are accumulating furniture and effects of their own that are packed and unpacked at each change of posting.

Cupboards, attics, garages and storerooms are invariably crammed to overflowing with unwanted Service-issued items that cannot be wharfed to make way for personal crockery, linen and furniture. So it will come as a welcome relief to many families to hear that a partial defurnishing scheme in UK and NE Europe married quarters is to start on 1 September this year.

A large number of items will be completely withdrawn over a three-year period and MQ occupants on or after 1 September will be given the option to buy some of these at their next march-out at a fixed price of only 20 per cent of their listed value. No VAT will be charged in BAOR of course.

Some provision has been made to leave the bare essentials in quarters as 'emergency rations' to cover the march-in and march-out periods when families are without their personal belongings and it is to be hoped that these will cater for families in reasonable comfort and allow for coping with emergencies, and the provision of good meals for the changeover weeks.

Perhaps we can now hope for furniture to be recognised as an official part of our belongings. Meantime, baggage scales will be increased to cover the defurnishing and this will give officers an extra 75 cubic feet and soldiers another 60 cubic feet in which to pack their personal effects. There should also be a reduction in quartering charges of between £7-£14 a year.

There is still six months before the scheme really takes effect so make sure that you ask for full details at your Housing Office or Station Staff Office so that you are well prepared for the changes.

Anne Armstrong

The rules and regulations on separation and family travel are complex and can seem uncaring and cruel. Many families are faced with these problems when their sons and daughters reach their late teens and a letter from Germany illustrates the distress that such confusion can cause.

My husband is due to be posted shortly from BAOR to another overseas posting. I have a son who is 18 years old and we were informed that we would have to pay his single air fare to accompany us. When we looked further into this we found that had he been a girl he could have had a free flight at public expense until he was 21 years of age.

My husband's record office made enquiries for us with SBC who told them that our son could go as he was a dependant and had nowhere to live in UK. The Chief Clerk here also rang SBC and followed it up with a letter but when the papers arrived for my flight, SBC then said that my son could not go as a dependant and that, even if we pay his fare, he is not entitled to any medical cover from the Army. We would have to take out private medical cover.

I think this is a heartless rule and should have been investigated long ago as it is discriminating against our son and totally un-British. My husband has served for 30 years in the Army and a lot of that time we have been separated as a family. I feel I have earned the right to plead to the people concerned that our sons and daughters be treated the same.

I shall be very grateful for any help you can give me and please carry on representing Service wives in the way that you do because we definitely need someone.

Cases such as this should be submitted, through your husband's unit, to PS8 at the Ministry of Defence, Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square in London. They will need full details of the case, including doctors' certificates, proof that there is no accommodation or employment in UK, dates of previous separations and so on that will allow them

to judge the case on its individual merits. Cases are generally treated sympathetically once attention has been drawn to them.

I agree with the correspondent that it seems extremely harsh and that the situation is aggravated by a different treatment for girls and boys. The same incongruity applies to British Railcards. It is something that needs to be changed — and preferably not by lowering the entitlement age for girls to 18 years.

On a similar subject, the MOD has pointed out that those who are serving abroad and have sons at Apprentice Colleges should read the details for travel in JSP 356 para 0708.

## ASK ANNE

We have 24 keen cubs in the Köln/Bonn pack and desperately need an Akela to help us. Leaders are always needed in BFG so if you are interested or can help in any way please drop me a line or ring (FRG) 02161 47 2525 or (UK) 010 49 47 2525.

Major Lee, Field Commissioner, HQ Rheindahlen Garrison, BFPO 40

My husband served in the Royal Pioneer Corps and was at the Battle of Dunkirk in 1940.

I am now a widow and in need of a little assistance. Could you please let me know if the Royal Pioneer Corps have a charitable fund.

Mrs P. Larne.

Your nearest Ssafa representative will be able to advise you regarding your need for assistance. Contact them direct or ring Belfast 27740 (mornings).

There is a Pioneer Corps Benevolent Association and their address is 51 St George Drive, London SW1 4DE Tel: 01 834 0415

## DID YOU KNOW?

**THERE IS A HANDBOOK**, produced by the Advisory Centre for Education (ACE), entitled School Choice Appeals, which is designed to help parents who are unhappy with the school their children are attending.

It is possible in many circumstances to move children to schools chosen by their parents and the handbook gives suggestions for ways of collecting the necessary information, answers key questions on choice and appeals and shows how to state your preference. It also covers crossing Local Education Authority boundaries and the problems of transport.

The handbook costs £2.00 — postage free — from ACE, 18 Victoria Park Square, London E2. You should also ask at your Army Education Office for details and information before you move to or around UK and have to consider new schools for your children.

We have been stationed in Germany since 1975 and have just started another tour which takes us up to the time when my husband finishes his 22 year service.

We know that we can apply to spend the last six months service in UK but as I am working over here, we feel that it is in our best interests to stay until as near the end as possible.

My husband does not want local release as we intend settling down in UK.

How does this decision affect us getting our MFO and ourselves back to UK and will we still qualify for disturbance allowance?

I do hope you will be able to help clear up these points for us. Mrs S, Germany

With 22 years service, you can if you want and if you are abroad, apply to spend the last six months in UK but you do not have to. The choice is yours. The rule is there to help those who need to find accommodation and a job.

Unless you opt for this, you will be posted home in the normal way at the end of your tour. Entitlement to a passage, disturbance allowance, and GFA arrangements apply. You can have your effects sent either to a quarter or to a civilian address but, if you move into a quarter and then leave the Army in UK, you are not then entitled to move your belongings at public expense to your civilian address from your squadron. Ask at your Pay Office for full details.

I saw a mention of the Mixed Services Organisation in a recent copy of SOLDIER. Can you give me an address where I can get more information with a view to employment prospects. Mr F, Tyne and Wear.

Certainly, Mr F. Write to MSO, Special Records Unit CWG or PC, Hamm, BFPO 103.

One wife has written to me with a good idea:

I am an ex-Army officer's wife who wants to meet another ex-Army officer's wife who is separated or divorced aged in her 20s or 30s, who would like to share a furnished house in Shrewsbury.

If anybody is interested, they can write to me at SOLDIER and I shall forward the letters.

How about other wives sharing their problems and getting together?

## STOP PRESS

I have just had a meeting with Mr Jerry Wiggins, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, who informed me that members of the Army Cadet Force in Germany are eligible to apply for places on the new 'Outward Bound' scheme just announced for young people. Applications should be made through the usual cadet channels. — AA

# HOME SWEET HOME

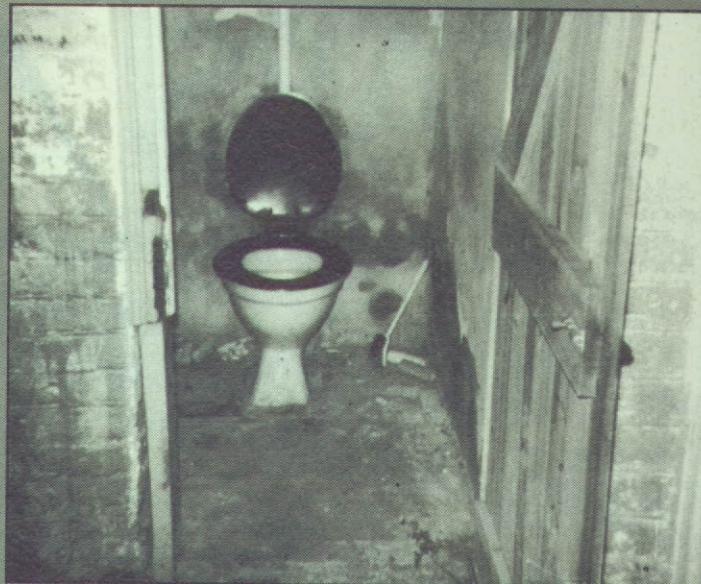
SO OFTEN WE in the Army tend to take our security and the roof over our heads for granted and never spare a thought to what might be lurking around the corner.

Disaster can come swiftly and turn our safe and happy lives upside down. Separation or divorce, death or premature discharge can strike without warning — and each of these can mean homelessness for families in the Services.

Suppose that you are about to be turned out of your quarter as you are no longer entitled to stay there. What can you do?

A Department of the Environment circular in 1979 asked Local Authorities to consider applications from Service wives and families for Local Authority (council) housing, but each Authority has its own housing policy and not all are as helpful in cases of hardship in Service families as others. An added complication arises if the family is returning to UK from overseas.

Some will not consider any application or accept the family. At best, homelessness means bed and breakfast hotels, hostels, separated families or sub-



An outside toilet shared between families.

standard accommodation and I have received heartbreaking letters from families in distress who are finding the sudden change in their circumstances traumatic.

This is particularly so in cases of separation or desertion where the man is protected as long as he remains in the Services but his wife and family have to rely on the State for support. They find that their pockets are empty at a

time of perhaps humiliation and emotional stress.

A deserted wife and her two teenage children were offered a flat by a council when they applied for shelter. I was appalled at the condition in which it was offered to her. The windows of the living room were covered with reinforced wire meshed glass, excreta was smeared over the front door of which a panel had been smashed in. The flat was on the third floor of a block of flats surrounded by vandalised cars and other rubbish and the access stairs, which had been used as a urinal, passed broken doors, cracked windows and walls covered with graffiti. This family refused the accommodation and their decision prompted an accusation of ingratitude from the Local Authority. Refusal of offered accommodation may preclude you from being given a second chance.

On the other hand, a Serviceman and his family who had finished a nine year engagement was offered a sub-standard one roomed flat because, he was told by the council, he had not applied in time for council accommodation. The family accepted the flat and are still there nearly a year later, sharing facilities and an outside toilet with other families.

There are lessons to be learnt from these cases. If you are offered accommodation, it is

sensible to take someone with you from the council, from Ssafa, FHWS (The Families Welfare and Housing Service) or at least an independent, unbiased person who can give an objective opinion on it. Sort out the questions concerning rent, rates, rent books, council repairs and maintenance, find out who is responsible for the internal and/or external decorations and get the replies in writing for your own protection.

Of course, you would probably have avoided this distressing situation completely if you had thought far enough ahead and planned for a time when you and your family might not have a roof over your heads.

Not everybody can save enough to put down a deposit on a house of their own, although the tax relief and the increasing value of property make it a worthwhile investment, but you can make provision to make sure



Daubed and smashed door is not a pretty welcome.

that your name is on a council housing list as soon as possible.

Every Education Office has access to plenty of information which can provide an answer to homelessness. You just need to ask — it is as simple as that.

I should welcome letters on this subject or any advice that you feel might help others if it was printed in SOLDIER.



Pre-school Playgroups Association  
Alford House, Aveline Street, London SE11 5DH.

## A Royal Patron for the Pre-school Playgroups Association

The National Executive Committee has received many requests from PPA members asking that The Princess of Wales should be invited to become a Royal Patron of the Association. The National Executive Committee discussed and considered this matter and accordingly wrote to The Princess with this request. I am delighted to announce to you all that The Princess of Wales has agreed to become PPA's Royal Patron for an initial period of five years.

Juliet Baxter,  
Chairman,  
National Executive Committee.  
January 1982.

### Ask for:

- ★ Resettlement Bulletin 1980 'Housing'
- ★ Copy of current policy on all Local Authority areas housing
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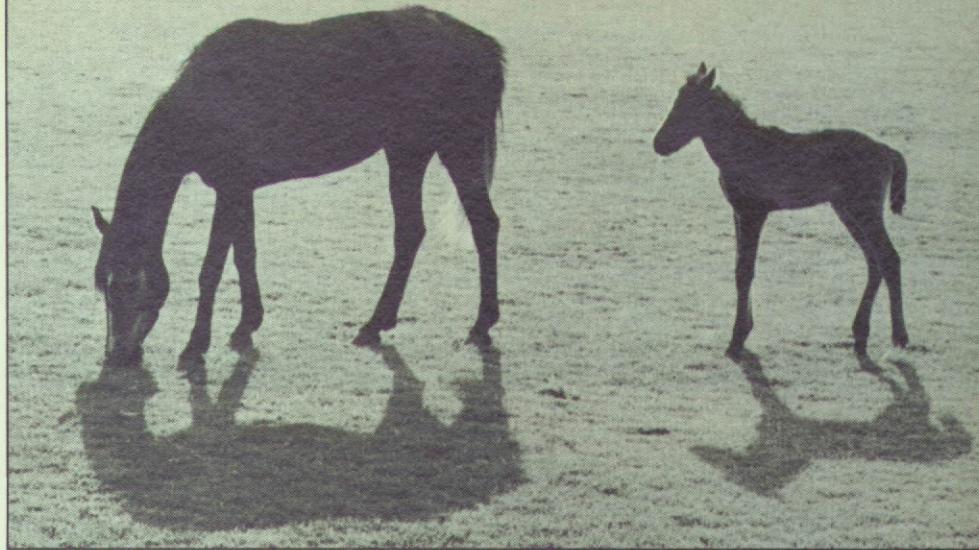
\*Price does not include U.K. delivery and registration.

S3

# ISLAND VIPs



L/Cpl Chris Scurton shoes Jamille.



Zarqua and foal Sunrise at Happy Valley.

THERE WERE 20 VIPs on the flight from Jordan that landed at Akrotiri. They were met by a distinctive welcoming committee that included the Limassol District Veterinary Officer and the Joint Services Hygiene Unit and they were sprayed before they cleared customs — normal procedure when the VIPs are ponies.

Their eventual destination was the Joint Services Saddle Club in Episkopi and a new home in Happy Valley. The contingent included three stallions, fifteen mares of which one was in foal, one gelding and a six-month-old colt. They were flown in courtesy of the RAF and, remarkably, none of them had suffered any ill effects from their journey.

The equine invasion was the culmination of a year of negotiations initiated originally by Major Mel Jameson and will double the 'horse power' on the island. It is hoped that future stock can be bred from the ponies and that after intensive training and schooling they will make a welcome addition to the saddle club, even though some have previously been pulling ploughs in their native land.

It may even be that the Jordanians have done themselves a disservice. The ponies will be trained for the polo ground and may one day carry the Army team to victory against the present superior pony power of the Royal Jordan Polo Team.

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TE	£ 7.00	£ 8.05	Dhofar GSM	£ 9.25
Naval GSM	£ 7.50	£ 8.62	ABU Dhabi	£ 9.25
British Korea	£ 7.47	£ 8.59	Bars for Miniature Medals	£ 1.75
Silver Jubilee	£ 6.90	£ 7.94	6" of Ribbon Min.	£ 0.28
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Defence	£ 6.10	£ 7.02	Indian General Service	£ 7.30
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UN Korea	£ 6.78	£ 7.80	Min 1 or 2 Space Broach	£ 0.87
Meritorious Service	£ 8.40	£ 9.86	Min 3 or 4 Space Broach	£ 0.92
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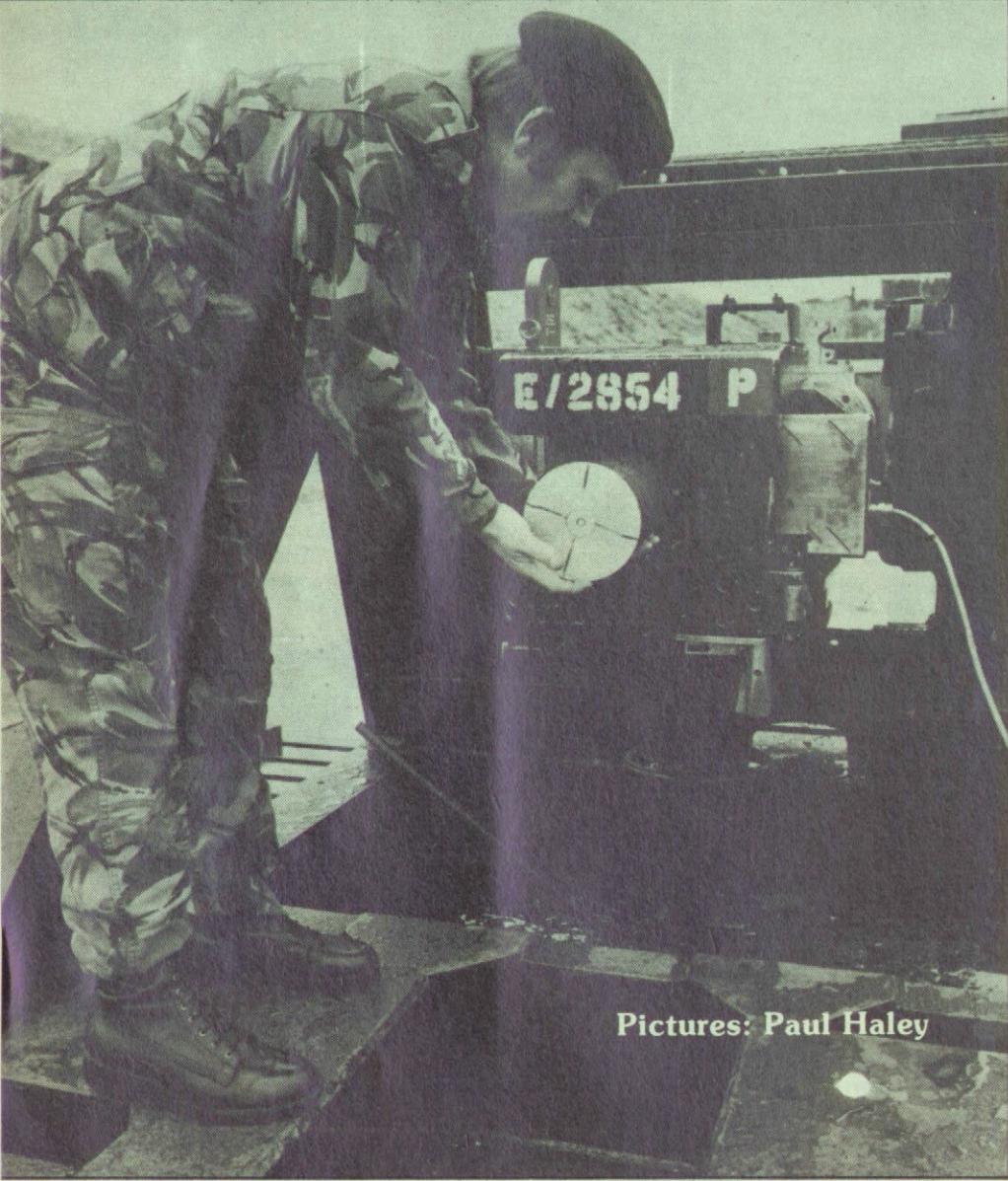
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Graham Smith visits a lonely stretch of Cumbrian coastline

## WHERE BUSINESS GOES WITH A BANG



Pictures: Paul Haley

▼ Some of the stark results in armour plating. ▲ WO 2 Bob Flynn with 105mm tank round.



Lt-Col John Nicholls, Superintendent at Eskmeals.

THE HEAVY CALIBRE guns of the Proof and Experimental Establishment at Eskmeals, a former smugglers' haunt at the mouth of a Cumbrian estuary on the edge of the Lake District, must have lobbed thousands upon thousands of shells half way to the Isle of Man and into the Irish Sea since the First World War.

Before that, it was the testing arena of mighty guns which bellowed across the gun-proving range started by Messrs Vickers, Son and Maxim of Barrow in 1897 when a single battery fired into a sand-filled butt.

And even earlier than that, the Romans used to fire their weapons at the port of Glanaventa (now Ravenglass) built by them to serve their garrisons in 1500 BC. They were only Bronze Age flint-headed arrows but the HQ building of the isolated P and EE outpost has a showcase with some in just to prove it.

The Eskmeals organisation, which has the village of Ravenglass well within the range of its closed-circuit TV cameras as it sweeps the sandy littoral, is one of five P and EE set-ups. The others are at Shoeburyness, Pendine, Inchterf and Lavington.

Eskmeals' role is to carry out trials and proof for Research and Development establishments, the Ordnance Board, Quality Assurance Directorates for the Army and Navy, Royal Ordnance Factories and other civilian and military agencies.

The range stretches three kilometres along the coast and is one kilometre at its widest point.

It has road and rail access linked with internal arteries and ten miles of diesel locomotive operated rail track. In addition, there are 22 permanent Observation Posts spread out along the often-inhospitable shore which plot accurate cross-observation of Fall of Shot and Heights of Burst.

Superintendent at Eskmeals is Lieutenant-Colonel John Nicholls, RA, who has held the post since August 1977 and heads 11 Army personnel — all gunners — including four serving officers and seven warrant officers with the support of 325 civilians.

Within the complex, halfway between Barrow and Whitehaven, is also a Property Services Agency depot, meteorological section and the small railway operating section.

"Eskmeals is primarily what we would call a heavy calibre range being more involved with 76mm calibres upwards," said Lt-Col Nicholls. "We fire somewhere in the region of 25,000 rounds a year. Our sea area — the largest of the five Establishments — is covered by a radar out to 40,000 metres or about half way to the Isle of Man, over an arc of 107 degrees.

"There are no sea lanes but an increasing number of fishermen and yachtsmen seriously interrupt the firings each year, especially in the summer. We have a range boat loaned by the Royal Corps of Transport and based at Whitehaven which invites them to move but we have, as yet, no legal powers. Close inshore fishing creates the major problem but we've had no incidents yet when we fire daily from 0830 to 1530.

"A series of by-laws are currently being initiated which will give us range rights over a sea area out to a radius of three miles.

These are in the process of being negotiated."

The range, 12 miles north of Millom and said to be off the tourist track, owns and has firing rights over land flanking its boundary. It also owns two housing estates with ten quarters for the military and another 42 civilian houses for range employees.

Eskmeals also has 13 batteries most of which fire out to sea — two-thirds of the rounds being inert — from the southern extremity. High Explosives are only fired from the northern end, safety always in mind.

Lt-Col Nicholls explained: "Generally speaking, the range fires up to four batteries on any one day. Most of these batteries are specific to certain types of proof or trial. Safety distances overlap in a number of cases putting neighbouring batteries under cover.

"Most batteries have the necessary support buildings for observation, ammunition, including charge adjustment, heating chambers, maintenance and instrument rooms. There is an extensive and modernised magazine area with centrally controlled freezing vans.

"The military staff are responsible for

writing the trial details, carrying out the trial in accordance with the trial request, collating the results, writing the trials report and for all aspects of safety.

"The 300 civilians are responsible for instrumentation, photography, all aspects of ammunition, repair and maintenance of all equipment in the workshops, the design and manufacture of special items, the manning of the guns plus the clerical and administrative tasks."

The differences between proofs and trials at Eskmeals are worth noting.

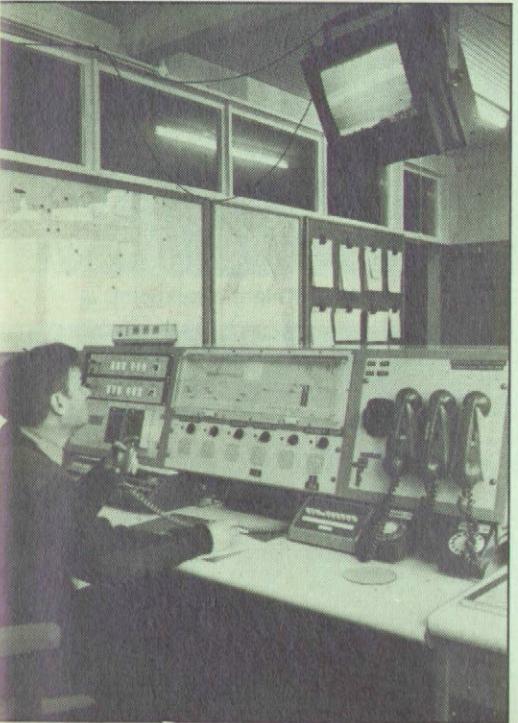
Proof is the testing by firing of items of equipment or samples of ammunition from the Royal Ordnance Factories before acceptance into Army, Naval or Royal Air Force service ensuring that they are safe to be fired under service conditions and operate within service specifications.

Trials are specific requests by Establishments like RARDE — Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment — on current or future equipment using instrumentation such as shell-tracking radar to get trajectory data and fuse timing, high-speed photography at up to 20,000 frames per-second for studying events and flash X-ray for behind-armour scrutiny.

Lt-Col Nicholls pointed out: "We have the only two shell-tracking radars in the UK. They are capable of following the rounds from their muzzle exits to very near their splash-down areas. They are two old RAF radars — resurrected for Bloodhound in 1960 — but modernised. They do their job more than adequately linked to on-line automatic data processing equipment to produce complete trajectory information from the various types of projectiles."

"We also measure velocities of projectiles and fragments, spin, yaw, fuse delay, chamber pressures and even fragment temperature — normally extremely hot. In fact, we can measure practically anything."

Although Eskmeals is capable of carrying out most proof and experimental firings it does specialise in certain aspects of this work. It is concerned in particular with range and accuracy firings from which Fir-



◀ WO 1 (MG) Mick Vaughan checks the TV monitors.

WO 2 (SMIG) Jeff Harrison presses remote firing button.

As it was in 1902. Vickers 6-inch naval gun. ▶

ing Tables and FACE computer tapes are compiled, long-range fuse functioning and plating trials where the effect of armour piercing weapons — such as the KE or Kinetic Energy round — are carried out.

Activity in the estuary is monitored on a couple of closed-circuit TV screens which enable the movements of fishermen or yachtsmen to be watched from a very long range.

Ironically, amid the resounding, earth-shaking bangs, the wild-life of the area feels more secure.

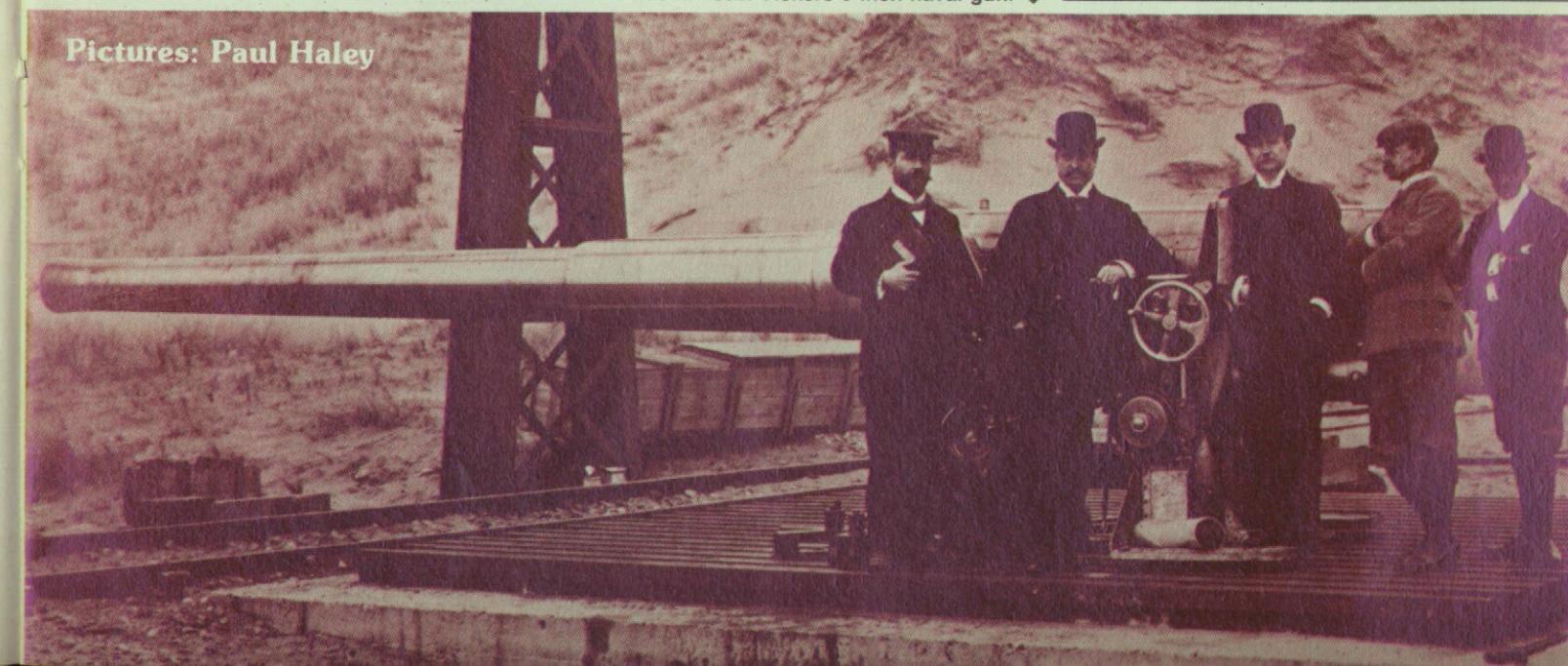
For the users of Eskmeals are very conscious of the need to preserve and protect the resident fauna and flora.

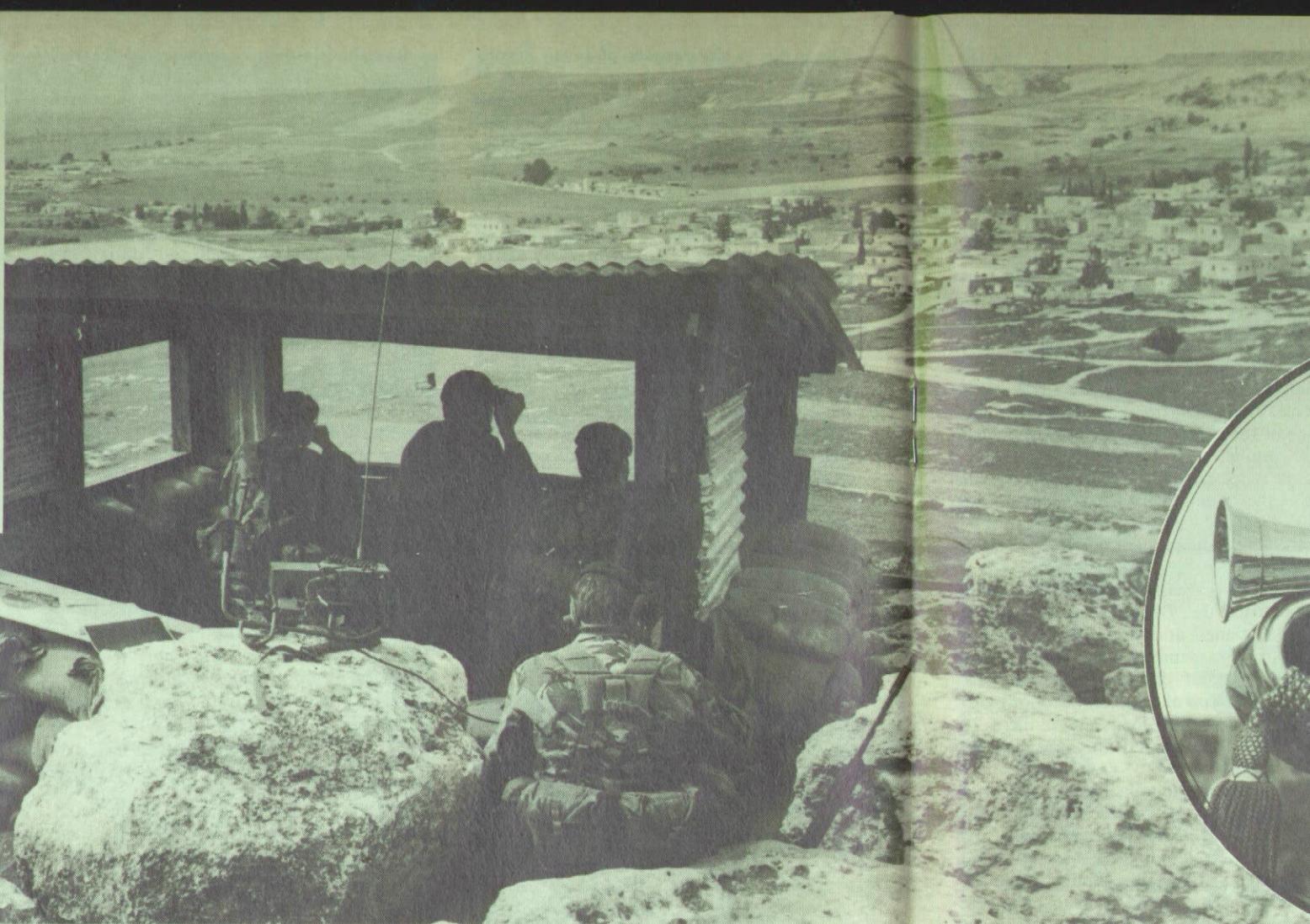
"They feel safer here than outside where they are vulnerable to poachers and hunters with dogs," observed Lt-Col Nicholls. "We have about a dozen roe deer here, abundant butterflies and probably the second largest collection of Natterjack Toads in the UK. On this, we are hopeful of going to the top of the league in the 1980s."

He added, with a grin: "If you thought counting sheep was difficult, while awake, try counting the Natterjacks — if you can get them to stand still!"



Pictures: Paul Haley

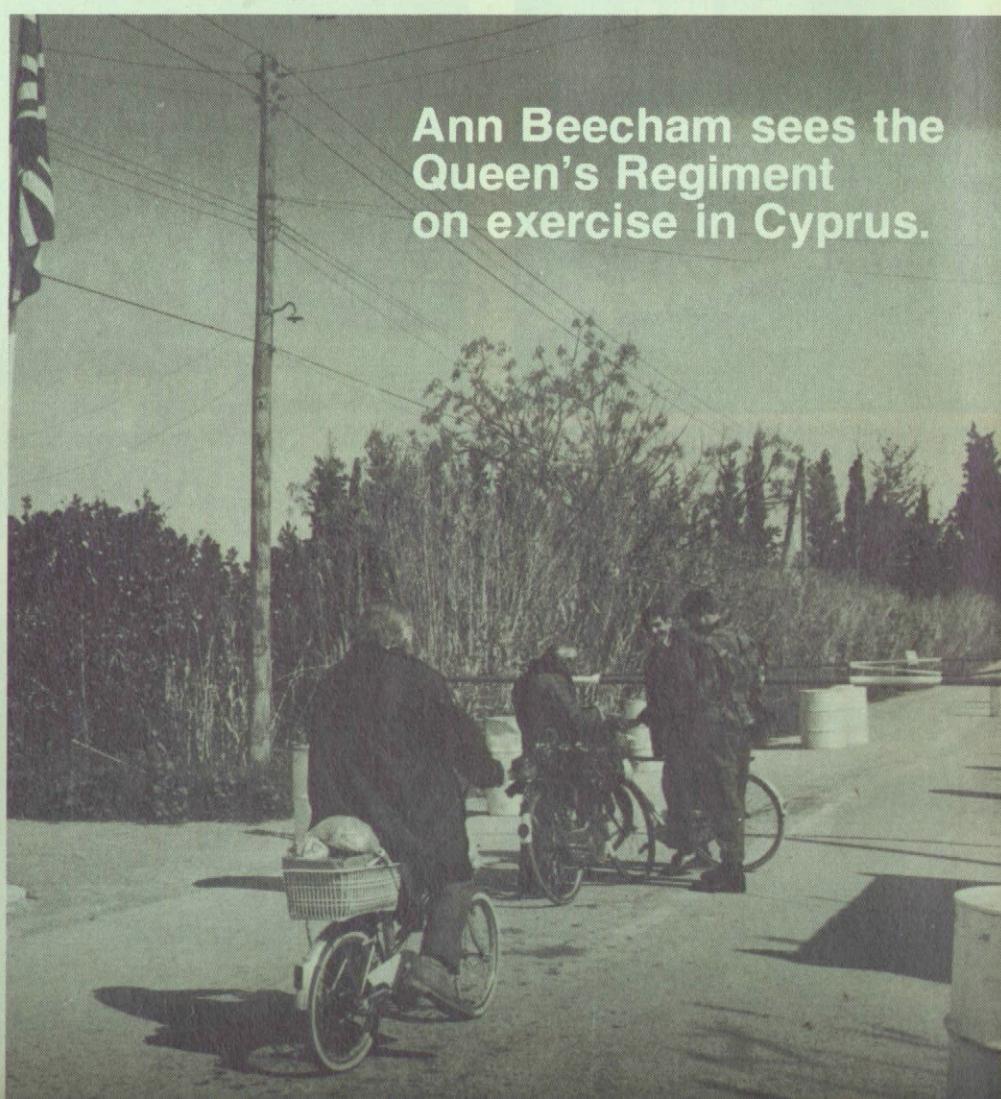
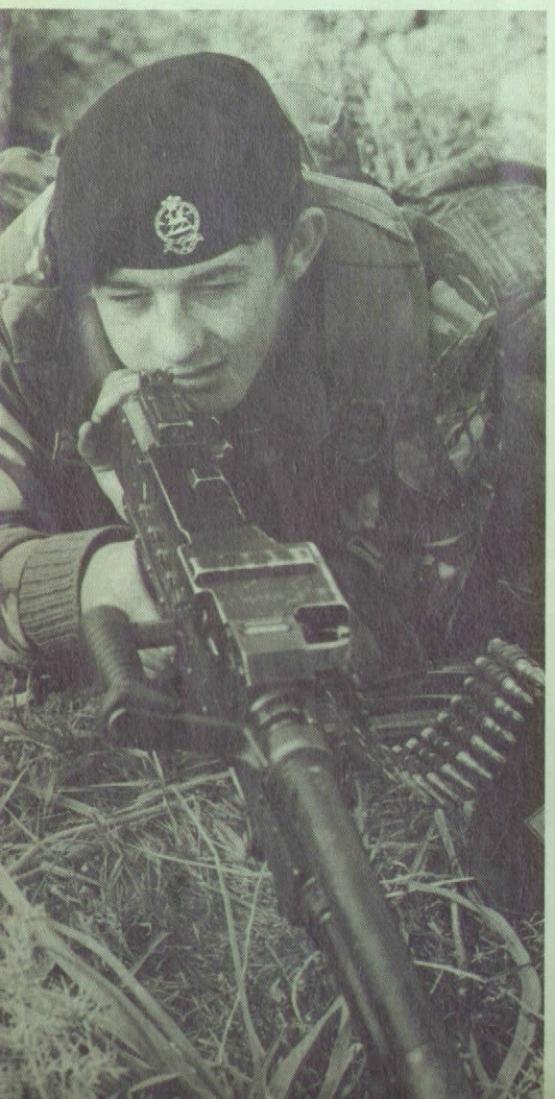




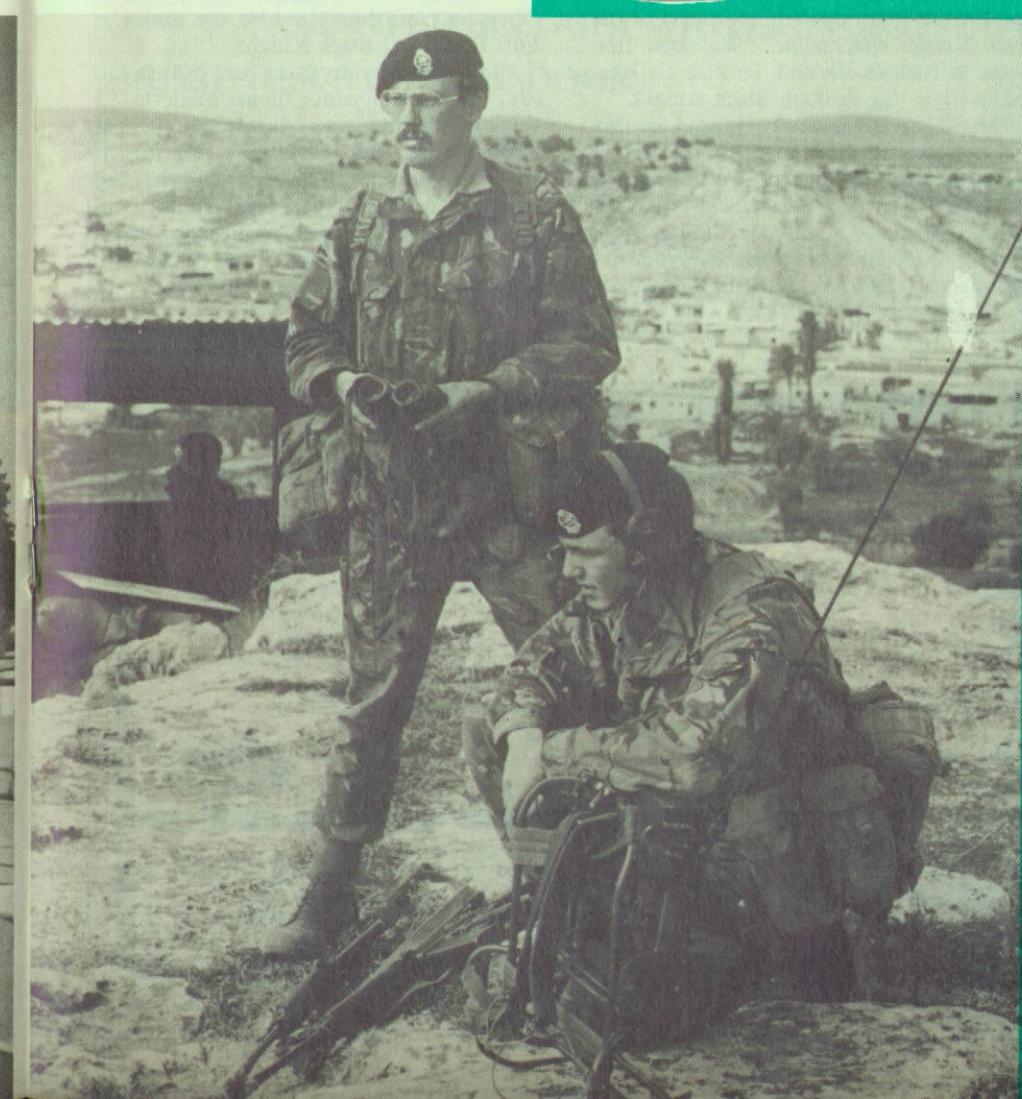
Pte Earl Andrews with GPMG. ▼

Glenelg OP overlooks Pyla village. ▲

Local traffic at Black Knight checkpoint. ▼



**Ann Beecham sees the Queen's Regiment on exercise in Cyprus.**



# IN CASE OF EMERGENCY -SOUND THE BUGLE CALL

IT MAY HAVE seemed rather low key in comparison with that great-grandaddy of all bugle calls, the one that had such a dramatic effect on the walls of Jericho, but Exercise Bugle Call II was every bit as successful.

The exercise had been designed to test the operational role of the Dhekelia detachment in Cyprus and to give the men practical experience of the problems they could face in the event of an emergency.

Twice a year a new battalion flies out to Cyprus on a six-month unaccompanied tour. The battalion commanding officer, about half his staff and two of the four companies continue on to Camp David, where they take over United Nations duties in the UK part of the UN border, east of Nicosia.

The second-in-command of the battalion assumes the role of internal security commander with the other two companies, based at Alexander Barracks in Dhekelia, until the mid-point of the tour when the companies switch roles and change locations, thus giving most of the battalion the chance to gain United Nations experience — and the medal to prove it.

The present incumbents are 2nd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, who have been in Cyprus since November last year, and the detachment in Dhekelia is under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Roddy Melotte. He is responsible for the internal security of the Eastern Sovereign Base Area (ESBA) and is in turn responsible to Headquarters, Land Forces Cyprus.

Augmenting the two companies are two troops of ferret scout cars of the 13th/18th Royal Hussars and a company from the island's resident battalion — 3rd Battalion, The Light Infantry, based in Episkopi — who come for three weeks at a time.

This is the first time that the full comple-

**Pictures: Doug Pratt**

▲ Ptes Gordon Thomas and Dave Burge on lookout.

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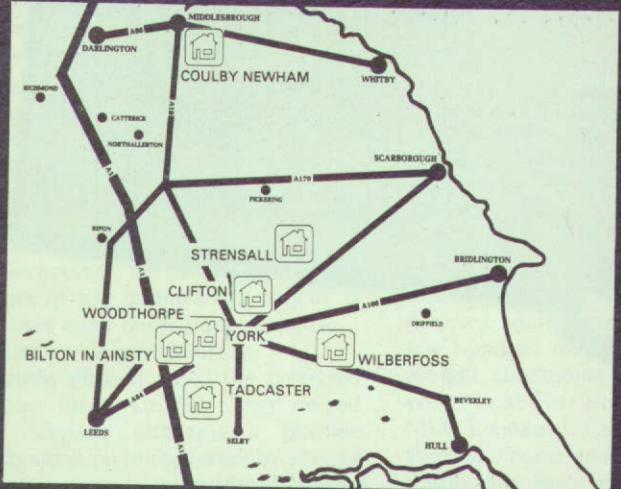
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A new seaside attraction opens in Sussex this month . . .

# FORT WITH A FACELIFT



Flying a new flag at the cliff-top fort. ▲

Fort Newhaven's main entrance and ▶ coastal sweep.

**N**OWADAYS, BRITAIN is all for closer ties with the French even to the extent of a Channel Tunnel linking island and mainland. But in the 1860s it was just the opposite when 72 coastal forts were built by order of Lord Palmerston to protect us from an invasion by the French.

One of these cliff-top forts is the ten-acre complex at Newhaven, nine miles west of Brighton, which houses the biggest fortifications of the type in Sussex. Rescued from the ignominy of vandalised dereliction it will be opened officially to the public by General Sir Harry Tuzo, Master Gunner St James's Park, on April 7.

Careful restoration of the site has been master-minded by a firm called Fort (Newhaven) Ltd. Lewes District Council have also put in £100,000 towards the scheme with added support from the Department of the Environment and other agencies.

Features will include the country's only coastal artillery museum, a central gun emplacement, living quarters, magazine store rooms, one of the last war's coastal defence guns (a six-inch BL Mk 7) and even a pub!

The firm's publicity and tourism promotions officer, Mr Miles Wilson, a former

presenter with Radio Caroline aboard the *Amigo* in the North Sea, told SOLDIER: "Here we are creating a fort experience through large panel graphics and an audio visual presentation. We also have a more specialised show available for educational parties.

"The underground rooms are devoted to the building of the fort from 1864 to 1870 — its construction and the relationship between the builders and the townspeople — the invasion threat of World War Two showing the Home Guard and the proposed German invasion (Operation Sea Lion) plus the Allied commando raid on Dieppe in August 1942."

Other features of the fort incorporate a central parade ground with perimeter casements giving quarters for the officers and men, underground passages and rooms, surrounding ramparts with gun emplacements on the seaward side and a moat on the landward side.

From its completion in 1870 to the outbreak of World War One it was used as a training base and garrison. At the turn of the century new artillery was installed and during the last war the armaments were updated and additional guns added.

In 1956 the coastal artillery defences were disbanded — the guns sold for scrap — and in 1962 it was handed over to the local council before being leased to a development company who built flats on the lower slopes. The fort was empty and deteriorated due to vandalism.

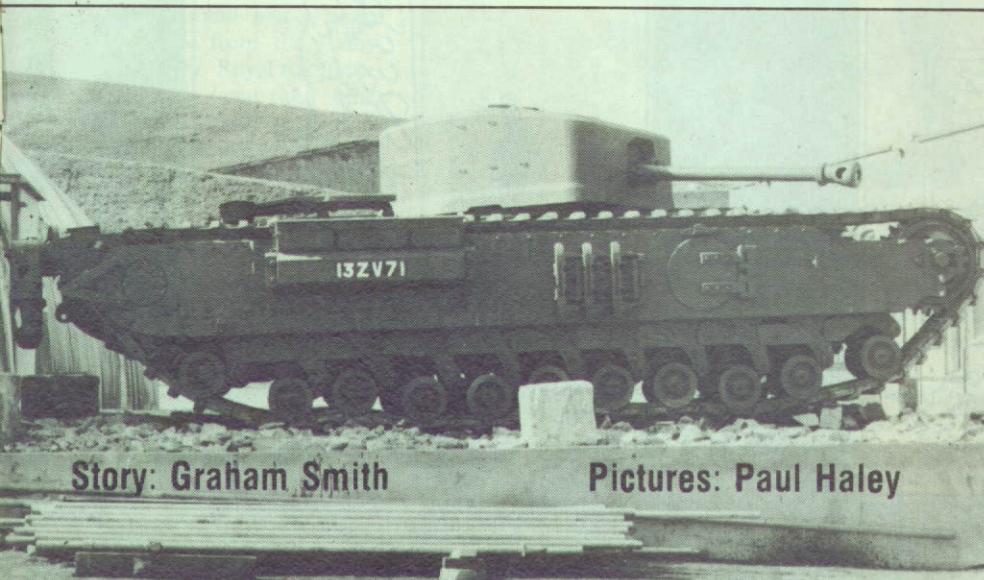
Restoration work started in April 1981 and will go on for some years with the whole project expected to cost up to £1 million. The first stage has so far cost £350,000 and the East Sussex County Council is making a loan of £40,000 towards setting up the museum complex.

Other facilities on offer include those for craft workers, amusements, a restaurant and café, a gift shop and the pub, named after the fort's designer, Major General Ardash.

Regraded and grassed ramparts will provide picnic areas, the parade ground will accommodate a children's play area and there will be a display of military vehicles. Already in position is a 'Crocodile', the flame-throwing version of the Churchill tank similar to the type used on the Dieppe Raid.

Ironically, not one shot was ever fired in anger from the fort during its days in the defence of the realm, although a practice shell is said to have come close to sinking an incoming cross-Channel ferry.

Today's French invaders are sleek Mirage jet fighters from L'Armée de l'Air whose 'day trips' involve 'beating up' the Fort and the Downs flanking it before streaking back across La Manche to their bases. ■



Story: Graham Smith

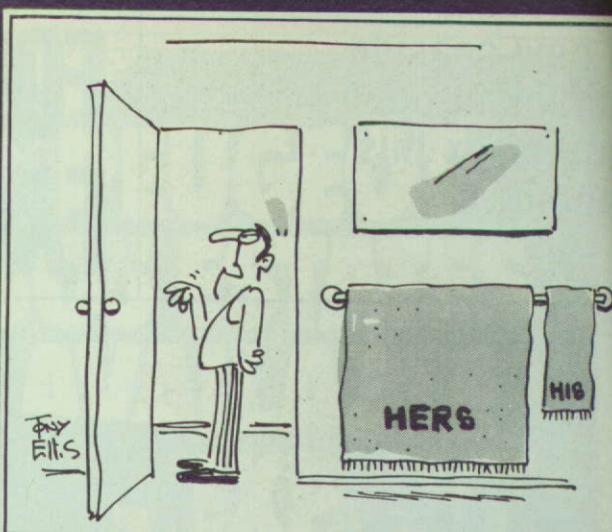
Pictures: Paul Haley

Entrance to the Fort will be free and it will be open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. But special events and entry to the Museum do carry an admission charge. Further information can be obtained from Miles Wilson, The Fort, Newhaven, Sussex BN9 9DL. Tel: 07912 3600.

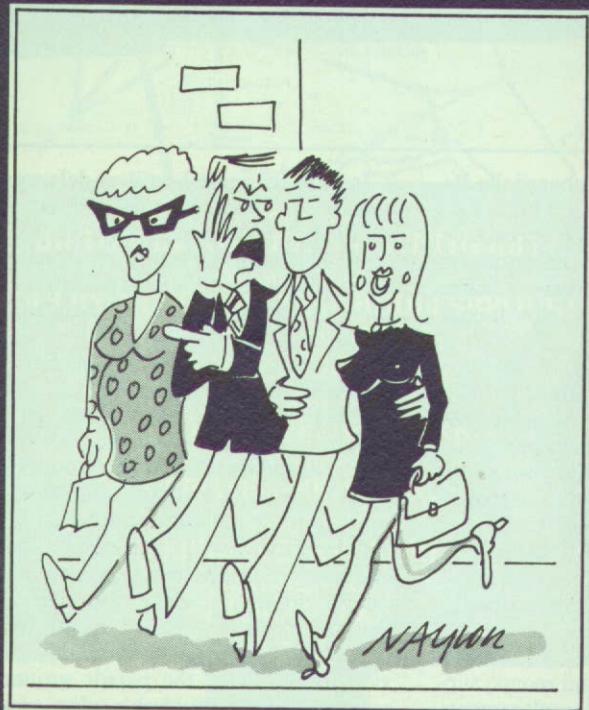
◀ Churchill tank exhibit  
— Crocodile flame thrower version.



"Let's hope we don't evolve into that!"



"... And another thing — you're not the slim, delicate creature I married five years ago."



"When you said mine would be wearing something 'see-through', I didn't think you meant glasses!"

# Humour



"I envy you being in the Army — avoiding the world's trouble spots!"



"We've got to write a poem about our parents. What rhymes with 'incompatible'?"

# A look at an exclusive martial arts club

## GETTING IN CLOSE



◀ Girls practise unarmed combat skills.

CLOSE QUARTER BATTLE bayonet fencing, apparently, was the only martial art to be taken to Japan. That was one hundred years ago — thanks to the British and in particular, the Royal Marines.

Today it has a limited but select following in the UK, practised by a civilian club with an almost total military membership which yearns for official Army recognition.

Known as the Combat Training Team club it boasts a roll-call of 120 members — including 77 from the Army in the UK and BAOR — plus the bony, academically-biased Igor the Silent One.

Special masks, gauntlets and padded suit tops (rather like strait jackets) are essential wear for the thrust and parry of bayonet fencing. The actual bayonets are 70-year-old rifle types which incorporate button-topped, 18-inch spring-loaded plungers that recede on physical contact.

Men — and half a dozen women — from the Army, Royal Navy, Royal Air Force, Territorial Army and other reservists all take part in the close quarter battle weekends which are held from time to time at units kindly offering to host them.

The club is not officially recognised by the Army but would like to be. Their unarmed combat techniques are based on ju-jitsu but with military applications.

The club's training director is 28-year-old James Shortt a medical journalist and a former TA soldier.

He is a martial arts instructor at a Croydon club and began his association with the Combat Training Team in 1975.

"More and more servicemen wanted to get involved with the training team on an individual basis and they come here off their own bat, in their own time and at their own expense," he explained.

"You cannot constitute bayonet fighting as violent. There is no way you can use bayonet fighting on the street. It's a perfectly healthy, non-political pastime. Our

members do not wear badges of rank or unit insignia. I feel the training is filling a need and doing its job.

He added: "The Army has its own system but we have nothing to do with that. Theirs is Internal Security (IS), ours is a variation and would have an external security use in a warfare role. We teach people the principles here, to speak a language if you like instead of sheer phrases, of the martial arts with a cadre approach which means they would be able to teach others.

"It's not a cowboy club and we don't take just anybody. Everyone is scrutinised with instructors passing among them. The vetting is stiff and if somebody is not suited he just doesn't attend any more sessions. We're not running a school for super heroes where you could damage yourself. The secret is not to flap your arms about but to consolidate your position."

And what about Igor the Silent One?

He is the £300 skeleton bought by the club from a medical suppliers who acts as a static classroom for pointers on the strategic points of the human body.

Aspirants in the UK who are interested in getting in close to the arts of bayonet fencing and other combat skills should get in touch with Mr James Shortt, Training Director, 486 Brighton Road, South Croydon CR2 6AP, enclosing, of course, a stamped addressed envelope.

For those in BAOR who are interested, stamped addressed envelopes should be sent to Staff Sergeant George Burroughs, Plant Troop, 44 Fd Sp Sqn, RE, 35 Engineer Regiment, BFPO 31.



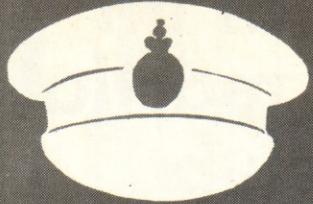
All padded up for bayonet fencing.

members pay £12.50 and we feed and accommodate them at weekends. At Deal, for instance, they slept in the gym.

"We started training in track, judo and karate suits but these tore and it became expensive. Now we use combat kit. The boots give a better foothold and our mem-

**Story: Graham Smith**

**Pictures: Les Wiggs**



## Your Cap Badge

No 13

### 14th/20th KING'S HUSSARS

UNDER ARMY ORDER 319 of 1921 the 20th Hussars were ordered to disband, but owing to considerable opposition this was avoided. The following year saw a reconstituted regiment amalgamated with the 14th King's Hussars to form the 14th/20th Hussars.

The Prussian Eagle badge was restored to the combined regiment in 1931 having been replaced by a more acceptable design during the conflict of 1914-18. It is currently worn in a blackened painted anodised version, with the coronet, orb and sceptre showing gold anodised. The 14th were raised in 1715 as Dragoons, usually

known by the name of their Colonel but numbered as 14th Light Dragoons 61 years later. In 1798 the appellation 'Duchess of York's Own' was granted to the regiment and the association with the Prussian Eagle began.

In 1830 the title was again altered and for the first time they became 'The King's'. Their change in role from Light Dragoons to Hussars in 1861 brought about the title that persisted until 1920, that of '14th King's Hussars'. Their record of service especially in the Peninsula, the Punjab, Central India, South Africa and the two World Wars is shown in some small measure on their Standard but is not reflected in any of their cap badges. The curious tradition upon certain occasions in the Officers' mess of drinking from a solid silver chamberpot — part of the booty taken from the coach of Napoleon's brother Joseph — is worthy of note.

The first cap badge, worn from 1898 was 'On an oval, the Prussian Eagle, below this the wording '14th King's Hussars'. The Eagle in white metal, remainder in gilding metal'. Being morally and politically unacceptable when Britain was at war with the Central Powers this pattern was replaced in 1915 by a truly British design. "Within the Garter the Royal Crest, below the Garter a scroll inscribed '14th The King's Hussars'. In gilding metal". The



larger size was not too popular and in turn was superseded by a smaller version of the same design which came in two types, one voided, the other non-voided. The same design, but with the scroll altered to read '14th/20th Hussars' was worn from 1922 until 1931 when the Eagle was restored. Finally, in 1936, they added 'King's' to their title, the name by which they are known today.

The 20th Hussars, formed in 1759, have had a chequered existence being disbanded

three times in a century. Starting as the 20th Inniskilling Light Dragoons, they were associated with Jamaica as the 20th Jamaica Light Dragoons, with India as the 2nd Bengal European Light Cavalry and finally as the 20th Hussars, a title granted in 1861. Their cap badge from 1898 was the letter 'H' surmounted by a flat topped Victorian crown with the Roman numeral 'X' on either side, in gilding metal. The Imperial crown replaced the former until the merger.

Next issue: 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars

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THE FIRST SIX rows of the stalls at the Highwater Theatre on the occasion of the first night of *The Sea is Rough* had only two empty seats. The critic of the Evening Snoop had failed, for some reason, to put in an appearance: the critic of the Daily Scoop was absent owing to sudden illness.

The rows of seats, reading from front to rear, were labelled A, B, C, D, E and F and each row, except A, seated two more persons than the row immediately in front of it.

The total value of the seats in Row E was £25 more than the total value of the seats in Row F; in Row D the total value of the seats was £23 more than Row E; of Row C £61.50 more than Row D; of Row B £69.50 more than Row C and of Row A only £1 more than Row B.

If all the seats in the six rows had been occupied the total amount of money taken for these seats would have been £1261.50 but, owing to the absence of the two critics, the actual amount taken fell short of this total by £10.

If the first six rows of the stalls had seating accommodation for 330, in which row, or rows, would the two critics have been sitting? (There were no complimentary tickets for the show.)

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 7 May. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 31 May. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 289' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or pre-paid labels will be disqualified. Send your answers by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 289' label from this page and your name and address to Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

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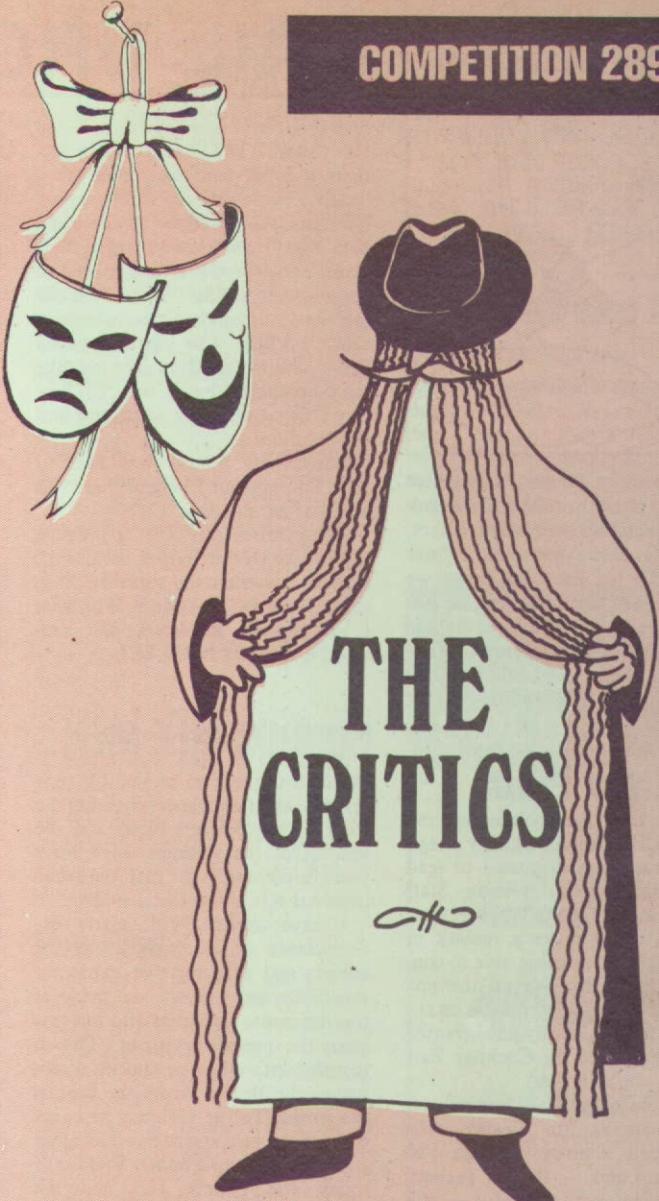
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# MAIL DROP

## LAST CHARGE

I read with interest the article on the British Cavalry charge at El Maghar and also Major Thomas' letter in which he also mentions the charge at Huj (8 Feb and 8 Mar).

First, the books I have referred to on the subject state quite clearly that the Huj charge took place on 8 November 1917 and not, as Major Thomas states in 1918.

Secondly, I have now been able to trace a possible record of the last charge carried out by the British Army. I quote from issue no 6 of War Monthly:

The gunners were 'On Target', the OP officer was off target because he forgot to instruct the signaller 'Stop firing, practice!' — Mr E Williams, Lords Lane, Bradwell, Gt Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 8PA.

Got something to say, a point to make or a story to tell? This is your page to exchange your news, views, comments and opinions. We're offering £5 for the best letter we publish every fortnight. All we ask is that you keep it brief and include your full name and address. Write to: Mail Drop, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

## COCKNEY PRIDE

Being an East End soldier serving with the Household Cavalry Regiment I was quite disgusted to read that commissionaire veteran Staff Sergeant Major George Weaver, aged 74 years, could make a remark in your magazine "as being able to converse with intellectuals on the one hand, and East End scrubbers on the other" which is a totally unwarranted statement against the Cockney East London people (8 Feb).

There are many East Enders, not as fortunate as Mr Weaver, who served their country through two world wars and — though perhaps Mr Weaver doesn't realise it — still do serve their country today!

They are very proud of being a little bit of England's heritage, although our speech/rhyming slang may be offensive to others.

Remember East End Dock London of years ago? People respected the East Ender because of the docks.

— L/COH S Henry, Household Cavalry Regt, Hyde Park Bks, Knightsbridge, London, SW7 1SE.

A fiver for you, Corporal Henry, for your spirited defence of London's East End. — Ed

## OFF TARGET

I was especially interested in the front cover story of the February issue of SOLDIER with Gunners on Target. It brought back a vivid story of a bit of gunnery practice in India in 1944.

Trained as a signaller I was posted to a Field Regt in India. One duty of signallers then was to man the ten line exchange in the Battery Office. It was my turn and things were quiet so a heated discussion on the merits of Adolf Hitler was in full swing with the BSM, Battery Office NCO and myself. Suddenly there were two extremely loud cracks followed by a sort of wobbling whistle and then two distinct explosions quite near. The three of us were momentarily silent, then "What the hell was that?" shouted the BSM running outside.

The Battery that had been on a

'live shoot' was now returning — the shoot over. The OP officer then secured a good position, called for a 'crash action', ordered right ranging (two guns) followed by all the usual data to get these guns on target. This completed, the OP officer turned to his assistant saying "If this was for real we would hit the Officers mess in camp." FIRE. The signaller called fire — and so they did, right over the tented regimental area, over the Battery Office (where we were) and into the ablutions.

Fortunately no-one was near or were injured, but I believe there was a hell of an inquest!

The gunners were 'On Target', the OP officer was off target because he forgot to instruct the signaller 'Stop firing, practice!' — Mr E Williams, Lords Lane, Bradwell, Gt Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 8PA.

## HONOURABLE MEN

My own impression of the TV programme and newspapers covering the story of the Salerno battle and the sadness of the veterans some forty years afterwards, is that everyone involved was an excellent soldier.

I have spoken with many ex-Servicemen of all types about the subject and all agree that, whatever the rights and wrongs, the pride of the regiment, traditions and history, were the prevailing issues. This is instilled into all of us and no doubt makes the British Army the best in the world. To the regiment or corps we give our best and to be taken away is similar to leaving home. Soldiers of today still believe this and the Brigade of Guards thrive on it.

Let us support those veterans in regaining their honour after punishment and forty years of suffering. Their campaign medals, their awards for bravery and their pride for being veterans in North Africa, before Italy, should now be rightfully theirs.

— A R Blake MM, 24 New House Lane, Northfleet, Kent, DA11 7JW.

## HOW NOW . . .

I write on behalf of various members of the Directing Staff of the Lieutenants' Greenwich Course, who being avid followers of your 'How Observant Are You?' feature, find themselves this fortnight (8-21 Mar) somewhat confused.

Whilst being aficionados of sea horses and mermaids, we had long believed that cows had four legs and other appendages. Imagine our surprise when we learned on turning to page 37 that the 'right cow's tail' was the tenth variation between the two pictures. This can only lead us to deduce that cows have a roof, two chimney pots and a window; this may, of course, be the reason why our local milkman is looking so strained these days! — The Directing staff, Lieutenants' Greenwich Course, Royal Naval College, Greenwich, London, SE10 9NN.

Apologies for the blunder. We'll try and be more observant in future. — Ed

## MARATHON

Once again we are holding our annual 24 hour sponsored marathon walk at Mote Park, Maidstone, Kent, on the 10th and 11th July, 1982.

This event is proving increasingly popular with Army units throughout the South East District, and in 1981 nearly 300 walkers took part, raising over £6000 in sponsorship. This money goes directly to providing

grants to finance medical research into all kinds of crippling diseases, especially those affecting children, and many Service personnel use the walk not only as a useful and enjoyable test of their own physical stamina, but also as a means of raising money for those less fortunate.

The response to the letter was very good and many fascinating letters were received, some from as far afield as the USA. Also, some most generous gifts were received including books and cassettes.

Anyone is welcome to take part. And since the walk coincides with the World Cup final, we shall be offering TV viewing facilities both at the start and the half-way checkpoints for those who wish to view matches.

Further information and sponsor forms can be obtained from Mrs Jane George, Action Research, 63 Dumpton Park Drive, Ramsgate, Kent.

## MINI MEDAL

I agree with John Crowley's suggestion of a suitable small medal and ribbon taking the place of the Silver War badge.

Perhaps I could make a helpful suggestion on this matter, which would cut expense for the authorities. That is, for those of us who hold the badge to be granted permission to remove the stud at the back and have a small bar fitted to allow a miniature size ribbon to be passed through. This could be done by any silversmith or medallist at very little cost if the authorities would supply a suitable ribbon.

Thus the rather drab badge could be turned into an attractive medal. — J J Stokes, Flat 13b, Common Way, Stoke Heath, Coventry, CV2 3JA.

## HELPING HAND

I would like to use your columns to publicise the work of the Officers' Association.

Our aim is to inform serving officers of the help we can give when they come to seek civilian employment; also through both serving and retired officers, that ex-officers and their widows and dependants who are in distress may hear how to apply to the Association for help.

It is our experience that many elderly ex-officers or officers' widows who are desperately in need of financial assistance, or help and advice concerning disability pensions or other claims, or are no longer able to run their own homes and need help in finding places in suitable residential homes for the elderly (or in convalescent homes), do not know where to turn for help. It is our hope that if serving officers and those retired officers who read journals such as yours are well informed, they will be able to bring the Officers' Association to the notice of those who they meet or hear of, who are less fortunate than themselves. — Maj-Gen M Janes CB MBE, The Officers' Association, 48 Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5JY.

**SEE-THE-ARMY DIARY**  
returns next issue

## Can You Help?

This time last year I asked readers for any information they may have concerning the words that Servicemen, down through the ages, have been associating with the routine bugle and trumpet calls.

The response to the letter was very good and many fascinating letters were received, some from as far afield as the USA. Also, some most generous gifts were received including books and cassettes.

However, it was disappointing in so far as not one reply was received from a cavalry man, or ex-cavalry man! Surely they put words to their trumpet calls?

Although I had one or two most interesting letters from some ex-RN members, there was not one from the RAF!

I'd still appreciate letters on this subject, and promise to answer all letters and refund postage. — S D Stone, 20 Buckingham Road, Petersfield, Hants, GU32 3AZ.

Can anyone assist me in finding a copy of the book *Bugle and Trumpet Calls of the British Army* which I believe is now out of print? — Peter R Moore, 63 The Crescent, Midland 6056, Western Australia.

I wonder if any readers can inform me if there is any association for ex-Military College of Science, Woolwich personnel. There is one other ex-boy here with me, namely Bob Ashworth of 37B, whilst I was in the team of 38A. Should there be any reunions I would like to fit one in with one of my infrequent visits home, so any information would be appreciated. — R Johnson, 20 Ilanda Road, Athlone Park, Umbogintwini 4125, South Africa.

32 Regt RA Sgt's Mess are holding a reunion on Saturday 30th October 1982. The reunion is for ex-members of the mess and their ladies. Some accommodation is available. Further details from: WO2 RQMS Dufall, 32 GW Regt RA, Wing Bks, Bulford Camp, Salisbury, Wilts.

Trucial Oman Scouts. Former members of TLS who are interested in reunion, pass the word and write to: J A Fuke, 2 Vine Gardens, Sevenoaks, Kent.

The Light Infantry Regimental Association (Somerset) annual reunion will be held at the Royal British Legion Club, Street, Somerset on Saturday 15th May 1982 at 8pm. Details from the Regimental Secretary, 14 Mount St, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 3QE.

I am at the moment researching for a new book and would like to establish contact with a Sergeant-Major Edwin Austin who served with the 2nd Army Defence Company in Germany during the latter part of WWII. He, together with a Captain Tom Selvester — in command of 031 Civilian Interrogation Camp based near Lüneburg — was responsible for guarding and interrogating Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler.

King's Royal Rifle Corps Annual Reunion is on Cup Final night, 22nd May 1982. New members welcome. Further details from R Frost, KRRC Association, 77 Crescent Drive, Petts Wood, Kent.

Also I should like to make contact with anyone who witnessed the surrender of the German forces at Lüneburg Heath on 4th May 1945. — Derek E Johnson, Pennyfarthing Antiques, 75a Old Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, CO15 1HW.

## Tank Museum

Following a period of Sunday closure, The Tank Museum, Bovington Camp, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 6JG is open on Sundays again, at least until the end of the holiday season.

## New Addresses

Home HQ, 14th/20th King's Hussars, Fulwood Bks, Fulwood, Preston, Lancs, PR2 4AA. Telephone: Army Preston Military/GPO (0772) 716543 ext 310.

Director, France Area, Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Rue Angele Richard, Beaureains, 62012 Arras, Cedex, France.

## Polish Visit

Ex-POWs will be interested to know that a final pilgrimage to Stalag areas in Poland is being arranged for August/September 1982. All known POW graves will be visited and we will also pay tribute at various Polish memorials including the Warsaw Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Wives and other relatives are welcome. Further details: F E Walter (ex-Stalag VIIIB), 48 Essendene Road, Caterham, Surrey, CR3 5PA.

## Reunions

'Fiddlers Club'. With kind permission of the Commandant, The Royal School of Artillery, the annual reunion of pre-1939 Trumpeters Royal Artillery, will be held on the 23/24 July 1982 in the RA Mess. Further information from: Major J J Dobbs, 5 Glynwood, Portsmouth Road, Camberley, Surrey.

32 Regt RA Sgt's Mess are holding a reunion on Saturday 30th October 1982. The reunion is for ex-members of the mess and their ladies. Some accommodation is available. Further details from: WO2 RQMS Dufall, 32 GW Regt RA, Wing Bks, Bulford Camp, Salisbury, Wilts.

My name is Ruth and I am 19 years old, 5ft 4ins with dark hair and blue eyes. I like all sorts of music and am interested in CB radio. — Ruth Wheatley, 60 St Osyth Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex.

My name is George. I am 22 years old, 5ft 9ins tall with fair hair and blue eyes. My hobby is just enjoying myself. — L/Cpl G Bodiam, Army Dog Unit RAVC, Shackleton Bks, BFPO 802.

My name is Helen and I am a 17 year old student. I enjoy all sports, music, discos, cinema, travelling. I would like to write to a soldier stationed in West Germany, Northern Ireland or Britain. — Miss H Morris, 260 Peniel Green Road, Llansamlet, Swansea, SA7 9BR.

## Competition

There was a disappointing number of entries for our Competition No 285, Knights in Armour (8 Feb). And there's not much to say about the results either except some of you tried to get away with equipment which does not really come under the generic heading of 'tanks'. Self-propelled guns do not count — sorry!

We do accept some responsibility, however, for some ambiguity in the text which we'll do our best to avoid in future. The names of the tanks we were looking for were Matilda (British), Lee (American), and Tiger (German). Prizewinners were: 1st Mr N F Bradley, Kintyre, Church Road, Lyde, Hereford HR1 3AB. 2nd Sgt Green, 608 Signal Troop, Ordnance Depot Viersen, BFPO 40. 3rd WO2 RJ White, c/o WO's and Sgts' Mess, 13 Signal Regt, BFPO 42. 4th Mrs P Sheppard, Kielbronogue, Ballydehob, Schull, Co Cork, Eire. 5th Sgt Law, LAD 1 Black Watch, BFPO 106.

(German). Prizewinners were: 1st Mr N F Bradley, Kintyre, Church Road, Lyde, Hereford HR1 3AB. 2nd Sgt Green, 608 Signal Troop, Ordnance Depot Viersen, BFPO 40. 3rd WO2 RJ White, c/o WO's and Sgts' Mess, 13 Signal Regt, BFPO 42. 4th Mrs P Sheppard, Kielbronogue, Ballydehob, Schull, Co Cork, Eire. 5th Sgt Law, LAD 1 Black Watch, BFPO 106.

## How Observant Are You? (See page 18)

1 Wing of lower right seagull; 2 Stern of small speedboat; 3 Rear wheel of right car; 4 Prow of K.3; 5 Right arm of man in K.5; 6 Height of K.5's foresail; 7 Pattern of Typhoon's flag; 8 Hair of man in Typhoon; 9 Left shoulder of girl in Typhoon; 10 Width of Typhoon's windscreens.

## In your next issue of SOLDIER . . .

### \* Bomb Disposal — Special Report

### \* Dropping in on the Red Devils

### \* The Great Gun Mystery

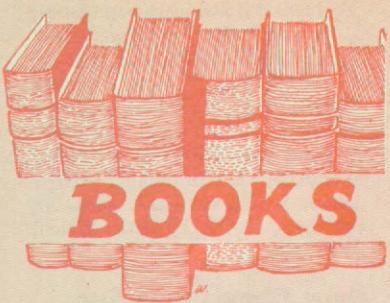
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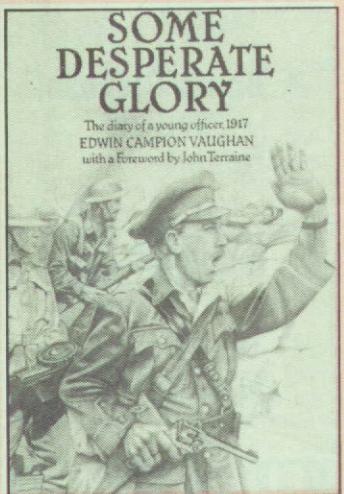
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## Some Desperate Glory: Edwin Campion Vaughan

Eight months of bitter fighting on the Western Front in 1917 are covered in this truly remarkable diary. Honest and revealing, it describes with a peculiarly moving frankness the day-to-day routine of trench warfare, the movement of troops up and down the line, and the soul-destroying horror of it all culminating in stark disillusionment for Captain Edwin Vaughan MC on the bloody battlefield of Ypres where of his original "happy little band" of 90 men only 15 survived.



Harrowing in the extreme are the entries covering the second half of August with descriptions of mud and death and the cheerful heroism of the soldiers who struggled on regardless. As the last officer left in his company, it was Vaughan who captured on August 27, under the most appalling conditions, the notorious Springfield pill-box. His portrayal of the utter desolation following the German counter-bombardment must surely rank as a masterpiece of descriptive writing. Here is a paragraph in his diary entry for that shattering day: ". . . a more terrible sound now reached my ears. From the darkness on all sides came the groans and wails of wounded men; faint, long, sobbing moans of agony, and despairing shrieks. It was too horribly obvious that dozens of men with serious wounds must have crawled for safety into new shell-holes, and now the water was rising about them and, powerless to move, they were slowly drowning . . . And we could do nothing to help them."

Heartrending and intensely honest, this diary is a deeply moving and poignant account of eight bitter months spent on the Western front in 1917.

A Leo Cooper book published by Frederick Warne Ltd, 40 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HE — £9.95 JFP

## Britain and the Cold War 1941-1947: Victor Rothwell; Defending the West: Winston S. Churchill

It is popularly supposed that the 'cold war' between East and West began on 24 June 1948, when the USSR and East Germans halted road and rail traffic to and from Berlin and the West; the time when the words 'Iron Curtain' began to have some significance and the Western Powers organised an air lift of supplies to a besieged city. So the full title of Victor Rothwell's new book may come as a surprise.

The author is, of course, giving an explanation, or at least something of an understanding, of the historical background to the dangerous and costly situation that has evolved since 1947.

It would be an over-simplification to consider the differences between East and West as a clash of two opposed political and social ideologies: they have much more human, and therefore less well defined, roots than that.

The bases of Mr Rothwell's analysis are the Foreign Office records of the period of war expediency that occasioned strange bedfellows. 'Many here have an uneasy feeling, if we study America, she may in turn yet rat on us . . .' (the words of the late R A Butler in 1941): Certainly Roosevelt felt more amicable towards Stalin in the post-Pearl Harbor time than he did towards Churchill, who he considered as symbolic of British Imperialism, the yoke of which America herself had thrown off. What comes out of this 551 page book is the fact that the 'cold war' put Britain in a draught more than it did any of the other 'allies'.

This is a book that will cause disillusionment to many who choose to look back at the Second World War as a time of idealistic unity against an evil foe. But it was, of course, after the end of the European war that self-interest, mixed with suspicion and mistrust, reared up to shatter any dreams of a brave new world.

It was the politicians' failure to exploit the unique opportunities existing in 1945 that has brought about the need or justification for Winston S Churchill's book.

Mr Churchill, the grandson of the wartime Prime Minister, takes an astute view of the current strategic position in the potential flash-point areas. One point comes over with sad clarity: world leadership changes but suspicion and misunderstanding live on.

We are left in no doubt of the author's belief, like that of his grandfather, that the aim of Communism is the complete subjugation of what we are inclined to call the 'free world', and evidence is presented in the words of an able and articulate advocate.

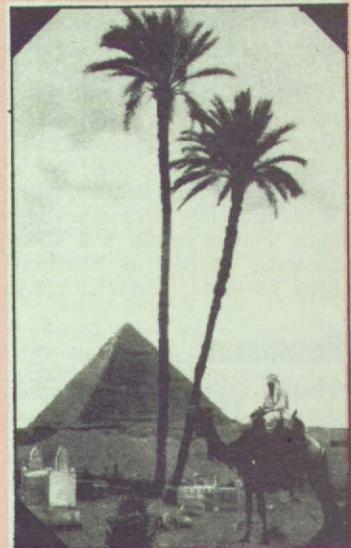
While it would be foolish to dismiss Mr Churchill's assessments of weaponry and comparative strengths, reading *Defending the West* immediately after *Britain and the Cold War* is a sobering experience that leaves one with a mistrust of all partisan statements. And that may be the healthiest frame of mind in a game

where the stakes are inconceivably high.

*Britain and the Cold War* — Jonathan Cape Ltd, 30 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3EL — £16; *Defending the West* — Temple Smith Ltd, 37 Great Russell St, London WC1B 3PP — £7.95. BJ

## Eighth Army Driver: Maurice Merritt

Military commanders are expected to publish their memoirs, if only as an explanation or apology for action or omission, but we now see an increasing number of books relating to the experiences of humbler soldiers — the men who actually took part in the campaigns. Who have a greater right to tell their stories?



Maurice Merritt's story begins with his enlistment in 1940 and ends with his demobilisation as part of Group 24. Between those landmarks there are highly articulate accounts of the North African campaign as seen by a RASC water tank driver, of driving a 3-tonner in Italy, convoying through France, Belgium and Holland, and finally spinning out the last few months of service with the BAOR.

Men of the author's age and with similar experience will be able to revive old memories and find a source of amusement in some of the incidents; the fact that there are a few niggling inaccuracies — LCT standing for Landing Craft Transporter and Lili Marlene sung by Marlene Dietrich! — suggest Mr Merritt's memory is a bit hazy on what he possibly considers matters of minor importance. But generally his recollections are remarkably clear after forty years.

Nothing about strategy or tactics will be learned from this book — ordinary soldiers were seldom 'put in the picture' about such aspects in WW2 — but as a recount of the impressions that army life made on a typical soldier (if there be such a creature), it is a valuable social history.

*Midas Books Ltd, 12 Dene Way, Selsdon, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN3 0NX.* BJ

## Estimating Foreign Military Power: Philip Towle

It is, of course, notoriously difficult to gain intelligence about a potential

enemy's strength. For one thing, he is seldom inclined to make such information readily available, and that which can be gleaned is often misleading. Military strength can depend on more than pure numbers of troops and hardware; economic and manpower strengths, for example, national will and morale, even geographical advantages have to be considered in varying degrees.

Philip Towle's task is a series of academic essays which consider the way these problems have been tackled by the protagonists of various recent conflicts. It looks at how India assessed the power of Pakistan prior to 1971, for example, or Australia's view of Japanese might in the years leading up to World War Two. Inevitably, a good many mistakes are highlighted, not only in the inadequacy of the military intelligence departments themselves, but in the way in which decisions failed to reflect the information gained, or grasp the political consequences dependent on it.

A useful exercise in the field of modern strategic studies, but one which the casual reader will probably find heavy going. It's rather expensive, too.

*Croom Helm Ltd, 210 St John's Road, London SW11. £13.95 IJK*

## The Wars of the Roses: Anthony Goodman

That turbulent period of British history known as the Wars of the Roses has been the subject of many books, most of them concentrating on politics and personalities, but this latest work on the rivalry between the Houses of Lancaster and York strikes new ground in that it is primarily a military review of that turbulent period.



Anthony Goodman, a senior lecturer at Edinburgh University, has divided his book into two parts: In the first he gives an overall view of the conflict from the first skirmishes in 1452 to the last campaign in 1497 and examines the generalship of the army commanders in both camps. The second part tackles the military organisation of the period — how armies were recruited, paid, fed, billeted, armed and deployed — and in so doing it becomes apparent that in this age of rapid change in European methods of warfare the English were not so old-fashioned as has sometimes been thought.

Every page of this scholarly history is packed with detailed information, from intrigue and conflict to picturesque asides such as a brief description of the eight-and-a-half-ton bombard known as Mons Meg given by Duke Philip of Burgundy to James II of Scotland.

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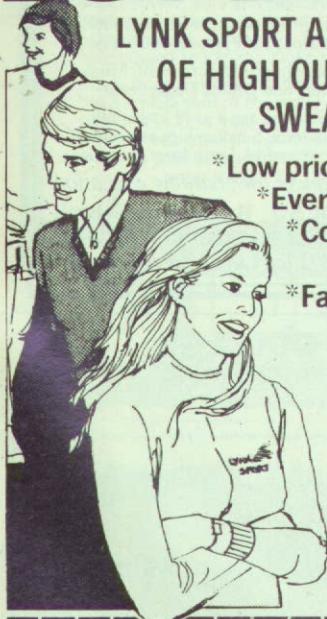
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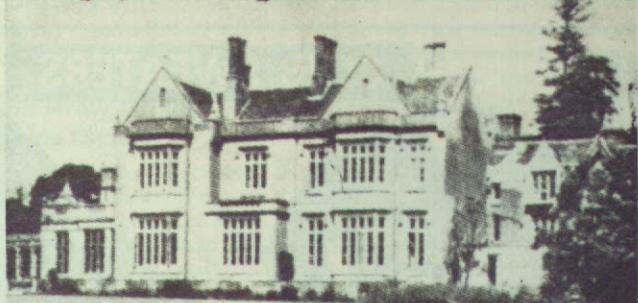
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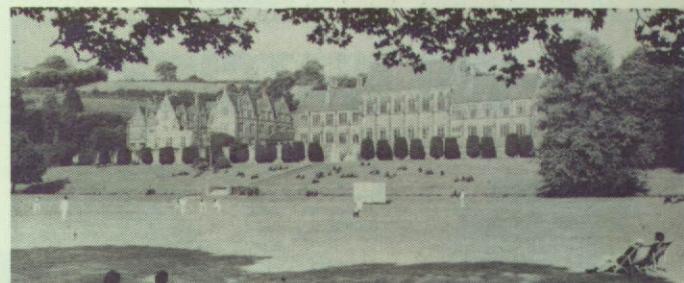
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# SNOW JOKE FOR SKIERS

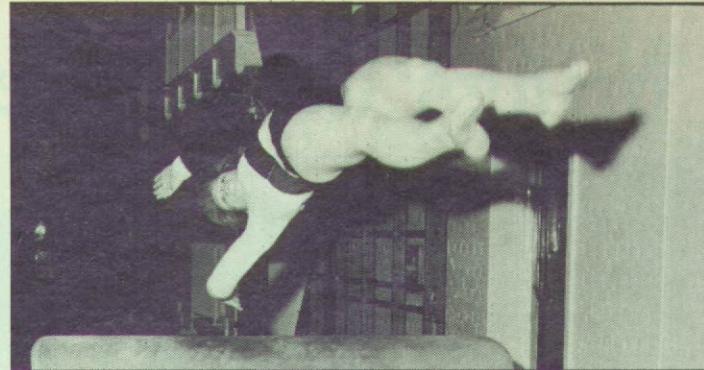
THE ARMY Ski Association's Scottish meeting at Aviemore struggled on in what were often appalling weather conditions and the standard was reckoned to be higher than in recent years reports Sarah Cullum.

After several weeks of relatively mild weather, snow arrived in abundance just in time for the start of the meeting. There was so much that one day's events had to be postponed with the road to the ski slopes completely blocked by drifts and with 70 mph gales.

Just under 250 skiers, including many youngsters at their first meeting, had a trying experience of coping with the problems of racing in heavy snow and high winds. "If you can ski in conditions like this you can ski anywhere," I was told.

The Scottish ski meeting has now been taking place for about 25 years — starting as a one day TA event and growing to a week long fixture. It is primarily aimed at members of the Women's Services, junior soldiers and the TA and is regarded as good training. Members of the Army ski team were on hand, not to race but using the runs for training and allowing the inexperienced skiers to pick up a few tips..

**Winners:** Individual — Open — Lt J H Howard RSDG; Ladies — 2 Lt Carolyn Dryborough WRAC; Junior — J Dvr K Bedlow JLR RCT; TA — Lt W Duncan. ACF/CCF competition — 1 Gordon Highlanders. Junior Inter-unit — JLR RCT. Junior Minor Units — Depot Queen's Div 'B', TA Inter-unit — Cambridge Univ OTC.



L/Cpl Janine Harmsworth takes the vault in flying style.

## Hat-tricks for Andy and Janine

FOR THE THIRD year running Sergeant Instructor Andy Halliday and Lance-Corporal Janine Harmsworth walked away with the top awards at the Army's Gymnastic championships at Aldershot.

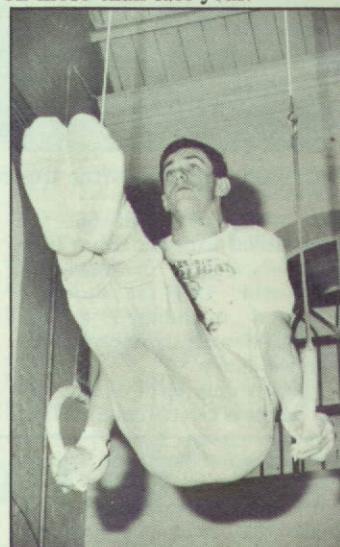
APTC Sgt Halliday, stationed at Hildesheim in Germany, once again took the cup for the 'Olympic Six' exercises — floor, rings, pommel horse, parallel bars, high bar and vault. His margin this year over his nearest rival was even more than last year.

Andy trains with a German gymnastics club as the Army at Hildesheim does not have all the equipment he needs. He began gymnastics at the age of 14 and was in the under-18 British squad.

He told SOLDIER afterwards that Army standards had declined in recent years compared to those in civilian clubs. "At one stage the Army team was the British team but talent is not now coming into the Army. They prefer to stay outside and train on the civilian net."

Lance-Corporal Harmsworth is a WRAC PT instructor at Aldershot's Cambridge Military Hospital and first took up gymnastics when she was 12. She paid tribute to the training help she had been given by friends in the Fox Gym Club in Aldershot but admitted that at one stage she had not expected to retain her title.

"I did an awful bar routine and



Sgt Andy Halliday on rings.

I fell off. But I pulled back on the beam, floor and vault and that put me back in front."

## COMPLAINT

Once again I have a complaint about the write-up on the Army cross-country championships. Two years ago there was no write up on the WRAC and this year all that the athletics correspondent could do was to condemn us!

I am one of the individuals that as he put it 'had done two or three seasons' — in fact it was my sixth season and every time in the top eight. I was absolutely appalled at the write-up and I can speak for a lot of athletes.

All district teams have put in a lot of work through the season with BAOR and Northern Ireland even having Women's League meetings. So how the overall standard was poor I will never know. He or she needs to

## Canoe Man of the Year



SERGEANT STEVE JACKSON is the new holder of the President's Trophy — the Army's award for the canoeing Man of the Year. Sergeant Jackson has represented the Army in the Inter-Services Championships every year since 1976.

He represented Britain in 1979 and has been in the national squad since then. Last year he won a bronze medal in the World Championship — the first time a Briton had done so since 1959.

Described as 'modest' but with 'dedication, intelligence, strength and an unruffled approach to competition' Sgt Jackson has high hopes of a 1984 Olympic spot.

## Holders beaten

THE HOLDERS of the Army football cup, 28 Amphibious Regt RE, were knocked out in the BAOR final by 28 Signal Regiment. But, like the UK final, the contest went to a replay and had eventually to be decided on penalty kicks. The crowd for the replay was reported as being the biggest for a Rhine Army final in years. In the Army final at Aldershot on 14 April, 28 Signal Regiment will meet SEME, Bordon.

get his or her facts right before writing a load of waffle which has hurt a lot of people.

It was out of line to say that they should train harder — perhaps the wording should have been that the right training is needed.

One of these years the Army Cross-Country write-up will be worth reading but there will be no improvement until someone gathers all the facts together. I myself congratulate all competitors and individuals who made the day such a success. L/Cpl B Samms, WRAC Platoon (Northern Ireland).

SOLDIER wishes to point out that the correspondent complained of is a well-known Army athlete who took part in the event and was therefore particularly well qualified to comment on comparative standards of performance.

## Geoff's the gaffer

THE ARMY'S FIRST beach angling champion is Green Jacket, Lance-Corporal Geoffrey Crowther from the Rifle Depot, Winchester. His winning catch in appalling conditions on the Kent coast was 1lb 15ozs.

Runner-up was Warrant Officer 2 'Ossie' Osinski, from Lydd and Staff Sergeant L Winter of IJLB Shorncliffe came third. Inter-Service champions were the RAF with the Army second.

Some 284 Servicemen took part in the first ever championships, held in conjunction with the European and All-England event from the beaches of Folkestone, Hythe and Dymchurch.

Explaining the paucity of the fish, Army sea fishing secretary, Warrant Officer 2 Trevor Stewart told SOLDIER: "Only seven of the 1274 competitors in the national event topped three lbs and many of them gave up after an hour or two. Conditions were really appalling — it was blowing Force Six or Seven straight into their faces and they could not detect bites or anything else."

Rugby

## Bassom brings home the bacon

ARMY 11

R NAVY 7

IN A TENSE and always exciting struggle at Twickenham the Army finally managed to beat the Navy for the first time since 1979. But it was only a last minute dash along almost the entire length of the field by the Army left wing threequarter, Corporal Kevin Bassom, which finally ensured that Army captain, Major Mike Bowles, would get his hands on the Stewart Wrightson Trophy.

The game had been finely balanced throughout although the Navy were never allowed to actually take the lead. But their series of attacks in the latter stages had put the Army under considerable pressure and khaki supporters had had their hearts in their mouths more than once before Bassom's run.

It was watched by a loud and boisterous crowd, including a group of jolly Jack Tars who made several incursions onto the pitch while play was in progress until finally warned off by the police.

The Army had gone into the lead after only six minutes when, with the aid of a following wind, Corporal Barry Abbott kicked a long penalty goal. Soon afterwards Army hooker, Corporal A Mason, went off with a shoulder injury and was replaced by Corporal Bernie Byrne.

The Navy put on a lot of pres-



The Navy steams after the fleet footed Kevin Bassom.

sure in the first half but the Army stood firm and from time to time indulged in attacks of their own. But the scoreline remained unchanged at the interval, despite two near misses from the Navy.

The opening spell of the second half was electrifying. Abbott

sent Bassom away on the left side for an unconverted try and shortly afterwards Alcock went over for the Navy to once more reduce the deficit to three points.

As the half wore on the Navy again began to gain ground and look dangerous, and they eventually evened things up with a

calmly taken drop goal by Price.

But in striving for the decisive score, a Navy pass went astray, and Bassom picked up the loose ball and began his long run. Defenders were unable to catch him and he was even able to punch the air Steve Ovett style before making his touchdown.

## SPORTS SHORTS

Gunner Kevin Mitchell, of RSA Larkhill, the current Army heavyweight judo champion, added another title when he won the over 95 kgs category in the Western Area Senior Individual Championships at Bath. Another soldier, Bombardier Sean Maloney of 32 Guided Weapons Regt RA, took a bronze in the under 86 kgs class.

★ ★ ★

British Forces Hong Kong have just ended one of their most successful Rugby seasons. British Forces North reached the final of the colony-wide Peter Scott Knockout Trophy.

★ ★ ★

1st Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, won the UKLF inter-unit Intermediate team boxing championships beating 1st Battalion, The Green How-

ards by seven bouts to two. In doing so they set up a new battalion record — reaching the UK finals this year for novices, intermediate and open.

★ ★ ★

The Army won the Inter-Service Youth Football Championships on goal difference. They beat the RAF 3-0 and drew 2-2 with the Navy.

★ ★ ★



Lance-Corporal Paul McNaughton (above) from the Episkopi Garrison A team, won the Cyprus Services Marathon with a time of 2 hrs 29.13 seconds. First lady home was Katrina MacLean of 9 Signals B team in 2 hours 52.02.

## NAVY SUNK AT SOCCER TOO

INTER-SERVICE CHAMPIONS, the Army, managed to beat the Navy by two goals to one in the opening match of this year's championships fought in gale force winds. Despite controlling the game for the most part the Army almost gave away a point in the last five minutes with two lapses in concentration and commitment just when they should have been tidying up an otherwise moderate performance.

Lance-Corporal George Torrance made the first blunder — he mistimed an interception and could only watch as LMEM Kevin Maddocks raced to the edge of the penalty area and cracked the ball in. Then, just one minute from time Corporal Ian Good, who had dominated in defence, tried to pass the ball back to the keeper, SSI John Smith and watched in horror as a Navy forward intercepted. Fortunately he failed to score.

The Army had gone into the lead after only ten minutes when Corporal Mark Bowen touched off a short free kick to Sergeant Mickey Doig, who rifled it home

inside an upright.

Despite lots of chances at both ends there was no further score until the Army got their second in the 70th minute. From one of the remarkably few corners of the game Good used his height to advantage to nod a long kick back across goal for Corporal Gary Brooksby, on the opposite post to head home from close in.

**SOLDIER DARTS CONTEST RESULTS AND DRAW — SEE NEXT ISSUE**

# Maggie's royal salute

THE EFFORTS OF Corporal Maggie Allerton, a physical training instructor, resulted in another first for the British Army at the World Ski Championships held at the famous Holmenkollen Arena, Oslo.



Maggie gets a royal handshake.

Although she was not amongst the leaders of the 5km cross country race, Maggie — currently with 10 Signal Regiment — is the first Army girl to be selected for the British Women's Nordic Ski Team and at the end of the race was congratulated by Crown Prince Harald.

She was also presented with five red roses by British troops on exercise in Norway who came to cheer her on.

# Guards muscle through

## 21 ENGINEER REGT 6 1ST BN WELSH GUARDS 12

SPURRED ON BY the cries of 200 supporters, who had made an 18 hour coach and boat trip from Pirbright, the Welsh Guards finally proved too strong for the surprise finalists from Rhine Army in the Army Rugby final at Bad Lippspringe.

The men from Nienburg were bidding to become the first ever sapper winners of the Cup and their squad of youngsters had proved the dark horses of the Rhine Army competition this year — sweeping aside several more fancied outfits.

The game opened in bright sunshine on the compact Bad Lippspringe ground and the Rhine Army team set out to show that the sappers were rising in the Spring and that a bit of dragon slaying was in order.

Their crisp passing surprised the Welshmen and after 15 minutes Lance-Corporal Keith Isham put the Engineers three points in front with a well taken penalty.

This stung the Welshmen into action and they began to use their muscle to push their way forwards. The sapper defence underwent a hectic few minutes and they suffered a major blow when Sergeant Danny Wright was taken off with a head wound. Wright beat the ground with frustration at having to miss the rest of the game — but was given several stitches when he went for



The Welsh steamroller goes into action.

medical treatment.

The Welsh continued to use their extra weight in the scrum but the sappers held out until the 33rd minute before Guardsman Andy Walker touched down for an unconverted try. The Guards continued to stamp their authority on the match and added four more points before the interval with a try by the skipper, Captain Jan Koops.

In the second half the red-shirted Welshmen gradually exercised more and more control until 'Davies 28' — Sergeant John Davies — added another unconverted try. And from then on the Guards ran 21 ragged and the sappers' composure and confidence appeared to have completely evaporated.

But suddenly the pendulum swung again and in the most open and exciting period of the match the sappers came close to

pulling off a shock win. Lance-Corporal Andy Wilson scored a neat drop goal and soon afterwards a spectacular raid saw Corporal Gerry Merrett go over the line. But sadly for the sappers there had been a forward pass and the score was disallowed.

So the Welsh Guards took home the Cup, which they had last won back in 1973. But for the sappers there was the consolation of knowing they had done better than anyone would have predicted at the start of the season.

## SOCER ROUND-UP

### Still in the hunt

Dorset 0 Army 1

THE ARMY KEPT alive their hopes of winning the South West Counties Championships when they beat Dorset at Dorchester Town FC.

In the first half, playing on a sloping pitch with a fair breeze at their backs, the Army defence had some trouble containing the County on the left flank.

Up the slope and against the wind however, things went much better and once Lance Corporal Ginger Butler, REME rifled home a shot from the edge of the penalty area, it was all Army. Despite sustained pressure no more goals were scored but the Army ran out good winners.

The Army next meet Sussex when they need to win by three goals to earn a place in the final.

### Trophy retained

Army 2 RAF 1

GINGER BUTLER was again in fine fettle for the final of the Inter-Services Championship when the Army beat the RAF at Brize Norton. Both the Army's goals were scored by the ubiquitous Butler thus ensuring the Army retains the Constantinople Trophy for another year.

# Paras have drop on QDG

A RATHER HESITANT start by the Queen's Dragoon Guards team gave 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment the opportunity to forge ahead in the first half of the final of the Major Units UK Hockey Cup.

The Paras played a hard and fast game which kept the QDGs on the hop. Their recoveries were good and their teamwork and drive helped them to the first goal of the match scored by Lieutenant Peter Adams. A second goal from Private Ian Jennings followed a short time later, despite some excellent play from QDG goalkeeper Trooper Steve Hough, to put 2 Para ahead 2-0 at half-time.

However, the second half saw the QDG team playing a more determined game that produced a penalty goal from Lieutenant Nick Lunt to put them back in with a chance.

But a third goal for 2 Para came as Ian Jennings drove the ball past the goalkeeper into an unprotected goal and made the score 3-1. A valiant last minute goal by Captain Mark Elliot for



Private Ian Jennings positions the ball for 2 Para's third goal.

QDG on the whistle made the final score a respectable 3-2.

This year's Army Junior Major Units Hockey Cup was won by the Princess Marina College, Arborfield against the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate.

During most of the match the result looked like being a draw, both teams scoring early in the first half. But only ten minutes before full time Princess Marina cashed in on one of several goal opportunities to win 2-1.



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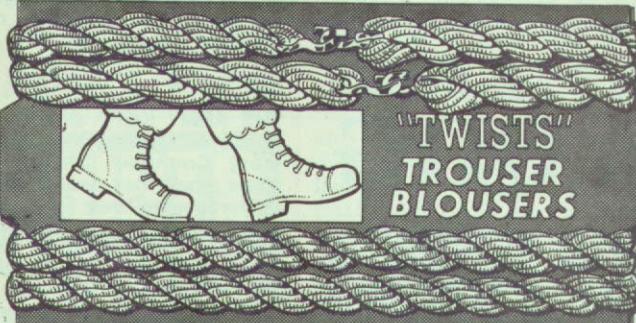
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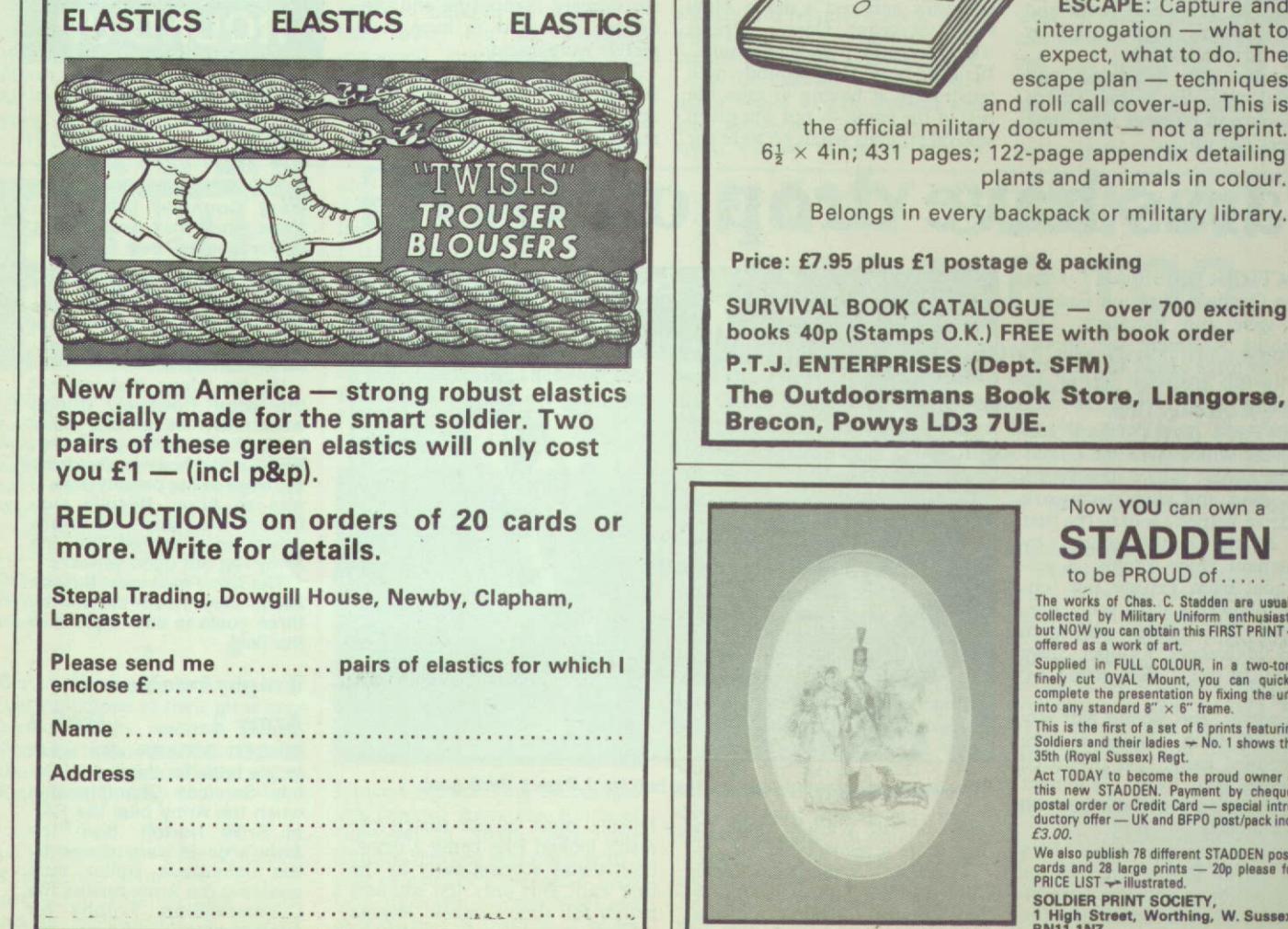
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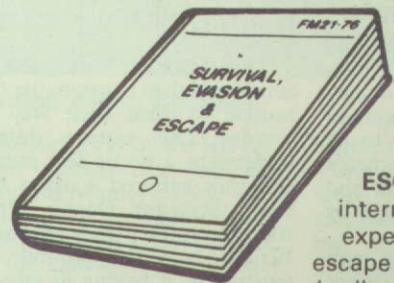
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# SSAFA SCENE

Soldiers' Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association

## VITAL LINK

WHEN the grandmother of a soldier serving in Germany died, his mother asked SSAFA to get the news to her son.

Her local SSAFA representative asked the Ministry of Defence to pass the message to the soldier's Commanding Officer. Within two hours the soldier telephoned his mother.

Every SSAFA division can reach — and can be reached — from any location overseas where UK Servicemen and women and their families are stationed. Thus SSAFA acts as an international communications link between those abroad and their families or dependants wherever they may live in the UK or Republic of Ireland.

## SSAFA "waves a magic wand"

WHEN the school holiday came for 11 year old Kevin Fielding, his grandmother in Gloucester was suddenly unable to take him.

Kevin, the son of Sgt. Keith Fielding of a Royal Artillery unit in Germany, is severely handicapped.

A telephone call from the Families Officer in Germany alerted SSAFA in Gloucester. Could Mrs. Helen Wakeman "wave a magic wand" and help Kevin to reach his parents?

### Into action

Straight away Mrs. Wakeman arranged for one of Kevin's teachers to accommodate him that night and also travel with him to the airport.

Mrs. Wakeman confirmed travel arrangements with the Families Officer and early next morning Brigadier Bruno Elgood, Hon. County Secretary SSAFA Gloucester, whisked Kevin and his Ward to Luton for the 9 a.m. flight. A Nursing Sister travelling on Kevin's flight willingly looked after him until he was met in Germany by his delighted parents.

The Commanding Officer of Sgt. Fielding's regiment later wrote: "It is very reassuring indeed for a Commanding Officer to know that in an emergency the representatives of SSAFA will do all they can to help his soldiers and their families".

## SSAFA OPENS 'NEW WORLD' TO EX-WRAC

"WERE YOU ever in the Forces? Then SSAFA will help you!" Just seven weeks after receiving this sound advice from her Home Help Organiser, Mrs June Jones, ex-WRAC and now suffering with multiple sclerosis, wrote to SSAFA: "How can I convey to you the whole new world you have opened for me and my family ...it is a miracle."

In 1969 Mrs Jones, from Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, was told by her doctor that she had multiple sclerosis. By 1978, walking and normal household chores were difficult.

"Now I can just do the dusting and a small amount of cooking," she says, "but I'm fortunate in having a good husband, Harvey, and a very helpful daughter, Lorraine."

### Home visit

When Mrs Jones first asked SSAFA for help, Mrs Pamela Vaughan, Hon. Divisional Secretary SSAFA, Newcastle-under-Lyme, visited her at home.

"Mrs Jones was only able to walk round the house with the aid of a stick and relied on others to take her outside", recalls Mrs Vaughan.

Mrs Vaughan decided that the best practical help SSAFA could



Mrs Pamela Vaughan with Mrs June Jones, in her battery car

give would be to make Mrs Jones more independent, and when she learned that a secondhand battery car was for sale in the area, she immediately applied to the WRAC Benevolent Fund who generously granted £200 towards its purchase. Mrs Vaughan next

approached the Staffordshire War Memorial Fund and the Staffordshire Prisoner of War Fund and both were delighted to help, giving £150 each.

### Good news

A grateful Mr Jones was able to contribute too, and with the necessary money now raised, Mrs Vaughan phoned the good news to Mrs Jones.

Now Mrs Jones confidently uses the "car" which runs along the pavement and has indicators and lights, to go shopping or visit neighbours.

"The battery car has given me complete freedom," she says. "Since I first got in touch with SSAFA all this seems to have happened overnight!"

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# SOLDIER

