

# Soldier

25p

SEPTEMBER 1981

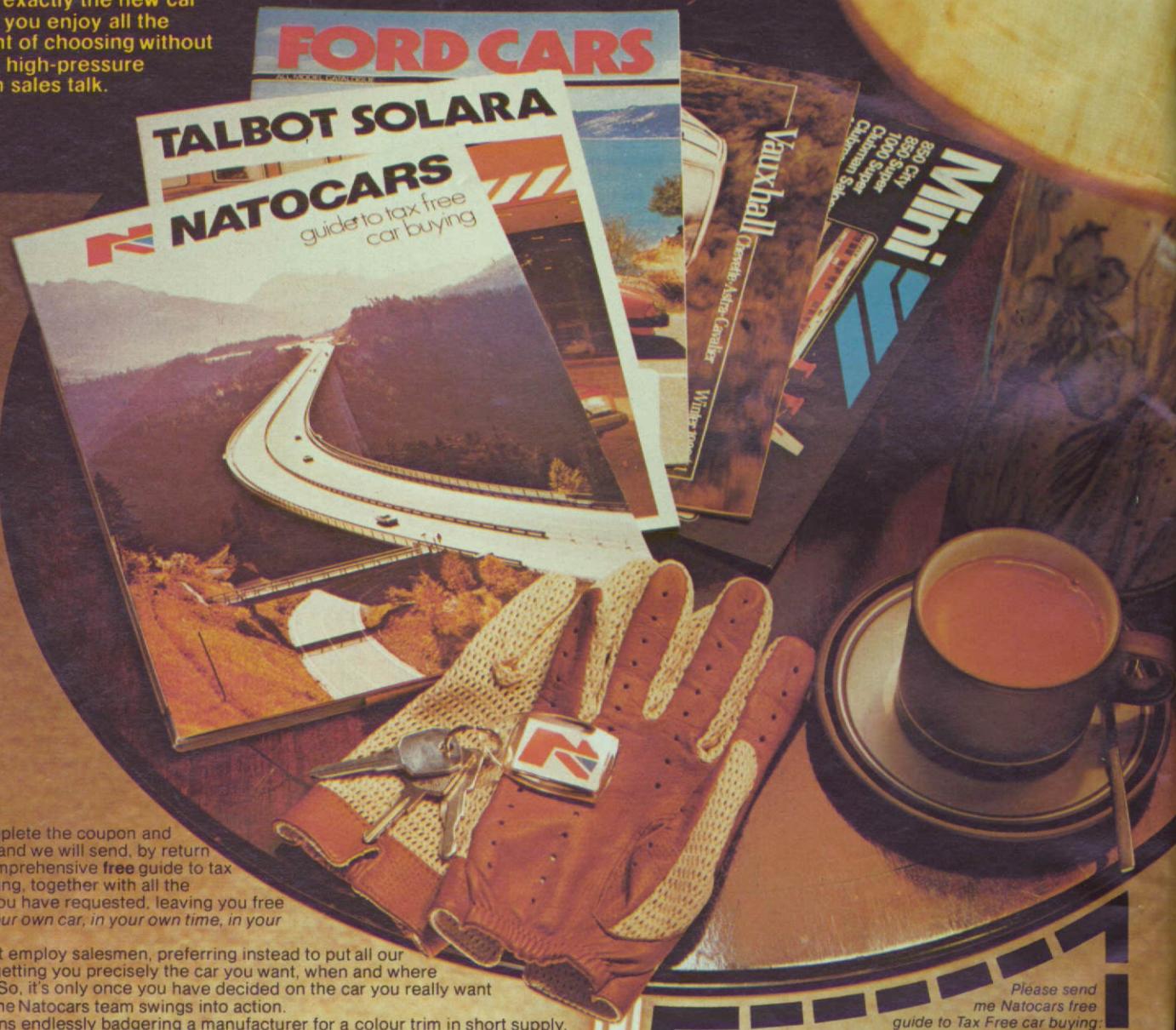


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Men of 50 Missile Regiment lower a Lance warhead into place ready for live firing on South Uist.

SOLDIER was there too.

Story — page 30.

Picture by Paul Haley



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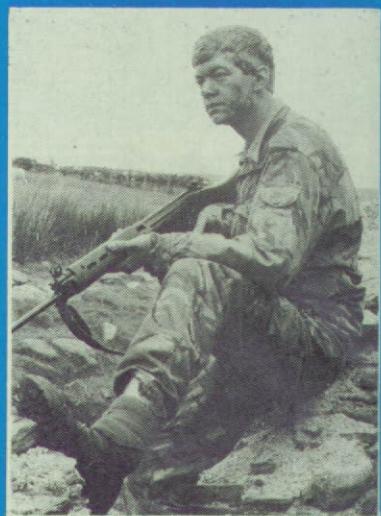
Recording the split second of firing, this time exposure dramatically captures Lance's trail as it sears across the Hebridean night sky.

Picture by Paul Haley



38 As Gibraltar-bound troops take to sea once again SOLDIER meets the men behind the move.

14 On the Isle of Man TA soldiers became hunters and hunted on Exercise Great Escape.



From the beginning of October, when SOLDIER will be published fortnightly (25 issues per year), subscriptions will be: UK/BFPO £10.50, elsewhere £11.25.

Send UK cheque, UK postal order or international money order **expressed in sterling** and state when subscription is to start and to whom to be addressed. Payments to be sent to SOLDIER and made payable to Command Cashier UKLF.

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Prince Charles and Lady Diana were the 'stars' but a cast of tens of thousands played a part in the Royal Wedding spectacular, including many British soldiers. Graham Smith tells the story of just one Army unit — with specially close links with the Prince of Wales — who added sparkle to the pomp and pageantry.

# The day they'll never forget

THE 130 OFFICERS AND MEN of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, had a very special and particularly proud reason to be among the ceremonial participants at the Wedding of the Year.

For theirs was the first regiment in the British Army to be honoured by the appointment of the Prince of Wales as their Colonel-in-Chief 11 years ago.

The Aldershot-based unit provided the 40-strong Army contingent for the tri-Service Guard-of-Honour outside St Paul's commanded by 1RRW's CO, Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Stocker.

Elsewhere, five officers and 80 men — four half companies — lined Fleet Street, literally under the eyes of the world's Press. They were commanded by Major David de

**Below: 1RRW, Army guard of honour contingent.**

G Bromhead, Officer Commanding 'A' Company and the great-great-great-nephew of Lieutenant Gonville Bromhead, one of two subalterns with the South Wales Borderers who won VCs during the defence of Rorke's Drift against the Zulus in January 1879.

Also on the streets of the capital were the Regimental Colours, the Colour Party plus Gwilym Jenkins better known as Taffy II, the regimental goat mascot.

It was all a striking contrast to 1RRW's duties just two months previously as Spearhead Battalion in the threatening streets of Ulster.

Among the proud Welshmen on parade were no less than ten by the name of Jones and half-a-dozen called Williams. There were also three sets of brothers making up the numbers for this milestone occasion.

The battalion's representative on the steps of Wren's impressive St Paul's was Major Peter Harry, OC of 'B' Company.

Inside, during the nuptials, were two former equerries serving with the Regiment, Major Alun Davies, OC of 'C' Company and Captain Tony Asquith, who has recently left the Army. Both acted as ushers while, distributing the Orders of Service, were Drum Major Roger Woods and Sergeant Billy Douglass.

The Regiment's presents to the Royal couple included a silver dragon centre-piece for the dinner table mounted on a circular base of walnut and a silver, gold and diamond brooch designed in the shape of the regimental crest by a London silversmith and made, appropriately, by a Haverfordwest jeweller's.

Accompanying the gifts was a book con-



**Right: The RRW guard of honour marches on.**

taining the names of all the donors.

Major-General Lionel Harrod, Colonel of the Regiment, said: "We are especially pleased with the volume of names of the people who gave money for the gifts."

"There are many hundreds, ranging from the great names to the privates. They all pulled together and gave voluntarily and this is, after all, what makes a regiment tick."

The day had started early — at 0430 — for the Welsh regiment which has called Aldershot 'home' since 1977 but who head for BAOR next summer. They had been 'tucked in' early on the eve of their honoured duties in London.

Minutes after Reveille all 130 men took to the road — for a limb-loosening run and some 20 minutes of PT!

Regimental Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer 1 John Husein explained: "We learned the advantage of doing this from previous Queen's Birthday Parades held in Berlin's Maifeldt Stadium in 1975 and 1976 when it was particularly hot and other soldiers on parade were falling out. I think it is safe to say that 1RRW was the only Regiment who did not suffer casualties like that."

Even so, as a precautionary measure, two RRW stretcher teams were discreetly placed near their regimental colleagues during the duration of the wedding service, ready to move them without fuss to nearby First Aid posts manned by the Royal Army Medical Corps and the St John Ambulance Brigade.

PT over and lungs heaving the Welshmen wolfed a 'Schedule A' breakfast — 'full fries' all round. Then came the studied, final preparations for an 0600 departure by road.

A four-tonner pulled into the Normandy Barracks complex. Inside it, with row upon row of string stretching from front to rear, was an improvised, racked mobile wardrobe which would be crush-proof for tunics, KF working shirts and all the clothing paraphernalia of the big occasion.

RSM Husein: "When 40 men climb into a

*continued on page 8*

**Right: Lt Col Stocker, CO 1RRW with sword poised over a tier of the Royal Wedding cake.**

**Below: The happy couple as they left St Paul's.**



PRESS ASSOCIATION PHOTO

coach for events like this they take particular care of the boots they have spent hours bulking-up. Some wrap them in dusters, others clutch them in boxes on their laps, just to prevent scuffing. The precautions are really something to be seen."

But just to make sure those on parade suffered no last-minute disasters, orderlies carried spare dusters, buttons, cotton, Brasso and, of course, boot laces.

Taffy II was driven up to Town by Land-Rover towed in his personalised and distinctive trailer.

As they made their way into London by a specially-devised route to avoid traffic

build-up, food was never far from the thoughts of the men — and probably the goat as well!

"Like all good Welsh soldiers they ate the contents of their haversacks within four miles of leaving Aldershot," said RSM Husein with a broad grin. "But they had a cup of tea before going out on parade with the promise of a slap-up three-course meal back at barracks later that night."

Meanwhile, wives, relatives and friends had made their way independently to the British capital. It was a second day of regimental pride. Just a fortnight earlier, a baker's dozen of them had watched 16 men

from the battalion receive their Rhodesia Medals, awarded to those who had served with the Commonwealth Ceasefire Monitoring Force in Rhodesia early last year.

Rehearsals for the Royal wedding had been as precise as the actual performance on the day.

Captain Peter Davies, IRRW's Adjutant, explained: "The first word of our involvement in the wedding was in April and confirmed in mid-May. We had just returned from our Spearhead duties in Ulster. Companies were asked to select the smartest and most suitable soldiers for size. A tailoring parade for their No 2 Dress followed and then the rehearsals."

RSM Husein took up the story. "The Guildhall Guard-of-Honour drill which is very simple for our soldiers still had to be rehearsed on a tri-Service basis because it

Right: Lady Diana Spencer and her father seen arriving at St Paul's steps for the ceremony.



REGIMENTAL POLICEMAN Lance-Corporal Mike 'Squeak' Edwards ('eight-one') and his waitress wife, Jenny, were probably two of the most surprised people to take their place in St Paul's Cathedral.

Mike, who is 26, and his wife were officially invited to the wedding as representatives of 1 RRRW. The Prince of Wales had invited a private or a corporal and their wives to be chosen from each of the regiments of which he is Colonel-in-Chief.

Every TV set and video recorder was turned on in the two Welsh Valley villages of Blackwood and Hengoed on the off-chance of catching a glimpse of Mike and Jenny.

"They just didn't believe us," said Jenny, who works in the Army Physical Training Corps Sergeants' Mess at Aldershot. "They thought we were having delusions of grandeur. Mind you, I didn't believe it myself when a colleague of Mike's rang me up to tell me about the invitation. I thought it was Noel Edmonds trying it on during his Radio One show. We both had a problem sleeping on the night before because of nerves."

Mike added: "It set me back about £200 to rig Jenny out in something for the wedding which had something blue in it to go with my uniform. We were both honoured by the invitation."

The invitation was extended to the Edwards' on a purely random basis after sifting through likely candidates.

Appropriately, the invitation is now framed and hangs with pride of place over the mantelpiece of their married quarters home.

A regimental policeman for about four years, Mike added: "All our friends and relatives — Jenny has five brothers and three sisters and I have three sisters and one brother — wanted to get hold of photostat copies of the actual invitation. I was really surprised to receive the invitation. I thought I was going to have to do the washing up afterwards!"

After the wedding, the uniformed Mike said: "It was first class. Excellent. I was most impressed. I was sitting next to an Australian high-ranker Justice of the Peace who has an OBE. I'm a Valley boy and we don't see things like this."

Wife Jenny said: "I thought she should have had a pure white dress but I wouldn't have missed the occasion for anything. It's the highlight of our lives."



Above: Tunic and rifle ready at Aldershot HQ before being transported to wedding RV point.

was necessary to ensure all three Services were compatible and got their timing absolutely right on the big day.

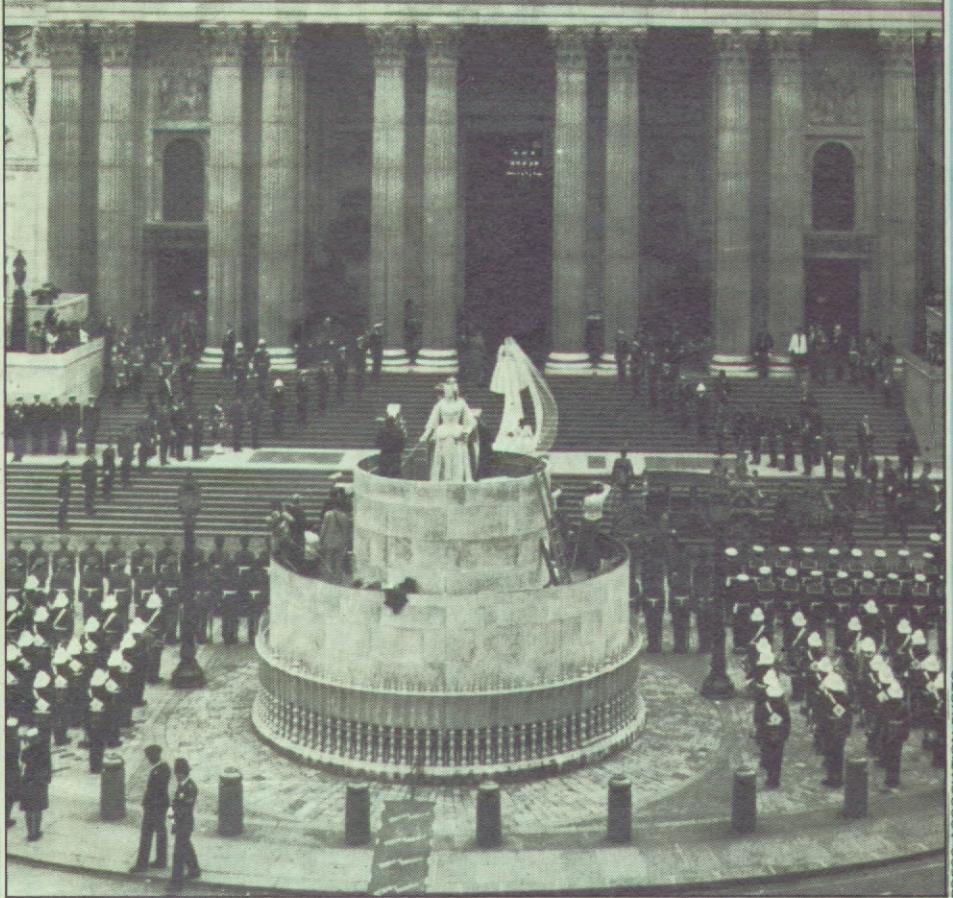
"It's not been too difficult. The hardest part was the three hours of standing virtually motionless but we had rehearsed well — three hours at a time — with men as they became available from exercises on Salisbury Plain and from other military commitments.

"I've never had to get nasty on the parade ground because they take a great pride in their regiment. The competition was very keen which was proved by maximum effort and soon showed itself in the early stages of rehearsals. Nobody wanted to be unacceptable."

Not even Orderly Room Clerk, Corporal Julian Axhorn, who was given the option of 'falling out' because of pressure of work.

"No way," said Julian. "I offered to work every night until 1800 hours to clear the work. I wasn't going to miss this chance of a lifetime."

Captain Davies said: "We had the subalterns on parades at 0730 for the rehearsals. They did very, very well and the competition to take part was just as fierce."



PRESS ASSOCIATION PHOTO

RSM Husein summed it all up thus: "We talked tactics on how to cope with the distractions of London street lining — though we're no strangers to Public Duties in the capital — and it's all down really to good preparation. There's no short cut. It's

not a case of a thick squaddie just standing there for three hours.

"They were told to keep their eyes and ears open and, bearing in mind the Trooping the Colour incident involving the Queen, were told, too, to be fully prepared

**THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF WALES** (24th/41st Foot) was formed on June 11th 1969, on the merging of The South Wales Borderers (24) and The Welch Regiment (41 and 69) as part of the Prince of Wales's Division.

Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, became the Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Regiment of Wales on July 1st 1969. His Colonel-in-Chief appointments to four other British Army regiments — The Cheshire Regiment, The Gordon Highlanders, The Parachute Regiment and 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles — were made in June 1977, the Queen's Silver Jubilee Year.

He is also Colonel of The Welsh Guards.

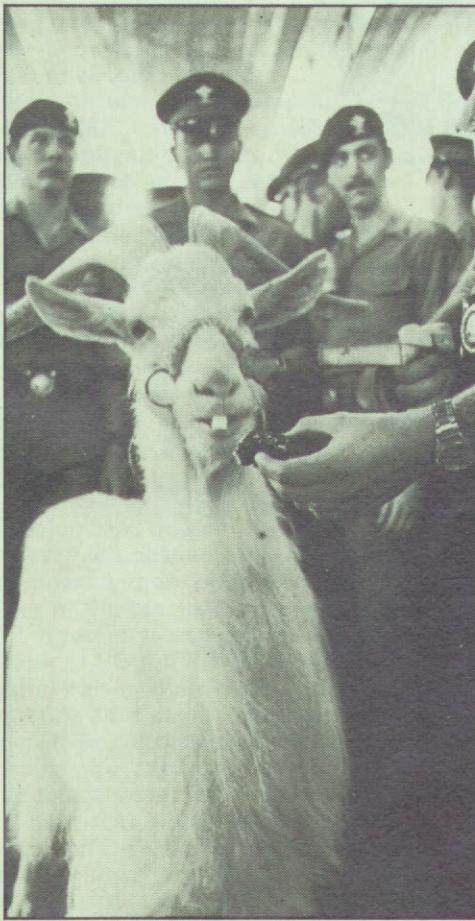


to give assistance, should they be called upon, to the civilian police."

On the night of the wedding with the quaffing of pints before going on three weeks' block leave, the most popular meeting place in Aldershot Military Town was the Prince of Wales Club, crushingly patronised by the men of 1RRW.

There, those who had been on parade, crowded round to watch the full-colour 'action replay' of their valued and unique contribution to the Wedding of the Year.

And, next day, a group of officers and men from the battalion gathered to toast the health of the newly-weds and sample slivers of the wedding cake — a tier of which was sent to them specially at the request of the bridegroom. □



Above: Taffy II, exemplary mascot of The Day tucks into his personal piece of wedding cake.

**GWILYNN JENKINS**, otherwise known as Taffy II, the regimental goat mascot of 1RRW, was presented to the battalion in August 1974 by Whipsnade Zoo and is directly descended from a herd of Kashmiri Goats which roamed in the grounds of Windsor Castle in 1828.

His Goat Major handler is Lance-Corporal David 'Joe' Joseph of the Corps of Drums.

Historically, Taffy II is the 13th in a long line of goats to be engaged in mascot duties. At least a couple of his forbears came to untimely ends.

One goat killed his predecessor in 1896 to take over the job. Another, ten years before, was beheaded, had his horns mounted on a spearhead, and led his battalion against the Dervishes up the Nile.

The first goat was adopted about the time of the Crimean War. Dark grey in colour and thoughtfully named 'Billy' he was probably present in the closing stages at the Siege of Sebastopol in 1855. The reason for his adoption is, according to military records, 'obscure'.

Billy, however, lived until 1861 and was seen by Queen Victoria at Aldershot on April 30th, 1856 when she was visiting her regiments on their return from the Crimea.

But there was no danger of Taffy II losing his head during the Royal wedding. Not like the other luckless

animal in 1866 when the 1st Battalion The Welch Regiment sailed from Durban for Egypt.

An extract from Despatches by the unit's CO records: "When we first arrived in Cairo an expedition up the Nile against the Dervishes was thought very possible.

"Our Colours would then, by the regulations, have to be left behind. A 'drapeau' of some sort was, I considered, necessary. As our old goat was getting very frail, I decided that, as he could no longer march at the head of the Regiment, his spirit should at least lead the way into action. So I had him beheaded, and his head, or rather horns, beautifully mounted on a spearhead."

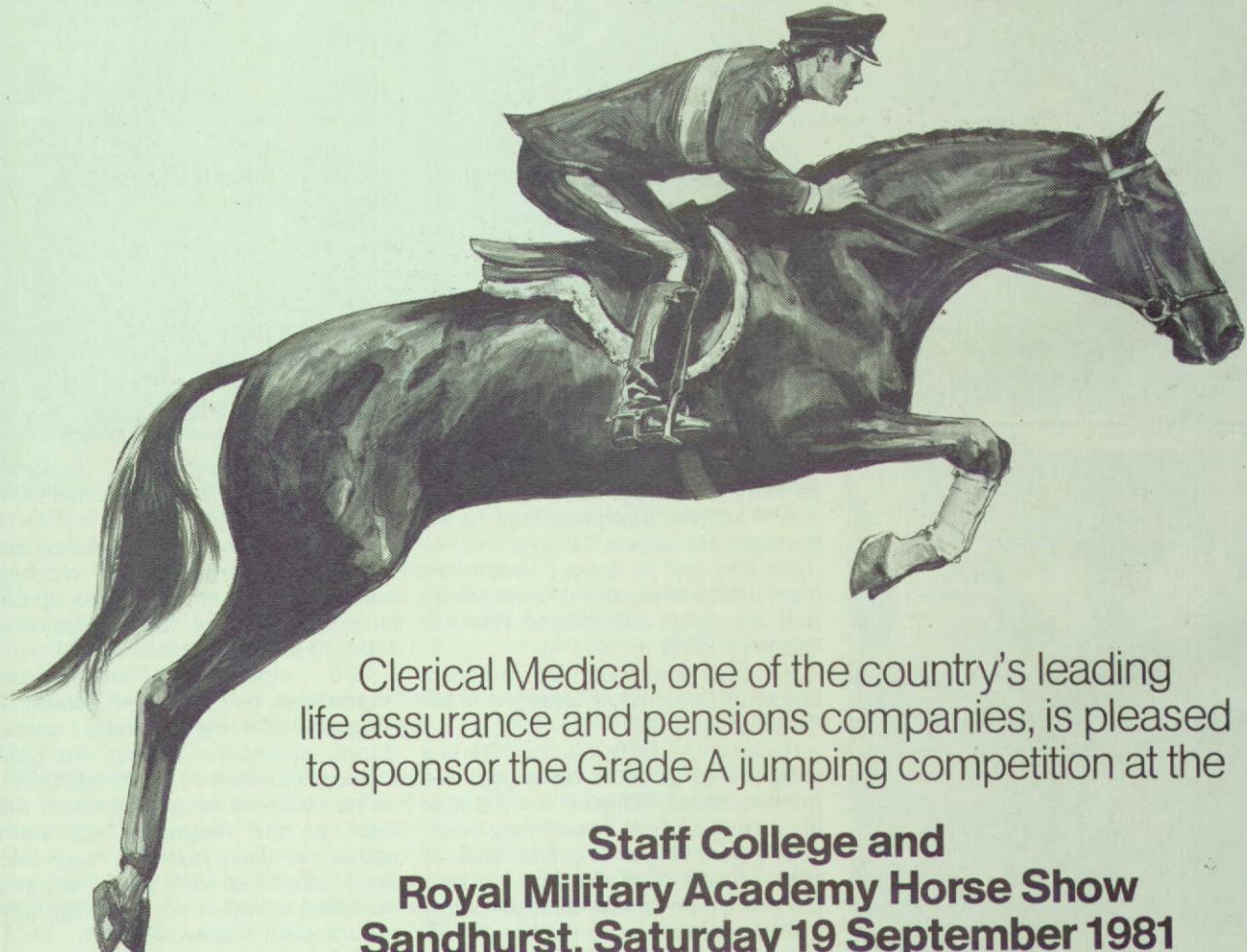
Since then, goats associated with the Regiment have seen action in Korea, Cyprus and, latterly, in Northern Ireland.

Today's Taffy II, immaculately groomed for the Wedding of the Year, fully lives up to the professional reputations of his predecessors.

Fresh vegetables, oatmeal and the occasional medicinal cigarette are some of his favourite fare.

The cigarettes minus the filters go down well because of their nicotine properties. It is said they keep his worms in check. But no-one was saying how many Taffy II devoured on The Day.

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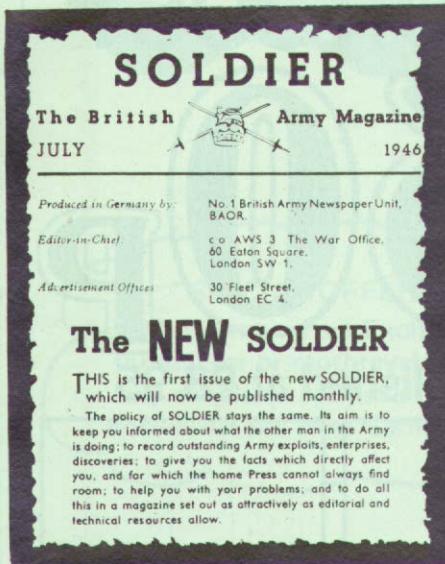
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# SOLDIER to Soldier

JULY 1946 marked the beginning of an era. September 1981 sees it come to an end. We thought it appropriate therefore, in this the last monthly issue of SOLDIER, to reproduce part of the editorial that launched the first. It is a message that still holds good today.



Thirty-five years ago, of course, SOLDIER was changing from a fortnightly to a monthly publication, having first been issued free in February 1945 to a British Army at war but poised for the final thrust to victory.

Now the wheel has come full circle and SOLDIER, once again, will be published fortnightly. Which makes this a beginning not an end; a time for fanfares rather than funeral orations.

SOLDIER has come a long way since the grim wartime days that gave birth to it. It has been a long way too — on active service in operational theatres as diverse as Malaya, Korea, Kenya, Aden, Cyprus, and, more recently, Ulster, as well as following the Army on peacetime duties from the snows of the Arctic to the jungles of New Guinea.

As soldiers and the stories about them have changed, so has the magazine — becoming, we hope, increasingly polished and professional in step with a more professional Army.

One of the biggest changes at SOLDIER in recent years has been the introduction of SOLDIER NEWS, first as an integral part of the magazine and subsequently as a separate tabloid newspaper. It was a bold step forward that reflected the need to give soldiers a more topical news and information service than was possible in a monthly format. And it enabled us not only to devote more space to current events and sport but to provide more help and information for families.

The task of producing two, quite separate, publications provided SOLDIER's staff with a tremendous chal-

lenge — not only at the 'creative' end for writers, photographers and art editor, but even more so on the administrative side where our accounts and distribution staff, our advertising section and our hard-working team of packers found their workload virtually doubled overnight. They all responded magnificently, but against a national background of economic doom and gloom and all the problems of staffing and spending constraints, it has always been an uphill struggle to produce two publications to the high standards that SOLDIER prides itself on at an economic cost. So now we are making what — we hope — will be the final change to SOLDIER's format for quite a while — combining all our staff and production resources and merging the best elements of the current SOLDIER NEWS and SOLDIER into one bright, topical and informative fortnightly magazine.

To re-echo that 1946 editorial — the policy stays the same. Today, as then, SOLDIER aims to keep soldiers and their families in touch with what is happening in their Army, to reflect their concerns and opinions and to inform them of new developments. And SOLDIER is not only for serving soldiers. It is a magazine for those whose days of active service are over or have not yet begun, and for everyone with an interest in the British Army — past, present and future.

This is the end of a chapter, but not the end of the story. See you again in October.

ONE of the problems of producing the monthly SOLDIER has always been the delay between our writing a story and actually getting it into our readers' hands. We won't bore you with all the technical reasons. Suffice it to say that we expect to bring you stories much quicker when the magazine goes fortnightly.

With feature stories the time gap is seldom critical. But it can be a big handicap when dealing with news events like the Royal Wedding. By the time the Great Day arrived on 29 July our August issue had already been out for over a week and this issue was virtually completed. So all the stops had to be pulled out — by ourselves and our printers — to make sure our pages recorded the event.

Because of the squeeze on time and space we decided to base our coverage on just one of the many Army units who helped put the occasion into the history books. So before we get bombarded with indignant letters pointing out 'we

were there too', apologies in advance to the Guards, the Household Cavalry, the Royal Military Police and all the many others who took part.

We knew, of course, that it would be a magnificent spectacle; that Lady Diana would look dazzling; and that among all the troops who marched, rode, played or stood guard there wouldn't be a foot — or a hoof — out of place. It was. She did. And there wasn't.

But what made this more than just a glittering ceremony of State was the nation's genuine warmth and affection for Prince Charles and his bride. Long life and happiness to them both.



ARDLY had the ink dried on the pages of our July issue featuring Clifford Knight as the first soldier to reach a televised heat of Granada's *Krypton Factor* than a telephone call from the sappers at Ripon said it was not so.

The claim that a Royal Engineers sergeant, 'Fred Manning' had been televised in 1979 was at first greeted with scepticism when we rang the programme. Said a spokesman: "We are 99 per cent certain that Cliff Knight was the first."

But five minutes later the same voice admitted: "We were wrong. A Royal Engineer sergeant, John Manning, was in the televised heats in 1979. We are awfully sorry about that. There's not a lot I can say."

Admitting that they deserve a *Krypton Factor* of Zero for recollection, the *Krypton Factor* team apologises to Sergeant Manning — and so does SOLDIER.

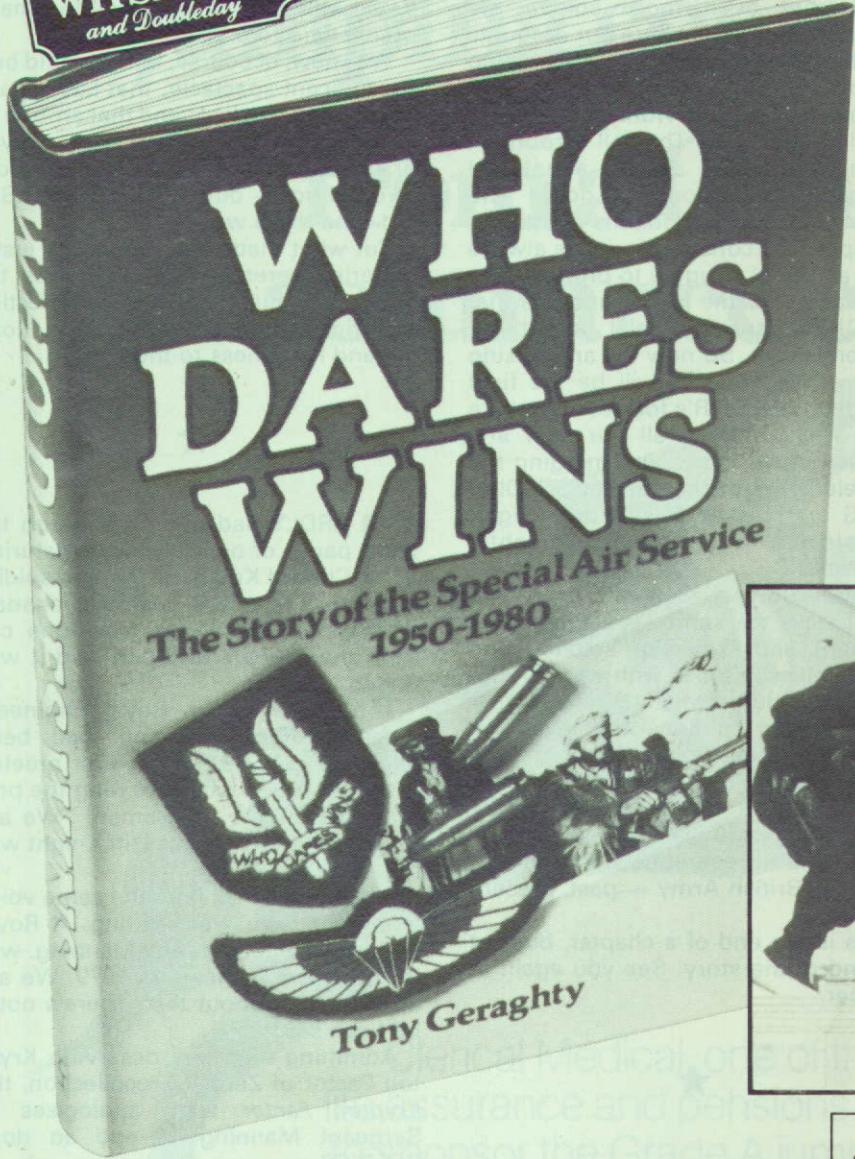


WE hope by now that most of our readers will have placed an order for the new fortnightly magazine, but in case you haven't it's still not too late to make sure of receiving your first issue. Subscription details are on page 53. Just get your order to us quickly and you won't be disappointed.

For those of you who like to collect SOLDIER — and want to begin collecting the fortnightly issues — our new Easibinders are now available. In red Balacron they are designed to hold a full year's copies — 25 issues. Again, full details are on page 53. And while you're reaching for your cheque book why not order some SOLDIER T-shirts and sweatshirts too? They make ideal presents for friends and family.

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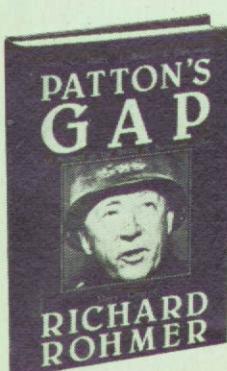
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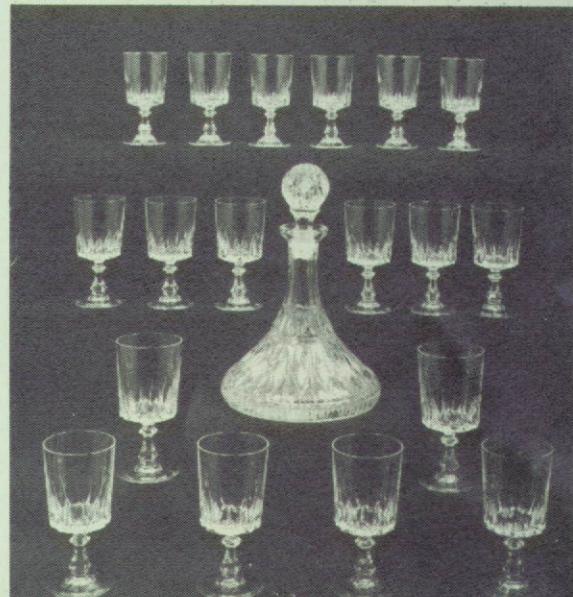
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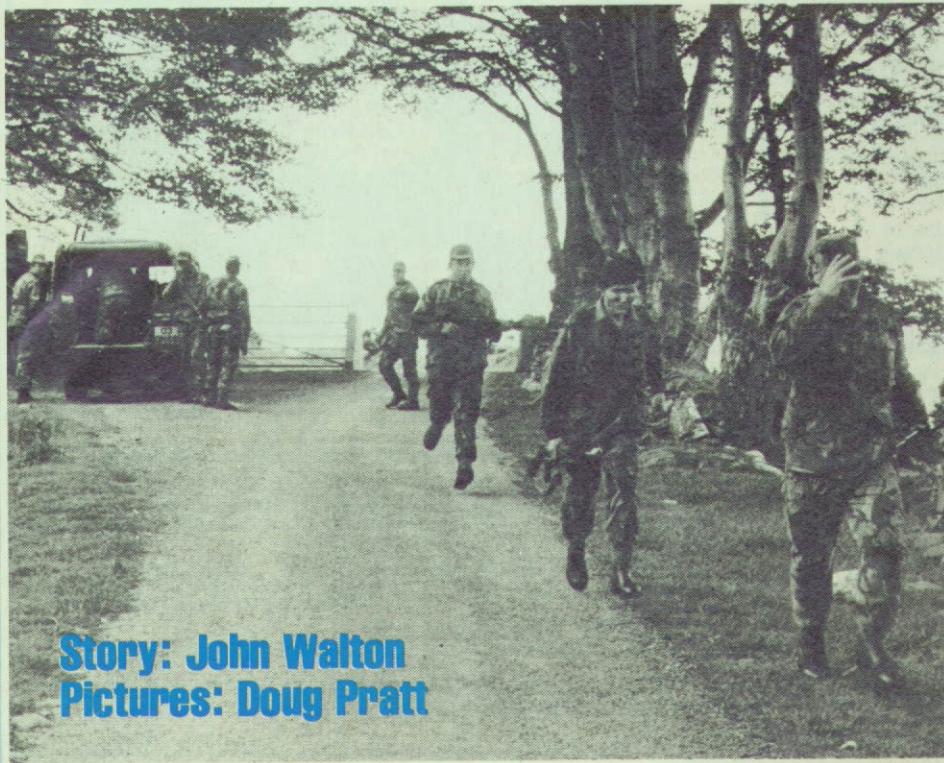
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Island Training Area grows more popular

# MIDST MOOR AND MIST — ON MAN



Story: John Walton  
Pictures: Doug Pratt

ONLY A FEW MILES AWAY

holidaysmakers were enjoying what passed for summer weather this year — light cloud but fairly warm. But at an observation post high in the hills the soldiers were shivering and peering through thick mist.

"Not much chance of catching them in this weather," said Warrant Officer 2 John Higginbottom. His men were part of the Hunter Force whose mission was to capture quartets of 'escapers' infiltrating through the Snaefell mountains.

The exercise 'Great Escape' was the highlight of the two week annual camp for the men of the 3rd Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment. The Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire miners, the Rolls-Royce and tobacco workers and the other Territorial Army enthusiasts from the two East Midlands counties were on a training range with a difference — on the Isle of Man.

The Isle of Man training camp at a wartime RAF camp at Jurby in the north of the

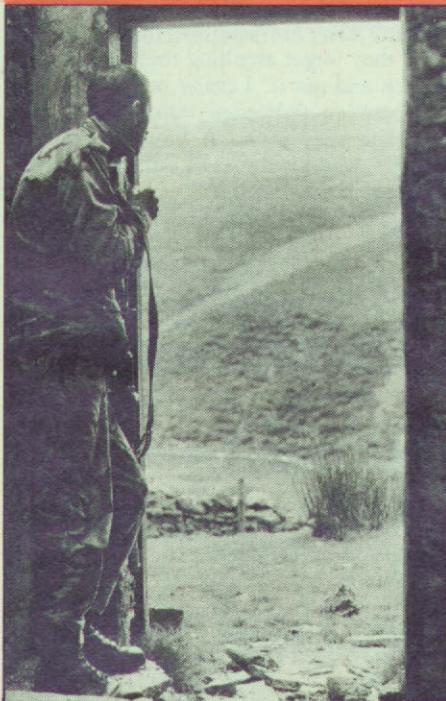
Top: Armed patrol out hunting in swirling mist

Left: On moors quick reaction force speeds in



Above: RAF helicopter deploying troops

Below: Keen eyes watch for signs of escapers



island is becoming increasingly popular for both Regulars and reservists as well as for CCF and ACF contingents.

For it provides the feeling of going abroad — with a boat trip across the Irish Sea — and a change from the regular carousel of training areas like Otterburn, Warcop, Stanford and Salisbury Plain.

The 3 WFR had the biggest exercise to take place in the Isle of Man this year. Some 334 men from the ten-year-old TA general reserve battalion had already practised the skills which they learn throughout the year before beginning the two day 'Great Escape'.

The battalion has seen a big upsurge in recruiting in the last 12 months and according to Major John Ward, a knitwear manufacturer who commands the company based at Derby: "It's not just due to unemployment and the recession. The type of recruit we are getting is of much higher calibre than in recent years."

Other companies are based at Ilkeston and Worksop/Mansfield (both comprising mostly miners) and at Beeston, Nottingham. The headquarters company is at Newark. For most of the men the visit to the Isle of



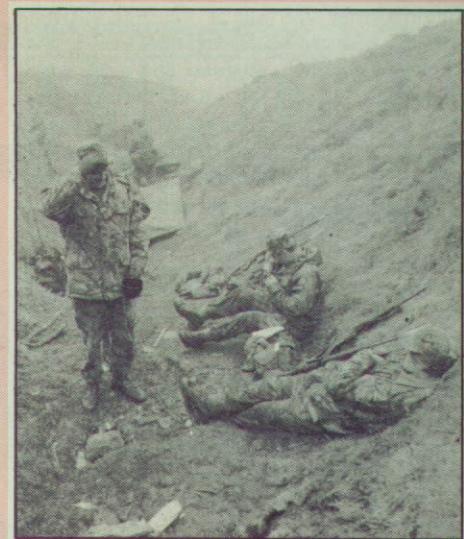
Man was an adventure.

Said the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Tony Jerram: "I decided to come here because after a battalion life of ten years, people with any length of service are getting to know all of the commoner training areas. A surprising number of them had never been to sea before and the Isle of Man is not like their traditional holiday place of Skegness. We have to bear in mind that many of them have to take their annual holidays to come so we want to choose somewhere different."

The escape and evasion exercise gave all the men taking part the chance to become both hunter and hunted. For the first day's escapers had to take on the role of hunters the next day — and vice versa.

Using an RAF Wessex helicopter as well as road transport the escapers were dropped into the Snaefell mountain range whose spine runs across the middle of the island. In groups of four they had to cover between eight and nine miles of rugged countryside without being captured.

If they were caught early enough in the exercise their 'reward' would be a stiff interrogation and a return to the start to begin



Above: Patrol takes breather in mountain gully

Below: Hunter force headquarters near old farm

their journey all over again.

On the first day the advantages certainly lay with the hunters — with their observation posts, good communications and Land-Rover based quick reaction forces. For there is precious little cover on the bleak, sheep nibbled hills. But on day two low cloud brought visibility down to a few yards and the escapers held most of the aces — apart from the problem of finding their way in the clammy mist.

Colonel Jerram observed: "The exercise is designed for individuals to practise their skills in small groups. The Hunter Force describe what they see, get the information back for an appreciation and then take appropriate action.

"Meanwhile the escapers are practising other individual skills, mainly map reading and the fieldcraft aspects of using ground such as choosing between crossing an open space or wriggling down a gully. These are the lessons we are keen to bring out rather than just have them getting across by all means — like cadging lifts and so on."

Just how good are the TA these days? One man who has no doubts is Sergeant-Major

continued on page 16

Higginbottom who was at one time a Regular with the Parachute Regiment.

"When you are a Regular you sometimes hear people say that the TA are rubbish, but when you work with them you find they give 100 per cent more effort than a regular soldier. To a regular soldier an exercise like this would be just another job but the TA soldier has given up his own time to come and do this."

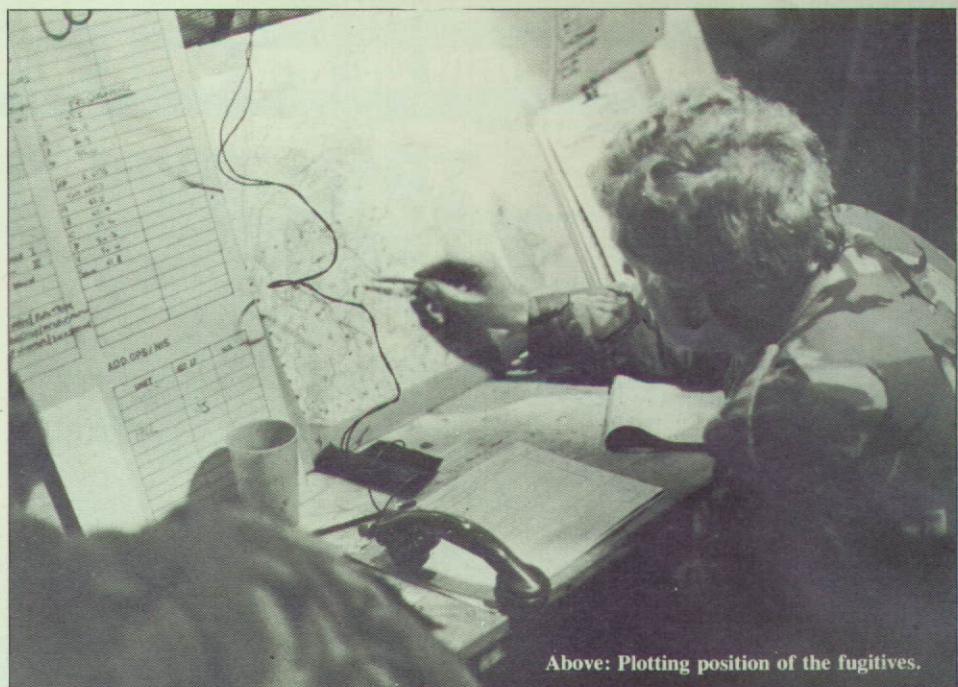
The wartime hutt camp at Jurby is only open for training in the summer. It has no heating system apart from hot water and would prove very spartan in the inclement Manx winter.

So every October the camp commandant, Major James Kirkpatrick and his small staff of five civilians, pack away all the bedding and furniture and close the camp down.

"I am officially told that I am sacked at the end of each October and I am then invited to take up the appointment again for the beginning of the next season. This suits me very well. It gives me an interest in summer and allows me to get away on holiday in the winter."

And every April out comes the furniture and bedding and the staff have a spring clean before the first units arrive. During the summer season they are supplemented by ten regular soldiers supplied by the Army's North-West District but in fact drawn from all of the UK districts.

Major Peter Postlethwaite, this year's Training Commandant, spent a lot of his time liaising with landowners and sheep farmers. For the training areas are not owned by the Ministry of Defence and are spread over 20,000 acres.



Above: Plotting position of the fugitives.

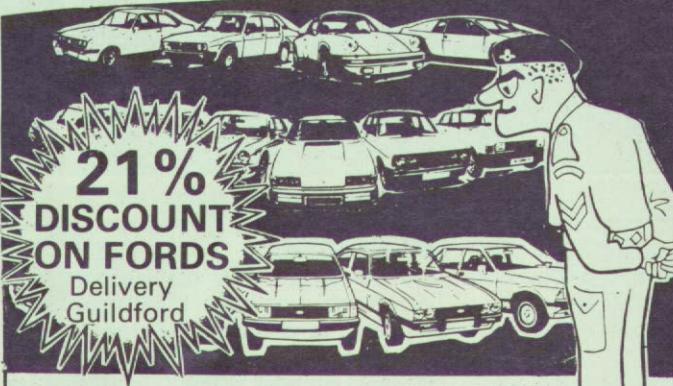
Moorland, plantations and even a sand dune area are available to the 30 or so units who visit the island each summer. No wonder that Major Kirkpatrick reports: "It's getting more usage and more widely known. People are beginning to appreciate the scope and variety that is available within a short distance."

Major Kirkpatrick, who served in the 15th Isle of Man Ack-Ack Regiment during the war, says that visiting units, especially the cadets, really feel they are travelling to an overseas station.

"They have train and boat journeys to do and if they forget anything they cannot just go back and get it. I really notice a difference between the cadets when they arrive and when they leave. A unit might be a shambles when it comes in but it will be so different on the way out."

The Isle of Man has made its name for motorbike racing, cats without tails and as a tax haven. But for an increasing number of units it now offers something else — a camp that is overseas and yet within easy striking distance of the British mainland. ■

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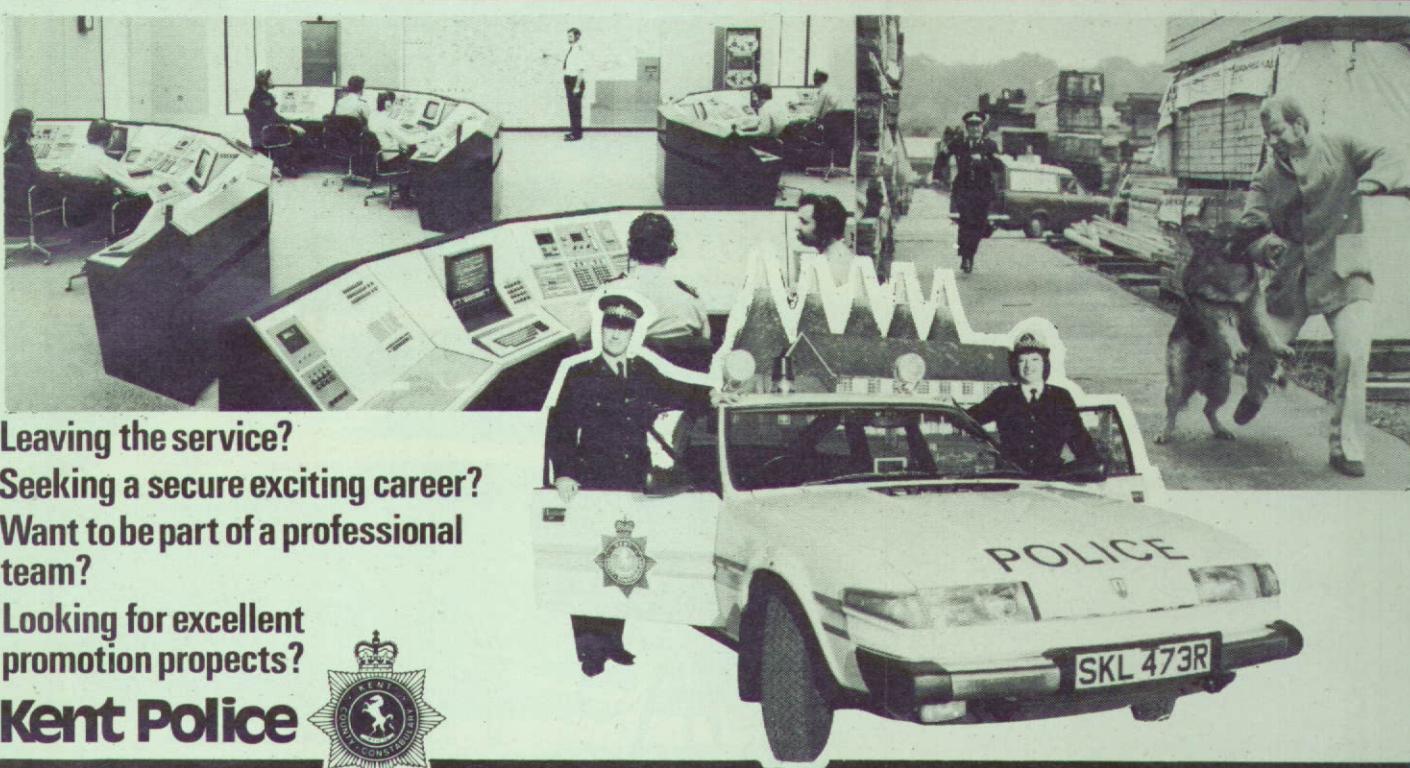
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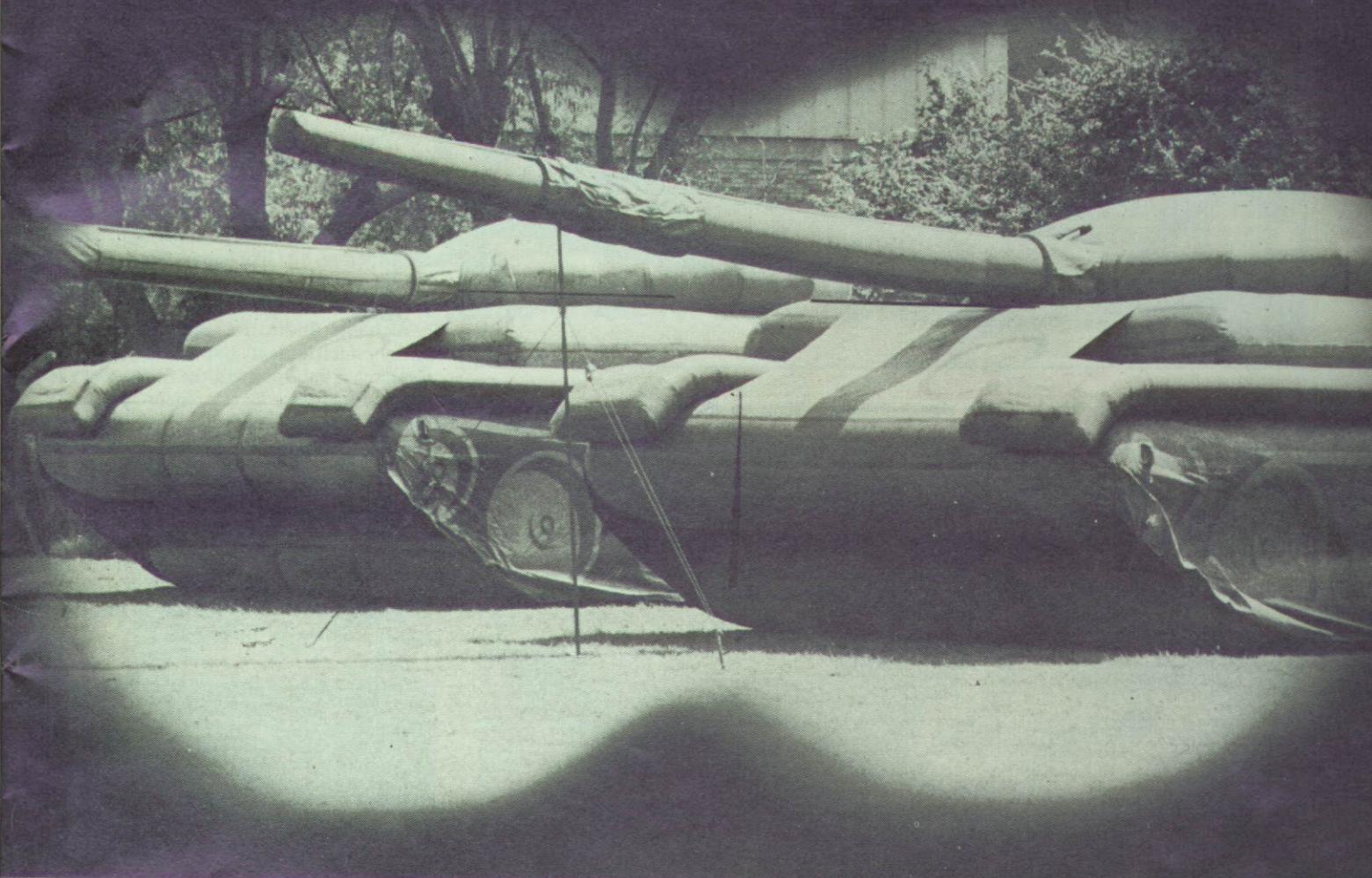
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# How to blow up a T-62



A WARSAW PACT T-62 TANK is a tank . . . is a tank . . . is a tank — or is it? Not necessarily. And certainly not when seen in the United Kingdom — well, not exactly.

Appearances can be deceptive and a Leigh-on-Sea firm — Airborne Industries Ltd — fully intend that they should be.

For, among other things, the Essex-based firm makes inflatable targets like the Soviet T-62 for recognition purposes — targets that can be inflated in as little as eight minutes by untrained personnel and come custom-packed in 195-lb valises.

Theirs is a line of business in which the term 'inflation' has meant nothing but good news and bodes well for the future, too. They already export around 40 per cent of their products including a £250,000 deal in the Far East to supply Thailand with 100-foot-long kite balloons for parachute training.

Airborne Industries' models include BMP-A, BTR 60 PB, and BTR 50 PK Soviet armoured personnel carriers which provide realistic recognition training for Forward Air Controllers directing air strikes against single armoured fighting vehicles and battle formations.

Aircrews, as well, have drawn great benefit from the life-size 'blow ups' in tacti-

cal reconnaissance and air support roles.

Airborne Industries overcame the old problems of two dimensional cut-out silhouette targets which gave only narrow view angles and the difficulties of shadows.

They developed three-dimensional dummy targets or decoys in synthetic rubber-coated nylon that could be positioned in low-flying areas to give realistic outlines and shadow from all angles.

The targets comprise a framework of low pressure inflatable tubes which spring to size through a small battery-operated blower. Paint is used to highlight prominent features and supporting poles and guy ropes are supplied for anchorage which can be achieved in just three minutes.

As easy to remove as they are to erect, the dummy targets can be deflated, packed and stowed away in ten minutes. And the simple design in such tough construction materials ensures resistance to harsh treatment and terrain.

At ranges of 2000 and 3000 metres, through field glasses, the inflatables are said to be 'immediately identifiable' as to apparent origin. At 1000 metres they are identifiable 'as to type'. Only at a distance of 300 metres and less can the targets be seen to be dummies.

But the concept is not new.

Monty used this device of deception in North Africa against Rommel's elite Afrika Korps — and Airborne Industries had a

Above: Binoculars-eye view of inflatable T-62s. hand or, rather, production line to play in it.

Mr Ray Gocher, Airborne Industries Ltd Managing Director, explained: "When Monty was taking over North Africa we got involved in the manufacture of decoys for him in large quantities. It was a big production line. The decoys were made from hessian, wood and other materials to be put into the desert and painted. They were very crude but effective and seemed to work."

Airborne Industries was set up in 1938. The Government, according to Mr Gocher, "realised there was a war coming" and set the Essex firm the task of constructing mammoth barrage balloons for the defence of UK cities.

And the balloon or, correctly, the kite balloon of the type used to train Britain's Service parachutists, is still very much around and has won Airborne its big contract with the Thais — the first deal of its kind in the world. Their balloons will use helium whereas the British balloons still use hydrogen.

Mr Gocher and his 125-strong work force like to tackle the unusual.

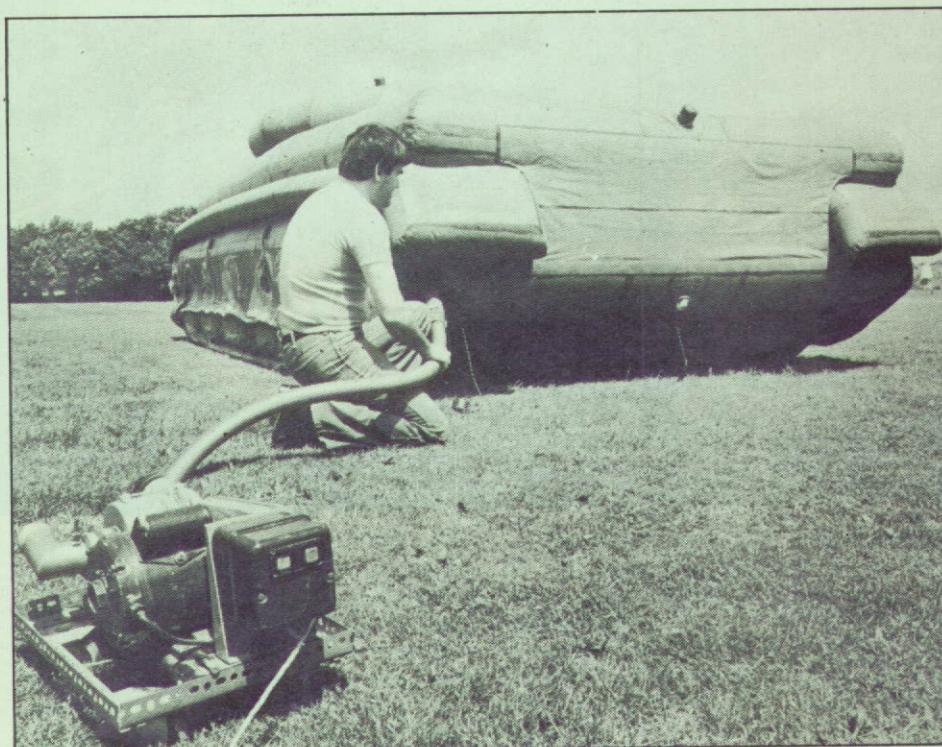
"We go in for the supply of equipment to Special Forces or specialist groups such as assault boats. The biggest, at eight kilos, can be carried by three men yet stowed in one main pack," he says.

His Technical Director, Mr Mike Martin, continued on page 20

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



Above: Soviet armoured vehicle profile view. Below: Sized up by battery operated blower.



a former RAF engineering officer, endorsed the enthusiasm for these and the dummy targets.

"I think there is going to be a very good sales boost and clearly there is a tremendous amount of interest. We are getting a lot of very positive inquiries."

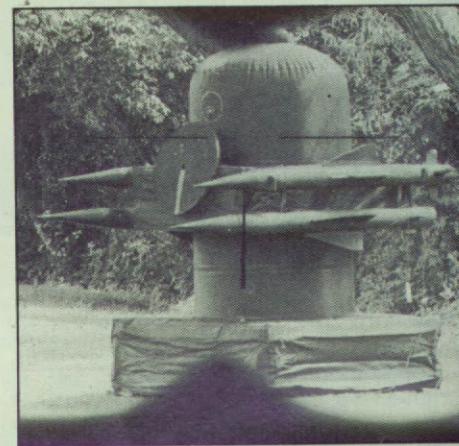
Airborne Industries make high and low fidelity visual recognition training aids. They also manufacture inflatable aircraft shelters and Command Post buildings. And major and minor damage can be repaired with the ease of a bicycle tyre.

"There are progressions in visual parities," explained Mr Gocher. "The low fidelity visual aids are not faithful reproductions. With high fidelity aids we take extra precautions to get proportions right and all the added-on bits like lamps. With all of our aids ease of erection and portability are paramount requirements."

Airborne Industries work closely with Army establishments like the Royal Signals Research Establishment, the Stores and Clothing Research Development Establishment, and the Ministry of Defence's Procurement Executive.

But no-one is perfect and Mr Gocher admitted that his firm were once fooled by an editorial 'gremlin'.

"It was the T-72. We managed to get our hands on some of the data — I think it was from the *International Defence Review* — and built one. It turned out to be incorrect. It was the data for the T-64!" ■



Above: High-powered binocular view of Rapiersystem.



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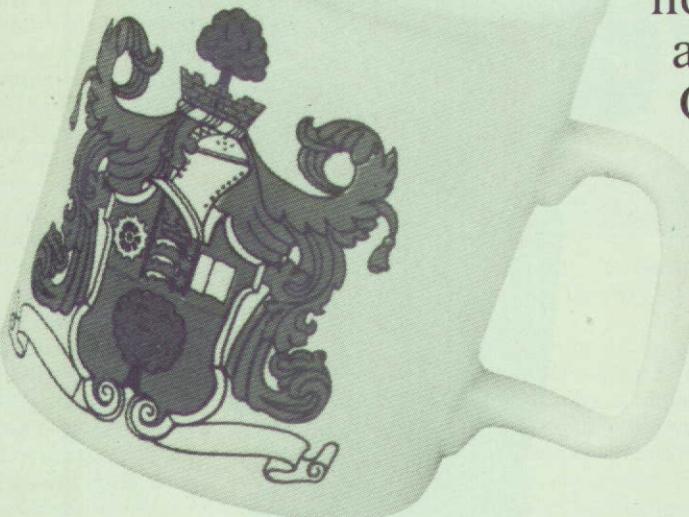
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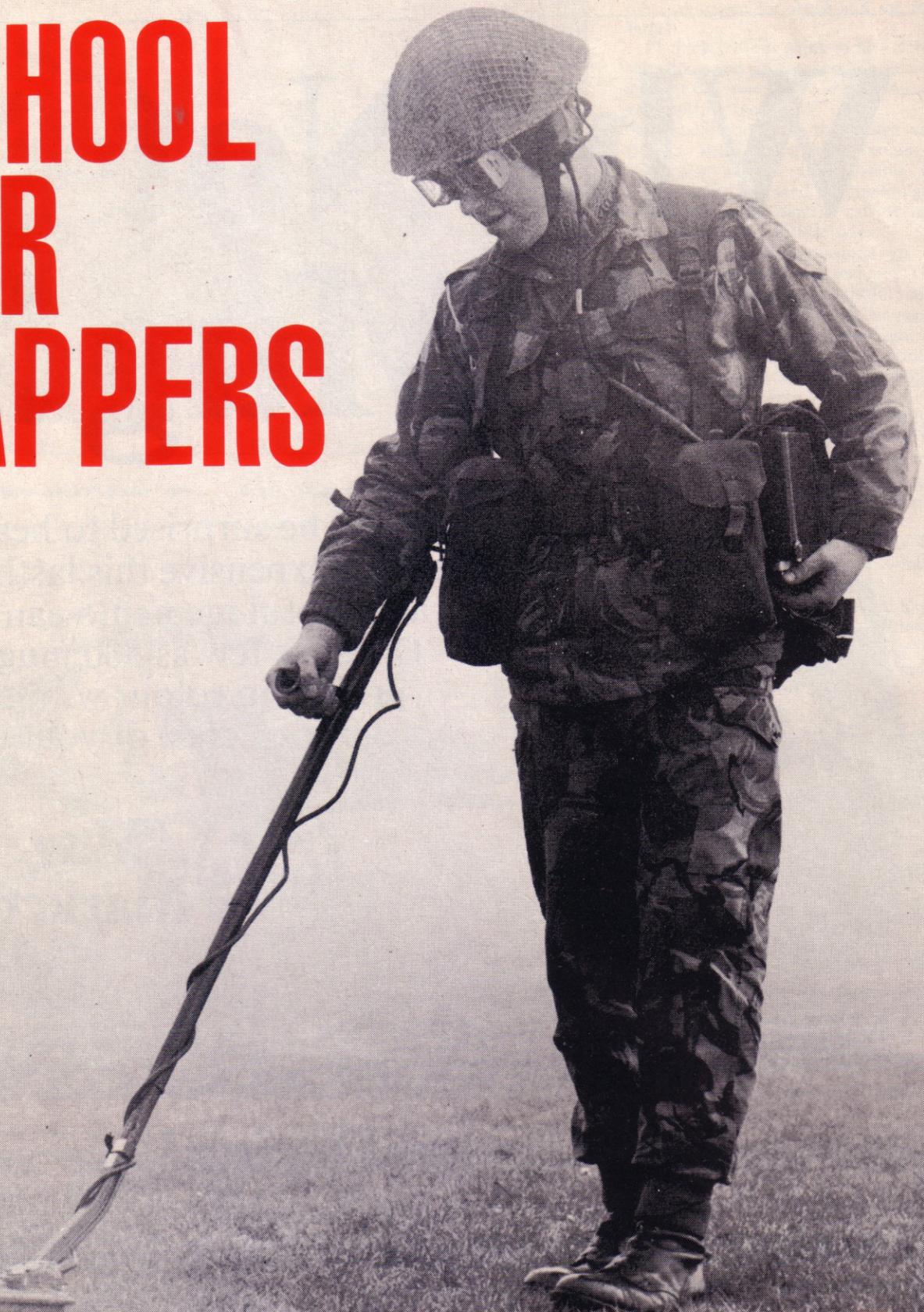
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**Story: David McDine Pictures: Les Wiggs**

VERSATILITY IS THE KEY QUALITY of the ubiquitous sapper and he acquires it at the Royal School of Military Engineering where you can learn anything from signwriting to operating a giant earth-mover.

Mine clearance, bridge construction, road making, brick laying, surveying, welding, carpentry, engine fitting, and dozens of other crafts and skills — they are all taught at the home of the Sappers.

Every member of the Corps of Royal Engineers will pass through Chatham at

some stage of his career before becoming a sergeant. His expertise will then be used all over the world — and the Royal Engineers clocked up 33 countries last year.

It is the excellence of the training given at the RSME that is one of the main factors in making the Corps outstanding in its field claims the Commandant, Brigadier Chris Lloyd. Military engineering ranges from rapid combat engineer tasks such as demolitions, not only above ground but even by Royal Engineer divers under water, to more

Above: Trainee using mine detection equipment. complicated construction works which must be done fast under difficult circumstances. Nearly 50 different trades are involved overall and the training in all of them has to be good. The majority are taught at Chatham.

The School is big. Its heart is in Brompton Barracks adjoining Chatham Dockyard on the eastern bank of the River Medway. It includes Kitchener Barracks down the road and, on the western bank of the Medway, Chattenden Barracks and the training areas



Right: Young officers try out assault boats.

where the sappers learn their multifarious outdoor combat engineering roles. The Royal Engineer Diving Establishment operates under the School but is based at Marchwood in Southampton Water due to the availability of suitable training areas and its nearness to the Royal Navy Diving Establishment at Portsmouth. Here all underwater diving skills are taught to sappers and soldiers of other arms and corps.

The School in Kent covers 2663 acres and employs 540 Army personnel and 690 civilians. In a year 5500 students come on 119 different types of course. They vary from young sappers on basic trade training, through sergeants on Clerk of Works courses to selected officers aiming at qualifying as members of the Institute of Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

British sappers are by no means the only soldiers at the School. Gurkha sappers do their training there, infantry men go there for assault pioneer courses, and a variety of other nations, recognising where the world's best training can be found, send their students.

There is also a sprinkling of other nationalities among the instructors and in liaison roles, including a Frenchman, a German, two Canadians, two Australians and an American.

How did the School come to be on the



banks of the Medway which traditionally divides the Men of Kent from the Kentish Men?

Back in 1812, towards the end of the Peninsular Wars, Wellington pressed for better training of 'military artificers'.

Major Charles Pasley was ordered to start a fieldworks school and within a week training began at Upnor. The Medway area had exactly the variety of terrain required and there were newly built barracks on the hill at Brompton next to the Dockyard.

The Gunners who had first occupied Brompton Barracks, were given their marching orders.

At first the new set up was known as 'The RE Establishment' and later became the

School of Military Engineering. King Edward VII, then Colonel-in-Chief of the Corps, visited Brompton in 1905 and was distinctly heard to refer to it as the *Royal School of Military Engineering*. However, it was not actually granted the royal prefix until 1962 when the Duke of Edinburgh attended the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary celebrations.

The first Director, who later became General Sir Charles Pasley, held the post for 29 years! He certainly deserves the Road and House named after him at Brompton.

Brompton Barracks is the headquarters and also houses the Depot Regiment. Its role is to administer the permanent staff and students in Brompton. The famous Chatham RE staff band, the splendid Headquarters Mess, the Corps Library and Museum are there too. All underline the reason why sappers think of it as their military home.

Outside the headquarters the famous statue of Gordon on a camel seems to emphasise the Corps' ability to throw up extraordinary and talented men.

In the Brompton Wings is what staff and students claim is "the best technical college in the country".

Warrant Officer 2 Peter Vant says: "Trade assessors tell me our standards are every bit as high as they've seen anywhere, even though our lads are under much more time pressure than civilian trainees elsewhere."

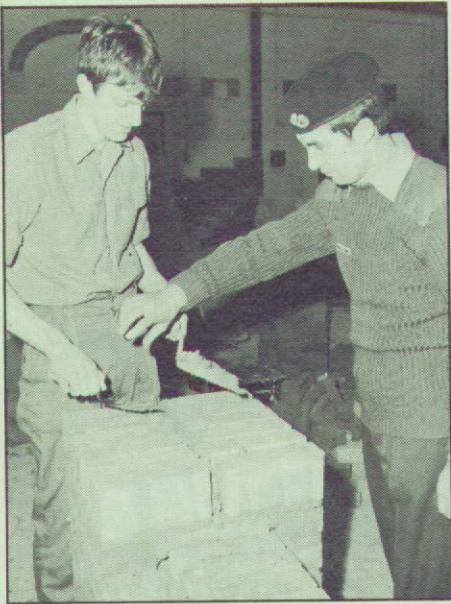
And he should know. He first came to RSME on a Bricklayers' Course in 1962 and has been back half-a-dozen times, currently as an Instructor.

WO2 Vant lives locally. "My next door neighbour is 79 and he was here as a boy bugler. Chatham is sappers through and through."

continued on next page

Below: Chatham's pride — the RE staff band.





Above: WO2 Vant with a bricklaying pupil.

The Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Wings teach officers and soldiers these skills as well as a staggering variety of trades — Electrical, Bricklaying, Plumbing, Welding, Carpentry, Decorating and so on.

Young survey engineer sappers find themselves playing with computers, and with some evening work at a nearby College of Technology you can end up with learned letters after your name like Corporal Philip Crook, a Survey Instructor, who is already an M.Inst.C.E.S. (Member of the Institute of Civil Engineering Surveyors) and an A.S.S.T. (an Associate Member of the Society of Surveying Technicians).

Down the road Gurkhas are moving in to Kitchener Barracks as the new 69 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron takes shape. Outside is another statue of another exceptional sapper — Kitchener — still staring sternly across the river towards Chattenden.

Until recently 24 Field Squadron occupied Kitchener Barracks but has now moved to new accommodation at Chattenden. There it will be better placed to fulfil its role of providing combat engineer support for training at the Chattenden Wings.

The Squadron, with Army sports stars such as 400 metres specialist, Sergeant Major Ossie Peters, behind it, carved up all opposition to win the Army Minor Unit athletics and soccer cups last season and threatened to do a repeat performance this year.

Chattenden is the home of 12 RSME Regiment, which has a similar role North of

the Medway to the Depot Regiment at Brompton. Combat engineer training in all its forms is the speciality of the Chattenden Wings.

The Field Engineer Wing teaches bridging, minewarfare, search techniques, field defences, water supply and demolitions, and trains corporals, sergeants and young officers in command skills.

There is a Tactics Wing which teaches the organisation, employment and handling of engineers and engineer intelligence on and off the battlefield, while the Signal Wing trains signallers for the Corps — which can claim to have fathered the Royal Signals.

The Plant, Roads and Airfields Wing is equipped with a wider range of plant than any other organisation in the country. It trains officers and soldiers in the operation of earth-moving plant and all aspects of road and airfield construction.

Chattenden is where you get your boots muddy and can see the Combat Engineer Tractor or the new Combat Support Boats going through their paces.

But it is Brompton which is the true spiritual home of the Corps. The Corps Museum demonstrates that the School has been in at the start of pretty well every important military breakthrough over the last century-and-a-half.



Above: Spr Alan Dykes gets in some signwriting practice on the painting and decorating course.



Above: Many cap badges get trained at RSME. L/Cpl Stephen Adam (DERR) learns carpentry.

Below: Assembling double span girder bridge.

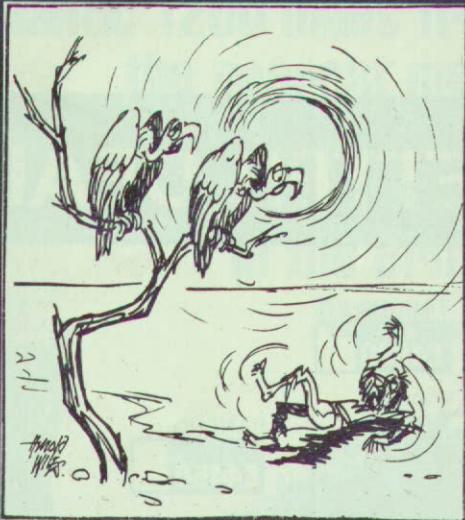


You can see the actual wooden prototype of Louis Brennan's torpedo and exhibits showing the Corps' involvement in the development of aviation — the School of Ballooning was part of the SME a century ago — photography, signals, railways and steam road transport, rocketry, submarine mining, tanks, searchlights, survey and even Portland cement.

This innovative and think-tank role is still an important one for the Corps and nowhere is the 'Mark One Crystal Ball' as closely studied as at the RSME.

Tactical Doctrine and Military Engineering techniques are developed there. Trials are carried out on new equipment, there is much cross-fertilisation with other experts both military and civilian, and the manuals and publications that become the bibles in their field are produced there.

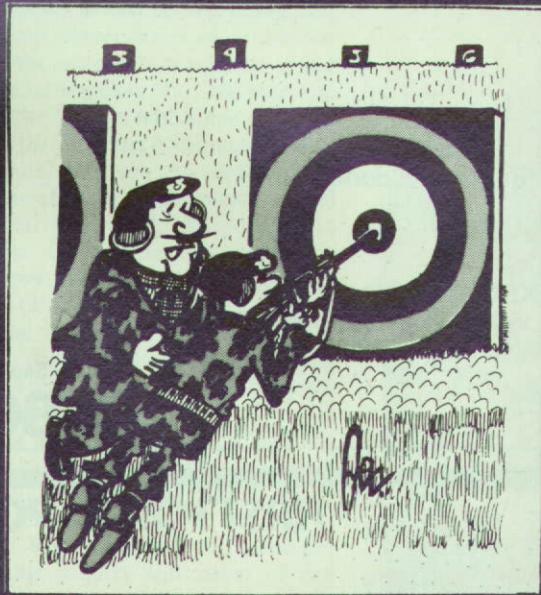
The School that has been at the centre of Sapper inventiveness and versatility for so long is still very much alive and well in Chatham.



"Backstroke? Don't they usually finish in freestyle?"



"You're in great shape for a man of sixty. What a pity you're only forty."



"We'll start here and work back."

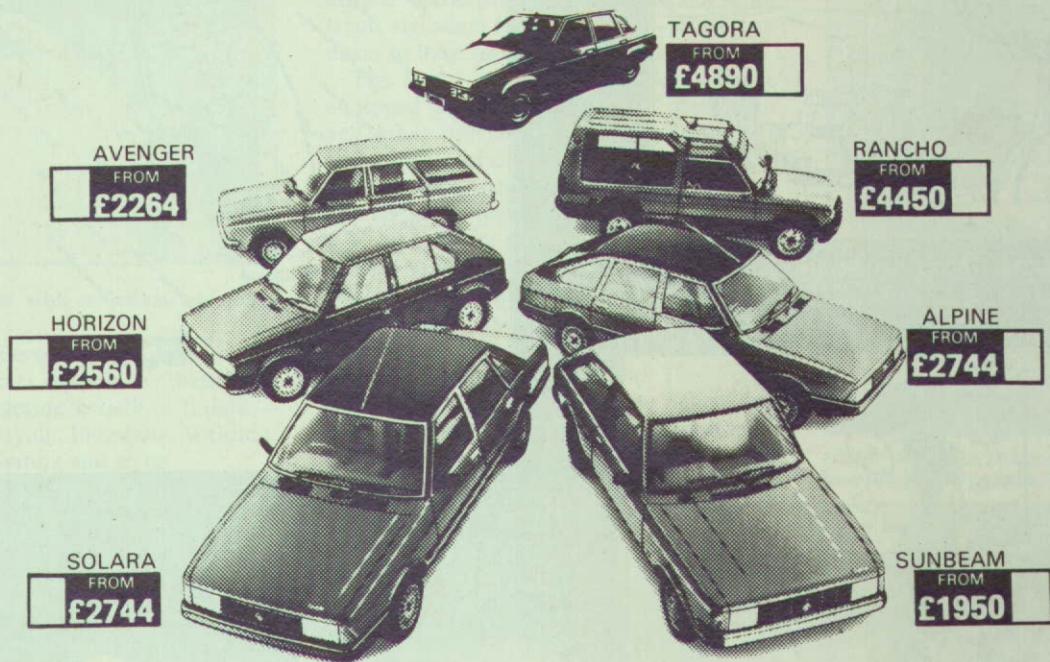


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## **MEN FROM THE ISLAND**

A TINY ISLAND in the windswept South Atlantic, 1200 miles from the nearest mainland — Africa — seems an unlikely spot for the British Army to cast its recruiting net. Yet the British dependency of St Helena — famed in the history books as the island where the exiled Napoleon died 160 years ago — has provided Britain with some excellent soldiers over the years and continues to do so.

For example, 18 years ago three youngsters left their 47-square-mile volcanic island homeland for the 10-day sea odyssey to Southampton to be met by recruiting sergeants from the local Army Careers Information Office.

One of the trio was Warrant Officer 1 Reg Duncan, 35, of the Royal Green Jackets, now acting as assistant adjutant at The Light Infantry Depot, Shrewsbury.

The young men spent four days with the RGJ in Winchester to 'get to know the Army' and, fittingly, were actually enlisted on 21 May — St Helena Day.

Since then, Reg — married to an island girl he met in this country and father of two daughters — has crossed the world's oceans several times.

He travelled with the 2nd Battalion, Royal Green Jackets, to the Far East, then to Rhine

PHOTO: BARNABY'S PICTURE LIBRARY



**Above: L/Cpl Pat Thomas points the way for American tourists outside Buckingham Palace.**

**Below: Peaceful contrast — Pat's island home**



*continued on next page*

Army and last served with his battalion in Northern Ireland in 1971.

Reg left his battalion to join a TA regiment in Birmingham and, two years later, was posted to the 3rd Battalion, The Light Infantry in BAOR.

Four years ago, as a WO 2, he was the Chief Clerk chosen with seven other Army personnel to help form the Belize Defence Force.

During his service, Reg has made two trips home to St Helena — the remote island first discovered by a Portuguese sailor in 1502.

His hobbies include collecting stamps — not only those from St Helena but from the other South Atlantic communities of Ascension and Tristan da Cunha.

Another serving soldier from St Helena is Staff Sergeant Ken George who is with 27 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery in Germany. He joined the Army in 1961 and has also been to the Far East — Hong Kong, Singapore and a four-month detachment in Korea with the United Nations force.

Elsewhere around the globe he has done four tours in Northern Ireland and has visited Canada, America and Denmark on exercises.

Ken has managed three trips home to St Helena — the last four years ago — where his mother lives in Jamestown, the capital, and his brother Eric is the island information officer.

Lance-Corporal Pat Thomas, 21, is a 'red cap' with London District Provost Company whose 'beat' stretches out to the suburbs. It is responsible for an area bigger than the whole of St Helena where Pat served as a civilian police cadet for 20 months.

So keen was Pat to get on within the ranks of the British capital's Royal Military Police that he went walking in his free time just to get to know the streets in an area of perennial tourist activity where, eventually, he will be involved in ceremonial duties associated with events like the Queen's Birthday Parade, the Royal Tournament at Earls Court, the State Opening of Parliament and the various Lancaster House conferences.

It was a former member of the RMP who first directed the teenager's attention three years ago to joining the specialised Corps. He was Warrant Officer 1 Frank Short, then serving with the 'top brass' of the St Helena police force who now lives in Australia.

Pat applied. But before coming to the UK, American connections on St Helena secured the travel-hungry Lance Corporal Thomas a position with an airline company in California where he worked as a maintenance staff clerk.

"But I had police work in my soul, I suppose," he now admits. "It still stuck with me over the years."

"Britain was a strange country for me to begin with, having been brought up in a different environment and having to get used to a different system," Pat said, traces of an American accent still quite detectable.

Now he goes on routine car patrols among his diverse duties. Part of his past training included a six months' stint with the Special Investigations Branch (SIB). But this was not for him on two counts.

"It was rather boring," he conceded, "and I love uniform and like to look smart in it. I hate going round in civvies."

Pat likes his bustling city work because he



says it gives him a chance to learn about the British way of life.

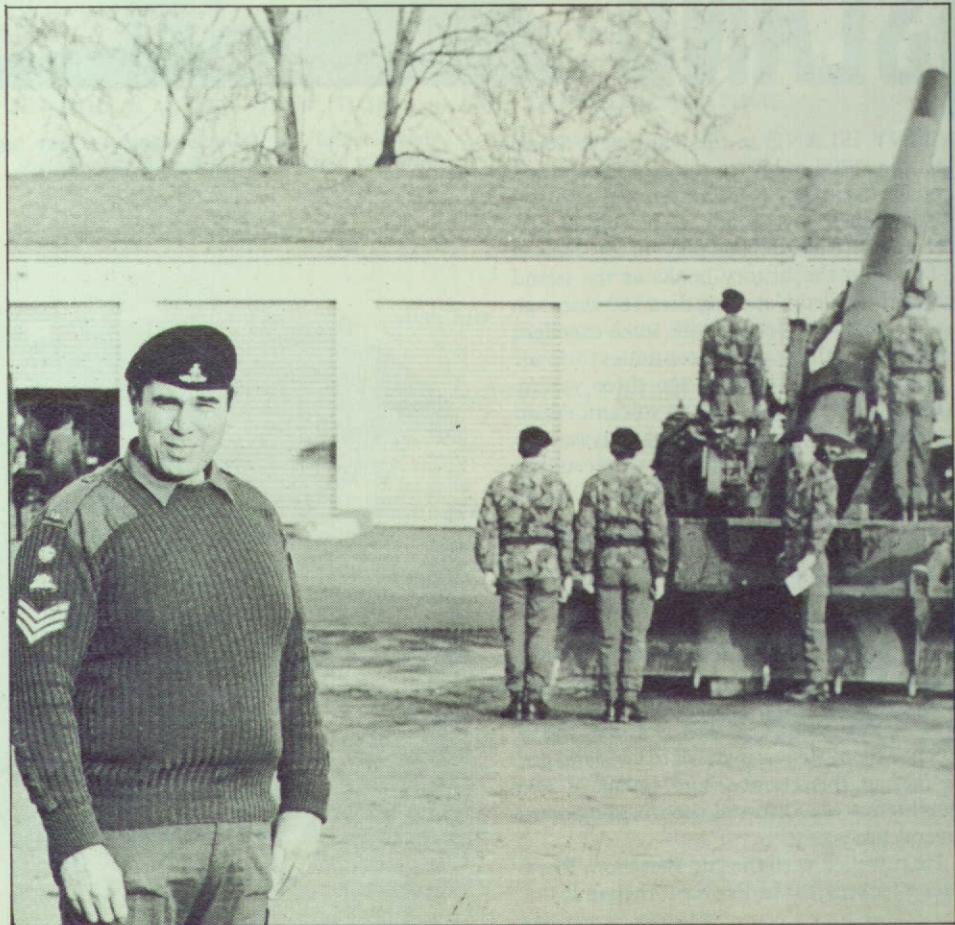
Yet amid the milling throng to be found daily on the doorstep of his SW1 headquarters, Pat still feels the occasional pang of nostalgia for his South Atlantic heritage.

"Yes, I do feel lonely sometimes, especially when I get mail from home in Jamestown. My mother let me sort out my own

Above: WO1 Reg Duncan, now at the LI Depot. career though and I think she is quite proud of me. I've certainly no regrets."

Pat hopes to see Mum and his family later this year when he returns on leave with his English-born fiancee.

"I intend to do some recruiting of my own there on behalf of the Army but particularly for the RMPs," he said with a wry grin. □



Right: S/Sgt Ken George, 27 Field Regt RA.

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\*In the May 1980 issue of their magazine 'Motorwelt' ADAC (the W. German equivalent of our own AA/RAC service) showed Colt cars top of the reliability table with only 3.9 breakdowns per 1,000 registrations for cars up to 2 years old.

Breakdowns per 1000 Registrations 1979  
of cars up to 2 years old

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4	Mazda	6.7
5	Toyota	7.3
6	Datsun	7.5
7	VW	8.6
8	Opel	9.6
9	Ford	10.1
10	Audi	10.2
11	BMW	10.6
12	Renault	11.4
13	Fiat	13.8
14	Talbot	14.9
15	Volvo	16.7
16	Peugeot	17.7
17	Citroën	17.9
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19	Porsche	22.7
20	Lada	29.9
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# PIERCING LANCE



BUFFETED by 30 miles per hour winds the cigar shaped object pointed towards the grey clouds racing overhead. The atmosphere was electric with the excitement of space exploration in the late sixties as the voice intoned 'ten, nine, eight, seven . . .'

At the chant of 'zero' the 20 foot long cigar shuddered and shot into the air in a stream of smoke and flame followed, a second later, by a mighty roar. Lance, the British Army's American made missile, had left the peat bogs of South Uist and was heading for a watery grave in the Atlantic more than 60 miles away.

What we were seeing was the most important day of the year for the men of 15 Missile Battery, part of the Army's only nuclear missile regiment, 50 Missile Regiment, Royal Artillery.

For the 120 men of the battery who had come along to the firing range in the bleak Hebridean outpost only get to see Lance fired on one day a year. They make an

annual trip from their home base at Menden, near Dortmund, to fire three of the American made rockets with inert warheads.

Each of the four batteries which make up 50 Missile Regiment spend a week in the Hebrides preparing for the firing. The day before, with rain beating a steady tattoo on the range Nissen huts, the launcher teams had gone through a practice run — something which they do regularly in Germany but which, on this occasion, would be followed by the real thing.

Said Major Herbert Abela, battery commander: "This is the only British range on which we can fire the Lance. It gives us the chance to test both training and equipment."

Firing in a place like South Uist does have its drawbacks of course. The terrain doesn't look a lot like central Europe. Normally the Lance hides in a wood and emerges for firing, but in the windswept Hebrides trees

are almost unheard of. As Major Abela put it: "You have to use your imagination."

SOLDIER's photographer, Paul Haley, was with the seven man launcher crew and other commanders and personnel in an old Saracen hulk only 100 yards away from that morning shot.

He said afterwards: "There was a real atmosphere at the count down. One or two were cracking little jokes but they fell really flat. It was a tremendous experience."

In the late afternoon a second rocket was launched. This time the crew were dressed in NBC suits — which does make the task slightly more difficult. Again the Lance went off on time and punched a hole through a gap in the clouds which had miraculously appeared only a couple of minutes before blast off.

Afterwards a jubilant Major Abela reported that "both had gone like clockwork". Their whereabouts had been confirmed by the control centre 'Space City',

**Story: John Walton**  
**Pictures: Paul Haley**

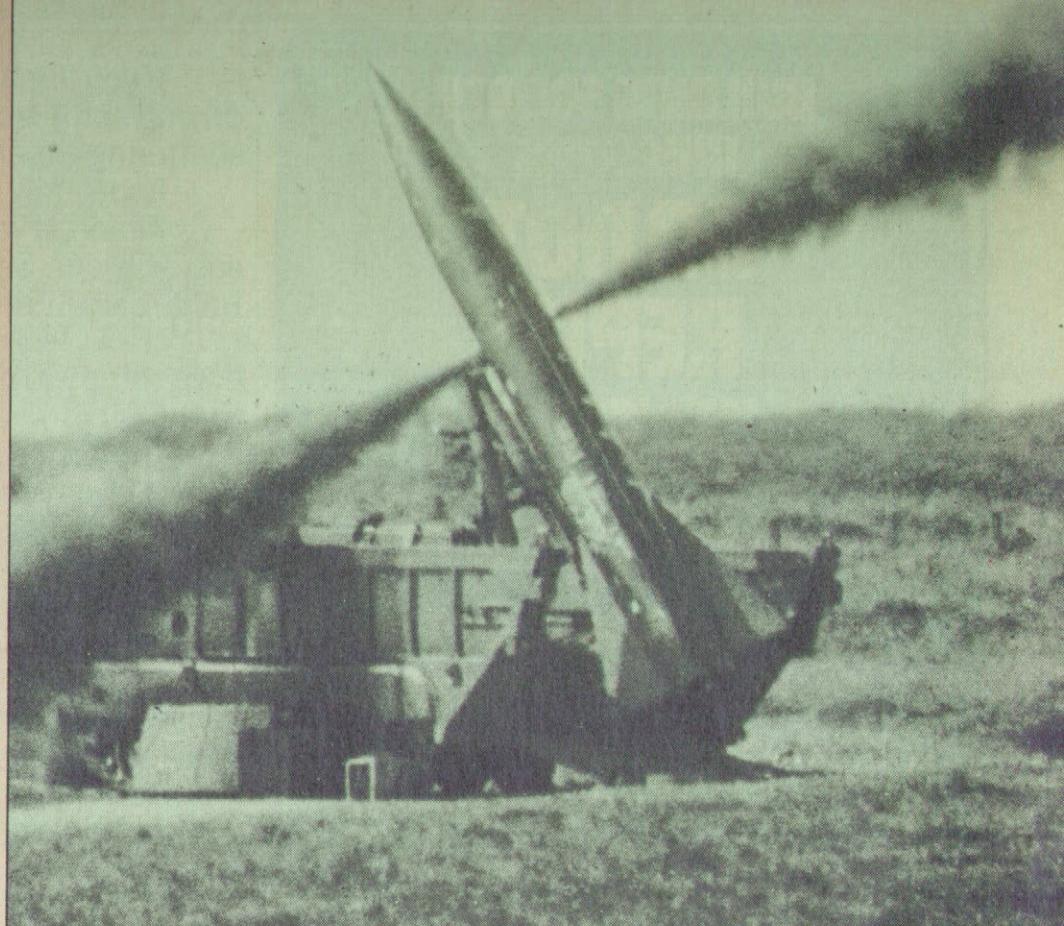
Three pictures just three seconds apart.  
Lower right: Lance is all set for firing.  
Right: Ignition — the missile starts to spin.

perched high on a hill behind the range like some Mediterranean monastery but housing some of the most sophisticated and modern radar devices.

Said the commander: "Though it is a good system things can go wrong and when it is seen to have gone well it is proof that the men have done their jobs properly. I have seen a lot of smiling faces and being on target gives them a lot of confidence in their kit."

That night the Hebridean murk cleared at last and all was set for a midnight (and twilight) firing. For the Western Isles are almost the land of the midnight sun in the middle of summer — the last glow of sunset was still on the horizon as the witching hour approached.

*continued on page 33*



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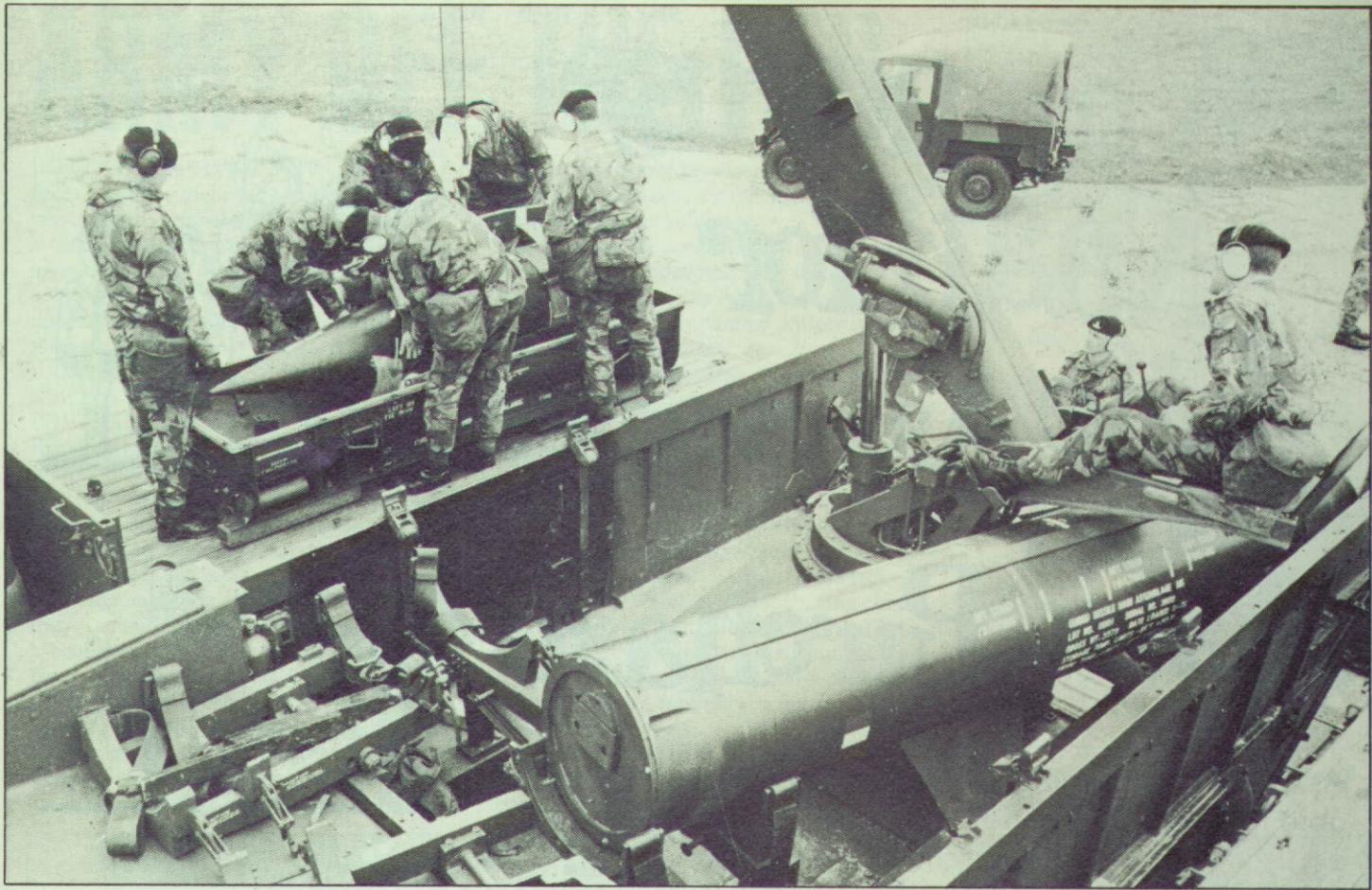
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**Above: Unloading warhead from special case.**

Waiting and watching were men from the two previous crews as well as most of the other battery members who had travelled from Germany. As firing time approached they talked to SOLDIER.

Gunner Brian Rogers, working with a theodolite, had put an earlier missile into the actual angle for firing. He said: "I have seen it fired before but this was the first time I have been sat right next to it. In the Saracen though we didn't get a very good view of it. All it was was a big loud bang, a few flames and it was gone."

Lance-Bombardier Colin Crofts didn't see the actual missile go at all. He pressed the button and then watched the Lance progress

along its pre-set course by means of a red light on a box.

Bombardier Paul Scarfe, a launcher team leader, commented: "It's nice to see it go for the lads' sake. You have to see their faces when the missile goes live. I was watching one of the crew today who was on his first visit to the Hebrides. You could see his face light up with amazement when it went."

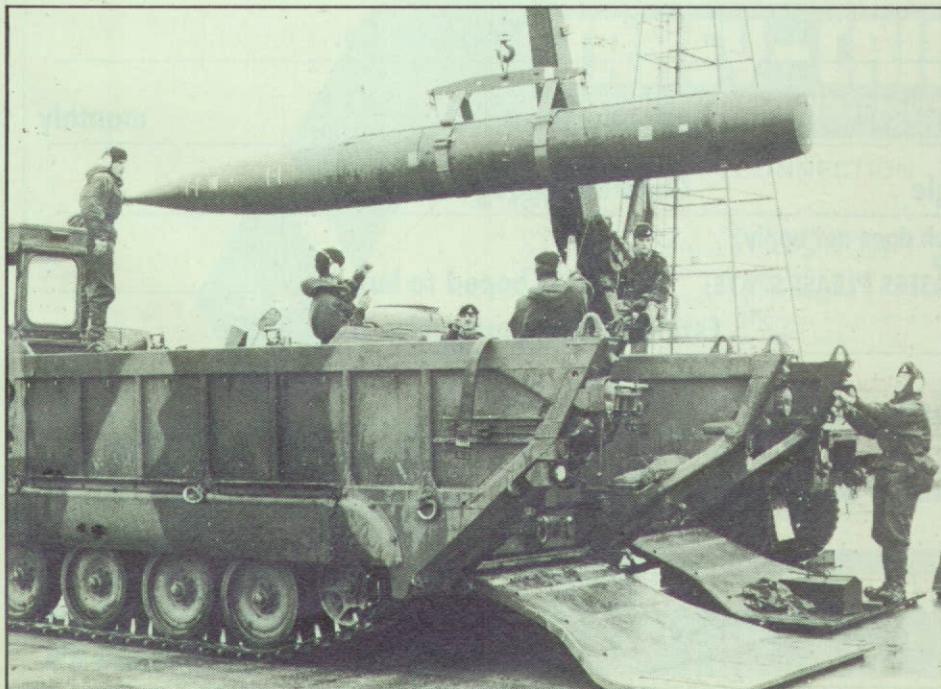
As the third Lance rose with a roar into the night sky leaving a spectacular trail of flames, the watching soldiers cheered. Once again the Lance was spot on target and they were content to return to their regular round of dry training in Germany knowing that the missile was efficient and they were too. ■

**Below: Lowering missile onto launch vehicle.**

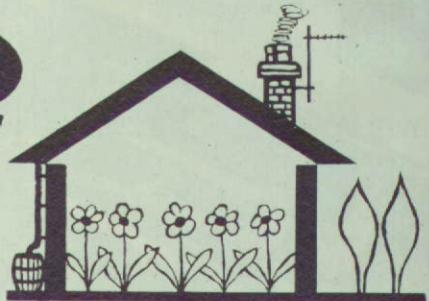
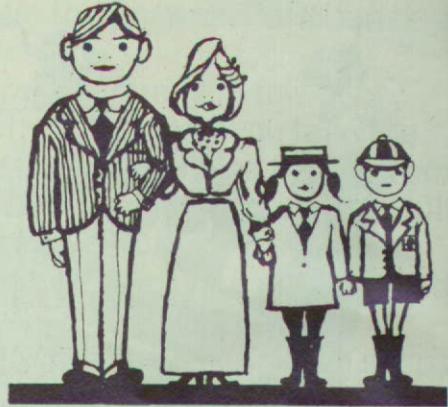
**50 Missile Regiment, Royal Artillery, is the British Army's only nuclear missile regiment. It is also the largest Lance regiment among the Allies — the other nations who have the missile favour smaller units.**

Lance replaced Honest John as the regiment's means of delivering tactical nuclear weapons in 1976. It is 20 feet long and travels at twice the speed of sound.

**Below: Checking fins before assembling them.**



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FOR ELEVEN YEARS NOW, Colonel Bill Hiles has been quietly building up his own personalised, unpaid militia — an army with a clearly defined peacetime role of holding invitation cards at dinner parties. Admittedly, his soldiers are a little wooden in their military deportment — but that's because they are all carved out of clothes pegs.

Colonel Hiles, based at HQ Allied Forces Southern Europe (AFSOUTH) is its Chief POET that is, head of Plans, Operations, Exercises and Training for an area embracing a 1700-mile arc running from northern Italy to Mount Ararat in eastern Turkey and covering one-and-a-half million square-miles.

His private army, average height 100 centimetres, gets 'fell in' among the silver service to parade on a burnished oak table-top. Off-duty, the miniatures are quietly quartered on a bookshelf in the lounge just a gaze away from an azure Neopolitan bay.

Colonel Hiles, former CO of the 1st Battalion, Royal Irish Rangers, explained: "I was wandering through the streets of Mons once when I saw some model soldiers which took my eye in a shop. It all started from there."

Painting lead soldiers from the Napoleonic era led, eventually, to the idea of carving clothes pegs into soldiers.

Since then, the senior British officer at HQ AFSOUTH, has devoted several hours of his spare time making up his Lilliputian-sized soldiers in intricately painted uniforms going back over the centuries.

With magnifying glass, carving instruments, standard modelling paints, a keen eye and a steady hand, he is still 'recruiting' to a force which always wins the admiration of visitors for sheer smartness of turn-out.

Colonel Hiles uses military reference works to get the itemised details on uniforms absolutely right in every aspect.

Pieces of string . . . cocktail sticks . . . silver elements from a tube of shaving cream . . . even some minuscule snippets from his wife's jewellery, all go into this mini-militia.

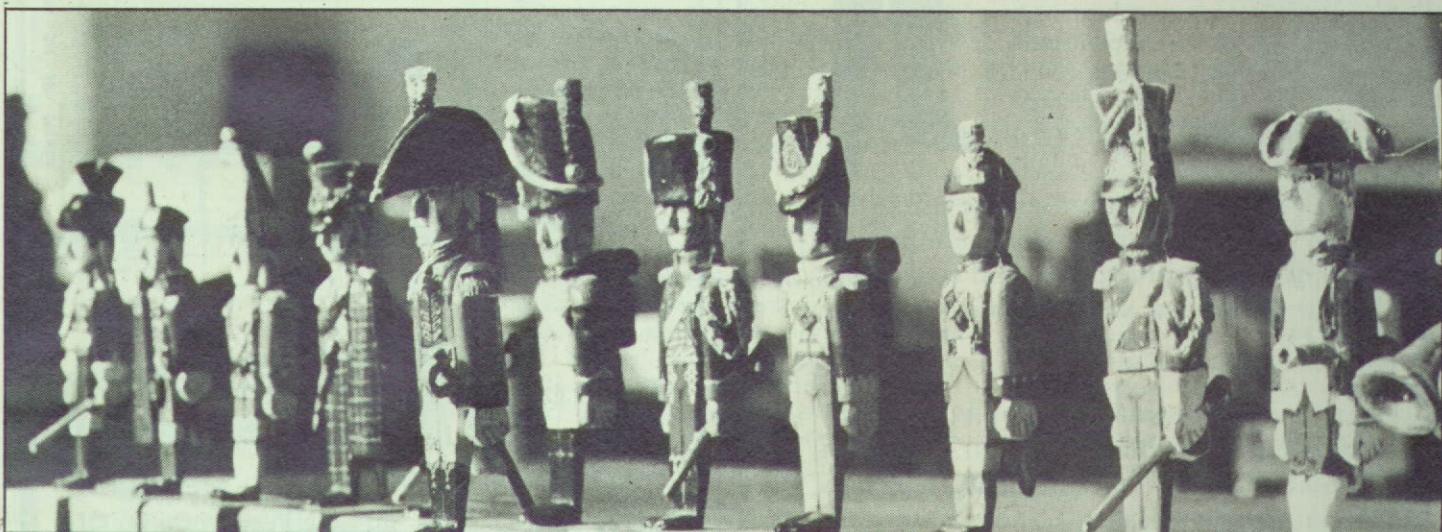
Always, the colonel looks for character in the faces of the models gracing his dinner table.

He says: "My Irish Ranger looks like a Paddy. The French cavalry man, like a brandy and wine drinking man." ■



Above: Colonel Bill Hiles adjusts name card.

Below: A line-up of his modelling skills.



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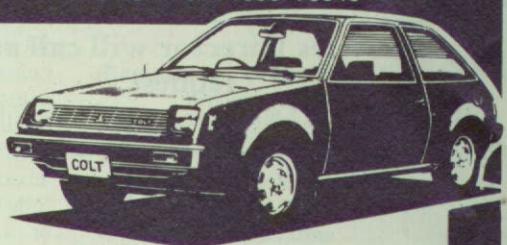
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# MILITARY MUSEUMS

## THE SOMERSET MILITARY MUSEUM

AFTER A SERIES of moves the museum of the Somerset Light Infantry is now permanently settled in an exclusive gallery of the Somerset County Museum and also incorporates items relating to the North Somerset Yeomanry and West Somerset Yeomanry to make it in every sense the Somerset Military Museum. It was opened by the Queen Mother in 1974.

The majority of exhibits have been collected over the years by the county regiment, the Somerset Light Infantry, and they trace the history of Somerset military formations from 1685 to the present day. By way of introduction there are Regimental Colours of the Somersets carried in the Crimean War and a large genealogical chart showing the amalgamation of the regiments of the county of Somerset and their ultimate incorporation in 1968 into The Light Infantry. There follow relics such as a bandolier worn at Culloden, an early 19th century silver belt plate and an 1859 Regimental Colour presented by Prince Albert on the formation of the 2nd Battalion of the Regiment and carried in Burma in 1885-87.

The 1848 uniform, medals and equipment of Captain Edward Boyd and the Talbot collection comprising the portrait, uniform and medals of Captain George Talbot (1823-1914), who on his retirement became Chief Commissioner of the Dublin Metropolitan Police, are of particular interest while a delightful sketch by Queen Victoria of the Prince Consort and a selection of militia shakos, badges and belt buckles pave the way to a room dedicated to the five-month siege of Jellalabad (1842) where the 13th Foot, later to become the Somerset Light Infantry, gained the proud title of 'The Illustrious Garrison'.

Dominating the room is Lady Butler's famous painting, *The Remnants of an Army*. The lone rider on an exhausted horse was Dr Brydon, sole survivor of 16,000 troops and followers slaughtered by Afghan tribesmen as they made their way from Kabul 'under safe conduct' towards Jellalabad. Three months later the 'Illustrious Garrison' routed the Afghan army, recaptured Kabul and eventually returned triumphant to India.

Another relic of those days is the Attar-Dan silver perfume container presented by the Other Ranks of the 13th to the Sepoys of the 35th Native Infantry as a gesture of friendship. They had defended Jellalabad together and looked on each other as 'blood brothers'.

There is a good collection of gorgets and among a fine exhibition of uniforms in remarkably good condition are a coatee of the West Somerset Local Militia (1808-16), a mid-19th century 13th Foot Light Com-

pany officer's coatee, the elaborately braided coatee of a West Somerset Yeomanry officer and a tableau featuring a group wearing the mess dress of the three regiments featured in the museum. An impressive display of medals includes a George Cross awarded to Captain Latutin, Somerset Light Infantry, and among nearly 500 groups there is one worn by RSM Arthur Cook who fought throughout World War One and finally retired as Chief Yeoman Warder of the Tower of London.

A West Somerset Yeomanry kettle drum, a North Somerset Yeomanry officer's gauntlets, a cavalry trooper's sword and an 1875 NSY shabrack are typical of the Yeomanry exhibits while another case concentrates on a history of the county's Volunteers.

The Somerset Light Infantry's involvement in the Zulu, Sudan and Burmese campaigns are thoroughly dealt with and one of three pictures by Orlando Norrie shows the Regimental Colours being carried in action for the last time at Ulundi in 1879.

A vicious three-pronged dagger is one of many souvenirs of the third Afghan War while a Boer slouch hat, bandoliers and a water bottle are typical reminders of the South African War. A selective series of exhibits relating to the two World Wars are displayed to advantage while other sections of this well arranged museum cover jungle warfare in Malaya, divisional signs, specialist badges and other items of regimental interest.

Finally, shown with pride and affection, there is a signed photograph of the Duke of York, later King George VI, who was Colonel-in-Chief of the Somerset Light Infantry from 1921 until his death. His jacket, presented by the Queen Mother, stands alongside.

John Jesse

**Regimental Secretary:** Lieut-Col R G Woodhouse (Retd)

**Curator:** Mr D Fleetwood

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Taunton

**Telephone:** Taunton 73434 ext 663 or 73451 ext 286

**Open:** 1000 to 1700 Monday to Saturday  
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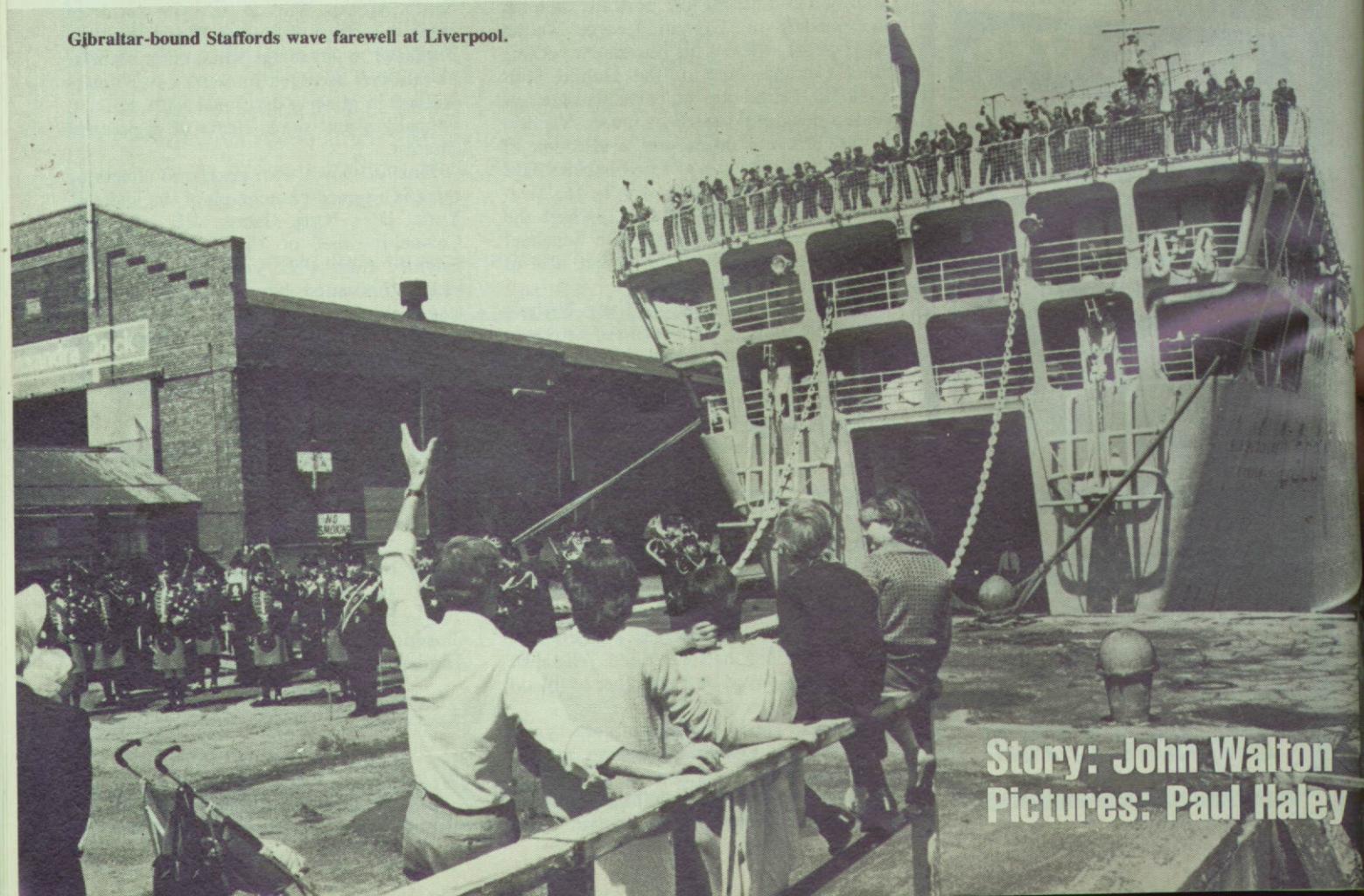
**Closed:** Public holidays

**Admission:** 40p, children 15p; Senior Citizens free.

*This concludes our series on Military Museums. A series on corps and regimental badges will begin in the new fortnightly SOLDIER.*



German M48 tank rolls off at Pembroke Dock.



Gibraltar-bound Staffords wave farewell at Liverpool.

**Story: John Walton**  
**Pictures: Paul Haley**

WHEN THE Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service's landing ship logistic, *Sir Bedivere*, sailed for Gibraltar from Liverpool it became the first troopship to carry a battalion to an overseas posting for about 18 years.

And as the 300-plus men of the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment were played aboard by a military band their embarkation marked the successful culmination of months of hard work by a small group of 'backroom boys' — the Transport and Movements staff of North-West District.

Issuing movement instructions, arranging transport to the docks, prestowing cargo, preparing manifests, liaising with Government freight agents, deciding march-on order and marshalling — these were some of the many tasks faced by the small group who are also responsible for the military personnel who leave on the nightly ferries for Northern Ireland.

All the movements from three districts — North West, Western and Wales, representing a huge slice of the western half of Britain — are controlled from an office in the District Headquarters at Preston.

Major David Hammett, who is in charge of the Transport and Movements branch, has two Warrant Officers (Class One), a staff sergeant, two sergeants, three corporals and a lance-corporal working for him. Officially they are divided into a traffic office and a mobile team but in practise all of them take their turn on the roster for movements duty.

This involves a nightly visit to Liverpool Docks for the Northern Ireland ferry and, on a less regular basis, trips to Manchester Airport and occasionally Birmingham and Liverpool (Speke).

Liverpool is also used for the Isle of Man ferry, there is another ferry from Heysham and — way down to the south and west in 'little England beyond Wales' — the team is responsible for handling movements in and out of Pembroke Dock.

The nightly ritual at Liverpool often involves only one member of the staff. On a good many of the 350 nights a year only a

# A MOVING STORY



handful of Service personnel or their families make the crossing.

But on other occasions, such as when there is industrial or weather trouble at airports, the number can quickly become hundreds and more movements staff have to be drafted in. Earlier this year a strike at Belfast Airport coincided with a battalion move.

"We had about 300 passengers one night. We took their airline tickets from them and issued them with ferry tickets. We managed to get 200 into beds and the other 100 had to sit up," said Major Hammett.

Most people go to Northern Ireland by air these days except for major unit moves. The average passenger will be going by boat because they are taking their car, their pet dog or cat or simply because they don't like flying.

In a big move the branch is often augmented by a senior NCO from the unit. **Left: WO1 Jim Kirwan in Preston movers' office.**

concerned. He will sit with the team at Preston for several weeks prior to the move and will then take a full part in the actual moving process.

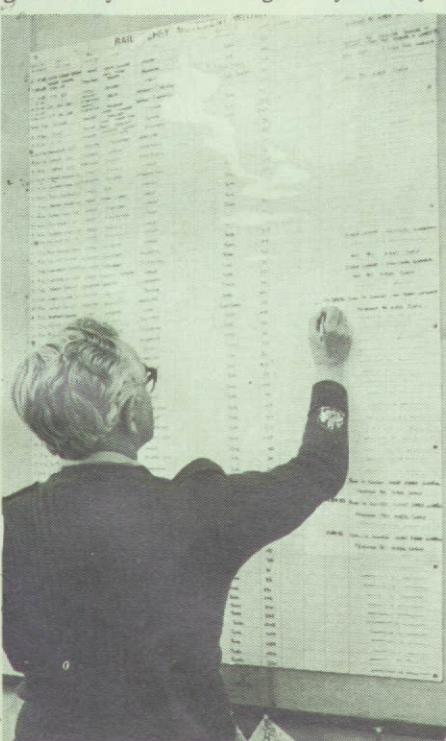
"It pays dividends for people to see one of their own cap badges, a person they recognise, working alongside my own chaps," says Major Hammett.

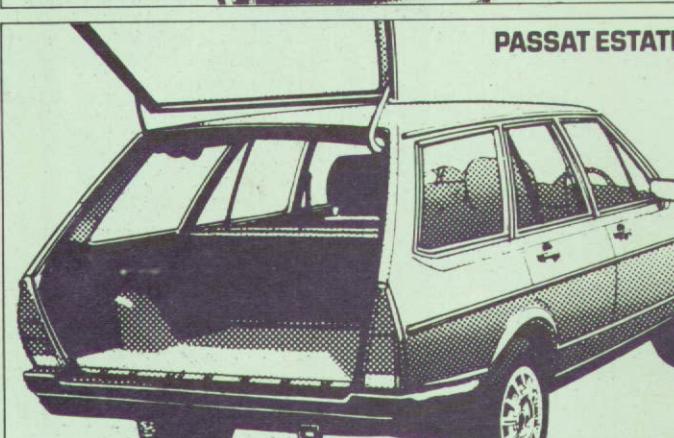
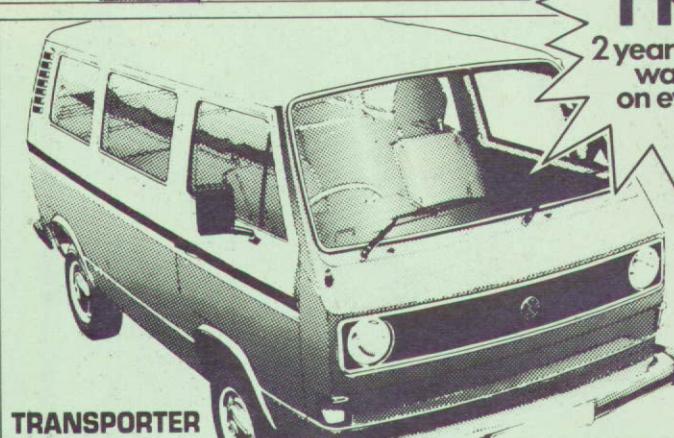
In the last decade or so the branch has grown in importance because of the Northern Ireland situation. Any application from anywhere in the world for a Serviceman to travel to Northern Ireland by surface transport has to go through the Preston office.

And they also have responsibility for over 1000 sub-units including the TA and cadet forces within the three districts. All bids to go away for training by any of these units are collated and those who are going overseas by air or sea are then helped on their way.

This entails production of movement instructions, route details, dealing with the shipping company and a lot of other necessary

(continued on page 41)





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Budgerigars and parrots often provide some of the biggest headaches for members of the Movements team. To be admitted to Northern Ireland a bird has to have a certificate of veterinary health and an import licence.

Says Sergeant Martin Cassell, one of the movers: "It's a real problem when people turn up with birds without the necessary bits of paper. One of our staff sergeants still has a cockateel which was left here and never claimed. It can sometimes take as long as three weeks so we now adopt the attitude that the person must go away and get his bits of paper."

"When you have a kid it can mean heartbreak to lose his budgie. The vet's fee costs £8 and it is really better for the budgie to stay over this side of the water with grandma."



Sergeant Martin Cassell checks in soldiers and families for Northern Ireland sailing.

sary paperwork. In some cases the branch will set up a 'mini-South Cerney' and process the whole move out.

Major Hammett says he runs "a peak and trough organisation". In the winter months pressure eases off a little but from April to September things are very busy for air, sea, road and rail travel.

"The men themselves are all very happy. They work very long hours, an awful lot of it

at night, and they have some very understanding wives. The best thing one can say about the job is that whether the man is a commissioned officer, a senior NCO or a lance-corporal he is the man in charge on the ground at the time. He can authorise a flight, or a taxi for a compassionate case. If a young lance-corporal needs to put 90 people into a hotel, that is his problem — and he does it."



WO1 Kirwan and Major Hammett watch with one of the German tank crew as stalled M48 is cleared from pontoon bridge at Pembroke Dock.

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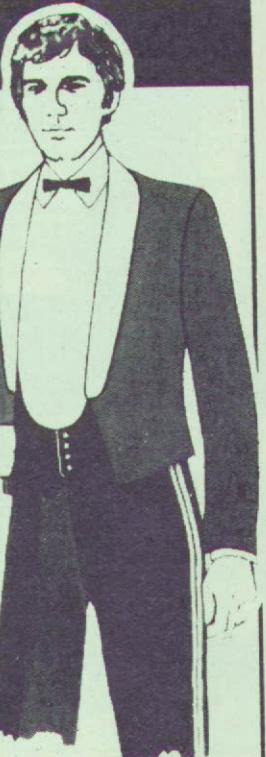
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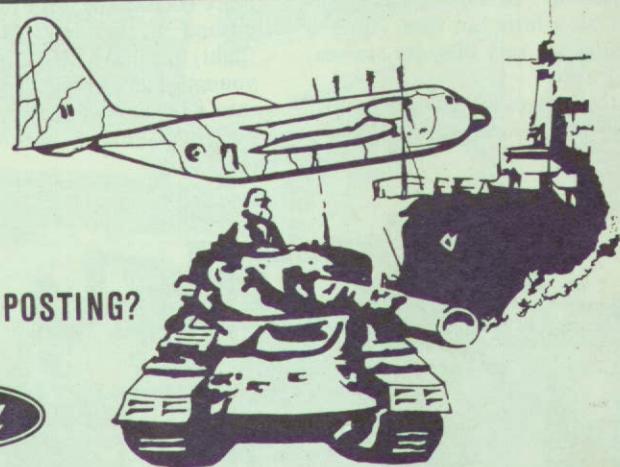
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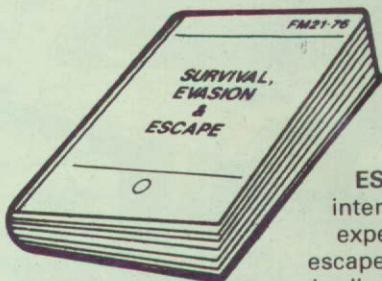
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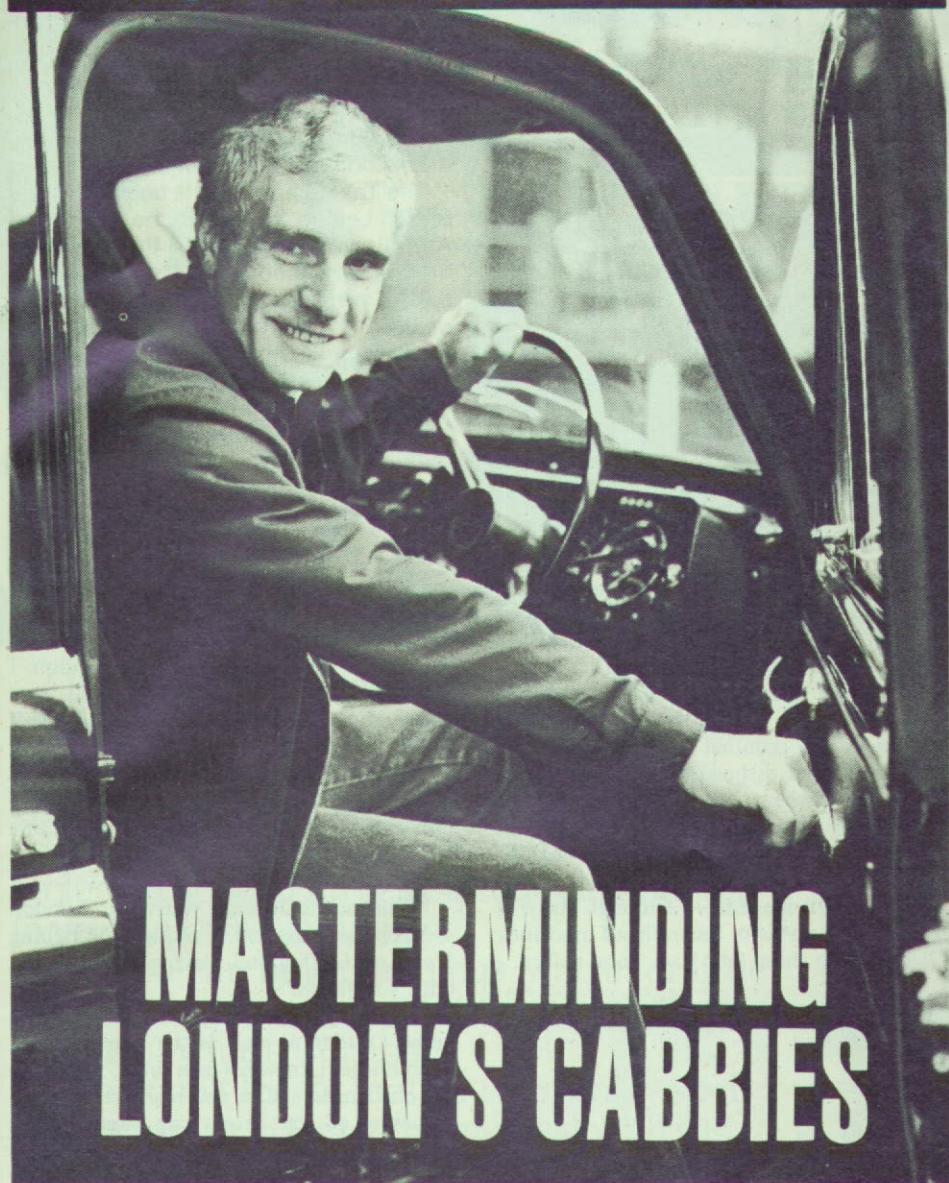
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# Royal British Legion Taxi School



## MASTERMINDING LONDON'S CABBIES

Above: Mr Tony Speight, who once served with the RASC, has just qualified as a London cabby.

Below and right: Learning 'the knowledge' in 1947 by bicycle and, 34 years later, by moped.



A LOT OF PEOPLE were both surprised and pleased when a London taxi driver, Fred Housego, won the coveted BBC TV 'Mastermind' trophy last year. But after a visit to the Royal British Legion's Taxi School just a six hit from the Oval, where a significant proportion of the capital's cab drivers are trained, the only surprise is that it has not happened before. You need the retentive memory of a 'Mastermind' to even become a London cabby.

For one of the requirements to obtain a licence, apart from passing an advanced driving test, is to have a complete knowledge of London streets within a six mile radius of Charing Cross. This is an area extending to Alexandra Palace in the north, Canning Town in the east, Streatham Common in the south and Chiswick in the west.

Says Mr Roy Cuming, the taxi school superintendent: "There is enough mileage on the streets of that area to take you to Cape Town and back again."

To pass his Public Carriage Office test the would-be cabby will have to answer a lot of questions about routes within that area. He will have to outline routes of reasonable minimum distance between random places and know all about one way streets and diversions. He will learn these from a book containing 468 different runs.

Then there are the points for pick-ups. He will be tested on his knowledge of public buildings, cinemas, restaurants, churches, courts, residential blocks, factories and many others — he is expected to be familiar with some 15,000 of these in London.

Roy, who learned to drive when he was a National Serviceman on the permanent staff at Sandhurst, admits that the course is very difficult. There is a third section on suburban runs where the candidate does not have to know all the street names but will be expected to give the route from, say, Shepperton to Blackheath.

What they are seeking is a 'green badge', which entitles the taxi driver to ply for hire anywhere in the Metropolitan Police area.

*Continued on next page*





During the Second World War all of London's taxi cabs were immediately requisitioned for war work. They were used both as ambulances and as fire engines. Towing a trailer pump and laden with ladders, axes and so on, they went speedily to the scene of blazes both during the blitz and after.

The Taxi School pupils became the British Legion Section of the London Ambulance Brigade. And the trained drivers who had been through the school were drafted as convoy leaders and to drive the fire engine cabs. Says Roy Cuming: "They were experienced ex-servicemen who would not panic under conditions of bombing and gunfire. And because they had 'the knowledge' they were usually able to get to the scene of the fire quickly."

Left: Roy and Austin LL used on WW2 fire duty.

Other drivers, not so rigorously tested, have yellow licences but can only ply within two-and-a-half miles of their own suburban area.

The school, which has been operating since 1928, was originally started solely to help ex-servicemen find employment. Since 1946 it has been a Government retraining centre but ex-soldiers still take priority followed by disabled persons (those who are able to drive). About one in three of all new London taxi drivers are graduates of the Legion school.

Practically all of those accepted by the school eventually get their licences. This is

not only a tribute to the training at the school but a reflection of the fact that most applicants are weeded out at a much earlier stage.

They have to apply to the Public Carriage Office, who give them a medical and check references and criminal records. If there is any question of dishonesty, the application will go no further.

Teaching what is known in the trade as 'the knowledge' is done out in the streets of London as well as in the classroom. The students run their own mopeds — although there is usually a reservoir of secondhand machines for sale from those who have gone before.

Says Mr Cuming: "If a person doesn't have proper advice and training he can mull around for years without getting through. I had a chap who came here who had been doing the knowledge for five-and-a-half years. There is a hard way to do it and an even harder way — ours is just the hard way."

And it is hard. Mr Cuming recalls that two university dons who studied the course came to the conclusion that it was the equivalent of a two year degree course.

"You have to dedicate yourself to London — sleeping eating and drinking it. Watching *Match of the Day* and playing darts are out until you finish."

To the suggestion that it was like getting to know London as well as the average small town resident knew his own town, Mr Cuming challenged: "Can you really tell me the names of all the streets you pass through between your house and the shopping centre? Most people know their way around their own area but they do not know the name of every street."

Having established that the London cabby needs to know more about the capital than the back of his hand, Mr Cuming said that one ex-serviceman, a Navy man with an electronics background, had sailed through 'the knowledge' in almost a record time — 12 months. But others, who are Londoners and think they know the city, are soon disabused.

Ex-Regulars who have not been long out of the Army and disabled people all qualify for grants to go to the school. They have to report on a regular basis for classwork or to go out on the road. Others, who may still be in other jobs, will have to fit the course into their spare time.

At the end of the day the ex-soldier can become a London cab driver — possibly the best trained and most highly controlled in the world. As Mr Cuming is keen to point out there has been only one London taxi passenger killed in an accident since the last war.

Says chief instructor, Mr Bob Higgins: "I am sure a lot of ex-servicemen would like to become cab drivers and don't know anything about us." But before you take an interest you must live in the Metropolitan Police area — and you must have the ability to be a 'Mastermind' and learn all about 'the knowledge'. ■

Left: Would-be cabbies go back to school. Mr Bob Higgins is the instructor in charge.



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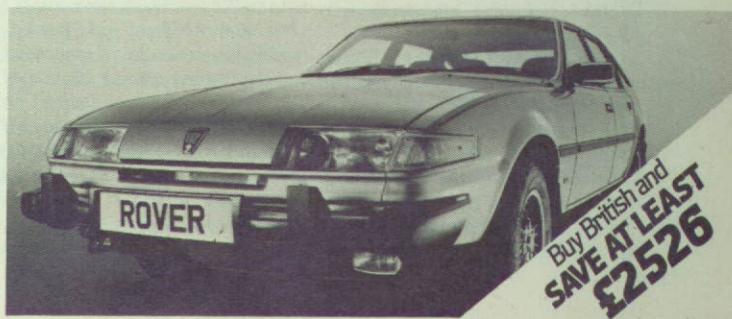
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S4



# Books

THESE BOOKS MUST  
NOT BE TAKEN AWAY



## Lucky dip

*World War II Almanac: 1931-1945*  
(Robert Goralski)

It was, perhaps, unlucky that the review copy first fell open at page 356 which carries a picture-caption beginning, "Royal Scottish Fusiliers ..." The first impression created by this bloomer was not confirmed, though no doubt veterans of the Royal Indian Army Service Corps will object to the omission of "Army" from their title in another caption.

As a reference book covering political and military events across the whole world during its period, this volume has obvious uses. As a straight read it would be indigestible, but as a lucky dip it is enhanced by excellent pictures and 'boxes' in which the author offers titbits. These include the origin of the Molotov

## WORLD WAR II ALMANAC 1931-1945

A POLITICAL  
AND MILITARY RECORD  
ROBERT GORALSKI

cocktail (invented and ironically named by the Finns), little-known code-names (the Foreign Secretary, Anthony Eden, was 'Compost') and a report on a concrete barge built specially to produce 5100 gallons of ice-cream every hour for the American sailors in the South Pacific. There are also some impressive statistics in an appendix.

A word of caution: although accurate, some of the brief daily entries can be misleading. Thus an entry for 2 December 1944 says, "East African troops of the British Fourteenth Army advanced to the Chindwin in Burma." This is right in that East African troops entered Kalewa from the Khabaw valley that day but

masks the fact that another brigade of the same East African division had been operating along the Chindwin farther north for months.

*Hamish Hamilton, Garden House, 57-59 Long Acre, London WC2 9JZ — £9.95*

RLE

## Islands at war

*The War in the Channel Islands — Then and Now* (W.G. Ramsey)

The Channel Islands, the only British territory to be occupied by the Germans in World War Two, had a rough time of it. Whitehall's delay in announcing their demilitarisation resulted in unnecessary raids by the Luftwaffe which killed 44 people. Then came the years under the jack-boot, deportations to forced labour, shortages of food and other supplies and the building of German defences.

The British cabinet had decided that the Islands not only had no strategic importance, they might even prove an economic embarrassment to an occupying force. They were more than that, they were a considerable drain on military resources. For every unarmed man, woman and child who stayed behind — about 60,000 of them — there was an armed German, along with slave workers of the Todt organisation, and great quantities of weapons and material were poured into the fortifications. The Germans got a little return for their efforts and a battery on Alderney shelled American supply routes on the Cotentin peninsula in 1944.

The occupation has left the islanders with tourist attractions and a hobby which between them produce the Channel Islands Occupation Society, which co-operated enthusiastically with Mr Ramsey. The most notable feature of his book is his collection of 'Then' and 'Now' pictures, for the latter of which members of the Society posed. Some of these 'Now' pictures are rank amateurism, matched by their captions, but archives have yielded so many good pictures that Mr Ramsey must be forgiven.

His accounts of the Islands under occupation, the seven British raids on

them and the immediate post-war period and today with its relics, museums and cemeteries, are detailed. And for the would-be holidaymaker Mr Ramsey runs through the holiday hotels, describing the fate of each under the occupation. This was a Kommandatur, that was a strongpoint with a 105mm gun beside it, those were soldiers' clubs. You can pick your bit of history and go and live in it for a few days.

*Battle of Britain Prints, 3 New Plaistow Road, London E15 37A — £10.95*

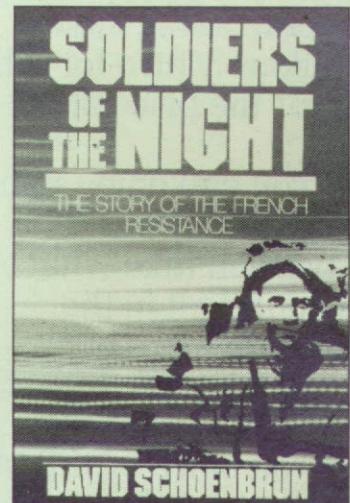
RLE

## Heroes' tales

*Soldiers of the Night* (David Schoenbrun)

On May 10 1940 the Germans launched their offensive which was to cut France in half. Bewildered by the speed of the German advance, the French army collapsed. By mid June the enemy were in Paris; the bulk of the country was occupied and the rest administered by Marshal Pétain's collaborator regime at Vichy.

Within a few weeks, the concept of resistance to the German occupation had taken root, encouraged by De Gaulle's famous broadcast from exile on June 18. On June 20, a young man named Etienne Achavanne cut the telegraph wires outside the occupied airfield at Boos. He was caught and shot. He was probably the first act of Resistance sabotage and he was the movement's first martyr.



The Resistance drew recruits from all walks of French society from Paris intellectuals to country farm boys. The initial groups were fragmented and poorly organised, distanced from each other by rival political ambitions almost as much as from the enemy. Gradually they became more efficient, drawn together by many extraordinary characters and encouraged by the Allies, until the Resistance boasted bands of formidable forest-dwelling guerrillas — the Maquis. Ordinary men and women operated a campaign of harassment which began with the daubing of slogans on walls in the dead of night and the puncturing of German car fuel tanks, and eventually encompassed full-scale raids and ambushes. The price could be high; the midnight knock on the door, followed by Gestapo torture and death, for individuals or the liquidation of entire communities thought to be implicated. When the SS crushed Maquis resistance in the Vercors, they took grim revenge on

the civilian population by killing, burning and looting.

In this book, David Schoenbrun attempts the first full history of the Resistance movements, attempting to map out the histories of the widely disparate groups and individuals and spotlighting the behind-the-scenes machinations between the Allies supporting the movement and the Resistance leaders themselves.

A war correspondent who saw the Resistance first hand in North Africa and France, head of the Paris Bureau of CBS for 17 years, a holder of the Croix de Guerre and Legion D'Honneur, Mr Schoenbrun is well qualified to write this story, the more so because he draws on a wealth of personal reminiscences by surviving members of the movement. If his style is a little too journalistic, and betrays an occasional American bias, this should not detract from his achievement in telling the story of an extraordinary, heroic, complex and dangerous aspect of recent history with admirable clarity.

*Robert Hale Ltd, 45-47 Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0HT — £9.95*

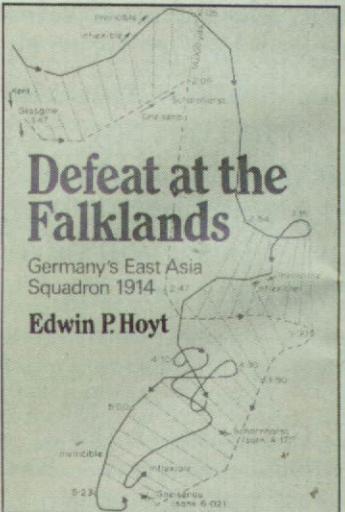
IJK

## On the rampage

*'Defeat at the Falklands'* (Edwin P Hoyt)

In telling the story of the German East Asia Fleet in World War One, Edwin Hoyt has chosen one of the most exciting adventure stories in maritime history.

The fleet was originally intended to police Germany's colonial possessions in China. With the onset of war, her commander, Admiral Graf von Spee, decided to leave eastern waters, surrounded as they were by hostile colonies, run for the Pacific, round Cape Horn and break into the Atlantic. The cruiser *Emden*, cut off from the rest of the fleet, went on the rampage in the Indian Ocean, destroying British merchant shipping, shelling the port of Madras and gen-



erally acting with such audacity that she nearly paralysed crucial trade to and from the Jewel of Empire. British fleets were dispatched in pursuit of von Spee and encountered him off the coast of Chile in November 1914. In the resulting battle, the British suffered a major defeat, yet only a month later von Spee was caught again, this time off the Falklands, and his fleet destroyed in a cataclysmic battle which marked the end of German cruiser warfare. The

Emden was also tracked down and put out of action west of Java.

Mr Hoyt's eminently readable book is well up to his material. He takes us from the pre-war whirl of colonial social highlife in China on to a giddy game of catch-me-if-you-can across half the world's oceans, and describes how, in a few short months, British naval supremacy came to be severely challenged. Not until the guns fell silent at the Falkland Islands, and Spee lay dead with his heavy cruisers *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* sunk, did Britannia rule the waves again.

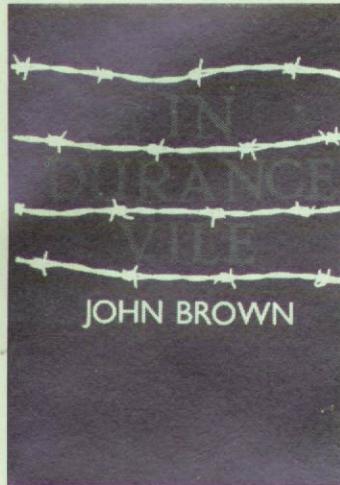
Robert Hale Limited, Clerkenwell House, Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0HT — £9.95

IJK

## Shy spy

'In Durance Vile' (John Brown)

Captured by the Germans in May 1940, John Brown embarked on a strange career of espionage. Adopting a pose as a German sympathiser, he ingratiated himself first with his guards and then with the authorities. He came to be considered so trustworthy that he was put in charge of a PoW camp built for German sympathisers at Genshagen. This was a perfect cover for him to collect information which he passed secretly back to London, information not only concerning German activities and atrocities but detailing too the crimes of traitors such as William Joyce, 'Lord Haw Haw', and those British PoWs who joined the British Free Corps to fight with the Germans against the Russians.



Mr Brown's information was clearly of considerable value to MI6, and several of those he named were subsequently tried after the war. Eventually his activities were discovered, but he was lucky enough to escape the Gestapo dragnet.

Mr Brown's modest style does not always make the best of his dramatic material, but his is an extraordinary tale and one well worth telling.

Robert Hale Ltd, Clerkenwell House, 45-47 Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0HT — £7.95

IJK

## On a plate

'Ancient Armies of the Middle East' (Terry Wise, colour by Angus McBride); 'The Armies of Crecy and Poitiers' (Christopher Rothero); 'New Model Army 1645-60' (Stuart Asquith, colour by Chris Warner); 'British Battledress 1937-61' (Brian Jewell, colour by Mike Chappell)

The great advantage of Osprey's *Men-at-Arms* series, to which these titles are the latest additions, is their value for money. Each title includes an excellent introductory text, a profusion of black-and-white illustrations, and no less than eight pages of colour artwork — all for less than £3. With only forty pages each, there is little room for in-depth analysis or the lengthy presentation of fresh research, but their very conciseness has made them popular with younger enthusiasts, modellers and wargamers, and those seeking an easy introduction to a new field of military history.

Served up on a plate this time are four periods which effectively span the ages. *Ancient Armies of the Middle East* describes the fighting men of Mesopotamia, Egypt and Assyria from 3500 to 612 BC. The text not only gives a brief history of the turbulent rise and fall of the various empires in this part of the world, but describes their military organisation, uniforms and weapons. The black-and-white illustrations depict weapons discovered in archaeological excavations and reconstructions based on wall paintings, and the colour artwork includes superb representation of Sumerians, Egyptians, Nubians, Hittites and the like.

*The Armies of Crecy and Poitiers* takes us briefly through the course of the Hundred Years War before plunging in with a detailed description of the armour of the period, the tactical qualities of the opposing armies, and the problems involved in mounting a Medieval campaign. The colour artwork, by the author on this occasion, is particularly splendid, capturing the gorgeous panoply of the heraldry of the day.

*New Model Army 1645-60* brings us nearer to home with Cromwell's attempts to set up a proper professional army, and its subsequent history in the closing years of the Great Civil War, the Second Civil War and the expeditions against the Scots. This title should finally kill off that old Victorian myth that the Parliamentarians were soberly dressed whilst the Royalists were flamboyant. As the author points out, the Civil War split English Society vertically, not horizontally; there were members of all classes on both sides, and the troops were often so similarly dressed that sometimes even their commanders could not tell them apart. There is nothing dull about the red coat adopted by the New Model, the forerunner of the traditional British scarlet tunic.

Finally, there is *British Battledress 1937-61*, a subject which will be familiar to many a reader of SOL-DIER! Not only does it consider the design and evolution of standard British battledress, conceived as a rational combat wear on the eve of World War Two, this book also looks at variations worn by regiments as varied as the Seaforth Highlanders in 1944 and the Polish Carpathian Lancers in 1946. Artist Mike Chappell is to be congratulated on his excellent facial types — you can almost put a name to some of those characters!

All these titles are remarkable value and thoroughly recommended. Osprey Publishing Limited, 12-14 Long Acre, London, WC2F 9LP — £2.95 each

## Chindit story

'Chindit' (Richard Rhodes James)

Major General Orde Wingate was one of the most controversial Allied commanders in World War Two. His unorthodox views, eccentric appearance and aloof manner brought him many enemies, yet his daring pursuit of a Long Range Penetration policy in Japanese-held Burma caused havoc along the enemy lines of communication and proved that Allied troops could survive the inhospitable jungle as well as their enemy.

Wingate's men were parachuted or flown by glider behind enemy lines, were supplied entirely by the air, and operated a guerilla war — blowing up bridges, damaging railways and ambushing patrols. The expeditions,



and the men who took part in them, were called Chindits, from a Burmese mythical beast said to protect their homes. *Chindit* is the personal story of one of these actions.

Wingate's first campaign into Japanese Burma took place in 1943 and was a success; a year later he planned a far more ambitious operation in support of American incursions into Northern Burma which was less so. Wingate himself was killed in a plane crash before the expedition had scarcely started. Richard Rhodes James was a cipher officer attached to the staff of III Brigade in 1944 and was in a unique position to form an impression of the expedition. With access to messages and information flowing too and from the HQ, he was aware of the behind-the-scene dramas and the planning and conflicts of command. Yet he also shared the routine hardships of marching with the columns.

Expanded from notes written at the time, *Chindit* presents an extremely vivid account of the activities of III Brigade, the long marches through rain forest which pushed men to the limit of endurance, the problems of supply and transport and those caused by the heat, the rain, the mud and the insects. III Brigade's mission was ultimately unsuccessful. The Chindits took up a position astride enemy lines of communication but, the Japanese being alerted, they were forced to retreat after severe fighting.

Mr James' description of the pitched battle on top of the muddy hill code-named Blackpool is harrowing and dramatic in the extreme.

There are pen-portraits, too, of the officers Mr James worked with, including many of the most important in the Burma campaigns. With

the advantage of having met him on several occasions, the author attempts to unravel something of the enigmatic personality of Wingate himself. If for no other reason, this alone makes his book well worth reading.

John Murray, 50 Albermarle Street, London — £10.50

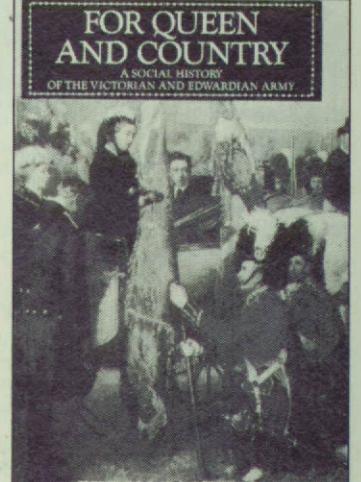
IJK

## Kipling's army

'For Queen and Country' (Byron Farwell)

"Quixotic, eccentric, peculiar," are three adjectives Mr Farwell chooses to describe the Army of Queen Victoria and King Edward VII. It was an army the bulk of which was overseas at any one time; it was possessed to a very high degree of cool bravery, chivalry and discipline; its men built the British Empire.

It was always short of money. A Gunner broke a ramrod over the head of a Dervish who was about to spear him at the Battle of Abu Klea. Called before his officers next day, he was sure he knew the reason and quickly got in his say, "Please, sir, I'm sorry



BYRON FARWELL  
I broke the rammer, but I never thought the nigger's head could be so hard. I'll pay for the rammer."

It was tough. A drummer was reported serving in Gibraltar "hearty and well and in no way concerned" despite having received 25,000 lashes in his 14 years' service.

It disliked change. As early as 1854 a breech-loading gun was ordered for the field artillery. It was proved in war and more were ordered. Then in 1867 a commission reported that smooth-bore muzzle-loaders were easier to work and cheaper to produce, and by 1875 regular artillery was all re-equipped with muzzle-loaders.

It was hard-drinking. Wolseley decided to abolish the rum ration and offered jam and marmalade instead in his Sudan campaign to relieve Gordon at Khartoum. It was the only campaign in which Wolseley failed.

For eccentricity, how about the court-martial (and reduction to the ranks) of a goat-major of the Welch Fusiliers for "disrespect to an officer: in that he, at Wrexham . . . did prostitute the Royal Goat, being the gift of His Majesty the Colonel-in-Chief from His royal herd at Windsor, by offering his stud service to a farmer and goat breeder at Wrexham."

Mr Farwell writes of this strange army sympathetically and entertainingly and with admiration for its

continued on page 48

endurance and achievements. He thinks, however, that it may have more to offer than interesting pages:

"The army of which Kipling wrote lived by a system now despised, adhered to a set of attitudes and beliefs now mocked, and entertained a view of the world now thought to be amusing. Yet one wonders if a second look is not called for in this age of guided missiles and superior electronics, where the most technologically superior army the world has ever known has been put to flight by Asian peasants in black pyjamas."

No doubt that message has got to its target. This book was first published in America under the title, *Mr Kipling's Army*.

Allen Lane, 536 King's Road, London SW10 0UH — £8.50 RLE

## Machiavellian

'High Treason' (Vladimir Sakharov, with Umberto Tosi)

Mr Sakharov's high treason was to the Soviet Union from which he defected to the United States in 1977, having previously spied for the Americans.

He was the son of a diplomatic courier, one of the privileged clan at the very top of Moscow society. His father provided him with many luxuries denied most Russian people, including American films and records, English clothes and Scotch whisky. It was a taste for things American and dislike of the all-pervading, heavy-handed KGB that set this member of Moscow's gilded youth looking for a way out.

He was first approached by the CIA while a student at the prestigious

Moscow State Institute of International Relations, where he spent six years. He was active for them during an "internship" in Yemen, a posting to the Soviet consulate in Alexandria (where one of his unexplained consular tasks was to count the British and German graves at El Alamein) and finally in Kuwait, whence he defected.

His story is not a happy one but it is revealing in its details of the utter Machiavellianism of Soviet foreign policy and diplomacy, both as taught at the Institute and practised in the field.

Robert Hale, Clerkenwell House, Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0HT — £8.95 RLE

## Earthy ATS

'Bull, Battledress, Lanyard and Lipstick' (Dorothy Calvert)

Mrs Calvert was Private Woolston of the Auxiliary Territorial Service in World War Two and was, and is still, justifiably proud of it. She was trained on radar and served on gun-sites around England.

Her book says little about battle, apart from a hint at busy times with the flying bombs and a rueful account of how a Royal Air Force crew reacted to being shot down after being (through some fault on their aircraft) identified by her as an enemy.

Instead, she takes the lid off the private lives of the ATS in a way that is an eye-opener to a mere male. Just fancy: 'We would sometimes have a 'Weep in.' A real feminine act, sitting on our beds, the Sgt too, all howling at once.'

They smoked and drank and swore and told dirty stories and sang dirty songs with the men, but were not above using feminine wiles when it suited them. When the girls were told to push wheel-barrows across the field, the author put on what she calls her "broken-winded horse act" in front of an officer who reacted as expected and decreed that men were to take over the job.

Mrs Calvert takes several pokes at those people who alleged the ATS were "groundsheets" — "We were not Saints, but we were not poor bloody nymphomaniacs either... It was quite hurtful to know that our own Country people thought so cheaply of us."

They were guarded "like precious stones," but outside her unit Mrs Calvert had several times literally to fight for what used to be known as her "honour". Though she weighed only six stone, she was equipped with some wrestling moves taught by her father and a disregard for Queensberry rules, and came through triumphantly "not shop-soiled or second-hand."

This is a likeable, moving, earthy book, written in language which was doubtless current in ATS barracks but would not have seen respectable print at the time.

New Horizon, 5 Victoria Drive, Bognor Regis, PO21 2RH — £3.50 RLE

## Fund of facts

'The Airgun Book' (John Walter)

This is a book for anyone seriously interested in the air gun. It sets out to be a basic handbook, and to that end includes a wealth of well-presented

technical information. There are diagrammatic breakdowns of guns themselves, with each part identified and labelled, valuations and comparisons of various types of ammunition, backed up by graphs representing their effectiveness under experimental conditions, and a brief description of the characteristics of airguns in

# The Airgun Book



production today. Most important, however, there is a gun-by-gun guide to over 270 spring-air, pneumatic and gas-powered guns currently available. Each gun is illustrated, described and assessed on the basis of construction, value for money, ease of use, suitability for target shooting and compliance with international legal requirements.

If you take airguns seriously, or are about to enter into the field and want to know what's what, then this book is for you.

Arms and Armour Press, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London NW3 1QQ — £8.50 IJK

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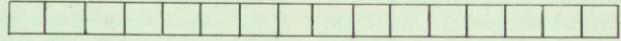
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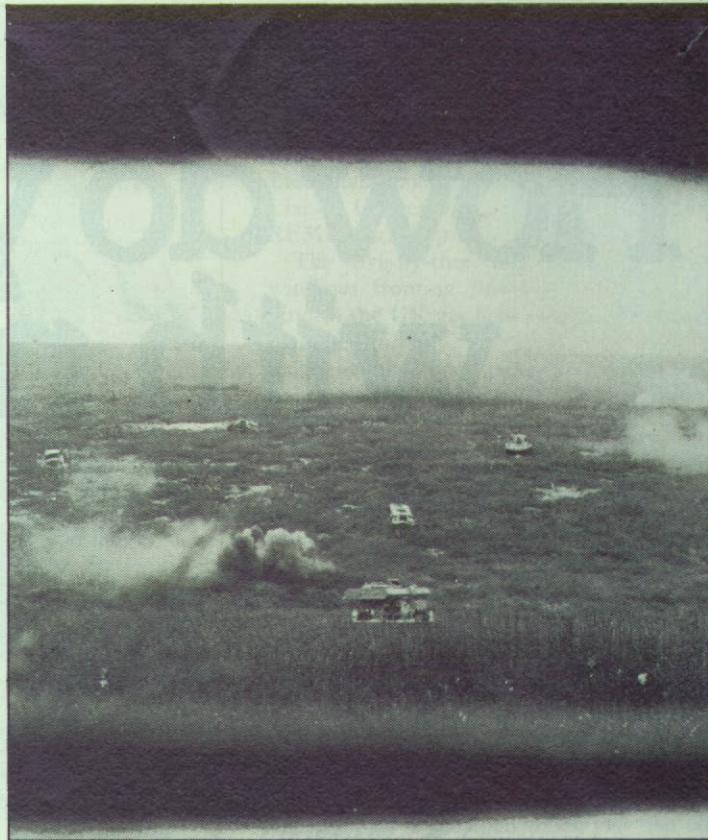


# ORDEAL OF FIRE



Above: A shrapnel sliver is examined afterwards

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



Above: Bunker's eye view of the field of fire, as AFVs shudder under the impact of shellfire hulks just yards to the front of the bunker lurched and vibrated with the crushing power directed at them in yet another baptism of controlled fire.

Two rounds landed on the tons of earthworks vaulting the roof of the Bombard while a third clump was heard to the rear of the splinter-scarred building.

Soil and stones leapt skywards and eruptions of smoke in grey palls drew a dirty veil over the scene of the barrage.

Metal splinters, designed to maim and kill, whizzed through the air as they were freed from the Proximity Ammunition constant air bursts just 30 feet above the ground. Men in trenches, had there been any within 50 metres, would have stood little chance of survival from this storm of crude slivers.

The death-dealing packages for the demonstration were being launched at ranges up to five miles away. Twenty seconds after the command of "FIRE!" the projectiles, hurtling across the countryside at 1600 feet, were punctually arriving at their deadly destination.

It was a resoundingly successful show on the edge of the Larkhill Impact Area and, when the last wisps of smoke had drifted away, the spectators filed out to inspect the results of the 'called down' firepower.

Major Tony Kingaby, a gunnery instructor at the Royal School of Artillery, said: "The main benefit of today is to bring fire down on the officers as close as possible which shows how an enemy can neutralise us or we, them. The second important factor is to show the splinter patterns and the effects of fragmentation when there is a hell of a lot of metal flying about."

Several officers' courses annually undergo the 'ordeal of fire' in the Close Target Observation Post. Among them are those for battle group commanders, senior officers, combat team commanders, observation

continued on page 51

IT ALL LOOKED peaceful enough. Fourteen battered, bright yellow armoured fighting vehicle hulks, venerable veterans of kinder days, lay strewn untidily in final repose down both sides of a gentle chalky slope with only a few, fluttering inoffensive moths from Salisbury Plain for company.

Dominating the pastoral scene was the majestic bunker. Inside it, some 50 officers drawn from a cross section of regiments and including a visiting, VIP two-star US Army general, took up their positions on duckboards along the 190-foot-long gallery.

Heads craned forward and eyes peered through envelope-sized vision blocks — nine layers of armoured glass improvised from Saracen armoured car rear view mirrors — in anticipation of what was about to happen.

They knew it was going to be noisy.

The officers who were on a course at Larkhill's Royal School of Artillery, just down the road as a High Explosive Shell might inadvertently fly, were about to experience for themselves the psychological effects from shellfire from within the reinforced concrete-and-steel sanctuary of the Close Target Observation Post or — as it is known to the gunners — 'The Bombard'.

Brigadier Derek Jones, the School's Commandant, set the scene for the newcomers. He told them: "What you are about to see is a very small flavour of what is probably the closest you are ever likely to be at the sharp end of the guns. This represents about one-sixth of the weight of fire you would experience if you were at the other end of the Soviets' firepower."

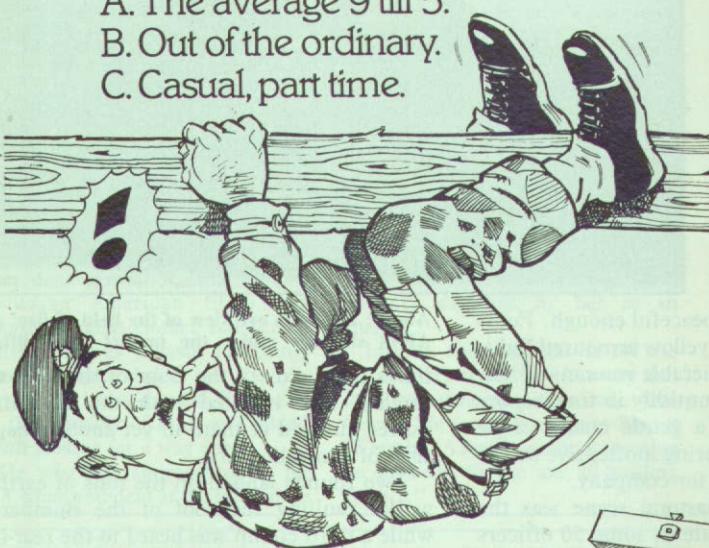
The Commandant explained that they would hear and see about 20 seconds or so of concentrated gunfire from each of the 105mm Light Gun batteries, the mortars and the pair of FH 70 medium guns with their 96-pound shells. If the attack were mounted from the Soviets, he said, the men in the bunker could expect an onslaught of some 30 minutes.

With the briefing over the inert target

# How do you score with money?

## 1. Do you consider your job to be:

- A. The average 9 till 5.
- B. Out of the ordinary.
- C. Casual, part time.



## 2. When do you remember to pay the TV rental?

- A. In the middle of an assault course.
- B. When they come to take it away.
- C. Never. I've issued NatWest with a Standing Order and they remember for me.

## 3. How do you ensure that your wife gets her housekeeping?

- A. Don't bother—she'll manage somehow.
- B. Give it to mother to pass on.
- C. Open a joint account at NatWest so that she can get her housekeeping when she needs it.



Still puzzled? Pop in and see us next time you're passing. We'll be happy to help.



# NatWest

BANK ON US FOR AN EASIER WAY OF LIFE.

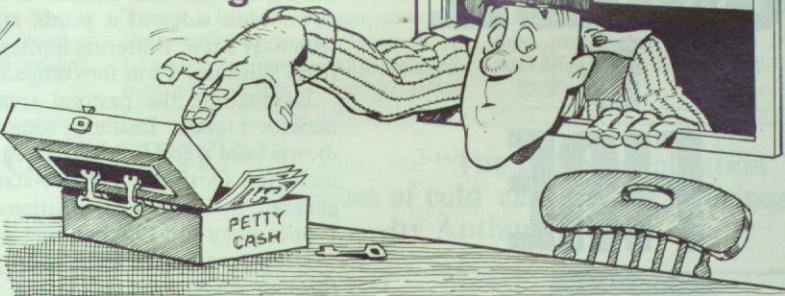
## 4. The electricity bill has come as a shock. What are you going to do?

- A. Run and hide in the mess.

B. Nothing. I have a Budget Account at NatWest so I can spread the cost of my large bills over 12 equal payments.

- C. Freeze.

## 5. Where's the best place to get cash at midnight?



- A. From the petty cash box in the C.O.'s office.

- B. Borrow it again.

- C. From a NatWest Servicetill.

**Scores:** 1. A1, B2, C0. 2. A1, B0, C2. 3. A0, B1, C2. 4. A0, B2, C0. 5. A0, B0, C2.

**5 and under:** You're not really very good at money matters, are you? Why not pop in and talk to us at NatWest?

**6-10:** You've obviously got the right ideas about handling your money.

But with a job in the services you have less time to yourself than most, and may need the extra help that NatWest can offer.



Above: Course members look over the damage.

Below: A veil of smoke thrown over the scene.



## TIME FOR A NEW CAREER?



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Grp Capt J. F. Edgington,  
Windsor Life Assurance Co. Ltd.,  
Royal Albert House, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1BE.

post officers, OP assistants, gun position officers, various students from overseas armies and candidates from the Junior Division Staff College at Warminster.

The static AFV targets are renewed about every two years thanks to what Lieutenant-Colonel Bob Guy, the Range Liaison Officer, calls help from "friendly" REME workshops.

The five-by-three-inch armoured plate windows fronting the only bunker of its kind in the UK get heavy punishment from shrapnel, too.

"They take quite a peppering and we have just replaced 30 of them," said Lieutenant-Colonel Guy.

Of the bunker's prime role in military life he added: "There are so many of us serving who have not had the experience of being under fire to any large extent. You cannot compare it with Ulster. Certainly, an Observation Post like this allows officers to see and be on the receiving end yet they get maximum protection in peacetime training.

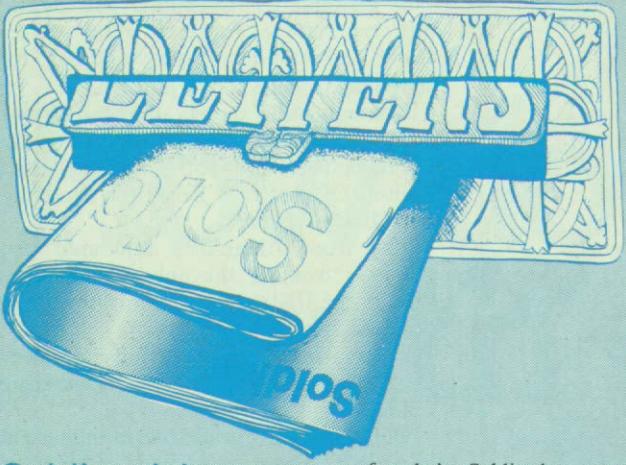
"There is a limit to what you can do using simulators and other appliances. What you cannot do is simulate the psychological and physical effects on a soldier who is on the receiving end of artillery fire. It's the nervous system which affects the body if he is standing out in the open which may neutralise him completely."

He said there had been "nothing but good reports" on the value of the Close Target OP for judging shellfire effects at such ranges.

"Officers who have experienced it know what it is all about and I think they go away having a better understanding. Every round used is well worth the money."

## FREE COLOUR GUIDE TO EMBROIDERED SWEATERS & SWEATSHIRTS

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## Colditz visit

In your July issue, Sergeant Peter Davies in the article 'The Colditz Collection' spoke of his desire to visit the Schloss that has become so famous through television. It may interest your readers to know that progress has even caught up with this castle that has dominated the town of Colditz since the days when the Kings of Saxony used it as a hunting lodge.

Two friends and I visited Colditz last year. We eventually obtained permission to enter the prisoners' courtyard and found that the cold grey walls had been painted a brilliant white. The window bars had almost all been removed and workmen were busily removing the roof from where the Colditz glider would have been launched. It was now taking on its new form as a hospital and home for elderly people.

Progress, I am pleased to say, had not caught up with the famous Colditz Park. Members of the public do not have access to it as it lies within the hospital grounds, and although nature has laid claim to it, you can still see the posts where barbed wire had caged the prisoners in. After a brief search and some digging we even unearthed the well which had been the scene of a famous Dutch escape. Two hospital workers thought we were patients until they realised we were English.

On exploring Colditz town itself we discovered that the factory which had been a bye camp of Buchenwald during the war, was still operating. It had held Hungarian Jews guarded by the SS — they had almost all been killed at the end when the SS hoped to take over the castle. Fortunately their wishes were not fulfilled. We also

found the Colditz bye camp. It was exactly the same, down to the tree lined walk. At first this had been an Indian Camp but later the Nazis used it as a propaganda camp for white Russians, Belgians and French. Some of the prisoners played the Germans at their own game and there are escapes recorded by prisoners from this camp.

The town museum is well worth a visit. Part of it is devoted to escape material from the last war. So much escape equipment was collected by the guards that they couldn't keep it all in the castle. Alas, since the end of the war, much has disappeared, but the director and his able assistant are now trying to preserve what few items are left.

It is indeed fortunate that so much found its way back to England. A considerable amount is in private hands, as could be seen at the Colditz Exhibition in 1974 which was visited by over a quarter of a million visitors. I wish Sergeant Davies an early visit to his castle. Who knows, it may soon be changed into a modern multi-storey hospital. — M J Booker, 51 Union Grove, Clapham, London SW8.

## Cold feet?

Great attention seems to be paid to new types of coats and new uniforms, for example the colour of the Walking Out dress.

Since the battledress uniform was phased out and the wool sock was replaced, there seem to be people suffering and dying from exposure every year. Could this be because synthetic materials and man-made fibres are not up to the standard of the old battledress material which, when one got wet, still kept a soldier warm?

I would be interested to know the



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views of our readers on this point. — L/Cpl P J Toms, Infantry Demonstration Bn, Battlesbury Bks, Warminster, Wilts.

## Wrong name

In 'The Wine that Flowered from Flanders Mud' (June), Mr Graham Smith writes: "At the end of the day the French saw that the Coldstreams had no wine ration." Sir, The Coldstream, or Coldstreamers. Never Coldstreams! — R J G Darley, 39 College Court, Hayle Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6PB.

## Unsung heroes

As an ex-submariner RN, I am an avid reader of SOLDIER but with reference to your article in July's issue 'Back to the Imjin' on the Korean Veterans it seems to me that you cover the Gloster Regiment and some of the line regiments but you have failed to mention that very famous regiment, The Duke of Wellington's West Riding. May I remind you that they fought the last major battle in the British Army and proudly bear the battle honour 'The Hook' on their colours.

I have come to the conclusion that there is more space used in your magazine for The Queen's Division, than those regiments of the King's Division. But on reflecting this, perhaps they are like the Submarine Service — they have a job to do and get on with it and their praises go unsung. — Mr L C Kennedy, 21 Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3AQ.

Suggestions of bias are emphatically rejected Mr Kennedy but we're delighted to publish your letter on these 'unsung heroes'. — Ed

## Home defence

Many times last year during the extensively reported Exercise Crusader, I was asked why I was not in Germany. Time and again I had to explain that the unit I belonged to was home defence committed as a General Reserve Regiment.

It is understandable for civilians to be misled. As a serving or retired officer, Major Armstrong-Wilson (Letters, July) should know better. The TA does not 'go off to Nato to a man'. Many units do not enjoy a Nato role since their task is to defend this country; which is just as important, if not more, than BAOR. — Cpl P Smith, D (Royal Devon Yeomanry) Sqn, Royal Wessex Yeomanry, Ninoda, Pottery Lane, Yelland, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 3EG.

## Reunions

The Staffordshire Regiment (Prince of Wales'). Annual reunion dinner, 8pm Saturday 12 September, at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffs. Tickets obtainable from RHQ at above address, price £3 payable in advance.

The Cheshire Regiment Association. Summer reunion, Sunday 13 September 1981, at the Castle, Chester. Details from: Secretary, The Cheshire Regiment Association, The Castle, Chester, CH1 2DN. Tel: 24666 Ext 310.

WRAC Association Northern Area. Reunion 1981, Saturday 17 October

1981 from 2.30 to 6pm. Tickets £2, including tea, obtainable from: Miss M Bradley, 60 West End Avenue, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG2 9BY. Tel: 0423-57023 evenings, not later than Friday 9 October. Please send SAE with remittance payable to 'WRAC Association — Northern Area'.

The Royal Regiment of Wales (24th/41st of Foot). 13th annual reunion weekend 3-4 October. Saturday, dinner in City Hall, Cardiff; Sunday, drumhead service and lunch, Maindy Barracks. Details from RHQ, RRW, The Barracks, Cardiff.

82nd Armoured Engineer Squadron RE Old Comrades Association. The 36th annual reunion buffet will be held on Saturday 7 November at the Royal Green Jackets Sergeants Mess at 56 Davies St, London W1. Please contact: Lionel T Crate, 364 King St, London, W6 0RX. Tel: 01-748 6755.

York and Lancaster Regiment. Annual dinner of the Y & L Sergeants Dinner Club will take place in Sheffield on Saturday 10 October 1981. Annual dinner of the 9th Bn (1939-45) will also be held in Sheffield, Saturday 24 October. Details of both functions from: Regimental Secretary, RHQ, Y & L, Endcliffe Hall, Sheffield, S10 3EU.

The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire). London Branch regimental reunion dinner, 7 for 7.30pm, 12 September 1981, Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour St, Marble Arch, London. Tickets and details from: Secretary, M Ryan MSM, 18 North Drive, AERE Harwell, Oxon, OX11 0PE.

Ex-Boys Battery, Royal Artillery. The 14th annual reunion of the wartime Boys Battery RA is to be held at Woolwich on Saturday 21 November 1981. Those who served in the United Kingdom or India, as boys or PS, during the period November 1942 until the Boys Battery moved from Woolwich after the war, and whose regimental number begins with 1151 or 1157, are eligible to attend. Details from: T C Holden, 6 Ingres Walk, Sholverie, Moorside, Oldham, Lancs. Tel: Shaw 843374.

## How observant are you?

(see page 9)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Shape of saddle-numeral '1'; 2 Position of ball; 3 Left forehoof of No. 1 horse; 4 Handle-end of No. 3's stick; 5 Left ear of No. 3 horse; 6 Tail of No. 3 horse; 7 'R' in 'Frank'; 8 Belt of rider No. 2; 9 Lower stripe on right sleeve of rider No. 3; 10 Mouth of No. 2 horse.

## Competition

Entries for Competition 274 ('The Trumpet Volunteer') were down on usual although the code used by Sergeant Crotchet was quite straightforward. The spaces and lines on the stave represented the letters B, E, H, K, N, Q, T and W with sharps and flats denoting the remainder. Thus the four tunes were *Screw Guns*, *Post Horn Gallop*, *The Keel Row* and *Bonnie Dundee* — all of them associated with the King's Troop, Royal Horse

Artillery.

Prizewinners were: 1st: Mr P S Day, 12 The Grove, Woodcock Road, Norwich, NR3 3TN; 2nd: Mr G Tyson, 4 Marshaw Road, Ryelands Estate, Lancaster, LA1 2RN; 3rd: Mr D O'Connor, Springfield Lodge, Springfield Road, Camberley, Surrey; 4th: Mrs Patrick Sheppard, Kil-

bronogue, Schull, Co Cork, Eire; 5th: Mrs R L Simpson, 38 Trelawne Drive, Cranleigh, Surrey; 6th: Mr I L Campbell, 59 Thornbury Road, Bournemouth, Dorset; 7th: Mr H J L Mansell, 59 Beck Lane, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 4RG; 8th: Mr T M Brown, 17 Tennyson Avenue, Gedling, Nottingham, NG4 3HJ.

## CAN YOU HELP?

I am a boy of 9½ years old, and I am trying to get all the different types of caps I can, with badges on please. I am a bit different from the ordinary collector — I don't just keep them at home to get dust on them. I put all my collection on display and any money that I get I give to those that need it, such as The National Fire Service Benevolent Fund and The Cumberland Infirmary Children's Ward, Carlisle.

I have got a total of 178 caps and badges and fire service helmets. My oldest Army cap and badge is 1928 Army Service Corps. If any of your readers can help me with any old caps and badges, I will see they receive a reply. I will go anywhere to put on a free display but I have to have transport and my mother accompanies me. If anyone needs help to raise money, I only need one day to put my things together. — **Master Raymond Forster, 1 Eldon Drive, Harraby, Carlisle, CA1 3RS.**

I am trying to trace my Army pals who joined up in the Royal Artillery at Aldershot in Gun Hill, Waterloo Barracks in 1940. We were posted to the 52nd Anti-Tank Regt RA. All their Army numbers would begin with 15579.

My best friend for six years was Gunner P A M Mitchell who was living in 1955 at 59 Alderbrook Road, Balham, London SW12. I would also like to contact anyone who served one year in Derrygalley near Moy and Dungannon in Ireland for one year 1941-42. — **Mr R H Lewis, 94 Burydale, Stevenage, Herts, SG2 8AX.**

Any information would be appreciated concerning the 4th City of London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers) from

1913 to the first time the battalion was virtually destroyed in April/May 1915. Recollections and photographs would be specially welcomed.

Also, was the 4th London the first British territorial battalion to be brigaded with Indian troops? They joined the Ferozepore Brigade in 1915 (February), which already contained the usual British regular battalion (1st Connaught Rangers). After suffering a heavy bombardment at Neuve Chappelle, they went into action in the last week in April 1915, outside St Jan near Ypres, alongside the Canadians in stemming the German advance following the first gas attack. — **Richard Sampson, 1 Court of Connecticut River, Lincolnshire, Illinois 60015, USA.**

I am writing this letter on the off chance of obtaining information concerning an old pal of mine. We last met on the ill-fated troopship *Empress of Australia* sailing from Korea back to Blighty. His name is Mr Bill Dobby and we both served in the RASC. His home town in 1953 was Doncaster. I am wondering whether any of your readers up North can offer information. I would be very grateful. — **Mr J A Athimm, 72 Portland Place, Northampton.**

I have a book in an advanced state of preparation, concerning the military operations in South East Asia and covering the period of the Brunei Revolt and Indonesian Confrontation. I would be most interested to hear from anyone who can tell me about their personal experiences, or has photographs or any other material which may be of assistance. — **Capt Ian H Nicholson, 16 Sylvan Drive, North Baddesley, Romsey, Hants.**

## Collectors' corner

L Martin, 34 John Till Close, Rugeley, Staffs. Wants all types of Foreign Legion crests plus French Airborne and all elite units insignia. All types of militaria for sale and exchange.

Peter Fuller, 50 Isis St, Earlsfield, London, SW18 3QN. Requires pre-1968 regular Army and current TAVR anodised collar badges. Also current officers collar badges in bronze or silver/gilt. Hundreds of badges of all types for exchange. All letters answered.

Capt M J Bush, 4 AEC, Oakington Bks, Cambridge, CB4 5EJ. Seeks British military, rope-tensioned side or tenor drum in any reasonable condition. Please send details and price. Also interested in buying good quality photographs or prints of drummers or books on the subject.

Wolfgang Klose, D2400 Lübeck 14, Westpreussenring 20, Germany. Wants any regimental badges and insignia of the British Army for exchange or

purchase.

Mr K Goundry, 8 Victory Avenue, Gretna, Carlisle, CA6 5AB. Seeks four buttons to complete a set — 32nd, 54th, 99th and 108th Foot, pre 1881, large tunic, officers or other ranks. Will pay high price for any of these. Tel No: 04613-509 evenings/weekends.

Mr A C North, 30 Preston St, Timaru, South Island, New Zealand. Wishes to purchase badges, insignia, parachute wings of 21st, 22nd, 23rd (Artists), 63rd Signal Sqn, SAS Regt. Also Commonwealth SAS sqns, and Royal Marine Commandos, SBS, Parachute Regt, RAF Regt, Canadian Special Service Force, Canadian Parachute Regt, Rhodesian, South African, US 82nd, 101st, 173rd AIB, Special Forces, Seals, UDT, USMC Recces, USAF Para Rescue, French, Spanish Foreign Legions, Army units of Nato, Commonwealth, Para, Cmdo, Ranger, Alpine, Infantry, Armoured etc.

## See-the-Army DIARY

Additions and amendments to last month's list are in bold type. Please remember though that events are sometimes altered, postponed or cancelled so always check before setting out. We hope too that organisers will advise us of any changes so that we can keep readers fully in the picture.

### SEPTEMBER 1981

6 Gosport Cadet Tattoo (POW Div Band).  
12 South Norfolk Tattoo, Attleborough (RA Bands; RA Motorcycles).  
13 Burghley Horse Trials, Stamford (Band of The Royal Artillery).  
19 International Paraplegic Games, Edinburgh (1 Para Band).  
**19 Thuesday 81. London — River Thames between Westminster and Waterloo bridges, Household Division freefall team, HAC band; RM Commando Forces Band; RM displays; helicopters.**  
25 Searchlight Tattoo, Tidworth (2 Royal Irish Rangers Band).  
27 Andover Army Open Day (RCT, REME, RAOC Bands).

### NOVEMBER 1981

7 BL Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall (Combined Services).  
8 Remembrance Day, National Service, Edinburgh (1 Gordons Band D & P).  
8 Annual Remembrance Parade, Cenotaph (Combined Services).  
**7 The Lord Mayor's Show, City of London (Combined Services).**

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## Graham Smith meets a major attraction

MR BRIAN HUSSEY, a wartime major in the Royal Army Service Corps and a radical, self-styled 'true Brit' whose one big regret is ever leaving the Army, reckons that his two-minute musical cabaret act is well worth his hanging around for — usually upside down supported on a striped pole, sometimes 25 feet above his appreciative audience but always for charity.

In this fashion and suspended from behind his knees on a static trapeze while held in place by two spectators, Brian happily sucks and blows *MacNamara's Band or Scotland the Brave* on a harmonica while keeping strict tempo with two soup plate-sized cymbals attached to his ankles.

Needless to say, the sheer effort of this inverted performance soon rushes to his head, hence the two-minute time limit for the rendition in his 'Mad Major' logo T-shirt, skimpy shorts emblazoned with two miniature flags and natty Union Jack socks.

"I'm pro-British to the extreme. A true patriot," he explains.

But there is certainly nothing to suggest any truth in the slogan across his chest proclaiming him non compos mentis. For Brian is the depot manager in charge of 18 staff — including his daughter — at an international synthetic rubber consortium down in the depths of Wiltshire, a business with a world-wide export market based on the import of crude rubber.

Just 42 years ago, he joined the Army at the outbreak of war and was commissioned the same year in response to Sir Malcolm Campbell's appeal seeking drivers for service in France. Brian applied, was accepted, and finished up in Palestine.

Links with the military of yesteryear are still around, if tenuously, at his present base in sight of the famous Cherhill horse not far from the Avebury Ring.

Brian lives in the former station commanders' house at Yatesbury, a Royal Air Force signals training establishment in its heyday some 25 years ago, but long since closed down, its chatter of Morse keys silenced.

Brian's upside-down slant on his charity raising entertainments, mainly in aid of the Save the Children Fund, earned him an audition this year for a spot on a new talent-spotting show *Under Manning* being screened on Saturday nights this summer and hosted by burly comic, Bernard Manning.

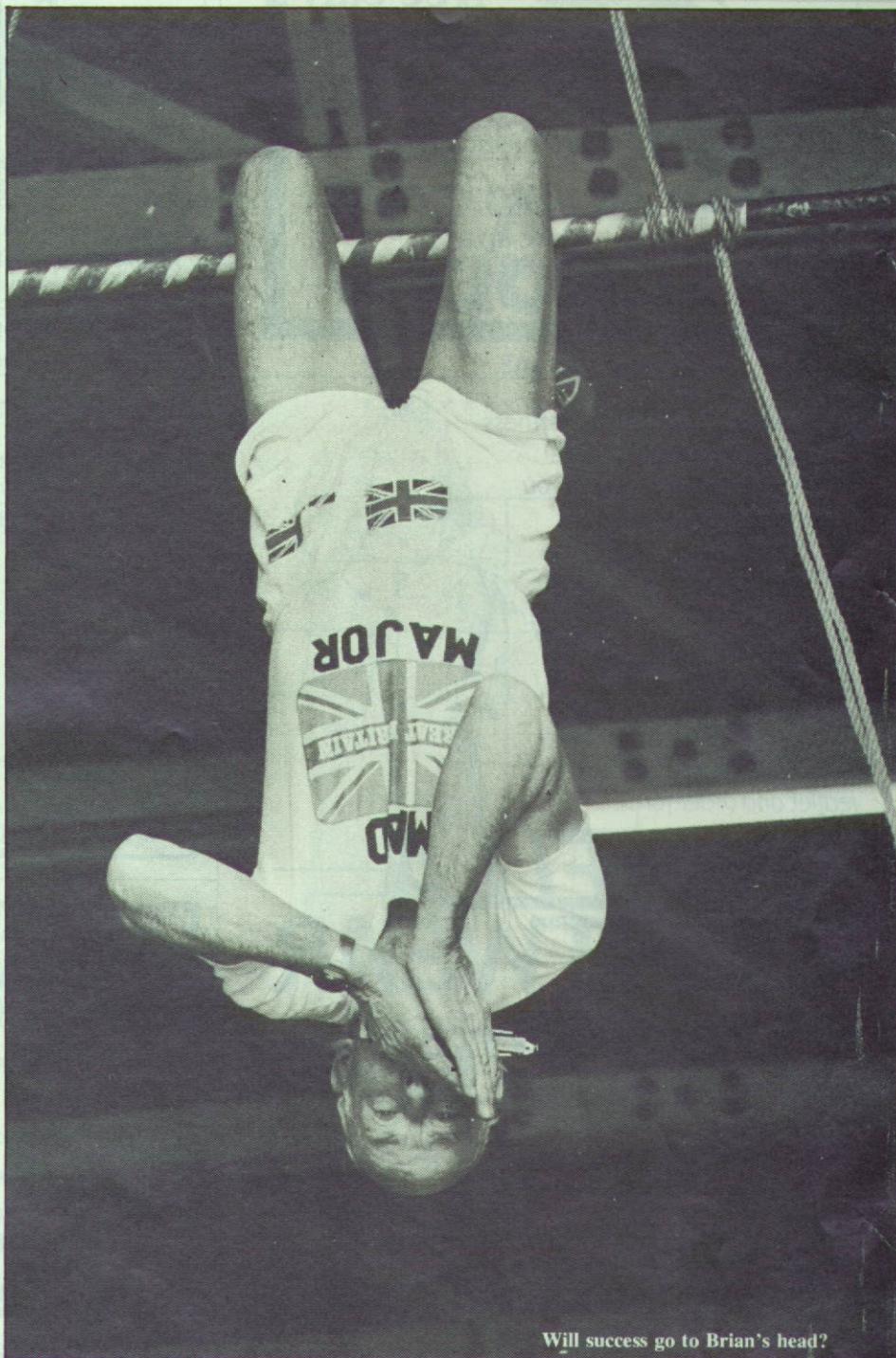
The audition went well. "I did two minutes of my repertoire and it was great . . . three minutes, and I was over the moon. In all, I did 35 minutes and they told me they were very impressed." So impressed, in fact, that Brian will be appearing on the nation's TV screens on September 5th.

But what the selfless trouper did make light of was his stoic commitment to performance for, this year, Brian has been suffering from rheumatoid arthritis in one of his hips.

Yet he is still the complete entertainer, loved and welcomed by the pensioners and children in the Calne area, just five miles away. Brian has a voice-throwing 'vent' act and plays a minute mouth organ while smoking a cigarette and playing the spoons.

Surprisingly, these are the only occasions

# ACT OF MADNESS



Will success go to Brian's head?

when a cigarette touches his lips. He usually smokes cigars.

His charity efforts really got under way thanks to his other talent — table tennis. A reigning champion of the indoor sport — he still plays it twice weekly — Brian took up a challenge from an 18-year-old and beat him for a £10 sideswipe. That was his first contribution to the Save the Children Fund and a lot more has followed since.

Brian has only ever had one big let-down in his career — and that was in front of a Women's Institute audience.

Somehow, more than Brian's trousers were lowered, leaving him covered only in confusion.

"If you were to ask me the most embarrassing moment in all my entertainment outings, that would have to be it," he said. "At the time though it was a star turn for them."

More than three decades on, Brian still misses the Army. "My one regret was coming out. I enjoyed it to the full. I would certainly advocate it to any young men. It's a wonderful life for them."

But he is still soldiering on in the cause of charity even though he will be 65 in January.

"I put it all down to an attitude of mind and that attitude tells me I'm as old as I feel," he offers. "Mine is an unusual speciality act and one of my own creation. As long as I'm able to do these things, I will."

And come retirement, what then?

Brian said: "I've always craved to do a summer season at a seaside resort at the end of the pier. I've already had an offer from a night club in Jersey."

Not so 'mad' after all, this Samaritan major, one of Wiltshire's greatest 'true Brits' in his own, very individualistic, way.

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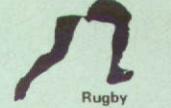
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S9

# GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

ALL THE ANSWERS in this puzzle are the names of people who were generals in their time, although some went on to even greater things. They range in history from the mid-eighteenth century to the present day and come from several countries — although most are British. The clues are in random order *except for the first one* but to help you sort them out the number of letters in each answer is given in brackets. When you have worked out all the answers, you should be able to fill in the remaining spaces in the centre vertical column 15 read off the names of three more generals. Who are they? And who are the other eleven?

The competition is open at home or overseas and the closing date is Monday 2 November. The answer and winners' names will appear in the fourth fortnightly SOLDIER due out in the middle of November. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 278' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or pre-paid labels will be disqualified.

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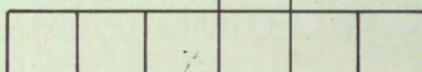
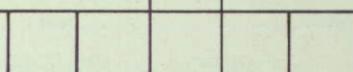
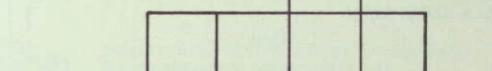
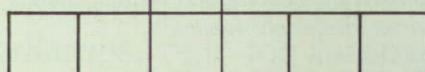
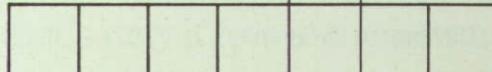
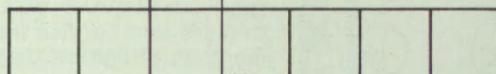
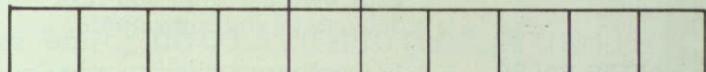
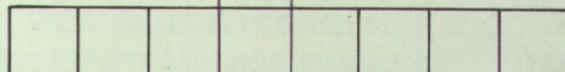
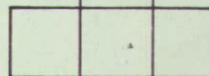
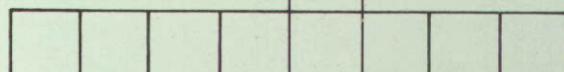
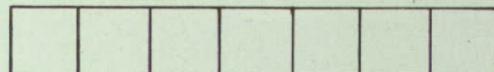
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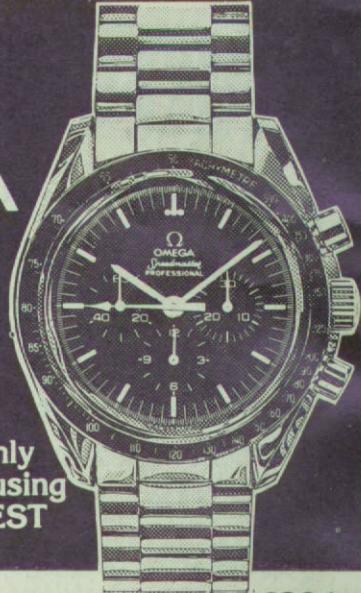
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