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# SOLDIER





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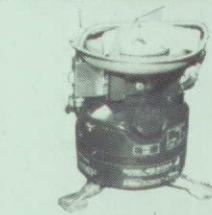
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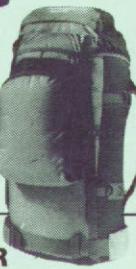
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**FRONT COVER:**  
The imposing figure of The Sultan of Oman — reviewing his troops. See page 25.  
Picture: Doug Pratt

**BACK COVER:**  
Looks like an unhappy landing for the man leaping from an Assault Boat Mark V in the Royal Engineers demonstration at Hawley. In fact, he recovered well and saved his dignity!  
Picture: Paul Haley

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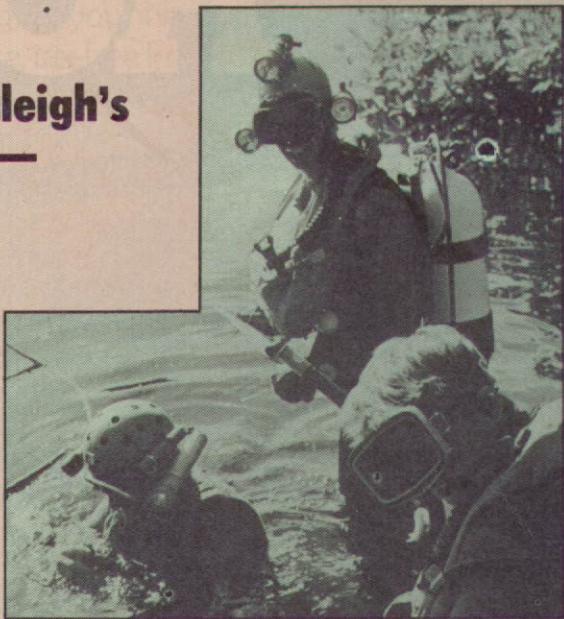
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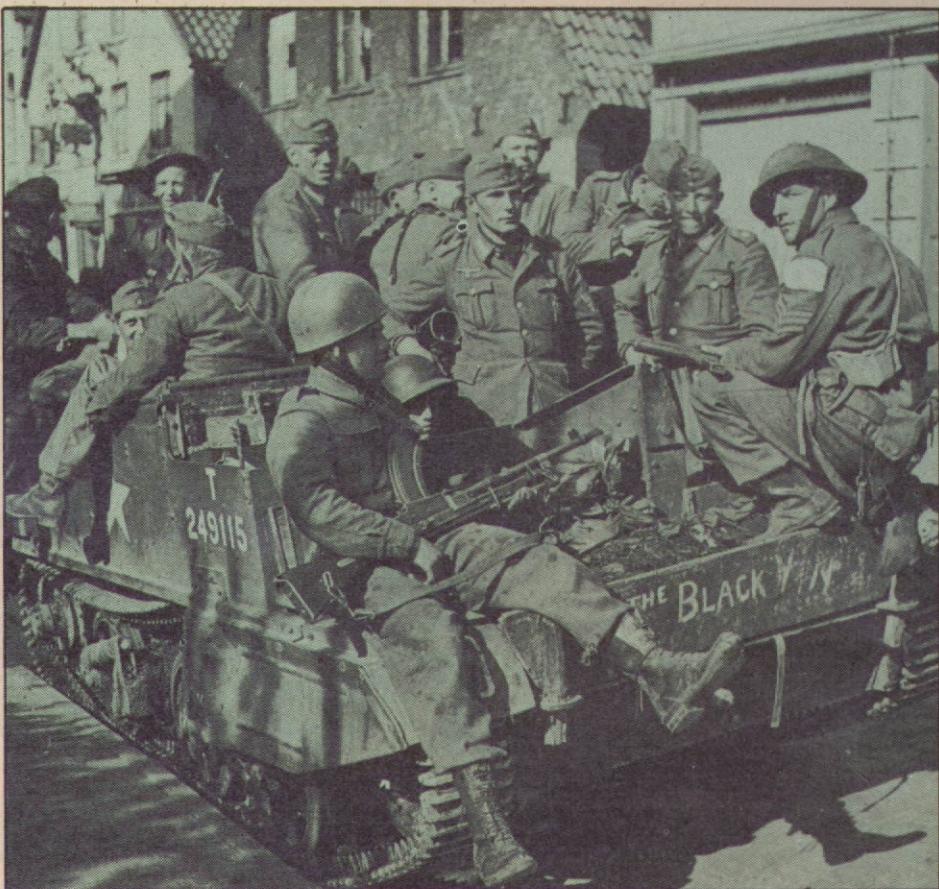
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**Operation Raleigh's  
first success —  
page 41**



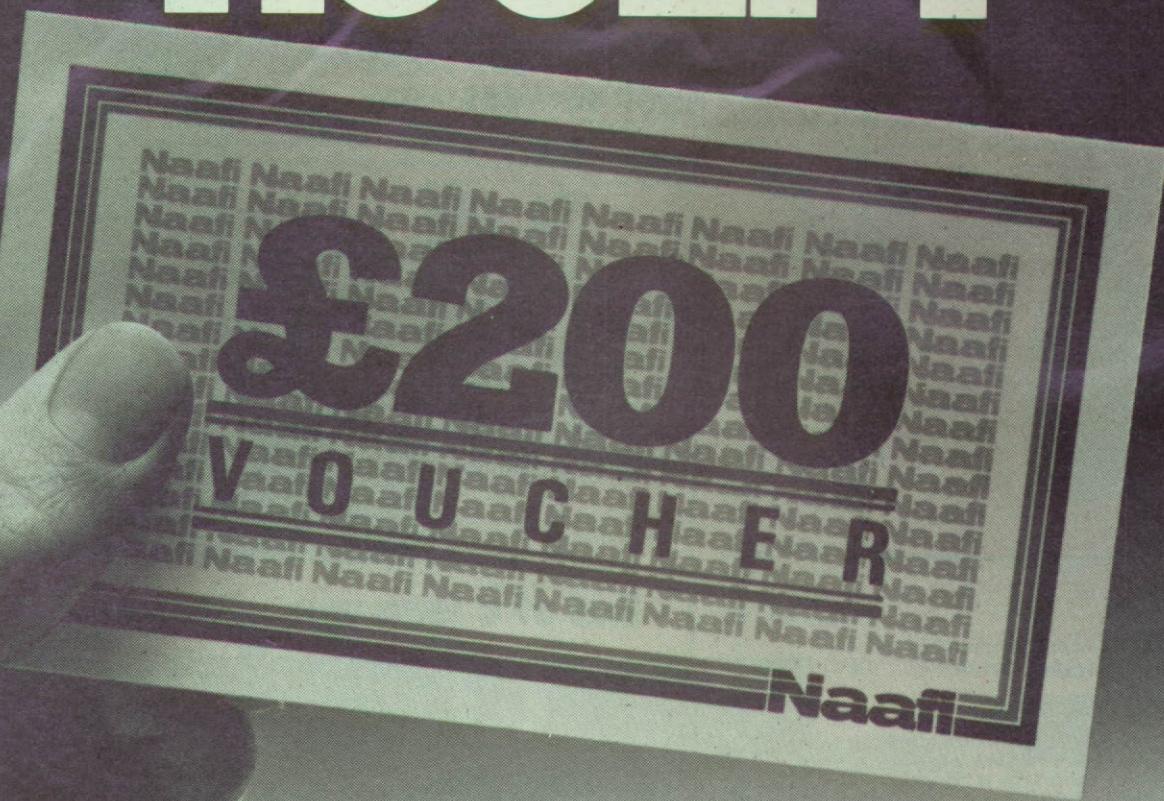
**End of a long war — page 34**



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# LOA: IT'S GOOD NEWS AND BAD

**T**HE good news is that soldiers in some parts of the world are to get more money in their pockets. The bad news is that it will not include Germany; there soldiers will be worse off.

That will be the effect of decisions made as the result of the latest round of Local Overseas Allowance reviews carried out by the mixed team of MOD civilians, Servicemen and Treasury officials.

Examples given by MOD show that single personnel in BAOR will suffer greater cuts in their LOA than those who are married. A single Corporal, for instance, who at present receives £1.97 a day LOA will have it cut by £1.27 to 70p. A married Corporal with one child who gets £5.26 a day now will receive £4.94 after having his LOA cut by 32p. A single Captain now receiving £3.34 a day will have £1.66 less in his pocket at £1.68 a day; a married Captain with one child will have his daily allowance cut from £6.43 to £5.53, a reduction of 90p.

Why are married men let off more lightly than their single colleagues? An MOD spokesman explained that the costs of children's clothing to meet climatic requirements, baby sitting costs, the running of a second car, laundry and hair dressing costs, family holidays and keeping in touch with the UK, are all bound to increase costs for the married man in far greater proportion.

Army men and women in Berlin have had different rates of LOA to the rest of Germany but as the result of the latest review will be brought into line.

And the blow for all Germany based soldiers will be softened by being delayed until 1 August instead of being imposed on 1 June so that Servicemen "can make adjustments".

Asked why LOA rates in Germany had been reduced so soon after last year's reduction, a spokesman told SOLDIER that Germany's rate of domestic inflation had been consistently less than that in the UK (and in most other countries) in recent years. Besides that, new information had been obtained on expenditure patterns in the UK as a result of the latest survey. There had been more information, for instance, on the Serviceman's weekend holidays, ownership of home videos, the scale of home entertainment, hobbies, and many other factors relevant to the LOA budget.

The Serviceman overseas is expected to meet living costs up to the corresponding level in the UK from his pay, which he receives at the same rates irrespective of where he is based.

The LOA team, accompanied by observers from BAOR and RAF(G) visited Bielefeld, Soltau, Laarbruch, Berlin, Dusseldorf and

Baden Baden to receive presentations, interview Servicemen, and inspect housing, recreational and shopping facilities.

MOD described the increase in LOA rates in the rest of the world as "substantial". They vary in Cyprus from 35p a day for a single Corporal to £3.27 for his married counterpart with one child; in Gibraltar the new rates vary from a reduction of 80p for a single Captain who will now receive no LOA, to an increase of £1.07 for a married Captain with one child. In the United States rate increases are from 60p for a married Captain with one child to £4.50 for a single Corporal.

Said the MOD spokesman: "The review was undertaken to meet the Servicemen's needs with an allowance that is fair but not over-generous. There was no question of squeezing LOA unfairly to extract financial savings from the soldiers and airmen serving in Germany."

*SOLDIER hopes to be exploring in its next issue exactly how the rates are assessed and looking into MOD's statement that allowances are "fair but not over-generous".*

## MARCH WITH PRIDE, SAYS QUEEN

FOR the first time in 20 years there was no Sovereign's Representative at the Sandhurst Sovereign's Parade — because the Sovereign was there herself to take the salute, inspect the parade and wish the 406 graduating student officers and officer cadets success.

One of the most significant changes to have occurred since the Queen last stood on the Royal Military Academy's reviewing stand in 1965 was evident right at the start.

It is exactly one year since women first joined their male colleagues in passing out ceremonies on the Sandhurst square. On this occasion though they marched on with everyone else at the beginning instead of appearing half way through the proceedings.

But the 36 student and cadet officers from the sixth WRAC course did not take part in the March Past. It was explained that their regulation skirts confined them to a 27-inch stride which would have put them out of step with the male contingent striding their customary 30 inches.

But in other respects this was ladies' day. The media, which attended the event in great profusion, had eyes for no one but Officer Cadet Therésé Nation who was about to receive her commission after overcoming a personal battle with stomach cancer. She had two operations but recovered sufficiently well to be accepted into the WRAC.

The Sash of Honour for the best cadet in the WRAC course went to Officer Cadet Nichola Vickers, the daughter of Lieutenant General Sir Richard Vickers who was commandant of the Royal Military Academy between 1979 and 1982.

There was another slight alteration to procedure at the end of the parade. When the Sandhurst adjutant, Major Julian Lancaster, Scots Guards, disappeared up the steps to the Old Building on the redoubtable Alexander in the wake of the graduates, the Queen and her party did not follow, as is the custom.

Apparently renovations now being carried out meant that there was no accommodation in the Old Building fit to receive a distinguished guest.

In her speech the Queen paid special tribute to the Army's role

in modern Britain.

"Although you have chosen to forego some of the freedoms of civilian life," she told the graduating student officers and cadets, "you have gained some great privileges along with your new responsibilities.

"The Army has enjoyed a special place in the history of this country and has set a shining example of all that is best in human endeavour. Quite recently it has demonstrated anew its efficiency and effectiveness as a fighting force.

"That result is achieved because the Services set themselves high standards, because they acknowledge that they have great traditions to uphold, and because they feel a deep loyalty to country and to one another."

The Queen had some advice for the young men and women

standing before her: "As officers you will do best when you lead by personal example and not by precept. Your aim must always be to show professional competence as soldiers, unselfishness as individuals, and dedication to your calling.

"Those whom you will command and your country expect nothing less."

She concluded by asking them: "When you march up the steps remember with pride those who have passed that way before. You are now taking over from them the task of maintaining the effectiveness of the British Army in peace and war.

"I place that trust in you with confidence. My prayers for your success and safety will follow you wherever you may be called upon to serve."



# Army tests a new mobile scanner at Woolwich

by JOHN MARGETTS

JUST like in 'civvy street' the cost of going sick in the Army is rising. The latest indicator is that free X-ray body scans for seriously ill military patients at NHS hospitals are now facilities of the past.

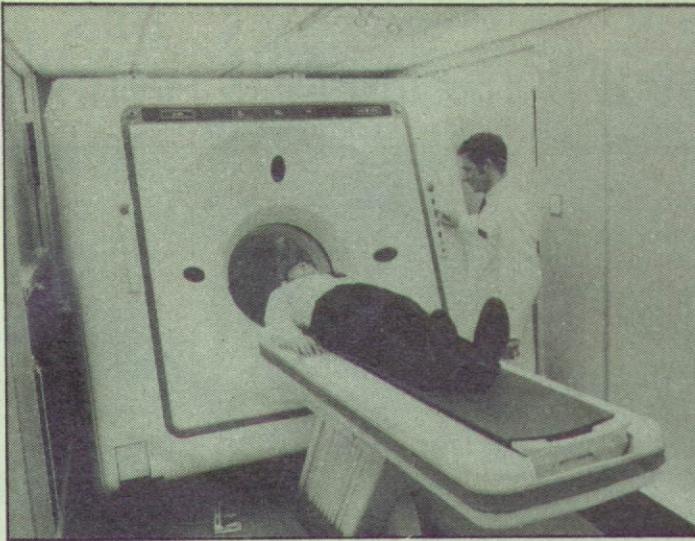
Now, if a patient at Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich, requires a 'scan' the hospital might have to foot the bill for the use of specialised equipment at either an NHS or private hospital. "And that can be very expensive," said Major Keith Ingram RAMC, superintendent radiographer in charge of the X-ray department at the combined military and civilian 450-bed hospital.

"As we are not equipped with this technology a body scan at another hospital can cost up to £300 or more, depending on whether it's a full or partial scan, and we have to pay.

"With Government cuts starting to bite, bills for treatment for our patients at other hospitals are now coming in."

The Major was inspecting a 'mobile CT scanner' which, he said, would be extremely useful and provide a much-needed facility.

"If we had equipment like this," he said, indicating the 60 ft-long trailer and its computer controlled scanner,



"we could cater not only for our own patients, but for those in every military hospital in the UK and Germany.

"It would enable us to go to the patient rather than the patient having to travel, often for some hours, for a scan."

The scanner, housed in a large box-like container vehicle, was being demonstrated by the manufacturers to

the hospital for a day and Major Ingram was determined to get as many of his patients 'through' the machine as possible.

"Not only will it give us a good, practical test, but could save us a considerable sum of money and a lot of time," he said.

Asked what the alternatives were to buying a mobile scanner, which he put

at £700,000, Major Ingram said they could continue to take patients to other hospitals and pay for the service, or they could hire a mobile unit for about £1,000 a day.

"But it would be far better if we had our own as we would be in control of it." He estimated annual running costs of a mobile scanner to be about 10 per cent of the purchase price.

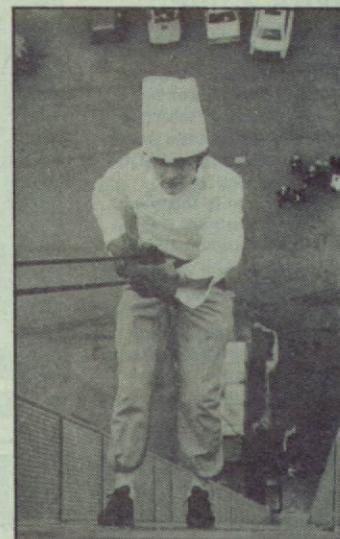
He said he had no idea whether the hospital would ever possess such a piece of high-tech equipment, adding that he hoped the controllers of the purse strings would give it serious thought.

## BBC seeking old Rangers

ROGER Thompson, producer of the BBC TV programme Bookmark, is anxious to contact men who served in the desert with the Sherwood Rangers 1941-43.

BBC are working on a documentary on World War 2 poet Keith Douglas, and are trying to trace his Crusader crewmen, Troopers Davis and McKerrill.

Anyone who knows anything of these desert veterans is asked to ring 01-743 1272. The good news is that callers can reverse the charges.



## BIG CHALLENGE AT THE TOP FOR ACC!

**SPORTING** a big red nose, a lurid-coloured wig and her home-made clown's outfit, Lieutenant Joanna Hayes said abseiling down the face of a 160 ft-high tower block was "a piece of cake," writes John Margetts.

It was apposite of Joanna to describe her charity descent in culinary terms, since she is a platoon commander at the ACC Depot, Aldershot — the place where the future cooks and chefs of the Army learn their craft.

Joanna, 24, was one of a team of 10 who abseiled down the side of the 12-storey tower to raise 'hopefully' £2,000 for local children's homes.

"Since I was foolish enough to agree to it, I thought I might as well dress like a clown," joked Joanna, who

regularly leads parties of lads on climbs and is a free-fall parachutist in her spare time.

Organised by Apprentice College training officer Captain Rick Taylor, the 10 money raisers slipped down the front of the 12-storey tower at a fast rate.

"The idea behind it all is to raise cash for two local homes in Aldershot, Sendhurst Grange and Meadow Croft, which to some extent have been adopted by the College and the ACC Depot," said Captain Taylor.

"We felt that appeals for overseas charities had blocked people to the needs of children in this country.

"So we thought we'd try and help a little towards our own two adopted homes.

"We have pledges for about £1,000 but we're hoping to raise nearly double that which if we manage it will have made it all very worth while."

As each of the team reached the ground, all except Joanna wearing chef's 'whites' and tall hats over their helmets, they were greeted with champagne by College CO Lieutenant Colonel Mike Dickinson and cheers from watching colleagues.

The team: Captain Rick Taylor, Lieutenants Stewart Amis, Joanna Hayes and James Chappell, QMSI Arthur Harvey, Staff Sergeant Barry Ross, Sergeants Stephen Carroll, Ian Young and Martin Mariner and Corporal Alex Testo.

**Lieutenant Stewart Amis:** Confident look at the top...

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# INVICTA EXPORT



Talk about getting it straight from the horse's mouth... It looks as though young Paul Lawrence, a Private with The Green Howards in BAOR, is about to get a right earful. Just enough to make a horse laugh. For Paul and his four pals — Martin Stephenson, Neil Johnson (riding the nag), Christopher Wilson and David Colmer have just completed a two-week course at the Osnabrück Saddle Club. Now the lads are hoping to clock up some riding time. Said Neil Johnson, unconcerned that his mount is about to nibble a lump out of Paul Lawrence: "It was great. Physically demanding, but interesting to try a new sport."

## Teamwork wins cooks a title

With all that 'physically demanding' horse riding the lads of The Green Howards endure (see story above), the need for good food is an absolute must. And to prove they get it a quartet of ACC cooks, attached to the regiment, went to town in the Army's Northern Region Catering Championships and emerged with armfuls of 'pots' and 'gongs' and the title of champs. The winning team was Sergeants Glen Meekings and Keith Roberts, and Lance Corporal Stephen Collingwood and Private Phillip Niwano.

## 'Ere, it's enough to make a horse laugh



GREEN HOWARDS AND FRIEND: *lending an ear*

## RE divers find missing boy in canal

A plea from the father of a missing six-year-old sent a seven-man team of divers from 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment, based at Hameln, into action.

The call came after a

six-day hunt by local police when no trace of the missing boy could be found.

But the RE had the ability and equipment to go where local police could

not venture and they found the boy's body in the town canal about 250 metres from where police recovered his bike.

The police gave up the hunt after finding the lad's

bike. This sparked speculation that the search would end in tragedy.

But it was left to the engineers led by Captain Mark Thomas, to find the body of the youngster.

# PEOPLE

## FACES and PLACES

### Falklands right of way ticket for Mrs Thatcher

A scheme to sell rights of access to 50 acres of the Falklands has been launched with the presentation of Certificate No 1 to the Prime Minister.

Now the colourful document adorns the walls of No 10 WO2 Jim Hartley, the brains behind the idea, is all set for a big sell on a world-wide scale.

"Unfortunately the Prime Minister was not there to receive

the certificate," said Jim. "She was away on her tour of Asia."

"The certificate, which grants the PM the right to visit the site at Ridge Camp, East Falkland, and plant a tree or fly a flag in

commemoration of the Falklands war, was suitably inscribed.

"Although Mrs Thatcher's access certificate is stamped No 1 we have in fact sold more than 100."

But Jim and his fellow directors have not sold certificate No 100. They're saving this for Prince Andrew on his return from the South Atlantic.

"We're unsure of his return

## Flowerdown blooms this year!

Moves to house soldiers in the new purpose-built Flowerdown Barracks, just outside Winchester, start at the end of the year.

The first men in will be those of the Royal Green Jackets, based at the old Peninsular Barracks.

Some will move into the £19.2 million development following the last combined recruit and Freedom parade from the old barracks, scheduled for 22 November.

Eventually it is planned to move the whole of the Light Division into the barracks — to be named after Sir John Moore, founder of the Light Division — and to incorporate the Junior Leaders from Shorncliffe, Kent, Junior soldiers from Shrewsbury and the RGJ from Winchester.

What will become of the old Peninsular Barracks, so ideally situated close to the city centre?

"Good question," said ex-Major Dennis Williams, Flowerdown project officer, "but an extremely complex one. The place is so full of history it stretches back to Norman times."

"Cromwell knocked the place about a bit. Charles II started to build a palace here, but never completed it. Later it was converted to a barracks and a PoW camp during the Napoleonic wars. It was also used as a depot by the King's Royal Rifle Corps and Rifle Brigade in the 1850s."

"In those days it housed 1,600 men on four floors with just two lavatories in the basement! This particular building was burnt down in 1892 and replaced by Peninsular Barracks at the turn of the century."

"Modernised inside in the early 1960s, four of the buildings of the Upper Barracks — the barracks as a whole are built on two ground levels — are now listed as Grade Two buildings and cannot be altered."

"This alone, without all the attached history, has created problems for numerous official agencies. It appears the Crown owns the ground and the MoD the buildings. Other Government departments are heavily involved and talking has been going on for years. It'll probably go on a lot longer before decisions on the future of the old place are finalised."

date, but as soon as we know details we'll be making arrangements for a presentation. Whatever happens we'll be saving that particular certificate for him."

An SQMS (ACC) with the 15/19th King's Royal Hussars at Bovington, Jim managed to clinch the deal of buying 50 acres just before a new Falklands law restricting the buying and selling of land came into effect.

# Ex-Army 'old girls' meet up for a chinwag

**Souvenirs** specially coloured bottle green and beech brown, the colours of the WRAC, were available to more than 600 ex-Army ladies when they held their latest get-together.

Every three years former ATS and WRAC girls — and

## IN BRIEF

Rare honour for fire adviser Bill Crawshaw who has been awarded the German fire service medal for international co-operation. For Mr Crawshaw, the man who advises the 1st Armoured Division how to fight fires, it was a combined tribute from the Army fire service and the German civil fire service throughout BAOR. So far as is known, only six such medals have ever been awarded.

Tank experts from around the world visit the Tank Museum at Bovington. Latest VIPs to call was the Portuguese Army Chief of Staff General J da Costa Salazar Braga. His guide for his walk-about was Lieutenant Colonel George Forty, museum curator.

even some of the 1914-18 vintage — meet from all over the world for a chinwag about their Army days.

Oldest "old girl" on parade this year was Mrs Dorothy Roberts of Harrogate, who at 86 was in the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps in 1916.

This year the ladies of the WRAC Association met at Harrogate, Mrs Roberts' home town, coming from the USA, New Zealand, West Germany, Belgium and Italy.

Some of those attending had exciting stories to tell... like former ATS Corporal Monica Bradley. She was the cipher operator who sent Eisenhower's cease-fire message on 7 May, 1945 to take effect next day.

### FIRST BATCH

Mrs C Edmunds of Somerset, formerly Major Sarah Butt, who served from 1940 to 1953, was among the first batch of ATS sent to the Middle East, spending three months in a Suez convoy.

An ATS corporal switchboard operator in the King David Hotel, Jerusalem, in 1946, Mrs D G Foster of Middlesex, missed death by minutes when terrorists bombed the General HQ.

They were just some of



**LT COL GAEL RAMSEY:** thrilled at the response

the hundreds of former Servicewomen who met, talked and paraded through the town led by the WRAC band from Guildford, with the salute being taken by the mayor of Harrogate accompanied by Brigadier Anne Field, Deputy Controller Commandant WRAC and vice-president of the WRAC

Association.

Organiser of the two-day event was Lieutenant Colonel Gael Ramsey, who has just completed a tour as Commander WRAC North of England.

"I am thrilled at the response to the reunion. It has been a most memorable weekend," she said.

## New Director for the ACC

Computers are getting in everywhere... even into food. Next year should see them introduced into units to 'take the drudgery out of catering management'.



**Brigadier M Paterson**

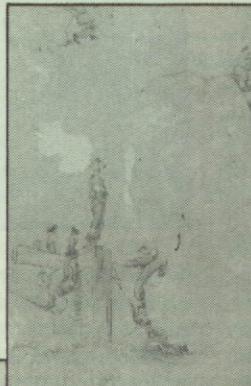
"They will provide instant menus and recipes, plus complete costing and stock level readings. They should make life easier all round and give greater control," said Brigadier Michael Paterson, the new Director of the Army Catering Corps.

A trained chef, he has no particular favourite food. "So long as it's properly cooked and prepared, I'm not fussy," he said.

In his 34 years' service he has seen some big changes in Army catering, not least the introduction of cafeteria-style dining halls in the 1960s.

"Standards are now high," he said, "and it is my responsibility to see them preserved."

"We in the Corps are motivated by standards and our high reputation is due to the professionalism and skill of those in the Corps. I feel extremely honoured and proud to be heading the ACC," he said.



**MAJOR BOB GUTTERIDGE:** picture puzzle



## Wartime wall pics set Bob a poser

**There's a mystery about Major Bob Gutteridge's house. Who painted the murals on his living room wall?**

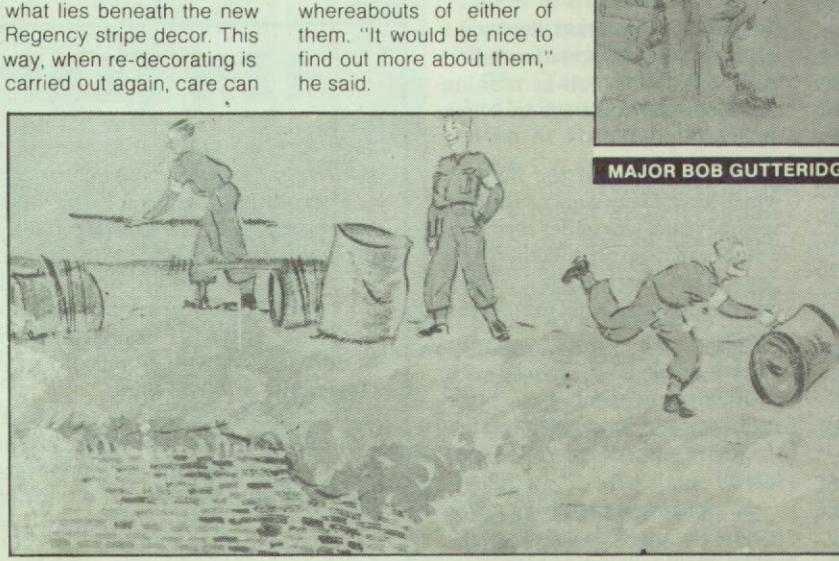
The paintings, done in oils, show some 60-odd soldiers performing WOSB tasks — very similar to what potential officers have to do nowadays, said Major Gutteridge of the RGJ at Winchester.

"They are wartime paintings by two artists. One name, that of Peter Evans is easily seen, as is the date, 1942. But the other signature is extremely obscure. It looks like Riemus, but that's only a guess."

### REVEALED

The paintings were revealed when decorators stripped the room for re-papering.

Before the new paper went up, Major Gutteridge rang SOLDIER photographer Paul Haley who photographed the pictures. "I don't know when



**PAINTINGS ON THE LIVING ROOM WALL:** all covered now

## Princes Charles takes over

Prince Charles is the new Colonel-in-Chief of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards.

The Queen last month approved the appointment which had been unfilled since September, 1983, when King Leopold III of Belgium, the previous Colonel-in-Chief, died. He had held the appointment since 1937.

# DENIS OPENS MANSFIELD TA CENTRE



Face looks very familiar... yes, it is Mr Denis Thatcher from No 10, taking the salute at the opening of the new Territorial Army Centre in Mansfield.

Mr Thatcher was well qualified to perform the opening ceremony of the £1.45 million centre which

replaces obsolete buildings — he is a former TA major.

'Landlords' of the new centre will be A Company of 3rd Battalion The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment. Music for the opening ceremony, at which Mr Thatcher inspected a guard of

honour, was supplied by their 'Regular' colleagues in the Band of the 1st Battalion WFR.

With Mr Thatcher on the dais are Colonel R S St G Martin (left) president of East Midlands TAVRA, and Lieutenant Colonel C N Cullen, CO of 3(V) WFR.

## BIGGER BOUNTY TO CUT WASTAGE?

The Territorial Army's tax-free bounty is likely to be increased as part of a package of measures designed to encourage soldiers to remain in service for a longer period.

Part-time soldiers may also be able to claim a proportion of a day's pay for drill nights if suggestions are accepted by the Armed Forces Review Body.

Major General Edward Jones, Director General Territorial Army and Organisation, said: "I am hopeful we will get a positive response to these proposals."

The General was talking to the North of England Territorial, Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association about the need to reduce wastage in order to achieve the TA's new establishment target. He told the meeting at Middlesbrough that wastage was currently running at 33 per cent.

"To stand still we need to recruit 24,000 men and women each year," he said. "To reach the target of 91,000 by 1990 we have to recruit 28,000 each year over five years."

He said that to encourage part-time soldiers to remain with the



TA for a longer period there was a need to provide accommodation and facilities as well as training "appropriate to the age in which we live."

He revealed that the bounty, which has remained unchanged for several years, was under review as a stop-gap measure together with pay and conditions of service which will be revised in a bid to stem the wastage.

Major General Jones said: "Although a number of other measures were proposed it was felt that these were the most important ones."

He added that if wastage could be cut by only five per cent the problem of increased establishment would be solved.



## TOPICS

## IT MAKES YOU LAUGH

It's smiles all round despite the horrific stomach 'wound' suffered by 16-years-old Cadet Patrick O'Brien. And he had already been 'wounded' three times before.

Looking after him is 19-year-old QARANC Private Jacqueline Kelly, a clerk in 'civvy street' who has been with 207 (Greater Manchester) General Hospital of the TA for almost a year.

Patrick, from Sale ACF detachment, and Jacqueline, were taking part in the hospital's pre-camp exercise held at Swynnerton.

Despite being 'wounded' three times each, the 50 volunteer casualties from Manchester and Cheshire ACF, all made excellent recoveries. "It's the crisps, cola and sweets that do it", joked Captain Derek Maudsley, OC of the Lancaster detachment.

Left: Jacqueline and Patrick smile through the 'agony'.

## TEN YEARS OLD

The 6th Battalion the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (Northumberland) have celebrated their 10th anniversary.

The battalion is now over 700 strong and includes the new Home Service Force Company which officially formed in Newcastle on 1 April, although they have been recruiting since January and are now up to full strength.

The 6th Fusiliers recruit throughout the counties of Tyne and Wear and Northumberland and now have TA Centres in Berwick, Alnwick, Ashington, Longbenton, Tynemouth, Newcastle and Hexham.

To celebrate the anniversary, the battalion's Honorary Colonel, The Duke of Northumberland, attended a lunch in Alnwick with all the permanent staff. The Duke mentioned the high standards the Territorial soldiers had reached, which was borne out by their performance on Exercise Lionheart last year.



## MUSIC WHILE YOU SHOP

Seven-year-old Peter Brown from Everton finds the only way he can hold Drum Major Ken Priestley's mace is by perching on top of a wall in Central Liverpool's St John's shopping precinct. Ken was with the Pipes and Drums of the Lancashire Artillery — wearing their unique Crawford Tartan — when they gave four performances to Saturday shoppers to collect funds for the city's Alder Hey Children's Hospital.

## MEDICS REACH RECRUIT TARGET

A Territorial Army unit from Sunderland has achieved the distinction of being one of the few TA medical groups in the country to recruit up to 100 per cent strength.

This is despite the great difficulty the TA has had in attracting medical teams.

251 (Sunderland) Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps, based at Dykelands Road, Seaburn, is up to its 187 establishment and it has cut down wastage. This is due to the personal recruiting campaign run for the past 18 months by the CO, Lt Col Ram Banerjee, a consultant surgeon at Sunderland General Hospital.

He explained: "We have made an enormous effort to keep the

unit in the public eye. We have gone out of our way to gain the support of the local media and they have been wonderful. On every occasion possible I have pushed the interests of the TA and, for example, when there is a local sports event, we offer to provide medical cover.

"The second reason for good recruiting is that I have used personal contacts to bring in doctors and nurses met during the course of our work. In this way we have built up a good team." The CO and his unit won warm praise from Colonel Michael Stewart, Chairman of the North of England Territorial, Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association.

He said: "The recruiting of medical officers and nurses is not



## ONE, TWO, THREE — BLOW

Taking a deep breath ready to blow out the candles on two cakes is Captain Helen Howorth, of the QARANC. Two cakes because the day on which she took command of Blackburn detachment of 207 General Hospital, TA, was also her birthday.

Helen is sister in charge at South Shore Hospital, Blackpool, in civilian life. Her husband, Colonel Nick Howorth, commands the rival Merseyside MASH, 208 General Hospital in Liverpool.

Helping Helen to celebrate (l to r) Private Yvonne Dougela, Q Private Sheila Rudge and Staff Sergeant Chris Dorrington.

## DERBY WINNERS



Cheers from men of A Company, 5/8th Battalion, The King's Regiment based in Liverpool, after they carried off the coveted Derby Trophy, the top infantry skill prize for North West TA units.

Their victory in the gruelling two-day competition in the cold and rain of Warcop in Cumbria was all the sweeter because this year the Kingsmen celebrate their

tercentenary. They wrested the trophy from the King's Own Royal Border Regiment who have been its holder since 1975.

The trophy was presented to the Kingsmen by the Earl of Derby after a test of skill and endurance that included night navigation, field firing of their rifles and machine gun, and one of the toughest assault courses in the country.

## NEW CENTRES FOR THE NORTH

Work is going ahead in the North of England on new TA Centres to meet the expansion of the Territorial Army.

The Territorial, Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association at Durham have been given the go-ahead for a new TA Centre at Cramlington for the Queen's Own Yeomanry and work was to have begun on the site last month.

Brigadier David Hodge reported to the TAVR Association that the Stockton Road, Middlesbrough TA Centre, currently the home of B Coy 1st Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers, was being refurbished and would be ready in June. It will form the backbone of three new rifle companies of the 1st Battalion Yorkshire and Cleveland Volunteers which is being formed on Tees-side.

Recruiting for A Coy, which will be based at Guisborough, was also starting after Easter.

Brigadier Hodge said that ultimately it was hoped to replace the old TA Centre in Guisborough with a new one in the Redcar-Guisborough area.

He added that 124 Recovery Company, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, had now occupied a spacious new centre at Newton Aycliffe and the unit's former centre was being renovated for 223 Field Ambulance.

The association is negotiating to buy a site at Consett for 7th Battalion The Light Infantry.

Said Brigadier Hodge: "One or two of our centres are beginning to bulge at the seams and we must try to find sites and the money for some new TA Centres to overcome the overcrowding."

# Sappers mark the end of a fantastic feat

Lieutenant Colonel Francis Daniell  
leads the march past into history



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## 37 Engineer Regiment leaves Falklands

The Falkland Islands weather failed no one when 37 (Falkland Islands) Engineer Regiment held a parade and march past at RAF Stanley to say farewell after almost three years service in the South Atlantic.

As the Regimental Colonel of the Corps of Royal Engineers, Colonel W T Dennison inspected the parade and later took the salute, heavy rain was continuous, reminding the engineers of the conditions in which they have carried out many of their vital tasks.

The regiment was formed in August 1982 after the Falklands conflict, with a Regimental Headquarters, and a workshop and design cell, formed by 'trickle-posted' soldiers on four to six month tours and with squadrons detached from UK and BAOR regiments.

At its peak during the Falkland summers of 1982/3 and 1983/4 the regiment had a strength of 1,200 men.

An early task for the regiment immediately after the conflict was the repair and extension of the runway at Stanley Airport to 8,100 feet, enabling it to be used by fighter and logistic air traffic.

Also taxiways, shelters and administrative buildings were provided together with the necessary services of lighting and fuel.

Between 1983 and 1984 the major radar installations were constructed and sites made, often in remote areas to provide facilities for Rapier teams.

One of the highest priority tasks undertaken by the regiment was in providing safe access to many areas.

When the further lifting of mines was forbidden the minefields were fenced and marked and constant

checks on their security have to be made.

Many military camps and accommodation facilities have been established in Stanley, Goose Green, Fox Bay and San Carlos.

All these locations have had the essential services of fuel, light, water and sewage installed.

Many tons of stone were required, not only for the foundations for all the accommodation units, but also for the construction of access roads throughout the 'Canache' and Stanley areas.

Maryhill Quarry was operated by the regiment, providing at its peak over 900 tons of aggregate a day and haulage distances were reduced by the construction of 'Boxer Bridge'.

The disbandment of the regiment sees the birth of the Falkland Islands Field Squadron to maintain the engineering expertise.

The ability to reinforce the theatre with further sapper support should it be required will remain.



The new Squadron flag is raised — in the rain



N 8 May a service to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the end of World War 2 will be held in Westminster Abbey in the presence of The Queen.

In the words of Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher it is a national commemoration "which will both honour the dead and recall the reconciliation and reconstruction that has been achieved in 40 years of peace with freedom and justice".

Most of the places at the service have been reserved for ex-Service and civilian organisations associated with the war — those who fought the enemies overseas, and it is good to see, those who defied the bombing at home and kept men, munitions and food moving to and from our island home.

As we have said before, it is as well to remember that the world war did not end with the defeat of Germany. SOLDIER has attempted to mark the 40th commemorations, such as D-Day and crossing the Rhine and now VE Day ... and we are sure younger readers will enjoy reading 8 May 1945 memories of other readers on pages 34 and 35.

Now we should like to ask readers who fought in the Far East to recall their memories of VJ Day so we can publish them in August. What did the end of the war against Japan mean to YOU? Where were you? How did you receive the news?

Letters by 1 July please to 'VJ Day Memories', The Editor, SOLDIER, Parsons House, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2DU — including number, rank, unit and full name with current address and telephone number (not for publication).

Inclusion of Burma Star Association and the Far East Prisoners of War Association among the groups invited to send representatives to the Westminster Abbey Service may do something to ease the feeling of the Burma Star Association (South West London Branch).

In the April issue of their always interesting newsletter an article claims the Forgotten Army is still being forgotten and says that very little has been said about the war in Burma.

The writer asks: "Why can't we celebrate our own anniversary in August 1985? Why can't we have our own celebration of the peace we fought hard and long to obtain. Why are we still forgotten?"

Men — and women — who played their part in magnificent victories should not be forgotten. It is important to remember — just as it is important to remember that the world

# SOLDIER to Soldier

peace they fought for is maintained.

Helping to maintain that peace now are men and women whose forbears were our enemies. Their offsprings are now firm friends.

Here's hoping another Editor of SOLDIER, in 40 years time, is producing an issue which marks 80 years absence of global conflict!

★ ★ ★

MAY is going to be a big month for the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, starting with the granting of the Freedom of the Borough of Surrey Heath on 17 May.

There will be a parade in the RAOC Training Centre, Deepcut (1000 hours) and a march past in Camberley (Grand Avenue to Knoll Road) beginning at 1215.

Sunday 19 May sees Corps Open Day at Blackdown Barracks, Deepcut from 1100 to 1800 with military displays, arena events and lots of fun for all the family with admission and parking free.

★ ★ ★

THE Tidworth Marathon — an annual event which grows in size and popularity each year — is to be held on Thursday 6 June. Last year saw 2,000 runners; this time organisers are hoping for even more.

Apart from the fun of running, the marathon provides a major fund raising source for Service charities. Details and entry forms from: Entry Secretary, Tidworth Marathon, ORQMS, 1 Glosters, Lucknow Barracks, Tidworth, Hampshire.

★ ★ ★

THE Chief of the Defence Staff, Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, is pictured below with a group of veterans of the 6th Airborne Division who recently visited the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery near the German border with Holland.

Sir Edwin was on the ground with The King's Royal Rifle Corps when the 6th and American 17th Airborne Divisions dropped in support of the Allied crossing of the Rhine.



Forty years on Field Marshal Bramall, with General Wolfgang Altenburg, Chief of Staff West German Armed Forces, took the salute at a march past of veterans, laid wreaths at the cemetery and later spoke of the reconciliation between nations.

★ ★ ★

THE Otmoor Challenge (half marathon and sponsored walk) is now in its sixth year. Jointly organised by the Army at Bicester and the civilian committee at Horton-cum-Studley, where the event is held, the date for this year is Saturday, 8 June.

Last year £5,000 was given to national and local charities and this time all monies raised will go to SSAFA, celebrating centenary year. Further information from Maj M C Thwaite, Directorate of Supply Management (Army), Control Division, Bicester, Oxon, OX6 0LP.

★ ★ ★

THE man who perhaps did more than anyone to help publicise Army leaders Alexander and Montgomery — photographer Sandy McLaren — has died in his native Perth, aged 81.

A freelance, he was commissioned into The Black Watch in World War 2 and commanded a team of photographers and acted as personal photographer to Field Marshal Alexander and the then General Montgomery.

Sandy was wounded three times, captured by the Germans in the desert and escaped to carry on the good work, ending the war as a captain and with a mention in despatches to his credit. A collection of his pictures, many published throughout the world, is on permanent display in Inverness British Legion Club. He, for one, will not be forgotten.

★ ★ ★

THE Tank Museum at Bovington is holding its first Auto and Militaria Jumble Sale on 8/9 June. An ideal venue, it will be held on the large grassed picnic area next to the Museum car park.

Would-be stall holders and others interested can get further details from: Lt Col (Retd) G Forty, Curator, The Tank Museum, Bovington Camp, Wareham, Dorset.

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# THE MAGIC OF CYPRUS...



**C**YPRUS is still probably the infantryman's favourite training ground in all respects outside of the UK. Every year, 4,500 of them fly the 2,400 miles by VC 10 or Hercules to the eastern Mediterranean for a month's training on the island famed for its citrus fruits and solar-panel heating.

They have been doing it for 25 years since Cyprus became independent under the terms of the Treaty of Establishment in 1960.

Besides the training programmes there are numerous adventurous training schemes, too. A close-quarter-battle 5.56 mm rifle range is also to be built to accommodate the Army's SA 80 IW (Individual Weapon) when it comes into service.

Nerve centre for the organisation of training in Cyprus is the HQ British Forces Cyprus (HQ BFC) Military Training Wing (MTW) which allocates slots on two training areas within the Republic itself and one other which is located within the 99-square-mile Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs). The MTW is located at Episkopi in the Western SBA.

One of the live firing and Royal Engineer dry training areas is at Akamas, on the north-west tip of the Mediterranean's sea-locked land mass.

An agreement with Cyprus Government allows 70 days' live firing and 10 days of Royal Navy bombardment on that range. In return for giving up range days at Cape Pyla for quarrying

purposes, an additional 120 days of field and anti-tank firing is allowed at Akamas which, itself, is big enough to cater for a two-Company assault with supporting artillery and mortars.

The 32-square-mile training area to the north of the WSBA is split into five areas — Melanda, West and East Eudhimou, West and East Sotira — and is dubbed 'moon country', good, rugged uphill terrain crossed north to south by

ravines.

From time to time other local agreements are made on training.

Up to 11 years ago in 1974 there were other training areas at Lefkonika, Goshi, Polis and Troulli. They have gone.

Training range complexes in the WSBA comprise a 12-lane, 600-metre Electric Target Range, a Sub-machine Gun Zero Range, a six-lane moving target range and the proposed building of the

**SOLDIER** writer Graham Smith and picture editor Les Wiggs continue their detailed look at the life of our men and women on the Mediterranean island

5.56 mm Close Quarter Battle Range.

In the ESBA they have a 500-metre gallery range and a 600-metre gallery range. The latter is to be converted and fitted with electric targets, a 'no-danger' area pistol and SMG range, a standard Warminster grenade range and a 30-metre Indoor Training Theatre.

Each year, 40 days are set aside for major unit exercises in Cyprus.

Other minor scale manoeuvres, usually 17 annually by visiting units, involve the Lion Sun, Moon Base and Royal Measure series of exercises.

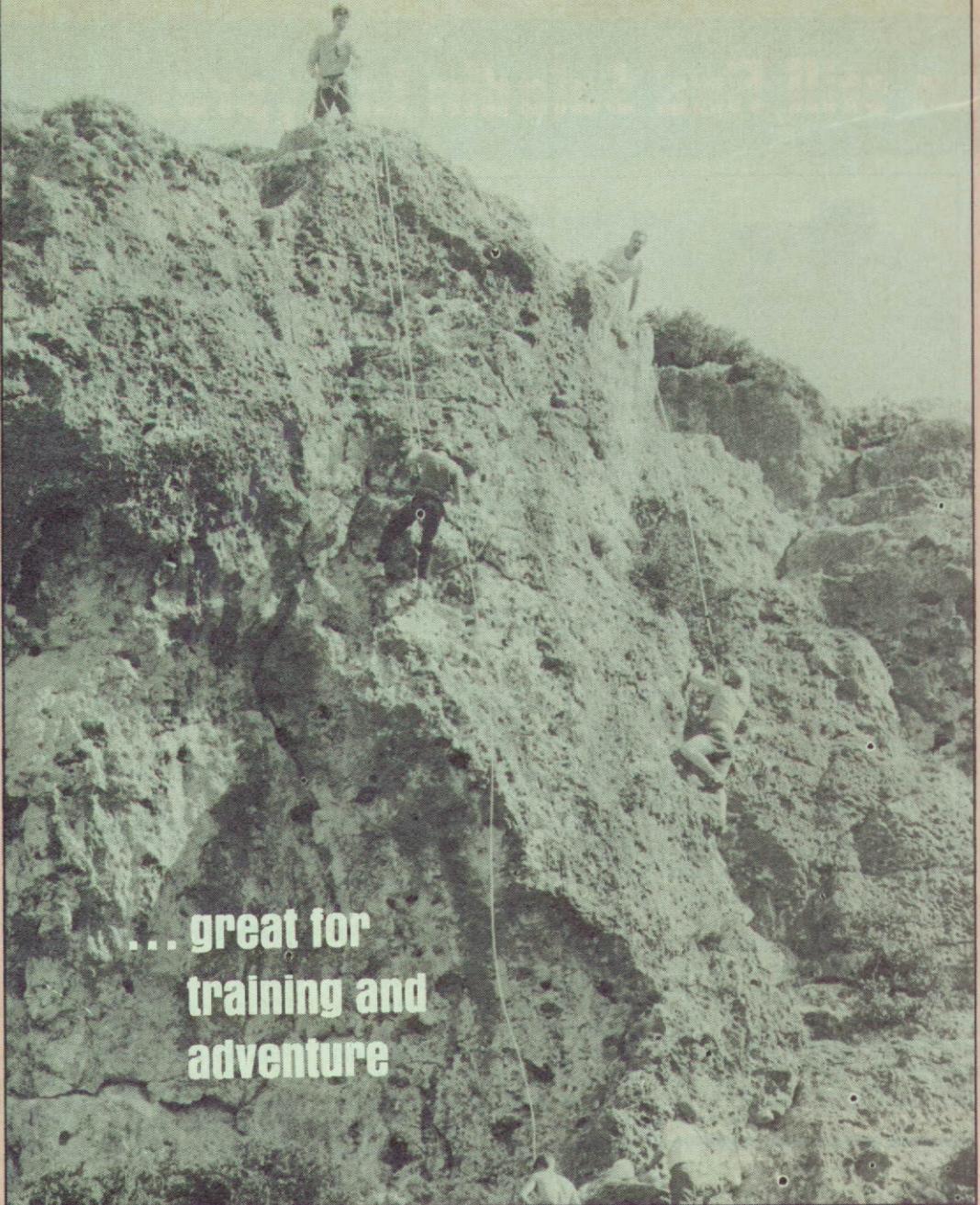
In addition, there are two Royal Military Academy Sandhurst exercises held on the island each year plus a number of small TA specialist exercises. BAOR units also deploy to Cyprus on a reciprocal basis with 34 Squadron, RAF Regiment.

All the exercises on or off the SBA training ranges are supported by facilities such as transport, accommodation, petrol, oil and lubricants and ammunition being flown out from the UK and pre-positioned.

The RAF flies exercise personnel out on a back-to-back system. One group in, another back to the UK.

Old building: modern soldier





... great for  
training and  
adventure

Above: Hills for adventure

Right: Hills for training

Captain Charles Otterwell, The Light Infantry, of Land Forces (Cyprus) is one of two officers running the MTW. "Like two horses pulling a cart," he said.

He said: "Exercising out here is a great opportunity for a squadron or company commander to use his own ability in writing an exercise while really getting to know his troops well.

"They can do all the basic training here they want. They can move an infantry company about with Saladin and Ferret scout car support for limited recces. They can exercise without the fear of someone looking over their shoulders. The tone of any exercise out here is dependent on what the OC wants it to be.

"In terms of money I think we give a good service. For us, the exercise training season never ends. We even give out-of-hours briefings if required. Resident units on the island help in a number of ways particularly the armoured car squadrons like that of 'A' Squadron, the 15th/19th The King's

Royal Hussars.

"The resident battalion, 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards, might provide a couple of weapon training instructors, for example, for a gunner battery on their range days.

"The Royal Army Veterinary Corps Dog Training Unit also helps out. The RAF provide Wessex for troop trials and underslung load familiarisation while 16 Flight, Army Air Corps with four Alouette helicopters plays its part."

Captain Otterwell reminded that Cyprus was also ideal for most forms of adventurous training particularly water sports, the relevant kit being pre-positioned out from the UK, though rock climbing was "not very good on the island." Adventurous training facilities, he said, were "being enhanced all the time."

Exercise co-operation arrangements for resident and visiting units were completely joint. The RAF and the Army worked "hand-in-glove" to ensure a smooth-running organisation.

HQ United Kingdom Land Forces (HQ UKLF) at Wilton, near Salisbury, canvassed units up to two years in advance offering Cyprus training slots. These were always taken up.

"Infantry companies coming out here will be able to progress from their basic training techniques in the period of a month to quite a high standard," said Captain Otterwell. "I reckon that 10 to 15 per cent of all minor units have, at some time, trained in Cyprus before."

"Besides training they get to see archaeological sites, try Cypriot food and wine as well as enjoy the very excellent local hospitality."

Like BAOR, training in Cyprus has its dos and don'ts for visiting infantrymen, gunners or sappers.

There were, he reminded, training restrictions. Buildings were not allowed to be entered, vineyards were out of bounds and trees, it seems, are sacrosanct.

Captain Otterwell explained: "A lot of dead looking trees out here actually produce some fruit or seed and could, therefore, be someone's living. Very old roots go down a long way so you cannot dig a trench near it. Digging trenches can present a problem. A pile of stones to the ordinary soldier could be a local's retaining wall. The same goes for sangar building."

Compensation to land owners for damage is currently running at about £25,000 to £30,000 Cypriot annually.

"We often train on land owned by refugees but we have a very good relationship with them and the relationship with the Cyprus Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been excellent too," he said.



# You can still find Saladin in Cyprus

**T**HEIR VEHICLES may be old but the 96 men belonging to the Cyprus based A Squadron, of 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars — 'The Tabs' — are still getting the job done in the last half-dozen operational six-wheeled Saladin armoured cars in the British Army and a couple of dozen Ferret II scout cars.

The Episkopi headquartered squadron in the Western Sovereign Base Area (WSBA) is supported by 16 REME fitters and four Army Catering Corps cooks.

Its operational formation is made up of six troops each of four Ferrets and a Saladin with another half-dozen of the 76mm gun mounted Saladin veterans stored in the nearby Akrotiri Vehicle Supply Depot (VSD).

A Squadron's 25 Ferret IIs — of the type proudly flying the British flag in strife-torn Beirut during the 12 months ended February last year — are to have their 0.30 Browning machine guns replaced by the 7.62mm GPMG by the middle of this year.

Major Tresham Gregg, the A Squadron Leader confirmed: "We are the last people in a British Army organisation to have Saladins."

Saladin was introduced into British Army service in 1959; the



Clearing a Saladin gun barrel

Ferret scout car in 1953.

The squadron always has two of its troops serving outside Episkopi and the WSBA. One is at Pergamos Camp, the other at the 'lozenge' enclave of Ayios Nikolaos — 'Aye-Nick' to Cyprus hands, the home of 9 Signal Regiment.

The troops operate on a system of two weeks in barracks and four weeks out.

The venerable Saladins still get a chance though to show what their 76mm main armaments can do to good effect.

An annual fortnight, for example, at Akamas, the live firing

## Where modern aids boost the veteran's value

range on the north-west tip of the island. They exercise later in the year in support of the 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards, the resident infantry battalion. They also come into play during support for visiting UKLF sponsored units out on exercise on the island which boasts a 486-mile-long coastline.

At Akamas a Saladin gunner could expect to send 50 shells hurtling 1,800 metres into Ferret hulks, oil drums or hessian targets during the course of any given year. All six of the stalwart Saladins could expect to share the dispensing of an estimated 900 shells directed at their inert and passive objectives.

Gunnery skills are all important to Major Gregg, just as important as the patrolling duties themselves.

Work-ups for annual firing tests are taken seriously. Crews work assiduously in the Gunnery Wing's Aquilina simulator — named after its 3 RTR inventor — which incorporates a laser device alongside the 76mm main armament barrel and a companion film projector casting a scenario onto a hangar wall. The scheme saves the taxpayer countless thousands of pounds.

Complementing this is the FMR — Field Miniature Range — in which a .22 converted Heckler and Koch rifle is mounted alongside the barrel pumping out careful shots into a target studded sand table, the small scale rubber targets leaping into the air by spurts in response.

As Captain Simon Edwards, the squadron second-in-command explained: "This system gives a much better perspective of fire on a

horizontal range like this, whereas the laser on the Aquilina is very good at getting people used to using the correct drills. But this is a better test of crews' shooting abilities. It's really a progression from the laser."

In an average year a typical gunner, he said, would get in about 60 hours of annual live firing. With the Aquilina this time was doubled.

Seven months into a two-year tour in Cyprus the men have got used to the long period of separation from their wives — 67 of them are on the island — and married quarters were at a premium. The regiment recruits largely from the north-east, ranging from Middlesbrough to Berwick.

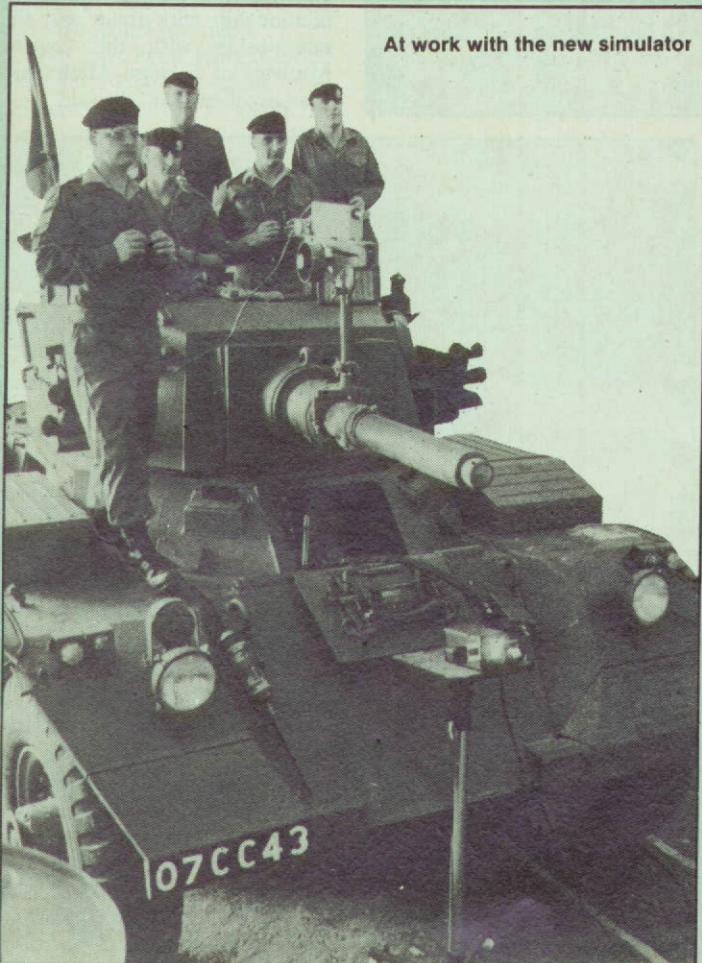
Formerly on Scimitars and Scorpions in BAOR for seven years in the armoured recce role and on Chieftains before that, the island's "A Team" are due to change role yet again next year.

They will be returning to Senne-lager in October and renewing acquaintanceships with Chieftains.

Major Gregg said: "The majority of the chaps will have to go back to the Royal Armoured Corps' camps of Bovington and Lulworth in Dorset to train in driving and gunnery skills for Chieftain."

The Saladins, as they have since 1974, will stay on the Mediterranean's third largest island to give delight to yet another cavalry regiment, the vehicles proudly sporting the British Forces Cyprus logo on their starboard mudguard.

The Ferret IIs, as well, will doubtless still ply the citrus groves deep in the hill and mountain country.



At work with the new simulator

# Silver Jubilee for sovereign bases

THE WESTERN and Eastern Sovereign Base Areas within the Republic of Cyprus, with headquarters at Episkopi and Dhekelia, reach their Silver Jubilee this year.

The two SBAs totalling 99 square miles, representing three per cent of the area of the island, were set up on the Mediterranean's third largest island following the Treaty of Establishment in 1960 when Cyprus achieved independence and the United Kingdom was given sovereignty of the bases.

Currently, there are 4,000 Service personnel (2,600 Army and 1,400 Royal Air Force) with 3,900 dependants working there. In addition, there are 450 UK-based civilians with 710 dependants.

Added to this are 3,800 locally employed civilians of which 472 work with United Nations Forces in Cyprus.

These figures do not include the 760-strong British contingent serving with the UNFICYP with its HQ in Nicosia, a presence which has been on the island since 1964.

Both SBAs allow a positive contribution to the peacekeeping operations by providing logistic support not only to UNFICYP but also to UNIFIL (United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon) which has been there since 1978.

The bases have never been part of the Republic of Cyprus — this was achieved in 1974 — nor are they on loan nor have they been 'ceded' to the United Kingdom in any other way.

The civilian government of the area is the responsibility of the Administrator who is supported by the Base Area Administration.

Because the SBAs were retained in 1960 for military purposes the Administrator is a senior officer responsible to the Crown, currently Major General Sir Desmond Langley, Commander British Forces Cyprus.

At Episkopi in the WBSA are the HQs of the SBA Administration, of British Forces Cyprus, of Land Forces Cyprus (Army) and of RAF Cyprus. At Akrotiri there is the airfield with its supporting facilities.

Nearly 70 miles away, east of Larnaca, is the ESBA at Dhekelia which has a Garrison HQ plus a number of Army units like the Corps of Royal Engineers, a REME workshop, RAOC Ration Supply Depot and camps at Pergamos and Ayios Nikolaos. At Kingsfield there is a forward landing strip.

There are nearly 20 retained sites on the island including the RAF radar site at Mount Olympus, the Troodos Training and Leave Centre, the radar site at Cape Greco, the married quarters com-



plex at Berengaria, near Limassol and the camp and MQ at the former RAF Nicosia.

The two SBAs have their own sovereign territorial waters and air space. The boundaries are irregular because, while including essential military installations and facilities, centres of Cypriot population had to be excluded.

The military areas of the SBAs account for about 23 per cent of the land within the boundaries such as airfield facilities, the garrison and training ranges. The remaining 77 per cent is mainly privately owned by Cypriots, though there is some Crown land, and intensively cultivated suitable areas of open countryside in the SBAs is used for military training (see page 14).

The SBAs enable Britain to maintain a permanent military presence at a strategically situated point in the Eastern Mediterranean.

RAF Akrotiri is an important staging post for military aircraft and the communications facilities are a vital part of Britain's worldwide links.

The training facilities for the Army are good with reliable weather and demanding terrain.

Events have shown that the UK's presence in the SBAs has allowed substantial support not only for peacekeeping operations carried out by UNFICYP, UNIFIL and, previously the BRITFORLEB (British Forces in Lebanon) but also more recent operations like the Ethiopian famine airlift.

development of their basic military skills and physical stamina.

Adventurous training courses give soldiers the chance to try canoeing, parachuting and other outdoor pursuits.

The SBAs have provided operational assistance, logistic support and a British contingent of officers, soldiers and airmen to UNFICYP since it came to the island 21 years ago.

Without this support it is acknowledged UNFICYP would have to look elsewhere.

It is through the SBAs that UNFICYP gets the bulk of its daily supplies including rations, petrol, oils and lubricants, replacement ordnance stores and some accommodation stores.

The SBAs also provide, on hire, a large number of radios, more than half the UNFICYP vehicles and other items such as kitchen equipment and refrigerators.

Cost to the British taxpayer of this support is about £24 million a year at 1983-84 prices.

Under the Treaty of Establishment the bases remain sovereign British territory under the Crown and have no NATO role.

The role of British forces in the SBAs is to protect them and the retained sites elsewhere, to operate the airfield at Akrotiri, to maintain radar and communications facilities on the island and to provide logistic support for units training in Cyprus, give support to UN Forces both in Cyprus and Lebanon in re-supply and other peacekeeping operations "as may, from time to time, be mounted".

Examples of this in recent years have included two evacuations from Lebanon in February and July 1983 and the Commonwealth Ceasefire Monitoring Force operation in former Rhodesia in 1980.

Numbers of Servicemen on the island have dwindled in the last 13 years. In 1972 there were about 7,800 British Servicemen in Cyprus, excluding UNFICYP personnel. Three years later following a Defence Review strengths were reduced to current levels of about 4,000, the main reduction being in RAF personnel who were withdrawn when operational squadrons were redeployed to the UK.

Cyprus is about 150 miles east to west, has a maximum width north south of 60 miles, is 44 miles from Turkey, 64 miles from Syria, 240 miles north of Egypt, and 240 miles west of Rhodes. Its population is 650,000; 80 per cent being Greek-Cypriot, 18 per cent Turkish-Cypriot and two per cent minorities. Its highest point is Mount Olympus at 6,406 feet dominating the Troodos mountain range.

# CYPRUS: that so essential support



OVER THE past seven years, since April 1978, a continuing operation has been mounted quietly and without undue fuss by the backroom boys of HQ British Land Forces Cyprus logistics cell.

Theirs has been the special but partial responsibility of ensuring the uninterrupted supply of rations, ordnance stores and vehicle spares for the brigade-sized formation making up the ten-nation UNIFIL — United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon — just 160 nautical miles to the east of the island.

But no British military personnel are present on the Levantine land mass.

The same Cyprus-based logistics organisation master-minded the procurement by the Army's RAOC Supply Depot at Dhekelia of similar much-needed merchandise for our former 110-man strong British Forces Lebanon (BRITFORLEB) contingent which was there for exactly a year between February 1983 to 1984.

Then, as now for UNIFIL, containers were shipped by Joint Services Port Unit (JSPU) at Limassol, 14 miles to the east of HQ British Forces Cyprus which is based on Episkopi.

The UNIFIL logistics support arrangement of re-supply from Cyprus dates from the terms of an agreement, a Letter of Assist of April 1978 and, on average, 20 containers head eastwards monthly by ship.

These lifeline supplies, the

majority obtained on the local Cyprus economy are usually unloaded at Haifa in Northern Israel. There is no physical British involvement save for the loading effort made at journey's start in Cyprus, a strategic point for such vital operations.

As Major Philip Chaganis, RCT, in post at HQ BFC for 16 months as its co-ordinator of logistic operations confirmed: "UNIFIL is unable to get logistic support from anywhere else other than what they get from us. We supply food and rations, both dry and frozen, procured by the RAOC Supply Depot from local contractors. Once delivered at Haifa, the supplies are then driven by road north to UNIFIL. It is a continuing logistic.

Major Chaganis said he believed there was "scope for increased logistic support for UNIFIL, if required."

The Army's contribution from Cyprus had been "very satisfying" for all concerned, a demanding task dealing with the requirements not just of British troops but a multinational force as well.

"During the last year we had two things blossom which involved our logistic support," he said. "The minesweepers which stage through Cyprus to the Red Sea for three months and the RAF/Army famine relief air-dropping of supplies for which 48 (Cyprus) Workshops by reconditioning engines and gearboxes. We also calibrate some of their electronic equipment."

NAAFI, he reminded, also supplied a great deal of suitable support from Cyprus to the Lebanon with durables like cleaning materials and which has now developed into electrical goods and sports equipment.

Yet the monthly re-supply operation is not an easy one because of "extremely difficult" communications links with southern Lebanon.

He observed: "It's only 160 nautical miles away but it may just

as well be on the other side of the world. We just cannot rely on the telephone system. But, since 1978, the operation has been such a successful one that UNIFIL, it appears, has been relying on us more and more.

"They have a very difficult task. I manage to make two liaison visits a year out to them.

"Because of the nature of UNIFIL's role — it is headed by a three-star Irish general, Lieutenant General William Callaghan — and the terms of their mandate they are unable to plan easily for the future and, therefore, it makes it difficult for us to plan ahead logically."

Colonel Alan Swan, Deputy Chief of Staff, HQ Land Forces Cyprus, said: "UNIFIL is the unsung side of what we do. It's quite exciting and rewarding and we feel we are doing a worthwhile job for the UN."

"Cyprus is a superb base from which to do it. It's ideal geographically. Our operation is the envy of other UN Forces.

"We have such a strong relationship with UNIFIL now that one appreciates how heavily they rely on us. It gives them confidence to have such a good, reliable supply route courtesy of the Army and NAAFI."

Footnote: There have been requests, it is understood, for the Cyprus HQ to undertake similar logistic support for the four-nation, 1,400-strong United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) on the Golan Heights.

Major Chaganis, commenting on the suggestion, said: "We could cope with it but there is no prospect this will occur in the near future."

# ... for United Nations contingents

**U**NFICYP, the United Nations Force in Cyprus, would just not function administratively or logically in its daily role of peacekeeping along the 135-mile long Buffer Zone (BZ) — three per cent of Cyprus land area — were it not for the unstinting effort of the mainly British manned UNFICYP Support Regiment.

A 306-strong unit it is headed by Lieutenant Colonel Mike Leigh, 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards and has a woman adjutant, Captain Lorna McGregor, WRAC.

The Support Regiment is housed at Jubilee Camp in the three-square-mile United Nations Protected Area (UNPA), sited on the former complex of the long-closed Nicosia Airport which boasts an 8,200-foot runway.

The regiment supplies all of the admin back-up and logistic support for all of UNFICYP's seven-contingent contributing nations, except Canada.

The British Army within the Support Regiment is represented by 28 cap badges as the unit goes about arrangements not just for the Force itself but humanitarian resupply tasks for displaced refugees, both Greek and Turkish Cypriots and minorities, like the 367 Maronites, from the 1974 conflict.

The Support Regiment was formed in 1977 and comprises 20 officers and 286 soldiers of whom 56 are in post for up to two years as 'continuity personnel' as opposed to the usual six months' posting to the Force. It can also draw upon 170 Locally-Engaged Civilians (LECs).

As its title implies the Regiment has call on a wide range of specialists within the British Army's Corps.

The Corps of Royal Engineers, for example, perform tasks along the Buffer Zone, five miles at its widest, involving isolated OPs or Observation Posts. The eight-strong detachment and civilians are also involved in the maintenance of the 135-mile-long UN Patrol Track, used exclusively by UN personnel and a public no-go area. A stone-ridden, bone-shaking parallel vital artery of observation to the demarcated BZ.

Brickies, carpenters, painters, sign writers and, importantly, refrigeration and air conditioning experts offer artisan skills among their number.

A signals section, 254 UNFICYP Signal Squadron, the only multi-national part of Support Regiment, all 68 of them, including 14 Canadians and a Hawk jet fighter Finnish pilot, provide the comms links between the different national contingents but not those

Not only does it provide the needs day-to-day, for most contingents along the Buffer Zone it also

**So much expertise is on offer**

back to the United Nations headquarters in New York.

The unit is small and spread island-wide. Currently, and only in its spare time, it is helping out with cable TV plans to serve the 150 Married Quarters.

There are, incidentally, 80 British personnel on 'continuity postings' with 196 dependents.

Support in the air and, in particular, to the more remote and inaccessible areas comes from 16 Flight, Army Air Corps, and their four ageing but tireless workhorse Alouette Twos. Four of them are attached to UNFICYP (see page 20) and the other four are based at Dhekelia in the Eastern Sovereign Base Area (ESBA). RAF Wessex helicopters also help in aerial resupply, these based at RAF Akrotiri in the Western Sovereign Base Area (WSBA).

All the usual HQ facilities complement the make-up of Support Regiment including an HQ BRITCON (British Contingent), pay, dental and medical, postal, officers' and sergeants' messes etc.



Captain Lorna McGregor

Transport needs such as heavy trucks and water tankers are, until this month met by the 102 men of 15 Transport Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, a part of 2 Infantry Brigade based at Caterick, its CO is Major John May, RCT.

As one fitter explained: "We eat gear boxes like everyone else, normally changing at least six Land Rover gear boxes monthly. There's a lot more damage done to them here along the 135-mile BZ than is caused to them on exercise in



Canada where they seem to cope with it."

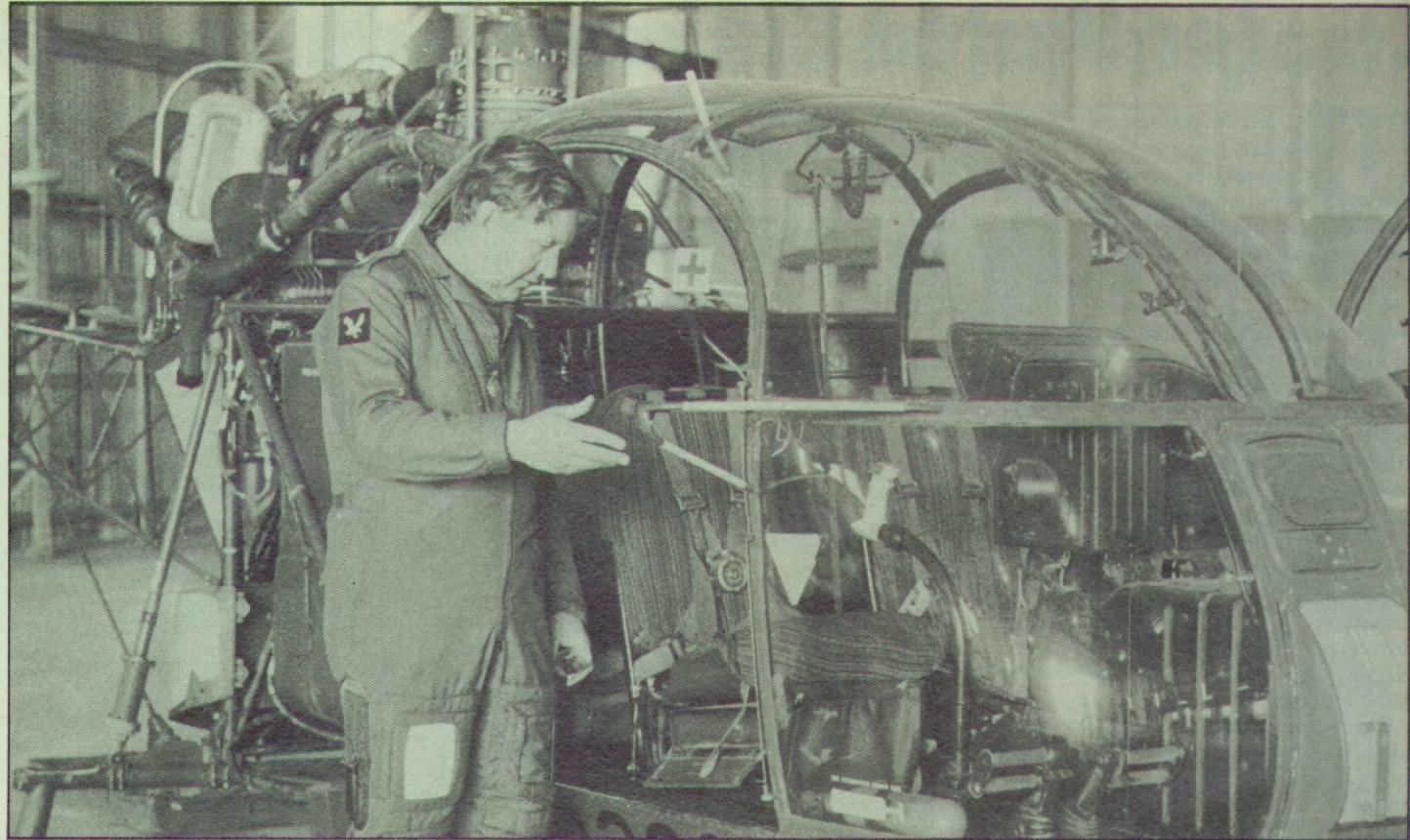
Ferret scout cars, too, break down as they alternate on route between Old City of Nicosia dirt track, metalled roads in the new city and then dirt track across open country, allegedly mined on its flanks in some areas.

"It is cheaper to repair vehicles than have a metalled road built to take the place of the existing, stony UN Patrol Track," he said.

The Royal Army Ordnance Corps has its vital role, too. Fourteen of its personnel are responsible for the bringing of rations to UNFICYP from the RAOC Supply Depot at Dhekelia in the ESBA. Equipment, clothing and some furniture also finds its way on to the four-tonne trucks bound for the UNPA and distribution to UNFICYP personnel.

Discipline among the military is maintained by a 59-strong Military Police Section, seven of these British. WO 2 John Lynes, is detachment commander of the 27-strong Nicosia detachment. He said: "Traffic accidents seem to be our biggest problem."

Whatever the problems overall, there would be far more if it were not for the expertise on offer from the Support Regiment.



## MAJOR BACK WITH ALOUETTE 'PALS'

HERE ARE only nine of them left in Army Air Corps service and eight of those are in Cyprus. One of them is said to be the oldest operational helicopter in British military service anywhere.

They are the Alouette Two Cs flown by 16 Flight Army Air Corps, half based at Nicosia in support of the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), and half at Dhekelia in the Eastern Sovereign Base Area (ESBA) which serves the needs of it and the Western Sovereign Base Area (WSBA).

Officer Commanding the 19-strong Flight and its quartet of indefatigable Alouettes is Major Spencer Holtom, with 800 hours on the type, and a total of 5,000 hours on all types of rotary wing experience.

He is also the holder of an AFC won for his part in saving 123 people from drowning — he saved 73 of them in his Scout — in Singapore during flooding in 1969. He was then with the flying instruction element of 4 Wing, Army Air Corps.

And nostalgia, for him in particular, still appertains even within UNFICYP because with him are two Alouettes of specific interest to any aviation buff.

One of them is Alouette XR 382 which was built in May 1961 and which, more than two years later, he was to fly in Kenya notching

up 500 hours on her between September 1963-64.

His first flight was between Nairobi and the training camp at Nanyuki, a site well known to any old Kenya training battalion hand.

But the oldest operational helicopter in British operational service is, excluding museum flights, Royal Marines and Fleet Air Arm, Alouette XN 132 built in May 1958. He is equally proud of her.

Originally 16 of the Alouette Two Cs were bought in the early 1960s as a stop-gap when production delays, largely due to unexpected engine development problems, held up the Scout's entry into service.

They were and still are firm favourites to fly as well as being popular with the REME technicians who service them.

In its UNFICYP role the Flight carries out observation, recce, command and control and liaison tasks throughout the 135-mile-long Buffer Zone (BZ) from Kokkina in the west to Famagusta in the east.

It has a secondary responsibility for re-supply and casualty evacuation and to enable it to carry out these tasks the Flight provides two aircraft seven days a week which also cover any emergencies or immediate operational requests.

The personnel of the Flight comprise four pilots, seven REME technicians and eight ground support personnel. All are based at

the UNPA United Nations Protection Area at Nicosia airport.

A location which, if only on paper, must represent the biggest heli-pad in the world!

Ten of the Flight's members do only the standard six-month tour with UNFICYP, the rest completing a two-year stint at the airfield not far from the island's ancient capital of Nicosia.

The UNFICYP flight is administered by the Support Regiment (see page 19) and for operational command comes directly under the Ops Branch of HQ UNFICYP.

Major Holtom said: "UNFICYP is an operational posting and so the unit is permanently on operations, a situation shared with units in the Falklands, Northern Ireland and Belize, for instance."

Variations in terrain for the Flight over the five sectors takes it over mountainous country, fertile farmlands (in the British sector), urban Nicosia, the arid Mesaoria Plain which ends in an idyllic beach and a "complicated salient".

The Flight's flying time is shared among the contributing 2,311-strong contingents with Buffer Zone recce sorties taking priority.

Buffer Zone flying normally demands 50 to 60 knots at 300 feet above ground level ... doors off. And the Alouette is adjudged to be the perfect machine for this type of surveillance.

Most types of violation can only be confirmed by 'chopper' and the

UNFICYP Alouettes are virtually indispensable in this role.

Among the passengers who have a requirement to "fly the line" apart from VIPs are specialists such as Humanitarian Officers (to inspect water and power supplies), the Force Engineer or Health; Catering, Medical and even Fire Officers.

Major Holtom said: "Any sort of flying in Cyprus is satisfying. Daylight weather flying restrictions are virtually unknown, even during the rainy winters. With the excellent serviceability of the Alouette one can provide a guaranteed service unheard of in foggy BAOR or UK."

"The satisfaction is increased by being in UNFICYP as Buffer Zone flying requires utmost concentration and attention to detail by the pilot who is relied upon to notice any changes which may have been missed by the ground forces, or indeed, to confirm with his aircraft any suspicions they may have had."

"As in all other small Army Air Corps units the Flight is a tight little organisation with high morale and is often very hard worked. We maintain and insist on the highest standards of professionalism from all members of the unit and our safety record to date has only been achieved by the high standard of training within the different contingents over the years."



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I WONDER how many people realise that 1985 sees the end of the United Nations Decade for Women? In three months the decade will be wound up at the International Conference in Nairobi, Kenya.

A decade for women to some has meant a daunting, feminist take-over and many a male has flinched at the thought, and I am sure a few reading this will breath a sigh of relief that the 10 years is almost over.

Yet the decade is worth a mention. A lot has been achieved without earth-shattering headlines, yet it has been described by its critics as 'the invisible decade' and as a 'lost chance'. How true this is is a matter for debate.

However an article in 'Equality Now' reports that the 1975 Mexico Conference was convened on the theme of equality, development and peace to examine the needs of, and problems facing, women worldwide.

There have been some landmarks, both nationally and

internationally. In Europe the new legislative body in the Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry on the position of women in Europe, has become the Committee on Women's Rights.

During the past few years a considerable proportion of the European Social Fund has been channelled to help women in Europe, a significant amount has come to Britain.

In 1981 the Convention called for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and for global equal rights. These have been ratified by nearly all European countries plus Canada and Australia from the Commonwealth.

Britain signed in 1981 but has not ratified it. The government is still considering the convention in the light of our existing legislation.

The article has come up with some interesting facts, one-

as a wife married to a Serviceman overseas?

The new taxation year started on 6 April and shortly your Inspector of Taxes may send you

tenth of working women are unskilled factory workers; out of 10.7 million women in the job market only 12.4 per cent earn more than £8,840 a year, compared with 43.8 per cent of working men.

In April 83 average female earnings, compared with average male earnings, were still only 74.2 per cent, but on the positive side, there were only 1,297 practising solicitors 10 years ago whereas today the figure is 5,236.

Another plus: the Equal Pay Amendment has opened up new possibilities for women to claim equal pay for equal work.

However, one milestone achieved by Service wives during the decade, has been the formation of the Federation of Army Wives Clubs. Perhaps a small beginning, but a tremendous achievement.

Yet there is a long way to go when you think women consti-



tute half the world's population, provide nearly two thirds of the work hours, yet own less than one per cent of the world's property.

For more information on the Convention contact Women's National Commission on 01-233 4208 or London UN Information Centre 01-630 1981.

*\*Equality Now No. 5 Spring 1985 — published by Equal Opportunities Commission who also provide further information. Write to Overseas House, Quay Street, Manchester, M3 3HN.*

*Anne Armstrong*

Home tel: Camberley 29653

THIS month everyone rushes to make their tax returns. Taxation can cause many worries, especially if you are overseas. What do you do about declaring your earnings

as a wife married to a Serviceman overseas?

The new taxation year started on 6 April and shortly your Inspector of Taxes may send you

## ONE PROBLEM OF BUYING ON LOCAL NET

AT THE moment my husband and I are stationed in Paderborn, West Germany. On arrival here in Germany we decided to buy a portable colour television. After looking around all the shops we decided to buy the television from a German supermarket.

The television was on display and the channel was tuned into BFBS, it was a very clear picture and good sound.

When we got the television home we could get a perfect picture on BFBS but no sound at all. All the German stations were fine.

My husband took the television back to the store, and was told we would have to pay another 80DM to have a part fitted into the back of the television so we could pick up the sound for BFBS.

I think this should have been clearly displayed. If it had been, we wouldn't have bought the television.

Should the store have displayed the fact that the television would need an extra part in order to pick up BFBS, or are they in the right not to say anything? — Mrs H, West Germany.

NAAFI's PRO Mr Ron Walker says: "Mrs H's experience highlights the problems associated with buying audio-visual equipment from German retailers. Because of international agreements, different frequencies are used in different countries.

Without an expensive conversion, as she has discovered, she will be unable to pick up the sound

from BFBS television broadcasts — and, what is more, she will be unable to receive BBC or ITV when she returns home.

She will almost certainly also have problems using the television with a video recorder or computer bought from Naafi, or any UK source.

If the set happens to go wrong she may find it has only a six month warranty rather than the 12-month guarantee she would normally expect. She should also be prepared to experience difficulty with after-sales service when returning to UK.

For these reasons, televisions and video recorders sold in the FRG by Naafi are dual-standard and suitable for use in Germany, Holland, Belgium or the UK.

They have a twelve month guarantee, and after-sales service can be obtained virtually anywhere in the world.

The prices of these dual-standard models sold by Naafi are competitive with the equivalent (but single-standard) models on sale in German shops."

## DECLARE IT!

Failure to do so can be tax evasion which is a criminal offence. If in doubt DECLARE IT!

Once your wife's income is declared the Inspector of Taxes will treat it separately — he will apply a World Income Formula to it which will never reduce the individual Serviceman's tax bill but equally may not increase it. The following example may help to demonstrate the workings of this formula.

### Example:

a. Data Husband's Military Salary £10,000

Wife's Earnings £4,000

b. Formula to be applied:

$$\frac{A}{B} \times C = \text{Tax Liability}$$

where A = Military Salary

B = World Income (ie Husband + Wife)

C = National UK Tax on World Income

c. Rule Tax to be paid can never be less than that applied to A.

d. Workings

(1) Husband's Military Salary £10,000 (A)

Less Personal Allowance 2,795

Taxable 7,205

Tax at 30% = £2,161.50 (minimum)

(2) World Income:

Husband £10,000

Wife 4,000

14,000 (B)

4,580

Less Personal Allowance 9,420

Tax at 30% = £2,826.00 (C)

(3) Apply Formula

$$(A) 10,000 \times (C) 2,826 = £2,018.57$$

(B) 14,000

e. Tax Liability in the above example will be the minimum and therefore effectively the wife's earned income has NOT been taxed.

# Special Holidays . . .

WOULD your child like to attend this year's Guild of St Helena Holiday for Children with Special Educational Needs? You can see for yourself (below) that last year's Guild of St Helena holiday for Service children with special educational needs was enjoyed by all.

This year's holiday will take place at Folkestone 21-28 June at no cost to parents.

Children should ideally be between seven and 13 years and should not require specialist

medical attention on a daily basis, although nursing cover will be provided.

If you are overseas then the only cost would be for the child's travel to UK and return. Why not take a holiday too?

The Guild of St Helena holiday has places for 20 children so why not write for further details or apply to: Major M C Parks RAEC, MOD SCEA, Court Road, Eltham, London, SE9 5NR or ring Eltham Mil 263 282 or 285.



## SSAFA COURSES

IN SSAFA's centenary year there has been a new development — a concerted effort has been made to offer Service wives places on SSAFA's volunteer courses, on a 50-50 basis.

Eighty wives will attend the 14-16 May course with 10 already booked 2-4 July. Vacancies exist for 10-12 Sep and 12-14 Nov.

The object is to enable Service wives to have an insight into SSAFA, meet the voluntary case workers, learn about the work of volunteers and how to approach

all aspects of case work.

Martin Owen, SSAFA training officer, is delighted with the response as he sees it as a constructive way in which SSAFA can help the Service wife. "We have had over 25 enquiries and welcome more."

If a Service wife is interested then please apply through Mrs Julia Payne, Federation of Army Wives Club, Imphal Block, Erskine Bks, Wilton, Salisbury, Wilts, who is co-ordinating all the applications. Apply soon as each course is limited.

## BUS ESCORT DUTIES

IN SOLDIER 14 January I wrote on the problems facing wives helping out with bus escort duties, in particular the issue of insurance. MoD reply:

I have now received the advice of Claims Commission NW Europe on this subject and, although in the case of bus escorts I must reiterate some of the previous advice we gave to you, I trust this will help clarify matters.

Claims against the Ministry of Defence in NW Europe are dealt with on the basis of common law.

It therefore follows that for a claimant to be successful in their claim they would have to prove negligence on the part of the Ministry of Defence.

In this instance the servants or agents would be either the bus driver or the bus escort. Obviously, if negligence on the part of the bus driver or bus escort was proved, then the Department would pay reasonable compensation to anyone sustaining loss or injury as a result of the negligent act of our servants or agents.

It is important to remember, however, that we would only deal with claims which arose from the lawful activities of employees whilst engaged in the performance of their official duties. We would not, for example, deal with claims resulting from an incident involving employees engaged in a frolic of their own.

Bus escorts therefore, as paid Ministry of Defence employees and subject to a contract of service, are covered for any claims against them whilst they are on duty and acting within the scope of that duty and such claims would be dealt with by us on their behalf.

If, however, any loss or injury was sustained by either the bus escort, driver or schoolchildren as the result of a third party's negligence — say in a motor traffic accident involving a school coach — then all claimants, including the Ministry of Defence, if appropriate, would have to seek compensation from the driver, or most likely the insurers, of the other vehicle.

Turning now to the question of

## ASK ANNE

voluntary helpers. If an activity is authorised or sponsored by the Service authorities in BAOR and a properly authorised agent of the Department invites a person whom he considers to be suitably qualified to voluntarily perform a task of duty, the Department will stand behind that person and deal with any claim arising from a negligent act performed within the scope of his official duty.

You will wish to know that, when considering a person for a post, it is incumbent upon the unit or organisation authorising the activity to ensure that the correct procedures relating to insurance requirements, as outlined in Chapter 90 of Army General Procedures have been adhered to.

I believe that the above explanation will help allay your concern regarding the position of our employees in BAOR who might be sued as a direct consequence of their employment with the Ministry of Defence.

*Note:* With reference to the above. Before you sign the contract as a bus escort, or volunteer to be a bus escort, do make sure that your position is quite clear as to how you stand regarding claims for accidents, negligence on your part or other person(s) negligence. And that you are adequately covered by insurance.

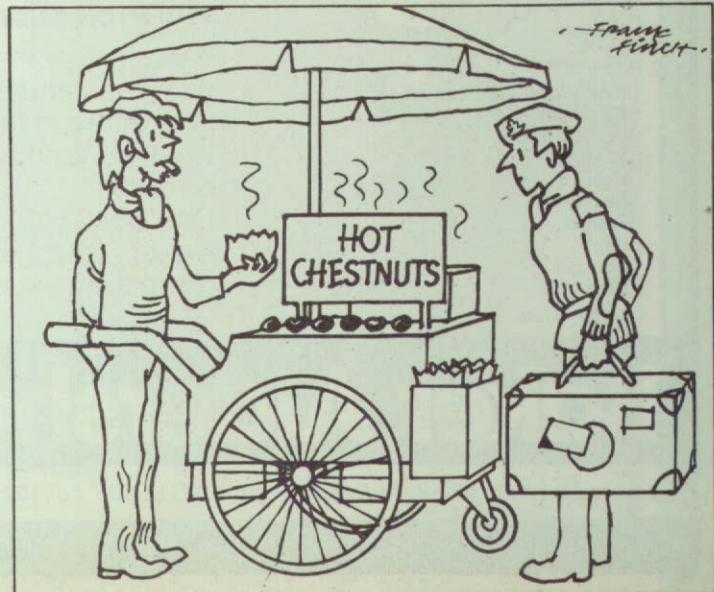
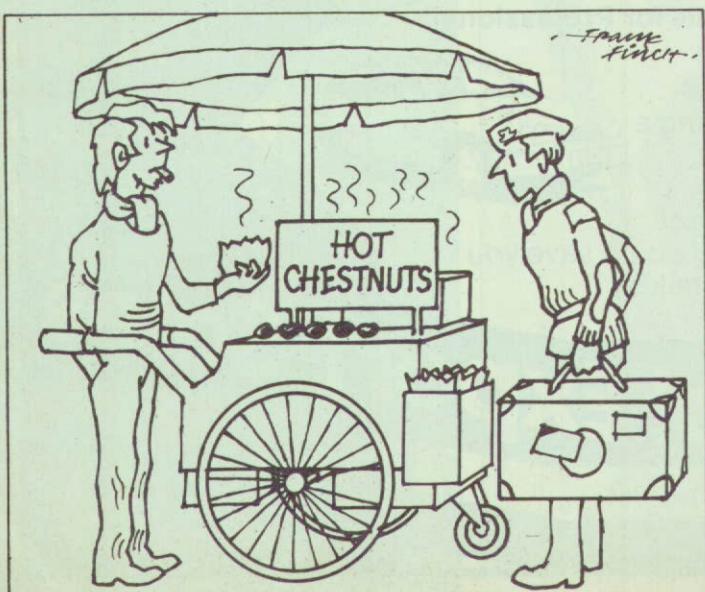
If in any doubt contact your unit, PCLU, Civil Secretariat or BAOR Claims Office NW Europe.

HM Customs and Excise Form C3 (Trail) as reported in SOLDIER (11 March) has now been replaced by C3 Jan 85 and only this form will be accepted.

Customs Notices 3 and 4 explain and are obtainable, C3 Jan 85 will be enclosed by SBC requesting MFO services. My thanks to P F Lewer, British Frontier Service BFPO 33.

## How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. You can check your answers by turning to page 39.



# CENTENARY YEAR 1985

## SSAFA says "thanks" and offers help.

"Thanks" for supporting SSAFA fund-raising events. The money helps maintain 1,100 Branches throughout the UK, staffed by volunteers who offer friendship, advice and practical help to Service and ex-Service families in need.

Please remember that SSAFA is close to your family back home. Whatever the problem, if you are worried and would like SSAFA to call round, tell us. We won't tell anyone else.

If you or your folks know of an ex-Service family who could do with a visit from their SSAFA friend, again please tell us. Help us to reach those who are either too proud to ask for "charity" or simply don't know that SSAFA exists to help them.

We help meet the need, whatever it is.  
Thanks to YOU.



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## THE CHANGING FACE OF OMAN'S FORCES

**SOLDIER** writer  
**Robert Higson**  
and  
**photographer**  
**Doug Pratt** take  
a look at those  
who defend  
a key area of  
the Middle East



**I**T MUST have been a proud moment for Sultan Qaboos bin Said of Oman when he sat enthroned on a red plush chair on a rocky hill top in the desert listening to an address of welcome from the Commander of his Land Forces.

Fifteen years ago his father, Sultan Taimar, had proved incapable of defending his regime and his country against a Communist backed insurrection in the south.

Now Sultan Qaboos, who came to power in 1970 largely as a result of that inability, looked down on what has a good claim to be one of the most impressive fighting forces in the Arab World.

Ranged below him the bulk of his regular army stood in neatly arranged unit formations on three sides of a huge rectangle, nearly a kilometre long and 300 metres deep.

From the hill which formed the Royal reviewing stand they looked for all the world like a print of an 18th Century army ready for battle.

Certainly the units were ready for battle — or rather for what the Omani Assistant Chief of Defence Staff, Major General Hamid bin Said al Aufi, had described as the largest and most ambitious exercise ever attempted by Omani forces. It was probably the most comprehensive peace time test of an army to be held on the Arabian Peninsula as well.

But there was nothing old fashioned about the soldiers or their equipment. Ten thousand men paraded under the hot desert sun armed with 5.56 mm Austrian Steyr AUG rifles.

Behind them were lined up 3,000 vehicles — Chieftain and American M60 tanks, Scorpions, six-wheeler

Austrian Pienz Ganer troop transports, combat engineering tractors, signals vans, supply lorries, maintenance and recovery trucks, ambulances and so on.

On the Sultan's left members of his 1st and 2nd Artillery regiments paraded under the barrels of 130 mm Chinese medium guns and 105 mm British light guns.

As a display of military might it was undoubtedly quite modest

compared with those put on by the big league of nations.

What made the Sultan's first review of his land forces in the field remarkable was the comparatively short space of time in which this army had become a reality.

Until 1970, under the present Sultan's father, Oman did its best to avoid the 20th Century. Communications were appalling: there were only a few kilometres of paved road in a country larger than Britain.

Medical care was virtually non-existent: there was hardly any education outside instruction in the Koran: you couldn't ride a bicycle, or wear glasses or own a radio.

National defence amounted to little more than a few battalions of infantry, a couple of wooden dhows armed with machine guns and a handful of obsolete aircraft.

Actually there wasn't the money to undertake many changes until oil revenues started flowing in 1967. But Sultan Taimar was also genuinely concerned to save his countrymen from what he saw as the corrupting influence of Western civilisation.

The long and bitter war in the southern Dhofar region eventually brought matters to a head. When the British left Aden, the newly formed People's Democratic Republic of South Yemen gave active support to a serious insurrection.

The old Oman was not in a condition to resist successfully such a challenge. It was only when Sultan Qaboos replaced his father in a bloodless coup that the balance gradually swung the other way.

## One of the most impressive fighting forces in the Arab World

Military success, with the help of

soldiers from Britain, Jordan, and the pre-revolutionary Iran of the Shah, was combined with a policy of help rather than retribution for the former rebels. By the mid-70s it was all over. Oman with a little help from its friends had saved itself from a Communist takeover.

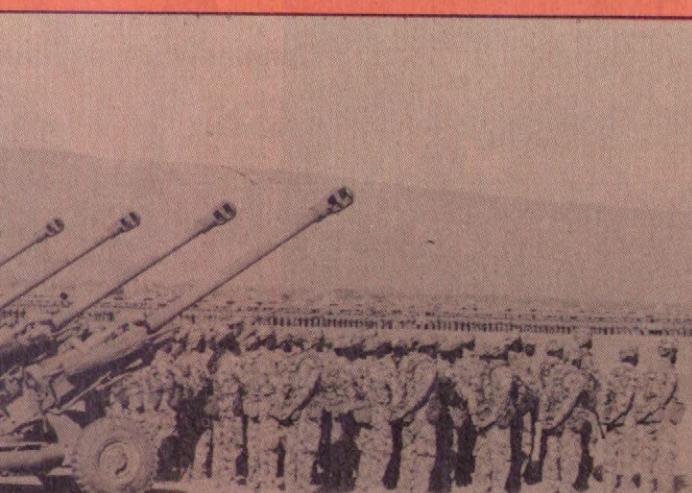
In his subsequent efforts to use oil revenues wisely to enable Oman to live on equal terms with the modern world, Sultan Qaboos has tried to ensure that his country

will never again be in the parlous position of 1970.

In 1980 he gave orders for the re-organisation, re-equipping and re-training of the armed forces. That work has been going on apace and Exercise Ra'ad ('Thunder') which followed the Royal Review was the first comprehensive demonstration of how well the land and air forces were managing modern tactics and kit.

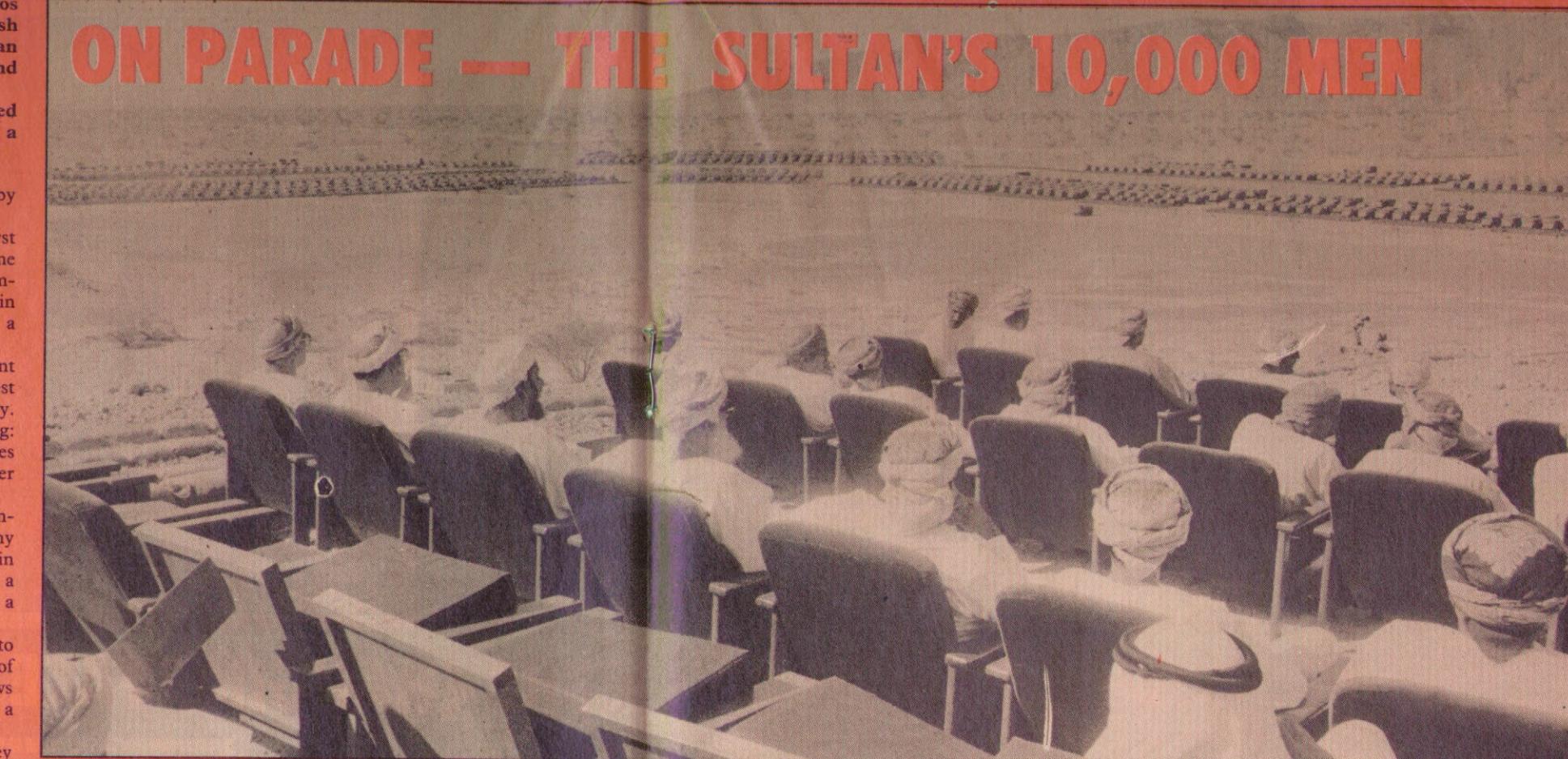
Ra'ad was designed to test a

whole range of activities, from air



The Sultan's artillery on parade with British 105 light guns and Chinese 130 mm medium guns in the background

# ON PARADE — THE SULTAN'S 10,000 MEN



Omani notables and foreign diplomats survey the serried ranks of the Sultan's Land Forces at the Royal Review

support, reconnaissance, withdrawal, counter attack, heliborne operations, right through to resupply, field maintenance and casualty evacuation.

Its scenario had some echoes of the crisis of 15 years ago. The Marxist state of Marmul, with a record of coveting Omani oil fields, was deemed to be in existence along the Indian Ocean coast from Sur in the north to the Dhofar in the south.

After breaking off border talks the Marmulians gave evidence of unfriendly intentions by ominous exercises near a part of the northern border opposite the oil fields of Natih and Fahud. An Omani task force under the command of Brigadier Abdul Alim bin Mustahail al Rakhyut, the commander of the Northern Brigade, was despatched to meet the threat.

The area designated for the ensuing conflict was some 200 kilometres south of Muscat, the Omani capital, in the desert beyond the Hajjar mountains.

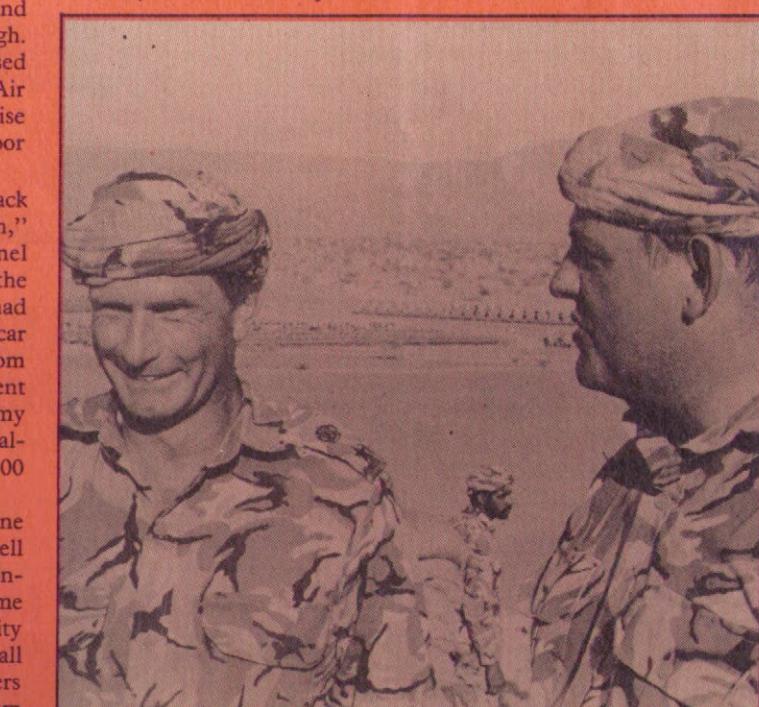
Here on a vast plain of sand and gravel, broken by wadis and dotted with stunted trees, the men of the task force arrived from their assembly points to prepare defensive positions while a screen force with covering armoured and artillery units went forward to reconnoitre.

"They held the enemy for almost 48 hours and got us the information we needed," Brigadier Abdul Alim

age for acceptance into the Omani forces — crouched patiently with their comrades waiting for the next bout of action.

Behind the front, lines of communication were evidently working smoothly. In the Brigade Administration Area mechanics, medics and supply staff worked under dust coloured camouflage nets ready to move at a moment's

Two British soldiers of the Sultan. Left: Lieutenant Colonel Tony Gauvain, former CO 1st Battalion The Cheshire Regiment and Major Tam Fowler, Royal Artillery, who was on parade escort duty



notice.

In the large, well equipped casualty clearing station, up to 150 exercise casualties were being processed every day — some for onward despatch by Hercules to base hospital 200 kilometres away, others to be returned to their units.

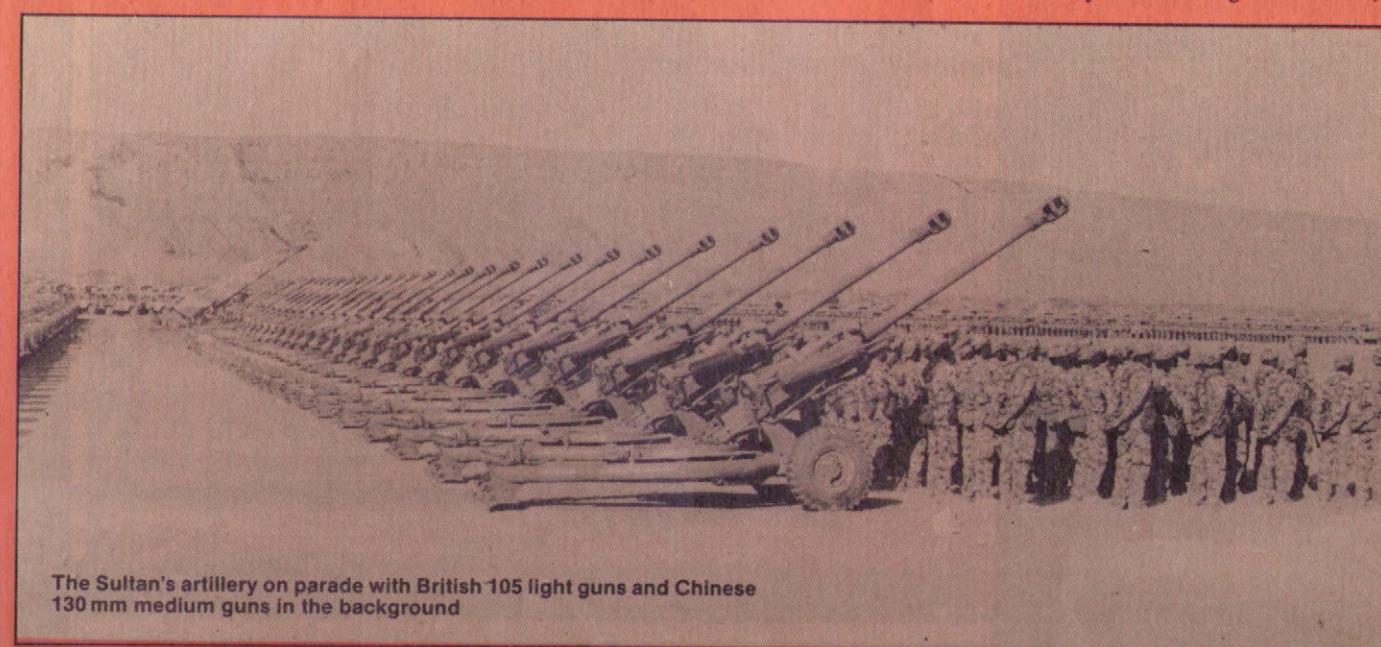
As is always the case on exercise there were also real casualties to be attended — victims of accidents and particularly of heat exhaustion. With the temperatures often climbing up above 35°C it wasn't surprising, said one Indian doctor, that two or three men succumbed every day.

Resupply plans called for a four gallon jerry can of water to be supplied to each soldier every day. Even this formidable logistic demand seemed to be causing little trouble with the army's engineers being able to tap supplies beneath the desert.

"Our logistic system has been able to feed and look after the troops now for nearly seven days," said Major General Hamid half way through the exercise. "There has been no problem with water or rations, and no problem with breakdowns. There haven't been more than half a dozen repairs which is normal with over 3,000 vehicles."

At this stage a phased withdrawal to another prepared position, followed by a counter attack in force to drive the enemy back to its own border was still to come. All familiar enough stuff for generations of soldiers in many countries, but for the entirely volunteer army of Oman this was a major step in announcing to anyone who might be interested that here was an effective and credible fighting force in the making.

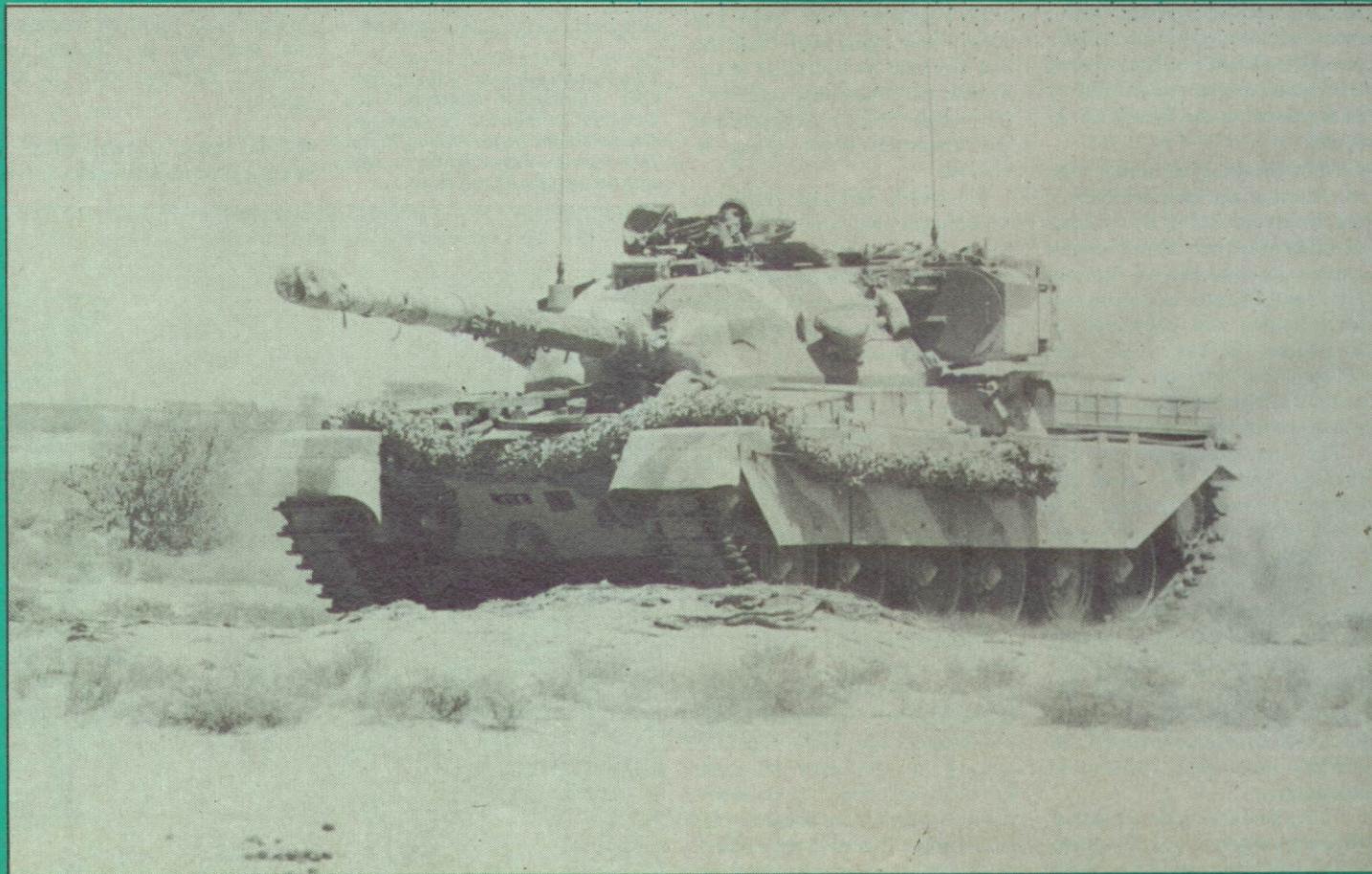
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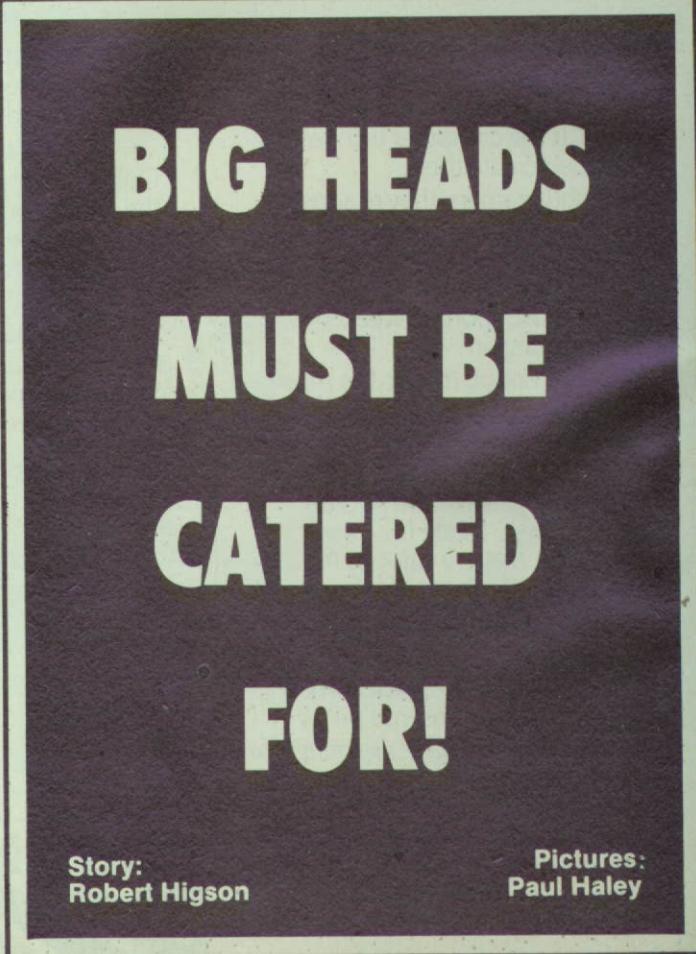


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form  
a small  
percentage,  
but...**

Once you've altered the height adjuster (webbing inside the helmet) and let out the strap inside the base...



Brigadier Tony Stagg and the new helmet



**BIG HEADS  
MUST BE  
CATERED  
FOR!**

Story:  
Robert Higson

Pictures:  
Paul Haley



... the Mk6 helmet is ready to fit snugly over an NBC hood

**O**NE thing demonstrated by the pre-production issue of the new Combat Helmet Mk6 is the need to cater for bigger heads.

The basic range of small, medium and large sizes had to be augmented slightly after the issue of 6,000 new helmets to elements of 5 Airborne Brigade and Commando Forces Royal Marines.

"The reason we had a pre-production run was to get the sizing proportions right and to check that there really is a need for an outsize helmet — and there is," said retired Brigadier Tony Stagg who works for the Director of Clothing and Textiles at Andover with responsibilities for combat clothing.

"It's only a small percentage. But about 2 per cent of the Army have got heads that are really big. So we've had to buy the tools and the moulds to start making those outsize helmets."

For the statistically minded, the Gurkhas produced fewest large heads. Thirty per cent of the 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles needed the smallest helmet.

All this attention to gradations of size wasn't nearly so important with the old steel helmet for there is not much you can do to prevent a tin lid slipping from time to time. If you lean backwards it tends to tip over your eyes; if you are going through undergrowth the branches

can tip it off the back of your head.

The Mk6 however offers more security (its revolutionary construction technique of resin impregnated layers of ballistic nylon gives 48 per cent greater protection) and improved stability. It is designed to fit closely and securely in all circumstances, both in and out of full NBC protective clothing.

"Proper fitting means that you ensure the helmet size you've got will cater for the bare head and the head clad with NBC hood and respirator," Brigadier Stagg said. "If you are not careful the tendency is to settle for one that's too big because it is more comfortable over NBC kit. But that would then be too loose to fit securely or comfortably on the bare head."

"It may be that you have to try two sizes before you decide which is the best fit. That's why it is slightly more complicated than sticking a beret on your head."

The new helmet means that there will be an additional NBC drill for soldiers to learn. A couple

of adjustments to the lining need to be made to convert the helmet between NBC and non-NBC use. There is a height adjuster at the top controlled by a tied string, and a strap near the base which can either let out or tighten the comfort pad at the rear.

Brigadier Stagg wasn't worried that all this might be a bit much to do during a gas alert.

"As far as we are concerned," he said, "the soldier has got to get into his NBC gear first. His helmet becomes secondary at that stage. He can then make the adjustments and put his helmet on because he hasn't got that same critical timing."

Over 1,000 new helmets were put on troop trials in various parts of the world but not many of them have yet been involved in full scale field exercises. The Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, for example, one of the units in the first issue, will not get any real field experience with the Mk6 until they exercise this summer.

Two members of 7 RHA, Bombardier Paul Claxton and Gunner John Longstaff, were enthusiastic about their initial contact with the new helmet. It was more comfortable, better balanced, and cooler. It allowed

air to circulate instead of being a complete seal around the head.

Bombardier Claxton was one of four men in his Battery who undertook instructions on how to fit the Mk6.

"Once you've seen the film and had the lecture it's fairly easy to follow," he said. "I think it's more critical fitting with the NBC equipment on because you've got so little room to play with."

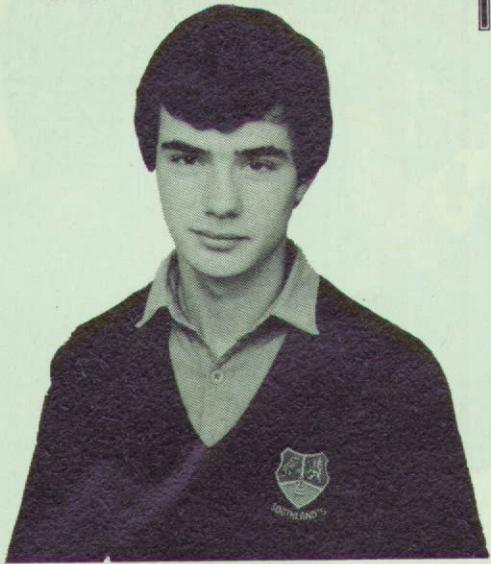
This year, according to Brigadier Stagg, the issue of the new helmet could be up to 100,000. So there will need to be a lot more men like Bombardier Claxton undertaking a quick course in the art of fitting helmets.

They will have assistance from the Directorate of Clothing and Textiles in the form of an instruction leaflet with every helmet, posters for the walls of QM stores, and a video being produced by the SSV.

As much as anything the training programme is designed to encourage the fitters to take their time in getting the right helmet on the right head. It is hardly likely to lead to the pernickety fussiness of a ladies' shoe shop, but it does mean a rather different QM approach from the one most old soldiers knew.



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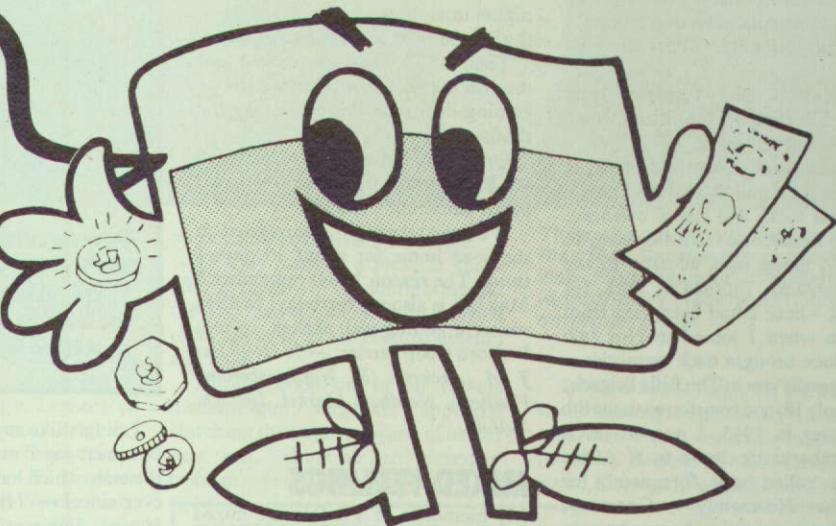
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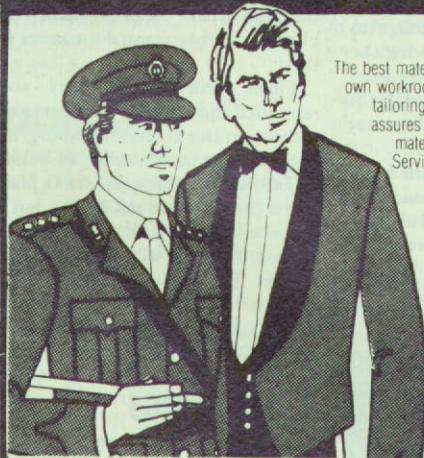
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## FORTUNATE

I remember Cleve and Goch and mostly the mud. Being on the heavy 4.2 mortars, we always had difficulty in getting them to stay upright. After a few rounds the barrel would virtually disappear.

On VE Day we were outside Bremen, which had been declared an open city, but then some SS decided to carry on fighting, and it was attacked and taken.

The news came over on our radio 'All hostilities to cease'. We were all given double rum issue to celebrate, I remember thinking "What do I do now".

At least I had survived from Normandy except for a little mishap on the Rhine Crossing.

A mortar bomb, American I believe, dropped short and that's why I have a dodgy ear today and loss of balance.

I was demobbed from Iserlohn, 14 May 47, going back actually to the same barracks, Fulford in York, for my suit where I had been sent from London when I joined in Nov '42. That alone brought back memories.

I originally was in The Rifle Brigade, being only 18, and transferred to the 8th Middlesex in 1943. I was on seven days embarkation leave to N Africa and was called back, fortunately for me. After Normandy — Germany, where I met my wife who was born in Germany of an Italian father, and we have been married 36 years.

The Middlesex Regt have a small museum at Bruce Grove Castle Park, Tottenham, London N17 and is well worth a visit. — *Mr E Garner (14409603, 8th Middlesex Regt), New Southgate, London N11.*

## PATIENTS AT THE PUB

I was a nurse at a EMS Hospital in Warwickshire. There were only about half a dozen nurses left, as with the war so close to ending the small EMS hospitals were closing. Our patients were all 'walking casualties', a mixed bunch of British, Polish and Czech soldiers and airmen.

We were having breakfast when we heard that the war in Europe had ended, and the nurses decided to have a little party in the evening to celebrate.

With so few patients and nurses it was easy to arrange with the cook to have something special to eat, and the nurses clubbed together to buy a few bottles of beer for the soldiers and airmen.

For the rest of the morning we nurses carried on with our usual duties. Lunch time came, but no patients were in their wards for their meal.

After a hurried search of the hospital we realised that there was no-one in the hospital but the nurses and the cook.

Looking in the village, we found the pub full to capacity, with our soldiers and airmen and most of the village. They were celebrating with free beer. The landlord and villagers were plying the men with as much liquor as they wanted.

It was with great difficulty that we managed to get them back into the hospital. The rest of the day was spent mopping up and soothing sore heads, and it was early bed for all of them.

In the evening after our dinner the nurses went round the wards to make sure all was well and we found all our patients now very sorry for themselves, together in the largest ward.

One of the airmen had a mouth organ and spoke for the other patients — "Sorry nurses, come on let's have a sing song."

He began to play 'Land of Hope and Glory', but none of us could sing because we were all crying. — *Kay Smith, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire.*

## BIRTHDAY

Our unit moved over the Elbe into Hamburg on 3 May and stayed two nights in an hotel, between sheets — the first beds since crossing the Rhine.

Then on 6 May we moved out towards the Kiel canal, German troops coming in from all directions by the thousands.

On 7 May I started home on leave via Brigade and Osnabrück, where I heard Churchill's speech.

We stayed the night, then started on the road home for about 10 days I think. The reason I well remember 8 May is it is also my birthday! In 1945 we were getting well shaken up in a Bedford troop carrier. — *5831698 Fus J A Archer. (R Northumberland Fusiliers), Needham Market, Ipswich, Suffolk.*

## MIXED FEELINGS

My memories of VE Day are mixed feelings of elation and dismay.

I was a recruit at Palace Barracks, Holywood, Northern Ireland, which at that time housed the 28th Infantry Training Battalion.

This was a unit comprising 17-year-old volunteers, and it appeared to us that the war was soon going to be over without us having a chance to get into it, hence the dismay.

In fact, many of us did serve in the Far East before VJ Day and places like Palestine soon afterwards.

We were given the day off and went into Belfast where there was dancing in the streets and a wonderful atmosphere of happiness and comradeship.

We went into the pubs and were treated by the civilians, even though they realised we had taken no part in achieving the victory.

That was the first time I had been in a pub and tasted beer, being in fact still under age at the time.

**They could hardly believe their ears! Serving men — and women listening in Rome to Churchill's VE Day broadcast. Peace in Europe ... at last**



# THE DAY THE WAR IN EUROPE ENDED

Few days in history have been as momentous as the 8 May 1945 — VE (Victory in Europe) Day.

We asked readers who recall that day to put their memories on paper for the benefit of younger readers — and here is a selection of letters.

I didn't like my first taste of beer but must say I very rapidly acquired the taste which has remained with me ever since! — *14484192 Private A J Hayes, Illingworth, Halifax, West Yorkshire.*

## ALL RIGHT...

An armoured car sergeant of the 11th Hussars who had been one of the first to enter Tunis replied when asked how it felt: "That was a bit of all right."

His words stuck in my mind ever after. As an armoured car sergeant I used to wonder if I would survive to enter Berlin and feel the same way.

Our journey from Normandy in fact ended at Tarmstedt, north west of Bremen.

We had been 'leading the charge' to the coast for some time, knowing the end could not be long. Each village surrendered its quota of Volkssturm and the odd fanatic, but the main objective was survival.

Then we lost two cars on one huge 500 kg mine buried at the roadside. Royal Engineers later cleared about a dozen of these from that stretch of

road.

My high opinion of them increased as I watched them defuse and drag the mines out of the ground like great shiny black slugs.

It was too marshy for us to do any more cross-country work so we were effectively anchored in Tarmstedt except for the odd patrol down tracks, and during one of these patrols a passing despatch rider was killed. He must have been one of the last casualties.

We listened to the BBC so when the news came on 8 May we were ready with Very Lights, coloured smoke and tracer, and shook hands all round.

I had been saving a bottle of hard stuff but my crew had hidden it — we were under orders to carry on down the road where the mines had been buried and they wanted me sober for that!

Those orders were very soon rescinded and next day we went to our occupation area at Hermannsburg, not very far from the obscenity of Belsen.

Tarmstedt was not much of a place, and it certainly was not Berlin, but its name will remain with me for ever.

And I agree with that "Cherry Picker". The end was indeed "A bit of all right." — *5183848 Sgt H W G Drake DCM (43rd Recce Regt RAC), Charlton Kings, Cheltenham.*

## SO MOVING!

That evening the Regiment was poised ready to advance on Bremerhaven. Then, about 2000 hrs news of the surrender crackled over the wireless set in the squadron leader's half-track.

We could not take it in. That night, by habit, we blacked-out the vehicle, then with surprise supposed we need not have done.

Wireless watch as usual; sometimes a snatch of song came over the air. Mostly it was quiet. Occasionally a shot rang out in the distance.

Smudger, the driver, Archie, squadron clerk, Geoff and myself, both signallers, downed a large flagon of Benedictine someone had 'liberated'.

Next morning we wished we hadn't. Lined up before the MO's tent we each gulped a large swig of castor oil.

Suddenly, to our consternation, orders came for a rapid move. Frontier

boundaries for the occupation were being consolidated. The convoy soon got under way and so did the castor oil.

I, for one, had to dismount en route quickly and take up a strategic position in a closet in a German farm cottage.

A notice on the inside of the door read 'Hab ein für mich!'

I did. Oh indeed I did! — 10602891 W/Cpl M M Charlish, (43 Inf Div Reconnaissance Regiment), Carshalton, Surrey.

## CHERRY MERRY

On 7 May my section had to report to the 3rd Reconnaissance — the first time we had been in action with them as we usually went into battle with our infantry.

We joined them just outside Bremen. The Major said to Corporal Taylor: "Which vehicle do your lads want to ride on?" "The last," he said knowingly, for the first one gets hit! We came to a culvert the Germans had prepared to blow up. Inside the deep hole was a large German bomb and a teller mine laying upside down.

The Major said "I want you chaps to move that bomb and mine, but before you do so, I want to get down a hole six feet deep."

At night the Major told us to find somewhere to sleep. We found a farm house with six ladies living there and they got us a good meal which was goose legs and chips at eleven that night.

The Major came and told us to report back to the company in the morning. On arrival we were told a German plane would be flying over us and nobody was to fire at it. It flew over us at about 11 am.

That night my mate Harry Thomas broke the news that it was all over, with tears running down his face. In one hand he had a bottle of cherry brandy; he was merry. The divisional transport was well loaded with liquor from a Bremen brewery. — 14354431 Spr A E Smith, (253 Field Company RE), Begbroke, Oxford.

## SPEECHLESS

I was at the deserted Jerry's flack barracks about two miles past Rheina, a town in Germany on 8 May 1945 at 0800 hrs. It was the staging area for most heading on to Oldenberg — Bremen.

Our convoy was made up of 20 vehicles, the lead vehicle a Daimler armoured car driven by the Sergeant i/c convoy.

I drove the last vehicle in the convoy, a troop carrier. It also carried three days rations. The Sergeant got us around the armoured car as news was about to come in on the car's wireless.

I saw the clenched fists and raised arms as he reared himself out of the turret and in a loud parade ground voice bellowed: "The bastards have packed it in, it's over, finny."

We were speechless for a moment or two, then cheering broke out, everyone was shaking hands, a pat on the back. Is it really over, has the killing finally stopped?

Before we could comment, the Sergeant bawled: "All right the war's over, you're still in the Army. Let's get this convoy out."

Another day, another convoy, another work load, but on this day the killing had stopped, although the pain and suffering would continue for a very long time.



The convoy rolled out to arrive at Oldenberg vehicle park at 1200 hrs. We had a meal, then all aboard the troop carrier, return to Rheina, dinner at 1800 hrs, stop overnight.

It had been a long haul — 14 months in Northern Ireland, 14 months in Algiers, 14 months Italy, Leghorn to Marseille through France, Belgium, Holland, Germany and finally peace had arrived in Europe. — Ex-Sergeant J C Thomas T/252504, Nettle-Bank, Smallhorne, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 1SQ.

## MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

My Squadron was in Stade, very close to the River Elbe on 8 May 1945.

During the previous day we had a feeling that cessation of hostilities was near since we did not advance further and there seemed to be emphasis on not taking any unnecessary risks.

When the cease-fire was announced we realised that we hadn't a drop to celebrate with and had always boasted to how drunk we would get on that great day.

A few of us went in search of anything that would suffice, and with the help of a group of displaced persons, found and broke into a warehouse containing so much booze we couldn't believe our luck.

After humping as many large containers that we could carry back to the squadron there was a constant stream of other groups returning to the warehouse for more supplies.

We had our 'glorious booze-up' which went on until the early hours of next day, and there were members of the squadron sleeping where they fell, happily drunk, all over the billets.

The squadron corporal major had his work cut out trying to get those still on their feet to pack-it-in and get down-to-kip.

We had had our fling. — Trooper Douglas Alexander Frost 6213829. (The Life Guards), Heston, Middlesex.

## SOME LUNCH!

It was 1000 hrs, 7 May 1945 when our unit ration truck pulled out through the gates of Osnabrück's Wehrmacht barracks and made for the highway to Nürnberg.

My UK leave over, I was making the last part of the return journey to rejoin my unit, somewhere in the devastated city.

After several frustrated hours, we located our Company HQ in a large

house, adjacent to the famous zoo.

VE Day came as a pleasant shock after 11 months of vicious fighting and the HQ had an air of light hearted relief about it, as we tried to unwind and relax.

Towards noon, one of our Vickers machine-gun sergeants appeared clutching the largest egg any of us had ever seen. I think he had 'nicked' it from an ostrich in the zoo.

The build up for VE Day as on 8 May 1945 German representatives visit Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery (second left) to seek surrender terms

It was a mighty egg, the shell took some breaking but it provided 12 happy men with a very enjoyable lunch. — Ex-Cpl C Bedford (1st Bn Manchester Regt), Eastergate, nr Chichester, Sussex.

## BRITISH ARMY OPERATIONS OVERSEAS SINCE 1945

The end of the war in Europe 40 years ago was more than welcome, but it wasn't the end of the war.

Several months of bitter fighting were left for the Allies before victory over Japan was achieved and even then the end of world conflict did not mean the end of fighting for the British Army.

In 40 years of 'peace' the Army has been involved in more than 50 operations and deployments overseas.

We publish the more famous until Lebanon last year.

The list, neither exhaustive nor complete does not include operations in Northern Ireland, nor those involving colonial troops alone — as in Togoland in 1957.

It doesn't include disaster relief, Army stand-by operations, or Royal Marines alone (New Hebrides 1980).

It does show the tremendous range of tasks and problems facing our fighting men over a long period in so many places on the world map.

Casualty figures are to the nearest hundred. Army personnel are stated, while combined Army, Royal Navy, Royal Marines, and Royal Air Force are shown as British military.

1945-48 Palestine (240 British military killed), '45-48 Burma, '46-48 India, '46-47 Egypt (about 3 British Army killed), '46-52 Eritrea (about 2 British Army killed), '47 Aden, '48-60 Malaya (about 350 British only (excluding Commonwealth) plus about 180 Gurkhas killed), '48-50 Somalia, '48 Belize, '49-57 Aqaba.

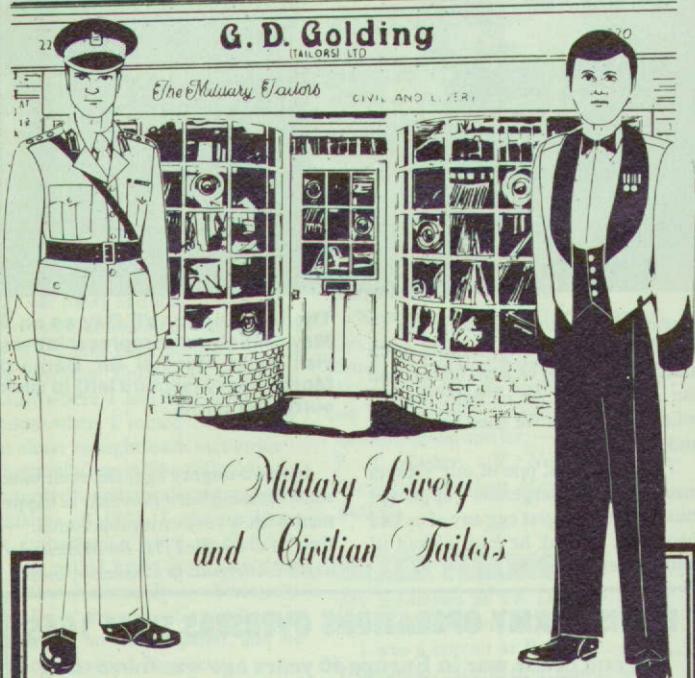
1950 Singapore (1 British military killed), '50-53 Korean War (about 870 British Army killed), '52-56 Kenya (about 25 British Army killed), '52-54 Suez Canal Zone (Egypt) (about 45 British military personnel killed), '53 Trieste, '55-59 Cyprus (about 80 British Army killed), '55-64 South Arabia (Aden & Protectorates) (at least 2 British Army killed), '56 Singapore, '56 Bahrain, '56 Hong Kong, '56 Suez (about 12 British military personnel killed), '57-59 Muscat & Oman (about 7 British Army killed), '57 Belize, '58 Bahamas, '58 Jordan, '59 Gan.

1960-61 Cameroons (1 British Army killed), '60 Jamaica (2 British Army killed), '61 Kuwait, '61 Zanzibar, '62 Belize, '62-64 Guyana, '62-66 Brunei & Malaysia (about 60 British Army incl Gurkhas killed), '63 Swaziland, '63 to date Cyprus (UNFICYP), '64 East African Mutinies, '64-67 South Arabia (Radfan & Aden) (about 90 British military killed), '65 Mauritius, '65-67 Botswana, '66-67 Hong Kong, '68 Mauritius, '68 Bermuda, '69 Anguilla.

1970-75 Oman (about 24 British seconded personnel killed), '72 to date Belize, '74 Cyprus, '77 Bermuda, '79 to date Hong Kong, '79-81 Zimbabwe, '81 Cambria, '82 to date Sinai, '82 Falkland Is & Dependencies (123 Army killed), '83-84 Lebanon.

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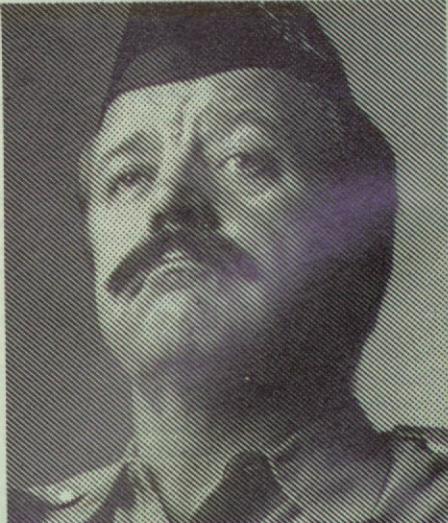
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I ever  
knew...'**

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he cannot  
bear to  
turn a  
corner**



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

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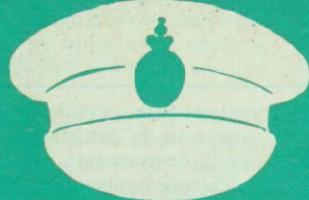
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# Your Cap Badge

No. 78

## THE INTELLIGENCE CORPS

THE head-dress badge is the Union Rose surmounted by a crown and flanked by laurel leaves, all resting on a scroll inscribed 'Intelligence Corps'.

The rose is the mark of silence and trustworthiness (latin sub-rosa), the laurels denote victory and the crown signifies allegiance to the monarch.

The badge is currently worn in gold anodised material by the soldiers and in silver plate or bronze by officers.

The design first appeared when Sealed on 11 August 1940 bearing the Imperial (or Tudor) crown. The pattern bearing the St Edward's crown was Sealed on 10 June 1955.

The Corps was raised by Royal Warrant dated 19 July 1940 and by the end of the war boasted a complement exceeding 11,000 officers and men.

The need for specialists to gather field intelligence has long been recognised by army commanders and among the fore-runners of the Corps was the Corps of Guides, formed in 1801 consisting of groups of three from each parish, usually gamekeepers dressed in green, to operate in the event of an invasion from France in the counties of Devon, Kent and Sussex.

In the early stages of the South African War 1899-1902, field intelligence was largely a matter of scout officers with a good knowledge of the terrain and who spoke the local languages and dialects.

Certainly a Field Intelligence Department operated and performed sterling work throughout World War 1 caused the formation of an Intelligence Corps for the first time, the initial unit mobilised on 5 August 1914 and crossed to France a week later.

The title of the Corps first appeared in 1915 and although a small organisation consisted of men of intellect and those in possession of specialist knowledge of languages.

By the end of that war the Corps numbered over 3,000 but despite the valuable services rendered was rapidly run down, being disbanded on 12 December 1929.

In 1939 intelligence appointments were filled by regular officers from any arm, or by reserve officers with special qualifications.

At first field security personnel were trained by the Corps of Military Police proceeding to France with the BEF but it was quickly realised that expansion would

be both necessary and imperative.

In July 1940 a nationwide broadcast by the BBC brought a flood of applications from men of ability, as in the previous war, which included many with intimate knowledge of European and Asian countries.

During the conflict members of the Corps served in many irregular and covert organisations as well as in the main armies in every theatre of operations.

The Corps suffered 220 deaths on active service and among the awards made to the Corps were 15 DSOs; 19 MCs, three DCMs, 12 MM and three GMs.

At the close the Corps was retained in the Army being accepted into the regular permanent Army in 1957.

HUGH L KING



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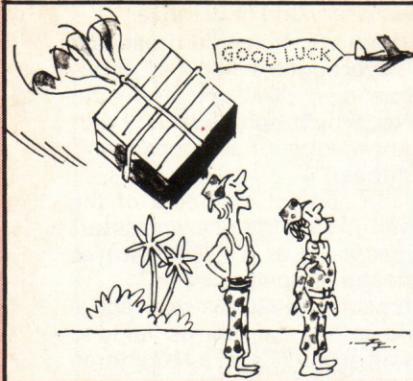
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I must say I agree with J W Cole and Peter T Stevenson on the matter of the new SA80 rifle. It really does look out of place as a weapon for ceremonial duties.

I was wondering if SOLDIER could canvas other readers for their views, as I am sure there are a number of readers both serving and civilian who feel as we do. — **Mr D Card, 9 Adare Street, Wyndham, Oggmore Vale, Mid Glam CF32 7HG.**

*Well, what do other readers think? — Ed.*

## PIN-UPS — THE BIG QUESTION

In our 25 March issue we asked readers for their views on pin-ups... whether or not SOLDIER should carry them.

This is the response so far.

### YES, PLEASE!!

I read my first copy of SOLDIER in Itzehoe (Schleswig Holstein) 1945.

After too long a break I'm glad to be back on the mailing list — thanks.

Taking up your invite (25 March) regarding pin-ups...

How about some of the lovely Service girls one sees around, PTIs, Signals, Redcaps, nurses, drivers, sporting activities? Perhaps with some beefcake to redress the balance. — **V A Reux, 11 John Clynes Court, Woodborough Road, Putney, SW15 6PA.**

★ ★ ★

I for one would welcome the return of pin-ups, with some of the wartime favourites as well as some of the new.

I remember the first thing we would look for was the pin-up page.

It would bring back some very happy memories.

May I say at the same time many congratulations on your 40th anniversary issue. — **Mr A Noyce, 114 Beswick Ave, Emsbury Park, Bournemouth, Dorset BH10 5AS.**

★ ★ ★

Yes, by all means, bring back our pin-ups. I've missed them now for 20 years.

Although I am on the wrong side of 70 I can still appreciate the female

form divine! — **G A Gladman, 33 Victoria Road, Harborne, Birmingham B17 0AQ.**

### NO, THANK YOU!!

Over the years we've managed to put together a great magazine even combining the Dad's Army and weekend soldiers, so let's not bring in pin-ups. Leave them for page 3 of newspapers who need such to sell them.

The few SOLDIER readers who need pin-ups can go out and buy a girlie magazine.

Keep SOLDIER clean. If you want to show any pin-ups, why not a 'best dressed' of our own serving girls in uniform — or civvies, nicely covered. — **D G Marriott, 11 Cressington Ave, High Tranmere, Birkenhead, Merseyside L42 6QJ.**

★ ★ ★

No pin-ups please — you can see enough elsewhere!

Just keep your magazine to news etc. If you start on pin-ups will it be bingo next?

I think SOLDIER gets better and better. Keep up the good work. — **G Pulman, 17 Osbourne Road, Bridport, Dorset DT6 5AN.**

## SHUDDERING

After seeing the illustrations, and reading the article about the new rifle I can't help but feel that the time has come for the re-introduction of the 303 rifle, to be re-issued just for ceremonial occasions.

I shudder to think what the Trooping of the Colour will look like in 1987. So please let us bring back the rifle to where it really belongs, and that is on the shoulder.

The only thing I can say is, what comes after the TW SA 80? The pocket rifle perhaps! — **Tom Coleman, Beckley, 25 Beverley Gardens, Fforestfach, Swansea, SA5, 5DR.**

## MEDAL FACTS

I know this is a rather belated reply to Major G R Hogan's letter, 'US Medal Mania', (SOLDIER 27 August '84). I had to wait patiently until I got some facts from the Department of Army in Washington.

Statistics were based on an interim awards report computed in February 1984. As Major Hogan stated, 7,000 Army personnel participated in the Grenada operation.

However, there are the unsung heroes in every combat operation, the logistics personnel, those officers and NCOs thousands of miles from the action, who work around the clock to

ensure that beans and bullets get to the troops on the battlefield. They also should be recognised.

The total number of medals awarded were 9,800, 219 were for gallantry in action, 9,581 were for exceptional meritorious service.

The US Army once recognised such service with letters of commendation, which few people ever saw, since they were stuck into the Serviceman's military records. These letters have since been replaced by awarding a commendation ribbon.

"When one considers the thousands of logistical personnel who are behind the scenes on any combat operation, the achievement awards awarded for the Grenada operation are really not excessive."

The breakdown on gallantry awards is: 1 Silver Star (SS), 3 Distinguished flying cross (DFC), 4 Soldiers medal, 59 Bronze stars for Valour (BS w/V), 53 Air Medals for Valour (AM w/V), 99 Army Commendation Medals for Valour (ACM w/V). Only two per cent of all medals awarded were for heroism.

The US Army does not 'give away' medals for gallantry by any means, but do believe in recognising their support and logistical personnel who too often are forgotten.

British poet Siegfried Sassoon said it best in his World War I Memoirs of an Infantry Officer, relating that while recovering from his wounds in a rear area hospital he was incensed to find non-combatants wearing the Military Cross that he had won in the trenches.

Upon reflection he concluded that "the safest thing to be said is that nobody knew how much a decoration was worth except the man who received it." — **John McCamley, RSM (Retired), US Infantry, 1401 Short St, Copperas Cove, Texas 76522.**

## TANK FRIENDS

The organising committee of The Royal Armoured Corps Tank Museum at Bovington Camp, Dorset, has recently created a Society of Friends of the

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In addition to the equipment on display there is a large restaurant, picnic site and car park, all of which help to provide a happy day out for the family.

By becoming a 'Friend' for £10 a year, you have free entry for yourself and two guests to all the exhibits, an invitation to lectures and outings to other military displays/museums during the year and a regular newsletter.

Old armoured vehicles and equipment recovered from various parts of the world are continually being refurbished for display and 'Friends' are invited to help in this process — an interesting task for anyone wanting a practical hobby.

If you wish to join us or know more about becoming a 'Friend', please contact: **The Membership Secretary, Society of Friends of The Tank Museum, Bovington Camp, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 6JG or telephone (0929) 462721 Ext 463.**

## ENTITLED?

I am aware that when World War 2 started that after some time the Territorial Army was merged into the Regular Army. However on completion of hostilities members of the TA, providing they qualified, were awarded the Territorial Efficiency Medal or Decoration.

I volunteered for the Army on 12 August 1940 and I was duly attested vide Army Form E531A to join the Territorial Army for a Duration Engagement and agreed that I would engage to serve His Majesty as a man of the Territorial Army for so long as HM required my services.

As such I could be posted to any Corps or Regiment even Regular Units, and in this capacity I served with the 70th YS Battalion, The Buffs and 2nd Parachute Battalion for a period of six years 165 days during which time I saw service in BNAF, CMF, NW Europe, POW and Palestine.

On 23 January 1947, I was discharged as A/Cpl on re-enlisting on a three year Regular Short Service Engagement.

Under these circumstances would I and possibly many others who enlisted in the same manner be entitled to the TEM? — **N F Dellar, 108 Woodfield, Banbury, Oxon, OX16 7PX.**

## THE CHARGE

In Hove Cemetery there is a grave which might be of interest to readers and perhaps to members of his old Regiment.

The headstone reads: "Here lies a soldier of the King and of the King of Kings Martin Leonard Landfried, who from his 15th year served his country in the 17th Lancers at Sevastopol, the Alma, Balaclava, sounding the charge at the latter engagement — and in the Indian Mutiny, and retiring as trumpet major in 1865" (etc).

He had a long and varied career and I would like to think that he will not be forgotten.

I too am an old soldier having served from 1938 to 1963 and without wishing to seem boastful I served at Dunkirk, El Alamein, Cassino and countless other skirmishes, proudly in the Royal Artillery.

My heart will always be with the boys in khaki. Good luck to you all. — **Mr T Whelan, 6 Howard Court, Court Farm Road, Hove, Sussex, BN3 7QZ.**

## THE FIRST!

May I offer my heartiest congratulations. In a recent issue of SOLDIER, you are the first and only writer of war records to even record the fact that our division even existed.

As a member of the elite of all regiments — The Gordon Highlanders — we were part of the 227 Brigade, of the 15th Scottish Division. As such we had the task of blasting a way through all the 'sticky' patches of the battle fields.

We took part in every action from Normandy to Lubeck when we almost finished fighting the Russian 'allies'.

The total number of our dead left all over Europe etc testify to the ferocity of the battles in which we became engaged.

The rivalry between us, the Argylls and HLI (wha shot the cheese?) was the stimulus and catalyst which spurred to even greater heights when our spirits began to sag.

I offer my most sincere thanks on behalf of our regiment, battalion and especially our dead. — **Col Cameron Stewart (KCPR MM VMSC KJSJ KCRKTJ), Richborne Terrace, London, SW8 1AX.**

## MEMORIES

I read with great interest the article on the demolition of the wartime Ogbourne St George Army Camp in Wiltshire (SOLDIER, 11 February).

However, the article did not mention that the whole of the 2nd Armoured Brigade of 1st Armoured Division was stationed there during the summer of 1941 (before America entered the war).

The Brigade comprised three of the Regular Army's famous old cavalry regiments, mechanised into armoured regiments in 1937 — the 10th Royal Hussars, The Queen's Bays (2nd Dragoon Guards) and the 9th Queen's Royal Lancers.

While at Ogbourne St George, the Brigade was re-equipped with the new A15 March 6 Cruiser tanks and the first American Stuart (Honey) tanks under the Lease-Lend Scheme. The Brigade had lost its earlier tanks while fighting on The Somme with the BEF in France, 1940.

After training throughout the 1941 summer across the Melborough Downs and Salisbury Plain, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth (now The Queen Mother) came to Ogbourne St George to inspect the 1st Armoured Division before it left the area to join the 8th Army in North Africa.

I was a sergeant tank commander in the 10th Royal Hussars and in late September 1941 the whole regiment marched out of Ogbourne St George camp with the band leading and our tropical topees swinging from our shoulder epaulettes.

The village turned out to see us off as we boarded a special troop train at the village station en route for Greenock

on the Firth of Clyde, where we embarked on the troopship City of Paris for the six week sea journey to the Middle East.

On the day we marched out of Ogbourne St George camp, in an impulsive moment of pride I wrote my Army number, rank, name and regiment on the barrack hut wall, and underneath I wrote: 'Rommel, here we come'.

I made a nostalgic return to Ogbourne St George camp in 1968, 23 years after the war. The camp was empty and semi-derelict, but demolition had not yet begun.

I easily found my old barrack hut and my written caption was still on the wall. However, a later occupant had added below, 'Up the Shinners' (nickname of 10th Royal Hussars).

We saw long hard fighting in North Africa. Of my pals, Sgt Ernie Clayton was taken prisoner by the Africa Corps at Gazala in May 1942; Sgt Ken Mutch, was killed in action at Saunnu in January 1941 and Sgt Fred Lewis, wounded in Tunisia in 1943.

Yes, Ogbourne St George held some happy and sad memories for me. — **Ronald K Huggins, ex-Sergeant, 10th Royal Hussars (PWO), 20 St Saviour's Road, Totland Bay, Isle of Wight, PO39 0EZ.**

## Omitted

Omitted from the recent series 'Your Guide to Army Museums'. Worcester. Queen's Own Worcestershire Hussars/ Yeomanry. Worcester City Museum, Foregate Street, Worcester, WRI IDT. Tel: Worcester 25371. Hours: Mon to Sat 9.30-6.00 (Sat 5.00). Closed Thursdays. Open Spring and Summer Bank Holidays 10.00-5.00.

## Reunions

2nd RHA/2nd Field Regiment RA. Fourth annual reunion (all ranks) for ex-members and attached personnel will be held at the Garrison WOs and Sgts Mess, Le Cateau Barracks, Colchester, Essex, 25 May 1985, 1100 hrs.

Admission: ticket only (£3.50) includes the evening buffet. Lunch is available at an additional £1.50. Cheque or postal order plus SAE to Mr J J White, Reunion Secretary, 24 Elmstead Road, Colchester, Essex CO4 3AA. Tel: 0206 864333.

1st Reconnaissance Regiment Reunion Dinner Saturday 27 April, The Crown Hotel, Stamford, Lincs. Memorial Service All Saints, Stamford, Sunday 28 April at 1115 hours. Secretary: E C West, 5 Causeway Court, Fairlie, Ayrshire KA29 0BJ. (047 556 226).

## Call-signs

I am currently the BSM at St Kilda, and am trying to compile a list of my predecessors for a roll of honour. The list below is fairly complete as far back as 1973.

If you could possibly publish this letter, I should be grateful therefore, to hear from anyone who might be privy to any missing archives or have extraordinarily long memories of past BSMs who have served on 'The Furthest Station West'.

*Past BSMs St Kilda Detachment RA Range Hebrides served until: March 12, 1958 WO2 Irwin — WO2 Bullock; June 10, 1958 WO2 Dedman; August 9, 1958 WO2 Scott.*

Aug 65-Feb 66 WO2 Flack; Feb 66-Jul 67 WO2 Jackson R.

Feb 70-? WO2 Williams; Oct 71-Mar 72 WO2 Price — WO2 Cawthorne — WO2 Booth; Mar 72-? WO2 Chalmers — WO2 Nicholson.

Aug 73 WO2 Steel; Feb 75 WO2 Fitzsimmons; Dec 76 WO2 Collins RP; Jun 77 WO2 White J; Mar 78 WO2 Brown.

Feb 80 WO2 Pearson WA; Nov 82 WO2 Lavanagh; Jul 83 WO2 Shepherd D; Jan 84 WO2 Fishwick BE; Oct 84 WO2 Brown PF; May 85 WO2 Monkhouse CA.

*WO2 (BSM) Monkhouse CA, St Kilda Detachment, Royal Artillery Range, Hebrides, Isle of Benbecula, Scotland PA88 5LN.*

I am trying to trace officers who served in Burma with the Burma Frontier Force, Burma Rifles, BMP, pre-war or in 1942, or with the Burma Regiment or Kachin/Karen Levies during the second Burma Campaign, to arrange a reunion later in the year.

I am particularly anxious to trace any officers of 4 Burma Regiment, with which Battalion I served from 1942/46 and eventually commanded. — **I C G Scott, Maymyo, 18 Frogston Gardens, Edinburgh EH10 7AF.**

## Competition

Winner of SOLDIER's £50 prize for the Tercentenary quiz (Competition 357) was Mr M J E Mead of Victorian Road, London. The answers:

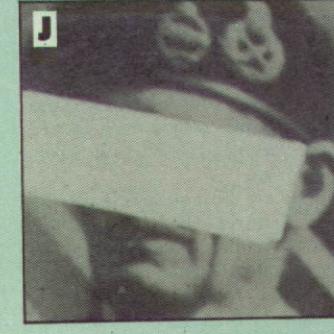
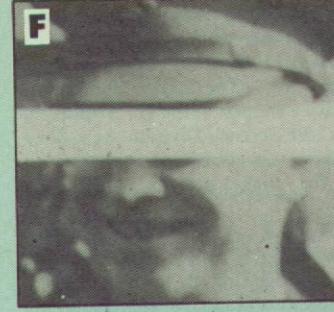
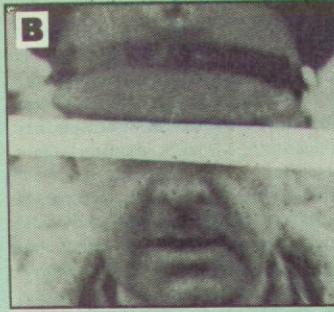
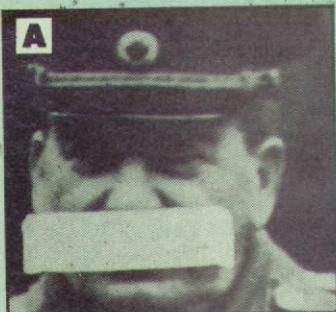
- 1 They were serving in Ireland when brass replaced steel buckles in horse harness — and missed the issue!
- 2 The 2nd Dragoons were dressed in grey uniforms.
- 3 4th Dragoon Guards — for long service in Ireland early in their history.
- 4 Enniskillen Castle. Which was defended by horse regiments loyal to William in 1688 and members formed the 6th Dragoons.
- 5 Dettingen, 1743.
- 6 Winston Churchill.
- 7 From the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers who, on St George's Day decorated drums and head-dress with red and white roses. It originated at St Lucia.
- 8 1702-1715 in the reign of Queen Anne.
- 9 The distinctive badge of The Royal Norfolk Regiment, which now forms part of the collar badge of the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment.
- 10 A tradition said to go back to Culloden, when with most officers casualties, sergeants took over.
- 11 From their deeds at the battle of Salamanca, when they played a leading role but were reduced to 70 men.
- 12 The 15th Foot (later East Yorkshire Regiment), who ran out of ammunition during the American rebellion and snapped the locks on their muskets to give the enemy the impression of firing!

## How Observant Are You?

**HOT CHESTNUTS:** 1 Vendor's sideburn, 2 Vendor's heel, 3 Width of right-hand notch in canopy, 4 Number of chestnuts, 5 Left handle of barrow, 6 Number of heat lines above notice, 7 Position of black triangle on suitcase label, 8 Wheel-spoke to right of hub, 9 Soldier's cap badge, 10 "C" in "Chestnuts".

# WIN £50 Famous faces of World War 2

## COMPETITION 362



AS this issue marks the 40th anniversary of the end of World War 2 where Europe was concerned, now seems a good time to test your knowledge of faces involved in making history.

We have taken the liberty of masking some of the faces here and there — just to make the task a little more difficult. Send us please the names of the nine famous individuals.

The rules of the competition are the same as usual. The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is 21 June. The answers and winner's name will appear in our issue dated 15 July.

Each entry must be accompanied by the 'Competition 362' label from this page. For two entries send two labels (NOT photo-copies), three entries three labels — and so on.

In the case of more than one correct entry being received, the winner will be drawn by lots. No correspondence can be entered into.

Send your answers by postcard or letter to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Parsons House, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

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# Operation Raleigh — first phase a success

**O**PERATION RALEIGH gives soldiers on the expedition a chance to get involved with the cream of the youth of the world and to see places they certainly would never see in a normal service career.

So says Major Alan Westcob, the Phase Commander, who is serving with Headquarters 1st Armoured Division.

The first phase of this amazing four year venture has ended and was pronounced a great success.

It was based on several of the 700 islands which make up the Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos islands.

The base camp was set up in a hutted complex on Barbary Beach on the island of Grand Bahama.

Groups of Venturers, both male and female, and directing staff from a dozen different countries, both military and civilian set off to work on scientific, exploration and community projects.

During the three months that Operation Raleigh was in the sunny climes of the Caribbean some 30 projects were undertaken and completed by the 200 venturers and directing staff.

Several of the projects involved diving on the multicoloured reefs in visibility and conditions second to none.

Others took young venturers and directing staff into the famous 'Blue Holes', the underwater caverns which riddle the chain of islands.

Land based projects took place on Grand Bahama, New Providence, Great Inagua, South Andros and Cat Island, famous also for being the birth place of Sidney Poitier and now for the exploits of Operation Raleigh.

The principle project, master-minded and led by Captain Huw Parker, Royal Engineers of the Army Apprentices College Chepstow carved out the Lucayan National Park for the Bahamas National Trust on Grand Bahama out of heavy scrubland and mangrove swamps.

To the amazement of the local population, Captain Parker and his team of 25 venturers and staff, completed the project consisting of 4,800 metres of pathway of which 1,100 metres was raised on wooded walkways, two spiral stairways into Lucayan and Ben's Caves, two jetties and a bridge across Gold Creek and an observation platform all in 55 days.

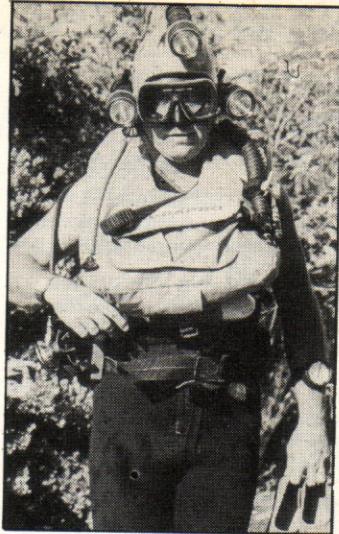
Projects on Cat Island and South Andros led by Lieutenant Richard Horner from 1st Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment concentrated their efforts on the diving

projects. A comparison study on the effect of pollution on the coral reefs, a survey on seagrass, which provides a large proportion of food for the marine life in the Bahamas and Blue Holes exploration took up much of their time.

"Responsibility is something I really enjoy and I am surprised at how good the young venturers have been," said Lance Sergeant Piers Edmonds of 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards. With his 2 i/c, Trooper Billy Hayes of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, he was tasked with taking 17 venturers to the remote island of Greater Inagua, the southernmost island of the Bahamas chain. The journey of 500 nautical miles was made in the battered mailboat *Miss B* which took five days in storm force winds.

The Bahamas National Trust provided another challenging project for Corporal Dickie McAfferty of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and his team of venturers — the total reconstruction of an old wooden colonial mansion set on concrete stilts which is the centre piece for an 11 acre New Providence garden which houses the world's largest collection of tropical palm trees.

During the two months in the Turks and Caicos Islands where the accent was on wreck diving off Providenciales and Community



Major Alan Westcob — diving time

projects on Grand Turk and Middle Caicos Islands, Corporal John Morris of 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, Lance Corporal Trevor Morris from 1st Battalion The Green Howards and Bombardier Kevin Robinson of 94 Locating Regiment RA spearheaded the Army's contribution to the success of this sub-phase.

In all there have been 23 Servicemen and women from the Regular Army, RAF and TA on this opening phase of Operation Raleigh.

**Captain Huw Parker leads different water venture**



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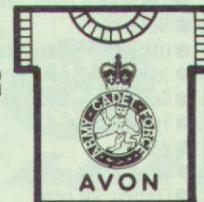


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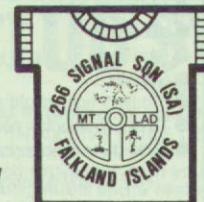


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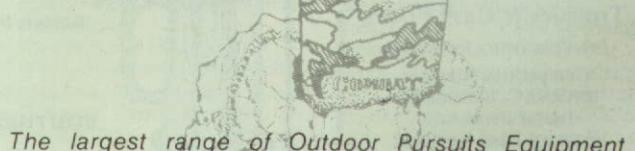
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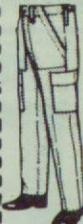
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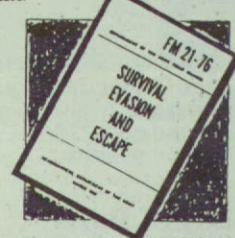
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# King's tercentenary triumph

1st Battalion The King's Regiment beat 40 Army Engineer Support Group from Willich in Germany 3-2 (after surviving a shock or two) to add in their tercentenary year the Army Challenge Cup soccer triumph to the boxing crown they already hold, and won in 1983.

For the first time in years, the final lived up to pre-match expectations and a sizeable crowd, which included Mr Bert Millichip, Chairman of the Football Association, was entertained to a match which defied prediction from start to finish.

The BAOR side opened the scoring after just 35 seconds. LeHany picked up the ball in mid-field, and rode a tackle before crossing the ball for Surgeon to fire home.

The Kingsmen's response was

immediate, and it was no surprise when they equalised.

A magnificent ball out of defence by Murtagh found Loftus on the left flank. He left Crabb trailing in his wake before setting up the ball for his skipper Conchie to hammer home.

The Engineers went ahead again in the 26th minute, against the run of play. With the Kingsmen hesitating, Finn slipped the ball to LeHany who shot home off an upright.

A heavy pitch slowly took toll on tiring limbs and the second half, whilst losing little early pace, lost some sharpness.

The battalion side's persistence was rewarded in the 57th minute, when a shot from Harrison was blocked by Sweeney. Loftus nipped in to place the rebound



wide of the struggling keeper.

Ten minutes later, after some fine work by Holmes, Loftus was again on hand to slot the ball home.

Mr Millichip presented the cup to Conchie but the 'Man of the Match' award, the Bill Wilson

**Solid defence by 40 Army Engineer Support Group prevented 1 Kings going further ahead in the Army Challenge Cup final**

Memorial Trophy, went to the Sappers' Captain LeHany, who also received a replica to keep.

## TA MARATHON DEBUT

Morecambe Bay was the venue of the first official Territorial Army Marathon. The event was incorporated in the Coolag-Purlboard Morecambe Marathon organised by GB Running Promotions. Of a total entry of 278 the event attracted 60 TA entrants, from as far apart as London and Peebles. Sixteen units were represented, seven of which entered teams of three or more. There were five veteran (over 40) TA runners and two WRAC.

The overall TA winner was Corporal Alan Thompson of 161 Ambulance Regiment RCT, with a time of 2hrs 39.32. A member of the TA for 12 years, he is an experienced marathon runner, having run for the RCT in Berlin in 1983, and the London Marathon in 1984 when he achieved his best time. He was to run at London again this year.

Private Heather Seems is new to the TA. She joined only a month before the race, but has already made her mark by being the first winner of the Ladies TA Marathon prize, in a creditable 4hrs 26.18. Her past marathon experiences include London and New York.

Special mention must be made of Sergeant Michael Holyoak, recruiting sergeant with 100 Field Regiment, London. An ex-regular with 12 years TA service, this was his first marathon since 1969. He has recently run a number of half marathons to raise money for the British Heart Foundation. By completing this event, he expected to raise over £250 in sponsorship, to add to the £188 already achieved.

Results: 1st Cpl Alan Thompson 2:39.32 (161 Amb Regt RCT), 2nd Sgt Terry Lyons 2:40.31 (HQ Coy 3rd Bn Yorks Vols), 3rd Dvr Jeffrey Rees 2:46.41 (223 Sqn, 157 Regt RCT).

1st Vet Sgt Terry Lyons 2:40.31 (HQ Coy 3rd Bn Yorks Vols), 2nd Vet WO2 John Phillips 3:32.28 (124 Rcvy Coy REME).

1st Lady Pte Heather Seems 4:26.18 (54 Sig Sqn, 36 Sig Regt).

Team Trophy (The Surrey Cup) to the unit with the fastest three finishers: 223 Sqn, 157 Regt RCT.

The TA prizes were presented by Colonel Peter F Jolliffe.

**The overall TA winner finishing the race in relaxed style, Corporal Alan Thompson of 161 Amb. Regt., RCT**



**A proud moment for Corporal Conchie, the captain of the victorious Kings**



## ABA CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Army challenge in this year's ABA championships came to an unhappy end in the all-England semi-finals at Gloucester, when all three Service boxers lost — each one of the men to end a run was a former Army and Service champion.

Driver Neil McCallum of the RCT lost to M Smith (Callowland) when the referee stopped the fight in the third round.

Lance Corporal Keith Howlett RE was beaten on points by Londoner P Stephens at bantamweight. In a closely fought lightweight bout Driver Neil Haddock RCT lost on points to Carl Crook (Chorley). Crook left The Parachute Regiment before the start of this boxing season.

# Spotlight on two Army soccer stars who joined Brentford

FOUR months ago George Torrance and Steve Butler were soldiers, with just three stripes between them. Then they found themselves whisked away to new lives, as professional footballers with Third Division Brentford.

The amazing change of life style for the two men came about when Brentford boss Frank McLintock, the former Arsenal and Scotland star, saw them playing for Wokingham in a game in which they scored five goals between them.

After watching them play in two more games McLintock stepped in with an offer.

It meant that George, a 27-year-old corporal in the Royal Engineers at Minley, and Steve, 23, a lance corporal at the School of Electronic Engineering, Aborfield, had to buy themselves out of the Army.

George said: "It was a big decision for me as I had been in the Army for ten years and I am married. I thought both sides out very carefully before deciding to go ahead.

"I don't think I would have stayed in the Army much longer and if I had not taken this opportunity I might have always regretted it."

Both men were regulars for the Army and Combined Services teams for several seasons and were stars of the Combined team which brought back last year the Kentish Cup after 14 years.

It took a little while for their change in life to sink in. Says Steve: "We joined just before Christmas and it seemed that we were on leave. It was only when the boys went back to work and we didn't that we realised we were out of the Army."

Steve is married to Sue, a lance corporal in the Women's Royal Army Corps, and still lives in the same married quarter. Now Sue is the householder.

Both men reckon they play less football now than when they were in the Army — although the



George Torrance



Steve Butler

Says George: "Looking back on it Services football was always enjoyable. It seemed like a lot of pressure at the time but it was nothing like we get now."

"We weren't able to get over to the Kentish matches this year but we did manage to get to the Army dinner and see our friends."

Steve remembers with affection Alfie Coulton, the Army coach, now himself moving on to greater things as an FA regional coach and one of Bobby Robson's 'lieutenants'. "He helped me a hell of a lot and made me a better player."

Both have found settling in to their new life helped by the attitude of the other Brentford players. "When we first came in they used to give us a bit of stick about the Army but they are a very good bunch," says Steve.

In recent years, with clubs cutting back on their playing staffs, a number of professional players have joined the Army — to increase its depth of talent.

Now this footballing brain drain has been partially reversed with the departure of these two talented players.

SOLDIER wishes them success as members of 'The Bees'.

## LESS FOOTBALL — MORE TRAINING AND PRESSURE

training and pressures are much greater. "We used to play three or four games a week but now we are lucky if we get one."

Looking back on his Army career George Torrance reckons it is hard to be a successful sportsman and also do well with promotion. "You are never there to do your proper job and so you cannot be assessed on how well you do it."

So far George has been the most consistent in getting into the first team. In his first ten games he scored three goals. Lanky striker, Steve, played four games in the same period and managed to notch his first League goal.

Because Steve still lives on an Army camp and spends a lot of time with his old colleagues in the gymnasium he has not yet missed Army life.

George stresses: "It will really sink in when we go away for a summer holiday for the first time instead of having to find out when I can get leave."

Services football is the poorer

for their departure but they in turn miss the annual tussles with the other two Services and the camaraderie of the Kentish Cup occasions against the French and Belgians.



The former soldiers training with Brentford team-mates



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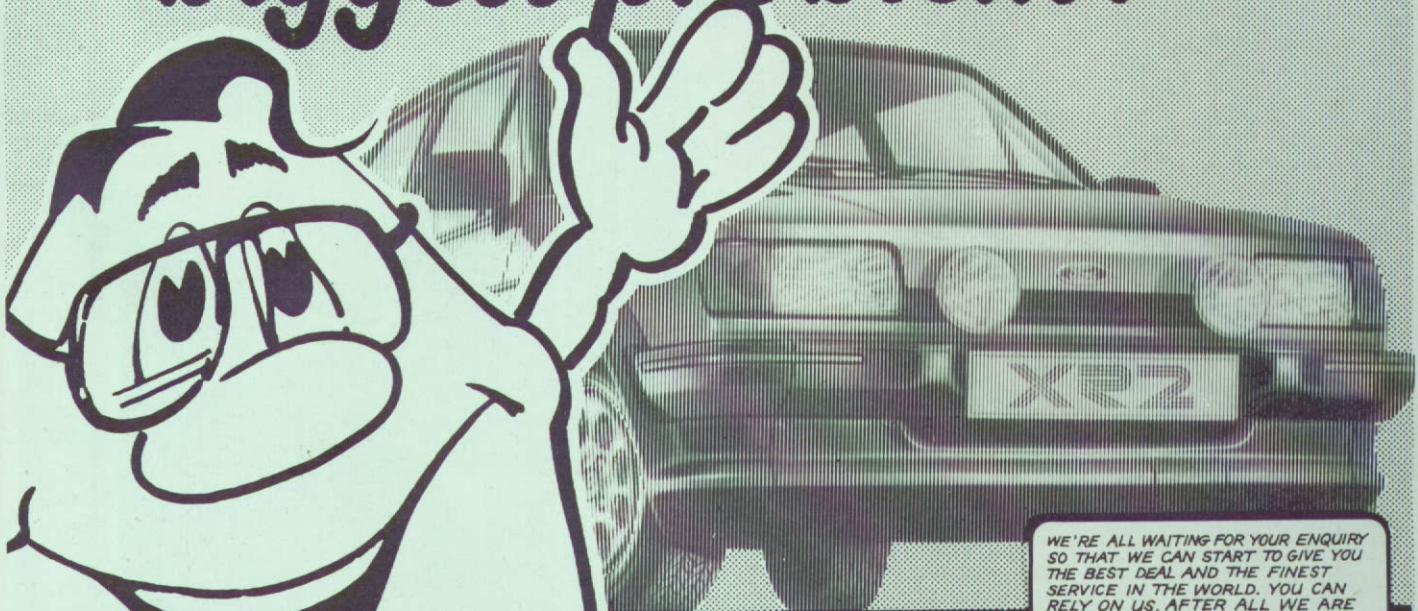
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