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# SOLDIER



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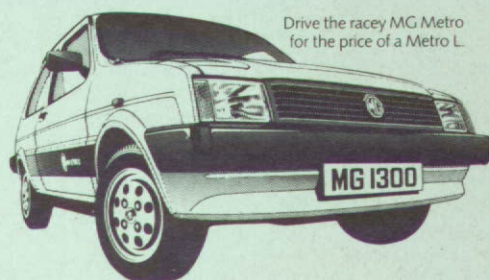
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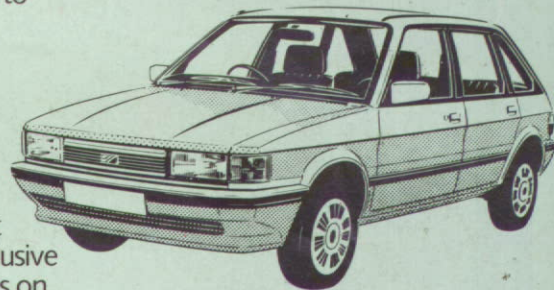
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### FRONT COVER

Two members of the Swiss Guard at the entrance to the Vatican offices.  
Picture PAUL HALEY. See centre pages.

### BACK COVER

Julia Barry models Edinburgh Tartan's new tartan, flanked by Piper Daniel Fleming and Guardsman Thomas Horan.  
Picture: JOHN ELLIS. See page 6.

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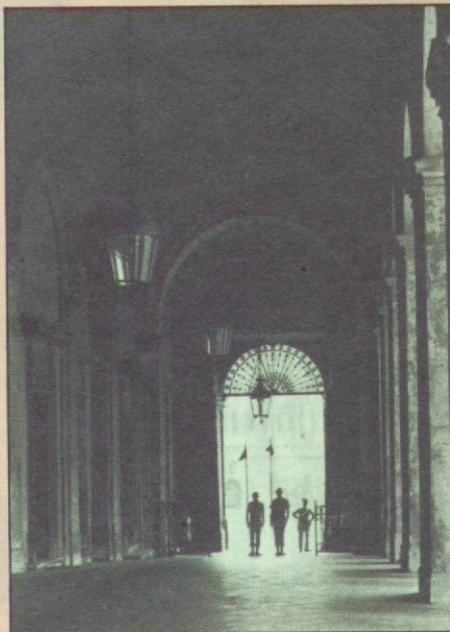
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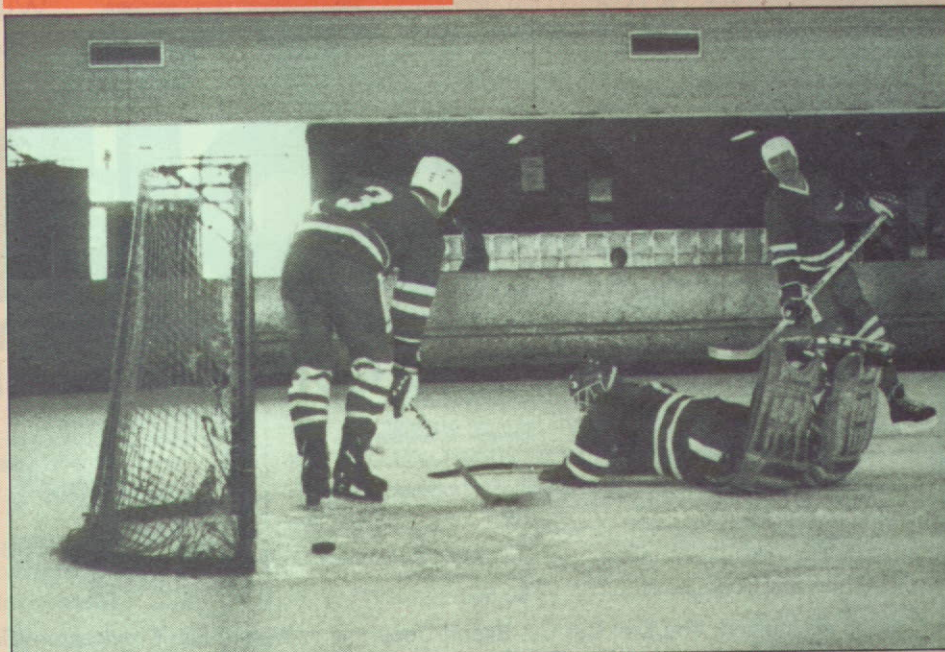
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**Lancers' ceremonial —  
Italian style — page 21**

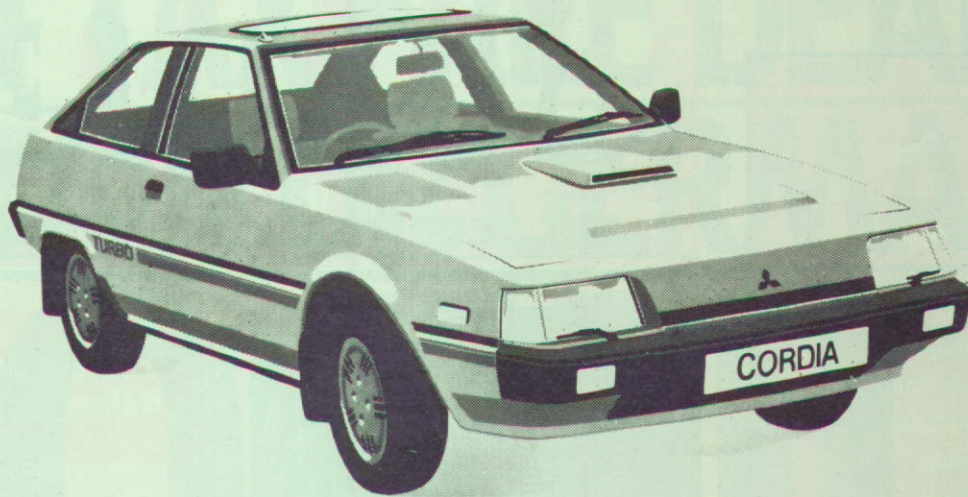
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on parade — page 33**

**RHF take to  
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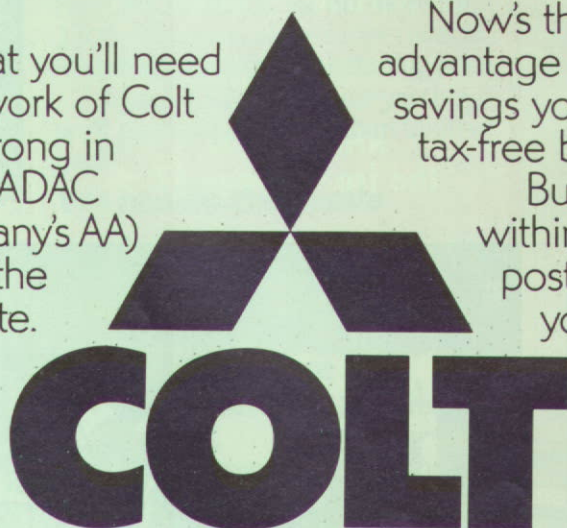
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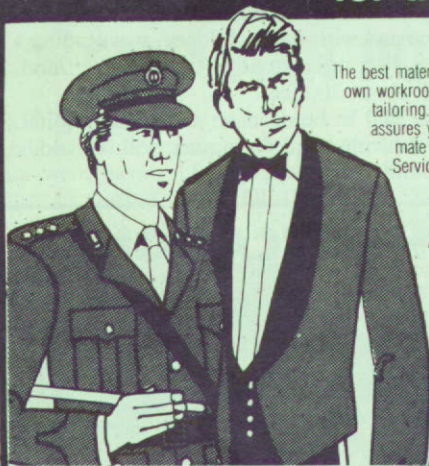
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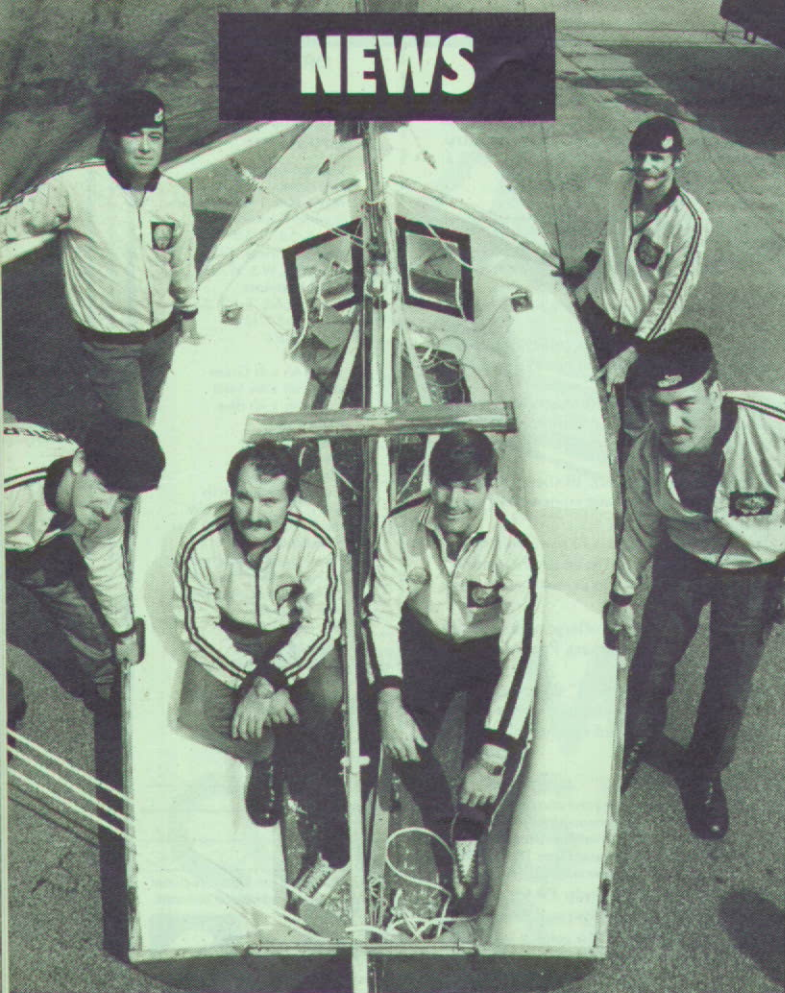
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## Two in round Britain haul

TWO MEN from the 1st Bn, The Gloucestershire Regiment have taken to the English Channel in a 15-foot-long dinghy during a charity sail from London to Bristol during Exercise Seagull Sprint — and the skipper, WO2 Raymond Wells admits he gets “terribly seasick”.

But WO2 Wells who is a senior sailing instructor will be taking a batch of the relevant pills as he is partnered by Corporal Ralph Thompson during the 600-mile, 15-day trip from London's Tower Bridge via the south coast to Bristol's Clifton suspension bridge.

They did the first 80 unaccountable miles by road — from their base at Tidworth to London where they put the dinghy — dubbed Lucky Seven for the occasion — into the Thames ready to catch the first high tide. The craft with its blue sail had been loaned to them by the

Junior Leaders Regiment, RE, at Dover.

En route the two crewmen and the support shore party, ever in contact by Clansman radios, made several ports of call in aid of their charity with a target of £1,000 towards the existing Glos-ters Ward — for mentally handicapped children — in Bristol's Stoke Park Hospital. They have already raised £2,300 for the hospital this year alone.

But only one of the venture had a girl in any port — 35-year-old WO2 Wells whose wife and five children live in Portsmouth.

The dinghy expected to spend about eight hours a day at sea at about a mile offshore as they passed places like Margate, Folkestone, Hastings, Brighton, Bognor, Weymouth, Salcombe, Plymouth and Penzance.

WO2 Wells quipped: “The first 80 miles to London by road were probably the easiest; the worst, rounding the area near Land's End. We are trying to put the emphasis on meeting people. The more we meet, perhaps the more money we will raise.”

◀ **The Sprinters:** Rear, Cpl Andy Galloway, Sgt Bruce Wood. Front: Pte Paul Newman, Cpl Ralph Thompson, WO2 Ray Wells, Pte Brian Child.

## Division's New Depot



MAJOR-General Brian Webster, Director of Army Quartering, took to the task like a professional when he turned the first sod by excavator on the 250-acre site at Flowerdown, near Winchester, eventual single barracks of the Light Division's Depot.

The ceremony marked the end of three years' planning of the £17½ million scheme which will be office, 'school' and home to 1,200 adult recruits, junior soldiers and permanent staff from the spring of 1986 onwards.

Eventually the Light Division Depot at Shrewsbury will be discontinued, and so will that of the Royal Green Jackets at Peninsula Barracks in Winchester. Appropriately, the new complex will be known as the Sir John Moore Barracks.

Since the start of the First

World War all three Services have used the Flowerdown. The Royal Flying Corps and, later, the RAF set up an apprentices college there.

During the 1930s, it was a naval radio station — HMS Flowerdown.

The camp has remained empty since 1976 and the last Army unit to occupy the demolished site — known as Bushfield Camp — was 223 Signals Squadron, Royal Corps of Signals.

Facilities on the new camp will include a 50-acre “dry training” area, a 100-metre baffled range, a skill-at-arms wing, a swimming pool, PT and Recreation Centre, six football-hockey pitches, two cricket pitches, an all-weather pitch, two tennis courts and amenities for boat and canoe-building hobbies.

## DEATH OF CAPTAIN JIM TAGGART

CAPTAIN JIM TAGGART, 41, OC of the Army Hang Gliding Centre at Sennybridge died in a hang-gliding accident at Ffynon-y-Parc on Hay Bluff in the Black Mountains, Wales.

Captain Taggart, married with three children, was leading a course of five students. It is understood that he took off and, after a short flight, fell about 200 feet.

Captain Taggart was said to be dead on arrival at hospital. The coroner has been informed and an inquiry will be held.

● See SOLDIER to Soldier tribute, page 13.

## SPOT THE OCCASION



This was a day when QARANC servicewomen seemed to muster more cameras than the Press! What was the occasion? Turn to page 9 for the answer...



# Beirut peace-keepers return home



**ALL BUT** six of Britain's first contribution to the multi-national peace-keeping force in Beirut — men from "C" Squadron, 1st Queen Dragoon Guards — have arrived back in the UK, relaxed and bronzed by the Levant sun.

Forty-one of them made the eight-hour, 2400-mile flight from Beirut into Lyneham, led by Captain Tom Dakin, the squadron's administration officer. Six of their number had stayed on in Cyprus for R and R; 31 others had arrived back in the UK days earlier. All had been in the Lebanon for six months.

The group's consensus was that their only real danger was in being positioned just seventy metres from the Israelis across the road.

Capt Dakin said: "They were prime targets on numerous occa-

sions. We all worked quite hard. We were always occupied with a 10-square-kilometre area of responsibility. A lot of the people did not know what the Union Jack was even though we wore them on our arms, our vehicles and on our radio antennae.

"But we had a good reaction from the locals. It was excellent. 'God Save, Mrs Thatcher!' was the cry. 'Mrs Thatcher is a very nice lady' was another. We were well received in all quarters. People would stop us on patrols and give us 'stickies' — cakes and coffee. At first the boys didn't

like Turkish coffee.

While they were out there the lads of "C" Squadron had a video presented to them by the Nuffield Trust on which, they said, they watched — "films". Adventures like "Snow White" — though they coyly avoided which version — and "Jungle Book".

Capt Dakin said: "One of the problems we had was living on top of each other, really. There were 110 of us living in one place. We also got 'Beirut belly' on numerous occasions but soon adapted to the food and water. The majority of us were invited out for meals. Meals like sheep's brains . . . spleen . . . spinal cord. The local suppliers used to be very kind to us. We were

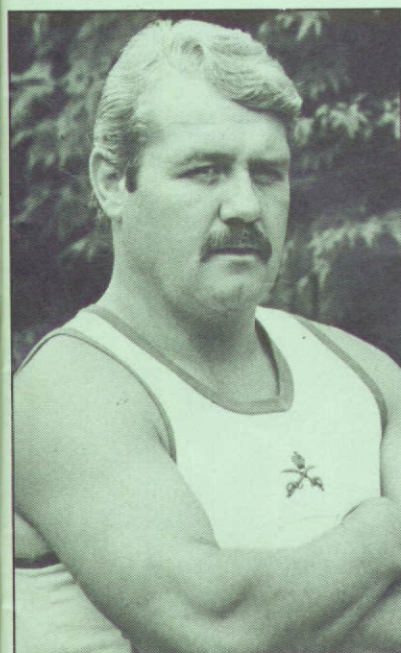
having a party for the Lebanese Armed Forces and they would supply everything free."

One of their number — Trooper Phil "Blue" Huntley, they revealed, married half-way during their six-month detachment. His bride flew out to Cyprus for the event.

Now, the men of 1 QDG will have 42 days' leave before resuming their normal duties at Wimbish back in the armoured reconnaissance role with their Scimitars and Scorpions. The squadron had arrived in the Lebanon in February and has left its Ferret scout cars and Land-Rovers there to be taken over by "A" Squadron.

## CANADIAN ROCKIES RIVER DRAMA

**ELEVEN** soldiers of the 1st Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment were saved by two colleagues in a white water rafting incident in the Canadian Rockies.



**S/SGT TERRY DOLAN**... knocked off his feet.

The incident occurred during an adventure training phase of exercise 'Pond Jump' when 13 men were negotiating rapids on an inflatable raft on the Athabasca river.

While negotiating a stretch of white water, a flash flood caused by a mountain thunderstorm turned the river into a maelstrom which prevented the party rowing their raft into the planned landing site just 300 metres from an 80 ft waterfall.

The raft was driven into the rapids by the seething current and with only 80 metres to go to the head of the falls, Staff Sergeant Terry Dolan, a physical training instructor attached to the Glosters for the exercise, leapt into the rapids and tried to anchor the madly spinning raft to a rock in the centre of the river.

After fighting the current for 15 minutes and making several unsuccessful attempts to anchor the raft, Terry Dolan was finally knocked off his feet by the waist high water and forced to let go of the raft. But he managed to struggle to the bank.

By this time the raft was only 20 metres from the falls and seeing Terry Dolan washed away

27 year old Private Billy Fulwood jumped into the rapids to take his place. With the water up to his shoulders Billy took on the might of the Athabasca and held the bow of the raft enabling his eleven colleagues to scramble over the side and fight their way to the bank.

Only when his mates were clear did Billy let go. He reached the bank only feet from the falls and the Canadian inflatable, designed for rough water work, was swept over and smashed to pieces on the rocks 80 feet below.

Billy who serves with the mortar platoon said: "I saw we were in trouble and just did my best".

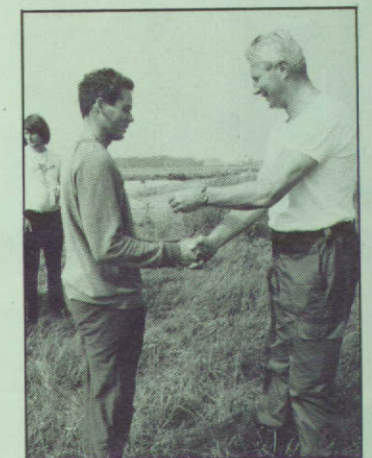
## New Tartan

The new Edinburgh Military Tattoo Tartan and Dress Tartan, approved and registered, is introduced this year.

So for this and future years the Tattoo staff can use their own rather than having to borrow other tartans! The Tartans incorporate the colours of the three services — and the City of Edinburgh District Council.

● See back cover.

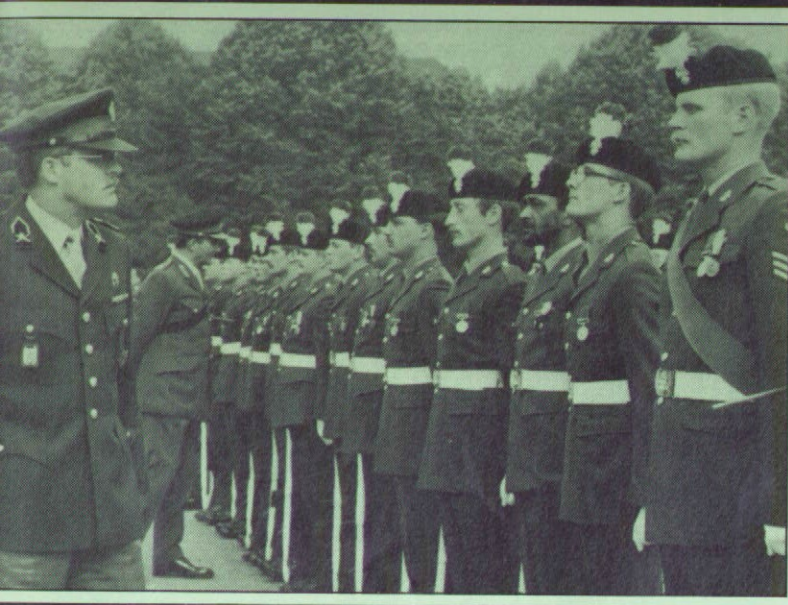
## GENERAL IN COMPETITION



After winning a 4-mile military orienteering competition Lance Corporal Ian Harper ACC receives his prize from another competitor — Major General Patrick Palmer.

The General, General Officer Commanding the Army's North East District and Commander 2nd Infantry Division, was among 69 competitors from District and Divisional units who took part in the event at Ripon, North Yorkshire.





# NEWS VIEW

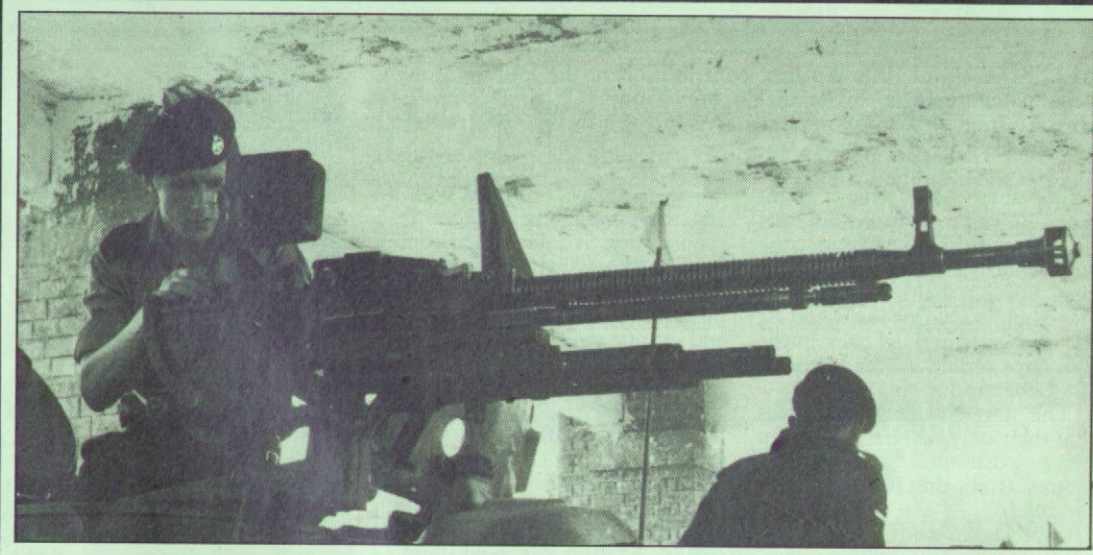
## DUTCH VIP VISIT

The Commander 1st Netherlands Corps Lt Gen W J Loos has made his first official visit to Commander 1st British Corps Lt Gen Sir Martin Farndale.

General Loos inspected the Guard of Honour provided by the 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

## DIFFERENT MACHINE GUN

Trooper Watson of 4 Royal Tank Regiment examining a 14.5 mm machine gun on a Chinese-built T-59 when he and 11 of his colleagues visited the 13th Lancers of Pakistan. After spending some time in the north the 4RTR men headed for the hills and trekked in the Swat Valley and Chitral areas. Now 4RTR hopes to host a visit by a 13th Lancers party next year.



## STRETCHER BEST

Led by Staff Sergeant Graham Strettle, 23 Engineer Regiment's 'B' team won the 1st Armoured Division's qualifying round for the Connaught Shield competition. A team from 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment led by Sergeant Ken Mason won the 4th Armoured Division qualifier and these teams and others meet in the final at Sennelager 8 & 9 September. Pictured above is another team in the 1 Div. event.



## LORDS AT HOHNE

Members of the House of Lords All Party Defence Study Group discover the power of a Chieftain tank at close quarters during a visit to the 4/7 Royal Dragoon Guards on exercise at Hohne, Germany. Led by the Earl of Kimberley, the party was on a four-day visit to British forces in Germany including the 1st Bn Worcestershire & Sherwood Foresters.



## MINDEN DAY

Major Andy Middlemiss hands Colour Sergeant David Osborne his Rose with Private Philip Ward RAPC ensuring that the logistics function properly as the King's Own Scottish Borderers marked Minden Day by wearing the traditional rose in their glengarries. 1st Battalion KOSB are based in Osnabrück.



## ROYAL TRIBUTE

The Band of the Junior School of Music from Strensall enters the Museum Gardens, York, after marching through the city. They were taking part in the Royal Salute ceremony at York in honour of the 83rd birthday of HM The Queen Mother. The Saluting Troop from 12 Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery, based at Kirton Lindsey, Humberside, fired a Royal Salute of 21 guns.



## MINISTER IN NORTHERN IRELAND

New Armed Forces Minister Mr John Stanley visited soldiers from almost all major units in Northern Ireland during a hectic three day tour which took him from Belfast to Fermanagh and from Londonderry to South Armagh.

Mr Stanley chats with a patrol from B Coy, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment in Forkhill, South Armagh. Private Mike Lambert, left and Pte Peter Lealman.



## THE NURSES 'AIM' . . .

When Princess Margaret, Colonel-in-Chief of QARANC for 29 years, made her first ever visit to the Duchess of Kent's Military Hospital, Catterick Garrison, recently, she received her arrival bouquet from 19-year-old Ward Stewardess Mandy Barker. Mandy joined the QAs only a year ago.

The Princess (target for the nurses cameras, see page 7) spent more than three hours touring the hospital and the Matron, Colonel Margaret McDermott, said she had a word with every single patient in the medical and surgical wards.





## TOPICS

### Sri Lankan joins Medics

On exercise on Salisbury Plain recently with the Oxford detachment of 219 (Wessex) General Hospital was Sri Lankan Army major, Dr Sanjiva Wijesinha.

Like the British Army, Sri Lanka's Army also consists of Regulars and Territorials. The TA there is known as the Sri Lanka Volunteer Force (SLVF).

In civilian life, Major Wijesinha is a surgeon at the Children's Hospital in Colombo, Sri Lanka's capital. He is spending some time in Oxford for post-graduate studies. Being a part-timer with the Sri Lanka Army Medical Corps back home, he is using the opportunity to train

with the RAMC(V) while over here.

On exercise, he was dressed in the same combat kit as the rest of his new colleagues, but wore the distinctive SLAMC regimental crest on his blue beret. "Working with 219 General Hospital is an enjoyable and useful experience for me", Major Wijesinha told SOLDIER. "I'll have a lot to tell my lads at the Colombo Military Hospital when I return."

## NEW COMMANDING OFFICER

Meet Lt Col Martin Scrase, the new Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion Mercian Volunteers, one of the top TA infantry battalions in the Midlands.

With headquarters in Wolverhampton, the battalion

has companies and platoons based at Stockport, Kidderminster, Bromsgrove, Droitwich, Burton-on-Trent, Rugeley, Nottingham and Sutton-in-Ashfield.

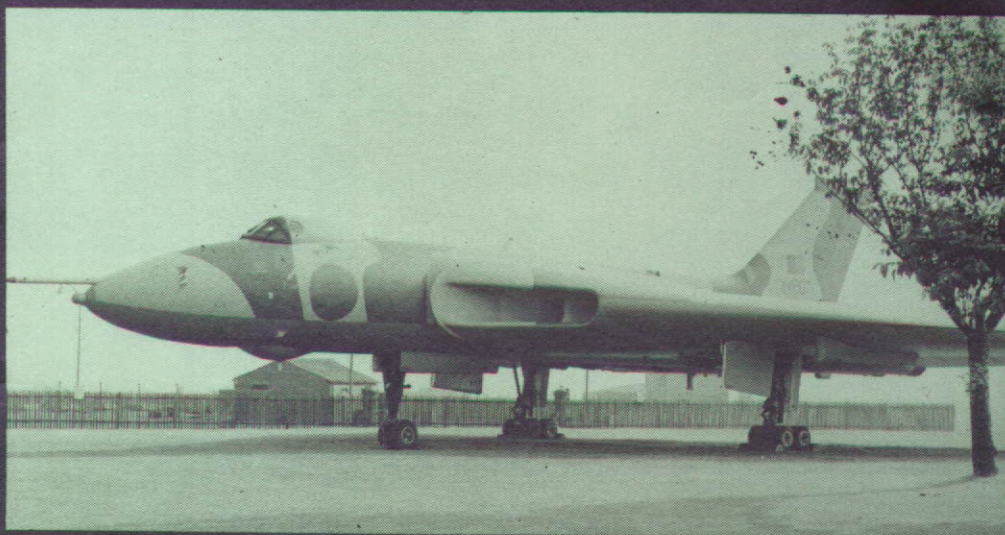
A professional infantryman, Colonel Scrase comes to the Mercians with a background of service all over the world with the Queen's Lancashire Regiment and the Brigade of Gurkhas.

His service locations include Germany, Swaziland, Cyprus, Aden, Hong Kong, Brunei and Northern Ireland he is fluent in Nepalese, Arabic, French and German.

He is a strong advocate of the one Army concept and feels the role of the TA as part of Nato's defence forces is one of the major attractions for the volunteer soldier whose professionalism, morale, and equipment have never been better.



# RETIRED VETERAN



The last Vulcan to drop bombs in anger has been retired from active service to that of Gate Guardian at RAF Waddington, Lincs.

Vulcan jet bomber XM 607 of Falklands fame was moved its last 100 yards in a joint operation involving a team from 216 Field Squadron (Air Damage Repair) (V) RE and the RAF. Formed in April this was the first major job for the ADR Sappers. It was planned by PSI Staff Sergeant Pat Hogan from Waterbeach and supervised by Major John Clarke, OC 216.

## Climbing for charity



When 5 (V) Bn Royal Anglian Regiment clambered up and down Colchester's 120ft-high telephone exchange for charity, they certainly rang the bell with their sponsors.

For their climbing there and at a nearby multi-storey car park yielded just £40 short of £1000 which was divided equally between the Army Benevolent Fund and the British Kidney Patients Association Fund.

Major Mick Brighton, Officer Commanding 3 Coy, handing the cheques over to Colonel Geoffrey Morgan (for the Army Benevolent Fund) and Valerie Pakenham-Keady (Appeals Organiser, Southern England, for the British Kidney Patients Association).

## SOLDIER/SAILORS

The map-makers of 135 Field Survey Squadron RE (V) took on a new role when they became sailors for a day.

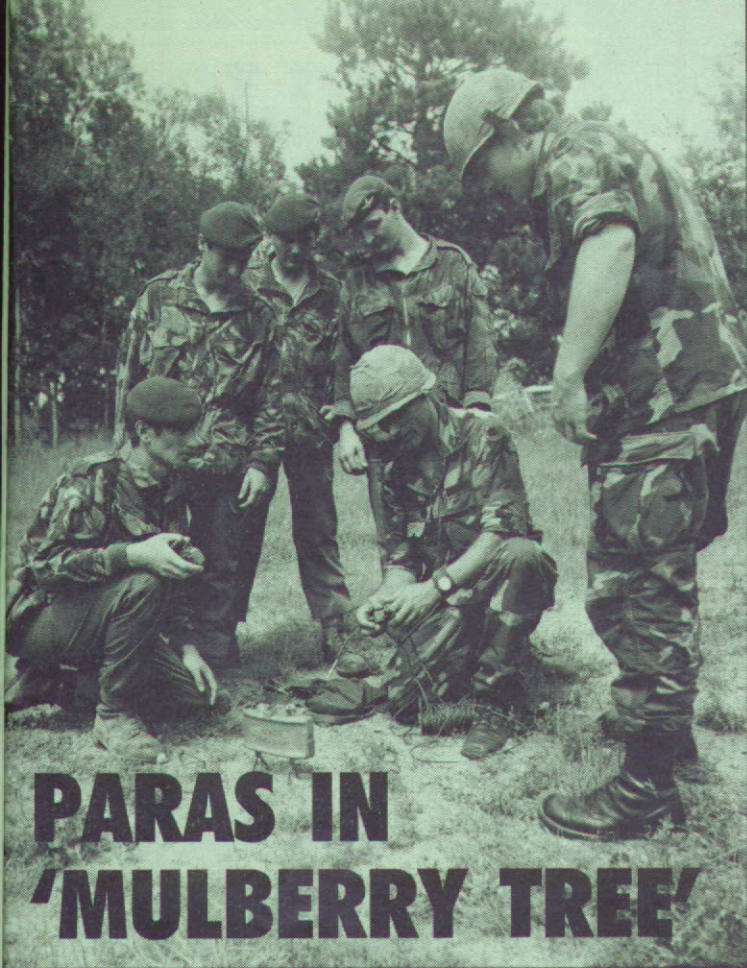
Aided by HQ RSME and 1/3 Training Regiments, they ensured success when the City of London welcomed three senior members of the Company of Chartered Surveyors.

Because the launch carrying

the celebrities from Tower Pier to Fishmongers Hall was too large to get close to the landing steps for the guests to land, 135 and the others ferried them from mid-river in combat support boats.

And in addition to getting VIPs to dry land they also laid on a guard of honour to welcome them before the reception.





## PARAS IN 'MULBERRY TREE'

### SHOT TITLE

Winners of the RAOC TA annual shoot are 55 Company from Heston, Middlesex.

They shot their way to the championship title at Strensall, Yorks against sponsored and independent opposition within the Corps.

Pictured with their trophies are (l to r standing): Sergeant Doug Miller, a cable-layer with the London Electricity Board, and Major Norman Bonney who is a computing officer at Brunel University. Kneeling are Staff Sergeant Martin Rabiega, who won the grand aggregate trophy, Staff Sergeant Richard Reuby, Corporals Peter Leggett and Leech.

Their "pots" include the individual SMG cup, the individual



Picture shows Milan men, Corporal Dennis Crosby and Private Carl Jones ready for action.

rifle runner-up, the champion at arms and runner-up cup, the team pistol, the team SMG, the team rifle and the overall team champions bowl. Prizes were presented by Brigadier Keith Berresford.



Asked by a Minnesota barmaid where he came from, a Scouse TA para invited her to have a guess.

"I don't know," she replied. "But sure as hell you're not from round here."

He was one of 124 men of the 4th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (V) on exercise "Mulberry Tree" in the USA.

But if the accents of Pudsey, Liverpool, Gateshead and Oldham grated on the ears of their American hosts, it was nothing compared to the Paras' discomfort from mosquito bites and burns from the clumps of poison ivy that infest the Minnesota swamps.

Commanded by Major Michael Bellairs, the unit was airlifted by RAF VC10 to Minneapolis where they were the guests of the 1st Battalion 168th Infantry of the Iowa National Guard for two weeks.

Based at Camp Ripley, a 53,000 acre, state-owned, National Guard training area of level plains, rolling hills, thick forest, swamps, lakes and streams, they were equipped US Army style and, with the 168th, went into the field for an eight-day brigade exercise as an inter-grade fighting unit.

And there was no mistaking

the success of their mission, for at a farewell parade the CO of the 168th, Lt Col Roger Schultz, said: "It has been an honour and a privilege to host 4 Para and I would like you to remember everything but the mosquitoes."

"You have been working under extreme conditions and we have been impressed by your discipline, morale and integrity and we thank you for that example to us."

Colonel Schultz summed it all up when he said: "These men are professionals."

Story from an article by Peter Brown, picture by Phil Cadman.

## HOLDING THE LINE

Two rifle platoons, the Milan platoon and Company HQ From V Company, 1/51st Highland Volunteers (The Liverpool Scottish) swelter under the hot sun at Sennybridge during the annual company level test exercise. The scenario supposed that they had been rushed to the front to contain an impending attack which indeed came during the night. With transport unable to get any closer than three miles away all equipment had to be carried over the hills by manpack. Officer Commanding, Major Mike Brimage told SOLDIER "This was a very good exercise for us. The landscape is almost like that of the Falklands and we began to appreciate the problems that mobility poses when everything has to be carried by manpower." Despite the problems, the line was held!



If you're thinking of entering the Nijmegen March next year first learn to sing.

For that is the secret of success, according to a team of marchers from 202 (M) General Hospital RAMC TA at Birmingham. And they should know for they sang their way through the four days of foot-slogging to pick up a medal each signifying success over the 100-mile plus route. It keeps the mind off the feet, they

claim.

Led by Captain Ann Rouine, their second-in-command they spent six months training for the event and were compelled to pay all their own expenses as there were no official vacancies available.

Among those in the team were WO Dave McGrath, Pte Peter Peach, Q/Pte Beth Rees and L/Cpl Liz Feasey.

Now for next year's slog.



# ROYAL WEDDING POOL

— first photograph

All ranks of the Regular and Territorial Army will be keen to see this photograph (taken by Paul Haley) of the swimming pool at Highgrove House in Gloucestershire. It is the first published photograph of the pool, which was the main present given by the Army to the Prince and Princess of Wales on the occasion of their marriage. The amount subscribed by all ranks was entirely voluntary with a maximum £1 in the case of officers, and 30p for other ranks. The gift is marked by an inscription on a plaque in the pool.

## SOLDIER to Soldier

**I**f ever one man completely epitomised an Army sport he was Jim Taggart. He died while practising the sport he loved — hang-gliding — a sport which, mainly due to his dedication and effort, is now a fully fledged Service sport with its own centre.

Jim, who was 41, joined the Army as a youngster of 17 and eventually gained a commission in REME. After he discovered hang-gliding he set up the British Forces Hang-gliding Club and began the long battle for recognition.

Major Rod Macdonald, Deputy Chairman of Army Hang-gliding, recalled his first meeting with Captain Taggart back in 1977: "An enthusiastic and lively man with a keen sense of humour he was already a legend. He preferred to take time in encouraging new members like myself rather than concentrate on becoming a top competition pilot which he certainly could have been."

Finally his long struggle for recognition of the sport led to the setting up of the Army Hang-

gliding Centre at Sennybridge with Jim as Officer Commanding. It was officially opened in April 1981 and since then over 850 Servicemen have taken courses there with 75 per cent getting their licences. Over 34,000 flights had been made without serious incident until Captain Taggart's tragic accident.

In this year's New Year's Honours he was awarded the MBE — the highest honour given to the sport. Says Major Macdonald: "No man has done more for hang-gliding in the Services — Jim was hang-gliding."

Some hang-gliders may have been tempted to give up after the death of such an expert — but the Army Hang-gliding Association is urging them to continue to promote the sport which Jim Taggart loved and which sadly claimed him as a victim. JKW.

Picture above shows Captain Jim Taggart, who was killed in a hang-gliding accident in the Black Mountains, Wales.



**B**ECAUSE of pressure on staff, SOLDIER has not been as prompt as it would like to be in dealing with requests from readers and publishers for reprints of our own photographers' work.

Some people have waited weeks, in a few cases months, for prints and we still have some outstanding requests.

The outstanding orders will be dealt with, but because our first concern has to be the magazine production, and because we are now in the holiday season this may not be as quickly as customers would wish.

This is by way of an appeal to our friends for a little more patience, and thank you for the goodwill shown so far.

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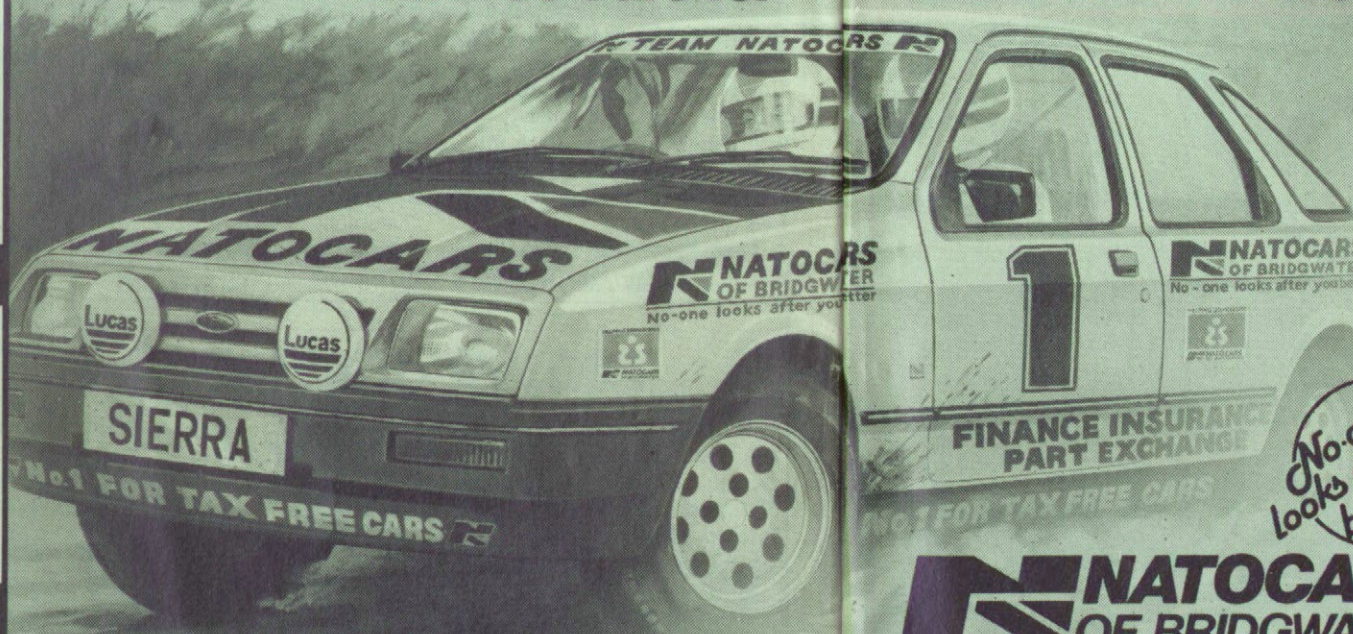
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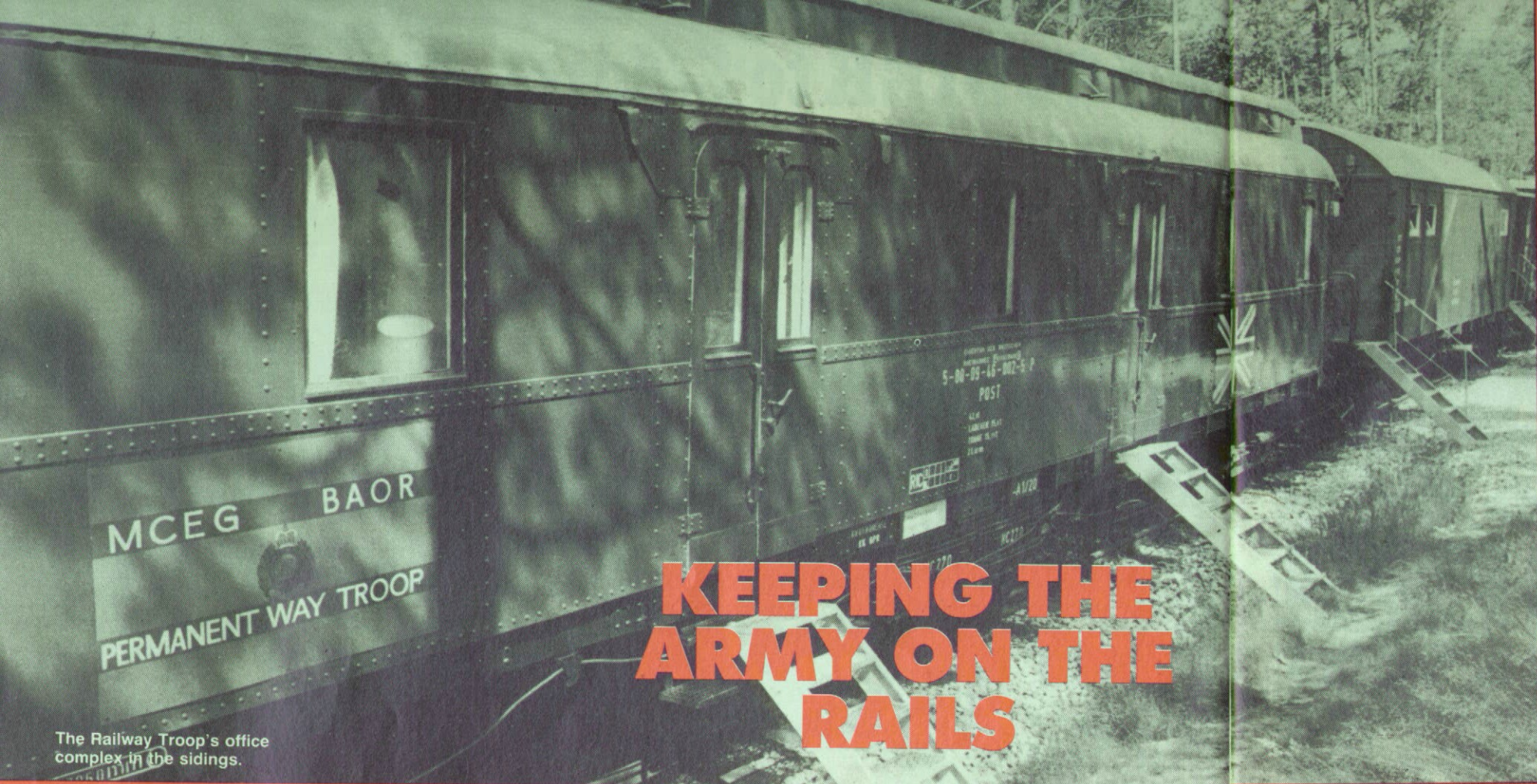
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The Railway Troop's office complex in the sidings.

IT IS thought to be the only kind of military train of its type and the Royal Engineers have it; a 400-ton, 23 wagon-and-carriage unit simply called "Der Bauzug" — the maintenance train. It has its own showers and ablutions, and the unique train is lived in all the year round.

It is used by BAOR's Permanent Way Troop who have the responsibility for maintaining 150 miles of standard gauge track and, in particular, some 600 points along it belonging not only

to the Army but to the RAF over a network which stretches from just south of Hamburg to just west of Antwerp.

Among the elderly rolling stock hauled by giant Deutscher Bundesbahn diesel locos is a circa 1920 mail wagon which once served as a former BAOR C-in-C's carriage.

Nowadays, the Troop — it has two 12-strong all-German teams — is headed up by six Army personnel under the direction of Major John Skinner, a sapper and the railway's superintendent.

SOLDIER caught up with the train at Wulfen.

All of the track is connected to main supply depots and the railway team is known by the acronym MCEG — Mobile Civilian Engineering Group — as the "Bauzug" shunts its way about the German countryside about once a quarter to stay for about the same period to allow essential maintenance to be carried out. Apart from weekends the team lives and sleeps on board.

As Major Skinner explained: "Our operation cuts down the

cost of road mileage. The rolling stock was taken over by the Army at the end of the last war and the train takes men and stores to the site first and relevant vehicles follow later to the site of repairs. Latest Army estimates tell us that the train should last until the end of the century.

"Some of the depots we serve are more important than others and we try to get all the guts of the work done during the spring to autumn because of the climatic extremes in Germany. Usually, we are ahead of our projected

programmes. The water supply, electricity, telephones and drainage out are courtesy of the Property Services Agency.

"Our soldiers — all with civil or military engineering background — do a three-year tour aboard the train."

Major Skinner conceded that some of the German population thought the train was "a bit of a joke, even anachronistic" because of its age but he defended its usefulness.

He said: "We feel it fulfils a very necessary function. If you



More painting . . . this time on the vital points of the track.

tried to replace this train with static accommodation you would need six barracks dotted around West Germany. Economically, it makes good sense."

There was no problem with unions of the local work force. The biggest problem, he suggested, came from the Army's own officer railway enthusiasts.

Major Skinner explained his theory thus: "These officers build models of railways in the lofts and attics at their homes and think that they can solve any railway's problems. They come here and offer to solve any of ours. We take them out and show them what is involved. They still haven't come up with any answers!"

"My Troop is, I think, very little known. It works extremely closely with 79 Railway Squadron, RCT, based on Mönchengladbach and we are very well served in equipment. We have some of the latest available and we are right up to date on British

and Continental railway operating techniques. We have just acquired a new set of surveying equipment and a dozen gangers' trolleys."

No stranger to the world of the footplate himself, Major Skinner started his Army career with another railway — the 250-miles of the Transjordan Hashemite Railway at the time of Glubb Pasha.

He has also been deputy railway superintendent of the Permanent Way Troop and commanding it in 1974-75.

"It's a very interesting civilian engineering task and one, I believe, that is absolutely aligned with the role of the Royal Engineer. It's a job that takes a good background in civil engineering. For the future, I think we should retain our railway expertise as long as we possibly can. We are the only troop in the western world with a railway repair capability, purely militarily. There is none in the UK."

"Our job is to keep the track in the best possible condition. To do it, the wages of the German civvies are paid for by the Ministry of Defence; the materials come out of the Property Services Agency Vote. I love this job. It's a real heavy engineering task."

One of his men who has put in 32 years' service — and still has two to do — with an estimated 36,000 kilometres travel on the railway is Herr Max Nikolaus, an inspector with the MCEG.

He started out life as a platelayer and was a stationmaster before joining the maintenance train. And even now four or five veterans of similar vintage from the 1947-48 years attend Christmas reunions.

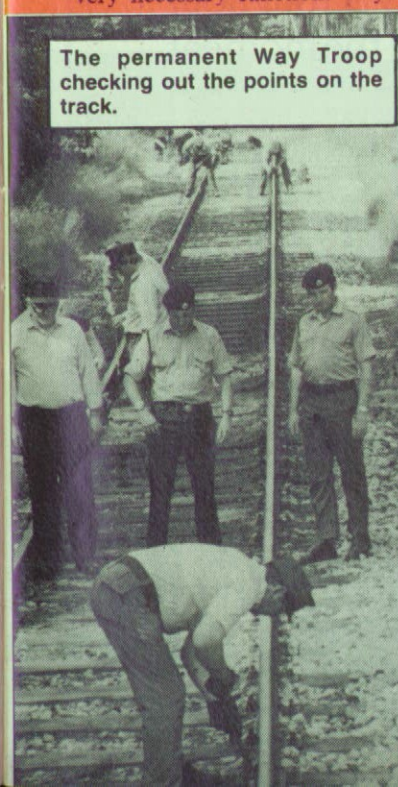
Max said: "Of course, when the time comes to go I shall miss working with the train and the men on it but I'll be able to stay at home and do my garden. And, besides, my wife will be pleased to see more of me, too!" ■



One of the crossing points gets a coat of paint.



Herr Max Nikolaus relaxes outside his home and office of three decades.



The permanent Way Troop checking out the points on the track.



Story: GRAHAM SMITH  
Pictures: LES WIGGS

Herr Nikolaus lends a hand. Watching him, WO 2 Alan Doree.



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**BARCLAYS**



**Men of the Royal Highland Fusiliers have got the ice-hockey 'bug' — and writer John Walton has been to Scotland to investigate a new line in Army sport . . .**

## ARMY TEAM IS NEXT TARGET

**T**HE crowds of skaters enjoying their Scottish August Bank Holiday on the Magnum rink at Irvine watched the roped off area with interest as a small group of ice hockey players practised their skills — charging, firing in shots and dribbling the puck at high speed.

The players were soldiers — members of the only ice hockey team in the British Army and taking a short break from the tensions of Northern Ireland service to hone up their expertise.

For in the province there are no ice rinks and the ice hockey players from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, have to pay their own way to Scotland for the chance to practice or play matches.

Ice hockey is not a recognised Army sport and the RHF jocularly refer to themselves as Army and Combined Services champions — although there are believed to be other individual players in the Services, they have the only team.

Warrant Officer 2 Sandy Knox was the man who started the team in 1981. The battalion was

then stationed in Iserlohn in Germany where ice hockey fever reigned. Recalls Mr Knox: "It is a town about the size of Inverness yet has 15 main teams ranging from seven-year-olds to a West German First Division side."

Ironically enough the camp in which they were stationed — Barossa Barracks — had at one time housed the only ice rink in the area. The Canadians who were formerly there bequeathed the rink to the British Army — who promptly turned it into an MT hangar.

It costs money to set up a team and Sergeant-Major Knox set about trying to get a grant for equipment. "We applied to every fund we could think of in the Army and must surely rank for a mention in the Guinness Book of Records for the number of refusals."

Eventually assistance came from 3 Division and the team began to practise under the eagle eye of a Canadian officer who coached them — often at two o'clock in the morning when the rink was finally free.

The team took quite a while to

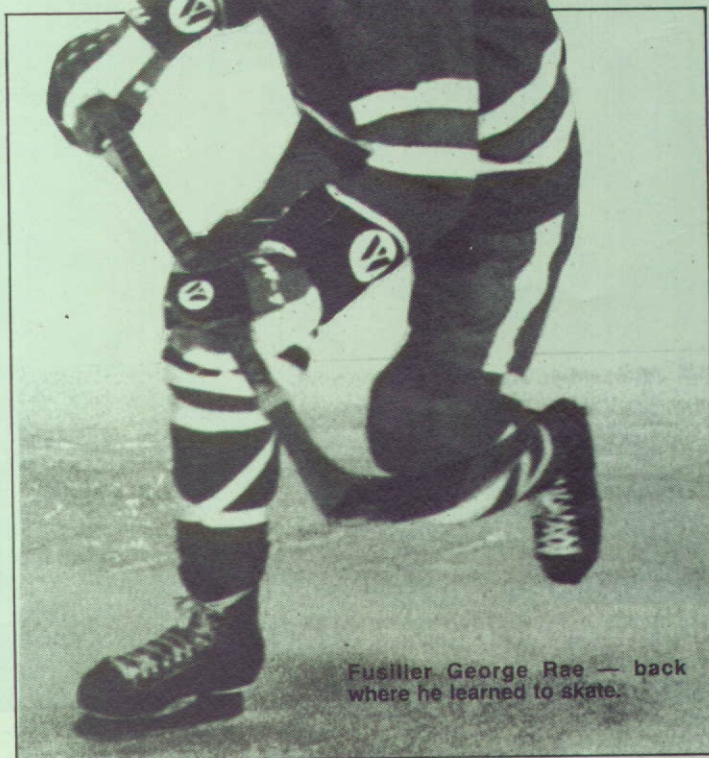
sort itself out. One of the present players, Fusilier David Slavin, told SOLDIER: "There were about 30 or 40 interested but most of them were not very good at skating."

He had played as a boy for a team called 'the Peewees' in Glasgow and most of the others had taken an interest in the game, which is very popular north of the border.

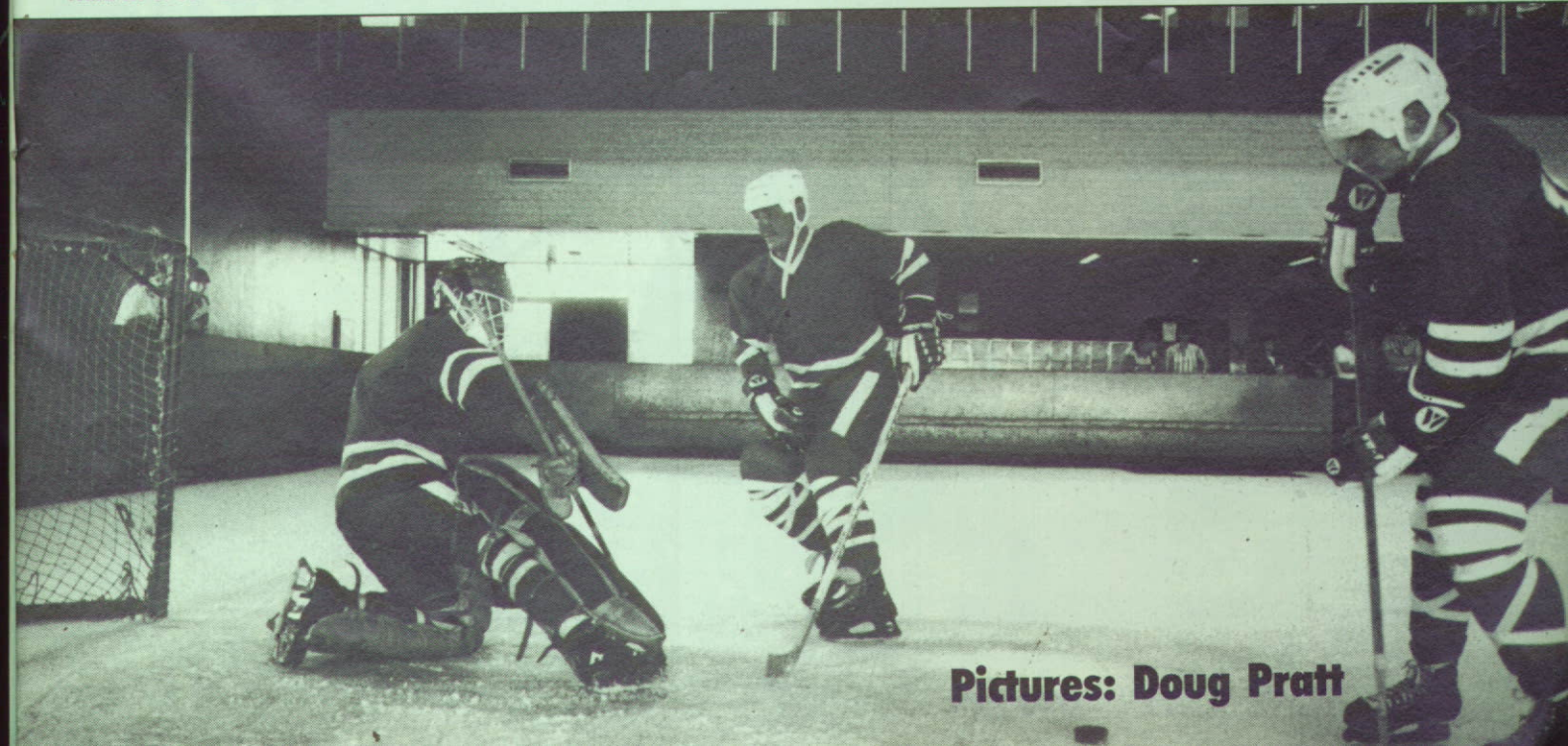
In their first proper match

against a German third division side they surprised the Germans, and perhaps themselves, by losing only 18-15.

Negotiations are going on for a sponsorship which would enable team members to make trips back to Scotland for practice without crippling personal expense. For the next 18 months the unit will be in Northern Ireland although Berlin, with more than one ice rink, is their next

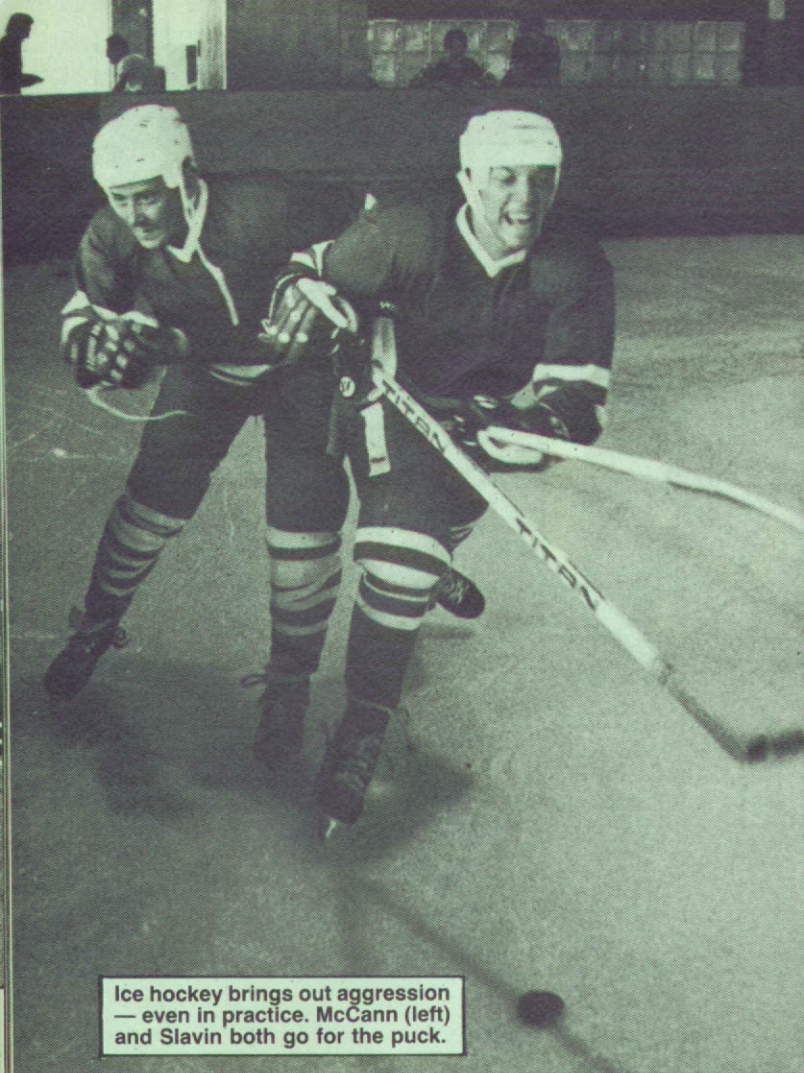


Fusilier George Rae — back where he learned to skate.

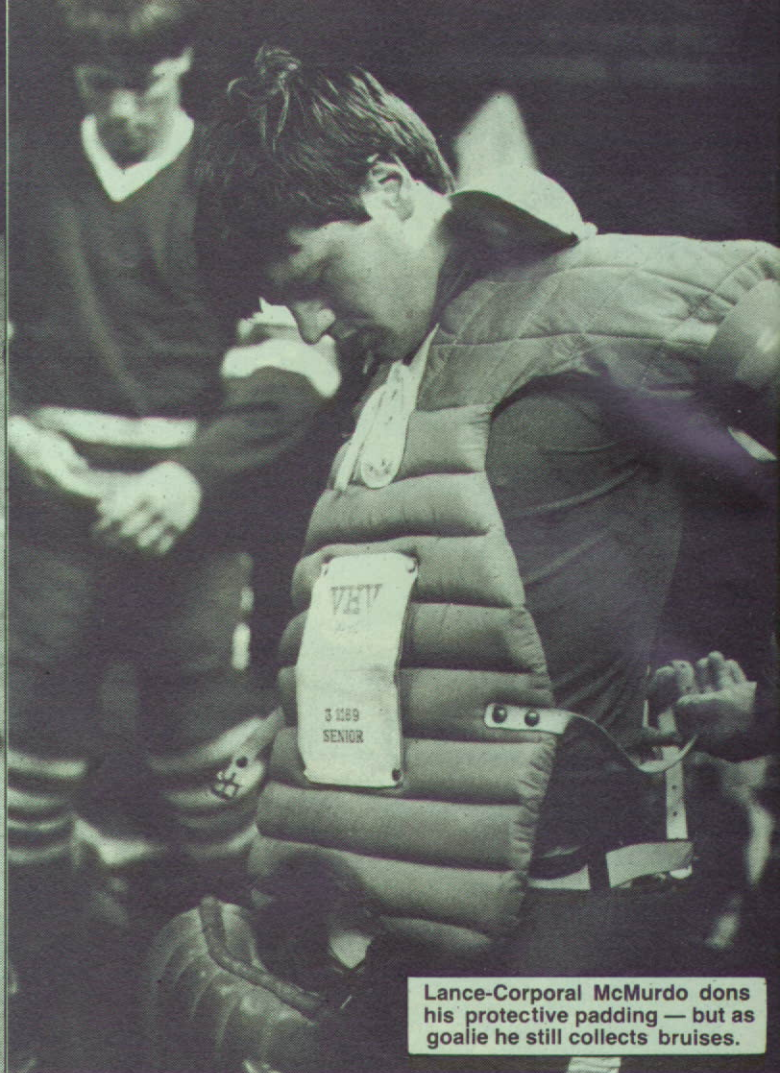


**Pictures: Doug Pratt**





Ice hockey brings out aggression — even in practice. McCann (left) and Slavin both go for the puck.



Lance-Corporal McMurdo dons his protective padding — but as goalie he still collects bruises.

port of call.

All of the players are described as 'fanatics' by WO2 Knox. Corporal Michael McCann, a bandsman, put it this way: "We are dedicated but at the moment we don't get the chance to be."

Goalkeeper, Lance-Corporal David McMurdo, described ice hockey as "The hardest and fastest game in the world — all aggression." And he should

know — despite the heavy padding he wears he is often a mass of bruises from contact with a puck which may be travelling at 100 mph.

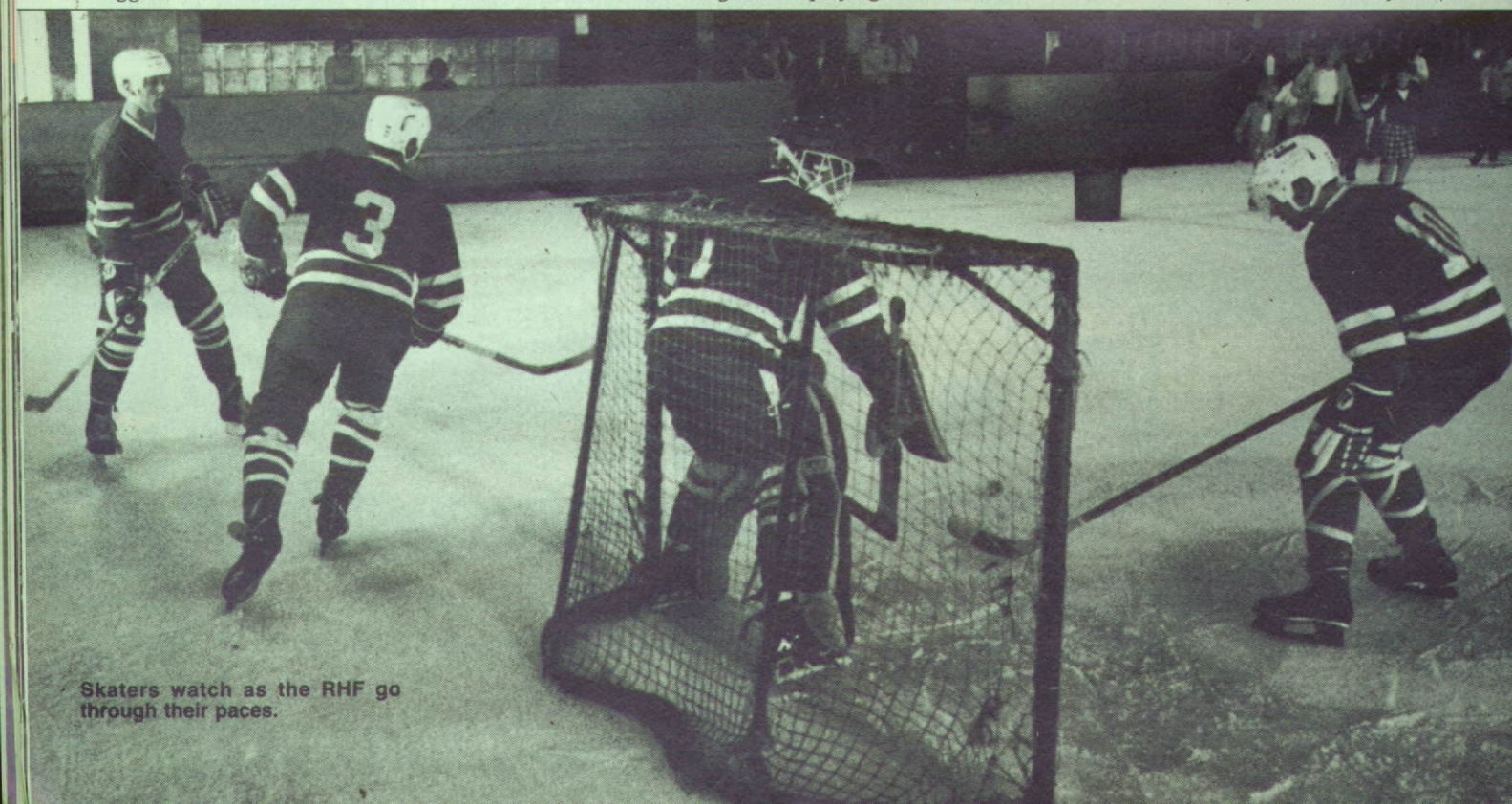
Fusilier George Rae learned to skate at the Magnum rink so was delighted to return there and take part in two matches before a thousand strong crowd. Against the Irvine 'Wings' they went down 17-5 but the Magnum

veterans team proved a more even match and the game was drawn five all.

At these matches were several local ice hockey managers and they told of former players who had gone off to join the Army in recent years. This gave Sergeant-Major Knox the inspiration for this next plan — a two week tour of Scottish and English ice rinks playing local teams.

The tour will take place anyway but Mr Knox is hoping that other soldiers will augment the RHF players to make an Army side. "If we can get together all those individuals who play ice hockey it would be a tremendous KAPE tour" he says.

Interested SOLDIER readers should write to WO2 A G Knox, A Company, 1RHF, BFPO 806 (Tel Holywood Military 245).



Skaters watch as the RHF go through their paces.



# AS ONE BAND GOES — ANOTHER BECKONS



Story: Graham Smith  
Picture: Paul Haley

**T**HE 31-STRONG band of the Royal Army Medical Corps may be the first of four military bands to fade away under planned defence cuts in the spring of next year but the "music of the medics" will live on.

It is hoped that soon after the RAMC band based at Aldershot has blown its last brass and woodwind notes and sounded its last percussion beat on March 31, recruiting for its TA "successor", 257 General Hospital (V) band, will soon be under way based on the Duke of York's Headquarters at Chelsea.

Major Donald Carson, Director of Music, RAMC, said simply of his Corps' band demise: "Naturally, we regret its passing. It's always been regarded as a super band."

Now the hunt is on to find 33 musicians — including eight women — to take over the instruments worth an estimated £44,000 belonging to the RAMC band which gives an average 200 performances each year, including BAOR, West Berlin and Hong Kong.

By next spring two of the band will have left the Army on completion of service, eight musicians will join other bands, 16 are taking redundancy terms and four are remaining within the RAMC as clerks.

Man responsible for filling the crochet and quaver-playing gap is Lieutenant Tony Clarke who has written to 88 Army and RAF bands telling them of the musical recruitment to the TA of any retiring Service members. All must live within a 50-mile radius

of London.

Backing up the quest is advertising in specialist musical press and also the London suburban papers. It is expected that the musicians will give up to 20 performances annually wherever they are called upon to do so.

Watching the formation of the new TA band in its infancy will

probably Major Carson who will be jointly holding 20-minute auditions to find the best 30 musicians to fill the posts — and the empty band seats. "We will be looking for the best instrumentally balanced musicians," he explained. "It would be no use listening to 20 clarinet players."

## Wanted: musicians to play these marvellous instruments

be Band Sergeant-Major Mick Feehily, who has been the RAMC Band Sergeant-Major for 2½ years.

He told SOLDIER: "We are hoping there are going to be a lot of applicants. It's a particularly good area, the London area and the south-east, for finding the ex-service musicians we need. A lot of them gravitate towards dance bands."

Major Carson had the unique honour to conduct his Life Guard son, Musician Peter Carson playing Haydn's Trumpet Concerto at the Kneller Hall Gala Concert last month. He said: "I think the RAMC band has been one of the best bands in the British Army. I am formerly infantry, a bandmaster with the Gloucestershire Regiment, and a King's Division Director of Music and I've always wanted to join it and am very proud to have done so for the past four years."

As the short list of would-be applicants is whittled down it is

The new TA band will include the CO's piper and the eight ladies — a corporal, a lance corporal and six bandsmen — which it is hoped will be ready some time during 1984 or early 1985.

Surprisingly, SOLDIER found morale quite high when it visited the band at its Keogh Barracks home, near Aldershot; surprising when taken into account it will be the only band among those to go who will lose its Corps cap badge.

A £2,500 double 'B' Flat bass tuba stood glistening on one of the chairs, one of the 40 or so instruments which can put on 24 programmes with a repertoire of 12 to 14 marches and tunes each, if called upon.

Just back from a week in Bournemouth and due to head out for a day in Bristol and then to the Kneller Hall Gala Concert, bandsmen and players looked in good order. The tuba's valves had just been oiled, vaseline has been applied to the slides of other

RAMC Band Sergeant-Major Mick Feehily — and some of the spare places.

instruments and the springs of the clarinets and flutes.

The earliest record of music in the Corps is in the 1880s.

In 1892 Major Hayes, a cellist, started an orchestra at the Royal Victoria Hospital Netley. When the Depot moved to Aldershot the orchestra came under the baton of Mr Wylie of the Aldershot Theatre Royal.

The band fluctuated for many years in both numbers and expertise until the years of peace in between the two World Wars saw a steady maintenance of the strength and playing ability of the Band.

On January 1, 1939, the Band was taken over by the Army Council and officially recognised with a permanent establishment including a Warrant Officer Bandmaster. In August 1947 the Bandmaster was commissioned as Director of Music.

All a far note from a day in February 1894 during the formation of the band when a Bugle Sergeant who played the cello and seven boys forming a string and wind instrument band played in the Medical Staff Corps Officers' Mess in Aldershot.

Bands may come and, it seems, band must now go but the RAMC is sure that its traditions, even on a part-time basis, will be maintained once they have found their 33 new TA bandsmen to carry on the "medics" tradition.

If a time for horn blowing and drum banging were ever needed to fill a musical vacuum, this is it. And they will all get paid for doing it! ■



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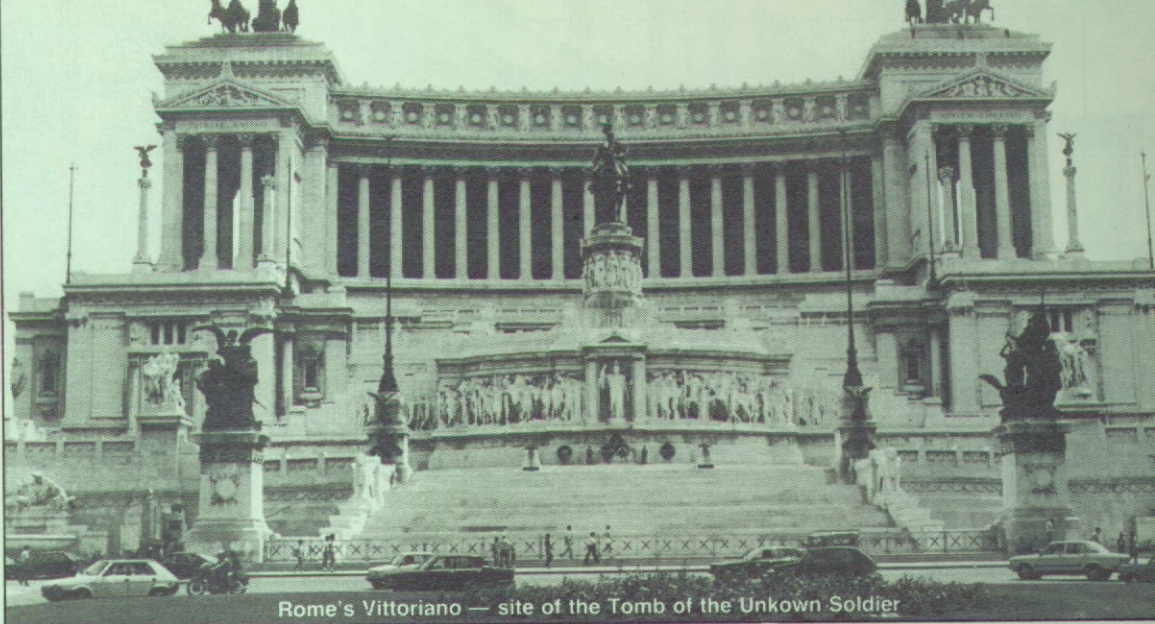
Lancers' patron saint — in silver plate.

**O**NCE UPON a time the Italian Army had 30 cavalry regiments. Today, they boast but a dozen and none more proud of their tradition than the 8th Gruppo Squadroni Lancieri di Montebello whose officers still greet women visitors to their Mess with a light kiss on the hand.

The regiment's 700 men are based at Tor di Quinto, Rome, and are equipped with converted American M.113 armoured personnel carriers made in Italy and known as VCC-Als which can be beefed up to good effect with the 106mm recoilless anti-tank gun and the 12.7mm heavy machine gun.

Tasks given the Gruppo are multi-farious but two of their

A Lancer on guard duty at the Tor di Quinto Camp.



Rome's Vittoriano — site of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

## A LIVING LEGEND

new concept roles involve possible deployment to the Adriatic and border with Yugoslavia in a deterrent and recce mode some 600 kilometres distant and a second duty of dealing with the aftermath of any natural disasters such as flood or earthquake in the area of the Eternal City.

The present regiment evolved from three honoured regiments who were victorious at the Battle of Montebello near Milan on September 16, 1859 after which a new cavalry brigade formation was raised.

A year later and for the next ten years they were engaged in stemming banditry in the south, involved in the Italian war of independence in 1866, the African campaign thirty years later, World War One from 1915-18, to be disbanded two years after that.

Twenty-two years later, the Lancers re-formed again and from September 8-10, 1943 were involved in the defence of Rome and, in particular, fought a brave action at Porta San Paolo in the Via Ostiense.

Since 1891, the Lancers have had their home on a former farm donated by nobility at Tor di Quinto with the stipulation that a school of equitation should be formed there. It was. And one of the tutors there was Captain Federico Caprilli who taught "natural equitation" — whereby a horse behaved as it would if the rider was not on his back. It was a system to which, it is said, the British and the rest of the world owe a debt of gratitude in terms of military application. Sadly, Captain Caprilli died — as a result of a fall from his horse.

The 50-hectar School of Equitation is still there, too, with 30 horses. Half of them are engaged in national and international equestrian competition, the rest are used to teach soldiers — and their children during the holidays — the art of horsemanship. But all, from time to time, are called upon to take to

Rome's famed streets for State and other prestigious occasions.

Horses aside, the Gruppo is heavily involved with its other armour-plated horsepower, its 60 VVCs which they hope may soon tote a bigger and better punch in the form of the TOW missile. The Gruppo or squadron is split into five sections — HQ and Support, three mechanised sections and a mortar section.

Far from being based in barracks not far from the centre of Rome the Gruppo does hold its own FTX on any of its three

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

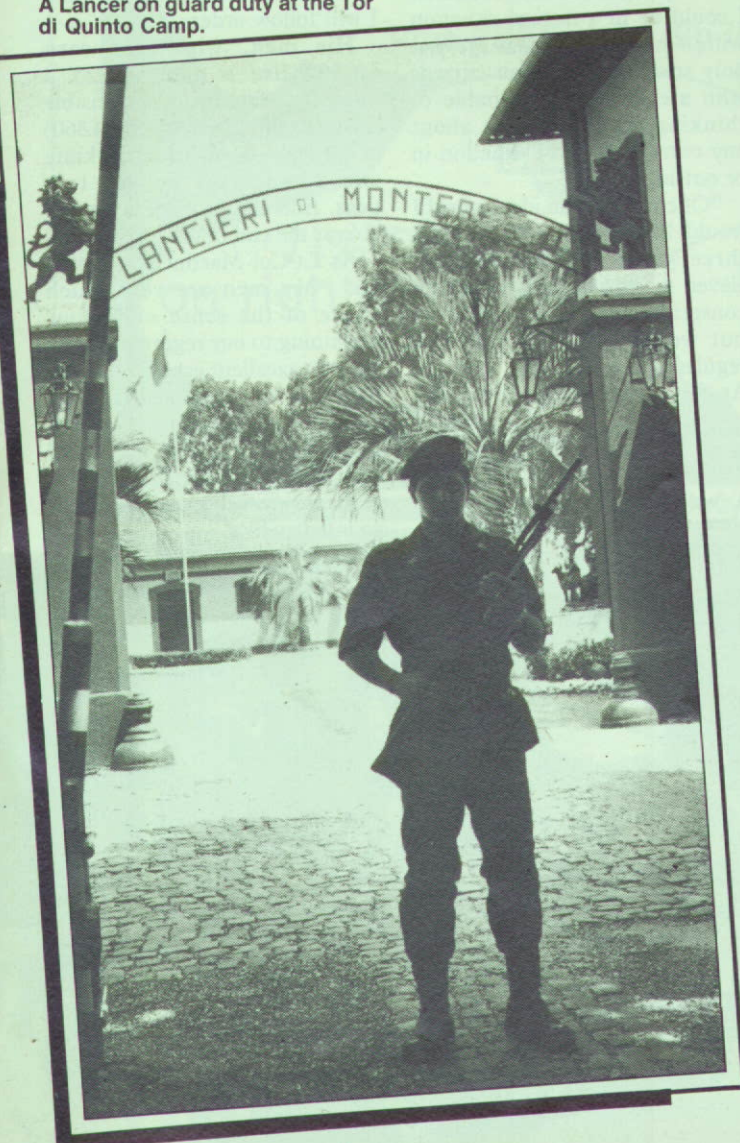
available training areas within 100 miles of the Italian capital and includes night firing.

Besides its operational tasks and contingency roles, the Gruppo also provides up to 100 men for public duties at four of any of Rome's tourist landmarks — the Quirinale (60 of them there), the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Vittoriano, the Senate and the Chamber.

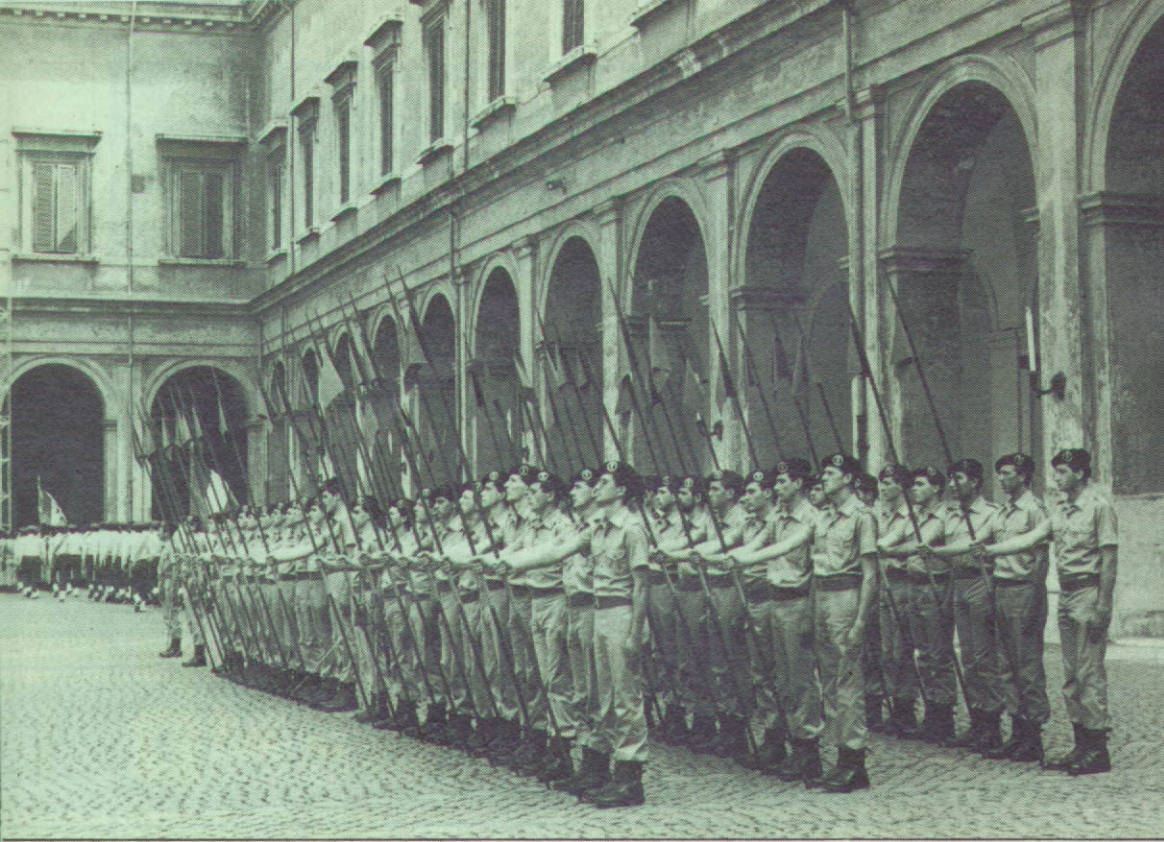
On such duties the Lancers — none under one-metre-80-cms tall — either carry ten-foot tall Lances or automatic weapons which are loaded — including one up the breech!

Lt-Col Lucio Martinelli, 45, the CO of the Gruppo is confident that he has the men and equipment to do whatever job he could be called upon to do.

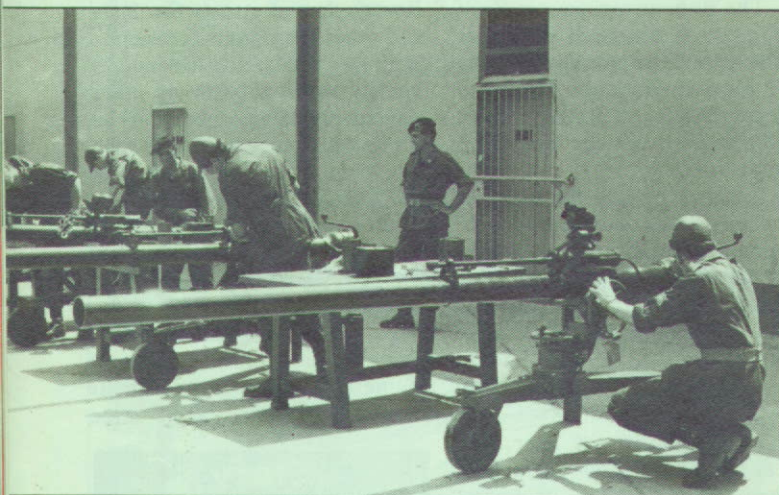
"But if there were a different war — from inside — that would present different problems," he







Six-foot-six Presidential Guard at the Quirinale.



▲ The guard duty of Lancers within the Quirinale courtyard.

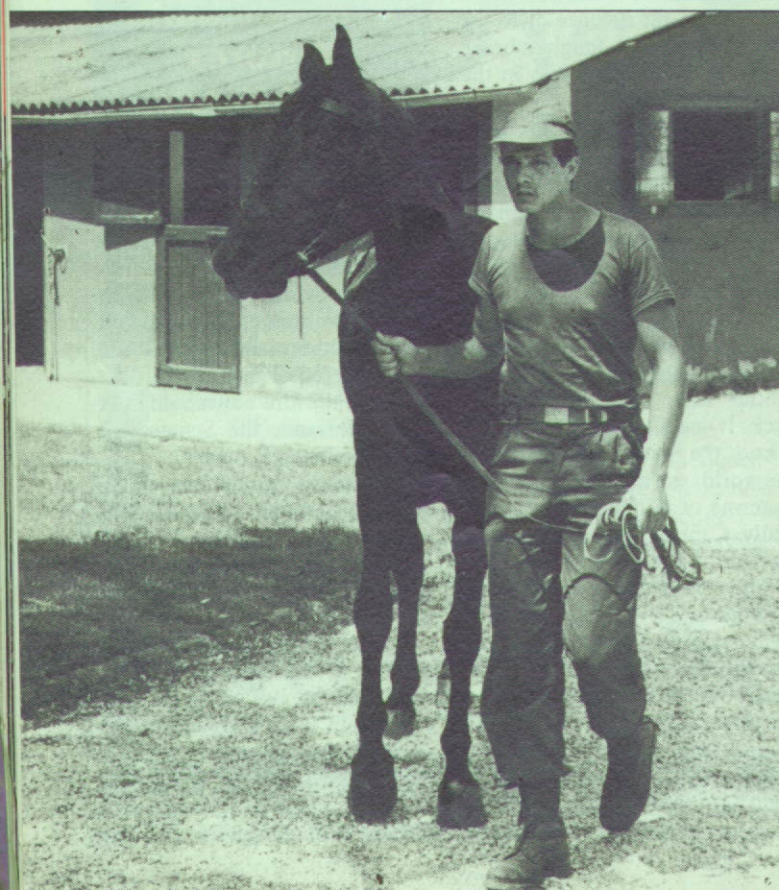
◀ The Lancers clean up their 106mm recoilless anti-tank guns.

hinted. "Our main role is the defence of Italian territory in the north and in any natural disaster action elsewhere which may happen. My organisation is such that I could be in a tactical situation within hours. My men are not only soldiers but Italian citizens who are aware and capable of thinking for themselves about any current political situation in or outside Italy.

"Of course, in an ideal world I would like my men to stay for three years — they stay for eleven months only as volunteer conscripts for the regiment — but we do have our cadre of regular specialists who stay on. As for future equipments, like

◀ One of the horses from the Lancers' School of Equitation takes exercise.

A wash-down for the VVCC armoured personnel carriers. ▼

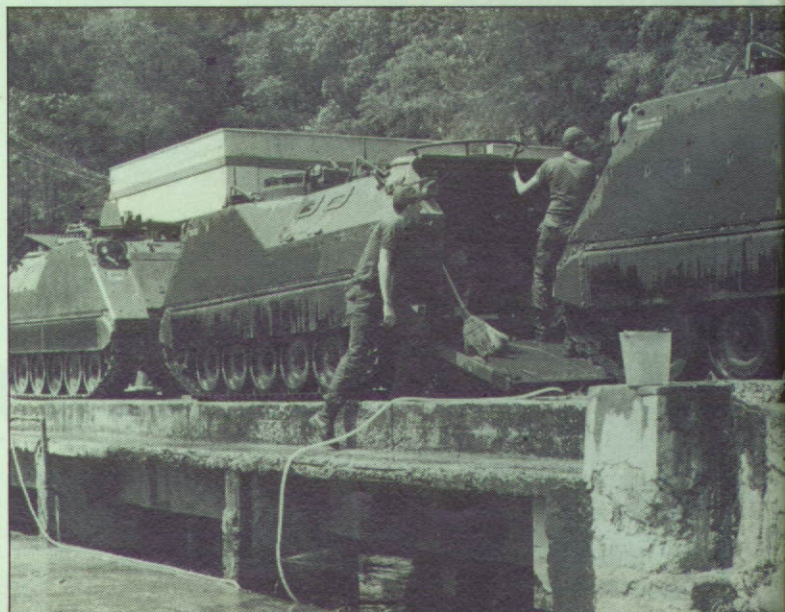


anywhere else, it all depends on the economic outlook for Italy.

"I am confident I have the men and the equipment to do the job. I would like better kit but what commander does not. I am a soldier from a military family — my father was a general — and I will follow orders."

His men, who each earn 60,000 lire a month (£25 a month) all-found, are responsible for 871,000 Lire's worth (£360) of kit right down to a pen-knife and a couple of wooden tent pegs. And all of the kit is returnable at the end of a soldier's stay.

As Lt-Col Martinelli summed up: "My men are very much aware of the sense of honour pertaining to our regiment. They have an excellent esprit de corps, morale is very high and they are rather like the famed Dumas musketeers — one for all and all for one. We are nowadays, perhaps, a cavalry regiment with an infantry bias."





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ONE OF THE MOST frightening things that can happen to a mother is to discover suddenly that her child is missing and there have been a number of cases in the newspapers over the last few weeks that must have saddened and horrified all mothers.

It could so easily be YOUR child. Happily, mother and child are usually soon reunited. I lost my son once when he was just three years old in a shop packed with Saturday morning shoppers and with five exits. It was not until some two hours later that the police rang to say that he had been taken in at the station. I would not wish those two distraught and frightening hours on any mother — and my story had a happy ending. But, sadly, there are all too often no such easy explanations.

And it's not only the under-fives that are the victims of the terrible tragedies that we hear about. The children of 16 and 17 are just as vulnerable. So how can we warn our children of the dangers?

The difficulty is in getting through to children whose knowledge and appreciation of the possible risks they might face from strangers varies considerably. One extremely effective way is by showing a film like "Say No to Strangers" which can be borrowed free of charge from SSVC and is an absolute must for parents and children.

The film has been made to include modern pop music, space games and well-known stars to keep the children interested. It opens with a scene from *The Sweeney*. "It's easy," says the commentator, "to know who's good and who's bad on the telly but people are not always what they seem to be in real life." The film lasts for 25 minutes but it would be a good idea to make an evening or afternoon of the showing by following it up with a discussion. The police, social workers and doctors in your area may be willing to help with the discussion too.

It might prepare your children and the children next door for the future and may even save their lives.

*Anne Armstrong*

Thank you for taking an interest in my particular difficulty with unemployment benefit. I have received a letter from DHSS in Newcastle and have replied today informing them that I have still not received any payment of benefit.

I visited the Arbeitsamt in Bielefeld and at last have managed to speak to someone, Herr Kruger, who has agreed to look into my case and has promised to get in touch with me.

My husband, who is site warden for our married quarters area, has been in touch with an officer in Germany and a standard letter has now been prepared in German for wives to take to the Arbeitsamt. It simply states why they are registering and requests that the relevant forms be given to them.

A German employee in the civil labour office is prepared to translate and help with completion of the forms. Provided that they get over the initial difficulty with the language problem we hope that this will be helpful with future cases.

I have informed DHSS in Newcastle that wives are being told that they cannot register for employment if they cannot speak and write German and suggesting that some considerable clarification is required on this point.

I think it would be most helpful if a particular sequence of actions required by the individual was made available by someone in authority, and this should include specific rights, if any, so that wives can say 'this is the law'. Not only in Germany, but also in the UK, where benefit officers are not aware that the rules are slightly different for service dependants.

I will keep you informed of any progress I make and thank you once again for your interest and constructive help.

Mrs S, BFPO 47.

● Thank you Mrs S for your help in sorting out the problems of claiming unemployment benefit in Germany. Maybe other areas will follow suit.

Please, if you wish me to pursue your claim, put your National Insurance no. in the letter and all relevant dates: ie leaving job, signing-on, arrival in overseas station and the date you visited the Arbeitsamt.

## ASK ANNE

We are posted to Cyprus and a friend of mine is going to Germany.

We have been told that it is best to buy certain items such as children's shoes by mail order. What safeguards do we have if things should go wrong?

Mrs P, Catterick.

I would suggest that you try the Naafi or your local shops first and see what they have to offer. If it isn't what you want and you do decide to buy through a mail order firm there are a number of steps that you can take to safeguard your interest and your money.

First, go to your local consumer advice centre before you leave UK

## DID YOU KNOW?

THERE ARE A number of travel concessions open to wives whose husbands become ill or are involved in an accident which means a stay in hospital.

If you are stationed in UK and your husband is listed by the medical authorities as Very Seriously Ill (VSI) or Seriously Ill (SI), you and a companion will automatically qualify for travel at public expense. If, however, you are living in UK while your husband is on permanent or temporary duty abroad when he is listed VSI, PS4 (Cas)A MOD will arrange travel for you and a companion at public expense on medical authorities recommendation under a scheme known as DILFOR. This does not apply to SI cases and there is no entitlement at all for travel at public expense for cases not listed.

After three days in hospital, your husband may however transfer one or more of his unused travel warrants (to which he is entitled under normal leave rules) to you. This three-day qualifying period may be waived if he has been medically evacuated from overseas and immediately admitted to hospital in UK.

If the medical authorities decide that your husband needs long-term treatment in a hospital over 20 miles from your normal home, he will be able to transfer a maximum of eight warrants in one year to you after the qualifying period of 30 days. These warrants will be available at the rate of one a month and Motor Mileage Allowance at Public Transport Rate can be paid instead if you do not want to travel by train.

This concession for long-term patients has now been extended to include single soldiers so that their friends or relatives may visit them.

There is also the possible option of separation warrants if your husband is a long-term patient, has been in hospital or a rehabilitation centre in UK or BAOR for 28 days and satisfies the separation warrant rules laid down in the Army Leave Manual.

Reading the article I wrote (8 August) 'Reports Focus on Problems' it may appear as if the court actions referred to are connected with Naafi. This is not so. Naafi has not been involved in any court action, the cases I refer to are mentioned in the EOC report. Apologies to Naafi for any misinterpretation.

and ask for the leaflet "Buying by post" which is issued free by the Office of Fair Trading. They also have information leaflets on cars, electrical goods, photography, shoes, package holidays, furniture, laundries and dry cleaners and even funerals.

When you have found a company that offers the goods you want, check that they are a reputable firm. The Mail Order Traders Association, 25 Castle Street, Liverpool L2 4TD will be able to help if you are in any doubt. For books and records you should check with the Mail Order Publishers Authority, 1 New Burlington Street, London W1X 1FD.

Above all, read the small print carefully and thoroughly before you commit yourself to any purchase.

The May issue of *Soldier* — the one with the patchwork of extracts of letters from ladies who had arrived in Germany and could neither find a job nor receive unemployment benefit from UK or Germany for at least the usual three months — amused me somewhat.

Of course it is no part of your function to deal with the men (serving or ex-Service) but it might surprise you nevertheless to learn that, after contributing all during my working life — I joined the Army in February 1947 — to the British insurance system, I was not entitled to draw unemployment benefit covering the five weeks after retirement and before joining a German firm as a buyer.

The DHSS stipulated that I should have to go to UK and "be available for permanent work there for a month". So theoretically I could have gone as far as Dover, stayed in a hotel for a month, signed on and received five weeks' benefit! Obviously, I told them to forget it. Since then I have been told that if I made a petition to Parliament they could perhaps relax the law in this case.

So you see, it's not just the ladies who suffer . . .

**Mr F P, Germany.**

MR F P is very far from being the only man in this situation and he has highlighted a very real problem that can affect Servicemen and women taking their discharge in an EEC country.

We are supposed to be members of an EEC with a free flow of money and workers, who are allowed the three months unemployment benefit, yet people who have paid full Class 1 contributions for anything from three to even 30 years are denied the right to claim for what they have paid.

Where is the justice in the EEC? Perhaps one day a Euro MP will take up this issue and something will be done — I hope so.



# Sowing seeds of friendship

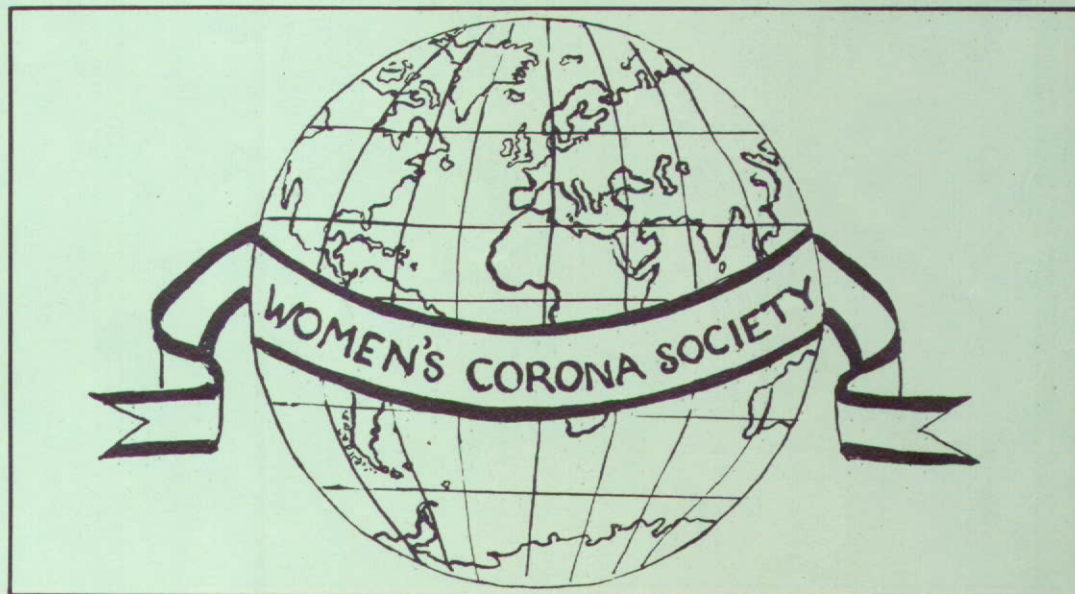
THE SUN-KISSED miles of empty, white sand fringed with palm trees and lapped by a brilliant blue sea tend, for most of us, to remain in the travel brochure pages with longing sighs and a few brief moments of daydream our sum experience of their exotic delights. The luckier few may perhaps have a blissful three weeks' holiday in paradise before coming home to live on the memories for years to come.

But what would you do if you were faced with the prospect of **living** in some faraway spot for a number of years? After the excitement and anticipation has worn off, how do you cope with all the practical considerations that must be solved before you go? Who will be able to tell you **anything** you need to know much less **everything** you need to know?

A paradise can suddenly become a very frightening prospect when it's a posting not a holiday; but help is at hand.

The Women's Corona Society was formed in 1950 to help women cope with living temporarily in another country. It was in fact established first between the two World Wars as an annual dining club for wives of members of His Majesty's Overseas Colonial Service but has only grown and expanded since adopting its present-day role of guide and friend to women overseas.

The Society is a voluntary, non-profit making, non-political organisation with members, branches and affiliated organisations in over 100 different countries. These include such far-flung outposts as the Falkland Islands, Christmas Island, Vanuata and the Seychelles as well as Kenya, Hong Kong, Botswana, Yemen, Fiji, New Zealand, Swaziland and Zimbabwe.



The emphasis is on practical help for women going to places whose culture, way of life, climate and resources are unfamiliar and far-removed from life in UK.

There are one-day briefing courses held at the Society's headquarters in London and a typical programme would include talks by people with first-hand experience of living abroad, covering the problems of settling down, adapting to new cultures and how to make the most of this new and exciting challenge. There would be a medical adviser on hand to discuss the sort of problems you can expect and to give advice on precautions and lifestyle to adopt in order to cope.

Perhaps the most important and valuable part of these briefings, though, is the opportunity to have individual sessions with someone who knows the country you are going to well and who has up-to-date knowledge of the present conditions there.

If there are difficulties in attending courses in London, the Society offers a postal briefing or, if there is a great demand, courses can be arranged outside London.

And the help offered by the Corona Society doesn't stop there. The overseas Branches do their best to help members feel at home as quickly as possible when they arrive in the new country. They arrange social events and some even maintain 'survival kits' to help newcomers in the early days.

Think of the reassurance you would get from such a service if you were suddenly to be posted to Zimbabwe for example with little or no idea of what life there can be like. There would be very few other Service families you could turn to for help — Zimbabwe is a far cry from Aldershot or Osnabrück — and much of the excitement of such a posting would be overshadowed by the worries and fears you might have.

Of course, many of the places the Women's Corona Society knows about will never directly affect Service families' postings but the Society also runs its own Women Speakers' Service. This is a panel of speakers who are available to organisations (such as wives' clubs) who would like interesting talks from women with personal knowledge of other countries, customs and cultures. The service is free but organisations are expected to pay travel and other expenses for the speakers.

Membership of the Society costs £3 and this not only entitles you to the benefits of help and advice on a move but also opens the door on the Society's own children's escort service which could be a godsend when your children are not travelling the normal Service charter routes. Parents pay out-of-pocket expenses plus an administrative charge for this service but the children are collected from the school or airport at the beginning and end of the holidays, are put safely on the next stage of their journey and are, if necessary, accommodated overnight.

The Society welcomes any woman who is interested and sympathetic to its work, wherever she may be living and offers friendship and contacts around the world in return. Mrs Mary Walsh Atkins, the Society's President, put it like this:

"Some years ago in an antique shop, I saw a plate made of old Devon Pottery and bought it because the words inscribed on it seemed appropriate to the work we do. Around the rim of the plate was the legend 'A man may travel thro' the world and sow it thick with friendship'. Substitute the word 'man' with 'woman' and the whole purpose of Corona is accurately summarised."

For full details and more information write to Women's Corona Society, 50 Eland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5DH. Tel: 01-828 2652/3.

## OCCUPATIONAL ASTHMA STUDY

The Industrial Injuries Advisory Council are looking at links between occupational asthma and sensitising agents which people are likely to come into contact with during their work.

They are reviewing the terms under which occupational asthma is prescribed as an industrial disease.

Occupational asthma is already prescribed for work involving exposure to any of 7 sensitising agents.

These are isocyanates, platinum salts, epoxy resins, solder flux, proteolytic enzymes, laboratory animals and flour or grain.



**LIVING OVERSEAS**

ONE-DAY COURSES

1983



**SOLDIER** Exclusive:  
Words: GRAHAM SMITH  
Pictures: PAUL HALEY



**T**HE SWISS GUARD look peaceful enough now in their eye-catching blue, red and yellow uniforms as they stand sentinel at salient points of Rome's 108-acre Vatican City, the world's tiniest state, to be admired or simply gawped at by millions of tourists every year.

But 356 years ago, 189 of them were slaughtered to a man in defence of Pope Clement VII as 20,000 German and Spanish mercenaries sought to conquer the

◀ One of the guards answers a query from a passing tourist at St Peter's.

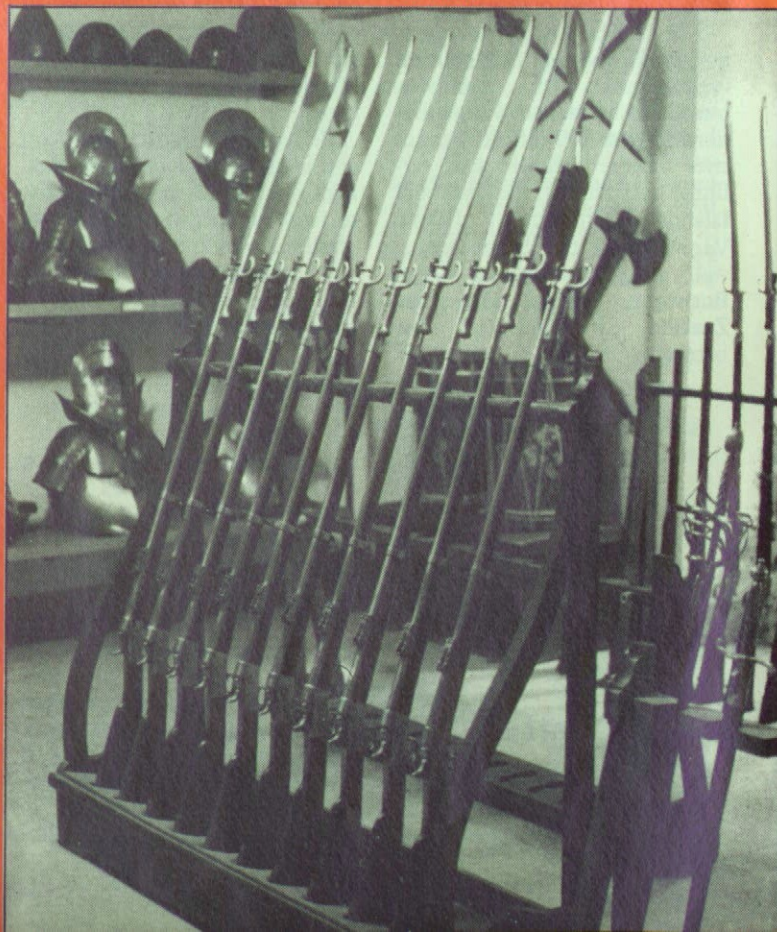
Young recruits undergo 15 days' public duties training.

Eternal City.

The Swiss made a tactical retreat, formed a hedgehog position near the Obelisk and then withdrew into the church, the last of their number falling in front of the altar. A gallant delaying action that enabled the Pope to flee to safety.

Since then, the Swiss Guard have given unquestioning, loyal service and have never been involved in any such action since.

Muskets and bayonets, in the armoury. ▶



# GUARDS OF THE SMALLEST STATE



But two years ago, Captain Alois Estermann was. Now the Guards' second-in-command he was travelling behind Pope John Paul when the Turkish would-be assassin's bullet struck the Pontiff on that fateful May day.

Now Major Estermann, aged 28, he made the front covers of topical news magazines around the world as he tended the stricken spiritual head of the Catholic church.

Nowadays, there are 100 Swiss Guard resident at the Vatican including four officers, five senior NCOs and 18 junior NCOs.

SOLDIER's request for a brief tour was granted; a behind-the-scenes look at the quiet world of

The fine detail of a splendid museum example of an old officer's body armour and helmet.

the Guard which was founded in 1506.

There, young Guardsmen were carrying out their 15-day basic training with halberds.

Across the cobbled quadrangle was the Museum housing splendid breastplates and helmets of armour, halberds and bayonet muskets in racks — and modern automatic weapons including the 9mm Hispano-Suiza automatic rifle.

There is a small range within the complex where rifles are fired by the volunteers who must, by

An impressive array of body armour in the armoury. ▶

statute of recruitment, be Swiss, Catholic, unmarried, at least 174 cm tall, in good health and have completed initial military training in Switzerland. In addition, the guards, who must be under 30, must have an impeccable character. Service is at least two years but can go on up to 20 years.

When they are not in the public eye they do have time for hobbies. The two most popular are the football club and the 25-strong military guard band. For while the history of the drummers and fife-players dates back to the formation of the Swiss Guard, the military band is comparatively young, just 70 years.

The role of the Swiss Guard was explained by Major Estermann thus: "We are a military unit with the main task of the Pope's personal protection and that of his residence. The Swiss Guard also accompanies him on his journeys overseas. I have been with him on his tours of Central America, Argentina, Spain and Portugal.

"The Guard watches over the entrance to the Vatican and keeps unauthorised people out.

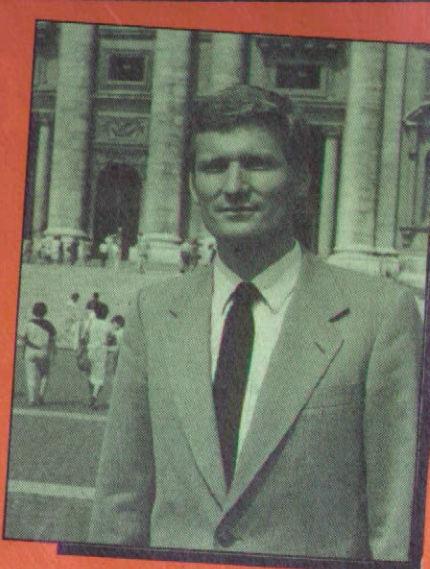
"The Guard is also given honorary tasks on occasions when foreign statesmen and ambassadors are welcomed. Then, the Guard appears in full dress uniform."

Most of the Guards speak not only native German, French and excellent English but have to attend compulsory Italian lessons when in Rome.

The authorities were reticent about their pay but said that it worked out to be about the same as a clerk working in an Italian bank for 15 years. An Italian estimates this to be about just over £400 a month, all-found.

The young Swiss Guard is entitled to one month's leave after every 11 months of service. Apart from the indoor range modern military skills are practised, too, on facilities outside the Vatican City which are available to the Italian Army.

Ten of the Guards are married and were entitled to do so after three years' service when they



Major Alois Estermann: one of the first to tend the shot Pontiff

also had to find their own accommodation. One of the sergeants is engaged to an American girl — a tourist went to admire the Vatican and liked what she saw.

Relationships with local Italian families is good, too. Many of the recruits in their early 20s have families they can visit off duty.

And so the tradition goes on for the guardians of the gates of the Vatican City, men who form what has been quaintly described in the past as the world's most peaceful military unit.

Two years ago, Alois Estermann who had been with the Swiss armoured infantry before joining the Swiss Guard maintained that tradition of dedication to duty as he hurled himself across the wounded Pope.

The Bishop of St Gallen, President of the Swiss Bishop's conference wrote to him: "At that moment you were very close to the Pope and, yourself, you were in great danger. You performed your duties in an outstanding manner and you would have given your life to the protection of the Pope. For these reasons I would like to thank you very much for what you did. We are all very happy to hear that the morale of the Swiss Guard is very high mainly because of the attitude of the officers who perform their duties to really high standards."







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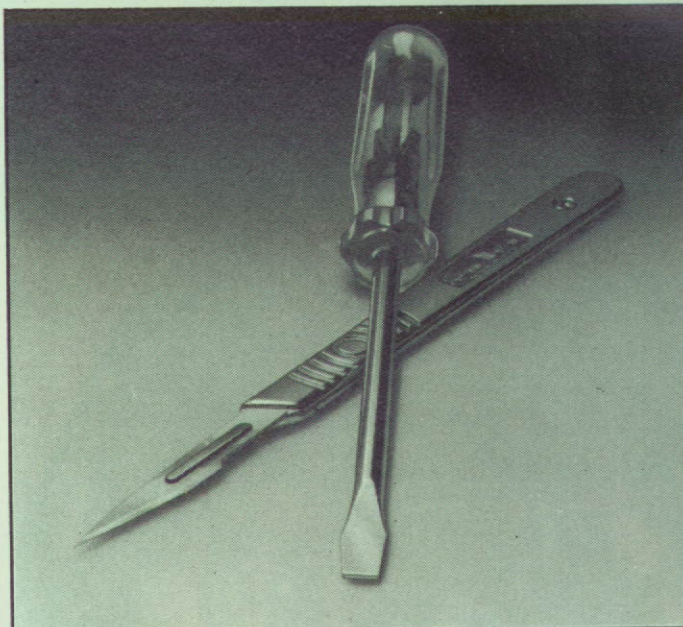
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Or for an informal discussion, phone D. L. Hall, District Engineer, on ext 4838.



### WEST BIRMINGHAM Health Authority



# VETERANS A MODEL TEAM

**I**n an early 16th century half-timbered cottage near Lutterworth in Leicestershire there are literally thousands of soldiers — dressed in the resplendent uniforms of yore as well as the more functional ones of today.

The soldiers, known as 'All The Queen's Men' are models — constructed by a firm which has set out to reproduce or better those old-time model soldiers which they say in their publicity "capture the nostalgia of half forgotten memories when summers were always hot and Christmas was the smell of spice and oranges."

Managing director of the company, Derek Cross, lives with his wife and small son in the cottage at Gilmorton. At the rear is the workshop where craftsmen produce the metal figures for export to many parts of the world.

His partner since January has been Major Alec Winning, a retired officer who is Housing and Welfare Commandant for the Army at Nottingham. And the man behind the actual sculpting and design of the figures is a former airman, Mr Alan Caton.

Derek Cross has been interested in military things since he was a small boy. His grandfather, an ex-trooper in the 3rd Dragoon Guards, taught him to sing 'Goodbye Dolly Gray' as a toddler and he graduated through school cadet forces to the Royal Engineers. Later he spent six-and-a-half years in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

He first started making models as a hobby by buying figures and painting and finishing them. This private interest still continues — in his lounge is an enormous diorama of the British square at Waterloo defending valiantly. It has 360 figures, represents four years work, and is still not complete.

The toy soldiers come in boxes containing up to eight figures. Anyone who allowed them to be

used by children today would need to have more money than sense for the soldiers cost pounds rather than pence these days and they are a good investment, providing they are kept in perfect condition in their boxes.

The firm also provides larger figures suitable for presentations and these are popular with the Army. Messes and PRI's get their figures at trade prices, are given priority with orders and visits are encouraged.

"Regimental orders go out in about a fortnight but we have had people ringing up and wanting a figure in three days for someone who is leaving and we have managed it", says Derek.

When the model making began back in 1977 Derek's previous company (he was at that time an advertising agent), concentrated on British figures. In recent times they have extended the range to include some foreign armies — one notable figure called 'Pony Soldier' bears a strong resemblance to the late John Wayne.

Other well known faces can be seen in the range. There is Prince Charles in three different uniforms (issued before the Royal Wedding) and the moustachioed ex-Bugle Major Colin Green of The Royal Green Jackets.

Alan Caton, the creative genius behind the figures, took up the work not long after he came out of the RAF. There are several other craftsmen working on figure painting and production, but he is the sculptor.

"Everything is hand crafted so no two will be exactly the same," he says. "We spend hours on research — they are very much people to us. Of course we have made mistakes but we try to minimise them as much as possible."

SOLDIER knows to its cost, the complex subject of old uniforms has many a pitfall — but the demand from the Army



Waterloo: charge of the Greys.

shows that the quality of 'All the Queen's Men' is respected.

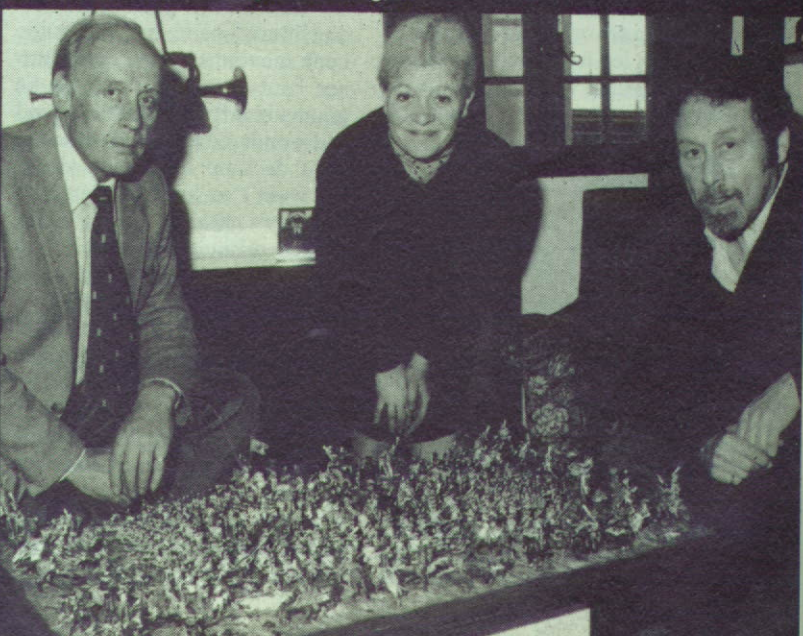
Recent additions have included figures of Falkland heroes — a Royal Marine to commemorate Grytviiken, a paratrooper and a naval gunner.

"When the marines landed at Grytviiken we made a figure within 48 hours. It was not a question of jumping on the bandwagon — we were all dead chuffed at what they had done. After all we are all ex-servicemen here except one lad who is too young."

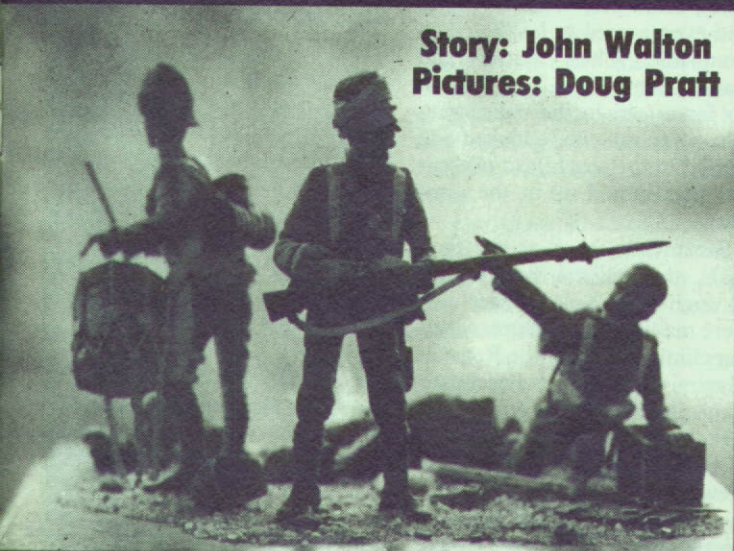
Those words of Alan Caton's sum up a firm which has months of orders in hand despite the recession. Abroad, particularly in America, the models sell like hot cakes.

"I went to a show in Chicago and I could not even get them out of the boxes before they were sold," reports Derek. "But we don't want to get any bigger because small is beautiful." Looking at the hundreds of tiny figures dotted around Old Cottage, Gilmorton, few would disagree with that.

Mr and Mrs Cross, Major Winning, left.



**Story: John Walton  
Pictures: Doug Pratt**



THE LAST ROUND

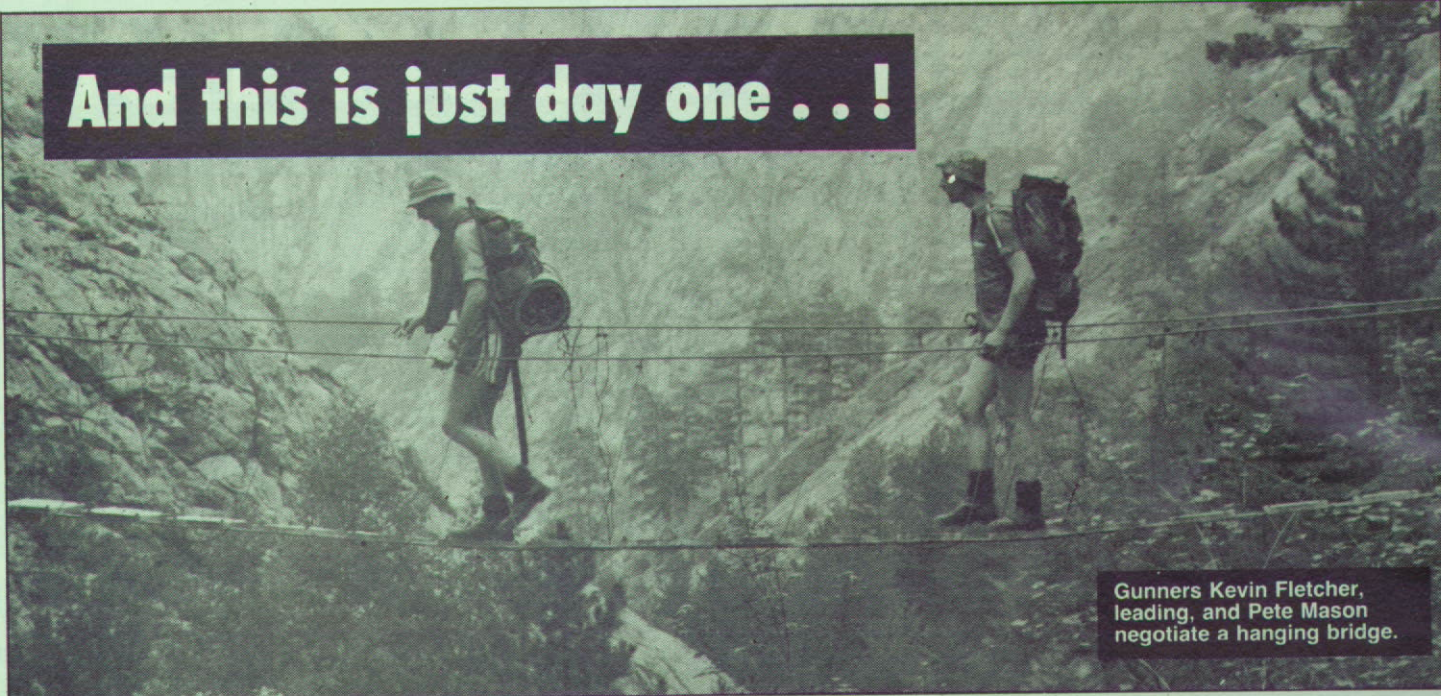
Painting the models is a delicate task.

A shot of the ever-busy workshops.

"The Last Round"



# And this is just day one . . . !



Gunners Kevin Fletcher, leading, and Pete Mason negotiate a hanging bridge.

**I**T WAS while on holiday in Corsica that Warrant Officer Two Mick Daykin of Germany based 50 Missile Regiment, Royal Artillery, first thought about taking volunteer members of the regiment to walk the 240 kilometres Grand Randonnée 20 footpath. The footpath is a national feature which runs the length of the island through the Corsican National Park from Calvi in the north to Conca in the south, winding its way up and down the slopes of the Corsican Alps.

The island's highest peak is only 8521ft but with a total of 30,000 ft to be climbed and all in the target time of 10 days, WO2 Daykin needed his volunteers to have the stamina equal to this standard of adventure training.

Thus Exercise 'Maquis Triangle' was conceived, the name coming from the thorny bush that covers a good part of Corsica.

Nine members of the regiment's 36 Battery (Special Defence Group), including the two who provided the administrative back-up set out from Menden on the first leg in a Land Rover and trailer which were to become the walking group's life support!



WO2 Mick Daykin leads Gunner Fletcher through the snow.

## GUNNERS ENJOY CORSICAN 'WALK'

Less than 24 hours later the team — most of whom were inexperienced in Alpine walking — was at a campsite in Southern Switzerland. Here they spent a few hours 'getting in the groove' by following a footpath which took them almost to the snow-line of the Alps; but they could not stay long since the ferry was waiting to take them and a boat load of frantic, arm-waving Italians from the port of Savona to Corsica.

Despite the un-Christian start at 0515, the next morning's trek into the foothills was child's play compared with what was to come a few hours later as the seven-man team, now separated from their Land Rover, climbed up the Spassimata re-entrant to the Muvrella crest at almost 7000 ft.

### THE HARDEST

"Where's this gentle pine needle littered path that the guide book mentions," remarked Gunner Paul Green miserably as he gradually left civilisation behind and wondered if he had made the right decision in coming along. He wasn't to know it, but that first day's climb proved to be the hardest of the entire walk.

Day Two again started before the world's insomniacs had even got to sleep with three steep climbs, two of them with fixed ropes, and a rocky descent into a valley — all before breakfast.

A look at the map revealed that they had covered five kilometres in three hours and the ten-day estimate to complete the walk looked dauntingly accurate, but there were no faint hearts as the

intrepids looked forward to meeting up with the Land Rover later.

Land Rover? What Land Rover? Stores were running low and hearts began to sink as they reached the RV, but there was no Land Rover to be seen. Had it crashed or broken down somewhere along the rocky road?

No, but the police had asked it to move on and the footsore walkers found it three kilometres away at the pre-arranged alternative RV. Lesson: always have a contingency plan!

The Land Rover team was to have yet another brush with the island's police when they parked on the route President Mitterrand was expected to take a couple of days later.

But when the police learned there was nothing sinister in their being there they were all smiles and even agreed to let the crew, Bombardier Chris Matten and Lance Bombardier Tim Baines, go for a spin in the police van. The scene must have looked odd indeed to the coach load of tourists that turned up at the same time.

Meanwhile, back on the footpath, the walkers had broken through the pain barrier and were making good progress, having climbed up into the Rotondo Massiv and reached Breche-de-Capitello, the highest point of the trek.

The sun, the clear air and the view from 7360 ft made all the scraped flesh and weary trudging worth while.

This was the half-way stage

and now it looked as if they would reach the end before they had expected. The prospect of an extra couple of days lotus-eating on the beach was greeted with obvious delight, soon to be dampened by a lengthy, near tropical downpour.

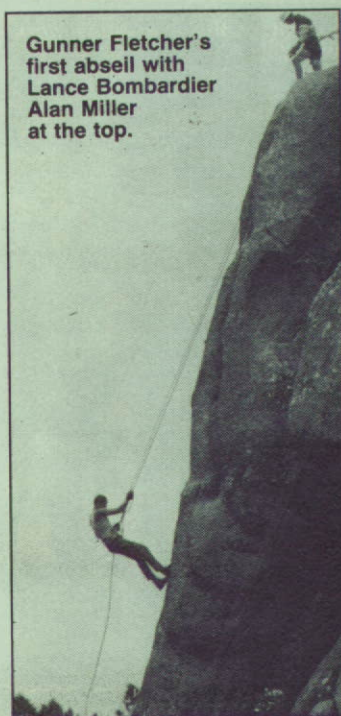
It was all down hill from here, or so they thought, but the straight line graph in the guide book seemingly took no account of inclines on the way down and the walkers found themselves on finger tips and toes heading for heaven again.

Heaven, in the earthly sense, the team finally reached on the eighth day of the expedition when they arrived at Conca.

Hot showers all round first, but then they got down to the serious business . . . windsurfing, snorkelling and abseiling.

● From a report by WO2 Daykin.

Gunner Fletcher's first abseil with Lance Bombardier Alan Miller at the top.





# A FACE TO REMEMBER

**D**AVID LANGTON, the actor, is well used to playing famous people, like Asquith and Mountbatten, and was delighted when asked if he would lend his voice to portray the former Prime Minister in "The Heart of The Nation" Son et Lumiere currently in production for SSAFA on Horse Guards Parade, writes **Peter Howard**.

He is also lending his now world famous vocal tones to Wellington's bootmaker a little earlier in this spectacular, but the actor can be forgiven if he finds the script as it affects World War Two giving extra personal interest.

During 1940-45 David Langton had a role which was long-running to say the least — a soldier for the duration, so to speak. He had an under-study task at the Aldwych Theatre, London, following a tour of the Provinces in the lead in "French Without Tears", when he decided to join up. Not without some heartache where his mother was concerned, for one brother, Donald (now deceased) had already joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and another brother, Cecil joined the Royal Tank Regiment. He, sadly, was killed in an accident in training.

David Langton joined the Royal Artillery and after serving with an anti-aircraft battery in Sevenoaks, was commissioned and given instructional tasks at Deepcut and Arborfield in training regiments.

Later he joined the Northumberland Hussars as a captain and troop commander (the regiment had a dual role: anti-aircraft and anti-tank) when they returned from the Middle East. Then came North West Europe and he finished as a major.

"I didn't see hand-to-hand combat or anything like that. We were bombed once or twice", he says in a truly matter of fact way and modestly and politely declines to discuss his mention-in-despatches.

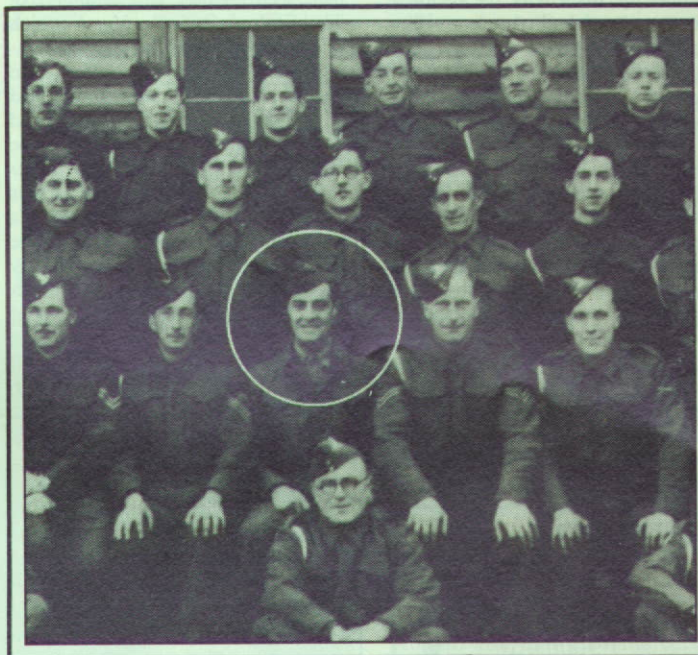
He did not follow the route to ENSA. "I thought about it — but then thought I was young and fit and stayed with what I was doing.

"It was, I recall, a good time. Not good in the sense of warfare, obviously, but I felt so well, I

enjoyed being so fit and there was a lot of responsibility training and dealing with non-commissioned officers.

"I'm not sure I was a tremendous success in every respect. I probably worried too much about the men. Perhaps I was too kindly — but I did concern myself that they should get leave if they needed it, and it worried me if they didn't get it. That sort of thing. I'm sure one or two did 'con' me, but not the majority".

On leaving the Army, the



## 'We have good cause to be proud of our forces'

theatre was quick to give David Langton an early chance to reclaim his search for fame. Now, of course, when people see his face they think immediately of Bellamy and Upstairs, Downstairs.

"It is almost like a curse, a nice curse, mark you", he says with a smile. "I know how Larry Hagman and Telly Savalas feel in terms of JR and Kojak".

Yet, accepting that this particular role in a TV series still winging round the world brings instant recognition, what does Mr Langton regard as a career highlight in the personal sense?

"I played Pastor Anderson in Shaw's Devil's Disciple on stage with Tyrone Power. That got

good Press and I enjoyed that; then there was a film with Paul Newman "Quintet" — a bad film, bad Press but it was a highlight because of the experience at that level.

"Then 'Witness for the Prosecution' with Ralph Richardson, Diana Rigg, Donald Pleasance. I got a kick out of that. Appearing in the USA in 'Charles and Diana — Royal Romance' was different. It was presumptuous of me to play Lord Mountbatten. It is a very strange feeling — but you know, you can't reproduce people of his stature. You just can't copy them!"

Strange, too, how most people instantly regard David Langton

as being the epitome of the truly-English Englishman. Especially when he was born in Scotland, in Glasgow.

Yet he has played so many "upper crust" parts. "I played what is known as a 'bent copper' once, but not many villains. A few near-villains. It might be something to do with my 'plummy' voice and good hairline", he said with a grin.

Soon he will be seen on tv screens again, in a drama which, as a 'pilot', could turn out longer lasting. He plays a company chairman; knighted of course!

In the meantime, David Langton hopes SSAFA enjoys maximum benefit from "Heart of the Nation". "It is quite an experience, Son et Lumiere. I saw my first in Rome, some years ago and without doubt the work of the lighting men is every bit as important as the actor's voice".

He is delighted so many of his fellow actors and actresses have joined in — "what a cast! I can't think of a commercial enterprise in this country that could get so many stars together at once".

He thinks, too, the still-fresh memories of the Falklands will help the endeavour.

"It was something typically British, but something we hadn't seen for a while. Not pride in the sense of victory as Nazis would have seen it, not pride in killing — but an overall sense that something had to be done and our Forces did it well. We have good cause to be proud of our Forces".

Those ex-soldiers who may view David Langton as an officer who was too kindly will be pleased to note he hasn't changed. Along with the other stars his services for the Horse Guards spectacular are free.







# On the Record

## with Rodney Bashford

### REGIMENTAL BAND OF THE 16TH/5TH THE QUEEN'S ROYAL LANCERS

Conductor: Bandmaster D. Phyll  
Music Masters MMC 0597

Here is a record aimed, judging from its programme, at the regiment itself and its Comrades Association. Very good value though for all band buffs and of course old cavalymen in particular.

Some regiments always seem to have a good band and this is one of them. As an old Lancer myself, if of a junior variety, I particularly enjoyed Mr Phyll's interpretation of Suppé's overture *Light Cavalry*, and the band's performance of it. I know it's a party piece with cavalry bands but so often it is all sprockets and sump-oil rather than sabres and spurs. The opener is by the trumpeters with *Fanfare Royale* by Major Jackson, a former Queen's Bays and Royal Horse Guards director of music. The quick marches are over-recorded but, as I say, serving a special purpose in this case. They are *Old Comrades*, *Sons of the Brave*, *Holyrood*, *Thin Red Line*, and *Old Grey Mare*. The latter had to be included, as did a well played *Post Horn Galop* and *With Sword and Lance*. Goodbye Dolly Gray, *Soldiers of the Queen*, and a sung version of the traditional stable song, *My Old Stable Jacket* are all welcome, as are the rarely heard on record regimental quick and slow marches *Scarlet and Green* and *Queen Charlotte*.

From Assaye Barracks, Tidworth,

Hants (cassettes) and from Music Masters, 28 St Lawrence Drive, Eastcote, Pinner, Middx (discs). £4.50 plus 65p p&p. NB Price increases wef 1 September to £5.00.

### MUSIC OF THE ROYAL YEOMANRY

Band and Trumpets of the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry  
Conductor: R A Walthew

The musical programme by a regiment so romantically named, and with so romantic a past, should in some way reflect its heritage. Mr Walthew, whose grandfather's music was familiar to me in the halcyon days of my youth, has chosen the concert march as a means of spanning the two centuries since gentlemen farmers formed the nucleus of the regiment, reinforced no doubt by any willing, horse-owning yokel eager to please the master. I do hope they knuckled forelocks to the officers rather than gave a conventional army salute.

Although the five squadrons of the regiment are stationed throughout the length and breadth of England and Northern Ireland the band, being in London, attracts ex-members of staff bands much to its advantage. With two of them at the top the band is now a fully mature and efficient unit and plays with a confidence and skill not always forthcoming from our territorial friends. For your delectation, especially those like me who are suckers for the English pastoral tradition, the programme is by



composers steeped in rural ways and influenced by our folk lore and folk music. William Byrd of 17th century Lincoln, and Gordon Jacob of Saffron Walden make a most suitable pair, as composer and arranger, of *The Earl of Oxford's March* which sets the bucolic tone for the programme. Then Sullivan, a Victorian, who nevertheless lived mostly in a world of pastoral fantasy with his poets and country policemen, fairies and merrie Englyshe roundelays; *March of the Peers* from *Iolanthe* is one of his masterpieces. Then Percy Fletcher, a true countryman, the titles of whose music evoke the very smell of hay and bruised grass; in his great march *The Spirit of Pageantry* he could almost have been writing for this band. Arthur Bliss, Gustav Holst and Malcolm Arnold, although of a more recent tradition, are from the same mould; in *Things to Come*, the march from the *Suite in F*, and from *A Little Suite* respectively we have three great examples of the march genre in which we are pre-eminent. If you add to these two fanfares on cavalry trumpets, the regimental marches of the Royal Wiltshire, Sherwood Rangers, Kent and Sharpshooters, North Irish

horse, Westminster Dragoons, Inns of Court and City Yeomanry Squadrons, The Royal Yeomanry (*A Farmer's Boy* of course), plus *Abide With Me* and *Cavalry Last Post*, you have a programme fit for Falstaff himself, who, I seem to remember, babbled of green fields down Gloucester way. From Royal Yeomanry Band, HQ, Royal Yeomanry, Lincoln's Inn, London, £5.60 inc.

### THE LIGHT INFANTRY

Band and Bugles of the 2nd Bn Band of the 3rd Bn.

Conductor: Captain R G Swift  
Music Masters MM 0596

Having come fresh (jaded rather) from three days of battering by bugles at rehearsals for the 1983 Wembley Pageant I thought I'd had enough of the Light Infantry sound to last me for the year. Not so, for this disc has some fine sounds not immediately associated with "the great green music machine", even if there is a fair amount of bugling included.

The bugle marches are all within the 140 groove, so all the notes can be heard, which was far from the case at Wembley. They are *Les Clarions Anglais* by a former bandmaster 60th Rifles, *Silver Bugles* by Lt Col Paul Neville, *Governor's Guard* by Bandmaster Leeming (2nd Bn), Plater's *Light Infantry*, and the various old regimental quick marches and doubles. On the lighter side the music and playing is especially distinguished, with a colourful *Marvin Hamlich Showcase*, Gossec's famous *Tambourin*, Ronald Binge's wistful *The Watermill*, and Laurie Johnson's regal and rousing *Vivat Regina*.

Captain Roger Swift himself provides his by now well known *Royal Celebration*, written for the 1981 Wembley Pageant, and all is brought to a close by *Sunset* and the call *No Parades Today*.

A very nice relaxed (if you can believe it) programme totally devoid of the sometimes frenetic overplay of Light Division offerings. From Music Masters or Peninsula Barracks, Winchester. £4.50 plus 65p p&p. NB Price increases wef 1 September to £5.00.

### HUMBERSIDE POLICE IN CONCERT

Humberside Police Military Band  
Conductor: Mr J G Lewis

In spite of the title of their first record "Coppertones" not a pun or sign of whimsy here; nary a Flat-Foot Floogie or coy Arresting Sounds, merely a band proceeding in the course of its duty when suddenly it finds itself in a recording studio. And since about twelve of them are WPCs I daresay most police puns would have been unseemly.

The band is at its best in three fine medleys of tunes by Hoagy Carmichael, Irvin Berlin, and Billy Joel. The marches are old hat except for Mr Lewis's own *Canberra Pro Patria*, which refers musically to those who sailed in her to the Falklands; they are *Stars and Stripes for Ever*, *The Standard of St. George*, and *The Children of the Regiment*.

Available from Police HQ, Queen's Gardens, Kingston-upon-Hull, £5.60 inc.

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# DANISH GIRLS DO THEIR BIT

**I**T IS NOT a bad life for the 300 or so girls in the Danish Army. If they get pregnant they are given time off and a uniform to fit them. Of added security they, like the officers and men, usually pay union dues to the tune of £21 a month.

The girls carry out nine months' training — five months' basic and four months' trade training — before going on for a minimum of another two years.

They usually fill jobs like clerks, typists, drivers and signallers some of the latter at Hoelte, 15 miles north of Copenhagen, where SOLDIER called at the Signals Regiment Company office.

The girls receive pay of about £570 a month before tax — up to half of it — out of which they must pay for their own food and accommodation when living off camp.

But about 40 per cent of the

girls leave the Danish Army before the first five months of service because they find conditions too tough for their needs, accommodation too spartan or because they miss their mums. They need give just 14 days' notice.

At the Hoelte Signals unit about 90 women serve there, half of them married and about 20 or so with children.

Captain Viggo Hjort, a soldier of some 30 years and their company commander, said: "How they look after their children and the arrangements they make are their problems — not mine."

"Yes, we do have girls living out with soldiers and perhaps it's not a smart idea for a private to marry a sergeant in the same company. But nobody blames them for marrying other soldiers."

He added: "But it's not very practical to be married with both parents in the Army, but they have to sort this all out. I've

found that a good female soldier can do the job every bit as well as their male counterparts.

"Every year, for instance, they go on three-day survival training exercises and the girls in their sleeping bags sleep in the same bivvies as the men. They get cold, and just like the men, try to keep warm by the stoves and fires. They go patrolling and practise ambush skills and are subjected to the usual physical and psychological tests. They also go shooting four times a year on the 300-metre range with rifles."

Private Pia Karolyi, 21 — her dad is Hungarian — has been with the Danish Army for three years and has no regrets.

"I had done basic training at school ready for leaving for an office job and then probably for an apprenticeship. This was not for me. I would have earned about £360 a month gross and I was afraid I would not get a job. I've been on exercise to BAOR but cannot go to Cyprus with our UN detachment because I am a woman and that presents certain local political and religious difficulties."

**Here's one typist who enjoys her work: L/Cpl Elsebeth Arnfjord.**



charge of three Centurions in the armoured inventory of the Danish Army.

Originally, Lieutenant Jensen joined the Army 18 years ago with the aim of getting a radio operator's licence so that she could leave and land a well-paid job with a Danish embassy overseas. But eight years ago she changed her course and line of military ambition.

"I decided radio work was not for me any more," she said. "I wanted to become second-in-command of my regiment the 1st Battalion of The Danish Life Regiment."

Currently she is adjutant of the 5th Staff Company, the administrative part of Denmark's 2nd

Zealand Brigade, and part of her experience took her to the 30-year-old Centurion tanks where she had a spell as a troop commander in charge of three such tanks and their all-male crews.

"I spent four months with them, fired the 105-mm main armament about two dozen times and both the machine guns mounted on the tank," she recalls with matter-of-fact candour.

Hille who also has eight parachute jumps to her credit — six by day and two by night — is one of seven female officers in the Danish Army. Through the rigours of the Sergeant's School — compulsory stepping stone for all aspiring officers — Hille be-

came an officer "to be among the troops."

Married to a reservist officer who is also a "tankie" but more usually farms 25 hectares they have two daughters aged five and four.

"If I had to go to war, I would; it's my job. But that would never happen because I'm too old now in terms of seniority," she says. "I am ambitious and I still want to be second-in-command of my regiment. I shall stay in the Army until I'm 60, if I'm able."

"My family comes first. At work I'm in charge of 63 men or 381 in the time of war. Seven years ago the men were not confident of my abilities; now they are."



**Story: Graham Smith. Pics: Doug Pratt**

**Annemette Sorensen (right) and Lone Nielsen undergo their basic training.**



**Private Pia Karolyi takes a break from an admin detail.**



**I**N HER 30 years Hille Jensen has been a wife, a mother of two young children — and tank commander. A troop commander in





# Courses for the Courageous

months a year and wind conditions almost guaranteeing parachuting morning and evening 365 days a year."

Barry Lillywhite is pleased that all of his courses are in such demand. On the four courses he has a total of 35 students, with the biggest contingent undertaking parachuting. The Centre is well equipped with good kit and experienced instructors. "Our aim is to introduce service men and women to the various challenge pursuits. We hope they continue their interests by joining the specialist clubs here in Cyprus and back in the UK."

Wearing the full sub-aqua swim gear and breathing apparatus, 27-year-old Vivian Morris, who is a Captain and midwife in the QARANC, was anxious to get out of the Cyprus sun and into the Mediterranean water. "The course is hard work, and we are all tired by the end of the day, but it is really good fun."

"We dive on a 'buddy-buddy' system, which is good for moral support and helps you through the tests." One of the tests most nervously contemplated by the students is sitting on the sea floor and sharing one breathing tube between two divers. "But once you've done it, you wonder what all the fuss was about", explained Vivian.

All of the training is accompanied by regular tests, and students are expected to achieve the standards required to continue the course.

Gliding is the smallest course, with just four students using a Motor Falke with its own motor and propeller to get airborne. Two airstrips are used at Dhekelia and Akrotiri and in

addition to learning the basics of simple circuits and landings, conditions are such that some useful soaring can be achieved.

For the keen glider pilot two courses are available — the introductory and the consolidation. At the end of the latter the student could be ready for going solo.

Perhaps it is inevitable that the parachute course is the one most heavily oversubscribed. The glamour, challenge, and excitement is a powerful combination.

One of the students is 23-year-old Lance Corporal Caroline Brueford, who is a State Enrolled Nurse in the QARANC, and based at Dhekelia.

"Back in the UK I couldn't get permission because it was considered too dangerous for a nurse." Now she is hooked on the sport. Caroline described her first experience of parachuting. "I was absolutely scared stiff. The instructor had to help me to let go the strut on the aircraft. But I was the only female and I had a lot to prove to the blokes."

SAC Rick Mellor, who is 27 and based at RAF Akrotiri described the fascination of the sport. "It's exhilarating, and also something completely different. Essentially you are an individual — it's completely up to you." Rick's aim is to get into the parachute display team.

Much of the time is spent on training how to pack and look after your own parachute. Sergeant Tony Rose, Royal Artillery, is the chief instructor, and he explained why the students worked so intently on this part of the course: "You'd be surprised how much effort goes into packing your own rig. You're the one who will be jumping with it."

The Centre is firmly established, and its reputation has passed far beyond the Cyprus shores. Recently Captain Lillywhite had an application from a member of the TA in the UK but the Centre is for Cyprus-based personnel only, and they are using it to the full.

Students billowing a parachute.



Captain Barry Lillywhite.

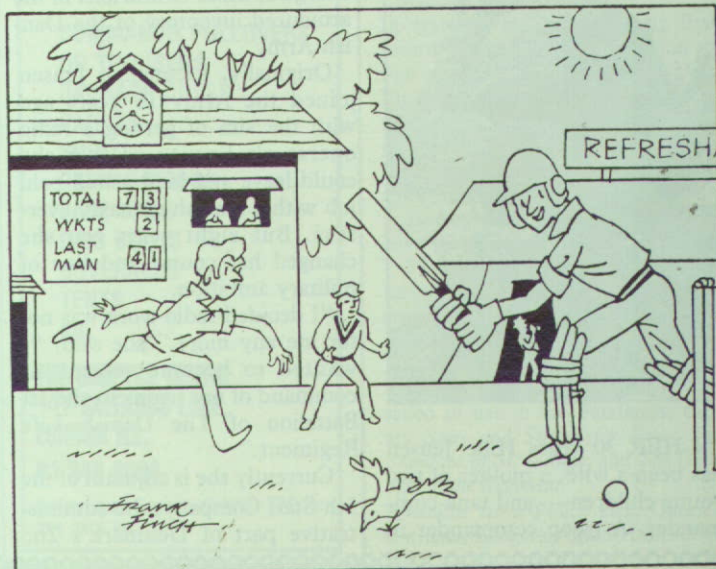
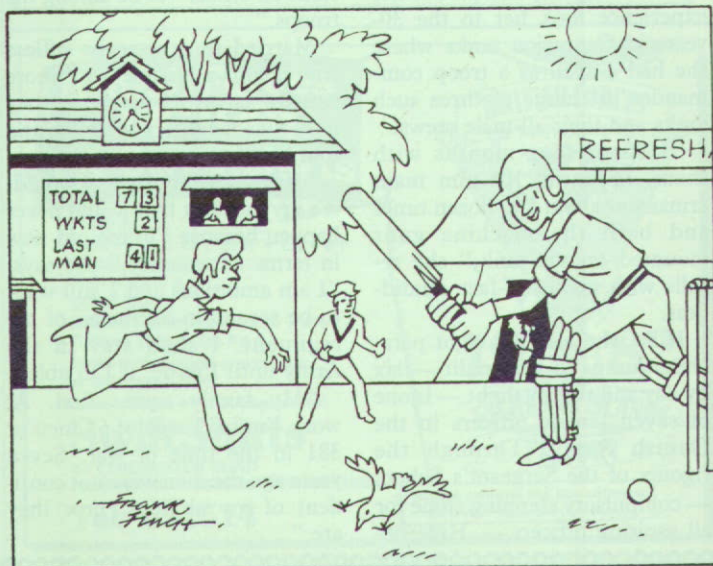
**W**ITH the beautiful weather and conditions prevailing over the Mediterranean island of Cyprus, it is no surprise that practically everyone stationed there chooses some form of outside pursuit.

To encourage a more adventurous and challenging attitude to sport, the Cyprus Joint Services Adventure Training Centre offers a choice of introductory courses for those pursuits which are 'a bit different and special', but at the same time demanding. All of the Centre's two week courses are oversubscribed.

The Centre operates from Pergamon Camp, Dhekelia, and offers courses in sub-aqua diving, sea canoeing, parachuting and gliding. Running the Centre is 36-year-old Captain Barry Lillywhite, himself an Olympic athlete. "The conditions here are fantastic — warm water ten months of the year; visibility in water very, very good; sun shining for nine

## How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences turn to page 39.







No 48

## THE BLACK WATCH

(Royal Highland Regiment)

SIX INDEPENDENT companies of Highlanders were raised in 1725 to keep the King's Peace in the Highlands.

This state continued until May 1740 when four more companies had been raised and the whole embodied into the armed forces of the Crown under their first Colonel the 20th Earl of Crawford as the 43rd Regiment of Foot.

A regimental tartan was specially designed for wear by officers and men alike. Later the pipers and "a band of music" were to wear the Royal Stuart tartan.

In July 1758 the prefix "Royal" was added to the designation of "The Highland Regiment" in recognition of "the extraordinary courage, loyalty and exemplary conduct" of the 42nd, re-numbered as such in 1749.

A Royal Warrant issued in 1768 authorised to be borne of their Colours "The King's Cypher within the Garter and crown over. Under it St. Andrew with the motto 'Nemo me impune lacesit' (No one provokes me with impunity)".

The 73rd (Perthshire) Regiment was raised by Norman MacLeod, 23rd Chief of MacLeod, in 1780 as the 2nd Battalion of the 42nd and proceeded to India. There it remained for

25 years and whilst at Dinapore in Bengal it was on 18th April 1786 formed into a separate Corps designated the 73rd Highland Regiment of Foot, their facings being changed to green.

In 1809 they lost their Highland garb not to regain it until 1881. In that year of change they were amalgamated with the 42nd, now the 1st Battalion, and become the 2nd Battalion of The Royal Highlanders (The Black Watch).

The present head-dress badge is based on a design long worn by the 42nd in outline. The Star is an elongated version of the Star of the Order of the Thistle with St. Andrew and his Cross in the centre surrounded by an oval inscribed with the motto. A thistle wreath surrounds this, above it the St. Edwards crown and, below it, the Sphinx.

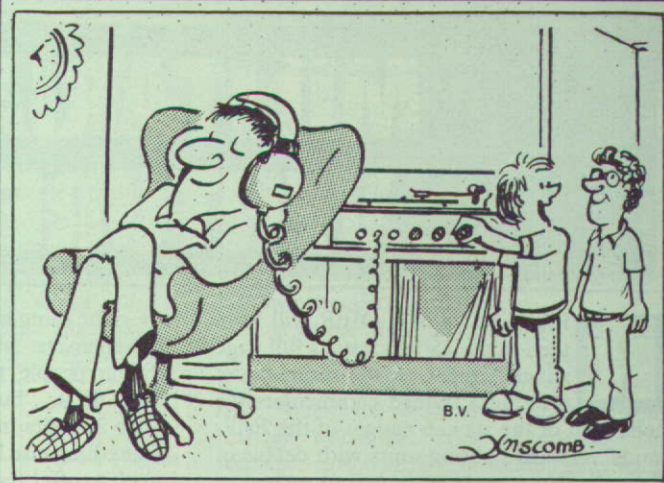
It is worn in anodised aluminium by the soldiers and in gilt and silver by officers. The Sphinx was awarded to the 42nd for their services in 1801 in Egypt and has been proudly worn on the head-dress over the years.

Previous badges have reflected to changes in title or designation and it is worthy of note that the Serjeants of the 1st Battn. wore a bi-metal badge with "42" in the centre until well into this century.

The Red Hackle became a badge of honour in 1795 when an issue of red feathers was made on parade — it is thought at Royston, Hertfordshire — and the custom probably derived from long and distinguished service in North America.

In fact, the hackle is a more familiar sight than the badge, which is worn only in the Glen-garry — head-dress for officers and bandsmen on certain occasions.

Hugh L. King



"Watch him move when I turn up the volume."

# Humour



"Hello, Dad!"



"Now, madam — which one ran off with your handbag?"



# MILITARIA VENTURE

**R**EADERS of SOLDIER will have seen in the 25 July issue a full page advertisement on the inside cover offering a framed commemorative collection of the six cap badges of the Falklands' forward fighting units with details of the gallantry awards presented to each.

This venture is the brainchild of former RSM of the 4th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, Tony Hammond who has now left the Army and formed his own company, Ammo Militaria Co. The initial and last two letters of 'Hammond' have been dropped to form the name).

Eight months ago Tony had no idea what he could do on leaving the Army but being a collector of cap badges (he has over three thousand and specialises in Scottish head-dress badges) and knowing the trade, he wondered how he could turn his knowledge and experience into a living.

Now, eight months later, he has learned the mechanics of running a business, including the mystique of marketing and is set to start a new life as a military badge dealer. As well as his launch product he is also selling regimental ties and wall plaques.

Tony has convinced himself he is doing

the right thing although he admits to being apprehensive about his future success. "Some people think I'm crazy," he told SOLDIER, "but I think I'll be all right. After 22 years in the Army I couldn't think of anything else I wanted to do. I haven't got much to offer really since all I know about is the Army."

So far he has invested £22,000 in his business including his Army gratuity, and has had 5000 copies of the Falklands commemorative frames made each costing £12.95. If the mail order side proves a success he plans then to tackle the retail business.

"I don't think this venture will ever make me a rich man," he said, "but if it makes me enough to live on I'll be happy enough."

One thing his customers will always be sure of is the authenticity of his badges, all of which are sealed patterned and as worn by the troops both today and in the past. As a member of various historical societies he cannot afford to trade in anything other than the genuine article — otherwise he would lose his membership and that's too dear a price to pay for a man who is quite passionate in his interest.



**TONY HAMMOND**  
... "if it makes me enough to live on I'll be happy enough."

## GAVEL MEANS 'THANKS'

**N**OT only did the Royal Corps of Transport receive The Worshipful Company of Carmen Viva Shield Award for 1982 (announced SOLDIER 25 July) but the Corps gave the Company a gavel in return. It is a rather special gavel, too, being made from the conrod of a Mercedes 230G four-wheel drive vehicle captured during the Falklands campaign.

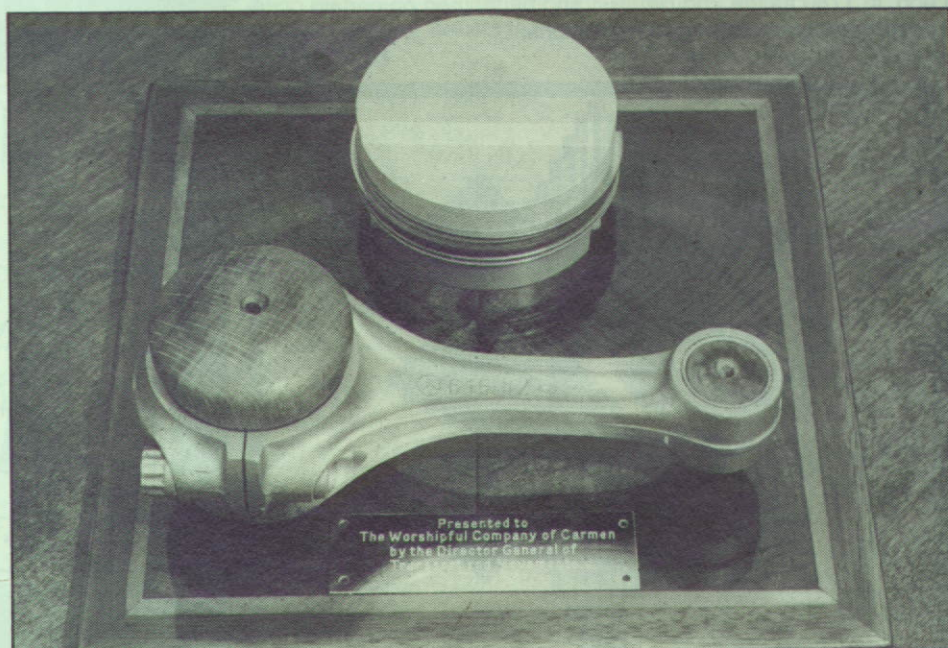
The utility vehicle was believed to be the field car of the commander of Argentine Marines on the islands and was found, badly damaged, near Moody Brook.

The gavel (pictured right) was crafted by Mr Peter Mears, who runs the woodwork

hobby section at the Junior Leaders Regiment, RCT at Colerne near Chippenham, Wiltshire, aided by Junior Drivers Raymond John and Garry Stevenson.

The Viva Shield was presented to Major General D H Braggins, Director General Transport and Movements and was awarded to the RCT for their contribution in providing transportation support to the Task Force. The citation said the campaign provided a logistic challenge of a dimension

unparalleled since World War Two: "The achievements of the Royal Corps of Transport displayed not only outstanding planning skills in the use of all modes of transport but also the ability to operate in a harsh and hostile environment in the face of the enemy. The complex demands of the operation called for a high degree of adaptation, innovation and flexibility, resulting in many unique developments in the operation and employment of military transportation."



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# ALPHA OMEGA

COMPETITION 324

**H**ERE are two groups of thirteen five letter words but in each word throughout two letters are missing. In Group A the second and fifth letters of each word have to be added and in Group B the first and last letters are needed.

In Group A the letters A to Z have to be

used for the twenty-six letters needed — every letter of the alphabet being used once — and once only. For example, the last word of group A could be AVAIL — in which case you have used up your stock of letters V and L. The word could be AMAIN. In that case M and N may not be used again. If you decide that the second

word should be SYRUP then P and Y may not be used again.

The same rules apply to Group B. If you select FOLLY as the fourth word then F and Y are out for the other words. Do not select POLLY for that is a girl's name and proper names are barred.

It is quite obvious that more than one series of words may be utterly correct — for A and for B. But you need not worry about that. What we want are two groups of thirteen words each that fit the case (in sequence as shown) — the golden rule being that in each group not one of the letters A to Z may be used twice. For example, three down in Group A could be SCOOP, STOOP, SWOOP, SPOOR, SHOOT, SCOOT, SNOOP . . . and so on. If any of these are selected then the second and fifth letters may not be used again.

Send in your two lists in the order in which they appear in the puzzle.

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 23 September. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 17 October 1983 and no correspondence can be entered into. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 324' label. In the case of ties, winners will be drawn by lots. Send your answer by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 324' label to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

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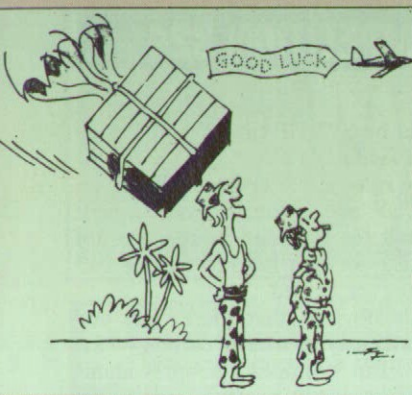
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# MAIL DROP

don, England winning Ashes, West Ham winning FA Cup in the twenties, World title fights etc.

We would be pleased to send copies to Regimental COs for use in their libraries or messes. No charge involved — quite free.

Best wishes to your 'knock-out' magazine. Super article on Henry Cooper! — **Tom T Lovesey, Civil Service Amateur Boxing Club, Civil Service Staff College, 11 Belgrave Road, London SW1.**

## UNKNOWN EVENT

I do wish SOLDIER would get it's priorities right, the front cover of the 25 July issue (World Pace Stick Championships) and two pages with pictures were devoted to an unknown and uninteresting event whereas the major event of the Infantry year, Bisley 83, in which a non-Gurkha regiment has won for the first time in six years was relegated to one line on the sports page. Why not devote more time to stories about the real soldiers of The Household Division. — **WO2 G C Williams, The Prince of Wales's Company, 1 Bn Welsh Gds, Elizabeth Bks, Pirbright.**

Thank you for your views — which prove we cannot please all of our readers all of the time. — **Ed.**

## GLORY BOYS

In the news pages of your 25 July issue, you rightly give prominence to the achievement of 1st Battalion The

Queen's Own Highlanders in being awarded the Wilkinson 'Sword of Peace' for their rehabilitation work in the Falklands in late 1982.

It should be known that 'A' Company 1st Battalion The Queen's Lancashire Regiment was under command of the Scottish battalion at that time, based at Port Howard. I mention this in no way to detract from the excellent performance of the Queen's Own Highlanders, but to put the record right in the hope that our contingent will justly receive their share of the glory, if only reflected. — **Col J A C Bird OBE, RHQ The Queen's Lancashire Regt, Fulwood Bks, Preston, Lancs, PR2 4AA.**

## HEAVYWEIGHT

May I comment that although I am full of admiration for the troops who carry those enormous weights of kit across rough country, I am appalled at the weight of the kit itself. Although the weaponry has become much more sophisticated since my day it seems that the weight of the personal kit has risen despite all the lightweight materials now available.

In particular, you recently featured the new issue resin based shrapnel helmet, weighing 2.2 kilos according to the caption. I have just weighed both an old 'soup plate' and my own brimless model of 44; each weighed 2lb 3oz; less than half the new one. — **Alex G Wright, Achnalea, Andgour, by Fort William, PH33 7AF.**

## Can You Help?

I am interested in corresponding with veterans of the Falkland Islands' war. I hold a degree in history and am interested in learning of their experiences. — **Timothy P Harrison, 3284 E Rosita, Memphis, TN 38116, USA.**

Does anyone know the whereabouts of 'Drinky' Pte Joan Drinkwater ATS, with RAPC in Droitwich 1943-46, married Harry Church also ex-RAPC. Last known area Pimlico, London, in 1949. — **Mrs Henderson (formerly ex-ATS room-mate Gin Rogers), 28 Chartwell Road, Hereford, HR1 2TU. Phone (0432) 50177.**

I am researching a history of the Duke of York's Headquarters at Chelsea and I wonder whether through your columns I may appeal to your readers for assistance. Commenced in 1801 the buildings housed the pupils of the Duke of York's Royal Military School from 1803 until 1908 when the school moved to its present location, at Dover. In 1910 the buildings were taken over by the War Department for the Territorial Army and thus it has remained — with an interlude for war ever since. This period 1801-1908 is well documented. I am trying to locate any of your readers with personal knowledge of the place from 1908 to 1950 who can help me build up a picture with personal reminiscences, photographs or other material. All letters will be promptly answered and any material sent will be carefully preserved and returned without delay. — **Col W J Scoging OBE, TA Assn for Greater London, Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea, London SW3 4RY.**

I am planning a week's holiday in Gibraltar towards the end of October with my eight year old son. Is there anybody stationed there who would like to write to me, a 29-year-old divorcee, and give me some contact

with the outside world?

I work as a clerk/typist for a firm of stockbrokers in Jersey, like walking, reading fiction and unwinding at the end of each day. I like going out and enjoying myself but have little opportunity to do so because finding 'Jimmy sitters' is a bit of a problem.

The crunch is, I am rather apprehensive about going off the Island by myself and I am looking for a man between 30 and 35, who doesn't object to a lively boy, to give me a little confidence.

I want to spread my wings but lack the courage to do so. — **Mary Ann Gray, 13 Ann Court, Providence St, St Helier, Jersey, CI.**

I recall reading of a landing vehicle equipped with a 100ft turntable ladder which was said to have been used during the invasion of Europe for scaling steep cliffs and sheer walls.

Mr Gordon Mitchell, Chief Fire Services Officer (Army) tells me he believes the vehicle was either a standard landing craft or DUKW.

Can any reader assist me in obtaining information and/or drawings of this WW2 fire related vehicle? — **Phil Glickman, 4343 Ventura Canyon Ave, Apt 10, Sherman Oaks, Calif 91423, USA.**

The aims of the Malta National War Museum are to record an important chapter in the history of Malta, to honour the memory of those who served and died in, over and en route to Malta and to illustrate the horrors of war. It is possible that SOLDIER readers are in a position to help us with our plans for expanding this Museum and making it more versatile and attractive. Abandoned in some drawer, basement or attic, there may be some relevant items, such as photographs (which, if so desired, would be returned after reproduction), war relics, uniforms, insignia, log-books, documents, diaries and books. If anyone feels inclined to help, any item sent to the following address will be gratefully acknowledged. — **Hon Secretary, National War Museum Assn, c/o 209 Anglu Mallia Junction, Birkirkara, Malta GC.**

## Wargames

South East London Wargames Group, Annual Open Day, Sunday 25 September 1983, Greenwich Borough Halls, Greenwich, London S.E.10. Wargaming demonstrations, participations, and Military Modelling competition.

For competition lists and further information, please contact Chris Hurren on 01-857 7264 or send S.A.E. to SELWG, 41 Dunkery Road, Mottingham, London, S.E.9.

## Collectors' Corner

M Harvey, Higher Sutton, South Milton, Kingsbridge, Devon, TQ7 3JG. Wants military freefall teams/para clubs/para associations patches. Will buy or trade.

R Stanley, 20 Alanbrooke, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1NA. Requires the following items: trumpet major, bugler, bugle major and all other cloth/embroidered badges related to musical side of the modern British Army. Also cap badge of 4th Queen's Hussars WW1 period. Also any information regarding 4th Queen's Hussars 1914-35 period. Letters with prices required to above address. All letters answered.

## Pen Pals

I am 36 years old, 5ft 4ins tall with brown hair and eyes and I would like to write to anyone serving in Hong Kong or America. — **B C Meadows, 386 Staines Road West, Ashford, Middx.**

My name is Carole and I am 20 years old. I am 5ft 5ins tall with brown hair and green eyes. I am an auxiliary nurse and my interests are music and reading. — **Carole Brown, 73 Worthington Lane, Newbold, Coleorton, Leics, LE6 4PD.**

I play in a bugle band and would like to hear from anyone posted abroad or who is a bandsman or bugler, aged 19 to 22. My name is Catherine and I am 18 years old. I am 5ft 2ins tall with dark hair. My hobbies are writing letters and listening to music. — **C Jackson, 22 Essington Walk, Denton, Manchester, M34 1JY.**

My name is Gail and I am 21 years old. I am 5ft 7ins tall with fair hair and I like travelling, dancing and sightseeing. — **Gail Kenyon, 8 Tones Ave, Chadderton, Oldham, Lancs, OL9 0RE.**

My name is Karen and I am 19 years old. I am 5ft 6ins tall with dark brown hair and brown eyes. I'm interested in heavy rock music, motorbikes and painting. All letters answered. — **Karen Ligmanowski, 87 London Road, Bozeat, Wellingborough, Northants, NN9 7JR.**

My name is Judith and I am 25 years old, slim and blonde. My interests are animals, travel and meeting people. All letters answered. — **Judith Silcock, 7 Churchfield, The Close, St Helen's Way, Benson, Oxon.**

My name is Dawn and I am 20 years old. I am 5ft 3ins tall with blonde hair and blue eyes. My hobbies are walking and motorbiking. I would like to hear from soldiers. All letters answered. — **Miss D Simcoe, 16 Lower St, Gt Doddington, Wellingborough, Northants, NN9 7TL.**

My name is Christine and I am 5ft 5ins tall with brown hair and blue eyes. My interests are reading, writing, dancing, music and sport. — **Christine Feay, 801 Keats Court, Lower Kersal, Salford 7, Lancs.**

I am 24 years old and my hobbies are music, dancing, clothes, writing, art and photography. All letters answered. — **Miss A Farmer, 16 Hawkins Court, Barricombe Drive, Moorfarm, Hereford, HR4 0NX.**

My name is Jacqui and I am 5ft 5ins tall. I would like to write to anyone aged 39 to 46. All letters answered if photos enclosed. — **Jacqui Webster, c/o 35 Spa View Road, Hackenthorpe, Sheffield, S12 4HA.**

My name is Dawn and I would like to write to anyone aged between 20-28. Photos appreciated. All letters answered. — **Dawn Webster, 35 Spa View Road, Hackenthorpe, Sheffield, S12 4NA.**

My name is Samantha and I am 14 years old. I would like any soldier penpals with a sense of humour. — **Samantha, 70 Empress Avenue, Woodford Green, Essex, IG8 9EA.**

We are two nannies who would like to write to anyone aged over 24. Ann is 25 years old and Helen is 24 years old. — **Ann Robinson, 2632 Lakeshore Blvd West, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M8V 1G4. Helen Anderson, 316 Willow Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.**

My name is Nikki and I am 18 years old. I am housebound with rheumatism and have plenty of time for writing letters. I enjoy meeting people, swimming, art and music. I would like to write to someone, any age or nationality. — **Nikki Phillips, c/o Cherry Tree House, 47 St Barnabas Road, Barnetby, South Humberside, DN38 6JJ.**

## Competition

Finding the answer to Competition 320, 'Fruit Salad' was a matter of logic in that, given certain conditions, you had to discover how Molly spent her £2.40 in the fruit market. The key was in establishing the series of numbers relevant to the cost of the different types of fruit (ie pears at 18p per lb; grapes at 12p and plums at 8p). Then, by increasing the cost in proportion to the number of pounds, a table would emerge showing what each shopper bought. Since Dolly bought the most grapes and Polly the most plums, it follows that Molly bought 4lbs of pears (72p), 10lbs of grapes (120p) and 6lbs of plums (48p). Total: £2.40. Prizewinners were: 1st Maj J M Andrews, Depot Hong Kong, Mil Service Corps, BFPO 1. 2nd Sgt M Holland, 5 Sqn, 39 Sig Regt, TA Centre, Oxford Road, Banbury. 3rd Mr S Wickham, 18 Wilton Ave, Bletchley, Milton Keynes. 4th Capt D S Charters, G2 Division, HQ BAOR, BFPO 40. 5th Col L Smyth (Retd), Kilbrogue, Schull, Co Cork.

## How Observant Are You?

1 Roof of door by scoreboard; 2 "S" in "WKTS"; 3 Minute hand of clock; 4 End of bat; 5 Fielder's V-neck; 6 Bails; 7 Position of ball; 8 Legs of man in Marquee; 9 Ankle-strap of batsman's left pad; 10 Front of batsman's shirt.



Recently published in SOLDIER was a letter from Mrs B L Howat enquiring about a relative killed as a Hong Kong Volunteer in 1941. A reader advised the writer to contact me, simply because I live in Hong Kong. I am sure you will be delighted to learn that with the help of the records of Mr J O Edwards of the Far East PoW Association and thanks to a dedicated researcher within the late soldier's firm, a fairly comprehensive dossier has been compiled and mailed to your correspondent.

Listening to the indefatigable Jack Edwards, who must have answered scores of enquiries during his many years in the Colony, it is evident that there are still a lot of people for whom wartime Hong Kong has a special meaning. What may, therefore, be of considerable interest to your readers is that there are available copies of a limited edition print of a painting depicting the last stand at Stanley. Completed recently by a local artist, Lieut Andy C Neilson of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) the picture, entitled 'The Lasting Honour' captures the spirit of the defence of the Colony against the overwhelming Japanese invasion forces. Write for details to Andy Neilson, 8G Cathay Mansions, 7, Tung Lo Wan Road, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong.

As far as I know, no other painting exists of this action. — **R J Smith, 5 Hiram's Villa, Hiram's Highway, Sai Kung, New Territories, Hong Kong.**

## PLAIN RULES

Over the years I have seen a few letters from subscribers in Mail Drop who use the letters MSM after their names.

May I point out that this is incorrect. These letters should not be used after a name as indeed LS and GC should not. I myself hold the medal and the rules on this point are laid down quite plainly. — **WO2 (RQMS) C Pollard, c/o UKSU, SHAPE, BFPO 26.**

## LS & GC?

I am a bit puzzled about the photo of the two Royal Scots serving in Berlin in the administration unit (27 June). You state that they married two sisters in the mid-50s and whereas the WO1 had a row of medals for his service, the S/Sgt had none on his tunic. Surely with his experience he must at least have the LS and Good Conduct Medal? — **W Smart, 84 Grance Farm Drive, King's Norton, Birmingham, B38 8EQ.**

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

## GOOD FORTUNE

The quality of top management in the Services was the subject of a recent article in a quality national daily newspaper, in which a bishop was quoted as saying that were he in trouble he would prefer to seek help from a Service chief, rather than from a brother bishop! I suspect that the Right Reverend Lord Bishop, unlike many of his fellow clergy, reads and understands the Word of God as contained in the Old Testament, in conjunction with the New Testament.

The low standards of management at all levels in civilian life, not only in industry, commerce and the professions, but also in voluntary organisations, is truly alarming. Malicious morons are found, of both sexes, evolving systems of management which can best be described as varying from 'Management by Abdication', through to 'Management by Aggravation, Harassment and Humiliation'.

Enjoy your good fortune Service-men and women, while you may! — **C T Wareing, 33 Downsall Road, Webheath, Redditch, Worcs, B97 5RP.**

## £5 ON RETURN

I wonder if anyone can answer something that has had me worried for a long time. What is the difference between the Falklands war, and the Korean war which lasted for three years and not three months? I served during the 1939-45 war as well as the Korean war: the Falklands' soldiers got £1 a day — we got nothing for 15 months in Korea. It was a lot harder war in Korea than in the Falklands and we got £5 when we got home! — **F R Dawson, 89 Wentworth Crescent, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hants.**

## SCRAPBOOK

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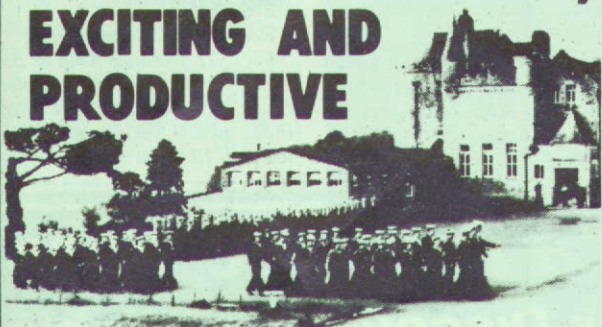
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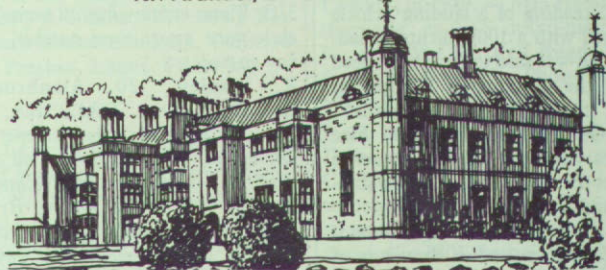
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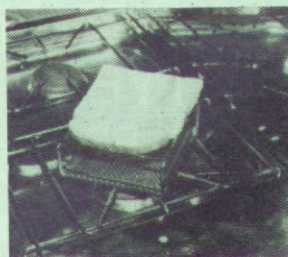
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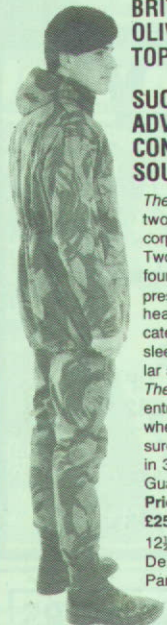
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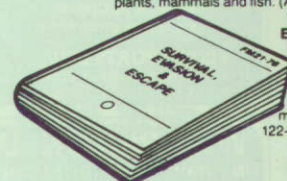
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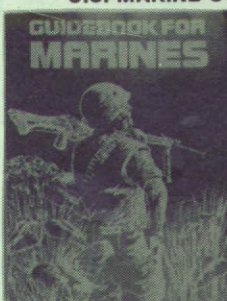
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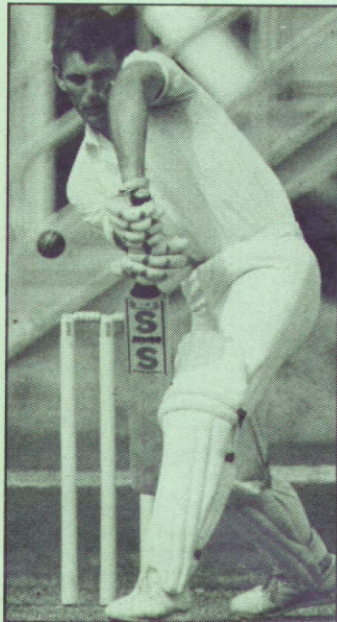
# GURKHA JAMES HAMMERS NAVY

The Army wrested the Inter-Services cricket championship back from the Royal Navy on their own turf at the United Services ground, Portsmouth. For the Army a barnstorming finish saw them outwit the Navy bowlers who had endeavoured to contain them rather than bowl them out.

Earlier in the Festival the Army had routed the Royal Air Force for only 131 runs with Staff-Sergeant Neil Willis heading the bowling figures with 3-40. On the second day the two other Services had fought a close battle with the Navy finally scraping home as the RAF ran out of overs just five runs short of the target but with their last pair at the wicket.

So the stage was set for a close encounter as the Navy opened their innings. They had accumulated 129-2 by lunch with Robinson, their experienced opener, gathering the runs patiently and cautiously.

After lunch he was joined by Hobson, who hit a brisk 42 and



**Bolus — performance praised.**

then a succession of minor scoring batsmen. In the final over, just seven short of his century, Robinson went for the sort of silly single endemic to the closing balls of one day innings and was run out. He had previously given only one clear chance — a skying ball which Captain James Dean chased only to finally put it down.

Faced with a target of 202 the Army openers, 2nd Lieutenant David Bolus (who had already taken 3-46) and Lieutenant Charlie Clark began a patient build up which took their unbroken stand to 57 by tea.

After tea the same pair came out looking for runs with something like 4.3 an over needed. Brisk running between the wickets took the score to 77 before Bolus failed to get home and was run out for 21.

This brought in the Army's latest batting find — Captain James Dean getting his first Army caps at Portsmouth at the ripe old age of 28. Dean is a Gurkha officer and has spent most of his Army career in the Far East. But for this season and next he will be at the School of Infantry, Warminster and available for Army cricket.

The run rate began to rattle along with Dean hitting the ball sweetly and hard. His boundaries were fewer because of the Navy's defensive stance but the score had reached 114 before Clark was bowled having just reached his half century.

Accompanied first by Major Tim Lerwill (6) and then by Captain Edward Gordon-Lennox, another fine hitter of the ball, Dean set about the Navy bowling and the score stood at 187 when he was finally caught on the boundary after another tremendous hit.

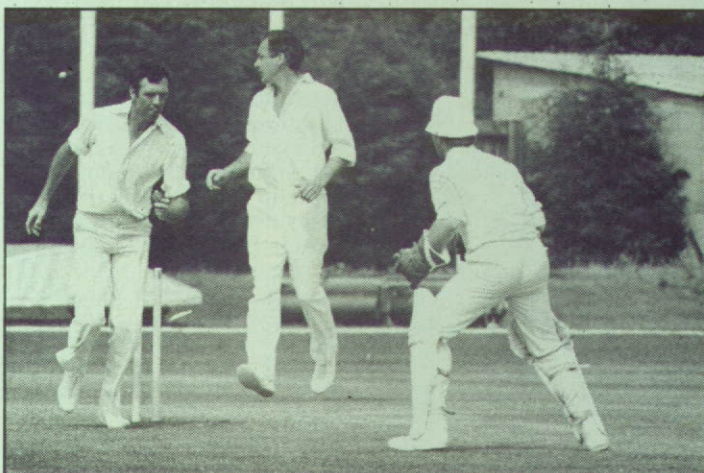
Fifteen runs wanted and more than six overs and six wickets remaining. It all looked easy but there were a few more tense moments before the Army got home. Gordon-Lennox cavalierly advancing down the wicket was caught behind for 28 and the captain, Captain Andy Stewart went for only a single.

Sergeant Steve Dove-Dixon (4 n.o.) and Captain Peter Sharland (6 n.o.) stayed together and in the 54th over a Sharland boundary brought victorious whoops of delight from the Army players in the pavilion.

Afterwards a delighted Stewart declared: "I am incredibly happy. We have worked all season for it but only in the last four or five days has it really started to gel. I'm particularly pleased with the new caps — James Dean played a match winning innings today, Laurence Flinn bowled brilliantly on Monday and kept things very tight and David Bolus played a major role with both bat and ball over both games."



Lt Charlie Clark constructing his half century. Below: The end of the line for the Navy's Robinson as he is run out.



## DECATHLON LOST

The Army lost its hold on the Inter-Services decathlon championship — finishing 125 points behind the RAF with the Navy third despite a Royal Marine taking the individual title.

Best Army performance was from newcomer, Lance-Corporal

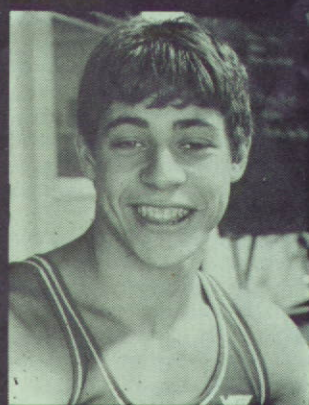
Mark Tout (2 RTR), who bettered his performance in the Army championships by 94 points to take third place with 6363. He thus turned the tables on Army champion, Private Colin Anderson who finished 37 points behind in fifth place.

## Shawn is new Swim Star

Seventeen-year-old Sapper Shawn Morgan, 1 & 3 Training Regiments, Royal Engineers is the Army's new star in swimming. He has already broken three Army records after only a few weeks in the Army and promises, in the future, to provide some stiff opposition to the strong Navy and RAF swimmers.

At the recent Army Swimming Championships, Morgan set new records in the 800 yds, 400 yds and 200 yds freestyle events and came second in the 800 yds and 400 yds at the Inter-Services. (See next issue for a full report on these championships.)

Clearly distance swimming is his forte but he told SOLDIER that now he is in the Army he wants to take advan-



tage of all the facilities to develop his skills in other sports.

"I'd like to do more running and also the (swimming) biathlon and triathlon," he said. "Later on I might also have a go at the pentathlon — I'll see how things go."



## CYCLING FESTIVAL

ARMY WHEELERS  
CHASE THE RAF

SO IMPROVED WAS the standard of Army cycling at this year's Army and Inter-Services Cycling Festival, that it even frightened the Royal Air Force. But still the Army could not wrest the premier position from the Junior Service who field first-class and international cyclists in their team. The RAF won all three Inter-Service events — the track omnium, the ten and the 50 mile time trials.

Inter-Corps champions are the Royal Engineers, 40 Support Group who won the 18 mile 3-up team time trial in 42 minutes 26 seconds, beating the Navy by just 15 seconds. It was this team from Willich in Germany which

gave the RAF such a run for their money.

The dynamo behind 40 Support Group is Corporal John Forbes, who has brought his team up to competition level in just seven months, training an hour each night and at weekends. His biggest star is young Cornishman, Sapper Kim Penhalyrick who won the 1 Km Time Trial in 1 min 23.9 secs, the Army two-lap sprint (beating his mentor Forbes in the final) and the Army pursuit.

With retiring modesty, Penhalyrick said he was just lucky to overtake Forbes on the bends in the two-lap sprint, but it was easy to see where his strength lay. "He's very strong," said Corporal Forbes, "He's easily got me beaten now."

In the Points Race — an Inter-Services track event — 40 Support Group kept the pressure on the RAF over the 20 laps taking it in turns to keep the speed up. Towards the end the race was really just between two riders, but the RAF finished just one

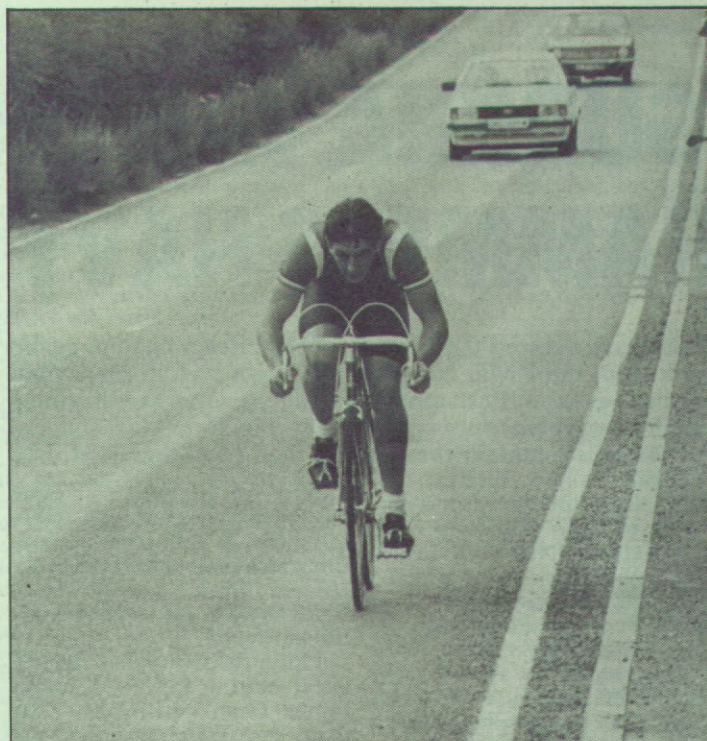
◀ Corporal John Forbes, 40 Support Group's motivator.

sometimes heavy showers.

Half-way through the afternoon all attention focussed on the important doubles match between the Army and RAF first pairs. Captain Jeffrey knew he was up against the powerful form of the RAF Number One, Squadron Leader Peter Harding, who had narrowly beaten him the day before. His partner, Lieutenant Nigel Watts, AAC had not been playing at his best during the morning.

In the first set, which saw more breaks of service than holds, Jeffrey served first on an outside clay court and, against the pattern of the set, held it to give the Army a useful boost of confidence. This was shortlived though, the RAF equalising at 2-2 as the light deteriorated. As the rain came Jeffrey had a hard struggle to hold his second service game with several deuces before he managed to clinch it. The Army went on to win the set 6-3, Jeffrey serving the first ace of the match.

Halfway through the second set rain forced the match indoors to a surface which



Sapper Kim Penhalyrick, the new cycling find from Cornwall.

point ahead of the Army.

Even the RAF praised the Army's efforts on the track. Team Captain Sergeant Martin Ellacott told SOLDIER: "They've really come on a lot this year and it's been a great festival. Quite frankly, up until now it was plain sailing for us and we would win easily every year but this time we've had a struggle. If the Army keep to this sort of standard from now on, they've got a great future."

In the Junior Championships the Army Apprentices College, Chepstow took first place — winning four out of the eight events.

seemed to suit all four players. Watts particularly flourished, playing a brilliant service game to equalise at 4-4 and proving very strong in returning a barrage of RAF lobs and volleys.

As a pair the two soldiers play very effectively. Jeffrey is the more experienced player but the youthful Watts athletically covers the whole court. Jeffrey served at 5-4 down but despite the teamwork lost the game.

In the final set with a break each, the score was neck and neck until 5-5 when Squadron Leader Carson held his serve giving the RAF the advantage. Jeffrey then took all the pressure as he served to stay in the match. Over-anxiety caused him to make crucial unforced errors especially in the volleys. One doubtful service call could not have helped his confidence and he went under to give the RAF the rubber.

The Army's second pair, Major David Hughes and Lieutenant-Colonel Barry Reeves, both RAEC, got the clincher for the Army in their match against the Navy, winning 6-1, 6-2.

Giving a good performance in second place was the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport who can take credit for challenging the Apprentice Colleges who for so long have dominated Junior Army cycling. They forced AAC Harrogate into third place.

## SPORTS SHORTS

## SAILBOARD

Major Nick Ross from 8 Field Workshops, Colchester, took the Sailboard Division 1 (flatboard) title in the first ever Inter-Services Sailboard Championships at Portland.

★ ★ ★

## CANOEING

The Army's Sergeant Steve Jackson with his partner, Alan Williams, won the K2 10,000 metres title in the World Canoe Championships in Finland. He was also the first British paddler home (in fifth place) in the 1000 metre K1 event.

★ ★ ★

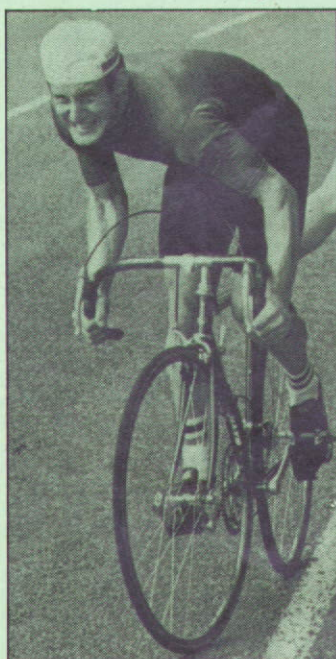
## SAILING

Redcoat, the Army Sailing Association's Contessa 34 yacht, won the Contessa Cup in the Royal Yacht Squadron Regatta at Henley.

★ ★ ★

## MODERN PENTATHLON

Captain Mike Mumford, the Army and Combined Services Modern Pentathlon champion, finished 24th in the World Championships in West Germany.

ARMY'S  
COURT  
VERDICT

The Army successfully defended their Inter-Services Mens Tennis Championship at Wimbledon winning by nine rubbers to eight over the RAF.

Until last year the Army had not won for 31 years and were only 'cautiously optimistic' about retaining the trophy this year. Not so lucky were the Army women who tied second with the WRAF.

The first day of the two-day championships was devoted to the Singles and at the end of it the Army were already in the lead with five wins even though Number One player, Captain Mark Jeffrey, lost to his RAF counterpart.

The second day dawned overcast and several of the matches were interrupted by



## BARLOW RUNS HIS BEST YET

Young paratrooper Private Tony Barlow, in his first full season of track athletics, ground down a formidable field in blazing sunshine at Aldershot to take the Army 10,000 metres title. Twenty-year-old Barlow from the Parachute and Airborne Forces Depot had already turned in some fine performances this season and he celebrated the best yet by heading straight for the steeplechase water jump and sitting in it.

Seventeen runners started in the gruelling event and a leading

pack of nine gradually dwindled to five.

After 13 minutes the reigning champion and record holder abdicated — Captain Glen Grant, Royal Artillery, came off the track and explained: "I have had a cold all week and I hoped it had gone — but it hadn't."

For lap after lap Warrant Officer 2 Ted Turner, recently returned from Hong Kong, led the way in the Hong Kong type heat, but with six laps to go he began to wilt and it was a two horse race between Barlow and Sergeant Billy Cain from Army Apprentices College, Harrogate.

The two men had battled out

the final stages of the Army Cross-Country championship in the Spring. On that occasion Cain won but this time when Barlow made his move two laps from home there was no response.

Barlow won by more than 100 yards in a time of 30 minutes 50 seconds — about a minute behind Grant's record.

After cooling down the new champion told SOLDIER: "It was horribly hot out there and this was the first time I had run the distance. When I went I didn't realise Cain had gone or how far I had pulled away from him."

▶ The strain shows on Private Tony Barlow's face.

## ANDERSON WINS THE DING-DONG DECATHLON

With the two pre-event favourites both out of the running this year's Army decathlon championships developed into a ding-dong battle decided on the last event, the 1500 metres. Eventual winner was Private Colin Anderson of 522 Company, Royal Pioneer Corps but he was challenged all the way by a complete newcomer to the sport, Lance-Corporal Mark Tout of the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment.

Corporal Neil Killen, the Army record holder, injured himself in practice the day before so did not take part. Then last year's winner, Bombardier Tegid Griffiths of Princess Marina College, injured himself on the high jump and withdrew.

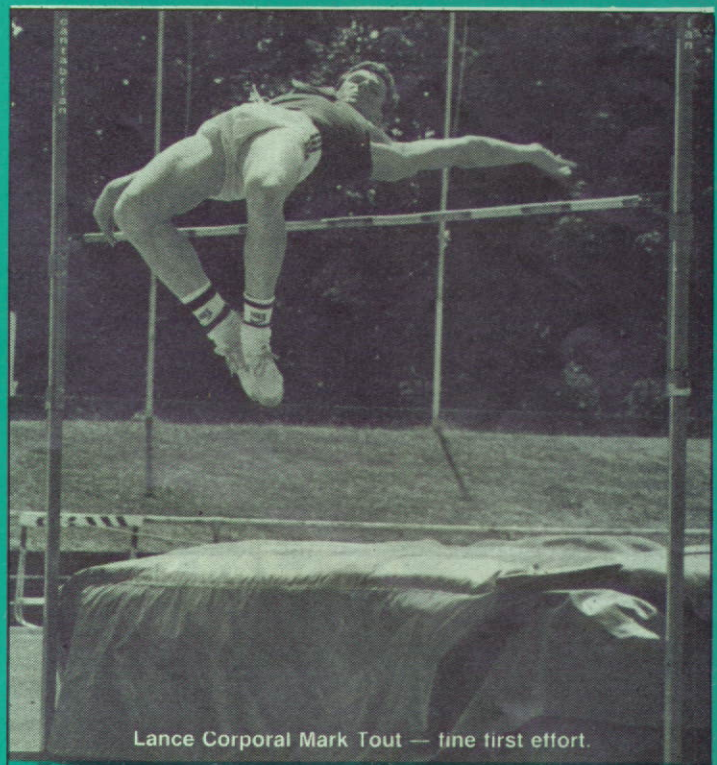
Meanwhile Anderson and Tout were neck and neck all the way. They were level after one event, Anderson went 130 points clear on the long jump but Tout

gained 132 points on the shot for a two point lead.

Tout consolidated his lead to 28 points on the high jump but Anderson's 400 metres speed gave him a first day total of 3371 to Tout's 3349. He slightly increased his lead on the 110 metres hurdles but a discus throw of 30.82 metres saw Tout pull back to within a single point.

The two men tied on the pole vault but Tout's field sports advantage saw him win the javelin to lead by 39 points with only the 1500 metres to go. Anderson needed to win by about six seconds.

For the first two laps Tout stuck to Anderson but eventually the Pioneer started to move away and he finally clocked his best ever time of 4 minutes 17.3 seconds to win by 23.3 seconds. Final aggregates were Anderson 6388 and Tout 6269.



Lance Corporal Mark Tout — fine first effort.

Afterwards Anderson declared: "Having someone at your shoulder like that makes for better scores and this is my best yet. But I knew that I had to go out and win that last event."

Tout, a member of the British

bobsleigh team for the Winter Olympics, said he had surprised himself. "It was the first time I had done a decathlon and I'm very pleased. I had never done a 1500 metres before so was not sure how to run it."

## ARMY SOCCER PLANS

The Army Football Association plans for the 1983/84 season include an outline programme for the Senior side much the same as before, although more than a dozen Combined Services and Army Representative matches will be staged at the Military Stadium, Aldershot, during the coming season.

Major changes are, however, planned for Youth football with a reorganisation of their three main cup competitions.

Youth football will sponsor three cup competitions — The

Army Apprentices Challenge Cup (Final at Aldershot on 1 December 1983), The Army Junior Leaders/Soldiers U17 Challenge Cup (Final 22 March 1984) and the Army Junior Leaders/Soldiers U18 Challenge Cup (Final 15 December 1983 at Aldershot).

The Combined Services will play five matches — three at Aldershot Military Stadium. They will open their programme with the visit of Southampton F.C. to Aldershot (8 November 1983), travel to Catterick Milit-

ary Stadium for the annual fixture versus Middlesbrough F.C. (30 November 1983), entertain the Football Association, at Aldershot (11 January, 1984), before playing hosts to the French Armed Forces, in the Kentish Cup (25 January 1984) and visiting the Belgian Armed Forces (venue to be announced — 8 February 1984).

The Inter Service Championships will be staged, on successive Wednesdays, from 14 to 28 March 1984. The Army will visit the Royal Air Force on 21 March before entertaining the Royal Navy on 28 March.

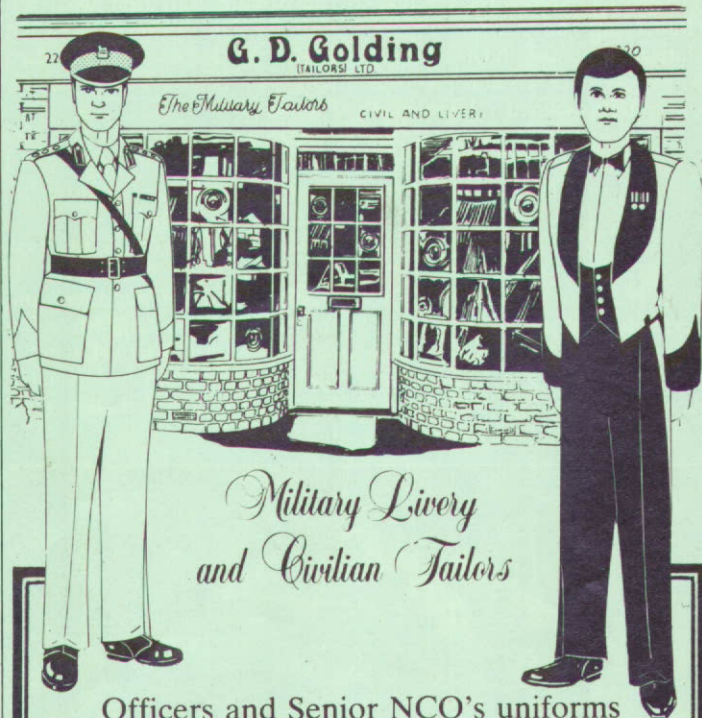
In the South West Counties Championships, the Army will visit Devon F.A., at Exeter on 13 December 1983; visit Cornwall F.A., at Saltash on 22 February 1984, play Somerset and Avon on 28 February 1984 (venue to be decided) and wind up their group involvement with the visit of Gloucestershire F.A. on 13 March 1984.

The Army (UK) Cup Final will be played on 7 March 1984 and the Army Challenge Cup Final on 11 April 1984 — both ties will be on the Military Stadium, kick-offs 1430 and 1930 respectively.



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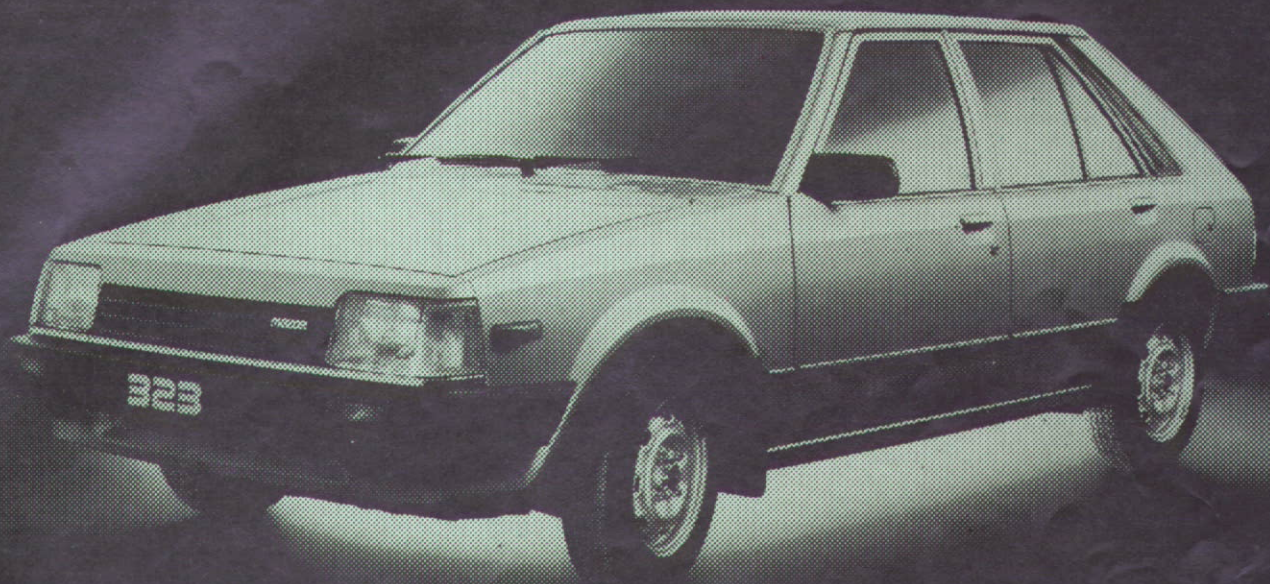


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