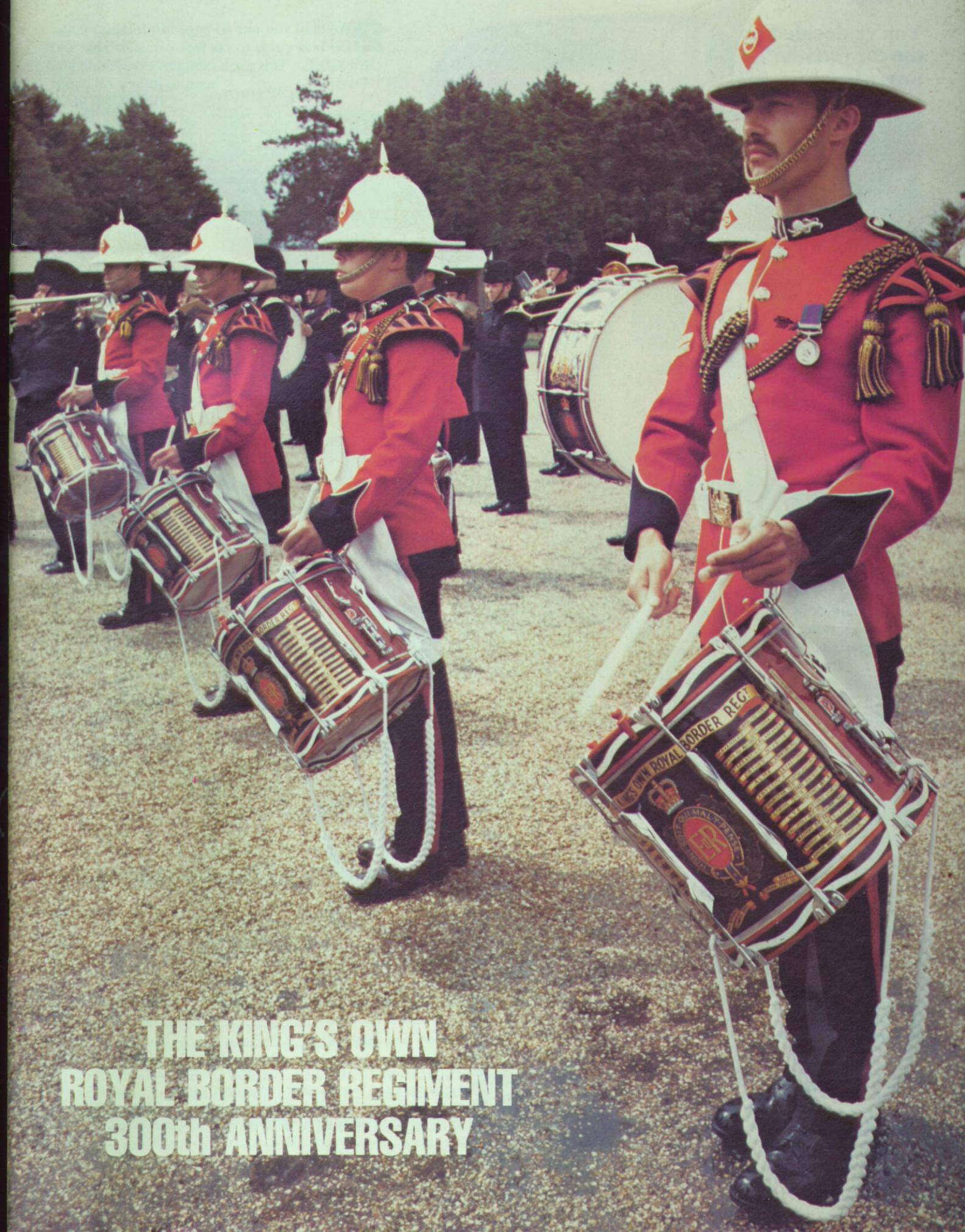


Soldier

25p

JULY 1980



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300th ANNIVERSARY

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Soldier



FRONT COVER

The Band of The King's Own Royal Border Regiment who will be at this month's Tercentenary Parade when Princess Alexandra presents new Colours to the Regiment.

Picture by Doug Pratt.

REGULAR FEATURES

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BACK COVER

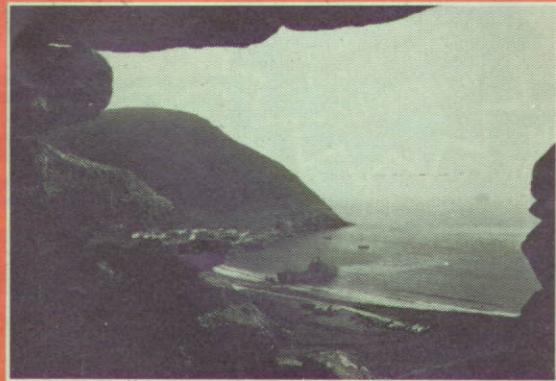
Another view of the King's Own Royal Border Regiment, this time on street patrol in Newtonhamilton, Northern Ireland, stray dog in attendance.

Story — page 6.
Picture by Paul Haley.



Soldier

32 One of the remotest outposts in Britain plays a key role in defence training.



50 A new sport takes off in the Army.



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Editor: BOB HOOPER (Ext 2585)

Deputy Editor: JOHN WALTON (Ext 2586)

Feature Writer: MICHAEL STARKE (Ext 2590)

Art Editor: JOHN RUSHWORTH (Ext 2589)

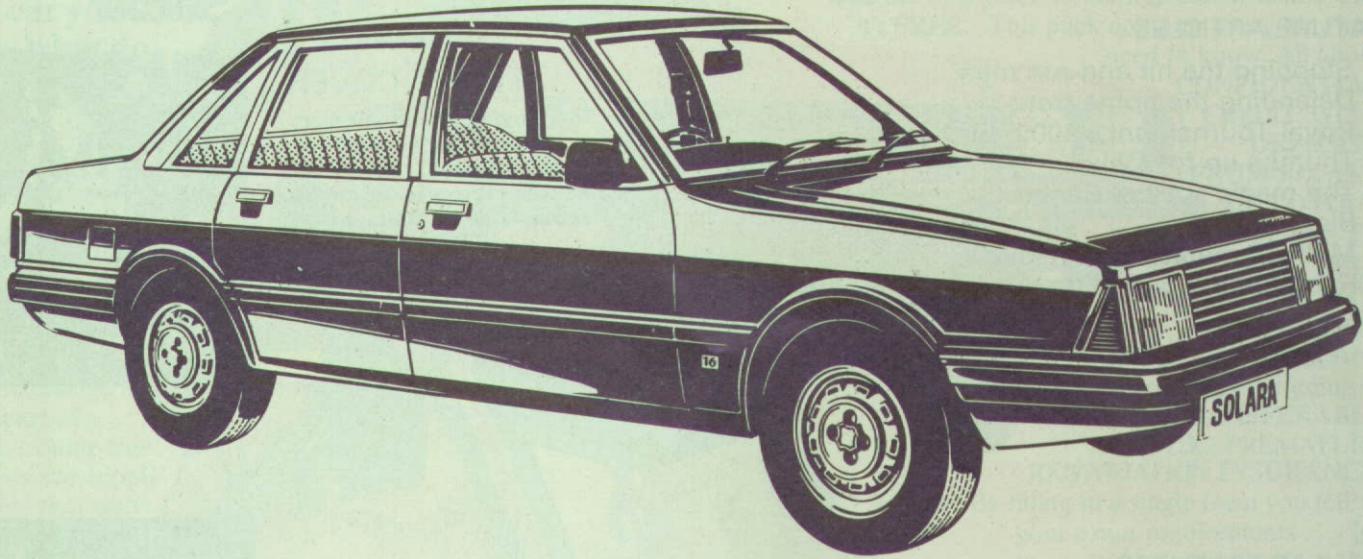
Picture Editor: LESLIE A WIGGS (Ext 2584)

Photographers: DOUG PRATT, PAUL R G HALEY,

ANDY BURRIDGE (Ext 2584)

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

Distribution: Mrs S McINTOSH (Ext 2583)



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On the 11th of this month Princess Alexandra will present new Colours to the men of The King's Own Royal Border Regiment to commemorate the Regiment's 300th anniversary. To add its own tribute SOLDIER visited the 1st Battalion in troubled Armagh in Northern Ireland and spent a week-end on exercise with the part-time soldiers of the 4th Battalion on the North Yorkshire moors.



STOPPING THE HIT AND RUN MEN

IT'S ONLY A VILLAGE with about 1500 inhabitants. It boasts an enormous market square and it's the sort of place where in England the week's excitement would probably consist of a whist drive, a meeting of the Women's Institute or a night down at the local boozer with a few rustic mates.

But this village, surrounded by undulating pastures, has become notorious as one of the most violent spots in the British Isles in recent times. It is Crossmaglen, right on the border of South Armagh and Southern Ireland — a village where 57 members of the security forces have been killed in the last eight years.

Crossmaglen is a hard line Republican village. The great majority of its people are Catholic although there are prosperous Protestant farmers who go about their normal business.

Major Andrew McDonald, his face still made up from a night patrol, tells us of the task faced by his four platoon company in trying to combat terrorism in an area where co-operation with the Army can mean knee-capping or even assassination.

The border surrounds Crossmaglen to the south, the west and the east.

"We have a four-platoon company here because you need some sort of fairly rigid control net on the border and the access roads to Crossmaglen. They can come and stick one on you and be away and across the border within seconds."

During their first two months in Crossmaglen the 130 strong company lost two men at terrorist hands. One died from burns after a radio controlled car bomb caused a fireball to shoot across a village street and another was killed when gunmen opened fire from the village graveyard.

And a Saracen driver is recovering in hospital from severe burns after a radio-controlled device in a van was detonated as he drove past.

A grim tally but only par for the course for the British Army units who have manned the base at Crossmaglen during the 'troubles'. The enemy here are not teenage yahoos — they are cunning and sophisticated and plan their operations meticulously.

Sometimes there are up to 200 people in the camp at Crossmaglen — and conditions are pretty crowded. There are sappers, who are currently building a new police station within the base, and there are the policemen who have the thankless task of trying to bring some semblance of law and order to the area.

Everything comes in and out by helicopter and the patrols who are dropped out in the country are heavily armed with rifles, machine guns and grenade launchers.

"Those soldiers on rural patrol will walk up to 25 kilometres with each man carrying equipment weighing from 35 to 60 lbs" says

Left: Foot patrols maintain constant vigilance.



Major McDonald. "It's out here that you face reality and realise that blank ammunition is not as heavy as live ammunition."

Meanwhile the construction work within the base goes on — when it is completed everyone, including the policemen, will have completely mortar proofed accommodation. And the helicopter pad, from which passengers have to run at present, will be inside.

"It is already much improved and I think we are lucky to be here in 1980 rather than earlier because the yard could be a real mud-bath" says the major.

Although there is such solid support for the Republican cause in Crossmaglen the Army estimate that only a fraction are hard-line supporters of the Provisional IRA.

"People will talk to you quite openly when they are alone at a country road block and there are some extremely friendly and good natured people round here but if you were tasked with conjuring up the ideal terrorist

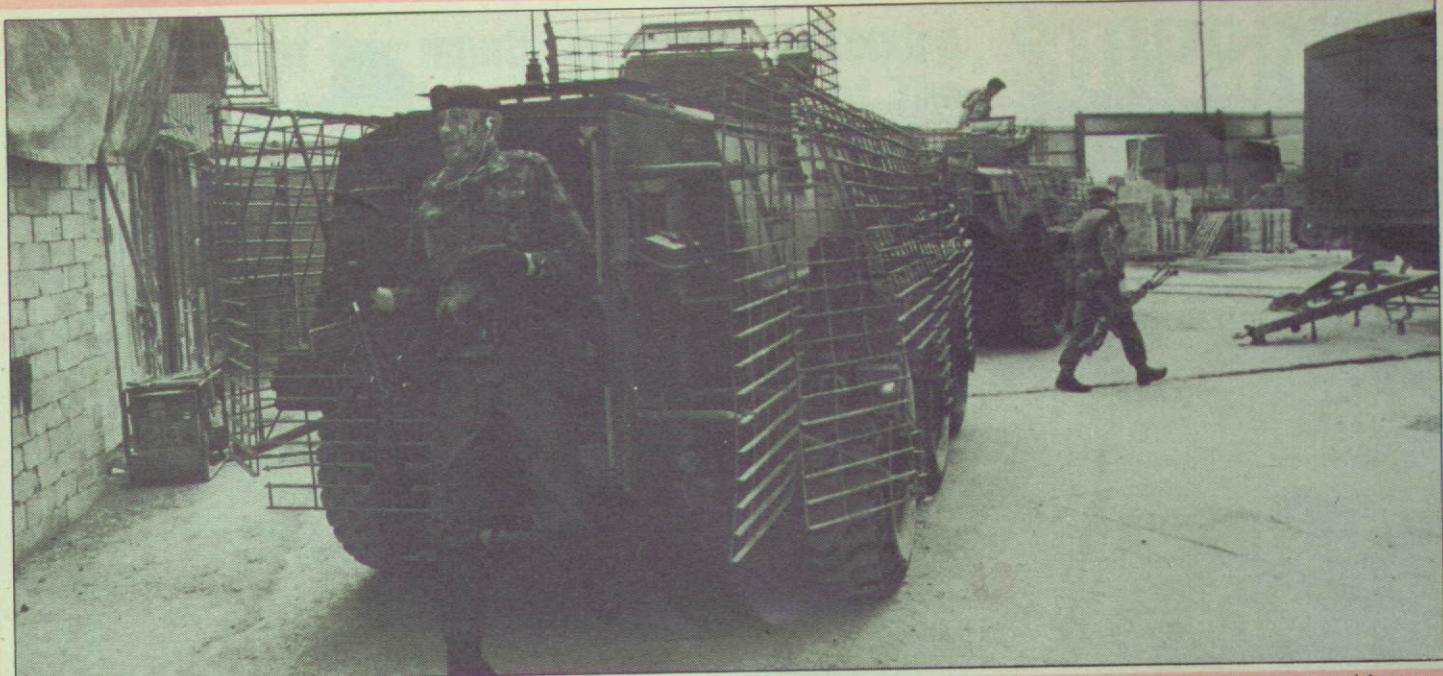
Above: A vehicle check point near the border.

Below: Troops in Wessex on way to VCP.



Below: Hi-jacked lorries can pose a deadly threat. The tanker on left contained two devices.





Above: Saracen patrols return — Crossmaglen.

Below: Cramped living conditions at the base.



environment you would come up with something like the Crossmaglen patch," says Major McDonald.

Meanwhile the men go out on their patrols and return to snatch a few hours sleep in rooms not much larger than the average double bedroom. But here up to 18 men sleep — in triple bunks with their possessions in drawers, only artificial light and amidst the permanent smell of stale sweat.

There is no such thing as a local bobby on the beat in Crossmaglen. Inspector Henry Irvine explains that they live and work in the base — flying out by helicopters for their rest times with their families elsewhere.

Inspector Irvine says there are not many callers at the police station: "Some farmers come in for shotgun certificates, people come in to make compensation claims after bomb explosions, some come in to make complaints about the police and the Army and some come to produce driving documents."

It's a lonely life being a policeman in Crossmaglen. "We try to treat things as normally as possible but it is difficult" says the inspector. "Some of us come for only about three months and others have been here for a year and a half."

A road traffic accident could be an ambush set-up — so the police have to take great care before they visit the scene. And there are many unlicensed cars in the area driven by people taking advantage of the situation.

But the biggest crime in the area, apart from terrorism, is smuggling. "And we are sure there is some connection between the smuggling and the terrorist activity," says Inspector Irvine.

Dominating the market square is the Beruki sangar, named after a soldier killed there earlier. Manning it is Corporal Bob Dawson, now on his fifth tour in Northern Ireland.

"This is an entirely different game to Belfast" he says as he peers through the sangar slit. "There we did street patrols all the time but you could fit this into the Ardoyne without noticing it. Here you can say that every time they have a go at you something positive will come out of it."

"This area seems to be a proving ground for terrorists. They have done their basic training and they come to Crossmaglen for

Left: Keeping watch from Crossmaglen sangar.

their final examination."

Bessbrook Mill is the battalion headquarters. The stone mill, which looms over the old Quaker village like a medieval castle, is partly leased to firms like Bass Charrington and Cadbury's.

But the other half has been converted into a fortress from which the Army's operations in South Armagh are directed. Inside is a labyrinth of rooms and corridors, of which most are served entirely by artificial light.

It is difficult to avoid the impression of being in a subterranean bunker or as Lieutenant Nigel Mitchell put it: "Like the Starship Enterprise with all these long corridors and alien territory outside".

Bessbrook is not like Crossmaglen. Only about half of the population are Catholic and generally speaking the atmosphere is quite friendly as the soldiers go on their patrols — accompanied by the inevitable dog 'Drummer'. In every base in South Armagh stray dogs have turned up — perhaps seeking glory like the now retired 'Rats'.

St George's Day, the regimental day, is usually celebrated in fine old style. In the operational conditions of South Armagh this was not possible — but General Sir William Scotter, Commander-in-Chief Rhine Army and a onetime commanding officer of The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, paid them a lightning visit.

Despite the pressures of cooking for the men at the mill the cooks produced a special cake for the General's visit complete with lifelike regimental badges. And they boasted that everything in it was edible — even though a hardening agent for the icing had been filched from the dentist!

Facilities at Bessbrook for cooking are good although some of the other South Armagh locations are not regarded so highly by the men working in them. Warrant Officer 2 Terry Ryder, the master chef, explains that their aim is to serve the infantry soldier.

"The soldier is paying for his food nowadays and he expects to get what he pays for. No longer do they make do with what they are given. It's a great satisfaction to us because we know that if we give the men the best they will give of their best. We are not King's Own Royal Border but we are attached to them and we are part of the family."

Exercise is difficult in the confined space of these bases — here the multigym works wonders although jogging circuits tend to be more than a little repetitive.

In April four policemen were killed by a bomb in Bessbrook and there have been many incidents over the years on the main railway line which runs through the area.

Clearing away booby traps, making arrests of terrorists and acting on tip-offs the battalion has prevented things always going the way of their will o' the wisp enemy. But even in Bessbrook the co-operation from the local population is muted.

"Basically it is fear. We are not dealing with a civilised enemy but with insane idiots who will terrorise the local population," says Major Donald Kirkpatrick in charge of Somme Company.

The heliport at Bessbrook is reputed to be the busiest in Europe — with a constant flow of Gazelle, Scout, Wessex and occasionally Lynx and Puma landing or taking off.

Major John Underwood is 'Buzzard' — the

man who makes sure the helicopters run on time. He fits the demands with the available aircraft — they include up to eight or nine underslung loads a day to Forkhill, Crossmaglen or Newtonhamilton.

'Felix' — the bomb disposal men also use Bessbrook as their headquarters. South Armagh is considered to be the most testing area in Northern Ireland for the explosives experts and only second tour men are sent there.

"We have had 20 incidents in our first seven weeks" SOLDIER was told. "And every time you are called out there is something there — there are no hoaxes."

Newry is the only industrial town within the border men's area of responsibility. With a population of 34,000, including around 5000 Protestants, it sits at the head of Carlingford Lough as well as straddling the main Belfast-Dublin road.

In Newry the soldiers patrol in stripped down Land-Rovers. The town has a history of violent incidents but there is surprisingly little sectarianism.

Says Major Peter James, who commands the Newry-based company: "Life goes on pretty much as normal in the town with the majority of the people not being involved in any way with the troubles. But we are left with a few potential IRA members supported from across the border by a hard core nucleus of terrorists".

And it was in Newry that the IRA plotted what could have been its most devastating attack during the battalion's tour. A lorry loaded with ten mortars was targeted on the police station in the centre of the town. Fortunately only one mortar went off — causing 24 civilian injuries. If all ten had exploded the casualties would have been enormous.

A spate of blast incendiary attacks against shops in the town centre, attacks on the bus depot, Government offices and the Customs clearing house. This is the pattern of violence which has punctuated normal life in Newry.

A bomber blows himself up with his own device. Acting on information soldiers raid a house and recover rifles, grenades and a small quantity of bomb making equipment. All

continued on page 11.

The King's Own Royal Border Regiment traces its origins back to the days of King Charles II when Tangier was under British rule and three regiments were raised to defend it (unsuccessfully as it turned out) from the Moors.

Evacuated from Tangier in 1683, the regiment fought its first battle two years later against Monmouth at Sedgemoor. In 1688 it supported William of Orange against James II and to this day one of the colours of the regiment is orange and it carries the Lion of England badge granted to it by William.

More than a century later the 4th King's Own was in the thick of the fighting at Waterloo. And throughout the 18th and 19th centuries it fought to defend the Empire in many parts of the world.

In 1881 the King's Own Royal Regiment formed a depot in Lancaster and for a time it was known as the Royal Lancaster Regiment. Recruiting from the Lancaster area, Furness and South Lakeland it became the neighbour of the Border Regiment — some 20 years younger and recruiting in Cumberland and Westmorland.

In 1959 the King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster) and the Border Regiment were ordered to amalgamate. They did so with the minimum of fuss and quickly settled down to one regiment recruiting from the Solway Firth to Morecambe Bay.

This year the regiment looks back with pride not only on the battles fought by the old 4th King's Own but also those fought by the 34th Cumberland and the 55th Westmorland Regiments and the Border Regiment, created in 1881 by an amalgamation of those two regiments.

Below: Signing out weapons at Bessbrook.



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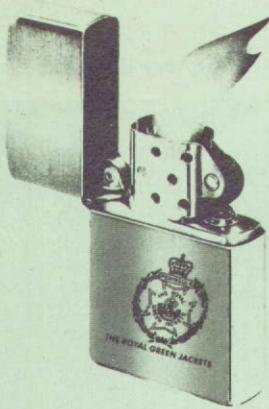
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Left: Army Scout helicopter hovers over the twisted wreck of car blown up in Crossmaglen.

part of the daily struggle to regain normality in Newry.

But Major James considers his company has things comparatively easy compared with some of the others. As does Major Alan Mallinson, based at Newtonhamilton, a mainly Protestant small market town.

Last year the base at Newtonhamilton was mortared and as a result of that and other incidents the town was blocked off. To enter it one must now pass an Army checkpoint.

Derelict buildings stick up like decaying stumps in rows of good teeth but while constant vigilance is the watchword the relative quiet at Newtonhamilton is considered to be due to the effective sealing off of access to the town — thus blocking the terrorists' means of easy escape.

Lieutenant-Colonel Bob Hodges is proud of his men's role in South Armagh during the regiment's tercentenary year.

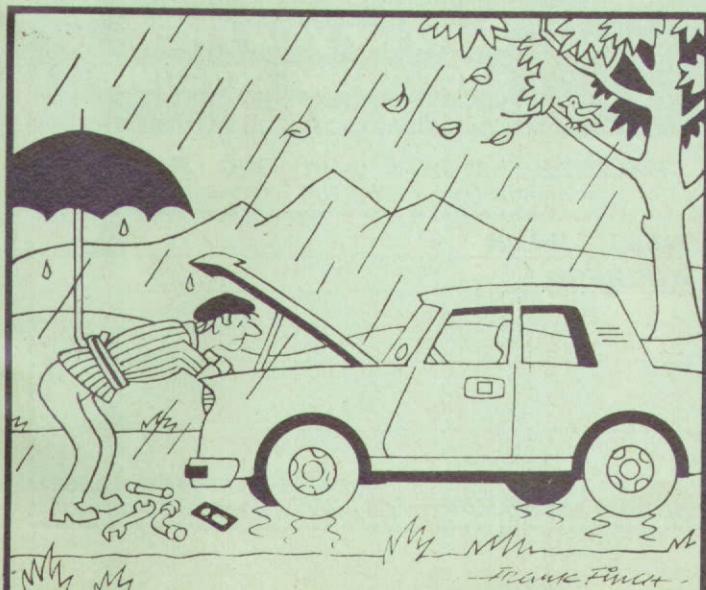
"This is the sixth tour we have done and it does not get any easier or any harder. Each tour seems to present its own particular problems. This is a very difficult area and we are up against a very cunning enemy.

"It has been tragic that we have lost these young soldiers but unfortunately most units that come to South Armagh lose men and we are no exception to the rule. It has been such a waste of young life but the best thing has been the attitude of their parents who have written with sadness in their hearts but saying that the chaps died doing their duty.

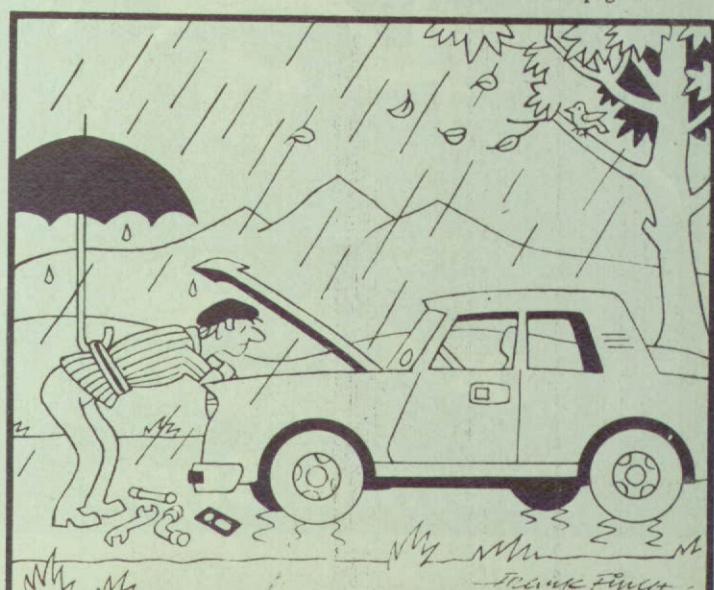
"I have been with this regiment since it amalgamated and I think the young soldier of today is every bit as good as those who went before. You could put these men back in a time machine to the Battle of Waterloo and they would adapt in a minute. They are just marvellous north country soldiers."

Now the men of the King's Own Royal Border Regiment have returned to their Lancashire base in Weeton to prepare for the celebration of their tercentenary, when Princess Alexandra will present them with new colours. And soon the grim waiting game of South Armagh will be just a memory as they head for a happier posting in Berlin.

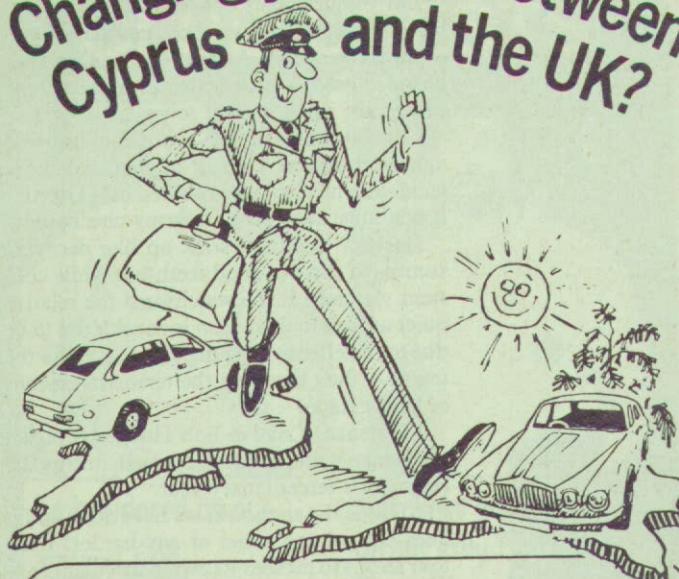
How observant are you?



These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences see page 57.



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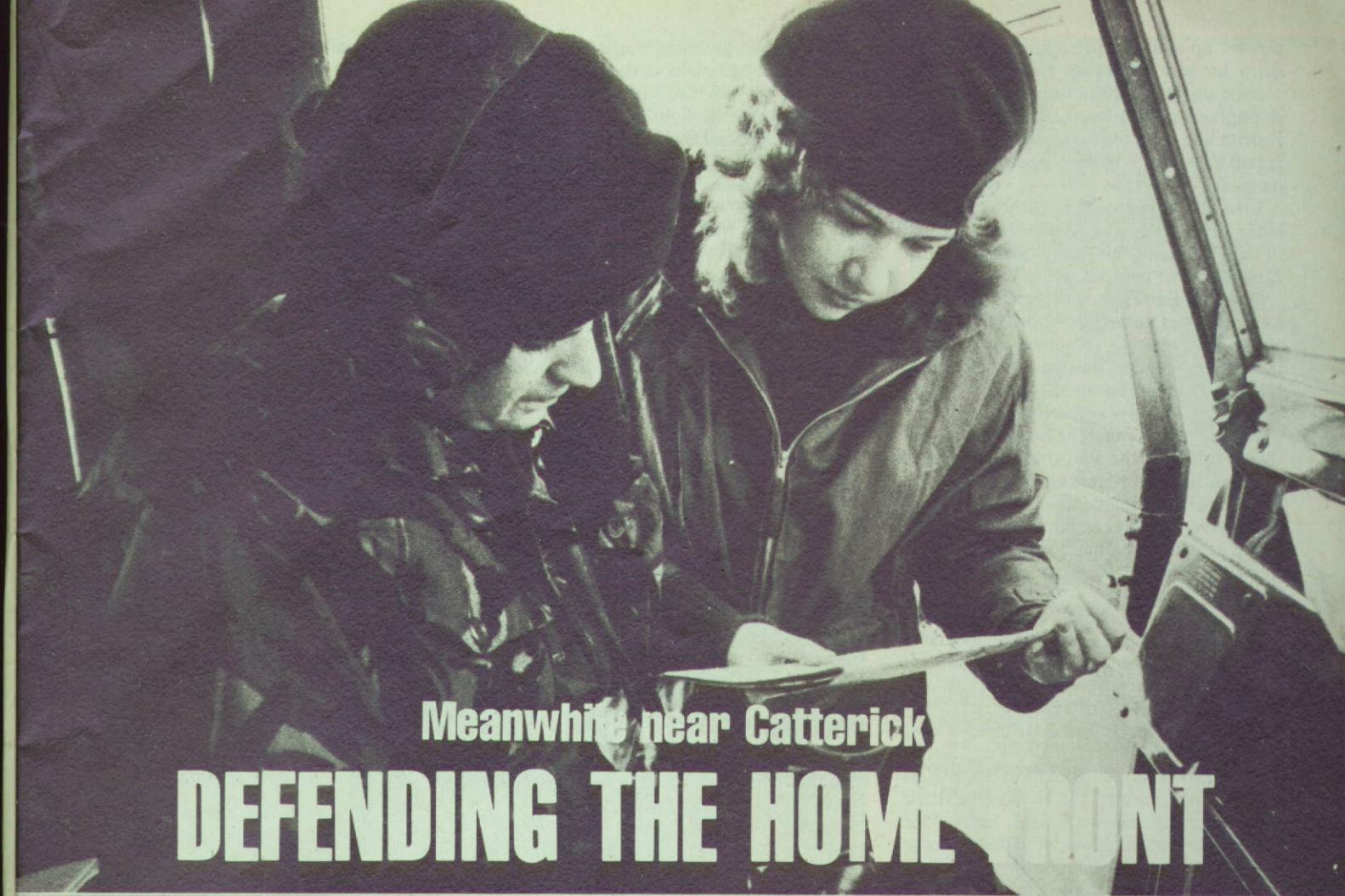
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Meanwhile near Catterick

DEFENDING THE HOME FRONT

THE KING'S OWN ROYAL BORDER REGIMENT is celebrating 300 years of existence this July and the 4th Battalion, the Territorial Army men, have only been together for the last five of those years — but there is no doubting their determination, dedication

Above: The girl signallers from Lancaster.

and the feeling of kinship they have with their Regular counterparts.

One man serves to illustrate the zeal to be found in the battalion. He is Private Terry Harrison, at one time a Regular Army Catering Corps cook and now working in the border town of Penrith.

Below: Moorland post-mortem on the exercise.

Recently the battalion held one of its weekend exercises on the bleak moors at Feldom near Catterick. Terry finished his civilian work shift at 6.30 that Friday evening — within a few minutes he was on his way to Feldom.

By 11 o'clock that night his field kitchen

continued over page



was set up and after snatching a few hours sleep he was preparing breakfast at five o'clock on Saturday morning. He worked throughout the weekend, travelled back to Penrith and reported for work — his knocking off time was to be six o'clock on Monday morning.

Like all the part-timers in this and many other TA battalions he sees nothing unusual in this. "I regard this as my hobby — I just happen to like field kitchens."

The 4th Battalion with headquarters in Lancaster was formed in April 1975. It took on strength existing volunteer outfits based in Carlisle, Kendal, Barrow-in-Furness and Lancaster and drew them together into a viable TAVR home defence battalion.

When it was formed the battalion was 260 strong but over the years this has risen to 384 with the aid of recruiting and the opening of new detachments in Workington, Whitehaven, Morecambe and Ulverston. Today the battalion has a good spread over this lightly populated part of North-west England.

The speed with which they became an effective unit can be gauged by the fact that in its first year of existence the battalion entered for the Derby Trophy, an infantry skills contest for units in North West District. They captured the trophy and have held it ever since.

On the weekend camp many of the soldiers were recent recruits out to practise their newly learned skills in the field. Each of the three companies went out on to the moors to prepare for a night exercise in which they would be pitted one against the others with fighting patrols and ambushes.

During the day each of the three companies sent out reconnaissance patrols in an effort to find the others so that they could make their plans for both attack and defence.

In his operations tent Major Michael Charlton, a nutritionist by trade who commands B Company (covering detachments at Lancaster, Kendal and Morecambe), told SOLDIER: "There is a great contact between the 1st and the 4th Battalions and this is one of the few regiments which you still feel

is county based. These chaps may be part-time but they give a lot of their spare time — many are working two weekends a month as well as every drill night".

As the shoemakers from Kendal and the carpet makers from Lancaster continued their preparations Major Charlton pointed out that many were at their first camp.

"There is a wastage factor of 20 to 30 per cent a year but we can always get the new recruits to replace them" he said. "The challenge is to keep the interest of the old soldiers while at the same time producing an interesting programme for the youngsters who are coming in — but the increase in bounty to £300 tax free after three years' service helps a great deal."

Providing that extra interest is perhaps more difficult for a unit whose job is to protect the homeland. But Sergeant Ray McHugh, an ex-Regular with the Cheshire, now on the permanent staff of the battalion, is actively involved in the Reserve Forces Association and the battalion takes part in

international competitions each year as well as going on attachment with the Reserve forces of other Nato countries. And they have done well — a team from the battalion finished as best foreign entrants in a German competition last year.

About 30 Women's Royal Army Corps reservists are attached to the battalion headquarters in Lancaster. Commanding the girls on the exercise, who were mostly signallers, was 2nd Lieutenant Catherine Thibeault, a reserve officer with the Canadian Black Watch.

Catherine's husband is studying at Lancaster University and she has been seconded to the British Army for that time.

"I found out what units were in the area and that this one was looking for a WRAC platoon commander — only a fortnight after we got to this country I was out on exercise with them.

"It's been very good working with the girls because you won't see a platoon of girls in an infantry regiment in Canada — there the girls



Left: A well disguised sentry.

Below: Telling it to a general.



can only be in clerical grades. With a detachment you can have a rank structure and a much greater feeling of working together."

Major General W Hicks, the General Officer Commanding North-West District, on a flying visit to the exercise caught up with A Company at the same time as SOLDIER did.

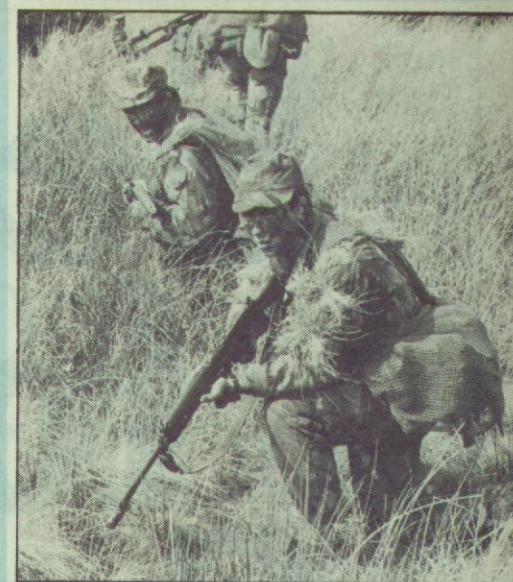
The men from Workington, Carlisle and Whitehaven areas, were practising their night patrols in the 'seevs' (Cumbrian for the type of reedy grass in which they were walking).

After hearing that there were a lot of new

recruits on the patrol General Hicks gave them some old soldier's advice: "Remember the enemy will always appear from the side you least expect. It's a very dangerous game. And even if it is at night use your binoculars — they are very good, even on a dark night".

C Company, the Barrow-in-Furness men, fully illustrated the different types of terrain to be found around Catterick with their location — a thin copse on the side of a rapidly running brook.

Most are shipyard workers from perhaps one of the least visited towns in Britain — it's tucked away round a corner and no-one goes there unless they have business there.



Above: Cumbrian men patrolling the 'seevs'.
Left: From Barrow-in-Furness 'a special breed'.
Below left: Keeping a wary eye out for enemy.

Company commander, Major Mike Diss, thinks this makes for a special breed of man. "Because we are so isolated the men tend to be very self reliant. And because shipyard workers are usually fairly highly skilled it helps them to assimilate Army training fairly quickly."

The next day there was a post mortem on how the night exercise had gone. It was generally agreed that B Company — the Kendal, Lancaster and Morecambe men, had come out best. They had carried out a successful ambush, their fighting patrol had reached its objective and it had surprised another fighting patrol on the way back.

Adjutant, Major Peter Taylor, said it had gone well but added: "They have got to learn that movement at night is not something to be rushed".

Training major, Robin Fletcher, finds that the standard of men is much the same in the 4th Battalion as in the Regular 1st Battalion. "They are remarkably similar. The problem is the amount of time for training. In a regular battalion if you find something is wrong you have got the chaps there and you can put it right. Here you will not have these chaps together again straight away so you have to watch the trends and see that they don't develop until they are below standard in some respect. And the other problem is that you get a slightly different blend of people coming out every time."

"But with these men when they come out for a weekend there is nothing that will stop them from getting on with what they have to do. Whereas the regular soldier knows that if he cannot get something done that day someone will arrange for him to be able to do it again."

So the carpet makers, the shipyard workers, the man whose son plays for Preston North End, the man who is soon going to be Mayor of his town, the workers from British Nuclear Fuels at Windscale and all the rest headed westwards for home — until the next time. And that could be in as little as two weeks for the 4th Battalion the King's Own Royal Border Regiment are believers in getting out in the field as often as possible in their role as defenders of the British homeland.

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SKILL AND SPECTACLE SPAN 100 YEARS

WHEN THE FIRST Grand Military Tournament and Assault-at-Arms was launched on 21 June 1880, its promoters could little have dreamed that the event would still be running — as The Royal Tournament — 100 years later.

For its chances of surviving even five years looked questionable in the early days when the first two annual tournaments both proved financial disasters.

Inspiration behind the first production was the Duke of Cambridge who allowed the regular Army to take part on condition that the Tournament's promoters would guarantee a minimum of £500 to the Royal Cambridge Asylum for Soldiers' Widows.

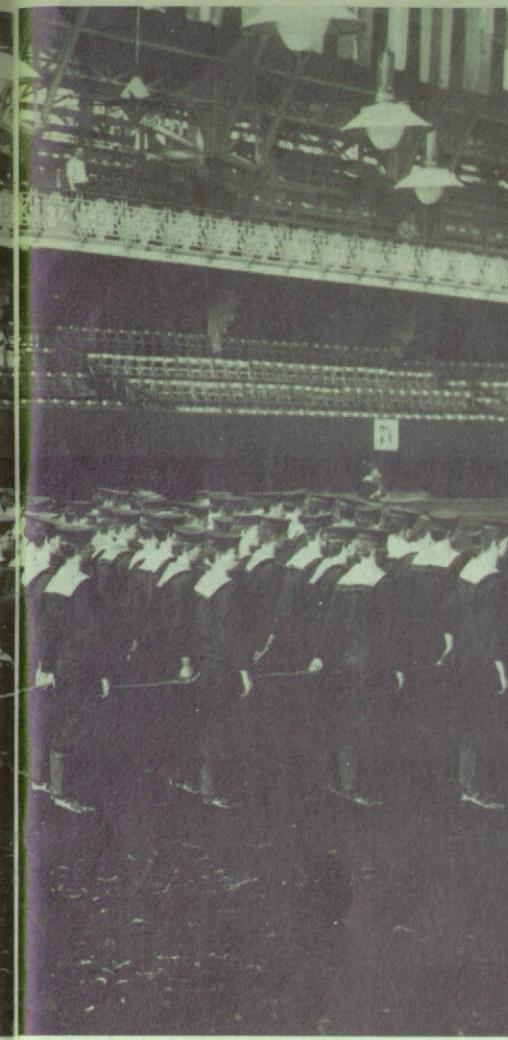
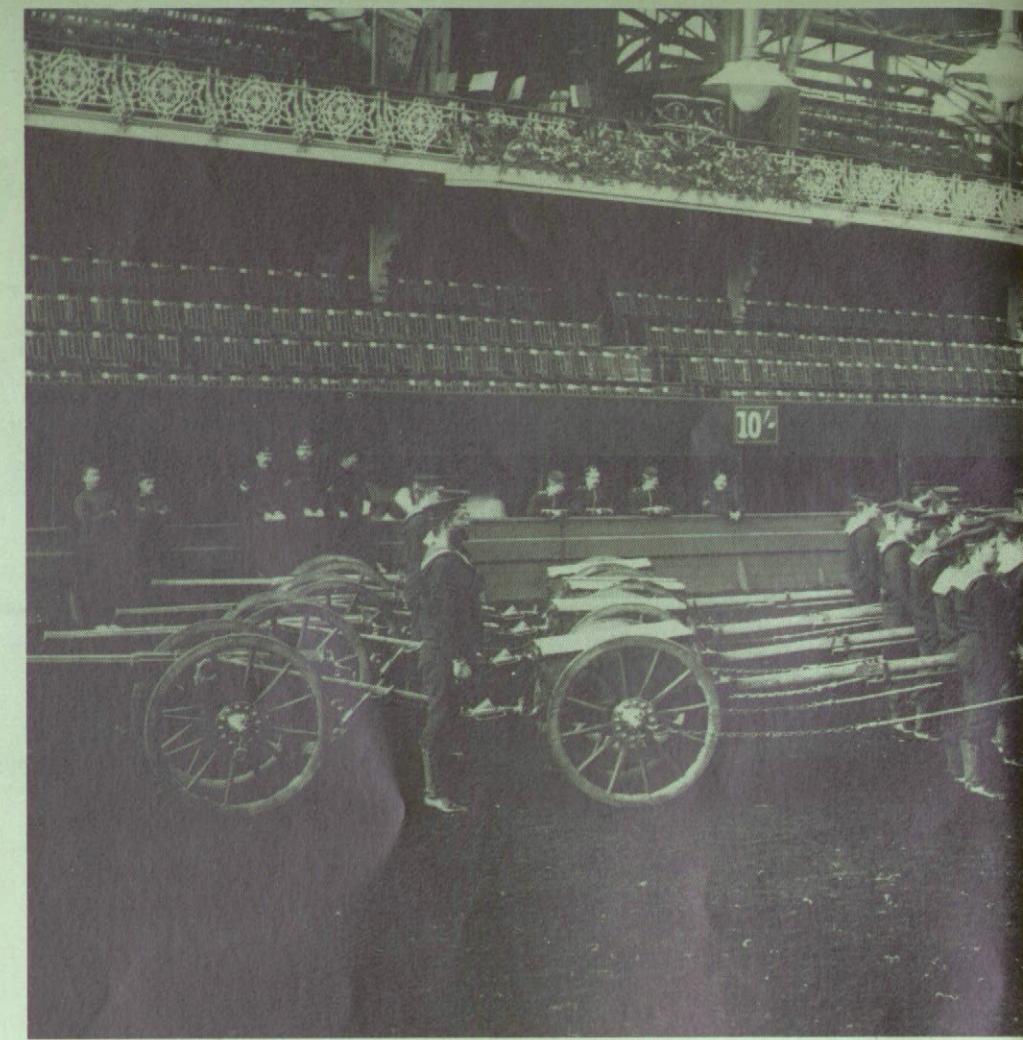
The emphasis in that first Tournament was on skill-at-arms in a succession of hand-to-hand competitions but the format lacked popular appeal and the £500 promised to charity merely added to the considerable losses.

Financially, things were no better the following year, but in 1882 the introduction of the Musical Ride by the Life Guards fired the public's enthusiasm and yielded a net profit of £3000. The Tournament's future was assured.

Over the years, The Royal Tournament has continued to be largely self-supporting — apart from a few hiccups, particularly in the early 1970s when inflation overtook seat prices. The Tournament operates with the agreement and participation of the Services but is completely independent of any Government funds. The profits after expenses are distributed among various charities and this is treated as a serious obligation even when margins are tight.

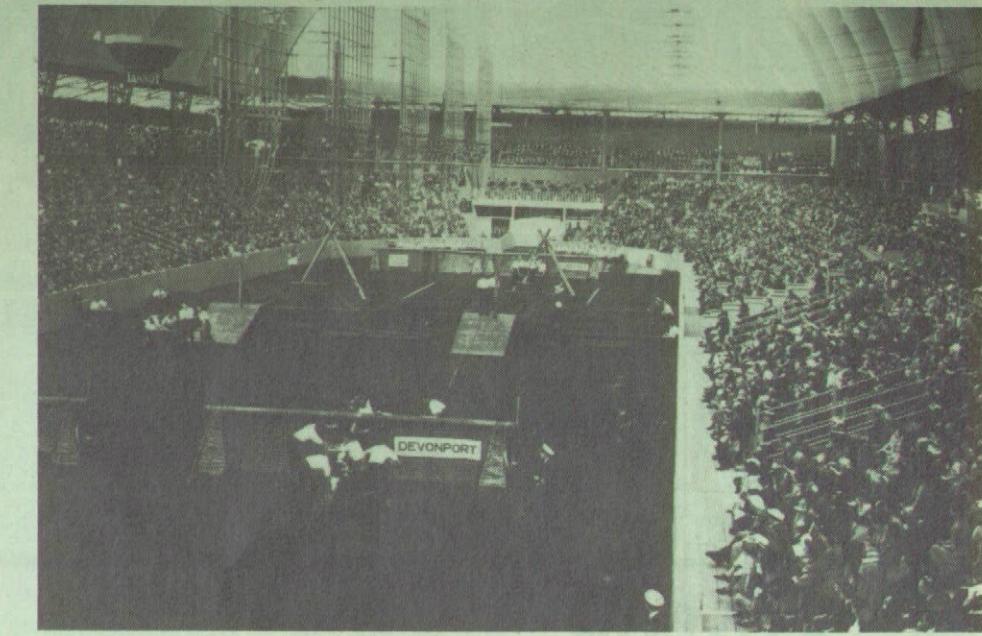
But changing demands have made their mark on the backstage financial scene and sponsorship now plays a vital part in keeping The Tournament self-supporting. Nor is such commercial involvement seen by the organisers as in any way lowering the Tournament's tone. Commented one of them, Colonel Gordon Nielson: "We are delighted to have people interested in The Tournament who are willing to sponsor us."

Prominent among today's sponsors are Dewhursts, National Westminster Bank, Abbey Life Assurance and, of course, Plymouth Gin, who are behind the cele-



Left: 1899 — and the new field guns go on display at the Agricultural Hall, Islington.

Below: 1949 — Navy gun teams at Olympia. Centre: 1979 — Musical Drive at Earls Court.



brated royal Navy Inter-Port Field Gun Competition.

This event, perhaps the most famous of The Tournament, was first held in 1907 a year after the re-named Royal Naval and Military Tournament had outgrown the Agricultural Hall, Islington and moved to Olympia.

And the Royal Air Force? It was not until 1919 that their inclusion made The Tournament a truly tri-service event and by this time the pattern of combining the two elements of skill and display as we know it today had been established.

That year marked the return of The Royal Tournament after the war. Not possessing the same advantages as the Windmill Theatre, The Tournament did close during both wars as its participants were occupied in other arenas of action. In general, however, the show has appeared with few interruptions since 1880 and has built a tradition of regular features such as the overseas displays and massed bands spectacular.

Overseas participants have ranged from the Maiture d'Arnes Exhibition of Fencing in 1891 to the Saumur Cavalry School Musical Ride of 1919 and displays from Kuwait, Canada, Hong Kong and Florida in recent years.

The growing popularity of The Tournament meant that in 1950 it was on the move again — this time to Earls Court where it has been ever since.

The Royal Tournament is run from a small office in Horse Guards under the direction of Colonel Dan Reade. He is helped by Col Gordon Neilson and Col Roy Stockwell and the trio, together with Major Michael Parker who produces The Tournament,

form the basis of the executive sub-committee which deals with the daily routine and problems associated with organising an event of this kind. They are in turn responsible to a General Committee of about a dozen high-ranking officers drawn from all the Services which meets twice a year.

The aim of Colonel Reade's team is to produce an exciting, well-balanced show that will draw the audiences. So they have to make sure that the displays are suitable and of a high standard. Then there are all the problems of bringing the displays together to cope with, as well as of looking after the servicemen and women during the three weeks spent at Earls Court. And they even have the advertising and financial headaches to grapple with. In fact, the only item of administration that they do not handle is the box office, Earls Court having recently taken over the responsibility of selling tickets for The Royal Tournament.

The testing time for all the preliminary organisation comes in July. 'D-Day' for The Tournament is the first of that month when people move into Earls Court to start building the accommodation for 1600 servicemen. The stores arrive a day later and rehearsals start five days after that, when the arena has been prepared for the displays.

The Tournament gives its first performance in front of an invited audience from children's homes, old peoples' homes and other deserving causes in the afternoon of the opening day. The first public performance is in the evening and this marks the start of regular performances through to the end of July.

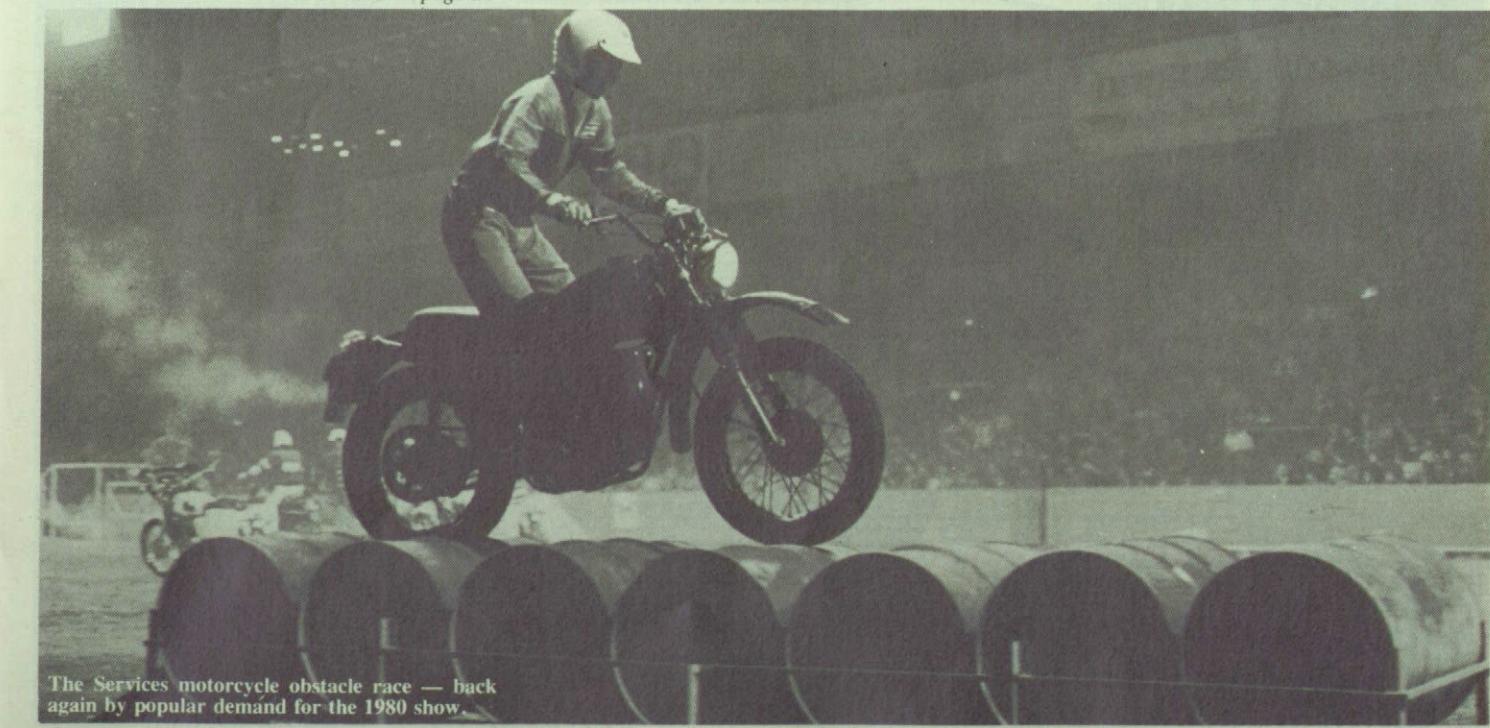
This year The Royal Tournament will be combining the traditional elements with spe-

cial centenary features. The emphasis is on 'the old and the new' and is strongly tri-service. The massed bands will be made up of musicians from bands in each service and the PT displays too will have a tri-service element.

Col Neilson said "We have tried to make them old-fashioned PT exercises which could have been done any time from 1880 onwards and brought them up to the present day."

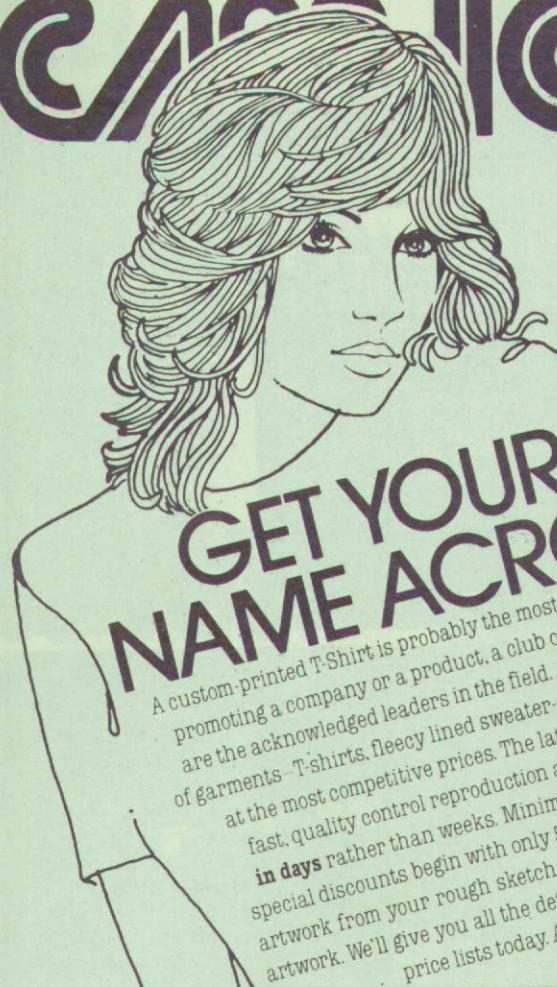
Every performance of The Royal Tournament has a VIP to take the salute and this year

continued on page 21



The Services motorcycle obstacle race — back again by popular demand for the 1980 show.

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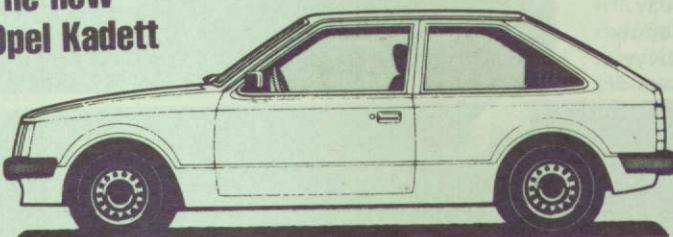
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there are no less than eight members of the Royal Family to undertake this duty.

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Basil, who is a farmer from Basildon in Essex, has been commentating at The Royal

Tournament since 1962. "How he manages to spend every July with us is a mystery" said the organisers. But somehow he does and gives his services voluntarily into the bargain.

An exhibition commemorating the centenary of The Royal Tournament will open at The National Army Museum, Chelsea on 2 July. It will trace the evolution of The Tournament from the early days to the magnificent event presented today that makes it

the Services' showcase to the public.

The Royal Tournament itself begins on 9 July and full details can be obtained from the Earls Court Exhibition Centre (01-371 8141). It should be quite a 100th birthday.

Above: The Kenya Army Band and Dancers, one of this year's colourful overseas attractions.

Below: Members of King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery leave the arena after firing salute.





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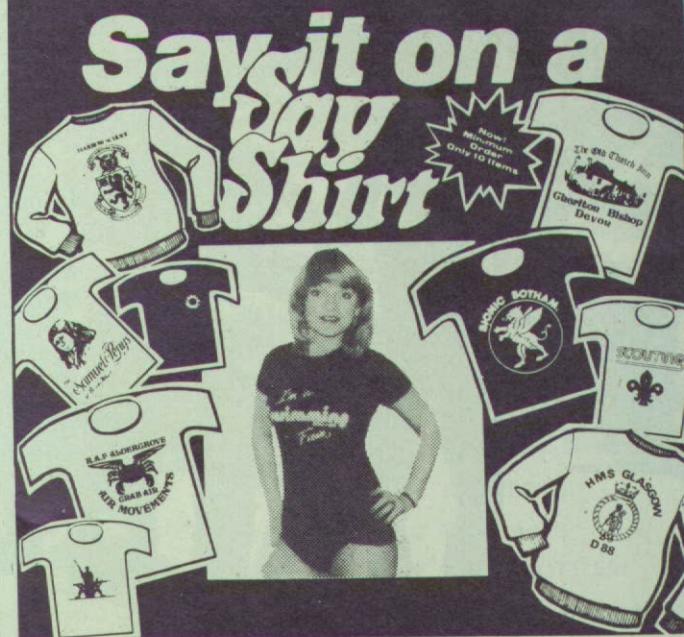
Now it is available through SOLDIER to the general public. If you don't know all today's Regular cap badges or if you just want an interesting wall decoration, send for this poster now. Its overall size is 30 x 20 inches (762 x 550 mm) with a picture area of 23 x 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches (602 x 475 mm).

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SOLDIER to Soldier

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The increased demand for colour advertising has given us the chance to bring extra sparkle to our feature pages too — and we plan to run colour 'spreads' at least for the next six months and, hopefully, beyond.

Over its 35 years of unbroken publication SOLDIER has always striven to keep abreast of the times, up-dating and improving its pages to give readers top value for money; our aim, quite simply, to produce the best and brightest specialist magazine on the market. We hope this latest change carries on that tradition. Let us know what you think.



Few golfers would pass up the chance to spend a day playing their favourite sport. But equally few, we're sure, would wish to swap places with WO1 Derek Cheeseman when he spends just such a day on 28 July.

For WO1 Cheeseman, who is based at Aldershot with the Army Catering Corps, will be attempting a feat of endurance to make any sportsman, let alone golfer, go weak at the knees. Teeing off at first light around 4 am he plans to complete twelve rounds of the testing 6,553 yard Army Golf Club course, on foot, by dusk the same evening — an astonishing 216 holes of golf and around 50 miles of walking.

WO1 Cheeseman, who will be assisted by an extensive rota of caddies and ball spotters, successfully completed eight rounds in a day four years ago — a feat that earned him about £800 for charity. His speediest round on that occasion was completed in an hour and 14 minutes and in case anyone imagines that he was running up the fairways playing a sort of golfing hockey, it should be pointed out that in the worst of his eight rounds he shot 83, and in the best, 74. Dawdlers please note!

This time the quick-marching warrant officer hopes to find sufficient sponsors to raise £1500 — for the Spastics Society. If any SOLDIER readers would care to sponsor him at so much a round they can contact Derek Cheeseman at South East District headquarters (Tel: Aldershot 24431, extension 3230).



As the British Army magazine SOLDIER receives lots of copies of its counterparts throughout the world. Many of them are in foreign languages but one, from a foreign language nation, appears in English — *Soviet Military Review*.

In its current issue *Soviet Military*

Review reports that the people of Afghanistan are 'preparing to celebrate' the second anniversary of the 1978 Revolution and proclamation of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan while the 'aggressive imperialist circles of the USA and other countries and the Peking extremists continue an undeclared war against revolutionary Afghanistan'.

According to the magazine the Pentagon had already estimated where and what military installations aimed at the USSR could be located in Afghanistan to replace the ones lost in Iran. Hafisullah Amin, 'an agent of the CIA', having seized power, went by plane to Karachi to meet American agents and inform them of progress on the planned coup d'état.

But Amin was removed by the 'patriotic forces inside Afghanistan' and frightened that their country would be turned into 'an imperialist military bridgehead' the new leadership appealed for help to Russia in 'the struggle against external aggression'.

"The Soviet Union decided to comply with this request and sent to Afghanistan limited military contingents to be used exclusively to help repulse aggression from without. They will be fully withdrawn from Afghanistan once the reasons for the Afghan leadership's request for them no longer exist."

So now we know! Or was the article written by Major I A Pryllski?



Between the years of 1966 and 1972 SOLDIER annually took awards in the competition for house journals run by the British Association of Indus-

trial Editors. After that we decided to withdraw from the competition to give others a chance although the Editor at that time, Mr Peter N Wood, remained actively involved in the Association.

Now for the first time in eight years a military publication has taken a prize. It is *Sustainer* — the house journal of the Army Catering Corps — which was placed second and granted an award of excellence in its class.

The judges found it 'a very bright and lively mix, perhaps aimed at the more intelligent and involved end of the corps' . . .

They found the magazine copy good in that contributors wrote in a natural way rather than trying to copy professional magazines. And on presentation and design they said that despite a few rough edges 'the overall effect has plenty of life and energy'.

The judges concluded: 'Obviously edited with great gusto and enjoyment and this conveys itself to the reader. The magazine seems to reflect a very good relationship between officers and men, and it is very informative too'.

Major Tank Nash, who edited the 196 page annual edition of *Sustainer* which took the award, admits to being an admirer of SOLDIER. "I have tried to model it on what you do — the average regimental journal looks like Part One orders. The problem is that our soldiers are spread across the British Army in penny packets and what we aim to do is to retain the corporate spirit."

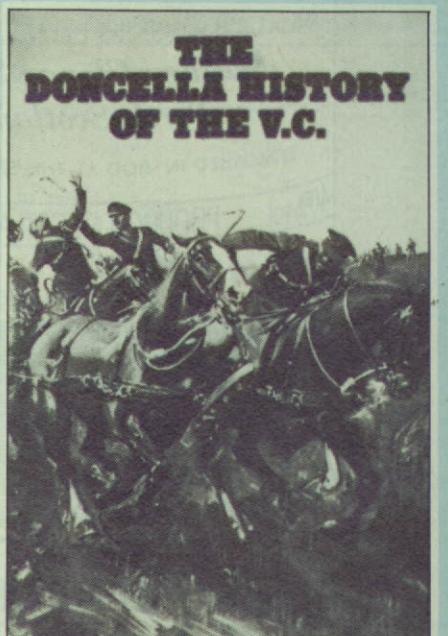
SOLDIER, some of whose photographs were used in the magazine, congratulates its rival and Major Nash on producing a cookbook with such wide appeal.

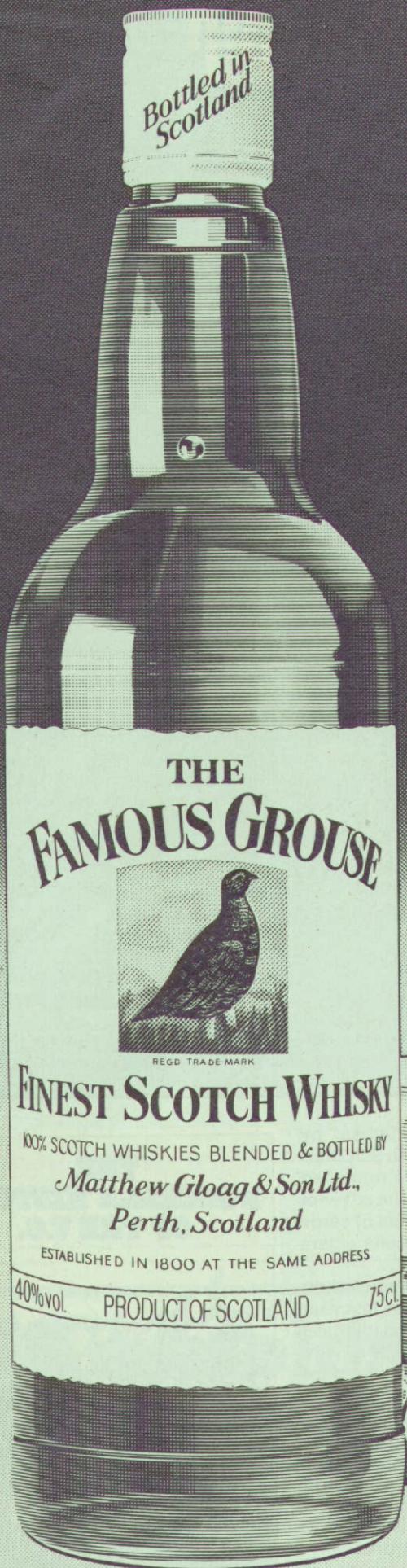
'Saving the Guns at Le Cateau' by Terence Cuneo is familiar to SOLDIER readers as at one time we marketed the print. Now it provides the cover of the album for the new series of cards issued with Player's Doncella cigars entitled 'History of the VC'.

Following on the success of their Napoleonic Uniforms series last year the VC set of 24 cards is of an identical size and features the exploits of winners of the British premier award for gallantry taken from paintings.

Beginning with the first winner, the sailor Charles Davis Lucas in 1854 the series runs through Sebastopol, the Zulu wars, the Boer War, both World Wars and ends with Lance-Corporal Rambahadur Limbu who is still serving with the Gurkhas in Brunei.

The special album for the series opens out into a wall chart and is available price 35 pence from Doncella VC album, PO Box 55, John Player & Sons, Nottingham.





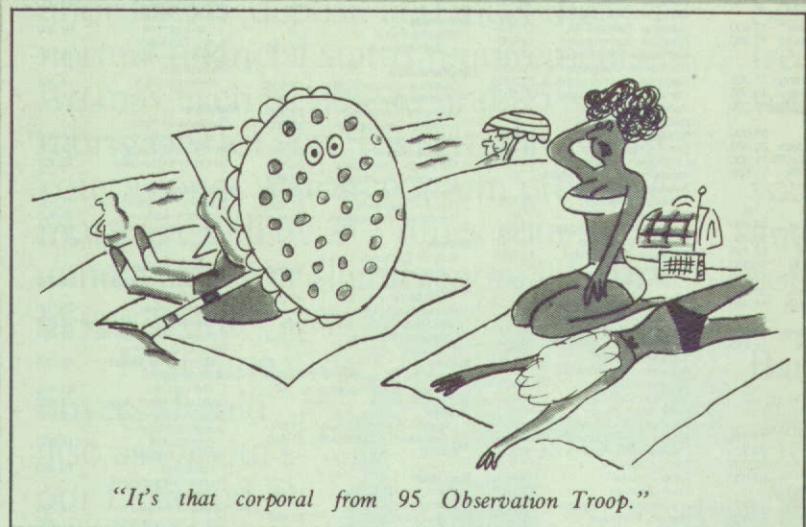
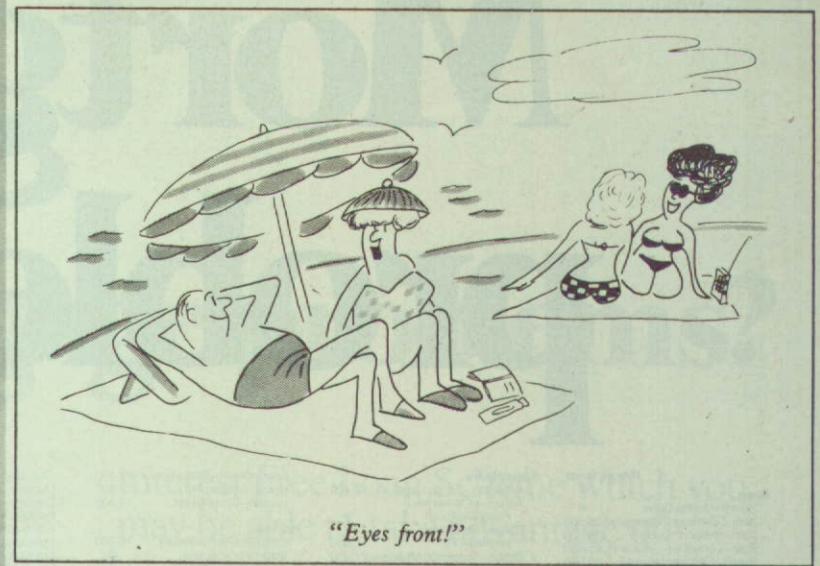
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Larkswood	21,150	
Tatton—Mellbrook Pk	35,950	
Tarporley—Quarry Bank	32,450	
Timperley—The Grove	**	
Winsford—Dannah Pk	13,450	
Winsford—Moors Pk	**	
Derbyshire		
Buxton—Foxlow Pk	13,150	
Clowne—Church Lane	19,950	
Derby—Breadsall	11,950	
Eckington—Highwood Pk	21,950	
Mickleover—Matthew Way	26,995	
Pilsley—The Puddocks	14,895	
Spondon—Royal Hill	35,500	
Dorset		
Poole—Sherborne Gdns	17,950	
Wimborne—Marlborough Pk	**	
Durham		
Crook—Thistleflat	10,250	
Edensor—Wesley Pk	**	
Houghton le Spring—Heath Grange	**	
Hyton—Woodside	11,500	
Stanley—Rumside	10,250	
Essex		
Clacton—Cann Hall	19,750	
Colchester—Wivenhoe—Broadfields	15,450	
Greater London		
Blackheath—Papillons	98,000	
Bow—Gdns	24,000	
Beckenham—Overbrae	35,750	
Brent—Hawarden	**	
Croydon—Paxton	37,250	
Orpington—Charter Oaks	23,450	
Gloucestershire		
Cheltenham—Lansdown Crt	17,950	
Newent—Lakeside	20,550	
Tewkesbury—Arlington Gdns	**	
Hampshire		
Basingstoke—Hayward Ride	20,500	
Emsworth—Spencers Field	27,000	
Farnborough—Cove—Title Barn	**	
Southampton—Greencare	20,950	
Humbersey		
Brigg—Glanford Vale	9,995	
Goole—Woodland Pk	14,750	
Hull—Hedness Gdns	17,150	
Hull—Trinity Crt	26,895	
Hull—Prory Grange	19,995	
Hull—Humber Pk	18,650	
Pocklington	9,995	
Bunby—Wold Pk	20,250	
Scunthorpe—Beck Farm Pk	13,795	
Thornhill—Oak Gdns	**	
Wetwang—Wold Wv	18,000	
Isle of Lewis		
Stornoway—Bayview	19,445	
Kent		
Ashford—Cuckoo Lane	17,750	
Lancashire		
Aldington—Sandy Lane	19,100	
Bath—Bridport House	38,000	
Bath—Connaught Mansions	28,500	
Bath—Lansdown Crescent	45,000	
Bristol—Chard House	55,000	
Clevedon—Beach Ctr	**	
Temple Cloud—Paulton	29,995	
Thompson—Manderley Pk	28,950	
Yate—Ladydale	**	
Weston-Super-Mare—Rainham Crt	**	
Bedfordsire		
Bedford—Kimbolton Ave	**	
Fletwick—The Vikings	17,500	
Kempston—Hillgrunds	20,450	
Luton—Warden Hill	40,950	
Berkshire		
Reading—Mill Green	26,750	
Buckinghamshire		
Bletchley—Church Green	**	
Milton Keynes—Forest Drive	19,750	
Cambridgeshire		
Cambridge—Kings Hedges	22,500	
Doddington—Church Vw	17,250	
Little Paxton—The Crofts	26,265	
Peterborough—Birchwood	18,400	
Cheshire		
Chester—Hawthorn	14,500	
Crews—Coppenhill	**	
Crook—Sands—Green Pk	17,750	
Macclesfield—The Oaks	26,650	
Moreton Spur—Upton Pk	17,950	
Noctorum—West View	35,500	
Northwich—Briarsale	25,400	
Poynton—Cloughwood	30,050	
Runcorn—Cloughwood	19,250	
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Farnborough		

New simulator opens as Army Air Corps converts

PILOTS GIVE THUMBS UP TO LYNX

COLONEL MIKE BADGER sat at the controls of the Lynx helicopter. His passengers were the Director of the Army Air Corps, Major-General Bill Withall and businessman, Mr John Yeomans.

Soon they were on their way from Middle Wallop and after an eventful flight lasting 20 minutes they landed at Boscombe Down. During the flight there was a fire in the Lynx's No 1 engine.

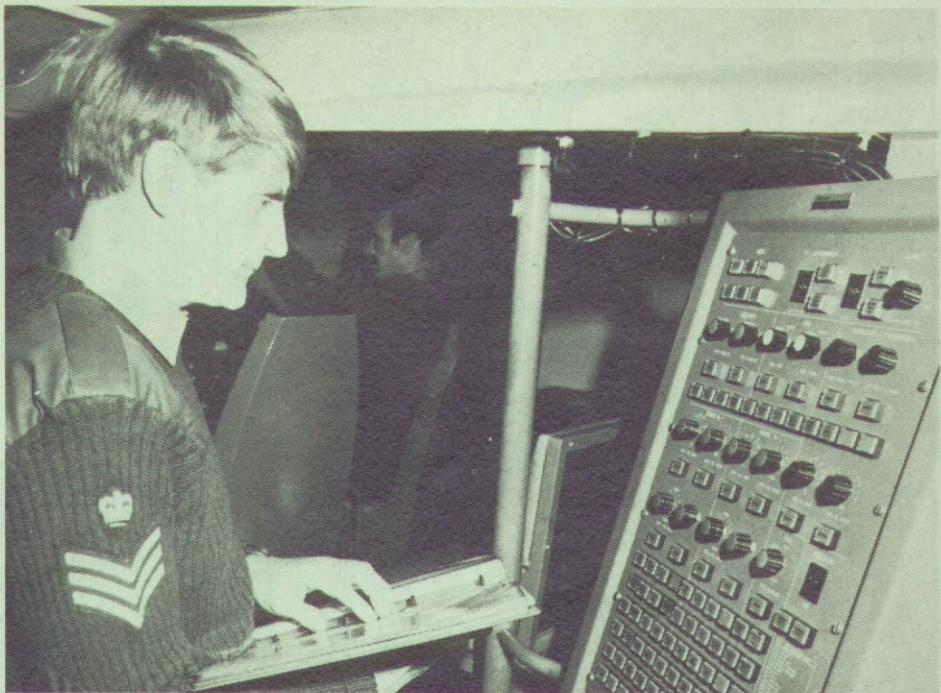
So what's so special about that? Nothing, except that in fact Colonel Badger, who is commandant of the Army Air Corps Centre at Middle Wallop, and his VIP passengers did not actually leave the ground. They were sitting in a one million pound Lynx simulator which is being used at Middle Wallop while the Army Air Corps converts pilots from Scout and Gazelle to Lynx.

Mr Yeomans, managing director of Redifon Simulators, had just officially handed over the simulator. Now a second one is planned for Rhine Army and this will include visual effects — these will be retroactively fitted to the Middle Wallop machine.

"Frightfully good" was the verdict of General Withall as he ended his 'flight'. The simulator, controlled by retired

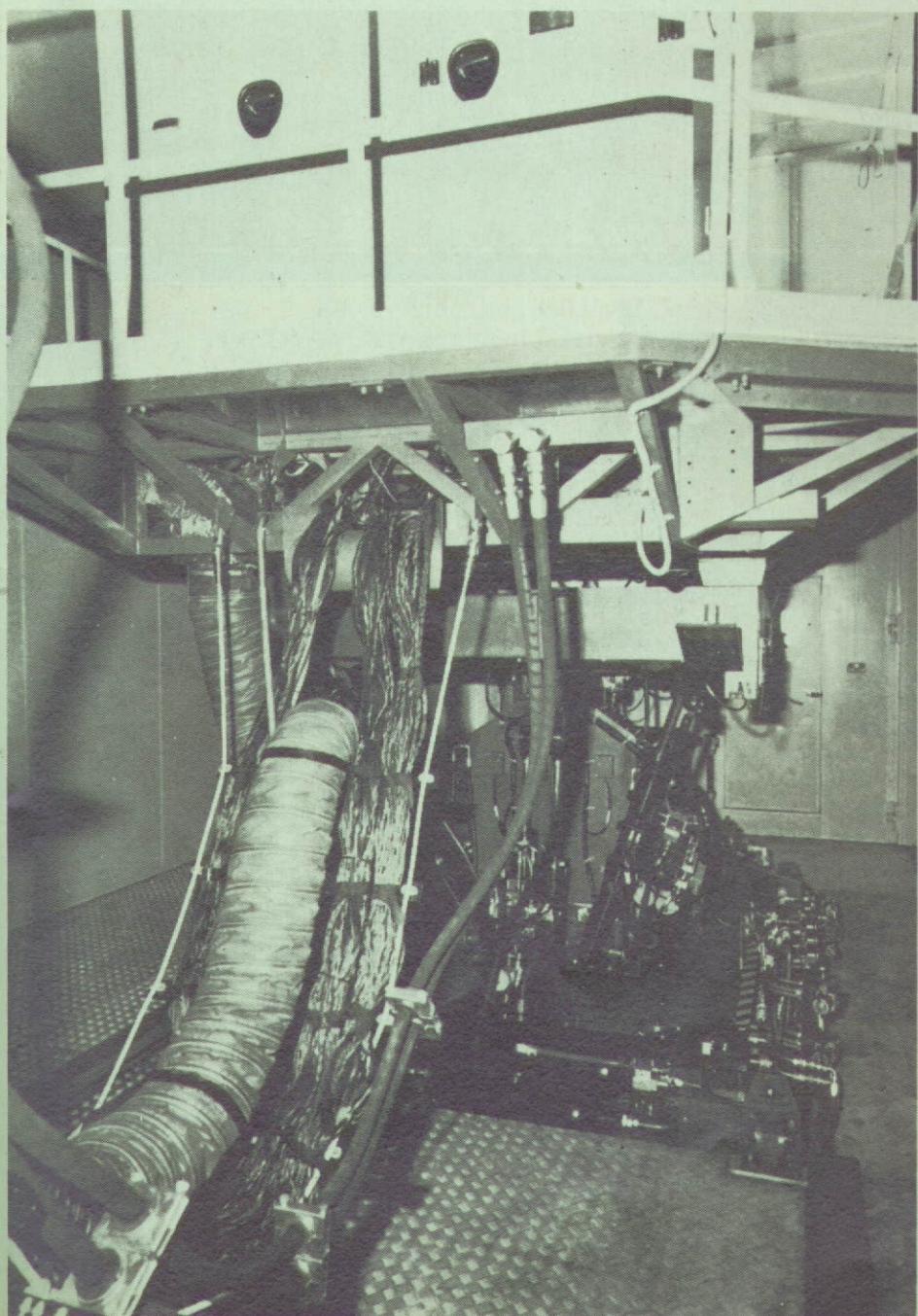
Right: The sky is not the limit — in simulator.
Below: But this is the way the pilots like it.





Above: Simulating engineering problems.

Below: The works of the Lynx flying simulator.



Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Ralph, had provided noise, vibration, turns, tilts and rocks during the trip.

Said Colonel Ralph: "All those pilots who come on a conversion course will go on the simulator. And even those who are currently flying Lynx will come back for simulator training — because they will be able to practise things like shutting down an engine which they could not do in a real aircraft".

And it's not only the pilots who are having to be trained in Lynx using the modern simulation methods. Middle Wallop already boasts a Lynx engineering simulator, made by Marconi.

In its first few months of operation the engineering simulator was used for some 250 hours — an appreciable amount for a machine only devised for a requirement of an hour a day.

Pilots have been using it for ground procedures, basic technicians have used it and officers and senior NCOs have done in-depth training on the most sophisticated helicopter the Army has ever owned.

The anti-tank squadrons of the Army Air Corps in Germany already have half of their Lynx aircraft. Eventually it is intended that they will be fully equipped with Lynx and that the helicopters will be equipped with the American TOW missile. Trials with TOW are still continuing and the first airborne firing of TOW from a British Army Lynx took place as recently as February.

The pilots who fly Lynx at Middle Wallop are all in agreement — it's a very fine aircraft. Major David Morley, an experienced pilot who had just been on the conversion course, declared: "You are moving into a totally different class of aircraft whereas to change from Scout to Gazelle only means minor differences.

"Initially it is very complex — there seem to be millions of lights and switches. But once you have a basic understanding of the complexity of the aircraft it is very much easier to fly than a Scout or a Sioux."

Standard fitting is electronic equipment which can tell the pilot exactly where he is without depending upon a map upon his lap. And it has two engines which means that in the event of an emergency the pilot can fly away to a safe spot before landing.

The Lynx will be able to carry more missiles than the Scout and, because of its better uplift capacity, will be able to fly for much longer with a full load of missiles.

Lieutenant Phil Stockley, a former Gazelle and Sioux pilot, told SOLDIER that with the computer controlled equipment the Lynx could often fly itself. "But if anything should go wrong you will need to have more skill in having to fly it without its refinements. This is an entirely new breed of helicopter."

Both Lieutenant Stockley and Warrant Officer 2 Dave Shears pointed out that Lynx is noisier and vibrates more than the Scout aircraft it is replacing.

Said the lieutenant: "When a chap starts flying Lynx he becomes tired more quickly and we are sure this is associated more with the noise and vibration than the workload. But although that may be a minor criticism I think the majority of people who fly Lynx are sold on it. It is a superb machine."

Major John Drew was one of the earliest Army Air Corps men to fly Lynx. He was on the Navy's intensive trials for six months

continued on page 30

and then on the Army's trials at the end of 1976.

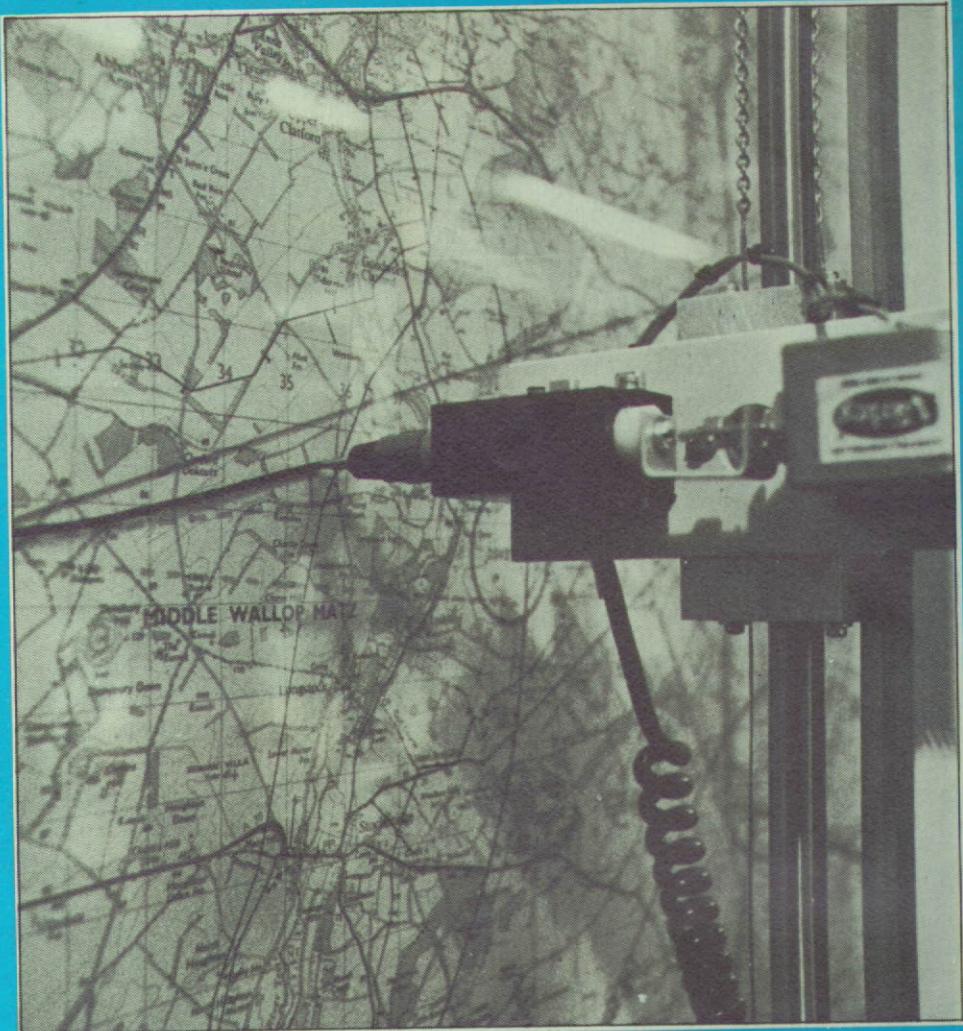
He says: "It was an aircraft in which I didn't really feel at home until I had got in 50 hours flying time because compared to the simple aircraft which we still fly there was a lot to learn. Pilots don't feel happy in command of an aircraft until they are sure they know everything they need to know. I suppose it's the same for Boeing 707 pilots".

The eight weeks course includes 40 hours flying as well as 18 hours on the simulator. So far no candidate has failed — although all of those who have converted have been very experienced fliers.

The pilots feel the test will come when inexperienced pilots go on the course. Says Major Drew: "At the moment we are teaching the equivalent of experienced car drivers who would be fit to graduate to a high speed sports car without endangering themselves or it. But newcomers would be in the same position as drivers who have just passed their test — knowing only the Highway Code and what their instructors had taught them. Some of this type will cope and others may fail the course".

'A great aircraft' is the Lynx pilots' own description. And during the years to come as more and more Lynx come into service, modifications and improvements will continue to be made in what Major Drew describes as "the way I like to be taken around the sky".

Right: Plotting the simulator's flight on map.
Below: Lt-Col Ralph feeds in a problem or two.





The Personnel Carrier.

Look inside the 1980 Ford Cortina and you will find improved seats with new fabrics, a redesigned fascia with fresh and warm air vents and 3-speed heater control. Some models also have 'see through' detachable head restraints and a new centre console unit.

Ford have also introduced a great number of engineering advances on the 1980 Cortina. On the outside there's a new aerodynamic grille, wrap-around front turn indicators, bigger tail lamps with integral fog lamps in saloons, a laminated windscreen and improved body protection and anti-corrosion treatment.

Technically there are many improvements including new gas shock absorbers, larger diameter front stabiliser bar, variable venturi carburettor with the award winning sonic idle system on 1.3 and 1.6 single choke engines, a thermostatically controlled viscous coupled fan and an improved V6 engine with electronic breakerless ignition.

All-in-all Ford have made the Cortina one of the most practical and reliable cars in Europe.

And, as always, Ford means value. Tax-free prices for a 1980 Ford Cortina fully equipped for use in Germany start around £3000. The insurance group is low - the Cortina 1600, for example, is only group 3.* What's more you need not wait for your new Ford - most models are available immediately from stock in either Hannover or the U.K.

When you export a new Ford from the U.K. we look after all the red tape and can arrange the shipping for you.

Then, whenever and wherever you travel in Western Europe you can rest assured that there is a network of Ford dealers to look after all your parts and service requirements.

*As recommended by The Accident Offices Association (U.K.).

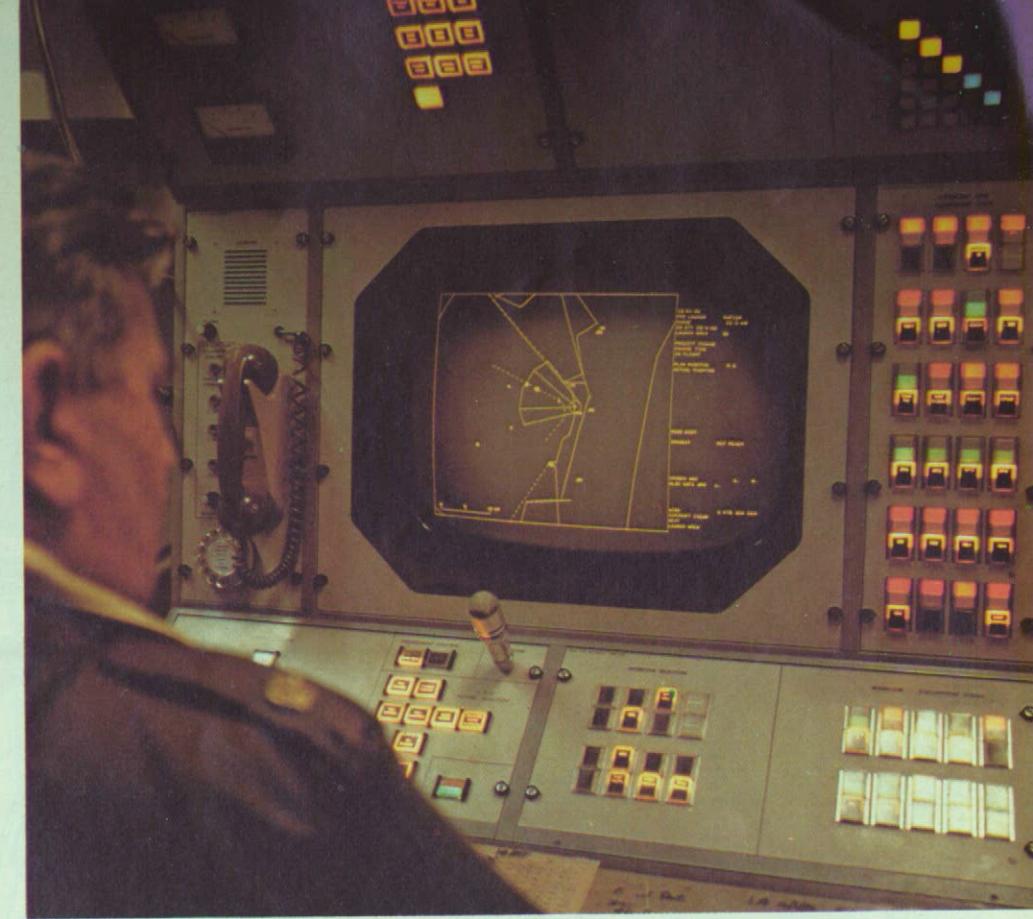


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Left: Rapier missile firing on Benbecula (picture courtesy of British Aerospace Dynamic Group).

Above: Major George Beesley scrutinises a tracking and firing display control at range HQ.

'SOLDIERS, GESE AND ROCKETS ON THE ISLANDS OF UIST' was the Gaelic phrase constructed by local people to sum up the Army's presence in one of its most remote and rugged outposts on the wild western isles of the Outer Hebrides.

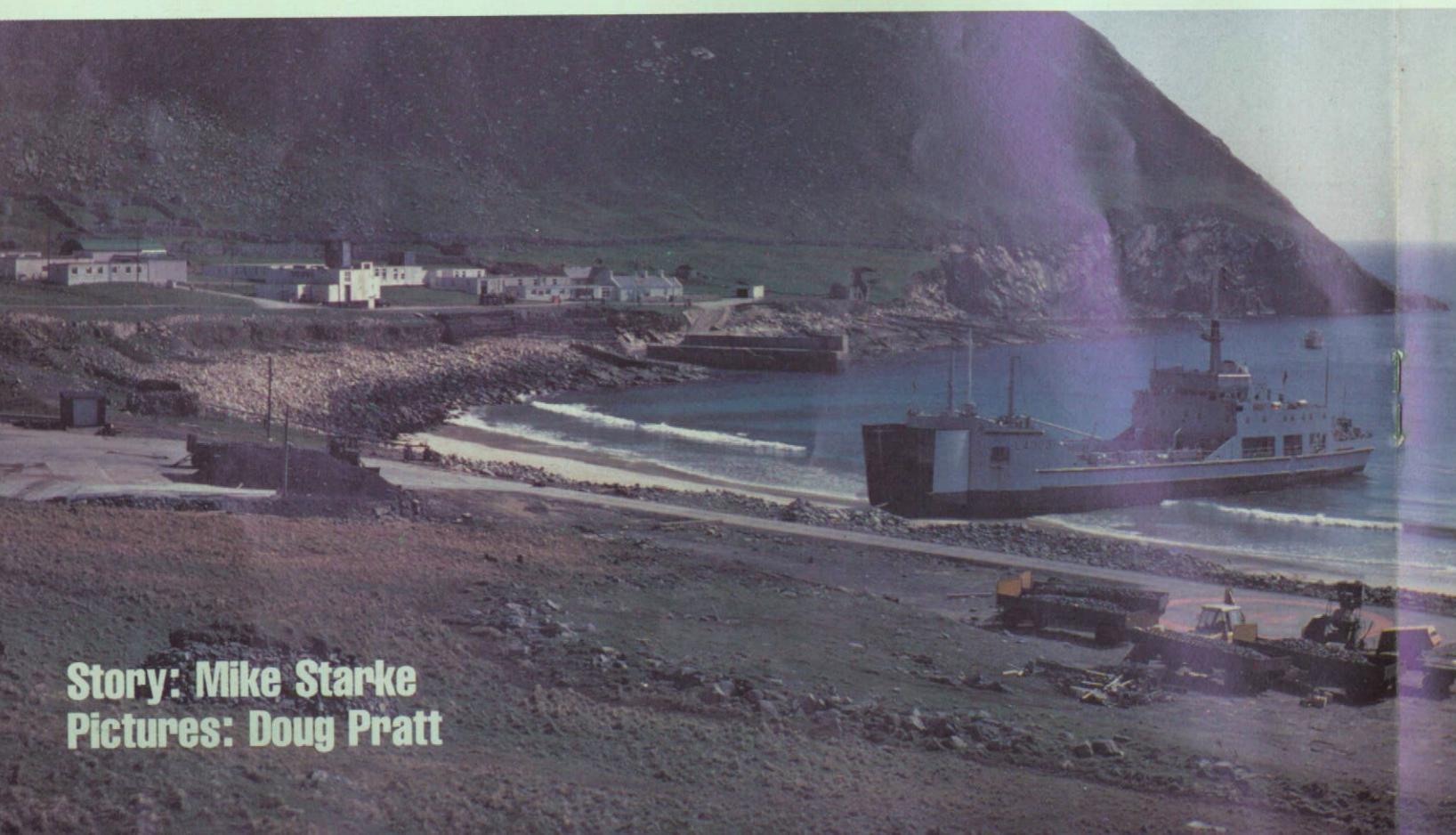
The 'soldiers' and 'rockets' of the phrase

refer to the more prosaically described Royal Artillery Range Hebrides. The geese are the grey-lags that roost on the islands' many lochs — just one of many species of wild fowl that thrive in profusion in the Hebrides.

A map of the Outer Hebrides shows a filigree of wind-lashed land masses nibbled raw

Below left: HMAV Arakan in St Kilda bay.

Below: Atlantic 21 skimming across the waves.



Story: Mike Starke
Pictures: Doug Pratt

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at the edges by the constant pounding of Atlantic breakers. In the rough shape of a leg, North Uist represents the 'thigh' and South Uist the 'calf' with the 'knee joint' the island of Benbecula in the middle. And it is on Benbecula that the Army's range headquarters is sited.

Groans usually greet the news of a posting to Benbecula but such is the fascination of the powerful elemental forces that have gone to mould the craggy isles — some may say even a touch of Celtic spell-binding — that few come away without happy memories of their stay. In fact, a remarkably high proportion of those sent to Benbecula put in for extensions of their tours of duty. The figure has been put at more than 80 per cent.

Job satisfaction is singled out as one of the factors contributing to the popularity of the ranges as a posting. And there is certainly plenty to do for the 300 or so who man the installations.

The range was set up in the late 1950s for testing the Corporal surface-to-surface missile. It was then that some 40 soldiers took over from the RAF (Benbecula had been a wartime Coastal Command base manned by some 3000 people) to maintain a range for the two units issued with Corporal, the Germany-based 27 and 47 Guided Weapons Regiments.

The United States used the range too to blast the 45-foot long guided weapon some 50 miles out into the Atlantic on test firings.

But developments in rocketry were as meteoric as the missiles' actual flight and Corporal was soon becoming obsolete. So the use of the ranges in the Hebrides declined in the 60s until the development of the hand-held blowpipe ground-to-air missile system and the remotely-fired Rapier designed to knock out aircraft too.

The bigger and more powerful successor to Corporal, the Lance, was also introduced and this is now tested annually at Benbecula too.

All this has meant a new lease of life for the Royal Artillery Range Hebrides and brand new buildings were completed in 1974 to house the headquarters and administration blocks on Benbecula itself. Across a causeway on South Uist lie the five launch areas



strung out along the western shore with highly sophisticated range control bunkers overlooking them just inland.

Radar on North and South Uist as well as far out to sea on the even more remote St Kilda scans some 700 square miles of sea to monitor the flight of the missiles.

The monitoring screens in the range control complex are watched by members of the 30-strong contingent of Women's Royal Army Corps personnel on the staff. Theirs is a twilight world lit only by the eerie glow of their display screens in front of them with daylight shut out of their working lives.

As well as the military staff, the range employs some 200 local civilians. Most are native Hebrideans although there is a smattering of 'settlers' — many ex-Service themselves — who have retired to the isles after being captivated by their charms.

Highly sought after by the young men of the Hebrides are the few places as apprentice vehicle and electronic mechanics offered by the range's busy workshops. Some 50 apply each year for the handful of places on the four year course.

The whole garrison, including dependents, represents about half the population of Benbecula itself and a tenth of the entire Hebrides inhabitants — a considerable proportion.

A remarkable amount of care is taken to make sure that the Army's presence causes the least disruption to the local community. Indeed, considerable effort is made to harmonise and participate in local matters.

The range's Commandant, Brigadier D P 'Paddy' Ryan explained: "A great part of my job is trying to understand the difficulties and problems of the islanders". An annual Range Liaison Committee meeting ("Signing next year's treaty, if you will") is convened to iron out any differences, the main area of concern being the lobster fishing operations which go on in the waters to the west of the Hebrides as a rule, where the rockets are fired out to sea.

Above: Members of the various corps' on St Kilda form Guard of Honour as Brigadier Ryan pins Northern Ireland medal onto Sapper Andrew Gibbon.

Brigadier Ryan's sympathy for the local community is rooted in his knowledge of their recent history when treatment as harsh as their uncompromising environment was meted out to them.

The Hebrides were the last islands to be 'cleared' — compulsorily evacuated by landlords eager for more cash returns than crofters' rents could provide. Tales of men and women taken in chains to ships bound for Canada have been handed down from generation to generation and the scars of the wounds this brutal treatment left are seared in the memories of modern Hebrideans.

More recently, another deception was wrought on the hapless islanders. They volunteered in large numbers for service in the trenches of World War One and were decimated at the battle of Loos. Those who returned were promised land by way of compensation for the horrors they had suffered. But when the promise was broken, they became squatters on their crofts to force the issue.

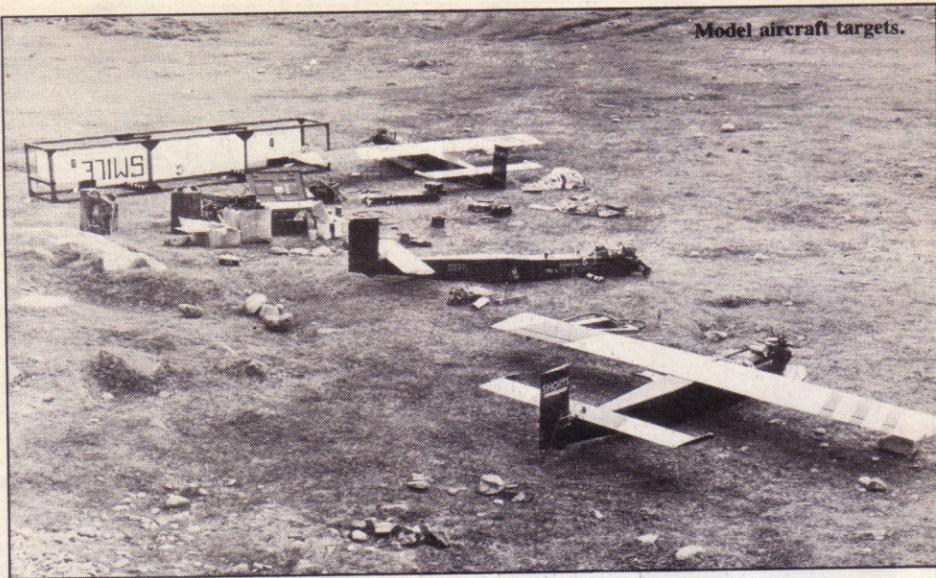
Brigadier Ryan continued: "So, when the Army came, it was identified with the landlords of old and was therefore on the wrong side of the fence to start with. So I have to be very careful to carry along with me the good will of the people here in whatever we do."

"My formula is to do a great deal of listening. It's worth remembering that their civilisation is some 1000 years older than ours. They had a university here in our Dark Ages and they have a history of learning and piety."

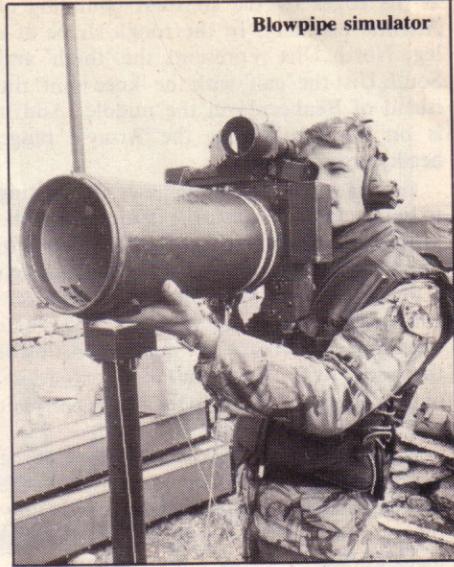
"They are a rural, immobile and modest people. The Army, by its very nature, tends to be urban, mobile and young."

The majority of islanders speak Gaelic as their first language, although their natural courtesy demands that they speak English for the benefit of strangers in their midst. In

The Royal Corps of Transport's 20 Maritime Regiment plays a vital part in the life of those who man the Hebrides ranges. Apart from the lifeline provided by the Landing Craft Logistic that brings the bulk of the stores for the garrison from the mainland on its fortnightly run, the detachment operates a small fleet of four range safety craft whose 'flagship' is the powerful *Alfred Herring VC*. This powerful patrol vessel can scythe through the waves at some 27 knots in pursuit of craft that may stray into the danger zone of the ranges. An equally impressive inshore craft run by the RCT is its semi-inflatable Atlantic 21, a two-ton high-speed boat capable of 30 knots thanks to two Johnson 55 horse power outboard engines. A wave-skimming ride in the Benbecula Atlantic 21 is claimed to be one of the most exciting experiences in the whole Army!



Model aircraft targets.



Blowpipe simulator



Firing Blowpipe.



Controlling MATS.

return, a surprising number of the garrison set about learning some Gaelic in their two-year stay in the Hebrides and the Brigadier himself is a student of the language.

Day-to-day co-operation between the civil and military communities is a striking feature of life on the Hebrides. There are few shops on the remote islands (the sparse community is scattered throughout the islands with only small townships as the largest concentration of homes) and so the well-stocked Naafi shop is used by the civilians as well as the Army families.

There is no launderette either so the Army shares its own PRI-funded facility with the locals. At play as well, the two communities share the Army facilities with the one Benbecula squash court getting almost round-the-clock use. A full range of indoor sports is catered for in a large gymnasium and indoor swimming pool.

Outdoor activities tend to revolve around rural pursuits. Sea angling is a particularly popular pastime. So too is ornithology. The grey-lag geese are only one of many species to be observed and with the Nature Conservancy Council active on the Outer Hebrides many soldiers and their families have been encouraged to turn to nature study.

But, as often as not, the harsh weather conditions send folk scurrying indoors. During the height of winter in November, December and January, fierce hailstorms lash the virtually treeless moorland and hurricane force winds whip the already-towering Atlantic rollers into a frenzy of boiling foam (they actually spray over the 1200-foot hills of St Kilda some 54 miles to the west of the main islands).

The garrison's headquarter complex, only recently completed, incorporates special design features to beat the elements. Covered walkways link buildings and shrubs are nurtured in the relative shelter of small quadrangles built to shut out the high winds.

Tiles are cemented on to the roofs of married quarters. But still they have been known to lift. Many of the locals still live in traditional single-storey crofts with earth and thatch roofs held down by a sort of giant hair net of ropes weighted in place by large stones.

A hazard for drivers is the wind catching open vehicle doors and damaging them — or worse still those opening them. To give some idea of the power of the wind, Major Mike Hodges of the headquarters staff recalled

how a Land-Rover he had positioned in the wind on a flat road had been blown free-wheeling to a speed of 20 mph!

The garrison and its staff exist to provide the necessary ranges for training both Royal Artillery batteries, elements from the various artillery schools plus squadrons of the RAF Regiment who use Rapier for airfield defence.

More than 50 groups a year come to the ranges, usually two at a time, and each spends a fortnight on their training. The bulk of their work in the Outer Hebrides involves firing their missiles (some 2000 wing their way down-range each year) but fitness training and sport take up any spare time as well as work with simulator missile systems.

Once in the summer Lance is fired and occasionally meteorology rockets are launched too. But the majority of rockets fired are the Blowpipe — on a good day a battery can loose off around 30.

Blowpipe is fired at a Model Aircraft Target System (MATS), a larger and slightly more sophisticated version of every schoolboy's dream of a radio controlled model, powered by a 125cc motor. Direct hits are not as usual as near misses (which can be recor-

ded too) but this does not mean that the firer has failed. For a near miss by a full-sized missile on a model-sized target represents a clean kill of the real thing in the form of an enemy aircraft.

Rapier is fired at a towed target streamed some four kilometres behind an RAF Canberra jet. This bullet-shaped target some eight feet long by less than a foot wide streams smoke to help with target acquisition.

The Rapier system is the star of the range and Specialist Ammunition Technical Officer Major Jeff Gordon quipped: "We call it a HITile rather than a MISSile!"

The ranges are open from February to December with a three week break for maintenance in the summer. This keeps the staff on their toes and ensures the fullest use possible by visiting units. There are plans to expand the operations to allow three units at a time to come to Benbecula for training but at present only two at a time can be accom-

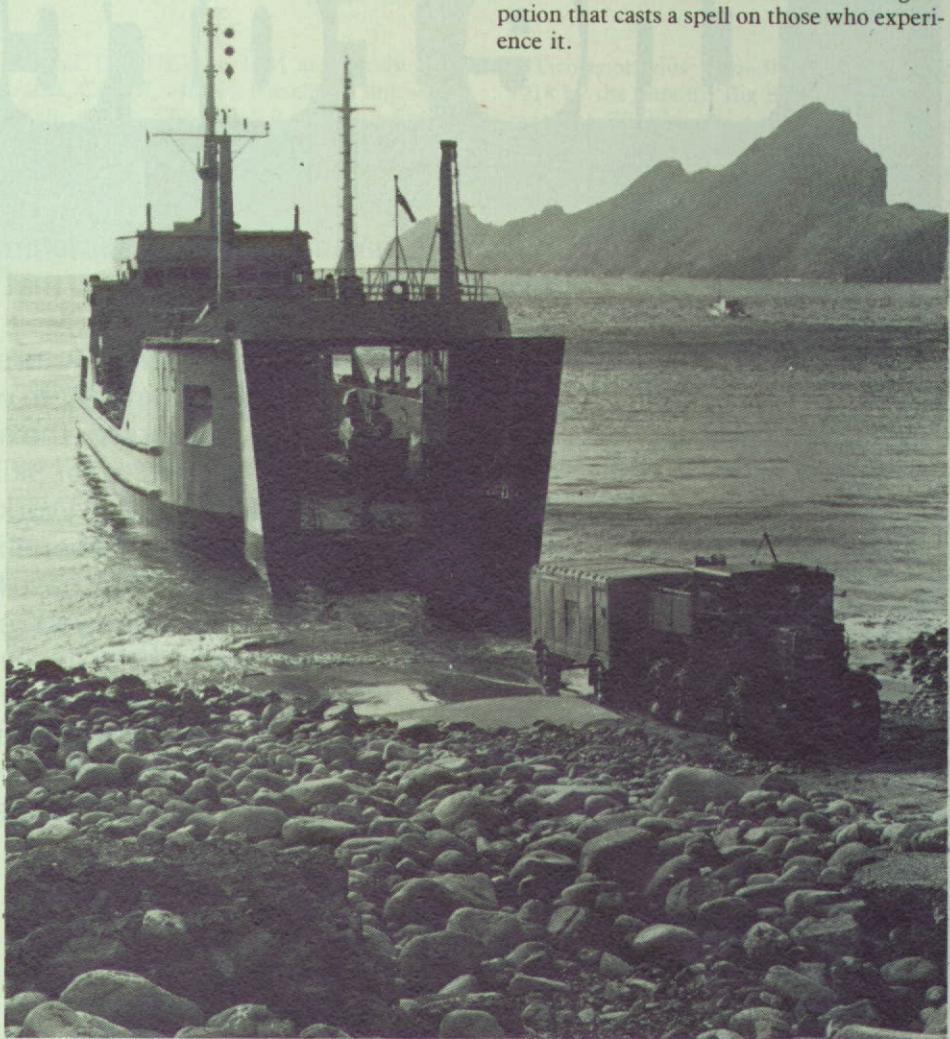
modated in comfort.

Visiting units come by air and sea with a battery from the Royal Artillery taking up three C-130 Hercules transports, flown in to the Benbecula strip right next door to the headquarters complex, and a Landing Craft Logistic which carries the road party from the mainland. The LCL (currently *HMAV Arakan*) is the ship on station for the job manned by the Royal Corps of Transport) plies between Rhu near Glasgow and Loch Carnan jetty on Benbecula once a fortnight. From Benbecula the LCL resupplies remote St Kilda which in between visits by sea gets air-drops of mail for the 30 or so men on the

island who man the tracking radar and service the site.

With no mobilisation alerts or Northern Ireland tours to disrupt domestic life, a posting to Benbecula is popular with married men. Wives tend to miss the bright lights of the big shops, but to help out with this, cut-price flights to Glasgow and Stornoway are arranged from time to time. Young, single men may miss the swinging social life they enjoy on the mainland of Britain or Germany. But many settle down to enjoy the slower pace of rural life enlivened as it is by spectacular scenery and wildlife and awe-inspiring seas and skies.

All in all the mixture of soldiers, geese and rockets on the islands of Uist makes a magical potion that casts a spell on those who experience it.



Great Britain's most westerly toe-hold on the continental shelf of the Atlantic is a twelve-and-a-half square mile archipelago of five islands known as St Kilda — and its only human inhabitants are based on a small Army camp huddling in the lee of a hill on the largest of the five.

Thirty or so soldiers detached from the Royal Artillery Range Hebrides in Benbecula man radar tracking installations to monitor missile firing from South Uist and maintain the tiny community on the Hirta base — the main island of the group. Here are signallers, sappers, gunners, medics and cooks forming a tiny village community on one of the most exposed craggy outposts the Army knows.

For some 2000 years a small civilian community clawed an existence out of the sparse fields and cliffs of the islands — their staple diet was seabirds and their eggs. But the 20th century finally encroached upon even their isolated existence and this year is the 50th anniversary of their evacuation from St Kilda when disease and economic pressure finally put an end to their independent way of life there.

The Army only went to St Kilda 21 years ago and is keenly aware of the historical and natural significance of the islands, which are under the auspices of the National Trust of Scotland. The abundant colonies of fulmars, puffins and gannets are a constant source of amazement.

But as well as the seabirds, there are three St Kilda specialities — the St Kilda mouse, a hamster-sized rodent unique to the place, the St Kilda wren and the Soay sheep. The latter is believed to be the last example of the earliest form of domestic sheep to be farmed in the British Isles. A splinter group from the flock has been taken to Queen Elizabeth Country Park in Hampshire as part of the stock for an experimental reconstruction of an iron age agriculture.



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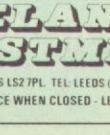
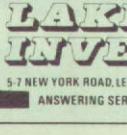
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ARMED FORCES MUSEUMS

THE WELCH REGIMENT

FIRST OPENED in 1931 at Maindy Barracks, Cardiff, where it was almost unknown to the public, The Welch Regiment museum is now housed in the very centre of the capital city of Wales in the historic Black and Barbican Towers of Cardiff Castle and in the Portcullis Chamber connecting them. Here it attracts visitors by the thousand who can view a comprehensive record of the life and deeds of the regiment from its formation in 1719 to its amalgamation in 1969 with The South Wales Borderers to form The Royal Regiment of Wales (24th/41st Foot).

A fine display of silver dominates the entrance hall while the King's Colour borne by the 41st from 1789 to 1801, an ornate drummer's jacket, a rare bicorne hat worn by an officer of the local militia (1808-16) and a drum-major's staff of the same period are among a variety of introductory souvenirs.

The maritime activities of the 69th, formerly the 2nd Battalion the 24th, is recalled by their service afloat in *HMS Agamemnon* under Lord Nelson who some time later, finding a detachment of the 69th in *HMS Captain* of which he had assumed command, greeted them as "my old Agamemnons," a nickname which is still used on the wreath laid by the regiment at the foot of Nelson's Column on Trafalgar Day each year.

The National Colour of the 4th Regiment of American Infantry taken by the 41st at Fort Detroit in 1812 and the tattered Regimental Colour of the 2nd Battalion the 69th Regiment carried at Quatre Bras and Waterloo are of particular interest. Other Waterloo relics include the telescope used by Colonel Charles Morrice who commanded the 69th in the battle and two Waterloo Medals awarded to officers of the regiment. There is also a diorama of the battle of Quatre Bras. Other exhibits connected with the 69th are the Commission of Lieutenant Gabriel Thompson issued on 27 August 1785 and a machete used when the regiment was in the West Indies in the mid-19th century.

The 41st fought throughout the Crimean campaign and three drums captured from the Russian 41st Regiment of the Line are on display. Two Victoria Crosses won in the Crimea by Sergeant Ambrose Madden and Captain Hugh Rowlands, both of the 41st, can also be seen. A representative collection of shakos, helmets and uniforms of different periods complemented by badges and buttons play an important part in the museum's general display.

A Mauser rifle used by a Boer soldier, emergency rations in a sealed tin and a khaki sun helmet are among a number of South African War mementos.

Two enormous brass shell cases used in 1918 by the famous 'Big Bertha' gun with a range of 67 miles are a popular attraction, while a fragmentation mortar bomb, a German signal pistol and stick grenade, British gas masks, relics of the fighting in the Ypres salient, a British officer's field messing kit and a Turkish officer's sword are among a large number of World War One exhibits.

Nazi daggers, German and Japanese ceremonial swords, an 8mm Nambu automatic pistol, a jungle hat and other items of kit used in Burma, a Thompson sub-machine gun and a Bren gun are among several items relating to World War Two. Here too is a reminder of the old Home Guard in the shape of a makeshift pike.

The museum is particularly rich in relics of the Korean War. The 1st Welch Battle Flag is in a prominent position, a Simonov carbine, examples of warm clothing issued to British troops and a Korean diorama are but a few of many souvenirs.

The regiment's achievements in sport, particularly rugby football, are well to the fore. Up to the amalgamation in 1969 The Welch Regiment had won the Army Cup no less than ten times and a number of Welsh international and Army caps have a place of honour.

The Ontario Regiment of Canada, The Royal New South Wales Regiment of Australia and the 4th Battalion The Baluch Regiment of Pakistan, all allied to The Royal Regiment of Wales, are also commemorated in the museum which is on three floors and has an excellent souvenir shop.

The Welch Regiment museum would not be complete without tributes to the regimental mascot, the Goat, and there are several reminders of these mascots who in their day have accompanied the regiment worldwide.

John Jesse

Curator: Lieutenant Bryn Owen RN (Retd)
Address: The Black and Barbican Towers Cardiff Castle CF1 2RB
Telephone: Cardiff 29367
Open: Every day 1000 to 1800
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Entrance: Christmas Day and New Year's Day
For sale: 75p to Castle which includes museum. Children 35p Souvenirs.

John Jesse's article on the Herefordshire Light Infantry Museum has had to be deferred to a later issue.

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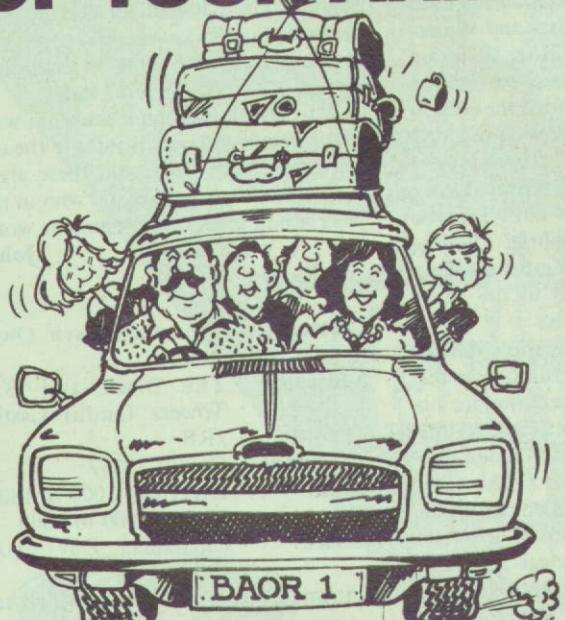
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BLESS 'EM ALL!



A leading leisure firm recently staged a week of World War Two nostalgia at three of its holiday camps in England. **SOLDIER** visited two of the venues to join in the stroll down Memory Lane

...

Osmington

GEORGE FACES THE MUSIC

GEORGE BATTY, who is 80, spent 19 years working with horses in the 17th/21st Lancers between the wars — 'and bloody hard work it was too'. Wounded with The Manchester Regiment at the age of 16 in the First World War he later saw service in India (twice) and Egypt.

But at the 'Bless 'Em All' reunion at Pontin's Osmington Bay camp George, a scarlet coated Chelsea Pensioner for the last ten

years, faced a challenge almost as frightening as those of his long Army career.

At the end of a concert by the 17th/21st Lancers band the old campaigner stepped into the spotlight to conduct the band in a rendering of his old regimental march 'White Lancers'. And that, said George; "Made my heart beat nineteen to the dozen".

The band, from nearby Bovington camp, got a standing ovation from the 1000 World

War Two revivalists with a programme geared to their tastes in that it comprised music from the 1920's as well as more military style music.

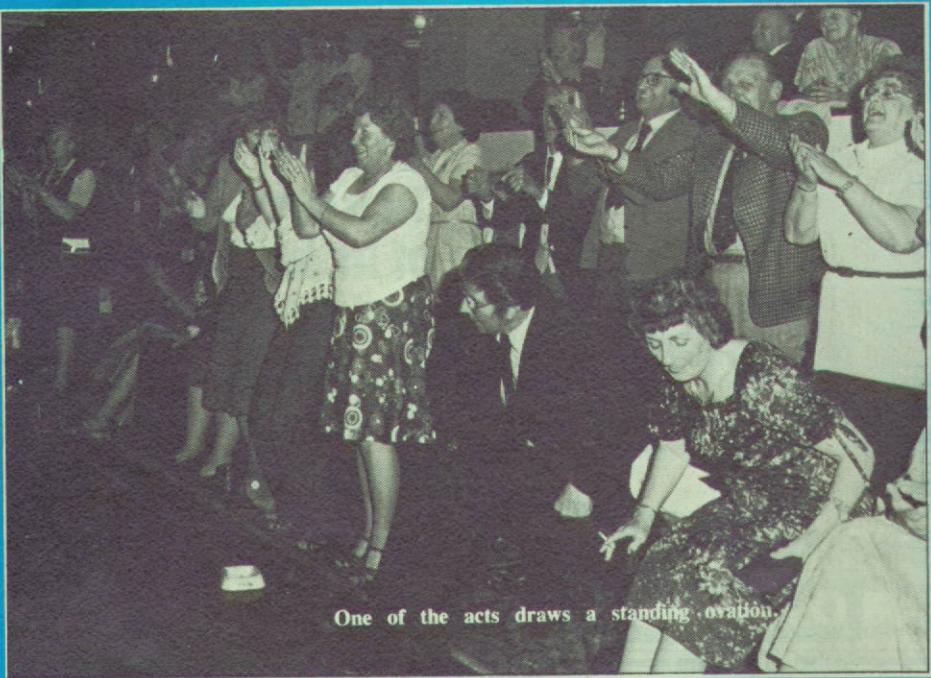
Bandmaster, Bob Judd, did include the inevitable 'We'll Meet Again' — although he avoided the temptation to lay on a pot-pourri of World War Two numbers. "Our job is to perform a concert not a sing song. In fact at first they asked us to do a Beating the Retreat

Below: George Batty conducting the band.

continued on page 42



Story: John Walton
Pictures: Doug Pratt



One of the acts draws a standing ovation.

until we pointed out that our spurs might not do the dance floor a lot of good."

Osmington was the first site selected for 'Bless 'Em All'. It was only when it completely sold out within weeks that it was decided that the idea was a winner and other venues were added.

Said Eddie Stamper, centre operations manager: "The demand was amazing. I even had one woman who could not get in ringing up and telling me 'I suppose all the bloody officers are in there, the same as in the war'".

Peter Brough and Archie Andrews, Anne Ziegler and Webster Booth, Ben Warriss and

other famous names from the days of steam radio all appeared at Osmington. But the best performance, by general acclaim, was that of ex-football chairman, Tommy Trinder. His 75 minute stand up comic performance earned him a standing ovation.

In order to encourage a bit of friendly rivalry Pontin's divided the guests into houses — representing the Navy, Army, Air Force and the Auxiliary services. And inter-house competitions were held in things like table tennis, snooker, mini-golf and football (although thickening waistlines led to a poor turnout in the latter and it turned into a little

shooting practice).

The Military Conservation Group brought 75 old military vehicles into the camp and there was a competition among the old sweats to see which they could remember and identify. And 300 people turned up in the ballroom to listen to recordings of Churchill's wartime speeches.

What did the guests make of it all? Alfred Jones, (72), of Bristol, was disappointed that he had not met any of his old mates from pre-war days in the Royal Horse Artillery.

"But it's a good crowd of people here and we are all more or less the same age. As you get older you only have a few years left so you might as well have a good fling."

Mr Ernest Carr, who is 81, recently became secretary of Camberley British Legion again — he retired last year but the younger man who took it on found the job too exacting. He had brought along a coachload of 53 veterans.

"My only complaint is that they have not mentioned the First World War. I was at Ypres and the Somme and all around Passchendaele. I know this is supposed to be a second world war reunion — but the first should be mentioned because there are not a lot of us left."

Ex-sailor Alex Hinton: "I've been impressed by the whole atmosphere and friendliness of people I have never met before. We have spent a lot of time sitting around talking about our war efforts and that".

Mr Hector Morgan, who is 73 and lives in Pontypridd in South Wales, was sporting a Dunkirk Veterans blazer. He told *SOLDIER* of a poignant occasion for him last year when he visited Dunkirk and found the grave of his best friend who had been killed there.

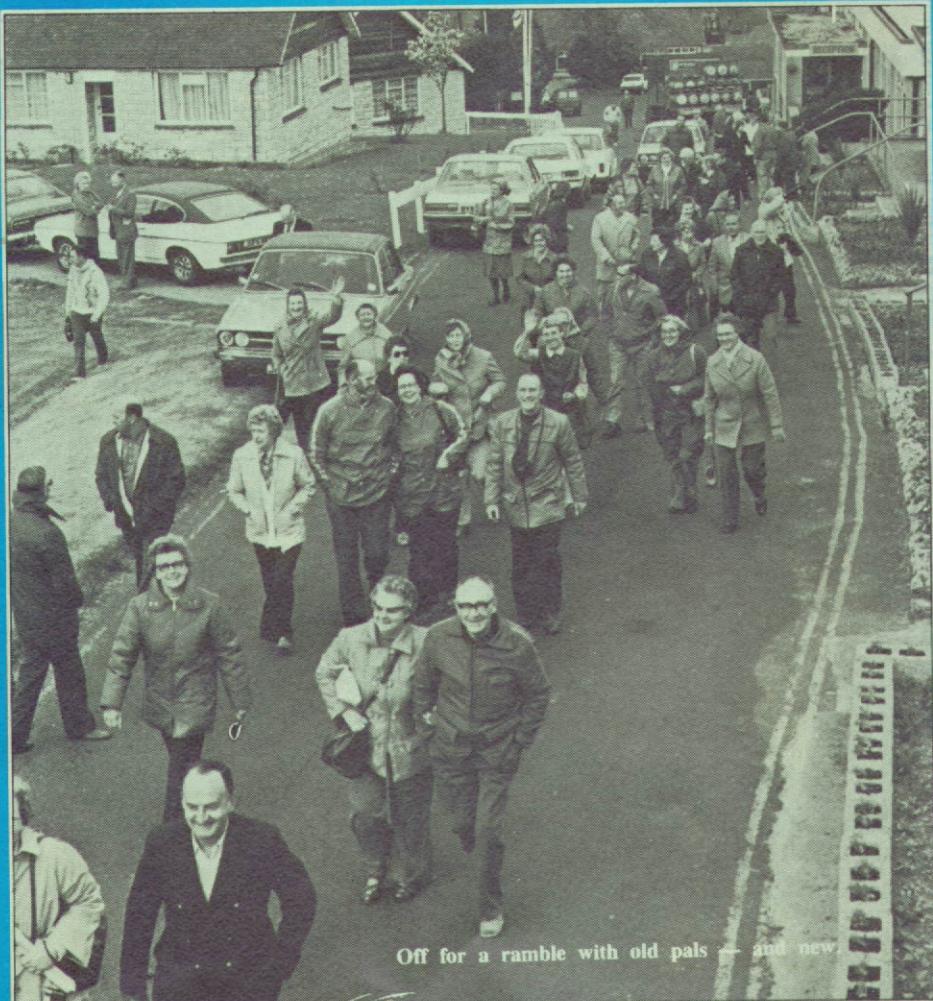
"We only had ten minutes to spare in the cemetery. Something made me go to the second lane of graves and turn inwards — his was the fourth grave and three more of my pals were alongside. I cried my eyes out."

Mr Morgan who served with The Loyal (North Lancs) Regiment and later acted as a sergeant instructor licking the RAF Regiment into shape on its formation, said that next year he intended to go to the reunion at Blackpool in the hopes of meeting old comrades.

And Mrs Edith Chandler, of Southampton, put in a word for the ATS: "I've only met two other ATS girls here and I don't think much attention has been paid to us. People don't seem to think of us having done anything. But the week has been marvellous — just like the old Naafi days".

Mrs Chandler produced a photograph of her in the ill fitting uniform in which she started her Army service. "We were in men's Army battledress. We had to stand like I am in the picture because we had no braces or belt to keep them up with — they were just pinned. And the Army knickers were celanese and they used to slip down . . ."

By the middle of the week a long queue had formed at the camp reception desk of people booking up for next year. Within 24 hours of the announcement being made that there would be another 'Bless 'Em All' at Osmington in 1981 a quarter of the 1980 guests had already booked. It looks as though the Pontin's and Sunday People nostalgia venture is all set for years to come.



Off for a ramble with old pals — and new

BAGPIPES SOUND REVEILLE — AND NO COMPLAINTS!



DOWN AT BRACKLESHAM BAY the 'Bless 'Em All' week started as it meant to go on. The camp was roused at 7.30 on Sunday morning by the strains of Reveille played by two pipers of the Oxford Caledonian Pipe Band.

Manager Jim Winslade had been horrified. "They were in the bar after their concert on

the Saturday night and someone suggested it. I never thought they would! In fact, it went down very well".

The 800 people who had come for the reunion week were certainly out to enjoy themselves and entered into the spirit of the idea with gusto.

There were so many entries for the talent

competition that only a quarter were actually able to show what they could do. The standard of the twelve competitors was extremely high and each entry was given enthusiastic applause by the audience packed into 'The Garrison Theatre'.

George Collins, who won first prize, looked every inch the part as he marched on stage in khaki uniform and cap. (It would be pernickety to even mention that he was actually wearing light blue 40 years ago.) As his string of jokes and reminiscences had the audience in uproar, George slipped back to his old days with the Ralph Reader Gang Show. He finished by torturing the long-suffering accompanist with a rendering of 'K-K-K-Katy' — in D.

George did in fact play the clubs for a time professionally but now works as a Metropolitan police security guard at the Houses of Parliament.

"I was delving into their memories" he said "and they loved it. This sort of thing is what they want. I can see this going on for years."

Another entrant in the talent competition was Jack Smith, a spry, cheerful 81-year-old who was looking after the exhibits loaned by the Salisbury Militaria Society. The Society had established a superbly authentic display of uniforms, badges, documents and other militaria and Jack was on hand to answer any questions.

He and his wife were thoroughly enjoying the week. Looking at his wife with a definite twinkle in his eye, Jack laughed, "She didn't want me to get up there but that's the idea of it isn't it, for people to join in?"

The camp had undergone a transformation for the week. The latest news of the war was on display in the facsimiles of papers of the period which had been pinned to the walls

continued on page 45

Above: Old bikes and uniforms in show finale.

Below: Jim Winslade and wife Maureen.



**Story: Ann Beecham
Pictures: Les Wiggs**

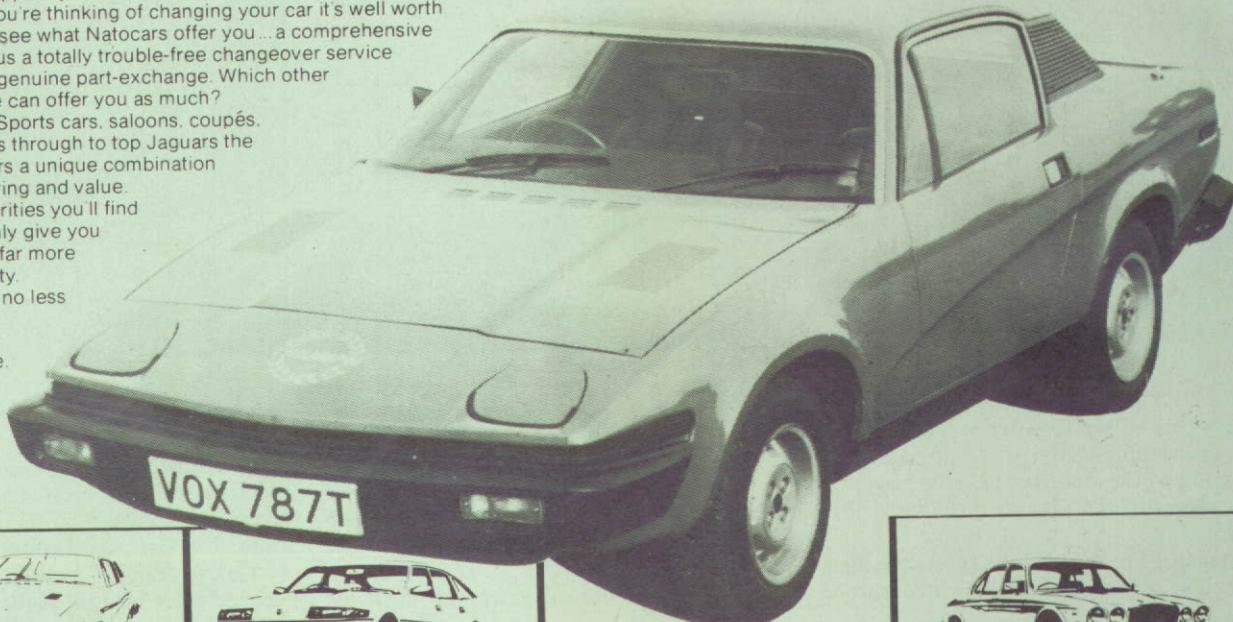
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Above: Part of the paper and poster display.

Right: Sandy Powell proved a popular draw.

and, besides 'The Garrison Theatre', drinks were being served in 'The Dunkirk Bar' and meals — inevitably — in 'The Naafi'.

Outside there was an array of military vehicles. One jeep even had a pair of cam-knickers under the passenger seat which defied explanation and for which nobody would admit responsibility!

The vehicles delighted the large group of ATS girls who had met up at Bracklesham. They spent a lot of time talking over old times and 'Do you remember . . . ?' almost became their catch phrase.

For two of the ATS girls in particular it had been a wonderful week. Mrs Anne Boothroyd had been left on her own at the start of the week when her husband, who suffers with old war wounds, had been taken ill and sent to hospital under observation. It was typical of the reunion spirit that everyone had offered to help in any way they could.

One couple invited her to join them and Anne recognised Kathy Hills, now Mrs Raine, whom she hadn't seen since 1943. Both ATS girls, they had met for a space of only three months just before they were due to go abroad. "Kathy caught a throat infection and we left without her. We did have her luggage though because it had been packed already! We only spent three months

Below: More laughs — from the wrestlers.

together but we have had lots of old times to talk over. Kathy remembers things I don't. We have been catching up on all those years."

Kathy's husband, Jack, an ex-para, was all in favour of the 'Bless 'Em All' week. "This is a marvellous thing," he said. "I went to a similar reunion last year for the 35th Anniversary of Arnhem and met three people I used to know." Would they be in favour of another reunion next year? "Yes, please!"



was the unanimous verdict.

The wartime spirit, it seemed, was infectious. Mrs Helen Stone from High Wycombe, who was sporting her wartime medals, told SOLDIER, "Even the local shopkeepers have noticed the atmosphere and have been very friendly. The food has been excellent here and we have had good value for money. It's like the old days in the Forces when we had to help each other. You appreciated the little things and this is happening this week too." She added that she thought it probably had a lot to do with the fact that everyone was of a similar age and with similar experiences.

Two former members of The Worcestershire Regiment who joined up together in 1940, were Henry Maycroft and Fred Robbins. They had recognised each other in the bar and had spent a long time talking over old times. "We got to know each other so well in those days, eating, sleeping and living together. You don't forget it," said Henry.

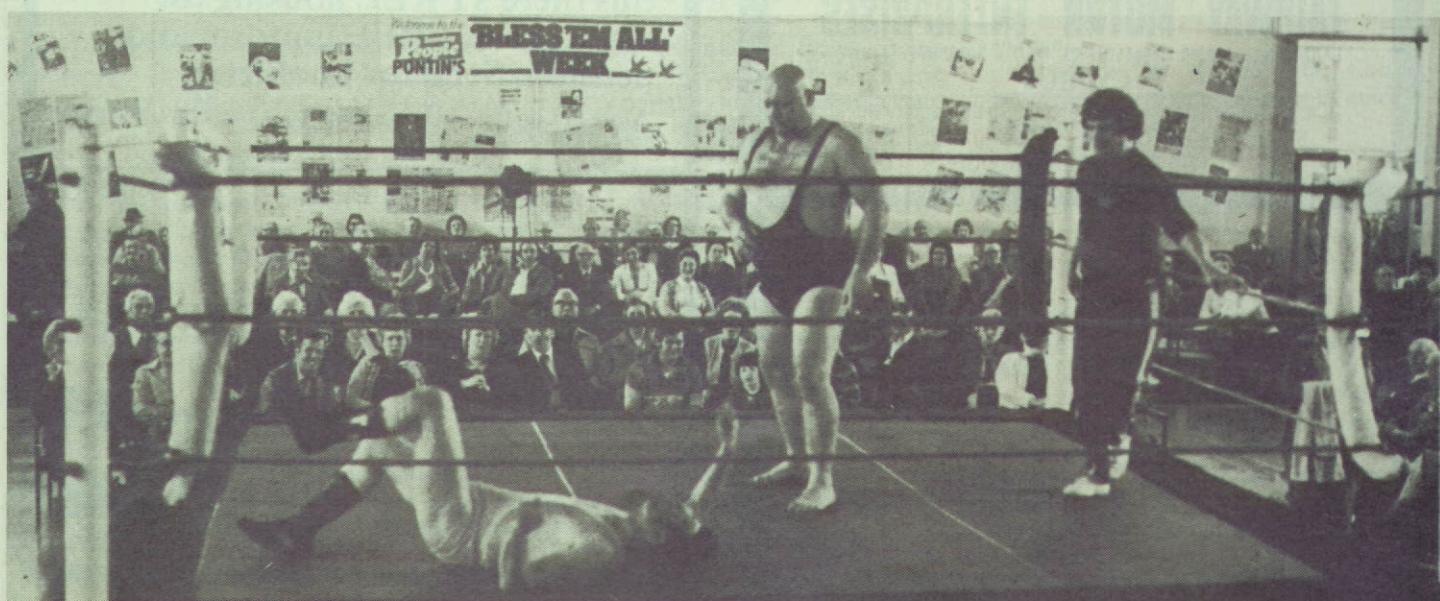
Bill Evans, ex-submariner, echoed these sentiments. "Perhaps it's brought back a lot of unhappy memories but I think it's done a lot for everybody." Bill had met up with the cox of his sub, Harry Armstrong, whom he hadn't seen since shortly after the war. "When you talk to somebody, you go back 30 years" said Harry.

Lots of entertainment had been laid on to help things go with a swing. The wrestling drew a capacity audience and the Royal Military Police, from just up the road in Chichester, had mounted a mobile display for the first few days of the week and demonstrated unarmed combat techniques.

The fine weather meant that all was clear for the Flying Bugles, the parachute display team of The Light Infantry, to drop in Thursday afternoon amid great interest.

Evenings too were busy. Sandy ("Can you hear me, mother?") Powell was one of the stars of the past who performed before a full house. He was very much one of the gang and said that he had thoroughly enjoyed playing to such a "fine crowd of people".

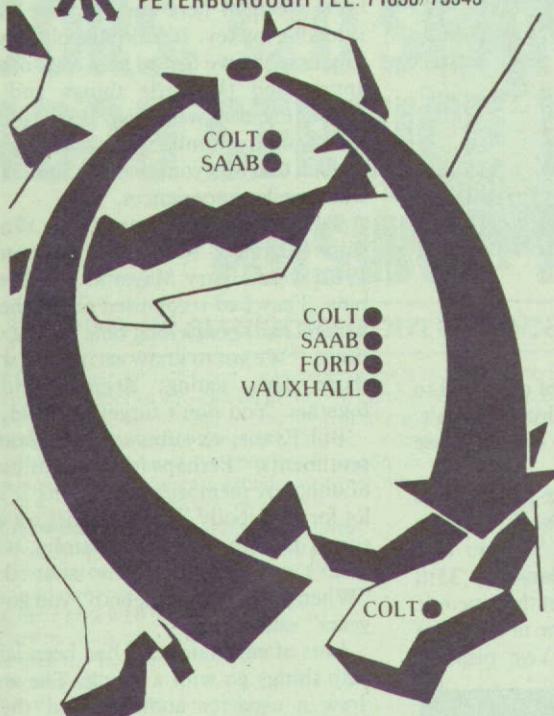
Jim Winslade and his wife, who had both worked hard to make the 'Bless 'Em All' week a success at Bracklesham, were delighted with the response. "We haven't had a single complaint," said Jim" and the bar hasn't closed until the early hours most days. We have already had a lot of people enquiring about next year."



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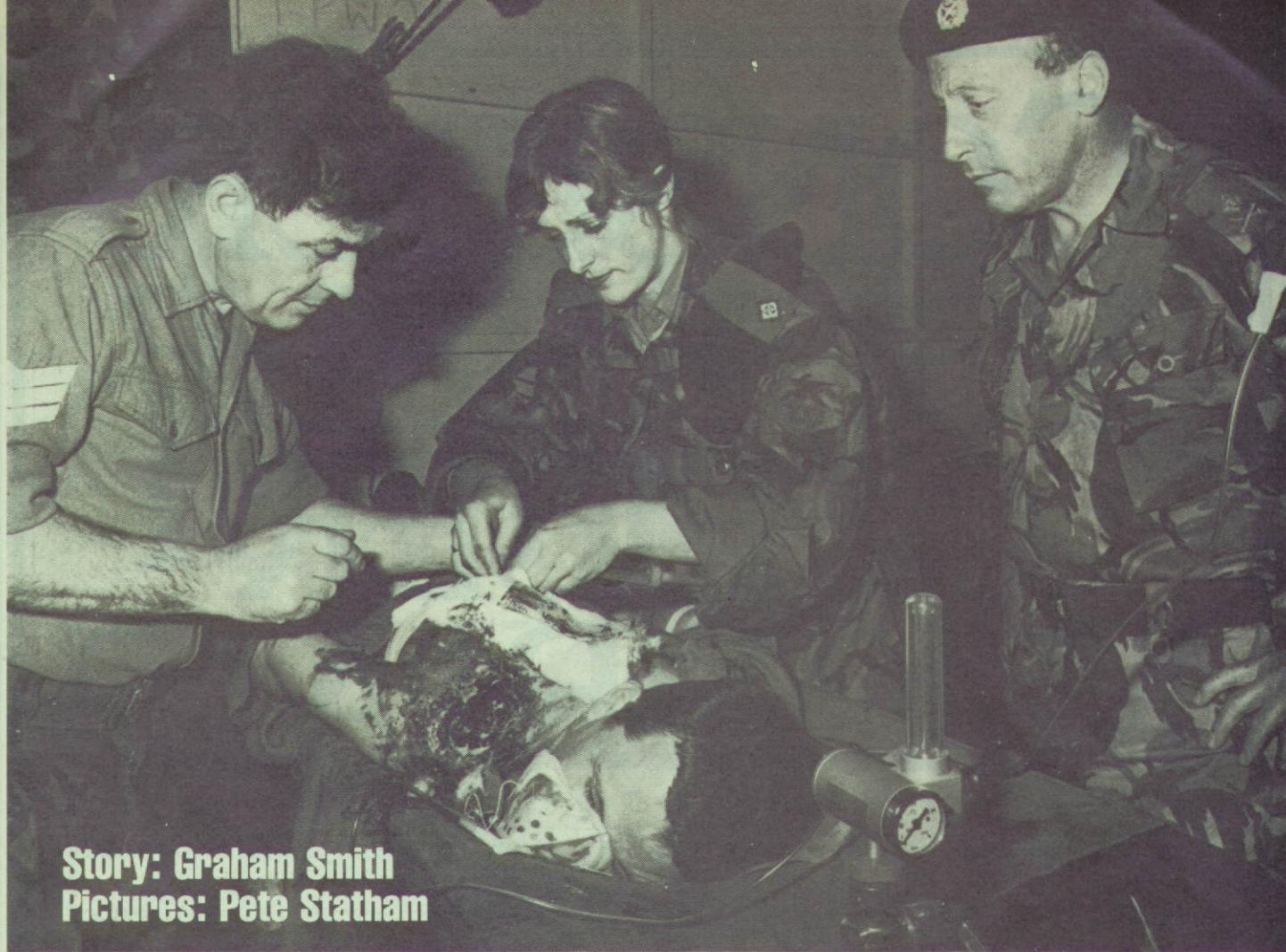
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**Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Pete Statham**

Midland Medics bring 'MASH' to Wiltshire

WHAT DID 40 PAIRS of ladies' used tights, two dozen medium-sized sliced white loaves and a thunderous, low-level air strike of just two seconds have in common? Inspiration. They were just three of the vital ingredients for simulated realism during a recent exercise for an all-volunteer Territorial Army MASH-type field hospital unit.

More than 150 men and women from 202 (Midlands) General Hospital (Volunteers) Royal Army Medical Corps, left the familiar surrounds of their Dawberry Fields Road, King's Heath, Birmingham, drill hall (and another at Coventry) to train round-the-clock under canvas in austere field conditions as part of their annual camp on Wiltshire's bracing Salisbury Plain during Exercise Petit Mash.

Among the part-time 'Terriers' was a sprinkling of full-time medical personnel, including surgeons, physiotherapists and anaesthetists from various Midlands hospitals. Even so, most among the dedicated number of 202 were lorry drivers, hairdressers, shop assistants, car workers and even a banker.

Plenty of stress was built into the exercise scenario. But the 'Terriers' expected it. They were, after all, under test; tested for coolness, expertise and efficiency under as trying conditions as the available resources of such a war game would allow.

Bedside manners coupled with surgical skill were practised on willing field 'casual-

ties' provided by 174 long-suffering teenagers and permanent staff from the Junior Soldiers' Battalion, the Army's newest unit, based at Taunton, Somerset.

The week-long stay in rural Wiltshire had its moments of sheer impact. Like the RAF Strike Command Jaguar photo-reconnaissance aircraft from its Norfolk base making a noisy pass over the unit. The next day, a sister strike-attack version made three thundering 'strafing' runs at seven-miles-a-minute at a height less than half that of the Post Office Tower.

There were also nuclear, biological and chemical attacks to contend with which gave particularly unsightly and unpleasant symptoms and skin wounds. That was the strength of the Casualty Simulation Team which used the queuing teenage soldiers to give a vivid credibility to the series of likely bodily injuries sustained on the battlefield from today's sophisticated weaponry.

Instant wounds, some created in as little as five minutes, were artistically sculpted onto the limbs and bodies of the youngsters incorporating procedures which would earn the professional praise of any major film studios peddling sheer stomach-churning horror.

The Team's efforts were not for the squeamish, as one laconic sergeant, quipped: "The lads here don't pass out, only the occasional visiting Top Brass who don't seem to take it too well".

Blood flowed freely. Gallons of it. There

Above: Medical Assistant Sgt Norman Catton and 2nd Lt Sandra Reed tend simulated gunshot wound watched by Major-General Hellier.

was no shortage of supply compounded by the liberal mixtures of glycerine, jelly, and red and yellow substances. Angry blisters from burns loomed convincingly on arms and legs from dabs of vaseline.

Sliced white bread pounded by a grinding process, topped by bits of flesh-coloured nylon tights, both etched with scalpels and 'bulked out' by simulated blood created life-like wounds on most parts of the anatomy.

Whatever the wound, the Casualty Simulation Team could provide it, quickly – even amputations!

Among the visitors to the exercise was Major General Jimmie Hellier, Major-General Administration, HQ UKLF, who praised the realism of the training and the patriotism of the TA men and women taking part.

"These dedicated people have our complete trust and they deserve the admiration of the entire country," he said.

"History abounds with examples of where the lack of effective casualty evacuation and treatment facilities have eroded the morale of even crack fighting units and the existence of such units as 202 General Hospital, which is trained realistically to perform its role in war, is of fundamental importance to the morale and efficiency of our Regular Army."

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VAUXHALL  
PERSONAL EXPORT

S7/80

Hang gliding has been accepted as an official Army sport. A SOLDIER team has been to find out what makes a person want to



FLY LIKE A BIRD

Above: It's the nearest thing to being a bird.

Below: Instructors explain rig. Spot the soldiers.

ASK A SEASONED free fall parachutist or a grizzled front-row rugby forward his opinion of hang gliding and chances are that the reply would be unprintable. At the very least it would probably be: "You won't get me up on one of those things!"

But despite the views of people who know little about this new and exciting activity, hang gliding is literally taking off — and that goes for within the Army too. For the sport has now been given Category A approval by the Army Sport Control Board and next year will see the opening of a Service hang gliding centre, complete with staff, based on Brecon.

Even in the early days of the sport, Servicemen were well in evidence and from BAOR, Captain Charles Blount actually represented Britain in the first European championships in the early seventies.

But the biggest single milestone for service hang gliding enthusiasts was the granting of official approval, following the setting up of a properly organised Army Hang Gliding Association. Immediately after this decision was announced, the first Army course was launched, run by the Welsh Hang Gliding Centre at Crickhowell, and despite fluctuating weather it was pronounced a great success.

As little as two years ago, the first unofficial Army club was set up in BAOR. Called



Briforge (British Forces Germany) the club was started by Staff-Sergeant Dave Robert RE and WO2 Terry Murphy AAC, later to be led by Captain Jim Taggart REME.

These 'pioneers' quickly realised that if their sport was going to get anywhere, it needed official recognition. Not only would this yield practical benefits such as the full use of Army facilities, the authority to run championships and help with insurance, it would — perhaps more importantly — give the fledgling sport the stamp of respectability to allow soldiers to take part while on duty.

Meanwhile, in Britain, Major Rod MacDonald RE was also convinced that hang gliding offered more opportunities than his previous main interest, free fall parachuting.

He prepared a case to present to the Royal Engineers Sports Board for official recognition within the sappers, based on Jim Taggart's case for Army approval proving successful. The Royal Engineers agreed to the proposal and allocated money for two demonstration gliders to publicise and encourage the sport in the corps and the Royal Engineers Club was formed and recognised by the British association as a member club.

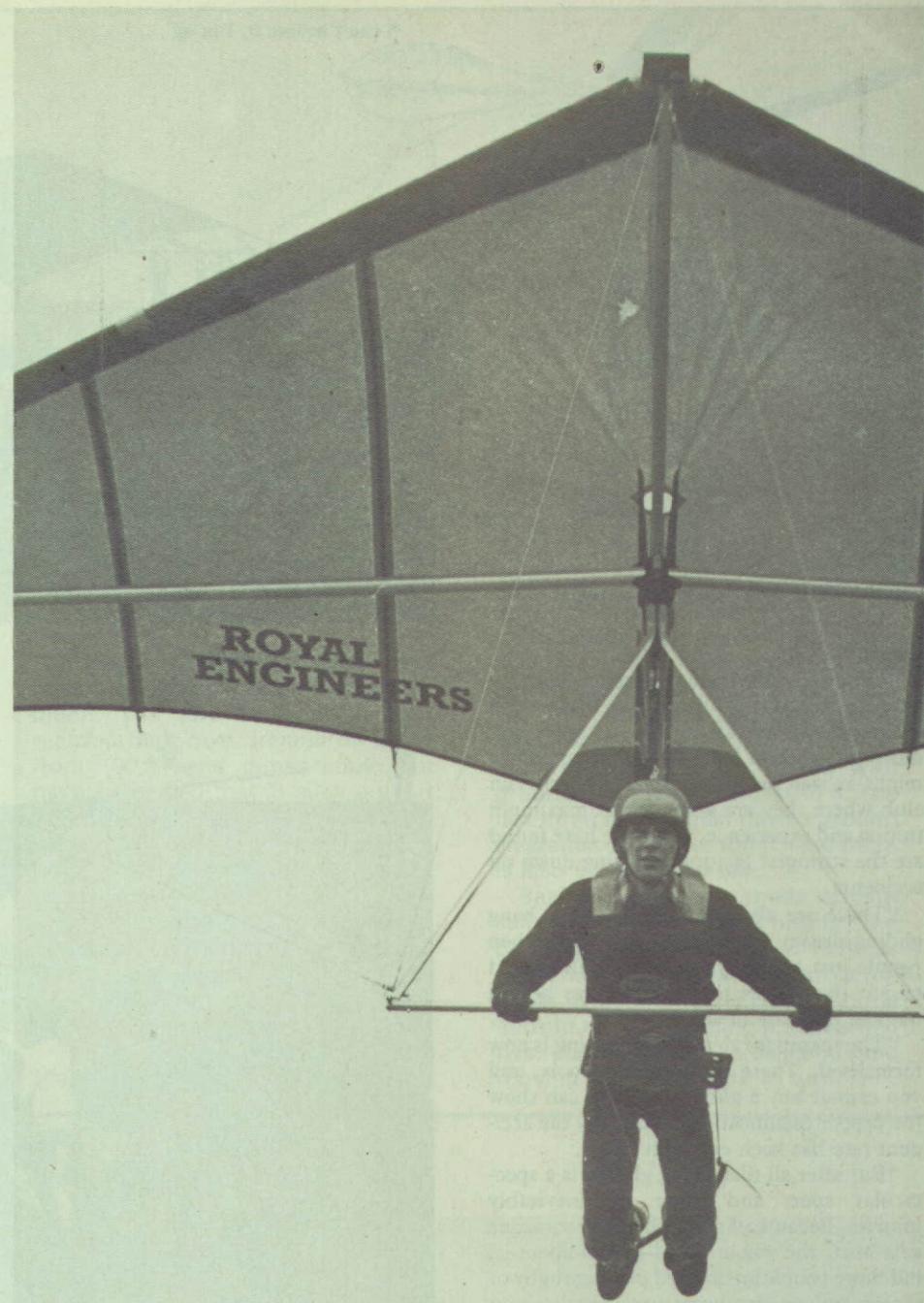
But then came a snag. Jim Taggart's case foundered at the last minute because no Army hang-gliding body existed in the UK to organise and control the sport. This immediately caused great concern as the engineers had already made their club 'official'. At this stage, Headquarters Engineer-in-Chief stepped in and offered Rod MacDonald and the RE Club as the Army Hang Gliding Association. The Army Sport Control Board agreed and the AHGA was born.

"The Sport Control Board said they wanted a coherent body to run the sport in the UK," explained Major MacDonald, "We said fine, the organisation already existed and the Army agreed.

"The future of hang gliding in the Army is not in a central body, but in unit clubs which can receive backing from the centre on

continued on page 53

Story: Doug McArthur
Pictures: Andy Burridge



Above: 'Flying Stablebelt', rigged in RE colours.

Below: Glider assembly at the top of the hill.





Above: Major MacDonald starts uphill again.

demand.

"I think that the main reason for the Army agreeing to make us official is so that we can write and enforce safety rules. After all, soldiers are going to hang glide anyway. They might as well do it through a properly run club where they are going to get maximum tuition and experience, which we have found are the strongest factors in cutting down on accidents.

"There are about 150-200 soldiers hang gliding already and since the early days when people just bought themselves a glider and taught themselves to fly, there has been a marked decrease in accidents.

"The reason for this is that training is now formalised. There are proper schools, and you cannot buy a glider until you can show the proper qualifications. This way the accident rate has been cut right down.

"But after all that, hang gliding is a spectacular sport and there are inevitably injuries. Because of this, whenever someone gets hurt, the whole world knows about it, but more people are injured playing rugby or soccer and no-one hears very much about that at all."

The first course had 22 students — all from the Royal Engineers and less than half the number of applicants.

The first week of the course was confined to training for the Pilot One basic qualification. The students paid £11.50 a day for the first five days, and then spent the second week learning the more exalted soaring and free flying techniques.

"This is a very individual sport," said Major MacDonald. "The instructors have been trying to teach the students to make their own assessments of whether conditions are safe or not. You won't see the instructors say 'do this, that and then this', but rather 'what do you think, what would you do?'.

"And remember they have to be prepared to make an abort decision after climbing up some damn great hill with a glider on their back."

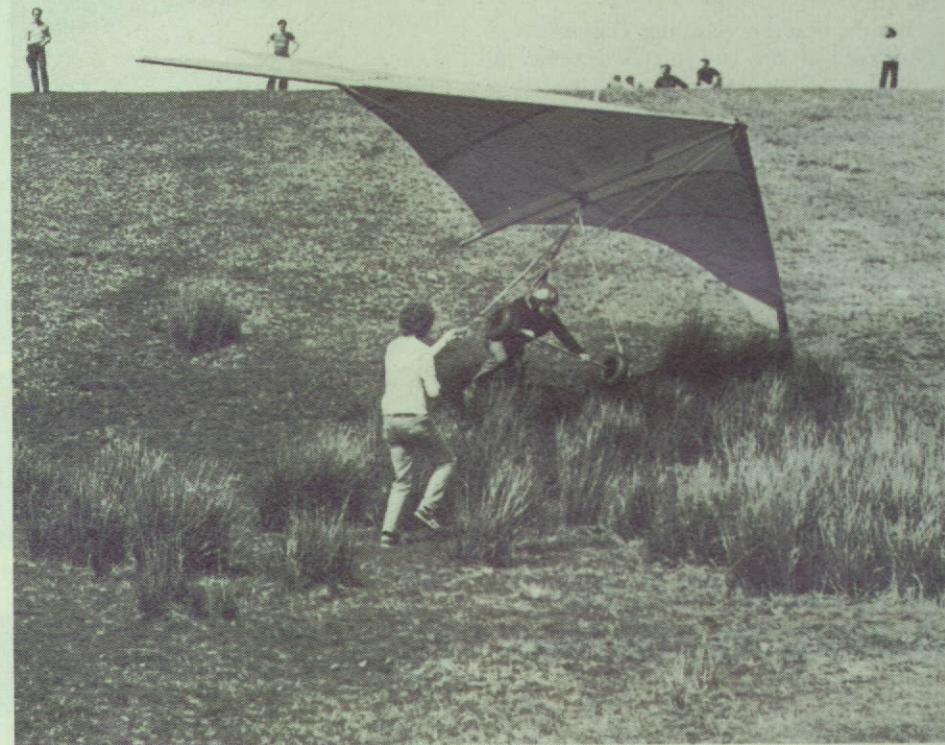
The students started out on the Hiway Harrier, a basic glider which is even equipped with wheels to save the rig from bumpy landings.

"I've always fancied a go at hang gliding but this was really my first chance," said Sapper Michael Corbett, from 22 Engineer

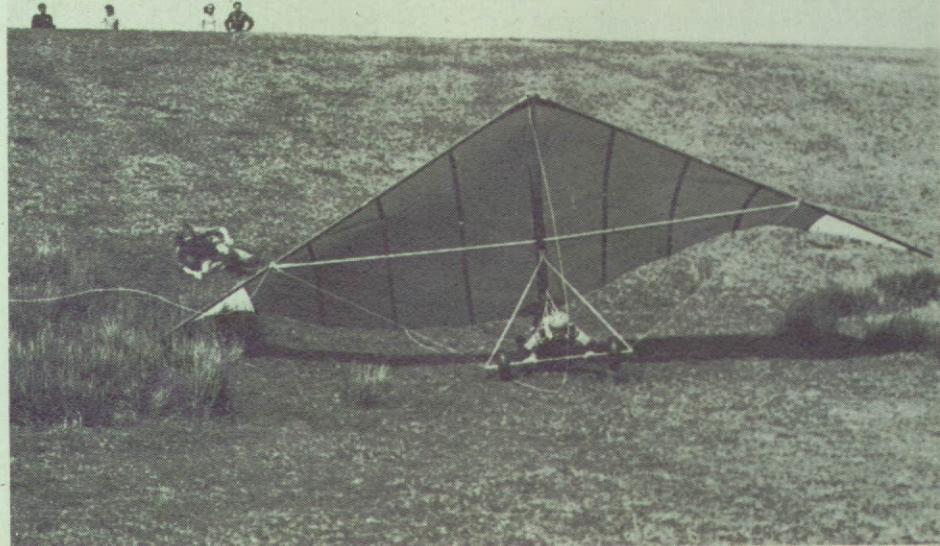
'I can't believe it, I'm up...'



'... Oh, no I'm not!'



'Well I always wanted to hang slide anyway!'

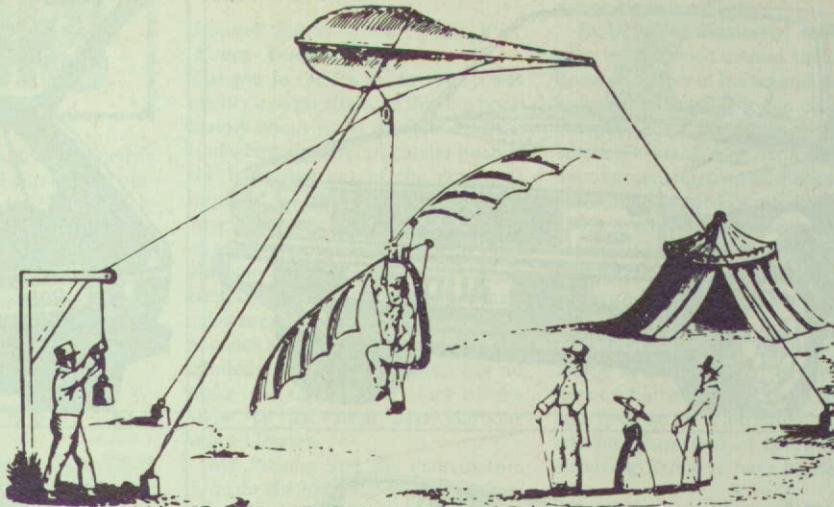


Hang gliding was the first step towards powered flight, and although Leonardo Da Vinci produced the first working models, it was not until the late 19th Century that Otto Lilienthal made over 2000 flights from a specially built conical hill in Germany. His book became widely used by early pioneers including Wilbur and Orville Wright. With their success in powered flight hang gliding was forgotten.

Between the wars one of the leading pilots was, and still is, Volmer Jensen. In 1925 he flew a bi-plane based on a 19th Century design, and his own subsequent designs have produced very high performance hang gliders which he flies today. They are all rigid wing constructions, rather like sailplanes, and although superior in flying characteristics they are expensive, cumbersome and difficult to fly.

The major breakthrough, and the start of hang gliding as a sport, was Dr Francis Rogallo's plans for a steerable recovery parachute designed for the NASA space project. Although they proved unsuitable for rocket work, hang gliding enthusiasts soon realised that with a little modification the design would make an ideal one man foot launch aircraft.

By the late 1960's Rogallos (as the first generation of hang gliders were called) were made of bamboo and polythene, but once the potential was realised it was not long before structurally sound hang gliders were being



made commercially. Nowadays a full rig can cost anything from £500 upwards.

Since those early days hang gliding has advanced almost beyond recognition. The few Californians who realised their own dreams by flying from 100 ft sand dunes could not have suspected that in such a short time gliders would be capable of staying airborne for many hours in ridge lifts and thermals — the world record is 17 hours.

As the potential of the gliders has improved, so too has the safety level. This has come about with the setting up of proper organisations and regulated schooling.

The main organisation in the UK is the British Hang Gliding Association

which has written a rule book and set down guidelines of instruction.

The basic test is for a Part One licence, which must be obtained before a glider can be bought in the UK. The pilot must be able to safely demonstrate correct rigging procedure and do 15 solo flights with ground clearance of at least 40 ft. The last three flights must have a ground clearance of at least 100 ft. And there is also a theoretical test.

Basically a glider is made up of a sail, supported by metal tubing. The pilot is suspended in a harness underneath the sail and controls the glider by the triangular control frame in front of him, pushing it forward to rise, pulling it back to descend, and moving it left and right to turn.

Regiment at Tidworth.

"I think we were all a bit apprehensive, but the training has sorted all that out. I thought that it was just a matter of having the confidence to jump — I never gave a thought to all the other things involved, like wind speed and direction.

"When we actually started flying, there wasn't too much time to think. You just leave your stomach behind when you see the ground fall away underneath you."

The 'grand-daddy' of Army hang gliding Major Jonathan Wyatt, OC of 40 Plant Support Squadron, RSME bought his first hang glider after reading about the new sport in a Sunday supplement about six years ago.

"Then of course there were no schools, you just climbed up a hill, stuck the glider on and stepped off," he said.

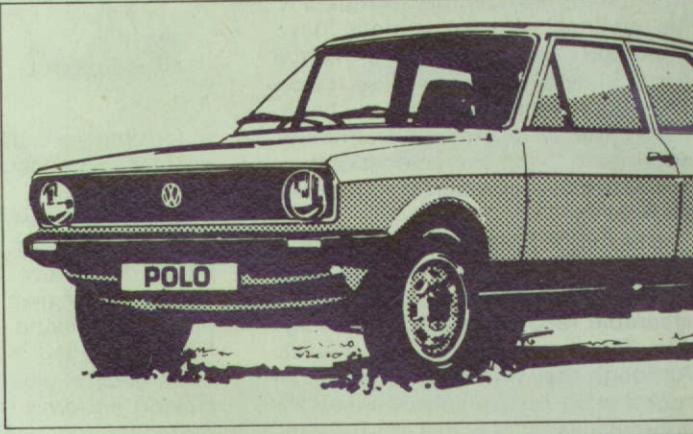
"The sport appealed to me, particularly as I had always wanted to fly, but there were no schools then and the only way to learn was to teach yourself. The trouble with doing it that way is that you don't get a thorough schooling, which was the cause of the initial accidents.

"People thought that once they were airborne, that was the end of their problems. In fact they had only just started. Since the schools have sprung up, the accident rate has dropped dramatically."

"In my opinion hang gliding is by far the most exciting sport that mankind has ever devised, and I cannot imagine why more people don't take it up."

Below: Tutors and students retrieve glider.





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Days of crisis

THE BRINK

The Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962



'The Brink' (David Detzer)

A third world war was never so close as in October 1962. The Russians, behind in the missile race, moved some medium-range rockets to Cuba, whence they could threaten the southern United States. They were spotted by an American U-2 spy-plane. The Americans blockaded Cuba, prepared for military action and made it clear they would settle for nothing less than withdrawal of the missiles. The Russians, carefully left the means of saving face, withdrew them.

Professor Detzer has reconstructed those tense days, in particular the

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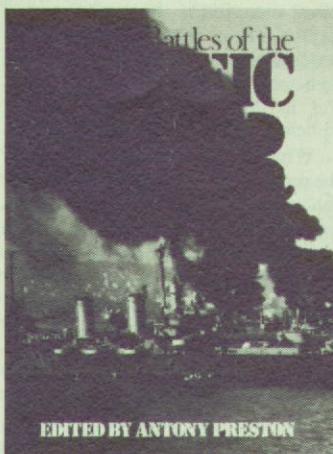
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BOOKS

deliberations of President Kennedy's advisers who gathered in a room outside which hung a sign, "In a Nuclear Age, Nations Must Make War Like Porcupines Make Love — Carefully". His story is an instructive description of successful crisis management and diplomacy. It would be a suspense thriller if we did not already know the ending.

J M Dent and Sons, 33 Welbeck St, London W1M 8LX, £6.95 RLE



EDITED BY ANTONY PRESTON

Pacific War

'Decisive Battles of the Pacific War'
(Editor: Antony Preston)

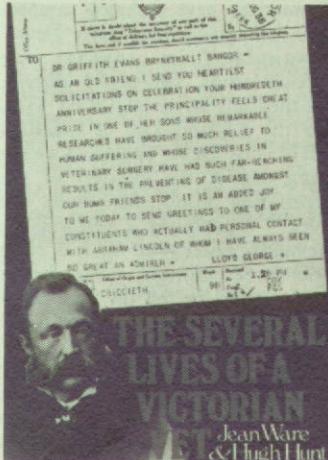
The war in the Pacific in 1942-5 was mainly a naval affair, so this is a book mainly about naval warfare. It illustrates how the aircraft carrier pushed the battleship out of the dominant position on the naval scene. The Americans were forced into the change—the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour cost them their battleship fleet, at least for a time, whereas their carriers escaped that disaster by being at sea on exercise. Thus the American admirals had no alternative but to make the carriers the stars of the show. To that extent, Pearl Harbour was a blessing.

Mr Preston and his contributors describe the battles of Pearl Harbour, Coral Sea, Midway, Leyte Gulf and the Philippine Sea, and also some which were in part fought on land—Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima and Okinawa—and end with a description of the bombing of Japan.

Their articles are mainly about tactics and strategy, clear and concise but remote from the blood-and-guts drama that many historians introduce with personal anecdote. By contrast some of the illustrations, impressively spread over the large pages, are as dramatic and close to the fighting as you could wish.

Hamlyn, Astronaut House, Feltham, Middlesex, £6.95 RLE

Evans the vet



'The Several Lives of a Victorian Vet'
(Jean Ware and Hugh Hunt)

One young veterinary surgeon got into an embarrassing situation over a love affair and the Army was looking for vets, so he and his friend were commissioned into the Royal Artillery. The friend was Griffith Evans who was to become one of the most distinguished of Army vets and a considerable figure in 19th century science.

Evans was soon serving in Canada, where he spent his spare time studying at McGill University and qualified as a medical doctor. In spite of this, he stayed in the veterinary service, for reasons the authors do not explain. Soon after qualifying he contracted dysentery and spent his convalescent leave in the United States, then in the throes of civil war. Britons were not popular in the North, but Captain Evans managed to get several interviews with Abraham Lincoln and, from him, permission to visit the front and inspect the medical services —

the sort of facility denied many more senior British officers.

In India he discovered that parasites in the blood caused the disease known as surra in horses and sleeping sickness in man. But his colleagues did not accept his findings. He was labelled a crank and denied the top appointment he coveted. Back in England, Lieutenant-Colonel Evans was about to continue his research when a secret intervention by the anti-vivisectionist Queen Victoria caused the withdrawal of his licence to do research on animals.

In his retirement, Evans lived in North Wales, received belated honours for his sleeping sickness research and lived to be a hundred with the curious distinction of being the last surviving Briton to have known Lincoln.

Miss Ware and her husband have produced an affectionate picture of Evans, concentrating less on his military career than on the man's personality, his devoted but stern family life, his individualistic religious beliefs, his faults and all that made him a notable 'character.'

Bachman and Turner, The Old Hop Exchange, 13 Central Buildings, 24 Southwark St, London SE1, £6.95 RLE

Shooting a line

'Pistol Shooting' (Laslo Antal)

This useful booklet in the *Know the Game* series seems to contain just about everything a beginner or would-be beginner needs to know. After a general description of the various branches of the sport, it tells you how to take up small-bore and air pistol shooting, with details of equipment, procedures and technique, and ends with a section on the shooter and the law. Dr Antal is a former British champion and is coach in charge of Britain's air pistol squad.

EP Publishing, East Ardsley, Wakefield, W. Yorks WF3 2JN, 70p RLE

Discriminating

'Racial Strife in the US Military'
(Richard O Hope)

This volume deals with the problem of the integration of blacks into the United States' military forces, as well as with discrimination against the negro and against military minorities in general, including women. The problem is being tackled through the Defense Race Relations Institute set up as recently as 1971, which trains individuals as Human Relations Specialists who go back to their units to 'spread the gospel' and to handle complaints of discrimination.

Above the Institute is a Race Relations Education Board which also carries out a wider education programme aimed at all soldiers. This wider programme, however, may amount to only one or two general information lectures a year. The problem stems from the long standing attitude to blacks in civilian life — including the Ku Klux Klan complex — and the fact that, through ignorance, minorities are usually considered to be below average in intelligence, courage and ability.

Praeger Publishers, 383 Madison Avenue, New York, USA, £12.25

GRH



LETTERS



Batty signs

I read, with much interest, the techniques being undertaken at the Army Blood Supply Depot for the indefinite preservation of blood (SOLDIER May). One of the less technical features of the article which interested me is the humorous use of the Bat — which is worn by the staff as their insignia.

As a collector of military insignia I was intrigued, in the early 1970s, to learn from a former member of the RAMC that he recalled the 'Bat' insignia being used by the Army Blood Transfusion Service as a symbol during the 1939-45 War. I decided to research the subject — if only to prove to myself that my leg wasn't being pulled. Initially I contacted the RAMC Museum but was informed that the museum contained no information or knowledge that such a device was used by ABTS. However I was advised to contact Professor G A H Buttle OBE, who had headed the ABTS in the Desert and NW Europe. Professor Buttle gave me a wealth of information concerning the Bat and its usage and, in turn, recommended several other former members of the Service whom I should contact for their recollections.

As a result of numerous letters, I was able to confirm that the Bat was used extensively throughout World War Two. Initially ABTS personnel serving in BEF (1939-40) had a red vampire bat stencilled on the front of their steel helmets and, at that time, a magazine 'The Bat' was published bi-monthly, for all ABTS Units, and printed by John Wright and Sons Ltd of Bristol. Later the Bat featured on direction boards and vehicles in the Desert Campaign and Italy and I received a number of photographs displaying the sign. Often the Bat appeared in different forms, but no doubt this was due to the artistic merits of the painters concerned.

From 1942 (I think) civilian helpers in Transfusion Units in Calcutta also wore a small white metal bat on the shoulder straps of nursing uniforms and, from both MEF and the Far East, Christmas cards were produced which displayed the Bat, often incorporated with other humorous details. In addition the Bat was utilised by stencilling the sign onto boxes of transfusion equipment. The sign was never given 'official' recognition to be worn as a cloth flash on uniform. However, a blind eye must have been turned on one specimen which arrived, from a former wearer, in my mail during my research. This is a bat with wings outstretched — rather crudely embroidered in red on a khaki drill square background.

Since completing my research I have been informed, by a former Infantryman who served in the 8th

Army, that he recalls seeing a blood transfusion unit's vehicle bearing another Dracula type symbol in the Desert. This took the form of a white stake with a red point painted on the vehicle mudguard, although this is the only intimation I have received of anything, other than the Bat, having been displayed.

Continued success to the achievements of the present day Army Blood Supply personnel. — **John Bailey, 5 The Close, Newton Blossomville, Bedford, MK43 8AT.**

Wonder engine

I was most interested to read the article entitled 'End of the Line' in April's magazine because as well as concerning something dear to my heart it was accurately written, well illustrated, and right up to date.

Apart from the obvious regimental connections with the Army, the locomotives have technical connections in that their twin Napier 'Deltic' triangular-form engines are opposed-piston two-stroke diesels, like the Rolls-Royce K60 of FV 432s, and the Leyland L60 of Chieftain MBTs. The 'Deltic' engine, as well as being one of the wonders of the engineering world, has given the Type 5 locomotives a performance previously undreamed of, with their near-three million miles being accomplished in half the time taken by an A3 or A4 steam loco to travel only half the distance.

The Deltic Preservation Society was formed by four Northampton enthusiasts in June 1977 with the aim of preserving at least one English Electric Type 5 'Deltic' locomotive in running order. Our membership has grown since then to around 1120, with current assets about £6000. — **D V Williams, Preservation Officer, Deltic Preservation Society, 4 Tamar Road, Leicester, LE4 7FQ.**

Polo reminder

Your article on polo (March) quotes a statement by Major Vickery in which he says "I would hope that equitation could become a recognised sport".

I am asked to remind your readers that equitation (which includes polo) is already an officially authorised Army sport and is listed as 'Riding and Equestrian Sports' in *Games and Sports in the Army* 1974 edition, HMSO Army Code No 61021.

I would be grateful if you could give as much publicity as you can to this fact. — **Colonel J S S Gratton OBE DL, Army Sport Control Board, Ministry of Defence, Clayton Barracks, Aldershot, Hants.**

Facilities plea

I was interested to read that polo was showing signs of revival in Rhine Army and would agree with Major Vickery's statement that more soldiers should have the opportunity of taking it up. I would however like to extend this to equestrian activities generally which are all, I believe, useful in developing physical fitness, quick-thinking and self-confidence.

While facilities could not probably be provided for all, they would at least be appropriate for cavalry and RHA regiments which could also make them available for others. What I have in mind is an official establishment for each regiment of about two dozen service horses, which would be sufficient to play polo within the regiment — that is, to mount two teams with a change of horses each, which could also be used for jumping, cross-country, hunting and so on. In addition they could possibly be used on parades and other ceremonial occasions (even if a bit on the short side) and could even, conceivably, be available for mounted duties in certain circumstances. — **M C Wood, 9 Crofton Rise, Dronfield, Sheffield, S18 6RH.**

Not the Viceroy

In his article on the National Army Museum Sandhurst Departments (May), John Jesse states that "the Coats of Arms of all Governor Generals of India from Lord Clive to Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck are there".

The facts are that the Field Marshal was never the Viceroy of India. He served as the last Commander-in-Chief Indian Army under Earl Mountbatten of Burma before the country was partitioned into India and Pakistan. — **Major J B Docherty, 10th (City of Belfast) Battalion, Ulster Defence Regiment.**

Talking books

I believe that many SOLDIER readers would be interested to learn of the valuable contribution which the Army Benevolent Fund together with the RAF and the Navy, made to the work of Talking Books for the Handicapped in 1979 in the form of grants totalling £4000. This was a great help to the work of the charity which provides talking books for handicapped people of all ages, many of them ex-Servicemen, who cannot read normally.

The National Listening Library of Talking Books for the Handicapped has a readership of over 2000 individuals and institutions. At present, over 900 talking books, with twelve copies of each, are in circulation. The cassettes are played on a special

player which is loaned free of charge. The annual subscription of £15 is used mainly to meet the postage for the cassettes. The players cost nearly £75 each and the general administrative cost for each member is about £50 per year. Ex-Servicemen are also among the voluntary engineers who play a vital role in maintaining and repairing the players.

Contributions such as these made by the Army Benevolent Fund and individuals are vital to provide this service for the handicapped and are much appreciated by the charity. — **Arthur Cain, National Listening Library, 49 Great Cumberland Place, London, W1H 7LH.**

Dan Driscoll

I refer to recent correspondence in SOLDIER on 25th Fusiliers (Frontiersmen) and the Legion of Frontiersmen in general. I am researching into the early history of the Legion of Frontiersmen and preparing a biography of their founder who bore the same surname as I do but is no relation. A friend of mine is collecting information for a biography of Dan Driscoll, who commanded the 25th Fusiliers (Frontiersmen).

Readers will know that this is a subject which has been untouched by historians. I have been able to turn up much new and exciting information. If any reader has any personal reminiscences of the Legion of Frontiersmen up to 1941, I would be very grateful if he would write and let me know. Any information on Driscoll will be forwarded to his biographer.

I have the full co-operation and encouragement of the Commandants-General of both the Legion of Frontiersmen and the Legion of Frontiersmen, Canadian Division. I shall, of course, answer all letters. — **Geoffrey A Pocock, 39 Lavant Down Road, Lavant, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0DJ.**

Helmet mystery

I recently had the good fortune to be loaned some pre-war (39-45) copies of the Regimental Journal, *Men of Harlech*.

In one of these splendidly presented magazines which depict army life in the now almost forgotten days before the mindless idiocy of amalgamation, total mechanisation and wholesale civilianisation, there are several photographs in which the 2nd Battalion, The Welch Regiment is shown leaving Landi Kotal on the North West Frontier of India in March 1936.

The men therein, marching in fours, appear to be wearing Wolseley Helmets but at the same time are carrying (slung on the right shoulder) what seem to be Indian Pattern solar topees!

I wonder if any of your readers can supply an explanation? Why weren't the Wolseleys returned to store at the time of issue of the Indian Pattern helmets? If it was usual practice for each individual to have both types of helmet and be responsible for lugging these from station to station in India, why was it thought necessary to substitute the lighter and neater Indian Pattern in the first place? Answers

please! — R H G Travers-Bogusz,
77 St Thomas's Road, Hardway,
Gosport, Hampshire.

Exchange visit

I am anxious to be put in touch with a senior Non-Commissioned-Officer or Subaltern with whom I could make private arrangements for an exchange visit.

I have a boy of 17 who I would like to have looked after by an English family for a fortnight. For my part I would take a student of the same age who would stay with me at the National Invalids' Home where I live in a flat at the front of the building which goes with my job. Only travel costs would be borne by each family. — Police Major André Guillaume, Military Command, National Invalids' Home, 129 Rue de Grenelle, 75007 Paris, France.

N Gillett, 1 Willoughby Road, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 0NP — Requires Royal Munster Fusiliers cap badge to complete collection. Any reasonable price paid or can swap spare badges.

J M Bill, 37 Parklands, Bramhope, Leeds, LS16 9AH — Wants 'These Men are Dangerous', D I Garrison (Cassell 1957), also 'The Struggle for Crete', I McD G Stewart (Oxford Press 1966) and 'The Second Household Cavalry Regiment' Roden Orde (Gale & Polden 1953).

R H Carey, PO Box 277, Maitland 7405, Cape Town, Rep of S Africa — Seeks Scots badges and UK badges. Will exchange all types of South African badges. Send swap list.

Mr G Ewing, 94 Jebb Ave, Brixton, London SW2 — Seeks worldwide badges, items of interest from prisons, also photos of stocks, gallows etc.

Major P A Mauldon, RHQ QLR, Fulwood Barracks, Preston, Lancs, PR2 4AA — Can offer for sale old Christmas cards, regimental journals, regimental histories and unique first-day postal covers at reasonable prices. Also colour photos of period military uniforms and headgear from the Regimental Museum.

Wulston Alderman, (aged 14), 'Retreat', Albert Road, South Woodham Ferrer's, Chelmsford, Essex, CM3 5LP — Wishes to buy/exchange current issue Army respirator and filter which goes with the current NBC suit. John Gray, 118 Fields Road, Oakfield, Cwmbran, Gwent — Wishes to increase collection of all WW1 and WW2 songs, ditties, poems, odes etc. Any help appreciated.

Mr C A Mosley, The Cottage, Heal House, Middle Woodford, Salisbury, Wilts — Wants badges of the French Foreign Legion, state price.

S R Jackson, 7 Lakeside Gardens, Cove, Farnborough, Hants, GU14 9JG — Seeks books on 20th century military history, especially WW2 German language items. Has number of books for sale or exchange. Please send SAE for list.

Mr Campbell Kennedy, 46 Cloan Crescent, Bishopbriggs, Glasgow, G64 2HW — Wants any out of date Ordnance Survey maps of the British Isles. Will pay any reasonable price and reimburse postage.

Reunions

1980 VJ Parade for the SE will take place on Sunday 10 Aug at Windsor. Further details from J R Allan, Pemberton Lodge, Cheapside, Ascot (Ascot 21847).

The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire): London Branch Regimental Reunion Dinner. 7 for 7.30pm, 30 August 1980, Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour St, Marble Arch, London. Tickets £4.75. Details from Secretary, M Ryan MSM, 18 North Drive, AERE, Harwell, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 0PE.

The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's): Regimental Annual Reunion Dinner, 8pm on Saturday 6 September 1980, at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffs, WS14 9PY. Tickets available from RHQ at the above address at £2.50 each, in advance.

Competition

Our Treasure Trove competition (260) proved a popular one and nearly everyone unravelled Braid's code as 'Fifteen feet due south east of well ten feet down'.

The eight lucky treasure hunters were:

1 S/Sgt H Lovegrove, 26 Windsor Place, Jarvis Brook, Crowborough, E Sussex.

2 L/Cpl M Bullock, C Sqn 15/19th King's Royal Hussars, BFPO 16.

3 Paul S Mercer, 25 Loweswater Drive, Loughborough, Leicester, LE11 3RR.

4 C Seymour, 112 Goodrich Road, London SE22.

5 L/Cpl J Stewart, 24 Tpt 8 Mov Regt RCT, BFPO 33.

6 C Powell, Walnut Tree Cottage, Wilney Green, Fersfield, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 2AJ.

7 Capt M R P James, 54 Sqn RCT, BFPO 29.

8 Mrs P Benson, c/o Cpl Benson, 113 Pro Coy RMP, BFPO 17.

How observant are you?

(see page 11)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Umbrella handle. 2 Branch stump on left of tree trunk. 3 Supporting strut of bonnet. 4 Car door handle. 5 Black rubber inset of bumper. 6 Lines on headlamp. 7 Position of steering wheel. 8 Length of rain line above middle of bonnet. 9 Slope of ground at base of tree. 10 Dark leaves above lower right branch of tree.

Collectors' corner

H A Clitheroe, 5435 Maricourt, St Hubert, Quebec, Canada, J3Y 7N5 — Seeks photos and/or manuals on the L2A3. Also photos/manuals for the Boys anti-tank rifle and, if possible, inert or dummy cartridge for the same. Will pay (within reason) or possibly trade. Specify wants with reply.

Major (QM) R Berry, 1st Bn Light Infantry, Lucknow Barracks, Tidworth, Hants — Collector of decorations and campaign medals particularly to any Light Infantrymen including HLI and RMLI. Has various items of militaria for exchange. Will exchange 1918-62 GSM awarded to 14045126 Sapper G F Style RE — bar Palestine 1946-48 for like medal to a Light Infantryman.

R Campbell, North End, Swineshead, Boston, Lincs. Has for sale British Army officers uniform. No 2 jacket, trousers, cap, with all badges and insignia RA £27 including P & P. Sam Browne belt and cross belt £18 including P & P. Also Belgian, Danish, Dutch cap badges from £1 each or will exchange for British badges, insignia or worldwide wings.

Capt A M Runza, PO Box 140, New Milford, NJ 07646, USA. Wants military manuals, dress and drill. Also British and other foreign paratroop wings, hat badges, uniforms and other accoutrements. Will trade for US or other. List your wants and what you have to trade. Would also like to exchange information with Para regiments, serving officers and enlisted men of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd Para Bns to glean info, as he is compiling notes to substantiate history already available, with first hand info.

Cpl G R Hayes, Comm Sqn, Lahr, CFP 5000, 7630 Lahr/Schwarzwald, West Germany — Wishes to trade RCN, RCAF, Cdn Army, Cdn Forces badges, for Commonwealth especially New Zealand, Australia, as well as South Africa, and Rhodesia. Very interested in Signal corps badges of the above-mentioned countries. List upon request.

Sgt 1st Class Mike Johnson, 27 Romerweg Apt A-3, D-6728 Germersheim, Germany or Btry A, 2d Bn, 56th ADA, APO NY 09095. Wants the following NATO command badges to complete collection: Supreme Headquar-

ters Allied Powers Europe (cloth). Allied Forces Northern Europe (cloth) Defence Command North Norway (cloth and metal) Allied Forces Southern Europe (cloth). Allied Land Forces Southern Europe (cloth). Allied Land Forces Southeast Europe (cloth). Naval Striking Force Southern Europe (cloth). Fifth Allied Tactical Air Force (cloth). United Kingdom Air/RAF Strike Command (Metal). Military Committee NATO (metal). Program Training Center (metal). Standing Naval Forces Atlantic (metal). Standing Naval Forces Channel (metal). Maritime Air Forces Mediterranean (metal). Willing to buy or trade for the above.

J Matthews, Wykham, 6 Henry St, Peterborough, PE1 2QG — Seeks all regimental crests from letter headings. Also British Army badges. Royal Irish Fusiliers (Princess Victoria's). 1st Bn The Monmouthshire Regt, King's Own Malta Regt. SWB Brecknockshire Bn, Hampshire Regt 8th Bn (Princess Beatrice's IOW Rifles), 1st London Yeomanry (Middx), Duke of Cambridge Hussars, Liverpool Irish, Leeds Rifles (Cockburn High School Cadets), Herefordshire Light Infantry. Tyneside Irish 1914-1918, Prince of Wales Own Yorkshire Regt 1902-08, 34th Cumberland Regt.

Mr G S Hogg, 16 Woodhayes Road, Berkley Down, Frome, Somerset, BA11 2EE — Wishes to purchase or obtain copies of a German military march called 'Warriors of the Somme' (Somme Kampfers) by Ernst Steiberitz (1877-1945). Prepared to pay all expenses involved, or offer in exchange, international band recordings, or tapes and records from large collection of 'trombone sounds', both classical and jazz.

CSM (RSM) John McCamley, HHC, 2 Bn, 50 Infantry, 2 Armd Div (Fwd), APO 09355, Germany — Seeks badge of World War 1 Royal Horse Artillery. Will buy or exchange for American badges or patches.

Bill Duggan, 21 Essex Walk, Walcot, Swindon, Wilts, SN3 3EY — Wishes to purchase LF (brass/metal), East Lancs, Manchester (sphinx), RRF, collar badges — QLR, L (PWV) buttons — QLR s/t — cloth s/t, King's (straight), Fusiliers, both post 1970. Requires list from any dealer specialising in buttons. Mr D A Galvin, 30 Clivedon Road,

London, E4 9RN — Would like to collate details of medal recipients with surname Galvin particularly Waterloo MGS 1793-1814, NGS 1793-1840 and Crimea. All letters acknowledged.

F A J Wright, RR2, Knowlton PQ, Canada, JOE 1VO — Has for sale 3-26th Canadian Scottish Horse (Light Dragoons) Officers cap badges, c/w Titles — \$75 each, 4-11th Canadian Regiment (V Crown) \$75 each, 5th Can Mounted Rifles (Babin 4-5) \$25 firm prices. Or will trade one for one. RAF Ferry Command Civilian air and ground crew cap badges or 1st Can Motor Machine Gun Bde cap badge (Babin 29-1). No CODs, no repros. All above plus air postage. Many others \$2 for list.

Mineard F Smith, RR 1, Watkins, Iowa 52354 — Wants to buy anything pertaining to the SOE in WWII. Especially the following items, suitcase, radio, cosh, crossbow, nail, gravity knife, coveralls and helmet, pen dart gun. Also an F & S commando knife with the arm sheath.

Veterans of the 1st Independent Belgian Group, who fought alongside British and Commonwealth Forces during 1944-45, are looking for badges of units and formations to which their Group was attached for their museum. Following still required: 4 Commando Brigade, 8 Armd Brigade, 33 Armd Brigade, 116 Independent Infantry Brigade, 5 Canadian Armd Division, 50 Infantry Division, 1 Canadian Army. Contact Major General Tabary, Landa Division, SHAPE, BFPO 26.

R G Coase, Avoca, Shrewsbury Road, Prestwich, Manchester, M25 8GQ — SOLDIER 1974 to date, approx 70 copies, free if collected.

M A Houghton, Ground Floor Flat, 135 Grove St, Liverpool, Merseyside L7 7AF — Seeks information about former Dutch liner MV 'Christian Huygens' operated by the British (MOWT) and Orient lines 1940-45 as a troopship. Any yarns from anyone on board her on the convoy Cape route to Egypt would be most welcome and appreciated.

Gen Natale Dodoli, Academia Militare, Modena, Italy — Seeks British Army combat camouflage jacket, extra large, new or in very good condition. Has various Italian Army militaria, also 19th century for trade. Will trade or buy.

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In this regular feature **SOLDIER** keeps you up-to-date on tattoos, open days, exhibitions, at homes, Army displays and similar occasions on which the public is welcome to see the Army's men and equipment. Amendments and additions to previous lists are indicated in bold type.

SOLDIER is not always notified of alterations and cancellations. Readers are advised to check with the organisers.

See-the-Army DIARY

JULY 1980

- 2 Army Exhibition for Schools, Bassingbourn (2-4 July) (Bands, Red Caps, JLR RE gymnastic team).
- 2 Larkhill Massed Bands.
- 3 Artillery Day, Larkhill (3-5 July) (RA Parachute Team, RA Motorcycles).
- 4 Staffordshire Careers Exhibition (4-6 July) (Flying Bugles).
- 5 Airborne Forces' Day.
- 5 Open Day, Prince of Wales' Division Depot, Crickhowell.
- 5 Army Open Day RPC Trg Centre, Northampton.
- 5 Open Day, British Steel Corporation, Middlesbrough (Band 1 Green Howards, White Helmets).
- 5 Birkenshaw Show.
- 5 Pelsall Carnival (Band).
- 5 West Bromwich Carnival (RGJ Freefall).
- 5 Concert, Edinburgh by Band, Royal Hussars.
- 5 Aveling Barford Show, Grantham (5-6 July).
- 6 Paull Air Show, Hull.
- 8 Great Yorkshire Show, Harrogate (8-10 July) (Red Caps, Bands).
- 9 Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London (9-26 July) (Massed Bands, Kenya Army Band and Display Team, Kings Troop RHA, Household Cavalry Quadrille, APTC).
- 10 Sounding Retreat, Rifle Depot, Winchester (10-12 July).
- 10 Basingstoke Tattoo (10-12 July) (Band, 1 Staffords).
- 10 Kent County Show (10-12 July) (Band, Red Devils).
- 11 Sheffield Services Display (11-13 July) (RA Parachute Team).
- 11 Taunton Centenary, King's College.
- 11 Hereford Careers Exhibition (11-13 July) (Flying Bugles).
- 12 Pudsey (Yorkshire) Show.
- 15 East of England Show, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire (15-16 July) (RA Motorcycles).
- 17 Manchester Show (17-19 July) (2 RRF, Queens Division Depot, Red Devils).
- 18 Malton (Yorkshire) Show (Bands).
- 19 Stroud Show.
- 19 Durham County Show.
- 19 Bristol Harbour Regatta (19-20 July).
- 19 Bournemouth Air Pageant (19-20 July).
- 20 Concert, Edinburgh by Band, Royal Hussars (20-26 July).
- 21 Rotherham Tattoo (21-22 July).
- 24 St Helens Services' Tattoo (24-26 July) (RA Band, Woolwich, Irish Guards Corps of Drums, RA Motorcycles, Red Devils, RA JLR Gymnastic Display).
- 25 Northampton Borough Show (25-27 July) (RGJ Band, RGJ Freefall).
- 26 Colchester Carnival.
- 26 Gloucester Carnival.
- 26 Welsh Rugby Union Centenary Celebration, Cardiff (Band).
- 26 Cleveland Show, Middlesbrough (Bands).
- 26 Tatton Park Reunion Parachuting Spectacular (Red Devils, Pegasus Gymnastic Team, freefall teams), Knutsford, Cheshire.
- 27 Kempton Park Extravaganza (Bands, static and arena displays).
- 27 Open Day, RAC Centre, Bovington.
- 27 Redcar Carnival (Bands).
- 29 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (29 July-2 August) (Bands, White Helmets, Royal Army Veterinary Corps Mounted Display).
- 29 Tyneside Summer Exhibition (29 July-2 August) (Redcaps, RA Motorcycles).
- 31 Folkestone Tattoo (31 July-2 August) (RAMC Band).
- 31 Grand Concert, Kneller Hall.

Note: The Royal British Legion Tattoo, Staverton Airfield, Gloucester (3-6 July) has been cancelled.

AUGUST 1980

- 1 Southsea Show (1-3 August).
- 2 Lord Mayor's Parade, Cardiff (Bands).
- 2 Newport Military Show (2-3 August) (Bands).
- 3 Military Vehicle and Fire Engine Display, Duxford, Cambridgeshire.

3 Cleethorpes Show (RA Parachute Team).

- 6 Bingley (Yorkshire) Show.
- 6 Poole Hospital Gala.
- 6 Bakewell (Derbyshire) Show (6-7 August) (RA Motorcycles).
- 7 North Yorkshire County Show.
- 9 Lord Mayor's Show, Stoke (Band, 1 Staffords).
- 10 VJ Parade, Windsor Castle. Burma Star Assn., Slough, Eton and Windsor Branch.
- 13 Edinburgh Tattoo (13 August-6 September) (Massed Bands and Pipes, Royal Guard Regiment of Oman, State University Band of Long Beach).
- 14 Grand Concert, Kneller Hall.
- 15 Reading Show (15-16 August) (Band, 1 Staffords).
- 15 Shrewsbury Flower Show (15-16 August) (White Helmets, Life Guards, Coldstream Guards, RCT Bands, Flying Bugles, RN Display Team).
- 16 Hartlepool Show (16-17 August).
- 16 Skegness Carnival (16-22 August).
- 18 Doncaster Horse Show.
- 22 GLC Horse Show (22-25 August) (Coldm Gds Band).
- 23 Darlington Show.
- 23 Expo Steam, Peterborough (23-25 August) (Red Caps, White Helmets).
- 23 Town & Country Festival, Stoneleigh (23-25 August) (Band, RA Motorcycles, RGJ Freefall).
- 23 Expo 80, Birchington, Kent (23-25 August).
- 25 City of Leicester Show (25-26 August) (Band, RGJ Freefall).
- 25 Walsall Show (25-26 August) (White Helmets).
- 26 Leeds Gala.
- 27 St Albans City Carnival (Red Devils).
- 27 Bristol Flower Show (27-29 August).
- 30 Wensleydale Show.
- 30 Holkham Game Fair (30-31 August).
- 30 Sheffield Show (30-31 August) (RA Motorcycles).

SEPTEMBER 1980

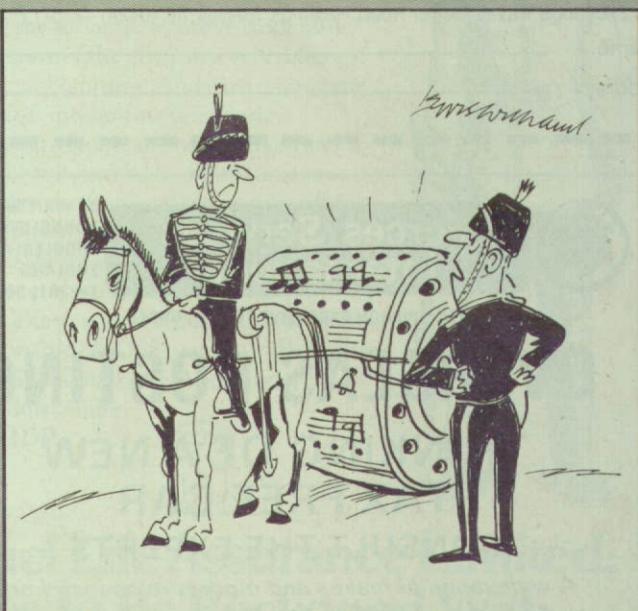
- 5 International Air Tattoo, Newbury (5-7 September).
- 6 Harley Show.
- 6 Keighley Show.
- 6 Seaham Show (6-7 September).
- 6 Guildford Town Show (6-7 September).
- 13 Luton Musical Pageant (Massed Bands).
- 15 Newcastle upon Tyne '900 (15-20 September).
- 17 HMS Vernon Searchlight Tattoo, Portsmouth (17-20 September) (RA Motorcycles).
- 18 Thame Show (RGJ Freefall).
- 18 Hove Town Hall, Concert by Bands, 1 and 3 Queens.
- 18 Final Gala Concert, Kneller Hall.
- 19 Army Display, Wales (19-21 September) (Band, White Helmets, Red Caps, Red Devils).
- 20 Stokely Show.
- 29 Folkestone Leas Cliff Hall, Concert by Bands, 1 and 3 Queens.

OCTOBER 1980

- 11 Army Motorcycling Championships, UK (11-12 October).
- 12 Southampton Guildhall, Concert by Band, Royal Signals.
- 25 Exercise Roadmaster Army Driving Championships UK (25-26 October).

NOVEMBER 1980

- 7 Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall (7-8 November) (Massed Bands, Gds Division).
- 9 Cenotaph, Service of Remembrance (Massed Bands, Gds Division).
- 9 Welsh National Service of Remembrance, Cardiff.



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OVERLAPS

COMPETITION 264

This month's competition is a test of word-power and deduction. Listed below are twelve 'word sums'. All you have to do is find synonyms for the first two words in each sum so that, when added together, they make up a synonym of the answer. Here is an example of an overlap:

(2) SURPASS + IMITATE = HEADLAND (4).

The first figure (2) shows the number of letters overlapping. The final figure (4) shows the number of letters in the answer. From the above example a synonym for 'Surpass' is CAP and for 'Imitate' APE. CAP + APE with the two letters AP overlapping gives CAPE, a four letter synonym for 'Headland'.

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The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Monday 1 September. The answers and winners' names will appear in the November SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 264' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or pre-paid labels will be disqualified.

Send your answers by post card or letter with the Competition 264 label from this page and your name and address to:

Editor
SOLDIER
Ordnance Road
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Now see if you can find the answers to the following:

- (a) (2) MARK + KIND OF HORSE = BEETLE (6)
- (b) (1) BURN + UPROAR = CARRIAGE (7)
- (c) (3) FRIEND + PROTUBERANCE = LUMP OF WOOD
- (d) (5) PURE + URGE FORWARD = DISCIPLINE
- (e) (2) THE HEAD + DWELLING = EVIDENT (6)
- (f) (1) LITTLE BALL + ANIMAL = KIND OF SEAT
- (g) (3) SCHEME + NARROW WAY = TREE (5)
- (h) (3) BOAT + HOOD = FROWN
- (i) (4) PUSH + KIND OF SHED = SCOOP (6)
- (j) (3) SLENDER + FRUIT = MUD OF A KIND (5)
- (k) (2) TAUNT + IRRITATION = JERK
- (l) (3) BRANDISH + DECLARE = TOTTER (5)

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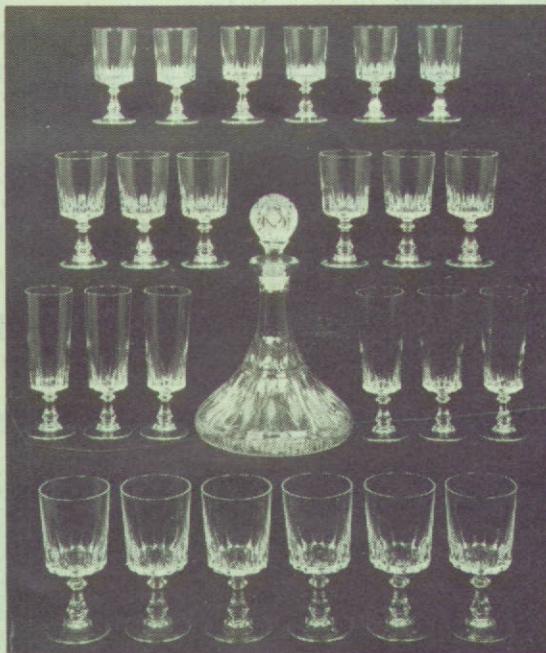
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