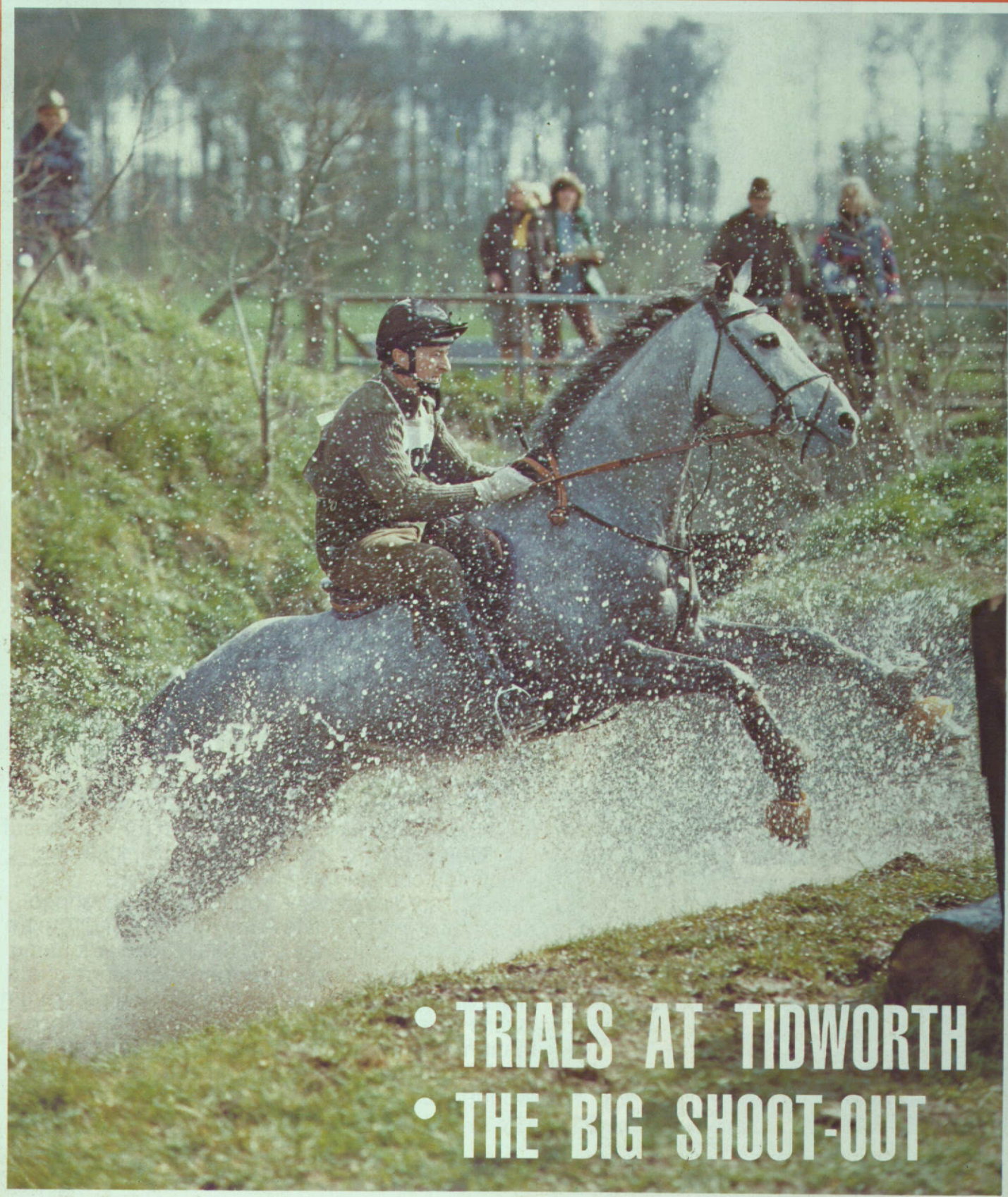


THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 25 PENCE • 16-29 MAY 1983

SOLDIER

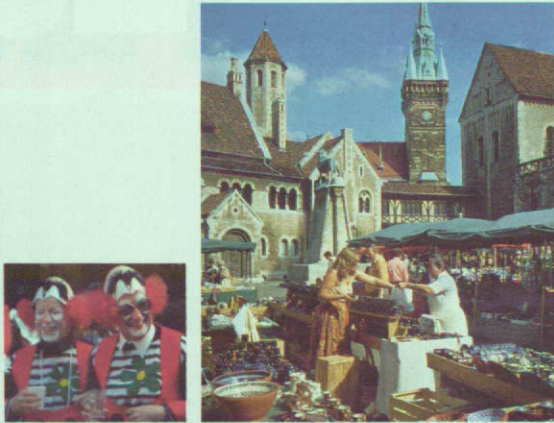


- TRIALS AT TIDWORTH
- THE BIG SHOOT-OUT

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17th, 18th, 19th,
June, 1983
Meeting point:
Bad Lippspringe
"Rhine Army Summer
Show"



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FRONT COVER

A competitor in the Army Horse Trials at Tidworth gets an early bath at one of the water jumps during the cross-country section. A report on the trials appears on page 49.
Picture by Paul Haley

BACK COVER

Royal Engineers from Long Marston line up in Stratford-upon-Avon during their annual freedom march through the town. The honour was first conferred on 1 Engineer Stores Depot (now Engineer Resources) in April 1959. It is the nearest Regular Army unit to the town with worldwide responsibilities for the provision of engineering stores.
Picture by Doug Pratt

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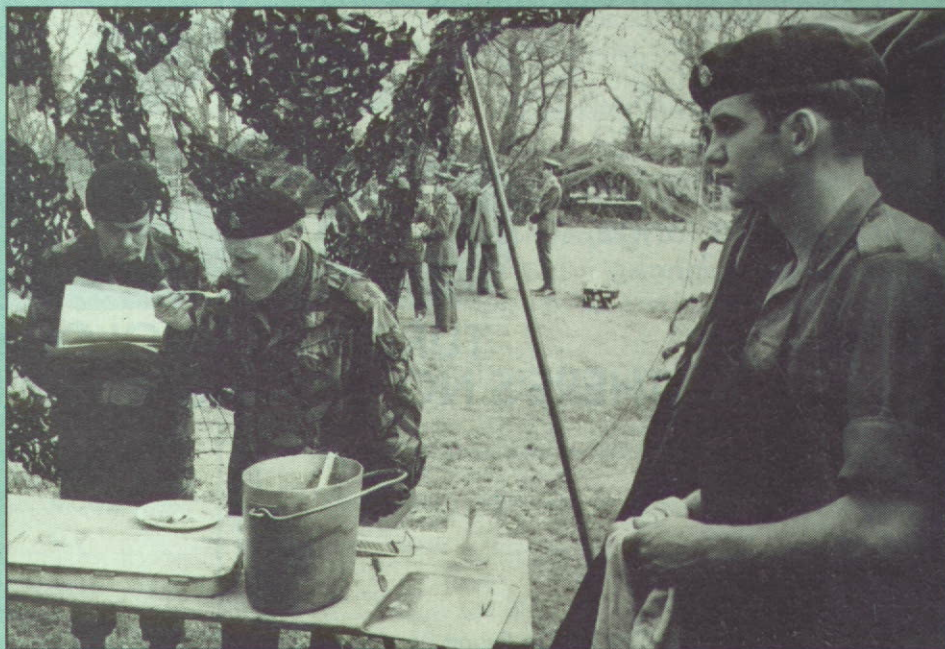


Chieftains get ready to ►
tackle the CAT — page 14

◀ A Day on the Caye: the
art of keeping cool in
Belize — page 26

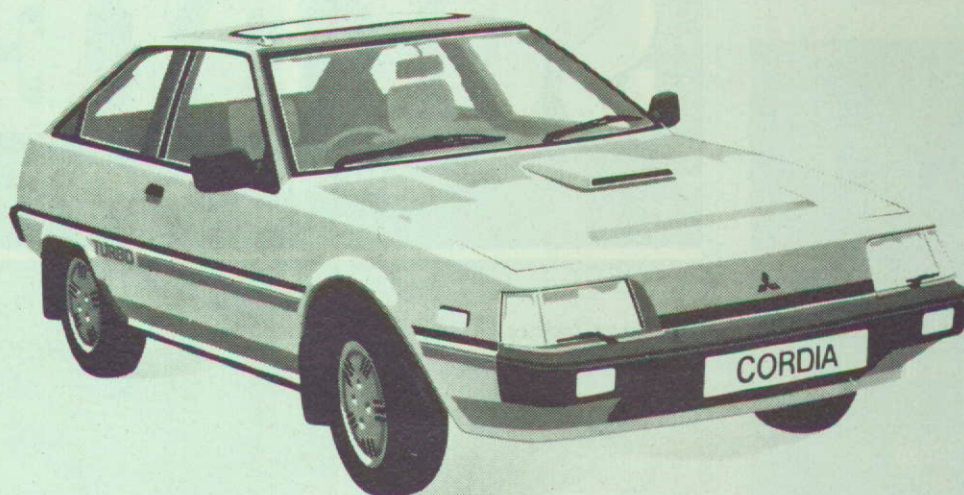


The taste of success: how
this year's top chefs took
the gravy — page 35 ▼



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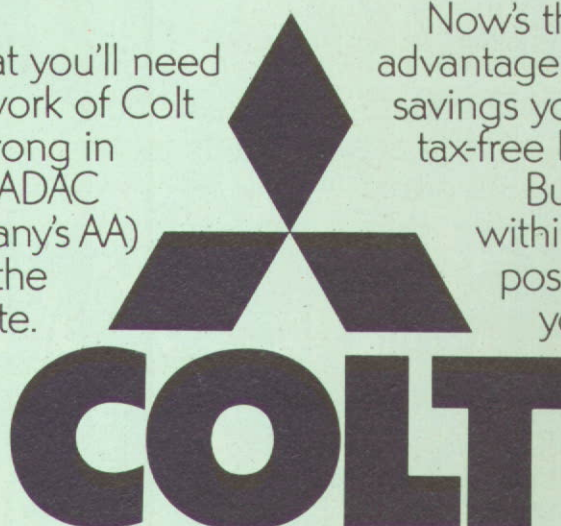
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Defence Secretary visits Ulster troops

FOR THE FIRST time since taking over as Secretary of State for Defence in January, Mr Michael Heseltine visited Army bases in Northern Ireland on a whistle-stop, fact-finding one day tour. His eight hour helicopter trip took in Belfast, Londonderry and South Armagh.

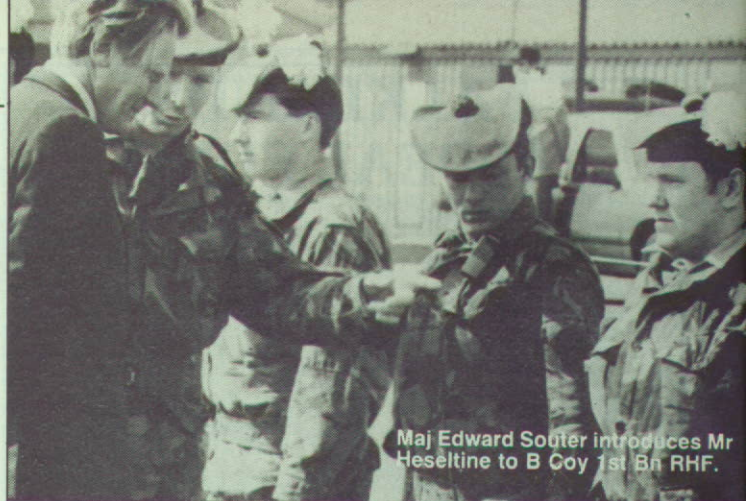
At a press conference at the end of his visit he said that although the Royal Ulster Constabulary are "taking more and more of the load", his task was to ensure that whatever forces are needed to support the RUC would remain in Northern Ireland.

Mr Heseltine had discussions with GOC Sir Robert Richardson and visited both 8 and 39 Brigades where he talked to the

Commanders, Brigadiers Colin Mattingley and Michael Hobbs.

In Belfast he met members of 1st Battalion The Royal Highland Fusiliers who are stationed at Palace Barracks, and also men of 10th Battalion, The Ulster Defence Regiment.

Flying down to the south of the Province the Secretary of State visited 40 Commando, Royal Marines whose 'patch'



Maj Edward Souter introduces Mr Heseltine to B Coy 1st Bn RHF.

covers Bessbrook and Crossmaglen.

Accompanying him on his visit was his wife, Anne, who paid a visit to the military wing of the Musgrave Park Hospital.

Mr Heseltine was impressed by the standard of professionalism and training he had seen and said the short visit had been "limited but helpful".

WIVES TOO

CERTAIN key personnel in the Falklands, are to spend 15 months on accompanied tours. Maj-Gen Keith Spacie, Commander British Forces, has already been joined by his wife.



Falklands Exhibition Opens

ALMOST a year since the Argentinian surrender at Port Stanley and coinciding with the first anniversary of the re-taking of South Georgia, the Imperial War Museum has put on a small collection of Falklands war memorabilia.

Included are a composite combat kit worn by the then commander of 5 Infantry Brigade, Brigadier Tony Wilson, and the beret worn by Major Chris Keeble — he won a DSO — second-in-command of 2 Para during the attack on Goose Green. Also on show are

◀ "It looks much better on the dummy!" jokes Brigadier Wilson.

ten pictures taken by SOLDIER staff photographer, Paul Haley.

Brigadier Wilson, 47, who has now left the Army, explained: "Sometime, somebody asked me whether I would give something of mine to the Imperial War Museum. I wouldn't have thought of it; it wouldn't have crossed my mind. Anyway, I'm not going to run round Kent dressed like that."

"I think an exhibition like this is absolutely great and a very good thing. It doesn't all really come home until you see something like this and it would have been remiss if the Imperial War Museum hadn't put on an exhibition showing how it happened."

Photographer Paul Haley — the Museum had selected 250 of his 2700 pictures — said: "I'm pleased that some of my photos will be kept in the annals of history and I hope that it gives the chance for many people to see the impact of the Falklands although the ten pictures on display are not necessarily those I would have chosen to show personally."

Also on view at the IWM are various items captured from the Argentinians, among them a piece of propaganda, in Spanish, stressing the fact that 'The Englishman Hunt refused to shake hands with the Argentinian commander.'

UXBs KEEP SAPPERS ON THEIR TOES

JUST A WEEK after bringing traffic in central London to a standstill while rendering safe a 50kg World War Two bomb found in the Thames (see News View 2 May), bomb disposal experts from 33 Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers, were called out to another bomb of the same type discovered on a building site in North Kensington.

The first bomb, whose discovery in the river led to the evacuation of the area round Waterloo Bridge, was attended by Major Quin and Lance Corporal Michael Rawley.

It had a clockwork 17 series fuse encased in non-ferrous, non-corrosive metal giving it an unlimited life.

The North Kensington bomb, a series 15 with electrical initiation, posed a lesser threat but was still subjected to the same Render Safe Procedure by the sapper experts.

A local shopkeeper had spotted it poking out from under a fence and moved it to the doorway of his shop where it was defused by Captain Neville Goulton.

An officer of 33 Engineer Regiment, which is based at Chattenden in Kent, pointed out that World War Two bombs still turn up regularly. Between April 1982 and February 1983 the regiment disposed of eleven, although not all these were in the London area.

Alarmingly, such bombs can travel from place to place as part of a scrap metal load. One came to light in Swansea only recently in a scrap metal yard, but was found to be inert.

These forgotten bombs were often strays, dropped when an enemy pilot could not find his primary target or was running low on fuel. Where bombs were dropped as part of a planned

mission to destroy an identifiable target, they were dropped six or eight at a time and in lines.

If there was a gap in the distance between explosions, it could be assumed that at least one was still live and it was then dealt with appropriately. Those that did not form part of a bombing pattern are the ones that emerge today.

Stressed the 33 Engineer Regiment officer: "When a member of the public finds one of these bombs he must leave it where it is, especially if it's one with a clockwork mechanism. They are dangerous and susceptible to shock. He should report his discovery immediately to the local police who will then call in the experts."

PIN-UP IN HORROR CRASH

FORMER beauty queen Julie Moxon, who as pin-up to the 13th/18th Royal Hussars appeared on the back cover of SOLDIER (October 1977) and also appeared twice in SOLDIER NEWS, has suffered head injuries and 'appalling' burns in a horrifying high-speed crash on the M4.

As this issue went to press she was still on the critical list.



RED DEVIL RISKS LIFE TO SAVE FRIEND



WARRANT OFFICER Ken Yeoman, 37, is in hospital suffering from severe spinal injuries after risking his life to save a para colleague during a training session of the Red Devils freefall display team at RAF St Mawgan in Cornwall.

Sergeant Major Yeoman was

practising a Canopy Relative Work stunt with Lance Corporal Ken Campbell which involved one standing on the other's shoulders during the descent. With over 1000ft left to fall, L/Cpl Campbell's parachute collapsed and Sergeant Major Yeoman grabbed him so that the two

◀ **Red Devils link up in mid air — the stunt that went wrong.**

men could land on one parachute. But with 100ft to go the other canopy collapsed and both of them crashed to the ground.

Leader of the display team, Captain Mickey Munn, said: "They came down very fast indeed and it was obvious someone was going to be very badly hurt. It's just a miracle they weren't both seriously injured."

L/Cpl Campbell suffered only minor injuries, bruises and slight shock.

Sergeant Major Yeoman was "as well as can be expected at this stage" according to Captain Munn.

"He fractured the 12th vertebrae which has been re-set and there is a metal splint alongside it. It will take him a while to recover but Ken, who has made about 1300 jumps, has tremendous determination. Given half the chance there's no doubt in my mind that he will



WO2 Ken Yeoman in action.

recover in terms of jumping again.

"The team has discussed many times what to do in the event of entanglement during CRW with a bloke below. You must hang on to him and Ken was true to his word."

"In 20 years this is the worst accident we have had."

GEOFF RINGS THE BELL

WHEN COMMUNICATIONS expert Sgt Geoff Dawson went to the tiny island of St Helena to help install a telephone exchange, he made a good connection.

For Geoff put out a message to a local girl which said: "Will you marry me?" And within a short time Geoff was oblivious to the sound of telephone bells and was all ears for the sound of wedding bells.

But while Geoff got wed, his mates in the eight-strong team from the School of Signals at Blandford, got cracking on the installation of a brand-new automatic exchange for the 5000 inhabitants of the tiny South Atlantic island.

Now, thanks to the efforts of WO 'Spud' Murphy and Sgts Steve Graham, Dave Kirkpatrick, Barry Sewell, Steve Hilton, Mark Eaton and Cpl Graham Tilley 'phone links on and to the island should be much improved.

Said Major Pat Soward of the School of Signals: "It took a year to complete the job. Six months to design and install the equipment and a further six months to lay new cables."

"In effect the team doubled the size of the installation to 300 lines which should mean an end to crossed lines and re-connection problems." The team is hoping so, anyway. For to do the job they had to use parts from old exchanges in Hong Kong and Singapore and even from the 'Min of Ag and Fish' in Whitehall.

POPPY APPEAL BREAKS ALL RECORDS

LAST YEAR's Poppy Appeal which closes at the end of this month will exceed £6m — an all-time record.

Said Major Robert Tomlins, General Secretary of the Royal British Legion: "This remarkable result shows that the great British public and thousands of overseas supporters have backed the Poppy Appeal to the hilt. Their generosity means we can forge ahead on all fronts in the face of ever-increasing demands from the ex-Service

community, paying particular attention to the many cases of injustice and inequality which come to our notice."

The RBL is pressing for Government-assisted visits to war graves for all war widows, and is also urging the Government to look again at anomalies in war pension allowances.

But the Government maintains that sponsored visits to war graves for all widows would be too expensive.

As for war widows' pensions, the Prime Minister vigorously defended her Government's record during Commons questions last month. It had, said Mrs Thatcher, been "unsurpassed".

PAY AWARD SOON?

DESPITE national newspaper speculation that the Armed Forces could be in line for a six per cent pay rise, there was no official confirmation from the Ministry of Defence as this issue of

SOLDIER went to press.

Nor could the MOD say when the recommendations of the Armed Forces Pay Review Board would be announced.

Last year's pay award to the Services ranged from four to 8.9 per cent. A six per cent rise would keep Forces pay above the rate of inflation, currently 4.6 per cent.

RGJ SPECTACULAR

ALMOST A YEAR after seven members of the Band of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets were killed and 24 injured in the Regent's Park bomb blast, a massed military bands spectacular is to be held at the Royal Albert Hall on 30 June at 8 pm in aid of the St Mary's Hospital Medical School Appeal.

The survivors were treated at St Mary's, where some remained for a considerable time. One man is still in hospital. The spectacular, in front of Princess Alexandra, will be compered by Kenneth Kendall and will feature the Massed Bands and Bugles of The Light Infantry and The Royal Green Jackets as well as The King's Singers. Regimental charities will also benefit from the proceeds. Tickets can be obtained from the Royal Albert Hall box office.

£2m GIFT FOR GURKHAS

NEPAL, home of the Gurkhas, could soon be receiving a £1.5m gift of military equipment from Britain. The equipment, which includes 25 Ferret Scout cars, eight 105 mm Pack Howitzers, plus a quantity of Browning machine guns, C11 radios and smoke grenades, is surplus to British needs.

Total cost of the package, which is subject to Parliamentary approval, including spares, refurbishments and transport costs, is just under £2m.

The gift to the Royal Nepalese Army underlines the close relationship which exists between Britain and the Himalayan kingdom. But official sources stress that it should not be seen as a 'thank you' present for the Gurkhas' service in the Falklands campaign.



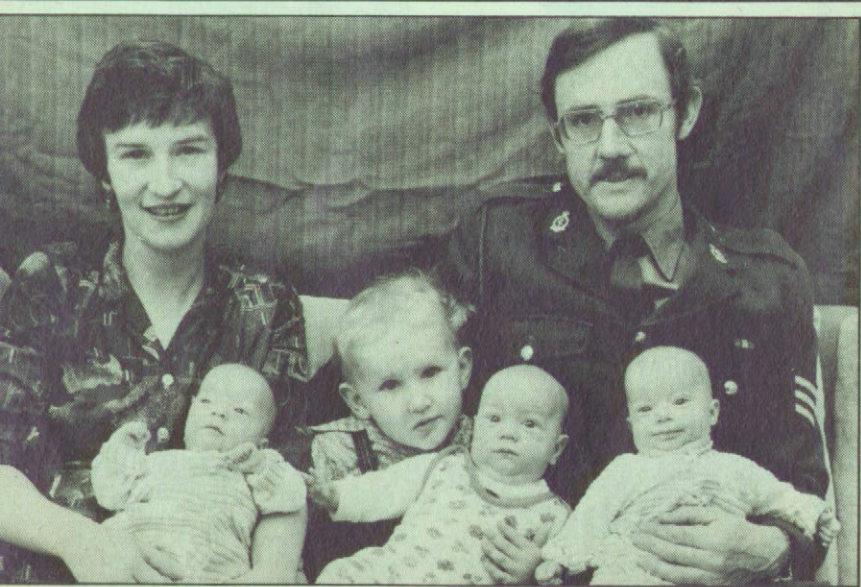
NEWS VIEW

◀ NO YOLK

Making a dash across a poisoned river and hanging like sloths in the process are men of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards competing for the Ansell Trophy. The competition is mainly concerned with military skills in a Rhine Army setting but the special test this year involved getting an ammunition box containing a raw egg across the river.

IN TRIPLICATE ▼

The last of triplets born to Sergeant Bill Young and his wife Linda of the RAMC Medical Centre, Soltau, has now been allowed home. Joanne, Billy and Katherine join two-and-a-half-year-old John for a family portrait.



GOLFING HEROES ▲

Golfing soldiers, Corporals Bob Maskell and Steve Buxton, of 1st Armoured Division Headquarters & Signal Regiment, receiving bravery certificates issued on behalf of the Lower Saxony Minister of Interior. Last August the two men were in the middle of a round when they saw a train hit a car at an unmanned level crossing. The car was spun off the track in flames but due to their quick reactions the woman driver, despite suffering severe internal injuries, survived.



CLIFF CLEARERS ▶

A weekend out in the fresh air away from repairing vehicles and doing some good. That was the brief for 28 men from 7 Squadron RCT Workshops REME based in Aldershot. So off they went to the North Yorkshire coast where they carried out urgent coastal footpath repairs for the National Trust.

SAFETY FIRSTS ▶

Winners of the Dortmund Garrison Road Safety Competition, Sarah Boswell (6), Julie Wince (13) and 11-year-old Nicola Upton show Brigadier Mike Jones and Dortmund Police Chief Inspector Werner Oehler how well they have learned to cross the road safely.



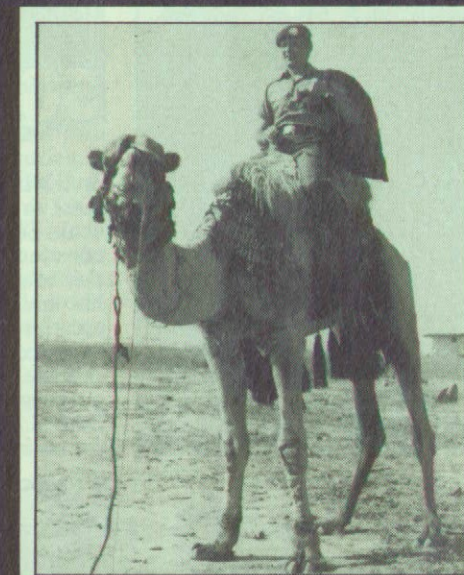
FEMALE FIRSTS ▼

Another male bastion fell when nine girl Army Cadets went to spend an annual camp in Germany. The girls, from Soham College, Cambridgeshire, spent ten days as guests of 29 Company, WRAC in Rheindahlen. For this first Rhine Army visit by girl cadets the WRAC laid on a full military programme including shooting, orienteering, fieldcraft and first aid.



HUMPING THE MAIL ▼

Delivering mail by camel may be traditional in the Middle East but postie, Sergeant Brian Harris, decided after trying one out that he preferred his estate car. Brian, on loan from 31 PC Squadron RE, Krefeld, is spending six months as postie to the 11 nations of the Multi-national Force and Observers in the Sinai.



◀ BLISTERS-SISTER

The attentions of two pretty nurses were welcome to Naafi men, Reg Stratton (left) and Dave Winch when they arrived at Naafi's London headquarters after a 320 mile sponsored walk from Munster to raise funds for baby units at British military hospitals in Germany.



THIRD THUNDER ▶

Amid heavy rain and clinging mud, gunner units of 3rd Armoured Division were recently put through their paces in Exercise Iron Thunder at Munsterlager. Here men of L Battery, 2 Field Regiment, de-camouflage their M109 after a day's live firing.



MADE IT!



TOPICS

Paul and Mandy end record-breaking ride

THE 3600 MILE tandem trek across the Sahara desert by two young TA officers has ended in success. Lieutenant Mandy Dunn of 265 (KSY) Signal Squadron (V), Bexleyheath and her partner, 2nd Lieutenant Paul Wright, from the same unit, reached Kaduna, Nigeria on 29 April at the end of their journey.

Both are said to be fit and well and they are spending a short holiday in Nigeria before returning home. During their five month cycle ride, chronicled in the pages of *SOLDIER*, they gathered 124 punctures as well as running through eight inner tubes and four sets of tyres.

We shall be carrying the full story of Paul and Mandy's record-breaking trip in a future issue.



BIRTH OF A SQUADRON

A UNIQUE four-year experiment to see whether TA soldiers could be recruited and trained to carry out an airfield damage repair role in support of the RAF, has ended successfully with the creation of the Army's newest volunteer unit.

Some 300 military and civilian guests gathered in biting cold at RAF Leuchars in Fife for the formation parade of 277 Field

Squadron (Airfield Damage Repair) RE (V).

Formerly part of 117 (Highland) Field Support Squadron, the Airfield Damage Repair Detachment was set up in 1979 with just one officer and 12 men. Now, as an independent squadron in its own right, it has two officers and 80 soldiers, six of whom are regulars.

The ADR role demands a mixture of traditional sapper combat engineering skills and plant and crane operating. In the event of an enemy strike 277 Squadron must be able to carry out all the tasks required to make an airfield operational again — not just mending holes but restoring essential services such as water

and electricity.

Recruiting experienced men has not been easy but the enthusiasm and dedication of the part-timers has brought them up to the high standards demanded.

Welcoming the formation of 277 Squadron, the Engineer-in-Chief, Major-General G B Sinclair (pictured left reviewing the parade), expressed the hope that it would further strengthen links between the Army and RAF and "fill a serious gap in the country's defences."

He also paid tribute to 117 Squadron's Major Bill Pagan and Captains Charles Glass and Shaun Murphy for bringing the ADR experiment to a successful conclusion.

DJ MIKE'S BIG CHALLENGE

RADIO PICCADILLY disc jockey, Mike Sweeney from Salford, is almost a professional glutton for punishment. Last year he completed the Granada TV series *Krypton Factor* assault course in aid of the Fusilier charity weekend. This year, in his campaign to help the Bury Fusilier Association raise even more than 1982's record — £13,000 — he volunteered to come out with the Fusiliers' resident Lancashire company — D Coy, 5 RRF.

Company Commander Major Ed Lee had invited Mike as a 'thank you' for all his fundraising efforts and to fulfil one of Mike's ambitions — to have some professional training in small arms.

Coach and guide on the Holcombe (*Krypton Factor*) Training Area was ex-Regular Sgt Joe Harris (pictured left with his pupil) who watched Mike fire GPMG, rifle and SMG alongside members of the Company shooting team having their final practice for the battalion SAAM.

"He's got a lot of potential," Joe confided afterwards. "DJs need plenty of control, and Mike will make an excellent marksman if we can get him for a few more days."

"I enjoyed it too," said Mike, "and I'll be back at Holcombe over the Bank Holiday weekend in August to help whip up enthusiasm for the sponsorships. This year one of the nominated causes will be Broughton House, Salford, the East Lancashire home for disabled servicemen."



CHAPEL REDEDICATED

A THANKSGIVING service for the restoration and rededication of the War Memorial Chapel of the 1/7th and 2/7th Battalions, The Middlesex Regiment (DCO) TA has been held at the Parish Church of St Mary and St George, Muswell Hill.

The chapel replaces the one originally dedicated in the 1920s in the old church of St Mary, Hornsey, which has since been

demolished.

The Colours of the 7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment are laid-up in the chapel, as is the King's Colour of the 25th Battalion, a First World War battalion largely recruited in that part of the county.

Attending the service were a number of former members of the 7th Middlesex, including their last CO, Lt-Col D E Simpson TD, and the B Company of its successor — 6/7th (V) Battalion the Queen's Regiment — who provided a marching party.

PETROL MEN OFF TO THE FALKLANDS

READY TO PUT a tiger into the petrol tanks of the Army's vehicles in the Falklands, are the first of 21 'petroleum operators' of the Territorial Army.

The Army has the vehicles and the fuel, but it seems that in the Falklands there is a shortage of people to fill the waiting tanks and generally handle petrol supplies. So 21 TA soldiers volunteered to spend a year with the Regulars in the South Atlantic.

Now, after special training at RAOC Petroleum Centre at Wimborne, Dorset, the first batch (right) are ready to leave for their 12-month stint.

Explained Lt Col G K Gil-

berry, Commandant of the Centre: "These volunteers will not only be filling up vehicles' fuel tanks, but laying pipelines and carrying out any other jobs to do with petrol for the Army."

"Some of them gave up jobs for this tour, while a few were unemployed. Either way this integration can only benefit both the Regular Army and the TA."

Falklands bound and ready to put tigers in Army tanks. ▶



BIG FOUR PAIR AND SHARE

SPECTATORS AT the 4th Battalion Queen's Lancashire Regiment skill-at-arms meeting could be forgiven for thinking they were seeing double. For shooting in the GPMG pairs event were identical twins, Lance Corporals Mark and Martin Smith (pictured extreme right), who both joined the TA the same day and both live in Blackpool.

The 4 QLR meeting rounded off a hectic couple of weekends



at the Altcar ranges on Merseyside which saw four of the North West District's major units in action in as many days.

Teamed up together for the first weekend were 103 Air De-

fence Regiment RA(V) and 156 Transport Regiment RCT(V). Then it was the Infantry's turn with 5th/8th Battalion The King's Regiment joining 4 QLR.

Visitors to the range included Brigadier John Howarth, Commander 42 Infantry Brigade from Chester — to whom the Gunners and the Infantry belong.

The pairing scheme proved a big help in providing butt parties, sentries and administration.

One man who left Altcar with particularly happy memories of a weekend well spent was Captain Graham Pybus of A Coy, 5/8 King's (pictured left), making his first appearance on the ranges since being promoted. An advertising man in his workaday role, he did his own image



no harm by finishing as his battalion's individual pistol and rifle champion and leading his company team to victory in the SLR, pistol and Falling Plate.

ENTER THE FAIR SAX!

ATTRACTING admiring glances at the recent TA football final at Catterick (see page 47) were 34 Signal Regiment (Volunteers) band which included two WRAC saxophonists.

Privates Helen Lawson and Ruth Bywater were among four girl musicians taken on when TA

bands were allowed to include females two or three years ago.

Band sergeant-major, Robert Smith, admits that he was against the idea but has been proved wrong.

"I said it was a man's world but I find that the general conduct of the rest of the band has shot up 100 per cent since they joined."



NEW HOME FOR BRADFORD GUNNERS

A NEW £825,000 TA Centre has been opened in Bradford to replace the old Belle Vue Barracks destroyed by fire three-and-a-half years ago.

It will be home to the 'Bradford Gunners' — 272 (West Riding Artillery) Field Support Squadron RE(V) — as well as No 1 Platoon of A Company, 3rd Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers.

Also based in the new Belle Vue Barracks will be the HQ North West Sector of the Army Cadet Force, the Bradford Area ACF and the Bradford Cadet Detachment, Royal Engineers.

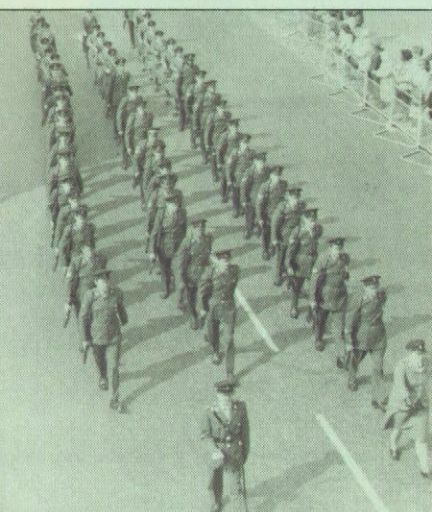
The opening ceremony — conducted by Colonel Sir William Bulmer, Lord Lieutenant for West Yorkshire — was preceded by a Freedom March in which 150 officers and soldiers of 272 Squadron exercised rights first granted in 1945 to march through the city carrying arms with bayonets fixed and swords drawn.

As part of 74 (Antrim Artillery) Engineering Regiment (V) based in Belfast, 272 Squadron has an operational role with the 1st Infantry Brigade and may be deployed anywhere within the Nato area.

CROYDON'S PRIDE



A Fox of C Sqn Royal Yeomanry rolls past the saluting base.



Signals contingent marching.

CROYDON'S TERRITORIAL ARMY units really went to town last month. Over 180 marching volunteers and 26 vehicles ranging from Fox armoured cars to 8-tonne HGV trucks drove through one of Britain's busiest shopping centres on a Saturday afternoon cheered on by thousands of spectators.

Croydon's military links go back a long way. Mitcham Road Barracks, from where the parade set off, was home of the Royal Waggon Train from 1801-1832, later became the Guards Depot, and has housed volunteer units since 1859.

Last month's parade brought

together all four of the town's present day TA units — C Squadron Royal Yeomanry, 41 Signals Squadron, 2 Company 10 Para and 151 (Greater London) Transport Regiment — who were officially adopted by the Greater London borough in 1978. They came together to celebrate both the TA's 75th birthday and Croydon's Charter Centenary.

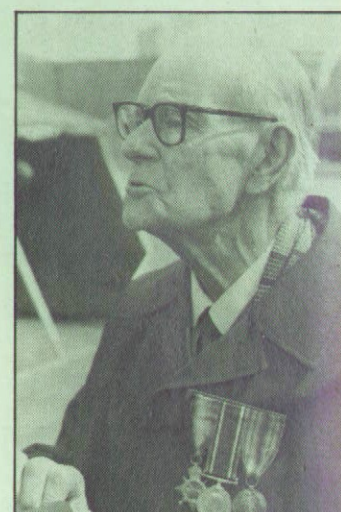
Taking the salute was the Mayor of Croydon, Councillor W Elliott, accompanied by the GOC London District, Major-General Eyre. At his reception afterwards he said how much he had enjoyed the day. "This parade has proved, if it needed

proving, that the pride of Croydon people for their TA Volunteers is very real."

Parade commander, Major Jim Mill TD Royal Signals (V) described the spectators' enthusiasm as "truly heartwarming — it made us all feel very proud."

And none of those watching was more appreciative than 90-year-old Gallipoli veteran Mr. Jack Bullock who first joined the Territorial force in 1910. His verdict on the day? "The Terriers haven't lost their touch!" ■

**Story: Malcolm Smith
Pictures: Kevin Lee**



Enjoying it — Mr Jack Bullock.

SOLDIER to Soldier

THE CHANCE to support a really worthwhile cause while sitting down to enjoy a beautifully written and produced piece of top quality entertainment is an opportunity many will find irresistible. And that's certainly what Ssafa is hoping as it seeks to boost its funds with a unique son-et-lumiere on historic Horse Guards Parade this summer.

Called *The Heart of the Nation*, the show has been written by 'Elizabeth R' playwright Rosemary Anne Sisson and traces Whitehall's historic role in the nation's fortunes from Tudor times to the present day.

Bringing that history to life will be some of the most famous voices in the British theatre — Sir John Gielgud, Robert Hardy, Penelope Keith, David Langton, Barbara Windsor, Peter Barkworth, Hannah Gordon, Isabel Dean, Gordon Jackson, Jeremy Irons, Paul Scofield, Keith Michell, Maurice Denham, Philip Madoc and Rupert Everett.

And linking their contributions will be the voice of Anthony Andrews as a young Ensign of Foot Guards due to carry the colour being trooped the next day who is visited by the famous ghosts and memories of the kings, queens, dukes, admirals and politicians who have helped shape Britain's destiny.

The lights go up on the first show at

9 pm on Wednesday 17 August and it will run every night until 8 September, including Sundays and Bank Holiday Monday. All proceeds will be in aid of the Soldiers' Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association and covered stand tickets, price £5.50 and £4.50 can be obtained from 'The Heart of the Nation' Box Office, Ssafa, 27 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1H 9BZ, Tel: 01-222 9228. There are special rates for parties of 10 or more. Cheques and postal orders should be crossed and made payable to 'The Heart of the Nation' and a stamped addressed envelope included for the return of tickets.

In a remarkably successful year for Service charities that has seen the South Atlantic Fund top £14m and the Poppy Appeal reach an all-time record of £6m, it is to be hoped that Ssafa's enterprising efforts attract the bumper response they deserve. *Heart of the Nation* is another chance for the nation to show its heart towards our Servicemen and their dependants — and to see a thumping good show into the bargain.

ALTHOUGH it's long been our policy when writing about people in the Army to give their surname, rank and Christian name (or forename to use current jargon), re-

ports continue to reach us omitting the latter.

So to save us phoning back to ask for the missing details, we'd be grateful if all our correspondents in future — particularly our new TA friends — could see that every Tom, Dick and Harry in their reports is correctly labelled.

Initials may be fine for extra-terrestrials but we like to put a more human face on the people we write about.

NEW FOR stamp buffs. The 1st Battalion The Staffordshire Regiment are issuing a First Day Cover to commemorate the Presentation of Colours on 21 May in the Colchester Castle Grounds by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Staffordshire.

The issue consists of an envelope depicting the new Colours in front of Colchester Castle with an Ensign and Colours Sergeant flanking the Colours. In addition, the second class postage stamp is cancelled by a specially produced handstamp and each envelope contains a brief background to the regiment and the history of the 1st Battalion since 1959.

The complete item costs 90 pence and can be obtained from The Philatelic Officer, 1 STAFFORDS, Roman Bks, Colchester, Essex. Applications should include a postal order or cheque made out to the Philatelic Officer, 1 STAFFORDS and details of the applicant's address. First Day Covers will be handstamped on 21 May and sent out soon afterwards.

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NATOCARS OF BRIDGWATER

No-one looks after you better!

UNDER WILD North German skies the first troop of four Chieftains suddenly jerked forward on their tracks to churn a defiant path across sodden Somme-like salients, firing their turret-mounted machine guns as they went.

Just seconds before, the earth shook under foot as their massive 120mm guns hurled practice shells at 1450 feet-a-second destined for distant targets fleetingly defined for them by sudden smoke puffs.

So started the tense, high-powered shoot-out on a muddy battle run at the Hohne-Bergen ranges between four troops, each of four Chieftains, fielded by the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

The aim, literally, was to find out just who among them were the fastest and best in tank gunnery skills and worthy of representing them at the six-nation, ten-team Canadian Army Trophy contest — CAT 83 — due on the same Range Nine next month.

This year, the gun-play will be between Nato's Northern and Central Army Groups — NORTHAG and CENTAG. And only three of the four troops would qualify for the test of the big shots involving 120 tanks.

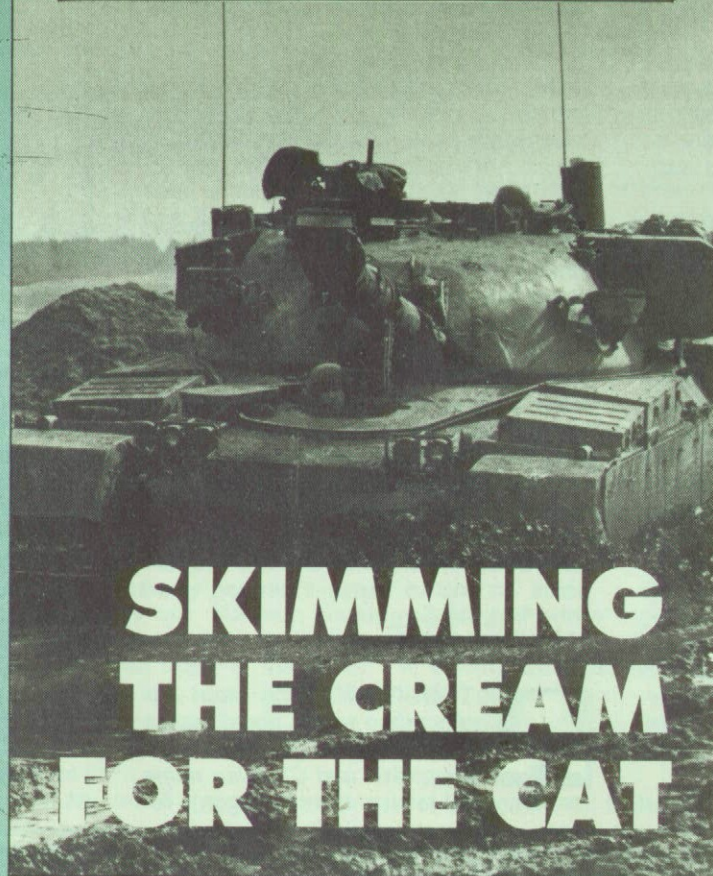
CAT, the five most prestigious tank gunnery days in the BAOR calendar, is held every two years, with the first contest held in 1963. So far, the British have won it three times — in 1965, 1966 and 1970 by the Royal Scots Greys, 13th/18th Hussars and 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers respectively. The Germans have claimed victory four times, the Belgians three times and the Canadians, twice. The luckless Dutch and the Americans have yet to win.

Capt Ces Swinden, Royal Hussars, 'coach' to the Jocks for CAT. ▼



At the control panel of the Gunnery Training Simulator. ▶

SOLDIER watches the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards tune up for this year's big Nato tank shoot-out



SKIMMING THE CREAM FOR THE CAT

Watching the 56-ton heavyweight armour-plated contenders surge forward at six miles-an-hour into their designated arena etched with mud rivulets and attendant lagoons were the inevitable VIPs from four-star generals downwards.

Chieftain ploughs through the mud to take up firing position.

There too were the VVIPs — to the tank crews at least — their families who had been brought by the coachload to watch in wonderment.

Wives, kids and regimental

pals braved the bleak winds and drizzle, protected by ear-defenders against the shellfire and by wellies against the quagmire under foot.

Eyes strained as, four at a time, the low silhouette MBTs moved out between specified stopping places known as 'bounds'. Blue-grey smoke spumed out behind and black loam flecked upwards like fountain springlets from the churning tracks.

Among the onlookers was four-year-old Sarah Whiteley, whose dad, Corporal Dave Whiteley, was one of the tank commanders. Clamped to her tiny ears were a borrowed pair of ear defenders. Sadly though, dad's troop did not qualify for next month's contest.

The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, Scotland's only cavalry regiment, know they will be carrying a lot of responsibilities on their professional shoulders during CAT 83 — the honour of the regiment, of the Royal Armoured Corps, of the cavalry, of the British Army, of NORTH-AG and last, but never least, of Scotland.

The canny Jocks were not making any predictions about the eventual outcome but were dourly confident of a good placing come the day. After all, they reminded, besides winning CAT in 1965 they also took third slot in 1968 when they were The Royal Scots Greys.

And, this year, they have new advanced technology to the tune of £90,000 per tank to help them — the IFCS (Improved Fire Control System), laser-sighted and fully computerised, which is being brought into play for the



first time in CAT 83.

The system gives faster target acquisition and engagement times, greatly increased first-round hit probability against static and, particularly, moving targets, effective engagements at extended ranges with all types of ammunition plus much easier battle tasks for the gunner and commander.

But Britain is not the only contestant whose new equipment will be adding an intriguing extra dimension to this year's CAT. Also under scrutiny will be the latest addition to the United States' battlefield arsenal — the 60-ton M1 Abrams.

All thoughts during SOLDIER's visit though were directed to the task in hand — winning a place in the final line-up.

Just before he was about to take his four Chieftains along the well-defined battle run with its 80 falling plate and 24 main armament target tests, Second Lieutenant Felix Wheeler, confided: "CAT 83 is a personal thing for me. My father said he might come over next month if I did well in this qualifying round.

Firing at main armament targets on Hohne-Bergen battle run. ▼

The RSDG shoot-out was a day for the whole family to enjoy. ▲

Inside Chieftain, ready to fire. ▶

I'm in for a real roasting if I don't do well."

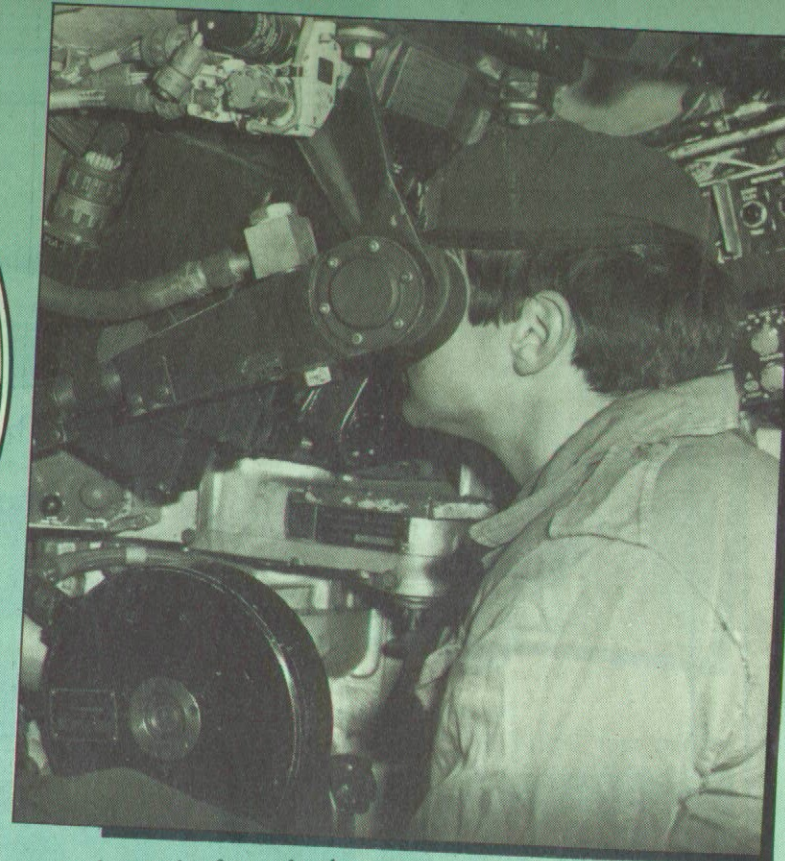
Father is Lieutenant-Colonel Guy Wheeler, who was CO of The Royal Scots Greys when they gunned their way to victory in 1965.

But Subaltern Wheeler need not have worried. His troop took the third qualifying position.

The Jocks had been coached for the event since January by Captain 'Ces' Swinden of The Royal Hussars, the first BAOR armoured regiment to take on Chieftain in the mid-Sixties and now the first to be equipped with the new Challenger.

Apart from two fortnightly training periods on the desolate ranges, not far from the site of that former Chamber of Horrors — Belsen concentration camp — time had been spent in 'dry training' back at barracks on the GTS (Gunnery Training Simulator), a £4 million TV monitor and video system with a huge screen that displays 56 targets on any of five landscapes.

The crews trained in a mock-up Chieftain cockpit incorporating IFCS, a simulator which



saves thousands of pounds when a single real practice round costs £25.

A detailed scale model of the host Hohne Ranges and, in particular, Range Nine was also studied to help to pinpoint the likely pop-up places of their armour-plated prey. Days often started at 0630 for the work-up.

"I'll be pleased if they give a good account of themselves on the actual day," said Captain Swinden. "It's not really a question of winning. Provided they give a good performance we will have achieved our aim."

Good performances there were, too, in the shoot-out which had its moments of good-natured banter as Scots accents and encouraging tank commanders spoke to each other over their radios, their comments relayed by loudspeakers for the amusement of spectators.

Each Chieftain carried ten practice rounds and 250 GPMG rounds with targets exposed for 40-seconds between three specified bounds either head-on, oblique or broadside.

The two dozen main armament static and moving targets were presented in various combinations in multiples of up to six at a time at ranges of between 1200 and 2000 metres. The only clue to their presence — puffs of smoke.

Co-axial machine gunners had a chance to show their prowess on the eight groups of ten falling plates, each grouped within a five-metre radius at ranges of under 1000 metres.

Marks were awarded for accuracy and speed of hit, with penalties for failing to arrive at a bound in time or for using reserve ammunition without authorisation.

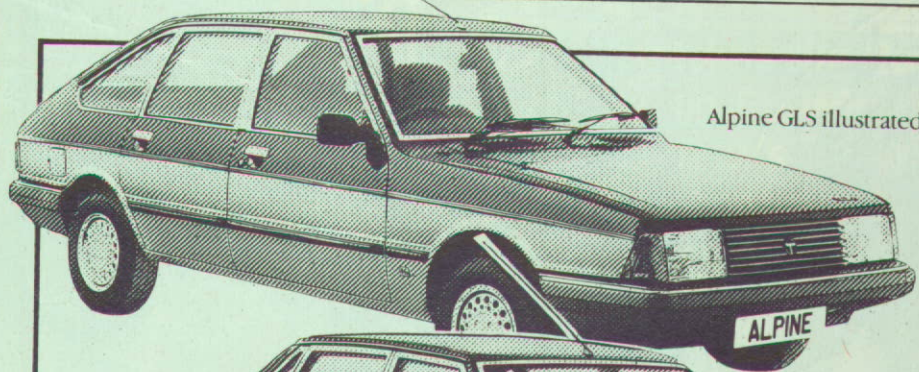
British team captain, Major Nick Seymour, said afterwards: "If we don't do well on the day it won't be for want of trying. We are, of course, confident though not over-confident. It's a great honour for the regiment to be in CAT again."

Brigadier James Rucker, Commander Armour, 1 (BR) Corps,

continued on page 16

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





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FIRST FOR EXPORT

explained why CAT is being run on different lines this year: "We are taking the internationalism out of the competition. It will be NORTHAG versus CENTAG and we have sought today to subject the teams to psychological pressure in front of a high-powered audience. I think the new concept of the competition is a great step forward and very much in the spirit that is now driving Nato.

"Unless we can get more team spirit into our methods then we won't be able to fight together in war as we ought to. How well it will work will remain to be seen."

Brigadier Rucker said the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards had been chosen to represent NORTHAG and the Royal Armoured Corps because not



2nd Lt Felix Wheeler: "CAT 83 is a personal thing for me."

only had they attained high gradings in tank gunnery tests last year but were now equipped with IFCS.

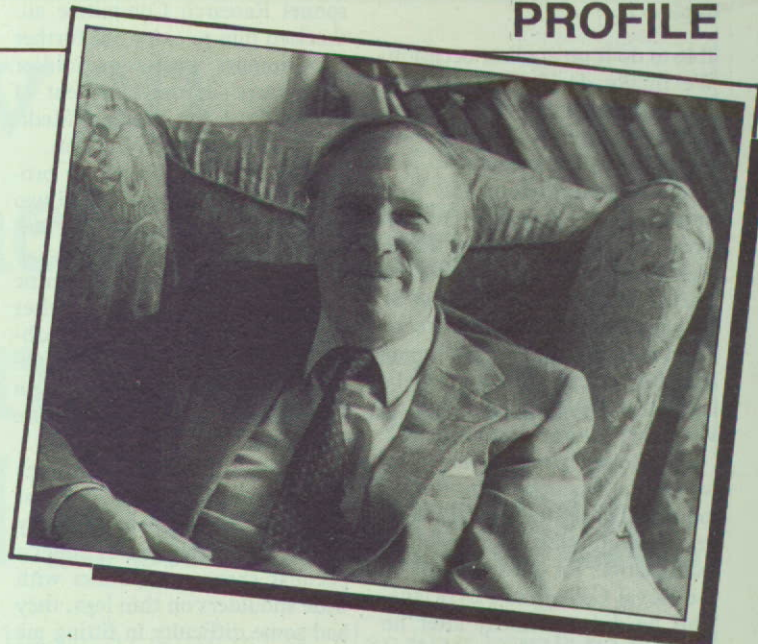
"IFCS allows us to make an accurate shot against any moving targets and that's always been our biggest problem up to now," said the Commander. "Warsaw Pact targets are likely to be moving when we want to engage them. We want to destroy them — on the move.

"It's worthwhile putting IFCS into the competition and using it. Indeed, we should be mad not to do it. It could be argued we would do as well in CAT 83 without it, but I don't subscribe to that argument." ■

● **SOLDIER** will be carrying a full account of this year's Canadian Army Trophy contest in a later issue.

Sir Roger Bannister talks to John Walton about the day he made history on the track and his important strides on behalf of the Royal Army Medical Corps

FLYING DOCTOR



Breaking the tape at the end of his historic run in 1954. ▼



THE FIRST four minute mile is one of those events which left an indelible mark on most people. Just as people remember exactly what they were doing the evening Kennedy's assassination was flashed on the television screens, so those of us who were around in the nineteen fifties remember the night a tall, fair haired athlete called Roger Bannister ran his way round a track in Oxford and into the history books.

I have always regretted that I could have been there and wasn't. A party from my school went to Oxford that night for what was thought to be a purely routine athletics match. Even now, when the grey and white ghosts flicker up on the screen as the run is shown on the box, I see my old mathematics master, hands clasped together in applause, moving in to congratulate the exhausted runner.

It is hard to accept that 29 years have passed since that epoch making run in May 1954 and that Bannister, now Sir Roger, is a grandfather who has spent more than a quarter of a century without running a competitive step.

In his fashionable house in Kensington Sir Roger recalled that famous night. He explained that it was a do or die effort because other runners, notably the Australian John Landy, were also after the four minute record.

"In early May, English weather is bad and to run a four minute mile when the wind and weather were strong would be the equivalent of 3 minutes 56 seconds in good weather. If I attempted it on a bad day having announced in advance that I was going to do it everyone would be disappointed and I might not be

continued on page 18

able to do it on another occasion. We finally decided 20 minutes before the race that the wind was bad but not hopeless and we would make the attempt."

The rest is history and four months later Bannister retired from the track — a few weeks after qualifying as a doctor. "I started as a resident doctor at St Mary's Hospital, London, where I had trained. At that time junior hospital doctors could barely leave the hospital and it was a virtually full-time commitment."

Sir Roger already knew he wanted to be a consultant neurologist and postponed his National Service so that he could take the examination for membership of the Royal College of Physicians. This he did — shortly after he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1957.

Up until then his only connection with the Army had been that his wife's uncle was Lieutenant-General Sir Archibald Nye, Vice-Chief of the Imperial General Staff in World War Two.

But the four minute miler was a celebrity so the press turned up in force for Sir Roger's enlistment at Crookham, near Aldershot. After that he was allowed to become just another Army officer.

"The basic training course at Crookham was only about three weeks and consisted of parading up and down the parade square, firing 25 rounds with a revolver and learning how to lecture to troops on a variety of subjects including venereal disease. I was then posted to Queen Alexandra's Hospital Millbank as a junior medical specialist on the officers' ward."

Later Sir Roger was posted to Aden where he carried out some research which was of great help to the Army.

"While I was a medical student I had done research in physiology and had a special interest in the problems of body temperature regulation during exercise. At that time in the post-Suez era British troops were being flown out and within ten days or two weeks were engaged in action, including hard exercise in high temperature. Some had died of heat stroke.

"I was given a roving commission to take out from England what basic equipment I needed in order to investigate this problem and make recommendations for its solution."

In temperatures of around 90 degrees and 90 per cent humidity Sir Roger spent six months collecting fluids and measuring body weight to calculate the extent of sweat loss.

On his return the Army Per-

sonnel Research Committee authorised him to carry out further experiments with four soldier 'volunteers' in the basement of the Institute for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in London.

After the experiments he produced reports and published two papers in the *Lancet*. One described a new variety of heat loss which he called 'acute anidrotic heat exhaustion' and the other concerned the effect of substances released during bacterial infections, such as were common in Aden, on body temperature regulation.

Sir Roger has other memories of the Army. Of when he first joined up: "I was issued with my battledress which, as I'm rather a peculiar shape as a runner with wide shoulders on thin legs, they had some difficulty in fitting me with. I was a rather unusual recruit in that if you had any honours you wore a ribbon and I was a CBE, so officers used to look at my battle dress and wonder who I was!"

At Millbank he wore civilian clothes and when he got an emergency call to go to a Guards camp in Norfolk because of a 'flu epidemic he quickly changed.

"I thought now's the time to get into battledress and off I went. My vision of camps was sleeping in tents and primitive conditions. I got there and was taken to the officers' mess and found it was a smart building. The brigadier in charge was wearing a civilian suit and he looked me up and down in my battledress and said: 'Have you brought any civilian clothes?'"

That night Sir Roger was the only man in the mess wearing battledress. Meanwhile his wife was rushing civilian clothes to him.

Sir Roger stayed on to deal with the 'flu epidemic but also

found time to have some fun — learning to ride a motorcycle around the exercise areas. "What I did grow to understand was the behaviour of Guards officers. They gave this impression of nonchalance and effiteness yet when it came to Army exercises they were very strong and resourceful and brave."

Looking back on his short Army career Sir Roger feels it was useful. For the Army his work in heat loss was later followed up by others. "The lessons of heat loss have to be re-learned after each campaign. It happened in Mesopotamia in the First World War and the Western Desert in the Second. The problem was of unacclimatised troops being submitted to high temperatures on exercise. This is no longer done and the problems which

Sport and Physical Recreation from 1975 until last year.

The sporting world has changed since the 1950's but he refuses to be drawn on whether it is for the better or worse. His training in those days amounted to half an hour a day, five days a week — about a quarter that of today's track stars.

But one good thing has come about — the fact that sporting facilities are now available to everyone.

"The most important advance in sport was the concept of 'Sport for All' which was wholly good. There are no people in England now with the ambition and talent to become champions who are not given financial and other assistance to enable them to perfect their skills.

"The problems which arise are—

'I would say there is a definite lack in the experience of young people today that they do not do National Service.'

occurred in Aden won't occur again."

Of his own experience he says: "I would say there is a definite lack in the experience of young people today that they do not do National Service. I learned an enormous amount about the way people behave, what kind of stresses they will accept and how they can be persuaded to do things they might not want to do. All these kinds of things I would not have understood if I had not done National Service."

Since 1963 Sir Roger has made his life's work that of a consultant neurologist. But he has retained his links with sport as Chairman of the Sports Council from 1971-75 and President of the International Council for

that standards are now so high that a person cannot reach the top in sport and have another career. That is something which I personally regret but it is probably just a personal feeling — the other benefits which have resulted from progress probably outweigh this." ■



Getting measured up for his Army days with the RAMC.

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VOLVO EXPORT

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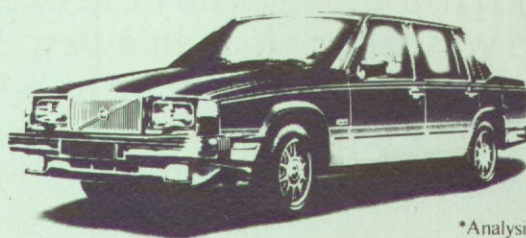
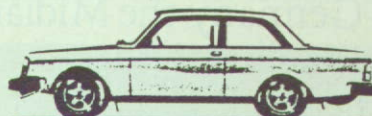
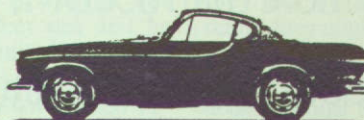
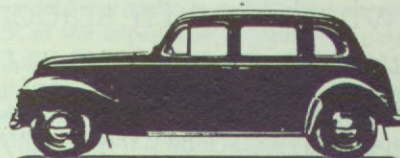
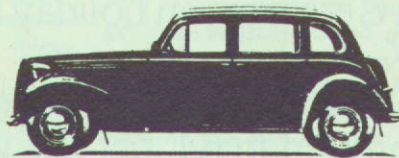
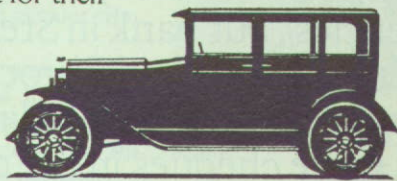
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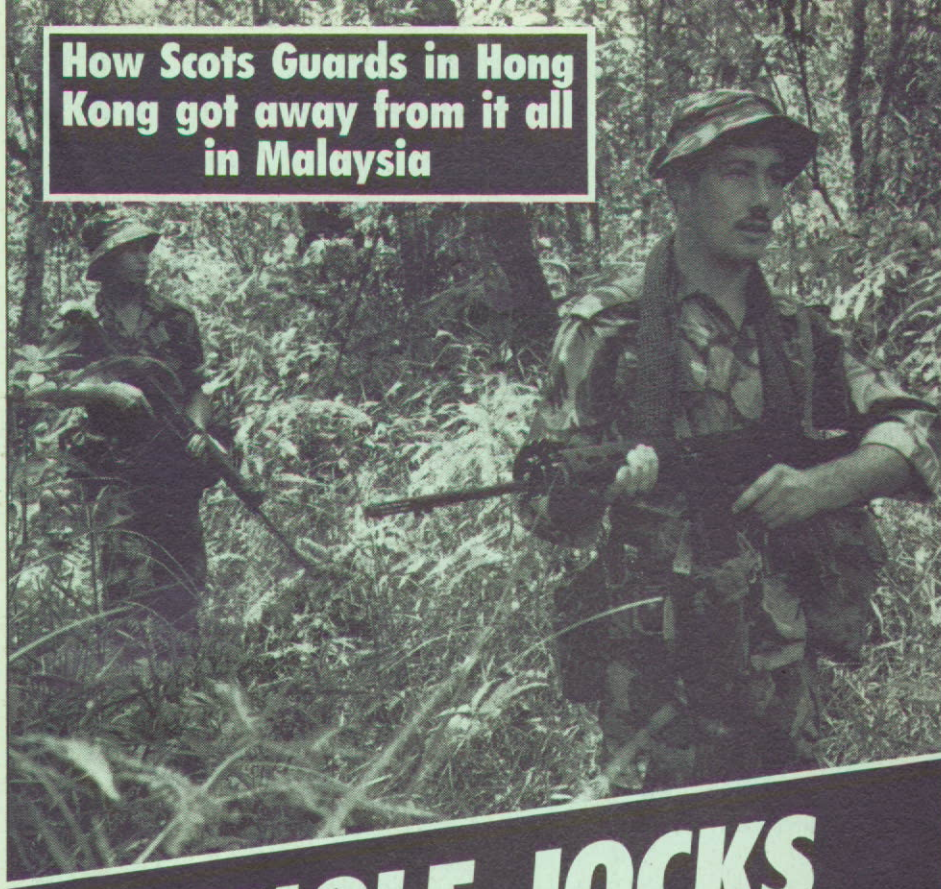
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How Scots Guards in Hong Kong got away from it all in Malaysia



JUNGLE JOCKS

**Story: Terry Stockton
Pictures: Pete Simcock**

THE RAIN IN Hong Kong has seemed bent on breaking all records this winter so the chance to get away for six weeks of jungle warfare training in Malaysia made a welcome break for two companies of Scots Guards based in the colony.

Most of the young guardsmen — their average age was between 18 and 19 — had never even seen a jungle before, let alone

fought in one. But they learned quickly and they learned well.

The exercises took place at Pulada Camp near Kota Tingi in Johore State and were hosted by the Malaysian Defence Force. The guardsmen, from C and Left Flank companies of the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards, are normally stationed at Stanley Fort in Hong Kong. The time they spent in Malaysia formed each company's annual



L/Cpl Phil Murphy enjoys a bite from tropical ration pack after 6-day trek. ▲

◀ A first taste of jungle patrolling.



Cpl Bill Inglis shows how to set a snare using materials from pack or jungle floor.

training session.

Kota Tingi is well known to generations of British soldiers past and present. It has been a jungle warfare school as long as anyone can remember.

The area, many hundreds of square miles, has every natural feature to make jungle training realistic — primary and secondary jungle interspaced with swamps and rivers as well as extensive open areas in the shape of rubber plantations.

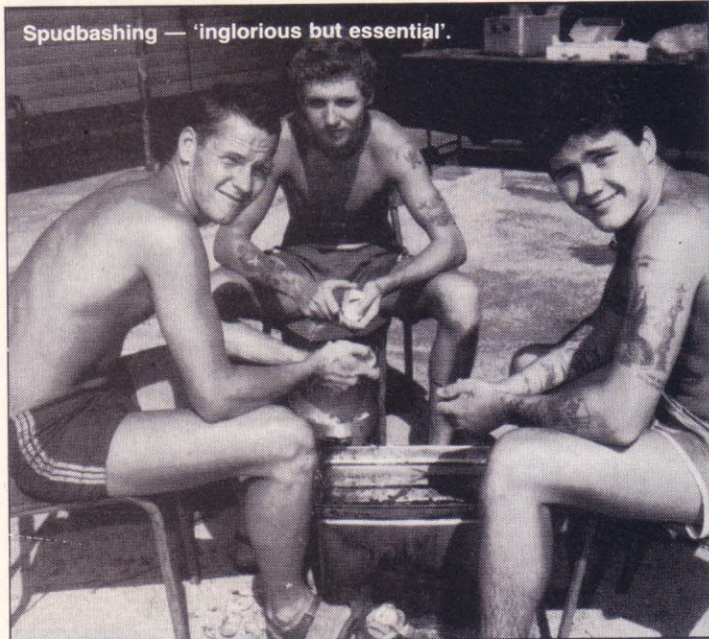
The live firing and close battle ranges are ideal and allow the soldiers to fire their weapons in a way they never could in Europe. During sessions on the live ambush ranges, four GPMGs were able to fire 6000 rounds only three feet above the heads of soldiers while, at the same time, quarter pound explosive charges going off only three feet away simulated mortar fire. It made the training extremely realistic and taught many lessons.

Both six week exercises began with a period of introduction to the jungle with lectures and demonstrations in survival, and instruction on how to live and fight in a potentially hostile environment. This led to learning and practising battle drills, some of which were completely different from those used in the European theatre of war.

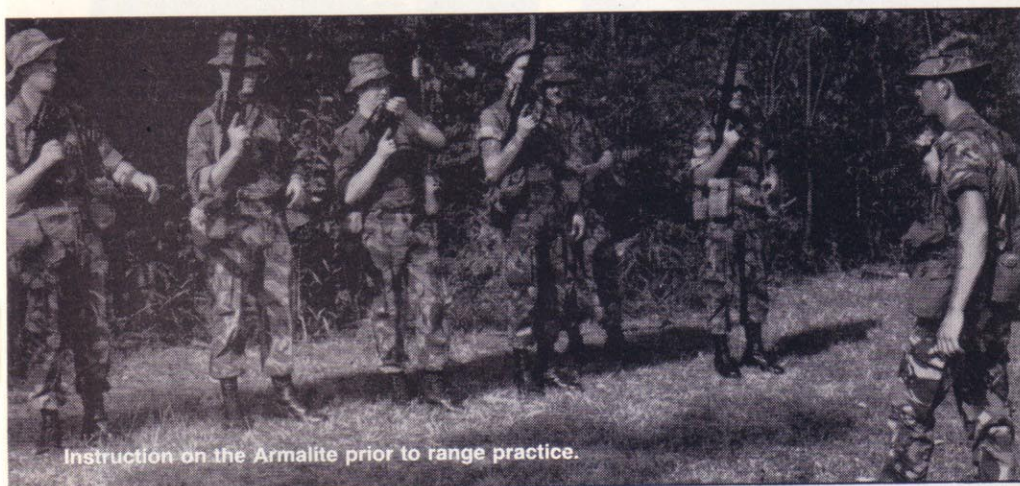
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◀ Keeping guard on a wounded prisoner during company attack drills.

Spudbashing — 'inglorious but essential'.



Deep recce expert prepares platoon and section commanders for an attack.



Instruction on the Armalite prior to range practice.

Both companies spent at least 20 days in the jungle on patrol, living off what they carried in their packs and eating dehydrated British and New Zealand ration packs. The culmination was a nine day patrol well away from base camp and under attack by enemy forces.

In spite of the hard work, intensive train-

ing, and sheer physical discomfort, there were lighter moments. Such as the time a night ambush set by the Jocks was disrupted by a blundering elephant. Or the disgust on the face of a subaltern who discovered a large full leech hanging from a place a guardsman described as: "Where'e could-n'na show his Grannie".

The Officer Commanding 'C' Company didn't exactly endear himself to his troops either when he decided he would be lowered into base camp by helicopter and blew the roofs off the huts and extinguished the cooking fires!

Both companies counted their exercises as successes. There were many problems, particularly of the type that crop up overseas in working with different nationalities and breaking down language and culture barriers. But most of the difficulties were overcome and all agreed that the standard of training available from the New Zealand Army and experts from the British School of Jungle Warfare in Brunei had been excellent.

Company commanders returned convinced that the lessons taught had greatly increased their soldiers' sense of professionalism and given them a much stronger appreciation of the benefits of teamwork.

As one put it succinctly: "They gained the ability to work together and rely on each other. Most of all they learned not to fight the jungle but to make it work for them." ■



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THE ALDERSHOT MILITARY HISTORICAL TRUST



WE HEAR SO much about the problems of youth today that it makes a refreshing change to be able to highlight a movement that has given boys hours of fun, a sense of achievement and a purpose in life, particularly in a year that has a special significance to that movement. 1983 is the centenary of the Boys' Brigade and their programme this year is more full than ever as they celebrate a hundred years of progress.

Sir William Alexander Smith, the founder of the Boys' Brigade would have felt proud that the organisation he set up on a true Christian basis is fulfilling his dreams. The Brigade's motto — 'Sure and Steadfast' — has been the cornerstone of a movement dedicated to "the advancement of Christ's Kingdom among boys."

But these ideals have been achieved with a tremendous element of fun and enjoyment which has meant an ever-increasing membership. There are millions of members throughout the world and they will be celebrating this year in their own way.

In Britain there will be celebrations which will include special camps, a charity fund raising effort countrywide, services of thanksgiving and a huge spectacular to be held in Glasgow in August. There is even a ceremony to name a train after the Brigade.

The Glasgow spectacular will have a special meaning for the Boys' Brigade enthusiasts for it was in Glasgow on October 4 1883 that the very first Boys' Brigade meeting was held at the North Woodside Road Mission.

The Brigade's Patron, Her Majesty the Queen, has shown a great interest in the work of the Boys' Brigade and was even present at the 'secret' Diamond Jubilee Parade held at Windsor Castle in 1943 when hundreds of boys paraded before King George VI and the Royal family.

For more information on the Boys' Brigade, you should contact Brigade House, Pearsons Green, London SW6 4TH (01-736 8481) or Boys' Brigade House, 168 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4TG (041-332 0936).

Anne Armstrong

My mother has been widowed for 20 years and works as a machinist in a clothing factory. Recently, however, she was made redundant and is now out of work.

She is under the impression that she cannot claim benefit from the DHSS because she already receives a widow's pension. This pays the rent but leaves hardly anything for food and bills and she could not survive on this pension alone.

Can she claim Supplementary Benefit and if so how does she apply?
Mrs S, BFPO44

Ssafa voluntary workers are available at any time to help Service families who might be worried about relatives back home. You can contact Ssafa at their Headquarters, 27 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9BZ or contact your local Ssafa social worker through your Medical Centre.

You could also get copies of DHSS leaflets FB/Nov 82 'Which Benefit?' and SB1/Nov 82 'Cash Help' from your BFPO to send to your mother. These will help clarify her position with regard to benefits.

When will we be able to have thermostatic valves on our radiators so that our heating bills can be assessed fairly?

I am out at work all day but, as our heating is on a central system, we have to pay the same as a family with young children who are at home all the time.

In the new German flats being built opposite us, the builders are putting these valves on all radiators. It would be a great help if we had these fitted too as we could see how much heat we had used and so be able to regulate our heating and save on our fuel bill.

Mrs T, BFPO 36

The Supply Directorate, HQ BAOR, replies:

"The fitting of thermostatic radiator valves is expensive — PSA tell us that in the UK the cost of fitting valves is between £25 and £80 and in BFG it would probably be more. The cost of fitting them in flats would therefore be very high and the savings marginal. Some recent surveys show that the pay-back period for these valves can often exceed their life.

"The occupant of a flat in BFG pays a fixed rate for his shared heating and hot water and as there is no easy way of measuring how much each occupant uses, they do not get any rebates (nor

incidentally incur any debits) for this service.

"The German legislation is not retrospective and we cannot compel landlords in hirings to fit these controls. Even if desirable, it could not therefore be enforced in our old leased properties.

"We are sorry to appear rather negative about this matter but can assure you that a lot of research has gone into the problem which shows really that these devices are not as promising as they may at first seem."

ASK ANNE

I have been here since February last year when my son was just six weeks old. My maternity benefit ran out just before I left UK but I have been told by a friend that I should have been claiming unemployment benefit.

I thought that the only allowances we could claim was family allowance and would be grateful for your help.

Mrs D, BFPO 25

It is unlikely that any claim you submit now will be accepted since you did not sign on or off before you left UK. However, I will submit your case to the DHSS.

Unfortunately, your letter is typical of the many that I receive from wives who were not aware that they might be eligible for benefits under the EEC agreements and failed to take the appropriate steps to register a claim before they left UK. We are slowly sorting out anomalies but it all takes time!

GOING HOME . . . ?

Remember to make sure you get

FORM CH 182 G

from your unit before you leave your overseas station for UK. Your Child Benefit payments will be delayed without it.

DID YOU KNOW?

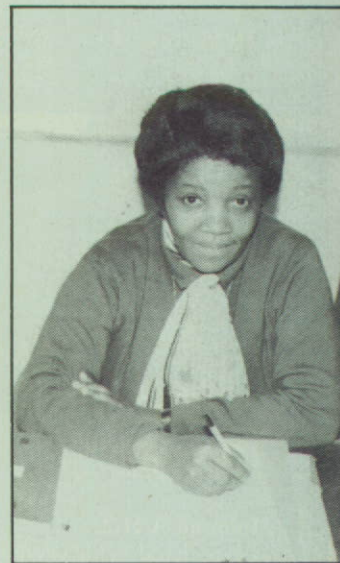
YOU CAN NOW APPLY for rent and rate rebates from your Local Authority if you think you might be eligible.

As the number of Servicemen who are home owners has increased, the rules laid out in Regulations for Army Allowances and Charges, Chapter 10, paragraph 10103 have been reconsidered. Previously, Servicemen were debarred from applying for rebates but agreement has now been reached with the DHSS and the DOE that allows owner occupiers to apply for rebates with effect from 10 Mar 83.

If you think you may be eligible for rebates, contact your Pay Office for guidance on assessment. There are around 12,000 private soldiers in BAOR of whom more than 3200 are receiving rent and rate rebates.

If you have any difficulty in your claim, you should inform MOD PS10 (Army) through normal staff channels.

Shirla joins Ssafa



MRS SHIRLA PHILOGENE is to be the new Senior Deputy Director of Ssafa's Nursing and Social Work Service. She takes over from Miss Ann Vernon as the professional head of Ssafa's 101 Health Visitors who care for Service families stationed overseas.

Shirla came to Essex from St Vincent in 1958 to train as a nurse in Colchester. She qualified in 1961 and worked as a midwife until community midwifery lost its popularity and more women went into hospital to give birth. She then became a district nurse before studying for a Health Visitor's Certificate and a Certificate in Health Education.

After five years work as a Health Visitor in the Waltham Forest area, Shirla became the Nursing Officer, Health Visiting, with the Hampstead Area Health Authority responsible for two clinics and a GP practice.

In addition to her other nursing qualifications, Shirla has taken management and marriage guidance courses and will continue working as a voluntary marriage guidance counsellor in Barnet along with her work for Ssafa.

Shirla is full of enthusiasm for her new job: "I will bring in to Ssafa a lot of outside experience and up-to-date knowledge of the Health Service and its resources," she says. "I want to understand the needs of Ssafa's Health Visitors and hope to give them whatever help they require."

The PPA Playmobile takes to the road



A SMILING Colonel Higgins of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps hands over the keys of the Southam and District Pre-School Playgroups Association playbus.

Members of the RAOC had done conversion work on the bus which will now provide Mother and Toddler Group facilities in South Warwickshire and at the Central Ammunition Depot at Kineton.

(Photo courtesy of the Leamington Courier)



THE WIVES OF 16 Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery have a new and caring way of welcoming new members into the regiment. They have started a Baby Fund while their husbands are away in the Falklands.

Raffles, donations from the China Shop and other money-raising events are providing enough money for a present of DM100 to each new mother who has her baby while her husband is serving down south. The extra money will help ease those first, traumatic months of lone parenthood by paying for help at home, babysitters or just a hairdressing treat.

The idea was the brainchild of Sandra Croshaw whose baby was born just two days after her husband had left for the Falklands in early December last year. She explains: "Just to be able to ask someone to come in and help and to be able to pay is a relief. It means that you feel that you can ask her to come again instead of thinking that you are asking for favours all the time."

Coffee mornings are a good way of raising enough money to keep pace with all the new arrivals in Dortmund.

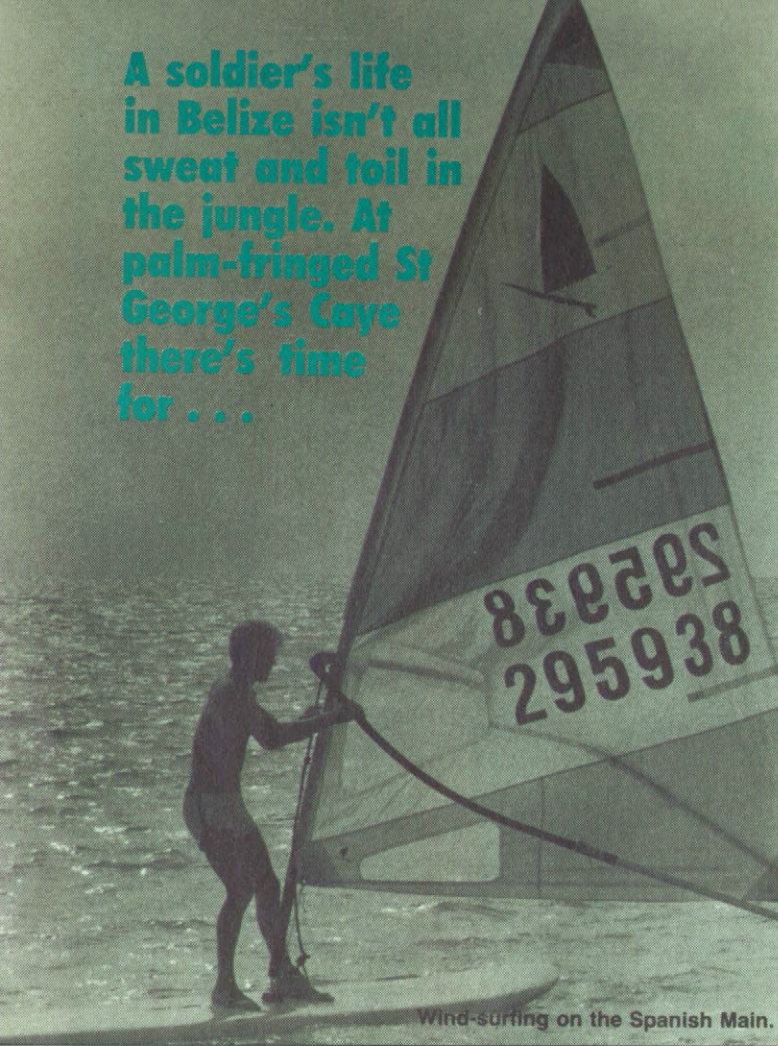


VISITORS TO THE Ordnance House Families Centre in Tidworth are seeing double — at least on the days when the Twins' Club meets there.

Sue Ineichen (left) is the founder of the Twins' Club which has been meeting regularly since the Centre opened in September last year. She takes her own twins, two-year-olds Andrew and Annette, to meet and play with other 'double troubles' while the mums get together over coffee. "I thought it would be something different for parents of twins to meet, exchange ideas, problems and just simply chat," explained Sue.

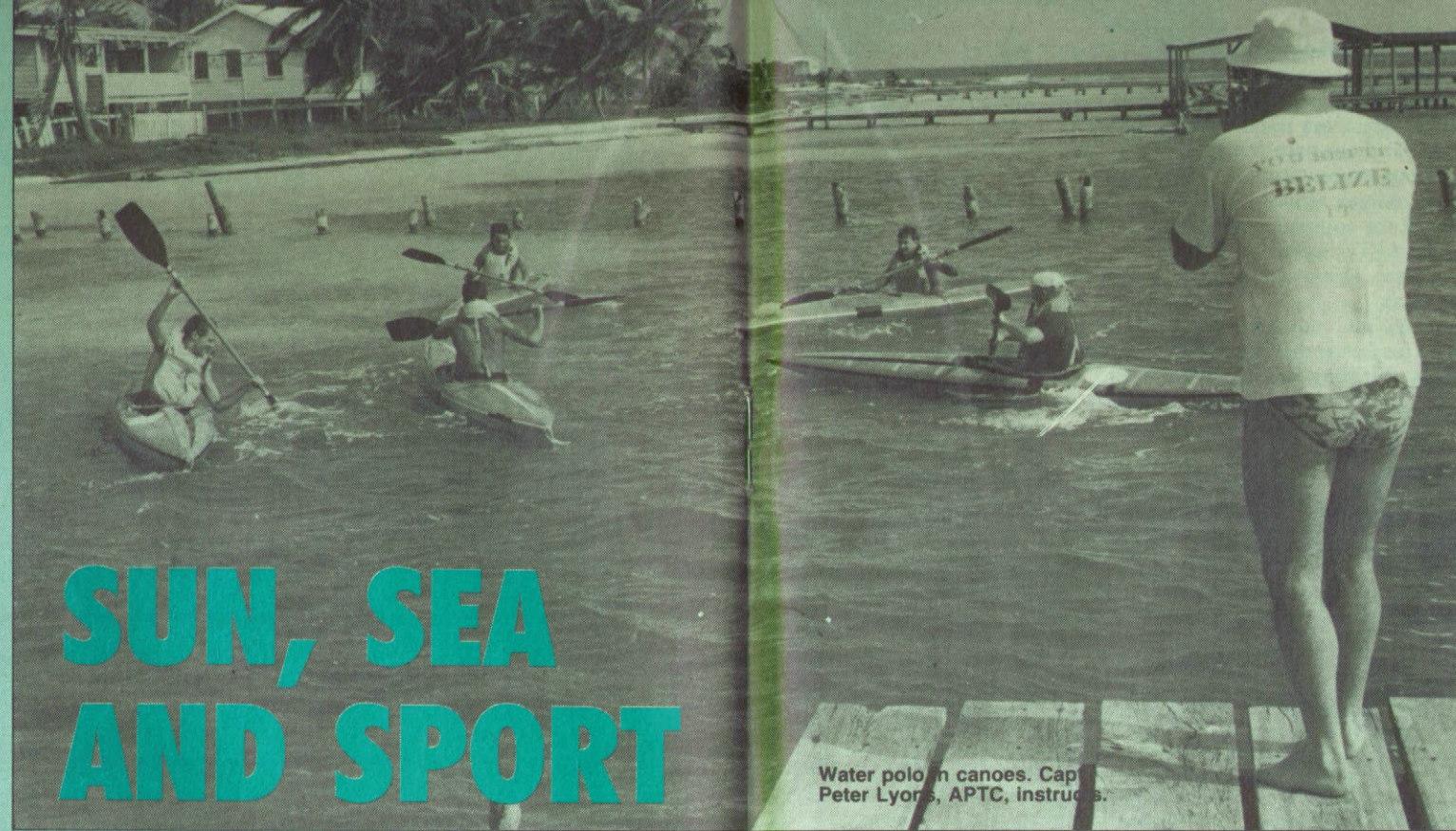
Two and two make more than four in Tidworth judging by the Club's membership . . .

A soldier's life in Belize isn't all sweat and toil in the jungle. At palm-fringed St George's Caye there's time for . . .



Wind-surfing on the Spanish Main.

Off for a leisurely sail.



Water polo in canoes. Capt Peter Lyons, APTC, instructs.

SUN, SEA AND SPORT

THE FORCE Adventure Training Centre of St George's Caye (pronounced 'key') which lies nine miles north-west off the coast of Belize is endowed with everything — or almost everything — that aficionados of aquatic sport could wish to wallow in.

The low-lying cay is where the squaddie can escape the oppressive humidity of the Belizan mainland; a place where he can kick off his DMS boots and pad over foot-scorching sands

garlanded by lush, rustling palms, the whole caressed by gently lapping turquoise waters frolicking over coral reefs.

Hub of the five main activities of sailing, sub-aqua, canoeing, wind-surfing and swimming is a cream-coloured two-storey building, Enterprise House. Built by sappers and opened seven years ago, it will soon be all the better for a £2000 facelift.

Access to the peaceful coral outcrop is by 36-foot harbour launch, manned by men of the Royal Corps of Transport, which makes the hour's journey at a stately seven knots.

Once the capital of Belize and not unscathed by hurricanes in its tempestuous times, St George's Caye lies about one mile inside the sanctuary of a 170-mile-long barrier reef, second only in size to the Great Australian Barrier Reef.

Adventurous activities are the

mainstay of the peaceful cay today. But in 1798 it was the scene of a different kind of maritime adventure on the bustling Spanish Main. Then, British settlers and their black slaves — with the support of the Royal Navy — routed a Spanish task force with musket and cannon blasting away within earshot of Belize City, itself built on broken rum bottles and mahogany logs above a swamp.

That showdown was to prove decisive in establishing British control of the colony. Today there are just 19 local fishermen inhabitants on St George's Caye. Its population is almost entirely a transient one — Brits who visit for courses and leisure, and holidaymakers staying at a 125-dollar-a-night American run hotel complete with water beds.

All the fresh water at the Adventure Training Centre is imported from the mainland and

course members are told to take only sixty-second showers — in queues!

Lunch comprises soup but there is a substantial tea at 1730 hours. No beer is allowed during the day and no spirits at all during the duration of the courses.

Sunburn, as everywhere in the Army, is a chargeable offence and danger from the 'Nobby Clarks' — sharks — is ever present.

The Centre is administered by HQ UKLF but the Chief Instructor is an Army Physical Training Instructor. In charge, on a four month tour, when SOLDIER called was Staff Sergeant Graham 'Jamie' Jamieson, APTC, who was busy exhorting his students: "Always swim in pairs. There are some really nasty things lurking out there. I've seen a 10-foot-long Hammerhead shark twice myself."

Usually, within minutes of disembarking from the harbour launch, aspiring students are put to a swimming test between two of the jetties, a return distance of 100 yards. It calls for a racing start dive-in followed by passing underneath a canoe.

One soldier wag was heard to ask just before he took the plunge: "Is there a time limit to complete this swim?" On being told there was not, he riposted: "Can you book me a late tea, then, please?"

Courses, supervised by five instructors at the Centre, can accommodate up to 26 students at a time for five days a week at an individual cost of 25 Belizean Dollars (about £8) each. Commercially such courses would, it is estimated, set them back at least £200 plus food, accommodation and fares to get there and back.

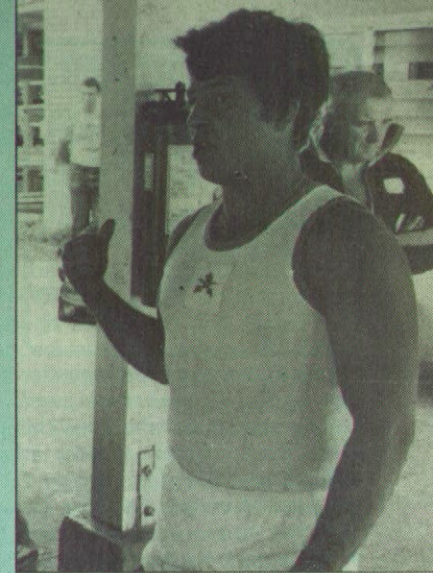
If any individual is unsuited to a particular course he is switched to another and each week's intake is split up into groups of no more than six.

More than 1000 students — many of them returning several times — pass through the Centre during a year and an estimated 5000 escape there for weekends over the same period.

Even the most pallid, office-anchored soldier with no sporting bent can go in for less energetic pursuits such as barracuda-fishing or a little gentle snorkelling, while still managing to acquire an enviable tan.

Two highlights of the social, dusk hours at St George's are barbecues on Thursdays and films on Fridays. Occasionally, too, guitars are strummed on the verandahs of nearby sleeping accommodation. But APTC experts believe there is still plenty of scope for improvement in the facilities.

Captain (MAA) David Hughes, APTC, Commandant of the UKLF School of PT (North) based at York, told SOLDIER: "I would like to see TV and



S/Sgt Jamieson briefs students.

video cassette equipment out here on the cay. Not only would the lads have entertainment when night falls but this facility would be valuable for instructional films on each of the aquatic aspects they teach here.

"Because all equipment is used here seven days a week, 365 days a year at full pelt we also need surplus kit, giving us time to maintain it over a period. We have, for instance, two Bosun sailing dinghies but we need, ideally, eight so that six are in use as two are being re-furbished.

"As our equipment is used extensively for training it gets a hell of a lot more hammer in contrast with a privately-owned concern. We also need more spares — sails, rigging, shackles and rope. As for canoes — we have six Slalom and a dozen Nordcaps — we need more spray decks and paddles.

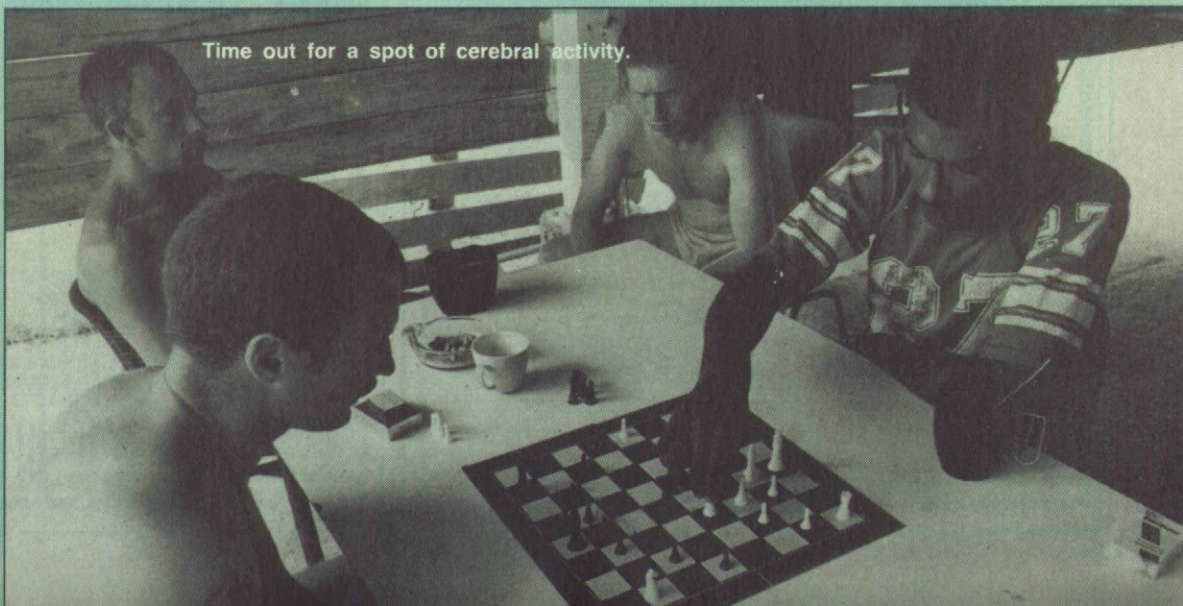
"Pulling on these spray decks during capsize drills shortens their lives and this problem, combined with very high salt-water content and temperatures, causes the stitches to work loose. They can't be washed out in fresh water, as they should be after each session, and deterioration is very much quicker."

continued on page 28



In — at the shallow end — to see if they can swim.

Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Doug Pratt



Time out for a spot of cerebral activity.



Naval Lieutenant-Commander Bob Harris, 52, the canoeing and sailing instructor, who runs the joint service establishment at Rosyth, has spent four months a year at St George's Caye for the past four years — and he agreed with Captain Hughes's observations.

He believed another need at the Force Centre was for inboard engines and he had an idea how this could best be achieved with little extra expenditure.

"In their time out here I suppose the replacement cost of outboard engines could be put into thousands of pounds. There is one easy solution to the problem and that's to get engines from former Naval cutters which have water-cooled engines. These are inboard and need very little maintenance.

"You don't need high speed engines out here; outboard engines are very temperamental.

Most of the dockyards in Britain have such engines for disposal. I'm convinced that this is the long-term answer. The money for outboard motors could be diverted to other equipment like this."

There was also a need, he said, for five more sailboards, in addition to the existing three. Heat and salt water also played their part in deterioration. He thought a sailboard simulator coupled with a TV video-cassette unit would give valuable training before going out, for real, offshore.

Staff Sergeant Jamieson, a former Services' C2 canoeing champion and the Army's adviser on caving, said: "Currently, the Centre is run on a shoestring. I've been told by some people that we are always the last to get any equipment as the main job is on the Belizean mainland, that main role being related to the jungle. I feel we are right at the back of the queue.

"The Centre should be completely administered by the UKLF School of PT at York because we get things done. I honestly think, too, that all the instructors should be drawn from the APTC and the chief instructor should be a Master-at-Arms — not that I'm knocking the current instructors who are not from my Corps. A Centre like

this is our bread-and-butter in the Corps.

"The APTC is ideally qualified because of our teaching standards. We have been trained for four years on physical or adventurous training aspects. Once we have all the equipment we want and the APTC instructors to staff the Centre, this place will never look back."

Meanwhile, though all may not be perfect at the Centre, it is clearly fulfilling an important need. Gunner Arel Jones, of 127

(Dragon) Battery, 49 Field Regiment, at Holdfast Camp, expressed a typical customer's view.

"It's nice to have a place like this. I haven't had the chance to come here before now but I'll definitely be back before I finish my tour. I've done canoeing and snorkelling and now I'm trying sailing. Once the Centre is spruced up I think more of the guys will come out here like I did. St George's Caye is definitely to be recommended." ■



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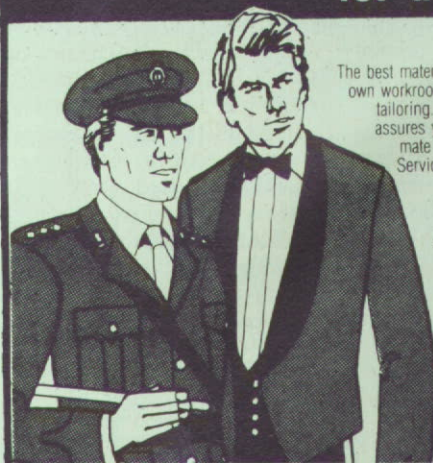
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THE ROYAL IRISH RANGERS

THREE IRISH infantry regiments sharing centuries in the service of our Sovereign and country came together under one title on 1st July 1968. They had been the component regiments of the North Irish Brigade and, for the previous ten years, had worn the head-dress badge of that unit. The design, which proclaimed their national origins, was similar to that illustrated, being a harp in silver anodised, ensigned with the St Edward's crown in gold anodised with, below, a scroll inscribed 'North Irish Brigade'. The current design is the same except that the scroll now reads 'Royal Irish Rangers'. It is worn by officers in silver plate and gilt.

Originally there had been not three but six Regiments of Foot, the oldest formed in 1689 by Colonel Zachariah Tiffin. This was

later entitled the 27th (Inniskilling) Regiment of Foot and in 1858 was linked with the 108th (Madras Infantry) Regiment, one of the HEIC European Regiments to be transferred after the Indian Mutiny. Together, as the First and Second Battalions, they formed The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in 1881. Prior to 1958 their head-dress badge was a fused grenade in gold anodised with the Castle of Inniskilling — the flag of St George flying from the central turret — and below, a scroll inscribed 'Inniskilling' in silver anodised on the ball.

The 83rd Regiment of Foot, formed in

1793 (later entitled County of Dublin) was likewise linked with the 86th Regiment of Foot (later Royal County Down) which had been raised in the same year. In 1881 they became, respectively, the First and Second Battalions of The Royal Irish Rifles and, in 1921, on the formation of the Irish Free State, The Royal Ulster Rifles. Their head-dress badge in 1958 featured a design which had been in use since Victorian times although the crown and metal had been changed over the years. It is described as a harp surmounted by the St Edward's crown with, below, a scroll inscribed *Quis Separabit* (Who shall separate us), all in silver anodised.

The 87th Foot, also formed in 1793 and later known as the 87th (Prince of Wales's Own Irish Fusiliers) acquired a Second Battalion in 1881 — the 89th Regiment of Foot (Princess Victoria's), also of 1793 vintage. After the Cardwell Reform of 1881 a further change in title found them on the Army List as The Royal Irish Fusiliers (Princess Victoria's). Their badge was a fused grenade in gold anodised with on the ball, in silver anodised, a harp surmounted by the Prince of Wales's coronet and motto. Above this was a separate badge of a coronet in silver anodised. When worn in metals, brass provided the gold finish and white metal the silver finish.

Hugh L King



Next issue:
The Gloucestershire
Regiment

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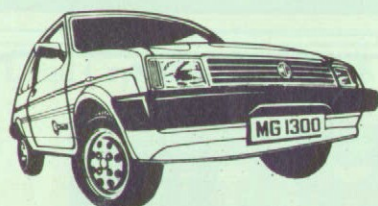
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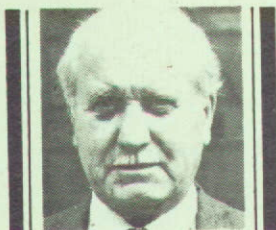
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On the Record

with Rodney Bashford

Sandhurst

The Royal Military Academy Band Corps.

Conductor: Major E B Smith. Band-leader 1009

A victim of the recent defence cuts this may be your last chance of making, or more probably renewing, your acquaintance with this band. Its duties during well over a century of service to staff and cadets of this great establishment have been on one of the draughtiest barrack squares in Christendom, playing for many a drill parade and ceremonial occasion. Here, sitting comfortably and in a recording studio, they devote most of their programme, quite rightly, to

marches and music associated with the Academy. While the going's good, so to say.

I do not recall, from several 'guest appearances' on the parade ground, that the marching pace was any less than the regulation 116 paces a minute, but here 106 seems to be the norm and somewhat stultifies such lively tunes as *The Old Grey Mare* (New College march), *Here We Are Again* (Senior Cadets) and *Sussex by the Sea*, a favourite tune of the late and great J C Lord. The Old College march *Officer of the Day*, Victory College march *San Lorenzo*, and *WRAC College* march are all here, as are *Mon Brave*, (written by Major Smith for another recent Academy Sergeant Major, Ray Huggins), *Mancante* written by Band Sergeant Major Gordon Saunders to mark his own retirement, and Handel's *Scipio*, the Academy slow march.

A march which might interest even those cadets who, er, didn't make it through Sandhurst is *The Welbeck March*, written by RB for the 25th anniversary of the college and now used as its march past.

On side two the band gives a programme depicting its other roles, as concert, church, and dance bands.

Alfred Reed's *Festive Overture* is given a slick performance, followed by a virtuoso *Flight of the Bumble Bee* and a *Bolero for Band* by Glen Osser. BSM Saunders also gives a fine rendering of Hoagy Carmichael's classic pop *Georgia* before the band, sadly and seemingly accepting their fate with stoicism, bid us a quiet farewell in Fauré's *Agnus Dei*.

From RMAS, Camberley, Surrey.

March Spectacular

Band of the Grenadier Guards.

Conductor: Major D R Kimberley. Bandleader BND 1006.

Half the marches on this disc should please those who like to collect the more unfamiliar of the genre. As I know from my mail (and types who trap you in a corner at social occasions) the march-buff is by no means a rare species. Titles are one thing though, and performances another. In recent years I have developed a craving for an old-time euphonium player to appear, one with the personality and musicianship to dominate the band in the trio tunes and in the glorious counter melodies many marches have. One whose tone and phrasing would enrich all around him. Perhaps he exists, but he has

passed me by.

Those thoughts are not inspired by the Grenadiers disc. They have a way with the Prussian oriented marches and here there are several. *Badenwiler*, *Thro' Bolts and Bars*, *Furchilos und Treu*, and *Army and Marine* can be thus designated, with Badenwiler the king of them all. Rarely or never heard before are R B Hall's *Red Mens' March* and *Independencia*, both of high quality, H Winson's much under-estimated *Carry On*, Blankenburg's *Admiral of the Air* (a publisher's title), and two new ones in A Abbey's *Ein Andere* and Major Kimberley's slow march *King's Troop*. Zehle's *Trafalgar*, Alford's *Dunedin*, *The Luftwaffe March*, Mackenzie



Rogan's *Bond of Friendship*, and the regimental slow and quick marches complete the list.

From Grenadier Guards, Regent's Park Bks, Albany St, London NW3.

Military Musical Pageant at Wembley Stadium. See page 39 for details of SOLDIER's special half-price seats offer.



DSO, MC, MM...

now, when he sees a clock, he hides



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We devote ourselves solely to the welfare of these brave men and women who have tried to give so much more than they could. We help them at home, and in hospital. We run our own Convalescent Home and, for those who are homeless and cannot look after themselves in the community, our Hostel gives permanent accommodation. For others, there is our Veterans' Home. If we are to go on helping them, we must have funds. Please send a donation, please sign a covenant, please remember us with a legacy, perhaps. The need is really urgent, and the debt is owed by all of us.

"They've given more than they could - please give as much as you can."

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SAPPER MAPPERS PLOT NEW GROUND

THE OMAN or, to be precise, 98.6 per cent of it, has now been captured on film as part of a military aerial survey task thanks to an 11-man team from No 1 Air Survey Liaison Section, Royal Engineers based at RAF Wyton, near Huntingdon.

The original request for aerial photography had been received and approved by the Directorate of Military Survey in 1981 and, that summer, a third of the country was 'snapped' by the men of 1 ASLS.

This year the target was the remaining two-thirds of the lunar-landscaped desert kingdom which involved the high-flying services of three Canberra RP 9 photo-recce aircraft whose pilots and navigators were armed with flight maps.



SSM Pete Fassam gives final briefing to Sqn Ldr Eric Dunn in navigator's seat.

Cpl Colin Baldwin plots photographic cover onto the master plotting map. ▼

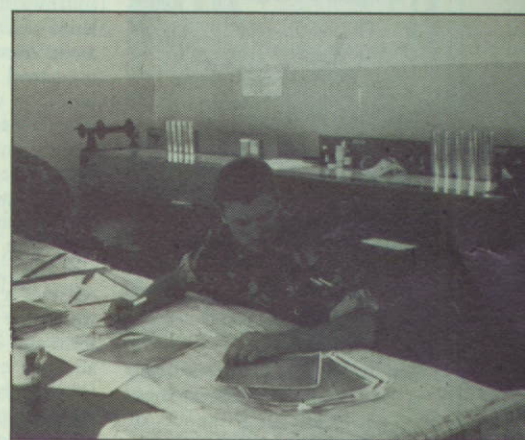
As Lance Corporal Dave Morton-Lloyd explained: "Where no mapping exists, satellite photography can be used, although in an area like Oman, map detail is often limited to no more than the approximate positions of wadis and sand dunes."

The detachment, which as well as the sapper mappers included RAF ground crew and photographic processors, was based at Thumrait, the Omani Air Force base about 40 miles north of Salalah.

They had flown there via Akrotiri in Cyprus by Hercules transport aircraft.

Lance Corporal Morton-Lloyd explained how the ASLS men worked: "A two-man plotting team takes between four and six hours to process a sortie and with only three plotting teams and the prospect of up to six sorties a day it was imperative to clear a backlog of seven sorties — already flown when we arrived — right away."

"A typical day started at 0715 hours when Sergeant Major Pete Fassam briefed the aircrew on the day's flying. At about 0830 hours the first aircraft took off to return at about 1200 hours. The film — some 250 photographs — would then be developed



and an hour later the prints would be ready for the plotting team.

"Each print had to be checked to decide whether it was acceptable for the task or not and each run of photography was plotted on a 'master plotting map'. A trace was drawn of the map and, on return to RAF Wyton, it was sent to JARIC (Joint Air Reconnaissance Intelligence Centre) where all aerial photography is stored."

"Finally the film was measured for distortion. The smallest amount of film stretch — anything over 0.08mm — could cause the film to be rejected despite all the intense work of checking and plotting each frame."

But it was not all work and no play. There were lazy mornings spent beside the Sergeants' Mess swimming pool under the supervision of self-appointed 'attendant', Sergeant Tony Higgs, the team's Technical Control Officer.

Moments were taken, too, for sea bathing, snoozing under palm trees, lazing on the beach and exploring the local bazaars.

But the magic figure of a 100 per cent completion of the task was thwarted because of a change in the weather over the desert.

"I'm definitely volunteering to go back next year for a month," said Lance Corporal Morton-Lloyd, "to do the last 1.4 per cent!"

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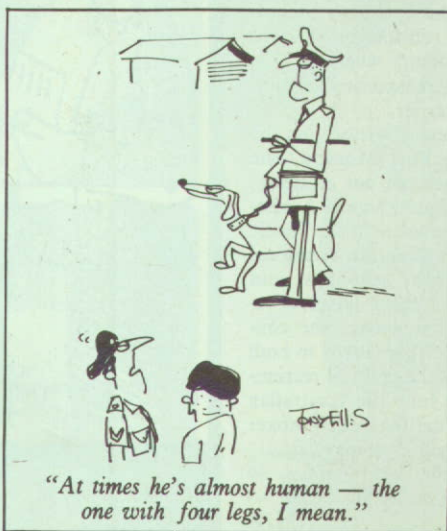
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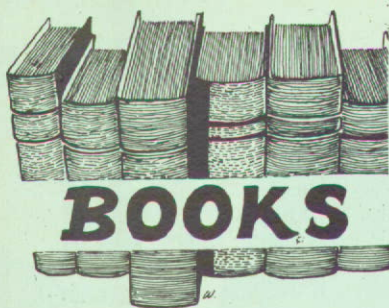
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BOOKS

The Eye In The Air: Peter Mead

The first function of military flyers, from the pioneers who dangled below balloons and kites onward, was reconnaissance for the army. The task came of age, perhaps, with the Royal Flying Corps in World War One. In the first month of that war, the Corp's successes in France and Belgium had earned warm commendation from the Commander-in-Chief, Sir John French, for providing "the most complete and accurate" information.

The Corps' work for the Army was four-fold: observation for the



artillery (finding targets, reporting fall of shot); visual reconnaissance, providing quick intelligence of enemy activity; air photography for more leisurely intelligence work and map-making; and contact, which was mainly telling a commander where his own troops had got to.

The fighter aircraft emerged as an ancillary, to protect our own reconnaissance aircraft and attack the enemy's. Bombing was a development largely outside the scope of this book.

In World War Two, reconnaissance for the Army was mainly a job for high-speed, fighter-type aircraft of the Royal Air Force. Dedicated Gunner officers, who had started club flying before the war, introduced the Air Observation Post concept, in which Gunners flew slow, very manoeuvrable aircraft from which they could control artillery fire. They belonged to hybrid squadrons in which the Royal Air Force provided the air-technical support, under Gunner commanders.

Brigadier Mead (a former head of the Army Air Corps) traces these developments, and the inter-Service difficulties which arose, with a nice balance between high policy and grass roots. Among the latter is the information that the 'observers' of World War One were too busy with their guns and watching for enemy aircraft to observe — and left that

side of things to the pilots. In the Salonika campaign, one German ace was downed when he attacked a balloon containing a dummy observer and a basketful of explosive remotely detonated from the ground. In World War Two an AOP pilot, having discovered the Japanese had left Akyab island (off Burma), installed his Gunner batman as temporary governor until the corps commander arrived.

Though his story ends in 1945, Brigadier Mead takes a look at today's problems. Artillery, potentially vastly more powerful, needs AOP more than ever before yet artillery-controlled AOP has virtually disappeared; a return to the "inspired simplicity" which produced AOP is needed. Similarly, the difficulties of co-operation between the Army and the Royal Air Force demand the services given in World War Two by "high-grade, yet militarily unambitious" Air Liaison Officers. The peace-time system makes no provision for such men.

HM Stationery Office, 51 Nine Elms Lane, Vauxhall, London SW8 5DR
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Retreat From Kokoda: Raymond Paull

In July 1942 the Japanese sweep southward through the Pacific Islands reached New Guinea, the last major obstacle before the Australian mainland. Garrisoning the island were the young and largely unseasoned, inexperienced troops of the Australian New Guinea Force and their subsequent exploits, though not widely known in this hemisphere, have become part of Australian folklore. The main Japanese objective was Port Morsby, on the southern coast of a long east-west peninsula, which the Japanese had approached from the north. The route of their advance crossed some of the most inhospitable country in the world, the mountainous spine of the island, rocky heights and plunging valleys, rain forests, swamps and rivers, crossed by a switchback native track known as the Kokoda Trail.

This book, first published in 1958, is the classic account of the subsequent campaign, in which the Australians sought to contain the Japanese offensive by contesting every twist and turn of the Kokoda Trail, fighting not only a determined and brutal enemy, but the hot, wet climate and its attendant health hazards, and the problems of provisioning and reinforcing isolated outposts in a country where the sole viable means of transporting supplies was by native carrier.

On the very eve of victory, on the heights above Port Morsby, the Japanese advance ran out of steam, and combined American and Australian pressure elsewhere in the Pacific turned the tide. With the occasional use of eyewitness accounts, and material from captured Japanese records, the author evokes the confused fighting as it appeared to both sides, as well as the political recriminations which rent the Australian HQ as the gruelling, cliff-hanger campaign reached its climax.

Leo Cooper/Secker and Warburg, 54 Poland Street, London W1V 3DF
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"Jones couldn't do anything as common as running off to join the Foreign Legion."

Humour



"You've got him worried son. He's broken his hand on your jaw."



"It's from the SAS. They want your mother to teach the rookies unarmed combat."



"Try to go the full 140 rounds and we'll nail the champ for manslaughter."

AT ONLY 23 Lance Corporal Michael Hunt ACC is the new Army Chef of the Year. He won his award and the Silver Challenge Cup at the finals of the 1983 Army Cookery Competition held at the Army Catering Corps Training Centre in Aldershot.

These competitions date back to 1896 but this year's was the first to be held since 1978 when the moratorium on defence spending caused them to be suspended. But now that the Defence Budget is a bit more flexible and the Army is once again at full manning strength it has been decided to stage the event every other year and alternate it with the major civilian competition at Hotelympia.

Still conscious of recent financial restrictions, the organisers designed all the class competitions to test the cooks' awareness of food costs and their ability to make the most of a limited budget.

Gone were the lavish exhibition set-pieces. In their place were more practical tests which saw competitors being judged on the sort of meals they would prepare during normal duties.

The unit team competition attracted a lot of interest with chefs having to cater for large numbers under field conditions.

First the two-man teams had to set up a camouflaged platoon field kitchen from standard Army equipment and accommodation stores. Then, from the various foodstuffs supplied, the team leader had to draw up a menu for a three course meal for thirty people to be prepared within three hours.

"What the judges are looking

Army Cookery Competition 1983

CHEFS SUPREME



Pte Ross Thomson (left) and L/Cpl Michael Hunt share a culinary treat after taking the day's top individual titles.

for here," explained Major Cliff Noons, ACC, "is the maximum use of ingredients, simplicity, the fact that everything turns out all right and, of course, taste."

Only two of the ten teams competing turned in identical menus and it was the pair from the School of Infantry in Warminster — Lance Corporal Alan Staples and Corporal Arthur Dalley — who emerged as winners.

For the first time in the Army Cookery Competition a 'Cook

and Serve' class was introduced. Again ten teams of two, one a steward or stewardess, had to cook and serve a three course set menu, with coffee, on normal kitchen equipment, for two people within 60 minutes. The winners were from 12 Company WRAC who had a good lead over their nearest rivals.

Cook Corporal Isabele Nemeth said "The pressure was enormous! An hour was not very long to do it all in and to begin with it

was very off-putting having so many people standing around us. But after a while we were so busy I forgot they were there."

19-year-old Private Ross Thomson, Army Young Chef of the Year, had just two-and-a-half hours to prepare his menu of fillet of sole with prawns and cream sauce, supreme of chicken with asparagus and watercress, Parisienne potatoes, courgettes Ulster and orange and sultana syllabub.

"It all went pretty well," said Private Thomson who was representing the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham. "I wasn't aware of making any great mistakes. I wasn't very confident at the start but as things went on I felt happier. There were some small things I did wrong but nothing I was particularly worried about."

The day's premier laurels though — as always — belonged to the Army Chef of the Year and Lance Corporal Hunt of 94 Locating Regiment RA was thrilled to take the title. As he was quick to point out, no one, himself included, expected him to triumph. "I am the youngest and most inexperienced of them all, being graded only as a B1 chef when all the others are A1. I'm overwhelmed!"

So were the judges when they tasted his Grapefruit Skegarrick style, Cotes de Veaus Chenonceaux (with pickled oxtail and madeira sauce), piped crown potato, braised celery and lemon syllabub with langue de chat. And all on a budget of only £8.69 for four! ■

**Report: Sally Daniell
Pictures: Doug Pratt**



Left (above and below): Teamwork in the Cook and Serve class from RSA Larkhill duo, chef Cpl McKay and stewardess L/Cpl Rogers.

Maj I Pearce and Maj P France ACC sample fare prepared by 40 Fd Regt RA watched by the QMG, Lt-Gen Sir Paul Travers, and Brig Keith Hudson, Director ACC. ▼



Down on the farm amongst pigs, peacocks and chickens two former soldiers are still serving the Army in a new role . . .

RECENTLY RETIRED senior NCOs, Colin Davison and John Needham, are carving their way into a new field — the provision of pace sticks and swagger sticks for their erstwhile Army colleagues. For sources of supply for the drill square accoutrements are few and far between these days.

The story really began when Colin, a REME armourer, moved to Topcliffe, Yorkshire, with the Royal Horse Artillery. His next door neighbour was John from the camp pay office.

In 1978 Staff-Sergeant Needham returned to civilian life at the end of his 22 years' service and bought a smallholding a few miles away at Topcliffe. Colin was not due to leave the Army until last year but the two men remained firm friends and began to discuss the pace stick project.

"I had always wanted to set up

a little workshop on my own and John had all the facilities," recalls Colin. A pigsty was converted into a workshop and during Colin's last year at Topcliffe the two men equipped it.

In their first year the team sold about 120 sticks. At first they made the entire sticks themselves. Now, with increased demand, they get the basic sticks made by a local craftsman and then add the individual embellishments.

The pace sticks, which have to be precisely calibrated, are completely individual. The brass

**Story: John Walton
Pictures: Les Wiggs**

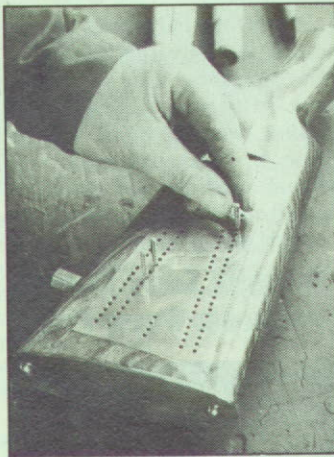
toes from one stick would not fit another. Colin uses his armourers' skills but at the same time has taught the former pay clerk how to do it as well.

Says John: "Colin is the expert and he puts me right as we go along. But we try to ensure that both of us can do everything. I do the books but he has to take his share of the paperwork as well."

Main orders have come from Gunner units for as yet all advertising has been by word of mouth. But they have also supplied Signals, Sappers and an infantry battalion and demand is still growing.

"We have just made our first

▲ Rifle butt becomes a crib board.



SETTING THE PACE

Colin Davison (left) and John Needham — busy in their converted pig sty.

officer's cane for an officer with 49 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery at Topcliffe," reports Colin.

At present about 80 per cent of their work is with sticks although they also do a small amount of engraving and provision of sporting trophies. Another line which is expected to go well with messes is crib boards — beautifully constructed out of old rifle butts inlaid with brass and with a bullet head for storing the pegs. These retail for about £20 — remarkably cheap considering the craftsmanship involved.

Another one-off job recently was to take a captured Argentinian helmet from the Falklands and convert it into two trophies for the British Legion

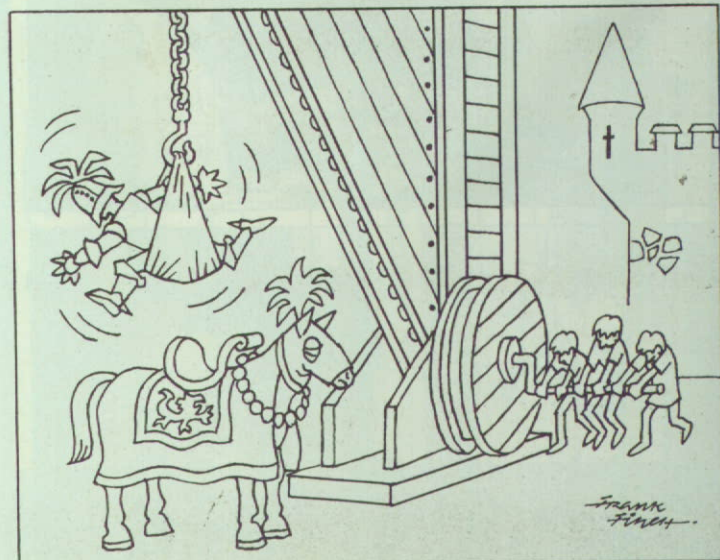
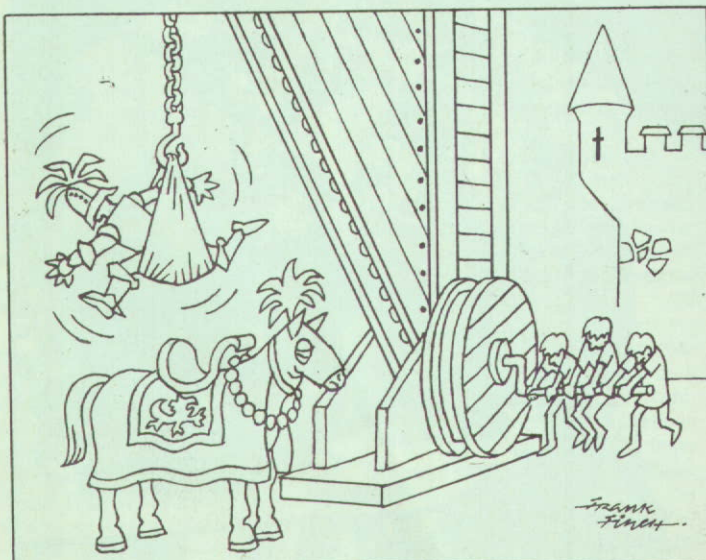
Club in nearby Thirsk. The trophies will be competed for annually between the Legion and the sergeants' messes at Topcliffe and RAF Leeming.

Although their sticks are now on duty in Germany and UK with a set heading for Sandhurst shortly, Colin and John have not so far made much money on their venture because of their initial costs.

"We are living on a staple diet of potatoes, chicken and pork from the smallholding," says John. "But the potential is so good that we can see that within a couple of years we shall be able to make a fair living at it." ■

How observant are you?

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



AROUND THE GARDEN PATHS

COMPETITION 317

THE DIAGRAM shows the plan of a special garden in a city park. The sides WX, XY, YZ and ZW form a perfect square whose sides measure 60 yards.

Twenty-one flower beds are contained within the square (as shown). All the lines — WX, CB, BA etc — represent paths whose width is uniform and so narrow that they need not concern us. The beds form a completely symmetrical figure.

Every day the head gardener visits the special garden where each flower-bed con-

tains a different type of flower — a scene of great beauty — the tallest flowers being in the central (octagonal) bed. He makes the complete round of all the paths each day — starting at a certain point and finishing at his starting point. He does not move along any path twice but moves continuously from start to finish — which is the start, of course.

At the start of his walk he moves in a clockwise direction and, of course, at the finish he is still moving in a clockwise direction.

The circular path merges with the square part of the path at four points to make for continuity.

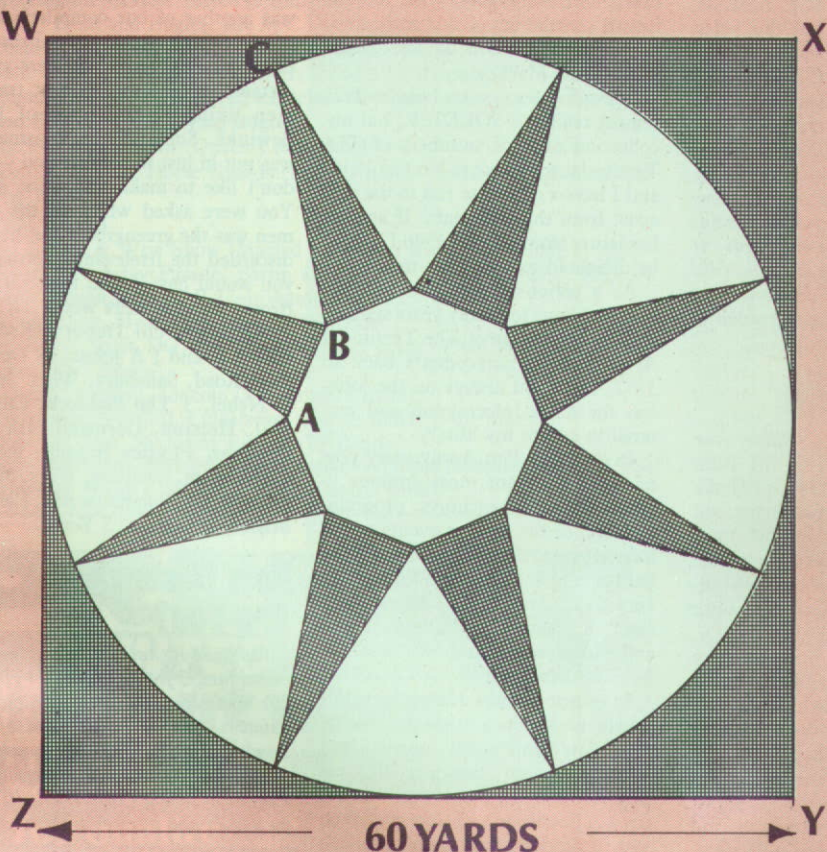
The circular path has a diameter equal to the side of the square and each 'ray' path (eg BC) has a length of 21 yards. Also each 'ray' base (eg AB) measures 8 yards.

All you now have to do is find the starting point (which is also the finishing point), show the route taken (by a simple diagram) and state how far the head gardener walks on his journey round the paths.

If you are not gifted mathematically, why not draw a diagram to scale (say one-tenth of an inch to one yard) and measure the distance? If you are conversant with the Greek alphabet then, to make things easy for this particular problem, (π) = 3.143 — which is the ratio of the circle's circumference to its diameter. Make sure you start and finish in a clockwise direction — starting at the finishing point and finishing at the starting point.

Send us a simple diagram marking your route and do let us know how the gardener walked — within a yard or two either way.

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 17 June. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 11 July 1983 and no correspondence can be entered into. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 317' label. In the case of ties, winners will be drawn by lots. Send your answer by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 317' label to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.



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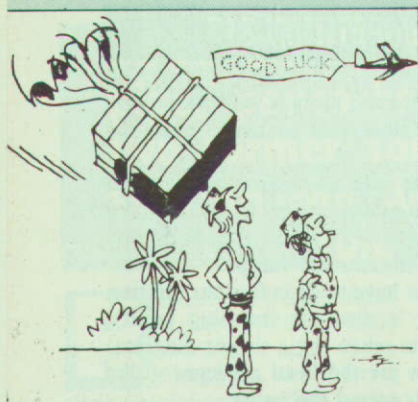


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Got something to say, a point to make or a story to tell? This is your page to exchange your news, views, comments and opinions. All we ask is that you keep it brief and include your full name and address. Write to: Mail Drop, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road,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

SPIDER STORY

I appreciate that Sgt Kerr (7 Mar) writes mainly from the point of view of health preservation in the unhealthy climate of Belize but I would take issue over his authoritative but, nonetheless, inaccurate statements with regard to wildlife in Belize — in particular his hysteria over tarantulas and coati mundis.

True tarantulas are indeed dangerous, as suggested, but are not native to the Americas, being instead a Southern European species. The 'tarantula' photographed on the soldier's arm was nothing of the sort, it was in fact a spider of the genus *Avicularia* which includes the large wolf-spiders of the Southern United States and Central America. (It is incidentally very difficult to stuff a spider! This one looked very much alive to me.) Its bite, although mildly venomous is not serious in result. The fangs of this spider are massive in proportion to the creature itself and should be a sufficient clue as to their purpose — ie to deliver a powerful mechanical bite and at the same time to deliver only sufficient toxin as to paralyse a victim. The maximum size of the victim in this case being a mouse perhaps, or a small chick.

In 1977 I spent several months living on my own in Punta Gorda, Belize, where I made a prolonged, albeit a layman's, study of these creatures. They are docile in the extreme when handled and I found it necessary to excite specimens quite vigorously and for a long time (with a pencil I might add) before the creatures bit. The exception to this general rule was a large female carrying a golf-ball sized egg cocoon who was both short-tempered and vigorous.

No doubt different human victims will react in quite different ways to spider bites but I would suggest to Sgt Kerr that the effect of a bite from *Avicularia* species would equate, in general, to those of an English honey bee. The shock factor is another thing altogether which I am not qualified to comment on.

Regarding the coati mundi, I would not argue that the animal might be a vector of rabies — but so might all the monkeys, dogs, cats, rats and bats of Belize!

It seems to me that Sgt Kerr has over-reacted to a degree over the real and imagined menace to human health posed by the wildlife of Belize. This negative attitude can only serve to encourage ill-informed soldiers to destroy or ill treat the wildlife which they might encounter. By all means soldiers should take Sgt Kerr's advice and leave the wildlife alone — but they should not tread in fear of it because of misguided notions.

Perhaps a competent pre-tour briefing for all units and personnel to be posted to Belize covering aspects of the wildlife of that country, delivered by a representative of, say, a Natural History museum or a good 'zoo' would help to dispel prejudices such as Sgt Kerr seems to hold. In the meantime I hope that this letter can help to put the subject into some perspective. — WO2 C Sellars, Int Corps, 92 Security Section, Belle Vue Road, Shrewsbury, Salop.

Having sent £5 to Sgt Kerr for highlighting the dangers of Belizean wildlife we feel bound to do the same for you, Mr Sellars, for putting another point of view so cogently. All the same, if jungle-bound soldiers are as confused as we are, we suggest 'if in doubt — leave it alone' may be the safest maxim to follow. — Ed

LADY BE GOOD

I was very interested to read in your article 'On the Trail of the Pink Panther' (SOLDIER 18 April) the reference to the extraordinary and tragic story of the USAAF Liberator 'Lady be Good' that was lost in the Western Desert for no less than sixteen years — from 4 April 1943 until 9 November 1958.

Anyone wishing to find out more about this incident should refer to No 25 of 'After the Battle' Magazine which is edited by Winston Ramsey (3 New Plaistow Road, Stratford, London, E15 3JA). This issue has a 16-page article on the subject, together with many photographs and maps of the area.

Briefly, Mission 109 set out for a bombing raid on Naples from a desert airfield some thirty miles south of Benghazi, but on the return flight the aircraft overshot its base by almost 300 miles, and crashed not far from the Egyptian border.

There was more than one board of Enquiry as to the fate of the missing plane, and it was purely by chance that an oil exploration plane happened to spot the wreckage lying in the open desert. Parts of the aircraft are now to be found in the USAAF Museum at the Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, USA. — R M Cooke, 15 Avening Close, Nailsea, Bristol, BS19 2TB.

DRILL PIGS

Reference remarks by Cfn McKillop (18 April). Drill pigs indeed! I found in 1944 my instructors were dedicated soldiers, nothing resembling a pig at all. I agree there are occasional foul-ups but to condemn an organisation of which Cfn McKillop is a member, makes me wonder why he joined in the first place. I thrill to the

sight of the Household Division, whenever I see them, and to call the men responsible for drill and the immaculate turnout 'pigs', leaves me with a nasty taste. Maybe he should think again about his profession, or at least acknowledge the skills of transforming civvies to the smart soldiers.

Congratulations on the TA's inclusion in the magazine. Marvellous — let's have more and more please! — Mr A Higginbottom, 35 Bridge View, Milford, Derbyshire, DE5 0RG.

TA STUDENT

May I wish you hearty congratulations, and every good wish for the future circulation of our magazine, on the incorporation of The Territorial Army Magazine.

I have for many years been an avid regular reader of SOLDIER, but my collection of back numbers of The Territorial goes back to No 1 in 1936, and I have a complete run to the end apart from the war years. If anyone has issues from 1940 to 1946 I should be delighted to hear from them.

As a serious student of military history I have for many years specialised in the lineage of The Territorial Army and its antecedents back to 1852, and I am always on the lookout for more information and material to add to my library.

In this, the 75th Anniversary year of the TA, I am most anxious to obtain as many brochures, programmes etc, of the various events which have already taken place, or are to be held later in the year, and I should be very grateful for the help of readers. I shall, of course, be willing to refund any postal costs, and will acknowledge all letters direct.

In recent months I have been fortunate to obtain a large number of regimental and corps journals and magazines, and these are of great help to me in my researches. Should any readers have back issues of their own (or other) regimental journals which they no longer require I shall be glad to find a home for them in my library. I would ask that they write giving details of the dates of issues they have for disposal in the first instance, however, as I do already have quite a lot. — Kenneth Goodson, 16 Almond Crescent, Swanpool, Lincoln, LN6 0HN.

DIGGERS

My congratulations on the very high standard you continue to maintain. The articles and features are excellent and your roving photographers produce some excellent illustrations — some of my friends of 25-30 years ago are identifiable which says more for the clarity of your pictures than it does for their photogenity.

The copy gets a wide distribution in Canberra and a number of 'diggers' are customers of your advertisers — to judge from the mutilated copy which returns to me.

Continued happy 'Soldiering'. — Brig M H Mackenzie-Orr OBE GM, President AOC, Campbell Park CP2-3-30, Canberra 2601, Australia.

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G Taylor, 2305-671 Bathgate Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1K 3Y3. Requires immediately four pairs of sergeants chevrons as worn on Service sweaters ie small black chevron on green background, preferably new condition but good used ones accepted. Cash paid only, no trades.

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Competition

Competition 313, 'The Tradesman' was another of our compiler's logic puzzles which so many of our readers enjoy tussling with. You were given certain facts relating to four tradesmen living in the town of Fortiewinks. Some of the information was put in just to confuse you — we don't like to make things too easy! You were asked which of the four men was the greengrocer and having discarded the irrelevant information you would have found that this was Brown. Prizewinners were: 1st Mrs P Andrews, c/o Depot HKMSC, BFPO 1. 2nd J A Johns, 38 Devonshire Road, Salisbury, Wilts. 3rd R O Nebel, 3 The Paddock, Church Hill, Helston, Cornwall. 4th F J Spooner, Physics Branch, RMCS Shrivenham, Swindon, Wilts, 5th H Brumby, 27 Woodcross Ave, Cantley Manor, Doncaster, S Yorks.

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See-the-Army DIARY

Previously unpublished events are written in bold type. A full diary for the year was published in our 18 April issue.

MAY 1983

- 16 2 Div Inaugural Parade, York (2 LI Band and Trumpets, 1 KOSB, 1 King's Own Border, Yorks Vols and 6 RRF Bands).
- 19 Royal Windsor Horse Show (King's Tp RHA Musical Drive) (19-22 May).
- 22 Brentwood Tattoo, Essex (2 R Anglian Band; Red Caps; RGJ Free Fall).
- 24 Chelsea Flower Show (Gren Gds Band) (24-27 May).
- 26 Warrington Services Tattoo (5 Innis DG and 1 King's Own Border Bands, 1 RGJ Band and Bugles; RA M/C Display Team, Red Devils, RA Junior Leaders, Gymnasts, RN, RAF, TA) (26-28 May).
- 27 Bath Festival/Freedom of Bath (1, 2 and 3 LI Bands.) (27-28 May).
- 28 **Sounding Retreat, Bath (LI exercises Freedom of City) (Massed Bands and Bugles of LI, Flying Bugles).**
- 30 Surrey County Show (Queen's Regt Band).
- 31 Beating Retreat, Horse Guards (Massed Bands Household Division) (31 May-2 June).

JUNE 1983

- 1 Royal Bath & West Show (Massed Bands, LI Band) (1-4 June).
- 2 Queen's Birthday Parade, Berlin (17/21 L, 2 RTR (Alamein), RRF, 1 Green Howards and 2 R Irish Bands).
- 2 Royal Salute, Hyde Park (King's Tp RHA).
- 4 Preston (5 Innis DG, RA (Woolwich), 1 King's Own Border and 2 LI Bands) (4-5 June).
- 4 Brayford Festival, Lincoln (2 R Anglian Band).
- 5 Nottingham Festival (Coldstream Guards Band) (5-10 June).
- 5 Plymouth Hoe, Sounding Retreat (LI Bands.)
- 7 **Beating Retreat, Horse Guards Parade at 6.15pm (Massed Bands of The Prince of Wales's Division. (Also 8 and 9 June).**

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Major Aubrey Jackman, the Pageant Producer, has devised a feast of music and movement to delight all ages and make this a family show in every way. Many traditional pieces are included in the programme, as

well as music that has made its mark in recent months — like 'The Crags of Tumbledown'. The Grand Finale will be a special arrangement of Wellington's Victory at Vittoria, with music by Beethoven. It is a sight and sound not to be missed.

There are two performances — on Friday 24 June and Saturday 25 June, both starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are from £3 to £10 but you can obtain £4 seats for just £2 for the Friday performance only by completing the form below. Bookings of 20 or more can be reserved and payment deferred until the end of May. For reservations of less than 20 the remittance must be sent with your order form.

If you like bands, marching, colour and spectacle — the Military Musical Pageant is an event you just shouldn't miss. Make sure you don't by booking your half-price seats right away.



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**Graham Smith
previews a new
exhibition at the
Imperial War Museum**

Animals at War



'Dinks' — who joined the Royal Engineers in South Africa in 1914 and served at Ypres, Loos, Passchendaele and the Italian Front.

THE SILENT heroes of many a conflict come together in the flesh and on photograph this month in a new exhibition at the Imperial War Museum called 'Animals at War'.

Theme of the nine-month display, which opens to the public on 26 May, will be not only the role played by animals in two world wars but an introductory section covering earlier wars from classical times. The story will be carried up to the present with the training of mine detection dogs for the Falkland Islands.

Horses, pigeons, camels, mules, goats and cats will be there, preserved by careful taxidermy. So, too, will be Tirpitz the pig, or, at least, his head. One of the exhibition's co-ordi-

nators, Angela Godwin, explained his story: "He was found swimming in the water after a German ship sank in World War One. A British sailor saw it swimming about for some 90 minutes, dived in, saved it and it was adopted as his ship's mascot. I think the pig was named after the Admiral Tirpitz."

Also on display will be a Greek vase showing warriors on horseback; medieval horse armour; a Samurai saddle; 'Crimean Tom', a cat adopted by British soldiers during the Crimean War; a German messenger dog captured by Australian troops on the Western Front; the Dickin Medal — the animals' VC — awarded to the dog, Beauty, for sniffing out air raid victims during the Blitz; a gas-proof dog kennel; 'Winkie', a pigeon who helped save the lives

of an RAF aircrew after their bomber ditched in the North Sea; a paw print and carving of Judy, the only dog to be officially registered as a Japanese PoW; and the head of Taffy IX, a former regimental goat of the 1st Battalion, The Welch Regiment, who served with the battalion in Cyprus.

As well as the stuffed animals and photos there will be life-size tableaux — a horse carrying shells on the Western Front, a messenger dog leaping over a trench, a pack-carrying mule in Burma, and a pigeon loft. There will be works of art, too — posters, horse furniture, dog collars, documents and even sculptures.

The exhibition has taken a year to plan and Angela Godwin, told SOLDIER: "We have now reached a stage where we are

utterly snowed under but if someone came up with something fantastic I would probably include it. Regimental museums up and down the country and private individuals were canvassed for their support. It's really a whole range of material which has never been arranged in this way before, certainly not in this country. We had been toying with the idea of such an exhibition for some time and felt it was a little known angle on the subject of warfare." ■

'Animals at War' will run from 26 May to 25 Feb 1984 and will be open to the public from 10 am — 5 pm Mondays-Saturdays and 2-5 pm on Sundays. Admission £1 for adults and 60p for children, OAPs and students. Entry to the Imperial War Museum itself is free.

Anti-gas drill in the Army Service Corps — 1918. ▼



'Judy' receiving Dickin Medal. ▶





PEN PALS WANTED

My name is Julie and I would like to write to anyone in the Forces. — *Julie Rogers, 75 Madells, Epping, Essex, CM16 4NN.*

I am a 15-year-old South African boy and I am interested in corresponding with members of the Royal Tank Regiment or any regiment. I collect militaria, stamps, cartridges and bomb shells. — *Julie von Staden, 31 Pietersburg St, Ladanna, Pietersburg 0700, Republic of South Africa.*

My name is Nicole and I am 19 years old. My interests are varied. — *Nicole Stephens, 60 Raleigh St, Nottingham.*

My name is Maxine and I am 17 years old. I am 5ft 1in tall with light brown hair and blue eyes. I enjoy all types of music, going out and reading, and I would like to write to any soldier aged between 18 and 25. — *Maxine Newton, 18 Spring Vale, Swanmore, Southampton, Hants, SO3 2PH.*

My name is Gail and I am 16 years old. I am 5ft 6ins tall with long dark hair and green eyes. My hobbies include watching football and I support Manchester United. I also like sport. I would like to write to a soldier aged between 18 and 21. All letters answered. — *Gail Goodwin, 32 Fleeson St, Rusholme, Manchester, M14 5NQ.*

My name is Rebecca and I am 5ft 4ins tall with brown hair and grey eyes. I like most things and look forward to writing to people I don't know. All letters answered. — *Rebecca Moran, 8 Beech Park, West Derby, Liverpool, L12 1LP.*

My name is Denise and I am 25 years old. I am 5ft 5ins tall with brown hair and blue eyes. My hobbies are photography, camping, sports and music. I would like to write to any soldier aged between 25 and 30 years. — *Denise Lynn, 69 Browning Drive, St Giles, Lincoln, LN2 4HD.*

My name is Shirley and I am 25 years old. I am 5ft 4ins tall with brown hair and green eyes. I like swimming, horse-riding and dancing. — *Shirley Cowley, 24 Tuffolds Close, Manor Estate, Sheffield, Yorkshire, S2 1ES.*

My name is Bernadette and I am 17 years old. I would like to write to any lonely soldiers aged between 17 and 25. Photos if possible. All letters answered. — *Bernadette Maclean, 6 Hillary Crest, Peartree Estate, Rugeley, Staffs.*

My name is Violet and I am 16 years old. I am of average height and I have light brown hair and blue eyes, and I like most types of music. I would like to write to anyone up to age 21 and I also have lots of friends who want penpals. Photos if possible. All letters answered. — *Violet McSorley, 6 Lausanne Road, Withington, Manchester, M20 9EU.*

I am 17 years old and have blonde hair and blue eyes. My hobbies are horse-riding, swimming and I like Madness, UB40 and The Beat. All letters answered. — *Katherine Bailey, 16 Guildford Road, Levenshulme, Manchester, M19 3FP.*

My name is Susie and I am 23 years old. I am 5ft 2ins tall with blonde hair. My interests are dancing, eating, reading and listening to music. — *Susie Sinclair, Flat 2, Polperro Mansions, 43 Lyncroft Gardens, London NW6.*

My name is John and I am 17 years old with brown hair and hazel eyes. I like all music, especially Pink Floyd and Heaven 17 and sports. I would like to write to anyone under 25. — *Sig J Dixon, R0180B C Tp, 3 Sqn, 8 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison.*

My name is Marie and I am 16 years old. I am 5ft 8ins tall with blonde hair and blue eyes. I like discos, squash, badminton and most sports. — *Marie Hunter, 50 Coloile Road, Wisbech, Cambs, PE13 2ET.*

My name is Denise and I am 21 years old. I have brown hair and blue eyes and I like most music. — *Denise Carroll, 18 Monarch House, Burnley, Lancs.*

My name is Anita and I am 19 years old. My hobbies are reading, embroidery and playing tennis. — *Anita Walmsley, 5 Valley View Close, Eckington, Sheffield, S31 9HD.*

My name is Janet and I am 25 years old. I am 5ft 8ins tall with blonde hair and blue eyes. — *Janet Rogers, 325 Taunton Ave, Whitleigh, Plymouth, Devon.*

We are two 37-year-old twins, and have brown hair and green eyes. We would like to write to anyone around the same age. — *Eileen and Irene Farley, 19 Lee Croft, Birks Holt 2, Maltby, Rotherham, S Yorks, S66 7JY.*

My name is Bernadette and I am 23 years old. I have brown hair and blue eyes. I like sports and support Liverpool and I like modern music. — *Bernadette O'Brien, 56 Leyland Road, Burnley, Lancs.*

My name is Debbie and I am 17 years old. I am 5ft 10ins tall with brown hair and hazel eyes. I enjoy most sport, disco dancing and all music. — *Debbie Carberry, 38 Eton Road, Oxbridge, Stockton, Cleveland.*

My name is Dawn and I am 5ft 4ins tall with auburn hair. I would like to write to anyone up to the age of 22. — *Dawn Evans, 45 Hayle Belgrave, Tamworth, Staffs, B77 2JS.*

My name is Julie-Ann and I am 23 years old. I am 5ft 2ins tall with fair hair. My interests are reading, writing and sport. All letters answered. — *Julie-Ann Roach, 14 Blundell Road, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 8SS.*

My name is Allan and I am 26 years old, 6ft 4ins tall with fair hair and blue eyes. I enjoy all music but especially reggae. I like going to discos and playing badminton. All letters answered. Photos appreciated. — *L/Cpl Allan Clark, Ordnance Depot, BFPO 806.*

My name is Margaret and I am 31 years old. I am a civil servant and enjoy most sports and travelling. I would like to hear from somebody aged 30-35. — *Margaret Kirby, 76 Whellock Road, Bedford Park, Chiswick W4.*

My name is Christina and I am 32 years old. I am English, living in New York and I am a travel agent. All letters answered. — *Christina Gardner, 2102 East 15th St, Apt 2B, Brooklyn, New York 11229, USA.*

My name is Julia and I am 21 years old with dark hair and blue eyes. I am a nurse with numerous interests, including militaria. I would like to write to a soldier in N Ireland or anyone who needs cheering up. — *Julia Parry, 44 Langholme Heights, Norris Green, Liverpool, L11 2SX.*

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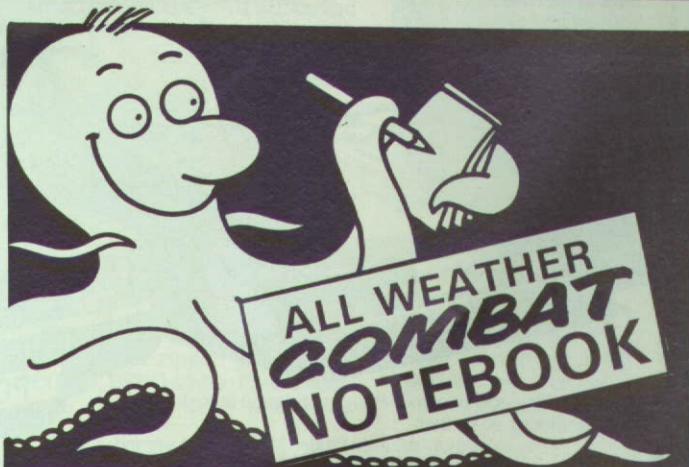
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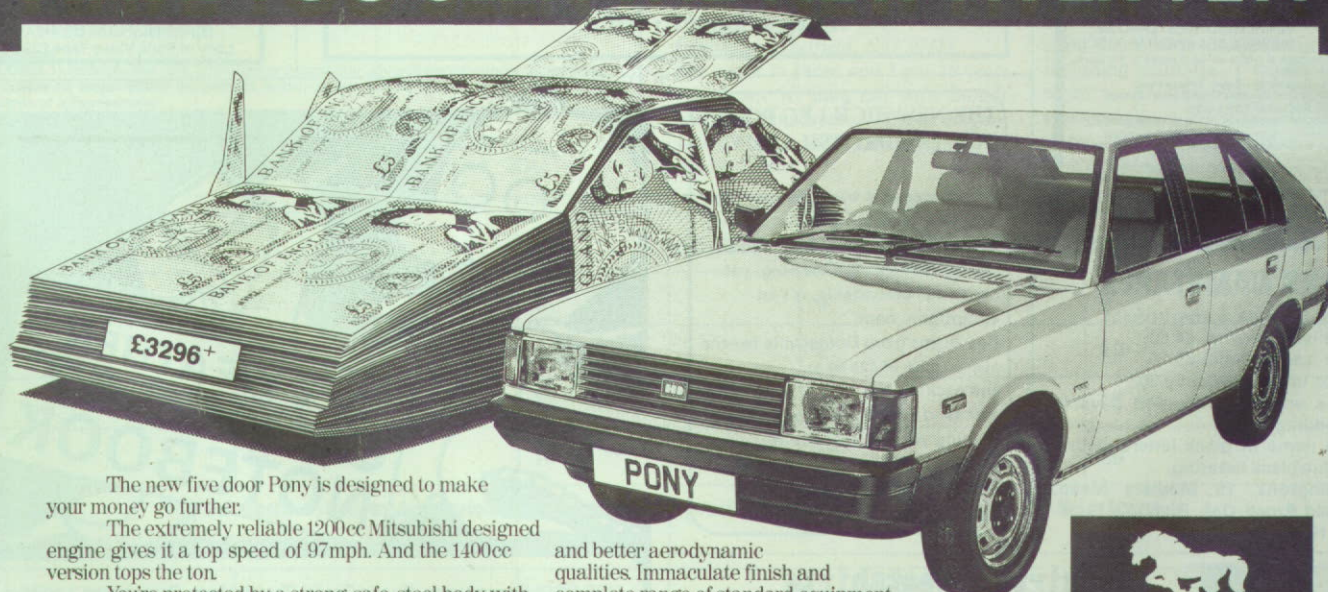
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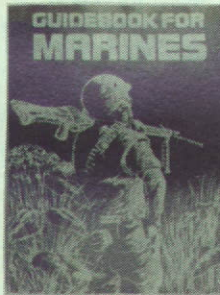
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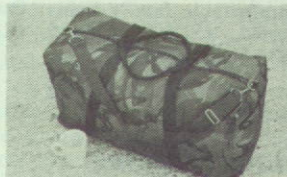
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Personal

I am 38 years old, divorced with two children, boy aged 13 years, girl aged 12 years. Privately educated. Have not known any other life but the Armed Forces, and have thoroughly enjoyed the life. Enjoy all forms of outside activities, plus reading, travelling, gardening, driving, all forms of music, going to the pictures, going out for a meal occasionally, but most of all, sadly miss the life which we had while attached to the Forces.

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DO IT AGAIN

FORMER EVERTON player, Driver Billy Monaghan, now star striker for 238 (Sefton) Squadron of 156 Transport Regiment RCT (V), banged in three goals to take the TA Football Cup back to Merseyside for the second year running in a highly combative and physical final at Catterick.

His hat-trick gave the holders an emphatic 3-1 win against 124 (L) Field Squadron RE (V) from Coatbridge near Glasgow and came on top of the five that he grabbed in the semi-final. An Everton reserve in his teens, Monaghan later played professional football in Australia but is currently unemployed.

The final at Catterick was a bruising, kick and rush affair. But what it lacked in science it more than made up for in commitment.

In the early exchanges both sides probed defences but it was the Scots who looked faster and more dangerous. Striker Sapper John Hamilton sent one shot over the bar and another wide of the post.

Throughout the game high and fierce tackling saw players from both sides littering the ground like battle casualties, but there were no serious injuries. A bugler in the crowd sounded an ironic 'Last Post' each time a Scotsman was flattened.

The match was 24 minutes old when goal poacher Monaghan nimbly sidestepped the advancing Scots 'keeper and calmly planted the ball home. But the Engineers hit back almost immediately with the best goal of

the match. Sapper Michael McStay intercepted a cross from the corner and blasted home a first time shot.



Driver Billy Monaghan — hat-trick hero.

Play continued to run from end to end for the rest of the first half and both sides had their chances. At the interval the teams looked well matched and few were willing to predict the final outcome.

Seven minutes into the second half the Merseysiders, who had



Time for the sappers to attack — but this cross was cleared.

already gone close, were awarded a penalty when a raider was chopped down in the box. Monaghan had to take the kick twice — but beat the goalkeeper on each occasion.

The red shirted Scots attempted to bounce back but in the 63rd minute the RCT lead was extended when Driver Tony Davitt centred to give Monaghan the easiest of chances to complete his hat-trick.

The remainder of the game was hard fought with the Scots still battling for every ball. The tackling got tougher and in the 77th minute the Coatbridge side had the chance to reduce the deficit with a penalty only for Sapper George Ross to sky it over the bar.

At the end of the day though, 238 (Sefton) Squadron emerged worthy winners from an original entry of 76 from all over the United Kingdom. For the Scottish sappers there was the consolation of knowing that they had never given up and that they had scored easily the best of the four goals seen in the Final.

SPORTS SHORTS

BOXING

50 Missile Regiment, Royal Artillery, retained their Army Inter-Unit Novices Boxing Championship when they beat the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment by six bouts to three at Canterbury. This year 70 teams entered the competition and the standard of boxing in the final was described as 'superb'.

KARATE

Maida Gym, Aldershot, which is run by 27 LSG Regt, RCT is the venue every Thursday for the Farnham and Aldershot Karate Club. The club is open to all members of the forces in the Aldershot area. Contact WO2 Bob Minns (Aldershot Military 2495) or Sgt Mal Bowering (Aldershot Military 3337).

CROSS-COUNTRY

The British Army team won the CINCENT Trophy for the best military team in this year's AF-CENT-Brunssum race.

TA TOUR
SUCCESS

THE TA representative football side, on its tour of Rhine Army, beat the RAOC select team at Bracht by six goals to two. Team captain, Sergeant S Campbell of 103 AD Regt RA (V) scored a hat-trick.

In the second game against the Royal Signals the TA won a close match by two goals to one (scorers Campbell and Lance-Corporal P Ness of 1 Battalion, Yorkshire Volunteers).

The final match against the RCT select at Rheindahlen saw another hat-trick. Corporal A Rabôt found the net three times in a 5-0 drubbing of an indifferent RCT side. The all-conquering TA team was managed by Major Stuart Cottage.

Robbie's men win SOLDIER Cup

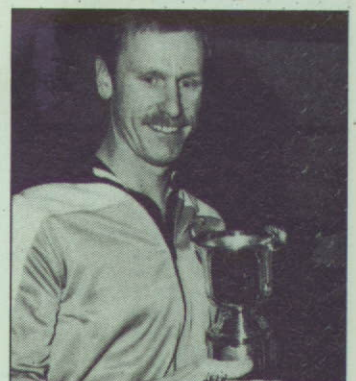
BRITISH AMATEUR Squash Champion, Warrant Officer 2 Robbie Robinson, led his team, 9 Ordnance Battalion from Devizes, to victory in the minor section of the Inter-Unit *Soldier News* Squash Competition in Rheindahlen. They whitewashed a plucky side from 3 Base Ammunition Depot, Bracht 5-0.

The Ordnance Corps confirmed its status as the top squash playing corps in the Army when the Training Depot RAOC took the major units title. Their opponents were 4 Armoured Division Transport Regiment RCT, three times winners of the Rhine Army title.

The matches at Numbers Four and Five went to the RCT and with Army players appearing at One and Two for the Training

Depot it was clear that the whole match hinged on the result of the third string match.

This brought together the experienced Army veteran, Lieutenant-Colonel John Woodliffe and a very fit if somewhat inexperienced S/Sgt Kidstone of the Transport Regiment. A long first game saw the skill and guile of Woodliffe come through 10-8 and he then went on to win comfortably.



Robbie Robinson with *Soldier News* trophy for minor units.

JUBILEE CUP — SAD SEME BLOW IT



The ball flies goalwards after Butler beats the Wyton keeper.

SEME BORDON 3 RAF WYTON 1

SEME HAVE SELDOM had to battle harder to win a match than they did in the opening game of this year's Jubilee Cup. It took all their experience and considerable skill to achieve a two goal winning margin against a physically strong and determined RAF Wyton, who challenged for every ball in a bruising but never dirty battle.

SEME opened strongly and might have scored twice in the first ten minutes but for the bravery of RAF keeper, LAEM N Smith. He charged down a fierce shot at goal by Lance Corporal Phil White and when Craftsman Dickie Briggs sent Lance-Corporal Steve Butler clear on the SEME left he again provided a last ditch rescue act.

At the centre of the RAF defence Corporal John Hancocks, probably the man of the match, was beginning to disrupt the smooth flow of the SEME attack. He started to dominate in the air and his enthusiasm soon spread to the whole Wyton defence.

Hancocks also joined the attack and after heading one unstoppable ball just over the crossbar he gave Wyton the lead, connecting with a nicely flighted free kick to put a deep bulge in the roof of the SEME net.

SEME plugged away and got a deserved equaliser on the stroke of half-time. Staff-Sergeant Doug Aitchison took a corner kick on the left, which was knocked back out to him. He

flipped a short centre to the near post where Lance-Corporal Phil White put in the most delicate of headers to beat Smith.

The Army side set the pace in the second half and made a breakthrough when Sergeant Alan Walton picked up a clearance and split the two central defenders with a delightful forward pass for Butler to race through and tuck the ball past an advancing keeper.

There were other close calls for the RAF defence before SEME nearly hit disaster. Aitchison, deep and square with his central defenders, fumbled his clearance. McLenaghan raced clear, rounded Gibson in the SEME goal only for Davey to take the ball off his toes as he looked certain to score.

It was left to Butler to provide his usual moment of genius when, twelve minutes from time, he weaved his way through a crowded penalty area and laid off a delicate short pass for White to drive home. Two more near misses saw SEME ending as they began — on the attack.

HMS HERON 4 SEME BORDON 3

Three goals to one ahead at the interval and well on course for their third Naafi Jubilee Cup in a row, SEME Bordon were hustled and harried out of the game in the second half by a team of sailors who seemed to have eaten spinach in the interval. In an often bruising encounter they were finally beaten with almost the last kick of a match they should have won in a canter.

SEME can still win the cup but they must rely on the generosity of RAF Wyton when they meet the Navy champions. The trophy goes to the team which scores the most goals in the triangular tournament. Wyton would need five to gain a shoot-off or six to win while Heron need only two or three goals to be in a similar position.

Conditions for football were perfect at Yeovilton and there was a feast of it in the first half. Midway through the first half, goal scoring ace, Lance-Corporal Steve Butler, scored twice to give SEME the breathing space they needed.

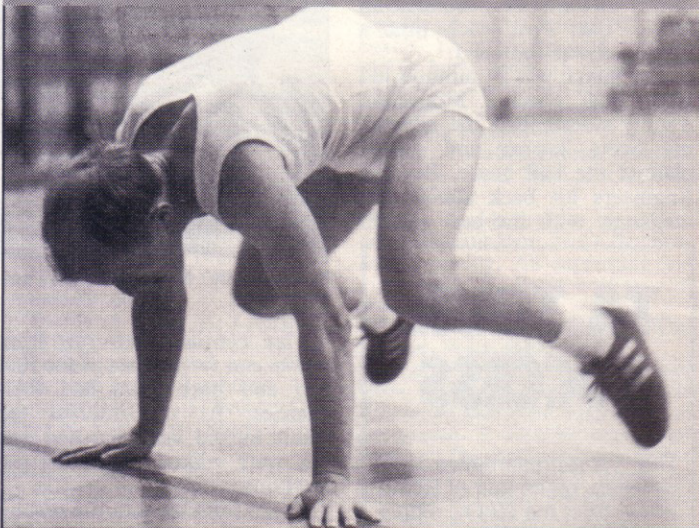
Heron fought back and were rewarded when the SEME defence were caught square and PO Roger Noone reduced the arrears. But the Navy joy was

short lived for the irrepressible Butler soon waltzed his way into the heart of the Heron defence to lay on the perfect opening for Craftsman Dickie Briggs. His shot was deflected but from the resultant corner Lance-Corporal Phil White scrambled the ball home.

In the second half Heron set about SEME with a fresh and battling determination. Their new policy of long balls to the heart of the SEME back four paid handsome dividends, Rodgers scoring twice to put the sides level.

The final shock of the afternoon came just before time when, following some unbelievable slackness in the Army defence, McPhee was able to scramble the ball over the goal-line to win the tie.

SUPER 'ASHY'



FOOTBALLER, Lance-Corporal Gordon 'Ashy' Ashworth won the first ever SEE Arborfield Superstar competition when he beat seven other Arborfield based sportsmen over a two day, ten event competition.

The event was organised by Captain Brian Glossop, who had already organised similar competitions when he was stationed in Northern Ireland. The ten events were mostly indoor and, said Captain Glossop: "The whole idea is simplicity, using facilities that every unit has."

Ashworth, pictured above on the squat thrusts, finished with 100 points — 16 clear of REME squash player, Staff-Sergeant

Arthur Turner. Staff-Sergeant Bernie Hendricks, a Corps hockey player, was third with 75. The big surprise was the lack-lustre performance by pentathlete, Corporal Steve Shaw, who won the swimming but finished last overall with 44 points.

Ashworth won the football, table tennis and badminton events. He said afterwards: "I thought I had a chance because I am a fairly fit sort of bloke but I had not played rackets sports since I was back at school."

The two non-standard events in the competition were the Army's Basic Fitness Test and individual volleyball. The Arborfield Superstar contest will be held twice a year.

Revenge for RSDG

THE Royal Scots Dragoon Guards avenged their defeat in last year's Cavalry Cup football final by beating 16th 5th Queen's Royal Lancers 3-1 before a good crowd at Chelsea.

The final, the highlight of the footballing year for the 16 regiments of the Household Cavalry and Royal Armoured Corps, proved to be a clean, hard-fought tussle.

The Scottish team, representing Rhine Army, started favourites and were two up in the first half hour with goals by Corporal Beveridge and Trooper Woolton. Sergeant Bankier added a third just before the interval.

However, the 16th 5th Lancers team came into their own in the second half and their captain, Corporal Naven, scored a fine goal after 65 minutes.

WELSH COURAGE

THE 1ST BATTALION WELSH GUARDS, clearly in a class of their own, powered their way to victory in this year's Army Sevens at Aldershot. They had taken the title two years ago but were unable to defend it last year because of the Falklands emergency — "we would have won it that time as well" crowed skipper, Sergeant John Davies, after proudly stepping up to receive the trophy.

With an original entry of 250 teams the Army Rugby Sevens, sponsored by the Courage brewery, has now become the second largest competition of its type in the world. More than 2000 players took part in the qualifying matches at 15 different locations in the United Kingdom and Germany.

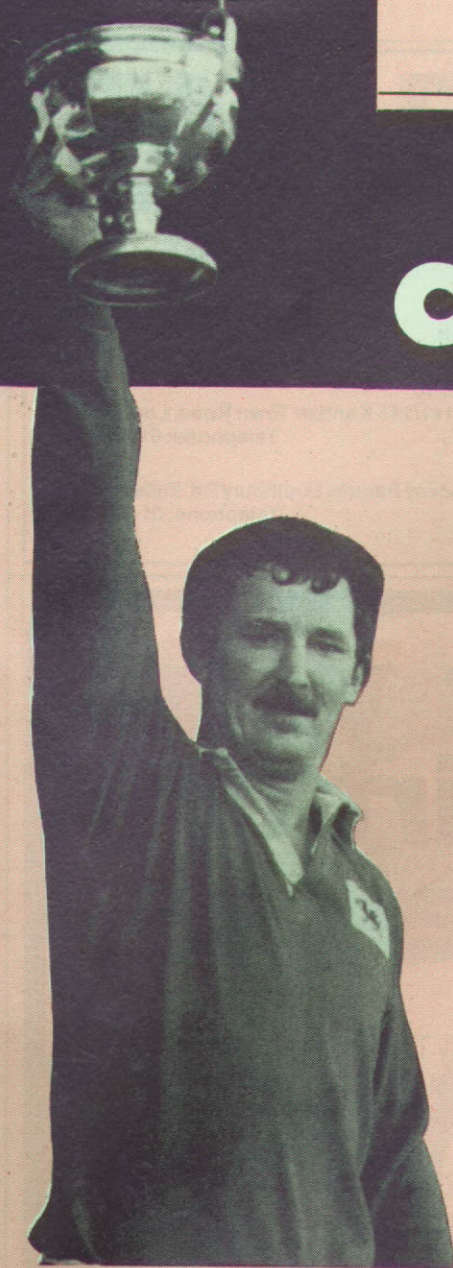
For the finals, 16 teams travelled to Aldershot — including a guest seven from the Thames Valley Police. But the Welsh Guards never looked seriously threatened in any of the six matches they played.

Even in the semi-final they were able to dispose of Shrivenham by 32 points to six going through to face 7 Signals in the final, the team who had earlier humbled last year's winners, 7 Royal Horse Artillery. The 7 Signals men from Germany had prevented an all Welsh final by ousting 1 RWF 10-6 in the second semi-final.

The well organised Guards team began to put pressure on the Signals right from the start and despite their individual flair the blue shirted men from Rhine Army were unable to keep them out. Two tries by Lance-Corporal John Davies and a third by his namesake and captain, all neatly converted by Guardsman Ian Parmee, gave the Welshmen an 18-0 win.

Skipper Davies said afterwards that the hardest game, despite the scoreline, had been the semi-final against Shrivenham. He added: "We only had two afternoons to train and then we were called away because of the possible firemen's strike."

Winners of the Plate competition, for the losing sides in the morning matches, were 3 RTR who beat 8 Signals by 30 points to six in the final.



Sgt John Davies with the Courage Trophy — end of a long, hard Army Sevens road.

JIM OUTFOXED AT TIDWORTH

CAPTAIN ALWYN VARLEY of the Life Guards on Compromise Bay left the Army Horse Trials at Tidworth as champion of the Novice 5 (Military) Section and winner of the Queen's Bays Challenge Cup for the leading commissioned military rider in the Novice section.

Captain Varley, a riding instructor at the Army School of Equitation in Melton Mowbray, had won the section twice before.

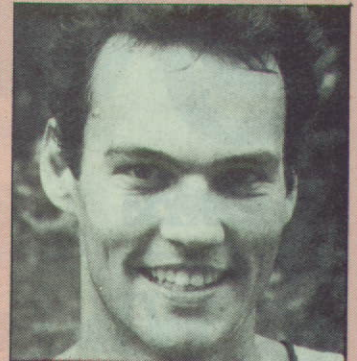
One day trials are a shortened version of three day events. Although more compact they put both horse and rider under considerable pressure and neither is very fresh at the start of the crucial cross-country event. Competitors have to complete dressage, show-jumping and cross-country — pitting their skills against each other and the clock.

After the dressage Captain Varley and pentathlete, Captain Jim Fox REME, were in front with 30 and 25 penalty points respectively. But Fox's horse, Jubilee II, picked up three penalties in the next stage to put him ten points behind before the cross-country. Despite a tough 2795 metre course with a total of 19 jumps Varley and Fox emerged with good rounds to maintain first and second places. Third was Captain H MacDonald on Flying Midas.

Afterwards Captain Varley told **SOLDIER**: "I came with every intention of winning and would have been disappointed if I hadn't, but I knew I faced a lot of competition from Jim Fox."

Some 43 horses and their Army riders entered the Novice Section although some withdrew on the day. Major Rodney Baker, 16th/5th Lancers, who has organised this event for the past four years said: "There are more and more competitors every year — with at the same time fewer officers. The more soldiers that compete the more publicity we shall get as an Army sport."

Mike's Big Win



CAPTAIN MIKE MUMFORD, of the Royal Engineers, chalked up an important milestone in his Modern Pentathlon career when he won an international event in Berlin. Competing as a member of a West German national team, the Sapper officer put in his best performance for a long time against a Polish national side.

Mumford scored 5596 points to take first place in his first ever international. Now he hopes to become a home international as well.

MOONSHINE

FOURTEEN military Land-Rovers and 12 civilian cars took part in the Moonshine Rally, the first event in this year's calendar for the British Army Motoring Association in Rhine Army. The rally, organised by Bombardier Bob Kelly over 140 miles, was won by Majors John Fraser and Mike Farmer of the RCT.

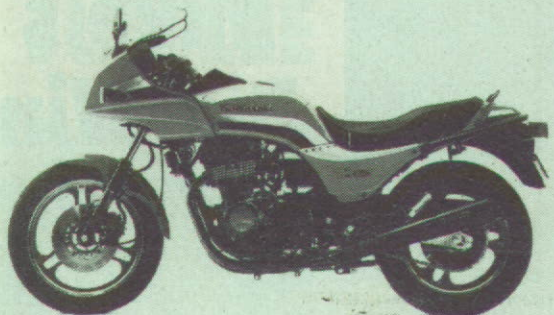


Captain Warwick Shaw, King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery goes over the barrels on Miss Lovelace.

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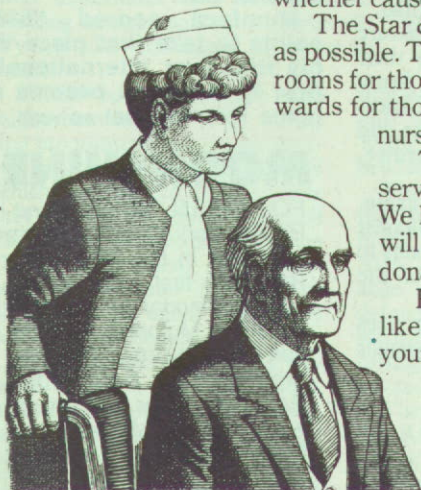
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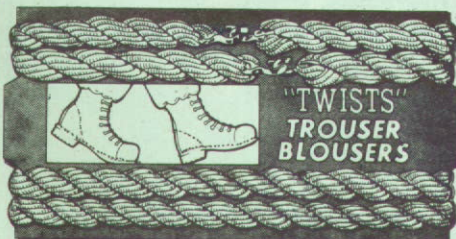
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