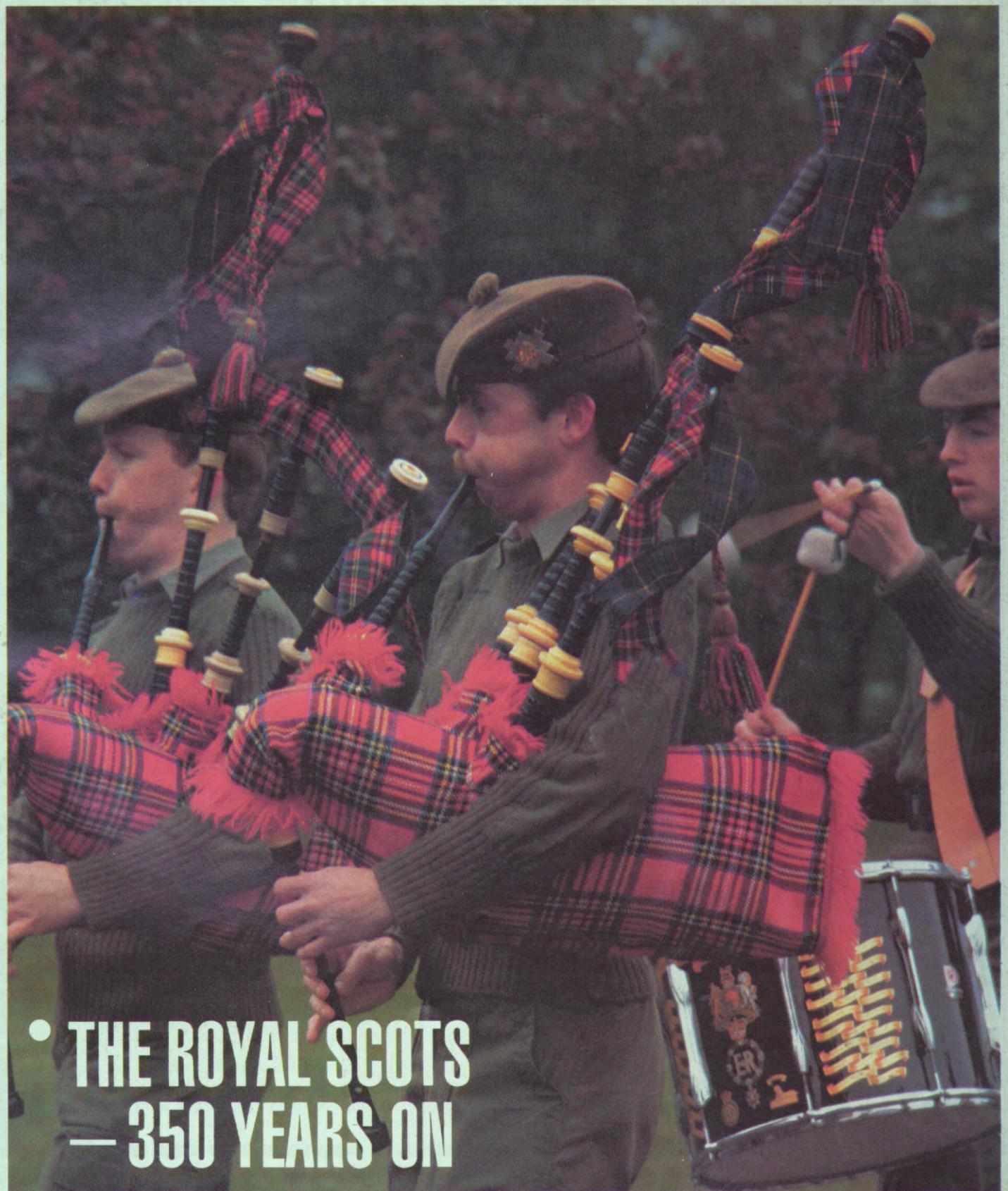


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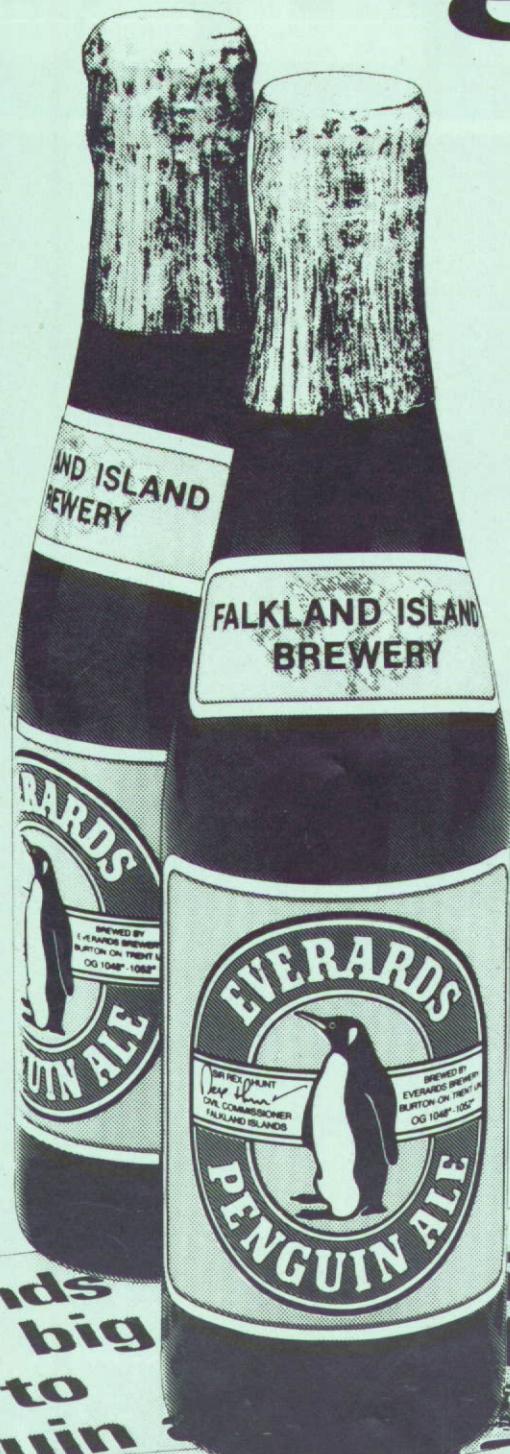
# SOLDIER



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## FRONT COVER

The Pipes and Drums of 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots practise for the regiment's Royal Review by Her Majesty the Queen at Holyrood House on 30 June. The Review will be the highlight of a remarkable year for The Royal Scots who celebrate their 350th anniversary this year. Full story on page 24. Picture: Paul Haley

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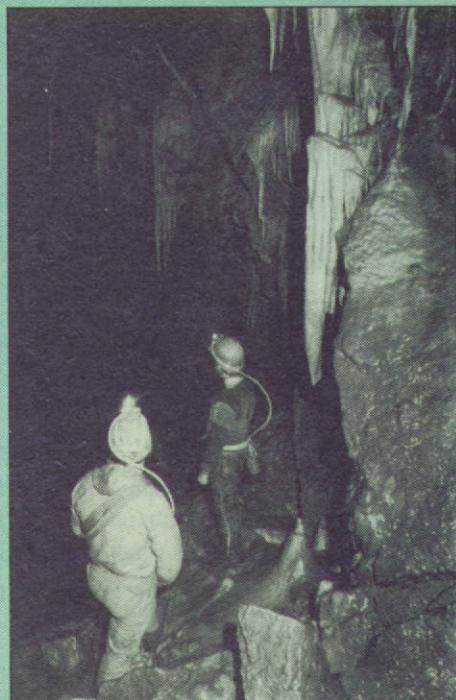
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A day out with the Army's underground squad — ►  
page 30

◀ Fighting the  
other Election  
Day battle  
— page 14



The Canadians who  
came back — to the  
Isle of Wight — page 19 ▼



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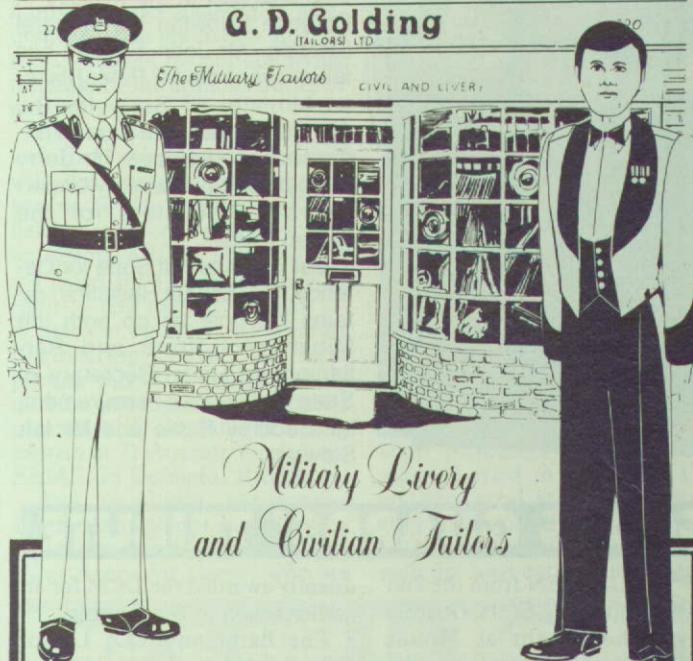
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## New ministers appointed

THERE HAVE been two ministerial changes at the Ministry of Defence following the General Election. Mr John Stanley has taken over from Mr Peter Blaker as Minister of State for the Armed Forces and Lord Trefgarne has replaced Mr Jerry Wiggin as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Armed Forces.

But Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Michael Heseltine, retains his post as do both the Minister of State and Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence Procurement, Mr Geoffrey Pattie and Mr Ian Stewart.

Mr Stanley (left), who is aged 41, was Minister for Housing and Construction at the Department of the Environment in the last administration. Before that he was Parliamentary Private Secretary to Mrs Margaret Thatcher when she was Leader of the Opposition.

Lord Trefgarne (right), aged 42, held Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State posts at the Department of Trade, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department of Health and Social Security in the previous government.

He is a keen aviator and has held a number of FAI records.



## SCOTS GUARDS' TRIBUTE

**F**OUR MEN from the 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards, who fought at Mount Tumbledown in the Falklands — including a piper and a drummer — honoured seven of their eight repatriated dead comrades in one day with wreath-laying ceremonies at cemeteries in Scotland. An eighth wreath will be laid later in Liverpool.

The group was led by Captain Ron Paterson who saw two of the men killed just ten metres away. They were Guardsmen Jim Reynolds and David Malcolmson, both 19, who were acting as stretcher bearers and carrying a thrice-shot subaltern, Lt Alastair Mitchell, who survived the shell impact.

The two young men, who were friends and from the same town, lie in adjacent graves at Irvine. Guardsman Reynolds was subse-

quently awarded the DCM for an earlier action in the fighting.

The Battalion's CO, Lt-Col Mike Scott, had pledged that not one Scots Guardsman killed in action would remain in the Falklands. Now, they lie buried in cemeteries in Laurencekirk, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Clydebank, Ayrshire and Liverpool.

During each ten-minute graveside ceremony a prayer was said, the Last Post and the Flowers of the Forest — a traditional lament — played, and reveille sounded.

Captain Paterson told SOL-DIER: "I suppose it was my idea to do this and I am sure the regiment will continue to do something like it in the future. The reason that I personally wanted to carry out this one is that I dealt with these lads on the battlefield."

## A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

IT'S CALLED Norwegian Lodge, which gives it a Scandinavian air, but in reality it's in the Cairngorms and is available for booking by groups up to 37 strong.

Bought by MoD from the Forestry Commission, the lodge is seven miles from Aviemore and only two miles from the nearest ski slopes. For those interested in summer sports there is canoeing, dinghy sailing, sail boarding and swimming all within half a mile or so.

All Services can make bookings, but priority is given to admin parties for ex-Snow Lion; Regular soldiers on adventurous or arduous training; junior soldiers on external leadership training; cadets and the TA.

Bookings to: The Commandant, Inverness Training Centre, Cameron Barracks, Inverness IV2 3XD (tel: Inverness (0463) 224545).

## DEATH OF QMG

THE Quarter Master General, Lieutenant-General Sir Paul Travers KCB FCIT, has died suddenly of a heart attack at his home. He was 55.

Lieutenant-General Travers joined the ranks of the Parachute Regiment in 1945, subsequently being given an emergency commission in the South Lancs Regiment and then a regular commission in the RASC.

He went on to hold a number of senior appointments, including several in the Royal Corps of Transport. Prior to taking up his post as QMG, he spent a year as GOC South East District.

## Cyprus deal

NAAFI are offering a special discount package on car hire and accommodation for Servicemen planning a holiday in Cyprus this year. Four apartment blocks in Limassol, all close to the sea and offering a variety of accommodation have been selected for the deal. For further details, contact NAAFI's Command Supervisor's office at Akrotiri, BFPO 57.

## DUKE STEPS UP



FORMERLY a Lieutenant Colonel, His Royal Highness, the Duke of Kent GCMG, GCVO, ADC(P), The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, has been promoted to the rank of Major General (Supernumerary).

This 'jump promotion' is rare and connected with Royal duties, the only precedent this century being King George VI's brother, the Duke of Gloucester, in 1936.

Until he retired in 1976, the Duke of Kent was a full-time professional soldier, attending Staff College in 1966. In 1970 he took command of a squadron of his regiment, serving in Cyprus as part of the United Nations force.

General Sir John Stanier, CGS said that the Duke's promotion is welcomed by the whole Army especially those regiments of which he is either Colonel or Colonel in Chief.

HRH the Duke of Kent reviewing a TA unit in April 1981.



## NUMBERS DOWN — BUT RECRUITMENT UP

THE STRENGTH of the Army was down to 159,069 at 31 March 1983, a reduction of 2.5 per cent on the figure at the end of the previous financial year.

This has come about largely because of the slow-down in recruitment following the 1981 Defence White Paper.

Army recruitment was down some eight per cent on 1981/82 and the total outflow was higher with soldier voluntary exits increasing by 14 per cent from the historically low levels of the previous year.

But in the last quarter from January to March 1983, recruitment was up in all three Services — indicating a return to the levels of recruitment necessary to sustain planned long term strengths.

## GIVE FALKLANDS TROOPS A RISE SAY COMMITTEE

TROOPS ON the Falklands should have their £7-a-week South Atlantic allowance increased believes the all-party Commons Defence Committee in their report on the future defence of the islands.

And the MPs think that soldiers' accommodation charges in buildings owned by the Falkland Islands (Coalite) Company are "disturbingly high". They also draw attention to problems of equipment and clothing and urge that trials with new camouflage gear should be completed "very quickly".

## SHARING THE LIMELIGHT

**T**WO MORE notable 'firsts' have gone into the military annals with a small parade at the Army Air Corps Centre, Middle Wallop.

Sharing the double limelight were Lieutenant Alan Wordie, 26, who had overcome the loss of a leg in a road accident to pass out as the best student pilot and, Lieutenant Sharon Dearle, 25, who became the first WRAC officer to qualify as an aircraft engineer.

## GENERAL KNIGHTED

TWO OF the Army's generals have been knighted in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Lieutenant-General Martin Farndale, Commander 1 British Corps, becomes a Knight Commander of the Bath (KCB). Major-General David Thorne, until recently Commander British Forces Falklands, is made a Knight Commander of the British Empire.

Army names in the list total 147. They include a CBE for Major-General Thorne's twin brother, Acting Brigadier Michael Thorne.

Lieutenant Wordie lost his leg just two months short of completing his pilot training course when he was already noted as a skilful and keen pilot.

His hard work and fierce motivation persuaded top aviation medicine specialists that he was fit enough to continue flying training for the arduous duties of a military pilot.

He has about 220 hours rotary and fixed wing experience and will spend another 35 hours converting to the workhorse Scout helicopter before a posting to 660 Squadron, AAC in Hong Kong.

Lieutenant Dearle was one of eight — and the only woman — to pass out on the Long Aircraft Engineering Course. Her next posting will be in command of a mobile helicopter maintenance platoon with the rank of acting captain at 71 Aircraft Workshop, REME, in Detmold, BAOR.

And, in August, she marries Lieutenant Rick Aungiers, a flight commander with 4 Regiment Army Air Corps, who are



also based at Detmold.

Lieutenant Dearle herself has five hours' helicopter experience to her credit. She told SOLDIER: "I had to have these hours of air experience to see what problems may confront pilots. I tried to hover but I'm not very good at it. I'm reasonably mechanically minded, but not too much. I don't even tinker with my own car — Rick does!"

## Hail a cab to Hendon

IF YOU return to the UK on posting and stay the night at JSATC Hendon, you and your family can have a taxi to the nearest BR station — and claim a refund.

According to a weekly news bulletin issued by BAOR, this is not widely known. Neither is it generally known that families unable to pay for a taxi because they are short of cash, can get JSATC to pay for a taxi to the nearest mainline terminal so they can continue their journey on to their new posting.

The news sheet says: "This exceptional facility must not be seen as overriding the standard method of taxi hire. Wherever

possible families should pay for taxis and refunds of fares should be claimed through units."

It goes on to warn families returning to the UK who are likely to stay at Hendon to carry sufficient cash to meet contingencies, especially taxi fares; be aware of the entitlement to hire taxis and the procedure for reclaiming fares; and to ask help from JASTC staff if faced with difficulties in getting to their mainline station.

"There is no need for families burdened by luggage and small children to attempt the journey by public transport from Colindale (tube) station."

## Cracking show in store

AN EQUESTRIAN act from behind the Iron Curtain will feature in the Royal Tournament at Earl's Court this year.

The Csikos, a whip-cracking team of Magyars will, according to the blurb, "delight you with their incredible trick riding and mastery at whipcracking — never before seen in the Western world."

They will have to put on a good show though to beat the spectacle of the Royal Navy's Field Gun competition and the Musical Drive by the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, just two of the regular favourites taking part at Earl's Court from July 13-30.

Performances are daily at 2.30pm and 7.30pm but there are no matinees on Mondays and no performances at all on Sundays.

This year's Tournament has been given a totally new look with a special theme linking the acts for the first time. The show takes place in the 1940's featuring the Battle of Britain and London during the Blitz.

Tickets are available from: The Royal Tournament Box Office, Earl's Court Exhibition Centre, London SW5 9TA (tel: 01-373 8141).

# NEWS VIEW



## DRAMATIC SUCCESS ▲

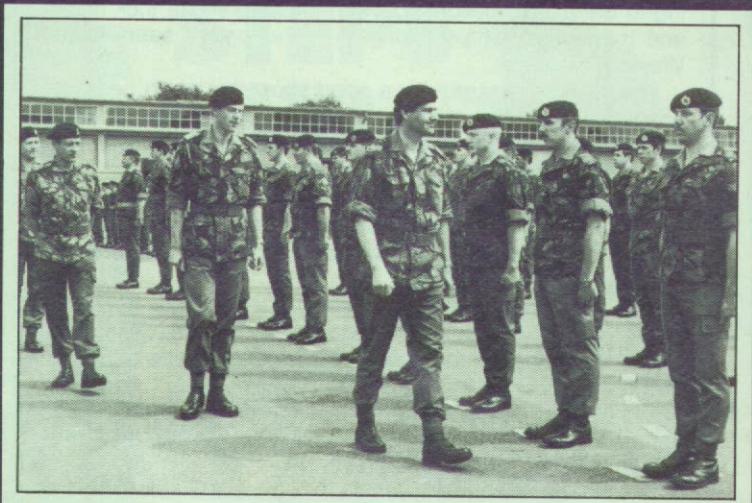
The standard in this year's British Forces Germany Drama Festival was so high that every one of the 22 participating societies received a certificate of merit — the first time this has happened in the Festival's 32-year history.

Eventual winners of the five-week long event were *Bielefeld Theatre 39* who staged *How the Other Half Loves*, produced by Linda Farmer with sets designed by Captain Del Henty. They are pictured with the trophy presented after the final evening at the Rheindahlen Garrison Theatre.



## VICTORY SWAP ▲

An exchange of plaques by WO1 Cowley of the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment Band and Commander N.R. Essenbigh, CO of *HMS Nottingham*, following a Beat Retreat in the *HMS Victory* arena at Portsmouth. The occasion marked the 'Woofers' affiliation with the ship — a Type 42 destroyer. Also present were Lt Cdr C P Addis, CO of *Victory* and Major M Jackson of the Regiment.



## ALL CHANGE ▲

All change for the 1st Battalion The Green Howards who have switched their blue berets for khaki. The sartorial swap, which took place at Mercer Barracks, Osnabruck, has been on the cards for some years and brings them into line with other regiments from the King's Division who have also opted to change the colour of their headgear.

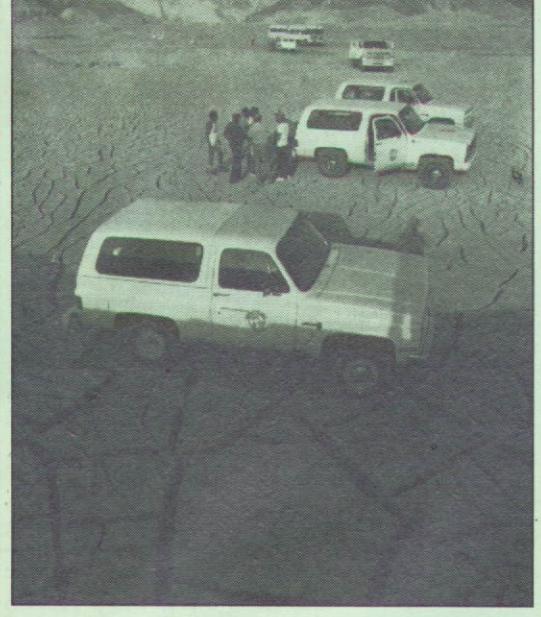


## TEST TIME ▲

A weekend of building and "blowing up" bridges, "laying and clearing" minefields and linking up water supplies, signalled for 25 Engineer Regiment the start of a week-long exercise called *Saturn Moon*. Based at Osnabruck, BAOR, the Sappers built and dismantled bridges and buildings, came "under fire" from an unseen enemy and generally practised their war role. The exercise finished with a March and Shoot contest preceded by a row up river to the shoot-out site. Eventual all-round exercise winners were Call Sign 11 Troop, led by Lt J R Smethurst and S/Sgt 'Taggy' Day, who retained the top place for the second consecutive year.

## ◀ HAIL AND FAREWELL

Parading for the last time before joining the new 23 Engineer Regiment at Osnabruck, 73 Independent Field Squadron line up for an inspection by their new CO Lt Col John Lucken. They were joined in the brand-new unit by 39 Field Squadron which will help 73 Sqn boost engineer support mainly for 1 Armoured Division. Both squadrons are likely to carry out a tour of the Falklands later this year.



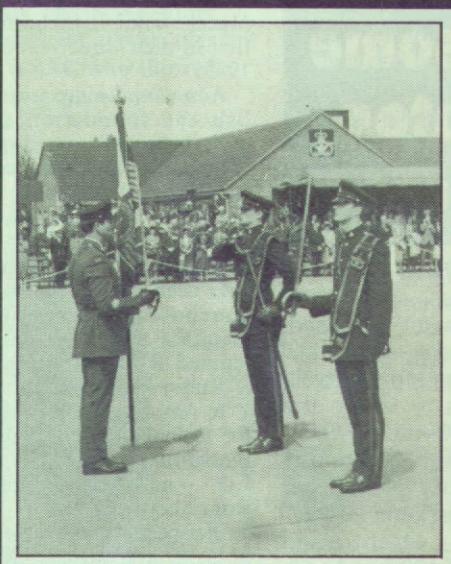
## DESERT SAFARI ▲

Seventy-two members of the Multinational Force and Observers in Sinai took time off from their peacekeeping duties to join a safari round the peninsula. Maj John Mackinlay, 6 Gurkha Rifles, led the four-day, nine-nation trip which passed through the war-torn countryside east of Suez and across the sun-scorched Negev Desert.



## HOT PACE ▲

It may not be quite as long as a marathon but the 20 miles from Salamanca Camp to Rideau Camp in Belize is every bit as tough with temperatures over the 100°F mark — just ask the men of 1 Royal Anglian who pounded it out before their return to England earlier this year. Organised by Cpl Mac McAnally to prove his complete recovery from a heart operation, the run raised £604 for charity which Cpl Mac has just handed over to St Thomas's Hospital in London.



## REPEAT PERFORMANCE ▶

In 1959 Maj Jim Ellison — then RSM of 1st Bn The Staffordshire Regiment — received the new Regimental Colours. Last month history repeated itself as his son Terry, now RSM himself, re-enacted his dad's role when new Colours were presented to the Regiment (the Prince of Wales's Own) at Roman Barracks, Colchester. Terry is pictured with the old Colour prior to it being trooped for the last time.



## GONGED OUT ▶

The day Sergeant Albert Olde left the Army he got a 'gong'. At the Depot, The Prince of Wales's Division, Crickhowell, South Wales, Major General Lennox Napier, GOC Wales, pinned the British Empire Medal on Albert's tunic.

Twenty-two years with the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, Albert travelled extensively including time in Libya, Belize, Canada, Germany and Northern Ireland.

For the past seven years he has been MT sergeant with his regiment and at the Depot at Crickhowell. For his work in this role he was awarded the BEM.



## A GLANCE AT LANCE ▲

A Nato conference on the Lance surface-to-surface missile attracted military and civilian experts from six countries to Menden in Germany. Hosts were 50 Missile Regt whose WO2 Bill Davenport (inset) demonstrated the theodolite he uses with the missile's new sighting system.



## TOPICS

**T**AKING PART in Exercise 'Motor Roller' were over 120 members of Sington's Transport Squadron — 238 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport (V) whose TA Centres are in Bootle and Southport.

They had drawn all the 16 tonne Fodens in their Regiment — 156 Transport — and had the tricky task of moving 250 tonnes of 'simulated ammunition' between three locations — Donnington, Nesscliff and Swynnerton.

With added complications

## 238 keep those waggons rolling

such as village carnivals making real detours necessary, their RMP section from Manchester and Coventry — 116 Pro Coy RMP (V) — were fully stretched to re-sign the routes that the 8-wheel, 16 tonners were to cover.

Tasking the Squadron were Commander, Major Terry Higheton (pictured watching tractor pass by) and Ops Officer and 2IC, Captain Arthur Naughton, whilst members of the Merseyside Army Cadet Force and their adult instructors helped



provide the perimeter guards, security and standing patrols to keep the military side of the exercise wholly realistic.

Paying a surprise visit to the Squadron was the Regimental

pin-up and mascot, blonde Karen Johnson from Liverpool, who watched the squadron at work, and enjoyed Cook Sergeant Richard Holmes' curry speciality in the field.

## MANCHESTER'S MASH IN THE FOREST

FIRST OF the North West's TA units to be at camp — 207 (Manchester) General Hospital — celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the TA with a special all ranks disco and barbecue at Proteus Camp, Ollerton in the Dukeries Training Area near Sherwood Forest.

Over 175 members of the Hospital, drawn from Manchester, Macclesfield, Blackburn and Halton (Lancaster) were at camp, the first in their three year training cycle that will culminate in BAOR in 1985.

Aim of the camp was to establish the foundation skills — military as well as medical — and it included field exercises in the training area, casualty searches, night exercises, map reading and cross country marches.

Although the weather could have been kinder, they used their ponchos to make overnight bivouacs near the Major Oak, reputed RV for the Merry Men of Robin Hood.

It was first year in command for Colonel John Bowman, currently the only RADC Hospital CO — he's a dental practitioner from Sheffield.

"It's been a good value Camp," he said afterwards. "We've been

gun to get the act together, whether it's been on the assault course, or on the Pegasus March training, and we've added a lot to our professional and military skills. I'm very pleased with the enthusiasm that everyone has shown."



Right: Col Bowman and (below) checking stretcher harness.



## Still some Krypton places

CHIEF ORGANISER of the annual Bury Fusilier Association 'Krypton Factor' weekend, Mr Dennis Laverick, says a few of the 200 places are still available for teams to tackle the Granada TV 'Krypton Factor' Assault Course at Holcombe Moor, near Bury on August Bank Holiday weekend 27-29.

The event — which raised over £13,000 in 1982 — has a sponsorship target of £20,000 for 1983 to be donated to local and national Army charities.

Entries received so far include one from the 3rd Bn RRF from Berlin. Entry forms and full details are available from Mr Dennis Laverick, Fusilier Association Krypton Factor Committee, Wellington Barracks, Bolton Road, Bury.

**BRINGING THE PLACE DOWN**  
THE WALLS of 18th-century Kilmaron Castle near Fife came tumbling down this month when TA sappers of 104 Field Squadron RE, blew the place up.

Passed to the Squadron as a training exercise, the sappers drilled 250 holes in the derelict, 10

roofless ruin and packed them with 550lb of explosive.

Then they pressed the button and the place disappeared in a cloud of dust. When it had all cleared the Squadron moved in to push the remains of the castle into its own cellars.

HEY COULD be called Edinburgh's big shots; small groups of immaculately uniformed men who have a two-minute-40-second reverberating influence over the whole city of Edinburgh as far as the Firth of Forth.

They are the TA gunners who make up the gun crews drawn from 207 (Scottish) Air Defence Battery, Royal Artillery (Volunteers), who fire eight 21-gun Royal Salutes on four 25-pounder guns from the Mills Mount battlements of Edinburgh Castle each year.

Earlier this month they fired three such salutes in ten days watched by hundreds of tourists.

Troop Commander, Captain Stewart MacVicar, a Clydebank local authority planner, said: "It's a superb privilege and honour for a TA unit to fire these Royal Salutes. We like to think we are one of the big three Salutes including Buckingham Palace and the Tower."



## EDINBURGH'S BIG SHOTS FIRE ROYAL SALUTE

## RIFLE WINNERS

THE WINNING rifle team of 150 Transport Regiment (V) from Hull, received their prizes from Major-General Patrick Palmer, GOC North East District, after taking part in a skill at arms meet at Leyburn, Yorks. Nearly 600 competitors from 50 teams shot it out for the 20 major and 100 smaller prizes. Two of the teams were from the WRAC who showed their expertise with rifles, pistols and sub-machine guns.



Picture: Derby Evening Telegraph

## US GENERAL'S FLYING VISIT

AN AMERICAN four-star general made a flying visit to Essex to see local Territorial soldiers in training.

General Richard Cavazos, Commander of the US Army Forces Command, watched soldiers from 'C' (Essex) Company of the 6th Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment at their drill centre in Coggeshall Road, Braintree.

The General, who has twice been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, America's second highest decoration for valour, was welcomed by an honour guard led by Lt Andrew Wadman, a design draughtsman.

He was shown around by Major Douglas Inch, a company director, seeing anti-tank weapon firing, rifle drill and physical training.

General Cavazos, who has more than a million men under his command in the United States, was impressed with what he saw.

"You guys are all right," he told the local Terriers. "You'll do to go down the road with."

## READY FOR THE QUEEN

### Derby's day

The 75th Anniversary of the TA was celebrated by a march through Derby and a Service of Commemoration at Derby Cathedral. In addition to two Guards and the Colours of 3rd Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters, 575 Squadron Royal Engineers, 46 Signal Squadron and 222 Field Ambulance were also represented together with a strong detachment of the Army Cadet Force from Derbyshire and 1CCF Detachment from Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School at Ashbourne.

MORE THAN 300 TA members — some from as far afield as Northumberland and South Wales — got together for a rehearsal at Aldershot's Rushmoor Arena in preparation for their debut at this year's Royal Tournament.

During their ten-minute parade before the Queen on July 18 some of the soldiers will be dressed in the different uniforms worn by the Territorials since 1908.

The following day they will also parade before the Queen Mother and the Chief of the General Staff, General Sir John Stanier.



**SOLDIER** meets the RMP girls pioneering a new fashion trend

**F**ASHION TASTES in tartan have come to the Royal Military Police ladies of 170 Provost Company perched in their lofty offices amid the granite-stoned complex of Edinburgh Castle, 400 feet above the city.

Gone — are the lovat green trousers. In — are the smart, crease-resistant Hunting Stuart tartan skirts at £13.50 each.

And not only has the new working barrack dress gone down well with the lasses they have also met with the full approval of the resident Red Cap lads.

Corporal Debbie Wicker (on right of picture) told **SOLDIER**, who had a quick preview on the battlements "It makes a nice change and makes us feel more feminine. They are definitely not kilts but skirts."

And Sergeant Dot Harrison-Horsburgh

**Story: Graham Smith**  
**Picture: Paul Haley**

## A TOUCH OF THE TARTAN

said: "They are much better than the trousers. You can move in them. They look smart and are easier to keep looking smart. They don't crease when you sit down in them and you don't have to be Scottish to wear them."

So will the RMP lads soon be following the tartan trend?

"I think they should wear kilts," said Cpl Wicker with a giggle. "They could show off their knees."

But that idea brought little enthusiasm from the male ranks of 170 Provost Company.

"Tartan underwear perhaps, but never tartan trews," was all that one veteran RMP would concede. ■

## SOLDIER to Soldier

**I**T WAS perhaps inevitable that the setting up of the South Atlantic Fund would eventually lead to squabbles over how the money is shared out.

The financial wrangles that followed the Aberfan disaster and, more recently, arguments over the money raised for the Penlee lifeboat victims, suggest that those who administer funds in the wake of such emotive tragedies are on a hiding to nothing.

Since no financial payout can ever compensate for the loss of a loved one, it is easy to understand how resentment can arise when differing assessments of financial need are made.

But some of the more hysterical newspaper reports of recent months have done the South Atlantic Fund — and those who administer it — a grave disservice.

As **SOLDIER** set out to explain earlier this year (24 Jan) those responsible for operating the Fund are faced with a lot of problems. The criteria they use for determining need have not been drawn up in a cavalier fashion. And though no system for making awards will ever be perfect, theirs is as fair as it reasonably can be.

The South Atlantic Fund is in good hands. It is being administered by people with a genuine concern to be both compassionate and generous.

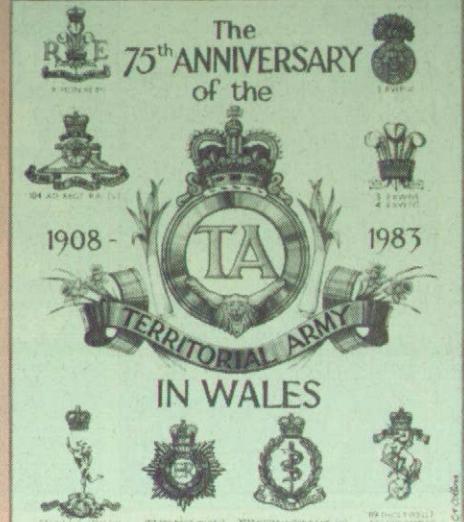
When it comes to fair play they need no lessons from the media.

**A**DVERTISERS have long been aware of the great pulling power of **SOLDIER**. Unlike newspapers, which quickly become throwaway items, copies of the magazine are still being read weeks, months and even years afterwards.

Some recent examples spring to mind. In February we wrote a story about the Bristol Motor Cycle Centre. Since that article appeared the Centre has been inundated with bookings from soldiers from such far away places as Benbecula, Gibraltar, Belize and the Falklands — all wanting to take their Part One test.

Soldiers have been turning up with sleeping bags and tents and the Ministry of Transport examiners have gone out of their way to help the visiting soldiers get a quick Part Two test.

Two ex-soldiers who are pretty pleased that the **SOLDIER** spotlight has been turned on them are pace stick makers, Colin Davison and John Needham (May 16). No sooner had the story of their venture in a former piggery in Yorkshire appeared in the magazine than telephone calls and letters began to arrive at **SOLDIER**. They included two from firms who wanted to place orders for the sticks — one of which would probably equal the whole of last year's output by the two craftsmen.



**S**TAMP BUFFS will already know all about the new issue of British Army postage stamps on 6 July and the set of six first day Army covers coming out at the same time.

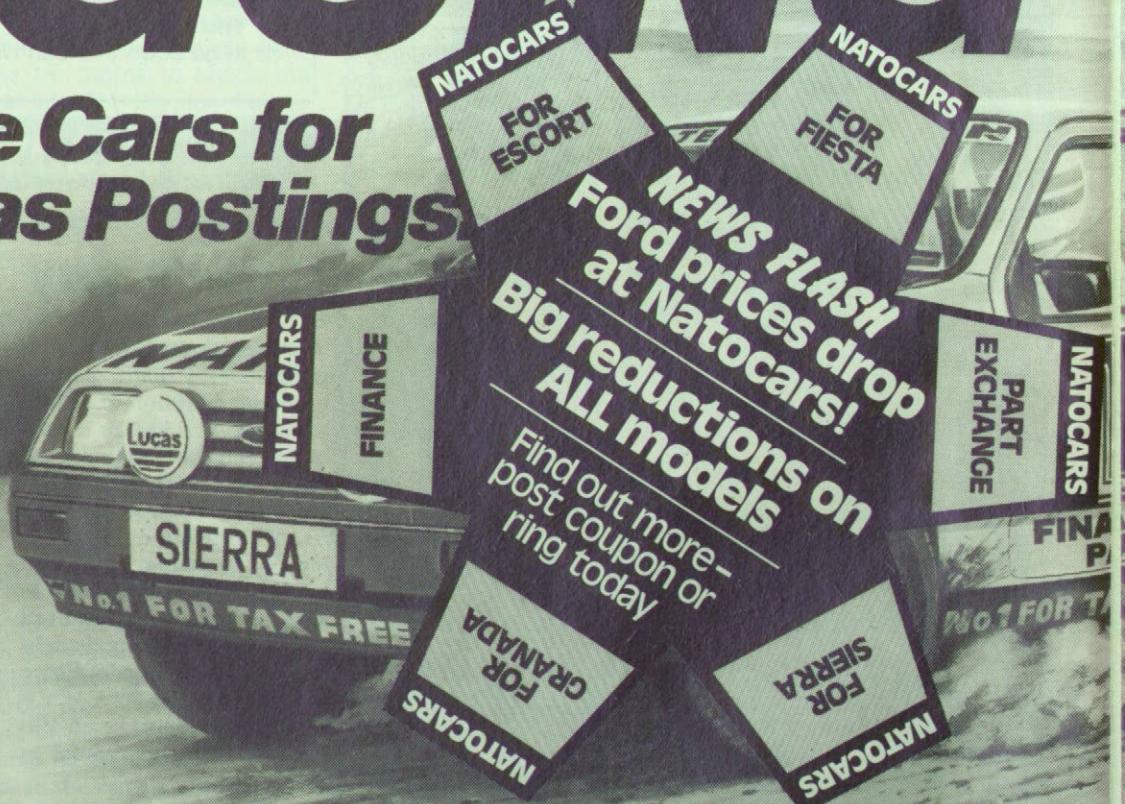
But our attention has just been drawn to another attractive Army cover marking the 75th Anniversary of the TA in Wales. The design on the envelope will be the TA motif with all the cap badges of the current TA units in Wales surrounding it.

Cost of a normal cover with 16p stamp will be £1. A limited number of covers with the 20p stamp will be signed by the GOC Wales and also a limited number by all the COs. The cost of these is £2.50.

Cheques/P0s should be made payable to 'Stamp Officer 3 RRW' and sent to Maindy Barracks, Cardiff CF4 3YE.

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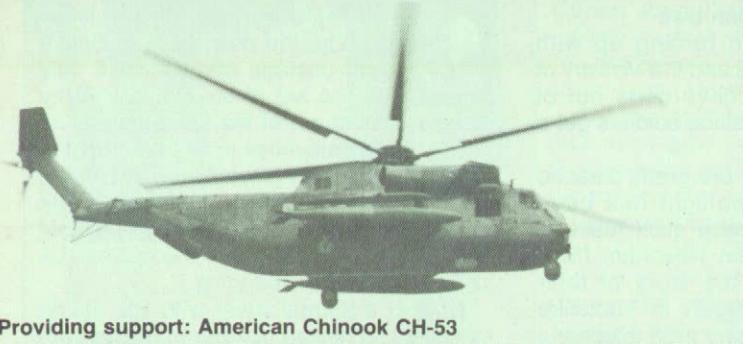
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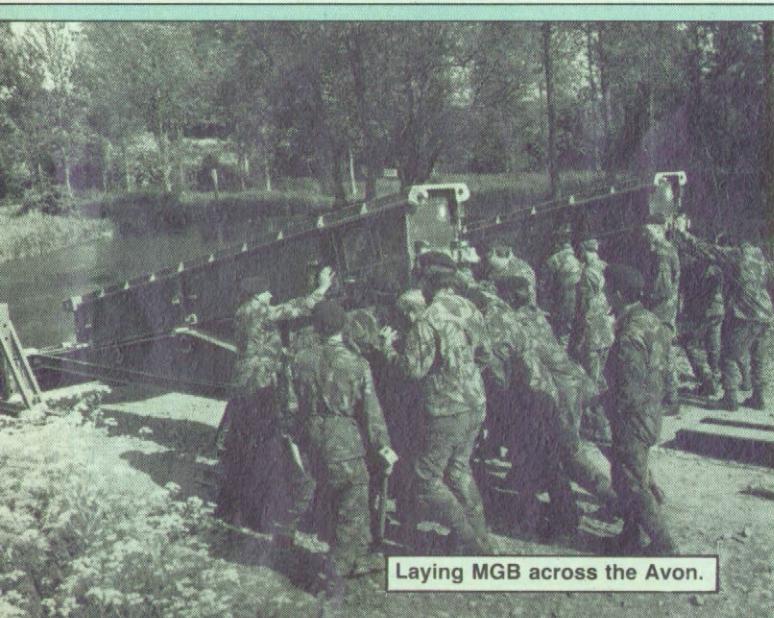


## Welsh TA units take on Falklands veterans in

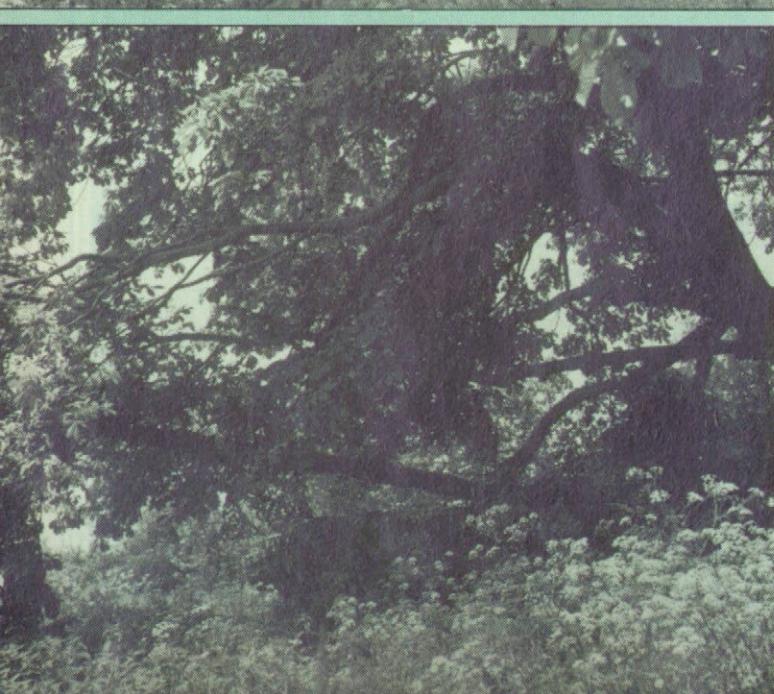
Sgt John Hamblin on A.41 radio. ▲



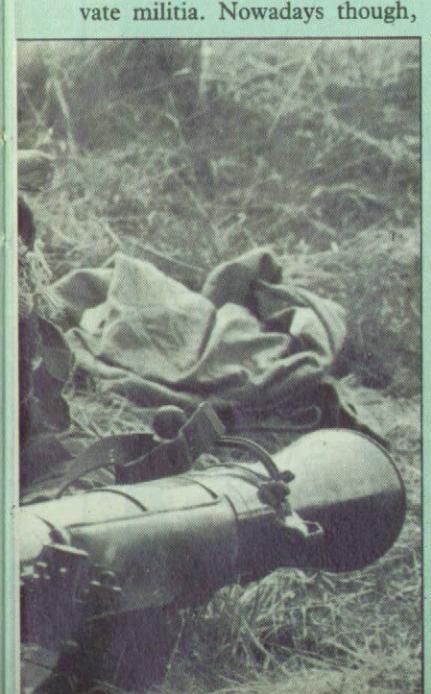
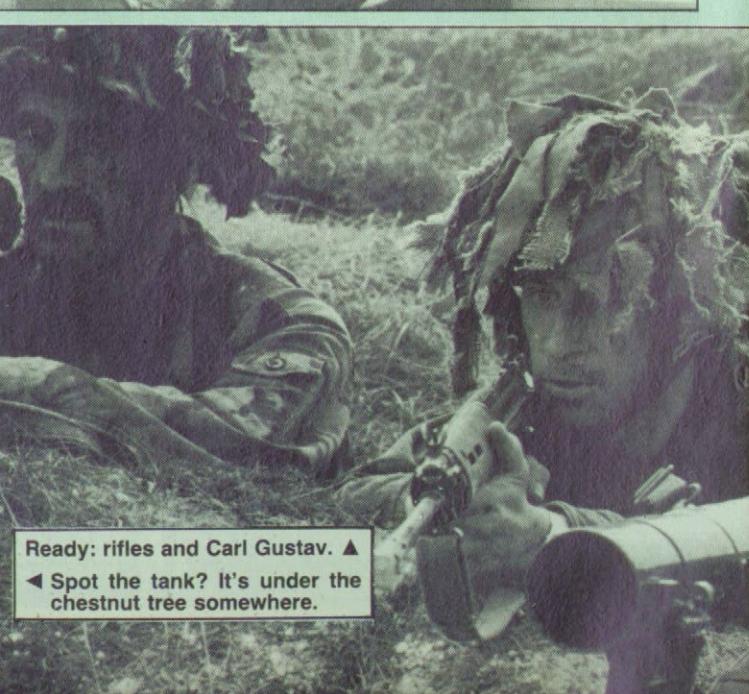
Providing support: American Chinook CH-53



Laying MGB across the Avon.



Ready: rifles and Carl Gustav. ▲  
Spot the tank? It's under the chestnut tree somewhere.



AS THE NATION went to the polling booths nearly 2000 Welsh TA soldiers went on war game manouevres on Salisbury Plain. But none of them missed their chance to vote.

Planned a year ago at HQ Wales in Brecon, the three-day brigade-sized exercise spanned the General Election. But detailed instructions to all the participating units on the Plain made sure that every one had noted the procedures for balloting by post.

Codenamed Dragon Fire, the exercise brought together all three Welsh TA battalions — the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers and the 3rd and 4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales — plus 104 Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery, 157 Transport Regiment, RCT

(Volunteers) and a detachment from 116 Provost Company, Royal Military Police (V).

The part-time soldiers had to face an exercise scenario calling for a para patrol company drop of 80 men from a Hercules and heli-borne attacks elsewhere mounted from Puma battlefield support helicopters. Underslung vehicles were ferried in by tandem-rotored Chinooks.

The enemy — about 300 in number and all regulars — was fielded by Falklands veterans, the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment and the 3rd Battalion, The Light Infantry.

Overhead, a pair of RAF Strike Command Tornado fighters — they cost about £13.4 million each — scuttled across the Wiltshire sky simulating Warsaw

Pact MiG-21 marauders. They swept over trenches in which soldiers squatted with Milan and 84mm Carl Gustav anti-tank weapons.

Beefing up the Welsh defences were nine 56-ton Chieftain tanks and a dozen Scimitar tracked armoured cars from 4th Royal Tank Regiment.

Paradoxically, the enemy recce squadron was provided by the Principality's own cavalry, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards in eight Fox scout cars.

The Welshmen, many of whom had a six-hour road convoy trip from the Stanford training area, fought hard to contain the airborne invasions before making a tactical withdrawal across Britain's most famous training facility within sight of ancient tumuli and barrows.

Two bridges were laid across the languid Avon by 'Terrier' sappers. One of them — a 12-bay Medium Girder Bridge Class 60 which can support a passing Chieftain — was laid in 90 minutes by 25 men from 100 Field Squadron of The Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia).

Sited near a copse and an existing bridge, teams of ten were easily man-handling half-ton sections, just part of the 60 tons of bridging brought to the location by six lorries and their trailers.

As Staff Sergeant Patrick O'Mahoney explained: "The real job satisfaction comes from seeing the bridge used by someone else."

Also involved in the busy exercise play were eight men from the Clifton-based GVA — Gloucestershire Volunteer Artillery — an observer battery reformed about ten years ago and comprising a dozen such OP batteries which will be increased to 16 in 1985.

The 130-strong GVA — motto: *Fides et Audax* — was founded in about 1859 as a private militia. Nowadays though,

like other TA units, it has a BAOR reinforcement role.

While the men laboured on the plain so did the women, too. Girls like Heather Jones from Wrexham of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, who normally drives a 16-ton lorry for a security firm but had donned a different uniform and cam cream for this occasion.

Formerly in the WRAF, and now a regimental policewoman, Heather told SOLDIER: "I love it in the field. You are not just a woman tied to the sink. Out here I do traffic control and I'm doing something the lads are doing.

I've fired the Sterling SMG and the SLR though I'm not a good shot — just average. Last year I went to America for my holidays but Salisbury Plain is my choice this time.

"I came out of the WRAF and joined the TA six months later. I had given myself six months to re-adjust to civvy street and the TA has really helped me.

"I find the lads will help me if I get really stuck on exercise but otherwise they leave me to get on with it. The WRAF tend to be molly-coddled too much. The TA, even for girls, gives you a go at anything — weapon training and digging trenches."

Not far away, the lilting language of the Principality's hills and valleys was being carried over the rolling Wessex Plain by the Welsh-speaking D Company of the same Battalion.

One of their number explained, in all seriousness: "They normally speak Welsh but if you want to talk to them they will speak to you in English."

Watching his men dig in from C Company, 4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, was the battalion's mortar officer, Captain Simon Buckley, the area sales manager of the oldest independent brewery in Wales located in Llanelli.

Captain Buckley, the sixth generation of Army officers from his family since the 1880s but the first in the TA, pointed out that his firm has close Army links too. "The brewery once recruited a whole platoon of 18 men for the TA in the early days," he said.

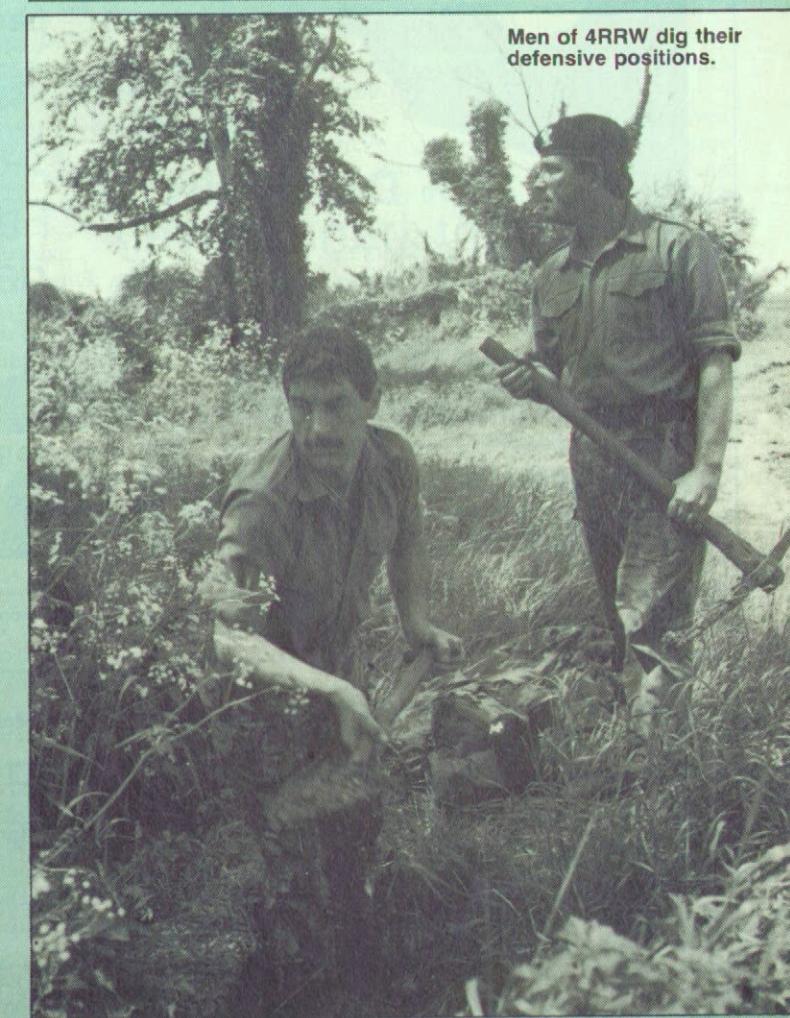
Realistic field exercises are certainly a valuable way to sharpen military skills, particularly for part-time soldiers. Just how valuable was neatly summed up by Sergeant John Hamblin, manning an A.41 VHF radio. A student nurse when out of combat kit and a TA soldier for four years, he said: "The more practical experience we have, the better. With the more practical approach to things like Exercise Dragon Fire we will learn far more than any theory." ■

RAF Tornado simulates MiG-21. ▲ 'Enemy' Fox supplied by 1QDG. ▼



Story: Graham Smith

Pictures: Doug Pratt



Men of 4RRW dig their defensive positions.

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Engineering workers' boss Terry Duffy talks to John Margetts about his days in uniform and how they helped shape his attitudes.

# LEADING THE RANK AND FILE

**U**NION BOSS Terry Duffy had to stop and think for a minute or two when asked to recall the most memorable event in his Army career.

Then, after a long silence, the ex-sergeant said: "I think the singing sessions held by the padres after the battle are the things I remember most.

"We used to stand together, all denominations, and sing our heads off in memory of our pals who had been killed. It was all very moving and very memorable."

The life president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers — the second largest in the country with more than a million members — was talking about life in the Army more than 40 years ago.

In those days he was an acting sergeant in the 2nd/5th Battalion of the Leicester Regiment.

Now, in his top-floor office in the HQ of the AUEW in south London, he represents more than a million engineering workers.

That's a gigantic step for anybody and, as he hurriedly signed a heap of cheques for an aide, he demanded: "Why can't somebody else sign these?"

It was easy to understand his testiness. It was 9am on a Monday and his first day back in the office after a visit to the Auto Workers Union in Dallas, USA.

There was a pile of work waiting for him, with appointments queuing up.

"And you want to know about my life in the Army more than 40 years ago?

"Let me say from the start that a lot of young people could benefit from a spell of British Army discipline. It's the best of its kind in the world," he snapped.

"But while I would like to see more youngsters in the Forces, I don't like compulsion."

"National Service in itself, should it ever come back, means making people do something they might perhaps rather not. I would much rather see the Government of the day persuading youngsters to join the Forces."

Unsurprisingly, because his views are well known, he condemned unilateral disarmament, pointing out that, "if this country stays strong we can prevent bullying. It's bullies who start wars."

A good example of 'bullying' happened in 1939 when the young Duffy was just 17 and itching to "do his bit."

So keen was he to get into 'the mob', that he did the rounds of the recruiting offices of

his home town — Wolverhampton — signing on for the Army, Navy and the RAF all on the same day.

"I wanted to 'get in' and thought that was the best way. Then I sat and waited for my call-up papers to arrive.

"The Army won. If either of the others had arrived first I would have gone to them."

Instead, at the tender age of 17, he found himself in a Boys' Battalion — 70th Battalion the Hampshire Regiment — guarding airfields in southern England.

"The only trouble was that we had no weapons," he recalled. "I remember German planes coming over Southampton and shooting down barrage balloons just as they liked because we had nothing to shoot back at them with."

It is those early experiences which have helped shape his thoughts on home defence and put him at odds with the hierarchy of the Labour Party, of which he is a leading

**'If this country stays strong we can prevent bullying. It's bullies who start wars.'**

light and a life-long member.

Those memories have stuck with Terry Duffy as have those of later, sadder days in the African and Italian campaigns.

"Funny thing the human mind," he said. "It has a tremendous safety valve in that it can forget the bad times, but remember the good times."

"Not that there was much joy in thinking of dead comrades. But we used to come off the line — I was with the Leicesters then — and we used to sing. Hundreds of us would be gathered in a great crowd singing our heads off."

Came the end of the war and with it only one other regret: "The day I was selected to play for the divisional football team my unit was posted to Greece.

"From there the battalion was sent to Austria with the orders; 'take as much territory as you can.' We did."

Listening to him talk it is not difficult to understand his tough attitudes.

He was one of 11 children whose father was gassed, injured and captured in the 1914 conflict and who eventually died at 63 from his war wounds.

His grandfather, too, died in that war as did his great uncle — both on the same day.



And in the 1939-45 war he had four brothers serving in the REME, the Beds and Herts and two in the RAF.

Now all those days are past. But even though they are more than half a lifetime away he can still recall them just as he can his more recent meetings with the Pope and Prince Charles.

"See that?" he said extracting a small cloth pouch from his coat pocket to reveal an exquisitely worked string of rosary beads.

"He gave me that," he said, pointing to a large photograph of the Pope and himself. "As a practising Christian I never go anywhere without these beads."

He waved at another photograph — of Prince Charles and himself chatting.

"He spent the day here at the AUEW. Had a marvellous time. Made him a shop steward. Thought it was great. Super bloke. We and him had a great day."

But while those meetings with the great ones could arguably be considered perks of the presidential role, Terry Duffy is a man who has never forgotten his roots.

And although he had his good and bad times in uniform like everybody else — he remains an Army man through and through.

He even looks the part; neat clipped moustache, direct, no-nonsense manner.

"I've only one complaint about the Army," he said. "Though not bad, the food didn't match up to the American standards."

They had something called K rations. Great stuff compared with ours. But we survived and it was always very welcome. Bet it's a bit different today." ■

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**After 42 years away a famous Canadian unit comes back to the Isle of Wight to link up with their UK counterparts**

## RETURN OF THE RH LI

**T**A ANNUAL CAMP for D Company (Truro) 6th Battalion, The Light Infantry was a bit different this year in several respects. For a start, they teamed up with 36 members of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, a Canadian Militia unit from Ontario.

As a body, the RH LI had not been in the UK since 1941 when they were training in the Isle of Wight in preparation for the Dieppe raids the following summer. This was largely a Canadian operation designed to penetrate Hitler's Fortress Europe which claimed the lives of over half the men who took part. The slaughter is carved on the hearts of the men of today's RH LI which lost all their officers and senior NCOs in the action.

Their association is primarily with the Somerset Light Infantry but when they learnt that the Truro Company was planning to spend a week on the Isle of Wight — their old stamping ground — they decided to stretch a point and come over anyway, each soldier paying his own fare of £250.

**Last leg of the assault course — a 6LI man gets his feet wet.**

It was a great success on both sides, and nobody minded the fact that they had to work extremely hard before they even reached the Newtown Range on the Isle of Wight.

The previous week, 3 and 6 LI were involved in the launch and preparations for the Bath Festival as well as exercising their Freedom of the City.

But in the midst of all the equipment humping and dais building, the RH LI did get a chance to do a bit of sightseeing.

One day was spent 'doing' London, packing in as many sights as they could manage, Buckingham Palace being the favourite.

Before they knew it, though, the two part-time units were off on the ferry to

*continued on page 20*

Canadians on the paddling race, and below, on the assault course.



An RH LI member tries the radio section's Larkspur set.



WRAC part-timer Pte Lyn Rowse takes a class in first aid.



Newtown Range for a week under canvas. To compensate for all the heavy work earlier, the emphasis now was on field skills — orienteering, watermanship, first aid, signals and range work as well as the inevitable assault courses.

No full scale exercise was involved, so to give some purpose to the training, a skills competition was devised. This added a touch of spice, friendly rivalry spurring the teams on and national pride providing an extra element.

At the end of the competition 10 Platoon, D Company, 6 LI came out on top but with C Platoon, A Section, RH LI a close second.

The shooting proved the stumbling block for the Canadians who claimed they had difficulty adjusting to the different modifications on the rifle. Their second-in-command, Captain Dave MacInnes however, took this with a pinch of salt and conceded that the Brits had superior skill.

Honour was preserved later though, with the Canadians excelling at the individual first aid tests.

The paddling competition, in small assault craft provided by the Sappers, provided much sport, not to mention the need for co-ordination. Then, for a bit of light relief, outboards were fitted and the craft taken out to sea to ride the waves. Brits and Canadians alike returned to shore drenched but exhilarated.

The evenings were spent, in part or in whole, at the various hosteries where the

Two of the 6LI go military orienteering in Parkhurst Woods. ▶

Canadians soon acquired a taste for British beer. And to mark the last night in camp there was a barbecue, the guest nation feeling sufficiently 'at home' to stage a few playful skits at the expense of their British hosts.

"It's great that everyone has got on so well together almost from the start," Captain MacInnes told SOLDIER. "But then it's not surprising really as we've got so much in



**Story: Sally Daniell  
Pictures: Les Wiggs**

common. We're all volunteer soldiers and we wouldn't be here if we didn't want to be.

"We've the same likes and dislikes and the soldiers have the same complaints! Different country — same drill. The British have been marvellous hosts — they've really looked after us well."

These sentiments were echoed by everyone SOLDIER talked to even though there were some obvious differences between the two groups. On average the Canadians were a younger lot, many of them students.

This apparently is because the Canadian government does not insist that employers grant their staff any time off for militia activities. As a result, many militia men find themselves unable to fulfil their annual commitment.

So, with a high turnover, promotion is rapid and many of the Canadian NCOs were younger than their British counterparts.

But there was little resentment: "They're a good bunch of lads," said Private Paul Vincent of D Company. "They're a bit tight, though, I've noticed! They're not too quick to put their hands in their pockets in the pub. But then I suppose we are the hosts."

For Corporal Cameron Wyatt, there was no doubt he had done the right thing in forking out £250 to come over. "I figured that this might be the only chance I'll ever get to see some of Britain, how the British train and what is different about their training. Like in first aid, we learn a lot to begin with, including how to deal with second degree chest wounds which they don't."

"The rifle is different too. I am glad we had this competition — it's made it more fun."

At the tail end of the fortnight, as far as the visitors were concerned, one thing was still left undone — a trip to Dieppe to visit the ground where so many of their ancestors fell.

To the British it seemed a tall order to arrange this at such short notice and be back in time for the flight home within 24 hours. But with true pioneering spirit a small group of the RH LI pulled it off as well as making the most of their last night in London. All this and back to work on Monday, too. ■

**The appointment of a new Provost Marshal carries on a tradition stretching back over eight centuries**

# TAKING UP THE SWORD

THE ANCIENT OFFICE of Provost Marshal has just changed hands — continuing a tradition which stretches back over eight centuries of British history.

When Brigadier Brian Thomas (left of picture) received the Provost Marshal's Golden Sword from Brigadier Jack Thomas in a short ceremony at Lansdowne House in London's Berkeley Square, he became the 56th recorded holder of the office since 1511. And the post itself goes back much earlier than that.

Despite the coincidence of names, there is no relationship between the incoming and outgoing Provost Marshals and they are the only Thomases to hold the office.

Brigadier Brian was commissioned into the Royal Army Service Corps in 1950 and was accepted for service with the Royal Military Police in 1952. Since then, with the exception of a two year secondment to the Tanganyika Police Force between 1956 and 1958, he has spent his entire service with the Corps and is the first officer to reach its highest post after service with the Special Investigation Branch, the Army CID.

The outgoing Provost Marshal, Brigadier Jack Thomas, is retiring from the Army after 40 years' service. He joined in 1943, was commissioned in 1945 and served with the Commandos, the Parachute Regiment and the Royal Artillery before transferring to the Royal Military Police in 1958.

The Provost Marshal is the Army's top policeman and is the Commander of the Corps of Royal Military Police.

His title derives from the Latin *propositus*, chief or governor, and dates from the 12th century when the Provost Marshal, under the Earl Marshal, was mainly concerned to check doubtful loyalties and prevent internal quarrels among the barons who supplied the Norman kings with their armies. For this reason his own loyalty had to be beyond doubt and he was appointed



PICTURE: TIMES NEWSPAPERS LTD

personally by the king. To this day the Provost Marshal is appointed by The Queen's prerogative.

The first Provost Marshal whose name is known was Henry Guylford, who served in an expedition against the Moors of Barbary in 1511. He had his hands full for the soldiers "fell to drinking hote wynes and were scarce masters of them selfes. Some ran to the stews, some broke heges, and spoyled orchards . . . and did many other outragious dedes." However Henry with difficulty "by commaundment and police brought them all on borde their shippes."

Grimmer tales are associated with one of his successors, Sir Anthony Kingston, who was appointed in 1549 to deal with West Country rebels. A miller, fearing his reprisals, persuaded a servant to take his place.

"Are you the miller?" asked the Provost Marshal.

"If you please, yes," was the reply.

"Up with him," said Kingston to his assistants. "He is a busy knave, hang him up."

At which point, not surprisingly, the man protested that he was not the miller.

"Then thou art a double false knave," said the Provost Marshal, "to be false in two tales; therefore hang him up."

Later Kingston came to Bodmin where the Mayor had been associated with the rebels but was confident that the influence of friends had set him above reprisals. The Provost Marshal sent the Mayor a notice that he would dine with him, adding that he had a man to hang, too, and a stout gallows should be made ready. The dinner was eaten and the gallows then inspected.

"Think you," said Kingston, "is it stout enough?"

"Yes, sir," replied the Mayor, "it is of a surety."

"Well then," said Kingston, "get you up,

for it is for you."

The ruthless Kingston was succeeded by men of milder temperament but they retained their right of summary punishment, including execution, until the Army Act of 1879 which expressly forbade Provost Marshals from inflicting any punishment on their own authority.

However, their powers had already been reduced during the Peninsular War by the introduction of a new constitution for Courts Martial, bringing them into line with the Rules of Evidence established in civil courts, so that Provost Marshals and their Assistants could only exercise summary justice when they personally saw the offence.

This gave Wellington, with his notoriously ill-disciplined soldiers (" . . . by God, they frighten me") problems which he resolved by considerably increasing his provost establishment.

In 1855 the Provost Marshal, putting forward his recommendation for more men, said he wanted good "policemen", a term then unknown in military circles. Records of the time show increasing numbers of reliable NCOs and men being transferred to the "Military Police".

In 1877 the Military Mounted Police became a distinct Corps, for service at home and abroad, with a muster roll of 75; and the Corps of Military Foot Police came into being in Egypt during the Egyptian War of 1882. By 1885 the (combined) Corps of Military Police numbered 263 NCOs and privates.

Until 1954 the Corps had no regular officers, other than the Provost Marshal and Quartermaster, officers being seconded for service from other regiments.

Today the Royal Corps of Military Police numbers 145 officers and 1983 men serving almost everywhere the Army is represented.

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**MRS PANKHURST** would approve of the Equal Opportunities Commission as it works from its headquarters in Manchester to eradicate inequality. But the Commission has more on its mind than a fair deal for feminism.

Men too are protected from the ravages of unfair anomalies as the members of the Commission — and there are both men and women working for the EOC — do their best to uphold and interpret the 1975 Sex Discrimination Act.

The Commission is paid for by the Government but it is an independent body and can therefore study and criticise laws which are discriminatory and, where necessary, recommend changes.

There are cases of direct and indirect discrimination which can affect groups or individuals and the EOC helps to unravel each case on its individual merits. The 1975 Act made it illegal to discriminate in education, training, grants, recruiting advertisements, getting a mortgage and buying on credit. But it still goes on, as does discrimination in less blatant form such as in promotion prospects or pay packets.

The Commission does much work towards pointing out the anomalies in the field of Social Security. It has published a work entitled *Parenthood in the Balance* which looks at some of the major social problems in our society. It helped in the preparation of the Nationality Bill, drawing attention to the many small groups of people whose circumstances needed to be considered, and it is now looking at the Manpower Services Commission's policy on adult training.

The demands on the Commission have led to the establishment of a large research centre, library and publications department which offer extensive reference facilities. Their *Fresh Start* booklet which comes with visual aids is particularly interesting for Service families and is available, free, from the Equal Opportunities Commission, Overseas House, Quay Street, Manchester M3 3HN Tel: 061 833 9244.

Anne Armstrong

THE BRITISH ARMY today is a volunteer army in just about every sense of the word. There are legions of caring people who are involved with the welfare, the improvement of facilities and services, the leisure and the morale of the soldiers and their families and who offer their time and energy without expecting, or indeed receiving, any payment.

Often, sadly, their hard work and dedication is wasted as schemes and ideas get little or no financial support. Even though the overheads are being kept to the absolute minimum there is still not enough money to go round.

But there is money available. The Consortium on Opportunities for Volunteering reported a grant of three quarters of a million pounds for voluntary and community groups in 1983, there are hosts of other Government grants, assistance can be obtained from national organisations who dispense money to help with voluntary projects, and there is even the EEC Social Fund with money to distribute for volunteer projects.

The Americans have coined the term 'volunteerism' to describe the growing trend towards community and social welfare work as people adapt to the needs and demands of a rapidly changing society. It is becoming something of a growth industry with more and more projects applying for a share of the funds available.

So why are Service volunteers still struggling bravely on without the benefit of these grants and funds? The answer I believe owes a lot to the accepted myth that we can look after our own and that we do not need help from outside.

The consequences of this belief are disastrous. The Services do not belong to any of the va-

rious Government sponsored organisations or national charities, we are not on mailing lists and Service families are not generally represented on the membership lists of family or youth bodies.

We are, in short, not known to need this kind of financial assistance and therefore we do not

for further aid and, in some cases, are given a social budget to administer within their own organisation as they see fit. We have no such budget to help fill the gap in our social provision at home or overseas but such a provision would be invaluable for funding those overseas projects which might not fall within the aid regulations from specific charitable sources.

We are in special circumstances and need to take every opportunity to help our volunteers by exploring every possible avenue for aid and joining the various organisations that can help them help us.

For the beginner, even filling in the forms for a grant can be a problem. Applying for grant aid has become a very technical business. Your application may well be one of hundreds asking for grants of amounts from under £100 to well over £1000.

There is usually a strict time limit and the application must be right first time, particularly if you are approaching funds like the EEC Social Fund or Urban Aid. Many organisations do, however, offer information sheets, guidelines and sometimes even an expert to help the uninitiated through the procedures. So that need not be an insurmountable obstacle.

Our volunteers deserve the best support we can give them. It is time that the Services recognised the need for and the availability of funds from outside to improve the quality of life for our families.

## STOP PRESS

HONESS LTD of Portsmouth has gone into liquidation and their business has been taken over by Gauntlett International Removers of Chichester.

During the period prior to the collapse of Honess Ltd much of the contents of their stores was removed into the open where some items suffered damage that is not covered by the Honess or Gauntlett insurance policies.

Anyone who had furniture in store with Honess Ltd should contact the Gauntlett representative, Mr Jeffreys, at Gauntlett International Removers, Chichester, Tel: (0243) 780762/780341.

Servicemen whose presence is essential to identify furniture have been authorised to travel at public expense. Further information and terms of reference can be obtained from unit pay offices.

## DID YOU KNOW?

SERVICE PERSONNEL in BAOR and their officially recognised dependants, travelling on a properly authorised leave journey, may use civilian medical facilities at MOD expense provided that a medical emergency situation exists and Service medical facilities are not readily available. The facilities used must also lie within local leave travel limits.

If your trip is a duty one, you should, if possible, use British or other Nato Forces' medical facilities although, in an emergency, the nearest civilian facility may be used. You should either pay the bill and get a receipt to reclaim it later through your unit or ask them to send the bill direct to your unit.

Weekend shopping trips or casual journeys into countries other than those in which you are serving do not qualify for entitlement to civilian medical facilities at MOD expense, so make sure you are insured for any emergency. Don't forget the E111 is free from the DHSS. Your Forces Post Office will have full details. Alternatively you should take out private medical insurance.

# BRITAIN'S FORGOTTEN ARMY IN ANTWERP

THEY CALL THEMSELVES 'Britain's Forgotten Army', a title that is as apt as the official interpretation of the initials BFA, British Forces Antwerp.

Although thousands of Servicemen and their families drive past their homes en route to and from the UK, few even know they are there much less give a thought to life as a Service family in Belgium.

"Emblem? I had never heard of the place, but once we had arrived and settled in we liked it," admitted Colonel Jackson, the Station Staff Officer. He explained that the families live in 165 quarters and hirings in and around the town of Emblem.

"We live as Belgians, have Belgian ID cards, cars, TV and radio licences, not to mention paying the bicycle tax. We are part of the Belgian scene."

Most of the small contingent in Antwerp are happy to pay their 280 Belgian Francs to use the excellent squash, tennis and swimming facilities at the local club. But the Naafi and the community centre at Wolfstee camp some 10 miles from the quarters is the station's focal point in spite of the transport problems that wives who do not drive have to solve.

Easter Bonnets at a wives' club evening earlier this year. The station has a flourishing community life.

There are extensions planned for the Naafi, a library staffed by volunteers Yvonne and Joan Jackson, a thrift and coffee shop, flower club, keep fit classes and language classes, with a proposed new bookshop opening later this year.

The centre is very important to the families and they cheerfully accept shortages in the Naafi caused by a two-week delivery cycle in return for the friendly service from Belgian staff and the chance at least to buy a few British essentials. These can be a lifeline when you are relatively isolated in a Belgian community.

Diana Moore spoke for many wives when she described her move to Belgium: "A posting to Antwerp for the families is very different, totally different from anywhere I have been before."

Service families on a Belgian posting are not allowed to shop in Naafis in Germany and many therefore shop on the Belgian economy for everyday essentials. Diana is mastering the Flemish tongue with two hours of lessons each week. "It does help with shopping and getting around!"

It may be a mere hour-and-a-half to Ostende and the Channel but home seems a long way off



Diana Moore and Carol Swift speaking to Bill Bricken on SCR Radio Hilversum as it linked with BFBS London for the first time.

with no BFBS TV or radio even, only 18 hours' worth of English broadcasts on Belgian TV per week and few chances to find a job.

In the absence of these British links that go with most Germany postings, the Antwerp families make their own entertainment and there is a flourishing wives' club. There are coffee mornings, bring-and-buy sales, fund raising projects, Brownies and trips as far afield as Paris and the Diamond Centre. There are helpful reminders about local events and places to visit around the area and most families make the most of their unusual posting.

It is an expensive posting too, in spite of a recent LOA increase, and some families with one or more unemployed school

leavers find it a struggle to make ends meet. There are charges for the connection and rental of Belgian cable TV of around £100 a year, high car insurance rates, a yearly renewal cost of £11 for car number plates and no Mervehrsteuer (VAT) tax refunds as there are in BFG.

There are no official charter flights and, because Belgium is much smaller than Germany, the motor mileage allowance of up to 50 miles over the border does not go nearly as far. The nearest hospital is at Wegberg, some two hours drive away but a dentist does visit three days a month and there is now a Ssafa sister.

Jobs for wives and school leavers are almost impossible to find because of the strict Belgian employment rules. Even Naafi staff must be locally employed civilians and many wives find it hard to adjust to the situation. Anomalies over DHSS unemployment and supplementary benefit payments make their position worse.

The youngsters have the opportunity to join the Belgian Youth Opportunities Scheme but the BFG one is not open to them.

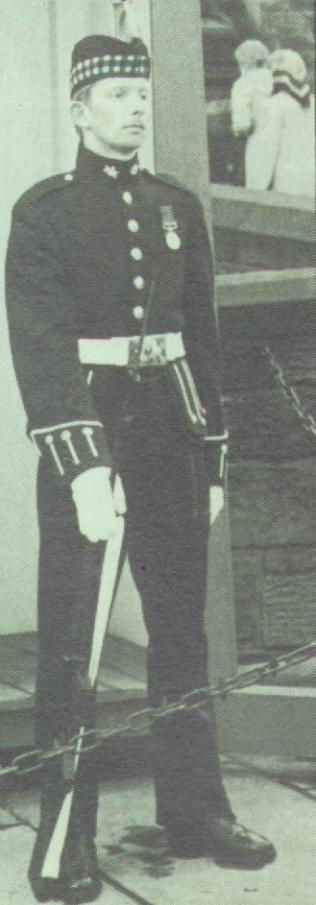
The British children are as integrated as their parents with the local community and many of them attend the local Flemish kindergarten. There are ten children at the kindergarten near Emblem including Carol Swift's youngest who already speaks the language after a year at the school. Carol helps voluntarily at the kindergarten and is pleased with the set-up.

As with any posting, there are the good and the bad sides to life with the 'Forgotten Army' and some enjoy it so much they have been known to put in for extensions to their tours . . . ■



# RIGHT OF THE LINE, HEAD OF THE LIST

**The Queen's review of The Royal Scots on 30 June will be the high point of the regiment's 350th year. But, as Graham Smith reports, 1983 is a year full of highlights for the men proud to be ...**



**T**HE ROYAL SCOTS (The Royal Regiment), the oldest regular unit in the British Army, is celebrating its 350th anniversary this year; a year encompassing a varied programme of events including freedom marches, a special stamp issue, church parades and commemorative medal presentations.

And, crowning the year — on 30 June — the Queen will review the regiment — the senior regiment of Infantry of the Line — at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh. It will be an occasion marked by the *feu de joie* — three 192-shot rippling rifle fusillades, each lasting three seconds.

The 706-strong regiment — including 28 bandsmen — which recruits within a 50-mile radius of Edinburgh and which was once mockingly referred to by the French as 'Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard' celebrated its

◀ On guard at Edinburgh Castle. Practising for the *feu de joie*. ▼

BERLIN'S REICHSTAG was the setting for the presentation of two of The Royal Scots' medallions to the only serving members of the Regiment stationed in the city.

On the left is Colour Sergeant Robert Lawson and, on his left, WO1 James Robertson, who both work for the Berlin Garrison Administration Unit (BGAU).

The pair are brothers-in-law having married Berlin sisters when serving with the regiment in the city in the mid-1950s.

Presenting the medallions here is Lieutenant-Colonel Roger Rodick, CO BGAU.



actual foundation day on March 28.

Not long back from a seventh tour of Northern Ireland it is currently based at Ritchie Camp — a camp with no parade square but a deserted airfield for square-bashing — at Kirknewton, 11 miles from Edinburgh. Next year, its men are bound for the Falklands.

Some of their commitments in recent years have involved them with AMF (L) with detachments to Norway on the northern flank and Greece, on the southern, and the task as Nuclear Escort Battalion. At the moment they are engaged on a mix of public duties at Edinburgh Castle and normal infantry training at places such as Otterburn Ranges in Northumberland.

It is a far cry from 1633 when a 1200-strong force of Scotsmen was raised on the signing of a warrant by King Charles I, loaning them for service with Louis XIII of France.

It was there the Gallic sneer of 'Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard' first came to light in 1643.

The story goes that Le Régiment de Picardie claimed to be the more senior of the two regiments. The Scots differed. They already held their position as 'The Right of the Line'.

The French jibe, however, came at a time when one of their soldiers was court martialled for sleeping on duty.

It was a golden opportunity for instant repose and the version persists that one Jock said: "If we had been Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard then, at least, no-one would have got away with Christ's body from the tomb!"

Since 1633 the regiment has been in continuous existence and when the seniority of regiments was first formally listed in 1751 they took up the title of 'The 1st or The Royal Regiment of Foot'.

Among the regiment's 147 battle honours — from Tangier in 1860 through to the Second World War — have been those of Blenheim, Corunna, Waterloo, Sevastopol,

Pipes and Drums tune up for the big day. ▼

the Somme, Gallipoli, the Rhine and Kohima.

The Royal Scots have won seven VCs — six in the First World War and one in the Crimea — and a George Cross in the Second World War.

A century before, they were the first unit to cross from Spain into France in pursuit of Napoleon's armies after the Peninsular War.

When more than 11,000 of its officers and men were killed in action, the regiment had 35 battalions. Now it has only one. During the last war, the regular battalions were engaged in Dunkirk, Hong Kong, Burma and Italy. The two TA battalions, the 7th/9th Highlanders Battalion — Edinburgh's famous 'Dandy Ninth' — and the 8th Battalion from the Lothians and Peeblesshire took part in the operations to liberate north-west Europe.

The Royal Scots are also allied to two Canadian regiments — The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) and The Royal Newfoundland Regiment. They are also affiliated to the 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles, recently arrived in this country and an integral part of 5 Infantry Brigade.

Celebrations for the 350th anniversary got under way in London and Edinburgh in March with a private reception for past and present members of the regiment and the viewing of the actual warrant signed by Charles I.

British Rail took 150 members of the regiment on the 0900 Inter-City train — aptly named 'The Right of the Line' for the day — from Edinburgh to Kings Cross.

Pikemen in uniforms circa 1633 and the 1st Battalion's Pipes and Drums were on hand as Lieutenant-General Sir David Young, a former Colonel of the Regiment, blew the whistle to send the train on its way south. Last month saw another railway happening with the unveiling of the regimental badge on the BR loco, The Royal Scot.

By the end of July the regiment will have



Pte Byers — ready to fire first shot.

taken part in Freedom Marches through five towns — Musselburgh, Haddington, Peebles, Linlithgow and Penicuik — with "drums beating, colours flying and bayonets fixed." Earlier this month, the regimental band participated in the Riding of the Marches at Livingston.

Since then, 1025 commemorative medallions have been presented, together with 2000 muster rolls listing all serving members as at March 28.

Other commemorative events have included the planting of a Norway Maple and a Golden Cypress near Edinburgh's Royal Scots Monument, the adoption of The Canongate Kirk as the regimental church

*continued on page 26*

Colour party at rehearsal — the Colours blanketed to protect them from the rain. ▼





The 350th anniversary medallion.



Admiring the silver in the museum.

continued from page 25



COLONEL DUNCAN EYKYN of The Royal Scots was the first choice to find the winner of a competition for a special commemorative whisky blended and bottled by Glasgow distillers Whyte & Mackay.

He chose the title 'First Choice' and, as part of their 350th anniversary year gift, the firm delivered 360 cases of Scotland's finest drink.

First Choice was distributed to past and present members of The Royal Scots and its affiliated regiments — ten cases going overseas to the Vancouver Island-based Canadian Scottish Regiment.

and a special dance, The Reel of The Royal Scots, composed by Pipe-Major Charles Clark for public approbation.

One young man with an onerous duty to perform at The Royal Review at Holyroodhouse will be Private Ricky Byers, 19, of 'A' Company. He will be the first man to fire during the three-second ripple of the *feu de joie* — a spectacular producing 576 shoulder-borne shots with each fusillade separated by six bars of the national anthem.

The six-foot-four Private Byers, three years with the regiment, was confident everything would go off with a precise bang following his lead on the great day.

Edinburgh will feature prominently in the next two months of celebrations. The regiment will march along its famed Princes Street with the salute taken from The Royal Scottish Academy by the Lord Provost and there will be a service of re-dedication at The Royal Scots Monument. The city will display the Royal Scots motif on The Mound. And The Royal Scots Regimental Association will make an outing to the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, an event with which the regiment is heavily involved.

Finally, in November, a representative party from the 1st Battalion along with the Pipes and Drums and dancers from The Royal Scots will take part in the Albert Hall Festival of Remembrance, and the 350th anniversary celebrations will end with Remembrance Day Services at Edinburgh and Glencorse.

Unlike many other regiments, The Royal Scots has been able to keep its individual identity and, in a special order of the day, their colonel, Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Richardson, says: "Today we stand at the head of the Infantry of the Line as one of the very few regiments that has never been amalgamated. We have suffered many blows but the regimental spirit is as high as it has ever been." ■



Changing the Castle guard — always a popular tourist attraction.

**Pictures: Paul Haley**



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16



17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46

## THE ROYAL SCOTS

(THE ROYAL REGIMENT)

350 YEARS SERVICE — 1633 to 1983



47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60



61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76

1 Pikeman 1633  
 2 Musketeer 1645  
 3 Drummer 1645  
 4 Pikeman 1660  
 5 Musketeer 1680  
 6 Grenadier 1685  
 7 Officer 1710  
 8 Grenadier 1720  
 9 Officer 1730  
 10 Private 1745  
 11 Fifer 1760  
 12 Private 1790  
 13 Officer 1800  
 14 Sergeant 1810  
 15 Private Marching Order 1815  
 16 Drummer Full Dress 1825  
 17 Private Undress Shell 1830  
 18 Officer Undress Frock 1830  
 19 Private (Grenadier Company) Marching Order 1840  
 20 Private Marching Order 1843  
 21 Officer (Light Company) Full Dress 1845  
 22 Private Undress Shell 1845  
 23 Officer Undress Frock 1845  
 24 Bandsman Review Order 1850  
 25 Private Marching Order Crimea 1854  
 26 Field Officer Full Dress 1854  
 27 Private Winter Marching Order 1856  
 28 Officer Full Dress 1856  
 29 Private Marching Order 1865  
 30 Pioneer Marching Order 1868  
 31 Officer Patrol Frock 1870  
 32 Drum Major Review Order 1872  
 33 Private Fatigues 1874  
 34 Field Officer Review Order 1874  
 35 Corporal Marching Order 1876  
 36 Bugler Review Order 1876  
 37 Private Drill Order 1878  
 38 Private Walking Out Dress 1880  
 39 Bandsman Review Order 1880  
 40 Private Guard Order 1881  
 41 Officer Patrol Frock 1881  
 42 Sergeant Drill Order 1882  
 43 Private Mounted Infantry Service Dress 1885  
 44 Piper Undress 1889  
 45 Private Marching Order 1891  
 46 Sergeant Major Drill Order 1895  
 47 Officer  
 48 Colour Sergeant } Colour Party 1895  
 49 Officer  
 50 Colour Sergeant }  
 51 Officer Undress Red Serge 1897  
 52 Officer Field Service Order (South Africa) 1899  
 53 Officer Field Service Order (South Africa) 1900  
 54 Officer Undress Frock 1902  
 55 Drummer Review Order 1903  
 56 Private Service Dress Marching Order 1903  
 57 Officer Service Dress 1910  
 58 Officer Review Order 1910  
 59 Private Marching Order India Hot Weather 1912  
 60 Corporal Field Service Marching Order 1915  
 61 Officer Service Dress Marching Order 1916  
 62 Private Service Dress (Lewis Gunner) 1917  
 63 Field Officer Service Dress (Mounted) 1918  
 64 Private Service Dress Ceremonial 1925  
 65 Piper Full Dress 1930  
 66 Officer Patrol Jumper 1937  
 67 Private Battle Order France 1940  
 68 Private Battle Order Italy 1944  
 69 Officer Battle Order Burma 1944  
 70 Sergeant Battle Dress with Trousers 1950  
 71 Officer No 2 Dress (Ceremonial) 1960  
 72 Private Battle Order Aden 1964  
 73 Drum Major No 1 Dress 1970  
 74 Private Internal Security Duties 1971  
 75 Private Winter Warmer 1974  
 76 Private No 2 Dress (Ceremonial) 1983



## *The British Army*

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This is the army these new stamps salute – in five of its most distinguished regiments.



**The Royal Scots**, senior of the Line infantry regiments and nicknamed, because of its fabled antiquity, "Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard," was raised in 1633. After the Restoration of King Charles II, it took its place as the 1st, or Royal, Regiment of Foot.

It was an anti-cavalry force, consisting of pikemen and musketeers. The pikemen wore rudimentary armour and carried a fifteen or eighteen foot pike and a short sword. Their role was to protect the musketeers from being trampled by advancing cavalry during the lengthy process of loading, firing and reloading their cumbersome matchlock muskets.

In the period shown in the stamp, the Regiment was generally in the Service of France, Scottish soldiers having formed a martial backbone to the 'auld alliance' since the thirteenth century.



**The Royal Welch Fusiliers**, senior infantry regiment of Wales, was raised in 1689 and adopted the title, uniform and weapons of Fusiliers in 1702. Their weapon, the fusil, was a light flintlock musket with a smaller bore than the matchlock then in general use. Part of their uniform was a tall cap, like a Grenadier's. This was partly to enhance their stature and bearing, but also to make it easier for the fusilier to sling his fusil on his back.

Today, fusiliers still wear distinctive uniforms, the particular distinction of the Royal Welch being the 'flash' of black ribbons at the back of the tunic collar. This recalls the ribbons used to tie the plait of long hair worn by soldiers and to decorate officers' wigs.



**The Royal Green Jackets** inherit a great tradition: the capacity of the British Army to adopt new, more efficient techniques of warfare. Key to the change in this case was the development of the rifle. With its range, its accuracy, and its rapid delivery of fire it was too deadly to be ignored.

The stamp shows uniforms of one of the Regiment's ancestors - the Experimental Corps of Riflemen, formed in 1800. Dressed in dark green for concealment, and armed with Baker rifles, they soon attracted recruits and taught them marksmanship and swift movement. With a sword-bayonet as their sidearm, their quick marching-pace and the practice of giving commands in action by bugle-call rather than by drum-beat, they soon established a tradition for hard-hitting effectiveness which strongly survives to this day.



**Irish Guards** - formed by Queen Victoria in 1900, in recognition of exemplary service in South Africa by eight regiments of Irish Line Infantry. As the fourth Regiment of Foot Guards, they have a cap badge which recalls the Star of the Order of St. Patrick, with plumes in their bearskins of St. Patrick's blue. A section of the newly formed regiment returned to South Africa in October 1901, dressed in khaki uniforms, with slouch hats and ammunition bandoliers, and armed with Lee Enfield magazine rifles.

Eric Stemp, designer of the series, lectures at St. Martin's School of Art and is a specialist in period costume illustration.



**The Parachute Regiment** - the 'Paras' of Falkland Islands fame, and the 'maroon machine' of the recent BBC tv series - are amongst the most formidable fighting men the British Army has ever put into the field. The Regiment began life in 1940 as No. 2 Commando, at the personal order of Winston Churchill. Routine training provides for parachute jumps from as little as 300 feet in emergency.

The stamp shows paratroopers dressed for combat in their 'Disruptive Pattern Material' anorak, with light-weight olive green trousers, armed with the General Purpose Machine Gun or self-loading rifle. Headgear is the steel helmet or red beret.

Honouring as they do the Scots, the Welsh, the English and the Irish as well as a truly British Regiment, these stamps will be important possessions for anyone with an interest in military history, in costume, in philately - or simply in owning (or giving as presents) examples of fine British printing and design.

You can buy them from 6th July at any post office; or order them here and now, using the address in this advertisement or the order form below.

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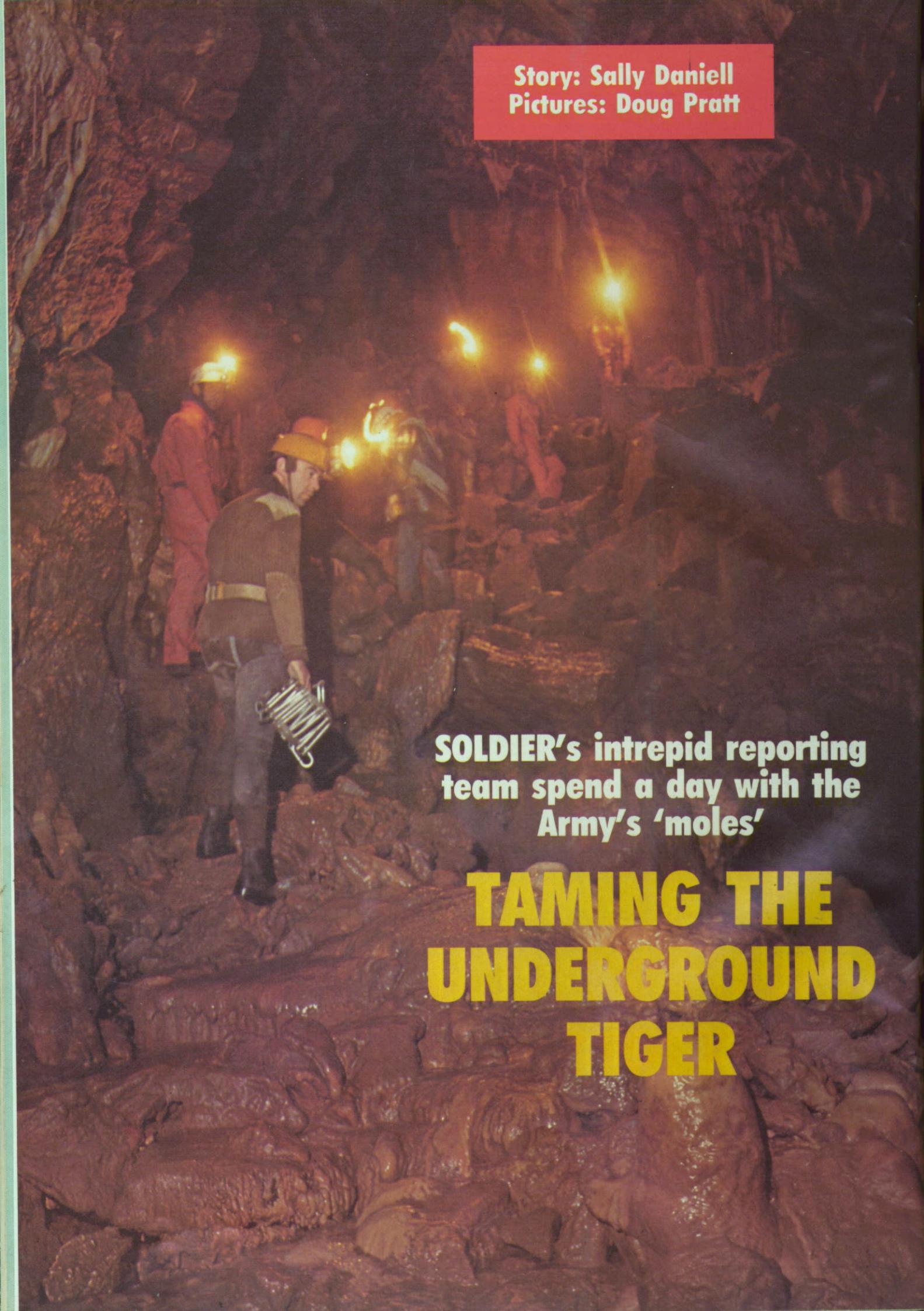
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**Story: Sally Daniell**  
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**SOLDIER's intrepid reporting team spend a day with the Army's 'moles'**

# **TAMING THE UNDERGROUND TIGER**



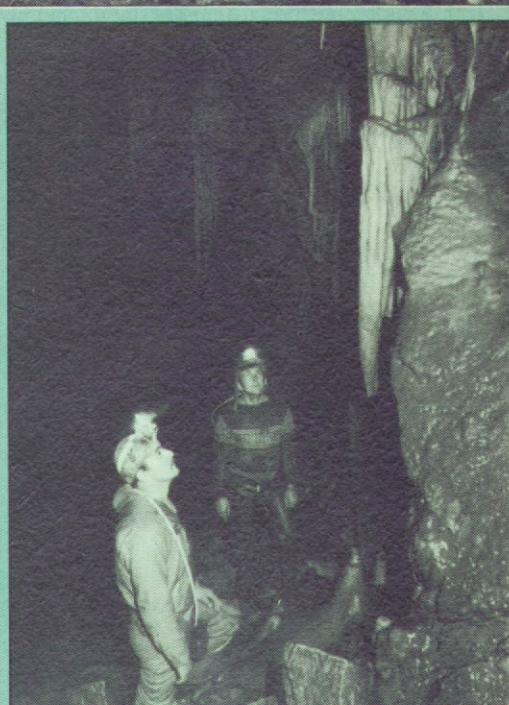
**W**HAT MAKES anyone crawl and haul himself through eighteen inch gaps under the earth's surface, scraping the skin off his hands and risking injury to life and limb?

When this question was put to members of the Army Caving Association (ACA) recently, they shrugged their shoulders in a gesture of *je ne sais quoi*. If fact, they were surprised the question needed to be asked at all.

This was a group of cavers with fifty or sixty caving years between them and when you have been going underground that long, you tend to forget what attracted you down there in the first place. It is now a way of life for these middle-earthmen, who spend a large part of their own time — and quite a bit of the Army's as well — both practising in the well known cave systems and exploring new frontiers, boldly going where no man has gone before.

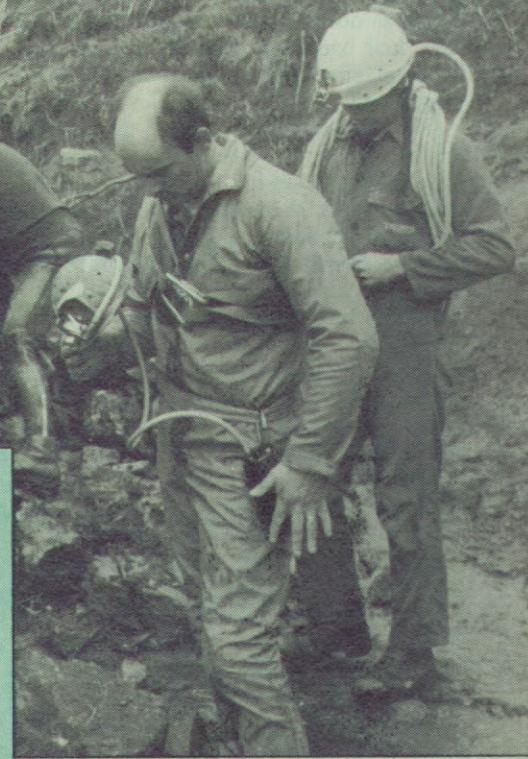
On a regular basis, the ACA, now ten years old and boasting about 100 members, meets in force once a quarter at one of the UK's three main caving areas — the Men-

► ACA members climbing up the side of the central chamber.



dips, South Wales and the Dales of Yorkshire. On this occasion the area round Wookey Hole near Wells was selected for SOLDIER's initiation to the delights and mystique of the subterranean.

Kitted out in wet suits, mountaineering boots, helmets and headlamps and carrying various equipment and ropes, the group met at Priddy, the centre of the ACA universe, before entering a Class II cave. All previously explored caves are classified in terms of difficulty from I to V, the last being the most difficult, or to an experienced man —



Checking equipment before entering cave. ▲

► Admiring the age-old stalactites; (remember 'titles' come down!)

like our team leader Sergeant Ian James — "something with a bit of meat in it!"

Hardly were we inside than we had to drop to our knees through a shallow passage. Immediately, the need for the helmets became apparent as our heads ricocheted off the sides. Another few yards and we negotiated a fault less than a foot-and-a-half wide, turning sideways to avoid getting our shoulders stuck.

But worse was to come. Slithering on our bellies like snakes, we hauled ourselves, albeit only a few feet, through a narrow water-filled gap before the passage opened out into a huge chamber.

Here the sight of the stalactites, stalagmites and the prehistoric flowstone made all the wriggling and writhing worthwhile. The light from our headlamps threw the age-old shapes into sharp relief giving the cavern an eerie atmosphere reminiscent of sci-fi movies.

continued on page 32

Having a breather half way down. ▼



Despite its magnificence, the cave was raped and our being there was somehow an invasion. Years of souvenir-seeking cavers had interrupted the slow growth of the stalactites by breaking them off to take home as decoration for their mantelpieces, and their boots had deducted thousands of years of growth from the stalagmites in a single step.

Not all cavers are so careless though, and in fact the serious ones are certainly not. The ACA believes itself to be a responsible organisation with members too much in awe of the natural beauty of caves to inflict wilful damage. For them, it is enough simply to be there and gaze at the splendour. And here we come back to the question — why do they do it?

Sergeant James said for him "it is the challenge of the unknown, getting if possible down to the bottom of the cave and there the helmet lamps light everything up so beautifully. It's incredible! The dangers underground are immense — like a tiger just waiting to jump out at you if you take one false step. But there's nothing like getting the old adrenalin going!"

Caving accidents do happen of course, but Sergeant James believes the media is responsible for blowing them up out of proportion and in some cases hindering the rescue operation.

Speaking on behalf of the ACA, Sergeant James said that an experienced caver will know what dangers to expect and detect the warning signs both above and below ground. For instance, heavy rain is likely to affect the water level in the caves and so increase the risk of flooding.

Flooding and falls are the commonest cause of accidents but mostly they can be avoided by taking adequate safety precautions. Indeed the role of the ACA, according to its chairman, is to "promote caving within the Army in an orderly and controlled fashion."

Caving is a bug. If you are interested enough to try it in the first place and you like it, you will probably find you want to go on and do more, working your way up to the difficult systems and breaking new ground.

Just last year there was an ACA expedition to the Canadian Rockies (yes, caving, not mountaineering) where a team of eleven penetrated the depths of the earth to more than 1700ft.

Their aim was to reach the bottom of Arctomys, the deepest cave in North America. Imagine their frustration when they saw the bottom sixty feet below a sheer drop — and they only had a thirty foot rope!

This year Sergeant James and Major Jack Sheldon are going to recce Le Gouffre near Grenoble in France. Next year they aim to take a bigger expedition made up of cavers at all levels of experience, including novices.

Through the ACA everyone is encouraged to have a go, even those who have never been underground before. Similarly the Association will welcome all new members whether Army, Air Force, Navy, ex-Service, TA or civilian.

There's an informal group with no concern for rank which runs on a first name basis only. "Either you are a caver or you're not," explained Sergeant James, "and if you are then you're one of us, it doesn't matter what rank you are. It's a great social club — we all have a common interest and we're a very solid team.

"That's true of most caving clubs really. Cavers are a breed apart. I go mountaineering as well but the atmosphere amongst mountaineers is totally different.

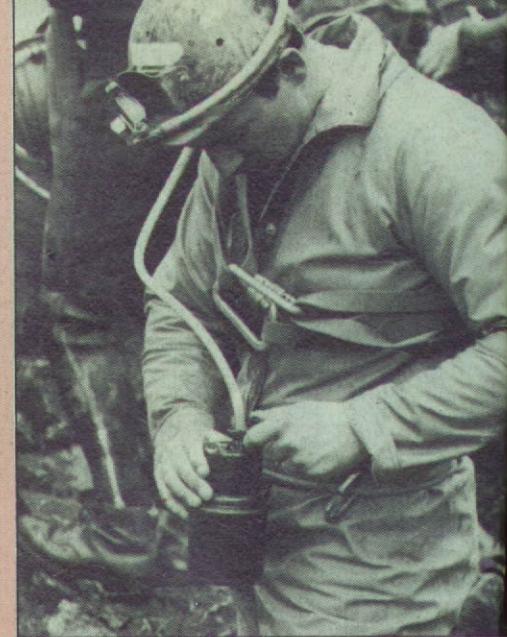
"You'll find in a mountaineers' pub there are separate little groups in the bar trying to impress each other with what they've done. But in a cavers' pub somebody starts talking and everyone else is interested. The same underground. We share our experiences and try and help each other as much as we can."

Despite the terrible effort, the slight queasy feeling of being below the earth's surface, and the aching limbs the next day, SOLDIER did just begin to sense the exhilaration of caving; to be honest, not enough to do it again, but anyone even vaguely interested should not be discouraged.

Those brave souls should contact the ACA Chairman, Major David Wright on London District 2432 or, if in BAOR, Major Jack Sheldon on Rhine Army 5426.

Good luck, moles, and happy caving! ■

**Dirty and wet — but still smiling after their subterranean trek. ▼**

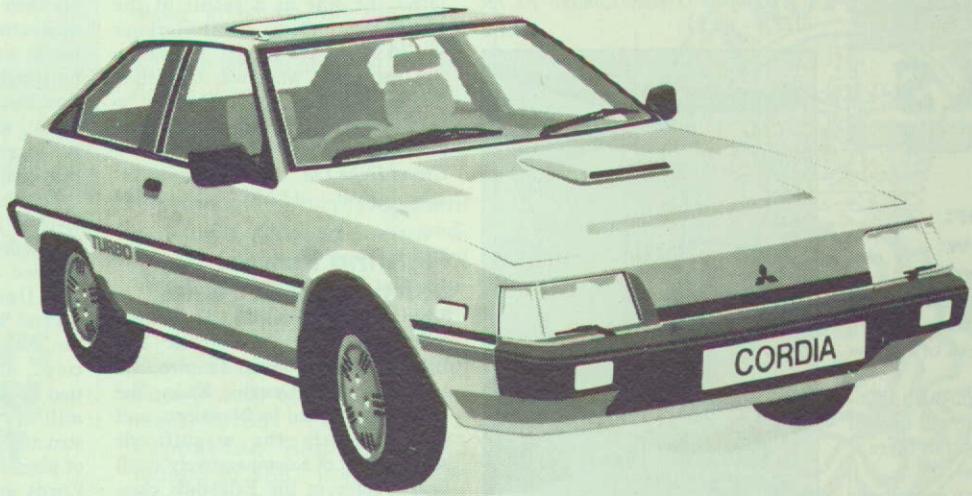


Sgt Ian James, makes sure he has enough paraffin for his lamp. ▲



Inspecting cave walls for fossils.





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# BOOKS

## The Footsoldier: Martin Windrow and Richard Hook

This is one of a series entitled *Rebuilding the Past*, designed to bring to life the people and places of bygone ages.

With its big pages and lush illustrations, it is a book that will fit well on the children's shelves, but there is a bit more to it than that.

The authors tell a story each about a dozen footsoldiers, from a militia man of ancient Greece to a corporal of the United States Army in 1944. There is an additional chapter on patriots and mercenaries of the 15th and 16th centuries, and another on infantrymen of today.

There is good reading on the way of life of these soldiers, and some interesting material on tactics, but perhaps the book's most enduring value lies in the illustrations with detailed captions about the uniforms and equipment of the subjects. Most useful, say, if you are reading about World War One and trying to picture just what an infantryman looked like as he went into battle.

Oxford University Press, Walton St., Oxford OX2 6DP — £4.95 RLE

## Three Cheers for the Next Man to Die: Dudley Anderson

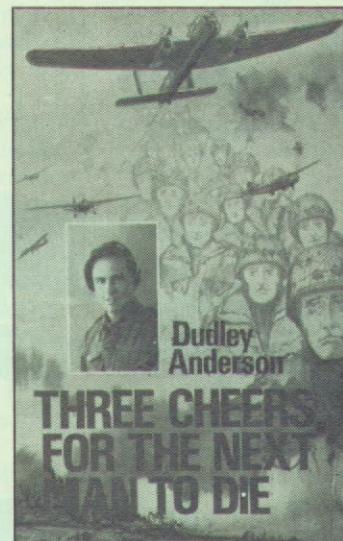
At 18 it was months of weapon and flying training and as a 19-year-old conscript he was fighting with the Red Devils in France and Germany. Now living in Essex, Dudley Anderson served with the Red Devils, the 12th Battalion the Devonshire Regiment who were in the 6th Air Landing Brigade of the 6th Airborne Division. He took part in three major operations in World War Two — the Normandy Landings, the Ardennes and the Rhine Crossing — and in this most readable book he tells in a straightforward, unvarnished way of his experiences and how he felt as a Red Devil in training and in action as a member of 'D' Company of a Glider Battalion.

The story begins with the shaping of 'D' Company from a bunch of raw recruits into a formidable fighting unit and follows its progress from D-Day to the end of hostilities. Their casualties were heavy and although wounded in the early stages of the Normandy landings and hospitalised in England, the author volunteered again, this time only to end up being taken prisoner. After a particularly daring, one could say cheeky, escape with three other PoWs, all of them completely unarmed, he successfully captured two German villages.

Dedicated to the "boys of 'D' Company who didn't come back" this book makes strangely compulsive reading with its straight from the shoulder account of a young soldier's

experiences in training, in battle and in hospital.

Robert Hale Ltd., Clerkenwell House, Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0HT — £8.25 JFPJ



## The Geography of Warfare: Patrick O'Sullivan and Jesse W Miller, Jnr.

The authors are both American academics whose phraseology makes the reading of this book very difficult; if the following conclusion to the chapter on 'Geopolitics and Ground Strategy' means something, then read on — 'In post-Mao China it seems most likely that there will be an increasing emphasis on traditional objectives in a Sino-Centric world whose significance diminishes rapidly forming concentric zones around the eighteen provinces of China proper'.

One assumes that each author wrote half of the ten chapters which accounts for a number of cases of repetition and for the fact that the Southern States in the American Civil War are called 'Rebels' by one and 'Confederate Army' by the other. They also use unfamiliar terms such as 'shatterbelts' and 'crush zones'.

The title of the book is also confusing and requires a sub-title such as 'A geopolitical survey of tactics and strategy'. Although they look at the limitation of ground on tactics and strategy throughout history, they inevitably get into the geopolitical field and make such statements as — 'No underlying blue-print for world hegemony can be discerned in the actions of the Soviet Government, only a response to seemingly advantageous and low risk chances to expand its field of influence as they arise'. The suggestion that 'The one prospect which might bode well for man's future is that Western Europe will choose not to play in the big power game and neutralise itself', makes one wonder at the nature of their political alignment.

As the authors are both geographers, it would have been helpful if the one map produced was clearer and, when proposing their theory that the best line of attack for a Russian Army would be through German suburbia, a supporting map would have been useful.

The ultimate inaccuracy of this book is the statement 'The danger of invasion of Britain, which stiffened

British resolve and drew the United States into the War with Germany, was never real'. Firstly the US entered the war as a result of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour and secondly, the danger of invasion was very real; what was Operation 'Sea Lion' all about? You have to be very thick-skinned and patient to read this book.

Croom Helm Ltd., Burrell Row, Beckenham, Kent — £12.95 PSN JFPJ

## Fighting Power: Martin van Creveld

From time immemorial some armies have been better than others. The Legions of the Roman Empire, the Mongols under Genghis Khan, the French armies led by Napoleon, and more recently the magnificent achievement of a comparatively small British force in the Falklands campaign — all were superior fighting organisations. In this book Mr van Creveld confines himself to two armies, those of Germany and the United States in World War Two, basing his research on the overall performance of an army's fighting power which he summarises as its discipline and cohesion, its morale and initiative, its courage and toughness, its willingness and a soldier's readiness, if necessary, to die.

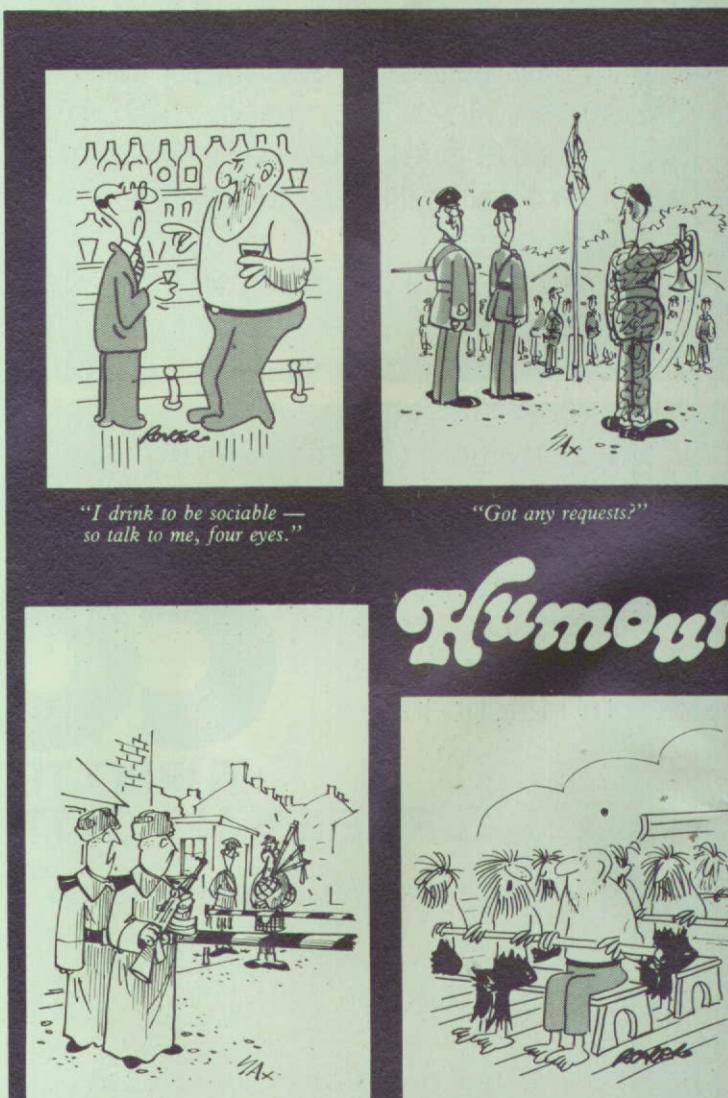
To answer the question of how this vital and elusive element of fighting

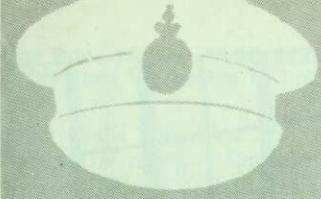
power is made and operates the author first defines and then discusses the nature of military excellence. He then goes on to demonstrate the qualitative superiority of the Wehrmacht suggesting that it consistently outfought its Western opponents; this, he says, was as true in victory or defeat, attack or defence or whether it had a numerical advantage or was heavily outnumbered.

Probing the source of this high level of fighting power this meticulously thought out study engages in a detailed comparison of the German and United States armies in the Second World War. National character, comparison of the two officer corps, allocation of leave, distribution of decorations, workings of the military justice system, size and structure of staffs, even the treatment of psychiatric casualties in the Africa Corps are just some of the many points covered with the help of useful statistical tables. A particularly interesting chapter concentrates on the importance of organisation in both armies.

*Fighting Power* is undoubtedly a remarkable and a provocative book which has a great deal to offer the expert and will surely be studied in depth by both military pundit and historian.

Arms, and Armour Press, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London NW3 1QZ — £13.50 JFPJ





## Your Cap Badge

No 44

### THE QUEEN'S LANCASHIRE REGIMENT

NOT, PERHAPS, the most attractive design to be seen currently in the head-dresses of Her Majesty's soldiers, but one which reflects the essentially Lancastrian nature of the present regiment and those regiments from which it lately sprang.

The Queen's Lancashire Regiment was formed on 25th March 1970 by the amalgamation of The Lancashire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Volunteers) and The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire). These units had formerly been components of The Lancastrian Brigade and

as such wore the Brigade badge of the Rose of Lancaster gules garnished in gold anodised, ensigned with the Royal Crest in silver anodised and within a wreath of laurel. Underneath was a scroll inscribed 'Lancastrian' in gold anodised. Officers wore the badge in gilt and silver.

The Lancashire Regiment was the result of an amalgamation in 1958 of The Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire Regiment) — itself formed from the 40th Foot (2nd Somersetshire) and the 82nd Foot (Prince of Wales's Volunteers) in 1881 — with The East Lancashire Regiment, also formed in 1881 from the 30th Foot (1st Cambridgeshire Regiment) and the 59th Foot (2nd Nottinghamshire Regiment).

The Loyal Regiment, the second and equal partner, was also formed in 1881 — from the 37th Foot (The Lancashire Regiment) and the 81st Foot (Loyal Lincoln Volunteers). Thus, over the years, six former Foot regiments became three in the Cardwell Reform, two in 1958 and one — The Queen's Lancashire Regiment — in 1970.

The task of deciding upon a head-dress badge design that would be acceptable to all par-



ties must have been an unavoidable one since so many of the fine traditions and honours formerly displayed had to be disregarded. However, the Rose of Lancaster surmounted by the St Edwards crown and the motto 'Loyally I serve' suit-

ably represent the principal associations of sovereign, of service and of county.

Hugh L King

Next issue:  
The Duke of  
Wellington's Regiment



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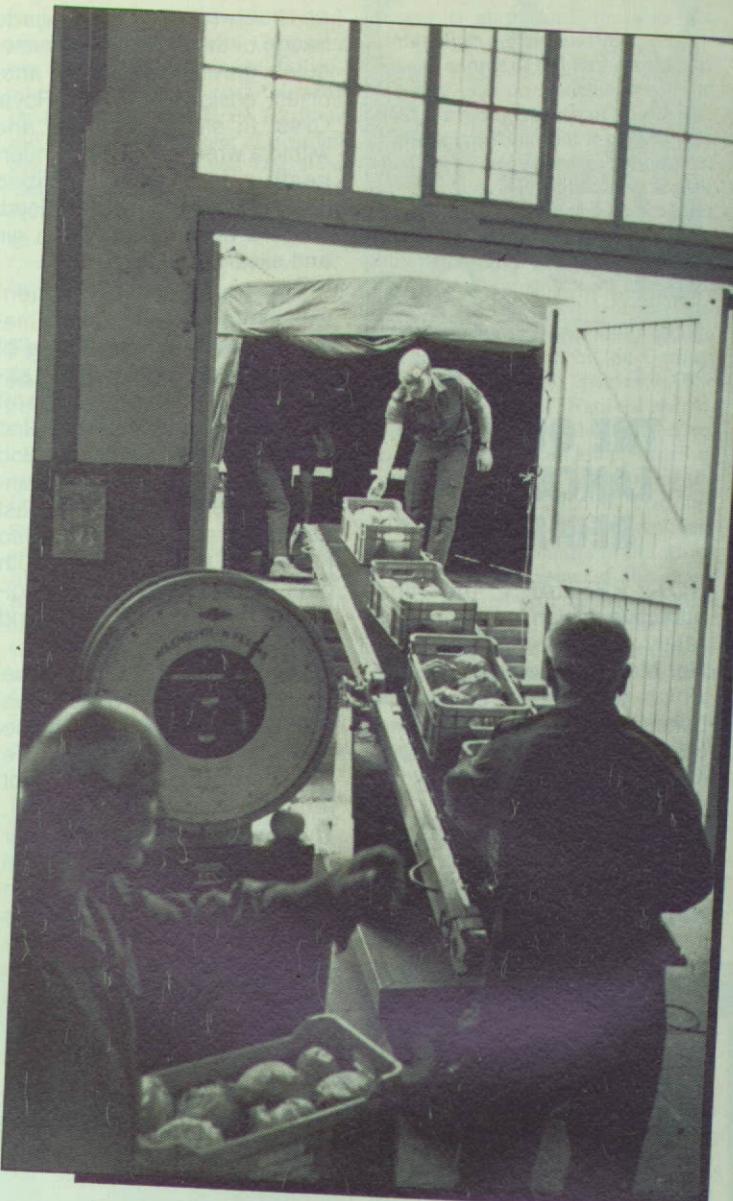
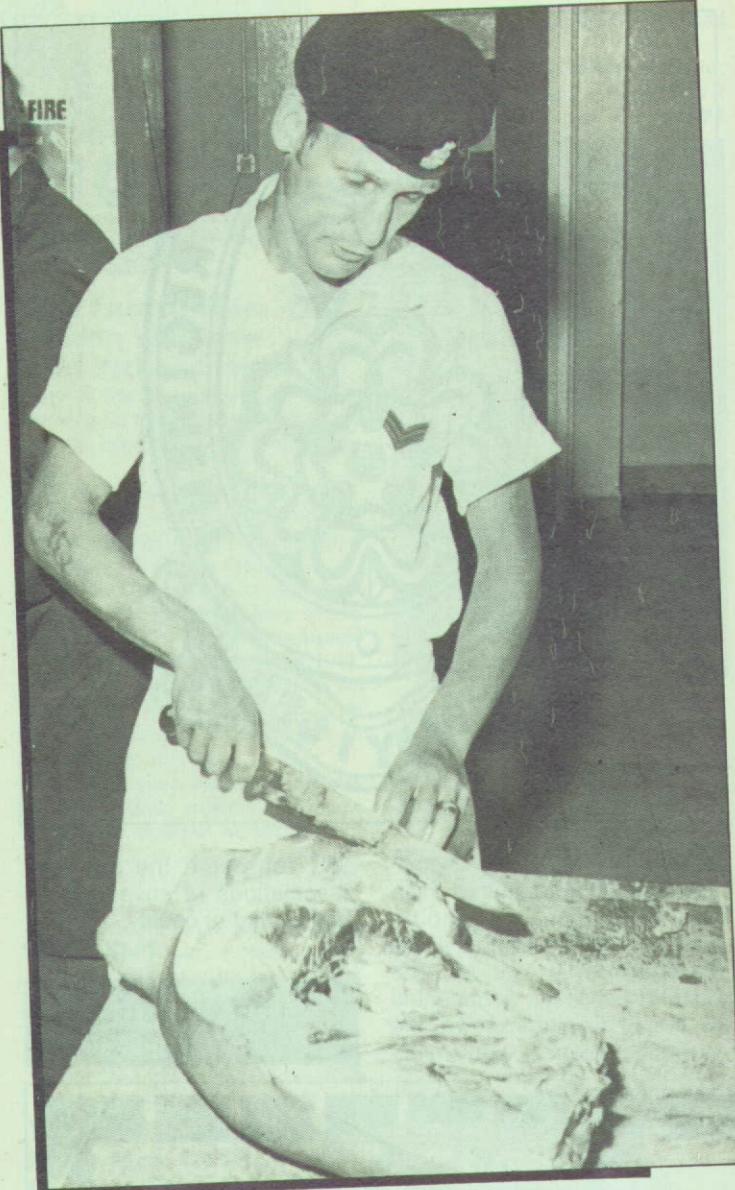
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# Peugeot Talbot Piccadilly



## Multi-national Superstore

AS THE DAWN sky begins to lighten over Dhekelia in the Eastern Sovereign Base Area of Cyprus, the Royal Army Ordnance Corps (RAOC) Supply Depot based there is transformed into a mini Covent Garden with local Cypriot contractors delivering fresh produce for re-issue to the British Forces and the United Nations Force in Cyprus.

It is a slick, well run operation of which the RAOC is justifiably proud, supplying everything from beef to bayleaves, from chicken to chillies, to a multi-national force with individual food requirements varied enough to make a civilian supermarket manager hand in his notice.

Apart from looking after Cyprus based troops, the depot is also responsible for stocking the sea and air supply line to the Lebanon for both the British Force (BRITFORLEB) and the United Nations Interim Force (UNIFIL), another task which involves catering for a variety of

**Story by  
PETE BROWN  
Pictures by  
DAVE MORRIS**

nationalities and tastes.

The depot, under the command of Major Alan Bowen RAOC, has a staff of 43 locally employed civilians and ten military personnel. It is split into four main parts: the accounts section; a dry goods section, which can accommodate 900 tonnes of food in nine warehouses; a recently modernised butchery, and a bakery. The bakery bakes and supplies some 3000 pounds of bread and 600 rolls per day, including Canadian bread, rye bread and brown wholemeal loaves as well as standard British bread, which is also sold to the British Service families in Cyprus through the Naafi shops.

The dawn delivery of fresh food and vegetables is supervised

by military personnel. They ensure that every delivery is checked, weighed and quality checked as it comes into the warehouse, for it is only a short while before the white-and-blue United Nations lorries begin arriving to take the supplies back to their

**Top left:** Sgt George France, ACC, busy in the Central Catering Depot's butchery. **Top right:** loading fresh vegetables from the Supply Depot for UN Forces in Nicosia. **Below:** vehicles pick up rations at the Central Catering Depot for British messes all over the island.



**Sgt Dave Walsh, RAOC baker, supervises the baking of bread rolls.**

units on the 'Blue Line'.

The UN crews — Canadians, Swedes, Finns and Danes — move quickly around the depot loading eggs, bread, vegetables, meat and dry goods like frantic hostesses in a supermarket preparing for an all important dinner party.

Although the vehicle manoeuvring area is small, the 'Blue Berets' are good humoured even at this early hour and help each other to back onto the loading ramps to the accompaniment of instructions in heavily accented English.

A hundred yards or so away the Central Catering Depot is also coming to life with vehicles arriving to collect food destined for individual British messes throughout the island; chickens, ham, strawberries, ice cream, pickles, brown sauce, tomato sauce, salad ingredients and larder items previously drawn from



the Supply Depot.

As would be expected, the Supply Depot at Dhekelia holds a large stock of composite rations, both for British troops and other nationalities in the UN Force. And because the hot climate of Cyprus dictates a shelf life of only two-and-a-half years, composite rations are often compulsorily issued on a higher scale than in other theatres.

Keeping a close check on quality control is a civilian Service chemist attached from the United Kingdom. He is responsible for the quality control of all dry goods and tinned items which come into the depot — checking weights against the control sample, the microbiological content of the canned foods, and carrying out a programme of checking the composite rations which are supplied from the UK.

At any one time the Supply Depot may be providing food for up to 26 different nationalities with the biggest commitment being to UNIFIL. That force is currently 6500-strong and the

depot supplies it with everything apart from fresh vegetables and bread which are purchased in Israel.

The majority of food items required by UNIFIL come from local Cypriot contractors who import the goods wholesale on the Supply Depot's behalf. They do this free of customs duty, which means that the depot also has to act as a bonded warehouse.

The force takes a full range of commodities which includes — every month — 70 tonnes of rice, 220 tonnes of meat, 11,000 kilos of chicken and 15,000 kilos of sugar. Even dog meat and dog pellets for the guard dogs are supplied.

The Dhekelia unit is the only supply depot in the British Army that is into the wine business. The French Forces in the Lebanon are entitled to one-and-a-half litres of red wine per man per day and the depot had to set up a special contract with a local Cypriot winery to supply some 12,000 litres per month.

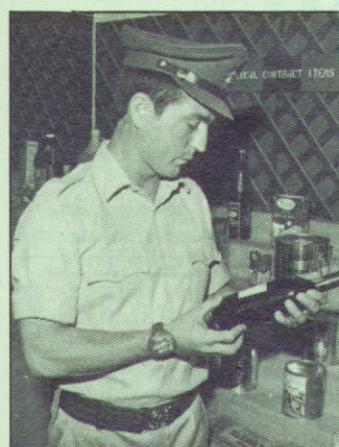
The wine is packed into 50-

litre plastic containers and containerised for the sea journey to the Lebanon, check samples being analysed by the Services chemist before despatch.

The 100-strong British Force in the Lebanon is fed from Dhekelia by means of a once weekly Hercules airbridge. All its supplies are delivered early in the morning to RAF Akrotiri for the two hour flight to Beirut which brings the force its only fresh baked English bread of the week.

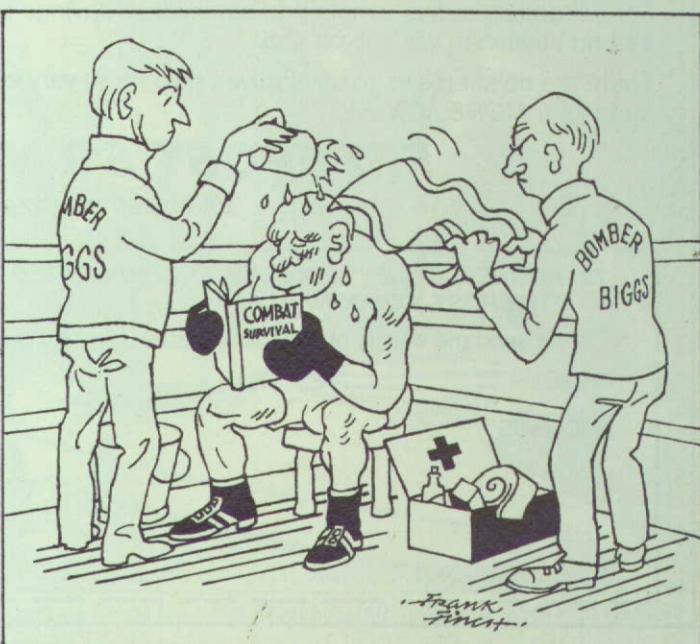
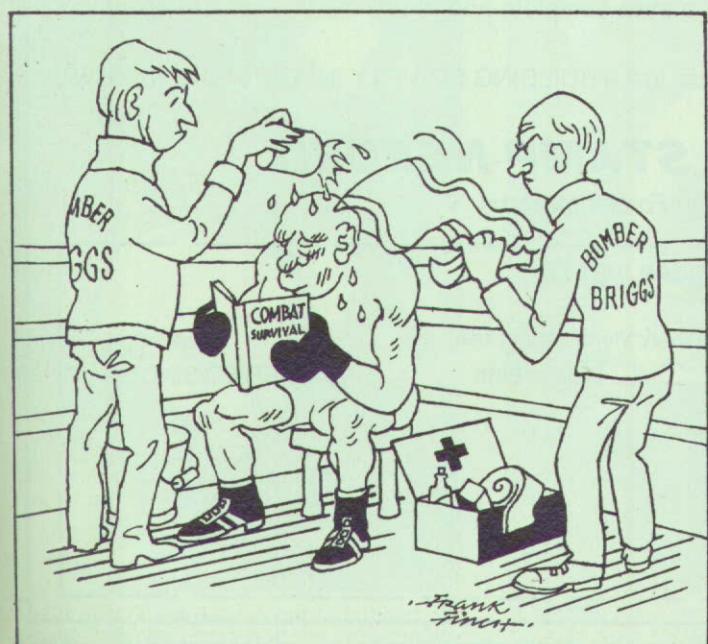
Major Bowen and his team are skilled suppliers, and time hardened to the specialised gastronomic requirements of the many nations on the order books. Smoked cheeses for the Austrians, smoked salmon and scallops for the Canadians — the depot takes everything in its stride.

It's a big job and it adds up to mighty big business. For the Army's unique multi-national store pumps four million pounds a year into the Cypriot economy.



**WO1 (S/Sgt Maj) Ivan Jones, Depot Supplies Officer, with sample of wine supplied to French forces in the Lebanon.**

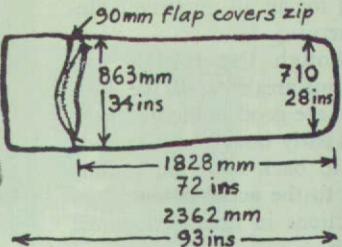
These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences turn to page 43.





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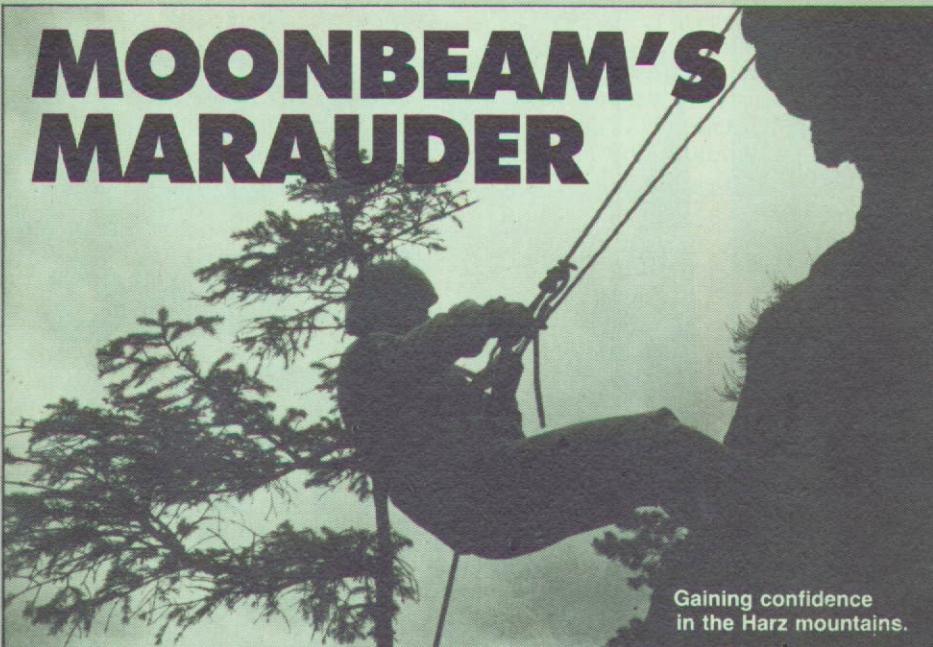
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# MOONBEAM'S MARAUDER



Gaining confidence in the Harz mountains.

**M**OONBEAM'S MARAUDER sounds rather like a night fighter flying exercise. In fact, it involved more than sixty all-ranks members of Headquarters 4th Armoured Division in BAOR taking to the countryside for a week to face a series of physical and mental challenges far removed from their customary life.

The countryside in question was the Harz Mountains — close to the border between West and East Germany and the stamping ground of the Army Mountain Training Centre, based in the village of Silberhütte. The task of the AMTC instructors was to put the 4 Armd Div staff through five days of intensive adventurous training — including rock climbing, caving, abseiling, canoeing and forest navigation.

The exercise was conceived by the Chief of Staff 4 Armd Div, Colonel Nick Cocking, and took its name in part from his 'Moonbeam' radio appointment title. He said:

"Anyone who has worked in a Divisional headquarters will recognise that people do have an interesting but very hard working time there, so this sort of change of scene is really quite important from time to time.

"I haven't the slightest doubt that the aim of the exercise was totally achieved but,

much more than that, a number of people on the staff who had not had the opportunity to embark on this sort of thing before found that they were able to meet personal challenges most effectively.

"Finally — and most interestingly — although we all work in a big headquarters and greet each other from day to day, by bringing all sections of the staff together on this exercise there was a far greater sense of unity and getting to know each other than normal office routine allows."

This was the first time that such an exercise had been held for the staff of HQ 4 Armd Div. Its success, which is likely to make it an annual event, owed much to the availability of essential equipment supplied by the RAOC Depot at Dulmen and to the organisation of Captain Terry Macaree.

"We received an awful lot of help from AMTC and I trawled the Division for suitably qualified instructors," he explained. "It was surprising how many of the staff had adventurous training qualifications. We managed to achieve a pupil-to-instructor ratio of about six to one.

"The exercise was intended to be challenging but no one was forced into any one activity. In the evening you would hear the technical jargon coming out from people



The classic abseil — Pte Pam Horne shows the boys how it should be done.

newly baptised in fear! At the end of the week people who had never before done something like caving, for example, were speaking like veterans."

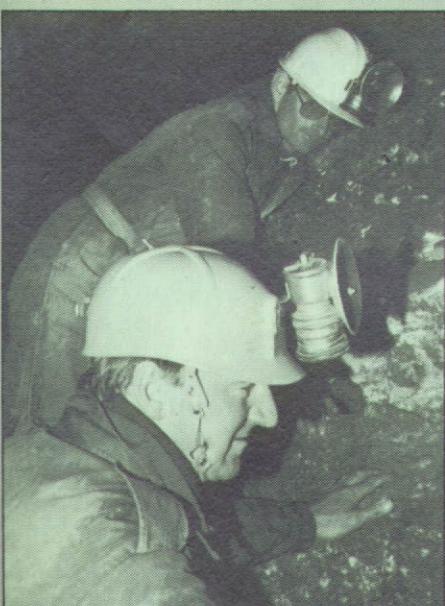
From clerks to colonels, each individual faced his own personal challenges.

"The buddy-buddy system, the team spirit, mucking in together; these all came very much to the surface. Stress definitely brings people together," said Capt Macaree.

The Harz Mountains, with their spectacular changes of scenery, were ideal ground for Moonbeam's Marauder, even if the weather proved extreme at times.

One of the lakes to be used for canoeing was found to be still iced over at the edges — so a move was made to another nearby, in which the sun had warmed the waters to the invigorating temperature of plus two degrees Centigrade!

Said Capt Macaree: "Commander Maintenance was doing his capsizing drill and described the sensation as like having toothache and then eating ice cream; the pain of the cold was like that — only it went all the way to the top of your head!" ■



Lt-Col Alan Thompson (foreground) and Cpl Robbo Robinson caving in the Jettenhöhle.



A helping hand for Cpl Corinna Stone from Maj Steven Galpin (left) and S/Sgt Bob Badwell, on loan from 15/19H as an instructor.

## The final bids are taken at Ruddington



The chief auctioneer, Mr Robert Hanson.

**I**T MAY NOT have been their 'Sale of the Century' but it was certainly the biggest for the past five years at Ruddington's Ordnance Storage and Disposal Depot. Sadly, it was also the last — as reported in our last issue, the 285-acre Depot closes in December.

For the past 36 years the OSDD has been the venue of up to six such sales a year conducted for them by a local firm of auctioneers and involving Ministry of Defence vehicles well past their best, all of which are put on forlorn show to be bid for "on sight".

The final five-day auction was the 179th to be held and saw 2302 vehicles lined up for sale.

Land Rovers, estate cars, ambulances, transit vans, motorbikes, bowlers, trailers, horse boxes, four-tonne Bedford lorries and even a 15-ton mobile crane stood obliquely in ranks spread over 15 acres. And more than 1000 bidders sat in the auditorium-like sales room as vehicles came under the auctioneer's gavel at the rate of one-a-minute.

Cortinas went for about £1600; Land Rovers, £400. And when it was all over, more than £1 million had been raised.

Black staff cars, once the burished carriages of the top brass, now stood reduced to the ranks. Stripped of number plates and



An eager 'punter' signals a bid from the floor.

**Story by GRAHAM SMITH  
Pictures by DOUG PRATT**

star-plates they lined up alongside battered Land Rovers, some of which had taken a more than heavy tumble on dropping zones to stand scruffy and silent now.

Like fallen gladiators in ancient Rome, vehicles were pulled out for display by recovery vehicles for examination by the bankroll-toting punters. Flat tyres, smashed wings, gaping bonnets and cracked windscreens — one shattered by a Northern Ireland bullet — all came under eager scrutiny.

Mr John Dady, a senior partner in the Nottingham auctioneers handling the sale, Walker, Walton, Hanson, expressed his personal regret at the ending of an era: "We are very sorry because you cannot be involved with anyone for 36 years and not have a tremendous rapport with them.

"These sales have been extremely successful from the Ministry of Defence point of view. We always dispose of all of their vehicles for them. Our mailing list runs into four figures and there is always a lot of work involved in the cataloguing of the items.

"But although we are stopping the auctions here at Ruddington we do have a contract to carry on in one of the regions."

Colleague Mr Robert Hanson, the chief auctioneer and a former Royal Artillery National Serviceman who served in Hong Kong — said: "It's a sad day. The Ministry of Defence has always gone out of its way not to make the event one for dealers but one to attract the private man."

As he spoke, the gavel continued to fall and another page of the catalogue was turned to bring a small chapter of history to its close. ■

## GOING FOR A SWAN-SONG

Some of the 2302 lots lined up for the last sale.



Surplus ambulances have their red crosses overpainted in black.

Not all the vehicles are in showroom condition.

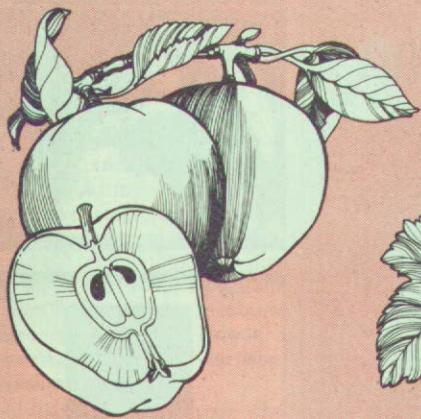


**A**T the fruit market the price of grapes was half as much again as the price of plums, and pears were half as much again as grapes.

Dolly, Molly and Polly each purchased twenty pounds of fruit (some of each) and

each paid £2.40 (240 pence). None bought a fraction of a pound and each paid a whole number of pence per pound.

Dolly bought the greatest weight of grapes and Polly purchased most plums. What were Molly's purchases?



## FRUIT SALAD

## COMPETITION 320

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 29 July. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 22 August 1983 and no correspondence can be entered into. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 320' label. In the case of ties, winners will be drawn by lots. Send your answer by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 320' label to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

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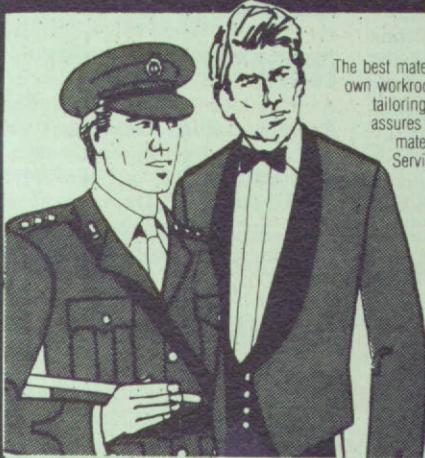
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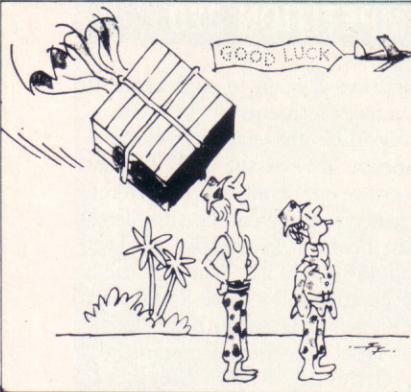
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## GLOCKENSPIELS

We wholeheartedly agree with the letter from Mr D J Macleod (2 May) regretting the absence of flutes in some present day Corps of Drums. Glockenspiels are not issued to the Drums and have been privately acquired by some battalions in recent years to reinforce a weak flute section or — in the case of 5th Bn, The Queen's Regiment — as a substitute.

In fairness, however, it must be said that it is not easy to train a flute-player from scratch and TA battalions often suffer from lack of instructors and of time in which to practise. A possible answer would be to allow TA NCOs to attend courses at the Drums Wing of their divisional depot. This should be a logical extension of the 'one Army' concept.

The question of the correct place for a Bandmaster is an interesting one. In the Foot Guards and the Royal Marines, the Director of Music marches in the body of the band from where he can more easily issue instructions to his musicians, or even 'conduct' them if he feels it necessary. It would be interesting to hear the views of the Royal Military School of Music on this point, but one thing must be certain, the Bandmaster should never be beside the Drum Major, or be seen to be in other than very surreptitious conversation with him! — R J Davenport, Hon Sec, The Corps of Drums Society, 50 Station Road, Halstead, Sevenoaks, Kent.

## CATCH 22

I am puzzled by WO2 D Smart's letter (31 May). He should not refer to us as 'The 22nd' in 1743. It was not until the Royal Warrant of 1751 that we received that precedence. The Duke of Cumberland, irritated by the chaos of nomenclature, issued a clothing regulation in 1747 which required every regiment to embroider its rank in the centre of its colours. By 'rank' he meant precedence. We have carried the unadulterated number 22 since that day.

For thirty years before the war of The Spanish Succession we were known as Handasyd's Foot after our two colonels, father and son. But at

# MAIL DROP

the time of Dettingen in 1743 we exhausted five colonels in ten years, so it is very difficult to identify us. To add to the confusion another Handasyd commanded a regiment (later the 31st) at Dettingen.

In those days there were only four overseas stations — Minorca, Gibraltar, Flanders and the West Indies. My own regiment served in Minorca from 1727 to 1749 but sent its Grenadier and Light Companies to the capture of Gibraltar and from there to several European battlefields. These companies could not earn battle honours, for they were only detachments.

Reinforcements were sent from the Tower of London and one draft was certainly mis-directed to King George II's Pragmatic Army to serve the wrong Handasyd at Dettingen. Perhaps it is one of these who is described in Grant's *British Battles*, published 40 years after Dettingen: "Robert Ferguson who died preserving to the last the old red coat of Handasyd's Foot, the 22nd Regiment in which he had been wounded at Dettingen."

WO Smart could be right about our Founder's Arms in 1689. Henry Howard, 7th Duke of Norfolk, had a sinister supporter "a horse bearing in its mouth an acorn sprig with two leaves". His successor, Sir Henry Belasis bore "a stag's head, erased with an acorn leaved and green in its mouth".

I could go on but must rest on His Majesty's permission granted in 1933 to wear an oak leaf in my headdress in his presence. — Major A F W Astle (Retd), RHQ 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment, The Castle, Chester, CH1 2DN.

## NORMANDY VISIT

As an ex-member of the 5th Bn The Royal Berkshire Regiment, I am trying to get together a party to revisit Normandy on the 40th anniversary of D-Day next year, 1984. Neither the Royal Berkshires OCA nor the Duke of Edinburgh's Regiment (who inherited our battle honours) is intending to commemorate the occasion, and I feel that we owe it to the battalion and our past comrades to make some sort of effort forty years on.

The Canadian regiments whom we supplied in our role as Beach Group, can manage to send large contingents of serving soldiers and war-time veterans — some from as far as five thousand miles away; surely we can muster a dozen or so who are prepared to travel a couple of hundred miles? — J V Webb, 22 Highbury Terrace, London N5 1UP. 01-226 8962.

## ANTHOLOGY

I am compiling an anthology of letters written home from battlefields from World War One, World War Two and the Falklands. I have had the good fortune to have my book accepted for publication. All letters will be treated with care and returned (photocopies acceptable). I understand how personal these letters are!

but believe that the thoughts and feelings of men who fought for their country have historical value and should be shared with others. — Annette Tapert, 8 Glebe Place, London SW3.

## FAALKLANDS CLUB

As reported in your issue of 2 May the Falklands Families Association was formed on board the MV *Cunard Countess* on Friday 15 April 1983 on the return journey from the Falkland Islands.

Membership is open to all relatives of Servicemen killed in the Falklands campaign and it is hoped that any relative would be interested in joining, not just next of kin.

At the moment membership figures are approximately 400, although we have had some new members since returning from the pilgrimage. The yearly subscription will be a minimum of £5.

By kind permission of the Commandant our first committee meeting was held at the Royal Hospital Chelsea in April.

At the meeting we reaffirmed the aims of the association, namely, to keep in contact with each other and with the Islanders. This has already started as one family from Port Stanley is now in the UK and we shall be returning their hospitality. The main aim of the association is to return to the Falklands in four or five years' time. This of course will be at our own expense.

The association covers almost the whole of the UK, and is split into regions each with its own regional officer, so no member is far from the centre of activity.

Anyone interested in joining can contact any of the following: Chairman: Mr C Ford, 20 Constitution Hill Road, Poole, Dorset; Vice-chairman: myself; Secretary: Miss S Taylor, Greenacre, Vale Down, Lydford, Okehampton, Devon.

The next committee meeting will be held in October in London. If any reader of this article could offer the use of a suitable room (for about 25 people) for approximately 1½ hours we would be very grateful indeed. Regional officers are of course organising their own events throughout the year. — Mr D Keoghane, 17 Penrose Court, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

## GOOD VALUE

I was very pleased to have won fourth prize in a recent SOLDIER competition and I look forward to receiving my copies of the magazine through the post.

May I say I enjoy the competitions very much, and marvel at the ingenuity of those whose 'brain children' they are!

Also, I have never written about the latest developments in SOLDIER, but I'd like to take this opportunity of saying that it continues to be full of interest and excellent value in these days when good magazines usually cost twice or three times as much as SOLDIER. Congratulations

to you and your staff. You do a great job. — Keith Sell, 20 Gaunts Way, Letchworth, Herts, SG6 4PQ.

## SWISS MEMORIAL



This photograph taken in Switzerland, is of a war memorial to Swiss soldiers who died in the First World War.

As I understood that the Swiss have always been neutral, perhaps one of your readers can explain the inscription: "Aux Soldats de la Veveyse Morts pour la Patrie 1914-1918 RIP". — Peter Herbert, 1 St David's Court, Golf Links Estate, Southall, Middx.

## KING'S CORPORAL

Many years ago (I think in 1949) in an effort to track down some of the more ancient and deep-seated Army myths, SOLDIER and I delved into the origins of that soldier's dream, the 'King's Corporal' (promoting a soldier in the field of battle).

The last firm reference to the 'King's Corporal' appeared in Thomas Firbank's *I Bought a Star*; but was deleted from all subsequent editions. Other book references of the same era were examined and found to be without true foundation and SOLDIER appealed to readers for any positive information, without success.

I had thought that the myth had died along with battle-dress, hob-nailed boots and blanco and I would not wish to revive the corpse except that this fireproof NCO of yesteryear appeared in great detail in a 1980 publication, *'Dispatch Rider'*, by Jack Daniel. This set me wondering if the myth still survived, particularly with a Queen on the throne.

This is a work of fiction so I suppose one can forgive the author a little poetic licence with regard to the World War Two background in which the action takes place; but it is the fact of the myth raising its hoary head again after so many years that amazes me, especially as Daniel goes to great lengths to quote a citation giving full details of the award. — Alan E Bell, 49 Sand St, Longbridge Deverill, Warminster, Wilts, BA12 7DR.

Does anyone have the definitive answer, or can this ghost be laid to rest? — Ed



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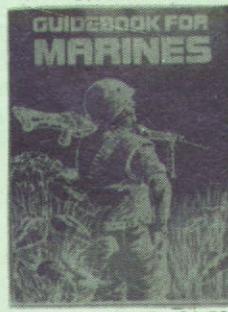
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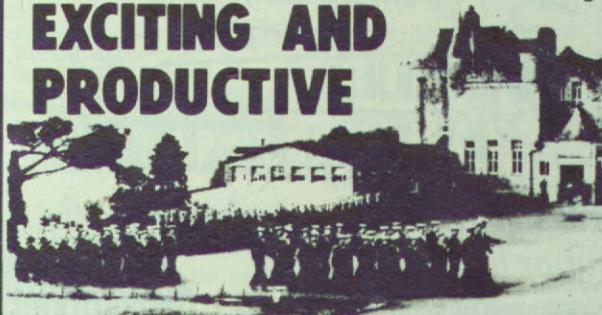
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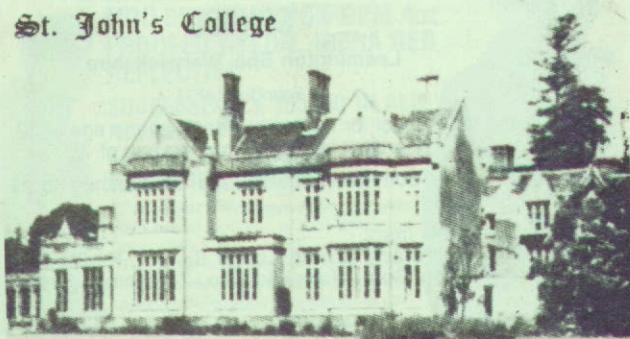
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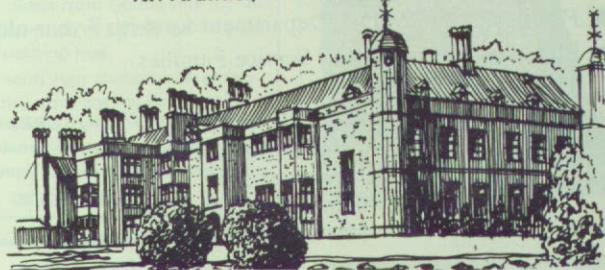
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## CONFIDENCE RETURNING TO THE MIDLANDS

House prices which were savaged during the worst of the recession in 1980-81 are recovering their value — and in fact, rising by as much as five or six per cent in recent months.

One of the worst hit areas now struggling to regain its confidence is the West Midlands, and in particular, Birmingham City. Huge redundancies in the car, steel and metal bashing industries sent prices reeling. Now there is growing confidence that the worst is over and property prices are firming in all categories. Job opportunities are showing a slight improvement and trading-up is on the increase.

Like London, Birmingham has big price differentials, depending on whether the suburb is dominated by industry or greenspace. In the "Black Country" areas terraced property can be found for as little as £9,000 but in a leafy suburb in Edgbaston, Solihull or Harborne, the same sized property would have a price tag of £25,000. Semis vary from £15,000 to £25,000 and detached property has a range starting at around £26,000 and soaring to £100,000 plus. Compared with London and the South East Birmingham's prices can look attractive at first glance, but jobs are just a little tougher to find. Communications in the West Midlands are superb. For anyone looking for a home and an investment Birmingham deserves very serious consideration.

**Shipways, Harborne (021-427 3264)** **Allsop Sellers, Dudley (0384 234333)**  
**Bright Willis, Solihull (021-705 6491)** **Haynes Spires, Bearwood (021-429 9155)**

**Kerry Stephenson 0277 232913**

These articles are prepared in conjunction with **Kerry Stephenson** of the National Homes Network. This is a private agency with a great deal of experience in dealing with the special problems of the Service Home-hunter. Kerry will be delighted to give you any help he can with your problem in the private sector and can be contacted at National Homes Network, 104 Kings Road, Brentwood, Essex. Tel: 0277 232913.

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The Bulletin has been distributed to all Units. Further information and application forms will be available through your Unit/Ship/Station.

**The closing date for all applications for properties offered in Bulletin number 57 is 6 July 1983.**

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**Wanted:** DLI items c 1920/30 badges, uniforms, documents etc, equipment (father ex-DLI 1930). Please detail items and prices.

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**I wish** to purchase new jacket flying mans type N3B modified; size large Mil-J-6279H USAF issue.

**J McGowan, 4 Fieldway, Calthorpe Park Estate, Fleet, Hants. GU13 8ER. Fleet 21074.**

**Cash** paid by collector for envelopes with FPO postmarks 1945-1983 (not Europe). Locations wanted Palestine, Suez, Xmas Island, Mauritius, Zimbabwe etc.

**Mr Allen, 33 Falconer St, York, YO2 4JH. Tel: (0904) 793129.**

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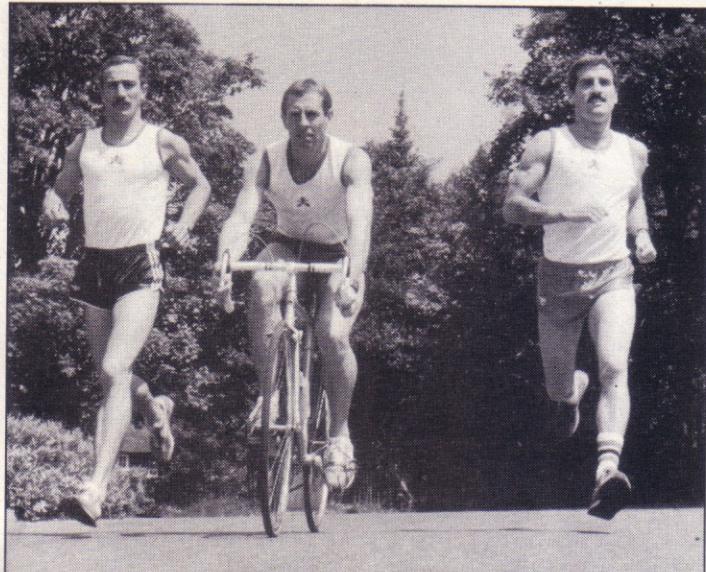
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## TRIATHLON TRIUMPH

THREE ARMY Physical Training Corps instructors from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst became the first British Triathlon Champions (short course) when they beat 26 other teams from all over the world in the championships at Reading.

The winning team — SSI Alex Rodgers (right), SSI Jim Wood (centre) and SSI Kevin Edwards — were entering a triathlon together for the first time although Wood is captain of the British Biathlon team and is already in training for next year's Olympics.

There were 240 competitors in all and SSI Wood was individual champion. Danny Nightingale, former modern pentathlon Olympic gold medallist, came third.

SSI Rodgers told SOLDIER: "We trained very hard for it — up to four to five hours a day.

## SPORTS SHORTS

Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, won the Army Junior Inter-Unit Volleyball Championships at Aldershot with Princess Marina second. Seven teams took part in the round robin tournament and the standard was said to have improved from last year.

★ ★ ★  
Corporal Gilbert Weir of 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment Workshop REME became the first British soldier to win the Stadt Hameln Indoor Tennis Competition.

★ ★ ★  
The Highland Gunners, 19 Field Regiment, took on the rest of Nato in the middle of a lake in Denmark to win the 8th Nato Angling Championships. The team members who made the 850 mile round trip were WO2 Bill Rowark, Sgt Allan Brynes, Bdr 'Winker' Watson, Bdr John Marsden and Bdr Paul Brooks. Teams taking part came from British, American, Danish, German and Canadian forces and second place went to a Royal Regiment of Fusiliers team.

## SAPPER TRIUMPH

Winners of the Army inter-unit team fencing competition for the second year running were 25 Engineer Regiment, RE and not 25 Field Regiment as incorrectly reported in our last issue.

## Sweden -Brett third

LEADING young orienteer, Gunner Mike Brett, from 22 Locating Battery RA, finished third in a Swedish Military Faltavalln Championship recently. The event consists of shooting twice from 100 metres, then completing a 3 km punkt orienteering course, followed im-

## CRICKET

# GORDON-LENOX AMONG THE RUNS

THE ARMY went down to a heavy defeat in their first match not to be rained off. The Service cricketers managed to score 142 all out (Jackson 39) but the Surrey 2nd XI openers, Pauline and Faulkner shared an unbroken stand to give the county side a ten wicket victory.

In the first of two one day matches against Kent 2nd XI at Woolwich there was a similar rout. Kent scored 140 for 7 to which the Army could only reply with 62 all out.

But the following day, victory came at last. Kent notched up 162 all out with Forsyth taking 4-30 and Gelling 3-26. The Army struck back with 164 for 6, top scorer Gordon-Lennox making a fine 60.

Combined Services drew a three day match with Oxford University. In their first innings the Services stumbled to 113 all out and the Varsity men declared at 196 for 5. But in the second innings Gordon-Lennox (64) and Moylan-Jones (104) shared a third wicket stand of 127 and the innings closed at 317-8. Oxford chalked up 218 for nine in their second innings before time ran out with 20 runs still needed.

## SHIPS AHOY!



TWENTY-EIGHT boats took part in the four day Army Sailing Association Offshore Regatta with conditions varying from calm to gale force winds and hailstones the size of golf balls. "The Solent appeared to be erupting like a volcano" said one of the storm watchers.

The regatta was followed by the Inter-Services event in which the Army took the team place for the first time in six years.

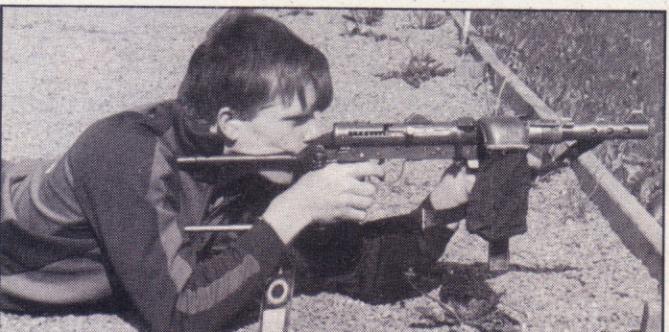
Pictured above is the start of the Army's Division II race.

**WINNERS:** Div I: Inshore Series — Kukri; Passage race — Redcoat; Div II: Inshore Series — Seahorse II (REME); Passage Race — Trumpeter; Div III: Inshore Series — Challenger; Passage Race — Casala; Halcyon Cup — Rampart; Fosters' Cup — Trumpeter; Dolphin Trophy team prize — RCT.

mediately by a 10 km cross-country orienteering course.

The other three members of the Army team, Corporal Gary Dale (42 Survey Regt RE), Captain Tony Potter (JLRRA) and Cpl Peter Hart

(SEE) finished 8th, 10th and 12th respectively. They felt they would have done even better had they had more than 24 hours in which to practice marksmanship with the Swedish K-Pist.





'DJ' leaps to new record. ▲

Start of the 100 metres. ▼



International, Akabusi, has no trouble winning 400 metres. ▲

## ATHLETICS

# 'DJ' SPINS NEW RECORD

TWO ATHLETES named Grant were among the headline makers at this year's Army Individual Athletics Championships. Captain Glen Grant, holder of every Army record between 800 and 10,000 metres, was surprisingly run into second place while defending his 1500 metre title and his namesake, Private 'DJ' Grant from the RAOC at Bicester, set the only new record of the day in the triple jump.

Winner of the 1500 metres event was SI Malcolm Edwards, from the 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, who was last year's 800 metres champion. In the final lap he moved away from Captain Grant and maintained a healthy lead to the tape.

'DJ' had his success in the morning when he set a new mark of 14.62 metres in the triple jump — beating a record of 14.52 metres which had stood for 11 years. In the afternoon he hoped to shatter an even older record in the long jump. That had stood since 1947 but Grant could only manage second place and his conqueror, Lance-Sergeant John Taylor (2 Grenadier Guards), fell short of the record. All rounder, Taylor, also headed the 110 metres hurdles.

The year 1947 must have been a phenomenal one for records.

Sergeant Chris Shields (1 Irish Guards), matched each other stride for stride after breaking the field. But in the final straight Shields streaked away like a gazelle to win. Shields said later: "It was tactical to the very end. I have a fairly good kick but left it to the 100 yard point today because I knew he also had a good kick."

In the 400 metres, Sergeant Kriss Akabusi, did just enough to win and not aggravate some hamstring trouble he was experiencing. Akabusi has already beaten the Army record this year and got his first international vest in the Britain versus Russia match.

"I think there's more to come because I've just started my speed work", said 200 metres winner, Corporal Tony Lester (RAMC Training Centre) after heading a strong field of sprinters.

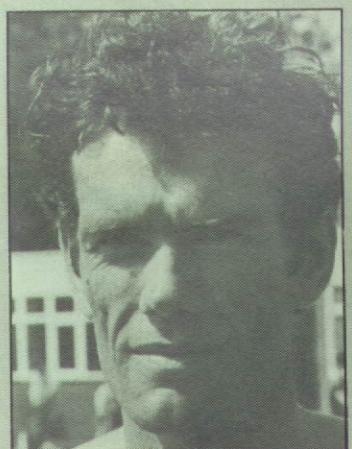
It was back home with a vengeance for steeplechaser, WO 2 Ted Turner (Army School of PT). He won the 3000 metres six times before being posted to Hong Kong in 1980. Back for just four weeks he again won — beating among others the Swindon marathon winner, Lance-Corporal Peter Cawse (3 Para) who finished third.

"I am going to concentrate on longer distance running," said Turner. "I really only do this because I feel I owe it to the Army."

In the women's events familiar faces dominated. Corporal Maggie Smith (formerly Allerton) won the 3000 metres and 1500 metres by a street. In the former event she lapped two of her competitors and beat the third by almost half a minute.

Another Smith, Private Sandy, from 68 Squadron RCT, notched up the sprint double and another double winner was Women's Superteams captain, Corporal Lesley Davison, who took the high jump and shot titles.

In the Veterans' 100 yards Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew Parker-Bowles (Household Cavalry Regiment) took his accustomed first place. Trailing in third was Academy Sergeant-Major, WO1 Denis Cleary, who had been challenged by the Colonel to take part.



Turner — back in triumph.

That long jump of 7.25 metres has resisted all comers ever since. Both Taylor and Grant, who was amazingly only competing in his second triple jump, are convinced that it must go soon. Says Grant: "I have beaten it four or five times this season — but never at an Army meeting."

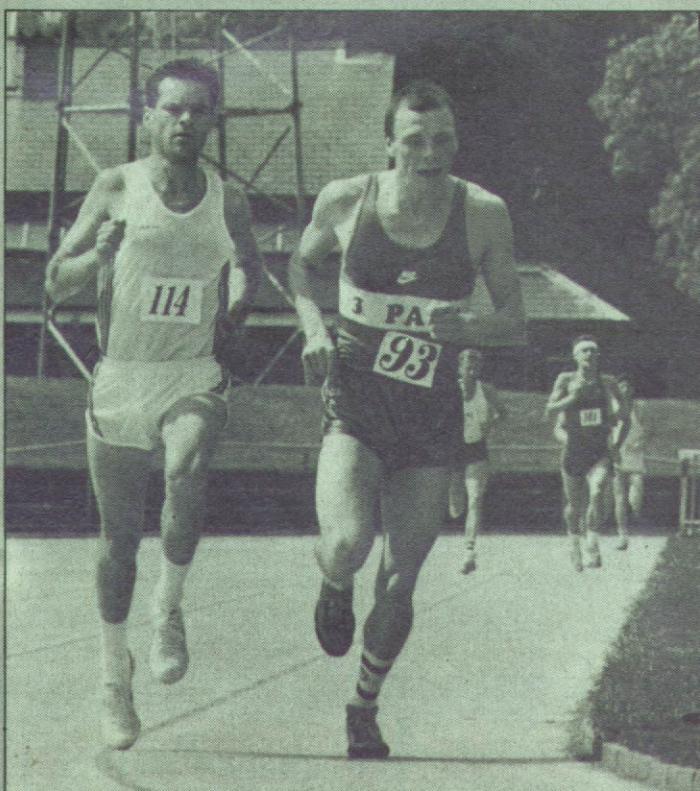
The other 1947 survivor is for high jump and Guardsman James Gregg (1 Irish Guards) who won this year's event, came within half an inch of beating it. He, too, has beaten the mark in non-Army events, and is aiming to set a new record at the Army team championships next month.

In the day's first final, the 5000 metres, Private Tony Barlow (Para Depot) and Lance-

# FLYING HIGH



Hughes flies over the hurdles. ▲ Together—Shields and Barlow. ▼



## FULL RESULTS (winners only)

**MEN'S SENIOR** — **100 metres**: Sig Clarence Callender (10 Sig Regt); **200 metres**: Cpl Tony Lester (RAMC Training Centre); **400 metres**: Sgt Kriss Akabusi (1 PWO); **800 metres**: Pte Earl Deverall (1 LI); **1500 metres**: Sl Malcolm Edwards (5 Inniskilling DG); **5000 metres**: L/Sgt Chris Shields (1 IG); **3000 metres steeplechase**: WO2 Ted Turner (ASPT South); **110 metres hurdles**: L/Sgt John Taylor (2 Grenadier Guards); **400 metres hurdles**: Cpl Neil Killen (8 Sig Regt); **High Jump**: Gdsm James Gregg (1 IG); **Long Jump**: L/Sgt Taylor; **Triple Jump**: Pte D J Grant (HQ Bicester); **Pole Vault**: L/Cpl S Lyons (1 & 3 Training Regt RE); **Shot**: L/Sgt Dawson (1 IG); **Discus**: WO2 M Johnson (20 Workshops REME); **Javelin**: Lt Hodder (61 Ord Coy RAOC); **Hammer**: Spr Mark Sterling (38 Field Regt RE).

**WOMEN'S** — **100 metres**: Pte Sandy Smith (68 Sqn RCT); **200 metres**: Pte Smith; **400 metres**: L/Cpl Leona Hughes (16 Sig Regt); **1500 metres**: Cpl Maggie Smith (16 Sig Regt); **3000 metres**: Cpl Smith; **100 metres hurdles**: L/Cpl Hughes; **800 metres**: Offcr Cadet Fiona Rider (WRAC College); **High Jump**: Corporal Lesley Davison (Depot Regt RA); **Long Jump**: L/Cpl Phyllis Hylton (29 Coy WRAC); **Javelin**: Pte Hornsby (10 Sig Regt); **Discus**: Cpl Maria Naples (RSME Chattenden); **Shot**: L/Cpl Davison.

**VETERANS** — **100 metres**: Lt-Col Andrew Parker-Bowles (Household Cavalry Regt).

## TUG OF WAR

# RCT JUNIORS' NATIONAL WIN

THE JUNIOR Leaders Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, clinched both titles for the second year running in the National Youth Tug of War championships held at the Parachute Depot in Aldershot.

The Colerne based team took both the 420 kgs and 560 kgs events — beating off challenges from both Army and civilian sides and without conceding an end. The President of the National Tug of War Association, Mr Len Hughes, said afterwards that they were the best junior team he had seen from the Services for many years.

The RCT lads are coached by Sergeant Andy Gibb and in the three years since he took over they have had a phenomenal run. In the Army Junior Championships, held at the same venue a few days later, they took all three classes in which they entered — again without losing a pull.

Sergeant Gibb told SOLDIER: "We have a new team every year and the answer is bags and bags of training. I don't open it to the whole regiment — they are all from my troop of 40 boys.

"So I am able to get them all for training at the same time. We

Something to shout about — RCT lads take third title. ▼

have been training in the evenings since 24 April and obviously I have also given them an insight into the techniques."

The RCT took both weight events for under-17's and the 640 kilo for over-17's. The only consolation for the other teams taking part was a win for the Junior Leaders, Royal Artillery, Bramcote in the 560 kgs over-17 event, which the RCT did not enter.

Captain Terry Hammond, who headed the organising committee, said the standard from the 24 teams had been higher than usual and the venue was one of the best in recent times. The Army senior championships will be held on the same ground on 7 July.



## Intelligent Shooting

THE INTELLIGENCE Corps won this year's Inter-Corps and Divisional Target Rifle Match with a score of 733. They were followed by REME with 728 and Medical Services 719.

Twelve teams took part and highest individual score of the day went to WO2 Tony Cheese of the Intelligence Corps. A former Queen's Medallist and a member of the Army team he led a team which included two members who had only recently taken up competitive shooting. Weather conditions for the competition were patchy with the firing at 900 yards taking place in a thunderstorm.

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knew...'



and now,  
he cannot  
bear to  
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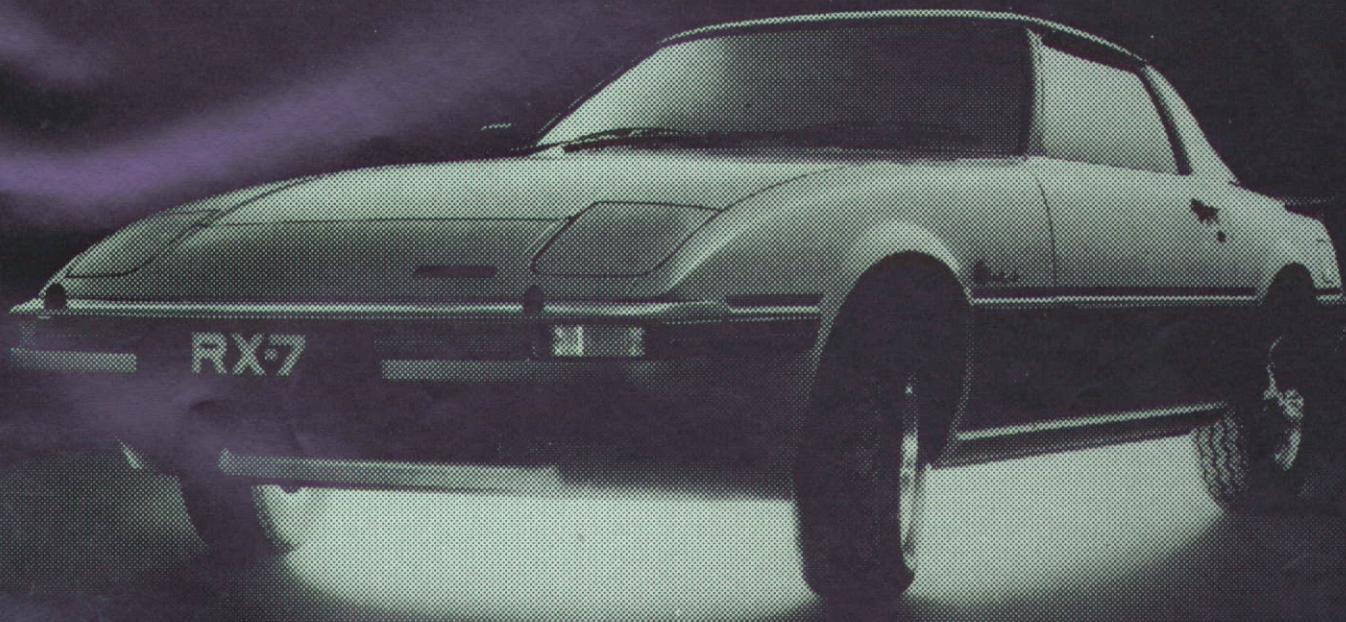
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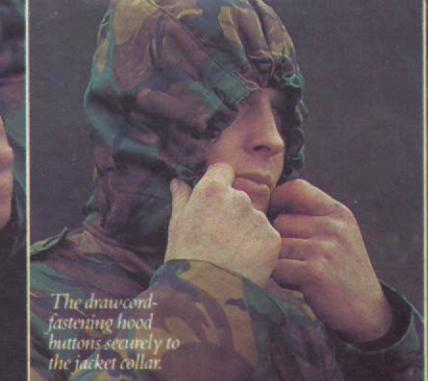
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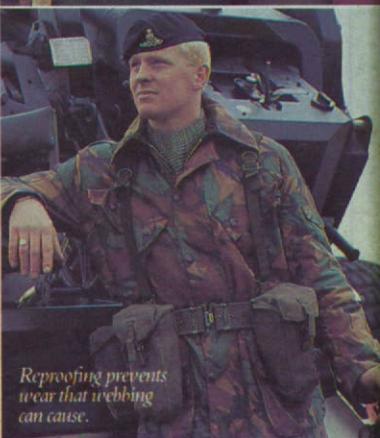
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