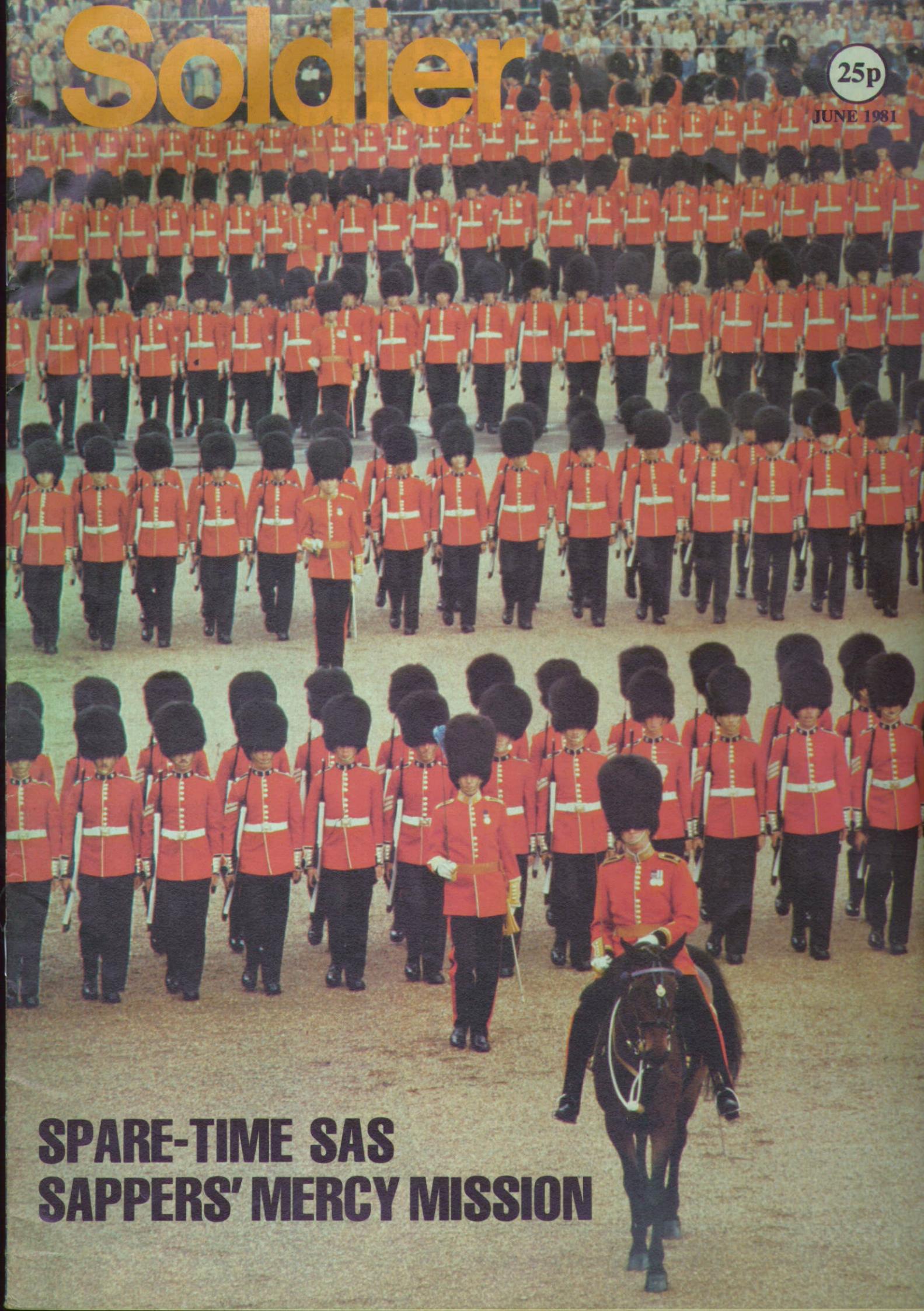


Soldier

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FRONT COVER

London offers few more stirring sights in June than the Queen's Birthday Parade on Horse Guards, captured last year in all its colourful spectacle by SOLDIER photographer Paul Haley. This year's parade is on 13 June.



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BACK COVER

Eight-and-a-half thousand feet above Netheravon in Wiltshire, a contestant in last year's Army Parachuting Championships exits from a Wessex. This year's championships are from 16-25 June.
Picture by Paul Haley

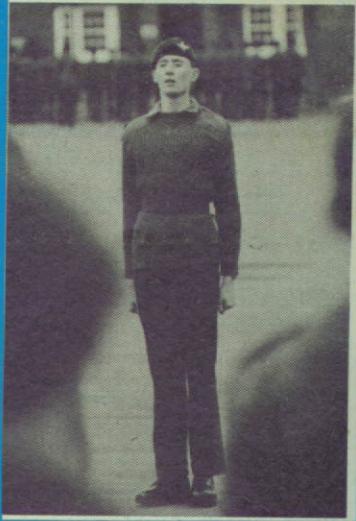


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6 In the wilds of Yorkshire eager 'Terriers' strive for SAS selection.



17 How tomorrow's top NCOs are taught the arts of leadership.



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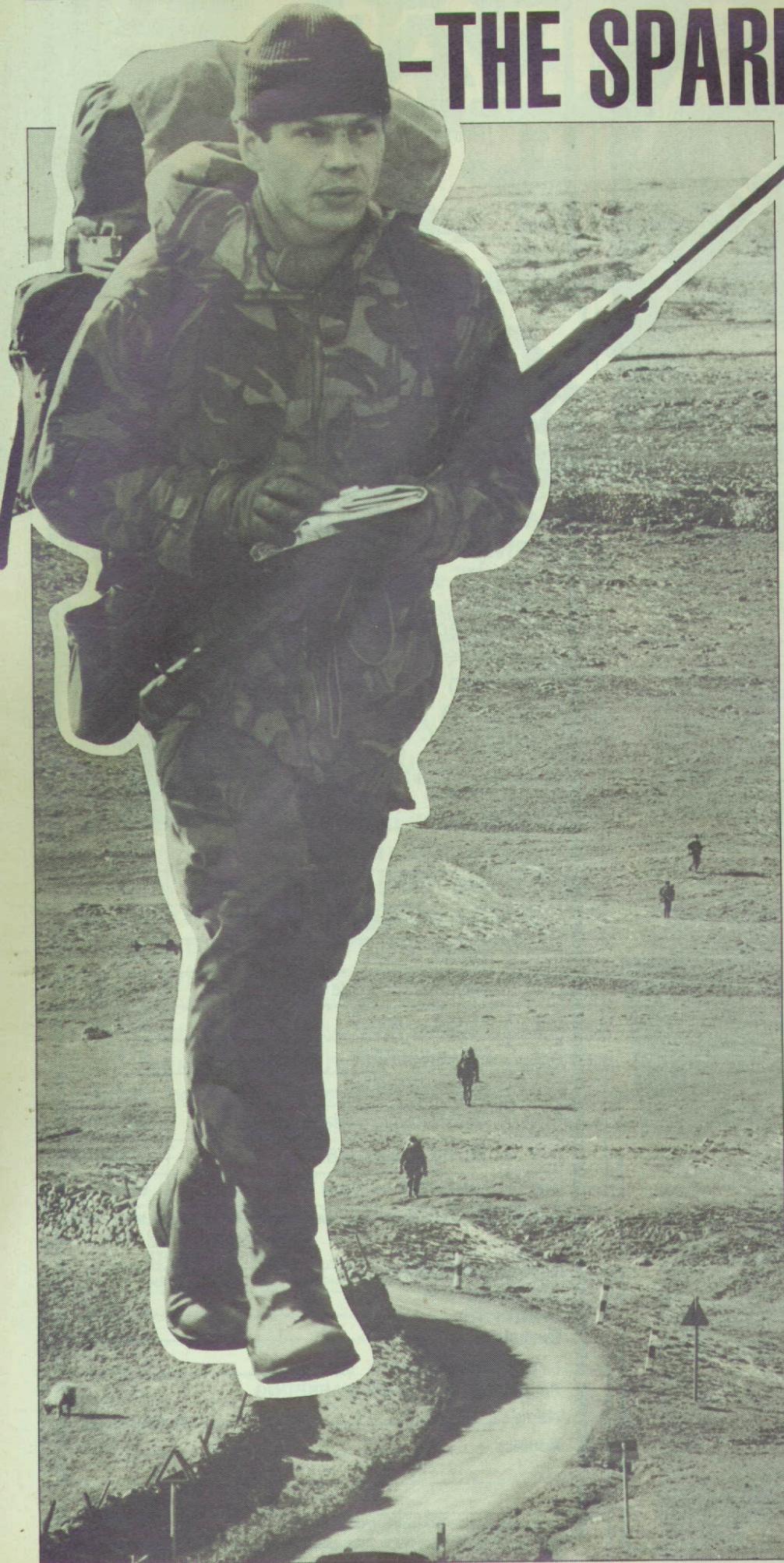
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LEARNING TO DARE AND WIN -THE SPARE-TIME SAS



THE YORKSHIRE DALES boast some of the most breath-taking hills in Britain. Rolling magnificently over 680 square miles of the northern part of the nation's largest county, they comprise the third biggest of Britain's ten national parks and provide a perfect proving ground for military survival skills.

The prospect of spending 24 hours virtually non-stop scaling and then slithering down their 1-in-2 limestone slopes with a Bergen strapped to the back, as heavy as a half-hundredweight sack of spuds, is a daunting psychological, let alone physical, barrier to break through.

It calls not only for a rare kind of mental and bodily endurance but also for a special kind of part-time soldier — one who can do it all clutching a sling-less self-loading rifle which he has probably never even fired before!

But these gruelling marathons of mind over matter are never short of combat-kitted takers. For the glittering prize that lures strong, fit, young men to these crag-crested slopes is the prospect of joining a part-time elite . . . an SAS Territorial Army squadron.

Many of them will have put in just seven 'work-up' weekends and 12 evenings before submitting to a veritable sifting of the men from the boys amid the dry-stoned walls of the Dales. With only languid, black-faced sheep for company amid the echoing, empty acres, they are given just 24 hours to cover 34 miles while toting 52lb packs, rifles and belt order.

Three times a year, the 'fliers' or 'plodders' (as they are known in the SAS trade) make it to these scar-strewn moors. Deprived of sleep and often in flesh-searing cold, they push themselves beyond the pain barriers of blisters, twisted ankles or torn tendons to prove themselves — to themselves — and win the chance of a place with an SAS 'Terrier' outfit.

A day and night out in the Dales may have their ups and downs but the SAS aspirants love every minute of it — or so they will tell you.

Common to all individual psyches is the will to win. In their Bergens are ample rations and safety equipment. In their hands their trusty SLRs. In their pockets, a compass and ordnance survey map upon which nothing is ever written, and in their weary heads, the capacity to memorise perhaps three consecutive six-figure grid co-ordinates.

They come too, from the Yellow Pages, a mish-mash of trades and professions. People like your friendly neighbourhood butcher . . . baker . . . and, if not a candlestick maker, perhaps an antique dealer or two.

Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Paul Haley

It is even rumoured that there are SAS Terriers listed in Burke's Peerage and Debrett's.

Some 200 miles to the north of Watford, the 23rd Special Air Service Regiment (Volunteers), formed in 1959, with its roots firmly planted in the Midlands, the north of England and Scotland, has just finished an active spell of recruiting over recent weeks with its sister TA unit of 12 years' seniority, 21st Special Air Service Regiment (Artists) Volunteers.

At one checkpoint nestling in a remote hillside village, back-dropped by a towering 2300-foot Pike, a seasoned 21 SAS staff sergeant, acting as a monitor, waited for the men on the skyline to totter down to his Land Rover rendezvous (RV) point, one of nine such points literally dotted over the 34 mile survival course.

Some of the pale-faced youngsters, he assessed, looked "rather peaky." In paternal fashion he advised them to drink more water and take salt to avoid debilitating dehydration symptoms before moving off to their next given grid location.

Men from a nearby Dales village had done much the same thing in the September of 1513, except that they had no maps and



Above: High-powered 'binos' monitor progress.

at grid reference 893372.

Finger tips, incidentally, are strictly verboten when it comes to pointing out a map reference — the extremity of the offending digit covers too much ground. Sliver-like blades of grass or twigs are much more precise and preferred under SAS tutorage.

So, the new six-figure grids given verbally, the men moved off again, still in good humour — a scant sixty seconds later.

The anonymous 21 SAS staff sergeant of scimitar-shaped sideburns and Burt Reynolds moustache — a sort of corporate image for senior NCOs — said: "If a guy gets injured — a broken leg or whatever — he can apply for a 're-course' and try again. It takes a lot of guts for a bloke to enter this kind of test, especially those with no previous military experience and perhaps with just seven weekends of preliminary training, let alone navigate across country with compass and map on which nothing must be written. It's all down to memory.

"They probably haven't even fired an SLR or general purpose machine gun yet. You've got to take your hats off to them."

During SOLDIER's flying visit to Exercise Long Drag on a particularly 'nithering' or freezing North Yorkshire morning, 46 men had been dropped off in groups from four-tonners some 20 miles from their base camp as the prelude to the scheduled 24-hour trek over snow-dusted moorlands during the specialist SAS seminar.

The tyros included a trainee barrister, a London estate agent, a Sotheby's auctioneer, civil servants and a university lecturer — all of them dubbed 'city slickers' by the SAS but all with an equal chance alongside builders, bricklayers, electricians, milkmen, paint sprayers and the like. Surprisingly few had 'fallen in' from the dole queues around the country.

Though less than 50 men were now facing this icy trek, there had been more than 500 volunteers just a few months earlier. Many of them, dubbed as 'cowboys', had been weeded out at initial interview. Others had quickly dropped out when the going got too tough.

One of the PSIs (Permanent Staff Instruc-

their next RV was the battlefield at Flodden in Northumberland during the joust between English longbows and Scottish spears



Above: A laugh and a joke make going easier.

Below: Dry moorland walls flank aspirants.



tors) from the Regular Hereford SAS Regiment put the current rise in popularity of the SAS public image down to the remarkable events of the Iranian Embassy siege just over a year ago.

Most SAS Terrier applicants say they want a challenge and a change from their everyday work. And the 2000-foot-plus Yorkshire Dales certainly gave the course 'survivors' all of that — a hiking day and night out with a limb-numbing, mind-boggling difference.

On average, they were covering just under two miles an hour and were ever-mindful of rural ecology and the Country Code.

Some 20 local farmers and agents had co-operated with the exercise planners and they got full co-operation in return. Soldiers dutifully clanged heavy iron-barred farm-yard gates firmly behind them and were tolerant and defiant of the attentions of penned barking sheepdogs and harassment from sudden, scurrying 'battle pair' sorties by honking ganders (usually from the rear!).

The TA trekkers dropped no litter. To do so would have meant instant departure from the course. They side-stepped, where possible, past parcels of mealy primroses, moun-



Above: Village rendezvous under expert eyes.

Left: One man and a lonely personal marathon.

Far left: Dutifully observing the Country Code.

tain globe flowers and lilies-of-the-valley.

With safety in adverse weather always in the mind of the SAS sponsors, the men were kitted out with mini-flares. Even on phases like Exercise Long Drag the rules were flexible and could be changed.

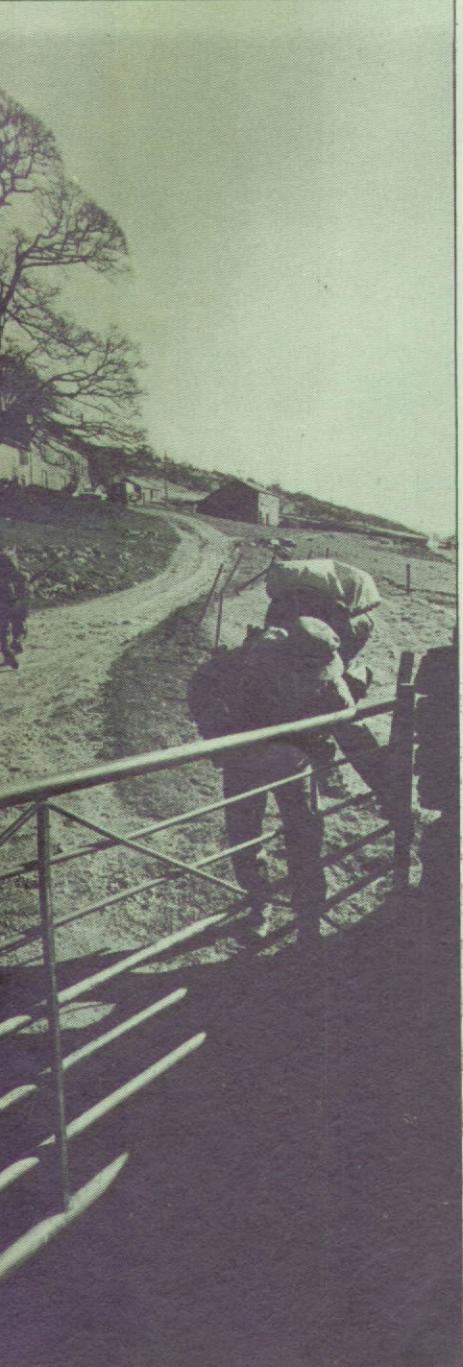
"We would always pull them off in really bad weather," explained a Scots-born staff sergeant.

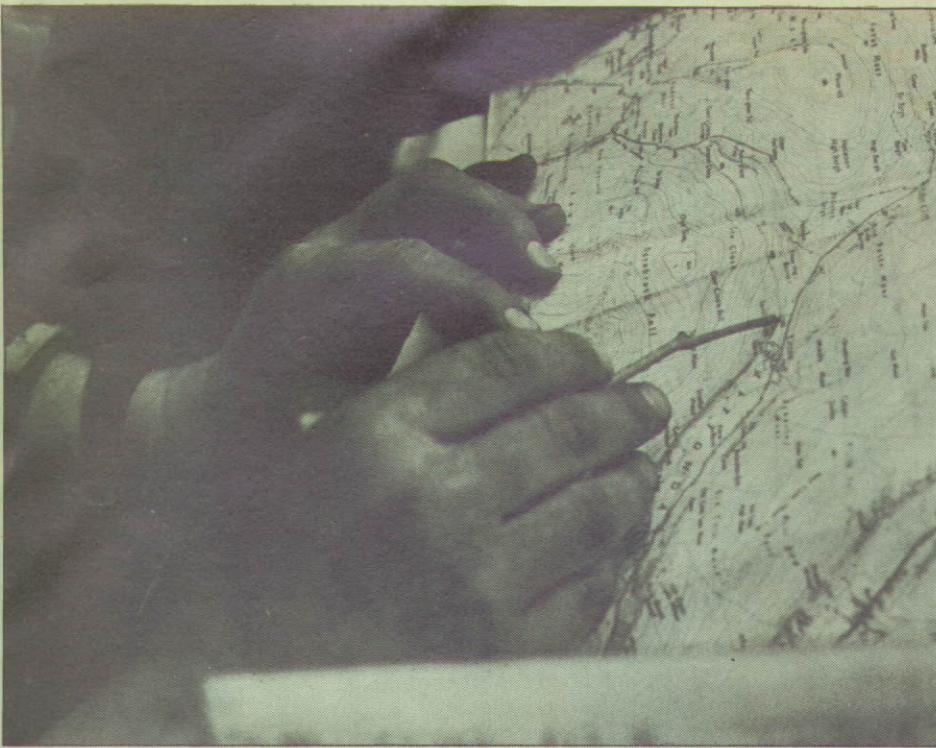
Good times are achieved in this cross-country event. One man, a super-fit 'flier,' started 40 minutes after the first batch . . . and overtook its first man.

But it is not always the 'fliers' who pass the ultimate test. The tortoise can still beat the hare. Injury or meagre map reading ability can lose it all for a 'flier' and the 'plodders' have as good a chance of acceptance at the end of the day.

The men on the march, as they 'tabbed' across the moors under the relentless pressure of forced partnership with their packs, were encouraged to make hot meals for themselves to sustain energy and ward off hypothermia.

Many, however, tended to rely on a glucose in-put, their pockets bulked out with





Above: Tiny twigs make accurate map pointers.

bars of that brand of chocolate bar that supposedly helps one to work, rest and play — though there was little chance for the latter two options for the aspiring SAS spartans.

The general advice was simple. Move at speed during the day to compensate for a two-thirds loss of progress during darkness.

On their meandering military trek over the moors, most men underwent a welcome secondary form of weight loss — from their packs. It was estimated that by the end of the 24 hours they would have munched and drunk their way through about seven pounds of rations and liquids.

23 SAS is well aware of the role it would have to play in any war and its commanding officer, or 'boss' in SAS terms, says: "We are not going to drop our standards. We are looking for a guy who has got mental and physical determination, is compatible with all sorts of people — we are a totally classless regiment — has a good sense of humour, is intelligent and can work with small groups or, if need be, on his own. The principles are the same with us as for the Regular regiment."

That 'classlessness' is underlined by the fact that all potential SAS officers must first complete a year's probation as a trooper. But why the thrice yearly recruitment drive?

"A man may stay with us for 15 years but we also lose people through a change of job, pressure of work or even from the family or perhaps from injury," he explained.

But the 34 mile muscle-knotting experience, even as he spoke, was not the end of the Yorkshire connection.

Five hours after the finish — earlier for the 'fliers' — these marathon men had to clean themselves and their kit, snatch whatever sleep they could and get ready for lectures on the comprehensive syllabus. No nodding off here!

It went on for ten more days. Basic infantry and SAS skills . . . range firing on the SLRs and GPMGs . . . ambush and RV techniques . . . fieldcraft and tactical training.

Right: Waiting for next stream of rookies.

For those who tried the selection course but failed there was disappointment but no disgrace. They went home holding the SAS in even higher personal esteem.

Certainly when SOLDIER took a quick glance at the happy hopefuls, the physical testing of human endurance and endeavour seemed high on the list of personal appeal as the men, under obvious strain, quietly checked into the RVs and out again with a cheery remark, quiet confidence and a departing grin.

A 28-year-old London estate agent who "loves country life," his faculties little blunted by his previous seven mobile hours, said: "It's given me a programme of physical exertion and effort I would not get anywhere else. I hope it will all lead up to a lot of interesting activities for me later."

His enthusiasm was echoed by a fresh-faced 22-year-old carpenter from Dundee, his head cocooned in a commando-type khaki woolly hat. "I'm very physically minded. I wanted to join an Army unit and the SAS is the most physical you'll ever get. It's an excellent regiment. If you get their badge, it's an honour and it's something you have earned for the rest of your life." ■





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FOR anyone with £10 and several hours to spare, the recently published Defence White Paper (*Statement on the Defence Estimates 1981, volumes 1 and 2*) offers a rich fund of facts and figures on Britain's Armed Forces and their role at home and abroad.

But perhaps the most revealing information comes on the opening page in a preamble by the Secretary of State for Defence, Mr John Nott. Change, he makes it plain, is long overdue. New programmes are needed to



"Gentlemen, due to Defence economies MoD have decided to replace all target ranges with Space Invaders."

exploit new technology and tactical concepts. Successive spending cuts have fallen disproportionately on newer programmes where funds are not fully committed. Too much is tied up in sophisticated weapons platforms and not enough on the weapons and sensors they need to carry.

Though deliberately avoiding the emotive term 'defence review' the Secretary of State has made it clear that the next few months will see him busy discussing with the Chiefs of Staff and our allies how technological and other changes can help us fulfil our basic roles more effectively but without a massive increase in expenditure. "We must establish in the long-term programme the right balance between the inevitable resource constraints and our necessary defence requirements," he says.

Value for money, not surprisingly, is a constantly recurring theme of the White Paper. But although the Statement is not slow to highlight the growing military strength of the Warsaw Pact there is also a good deal in it to encourage our own forces.

For the Army, there is the promise that the Challenger main battle tank with its Chobham armour and more powerful engine, will be in service by the mid-1980s.

Other important developments foreseen include an improved anti-armour round for use by both Chieftain and Challenger, 69 M109 self-propelled guns to add to the new FH70s already deployed, a new Mechanised Combat Vehicle — MCV 80 — to replace the FV 430 series, improvements to the Rapier and Blowpipe and the entry into BAOR service by the mid 80s of Ptarmigan — the new tactical trunk communications system.

On the manpower front, too, the picture is encouraging with recruiting and

SOLDIER to Soldier

retention rates at record levels. But the White Paper points out that there are still shortfalls in some key specialist areas such as Royal Signals and Army Medical Services. It warns too that demographic trends will make reaching future recruiting targets increasingly tougher as numbers in the 16-19 age group decline during the next decade.

There is also some revealing information about costs in the White Paper. A detailed 'shopping list' points out that an Army Lynx helicopter costs £2.1m while the new Challenger tank is estimated at £1.5m. Even the new Nato rifle, it is reckoned, will cost £300 apiece with each single round of ammunition clocking up a further 15p a shot.

Small wonder then that the need to get the maximum use and value out of every piece of kit remains an overriding priority for all three Services and one that every individual soldier, sailor and airman should feel personally responsible for.

In the final analysis the successful defence of our realm may rest not on how much we spend but on how little we waste.



The small multi-national force who kept the peace in Rhodesia so effectively in the run up to elections and independence won widespread acclaim at the time for their courage, patience, good humour and commonsense.

Now comes welcome confirmation that recognition of the Force's splendid achievement is to take a tangible form with the news the Queen has approved a new medal to mark service in Rhodesia by all those who took part in 'Operation Agila' — members of the Services, police and civilians.

Called The Rhodesia Medal, the cupro-nickel circular medal has a crowned effigy of the Queen on the front by sculptor David Wynne. The reverse bears a sable antelope, similar to that used on Rhodesian coins, surrounded by the inscription *The Rhodesia Medal 1980*. The ribbon has red, white and blue vertical stripes.

Fourteen days service in Rhodesia is the basic qualification for the medal. They are being produced by the Royal Mint at Llantrisant and about 2500 will be awarded. If their governments wish, it will also be available to the forces of Australia, Fiji, Kenya and New Zealand who took part in the monitoring operation.

Operation Agila concluded on 20 March 1980 but the British Army still has some 150 personnel scattered throughout Zimbabwe providing tuition and training for its new national army.

AS this year's London Marathon proved, a mass-participation 'happening' that can offer a challenge laced with camaraderie seems destined to win massive popularity. This certainly seems to be borne out by the annual Royal Military Police and City of Chichester march, which last year attracted over 4000 eager foot-sloggers and takes place this year on Sunday 9 August.

As in previous years, the march is open to military and civilian teams of not less than six and not more than 30 marchers. A choice of three walks, ranging from six to 25 miles, should encourage even the youngest entrants to reach the finishing line. Starting times will be staggered between 8am and 11.45am.

Medals and diplomas will be presented to all successful walkers and team prizes will be presented for the best turnout, discipline and so on. The day will end with a full dress parade through the city with the salute taken by the Mayor and military dignitaries.

The march was first staged in 1977 as part of the Royal Military Police centenary celebrations. It aims at encouraging physical well-being and a spirit of international goodwill and friendship. Last year's event attracted marchers from Europe, Canada and the USA.

Entry forms and information about accommodation etc, can be obtained from The Hon Secretary, Royal Military Police and City of Chichester March, Roussillon Barracks, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 4BN. Closing date for entries is 17 July.



A last-minute reminder for Folk folk. This year's Services Folk Competition is again to stage its finals at RAF Brize Norton in October, but the closing date for entries is 1 June — so hurry!

Topping the bill this year will be The Spinners supported by the McCalman's, and the contest will see personnel from all three Services battling for over £700 in cash as well as trophies and plaques. The BBC will be recording the finals and copies will be distributed to BBC regional and local radio as well as through the BFBS networks.

The competition is open to Servicemen — and women — based in the United Kingdom, Cyprus, Germany or Gibraltar. Those serving in Germany should obtain entry forms from BFBS Cologne and in Cyprus and Gibraltar from their local BFBS stations.

In the United Kingdom you can obtain them from Services Folk Competition '81, PO Box 1234, London SW1 or from your local BBC radio station. Solo folk performers, groups or folk song composers are eligible.

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	Peterborough—Willoughby Cr
	Peterborough—Wernington
Cheshire	Chester—Hawthorn
	Crews—Coppenhall
	Ellesmere Port—The Gables
	Great Sankey—Green Pk
	Macclesfield—The Oaks
	Moreton Spur—Upton Pk
	Northwich—Briarside
	Poynton—Brookside Fm
	Runcorn—Borrow Bridge
	Runcorn—Cloughwood
	Stockport—Offerton—Lansdowne
	Timperley—Quarry Bank
	Timperley—The Grove
	Warrington—The Hawthorns
	Widnes—Oakhouse Fm
	Winsford—Darnall Pk
	Winsford—Moors Pk
Derbyshire	Alston—The Oaklands
	Buxton—Foxlow Pk
	Chapel-En-Le Frith—Lodge
	Chellaston—Maple Drive
	Clowne—Church Lane
	Derby—Breadal
	Eckington—Highwood Pk
	Pilsley—The Paddocks
	Spondon—Royal Hill Pk
Dorset	Christchurch—Blenheim Pk
	Poole—Sherborne Gdns
	Wimborne—Marlborough Park
	Wimborne—Marlborough Crs §
Durham	Crook—Thistletop
	Esh Wimpy—Ivesley Pk
	Felling—Lean Lane
	Houghton le Spring—Heath Grange
	Ryton—Woodside Pk
	Stanley—Burnside
Essex	Clacton—Cann Hall
	Clacton—Marine Parade
	Cromer—Wivenhoe—Broadgate
Glostershire	Brockhampton—Nr Cheltenham—Brockhampton §
	Newent—Lakeside
	Tewkesbury—Arlington Gdns
Greater London	Blackheath—Papions
	Brent—Hawarden Hill §
	Croydon—Paxtons
	Ealing—Sawyers Law §
	Golders Green—Park Court §
	Laleham—Stanes—Lambs
	Wandsworth—College Gdns
	Wimbledon—Ashville House §
Hampshire	Alton—The Ridgeway
	Basingstoke—Hayward Ride
	Basingstoke—Parklands
	Fareham—Birdwood Grove
	Farnham—Whitehill—Pinewood Chase
	Farnborough—Cove—Tie Barn
	Fleet—Fleet Down
	Fontham—Ermworth—Spencers Fld
	Southampton—Chartwell Green
	Waterlooville—Nr Portsmouth—Confer
Humberside	Bridlington—The Nursery
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	Poole—Sherborne Gdns	Glenavas—Whinnyknowe	16,675	Yorkshire—West
	Wimborne—Marlborough Park	Glenavas—Whinnyknowe	16,675	Badsworth—Badsworth Cr
	Wimborne—Marlborough Crs §	Glenavas—Whinnyknowe	16,675	Bradford—Wibsey—Beldon Hill
Norfolk	Diss—Vines Lane	Glenavas—Whinnyknowe	16,675	Bradford—Bolton—Springwood
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	Felling—Lean Lane	Glenavas—Whinnyknowe	16,675	Bradford—Idle—Moorlands
	Houghton le Spring—Heath Grange	Glenavas—Whinnyknowe	16,675	Bradford—Poplars Fm
	Ryton—Woodside Pk	Glenavas—Whinnyknowe	16,675	Bradford—Odsal—Coll Gdns
	Stanley—Burnside	Glenavas—Whinnyknowe	16,675	Bradford—Westgate Hill
Essex	Clacton—Cann Hall	Glenavas—Whinnyknowe	16,675	Castleford—Edendale Rise
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	Laleham—Stanes—Lambs	Glenavas—Whinnyknowe	16,675	Leeds—Adel—Woodside
	Wandsworth—College Gdns	Glenavas—Whinnyknowe	16,675	Leeds—Belle Isle—Parsonage
	Wimbledon—Ashville House §	Glenavas—Whinnyknowe	16,675	Leeds—Belle Vue Rd
Hampshire	Alton—The Ridgeway	Glenavas—Whinnyknowe	16,675	Kendal Bank
	Basingstoke—Hayward Ride	Glenavas—Whinnyknowe	16,675	Leeds—Cottingley—Beechcroft
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ROYAL ARMAMENT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ESTABLISHMENT



Above: Colonel Desmond Longfield with early model of the new Light Anti-armour Weapon.

THE FORT THAT HAS BECOME A FOUNT — OF NEW WEAPONS



BUILT AT THE END of the 19th century as one of a row of forts across Surrey and Kent to protect London from invasion, Fort Halstead later became the centre at which Britain's first atomic bomb was developed. Today the hilltop near Sevenoaks is the centre for the development of Britain's new non-nuclear weapons for the Army — the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment.

Now, as then, the work is mostly classified — which is hardly surprising considering that much of it is concerned with armaments likely to come into service in the nineties and beyond.

About 50 Service officers are based at Fort Halstead — the majority from the Army although all three services are represented. The senior military officer is a brigadier who acts as adviser to the Director together with a senior Naval and a senior RAF officer. Deputy Directors are advised by colonels, departmental heads by lieutenant-colonels and the majority of branches have a resident major.

Ninety per cent of the Army appointments are for weapons staff officers trained at Shrivenham — only a handful require a particular badge, such as those concerned with artillery weapons systems.

RARDE traces its direct history back to the 14th century when an organisation known as the Office of Ordnance was set up at the Tower of London. For three centuries its forerunners were connected with Woolwich.

Left: Applying finishing touches to model of future Multi-Launch Rocket System (MLRS).

Fort Halstead itself having been built to counter the threat of a cross-Channel invasion by the French, was used throughout the First World War for the storage of ammunition. It was sold in 1922 but reverted to the War Office in 1937.

Since that time it has fulfilled a similar role to its present one. Among RARDE's many achievements since it came into existence in 1955 have been the 105mm gun for the Abbot self-propelled weapon system, the 120mm gun for the Chieftain tank and the new 51mm mortar and its bomb.

One of the most important areas of research on the ammunition side of RARDE is into armour piercing anti-tank rounds. Today the emphasis is on delivering a concentrated punch into a small area of the tank and a lot of research is being carried out into fin stabilised armour piercing discarding sabot projectiles.

The stabilised round is not yet in service, but it is well down the development line and likely to be in use by Chieftains within the next year or two. But, as with most RARDE projects, its further development will be a continuous process over the next ten years or so.

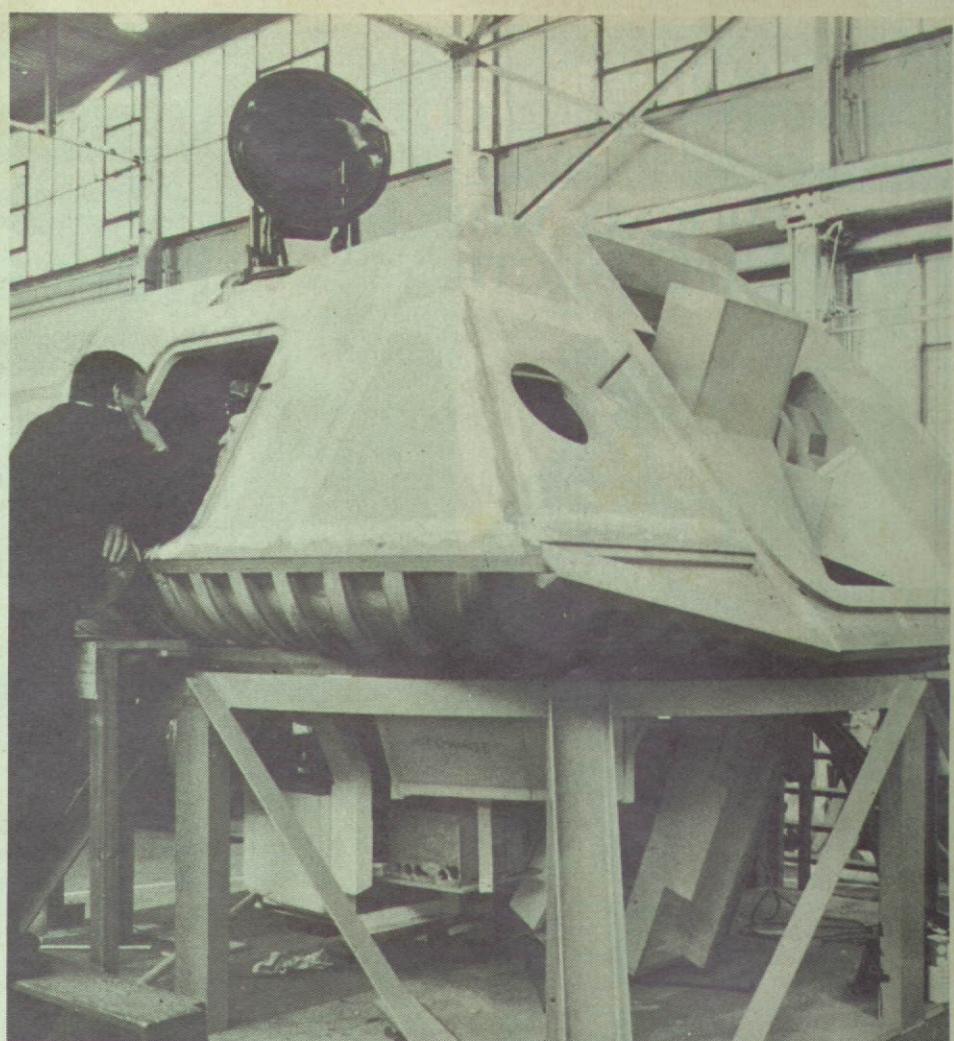
Pencils and drawing boards may soon be back numbers for the draughtsmen at Fort Halstead. They now have computer aided design facilities and are assessing their suitability for work at the establishment.

Senior draughtsmen, after only two weeks training, are putting the computer through its paces with actual tasks. The big advantage of the new system is that if a drawing has to be altered it does not need to be completely redrawn.

One of RARDE's star productions of recent times has been LAW, the replacement for the Carl-Gustav and M72 anti-tank weapons, which is now under full development.

This light anti-armour weapon is shoulder fired and the launcher is thrown away after use. Says Col Denis Ewart-Evans: "Our job was to design something to defeat the front armour of a modern tank which could still be easily hand carried by an individual. It will destroy any known battle tank in the 1980's and I'm told it's quite comfortable to fire."

There is a considerable amount of research into optics. This was started in the mid-sixties with the setting up of a small advisory group which, in the words of Major



Brian Earl, a Canadian exchange officer working at Fort Halstead, "has since grown into an extremely useful and valuable research organisation."

The work in this department covers lasers as well as different aspects of optics. At present they are investigating infra-red optics to see how useful they can be in service use. The department has a glass workshop to turn theory into practice by actually creating the lenses.

The sight unit infantry trilux too was developed by RARDE in the late sixties. Major Earl says it has been found that soldiers have also been using it as a surveillance device and keeping it on their weapons all the time. Now a successor has been developed for the new generation of small arms which will increase magnification and enlarge the field of view.

The new binoculars which came into service last year were also developed at Fort Halstead. A lot of research went into the development of the new lightweight pair with fixed focus, useable by 99 per cent of soldiers. They are described as 'classical binoculars lined up to infinity and with canted bodies so the eyes can assume a natural restful position.'

In the warhead field RARDE is concerned with research, design and development of conventional, non-nuclear warheads for guided weapons, torpedoes, air dropped munitions (excluding bombs), free flight rockets and underwater mines. Its scientists and engineers are also concerned with assessing foreign munitions.

Air targets, land targets, ships and underwater targets — all may need different warhead requirements to defeat them. The job of RARDE is to work on the best for

Above: Wooden mock-up of 155mm SP 70 turret used to check crew and equipment space. each. Says Commander John Goscomb: "You don't use a fly swatter to kill an elephant".

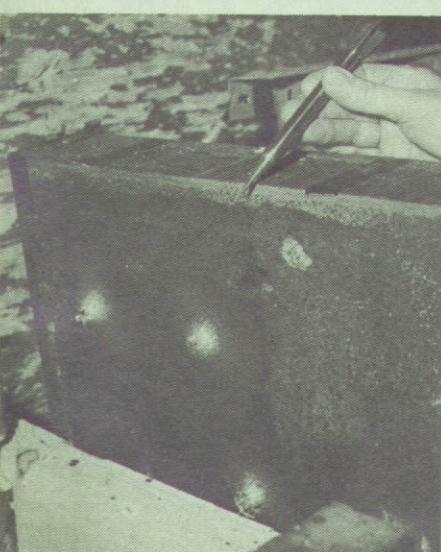
There is also a great emphasis on safety. Warheads must detonate when required but not explode accidentally. Therefore they must be designed to resist attack by bullet or fragments or in a fuel fire. Commander Goscomb has a photograph of a warhead with five bullet holes — it did not go off.

The computer is playing an increasing role in this field too, yielding a number of benefits. 'Oddball' ideas on warheads can be submitted to the computer to see if they will work. In the past they might never have got off the ground because of development cost and a good idea might have been lost.

Welcoming computerisation, Commander Goscomb says: "It is very much the trend of the future. You will get very much more sophistication and you will also save time. For example we might get a design out in three years instead of eight. If it takes too long the enemy will have improved its armour in the meantime."

The people at Fort Halstead admit they are a long way from the soldier and his day to day life in the field. Says Colonel Desmond Longfield: "We deal with operational requirements from people who deal with soldiers so our link with the front line soldier is a tenuous one."

"But when it comes to larger and more complex systems we are dealing quite some time into the future. The regimental soldier sees only today and its problems. What he wants now is not always strictly relevant to what may be required in ten to 15 years time. We are here to look ahead".



Above: Results of test firing sub-calibre projectiles into armour plate.

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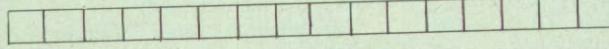
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Story: John Walton Pictures: Les Wiggs

Infantry Junior Leader Battalion

Cliff class set to climb

HIGH ABOVE THE CHALK CLIFFS at Folkestone 178 years ago Sir John Moore assembled his troops who later set off and did battle with Napoleon in the Peninsula War. Today the British front line of defence is in the northern plains of Germany but that same site at Shorncliffe is prominent in training the Army of the future.

It is now the home of the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion, youngsters straight from school who are reckoned to have a better than average chance of being the senior NCOs of our infantry regiments in a few years time.

Statistics certainly bear this out. Surveys showed recently that while at private level the junior leader was very much in the minority, by staff sergeant and Warrant Officer 2 he greatly outnumbered the rest. "There is at least twice the prospect for promotion and the junior leader does get ahead very quickly" reports the Battalion Second-in-Command, Major Bill McGinty, Royal Scots.

continued on page 18



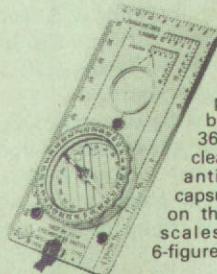
Although there are still a number of Victorian barrack buildings on the site, plus a garrison church completed just before the last war and said to be the largest in Britain, the junior leaders are housed in a complex built originally for the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in the 1960s.

The RAOC never took up the offer and the Junior Infantryman's Battalion moved to the cliff top eyrie in 1968. It took its present

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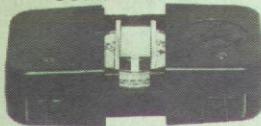
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The Driver Training Wing of the IJLB does not actually take junior leaders at all. Operating at Shorncliffe with ten civilian instructors, its original brief was to train ex-junior soldiers who were going into man service in the infantry.

Now the course has been revised and this year it will expect to produce 138 ordinary licence holders on Land-Rovers and 176 HGV licences on four ton trucks. All of the latter are older soldiers with at least a year on a full driving licence. The Wing is in fact the only driver training establishment for the infantry.

title in 1974 when the school leaving age was raised to 16 and the number of junior entrants plummeted. This saw the closure of the Junior Leader's Regiment at Oswestry and its merger with the Shorncliffe battalion.

Now, of course, things have turned full circle and there is an additional junior soldiers' battalion based at Taunton. Shorncliffe includes a few junior soldiers but only as a fill-up to the maximum number of 760 juniors under training.

Because it was once a busy garrison Shorncliffe gives plenty of space for training and there are excellent facilities including two gymnasiums, modern classrooms and laboratories, an assault course, various ranges, a junior ranks club with a Channel view, a tennis court, squash courts, an athletics track and no less than 13 sports pitches.

There are three intakes every year. The largest, naturally, is in September with a smaller one in June while a few arrive in January. Half of the latter are likely to be Scottish because boys can leave school in Scotland at Christmas. Scottish boys can also come in younger — at 15 years 9 months as against 16 for their English counterparts.

The aim of the course at Shorncliffe is not to turn out a trained section commander but to promote leadership qualities which will give the youngster a good start in his Army career.

On the drill square he learns not only how to be drilled but how to drill a squad as well. One lad each term will reach the coveted position of junior regimental sergeant-major — although he always has to remember that when he leaves for his adult service he will be back to square one as an ordinary private.

The Regimental Sergeant-Major, Warrant Officer 1 Fred Hardie, said as he watched a squad go by under a youthful drill instructor: "It's very rewarding to see those junior leaders strung out like that and they have only been here for half of their time. A

Also housed at Shorncliffe under the auspices of the IJLB is the Potential Officers Wing. The groups of young men aged between 18 and 24 spend six weeks at Shorncliffe during which they learn map reading and how to lecture their peers, go walking in Yorkshire and attend various lectures designed to help them before they go before the Commissions Board at Westbury.

junior leader can come here and inside a year he will be commanding a parade of 600 boys. Granted he will be the best one but the others will all have learned the rudiments of commanding a squadron on the square."

Half the curriculum of the Infantry Junior Leaders' Battalion is devoted to military employment training, a quarter to physical training and sports plus adventure training and the remainder to education.

There are five training companies and under the family system introduced recently the boys see the same platoon commander and sergeants during their stay at Shorncliffe. Each of the companies specialises in training for particular divisions — for instance Arnhem covers the King's Division and the Parachute Regiment, Corunna the Scottish and Light Divisions.

Since he became Commanding Officer Lieutenant-Colonel Jon Fleming has also been instrumental in changing the training establishment and is reintroducing corporals after an absence of a quarter of a century.

Over the next 18 months the system of having one subaltern and two sergeants for every 40 junior leaders will be phased out to be replaced by a platoon commander, a platoon sergeant and three corporals to every 50.

Colonel Fleming explains the reason for the change thus: "Unless the boy has seen a





Above: On the assault course above the cliffs.
corporal before he leaves here he is likely to ask a question of a sergeant in his regular battalion which ought to be asked of a corporal. He will get into trouble for asking the right question of the wrong person.

"The second reason is that the age difference between the corporal and the junior leader is less and that does matter. It seemed to me to be strange that in every other infantry battalion in the land a platoon consists of an officer, a sergeant and three corporals until you come to Folkestone where you get one officer and two sergeants, which is unreal."

Colonel Fleming also feels that corporals

are of a much higher standard than they were 25 years ago. In any event all of the staff at Folkestone are hand picked, re-interviewed when they arrive and have to be trained in instruction before they take charge of junior leaders.

The first corporal has already arrived. He is Corporal Stevie Grieve, (22), of the King's Own Scottish Borderers, a junior at Shorncliffe himself until August 1976. Since that time he has been to Kenya, Belize, Northern Ireland, Rhodesia and Germany.

He told SOLDIER: "I'm quite pleased to come back as permanent staff. It's not changed much since I was here and if they find anything hard I'm able to tell them that



Above: Junior, Mark Hughes gets switched on.

I've done it all before."

During their first seven weeks the boys wear the IJLB badge but after they pass off the square they wear the badge and head-dress of the regiment they will be joining.

During their first term they have an introductory weekend camp out in the field but it is not until the second and third term that the advanced training in external leadership really gets under way.

At the beginning of their second term the boys go out and do something non-military such as a company camp tree planting. This is to counter any homesickness problems — always a crucial factor at the start of their second term.

"It's always difficult for them when they have been back home and have to return to soldiering so we try to hit them with something interesting," says Major McGinty.

continued on page 21



Above: Capt Jennifer Harper helps one of class.
Right: Introduction to the 84 mm Carl Gustav.



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*In the May 1980 issue of their magazine 'Motorwelt' ADAC (the W. German equivalent of our own AA/RAC service) showed Colt cars top of the reliability table with only 3.9 breakdowns per 1,000 registrations for cars up to 2 years old.

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3	Mercedes-Benz	5.6
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6	Datsun	7.5
7	VW	8.6
8	Opel	9.6
9	Ford	10.1
10	Audi	10.2
11	BMW	10.6
12	Renault	11.4
13	Fiat	13.8
14	Talbot	14.9
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During that second term the youngsters go on a 36 hour trek and learn more tactics. In their final term they will go off in groups of four, unsupervised, in such inhospitable areas as Brecon Beacons, Inverness or Otterburn. And there is a three week battle camp including live firing attacks, helicopter drills and everything else one finds at an infantry battle camp.

Homesickness, incidentally, is the major reason for boys dropping out of the course. Some go on medical or compassionate grounds and a few will transfer to other Army units.

But the figures are getting much better. Last year 72 per cent of those joining finally passed out in the Army — up from 60 per cent a year or two earlier. Says Major McGinty: "A lot of them are immature and we do make them work from morning to night when we have got them here. At 16 it is difficult to look ahead even to the time when they will pass out."

One person who helps some of the lads to get over their homesickness problems is the WRVS representative, Mrs Bobby Stuart.



Above: Proving a junior's life is jammy.

She listens to their troubles, does shopping for them and runs a club each evening and throughout the afternoon and evening on Sundays.

Like all junior soldiers the Shorncliffe boys have hearty appetites. Catering Officer, Warrant Officer 2 Roger Walton, finds the main difference from a regular unit is that all of them are in for three meals a day seven days a week.

"With the junior leader everything has got to be bulk. His favourite food is meat pies, pizza, fried fish in batter and a hell of a lot of chips. We average half a pound of chips per boy per meal. And if you put steak, gammon, salmon and a meat pie on the menu they will go for the meat pie every time."

Major Ray Beaglehole, RAEC, heads an educational staff of 17 instructors, half military and half civilian. A new scheme is now in its first year of operation — leading to the Junior Army Education Certificate.

The educational side covers such things as communication skills (both oral and written), leadership theory and practice, map reading, first aid and methods of instruction — how to instruct others. All of these are tailored to Shorncliffe's own requirements and there are two additional subjects which conform to a national pattern — military calculations and orientation for military service.

On two evenings a week the boys take part in compulsory hobbies sessions. At present they have a choice of 18 including such things as horse riding, pistol shooting, gymnastics, sub aqua and sailing.

Major Beaglehole says the boys range from those with five 'O' levels down to those with none at all. "What we try to do is not to make this just like school, sitting in ranks all the time. After all a lot of them have not succeeded at school."

The Corps of Drums is another hobby — but the band does get a chance to play at passing out parades. At the moment Drum Major Barry Marshall has a bonus in the form of a piper, Junior Leader Neil Clark of the Scots Guards.

Neil learned to play the pipes when he was four. His father played the pipes and his

While the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, was in Northern Ireland recently a group of its younger soldiers spent the four months at Shorncliffe.

The group, all of whom were under 18 and thus not eligible for Northern Ireland service, played enemy in exercises, coached, drove, patrolled, dug trenches, fired on the ranges and got in radio practice.

Said Lance-Corporal Alan Bonney, in charge of the group: "It's much better than being left behind at camp. It's a bit of extra training for them because they have not really been in the battalion although they are trained soldiers."

grandfather was a piper in the Argylls. Says Drum Major Marshall: "He's a great asset and I have him going round with a bass drum so he learns how to march with the drums."

Life in barracks can be a bit of a shock to boys who have always lived at home. They live ten or twelve to a room. Each morning they get up, make beds military style and after breakfast spend 40 minutes cleaning the barracks.

The Commanding Officer regards his job as "the best in the Army". A veteran of the Army Everest expedition of 1974 he plans to take 16 junior leaders to the Himalayas this August.

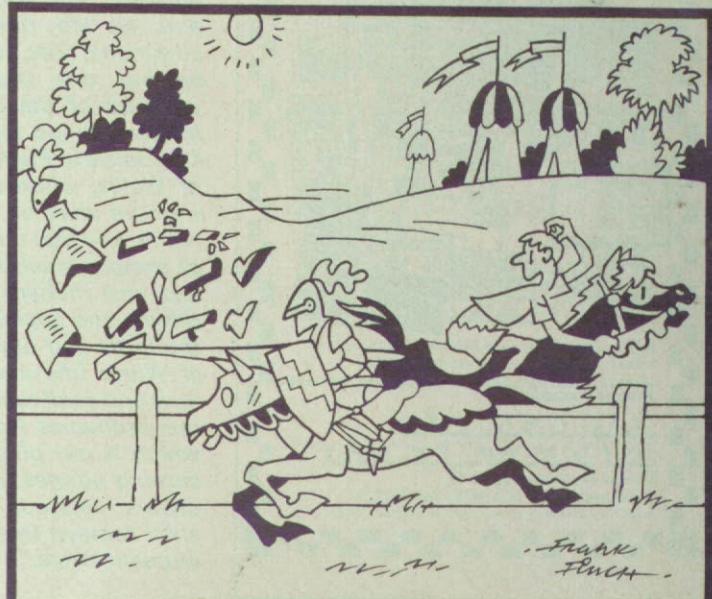
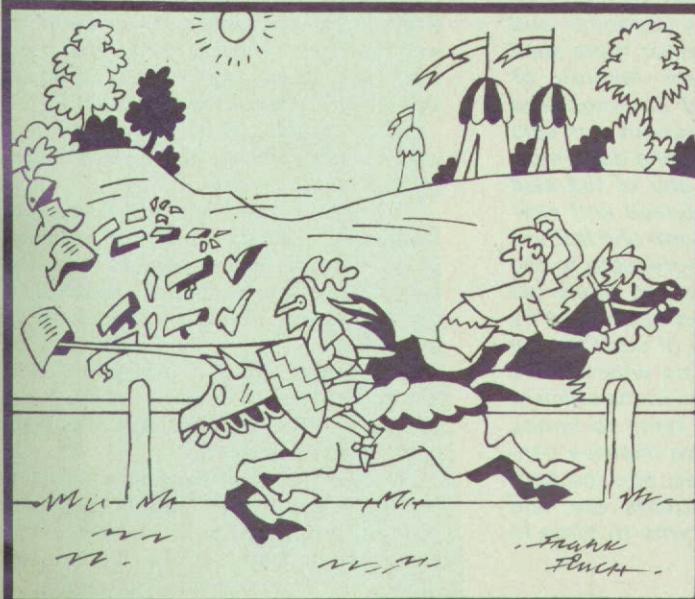
The boys, who will have to contribute towards the cost, will be those who have done particularly well at external leadership this year. Also among the party will be four officers and two sergeants.

The expedition is symbolic of Colonel Fleming's attitude towards his job and of the spirit of enthusiasm which permeates the Infantry Junior Leaders' Battalion.

As he puts it: "My philosophy of running any place is that people should find it enjoyable and if it ceases to be fun then it is simply not worth doing. One is in this life for 80 years, each of us is worth, in chemical terms, three shillings and fourpence half-penny and it is up to each and every one of us to make life as enjoyable as possible."

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences turn to page 53.

How observant are you?



350 years old this month, the Room with...

THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS AGO this month, King Charles I decreed that not only would his Army's equipment be standardised but the specifications for all future accoutrements would be kept in one place.

Under the pronouncement of his Commission for Arms and Armour in 1631 a Pattern Room for the Ordnance Stores was set up in the Tower of London. And three and a half centuries later it still flourishes.

Nowadays, the tri-service Pattern Room and its officially appointed Keeper is located in the Thames Valley within the Quality Assurance Directorate (Stores and Clothing) at Didcot, Oxfordshire.

Within its walls are housed a quarter of a million patterns, including a staggering 33,000 master patterns or main headings ranging in size from a sewing needle to a massive marquee.

The QAD has, in addition to its custody of the Pattern Room, another responsibility. It is to ensure that all items of clothing and general stores procured for the three Services are made to the specifications and standards required by the appropriate contract. And it also inspects items in the same field acquired by and for other government departments.

Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Les Wiggs

A pattern for everything



Above: Everything is signed, sealed and ready.

Extract from a Commission by Charles I on the subject of Arms and Armour, June 1631. Orders in regard to patterns entered in the Patent Rolls (Chancery).

"And because we are credibly given to understand that the often and continually altering and changing of the fashion of arms and armours, some countrys and parts of the Kingdom having armours of one fashion, and some of another, do put many of our subjects to a great and unnecessary charge, and more than need requireth; — for the avoiding whereof, our will and pleasure is, and we do hereby appoint and command, that hereafter there shall be but one uniform fashion of armours of the said common and trayned bands throughout our said Kingdome of England and domynion of Wales, when as any of the said armours shall be supplied and new made, and that that form and fashion of armour shall be agreeable to the last and modern fashion lately set downe and appointed to be used by the lords and others of our Council of Warre (the patterns whereof are now and shall remayn in the office of our ordinance from tyme to tyme), which is our pleasure likewise concerning gunnes, pikes, and the bandoliers whereof patterns are and shall remayn from tyme to tyme in our said office."

The phrase 'signed and sealed' takes on particular significance at Didcot. When the QAD (SC) Director, Mr Cyril Armstrong, approves a pattern, he signs it personally and a colleague endorses his sanction with a tablet of red sealing wax.

Over the last year, patterns have been approved at an average rate of two a week.

Records of 8000 current specifications are being committed to micro-film and micro-computer. It is all a far cry from the battalion of pattern books with their laborious copper-plate script recording entries such as those of 1882, for *pots chamber, India rubber, for lunatics ... or cups, drinking, gutta percha for military prisons*.

You name it, QAD have got it, all carefully catalogued down in the Didcot Pattern Room... musical instruments, wooden palls, stretchers, helmets, jerry cans, cooksets, pace sticks, horse shoes, kilts and shabracques to list just a tiny handful.

Master patterns never leave the establishment and each one has seven standard patterns to complement it.

The most valuable holdings perhaps are Regimental Colours worth an estimated £4000 each; the most numerous, box after box of badges and buttons; the tiniest, sewing needles from the smallest 'housewives' in the world.

During the past four years, Mr Tom Farrell has been the official Pattern Room Keeper — PRK. He once served with the North Staffs Regiment.

He said: "When patterns are adjudged to be obsolete they are passed on to the National Army Museum. To save money and space in these economically stringent times some uniform tunics are made up of

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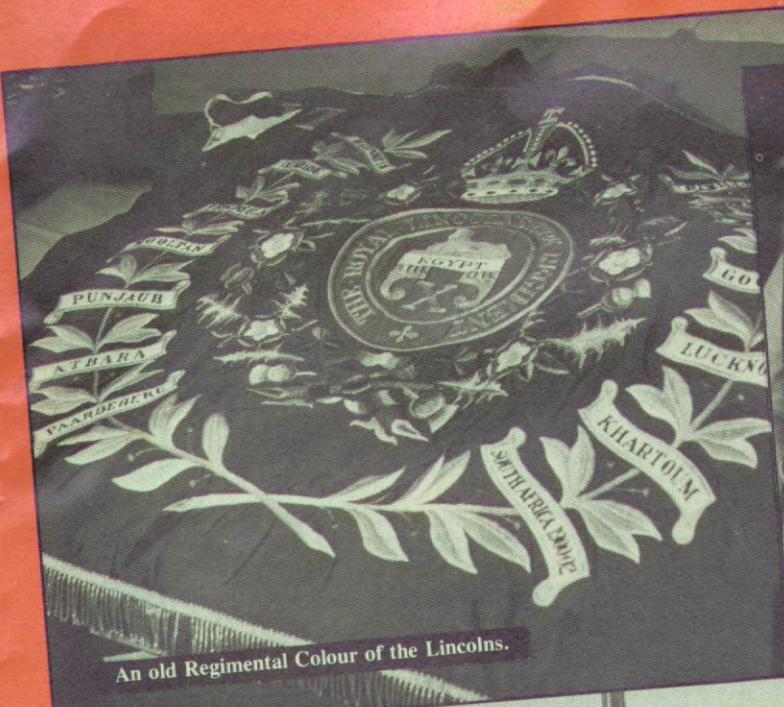
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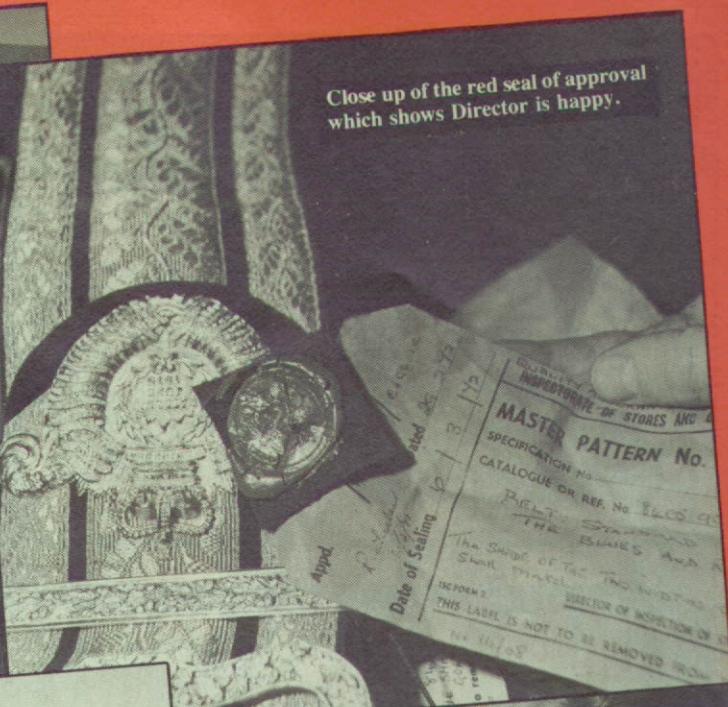
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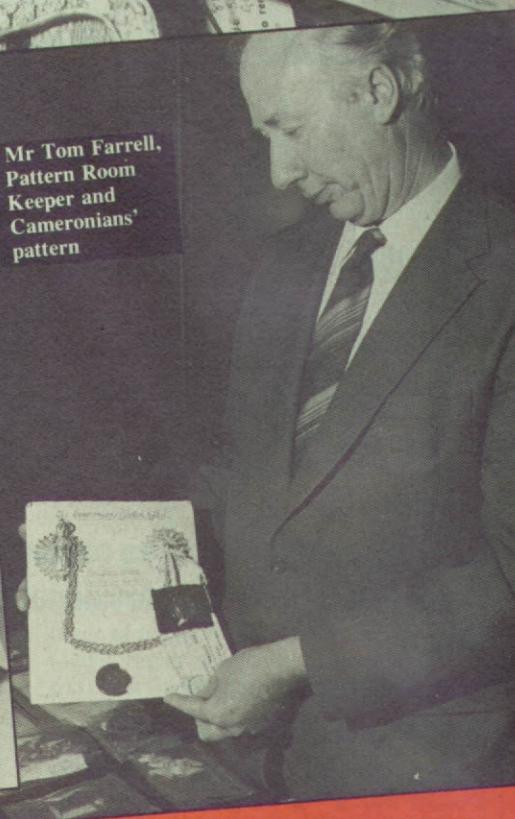
An old Regimental Colour of the Lincolns.



Close up of the red seal of approval which shows Director is happy.



The pattern of Household Cavalry helmet.



Mr Tom Farrell,
Pattern Room
Keeper and
Cameronians'
pattern



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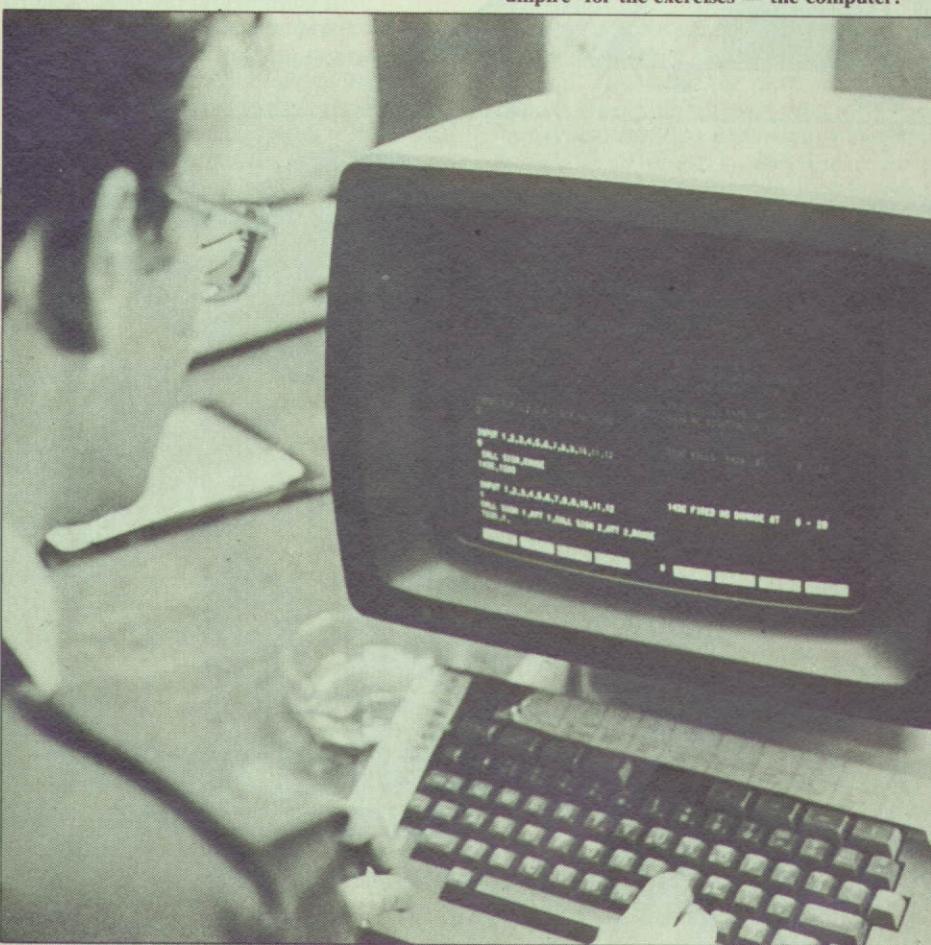
A COMPLEX SIMULATOR IN SENNELAGER IS HELPING SHARPEN MILITARY SKILLS

BATTLES IN THE BOARD ROOM



Above: Red Commander moves his forces across map watched intently from consoles.

Below: Major Adrian Brett consulting the 'umpire' for the exercises — the computer.



IN A BUILDING in Sennelager in West Germany which used to be divided between an amateur theatre and a kindergarten, the dramatics being played out today are definitely not kids stuff. For that building is the home of Rhine Army's Battle Group Trainer — a complex simulator which provides the next best thing to a real battle group exercise at minimal cost.

The Trainer is a follow on from one installed at the Royal Armoured Corps Centre at Bovington two years back. Word has it that when Rhine Army brass saw the Dorset set-up they said "We must have one of those!"

BGT (BAOR) has a small permanent staff of four majors, a warrant officer, two staff sergeants and a couple of civilians. It is headed as Chief Controller by Lieutenant Colonel Peter Fishbourne.

But for most weeks of the year the centre is alive with people and noise. The aim is to provide battle group commanders with a means of training their staffs in drills, procedures and tactics. And a whole sheaf of post exercise thank-you letters bears witness that it does just that.

The Trainer opened last April and 14 battle groups went through in 1980. This year the schedule is for 23 with the possibility of two or three more. Each battle group, based on either armoured regiments or infantry battalions, involves about 25 officers and a similar number of senior and

Story: John Walton

junior ranks. They include representatives from the close recce squadron, field artillery, engineers, Army air corps, air defence and anti-tank roles. In short, everything which goes to make up a modern battle group.

Says Major Tony Gaite, the artillery adviser: "The important thing is that a battle group commander can come during the training season to exercise his command team or trial a new idea at a place where mistakes are inexpensive and there is time for correction: It should be noted that this training does not constitute a test exercise".

It is stressed that the Battle Group Trainer is not a substitute for real training but complementary to it. It offers the chance to practice skills, communications and drills.

The battle is played in a control room on a £7000 map board which reproduces exactly a piece of countryside in the Paderborn area. But the battle group commander and his headquarters are shut away in another area to act on information passed to them over the radio — just as they would have to in real life. They also have a mock up Land Rover to be used when the commander simulates a ground recce, and a TV monitor which can show video recordings of the view from a helicopter or from a camera over the 'play' board zooming in to show the state of the battle. And the commander can also see slides taken of the actual ground from most vantage points within the area being used.

Each of the four majors has a particular role. The Royal Armoured Corps officer plays the enemy commander, the Gunner controls all indirect fire, general artillery

matters and NBC while the Sapper, Major Adrian Brett, gives technical advice on the engineer role but also, most importantly, operates the computer which gives the results of all engagements and acts as 'umpire' during the exercise. The Infantry major, Major Mike Boocock, sits in the cell representing brigade headquarters from where he controls the higher formation input to the exercise. He can also advise on infantry tactics but he has a third role too — administration, where he is assisted by Staff Sergeant Ron Smith — making sure the correct people attend the exercise and that the battle groups on arrival have everything they need.

The programme for each battle group normally lasts five days. After receiving brigade commanders' orders the battle group commander goes out with his battery and engineer troop commanders to do an actual site reconnaissance south of Paderborn.

Meanwhile, back at the Battle Group Trainer, the remainder of the battle group representatives, the player controllers, are being given a full briefing by the staff. This is concluded in the control room, where symbols representing equipments are set out on the map board and the controllers are put in the picture about how to 'play the game' and operate the communication system.

On Day Two following the battle group commander's orders the whole group will go out into the actual training area and reconnoitre. That evening they return to the board and 'deploy' their equipments — something which may take them until as late as 11 o'clock.

The actual battle next day may go on from eight o'clock until mid-afternoon. And there is then the opportunity for another battle on the Thursday and Friday.

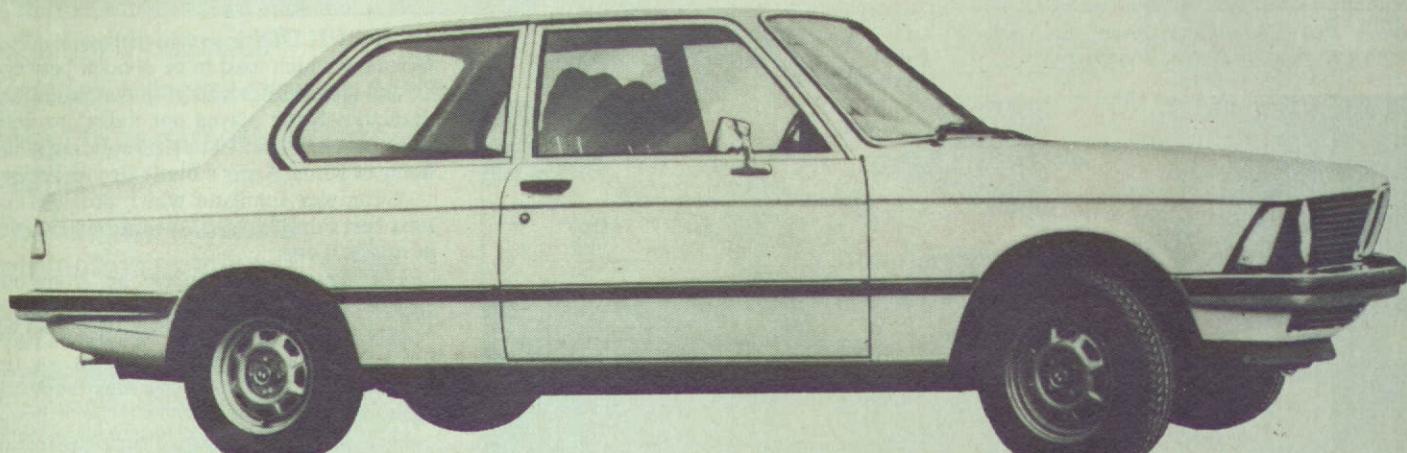
At the end of each battle there is a complete debrief. Trainer staff point out things they have noticed and the enemy commander, currently Major Oli Holder, explains his original plan and comments on how the battle group reacted to it.

Says Major Gaite: "We brief everybody from the battle group who attends the exercise so they get the feel of what is happening. Even the soldier on the ground moving the symbols on the board is encouraged to feel a member of the team. It's probably the first time that he has seen how the whole thing is co-ordinated which is very good experience for him."

Covering force battle, fighting withdrawal, defence, counter attack and advance to contact — all scenarios are possible just as they would be in a real battle or field training exercise.

Major Gaite says that this simulation has a lot of advantages over command post exercises. There is no need for someone to write a complete detail of actions to be played at certain times. On the board the battle is played continuously and the resulting information, which may require action, is passed by radio to the battle group headquarters. There are realistic movement and activity timings, realistic ammunition holdings are recorded in the computer and a more realistic enemy is projected.

This last point is often not possible in real exercises because of shortage of equipment and personnel — people who have ostens-



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Right: The CO of 2 RTR, Lt-Col David Williams, discusses battle tactics with second-in-command.

ibly been killed or put out of action have to appear again in another role. But in the Trainer this is not necessary — if the computer says you are 'killed' you stay 'dead'!

Another valuable plus is that, apart from the real life reconnaissance, there are no restrictions or out of bounds areas. The results of artillery, mortar, fighter ground attack engagements and mines are also much more realistic.

"Battle groups are subjected to long artillery barrages of up to 15 minutes which can often make them frustrated. In war it must be realised that there are going to be protracted and heavy indirect fire engagements. But if you are well dug-in and have the proper protection you can survive," says Major Gaite.

Major Holder and his adviser on Soviet Army tactics, Warrant Officer 1 Peter Cole of the Intelligence Corps, admit they play a hard enemy.

"We study Warsaw Pact tactics and follow them. If we play hard it is more realistic", says Major Holder who usually has a lot of red pieces left on the board at the end of the day. But at the same time he has to draw the fine line between being a hard enemy and being so good that he will defeat the aim of the Trainer.

The man who installed the Trainer's communication system was Staff Sergeant Francis Gibbons of the Royal Signals. He enjoys the job so much he has asked for a 12 month extension to his two-year tour so that he can write a manual for his successor.

He takes up the story: "When I arrived in July 1979, the place was empty. I was a terminal technician and had never been in a battle group. I had never repaired a radio in my army career but what I had to do here was to provide a communications system without radio but representing it!"

The layout and system he produced gives eight inter-com systems each representing a radio net. Each of the consoles in the control room, either side of and overlooking the map board, have standard equipment so that a combat team commander can move along the line as his forces advance or withdraw.



"Having the inter-com systems side by side and the length of line that needed to be laid does give crosstalk. But I think this is very realistic as you do get radio interference out in the field."

Staff Gibbons sits in the control room and monitors the nets. This means that he can play a very active part in the battle. He can jam their nets, play music or insert false messages. At his most sneaky he can insert a tape recording of an earlier order from the same or a previous battle group.

"They should watch out and ask for identification and authenticate things which are out of the ordinary", he says. "With one group I played a recorded order by their CO from a previous battle which was to withdraw their recce vehicles 1000 metres, and they did it — then I repeated it and they did it again. In the end the recce vehicles were behind their combat team who were most concerned. But that is something an enemy is capable of doing — they did it in the Second World War and they'll do it again!"

There are loudspeakers in the battle group headquarters and when the battle is coming close Staff Gibbons plays a recording of an artillery barrage, which should tell them it may be time to move.

He also monitors the battle group net, gleans information from it and passes it to the enemy. Woe betide someone who gives his position away over the net and is still there when the artillery barrage or air strike arrives!

Rhine Army's Battle Group Trainer is obviously popular and useful. Colonel Peter Fishbourne describes it as "a very good way at the beginning of the season of dusting off a battle group's procedures and giving the command team a good mind clearing exercise in modern tactics." While Major Gaite adds: "Everyone who has been here, without exception, has gone away having learned something." □

Below: The Beak and the Bench. Lt-Col Fishbourne (left) and officers manning computers.



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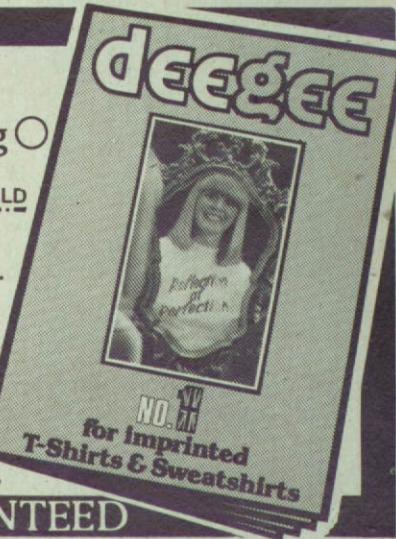
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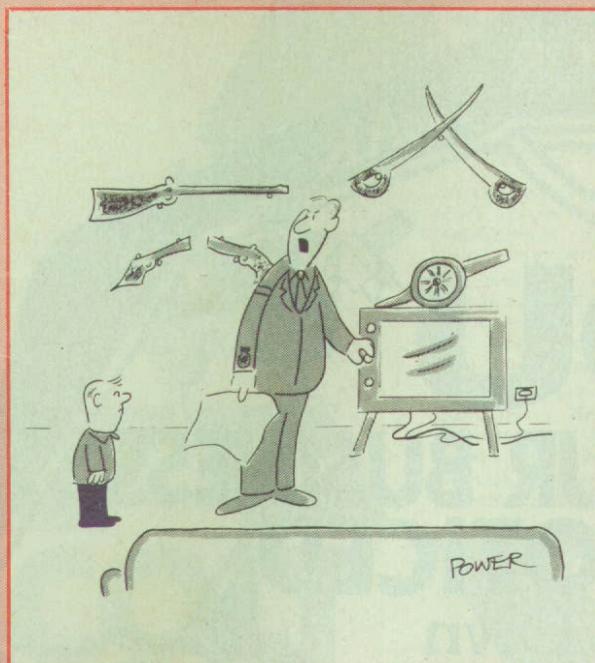
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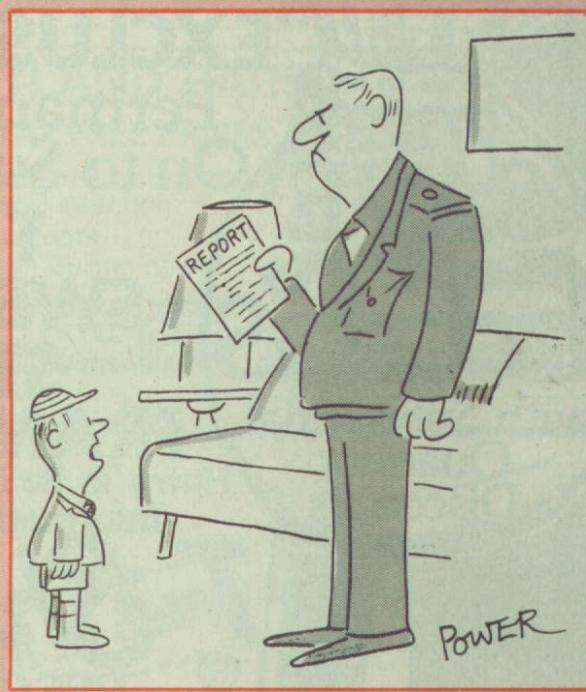
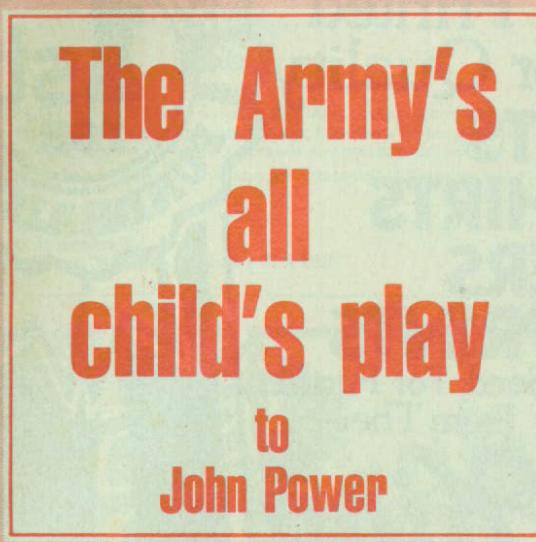




"What do you mean, you don't like war films!"



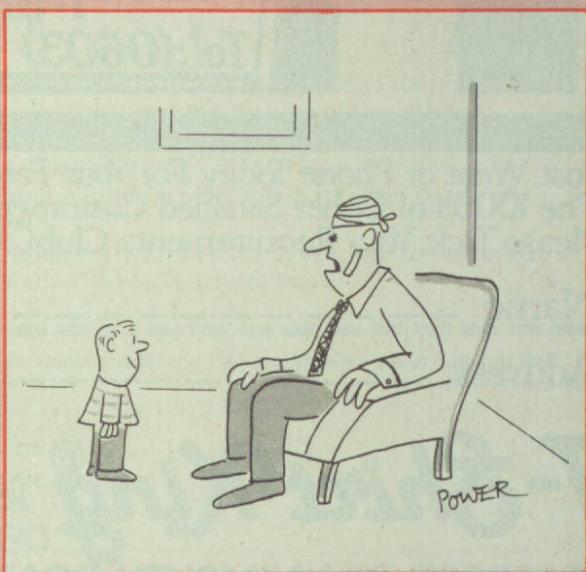
"I've been dishonourably discharged from the school cadet force."



"Guess we'd better forget about Sandhurst."



"How do you know you don't like papier mâché goulash if you've never tried it?"



"No! I played SAS with you yesterday."



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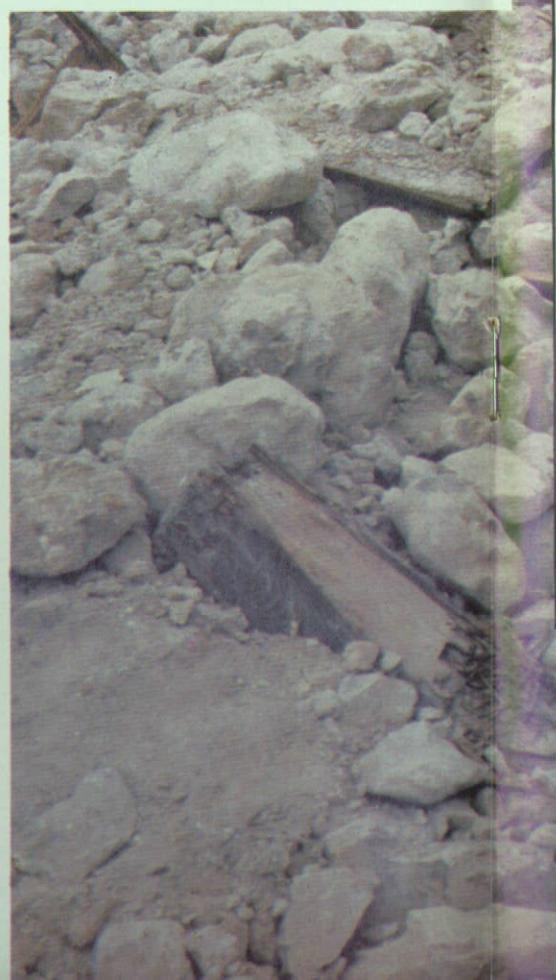
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In Italy's
stricken
earthquake
zone ...



SUPER SAPPERS BRING QUICK RELIEF



A LUCKY THREE MINUTES has helped guarantee the survival of social and educational amenities in the earthquake-stunned Italian township of Solofra. A chance phone-call by its mayor — made in the nick of time — to the British Consul-General, Mr James Campbell, some 50 miles away in Naples, has resulted in half a million pounds worth of single-storey buildings being installed and handed over by 18 Ripon-based sappers.

A moment or two later and Signor Tonino Guarino, Solofra's mayor with "an instinctive faith in the British" for a quick reaction in an emergency, would have found his impassioned person-to-person plea for aid unanswered.

The Consul-General would have missed the call. He would have been out of his office organising the distribution of British government disaster relief supplies.

The three-minute deadline, as it turned out, was just 82 seconds longer than it took the quake — *il terremoto* — to terrify and eventually kill 24 people in Solofra and another 11 in the neighbouring village of Serino amid demolished dwellings last November.

But fate was to show its kindly face to Serino too when its mayor, Signor Paulo De Vivo, happened to be in the right place just at the right time — Naples airport — as the Consul-General was waiting to meet 20 tons of in-coming tents, blankets and ground sheets from Britain.

Like his counterpart in Solofra, he

also solicited help for his stricken community, and his plea too was answered by the same Royal Engineers from 32 Field Squadron, part of 38 Engineer Regiment.

Both Solofra (population 9500) and Serino (population 7300), just five miles apart, have strong ties with the United Kingdom. *Continued on page 35*

Clockwise: Assembling roof in Solofra; the heart of devastated Solofra; Sapper Fabio Paladino, whose parents are Italian, acts as interpreter for some villagers.

Story: Graham Smith

Pictures: Doug Pratt



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Above: A classroom wall goes up at Solofra.

Solofra has more than 100 tanning industries, many of them dependent on the import of untreated hides from Britain. Serino, sprawled over 54 square-kilometres, has some 300 of its locals living and working in the UK.

Some 80 per cent of the buildings in Solofra suffered quake damage and the mayor of Serino personally authorised some 30,000 property damage certificates.

Both communities had their most horrifying historical chapter indelibly recorded on Sunday, November 23 at 19.34 hours when the one-minute-38-second quake brought down centuries-old homes and crumbled church campaniles. Damage in the Italian Campagna region was estimated to cover an area the size of Belgium.

The lamp post clock outside Solofra's *municipio* (town hall) stands defiantly within sight of the rubble, its hands stopped at 19.34 hours.

As a grim postscript, another 18-second tremor shook both towns on St Valentine's Day.

Britain's Foreign and Commonwealth Office responded with plane-loads of much needed supplies to the stricken zone. Cara-

vans made their way across Europe, too.

Army staff at HQ Allied Forces' Southern Europe (AFSOUTH), in Naples, played their part in ensuring that these and the 30 lorry-loads of building materials got through. Miraculously, roads en route had not been disrupted.

Then came an SOS from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to the Army — Send Out the Sappers!

A three-man team flew out on a 'recce' of the area. A month later they were swelled to an 18-strong, two month commitment, boosted by two Rhine Army sappers with Italian parentage who acted as interpreters.

The Yorkshire-based sappers — their five-member management team all come from the county — spent the two months supervising and putting up a series of prefabricated buildings in both anglophilic communities which have just been handed over with due ceremony.

Helping them in their efforts were four civilians from the two main contractors supplying the buildings from Halifax and Bridlington, 18 locally recruited Italians and, of course, transport support from 50-pence-a-day Italian Army conscripts driving jeeps and lorries.

They defied the elements to build a school, a community centre and two social

centres in Solofra and an old peoples' home for 48 residents, an agricultural college and three social centres in Serino as part of the £500,000 British government disaster relief donation to the area.

Incoming components and building materials like windows, doors, panels and roofing were stored in premises normally turning out glacé chestnuts.

Most of the sapper trades were represented — joiners, carpenters, bricklayers, plant operators and electricians.

And so they worked on, the building sites alive, in the initial stages, with the whistling and singing of Joe Dolce's hit, 'Shaddapa You Face!'

But the Italians paid no heed. They still brought coffee and the occasional bottle of vino to the scenes of labour which attracted the village elders and curious children.

Each squad had an SNCO, a corporal and seven sappers hammering, lifting, lowering, carrying and imparting their expertise to the local hired hands as they worked at getting exteriors and roofs into place first, just in case of rain.

Building demolition worker, Antonio Strino, 50, surveyed the efforts of the sappers at work on a social centre across from where he was clearing another site and said: "Your soldiers are good at this. They are so quick and professional from what I have seen since they have been here."

Stefanina Gambardella, 62, wearing traditional black who had lost a relative in the quake, said: "I still live in fear of another earthquake but I will not leave. It is funny, but now the British soldiers are here I feel more secure. But perhaps I am prejudiced. I have a married daughter in England and I like the English so much. You are so reliable. Serino will not forget your help."

The chances of furthering their experience of site development and management training in the restoration work fell to junior NCOs, among them 21-year-old Lance Corporal Bob 'Lofty' Pickford, working on a 20-classroom complex who said: "It's certainly of great experience and training value to me. It also gives job satisfaction because

continued on page 37

Below: Solofra Town Clock's timely reminder.



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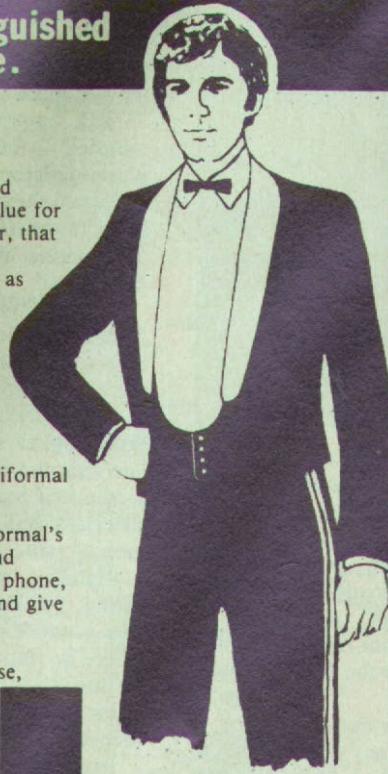
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it's going to be permanent and not going to be taken down — like bridges and things on exercises — making it all a worthwhile job. The weather is on our side and everything is going well."

Sergeant John Coulson, 30, observed: "It's going to turn out a lot better training with a small team and presents more of a challenge to them, when dealing with local labour, to achieve it in a set time limit."

Works manager, John Noble, from the 50-strong, family-run Halifax firm supplying some of the buildings, said: "The sappers have picked up the principles of our buildings' erection straight away. I would jump at the chance to work with them again and I hope this will not be the last time. They are a great bunch of lads who know what they are doing in the construction field."

But if Dolce's 'Shaddapa You Face' was not enough, the sappers did their best to introduce British gastronomic grace to the Italian table. It was chips with everything — even spaghetti!

Chips aside, everyone was happy to be of service in Serino and Solofra.

Captain Tim Duggleby, 24, a troop commander and project manager, said: "It's all been a very worthwhile job particularly for the young tradesmen in not only helping the people but improving on their own experience, giving both types of job satisfaction at once. It's all been very enjoyable and the Italians have been very helpful."

This was borne out by his OC, Major Jim Snape, 33, who said: "I think this is very realistic work with the sappers working hard at it and enjoying it because they can see the end product benefits other people."

"We have two strings to our bow and this illustrates the other side of the Royal Engineers' capability, construction engineering as opposed to combat engineering. These particular projects are exciting and the sort of thing the sapper likes. If a youngster joins the Royal Engineers he is told he will travel the world and this is the sort of thing he expects — and that is

One person perhaps more than anyone else in Solofra welcomed the arrival of the sappers with their English voices.

She was Bradford-born Mrs Linda Giannattasio, mother of four boys, who married her Italian hairdresser husband, Michele, and came to Italy eight years ago.

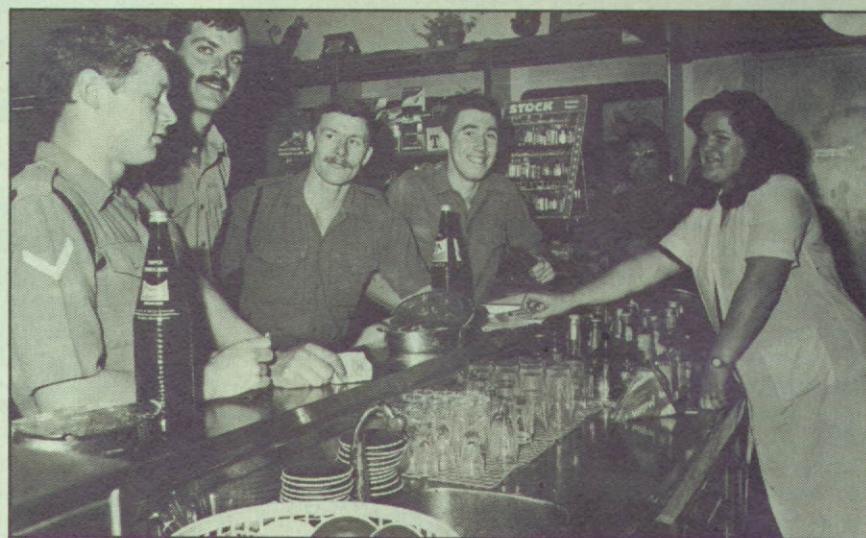
Today, Michele and Linda — née Campbell — run a cafe in Solofra town centre.

Even they were not to be spared the full effects of the earthquake. Two of their sons — the eldest is 12 — were found to be missing. One was discovered huddling near a fruit machine upstairs on that fateful Sunday evening and the other, crouching with two friends near the market square.

Linda, 31, who used to work in a Bradford nursing home, and her family had to live in a car and trailer for two days before moving into a caravan in which they still live.

"The lads make me feel so proud to be British," she beamed. "They are always so smartly dressed and take off their berets when they come into the cafe. You can tell they are organised in their work. It's lovely to hear English voices again. You can't talk to Italians in the same way. With the lads, you can have a real good laugh."

Organisation was certainly their forte, for the lads with their unique Army humour, treated the Giannattasios to a night on the town with a slap-up supper.



certainly why I joined."

The final accolade came from the Consul-General himself: "The word is 'fantastic' because they are surprising themselves with the speed it is going. I'm very

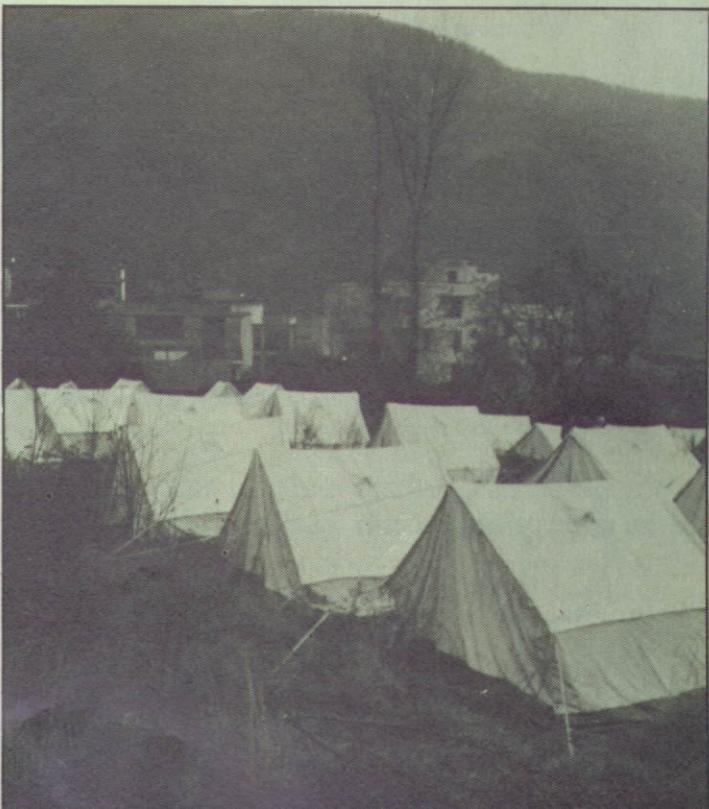
glad they are here because it has made the whole thing go. From the moment they arrived one knew the project would be completed."

Popski's Pupil — see page 41.

Below: Floor panels for Serino's social centre.



Below: Tents shelter Solofra's homeless.



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Sprechen britischen Soldaten Deutsch?

EVERY BRITISH SOLDIER who has ever served in Germany can say 'Ein Bier, bitte.' What has frequently troubled commanders is that not many of them could say very much more — in German. So over the years big efforts have gone into encouraging soldiers and their wives to learn German. Concentrated courses, evening classes, visits to German institutions and, for soldiers, a financial award have all formed part of the pattern.

Language training got a major boost in 1976 when, after a major review of the task and the resources available, it was decided to set up the Command Language Scheme.

Up until that time most language training was carried out at the Higher Education Centre (Germany) at Mulheim. But following the 1976 review the scope was widened so that courses up to colloquial level are now run by Army Education Centres in the four armoured divisions which make up 1st (British) Corps.

At the same time, Education Commanders in divisions are able to call on the expertise of Divisional Language Advisers and the resources of the Higher Education Centre in the general effort to improve standards.

German language training is carried out by the Royal Army Educational Corps and is based on a progression from one level to another. There are five levels and there is some overlap, particularly at the bottom end of the scale.

● The *Introduction to German* course is designed as a five-day full-time course for those with no previous language learning experience.

● The *Basic German* course is designed as a full-time 10 day course for those who have successfully completed the Introductory course or who have some previous language learning experience.

● *Colloquial German* is studied either as a full-time course or a 'sandwich' course lasting six or seven weeks. The pass standard is basic oral competence and equates approximately to British GCE 'O' Level.

● *Linguist German* is examined by the Civil Service Commission and requires knowledge of the language in structure, grammar and general vocabulary up to GCE 'A' Level.

● *Interpreter German* is also examined by the Civil Service Commission and requires thorough mastery of the language. The command of the German language expected of a First Class interpreter is comparable with that required for a first class university honours degree.

The Higher Education Centre continues to be the hub of German language training in BAOR. It runs three basic courses a year, but its 'bread-and-butter' is the colloquial course. It also runs special courses for Royal Military Police and British Families Education Service teachers.

At linguist and interpreter levels classes can consist of just three or four students. About 12 is considered ideal for the colloquial course.

At the more advanced levels, the HEC is responsible for preparing candidates for



Ja, und sie Verbessern daran!*

external examinations. At linguist level preparation consists of two courses each of six weeks and one of four weeks. For those bidding for interpreter status there are six and four week courses for appropriately qualified students or a 'long' interpreter's course which lasts a year.

The number of courses held at HEC has increased steadily over the past few years. Major Charles Norris, head of language training, quotes figures of 26 courses involving 262 students in 1979, rising to 34, with probably nearly 300 students, planned for this year.

* Do British soldiers speak German? Yes, and they're getting better at it!

Having to run six different courses at a time to fit in with examination dates and so on, plus the need to provide all their own course material, constantly reviewed and updated, means a busy time for the centre's small staff. But at least they have advanced teaching aids like modern language laboratories and video to assist them.

"There is no course in existence which we can use 'off the shelf'. We have to write and record all our own material," says Major Norris.

The success story since 1976, is borne out by statistics. Pre-1976 about 120 candidates sat and passed the colloquial examination each year. In 1980 there were 485 candidates — with a pass rate of 98 per cent.

Improved incentives have also helped. These include straight monetary awards (for example £80 tax free for a pass at colloquial level) and exemption, with a colloquial pass, from part of the promotion exam from corporal to sergeant. Some Army Staff College students attend a colloquial German course and examination instead of the Military Science part of the Army Staff College Course.

Not all German language training takes place on courses. The biggest and best 'classroom' of all is Germany itself and many soldiers become fluent German speakers without any formal training at all.

But most people lack the confidence to

Above: A teacher operates the master console in one of the Mulheim language laboratories.

plunge in at the deep end and appreciate the help of things like the 'First Aid Kit'. Issued to every soldier, and wife, posted to Germany, it consists of a pocket-sized booklet and audio-cassette giving words and phrases useful in common situations, as well as information on German customs and laws.

Forces radio and, more recently, television, also play a useful teaching role. A series of 14 playlets called *Get by in Germany*, written by the staff of the Higher Education Centre, has been featured on British Forces Broadcasting Service radio and is due for a repeat in the near future.

The series introduced a simple vocabulary for personnel new to Germany and also described some common German customs. It led on to the broadcasting of a daily series of words and short phrases (repeated several times during the day) called *Say it in German*, which has aroused wide interest in British Forces Germany.

A recent experiment with a newly-arrived infantry battalion provided two weeks' full-time German language instruction for all ranks and some of the wives of one of the companies.

Many of those entering junior soldier units back in the UK are subsequently posted to Germany. To help prepare for this they are taught a certain amount about Germany and some of the language, especially things like German traffic law.

German is taught at Welbeck, Sandhurst and at the Nato Language Wing of the Army School of Languages at Beaconsfield. The Institute of Army Education at Eltham can arrange for British Servicemen anywhere in the world to learn a foreign language, including German, and the Forces Correspondence Course Scheme includes five options of German language courses.

German language training, at the lower levels in particular, cannot be divorced from 'orientation' — introducing the soldier (and family) new to Germany to his environment. When it is known that a unit is to be posted

continued over



to BAOR, the Chief Education Officer to the district from which the unit is moving provides orientation training. This includes current affairs instruction on the reasons for the British Army's presence in Germany, information on relevant German customs and law and specific information about the place to which the unit is posted.

Liaison visits are made ahead of the move by unit representatives to get first hand experience of the locality. And, often, local German dignitaries visit a unit before its move to establish contact and pass on local information.

And what of the future for German language training? Major Norris believes that the emphasis is likely to increase still further in the next few years, although he feels that saturation point has probably been reached as far as Mulheim's capacity to 'process' students is concerned.

More and more soldiers are likely to be trained at least up to colloquial standard and the present percentage of Army German-speakers — estimated at about 15-20 per cent — is likely to increase.

"We will always have a ready supply of new blood coming to Germany for the first time and there is no doubt whatever about the benefits," says Major Norris.

"Less friction between the local population and the British Army is an obvious one, but a soldier who can travel around, go to a hotel or pub and order a meal, a drink or a room gets so much more out of life while he is in Germany. Also, there is the basic military need to communicate with our German Allies in their own language." ●

Left: German TV is important learning medium.

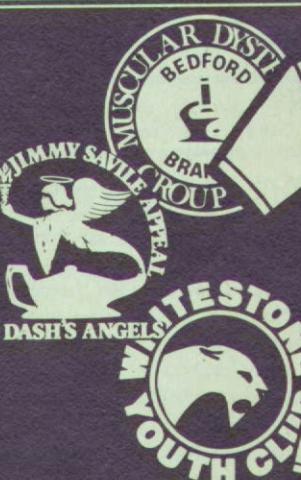
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For the man spearheading Britain's earthquake relief effort, southern Italy has some very special memories

POPSKI'S PUPIL

THE people of earthquake devastated Serino and Solofra can thank the ready response of a former captain in the legendary Popski's Private Army for their £2 million of British help. He was a man who was active not far from their area during the war as a daring patrol leader and went on to be awarded an MC and Bar.

Today Mr James Davies Campbell is the British Consul-General in Naples. But 37 years ago he was a young Army officer who joined Lt-Col Vladimir Peniakoff — 'Popski' — from the Infantry Reinforcement Training Depot.

Popski and the 22-year-old captain in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders met on a day when the former had just returned tired, hungry and tetchy from Caserta, near Naples.

The colonel noted that the aspiring recruit to his exclusive outfit looked "neat enough" in his tunic and trews, "rather dainty shoes" and that his hair had not seen scissors for some six months.

"I was not impressed," Popski recalled in his autobiography published five years after the war. "Campbell was tongue-tied, said the wrong things and I turned him down."

Campbell was persuaded to give the "big awkward lad in tight clothes" a try.

Campbell was sent off an hour later, with a tried and tested companion, across country, walking about 60 miles and carrying a 40-lb pack and weapons as part of an exercise. It had to be done in record time, he was told, as it was a sort of race. A good timing would ensure him a place in the special force unit who had the objective of worrying the Germans inside their own territory.

Young Campbell, in borrowed battledress and boots, was partnered by a seasoned soldier. With nothing to aid them but an escape route printed on a handkerchief, a compass which fitted snugly into the stem of a pipe and escape rations, they made their way back to base ahead of the rest, 32 hours later, and a couple of hours in front of the next pair.

At times they were taken for German parachutists which made the *contadini* nervous.



Above: Mr James Davies Campbell today.

Campbell was accepted and stayed until the end of the war. He led one of four fighting patrols — 'S' patrol — rose in rank to be the fourth of 'The Big Three' who ran the PPA as a 'family business' and went on to win two Military Crosses in cloak and dagger operations in the Italian countryside.

Popski's main supply source of men like Campbell were the reinforcement depots which had been transferred to Italy from the Middle East and North Africa. These contained many men who had fought in the Eighth and First Armies.

Campbell, wrote Popski, developed "a masterful manner with reluctant quartermasters" and got his first training in fighting not with the Germans but with the rear HQ in Italy.

The memoir continues: "He mastered a crippling inferiority complex impressed on him in childhood and when later I put him in charge of a patrol he developed into the most daring of us all."

This is borne out in later narrative about the young captain's command of 'S' patrol when Campbell had shed his inhibitions to develop a "reckless personality" and, on one occasion, wanted to capture a farm harbouring some Germans. Campbell was in another nearby farm and had used a partisan with in-born Italian commercial enterprise to sell them daily cans of milk, gleaning information at the same time.

At first, Popski was not keen on the idea but then relented. Campbell had only been in action for a short time and had yet to prove his mettle.

"I knew he could be foolish and he had an irritating weakness — he kept losing his guns, his mortar and even his own money. There was more in Campbell than I suspected. I let them go," Popski penned.

Campbell succeeded and followed this up with more successes of a similar nature.

Another incident involved the taking of a tall medieval tower with ten-feet-thick walls.

Campbell and his men spent two days on a recce amid the sand dunes and a night in a shed just 100 yards from their target.

A call of nature by a German soldier at 0830 gave them the chance they needed. He had left the four-inch-thick oak door ajar.

Unseen by the lookout posted on top of the tower, the marauders 'floored the piddler', dashed up the winding staircase and captured the whole garrison.

Yet another incident involved Campbell charging a battery of 88mm guns while they were firing on troops outside Padua. He captured them intact with 300 prisoners who were handed over to the partisans.

So what was life like with this special force unit on its operations alongside the partisans?

Popski recorded it thus. "We preserved the decencies through the violence and licence of war; raped no women, tortured no one, looted in moderation and only from those who could well afford to lose, drank decorously (by soldierly standards) and refrained from bullying, went wenching with only the best, and when we could, looked after the girls we got into trouble."

"As a matter of course, we helped a companion in trouble, took our duties to heart, looked after our men, loved our enemies (in the persons of the prisoners we took) and laid down our lives without making a fuss."

Thanks to his book it is a matter of public record what Popski — he died in 1951 — thought of the young Campbell. But what did he think of Popski?

Standing amid the rubble of Solofra, Mr Campbell said: "He was an extraordinary man. He was completely devoid of fear."

There are still 17 of Popski's Private Army around today. His adjutant lives in Switzerland and the last reunion was held in the UK — in Wolverhampton.

THE WINE THAT FLOWERED FROM FLANDERS MUD



AN ACT OF KINDNESS shown to him while fighting alongside French soldiers in a muddy slit trench in Flanders during the autumn of 1917 not only cultivated an admiration for the French in the mind of a 21-year-old Coldstream Guards officer but also an appreciation of their wine.

He still feels the same way today as the producer of dry white wine from the five-and-a-quarter-acre vineyard at his home at Hambledon, in a quiet corner of Hampshire, not far from what is incorrectly believed to be the 'birthplace of cricket'.

Back in that slit trench Lieutenant Guy Salisbury-Jones would vividly remember that Samaritan action by the French — les Poilus — which happened during a division attack when the young subaltern was serving with the Machine Gun Guards.

At the end of the day the French saw that the Coldstreams had no wine ration, shared theirs with their British brothers-at-arms and boosted morale.

Nearly 64 years later, Major General Sir Guy Salisbury-Jones, who retired from the Army in 1949, says: "Never has wine been more welcome. On that day was consolidated my love, not only for France, but for her wine."

During his military career Sir Guy was to be wounded twice, attend the St Cyr Ecole Spéciale Militaire, be awarded the Croix de Guerre, MC and Bar, hold an appointment as ADC to King George VI, head military missions in France and South Africa, be appointed military attache in Paris, see service in China, Syria, Italian Somaliland, Greece, Crete and Palestine and be mentioned in despatches twice.

Nowadays he is mentioned in select wine guides such as the compendium of Hugh Johnson's *Pocket Wine Book* and, of course, 25 lines' worth of antecedents in *Who's Who*.

Sir Guy has been President of the 180-strong English Vineyards Association since 1965 and planted the first commercial vineyard in England in 1952 on a chalky slope following advice from experts from the French Champagne region.

Up until that time, Sir Guy admits, he knew little about viticulture as he contemplated the sun-drenched slopes below his house and his stepson's 'wild' suggestion that the site would be ideal for the cultivation of wine.

In practised military fashion the former Coldstream officer made a recce visit — with

Top: Maj-Gen Salisbury-Jones with sales pack.

Left: Manager Bill Carcary draws off a glass in the press house for Lady Salisbury-Jones.

Story: Graham Smith

his gardener — to the vineyards of Burgundy, where he already had made contacts.

The visit coincided with a banquet given by the Confrérie des Chevaliers du Tastevin at a former Cistercian monastery.

Sir Guy: "I have often thought since that it was under the influence of Burgundian hospitality that I ordered 4000 vines, the number I calculated would be required for the one-and-a-half acres which we had available."

Thus the vineyard at Hambledon was conceived, and grafted vines — those grafted on American root stock similar to that of the Champagne region which can resist the disease of phylloxera — were planted in the chalky Hampshire soil.

Today, Sir Guy reaps the benefits — roughly 3000 bottles an acre — from the Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, the latter a black grape largely used in making champagne.

Mr Johnson's reference work describes Pinot Noir as a 'superlative black grape' and Chardonnay thus, 'it gives dry white wine of rich complexity.'

Sir Guy's much-vaunted vineyard is planted out in rows four feet apart with three feet between the vines in each row, giving about 3500 vines to the acre.

In return, the harvest of 1976 produced a mind-boggling 26,000 bottles of Hambledon dry white wine — striking contrast to the sad tale of the '80 vintage, a mere 250 bottles due to adverse weather. The two previous years were poor too.

In the height of summer the number of visitors almost equals that of the vines themselves as Sir Guy opens his asset-laden acres to some 12,000 sight-seers — "an inspection of the curious" — during August and September.

But it has been worth the effort over the

years — the effort of reading what Sir Guy terms as "voluminous literature" in French, German and English on the subject, the practical experience of growing the vines, the physical labour of driving in stakes to support the vines, the fixing of posts and wire, the installation of rabbit wire to surround the vineyard and the associated pruning, hoeing, manuring, disbudding, anti-fungus spraying and trimming.

Mr Bill Carcary, 50, is the manager of Hambledon Vineyards Ltd. He was in the Army from 1948 to 1966, spending time with the Black Watch, the RASC and 16 years with the Royal Military Police.

"I like Hambledon wine because I make it, naturally, but it also suits my palate. It's got a lovely bouquet and it's not too flowery like some of the German wines," he said.

"My interest in wine has increased since I came to Hambledon. At first all I knew about wine was that it was very nice to drink. I knew nothing about caring for vines or making the end product. Now I go on holiday to France every year with my wife and two children, combining it as a study-cum-holiday trip, usually to the Champagne region."

Bill, who has also read up the subject extensively, added: "There is no mystique about wine growing. At Hambledon we like to make wine to suit our own palates — a dry, clean, crisp wine. We like it and we do it well. You've got to handle wines like you would a woman — very carefully."

He, like Sir Guy, has made many viticultural friends in France. Bill also gives lectures in the area and even as far afield as Dorset on wine production to organisations like the WI, Townswomen's Guilds, wine circles and the like, his 60-minute talk illustrated by some of his collection of 400 slides.

On average, vines last for about 25 years

before having to be replaced. Pruning lasts for up to four weeks involving the removal of up to six tons of wood.

Hambledon wine is exported to Germany, America, Japan — and even France itself — the press house, winery and cellar's 13 fibre glass vats having the capacity to ferment 4500 gallons 'comfortably'. Wine merchants and restaurants in the UK are also regular clients for the distinctive Hampshire white wine with its 11 per cent alcoholic content.

The harvesting is always an event at the ménage Salisbury-Jones.

Sir Guy says: "Even if the weather is bad and the crop poor we generally succeed in making this occasion appropriately joyful. Indeed, long before it becomes wine, the grape tends to radiate gaiety. We fill the house with young people and these are reinforced by helpers from the village. I can think of no more rewarding compensation, after months of anxiety and hard work, than the sight of the first drops of must pouring from the press."

But the cultivation of the vine is a serious business and Sir Guy treats it so.

It was, he reminds, Voltaire who said he knew 'nothing really serious here below except the cultivation of the vine'. And that statement stands with pride of place above the press house door.

Sir Guy also recalls the particular opinion of another author who, realising that before the vine will yield one grape three years of intensive work will be necessary, once described the vine as the 'most exacting mistress in the world'.

And so it is at Hambledon, the vineyard which was conceived deep in the mind of a young Coldstream officer in that mud-filled Flanders trench.

Below: Bill Carcary at work among the vines.

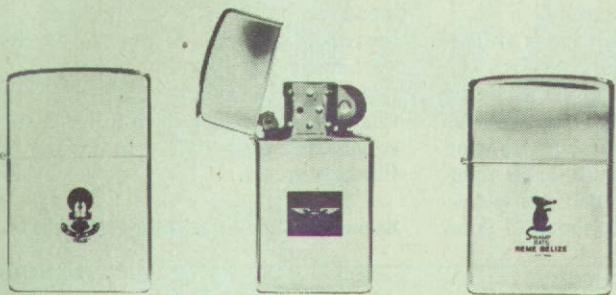


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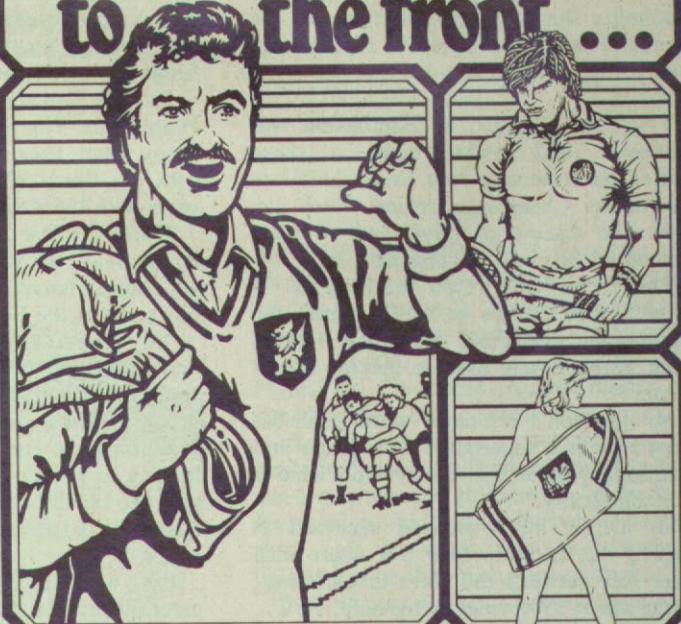
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MILITARY MUSEUMS

THE QUEEN'S WESTMINSTER & CIVIL SERVICE RIFLES

TWO SIX-POUNDER GUNS, presented to the London and Westminster Light Horse Volunteers by George III, flank the entrance to the museum of the Queen's Westminster and Civil Service Rifles. The Light Horse, incidentally, were formed in 1779 and soon afterwards were called on to turn out a patrol during the Gordon Riots.

Although small — only one room — there is plenty to interest the student of military history in the London area. To start with there are two old muster rolls, one bearing the name of Lord Grosvenor the other that of Earl Amherst, Colonel of the St James's Loyal Volunteers, who was a leading figure in the American War of Independence. Next, some examples of headdress, among them an 1860 Queen's Westminster Volunteers red and grey kepi with pom-pom, a QWV spiked grey cloth helmet of 1881, a Civil Service Rifles peaked cap with its Prince of Wales feathers badge and a handsome astrakhan QWV officer's plumed cap.

There are souvenirs presented by the 7th New York National Guard with whom the Queen's Westminsters are affiliated and an emergency cylindrical ration box is an unusual piece of equipment used in the South African War. A photograph of a Civil Service contingent on parade outside their headquarters at Somerset House at the outbreak of World War One shows them carrying Japanese rifles! Other souvenirs of this period are a postcard showing the Queen's Westminsters wearing pre-1914 slouch hats, an Intelligence report book, a picture of an impromptu arrangement of a car towing a Maxim gun and a metal map case.

'Urgent Orders' issued by Colonel-Commandant Sir Howard Vincent are a reminder of a remarkable man who, among other things, was responsible for the early days of Scotland Yard's Criminal Investigation Department.

In 1891 there was a parade at Buckingham Palace of the Queen's Westminsters attended by the Kaiser and the story goes that he was so taken by their grey uniforms that he adopted the colour for the German army. Examples of the dress of the 'grey Brigade' — the grey uniformed Queen's Westminsters, Civil Service Rifles, Kensington Regiment and London Scottish — are on show and an unusual exhibit not often seen in military museums is an example of the face mask first issued in 1916 to troops manning Vickers machine guns.

A Martini-Henry cartridge and a list of

300 Light Horse Volunteers headed by Number One, Charles Herries, followed by a display of badges of rank are next to claim attention. Moving on to the Second World War there is, among other exhibits, a British gadget in the form of a mirror which clipped on to a rifle to make a useful trench periscope.

In the realm of sharp-edged weapons there are a number of swords and bayonets, among them an 1861 long bayonet with a backward curve fitted to a Schneider rifle, a Second World War German bayonet in perfect condition and a selection of World War One bayonets. Two rather unusual items are a gilded wooden eagle presented to the Queen's Westminsters by the American Squadron of the Home Guard and another relic of the 1914-18 war, the Civil Service Rifles 'Twicers Flag' bearing the inscription 'Everybody Out Once Before Anybody Twice' — an enigmatic reference to soldiers who had been sent back to France a second time although invalided home once.

Tucked away almost out of sight are two drum-major's staffs, one dated 1861 while the other fashioned from Malacca wood is a real old timer of 1798. A group of miscellaneous items includes pieces of equipment, ammunition pouches of 1875, sword belts, percussion caps and black powder charges, and some quaint old oil bottles.

A small library has much to gladden the heart of the keen researcher. Apart from regimental books there are roll books, order books and minute books complete to the last detail. There are the regimental books of the St Martin-in-the-Fields Volunteers and those of other units going back to the late 18th century (some written in meticulous long hand others in print) and a complete set of the regimental books of the old St James's Volunteers. An orderly book of 1804 and a set of Army orders from 1874 to 1939 round off an exceptional collection.

John Jesse

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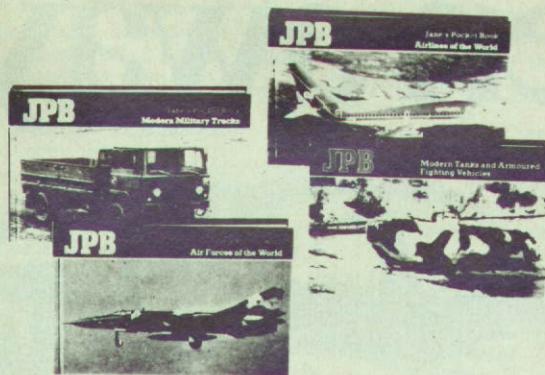
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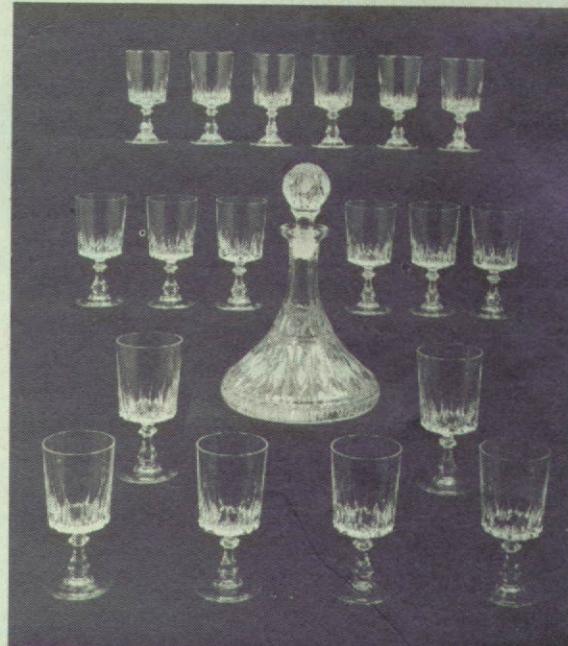
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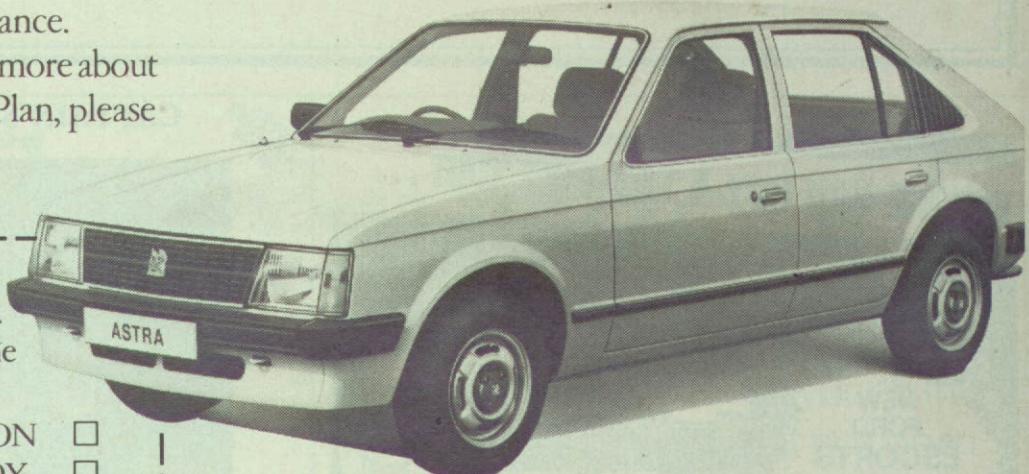
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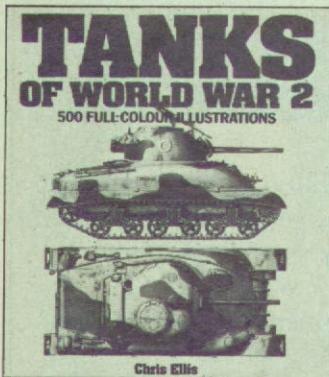


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BOOKS

Historic tanks

Tanks of World War 2 (Chris Ellis) The Tank was introduced into battle by the British in World War One as a slow-moving vehicle sturdy enough to cross the muddy shell-pocked devastation of no-man's-land with its thickets of barbed wire that the infantry could not negotiate, and armoured to withstand the annihilating fire of the enfilading, all-subduing machine gun. In World War Two it became the fast moving cavalry but as the conflict progressed so it became necessary to up-gun the vehicle and to improve its armour.



Instead of being merely an addition to the battlefield, the tank now took over to become the axis, the reserves and the flanks on which the fast moving campaign was fought. It also expanded its role to provide the means to get the troops into battle, over obstacles, through minefields, past strongpoints and over beaches. Flail, bulldozer, plough, fascine, ramp, bridge, carpet, flame and gun were all fitted to the basic tank.

The development of 40 of the most important fighting vehicles of World War Two is recorded in this volume with some 500 colour scale drawings, full information captions, technical specifications, performance details and histories. From the European contestants, the United States, Russia and the Far East they include such historic tank names as Churchill, Grant, Valentine, Matilda, Tiger, Panther, Sherman, Greyhound, Hellcat and many more. A useful reference book for the historian, the student, the modeller and the beginner in tank study.

Octopus Books Ltd, 59 Grosvenor Street, London W1, £6.95

GRH

Zulu laughs

'Isandlwana and all that' (David Downe).

At last! The antidote to all those weighty, serious tomes which continue to appear on this most written about of Victorian colonial campaigns.

'Isandlwana and All That' is a slim paperback which will bring a wry chuckle to the face of all but the most self-important student of military history. Without ever deriding or belittling the men who fought the real war, it takes us through the

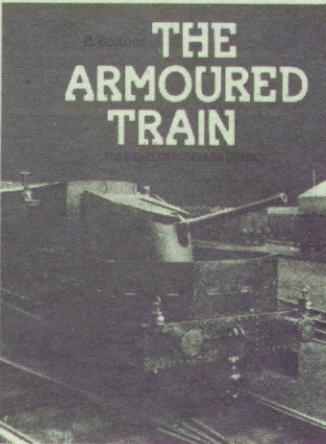
course of the campaign, affectionately sending up the popular image. A couple of short quotes will suffice to demonstrate the style; 'Their (the Zulus) main weapon was an assegai, or shortened spear, which was flexible, fearsome and could be used for shaving, killing game, puncturing opponents or entirely as a guy wished — hence the name'. And on the British troops; 'The Red Soldier referred to was, of course, Queen Victoria's thin red linesman, who spent a great deal of his heavily laden life feverishly ensuring that the sun never set anywhere except where Her Majesty wanted it to set'.

A detailed knowledge of the campaign is evident in the splendid cartoons, but it's by no means an esoteric work, since a chronology and map explain the facts to the uninitiated.

A charming little book, which no reader of military history with a sense of humour can afford to be without. *Serendip Books, Lyme Regis, Dorset. £0.75p*

IJK

Hairy Mary



'The Armoured Train' (G Balfour)

This is relatively virgin territory, the armoured train being a concept which may appeal to many yet has only been modestly exploited over the years since railways were developed in the early 1800s.

The range covered in this well illustrated book extends from an operational train of American Civil War vintage and a rail mounted 13-inch mortar firing a 200-lb shell up to 4000 yards, to the peak of armoured train activity in Britain in the early years of World War Two — even embracing the very effective miniature armoured train on the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway.

The opening chapters trace the development of the armoured train up to its extensive use by the British Army in the Boer War, one of the trains in Natal being hauled by a rope-enshrouded locomotive known to its crew as 'Hairy Mary'. There is a detailed description of the trains built for British coastal defence in World War One and accounts of our armoured trains and those of other armies in action overseas. Between 1916 and 1923 armoured trains were operating in Northern Ireland and in World War Two their operational activity is covered in depth.

The author has made extensive use of official records to produce a verit-

able compendium of the armoured train. Even proposals and ideas that were never put into practice are meticulously dealt with.

B T Batsford Ltd, 4 Fitzhardinge Street, London W1H 0AH, £9.95

JFPJ

Vivid memories

'World War I' (Susanne Everett)

A book on the First World War is something of a rarity these days and this well researched volume comes both as a vivid reminder of the 1914-18 conflict and as a useful historical aide-memoire.

How Europe "blundered into war" and how Herbert Asquith, the British Prime Minister in 1914, "used the violation of Belgian neutrality by Germany as a pretext to join the war", are mentioned in the opening chapter, while other sections concentrate on Verdun, Ypres, Mons and the Somme, the war at sea and in the air, the arrival on the scene of the United States and the Russian Front. In fact every aspect of the conflict is carefully examined and analysed.

Devastating weapons were used for the first time like the submarine, aeroplanes, Zeppelin, tank and that evil weapon, gas. The tactical use of these and other arms are assessed and scrutinised while chapters on naval and air engagements contribute to the overall picture.

There are more than 400 illustrations of outstanding quality which are in themselves a history of the war in brief. Every front is graphically covered from Gallipoli to Kut and Belgium to the Caucasus. Colour prints of military personalities, among them 'Little Willie', the Kaiser's son and heir, in the full regalia of a Death's Head Hussar, and photographs of life in the trenches, some of them decidedly gruesome, or of women at work in ammunition factories and on the land, all contribute to the panorama.

This first class work concludes on a grim note with two pages of graphs showing the appalling casualties suffered by both the Allies and the Central Powers.

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Varied dress

'World Army Uniforms Since 1939' (Andrew Mollo and Digby Smith)

In this two-in-one volume the field uniforms of many nations are described by two authors — Andrew Mollo, who deals with the Army uniforms of World War Two, and Digby Smith, who tackles the development of military dress since 1945.

Wisely, Mr Mollo has reduced the many different orders of dress to three — Service Dress, Undress kit and Field Service or Combat Dress — and in doing so he reminds us that Britain's great contribution to world uniform was the development of the colour khaki and the introduction of Battle Dress in 1937. As well as brief descriptions of the fighting dress of 24 different armies he also scrutinises webbing equipment, packs, helmets and small arms.

Digby Smith's book of post-War Army uniforms covers an even wider field showing, as it does, the field dress of armies and irregular forces engaged in actual fighting in different parts of the world plus the uniforms of Nato and Warsaw Pact powers. A veritable campaign history in brief is provided by the variety of actions fought the world over from Malaya and Korea to Kenya and Aden. Small arms, different types of head-dress, boots, even a rice bandolier, are just a few of the many items of equipment to be covered.

Coloured illustrations in both books by Malcolm McGregor and Michael Chappell round off a decidedly useful reference for both collector and researcher. But it must be said that both books have previously been published separately whereas they now share one cover. A good idea? I wonder.

Blandford Press, Robert Rogers House, New Orchard, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1LU, £8.95

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Pocket guides

'An Illustrated Guide to Rifles and Sub-machine Guns' (Major Frederick Myatt MC); *'An Illustrated Guide to World War II Tanks and Fighting Vehicles'* (Edited by Christopher F Ross)

These two titles are the first in a series of pocket-sized 'Illustrated Guides to ...' published by Salamander books. Each is packaged in a neat, compact format, bulging with illustrations and facts.

Rifles and Sub-machine Guns is written by Major Myatt, already the author of *Nineteenth Century Firearms and Pistols and Revolvers*, and the curator of the Weapons Museum at the School of Infantry in Warminster. In this latest book he looks at automatic small-arms from the beginning of the century. From the Russo-Japanese War to Vietnam and Laos, some seventy rifles and sub-machine guns from all over the world are described, the technical specifications listed and their history and effectiveness considered. There are superb colour photographs of each weapon, including bayonets and ammunition, and a wealth of supporting material showing them in action.

In the same style, *World War II Tanks* considers 36 of the most important fighting vehicles of the last War, dividing them up by country, listing their specifications, analysing their effectiveness, their employment, their production dates and so forth. Each tank is the subject of a piece of excellent artwork, and once again there are numerous photographs, the great majority in colour.

The pocket-sized format and precise information make these books excellent quick references for weapons historians, gun collectors or simply anyone seeking to find out more about the military hardware of a particular twentieth-century campaign. Future titles include more tanks, aircraft and warships, and these will no doubt be a great boon to the modelling fraternity. Considering the lavish use of colour, these books can only be excellent value at under £4.

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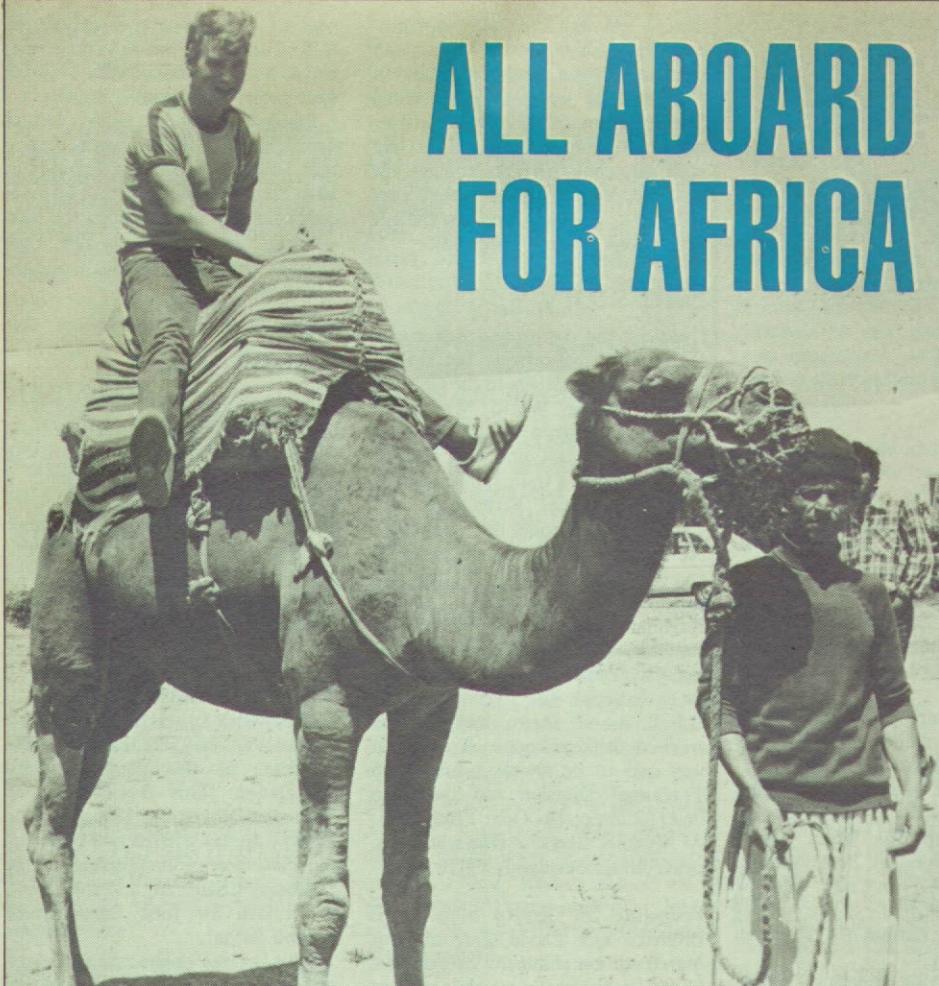
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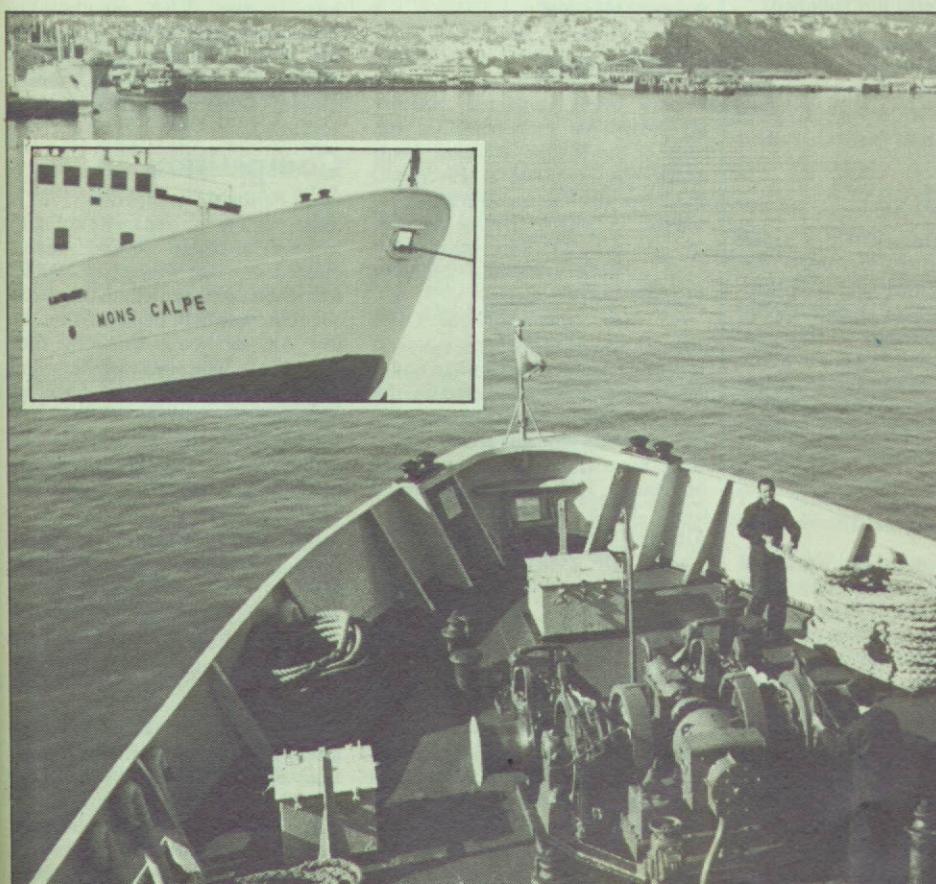
SIXTEEN TIMES during the past year, in conditions that cannot be offered in Gibraltar and certainly not on Salisbury Plain, men from the 2nd Battalion The Light Infantry have been savouring the excitement of adventure training in the sun-drenched Sahara as part of Exercise Spring Run, each

Above: From the Rock to the land of the Hump.

phase lasting about a fortnight at a time.

Driving in civilianised Land Rovers and eager to cross the mighty Rif and Atlas Mountains in keeping with a long British military tradition of transportation there — the men made their Moroccan landfall at the port of Tangier thanks to a veteran

Below: View of Tangier from the *Mons Calpe*.



passenger-car ferry, the *MV Mons Calpe*.

Every year, the 1991-ton *Mons Calpe* — it is Latin for Gibraltar and means 'pointed mountain' — carries roughly three times the resident population of the Rock on a 31 sea-mile trip to Tangier — and back — including some 200 personnel on Spring Run and hundreds of men and families on special Gib Leave Scheme subsidised travel arrangements.

Master of the *Mons Calpe* is 60-year-old Don Delf a veteran of more than 15,000 journeys under the eight weekly sailings commitment but not including the longest of all in 1954. That was when he brought her from her Troon, Scotland, shipyard for service out of Gibraltar.

The *Mons Calpe* has a capacity for 76 cars and 581 passengers as it crosses the second busiest sea 'road' in the world (after the Straits of Dover). No fewer than 15 vessels an hour of more than 500 tons each pass through the narrow waterway separating Europe from Africa.

And in an annual average of 450 crossings each year the *Mons Calpe*, which was estimated to cost £680,000 when new, defaults on average only six times a year and has maintained that record during the last decade. The cancellations are due to wind conditions rather than heavy seas.

Altogether the gallant old vessel operates 48 weeks out of any year turning in for an annual re-fit every November.

Owned by a Gibraltar shipping firm which has been in business since 1864, the *Mons Calpe* sailings to Tangier are geared to allow passengers six hours ashore — good news for 2 LI and other Service passengers taking advantage of three special Gib Leave Schemes which are subsidised up to nearly £250 a year for each family.

Notables who have travelled on the *Mons Calpe* have included the late Laurence Harvey and Margaret Leighton who married in Gibraltar in 1957 and went on honeymoon to North Africa . . . Kim Novak . . . Michael Bentine . . . Stratford Johns . . . and a verbally memorable odyssey by Peter O'Toole and Omar Sharif.

"They played bridge and swore all the way across," chuckled Don who commanded the *HMS Calpe*, the reserve unit prior to 1954.

In 1960, Don and the *Mons Calpe* ferried out 20 tons of slotted shelving from Gibraltar to help with the relief work for the Agadir earthquake.

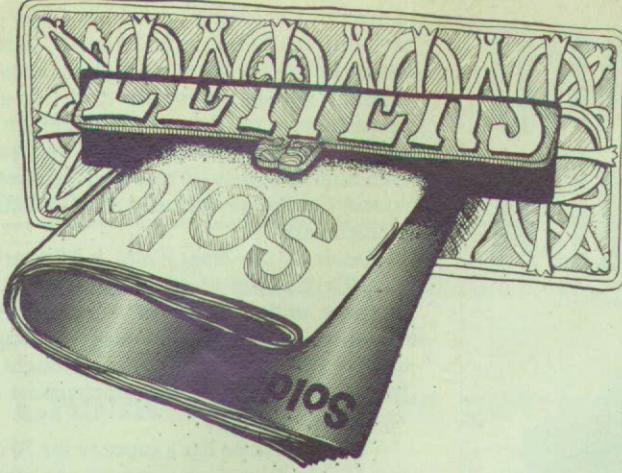
Each time the *Mons Calpe* leaves Tangier, the timing is exact — it is, according to Don, "stomach time" or 1800 hours Gib time (Tangier is one hour behind).

Somewhere on board will be some 60 tons of fresh vegetables, always a good commodity buy in Morocco.

No-one knows exactly how much longer the 284-foot-long ship will continue her well-navigated passage between Europe and Africa.

All Don would concede was: "It is on the books that there will be a replacement *Mons Calpe* for obvious commercial reasons when the Gibraltar-Spain political situation about the frontier is stabilised".

Whatever the outcome the men involved in Exercise Spring Run will still get their adventure training, with its mountain climbing and abseiling, in fine style — thanks, yet again, to the *Mons Calpe*.



Girls and guns

So the WRAC is to be armed. At last. About blanketly-blank time too!

I was not much impressed by the comments of some of those girls in your February issue. They don't seem to know what war is like. You can't sit and philosophise about your enemy's hypothetical wife and family. What do they think *he'll* be doing?

As for the sub-teen terrorist, young kids can be incredibly vicious. Witness the mini-bandits and murderers in American cities. Forget the maternal instinct — disable the little blighter! He's not going to care about anyone's softer side. He'll just lob that grenade!

To say that girls are not 'built', whatever that may mean, to carry arms — what bilge! My father began to instruct me in what to do and *not* to do with firearms at a very early age, and I fired my first live round (.22) early in September 1939, just after my ninth birthday. Later, and too many thousands of miles later, I graduated to the Bren and Owen guns.

In those days there were quaint ideas current in Australia about being feminine, and a lot of rot of that sort. It still exists but is gradually being superseded by rational ideas. The poor old Director WRAAC would have had fits if she had known, but I was in the Army because I wished to be a soldier, not to be hampered by outdated nonsense.

Girls vary as much as men in physique and temperament, and should not be prevented from using their abilities as they wish. — Miss J Eaden, 17 Anzac Ridge, Bridgewater 5155, Australia.

No fooling

Having seen the amusing articles in April 1979 and 1980, I anxiously opened the pages of this April's issue of SOLDIER to discover what the gremlins may have been doing this year.

I laid the magazine aside with a conviction that the complete issue was one April Fool trick. Is there really such a unit as ILRRP? Their standard of 'student' as depicted on the front cover leaves much to be desired. Crossing a river with his digital watch, a pen in his top-left pocket and not a trace of 'cam-cam'? And why the ArmaLite rifle?

Are you really intending to issue SOLDIER every other week? I hope

so! But, as this is an April issue, can I believe it?

Surely the two uniforms, current and new, on page 15 are both the same. I cannot notice any difference. Even the dummies have the same faces (Is Lt Col Wade talking to them?).

Is the curator of Southsea Castle museum really named Mr A Corney? Any relation to Major I A Prylle?

As for your article on 'Bringing home the Bacon!' You cannot expect readers to accept this. Being "tested in buying lessons at Port Antonio during Exercise Trim Craft" must be the ambition of many a *real* soldier while sat in the bottom of a trench on Salisbury Plain.

Or maybe your gremlins decided to use a variation on the 'Barber's cutting bearskins' as this year's offering when they wrote '35 years of Defence Cuts.'

Never mind, Mr Editor, I enjoyed every page as I have done now for more than 25 years (nearly 30 years in fact). You still manage to produce the finest magazine for my money (and that's not April fooling)! — Brian Harrison. (address not supplied)

Seems like the jokes are all on us this year. No, Mr Harrison, we are going fortnightly — honest! As for all those other stories — well, it just proves that truth is stranger than fiction . . . Ed

Horrified

With reference to your letter 'sensitive issue' by 'Crusader' (April), I am completely horrified and surprised that such an article should appear under your editorship. I will now cancel my standing order for SOLDIER which I have been a regular subscriber to for some years. — Mr F M Waters, 14 Brinkburn Court, Manor Road, Sidmouth, Devon.

Regular help

In his short review of *The Sharp End of War* in your March number, RLE quotes the remarks of the outstanding Territorial commanding officer to me when I joined the Fifth Battalion, The Black Watch, in Normandy in 1944. (Territorial Battalion . . . Don't like Regular Officers). It is only right to say that every one in the battalion including the commanding officer, went out of their way to help me for I had seen virtually no active service in the 1939 war till I joined them and they were a very experienced and professional battalion by

then. A few days later, the commanding officer said to me: "I am very pleased with you. You may remain in command of your company when (the experienced Territorial officer whom the commanding officer had been expecting) arrives. You are not like any regular officer I have ever seen." — Retired Regular Officer (name and address supplied).

Sad story

I noticed the correspondence in the March issue concerning the British Free Corps volunteers in the German Forces during World War Two (sometimes known as St George's Legion). At least one was hanged after the war as a traitor, but I cannot recall the name. Perhaps it was Thomas Halle Cooper the Free Corps NCO seen under guard on pages 96 and 97 of *Waffen SS — Its Divisional Insignia* by C Beadle and Theodor Hartmann, published in 1971 by Key Publications of Bromley, Kent (normally available only through specialist bookshops).

I doubt if their strength ever reached three platoons. A sub unit was said to be attached to the SS Totenkopf Division and the main body fought on the Oder Front 1945. — Michael Clark, 2 Dunmar Crescent, Alloa, Scotland, FK10 2EJ.

Following the letters from W E Brighton and David Carr in your March edition about the British Free Corps, it occurs to me that readers wishing to follow up this sad story might refer to the following books: *The Meaning of Treason* by Dame Rebecca West (mine is a Reprint Society Edition); *Jackals of the Reich* by Ronald Seth (mine is a paperback published by the New English Library). No doubt their local librarians will be able to help? — P G Redman, 46 Sunningdale Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 2NH.

Congenial

I have often wondered whether SOLDIER has ever published the story of the RAMC Trooping Pool, which was organised at Liverpool, and from which depot all trooperships, whether in convoy or alone (as with the case of QE1) were manned by 6-12 medical orderlies under a sergeant from the Corps?

On these same ships the DEM gunners did a marvellous job, and very often got mentioned when under enemy fire. I myself served in the Pool between 1941-1946, and enjoyed every moment at sea. Due to strict security we never knew our destination. During my time I visited Cape Town, Durban, Bombay, Algiers, Piraeus, Halifax (Nova Scotia), New York and the Far East.

Admittedly work in a General Field Hospital or Advance Post on land must have been far more strenuous, but life at sea was never dull. I served under some excellent MOs, got torpedoed (*The Duchess of Atholl* sunk 10 October 1942), dive-bombed off the coast of Greece, but also had the more enjoyable experience of working on the huge *Queen Elizabeth 1*. That was during the year 1943, when the GIs were being sent over the Atlantic to serve in Europe. My last years were spent aboard a

gem of a hospital ship called the *HMS Tairea*. We had QAs on board, and as it was an Indian ship, the crew were mostly from that continent.

I look back not only with a certain nostalgia, but with the overall feeling that, as a non-combatant, I could not have chosen a better service or more congenial way of life during the war. — Bill Tawse, Flat 14, Elm Park House, Fulham Road, London, SW10 9QW.

Thank you

I should like to thank all those kind people who have written with details of the origin of the para-wings I was asking about in your March issue. I have had so many interesting letters that I cannot reply singly, so thank you all, I am satisfied now as to the origin of my acquisition. — Mrs Rene Stephen, 12 Warnock Close, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex.

WFA formed

Readers with an interest in the First World War, may like to know of the existence of the Western Front Association. This Association was formed in November 1980, by John Giles, who has written two books on the First War. John Terraine is the Honorary Chairman, and the Patron is Lt Gen Sir John Bagot Glubb (Glubb Pasha).

This is not a re-enactment society, but caters for the historian, collector, and anyone who has a genuine interest in this period. Information can be obtained from the following address (enclosing a stamped addressed envelope): The Secretary, Western Front Association, Gilton Mill, Poulton Lane, Ash, Near Canterbury, Kent CT3 2HN.

Meetings so far have been held at the National Army Museum, Chelsea but as the WFA membership increases, it is hoped to form regional branches. — Mr W A Taylor, North West representative WFA, 5 Brook Grove, Irlam, Manchester, M30 6NL.

Competition

Our February competition (271) 'Pumpkin Pie' proved quite straightforward although several people pointed out that it was impossible, from the data presented, to be precise about the weight of pumpkin number five. Any solution in which the fifth pumpkin weighed less than 32lbs but more than 24lbs was therefore accepted as correct. The other weights were 44lbs, 40lbs, 36lbs and 32lbs and the number of golden gongs subscribed by the Biggun was seven.

Prizewinners were: 1 — Sgt A Ellis, RAOC, AG Sec, MODUK (Army), Room 7196, Main Building, Whitehall; 2 — Tom Hughes, c/o HQ Brig Nepal, BFPO 4; 3 — Cpl D Tinkler, 73 Independent Field Squadron RE, BFPO 36; 4 — J B Ivison, 11 The Grove, Whitchurch, Shropshire; 5 — Lt Col P W Lonnion OBE, Panderosa, Park Road, Ashstead, Surrey; 6 — J P Warner, 28 Langford Drive, Wootton, Northants; 7 — Capt J J MacDougall, RAOC, Accommodation Services Unit, BFPO 801; 8 — G C Bennett, 10 Stockton, Nr Warminster, Wilts.

How observant are you?

(see page 21)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Left black bush; 2 Dislodged breastplate (below dislodged helmet); 3 Dislodged shoe above left horse's ear; 4 Pennant on left tent; 5 Entrance of right tent; 6 Fingers of right horseman; 7 Position of right horse's left ear; 8 Stirrup strap of left horseman; 9 Top of right fence-post; 10 Bottom of pattern on shield.

Reunions

Ex-Darland Boys. Gordon Barracks, Gillingham (formerly Fort Darland), which are now being demolished was in 1939-40 the home of the Army Technical School, Royal Engineers. Maj (Retd) G Young, 6 Dane Court Gardens, St Peters,

Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 2SB would like to hear from any ex-Darland boys with a view to a reunion. SAE appreciated.

The Royal Hampshire Regiment Comrades' Association. Annual reunion at Winchester on Saturday 13 June 1981. Dinner in Guildhall 7pm. Tickets price £4.50 from Secretary, Serle's House, Southgate St, Winchester, SO23 9EG. Programme on reverse of ticket.

The Devonshire Regiment Old Comrades' Association. Annual cathedral service, reunion and dinner — Saturday 11 July 1981. Form up Bury Meadow 1630 hrs. Tickets may be obtained in advance from RHQ The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, Wyvern Barracks, Exeter — price £2.00 — or at the door of St George's Hall.

Collectors' corner

Mr R Nugent, 22 Trewitt Road, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear, NE26 2QS. Will accept offers for *SOLDIER* back issues: Jun, Aug, Oct, Nov, Dec 1975; All but May 1976; complete 1977; complete 1978; all but Nov 1979.

P E A Hall, Kohima, 1030 Harrow Road, Wembley, Middx, HA0 2QT. Wishes to buy Victorian stamps, letters and postcards. Also military medals and campaign stars.

Craig Luther, 216 W Arrellaga, Santa Barbara, Ca 93101, USA. American military historian, seeks contact with former British soldiers who fought against the 12 SS Hitlerjugend Division in Normandy, 1944 for dissertation/book on the division.

J Corbin, 4 Wynd Close, West Stafford, Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 8AJ. Has for sale 100-plus military Div and Corps flashes of different countries. £50 o.n.o.

Peter de Greiff, Am Kiesberg 9, 2351 Rickling, West Germany. Wants Parachute wings. Nos: (from Bragg & Turner's 'Parachute Badges and Insignia of the World') 109, 267-270, 291, 495, 503, 523, 528-530 (only made by Drago or Bertrand). In exchange offers current German para insignia as AF smoking Para wings (B-S-M) in half size, or the new beret badges of paratroops and LRRP in metal and cloth (very fine manual work, embroidery, silver on maroon) and No 150-151.

R Richardson, 39 Leaside Drive, Apt 205, St Catharines, Ontario, Canada, L2M 4G3. Wants to buy the following LPs: 'The Royal Anglian Regiment' (Drum Major MCN2), 'A Day with the Cameronians' (SCO 1689), '2nd Bn The Scots Guards COD' (Fontana STL 5421), 'Nigeria Police Band' (Philips P13702R), 'The Gloucestershire Regiment' (Life Records St-66-4107), 'The Royal Leicestershire Regiment (Marching with the Tigers)', 'The Sherwood Foresters Band' (title and number unknown).

Arthur H Sylvester, Khanspur, 6 Old Court Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 6LW. Has for sale medal collection of 42 foreign awards and decorations representing 18 countries. A list and colour print may be seen on request. Would prefer to sell as a collection — viewers welcome any time.

Mr G W Messer, 78 Sullivan Way, Elstree, Herts, WO6 3DJ. Wants parachute badges and insignia of all countries. Particularly, French colonial and Warsaw Pact countries. State price and condition, or send.

Frank Tavner, 48 Cornwallis Avenue, Folkestone, Kent. Wants official photos 1914 war. Unusual/unique. Prince Wales, Kaiser etc. Military/post/cigarette cards/silks, lead soldiers. All sale/exchange. SAE list. Medals wanted.

'Old Soldier', 92 Cummings Park Drive, Aberdeen, Scotland, AB2 7BB. Seeks 7th or 4th Air Formation Signals sign (White triangle/blue background/white wings at base with number 7 or 4).

B H Vanderveen, Lavastraat 13, 8084 CL 't HARDE, Netherlands. Seeks handbooks for British Army vehicles, particularly Bedford M-type 4-ton 4 x 4 (MK), Leyland FV1100 series 10-ton 6 x 6 and Morris-Commercial CS8 15-cwt 4 x 2 (6-cyl, WW2). Will swap or pay reasonable price.

Walt Barrington, 2 Thrush House, Marlow Drive, Salford, M6 6FR. Has for ex only Offs H/P, ORs H/P, ORs Glengarry, 2 Vol Bn Loyal N Lancashire Regt. Wanted same regiment only 1st Vol Bn, also ST 1st Royal Vol Galloway W/M for 2 Vol N Lancashire W/M. Telephone 061 737 4460 after 6pm.

G Ingram, 23 Grove Lane, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey. Requires 13th/18th Hussars and 25th Dragoons cap badges, second world war (King's Crown) to complete collection. Any reasonable price paid.

A W Green, 26 Glebelands Road, Filton, Bristol, BS12 7AE. Requires regimental histories, containing rolls of honour, awards and decorations, for either the Great War 1914/19, or 2nd World War. Good prices paid including postage.

WO2 (SSM) R A James, HQ Sqn The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, Athlone Bks, BFPO 16. Has for sale limited number of 1979 (Tercentenary edition) of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards regimental magazine the 'Eagle and Carbine' cost £3 each. Also available — copies of magazine 'City Bird' from regiment's recent tour in Belfast, cost £1 each.

CAN YOU HELP?

To assist me in historical researches about Japanese war-criminals in Singapore, after World War Two (1945 and subsequent years) I should like to hear from any readers who served in Malaya at Changi gaol or in other prisons. Any anecdotes on events, personalities and places would be most appreciated. — J Petitjean, 19 Avenue de Verdun, 92170 Vanves, France.

I am writing this letter in the hope that some of your readers can help me obtain some information on a World War Two group called 'Beddy's Scouts'. I believe this group probably served in North Africa but I have no more information. — Richard L Trost, 56 Foster Road SE, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2H 0W1.

I am a regular reader of *SOLDIER* Magazine and I find all sections of the magazine very interesting, especially the letters. I served with the RA from 1929-1937 and with the Royal Signals from 1939-1945.

From 1930-1937 I served in India with the 5th (Croix-de-Guerre) Battery RA and was stationed in Mermit, Jullimder and Lahore. The medal ribbon was worn by all ranks on the regimental flash, on the topee or pith helmet and Croix-de-Guerre day was celebrated every year.

I would like to know if the battery is still an active unit of the Royal Artillery. And if so, where it is stationed and if 'Croix-de-Guerre' day is still celebrated. If the battery has been disbanded where are the medal and dispensation now on display? I think there were only two units of the British Army (1914-1918) to be awarded this famous French decoration. If any of the lads who served with me are readers of *SOLDIER*, I would like to hear from them. A Palmer, 27 Palmer Close, British Legion Flats, Whittlesey, Peterborough.

We are organising a local postal historic exhibition to mark the 15th Anniversary of our local philatelic club, which will show cancellations, postcards etc relating to the postal history of Hook of Holland.

We are in need of postmarks on envelopes or postcards of the BAOR Transit Camp situated at Hook of Holland during 1946-1960 which we could borrow for a short period. — J P Stadhouders, Columbusstraat 106, 3151 BG Hook of Holland, Netherlands.

My hobby is collecting inert artillery material, cartridge cases, fuses etc, and I wonder if any of your readers could tell me where the 3.7 AA cartridge case I have was presented — and when?

On two brass strips, soldered near the top, are the following inscriptions: '168 (M) HAA Regiment, Royal Artillery' and 'The Best Guns in the Regiment'. Lower down near the base the following is inscribed: 'Presented by Lt Col Wase-Rogers RA'.

This case is the pride of my collection and I would be pleased to hear from any members of the above regiment.

The same applies to a 25 pr shell with a copper plate inscribed 'Ski Championship, B Coy Hallamshires, Iceland, May 1940.' — J Chatterton, 11 North Close, Tintwhistle, Hadfield, Via Hyde, Cheshire.

Once again the mention of the India medal appears in your February issue. Now, at 80, I would like to hear of any surviving member of the Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians). — J J Waters, 14 Brinkburn Court, Manor Road, Sidmouth, Devon, EX10 8SB.

I am a student at York University and to assist me in a BA History degree project on 'The Factor of Morale: An Army in Retreat', I should like to hear from anyone with interesting ideas on morale. Above all, since I'm using the two case examples of the experiences of the West Yorkshire Regiment in the Retreat from Burma, 1942 (1st Battalion) and in the Western Desert during the same year (2nd Battalion), I should like to hear from anyone involved in either of those regimental campaigns. I would then send them a questionnaire. — Philip Dent, 2 Park Hill, Bradley Road, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire.

I am collecting material for a book called *Dogs and Mad Englishmen*. It will be a selection of stories about soldiers and their families and the special relationship they established with animals during their service overseas.

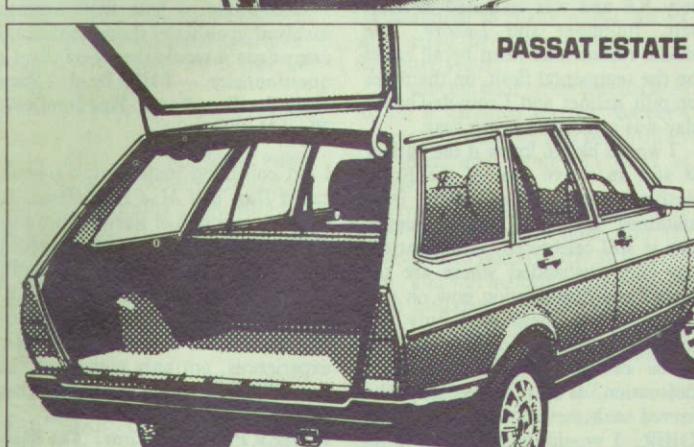
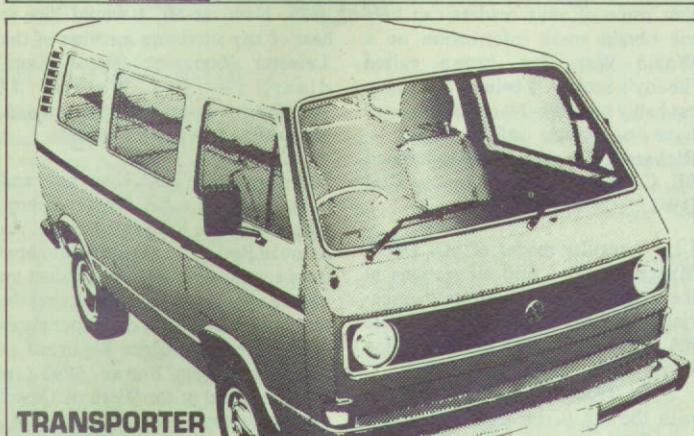
I should be grateful to receive contributions from readers about their experiences, not only with dogs but from the wide range of animals that fall into the category of 'pets'. — Major R P Smith, Editor, 'The Men of Harlech' (Regimental Journal of the Royal Regiment of Wales), The Barracks, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7EB.

Whilst on leave in the UK, I discovered in a small shop dealing in militaria, a medal very similar to the UN (Cyprus) Service medal, but the ribbon had two thin vertical dark blue lines near the centre.

The proprietor told me he purchased it as a UN (Cyprus) Service medal but I wonder if any reader knows its true origin? — Pte A Taylor, HQ Platoon, C Coy, 3 Bn The Royal Anglian Regt, Alexander Bks, BFPO 58.

I am wondering whether any of your readers could offer information on the following points please?

On 2 January 1920, Lieut William D Kenny, of the 4th Battalion, 39th Gurkha Rifles, Indian Army, won the Victoria Cross in an action at Kot Kai, on the North West Frontier of India. I am anxious to trace the present whereabouts of the medal, and should be most grateful for any assistance in this search. — Dr J C Milligan, 25 Hilton St, Aberdeen, Scotland, AB2 3QT.



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GERMANY'S MODEL SCOT

FRIED SCHRODER is a quiet, unassuming young German schoolmaster living near Bielefeld. He is also one of the keenest devotees of British military history and tradition — particularly that of the Scottish regiments.

The flat he shares with his wife and two young daughters is crammed with British military memorabilia — from old suitcases packed full of bygone Scottish regimental bonnets to a wardrobe full of old uniforms. He has books, magazines, old programmes, a superb collection of Army badges and many other items of militaria.

Most years the Schröder family visit Scotland. They go to the Edinburgh Tattoo and they look up the many friends they have made with Scottish regiments who have served in Rhine Army.

Two of those friends now have permanent mementoes of their friendship. Kenny MacSween, band sergeant major of the Scottish Division School of Music, and Drum Major Andy Keane, of the 1st Battalion, Royal Scots, are the proud owners of wooden statuettes of themselves in full dress uniform.

The statuettes, each of which took two

years of Fried's spare time, are carved in lime wood. Using a sharp carving knife he painstakingly created replicas of the two men, with no detail of their dress overlooked. He coloured them with water colour paint and varnished the final product.

"It just started as a bit of fun and a challenge", says Fried, who is also a skilful cartoonist. "I have a general interest in British life and Scotland in particular. And I am especially interested in Army history and traditions, not only the Scottish regiments but others like the Life Guards, the Blues and Royals and the Light Infantry. I find it all thrilling."

Fried also has a collection of bugles, which he occasionally plays for fun. But he stressed that he is not a militarist and while he is also interested in German military history and tradition he does not collect anything from the Nazi era.

His first love will always be the Scottish regiments and when the pipes play and the Jocks march anywhere within travelling distance of Bielefeld you can bet that one of the audience will be Fried Schröder — the German who speaks English with a Scottish accent.

Drum Major Andy Keane says of his statuette: "I think it's absolutely marvellous. Everybody who has seen it remarks on the likeness and the very fine detail. Fried was so painstakingly careful to get the tartan and the detail of the battle honours on the sash just right. It's out of this world."

And Kenny MacSween said: "It is excellent. It shows me in Highland Dress carrying a cornet. Some of the officers of the regiment had a look at it and they were amazed that a German should know so much about the kilt and the way it hangs."

Top: Andy Keane as sketched by Fried and below with part-finished statuette and its creator.





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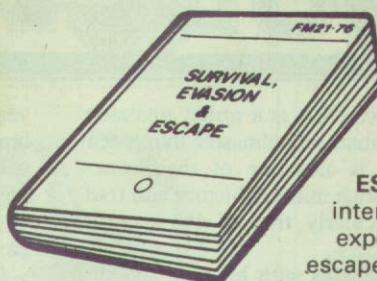
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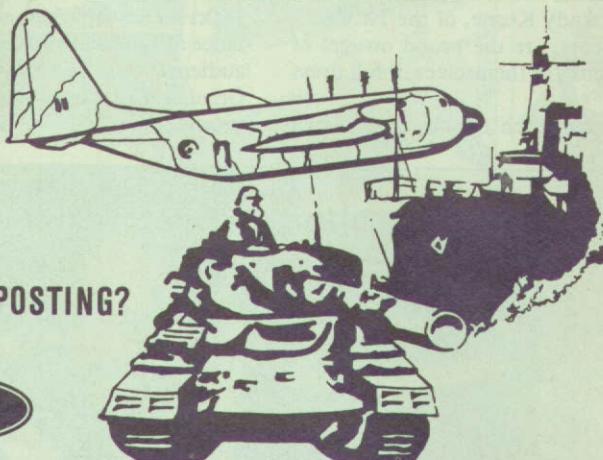
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The competition is open to all readers at

home or overseas and the closing date is Monday 3 August. The answer and winners' names will appear in the first fortnightly SOLDIER due out at the beginning of October. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 275' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or pre-paid labels will be disqualified.

1. Boils are healed	7. Son has mild ale
2. Cash on cruises	8. A neat cool pantry
3. Not a call, Eileen	9. Debate certain
4. Sell green hat	10. Aid branch cause
5. The latent grey	11. Not many clean tame germs
6. Oar vendor ill	12. Stoop head in raid

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See-the-Army DIARY

Additions and amendments to last month's list are in bold type. Please remember though that events are sometimes altered, postponed or cancelled so always check before setting out. We hope too that organisers will advise us of any changes so that we can keep readers fully in the picture.

JUNE 1981

- 2 Beating Retreat, Horse Guards (Massed Bands, Pipes & Drums Household Division) (2-4 June).
- 5 Ripon Weekend (RE Band) (5-7 June).
- 6 Sutton Coldfield RSC Open Day (JLRRA Band; RA para team, JLRRA Gymnastics).
- 6 2nd rehearsal The Queen's Birthday Parade (Massed Bands, Pipes & Drums Household Division).
- 8 Beating Retreat, Horse Guards (Irish Regiments Massed Bands).
- 9 Beating Retreat, Horse Guards (Massed Bands of The Queen's Division) (9-11 June).
- 11 South of England (Queen's Division Band) (11-13 June).
- 12 Essex Show, Chelmsford (3 R Anglian Band) (12-13 June).
- 13 Water Spectacular, Nottingham (13-14 June).
- 13 The Queen's Birthday Parade (Massed Bands, Pipes & Drums Household Division).
- 14 Glencorse Open Day (Scottish Infantry Depot).
- 16 Army Parachuting Championships, Netheravon, Wilts. (16-25 June).
- 20 Ashford Extravaganza (1 Queen's Band) (20-21 June).
- 20 City of Leicester Tattoo.
- 23 Royal Highland Show, Edinburgh (23-26 June).
- 24 Lincs Agricultural Show, Lincoln (24-25 June).
- 26 International Air Tattoo, Greenham Common (Lt Div Band; Red Devils) (26-28 June).
- 27 Wembley Military Musical Pageant (40 bands, Corps of Drums, Pipes & Drums) (27 evening-28 afternoon June).
- 27 Royal Signals 'At Home' Catterick (R Signals Band; Jnr Regt Royal Signals Display Team).

JULY 1981

- 1 Royal Norfolk Show, Norwich (1-2 July).
- 4 Army Open Day, RPC TRG Centre, Northampton (3 R Anglian Band).
- 7 Basingstoke Carnival (Red Devils) (7-11 July).
- 8 Queen's Regiment marches through City of London.
- 10 Southampton Show (POW Div Band; RGJ Freefall) (10-12 July).

- 11 RCT Corps weekend 'At Home' Aldershot (RCT (Northumbrian) Band).
- 11 Corby Highland Games, Northants (11-12 July).
- 11 Royal British Legion, Scotland, Royal Review, Holyrood Park, Edinburgh (1 Gordons Band, 1 Para Band).
- 11 Exeter Air Day.
- 14 Great Yorkshire Show, Harrogate (1 DWR Band) (14-16 July).
- 15 The Royal Tournament, Earls Court (Massed Bands of Royal Marines, Royal Signals Band, Netherlands Marine Corps Band; Display Teams: Field Guns, King's Troop, White Helmets, RAF Queen's Colour Squadron) (15 July-1 August).
- 15 Army Expo for Schools, Bassingbourn, Cambs. (Queen's Div Jnr School of Music Band; Red Devils, R Signs Jnr Display Team) (15-17 July).
- 18 Bournemouth Air Pageant (R Signals Band; Red Devils) (18-19 July).
- 21 East of England Show, Peterborough, Cambs (21-23 July).
- 23 Nottingham Army Display (RA Motorcycles) (23-25 July).
- 24 Northampton Show (24-26 July).
- 25 Light Infantry Depot Open Day, Shrewsbury.
- 26 Royal Armoured Corps Centre Open Day, Bovington Camp, Dorset.
- 29 Ilfracombe Tattoo (29-30).
- 30 Taunton Tattoo (LI Depot Band and Bugles, Army Air Corps flying display, Joint Services Parachute Team).
- 30 Folkstone Tattoo (Queen's Div, Para Regt Bands) (30-31 July).

AUGUST 1981

- 5 Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo (WG, RCT and Drums, WRAC, QDG, 1 RWR and Drums, 1 R Irish, 1 DWR, 1 R Hamps and Drums, 1 6/5 L) (5-15 August).
- 5 North Devon Show (1 Devon & Dorsets, Corps of Drums; Red Devils).
- 12 Edinburgh Military Tattoo (Regimental Band Scots Guards, 2 Scot Div, 1 Para) (Bands of Scots Guards, Royal Highland Fusiliers, Black Watch, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 1 Para) (12-August-5 September).
- 14 Reading Show (14-15 August).
- 14 Shrewsbury Flower Show (14-15 Aug). (Bands of Blues and Royals, Coldstream Gds, RAOC and 1st Queen's Lancs).
- 29 Expo Steam, Peterborough, Cambs (REME Band) (29-31 August).
- 30 Uffington White Horse Show (Lt Div Band; RGJ Freefall) (30-31 August).
- 30 QUEXPO (1 Queen's Band) (30-31 August).

SEPTEMBER 1981

- 6 Gosport Cadet Tattoo (POW Div Band).
- 12 South Norfolk Tattoo, Attleborough (RA Bands; RA Motorcycles).
- 19 International Paraplegic Games, Edinburgh (1 Para Band).
- 27 Andover Army Open Day (RCT, REME, RAOC Bands).

NOVEMBER 1981

- 7 BL Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall (Combined Services).
- 8 Remembrance Day, National Service, Edinburgh (1 Gordons Band D & P).
- 8 Annual Remembrance Parade, Cenotaph (Combined Services).



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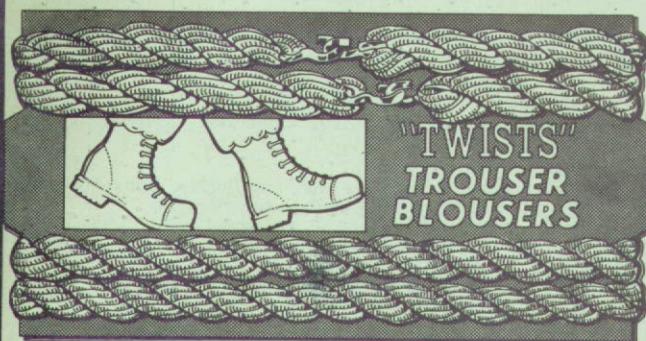
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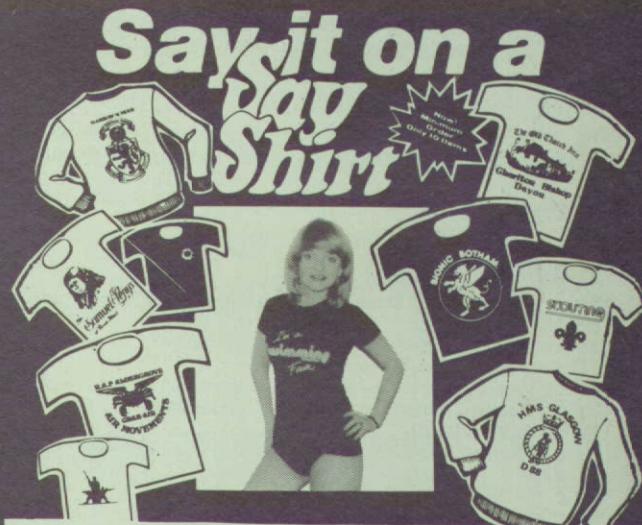
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