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# SOLDIER

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## NEXT ISSUE —



### FRONT COVER

Captain Jim Long of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment demonstrating 'present arms' to Lesotho riflemen. Concluding Loan Service feature — page 26  
Picture: Doug Pratt

### BACK COVER

British Brownies from the pack in Seoul paying tribute to the Glorious Glosters. See also story page 21.  
Picture: Keith Gibson

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The next issue of **SOLDIER**, dated 4 June, will contain a special pull-out supplement to mark the 40th anniversary of the greatest amphibious and air operation in history. The supplement will contain the brief historic background, pictures and, most importantly — recollections of those who were involved. If you haven't made sure of **YOUR** copy yet, do so **NOW**.

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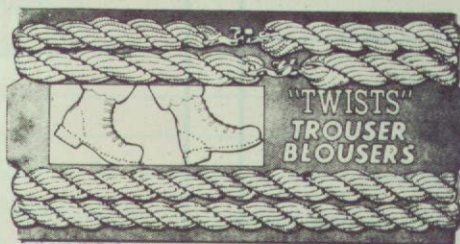
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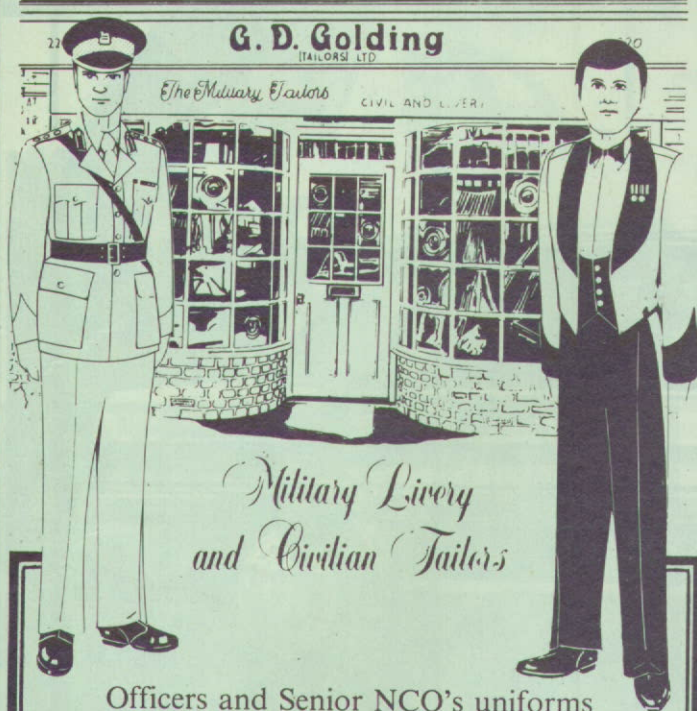
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S5/84



# TOP 'BRASS' AID FOR NEW ARMY RECORDS SOCIETY

by JOHN MARGETTS

Following in the wake of the Royal Navy, the Army Records Society (ARS) has been launched upon the stormy waters of military history. For almost 100 years the Navy has had such a society, now the Army has followed suit to "publish original records describing the development, organisation, administration and activities of the British Army from early times."

But before they publish their first volume this time next year — they plan to start with the military correspondence of Field Marshal Sir Henry Wilson, who was murdered by Irish terrorists in 1922 — they need to recruit members to the Society.

"And we need as many as we can get," said Society secretary and military historian Dr Keith Jeffery. "We've been promised £20,000 from a charity foundation if we can raise a similar amount."

To help him and Society chairman Dr John Gooch of Lancaster University in this task, is an impressive appeal committee headed by Field Marshals Lord Harding and Lord Carver.

Others on the committee are Colonel G. S. P. Carden, Major General the Earl Cathcart, Lord Charteris, Sir Frank Cooper, General Sir David Fraser, Sir Denis Hamilton, former prime

minister Edward Heath, Professor Michael Howard, Sir David Steel and Sir Richard Wray.

In addition the Society is reinforced by the support of Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, Chief of the Defence Staff, and General Sir John Stanier, Chief of the General Staff.

Said Mr Bill Reid, Director of the National Army Museum, which is providing the Society with a base: "A vast deal of good can come from this Society. A lot of recorded history is laid on very shaky foundations. The ARS will be publishing accurate and interesting accounts since they will have access to sources which were, perhaps, unavailable to authors and writers of the past."

So if you want to know what Sir Henry Wilson thought of politicians — he called them "Frocks" — or what Montgomery wrote to and thought of some of his contemporaries, write to Dr K. Jeffery, Secretary, Army Records Society, The National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, London SW3 4HT, for full membership details.

The annual £10 subscription will not only make you a member of the Society, but give you the chance to buy their publications at a greatly reduced rate.



Nato's primary aim of safeguarding security through joint defence was strongly demonstrated when the Defence Ministers of Britain and Germany together saw their forces undergoing training to exacting standards in different areas of West Germany.

In the "tea break" photo above, the Secretary of State for Defence Mr Michael Heseltine (right) is seen along with the Federal Republic's Defence Minister Dr Manfred Wörner (left).

It was the first time that Dr Wörner saw elements of British

Forces Germany performing extensive combat training since he was appointed FRG's Defence Minister.

Dr Wörner told British troops: "We admire the professionalism, high morale and discipline of the British forces which was so evident today. In fact my officers and soldiers tell me they have a high respect for your Army and in coming here today I particularly welcomed the opportunity to do this visit together and I only hope it will not be the last time we can do so."



## FLEXI PORT ACCEPTED

THE NEW £20 million floating port and warehouse complex which will be the future gateway to the Falklands for ships delivering stores for the Services based in the South Atlantic has been handed over to the military.

Major General Keith Spacie, Commander British Forces Falkland Islands and Military Commissioner, "took delivery", on behalf of the Ministry of Defence, and unveiled a plaque.

The Falklands Intermediate Port and Storage System (FIPASS) 1½ miles east of Port Stanley, is expected to pay for itself

in a year by allowing two chartered ships, anchored in the harbour as floating warehouses, to return to Britain. The port is based on six barges — each 300 feet long — on which have been erected four warehouses and administrative offices.

More than 16,000 different items, ranging from office desks to vehicle engines, will be stocked there. The "Flexiport", capable of accepting vessels up to 1,000 feet in length, will enable ships to be turned round in two or three days instead of up to two weeks.

A welcome boost . . .

## NOT FORGOTTEN



Colonel The Viscount Slim pictured at the Cenotaph in Whitehall with standard bearers of The Burma Star Association, of which he is President. Wreaths were laid at the Earl Mountbatten memorial prior to the annual Remembrance Parade to the Cenotaph.

## IN BRIEF

Lieutenant-General Sir Edward Burgess, Commander United Kingdom Land Army since 1982, is to be Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe in July in succession to Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Terry.

Major General Peter de la

Billiere is to be Commander British Forces Falkland Islands in June.

Private Neil Clarke, 20, of 2nd Battalion The Queen's Regiment was shot dead in a terrorist ambush in Londonderry when a patrol came under fire from petrol bombers and then gunmen. Other members of the patrol were injured.



# Same hat fits this trio

About to swell the ranks of the 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment are two brothers, Privates Mark (right) and Nicholas Gough from Bristol.

Together in the same platoon, the lads recently passed out of Depot Para in Aldershot before joining the Battalion in Bulford where elder brother Andrew (centre) is already based and will no doubt be keeping a fraternal eye on them.



■ THE BROTHERS GOUGH: Nicholas, Andrew, Mark — all together.

## How to get something for nothing

**Home-owning servicemen faced with the problem of what to do with the house when posted, need worry no more.**

For four ex-officers have got together and formed an agency which, they claim, has been designed to meet the needs of servicemen facing this predicament.

Former Majors 'Rocky' Taylor, Bob Metcalf and Frank Johnson, together with ex-Wing Commander Phil Marsh, are offering a house-letting and caretaking service for service house owners.

They claim their charges are cheaper than any similar agency in Surrey or Hampshire.

"We give more for much less," they say.

The name of their firm is *The Servicemen's Letting and Caretaking Agency (SLCA)* and they offer 'full management of a serviceman's residential property plus, free of charge, physical caretaking and mail forwarding during any periods the property is untenanted.'

They also offer a 'part-management service tailored to meet the untenanted house-owner's care and maintenance requirements plus a full caretaking service in the long or short term.'

But that's not all, there's better news still. For they say their fees are 'about 25 per cent less than the charges made by estate agents.'

Assuming they meet their claim that they 'give more for much less', it's an offer that service owners must at least give the once-over.

## Freddie bows out after 37 years



A 37-year link with the Army Catering Corps came to an end when Lieutenant Colonel Freddie Durrant retired as secretary of the AAC Regimental Association.

For the last six years he has been responsible for welfare matters relating to present and

past Corps members.

At a lunch at the ACC's Aldershot HQ — coincidentally it was the Colonel's 65th birthday — a good many of the Corps past and present senior officers turned out to wish him well.

Lieutenant General Sir Geof-

frey Howlett, Colonel Commandant of the Corps, presented Colonel Durrant (left centre) with an engraved carriage clock.

The successor to Colonel Durrant is Colonel Brian Williams (Retired) who, surprisingly, shares the same birthday.

### 'Guv's' granddaughter renews a link

A special red carpet was rolled out for Mrs Helen Tucker, of Church Crookham, near Aldershot, when she paid a return visit to Gibraltar.

Mrs Tucker's visit came 120 years after her grandfather, Lord Napier of Magdala, was Governor of Gibraltar. It was also the first time she had returned to the Rock since she lived there before the second world war.

Mrs Tucker was met on arrival by representatives of the Gibraltar Government tourist office, before starting a whirlwind week of receptions and interviews.

She also paid a nostalgic visit to the Napier of Magdala Battery, completed 100 years ago.

### Whatever happened to Imber Halt?

While British Rail wielded the axe to reduce their line mileage, Major John Keep of The Royal Anglian Regiment, was trying to create an iron road in Imber Village on Salisbury Plain.

Major Keep, now with the 11-strong British Military and Advisory Training Team at Harare in Zimbabwe, was involved in plans for Salisbury Plain's most famous village known to infantrymen.

Some railway track, thought the resourceful major, would definitely be an asset as he poured over paperwork at Warminster in 1977.

"I even wanted to install a railway station called 'Imber Halt' and the scheme involved quite a bit of earth

moving and acquiring some track from Longmoor aboard a tank transporter and the help of some Royal Irish Rangers," he recalls.

"Next, I needed some rolling stock to put on it and, at some stage, the Royal Engineers moved in to help but, regrettably, they never got down to the job. Are the tracks still there, I wonder and what ever happened to Imber Halt?"

**Question: What do bandsmen do in time of war? Answer: They help the medics among other things.**

**And just to show they are good at whatever they turn their hands to, they 'blew their own trumpets' for a little while when they held their band medical contest at Osnabruck, BAOR.**

The winners were 5 Inniskilling Dragoon Guards with 1 Kings a close second.

### QUESTION

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For your information, in the hope it will help you solve a problem should you be a house owner with a posting looming, their address is: SLCA, Wild Pines, Tekels Way, Camberley, Surrey GU15 1HX. The telephone number is: Camberley 21847.



# D-DAY HERO'S MEDALS TO GO ON DISPLAY



■ Sergeant Fred Baacke: glider hero.

**THE widow of one of the first men to land in France on D-Day has handed his medals and service documents over to the Museum of Army Flying.**

Sixteen minutes past midnight on June 6 1944, Sergeant Fred Baacke of the Glider Pilot Regiment, crash-landed his Horsa glider beside the Caen canal and Orne river bridges.

For his part in the action Fred Baacke was awarded the Croix de Guerre by the French.

A few days ago at Middle Wallop, home of the Army Air Corps, Mrs. Rose Baacke handed the medal to Major General Peter A. Downward, chairman of the museum trustees.

With her at the handover were Staff Sergeant Roy Howard, her husband's co-pilot, and Major John Howard, OC of a company of Oxford and Buckingham Light Infantry on board the six gliders.

Their orders were to take the two bridges at all costs. "It took us less than 15 minutes," said Major Howard.

"Within a quarter of an hour I was able to signal 'Ham and jam' which meant we had taken the bridges intact."

Major Howard, too, was awarded the Croix de Guerre and the DSO. Staff Sergeant Howard collected the DFM.

Others at the presentation who took part in the action were former sergeants David Irwin and Alan Miles and Corporal Tom Packwood.

Sergeant Baacke died in 1970 aged 56. "He always said he would never return to the Pegasus and Orne bridges," said Mrs Baacke. "But suddenly in 1967 he decided to show me the scene of the action.

"I handed the medals to the museum as I have no grandchildren and I didn't want them lost. I'm sure they appreciate it."



■ Major John Howard, Mrs Baacke, Sergeant Roy Howard, Major General Downward: handover time.

## PEOPLE

FACES  
and  
PLACES

## Jungle japes planned for Joint Services team



■ Captain Richard Lewis.

Cutting a four-kilometre loop trail through dense tropical forest and teaching three civilian scientists to abseil from a helicopter in only four days, were just two of the tasks performed by a largely Gurkha team during *Exercise Temburong Ringer*.

Led by Captain Richard Lewis of 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha

Rifles, the nine-man military team spent a total of five weeks assisting World Wild Life Fund scientists in systematically evaluating the tropical rain forests of Ulu Temburong in Brunei.

In this uninhabited area, the jungle is so thick the only way in — and out — is by helicopter and cutting the trail for the scientists to

follow took 2½ days.

The forest was found to be so unspoilt (during the expedition 40 mammal and 104 bird species were identified) that plans are afoot to turn the area into a gazetted national park.

It is hoped a Joint Service Expedition will return in March-May 1986 to produce the management plan.



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# BADMINTON TO HOST HUSSARS BIG REGIMENTAL ANNIVERSARY



## SECOND CLASP FOR ROGER

Major Roger Jenkins TD, Wessex (V), was presented with the second clasp to the Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve Efficiency Decoration by Lieutenant General sir Geoffrey Howlett, KBE, GOC South East District, at the Southampton University OTC (above).

Major Roger Jenkins was educated at the Plymouth College and in 1957 was awarded the Top Cadet Prize.

He joined the Territorial Army on 23 April 1959 as a private soldier with the 4th (TA) Battalion The Devonshire Regiment and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Battalion on 18 March 1960.

In March 1972 Major Jenkins was awarded the Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve Efficiency Decoration which was promulgated in the Military Supplement of the London Gazette on 14 March 1972.

On 1 March 1978 he was awarded the First Clasp to the Efficiency Decoration.

The Badminton home of The Duke of Beaufort will be the setting for a big day of celebrations on Sunday 22 July when the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars will mark 150 years of history.

Now part of The Royal Wessex Yeomanry, the Regiment goes back to 1834 when the independent troops of Gloucestershire Yeomanry combined under the title Gloucestershire Yeomanry Cavalry.

The event will include an historical parade of all uniforms, weapons and vehicles used by the RGH since the first independent troops were formed in 1794 and their will be displays of historical possessions and models of war-time engagements.

About 2000 past and present members, with their families, are expected to attend.

## HELP WANTED

Naturally, it will be a costly occasion to put on and the organisers are looking for financial sponsorship from anyone who may have had connections with, or is interested in, the Regiment.

A programme for the day will be printed — and it is planned to include a list of those who have been able to give assistance.

Further details can be obtained from Major D S Barrington-Browne, Adjutant, The Royal Wessex Yeomanry, Highfield House, Somerford Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1TT. Tel: Cirencester 2367 & 4771.



## TOPICS

## SURPRISE FOR CHARLES

When Major Charles Storey retired as PSAO of Manchester based 236 Squadron of 156 Transport Regiment RCT (V), he was asked back to their HQ for what he believed was a quiet drink in the Sergeants Mess. But squadron members had arranged a special surprise evening for him.

During his own 'This Is Your Life' Charles was collected in a staff car, piped into the TA Centre by pipers of the Manchester Scots Guards Association to find the whole Squadron on parade in the drill hall. Then he was presented with a silver statuette of a paratrooper — as a Sgt he served with Airborne Forces and dropped into Arnhem in 1944 — and 'towed out' in true RCT style.

## LLOYD'S ARE HELPING VOLUNTEERS

It's more than 180 years since Lloyd's set up their Patriotic Fund "for the encouragement and relief of those who may be engaged in the defence of the country", and although there is no longer a fund for this purpose Lloyd's are still encouraging people to volunteer for the Services.

They have a Lloyd's Volunteer Forces Fund, with subscriptions from underwriters and brokers, to make awards each year to assist TA units which have members of Lloyd's as volunteers. And two individual awards have just been announced. One will consist of a general award to any Lloyd's recruit to the volunteer forces who successfully completes his recruit training. The other award recognises volunteers who have made major contributions to the volunteer forces during the year, and



the first three have just been presented to Lance Sergeant Simon Cooke, HAC, Lieutenant

Command M. F. Price, London Division RNR, and Lance Corporal Duncan Southcott, 4 RGJ.



# ONE TA CENTRE OPENS ..

It was a great day for the Welsh — and in particular for men of the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion The Royal Welch Fusiliers. For it was the day the Queen arrived to open the new Territorial Army Centre at Colwyn Bay.

Her Majesty was accompanied by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh. The Queen received a Royal Salute from a Guard of Honour of 96 men, furnished by the 3rd Battalion, and later inspected the guard.

All in all, another memorable occasion for Wales — and for the Territorial Army as a whole.

## OLD PALS HAVE GUN AGAIN

The Old Comrades of the Isle of Man's former TA Gunner Regiment, 15 (Isle of Man) LAA Regt RA (TA) now have a gun again — thanks to the interest of the Ministry of Defence, the Headquarters Director of Artillery, and 103 Air Defence Regiment RA (V), the North West's own Gunner Regiment of the TA.

A wartime Bofors 40mm anti-aircraft gun was transported to Deysbrook Barracks, Liverpool, to be looked after by 103's Tech QM, Major Peter Jefferies, RA, until the great day, when it was towed — ever so gently — to Hornby Dock, Liverpool, for its passage over the Irish Sea on the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company's Ro-ro service. At the dockside, Major Bobby Littler accepted the gun on behalf of the Old Comrades.

The gun will be displayed at the Old Drill Hall in Tromode from mid-May, cared for by the Army Cadet Force until it goes on permanent display in the new ACF HQ at Peel where it is hoped that it will be the centre piece of a museum to the Manx Gunners.



## ANOTHER IS ON THE WAY!

The Queen inspects the Guard of Honour, commanded by Maj J M Stephens RWF.

The Mayor of Halton, Councillor Owen Findlow spoke to members of 103 Air Defence Regiment, The Regiment's LAD REME, and TAVRA Staff and guests when he laid the foundation stone of Ubique Barracks in Widnes.

The new centre replaces the old home of C Troop, 213 Air Defence Battery RA (V) and the 103 AD Regt LAD REME, which stood on the same site, but had to be demolished after extensive subsidence problems. While the new centre is being completed the Troop have moved to the town centre housed in an old cinema!

The ceremony of laying the foundation stone was watched by the Secretary of the North West of England TAVRA, Brigadier Dennis Ormerod on behalf of the Association, and Colonel Frank Masters, Honorary Colonel of 103 Air Defence Regiment and a



Battery Commander Major Peter Saunders watches, as Councillor Owen Findlow, Mayor of Halton, lays the foundation stone of Ubique Barracks, Widnes.

former Widnes Commanding Officer. Major Peter Saunders, BC of 123 thanked the Mayor for his interest, and in reply, Councillor Findlow confessed that although a stonemason by trade, it was the first foundation stone he had laid!

The Troop hope to move into their new home in mid-1985, and this will give their Battery the unique distinction of having two new TA centres — for Jubilee Barracks, St Helens, Battery HQ is also a new building.

## 5 ROYAL IRISH ARE TOPS

Magilligan was the venue for the 1984 Exercise Pied Piper the premier TA competition held annually in Northern Ireland. The competition, which is based on basic military skills, is open to all TA units from the province. Tests this year included map reading, voice procedure, skill at arms, AFV recognition, night patrolling, NBC, first aid and a command task. The competition is completed with an exciting march and shoot phase.

Seventeen teams from throughout Northern Ireland contested the two day long competition. 5 (V) R IRISH, who produced four company teams, proved that they are the top TA battalion in the province. It was the 'B' Company team led by Lt Robert Hutcheson who became the top infantry team overall. The team won the individual team prize for skill at arms and were second in the final analysis. The team from 'C' Company won the individual prize



Lt Robert Hutcheson (second from left kneeling) and his highly successful team from Exercise Pied Piper.

for map reading and were third overall. The HQ Company team won the prize for the night patrolling phase.

The GOC Northern Ireland, Lt

Gen Sir Robert Richardson watched the competition and presented the prizes. A thoroughly satisfying result for 5 (V) R IRISH the province's top TA battalion.



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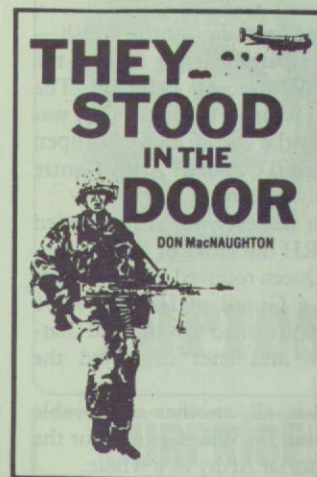
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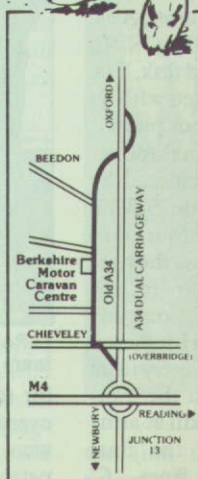
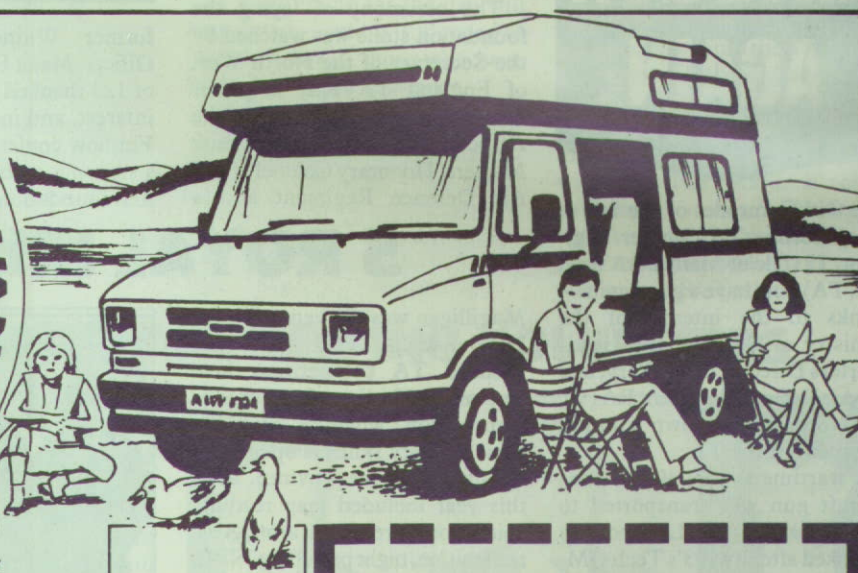
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**T**HE DUKE who learned to drive an Army lorry through the town of Aldershot leaving "no permanent scars from that particular adventure" returned to the garrison community to open officially the Aldershot Museum and Visitors Centre. (See Soldier-to-Soldier, 9 April).

The Duke of Gloucester who has recently been appointed vice-chairman of the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Commission said: "Aldershot marks an exact time in history when the military planners expounded the theory that quality was more important than quantity when it came to warfare and soldiers. Aldershot was going to be the place where the British Army was going to be trained to be the best army in the world."

"Since that time many people have come here to become the quality rather than the quantity. Aldershot represents a particular attitude, it was a means to an end rather than the end in itself. It is for that reason the town is so unusual and so distinctive. It is most appropriate that this museum should be here."

"I hope in the years to come that many people will see this building and will appreciate what Aldershot stood for in its past, in its history and they will come and get a greater feel for the new Aldershot thus maintaining a great tradition but in a different way."

The Duke went on to say that that tradition had been proved recently in the events surrounding the Falklands fighting.

On his arrival the Duke — he is Colonel in Chief of The Gloucestershire Regiment and the Royal Pioneer Corps as well as Honorary Colonel of the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia) — was greeted by Lieutenant Colonel

## SOLDIER to Soldier



The Duke of Gloucester pulls the cord — and Aldershot's new Museum is open!

Sir James Scott, the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire.

Also there were General Sir John Stanier, Chief of the General Staff, The Duke of Wellington, President of the Trust, Lieutenant General Sir Geoffrey Howlett, GOC South-East District and Brigadier Tony Clay, Garrison Commander, Aldershot.

**C**ONTINUING The Gloucestershire Regiment connection, the Duke will have been delighted to learn that Lance Corporal Billy Fullwood, 27, of the 1st Battalion's mortar platoon, was due to receive a hero's welcome on the steps of the county's shire hall as SOLDIER went to press to become the first soldier to win its award — a medal — for bravery.

Cpl Fullwood — then a private — rescued 11 colleagues from

danger in Canada last year during adventurous training in the Exercise Pond Jump series.

Their raft capsized in a fast-flowing, white water river. Fullwood leapt out as the craft was swept towards the lip of the 80-foot-high waterfall. He managed to arrest its progress just 20 yards short of the sheer drop.

His fellow soldiers managed to make for the riverside, meantime, and Fullwood clung to a slab before, he too, managed to make for the shore.

The raft continued on its voyage of disaster smashing to pieces on the boulders below in the heart of the Rockies.

At the time, young Fullwood said: "I saw them in trouble and just did my job."

He was due to be presented with his medal by Lieutenant Colonel Martin St John Gibbs, Lord

Lieutenant of Gloucestershire. It is the third year such awards have been made and Corporal Fullwood is the first soldier to receive the gold award.

**T**HE 1984 Artillery Day at Larkhill will be held on Saturday 14 July from 10.30 in the morning to 6.00 in the evening.

It should be a first class show, well worth a visit. Attractions include a major live firing demonstration featuring over 60 guns, bands, PT display, RA Motor Cycle Display Team, parachute and gliding displays and numerous stands.

Refreshments are available and admission is free although there is a parking fee of £4 for cars (£20 for buses). Larkhill is near Amesbury in Wiltshire and is easily accessible, so why not go along and have an enjoyable family day out?

Should there be anyone who is not too sure what larkhill means to Gunners — then study of a review of a new book on the subject (page 36) will be well worth while.

**M**ORE THAN 2,000 entries from 400 teams — five of them mixed teams for the first time this year — have just taken part in the 25th Ten Tors Expedition.

Held on the wild expanses of Du Maurier country, 18 tors were used as check-points which were linked to create 24 routes, a dozen of them 35 miles long, eight of them 45 miles and the remaining four at 55 miles.

Involved in the organisation for Ten Tors this year were personnel from all three Services, comprising 68 officers, 65 senior NCOs and 349 soldiers including Junior Leaders Regiments.

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**SOLDIER** visits 6 Ordnance Battalion,  
a unit which embraces  
almost every RAOC role



Sergeant Brian Bolton and the range of food.

## You name it — we've got it!



64 Company busy with an issue of rations.

**I**N EVERY direction they continued on their remorseless path. Wave upon wave of them — stretching for something like two miles. We were in the heart of the RAOC bakery at Bielefeld and the items moving along conveyor belts while cooling from their experiences in the giant ovens were thousands of loaves.

The bakery, the biggest in the Army, is run by 64 Ordnance Company — part of 6 Ordnance Battalion since the battalion's formation from four formerly independent companies in September 1982.

The bakery, opened in 1975, provides bread for the whole of Rhine Army. Each day it is distributed to the supply depots in Germany — all units get their bread the day after baking and the nearer you are to Bielefeld the greater the chance that your bread will be fresh that day.

Millions of loaves a year are produced at Bielefeld and on a full shift some 17,000 are baked. In fact the capacity is even higher and this will be tested this autumn when the bakery will operate

round-the-clock in supplying the forces in Exercise Lionheart.

Although it was only built nine years ago the bakery has already been modernised. Bags of flour have been replaced by a silo system in which the flour is sucked straight from a wagon into silos and then sucked out for use on the breadline. The bakery produces white, brown and rye bread as well as rolls.

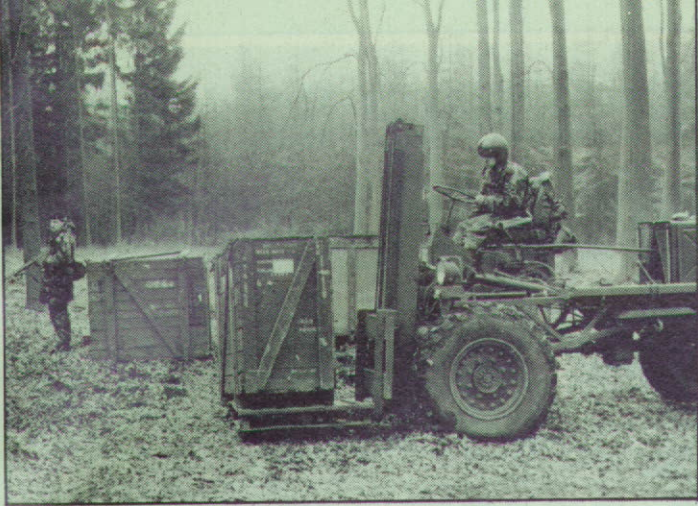
But man cannot live on bread alone and 64 Ordnance Company is also responsible for many other rations from its headquarters at Rochdale Barracks. It not only provides rations and petrol for Rhine Army units and BFES schools in Germany but for UK based units exercising in Germany. It also holds war reserve stocks and according to its Officer Commanding, Major Adrian Stone, handles twice as much ration material as any other supply depot in BAOR.

"On average we feed 10,000 people every day from this depot and that can shoot up astoundingly for exercises such as Lionheart."

Not far away is 62 Ordnance Company who hold such things as

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





Above: An Eager Beaver of 63 Company on exercise.

Below: Private Mike Jackson stacking loaves.



engines and major assemblies, heavy lift items, smaller technical stores, tyres, batteries and weapons.

The third company, 63, are based in Bielefeld, at Redcar Barracks, a former Panzer workshops. Their role in peacetime is to receive, hold and maintain reserve stocks of all A and B vehicles, towed guns and equipments with some exceptions.

Some are kept in protective envelope storage — which gives protection against hard German winters without the necessity of using buildings. This company, too, has begun its run-up to Lionheart with a big 12 day exercise with another Ordnance battalion.

With units up to 50 miles apart and vehicles, engines and tanks being channelled backwards and forwards to practise unloading skills, Exercise Richmond Trial was described by the battalion Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Alan Norman-Bailey as "essential to get them ready for Lionheart."

The fourth company, 61, is based at Gütersloh and holds motor and technical spares as well as a limited range of general stores. But its most unusual role is the provision of bath units.

The company has four bath

units, which are technically shower units, each providing washing facilities for 120 men an hour. The hot water can go up to 110 degrees Fahrenheit but each bather can control his own temperature. However, if an individual overstays his welcome the shower operator can send him on his way with a sudden burst of cold water!

The units are used mostly in the summer for exercises but also for muddy sporting events such as cross-country matches.

Bath unit operator, Lance-Corporal Dave Germain, told SOLDIER: "It takes four to five hours from arriving at the location to providing hot water — you can use a fire hydrant or take it from a river — we have a filter unit on the back.

"You see blokes coming in really grotty and dirty and down in the mouth and they come out smiling. You get a lot of satisfaction out of doing this job."

Colonel Norman-Bailey describes the formation of Ordnance battalions as "a super idea". He adds: "It really co-ordinates the logistic effort on the supply side far better than in the past. We epitomise the RAOC supply system in that there is only one area we don't cover. If you want to look at the RAOC you come to 6 Ordnance Battalion and you can see everything."



Above: 63 Company loading lots of jerry cans.

Preserving a light gun and (bottom) inspecting CVRT.





**N**O LONGER can Divisional Ordnance units in BAOR expect to be mere specialists — they have to be all-rounders as well. Along with their infantry and armoured colleagues each unit will be reviewed annually to test their fitness for role in terms of tactical deployment and standard regimental tests including first aid, NBC, map reading, vehicle recognition and leadership.

The first unit to be put through their paces was 3 Ordnance Battalion based at Korbecke with 3rd Armoured Division. With only a month's notice to devise and prepare for a programme and with no previous experience to draw on, the battalion was fair put about but rose to the challenge manfully.

Using standard guide lines the battalion second-in-command, Major David Hourahane threw together an ambitious programme enhanced by an inter-section military skills competition plus a navigational speed march forming the first part of the newly introduced Combat Fitness Test (CFT).

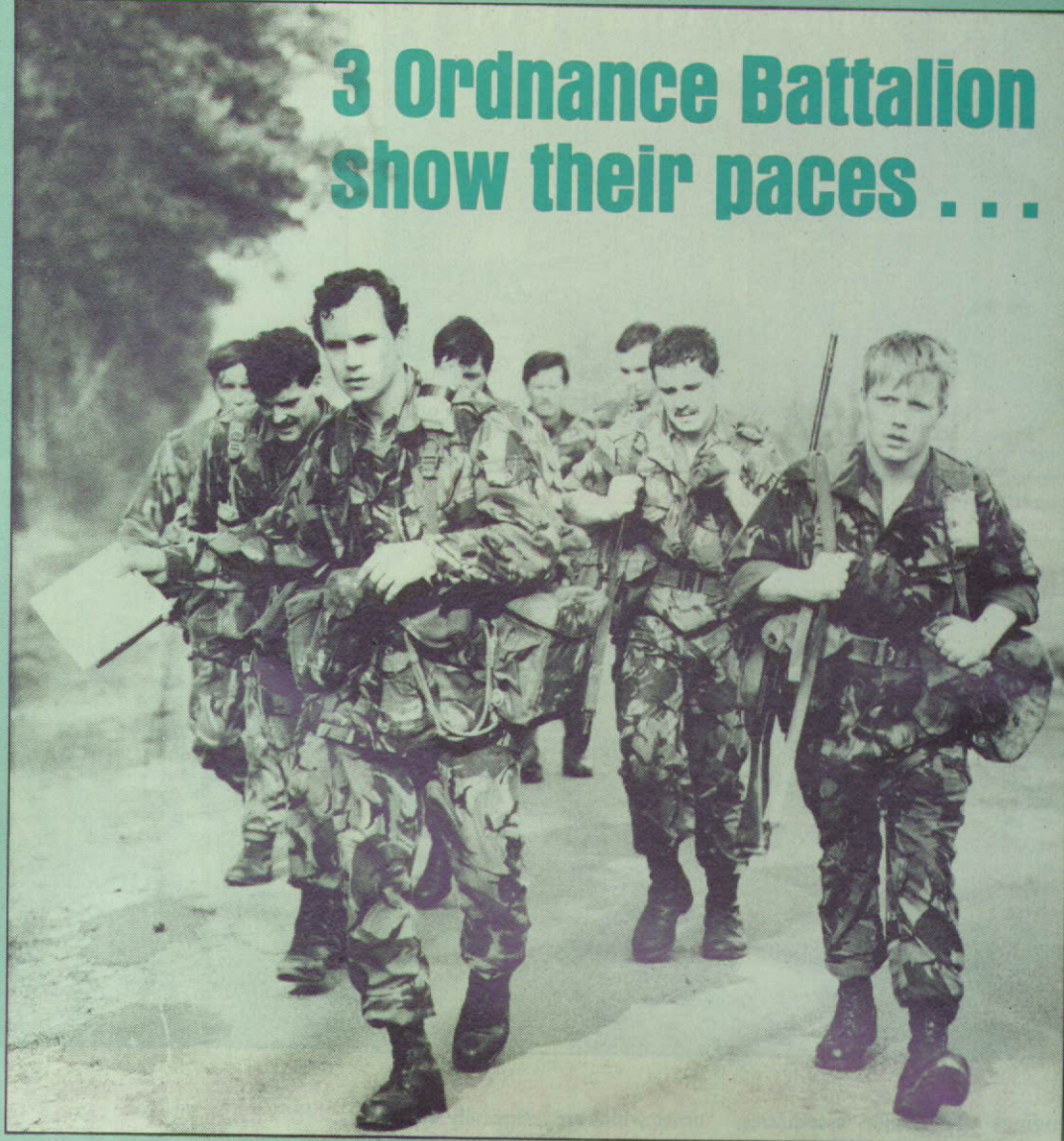
The third part of the CFT — a special to arm test which really sorts the men from the boys — was designed by Adjutant and former Royal Marine Commando Captain Martin Tracy using an assault course as its basis. Each section was required to carry a standard wooden pallet, upon which were banded nine jerry cans (empty) across eight obstacles including a cat walk and high scramble net crossed by each man. Meeting the approval of Commander Supply 1 (BR) Corps Brigadier Andrew Paviour, who inspected the battalion, this course proved to be the blue print for all BAOR RAOC unit CFT Part III (and now they know who to blame for all the agony!).

The programme was almost

completed but Brigadier Paviour had another small card to play first, 'killing off' the senior officers and NCOs leaving the return to base in the hands of less experienced men. Have no fear — all those counted out were counted in again with the words 'fitted for role' ringing in their ears.

From words and pictures supplied by 3 Ordnance Battalion.

## 3 Ordnance Battalion show their paces . . .





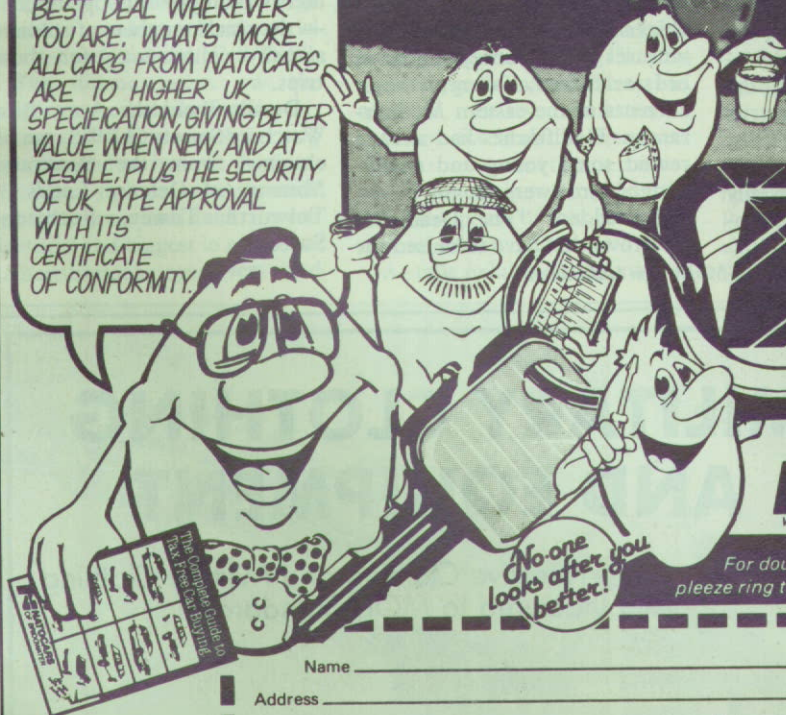
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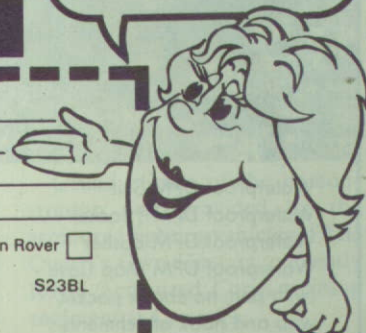
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# EYES UP! LOOK OUT!



## Army Bird Watchers 'First' in Cyprus

**T**HERE'S been a new species of bird recorded — feathered variety, that is — on the Western Sovereign Base Area of Cyprus around Salt Lake. It is the Lesser Sand Plover and a dozen members of the Army Bird Watching Society who flew out to the Mediterranean island on their annual overseas expedition were those responsible for logging it.

In all, 180 species were recorded and, as expedition leader Major Tim Hallchurch — he is also a qualified ringer — explained: "These expeditions are more than just bird watching. All species have to be positively recognised, counted and recorded with notes on any interesting behaviour. Birds are caught and ringed which means pre-dawn setting up of catching nets and, finally, the results have to be analysed and a report written."

Helping him in his ringing efforts were Majors David Counsell, Jeff Gordon and Mike Hann, Captain Ray Marsh and Lance Corporal Pat Howard.

Species recording was in the care of old med 'hands', Lieutenant Colonel Maxwell Macfarlane, Tom Walcot and Derek Sherrard Smith and Major Geoffrey Munns.

Backing up were Chief Technician Barry Hancock of the RAF Ornithological Society and Sergeant Jess Thompson who showed their expertise in recognition of wading birds. Also helping was Major (retired) Johnny Powell.

Bird world on Cyprus, they unanimously report, is well. The Akrotiri flamingos are still surviving despite the attentions of 'hunters' and, luckily, the Salt Lake is now a protected area.

Other interesting birds noted were the Glossy Ibis, Egrets, Bitterns, Eleanor's Falcons, red-footed Falcons and Cranes while among the 800 birds caught and ringed were Greater Spotted Cuckoos, Dead Sea Sparrows, Ruppells and the Cyprus and Orphean Warblers.

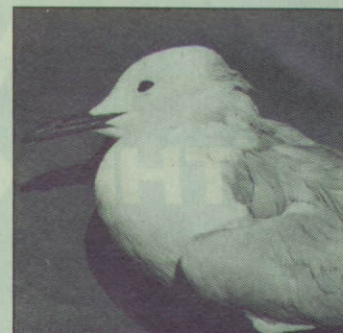
As one of the 'bird men' said: "All the ringers were able to examine in the hand birds that they had never seen before."

The rings were supplied by the Cyprus Ornithological Society — it was founded in 1970 — but the ringing was carried out under strict rules laid down by the British Trust for Ornithology. In this way, no birds were injured or unnecessarily distressed and all were subsequently released.

*From a report by Major Tim Hallchurch*

Left: a study in concentration.

Below: Slender-billed Gull.



Major Hallchurch holds Great Spotted Cuckoo for Captain Marsh to photograph.

Several of the birds examined during this year's expedition already wore rings from previous years while passing through Cyprus. Those ring numbers will be checked against records kept by the Cyprus Society.

Major Hallchurch said: "By the end of March some birds were already breeding. Griffon Vultures nesting by the Episkopi cliffs already had their single young, looking more like oven-ready chickens. It is thought that the vultures fly to Turkey, Lebanon or Israel to feed, soaring on the air currents of the eastern Mediterranean. Goldfinches had already reared some young and newly-fledged birds were caught."

He added: "The Dead Sea Sparrows that have colonised the

island in the last decade are spreading and many nests were found in Tamarisk bushes around the Salt lake. A number of these charming little sparrows with yellow throats were caught and ringed."

The expedition was fine but there was only one disappointment — the small numbers of soldiers actually volunteering for these trips.

Details about the Army Bird Watching Society (ABWS) can be obtained from the Secretary, Ministry of Defence Lands 3, Tolworth Tower, Surbiton, Surrey.



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Story:  
Roger Goodwin

## Wonderful Warcop's Huge Demonstration

**P**RACTICALLY every cap-badge in the British Army could be spotted in Cumbria when a 5000-strong sea of soldiers flooded the sleepy fell country to watch 1984's biggest Army firepower demonstration.

Regular, Territorial and Army Cadet Force units from every corner of the North of England and Scotland poured into Warcop principal training area for the demonstration, staged as the high point of a two-day weekend tutorial exercise code-named "Fell Wall".

The demonstration was the biggest to be held in Britain this year and was also one of the very few planned to include all arms, including fighter ground-attack and helicopter anti-tank. It was the third and biggest in a series of demonstrations staged every third

year by Headquarters North West District on behalf of North East and Scottish Districts.

Over 700 troops from 20 different units participated as demonstration troops. 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers, based at Saighton Camp, Chester, and assigned a home defence role, acted as infantry demonstration battalion for both the firepower demonstration and the exercise — which was designed to study the defensive phase of war, including counter-attack.

A static exhibition mounted to

complement the firepower demonstration included examples of most of the British Army's latest artillery, armour and engineer equipment, as well as ground to air missiles, explosives, ordnance and field catering displays. An exhibition of the latest infantry equipment included examples of the new SA.80 weapon family.

Also on display, for the first time in the North of England was the new Saxon Wheeled Armoured Personnel Carrier, now in service with 1st Battalion The King's Own Royal Border Regiment at Cat-

A Centurion AVRE towing two Viper minefield clearance trailers moves past the artillery support.

terick, the first unit to receive it.

The firepower demonstration also saw the first live use of Warcop Range by the RAF when two aircraft from the Jaguar Operational Conversion Unit at RAF Lossiemouth opened the programme by using 25lb practice bombs to simulate passes with cluster and 1000lbs HE bombs.

Defensive artillery fire in support of infantry — a hard-earned lesson re-emphasised in the Falklands — was demonstrated, appropriately enough, by 7 Battery, 29 Commando Light Regiment, Royal Artillery. They brought their six 105mm light guns to Warcop from Arbroath, where the Battery serves with 45 Commando.

Students and spectators also had the opportunity to compare the awesome power of the new FH70 Howitzer, in the hands of 40 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Another weapon which proved its worth in the Falklands, the Milan anti-tank missile, demonstrated its impressive accuracy in the hands of The Royal Irish Rangers, who showed what concentrated infantry firepower could do to an inoffensive collection of targets — some of them, sadly, retrieved from the remains of HMS Ark Royal, now in the final stages of being broken up nearby.

Grand climax of the demonstration was provided by the armoured fighting vehicles of The Queen's Own Hussars, currently Royal Armoured Corps training regiment at Catterick.

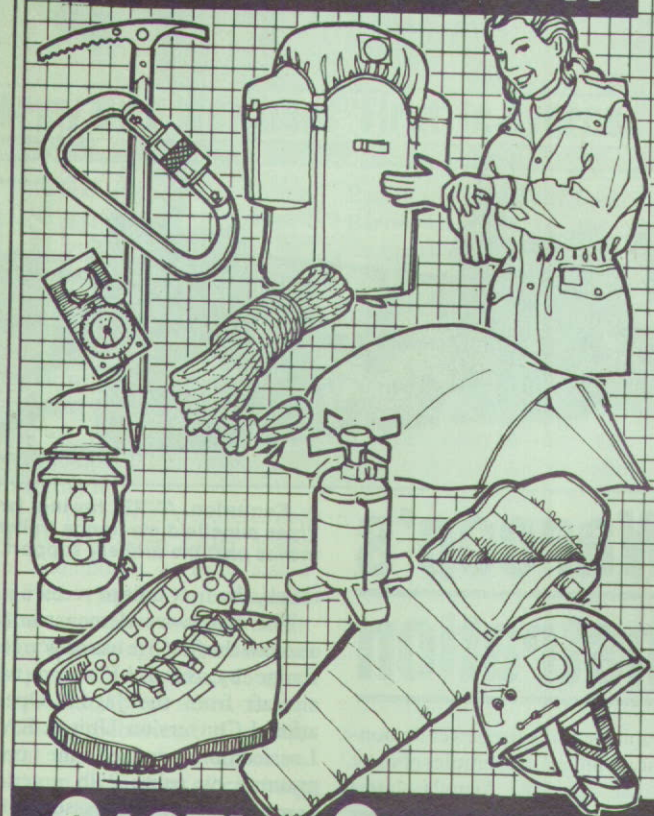
Driving two Chieftain main battle tanks and a Fox and Scorpion they proceeded to demonstrate the incredible accuracy possible with their vehicle armaments.



Spectators get a close-up of the BAR mine laying system.



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# GLORIOUS GLOSTERS REMEMBERED

**T**HE GALLANT Korean War actions of the 1st Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment thirty three years ago were remembered at a simple ceremony in the hills of South Korea.

The Battle of the Imjin River, and the part the Glosters played in the action is commemorated every year at the foot of Mount Kamak San at the entrance to the Solma-ri valley where the Koreans erected a simple but impressive monument.

This year the British Army was well represented with the Band and Drums of the 1st Battalion The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment together with the British Contingent of the United Nations Honour Guard drawn from the 2nd Battalion 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles.

The religious part of the ceremony was taken by Army Padre Robin Laird, a former chaplain with the Gloucestershire Regiment, and a lesson was read by Captain Martin Barratt a serving officer of the regiment at present on a staff appointment with Gurkha Field Force in Hong Kong.

Leading Korean politicians attended the ceremony with local senior military commanders. Wreaths were laid by the British Ambassador, His Excellency J N T Spreckley and the representatives of the Korean Army.

There was a large audience of British expatriates, who attend the event every year, and many of them had close ties either with the Regiment or the County of Gloucestershire.

The British Defence Attache, Brigadier B S Burditt, gave a battle resume.

The battle of the Imjin River began on 22 April 1951, when the 63rd Chinese Communist



The British Ambassador lays his wreath.

Story:  
Terry Stockton  
Pictures:  
Keith Gibson

Forces Army (30,000 strong) advanced south across the river and attacked across the whole British 29th Infantry Brigade front. Throughout the first night of the battle the men of The Gloucestershire Regiment fought back against overwhelming numbers of the enemy and killed many of them but during the next two days, in the course of bitter fighting, the regiment was gradually forced to withdraw from its forward positions onto the hills.

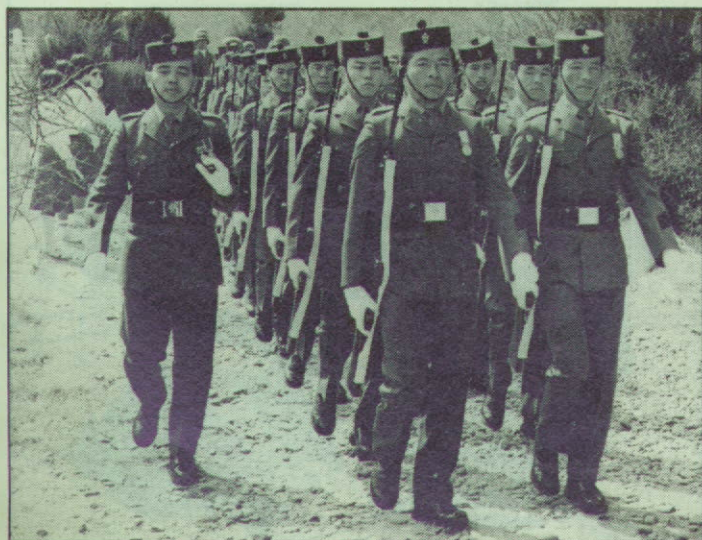
By the evening of the 24 April,

the exhausted survivors of the regiment were gathered on the hill which towers above the memorial. They were completely surrounded, ammunition was low and all attempts to relieve them had failed. That night they held the hill against further repeated attacks but finally on the morning of the 25 April, they made their last stand before attempting to break out through the encircling Chinese. Without ammunition many were caught in

the Chinese dominated countryside, but 67 officers and men evaded capture, 59 had been killed in action. In all, 526, including most of the 180 seriously wounded, fell into enemy hands. Of these, 34 died as prisoners of war.

The defenders had delayed the Chinese for three days, and provided much needed time.

● See colour picture — back cover.



The British Honour Guard to the United Nations in Korea — men of 2nd/7th Gurkha Rifles.



Captain Martin Barratt preparing to lay the wreath of his Regimental Colonel, General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley.



# KEEP THIS SCOURGE AWAY FROM BRITAIN

**RABIES PREVENTION**

Because the rabies threat is very real the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food (MAFF) launched its 1984 Rabies Prevention Campaign Press Lunch aboard the Sealink ferry 'Cote d'Azur'.

The message Mrs Peggy Fenner, MP Parliamentary Secretary MAFF gave as we sailed across the English channel was:

"Be vigilant — watch out for smugglers. There are severe penalties for breaking the law. All animals must be imported subject to the conditions of an import licence, issued in advance."

The Minister concluded: "There is no room for complacency. It is essential that our rabies defences are maintained at the current high level if we are to continue to enjoy freedom for ourselves and for our pets."

Service families, holidaymakers, tourists and overseas visitors can all be tempted to avoid the rabies rules and bring in animals.

Recent prosecutions show that the threat IS very real. British citizens and Service families have been among those who have tried to bring into Britain an animal without the correct documentation, or none at all. Few people

**F**AMILY pets like Honeybun the rabbit and Hattie the dog had to be left behind in Libya as the Ambassador and his family were evacuated. A story which could also be told by Service families, but there is a much more important reason why families must comply with the strict rabies laws laid down in Britain.

In 1983 there were 70 prosecutions in Great Britain. Not so long ago a Service family faced heartbreak as their hamster was taken away to be put down.

Yet, why do people put at risk the whole of the British Isles for the sake of an animal? British families are too soft about their animals, believing that their pet could never be the one to be affected.

The threat of rabies reaching the UK shores is no longer a figment of one's imagination. Rabies is marching ever closer, just 200 miles from the French coast.

It arrived in France in 1968, via Germany and Switzerland and with cases in Holland. The small strip of water is the only real barrier, coupled with the rabies laws laid down in Britain.

Even so Britain has not been immune, for only recently an Irish wolfhound, vaccinated, died in UK kennels of rabies.

The TV drama 'The Mad Death' could well become a reality. Horrifying scenes of the final stages of death and all that goes with it is not a fictional idea for rabies has been to Britain. A Service family's dog in Camberley a few years ago was followed last June when the Irish wolfhound died in quarantine.



(Left to right): Dr Jean Blancou, Director, Centre National des Etudes sur la Rage; Mrs Peggy Fenner, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Ernie Wise; Gordon Shephard, Chief Press Officer, MAFF. (Back row): Alisdair McKerrrell, PS to Peggy Fenner; Malcolm Dougal, HM Consul Lille; Tony Crowley, MAFF vet export and rabies.

**VITAL HELP FOR YOU!**

There are at present only 3 quarantine premises in Great Britain offering quarantine facilities for privately owned animals such as yours. These are: Ravensden Zoological Company, Bedford Road, Rushden, Northants (Tel: Rushden 56221/2); Banham Zoo Ltd, The Grove, Banham, Norwich (Tel: Quidenham 476); Dover and Folkestone Quarantine Kennels, Crete Road West, Folkestone, Kent (Tel: Hawkinge 2250). These premises accept only mammals up to the size of ocelots, but exclude rats, mice and all primates.

Should the quarantine premises agree to accept your pet(s), they will deal with all documentation on your behalf, including arrangements to collect the animal(s) at the port/airport of landing, clearance through Customs and safe custody to the quarantine premises.

All expenses concerned with the landing, transit and quarantine of an imported animal are solely for settlement between the owner of the animal and the quarantine premises concerned. Quarantine and transport charges vary considerably and it is not therefore practicable to quote average charges here. Details of charges however can be obtained direct from quarantine premises.

Animals may be landed in Great Britain only at the following ports: Dover Eastern Docks, Harwich Navy Yard Wharf and Parkeston Quay, Hull, Liverpool, International Hoverport (Pegwell Bay) Ramsgate, Southampton. And at these airports: Birmingham, Edinburgh, Gatwick, Glasgow, Heathrow, Leeds, Manchester, Prestwick.

It is an offence to try to land an animal at any other port/airport.

## ANNE REPORTS

realise that the small mammals (like hamsters) must also spend 6 months in quarantine.

So why do some people put at risk the whole of the British Isles? For the sake of the pet, they say, "It will never be my pet," and "How could our pet be in contact with any rabid animal?"

So foolish, so foolhardy, but smuggling pets into Britain happens every year.

It's expensive to keep a pet, and even more expensive to keep a pet for six months in quarantine. This expense is nothing compared to having a rabies epidemic in Britain and the horrifying consequences for pets and their owners alike.

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**VEE WEE**

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I'm writing to you in order to enlist your help and support in righting what I and many others believe to be a great injustice.

One is continually being told that conditions of service should be the same worldwide for serving personnel and that LOA is paid to ensure that one is able to have the same standard of living per head as one might reasonably expect in the UK. In practice of course, this is seldom so — those living in BAOR are able to buy duty-free alcohol, NATO discount cars and petrol coupons, none of which

privileges apply to those serving in, for example, Hong Kong.

As I understand it, those people who serve in BAOR and who pay for their eldest child's third school holiday airfare, can generally manage to do so for an extremely modest sum (£50 or less). In practice, many people actually drive across to England and collect their children by car, in which case the bill might be even smaller. All those people who serve outside the UK or BAOR are faced with a massive bill for the airfare — about £250 to Cyprus for a Major, and

## ASK ANNE

£620 to Hong Kong for a Colonel. The LOA does nothing to compensate for this huge expenditure and it might be noted that people in cavalry regiments who spend large amounts of time in Germany are therefore considerably better off than men in the Brigade of Gurkhas who spend most of their service in Hong Kong or Brunei.

If we are all charged British rates of electricity, regardless of where we serve, to ensure equity throughout the world, surely there is an argument for bringing in a flat rate for the third holiday airfare, regardless of station or location, to ensure fair play in this area as well? — Mrs D, BFPO 1.

I have spoken to MOD reference the school children's visits. I am assured that the MOD is fully aware of this anomaly. The MOD spokesman said "School children's visits have been and still are high on the priority list but because of financial reasons this problem has not been rectified."

I am interested in working for the NAAFI as a UK contractor, could you give me any information on this?

At present I am in Germany au-pairing until end of September. Before I came to Germany I worked for 2½ years as a secretary, but found this too monotonous so I decided to come abroad for a year. I am 20 years old. Another career I would be interested in would be to work for the RAF in their flight room — directing aircraft — could you also put any light on that, what sort of education is needed etc. Miss H, Germany.

If you are interested in working for Naafi, then write to The Manager, European Service, Naafi, Dulkener Str 200, 4056 Schwalmthal NDRH for information about joining Naafi as a trainee etc.

To join the WRAF write to: WRAF Recruitment Officer, Room 403 Astral House, Dept of the RAF, Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8RU.

We have had to move after 9 months to another posting in UK, will we be eligible for disturbance allowance?

Last time we were entitled to £109 and had I think another £100 for our two children, but we are going to lose a lot with having to move so quickly. Can we get any extra money? My husband is away, so could you write back to me. — Mrs S, Tidworth.

Do contact your husbands pay office soonest for your specific claim. Disturbance allowance went up on 1 Jan 84 but you will have to check on whether you are eligible for the higher or lower supplement.

The rates, with the old rates in brackets are:

	Officers	Soldiers
Basic	291 (278)	219 (209)
Higher Supp.	146 (139)	109 (104)
Lower Supp.	73 (70)	55 (52)
1 Child	85 (83)	85 (83)
2 Children	159 (155)	159 (155)
3 or more	183 (179)	183 (179)

Automatic action to update claims already submitted will be taken. Supplementary claims are not required.

## UNACCOMPANIED BAGGAGE ENTITLEMENTS — PERSONNEL POSTED TO CYPRUS AND GIBRALTAR

Since the partial descaling of married quarters in North West Europe and UK wof 1 Sep 82, an extra unaccompanied baggage allowance of 2.12 cu m for officers and 1.70 cu m for soldiers has been added to the wife's entitlement when personnel are posted from BAOR. It has been a condition that the additional allowance may only be sent to UK.

The Ministry of Defence has now formally confirmed that descaling of MQs has taken place in Cyprus and Gibraltar. With immediate effect therefore, BAOR personnel who are posted to Cyprus or Gibraltar and whose families will join them there, may forward the additional entitlement to those commands at public expense.

The paper which sets out unaccompanied baggage entitlements is being amended. Ask at your unit orderly room for details.

## ANNE ARMSTRONG'S VIEW

A FEW holiday hints to start a season which seems to have begun early as the glorious sun beat down on us over the latter part of April. With it came traffic jams, the rush to the coast, and sadly the start of the summer tragedies.

A toddler drowned in the fishpond in the garden, and more children and adults will drown in rivers, swimming pools or the sea.

Drivers will get angry as the traffic jams increase. So if you are travelling to the West Country (and over a quarter of all holidaymakers did over Easter) you can get a free map from the Director (Transport), South West Regional Office, Froomsgate House, Rupert St, Bristol BS1 2QN. So why not follow the holiday route (HR) and avoid the bottlenecks.

Last year 5000 calls for help were received by the Coastguard service. Many could have been avoided by reading the Seaway Code.

The new edition contains a lot of useful information for yachtsmen, sea anglers, board sailors, canoeists and skin divers — in fact anyone who goes on the sea. There's advice on buying a boat, maintenance, safety equipment, the rules of the road, and what to do if you get into trouble.

Published by Dept of Transport, The



Seaway Code is on sale at HMSO, booksellers and newsagents, price 75p.

Don't put to sea without it, it could save life and injury.

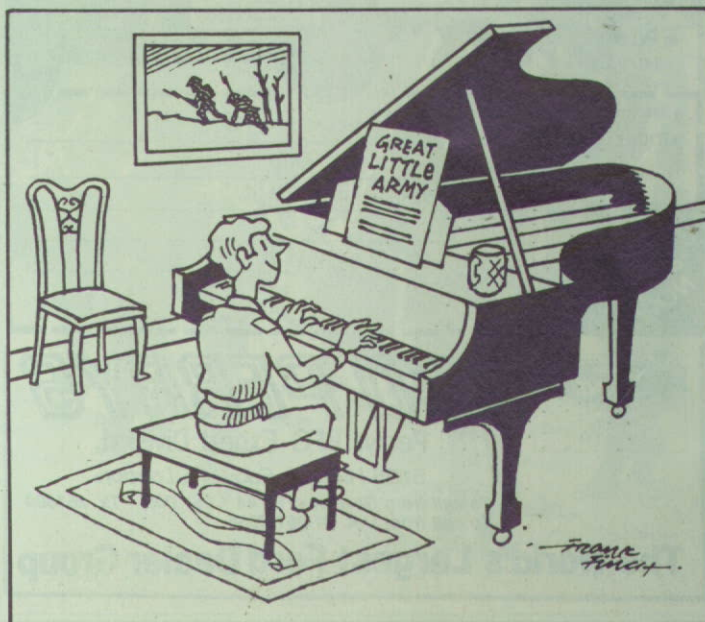
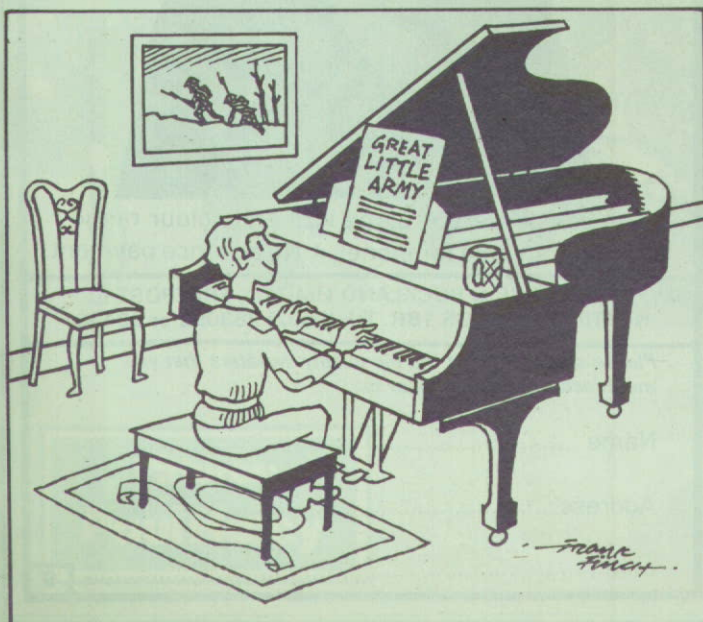
More and more people are wearing swimming goggles to protect their eyes from chlorine and to help them see underwater, but not all goggles bought comply with the British Safety Standards, including wearing instructions and an eye safety warning. When wearing goggles don't dive or swim more than two metres deep.

Have a wonderful summer, but don't let foolhardiness mar your holiday with a tragedy. And if you take a sailing trip, wear a life jacket. I have seen adults with one and the children without because they said 'no'. So they don't go.

The advice available costs so little, so do send for it.

## How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences turn to page 40.





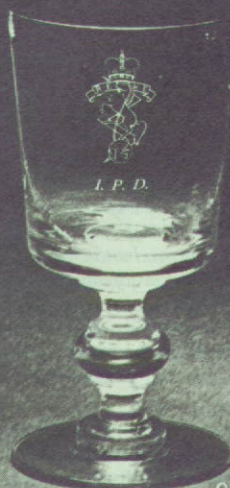
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# Rushmoor Freedom for Royal Military Police

**A**LDERSHOT, "home of the British Army," became the first town in Britain to be policed by its own military for The Provost Marshals and his "Tipstaves" can be traced back to the time of William the Conqueror.

The Military Police, the most "ancient Service of the Crown", came to Aldershot following the Napoleonic Wars and, fittingly, the Royal Military Police have just been granted the Freedom of the Borough of Rushmoor.

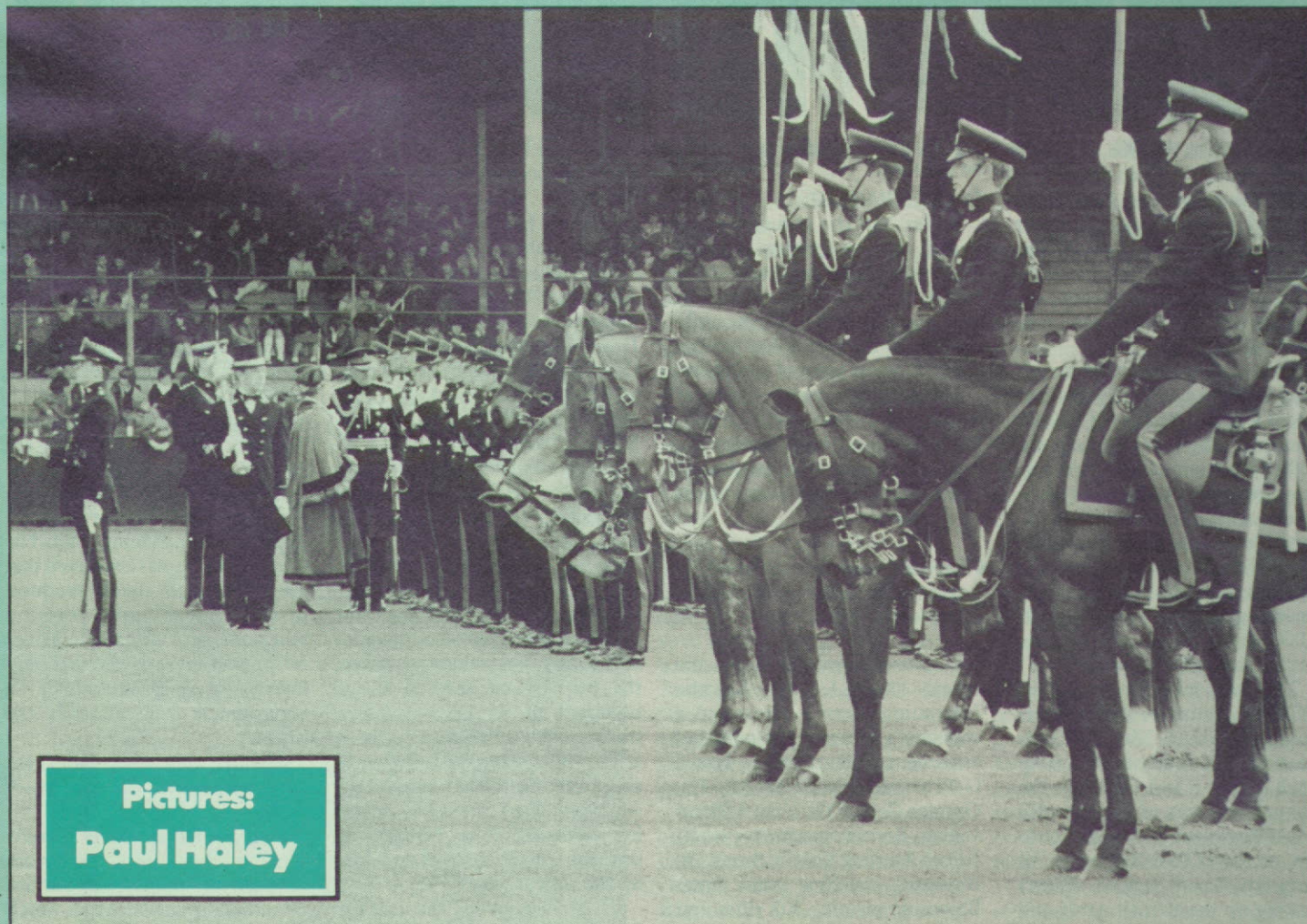
It was a ceremony at which the Mayor of Rushmoor invited the Colonel Commandant of the Corps, Lieutenant General Sir James Glover to sign the Roll of Honorary Freemen thus joining nine other Army regiments and Corps as freemen of the combined Aldershot and Farnborough in May 1981.

The scroll containing the wording of the Freedom was handed to the Corps in a silver casket.

Among those on parade were men from 160 Provost Company, RMP.



Lieutenant General Sir James Glover receives the Freedom casket from the Mayor, Mrs Carol Edgoose.



**Pictures:**  
**Paul Haley**





*Writer Graham Smith and photographer Doug Pratt conclude their look at Loan Service in Africa with a visit to Lesotho where . . .*



# TRIO OF TUTORS HAVE

**I**N MARCH 1868, the small southern African kingdom of Basutoland sent for the help of the British to help extract it from a difficult situation. The request had come from the ailing King Moshoeshoe the Great, the warrior king of the Basutos, who died two years later.

Twenty months ago the British were called in again 114 years later under a Memorandum of Understanding. This time to help the 8000-foot-high cloud-caressing kingdom now called Lesotho — (pronounced Le-soo-too) — independent since 1966, population 1.2 million, a country the size of Belgium in developing the newly emerging defence force with its 2,000-strong Army, the Lesotho Para-Military Force or LPF.

The task, taken on in August 1982, has fallen to Lieutenant-Colonel Duncan Nicol of Ardmanach — a Scottish laird from Loch Fyne — and Captains Jim Long, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment and Colin Johnson, 1st Royal Tank Regiment. All three are Loan Service officers making up the British Army and Advisory Training Scheme,

**Above: Capt Jim Long with a mine he defused.**

Lesotho (BATT (L)).

So far, this trio of tutors in the British way of training estimate that some 200 graduates have passed through their courses in the kingdom which is the only country in the world that has the highest lowest point of anywhere.

But there is, however, one main distracting problem that periodically disrupts the tutorials; the violent activities of a number of dissidents who use an assortment of firepower.

**“Every one wants to be a warrior; nobody wants to sit in the office”**

Captured weapons from the rebels, the LLA — Lesotho Liberation Army — revealed a collector's corner, a pot-pourri of armaments including the Israeli Galil assault rifle, Soviet AK-47s, German G.3s, FN's, Uzis, 5.56mm Italian Beretta machine pistols, British Sterling SMGs, Brens, .30 Browning machine guns, 9mm Browning pistols, .303 rifles and an assortment of grenades, mor-

tars, rocket launchers, mines and telephone wires serving as fuses.

Colonel Nicol's nucleus of instructors have at their disposal a mish-mash of weapons and vehicles including 81mm mortars, American 106mm anti-tank guns mounted on Iranian Shahbaz jeeps, Israeli RPD machine guns, a 20mm Oerlikon wheeled anti-aircraft gun, a 1941 25-pounder field gun plus MAN and Leyland trucks and Shorland APCs.

A daunting broad brush task, indeed, for the British contingent comprising a guardsman, a tankie and an infanteer.

As Colonel Nicol told me: “We are having to re-write our procedures, training syllabus and records and produce a confidential reporting system which has meant the burning of quite a lot of midnight oil. We have produced from scratch a battalion organisation — their battalion is currently about 300 but slowly expanding — which they are very slowly implementing. It has been a full-time job for the three of us to set up the course admin.”

“Last year we had the help for three-and-a-half months of two

**Above: Studying stores — Captains Colin Johnson and Alphonse Stello.**

senior NCOs, one of them from 3 PARA and the other from The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment. This year we are hoping to persuade those sponsoring such attachments to let us have three more personnel to help with carrying out our training syllabus of basic infantry skills in all types of warfare with a slant towards weapon training and tactics.

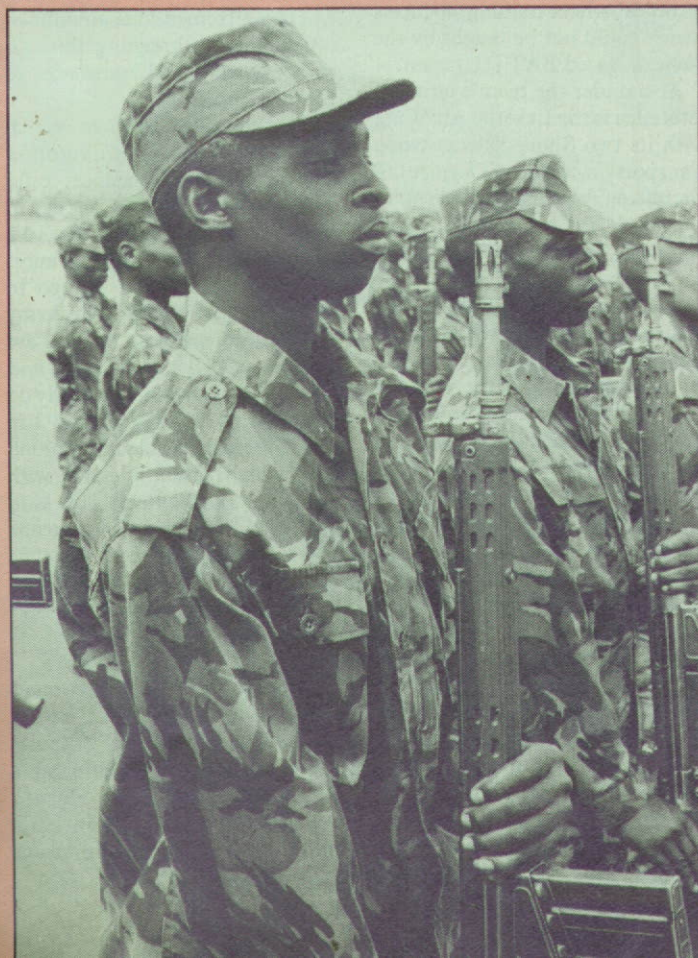
“Many of the LPF are ex-policemen and they have no in-depth military training at all. The overall picture was conceived that the British team should produce, broadly speaking, a training scheme along British military lines rather than anybody else's military lines using equipment which is a hotch-potch from all over the world.”

All three work from a camp base in the nation's capital, Maseru — “place of the red sandstone” — and all have their wives accompanying them for two years as part of the Loan Service conditions of service, a perk which offers spacious bungalows on an





# A FASCINATING TASK



Above: Colonel Duncan Nicol with demo platoon.

Left: Drill is drill the whole world over!

"estate" and the added use of government cars.

In common with each other, too, all three officers take their task seriously.

Captain Long, DERR, a mortar specialist within his own Regiment to which he returns in July said: "The basic infantry skills of the senior NCOs and officers we are teaching are quite good but it is the administration and logistic back-up that is missing. Everyone wants to be a warrior; nobody wants to sit in the office!

"Their turn-out and standard of cleanliness are excellent. Their eyesight as infants is good and so is their hearing. The Lesotho soldier is good on parades — the Army has an 89-strong band — and they are keen overall. Our suggestions do take a long time to implement due, perhaps, to the gentle pace of African life.

"They do a lot of patrolling because of the current situation, patrolling all their borders of a country which is the same size as Belgium. It is reckoned that some of the dissidents operate from

across the border."

Captain Long said the Lesotho soldier spent a lot of time in the field, as much as eight months and the Army's three battalions rotated from north to south — the main dissident area — via Maseru.

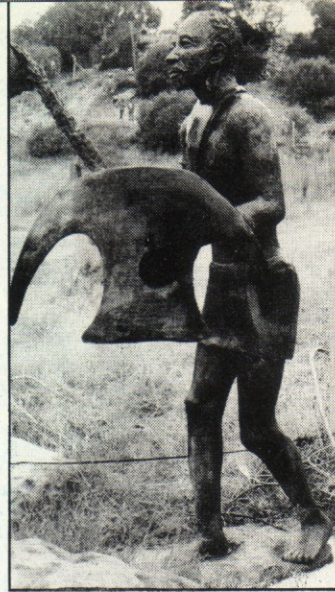
Bombs had been known to go off in the capital, he said; and last year 28 LLA men were killed in a pitched battle up-country.

Captain Johnson's most recent task was the transfer from within a dank Aladdin's Cave of stores — from buttons and chevrons to fridges and freezers — about £1 million worth of stores to £15,000 of more accessible shelving elsewhere on the camp compound.

"All the combat kit they wear — including a stable belt for each of the three battalions — comes from the UK," he said. "And they keep that kit worth about £70 in good order. They are always quite smartly turned out and very clean. Four for five years ago, no two men were dressed alike."

Though a tankie, Captain Johnson had already had RQMS experience with the Junior Leaders





Statue of King Moshoeshe



Children romping in Maseru.

Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps. "These logistic procedures were still fairly fresh in my mind when I came out here in August 1982. It's a daunting but challenging task and it's one I feel I shall hack before I go," he said.

"They have inherited from their colonial police days the means of keeping themselves smart and what we have been able to do on our courses is remind them of the standards they should be achieving. We produce an order of merit, marks and grades for everyone."

Colonel Nicol added: "In seven weeks we try to adapt what would take the British soldier three years to acquire from scratch. We are not here to do the job of the Training Wing, we are trying to make them do their job properly and pass down the line the expertise they have learned from us."

"The Lesotho soldier has a warrior mentality but as a nation they have very little as a discipline or system of discipline and, therefore, they are naturally soldiers as individuals and not as formed bodies of men. On occasion this could result in all their ammunition being expended in the

first few minutes of a contact."

But the Lesotho soldier has taken quickly to the British 24-hour ration pack, said Captain Johnson. "At first they shuddered and said the quantity of food was too small. I showed them how to prepare it and then they said it was too much!"

Among the students associated with the courses have been the Lesotho Prime Minister's son — Lieutenant Jonathan — an uncle to King Moshoeshe the Second, Lt-Col Joshua Sekhobe Letsie and the sub-chief of the Basia clan, WO 2 Solomon Lekhafola Matjeka.

The teaching that goes into the courses has been described to Colonel Nicol as being 'very courageous'.

Some two dozen officers and senior NCO members of the LPF are no strangers to military life in the UK, either.

Most went for specialist training such as vehicle maintenance, electrical repairs or ammunition

technical officer training, all facets which could not be taught by the Maseru-based BATT(L) team.

Also under the team's terms of reference is the Lesotho Air Wing with its two Short Skyvan troop transports, a couple of Dornier OP aircraft, an Augusta-Bell helicopter and a VIP, pressurised twin-engined Beechcraft Baron for comms flying.

The Loan Service role in that context is to explain the relationship between the drills of a section of infantrymen and the training and operational roles of aircraft to get them to their destinations in the battlefield. The chief pilot is a retired RAF squadron leader.

All three Loan Service officers have strong views in support of the Loan Service scheme either from those on six months' unaccompanied tours or for those on two-year accompanied stints.

Colonel Nicol said: "I had never heard of Loan Service and when I applied for one of the jobs and got it, I thought 'how marvellous!'. I didn't realise the spectrum of places you could visit. For the guy who likes to get out of the humdrum, of which there is still a considerable

degree in the British Army, then Loan service is a wonderful escape mechanism, but I do stress you have got to be the right sort of chap and do a chunk of pioneering both in your personal life as in your military life. It stretches one's powers of tact and diplomacy to the absolute limit."

Captain Johnson said: "To get to a country that you would never get to be posted normally is fantastic. I've been on the Loan Service list for the past six years, praying for a chance like this. When it came up, I leapt at the opportunity."

"In the time I've been here I've never really done any sort of soldiering like this has been. It's a constant source of challenge to me. There's a tremendous amount of satisfaction in breaking through your expertise and knowledge to another Force."

Captain Long said: Loan Service financially is very rewarding and a WO 2 out here, for instance, could expect to get about £11.20 a day in Loan service pay and about £10 a day in Local Overseas Allowance. In Loan service you can go to countries that the British Army does not normally go to. You are asked to make decisions, plans and create ideas you don't normally do in the army anywhere else. I'm now shifting the whole ammunition stock which has nothing to do with my job as an infanteer. This kind of work is just no good for someone who is inflexible. It needs someone who can put up with frustrations, someone with ambition and drive."

And BATT (L); what of its future?

Colonel Nicol said: "We have been told ur presence here is to be reviewed in the middle of this year. Let's hope they recommend a continuation of our task. This is a rewarding job and there is something to be done here for some considerable time."



Unfortunately, **SOLDIER** does not have the space to give **Loan Service** pay scales for every country involved — but the following table, applicable to **LS** in Zimbabwe is useful as an example to those thinking of widening their experience.

	LOA Monthly loan service pay (taxable)	Basic rate (non-taxable)	Finding own food
Sergeant	£264.30	£76.80	£199.80
Warrant Officer 2	£299.30	£77.40	£200.40
Captain	£342.60	£79.80	£219.30
Major	£433.50	£80.40	£227.40

If married, unaccompanied there is an extra £54.00 separation allowance which is taxable.

The figures given are in addition to normal pay, of course.

Preparing for section attack.



**T**HE JET-SETTING — and turbo-propping — **SOLDIER** team of writer Graham Smith and photographer, Doug Pratt, just back from their whistle-stop tour of four countries in southern Africa in search of Loan Service personnel travelled a staggering 15,000 miles in just 14 days; a largely airborne odyssey involving 31 hours' flying in seven types of aircraft.

The pair took off and landed at airfields in Nairobi, Entebbe, Harare, Johannesburg and Maseru in Lesotho. Pratt is pictured below (inset).

Propelling them en route seven miles high, for the most part, from the UK and within the African continent were aircraft as large as the 747 "Jumbo", the RAF's latest super-trooper a L.1011-500 series Tristar, a VC 10, a Boeing twin-pod 737, a DC-9, a turbo-prop F.27 and a venerable DC 3 which lifted them from Johannesburg to Lesotho, the mountain kingdom in the south.

Lensman Pratt — who has since compiled a flight log for his family album — was heard to remark, after the announcement of a two-hour delay and the unavailability of the F.27: "I'm glad I'm not flying on that thing, after all."

An assorted coachload of passengers, including boxes of day-old chicks, were passing a parked F.27. The vehicle pulled up alongside — the DC-3, a current stand-by sometimes dubbed by the less kind Lesotho commuters as the "vomit comet".

For one-hour-twenty-min-

utes the twin-engined veteran belonging to United Air — Z9 PTG — pitched and yawed its way ten thousand feet above the southern African landscape, trying to dodge squall-laden rain clouds, and giving deference of climatic occasion by rising and falling on the late afternoon thermals.

"I suppose they'll be serving us with drinks any minute now," said **SOLDIER**'s well-seasoned snapper as the star-board engine suddenly surged to scythe its way through some enveloping cloud.

As if by magic, the blond-tinted, blue-eyed South African stewardess appeared with a tray of soft drinks. "These complimentary . . . for the delay at Johannesburg then?" said a capricious Pratt. "No!" came the retort.

"I didn't think they still flew these things," said the photographer settling back to his soft drink as, two rows in front, a nun from a missionary order was looking deep into a paper bag.

Such was the relief of the passengers as rubber greeted tarmac and the aircraft rolled to a halt in front of the single-storey terminal building, that a spontaneous round of applause rippled through the fare-paying passengers.

A slightly subdued **SOLDIER** photographer said: "Having driven hundreds of times past the Dakota parked outside The Parachute Regiment Depot in Aldershot I have often wondered what it would be like to fly in one. Now — I know. And luckily, I didn't have to parachute out of this one!"

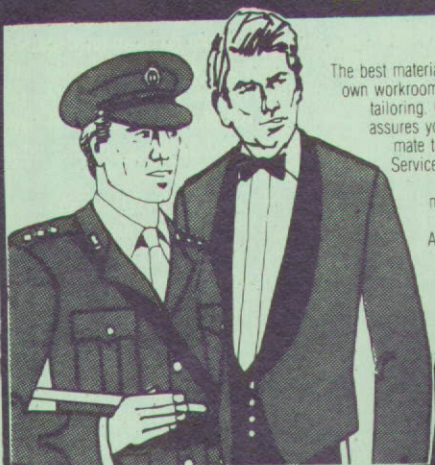


Specifications: C. 47.  
Length: 19.63 m  
Wingspan: 28.9 m  
Empty weight: 7,705 kg  
Max T/O weight: 11,805 kg  
Max speed: 368 km/hour  
Cruising speed: 290 km/hour  
Rate of climb: 5.9 m/second  
Ceiling: 7,350 m  
Fuel: 3000 litres

Endurance: eight hours  
Range: 2400 km Accommodation:  
27 passengers or 21 paratroopers or  
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the Normandy invasion.



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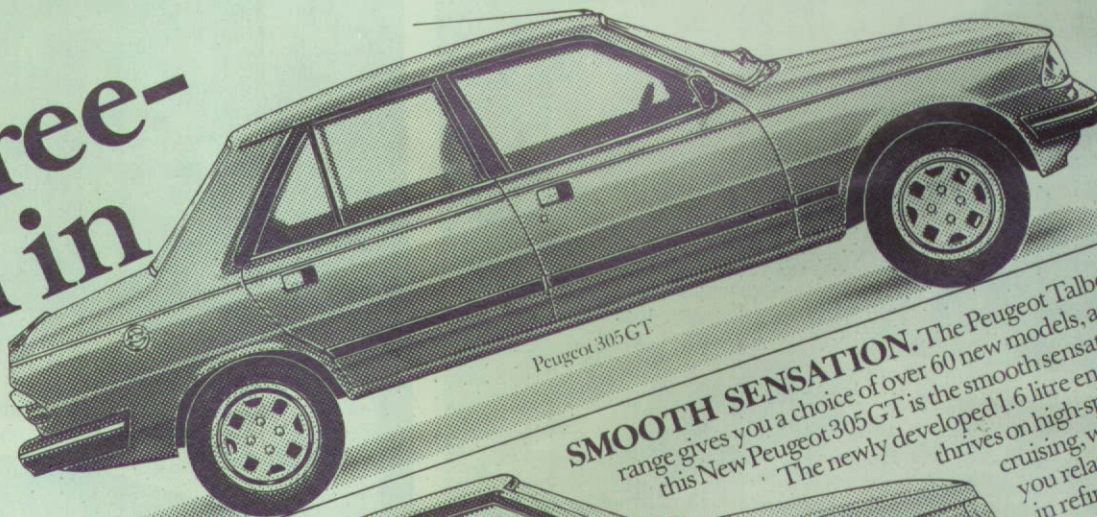
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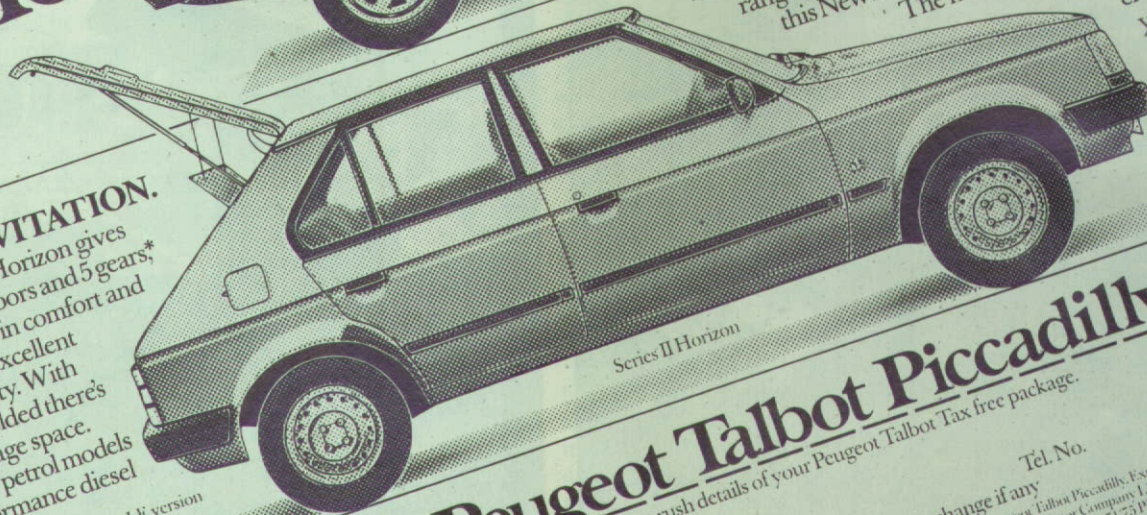


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## Focus on the Falklands



# DEFENCE FORCE BATTLE CAMP MAKES HISTORY

**T**HE 1st Battalion The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) has been involved in the running of the Falkland Islands Defence Force Battle Camp.

The one week camp, under the direction of the Battalion's Training Officer, Captain Julian Curl, was held at Fox Bay on West Falklands.

With his team of ten NCOs, Captain Curl instructed the 47 members of the FIDF on all aspects of weapon handling and fieldcraft.

It was the first time the FIDF had assembled for this type of training since it was reformed after the Falklands War. Indeed, the Stanley and "camp" (the area of the Falklands outside Stanley) platoons have not trained together since 1946!

It was particularly fitting that it should have been The Royal Scots to run the first such concentrated training, as the FIDF has a long association with Scotland, where many members have connections.

Mrs Sharon Halford, the only female to attend the battle camp,

## Thanks to The Royal Scots

has an aunt, Dot Finlayson, living in Carnoustie and her uncle, Howard Duncan, lives on Mull.

Sharon was working in Perth until 1982 — for the British Army! She was a typist at the Headquarters of 51 Highland Brigade.

The battle camp was thoroughly enjoyed by all members of FIDF whose Officer Commanding, Major Pat Peck, said that it had been extremely valuable training and hoped similar camps could be run on a more regular basis.

At the end of the week a party was held at Fox Bay for all the students and staff which was attended by The Royal Scots Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Cardwell Moore.

All the students were presented with a Royal Scots mug.

Sir Rex Hunt, Civil Commissioner, visited the camp and had lunch in the field with the FIDF and the training staff.

The local force has worn Scottish

The "monkey run" (above) — and care in priming live grenade.



head dress "off and on" since 1848. During that year "30 men were provided with blue guernsey frock jackets and Scottish tartan bonnets at a cost of £39 13s 0d". Sadly, the tam-o-shanters worn by the FIDF have been replaced by a khaki beret — but hardly surprising, as the

force is now affiliated to the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire. This affiliation stems from when a Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment was stationed in the Falklands during the Second World War from 1942 to 1944.



Sir Rex Hunt is greeted by Captain Julian Curl on his visit.



Members of Falklands Islands Defence Force get SLR coaching.



## PEN PALS WANTED



**My name is Dawn** and I am 23. I am 5ft 1ins tall with brown hair and blue eyes. I like music, cooking and dancing. — *Dawn Lawrence, 37 Haldon Road, St David's, Exeter, Devon.*

**My name is Barbara** and I am 18. My interests are catering, discos and sports. I would like to hear from anyone aged 18-25. — *Barbara Cook, 131 Cranbrook Road, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset BH12 3BR.*

**My name is Kathy** and I am 17. I am 5ft 5ins tall with dark hair and green eyes and I enjoy various sports. — *Kathy Newton, 39 Greys Road, Old Town, Eastbourne, East Sussex.*

**I am 26** with blonde hair and blue eyes and my interests are badminton, music and reading. — *Miss V Laurie, 44 St John's Ave, Hebburn, Tyne & Wear.*

**My name is Deborah** and I am 16 with brown hair and eyes. I like music, badminton and all sports. I would like to write to somebody aged 17-20. All letters answered. — *Deborah Lawton, 23 Welbeck Gardens, Toton, Beeston, Nottingham BG9 6JD.*

**My name is Joanne** and I am 17. I am 5ft 1ins tall with dark hair and my hobbies are horse-riding, music and swimming. I would like to write to penpals aged 17-21. — *Joanne Jones, Brereton Hall School, Sandbach, Cheshire CW11 9RZ.*

Again we ask readers seeking pen pals to note that in future their requests will only be accepted if they have completed the printed form below.

It is necessary to introduce this new system to help our staff cope with increasing numbers of requests. Those already in stock will be published but anyone writing in from now on will be asked to resubmit details on this form. Only completed forms from the magazine will be accepted (no photocopies please). The form will be published frequently and as regularly as space will allow.

There is still a backlog of letters which will steadily reduce over the coming months. So, if your letter has not yet appeared, take heart... it will eventually!

**My name is Jackie** and I am 23. I am 5ft 4ins tall with blonde hair. I like reading, writing and watching football. — *Jackie Franks, 72 Maud Road, Plaistow, London E13 0JU.*

**My name is Mary** and I am 5ft 5ins tall with blonde hair and green eyes, and I like all music. — *Mary Ryan, 57a Victoria Road, Farnborough, Hants.*

**My name is Julie** and I am 24. My interests are football, music, travelling and astrology. All letters answered. — *Julie Ecclestone, 10 Stone Road, Norton Bridge, Stone, Staffs. ST15 0NS.*

**My name is Sharon** and I am 19 years old. My interests are jogging, swimming, cycling and sports. — *Sharon Todd, 9 Willington Road, Hardwick, Stockton, Cleveland TS19 8LX.*

**My name is Denise** and I am 18. I am 5ft 8ins tall with blonde hair and blue eyes. I like motorbikes, sports and dancing. I would like to hear from anybody aged 18-22. All letters answered. — *Denise Wright, 8 Gassiot Way, Sutton, Surrey SM1 3BA.*

**I am 28**, 5ft 5ins tall with brown hair and blue eyes and my interests are dancing, cinema, reading and music. — *J. Ferry, 40 Abbotswood Road, Luton, Beds.*

**My name is Glynis** and I am 30. My hobbies are music, animals and watching television. — *Glynis Smith, 33 Robertsfield, Lower Way, Thatcham, Newbury, Berks.*

**My name is Wendy** and I am 19 years old. I enjoy rollerskating, cooking, music and reading. I would like pen pals in the same age group. — *Wendy Heyes, 6 Fieldway, Widnes, Cheshire WA8 0JD.*

**My name is Julie** and I have brown hair and eyes. My interests are travelling, cycling and music. Photos if possible. All letters answered. — *Julie Shefford, 8 Chestnut Crescent, Water Eaton Road, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK2 2LA.*

**My name is Linda** and I am 20 years old. I am 5ft 5ins tall with brown hair and hazel eyes. My interests are photography, animals, music and travelling. — *Linda Norris, 49 Hildens Drive, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks. RG3 5HY.*

**My name is Alison** and I am 21. My hobbies are swimming, playing and singing folk guitar and horse-riding. — *Alison Mead, Elm Bank, Crays Hill, Billericay, Essex CM11 2XP.*

**My name is Angela** and I am 26. I am 5ft 7ins tall with fair hair and blue eyes. My hobbies include most sports and letter writing. — *Angela Stitt, c/o 11 Cedar House, Kings Mill Hospital, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts.*

**My name is Trudy** and I am 18. I have blonde hair and blue eyes and I enjoy music, cooking, travelling and stock car racing. — *Trudy Morris, 86 Masons Road, Adeyfield, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.*

**My name is Lynn** and I am 17. I am 5ft 7ins tall with blonde hair and I like cricket, horses, golf, all things Scottish, rugby and soccer. — *Lynn Close, High Places, Tong Park, Baildon, West Yorkshire.*

**My name is Sue** and I am 21. I enjoy music, squash and watching football. All letters answered. — *Sue Davey, 98 Parkway, Welwyn Garden City, Herts. AL8 6HL.*

**My name is Diana** and I am 17. I like all sports and would like a penpal in the same age group. Photos if possible. — *Diana Perrett, 250 Ashley Road, Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire WA15 9NG.*

**My name is Kathleen** and I am 21. I am 5ft 3ins tall with brown hair and blue eyes. I like dancing and cooking and would like a pen pal in the same age group. All letters answered. Photo appreciated. — *Kathleen Webster, 15 Woodthorpe Close, Manor Estate, Sheffield S2 17Q.*

### REQUEST FOR SOLDIER PEN PALS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Status: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (not for publication)  
 \*Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*Name of School/College/Other Training Establishment: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*Subjects/Examinations: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*complete as appropriate  
 Interests/Hobbies: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ambitions: \_\_\_\_\_  
 What sort of pen-pal do you seek? (ie, age, sex, status, interests, etc) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Any preference for where your pen pal is serving? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Photo required/not required delete as appropriate \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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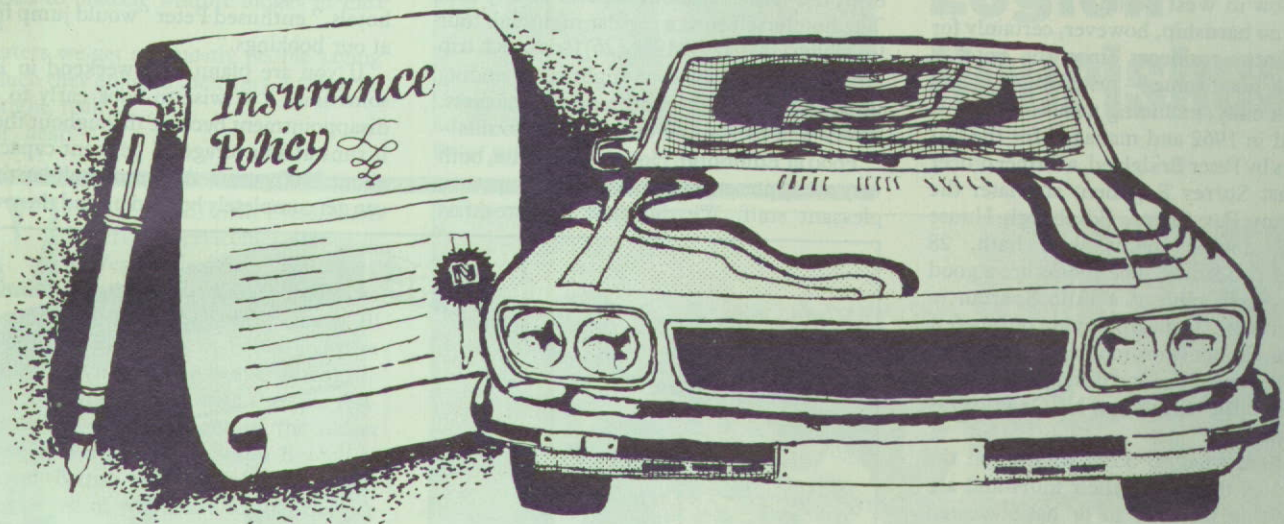
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**T**HERE's Nelson's column in London, the Eiffel Tower in Paris, the Statue of Liberty in New York and in Berlin — well, there's the Wall of course, but equally well known to the British Forces stationed there, is Edinburgh House.

Providing comfortable, hotel standard accommodation, the inside of Edinburgh House is likely to be seen by most married Servicemen and their families at least once during their tour of duty. The pressure on married quarters and the difficulty imposed by having just one trooping flight in and out of nearby RAF Gatow, means Edinburgh House is very often the first 'home' these people know in West Berlin.

This is no hardship, however, certainly for the short-stay residents since the hotel is ludicrously good value — just DM24 (£6.40) per person daily, including meals.

Opened in 1962 and managed for the last eight years by Peter Bridgland, a former officer in the East Surrey Regiment and later the Royal Army Pay Corps, Edinburgh House offers 32 double rooms with bath, 28 single and two suites. The rooms are a good size and comfortable if a little Spartan in decor. But then, if you are staying quite a few weeks, you do not want too much clutter.

Separate bar, lounge and dining room suites provide for both officers and NCOs as well as their dependants.

Transitees, (that is, those who are at the beginning or the end of their tours and are either waiting to move in or have vacated their married quarters), and official visitors on detached duty have prior claim on all available rooms. These official visitors range from officers visitings on courts martial and school teachers to NAAFI officials and even the SOLDIER Magazine team.

## WHERE EDINBURGH HOUSE

Thereafter the hotel is open to any Servicemen and women and UK based civilians serving in Germany, their families and sponsored groups.

While we were there a group on a football referees' course and the wives' club from 1 Armoured Division, BAOR were visiting and enjoying the delights of arguably Europe's most exciting city.

The notice board in the hotel foyer is most people's introduction to life in West Berlin, giving details of the sights, the services and even the more salacious aspects of city life. The hotel itself runs a regular nightclub tour for which you pay DM98 (£26) for a coach trip around a variety of local night spots ending up enjoying one of the more reputable cabarets; a very well patronised tour by all accounts!

Food at Edinburgh House is adequate, both very nicely presented and served by competent, pleasant staff. We did find the breakfast

disappointing however, but given that we paid peanuts for it we would certainly not have complained.

We could not understand how the hotel could maintain such high standards when the daily rate was so cheap; that is, until Peter Bridgland explained it is funded almost entirely by the West Berlin civil budget. The bar and catering are the only areas where the hotel is required to make a profit.

Even if it were to pay its own way, Edinburgh House would still likely be a flourishing business. "Most commercial hotels," enthused Peter "would jump for joy at our bookings."

If you are planning a weekend in Berlin sometime, it is wise to book early to avoid disappointment because throughout the year it runs at an average 75 per cent capacity — about 3500 guests. At certain holiday times it can get completely booked up and there are no



Edinburgh House — landmark for Britons in Berlin.

## STANDS OUT

stables, stalls or mangers to take an overspill. It is then that the 52 international staff really earn their money.

Well situated in Theodor Heuss Platz, just to the east of West Berlin centre, and next door to Summit House which houses the NAAFI, YMCA newspaper shop and the Berlin Military Welfare Service, Edinburgh House provides a splendid welcome for newcomers to Berlin and sees the outward bound off in first class style.

"We don't get many complaints," said Peter who used to manage wildlife lodges in East Africa.

The letters we get are mostly people saying how much they enjoyed their stay. I think we do all right, really."

Hear, hear!



Peter Bridgland.

**W**ITH many British, French and American Servicemen stationed in West Berlin, it is not surprising that clubs and societies proliferate on a confusingly busy scale. And among all the wives' clubs, drama clubs, liaison societies and sports activities, there is one subculture perhaps older and more British than the rest.

Founded in 1963 and one of the oldest branches in Germany, the Berlin Branch of the Royal British Legion has about 200 members most of whom are former Service expatriates now living and working on the German economy. They meet regularly in St George's Hall, the British Garrison Community Centre, for myriad functions ranging from the twice-weekly bingo to jumble sales, children's parties, cheese and wine parties and dances.

For many, like committee member Albert Purchase formerly of the Berlin Independent Squadron, Royal Tank Regiment and now working for the British Ordnance Services, the Legion is a way of keeping in touch with old friends as well as providing the mainstay of his social life. Albert left the Army in 1965 when his unit disbanded but was happy to stay on in Berlin with his German wife,



Ted Melotte.



Eyes down for a bingo session.

Stories: Sally Daniell  
Pictures: Paul Haley

working as an interpreter.

"I joined the Branch here in 1968," he said, "and have never looked back! I have now been a member for sixteen years, most of them on the committee. Once you get involved, you can never get away from it. I wouldn't want to anyway — this is my life."

Wives and families are encouraged to come to all the functions and new members are never turned away. Vice chairman Ted Melotte explained: "As well as ex-Servicemen, membership is open to any Serviceman currently stationed in Berlin, and often it's their wives who appreciate out facilities, especially when their husbands are away on exercise."

But of course, as with branches of the British Legion everywhere, it is not just the social life that is important. More so perhaps, is the help it gives to members and sometimes non-members with domestic and welfare difficulties.

Sorting out pension and tax problems forms the bulk of the branch's welfare work, money either being raised locally through jumble sales etc or, where the need arises, coming from central funds.

But for most, it is just good fun 'down at the Legion' and now it's eyes down for legs eleven, two fat ladies and who's that winning the jackpot now?



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## And where the Royal British Legion flourishes



## BOOK REVIEW

MUCH research by N D G James has gone into **GUNNERS AT LARKHILL** to record, before it is too late, the history of the Royal Artillery's association with Larkhill from early this century.

Much detail is included to show the development that was necessary from the time the School of Gunnery left Shoeburyness to expand on Salisbury Plain, to enjoy a required mobility and be ready for the tremendous developments of the 20th Century.

Hundreds of thousands of soldiers, British and Commonwealth, remember Larkhill, many of them infantrymen who cursed the length of The Packway, that long last straight road that took them into camp.

Once white and dusty with the Wiltshire chalk, and deeply muddy in season, it is today tarmac and lined with apple trees, said to have rooted naturally from the thousands of cores weary soldiers discarded.

But this is a story of the Gunners, touching on the School of Gunnery, Shoeburyness, in 1859 to the School of Artillery, Larkhill, in 1920, which became the Royal School in 1971. The changing role

of the Gunners is traced through the two world wars and onward through the scientific and electronic advances of today.

Flying in balloons and the early light aircraft began the expansion of Gunner responsibilities.

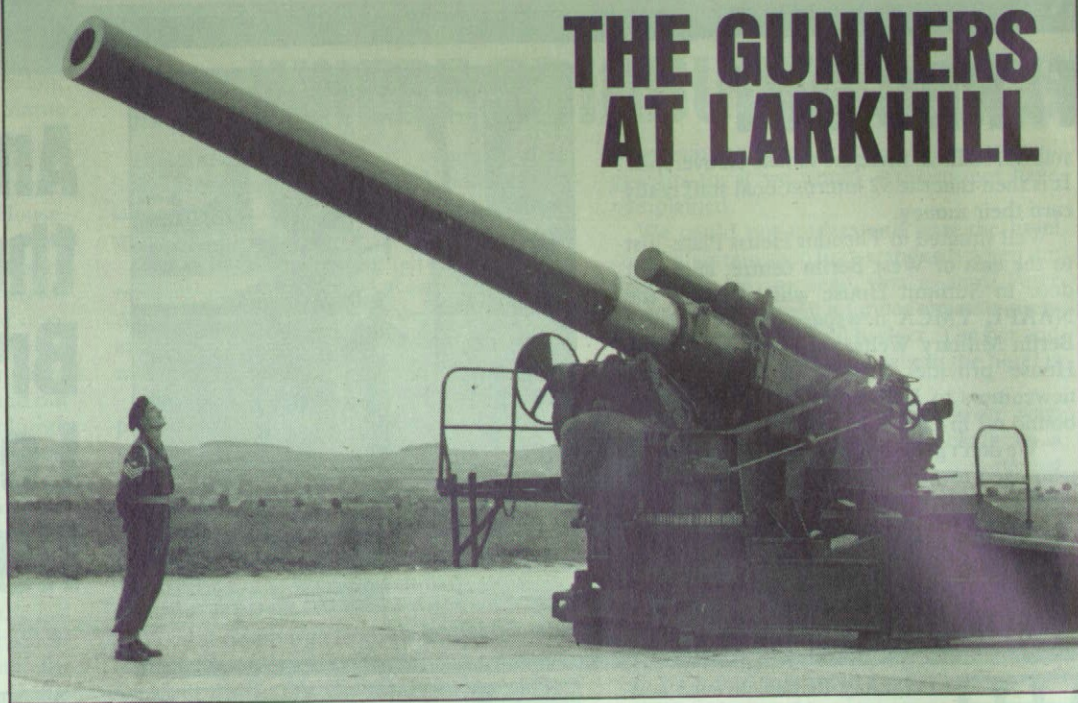
Mechanisation replaced the horse; and the rapid development of arms, especially following World War 2, led to the creation of many "wings" at the School to cope with

the diversification of subjects studied.

Today there are separate wings covering gunnery, tactics, guided weapons, signals and REME.

The Commandant also controls a dozen other departments including a young officers' branch, the support regiment, a locating battery, the RA Mounted Band, Reprographics, and a training development team.

## THE GUNNERS AT LARKHILL



**Big Sergeant... even bigger gun!**  
A SOLDIER "flashback" photo of Sergeant G Kendrick with a 240mm gun at Larkhill in 1954.

This book is obviously a must for all Royal Artillery libraries and a useful and readable reference book for Gunners and military buffs everywhere. **GRH**

Gresham Books, PO Box 61, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 3LQ. £14.95 & £9.95

No 5



## COLLECTION

GIFTS from home to soldiers at the front were nothing new, but it was during the Boer War that the idea of individual presents for every man was first put into practice. At the request of Queen Victoria almost 100,000 colourful boxes bearing her portrait and filled with chocolate

late provided by Rowntrees, Cadburys and Frys were sent out to South Africa.

At Christmas 1914 it was intended that every British and Empire serviceman should receive a decorated brass gift box from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Christmas Fund. The public appeal was sponsored by Princess Mary, whose portrait was stamped on the lid. Troops

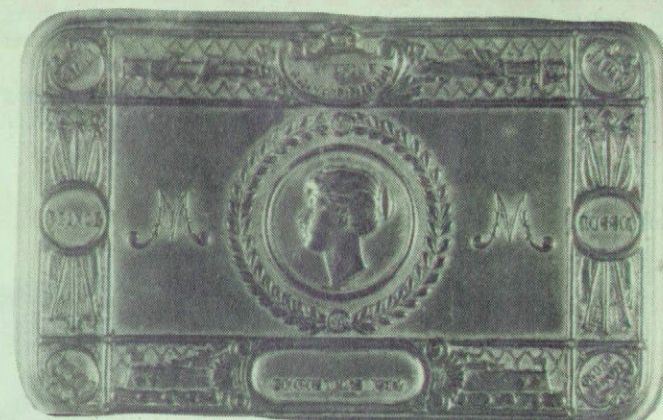
in France had the choice of a smoker's or non-smoker's box. The first contained an ounce of tobacco, a pipe, a pack of 20 cigarettes, a photo of the princess and a Christmas card; the other substituted a writing case and sweets for the tobacco. For nurses, the box came filled with chocolate. Sikh soldiers had spices and candy and other Indian troops had 20

cigarettes added.

Sadly, not all the men got their gifts on time. The manufacture of tins for troops serving farther afield, who were supposed to receive a New Year card and a pencil case, was delayed into 1915 and, for some, 1916, due to an acute shortage of brass after the loss of a consignment shipped from the USA on the Lusitania.



Queen Victoria chocolate gift box, Boer War 1900. Owned by Fusilier J Richens, 1st Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers.



Princess Mary gift box 1914. Owned by Major Currie Hudson 2nd Battalion Queen Victoria's Own Rajput Light Infantry.

# THE LOW COST LINK WITH BAOR



## NOTES — Charter Flights

### CHARTER FLIGHTS

TO MUNSTER				FROM MUNSTER				FARES <sup>1</sup>				Dates of operation	Aircraft and Airline
From	Day	Dep	Arr	To	Day	Dep	Arr	Single	Return	Single	Return		
GATWICK	TUE	1330	1620	GATWICK	TUE	1715	1805	£47	£78	£33	£55	22/5/84 - 4/9/84	B.A.F. VISCONT
E. MIDLANDS	FRI	1130	1430	E. MIDLANDS	SUN	1930	2030	£59	£99	£41	£69	25/5/84 - 9/9/84	B.A.F. VISCONT
MANCHESTER	FRI	1715	2015	MANCHESTER	FRI	1515	1615	£65	£106	£45	£74	25/5/84 - 7/9/84	B.A.F. VISCONT
TEESSIDE	SUN	1600	1845	TEESSIDE	SUN	0915	1000	£66	£109	£46	£76	27/5/84 - 9/9/84	B.A.F. VISCONT
EDINBURGH	SAT	1400	1715	EDINBURGH	SAT	1200	1315	£69	£119	£48	£83	26/5/84 - 16/6/84	B.A.F. VISCONT
EDINBURGH	SAT	1730	2045	EDINBURGH	SAT	0915	1030	£69	£119	£48	£83	23/6/84 - 8/9/84	B.A.F. VISCONT
BELFAST <sup>5</sup>	TUE	1120	1620	BELFAST <sup>5</sup>	TUE	1715	2030	£82	£148	£68	£90	22/5/84 - 4/9/84	VISCONT B-111

TO DUSSELDORF				FROM DUSSELDORF				FARES <sup>1</sup>				Dates of operation	Aircraft and Airline
From	Day	Dep	Arr	To	Day	Dep	Arr	Single	Return	Single	Return		
TEESSIDE	SUN	1045	1330	TEESSIDE	SUN	1430	1515	£66	£109	£46	£76	27/5/84 - 9/9/84	B.A.F. VISCONT
EDINBURGH	SAT	1115	1430	EDINBURGH	SAT	1530	1645	£69	£119	£48	£83	23/6/84 - 8/9/84	B.A.F. VISCONT

1. All prices are inclusive of Airport Taxes and Security Charges.

2. Surcharges Due to the uncertainty of Fuel Prices and the fluctuating rates of currency exchange, we are not able to guarantee prices. However we do guarantee that any surcharge that has to be imposed will be limited to 10% of the fare.

3. Charter flights to and from Munster and Dusseldorf are for members of HM Forces, UK civilians employed in Military establishment and their families. The Forces of any other state and members of their families are also entitled to use these flights when required.

4. As no refund can be made in the event that you have to cancel a booking made on one of our charter services to and from Munster and Dusseldorf we recommend that you take out the appropriate Insurance offered in this brochure.

5. The Belfast service is a combination of Charter between Gatwick and Munster and the Dan Air scheduled service between Gatwick and Belfast. The connection is shown for information, but cannot be guaranteed. The through fare is available to ServiceAir passengers only. Fuller details are available from our reservation offices.

6. The sterling fares may be used for travel ex UK or ex Germany. Passengers wishing to pay in DM may do so at the current daily rate at the time of payment, which is available from our reservation office. We cannot accept a Eurocheque drawn on a German bank for a sterling amount, in view of the recovery costs.

## INSURANCE COVER AND PREMIUMS

Our insurance arrangements with the Norman Insurance Company PLC, have been prepared especially for ServiceAir passengers. We have omitted Medical Expenses and Hospital Benefit cover in view of the arrangements available for relatives visiting service families in BAOR, and also because of the reciprocal health service arrangements between EEC countries. A summary of cover provided and a table of premiums are set out below:

PREMIUMS	ADULT	CHILD
Holidays up to 8 days	£4.70	£3.10
Holidays of between 9 & 15 days	£5.60	£3.70
Holidays of between 16 & 22 days	£6.20	£4.20
Each additional week or part of	£1.50	£0.90

AS NO REFUNDS CAN BE MADE OF FARES PAID ON CHARTER FLIGHTS AND AS CANCELLATION OR ALTERATIONS TO BOOKINGS MADE ON SCHEDULED SERVICES NORMALLY INCUR A PENALTY OF 50% OF THE FARE PAID, WE BELIEVE THAT ALL

### SUMMARY OF COVER

#### a) Cancellation or Curtailment

Up to £200.00 per person, includes cover for cancellation due to an unforeseen military commitment and compensation in respect of delays due to strike, industrial dispute, weather conditions and mechanical breakdown of aircraft or watercraft, where the delay exceeds 12 hours.

#### b) Personal Accident — up to £5000.00

#### c) Personal Luggage — up to £750.00

#### d) Personal Money — up to £150.00

#### e) Personal Liability — up to £250000.00

Child premiums apply only to children under 16 years of age accompanying an adult insured under this policy. Passengers travelling on one way journeys may use the premium for holidays up to 8 days.

PASSENGERS SHOULD BE INSURED. THEREFORE THE APPROPRIATE PREMIUM WILL BE ADDED TO ALL CONFIRMATION INVOICES UNLESS PASSENGERS REQUEST "NO INSURANCE".

## SCHEDULED FLIGHTS

\*Single fares were not available at the time of going to press. Please enquire at your local reservation office.

TO DUSSELDORF				FROM DUSSELDORF				FARES <sup>1</sup>				Dates of operation	Airline
From	Day	Dep	Arr	To	Day	Dep	Arr	Single	Return	CHILD	INFANT		
HEATHROW	DAILY	1320	1530	HEATHROW	DAILY	1215	1230	*	£87	50% of Adult Fare	10% of Adult Fare	1/4/84 - 29/9/84	BRITISH AIRWAYS
HEATHROW	W Th F Sa	0825	1040	HEATHROW	W Th F Sa	1205	1220	*	£87	50% of Adult Fare	10% of Adult Fare	1/4/84 - 29/9/84	AIR CANADA
HEATHROW	M Tu Su	1000	1215	HEATHROW	M Tu Su	1440	1455	*	£87	50% of Adult Fare	10% of Adult Fare	1/4/84 - 29/9/84	AIR CANADA
BIRMINGHAM	DAILY	1000	1215	BIRMINGHAM	DAILY	1635	1655	*	£116	50% of Adult Fare	10% of Adult Fare	1/4/84 - 29/9/84	BRITISH AIRWAYS
MANCHESTER	DAILY	1025	1245	MANCHESTER	DAILY	1700	1725	*	£117	50% of Adult Fare	10% of Adult Fare	1/4/84 - 29/9/84	BRITISH AIRWAYS
EDINBURGH <sup>4</sup>	Mon to Fri	0835	1215	EDINBURGH <sup>4</sup>	Mon to Fri	1635	1820	*	£155	50% of Adult Fare	10% of Adult Fare	1/4/84 - 29/9/84	BRITISH AIRWAYS
GLASGOW <sup>4</sup>	Mon to Fri	0855	1245	GLASGOW <sup>4</sup>	Mon to Fri	1700	1900	*	£155	50% of Adult Fare	10% of Adult Fare	1/4/84 - 29/9/84	BRITISH AIRWAYS

TO HANNOVER				FROM HANNOVER				FARES <sup>1</sup>				Dates of operation	Airline
From	Day	Dep	Arr	To	Day	Dep	Arr	Single	Return	CHILD	INFANT		
HEATHROW	DAILY	1615	1840	HEATHROW	DAILY	1830	1900	*	£115	50% of Adult Fare	10% of Adult Fare	1/4/84 - 29/9/84	BRITISH AIRWAYS

TO MAASTRICHT <sup>2</sup>				FROM MAASTRICHT <sup>2</sup>				FARES <sup>1</sup>				Dates of operation	Airline
From	Day	Dep	Arr	To	Day	Dep	Arr	Single	Return	CHILD	INFANT		
GATWICK	Mon to Fri	0830	1125	GATWICK	Mon to Fri	1710	1810	on request	£78	75% of Adult Fare	on request	1/4/84 - 29/9/84	NLM

## NOTES — Scheduled Flights

- Fares
  - Fares are inclusive of airport taxes and subject to alteration without notice.
  - The sterling fare shown must be used where the journey is commenced in the UK. The Deutch Mark Fare must be used where the journey is commenced in Germany.
  - Single fares are based upon the Forces Rebate arrangements, and single bookings must be accompanied by a completed Forces Rebate Form. These single fares are only available for travel by an Entitled Person, who are defined as, the Serving Person, their wife/husband and their dependent children (under 18 years). Other relatives and friends must pay a higher single fare.
  - Return scheduled fares to and from Dusseldorf, Hannover and Maastricht are subject to certain travel restrictions and payment conditions. As on all excursion fares to and from Dusseldorf, Hannover and Maastricht there are penalties for cancelling or altering a booking. We suggest that you take the appropriate insurance offered.
- Flights to and from Maastricht are for members of HM Forces, UK civilians employed in military establishments and their families. There are no restrictions as to those who may use the scheduled flights to and from Dusseldorf and Hannover.
- Flight schedules between Dusseldorf and Birmingham/Manchester, may vary on Saturdays and Sundays, please check when booking.
- Flights between Edinburgh and Dusseldorf and vice versa, operate via Birmingham. Flights between Glasgow and Dusseldorf and vice versa operate via Manchester. Although a change of aircraft is not normally necessary, passengers are required to disembark at Birmingham and Manchester for Immigration and Customs formalities to be completed.

## HOW TO BOOK

Booking may be made through any booking office and may be paid in Cash, Cheque or Postal order (N.B. We cannot accept a Eurocheque drawn on a German Bank for a sterling amount, in view of the cost of recovering the cash). Full payment is required before any booking can be accepted. When a sterling fare only is shown payment is acceptable in DM at the current rate of exchange on the date of payment. Our Dusseldorf office is able to accept payment by ACCESS or BARCLAYCARD for Charter Services only. Personal Callers are welcome at any of our offices. The office hours are as follows.

DUSSELDORF & BIELEFELD 0800 - 1600 Monday - Friday  
LONDON 0900 - 1700 Monday - Friday

Please book \_\_\_\_\_ Seats \_\_\_\_\_

1) From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_ On \_\_\_\_\_ (Date) \_\_\_\_\_

2) From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_ On \_\_\_\_\_ (Date) \_\_\_\_\_

Address to which all tickets should be sent: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_

W. Germany  
DUSSELDORF  
SERVICEAIR, AIR TROOPING CENTRE, HQ 2 GROUP RCT, B.F.P.O. 34.  
TELEPHONE: DUSSELDORF MILITARY 215, CIVIL 421464

BIELEFELD  
SERVICEAIR, 25 TRANSPORT & MOVEMENT REGT. RCT, B.F.P.O. 39.  
TELEPHONE: BIELEFELD MILITARY 2255, CIVIL 2080102

United Kingdom  
LONDON  
SERVICEAIR, EASTGATE HOUSE, 16/19 EASTCASTLE STREET, LONDON W1.  
TELEPHONE: 01-631 3846

BOOKING FORM

1. Fares

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I certify that I have read and understood the conditions in this brochure, and that the passenger(s) for whom flights are to be booked are entitled persons under these conditions.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Send this completed form to your nearest ServiceAir Office.



Writer John Margetts  
and photographer Paul Haley  
take a look at

Army beginners tackling  
the fast-growing sport  
of hang gliding, where

# Exhilaration is followed by heavy lifting!

**G**OT A HANG UP  
about heights? Feel  
dizzy if you contem-  
plate climbing a 30ft  
ladder?

Too bad and sad if you do and  
harbour thoughts of becoming a  
hang glider.

For it's the No. 1 no-go game  
for those whose minds swim and  
eyes glaze at the thought of floating  
around like a butterfly on a sunny  
afternoon.

But while those fortunate enough  
not to suffer the pangs of vertigo  
and possible accompanying  
discomforts enjoy aerial ma-  
noeuvers beneath a fabric wing,  
there is a sting in the tale!

For when they land and want  
another go, the intrepid "hanger"  
has to hump his or her glider, which  
weighs anything up to 85lb, up  
the hill again for another launch.

"At least beginners do," said  
Captain Tom Beese of 1st The

Queen's Dragoon Guards and  
Officer Commanding the Joint  
Service Hang Gliding Centre  
(JSHGC).

"Carrying the glider back up  
the hill so they can take off again is  
the toughest part of our five-day  
course for novices.

"But it's the only way for them  
to get another flight till they  
become good enough to 'fly' back  
to the top of the hill.

"But learning that follows at a  
later stage after they attain their  
pilot one certificates."

So what do you need to become  
a proficient hang-glider apart from  
enthusiasm?

Said Tom: "First you need £110  
for our five-day basic course. Then  
you must be able to run downhill  
between 10-15mph for take-off,  
plus a good pair of legs to climb  
back up the hill carrying the  
glider."

Since every soldier can meet the

last two requirements and those  
keen enough will ensure they find  
the lolly, queues should soon be  
forming at the South Wales base  
of the JSHGC.

And such is the case already as  
75 servicemen and women have  
their names down for basic courses  
this year.

This is great news for Captain  
Beese and his four-strong team at  
RAF St. Athan as hang gliding is  
not yet listed as an 'official' Army  
sport and receives little or no  
support from the Joint Services  
Adventurous Training Scheme  
(JSATS).

"We're hoping to enlist their help  
some time this year," said Tom.

"Next month is an important  
time for us as we then present our  
case for official recognition and  
help from the JSATS.

"We've been operating since  
1981 and in that time more than  
1000 people have qualified for

their pilot one certificate through  
our basic course.

"We feel three years is sufficient  
time to prove a sport's popularity  
and official recognition and support  
would help reduce our charges  
which, in turn, should mean more  
people applying to take part."

One of the fastest-growing sports  
in the Services, hang gliding is not  
without an element of danger.

Last year Captain Jim Taggart,  
the man who started the JSHGC  
at Sennybridge, died when testing  
a student's glider. And over the  
past 12 months five others (all  
civilians) have died, too, while  
flying with their clubs throughout  
the UK.

"All the deaths were due to pilot  
error," said Captain Beese. "And  
sad though it all is, that news, I'm  
pleased to say, has failed to put  
anybody off applying for our  
courses."

Despite this and the high cost

of equipment — a new hang glider  
can cost up to £1200 plus  
instruments — more and more  
people want to experience 'real  
flying'.

"It's not just a question of tying  
yourself on to the end of a glider  
and learning how to launch  
yourself," said Tom Beese, "there's  
a lot more to it than that.

"It takes five days of good  
weather to learn how to rig the  
glider, take off in winds up to 18  
knots, fly to a designated area, make  
left and right turns and land safely  
from heights of up to 200ft. In  
addition you must pass a written  
and oral exam.

"So far as I know hang gliding  
has no military potential, but it  
sure is a lot of fun, specially when  
graduating to gliders which go  
faster and higher.

"With the top end of world hang  
gliding hitting heights of up to  
30,000ft and travelling up to

50mph over distances of 200 miles  
(USA), we have a long way to go,  
but we're working on it.

"This August we're running an  
expedition to Spain for three  
weeks. We're looking for 20 people  
— novices and experienced pilots  
to make up the number at a cost of  
£220 all in.

"The more experienced pilots  
will practise cross-country flights,  
while novices will learn how to fly  
from sites 3000ft up and stay flying  
for 20 minutes at a time."

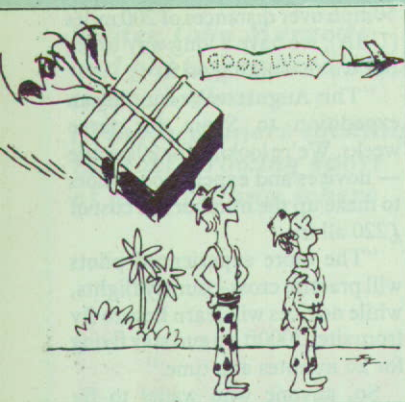
So, anyone who wants to fly  
through the air with the greatest  
of ease and who doesn't mind  
learning a bit of flight law and  
theory to help achieve that happy  
state, should contact Captain Tom  
Beese, Joint Service Hang Gliding  
Centre, RAF St. Athan, Barry,  
South Glamorgan CF6 9WA.

Remember, you need no pre-  
vious experience — just en-  
thusiasm and sufficient cash.

Captain Tom Beese helps a student.







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

## SAXON TEETH

I was interested to see the new Saxon APC (SOLDIER 27 Feb) but was rather surprised that it has no revolving turret to deal with RPG teams from inside the vehicle when under fire. Wouldn't it be a cheap form of contents insurance? — **K Sutton, 3 St Georges Avenue, St Annes-on-Sea, Lancs.** An ITDU spokesman says: "There is at the moment no revolving turret on the British Army version but an anti-aircraft, mounting for a GPMG is being fitted. This mount can also be used against ground targets." — **Ed.**

## FEVVER 'ATS

I have recently returned from Australia and on reading all the copies of SOLDIER that have been saved for me, I noticed in last year's 27 June issue a photo of a Royal Scot preparing to fire a feu-de-joie. It brought back memories of the one occasion I saw such a demonstration.

This was in 1914 when I was living in the married quarters of the 1st Bn KOSB in Havelock Barracks, Lucknow where my father was Colour Sergeant. I can remember seeing rank after rank of both Indian and British soldiers in full dress uniform — lancers, hussars, infantry and artillery — and a coach

# MAIL DROP

and horses driving to the saluting base delivering the top brass with their 'fevver 'ats'. I can see in my mind's eye the guns firing a salute and the flash of steel as the regiments presented arms. Then they formed into two lines and fired a feu-de-joie.

It was a most thrilling event and I don't think there was a prouder lad in India than I as I watched my Dad marching in the Colour Guard. He was to die at Gallipoli the following year whilst serving with the 29th Division. — **Chas Winter, Ridgeway, Ruckamore Road, Chelston, Torquay, Devon.**

## GRATEFUL

Some months ago you were kind enough to publish my request for information concerning the 'Famous Five' Southern Irish Regiments disbanded in 1922.

I received letters from survivors, relatives and other enthusiasts in great quantities and although I believe I have replied to each individually, may I make so bold as to use your columns to thank everyone who helped me. I am truly grateful. However, if anyone out there still wishes to write...! — **J Brian Forde, 18 The Croft, Llangybi, nr Usk, Gwent.**

## NO CHANGE

Can you tell me please whether the policy of next-of-kin wearing their deceased relation's medals has changed since the last time I queried this thirty years ago? I understand they may not. — **P W Patchcott, 319 The Hides, Harlow, Essex CM20 3QU.**

According to the late Taprell Dorling's 'Ribbons and Medals': 'There is a widespread belief that medals won by fathers may be worn by sons; but there is nothing to support such an idea. It is true, of course, that medals of deceased officers and men, including the Victoria Cross, are given to their nearest relatives, but this does not imply that they are to be worn.' Elsewhere, and just for interest's sake, the book does say that after the Battle of Waterloo some officers who had received the Waterloo medal, had small replicas made for their wives to wear. — **Ed.**

## THEFT PROOF?

In an attempt to improve crime prevention, the Police are suggesting the use of transparent, colourless ink to mark your valuables. They also suggest you write your postcode on the item; consequently when the article is subjected to ultra violet light, the writing becomes visible.

The use of a postcode would be impractical for the ever-moving Service man/woman. The answer probably lies with them using their Service number. Maybe a central registry could be set up for all three Services or would the appropriate Manning & Records Office be prepared to assist in the return of stolen goods? — **S/Sgt M J Joss RAMC, 12 Oak Meadows, Sennybridge, Brecon, Powys LD3 7RF.**

## FOLD-ER-ROLL

Having been a regular reader of your excellent magazine for some years now I have often wondered why the folded greatcoats and rolled capes worn by the guards in full dress with white pouches were discarded.

In 1924 when I was serving with the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards we had to fold the greatcoats and press them and roll capes. The greatcoat was laid on the table, a form placed on top and rocked up and down by a guardsman on each end of the form. The cape was the most difficult to get ready — when rolled it had to measure 12 inches by six inches. — **Mr R Hammond, 7 Oakleigh Close, Whetstone, London N20.**

## LEGION MEETS

I have undertaken to organise a Festival of Remembrance for the Chadwell St Mary Branch of the Royal British Legion, to be held on Thursday 8 November 1984 at the Thurrock Civil Hall, Grays, Essex commencing at 7.30 pm.

We hope to have representatives of the Regular, Territorial and Cadet Forces of all three Services as well as various ex-Service organisations. We would be delighted to welcome any of your readers and should anyone like more information I will be very willing to supply it. — **Major B H Tinton TD, 45 Castleton Avenue, Bexleyheath, Kent DA7 6QT.**

## Reunions

**Scottish Horse** — all old comrades; Yeo, RA, RAC and Fife and Forfar Yeomanry/Scottish Horse RAC(TA). Write: N K Campbell, PO Box 11, Aberdeen, for details of this year's reunion.

**The Royal Hampshire Regiment Comrades Association.** The annual reunion will be held in the Guildhall, Winchester, on Saturday 16 June at 7pm. Tickets, price £5.50, from: Secretary, Serle's House, Winchester SO23 9EG.

## How Observant Are You?

1. Width of top of piano lid; 2 Lines of music; 3 Right tree in picture; 4 Piano pedal; 5 Soldier's left shoulder-patch; 6 'E' in 'Little'; 7 Handle of beer glass; 8 Left front leg of chair; 9 Right hinge of piano lid; 10 Length of strut supporting piano lid.

## Can you help?

I am researching the recipient of a Long Service and Good Conduct Medal with an obverse bearing the profile of Queen Elizabeth II. The recipient was 7262045 Sgt R Bradley RAMC. If anyone might have served with Sgt Bradley, could they please contact me. I am interested in learning where he served and possibly dates of service. All letters will be answered. — **Paul H Sayles, 19 Billou St, San Rafael, California 94901, USA.**

I am trying to locate one of my Service friends, George Hoskins, RQMS, WO2, Royal Artillery AA. Last known address: The Drill Hall, Watling St, Gillingham, Kent. During 1947 to 1948 he was attached to 7th AA Brigade HQ, CO Brigadier Eastwood. — **Mr R Busby, 40 Featherby Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 6AN.**

I am trying to trace the last steps of my grandfather, 4274155 Fusilier A Borthwick, 7 Bn Northumberland Fusiliers. He left Alton in Hampshire, in April 1940 and was killed at Dunkirk in June 1940. As far as we know he is buried at Rouen (St Sevet Cemetery), in France. — **Mr R A Dickson, 168 Wimborne Road, Poole, Dorset, BH15 2EJ.**

Are any former members of the 23rd (1st Sportsman's) Bn, Royal Fusiliers, among your readers, or any of their relatives or descendants?

I seek a copy of a photograph of the King's Colour of this battalion being laid up in London's Guildhall on 16 Nov 1920, the bearer being my late uncle, Second Lieutenant Chas F James MC (later Superintendent, Met Police). The Colour is now in St Sepulchre's, Holborn. I would like permission to have a copy taken.

50 demobilised members of the battalion attended the Guildhall that day — unfortunately no ceremony had been arranged, the Lord Mayor was absent, and the 'City Press' of 20 Nov 1920 records that the members of the battalion felt 'hurt' at the unintentional slight! — **Dan James, 50 Mitchley Avenue, Purley, Surrey, CR2 1DN.**

We are at present in the process of collecting information on past RSMs of Sennelager Training Centre. The camp was established as a British training centre after WW2 and our records commence with mess minutes from 27 Aug 1947 onwards. We have the names of the RSMs but unfortunately, from 1947 to 1957 it would appear that the RSM of the Regiment concerned, has not been recorded. Shown below are the RSMs with dates of Service. I must point out, these dates are from mess minutes and may not actually reflect the true record of Service.

27 Aug 47-16 Aug 48 RSM F Kenny; 13 Sep 48-14 Aug 50 RSM Bradley; 19 Sep 50-12 Dec 50 CSM M Earl; 5 Jan 51-6 Jul 51 RSM S Hamilton MBE; 18 Oct 51-16 Mar 53 RSM A Dilley; 9 Apr 53-2 Nov 54 RSM B Higgs; 2 Dec 54-4 Oct 57 RSM A E Pearce; 29 Nov 57-19 Dec 57 RSM L Braid; 3 Jan 62-June 62 RSM P Taylor Coldm Gds. Can anyone supply the missing name? — **WO1 (RSM) D T Wiggins, HQ Sennelager Trg Centre, BAOR, BFPO 16.**

## Collectors' Corner

John Swan, 265 Compton Ave, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K2B 5A8. Wants to correspond with collectors of Canadian military insignia, cap badges, collar badges, shoulder titles, from all periods. Has many for trade and welcomes wants and spares lists.

Sgt F W Plowman, Chief Clark, SSI, Templer Bks, Ashford, Kent, TN23 3HH. Wants any items of mail/envelopes sent during the Falklands War, especially Forces Aerogrammes/envelopes, maritime mail markings, philatelic covers, Argentine envelopes/letters. Anything considered. Send photographs or write. Good prices paid. Genuine collector.

J Green, 4 Browning Road, Loughborough, Leics, LE11 0JL. Requires the following large anodised buttons: QRIH MPSC, RGJ, SAS, SASC, Int Corps, RADC. Has buttons for exchange.

A Burnett, PO Box 15022, San Antonio, Texas 78212, USA. Has training aids for exchange: Inert Ordnance; 40mm Rds; Pom-S-2 Russian Land Mine, grenades, some small arms. Wishes training aids and fire brigade items in exchange. Also any parts for SLR/Bren.

J H Manning, 18 Fengate, Heacham, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE31 7BG. Wishes to purchase medals; singles/groups, foreign. Please offer or send (postage refunded). Phone after 1600hrs: (8485) 70153.

A W Bowlinson, 21 Gadlas Road, Llysfaen, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd, LL29 8TD. Offers for sale Squadron Sgt Major's Mess Dress plus sergeant's overall slacks, Yorkshire Dragoons; battledress 1949 pattern — web gaiters, cavalry pantaloons and puttees 1944 pattern jacket and slacks (khaki) 1942 pattern.

Mr G J Watts, 630 Aronimink Place, 2 Drexel Hill, Penna 19026, USA. Wants authentic pre-1940 British cap badges and militaria.



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WO2 Southern, 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment, BFPO 31.

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Michael Mallett, 5 Jennys Walk, Yateley, Camberley, Surrey GU17 7AU.

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Paul Johnson, 145 Tolladine Road, Tolladine, Worcester WR4 9PZ.

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Paul Chandler, 4 Pembroke Place, Caversham, Reading, Berks. (0734) 476026.

**Cadet** requires one used combat jacket to fit size 34/36 (cheap please), 14 years old and finances very limited.

Paul Chandler, 4 Pembroke Place, Caversham, Reading, Berks. (0734) 476026.

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Derek Rooney (6/4), 30 Petershill Court, Glasgow G21 4QD.

**One** good set of 1958 pattern webbing. Cheap please — only 14 years old and finances limited.

Damian King, 5 Naze Lane East, Freckleton, Preston, Lancs PR4 1RA.

**All** forms of badges and insignia, battery and regimental histories, photographs etc relating to Royal Artillery including Volunteer Militia and Territorial. Also require items relating to the HAC and Royal Malta Artillery. Will buy or exchange.

N Litchfield, 18 Bakehouse Lane, Ockbrook, Derby DE7 3RH. Tel: 0332 662044.

**Collector** wishes to purchase WW2 coloured sidehats to the following units: RAMC, RACHd, SWBs. Also wishes to purchase pre-war collarless 'grey-back' or shirt and WW2 collarless khaki shirt 15" collar.

Gary Packer, 17 Tanyralt Road, Clydach, Swansea SA6 5JQ. Tel: (0792) 842888.

**Badges**, insignia, buttons, shoulder titles etc relating to infantry and yeomanry regiments of Devon, Dorset, Somerset, Cornwall. Also RM items. A J Wright, 70 South St., Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 8AA.

**WRAC** No 2 shoes. Good condition please. Size 5½ or 6.

Frances, 2 Ivy Cottages, Uxbridge Road, Hillingdon, Middx UB10 0PJ.

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Peter Garraty, PO Box 67, Truro 5356, South Australia.

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**Private** collector requires military police caps and badges worldwide. Can offer military books and police insignia in exchange. All letters answered.

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WO2 Southern, 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment, BFPO 31.

**Collector** wishes to purchase bayonets. Anything considered. Details and/or sketch. Also requires bayonet frogs and accoutrements. Details to L/A (phot) Martin Brayley, Lydd Camp, Lydd, Romney Marsh, Kent TN29 9JD.

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Ian Goode, 39 Allerton Lane, Bromwich, West Midlands B71 2HR. Tel: 021-502 4115.

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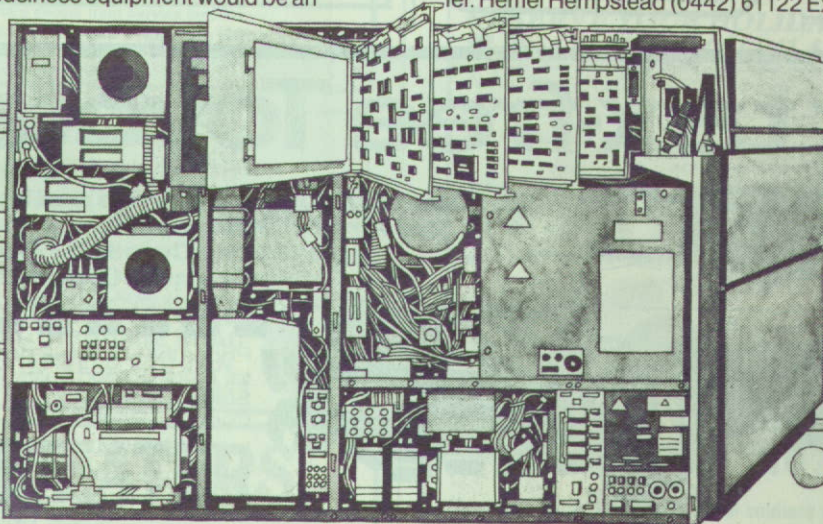
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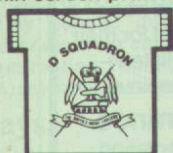
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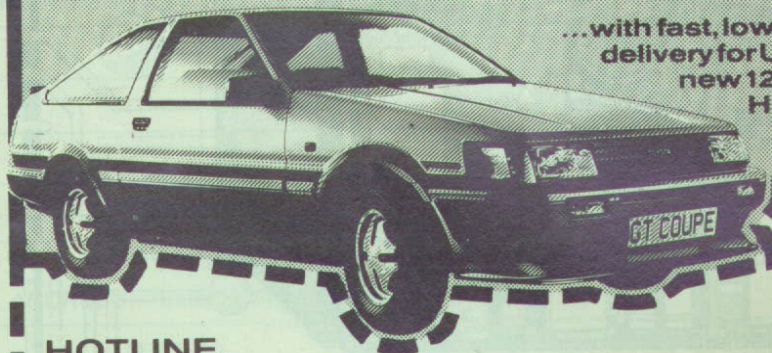
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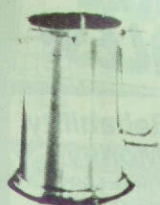
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## SQUASH

# WHO DARES WINS — JUST!

It was only by the skin of their teeth that 22 SAS were able to pull off a victory in the 1984 Army Inter-Unit Squash Championships (Major Units) when they narrowly beat BAOR champions 26 Engineer Regiment, by three matches to two.

With two matches apiece, it was all up to the second players in each team to decide the outcome — one which did not become clear until the very last point of the match.

Taking a game each, both competitors fought resiliently in the third game, WO 2 Martin Grimshaw for the sappers

having gamepoint several times before his opponent overtook him 10-8. In an almost identical fourth and final game during which both men drew heavily on their reserves of stamina and patience, the result could easily have gone either way. But the last point — the one that counted — went to the SAS 10-9 for a 3-1 win.

In a competition of commendable standard, it was a pity only one team could win the SOLDIER Magazine trophy given for this, the culmination of the Army Squash season and now in its 20th year.

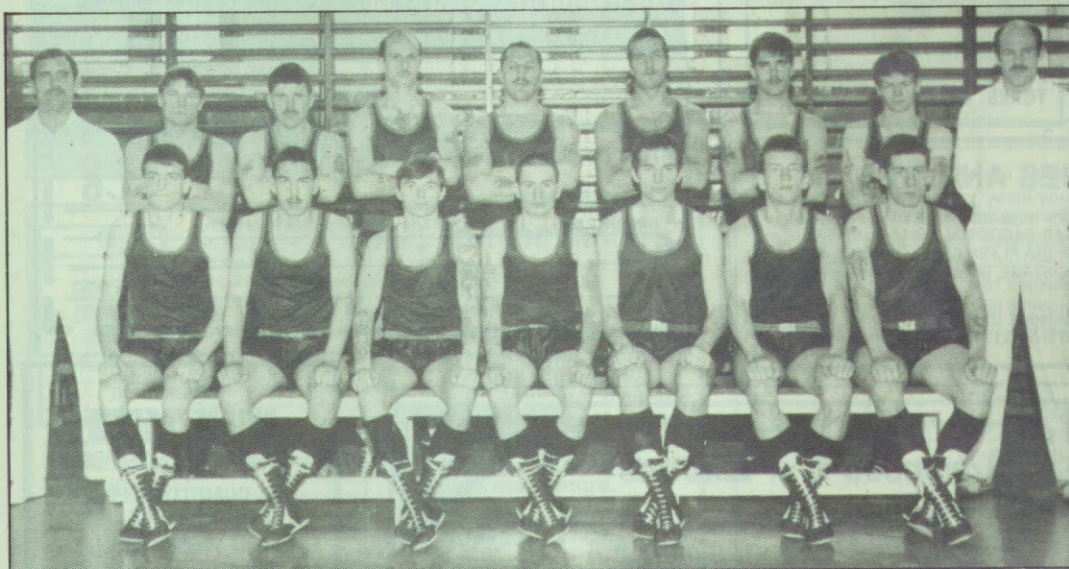
In the Minor Units the standard was no less but the outcome emerged early on as the team from the Staff College, Camberley steadily steamrollered the opposition, HQ 11 Armoured Brigade from Minden. The Staff College won all five matches with a 3-0 result in each.

Last year's winners, the RAOC Training Centre, no doubt feeling their loss with the Army's number one player, Captain Robbie Robinson now stationed in Germany, were knocked out in the semi-final by the eventual winners.



Maj David Leakey . . . led Staff College.

## Novice Poachers Triumph



'The Poachers', 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment (above), faced a daunting visit to Germany to take on Rhine Army champions, 26 Engineer Regiment, in the final of Army Novices Boxing Championships.

In the end, the Colchester based boxers won the title by

five bouts to four with the final outcome being decided by a majority decision in the last match of the contest.

The sappers had started strongly, winning the first three bouts of the evening but a spirited revival saw the match level after six. They then picked up a bout apiece to set

the stage for the deciding bout.

Both sides set a high standard and the Poachers, with the battalion in Cyprus, were short on home support. However strong contingents from 3 Royal Anglian and 1 WFR ensured that the sapper supporters did not have the stage to themselves.

## NEW GOLF TROPHY



Rhine Army golfers can look forward to a new fixture this year when the first of the five projected Dunhill Trophy tournaments takes place from 6-8 August in Berlin.

This is a matchplay competition based on the Ryder Cup format between the United States Forces Europe and British Forces Europe.

The tournament is open to all ranks and each of the 25 member team will be drawn from the best golfers the participating Forces can provide. Only those with single figure handicaps are eligible and during the tournament itself the players will play from scratch.

The first day's play, at the United States Golf and Country Club, will be devoted to foursome and fourball matchplay. The second, to be played at the British Golf Club at RAF Gatow will be singles only.

The trophy, provided by the sponsors, tobacco manufacturers Dunhill, is a bronze model of an eighteenth century golfer.

## SAPPERS PADDLE FASTEST

The Royal Engineers Canoe Club took the team prize for the longest canoe race in the world over the Easter weekend. The Devizes-Westminster canoe race, the canoeist's Everest, is paddled over 125 miles.

This year some 29 Army crews paddled in the senior section together with 14 junior entries. The course they covered followed the Kennet and Avon canal to Reading then the Thames to Westminster. Far from plain paddling the course includes 54 locks to be portaged and a 500 yard stretch of tunnel.

Second senior team home was an Army Canoe Union team of Captain Paul Robertshaw and Corporal Allen Heath. The third team prize went to 21 SAS and fifth was taken by 8 Regiment RCT.

Junior paddlers from the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Engineers, came third in their team competition and apprentices from Chepstow were fourth. Among other juniors who did well were Button and Blackford (Princess Marina's College) eighth, Brown and Black (JLRE) 10th; Tomlinson and Ryan (Chepstow) 12th.

## AND TOUR FRANCE...

The Royal Engineers Rugby Club played three games during their recent tour of France — winning two and drawing one.

In the first game against 17 Engineer Paratroop Regiment after an early setback the British gradually began to dominate and ran out winners 26-7.

The second game, against French Third Division champions, Sports Club Negrepelisse proved much harder. The sappers came from behind in the second half to force an 8-8 draw.

In the final match the scoreline at 36-10 to the British side was a bit one sided.



# HAMMER AND TONGS

**AN ALL ACTION** afternoon at the Boxing Centre in Aldershot saw the emergence of several potential Army stars of the future. The event was the first Army Individual Novices Boxing Championships and what some of the contestants lacked in expertise they more than made up for with pluck.

The opening contest, at bantamweight, set the stage for the afternoon with both the winner, Lance-Corporal Jimmy Dyer (3 LI) and his opponent, Private Mark Jones (1 DERR), earning the referee's accolade. Both gave everything throughout the contest but a standing count for Jones in the second round and two warnings for leading with his head made all the difference.

Private David Buxton from RSA



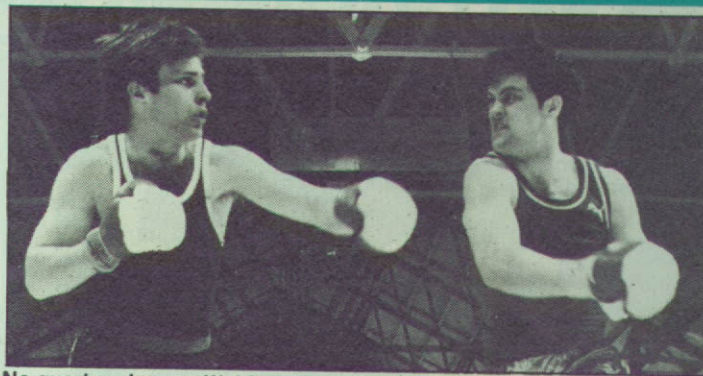
Moore — excellent prospect.

Larkhill looked a good featherweight prospect as he pursued southpaw Scots Guardsman, John Hunt. Hunt took two standing counts in the second round, was then floored and the referee stepped in to save him from further punishment.

There was heavy punch trading in the lightweight bout between Gunner Kevin Catherine (50 Missile Regt) and Private Dave Bastin (1 DERR). Catherine looked the more solid puncher while Bastin had the edge in ringcraft. In the third round two solid punches on the chin put Bastin on the canvas and although he protested vehemently the referee stopped the fight.

Two Argylls met in the lightweight final. Private John Steel and Private Nigel Robertson seemed well matched and the harder hitting Robertson finally gained a majority points verdict.

Welterweight, Rifleman Tony Vellinor (3 RGJ), made short work of Ranger G Blair (2 Royal Irish Rangers) stopping him in 90



No quarter given as Webb (left) and White set about each other.

seconds.

His fellow Green Jacket, Rifleman Ricky Manners, was not so fortunate. He went hard at his opponent, Private Ian Carmichael, but the lanky King's Own Royal Border Regiment man soon had him in trouble. After a pounding session on the ropes Manners looked jelly legged and the referee intervened.

The most spirited duel of the afternoon was provided by Sapper Dave Webb (26 Engineer Regiment) and Lance-Bombardier Paul White (3 RHA). Both men were heavily marked at the end of the non-stop confrontation but the durable Webb took the unanimous decision.

Another KOB fighter, Private Kenneth Moore, made an im-

pressive appearance. Coping well with a game opponent, Lance-Bombardier Brian Spruce (39 Heavy Regt RA), Moore piled up the points and really punished his man in the last round.

Another prospect is Ranger Jimmy Thornton (2 RIR) at heavyweight. Conceding weight to Sapper Nigel Johnson (26 Engineer Regiment) he boxed cleverly to make the strong sapper look awkward. The Irishman cruised to a unanimous points victory.

Army boxing officials were delighted with the treasure unearthed during the championships. Staff-Sergeant Mick Gannon should have strong squad when he sets about the task of preparing to defend the Inter-Services title next Spring.

## WHEELS FLY IN THE SUN

**THRILLS AND SPILLS** abounded as 45 Army motorcyclists took advantage of the early summer heatwave to race around a sandy course in Aldershot's Long Valley in Exercise Flying Wheel, the Army Motor Cycle Association's South East District championships.



Organised by 41 Squadron RCT, the championships attracted entries from as far away as Hull, Colchester and Hereford. There were sections for riders of Army machines — either Can-Ams or elderly BSAs — and for those on commercial bikes.

The organisers were delighted with the turn out. Said secretary, Captain David Jackson: "These are ideal conditions. Motorcycling is on the up and up. It will always play an important part operationally and it's a tremendous sport both to watch and take part in."

Major Alvin Tull, who commands 41 Squadron, added: "This

sport is growing every day. It's just the sort of thing a young man likes to do. It's exciting and involves skill and judgment with a great deal of fun. The aim is to encourage the novice and hopefully those who have entered for the first time today will continue."

The competition took place in three stages — ending with a time phase in which the riders had to complete six seven-and-a-half mile laps of rugged countryside in 90 minutes.

The Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, took top honours in the Service Machines section. They took the team award, best novice (Corporal Ray Woodhouse) and expert runner-up (Sergeant Gwyn Barraclough). Best expert was Lance-Corporal Graham Gorse from SEME, Bordon.

The competition machines section was dominated by 36 Engineer Regiment. Sapper Peter Swanborough was best expert followed by Lieutenant Andrew Foxley.

## SOCCER

### TA clean sweep

THE TERRITORIAL ARMY'S touring side managed a clean sweep in the three matches they played during their Easter trip to Germany. They beat the BAOR RCT side 2-0 in their opening encounter, thrashed the Rhine Army RAOC team 4-0 and ended with a 3-0 triumph over the RAPC.

### Jocks' Cup

THE INFANTRY CUP has been won by the 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders, for the first time. They beat 10 UDR 2-1 in the final at Tidworth and returned to a heroes' welcome at Hemer. In 1977 they had reached the final after winning the UK section of the competition but were beaten.

### Outplayed

#### Combined Services 2 FA XI 3

The Services lost their unbeaten record for the season. They nearly pulled the match from the fire with the last kick of the match but anything less than a win would have been an injustice to a very talented FA side. Lance-Corporal Steve Butler scored the two Services goal, including a penalty after he was tripped inside the box.

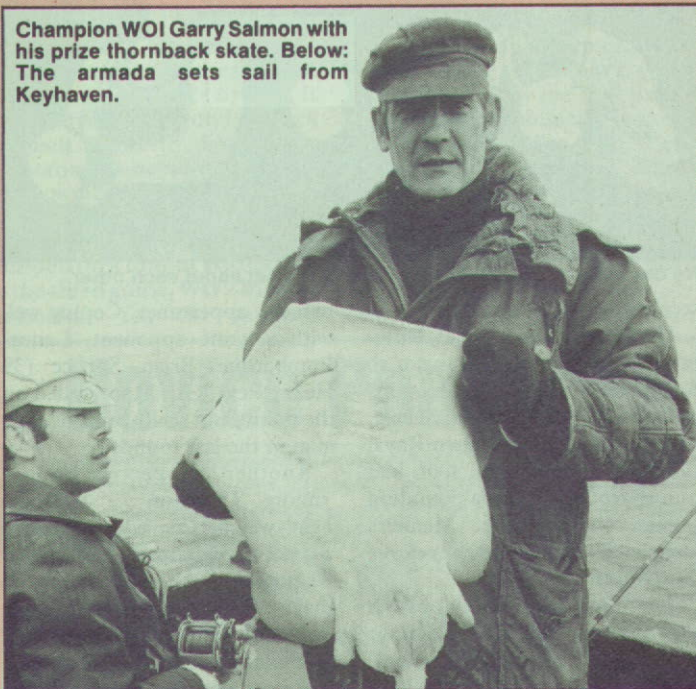
**STOP PRESS:** Colour Sergeant Malcolm French won the Army marathon at Swinderby and his team NCO Tactics Wing, School of Infantry, Brecon, won the Minor Units team title. Full report and pictures next issue.



**SOLDIER'S Doug Pratt took his camera and rod off the Needles to join the Army's deep sea fishermen ...**

## PRATT TO CATCH MACKRIELL BUT SALMON GETS TOP FISH PRIZE

Champion WOI Garry Salmon with his prize thornback skate. Below: The armada sets sail from Keyhaven.



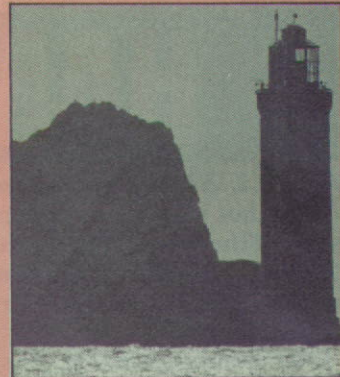
It was a fishy story altogether. Not only was last year's defending champion named Mackriell but the winner this year was to bear the name Salmon. And Whales and Finn were among the fishermen who set out in an armada of small boats for a day's fishing off the Isle of Wight coast.

The boats, containing 114 anglers, set sail from Keyhaven on the mainland as soon as the tide filled the estuary. Their chosen fishing ground was seven miles south east of the Needles lighthouse and it was a beautiful early summer's day.

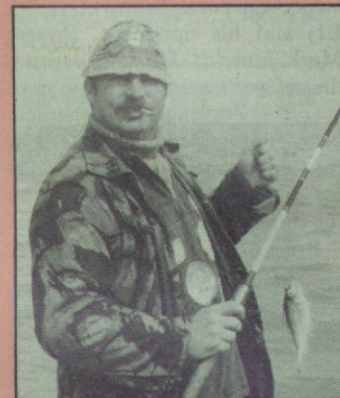
But for anglers it was not a perfect day. Very high spring tides caused very strong tides to flow through the fishing grounds. This meant that fishermen using nylon lines were at a disadvantage and had to attach not less than three lbs in lead weight.

At the end of the day last year's winner Colour Sergeant Mac Mackriell had been ousted. New champion was WOI ASM Garry Salmon, from the Southampton Careers Information Office, who also took the best fish prize with a 10lb thornback skate.

His total catch was 13lb 12oz and he was followed home by WO2 Dave Parks (11lb 4 oz), Sergeant Pete Meek (6lb 12oz) and WO2 Reg Austin (6lb 10oz).



The brooding silhouette of the Needles and their lighthouse.



Some caught little ones ... Sgt Bob Reeves, 17 Port Maritime Workshops.



Some caught nothing ... Peter Whales from the same unit (he did catch one in fact).



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