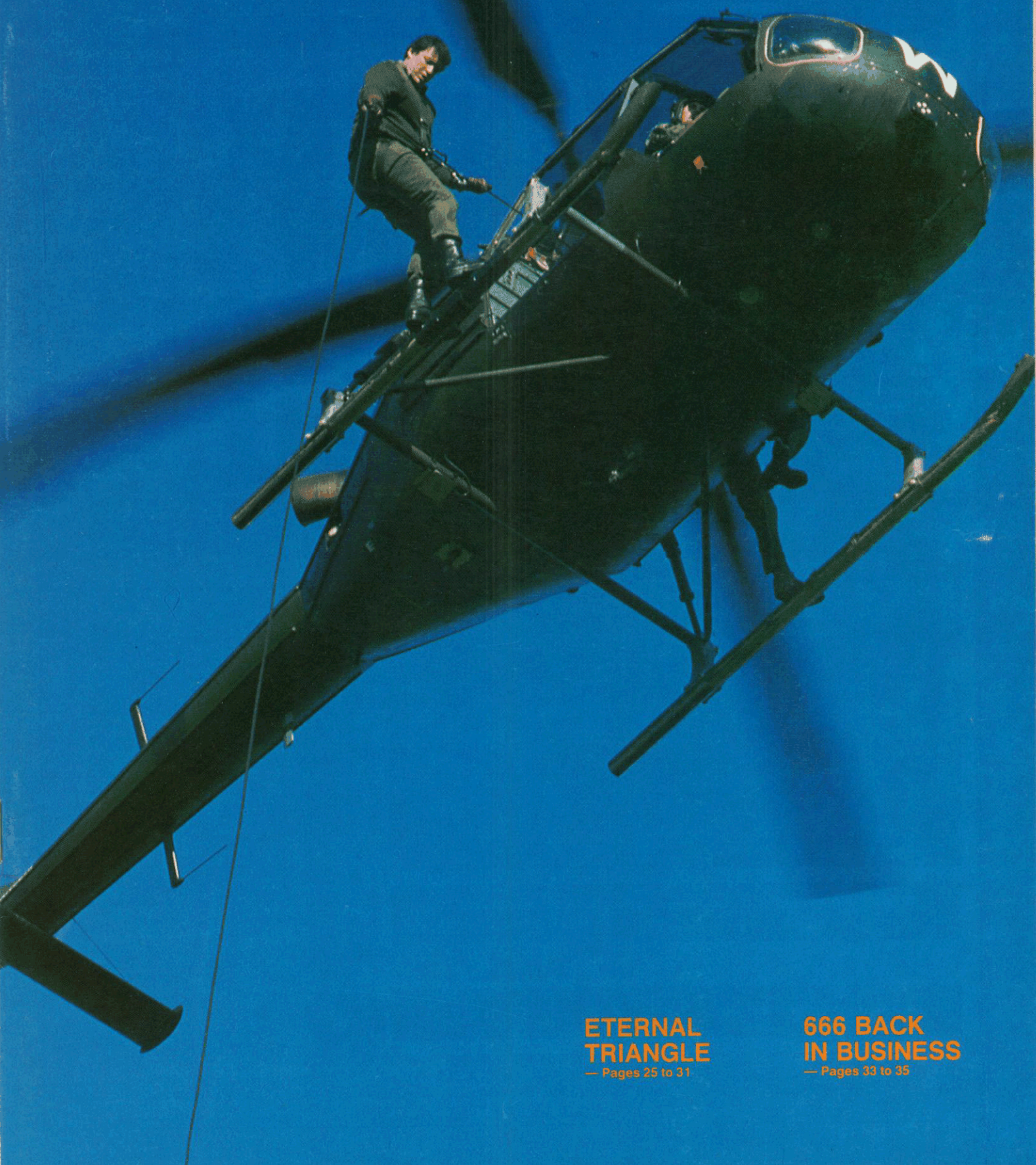


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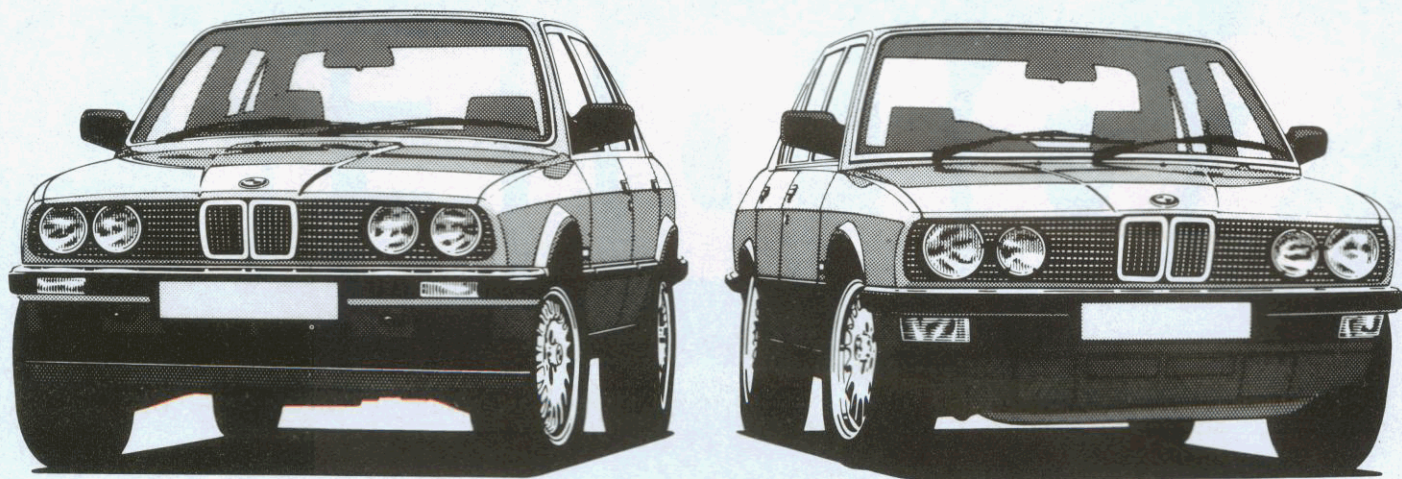
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**ETERNAL
TRIANGLE**
— Pages 25 to 31

**666 BACK
IN BUSINESS**
— Pages 33 to 35



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FRONT COVER – Aerial acrobatics as winching training is practised from one of 666 Squadron's dozen Scout AH 1 helicopters at Netheravon, Wilts. See story and pictures on Pages 33-35.

Picture: Cpl Jeff Crown

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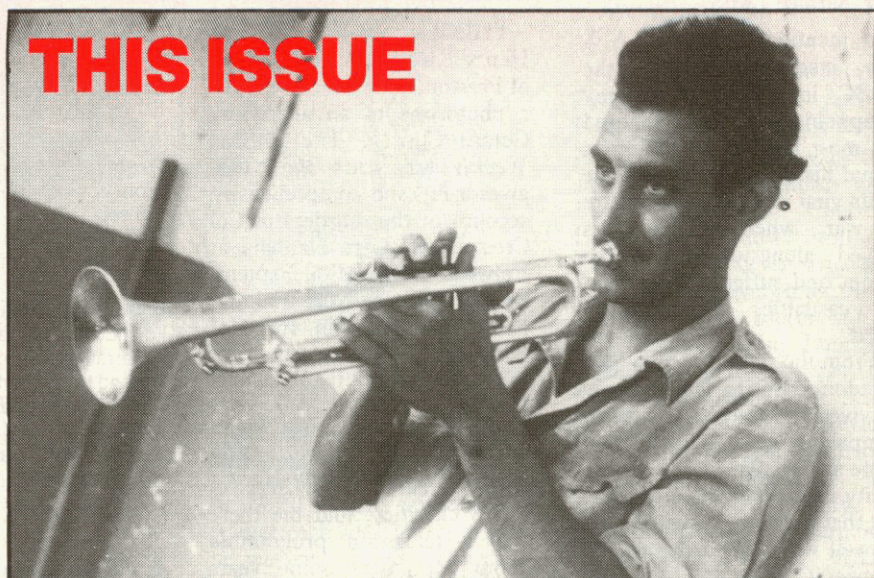
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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

THIS ISSUE



Who is the man with the trumpet, pictured here in the Central Pool of Artists barracks, Naples, in 1945? He is now one of the best loved comedians in the country. For the answer turn to Page 10.



LCpl Trevor Newbury signs on with the electronic help of AMOS – see page 26.

NEXT ISSUE

SOLDIER visits Northern Ireland. Reports and pictures.

Subscriptions Annual (25 issues) – UK/BFPO £13.55, elsewhere £15.55. Send UK postal order or international money order expressed in sterling and made payable to Command Cashier UKLF, giving date when subscription is to start and name and address of recipient. Editorial, photographic, advertising and circulation enquiries should be addressed to the appropriate department at SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, ALDERSHOT, Hants GU11 2DU, phone Aldershot (0252) 24431, or military network Aldershot Military. SOLDIER is published by the Ministry of Defence and printed by Greenaway Harrison, Printing House Lane, Hayes, Middlesex. Phototypeset by RSB Typesetters, Worplesdon, Surrey. Crown copyright 1986.

AFS had vital role during the war

SOLDIER (Nov 3) contained an article entitled Brigade of Fire and told us a little of the interesting story of the Army Fire Service (AFS).

It mentioned that the AFS was incorporated into the RASC in 1945 but to my disappointment totally ignored the most important part of its proud history. I refer of course to its vital role in every theatre of war, when its members served alongside front line troops and suffered with them the casualties they encountered.

From the streets of blitz-torn London to Burma they not only survived the rigours of diverse campaigns but also took on some spectacular blazes. It was a pity the article failed to point out that the men who served us so well wore the badge of the Pioneer Corps.

It was in part due to these men and the rest of the corps that earned for us the pre-fix 'Royal', given in 1945 by King George VI. The shortest time, I should add, that any regiment or corps has achieved such an honour. - Maj L J Stacey RPC, CRLO, Royal Pioneer Training Centre, Simpson Barracks, Wootton, Northampton NN4 0HX.

● Sorry about the disappointment but our story was about today's AFS. Perhaps we will look at its history on another occasion. - Ed.

Now we know all about McCaffery

MAY I convey my thanks to the many correspondents who have responded to my enquiry concerning, "McCaffery" (SOLDIER, Nov 3).

Particular thanks to Mr Henry Kirby, a local historian of Preston, Lancs who sent me a photocopy of an article by Gerard Corr in *The Preston Weekly* ten years ago. This gives a full and comprehensive account of the murders of Col Crofton and Capt Hanham at Fulwood Barracks on September 14, 1861, and the trial and public execution in front of Kirkdale Gaol, Liverpool of McCaffery on January 11, 1862.

Jim Andrews of "The Good Intent", Aldington, Kent, who does a great deal for Servicemen's charities, told me there was a television programme about McCaffery some years ago.

Thanks also to Col J A C Bird (The Queen's Lanc Regt); Lt Col Ben Bayliss; Lt D Parsonage (KOBs); Mrs M M Bishop; Sgt A Conboy (5th Royal Inniskillings); Sgt J A Graham; A A Ormiston; Rowley Jones; Ken Watson; Frank Coldwell; the Imperial

War museum and many others.

I enclose a reprint from *The Lancashire Lad* regimental journal of the Queen's Lancashire Regt 1968 of a couple of verses of the definitive version of the song. The air is said to be a variant of "The Croppy Boy".

To Fulwood Barracks I did go,
To serve my time in that depot.
From troubles then I was never free:
My captain took a great dislike to me.

With a loaded rifle I did swear
I'd shoot my captain on the
barrack square;
I aimed my rifle and fired to kill,
And hit my colonel against my will.

- Tom Wilson, 162 Canterbury Rd, Kennington, Ashford, Kent TN24 9QD.

● We have also received letters on the McCaffery murders from Mr Arthur Bancroft of Dewsbury, West Yorks; Mr P J Raffety of Pattens Road, Warwick; and WO2 Hankins RAMC, 16 Fd Amb, Bulford, Salisbury, Wilts. Sgt David Le Febvre RAPC(V), Ifield, Crawley, West Sussex; Cpl C Corbett RMP, Tidworth, Hants; John Norris, ex-Gren Gds, Windsor, Berks.

2nd Lt Vaughan was last out

IN THE latest issue of SOLDIER (November 17) Mr G S Gassor asks who really was the "Last Man Out" of National Service. I have double-checked and can confirm that MoD records show it was 2nd Lt Richard Vaughan.

Although Vaughan left his unit in Germany on May 4 1963, he spent nine days travelling slowly back to the UK and so was not officially demobbed until May 13.

Some sources give the last man out as Pte Fred Turner of the Army Catering Corps, who was demobbed on May 7, but Vaughan can legitimately claim the title as his.

I have not been able to trace any information about Pte Woods, also of the ACC, who left on the same day as Pte Turner. Maybe he and Pte Turner are still out there somewhere armed with potato peelers battling it out for a second place! - Penny Ritchie Calder, Exhibitions Officer, Department of Museum Sciences, Imperial War Museum, London.

RIGHT AGAIN

For the third consecutive time, it's BAOR who are in the money in SOLDIER's

HOAY competition.

Man on the right tracks in Competition No 398 was LCpl Catley

of SHQ Cyclops, 2 RTR, BFPO 38, who will receive the £50 prize. Keep it up BAOR!

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S22

Blanks and the firing squad

PRIZE
LETTER

I WRITE with reference to your article under the heading "Fire Away" (Nov 3).

While not being able to offer any substantial evidence to fellow SOLDIER reader Mr Loomie in his quest for confirmation of the number of live rounds used by a firing squad, I feel the following may be of some assistance.

During the period 1945/46 I was stationed in Singapore and was a member of the then Corps of Military Police (India) and on three occasions found myself a member of a section detailed for duty in connection with the execution of Japanese war criminals.

Our responsibilities included the safe escorting from Changi Prison to the place of execution, a nearby beach, and the cordoning of the area.

One such execution leaves me with vivid memories. The firing party supplied by an infantry regiment carried out the execution, but examination of the condemned man by the medical officer confirmed that although unconscious he was still alive. Acting upon the MO's advice the execution was completed by the Military Police officer in command by means of a pistol.

Is it possible that only one live round had been used? I do not know. It is possible that this plus a combination of nerves was responsible. I doubt if the unknown firer had ever fired at a human target before. — **ex-Sgt H Woods, 14th Army Provost Coy, RMP, 5 Beckdale, Uttoxeter, Staffs.**

Guilt

THE following may assist W J Loomie (SOLDIER, November 3) in his search for the truth about firing squads.

In *The Long Trail* John Brophy and Eric Partridge state they used rifles already prepared and waiting for them and were told that only some of the rifles had been loaded with live cartridges, the others carrying blanks. The idea was to obviate feelings of guilt. It is believed that, often, no blank cartridge was employed.

In *The Monocled Mutineer*, by William Allison and John Fairley, the late, greatly

respected Victor Silvester, of dance band fame, tells that he served on five execution squads in France 1917. He says "contrary to popular belief, all 12 rifles were loaded."

The military admit to 346 executions in the period 1914-1920. Assuming 12 men on each firing squad we get a total of 4,152 men who had to carry out this duty. As some, like Victor Silvester, did so several times the total is probably half that — so very few, if any, are now alive to describe the experience. — **H J Cossons, 4 Rickhayes, Wincanton, Somerset BA9 9BH.**

Reverse

THE answer to Mr Loomie's query about rounds issued to firing squads is the reverse of what he suggests. There was

one blank, the remainder live.

In 1914/18 the squad was normally (not always) one officer and ten men. Thus nine rounds would effect execution but until he had squeezed the trigger each soldier could hope he was not the executioner.

I quote from J M Brereton's 1986 book *The British Soldier*: "Each hoped that he would be the one whose rifle was loaded with a blank round: whatever their own views about the victim — who might have disgraced himself and the regiment — there was natural abhorrence to the killing of a comrade in cold blood... and the officer had loaded the rifles (one with blank), the prisoner was marched to the spot under escort... the firing party were always ordered to aim at the heart, and to assist them a piece of white cloth was pinned on the victim's chest." — **G Percival, East Dean, Old Damson Lane, Solihull, West Midlands B92 9ED.**

MAY I draw your attention to the erroneous use of a photograph on Page 33 of SOLDIER November 17.

Under the heading "A Patton for victory" you review a book regarding the late General "Blood and Guts" Patton. However, the photograph beside the review shows Maj Gen George S. Patton Jr (pictured), his son.



WRONG PATTON

Gen Patton Jr., then a colonel, saw service in Vietnam where he commanded the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. Of note in the picture are paratroopers wings of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam, worn above the Presidential Unit Citation, and the ARVN Ranger qualification badge, worn immediately below the citation.

Wearing these "foreign" awards is permitted by the United States Army.

In fairness, one can plainly see the family resemblance to his father in what is a fine picture of George Junior. — **F Coldwell, Sibthorpe Road, London SE12 9DS.**

Gallipoli Tarbets not brothers

I WRITE with reference to the letter (SOLDIER, Nov 3) from Maj J P B Condon that Arthur and Edmund Tarbet, both killed in action at Gallipoli on August 21, 1915, were brothers.

According to the War Graves Memorial Register No 4 (Helles Memorial — no known grave) Part 10, 2nd Lt Arthur Kenneth Tarbet, 1st Bn Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers was the son of William Dempsey and Ada Tarbet of Chelsea, London, while 2nd Lt Edmund Alex Tarbet who was attached to the 1st Bn Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers was the son of Lt Col A F Tarbet of Acton, London.

The register makes no reference to either of them having served with the Ceylon Planters Rifle Corps, who had a detachment serving at ANZAC. — **N Anthony, 9 Coronation Road, Garnant, Ammanford, Dyfed SA18 1LY.**

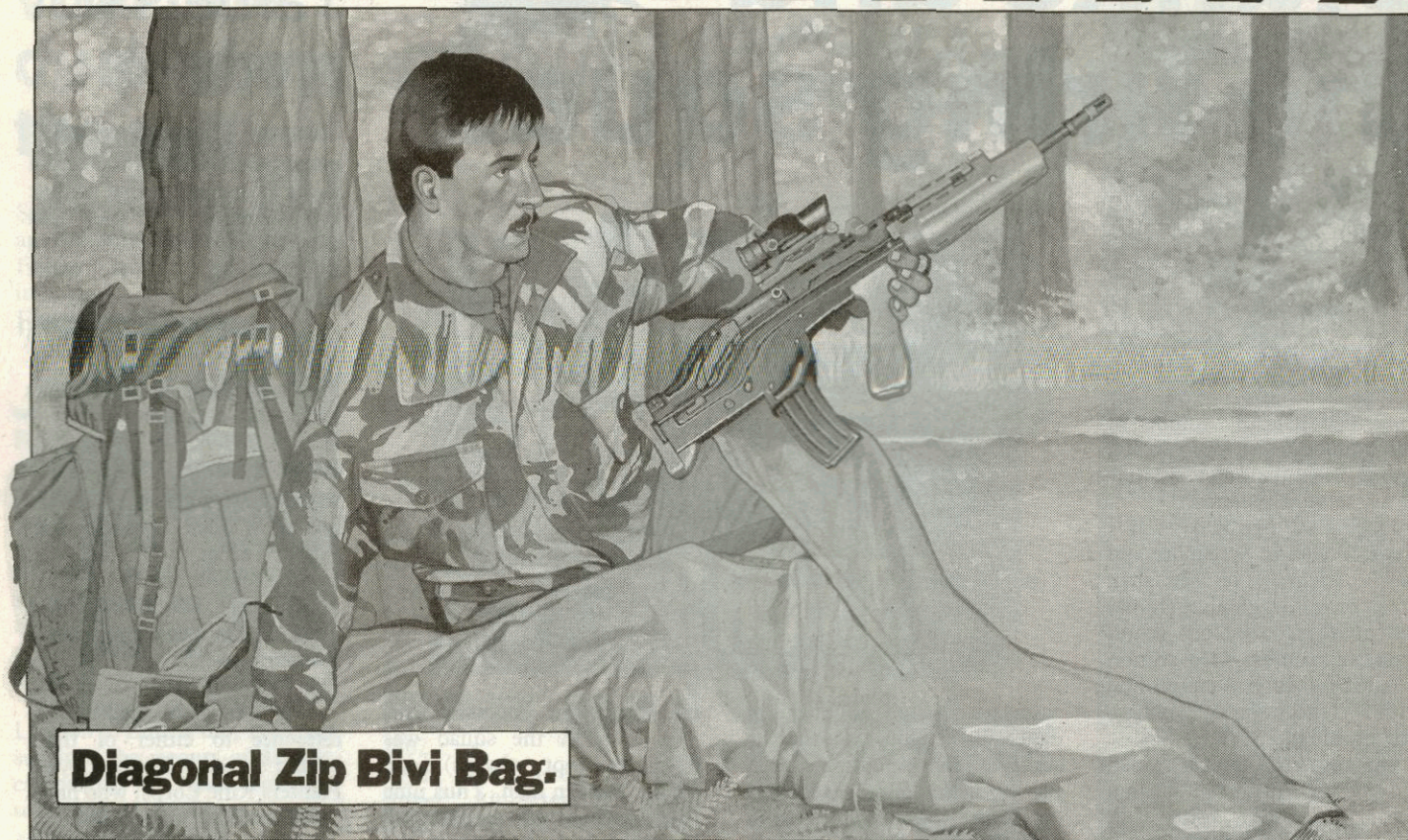
Tea men who took up arms

REGARDING Maj Condon's letter, perhaps I should explain that all tea planters regardless of rank and creed joined the local regiment, in this case the Ceylon Planters Rifles. They numbered 4-500 men.

During my time in Colombo I was given the task of bringing all the 3.7in AA guns (about 170 of them) from Fort Fredrick to Colombo. Most were static, so with a clever Ordnance corporal we took them safely to 27 Command Workshops all intact for care and preservation before handing them over to their new arm, the AA Branch of RCA.

It took about two years and the clocks on my Scammell, Mack and Diamond T trucks all registered 270 miles for one gun.

Luckily Potuhara Ammunition Depot was on the journey and the good-hearted warrant officer arranged beer, bed and breakfast at no charge. — **Sgt Maj F Acres RAOC, 42 Westfield Avenue, Ashchurch Gardens, Tewkesbury, Glos GL20 8QP.**



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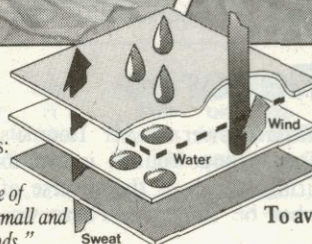
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Ethnic monitoring to be introduced at recruit stage

FROM April ethnic monitoring is to be introduced into the Army at the recruitment stage for all formal applicants. Monitoring, however, will be on the basis of self-classification as recommended by the Commission for Racial Equality.

The information will be held in the strictest confidence and used solely to produce a profile of the ethnic composition both of those applying to join the Service and those accepted.

Arising from a Parliamentary question it was announced that the decision was taken as a means of monitoring the Army's existing commitment to equal opportunities for all racial groups.

It is also intended to reissue a Defence

Council Instruction setting out the Services' responsibilities under the 1976

Race Relations Act, the means by which grievances can be investigated, and the existence of administrative and disciplinary sanctions which would be imposed to counter any form of racial prejudice. It also emphasises the unacceptability of such prejudice within the Services.

It was revealed also that all Service literature and advertising will shortly reaffirm that the Armed Forces are equal opportunities employers under the terms of the 1976 Act.

Recruiting staffs are being advised in writing of the need to avoid racial discrimination in recruitment.

The assurance was also given that all those applying to join the Armed Forces *who meet the necessary entry standards* will be considered for available places "regardless of colour, race or creed" and that those who are successful will find they are welcomed into the Services.

It is not intended to introduce monitoring for those already serving. Eventually it is expected that results of the gathered information will be made public.

No cases have been brought under redress of grievance procedure since introduction of the 1976 Act.

The Army policy remains to secure the best man for the job regardless of ethnic background.

AIDS advice for Services

SUCH is the threat posed by AIDS to the community at large, including the military, that the Ministry of Defence has ordered for distribution among 300,000 Servicemen a pamphlet on the subject from the Health Education Council.

The pamphlet offers advice, information and guidance on the risks of AIDS. The MoD version of the pamphlet contains additional references to the effect that certain practices referred to in the pamphlet are contrary to Service Law (Queen's Regulations. 9.414).

The pamphlet also advises that incidence of infection may be high in areas visited on operations and exercises.

STRATFORD FREEDOM

TWO battalions of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, one Regular and one Territorial, paraded through the streets of Stratford-upon-Avon to exercise the Freedom granted to the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in 1948.

Taking part were the Third Battalion based at Catterick and the 5th based in Coventry. The battalions will be working together again when 20 fusiliers from the 5th join the 3rd for their United Nations tour in Cyprus.

Sovereign's Parade

GENERAL Sir Roland Guy, Adjutant General, will be reviewing this month's Sovereign's Parade at Sandhurst on behalf of the Queen.



THE QUEEN lays her wreath of poppies at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, London during the Remembrance Day service.

Arctic chance open to women

FOR THE first time on a major polar expedition, Servicewomen are equally eligible to apply for places on the planned Joint Services expedition to Ellesmere Island in the Canadian Arctic.

No previous experience is required although some previous outward bound activity would be an advantage. The trip, planned for 1988-90, will undertake work in ornithology, botany, archaeology and other sciences but will have a strong adventurous training element.

Would-be polar explorers should contact expedition leader Flt Lt K W Hankinson, 30 Squadron, RAF Lyneham, Chippenham, Wilts, as soon as possible.

Princess sees farriers' event

PRINCESS ANNE visited the Royal Army Veterinary Corps Training Centre at Melton Mowbray to watch the 1986 farriery competitions and present prizes to the winners.

This annual competition is divided into classes for Army farriers who are registered shoeing smiths and Army Apprentice farriers. Princess Anne also inspected the animal hospital and saw other training taking place.

Skins swap posts with Scots DG

BOTH the armoured and medium recce regiments based at Tidworth have changed in the past few weeks.

The 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards handed over their Chieftain main battle tanks to The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards with whom they swapped postings to Paderborn.

One squadron of the Scots DG will be based at Warminster as the Demonstration Squadron at the School of Infantry.

The 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers have just handed over their Scorpion and Scimitar tracked armoured recce vehicles to the 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own) on an exchange posting to Hereford.

For some personnel their initial acquaintance with Tidworth will be a brief one. One squadron moves off to Cyprus next month for a six-month stint with the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

Lancashire's gunners on move

SOLDIERS from the Lancashire Artillery Volunteers, the biggest TA artillery regiment in the Army, held their first camp in Sussex during an exercise that spanned England, Wales and France.

Six batteries took part during a fortnight of training geared to enhancing individual skills for promotion and working up to the unit's 1987 date with 2 Infantry Division on exercise in BAOR.

Those involved were 208 Battery from Liverpool; 213 Battery from St Helens and Widnes; the Manchester and Bolton Artilleries; HQ (The King's) Battery; and the Home Service Force which provides the regiment's sixth battery.

Tank museum does its bit

BOVINGTON Tank Museum has been playing a quiet but effective part in the Manpower Services Commission's Community Programme over the past four years.

Under a scheme dealing with tourism, 18 long-term unemployed people are currently doing a variety of tasks at Bovington, from restoring vehicles to cataloguing archive material and compiling photo albums.

Mr Clive George, head of MSC's south-west regional Enterprise Unit, said: "The Tank Museum in Bovington is a good example of how the CP is already working well with an expanding tourism centre. I wish there were more like it."



Cpl Lyndon Brooke, of the Vehicles and Weapons Branch, REME, at Chertsey, explains the finer points of the Foden 6x6 GS Recovery Vehicle to the Duke of Edinburgh, the Corps Colonel-in-Chief, who was making a visit to the branch. Looking on is Col David Axson, CO of the Vehicles and Weapons Branch.

The Army is acquiring more than 300 of these vehicles and deployment of them has already started.

HSF BUSY ON BOLD WYVERN

MEN from four units of the Home Service Force (HSF) have just been taking part in the two-phase, 36-hour Exercise Bold Wyvern on Salisbury Plain. The main purpose was to practise the HSF members in their Home Defence operational role and it was their first major exercise since Brave Defender 14 months ago.

In times of tension the HSF would be guarding key points such as airfields and ports against attack by enemy forces landed secretly to carry out sabotage attacks on vital installations.

The HSF units involved were E Squadron, The Royal Wessex Yeomanry from Salisbury; E Company of 6th Bn The Light Infantry (V) from Bath; F Company of the same battalion based on Truro; and 302 Sqn RCT from South Cerney, Glos.

Two field hospitals, 211 (Wessex) Field Hosp, RAMC which has its HQ at

Derriford, Plymouth and 219 (Wessex) Field Hosp, from Keynsham, near Bristol, were taking part.

Completing the TA deployment were personnel from C and D Companies, 6 LI from Bodmin, Camborne, Falmouth and Truro who were exercising as Mobile Reaction Forces in support of the defending HSF units.

The "enemy" included soldiers from B and D Squadrons of The Royal Wessex Yeomanry from Salisbury and Barnstaple.

The exercise was controlled by HQ RWY and 6 LI (V) under the direction of Brig Nigel Still, Commander 43 Infy Bde and his staff from Wyvern Barracks, Exeter.

Visitors to the exercise were Lt Gen Sir John Akehurst, Inspector General of the TA and Major Gen Barry Lane, GOC South-West District.

Rapier 2000 on order

AN order worth £1,000 million has been placed with the Army Weapons Division of British Aerospace for the design, development and initial production of the state-of-the-art Rapier 2000 air defence weapon system for delivery to the British Services in the mid-1990s.

Rapier 2000 will be allocated to two Army batteries and five RAF Regiment squadrons.

The system is evolved from the current Rapier low-level air defence type and will, therefore, be the main low-level area air defence for the British Forces well into the next century.

The development of Rapier 2000 began more than three years ago.

Beach roars in for DASU

IT WAS a case of sixth time lucky for the hosts at the international canine biathlon competition held at Sennelager, West Germany.

Although the competition was instigated by the Defence Animal Support Unit, RAVC, six years ago, the DASU had to wait until this year to acclaim its first open champion. Cpl Chad Chadwick and his dog Beach established a new record in this test of skill and stamina by racing around the 5.8km circuit in 25min 46sec.

DASU also won the international three-man team challenge trophy for BAOR.

Ten countries were represented by 110 entries, with teams coming from as far afield as Hong Kong, Australia, Trinidad and the USA, confirming the event as one of the most prestigious canine events in Europe.

Warcop Trophy

AN 11-man team from the workshop of the Topcliffe (Yorkshire) based 27 Field Regiment RA won the Warcop Trophy after two days of military and trade skills competition between 18 REME units based in the north of England.

Yugoslavian VIP

THE Federal Secretary for National Defence of the Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia, Admiral of the Fleet Branko Mamula has just spent a five-day fact-finding visit to the UK.

Part of the visit included a look at HQ UKLF, Wilton and then HQ 5 Airborne Brigade, based at Aldershot.



Omani soldiers on parade

Swift Sword sets a long range test

NEARLY 5,000 soldiers, sailors and airmen – a quarter of that strength from the British Army – are in action 4,000 miles away under the sunny skies of Oman on the Arabian peninsula. They are taking part in a three-week, five-phase exercise called Saif Sareea (Swift Sword), writes **Graham Smith.**

The manoeuvres have been designed to exercise British Service personnel outside their Nato environment and to test the command of a joint force in such a setting.

Army input into the strategic air deployment Swift Sword, which has cost £4.3 million, comprises 5 Airborne Brigade (which has an out-of-Nato-area role), the 2nd Bn, The Parachute Regiment, the Brigade's Logistic Battalion

and other supporting elements.

The exercise is being conducted jointly with the Sultan of Oman's Forces who field one infantry battalion, one armoured recce squadron, a parachute unit and an armoured squadron.

The Omanis are playing a vigorous part on both sides of the exercise with men and vehicles including Chieftain main battle tanks and Scorpions, and Hunter and Jaguar aircraft.

The British Army had just four days in which to acclimatize at the former RAF staging post on Masirah Island which was used as the forward mounting base.

Lt Gen Mike Gray, GOC South-East District and Joint Force Commander for

● Turn to Page 38

Have a laugh on us, we said, and here are a few of the cartoons we received from readers. We will be publishing more in the future, so if you want to join the fun, send your original cartoon to SOLDIER. They should be in black ink on white card no larger than 10cm square.

Your Cartoons



Cdt Cpl Phillip Warner
Sussex Army Cadet Force

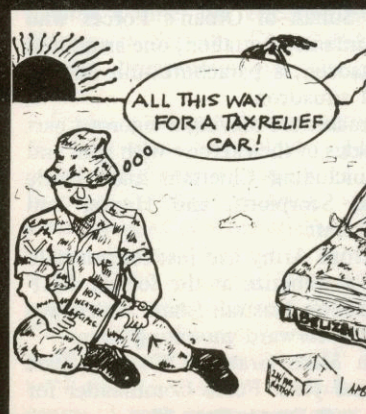
CSgt K W Hunter
1 QO HLDERS,
Fort George, Inverness



LCpl R Darkin, Medical
Centre, Guards Depot,
Pirbright, Surrey



Trevor Gasper, exRCT
Tamworth, Staffs



A F Bolland, ex 5/8 Kings
Liverpool

SPIKE'S LAST STAND

MONTY might eclipse him, but Spike Milligan, arch Goon, author, script-writer, actor, comedian and ex-squaddie, would surely be included in any list of the ten best-known British wartime soldiers. With five books already published and well established as good Army reads, his latest offering *Goodbye Soldier* (Michael Joseph, £9.95), tells not so much of his military experiences as of his amorous dreams and his eventual seduction of a smashing Italian dancer called Maria Antoinette "Toni" Fontana. Old Sam Pepys *et al* have nothing on Spike when it comes to telling a good yarn. "But it's all true," said Spike.

He was speaking at the launch of *Goodbye Soldier* at the Imperial War Museum, London, surrounded by his old mates of 19/56 Heavy Regiment RA and many famous people including Michael Palin, Jilly Cooper, Miles Kington, Clare Francis and Joanna Lumley to name but a few.

"I'm a natural diarist," he said, indicating a display of his wartime letters home to his parents and family, several battered notebooks, his campaign medals and old forage cap which was in remarkably good condition.

"Hardly ever wore it," he said. "Wore a tin hat for most of the time." But in this tale of 250 pages, interspersed with saucy rhymes and photos of the ubiquitous Toni, he tells of his last four months in Italy from June 1946 with a party of touring Army entertainers.

It's a matter of interest that "live" entertainment for the Forces is still going strong (Combined Services Entertainment) under the direction of Derek Agutter, father of Jenny the actress.

But *Goodbye Soldier* is also goodbye Spike so far as the Army is concerned because while Spike is still writing on other subjects, this is his last on his wartime experiences. We shall all be the poorer for it.

"The war was finished and for me this book wraps it all up," he said. But even though he's called a halt and demobbed himself, he still hears from Toni.

"I get birthday and

Christmas cards from her and meet many of my old Army mates twice a year in a London pub and at Bexhill, Sussex, where we were stationed for a time."

Obviously it is through these connections, and his notes taken at the time, that Spike has massaged his memory to produce a fast, funny read.

Even young soldiers who have never heard a *Goon Show* broadcast or read any of the first five volumes of his war biography, will get a lot of laughs from this diary of military life once removed.

"It was a great time," said Spike. "We weren't really in the mob, but touring Italy entertaining the lads and living it up. After all, the war was over."

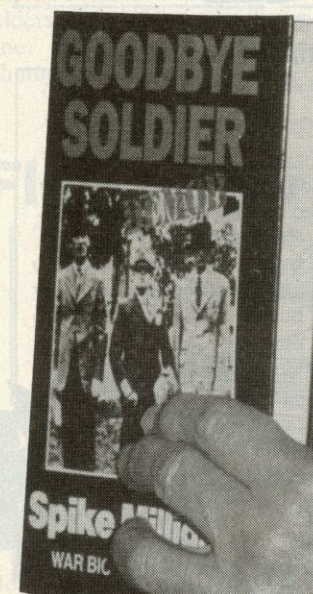
As for his regular fans, especially those who served in the Forces, they will discover new delights, belly laughs and sniggers as they recall the "live" shows of those days and their time with the "Brown jobs," the "Andrew" and the "Brylcreem boys."

For them it will be unputdownable. Now 68 and married to Shelagh, Spike — real names Terence Alan — loves meeting his old Army pals and recalling those wartime years.

"We've got a do on Saturday at the Printers' Devil in Fetter Lane, London. Then in six months we have another at Bexhill. We've

First of an
occasional
series of
personality
interviews by

John Margetts.



been meeting like this for years. They're a great bunch."

He was happy to talk of his meeting with Harry Secombe (now Sir Harry) in North Africa... how Harry's unit dug a pit for Spike's 7.2-inch gun which, when fired, sprang backwards and toppled into a wadi.

After all, his service took a large chunk out of his life as it did for millions of others.

It almost cost him his life on one occasion when hit by mortar shrapnel while laying a telephone wire over an Italian mountain.

But Gnr Bob 'Dipper' Dye, who was present at the book

launch, "dragged me out."

Said Dipper, now in his seventies: "He was out all right... like a light."

All of his old mates present had stories to tell of Spike. Sid Carter, secretary of the 19/56 Heavy Regt association, Ken Carter (no relation), Doug Kidgell, the drummer in Spike's band of those days and Reg Bennett their stage manager, all had anecdotes to relate, with Dipper Dye telling how he planned to publish a book.

Like many other top names in showbiz it was the experience of putting on shows for the troops that enhanced various talents and helped launch their possessors into fame and, for some, fortune.

Spike agreed that had it not been for those days with the Central Pool of Artists, he'd probably be playing his trumpet at the old gig at Lewisham town hall.

But he made the big time with the Goons on radio and

TV and with his books which gave him the chance to kiss goodbye to London SE26 and with it his self-appointed title of the Adonis of Brockley.

Now he lives in a fashionable part of London in a big house with turrets.

"It looks like a castle," said Reg Bennett. "But even though he's moved up in the world he's still the same old Spike. Hasn't changed a bit. All he has done is get a bit older."

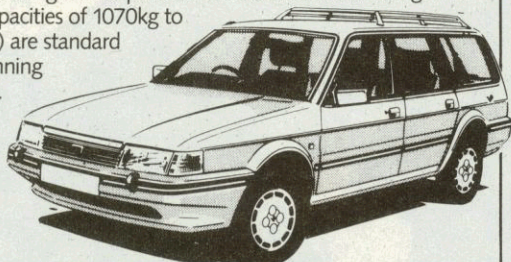


PICTURE: TERRY CHAMPION

ALL YOU COULD ASK FOR

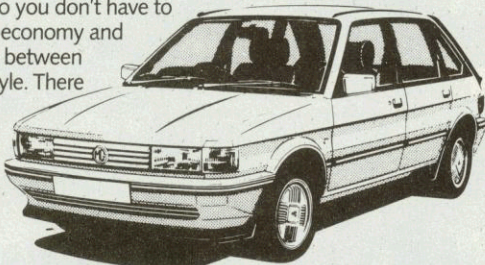
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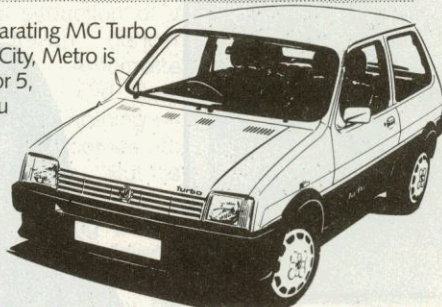
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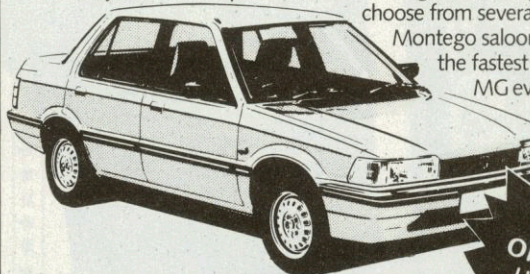
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New look!

You must have noticed **SOLDIER's** new look! Enhanced colour photograph on the front cover; more stories, bigger pictures, and crisper layout inside.

SOLDIER has emerged from its transformation an easier and more interesting read – and at the same cover price. Who says so? We say so. But we are always keen to hear what you, the readers, feel.

Let us know what you think, whether your views are for publication or just for **SOLDIER's** own information. Bouquets or brickbats, we are happy to accept either.

Incidentally, we are already finding that the new-look **SOLDIER** cover is producing a demand for prints of the colour photographs. If you, too, appreciate **SOLDIER's** excellent colour photography, 'phone librarian Bill Stroud on Aldershot 24431 (or military line) extension 2351 for the photographic rates.

Flats to go

The Divis flats are doomed! For any soldier who has served in Belfast during the present period of Northern Ireland "troubles" that must sound like good news.

The tall complex of homes has for many years been a security headache for the forces trying to keep the peace in the trouble-torn city.

Now the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's recommendation that they should be the subject of "phased demolition" has been accepted by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

*Views expressed in **SOLDIER** are not necessarily those of the Army or the Ministry of Defence.*

SOLDIER to Soldier

SPONSORED GROUSE

Perhaps it was a grouse about grouse, or just a question of questions when the name of the Red Devils was raised in the House of Commons.

Harking back to the opening of that shooting season, a Labour MP shot a question at

Mr Roger Freeman (USofS for the Armed Forces) about the total cost incurred by the Parachute Regiment during the race down the Thames to deliver grouse to the Savoy Hotel.

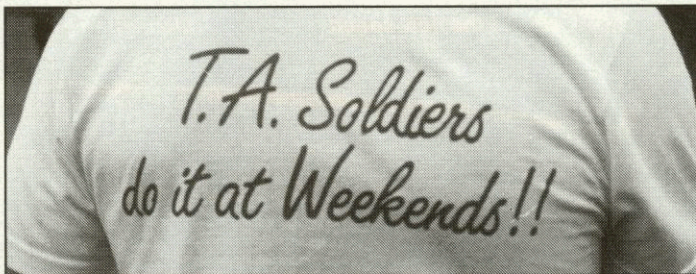
Mr Freeman did not give a costing, but did say that

expenses concerned were met by the regiment and there was no Defence Vote expenditure. He did give figures for the cash raised in sponsorship – for SSAFA (£11,000) and the Red Devils appeal fund towards the cost of their Islander aircraft (another 11,000).

The MP's second barrel asked for the total cost of the flight from Blackpool airport to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, by the Red Devils including the parachute drop of grouse.

Similar explanation, no figures from Mr Freeman. The Red Devils used their own aircraft, financed from their own funds.

Game to Mr Freeman!



SEEN on a recent exercise in the north. Printed without comment!

TRIBUTE ON FILM

What is a soldier?

The British public are about to be told by a 20-minute action-packed film, made for the Director of Public Relations (Army), the Hon Willie Rous, and given its premiere before a distinguished audience at the National Army Museum.

"He's loyal, disciplined, courageous and bloody-minded," says the film. "He's taken for granted, often misunderstood and sometimes unpopular. But he's always there if you need him. And, if necessary, he'll die for you."

The film, *The Unbroken Line*, available through some 200 libraries which loan cassettes and intended also to support a major cinema film, mixes soldiers and action over a near 300-year span, from the Battle of Blenheim, through Waterloo to the First and

Second World Wars and to present day sequences.

The battles of the late 20th century are more complicated, the weapons more sophisticated than the cavalry charges of the Duke of Marlborough or the infantry squares which opposed Napoleon – but the commitment is shown to be the same.

Inspired by the famous regiments which celebrated their 300th anniversaries last year, the film is a tribute to the ordinary British soldier and his commitment to such values as loyalty, discipline, bravery and self-sacrifice – the unbroken line in Britain's defence and the Army's tradition.

Besides the professional actors in the leading roles, a host of military units gave their help and many soldiers of today took roles as soldiers of this year and yesteryear.

Call up poll

A Gallup opinion poll for the *Daily Telegraph* found that more than one in two of 16 to 29-year-olds questioned would approve of the return of National Service.

But a street poll taken near Chelsea's football ground by the *Telegraph*, brought some criticism of a compulsory return to uniform.

"I was in the Combined Cadet Force at school, but not for long", said one 18-year-old. "The only thing I liked about it was the Army boots – which I kept."

And another: "In order of my personal priorities, I would miss girls, drink and football far too much to be of any use in the Army."

A soldier's life is not a happy one . . . he thinks!

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FLOWER POWER PUTS THE BRAKE ON SPEEDING

POLICE in Herford, West Germany, have come up with a novel way to persuade drivers to comply with new 30km speed limits in residential areas of the town – they're saying it with flowers!

Drivers are stopped before entering civilian and British military residential zones, presented with a carnation, and thanked for not speeding.

This pleasant and gentle method of drawing attention to the new speed

limits – designed to safeguard children living in the areas – has been devised by Herford town council and implemented by the German civilian and Royal Military Police, with help from local schoolchildren.



■ CPL MICHELLE WHITWORTH (114 PROVOST COMPANY RMP), JONATHAN WHITWORTH: saying it with flowers

CAROL MUSCLES IN ON A TITLE

TWELVE months ago Nurse Carol Pickersgill (right) started slinging weights around to develop "large, defined muscles".

Now she has them, and with her rippling biceps, she has the title of Ms South West England.

"I train five or six days a week," said Carol, a 26-year-old QARANC nurse at the Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot.

At 5ft 7in with a 36-26-36 figure, fair-

haired, blue-eyed Carol won the title against tough opposition.

Earlier she had entered a qualifying round for the British title, but that was just for the experience, she said.

amount of pill-taking which helps burn off fat and put on muscle.

"That's what I want," said Carol. "Large, well defined muscles." Helping her attain her goal is her husband, John, a staff

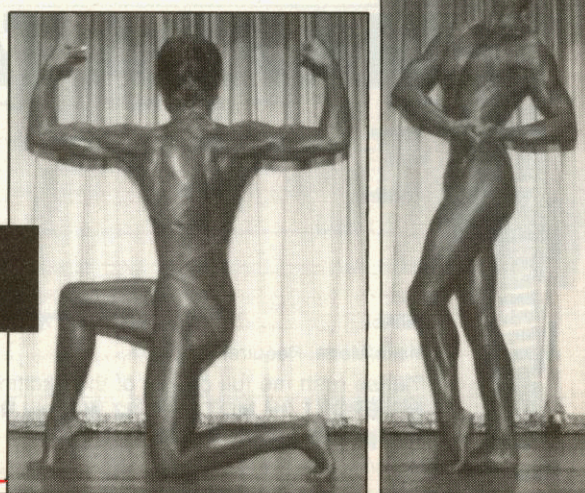
'I want big biceps'

Pumping iron is hard work and requires a good deal of dedication.

It also means careful dieting and a certain

sergeant in the RMP.

Problems with would-be Romeos on the ward? Not likely, Carol works on a female ward.



Naafi joins credit card boom

NAAFI has at last fallen into line with thousands of other stores and supermarkets and now accepts Access and Barclaycards.

But they will only take them from customers in the UK and Germany.

Shoppers in Cyprus, Hong Kong, the Falklands

and elsewhere will still have to pay cash, by cheque or by the Institute's own budget account scheme.

At least it will stay this way for the time being, say Naafi. But they are hoping to widen the acceptance of credit cards in all their shops in the near future.

Meantime, customers in the UK and BAOR can go on a spending spree and buy anything except food with their cards.

The range of goods available for card-holders

includes all audio-visual equipment, domestic electrical and other household appliances, furniture and photographic equipment.

Indicating they expect the buy-now-pay-later scheme to boost business, financial controller Stanley Mein said: "While we would prefer customers to hold Naafi's own budget account card, we recognise many have other credit cards, which we would prefer were used in Naafi shops than elsewhere."

PEOPLE

Mayors see Berlin sights

THREE West Country mayors took the chance to see how the West sees the East through the wire and over the Wall when visiting their county regiment in West Berlin.

The mayors of Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury were renewing links with the 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment – "The Glorious Glosters."

Highlights of their tour included a border patrol with a reconnaissance platoon, sight-seeing in the West and East, and meeting soldiers from their own towns.

Sappers answer Rani's trunk call



★ **FORWARD** the sappers and Rani the elephant obliges with raised proboscis and a relieved "Ahhhhh..." as WO Phillip Coombes of the Royal Engineers probes her tum with a metal detector. He was called in by a circus at Sheffield to help find the cause of 16-year-old Rani's jumbo-size stomach ache. Whether the sapper turned vet managed to diagnose her symptoms is unclear, but Rani voiced her thanks for his efforts with a loud trumpeting. One thing's for sure... Rani won't forget Phillip's help. Elephants always remember. Phillip's not likely to forget the day either.

HOUSE OF HORRORS!

LCpl Neil Ridley plays the part of the corpse while LCpl Gary Heighway investigates



IN A bedroom a young soldier sits motionless in an armchair, his back to the door. He is dead, a 9mm Browning pistol limp in his right hand which is resting lifeless on his lap. He has "topped" himself. Two members of the Royal Military Police have been called in.

In a downstairs room, a thorough search turns up some hidden shell cases and another pistol. Elsewhere, another soldier is being carefully interviewed by a Redcap who is writing out a detailed, longhand report of what he is being told in response to his questioning.

Outside, a drunken Scottish infantryman and his bottle are being coaxed out of a tree by two more military policemen.

Upstairs again, a group of people are simply watching television. Or are they?

For these are everyday events in the unique Environmental Training House. A detached, three-storey, white-painted 1930s style building. A former RAF officers' MQ now worth about £90,000 near the wartime Battle of Britain fighter station of Tangmere in West Sussex.

At Tangmere House, as it is called, home of the fictitious 140 Provost Company, Corps of Royal Military Police, high-tech TV, particularly close-circuit television (CCTV) is an integral part of training for the widely dispersed 2,000-strong corps. It has been a lynch pin since 1969 but in the ensuing years has taken on more and more importance as a vital training aid.

All of the above incidents were, of course, contrived scenarios and, apart from the tree-bound "Jock", were filmed in their entirety by video cameras. Prying visual platforms recording every moment and human reaction.

The men upstairs were, naturally, doing just more than idling away the time looking at TV. They were master-minding everything from a central control room.

Spartanly furnished rooms well-endowed with TV monitor sets, intercoms and associated accessories.

But there are no video nasties here. Only mistakes that can be rectified by any of the recruits from the nearby RMP Training Centre who spend five weeks at Tangmere House learning about the CCTV system as well as the benefit of incontestable help to their own personal performance.

The five-week stint in the building with its own story lines in operational "soaps" is the final General Police Duties (GPD) testing phase for the recruits,

Anything is possible in RMP's make believe world of Tangmere House

male and female.

Leading the four-strong instructing staff is SSgt Pat Callinan, who supervises the video-taped tutorials and tests on the right and wrong ways of police procedures. Routines such as how to interview suspects, how to arrest offenders, deal with traffic incidents, conduct searches of barracks and vehicles, comfort lost children and the rules dealing with lost property. To name but a few.

One great boon of the Tangmere House stay – the recruits live in barracks at nearby Chichester – is the facility called "inter-active video". Simply, this is a video learn-as-you-go game. Scenarios are screened, questions asked, and the student gets his chance to punch in any of the four possible answers – only one of which is correct!

Back on screen, WO1 Bill Sumpter of the Centre's CCTV studio and one of the peerless pioneers of the system gives mild rebukes or remarks of encouragement. All very personal. All without tension.

There are no prizes for winning but certain private satisfaction in getting the right answer.

If the answer is wrong, at least the embarrassment is an unshared one.

The whole of Tangmere House has



Above – How to coax a drunken soldier out of a tree! Left – Sgt Geoff Grogan monitors the interview test



been split into functional tutorial rooms.

An MQ bedroom serves as the scene of a major crime (suicide, murder or baby battering, for instance), a domestic disturbance, a theft inquiry. There is the standard Duty Room carbon copy reconstructed with all its comms in-put. A report-writing room. An interview room. And a Junior Ranks Club and its bar-with-no-beer called The Two Camels and the scene of many an altercation needing RMP intervention!

In this way, some 300 recruits annually pass through Tangmere House, acting out their dramas. And solving them, too.

● Turn to next page

Scenarios are invented to convey realism for the rookie RMPs who will soon be dealing with the real thing. Soldierly or barrack room language is used and written down. *EVERYTHING* is written down.

Interviewees are connected by earphones to the upstairs control room where words are literally put into their mouths, or ears, initially by the Distaff (Directing Staff) during the question-and-answer sessions.

All human emotions are catered for. And all the time, the "evil eye", as they jokingly call it – the mobile camera high up in a room corner – monitors their performances. In fact, the cameras scan every time a light switch is turned on.

It has even been known for "lines" to be handed out to the rookie Redcaps for minor procedural misdemeanours!

"We pick up a lot of man management from the recruits as they are learning from us," said SSgt Callinan. "These are the future corporals and senior NCOs on the ground. We, the instructors, do a two-year tour here and all eventually return to our respective companies."

Another instructor, Sgt Geoff Grogan said: "We try to make the syllabus as authentic as possible. That way we retain interest. The recruits soon forget the presence of the cameras in every room as they record every move and word."

"In the soldier suicide you have just seen, a major crime scene as we call it, we train the recruits to preserve the scene, retaining the best possible evidence ready for handing over to the experts. Experts like a doctor, forensic scientists, the SIB or the civilian police. Everybody here acts and works towards the same results."



Sgt John Porsch describes a video camera to Special Investigation Branch members.

They've got their training taped!

THE MAKING of instructional videos for worldwide distribution to the far-flung Corps and the teaching of CCTV use to specialist personnel are carried out at the Chichester RMP Centre.

It has its own editing suite and an associated library of some 200 tapes on subjects critical and pertinent to military police methods, operations and procedures. All of it "by the book".

Briefing tapes, for instance, for motorists using the Berlin autobahn corridor. They are shown at both the Helmstedt and Berlin checkpoints and the

briefings are given by RMP personnel. Clear, concise, pictorial advice contained on easy-viewing tape in comfortable surrounds.

Video aides-memoire, too, on road safety for children in BAOR. And other routine activities of the RMP world such as forensic training, traffic accident procedures, scene-of-the-crime routines and even post-mortems.

Attention-holding lecture packages ready for distribution to the Corps.

WO1 Bill Sumpter, of SIB background, explained: "Video tapes mean we can perfect a long-distance learning programme to our personnel who are dotted in penny packets around the world. It is a method where everyone is taught at the same level. In no way do we dictate how the results of our supplied technology and teaching are used. The subscribers themselves set the pace. We deal with situations and people on video. Things you cannot really produce in a classroom thus enabling you to be in several places at the same time."

He added: "We get tremendous support from the Directorate of Army Training, the SSV, the Army School of Training Support, the civilian police and people in the video world. I think this type of training is as broad as the imagination of the guy using it. We've been operating with colour since 1980."

"Our interactive computerised video system – whereby students can revise their acquired skills – is very popular and a real winner. The system is self-analysing, self-evaluating, has teletext graphics, improves the students' learning curve and can store up to 40 individual results."

"We do not try to emulate the BBC as most of our work is done outside. We look upon ourselves as a workshop. One of our innovations is a briefing tape on PACE – the Police and Criminal Evidence Act of 1984 – which came into force with the military police this January for remedial training. New guidelines on the questioning of suspects."

The video tapes include topics such as drugs intelligence, terrorist recognition and close protection techniques. Operators are trained in the use of CCTV equipment.

WO1 Sumpter, a member of The Royal Television Society, said: "I see CCTV having a tremendous future in the TA who have a trickle flow input. They could certainly capitalise on the system."

"We are not using technology to replace teachers but to supplement them. It frees instructors to design good training material."

There was, he confirmed, a big interchange of ideas with other Corps such as REME and the Royal Engineers as well as civilian police forces, the latter at informal levels, in the compilation of the look-in teach-ins.



WO1 Bill Sumpter at work in the video suite



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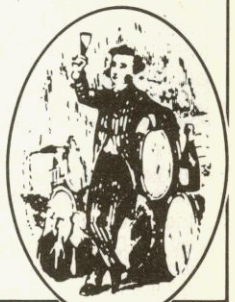
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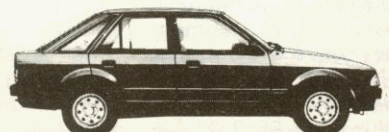
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A WORKING Service wife who gives up her job to go overseas with her husband when he's posted, is heading for a maze of trouble should she apply for unemployment benefit. She could find herself on a "Mission Impossible".

Few wives have any idea of the tangle and confusion facing them when putting in a bid for dole money, and it's as tough taking on the DHSS in the UK as it is the German authorities in BAOR.

Only the most stubborn and determined wife can expect to get anywhere, especially in Germany where her pleas are ignored unless an interpreter is present or she speaks the language.

The forms wives have to complete are lengthy and complex, not only because they are in German, but also because of the questions.

Because of these hazards and ignorance of what they must do before leaving the UK, plus the different interpretations of the rules and regulations by the DHSS and the DoE, working Service wives are, for the most part, between the devil and a deep grey sea.

Not much of a choice for a young wife who has lost income from her job and been told no dice with her UB claim.

More alarming, though,

under the new Social Security Act, brought in by Social Services Secretary Norman Fowler in September, is the near impossibility of a Service working wife proving her entitlement to unemployment pay.

Her mission impossible

Rules baffle wives when bidding for the dole

will come about because adjudicating officers and appeal tribunals will deem her to have voluntarily left her job without just cause. And that's just the first hurdle.

It means that moving to another part of the world with her husband and family is not reason enough for her to claim unemployment pay.

And, say the DoE, to be

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE

eligible for unemployment pay, she should stay at work up to the day of departure and be available for work at all times. Tell them that time is required for cleaning and leaving an MQ in good order, and you meet with po-faced rejection.

must prove she was looking for work. This is vital if she is to have the slimmest chance of success with her claim.

Copies of letters applying for jobs and answers from firms should be kept as evidence of job hunting.

a job, they can return to the UK and carry on collecting dole.

But not so the working Service wife, who has had to give up her job because her husband has been posted and she wants to go with him.

She is stuck where she is and more often than not the prospects of getting a job in Germany are remote since only about a quarter of wives manage to find a post.

With job prospects low and a zero chance of winning a plea for three months' unemployment benefit while job-hunting, the financial future for some is bleak indeed.

But even so, wives in this situation should appeal and not give up. Some have been battling for at least two years with up to three adjournments. It's a lot of work for just three months' dole money, but it's the principle.

But this principle is expensive. Especially when a wife has to travel from Germany to put her case to a tribunal. Her costs can swallow the equivalent of three months unemployment pay and more.

One way round this would be for the tribunal to go to Germany to hear the cases. At least this way the wives would get a hearing.

But this job-seeking rule covers not only the UK, but the whole of the EEC.

A wife applying for dole must show she has been looking for work in the country to which she is going with her husband.

The authorities argue a claimant must show, in all circumstances, she has not acted unreasonably in making a charge on the National Insurance Fund.

Giving up a job so she can be with her family abroad and collecting three months' dole is not considered a correct charge to the Social Fund.

This is unlike those, including Service wives, who are already on the dole when leaving for abroad and can continue to collect benefit for three months while searching for a job.

If at the end of their three months they have not found

her husband pay £3.75 National Insurance Class 2 contributions each week for the whole time she is overseas - £195 a year.

To retain her State pension requires a Class 3 contribution of £3.65 a week (£189 a year).

But neither of these contributions gives the right to claim unemployment benefit overseas or the UK, only Class 1 contributions provides a right to this.

So where does a Serviceman find the money

to compensate for the loss of his wife's £1,600 unemployment pay for a year, or find £195 to pay her NI contributions?

One thing is certain and that is few wives overseas will be able to help out in either case since only 27 per cent manage to find jobs. So for most of them the financial picture is gloomy indeed.

This begs the question: why cannot a wife appeal to an independent tribunal

against loss of unemployment pay when moving overseas?

Answer: she can, but even if she wins she can only receive three months unemployment benefit under an EEC agreement as a migrant worker. This means she still loses nine months unemployment money and DHSS credits.

The problem is that neither the Services nor the

WIVES WITHOUT HOPE

IN MY VIEW

Anne

HERE TO HELP



HUNDREDS of Service-men's wives complying with current Army policy of accompanied service face huge financial losses the moment they leave the country.

Not only do they lose pay from their jobs - while many have been on low and middle incomes, a number have been in the higher bracket - but they are denied unemployment benefit and all that goes with it.

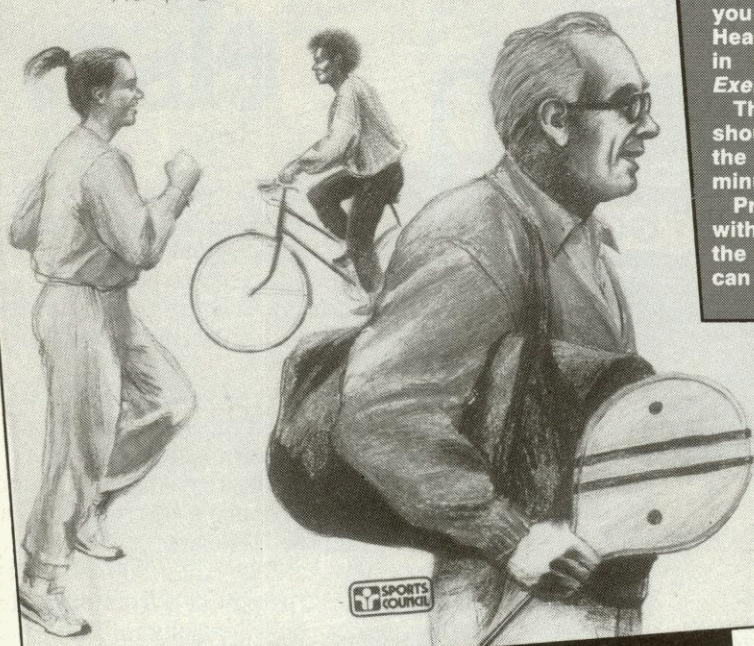
A few wives in this situation are successful with unemployment benefit claims, but for the vast majority it's bidding without a hope.

For a start they say goodbye to £1,600 unemployment pay in the first year plus the credits which safeguard statutory sickness and maternity allowances and the State pension.

But these DHSS benefits can be retained if a wife or

EXERCISE. WHY BOTHER?

A simple guide to getting fitter for adults of all ages



IT'S NEVER TOO LATE

IF YOU take more than 20 minutes to cover a mile you are unfit. So says the Health Education Council in their new booklet Exercise. Why Bother?

The average fit adult should be able to cover the distance inside 12 minutes, they say.

Produced in association with the Sports Council the book says: "Anyone can get fitter. Whatever

your age you can find a form of exercise that will suit you."

So why not follow the suggestions - and there are lots of them in this 30-page colourful booklet - and get cracking to get fit. It's never too late to start.

It's available free from: Dept. 715, 20-24 Clarke Road, Mount Farm, Milton Keynes MK1 1HQ.

PAYING FOR DEATH

A letter from an old soldier in an earlier issue asking: "Who pays when a hero dies?" has prompted the DHSS to write that, as from April 6 next year, when war pensioners die as a result of their pensioned disablement, or while in hospital having treatment for that

disablement, their next-of-kin can claim a DHSS grant towards the cost of a "basic funeral".

Claims towards funeral costs can also be made if he was drawing a constant attendance allowance, or would have been, had he not been in hospital.

THIS year sees the Pre-School Playgroups Association (PPA) celebrating its silver jubilee.

Service families who are members will have enjoyed along with their children the numerous and varied activities which have been the highlights of this 25th year.

HOW TO PLAY SAFE UNDER COVER

It is fitting, too, that this year saw the PPA move from a cramped and overcrowded rented office to a more spacious building of its own at 61-63 King's Cross Road, London WC1 9LL (01-833 0991).

And it's good news for BFG PPA members. PPA

has been working to obtain insurance cover for its member groups with the Armed Forces in Germany.

Now, after a year of effort, a PPA sub committee has agreed with Sun Alliance Insurance full playground cover.

This package is identical to that offered to PPA

groups in England and Wales except premiums are slightly higher.

There are six main areas of insurance cover - group equipment; employers' and public liability; motor liability (over and above normal car cover); loss of personal money or money held by staff or parents for

the PPA; and personal accident cover.

There is no doubt the PPA has a lot of experience negotiating insurance for its members and its package for BFG is excellent.

Full details can be obtained from the PPA headquarters in London.

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WITH FAMILIES IN MIND

Armed Forces Pay Review Body consider family income as a whole. They do not take into account a dependant's earnings or loss of earnings.

They say a Serviceman's pay is comparable to that of his civilian counterpart. Maybe it is.

What I dispute is the attitude ignoring the fact that a wife's income is essential if the Serviceman

and his family are to save anything towards buying a house and educating their children.

In addition to these burdens they have to make up a 30 per cent shortfall in the boarding school allowance.

If loss of LOA and supplementary benefits for dependant school leavers is then added, the Serviceman is not, in my

view, getting a comparable family income to that of his civilian opposite.

Which prompts the question: when is something going to be done to right the balance for Servicemen and their families?

I have been battling about this problem for ten years and so far there hasn't been a glimmer of hope for the wives who

want to claim unemployment benefit. In fact the situation is getting worse with the new "available for work" test which wives in this situation must face.

I have come to the conclusion that a wife's chances of winning an appeal against a DHSS decision not to pay unemployment money are slim indeed. And all because she gave up her job to accompany her husband overseas.

Officialdom claims that a wife doing this "voluntarily gave up her job without just cause."

But adjudicating officers at tribunals are saying that for a Service wife to draw

unemployment pay she must prove she did not give up her job voluntarily; that she had just cause to give up her job and that she is available for work.

To prove these points is now almost impossible as I have discovered by voluntarily attending tribunals on behalf of wives overseas.

They are caught in a web of regulations imposed by the EEC, the DHSS and the DoE which means they lose out for any form of compensation for the loss of unemployment pay whether they're at home or overseas. It's time this wrong was put right.

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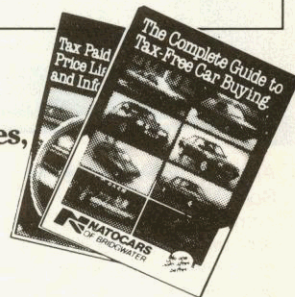
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Maj Alan Hughes, 4 Para padre, has his parachute checked by WO2 Scotty Milne before a jump on Exercise Eternal Triangle in West Germany

Red beret vicar of Kirkbymoorside

ARMY LIFE holds few surprises for the Vicar of Kirkbymoorside whose parish stretches across more than 100 square miles of North Yorkshire countryside, writes Mervyn Wynne Jones.

The vicar, alias 4 Para padre Maj Alan Hughes, has had close ties with the Army since enlisting with the Coldstream Guards on leaving school 23 years ago.

"I think I was destined to join the Church but I just was not ready at the time," said Maj Hughes, 41, "so I joined the Army instead."

He left the Coldstream Guards in 1967

as a sergeant, worked for a while as a laundry manager, was commissioned into The Royal Highland Fusiliers (V) and then began his theological training.

Ordained in Edinburgh, Maj Hughes became a TA chaplain in 1974 and 4 Para padre three years ago. He was 38 when he passed P Company to earn his red beret.

Maj Hughes said: "I enjoy the physical side and the challenge. You have to be fit enough and qualified to join them in an emergency and I cannot stress enough how much I enjoy being with them."

He is often to be seen pounding mile after mile across his parish and during his weeks away he leaves the ministrations of his four churches and five communities to retired clergy and local parishioners.

Maj Hughes told SOLDIER: "My parishioners do not mind in the slightest, in fact I think they are quite intrigued. I find both roles very rewarding. The paras may be hard and fit but they are also sensitive and have their highs and lows like everyone else. I find myself useful sometimes."

Picture by Paul Haley



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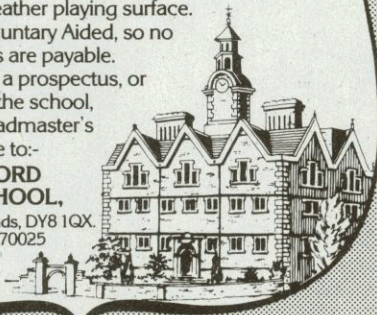
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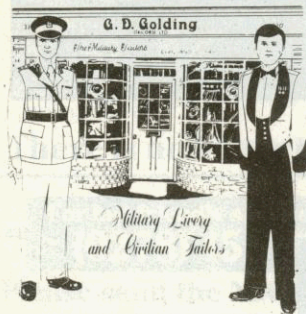
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A 2 RTR tankman keeps his nose warm on exercise in West Germany

ETERNAL TRIANGLE



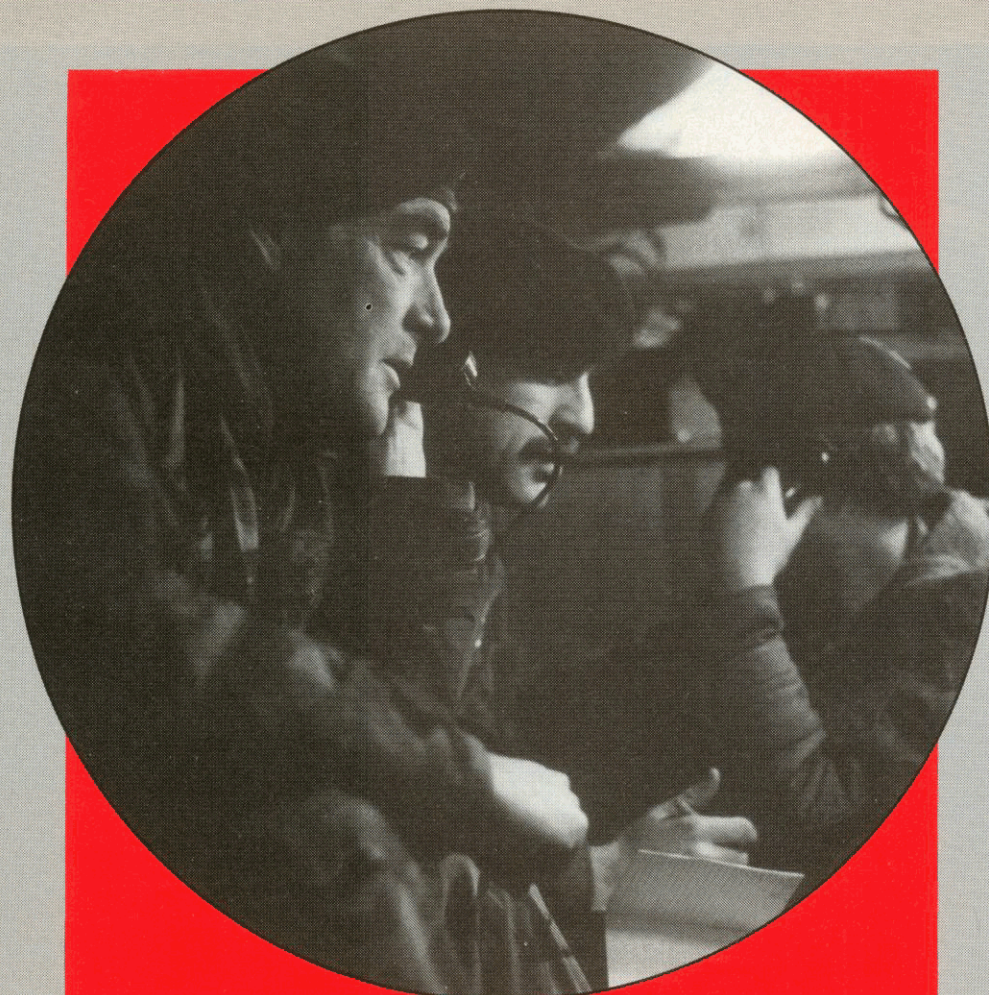
Thousands of troops of the British 1st Armoured Division have just returned to their bases in Northern Germany after two weeks' activity on Exercise Eternal Triangle, the annual BAOR field training exercise.

More than 21,000 men, 350 tanks, 1,200 other tracked vehicles and 3,500 wheeled vehicles took part in the exercise around Paderborn, Lippstadt and Soest, an area 110 miles from east to west and 60 miles wide.

Allied fixed wing aircraft and 100 helicopters supported the ground troops who were also backed by a Danish armoured infantry battalion, a German armoured brigade and a Dutch tank company.

Stories by Mervyn Wynne Jones

Pictures by Paul Haley



ON THE HOTLINE – Maj Gen Tony Mullens, Commander 1st Armoured Division, issues instructions from his field command post. Maj Gen Mullens, 50, was commissioned into the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards in 1956. He took up his command of the 1st Armoured Division in Verden in November last year.

2 RTR so happy with Challenger

MORALE is sky high among the Huntsman Squadron of 2nd Bn Royal Tank Regiment – and team spirit and new equipment go a long way towards explaining it.

Based at Fallingbowl, the regiment are now fully kitted out with the Challenger main battle tank which they were putting through its paces while acting as enemy 'orange' forces during Exercise Eternal Triangle.

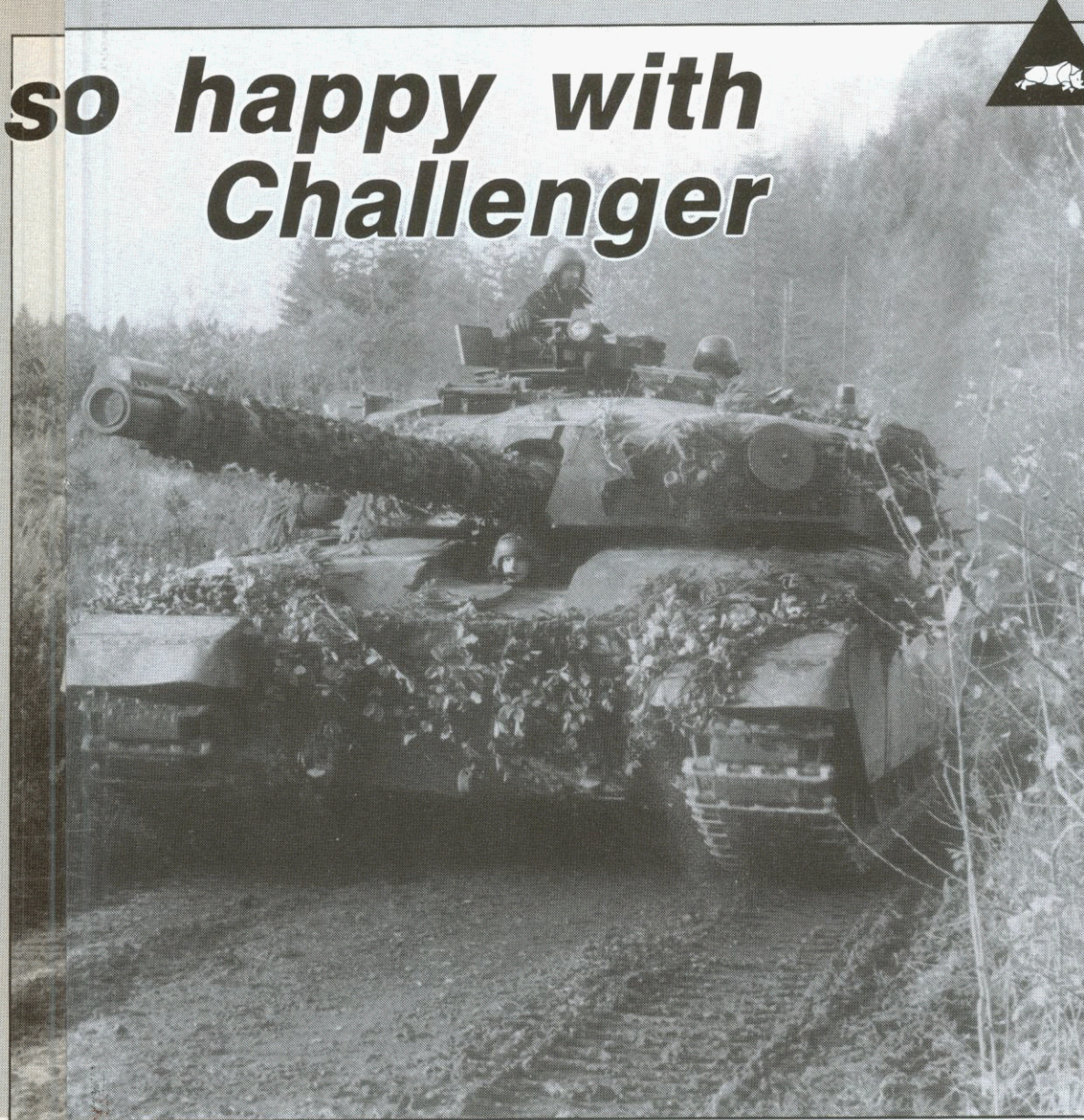
SOLDIER caught up with them in laager where they were replenishing fuel, water and food supplies and snatching half an hour for a wash and shave.

They were making the most of their fortnight on the field and were full of praise for Challenger which the regiment had taken delivery of squadron by squadron over the previous 18 months.

Tpr Lee Mowbray, driver and gunner, said: "Chieftain just does not compare. The speed, manoeuvrability and cross country capabilities of Challenger are fantastic."

Sgt Keith Howland echoed those sentiments and added: "It is very reliable. This squadron has not had a breakdown since we took delivery of Challenger 18 months ago."

"The morale of this squadron is sky high and it really is a good unit to be with. The atmosphere is informal and because it is a London regiment the lads tend to be a bit cheeky."



Psyops team drops its paper bombs

THOUSANDS of leaflets fluttered from the sky in the dead of night to come to rest among the men sleeping beneath tree and hedgerow below.

The leaflets requested anyone who found them – soldiers and civilians – to hand them in to senior officers and police authorities.

Used on each major exercise in Germany, the single-sheet leaflets, embellished on Exercise Eternal Triangle with the rhinoceros divisional sign of the British 1st Armoured Division, had been released by balloons of a German army psychological operations unit.

The balloons, each about 5ft tall, are released down-wind towards target units carrying 2,000 leaflets which are jettisoned by electronic timer. Several balloons can be released at the same time.

Capt Hartmut Nagel of the Bundeswehr Psychologische Verteidigung Bataillon 800 based at Clausthal-Zellerfeld told SOLDIER that the leaflets had been dropped in different locations each night to test their accuracy in hitting a specific target area.

"We are always glad for feedback from the troops but this often takes weeks so we do have our own men out there checking where they have landed," he said.

In wartime the leaflets would carry information designed to demoralise enemy troops, but the psyops units – whose roots date back more than 30 years – have a variety of options open to them to, as Capt Nagel describes it, "lower the enemy's combat morale, change his behaviour and break down his aggression."

"Only true information would be used. In many ways it is a very human way of fighting because you do not have to spill a drop of blood," he said.

The peacetime role of the psyops soldier is varied and most men are specialists in fields such as printing or broadcasting. They are also trained infantrymen.

COMPUTER boffins are delighted at the success of a new micro-chip mobilisation system which in time of war could process reservists and slot them into combat units abroad with a minimum of time and fuss.

The new computer software was put through its paces for the first time at Gamecock Barracks near Nuneaton where more than 300 reservists flooded in from as far as the Hebrides and Guernsey to be allocated to units taking part in Exercise Eternal Triangle.

Gamecock Barracks, home of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery, doubles as 16 Reinforcement Drafting Unit (RDU) and all eyes were on AMOS, the new computer programme designed to cut out the mountains of paperwork encountered during mobilisation of reservists called up for Exercise Lionheart.

The programme, which utilises the PAMPAS compu-

Life's so much easier with AMOS

ter system now widely used by units for documentation and administration, was designed by a team based at Worthy Down, Hampshire.

Comprising Maj Philip

Keating, Maj George Petry and SSgt Mike Hill, all RAPC, and Mr Chris Williams, a computer programmer, the team came up with a package which enables the RDU to check and amend a reservist's personal documentation, to match him to a unit appropriate to his qualifications and trade, to slot him into a draft to BAOR and to provide statistical information about the mobilisation as it progresses.

In an emergency reservists, all ex-Regular soldiers, would be summoned to one of a number of RDUs across the country. Until recently the process had not been tested and when it was it was found to be time consuming and labour intensive.

AMOS was designed to iron out these problems and volunteers were trawled countrywide and asked to assemble at Gamecock Barracks to test the new system.

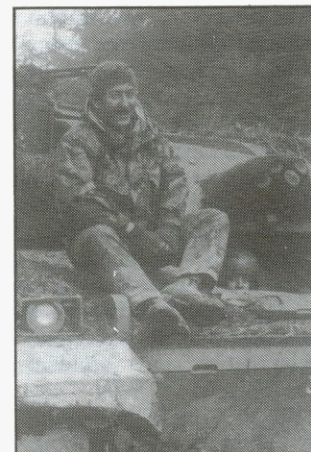
It worked well, taking little more than an hour to log each

new arrival, allocate him to a unit, ensure he was fully kitted out, issue him with a weapon and have him ready to board a bus in readiness for departure to the VC10 waiting at Birmingham airport.

Problems did begin to arise in keeping the men occupied after they had drawn their full complement of kit and been given crash refresher courses in weapon handling, NBC drill and first aid.

The much-hackneyed soldier's refrain of "hurry up and wait" never rang more true and it was to be a complaint heard many times among reservists returning home a week later.

Gunner David Parks told SOLDIER: "This is my second exercise since leaving the Army and they certainly seem to have improved the system. The computer has cut out a lot of the messing around and it went a lot smoother apart from the wait at the end."



LCpl Trevor Newbury

Gnr Parks left 7RHA in 1982 and is now a market trader in Doncaster.

For many it was the first time they had tasted Army life since returning to civilian life and their reasons for returning were many and varied. "I'm looking forward to the break from work and routine," said LCpl Trevor Newbury, a salesman from Chelmsford, Essex, who

rejoined his old unit, 2RTR.

"I wanted to get back and see what had changed," said bearded Tpr Richard Gawin who also managed to get back to his old unit, The Royal Hussars, and who found himself in a Challenger tank instead of a Chieftain.

Speaking on the exercise area, Tpr Gawin told SOLDIER: "I have really enjoyed it and I have bumped into a lot of familiar faces. It helps having a good crew, they have made me feel very welcome." TPR Gawin now works in a genetics laboratory.

Bdr Charles Morgan, until a year ago with 49 Field RA, found himself on an Abbott gun of 1RHA and said he still felt he was a Regular soldier. "I hardly feel I've left the Army, I love it," said Bdr Morgan.

His troop commander, Capt David Thomas, said "Men like Bdr Morgan are good news for us. He is so well trained that he could join us at any time and be

extremely useful. The battery sergeant-major has been pulling his hair out at some of their beards and haircuts though!"

Col Patrick Prior, the London-based head of mobilisation and individual reservists, said: "We are quite happy for them to have beards. It is unfair to expect them to give up a week's holiday and then lose their beards as well, but we have insisted that they remove earrings."

"These reservists have enormous potential. Every one of them has had not less than three years experience and most not less than six. If they come back within five years they return with an almost total knowledge and with a few days training are up to scratch again."

"We hope to identify those areas where we need to review procedures. It is our intention to get reservists on every main exercise from now on," said Col Prior.

You can't be dainty with a 60 ton tank!

THE UNSUNG tacticians during any BAOR exercise are the backroom boys of the Army damage repair organisation whose job it is to be in the right place at the right time to calm tempers, keep roads open and carry out emergency first aid to property.

An unfortunate and unavoidable consequence of exercise activity, particularly in West Germany, is the damage to crops, vehicles, fences, roads and buildings and the often considerable inconvenience caused to the local population.

It is, as one officer put it, impossible to be dainty with a 60 ton tank and things can go awry despite briefings and warnings to participant troops and a careful eye on the weather which if wet can lead to the cancellation or postponement of movements.

Tactics demand certain actions and accidents do happen. Each exercise control has its own network of damage control officers to cope with the deluge of complaints from local people.

Complaints are phoned direct to the exercise control or are relayed by units and civilian police and during Eternal Triangle were averaging 50 a day. All are channelled to the damcon controller who categorises them according to priority.

Priority One complaints are defined as those where if damage is not repaired quickly danger to human life could result such as severe damage to houses and mud on busy roads. Priorities Two and Three vary from incidents of damage causing detours to civilian vehicles to damage to fences and ruts in fields.

Just ask the damage repair people

The damcon desk at exercise control – and the repair organisation to back it up during Eternal Triangle – was manned by 7 Field Squadron, 21 Engineer Regiment based at Nienburg.

The damage controller weighs up the resources available to him, the time it would take to do the job, the distances involved and what else is going on or expected to happen during the exercise.

7 Field Squadron had five Land-Rover teams on hand to go out and confirm the scale and urgency of the incident reported,

and if action was considered necessary a four-tonner crammed with an emergency first aid kit of wood, wire, pickets and the like was despatched to deal with it. Lorries on loan from the RCT were also available full of hardcore for the repair of roads and tracks, and road scrapers and sweepers were borrowed from the Bundeswehr.

Where possible an attempt was made to have these teams placed near where they were most likely to be needed, such as locations involving movement of armour, and helicopters were available to keep an eye on developments and accident black-spots from the air.

Capt Colin Boag, 7 Field Squadron, said: "It is very important that the public see someone actually going round and doing something. We act very much as smoothers over and try to ensure that when military traffic has passed through people see us acting on their complaints."

The complaints are varied and on one occasion 40 tons of hardcore was laid along

more than a kilometre of badly rutted country roads to enable the farmer to drive his harvesting equipment to a crop of sugar beet. The track became known as Sweeny Highway after SSgt Taff Sweeney who, with his men, spent the best part of a weekend repairing it.

Among the more unusual complaints to lace the catalogue of incidents involving muddy roads and broken fences was the report of a dead cow whose demise, its owner insisted, had resulted from the shock of seeing troops digging in around its field.

Maj Ian Daniell, OC 7 Squadron, told SOLDIER: "We are very much the caring face of the Army. This is practical public relations and speed of reaction is important. I fully sympathise with the problems faced by the local people."

"The area was exercised over by the Belgians just a few weeks ago so they are probably not too pleased to see us. It is vital that they recognise that we care."

Mr Les Nicholson and his team from the Hanover-based MoD Claims Organisation were also on hand to accept or deny responsibility for manoeuvres damage and

to hammer out with their counterparts from other participant countries the repair bill for which each nation was liable.

British Forces Germany have just published a leaflet explaining the need for military exercises, their awareness of the problems inherent in such training and the ways in which its adverse effects are minimised. The leaflet also gives a full list of public information and services liaison offices and their telephone numbers and explains how German people can approach the Army with their complaints.

Col Michel Bagniet, Chief of Public Information, British Forces Germany, said: "Complaints are numerous at the moment and increasing. We hope to promote a better awareness among German people as to why these exercises have to take place and why we have to train."

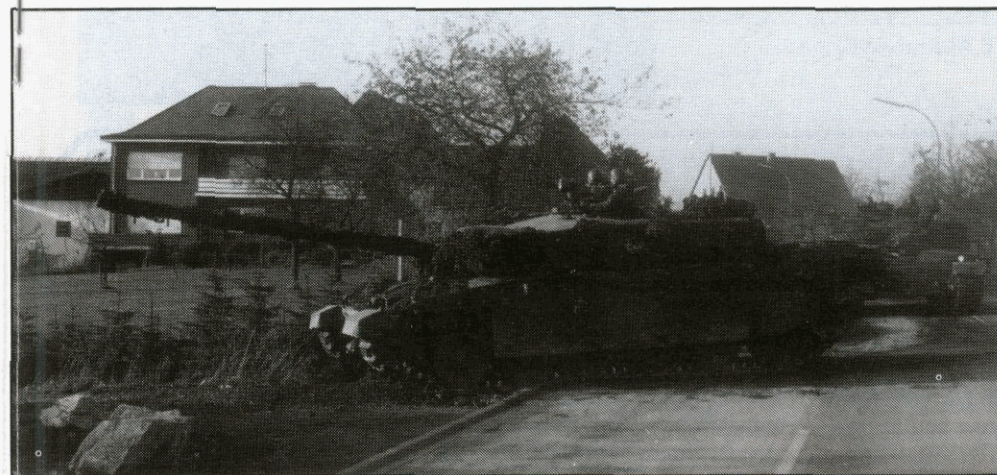
The Army trains in Canada and elsewhere abroad, but increasing pressure is being brought to bear by individuals and organisations such as the environmentalist Green Party to ban exercises in Germany altogether.

German freelance journalist Herr Michael Neumann told SOLDIER: "The older people mostly understand the need for this training but not the younger generation who have forgotten about the last war."

OUCH – A Challenger tank of 2 RTR ploughs its way through a field of winter greens during Exercise Eternal Triangle



STUCK – An AFV 432 (left) of 9 Platoon C Coy 1 Staffs does nothing to improve a boggy country track
CRUNCH – Kerbstones (right) take a battering as a 2 RTR Challenger makes a sharp right turn into the German countryside





TAKE COVER

An Abbot 105mm self propelled gun of D Sub 1 RHA Chestnut Troop finds farm buildings to hide behind during Exercise Eternal Triangle

DON'T BOTHER!

What Chestnut Troop could see was this! "Enemy" infantry moving across their front with scant regard for concealment



What every tank should be wearing

A 2 RTR Challenger awaits the break-out, displaying the very latest in anti-rain accessories. For the cam-conscious fashion admirer, the umbrella was in a suitable shade of forest green



A briefing group in the woods of 2 LI, part of 6 Airmobile Brigade, move forward to a possible contact

Bridge across the Weser

THE Royal Engineers flexed their bridge building skills to the full during Exercise Eternal Triangle, tackling both the fast-flowing River Weser and shallower tributary rivers.

The River Weser posed no problems for Hameln-based 64 Squadron, 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment who drove their M2 bridging and ferrying rigs into the river and linked

them for a dawn crossing by Leopard 2s of the Netherlands 43 Tank Bn.

Elsewhere on the exercise area men of 31 Squadron, 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment, laid down a Number 8 scissor-type bridge in preparation for an armoured advance.

They had been called in by 4 Squadron, 21 Engineer Regiment, who are based at Nienburg

and who had been tasked with the job of bridging the river and calling in whatever was needed to do it. The Number 8 bridge, nearly 30 metres long, is now classed as a type 70 bridge and can carry main battle tanks.

Among the traffic to cross it that morning was a Centurion AVRE with plough and trailer-borne Giant Viper mine-field clearance equipment.



IT'S A TOUGH LIFE

It's the poor b . . . y infantry wot does the work! Soldiers of 2 LI part of 6 Airmobile Brigade, put the miles in (above) on the ground and (left) find Milan a heavy burden to bear



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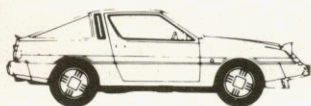
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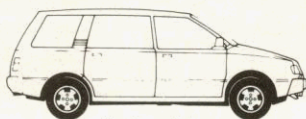
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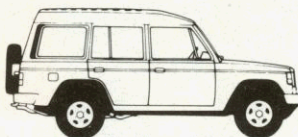
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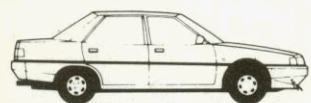
The Starion Turbo



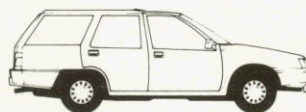
The Space Wagon



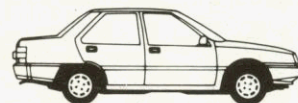
The Shogun 5 door



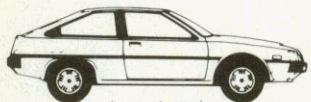
The Galant



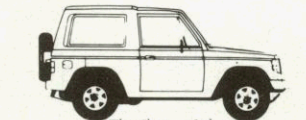
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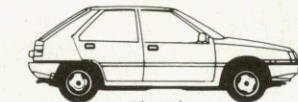
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Looking to an interesting future in Army aviation for 666 Squadron are (left to right) Capt Vic Finch, WO2 Mick Sharp, SSgt John Kendrick and Maj Anthony Stansfeld

Picture: Terry Champion

Treble Six is back in business

BASED in one of the more picturesque cradles of Army aviation and reformed as a unit only this April in Wiltshire, the TA's first ever operational squadron, 666 Squadron, Army Air Corps (V) – "Treble Six" – has already logged nearly 800 hours of flying in support of the Regular Army and TA.

The squadron has a stop-go history dating back to 1945.

Achieving the first of many impending milestones, the Netheravon-based unit, part of 7 Regiment, AAC, of the same address, has to its credit thousands of hours of airborne experience on call. All of them notched up by ex-Army pilots now

Story by
Graham Smith

pursuing successful "civvy street" careers.

Pilots now re-united not only with each other but with the famous light blue beret which they once wore with pride in AAC squadrons round the world.

This exclusive part-time flying coterie includes a farmer, a financier, a freelance radio sports commentator, a business consultant, professional helicopter pilots and a social worker.

The two flight squadron is endowed with a dozen formerly "mothballed" Scout AH

1s which had been put into storage at RNAS Wroughton with the coming into Army service of the Lynx.

Squadron "boss" is Maj Anthony Stansfeld, ex-Army Air Corps with 3,000 hours' experience and now a freelance military consultant to the aviation industry.

His unit is phase two of the TA expansion programme.

As with everything else military, cash was a strict parameter. But Treble Six pulled it off economically with a "mix" of veteran pilots who needed minimum refresher hours; expert groundcrew and

● **Turn to next page**

MOTHBALLED SCOUTS TAKE TO SKIES AGAIN

● From page 34

support staff with recent Army service; and a dozen tried-and-tested "soldier-proof" Scout AH 1s just waiting to take to the skies again.

By next April, the TA's trail-blazing squadron will be fully manned and equipped with Clansman tactical radios on vehicles and in aircraft.

Capt Vic Finch, squadron second-in-command and former WO 1 (ASM) admin

Squadron first formed in 1945 with Auster Vs

THE squadron was first formed as 666 (RCAF) Air OP Squadron on March 5, 1945, at Andover and, equipped with Auster Vs, moved to Holland where it was used as a "cabby" service for the 1st Canadian Army in Holland and Germany until disbandment at Apeldoorn in Holland.

On May 1, 1949, it re-formed as 666 (Scottish) Air OP Sqn RAux AF at Perth flying Auster Vs. With the rest of the RAux AF the squadron was disbanded on March 10, 1957.

On the centralisation of Army aviation in 1969, 8 Flight – on emergency tour in Northern Ireland – was renamed 666 Aviation Sqn, part of 3 Div Aviation Regt, later taking up residence at Topcliffe, Yorkshire, in July 1971 in support of 24 Inf Bde. For nearly six years the squadron stayed as part of 3 Div Avn Regt and then 3 Regt AAC equipped with six Scout and six Sioux helicopters.

In 1976, as 3 Regt prepared to move to BAOR, the squadron was briefly part of 7 Regt, AAC, before it became independent on April 1, 1977, then in support of 5 Field Force.

A general renumbering of AAC squadrons in 1978 meant the squadron assuming the title 655 prior to deployment to Northern Ireland as a resident unit. As part of the phase two enhancements to the TA, the squadron was reformed at Netheravon in April 1 this year as 666 Sqn AAC (V).

officer with the Hong Kong-based 660 Sqn, AAC, has been involved in Army aviation for 25 years and is a firm believer in the merits of the venerable Scout.

Originally of the REME cap badge from his National Service days, he said: "I did the original trials on the Scout with the REME maintenance support team bringing it into Army service. It still gives me the same buzz flying in it as it did 27 years ago."

He said recruiting into the squadron would keep pace with the re-equipment programme. There were, he added, still a dozen junior NCO driver and driver/signaller posts to be filled. Preference would be given to applicants living within a 50-mile radius of Netheravon and with recent Army experience.

"We don't have the training facilities or the time to train a guy straight from civilian life and those ex-Army personnel we do pick are chosen on merit. I think, in terms of timescale, we are going to be up to speed in April," he explained.

"When we started we had to procure everything from a paper clip to the Scouts themselves and although the airframes may be old the latest in helicopter radios are being added. The aircraft are, in fact, continually being up-dated though they will probably never be into the on-board computer range. We could still expect to be flying our Scouts for the next ten years."

In their first major outing since formation last year eight of the Scouts had a busy annual fortnight's camp which involved operating out of RAF Leuchars, Scotland, home of the RAF's interceptor Phantom force. There, they supported an RAF exercise – in NBC kit. One flight alternated with another between Leuchars and mountain flying in western Scotland.

Then they deployed to RAF Shawbury, near Shrewsbury, in support of the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry (DLOY), a TA reserve unit. The RAF station, home of the Service's Central Flying School (Helicopters), was reportedly very impressed with the flying Terriers' airborne capabilities.

Finally, the helicopters were in action at Castlemartin in Pembrokeshire ending a fortnight which had started with three days of BFT, range shooting, NBC, first aid and flying checks.

Plans are going so well that Maj Stansfeld is confident he could, if

BACK IN THE AIR: One of the 666 Squadron's venerable Scout AH 1s takes off at Netheravon, Wilts

required, form a third flight for Treble Six.

All augurs well for the rotary-wing unit at its First World War camp of Netheravon where the great Louis Blériot once set foot.

Currently the squadron has 15 TA pilots, two non-Regular permanent staff – "Nerps" – senior NCO pilots and 25 ground support personnel including two AAC cooks and two REME fitters.

Three of the squadron posts are filled by Regulars – a captain as the second-in-command, a staff sergeant QHI (Qualified Helicopter Pilot) and a corporal technician storeman.

Another non-Regular permanent staff member is the SQMS with stores and equipment responsibilities.

Maintenance support for the Scouts is done under contract with Bristow Helicopters.

Flying expertise in terms of hours and

former AAC service is very high in Treble Six. Top of an unofficial league is Sgt Gerry Sedgwick, a civilian instructor on helicopters at the Middle Wallop Army Air Corps Centre who had flown 7,755 hours by the end of October. The lowest was nearly 1,000 hours by another squadron part-timer.

Treble Six is the first reserve flying unit in the Services since the disbandment of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force in 1957. It is one of the sub-units – three flights and two squadrons – of 7 Regiment, AAC, which is headquartered at the Netheravon site.

Lt Col Colin Sibun, CO of 7 Regt, AAC, said of his newest lodger unit: "It's a tremendous help to have a TA squadron doing so much flying in support of the Regular units in training throughout the UK. The crews are so experienced they have fitted into the exercise pattern with no bother at all. They are a great help to the two resident squadrons here – 658 Sqn

and 2 Flt of AMF (L). They are a great asset to have within the regiment, particularly at weekends relieving the pressure on workloads."

Squadron commander Maj Stansfeld, in the Army Air Corps until about 18 months ago, formerly commanded 657 Sqn on Scouts at Oakington and the latter half of 1982 in the Falklands.

He said: "It was generally thought it would take at least a year from our formation in April for the squadron to become really operational. But we have shown we can do it in half the time. If we get clearance we could raise another flight by the middle of next year."

"Our role is Home Defence throughout the UK and, although a TA unit, we are tasked on the same basis as a regular unit."

"We are one of the very few TA units who actually provide a service in peacetime while training for a war role. For us, it is just not a training job."

Windsurf trio cash in for children

CPL Andy Elliott, one of three Cyprus-based Servicemen to windsurf around the 200 mile coastline of the southern half of the island during the summer, has handed a cheque for £1,500 to the Save the Children Fund.

Andy and Cpl Phil Pett of 259 Signal Squadron, and Flt Lt Chris Jackson of 12 SU RAF, raised £4,000 by completing for the first time by boardsail the trip from Pakhyammos to Kartapinna. The balance of the money was given to a Limassol institute for physically and mentally handicapped children.

★ ★ ★

Soldiers from 259 Sig Sqn based in Episkopi, Cyprus, have also been raising money on land. They ran in relay from Akamas Peninsula to RAF Akrotiri to raise more than £1,100 towards the medical expenses of 14-year-old Evdokia Andreou, a brave island girl who urgently requires surgery for a serious heart condition. Her father works at RAF Akrotiri.

★ ★ ★

Super-fit Aston University student Kevin Gladwin walked from Washington DC to Boston in 12 days to raise nearly £2,500 in sponsorship. Kevin,



KEVIN GLADWIN: long march

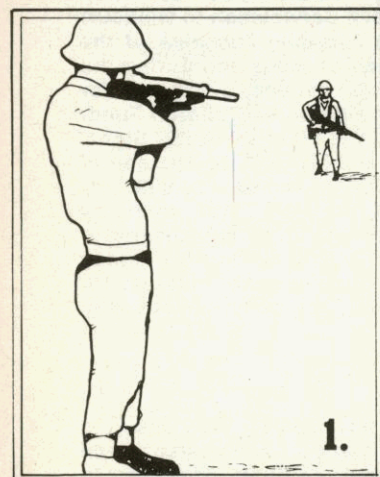
who is in the TA and hopes to become a Regular Army officer soon, collected the money for London Hospital after two close friends became ill with leukaemia.

★ ★ ★

Ten girls serving at the QARANC Training Centre in Aldershot completed a 10k run at Rushmoor Arena to raise £200 for the Save the Children Fund.

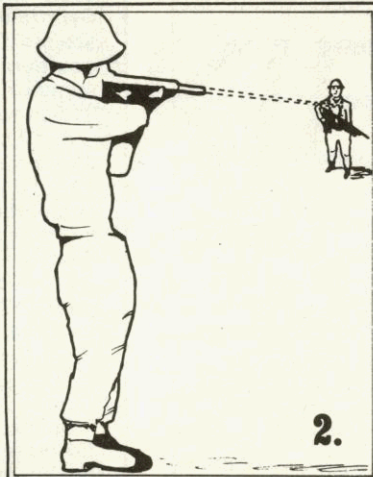
SOLDIERS STAR IN SAWES

HOW IT WORKS



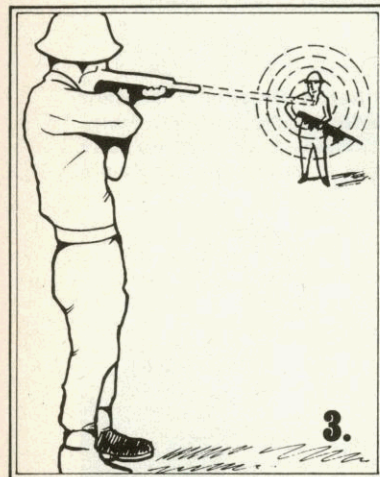
1.

Rifle, equipped with laser projector, is aimed the normal way



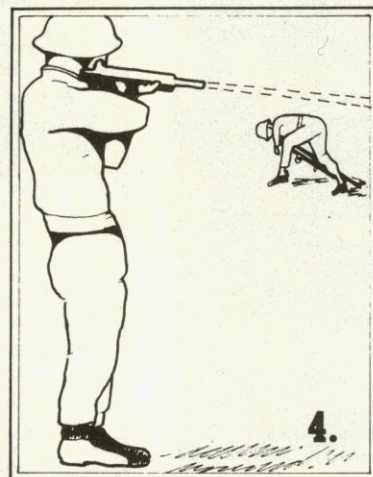
2.

When a blank is fired, the projector gives out a laser beam along the point of aim



3.

A hit! Detectors on the harness pick up the beam and activate an audible signal



4.

A near miss! A brief 'beep' lets the intended victim know someone is trying to kill him

Rfn Warren Davey wearing the SAWES harness. Note the highly sensitive laser receivers which look like studs on the body and helmet webbing



WITH THREE others, and right on cue, Rfn Warren Davey ran down the steep-sided valley for what seemed the umpteenth time towards the waiting camera crew. As fast, that is, as his heavily-laden body would safely allow him.

For Rfn Davey of 2 RGJ, face liberally sullied with "cam cream", and his mates from the Demonstration Battalion based at nearby Warminster, were the unscripted but multi-actioned "stars" of a video due for release early next month.

It is aimed at tutors involved in laser engagement and SAWES - Small Arms Weapons Effects System - in particular. Those two high-tech words "laser engagement" have rapidly become the battlefield training scenario buzz words among the infantry during the past handful of years.

SAWES is just that. Neat harness webbing with integrated octopus-like sucker devices. On closer inspection the suckers turn out to be highly sensitive laser receivers. Half of a packaged partnership for the instructor and trainee completed with a rifle-cum-transmitter.

A foolproof system, it is said, that takes all in-situ argument and varied opinion out of exercise umpiring. An uncontradictable last-word-on-the-matter decision-maker.

This clever device with its audible signal denoting a "kill" or a "near miss" is now known in the FTX trade as the "surrogate bullet".

Down in that lush valley on a remote part of windswept Salisbury Plain West near West Lavington, Rfn Davey and seven colleagues were "shooting" each other and the film for several days.

The final 20-minute colour video will show how instructors can use SAWES to compile multi-scenario exercises.

There are several pools of these revolutionary £2,000-a-piece kits of harnesses and transmitters dotted round the country, mostly in infantry depots and other training organisations.

Sandhurst, for instance, has 160 sets. The UKLF pool has another 200. BAOR has some 300 SAWES combinations. Hong Kong has them. Belize has not. Gibraltar and the Falklands have their stocks. Cyprus will get them.

Many, suspect Army trainers in the corridors of Whitehall, have their SAWES kits lying in stores just gathering dust and little else by way of teaching enhancement.

Two of the more ardent

You've read the book, now see the film!

VIDEO



The video crew go about their business as Capt Tony Harverson (centre) watches and an "actor" runs past

great advantage, the surrogate bullet. We use it at Warminster and it has certainly brought a sharp change in attitude to exercise play. Soldiers take pains to crawl around more now to avoid detection whereas they perhaps, in the past, used to run across or take less evasive actions.

"In addition, the leader is faced with a close simulation of his situation in war."

SAWES is still in its early UK days. The Americans regularly use a system called MILES (Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System).

Relevant Army brigades exercise their use of the system ranged against mock WP motor rifle regiments comprising 165 armoured vehicles such as T-72s, BMPs, ZSU 23/4s and so on.

Maj Hoare, a former US exchange officer and one of the eager proponents of laser engagement and electronic battlefield aids, said: "SAWES sets up a two-sided activity. Any scenario can be used by instructors planning exercises involving its use. The sooner we grasp this nettle at the higher levels of training, the better."

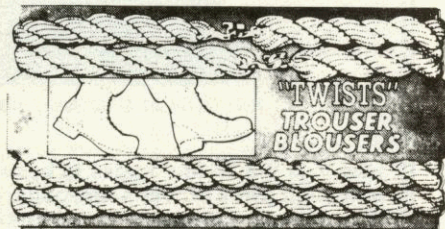
"Today's video is low-level but the scope could be wide for others. Two sets of four men will inevitably meet in this scenario. There will be a fire fight. Exactly the same as in war."

"SAWES really opens up training. No umpires are needed. If they are, they act as observer/controllers actually helping younger soldiers to understand what has just been happening and to reinforce lessons."

Looking to the future, Maj Hoare added: "We have already got Simfics for every tank using laser technology. We have not yet adopted SAWES for use with our tank machine guns. Nor have we procured such a system for anti-tank systems. There is no way we can get deeply involved in comprehensive tactical training until we have a whole 'family' of laser engagement systems. SAWES is just the start from the infantry viewpoint."

So instructors, wherever you are, you've presumably read the book - the manuals - now see the film! It should be available for distribution, it is understood, on request early in the New Year.

**Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Terry Champion**



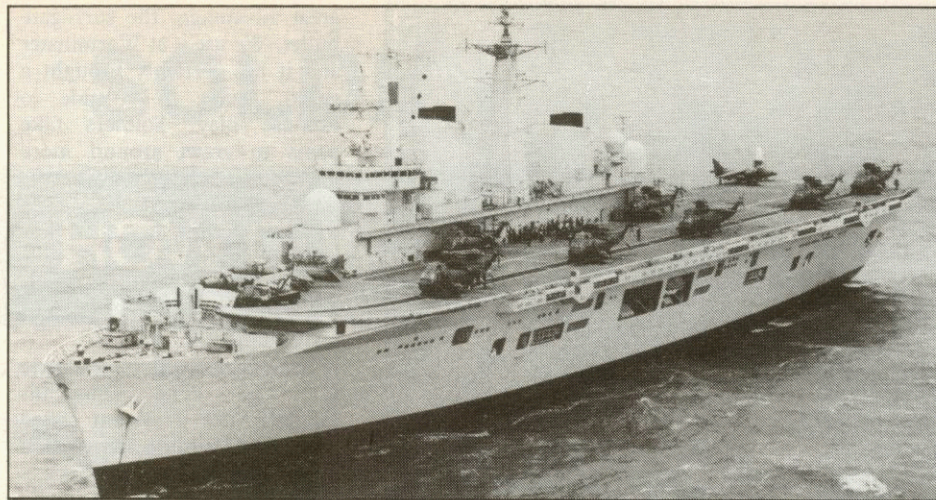
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SWIFT SWORD

● From Page 9

the exercise explained: "I wanted them to practise what they cannot do in the UK. Four days is never really enough but we had the opportunity to feel its effects before moving up."

"Swift Sword was a flea market of opportunity to see what they could do." Some 500 men of 2 Para were involved in the air-drop insertion sequence.

The Royal Navy contribution comprises eight vessels and 2,500 men from the returning global force which has been on a sales drive. The RAF involvement with 675 men was six Tornados, 11 Hercules, three TriStars and three VC 10s. The Royal Marines had 350 men.

On the initial deployment, the RAF's transport aircraft flew 62 sorties carrying some 2,000 personnel, 83 vehicles and trailers and 237 tons of freight. The recovery phase was planned for 56 sorties.

The Omani experience follows the events in the Falklands' Operation Corporate. Chiefs of Staff had subsequently decided that a Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) would normally be established at two- or three-star level to take charge of future Out of Area operations.

Although the JFHQ is not permanently established in peacetime, there is a 16-member tri-Service organisation called the Permanent Planning Group based at Aldershot, whose main task in peacetime is to develop the JFHQ concept.

Exercise Swift Sword is an overall JFHQ exercise programme and is the first

time since the Falklands that a joint force of its size - 4,775 Servicemen - has taken part in a live exercise outside the Nato area.

It is also the first time the UK has exercised forces on this scale in an integrated way with host forces and the first activation of a tri-Service HQ both in the UK and in-theatre during a live exercise.

Aim of the exercise, with an 11-day main phase, was to demonstrate Britain's capability for rapid strategic development Out of Area as well as practising the combined operations such as the para drop insertion, an amphibious landing by 350 men of 40 Commando, Royal Marines and a finale of a brigade attack.

Swift Sword followed Exercise Purple Victory, the first training exercise for the new two-star JHQ, which was held in the north of England exactly a year ago. The theme, then, was the practice of the ability to help in the "evacuation of British nationals."

Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Harding, AOC-in-C, RAF Strike Command and Swift Sword's exercise director said: "This exercise was built round a training scenario and not a political one. It is one of a planned series of OOA operations. We cannot just confine ourselves to Nato."

He said Oman was suitable for the location of Swift Sword because exercise planners were looking for a distance that could be achieved in "one hop". They could also exercise air-to-air refuelling of aircraft and take advantage of the terrain.

He added: "The Omanis were most kind in offering us many facilities and, particularly, we wanted to combine with them and get some training in."

The exercise scenario was built round a desert campaign near the area of Ra's al Hadd.

BOOKS

LEGACY TRAGIC

IVOR GURNEY volunteered to serve his country in the First World War, but longed for his return home. "I am still all in one piece" he wrote from the trenches in France, "but a bored, humiliated, altogether fed up piece of humanity."

He saw in the Army his chance to gain strength to improve his mental health, but after he was demobbed having been gassed during the horrors of Passchendaele Ridge, he was admitted to a mental hospital in 1922 and died there in 1937.

He left behind him not only hundreds of poems and songs which have been published, but

OF A POET

also a collection of letters which record the warmth of his friendship with the Chapman family, with whom he enjoyed pre-war weekends, and with whom he corresponded throughout the war.

The letters have now been published, the letters of a tragic talented man who enjoyed his friends. They make a sensitive friendly volume. - AT

● **Stars in a Dark Night, the letters of Ivor Gurney to the Chapman Family**, discovered by Anthony Boden. Published by Alan Sutton Publishing Ltd. Price £9.95.

In brief

Attack on the Somme, by Edward G D Liveing. The author's account of July 1, 1916, the day on which 60,000 British soldiers were killed or wounded. Lt Liveing was a platoon commander at Gommecourt and was wounded in the thigh and back. First published in 1917. Reissued by Spa Books Ltd. Price £5.95.

War Annual 1, by John Laffin. A run-down on all the wars that were being fought during 1985/86 - 32 of them! A new annual series from Brassey's Defence Publishers. Price £8.95 paperback, £15 hardback.

● **Men at Arnhem**, by Geoffrey Powell. Reissue in the *Echoes of War* series of a company commander's account of Arnhem. Published by Buchan and Enright. Price £5.95.

Great Battles of World War II, by John Macdonald. Seventeen encounters of the war described using "the most advanced computer graphics". Published by Michael Joseph Ltd. Price £19.95.

Operation Tombola, by Roy Farran. The SAS are dropped by parachute into the Northern Apennines in Operation Tombola, to join forces with Italian partisans and attack the Germans behind their lines. Reissue by Arms and Armour Press in the *Special Forces Library* series. Price £10.95.

RECORD REVIEWS - Rodney Bashford

A delightful offering from Welsh Guards



GILBERT AND SULLIVAN With Band and Voice
Band of the Welsh Guards
London Concert Artists
Conductor: Maj D N Taylor
Bandleader BND 1024

HERE, as I say on the sleeve notes of this disc, is music for your delight. The record is the swan-song of Major Derek Taylor before he retired from the Army and emigrated with his wife, one of the sopranos performing here, to musical activity in Australia.

Derek Taylor is well known to record buyers for several recordings which he made with the Welsh Guards and various Welsh choirs. Mrs Taylor is

professionally Margaret Eales, one of the eight singers comprising the London Concert Artists.

The same combination also made the attractive *Christmas with the Welsh Guards*.

The music of Sir Arthur Sullivan is associated in some people's minds, sadly for him, with wobbly cornet players on pier-head bandstands giving forth to risible effect. Here the band accompanies the singers in restrained and highly musical fashion in 17 marvellous extracts from *The Gondoliers*, *Ruddigore*, *The Yeomen of the Guard*, *HMS Pinafore*, *Patience*, and *Princess Ida*.

The band has a couple of items to itself, and there are solos, duets, quartets and choruses, some of which will be very pleasant surprises from the less well known operas, especially *Ruddigore*, a title which offended Victorian susceptibilities when it was first produced.

Died-in-the-wool Savoyards will find nothing here to offend their ears, and all listeners should find much to give them pleasure. Fine singing, fine playing, and a programme put together *con amore* by all concerned.

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El Capitán is dismembered to good effect



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Unfortunately in this otherwise excellent programme one is seldom aware that strings are playing, and even in the title tune, *Marching Strings*, the immediacy we have come to expect at the beginning of Top Of The Form (its signature tune) is somewhat lacking.

Perhaps a less martial prog-

ramme would, on this rare occasion of recording the orchestra, have been more rewarding.

As it is we have the title to justify, so after the *RA Slow March* (an opportunity for lush strings if ever there was), follow *The Stars and Stripes for Ever*, a nicely atmospheric arrangement of *Skye Boat Song* by David Redston, the theme from *Knot's Landing*, and an absolute wow of a version of Sousa's *El Capitán* by Robert Ely.

The good captain is completely dismembered and reassembled with great ingenuity to completely joyous effect; even disgusts should be won over this time.

Victor Herbert's *March of the Toys* from the old film "Babes in Toyland" has not had the recognition in Britain that it deserves and is here given a very welcome and convincing performance, full of wonderful effects and glorious melodies, whereas *Seventy-Six Trom-*

bones, a much less deserving tune, has been over exposed. In an arrangement by Robert Farnon, however, it comes up again fairly fresh.

Another Sousa march *Semper Fidelis*, Ron Goodwin's theme from the film *The Trap*, Halvorsen's classic *Entry of the Boyards*, a medley of *Marching Folk* tunes, and a Cy Payne march *The Allies* keep the marching theme going well, while the Beatles tune *Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da* receives the Cy Payne treatment to symphonic effect.

The final grand march *The Winged Dagger* by Louise Denney is a very masculine and virile work if the composer is indeed a lady; quite fortuitously I'm sure, it has melodic and rhythmic overtones from *March of the Toys*.

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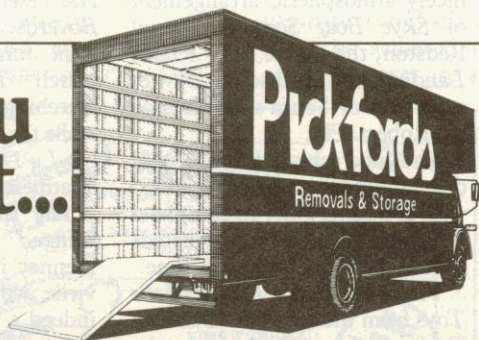
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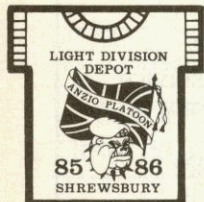
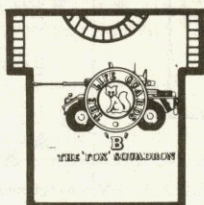
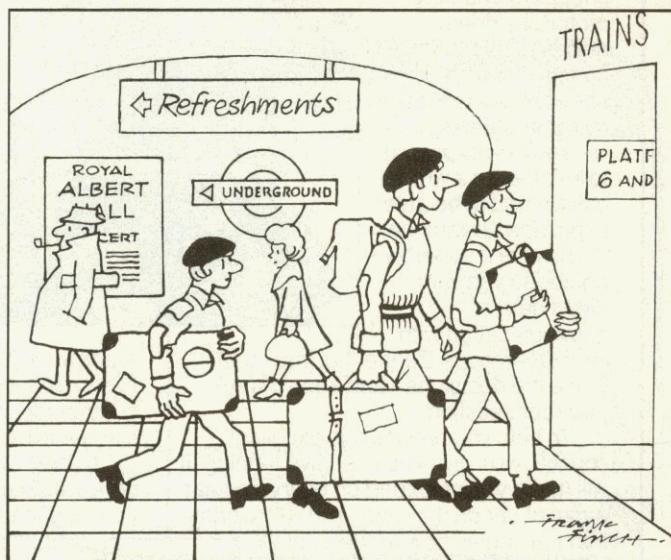
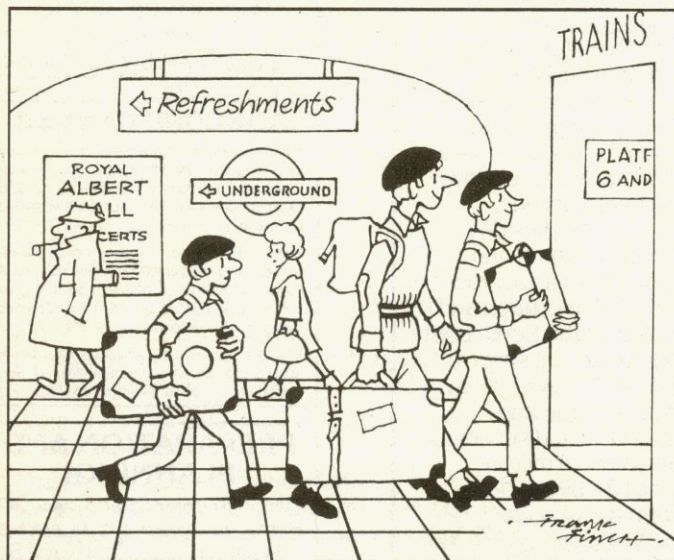
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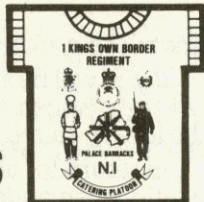
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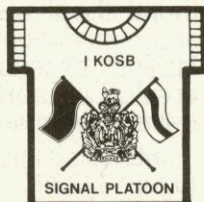
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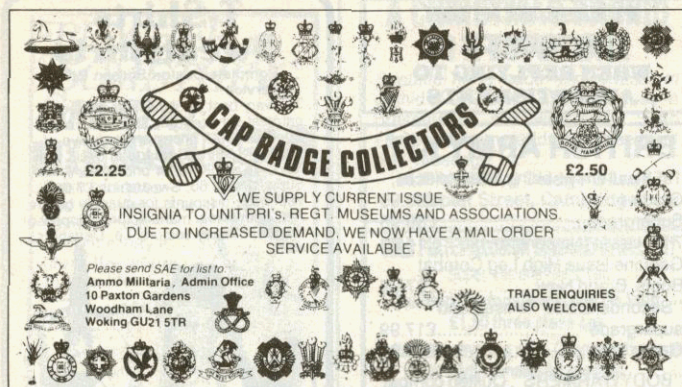
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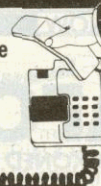
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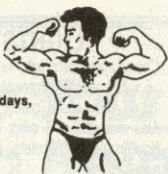
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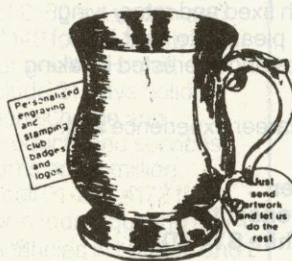


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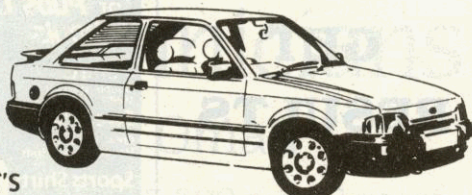
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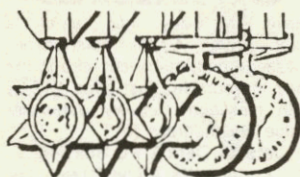


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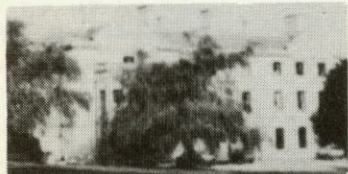
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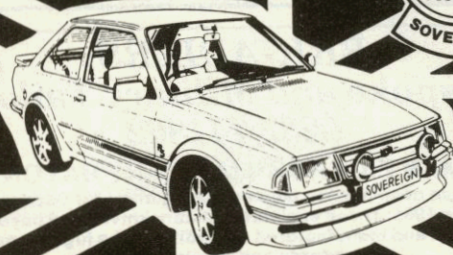
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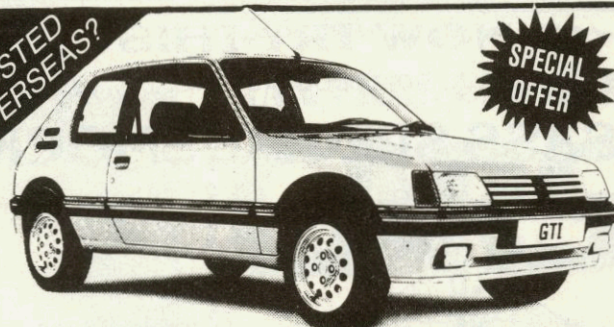
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Green Jackets win national titles

TWO riflemen serving with the 2nd Bn The Royal Green Jackets based at Warminster, Wilts, have become national champions in their own martial art disciplines.

At 18, Rfn Mark Jones is one of the youngest open champions in the country following his success in the UK Shukokai karate championships at the Birmingham Leisure Centre.

He won the middleweight division

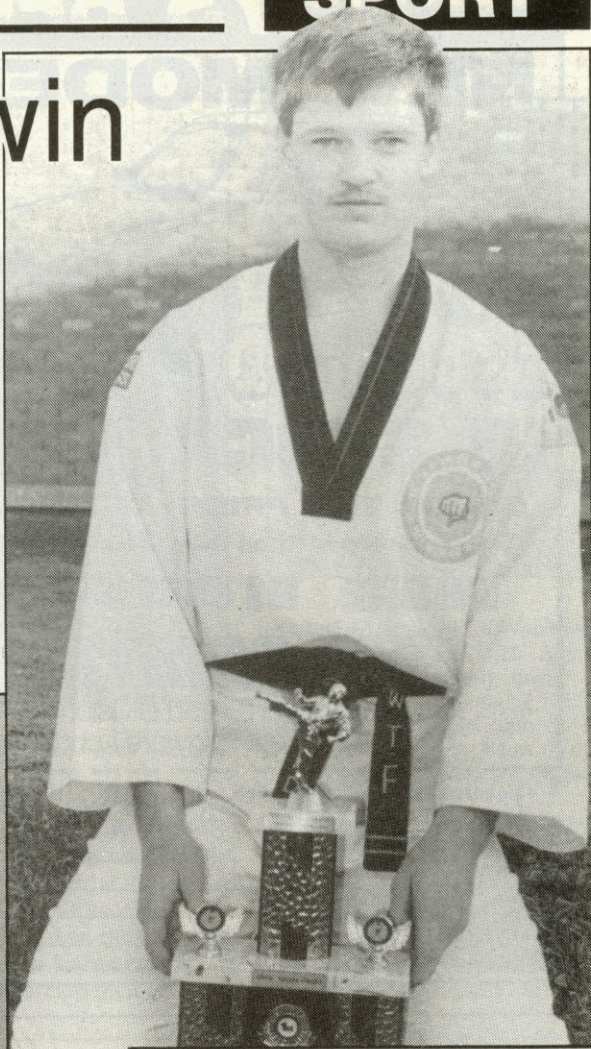
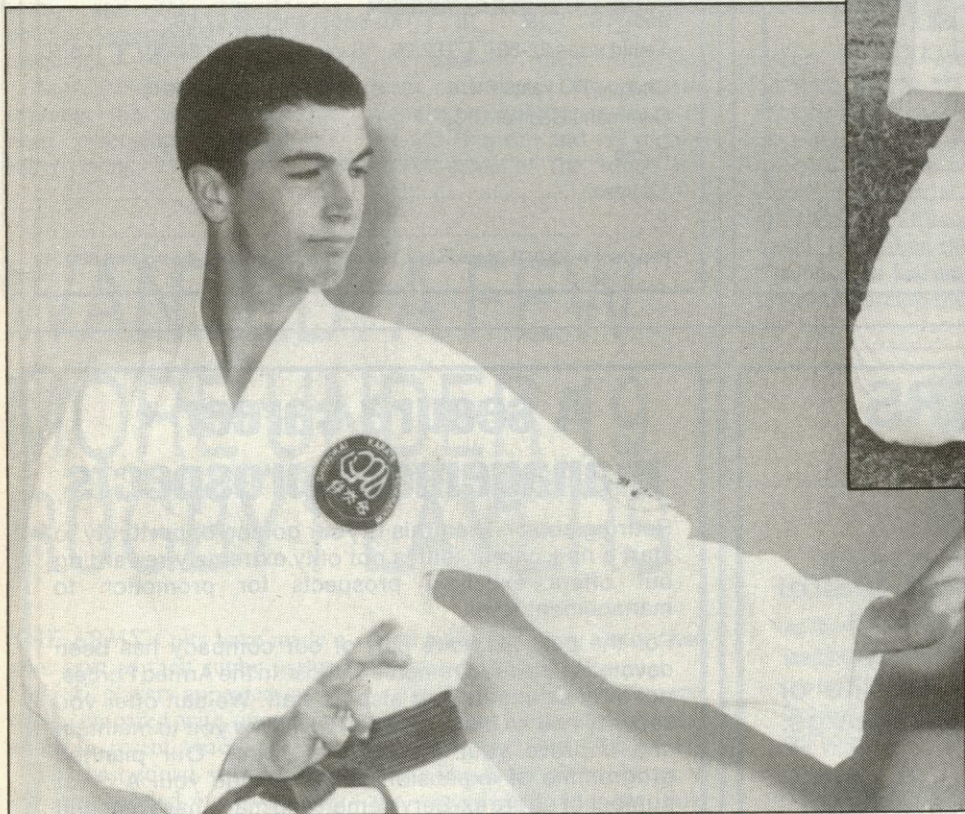
and is now aiming for a place in the national squad to represent Great Britain in the European championships.

The battalion's other national champion is 21-year-old Rfn David Jordan, who won the British Tae-kwon-do open championships at the Preston Guildhall.

David's other titles include two British championships.

David Jordan

Mark Jones



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MEMBERS of Exercise Monte Bianco near the summit of the highest mountain in the Alps during the climax to the annual adventurous training exercise which begins in North Wales and ends in the Italian Alps.

Twenty-four British soldiers took part with considerable assistance and support from the Scuola Militare Alpina (SMALP). Exped leader was Capt Martin Bazire RAOC from 9 Ordnance Battalion, based at Corsham, Wilts.

Before travelling to Italy, the team spent three weeks at the Capel Curig Training Camp in Snowdonia, North Wales. Would-be climbers who wish to be considered for next year's expedition should look out for a forthcoming DCI.



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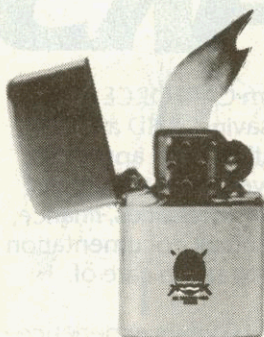
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Hamelin sappers get their skis on

FOR THE past few weeks the people of Hamelin, West Germany, have been treated to the sight of cross-country skiers from 35 Engineer Regiment as they start their ski training for this season's competitions.

35 Engineer Regiment are fortunate in having the services of SSgt Graeme Ferguson, a former Olympic skier, and Sgt George Cowie, trainer of the British National Biathlon B team, and the squad has benefited enormously from their coaching.

As well as running and weight training, this year's squad has been practising shooting and roller-skiing.



Thanks to their roller-skis team members can practise Langlauf techniques on the roads around Hamelin and the picture shows some of the squad out

training in the area around Holtensen ranges.

The regiment hopes to provide fierce competition at the 4th Armoured Division ski meet in January, and later at the Army National championships in Zwiesel. Until then the team will be going on a training camp in Norway to develop their skills on snow.

Marathon man



ON THE RUN: Sig Nick Wood of J Troop, 2 Squadron, 21 Signal Regiment (Air Support), based at Osnabruck, West Germany, had a convenient runway to train on in preparation for the New York marathon, the world's biggest marathon event.

The regiment has its headquarters at RAF Wildenrath and is the only one within the Royal Signals under the operational command of the Commander-in-Chief RAF Germany. Nick's unit provides communications for the RAF Support Helicopter Force based at RAF Gutersloh.

WANTED: A FEW MORE UNDER 19 RUGBY PLAYERS

THE ARMY Colts have made a poor start to their rugby season. Only 41 players appeared at the trials compared with an average of 60 in recent years.

The best squad selected from the trials turned out to be very young with two thirds of them eligible to be Colts again next season, which augurs well for the future. More players have been found since the trials but there is still a need to identify mature players of quality.

They need to be under 19 on January 1 1987 and chairman of Army Colts, Lt Col Peter Salisbury, will be pleased to hear about any such players on Porton CDE Ext 300.

The Colts' first match against Winchester resulted in a narrow 6-7 defeat. The Army's points were scored by JSpr David Robinson (Junior Leaders Regiment RE) who kicked two penalties and also hit the post with a 45 yard penalty in the closing minutes which would

have given the Army victory had it gone over.

The Army's second fixture was against Hampshire who, playing with the wind, led 18-0 at half time. The Army played better in the second half and the final score was 18-3 with Pte Chris Rhodes, who played well at outside half, kicking a penalty.

An extremely competent Northampton Youth side proved far too good although the Army pack, with five 17 year olds in it, held their own, Cfn David Parker of SEME Bordon doing particularly well at lock. Cfn Jonathan Murley, PMC Arborfield, also played well at flanker scoring one of two very good tries.

The other was scored by Cfn Simon Peart, 22 Engineer Regiment, who was the pick of the backs on the wing. Poor tackling, however, let in a flood of tries from Northampton's impressive backs and they finished easy 49-8 winners.



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Cpl Kevin Parkins (RCT) leaves two Southampton FC players in his wake as he sets up another Combined Services move during their 2-1 victory over the Saints at the Military Stadium, Aldershot

Picture: Terry Champion

Challenge Cup (UK) results

THE Army Challenge Cup (UK) football competition has now reached its third round.

Results so far in earlier rounds include the following:

First round

Life Guards, Windsor 0, 1 Irish Guards, Chelsea 2; 42 Svy Eng Gp, Hermitage 5, Household Cavalry Regt, Knightsbridge 2; RAMC Trg Gp, Ash Vale 2, 5 AB Log Bn, Aldershot 1; 2 Scots Guards, Hounslow 1, 1/3 TRRE, Blackwater 4; 5 RIDG, Tidworth 2, 1 DWR, Bulford 4. 30 Signal Regt, Blandford 4, 22 Engr Regt, Perham Down 2; 1 WFR, Long Stanton 3, 39 Engr Regt, Waterbeach 1; 15 Bn RAOC, Donnington w/o, HQ Engr Resources, Long Marston.

CAD Kineton, Temple Herdewycke 6, NTW, Brecon 3; 27 Fd Regt RA, Thirsk 1, 2 Inf Div Tpt Regt, Catterick 0; 2 Inf Div Sig Regt, York 3, 16 AD Regt RA, Kirton Lindsay 2; 3 LI, BFPO 804 8, 1 KOB, BFPO 806 4.

2 UDR, BFPO 803 2, 1 PWO, BFPO 805 1; 33(Ind) Fd Sqn RE, BFPO 808 w/o, 11 UDR, BFPO 809; 7/10 UDR, BFPO 801 5, 1 R Anglian, BFPO 807 2.

Second round (to date)

School of Signals, Blandford 2, 2 RGJ, Warminster 3; Army, Hereford 12, RSA, Larkhill 0; 2 RRF, Catterick 2, 8 Sig Regt, Catterick 6.

Army in control against Cambridge

TWO first half goals were enough to give an Army B side a good win over an enthusiastic Cambridge University team, writes Pat Massey.

Played in heavy rain throughout, the Army set the pace for most of the game and were always just too good for their visitors.

The Army took the lead after 17 minutes when a free kick by LCpl Jock Reid, A & SH, was headed backwards by Sgt Dossor Fountaine, REME, and the ball skidded past the startled university 'keeper.

Ten minutes later, from another free kick, the ball was lobbed into the penalty area where Cpl Adrian Stead, DWR, collected it, turned, dropped his marker and shot home.

For a short period after the restart, the students came back into the game and almost grabbed a brace of goals. Having survived this, the Army took command again and ran out comfortable winners.

The Combined Services' annual tilt with a Southampton XI at Aldershot was a keenly contested affair which was only decided in the last minute of the match. A free kick on the Services' right was lofted to the back of the penalty area by Sgt Tiv Lowe, RM. Peter Spargo rose to nod the ball back to his 'keeper but dropped it wide of him and it rolled into the net just inside the upright to give Services a 2-1 victory.

Against the run of play in the first half, Saints took the lead.

Sylvanus Okpala's shot from 20 yards out looked to present little danger to Cpl Chris Lomas, Army, in the Services' goal. The ball squirmed from his clutches and Craig Maskell, following up, slotted it home.

After the interval break, the home side had the better of the exchanges and only some fine goalkeeping by Granger kept them out. In the 53rd minute, following a succession of corner kicks, Marine 'Shiner' Wright headed a fine equaliser past the agile Granger.

Just when it looked as though the Saints would get away with sharing the spoils, luck deserted them, and an own-goal gave the Combined side the win their second half performance merited.

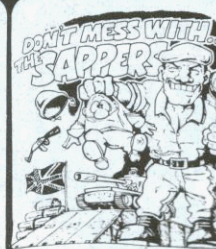
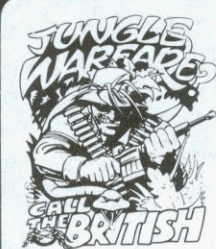
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An infantryman from 2 LI, part of 6 Airmobile Brigade, moves under fire during contact with "enemy" forces in woods at Willebadessen, near Paderborn, West Germany, during Exercise Eternal Triangle. See report and more pictures, pages 25 to 31.
Picture: Paul Haley