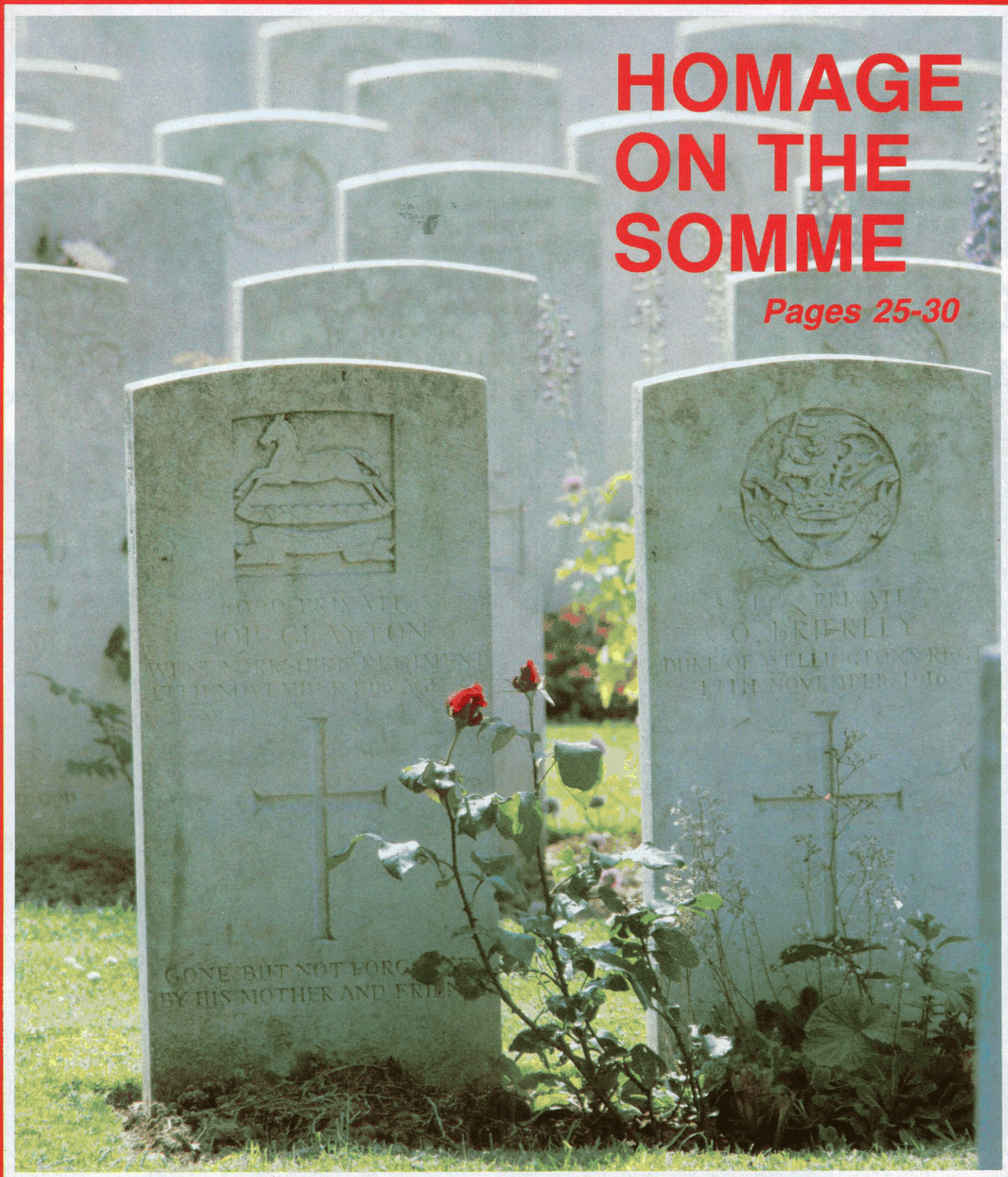


THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 35 PENCE • 28 JULY 1986

# SOLDIER

## HOMAGE ON THE SOMME

*Pages 25-30*







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**28 JULY 1986**

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**FRONT COVER —** The headstones tell their own story. These are at Warlencourt Halt near Bapaume where the Somme offensive ended in November 1916. Veterans of the Somme returned to the battlefields on July 1. See Pages 25 to 30.

**Picture: Paul Haley**

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# SOLDIER

**INCORPORATING**  
**THE TERRITORIAL ARMY MAGAZINE**

## FACES TO THE WALL



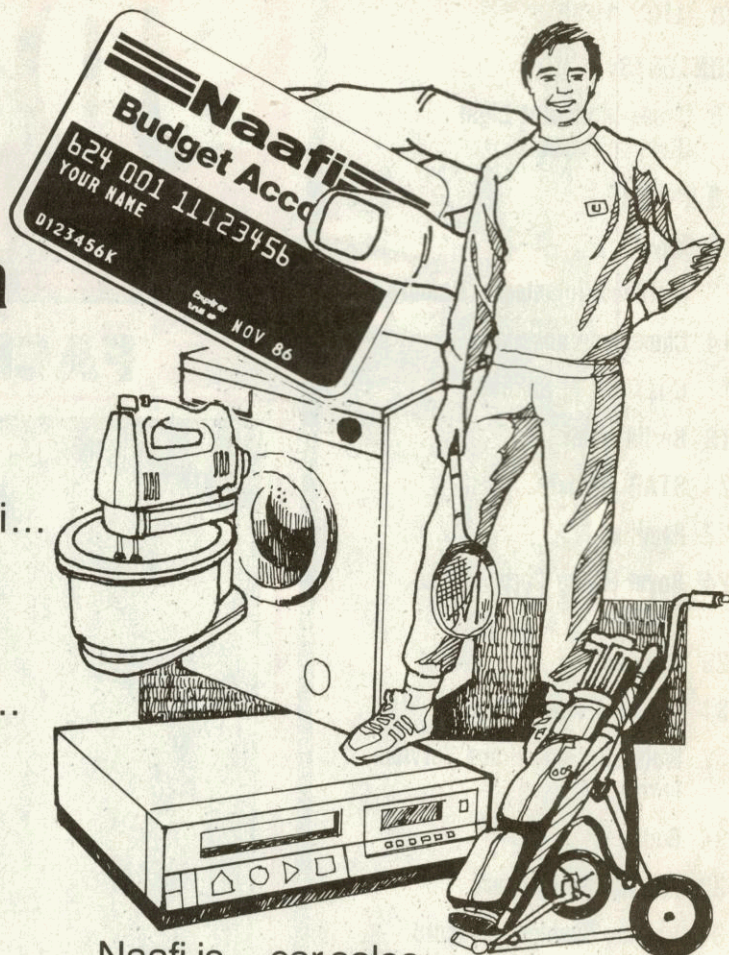
A stark history lesson for two youngsters in West Berlin who peer through a gap in the barricade, originally put up overnight, on August 13, 1961. Writer Graham Smith and photographer Paul Haley recently visited the divided city to trace the history of The Wall from its first breeze block and barbed wire to today's "Fourth Generation" build. Report and pictures will appear in the next issue.



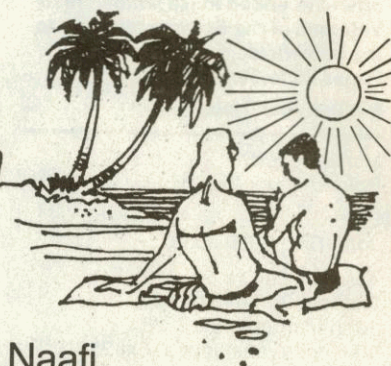
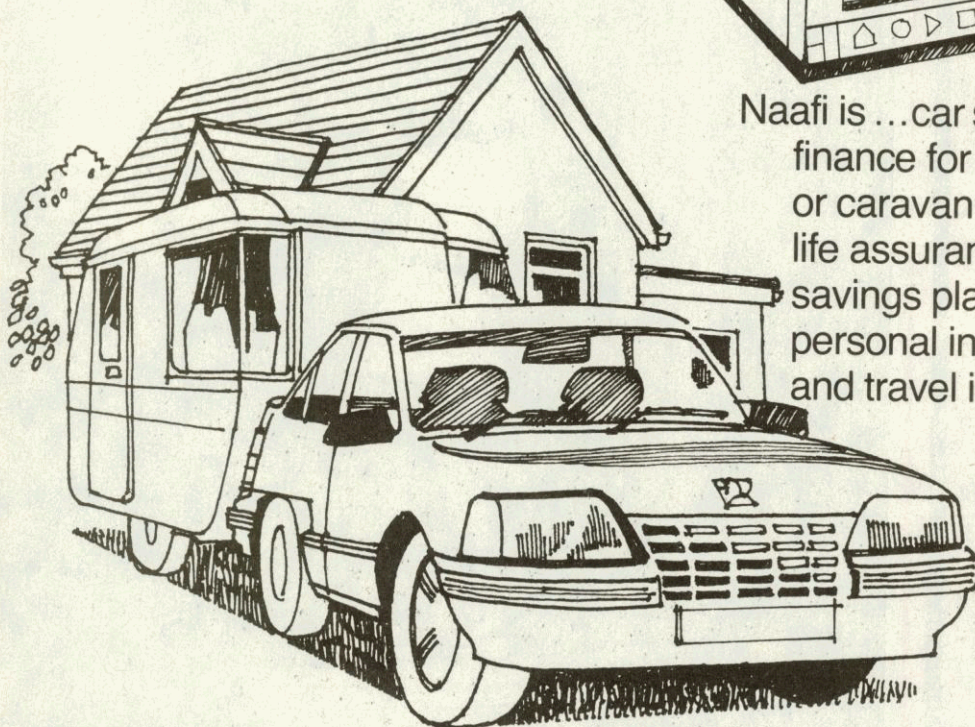
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# Light Division's Royal day

THE QUEEN MOTHER, as Colonel-in-Chief of The Light Infantry, attended the last pass out parade of Junior Soldiers at The Light Division Depot, Shrewsbury.

Her arrival at Sir John Moore Barracks was heralded by a fanfare of bugles and the Royal Standard was broken over the keep for the third time in the 105-year history of the barracks.

Her Majesty was welcomed by the Colonel of The Light Infantry, Maj Gen Barry Lane and she then inspected the five platoons of Junior Soldiers, the last to pass out from Shrewsbury before amalgamation with The Light Division Depot, Winchester.

The new £20 million training depot for The Light Division at Winchester will be named Sir John Moore Barracks and the Shrewsbury Depot will revert to its old name of Copthorne Barracks, housing HQ Western District, HQ 143 Brigade, the newly forming X Company, 5th Bn Light Infantry, TA, and various support units.

The Queen Mother, who has been Colonel in Chief of The Light Infantry for 59 years, inspected 1,500 members of The Light Infantry Association. The Old Comrades, with medals gleaming in the sunshine, some with walking sticks and a few in wheelchairs, marched past in county groups, representing Durham (DLI), Yorkshire (KOYLI), Shropshire and Herefordshire (KSLI), Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire (Ox and Bucks LI) and Somerset and Cornwall (SCLI).

Among the veterans of many wars, she spoke to Capt Richard Annand (retd) who received the first VC awarded to the Army in the Second World War, when he was a second lieutenant in the 2nd Battalion, Durham Light Infantry in 1940.

Also on parade was Sgt George Eardley, VC, MM, who won his VC with the KSLI in 1944, when single handed, he stormed enemy machine gun posts which were holding up the Allied advance into Hitler's Third Reich.

The Queen Mother talks to her housekeeper at Balmoral Castle by radio telephone provided by 5th Bn The Light Infantry (TA) at Sir John Moore Barracks, Shrewsbury

Story: Peter Hicks

Pictures: Peter Griffiths



The Queen Mother, accompanied by Maj Gen Barry Lane, Colonel of The Light Infantry, talks to Cpl Philip James's wife and children during her visit to The Light Division Depot

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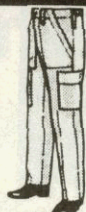
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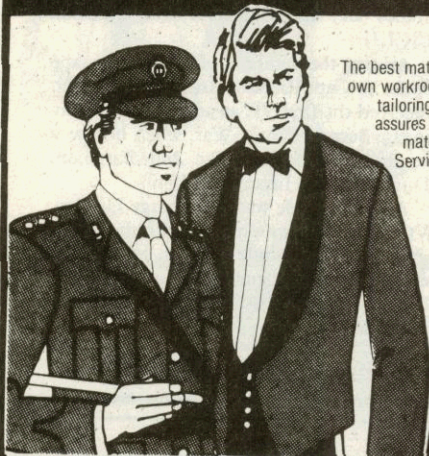
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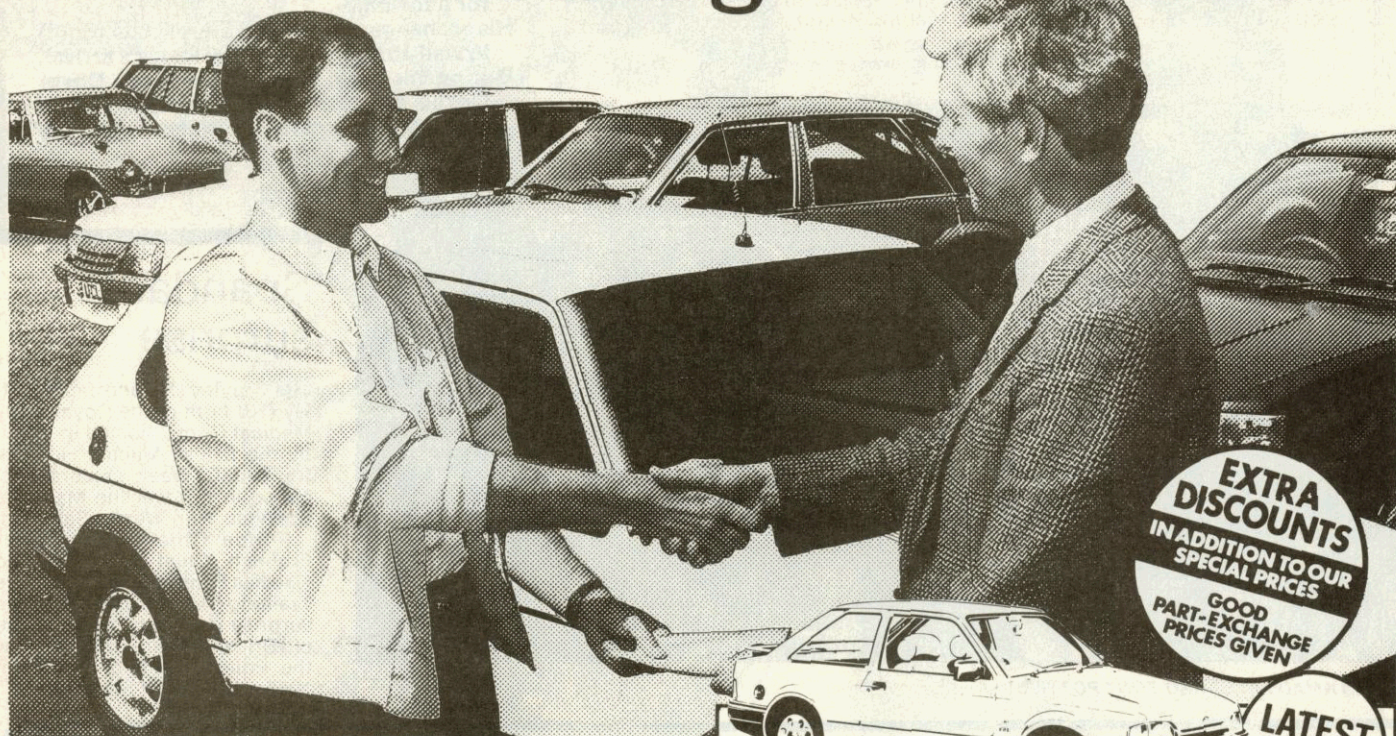
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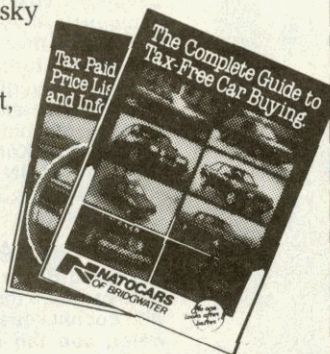
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# TITFER TAT!



**MAJORS AMAD FAYEZE AND TONY POTTER:** Irish welcome at Dover

THEIR headgear might be worlds apart, but there was no doubting the warmth of the welcome accorded to Maj Amad Fayeze of the Jordanian Army when he joined 2nd Bn The Royal Irish Rangers in Dover for a fortnight.

His exchange allowed Maj Tony Potter (right) to visit Jordan prior to Maj Fayeze's arrival. During his stay, Maj Fayeze visited Dover Castle, called on the Mayor of Dover, and went on exercise in Wales with the Rangers.

## Spandau surprise

JIM Grayley (77) and Jim Priestley (73) both of the Royal Army Medical Corps, hosted in Berlin by the British Military Hospital for RAMC Week celebrations, called in to meet the Mayor of Spandau, Herr Werner Salomon.

Police Chief Herr Werner Frohlich Chief took the two Chelsea Pensioners to the Police Training Centre in Spandau for a surprise visit. Jim served in the old British Military Hospital, now the Police Training Centre, in 1955 as the Chief Steward.

## Board bed costs bikeman Bob £600

WHEN 56-year-old Cockney charity cyclist Bob Gluck suffered severe back pains while pedalling through Hamelin, West Germany, 35 Engineer Regiment RE swiftly stepped in to help.

In no time at all, Bob had been examined by a doctor, advised to rest, and consigned to a hard board bed at the regiment's base in Gordon Barracks, Hamelin.

As a gesture of thanks, Bob presented his special £600 racing bike and a badge-covered track suit to British Forces Germany Hearing Aid Appeal Fund.

The back pains, legacy of an accident last year, struck Bob down while he was attempting to cycle through 25 European cities to raise money for charity.

So far he's pedalled about one million miles and earned nearly £1.75 million for good causes.

## Pip's a Fellow!

COLONEL Pip Newton will have to have his notepaper changed. He has just been elected a Fellow of the Museums Association, which



**Colonel Pip Newton**

means he is entitled to append the letters FMA to his name.

It is the first time an ex-regular officer has been so honoured by the association.

Pip is secretary of the Army Museums Ogilby Trust and has served on the council of the Museums Association since 1982.



**CAPTAINS DYSON AND FRANCE:** cease fire line run

## Buffer zone athletes run up £1,000 aid

**CAPTAINS Ian France RAOC and Howard Dyson LG,** found an unusual way to raise £1,000 for charity — by running the 275k-long communication track in the buffer zone between Greek and Turkish cease fire lines in Cyprus.

Starting at the Austrian OP on the coast south of Famagusta, they ran more than a marathon a day for five days through the Austrian, Swedish, Canadian, British and Danish sectors, finishing on the north coast at Kato Pyrgos.

Ian is 2ic UN Flt AAC and Howard is 2ic Force Scout Car Sqn.

### SUN TAN

A Land-Rover support team provided the runners with copious quantities of water, sun tan lotion — temperatures reached 35 degrees C — and a pistol to warn off marauding packs of Bondu dogs!

The money they raised is being distributed between charities nominated by the sectors and one each from the Greek and Turkish communities.

## Claire calls for help

YOUNG Claire Armstrong, great grand-daughter of the late Sgt Robert Bye VC, who won his medal in 1917 while serving with The Welsh Guards, wants some help.

Thirteen-year-old Claire is looking for a colour photograph of a Welsh Guardsman in uniform and wearing a bearskin.

Claire has built up an exhibition of photographs and stories about her illustrious great grandfather, who twice stormed German blockhouses during the battle of Ypres.

In all he killed, wounded or captured more than 70 enemy soldiers.



## Queen's wives in jungle jape

THE 'anything you can do I can do better' bit came into play when six Service wives and the matron from the Force hospital, Belize, spent two days and nights in the jungle.

They just wanted to find out what it was really like, said Lt Ian Huntley of 3 Queen's, who hosted the two-day jape into the unknown.

To make it interesting Ian arranged a sort of jungle cocktail — a little bit of everything.

The programme included flights in Puma helicopters, what to eat while in the jungle, what to do if bitten by snakes or rats and how to find a way to safety if lost.

Kathy Rogers, wife of Royal Marine Capt Alastair Rogers, a staff officer in HQ, said she was glad the lecture on snakes and things came after the night out as she wasn't sure she could have slept if she'd known what was crawling around out there.

Jackie Atkinson, wife of the deputy air commander, who was put in charge of laying out a helicopter landing site and putting up the marker balloon, said she was apprehensive about using the radio.

"I wish I'd spent longer talking on the radio to the pilot. He was really chatty and sounded ever so nice."

All the ladies have plenty of jungle stories to tell and all would like to do it again — in the dry season.



BRIG HELEN MEECHIE: course booked

## College course for top

### WRAC

THE youngest officer to hold the post of Director WRAC, Brigadier Helen Meechie, moves in September for a course at the Royal College of Defence Studies, London.

Her move to the College signals another first for her as she will be the first WRAC brigadier to attend the 12-month senior officers' course — starting in January.

Dundee-born, Brigadier Meechie, 48, was commissioned

in 1960 and attended the Army Staff College before taking over from Brigadier Ann Field.

Now she in turn will be succeeded by Brigadier Shirley Nield, currently stationed at UKLF, Wilton.

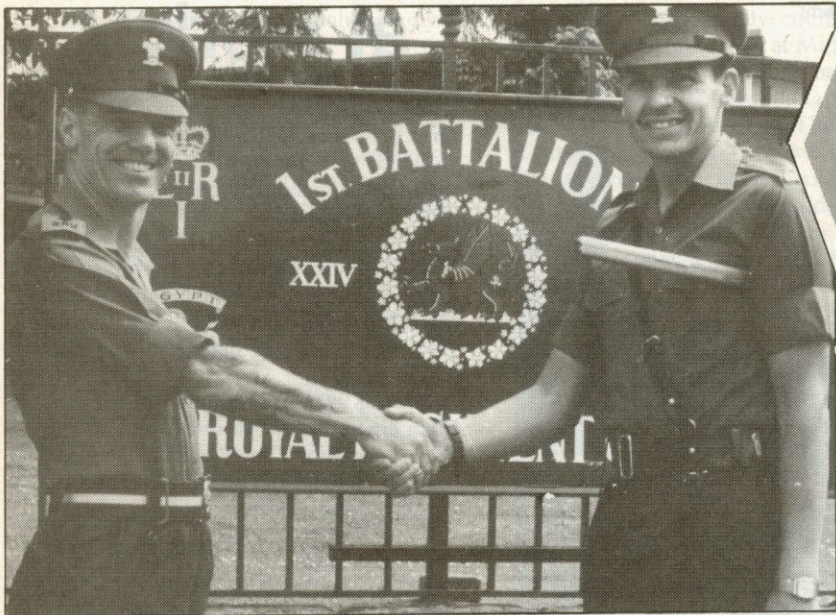
Last week, her own and hometown university honoured her with an honorary law degree which will go well with the CBE she received in the Queen's Birthday Honours.



JANET MURRAY, LCPL CHRIS HAMPER, JACKIE ATKINSON, KATE GIBSON, LT IAN HUNTLEY: jungle jape

## PEOPLE

FORMER Welsh Guards officer Malcolm Field is the new chairman of Naafi. He succeeds Sir James Spooner, chairman for the past 13 years. Mr Field is managing director of W H Smith (Holdings) Ltd.



LT ALAN HARRY, RSM MIKE HEAKIN: ahead of nearly 7,000 runners

## Top swop at RRW

NEWLY-commissioned Lt Alan Harry (left) greets the new RSM of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, RSM Mike Heakin, Lt Harry, formerly RSM of the unit and now 2ic Support Company, is a keen sportsman and with RSM Heakin has completed a 100k run beating most of the field of 7,000 runners.

## Chris calls it a day

CAPTAIN Chris Cooliff (ret'd) a soldier since 1939 who took part in fighting with the Chindits in Burma, is finally calling it a day and saying goodbye to the Service. As a KOYLI, a volunteer for the Chindits 2nd Battalion KORR and Cold-

stream Guardsman, Chris has an impressive array of medals.

He was commissioned from the ranks and, as a retired captain, became the admin officer for the Light Division Depot, Shrewsbury, where he's just retired after 47 years' service.



Chris Cooliff



## Range path 'deal' signed

THE Ministry of Defence has announced plans for implementing the improvements offered in return for the loss of public access to the Impact Area on the Larkhill Ranges which was the subject of a Closure of Rights of Way.

Though the general public will lose 30 miles of little-used paths across the areas they will, in effect, soon have the use of more than 22 miles of improved routes.

Now, the public will be able to pass from St Joan a Gore's Cross to West Chisenbury throughout the year along a nine-mile route of byway status which runs along the escarpment and overlooks the Vale of Pewsey.

This route will be enhanced by the Ministry's offer to make available to Wiltshire County Council an area at Urchfont Hill for use as a picnic site.

Work has already started on opening the Ridgeway to public access at all times, entirely free of the control of the Larkhill Range Byelaws. The Ministry undertook to open the route within 28 days of the Closure Order being signed and the opening is planned for August 4.

The initial cost of clearance operations and provision of hundreds of posts and signs will be more than £148,000.

● **THOUSANDS** of competitors from both sides of the Atlantic are expected to take part in the Royal Military Police and City of Chichester International March on August 10, a joint military and civilian event first staged in 1977 as part of the RMP centenary celebrations and designed to test physical endurance and foster international friendship.

## Sapper Hill tribute

MEN from 52 Field Squadron Royal Engineers stood ankle deep in snow to remember those who fell during the Falklands War four years ago. The service on Sapper Hill was one of a number across the islands marking the anniversary of the Argentine surrender.



## BERLIN OUT IN FORCE FOR THE BIG PARADE

MORE THAN 70,000 West Berliners turned out to watch and cheer the 23rd annual Allied Forces Day Parade through their city.

British, United States and French forces linked up for the annual display of solidarity and joint commitment to the city.

Almost continuous applause was drawn from the huge crowds of spectators as rank after rank of soldiers in dress uniforms marched down the Strasse des 17 Juni.

Every battalion of the Berlin Infantry

Brigade was on parade accompanied by the stirring music of their bands and drums. Marching with their allies were 1st Battalions The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, The Royal Highland Fusiliers and The Gloucestershire Regiment.

They were followed in marked contrast by the roar of tanks and armoured vehicles including the Chieftains of B Squadron The 14th/20th King's Hussars.

Aircraft from all three Allied Forces flashed overhead in a dramatic flypast, and a tri-national parachute display thrilled the crowds with their precision pin-point landings.

## Druids at work

MORE THAN 5,500 men from the 1st Infantry Brigade, the Logistic Support Group, based at Tidworth, and from RAF Odiham, near Basingstoke, who comprise the United Kingdom Mobile Force (UKMF) were to take part in a five-day exercise, Druids Delight, as SOLDIER went to Press.

The exercise aim was a work-up for this September's Exercise Bold Guard to be held in Schleswig-Holstein, BAOR, a major Nato FTX simulating the defence of the Baltic Approaches.

During Druids Delight on Salisbury Plain enemy troops were being fielded by the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment and by elements of The 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards.

The UKMF is an independent expeditionary force earmarked by the UK Chiefs of Staff for use by SACEUR in the Baltic Approaches area or Northern European Command.



COL John Musten, Commandant of the Joint Services Mountain Training Centre at Tywyn, receives an Alpine plaque from Gen Borgenni

## CLIMBERS' TOP TIPS

SOLDIERS preparing for an assault on Monte Bianco were visited at their training centre in Wales by one of the Italian Army's top climbers.

Maj Gen D Enrico Borgenni, CO of the crack Alpini Military School in Aosta, spent three days at Capel Curig in North Wales, climbing with British soldiers training for Exercise Monte Bianco and meeting staff and pupils at the Joint Services Mountain Training Centre.

Exercise Monte Bianco is an annual event split between Wales and Italy to give climbers experience of high altitude mountaineering and to develop their mental and physical powers of endurance.

Sponsored by UKLF/1 Infantry Brigade, the exercise has been going on for the past 20 years. Culmination of the event is an ascent of the 15,781 ft Monte Bianco.

Instruction in Italy is by Italian Army Alpini, and the assistance of Gen Borgenni's school is particularly important.

Leader of the 1986 expedition is Capt Martin Bazire RAOC, who has climbed extensively in the Alps and Himalayas.

## Wind blows away Pup's day of glory

SEVENTY YEARS after it was built for the First World War a diminutive Sopwith Pup was ready to parade itself in company with Concorde, Tornado and a host of large and noisy relatives at its first air show — but instead came to an ignominious halt with its nose buried in the ground.

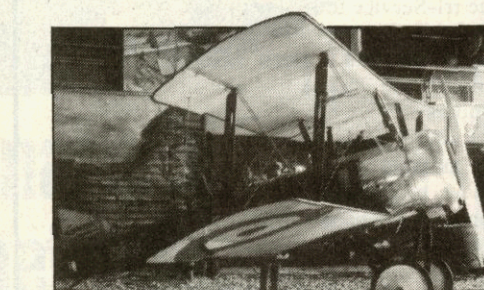
The Pup, still with its original Le Rhone engine and painstakingly restored to flying condition after being stored in a shed in Lincolnshire for many years, was to have been a star of the International Air Show at the Army Air Corps Centre at Middle Wallop.

Civilian pilot Mike Peare had joined with a Second World War Spitfire and four Lynx helicopters of the AAC's Eagles display team, to take part in a mini air show for the media, a week before the air show proper.

The Pup is normally confined to the Museum of Army Flying at Middle Wallop where it creates interest for the increasing number of visitors from military establishments and the tourist trail. The last time it floated into the sky — it takes as little as a ten-yard run — was last September, and the IAS with its tens of thousands of visitors and participating aircraft from at least ten different countries, was to have been a great occasion in its long and eventful life.

Retired RN Commander Desmond St Cyrien, the aircraft's owner, watched as Mike Peare donned his flying gear — one soft helmet to compliment his light anorak, slacks and trainers! "It's a very gentle aircraft", Mike explained as the Pup was appropriately gently pushed into her take off position by just two pairs of hands. "It's very much like flying a microlight."

Mike, who runs his own flying club at Redhill and at 34-years-old is less than half the age of the Pup, flew a few circuits, and landed. But inevitably the TV cameras



The Sopwith Pup... before it left the Museum of Army Flying at Middle Wallop

wanted more. A few more circuits, a few low passes over the cameras, and another landing on the bumpy grass airfield where the AAC flies its Chipmunk basic trainers (celebrating their 40th anniversary this year) and helicopters.

But a few yards after touching down, a gusty sidewind appeared to make the flimsy aircraft drift, a wing dipped, and then the Pup tipped up on its nose.

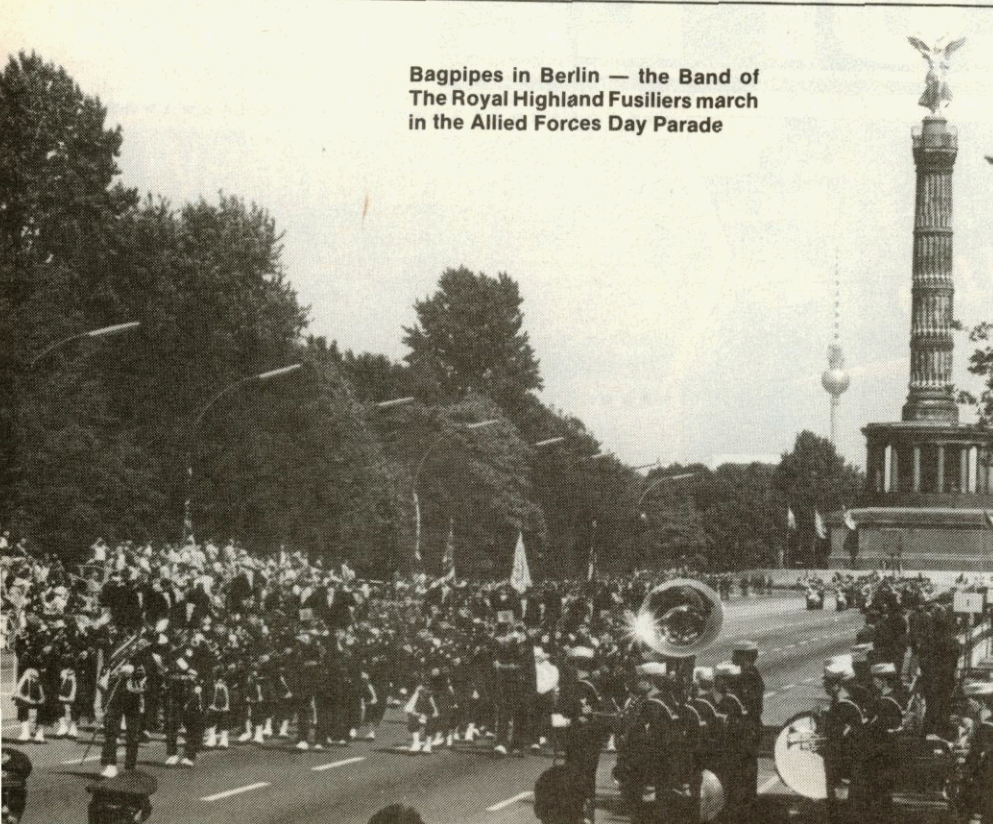
As Mike Peare scrambled from the tiny cockpit unhurt, a philosophical Cdr St Cyrien commented: "Ah well, back to the drawing board."

Surveying the damaged propeller, undercarriage and wing, he contemplated the new restoration work which would be involved and concluded: "It's just one of those things."

The Pup's days of glory at the International Air Show would have to wait until another year.

● **TWO** members of a British Army team on mountaineering exercise in the French Alps were killed in a climbing accident. Both married men, they were Sergeants Robert Arnott, aged 31, of the Royal Engineers, and Stuart Windon (30) of the Parachute Regiment.

Bagpipes in Berlin — the Band of The Royal Highland Fusiliers march in the Allied Forces Day Parade





# NEWSLINE

## STAR ROLE FOR CRASH SURVIVORS

A SURVIVOR of the Falklands helicopter crash which killed three men earlier this year came under the spotlight during the Gurkha display at the Royal Tournament, Earls Court, writes **Mervyn Wynne Jones**.

The display depicted a young Gurkha boy, acted by Rfn Ramchandra Dura who broke an arm in the crash, in the weeks before he becomes a recruit and leaves Nepal and his family to start his life as a Gurkha soldier.

Men of the 2nd battalion, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles, who celebrate their centenary this year, staged the colourful and action-packed display, acting out a potted history of the regiment.

It was well received by the audience, as was the musical drive by the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery who tore across the arena at break-neck speed.

### Ten minute soldiers

The tri-Service tournament was hosted by the RAF this year and the Army's main display featured a mock barracks offering children the chance to "join-up" for ten minutes and try out a number of activities such as drill, physical training, mine detecting and shooting.

The brainchild of Lt Col Richard S Corkran, Grenadier Guards, Commander Recruiting and Liaison Staff London District, the 'barracks' — which drew thousands of ten-minute recruits both young and not-so-young — was a departure from the normal Army display featuring the various regiments and corps.

"It seems to be working very well," said Col Corkran, "and has certainly achieved our aim of getting people involved in the Army display. Our target age group are the eight to 13-year-olds and the idea is to give people a fairly light-hearted idea of Army life."

● **THE Shropshire Regimental Museum** at The Castle, Shrewsbury, has been awarded a certificate of merit under the British Tourist Authority's "Come to Britain" competition.



AN OAK casket containing the newly acquired Freedom of Crewe and Nantwich is paraded through the borough behind the Colours of the 1st Bn, The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment. The battalion was dressed in Blues issued for its public tour of duty in London, which also meant that the CO, Lt Col Tony Twiss, and Adjutant, Capt Richard Jenkins, were on horseback. In all, the Cheshires marched through eight communities in Cheshire and the Wirral, and were granted two new Freedoms.

## Wedding line-up

NEARLY 2,000 soldiers were taking part in the Royal wedding on July 23 in route lining, Sovereign's Escort and other duties.

No less than 982 were lining the route; the bridal escort was eight from the Household Cavalry. There were 17 in the Royal Horse Artillery King's Troop party, a 100-strong guard of honour, five bands totalling 250 musicians and 30 soldiers on duty in Westminster Abbey itself.

The Sovereign's Escort numbered 115.

## Helo report discounted

A REPORT in the media suggesting an Army request to take over the RAF's helicopters has been discounted as 'speculation' by the Ministry of Defence.

The report said that Lord Trefgarne, the Ministry's Procurement Minister, was to be presented with the request by General Sir Nigel Bagnall, Chief of the General Staff.

A Ministry spokesman said: "This story is unfounded. Lord Trefgarne did receive an introductory briefing on helicopter requirement and, in particular, the Army's requirement for support helicopters.

"This was not a military presentation. In fact, it was given by the Defence Staff. General Bagnall was not there."

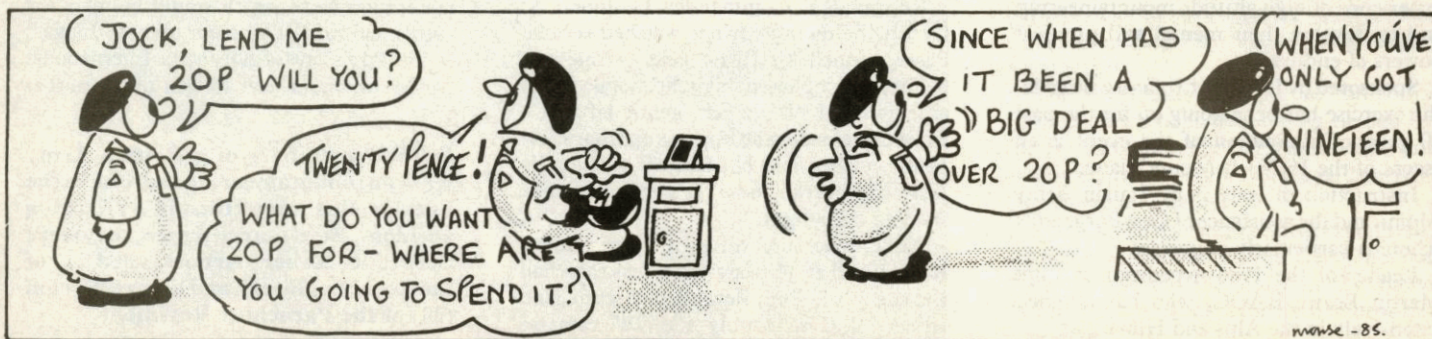
## Two killed in Crossmaglen blast

TWO SOLDIERS from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, based at Colchester, Privates Carl Davies and Mitchell Bertram, were killed when an electronically detonated

bomb was set off near an observation post at Crossmaglen, South Armagh. It is understood they were on a foot patrol. Two other soldiers caught in the blast were said to be 'badly shocked'.

### MOBB

by Mouse





Story: John Margetts  
Pictures: Les Wiggs

The ceremony over, Prince Philip does a royal walkabout at Cooper Park, Elgin

## *Prince Philip presents Colours to 51st Highland Volunteers*



Inspection time for the 2nd Battalion 51st Highland Volunteers as Prince Philip checks the ranks before presenting the Colours

## **Ian nabs a carpet bagger!**

THEY put a guard on the flags surrounding the parade park at Elgin the night before the Duke of Edinburgh presented Colours to the 51st Highland Volunteers.

Someone had taken a fancy to the colourful banners. So when sentry Pte Ian Mathieson, 21, from Alness saw three shadowy figures, he investigated to find them not with flags, but a 12ft roll of carpet.

Dropping the carpet, the trio dispersed as Ian gave chase. Two got away, but he located one beneath an Army truck and the police were called.

This bizarre incident preceded the Duke's arrival at Cooper Park, Elgin, where on the local cricket team's square in blazing sunshine and watched by a crowd of 5,000, he handed Colours to Lieutenants P C Prentice and N G Thain and Sergeants D Ramsey and M Bussetil.

Then, led by their CO, Lt Col G S Johnston, a local accountant, they marched off after the hour-long ceremony accompanied by their own pipes and drums augmented by those of the Seaforth and Camerons and the band of 1QOH.

From then on Prince Philip's visit was private, but before leaving the park he did a royal walkabout, chatting to many people including a cadet guard of honour and a group of Germany Army reservists led by Lt Col Dieter Obergfell from Recklinghausen. His companions were all from Hamburg.

They were there as official guests. "The 51st has made many visits to our part of Germany for exercises. We are extremely pleased to have been invited and to have met the Duke," said the colonel.

● See colour picture on back cover.



Commando team range in on the...

# GUNS OF WRATH

FOR A change from the gale-force winds that normally buffet the area, the sun shone hot and strong at Cape Wrath on the north-west tip of Scotland.

It was a good omen for the 45-strong 148 (Meiktila) Battery, the Commando Forward Observation Battery of 29 Commando Regiment RA.

They were there in their usual spot at the top of the 500ft cliffs, taking their quarterly "fix" of the bleak terrain in their Naval Gunfire Support (NGS) role by directing the guns of six Nato ships including those of *HMS Apollo* and *HMS Glamorgan*.

Apart from occasional wafts of sea mist, which brought the "vis" down to a few feet, the weather stayed Wimbledon-style as the ships' guns, and those of 7 (Sphinx) Battery, part of 29 Regiment, but detached to Arbroath, slammed shots into the barren target area across the bay.

Satisfied with the performance of both batteries — they were rehearsing for a major naval exercise later in the week — it was possibly the knowledge of a job well done and the unusual clemency of the weather that induced 29's CO, Lt Col Ian Durie, to forecast that, so far as he was concerned, "there were no dark clouds hovering over the future of 148."

Before the Falklands war, "although there was nothing on paper," said the colonel, there was a strong feeling that 148 would go the way of some other small units and disband.

"In those days the future of 148 was uncertain to say the least. But since the Falklands indicated the necessity of having guns on ships, and since ships' gunners need a specialist force to direct their fire, the foreseeable future of 148 seems assured."

That the South Atlantic war saved 148 from extinction there is no doubt, and soon after the conflict a list of "enhancements" was made to boost this mini, one-off, unit.

But as the years have passed the list has whittled away.

"Not one suggestion has been implemented," said Col Durie. "But we're still hoping for one or two enhancements."

Waiting eagerly for those enhancements is 148's OC, Maj Harry Beaves.

Although destined for a desk job in Germany, he is anxious to see, if nothing else, 148 at its full strength of 60 before he leaves.

And with a dozen recruits joining his team this month, he may well hit the target numerically.

"But that doesn't mean to say they will all pass the Commando course at Plymouth or the para-

chute, ski-ing, morse, radio operating, diving and, above all, our fitness courses," he said.

A pass at Lympstone, home of the Royal Marines, and the award of the green beret does not in itself bring extra pay.

But once over that hurdle, the way is open for specialist pay — and everyone in 148 is a specialist in one way or another.

"The only snag with coming to 148 is that nobody ever wants to leave. And that's not good for the lads' careers."

"Many have been in the unit six or seven years and are still gunners. We have to move them on for their own good. They like it here and only leave for promotion."

"There's just no room for promotion within the unit. It's too small. If a corporal applies to join us, and we get a number, then he has to hand in his tapes."

"We couldn't have an NCO coming into this team knowing nothing of our role and telling gunners with years of experience what to do. It wouldn't work."

Such an example is LBdr David Boycott, at 24 below the average age of 26 of the battery and making his first visit to Cape Wrath.

"I've applied to switch to 148, even though I will have to hand in my stripe and £2 a day pay, because I think I will find a good deal more job satisfaction."

"Of course I realise that applying and passing the 13-week NGS course at Poole, home of 148, are two different things."

"Currently I'm on probation, to see if I fit in, I imagine, and hopefully start the course in September."

THE TEAM spirit of 148 manifests itself as team leader Bdr Gary Booth takes a "look-see;" LRO(G) Mark Williams makes radio contact while "probationer" LBdr Dave Boycott and TA man LBdr Paul Drakeley (far left) of 289 Commando Battery keep guard while exercising a forward observation team's landing



"I just hope I pass. 148 has to be the best battery in the RA and I want to be part of it. It's a matter of pride and satisfaction."

And he wasn't exaggerating. His words were echoed by many who have been in this mini-unit for years.

Cpl Martyn Cox, 26, REME, was drafted to 29 Regiment and detached to 148 four years ago.

"I'd be happy to stay," said Martyn, who keeps their two boats, 13 Land-Rovers and eight-ton Bedford in working order. "But the REME say it's time to move on if I want promotion. So I've got to go soon."

Bdr Gary Booth, 26, son of Maj Bert Booth, a former 2i/c of the unit, has been with 148 for five years, and is now thinking of a move.

"I feel I have a future with the battery, but promotion is slow."

"SPOTTING" for *HMS Apollo*, a four-man team from 289 Commando Battery make their report from Cape Wrath to the ship. Left to right are LBdr Steven Maeeks, Maj Pat Thurgood, Sgt Dave Swift and LBdr Paul Drakeley

I'll probably get it quicker if I move outside. It's something I have to think about within the next year or so."

Many others have been in 148 longer and are still not on the first rung. It's not that they don't want promotion — they'd get it soon enough if they moved as they are all Class 1 soldiers — but they like being with 148.

The same goes for the ten matelots permanently with 148 who claim to be the sole Army unit with nearly a quarter of its strength on the Royal Navy's pay roll.

Chief Petty Officer Dave Booth (no relation to Gary) has been with the battery on and off since 1971.

A chief radio supervisor (CRS) he said he had left twice for promotion, but came back each time. "This is the life for me," he said. "I should have joined the Army. I finish in two years time and I shall see my time out with 148."

Another who has seen more green beret service than any of them is SSgt Yvan (pronounced Ivan) Pothin, who joined 148 in 1963 — pre-green beret years. Constantly in the green beret

world, he will see 148 celebrate 25 years of wearing their verdant headgear before retiring next year after 26 years service.

Because so many skills are demanded of individuals applying to join 148, it is not a "young soldiers" outfit.

With an average age of around 26 they are hardly old, but most have several years service which has enabled them to acquire some of the expertise required.

Said WO2 Mark Mitchell: "We have about ten recruits currently going through our training system. Four are sailors and all of them are first class."

"Most, if not all, will pass, but we are fighting a losing battle producing high-quality soldiers who have to move on if they are to further their careers."

Last word from Maj Harry Beaves who hands over to Maj Guy Gillett this month after three years in command: "It's been an exciting and challenging job working with such an expert and fit bunch of guys. It's been great."

Story: John Margetts  
Pictures: Les Wiggs



148 BATTERY claims to be the only unit to have worn the Combined-Ops badge of an anchor, rifle and wings since its inception in the Second World War.

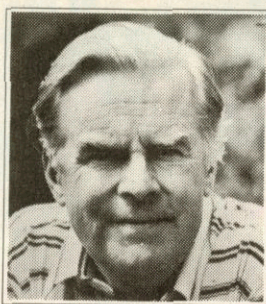
● They all wear green hats in 148, but the cap badges tell their own story — the RA, Royal Navy, REME, RPC and the ACC, the latter represented by Cpl Duncan McDonald, 24, one of the few Commando-trained, parachuting cooks around.

● Maj Gen Arthur Stewart-Cox (ret'd), Colonel Commandant of 29 Regiment and a former CO, renewed many old regimental acquaintances when he lent support during the NGS week-long exercise at Cape Wrath.

● When sailors join 148 they don't forfeit pay like Army NCOs. Their promotion system works differently to that of the Army.

● 148 played a significant role in the Falklands... Royal Navy PO Paul Smith, five years with the unit, was with them aboard *HMS Argonaut* when it was hit by a 1,000lb bomb, killing two of his pals.





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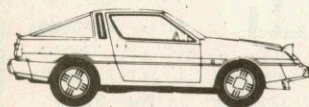
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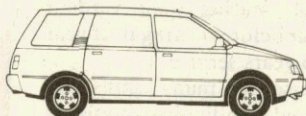
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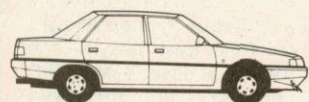
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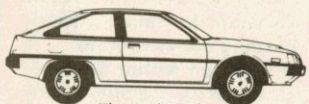
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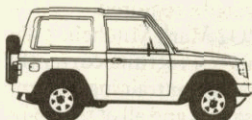
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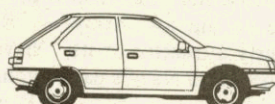
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# SOLDIER to Soldier

If a general election was held tomorrow an awful lot of men and women in the Army or connected with the Army would not be able to vote.

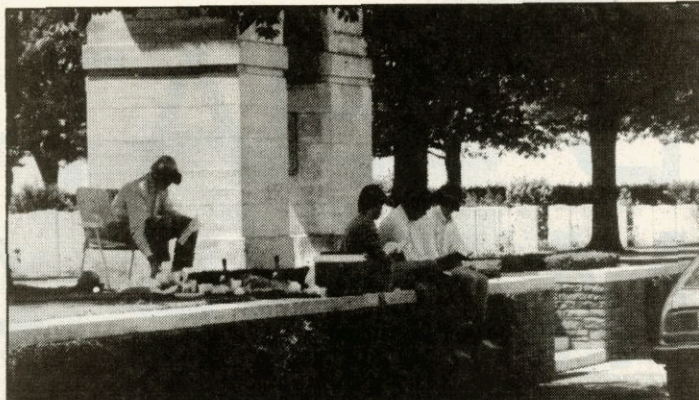
One of every five officers could not vote, one of every three officers' wives overseas, two out of every five soldiers, and two out of every three soldiers' wives abroad. The problem is that they are not registered as Service voters.

To be able to vote, they must be registered as Service voters for the area (constituency) for which they qualify, usually having lived there. The Orderly Room can tell you if you and your wife are registered as Service voters and for which area. If you are not registered or if the details have changed, if you qualify for a different area, or if you want to change your proxy or your proxy's address has changed, then you need to complete the appropriate form from the Orderly Office before October 10 (or September 15 in Northern Ireland).

MoD were hoping to achieve postal voting for Servicemen and wives abroad but it has not materialised. But they have achieved a significant privilege for Services voters living in the UK.

They can now ask to be registered from February 1987 as a postal voter and automatically have voting papers sent to them at the UK address whenever there is an election.

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



The Brits are well known on the Continent for stopping at the roadside and brewing up a cuppa. The continentals thoughtfully often provide special picnic areas, but when picnic sites are not available there are places where you do and places where you don't.

One of the places you don't, it seems to SOLDIER, is on the sacred ground of a British war cemetery, even if only of the edge of it.

SOLDIER writer Graham Smith and photographer Paul Haley were appalled to see, as they were covering the commemoration of the Somme massacre in France, a group of people complete with garden chair, food, bottles of wine and a coldbox happily eating and reading only a few yards from the rows of war graves at the entrance to the cemetery at Warlencourt Halt, near Bapaume. From the registration number and nationality plate of the car parked alongside, they were obviously British.

An unfortunate choice of place — and time — Smith and Haley thought.

There will also be a scheme for adult civilians living abroad to register annually, probably through the Consul, as 'overseas electors' and appoint a proxy to vote for them in the UK. They must have been previously included in a register of electors and so some sons and daughters of voting age

will not qualify to vote.

The gratitude of the Dutch people for the liberation of their country during the Second World War is well known, and individual examples of generosity and hospitality keep it very much alive.

Every year the people of Venray hold a remembrance service at the British war cemetery there where 800 Allied soldiers are buried. This year will be no exception.

Mr Nico van Hoek, secretary of the Veteran Legion in the Netherlands, explains: "During a sober but impressive ceremony we commemorate, between the grave-stones, the highest price that was sacrificed to bring our freedom again. Particularly for the young generation, we are anxious that the names of so many brilliant boys will not be forgotten".

This year, the service organisers are anxious to trace the next of kin of soldiers buried at Venray, who may never be able to afford to visit the graves of their late husband, son or brother, and to invite them to the commemoration. The Dutch are willing to bear part of the expenses of the journey, and several families at Venray have volunteered to be hosts during the stay in Holland.

Mr van Hoek can be contacted at Oranjestraat 19, 5802 BG Venray, The Netherlands, phone (0)-4780-8 3972.

Mr Kenneth Baker, the Education Secretary, wants Servicemen to exchange their uniform for a teacher's gown when they leave the Forces.

Says he: "I want to see people who retire from the Services early, who have strong technological backgrounds, going into teaching."

If there was a move towards the blackboard by former Servicemen, it could help solve the present shortage of maths and physics teachers, he feels.

It will be interesting to see the response from the Army where at present only a small handful of Warrant Officers each year choose to take teacher training courses.

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**Berlin Naafi celebrates  
40 years of progress...**

# CLUB THAT ROSE FROM THE ASHES

BOMB-BLASTED debris from some of Berlin's most famous prewar landmarks, and some from beyond the city, went into the ten-month building by a 600-strong work force of a club "worthy of British troops in Berlin."

The Naafi Club, the pioneering showpiece for that organisation, had come into being. It celebrates its 40th anniversary in the divided city on August 1.

Rubble ladies — about 60,000 of them — had played a prominent part in its emergence, tirelessly clearing the debris, brick by brick and mostly by hand. Of the 149,960 buildings in the western part of the city, 32,227 were demolished. Another 100,000 had been heavily damaged.

About 200 out of 250 buildings on the fashionable Kurfürstendamm or Ku'damn were destroyed or severely damaged. It was later estimated that the street surfaces rebuilt or repaired within the western sectors would create a 35ft-wide highway stretching from West Berlin to North Africa.

Four decades ago the ten-storey building now housing the Naafi had a dismal outlook over the two-mile Kaiserdamm, built to parade Hitler's elite Nazi units and within view of the blitzed Olympic Stadium.

It was said the building's red neon lights could be seen 20 miles away.

Today, Summit House and the city's Naafi Club has a far rosier outlook.

Before those dark and dreadful years indelibly stamped their lasting mark on Berlin, particularly in today's Eastern Sector, Amerika House (as Summit House was then known), was the base of a firm of building contractors. During the war the German High Command turned it into a TV station.

On November 23, 1943, marauding RAF bombers changed the use of the building in Reichskanzler Platz rather drastically, reducing it to rubble.

On October 9, 1945, the Naafi

Works and Buildings branch took over the site. It would, in the event, rise like the proverbial phoenix from the ashes.

Not only would it be a club "worthy of British troops in Berlin" it would also be the envy of our Allies, the Americans, the French and the Russians.

Local resources would be used — debris levelled by Allied bombing raids, rubble caused by vicious street fighting, bricks, stone, marble, tiles, hand rails, staircases, ventilation equipment... all would be acquired from ruined residences.

Marble came from the German Air Ministry, the Foreign Office, the Chancellery and from Ribbentrop's private home.

The main entrance of that era was taken from the Gestapo offices in Van der Heydstrasse. Kitchen, central heating and water equipment was taken from German officers' messes and houses. The marble on the balcony by the main entrance was taken from supplies of famed Travertine marble imported by the Nazis from Italy.

The insulating slabs for the refrigerator rooms came from the Oranienburg concentration camp near Berlin, a camp used for experiments on human beings and war materials.

Building materials used — 60 per cent from Berlin — were enough to fill a convoy of lorries stretching the 300 miles from London to Newcastle.

Summit House was officially opened as the Naafi Club of Berlin on August 1, 1946 by Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Sholto Douglas, C-in-C British Forces of Occupation.

History, mostly unseen now, lingers on. The Gifts and Durables section has a ceiling studded with spotlights. It was the scene of many a budding romance as big bands of the day captured imaginations in the dance hall.

The food hall of today was once a brewery housing large copper vats.



1 — Naafi's only ladies' hairdressing salon



2 — Berlin Naafi general manager Mr Kevin Cardy. 3 — Berlin view from the roof of Summit House. 4 — Berlin's Naafi Club on Theodor Heuss Platz



Forty years ago Summit House had a list of amenities that would do a hotel brochure proud. It had 27 fully-fitted bathrooms with separate massage and sunray rooms for men and women. It had a barber's shop and hairdressing salons. A lounge, two phone boxes for UK calls, WVS service, beer tavern, concert and dance hall, an exhibition hall.

It also boasted a waitress service restaurant and self-service cafeteria, a games room, four sound-proofed music practice rooms, and a roof terrace for tea, coffee and snacks.

Nowadays, Summit House has a quietly deceptive frontage on Theodor Heuss Platz, opposite "Joe's Bierhaus" where Hitler once had accommodation and a street

plaque commemorating the long ago presence of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Today's Berlin-based Naafi, which takes £93,000 a week, is staffed by 87 personnel under general manager Mr Kevin Cardy.

Seven large trucks a week bring in 160 tons of supplies weekly from Krefeld, while Herford sends another 20 tons from the Zone or BAOR.

It is not just the British who subscribe to the wares of the Summit House site. The Americans, the French and even, on occasion, the Russians (the latter with a keen interest in cigarettes) have used its facilities.

Members of friendly consulates in the divided city's western sectors are also allowed to shop there by

arrangement. The Italians, Panamanians, the Gambians and the Costa Ricans, for example.

Personnel from the three major airlines plying into the city — British Airways, PanAm and Air France — are also granted dispensation to swap cash-for-goods.

Summit House is the fount of many facilities for the Serviceman and his family. Its clothing shop takes 70 per cent of its stock from Marks and Spencers. Its cafeteria seats 150 people; its cinema another 450.

It boasts the only ladies' hairdressing salon in a Naafi complex, according to general manager, Kevin Cardy. Five stylists and two assistants tend an average of 60 satisfied customers every week.

A shampoo-and-set costs DM14 (in the city it is DM 22), a perm DM 51 (elsewhere its DM 120). A wet trim is DM 150 as opposed to DM 300.

Summit House also hosts the Abbey National Building Society with all its usual services including the arranging of mortgages in the UK.

The building even has its own bakery.

A car sales firm does brisk business. Corporals, it is said, going for more up-market versions than the officers who settle for "bog standard" variations.

The YMCA operates its own bookshop and newspaper kiosk. The Berlin Military Welfare Travel Service — they fix the East Berlin day trips among others — and the

ubiquitous BFBS are among the other Summit House tenants.

Also in the building are the Berlin-garrison Thrift and Wool shops and the officers' tailoring shops.

There is a sports shop — running shoes are particularly good sellers just before the city's two marathons — incorporating a fitting service for children.

British interests outside West Berlin are served by the Naafi, too. The twice-monthly needs, for instance, of the British Embassy in Warsaw and British representations across the Wall in East Berlin are met.

The Berlin Naafi — one of 62 in West Germany — also sets an up-market tone in its gift and jewellery department.

As the Summit House general manager Kevin Cardy summed up: "This is THE meeting place in Berlin for British Service personnel at least. A soldier can come in with his wife and family. While she is in the hairdressers he can be looking at the hi-fi. They can then all eat in the restaurant. "After that, they can buy their favourite popular magazine, order a new car and even take out a mortgage."

Perhaps old soldiers from 40 years ago and beyond who know Summit House would still agree. It is a club worthy of British troops in Berlin.

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



# Shooting STARS!

WHEN A Scottish reservist was asked to pay for a new pair of boots because he had ruined his old ones at work, he promptly put them back on and sped away cursing all QMs.

He had reported with 47 others to Glencorse Barracks, the Scottish Division Depot near Edinburgh, for a week's training under STAR — the scheme for training Army reservists.

The worn-out boot incident did not enhance the glittering promise of STAR, designed to update the skills of those who left the Army three years ago, for some of those remaining.

Halfway through the week the reservists discovered their official summoning letters for the course were **invitations** to take part and **not** orders.

Some claimed they had been "conned" by a "misleading" letter which they felt demanded their presence for the week's training to "counter skill fade."

Result: anguish and resentment from some which refuelled comments about their two-man tented accommodation at Barry Budden training area near Arbroath.

"We had expected the use of huts," said Maj Colin Dunbar, 2ic at the Depot, "but someone else beat us to it."

"But despite the man who voted with his feet and the accommodation, these lads have quickly settled back into Army life — albeit somewhat relaxed."

"This is the second year of STAR and although we haven't



Lt Charles Wallace, Pte Willie Robinson: finding the way around old skills



Long hair! But who cares for a week?



Back in the old routine for two reservists on patrol: most had retained their military skills remarkably well

## ... BUT SKILL FADE CALL-UP GETS ORDER OF

yet got it quite right, this group is a lot better than those of last year.

"Then we made the mistake of paying the £115 tax-free bounty at the start of the week which resulted in my having to discipline a man for threatening a sergeant. This led to 16 of them calling it a day which left six to complete the

course." STAR took a bit of a fall, he conceded.

"This year, except for the one who decided to leg it, things have gone well."

"All of them are ex-Scottish Division (infantry) with an average age of about 26 who left the Army three years ago."

"They have retained their military skills remarkably well, with many still able to clean a weapon in minutes and in the manner demanded of a class one soldier. General fitness appears the main problem."

Said Sgt Alec Spence of the Queen's Own Highlanders:

## THE BOOT FROM ONE 'OLD' SOLDIER

Story: John Margetts  
Pictures: Les Wiggs

"Although there have been a few moans, I think most of the lads have enjoyed their time here. Most admit to it making a nice change from work — those that are in a job, that is, as about 18 are unemployed."

He opined that respect for NCOs and officers had "dropped a bit," and many had hair lengths militarily unacceptable.

"But it's been a pleasure working with these lads. It's made a nice change for us, too, from training raw recruits at the Depot," he said.

Explaining the thinking behind STAR, Col Patrick Prior, who heads the reserve mobilisation team in London, said: "STAR was originally conceived as a week's compulsory training for reservists during their third year away from the Army as a counter to skill fade. Because of the lack of legislation to protect jobs we had to accept that participation would be voluntary, certainly for the foreseeable future."

"STAR 85 was launched on this basis, but the response was disappointingly low. The training effort expended was not cost-effective, but both we and those reservists who turned out did benefit. In the light of the experience gained we felt it right

to persevere with the exercise.

"We therefore set about planning STAR 86, determined to make improvements; in particular we concentrated on pay and the approach to reservists. We were fortunate to obtain a £115 tax-free training bounty payable to all reservists who satisfactorily complete a full week of training."

"We also decided to make the approach to reservists more compelling in tone by insisting that they provide reasons in writing if they could not attend, and at the same time we sought to secure the co-operation of employers."

"To capitalise on this response, we set about ensuring that training on STAR 86 would be interesting and imaginative. The reports received on STAR 85 suggested that reservists would prefer more challenging training at the expense of revision of unexciting basic skills."

But what of the reservists themselves? What did they think of STAR 86? Said Pte Willie Harrison from Oban who works on a fish farm: "I've enjoyed it except for the rain and living in tents. Discipline is fairly lax, but I've been happy to do things their way. I was not misled by the letter."



Final adjustment for a NBC-suited reservist from Cpl Joe Forsyth

Pte John Macinnes, 25, who took two days to get to Edinburgh from the Isle of Lewis: "STAR is a good idea. I've quite enjoyed it, but surprised to be in tents."

"But it's all come back to me very quickly, although some military tactics have changed to some extent."

While a number labelled the invitation letter a "con," seven out of a group of ten said they would have turned up for training anyway even if they had realised it was a voluntary affair.

But accommodation and food got the thumbs down from many. Another gripe concerned paying for kit deficiencies.

Said Maj Dunbar: "While facilities here are fairly primitive, I think the scheme has worked well."

Any changes envisaged for next year? "Too early to say, but it's likely we'll be instructing on the SA80 rifle. That will be something completely new and should be of interest to everyone."

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# WHEN OFFICIAL DOM TURNS A DEAF EAR

Hearing  
all for  
the  
first  
time



KATY SCASE, SGT JOHN MCROBIE AND FRIENDS: filling a gap by fund-raising

**MORE SERVICE families** are taking their children with special needs on overseas tours, mostly to Germany. But they face extra problems because special equipment for the children such as wheelchairs, car seats, bicycles, medical gadgets and financial help and advice for the parents are seldom available.

In the UK many statutory and voluntary agencies are bound by regulations which block applications for help from such families.

If a family has specialised equipment on loan they may, on a posting abroad, have to return it. And they will

probably have to continue to manage without it as MoD funds are insufficient to cover such requests.

Mostly these items of equipment are individual and costly and where in the UK the parents might have found financial help, the NHS budget does not extend to

assistance overseas.

It then falls to voluntary fund raisers to try and fill this gap to help Service families who have children with these special needs.

Such a helper is Sgt John McRobie of HQ Minden who formed the BAOR Appeal Fund to provide deaf children with hearing equipment not available through normal Service sources.

It was thanks to John's efforts that little Katy Scase

managed a smile and a wave when he handed her a cheque to cover half the £1,434 cost of her new Phonic Ear system.

Although many times the cost of a normal deaf aid, it can do so much more having three settings which can be adjusted to cut out all but her teacher's voice, her own voice or the radio or environmental sounds.

Katy's father, Sqn Ldr Harry Scase, described it as

the "Rolls Royce" of radio aids which clearly lends itself to the teaching of deaf children in a normal class.

## CHILD-MINDERS

THE National Child Minding Association is launching a brand-new initiative for child-minders.

In conjunction with the Open University Centre for Continuing Education, the

first national training for child-minders will be available through a pack of 22 topic leaflets.

It has taken three years of collaboration between the two organisations which was funded by the DHSS and the Scottish Education Department.

This scheme will be welcomed by Service families world-wide who child mind or leave their children with child-minders.

It will especially help those overseas who are cut off from much of the help and support available in the UK. Guidance, new regulations and different attitudes often do not reach them.

Child-minding is the largest form of full day care in the country today. Child-minders look after other people's children in their own homes and get paid for doing it.

Many thousands have taken it up including a number of Service wives.

This new course will help to answer their questions on a subject important to all concerned.

The leaflets are available from August and cost £6 plus p&p. Discount given for quantity orders.

Orders to Community Education Development Centre (CEDC), Briton Road, Coventry CU24 1R (0203 440814).

Further information from NCMA, 4 Mason's Hill, Bromley, Kent (01 464 6164).

Anne

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WITH FAMILIES IN MIND

IN MY  
VIEW

**REMEMBER** the days when taking over a quarter you shut your eyes and hoped that the camouflage-pattern chairs and settee stretch covers were not orange or turquoise with mauve blotches?

Somehow these unsightly furnishings always managed to be in a quarter with clashing carpets and curtains.

The decision to equip MQs

## MIX-'N'-MATCH

in this hideous fashion was, it was rumoured, taken by a man up a tree in a jungle.

Seemingly he thought Service families lived in jungles. Maybe we did, but his decisions on colour and style reverberated round single and married accommodation until the Modex range came to the rescue.

It was after writing in the *Army Housing Journal* that women could do better at

colour selection — after all we have to live with the stuff — that 100 wives representing the three Services came to London to view for the first time a range of curtains and carpets.

From their comments it was evident they felt strongly about the available choice. But they were helped by designer Susan Eldridge, who for the first time was closely involved.

After that presentation a decade ago I wrote: "An excellent presentation and at last constructive thought has been put into colour selection."

Since then a concerted effort has been made to ensure that Service personnel never again live with such dreadful colour schemes.

The Modex range currently in use is a vast improve-

ment on the designs of 10 years ago and the new carpet and curtain designing make it essential for the new style stretch covers to be compatible with both.

With PSA awareness for decoration, families will now have more scope to make their own colour combinations on the mix-'n'-match theme when the new covers come into use next year.

Of course these covers will not appear overnight, but will be phased in. It's my opinion that, in the long term, the standard of furnishings in quality, design and colour will at last reach a standard with which the majority of families will be pleased.

And it's all down to a partnership between textile designer Teresa Collins and Doug Bannatyne of Crown Supplies Procurement Technical Services.

They searched for suitable fabrics and manufacturers to produce the required colours, design and specification.

Names chosen for these new designs give hope that the horrors of the 70s will soon be forgotten.

The Crown suppliers have this time used design and technical know-how to produce this range, but it should be remembered there are financial constraints.

The user range is widely contrasting — married quart-

ers, single soldiers' accommodation, officers and messes — and so costs and material durability were major considerations.

Four manufacturers took up the challenge with two eventually producing six designs.

At this stage it was decided to seek the views of the wives who visited the suppliers' offices in London. Their comments were considered before a decision was taken leaving three designs.

Those selected by the wives were floral prints in pink and blue, the Jacquard diamond pattern in four colours and plain tweed fabrics in three colours.

Now the Joint Services Furnishings Committee will make a final decision on which colours will appear in Army homes and quarters.

Once past this hurdle, contracts are placed by the Crown Suppliers who will monitor quality control to check the MoD is getting value for money.

The unenviable job of keeping tabs in this area falls to Joyce Poole of the Crown Suppliers.

Now the team there are hoping their efforts to introduce added colour and quality into Army life will meet with everyone's approval — or is that asking a bit too much?

## YOU WRITE ...

**MY husband is being posted to Kenya and I am going with him, but we have an 18-year-old son taking 'A' Levels. If he gets the required grades he can go to university. Is there any way we can get his fare paid to visit us when he is on vacation?**

MRS M.

■ The MoD says: "Under the current regulations (Joint Service Publications 356, Chapter 7 paragraph 0711d), children between 18 and 21 are eligible for one visit per year at public expense. We are aware of the difficulties faced by families in such circumstances and we are trying to find ways of reducing them. However, whether we will be able to obtain any improvement in this area will depend on

where the item stands in competition with other desired improvements to conditions of service being sought.

"The problem is the usual one of finding the money and this is a slow process. In the short term we regret we can think of no way of helping more directly."

## BFPO has going rates

**I have come from Gibraltar to Germany and am unemployed. Where can I get the National Insurance rates for this year?**

MRS D.

■ You need DHSS leaflet NI 208 and CF 391 and 394 (red). These leaflets should be available at your BFPO.

## Fighting fair over fares

**The taxman has me confused. I wrote asking if officer pattern clothing required on promotion to WO1, for which there is no clothing allowance, could be deducted against tax? Their reply tells me I can claim for a replacement uniform, but not the initial buy. This seems ludicrous. Are they confusing warrant officers with commissioned officers? Is it also necessary, as a Serviceman in BAOR, to fill in Form 12 FR tax return?**

WO1 B.

■ The official word from MoD is: "WO1s are not provided with allowances to purchase items of officers' clothing and such an allowance could not be negotiated in the present financial climate. All their clothing and dress requirements are provided in kind and are covered by the scales outlined in Material Regula-

tions for the Army, Volume 3, Pamphlets 4, 8 and 15. In addition, authority has been given by the Army Dress Committee for WO1s to wear, optionally and at their own expense, officer pattern khaki SD cap and brown shoes when in No. 2 Dress. There is no MoD authority or accepted policy for them to wear other items of officers' uniform.

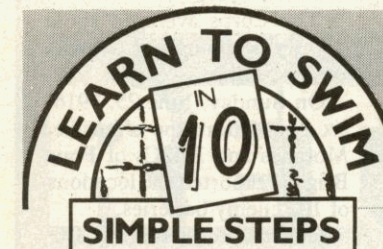
"In some regiments and corps, RSMs and WO1s are encouraged to wear officer pattern No. 2 dress uniform, shirt and tie, as well as those additional items mentioned above, and in some instances financial assistance is given from private or regimental funds for the purchase of these items. In other instances the

cost is borne by the individual.

"In view of current inflationary trends, it may become more difficult for regimental funds, or for individuals, to meet the cost of these items and it might therefore be appropriate for regiments and corps to consider amending their policy for dress for WO1s.

"As WO1s are not required to purchase officers' uniforms, the tax allowance cannot be justified. Where a commanding officer 'encourages' the wearing of officer dress by his warrant officers then guidance on how this is to be paid for is also contained in the above extract.

"On the need to complete a specific Inland Revenue form, we confirm that members of HM Forces are required to complete those forms which the Inland Revenue ask of them."



## DIVE IN ON THIS

**WITH so little easily understood information readily available to help teach young children to swim, welcome news comes from the Outspan orange people who have produced a free step-by-step guide.**

A pilot scheme at Gloucester's leisure centre began when instructor Chris Maloney started using oranges to teach kids under seven to swim. Oranges float and Chris thought they were an ideal example for the youngsters.

When Outspan learned of the method, they created the character Oscar Outspan and produced a booklet on Oscar's ten simple swimming tips.

The scheme has proved so popular and successful that the booklet has been launched nationally and is available, free, by sending a sae to: Learn to Swim with Oscar Outspan, The Summer Orange Office, 26 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 6BT.

Meanwhile, as the leaflet suggests and to inspire

confidence in young 'L' swimmers, encourage them to spin round with their feet off the bottom of the pool.

If they are wary of putting their faces in the water, urge them to wash their faces or sprinkle water on the head. Get them to blow bubbles or put their faces downwards in the water.

With chin on the water, get them to splash their feet, keeping legs fairly straight.

All these tips will help build confidence and teach them how to enjoy time and be safe in the pool.





Men of the Royal Flying Corps — many of them former soldiers — examine a captured German aircraft on the Western Front

# *Dawn airmen had a bird's eye view of the Somme*

AT 0500 HOURS over Bapaume on the Somme a Royal Flying Corps Morane bi-plane with three Martinsyde escort aircraft made an airborne recce just 2½ hours before the offensive of July 1, 1916, when 100,000 infantry would go over the top to make their indelible mark in history, writes **Graham Smith.**

Men and machines of The Royal Flying Corps — it was established on April 13, 1913 — played an invaluable part in the prelude to the first Somme offensive which lasted from July to November 1916.

With only maps and ground features to help them fly behind enemy lines, the RFC aviators and their machines had been bumpily taking off from lush green pastureland since their arrival in France on August 13, 1914, just 11 days after war had been declared on Germany.

Pilots and observers were well used to flying up and down the Allied divisional fronts and behind enemy lines. In the weeks leading up to July 1, aircrews had been attacking German observation balloons with rockets and phosphorous bombs.

As time went by the RFC aircraft — the BE2 series, Moranes, Martinsyde Scouts, the FE 2 series, DH 2s, Vickers Fighters, Bristol Scouts and Nieuport Scouts — would soon be flying up to eight hour a day; four patrols daily.

By July 1, 1916, there were

420 aircraft, formed up in 27 squadrons, in nine wings, plus four kite balloon squadrons, comprising four brigades in support of the Army's infantry.

Local air supremacy had been gained on the Fourth Army front by the time of the first Somme offensive.

That 0500 recce over Bapaume was watching the railway yards and trying to seek out the HQ of Lieutenant General von Stein, the 14th Reserve Corps Commander.

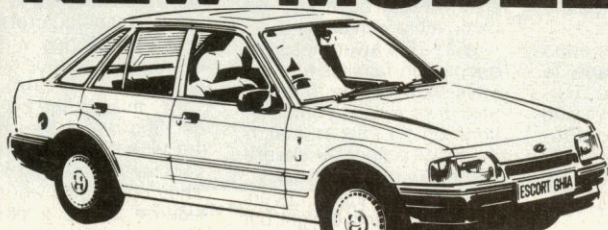
The RFC — the forerunner of the Royal Air Force of April 1, 1918 — then bombed Bapaume. It then did a recce of Cambrai before bombing that too. Then St Quentin.

The Corps averaged about 206 flying hours per casualty on the Somme.

On Sunday, June 25, 1916, six days before the offensive, Moranes and BE2Cs of Four Brigade reported the locations of 102 enemy batteries.

General Fritz von Below, CO of the Second German Army conceded: "With the aid of aeroplane observation the hostile artillery neutralised our guns and was able to range with the most extreme accuracy on the trenches occupied by our infantry. The required data for this was provided by undisturbed trench reconnaissance and photography. The enemy's aircraft inspired our troops with a feeling of defencelessness against the enemy's mastery of the air."

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Tears for fallen friends: shaky hands fumbled for handkerchiefs during the Thiepval service

SEVENTY YEARS ago to the very day under a merciless sun, murderous machine gun fire and shrapnel-laden artillery shells they were just teenaged "Tommies" going over the top in the Somme seeking victory for a cause with scant regard for newspaper headlines.

That horrendous summer's day — July 1, 1916 — in searing heat their advancing mates, among 100,000 men in 13 divisions, were being mown down or blown up at an average rate of two every three seconds along the 15-mile British front.

Seventy years on, survivors of Kitchener's Army, from that 0730 offensive of July 1 and beyond returned to their dreadful

battlefields long gone in all but fearful memory.

Their mates are still there — buried in their thousands or commemorated on memorials in Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries.

More than 100 survivors of the Somme slaughter had returned to pay homage to their fallen comrades. The French and Germans were conducting similar ceremonies the following day at their cemeteries.

This time, however, the "Tommies" would be making headlines as honoured guests commemorating the 70th anniversary of the first Somme offensive at a significant dedication service held at Europe's largest

war memorial at Thiepval, the monolith monument inscribed with more than 73,000 names of the missing.

This time the mass media were seeking out those venerable and, sadly, vanishing old 'uns for evocative first hand pen pictures of those distant happenings — cruel or compassionate, horrific or heroic, brave or simply brash.

The old soldiers did not flinch under this new barrage. Elderly ears strained as questions came hurtling in from eager, inquisitive reporters armed with notebooks and pencils; radio reporters with cloth-covered "mikes", three-man TV crews defiantly stanced with cameras aimed and sound booms aloft.

Known to today's descendant generations simply as "The Vets", they took the unleashed media assault in their stride at Thiepval.

Bemedalled they were. Wearing their remembrance poppies. Immaculately turned out. Polished shoes. Knife-edged trouser creases. Neat, tidy, military. What the world expects such venerated British warriors to be. Sensible old men with justifiable pride but not the slightest aura of swank.

The Duke of Kent, president of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission since 1970, was there to lay a wreath and give a short speech: the funeral oration of Pericles.

So, too, was former Argyll and Sutherland Highlander, Mr George Younger, the British Defence Minister, and a ceremonial entourage including French, Canadian, Australian, New Zealand and South African VIPs of appropriate invited association.

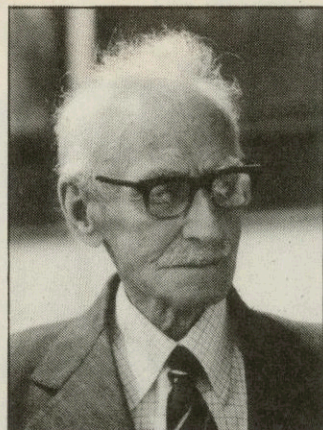
The occasion of solemn commemoration

Turn to next page

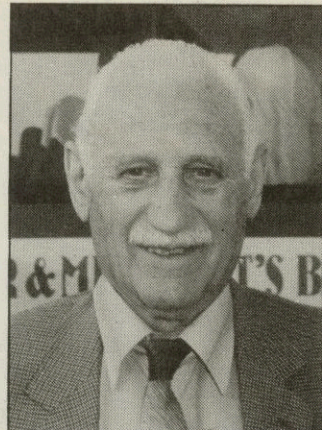
# RETURN TO PICARDY

Stories: Graham Smith  
Pictures: Paul Haley





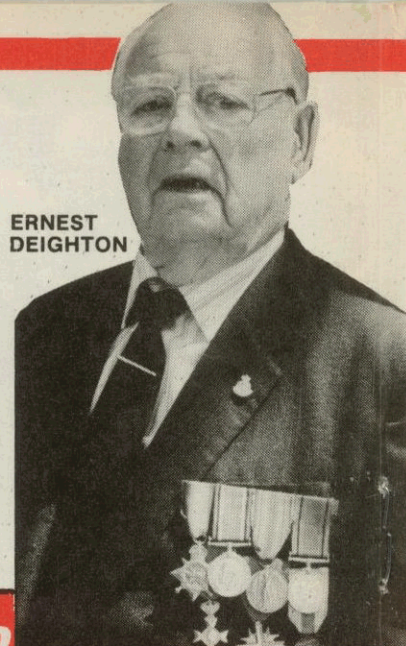
BERNARD SAILES



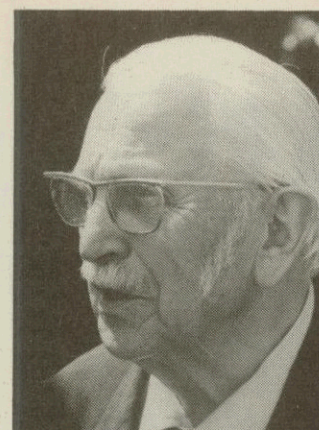
HORACE CULVERT



WILFRED BRAITHWAITE



ERNEST DEIGHTON



BILL MUIR

## Ernest escaped death on the Somme — twice

ERNEST DEIGHTON—25884 Private Deighton, E—a marksman and later Lewis gunner with the 8th Bn, The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, twice had scrapes with death on the Somme battlefield. He did not leave it without crippling scars.

Over the top on the first day, he was hit in the shoulder and foot. He lay in a No Man's Land shell hole for four days and nights. His unit got him back and "patched him up". Young Deighton thought he was going home; out of the war. He was wrong.

He was sent back up the line. This time he was severely wounded. Shell shrapnel in the left leg. In searing pain he managed to save his leg—and life—by twisting his puttees round his entrenching tool to act as an improvised tourniquet. His knee was smashed and Deighton spent 14 months in hospital.

This year, for the first time,

he saw the grave of wartime regimental pal Pte Clem Cunningham, then 19, at Ovillers Cemetery. "It was a very tearful, emotional occasion," said his daughter, Mrs Mary Sylvester of Doncaster. "He was over-awed." Ernest Deighton is 92.

751367 Bombardier **Bill Muir**, 88, of D 317 Brigade Howitzer Battery from Tyne-mouth who trained at Hebburn and on Doncaster racecourse arrived in France on July 2, 1916.

His unit "chased and was chased by Jerry". Bill was put out of the war for good on March 29, 1918, with a leg wound.

A regular commuter to the Somme battlefields, he said: "Every time I arrive out here I think of the lads that were lost. If I'm fit next year, I'll be over."

23553 Guardsman **Horace Calvert**, 86, from Bradford, who served with the 2nd and 4th Battalions, Grenadier Guards, arrived in France to fight in the

Ypres salient, first moving on to "various battlefronts". He was wounded in the right shoulder on September 25 during the Flers-Courcelette encounter, shortly after his 17th birthday.

He said of the Somme: "You never forget the chaps you knew. How did I come to survive? I just felt the Somme was something that took place and we had to accept it. We couldn't do anything about it. It was all in the hands of higher people to stop the war."

"I've no regrets and feel grateful just to be alive today. That's why, ever since the Somme, I've been a regular churchman."

22985 Private—later Sergeant—**Bernard Sailes**, 90, a platoon Lewis gunner from Doncaster, with the 11th Battalion The Green Howards who trained at Darlington and Cannock Chase, said of the soldiers' attitude to the Somme: "The lads simply

followed orders from the officers."

"I'm a realist. Hard-boiled. But it touched me when I came across on the ferry again for the first time two days ago."

**Jack Hardisty**, 86, from Manchester, remembers carrying boxes of grenades to the front line positions.

"You were climbing over the dead and debris with machine gun and rifle fire and bombs falling all the time. I kept telling myself any second I was going to be in pieces. It was a terrifying experience."

He was pulled out after four days but returned to make a miraculous escape. A shell landed in front of him, burying him alive in a debris-filled trench.

He was reported missing but climbed out unhurt.

Former Captain **Johnny Morris** said of his fallen comrades: "They were the kindest chums in the whole world."

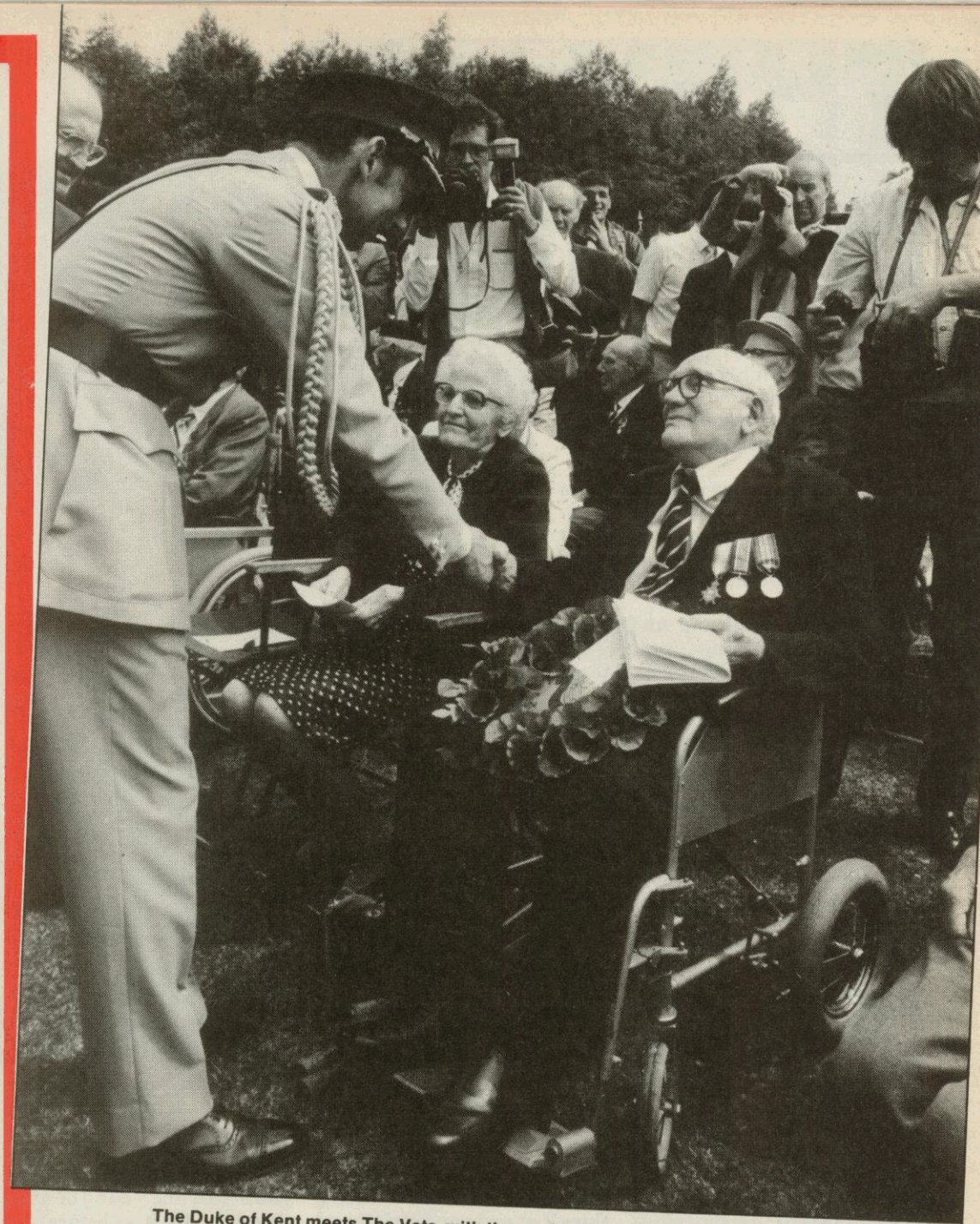
**Wilfred Braithwaite**, 90, served with the 4th Battalion, The Green Howards, on the Somme operating a black-and-white shutter to signal aircraft from the ground as they flew their recces.

On September 15, 1916, regimental signallers like Wilf had to act as comms links between the tanks going into action for the very first time and the troops.

Semaphore signalling methods from tank tops did not last for long, Wilf recalls. Shellfire saw to that.

Wilf was absolved all further tank comms tactics when a shell splinter embedded itself in his femur just inches from his hip joint. Badly wounded, he hobbled back down the walking-wounded trail for evacuation to the rear.

"Sir Douglas Haig was at the roadside and he saluted every ambulance as it passed by," said Wilf. "I like to think he was saluting me!"



The Duke of Kent meets The Vets, with the media taking a close interest. Old soldiers returning to the Somme for the 70th anniversary service faced a barrage of television cameras, radio microphones and reporters' notebooks

### From Page 25

was, of course, paramount. It was held in brilliant sunshine, just as the offensive had started out in its early hours to the very moment 70 years earlier.

Yet the day belonged to The Vets. Those living battlefield legends representing the silent thousands they had come to honour; men who will never be able to tell the tale of how it really was.

In his oration, the Venerable Frank Johnston, Chaplain General to the Army, read out a litany of battlefields on the Somme; as indelible now in the minds of The Vets as they ever were then.

He told them: "These are just not interesting features on a map or a significant chapter in your regimental history. They are an integral part of your life story. You, the veterans, and the Somme are inseparable. Such was the intensity of battle."

"It is not our wish to intrude on private memories or to reopen old wounds. Many

have tried to apportion responsibility for what occurred.

"As always, there are important tactical lessons to be learned and disturbing questions to be answered but that is not our task today. We have come to remember. It is right we should remember the pities and the sorrows of war."

The Vets in the two front rows fronting the massive Thiepval monument listened intently. Eyes moistened. Shaky hands fumbled into pockets for handkerchiefs. Here and there, a kindly "minder" gently squeezed an arm or a hand of those needing supportive consolation. One old soldier unashamedly sobbed aloud.

As the Last Post and national anthems of Britain and France were played those Vets who could heaved themselves to their feet. Those in the eight or so wheelchairs sat to attention as their dutiful mark of respect.

Anthems and music was being played by the three-in-one band made up of The Royal

Irish Rangers and The Green Howards both based at Osnabrück and The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment stationed in Berlin.

Later, a lone piper, Pipe Major Rab Burns of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment), the Army's senior infantry regiment, played the "Flowers of the Forest" lament.

● Among The Vets defying the mounting temperatures during the service at Thiepval, was **Lieut Col the Rev William King** (ret'd), 94, of The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry who arrived in France in 1915 and was awarded an MC during the second Somme offensive at Comblès in 1918.

He said: "I was a captain in those days and not then ordained. I was gazetted out of the Army as a captain and gazetted in again as a chaplain in 1928."

Lt Col King became Deputy Assistant Chaplain General in the Second World War.

Continued in next page



Widow Doris Alexander: Her father's name is on the Thiepval Memorial

He said of his Somme days: "I was a back-room boy looking after supplies on the Q staff near Corbie on attachment to the 51st (Highland) Division."

"It's almost impossible to identify the sites now. The villages are all re-built and looking very prosperous. They were just heaps of rubble."

● Near him among the congregation was "Bradford Pal", 37468 Pte **Walter Hare**, 88, of the 16th West Yorkshire Regiment, 93 Brigade, 31st Division, who had double cause to reflect his good fortune of survival.

He had been taken prisoner by the Germans for eight months and had seen a "miracle". As he marched into his first day of captivity, coming the other way was his 21-year-old brother, Harold, reported killed just two days before!

Sadly, Walter from Pontefract, still has a legacy from his Somme experiences—emphysema, caused by a gas attack in his trench.

A Somme trail of carnage that took him to Hébuterne... Serre... Gommecourt... the Vimy Ridge.

"In one word it was hell. You just cannot express it properly to anyone. While you were on the line for up to two weeks at a time there was no hot water and there were always people shouting for stretcher bearers," he said.

He got to St Léger where "Jerry was throwing Minenwerfer (stick grenades) everywhere". One was lobbed into the end of his trench and killed five of his mates outright.

Like thousands of others, Walter was wounded. Some shrapnel in his leg.

"I was told that only 37 or so out of 600 Bradford Pals came out of it all," he said. "I spent 30 months in the trenches and can only thank God that I am still here. It seems a selfish attitude, I know. Luckily, I happened to be at the other end of the trench

Turn to Page 28



# THEY HOLD IT STILL

WAITING IN his front line trench to go over the top with his men during the first day of the Somme offensive, Capt Duncan Martin just knew they were all going to die. He had sensed it, predicted it days before.

They did, cut down by German machine gun fire as A Company, 9th Battalion, The Devonshire Regiment dutifully advanced from their trench at Mansel Copse near the village of Mametz.

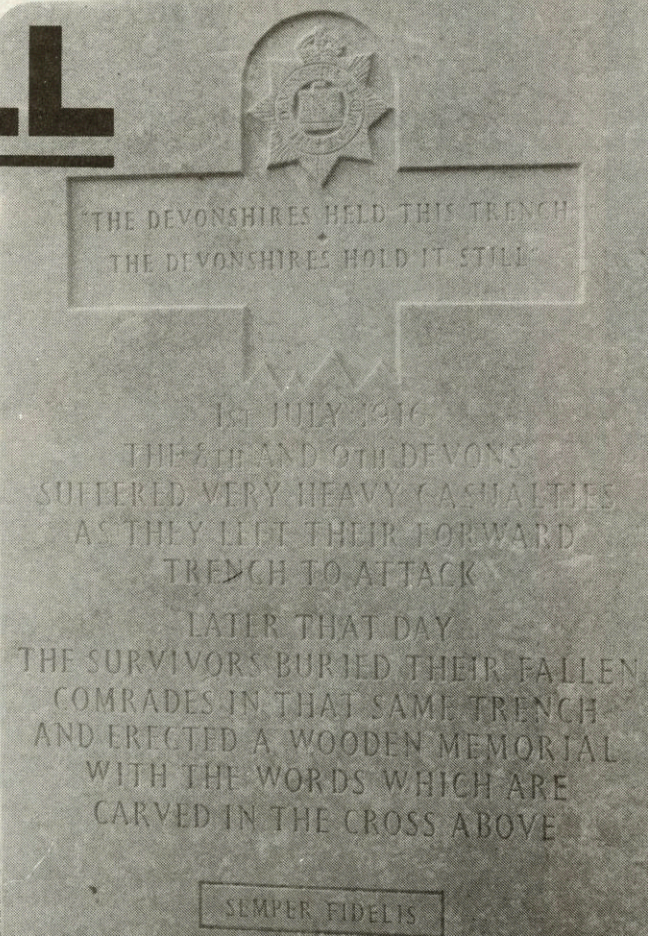
Men of both the 8th and 9th Devons, part of the 7th Division, were to die that day as the Germans raked them with venomous spray-fire from a churchyard site.

A few weeks before, Capt Martin, who was 30 and an artist, had made a model of the 20 Brigade area including Mansel Copse and the likely position of German opposition.

Nevertheless, the Devonians attacked from a point on the south-west side of the Albert-Maricourt Road due south of Mametz village.

Later that fateful day the survivors buried their comrades in the same trench from which they had clambered. Before moving on they erected a simple wooden memorial which read: "The Devonshires held this trench; the Devonshires hold it still."

Seven decades have passed. The wooden memorial is long gone. Until now. For the Devonshires — now The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment — have not forgotten that illustrious chapter of gallantry in

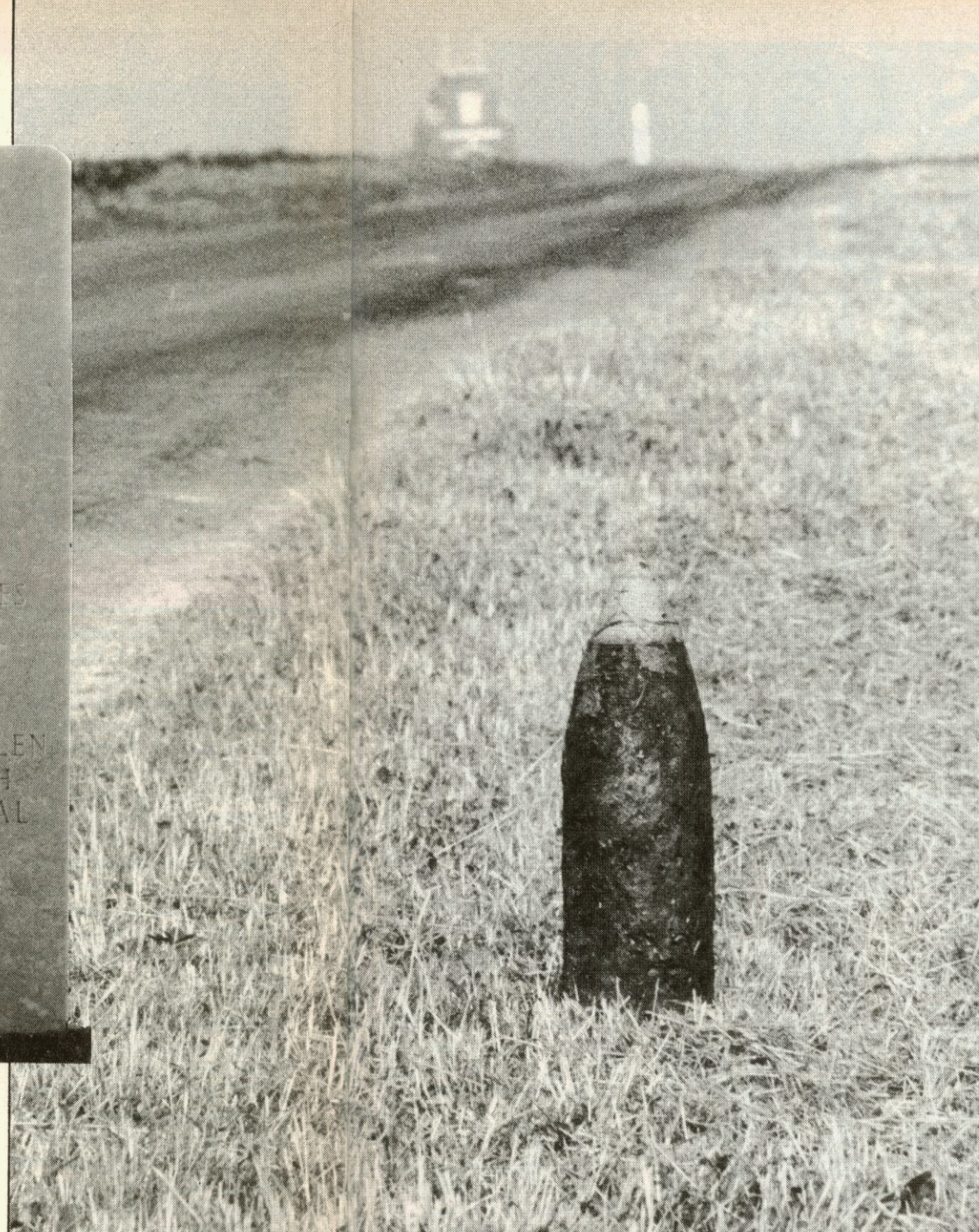


the face of insuperable odds.

The Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment and two veterans who fought on the Somme — Mr Bill Paramor of the 2nd Battalion, The Devonshire Regiment and Mr Albert Paul of the 1st Battalion, The Dorsetshire Regiment — laid

wreaths on a stone replacement memorial at the neat Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery.

The dedication happened 70 years to the day of the slaughter. On it, as before, the same epitaph to 160 brave West Countrymen.



The massive Thiepval memorial shimmers distantly in the July heat as a shell awaits collection. French farmers routinely leave such legacies of the Somme beside the road



## Resting place of the boy soldier

TEENAGERS from within the Commonwealth, just like those from Britain itself, rallied in their thousands to fight on the Somme during the first offensive. One of them, a South African, it has now been discovered, was just 14!

Private DSU Ross — service number 11322 — of the 2nd Regiment, South African Division, died of wounds on March 25, 1918, and lies buried alongside two British soldiers, a corporal and a private, in a quiet corner of a French

civilian cemetery at Heudicourt.

Pte Ross was the son of Mr CG and Mrs SJ Ross of Johannesburg.

Heudicourt was captured by the British from the Germans in March 1917 but re-taken by the Germans in March 1918. The British re-took Heudicourt in September 1918.

It is likely Pte Ross and his comrades were buried by the Germans in March. The main Heudicourt military cemetery contains 89 Commonwealth graves.



Former Green Howard Wilf Braithwaite takes a remembrance poppy from a young donor

### From Page 27

that day.

"I joined the Army and volunteered to go to France because they seemed to be making a mess of it. We thought we had better go out there and finish it off for them. I was a raw recruit and had only fired five rounds before."

Will he be back next year, then? "There are so many things wrong with me, I don't think so," he said with a deep tinge of sadness but with Yorkshire practicality.

● One woman sitting among the "vets" was 78-year-old widow **Mrs Doris Alexander** of Cambridge, who had made a coach trip to Thiepval as part of a battlefield tour.

Her father, Fus William Hunt, of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), was killed at Beaumont Hamel on November 13, 1916. At the time Fus Hunt was 31; his curly-headed daughter, Doris, just eight.

● Former Pioneer **Norman Skelton**, 87,

still found the occasion moving though he had been back to the Somme and its memories before. His low sobbing during an oration openly expressed the sentiments of many, many more there.

In 1916 he had joined up, attracted by a newspaper advertisement. He had been a 16-year-old lad in a "dead end job".

He became a morse key operator after training, soon tapping out 15 words-a-minute while learning about the intricacies of a new listening-in set. He saw trench service at Le Sars in a deep dug out, eavesdropping on German messages through a battalion interpreter.

"I wasn't a fighter," he chuckled, "We were trying to be hush-hush and not mixing with the troops. I didn't go round sticking blasted bayonets into people. Instead, I had this blasted battery to carry around. It was damned heavy and got heavier and heavier. One day it leaked all over my uniform. The area was just a sea of mud pot holes."

● Field ambulance orderly, **Sam Neill**, 88, of Irish origins, said of his part: "They were tumbling down like ninepins. We were having to carry them on our backs. There were so many you could just not use the stretchers. Injuries were dreadful."

● **Tom Sheppard**, 89, of The Royal Warwickshire Regiment, a Regular, said: "We went over the top 1,000-strong. We ended up with just 100."

● **Richard Calvert**, 90, of the 36th (Ulster) Division, said: "People volunteered instead of opposing one another. We went as one man to fight a common enemy. I can only say my impression of the Somme was like hell ... with the lid off. Enough said."

● Another Irishman from the Division, **Tommy Ervine** said: "A shell landed behind me. My mates went down. My back felt as if it was on fire."

Yet the memorial day was not all dominated by painful memories.

There was a picnic at Pozieres for those

on a battlefield tour organised by Major and Mrs Tony Holt.

They revelled with decorum on the very ground once bitterly contested by the Australians. A dark, cave-like German bunker skulked in a copse just 150 yards away.

A drummer and a teenaged accordionist played all the old favourites of those killing field years. Tangos. Waltzes. "Tipperary", "Pack up your Troubles", while Doris Alexander gave a solo rendition of "Roses of Picardy."

One estimate of that July 1 offensive gives 57,470 casualties (19,240 of them dead). Four months of ferocious fighting were rewarded with the capture of 45 villages, eight sizeable woods and the taking of 40,000 German prisoners.

That summer's day offensive which started at La Boisselle ended up along the Bapaume road at Le Sars. A gore-spilling gain of just .. six miles.



# Mud reclaims battalion of Somme dead ...



A CRUEL quirk of climatic fate "re-buried" nearly a battalion's worth of dead Commonwealth soldiers under a quagmire of mud for the second time in 70 years.

Recovered from a morass of mud during the vicious fighting on the Somme, the men had finally been laid to rest at the Prospect Hill Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery at Gouy, halfway between Cambrai and St Quentin in Aisne province.

Just a week before the Duke of Kent, president of the Commission, was due to visit the area, a freak storm sent tons of mud slithering into the small cemetery.

Teams of gardeners from the Commission's French area HQ operating out of Arras were called in to set about restoring the cemetery. They waited for the mud to dry so that it could be lifted off in chunks. Piece by piece.

In all, 537 Commonwealth soldiers are interred at Gouy (450 from the UK, 77 from Australia and ten from South Africa). There are also 119 unknown graves.

On October 23, 1918, the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry captured Prospect Hill after Le Catelet and Gouy had been taken by the 50th (Northumbrian) Division, the 6th Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and the 4th King's Royal Rifle Corps.

Prospect Hill Cemetery was made by the 50th Division and the 18th Field Ambulance immediately afterwards. It originally contained 78 officers and men, chiefly from the units who won the ground. The cemetery size was increased after the Armistice by another 459 graves, mainly from the battle north of Gouy and almost exclusively of men who fell in October 1918.



Men from the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, on parade with their skis



Gen Sir Geoffrey Howlett inspects Arctic-clad paras

## All dressed up for the summer!

A TOUCH of the Arctic came to a summery Aldershot during the annual Airborne Forces Day. Skis and SLRs were the novel order of the day to the delight of an estimated 1,000 onlookers.

Men from the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, based at Bulford, Wilts — they comprise the UK infantry battalion input into Nato's AMF (L) contingent — were on parade in their all-white Arctic clothing.

With them in their drill movements were their skis for snow mobility — though these were not put to use on the baking tarmac surface of the Hampshire parade ground!

Also on parade were a dozen oversnow vehicles and six Scimitar recce armoured cars totting their 30mm Rarden cannon. All of them in Arctic livery.

Overhead two 35-ton RAF Hercules transport aircraft, the paras' more usual form of transport, staged a fly-past for the occasion from their RAF Lyneham base.

Reviewing officer — also in Arctic clothing — was Gen Sir Geoffrey Howlett, C-in-C AFNORTH — Allied Forces Northern Europe — based at Kolsaas, near Oslo, Norway.

Music for the prestigious day in Aldershot, "Home of the British Army" and alma mater of the paras' training depot, was provided by the massed bands of The Parachute Regiment and the 15th (Scottish Volunteer) Battalion Pipe Band, The Parachute Regiment, based in Glasgow.

Footnote: 1 PARA leave Bulford and return to Aldershot next May, relinquishing their AMF (L) role.

Pictures: Paul Haley.



# Mersey's baton brigade

TA Volunteers from 103 Air Defence Regiment's Light Aid Detachment were entrusted with a £17,000 gold and silver baton for a two-mile crossing of the River Mersey via the Runcorn Bridge.

They were taking part in the Queen's Relay, carrying the valuable baton through Merseyside and West Cheshire on its way to the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh.

Baton carrier from the Town Hall in Widnes to the other side of the Mersey was Cfn Karl Tattum. Back-up runners from the LAD were Cpl Tony Riozzi, Cfn Norman Siebert and Cfn Philip Bonney. Also in the party were Jane O'Connor, 15-year-old daughter of SSgt John O'Connor, and Adrian Gore, 14-year-old son of ASM Tom Gore.



Rolling out a reel of signal wire — LCpl Tony Billon (right) and fellow Home Service Force volunteer

## Welsh veterans rush to serve on the Home Service front

WELSHMEN have never ignored a call to arms since the days of Llewelyn the Great and ex-soldiers throughout the Principality are still flocking to enlist in the recently formed Home Service Force.

While other areas of the United Kingdom have been struggling to make up numbers, E Company of the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion The Royal Regiment of Wales has had to apply for special permission to take on an extra 15 men — and there is still a waiting list.



Above — Men of E Company third (Volunteer) Battalion The Royal Regiment of Wales march past at Otterburn Camp. Right — Formerly a regular soldier with The Royal Welch Fusiliers, Pte Howard Tallis, 31, now works in a paper mill

The keenness and dedication of these men was shown when about 40 took time off work to make a round trip of 1,000 miles to train for a few days with their parent battalion on the Otterburn Training Area in Northumberland.

During their stay they took part in signals courses and HGV driving cadres, zeroed their weapons, and fought their way through a close quarter battle range, and at the end paraded with the rest of the battalion before the senior ranks

of their TA colleagues.

The Home Service Force may have started with a Dad's Army image but this is being rapidly dispelled by their professionalism. The TA and regular Army instructors at Otterburn had nothing but praise for the Principality's oldest new soldiers.

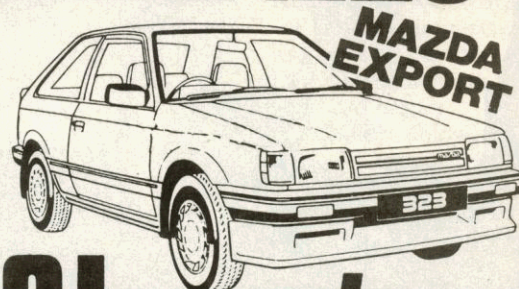
The Home Service Force began in 1982 when four companies were formed in England and Scotland and was expanded when three companies were enlisted in Wales.



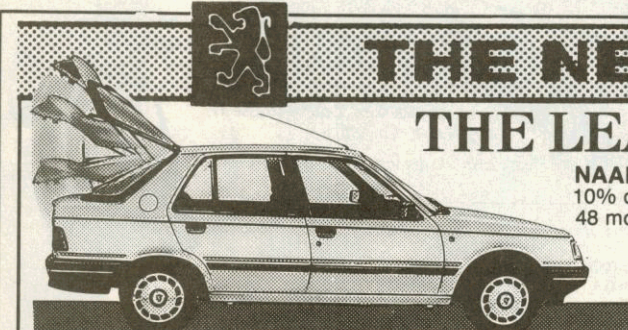
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# Aussies on the Somme

Many are the books that have been written about the British Army's bloodiest encounter — on the Somme.

One of the latest to appear deals with the part in it played by Australian soldiers of the 1st Division at Pozieres, a tiny village with a windmill nearby which were objectives on the opening day of the battle.

## BOOKS

Five weeks later the front line had been moved forward 1,500 metres, but the Australians had suffered 23,000 casualties, the highest toll ever paid by Australian soldiers.

**Australians on the Somme — Pozieres 1916**, written by Peter Charlton, journalist, author and part-time soldier, and published by Leo Cooper/Secker and Warburg, price £14.95.

**The Somme — Then and Now** by John Giles, heavily illustrated accounts of the fighting blended with comparison photographs taken recently, published by Battle of Britain Prints International Ltd, price £13.95.

# THAT PERFECT THING APART

At almost the time that Britain has been commemorating the massacre of tens of thousands of its young men on the Somme, the account by a former Army officer of another deathly harvest of young lives has been published.

These were not the Kitchener's recruits but men of the British Expeditionary Force who fought gallantly from Mons to the graveyard of the old regular Army — the Ypres salient.

During a six-week period there were 58,000 British casualties in the salient; battalions were often under a 100 men strong.

Recording the carnage, former Essex Regiment battalion commander Edward Owen points out that the part played by the French and Belgians in the defence of the few miles of territory around the textile-famous old town during what became known as the First Battle of Ypres, has often been underrated or even forgotten; the French, for instance, took 50,000 casualties.

But as an Essex Regiment man, it is not surprising that Mr Owen, in tracing the path of the BEF from Mons to Ypres, should follow the 2nd Battalion of his regiment through much of the campaign. The battalion arrived in time for



the stand at Le Cateau and fought throughout the Ypres battle.

By then, on average, only one officer and 30 men remained of each of the original 64 battalions, a 1,000 men strong, which had landed in France in August of that opening year of the war. "That Perfect Thing Apart", as Colonel-General Helmuth Johannes von Moltke, Chief of the German General Staff, was to call the regular Army, had been all but extinguished.

But "That Perfect Thing Apart" was the start of Germany's eventual

**The ruins of Ypres at the Menin Gate**

downfall in the First World War. **1914, Glory Departing**, by Edward Owen, published by Buchan and Enright, price £12.95.

## IN BRIEF

**With a Machine Gun to Cambrai** by George Coppard. Re-issue in paperback of the experiences of a 16-year-old who enlisted in Kitchener's Army, served with the Machine Gun Corps and eventually won the Military Medal. Published by Papermac. Price £3.95.

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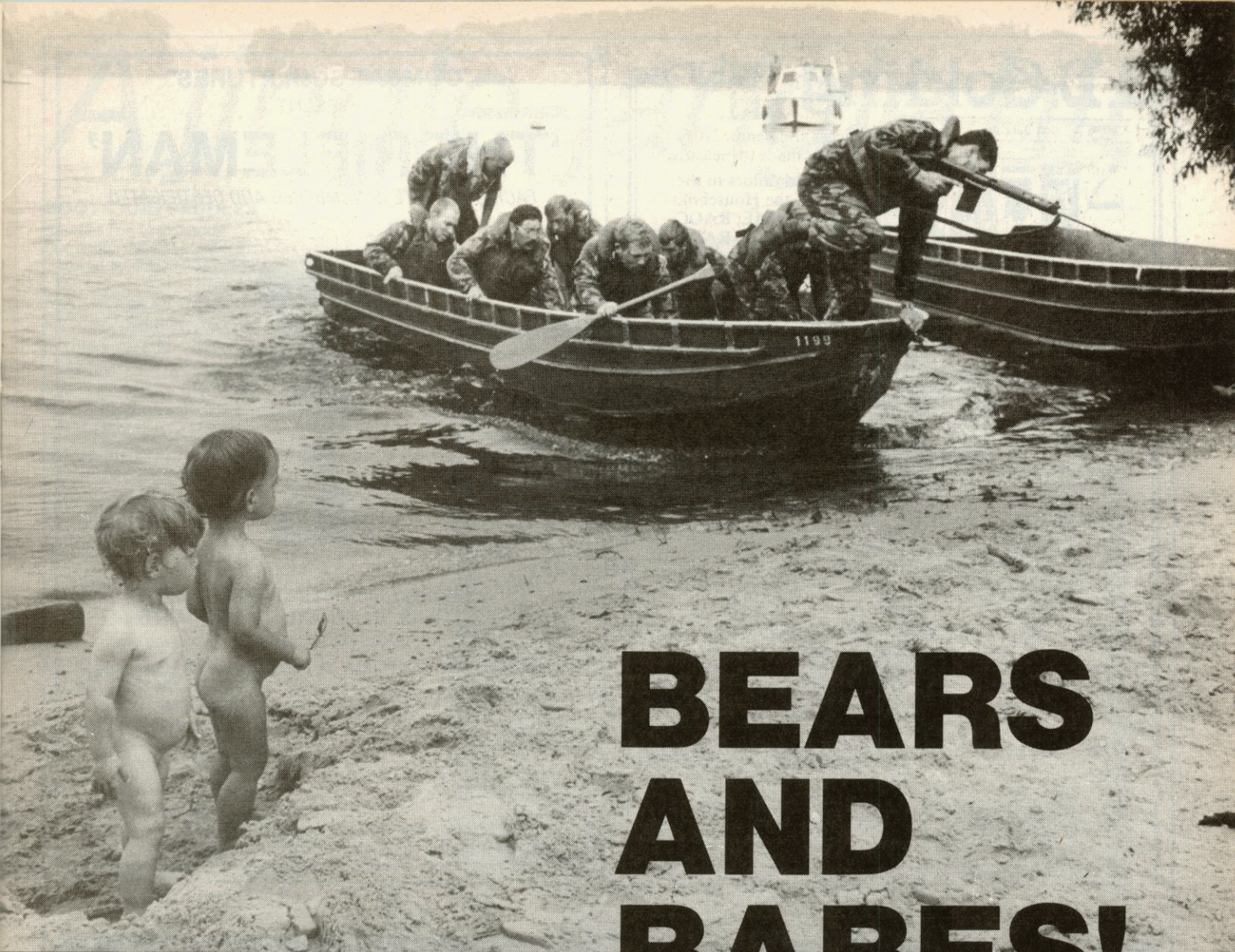
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Water babes watch Water Bears leap ashore from Havel lake in the Grunewald Forest near Berlin

# BEARS AND BABES!



Glostesters rescue a damsel in distress during Exercise Water Bear

**EXERCISE** Water Bear gave the 1st Bn The Gloucestershire Regiment a chance to swop formal duties in Berlin for the relative peace and quiet of the countryside.

With the Queen's Birthday Parade and the Allied Forces Day Parade safely under their polished belts, the Glosters donned camouflaged combat gear for training on land and water in the dense foliage of the huge Grunewald Forest, not far from bustling Berlin.

As the Glosters' CO, Lt Col Paul Arengo-Jones, explained: "Any Berlin based battalion must be competent in watermanship techniques, given the vast lakes around parts of the city's perimeter. In addition, the exercise is a welcome shake-out after our busy ceremonial period. It is an excellent lead-in to our forthcoming battle camp at Sennelager in BAOR".

As they carried out unceasing day and night foot patrols against an imagined enemy, they were kept equally busy fighting a mighty midget foe — in the shape of swarms of mosquitoes that the hot weather brought in its wake.

The air was hardly cooler down on the huge Havel lake as other battalion members carried out

water-borne operations, loading their Land-Rovers and armoured vehicles on to heavy ferries, for the quarter-mile crossing. 1st Battalion The Royal Highland Fusiliers with longer experience of Berlin than the Glosters, were brought in to help operate the ferries.

As the large craft criss-crossed the water with their combat-cargo, a sharp eye was needed for the myriad of pleasure craft that range over the lake, not to mention the enormous freight barges that navigate the Havel on their way to West Germany's major rivers, stopping for no man as they exercise right of way.

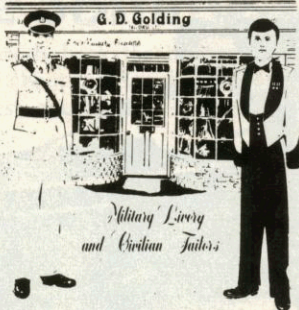
A surprise was in store for the assault-craft teams, however, when they paddled to a nearby headland to deal with an enemy threat. As they hit the beach and stormed ashore, they suddenly found that they were having to evacuate 'wounded' civilians to safety — some of the battalion wives who had volunteered to be 'casualties' for a day!

Meanwhile, in the forest colleagues were getting to grips with a variety of skill-tests.

**Pictures: Mike Klinec**



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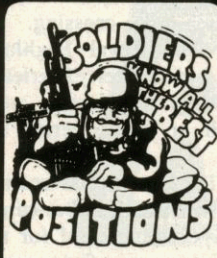
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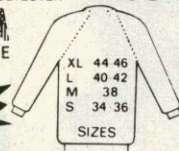
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# A jingle-jangle hit!

## BOOTS AND SADDLES

Band of The Life Guards  
Conductor: Major J G McColl  
Bandleader BND 1022

MAJOR McColl's first record with his new regiment has one side devoted to marches very much concerned with boots, saddles, and that marvellous jingle-jangle of cavalry accoutrements. I merely remind him that he has a trot called Jingle-Jangle in his library by a certain ex-Grenadier.

I can't complain though, for Maj McColl kindly includes a march I wrote some years ago called *Foxhunter* and dedicated to that famous horse's owner Col Llewelyn. It has an absolutely unique feature which nobody seems to have noticed in the 20-odd years since it was written.

Then there are the regimental slow and quick marches of course, and two American marches in R B Hall's *Imperial Life Guards* and Grafulla's great *Washington Grays*, the longest and most symphonic of all marches. Maj McColl's own *Agrippa* slow march and his *Quickest and Best* quick march, both highly relevant in such a programme, the first featuring the cavalry trumpets and the second a lively 6/8, both very catchy.

Maj Alf Young is represented with his superb *Boots and Saddles*, and this is a fitting place for me to opine that this modest man's music has gained its proper place in the band repertoire only since his death.

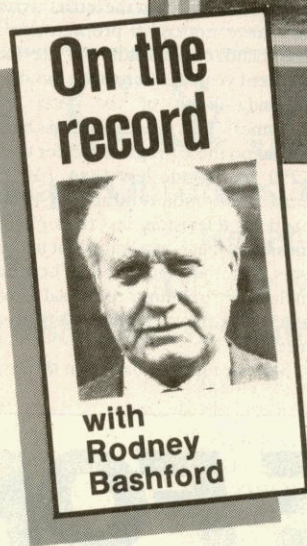
A former Director of Music of the Royal Engineers he must be considered as Britain's second most skilled writer of band music after Kenneth Alford, and sometimes emulates even him.

On side two this fine band can really display its wares in an attractive programme including a performance of *Light Cavalry* straight from the horse's mouth so to speak.

There is also Gustav Holst's thrilling *Moorside March*, Lecuona's colourful *Malaguena*, and a rising classic for bands in Frank Erickson's *Toccata*, which sounds serious but isn't.

It all ends with hair well and truly let down, breast-plates removed, (and whatever else cavalymen loosen and remove after agonised hours in full kit) with *Trumpets on Top*, again composed by the conductor, and Gershwin's *I Got Rhythm* in a sparkling arrangement by Leonard Moss.

● A terrific record available at £5.60 inclusive from Band-leader, 7 Garrick St, London WC2E 9AR.



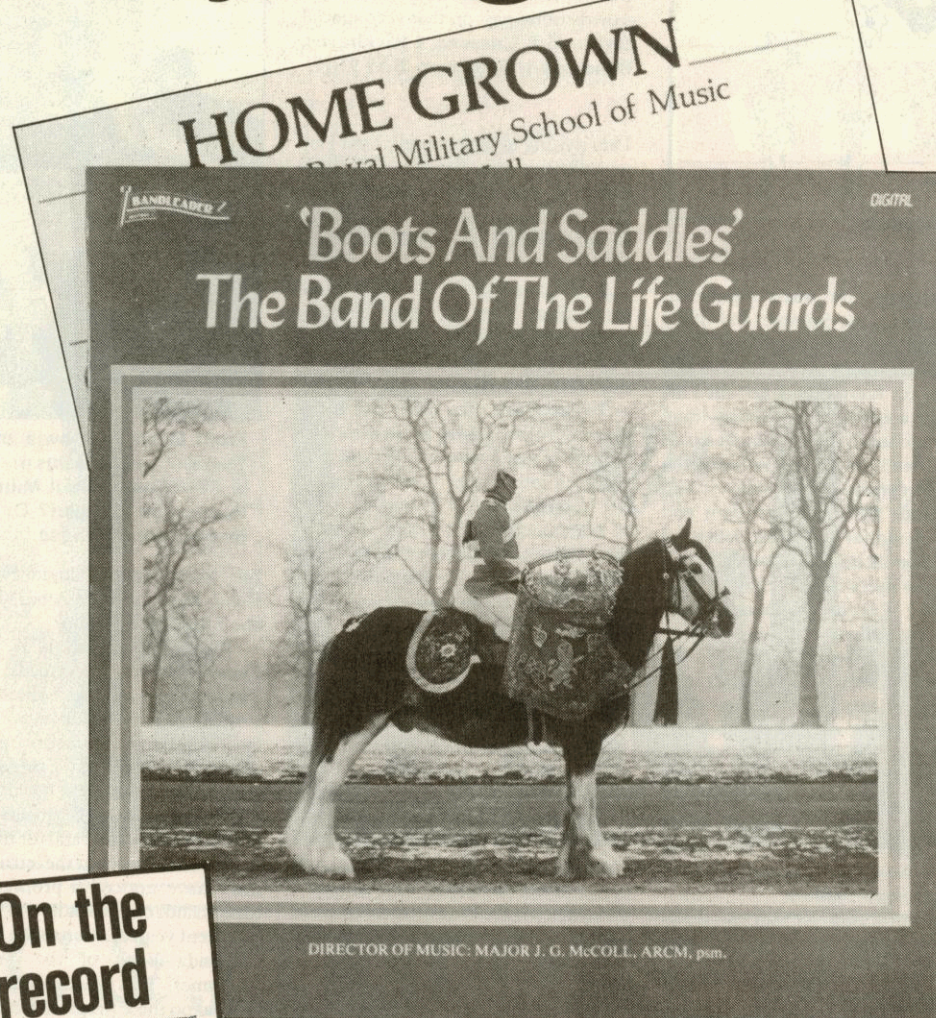
## HOME GROWN

Band of the Royal Military School of Music  
Conductor: Lt Col D R Beat  
Polyphonic PRM 109 D

AS ITS title implies the music selected for this attractive disc is not only all-British but on side one is by composers very much associated with Kneller Hall and on side two by distinguished alumni of the School, including three of its past and present Directors of Music.

Home grown indeed and, one hopes, none the worse for that since I am chuffed to see I am included in the list!

The Kneller Hall Trumpeters



open this *Celebration* of home talent with Colonel Beat's own fanfare of that name, heralding a first performance by a military band of the brass band classic *Heroic March* from Percy Fletcher's *Epic Symphony*. The arrangement is by Phillip Sparke who also provides a *Jubilee Overture* of his own composition; written originally for brass band to celebrate the Queen's silver jubilee it makes a jaunty piece for wind band with its not-too-covert glances in the direction of Bliss and Walton.

Laurie Johnson has provided several works for wind band and his catchy *Choc'late Dancing* is from his suite *Three Paintings* by Lautrec; it featured very successfully on the recent Wembley Musical Pageant.

Gordon Jacob and Gustav Holst are of course established masters of the medium and they are represented respectively by *Prelude to Comedy* and the *Fantasia on the Dargason* from the celebrated Suite in F.

Although it would take many LP discs to contain all the music emanating from Kneller Hall we have just one side dedicated to what I humbly submit as being not bad

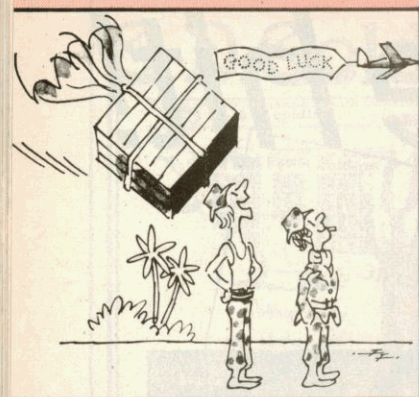
stuff. The music fulfils its intended use with some good tunes, skilled instrumentation, and a rhythmic vitality common to all the best of the genre.

*Bond of Friendship* by Mackenzie Rogan (Queen's, Coldstream Gds), *Cavalry Walk* (Rodney Bashford, 17/21st L Grenadier Gds), *The Mad Major* (Kenneth Alford, A and SH, R Marines), *Royal Stuart* (Duncan Beat, BW, Scots Gds), *Royal Standard* (Alf Young, DCL I, RE), *The Prince* (Richard Tulip, R Fus), *Sarafand* (George Willcocks, SWB, Irish Gds), *Silver Salute* (Trevor Sharpe, Buffs, Coldstream Gds).

Since 78RPM days Dick Tulip's classic *The Prince* has not been recorded, so here is a chance to obtain a march once famous and much used at the Aldershot Tattoo in the 1930s. For me, at least, its strains recall those far off days and nights on Rushmoor, a bandboy amid the cursing hordes of the massed bands stepping warily up and down its arena trying to dodge the leavings of the previous massed cavalry display.

● From Polyphonic Ltd, 77-79 Dudden Hill Lane, London NW10 1BD price £6.25 inc, or dealers £5.50.





## MAIL DROP

except by people like me.

Yet had he been killed in 1917-19 he could have now been resting in the Unknown Warrior tomb and had crowds filing past on that very special day! — **H V Cussons, 4 Rickhayes, Wincanton, Somerset, BA9 9BH.**

## CARE OF THE FALLEN

I am writing to say how delighted I am with the coverage that you gave to the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in your special Somme feature in **SOLDIER** (June 30).

I have visited the Somme many, many times over the past 15 years, both as a tour guide, and on private pilgrimages, and never fail to be impressed and moved by their work.

To emphasise the point you made about "chipping away at old errors", a couple of years ago, in the course of research into a work I am writing on the Liverpool Pals, I visited the grave of a 2nd Lieutenant, whom I knew to have been killed during the battle for the village of Flers in October 1916.

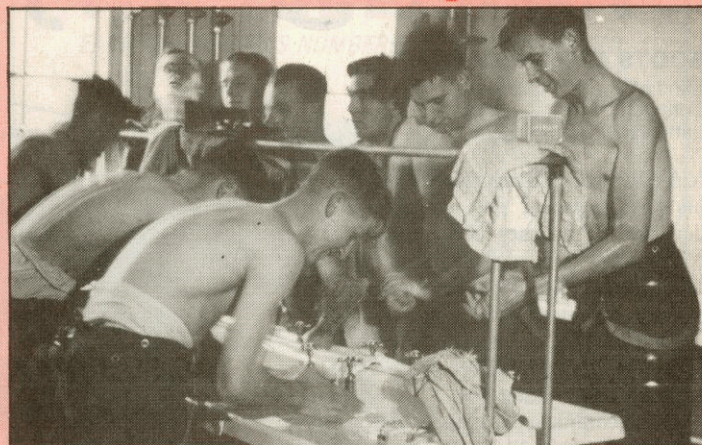
Both his headstone and the cemetery register erroneously showed his year of death to be 1918. On my return to England, I wrote to the War Graves Commission pointing out this fact, and within six months, they not only wrote to me to say that they had rectified the error, but also included a colour photograph of the amended stone!

No one whose relatives live in 'foreign fields' need ever feel that the memories of their loved ones could ever be better served. — **Graham Maddocks, 10 Ashburton Avenue, Oxtot, Birkenhead, Merseyside L43 8TJ.**

## MONEY THE PROBLEM

With reference to Mr Pedler's letter in **SOLDIER** (May 5), could I please inform the writer, through your excellent magazine, the reasons that there are few, if any, broadcasts on both radio and television of Marine, Army or Air Force military bands, except for the events he mentioned: Trooping the Colour, Beating Retreat

## Where are they now?



From Major C Cowie of 5 Warwick Crescent, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, comes this photograph of the first batch of militia to arrive at 22nd Searchlight Militia depot, Norton Fitzwarren in May 1940. Recognise yourself? Or anyone else? According to Major Cowie there is among those faces a future holder of the DSO.

on Horse Guards Parade, Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall and the Edinburgh Tattoo?

Money, or the lack of it, plus the endeavours of the media people concerned to get as much entertainment on the cheap as possible.

The above mentioned events, being public occasions, cost the media nothing except the fees paid to producers, cameramen, sound engineers etc. Not a penny goes to the bands or musicians.

Your readers (and the letter writer) may have noticed a proliferation of brass bands on both radio and television in recent years. Listen to the Band and Granada Band of the Year programmes? This is because brass bands appear on these programmes for under £250 per band, less than £10 per musician for radio, and about £450 per band for television, less than £20 per musician, that is assuming that nothing goes into the band fund. These fees include a three-hour rehearsal as well as a performance, a full day's commitment.

Service military bands on the other

hand must charge the full rate for the job and are not allowed to undercut in any way.

I will agree that the top echelon of brass bands do give excellent performances but I cannot agree with them playing for that kind of money.

A good majority of brass bands do now receive massive commercial sponsorship to survive.

Sponsorship can mean over £10,000 for a full set of new band instruments, a rent-free band practice room, accommodation plus a full set of new uniforms, so the brass bands can hardly plead poverty. — **W F Field (ex-member of the bands of The Royal Irish Fusiliers, Royal Ulster Rifles, and Scots Guards plus 18 years in TA Bands), 17 Shirley Ave, York, YO2 5NJ.**

## HOAY Result

There's £50 on its way to Mrs S Judge of 1 Lyell Walk East, Oakley Green, Windsor, Berks, for winning **SOLDIER**'s HOAY competition No 389. Well judged, Mrs Judge!

## MEMORIAL BOOKS

Many thanks for such wonderful articles about the Somme. My uncle was killed there in September 1916, and my late mother would have been pleased to know that he and his comrades are not forgotten at this time.

Just one small item — the books of civilian dead are not housed near the abbey, but are actually inside it. Turn right inside the great west door and the six memorial books rest beneath a plaque honouring F D Roosevelt and are just 14 paces from the tomb of the Unknown Warrior. One book is open, a light burns above it continually and a page is supposed to be turned each day by the dean's verger. I say supposed to be with good reason. Some three years ago a pal of mine visited the abbey and I suggested he looked at the books. He did so and even wrote details of the pages on view. They were 1380-81 and concerned Poplar, London. Three weeks later I went into the abbey myself. To my disgust the pages on view were still 1380-81.

I have also noticed that the books are neglected on Remembrance Sunday, the tomb of the Unknown Warrior getting all the attention.

What strikes me as strange is this — my father served in France with the Somersets in 1917-19. He was wounded but returned safely. In 1941 he was serving as a Civil Defence warden at Ramsgate when he was killed during a raid.

His name is now in the books mentioned above and is neglected. On Remembrance Sunday he is forgotten,

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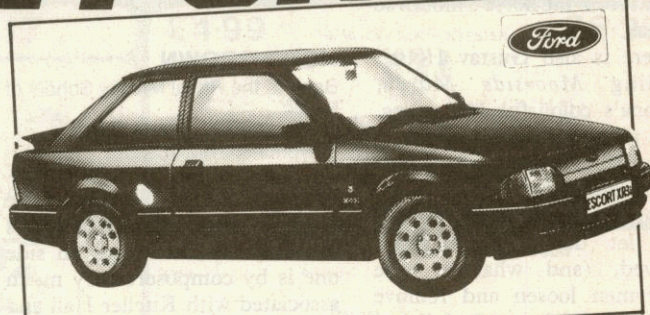
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COMPETITION

393

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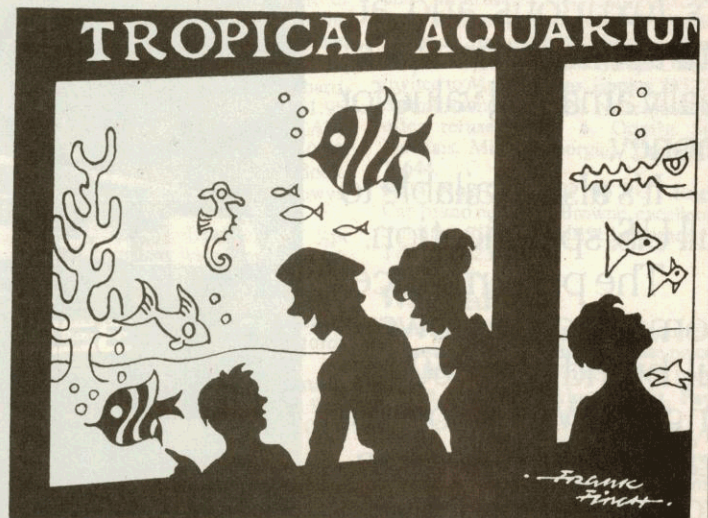
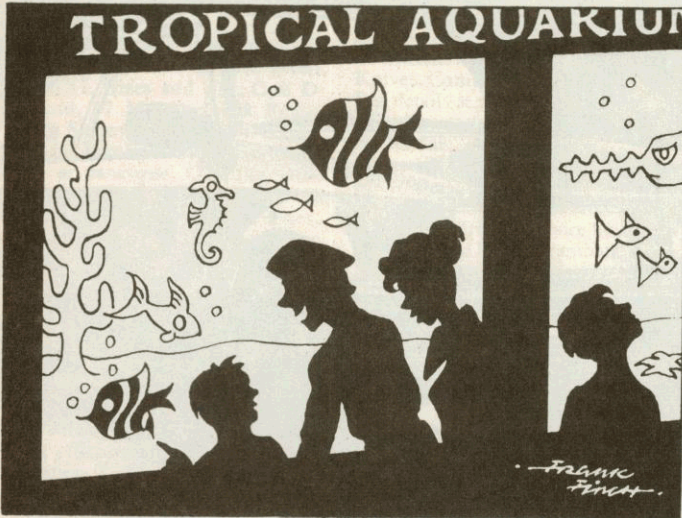
The first correct entry drawn will be the winner. No correspondence can be entered into.

Answers to: HOAY, SOLDIER, Parsons House, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

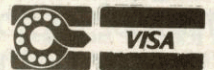
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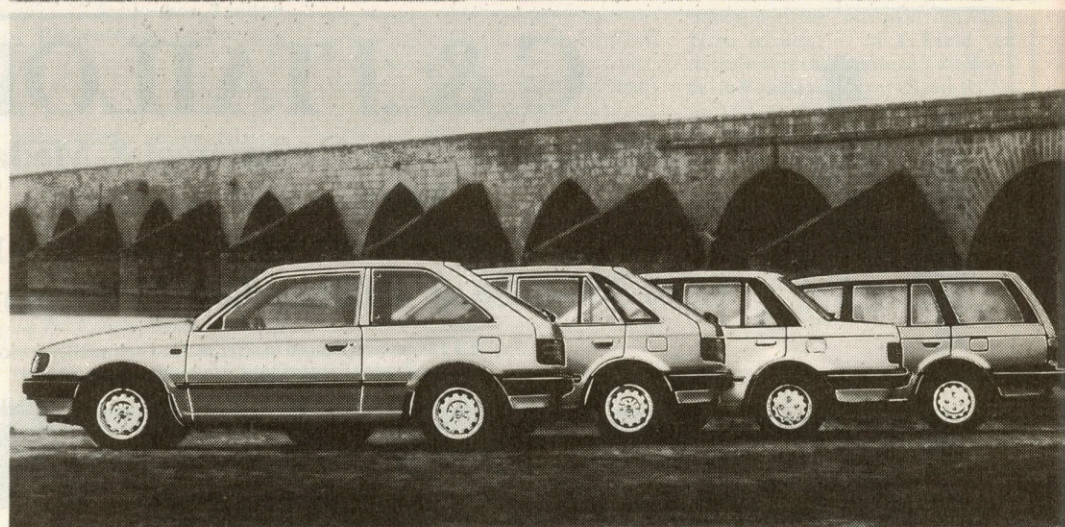
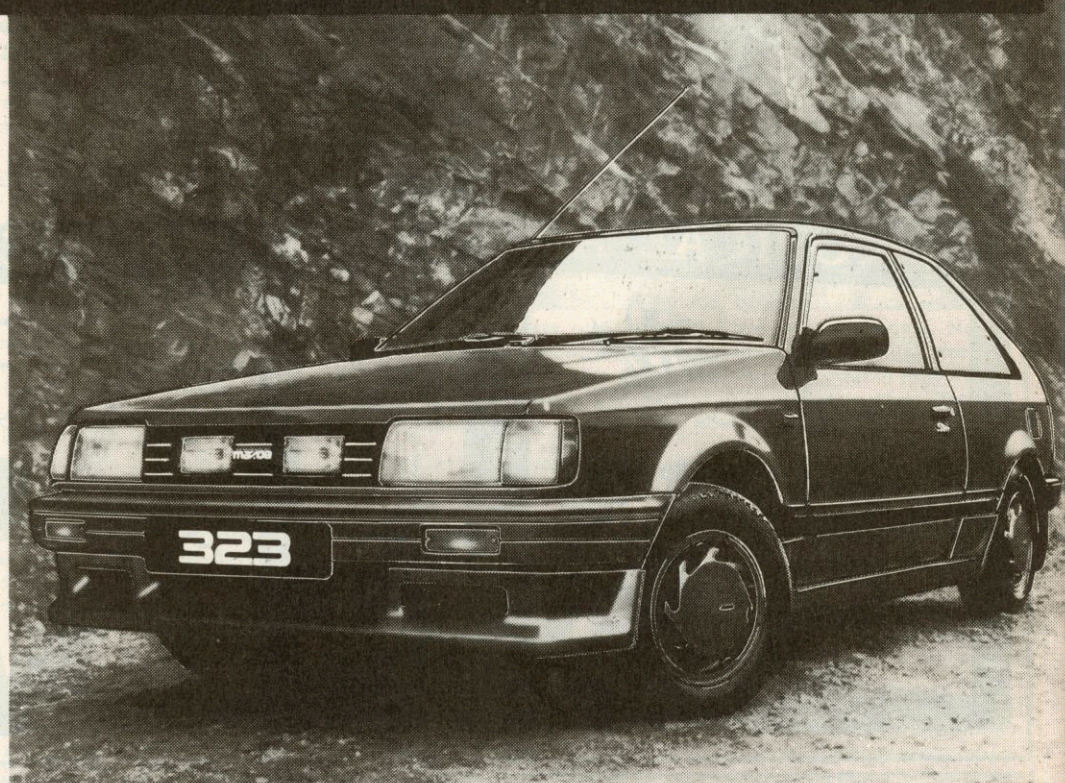
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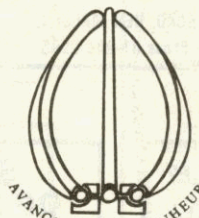
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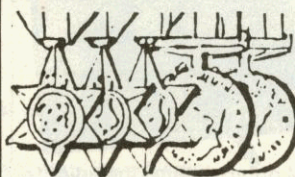
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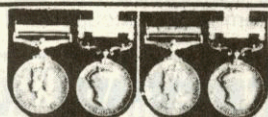
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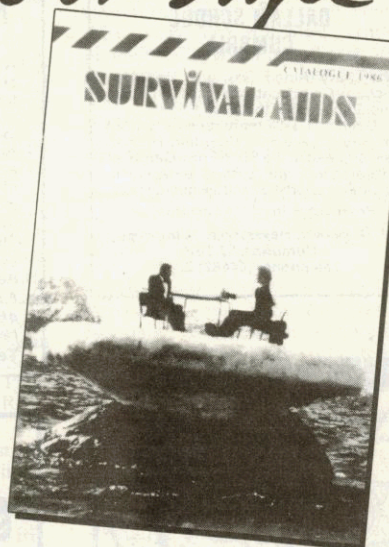
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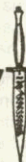
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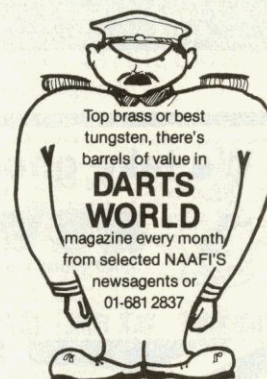
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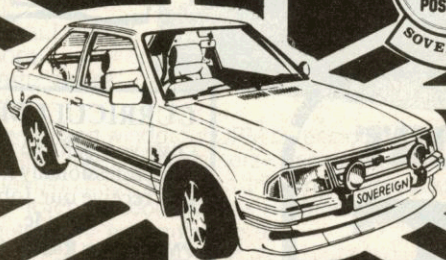
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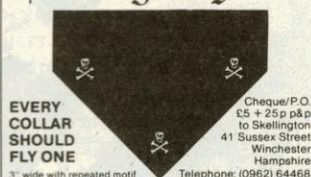
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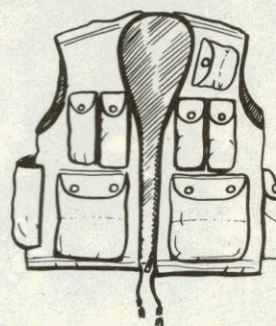
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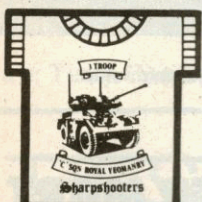
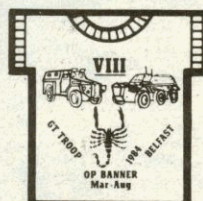
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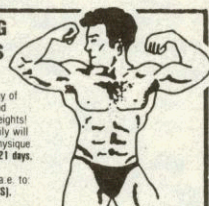


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# WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!



Urged on by coach Sgt Jimmy Clark and Pipe Major Lenny Young, 40 Fd Regt RA, BAOR, dig in to win the 640k championship

Picture: Terry Champion

WITH A piper at their backs, 40 Fd Regt RA called the tune at the Army tug of war championships staged at Buller Barracks, Aldershot. The gunners won the 640k blue ribbon event with some ease, then went on to take the comparatively new 680k division, in which 26 Fd Regt RA were worthy runners up.

Winners of the 640k competition go on to represent the Army at the Inter-Service championships and at the Royal Tournament, so the event is highly competitive.

1 Armoured Fd Amb and 3RHA proved to be the main contenders from the first pool, with the former winning through to the final.

But surprise team of the day was 16 Bn RAOC who battled through to the semi-finals behind mighty 40 Fd Regt RA in only their first season. 16 Bn went on to defy all the odds by beating 1 Arm'd Div in the first semi-final with a tremendous display of guts.

But the final was predictable, with the gunners showing style both on and off the rope.

Two pools of five contested the 560k competition, which was eventually won by 3RHA. They and runners up 49 Fd Regt RA go forward to the Inter-Services at RAF Cosford on September 17.

3RHA won all the pulls in their pool, from which they were joined in the semi-finals by 40 Fd Regt RA, who tend to excel more at the heavier weights.

1 Arm'd Fd Amb beat the other pool winners, 49 Fd Regt RA by two pulls to one, but were unable to sustain this high standard and were eventually relegated to third place by 49 Fd Regt RA and 39 Engr Regt.

## Peter leads GB triumph in Berne

CPL Peter Hart led the Great Britain team to victory in the Swiss international modern pentathlon event at Berne.

Hart (SEE REME) finished first in the individual placings with a total of 5,348 points after winning both the fencing and running competitions.

He is currently in the six-strong GB squad preparing for the 1988 Olympic Games.

Also in this elite squad is 2nd Lt Dominic Mahony of The Life Guards. Both men are due to compete in the 1986 world

championships at Montecatini, Italy, in August.

Reigning British national modern pentathlon champion is Sgt Peter Whiteside (REME), who was a member of the 1980 Olympic team. He is still producing fine performances, notably, a win in this year's Army championships at Arborfield. His total of 5,617 points for the five events is believed to be a record.

Cpl Hart's GB teammates at Berne were LPT Jim Nowak of the Royal Navy and schoolteacher Graham Brookhouse.



## Jane's hard work pays dividends

SERVING at Arborfield is Lt Jane Dawson (pictured left) of the WRAC, winner of this year's Women's Army Foil Championships at Aldershot. She was placed fourth last year.

Jane spends a lot of time training which obviously pays off as she only began fencing 15 months ago.

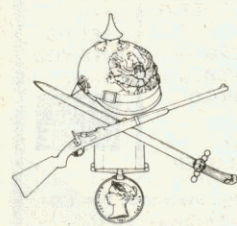
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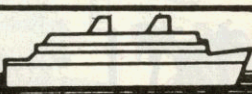
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## BEST OF BRITISH

PTE Julian Spencer (right) of the Red Devils retained the overall men's championship at the Malibu British National Parachute Championships in Bridlington. He finished just ahead of fellow Red Devil Sgt Dougie Young, winner of the national style title.

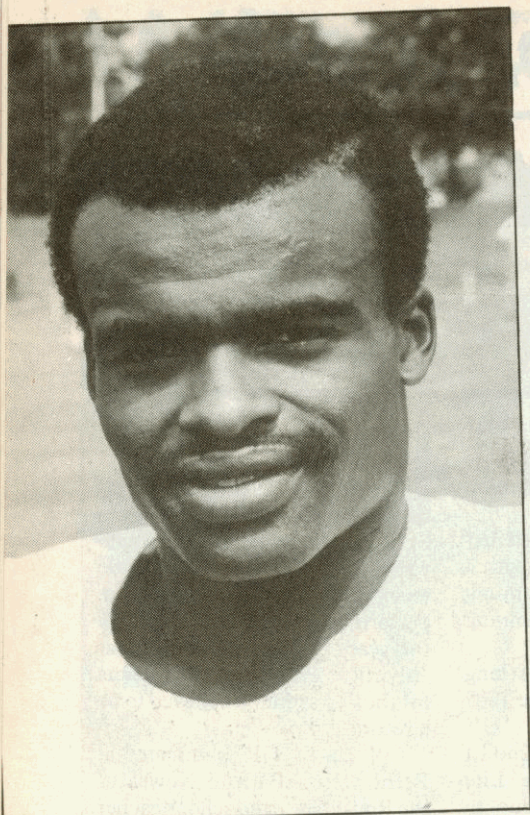
Julian is pictured receiving his trophy from Mr Keith Bond, marketing manager for the sponsors, and Second World War fighter pilot Ginger Jim Lacey (centre).

Spencer and Young, himself a former national champion, teamed up with Sgt Jim Coffey and Cpl Neil Dixon to win the national team accuracy competition.

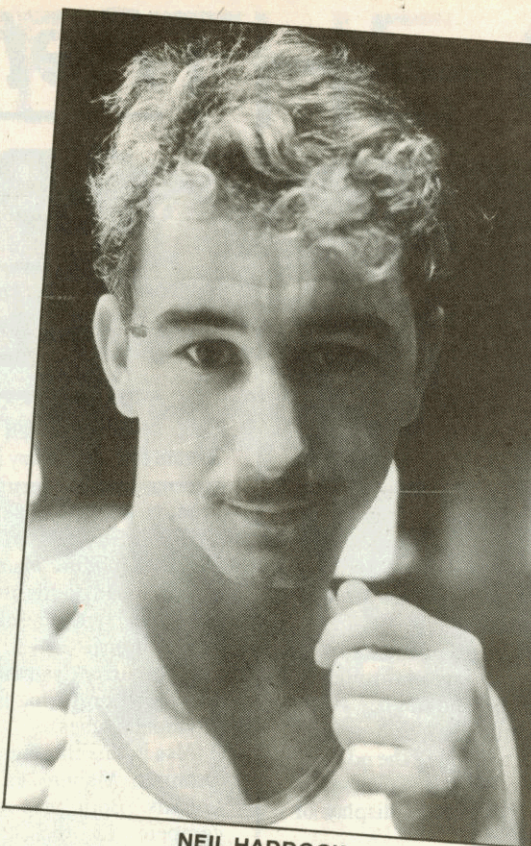
Spencer and Young have been rewarded with places in the national team for the world championships in Turkey from September 1 to 13.







KRIS AKABUSI



NEIL HADDOCK



CLARENCE CALLENDER

# GAMES TYPES

THE ARMY are not just helping to organise the Commonwealth Games. Six of their finest sportsmen are members of British teams, writes Mervyn Wynne Jones.

**SSgt Kris Akabusi**, 17 Port Regt RCT Marchwood, is representing England in the 400m relay and the 400m individual. Team mate **Sig Clarence Callender**, 2 Div HQ and Sig Regt, York, is running in the 100m relay and the 100m individual race.

Also competing in the athletics stadium at Meadowbank is **SSgt Malcolm Edwards** of the APTC and based at the UKLF School of Physical and Recreational Training at Bulford who is representing Wales in the 800m and 1500m races.

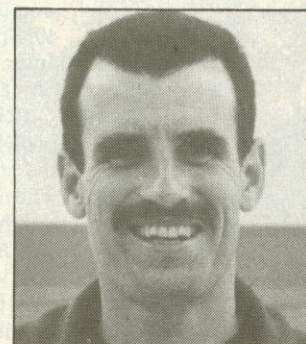
The Army also competes for Wales in the pugnacious form of **Dvr Neil Haddock**, 10 Corps of Transport, RCT, based at Beilefeld, Germany, who is striving for a lightweight boxing medal.

## HIGH PRICE OF GOLD

**CORPORAL** of Horse Ian Margan of The Life Guards, a Basic Military Training Instructor at Arborfield has been selected to represent England in the team and individual epee events in the Commonwealth Federation Championships, writes *Pete Brown*.

Twenty countries are competing in the fencing, with Australia, Canada, and England strongly fancied to carry off the major awards.

Ian, 31, began fencing at the age of 12 and took up the sport seriously when he joined the Army in 1976. He was selected for the England team two years ago and will



be the only Serviceman taking part. He has also been selected as a reserve for the world championships which are being held this year in Bulgaria.

Participating in any sport at top level can prove expensive, and fencing is no exception. "Fencing is a Cinderella sport, and the sponsorship which is essential is difficult to find though I am very well supported by The Life Guards, and the Army helps with equipment," said Ian.

Last year Ian travelled to 30 competitions, 10 of which were overseas. A member of the London Thames fencing club, he travels to town three times a week.

Ian estimates that equipment and travel costs ran away with £4,000 of his own money last year, a high price, but essential when you are going for gold.



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Haddock, 22, started boxing in 1976, was Welsh youth champion in 1981, Welsh senior champion in 1983, Combined Services champion in 1985 and, some 150 bouts later, is current Army champion.

On the shooting side **Lt Nick Crawshaw**, The Royal Anglian Regt, is competing in the target rifle section for England, and **Sgt W J McNeill** of the ACC Training Battalion and Depot, Aldershot, is representing Scotland in the air weapons section. He was a medal winner in the Brisbane Commonwealth Games.





Lt Col the Rev William King (retd), formerly Ox and Bucks LI, flanked by six more veterans of the Somme offensive of July to November 1916. Photographed by Paul Haley at the Thiepval memorial. See Pages 25-30





**PROUDLY** the part-timers of the 2nd Battalion 51st Highland Volunteers march off the parade ground at Elgin after being presented with Colours by the Duke of Edinburgh. See Page 13. Picture: Les Wiggs