

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 25 PENCE • 5 NOVEMBER 1984

# SOLDIER



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Picture: Doug Pratt

BACK COVER: Corporal Dick Wilde during a dive at Scapa Flow. See story page 33.  
Picture: Tony Liddicoat

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Editor  
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Assistant Editors  
Graham Smith (Ext 2590)  
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Paul R G Haley  
Photo Library (Ext 2577)  
Bill Stroud

Advertising/Circulation  
Mrs Christine Withey (Ext 2587)  
Distribution  
Mrs Seela McIntosh (Ext 2583)

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# SOLDIER

INCORPORATING  
THE TERRITORIAL ARMY MAGAZINE



Four lucky YTS boys at Bovington managed to get to Hong Kong for adventure training (left). The YTS success story — page 26.

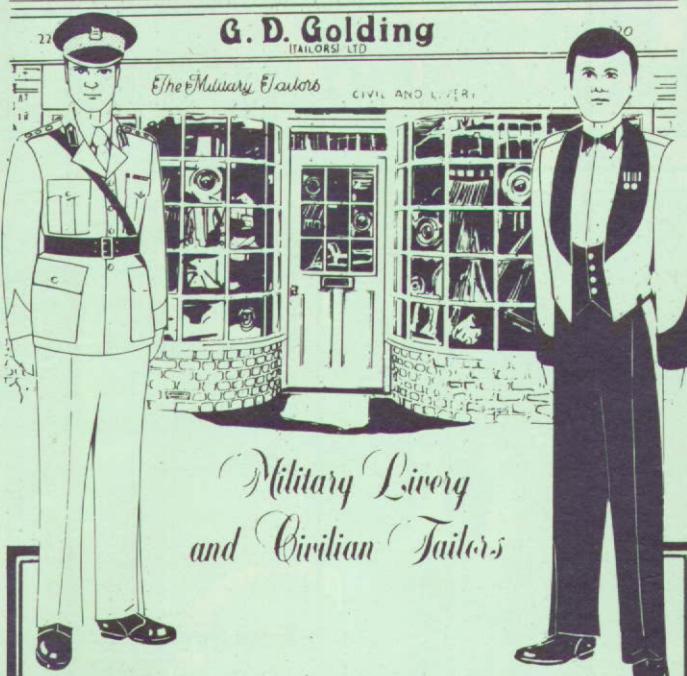
Few events are more demanding than the Cambrian March (below). You can find out which Regular and TA units starred by turning to page 10.



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## When his ship was torpedoed... so was his future peace of mind

Leading Seaman R. .... t H. .... n served right through the war. He was torpedoed in the Atlantic and suffered from exposure. He served in Landing craft, and his home received a direct hit from a bomb while he was there on leave.

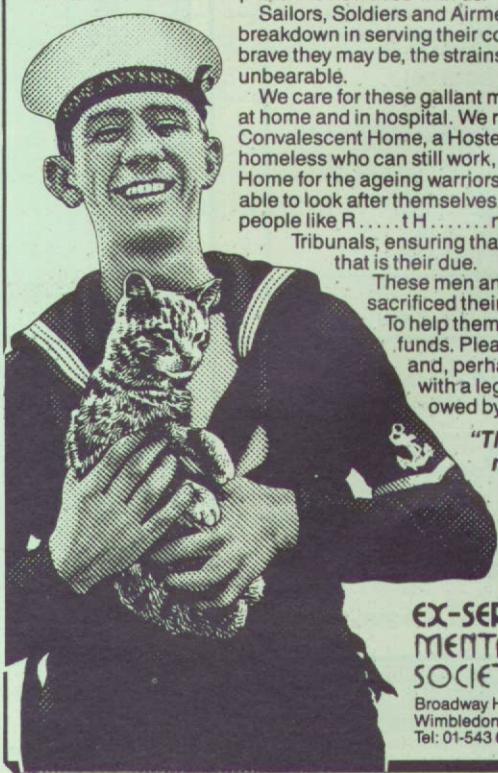
In 1945 his mind could take no more, and he spent the next 25 years in and out of mental hospitals. He now lives with us.

Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen still risk mental breakdown in serving their country. However brave they may be, the strains are sometimes unbearable.

We care for these gallant men and women, at home and in hospital. We run our own Convalescent Home, a Hostel for the younger homeless who can still work, and a Veterans' Home for the ageing warriors who are no longer able to look after themselves. We also assist people like R. .... t H. .... n at Pensions Tribunals, ensuring that they receive all that is their due.

These men and women have sacrificed their minds in service. To help them, we must have funds. Please send a donation and, perhaps, remember us with a legacy. The debt is owed by all of us.

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more than they  
could—please  
give as much  
as you can."*



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# SOLDIER AIDS TRAIN CRASH VICTIMS

**W**ARRANT Officer 'Slim' Cheetham, Royal Signals, emerged from a wrecked railway carriage, in which three people died and 18 were injured, with nothing worse than a slight graze on one hand.

He was one of two occupants who remained sufficiently unshaken to organise the evacuation of passengers immediately after the tragic accident.

Mr Cheetham, who works in the Signals Directorate at the Ministry of Defence, had been travelling home to married quarters at Bushey. He was sitting in the packed front carriage of the 5.54 from Euston when a collision occurred with a goods train.

The carriage rolled over onto the side on which he was sitting.

## SAPPER BAND "FAREWELL"

THE ROYAL Engineers are bidding farewell to one of their two bands with a 'family evening' concert at the Princes Hall, Aldershot, on 28 November (8.15pm).

The combined Aldershot and Chatham bands will provide the music prior to their amalgamation at Chatham in January.

Seating is limited to 700 and restricted to serving or former members of the Corps and their guests. Those interested should contact the Chief Clerk of 11 Engineer Group at Minley Manor for details.

## AIR BASE PROTECTION SQUAD



"I saw the chap who had been in front of us go through the window and under the train," he recalled. "His arm was caught and he was dragged under."

Mr Cheetham was able to grab hold of Staff Sergeant Peter Kemp, Royal Army Pay Corps, in time to prevent him suffering a similar fate. Saff Sergeant Kemp, who lives in the same married quarters as Mr Cheetham, suffered several cracked ribs in the accident and had to be

taken to hospital. But Mr Cheetham himself escaped with nothing more than a single scratch. He and another passenger were able to open a door on the top of the capsized carriage.

"He went half way up and I lifted people up to him," Mr Cheetham said. "We must have got 20 to 25 out before the firemen arrived and took over. Most of them were shocked and dazed but some were quite badly injured. At the end my clothing was covered in blood but it was all from the people we were lifting."

Undeterred by the experience Warrant Officer Cheetham has remained a regular passenger on the 5.54.

## RECOVERY CONTRACT FOR FODEN

FODEN TRUCKS has been awarded a contract by the Ministry of Defence for 333 heavy recovery vehicles for the Army, deliveries to start in the middle of next year.

The vehicles are designed for both highway and cross-country operation and the cab has a roof cupola and machine gun mounting facilities. A ten-tonne drum winch is fitted to the front of the vehicle.

The vehicle's recovery unit embodies a 12½-ton capacity slewing crane complete with side stabilisers and including a supported towing facility which is capable of recovering all the Army's in-service logistic support and armoured wheeled vehicles.

Also incorporated in the compact unit is a 25-tonne main winch and rear ground anchoring spades. All functions are hydraulically operated.

This latest order follows Fodens supply of eight vehicles for evaluation trials by the Ministry of Defence as part of the DROPS and RTE ammunition re-supply system.

### IN BRIEF

AS SOLDIER went to Press a youth was seriously ill in a Belfast hospital after being shot by a soldier who was in a joint RUC/Army patrol in Ballymurphy. They had been alerted to a stolen car with two occupants.

### GLOSTERS RENEW HOME LINKS

MORE THAN 200 men from the 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment from Tidworth have just renewed old ties with a tour of Bristol, The Forest of Dean, Cheltenham and, of course, Gloucester.

WHAT a big black dog! The Swedish Air Force have been exercising a new elite force for protecting airfields.

As we are well used to the value of dogs, we are not surprised to see others following ... and the intruders in this photo by Pressens Bild Stockholm don't seem keen to get to know the dog better!

## FLIRT: THE QUERIES

LINCOLN's very own tank — the Flirt Tank (SOLDIER, 5 Sept. 1983) — is still sparking off the questions about its earliest origins, it seems.

The Lincoln Tank Group has now obtained the services of a researcher to investigate and record the cathedral city's connections with the metal mammoth.

Several of the posers will doubtless be solved by the retention of the historian but many more may go unanswered.

The tank arrived in Lincoln last September and some offers of help were offered by the public but now research has got under way in serious fashion more information is needed.

If anyone feels they can help, then please contact the Tank Researcher, c/o Mr R. Hooley, Manager, Technical Reference Section, Ruston Gas Turbines Ltd., PO Box 1, Lincoln LN2 5DJ. Or, you can phone Lincoln (0522) 36292 Extension 250 during business hours (0522) 682406.

The car was stopped and the two occupants ran off. Police are investigating.



GUNNER Timothy Peter Utteridge, aged 19, attached to 3rd Battalion The Royal Green Jackets was shot dead and another soldier seriously injured in a terrorist ambush in West Belfast.



THE 1ST Battalion The Royal Irish Rangers will be running a half-marathon for charity on Sunday 2 December starting at Saughton Camp (10am) and continuing through Chester City centre, through the Duke of Westminster's estate and back to camp.

Called the "Irish Half", the event is to raise funds for Chester childrens charities and other Regular and TA units will be taking part along with local civilian clubs.

The team showed off its military hardware and explained the role of the battalion in the towns and schools. Freedom Marches with the Band and Drums took place in Bristol when the battalion received the Liberty of the District of the Forest of Dean.

This year's attraction was a main military display showing the progression of training for a new recruit. Differing platoons demonstrated specialist infantry vehicles and weapons like the Fox wheeled recce vehicle and Milan anti-tank weapon respectively. The finale was marked by a realistic attack on the 'enemy' with smoke and gunfire.

In addition, there was also a small exhibition of Regimental history and old uniforms.



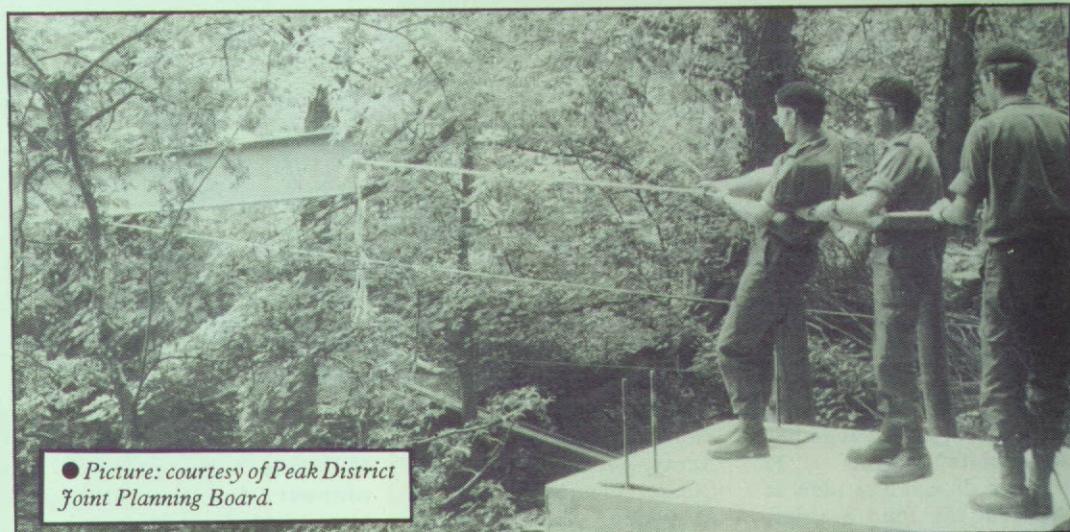
## TOPICS

**M**AJOR Jack Badger, a Volunteer Sapper, is keen to have realistic training exercises for the Sheffield University OTC.

He therefore jumped at the chance of designing and building a footbridge in the Peak District National Park.

The bridge was needed to make a new link on the Monsal Trail, a former railway line converted into a walking route. The old railway cut out bends in the Wye Valley by using tunnels — not a particularly suitable or scenic thoroughfare for walkers.

Originally there were two ways of getting round the Cressbrook and Litton tunnels — a path above a cliff labelled 'For sure footed people only!' And a gentle walk through the idyllic Water-cum-Jolly Dale, marred by the need to use half a mile of narrow, fairly



● Picture: courtesy of Peak District Joint Planning Board.

busy road.

The obvious answer was a footbridge to take people straight from the trail to the Water-cum-Jolly Dale path.

Design work was carried out in the spring of 1983 and planning permission obtained. The piers were built this spring after a winter of exceptional flooding. By high summer the water was low enough for a temporary bridge to be put in

position.

The climax of the operation came on the day when the 15.5 metre steel beams for the main span were delivered to the site on a crane and fork lift truck, weaving between obstacles on either side of a narrow winding track.

Major Badger was not the only one holding his breath while the beams were eventually swung into place. It would have been just too

bad if they had failed to fit!

The rest of the assembly took four more days, and then the National Park Officer, Theo Burrell, expressed his heartfelt thanks to Major Badger and his unit.

"The bridge has forged a vital missing link in the Monsal Trail," he said. "Without this help we could not hope to see it done for many years."

## MEDALS IN THE SHADE

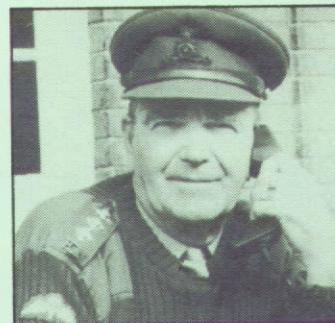
Two members of 163 Provost Company, Royal Military Police (V) — a unit 96 per cent recruited in the Automobile Association — were formally presented with TA Efficiency Medals in the nightlike shadows of their forest hideaway location during Exercise Lionheart.

The medals were presented to Staff Sergeant Tony Bridger, of London and Sergeant Jim Rooney, of Glasgow, by Colonel Olaf Lambert, Honorary colonel of the Regiment, TA, who, in civilian life, is Director General of the AA at its headquarters in Basingstoke.

The Company is unique and its origins go back to 1938 when the then Secretary of the Automobile Association offered the services of the famous roadside assistance patrolmen, as the threat of war with Germany loomed.

Company Commander is Major David Kyd, who is Regional Manager of the AA Northern Regional headquarters situated at Cheadle Hulme, near Manchester.

## EXIT TOM AFTER 46 YEARS



Forty six years in uniform has come to an end for Arnhem veteran Captain Tom Hughes who finished his career with the North West's gunners.

It was 1938 when Tom, from Widnes, first proudly put on his uniform in a career that was to end when 103 Air Defence Regiment based on Merseyside and Greater Manchester completed their annual camp at Scarborough.



Colonel Olaf Lambert with Major David Kyd, centre and German Military Police during Exercise Lionheart.

After six months in the King's Regiment, Tom joined the Royal Artillery serving with the gunners until 1942 when he joined the 3rd Battalion the Parachute Regiment seeing action in North Africa, Sicily and Italy.

September 1944 saw Tom as a troop sergeant with the 1st Air Landing Anti-Tank Battery at Arnhem.

He was captured in Oosterbeek and suffered the infamous march across Germany from PoW camp to PoW camp when many died.

He finished his regular career with the TA's 359 Medium Regiment RA in Liverpool and promptly stepped back into uniform as a part-time soldier. April 1967 saw him as TA Chief Clerk to 103 Air Defence Regiment.

Thirty six years after joining up Tom was commissioned and became the Permanent Staff Administration Officer for 208 Air Defence Battery in Aigburth, Liverpool, moving to the regimental headquarters in Deysbrook Barracks, Liverpool, three years later.

Tom has no plans for idleness. He said: "I am hoping I can get involved in welfare cases for the Soldiers, Sailors and Air Force Association and the Royal Artillery Association."



**LIONHEART** was memorable for bringing together the chiefs of staff of 11 armies. It was the idea of General Sir John Stanier, Chief of the General Staff, who thought it would be an ideal occasion for informal discussions, as well as enabling them to see the exercise at first hand.

Several of the armies represented by the chiefs were, of course, taking part in Lionheart. Pictured in the field (above) during the exercise are (left to right): Colonel N Ley, Commander Luxembourg Army; General F M P M Houdet, Commander 2nd French Corps and Commander French Forces Germany; Lieutenant General J M Segers, Chief of Army Staff Belgium; Lieutenant General P C Gration, Chief of the General Staff Australia; General U Cappuzzo, Chief of the General Staff Italian

Army; General J A Wickham, Chief of Staff US Army; General Sir John Stanier; Lieutenant General M Glanz, Chief of Staff West German Army; Lieutenant General J G Roos, Commander-in-Chief and

Chief of Netherlands Army Staff; Lieutenant General C H Belzile (Canada), Commander Force Mobile Command; Major General R G Williams, Chief of the General Staff of New Zealand Army General Staff.

## faces and places



were shown the workings of the LMG, SMG and SLR, each guest soldier firing at least one full magazine from each weapon.

They were, according to one



anonymous source: "Impressed with the LMG, a little scared of the SMG and terrified of the SLR. They left the SLR demo happy, if somewhat bruised."

Culinary and vinicultural offerings were also sampled.

● Picture shows Sapper Wilson assisting a French soldier on the Sterling.

## French leave —with a difference!

IT WASN'T exactly taking French leave but rather, a French exchange visit. Four days of it.

As 2 Troop, 5 Field Squadron, 26 Engineer Regiment, from Iserlohn headed west, men from the French 10th Engineer Regiment were bound for BAOR.

The Troop got to grips with the portable flame-thrower dressed in protective flameproof suit, helmet and visor. In one tank, compressed air. In the other — napalm.

It was a favourite. But the Troop also practised on the FAMAS rifle, anti-tank weapons, French demo charges and grenades.

The French visitors, in return,

IT WAS a heavy recovery operation for real on the banks of Weser near Hamelin during Exercise Spearpoint when an 11,000-litre-laden military diesel fuel tanker slipped into the waters.

The current took the vehicle for a mile before the cab finally filled with water and the whole sank. A soldier had raised the alarm.

Pollution was now the main worry. All night, police and civilian authorities planned ways to rescue the stricken vehicle.

To the rescue came the men of 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment, RE. Six sapper divers tried to secure a line without success. The current was persistent in its attempts to thwart.

At last, Lance Corporal

## TANK- YOU!

"Jonah" Jones, attached to the Regiment from 7 Field Squadron, managed to get a shackle in to one of the front towing eyes.

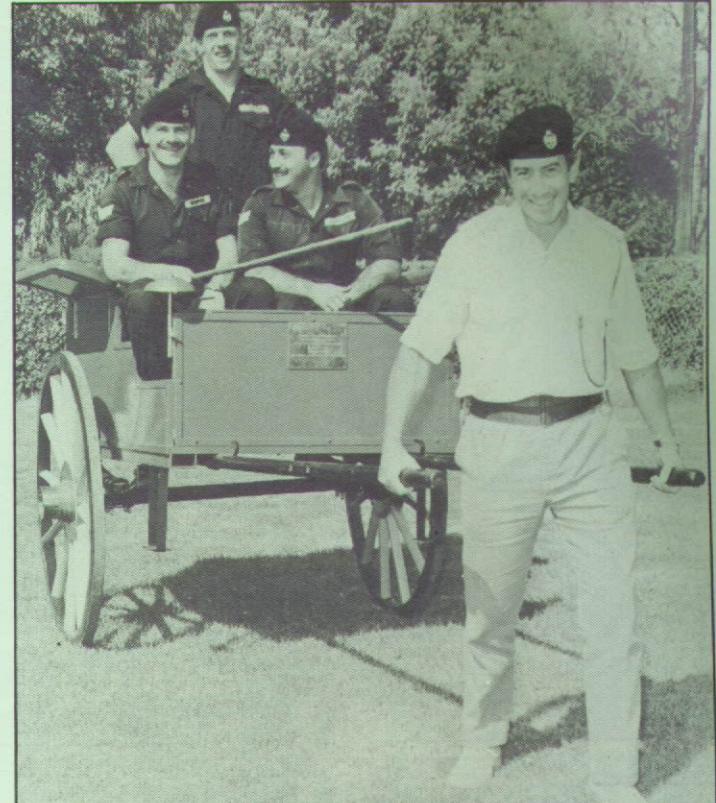
Brute towing power was added in the form of two Combat Engineer Tractors from 71 Amphibious Engineer Support Squadron and a recovery vehicle.

Less than 24 hours later the forlorn 23-tonne vehicle was 'beached' after several more lip-biting moments in which 2 Troop, 23 Amphibious Engineer Squadron also had a prominent part.

# WHO IS THE LUCKY LAD?



**WHO'S THAT** standing next to Kevin? Seriously, it's Page Three girl Samantha Fox — "Miss 1 Queens" — who was on a visit to the battalion in Ulster. The likely lad trying to keep his thoughts to himself for the photo-call is Private Kevin Milsom.



## C SQUADRON'S PULLING POWER!

THE MEN of 'C' Squadron 1st Royal Tank Regiment, have kept a promise they made in Cyprus. It was to provide a cart for the disabled children of the Red Cross home at Polemidhia for use when they came to Episkopi for their riding lessons.

The money for the cart had been raised during a sponsored run and the carpentry, painting and wheelwright experts of the REME Workshops at RAF Akrotiri renovated the cart.

A set of harness is to be bought, a horse or donkey trained to pull the cart; an effort which will give another dimension to the therapy they are already receiving at the Episkopi Joint Services Saddle Club.

In the cart, as it were, Corporal Peter George, Trooper Russell Tetlow and Corporal Keith Harrison. Pulling power is supplied by Major Tim Hall.

## MEDALS DAY

**MAJOR GENERAL** Sir Desmond Langley, Administrator, Sovereign Bases, Cyprus, presented two BEMs to Staff Sergeant Ken Hedges, REME on attachment to 2nd Battalion, Scotts Guards, and Staff Sergeant Neil Dempsey, of 30 Regiment, RCT, the NCO in charge of the Military Training Transport Troop.



THE CUMBERSOME-LOOKING Combat Engineer Tractor — CET — became the star of a specially laid-on show at Osnabrück when General A S Vaidyah, Chief of the Army Staff, Indian Army had a look at one during a display by 12 Field Squadron, 25 Engineer Regiment. The Indian VIP even had a ride round in one.

With him was Lieutenant General Sir Martin Farndale, Commander 1 (BR) Corps as they rode round the Achmer Training Area in the demo organised by Major Mike Hoey.

All of the CET's capabilities in the field were shown off — except swimming — including the firing of the vehicle's rocket-powered anchor.



## CAMBRIAN MARCH



The winners of Cambrian March 1984: 2 Royal Anglian.

Captain Roger Antolik receives the top prize (below) from Major General Peter Chiswell, General Officer Commanding Wales at the end of the tough Cambrian March in Mid Wales. The Poachers of 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment found the four day Regular Army event "demanding." "It was different from what we expected and trained for," said Roger. "Our training was more arduous than the course. It was navigation that proved important and a real mental problem at night. The route was difficult, wet and over featureless terrain. The lads were in first class shape though — in fact they could go out and do it again, easily."



## POACHERS SNARE THE BIG PRIZE

**T**ERRITORIAL and Regular forces earned a pat on the back from Wales' top soldier, after 300 of them took part in the Cambrian March — Europe's most gruelling and demanding patrol and march, staged in a landscape of mountains, rivers, bogs, and lonely roads and tracks.

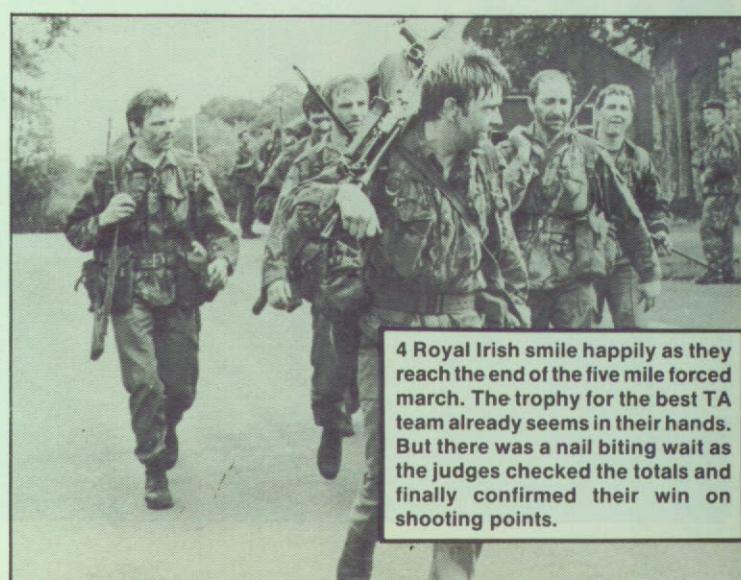
Winners of the Regular Army four-day event, the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment — and more familiarly known as 'The Poachers' — stole the show from 45 Commando Group, Royal Marines, who, until the end of the first phase, were 19 points ahead of their rivals.

But, following a five-mile speed march-and-shoot, The Poachers were victorious by five points, and were a very convincing 53 points ahead of the 1st Battalion 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha

Rifles, who were in third place.

In the two-day Territorial Army version of the same event, the 4th Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers emerged the winners — but only after a tie-break on shooting results revealed that they were slightly ahead of the 4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales.

A brand-new dimension of tactical realism emerged this year with the deliberate introduction into the play of special incidents, which pre-supposed a war scenario,



4 Royal Irish smile happily as they reach the end of the five mile forced march. The trophy for the best TA team already seems in their hands. But there was a nail biting wait as the judges checked the totals and finally confirmed their win on shooting points.

## RESULTS

### Four day event

1. 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment (1325 points); 2, 45 Commando Group, Royal Marines (1319½); 3, 1st Battalion 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles (1272).

### Two day event

1, 4th Volunteer Battalion The Royal Irish Rangers (872 points); 2, 4th Volunteer Battalion The Royal Regiment of Wales (872); 3, 157 Regiment Royal Corps of Transport (V) (857).

**Story:**  
**Gerry Nicholas**

**Pictures:**  
**Alex Turner**

# CLOSE RUN THING IN TA EVENT

with competitors having to sort out tactical problems, with the help of 'partisan resistance workers' and 'secret agents' dotted all along the route.

Taking part in this — the toughest patrol competition in NATO's European Theatre — competitors had to pit their wits to find solutions to a host of problems, both tactical and non-tactical, with great demands being made on their reliability and initiative, in addition to those calling on their reserves of physical prowess.

Men of the Royal Netherlands Marine Corps added to the European flavour of the event. They finished sixth in the final placings,



Long, long trail.



All pull together!

and this after a surprisingly early advantage when they beat all comers in the Vehicle Test, with their sound knowledge of the Highway Code!

An arduous night march over the "Roof of Wales," cooking skills, watermanship, field medical skills, fieldcraft, hygiene and driving skills, all figured prominently on the list of subjects on which the competitors were tested.

Major General Peter Chiswell, General Officer Commanding Headquarters Wales — himself a paratrooper, and a keen advocate of fitness and the outdoor life — said he was 'immensely impressed' with both the Regulars and the Volunteer soldiers.

"Their performance during the entire event speaks well for training throughout our Armed Forces," he said. "They showed guts, endurance and a high standard of training."

## "OLD MAN OF THE MOUNTAINS"

Corporal Bill Jenkins is known as the "old man of the mountains" to his colleagues at 104 Air Defence Regiment Royal Artillery. At 50 years of age Bill has competed in 17 tough Cambrian Marches in the mountains of Wales. Pictured here after crossing a swift flowing stream near Rhayader, Bill who lives in Cerleon, near Newport has been in the winning team five times in his 26 years service with the Territorial Army. It's not the sort of record expected from a member of the Army Catering Corps but Bill, who works for British Telecom, says he still finds his part-time soldiering "exciting." This year 104 could only manage 13th place in the gruelling march but Bill expects to be back again next year.



NEXT YEAR will be even busier than this in terms of big anniversaries — and apart from events to mark the 40th anniversary of the end of World War 2 (and not forgetting the birth of SOLDIER), 12 regiments will be marking 300 years of their own history.

The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, for example, are trying to trace veterans of World War 1 in time for a vintage luncheon linked with the regiment's 300th anniversary celebrations next year. Each veteran will be allowed to take along an escort to the luncheon next September.

The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, as they were then designated, were founded at the Tower of London in 1685. They were mustered as the Seventh of Foot and although officially a City of London regiment, they traditionally attracted lots of recruits from outside the area as the number of men in the Old Comrades' Association and on the roll of honour testifies. About 22,000 members of the regiment fell in the 1914-18 war.

"The regiment became known as the Royal Fusiliers and remained as such for well over two hundred years," Major S D S Baldwin, a member of the regimental tercentenary committee, explained.

"On St George's Day, 1968, they and the three other English Fusilier regiments — the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, the Royal Warwickshire Fusiliers and the Lancashire Fusiliers — amalgamated as the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

"There are former fusiliers living in all parts of the country and all of the 1914-18 survivors will be invited to the luncheon. Those in the Old Comrades' Association will be invited automatically but we believe there are some who have lost touch — that is why we are making our search.

"The ex-Royal Fusiliers will be asked to act as hosts to the others.

"This is because we are celebrating 300 years of connection with London and although the amalgamation of 1968 has worked marvellously, the veterans of the Kaiser war naturally think of their fighting days in terms of their old individual regiments.

"There will be a special task to perform for one of the ex-Royal

# SOLDIER to Soldier

Fusiliers at the gathering but that is a secret until the day."

The main celebrations will be in June next year. On 12 June the regimental band will beat Retreat on Horse Guards Parade. On 18 June, the day of the tercentenary, a battalion will march through the City from the Tower to Guildhall with the salute being taken at Mansion House by the Lord Mayor.

The vintage luncheon is being held in September to give those old comrades who might not be able to attend in June a second chance to take part.

Any former Fusilier who is not in the Old Comrades' Association should get in touch with Lieutenant Colonel George Pettifar, London Regimental HQ, the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, HM Tower of London.

★ ★ ★

**Thinking of more recent fighting, the Falklands Families Association members are planning another trip to the Falkland Islands in 1986... though for some members it could be the first such visit.**

Appealing for funds to help, Chairman Des Keoghane says the Association will be grateful for any donation — however small. "A great number of our members are parents who did not receive, or expect to receive any money from the South Atlantic Fund — it quite rightly went to those who needed it most".

Mr Keoghane, a former CSM Welsh Guards whose son Kevin was killed in the bombing of Sir Galahad, stresses that donations will not help to subsidise the proposed trip for bereaved who can afford the cost.

"But a large number of parents are either on a fixed income, or pensions — or not employed at all.

"Because of the age of most of us,

and the cost, I cannot see us making another organised trip beyond the one projected for 1986 but we would like to go back once more as a group, to look at the graves and places of conflict and say our last farewells".

Some Regiments and Corps involved in the Falklands fighting have already agreed to help out and already more than £7,500 has been raised. The islanders themselves have started a fund to try and ensure the second pilgrimage can take place.

The Association estimates between 80-100 members will travel, each being able to pay around £600 but to meet the likely charter costs another £13,000 is needed.

"We were all grateful for the Government sponsored trip in 1983, but of necessity it had to be hurried and we would like to spend four or five days in the Islands, at our own pace".

If the target figure isn't raised in about 12 months time, contributions will be returned... though some donors have already said this won't be necessary and suggested charities to

whom the money would be passed. If you would like to help, contact Mr D Keoghane, 6 Penrose Court, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 6NP (Tel 0442 69383).

★ ★ ★  
**THE FALKLAND Islands Logistic Battalion** commissioned a painting by David Bell showing the Falklands Intermediate Port and Storage System and various other activities by the Battalion 'down south'. (Small reproduction below).

Prints of the painting are 21 by 15½ inches in full colour and available at £2 each from PRI, Falkland Islands Logistic Battalion, BFPO 666. Orders should be accompanied by postal order or cheque payable to Command Cashier, UKLF and include 65p to cover post and packing.

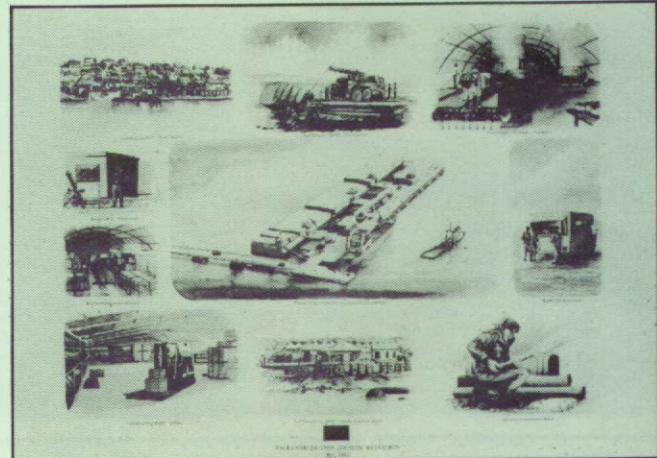
Still on the subject of painting, Peter Archer painted a series of battle action pictures depicting former members of the Corps of Royal Engineers who have been awarded the Victoria Cross.

High quality limited edition prints of the pictures have been produced — £4 unsigned or £6 signed.

A small quantity are offered for sale and are available from the Treasurer, WOs & Sgts Mess, 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment, BFPO 31.

Prints available are Maj Sir Arnold Waters and Spr A Archibald signed 19 (unsigned 13), John Ross 9 (13), John Perie 8, Frank Kirby 19.

A cheque should accompany any order and be made payable to the Central Bank 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment.



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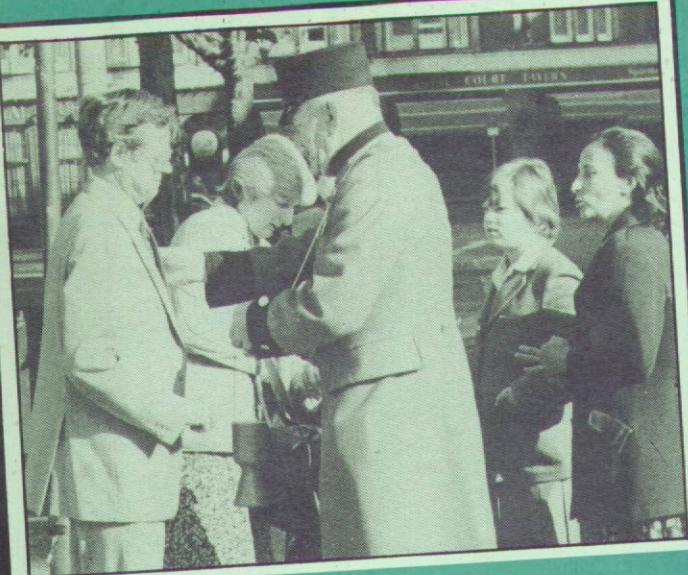
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S22/84



## VOLUNTEERS WANTED! (AGED 65-75!)

**T**HE ROYAL Hospital Chelsea, home of 389 in-pensioner old soldiers of the world-famous red coats and tremendous tourist appeal, is looking for volunteers. Eighty of them to help run the six 52-strong companies into which the Hospital's daily running is organised.

But the volunteers must come from the ranks of the in-takes themselves.

Sergeant Major Leslie Lamb, in the Army for 27 years until he retired from the 5th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, in 1974, and now the hospital's sergeant major, explained: "Some who have been coming here have been too old and too infirm to take on these roles. We cannot really run this place without the assistance of the 80 in-pensioner volunteers we are seeking.

"We are looking for active in-pensioners between the ages of 65 and 75. The idea is, by virtue of

this appeal for volunteers, to keep them fit in body and in mind because we find that kind of person lives to a greater age than the man who lets himself become simply a cabbage."

Volunteers are needed as clerks, orderly room and library clerks, Great Hall ushers, tourist guides, postal orderlies, radio and television attendants ( checking sets are unplugged at night), in-take sergeants (helping new in-

**Sergeant Bill Hedges:  
worthwhile deeds.**

pensioners to familiarise with their surroundings), chapel orderlies, clothes pressers and a miscellany of other duties.

The tourist guides, for instance, are allowed three weeks to read a history of the hospital and then given written and oral tests of their knowledge.

The Royal Hospital Chelsea has an establishment for 482 in-pensioners but currently has a strength of 389.

Sgt-Major Lamb said: "The qualifications for entry are that in-patients must have a military pension (for regular service or disability) or have a VC or GC annuity. They may be over 65 but a disability pension may be brought in at 55. They must be fit commensurate with their age (able to make their own beds, tie their own shoes etc) and have no dependants. Although they forfeit their military pension they retain their Old Age Pension."

"The response from advertisements in regimental magazines has, to be honest, been disappointing possibly because they have not got down to the grass roots; the men we are looking for. Some people think this is a place where we lock them up. The Royal Hospital Chelsea is as free a place as anyone can imagine."

One man who found himself out and about on the streets of London doing worthwhile deeds in the name of the Hospital was one of eight collectors for charity — this one, the Shaftesbury Homes and Arethusa. He was 73-year-old former Sergeant Bill Hedges of the 1st Queen Victoria Rifles, The King's Royal Rifle Corps.

He was in good company for last year the Hospital's street cash-raising campaigns and flag days raised a total of £22,712.86 in 26 collections.

An in-pensioner of just four

weeks, Bill who was once mentioned in despatches was a POW from 1940-45. He was captured at Paris's Gare du Nord after a Luftwaffe Stuka attack. Moved to Germany he was then sent to the infamous Stalag at Subin in Poland. Transferred to Russia where he made artificial limbs he was then moved westwards ahead of the advancing Russians and he was released by Patton's Third Army at Seckenheim.

Stimulation of interest and, through it, volunteers for various duties has always been strong at the Hospital.

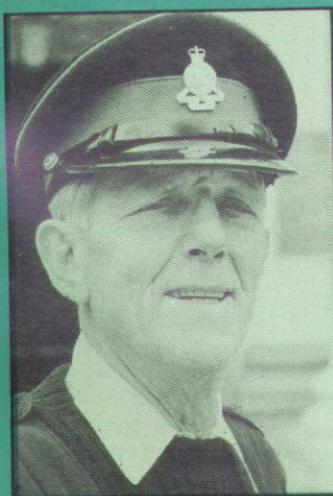
General Sir Robert Ford, Governor of the Royal Hospital Chelsea speaking at the last Founder's Day, said: "We are always looking for ways to interest the in-pensioners and during the last year we have started a shooting club and about 40 are regular attenders at the miniature range in Chelsea Barracks.

"Our bowling club goes from strength to strength. We now have our own magazine and among the numerous hobbies and handicrafts available to the in-pensioners we have pottery, sculpture, jewellery collectors, picture framing and leather work. We also have a 'ham' radio enthusiast.

He added: "We still have room for more here and I am hoping we can recruit a larger proportion of active gentlemen in the 65 to 75 age group who provide so much of our administrative support.

"Indeed, we employ well over 80 in appointments within the Hospital, and we, the staff, owe a great debt of gratitude to these gentlemen who play an indispensable part in the day-to-day running of the Hospital."

**Final Gong:** There are a total of 1,487 decorations and medals worn by the Hospital's in-pensioners. Weighed all together the medals tips the scales at 1.808 hundred-weight!



Right: guided tour.

Below:  
Sergeant Major Leslie Lamb.



**Story: Graham Smith  
Pictures: Les Wiggs & Doug Pratt**

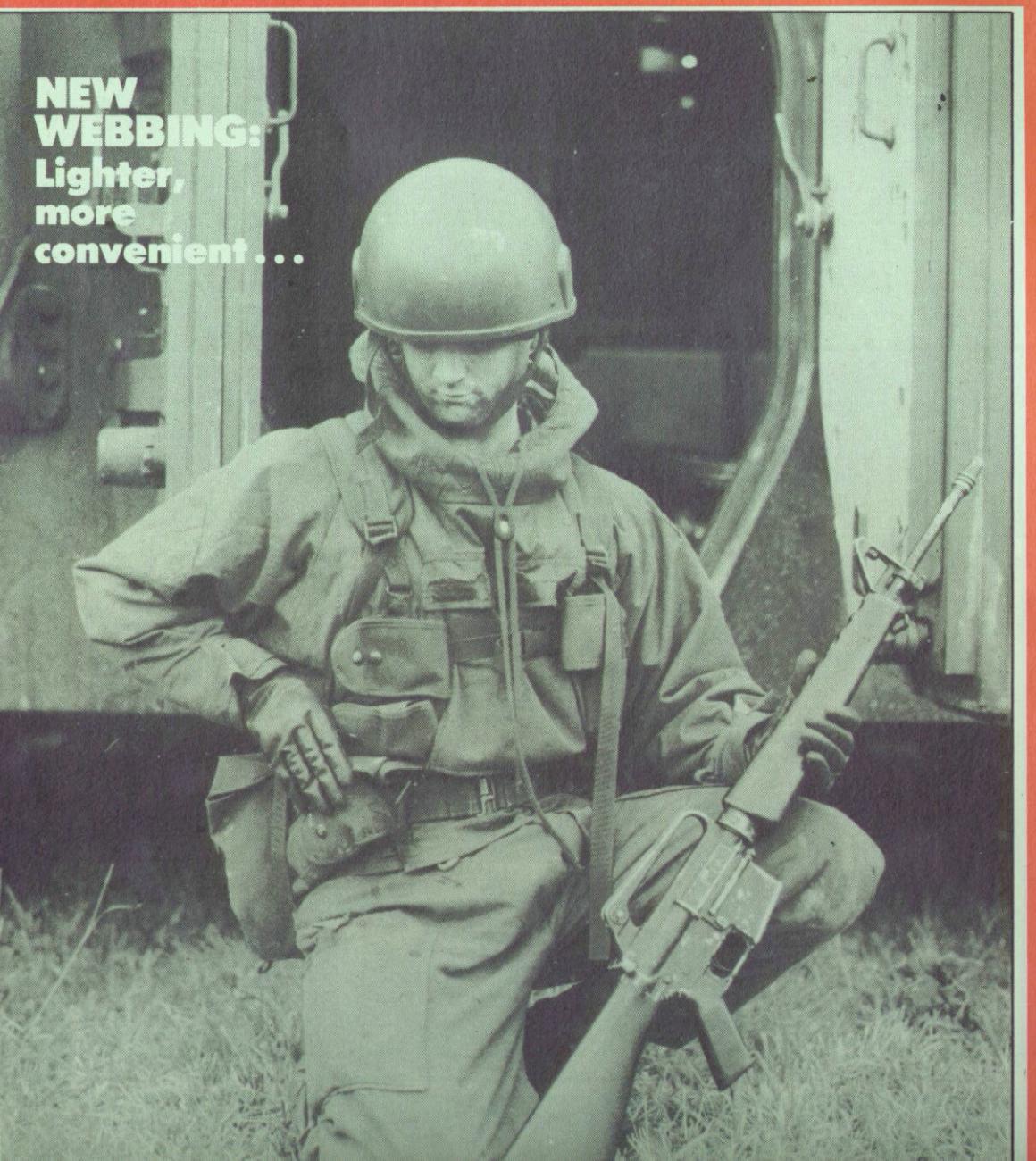


## IEWS ON NEW KIT

# Initial Reaction: EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE



**NEW  
WEBBING:**  
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more  
convenient...



### MCV80: Excellent all- rounder...

**E**XERCISE Lionheart, the Army's biggest exercise since the war, has been and gone, but its memory will no doubt linger on as detailed evaluations are made of its successes and shortcomings.

But if initial consumer reaction is anything to go by then one result of the giant exercise is already clear — the excellent performance of new equipment.

SOLDIER contacted four of the units which took part in Lionheart equipped with some of the latest in British military technology and from each got back hosannas of praise.

"One of the success stories of Lionheart," was how Major Peter Currie described the performance of his tracked Rapier missile launchers.

Major Currie is commander of 11 Sphinx Battery, 22 Air Defence Regiment, RA, whose 12 launchers took part in all phases of the battle, supporting at one time or another, six different brigades.

"The exercise demonstrated the equipment's great tactical flexibility," he said. "For the first time the Corps was able to launch offensive actions with the confidence that it had a lethal, self-propelling air defence system providing immediate on the spot cover."

In 1967 the Royal Hussars were the first to get the Chieftain tank. And now, with the first full regiment of 57 Challenger main battle tanks, they are extremely pleased.

"For two reasons," said their second-in-command Major Jonathan Powell. "First Challenger's undoubted reliability compared with Chieftain. And second its speed and its amazing suspension which allows you to take 60 odd tonnes cross country in relative comfort while at the same time providing you with a stable gun platform."

Challenger, he added, had lived up to all expectations and more.

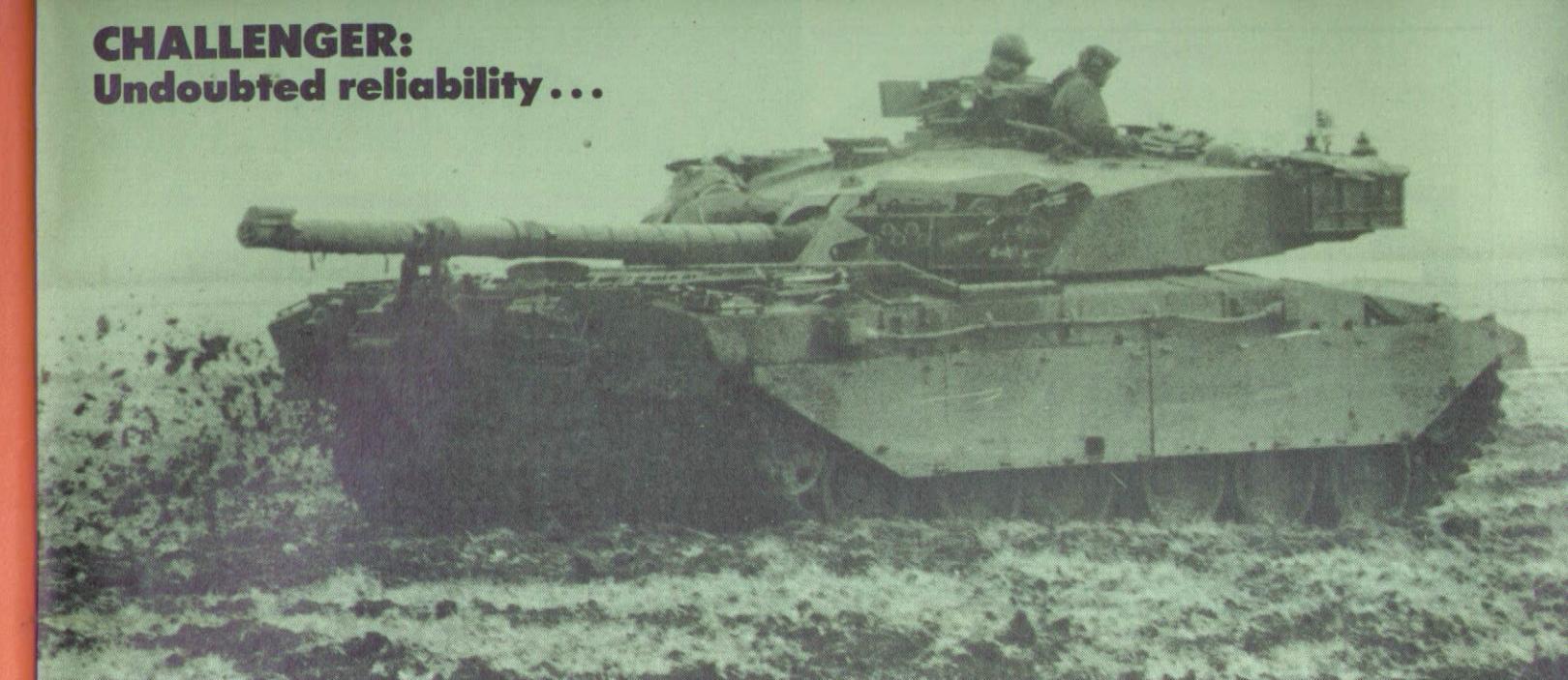
The 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, took its 43 new Saxon Armoured Personnel Carriers from Catterick to West Germany for Lionheart.

The battalion has had them on trial since January and with its evaluation now complete is due to hand them over to the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

"We'll be sorry to see them go," said Major Christopher Warren, 1 Kings Own Border second-in-command. "They are simple to maintain and they are simple to operate. What is more they are all British."

"You could call them an exalted taxi for getting around the battlefield. They've allowed us to move men quickly from one area to another."

## CHALLENGER: Undoubted reliability...



the OC of 1 Company.

"An excellent, all round vehicle," was his verdict. "Fast and reliable. Maintenance is good and its cross country performance is excellent."

"Compared with what we had before it's like driving a sports car instead of a horse and cart."

Major Kennard said that Guardsmen in this company were kitted out with new helmets and various degrees of new webbing.

They had found it preferable to their current issue — it was lighter and more convenient.

They were particularly impressed with what Major Kennard described as "decent, large Bergen." He said it had enough room to hold everything.

### SAXON: Simple to operate...



Story:  
Robert Higson

Pictures: Doug Pratt, Paul Huley  
and APIC photographers



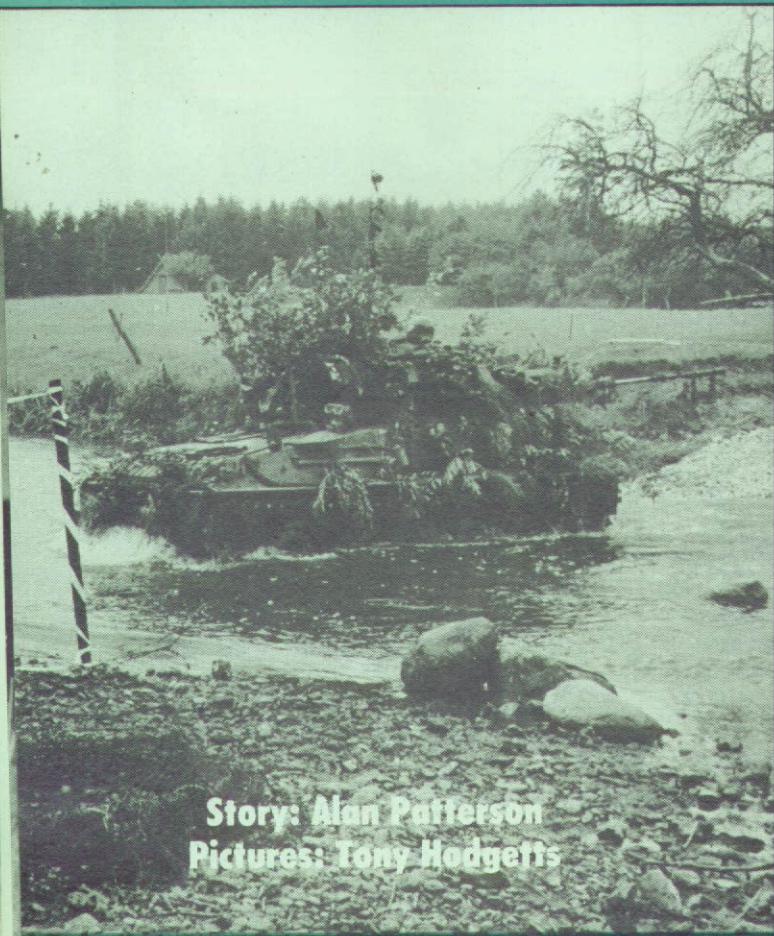
### TRACKED RAPIER: Great flexibility...

# Exercise Bold Gannet WELCOME - WARM



# WEATHER - AWFUL!

Ducking... This Gazelle dropped low into the trees to avoid marauding 'Orange' aircraft.



Story: Alan Patterson  
Pictures: Tony Hodgetts



The Pipes & Drums of 4th Royal Tank Regiment entertained an appreciative audience in Copenhagen.

**A**CLOUD of smoke enveloped the river crossing, as the last of the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers splashed into the River Susa and roared out the other side.

Nearby, on the bridge which was already liberally laid with explosives, a final section of infantrymen, anonymous in their green nuclear, biological and chemical protective suits, scuttled to the safety of the 'friendly' bank.

Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General Bernard Rogers, watched from his helicopter as the vital crossing point was denied to the enemy — the bridge successfully blown and the ford heavily mined.

The 'Blue' United Kingdom Mobile Force (UKMF) had reached the end of their retreat. The 'Orange' enemy attack was grinding to a halt.

This then was Exercise Bold Gannet; a two week long practice for the UKMF of its wartime task in Denmark, the sealing of the Northern approaches to the NATO alliance.

The small but enthusiastic Danish Army and the network of Home Guard groups throughout the country could not be expected to hold out long, so the British force, under the command of Brigadier Willie Rous, had the job of going there in support.

Clearly Bold Gannet could not only be about practising tactics in the flat Danish countryside — this year on the Zealand group of islands — important though that was, but also about getting a 13,000 strong formation, including almost 3,000 vehicles, there by sea and air as quickly as possible.

The fact that the mass movement went off with hardly a hitch was proof of the efficiency of the planners, and the hard work put in by the movement staff.

Bold Gannet's battle phase kicked off after the UKMF had 'worked up' for a few days in the area around Skive — pronounced 'Ske-va', not as it looks! — in Jutland, and moved across the Great Belt to the central and northern part of Zealand.

Soon the three infantry bat-

talions, the armoured units, the gunners, the engineers and other supporting troops were dug in to positions dotted along an extensive front, while members of the Logistic Support Group were a little more comfortable.

The Danish weather — unlike the local civilian population which waved from almost every street — offered an unfriendly welcome in Jutland, though it did improve for the main part of the exercise before turning unpleasant again towards the end.

Many soldiers, not least a company of The Royal Green Jackets who choose a recently ploughed field for their trenches, had good reason to be grateful for their warm if sometimes uncomfortable NBC suits, designed though they were with a much more grim threat in mind.

The weather, good or bad, was quickly pushed to the back of everyone's mind, as the Orange Force (made up of British, Germans, Dutch and Danes) broke out after an amphibious landing and forced the Blue Force to fall back on their main defensive positions.

Blue then stood firm, however, and held off the enemy, before mounting a successful counter attack which sent Orange retreating in defeat.

Most of the troops on the exercise, were able to have at least one day of rest and recreation, and various trips were made to Copenhagen.

The UKMF returned tired but generally pleased with the way Bold Gannet had gone — and, also very important, more familiar with the countryside it hopes never to fight over.

# GET A PIECE OF THE ACTION.

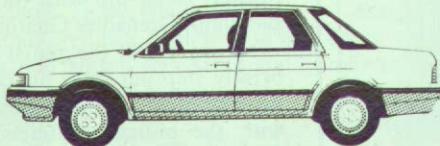


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## ARMY'S SENIOR 'STITCH' TRIES ON CIVVY STREET FOR SIZE

**J**OHN SOUTHERN, just two days off his fifteenth birthday, wanted to be a piccolo-player in his newly-acquired Army career. He lasted just four weeks before firm but friendly direction elsewhere by Drum Major Hickling of the Scots Guards!

Then, one day, while on his way to his half-hour Naafi break the sound of some happy similar-aged boy soldiers coming from a nearby doorway taking their tea break impressed John so much, he took a momentous decision there and then.

For the past 15 years Warrant

Colour Sergeant Les Starks in his new 'uniform'.

Officer 2 John Southern has been Senior Master Tailor, or 'Stitch', to the Grenadier Guards Regimental Headquarters in London; a man who has also been ceremonial tailor to the Royal Household officers for the same period, the doyen of style, stitch and thread for many a military-attired State occasion in London.

Those laughing boys of 1960 had been working in the tailors' shop — they were not allowed to go to the Naafi — and through their inspiration, John Southern is not only a peer in his own field of uniformed sartorial elegance but is one of the country's half-dozen leading authorities in military ceremonial tailoring today.

And taking no short cuts, figuratively speaking, he had to serve a ten-year 'apprenticeship' in a tailor's workshop before qualifying as a Master Tailor, one of the Army's few trades which is time promoted. He was the first WO 2 Master Tailor in the Army, he says.

Sadly, tempus fugit has caught up with Master 'Stitch' Southern who has just retired. His coveted place has been taken by Colour Sergeant Les Starks, 29, who was the youngest Master Tailor of 1978 vintage as a former exponent of needle and thread during his Master Tailorship with the 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards.

No more will the genial John briskly step out from his colonnade-fronted 'bespoke' business with the military difference at London's Wellington Barracks in Birdcage Walk, SW 1.

No more will the suavely turned-out Mr Southern — as he now soon will be — set out for business in his dark blue, three-piece pin-stripe 'uniform', neatly-knotted Guards tie, black, curled, silk-edged Homburg and faithful travelling companion ... his 'Diddy Box', (a mobile tailoring shop), a repository housing a pot-pourri of the tools from his proud trade. In it, scissors ... thread ... needles ... thimbles ... a tape measure ... chalk ... safety pins

**Story:  
Graham Smith  
Pictures:  
Les Wiggs**



**Warrant Officer 2 John Southern shows his 'Diddy Box' to successor Colour Sergeant Starks, who admires the scissors!**

... clothes brush ... and beeswax, the latter for strengthening cotton.

Closed for the last time is the lid of the 'Diddy Box', a venerable brown cardboard suitcase (for diddy-sized people) in which John's wife, Christine, once carried her sandwiches to school.

Colour Sergeant Starks has his own 'Diddy Box' of more modern but less well-travelled theme.

WO 2 Southern, who headed two military tailoring shops in London's Mill Hill and Regents Park Barracks, is now working in his wife's civilian military tailoring business — C & J Tailors — with its five staff in Reading.

In his latter years at the Birdcage Walk barracks, he expertly oversaw the needs of the 90-strong Grenadier Guards Regimental HQ — including 55 members of the Band — and care of 120 officers' immaculate tunics costing £2,200 each.

John has 'dressed' — 'fitted' to the layman — many male Royalty for their public eye military theme engagements, notably the Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel of the Grenadier Guards.

He has also been in discreet behind-the-scenes attendance at the Royal Wedding, three or four State occasions annually, the Jubilee of seven years ago, Lord Chamberlain functions, Princess Anne's wedding and many other events.

High Sheriffs have been beholden to him for their turn-outs. The final appearance of the Duke of Edinburgh's three equerries may not have been quite the same without John's eve-of-event approval. The Queen has often congratulated him.

And all just in case a burnished button should fall, an untimely stitch should separate or an epaulette should go awfully awry. His bountiful 'Diddy Box' was always close at hand.

John was one of possibly only ten Master Tailors whose appointment allowed him command of a workshop within the Army and most of these are in the Guards Division.

There are no less than 47 reference works on cloth, material and medals on the shelves of the Grenadier Guards Regimental HQ Tailors' Shop.

But there have been differing trends in Army physiques over the past 20 years as John Southern is well aware.

He said: "People's bodies, and particularly those of soldiers, have changed so much over the years especially since the end of World War 2.

"I put it down to diet, exercise and the way we all live. Boys coming into the Army today are more muscular than they ever were. And they change again after six or 12 weeks' training.



WO2 Southern looks on as his successor tackles a saddle cloth.

But his tailoring for the top end of the military spectrum of pomp and pageantry has not been easy over the years, many a 12-hour day being worked in preparation for a public event.

And John Southern has enjoyed every minute or almost every minute. "I hated button changing by hand," he admits, "but enjoy dealing with medals."

He has just written a specification for Court Mounting of Medals.

John Southern is a man of many facets in his world of cloth. He has given advice to military medal specialists ... carried the 'bouquet box' at the Royal wedding through the streets of London ... has had responsibility for re-furbishing the 72-inch Queen's Company Silk Colour the Royal Standard of the Grenadiers (it is worth £1-an-inch and took three months to complete). He has also supplied page boy uniforms at Lord Lichfield's wedding ... medals for a Mike Yarwood 'take off' for one of his shows (these were stolen just before the show!) and has been involved

in refurbishing the Queen's state saddlery.

He has recently supplied the uniforms for a forthcoming TV series, 'Mountbatten'.

Over the years, John's philosophy has been a simple one towards the product of his skilled work. "It is to turn out a job to the standard you would expect to get yourself.

"If it looks wrong, I don't turn it out. I've had the odd complaint, but you can't please everybody every time," he says.

He says he supposes he has worn his own Service uniform less than 50 times in 15 years and, for work, buys his suits from Moss Bros making his own minor adjustments, if need be. He added: "I have two good working suits and the services of a Savile Row cutter."

Which is more than his equally good-humoured successor Les Starks does. He buys some of his suits secondhand from a tailor's he dourly dubs simply as 'The Morgue' in London's Camden Town, though he and his wife,

Veronica live at Uckfield.

Les said: "It is Veronica who picks them for me and she is very good at it. I can get two good, pin-striped wool suits, perhaps worn only once before, for £40. They are straight off the peg. A new wool suit could cost anything from £120 to £140 and wears out at about the same time as the two suits which have cost £80 to £100 less. I've got five suits at home, one for every day of the week."

Of his new job he said: "I've been in post here for three months and it is not the work side that is difficult. It's learning the regimental peculiarities and traditions."

John's own regimental uniform, meanwhile, is destined for the QM's stores awaiting, as he says, "a body to fit it."

The 'Diddy Box' is also heading for retirement. In the attic of his Reading home. Or will it?

The last word came from John. "Maybe I'll give it to my 13-year-old daughter, Diane, so she can take her sandwiches to school in it."

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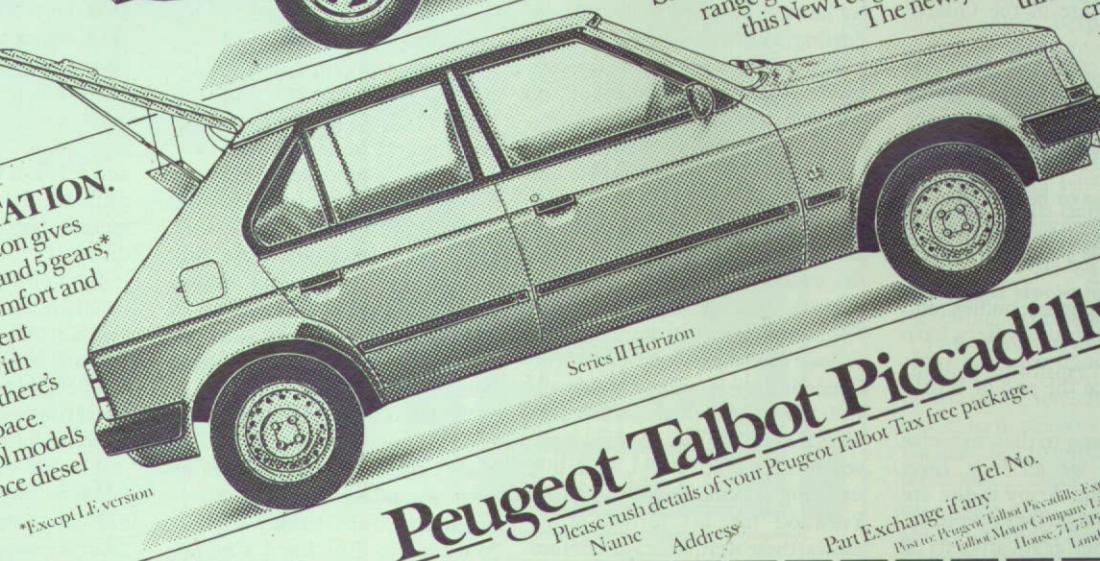
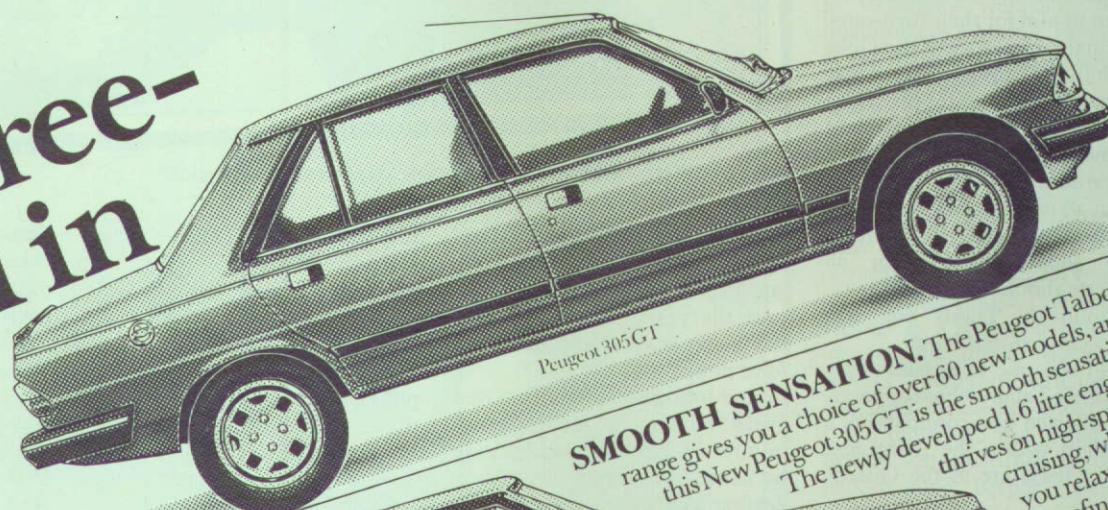
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IN an exclusive interview for **SOLDIER** a few weeks before his untimely death, actor Leonard Rossiter, filming "Water" on set at Shepperton, talked briefly to **GRAHAM SMITH** about his postwar Army days as the cricket and soccer playing....

## BAOR 'SCHOOLIE' AT BIELEFELD

**T**HE DROPPING of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima put paid to the planned interpreter career of newly-joined Intelligence Corps National Serviceman 1535814 — "or was that my Co-op number? — Private Rossiter, L, already scholarship material in French and German to university entrance level.

Declared "redundant" with about 40 others, Leonard, 57, and perhaps best-known as Rigsby, the philosophising, stingy landlord in threadbare cardigan of TV's "Rising Damp" became, instead, a "schoolie" teaching BAOR soldiers how to read and write.

The chance interview came on the set of "Water", produced by Dick Clement and directed by Ian La Frenais, a plot in which Leonard plays a pompous minister from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Sir Malcolm Leveridge) with a delicate mission to Cascara, a tiny windswept Caribbean island devoid of any political status, deficient in economic advantages and a continuing embarrassment to Her Majesty's Government.

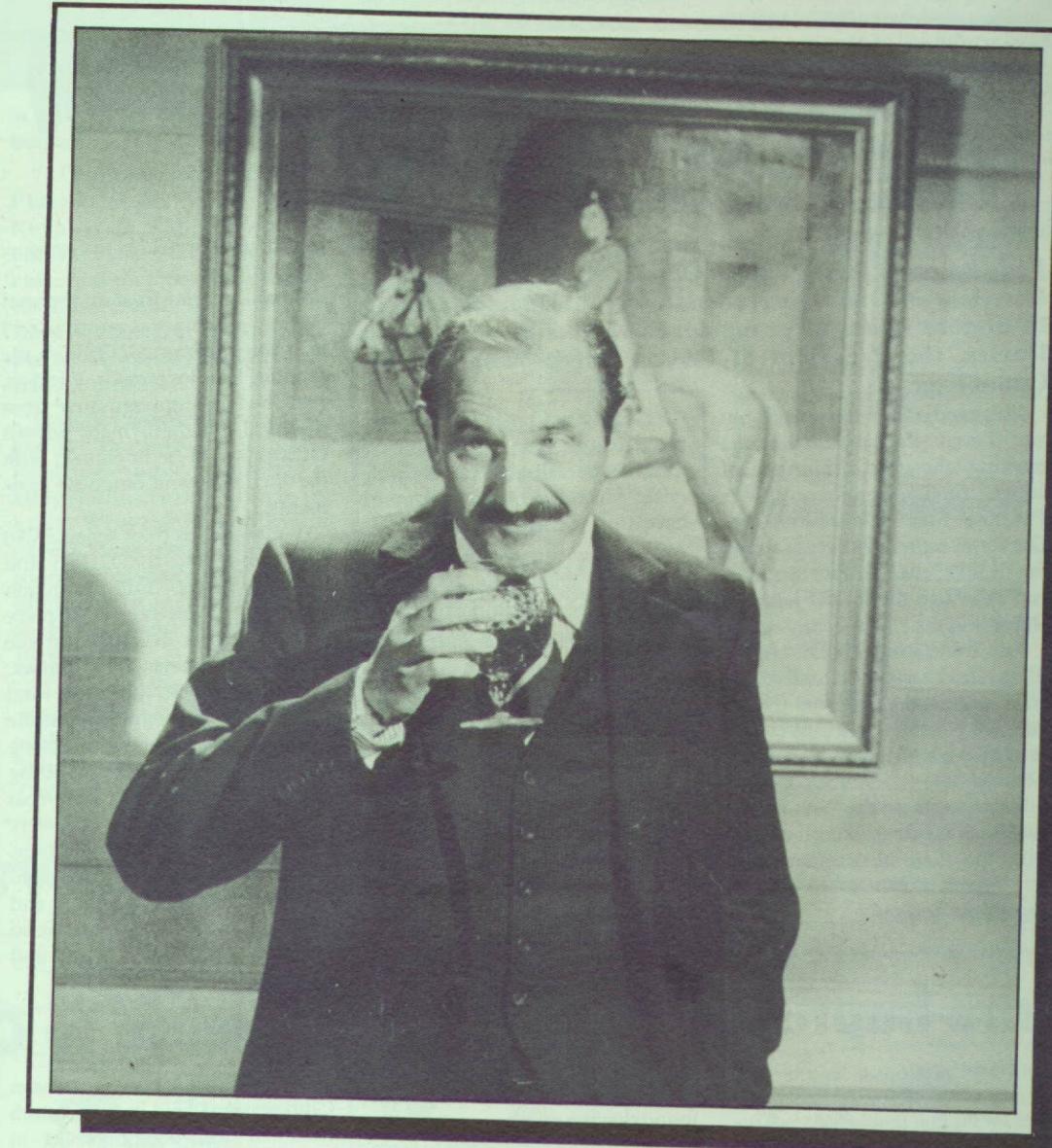
During a break between "takes", Leonard told me: "After the Hiroshima bomb our planned future with the Int Corps was thought to be de trop. We thought we would be transferred to an infantry regiment.

"Instead, we were put into the Educational Corps and I served in Bielefeld teaching soldiers how to read and write. A lot of them had missed out on their education because they were evacuated."

Private Rossiter — he left the Army in 1947 as a sergeant — played a lot of football and cricket during his Rhine Army stint, and once was mistakenly billed on a poster as an "internationaler Spieler aus Everton".

His team, he recalls, was "murdered" during that encounter.

"I loved the sporting side and the privileges they brought being excused all sorts of the duties by the RSM," he remembered with



his distinctive chuckle.

He added: "I didn't mind the disciplinary side of Army life unless it was stupid as, so often, it was. Like sand-papering floors using a razor blade, though I didn't actually do that myself. I found that stupid.

"Making up beds, polishing floors in a certain way; I didn't look upon these as a dreadful imposition. I am neat but I was neat before I went into the Army.

"I was only really miserable

once. Moving units in one day. A bloody freezing day.

"It was my 21st birthday in Germany which was particularly cold that year. That was a very low spot in my Army life. That was misery."

Suddenly, the call came from the film set's floor manager. Leonard eased himself up from the canvas chair with his name stencilled on it to take his place for yet another "take" on set. His co-stars were Michael Caine and Billy

LEONARD ROSSITER...unusually pompous role as an FCO minister.

Connolly.

The world of comedy is a sadder place with the loss of Rigsby... the accident-prone Cinzano drinker with the luckless Joan Collins always drenched in the aromatic-herbed vermouth... the unlikely entrepreneur Reginald Perrin... and, latterly, as Norman Tripper, the harrassed manager of a supermarket.

THREE PIECES of good news have fallen on my desk, all concerning subjects I have been working on for some years.

In 1980 after my visit to Smedley Hydro, the Central Register for National Health Records, I discovered that the failings, lying in 90 per cent of cases, with the wives and the Service medical centres. And that in eight years no Service person had visited the Register.

One of the main problem areas is completion of the F Med 246, partly because the three forms required were not carbon-backed, and also that the wives failed to fill in their NHS numbers. Many did not even know it!

So I put up a list of suggestions, one that F Med 246 should be carbon-backed.

Hey Presto! The new F Med 246 (Rev 5/84) is carbon-backed.

I also suggested that a reciprocal system



of visits should be made by both Services and the staff of Smedley Hydro. They have now visited each other and, hopefully, have a clearer idea of each other's system.

There have also been other improvements, all designed to help the speedy transfer of wives and families medical documents.

The second item of good news is a revised UBL 22, the Department of Employment leaflet for people going abroad.

I met with Department officials to suggest that UBL 22 did not clarify the Service wives' position, to the detriment of the Service wife's claim.

Hey Presto! No 21 UBL 22 (9/84) is a marvellous document and page 3 says: 'What are the rules for getting unemployment benefit in another country? Before you go you must:

- be unemployed, and
- be getting UK unemployment benefit when you leave, and
- have been signing on for at least four weeks before you go, but this rule may be waived for relatives or families of workers posted abroad, such as the wives of HM Forces posted to Germany.'

There are still many hurdles to overcome regarding unemployment benefit but the first hurdle has been jumped!

Wives, please make sure you have the revised UBL 22 but the only problem is that there is no cross-reference with the relevant DHSS leaflets, a point I raised at the same time.

I have also asked them to look again at the bilingual letter, in view of all the problems Service wives are facing. I await their reply.

The third piece of good news is that after talking over the problems of FB5 with the Department of Employment, I have been told that the DHSS are considering an acknowledgement slip.

So keep fingers crossed that it will materialise....

*Anne Armstrong*

Home tel: Camberley 29653

## NORTH WEST WIVES NOW JOINING THE FEDERATION

"A YEAR AGO we thought that we would never get the Federation of Army Wives Club started in North West District, yet 39 wives attended the recent District meeting to discuss issues affecting service wives," said Norma Davies, the President of FAWC North West District Committee.

Husband and wife team Robin and Torrill Fawcett chaired the meeting through a number of issues, finally nominating Mrs Fawcett, Mrs James and Mrs Gordon as representatives to attend the FAWC AGM and seminar, and others to the NAAFI day in October at the HQ in Kennington.

Mrs Reive, the NW Dist Army Wives concern representative will be attending the National Childminding Association's Conference and AGM in Manchester on 20 October next year.

Dispelled were the fears that to hold such meetings would undermine the chain of command and give wives a chance to have a grumbling session.

NW District's meeting certainly proved quite the opposite, for a number of valuable points were raised which otherwise might never have seen the light of day.

At last wives were able to feel that their views could have a constructive and important part to play in the family lives of the District.

The topics raised and discussed were as diverse as quarter security to the provision of garages, the modernisation, maintenance and painting of quarters, to re-education and resettlement.

To answer and explain current MOD policy, representatives from the ASU, RAEC, Families Housing and Welfare were in attendance.

The discussion on wives' employment brought mixed reaction. For one wife it had been an advantage to be an Army wife, yet others serving with a regiment found that the employers were very worried that all would have to leave at the same time — a valid point as far as their businesses were concerned, and a real problem for the wives.

The FAWC survey forms on employment and housing were distributed, and this led to a discussion affecting wives and their entitlements to DHSS benefits and allowances in UK, but more especially when posted overseas.

NW District asked me to give a short talk on these problems, and we had a further session after lunch with the representatives from

two regiments moving to Germany shortly.

It was obvious that on the spot advice and help was required so I was able to arrange, through the Dept of Employment in London, that the local representative from the local Unemployment Benefit Offices would be in contact with the incoming and outgoing regiments.

We hope this pilot scheme will be extended to the DHSS and other regiments. Full discussion on this topic was due to take place at the benefits discussion at the Federation Seminar on 19 October.

During lunch, prepared and organised by Gail Johnson in the church rooms, conversation among the wives proved that the meeting had been worthwhile, and that important issues in one area were often not so important in another.

Yet many topics aired affected the whole District and these and other issues would be discussed further at the FAWC AGM and Seminar.



Lieutenant Colonel Robin Fawcett, The Gordon Highlanders, and his wife Torrill chaired the North West meeting.

## Cheese to Cordon Bleu

THE MONTHLY Luncheon Club sessions held in the Church room in Fulwood Barracks in Preston, is one of the ways the North West wives have found to get together. Ex-Services, TA and regular wives, all are welcome.

For a subscription of £2 and £1 for the lunch, what better way to meet?

Gail Johnson, whose idea it was, is also the cookery expert whose culinary arts spread in many directions from the first lunch of a bowl of soup and cheese, to finding three or four wives each month to plan and prepare the cordon bleu lunch.

Two wives found the drive down

the motorway with numerous dishes laid out on the back seat quite a balancing act.

With table cloths and flowers, wives from the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry find the luncheon a wonderful way to meet other wives whose husbands, for example, were all on Exercise Lionheart.

As we were eating chocolate butterflies discussions were in hand for Christmas lunches, and for invitations to go to the new regiments due in.

Behind the scene wives washed up continually, and with volunteers decided for the October lunch, the room returned to normal.

## Rare baptism

HISTORY was made at the 17th Century Trinity Hospital in Greenwich when for the first time in 368 years the Chapel at Trinity Hospital was the scene of a baptismal service.

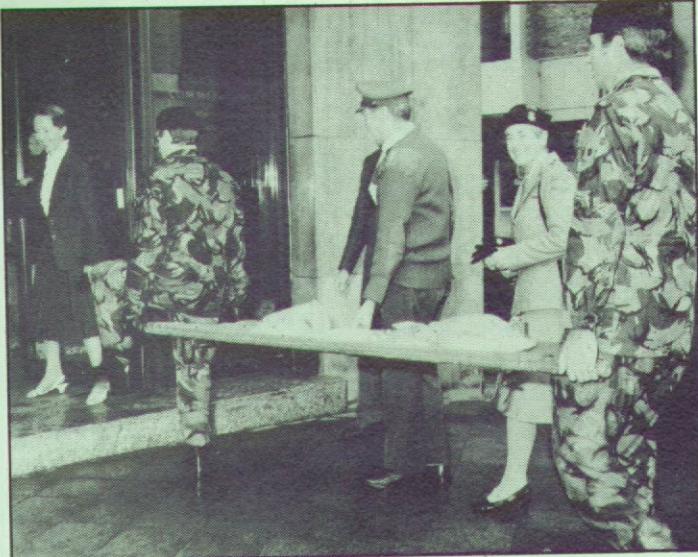
Andrew Joseph Phoenix, the Germany-based son of Sergeant and Mrs M J Phoenix, was christened at the Hospital Chaplain, Rev. Peter Malins.

Although the chaplain is an ex Army pardre and the child's father a member of the Royal Corps of Transport there was an ironic twist to the service.

Andrew's grandfather, the Warden of the Hospital, is a Royal Naval Pensioner and made the Font especially for the service.

He made an oak stand for the Hospital fire bell, a ships bell from HMS Wildfire, following an old Royal Naval custom.

# STRETCHERED CASH!



RACKING their brains for a way of raising funds for the Soldiers' Sailors' Airmen's Families Association, the soldiers of 73 Company RAOC hit upon the idea of collecting all the loose change that soldiers returning from Exercise Lionheart had in their pockets.

73 Company, a specialist Territorial Army unit skilled in the dealing of petrol were in a prime position to do just that. They were in charge of the fuel line depot at Leuth Staging Area, through which 13,500 vehicles had to pass before reaching their exercise locations.

A stretcher was placed in a prominent place at the fuelling point and soldiers were invited to throw their coins on to it. An amazing £450 was raised here, and another £142 was collected in boxes placed

in the NAAFI and the cook-house.

73 Company were aided by 8 Platoon of the 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Rangers who are based in Dover. The fund raisers then passed the money to Lieutenant Colonel Guy Rogers, treasurer of the British Forces Germany SSAFA Central Committee.

Colonel Rogers then arranged for the coins, still in four sandbags and weighing 52 kilogrammes to be taken to the bank. With the help of manageress Mrs Gerda Ransby, the money was taken to Mönchengladbach branch of the Commerzbank and counted (picture above).

Twelve different currencies made a grand total of £592.15, which will be taken to SSAFA Headquarters in London by Colonel Rogers.

## How observant are you?



WE ARE both serving members of HM Forces, at present stationed overseas.

My husband and myself have been posted to different locations, one UK and one to another overseas station.

Could you please help us over the rules regarding separate postings as both locations are some thousands of miles apart.

We have both decided to remain in messes, but are having difficulty over storage of our possessions. — NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED.

MOD have replied:

The rule regarding marriage between serving members of HM Forces is stated in the General Definitions on Page XIII of Regulations for Army Allowances and Charges, Note (a).

Basically one spouse is required to opt for Category 1 and the other for Category 5.

Thereafter these options can be changed on either posting overseas, substantive promotion or discharge from the Armed Forces of either spouse. Other circumstances are required to be referred to MOD.

We are aware that some of the more complicated permutations of these Service marriages can give rise to problems and these are dealt with as individual cases on their merits as and when they are referred ie, when regulations do not specifically cover them.

You should advise whoever has the problem to put it up through the chain of command to PS10b who will if necessary refer the case to SEC 2(A).

# ASK ANNE

You will be glad to know that the company is now in receipt of the correct postage rates proper to HM Forces serving overseas.

You may also wish to read: Royal Mail Postal Rates HM Forces Overseas, 3 September 1984, available from Post Offices and BFPOs.

THE AFPRB are visiting our unit. What happens to the information we give them?

I was told it was a waste of time because they can't do anything.

We wanted to put together some facts and figures on a number of topics.

Can we do this, or does it have to go through the unit first? — NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED.

If they are visiting your unit than I am sure wives will have a chance to put evidence before them, either directly or via the unit.

Ask officially if your evidence can be submitted, but your facts and figures must be 100 per cent correct, and based on accepted information.

## CHILD BENEFIT

Due to the strike at the Child Benefit Centre, some families returning from overseas may have some difficulty in obtaining their Child Benefit Book.

Delays of 4 to 12 weeks may occur in some areas, if you find you are in financial difficulty because of this, then please see your Unit Pay Office.

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





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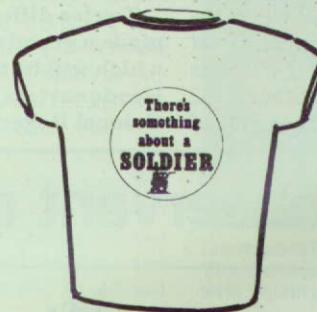
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# In Scott's Polar footsteps with an Army Clansman Set

JUST OVER 70 years ago a deeply disappointed Captain Robert Falcon Scott led his ill-fated five-man expedition back from the South Pole having arrived there to make the written observation: "Great God, this is an awful place!"

Three months later, three of them — including Scott — were dead, their documents and instruments intact, just 11 miles from safety.

For the first time since that courageous trek across the "last great wilderness on earth" five more explorers are soon southbound — determined that two of their number should re-trace Scott's fatalistic footsteps in 75 days, but without the support of dogs, depots or air support.

These latter day snowcap pioneers — all civilians — one of them a former lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Artillery reserves are intent on carving their own particular niche in ice-packed history.

They will have advantages not available to their heroic predecessors — long-range radio links, thanks to the Army.

These vital lifelines on loan to the 14-month-long isolated expedition (it has cost a conservative £75,000 to mount) have been supplied, in addition to a four-day crash course in instruction, by the School of Signals at Blandford in Dorset.

Two of the Antarctic-bound party of five — they fly out in January to join their recently-sailed 490-ton expedition ship in New Zealand — Roger Mear and Robert Swan, the co-leaders, will each pull a 300 lb sledge stacked with supplies 833 miles across the ice to the Pole.

On one of the seven-foot sledges will be a £3,000 olive drab Clansman PRC 320 man-pack HF radio set, complete with Morse key, weighing five kilos, the equivalent of two weeks' food.

That radio will maintain the vital lifeline link with the remaining three team members back at the base camp hut on McMurdo Sound on the Ross Ice Shelf, some 11,000 miles from where the radio was issued. It will be expected to operate in temperatures of minus 40 and 60 Centigrade.

The Polar walk by the indomitable duo will, it is estimated, take over two months starting in the Antarctic spring of October next year.

The unique task of tutoring the explorers in the intricacies of radio equipment was passed by the Ministry of Defence to the School of Signals.

Certain of its globe-trotting personnel were already experts in Arctic Circle radio communications conditions but the Antarctic, at the 'bottom of the world' is a different proposition.

The School's Radio Group, part of the Instructional Wing under its OC, Major Tony Gibb readily took up the challenge. The course would be intensive. They had just four days in which to saturate their students with



the essentials.

Major Gibb said: "Trying to devise a programme for such a project as this has been a bit of a headache. They had been concerned at the amount they had to learn but we have given them a lot of information including cassettes which they are going to read while wintering in the Antarctic until they set off next October. By that time they should be experts, we hope!"

"They have been having early morning starts and doing Morse training until late at night, too. They had Morse training, if all else fails, plus voice procedures.

"They are slightly over-awed at the size of the comms problems because of the requirements in that part of the world. All seven instructors involved in the teach-ins — there are 14 in all — have had to do a lot of background research on the area for this one-off project.

## Story: Graham Smith

And the quintet did well considering the short timescale at the disposal of instructors and the initiates.

Normally, officers joining the Corps of Royal Signals undergo an eight-week course on basic radio instruction as part of their introductory course while Foremen of Signals have 15 weeks' instruction during an 18-month course and Yeomen of Signals are subject to 12 weeks' tuition in an eight-month syllabus.

The equipment manifest by way of radio links to be used in an area encompassing 95 per cent of the world's icy real estate is impressive.

Three PRC 320 man-pack radio sets, TACBEE ground-to-air beacons (these will be worn inside the clothes to prolong battery life), 48 disposable batteries (each with an estimated 36 hours' life), two battery chargers for 13 rechargeable radio batteries, four 27-foot-high telescopic masts and two 5.4 metre masts, half-a-dozen wire braid

complete antennae sets and a carrying frame for the man-pack radio for use on short journeys around the base camp area before the main trek starts.

In true military fashion the five civilian searchers for Scott's figurative footsteps have even signed for them!

"These really are their lifeline comms," Major Gibb stressed. "Other than our sledge-borne radio and the two at base, the two team members on the Polar walk will have no recourse to outside support and the aim is to complete the expedition in line with the spirit of adventure embodied by the Scott story."

He added: "The weather is different down there. Frequencies on this sort of radio equipment are very critical as is the time of day and type of antenna.

"It will be of interest to the Royal Signals to see how this equipment performs. We already know how it performs in the Arctic where it has

## Picture: Paul Haley

worked in temperatures of up to minus 25 degrees Centigrade. The equipment has a specification of down to minus 40."

Expedition member with the main task as radio comms link man will be 33-year-old Gareth Wood, formerly a lieutenant in the 5th British Columbia Field Battery, Royal Canadian Artillery reserve at Victoria, a man who says he has "minimal on hands experience" on radios.

"Your British Army seems to be quite interested in us keeping accurate records of our transmission schedules and overall performance of the radios and their batteries in the extreme cold."

The Blandford sets and their ancillary equipment will be set up at the base camp to keep in touch not only with the two-man sledge party but US/New Zealand military base facilities 30 miles away, New Zealand 2,000 miles distant, a link with a London-based PR firm for continual

up-date reports and, it is hoped, with Blandford, too.

The team has been warned by the electronic experts that solar flares could also present a problem. Effects of these and the ionosphere could mean communications lapses for up to five days.

Expedition co-leader, Roger Mear one of Britain's most experienced mountaineers, a former Outward Bound School instructor and a veteran climber in the Himalayas, Alaska, the USA and the Alps, including a winter ascent of the Eiger, said: "Our instructors at Blandford have been very good. It has been concise and exactly what we wanted to know."

"It was a fairly traumatic first few days for us. People have tried to cram in every bit of relevant radio information. We are very much buzzing with radio jargon now."

He went on: "Had it not been for the Army we might not have been as well prepared as we are today although the expedition would have gone ahead."

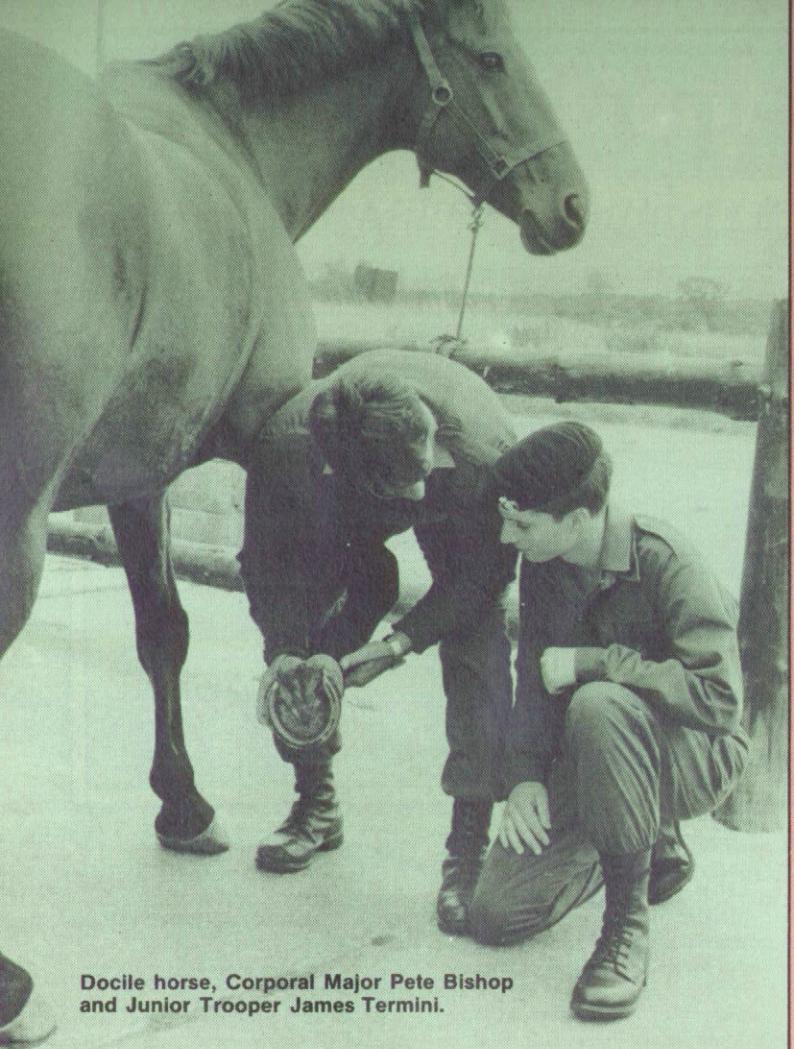
"We shall also be taking some 24-hour Arctic ration packs and these were arranged by Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Cordingley of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, the former regiment of Captain Titus Oates on the 1912 Scott trek."

Mr Mear said the packs would not be buried at the South Pole as a legacy for the next expedition but would undergo various tests at base camp and then brought back to the UK for analysis.

On 19 January, 1912, following the bitter disappointment of finding the Norwegian flag flying at the Pole, Scott and his party wearily turned their sledge to trudge the fateful journey home.

Just 67 days later, he penned: "Had we lived I should have had a tale to tell of the hardihood, endurance and courage of my companions which would have stirred the heart of every Englishman. These rough notes and our dead bodies must tell the tale."

Seventy-two years on, everyone is confident that the first bold pioneers to re-trace his famous footsteps will have several first rate tales to tell ■



Docile horse, Corporal Major Pete Bishop and Junior Trooper James Termini.



## Bovington's Youth Experiment Proves to be a Success...

**D**OWN IN deepest Dorset they came... they saw... and, with seven exceptions, they concurred. A life in the British Army would appear to be a lively and interesting proposition for them.

The Army — and the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps, in particular — as part of its contribution to the Government's Youth Training Scheme had offered 49 youngsters a unique chance of 12 months' training, taking them away from the nation's dole queues. But it was not an offer of direct recruiting into the Army.

In January, 49 youngsters had arrived in Bovington Camp in a traditional intake variety of less-than-sartorial turn-out, some with dyed hair and others with ear rings. Among their number a descendant of Lieutenant General Sir Brian Horrocks, 17-year-old Stephen Horrocks, a former £35-a-week apprentice butcher now drawing £7 weekly and having £8 saved for him over the same period.

Now, such distinctive uninspired uniform of personal despair parading in the dole queues has given way to smart Army uniforms with meaningful prospects.

Next month, 17 of them will proudly join 400 other regular intake Junior Leader Regiment teenagers on a passing out parade.

Lieutenant Ian Stenning, Corps of Royal Military Police, the Troop Leader of Alamein Troop, A Squadron, Junior Leaders Regiment, RAC who has acted as mentor and adviser to the boys since their arrival said: "The lads started out on a year's three-term basic Common Military Recruit Syllabus (CMRS) as one integrated Troop. Since then, they have attained as high a standard as any regular JLR RAC intake.

"A lot of them had applied to join the Army before coming here but had failed for various reasons such as interviews or because of

Instruction from Sergeant Phillip May for Junior Lance Corporals Darren Logan and Shaun Clare and Junior Trooper Dean Palmer.

the numbers game.

"Five opted out — one medically — and two others have decided to pursue academic opportunities. The remaining 42 have all been very well motivated."

He added: "This has been Bovington's first YTS scheme and it has been a great success story for us. It has worked well and the lads have proved themselves to be above the average in overall results.

"During training they were guaranteed nothing and they have had to work hard for their results and acceptance into the Regular Army. But first we looked at them to see if they were worthy of being offered those places. They took up vacancies that otherwise might have been taken up elsewhere from other areas of the recruiting field."

Basic training for the unique entry of look-and-learn soldiers with an option on a bright and active tomorrow was no different for these potential regulars among the 16-year-olds.

Skills like map reading, NBC awareness, first aid, SMG and SLR weapon handling, grenade training, fieldcraft arts such as camouflage and concealment, PT (log running and stretcher races), orienteering, adventurous training.

Four of them went to Hong Kong for adventure training, dipping into their own cash resources of about £50 each for three weeks of climbing, wind surfing, sailing, 'very arduous training' on Lantau Island and camping on a mountain top under canvas near a Buddhist monastery. The lads also had helicopter familiarisation rides, courtesy of the Army Air Corps on the Colony.

Back at Bovington the YTS entrants were given four months to make up their minds before applying pen to paper, if they wished, to sign a commitment to three years in khaki.

Lieutenant Stenning points out: "The aim of the YTS here was not to offer them places in the Army but to take them off the dole queues for 12 months, offering them some sort of training."

Of the 42 youngsters still intent on an Army career, 25 are going into the Royal Armoured Corps and will do an extra term of gunnery and recce instruction at Bovington. The 17 others will be spread among Corps and Regiments such as the Royal Engineers, the Royal Corps of Transport, the Royal Artillery, and even the Royal Veterinary Corps.

In the latter case, Junior Trooper James Termini, of Italian ancestry, has so impressed the instructors at Melton Mowbray with his attitude and aptitude for being a farrier that he has been accepted for training. In six months, he will be making and fitting shoes under supervision and could be fully qualified in five years.

One such lad who noticed the



A problem 'for the solving of' directed by Stephen Horrocks.

"They are very good lads, a very good Troop, many with NCO potential. They are quick on the up-take and a good bunch of boys.

"

"They became a very close Troop and careful with their kit; they've never lost any. I would recommend this Youth Training Scheme to any Army unit who may be approached."

Lieutenant Stenning commented: "They have turned out better than average results as junior soldiers, have proved to be better motivated, gained more confidence in tackling problems and all probably because they have had to prove themselves that bit more to earn their places in the Army.

"At the end of the day we have ended up with some very good soldiers who may make excellent NCOs."

Major Richard Illingworth, 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, the A Squadron Leader summed up: "Although in the public eye these YTS boys may have been considered as second class citizens within the recruiting world, they have been able to set up a very high standard. We are very pleased to have them in the Army."

Footnote: In the Government's Youth Training Scheme a total of 5,200 places were made available to the three Services for which there were 4,519 applicants. Out of these 2,161 were directed at the Army of which 1,052 were accepted. In the year ended this April, 146 left the scheme while 80 had applied for service in the Regular Army.

**Story:**  
**Graham Smith**  
**Pictures:**  
**Les Wiggs**



The vast and expensive project by Droit Music Ltd to produce records and cassettes of the bugle calls, trumpet calls, and the marches of the British Army, approaches completion with the first of three volumes of slow and quick regimental marches.

After this there is no excuse for any organisation to be caught napping on regimental and reunion occasions, memorial services and the like, when a particular item of music is needed and no band, bugler, trumpeter or piper is available. In one pocket of your average overcoat you can carry five cassettes of the whole of military music plus a small cassette player. Imagine the joys of drowning out some one, blasting your particular bit of beach with Boy George, with a heartfelt rendering of Reveille, Stables, or Sussex by the Sea.

The date chosen for the marches was 3 September 1939, a fateful day for the army, so have no fear your regiment or corps has been ignored. For good



measure those corps formed after 1939 have been included, even the very recent Army Legal Corps.

With so much duplication of marches among the regiments it was necessary to choose an alternative slow or quick march in some cases, but always a tune very much associated with the regiments concerned.

As an example all fusiliers have The British Grenadiers as their official march, so the Fifth get Blaydon Races, the Seventh have Fighting with the 7th, and the XX the Minden March.

Volume I, as the other two volumes, has thirty regiments represented, not in Army List order, but so that the record can be listened to as a programme of music, with quick, slow, light and heavy infantry, bugle and pipe marches nicely mixed. But fear not, your tune or tunes will appear very shortly if they are not here.

So once more I appeal to all Disgusteds of Dorking to support the project you have for so long pined. All museums, regimental HQs, comrades associations, Royal British Legion branches, and any organisation concerned with annual get-togethers (and especially the irates of Dorking) should arm themselves immediately with the cassettes as they appear. Watch this space, for you will certainly never have another chance.

The bugle, trumpet, and regimental calls and marches are available from Droit Music Ltd, 8 Alfred St, Blandford Forum, Dorset, record or cassette at £5.60 each inclusive of p&p.

★ ★ ★

#### Music from Trooping the Colour 1984 DR 65

Massed Bands Household Division

Conductors: Lt Col R A Ridings, Major B T Keeling

Yet another Trooping record comes in the shape of a static performance of most of the music, with the old chapel in Chelsea Barracks serving as studio. Only three of the five Foot Guards marched past,

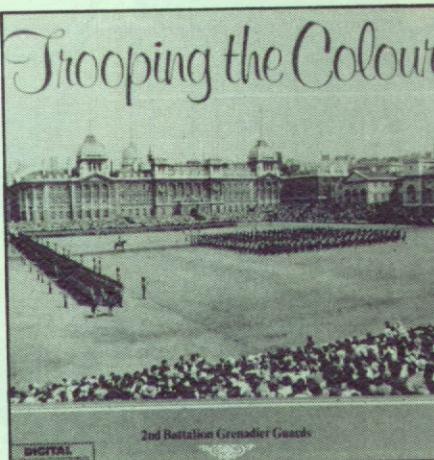
# On the Record

## with Rodney Bashford



the Grenadiers, Scots, and Coldstream, with both Household Cavalry regiments.

The neutral music, which is all that will interest collectors, includes two fine old tunes which have been given a rest for too many years — *May Blossom* and *Mollendorf's Parade March* — evocative masterpieces from the golden age of military music.



*Marching Down the Years* is a medley of old tunes for the inspection, *La Reve Passe* is the quick troop, and the neutral for the slow march past is the *Duke of Gloster's March*. *Preusens Gloria*, *Radetzky*, *Gruss aus Kiel*, and a march by Major Kimberley with a mysterious title, *Conundrum* (perhaps played backwards it turns out to be *Blaze Away*) make up the remainder, apart from the regimental marches and a couple of short offerings from the pipes and drums.

All in a good cause as usual, £5.60 inclusive from HQ Household Division or Droit Music Ltd as above.

★ ★ ★

#### Regimental Silver DR 67

Music for a Dinner

Band of The Royal Corps of Signals

Conductor: Major Gordon Turner

Time was when a regimental band's main regular occupation was playing during dinner in the officers' mess, usually behind a closed or nearly closed door.

The crotchetts and quavers interrupted the flow of prandial conversation of course.

The music programme in its silver holder on the dining table differed widely from that actually played, for the closed door allowed us to play our taccatas and fugues while the officers thought they were enjoying titbits from *No, No, Nanette*.

Obviously the Royal Signals leave the door wide open, and Major Turner gives them the sort of programme they would expect; high quality light music by composers great or small.

*Officers Dinner Call* to get ready, *Roast Beef of Old England* to be steady, and Schubert's *Marche Militaire* to get going. Cimarosa's catchy overture to *The Impresario*, and thereafter the music gets lighter and more frivolous as dinner progresses, and an item called *Topsy Trombones* is placed nicely between pudd'n and port.

I'm sure the rest of the meal went down well to *A Strauss Bouquet*, a medley of *Franz Lehár Melodies*, *Elizabethan Serenade*, *Hogmanaynia* on Scots tunes, an Alf Young march *The Argonaut*, two solos in an arrangement for euphonium of Sennaille's *Introduction and Allegro Spiritoso* for flute of Gossec's

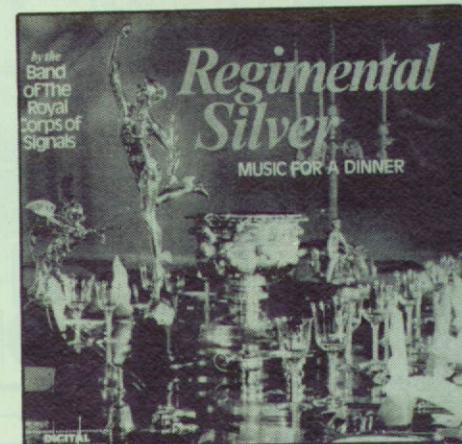
*Tambourin*, and the obligatory *Post Horn Gallop* on these occasions.

RB arranged *When Johnnie Comes Marching Home* for afters.

When all is said, eaten, and drunk, the band can fall out for their own cheese sandwiches, but not before playing the *Corps March and Loyal Toast*. The secret of a good mess-night programme is music which has tunes, not themes.

Themes require uninterrupted listening if indigestion is to be avoided, so have this disc for your own little beano. Watch out for the loyal toast though.

From Royal Signals Band, Blandford, Dorset, £5.60 inclusive.



#### Colchester Searchlight Tattoo 1984 CR 64

Director of Music: Major G Turner

Colchester's vast arena was never suitable for live recordings of its annual tattoos, and wisely in my opinion they now go to the studio to record excerpts.

And for once the music can stand on its own as a very acceptable programme. A fanfare from Captain Hannam, the then Director of Music of the Queen's Division on whose patch the tattoo takes place, and also a patrol on *This Old Man* by him, with Kendall's march *Glorious Victory* and Lloyd Webber's tune *Memories* as a slow march, form the opening scene.

Rimsky-Korsakov's *Procession of the Nobles* leads into a series of historical cameos depicting the long history of Colchester, starting with Old King Cole, via the Celts, Romans and various queens and kings to present times.

On this record a narrator keeps you in line with events, all rather compressed, with royal corps lying all over the place after a reign of only a few seconds, but no doubt an effective pageant on the arena.

Leo Stanley's march *The Pompadours* heralds the band of the Royal Norwegian King's Guard, though here represented by music from previous recordings.

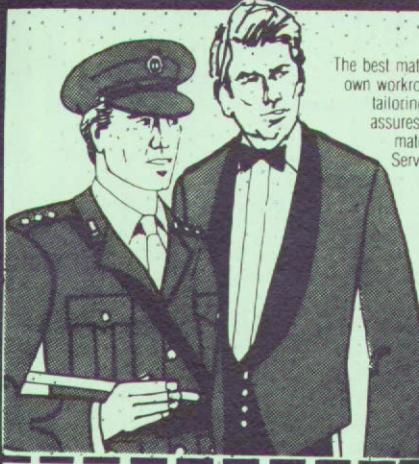
They play *Gammel Jægermarsj*, Per Selvig's *Stand By*, and Sousa's *Hands Across the Sea*. A short burst from the pipes and drums of 1st Bn KOSB and we are flung without warning into a wild mêlée representing the *Battle of Abu Klea*.

Abu where? Somewhere near Khartoum, I gather.

Anyway the Dervishes create a hell of a din to battle music written by Major Turner which, presumably, was the highlight of a more extended scene. The day closes with Tulip's *Evening Hymn and Last Post* (Now the Day is Over sung by the choir of the Queen's Dragoon Guards), Strauss's uproarious *Hunting Polka*, and the march off *The Beacon* by Alf Young.

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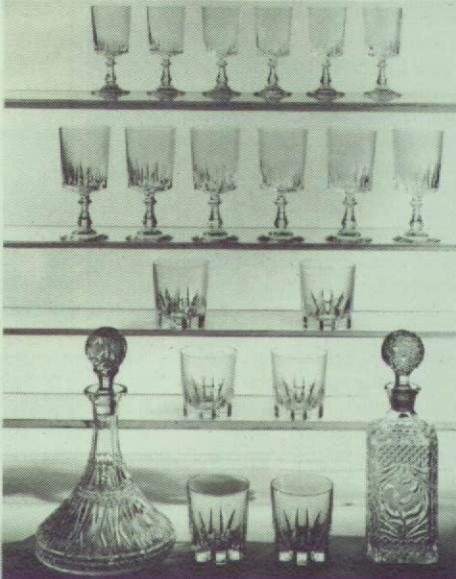
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# DEMANDING - BUT GOOD EXPERIENCE



## GETTING AWAY FROM IT ALL...

A round-up of  
adventurous training stories



### CANADA: Beautiful but very tough...

**A**N ARMY team from Northern Ireland has returned from Canada after undertaking an expedition which included some of the most testing rock climbs in the world.

The ten men, mostly from The Queen's Regiment, had to contend with blizzards, crevasses, avalanches and temperatures which reached minus 10 degrees C during their four-week assault on the Rocky Mountains.

During one climb — described as 'horrific' by their leader Captain Will Morris — they had to undertake a four-hour abseil down a sheer drop of 1,000 ft where the only toe-holds were disguised by blizzard-driven snow.

"It was a tough test physically and far more arduous than most Army training," said Captain Morris, of 2nd Battalion The Queen's Regiment. "Most of the team were surprised by how

demanding it was, but it was good experience."

The aim of the venture was to introduce the Army climbers to serious mountaineering in snow and ice and at altitudes of up to 12,000 ft.

After arriving at Calgary on August 10 they headed for the Columbia ice fields where they set up camp at the base of the Athabasca Glacier. Their hazardous ascent to the peaks took them

through craggy ice fields honey-combed with crevasses.

"The crevasses were extremely deep with water flowing swiftly at the bottom and the ice walls always on the move. If you fell into one and managed to survive the fall, the chances are that you would be swept away or crushed as the ice shifted."

Crevasses were not the only hazard. "We had to reach the top of the glacier before the sun caused melting which inevitably resulted in huge avalanches."

When they eventually reached 10,000 ft they pitched camp between two crevasses and had to build an ice wall as meagre protection against the mobile scenery. With the temperature behaving like a yo-yo — hot during

**CAPTAIN** Will Morris, leader of the Rocky Mountains expedition, is now an instructor at the Joint Services Mountain Training Centre at Tywyn, North Wales.

The other members of the expedition were:

Lt Doug Nelson, Depot Queen's Division; and, from 2 Queen's, Cpl Mick Brooks, LCpl Brian Prentice, Pte Mick Tedds, Pte Mark Tibble, Pte Dave Joy and Pte John Carty. Sole representative of 1 Queen's, based at Omagh, was Pte Steve Wall. Guest instructor was Cpl Andy Dicks of the Royal Marines Mountain and Arctic Warfare Cadre.

A colour photo of Corporal Brooks was used in *SOLDIER* 22 October, page 51.

parliament and the Gullfoss Falls where the flood-swollen waters plunge over a series of terraces into a 250-foot-deep ravine.

All of the ten visiting youngsters had lived up to the aims of the sub-zero expedition — only one had ventured overseas before — and many of them have acquired a first-hand interest in mountaineering.

the day but dropping very savagely at night — they climbed two 11,500-ft peaks in three days before returning to civilisation for rest and recuperation.

After that they tackled rock climbs in British Columbia and Alberta — but on two occasions ran into trouble as a result of rapidly changing weather conditions.

Members of the team, including Captain Morris, attempted to scale the 1,500-ft sheer face of Mt Cory near Banff. When they started it was a bright, sunny day and they were wearing T-shirts. But when they were within 200 ft of the top they were caught by a severe electrical storm.

Pelted by hail and with lightning striking close around them they were forced to undertake a four-hour abseil down the rock face, crouching occasionally to gain what shelter they could from the elements that seemed intent on their destruction. "We were mightily relieved to reach the safety of our transports," said Captain Morris.

Their next climb was also dogged by bad weather. Captain Morris and three other members of the team set out to reach the summit of Mt Assiniboine — known as 'The Matterhorn of the Rockies'. More than 1,000 ft up they sheltered the night in an alpine hut, but by nine o'clock the next morning a blizzard had been ragging for six hours and over two feet of snow had fallen.

The only way was down, but it was easier said than done. "The descent was horrific," said Captain Morris. "On the way up we used narrow ledges not more than six inches wide as holds. Now they were covered by snow and we could not see them, so we had to abseil 1,000 ft through the blizzard and in very limited visibility. When we got off the rock the snow was four feet deep and we had to get back through it.

"We were very unlucky with the weather."



Problem of drying-out...

"We completed a circuit of the island's notoriously difficult roads and tracks which are predominantly unmetalled, mostly on deeply rutted tracks in pouring rain and mists, unbridged rivers swollen by heavy rain, and rocky lava deserts.

"We were lucky to complete the expedition with only six punctures and a number of minor mechanical problems. Motoring in Iceland is an adventure in itself without even stepping out of the vehicle to climb mountains."

The team, in fact, climbed four mountains including the highest peak in northern Iceland, the 5,000-foot kerling, in only the third British ascent since 1979.

Educational visits figured in their plans, too. Those such as the Skaftafell National Park and natural hot water springs of Lanmannaglangar. The US Navy also hosted them. They also visited the site of Iceland's ancient

## ICELAND Only six punctures

THE AIM was to keep 20 Junior Soldiers from the Scottish Infantry Depot at Glencorse (Bridge of Don) 'fit and motivated' in addition to developing their self-reliance and ability to work in a team.

It was achieved with an adventurous training expedition to Iceland for ten of them with three permanent staff and the remainder going to the British Outward Bound Centre at Kristiansand, Norway.

Led by Major Brian Kerslake, Royal Army Educational Corps, the ten youngsters headed out for Iceland and Exercise Bold Bannockburn. The last UKLF expedition to the arctic wastes of that island was made in 1975.

The youngsters reached their objective by ferry; from Aberdeen to the Shetlands and then Iceland via the Faroes.

They were to carry out their adventurous training in some of the worst weather since records were begun at the start of the century.

As Major Kerslake recalled:

## Great for the cavers

A STRONG Army Caving Association team recently got to the bottom of Gouffre Berger in France, the fifth deepest cave in the world.

Under the leadership of Major Jack Sheldon, of NORTHAG, and Staff Sergeant Ian James, of 1 Armoured Division Transport Regiment, 42 cavers, including three women, reached the sump at the bottom of this enormous cave, 1,250 metres down.

Planning for this ambitious venture began nearly two years ago at the end of the Army Caving Association's visit to the Canadian Rockies. The detailed build-up took more than a year.

Nearly all the best cavers in the Army were involved and about 20 top class civilian cavers from Britain were also invited.

The expedition assembled in Rheindahlen and then moved by convoy to the Sornin Plateau, near



Grenoble, in south eastern France. At a point three kilometres from the cave a base camp was established under the capable administration of Sergeant Steve Ward, a Sapper who is attached to 28 Signal Regiment.

Once the 30 vertical sections and numerous traverses were rigged with over 900 metres of fixed ropes, the serious business of getting to the bottom with teams of two or four began in earnest.

Some cavers preferred to go straight down and up in long, hard, exhausting trips lasting up to 24 hours. But most preferred to

bivouac at the camp established in a fabulously decorated chamber at 500 metres and to spread their trips over two or more days.

"This may seem to be a long time," said Major Sheldon. "But the cave is more than six times deeper than the average Yorkshire pothole, and its seriousness must not be underestimated."

Everyone went prepared for a long stay in case bad weather flooded parts of the cave. Fortunately this did not happen, but numerous close shaves, ranging from an acetylene gas explosion to falling rock from the roof, served

**Stalagmites in Bourgin Hall.** to underline the need for caution and care.

The final stages of the expedition involved the removal of all fixed ropes in a massive and minutely planned operation which lasted nearly 36 hours.

Undoubtedly the perfect weather was of great assistance in getting so many members of the expedition to the bottom. Nevertheless the number they managed to get down in one week was the cause of considerable satisfaction and a general belief that some sort of record must have been established.

## USA

### The highs and lows

A NINE man climbing team from the Hamelin based 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment went to the extremes when it visited the United States of America.

Their first target was the snow capped 14,495 foot summit of Mount Whitney, the highest point in the country outside Alaska. This they tackled by putting four men up the vertical east face, much to the astonishment of the local Americans who couldn't understand why they hadn't used the recommended path.

Then, by way of a change, the team made for the lowest point on its travels — a spot 294 feet below sea level in California's Death Valley. At temperatures which reached 130° F, the trip was described by Lance Corporal Ian Pemberton as: "An experience, but one not to be repeated too often."

A hurried journey north to more agreeable conditions brought the climbing Sappers to the splendours of the Yosemite National Park — an awe-inspiring and unforgettable place where every view is dominated by sheer walls of granite rising as much as 200 feet above the valley floor.

Here climbs were found of outstanding beauty, unbelievable ferocity and great technical difficulty.



Sapper Jason Morphett hauls himself up a spectacular crag.

For Sappers Morphett and Roberts, on their first experience of climbing bare rock in these conditions, it was "like standing in the open door of an aircraft, waiting to jump."

The only problem — they weren't wearing parachutes and it was 1,200 feet to the bottom! Fortunately only three members of the team 'logged flight time' (as they referred to falls) and that was during the training period when they were just above ground level.

The climax of the visit was a 2,400 foot climb up the sheer south west face of Half Dome. Here they toiled for four hours up the seemingly smooth rock with only artificially placed bolts — sometimes as much as 150 feet apart — to protect them. They had plenty of time to envy the local lizards skipping effortless over the vertical landscape.

The return from the summit was a 12 mile walk down the tourist route which the six man team took feeling very tired but highly satisfied.

## SCAPA FLOW

### Diving into history

OPERATION 'Orkney Venture' took members of the Army Sub Aqua Diving Association to the historic anchorage of Scapa Flow to the last resting place of the Imperial German Grand Fleet.

The expedition was planned and led by Warrant Officer 2 Tony Liddicoat.

It gave several novices the chance of getting their first diving experience among what is now left of the German fleet scuttled in June 1919. Ten battleships, five battle cruisers, eight light cruisers and 50 destroyers were sent to the bottom in a single day on the orders of the Fleet commander, Vice Admiral Von Reuter. It was probably the most concentrated loss of shipping and equipment in history.

Many of the ships were later salvaged but seven still remain, along with the debris of several others, and their attraction for divers now provides the Orkney Islands with one of its main sources of income.

The Army expedition was not without its problems. The advance party had trouble with its four tonne Bedford and had to go cap in hand to the local Queen's Own Highlanders TA Depot in Kirkwall which very kindly lent its only vehicle of that type for a period of six days.



WO2 Liddicoat lays a wreath at the HMS Royal Oak memorial in Kirkwall Cathedral.

There was also welcome help from the local boat operators, one of whom hired out a 50 foot trawler at a fraction of the normal cost on the understanding that the Army divers would undertake maintenance and repair work.

Warrant Officer Liddicoat reports that the team undertook the renovations with gusto. The expedition's fitter, Lance Corporal Gary Minniet, of 12 RSME Regiment, took over the engine room, while their diving chef, Corporal Dick Wilde, ACC, looked after the galley.

The expedition, which included wives and families, accomplished well over 150 dives, for several members it was a time of personal achievement.

WO Liddicoat clocked up 1,000 hours in his log book — the sum total of 21 years of diving. He also had the satisfaction of being partnered by his 12-year-old son Gary on a 31 metre descent to the battleship 'König.'

● See colour picture, back page.

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see p. 47



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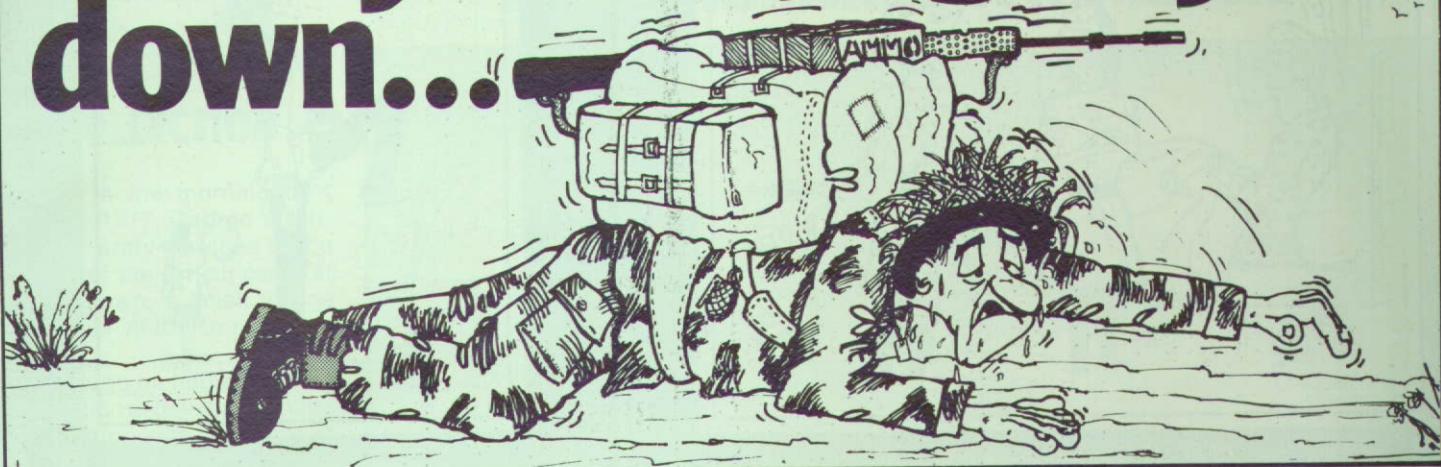
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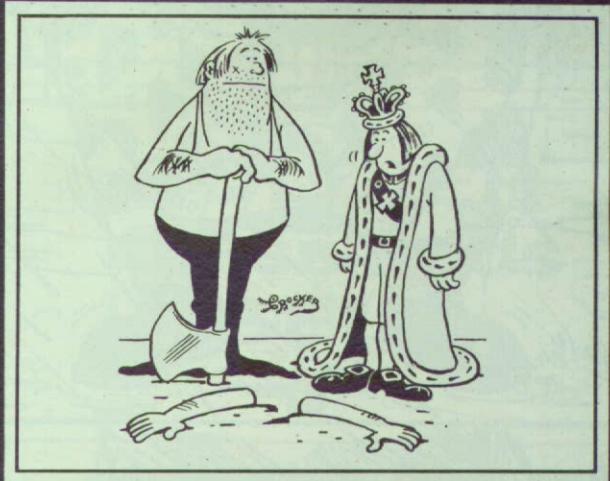
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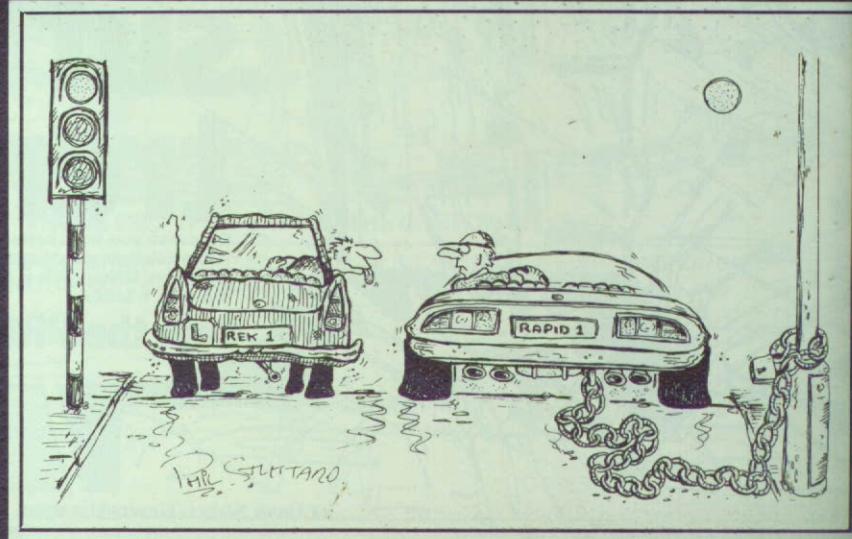
# Rumour



*"When I said 'render him harmless' I mean't . . ."*



*"Let me see how you bear up under Barry Manilow . . ."*





## COLLECTION

EARLY in the morning of 4 October 1777, George Washington's army marched to the assault of the British camp at Germantown, a small village about six miles from Philadelphia.

Although he had suffered a succession of defeats, this time Washington was confident of victory, for he had 11,000 men to General Sir Billy Howe's 9,000.

But he reckoned without the thick fog which caused some of his battalions to blaze away at each other, and the dogged professionalism of the cornered British, in particular six companies of the 40th Foot under Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Musgrave, occupying the vital outpost of Chew House.

They held out bravely under a fierce cannonade, inflicting



heavy losses on their attackers and giving their comrades time to come up in support.

After four muddled hours of carnage and 1,000 casualties, the rebels were forced to withdraw.

It had been "a bloody day", despaired Washington, "... would to heaven ... that it had

been a more fortunate one for us."

To commemorate the gallantry of the 40th, silver and bronze medals inscribed with the date of the battle and a panorama of Chew House under attack were distributed by Musgrave to the officers and men.

In the days prior to the introduction of official campaign medals, these would have been highly prized.

One of the bronze Germantown medals is displayed in the Story of the Army Gallery alongside other relics of the American War of Independence.

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38,000,000 poppies...300,000 crosses...67,000 wreaths



## THE TIME TO REMEMBER



**T**HIS YEAR has been a particularly poignant one for the people of the United Kingdom recalling wartime anniversaries of 40 years ago when thousands died or were wounded during hostilities.

But the Royal British Legion, the country's largest employer of disabled people, believe it is not enough to remember all those who died in battle. For many, it says, D-Day marked the beginning of a lifetime's battle against suffering and disablement.

For those lucky enough to live through it all, the Legion is on duty every day (see Mail Drop, page 40).

Their tireless Poppy Day efforts — the RBL has twice won the Government's "Fit for Work" award — are mounted from a factory in Richmond, Surrey.

In it, 103 severely disabled ex-Service men and women work full-time (and nine part-time) to produce some 38 million poppies, 300,000 remembrance crosses and 67,000 wreaths for the annual Poppy Appeal.

The Royal British Legion Village in Maidstone employs more disabled people in a variety of work including printing, the production of road signs and timber pallets.

There, too, is the Churchill Centre, a purpose-built assessment and rehabilitation centre. The Legion also operates the Attendants' Company, the second largest car-parking and security organisation in the country, employing 716 ex-Service personnel, 28 per cent of these being disabled.

The plight of war widows has always concerned the Legion who say they are doing all they can "to right the anomalies of unjust

pensions" awarded to those whose husbands died before 1973.

In the past 20 years the RBL's autonomous Housing Association has provided homes for more than 16,500 elderly and disabled people.

The Legion has five country homes and three convalescent homes. Every year more and more people suffering as a result of war continue to look to the Legion for help.

A spokesman for the Legion remarked: "This is particularly

evident now, as drastic pruning of State health, welfare and social services adds to the burden placed on the voluntary sector. But the ex-Service community knows it can rely on the Legion in time of need.

"And the Legion knows it can depend on the British public whose generosity during each Poppy Appeal allows them to continue their wide range of benevolent and welfare work. Equally, they rely on the help of people who give time as voluntary collectors."



Wheelchair-bound ex-Servicemen pictured during last year's march past the Cenotaph in Whitehall, London.

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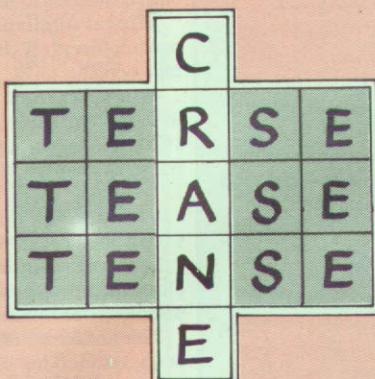
Now, here is one of the easiest puzzles we have ever given you — so easy in fact that we expect 101 per cent of the entries will be correct (that includes the competitor who will send in two

entries) see test sample.

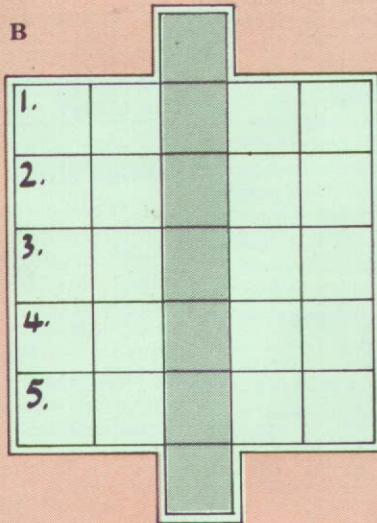
But there is no harm in expecting so....

Here are five crosswords. YOU have to find them. The first crossword (B) may be found by

## SAMPLE A



## A BIRD



## 'The Way to Stanley'



reading across at 1 (as shown in the diagram); The second across-word is to be found by moving one place down to 2... and so on. The vertical word centrally — of seven letters — gives the name of a famous city. Here are the clues:

1. Found in monasteries
2. Found in mines
3. Found on ranges
4. Winds
5. Calms

Only the central letter is different in each of the five words across.

South of the city (not more than a hundred miles) is to be found the eighth longest railway platform in the world.

To the north of the city (not more than a hundred miles) is to be found a shrine of ethereal beauty.

Further still to the north beyond the city near the shrine is another city — a great city. A city where, in 1857, many Victoria Crosses were won. Among the Victoria Crosses awarded to men serving in this city in 1857 three (among others) were awarded to the 1st/60th Rifles. These were to: Private J Divane; Bugler W Sutton; Col/Sergeant G Waller.

So, from the information given, we would ask you to answer the following:

1. Name the city of the design;
2. State where the world's eighth longest railway platform is to be found;
3. Name the shrine;
4. Name the city to the north;
5. Say what was distinctive about the award of the three Victoria Crosses mentioned.

## COMPETITION

350

HERE  
AND  
THERE

ONCE again SOLDIER is offering £50 for the correct solution to its competition.

Each fortnight there will be either one bumper prize of £50, or another valuable prize, instead of the several small prizes which have been offered in the past.

Make sure of your chance of winning £50 by ordering your regular copy of SOLDIER now.

The rules of the competition remain the same. It is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 7 December. The answers and winner's names will be announced in our issue of 14 January.

More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 350' label.

In the case of a tie, the winner will be drawn by lots. No correspondence can be entered into.

Send your answers by post card or letter with the 'Competition 350' label to: Prize Competition SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

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# MAIL DROP

naturally flow from the casualties of any conflict.

For over sixty years, The Royal British Legion has worked to relieve the suffering of ex-Service men and women and their families, wherever and whenever that suffering may have been caused. If we include dependants of ex-Service people, some one-third of the population is eligible for our help, which we give in a wide variety of ways.

For example, the Legion is the biggest private employer of disabled people in the country, offering the dignity of work to men and women otherwise deemed unemployable.

Every year, we handle — free of charge — many thousands of cases through our Pension and Advisory Service, and last year alone we won for our disabled clients an extra £1.8 million. We provide residential and convalescent care, and our autonomous Housing Association has built homes for more than 16,500 elderly and disabled people.

We have always relied on the generous response of the British public to the Poppy Appeal which, in the main, funds our many spheres of welfare activity.

However, just as freedom has had, and continues to have, its price, so does the provision of our benevolent services, the cost of which rises with every successive year.

This is why I appeal to your readers to try to give even more generously than ever before to the 1984 Poppy Appeal so that we can continue to help those who paid such a high price for our freedom.

The inscription on the war memorial at Kohima, dedicated to the 14th Army is poignantly relevant to sacrifices made by all Service men and women, tragically still continuing today:

'When you go home tell them of us and say,  
For their tomorrow, we gave our today'.

— Col J Hughes, Chairman of Appeal, The Royal British Legion.

## Medical Cover

257 (Southern) General Hospital RAMC (V), a London based TA Unit has provided the medical cover in the form of a Field Hospital at the Farnborough International Airshow on the last three occasions (1978, 1980 and 1982) and not 2 Field Hospital as

quoted (SOLDIER, 8 Oct). This year Exercise Bold Gannet had prior claim on 257 (Southern) General Hospital RAMC (V), 2 Field Hospital who also participated in Ex Bold Gannet were however involved in the provisioned medical cover at the Farnborough Air Show in the years prior to 1978. — Major C A Horner, 257 (Southern) General Hospital RAMC (V), Duke of York's HQ, King's Road, Chelsea, London, SW3 4SH.

Cpl Sue Jones has also written from the same unit to make the same point. Apologies to all concerned — Ed.

## SOLDIER Changes

A word of praise for a very enjoyable magazine. Many changes have taken place in presentation since purchasing my first copy in 1957. No doubt you have many problems to overcome in trying to cope with present-day requirements.

Maybe in due course you might consider the following — one or two pictures in colour of a ceremonial scene or a regimental uniform on the front/back cover of each issue such as the recent picture of the RMA Band. Warlike scenes or drab uniforms in colour are not attractive on the front cover.

Articles dealing with past regiments (Regular/TA) on a country basis — England/Ireland/Scotland/Wales — ie disbanded Irish Regiments would be of historical interest. A section dealing with Commonwealth armies — badges/ flags/uniforms — would probably be appreciated in other countries where SOLDIER is read.

Old copies are passed on to British ex-Servicemen here in Eire and duly appreciated.

Many thanks again for a job well done and best wishes to you and your staff. — (Name and address supplied.)

## Can You Help?

I am interested in cap badge backings, their history, dimensions, colours etc and would like to hear from any former members of the following regiments who could confirm the following details:

**Essex Regiment:** 2in x 2in purple (Pompadour) patch, WW2, square or disc? Purple diamond patch, officers only, on jungle hat. Hong Kong 1954/6.

**3 Royal Anglian:** Purple diamond patch, officers (WOs only, 1970/2 on blue beret).

**4 Royal Anglian:** All ranks believed to have worn triangular green patch 1970/2. However, a green dome patch is on display in their museum in Leicester.

**1 Royal Anglian:** Believed to have worn a black patch — shape unknown.

**2 Royal Anglian:** Information please on pre- and post-amalgamation patches (N'hampton/Lincolns).

**27th Lancers:** Red pentagonal patch worn, but nothing else is known, not even by the National Army Museum! — D C Walls, 10 Glenavie Park, Jordanstown, Newtownabbey, Co Antrim BT37 0QW.

to his Efficiency Medal. — Major (QM) Rtd J C Clark, R Signals (V), Harold Park, Essex, RM3 0YL.

## Competition

Our £50 prize for Competition No 346 (10 September) has a long way to travel — and our congratulations to the winner ... Staff Sergeant Key, of HQ Commonwealth Liaison Mission, United Nations Command, Korea, BFPO 3.

Entitled 'The World's Islands', the competition set readers the task of identifying islands — and the waters where they lie.

The solution:

ISLAND	LOCATION
Victoria Island	Canada
Hawaii	Central Pacific
Anticosti	Gulf of St Lawrence, Can
Skye	West Coast, Scotland
Sardinia	Mediterranean
Viti Levu	Fiji, S Pacific
Hispaniola	West Indies
Taiwan	Formosa
Funen	Denmark
New Caledonia	South Pacific
Guam	North Pacific
Prince Edward Is.	Canada
Sicily	Mediterranean
Tahiti	South Pacific
Cuba	West Indies
Nauru	South West Pacific
Iceland	North Atlantic
Sakhalin	Sea of Okhotsk, USSR
Tasmania	Australia
Honshu	Japan
Novaya Zemlya	Arctic Ocean
Angelesey	Wales

## How Observant Are You?

- Left pole of right tepee.
- Package in left canoe.
- Lower branch of tree second from right.
- Dark ripple below prow of canoe.
- Front of nearest soldier's beret.
- Hair above ear of second soldier.
- Right slope of mountain.
- Fourth line of shading on rock above artist's name.
- Stern point of canoe.
- Left shoulder-patch of front soldier.

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

## Many Still Suffer and Mourn

Who can fail to be moved by the ceremonies which took place on the beaches of Normandy earlier this year, marking the 40th Anniversary of the D-Day landings?

The occasion, however, was not simply a celebration of a great military victory which marked the beginning of the end of World War 2.

It was poignant recognition of a supreme and unforgettable sacrifice made by the many Servicemen who gave their lives — a sacrifice made not just by those whose deaths are starkly commemorated by the rows of white headstones in the war cemeteries of France, but also by those who were injured. Many suffer to this day, and many still mourn.

The D-Day anniversary should not be allowed to focus our minds totally on that single — albeit very significant — historical event.

It should also serve to call attention to, and to epitomise, the countless other such courageous acts carried out in the cause of peace.

Forty years ago a very high price was paid on the beaches of France. All too sadly, a similarly high price has been exacted in more than 74 so called 'peacetime conflicts' which have taken place since the end of World War 2.

And the consequences in terms of human suffering have been the same; death and disablement, sickness and bereavement; and the despair that can

befall the families of those who have given their lives.

I am the holder of the Territorial Decoration and the Territorial Efficiency Medal with two bars, and I retired in February 1982. None of my service is counted double for War Service or other reasons.

To go even further I hold documentary proof of having been a member of the 1st Cadet Battalion KRR, the Local Defence Volunteers, the Home Guard, the Territorial Army, and the Regular Army.

My other medals are 1939/45 Star, Italy Star, France & Germany Star, Defence Medal, 1939/45 War Medal, General Service Medal with "Palestine 1945/48" Clasp.

Even with the above, I am sure someone will beat it. Lt-Col Bill Williams of the Middlesex Yeomanry Band has a Territorial Decoration with five bars.

Congratulations to Major Mirams, and as he joined in 1951 and was commissioned in 1972, showing 21 years other rank service, he must have a Bar



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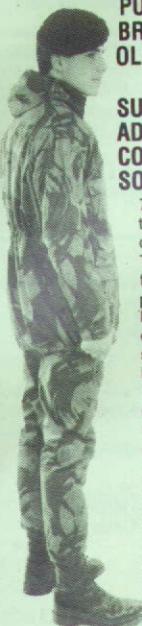
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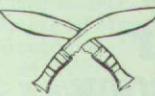
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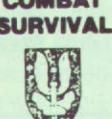
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# Good start for Combined XV

COMBINED Services won their first two "warm up" matches prior to the big fixture against the touring Australians, beating Havant away 29-9, and triumphing 13-12 in a desperately close finish against Public School Wanderers at Aldershot.

Wanderers included four internationals, and Combined Services began without three of their best known names — Underwood, Orwin and Whitcombe all injured.

The match proved as difficult as expected and the visitors took a 12th minute lead with a penalty from Price, the London Welsh fly half. Things looked even gloomier for the servicemen when Williams of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, just two days back in UK, was led off with a broken nose.

Harlequins' Lillington scored a fine try, converted by Price to give Wanderers a 9-0 half time advantage and the home team, still showing some problems in the pack, needed some inspiration.

It came from a penalty by scrum half Worrall (RAF), followed by a brilliant try by Johnson, Royal Welsh Fusiliers. This was un-

converted and Price logged another penalty to keep Wanderers on top.

A good crowd warmed to some really exciting play and were delighted when REME's McCall, in line for an Irish cap, set up fellow Army player Greenhalgh for a brilliant try, converted by Worrall, to cap a hard-earned victory.

In the match with Havant, considered the best Hampshire side at the moment, it took Combined Services some time to settle down before achieving a comfortable win with three tries from Underwood and Reece (Royal Marines), two each, and Johnson, Worrall converting three and kicking a penalty.

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## GLIDING... Tough test in Austria

THE FIRST venture of its kind under BAOR sponsorship this year, saw 17 members of 4 Regiment, Army Air Corps, based at Detmold, taking part in Exercise Spinning Quadrant Four in Austria.

But their feet were not on the ground, rather in the air as one might expect... gliding over some of Austria's most beautiful 'sound of music' country.

Major Simon Langdon, the staff

officer dealing with HQ BAOR adventurous training said: "The aim was to fly in mountainous conditions which are not available in West Germany. It required the participants to show courage and team spirit in attempting to gain high altitude by using the standing wave meteorological conditions."

The squad took three gliders by road to their host club at Innsbruck while a motorised version was flown there.

## SOCER... Challenge Cup

First round results to date:

Depot POW division, Crickhowell 3, Engr. Resources 2; Guards Depot 0, 1 Scots Guards 3; PCD RE 0, 1 Gren. Guards 4; Depot & TRG Regt., RCT 0, TRRE 9; 7/10 UDR 5, 3 UDR 1; 1 D&D W/O, 2 Queen's with-

drawn; 8 UDR 2, 1 RRF 6; 2 UDR 1, 1 QO Hldrs. 4; 9 Ord Bn. RAOC 1, 1 Para 3; School of Signals 3, 17 Port Regt. RCT 2; Depot POW Division, Lichfield (withdrawn) Hereford Grn. w/o; 15 Bn. RAOC 2, JLR RA (PS) 3.

## HALF MARATHON...

The Fleet and Crookham Clubs annual half marathon on Sunday 24 March 1985 will again include the Army Championships event

for both unit teams and individuals.

The race will start and finish in Rushmoor Arena, Aldershot. The start is 12 noon.

## New Artillery Competition

Artillery Batteries from three NATO forces in Germany met on Hohne Garrison sportsfield during the Hohne Garrison Artillery HQ Battery Septathlon — an event being held for the first time.

The Competition was the brainchild of HQ Battery 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, who organised and ran it, and gave the British, German and Canadian teams a chance to prove their mettle in sports ranging from soccer to swimming.

45 Field Regiment RA won overall, and claimed the Competition Shield, while hosts 1 RHA were runners-up.

45 Field Regiment won the lion's share of the events, carrying off the trophies for football, tug of war and hockey.

1, 45 Field Regiment RA. 2, 1 RHA. 3 Panzerartilleriebatillon 11. 5, 94 Locating Regiment RA. 6, 1st Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery. 7, Beobachtungsbatallion 13.

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## CHANNEL SWIMMING

# Beaten — but Kevin aims to try again

Stomach cramps and gale force winds have ended Lieutenant Kevin Beaton's efforts to become the first serving soldier to swim the English Channel — at least for the time being.

Kevin, who is just 23 and the commander of C Troop, 7 Squadron, 27 LSG Regiment, RCT, battled sea sickness and rough water on his two attempts. Both times he was stopped with a tantalising view of the French coast only a few miles away.

It was a cruel disappointment, particularly after all the support and encouragement Kevin says he received, and all the efforts he put into preparation.

Failure this year means more preparation for next year (unless he gets posted) and that will involve another winter of shivering discomfort.

The training programme, worked out with coach QSMI Ted Martin, of the APTC, puts equal emphasis on fitness and acclimatisation to the cold.

Throughout last winter Kevin undertook a severely Spartan regime. "I started sleeping with all my windows open and only a sheet on my bed," he said. "The amount of times I woke up at five in the morning cold and shivering and thought: Where's the blanket! Shall I put it on?"

Cold baths, with the tap running, and light clothing, no matter what the weather, were also part of the process.

"I tried swimming every day from about May in the sea or a lake, and it surprised me how you can become able to tolerate the cold. The first five minutes are pretty miserable but once you are actually in the water it gets a little bit easier. But it's not a pleasant aspect of the training."

Kevin thinks he made his first attempt at the Channel swim out of sheer frustration. Certainly it was against the advice of his coach and doctor. But the weather had been

unusually bad for early autumn and the days with suitable tides were few and far between.

There was also the inspiration of an American who had to go on that particular day or not at all as he was due to fly home the following day.

So Kevin set off in a Force Five wind which became Force Six as soon as he and his support boat left the lee of the cliffs.

He recalls the swim as not a particularly agreeable experience: "I started to be sea sick and vomit after two hours with the amount of salt water I was taking in from the white horses breaking from the waves.

"Then after four and a half to five hours I started to have stomach cramps as well.

"And the next thing I remember is coming round in the boat after seven and a half hours after the doctor on board had jumped in and pulled me out of the water."

Kevin said he had practised being sick while swimming as he knew this was a problem he would have to face, but the stomach cramps folded him up, so while he was being sick his head was being pushed into the water.

The consequent intake of salt water caused him to lose consciousness.

"We got six miles off the French coast. It was a very clear day and I could see the houses and trees and

everything on the French coast. It was just there.

"We reckoned it would have been about another three hours swimming to have beached. And from my muscles, my shoulders and the progress I'd been making, I felt physically capable of doing it."

But in fact it took Kevin nearly a week to recover from his ordeal.

The second attempt was made when time was running out. The weather forecast was hardly satisfactory — winds rising up to a moderate gale (Force 7) — but it was the best of a bad bunch.

At first the sea was reassuringly flat but later the predicted winds came up to such a degree that the owner of the support boat said he was prepared to go no further.

"He pointed to the weather coming up the Channel," Kevin recalled, "and said his boat wasn't built for those conditions and he wanted to go back to Dover. So I had to knock it on the head and climb back aboard.

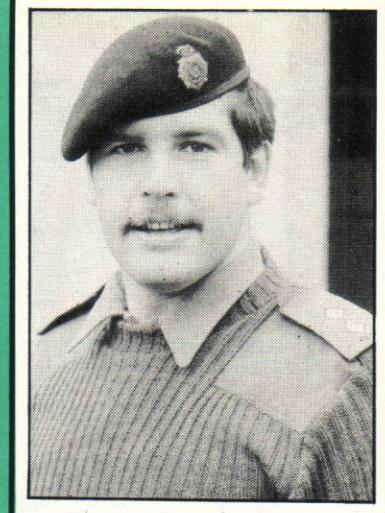
"I was completely and utterly dejected because I knew it was my last chance this year. The misery of being in the water was minuscule compared to the dejection of actually being on

by Robert Higson

the boat and realising that all the cold baths and all the times I had forced myself to get into the sea were just for nothing."

However the experience has not diminished Kevin's determination to try again next year and fulfill the ambition he first acquired as a boy living at Deal near Dover.

Obviously Channel swimming is in his family's blood for Kevin's father, Terry Beaton, a former Royal Marine, was all set to make his attempt in 1960



when he got posted overseas.

Mr Beaton now keeps a pub in Essex and was ready with a bottle of champagne for both his son's valiant efforts to make it to France. Now the champagne, like Kevin's chances, will be on ice for another year.

The Army incidentally is the only service not to have produced a Channel swimmer. Commander Jerry Forsberg, RN, and Ronald MacDonald, RAF, have both made it for their respective services. But despite some great attempts (Lieutenant General Sir Bernard Freyberg, VC, is said to have tried four times) Army swimmers have had no success.

Lieutenant Kevin Beaton, the current hope, is a former Suffolk schoolboy champion who has swum for Sheffield University and who now regularly plays water polo for the Bracknell national league side.

## CANOEING

### Army stars

### beat grim conditions

THE Army Canoe Surf Championships were held at Saunton, North Devon with conditions enough to test all competitors from the novice to national paddlers like Colour Sergeant Tom Copperwaite, PWO, and Sergeant Eric Sutherland, REME.

Two types of boat are used in this energetic and exacting aspect of canoeing — a slalom canoe designed for use at sea, and a surf/ski canoe — sometimes called a chow — which is rather like a complicated surf board, on which the paddler sits.

Tom Copperwaite, though paddling both, is the English Champion of surf slalom canoeing, and has his sights set on becoming British champion.

Eric Sutherland paddles, in the main, the ski canoe, and has had a steady run of successes over the years. He will be competing in the Scottish National Championships in the very near future, and could well be chosen to represent his country in the British Championships.

In the Army event Apprentice Gregg Harvey of AAC Chepstow won the junior surf title while Pete Allison from JLRRAC gained the slalom prize.

Gregg Harvey also won the trophy for the junior paddler with most points and the inter-unit Junior Trophy was won by the Junior Leaders from Bovington.

In the novice event the inter-unit trophy went to 7 Signal Regiment, their paddlers Corporals Schofield and Hall winning both slalom and ski/surf events. Other medal winners were Corporal Ned Kelly of 1/3 Training Regiment RE and Lieutenant Ralph Naylor of King's Division.

Tom Copperwaite won the open slalom event and Eric Sutherland the surf/ski competition — chased all the way by Warrant Officer I Dave Young from Chepstow. Sutherland amassed enough points to retain the Vardy Trophy for 1984, and the open inter-unit trophy was won by King's Division.

## GOLF

# ARMY WOMEN CLAIM TROPHY

The Army has won the first ever Inter-Services Women's Golf Championships, and by the margin of 14 strokes became the first holders of the Challenge Shield presented by Toyoto Military Sales Ltd.

Playing on what was virtually home ground — the Army Golf Club course at Aldershot — the Army held a six stroke lead over the Navy after the morning round of medal competition.

In the afternoon foursomes the RAF managed to overhaul the Navy, but the Army increased its lead to end with a total net score of 715. Second were the RAF with 729, following by the Navy with 747.

Playing for the Army, Captain Lesley Hope, QARANC, produced a net round of 75 — three under the course record for women's competition.

Captain Hope, stationed at Catterick, is a former Scottish champion and currently a member of the Scottish National team as well as being non-playing captain of that country's junior side.

The Army also had the services of Brigadier Helen Meechie, Director of the Women's Royal Army Corps. Other members of the victorious team were: Major Jackie Whitehead, Medical Women's Services Manning & Records Office, Chester; Major Shelia Johnsey, 12 Company, WRAC, Millhill; Major Marina Reaks, QARANC, BMH, Munster; Captain Hope; Lieutenant Kate Bettison, HQ Lisburn Garrison, Sergeant Margaret Bradshaw; and Sergeant Lisa Eadie, ACIO Leeds. Reserve: Warrant Officer I Sue Taylor, HQ SW District.

# A SPORTING TALE TO GLADDEN THE HEART

## Ossie's True Grit Brings Medal Haul

**TRAINED SOLDIER** Robert "Ossie" Osborn of the Scots Guards will have travelled some 20,000 miles by the end of this year picking up more gold, silver and bronze awards for events on the sports fields and swimming pools.

In the two years since November 1982 he has won more than 90 such awards — six golds and two silvers in one day at one location — and has a dream to take part in the Olympics in South Korea in 1988.

The feats are all the more remarkable and a badge of courage for "Ossie", 23, who lost his left foot and part of his lower left leg during the Falklands fighting while acting as a stretcher bearer with the 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards, with their Left Flank at Tumbledown.

"I didn't see it coming. I didn't hear it. I had just taken five or six paces, standing in as a stretcher bearer for a mate when, the next thing I knew, I was flat on my back looking at the sky," he recalls.

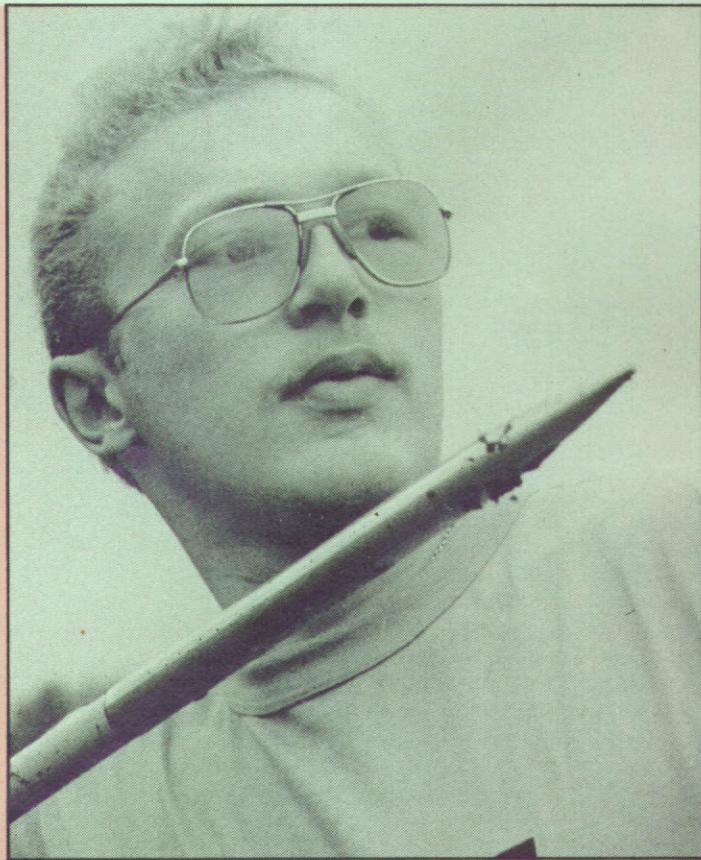
"I thought I had either broken or dislocated my ankle which I had done before as a sportsman.

"The lad from whom I had taken over the stretcher was killed. I think we were hit by mortar shells.

"They tried to save my leg for six days but amputated after eight days on June 14 at four minutes past mid-day."

Three hours eleven minutes later, he said, General Menendez signed the surrender document.

"Ossie" added: "I'm on my sixth



The courageous "Ossie"—with javelin, above, and below pictured at the Guards Depot pool aiding recruits.

artificial leg now and waiting for my seventh."

He was taking part in the first of his comprehensive sporting calendar engagements just five months after his dreadful wound.

Since then, he has taken part in field events — discus, shot, javelin, high and long jump — and swimming events for the disabled at regional and county level ranging from Cornwall to the Channel Islands.

This year, to date, he has taken part in 61 events in some 20 nationwide venues gaining 35 'first' (golds, shields etc.), 18 second placings and eight thirds.

He explained: "My mum, Sheila sees them first and then they go for safe keeping to the Guards Depot Regimental Museum at Pirbright, where I am a swimming pool attendant."

"Ossie" drives to all his venues by car and this dedicated athlete who joined the Scots Guards as a Junior Leader at Shorncliffe in 1977 summed up his philosophy to it all, thus: "When I joined the Army I failed the military swimming test but later passed it."

"I do the sport now to prove I can still do sport — I used to go in for anything before the Falklands — and take on sports I have not done before and strive to improve

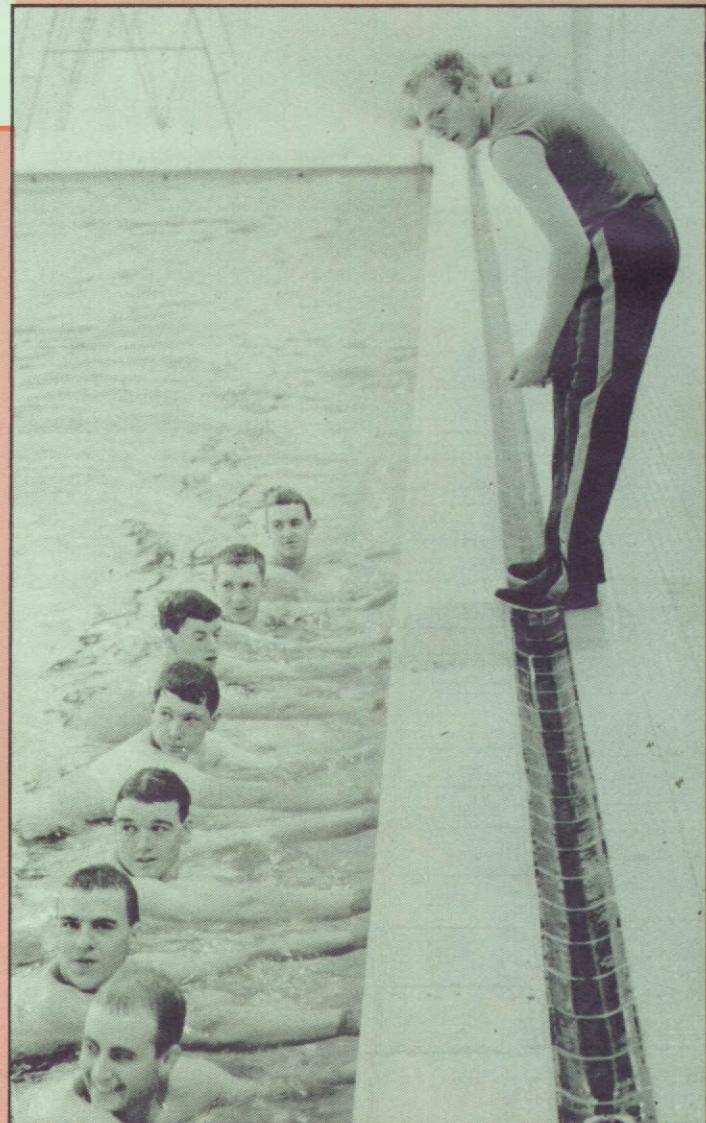
Story:  
Graham Smith  
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Les Wiggs

myself in them.

"I am also representing my Depot and regiment at the same time. I follow the line of thought that disability is not an inability so long as the disabled are given the opportunities and facilities. I don't feel disabled.

"There is always someone far worse off than you whatever the disability is. I take my sports efforts seriously and no matter how well you do, you always can improve. I've lopped some 40 seconds off my swimming times of a year ago."

With that, "Ossie" was back at the Pirbright Depot poolside instructing 40 adult guardsmen recruits in the skills of swimming amid simulated waves caused by their body motions.

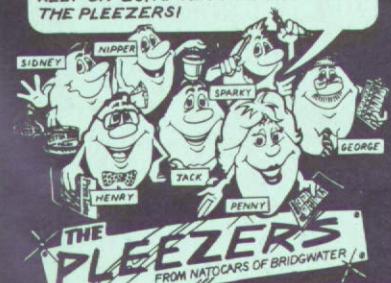


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