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Soldier

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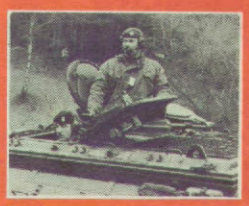

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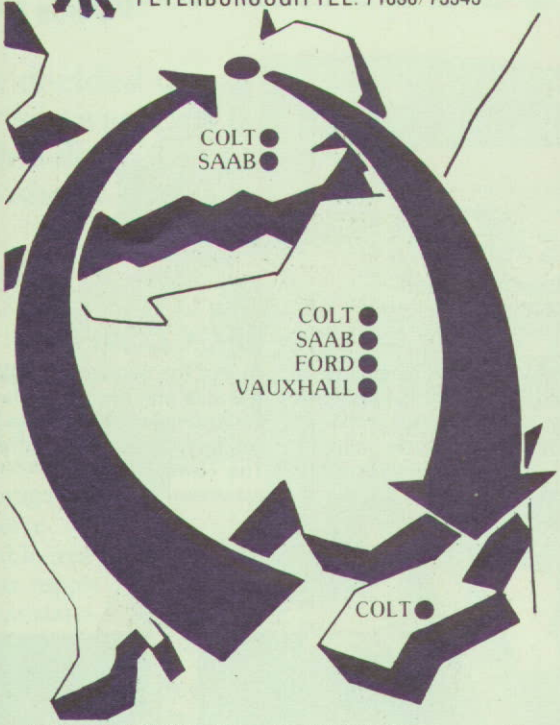

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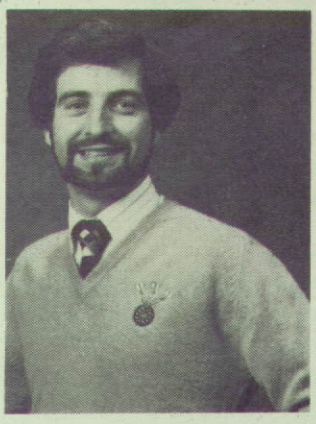

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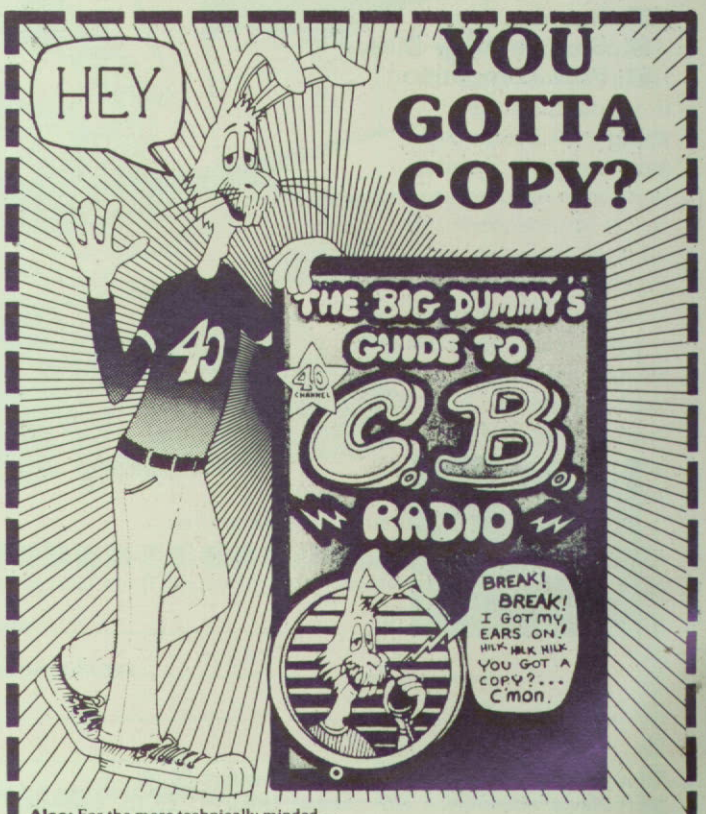

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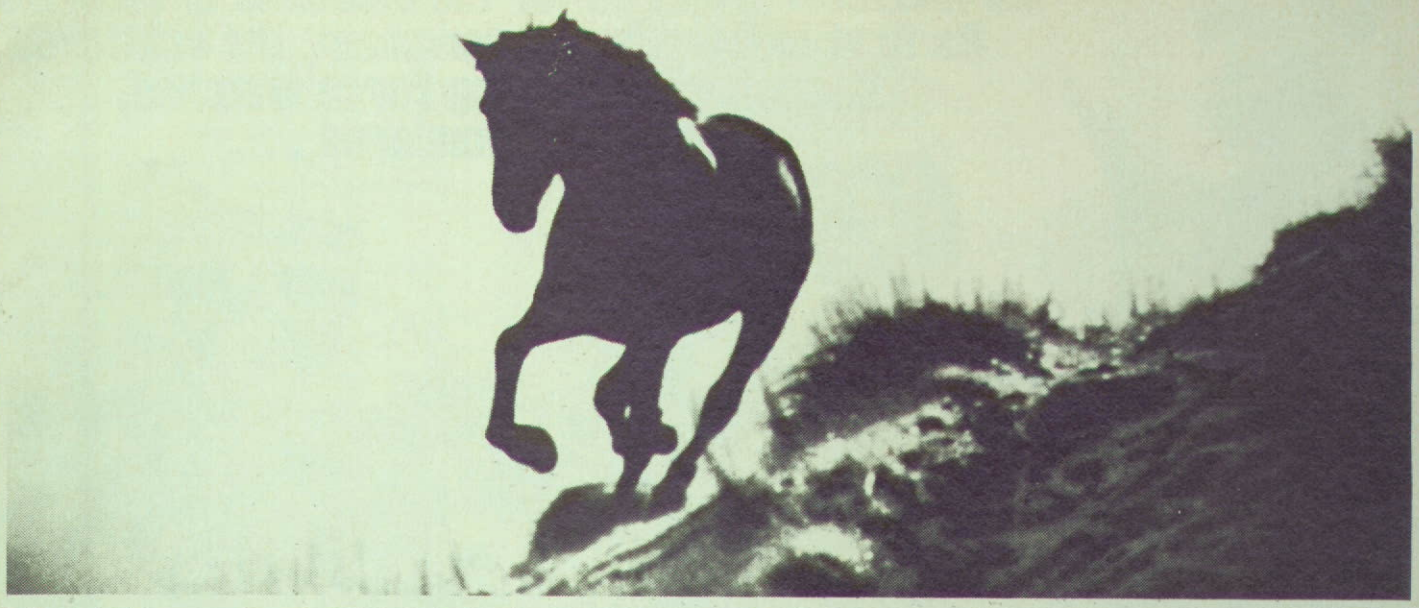

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As Rhodesia prepared for the elections to determine its first independent government, the scattered Ceasefire Monitoring Force watched, waited and wondered . . .

BRITAIN'S BUSH DIPLOMATS PLAY IT COOL

THE BRITISH ARMY has never before taken on a job like the cease-fire monitoring operation in Rhodesia.

Following the agreements at Lancaster House in London a total of 1300 soldiers from all over the Commonwealth, but mainly from the UK, were set down in the Rhodesian bush to keep an eye on both the political guerrilla armies and the established Security Forces which have been fighting a bloody and savage war for years.

Nobody really knew what the reaction would be to the monitors. And looked at logically, the thought of trekking into 'bandit country' and setting up a Union Jack and night-lights, with nothing stronger than small arms for self-defence, should have been a recipe for disaster. Especially against a guerrilla army which has looked on all whites as the enemy.

Sporting Soviet-designed weapons of varying ages, female PF troops eye the camera uneasily in the bush.

Certainly the Rhodesians assessed their chances of survival in the inhospitable bush as bad, going on hopeless. If the 'terrs' didn't get them, the heat or malaria would. That the operation didn't turn out an unparalleled disaster right at the start is entirely due to the tact and diplomacy of junior officers and NCOs acting on their own initiative and defusing a thousand and one potential flash-points out in the bush, earning themselves the respect of Security Forces and Patriotic Front alike.

In looking back at those early days, Brigadier John Learmont, deputy commander of the Ceasefire Monitoring Force recalled that when he first arrived,,nine days before the main body, he had to plan an operation which certainly the staff college had never trained him to do.

"We had no clerks, not even any paper, and we had nine days to interpret political thought into military fact.

"When I wrote the concept of the operation I had to make one really fundamental decision, which was whether to go in overt or covert. Covert meant that we would be situated in a military posture in defensive positions. Our

continued on page 8

Above: It was an uneasy task for the small monitoring force to watch over heavily armed PF.

Below: Force Commander Major-General John Acland sees for himself in a PF Assembly Point.

On 22 January 1879, 100 soldiers from the 24th Regiment of Foot held off 4000 Zulu warriors in what became known as the Battle of Rorke's Drift in Natal. The defenders earned eleven Victoria Crosses in the 12 hour battle.

One hundred and one years later 23 Welsh soldiers from The Royal Regiment of Wales, the military descendant of the 24th of Foot, toasted the battle with bottles of beer, surrounded in the African bush by 663 Zipra and 1200 Zanla. "Bit better odds really," said one Taff.

advice pointed to the covert, because, said the people on the ground, we wouldn't stand a chance otherwise. To people here, putting ten or so soldiers down in the bush to meet thousands of PF was such a foolhardy operation as to be laughable.

"We decided to go for the overt basically because we had to assume that the people who signed the Lancaster House agreement were sincere in their decision.

"In the assembly areas we made quite an effort to win hearts and minds, by giving shelter, blankets and a supply of clothes. We thought we might also have to occupy their time as well but they actually ran the camps themselves through their command structures.

"Then we discovered that we were landed with feeding a field army of 21,000. They came in with no equipment, other than their weapons, so we drew up a list of stores and then went out to buy them, which proved a worldwide problem. The problem was made worse because, for the first ten days, nothing could move by road. So everything was airdropped. Only four of the locations were sited near an airstrip, so it was a phenomenal problem to get the stores in.

"Then there was the medical problem. We had a mental image of the Red Cross setting up, but in fact they had the resources for three doctors on a flying doctor circuit. This for 21,000 people, with all kinds of tropical diseases including malaria and cholera.

"We were left to deal with a guerrilla army, sometimes with 6000 in one confined space. I felt that if we were not careful, we could have a Crimea in 30 seconds flat. So we asked for, and received, tri-service help which eased the problem. One camp in particular in the Zambesi basin had a five percent malaria increase, and that could easily have turned into a major epidemic.

"My view is that this operation has been so successful because of the courage, compassion and good humour shown by lots of small groups of guys who have gone into the bush totally outnumbered and by their open and frank manner have got people to co-operate. It is these people, in my view, who have got us where we are."

Lieutenant Mark Betteridge, of 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales had eight men with him plus a Patriotic Front Liaison Officer when he set up a Rendezvous Point at Mtshabezi, an abandoned mission school miles from anywhere.

"The first thing we did was establish communications," he said. "Then we got the flag up and put the lights on and waited for our first customers. In fact nobody came in for four days, although we knew they were watching us.

"The first lot in said they were Zanla (Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army). They had a mixture of arms and demanded medicine and food. They went off again and next day a group of Zipra (Joshua Nkomo's Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army) came in who were well organised. The local villagers gave them food and then they went down to Juliet assembly point. By day seven we had a huge influx of 250 Zanla and 100 more Zipra. Eventually we moved them all to the assembly point by bus.

"Looking back I can say that we were all pretty nervous. But then they were as nervous as we were. I don't think either the monitors or the PF knew quite what to expect at first."

Once the PF had moved into their tented

Below: Training goes on for female Patriotic Front troops in one of the Assembly Areas.

Above: PF Liaison Officers and monitors. Below: Impromptu celebrations among the PF.

Above: Monitors' first Land-Rover casualty

camps, they set about organising themselves. The monitors provided their food on a daily and weekly basis, and took muster parades daily. Apart from that they were left to their own devices. And for all their friendliness the monitors would certainly not go into the camps at night.

In one mixed monitoring area all hell broke loose when mortar shells started lobbing in to the separate camps. At first it looked as though one faction had started firing at the other, who had returned fire in retaliation. But the next morning, careful sifting of the evidence showed clearly that a third party had crept up, lobbed shells simultaneously into both camps, and crept off again when the PF retaliated — both sides thinking the other had started it.

"We never did find out who started that one," said a sunburned monitor. "We were just left to calm everyone down."

Relations with the PF differed at every camp. In some they were friendly and communicative, in others less so. At camp Juliet, largely manned by The Royal Regiment of Wales, relations were very good, although the PF were wary of strangers, particularly strange aeroplanes without large white crosses on them.

"They now trust us, although they are wary of strangers," said Captain Hugh Margesson. We hold their food centrally, issuing meat and sugar weekly and mealie, their staple diet, daily. Generally we don't have problems that can't be sorted out straight away."

In contrast, at Alpha, in the malarial low veldt of the Zambesi basin, the predominantly 13th/18th Royal Hussars team was faced with a constantly changing position. Some days the Zipra soldiers would want to play football with the monitoring forces, and then an hour later would be surly and uncommunicative.

"How they really expect to get back to a normal life is beyond me," said a Hussar, "they just don't seem to want to bend at all. Which makes you wonder whether they have any intention of changing."

The Rhodesian Security Forces are divided into five areas, each run by a Joint Operations Centre, controlling sub-centres and company bases in the areas. A monitoring force cell under command of a lieutenant-colonel was established in each JOC, with smaller units in the sub-JOCs.

"We have a very good open relationship with the Rhodesians," said Major Richard Haywood of 2nd Battalion, Coldstream Guards, second-in-command of the monitoring forces at JOC 'Thrasher' at Umtali.

"The Rhodesians are well aware of allegation and counter-allegation, and they do nothing without telling us so that their case is seen to be straight. Thrasher is a prickly area and there is no doubt that the Rhodesians are more hawkish here than elsewhere because

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The lonely graves of nine Australian and British soldiers who died in Rhodesia around the turn of the century were discovered by Colonel Kevin Cole, commander of the Australian contingent, during a visit to Australian monitoring teams. The Australians heard about the graves from a member of the public and found them about a mile and a half from the centre of Marandellas in the 'Thrasher' area.

Large iron crosses mark the graves and from what inscriptions can still be discerned there are five Australians and four British buried there. Readable dates range from 1897 to 1901. The graves are in a patch of scrubland but have been reasonably well tended. Their iron crosses are upright, old concrete kerbing surrounds each one and the gravel covering is still in place. A fence of three strands of barbed wire surrounds the plot.

The signs are that the nine men died of sickness or disease while based in the area. They are thought to have been with an expedition which marched from Beira on the Mozambique coast towards the High Veldt, setting up some sort of camp at Marandellas on the way. Two of the Australians seem to have been members of units called the Bushmans Rifles and the Victorian Artillery.

The Australian monitors weeded the area around the graves and sent photographs and descriptions back to Canberra to see if any further information can be found through official channels.

Above: RAF Hercules on low-level run.

One of the most fascinating jobs with the headquarters element of the monitoring force must be at the Patriotic Front's HQ. There Colonel Andrew Parker-Bowles, Captains Steve Ashby and Andrew Bellamy and Sergeant James Crickmay have the task of providing the military liaison with the PF. Although the job has developed into teaching and sorting out the guerrilla army's logistic problems.

"While they were in the bush, they never needed to worry about anything other than ammo and their next meal," said Captain Ashby. "But now for the first time they are in a static location, and have to conform to patterns they have never known as an army before.

"As a result we have become MTO, ALO, QM, CSM, Colour Sergeant, pay clerk, ration storemen and helicopter taskers.

"Thankfully we get on well with them, but that is based on personal relationships. They don't have ranks although you can see a distinctive hierarchy. It has been fascinating, because I don't suppose any of us will work with a guerrilla army again.

"To an outsider they do seem chaotic, but one of the biggest stumbling blocks here is that they are a political army. So, for instance, political lectures might take precedence over weapon training. A thing we've never met before."

Story: Doug McArthur Pictures: Les Wiggs

this area has seen the bloodiest part of the war."

On the same day that Major Haywood spoke to SOLDIER, 16 Africans were killed in an ambush on the road to Salisbury. They were travelling home in a bus which was hit by a rocket. The monitoring cell at the nearest sub-JOC at Rusage was called out when the Security Forces went to investigate, and immediately the Brits pitched in to help the wounded. An injured woman died in the back of a Coldstream Guards Land-Rover on the way to hospital.

The monitoring operation would not have been possible without the 'backroom boys' at the Airhead Maintenance Area, whose job it was to supply the men in the field, then supply the 21,000 PF with everything from food to toothpaste. And after a couple of months of regular resupply, taking in stores from literally all over the world and then shipping them out again to the camps, the AMA were faced with the Herculean task of getting all those valuable stores back in again. And that included mine protected Land-Rovers, weapons, ammunition, and radios.

"It's not only that all this kit is valuable," said Lieutenant-Colonel Freddie Marsh, "but most of it was on its way to other units when the Rhodesian problem cropped up. So it is vital that it all gets back and can then go into its proper destination."

SOLDIER to Soldier

To write anything about Rhodesia at the present time — particularly in a monthly magazine like SOLDIER — is to run the risk of being overtaken by events by the time the words are printed and published. So we hope we are offering no hostages to fortune in declaring that the ceasefire monitoring mission, in which British soldiers have played the leading part, must be regarded as an unqualified success.

As this issue of SOLDIER went to press, the election result in Rhodesia had just revealed a resounding triumph for Mr Robert Mugabe and a crushing defeat for Bishop Muzorewa. And RAF VC 10 aircraft were already on their way back to Brize Norton with the men who had managed to keep the rival factions apart during the election campaign — the British contingent of the Commonwealth Monitoring Force.

A few were left behind as support for the Governor during the hand over to independence with others helping in the training of the new national Army. But the two months operation was over for the rest of the handpicked force. It had been two months of sunny climate, of peacekeeping, of making friends with people of different races and persuasions, and two months of seeking to lessen the enmities caused by more than a decade of bush warfare.

When the proposal to send out the Monitoring Force was first announced, sceptics scoffed that the lightly armed Commonwealth soldiers would merely be caught in the crossfire between the guerillas and the Rhodesian security forces. In fact, only two British soldiers died during the operation — killed when their water bowser overturned.

In the camps, ceasefire breaches and communications problems had to be handled with the utmost delicacy by the British troops — as reflected in Doug McArthur's article on page 6 of this issue. But despite the difficulties their unflappability, good humour and unfeigned sincerity seems to have impressed all sides.

If the new independent Zimbabwe is a success it will stand as much a monument to them as to the politicians who cobbled the agreement together at Lancaster House.

★

This summer sees the 40th anniversary of the Dunkirk evacuation and a star studded cast, headed by Harry Secombe, is to mark it with a special concert at The Theatre Royal, Drury Lane in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund on Sunday 18 May.

Harry, who was unable to attend the ENSA reunion in Salisbury last September, thought of the idea for the show following the Warrenpoint killings last August. His intention was to stage a show not only to raise money for the ABF but to express support for the British soldier.

Prince Charles will be present as well as the Army Minister and members of the Army Board. Tickets at £5, £10, £15 and £20 are obtainable now from Brigadier Gerald Landy at Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea or from the Box Office, Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London from 31 March.

There will be substantial Army participation in the show and a specially struck commemorative medallion will be presented to the 1500 people buying the most expensive seats.

★

The fury of the fusilier captured on film by the nation's Press at a recent 'Troops Out of Ireland' demonstration, highlights the plight of the modern soldier. Like many folk giving a service, he's handy to have around when you want him but best forgotten for the rest of the time. A bit like a barman — snap your fingers and he'll bring you a pint, pay him and he goes away. You assume he has no eyes, no ears, no thoughts of his own. So you can safely ignore him.

But as the fist-shaking fusilier proved, soldiers — like barmen — are, in fact human. It is a tribute to their discipline that in ten years trying to keep the peace in Northern Ireland the odd angry gesture is about as much as you see of their public reaction to their frustrating task.

For in private the thinking, breathing, feeling soldier is:

- **Disgusted** by terrorist barbarity
- **Appalled** by the squalor he patrols
- **Bemused** by the bigotry on all sides
- **Frustrated** by the inability of all community leaders to stop it.

After all, he's only human . . . like you, me and the barman. Unlike some of the IRA and UVF 'heroes' whose causes are championed by the idealistic.

★

After all the cavortings of the Prime Minister's son and his would be sponsors, it's nice to note that lesser known drivers can also attract backing. Particularly when those drivers are soldiers.

The drivers are Lieutenant David Harper, now a reserve officer and Major Bob Birrell (both featured in SOLDIER last December). Last year the officers and men of the four Royal Tank Regiments combined to finance David's formula Ford debut.

Now, with the aid of Sealink UK Ltd, the Royal Tank Regiment is to run a team of three formula Super Vee cars built and entered by Aidan Jones's Shannon Car Company — for whom Bob Birrell is already driving.

The RTR thus achieves its aim to attract recruits while Sealink gets the chance to advertise to a car orientated audience throughout Europe as the championship races take place.

★

Fears that the proud boast 'fit to fight' might be expanded into the jeering 'too fat to fight' have led to a campaign to slim down the soldier of the eighties.

The fact is that with increased standards of living, obesity has grown too. And this is reflected in the Army, more especially as its members are expected to be at a higher peak of physical fitness and acitivity than many other walks of life. So the effects of a spreading waistline show up sooner.

Apart from anything else, obesity is a killer. Eventually the effect of carrying too much fat around over-strains the heart until it just can't take any more. Heart disease kills some two dozen soldiers a year.

The danger is that younger men who are generally more fit can take a bit of extra weight at the time. But as they grow older the load takes its toll. Brigadier Joe Crowdy, Director of Army Health and Research, puts it this way: "Obesity is like carrying around a full airline baggage allowance at a terminal. It's all right for a short distance but not for too long — then it puts an extra load on the heart."

And it's no good thinking 'I don't have to worry about it until I'm getting to middle age . . .' Middle age begins at 27. A sobering thought, but fact.

Exercise can help keep weight down, of course, and many soldiers are taking regular exercise of one kind or another nowadays. But diet is the major area dictating whether pounds are put on or taken off.

The old maxim of 'chips with everything' does not help and it is hoped that in barracks, the field and perhaps most importantly at home, soldiers will grow to like a more balanced diet.

A year ago the (tri) Services Nutritionary Advisory Panel was set up and it has already reported that only 35 per cent of energy intake should be fats. The Army Catering Corps has been asked to stop cooking with lard and is going over to vegetable oil, we are told.

Not only at home but outside, the pressures are enormous for us all to eat too much. And in Germany there is the added problem of the traditional local belief that if you're not twice as wide as you are high you are miserable/failed/impotent and so on.

Perhaps some of the Army's two dozen or so heart disease victims last year believed that too. The message from the medics is, make sure *You* are not among *This* year's two dozen or more . . .

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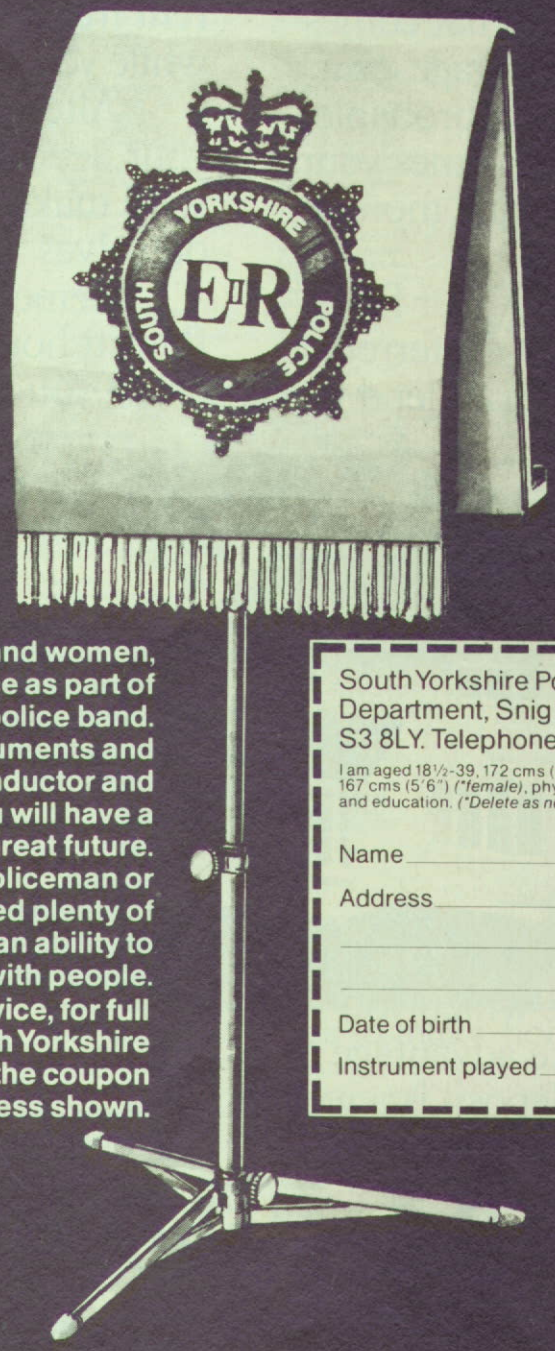

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The Army Catering Corps traditionally dominates the prize lists at Hotelympia. And far from being an 'ego trip' for those concerned, it is a measure of the expertise demanded of the instructors — and students — by the corps to ensure that soldiers in the field at home and abroad get only the best on their plates whenever the need arises for them to 'march on their stomachs'.

In fact, Instructor Mr Ian Cowley explained the corps' colours of grey and yellow thus: "From the grey of dawn to the yellow of the setting sun, you will somewhere in the world see an Army cook at work in his chef's whites".

And it's the Hotelympia winners and their colleagues who had a lot to do with his training for that round-the-clock, round-the-world rôle.

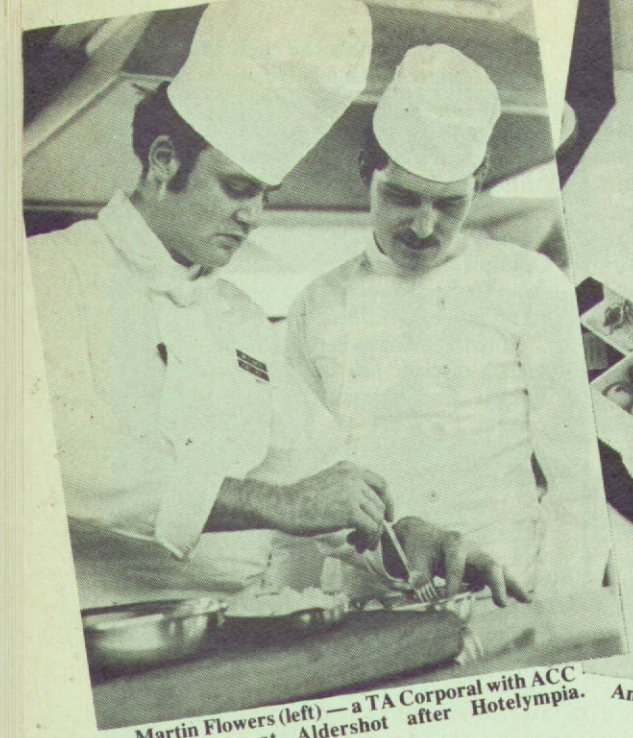
THE TALK between the chefs in gleaming whites is more of the relative merits of motor coaches' suspension than the finer points of the culinary arts. For these are the Army School of Catering's prizewinning competitors at the biennial Hotelympia catering exhibition. And the bounce of a coach hitting a bump on the journey from Aldershot to Olympia in the heart of London could mean the difference between a coveted gold medal and a pile of worthless crumbs.

Grown men have been known to cry when such a disaster has brought their work to nought. And understandably so after days of careful toil over the intricate tracery of worked sugar to make models so perfect that you believe you *couldn't* eat them.

Luckily, most of the competition pieces survive the journey to London and go on to win the accolades that have kept the Army Catering Corps at the top of the prizewinners for as long as they have entered the Hotelym-

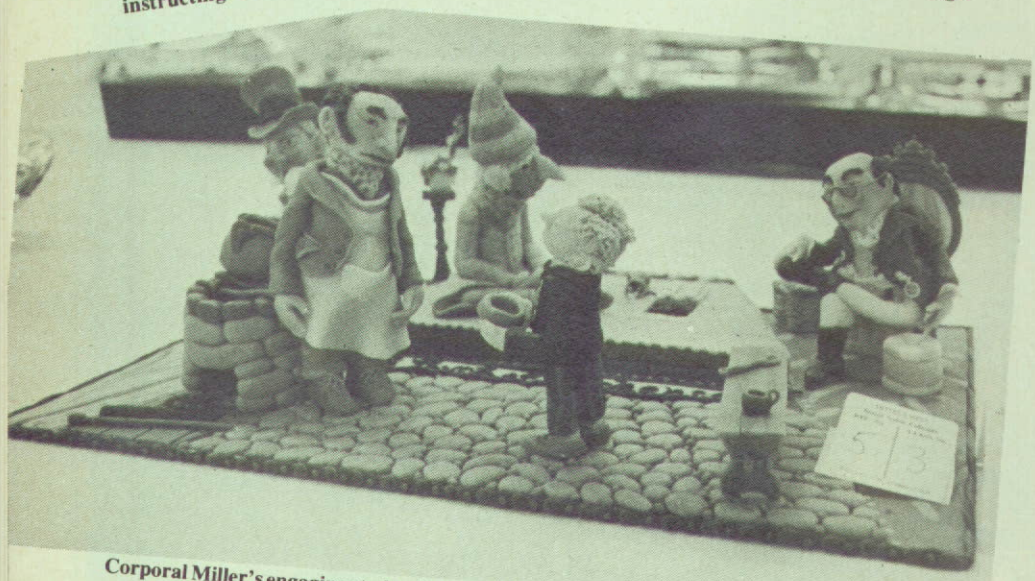
Above: Judges scrutinise the glazed and highly colourful cold meat servings complete with veg.

Left: As the corps does so well in the Olympia contests, it's no surprise the ACC recruits there.



Martin Flowers (left) — a TA Corporal with ACC instructing at Aldershot after Hotelympia.

An ACC apprentice's winning pastillage.



Corporal Miller's engaging study of Dickensian characters . . . all in coloured marzipan.

pia Salon Culinaire International de Londres since World War Two (during which the corps was founded).

The Salon itself dates back to 1885 and nowadays is considered the most prestigious in the world. This year it drew competitive exhibitors from as far afield as New Zealand, The United States and Kenya.

There are some 80 or 90 classes competed for and they embrace set piece creations in sugar, marzipan or cooking fat that are so amazing in their colour, line and detail that the layman must be forgiven for thinking they would look more at home in an art gallery than a kitchen.

Then there are the 'live' cooking contests when three-course meals are prepared for the hyper-critical judges. Rules are so strict that a presentation base salver in one of the classes brought instant disqualification for being a fraction of an inch over the stipulated size.

But even such severe judges win sympathy when it comes to their scrutiny of the 'live' dishes. In the Coq au Vin class for example they had to taste *all* the 52 entries that presented their meals in batches of six. However beautifully cooked by experts you can have too much of a good thing!

There are even competitions in waiting and serving. Here the ACC has its own expert, too, in Mr Jim Ginders, a civilian instructor at the corps' School of Catering who has recently had published a book on the 350 ways to fold paper serviettes for the table.

Levels of expertise among the instructors at the school are as broad as they are deep and they and their students regularly carry off the top prizes at Hotelympia.

This year 18 gold medals and championship trophies came back to Aldershot to be squeezed into the already groaning trophy cabinets. The supreme accolade of Grand Prix D'Honneur for the most practical and well presented culinary exhibit was among them, won by civilian chef instructor Mr Brian Taylor.

Brian's subject at the school is advanced pastry work. But his prize-winning exhibit was in chocolate — a bowl-shaped shell inside which Disney-like fauna frolicked in a suspended animation of sweetmeats. Most admired here by those in the know was the *reverse* of the exhibit — the silky smooth chocolate bowl moulded in a copper vessel which had to be burnished to perfection before the chocolate could be poured in. And getting the chocolate to the critical working temperature is as much a science as an art too.

Not surprisingly for such a craftsman, there were other top awards for Brian Taylor too. As there were for Corporal Stephen Miller, universally acclaimed for his fine modelling work in pastillage and fat as well as for his culinary skills and winner of the Services Challenge Trophy for the best Serviceman to enter the contest.

Corporal Miller has been in the Army for nine years — the first two as an apprentice at the ACC's Aldershot base — and is currently being groomed to return to Aldershot as an instructor.

The Best Young Chef in Britain accolade went to the ACC too, won by 18 year-old apprentice chef Lance-Corporal John Lackmaker. Competing against hundreds of other youngsters from top colleges and firms all over Britain, John caught the judges' eyes with creations including cold stuffed lamb in

Far left: Winners' work scrutinised by colleagues.

Left: Hotelympia recruiting for ACC.

aspic and a cold fish dish in the shape of a butterfly with wings made from fillets of sole.

Most of the winners of the remaining 18 silver medals, 19 bronze and 22 certificates of merit (over half the ACC's 139 entries won some prize or another) come from the Army School of Catering's staff or students although a dozen entrants this year came from units.

No special privileges are given to the 'thoroughbreds' as they are groomed for competition work at Aldershot although there are clear advantages in not having to be a chef committed to catering for a unit's three meals a day.

They get no special equipment either. Only standard kitchen utensils and materials are used in the creation of the masterpieces that go to Olympia. For however imaginative and artistic the creations are, they must all be edible — the judges put that to the test too.

And on the day (or rather the ten days of continuous contest and exhibition at Hotelympia every two years) the contestants exude the atmosphere more readily associated with the tension of a sporting event. They even look like thoroughbreds in their glistening whites with scarcely one of them showing the swelling waistline so often associated with their trade.

The analogy with sport even extends behind the scenes where the ACC entrants are backed by a team of hard-working supporters making sure they are ready for the 'off'. Every effort is made to make sure the competitors have nothing to distract them as they cook, carve or cast their creations in pursuit of the glittering prizes.

A small band of some ten men backed the 70 or so ACC entrants. Their jobs ranged from organising transport for the sometimes nerve-wrackingly delicate exhibits to seeing that the correct rations, supplies, utensils, crockery, silver salvers and cutlery were in the right place at the right moment to be on hand for the champions when needed.

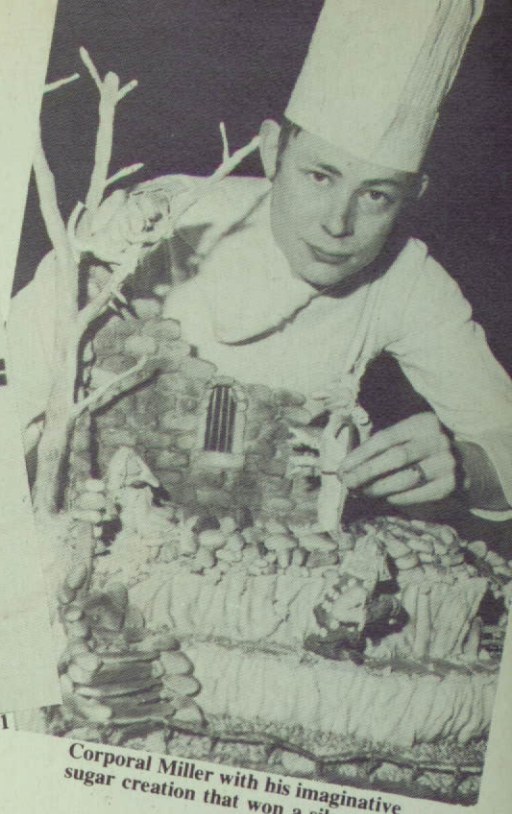
For the back-up team, the day started at 5 am at the latest and often went round the clock to end 24 hours later. An example was Warrant Officer 1 Peter Palmer, who beavered away behind the scenes throughout the ten days, snatching only 19 hours sleep in all that time. But he knows the importance of the work of the backroom boys — he has won 12 medals himself at Hotelympia in the past.

And when all the excitement was over and the trophies brought home to Aldershot, the competitors and their helpers — military and civilian — gathered to relax at last. Commandant of the ACC Training Centre, Brigadier Keith Hudson said: "I've been associated with Hotelympia since I was a lad so I can speak with some authority when I say how much work, sweat, trauma — and swearing — goes into this sort of contest. This is the only one we enter. But it's international and it brings people from all over the world as well as from the other Services. So it gave me great pleasure to see the high standard of excellence we were achieving and the way the judges were impressed with what we were doing.

"The Salon Culinaire is big business. It attracts thousands of visitors and we contribute largely to its success in maintaining its position as the premier salon in the world.

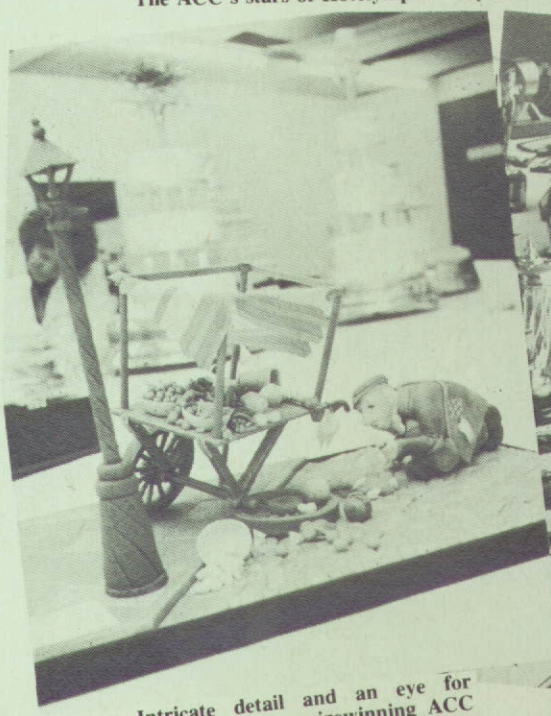
"We can look back on this ten days and say this was a perfect example of co-operation by everybody."

The ACC's own special award to WO1 Murzell presented by Brigadier Hudson.

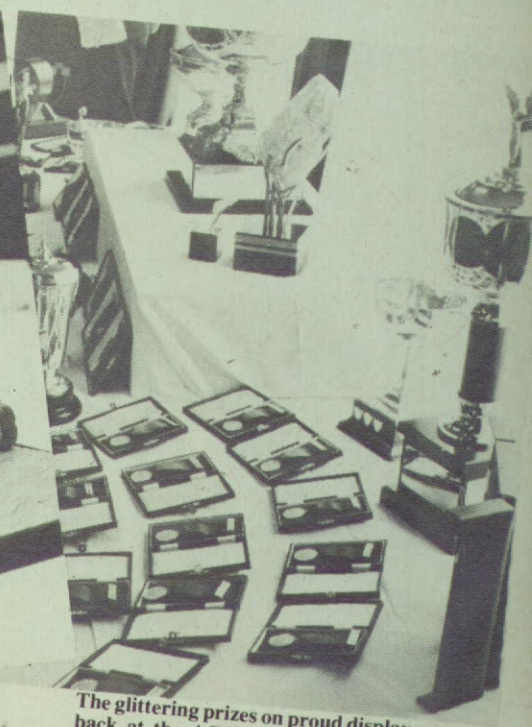


Corporal Miller with his imaginative sugar creation that won a silver.

The ACC's stars of Hotelympia this year — Corporal Miller (left) and Mr Taylor.

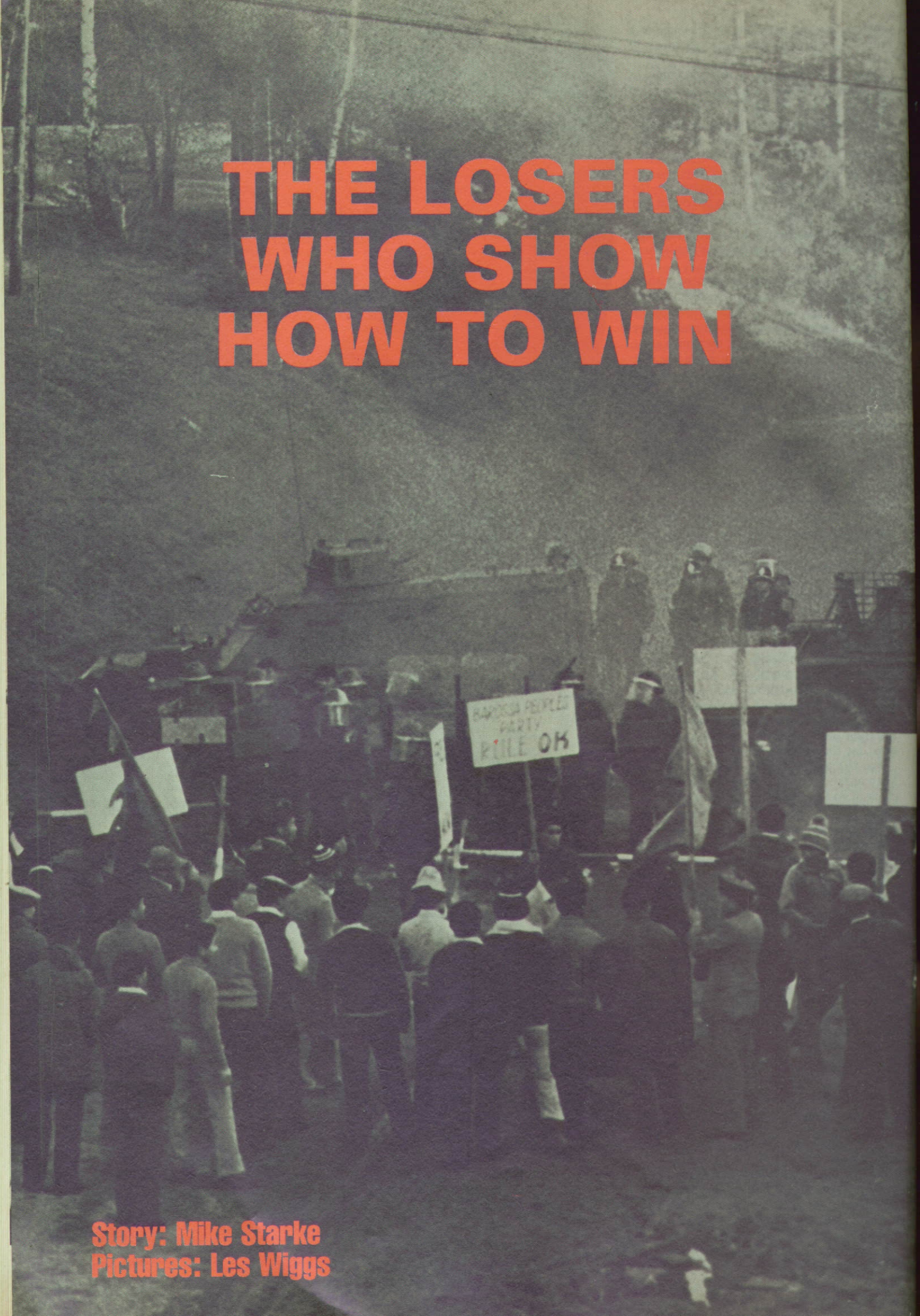


Intricate detail and an eye for humour in this prizewinning ACC marzipan piece.



The glittering prizes on proud display back at the ACC's Aldershot headquarters.

THE LOSERS WHO SHOW HOW TO WIN



Story: Mike Starke
Pictures: Les Wiggs

Above: Dress for various demonstrations.
Left: Riots at Sandhurst?! Just another lesson.
Right: A snatch squad shows how it's done.
Below right: Gurkhas turn policemen for 'demo'.

A COMPANY OF GURKHA soldiers openly claim they never win any of their battles . . . and they're proud of it. For it's all part of their job as the Demonstration Company at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, which moulds young men into tomorrow's officers.

Currently fulfilling this role is C Company of 1st Battalion, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Goorkhas (The Sirmoor Rifles), beefed up with a platoon from the battalion's D Company comprising four platoons with a company headquarters in support.

The company's main job is twofold. Firstly to demonstrate military matters — from pitching a tent to mounting a parade. Secondly, to act as exercise 'enemy' for the Sandhurst cadets. Hence the boast, voiced by the officer commanding, Major John Burlison: "We're here to provide the cadets with experience — so we don't win anything!"

As well as this, the company takes on some fatigue tasks around Sandhurst as the academy's only source of uniformed manpower. One of its more important tasks is to guard this prestigious establishment and patrol its large grounds.

Each Demonstration Company spends just one year at Sandhurst and for the past ten years the company has been from the

The elongated unit designation of 1st Battalion, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Goorkhas (The Sirmoor Rifles) is quite a mouthful to remember. But one way to fix the strange spelling of Gurkha (Goorkha) in the mind is to bear in mind what the unit says of itself: "We're the non-U Goorkhas with the double 'o' — licensed to kill!"

Continued on page 20

Above: Gurkhas play dead terrorists for cadets. **Below: Cadets enjoy the Gurkhas 'demo' march.**

Gurkhas. The men are found from the battalion posted to nearby Church Crookham and the changeover happens each year at Eastertime.

Tough and dedicated soldiers, the Gurkhas are ideally suited to the job, and with their average age at 27 and average length of service nine years, the men of the Demonstration Company give the officer cadets splendid examples to emulate in their military skills.

As for the Gurkhas themselves, they find this a good posting, said Major Burlison who is the only Briton in the company. He added: "It gets them out and about in the United Kingdom and they have a programme worked out well in advance so that they know what they will be doing. Also, they are playing to an appreciative audience all the time which makes a big difference — in fact, sometimes, they actually get a round of applause for their work!"

The detailed organisation of the advanced programme is in the hands of a Gurkha Warrant Officer 2 — the Detail NCO — who has to manipulate a complicated jigsaw of men and movements to make sure the company serves both its 'customers' and itself to best advantage. This sergeant-major's working day is rarely less than ten hours long and it is no wonder that he hands over his job at the end of each Sandhurst term.

The company works to six different commanders. It is on call to the three colleges (Old, New and Victory) of the academy as well as to the academy headquarters and its own battalion headquarters. And last but not least, it has to answer its own needs; keeping its own soldiers up to scratch in terms of continuation training courses so important to furthering their own careers. As Major Burlison graphically put it: "If they can't sniff the flowers by the wayside as they go along, they can get upset."

The company is involved each year in no less than 180 exercises of varying lengths. Three of these are overseas, either in Cyprus or Germany. Their travels take them to all parts of the United Kingdom training areas too — from Otterburn and Hythe in the

Below: Riding is new experience for Gurkhas.

north and south, to Stanford and Sennybridge in the east and west.

As 'enemy' on these exercises they may wear uniform as conventional soldiers or a variety of civilian clothes as rioters or insurgents in both urban and rural internal security scenarios.

And on these exercises the Gurkhas have a chance to add that little bit extra to the strict exercise brief when they pass on little 'tricks of the trade' they have learned as professional soldiers of no mean experience. It makes life more interesting and amusing all round, said Major Burlison, adding: "It's good in the Royal Military Academy for cadets to see trained soldiers around doing the job as it should be done."

Part of the skill of being a demonstration soldier is being able to work to the doctrine laid down — the Sandhurst Doctrine, as it is known at the academy. For this means that seasoned Gurkhas have — at times — to unlearn some of the things they would do (or not do) as second nature in the field in order to properly fulfil their function as teachers. For instance, at night they may go non-tactical by carrying torches so that unskilled exercising cadets can 'see the whites of their eyes' as enemy.

And having walked through an anticipated ambush position on a recent exercise and emerged unscathed, the Gurkhas had to retrace their steps in order to make sure they *were* attacked . . . it's all part of not winning any of the 'wars'!

The company does some 90 demonstrations a year from a repertoire of 17 basic topics. These range from putting up a tent to mounting a full parade and include the methods of making platoon and section attacks as part of minor tactics. Working with a precision they share with stage staff, the Gurkhas play their parts to a prepared script, acting out their roles to a series of cues. As an example, the basic infantry platoon demonstration involves 220 movements made on cue to a script lasting only 40 minutes.

The company has to look after itself as well and has its own MT transport department, signals and — most important — cooks. For the Gurkhas are particularly partial to their curries. And not only the Gurkhas. Major Burlison revealed that more and more Britons on exercises line up to sample the Gurkha fare — more exotic than the average 24-Hour Ration Pack any day!

Home for the company at Sandhurst is a series of World War Two-vintage huts, unglamorous to look at ("They were turned down by the BBC as a set for *Dad's Army*!" quipped Major Burlison) but offering a few creature comforts to the soldiers they might not otherwise enjoy. For instance, they each have individual rooms with their own wash basins rather than shared accommodation in a barrack block.

The Gurkha Officers have their mess in the huts — there is no room for them in the academy's crowded officers' mess. But the Gurkha sergeants share the smart academy sergeants' mess next door to their company buildings. And all ranks are able to enjoy the full facilities for sport and recreation which Sandhurst offers.

They may not win their 'wars', but these Gurkhas are quite happy to remain defeated, secure in the knowledge that in doing so they are doing a good job.

Above: Gate guard is all part of the job. Below: Kung Fu king Bruce Lee is Gurkha hero.

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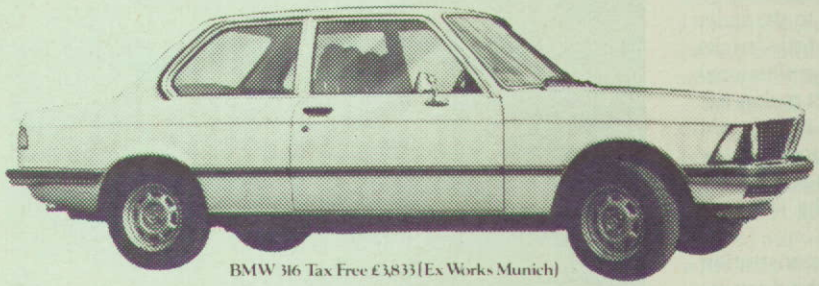

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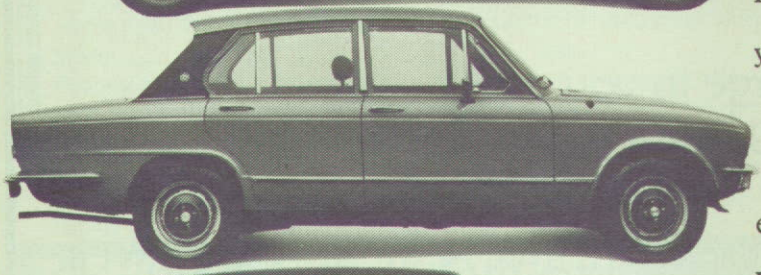

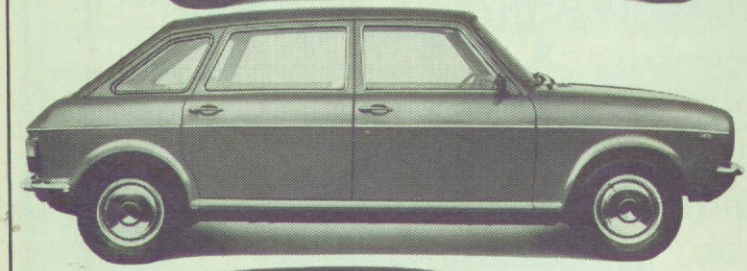

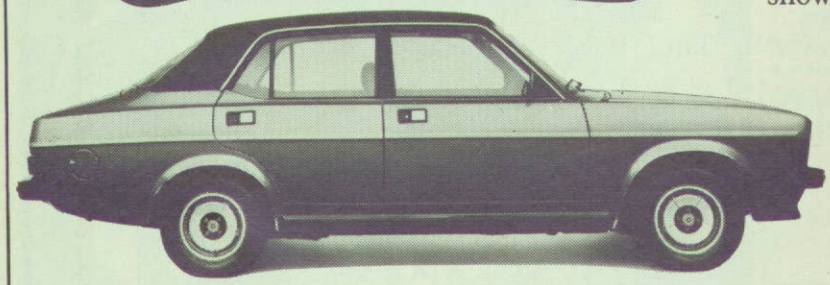

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In the 'island city' of Berlin — here East and West meet eyeball to eyeball — 247 Provost Company chalks up 35 years continuous duty.

Roses from Russia — but mind the full stops

A FULL STOP may be missing. Or there may be a minor spelling mistake on a British Travel Document. Such trite, niggling factors suddenly emerging at the two Soviet checkpoints on the Helmstedt-Berlin autobahn cause frustrating delays enough to tax the patience of the kindliest saint, let alone that of the most tolerant of military policemen.

By charming contrast, Soviet officer guard commanders with a glad eye for robust provost ladies in uniform may, occasionally, toss a fragrant, solitary, red rose from their burnished black staff cars to any of the eleven female members of the Berlin Garrison's Royal Military Police who is on duty at the Tiergarten Police Post access point to the Soviet War Memorial guard room.

Such gestures help restore the balance in the tensions of an 'island city' which squats prosperously just 50 miles from the drab Polish border as the biggest industrial city in Germany with an estimated annual industrial production of £11½ million.

But for all that, Berlin's British Sector, embracing a 224-square-mile city 'beat', is said to have the most varied kaleidoscope of unique and vital roles of operational, routine and ceremonial duties available to men and women of the Royal Military Police anywhere world-wide.

Four companies of Redcaps first patrolled the broad boulevards and dimly-lit side streets of a bomb-blasted Berlin in August 1945.

One of those original companies — now called 247 (Berlin) Provost Company — celebrates 35 years' continuous presence this year and its three officers, 93 men and 11 women are enjoying every minute of their stay in the tri-national western sector which, coupled

continued on page 26

Corporal Hugh 'Taff' Bradley (left) and L/Cpl Steve Juliff keep watch on the snow-swept Potsdamer section of the slogan-daubed Berlin Wall.

Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Sgt John Smith

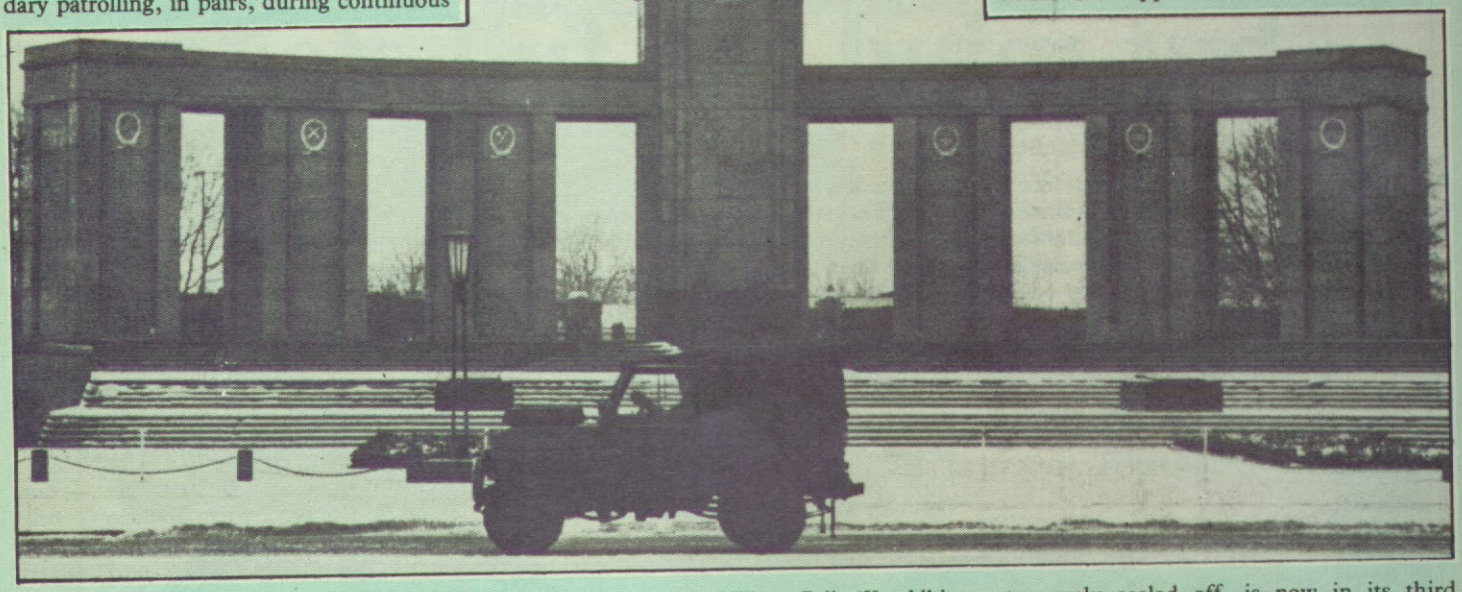
with the Soviet Sector in the East, sprawls over 341 square miles in an area about twice the size of the Isle of Wight and large enough to swallow 20 large towns.

Based on an eight-day cycle, the Company is split into four 20-man platoons, each run by a staff sergeant, which work two ten-hour day shifts, two 14-hour night shifts and have two days of availability training and two days off.

The duties are varied, indeed, along the 'beat', two thirds of which lies in a built-up area.

Activities are not just confined to boundary patrolling, in pairs, during continuous surveillance along 15 miles of 'The Wall', formerly all wire but now with only a few sections of XPM fence. Nor is the policing restricted to patrolling the two-and-a-half miles of 11-foot-high wall in the British Sector from across which men constantly peer through high-powered binoculars. Armed border guards, the unflinching stare of intense searchlights and wild-eyed dogs trained not to be man's best friend are all part of the every-day scenario seen through the eyes and 'binos' of the provost patrols.

The nine-inch-thick wall which was literally put up overnight on 13 August 1961, when 185 approach roads were simultaneously sealed off, is now in its third re-build and improvement phase.



Above: Tiergarten's Soviet War Memorial with 247 Company Land Rover passing in foreground.

Below: Red and white Military Police 'Kombi' in Kanstrasse heads towards the Kurfurstendamm.

In all, it snakes for 28 miles, while 72 miles of barbed wire entanglements and a 30-yard-wide 'fatal' strip separate West Berlin from East Germany.

Though the British Sector of the city centre boundary is comparatively small it does include several important areas. One is the Sandkrug Bridge crossing point used by the 17-strong Soviet guard for the Tiergarten's Soviet War Memorial.

The provost wall patrol escorts this silent detachment in vehicles to the Tiergarten Police Post. The patrols also work closely with the West German police and customs.

The 'wire' patrol on the Western Boundary monitors traffic at the Staaken road crossing point which gives access to German vehicles using the Berlin-Hamburg autobahn and the railway crossing which links the S-bahn to East Germany's North-Western railways.

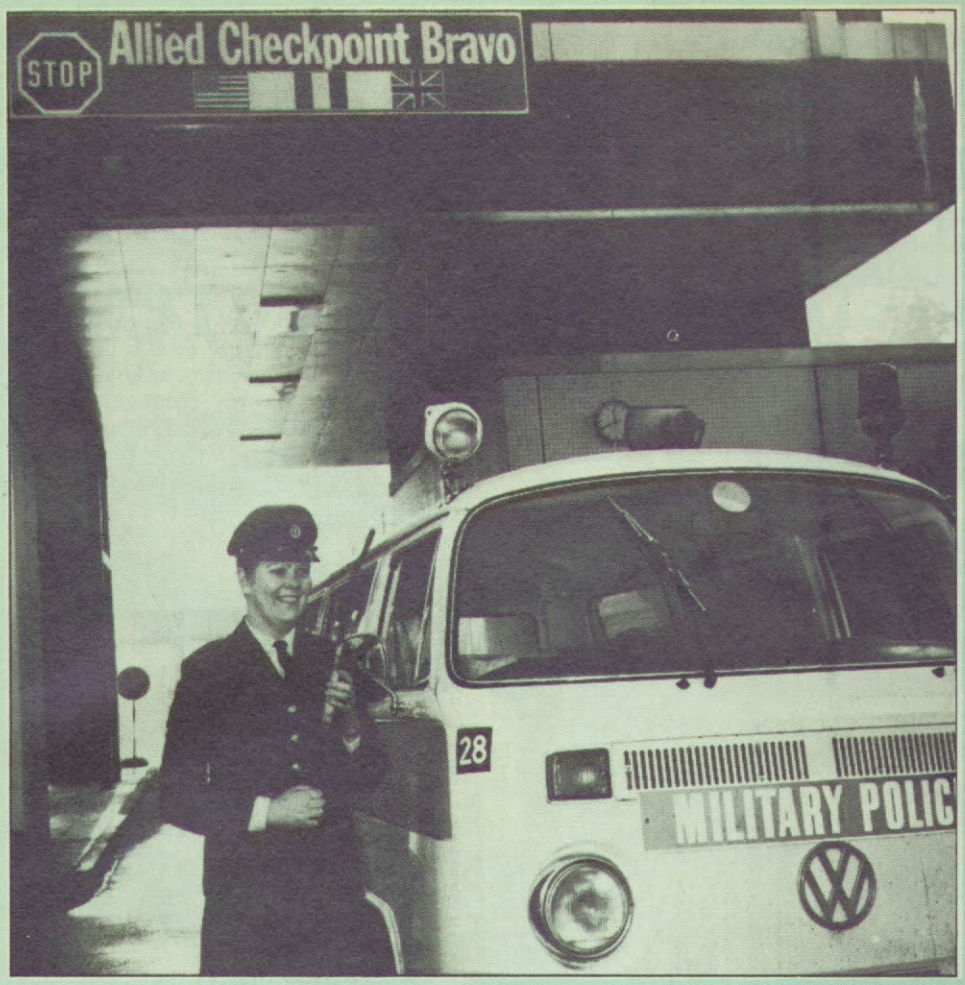
Another RMP duty involves the control of access at the Tiergarten Police Post. Each day a Russian officer and his 16 soliders pass through to mount guard duties at the Soviet War Memorial which was built in 1946 from the granite ruins of the wrecked Reichskanzlerei on the site of some of the fiercest fighting in the war-torn city.

It is here that the bolder Soviet officers sometimes part with a red rose in rapid, if unromantic fashion to any lady provost NCO who pushes the switch controlling the electrically-operated, heavy sliding gate.

Formal Soviet wreath-laying parades at the memorial are held three times a year.

Provost NCOs also serve in isolated vigil at the evocative Checkpoint Charlie, the only

Left: Provo Corporals Brian Lee, Geoff Caspell and Geoff Shute in front of Brandenburg Gate.



Left: No wonder she's smiling! Corporal Helen Peacock learns of her promotion to Sergeant at Checkpoint Bravo on the Helmstedt-Berlin autobahn.

Allied point of access to the eastern sector of the city and located at Friedrichsstrasse — pre-war Berlin's Fleet Street — in the American Sector where opulence suddenly turns to austerity within the length of a cricket pitch.

At Checkpoint Charlie the NCO from 247 Company is responsible for checking that inter-sector visitors have been correctly authorised and documented, for briefing and de-briefing them and recording their entry and departure times.

Non-sponsored British tourists passing through the world's most famous Checkpoint must also report their expected time of return to the duty Provost NCO so that, in the event of a non-return, a report can be made to the British Consul.

If a sponsored visitor is more than half-an-hour overdue on his exit time — which could be due to a traffic accident, breakdown or even harrassment — an RMP officer accompanied by a Russian-speaking Service interpreter will make a search in East Berlin.

Radios, TV sets, tape recorders, record players, copying or duplicating machines, newspapers, medicines, children's wear, textile clothing and postage stamps may not pass across the checkpoint of the divided city from west to east.

The British Garrison in West Berlin does not officially recognise the East German government so official contact is not maintained with East German border guards. Even so, the assurance of Allied right of access to the East Sector is viewed with great importance though the Soviets themselves do not take an active part in controlling the seven inter-Sector crossing points.

The checkpoint also monitors the entry and exit of official Soviet, East German and other Eastern bloc vehicles.

The provost NCOs of 247 Company also man the two vital lifeline autobahn checkpoints of Alpha at Helmstedt and Bravo on the outskirts of the city.

At both Alpha, now in new barrack premises since last Autumn, and at Bravo, opened in 1972 at an estimated cost of some 605,000 dollars and staffed by American, French and British personnel, the duty provost NCO's element of the Allied Military Police desk have the responsibility for briefing, de-briefing and checking the documentation of Allied travellers.

At Checkpoint Bravo, in the American Sector, a total of 17,339 British sponsored vehicles and 69,556 people passed in and out of the city last year via the motorway. The Americans ushered 13,226 vehicles and 33,107 travellers while the French processed 9000 vehicles.

Their progress along the 106-mile-stretch of the East German autobahn is monitored in both directions, based on estimated arrival times, by daily 'sweeps' with two-man mobile patrols travelling in Range Rovers or Opels.

Duties incude the escort of certain categories of travellers and convoys, helping Allied travellers, compiling road and weather reports and maintaining the right of access to the autobahn "especially during periods of tension and harrassment".

The provosts of 247 Company tell motorists, among other things, not to pay fines or tolls, not to allow searches of their vehicles or themselves and not to admit any liability for any alleged offence.

"If there is a minor spelling mistake on the BTD — British Travel Document — the Soviets will reject it. If a full stop is left out, they will reject the document out of hand", said a 22-year-old provost corporal.

Both checkpoints come under the direction of the Autobahn Control Detachment comprising a major who is also the Allied Commandant, and 25 personnel. The ACD Duty Room controls all Allied activities at Helmstedt, along the autobahn and on the railway as far as Zeisar, a location half-way to Berlin.

Two Service Russian-speakers work with the ACD helping the Allied Commandant in his dealings with the Soviet authorities on behalf of all three Western allies, the clearance of British convoys and the 'search-and-rescue' teams.

No 247 Company keeps three mobile patrols in action which are available as back-up units and for any other tasks. The Company also provides a Russian-speaking Serviceman for the British military trains. There is a daily passenger train to and from Braunschweig and a fortnightly freight train.

Round their city 'beat' in the period between September 1978 and August of last year, the provosts dealt with 602 minor traffic accidents, 893 motor vehicle

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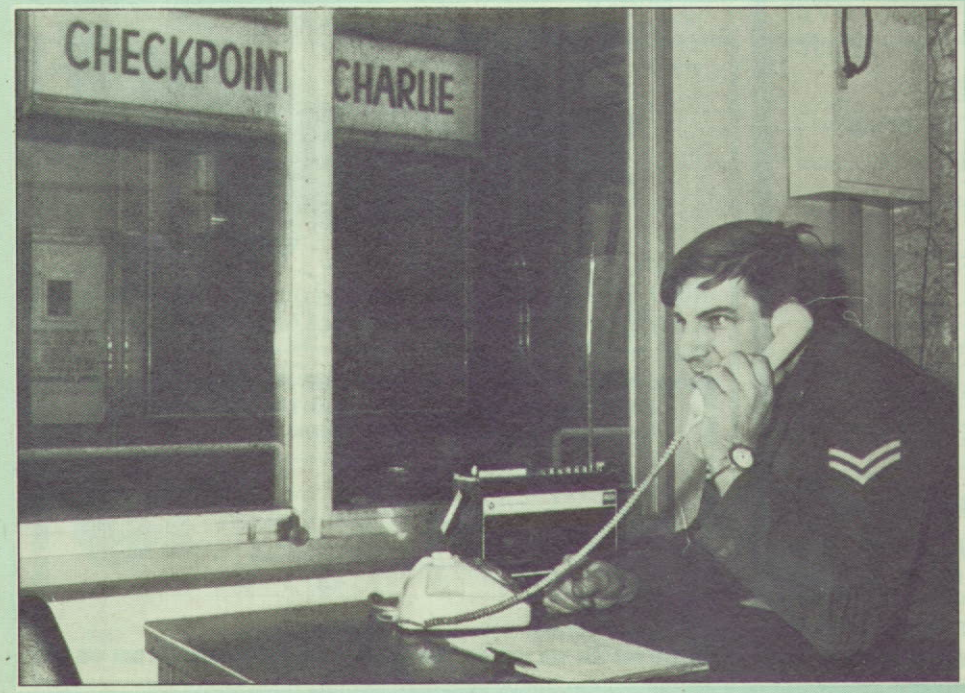

Left: Cpl Bernard Courtley mans the tiny but world-famous Checkpoint Charlie crossing point.

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documentation offences, 17 drunken driving incidents, 41 instances of drunkenness and 53 assaults.

Major Adrian Furnival, OC of 247 Provost Company for the past nine months, said: "This is a very small figure when you consider there are some 2500 Servicemen here with that figure boosted to 7000 with dependants and visitors."

For Berlin, a city of lakes, forest and farms and the guardian of Europe's biggest inland lido, ceremony is part of a proud lifestyle when all official activities are treated with due deference to protocol and dignity.

247 Company provides military police escorts, as necessary, to British and foreign Royalty, visiting Members of Parliament, the British Ambassador to West Germany and the GOC.

Full escorts are fielded, too, for the Soviet Ambassador and the C-in-C Soviet Forces Germany when they visit Berlin for talks or ceremonies at the Soviet War Memorial.

As well as the big functions, there are small events too that need the services of 247 Company. It is responsible for making, setting up and maintaining route signs including some 100 permanent Border signs and about the same number of signs serving units in the British Sector. There is also a large library of temporary signs for events like the Allied Forces' Day Parade, the Queen's Birthday Parade and the Soviet wreath-laying parades.

Housed half-a-mile away from the Olympic Stadium where, in 1936, Jesse Owens sprinted his way into the sporting annals, 247 Company has on offer what must be the best sporting facilities of any Provost unit in the world.

On its doorstep are six soccer pitches, three hockey pitches, two gyms, three swimming pools (one heated and indoors), three cricket pitches, four rugby pitches, one all-weather tartan track, two squash courts, five tennis courts and a saddle club.

Major Furnival explained the rôle of his Company, thus: "We are responsible for briefing all British Servicemen and sponsored visitors to Berlin. The arrival of a new battalion is marked by a round of lectures to familiarise the newcomers with the unusual status of Berlin.

"We also lead tours of Berlin for visiting dignitaries and delegations, averaging about 30 a year and including Parliamentarians, the Royal College of Defence Staff, National Defence College and the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force staff colleges."

He added: "The NATO status of the Forces Agreement does not apply in Berlin — we are still the British Protecting Power and, consequently, we have absolute and exclusive jurisdiction over all British Servicemen and their families and, in certain circumstances, over other British personnel in Berlin".

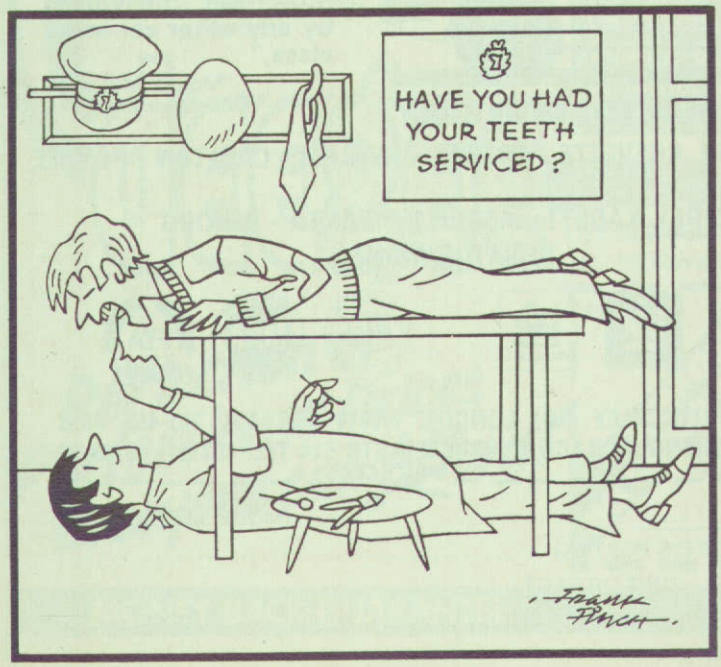
"Unlike BAOR, we deal with all military and BFG traffic accidents however minor. The efficiency of our police duties in Berlin depend to a great extent upon a good liaison with the West German police through the Public Safety Department of the British Military Government. We also keep very close links with the French Gendarmerie and the US Military Police."

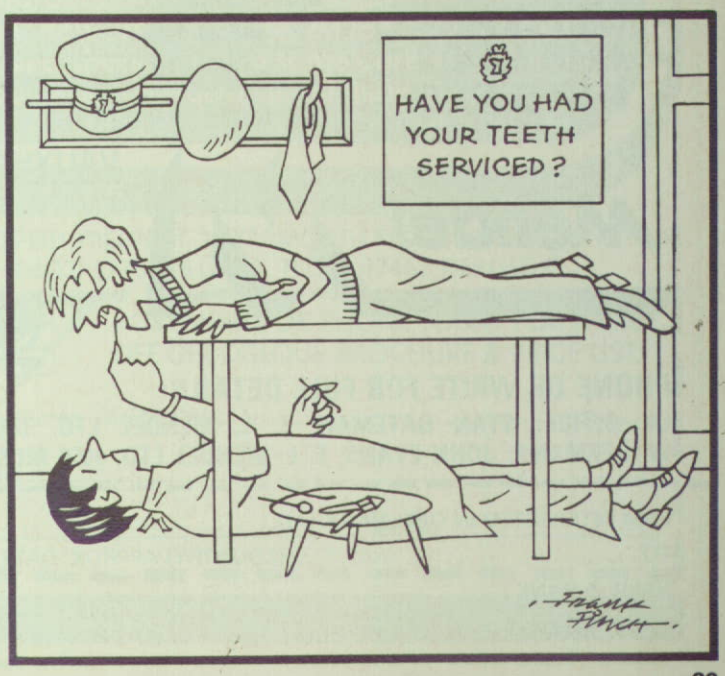
Major Furnival spoke highly of the work undertaken by his provosts. "I believe that 247 Provost Company is an efficient, effective unit carrying out several unique and vital roles which could not be carried out so effectively or economically by any other military organisation."

Left: Maj Adrian Furnival checks entry in the Control Room with Sgt Jim McGlasson and German policeman. Behind is L/Cpl Sue Robson.

How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences see page 57.





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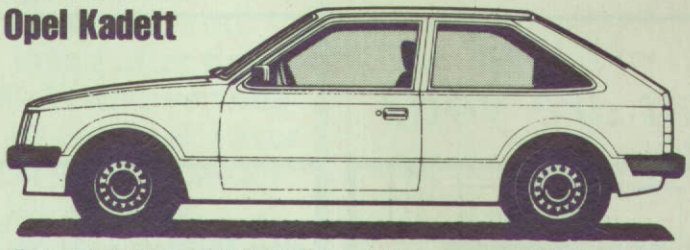

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MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

'L' FOR LEARNERS, LONGMOOR AND LUNAR LANDSCAPE

Story: Mike Starke Pictures: Doug Pratt

THE FIFTEEN-TON armoured personnel carrier teetered on the brink of a near-ninety degree drop. All the driver could see was sky. But a reassuring voice crackled in his headphones: "Just ease her forward and use the brakes to keep her straight as she goes down." And the seemingly impossible became relatively simple as an instructor coaxed his anxious student to 'take the plunge' over the hilltop test track as part of his training to drive an APC.

The lunar landscape of Longmoor ranges near Bordon in the heart of Hampshire is criss-crossed by switchback tracks used by the Infantry Wing, Driver and Maintenance School, Royal Armoured Corps Centre, to introduce drivers to the APC. They come from their infantry units to learn about it when being converted from the airportable to mechanised role to serve in Rhine Army with its Nato commitment.

The wing evolved from the APC Division of the Royal Corps of Transport's Army School of Transportation in 1977. The RCT took its wheeled vehicle training establishments to Leconfield and Driffield leaving the Royal Armoured Corps responsible for tracked vehicles.

Thus drivers and instructors for the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers, as well as the tank formations, train at RAC's Driver and Maintenance School in Bovington. The Infantry Wing is due to move eventually from its present location in Bordon to join

continued on page 34

Left: Tension in the turret as 15 tons of APC begins to wend its way down the steep incline.

. . . And it can be hard work uphill too! (Right.)

Below: Deep water-splashes can be unnerving.

WO2 Brian Hall gloomily inspects a thrown track — a training hazard.

these other wings at Bovington.

The prime vehicle of the mechanised infantry is the Armoured Fighting Vehicle (AFV) 432 which is used in six different variants. But for training purposes at Bordon, just the basic model is used — and there are 28 of them to choose from.

Constantly in use, often in the hands of learners, the vehicles get quite a hammering and a detachment of experts from 18 Command Workshops in Bovington are based permanently at Bordon to keep the wheels — and tracks — moving.

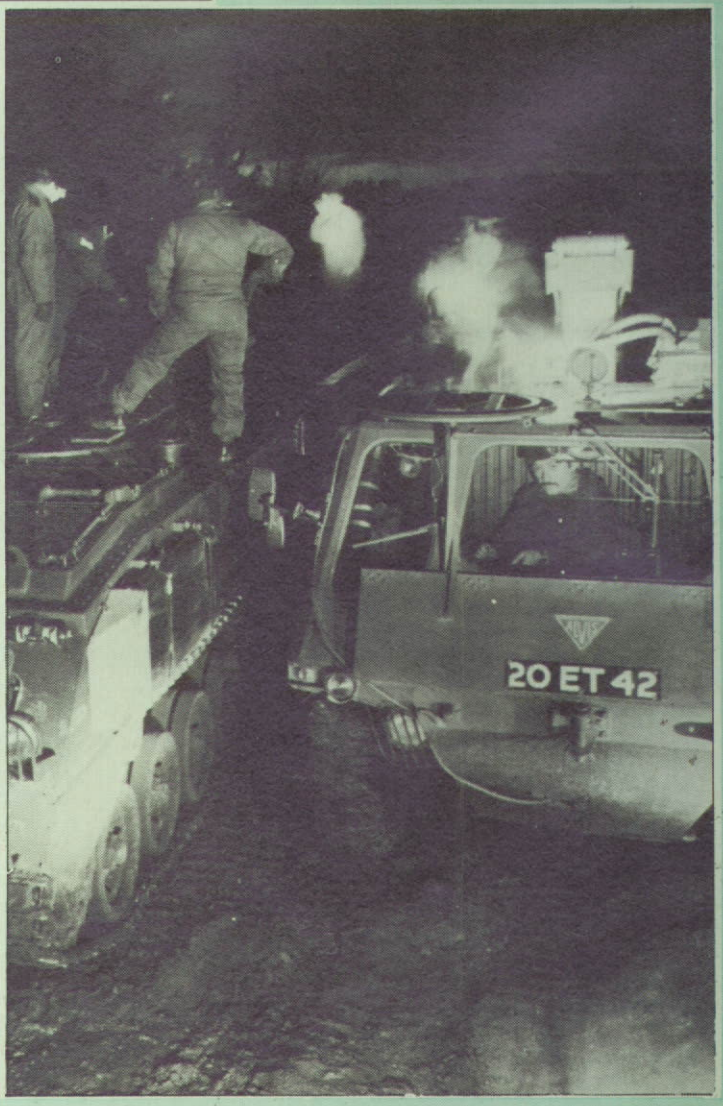
This is no mean task for the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers staff-sergeant, his two fitters — one for vehicles and the other electrical — and his four civilian fitters.

On hand to service the fleet and make sure it's available whenever and wherever it's wanted is another small team consisting of a Guards lance-sergeant and five men.

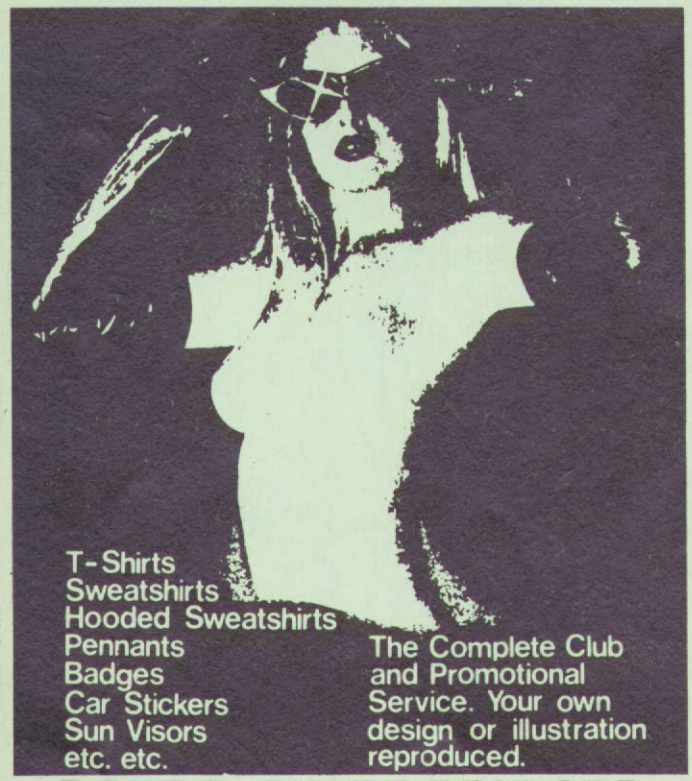
The whole establishment is headed by an infantry major backed up by an administrative officer from the Royal Armoured Corps — a captain. They are backed by a team of three senior non-commissioned officers plus 11 other NCOs who form the teaching staff.

Mechanisation of the infantry started back in 1967 and 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets was the first unit to make the conversion in May and June of that year. Since then a constant stream of battalions has made the smooth transition to their new tracked role thanks to the training at Bordon which — although it has been streamlined and reorganised — is basically the same now as then.

Below: A refuelling sequence on a night drive.



TEES THAT TALK



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Right: Workshop staff are always kept busy.

When 'converting' a battalion, the method used is to train some 20 instructors from the unit and then co-ordinate their efforts as they train, in their turn, some 120 drivers from the ranks of the battalion. The wing converts up to four battalions a year. And this is a continuous process with the turnover of men in these units and the variety of their postings making it necessary to start all over again from time to time.

In addition to this main task, the wing fits into its training programme the equivalent of half a battalion every year from Berlin Brigade as well as two courses a year for 24 instructors from Rhine Army. A handful of places on each driver training course go to Rhine Army soldiers too.

Occasional places go to men of the Infantry Demonstration Battalion from Warminster as well as to personnel from other branches of the Army.

There are also courses for vehicle commanders — learning to be an extension of the driver. The commander virtually becomes the eyes and ears of the driver strapped firmly in the driver's seat with only limited vision afforded from his hatch. Company-level junior management courses teach the arts of handling and servicing the vehicles and a commanders' course is laid on to introduce commanding officers and their staffs to the AFV 432.

When a unit is earmarked for mechanisation, selected officers and NCOs come to Bordon for a four week course as instructors. This is followed by a one week gap for them to orientate themselves to their new skill and surroundings. After this they themselves teach four courses of 28 men for three weeks at a time. The whole process takes some three months after which the battalion concerned is ready to be shipped to Rhine Army fully operational as a mechanised infantry battalion.

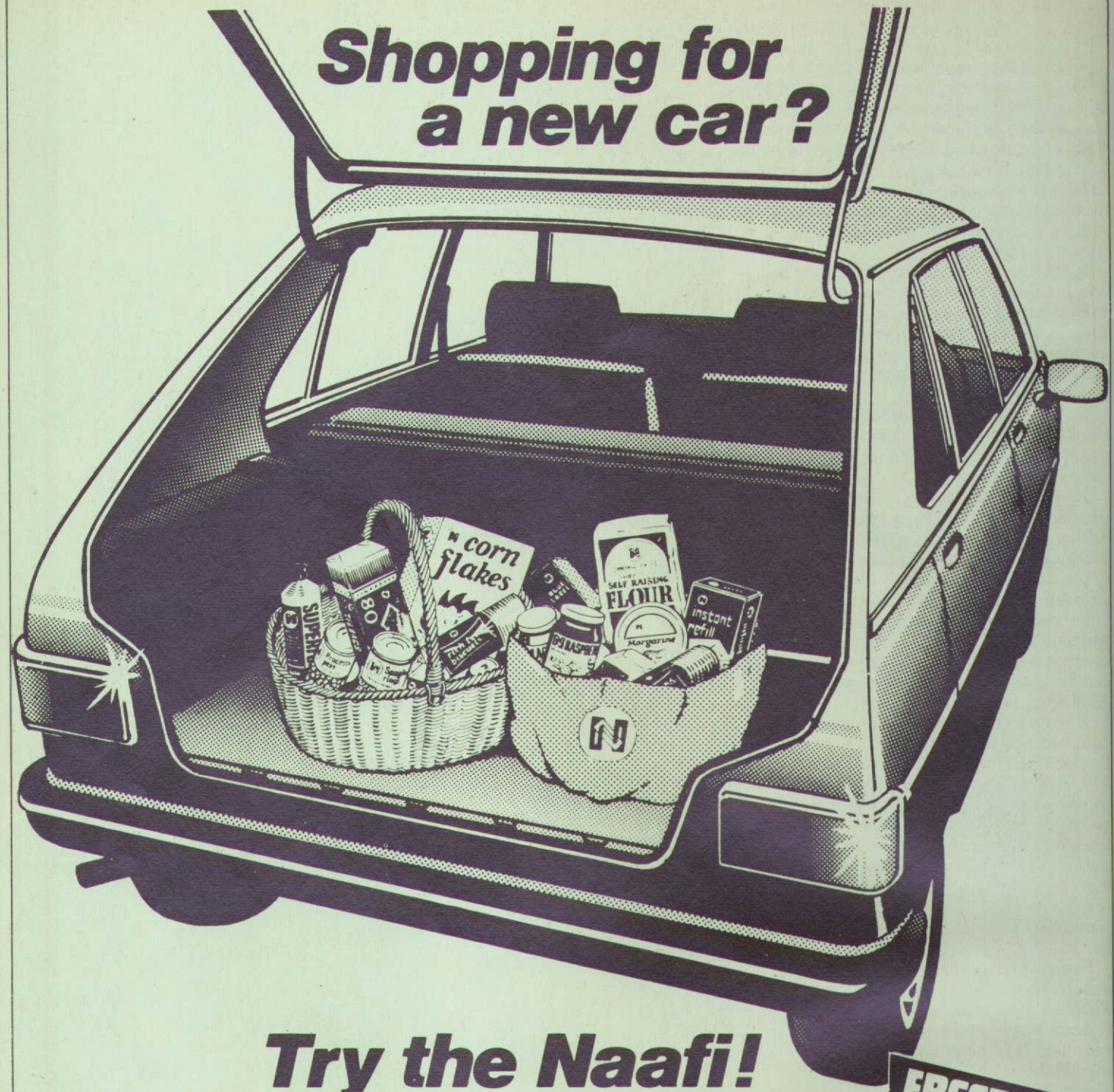
From a driving point of view there is much new to learn (and some come with only a Provisional Licence anyway!). There is no steering wheel — the tracks are guided by two tillers. The gears are operated by a preselector knob and the accelerator pedal is bigger than your boot.

On top of this — in fact before you even get into the driver's seat — you have to get to grips with the most intimate workings of the APC; how it works, why it works and what to do when it won't work. Only then are you allowed to actually drive it and you start on the hostile terrain of Longmoor before being unleashed onto the public roads. Not only do you have to learn the British Highway Code but there is the German one to be mastered too — after all, that's where you're going to be driving your battalion's APCs.

But despite the toughness of the testing at the wing, very few fail. "The guys are so full of enthusiasm they're motivated to pass," said one member of the staff.

And at the end of it all the 'L' for Longmoor, Learners and Lunar Landscape turns to 'P' for Pass, Proficiency and Professionalism — keywords in the modern Army.

Right: Student drivers learn APC maintenance.



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DUKE OF YORK'S ROYAL MILITARY SCHOOL

ON 19 JUNE 1801 the Duke of York, second son of George III, laid the foundation stone in Chelsea of The Royal Military Asylum for the Children of the Soldiers of the Regular Army — later to become the Duke of York's Royal Military School. Since those early days as an orphanage for the children of soldiers killed in action, it has gone through many changes. Today it compares favourably with any good independent boys' boarding school and occupies purpose-built accommodation set in 150 acres of downland about two miles east of Dover. It houses 450 boys aged 11 to 18, about 15 per cent of whom enter the Services.

The school museum, though modest in scope, is well presented and has some interesting items. The royal warrant founding the school signed by George III is shown in a case alongside other royal documents. There too is a silver flagon engraved with the royal arms of George III, a silver snuff box bearing the insignia of the 81st Loyal Lincolnshire Regiment, a silver chalice and two patens and the silver trowel used by the Duke of York when he laid the foundation stone of the old Royal Military Asylum.

An adjacent case contains a drum-major's ceremonial jacket and exact replicas of the original Duke of York's medals, one silver and one bronze, awarded every year to the two top boys. Here too are the education certificates belonging to T J Eve, one of the many boys to pass out from the school and later gain a commission. Eve ended up as a lieutenant-colonel in the Royal Engineers. But the school's most famous pupil must surely be Sir Archibald Nye, son of a sergeant-major, who joined the Duke of York's in 1904 and rose to the ultimate rank of field-marshal.

Another exhibit is a magnificent book of Common Prayer and the Psalms printed in 1750. Two drums are of particular interest; one, presented by the Queen, was used during the retreat from Mons and the other, dubbed the Malakoff Drum, was captured at Sebastopol. Then there is the will of a sergeant of the 25th Foot who died in Barbados in 1836. It has a special significance because the letter of administration was granted by William Howley, Archbishop of Canterbury from 1828 to 1848.

A collection of badges as worn in 1922, just prior to the first round of regimental amalgamations, is complemented by a display of modern badges, while nearby are a colourful arrangement of hackles and some pictures of the Royal Military Asylum in 1832 showing boys wearing the uniform of the day.

Some fine pieces of silver include two silver cups presented by the Royal Fusiliers and the Somerset Light Infantry, two silver gilt cups bearing the arms of the City of London and a silver inkstand presented to Lord Kitchener and given to the school by the present Lord Kitchener in memory of his great-uncle.

The Duke of York's School enjoys the distinction of carrying colours, the right to bear them having been granted in 1825 by George IV who presented the first colours which now hang in the chapel. New colours were presented to the school in 1897 by the Duke and Duchess of York, later George V and Queen Mary. Also in the chapel is the second and final stand of colours of the Royal Hibernian Military School, while ranged along a wall in the headquarters block are pictures of every Commissioner from the Duke of York to the present day.

Finally, there are two pictures of the first importance dominating the spacious dining hall — a full length portrait of Frederick, Duke of York, the school's founder, by Sir William Beechey (1753-1839) and the original of that famous painting, *Sons of the Brave* by Phil Morris ARA (1836-1902).

John Jesse

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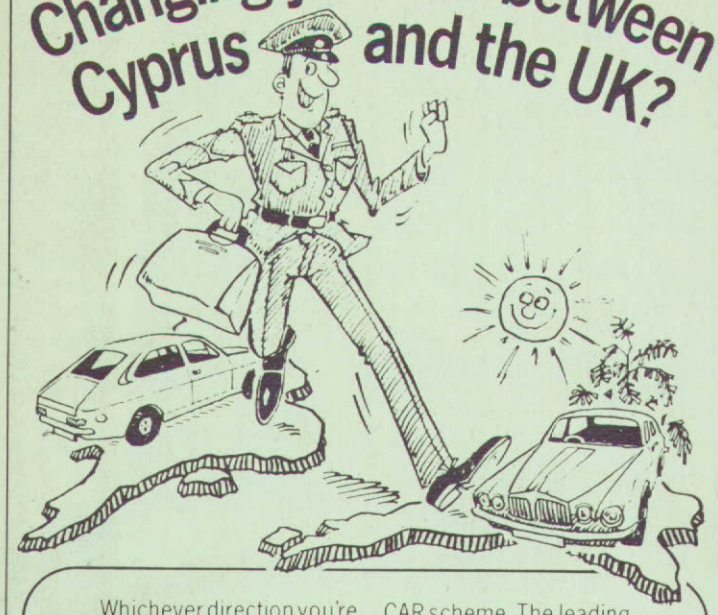

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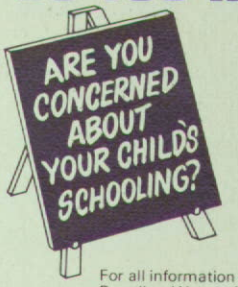

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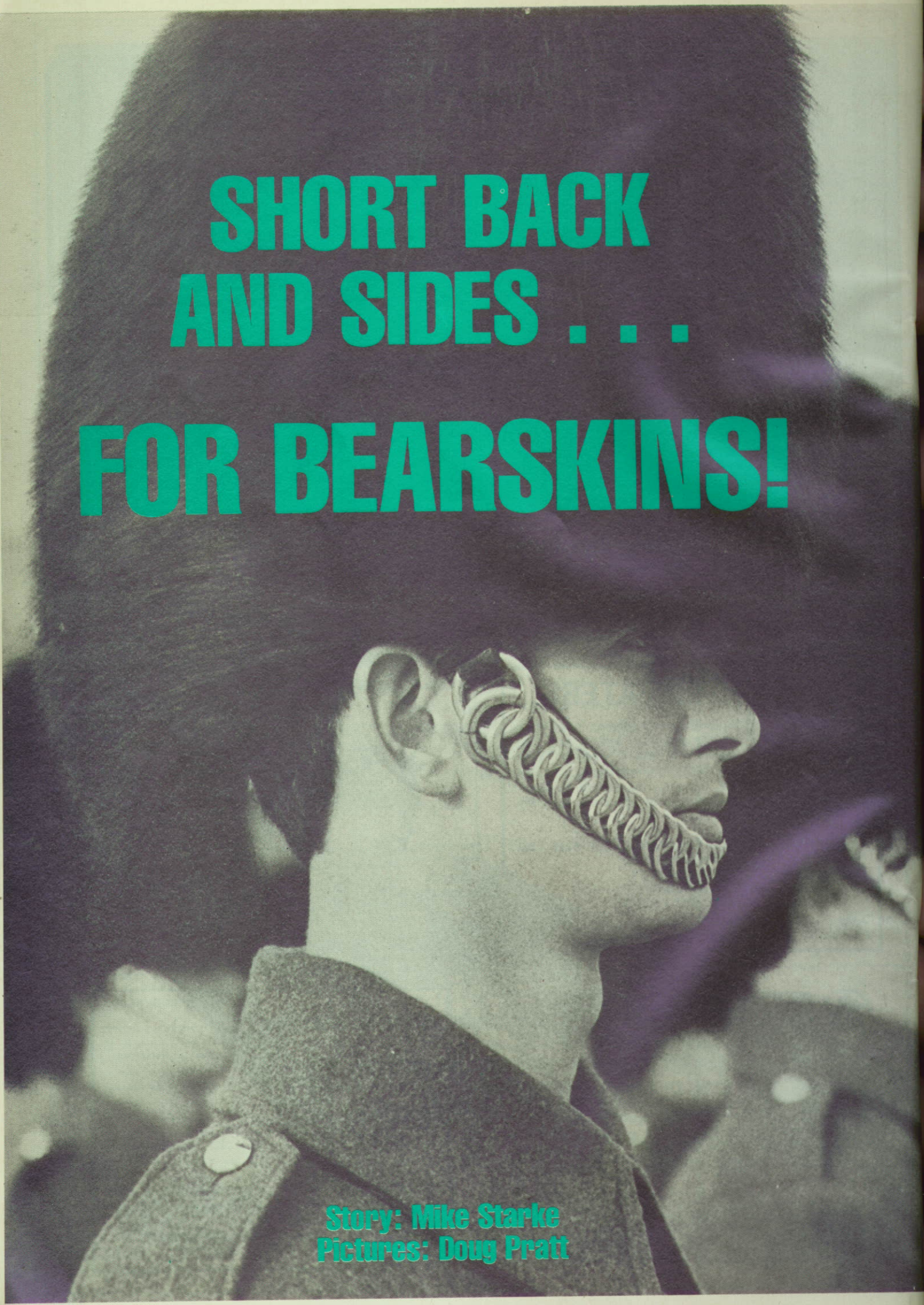


Story: Mike Starke
Pictures: Doug Pratt

THE IMMACULATE TURNOUT of Her Majesty's Foot Guards on ceremonial duties in London is a source of national as much as regimental pride. And the sight of the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace ranks high in the list of priorities on the itinerary of tourists visiting Great Britain.

The drill, spit and polish that draw admiring looks from the crowds on these ceremonial occasions is often taken for granted. But a great deal of hard work and preparation go into it behind the scenes.

Not least among the chores that this involves is the constant grooming needed to keep the guardsmen's bearskin head-dresses in immaculate condition. For such is the hardy nature of the pelt used in the manufacture of bearskins that the hair continues to grow and has to be regularly trimmed to keep it tidy.

It's all because of the Russians. For bearskin head-dresses were adopted — and adapted — by Napoleon's élite Imperial Guard from the fur bonnets of the Cossacks they faced in the abortive French invasion of Russia in the bitter winter of 1812.

The Cossack caps — and the French derivatives — were made from the skins of the hardy Russian bears that roamed the wintry wastes of the Steppe immune to the rigours of the cold thanks to their thick fur and equally thick skin. And it is this skin, zoologists have since discovered, that holds the secret of the continued growth of the fur even after the pelt is removed from the beast.

For its thickness is such that it retains enough of the essential hormones and animal fats to sustain hair growth — in temperate climates almost indefinitely.

The secret of the novel headgear passed to the British Foot Guards after the Battle of Waterloo where they distinguished themselves against Napoleon's seasoned conquerors to play a large part in winning the day.

From captured officers of the Imperial Guard their British counterparts learnt about the bearskins and, as a reward for their actions on the battlefield, the Duke of Wellington gave them his personal permission to adopt the bearskin head-dress for themselves. Russian bear pelts were acquired and production was soon under way under Order One of Army Personal Refurbishments, which is still to be found in the archives of the

Above: "Get that bearskin cut . . .!"

Below: . . . And the barber obliges after parade.

A satisfied customer checks the barber's work.

Household Division and bears the personal signature of the Iron Duke.

Such is the durability of the bearskin, with its ability to replenish its own growth, that some of these original models are still in good condition and a few are actually worn today on ceremonial occasions by senior officers of the Household Division.

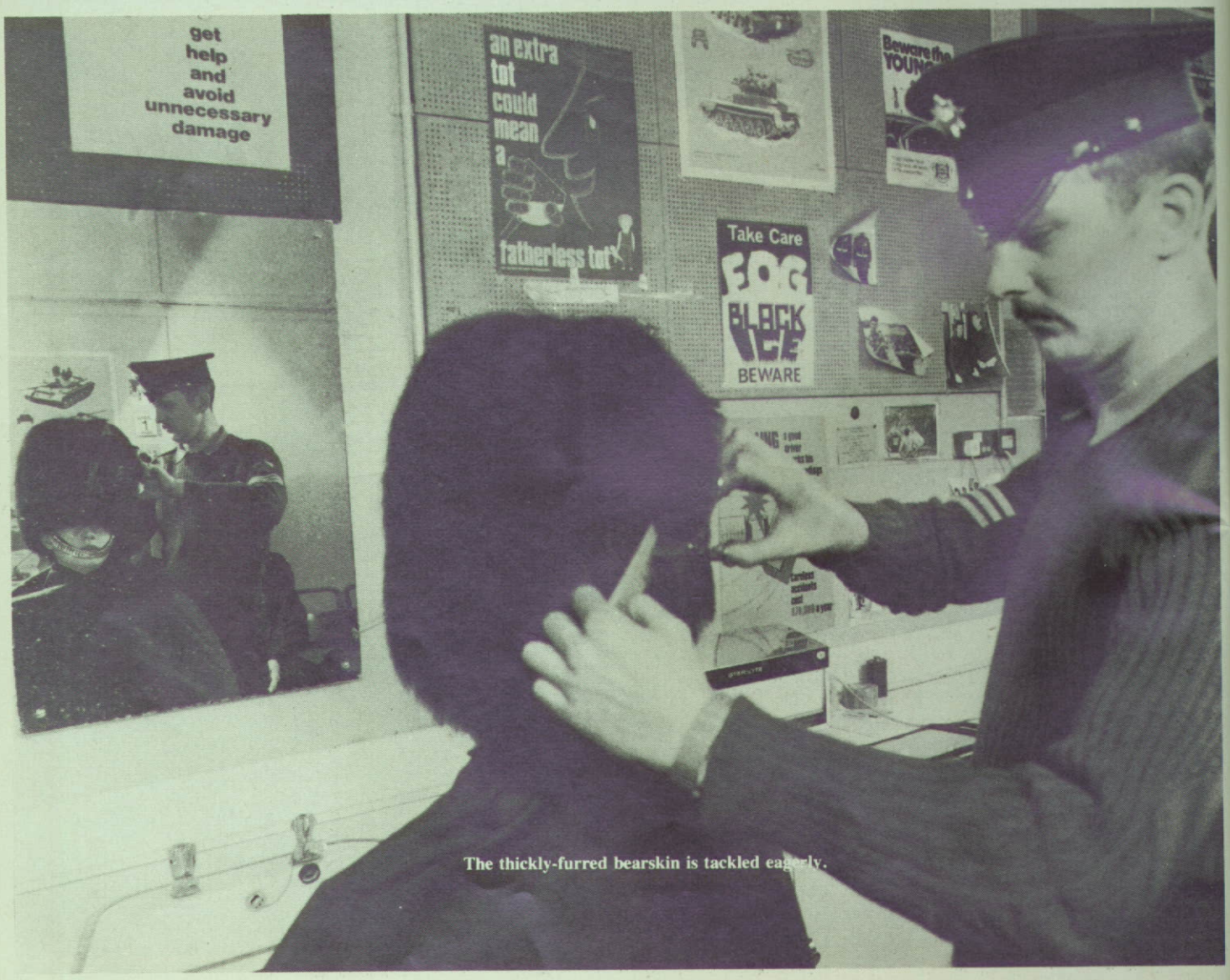
But production of new bearskins has gone on throughout the years, and continues today — still under authority of the original order by the Duke of Wellington — in the skilled hands of specially trained military milliners attached to the Household Division.

Heading the London-based team is Major I A Prylle — a retired Guards officer himself — who explained to SOLDIER the current difficulty facing his small band of bearskin manufacturers.

Ironically, the Cold War has frozen up supplies of Russian bear pelts. But luckily research revealed that the skins of some of the most northerly-dwelling Canadian Grizzly bears have the same self-regenerating properties as the Russian bears' furs.

"Our main problem is getting enough of the things", said Major Prylle, "It takes a whole pelt to make one bearskin head-dress — only the fur from the back of the bear is used — and the animals are carefully protected by conservation-conscious Canadians." So the only pelts available are the few acquired during the annual cull of the northern bear population carried out by the Canadian Government under strict control.

Major Prylle added: "This means that we



The thickly-furred bearskin is tackled eagerly.

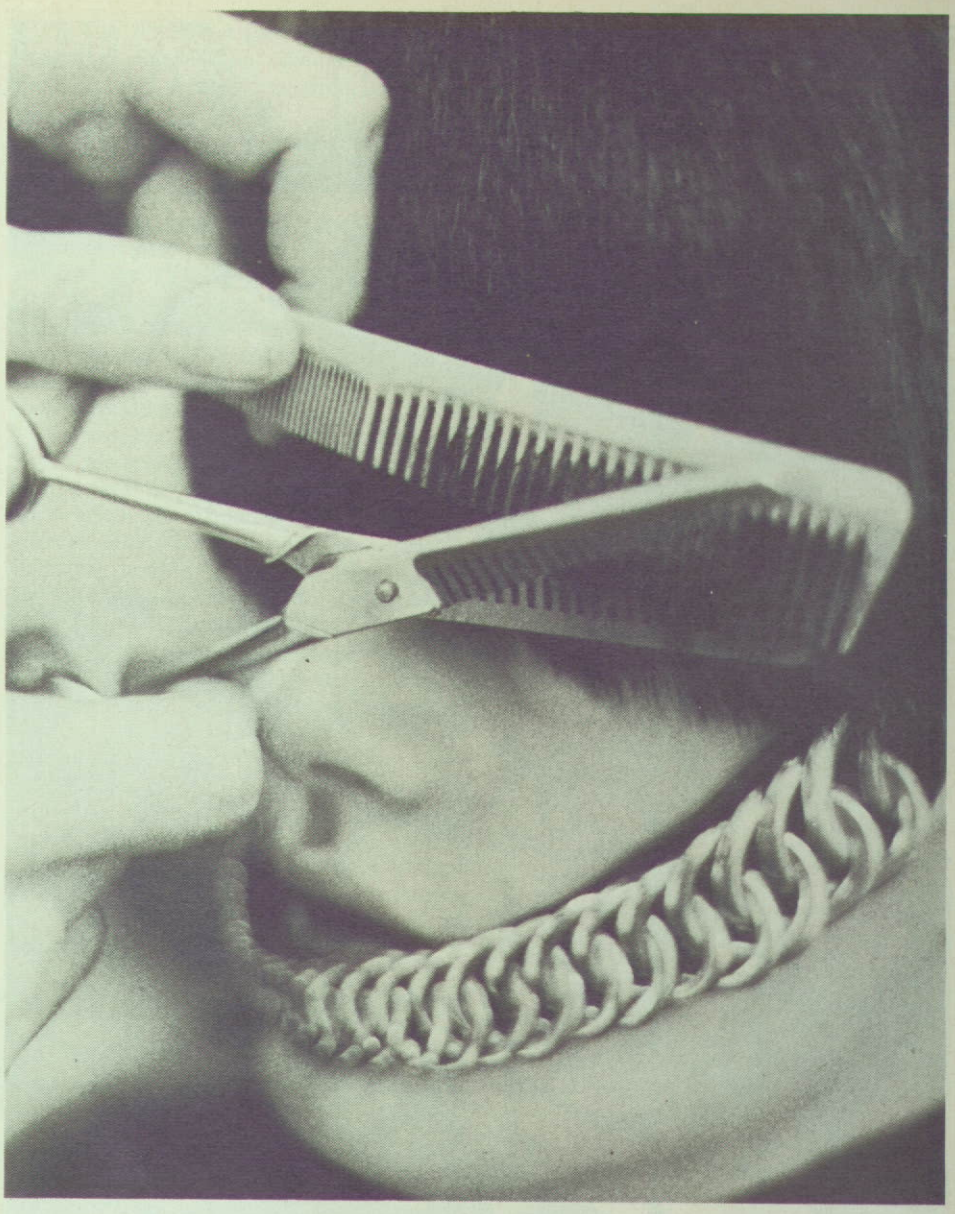
are having to take more and more care of our older bearskins and many date back to World War One and earlier and have been passed down by generations of Guardsmen from father to son. We have one that was worn at Lucknow during the Indian Mutiny and another which survived the Siege of Ladysmith."

The latter, apparently, was one of ten bearskins popped up on the end of bayonets to act as decoys and help delude the Boers as to the strength of the beleaguered garrison.

A more immediate problem than the replenishment of depleted bearskin stocks regularly faces the guardsmen of today who have to maintain the immaculate turnout for which they are famous. For the ever-growing bearskin fur has to be trimmed — not as often as the wearer's hair — but nonetheless, several times a year.

A regulation four inches of length is allowed to the fur and this is carefully monitored by regimental barbers in the Household Division. Said one of them: "The trouble is that the older bearskins grow slower than the newer models so we have to keep a constant watch on growth at special parades in barracks. The public has no idea the preparation that goes on behind the scenes to see that bearskins are kept properly trimmed. And woe betide us if the Sergeant-Major is not satisfied with our work!"

But neither the barbers nor the Sergeant-Major need have any fears — the constant stream of admiring visitors who praise the turnout of the Guards on ceremonial duty bear witness to the fact that the would-be unruly locks of the bearskins that once adorned the backs of fierce, roaming wild animals have been satisfactorily tamed to suit their military role.



Right: Close-up of snipping action over the eyes.
Below: Then it's back on guard, smart as ever.

"ORDNANCE DEPOTS . . . WITHOUT ANY STORES!"

TROOPS ON EXERCISE in sometimes remote or exotic places need to concentrate all their efforts on training in the short time available to them. So supporting units get attached to them to cope with their daily needs and one of the most vital is the Local Resources Section — a handful of experts from the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

"We are an ordnance depot without any stores!" was the paradoxical summary Captain Phillip Hughes made of his 170 Local Resource Section, recently in Kenya for some three or four months supporting both infantry and sappers on exercise there.

There is one other LRS (numbered 270) dealing with United Kingdom Land Forces exercises, and both are part of 10 Ordnance Support Battalion RAOC based at Devizes in Wiltshire.

Only the officers commanding are posted to the tiny units. The staff-sergeant, sergeant, two corporals and a driver that make up the ideal strength of an LRS are

Left: Captain Hughes inspects exotic fruit.

Below: Mighty cuts of meat destined for troops.

Right: Anything from nails to pails is bought.

found from the bulk of the battalion in Devizes. They are attached to the LRS set-up for three years in what is basically a supply clerk trade.

But this small number of men are not always available to make up a section when more than one exercise is on at any one time. This calls for a good deal more hard work from the depleted numbers but the general opinion is that it is a good job for a single man: "Here you can really join the Army and see the world," said one. He had been to The Gambia, Germany, Italy and then Kenya all in the same year. But he stressed that it was no life for a married man who would be constantly separated from his family.

Variety was the spice of life for the section in Kenya. The six of them rotated between Nanyuki — the main exercise headquarters some 110 miles north of Nairobi in the shadow of snow-capped Mount Kenya and in the midst of bushland packed with exotic big game — Nairobi itself and Mombasa where the exercise troops spent their rest and recuperation periods on the sweltering coast.

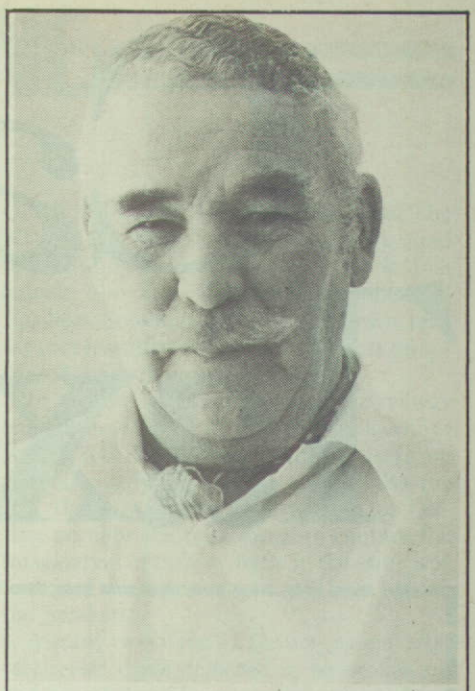
But the real reason for 170 LRS to be deployed was not to look at Africa. They had a job to do and that involved providing the units it served with everything from steaks for the cookhouse to staples for the clerks. They also had responsibility for seeing that the local authorities collected the rubbish regularly, that the electricity bill was paid and that the telephone bill was settled too. In fact, everything that goes into good housekeeping at home — but on a far bigger scale with the 'household' consisting of several hundred men.

The budget is split into 24 separate cash votes covering the many different departments which the LRS staff have to keep stocked from local sources. One of the most important aspects of budgeting is the calculation of the CILOR — Cash In Lieu Of Rations — a straight figure per man per day laid down by UKLF. The LRS has to work out what can be obtained from the locality for each man to eat each day and tailor this to the scales he should get.

Increases in budgets can be made after reference back to UKLF. The only ones not limited are the two medical ones — for supplies and hospital bills. If the LRS has done its reconnaissance homework properly, the budgets should not creak at the seams half way through a major exercise. But problems — big and small — always crop up and the LRS has to be flexible enough to cope quickly and effectively with them.

For 170 LRS in Nanyuki they ranged from having to procure three tons of flour for bread at a moment's notice to finding a wall hand basin for the Royal Engineers to add the finishing touches to a community relations project in a local hospital.

But it's all in a day's work for a Local Resources Section. And as Captain Hughes concluded: "You're never quite sure it's all going to happen until it has!"



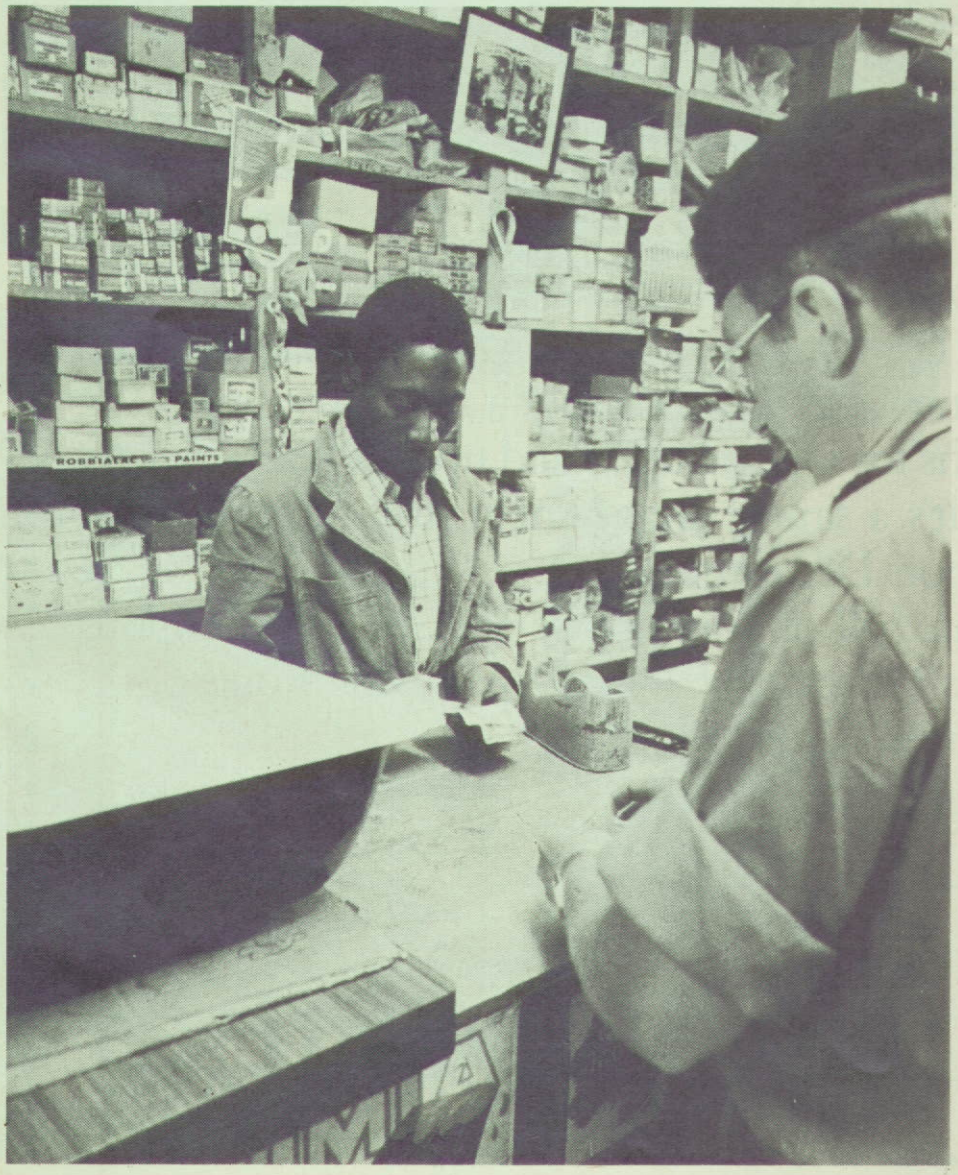
One of the local butchers in Nanyuki who supplied the recent exercise troops served by 170 Local Resources Section with meat is himself an ex-soldier. As Captain Hughes did one of his regular inspections of the meat being sold to the Army, Mr Jack Wright reminisced about his life in his trade.

He first came to Kenya in 1941 as a member of the Royal Army Service Corps in order to set up a field butchery to serve some 7,000 Italian prisoners of war housed in the Nanyuki area.

At the end of the war he stayed on until all the Italians were repatriated and left the Army in 1947. But he still stuck to his old trade and was soon supplying meat to British Forces and their families stationed in Kenya.

When Kenya became independent in 1963 Mr Wright still found customers in Nanyuki from the Kenyan Army.

Now a Kenyan citizen, he has kept up his connection with 'the old country' by supplying meat for the exercises that visit his adopted town twice a year.



"I have a feeling they aren't very happy about the food."

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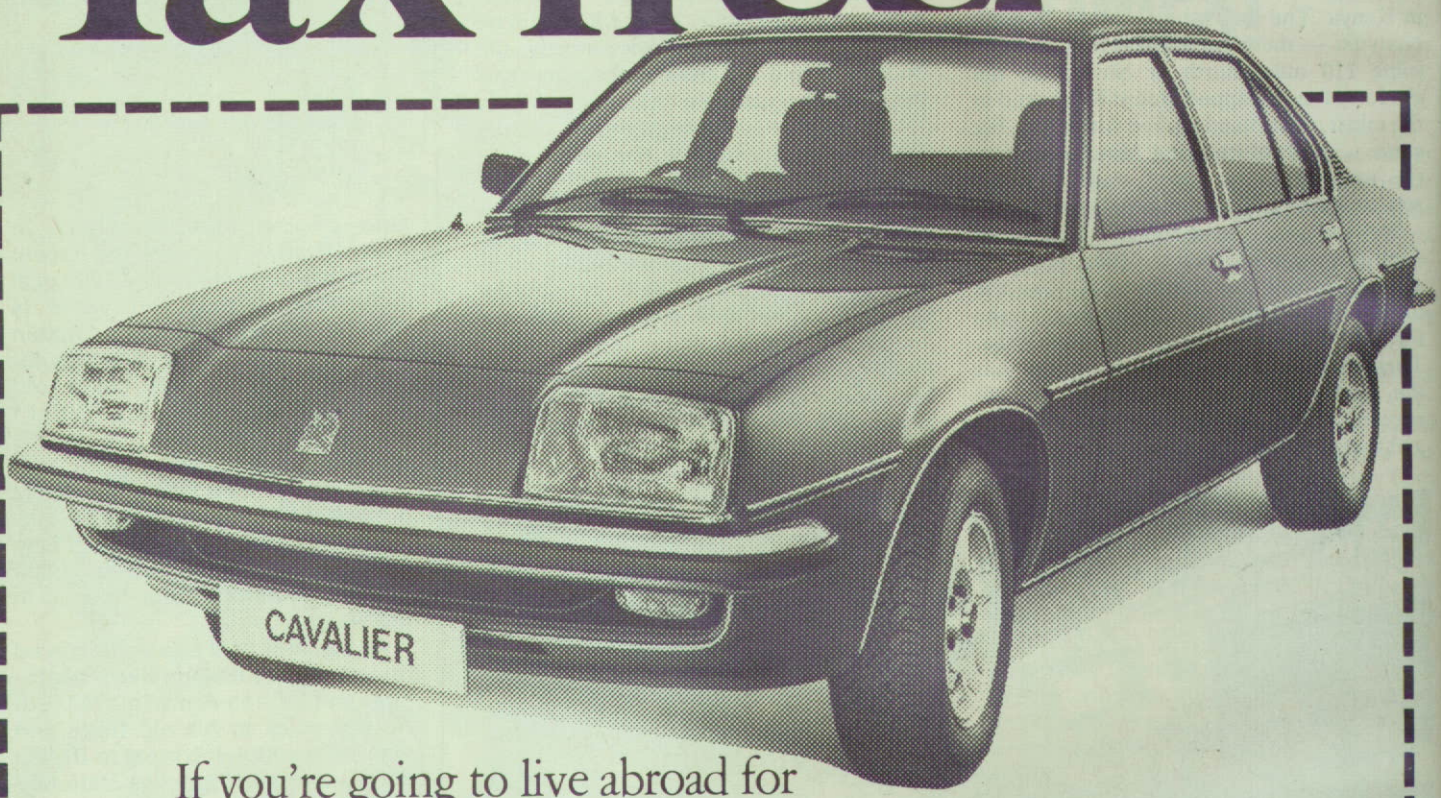

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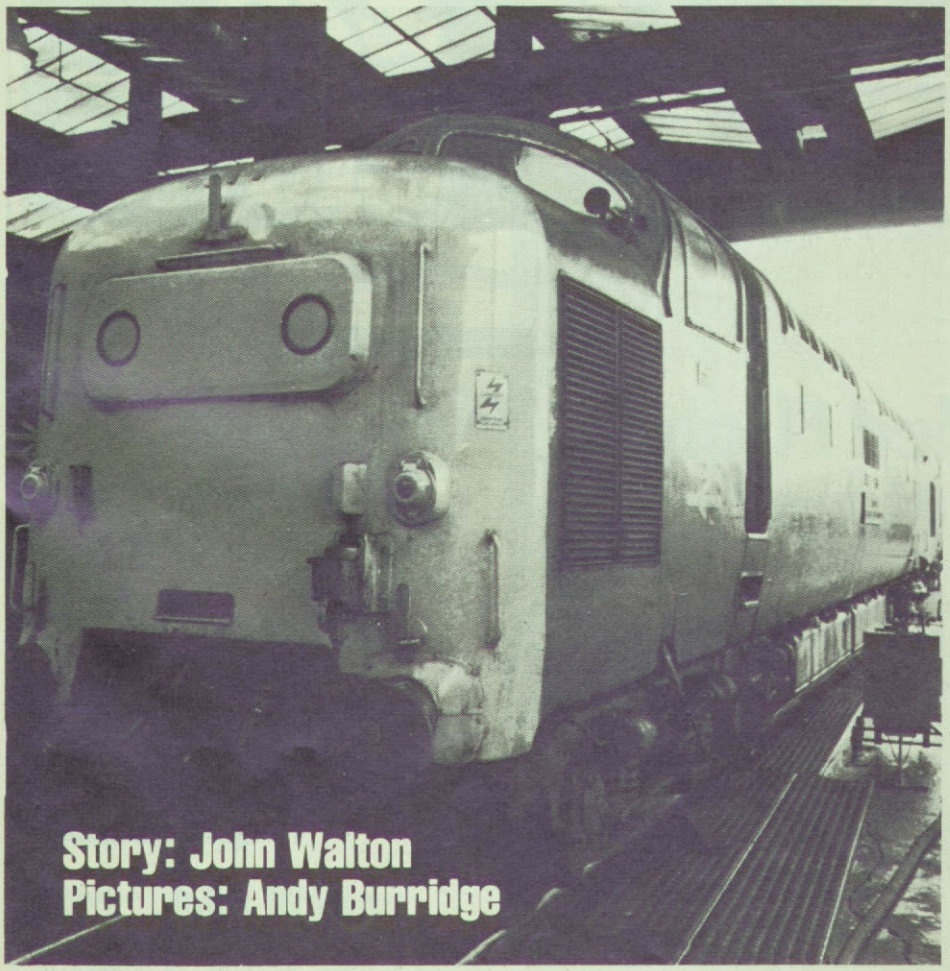

Story: John Walton
Pictures: Andy Burridge

QUEEN'S OWN HIGHLANDER and The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry stood to attention inside a large shed in York. Just outside — The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers. Something odd about this you may say (not least that two of the regiments disappeared more than a decade ago).

In fact the 'regiments' were three railway engines — 'Deltics' — whose illustrious British Rail careers over nearly 20 years are now gradually drawing to a close. By the mid-1980's it is likely that most of the Deltics, perhaps the only diesel to capture the imagination of railway buffs in the same way as the old steam performers, will have gone to the breakers.

Already two of the 22 Deltics, named after racehorses, have departed to be broken up and cannibalised for spares in order to keep the rest of the fleet going for what remains of their active life.

Fourteen of the Deltics were named with pomp and ceremony after regiments when the Deltics first came into service in the early sixties. The others are The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, The Fife and Forfar Yeomanry, The Green Howards, The King's Own Scottish Borderer, Royal Highland Fusilier, The Black Watch, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, The Durham Light Infantry, Argyll and Sutherland Highlander, Gordon Highlander and Royal Scots Grey.

When the Deltics were introduced they were the most powerful small unit diesel locomotives in the world and they became the mainstay of the Inter-City services from Kings Cross to the north and Scotland. During their service each engine is estimated to have clocked up two and three quarter million miles!

But last summer they were replaced by high speed trains on the Scottish run — with the exception of night sleeper services. Now all of the regimental engines are based at York and carry the city's coat of arms while the remaining 'racehorses' are operated from Finsbury Park in London.

Today the old 'regiments' are usually seen on the semi-fast York to Kings Cross service as well as between London and Hull and Cleethorpes. And from time to time they run between York and Liverpool.

Ray Ekins, traction supervisor at York, served his apprenticeship on Deltics at Doncaster. Now at York he is working with them again. He enthuses: "They are like a racing car in that they have the best power to weight ratio on any British Rail engine. Because they have to be more finely tuned there is much more of the craftsman element in our work."

So the Deltics fade slowly into the sunset. But the tradition of naming trains after regiments, which dates back until at least the 1920's, will not die. Other classes of locomotives already bear famous military names. And the advanced passenger trains soon to come into service? Well the whisper is that some of those may have regimental affiliations as well.

Left: Above and below, some of the names and one of the engines being gradually phased out.

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Sixty-five years ago he was the British Army's youngest ever officer. Now Dr K Vernon Bailey, happy in retirement says...

"WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT?"

ON PAGE 185 of that compendium of the brave and the batty, the speedy and the strong — the *Guinness Book of Records* — is a modest entry recording that Dr Kenneth Vernon Bailey served as a second lieutenant in the 2nd/8th Battalion, Manchester Regiment for some six weeks before his 17th birthday in 1914.

Today Dr Bailey, still hale and hearty and looking 20 years younger than his 82 years, lives quietly in a Yorkshire village only a stone's throw from Catterick Garrison and is unimpressed by all the fuss.

"This is one of the sleepiest little villages in the country and it suits me after my hectic life" he told the SOLDIER team who went to photograph and interview him.

Dr Bailey was born on 14 December 1897 and at the age of 16 was accepted as a medical student at Manchester University. But this was just after the outbreak of the First World War and constant calls were being made for volunteers.

He was already a member of the University OTC and had attended a week-end camp. "Whether it was this that made me feel something of a soldier or whether this combined with the intense atmosphere of the time, I can't say. I decided to forsake the study of medicine for the time being — after all we were told the war would only last for a short time — and join the fray."

Dr Bailey went for an interview at the Manchester battalion's headquarters and was told by the Commanding Officer that he was too young — whereupon a major interjected "Well sir. He will grow older". Says the doctor: "Those few words determined the course of my life over the next four years".

His name appeared in the London Gazette on 1 March 1915 when he was 17 years and three months but Dr Bailey says that his commission was ante-dated to the date he joined the battalion.

During 1915 and 1916 his battalion spent time training and preparing for Gallipoli but while returning to Crowborough camp in Sussex from his leave before embarkation the young lieutenant was involved in a motorcycle accident. He ended up in hospital and was prevented from joining the draft for Gallipoli. His replacement was killed there.

Like all old soldiers who survived while their comrades went under, Dr Bailey feels that he had a 'charmed life' during those war years. In March 1918 he was captured by the Germans. Their position was over-run and afterwards the Germans expressed surprise that they had resisted for so long — "we are six miles beyond you". Only a few of the thin forward line left to cover the retreat lived to be captured.

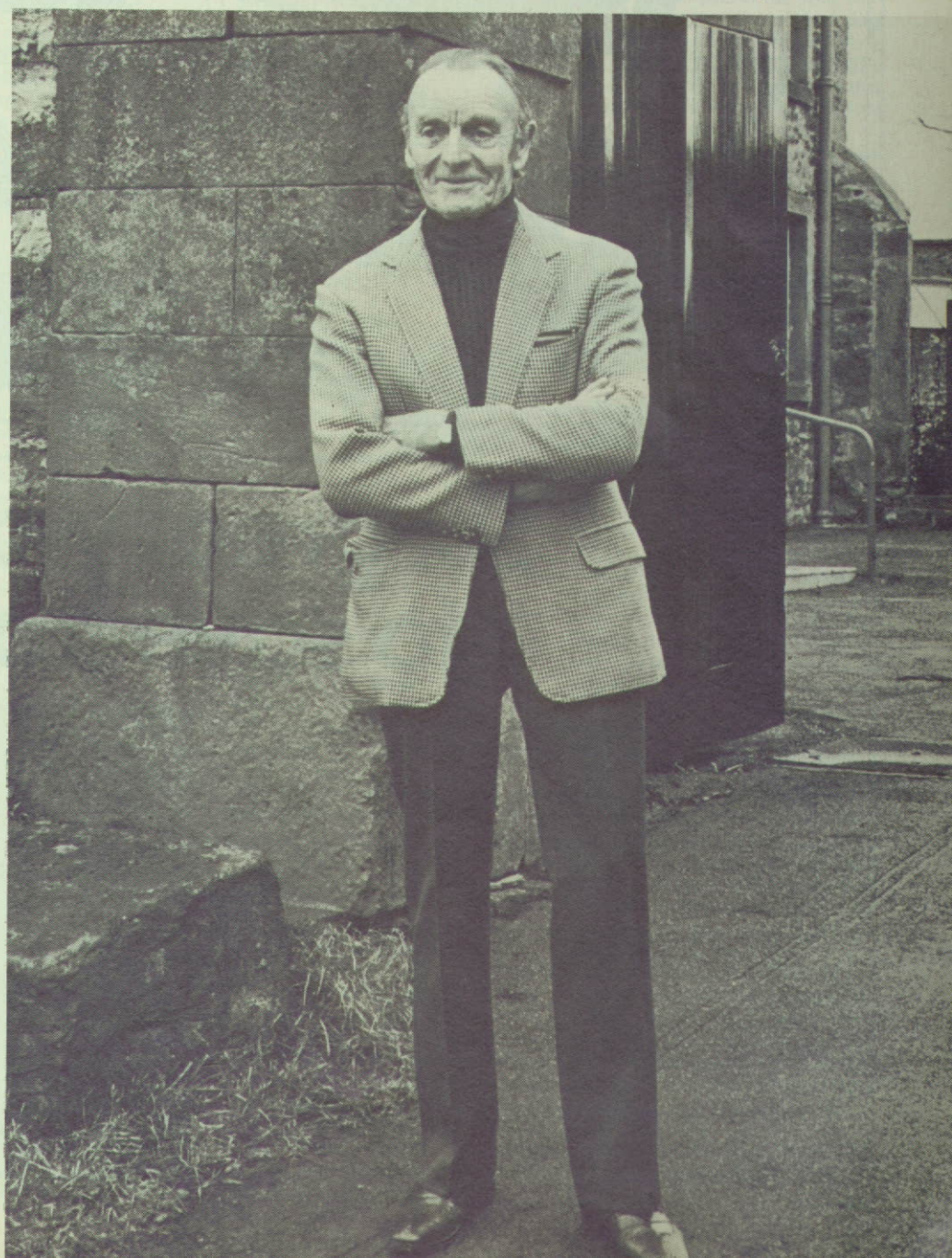
Dr Bailey has long been a critic of the helmets and boots issued to British soldiers and in the early days of the Second World War he submitted a suggestion that they should be improved.

Yet ironically it was the design of the helmet which actually saved his life during the First World War. Leaving a trench under shellfire his helmet caught on the iron roof and was knocked from his head. As he turned to grab it another lieutenant brushed past — and was immediately killed by a shell.

"I have often thought that had I been wearing a helmet of an efficient type the outcome would have been different" he says. "But in spite of the tragic death of my good friend and colleague I have not altered my view as to the need for improvements."

Although he did not rejoin the Army in the Second World War (as a gynaecologist serving five hospitals he was in great demand at home) Dr Bailey became Medical Officer for the North West Home Guard — training stretcher bearers and so on for 12 battalions of the 'Dad's Army'.

Now he is happy with the peace and quiet of North Yorkshire. "I only hope this doesn't attract a lot of attention" he said. "If you get letters for me just tear them up."



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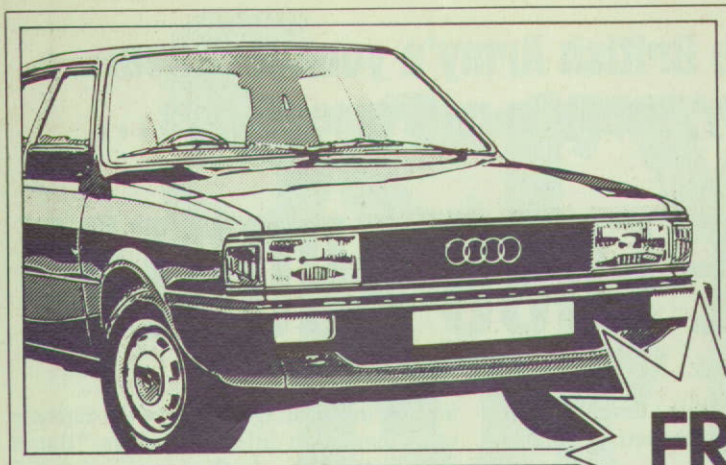

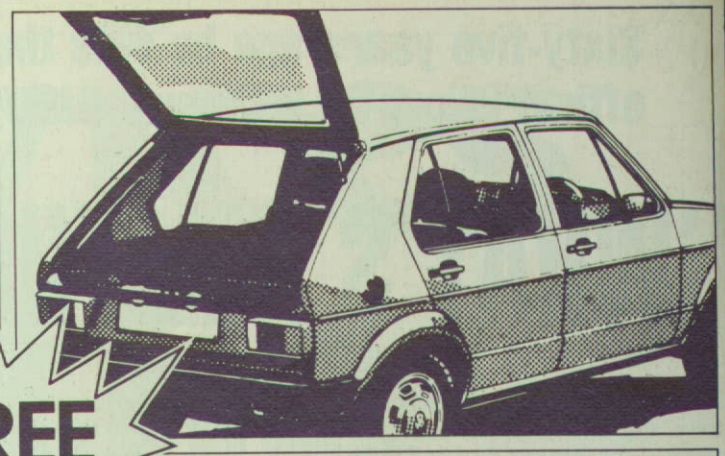

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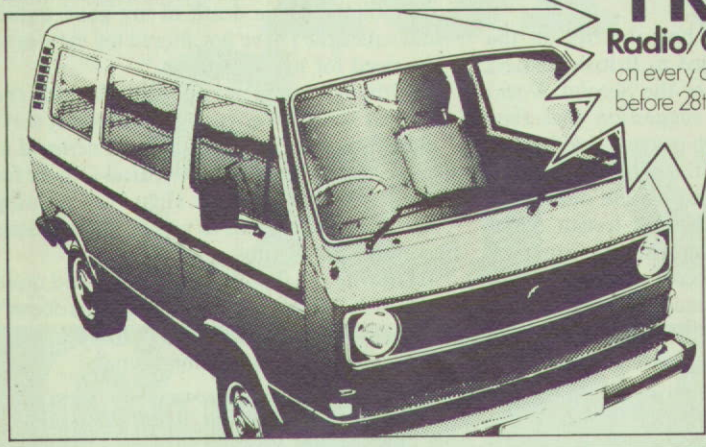

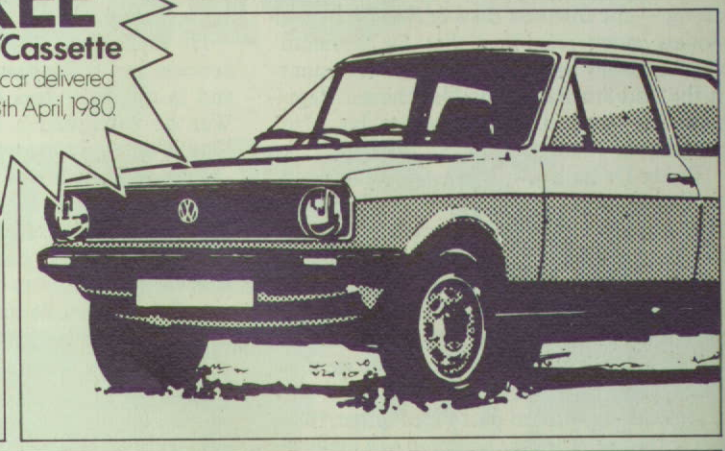

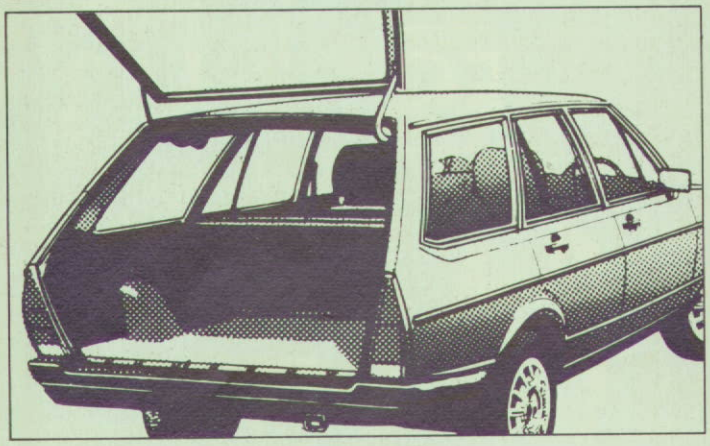

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BOOKS

Guns

'Canada's Guns' (Leslie W C S Barnes)
Mr Barnes is an Englishman who graduated in economics at Cambridge but for many years was Canada's Director of Proof and Ballistics. The connection seems to have been a World War Two concern with ballistics and a posting to Canada.

He tells the story of Canada's guns against a background of the worldwide development of artillery and does it in admirably plain layman's language. The book is illustrated with beautifully reproduced black-and-white pictures. There could have been more of them but for an extravagantly wasteful use of white space in the design.

Having previously supplied herself with guns and ammunition from Britain and elsewhere, Canada did not contribute much to the story of artillery before World War One. Then her arms industry mushroomed from almost nothing to produce shells by the million for Allied guns.

A Canadian staff officer, Lt-Col A G L McNaughton in that war also devised more scientific ways of using artillery on the Western Front. In World War Two, Canada produced the valuable Sexton self-propelled gun by mounting the British 25-pounder on the chassis of the Ram, the unsuccessful Canadian attempt to produce a tank. In that war, the same A G L McNaughton, now a general, had a hand in developing the 'discarding sabot' anti-tank shell. Canadian mastery of the 'discarding sabot' principle enabled McGill University to fire research vehicles 90 miles into space from a 16.5-inch smooth-bore gun in the 1960's.

National Museum of Canada Publications and Marketing, 300 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa K1A OM8, Canada — $9.95 **RLE**

Expansion

'US Army Handbook 1939-45' (George Forty)
The expansion of the United States Army from that of a third-rate military power in 1939 to perhaps the mightiest in the world by 1945 was described by Sir Winston Churchill as "a prodigy of organisation". It grew from 174,000 to 8,300,000, outnumbered by the Russians but leading the world in weaponry, mobility and logistics.

Lt Col Forty has distilled something of those years into a concise and generously illustrated volume intended for wargamers, modellers and others who share his fascination for the 'nitty-gritty of the forces of all nations'.

He describes mobilisation and training, organisation (with plenty of charts), troops, equipment, tactics, and there is information on such disparate subjects as ground radios, shoulder-patches, medals and rations.

Ian Allan, Shepperton, TW17 8AS, £5.95 **RLE**

Revolvers

'The Colt Heritage' (R L Wilson)
Since Samuel Colt first went into production with his revolvers in 1830, more than 400 distinct Colt models have been marketed and 25 million weapons sold. Mr Wilson estimates that today between 25,000 and 50,000 collectors are pursuing them. Good specimens of many types can be bought for less than $1500 but good engraved guns can fetch more than $35,000.

This book is the ninth by Mr Wilson with 'Colt' in its title. It is lavishly illustrated with colour-plates, as its price warrants. They show a seemingly endless number of decorated weapons, some modestly engraved, some extravagantly ornamented, with gold and silver featuring prominently.

Colt made the ivory-handled, engraved single-action which General George S Patton, then a young officer, ordered in 1916 and which he wore through World War Two. The book shows a gaudy, jewel-encrusted single-action model used by the bandmaster of Buffalo Bill's Wild West show as a baton; he punctuated the music by firing blanks from it. Colt established a tradition of presenting pistols to successive Presidents of the United States. The one made for John F Kennedy, but never presented, depicts the White House in raised gold on the cylinder.

Since 1961, Colt have added to the collectors' field by issuing more than 85 'commemorative models', ranging from the Civil War Single Shot Pistol with a production run of 24,114 to the 2nd Battle of the Marne automatic of which only 25 'special de luxe' examples were made.

Winding its way between the pictures and their extensive captions is the story of Samuel Colt, of his firm and of the development of Colt weapons. You might think all this a useful start for a would-be collector, but Mr Wilson sternly advises him first to invest about $400 in a good reference library. "In arms collecting, books are by far the best investment for the money," he says. They take up less room, too.

Jane's Publishing Co., Paulton House, 8 Shepherdess Walk, London, N1 7LW — £17.50 **RLE**

New forces

'Vehicles at War' (Denis Bishop and Chris Ellis)
The Industrial Revolution in Britain produced new forces to change the face of war. Steam and the internal combustion engine were to augment, and eventually to take the place of, the horse. The slow movement of armies was speeded, greater weights of material and armament could be carried into battle and the set-piece engagements of foot and horse soldiers were to be superseded by heavier, longer battles on wider fronts.

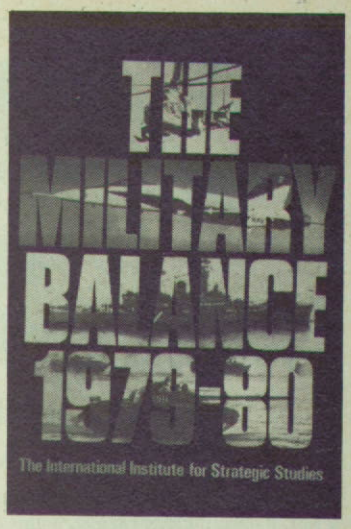
This book shows the development from the earliest days of mechanised military transport, approximately from the time of the Crimean War, although even in World War Two many millions of horses were still being used on the battlefield and in the lines of communication. Tanks, armoured cars, personnel carriers, bridgelayers are all included, as well as all varieties of soft-skinned vehicles, including amphibians and motor-cycles. There are no chapters, the story being chronological and supported by 486 illustrations — 225 of them in colour. There are very few captions, reference to each picture or drawing being close by in the text.

The vehicles of every country are shown in much clear detail, their development and use in the many theatres of war being recorded and explained. This is a volume that will give satisfied study for many hours and will be referred to again and again by every owner.

George Allen & Unwin Ltd, 40 Museum Street, London, WC1A 1LU — £15 **GRH**

Facts and figures

'The Military Balance 1979-80'
This annual assesses the military power and defence expenditures of the countries of the world. The facts and figures have been collected and set out in a useful order by the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London. Details of navies, armies and air forces, gross national products and defence budgets are among the mass of material included. The text is supplemented by a photographic section compiled by the publishers.



The countries are arranged in geographical groups and reference is made to the various pacts in operation, such as Nato and Warsaw, or which may have recently faded, such as Cento. Therefore, it is easy to compare possible opposing forces in Europe, the Mediterranean, Middle East, Asia, Africa and other parts of the world. Population figures, types and length of military service, details of armour, ships and aircraft are all included.

The second part of the book contains tables of comparisons, including nuclear strengths and characteristics, the comparative strengths of armed forces from 1958 to 1979, helicopter characteristics, arms production, arms agreements and so on.

Finally there are two useful analyses: The East-West Theatre Balance in Europe and the Balance of Theatre Nuclear Forces in Europe. This is not merely a useful book of reference but a must for the dedicated historian, the military journalist and the enthusiastic student.

Arms & Armour Press, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London, NW3 1QQ — £5.95 **GRH**

Border booklet

'Border Warfare' (Anthony Tuck)
A useful little booklet of 26 pages dealing with the history of conflict in that English-Scottish borderland north of the Tyne-Solway gap and south of the Forth-Clyde isthmus. It was prepared by the Department of the Environment's Directorate of Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings, which is in a unique position to do justice to the 2000 years of history reflected in the castles, defensive walls and buildings which it helps preserve in the area.

Hadrian's Wall, across the southern extremity of the borderland, and the later and shorter Antonine Wall, across the northern boundary, are but two of the landmarks that still exist to guide the student and the historian through the times of Romans, Angles, Vikings, Normans and, later, the English and Scottish kings.

This is merely a brief history but there are a dozen illustrations to supplement it. For those who would travel and see the borderland for themselves there is, in Ravensdowne Barracks, Berwick-upon-Tweed a permanent exhibition, also entitled 'Border Warfare'.

Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Holborn Viaduct, London, EC1P 1BN — 70p **GRH**

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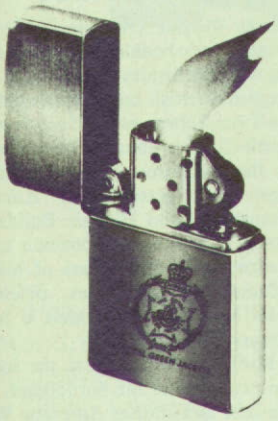

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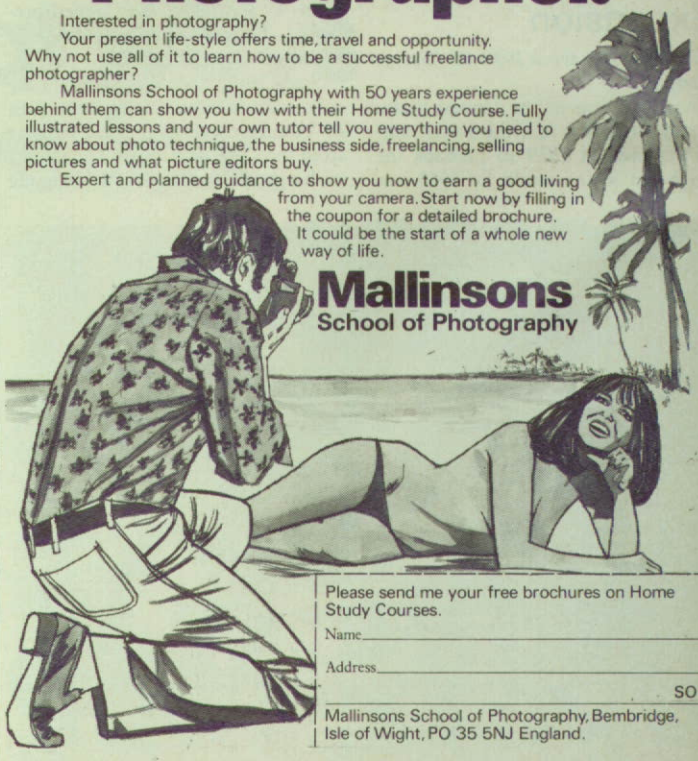

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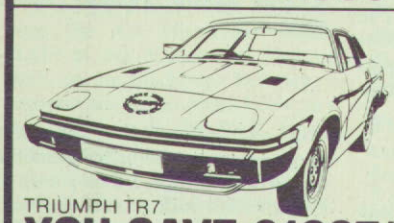

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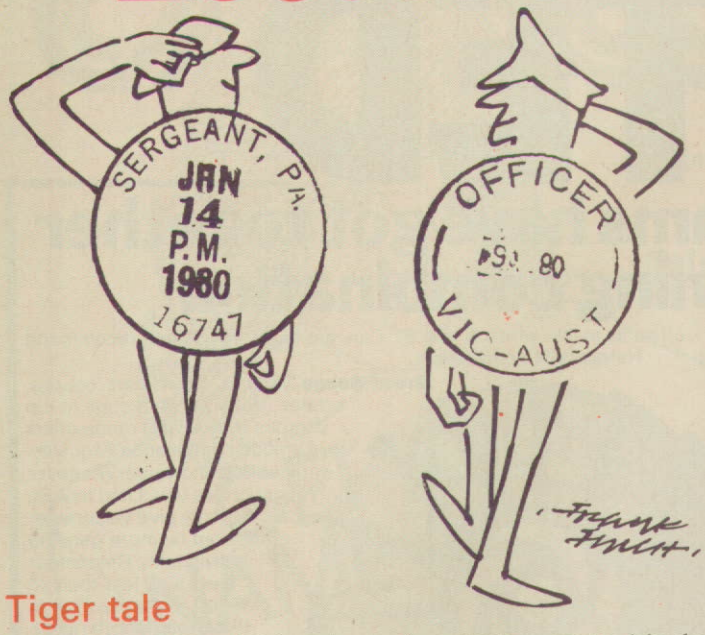
Letters



Tiger tale

Mr John Bosworth states that the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of my regiment receive too many recruits from Leicestershire. He further states that the Royal Leicestershire Regiment (the 'Tigers') was disbanded. I would like to take this opportunity to clarify a few points.

Firstly, the 'Tigers' were not disbanded at all. In fact, they were amalgamated into the Royal Anglian Regiment on 1 September 1964.

On 9 September 1970, the 4th Battalion (as the 'Tigers' became) were reduced in strength to a company — known as Tiger Company. This was because of Government expenditure cuts. From 1970-73 Tiger Company became the demonstration troops for the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

Now, because of further cutbacks, Tiger Company has been amalgamated into my battalion — correctly titled The 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment (Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire). Furthermore, the Tiger is worn by all ranks of the regiment on their buttons.

The 2nd Battalion or 'Poachers' are keen to establish links with their counties and our regimental information teams visit them regularly. Therefore, Mr Bosworth must now surely see that if a young man joins the 2nd Battalion then he is joining the linear successor to the Royal Leicestershire Regiment. — **L/Cpl A Harrington, 2nd Bn Royal Anglian Regt, Montgomery Barracks, BFPO 45.**

Tigers too

I would like to comment on two issues mentioned recently in SOLDIER.

To answer John Bosworth's question (February) on the demise of the Royal Leicesters, we must go back to the sixties when the 'Tigers' became 4th Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment. This was seemingly a blessing as six other East Midland and Anglian county regiments had had to pair off before assuming the Anglian title, but in due course the 4th Battalion, being junior, was the first to go when cuts were demanded of the Royal Anglians. This, coupled with the disagreeable knowledge that the 'Tigers' were not the junior regiment of the East Anglian Brigade, makes them the most senior regiment in the Army to suffer disbandment. One realises that cuts have to be made of the plethora of regiments amassed by bygone governments, but to axe a regiment with such unique customs and character, without proper safeguard for its traditions, must remain a disgrace to modern planning.

On the controversy of the new dress uniform, I think the fault lies in retaining the lapelled coat — a compromise with civilian uniforms. A bottle-green coat buttoned to the neck would make a soldier feel and look the part, but, ignoring the wishes of the Directorate of Clothing, regimental dress customs must be supported to the hilt. — **P Griffin, 481 Saffron Lane, Leicester.**

Puppets

I would like to endorse recent comments by SOLDIER readers regarding arm swinging. As an ex-soldier, I used to enjoy watching the Remembrance Festival on TV, but for the last two years I have switched off in acute embarrassment after seeing the 'drill' now performed there.

The practice of shoulder height swinging in the Services nowadays is ludicrous. The Foot Guards and Scottish regiments can get away with it because they balance it by pushing the arms to rear, but the remainder of the Army and, surprisingly, the Royal Marines, make themselves look like clockwork puppets. This is especially so of single soldiers marching. Anyone watching the film of the Coronation can see that the single soldiers marching at the side of each carriage look completely ridiculous.

This sort of marching is uncomfortable and hard work, and rucks the tunic up around the belt. I know, I've had to do it many a time. It's about time the Army learned how to march. — **A Easdown, 40 Mountbatten Avenue, Chatham, Kent.**

Memorials

Except for some smaller village memorials, the placing of names of the Fallen on war memorials (SOLDIER to Soldier, February 1980) — so thoroughly carried out after World War One — seems generally not to have been continued for World War Two and conflicts, wars and emergencies that have cost the lives of so many since 1945. One wonders why, but most town memorials have a few words at the base to commemorate the dead of World War Two without naming individuals.

The more caring bodies are the parish churches. Many have Rolls of Honour and they could perhaps be approached by relatives of those who have given their lives in Northern Ireland. — **A R Blake, 24 New House Lane, Northfleet, Kent, DA11 7JW.**

Soldier

I have just written to the gentleman who requested information on the Attock Bridge memorial. It was put there to commemorate the 40th Pathans who fell in World War One.

I am interested in what I have heard expressed as the 'Pack Artillery Association'. Most people seem to think soldiers are chaps in red tunics at Buckingham Palace and are hopelessly ignorant of the real meaning of the word 'soldier'. Our old friend Mr Silvester of Chelmsford brought back memories of Saratoga Fort and many other famous names along the North West Frontier.

I remember Spike Milligan's father belting out horseshoes in the Field Artillery farrier's shop at Hyderabad. And I remember too, walking 298 weary miles with my mule, .303 rifle and 3.7 inch howitzer, with a bullet in the leg and a dead RSM of The East Yorkshire Regiment to talk about over a bottle of McKeown's Red Label.

Let's hear from some of the real old soldiers who spent at least six years of their colour service in the land where one never saw a Redcap or a guardsman. There must be many around who'd love to write to you of the wonderful days when record walks were up along Khyber and Kohat and not round Aintree Racecourse! — **M E D'Arcy, 'Glydene', Ashford Hill, Newbury, Berkshire, RG15 8BB.**

Bullet

A correspondent enquires (February) about the bullet memorial at Attock on the river Indus in Pakistan. I was driving from Rawalpindi to Peshawar on 20 January and stopped to look at this tall concrete reproduction of a .303 rifle bullet. It is the memorial of the 5th Battalion 14th Punjab Regiment; formerly the 40th Pathans, and affectionately known as the 'forty thieves'. The battle records have been brought to the close of the former Army of British India with the inscription 'Singapore'. — **Brigadier D A Pringle, The Old Rectory, Knights Enham, Andover, Hants, SP10 4DS.**

Bridge

With reference to Mr N Silvester's query regarding the bullet memorial near Attock Bridge, I took a snap of the bullet and made notes on the back. It was erected in memory of the 40th Pathan Regiment for services rendered during the Afghan War 1919.

Incidentally, we must have been in the same battery — 'H' Battery RHA, Southcote. When Mr Silvester left for 'I' Battery, Risalpur, I left for 'L' Battery, Trimalgherry. I was a signaller in 'H' Battery. Later the batteries swapped stations. — **Mr H E Wilson, 136 Birling Road, Erith, Kent, DA8 3HS.**

Guards

An old friend sent me your February issue — with its article on the 1st Battalion Scots Guards in Kenya. I joined their battalion thirty years ago in Egypt and have seen it in many theatres.

Congratulations on such a well-balanced and interesting piece of reporting. I thoroughly enjoyed 'being there' in word if not in fact! — **Major A T Philipson MBE, MA, MIPR, Limberlost, Ditchling, Sussex, BN6 8UE.**

Criminal

The German war criminal, Artur Seyss-Inquart (later hanged at Nuremberg) was arrested by men of 6th Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers (A Coy) at about 1630 hrs on May 7, 1945. This happened at a

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bridge over the Elbe. He was immediately handed over to 53 (W) Division. I am at present writing an article about the movements of Seyss-Inquart (who was Reichskommissar in Occupied Holland) during the final weeks of World War Two and would be grateful to receive any information from ex-soldiers belonging to the above mentioned units, about this arrest. — **Capt R C de Bruin (Retd), 34 Alexandra Road, Epsom, Surrey, KT17 4BT.**

Channel swim

Six of our boys are to undertake a cross-channel sponsored relay swim on 19/20 September 1980. The idea came from the boys themselves, and a committee of parents has been formed to manage the event. Various functions are in hand to raise money to finance the swim, including a sponsored walk along part of the North Downs Way on 17 May.

The boys hope to raise enough money by their swim to buy an inshore lifeboat for the Royal National Lifeboat Institute and for the School Foundation, a registered charity. If any SOLDIER readers would be interested in sponsoring their efforts, we should be delighted to hear from them. — **Lt Col K B Daynes, Combined Cadet Force, Wilson's School, Mollison Drive, Wallington, SM6 9JW.**

Beverley

I am writing a book, with assistance from the Air Historical Branch (RAF) of the Ministry of Defence (Air), on the Blackburn Beverley, a transport aircraft on which I flew, as a flight engineer in the RAF, for its entire Service life.

As an aircrew member, I flew hundreds of trips carrying soldiers, dropping paratroops, and dropping air-supply equipment, the latter being loaded and often despatched by soldiers of Air Despatch Units. I flew in the 'Bev' in the Arabian Peninsula, the Gulf and the Far East.

I want to include 'a soldier's eye view' of the aircraft in the book, and would welcome any anecdotes and accounts of interesting experiences from any Bev-travelled soldiers. I particularly need photographs for copying and return. — **W J A Overton, 8 Dalgleish Way, Asfordby, Melton Mowbray, Leics, LE14 3RX.**

Cockney Paras

I am in the process of organising a North London Branch of The Parachute Regimental Association. Eligibility for membership will be for those who have served with The Parachute Regiment, or any airborne unit, or formation, including TA. Anyone not having joined the Association previously, will be given the opportunity to do so through the proposed branch. Those concerned may write or telephone me direct. An SAE will be appreciated. — **L E Nicolaides, 63 Rowstock Gardens, Hungerford Road, London, N7 0BH.**

Sapper list

I am compiling a list of RE units which were stationed at Pangbourne, Berkshire, during 1939-46. I know the first unit was the RE unit of 51st Highland Division and the last was 10 TBRE. If anyone could help I would be very grateful if details and dates could be given. — **P Woodage, 27 Bourne Road, Pangbourne, Reading, RG8 7JT.**

Reunions

The Kings Royal Rifle Corps Association: Annual Reunion, Saturday 10 May, 6.30 pm at 56 Davies Street, London W1. Past and present serving members, friends, wives and families welcome. Music and buffet provided. Tickets £1.50 obtainable at the door or by post (s.a.e. please) from J Cox, KRRC(HQ), 56 Davies Street, London W1.

The Duke of Wellington's Regimental Association (London Branch): Annual Reunion and Dinner, Saturday 24 May 1980, The Victory Club, Marble Arch, London. 7.30 for 8pm. Tickets and details from Ken Waterman, 21 Vivian Court, 128/134 Maida Vale, London, W9.

Royal Military Police Association: Reunion Dinner, Saturday 10 May 1980, at Princes Hall, Civic Centre, Aldershot, Hants. Tickets £7.50 (including Dance after the Dinner) from Secretary RHQ/RMP Roussillon Barracks, Chichester, Sussex. Wives (and husbands of lady members) welcome. Limited *single* male and female accommodation available in barracks on written request to RHQ/RMP.

The Royal Hussars (PWO): The annual reunion will be at Barker's Penthouse Restaurant, Kensington at 7.15pm on Saturday 3 May 1980. Tickets from Home HQ, The Royal Hussars (PWO), Lower Barracks, Winchester.

Queen's Own Hussars: Reunion Dinner, Saturday 3 May 1980, at the Baronial Hall, Mincing Lane, London, EC3R 7DP. Dress optional. Tickets £4.50 obtainable from Major J S Sutherland MBE (Retd), Home HQ, The Queen's Own Hussars, 28 Jury St, Warwick, CV34 4EW.

The Devonshire Regiment Old Comrades: Annual March, Cathedral Service and Reunion, Saturday 12 July, 1980. Form up in Bury Meadow at 4.30pm, march to Exeter Cathedral for service. Dinner at 7pm in St George's Hall, Exeter. Tickets from RHQ The Devonshire and Dorset Regt, Wyvern Barracks, Exeter, in advance (cost £2 per head).

Devonshire and Dorset Association: Reunion, Saturday, 17 May 1980. St George's Hall, Exeter, Devon — doors open 7pm. Tickets from RHQ D and D, Wyvern Barracks, Exeter, in advance, £1 each. Wives and girl friends welcome.

15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars Regimental Association: The 61st Annual Reunion Dinner Dance is to be held in the Empire Rooms, 161 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 on Saturday 3 May 1980. 6pm for 7pm. Tickets can be obtained from Major B O Simmonds, Secretary, 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars Regimental Association, Fenham Barracks, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4NP.

Exhibition of military and civilian vehicles and equipment of WWII: Brighton Metropole Exhibition Centre, Brighton, Sussex. Saturday 5 April 1980 and Sunday 6 April 1980. Plus wartime singalong 3pm to 4pm. For further details, contact George Kimmins, 48 Brunswick Street West, Hove, Sussex. Tel: Brighton (0273) 775061.

How observant are you?

(see page 29)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Bottom right corner of hat rack. 2 'C' in 'Serviced'. 3 Position of stick behind officer's cap. 4 Size of top panel of door. 5 Soldier's right heel. 6 Far right leg of table. 7 Line on forceps. 8 Dentist's mouth. 9 Lower end of instrument in dentist's left hand. 10 Dentist's right sock.

Collector's corner

A J Murphy, 18 Hollingbury Place, Brighton, BN1 7GE — *Wants British Army shoulder titles embroidered not printed. Will purchase if reasonable or will exchange first day covers, PR packs, comm P/marks etc.*

D F Smith. 105 Cromwell Road, Rushden, Northants — *Seeks POW official cards both allied and enemy. Also any details of service captivity and subsequent release of the following: Lt Col G W Kennedy, POW No 1195, Oflag IX/A/Z; Capt A Taylor-Smith RAMC, Stalag IXB, IXC, POW No 569. Would like to purchase any similar cards and photos of the above of fellow prisoners from any camps and would particularly like to obtain any from Oflag IVC (Colditz). All help appreciated and postage refunded.*

SSG Bjarne IU Sørensen, Forsvarets Sanitetsskole, Jaegersborg Kaserne, 2820 Gentofte, Denmark — *Would like to exchange badge for badge. Please send up to 50 foreign military badges (not fabric). Will send corresponding different Danish army badges made of brass. Also, please send 5 different foreign wings and will send 4 different Danish parachute wings.*

J Reeney, 87 Shipbrook Road, Rudheath, Northwich, Cheshire, CW9 7HG — *Wants 'Having been a Soldier', autobiography by Lt Col Colin (Mad Mitch) Mitchell, A&SH published by Hamish Hamilton 1969.*

Gen Natale Dodoli, Accademia Militare, Modena, Italy — *Is looking for a Royal Air Force leather flyer's jacket with large mouton collar (1940-1950) in very good condition, size 44-46 (XL). Has various important Italian uniforms XIX century (1800). Will trade or buy.*

G Altman, 2b Sussex Road, New Malden, Surrey — *Seeks all Household Cavalry and Brigade of Guards badges, mainly officers' issues in gilt full dress and bronze Service dress including those of Grenadiers' EVII, EVIII, GVI cyphers also those of the 1st Royal Dragoons Victoria to GVI periods. Especially sought is the 'Life Guards 1st and 2nd' and Guards MG Regt. If you have these or any related Guards militaria — I can offer excellent exchanges and will send list on request — prepared to offer good cash prices as well.*

Gene Christian, 3849 Bailey Avenue, Bronx, NY 10463, USA — *Wants medals, badges, certificates, headdress, banners etc related to the Foreign Legion/French Colonial/French Paras-Commandos/Italian Colonial/Chinese Forces (pre 1949)/Flying Tigers/Yangste Gunboats/British Indian Native States/British Colonial Volunteer Corps — Defence Forces/Shanghai — Tientsin Volunteer Corps, Police, Fire etc/Camel Corps/International Brigades (Spain)/Mercenaries/Foreign Forces (China). British Colonial shooting medals, presentation and marked kukris.*

R Lomax, 17 Gt Headland Crescent, Preston, Paignton, Devon, TQ3 2DX — *Seeks Royal Scots Fusiliers (21st Foot) all brass cap badges, to complete grandson's 'All Scottish' collection. Will buy and/or exchange if needs quoted.*

L Glen, 15 Coltsfoot Close, Wickhambrook, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 8UP — *Has for sale stamp covers of 30th Anniversary 'Operation Husky' Invasion of Sicily 10th July 1943 overprinted and signed by OC, troops on liberty ship with descriptive leaflet. £6 each.*

Competition

No one managed to get all 45 answers right in our bumper Christmas quiz (No 257) and it was the military questions that seemed to catch most people out. Best scores were 42's and 41's.

The correct answers were: 1 (b) both kinds of fish; 2 (b) a type of tree; 3 (a); 4 (b) just over 70 per cent; 5 (a); 6 (b) Flash in North Staffordshire; 7 (b) Oxford; 8 (b) a type of knife; 9 (a); 10 (a); 11 (a) possible with a 'free' ball; 12 (b) an early form of gun; 13 (a); 14 (a); 15 (b) Bob Charles won in 1963; 16 (d); 17 (b); 18 (c); 19 (d); 20 (a); 21 (a); 22 (b); 23 (e); 24 (c); 25 (a); 26 (c); 27 (d); 28 (d); 29 (b); 30 (a); 31 (c); 32 (b); 33 (c); 34 (a); 35 (c); 36 (b); 37 (b); 38 (c); 39 (c); 40 (a); 41 (b); 42 (a); 43 (b); 44 (a) or (b) accepted — The Battle of Guinis, Dec 1885, in the Sudan War is usually quoted although the 2nd Bn West Yorkshire Regt claim they wore scarlet serge jackets in Ashanti in 1896; 45 (b).

Prizewinners:

1 Mr G H Bendell, 199 Midanbury Lane, Southampton SO2 4GW.

2 Mr G Maynard, 45 Barfield Road, Thatcham, Newbury, Berks.

3 Mr G C Bennett, 10 Stockton, Warminster, Wilts.

4 Mr D R E O'Kelly, St Cuthbert's House, Ampleforth College, York.

5 S/Sgt P Kaye, WOs & Sgts Mess, 9 Sig Regt (Radio), BFPO 58.

6 Mr H Williamson, Muir Hall, 35 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh EH3 7RN.

7 Mr S Gicquel, Bermuda, Samares Coast Road, St Clements, Jersey, CI.

8 Lt Col P W Lonnan, Ponderosa, Park Road, Ashtead, Surrey.

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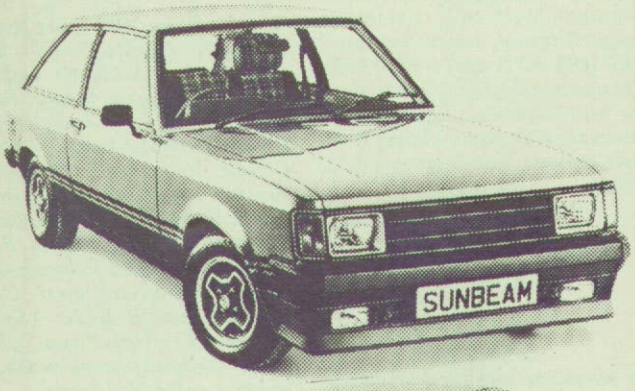

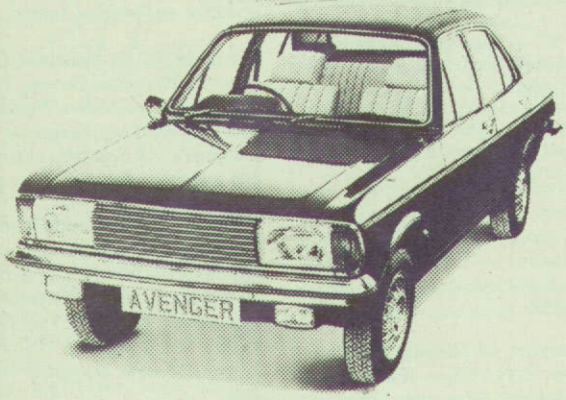

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In this regular feature SOLDIER keeps you up-to-date on tattoos, open days, exhibitions, at homes, Army displays and similar occasions on which the public is welcome to see the Army's men and equipment. Amendments and additions to previous lists are indicated in bold type.

SOLDIER is not always notified of alterations and cancellations. Readers are advised to check with the organisers.

See-the-Army DIARY

APRIL 1980

10 Woolwich Grand Open Day (RA Parachute team).
27 Country Fete, Teesdale.

MAY 1980

3 Tunbridge Wells Tattoo (RA Parachute team).
3 Burslem Festival (3-5 May).
5 Lydiard Park Show.
7 Royal Windsor Horse Show (7-11 May).
11 Maypole Week, Birmingham.
15 Devon County Show, Exeter (15-17 May).
17 Brighton Festival Tattoo (Bands, RN display, RAF dogs).
17 Hinckley Tattoo (17-18 May) (JLR RA Band and gymnastic team).
18 Royal performance of 'Star Parade'. Theatre Royal Drury Lane. In aid of Army Benevolent Fund.
18 Paignton Festival Theatre, Concert by Bands, 17/21 Lancers, RAC Bovington.
20 Chelsea Flower Show (20-23 May) (Grenadier Gds Band).
21 Shropshire and West Midland Show (21-22 May) (LI Band, RA Motorcycles, Flying Bugles).
22 Concert, Kneller Hall.
23 Beating Retreat, Chester (JLR RA Band).
24 Poole Wessex Theatre, Concert by Bands, R Signals, Royal Corps of Transport.
24 Congleton Carnival and Tattoo (24-26 May) (Bands and RGJ Bugles, Red Devils, Blue Helmets).
24 Dudley Spring Festival.
24 Birmingham Spring Festival (24-31 May) (R Sigs Band, White Helmets, RGJ Freefall).
24 Herts Agricultural Show, Redbourn (24-25 May).
25 Carrington Park Rally (25-26 May).
26 Hove Lions Day (Red Devils).
28 Royal Bath and West Show, Shepton Mallet (28-31 May) (RA Bands, RHA Kings Troop).
28 Stafford Agricultural Show (28-29 May) (Flying Bugles).
28 Suffolk Show, Ipswich (28-29 May).
29 Wolverhampton Fiesta (29 May-1 June) (Band, JLR RA gymnastic team).
29 Grand Concert, Kneller Hall.
31 First Rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London (Massed Bands).
31 Salisbury Hospital Gala.
31 International Air Display, Bristol Airport (31 May-1 June).
31 St Neots Riverside Festival (31 May-1 June).
31 Burnley Services Tattoo (31 May-1 June) (Brigade of Gurkhas Band and Bugles, Blue Helmets, Red Devils, 1 Gordons Pipes and Drums).

JUNE 1980

3 Beating Retreat, Horse Guards Parade (3-5 June) (Massed Bands).
5 South of England Show, Ardingly (5-7 June) (1 Queens Band).
7 Nuneaton Carnival (JLR RA Band and gymnastic team).
7 Second Rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
8 Ssafa Air Display, Church Fenton.
8 Massed Bands, Horse Guards Parade (8-13 June).
8 Nottingham Festival (8-13 June) (Band Irish Gds).
10 Royal Regiment of Artillery Massed Bands Display, Horse Guards Parade (10-12 June).
14 Queen's Official Birthday Royal Salute, Cardiff (Band 1RRW).
14 Queen's Birthday Parade, Horse Guards Parade (Massed Bands).
14 Coventry Carnival.
15 Open Day, Scottish Infantry (Glencorse) (PT and drill displays, static displays, side shows).
18 Lincolnshire Agricultural Show, Lincoln (18-19 June) (Band, White Helmets).
21 Leicester Tattoo.
21 Ashford Extravaganza (21-22 June) (Band).
25 Royal Norfolk Show, Norwich (25-26 June) (Bands, H Cav Quadrille).
25 Aldershot Army Display (25-29 June) (Massed Bands, Kings Troop RHA, RA Motorcycles, Red Devils, Red Caps).
29 Chesterfield Carnival.
30 Royal Show, Stoneleigh (30 June-3 July) (Bands, RGJ Freefall, RHA Musical Drive).

JULY 1980

2 Army Exhibition for Schools, Bassingbourn (2-4 July) (Bands, Red Caps, JLR RE gymnastic team).
2 Larkhill Massed Bands.
3 Royal British Legion Tattoo, Staverton Airfield, Gloucestershire (3-6 July) (Massed Bands, Red Devils).
4 Staffordshire Careers Exhibition (4-6 July) (Flying Bugles).
5 Airborne Forces' Day.
5 Open Day, Prince of Wales' Division Depot, Crickhowell.
5 Army Open Day RPC Trg Centre, Northampton.
5 Open Day, British Steel Corporation, Middlesbrough (Band 1 Green Howards).
5 Birkenshaw Show.
5 Pelsall Carnival (Band).
5 West Bromwich Carnival (RGJ Band, RGJ Freefall).
5 Concert, Edinburgh by Band, Royal Hussars.
5 Aveling Barford Show, Grantham (5-6 July).
6 Paull Air Show, Hull.
9 Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London (9-26 July) (Massed Bands, Kenya Army Band and Display Team, Kings Troop RHA, Household Cavalry Quadrille, APTC).
10 Basingstoke Tattoo (10-12 July) (1 Staffs Band).
10 Kent County Show (10-12 July) (Band, Red Devils).
11 Sheffield Services Display (11-13 July).
11 Taunton Centenary, King's College.
11 Hereford Careers Exhibition (11-13 July) (Flying Bugles).
12 Pudsey (Yorkshire) Show.
15 East of England Show, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire (15-16 July) (RA Motorcycles).
17 Manchester Show (17-19 July) (2 RRF, Queens Division Depot, Red Devils).
18 Malton (Yorkshire) Show (Bands).
19 Stroud Show.
19 Durham County Show.
19 Bristol Harbour Regatta (19-20 July).
19 Bournemouth Air Pageant (19-20 July).
20 Concert, Edinburgh by Band, Royal Hussars (20-26 July).
21 Rotherham Tattoo (21-22 July).
24 St Helens Services' Tattoo (24-26 July) (RA Band, Woolwich, Irish Guards Corps of Drums, RA Motorcycles, Red Devils, RA JLR Gymnastic Display).
25 Kempton Park Extravaganza (Bands, static and arena displays).
25 Northampton Borough Show (25-27 July) (RGJ Band, RGJ Freefall).
26 Colchester Carnival.
26 Gloucester Carnival.
26 Welsh Rugby Union Centenary Celebration, Cardiff (Band).
26 Cleveland Show, Middlesborough (Bands).
26 Tatton Park Reunion Parachuting Spectacular (Red Devils, Pegasus Gymnastic Team, freefall teams).
27 Redcar Carnival (Bands).
29 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (29 July-2 August) (Bands, White Helmets, Royal Army Veterinary Corps Mounted Display).
29 Tyneside Summer Exhibition (29 July-2 August) (Redcaps).
31 Folkestone Tattoo (31 July-2 August) (RAMC Band).

AUGUST 1980

1 Southsea Show (1-3 August).
2 Lord Mayor's Parade, Cardiff (Bands).
2 Newport Military Show (2-3 August) (Bands).
6 Bingley (Yorkshire) Show.
6 Poole Hospital Gala.
6 Bakewell (Derbyshire) Show (6-7 August) (RA Motorcycles).
7 North Yorkshire County Show.
9 Lord Mayor's Show, Stoke.
13 Edinburgh Tattoo (13 August-6 September) (Massed Bands and Pipes, Royal Guard Regiment of Ruler of Oman, State University Band of Long Beach).
15 Reading Show (15-16 August).
15 Shrewsbury Flower Show (15-16 August) (White Helmets).
16 Hartlepool Show (16-17 August).
16 Skegness Carnival (16-22 August).
18 Doncaster Horse Show.
22 GLC Horse Show (22-25 August) (Coldm Gds Band).
23 Darlington Show.
23 Expo Steam, Peterborough (23-25 August) (Red Caps, White Helmets).
23 Town & Country Festival, Stoneleigh (23-25 August) (Band, RA Motorcycles, RGJ Freefall).
23 Expo 80, Birchington, Kent (23-25 August).
25 City of Leicester Show (25-26 August) (Band, RGJ Freefall).
25 Walsall Show (25-26 August) (White Helmets).
26 Leeds Gala.
27 St Albans City Carnival (Red Devils).
27 Bristol Flower Show (27-29 August).
30 Wensleydale Show.
30 Holkham Game Fair (30-31 August).
30 Sheffield Show (30-31 August) (RA Motorcyles).

SEPTEMBER 1980

5 International Air Tattoo, Newbury (5-7 September).
6 Harley Show.
6 Keighley Show.

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THIS MONTH SOLDIER's photographers have focused on some of the finer points of sport. Can you tell from these details what the 12 items of sporting equipment are? The competition is open to all readers at home or overseas and the closing date is Monday 2 June. The answer and winners' names will appear in the August SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 261' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or pre-paid labels will be disqualified.

Send your answers by postcard or letter with the Competition 261 label from this page and your name and address to:

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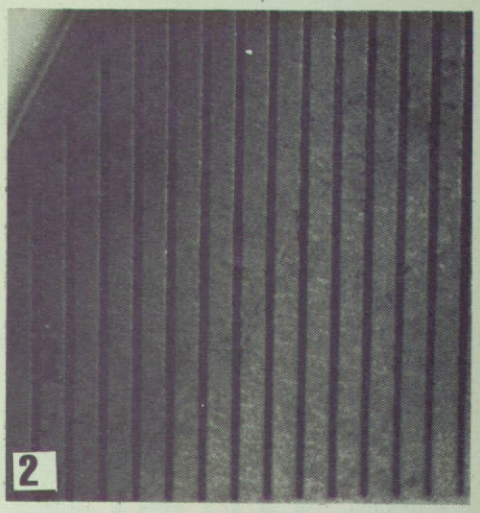
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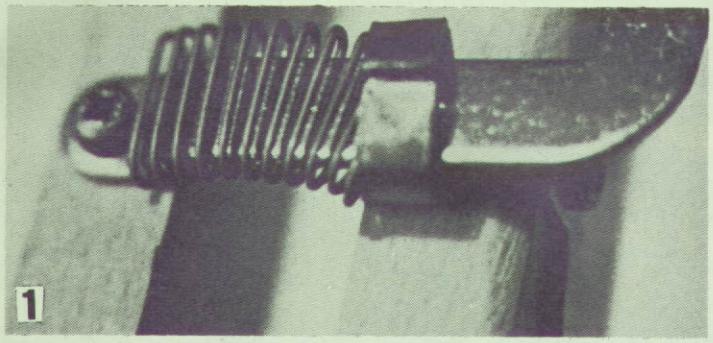
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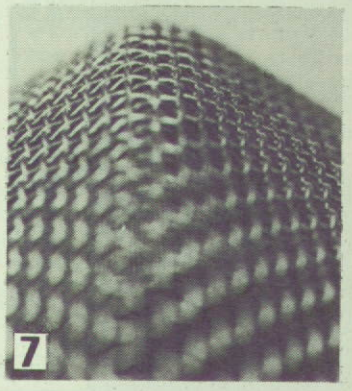
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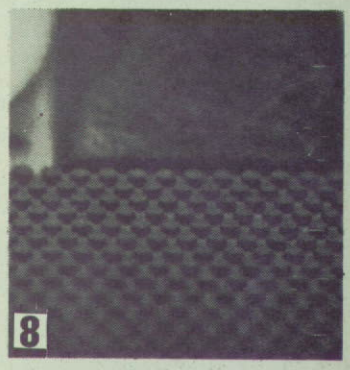
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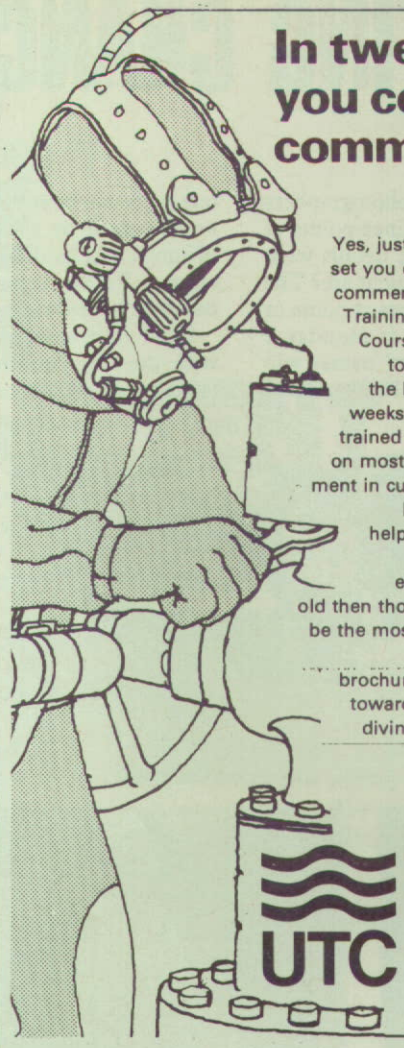

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