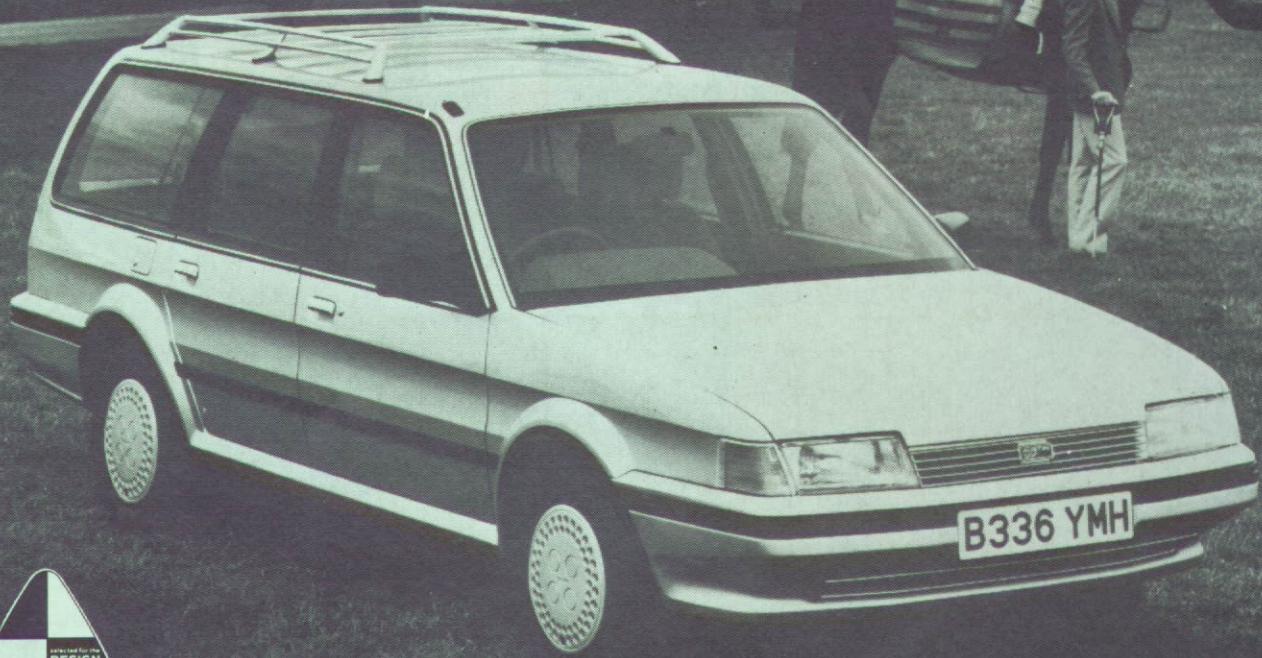


THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 35 PENCE • 28 JANUARY 1985

# SOLDIER



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FRONT COVER: A Tracked Rapier commander and operator searches for a target. See story — page 14.  
Picture: Paul Haley

BACK COVER: Prize-winning picture: "Boy soldier and beefeater" from the Army Photographic Competition. See page 20.  
Picture: Jim Gallagher

Managing Editor  
Roland Thick (Ext 2585)

Editor  
Peter Howard (Ext 2593)

Assistant Editors  
Graham Smith (Ext 2590)  
John Margetts (Ext 2588)  
Sally Daniell (Ext 2589)  
Robert Higson (Ext 2591)

Art Editor  
John Rushworth (Ext 2589)

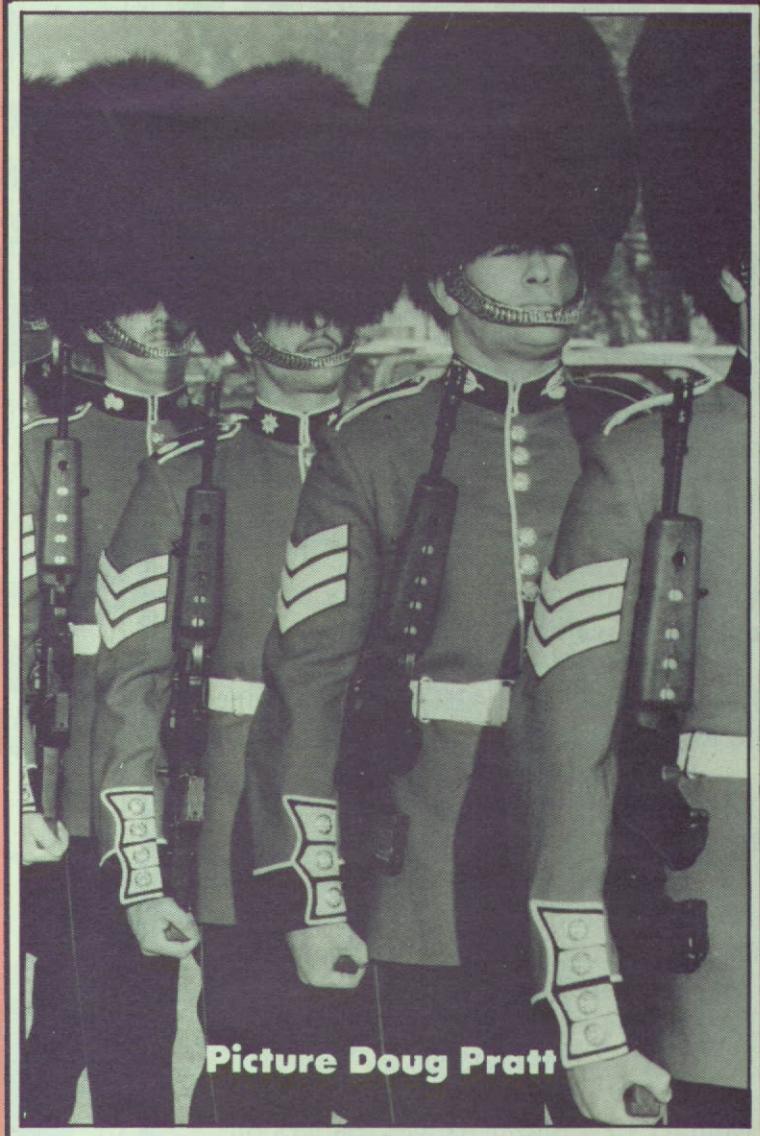
Picture Editor  
Leslie Wiggs (Ext 2584)  
Photographers (Ext 2584)  
Doug Pratt  
Paul R G Haley  
Photo Library (Ext 2577)  
Bill Stroud

Advertising/Circulation/Distribution  
Mrs Seela McIntosh (Ext 2583)

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# SOLDIER

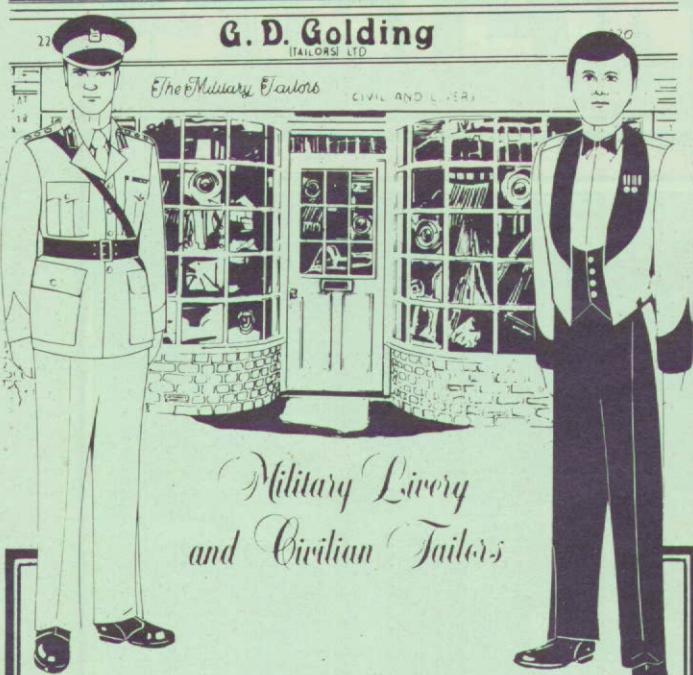
INCORPORATING  
THE TERRITORIAL ARMY MAGAZINE



**They are changing the drill at Pirbright Guards depot... In fact they *have* changed the drill to accommodate the requirements of the Army's new individual weapon the SA 80. At a School of Infantry Press Day at Warminster a demonstration squad of instructors from Pirbright showed how the Army will drill with a rifle over a foot shorter than its predecessor, the SLR. Full report and pictures in the next issue of SOLDIER.**

# G.D. Golding

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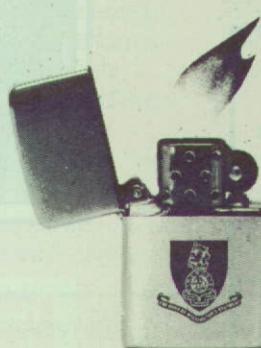
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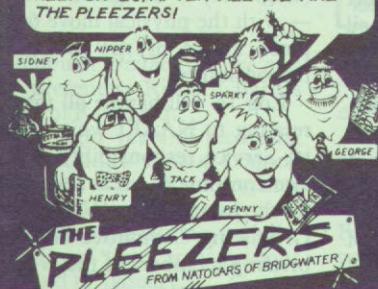
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# HORROCKS: Commanded from the front

WITH the death of Lieutenant General Sir Brian Horrocks, one of the few surviving links with World War 2 Allied High Command has gone.

This was a point underlined by Chief of the Defence Staff Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, who said in a tribute that General Horrocks was "a brilliant corps commander. He had great style and dash and always commanded from the front. His personality captured the hearts of all he led".

After the war General Horrocks commanded BAOR before retiring through ill health and from 1949 to 1963 was Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod in the House of Lords.



HORROCKS  
... the general

## Spectacular £41,000

THE Hong Kong Spectacular (see SOLDIER 3 December), the Colony's one-off version of the Royal Tournament, raised a total of 400,000 Hong Kong Dollars (£41,237) of which 250,000 dollars (£25,775) have been presented to SSAFA UK.

The cheque was presented to Mrs Shirla Philogene, Senior Deputy Director Nursing and Social Work, SSAFA, by Mrs Jennifer Boorman, wife of Major General Derek Boorman, Commander British Forces Hong Kong.

The remaining 150,000 dollars will be split between SSAFA Hong Kong and Hong Kong Community Chest, for local charities.

Major General Charles Grey, Controller of SSAFA, told SOLDIER: "We are extremely grateful to everyone who organised the Hong Kong Spectacular. It is the best possible send off for us in this, our Centenary Year. All of the money will be used to support the welfare work of our 1,000 nationwide UK SSAFA branches directed at serving and ex-serving military personnel."

Yet this was not all — he showed flair as a journalist and enhanced his fame with television, particularly with a series 'Men in Battle', in which he translated the complex business of warfare into a brilliantly simple presentation and endeared himself to millions of captivated viewers.

He also edited the Leo Cooper series of books — 'Famous Regiments'.

Nothing, though, could match the feelings shown for General Horrocks by his men, particularly those of 30 Corps, who he led through some of the toughest fighting in North West Europe.

This was possibly because he felt very deeply for his men, and he showed concern for the enemy. Forty years ago he led 30 Corps in the Reichswald battle and was asked if he would like Cleve 'taken out' by bombing.

As he recalled in his autobiography 'A Full Life':

"This is the sort of problem with

which a general in war is constantly faced, and from which there is no escape. Cleve was a lovely, historical, Rhineland town. Anne of Cleves, Henry VIII's fifth wife came from there. No doubt a lot of civilians, particularly women and children, were still living there".

He hated the thought of the town being 'taken out', even though this could delay German reserves and make all the difference. "After all the lives of my own troops must come first. So I said 'Yes'.

"But I can assure you that I did not enjoy the sight of those bombers flying over my head on the night before we attacked. Generals, of course, should not have imagination. I reckon I had a bit too much," said the man who rated the Reichswald Battle the "the grimdest in which I took part during the last war".

Commissioned into The Middlesex Regiment, in 1914 he was wounded and captured at Ypres, spending the rest of World War 1



HORROCKS  
... as Black Rod

as a prisoner despite many attempts at escape.

In 1942 he led 13 Corps at the vital battle of Alam Halfa, and was wounded so badly leading 9 Corps in Tunisia that he was to spend nearly a year in hospital and few thought he would command anything again, yet soon after D-Day he was commanding 30 Corps.

He won the MC in 1919 when in Siberia aiding the Whites against the Bolsheviks, the DSO in 1943, was appointed KBE in 1943 and KCB in 1949.

SOLDIER staff and readers send their condolences to Lady Horrocks.

## CONSERVATION CO-OPERATION IS UNDER WAY

THE ARMY's continuing march to a greater awareness and sensitivity towards conservation on Salisbury Plain, the country's best known training area, is well under way, writes Graham Smith.

A working party set up last year to study the Plain's archaeological monuments — at least 2,000 of them — has visited a half-dozen representative sites to discuss work carried out.

Among the party deliberating on the findings were representatives from many groups including the Council for British Archaeology, and the Trust for Wessex Archaeology.

Members of the working party represented English Heritage, the Nature Conservancy Council, the Ministry of Defence, the Property Services Agency (Department of Environment) and county archaeologists from Wiltshire and Hampshire.

Further discussions were held after the site visits to see experiments with estate management techniques with the aim of discovering the most effective protection for the ancient monuments in the heartland of what was once Wessex.

Wiltshire County Council which was commissioned by English Heritage to carry out an up-to-date survey of all the Plain's monuments is, it says, on target to complete this task by early this year.

Monuments will be graded in

order of archaeological importance and the working party will then make its recommendations to MoD and the Department of the Environment. These recommendations will comment on ways in which any conflict of priorities between conservation and military training might be resolved.

A spokesman for HQ-South-West District, said: "The report by the Wiltshire County Council archaeologist, Mr Roy Canham, is progressing on schedule. His department has carried out very detailed work and a computer record is being made of the condition of all monuments on the Plain.

"It includes a wide range of detail such as the size, location of sites, damage by scrub and vegetation animals, and the causes and, if any, damage by the military.

"His report will also show archaeological potential and fertility and where there are currently monuments marked by the international sign of the Star of David."

## NAAFI MOVES CENTRE

EVEN NAAFI has not escaped in revised administrative shuffles as part of the Ministry of Defence re-organisation.

As from the beginning of this month, Q NAAFI (A) has ceased to be a member of the QMG's organisation. It has moved to the Centre as a branch of the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Logistics) — designated Log 1b — with the physical move taking place ahead of the change of responsibility.

Log 1b will handle all matters relating to NAAFI which are of tri-Service responsibility. It will also continue to act as secretariat for the Joint Services NAAFI Co-ordinating Committee including briefing members of the NAAFI Council.

NAAFI matters of purely Army concern will devolve on QMG Sec la. It is intended eventually to issue rules for NAAFI services as a Joint Service publication. But that will not be until late 1986.

# SOLDIERS RENOVATE BELIZE OLD FOLKS HOME

WITH funds from Help the Aged and the volunteer services of the Royal Engineers and the Royal Corps of Transport, work is now underway to renovate the Infirmary in Belize City.

Despite its grand name, the Infirmary was, and still is, a poor house mainly for old people who are either sick, destitute or have no family to care for them.

Conditions there, until recently, made Victorian workhouses look like veritable palaces. Built on a swamp, surrounded by stagnant water, this disgusting pile had no serviceable baths or toilets and no washing up facilities. For the two huts (one for 21 women, the other for 30 men) there was one stove, all the fly screens were broken and the bedding unspeakable.

Under the chairmanship of Brigadier Tony Pollard, then Com-

**By Sally Daniell**

mander British Forces Belize, a committee was set up with the aim of improving conditions with charitable aid.

A comprehensive costing was carried out by the Sappers and with the £10,000 cash injection from Help the Aged, local contractors have now begun the mammoth task of providing a decent home for these poor people.

But before work could begin, the area had to be cleared of accumulated debris and soldiers from 24 Squadron, RCT gave up their free time to rise to the task with a will.

"They were smashing," said Brigadier Pollard. "The stench and the rubbish were indescribable but they cleared it all with a smile and

great willingness. But then, soldiers are like that, aren't they?"

So far the money raised has provided for the rebuilding of the steps leading up to the building, the sluice pan, the beds, the kitchen and washing facilities in addition to medicines and the services of medical staff.

Brigadier Pollard has now taken over command of the School of Infantry at Warminster but he hopes to raise money in this country through rotary clubs with a view to replacing all the bedding for the patients.

He leaves behind him two hard-working committee members, Major Frank Butterworth, RAOC and Mrs Sandra Shephard both of whom are now aiming to extend the project and provide for nurses to visit and administer to old and sick people in their homes

in Belize City.

"The social problems in Belize are enormous," explained Brigadier Pollard. "There are so many old people and no money with which to help them. With the Infirmary project we have only just started to scratch the surface."

## CENTENARY TIME

SOLDIER sends congratulations to Lieutenant General Sir Clarence Bird, late Royal Engineers, who is due to celebrate his 100th birthday on 5 February.

From his younger son's home in Kent, where he will spend his centenary day, Sir Clarence said: "I shall spend the day quietly and will have a cake made by my daughter-in-law. I don't think it will have 100 candles on it but perhaps just one."

Sir Clarence who was made a CB in 1940 and won a DSO in 1914 joined the Royal Engineers in 1904.

Subsequent appointments included service with the Indian Expeditionary Force in India from 1914-15; as a Brigade Major with the British Expeditionary Force in 1916-17; Chief Instructor in Fortifications at the School of Military Engineering, Chatham; Commandant of the Bengal Sappers and Miners from 1930-33; Chief Engineer Aldershot Command 1935-39; Engineer-in-Chief, Army HQ India and Master General of Ordnance, India, 1942-44.

● To mark the centenary of the death of General Charles Gordon at Khartoum in 1885, fellow Sapper Lieutenant Colonel Derek Boyd, now retired, has written the story of the General's life and the subsequent foundation and history of the Gordon Boys' School at Woking in Surrey.

General Gordon died gallantly whilst trying to defend Khartoum against the Mahdi's impassioned hordes. He was killed two days before relief arrived on 28th January 1885 — which would have been his 52nd birthday.

The British people were profoundly shocked by the news of Gordon's death and by the failure of the troops to relieve Khartoum in time. Queen Victoria herself was greatly moved and took the lead in demanding that a fitting national memorial should be created for Britain's hero and martyr. This led to the establishment of what is still known today as the Gordon Boys' School.

The Gordon Heritage is published by Robert Hale Ltd, price £8.95.

"It's good to travel around the hospitals, meet the patients and see what the fund is doing or could be doing," said Dusty. "As soon as the Falklands airport is completed I hope to get down there, too."

## SAD NEWS, GOOD NEWS

VIEWERS of BFBS TV in Germany should switch off hopes of an extra channel giving them a choice of programmes, writes John Margetts.

"In fact," said head of television Pat Pachebat, "there's no chance at all of a second channel. Even if we had one, we couldn't possibly fill another nine hours of daily TV time."

But it's good news from BFBS for those in the Sovereign Base Areas in Cyprus, for a television service is to start for them in September this year.

"It will be on the lines of the BAOR service with up to four hours of transmissions a day," said Mr Pachebat.

There is the "possibility of a feasibility study" to cater for the lads in the South Atlantic.

A big step forward for Combined Services Entertainment, too. The "live show" section, headed by Derek Agutter — father of film star Jenny — is to have a "commercial section".

Said newly-appointed Enterprise Manager Phillip Jay: "This will be a new look for CSE."

"We will be putting on shows as well as advising units and messes on entertainment ranging from shows featuring top stars to kids' parties."

Changes, too, for BFBS TV's ever-popular *Birthday Time* and show presenters Richard Barnes and Nicol Raymond.

After eight years of recording the daily "kiddies" show at London Weekend's studios, Wembley, they have moved to BBC Enterprises for recording and editing, with the possibility of "live" transmissions at the end of January.

Brand new plans for BFBS TV in BAOR include a magazine round-up which, to start with, will go out monthly switching to a weekly show with news and pictures of Service life. This new-style presentation is planned for April.

## WELCOME AID

DUSTY Miller is one of the most welcome visitors ever to cross the threshold of an Army hospital. For during the past 15 years this dapper, bespectacled gentleman has channelled tens of thousands of pounds worth of aid towards the comfort and well-being of patients and staff.

He is the agent of one of the richest Royal British Legion groups — the 1,000-strong branch at Lloyd's of London which early in the Northern Ireland troubles took on the administration of a unique fund.

It was set up by ex-Service members of the famous underwriting market, initially to help soldiers who had been injured in the Province. Under the wing of Lloyd's RBL branch — and with veteran employee Dusty as agent — the fund now disburses many thousands of pounds a year to pay for extra equipment and comforts at Army hospitals from Woolwich to the Falklands, and from Belfast to Belize.

Dusty, a claims broker, has worked for Lloyd's for almost half a century and is currently chairman

Lloyd's members, but from firms connected with the market. And its scope has broadened to help all Army hospital patients, especially those wounded during the Falklands war.

More than £5,000 was spent on arranging visits by next of kin to Welsh and Scots Guardsmen and Paras being treated at Woolwich, and as they recovered the casualties were treated to outings such as soccer matches and TV studio shows.

At the Army's rehabilitation centre at Chessington, equipment to help the permanently disabled can be expensive, so the fund often steps in to help pay for special aids which may cost hundreds of pounds.

"We try to choose equipment that is a help to both staff and patients," said Dusty. "For instance, a commercial washing machine and spin drier came in very handy at Chessington. Here at Musgrave, a grill and oven is useful for patients who find they can't eat at regular times or for staff on night duty. We've also provided duvet covers which is not only good for the patients but makes life easier for the nurses, too."

Each year at least £10,000 is spent on Army patients — and as a permanent reminder of the bond, a new coffee lounge at Musgrave has been named "Lloyd's Coffee House" after the birthplace of the firm 300 years ago. As a rare honour, Lloyd's has presented the lounge with a special plaque bearing the market's coat of arms and made from the wood of a 130-year-old underwriting box.



A cheque for £300 goes to Musgrave Park Hospital

of the RBL there.

"We help provide the 'extra-essentials' that would not be paid for out of public funds," said Dusty during a recent visit to Musgrave Park Hospital, Belfast. "We've provided so many different kinds of things over the years — from disco equipment at Musgrave Park to a broncho-fibroscope costing £5,000 at Woolwich, an expenditure made possible as a result of a legacy left by a Lloyd's member."

The fund has widened to include contributions not only from

# Bareface charity!

The things people do for charity... Latest in a long line of close-shave stunts comes from Pioneer Sergeant Eddie Cars who sold his beard for £165.

Eddie, 30, of the 1st Battalion The King's Own Royal Border Regiment at Catterick, has sported his pride and joy for the past two years.

Now no longer hirsute, he's going round with a face as

smooth as an egg thanks to the lads who contributed to Eddie's charity bid. Eddie's scale of charges were precise: a snip with scissors cost 10p; garden shears £1.

But CO Lieutenant Colonel Chris Wolverson went one better when he used an axe.

The organisation to profit from Eddie's sacrifice was the Bowland and Pennine Mountain Rescue Service.



## PEOPLE EXTRA

Listeners to the BBC radio soap opera the *Archers*, will know of soldier Terry Barford's accident in Berlin while serving with the 1st Battalion The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire. To bring added realism to the 'everyday story of country folk' fellow Archer characters George Barford and Caroline Bone (actors Graham Roberts and Sara Coward) visited the walled city for the first recording of the serial outside the UK.

Latest VIP to visit 37 (Falkland Islands) Engineer Regiment is Major General P. E. de la C de la Billiere, Commander British Forces in the Falklands. A round of their various work sites and locations gave the Commander an insight into the problems facing the Sappers and he left congratulating CO Lieutenant Colonel Francis Daniell on the quality of the work carried out by his teams.

British schoolchildren at Hohne, BAOR, have contributed more than £1,000 to the NSPCC. To raise the cash they undertook sponsored swims, dog walking, cleaning school playgrounds and keeping quiet. Top money raiser was 13-year-old Rebecca Langley with DM370 — about £100.

More cash for a good cause... this time from a ten-strong squad of Royal Pioneers who marched from their Bielefeld (BAOR) barracks to a Merseyside hospital to raise more than £2,000 to help keep open a threatened bay unit. Led by Liverpudlian Sergeant Ted Kewley, they covered the 380-mile slog via Rotterdam and Hull marching in pairs over 25-mile stretches.

And yet still more money. This time from 17 Training Regiment and Depot RA at Woolwich, London, where six instructors each played ten hours of squash in a round-the-clock marathon to raise £650 for handicapped children.

### QUICK

Thanks to WO2 Alan Macarthur of HQ Rheindahlen Garrison at least 48 disabled people will enjoy a holiday this year. For Alan slogged his way round the Hoogeveen marathon in Holland to raise nearly £500 for the Across Trust. His first marathon, it has taken some time for him to collect all the sponsorships, but Alan has now handed the money to holiday organiser Colonel Paul Symes.

# WHAT A CAPER!

No jape — just a cape

No. It's not the caped crusader, but an example of what the well-dressed officer in a certain Highland regiment is wearing this winter — an Inverness cape in camouflage pattern. Model in our picture and creator of this snazzy piece of kit is Major Donald Campbell-Baldwin of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, Deputy Chief of Staff Highland Area in Perth. Giving double protection across the shoulders and upper part of the body, the outfit is waterproof and windproof. And it cost Major Campbell-Baldwin less than £20 to buy the material and have it made up. Says the major, who is delighted with the garment's effectiveness: "I think it could be particularly applicable for those on cold, wet sentry duty in static locations — for example members of the Home Defence Force."

## Albert 'gonged' at last



**BRIGADIER PETER MORTON, ALBERT STEPHENSON**  
Odd man out among the bemedalled wounded veterans

Old soldier Albert Stephenson has just got his set of three war campaign medals — 40 years after he earned them.

Albert (60) was noticed to be the odd man out among bemedalled wounded veterans at Chapel Allerton Hospital, Leeds, Yorks, at a Remembrance Day Service. So military authorities swung into action to get a set for him.

They were presented to him in Ward 11 of the hospital by Brigadier Peter Morton, Commander 15 Infantry Brigade with Headquarters at Topcliffe, North Yorkshire.

Other old soldiers of the

ward saw him receive the 1939-45 Star, the France and Germany Star and the War Medal (1939-45).

Albert was severely wounded during the Rhine Crossing in April 1944 while serving with the 7th Battalion The Parachute Regiment.

Originally thought to have been killed he was later picked up and evacuated to a military hospital.

Since then he has received treatment in several hospitals and has been a patient at Chapel Allerton Hospital since 1949.

Albert says he never got down to claiming the medals through being on the move so much.



**MAJOR DONALD CAMPBELL-BALDWIN:** caped and camouflaged

### QUICK

Service in Hong Kong twice, Canada and the Falklands has led to a proud day for Staff Sergeant Edward Miles — known to his pals as George. A 32-year-old combat engineer with 17 years service, George is currently in the South Atlantic islands with 11 Field Squadron. And it was in Government House, Stanley, that George received from Civil Commissioner Sir Rex Hunt the British Empire Medal.

### SPOT

**Jill's day of joy**

Ladies with a weight problem should follow a lead by Lieutenant Jill Turner WRAC — not that Jill had any such worries. But after commanding 25 recruits for ten weeks at 11 Signal Regiment, Catterick, Jill found to her delight she had shed a stone. Everything the lads did Jill did. Running, marching, exercises on the moors... the lot. And as the lads' 'passing out' coincided with Jill's birthday, they hoisted her high with a rousing chorus of 'Happy Birthday'.



**LIEUTENANT JILL TURNER:** Happy birthday from the lads plus a weight reduction

**QUICK**

Brigadier John Wilsey is the new Commander of 1 Infantry Brigade, the UK Mobile Force, based at Tidworth, Hants. He took over from Brigadier 'Willie' Rouse.

**SPOT**

His name is Rex and he tips the scales at 110lb. Which is no surprise since he scoffs 28oz of top quality meat and 32oz of best biscuit meal every day.

Fortunately for Lance Corporal David Myers of 1 Army Dog Training Unit at Sennelager, Rex's stay with the unit is only temporary as he really belongs to 63 Squadron RAF Regiment, currently in the Falklands.

"Unlike the fierce guard dogs we have here, Rex is a big softie," said David, a trainer with 1 ADTU, and who is in charge of the big mutt.

# Top award for life saving medic

Swift action by combat medic Corporal Tom Crainie saved a toddler from choking to death in a road crash in BAOR.

The little girl's mother and her two young sisters were also hurt in the accident.

Now Corporal Crainie, of the Royal Army Medical Corps serving with 3 Armoured Field Ambulance at Sennelager, has

been awarded a Divisional Commander's Commendation for his prompt action.

Using his medical expertise he saved the child's life by clearing her airway when he saw she was gasping for

breath. At the time the youngster's neck was wedged between the car's front seats and she was bleeding heavily from a head wound.

The drama began when 35-year-old Crainie and five



**Cpl Tom Crainie**

soldiers under his command witnessed a collision involving a lorry and a car near Paderborn.

Above the noise of rescuers, he heard a child crying. Inside the car were three small children sprawled and lying limp. He carefully applied his first-aid skills to each in turn.

**CHECKED**

Cpl Crainie and his squad then checked that all the injured were out of immediate danger and helped German police and ambulance crews get them to hospital.

Praising Cpl Crainie for his decisive action, 4th Armoured Division's Commander, Major General John Waters, said he clearly prevented a serious accident becoming a tragedy.

A Falklands veteran, Cpl Crainie saw action with the Para Clearing Troop of 16 Field Ambulance RAMC.

# PEOPLE

## FACES and PLACES

### Big Rex bones up on his bark!

"When he arrived here he was a shade overweight so we got cracking with some light exercise and long walks combined with a close watch on his diet."

Now, when the RAF lads return from the South Atlantic Rex will be in peak condition to resume his role as Squadron mascot and greet them with a welcoming woof which, as David Myers was quick to point out "is much worse than his bite."



### Top club title for Lesley

It's tough at the top. Ask Naafi manageress Lesley Crossland.

For Lesley, boss of the Lendrum Club at the Royal Engineers' Gibraltar Barracks, Camberley, has just collected a top Naafi award.

Since there is a constant flow of recruits through 1 and 3 Training Regiments at the camp, Lesley and her staff have to keep

pace with the ever-changing eating and drinking demands of the lads.

This means careful management if soldiers are to patronise the club and stay happy.

But it seems that Lesley and her helpers have nothing to worry about on that score, for they have just collected the Naafi Club of the Year Award.

**REX OF THE RAF, LANCE CORPORAL DAVID MYERS:** long walks and a diet



■ WO2 John Bailey ... saving time.

## Napoleon never marched like this ...



**Napoleon himself could scarcely have foreseen the day when an army would march on its computer software.**

That day has now come and computers are in everyday use not only in sophisticated front-line weaponry systems but also in the everyday running of the armed forces.

The Highlands' TA battalion, 2/51 Highland Volunteers, has carved its special niche in the British Army's computerisation programme, by acquiring its very own private computer for keeping up-to-date tallies of personnel, stores, ammunition and the thousand-and-one items involved in the organisation of a large and widespread unit.

It is certainly the first TA battalion in Scotland to have taken this innovative step. And its CO, Lieutenant Colonel Grenville Johnston, an Elgin chartered accountant in civilian life, would like to hear from any other British units which have equipped themselves in a similar fashion.

The £3,000 computer is based at battalion headquarters in Elgin. It is maintained and programmed by regular chief clerk WO2 John Bailey, Queen's Own Highlanders, who describes his charge as a great time-saver.

Explains Colonel Johnston: "When I took over the battalion in November 1983 I asked TAVRA for a computer and they very kindly agreed to pay for one.

It's an extremely useful piece of equipment and it actually belongs to the battalion as opposed to the Ministry of Defence.



■ Colonel Sir David Cooke, Mr Joe Ball: record keeper on test.

## FIRST BADGES FOR MANCHESTER UNIT



■ If the cap fits ... the GOC at the ceremony.

Hard work by staff of the newly-raised Manchester Detachment of 23 SAS was rewarded when their first four volunteers to pass selection were 'badged' by GOC North West District, Major General Philip Davies.

The special parade, at the detachment's Manchester TA centre, was followed by an informal gathering of present and previous members of the regiment from the North West.

A spokesman from the 23 SAS staff said: "This is a tremendous

first step for us and gives us our first 'home grown' troopers from the North West."

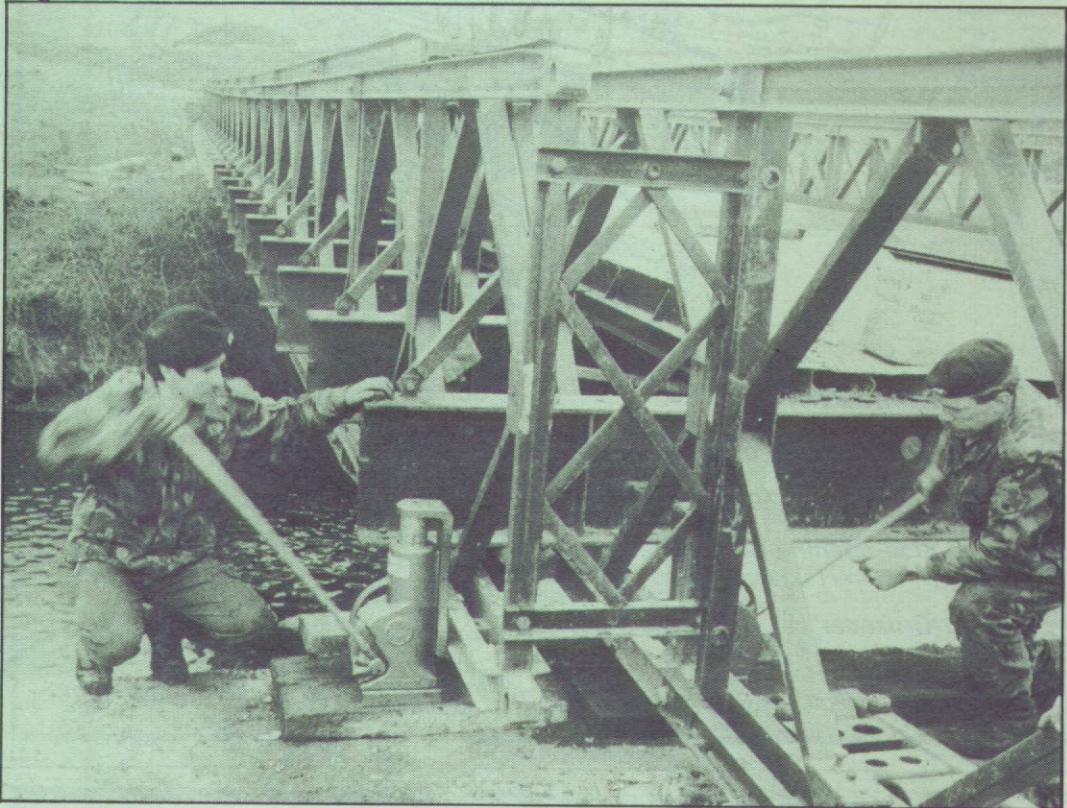
### ENHANCED

"It is likely we will receive an enhanced establishment in 1985 to give us squadron strength.

"Currently we have two groups going through their initial training which will lead to a test weekend in late spring and a selection course after Easter."

## The day the bridge

# CAME DOWN



■ Sapper Peter Webster gets jacking to make way for the rollers.

## Still streaking on

After 36 years continuous service with the TA Warrant Officer 2 Peter Bacon is on the move again.

He has retired as SSM of 87 Nottingham Squadron, 38 Signal Regiment (V) and transferred to the East Midlands

University Officer Training Unit, Beeston, Nottingham.

Mr Bacon, who is known, incidentally, as Smokey rather than Streaky, first joined the Derbyshire Yeomanry back in 1948.

"A neat bit of sapping." That's how Warrant Officer 2 QMSI Nick Brown described the way his TA Engineers dismantled a civilian Bailey Bridge over the River Irwell.

QMSI Brown, the senior PSI of 202 Field Squadron, 75 Engineer Regiment, directed the dismantling operation with a team of 35 men drawn from the squadron's troops in Burnley, Preston, and Clifton, Manchester (Squadron HQ).

The modified Bailey Bridge had been erected earlier in the year by civilian contractors to enable heavy plant to cross the river while working on a sewerage scheme. Once the work was finished the bridge was no longer required and the volunteer Sappers were called in to remove it.

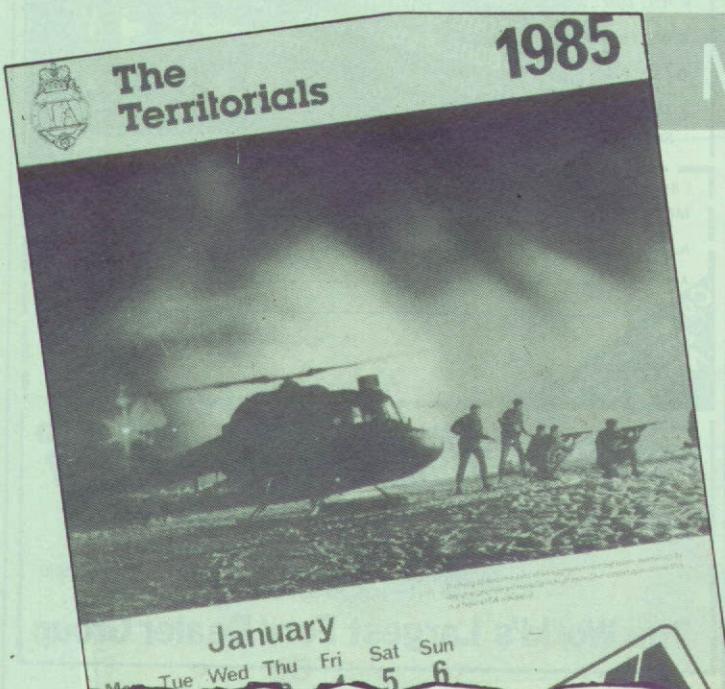
Some skilful jacking, a strategic removal of decking plates, in order to shift the critical centre of gravity back over the supports, and the bridge was gently pulled onto the south bank where it was dismantled.

## A century's service

Five meritorious service medals have been presented to members of A Company, 5th (Volunteer) Battalion, the Queen's Regiment, at a special ceremony in Guildford.

The five, who between them have a total of 100 years of

service in the cadets, the Regular Army, National Service and the TA, were Corporal Arthur Dunipace, RAMC (attached A Coy), Sergeant Chris Davis, WO2 Alan Gaulkett, Corporal Julian Martin, WO2 Peter Roast.



## MAKE A TA DATE

By now some 8,300 calendars should be adorning various walls around the country and spreading the gospel of part-time soldiering.

The TA calendar has been an annual event since 1980 when the TAVRA Organisation and Recruiting Committee agreed that it might be a good way of telling the general community about the wide range of activities encompassed by the Territorial Army.

Brigadier Geoffrey Westbrooke, who was then a member of the committee, undertook, on behalf of the North of England TAVRA in Durham, the job of producing the calendar which in effect has meant Major Tony Booth, the association's assistant secretary,

spending a considerable part of his time organising a supply of suitable pictures.

"Few of the pictures we use are professional pieces of work," he explained.

"And there is always someone to pick out details they think incorrect. Once an old soldier complained that TA men featured inside a signals cabin were not wearing their head dress.

"Another time we had a super picture of a girl cooking. Unfortunately she had a comb sticking out of her pocket and she was wearing a blue vest under her uniform. These are the sort of snags that someone is bound to pick up."

# GD

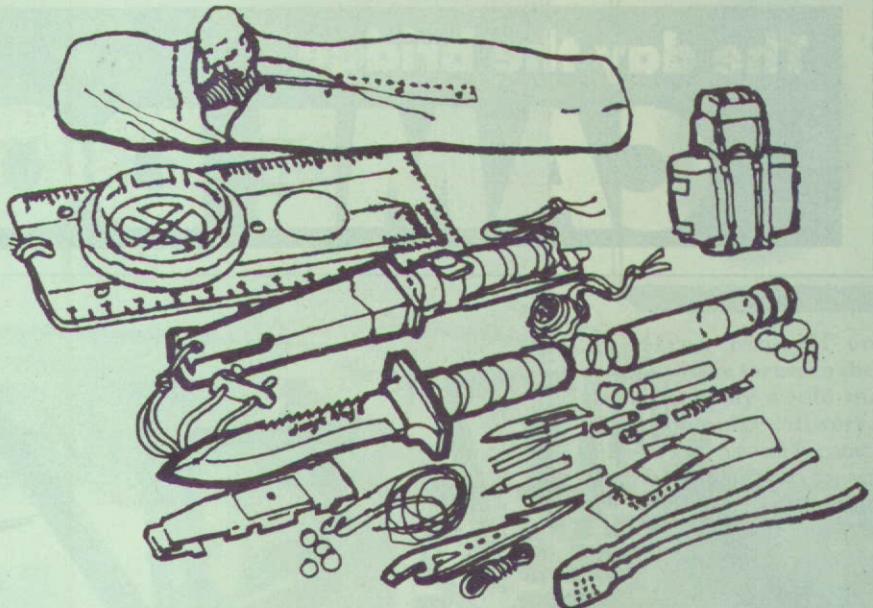
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**SMILE!** Smile wider and more often. That's the 1985 plea from Brigadier Charles Millman, Colonel of the Queen's Regiment.

The Brigadier has followed up remarks made by General Sir John Stanier, CGS, at a passing out parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, when he said that while the Army needs dedicated officers it has no place for dull ones, by adding that there's no place for dull WOs, NCOs or Junior Ranks either. "Professionals blessed with humour, yes!"

There is no room for anything less than a truly dedicated approach to one's Service career, says Brig Millman in *The Queen's Regiment* magazine, adding: "without hopefully becoming a ripe military bore in the process!"

Stressing the importance of professionalism, he says that the Army and the Regiment would probably be much happier places if its members smiled rather wider and more often, made better use of leisure time and were less over ambition tainted. "In short, if we were all to take ourselves just a trifle less seriously and so eradicate the germs of dullness".

Brig Millman recalls that at the time of confrontation in Malaysia and the conflict in the Radfan, infantrymen still seemed to find time to smile a good deal, make their own fun, play a variety of games and follow some useful leisure pursuits. "If we could do it then and still be highly professional, perhaps we could also do it now if we just gave ourselves the time and opportunity. Especially since the Army has never been smaller and we have never had less commitments."

So for 1985, the Queen's Regiment slogan should be 'The happy professionals'.

How about it Army? Smile please!

\* \* \*

MRS Jacqueline Mayo, better known to thousands of *SOLDIER* readers as Anne Armstrong, the crusading freelance journalist and broadcaster — she has been writing a column for us since 1976 — has been awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours List for services to Army families.

Anne said: "I was a bit shocked but pleasantly surprised to get an MBE because

# SOLDIER to Soldier

one never thinks of this sort of thing. I think that perhaps throughout the past ten years that one has been able to highlight and help through *SOLDIER* those Service families who have raised various issues concerning their welfare. I am pleased, also, that I have been able to influence certain changes that have bettered family life within the Army.

"It is still a challenge because I tend not to take 'no' for an answer. There is always the possibility a bureaucratic decision may be overturned."

She judges her biggest success in recent years as getting the introduction of the Youth Training Scheme into BAOR and the allocation of 500 places.

With office lines often 'hot' to London on multifarious subjects, Anne is already on the 1985 campaign trail — see page 23!

\* \* \*

**PRINTS** of Terence Cuneo's painting depicting the Army Catering Corps in the Falklands conflict (see *SOLDIER* 3 December) can now be ordered.

Produced by James Haworth Limited, the print measures 20 by 13½ inches and depicts not only the professional catering aspects of the ACC but their additional tasks in a war environment showing the men as stretcher bearers and medical assistants, manning weapon pits, helicopter marshalling and loading etc.

The location was Port San Carlos at the echelon of 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment in May 1982.

Cost of the unsigned prints are £12 if collected from HQ ACC Association, St Omer Barracks, Aldershot or £16 by post. Prints can be ordered from the Mess Secretary, HQ Officers' Mess ACC, c/o the Corps Secretariat, St Omer Barracks, Aldershot, Hampshire.

The number of prints is limited and would-be purchasers are advised that there is no intention to reprint. Cheques made payable to 'HQ Officers' Mess, Army Catering Corps', please — to arrive no later than 22 February.

COPIES are still available of the book which *SOLDIER* is offering FREE to new annual subscribers.

*SOLDIER* is offering you a copy of *British and American Tanks of World War II* by Peter Chamberlain and Chris Ellis, the complete illustrated history of British, American and Commonwealth tanks, gun motor carriages and special purpose vehicles from 1939-45.

In addition to the text and photographs which describe each vehicle, concise specifications are given.

The book, published by Arms and Armour Press and normally priced at £11.95, is offered FREE by *SOLDIER* (except for the cost of postage and packing) when you take out an annual subscription to the magazine. You pay £13.55p for the magazine including postage (which in itself means you get two issues FREE during the year), plus £2 to cover the cost of postage and packing of your book. So for a total of £15.55p you will receive 25 issues of *SOLDIER* Magazine and your free copy of *British and American Tanks of World War II*. The package would normally cost £27.50p.

The offer is open only to new subscribers to the magazine — those resident in the UK.

A special subscription can be found on page 48 of *SOLDIER*. Photocopies of the form are acceptable from those who do not wish to cut their copy of the magazine. Please allow 21 days for delivery.

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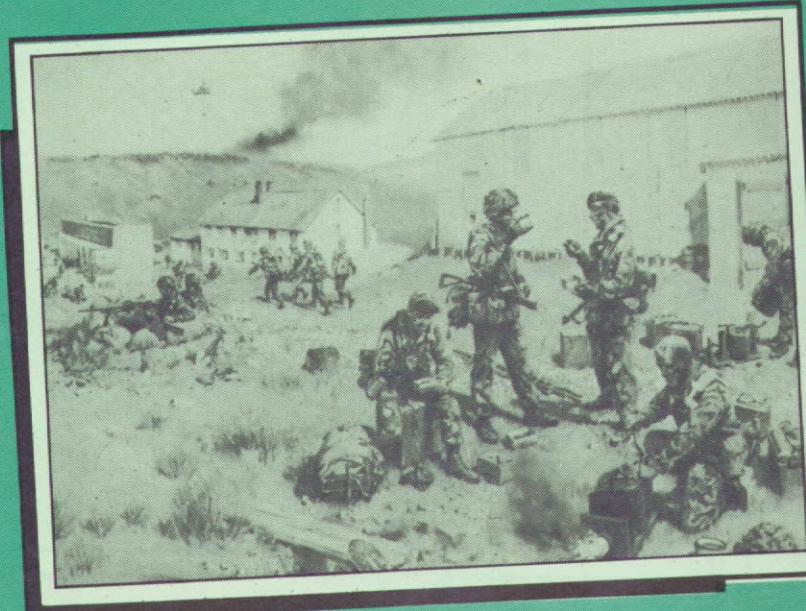
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JOHN MARGETTS visits 22 Air Defence Regiment  
in West Germany for an up-date on Tracked Rapier and discovers...



Tracked Rapier proving across country capability

## WHY APRIL CANNOT COME TOO SOON!

**A**PRIL can't come quickly enough for the lads of 53 (Louisburg) Air Defence Battery, Royal Artillery. For then they will be heading for the ranges of Benbecula to zap real targets with their missiles instead of simulated ones.

With a few months' experience of handling Tracked Rapier, the Army's newest line in low-level air defence systems, they're just itching to finger the button that will send the missiles ripping across the wide open spaces of the Outer Hebrides firing area.

But even then their joy will be short-lived. For the cost of anti-aircraft rocketry is such that the lads of 53 Battery can fire just one 'live' shot a year.

The rest of the time is spent practising on the simulator at the Dortmund base of their unit, 22

Air Defence Regiment.

There they keep their trigger fingers and reactions honed to a fine degree, for when Tracked Rapier goes into action the operating time lasts ten seconds from start to finish.

Since such lightning-fast responses are required, the 'tactical controller' of the five-man crew has to lock on to the target at a mighty fast rate.

Standing in the open turret of the launcher vehicle, he focuses his optical sight — which is clipped to his helmet — at the target before

At the ready — with Lynx 'in tow'.



punching the computer button and getting the order to fire.

This, too, comes from the computer and, if the guy with the optic-fitted helmet has done his job correctly, it's a no-miss situation.

Simulated 'shots' show 53 Battery's 'hit rate' to be consistently high, but while the lads get good scores, it's the thought of a 'live' firing at Benbecula in April that's keeping a spring in their step.

Predictably, Bombadier Terry Chalk — in common with numerous others in the Battery — described the system as "the best bit of kit I've ever worked on.

"It's 100 per cent better than Towed Rapier. Everything about it is an improvement.

"It's a small vehicle and I feel a lot safer than working on Towed Rapier.

"There's no comparison either in the time it takes to get into action — 30 seconds against 30 minutes with the towed model.

"We also carry eight ready-to-fire missiles against four. And another thing," said Terry, "these vehicles can go anywhere."

And to prove it the Battery, with the help of four Lynx helicopters from 3 Regiment Army Air Corps, D Company of The Black Watch and 32 Armoured Regiment RE, laid on a demonstration of Tracked Rapier supporting a company crossing an obstacle using a bridge-laying vehicle.

All good, exciting stuff, with Tracked Rapier and the lads of 53 showing their paces to watching pressmen.

**Removing missile pack from the chassis.**

If nothing else it showed that the three-man launcher vehicle and its two-man support, with its supply of 20 back-up missiles, can cross rough ground at high speed.

Whether they would have zapped the targets before getting KO'd themselves is pure speculation. But the fact is Tracked Rapier — while it can be camouflaged to some extent — is a front-line fighting vehicle and all that that implies.

The danger of 53's wartime role was justified by Battery Commander Major Keith Prentice who compared the cost of a Rapier missile to that of a multi-million pound aircraft. "A very cost effective weapon," he said.

Unlike the towed version, Tracked Rapier is not fitted with Blindfire radar, being strictly visual relying on the tactical controller locating the target in his optical sight and keeping it there.

But nothing is perfect — close though Tracked Rapier is to this desired state — the fitting of a thermal imaging night sight will enhance it still further as a weapon and with the lads of 53 Battery who operate it.

"Our main problem at the moment is sorting out a track pad problem," said Detachment Commander Bombadier Gwyn Harvey, pivoting his FMC M548 launcher round a series of demonstration obstacles.

"The present pads just don't last long enough. But we're working on it. When it is sorted this system and its vehicles will be close to perfection."

**Inset: Vigilant commander awaits a target.**

## BARBARA PROVES REAL KNOCKOUT!

The Welsh Gunners' best boxer, Gunner Tony Newcombe of Penarth, finds he's no match for Miss Cardiff, Barbara Christian of Barry, during her recent visit to the regiment in Dortmund, Germany, to be installed as Miss 22 Air Defence Regiment.

Tony, 22, is the light welterweight champion of the regiment. An advanced Tracked Rapier operator, he has served with the Welsh Gunners in Germany for four years, but the rapier-like thrust from Barbara proved too much for him.

Recovering from the effect of her charms, Tony echoed the feelings of the regiment when he said: "She's a great girl, and very good news for us here."



## Spotlight on the RCT Junior Leaders Regiment at Colerne

# ICE OR SNOW: the lads won't stop



**S**ERGEANT GWYN Barracough had one aid to education that any teacher might envy. All he needed to ensure the obedient attention of his pupils was the threat of suspension from class.

"If you threaten the boys will no longer do any training for any misdemeanour, then you get no misdemeanour at all," he said. "And no training, that would be the very worst thing — worse than facing any sergeant major."

Sergeant Barracough was speaking in the final weeks of a job he had thoroughly enjoyed for the past three years — teaching junior soldiers the art of motor cycling.

Most teenagers need little encouragement to take an interest in motor bikes and in Sergeant Barracough they had an informed and enthusiastic teacher. He is a former Army champion and has been, for some seven years, consistently among the three best motor cyclists in the service.

He knows he has been fortunate in being able to teach a subject he

**Learning can be fun: being banned from class would be the worst thing.**

likes to pupils who are anxious to learn.

"No matter what the weather — come rain, ice or snow, the lads don't want to stop," he said. "They are full of questions. They want to know how well you do in competitions and how they can get into competitions themselves."

"Some of them need a bit of a push occasionally, but on the whole they are quite prepared to learn and take advantage of any advice you can give them."

Early this year Sergeant Barracough is due for a few changes when he leaves the Royal Corps of Transport Junior Leaders' Regiment to take up a new job with 1 Armoured Division Transport Regiment.

And the unit he leaves behind is due for some changes too, because next autumn the RCT Junior Leaders will begin the process of amalgamation with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps Apprentices College, Deepcut.

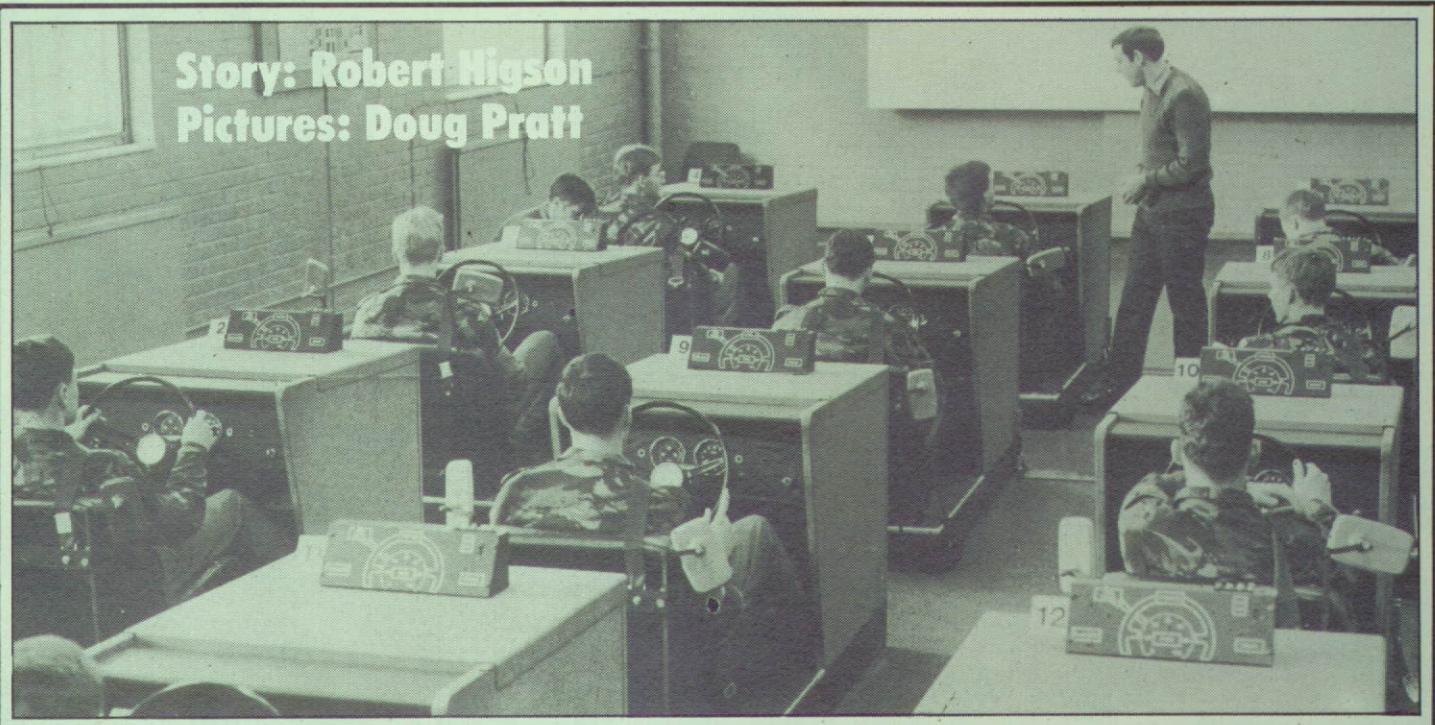
"I don't think the changes are going to be basic," says the Regiment's CO, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Colvin, "but there are, inevitably, going to have to be adjustments towards the RAOC people who are joining us and I don't think we can expect to go on entirely as we have before."

Colonel Colvin and his staff are at present examining the implications of those changes, not with a feeling of impending doom but with the sort of confidence that has encouraged them recently to put the regiment, its facilities and its achievements, on show to the local media.

Since 1978, when they moved north from Taunton, the RCT Junior Leaders have occupied the

**'Like driving static bumper cars'. The juniors get on simulators before getting on the road.**

**Story: Robert Higson  
Pictures: Doug Pratt**



old RAF station at Colerne, high up on a wind swept ridge overlooking the Regency splendours of Bath.

To this often bracing environment come 16-year-old school leavers from all over the country to learn the basic business of being a soldier. They spend three terms at Colerne and then move to 32 Squadron at Driffield for their final term before joining their regular units.

The unofficial regimental crest depicts two figures with halos and cloven hooves — a mixture of saint and sinner which is how the regiment sees its junior soldiers.

"We are dealing with a wide range of ability and a variety of home backgrounds," says Colonel Colvin. "There are boys whose parents are company directors, running a family business, and there are those from broken homes with parents unemployed.

"I think we get the range of problems that one would expect from teenage adolescents. No, I don't think they are difficult. They are interesting to work with — frustrating and rewarding by turn.

"It is not a case of taking individuals and trying to press them into an identical mould. We have a variety of employment within the Corps which ranges from driver to seaman, to railwayman, movement controller and so on.

"What we are trying to produce is a well motivated young soldier who has had time to settle into his own mould and give us the chance to find out what he is going to do best."

To help achieve its objective the Regiment has an impressive array of facilities at its disposal. The Military Studies Wing for example has a good claim on being the best in the Army and is, according to Major Ron Jones, the senior education officer, the envy of members of the teaching profession who frequently come to visit.

There is a well appointed library with its own section on military subjects, there is a resources room with five portable video cameras

to record classroom activities for analysis and discussion; there is a 24 booth language laboratory to give the juniors some basic German, as at least half of them will be posted to BAOR early in their Army careers; and there is a computer room to provide them with an introduction to these all pervading machines.

About 20 per cent of the juniors' time is spent on education at Colerne and one of the complaints you hear most frequently is that there is too much classwork.

But Major Jones doesn't doubt that Military Studies represent time well spent, although he can understand how boys who thought they were joining the Army were surprised to find themselves back at school.

"The major point is that many of the juniors who arrive here don't have a great deal to show from 10 years at school in terms of either GCEs or CSEs," he says.

"They see themselves on that evidence and in relation to their peers at school as being non-achievers. We have to help them overcome the fact that they believe they are unlikely to succeed in a classroom environment."

All studies are aimed at equipping the junior for his job as an RCT soldier. They are given a course in map reading, a fairly useful skill for a transport driver, and they are taught the basics of money management to help them handle their own earnings.

Major Jones says that 55 per cent of the juniors left after the last term with an Education for Promotion Certificate which is the educational qualification required by a corporal for promotion to sergeant.

At present 90 per cent of the boys are studying at least one EPC subject. A measure, he adds, of the degree to which their attitude and their belief in themselves can be changed.

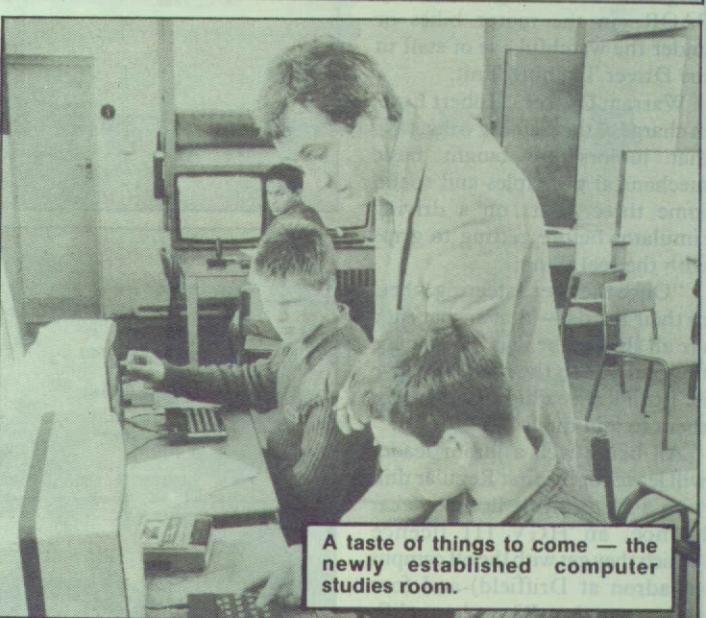
As senior education officer, Major Jones also administers the range of 40 different hobbies available to the junior soldiers. Two nights a week are set aside for hobbies and every junior must make his selection.

Sports, obviously play a very important part in the regimental curriculum and once again the facilities are truly impressive. One of the enormous hangars, which are still a prominent feature of this former RAF station, has been turned into a magnificent sports hall.

It contains a 25 metre swimming pool plus four badminton courts, two fencing courts, a volleyball court, a basketball court and an indoor football pitch.

Corporal Peter Rayner, a PT instructor and a former junior leader himself, says: "Within a few weeks we see a difference from a

Sprechen Sie ein bisschen Deutsch? The well appointed language laboratory.



Sergeant Gwyn Barraclough — instructions from a champion.



Lieutenant Colonel Charles Colvin — from boy soldier to CO.

sloppy young schoolboy to a smart young soldier.

"It is a remarkable difference, and they all say afterwards — even if they didn't like it at the time — they are better persons for it when they've finished."

A group of newly joined juniors seem to agree. The discipline is tough and strict and the atmosphere totally different from school, but they don't seem to mind.

"If you do nothing wrong you don't get shouted at," says one. And another adds somberly: "There are not many prospects in Civvy Street. We are the lucky ones."

There may be many aspects to the business of preparing juniors for Army service, but for most of the boys learning to drive is certainly the most important.

No one complains about this sort of education whether it was with Sergeant Barraclough, now in BAOR, on the motor bikes or under the watchful eye of staff in the Driver Training Unit.

Warrant Officer 2 Robert Eyre, in charge of the training wing, says that juniors are taught basic mechanical principles and spend some three hours on a driving simulator before getting to grips with the real thing.

"Once they get a steering wheel in their hands — that's what they are all about," he says. "And once they get out on the road they love it. I think it is a big incentive for them to join the RCT."

All being well a junior leader will leave for his first Regular unit with a motor cycle licence, a car licence, an HGV III licence (which they get with the off campus squadron at Driffield) and four parts towards a B3 trade qualification. With this sort of start it is perhaps not surprising that 50-60 per cent of the sergeants' messes in the RCT are made up of former

junior leaders.

But in order to achieve all this, recruits have to be adaptable to the Army way of life and this is by no means always the case.

"In the first six months a junior can claim his discharge as a right," says Colonel Colvin. "Traditionally the percentages we have lost are between 18 and 20 per cent. That has now gone up to slightly over 20 per cent."

"Although that sounds a rather alarming statistic I think in fact it is part of self selection process. If a boy finds out he is not suited to

the Army then he will tend to want to leave."

Homesickness is a major factor and it can effect some recruits almost immediately. One group of juniors in their third term mentioned that three of their number had wanted to leave within the first half hour. One was still with them.

Colonel Colvin says: "If the other juniors will accept him then they will tend to pick him up and get him over these initial hurdles. But if we get a boy who is not accepted by his own kind then he

is unhappy and homesick and then wants to leave."

The CO should know. Thirty years ago he was a boy soldier in the days when there was a lot more shouting and a lot less training in leadership initiative.

He joined with a group of six others, one of whom had been given the alternative by a magistrate of going to Borstal or joining the Army.

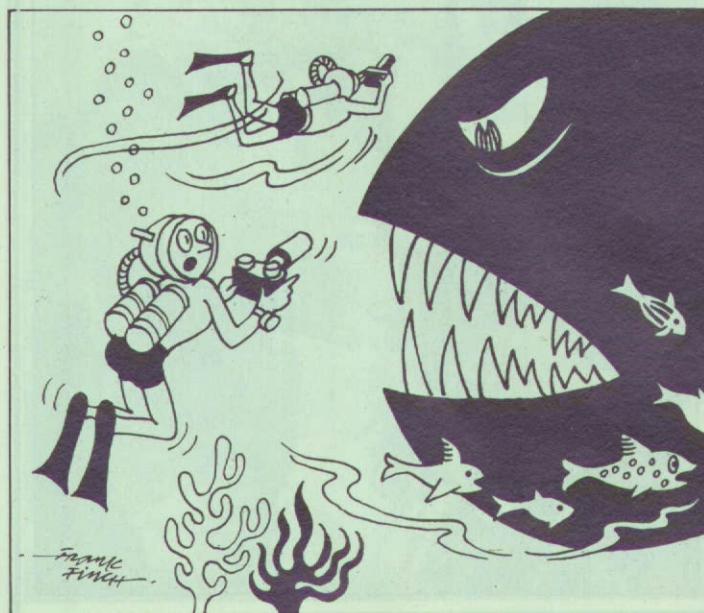
He says: "I think the Army these days is very much more selective about the character of the young people they are recruiting." ■



Above: The sports hall hangar — the sort of facility any school might envy  
Lower: Soldiers make the most of the excellent library facilities

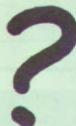
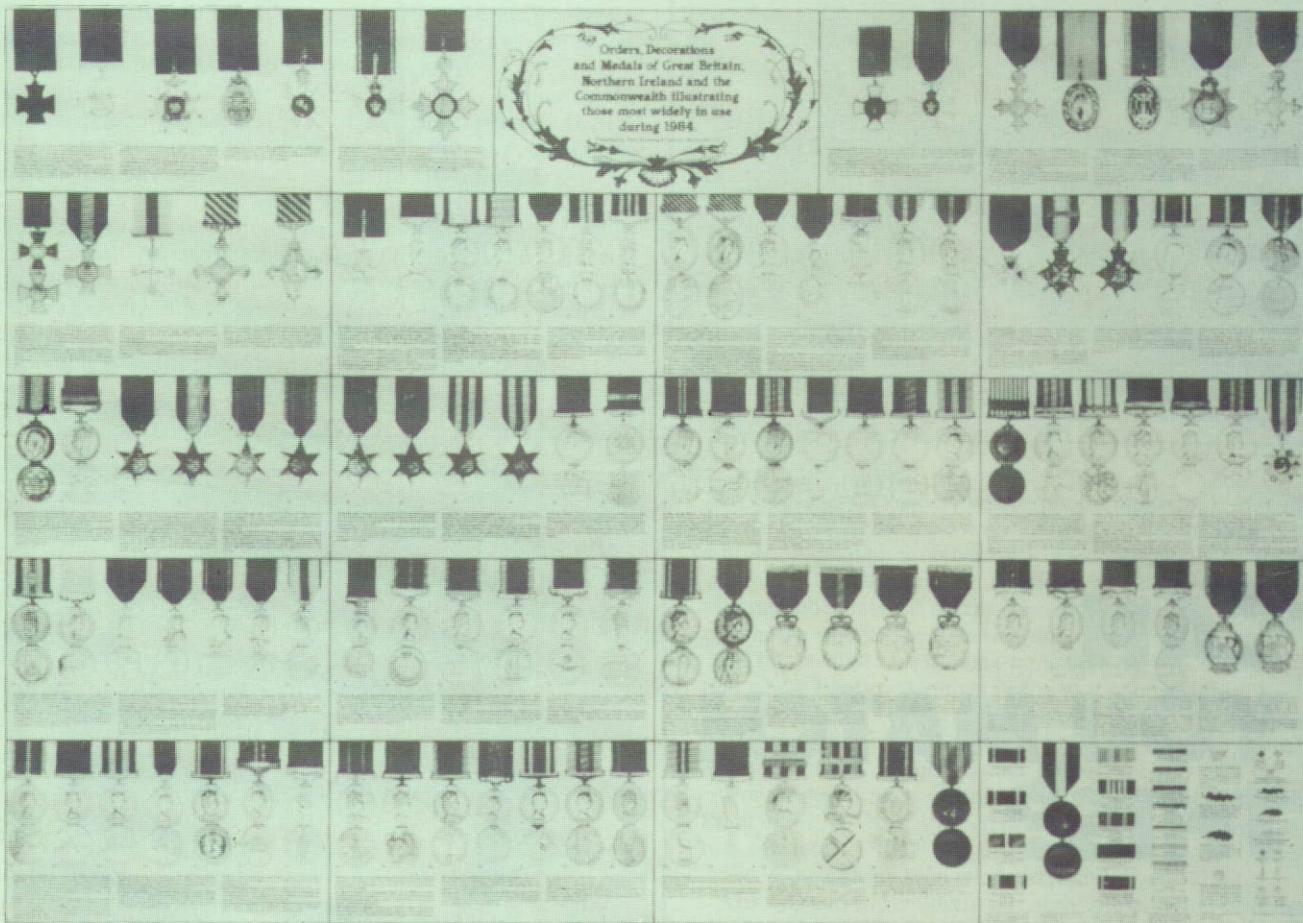
These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details.  
Look at them carefully. You can check your answers by turning to page 40.

## How observant are you?



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## CAN YOU MATCH THIS?

SOLDIER is often complimented on the quality of its photographs, but we are also well aware that there are many excellent photographs taken by Army photographers, both professional and amateur, which might, but don't get published in the magazine. The reason is usually that they are not sent to the Editor for consideration.

The subject was touched on by Brigadier Michael Hobbs, Director of Public Relations, Army, when he presented awards in the Army's Photographic Competition (see SOLDIER 14 January), except that he was referring to publication in the national press.

Some of them could certainly make the newspapers, and in doing so help to enhance the Army's public relations image. Brigadier Hobbs mentioned Sergeant Jim Gallagher's shot of two paras on patrol with a Hercules droning overhead, which won a top award as Army Photograph of the Year, and was used by the Times.

There is tremendous photographic talent in the Army, the

Brigadier said. The competition was proof of that. Some 300 individual entries were submitted, although only a small number of them could be displayed in Ministry of Defence Main Building.

The Brigadier said he wanted to continue to receive highly professional pictures, but also advised enthusiastic amateurs not to be daunted.

So, if you have a good photograph, put it in next year's competition. But think more urgently whether it is the sort of photograph that might be published by a newspaper, or might be worth sending to SOLDIER. No-one can guarantee that it will be published, but it's worth trying to get your photograph in print.

Your photographs should be sent either to the Editor of SOLDIER, or for use in the Press to DPR(A) at MOD Main Building in Whitehall. Time is important. Newspapers — and SOLDIER — don't like using 'stale' news photographs. So do something straight away.

## VITAL MESSAGE FOR ALL CAMERAMEN



Some of the men whose pictures you enjoyed

**SERGEANT** Stuart Andrew, Army Photographer of 1984, Royal Army Ordnance Corps hails from Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire.

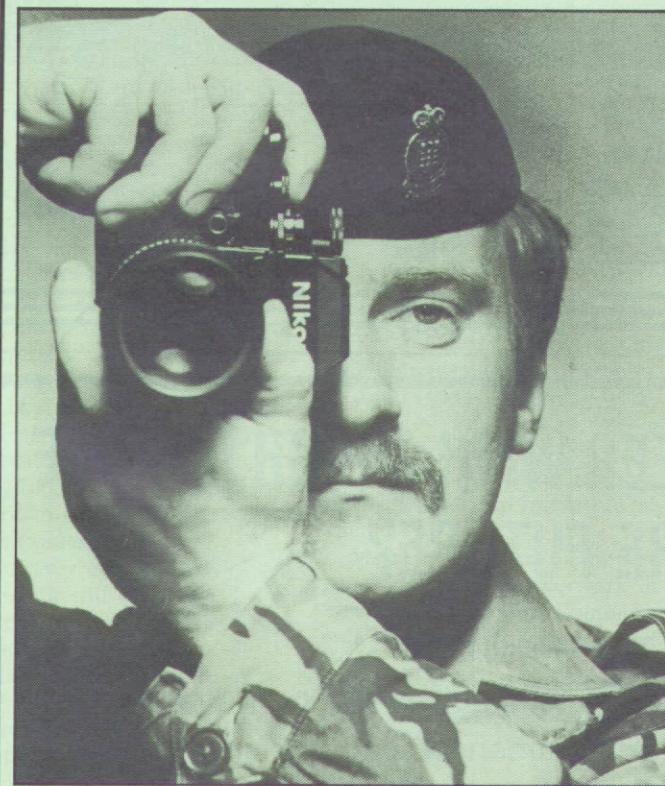
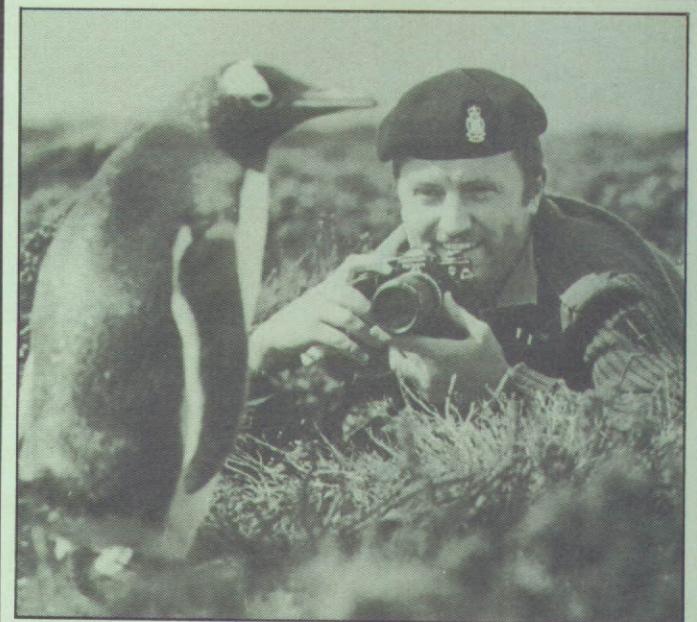
Stu, 31, joined the Army in 1972 to train as a combat engineer, but seven years ago as a Lance Corporal RE he decided to develop his career by transferring to the RAOC to be a photographer. Since then he has served in Turkey, Norway, Kenya, Cyprus and Germany three times. When selected for his present post of Force Photographer, Falkland Islands, he was serving with 3 Armoured Division at Soest, BAOR.

His first and successful entry into this annual photographic competition was a portfolio of 10 photos with a military subject. Stu says he never went out for specific shots but simply went through his

work over the year and selected what he considered to be good photography. His topics included the Queen Mother reviewing a parade, Irish Guards on night manoeuvres, and charging in a skirmish, a tank night shoot, Swingfire missile on release, a lone piper on Möhne Dam marking the 40th Anniversary of the famous Dambuster Raid and the Fijian Farewell ceremony.

Stu is now moving around the Falklands getting results that he hopes will be good enough to defend his title next year.

Back in Germany Stu's wife Angela and their daughter, seven year-old Kelly are looking forward to their new posting in Germany at Viersen as a report photographer. "It'll be a bit different from PR work" reckons Stu.



**DOUG PRATT** of SOLDIER won Category Three (best black and white) and has now won five awards and also claimed a runner-up spot five times but the 'big one', Army Photographer of the Year, still eludes him. He promises to keep on trying!

Doug is a Principal Photographer who joined us nearly 10 years ago from the Admiralty Underwater Weapons Establishment at Portland, where he was involved in recording trials and evaluation of systems, mainly using 16mm cine.

He moved to Aldershot on promotion and to a job which he still finds rewarding and chal-

lenging and frequently offering something different.

Doug also has something in common with Jim Gallagher... both are also qualified ships diving officers.

When not focussing his camera on Army subjects at home and abroad, Doug enjoys nothing better than a round of golf — and fellow golfers will tell you he is nearly as good with a club as he is with a camera.

Doug has worked for the Ministry of Defence for 23 years. He and his wife Denise have two daughters and live at Ash Vale, near Aldershot.

Sergeant Jim Gallagher, whose photographs took four of the seven main awards in the Army Photographic Competition, became a professional photographer by accident, yes really by accident.

While Jim was serving in Northern Ireland the official Army photographer was hit on the head by a brick and knocked out during the start of the present troubles in 1969.

"They wanted a keen amateur to take over", recalled Jim "and that's how I got my baptism of fire as a photographer".

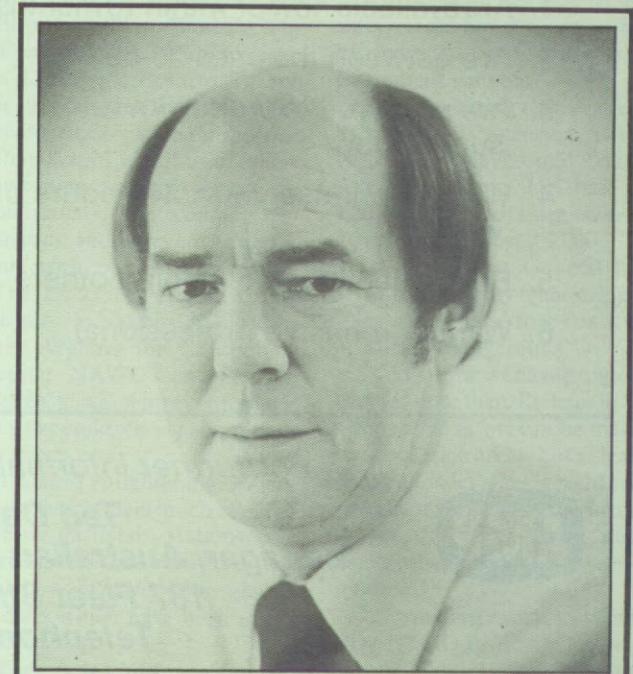
Jim had been in the Army three years at that time, serving as a radio telegraphist with the Royal Signals and was just what the Army wanted — a keen amateur photographer.

For the past three years he has been with the Inventory Control Point of the RAOC at Viersen in Germany, and now is on his way to a new job at UKLF HQ at Wilton.

At 36, he's also a keen windsurfer and diver.

His wife and two children were at the presentation ceremony in the Ministry of Defence Main Building to see him collect his armful of prizes from Brigadier Michael Hobbs, Director of Army Public Relations.

And on this occasion it was Jim's wife who clicked the shutter to snap him receiving his prizes, including a silver cup for the Army Photograph of the Year, the best picture of the whole competition.





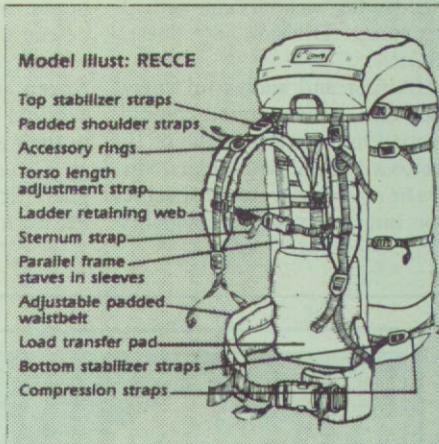
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EVERY year I look back through your letters to see if there are any problems unsolved.

Sad to say number one on list is DHSS benefits, particularly Unemployment.

I have 11 cases awaiting tribunals, 24 where wives' cases have not yet been assessed and no doubt in 18 of these my advice will be to take the case to tribunal, but the final decision remains with the wife.

Of recent enquiries at first glance, I believe, half have a case.

Fifty cases, approximately £50,000, a mere drop in the ocean to the DHSS budget, but an awful lot of money for Service families to lose on just Unemployment Benefit. How many more wives have not written or claimed?

Three problems emerge. One

— lack of the correct information from the DHSS, Dept of Employment, or the Ministry of Defence booklets.

If you are posted to Germany for example, the wives find out too late the procedure enabling them to claim.

Secondly, Adjudicating Officers interpret the rules regarding Service wives differently, as they are completely independent, and in many cases are not fully conversant with the special provisions.

In one case I visited a DOE office some 70 miles from Aldershot on behalf of a wife only to discover they did not even have the current UBL 22.

Thirdly, trying to formulate an appeal from overseas is extremely difficult as all the helpful information in DHSS leaflets is not available. Not to mention being able to attend to conduct your case, when no costs are allowed outside UK.

As this problem appears to

be increasing it is essential that wives receive the correct information as soon as possible as in most cases there is a deadline for appeal.

So this year I hope, in conjunction with SSAFA, DHSS, DOE, CAB, and Army Legal Aid to produce some constructive guidelines for those overseas who may wish to take their cases further, so they can present a constructive case to put before a Tribunal and hopefully reverse a decision which may deny them considerable sums of money.

To keep airing these anomalies is important not only to draw attention to them but to give wives who, before may have felt that there was no point in pursuing their case, encouragement in appealing.

I hope there may be a chance of claims being honoured, and further hope the Department of Health and Social Security, our Government, and the Euro-

# ANNE



**ARMSTRONG**

Who was awarded the MBE for services to Army families in the New Year Honours List? (See page 13)

pean Commission will recognise these anomalies not only in the Unemployment Benefits but also in Maternity Benefits, Families Income Supplement, Child Benefit, Supplementary Benefit, various handicapped allowances, including the new Service Disablement Allowance, Maternity Pay and Redundancy Pay.

FEW people are aware of Play Board Association for Children's Play and Recreation Limited.

As this is International Youth Year (IYY) I will be covering many aspects concerning youth.

Play Board, the exciting and relatively new voluntary organisation came into being in 1983.

It was established following the government's desire to expand, and enhance play, leisure, and recreation opportunities for the family.

Department of Environment made available £600,000 in 83/84 and £700,000 for 85/86, with Play Board to find 25 per cent of its costs from other sources.

However, both the DHSS and DES will still be involved with those play activities that they already do.

Play Board's objectives are to:

- Promote facilities for play, recreation, and other leisure time opportunities for children.
- Carry out, encourage, commission and publish research into children's play and recreation.
- Provide an educational, advisory, information and promotional service for children's play and recreation.
- Provide a co-ordinating and de-

## NOW LET'S GET PLAY AREAS RIGHT

velopment role with voluntary organisations concerned with children's play and recreation.

Within Play Board is Play Forum — for all who are in sympathy with the objectives of Play Board and as such has an open membership free up to 31 March.

Membership gives the opportunity to influence the work of National Play Advisory Committee and the future development of

Such a worthwhile organisation can benefit service dependents and with this in mind Terry Veitch visited Aldershot. Terry, recently with Fair Play for Children, is now a southern team regional Play Officer.

As a result an explanatory meeting was held at UKLF in late December. This resulted in proposals for further liaison which could be the basis of a very worthwhile liaison for the mutual benefit of both.

Play Board has launched its own publication 'Play World'. The National Playing Fields Association Children's department and Fair Play have been absorbed into Play Board, so such a publication at Play World is full of excellent information not only about the organisations, but contains information and news covering the whole world of children's play.

The December edition covers such items as National Association of the Welfare for Children in Hospital, NAWC's new charter, children's legal centre conference, and what children say about their play needs.

It is most enlightening and one area in which I feel much could be done on garrisons, stations, and quarter areas is to improve the play grounds, avoiding the ghastly mistakes which have been in our service areas.

When new builds are planned (ie Aldershot), the mistakes in previous re-builds can be rectified

### Northern Team:

**Play Forum Officer:**

Sue Palmer

**Regional Play Officers:**

North West:

Steve Rennie  
Lancs, Merseyside, Gtr.  
Manchester, Cheshire

Northern:

Fraser Brown  
Cleveland, Durham,  
Cumbria, Tyne & Wear,  
Northumberland

Yorkshire &

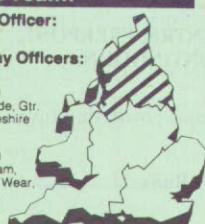
Humberside:

Pat Tomlinson  
North, West & South Yorkshire, Humberside

Office Staff: Susan Baracskay

**Address:** Coronet House, Queen Street, Leeds, LS1 4PW.

Tel: 0532 436322.



children's play and recreation.

Within Play Board is Play Forum — for all who are in sympathy with the objectives of Play Board and as such has an open membership free up to 31 March.

Membership gives the opportunity to influence the work of the National Play Advisory Committee and the future development of children's play and recreation.

### Southern Team:

**Play Forum Officer:**

Lesley Moreland

**Regional Play Officers:**

South East:

Kate Stephens  
Surrey, East & West  
Sussex, Kent

Eastern:

to be appointed  
Cambs, Beds, Herts,  
Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex

Southern:

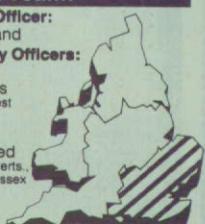
Terry Veitch  
Oxon, Bucks,  
Berks, Hants

Greater London: Josephine Byrne

Office Staff: Kate Stokes-Rees

**Address:** (temporary) 25 Ovington Square, London, SW3 1LQ.

Tel: 01-581 1669.



by seeking the best possible advice, often free from such organisations as NPFA.

Technical Director John Holborn has in the past been extremely helpful in both planning, designing and advising in all aspects of children's play. Not only from the safety angle but also accessibility by parents, and the type of equipment suitable.

It is interesting that at a recent exhibition I attended a small American playground on an American Army UK-base had £20,000 to spend; a similar area in a garrison had just £4,000.

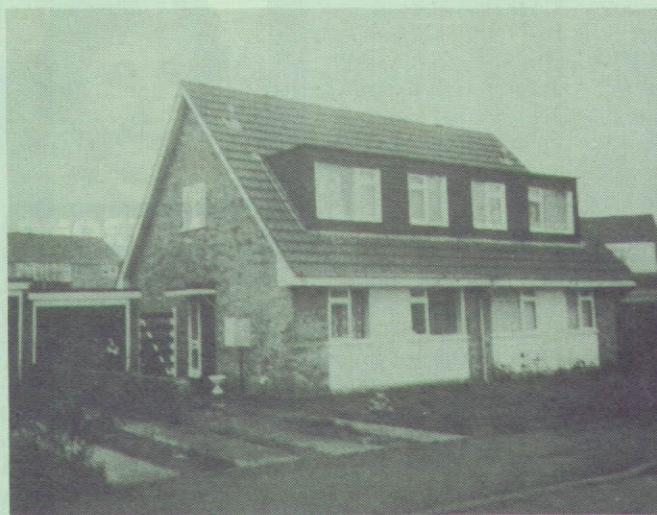
In 1981 Major General Lane, Directors of Army Quartering said "Several of those that I saw were downright dangerous."

I don't think we have progressed very far since then. Perhaps in 1985 a concerted effort can be made to improve such areas, but at least in new builds let's get it right.

At least we have the opportunity to get the siting right, not as recently happened, in between two quarters!

Information overseas, write to:  
Play Board, Britannia House, 50 Great Charles St, Queensway, Birmingham, B3 2LP. Tel: 021 233 3399.

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On this and the following four pages, writer Graham Smith and photographer Paul Haley conclude their detailed look at life in the Colony, beginning with the role of our forces in the Far East.

## A Very Wide Range of operations

**H**ONG KONG Garrison numbers about 9,000 personnel of which the Gurkhas make up more than half of the total.

There is one United Kingdom infantry battalion — 1st Battalion The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment — and four Gurkha infantry battalions.

In addition there is the Gurkha Transport Regiment, the Gurkha Engineer Regiment and the Gurkha Signal Regiment.

In the air the Army is represented by 660 Squadron, Army Air Corps, which flies ten Scouts and numbers about 70 personnel including REME technicians.

The squadron also has three Scouts detached to Brunei.

In addition to the Army there are elements of the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force.

But it is the Army which provides the majority of the Tri-Service Forces in Hong Kong under the direct command of the Commander British Forces, Major General Derek Boorman, who advises the Governor, Sir Edward Youde on matters affecting the security of Hong Kong. CBF is also responsible to the Chief of the Defence Staff in London.

The size and composition of the Garrison and the contribution Hong Kong makes — 75 per cent of the actual cost of keeping the Garrison — is determined by a Defence Costs Agreement between the Hong Kong and British Governments.

Additionally, reinforcements are available when 'appropriate and necessary.'

Operational units of the British Army are concentrated within the Gurkha Field Force while logistic units are grouped as support troops under the Deputy Commander British Forces.

Besides the Cheshire, other units stationed in Hong Kong as SOLDIER went to press were: 1st and 2nd Battalions, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles, and 1st and 2nd Battalions, 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles.

Serving in Brunei, but still part of the Gurkha Field Force, is the 1st Battalion, 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles.

The primary role of the Army is to support the Royal Hong Kong Police force in maintaining internal security (IS).

The Army is also responsible for preserving the integrity of the 26-mile-long border with China, the scene of attempted incursions into the Colony by illegal immigrants.

To maintain professional standards and help the Army fulfil its role troops are exercised over a wide range of operations from limited warfare to internal security. The units also exercise overseas in areas like Fiji, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Australia and Brunei.

The Hong Kong Military Service Corps (HKMSC) also recruits local personnel who form part of the British Forces in the Colony.

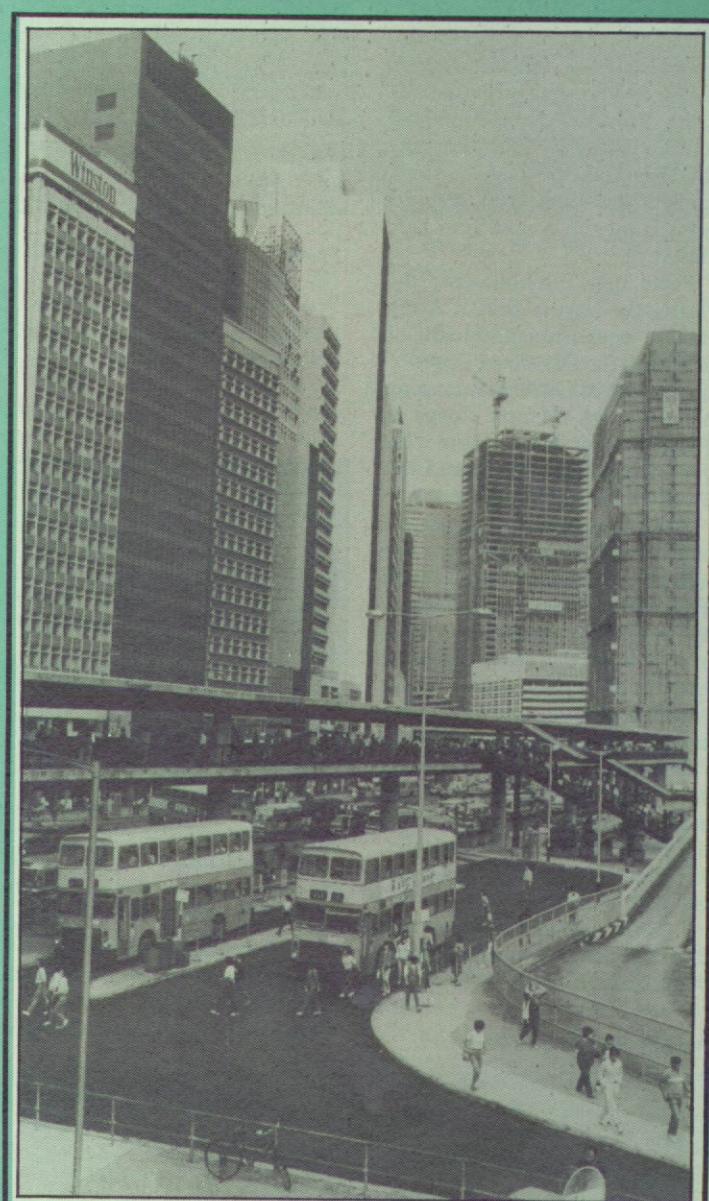
Another unit which has the role of supporting the British Garrison in the event of an emergency in the Colony which comprises Hong Kong Island, the Kowloon peninsula and the New Territories to the north is The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers), a part-time organisation rather like the UK's Territorial Army which is supplied and maintained by the Hong Kong Government.

Trained by a Regular Army permanent staff this regiment, too, has a task of anti-illegal immigrant operations and reconnaissance in limited war.

Local press reports have speculated that the Hong Kong Government is considering the setting up of some kind of security force to replace the British Army after 1997.

This force, says the press, would take over responsibility internally when Hong Kong becomes a Special Administrative Region (SAR) leaving its defence to the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) which would be stationed on the former Colony.

It was speculated that the Hong Government had two options. These were attaching the local security force to the police force which would be responsible for its administration, manning levels and deployment or setting up the force as an independent body which would operate in a support role



Hong Kong. Busy streets and buildings which seem to keep on climbing!

similar to the one currently taken on by the British garrison in IS tasks.

The hub of the new force, it was surmised, could be provided by The Royal Hong Kong Regiment and the Royal Hong Kong Auxiliary Air Force as well as locally recruited members of regular units.

According to one newspaper report the plan is to have the proposed security force in place by the early 1990s which would allow time for the British garrison to train it.

The new force would, it was implied, number less than 6,000

instead of the current garrison strength of about 9,000.

The press reports suggest that the Hong Kong Government will be taking its time before coming to any firm decisions one way or the other.

The current Defence Costs Agreement between the Hong Kong and British Governments expires in 1988.

Tally Note: There are 1,900 British Army personnel, including 155 women serving in the Colony plus 4,446 Gurkhas. In addition, there are 2,616 British Army personnel dependants.

**F**ROM mid-February until mid-March each year 500 of them fly into Hong Kong's Kai Tak airport from faraway Nepal.

Teenage hill boys yet to flick on a light switch, turn on a tap, or do up a pair of boot laces.

On arrival they are fitted out, kit bags or black bin-liner bags bulging at the local Ordnance Depot, enough to fill 44 four-tonne trucks on a 90-minute journey up-country.

Forty weeks later those same boys from the mountain kingdom, now earning 1,000 Hong Kong dollars monthly, have turned into sturdy cap-badged riflemen, cooks, or tailors emerging smartly from their 'academy', the Training Depot Brigade of Gurkhas (TDBG) at Sek Kong, in Hong Kong's New Territories, just five miles from the Anglo-Sino land frontier.

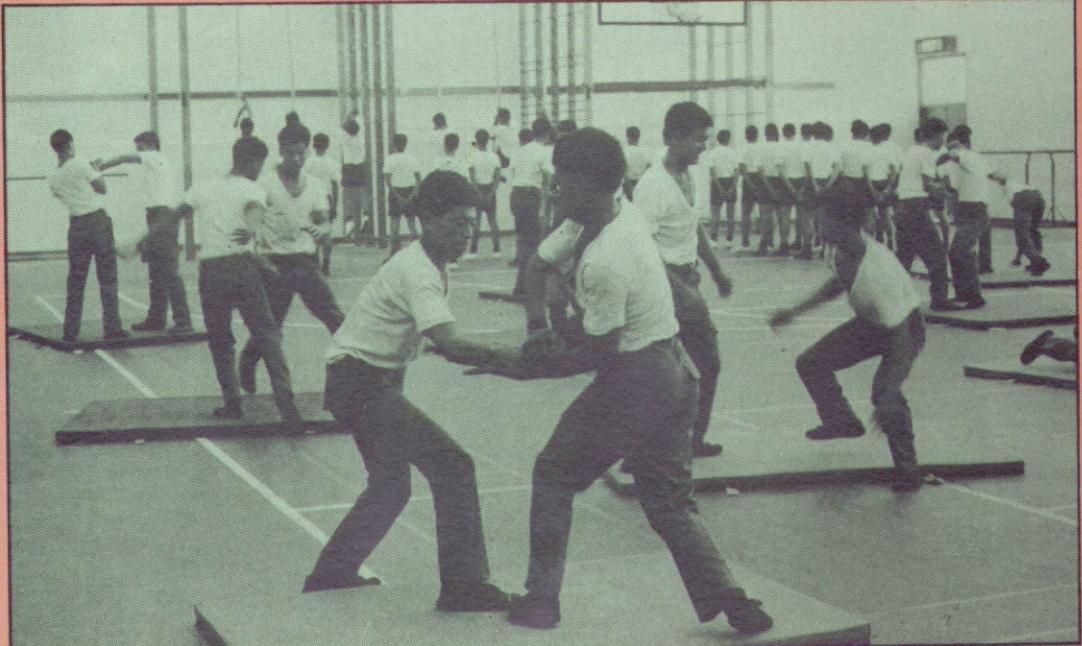
Their new environment, the TDBG the largest British Army training establishment outside of the UK, is the Divisional Depot of the Brigade of Gurkhas including the three non-infantry Corps of Queen's Gurkha Engineers, Queen's Gurkha Signals and the Gurkha Transport Regiment.

Tutoring the raw recruits in an intensive syllabus, tried, tested and improved over the years, is a staff of 84 instructors plus 220 more involved in their military education on the administrative side and support of recruit training and Division, courses curriculum for already trained soldiery.

The recruits learn basic military skills, range work, fieldcraft, minor tactics, weapon handling, field firing, tactics, NBC techniques, Internal Security (IS) procedures and drill.

TDBG is, according to its Commandant, Lieutenant Colonel David Scotson, 2nd King Edward

The hill boys in gym action.



## WHERE LIFE IS SO REWARDING



Internal Security training which involves Saracen participation

VII's Own Gurkha Rifles, a "very lean organisation considering what we have to do." Tasks likened to the Light Division and Warminster

rolled into one.

For the TDBG not only trains 500 raw recruits on average each year — 496 during 1984/5 — but also has the responsibility for career development of some 600 trained

Gurkha soldiers annually on junior and senior NCO courses, drill and skill-at-arms instructional courses, potential CQMS courses and common trade courses for clerks, technical storemen, tailors and equipment repairers from basic Class 3 to 1.

"It is not true that the Gurkha who initially joins us is very fit," said the Commandant. "At first glance it may seem strange that physical fitness is so important when most recruits' home lives have been based on subsistence agriculture in rugged terrain.

"It has been found that, although their backs and legs are generally strong, upper arms and chests do need developing. Many recruits will have lived on a barely adequate diet until they joined the Army and their physical development will have suffered accordingly.

"There can be few, if any, APTC instructors who have a more rewarding job than ours at Sek Kong."

The attrition rate of recruits during basic training, he said, was very low. In the current in-take of 498 only two had left-for medical reasons. For the past half-dozen intakes of 500 at a time it was estimated they had perhaps lost just 11 recruits.

On arrival from their homeland, all of the recruits have a fortnight's induction and introduction to the Gurkha way of life and discipline modelled on the British military manual lines.

Then, they embark on the 40-week course before returning home to Nepal cap-badged and proud to carry on a nation's tradition.

Colonel Scotson said: "They leave here extremely fit, highly disciplined and highly trained. We are making a great effort to improve English language training time — 200 periods — increasing it from 9.8 to 15 per cent. Obviously, for survival it's absolutely vital."

Small arms and range work for the recruits of 2,160 forty-minute periods — 25 per cent of training time — was also to be increased by another two per cent.

"Recruits are, almost without exception, highly motivated and approach their training with gusto," he said.

"Virtually everything is new to them even such a basic item like a boot. Recruits' feet are not accustomed to such footwear and much of the physical fitness training is devoted to wearing in both feet and boots when often two pairs of boots are worn out during that training.

"They are keen to learn and the instructors are never allowed to rest. It is a very moving occasion at the end of training when the platoon and section commanders say farewell to the unsophisticated hill boys they have turned into

SOLDIER

# in Hong Kong



## Weapon training on the CPMG.

well-trained riflemen, cooks, tailors or clerks en-route to their battalions within the Brigade of Gurkhas."

TDBG places great emphasis on shooting ability and it is during the recruits' nine-month-on-camp stay that the Gurkha's fine reputation as a battle and Bisley shot is forged.

But Colonel Scotson did point out: "It is a common fallacy to say a Gurkha is a natural shot. In practice he has to be taught from scratch with much patient and thorough instruction, some 300 periods devoted to the SLR alone. The recruit spends 25 complete days and eight nights on the 30-metre ranges and a corresponding amount of time for other weapons."

In the recruit syllabus virtually all entrants are taught to swim and, because of the Brigade of Gurkhas role in Hong Kong, the skills of internal security (IS) are also implanted. Adjustments were made in the first aid teaching because of experience during the Falklands conflict.

"All recruits, whether destined for the infantry or not, are trained here up to Grade 3 rifleman standard and so virtually no continuation training, other than special role training, has to be carried out by the battalions. Trade training for recruits for the Corps units is carried out by their parent Corps after recruit training," said the Commandant.

Each recruit company is divided into two wings comprising three recruit platoons of about 42 men each, making up a dozen platoons for the 1984 original intake of 498 recruits.

Colonel Scotson reminded: "The main differences between TDBG and other divisional depots in the UK are that the duration of our recruit training courses are

longer, we train recruits for arms other than infantry and the requirement exists to run courses for already trained soldiers."

TDBG is organised into a small HQ, two recruit companies and a Courses Division with an admin company containing the QMs department, messes, demonstration platoon etc, to give necessary support.

There is no integral MT and transport is supplied from various units under the direction of a local Transport Control Office.

All recruits are enlisted initially into the Brigade of Gurkhas. Allocation to infantry regiments and battalions and the three Corps units takes place during weeks 35 and 36 of the 40-week-long course so that recruits can be properly assessed.

The Commandant pointed out: "The way the allocation is done is tightly laid down, so there is no chance of someone favouring his own battalion.

"Direct family claims such as father or brother serving are taken

into account as is area of origin in Nepal. 2 GR and 6 GR, for instance, take westerners, while 7 GR and 10 GR take easterners. The Corps takes half from each.

"TDBG is a very busy training establishment with responsibilities extending far beyond recruit training and it is unique among British Army infantry depots.

"Additional tasks involve the translation of certain manuals from English to Nagri or romanised Gurkhali and educational material from Nagri into English.

"We also provide the administration for the four military instructors and supervision of students attending resettlement courses at the experimental farm here at Sek Kong.

"We provide too, the admin of the premises and four staff of the HQ British Forces Hong Kong Catering Instruction Wing (CIW) here, a facility for which a revision of the chain of command is under consideration."

Other admin tasks under TDBG aegis involves the Gurkha High

**Lt Col David Scotson: 'The TDBG is unique'.**

School's contract staff teaching 350 children, its hostels, a Gurkha primary school and several minor units.

Colonel Scotson summed up: "I do believe that the TDBG runs courses that ensure considerable cost-effective training saving air fares for 600 soldiers to the UK for training. Courses here, too, are run in the Gurkha's own language which makes their training more valuable."

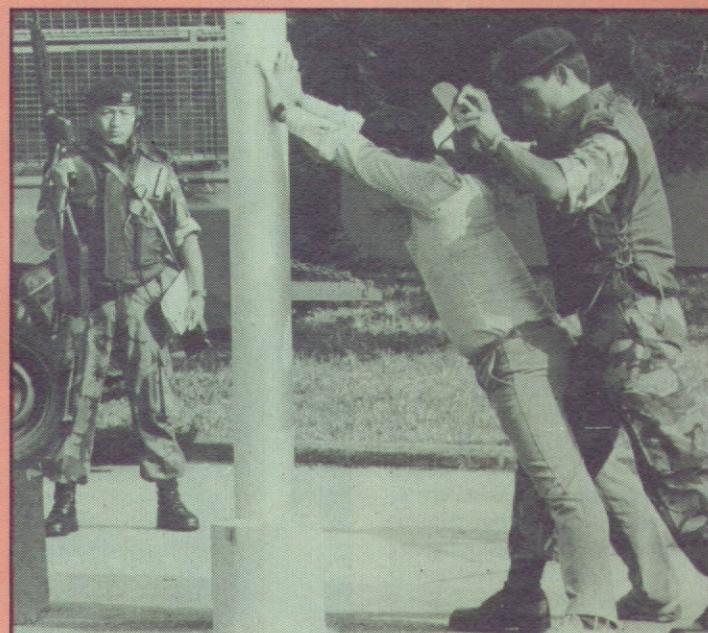
The Training Depot was formed at Sungei Patani in North Malaya in August 1951 to train recruits for the Gurkha Rifle Regiments which had become part of the British Army in 1947.

Before that, each regiment trained its own recruits. As the Gurkha Corps units (Gurkha Engineers, Gurkha Signals, Gurkha Army Service Corps now the Gurkha Transport Regiment, and the now disbanded Gurkha Military Police, were formed, it assumed responsibility for training their recruits as well.

It was commanded by a colonel and had four recruit companies, one for each of the Rifle Regiments (2, 6, 7 and 10 GR), with the Corps recruits spread between them. It also had a Boys' Company, mainly for the technical Corps.

In June 1971, on the withdrawal of British troops from Malaya and Singapore, the Depot moved to its present location in Hong Kong.

Its title changed to Training Centre Brigade of Gurkhas and, as well as its responsibility for training all Gurkha recruits in the British Army, it assumed responsibility for running career courses for Gurkha infantry NCOs and common trade and special list courses for all units in the Brigade of Gurkhas which had previously been run by the Far East Training Centre in Singapore.



# A look at the girls of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment...

SOLDIER  
in Hong Kong

## KEEN TO LEARN - AND TOUGH!

The bayonet explained.

**M**ILD-MANNERED University assistant librarian and former Girl Guide, 22-year-old Betty Poon really looks forward to shutting her books at the end of a busy day, climbing into combat kit and getting to grips with a 9mm Sterling sub machine gun as Lance Corporal Poon... four nights a month and at weekends.

For Betty, who works by day at Hong Kong University's library in its medical section, is one of 52 girls among the 700-strong The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers), the Colony's equivalent to the UK's TA.

Girls started to enter the 130-year-old regiment's male bastions in 1983. They are valued and "just as good as the boys" says the Training Wing Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer 2 Charles Lee Yuk, who has seen five training cadres pass through Erskine Training Camp at Sai Kung, five miles north of the Colony's Kowloon district.

Within a week of joining, girls like Betty — secretaries, clerks and government employees — are in combat kit right down to puttees, boots and four-pouch webbing on the live-firing ranges and learning the basics of fieldcraft.

Most, if not all, pledge a four-year commitment to the RHKR and over the last two years only four out of 56 have left to get married.

During a week-long stay at Erskine Camp the girls put in 15-hour days starting at 0600 and finishing at 2100 hours followed by an hour's next-day briefing and preparation before lights out at 2230 — sharp!

Like British soldiers of National Service days the girls sleep six to a room in bunk beds, make 'sandwich' bed packs and 'bull' their boots as well as generally preparing their uniformed appearance for the next day. And they love it!

Parade ground language is both in English — as are their basic military skills straight from the manuals — and in the local Cantonese tongue.

The first two intakes of girls in 1983 numbered 33 and now this has swelled to nearly double, a figure likely to stay in that order to fit requirements of the regiment.

Running the women's training troop is Australian Captain Patricia Crighton, who is also the regimental intelligence officer. Helping her are an officer cadet and seven lance-corporals including Betty Poon.

Corporal Betty Poon: "I try hard to do all my duties."



Betty says she joined because she was interested in the regiment as a hobby, one in which she could learn to fire the SMG. She also said she was influenced by an advertising campaign on television and local commercial radio!

When we dropped into Erskine Camp during one of its Sunday training sessions there were 23 girls on parade as part of the latest intake hoping eventually to find places within the regiment as clerks, signallers, medics and interpreters.

The latter are of particular use during stop-and search operations up on the Anglo-Sino border to the north in the New Territories where Chinese refugees still try to enter Hong Kong illegally.

At the training camp the girls were among 100 or so male members of the regiment and Sergeant Major Yuk, who was in BAOR on Exercise Lionheart, was helping keep a paternal eye on them.

He said: "They are a very useful addition to the regiment and are usually very highly qualified girls academically. Most have good educational backgrounds and speak good English.

"Before they come in they are given a preliminary ten-minute interview followed by a medical examination to see if they are fit enough to serve in a military environment.

"After that they take written and oral tests and inquiries are made on their personal backgrounds to see if they have any political bias or criminal records.

"Initially, we had some 800 applicants and we are down to 23 which shows the level of close vetting".

He added: "We ascertain whether they have a permanent job. We don't want to train a girl who resigns and subsequently wastes our time and money.

"All of the girls are mature and very enthusiastic. They are also good timekeepers turning up punctually for drill nights and other training commitments."

Betty Poon, a former Girl Guide said: "The girls join The Hong Kong Regiment because we want to know about discipline and learning how to fire small arms.

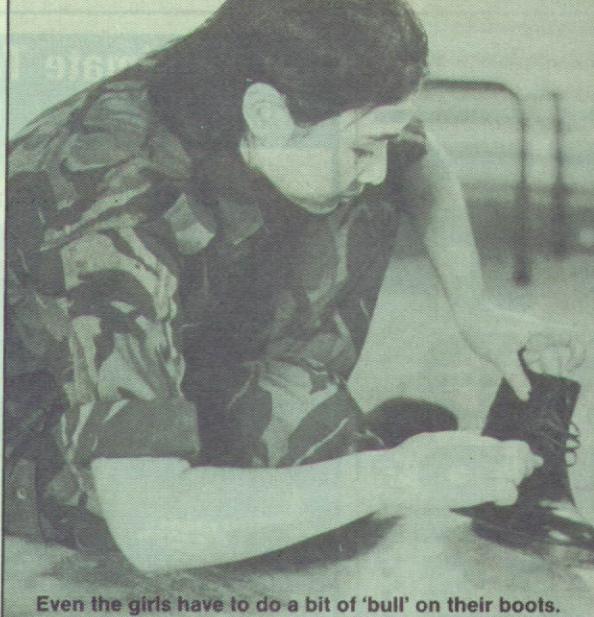
"Now, we have the chance to learn and I am very interested in it all and try very hard to do all my duties."

Then, with a smile, she added: "I shall still stay on even if I get married!"

With that, 'average shot' Lance Corporal Poon headed off for more outdoor instruction on the Sterling SMG.

Another rookie recruit of just one day, Trooper Doreen Chan, 22, a secretary when not in bush hat and boots said: "People are curious to know what is happening.

"I have a male relative in the



Even the girls have to do a bit of 'bull' on their boots.



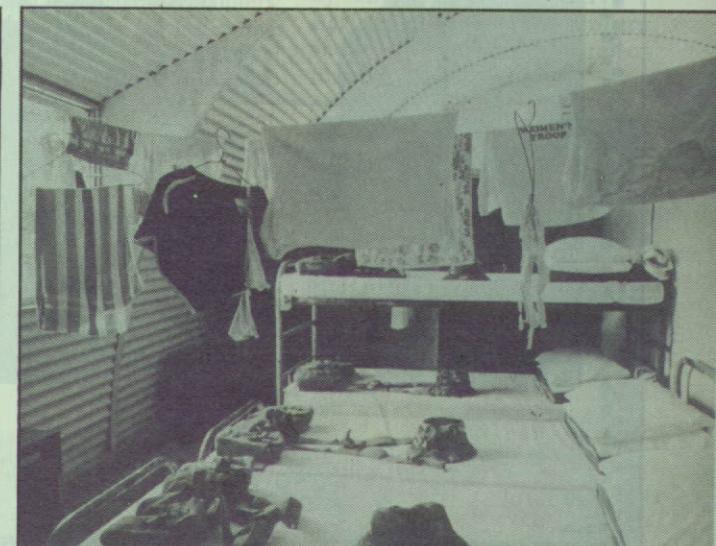
A drill session on parade.



All eyes are on the Sergeant's SMG during a teach-in.



Trooper Doreen Chan:  
Training chances in the UK and BAOR.



Outer — and under garments tidy as one would expect.

regiment and it was he who encouraged me to join. I am told there may eventually be opportunities to train in the UK and even BAOR."

Trooper Chan had lost none of her femininity in her choice of part-time disruptive pattern dress with its webbing including twin water bottles as she headed back to the shared billet to check the neatness of her bed and kit on it ready for inspection.

A beaming Sergeant Major Yuk said: "They are every bit as good as the boys at living in the field."

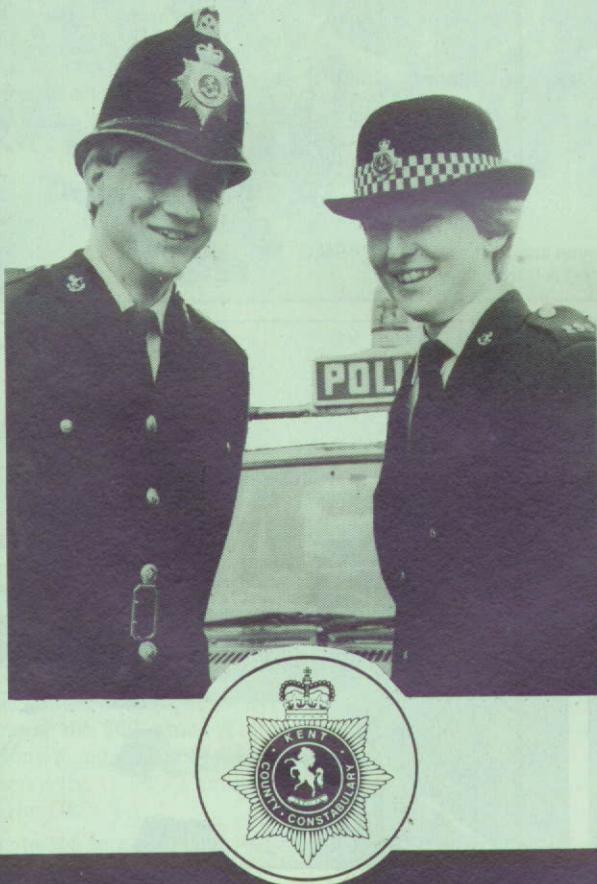
He should know for he attended a troop commanders' course at Pirbright three years ago. He added: "They are tough, too, for last year they were on parade in all their kit sweltering in temperatures of 32 degrees Celsius. We are proud of them and we are sure they will serve us well in the future."

Bootnote: The Royal Hong Kong Regiment is a part-time volunteer military unit supplied and maintained by the Hong Kong Government. It is trained by a dozen-strong Regular Army per-

manent staff with its prime role of supporting the British Garrison in the event of an emergency in the Colony but also including anti-illegal immigrant operations.

Its role also takes in reconnaissance in a limited war as the regiment was equipped and organised as a light recce regiment in 1961. It became The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) under Royal patronage and established under its own ordinance in 1970.

# YOUR SECOND CAREER CAN BE AS CHALLENGING AS YOUR FIRST



## KENT POLICE

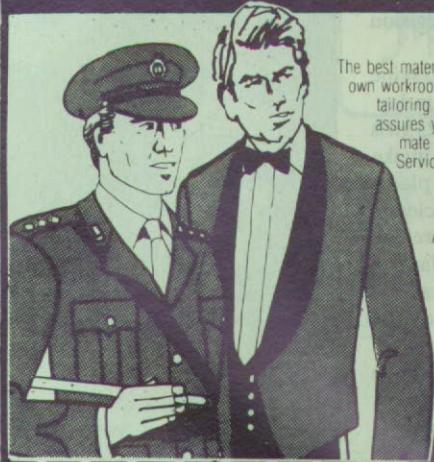
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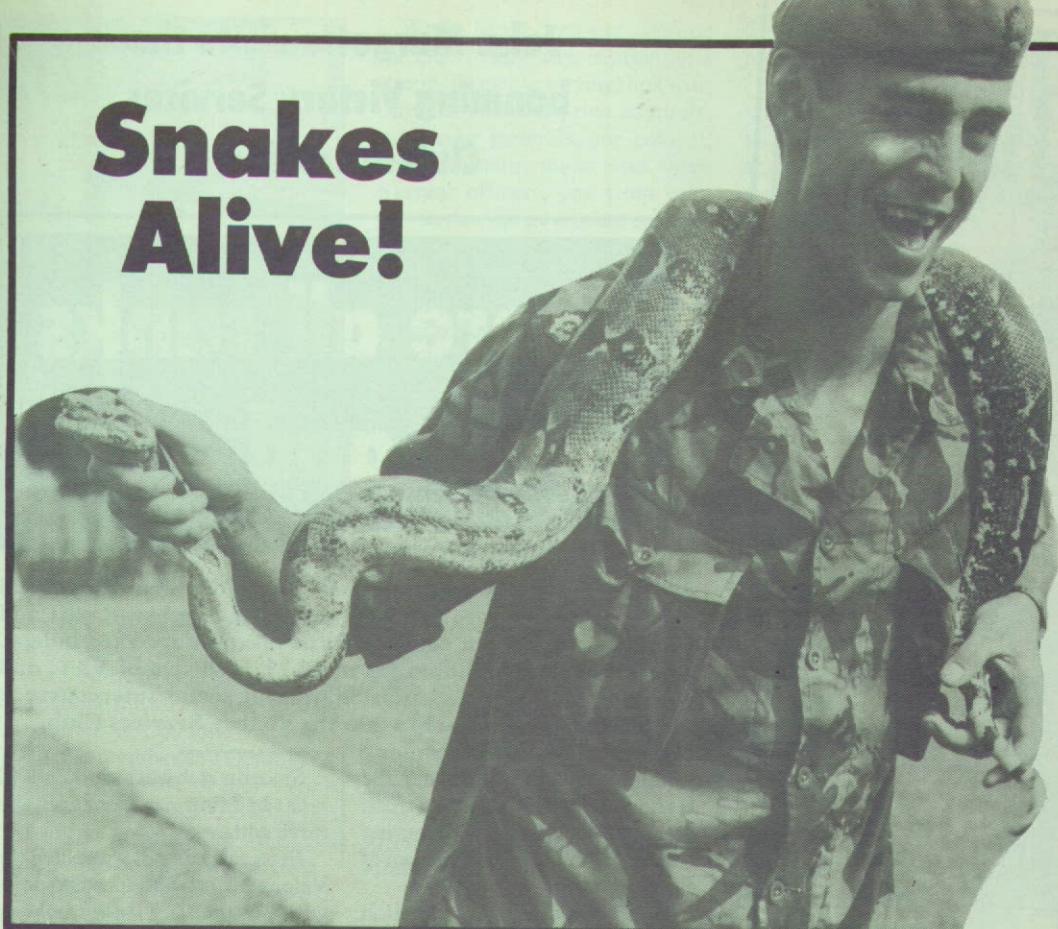
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# Snakes Alive!



*in the warmth of*  
**BELIZE**

◀ Lieutenant Jeremy Levine battles with a friendly (?) boa constrictor.

IN COMPLETE contrast to ceremonial duties and the bitter cold in London, the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards under the command of Lieutenant Colonel John O'Connell are carrying out a

six month tour of duty in Belize.

The battalion is part of the 1,800 strong British force guarding Belize against any likely incursion from Guatemala.

Apart from manning border

observation posts, the Grenadiers are responsible for patrolling the jungle which forms a large part of the terrain.

Well away from the admiring gaze and snapping cameras of London's tourists, the Grenadier patrols are airlifted by helicopters from their Nissen huted camps and inserted into a jungle clearing where they begin their patrol.

The patrols are self-sufficient with each man carrying a 50 lb pack and an armalite rifle, the jungle fighters' favourite weapon.

For seven days the patrols live in the jungle and are re-supplied on the fourth day by Pumas of

1563 Flight, Royal Air Force.

In the mainly unexplored jungle, insects and wildlife abound, with mosquitoes, sandflies, tarantulas and a great variety of snakes including rattlesnakes, boa constrictors, moccasins, coral snakes and, the most dangerous snake in Belize, the deadly fer-de-lance. The jaguar too is a resident of certain parts of the jungle, having been forced south by development in the north of Central America.

The Grenadiers are supported by Artillery of F Battery, 7 Regiment Royal Horse Artillery and a reconnaissance squadron of the Queen's Own Hussars.

**Story: Peter Brown**

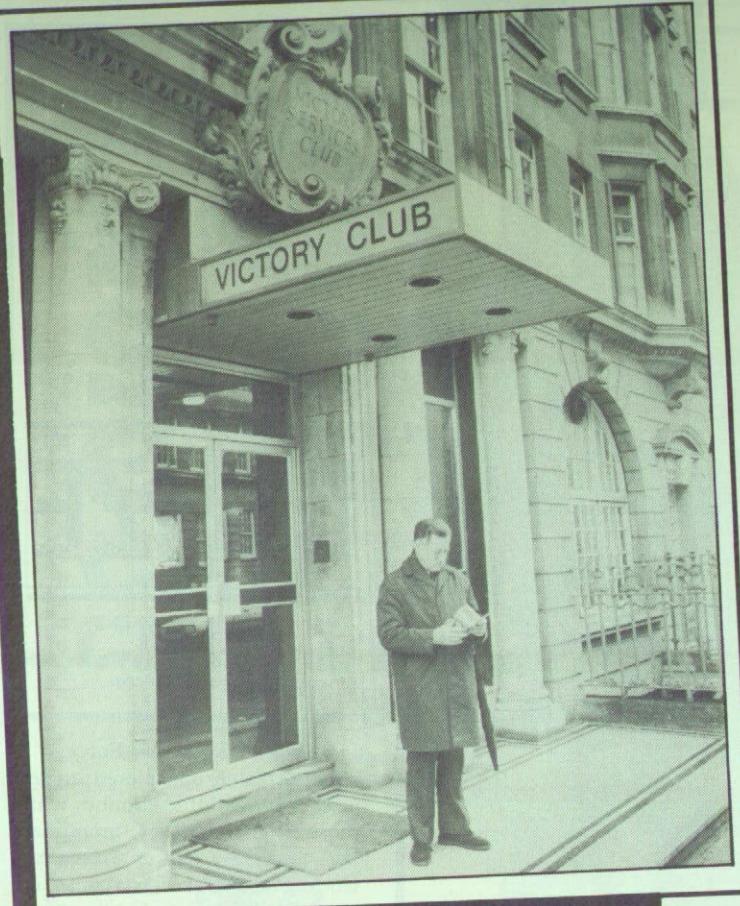
**Pictures:**  
**Steve Slater**



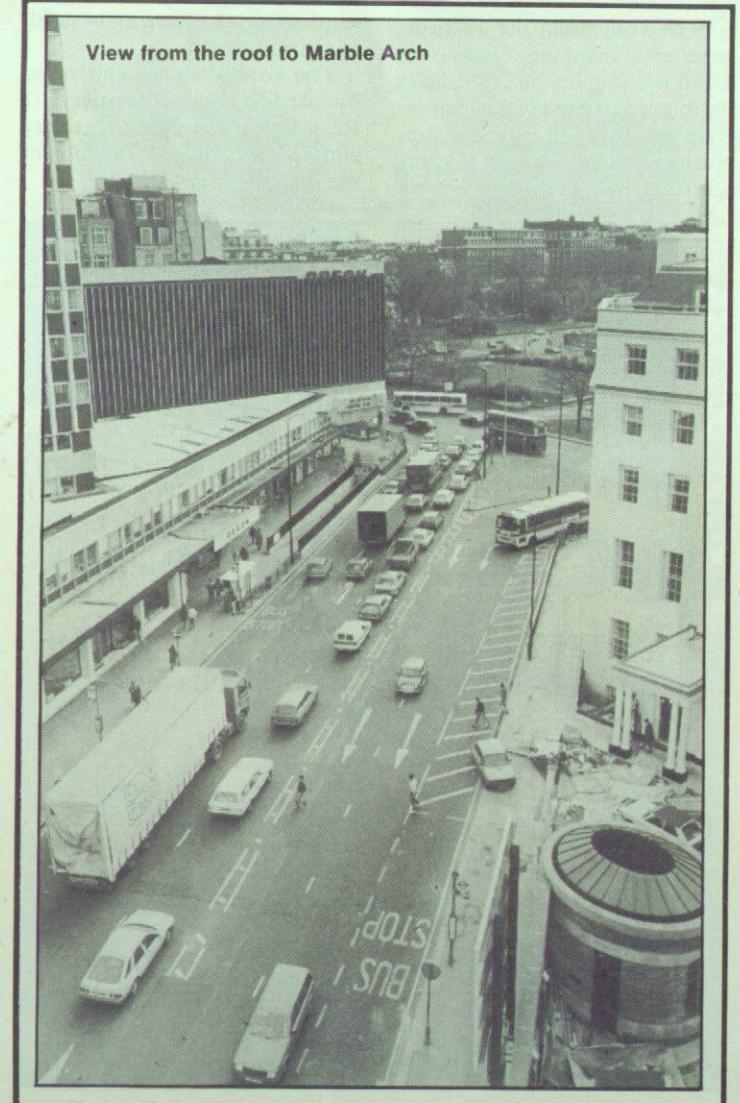
Using personal flotation equipment a ▲ After seven days in the jungle a patrol is jungle patrol crosses the Rio Grande. returned to Salamanca Camp. ▼



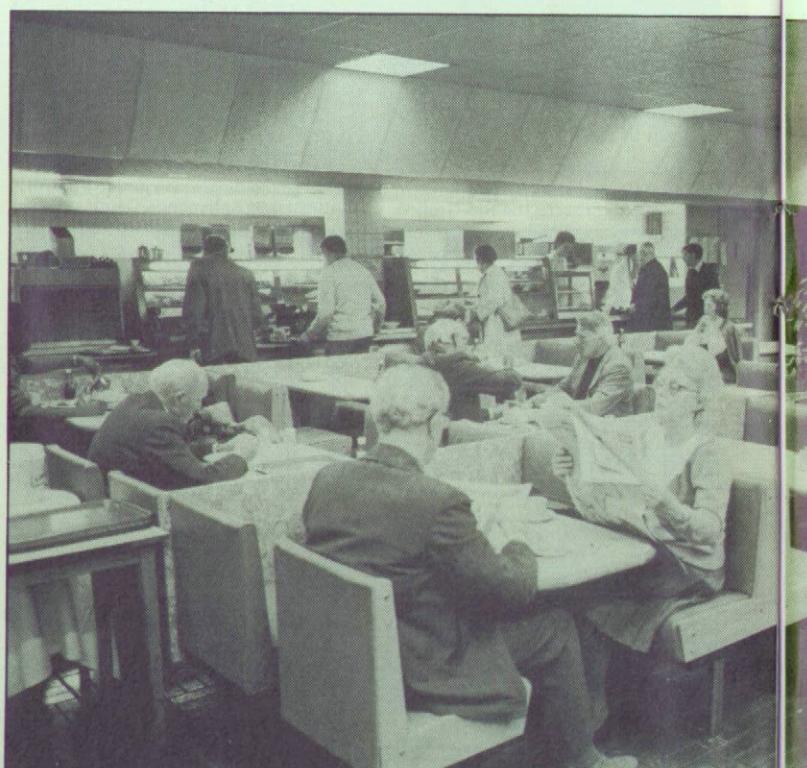
A mixed patrol from 7 RHA and the Belize Defence Force talks to Mayan villagers during a jungle patrol.



Victory Service Club — impressive entrance



View from the roof to Marble Arch



Meals in the buttery



## John Margetts visits the booming Victory Services Club in London

# Where all ranks meet and mix

**F**EW places exist where serving soldiers can rub social shoulders with generals and other 'top brass' past and present. Such cases of fraternisation are rare indeed. But for an annual fee of £5.75, inclusive of VAT, and proof of identification, this high-level social intercourse is available to all who care to join the Victory Services Club.

Located round the corner from London's Marble Arch and the Hyde Park end of Oxford Street, membership is open to all serving and ex-service men and women of all ranks.

Said membership secretary Bob Martin: "Since April 1970 we have enrolled more than 8,500 serving soldiers, sailors, airmen and Service women. Current club membership stands at 38,400 world-wide. This figure is made up of 65 per cent from the UK and the remainder from Nato, ex-servicemen from the USA and wartime allies."

Said general manager Don Stovey: "We have ex-service French, Dutch, Polish and Yugoslavs as members. We even had a Russian officer apply to join. But after receiving his application we heard no more."

As its name implied membership was open only to ex-service personnel and it was only 15 years ago that serving men and women were welcomed to join and its name changed yet again to its present title.

Now, with a healthy membership of 38,000-plus, all paying their annual £5.75 membership, the club is booming with an average room

occupancy of 83 per cent throughout the year.

According to Don Stovey this is way above the majority of similar-size hotels in London.

"In September and October we had 93 per cent of our rooms occupied," he said, attributing this to USA membership and the favourable dollar exchange rate.

With 300 bedrooms — 59 of them doubles — this measure of room occupancy could, although Mr Stovey denied that it ever had or would, create problems for a Service family with children below the age of eight.

For the club stipulates that only children between eight and 16 can be accommodated and they must be accompanied by a parent.

Reassuringly Mr Stovey said: "We would never turn away a soldier who wanted accommodation because his children were below the age of eight. The rule was there only because of accommodation problems for kiddies," he said.

While MoD does not sponsor the club in any way, it provides a strong (former or serving) link with three air marshals, two admirals, two major generals, one colonel, group captain, major and three warrant officers, one from each service, on the governing council, which can have a maximum of 25 members.

They meet periodically laying down policy, prices, plans and rules and are headed by Air Chief Marshal Sir Frederick Rosier, who is the president.

As well as controlling the club, council members also have the right to nominate successors for their posts on retiring at 70.

"But even though the council resembles a chain of military command, the three WOs, one of whom is Garrison Sergeant Major A Dumon of London District, do have an equal say in decision making," said Mr Stovey.

"As a registered charity — our landlords are the Church Commissioners — our terms of reference are to break even. Any profit is ploughed back into the club.

"We have no shareholders and every spare penny goes to benefit the club and members."

Since the club does make some profit, Mr Stovey said plans were in hand to spend £27,000 on kitchen improvements and money is also earmarked for work on the reception area.

He added that room charges could rise in April following the annual review, but with single rooms at £6.50 to £10 a night and doubles from £7.55 to £9.50 per person, any increase would not exceed five per cent — about 33p on the cheapest room.

Considering the location of the club and its amenities, room rates

by local standards are cheap indeed.

It boasts a comfortable restaurant and grill room, bars, lounges, a ballroom, games room and library. And unlike the restaurants exposed on a recent TV show, they do not serve 'food in the bag' for their customers.

"All our food is fresh and prepared by chefs," said former ACC sergeant cook John Skingle. "No plastic bag food for us."

And his boss, catering manager Mr Sidney Ginever, a former lieutenant colonel in the Corps, said: "We can meet every dietary need — ethnic, diabetic, vegetarian. Anything that anybody wants can be catered for."

Putting his claims to the test were a 20-strong group from the Aldershot branch of the Retired Officers' Association. They were having a trial drink and lunch at the club prior to their annual meeting at another venue.

"We're looking for another



Chef John Skingle — ACC trained

meeting place," said one of the group. "The VSC seems ideal for our purpose."

But while business is bowling along at a steady rate, Don Stovey and his staff are not without problems.

With the Brighton bombing still fresh in mind, he and Bob Martin are well aware of the risk factor in membership applications.

"We've already been done once by the IRA. That was in October 1974 when they put a 6½lb bomb at the front of the club.

"We were one of three Service clubs bombed that night and I'll never forget it," he said with feeling.

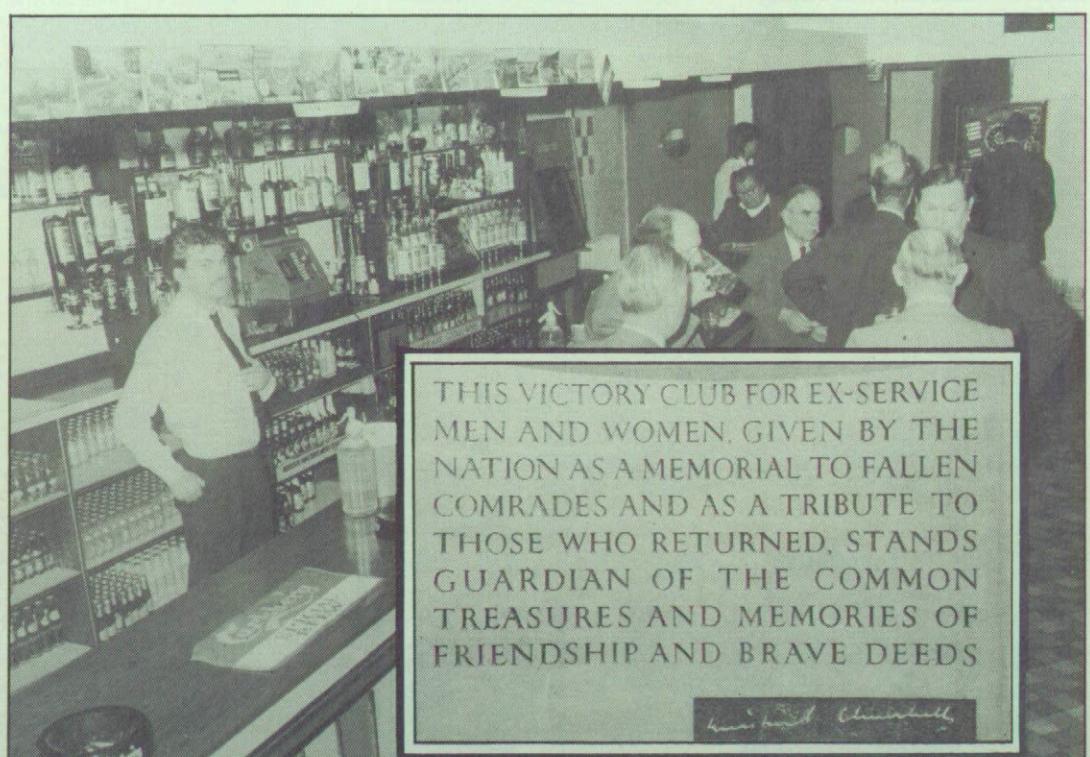
"We were lucky to get away with just one casualty, who was cut by flying glass."

"Because of this risk we check all applications very carefully indeed." But should an ex-serviceman or woman want to join the club and cannot provide proof of service, write to: OIC Records, Army Record Centre, Bourne Avenue, Hayes, Middlesex, giving as much service information as you can, and they should be able to provide the necessary proof to satisfy Don Stovey and Bob Martin.

For those in the Army, production of your ID will be sufficient to gain membership.

But while Stovey and Martin and club secretary Bob Wheeler agonise over membership bids, the place is not without laughs. Said Don Stovey: "Like an American member who told me how much he admired our porters in their pill box hats. It turned out they were Gurkha members. We all laughed at the time. But when the Gurkhas heard about it they weren't at all pleased!"

Pleasant bar: meeting old pals



THIS VICTORY CLUB FOR EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN, GIVEN BY THE NATION AS A MEMORIAL TO FALLEN COMRADES AND AS A TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO RETURNED, STANDS GUARDIAN OF THE COMMON TREASURES AND MEMORIES OF FRIENDSHIP AND BRAVE DEEDS

Winston Churchill

**T**he "steady and relentless decline" of the Union Jack Club over the past four years appears to have bottomed out.

For occupancy figures of the 463-roomed Forces hotel opposite Waterloo station in London, show that more than 1,500 people stayed there during September and October than in the same period in 1983.

Only four months ago the picture painted by Club Comptroller Brigadier John Ghika was bleak indeed. (See SOLDIER 10 September 1984)

Now he says the new figures could indicate the "beginning of a reversal."

Response to a questionnaire put out by the club to 3,000 randomly-selected Servicemen and women, has already yielded 1,500 replies which should give an indication of future room occupancy and use of the club by the Forces.

"So far our need for beds is around 250, but the survey might well show we should be smaller," said Brigadier Ghika.

"But what to do with the surplus accommodation should this prove the case?"

Answering his own question he said he believed there was a need for cheap officer accommodation in London.

"I think many officers, specially the younger ones, would welcome our facilities and prices rather than the elegant comfort of some of the more expensive military clubs available to them in London."

But the charter of the UJ bars officers from using or staying at the club. Would this mean a change

## HERALDS BRAND NEW FUTURE



Above: Customers on the steps of the Union Jack Club at Waterloo.

Below: A view of a splendid area for relaxation.



in the whole 80-year-old set-up?

"Providing we can offer separate accommodation and facilities there are no obvious reasons why this shouldn't happen."

"I'm sure this question will be looked into by our *Way Ahead Committee* which is setting up plans to take the club into the next century."

But while the UJ welcomes all serving men and women to the club — membership is free and automatic to all non-commissioned ranks — and ex-Servicemen and women, too, the latter must produce proof of service when applying for membership.

Once they have complied with this, they are entitled to use the club and its facilities as are all serving personnel.

Said club secretary Lewis Moulton: "Ex-Service people cannot just walk in and demand to use the club. This doesn't happen very often, but it has and still does."

"There is a law regarding club membership and we have to observe it the same as any club."

"Providing they can show they have been in the Forces they can join for £8 the first year and £3 from there on."

With only 4,000 ex-Service members both the Brigadier and Mr Moulton agreed there was a vast, and as yet untapped, potential membership among the millions who have served in the Forces.

And in a bid to attract them and more serving soldiers, sailors and airmen, three holiday flats are to be made available for hire.

One three-bedroomed flat providing a sky-scraper's view of London is already in use.

With every mod-con, including colour TV, it can be yours for around £160 a week.

It sleeps six in comfort and, at that price, works out cheaper than staying at the club on a daily basis.

Two more flats will be available for hire by members in April and May. These will be two-bedroomed and slightly cheaper.

So if you want to holiday in London within minutes of the West End, write to the club secretary now for rates and dates.

The future then for the old UJ is beginning to look a little better already. While not exactly rose-coloured there are healthy signs.

"One of the problems," said Brigadier Ghika, "is that the club was planned in the sixties, built in the seventies and, possibly, has become slightly out of date in the eighties."

"Well, we plan to put the right, and when the *Way Ahead Committee* announce their plans, it should herald a brand-new future for the old UJ."

**For Sale**

**Collector** in US has many items of WW1 and WW2 for trade, also US WW2 air corps, mostly interested in RAF items of WW2, also statues of WW1 and WW2. All letters answered. Ed Severhof, 5001 Prestler Road, Toledo, Ohio 43615, USA.

**Helmets**. Modern style British Army replicas in glass fibre, realistic and tough, suitable for adult or army cadet use. Fitted with foam inserts or a stud to attach a standard army issue insert. State size if a foam insert is required (army inserts not available). Price £10 including P & P. Substantial discount on orders over 10.

Fibre Craft, Unit 4, Lions Rest Estate, Exminster, Exeter, Devon.

**Wisewear** heavyweight waxed cotton jackets British DPM £36.90, or olive green £31.90 (XL sizes add £2). SAE full catalogue.

Dept SD, Unit 1, Church St, Dorking, Surrey. Telephone for Barclaycard, Access or COD immediate despatch, Tel Dorking 883780. Quantity discounts available.

**Six** Army recruiting posters dating from 1890-1892: 1 Corps of Royal Engineers, 2 Medical Staff Corps, 3 Recruits for the Regular Army, 4 Royal Artillery, 5 Army Service Corps, 6 Enlistment of militiamen. Posters 3 and 4 have colour prints on them, posters 1, 2 and 5 have black and white prints. All poster contain terms of service, pay etc and all are in excellent condition and framed. The original wrapping of these posters contains the date 17 Aug 92. Any serious offer considered, will sell one or all.

F Roy, 13 Wallamhill Road, Locharbriggs, Dumfries.

**Gortex**, entrant, cordura, polarfabric, thinsulate, mosquito net, DPM proofed nylon and other waterproof and thermal materials. Wide range zips, thread, buckles, webbing etc, pattern book. SAE for samples.

Pointnorth (S), 58 High St, Cemaes Bay, Gwynedd. Tel 0407 711030.

**Collectors** items, four large photos naval cadets and officers £5, RAF airgunner brevets £2. Four large photos jet bombers £4.

P A Lelliott, 30 Grafton Road, Worcester Park, Surrey, KT4 7QP. 01-337 0368.

**Two** complete volumes of "With the Flag to Pretoria", 30 parts. A history of the Boer War, printed 1899. Many interesting pictures of encounters, maps, decorations awarded to regiments etc. £80.00 or would swap for cap badges or anything of military interest.

WR Dowdeswell, 7 Tweenbrook Ave, Gloucester, Tel 20274.

**Sri Lanka** (Ceylon) military cap badge collection, selling the lot, approx £3.50 each. Send international reply coupon for list.

Major Sam Wijesinha, 12 Castle Lane, Colombo 4, Sri Lanka.

**1958** webbing, brand new, with large pack and new W/B and cup £39.95. High leg boots perfects £26.45, new NI gloves £13.50. All post paid. SAE for list.

Joe's Surplus, Ashgrove Farm, Ardley, Bicester, Oxon, OX6 9PJ.

**American** Airforce Army Paratrooper, special forces etc, cloth/metal badges and uniform items. SAE for list.

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L Pearson, 81 Wayland Road, Gorton, Manchester, M18 7HA.

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Mrs Gee, 18 Wyre House, St Martin's Drive, Salford 8, Manchester.

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**Cadet** corporal requires SAS/Para nylon bengan in good condition. Reasonable price paid.

Mark Short, 78 Rotherfield Way, Caversham, Reading, RG4 8PL.

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P A Burman, Blackborough End, Kings Lynn, Norfolk. Tel: 0553 840350.

**Cadet** requires one pair of Northern Ireland leather combat gloves in good condition (cheap please), 16 years old, finances limited.

Mark Winfield, 202 Moor Road, Papewick, Nottingham, NG15 8EQ. 0602 632940.

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K King, 30 Toads Acre, Longstanton, Cambridge, Cambs, CB4 5DF.

**Items** of Argentina forces from Falklands war, please send list of WHY with price required.

Mr Palmer, 17 The Broadway, Whitehawk, Brighton, Sussex, BN2 5NF. Brighton 695050.

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W H Roberts-Jones, 2 Mountain View, Llantish, Abergavenny, Gwent, NP7 9YA. Tel: Abergavenny 4879.

**One** DPM cold weather cap with ear flaps and also one DPM combat jacket hood. Good condition please.

I Goode, 39 Allerton Lane, W Bromwich, W Midlands B71 2HR. 021-502 4115.

**Cadet** requires one DPM para combat jacket size 36", limited finances, good condition but cheap please. Dominic Regan, 70 Horn St, Hythe, Kent, CT21 5SR. 0303 38826.

**Cadet** would like DPM para smock, also an AAC flying suit and AAC pilots wings. 38" chest. Cheap please as finance limited.

Jason Wheatley, 45 York Crescent, Hill Top, West Bromwich, West Midlands, B70 0JU.

**Cadet** sergeant instructor requires RCT mess dress, size 38" waist, 44" chest, 6ft height, can collect anywhere in UK. Reasonable price paid.

Sgt Instructor T Baines, 5 Meadow Way, Leighton Buzzard, Beds. 0525 381365.

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Sgt W D Drennan, 1st Cdt Bn Queens Regt, Swiss Cottage, Caterham School, Caterham, Surrey, CR3 6YA. 0883 40450.

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Ferry Stamps & Coins, 110 Woolwich High St, London, SE18 6DW.

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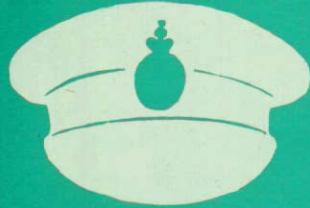
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# Your Cap Badge

No. 71

## ROYAL ARMY PAY CORPS — 1

AS THE result of the many administrative failures thrown into prominence by the Crimean War a number of investigating committees were set up.

As is so often the case, perhaps too often, results came but slowly.

It was due to the genius of Edward Cardwell that a Central Department encompassing a Pay Sub-Department, subsequently to be granted authority by Royal Warrant of 22 October 1877, combined the officers of the Control Department, Regimental Paymasters and Staff Officers of the Pensioners into the Army Pay Department.

In 1893, by Army Order 134, the Army Pay Corps was formed to provide the nco's and men necessary to assist the officers of the APD.

The APD became the Army Accounts Department in May 1905 reverting to the former title in 1909.

However, by AO 146 of 1920 the APD and the APC were together awarded the prefix 'Royal' in view of the excellent work performed during World War 1 and later that year (AO 498) merged into a single Corps to become known by their current designation.

The various badges worn by the Corps since 1898 were based mainly on the initials surmounted by the current crown of the period but in 1920 with the change in title the letter 'R' was added and the Royal Crest: ie a lion above the Imperial crown replaced the former Imperial crown.

In 1929 when the Corps motto 'Fide et Fiducia' (in faith and trust) was granted a design similar to the present format was taken into use.

It is now described as 'The

Royal Crest' over a scroll inscribed with the Corps motto, the Royal Crest in gilt, remainder in silver plate and as such is worn by officers. Soldiers' badges are in the appropriate anodised materials.

It may be worthy of note that in 1919 a Corps of Military Accountants with a strength of 99 officers and 666 soldiers was formed in an attempt to introduce cost accounting procedures into the Government's control of Army expenditure by identifying capital and revenue expenditure, rather than simply accounting for the expenditure of cash.

In 1925 the Army Council decided that cost accounting techniques were not appropriate in combatant units and by 1927, 44 officers and 125 soldiers of the CMA were absorbed into the RAPC and like any old soldier the CMA faded away.

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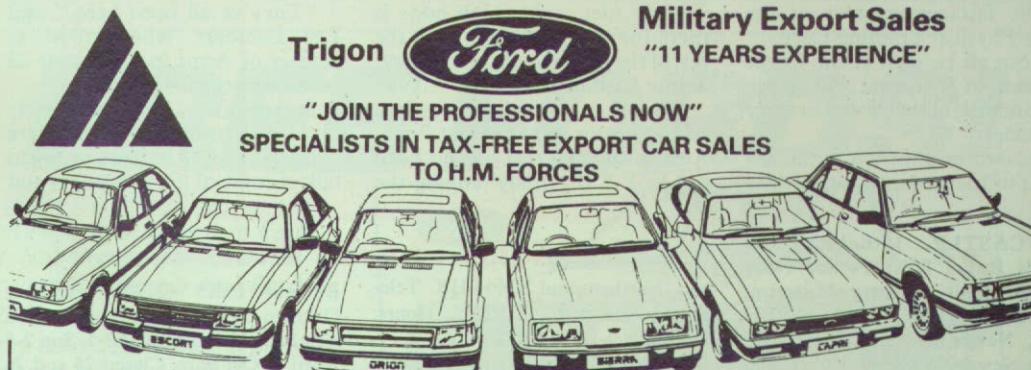
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Story: John Margetts  
Pictures: Les Wiggs



► Major Les Lambert and old bayonet fighting kit.

General view of the museum and its many exhibits.

rest of memorabilia on exhibition.

"We've even got a VC — a copy — on show," said honorary curator Major Les Lambert.

"It was won by Lieutenant Colonel Harry Daniels in 1915, then a sergeant major with the Rifle Brigade.

"He was an all-round athlete and was attached to the Army Gymnastic Staff, the forerunner of the present day Corps.

"When he died in 1953, it was his wish that his ashes be scattered over the Command stadium adjacent to the museum."

Other names to stir the sporting memory are those of six Lonsdale Belt holders — Bombadier Billy Wells, Pat O'Keefe, Johny Basham, Dick Smith, world fly-weight champ Jimmy Wilde and Jim Driscoll. Each and every one a champion.

"They all came here to be trained as AGS instructors during the First World War," said Les Lambert.

Scores of pictures of other sporting personalities are there to be seen and read about, all of whom did their bit throughout the wars.

Latest sports star to add his name to the list of greats who have served in the Corps is Sergeant Instructor Kris Akabusi, silver medalist in the Los Angeles Olympics. Various items of his kit are on show together with a catalogue of his achievements.

"They've all been here," said Les Lambert, who retired as Master of Arms in 1961 after 32 years with the Corps.

A big man, Les reluctantly revealed that he was 'somewhere in his seventies,' but was happy to talk of some of his yesterdays and

how he taught 'battle swimming' to recruits and students and of the time he became Combined Services fencing champion.

Now, after more than 55 years with the Army, his main interest is to see the establishment and growth of the APTC Museum.

Housed in a Victorian building circa 1890, its 62 ft by 24 ft space is crammed with more than 1,600 books on Army physical training, medals, photographs, equipment, uniforms and hundreds of items connected with the Corps.

Facts, figures, photos, names, regiments ... everything in fact that tells the story of the APTC.

Les even has the names and photographs of the '12 Apostles' who began the whole thing.

"They were 12 sergeants from 12 regiments. They set the scene by attending a course at Oxford University in 1860 and forming the Army Gymnastic Staff.

"It stayed with that title until 1918 when it changed to the Army Physical Training Staff.

"It changed again in 1940 when it became the APTC. Now, to tell the story of the Corps, we have to get people to come and look at the museum.

"We're always happy to show people around. When we have adults we play military music on our tape player. And when we get the kids — and we get quite a lot — on goes the pop.

"You have to cater for all tastes if you are going to draw the customers," he said.

Entry to the museum is free. Full information is available on Aldershot 24431 extension 2131.

## A look at the Army Physical Training Corps Museum A story of famous names — and a bone!

**P**ICTURES of pugilists with droopy moustaches, rows of Indian clubs, lists of athletes who have done their thing over the past century or longer.

All the stuff that goes to make up the fascinating story of the Army Physical Training Corps.

It can all be seen at the Corps Museum in Aldershot, but smack in the middle of their keep-fit story is a bone.

Encased in plastic it is the left femur of Lieutenant Colonel Alec

Forbes, who retired in 1982 as Senior Master of Arms.

"I had a replacement hip in 1977 and I wanted to keep it at home, but my wife couldn't stand the sight of it so I used it as a paperweight in the office," he said.

Now Alec's old thigh bone is there for all to see along with the rest of the Corps' collected history, dating back to 1860.

"I used to play a lot of football and I guess it just wore out," said Alex, admitting that his old bone did look a 'bit grisly' among the

**NEWCASTLE.** 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars and Northumberland Hussars Museum, John George Joicey Museum, City Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Telephone Newcastle 324562. Hours Mon to Sat 10-6.

**Military Vehicle Museum**, Exhibition Park Pavilion, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE2 4PZ. Telephone Newcastle 817222. Hours: 10-5 daily.

**NORTHAMPTON.** Museum of The Northamptonshire Regiment, Abingdon Park Museum, Abingdon, Northampton. Telephone Northampton 35412. Hours: Mon to Sat 10-12.30 and 2-6. Sun 2.30-5.30 April to Sept only.

**Royal Pioneer Corps Museum**, Corps HQ, Simpson Barracks, Woot-

### YOUR GUIDE TO ARMY MUSEUMS — 4

ton, Northampton NN4 0HX. Telephone Northampton 62742. Hours: weekdays 9-12.30 and 2-5.

**NORWICH.** The Royal Norfolk Regiment Museum, Britannia Barracks, Norwich NR1 4HJ. Telephone Norwich 28455. Hours: Mon to Fri 9-4.

**NOTTINGHAM.** The Sherwood Foresters Regimental Museum, The Castle, Nottingham NG1 6EL. Telephone Nottingham 785516. Hours April to Sept Mon, Thurs, Sat 10-6.45, Fri 10-5.45, Sun 10-4.45. Oct to Mar 10-4.45 daily.

**OAKHAM.** Rutland County Museum (Rutland regiments and militia) Catmos Street, Oakham,

Rutland LE15 6HW. Telephone Oakham 3654. Hours: Tues to Sat, also Bank Hols 10-1 and 2-5. Sun 2-5 April to Oct only. Closed 25 and 26 Dec and Good Friday.

**OXFORD.** Regimental Museum Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, TA Centre, Slade Park, Headington, Oxford OX3 7JL. Telephone Oxford 778479. Hours Mon to Fri 9.30-12.30 and 2-4.30.

**PENRITH.** Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry Museum, Dalemain, near Penrith, Cumbria. Telephone 085 36 450. Hours: Easter to mid-Oct, Sun to Thurs 2-5.15.

**PONTEFRACT.** The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry Regi-

mental Museum, Wakefield Road, Pontefract, W Yorks WF8 4ES. Telephone Pontefract 703181. Hours: Mon to Fri 10-12 and 2-4 except Bank Hols.

**RICHMOND.** The Green Howards Museum, Trinity Church Square, Richmond, Yorks DL10 4QN. Telephone Richmond 2133. Hours: weekdays 10-4.30, Sun 2-4.30 April to Oct. Closed Dec-Jan.

*Note: The Somerset Military Museum at Taunton, still to be featured in this series, is closed to the public until Spring because of renovations. SOLDIER will carry news of re-opening to the public when the date is known.*





# MAIL DROP

Royal Observer Corps and most recently, DHSS (uniformed staff).

Including my own service, over the past century, my family have worn nearly 20 different nationality badges including British, Australian and Canadian — quite a good record, I think.

My second point refers to Mr Andrew's letter — 'No threat' — Norwegian Military Bands.

The present organisation of bands in Norway is one to each Army Command. These are unique in that there are only approximately 26 musicians in each band, all members are commissioned officers with the exception of probationer musicians, who hold the rank of sergeant. The Band of the King's Guards, apart from regular senior ranks, are all National Servicemen.

After being a military music enthusiast for the past 56 years, I am still a keen record and tape collector; served as Hon Secretary/Journal Editor of the International Military Music Society 1967-78, and as a Friend of the National Army Museum, I bequeathed the 78rpm record section, totalling about 1,500 discs, 1898-1955 to their recorded sound archives. — H L S Plunkett, 93 Springbank, Lakenham, Norwich, Norfolk, NR1 2LH.

## GREAT TRADITIONS

Your splendid cover picture on the late-lamented RMAS band reminds me to send you two suggestions.

First, with the demise of this excellent band, can we hope that a volunteer cadet band can be raised to take its place, perhaps under a RMAS staff member, a staff sergeant, following the successful practice of the volunteer bands in the HM ships, led by Royal Marines staff sergeants who are on the ladder for promotion to bandmaster? True, the RMAS are extremely busy, but time is found for sport; maybe some cadets would be better occupied musically.

Secondly, with the impending closure of Kneller Hall, and the establishment of a combined services school at Deal, can we hope that the great traditions of British military music, so admired in this country and I am sure, all over the world, will be maintained and enhanced?

In particular, I suggest that the famous Kneller Hall trumpeters continue in being as a high-calibre, high visibility military corps, their title incorporating the name "Kneller", and the personnel garbed in a distinctive uniform in keeping with their high reputation and place in the great occasions of state in our nation. — Capt W A Ewbank MC (Retd), Taylor University, Upland, Indiana, USA.

## Call-signs

In this new column of Mail Drop, we offer a free service to any readers wishing to get in touch with old Service friends and colleagues.

Send us as much relevant detail as you can on the person you are trying to find and we will publish it free of charge in the hope that somebody, somewhere has information which could lead to a reunion.

Former members of the Queen's Westminster Rifles (1917/18) are asked to write to Mr M Barrett, 55 East Street, Lightcliffe, Halifax — just to talk over old times.

Any of the lads stationed at Taylors Lane Camp, Basingstoke from 1947 to 1952 should contact A Stevens (ex-corporal 260 Coy RPC), 64 Admirers Crescent, Liphook, Hants GU30 7HP.

Myself and several other former North Korea POWs are anxious to trace Marine Terence R Darby, 41 Commando was taken prisoner on 30 November 1950 and released August 1953. Any information, please contact R O Erricker, Sunnyside Nurseries, Loxwood Road, Tismans Common, Rudgwick, Horsham, W Sussex RH12 3BT.

Liverpudlian George Lee, formerly of the Army Air Corps, is asked to contact his old friend Norman at whose wedding on 26 May 1946 at Piddlehinton near Dorchester he was Best Man. Norman Difflin, 16 Montague Street, Tandragee, Co Armagh, N Ireland.

## Can You Help?

I would appreciate anyone's assistance in my efforts to obtain a copy of the book *The Path of the 50th* (The story of the 50th (Northumbrian) Division in WW2 1939-45) by Major Ewart W Clay, MBE and published by Gale and Polden of Aldershot in 1950. — H W Dann TD, c/o PO Box 61787, Marshalltown, Johannesburg, 2107 South Africa.

I am looking for any photographs of the Short Bros Belfast aircraft — particularly those taken on military exercises. I have exhausted the obvious reference sources and now hope that readers can lend me any that they might have. Any pictures or negatives loaned to me will be treated with respect and returned. — Mr H D Selby, 66 Brand Court, High Street, Stanton Hill, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts.

## Reunions

1st LAA Regt, RA 40th and final reunion dinner will be held at the Victory Services Club in London on 26 April 1985. All ex-members are welcome to attend and should write for details to R S Rogers, 25 Kit Hill Avenue, Walderslade, Chatham, Kent ME5 9EU.

Former wartime members of 745 Tipper Co, RASC and 171 Field Ambulance are asked to contact J King (Driver), 249 Roberts Street, Grimsby, South Humberside with a view to a reunion.

Medicine Hat British Canadian Club holds its next Annual Meeting and Social on 11 May 1985. All interested parties are welcome to attend and should contact the Secretary at 78 Simpson Crescent SE, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada T1B2R9.

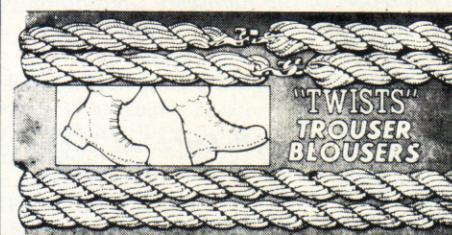
## Competition

Winner of our Competition 351, 'Sporting Crossword' and our third and final Kodak Disc 4000 Camera was Mr J R MacPhail of Lancing in Sussex. Answers to the clues were as follows: Across 2 Fitzsimmons, 8 Owens, 9 Odd, 10 Derby, 15 Bowley, 16 Minoru, 22 Beary, 23 Tip, 24 Braid, 25 Earl of Derby. Down: 1 Brown Bomber, 2 Fred, 3 Toss, 4 Iddon, 5 Odds, 6 Sire, 7 Gay Crusader, 11 All, 12 Ayr, 13 Emu, 14 One, 17 Thief, 18 Tate, 19 Dyer, 20 Ebor, 21 Lady.

## How Observant Are You?

1 Top diver's camera; 2 Length of top diver's top foot; 3 Lower diver's oxygen tube; 4 White line below big fish's eye; 5 Tail of striped fish; 6 Spots on spotted fish; 7 Mouth of bottom fish; 8 Right branch of black plant; 9 Bottom right branch of white plant; 10 Ripple lines below top diver.

We would like to remind readers that we now publish, free of charge, conventionally worded birth, engagement, marriage and death notices involving Service or ex-Service personnel. All of these personnel notices must be signed by a close relative or, where appropriate, one of the parties involved. A full address must be given also, although not necessarily for publication. Collectors' Corner will no longer appear on this page but will now be incorporated in the Classified Advertisements.



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## WIZARD SHOOTING

As I read through SOLDIER 13 August, I came across a photo of outgoing President of the Army Golf Association, Lieutenant General Sir Allen Taylor.

I served in the last war with B Squadron, 7th Bn RTR. A Major Taylor was our OC and I wonder if this could be the same officer?

On one occasion he was our tank commander and we were engaged in a battle with a German column. Between them and us was a soil bank with small trees growing on the top. We were moving up and down behind this cover, firing the 75mm through openings.

"Wizard shooting," he said to Barford the gunner, "We have got them on the run." Suddenly a vivid flash lit up the whole of the tank inside. Everything was still for a second or two, bar the crump of mortar shells dropping around us outside.

Then his voice was heard again: "Are you all right lads? Has anyone got a cigarette?"

Later we had a look around the tank to see what the damage was: an armour plating shell had struck a glancing blow on the turret and gouged a piece out 14 inches long. You could stand inside the turret and see daylight through the cracks.

Afterwards we didn't see a lot of Major Taylor, but I remember he was a brilliant officer and could have worked his way up into HQ or a much higher position. — Dunkley, 4 Manor Close, Wittering, Peterborough, PE8 6AF. We think it probably was the same officer, Mr Dunkley. The General's entry in Who's Who states that he was a Squadron Commander in 7 RTR during 1942. — Ed.

## BADGES GALORE

I was most interested to read the letter from Mr A R Thomas concerning the badges that he wore during his service (3 Dec).

First, I am a former work colleague of Mr Thomas and am aware of his interesting service record. Secondly, I too have worn a number of different badges over the past 42 years: Air Raid Precautions, General Service Corps, RASC, NAAFI (RASC EFI), Royal Berkshire Regiment (Home Guard),

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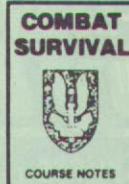
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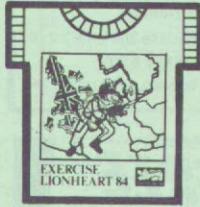
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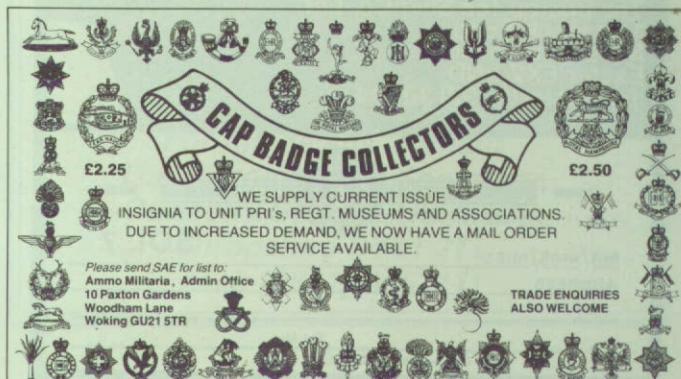
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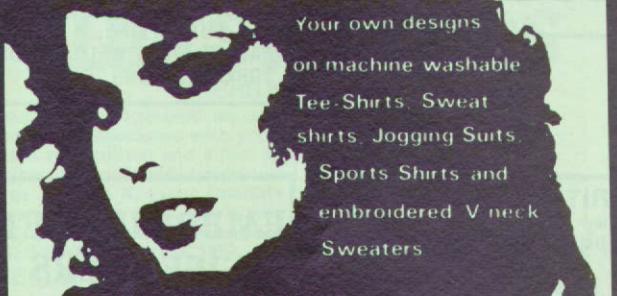
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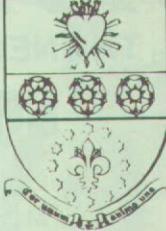
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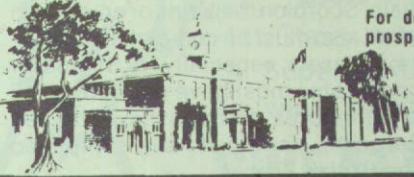
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**N**EXT AUTUMN the Army will be attempting to revive the Swinging Sixties when they led the country in a sport which has since gone ahead by leaps and bounds — basketball. And masterminding the return to the big time will be the Army's 'Mr Basketball' — 42-year-old Captain Terry Goulding — an ever present in the legendary 'Aldershot Warriors' of 20 years ago.

Oddly enough Captain Goulding first took up basketball not because he was tall — but because he was too small for the football squad of the Junior Leaders REME at Blackdown a quarter of a century ago.

"I was put in the gym with what was a Cinderella sport and I must admit I had a flare for it. I took an interest but did not go into the deep end until I joined the PT staff with the Junior Leaders Regiment at Arborfield. There I mixed with National Servicemen who were county or even England standard."

Between 1960 and 1963 Terry developed from a casual player to any Army representative. Including games for the 'Warriors' he has represented the Army a phenomenal 300 times.

The Warriors were formed in an attempt to wrest the Inter-Services basketball title from the RAF, who had held it for years. Terry recalls: "We entered the London League and did fairly well the first year — then we won it for the next seven. We also managed to beat the RAF and retained the Inter-Service trophy for seven years on the trot."

The Warriors were four times

**Captain Terry Goulding — referee**

## Spotlight on the Army's 'Mr Basketball' ...

# TERRY GOULDING KEEPS RETIRING!



PICTURES: DOUG PRATT

national runners-up and were champions in 1965. But at the end of the decade Terry's military international career came to an end through back injuries received from gymnastic displays. He became Army coach and in 1971 moved to Rhine Army, where he became BAOR coach while still playing. "I did it for eight years and we won every time against the RAF."

Since he was commissioned

three years ago Terry has been secretary and treasurer of the Army Basketball Association as well as treasurer of the Combined Services Association. He combines all this with his official duties as quartermaster at Aldershot's Hammersley Barracks and looks back wistfully on the days when basketball had its own full time organiser.

"Once we had a professional from the Army Sport Control Board but it became subject to economies about six years ago. Although we have maintained standards we have not been able to develop the sport in the way we should have liked."

"All of my main occupations are time consuming so I have to do a lot of work for the sport at weekends. I accept that because it's a love for the sport. I took a lot out of it and now I am putting a lot back in."

The new team which will play in Division 3 of the National League next season will be known as the 'Aldershot Braves' because it has so many youngsters in it. "Our old team has matured so much that we are all geriatric. This year we will be playing civilian teams on a friendly basis to develop and blood the players."

"We hope to be back among the trophies in the Inter-Services championships, which we have not done for three years. Our secondary aim will be to have once again one of the most formidable teams in the country."

As team manager Terry will be passing on the benefit of his vast

### The game in progress

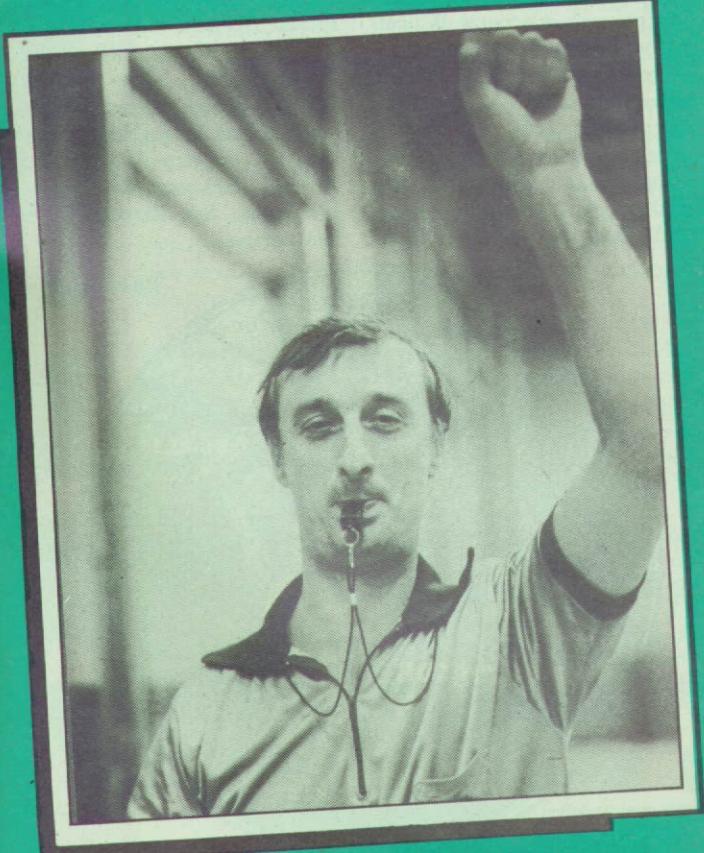
experience over more than 25 years. "We have 25 really skilful people who will shed blood for me and are prepared to die on the court. Competition for team places will be fierce — a situation we have not had for a long time."

"In the late 70s and early 80s many paid lip service to the game because they knew they would automatically be selected because there were not many players of high enough standard. It is a very bright outlook for the next decade."

Of all the honours which Terry Goulding has achieved in the sport one stands above all the rest in his view — when he built up a winning team from scratch to an Army final in three seasons.

"When I was promoted to Warant Officer 1 in Rhine Area I found there was no team at all. I grabbed two people out of a bar, one from a squash court and one from his bed and ordered the first bloke that came down the road to make a squad of five to play a friendly game. I worked from nothing to win the Rhine Area championships in the second season."

Terry Goulding was at Aldershot recently making sure that his APTC team retained the Inter-Corps title for the fourth year in a row. He is still an active player and declares: "I shall play until my back and knees give in. The younger generation already tell me that it is the tenth time I have retired and carried on playing!"



**N**EXT month Major Tony Preece, Royal Artillery (retd.), retires after eleven years as secretary of the Army Athletics Association. In the same month he is to be presented with the Harington Cup.

This trophy was donated by General Sir Charles Harington, as Commander-in-Chief Middle East, in the early '60s for the outstanding athlete in the Command.

With the demise of British involvement in that part of the World the cup, with the General's approval, became a means of honouring outstanding service to Army athletics.

Major Preece is only the second official to receive it. Usually the cup, which individuals can be awarded only once, has gone to athletes. The previous winner, for example, was Sergeant Kris Akabusi, a member of the British Olympic Team in the Los Angeles Games.

No doubt the decision to present the Harington Cup to the retiring secretary has got a little to do with a sense of achievement in Army Athletics since Major Preece took on the job in May, 1974.

"My ambition when I started," he told me, "was for the Army to



Sue Parker

win the Inter Service Championships, which they hadn't done for 10 years. I had to wait another 10 years before we succeeded, although for five years from 1975-79 we got within single figure points of the RAF and the women won every time from 1971-77 and again in 1979."

Last year's victory, when the championships were held in Portsmouth, was like a dream come true. The Army won both the men's and women's competition, something that had not been achieved since 1950.

"To have won the inter services has meant a great rise in the morale of the team and that matters a lot," Major Preece said. "If team morale is bad, then no matter how good the athletes the result is generally defeat."

During his 11 years as secretary, 75 Army records had been broken out of a possible 85. He nominated three outstanding record breakers:

## Athletics secretary Tony Preece retires... Cup marks his achievement

Sergeant Akabusi, whose 45.43 seconds in the Olympic 400 metres quarter final was the second fastest ever run by a British athlete, Captain Glen Grant, who now holds the 800, 1500, 5,000 and 10,000 metre records, and Lieutenant Sue Parker, who broke the 400, 800 and 1,500 metre records in one afternoon at the Inter Services Championships last year.

Major Preece said there had been a great improvement in running due, he believed, to the use of synthetic tracks. He forecast that the resurfacing of the Aldershot track would produce a good crop of results in the coming year.

Of the records remaining intact during this term of office at least three were for field events. The redoubtable Sergeant W. R. Tancred, the great British discus thrower and shot putter, still held both Army records.

Major Preece mentioned a whole string of events which had been added to the Army athletics calendar during his term of office. There was the Army inter-unit Cross Country Relay Championship (a very popular meeting which attracted entries from 100 teams last November), the Inter Services and Army Marathon and Army half marathon, the Inter Services and Army Decathlon (numbers had built up to 15 Army entries) and the women's heptathlon (seven events) which was run for the first time last year.

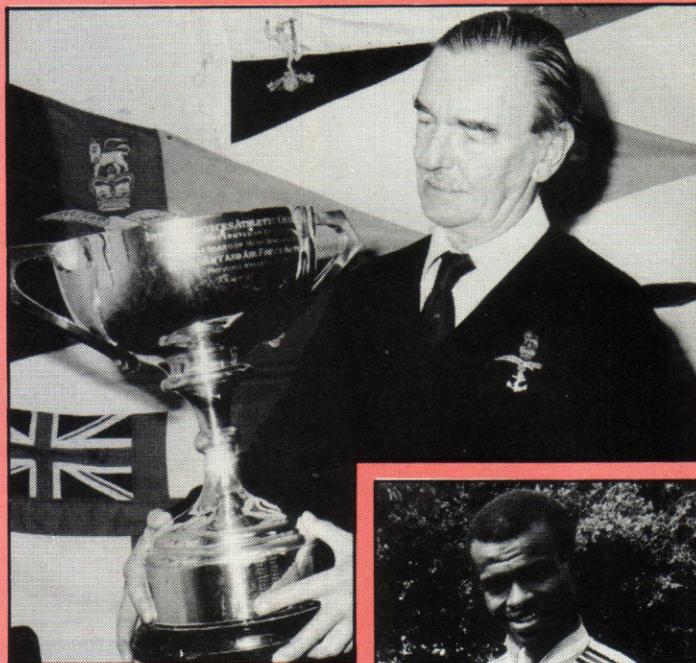
The women's 1,500 and 3,000 metres had been introduced to individual championships and for men the 10,000 metres had been re-introduced.

But an attempt to get indoor athletics going proved something of a disappointment. The only available indoor stadium brought with it problems of travel and accommodation with the result that entries had been poor.

"If we had an indoor stadium at Aldershot matters could well be different," the Major added wistfully.

In retirement Major Preece will still keep a very interested eye on the fortunes of Army athletics. Whether he has anything to do with the sport officially remains to be seen.

As a matter of record, by the way, he was quite a promising athlete himself in his younger days. He says he was approaching county standard with the Bedford Athletic Club in both the 440 and 880. But

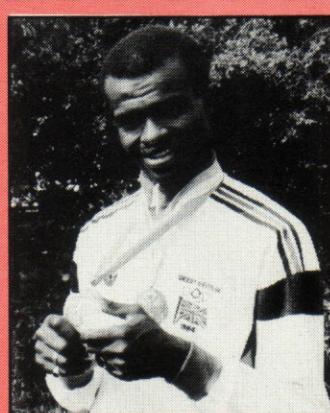


Tony Preece — with the Inter-Service trophy

that was in 1939 and Major Preece, like so many young men of his generation, had precious little time for athletics in the years that followed.

Footnote: Seventeen Army athletes represented their country during Major Preece's 11 years as association secretary:

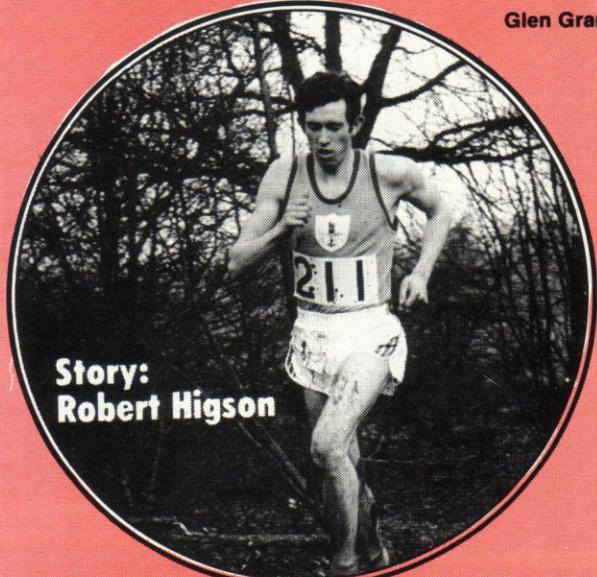
Signalman Clarence Callender, Royal Signals (100 metres), Sergeant Steve Hall, Royal Signals (200 metres), Corporal Walcott Taylor, Royal Anglians, and Sergeant Kris Akabusi, APTC (400 metres and 4 x 400 relay), Sergeant Malcolm Edwards, APTC (800 metres indoor) Captain Glen Grant, Royal Artillery (800 and 1,500 metres), Private Hugh Grant, RAOC (long jump), Private Char-



Kris Akabusi

lie Clover, Royal Anglian (javelin), Sapper Mark Sterling, Royal Engineers (hammer), Sergeant Bill Cain, Lance Corporal Andy Robertson, both Royal Signals, and Private Norman Wilson, Glosters (marathon), Warrant Officer 1 Ted Turner, APTC (cross country), Private Vanessa Head, WRAC (shot), Private Vivien Head, WRAC (discus), Captain Angie Carter, WRAC (100 and 200 metres), Lieutenant Sue Parker, RAMC (800 metres).

Glen Grant



Story:  
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