

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 25 PENCE • 14-24 JUNE 1982

# SOLDIER

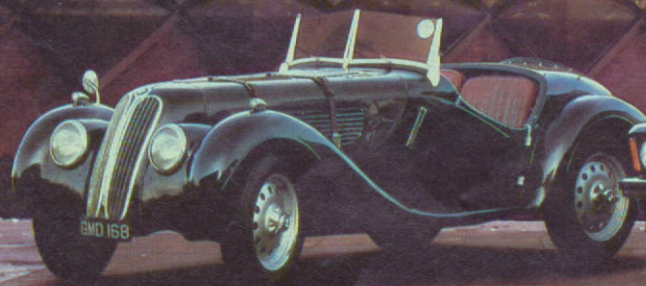


- BATTLE FOR THE FALKLANDS
- LILYWHITES IN LOUISIANA



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### FRONT COVER

As the Queen Elizabeth II made her stately and speedy way to the South Atlantic there was a steady stream of resupply flights. Here a Royal Air Force Sea King comes into land on one of the specially constructed flight decks. (Picture Paul Haley)

### BACK COVER

The verdant countryside of Louisiana makes an impressive back-drop for men of the 13/18 Royal Hussars during their exchange visit to Louisiana. (Picture Doug Pratt)

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# SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY



The Army's Youth Adventure Scheme has got under way in Scotland — page 26

On the look-out for Argentine intruder aircraft. Rapier has taken its toll.

Falklands special Page 6



Bar-B-Q American style for these 13/18 Hussars at Alligator Lake. "Beware of the Flies." — page 18



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CHRIS BONNINGTON, 1982.

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# SOLDIER to Soldier

AS THIS ISSUE of SOLDIER went to Press the world waited for the final British onslaught on the beleaguered Argentinian garrison trapped in a tiny area around Port Stanley.

That the onslaught was coming, no one had any doubt. Nor was there any doubt about the final outcome.

The only question was how many more lives would have to be lost because of the intransigence of the junta in Buenos Aires. Their wild and ill-conceived adventure has succeeded in nothing, except to bring misery to thousands — not least their own forces.

In Britain, the nation mourns the men lost at sea and in the land battles. But there is pride too. Pride in the daringly brilliant 2 Para operation to retake Goose Green and in the exploits of the other forces as they closed the trap.

Not since the Second World War has the nation been so united.

Soon, hopefully, it will be over. Then the politicians can concentrate on trying to find a long term solution to the Falklands problem.

But Britain's armed forces will once again have demonstrated their readiness to take on an aggressor, and win. They will have demonstrated also that they are superbly trained and that they possess a unique ability to conduct complex joint-service operations, even at extremely long range.

Conditions for our men on the ground could scarcely have been worse. Freezing rain. Bitter winds. Miles of 'tabbing' across barren acres of rock and bog with a few snatched hours of sleep in a muddy trench the only respite. Just to survive those hardships takes a special breed of soldier. To come through them smiling — and fit and fresh for the fight — is what makes our men The Professionals.

The Chief of General Staff described the Goose Green victory as an "unsurpassed feat". Perhaps that is a description which should be applied to the whole Task Force operation.

# Now for the final push

THE EXPECTED BATTLE for Port Stanley was still awaited as SOLDIER went to Press but an almost total news black-out imposed by the Ministry of Defence was relaxed slightly with the announcement that 5 Infantry Brigade had joined their colleagues on the Falkland Islands.

The Ministry said the brigade — it includes the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, 2nd Battalion Scots Guards and the 1st Battalion 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles — had transferred from the Queen Elizabeth II several days previously and had then disembarked on the islands.

Meanwhile a despatch from ITN reporter Michael Nicholson said operations of "extraordinary daring" were being carried out by British troops around Port Stanley.

"The British push is really on", he said, adding to speculation that the big battle was about to start.

Another correspondent told of artillery guns being airlifted to sites within easy range of Argentine positions.

Already the bombardment by 105 mm guns and the 4.5 inch naval weapons has given the Argentinians a pounding not seen since World War II.

In Buenos Aires it was finally admitted that their encircled forces had run out of bread and that a water shortage was causing a problem.

A report from the Argentine capital said that the few flights which have managed to beat the British blockade were unable to carry bread, flour or water because of their bulk. Now, says the report, the garrison is existing on emergency rations.

And Land Forces Commander, Major General Jeremy Moore had a message for his men, who, he said were in superb fighting spirit. Praising their brilliant achievements so far, he said: "I'm confident in my men. You have seen them fight. The remaining Argentine military presence on East Falkland is squeezed into a little corner around Port Stanley. They will be squeezed a little more before we are finished."

**TASK FORCE  
SPECIAL REPORTS  
— MORE STORIES  
AND PICTURES  
PAGES 6-11**



## Record Breaker

Encouraged by girl-friend Caroline Considine, Lance Corporal Mick Tyne of 1 Training Regiment RE, has broken the world record for sit-ups. In a 25 hour, 2 minute marathon he completed 27,051 — exactly 1000 more than the old record. He started his attempt at noon on Saturday and completed it at two minutes past one on Sunday — and his only breaks were to answer the call of nature.

## Show Goes on

DESPITE THE Falklands crisis, the spectacular Aldershot Army Display is to go ahead from 25-27 June. Earlier there had been fears that it might have to be cancelled.

More than a quarter of a million people are expected to see the show but because of the current situation some of the advertised items have to be changed. But it will still be the biggest spectacular in the Army's calendar.

There will be pomp and pageantry with the Massed Bands and the musical drive of the King's Troop RHA and a full programme of arena displays and demonstrations giving an insight into every aspect of Army life. Aspiring sharpshooters will be able to try their skill and there will even be an opportunity for a bit of do-it-yourself mine detecting.

## Round up

Top snooker star Jimmy White and referee John Williams are giving their services free for a snooker evening on Monday, 28th June in aid of the South Atlantic Fund. The event will be held at the RAOC Training Centre, Deepcut, and is being organised by Sergeant Len Salisbury (Blackdown mil extension 581.) Admission £5.

Driver David Roberts of 157 Transport Regt. (V) was overall winner of the military section of the Welsh 1000 Snowdonia Peaks Race. The regiment also won the team award. More than 30 military teams took part although several, including last year's winners 1/7 Gurkhas, had to scratch because of the Falklands crisis.

Marksmen from the 1st Bn Green Howards won the major unit championship in the North East District Skill at Arms meeting and their Support Company capped the victory by winning the minor units title.

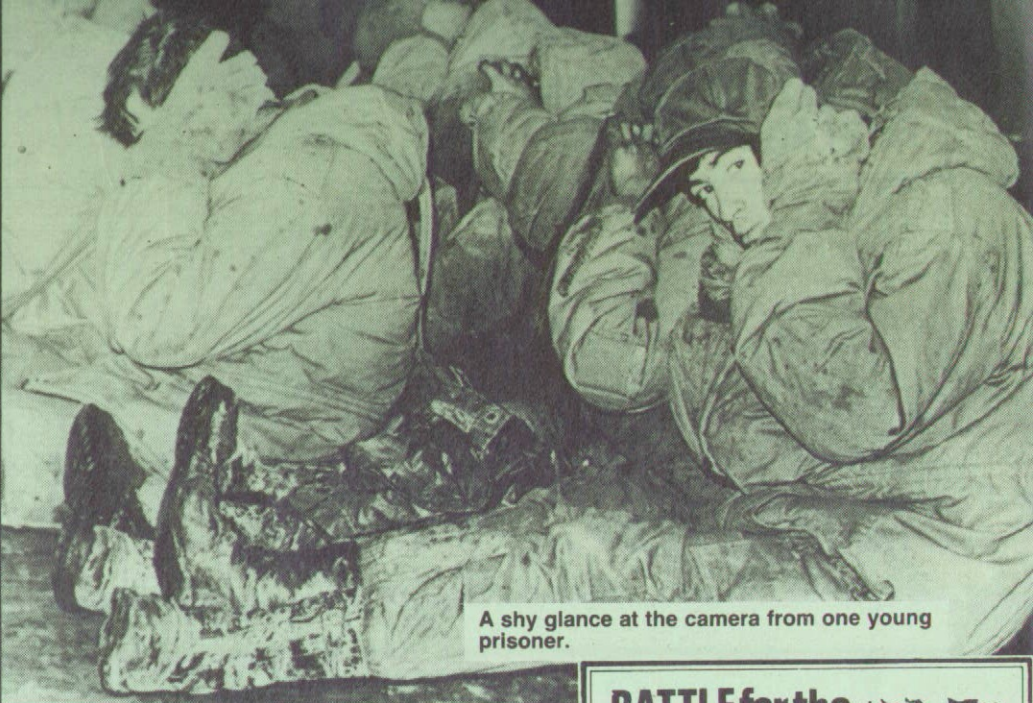
A painting, by Terence Cuneo, depicting the World War II Churchill tanks of the 4th Armoured Brigade fighting their way across the Rhine in 1944 has been unveiled at the Royal Tank Regiment's London Headquarters. It was commissioned by the 4th Armoured Brigade and will hang in their headquarters Mess in Munster. Signed prints are to go on sale to the Army and the public.



A Marine stands guard as prisoners await transport.



A British officer inspects captured weapons.



A shy glance at the camera from one young prisoner.

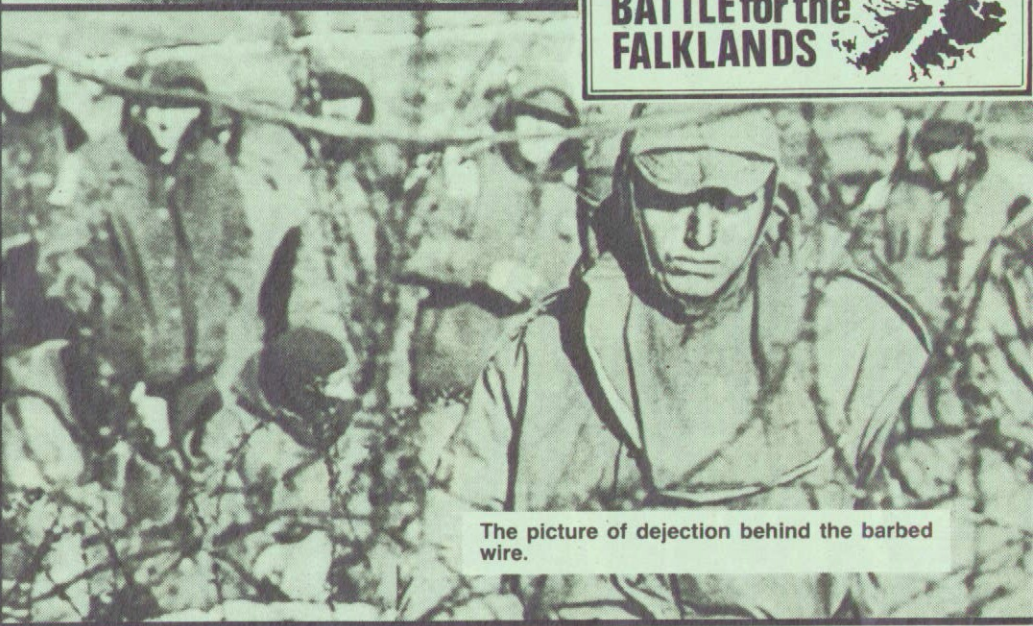
# IN FROM THE COLD

In the aftermath of the brilliant operation by 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment to recapture Goose Green have come pictures of dejected Argentine prisoners, huge piles of discarded weapons and the infamous hoard of napalm bombs.

The operation itself brought a glowing tribute from General Sir Edwin Bramall, Chief of the General Staff. It was, he said, a feat of arms and gallantry probably unsurpassed in the glorious history of the British Army.

In his special message to the Regiment he said: "Greatly grieve the loss of Colonel Jones, his adjutant and the other 13 dead and 30 wounded of the gallant second battalion. But wanted you to know how immensely highly I and my colleagues on the Army Board rate the performance of the Battalion against the enemy."

The Argentine Forces lost 250 men killed, with 140 wounded and 1400 taken prisoner. And two Pucara aircraft were captured, virtually intact.



The picture of dejection behind the barbed wire.



▲ The field of surrender.  
 ▲ Argentinian prisoners carry away a wounded comrade.

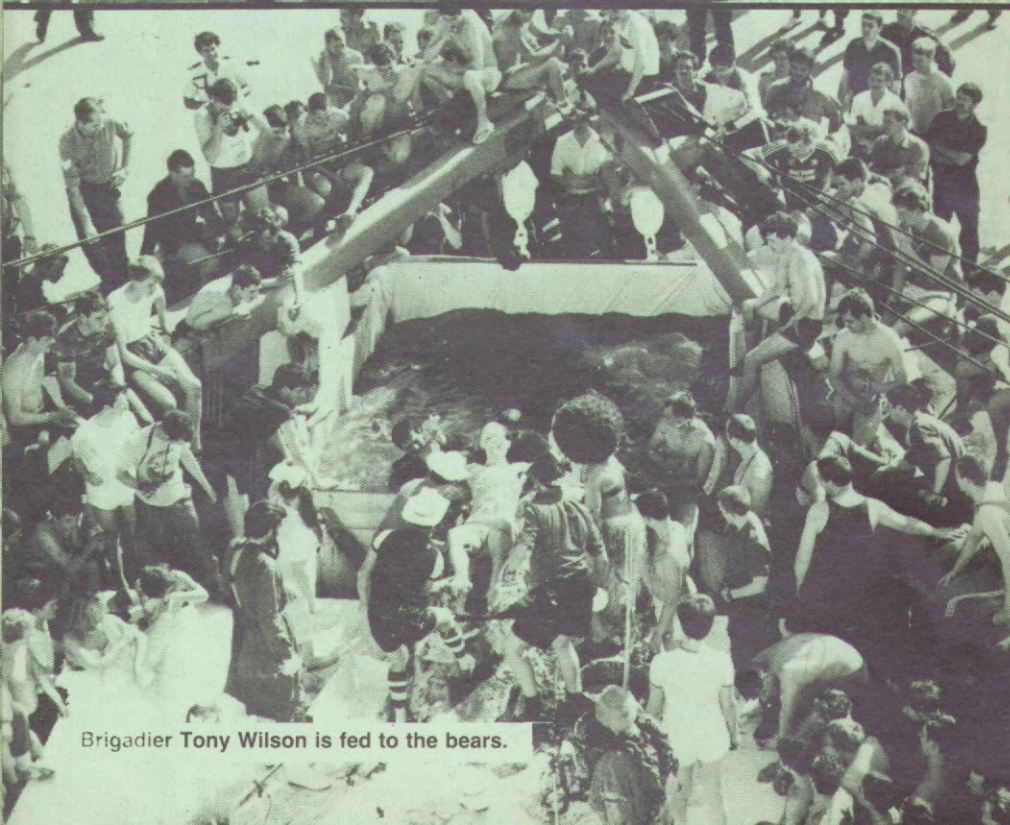
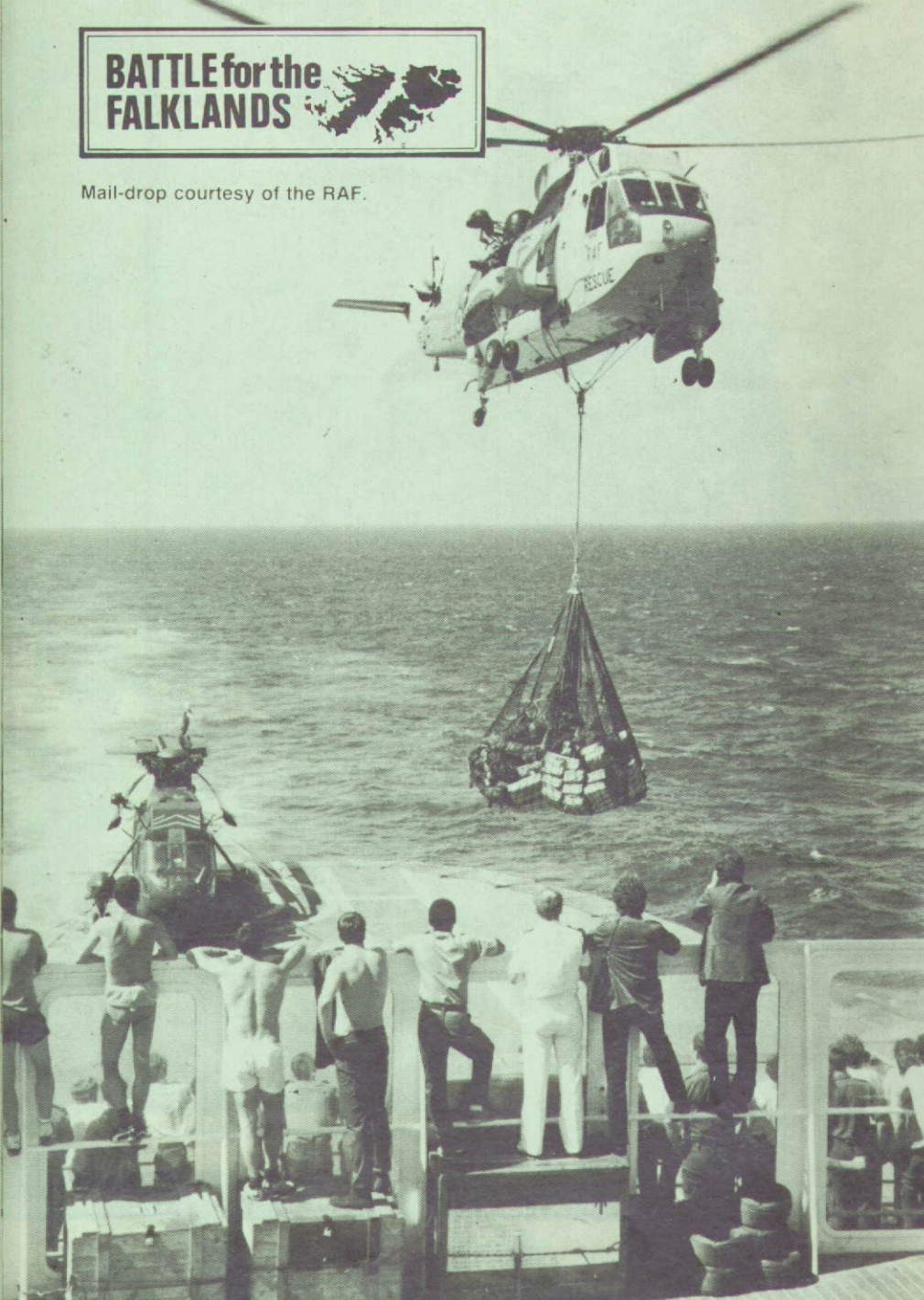


The long road home.

## BATTLE for the FALKLANDS



Mail-drop courtesy of the RAF.



Brigadier Tony Wilson is fed to the bears.

# A DUCKING FOR THE BRIGADIER

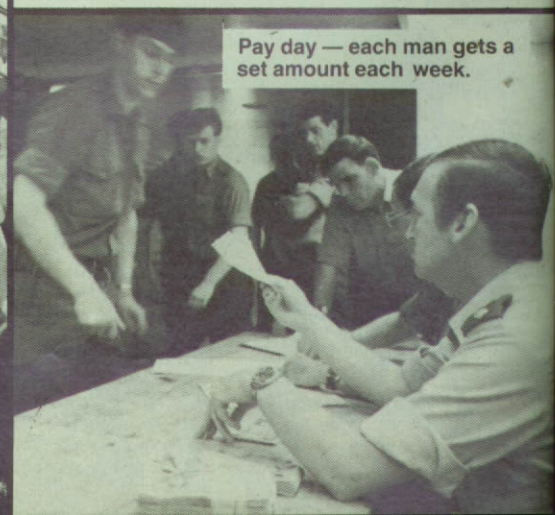
SOON AFTER we received this latest batch of pictures from our man on the QE2, photographer Paul Haley, the news came through that 5 Infantry Brigade had landed successfully on the Falklands and the QE2 was steaming home, its mission as a troopship completed.

These pictures capture the professionalism, determination — and good humour — of the 5 Brigade soldiers, qualities that were soon to be needed in earnest as they faced up to the hazards of combat in sub-zero temperatures.

When the great liner crossed the line, King Neptune, his Queen and court came to conduct the traditional ceremony. First victim to be thrown to the 'hungry bears' was commander of 5 Infantry Brigade, Brigadier Tony Wilson. Training went on, of course, and men, supplies and mail came aboard by helicopter. And the barber shop beat inflation. Usually it costs £4-£5 to get a hair-cut by Steiner. Now it cost only 75p.

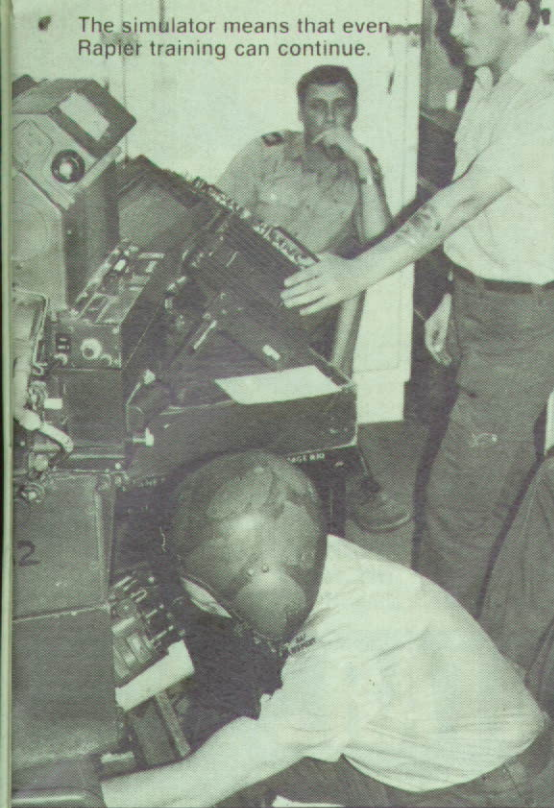


Brigadier Tony Wilson congratulates Signalman Garry Parr on his 18th birthday. ▲

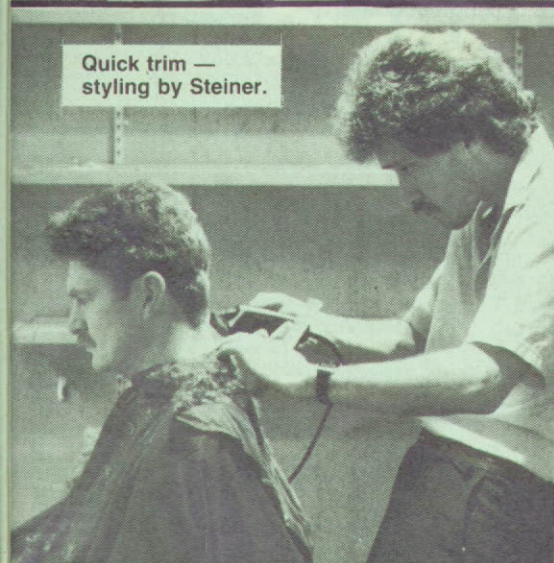


Pay day — each man gets a set amount each week.

The simulator means that even Rapiers training can continue.



Quick trim — styling by Steiner.



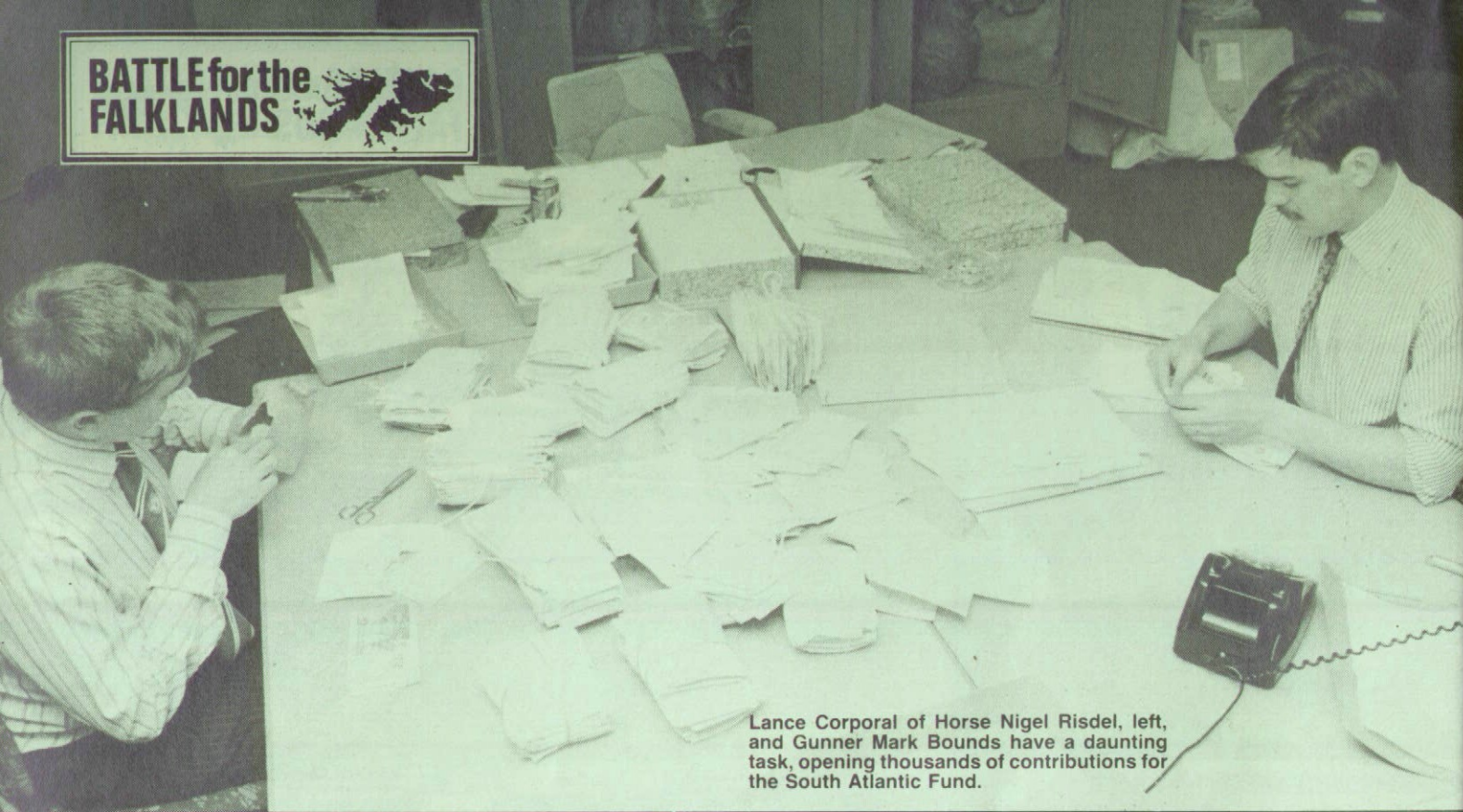
**BATTLE**for the  
**FALKLANDS**



Gurkhas prepare with live ammunition in the 'Double-Down Bar'. ▲



A great reception for a video of BBC TV's coverage of the departure from Southampton.



Lance Corporal of Horse Nigel Risdell, left, and Gunner Mark Bounds have a daunting task, opening thousands of contributions for the South Atlantic Fund.

## CASH FLOWS IN

AT ARCHWAY HOUSE a few feet away from Nelson's Column money pours in from all over the country in support of the South Atlantic Fund established to benefit the families of the Falklands Crisis casualties. The total is already over £1 million, including a £500,000 gift sent to The Queen by the Cayman Islands.

A small joint service staff plus twelve volunteers have the task of co-ordinating the fund.

And there is probably another £½ million in letters still unopened.

Some donations equal the cost of a house and one particular cheque was for £100,000. But all contributions however small, are gratefully received. Children have donated their pocket money and one married couple, both pensioners, gave £500 of their savings. The family firm of E L Mendel Ltd have given a £4,600 Vauxhall car to be raffled. Paul Mendel, ex-RMP said: "most of my staff are ex-Servicemen and I have absolute confidence in the men and women who have sailed with the Task Force. I felt that by raffling the car many more people could become involved in helping with the fund."

It is perhaps ironic that the chief co-ordinator of the fund is Captain Peter Coward, Director of Naval Service Conditions, who only eight months ago was captain of HMS Coventry, one of the ships sunk by the Argentines.

People are also offering gifts such as chocolate, eggs, beer and books, but the word from Captain Coward and his staff is to keep these and concentrate on

raising money.

Donations to the fund, which will eventually be administered by established Forces charities such as the Army Benevolent Fund, should be sent to: The South Atlantic Fund, Ministry of Defence, Archway, Block South, Old Admiralty Building, London SW1 or alternatively at any Post Office in Britain. Cash or crossed cheques may be deposited free of charge by using a National Giro-bank Transcash slip quoting account number 555 5558.

## WIDOW'S TRIBUTE

The widow of one of the 21 men who died when a Task Force Sea King helicopter crashed on 21 May, has written her own tribute to the men of the SAS.

She says in an open letter to 22 SAS Regiment, her husband's unit:

"As an SAS wife whose husband died in the unfortunate helicopter accident last week, I wish to pay tribute to all the men of the SAS for their courage and dedication they put in, to not only the job in hand, but the tremendous build-up and effort they exert in their training.

"Most of all I would like to praise the wives of the Regiment who, for security reasons, never know where their husbands are, who endure the long periods of being on their own, of coping with all the family problems, of their patience and understanding when grief comes to others, and the comradeship they provide each other in days of need and distress.

"Last, but not least, I wish to pay my deepest respect to my own husband who gave me so much support, understanding, and I hope that the courage he showed will help sustain me in the years ahead."

# KEEPING FAMILIES INFORMED

The Consolidated Rear Party Cell at South East District Headquarters operates a twenty four hour casualty and welfare service in support of the rear parties of 5 Infantry Brigade and the families of those soldiers especially from minor units whose lives are at risk in the Falklands.

As well as the four officers called upon to man the cell, civilian staff from 5 Infantry Brigade

act as human computers collating information which is then to hand for anyone who needs it.

Apart from providing basic information on casualties the cell is also involved in the follow up welfare work like arranging hospital visits for families and easing their travel difficulties. They even had the job of allocating the complimentary tickets given for the Children's Royal Variety Per-

formance to Service children whose fathers are in the South Atlantic.

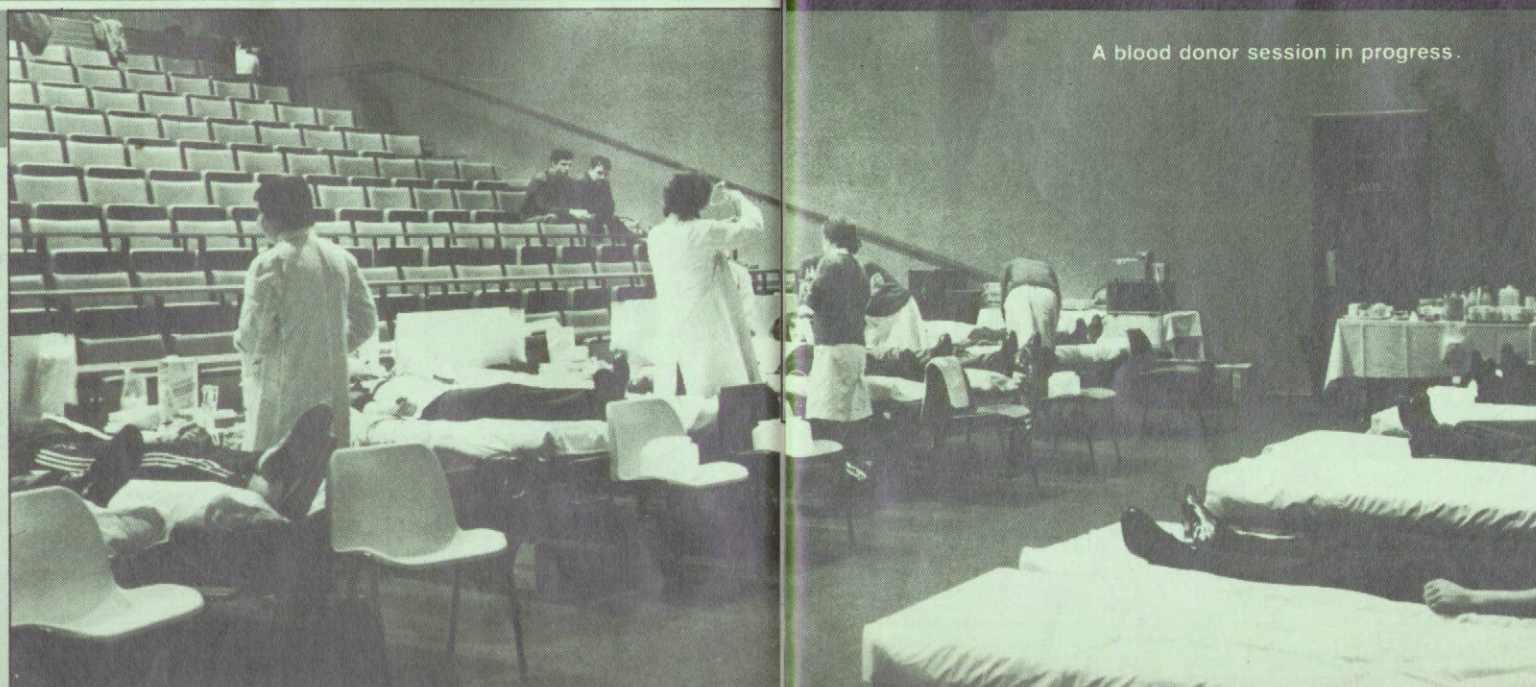
"Normally you'd only tell the next of kin listed injuries" says Captain Lindy Esslemont who with one other WRAC officer works the regular day shift, "but we've been telling families anything we can get no matter how minor it is — even a broken ankle."

She went on to say their workload is governed by what is actually happening in the Falklands. The four telephone lines allocated for the cell were very busy the weekend Goose Green was taken.

"It's hard work but we get a lot out of it. We hope we're providing a valuable service to the families."

## OPERATION BLOOD

A blood donor session in progress.



The Falklands crisis has led to the Army Blood Supply Depot at Aldershot twice having to hold its biggest donor sessions in recent memory. On each occasion the depot was engaged in a beat the clock operation to get blood out to Ascension for a deadline.

Civilian and military staff worked overtime for each of the sessions — on one occasion right through until four in the morning. First mass session was at HMS Collingwood at Gosport and the second covered two venues — RAF Halton and the Coldstream Guards at Caterham.

"These were the two biggest one day operations we have ever had" said the Commanding Officer. "And I am very pleased

with the way the unit performed."

Drivers from 41 Squadron RCT pitched in to help ferry the blood back to Aldershot and subsequently to waiting aircraft at Lyneham and Brize Norton. A Royal Navy member of the Blood Supply Depot staff, Leading Medical Assistant Gerry Duffy, escorted it to Ascension on both occasions.

A new blood transport box, extensively tested for hot and cold climates, was used for the first time. Made of cardboard with a two inch layer of polystyrene it apparently worked very well. And use was made of a new preservative for blood which gives longer storage life.



Capt Lindy Esslemont, left, and Capt Ginny Curry manning the Rear Party Cell.

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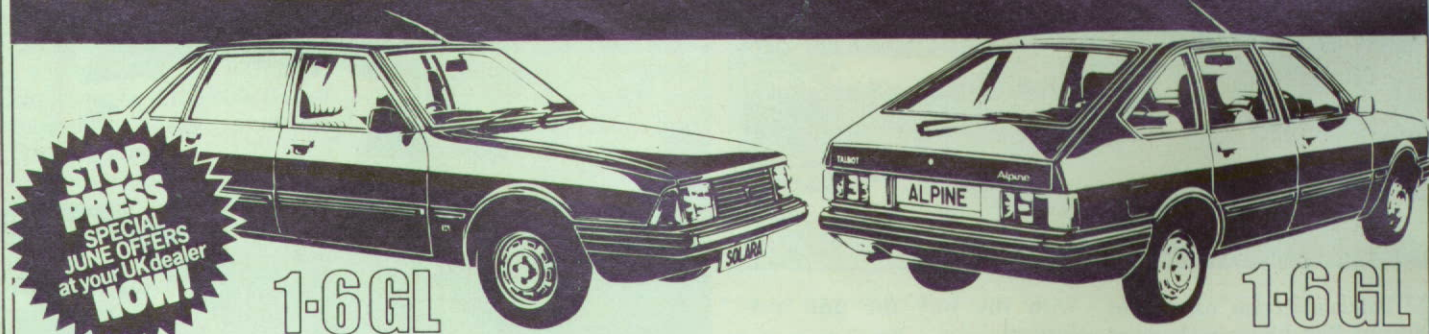
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## ◀ By the Bucket

Mrs Susan Collins, left, and Mrs Mandy Bradbury were just two of the Army wives at Bergen, Lower Saxony, who had to collect their water supplies from a bowser after a pollution scare. A small amount of weedkiller got into the local system after a farmer had connected up a faulty pump at the same time as the local authority was carrying out maintenance work.

## Hat Swop ▶

"Try that for size," says Tpr Nick Freeman, left, of the Queen's Own Hussars during a month's exchange visit to Australia. On the receiving end was Cpl Mick Hayes of The Royal Australian Regiment.



## Family Hat-Trick ▲

Three generations of the Wiggin family of Berkshire marched proudly past their Colonel-in-Chief, Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, when she visited the Royal Hussars at Fallingbowl. Lt Col PM Wiggin, left, led the Old Comrades, including his son George, past the Royal dais, whilst George's son 2nd Lt David Wiggin was in uniform for the parade.

## Swiss Praise ▼

Maj Hugo Cristen of Switzerland's crack Alpine Infantry was so impressed by what he saw on a familiarisation visit to 1 Royal Highland Fusiliers at Hemer that afterwards he was loud in his praise of the British Army. "Particularly," he said, "by the way British soldiers set to with a will. They are very spirited and very good."



# NEWS VIEW



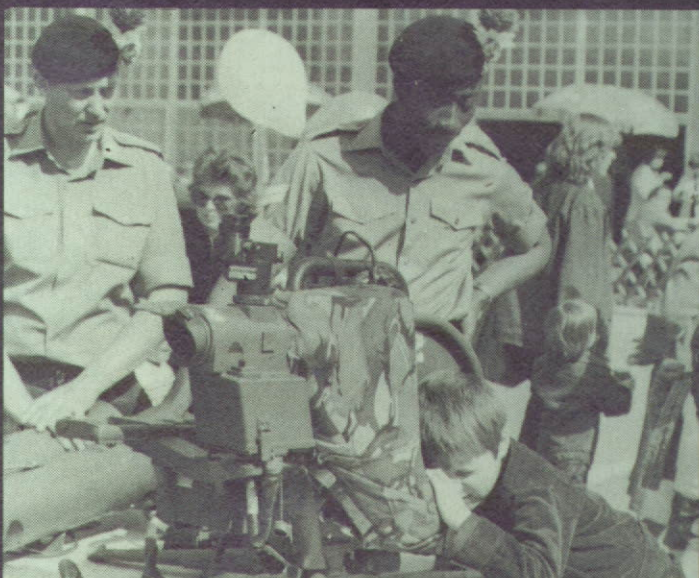
## Scanner Walk

Drivers from 3rd Armoured Division Field Ambulance were hoping that 'Charlie Bear' would bring them luck when eight of them set out to walk from Big Ben in London to Newcastle-upon-Tyne. They were hoping to raise £1000 towards the body scanner needed by Newcastle General Hospital.



## Debt Repaid ▼

Twelve years ago the locals of Charlottenburg raised Dm 12,000 to aid members of 2 Royal Regiment of Fusiliers after a fire had destroyed their packing cases just as they were about to leave Berlin for UK. Now, with the Battalion back in Berlin, they have returned the compliment by presenting the money which was raised at an open day attended by 10,000 people.



# NEWS VIEW



## High Road ▲

Before starting their descent through Zermatt members of a BAOR team which has crossed the Alps the hard way, pause in the shadow of Mont Blanc. The five-man team has completed the more than 100 miles long High Level Route from Chamonix in France to Saas Fee in Switzerland.

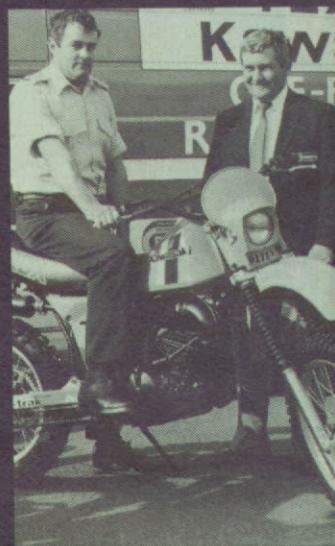
## Assault Force ▼

No, not a practice for the Falklands but some of the 300 Army Cadets who took part in leadership courses on the Stanford training area in Norfolk. Hosts were 1 D and D from Colchester and the lads came from all over the country, with a sprinkling from the Canadian Army Cadet Force.



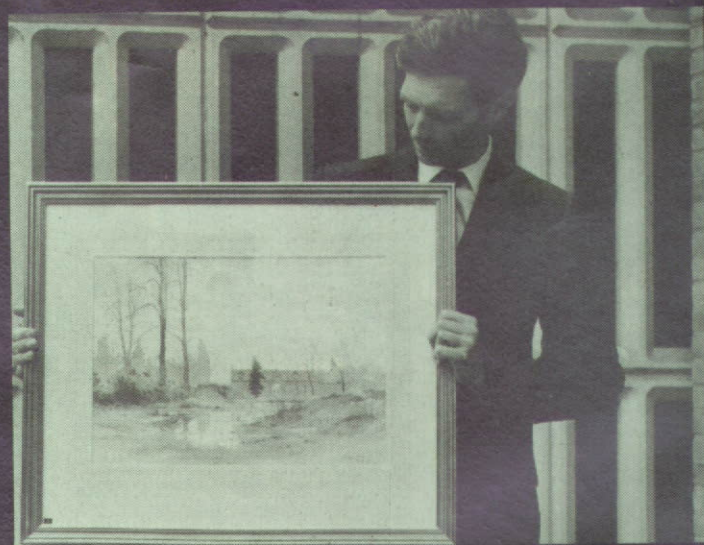
## New Bikes ►

Capt Eddie Vaughan, RCT, team manager of the Army Motorcycling Association tries out a Kawasaki Enduro Machine after Mr Alex Wright, senior manager of the firm's special products department had presented three of them to the association in a ceremony at Aldershot.



## Best Artist ▼

Major Stephen Weld, RE, Chief Instructor of 3 Training Regiment RE, poses with his watercolour of Minley Manor which won him the award for the best painting by a serving member of the Forces at the 51st annual exhibition of the Armed Forces Art Society.



## Cop Shoot

German civil policemen from Bad Gandersheim firing British Sterling SMGs during Exercise 'Cop Shoot' at Hohne. Highest scoring teams and individuals in the SLR, SMG and pistol sections were all German, although 111 Provost Coy won the "Falling Plate" competition and were the highest scoring RMP team.



## Jingle Band

The drums and flutes of 1st Bn Royal Anglian Regt played the newly composed station jingle to mark the official opening of the BBC's latest local radio station at Cambridge. Opening the station was BBC chairman Mr George Howard who is pictured with station manager Hal Bethell.



## ◀ Driver's Day

Usually an RAF officer took the salute at Osnabrück when 'I' Bty (Bull's Troop) RHA celebrated the anniversary of the Battle of Fuentes d'Onoro which went down in history as 'Driver's Day'. But it was appropriate because Air Marshal Sir Thomas Kennedy, C-in-C RAF Germany, is a direct descendent of the Battery Sergeant Major at the famous battle in 1811.

## Kenya Memorial ▶

High up on Mount Kenya members of 14/20 King's Hussars group round the memorial which their expedition has placed on the grave of three colleagues killed in a rock fall in 1965. The accident happened at 16,000 feet and the three victims were buried at the foot of the Darwin Glacier at 14,900 feet.



## ◀ Ship Ahoy

There was just a taste of life under the White Ensign for these members of 'G' Coy 3 WFR when a working party visited HMS Galatea, a Leander class frigate, in Gibraltar harbour. They were part of a composite company from Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire taking part in Exercise 'Marble Tor'.



## I Like You ▲

A handful of nuts apiece was enough to secure the friendship of this Barbary Ape when L/Cpl John Hamilton and Pte Ian McCrorie took a break from training in Gibraltar. Both were members of a 120-strong composite company of 3/51 Highland Volunteers who spent two weeks on The Rock.



## ◀ Freedom

The scroll Party about to parade the new Freedom Scroll when the German city of Viersen bestowed its greatest honour on 15 Ordnance Group. But although the event was marked by a week of celebrations the Group was unable to exercise its right of marching through the city. That has to wait for another occasion.

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**The 1982 model Fiesta**

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	April 1st, 1982	May 1st, 1982	Reduction
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Escort 1600 L 3-door	£3904	£3190	£714
Cortina 2000 GL	£5123	£4056	£1067
Capri 2000 GL	£4576	£3874	£702
Granada 2300 GL	£7182	£5637	£1545



**The 1982 model Escort**

Ford have over eighty models for you to choose from. To begin with, there are the small but spacious Fiestas, ranging from the thrifty 950cc Popular to the luxurious 1300cc Ghia and the sporty 105 mph\* 1600cc XR2.

Equally extensive is the 1982 Escort range, the most efficiently engineered car in its class.

Then comes the car above comparison, the Cortina, with a choice ranging from a 1300cc saloon to a 2.3 litre V6 Ghia.

The Capri, the sporting coupé with hatchback-carrying capacity, is amazing value for money.

As for the 1982 range of Granadas, these superb saloons and estates make even a 200 mile drive effortless and enjoyable.



**The 1982 model Cortina**

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**The 1982 model Capri**

<sup>†</sup>Maximum tax-free price includes front seat belts. Delivery and number plates at extra cost.

\*Ford computed figures.

For more information about the whole range of 1982 Fords, just contact: any Ford dealer in Britain, your local NAAFI car sales showroom in Germany, NAAFI, Nottingham, or Natocars, Bridgwater, Somerset.



**The 1982 model Granada**

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Bette collects an autograph from a member of the Irish Guards.

# Why Bette wishes women were more sentimental

consequently forgotten. In the First War women had to stage demonstrations to demand the right to work for the war effort and they were breaking away from the accepted way of life."

After her wartime service with the Timber Corps, Bette went to Germany with the Control Commission — North German Timber Control. She later had a spell with YMCA Service Clubs in Osnabrück and Dortmund and subsequently with USAF Service Clubs in England, before going into secretarial work.

She finds that women tend to play down their war experiences and don't regard themselves as having done anything in the war unless they were in uniform. "Subconsciously I did not want something I did in my adult life to be the subject of historical research as it was too ageing, but then I suddenly realised that if we did not do something soon a lot of what we had done would quickly be forgotten. While we are still around we want to get down experiences and reminiscences on paper."

The ENSA connection came about by chance. Charlie Chester had presented a radio programme on the wartime entertainment organisation and she wrote in suggesting a reunion. "I imagined the entertainment world would take it up but nobody did and I found myself landed with it."

The event was a big success and there was talk of more reunions and local groups of former entertainers. None of this came to pass but the association has nearly 100 members and Bette's newsletters help to keep them together.

Bette retired from her job as a secretary last year but is quick to refute that this has left her with lots of spare time to concentrate on her militaria and ENSA activities.

"Good heavens, No," she said. "I have bought myself a spinning wheel as a retirement present and I intend to do many other things. If you are a pensioner and want to play bingo or be photographed with the Mayor at Christmas wearing a silly hat that is apparently all right. But nobody wants to help pensioners to use their brains. So I am starting a craft group for pensioners." Busy Bette doesn't intend the grass to grow under her feet.

**'I suddenly realised that if we did not do something soon a lot of what we had done would quickly be forgotten'**

nothing about."

Now Bette, who was in the Women's Timber Corps in the last war, is hard at work researching the role of women in the 1939-45 war. She is hoping eventually to produce a book on the subject.

"I went to the Imperial War Museum and discovered that they were not very well supplied with material. I am particularly interested in finding out more about Lady Londonderry's Emergency Service, which was a forerunner of the ATS.

"I collect anything I can connected with the war service of women. But it's a hard slog. Women are not half as sentimental as men — they tend to say 'off with the old and on with the new' and throw things away. You don't find women keeping their old pay books for the rest of their lives."

Bette says that the war work by women in the First World War is much better documented than in the Second. "This is because by then it was taken for granted and

**A**T FIRST GLANCE Bette Anderson is a most unlikely militaria buff. A retired lady living near Warminster, she would appear more at home at her local Women's Institute. However, a quick chat with her reveals that she knows more about the Army, and its traditions than a good many people now serving.

Bette is the only active female member of three militaria organisations — the Salisbury Militaria Society, the Crown Imperial (a society for the study of the history and regalia of the Forces) and the Wessex Military History Society.

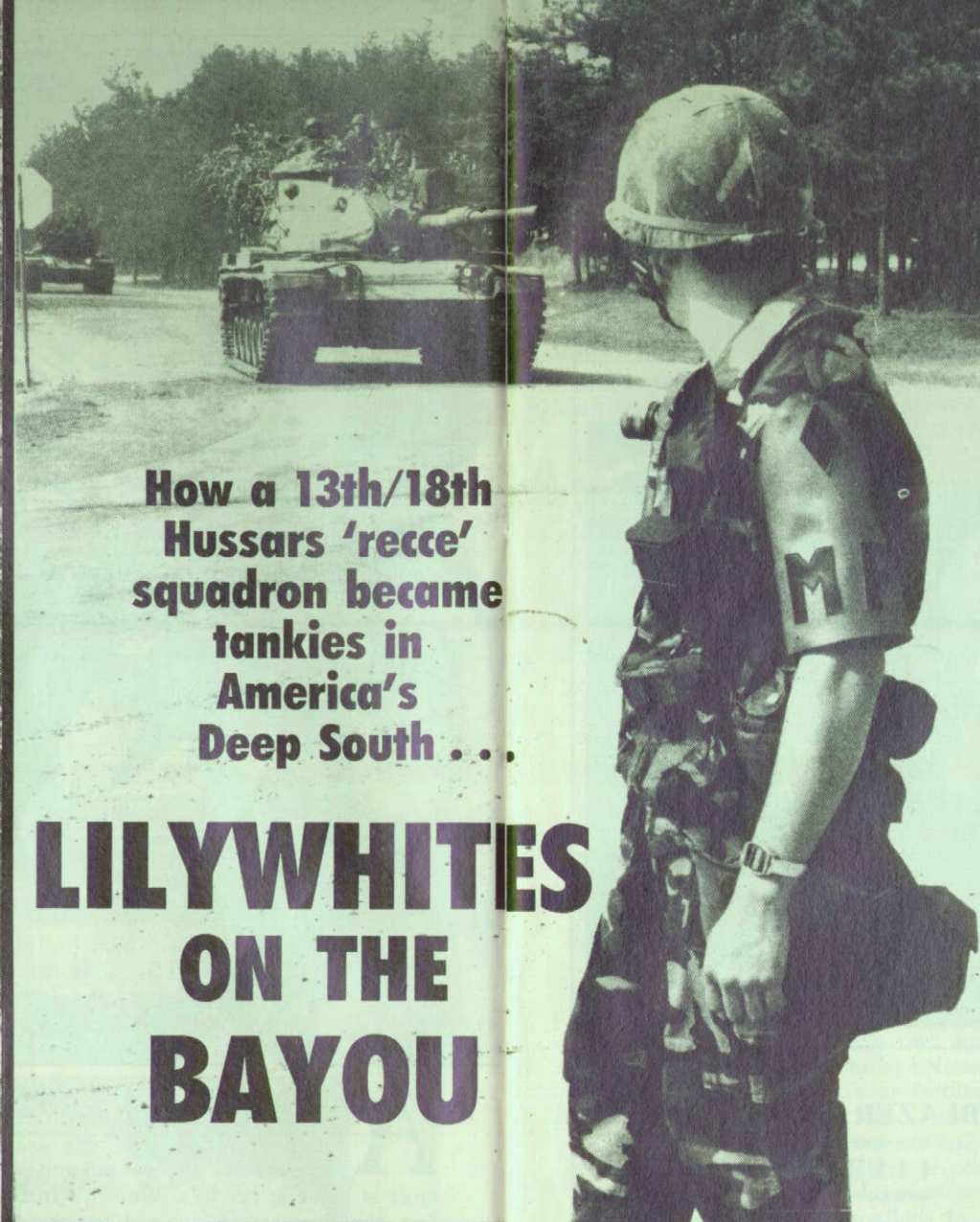
In addition she organised the successful ENSA 40th anniversary reunion a couple of years ago and has continued to keep the old troupers together with the Association of Wartime Entertainers, for whom she compiles a regular newsletter.

Miss Anderson traces back her interest in military things to a day about 30 years ago when she saw a collection of cap badges for sale in a Newbury secondhand shop.

"I thought they might be a good investment because some of those regiments were going to disappear," she recalls. "and so they have been — I paid £2 for 40 of them and I imagine you would now have to pay at least £2 each. Then I started looking at them, which was fatal, because they are so beautiful."

Eventually Bette moved to Wiltshire and discovered the Salisbury Militaria Society. "As I was their only lady member they decided I should concentrate on women's militaria. It's very difficult because there's

An M60 rolls along a leafy track at Fort Polk with one of the 'Yorkshire cavalry' up aloft.



How a 13th/18th  
Hussars 'recce'  
squadron became  
tankies in  
America's  
Deep South...

## LILYWHITES ON THE BAYOU

**J**UST HOURS after the tragic news confirming the crippling of *HMS Sheffield* and the loss of a Sea Harrier in the hostile South Atlantic, American Army sympathies for Britain's cause in the Falklands crisis emerged as more than 100 of the self-styled "Yorkshire's cavalry" — 'A' Squadron, 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own) — disgorged from coaches to a surprise musical welcome at a sprawling Army camp in Louisiana.

Up until the fateful news, the plan had been to salute Britain's casualty-free operations with an appropriate tune: *Don't Cry for Me, Argentina!*

It was to have been a tribute-paying prelude to the Lilywhites — the regimental nickname — who were visiting the Bayou State on a month-long exchange training programme: Exercise Gobi Dust.

But the musicians had to change their tune. Instead, they played the two respective regimental marches and, in keeping with time-honoured southern courtesy, a reminder of home with a rendition of *On Ilkley Moor Bah't 'at*.

Hosts for the British visit were the 3rd Battalion, 70th Armor, part of the US Army's latest, beefed-up creation, the 5th Infantry Division (Mechanised).

The original 5th Infantry Division made its debut in 1917 and were known to the

Germans as the 'Red Devils'.

A similar number of men from the American battalion's 'C' Company flew by RAF VC 10 to England and a four-week stay at the cavalry regiment's Debden, Essex, barracks for a suitable training syllabus.

On arrival at the 198,000-acre Fort Polk — soon to have a 400 million dollar facelift and through which generals of the ilk of Eisenhower, Patton, Clark and Bradley passed in the early Forties — the largely Yorkshire-recruited Squadron was welcomed by the 3/70th Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel John R Dethorn.

He told his young visitors — the average age is 23 — that he expected them to work as hard as his own men, adding: "If anybody in 'A' Squadron thinks he has got any ideas for improving the way we Americans do things, I shall be pleased to hear of them. I am sure we can both learn from each other."

Although they have Armoured Fighting Vehicles (AFVs) in common, the two exchanging units have essentially different battlefield roles. The Americans of the 3/70th, part of 2 Brigade, use M.60 A1 tanks in an armoured role while 'A' Squadron operates its thirty 7-ton Fox armoured cars, mounting the 30mm Rarden cannon, with crews of three in a recce role comprising five troops.

Additionally, the 13th/18th sometimes provide one of their two UK-based squad-

rons for duties with the United Nations Force in Cyprus.

The Louisiana terrain certainly offered something different for the 'tykes' — it boasts a greater mileage of navigable streams than any other State. They also discovered that it gets extremely warm with temperatures during their stay ranging from 60 to 100 degrees Fahrenheit!

During their month's intensive activity embracing the use of equipment and tank tactics, the fair-skinned Yorkshiremen had to undergo a second learning curve — coping with an increased temperature of blistering heat coupled with the energy-sapping effects of relative humidity at 98 per cent.

Added to this they had to contend out in the field or 'boondocks', with the scourges of mosquitoes, flies, ticks, chiggers (large, unpleasant insects) and snakes such as copperheads and water moccasins.

Reveille was sounded each day at 0530 quickly followed by 30-minute runs in PT kit; the sun already long risen and fierce on the tarmac arteries between unshaded office and barrack blocks.

The four-week programme saw the Brits settling down with determined vigour as they familiarised themselves with the American equipment.

Twenty-one Hussar crews clambered into

"Watch out mate, we're used to driving on the left!" 13th/18th Hussars head for the ranges. ▲

the 54-ton M.60 A1 tanks to pump out 697 main ammunition rounds from the 105mm guns onto designated impact areas anything from 800 to 1500 metres distant.

Elsewhere on the baking, sun-bleached ranges the Lilywhites showed their prowess as marksmen loosing of some 6000 rounds on the American machine guns and nearly 8000 rounds on the M.16 carbines.

Tank tactics were brought into play at the end of the stay during a 48-hour field training exercise with the Louisiana National Guard.

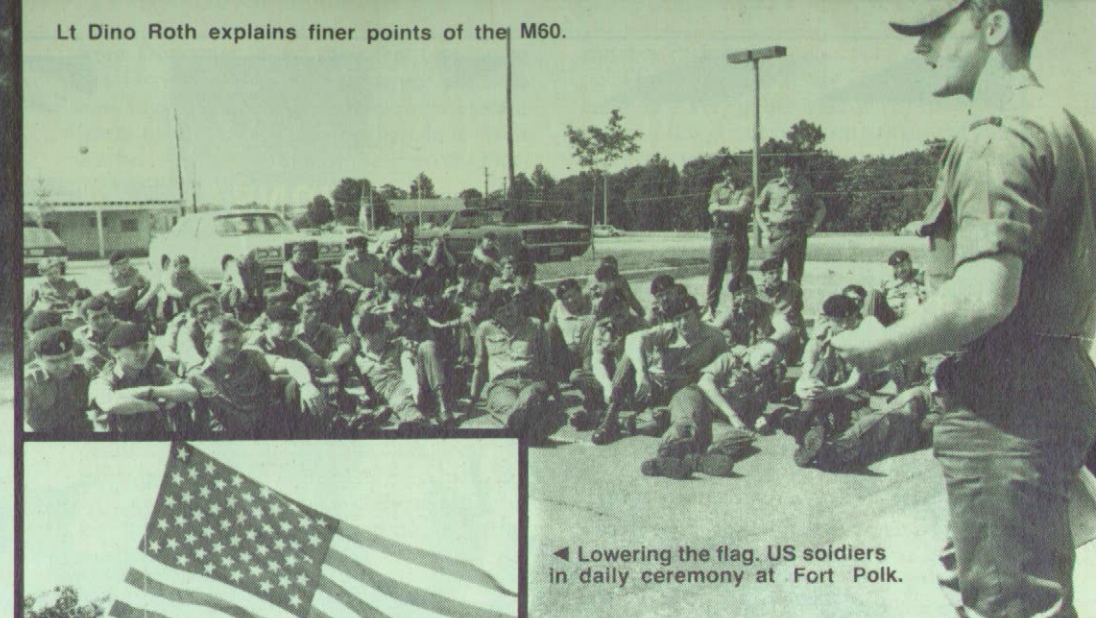
Events heralding the four-week stay by the Brits got off to a sporting start with the brawny Yorkshiremen taking on their even burlier American counterparts in a rugby union match.

The visitors were all trounced but quickly got their own back — in song during a 'smoker' and with bellowed, bawdy rugby balladry!

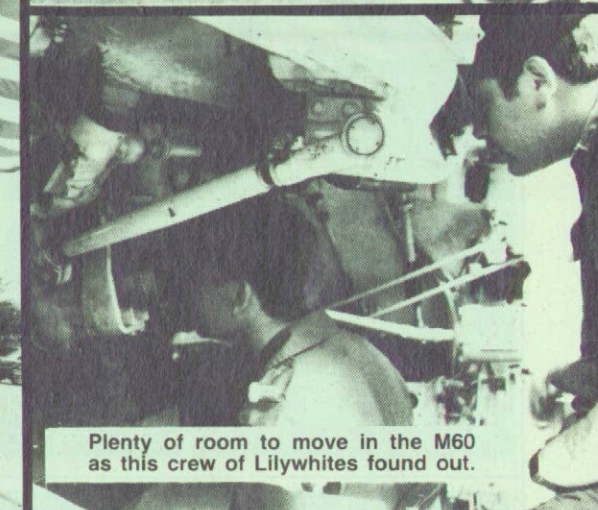
As the Squadron's Leader, Major Jeremy Selfe, was heard to observe in typical British understatement: "Well, we certainly won the singing. We may even make a special LP tape of our repertoire and present it to the

*continued on page 21*

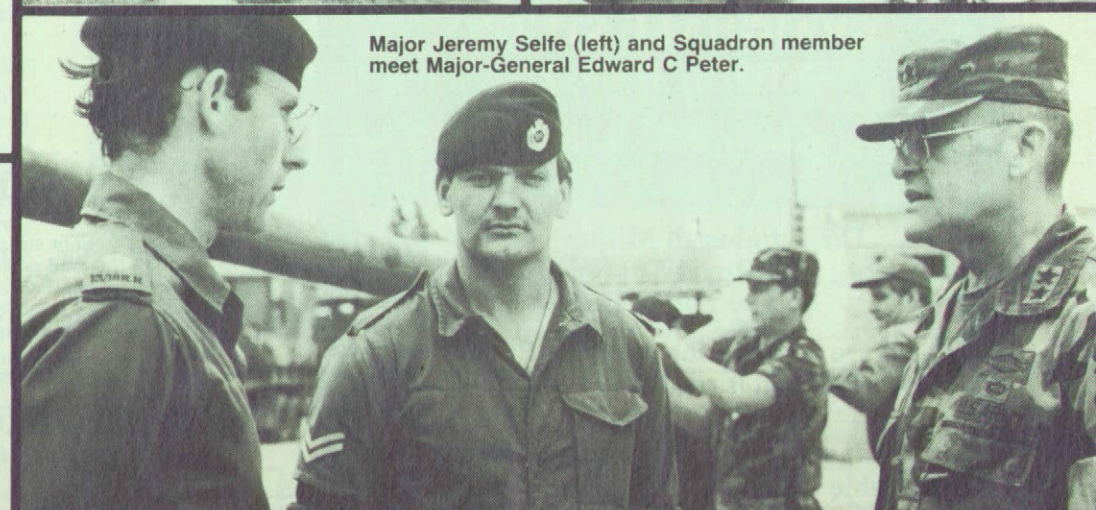
Lt Dino Roth explains finer points of the M60.



Lowering the flag. US soldiers in daily ceremony at Fort Polk.



Plenty of room to move in the M60 as this crew of Lilywhites found out.



Major Jeremy Selfe (left) and Squadron member meet Major-General Edward C Peter.



"Just what do you-all think of our Blueberry Pie?" American cooks are about to find out from Paul Brown, Glen Miller and Ian Thomson.

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Americans before we leave."

Art found its way into the programme, too — culinary art.

The Yorkshire lads, not entirely 'chuffed' about American predilections for fast food, did not openly pine for fish, chips and mushy peas but were determined to leave some gastronomic science behind them for possible posterity at Fort Polk.

Certainly, they tucked into the customary catfish fare and the renowned Creole gumbo (a stew based on shellfish) with scant thought for black puddings or tripe. Then they arranged an English Day — and dished up roast lamb complete with mint sauce.

As one amiable American cook sergeant took time out to explain: "Our men will just not eat lamb. Their food has to be something to do with beef or chicken. Who knows . . . this British import could start a whole new trend here at Fort Polk!"

Fort Polk is certainly big enough to absorb any such trend. Named after a Confederate general-cum-bishop in the Civil War, it is the home of a relatively new combat division and is the site of one of the "largest modernisation programmes ever attempted by the military".

As Major-General Edward C. Peter, Commander, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanised) proudly pointed out: "This will soon be the most modern installation in our Army. World War Two wooden barracks have been torn down at a phenomenal rate to create a fitting home for the Army's newest Division."

"The 5th Infantry Division is organised as a model of the US Army's 'Total Force' concept. It consists of two organic brigades of three manoeuvres battalions each and a reserve brigade from the Louisiana National Guard which corresponds to your Territorial Army."

The British visitors — all but two making their first trip to the North American continent — were impressed. And their views of the USA were not solely confined to the wide open spaces of Fort Polk. One weekend, for example, was made available for a trip down to the city renowned for its annual 'fat Tuesday' celebrations; New Orleans of Mardi Gras fame.

There, Brits from Barnsley strolled down the Jazz-embroided Bourbon Street; men

from Doncaster found their feet tapping to the Dixieland beat; others from Sheffield took to the decks of the stern-powered steam boats on the Mississippi; while lads from Rotherham roamed round the French Quarter or 'Vieux Carre'.

The Lilywhites — or more accurately the 'lobster reds' after their month under cloudless Louisiana skies — are back in the UK now and Major Selfe had no doubt that their transatlantic jaunt had been worthwhile.

"A recce squadron forms the eyes and ears for an armoured brigade or division in Germany which comprises a large number of tanks. For recce soldiers to operate in tanks enables them to discover at first hand the advantages and disadvantages of a tank and will give them a broader understanding of how to carry out a recce when they get back to their normal job."

"Clearly, we would have gained even greater knowledge if we had exchanged with a cavalry recce troop out here but we have got a lot of experience from this visit. It is understood that the Pentagon and the Ministry of Defence could not arrange a

Lilywhites QM tries a game of horse shoes.

suitable exchange.

"The boys have really risen to the challenge in a very short time when they got to learn of the gunnery, main armament firing and sufficient driving and maintenance to be able to take part in a two-sided exercise at a time when the host battalion is very stretched with other commitments."

"As well as working with unfamiliar equipment and systems the weather proved to be tough and despite good standards of fitness the heat and humidity were very draining."

"The size of the American military machine has shaken everybody really but we have managed to maintain our squadron identity and plough our own little furrow as part of 3/70th. The Americans have admired our style, that of a British cavalry squadron, our turn-out, basic standards of knowledge of armoured warfare and our alert responses during our work on day-to-day duties." ■

*The Yanks come to Essex — page 23.*

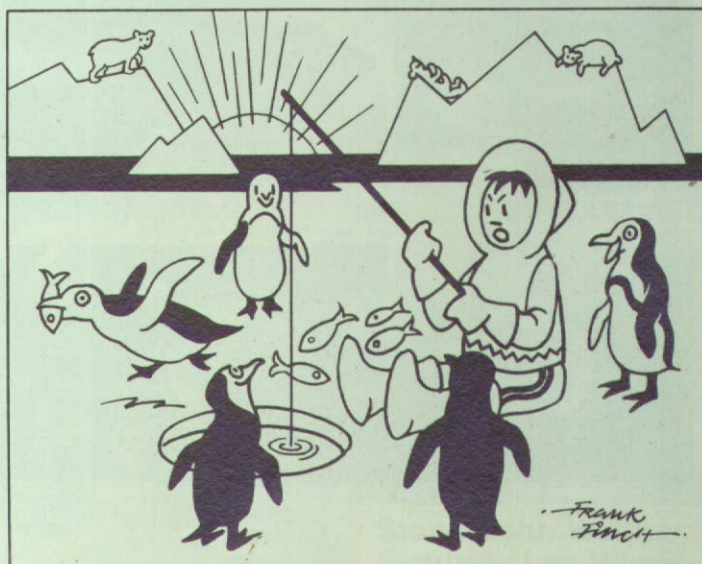
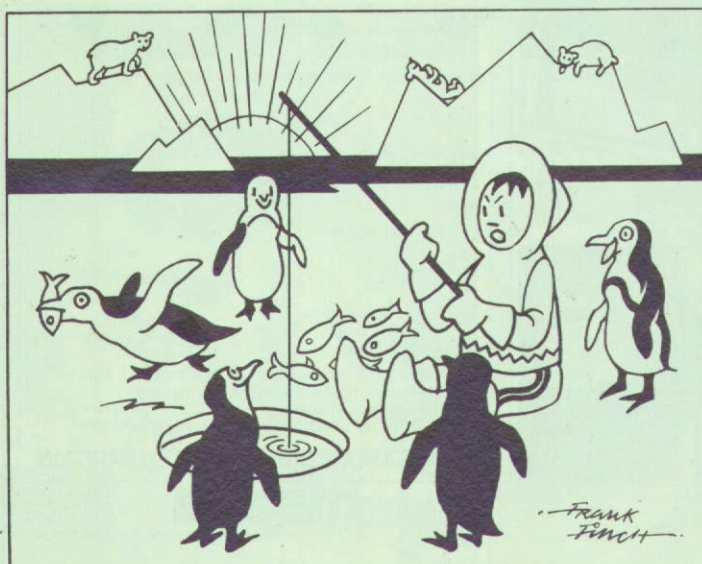
**Story: Graham Smith  
Pictures: Doug Pratt**



## How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details.

Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences turn to page 39.



# NEVER BEFORE HAS SO MUCH BEEN OFFERED TO SO MANY FOR SO LITTLE

Mazda are fast building themselves a reputation not only for the quality of their engineering, but also for their high level of equipment.

Items that other manufacturers offer as optional extras can often be found as standard on Mazda Cars.

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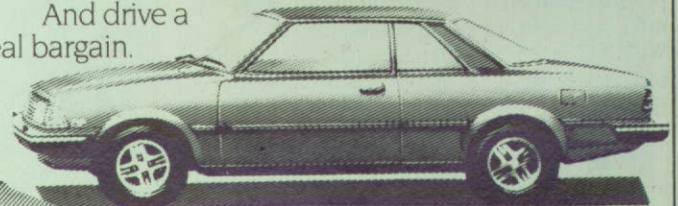
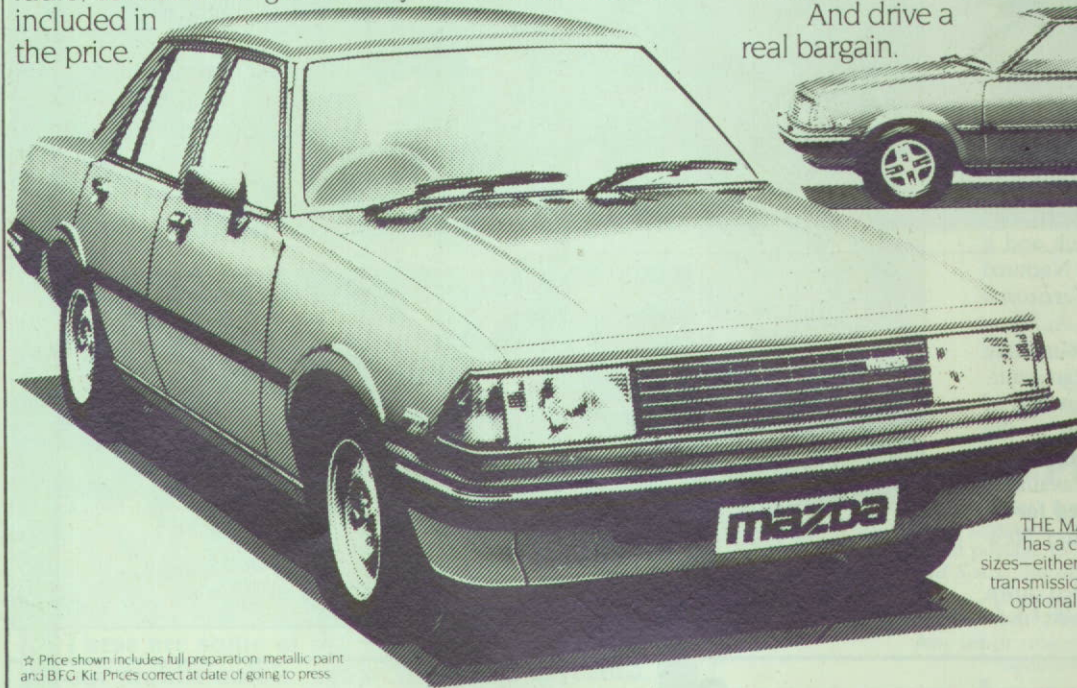
A 5-speed gearbox, electric windows, push-button radio, central locking and many more features are all included in the price.

And what a price. If you're serving in Europe you could be eligible to buy a brand new 2.0 SDX for as little as £4,220.\*

You'll find the same incredible value for money with the 2.0 SDX Coupe. At only £4,644\* it's got the same luxurious features as the Saloon plus, as a built in extra, a distinctly sporty feel.

To find out more about the whole Mazda range and Mazda's tax free scheme, just fill in the coupon.

And drive a real bargain.



THE MAZDA 626 COUPE is as sleek and powerful as it looks with its 2.0 litre engine and 5-speed gearbox. (Automatic transmission is available as an option.)

THE MAZDA 626 SALOON has a choice of two engine sizes—either 1.6 or 2.0 litre. Automatic transmission is also available as an optional extra on the 2.0 SDX.

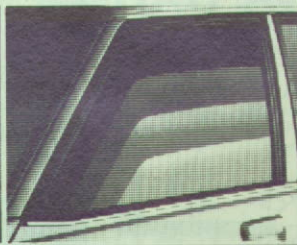
☆ Price shown includes full preparation metallic paint and BFG Kit. Prices correct at date of going to press.



The individual drop rear seats give the added versatility of being able to carry awkward loads like golf clubs or skis.



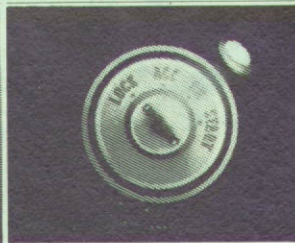
A 5-speed gearbox is fitted as standard on the 2.0 SDX Saloon and Coupe for greater economy and effortless high speed cruising.



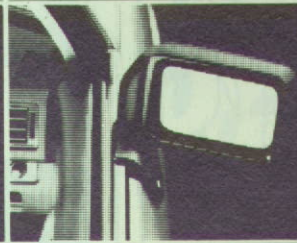
For a touch of real luxury, electric windows are standard equipment on 2.0 SDX Saloon and Coupe.



On SDX Models an illuminated door lock and ignition are fitted to save you from fumbling around in the dark.

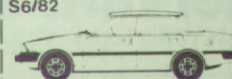


Musical chimes are also standard on the SDX to remind you if you've left the lights on or the keys in the ignition.

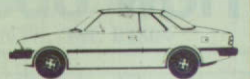


Another feature normally found on much more expensive cars, is the SDX's electrically operated driver's door mirror.

S6/82



MAZDA 626 SALOON



MAZDA 626 COUPE

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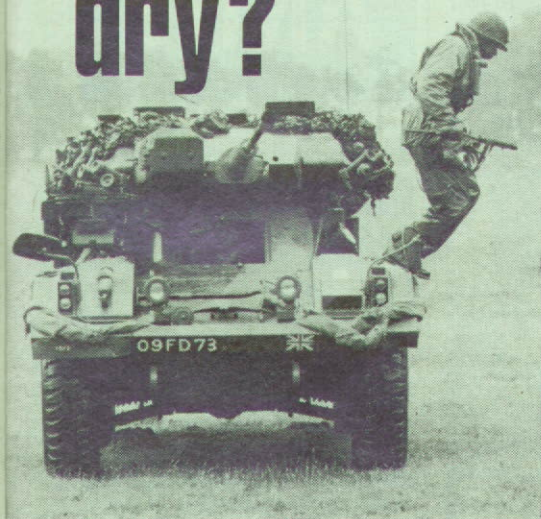
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Captain Buster Thrasher, the commander.



Meanwhile in  
Norfolk...

# American dry?



GI jumps from a Fox armoured car. ▲

Keeping lookout during exercise phase. ▼



Getting used to the unfamiliar equipment. ▲



Wet — but happy, Sgt Arthur Martinez. ▲

The American sergeant emerged from the woods on the Stanford training area, shook the rain from his poncho, looked up at the grey skies and muttered: "It's nothing like Texas, believe me!"

The Americans, men from 'C' Company, 3/70 Armour, US Army, were the other half of the exchange and had swapped their Fort Polk, Louisiana, base for a month with the 13th/18th Royal Hussars at Carver Barracks, near Saffron Walden.

Good weather had greeted them throughout most of their visit but during their final two day exercise at Stanford with the British cavalrymen, the heavens opened. As the GIs said — there's lots of rain in Louisiana but it's never as cold as it was in Norfolk.

Their commander, the colourfully named Captain Buster Thrasher, said that despite the downpour his men had enjoyed working with the British. The Fox armoured cars had been good, although a great change from their usual tanks.

"We have trained with the British soldier before, in Germany, and it's great to find out more about them because they may be on your left or your right in an exercise or a battle. And the terminology is so different — we have mainly been using British terms

since we came here."

Despite the problems of unfamiliar equipment and getting used to driving on the 'wrong' side of the road there had been no accidents. Captain Thrasher described the Fox and reconnaissance tracked vehicles used by the 13th/18th as 'outstanding.'

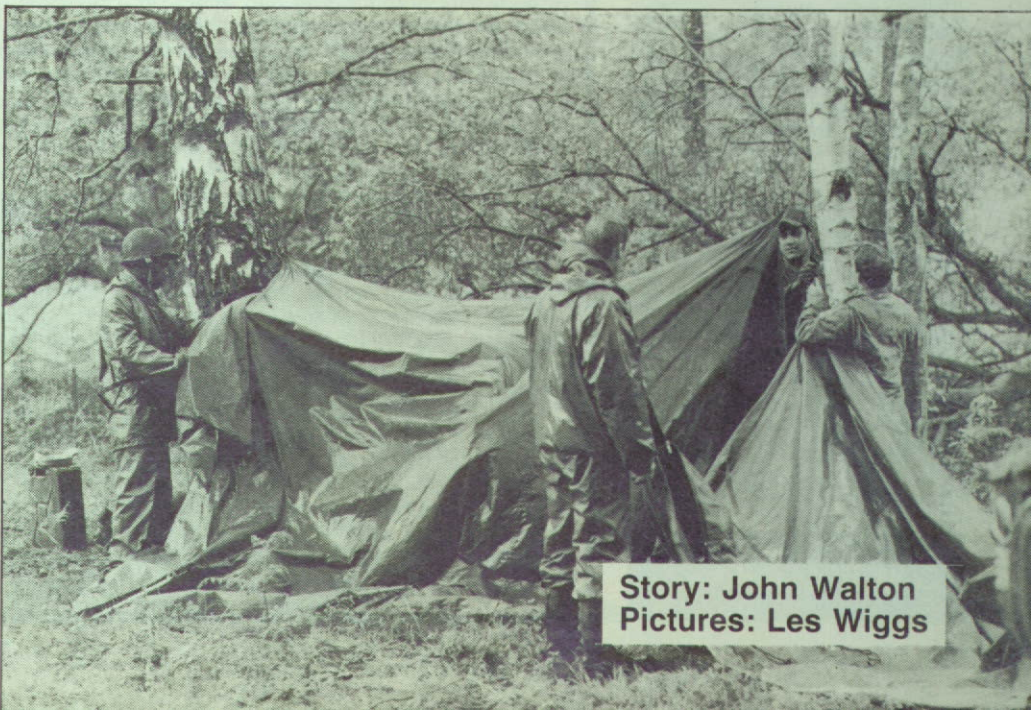
"British troops are very professional and their tenure in a unit is a lot greater than ours" he said.

"I have been able to share my ideas with them and picked up their ways of doing things. I've picked up some wonderful ways of testing a soldier and hope to go back to Louisiana and write a paper about them."

The dripping sergeant, Arthur Martinez, told SOLDIER: "I've enjoyed this trip immensely. In fact I kind of feel guilty because I know that the British guys who went to the US will not have such a great time as we have had."

Socially the Yanks visited London and Cambridge and also fitted well into local pub life. Said Sgt Martinez: "After drinking British beer, the beer back home will seem like water."

Dismantling a soaking 'bivvy'. ▼



Story: John Walton  
Pictures: Les Wiggs

# ANNE ARMSTRONG



**WHAT CAN I WRITE** in my letter this week?

My words cannot do justice to either the men who are with the Task Force or to their wives and families, or to those who have lost their lives.

We live in a country where the principles of freedom and our personal rights are paramount; to preserve these standards we have to face up to the fact that we must fight every now and then, and in so doing, sadly there will be casualties.

This time the separation is different. No phone calls after an incident, no regular letters home, no telegrams, no WRVS to nip out and buy that important present for a son or daughter or the anniversary flowers. The distance and the complex logistics make it much harder to do any of these.

Yet for those back home, their esprit de corps, the understanding and the support which they all give one another deserves high praise. For those who have already suffered the loss of loved ones the Services will do all in their power to help ease the pain.

However this conflict has awakened afresh a feeling of patriotism throughout our country, something which I sometimes wondered if we had lost sight of over the last twenty years; undoubtedly this must give all those in the Task Force a tremendous feeling to know that their country is behind them.

Our country admires the tremendous courage of the wives who have lost their husbands. The open letter to the Daily Telegraph from the widow of one of the 21 men who died in the helicopter accident, or the words spoken by Mrs Sarah Jones shortly after hearing of her husband's death were not words of recrimination but words of courage.

We all knew when we married a serviceman that the cost could be high and that our loved ones might not return, but this does not make it any easier.

Let us pray that the price which is being paid will enable the principles which they fought for to endure forever.

I was delighted to see, in a corner of the *Berlin Bulletin*, contact phone numbers for anyone who needs help with writing, reading and numeracy.

There are an estimated three million people who have literacy problems and, as a result, have difficulty in finding paid employment or even in helping their children with homework.

The Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit (ALBSU) was set up initially for three years in 1980 to help overcome this problem. However, Mr William Shelton, Under Secretary at the Education Department, has since confirmed that the scheme will be extended until at least 1985 and a further seven and a half million pounds has been made available to include even more people. So far, 90,000 adults have passed through the Unit.

So, don't be shy if you have problems mastering the '3 R's'. You are not alone and the teachers are all extremely sympathetic and understanding.

Contact your local Education Office to see if they run classes or have a list of people who are willing to give tuition on a private basis. Local Authority Adult Education Centres and Citizens' Advice Bureaux can also give valuable advice.

The following letters illustrate the problems and give an indication of how they can be solved:

**I have difficulty with writing and spelling and am no help to my seven year old daughter who is just beginning to ask me to help her with her school work. I feel so stupid and soon she will realise that I cannot write or spell.**

**We are stationed in Germany and I wonder whether there are others in BAOR who are, like me, shy of asking for help but**

**would welcome classes? My husband has helped me to write this letter to you.**

**Mrs J. BFPO 40**

*If there are other wives who would like help, I shall be happy to do what I can. Perhaps we can, as Mrs J suggests, start a self-help scheme and perhaps there are teachers who would be willing to help, not only in Germany but also in Hong Kong, Cyprus and other locations where there is no provision at present.*

*I have first-hand experience of this problem as I am dyslexic. I was shy at first but it made things much worse so do contact me and let us see what we can do.*

**I was an Adult Literacy Tutor in Kent and am now stationed here with my husband for two years.**

**I would be happy to help anyone if they care to contact me.**

**Mrs E Howard,  
1 Currey House,  
Buena Vista,  
Gibraltar BFPO 163**

**Could you please put me in touch with the Welsh Guards Old Comrades Association? I would like some help for my brother who has been ill for some time.**

**His name is David Lisle and he now lives at 20 Herrengasse, Rechnitz 7471 Burgenland, Austria. He served with the Welsh Guards for about 30 years and I am sure he would like to hear from any old friends.**

**Edward Lisle,  
45 Oakleigh Road South,  
London N11 1LD**

*The address for the Welsh Guards Association, Mr Lisle, is Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 7HQ (Tel 01 936 4466). I'm sure they will be helpful. You could also try Ssafa, 27*

*Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9BZ. I hope some of your brother's old comrades get in touch with him.*

**I have worked for the US Army in Germany for nigh on two years and would like to try the Army for myself.**

**My mother went to the local Army Careers Office at home in Liverpool for me but was told that I was too old and not to apply because I'd be rejected. I'm only 23 years old.**

**Can they do this? I'd be grateful if you could find out for me. Ian Farrow, Germany.**

*I have made enquiries for you and I suggest that you write to the Army Recruiting Office in MOD that deals with overseas applications. The address is DAR 2c, Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square, London W1X 6AA.*

## ASK ANNE

We end this week with a letter of praise and congratulations for the BFG Youth Service, following my letter column in *SOLDIER* 17-30 May issue:

**I was so delighted to hear all the latest information about the activities being organised for young people with BFG. It was particularly heartening to learn that so many adults are voluntarily giving up their time and expertise to help the garrison clubs and the young people who make up their membership.**

**It was a tremendous pleasure for all of us in NABC to have been able to welcome a BFG team to our International Football Festival this year in Nottingham. It was splendid to have them with us and I hope you will be able to pass on NABC's congratulations to the team for making such a good impression and for doing so outstandingly well in the competition, especially their winning score for sportsmanship on which NABC lays such emphasis.**

**It was wonderful to hear from you that next year there may be two teams from BFG, and they can expect a very warm welcome.**

**Please pass on to all the people involved in organising the BFG Youth Service and to all the young people themselves who take part, NABC's warmest good wishes for the future. Brigadier Davies-Scourfield, General Secretary NABC.**

## DID YOU KNOW?

**WHEN NEW REGULATIONS** and conditions for the payment of maternity grants come into effect on 4 July 82, Service wives will benefit along with other expectant mothers in UK.

The new regulations are based on conditions of residence in Great Britain and claimants must have been present in Great Britain for more than 182 days in the 52 weeks immediately preceding the date (or the expected week) of confinement. The new conditions, which replace the requirement for sufficient National Insurance contributions to have been paid by a husband or wife, aim to extend entitlement to this non-contributory grant to all women living in Great Britain.

An important exception has been made in the new regulations for wives of serving members of HM Forces overseas and for claimants who are or were themselves serving abroad as members of HM Forces. They will still be entitled to NCMG for absence or confinements abroad under these circumstances and claims can be made in the normal way.

Claims for other members of a Serviceman's family, eg a dependent daughter, will not qualify for this exception and claimants should consult the Overseas Office of the DHSS for guidance.

Restrictions currently being applied in Hong Kong will no longer operate after 4 July 82 and all claims should be submitted on a revised claim form F INS 98 (Rev 11/81) which will be available on demand.

*Anne Armstrong*

# All the fun of the Frühlings Fest

A FREAK WIND almost ruined one of the big events of the year in Berlin. The unexpectedly ferocious weather on the eve of the British Garrison's Spring Fair — the Frühlings Fest — neatly uprooted 18 tents and blew one of them a hundred yards away, lifting it over an eight foot wall and depositing it in the stables.

However, willing hands soon repaired the damage and everything was ready for the crowds that thronged the Maifeld Stadium where the Spring Fair is held each year. They poured in to sample the delights in store after Max Bygraves had officially declared the fair open.

There were pony rides, train rides, computer games, aerial slides and cartoon films. People bowled for pigs, taunted the 'Wild Man' in a cage and bought from the stalls. Bargain books, plants, flowers, pottery, clothes and handicrafts were snapped up by eager customers.

The highlight of the fair for many was the long list of arena events. Together with the Berlin massed bands were individual displays by groups of children. The girls and boys of the Children's Brigade Gymnastic Club, trained by Warrant Officer I Pat Clash, tumbled their way through an energetic routine while, in contrast, the

royal blue and yellow uniforms of the 40 drum majorettes were as striking and impressive as their marching routines. They had been trained by Sergeant Major Ireson of 1st Battalion, The Kings Own Border Regiment and were led by his daughter Sharon.

Five-year-old Roseleen Short was step perfect as she and other children of 2nd Battalion, Royal Irish Rangers gave an enchanting display of Irish dancing which was a credit to Rennie Myers and her daughter

Joanne, who started the team.

Behind the scenes, the Army Catering Corps kept up with the unceasing demand for roast beef, crepes and gateaux which were supplemented by Maibowle, a delicious wine cup with a difference, from the Diplomatic Wives' stall.

And that, of course, is not the end of the story. After every successful day comes the final reckoning and the donations to charities. The Spring Fair in Berlin this year raised a splendid total of Dm 45,000 and this was divided between Ssafo, the Guild of St Helena and the

Army and RAF Benevolent Funds.

The Frühlings Fest comes but once a year but there are plenty more demands on the voluntary help that is so much a part of all Army life. Berlin, too, relies on the goodwill and effort of wives and other enthusiastic people to run the Wives' clubs, youth clubs, playgroups and all the special interest clubs that serve the Garrison.

These invaluable voluntary organisations, particularly those catering for the youngsters, are the mainstay of the garrison long after the annual excitement of the Spring Fair has faded to a dim memory.

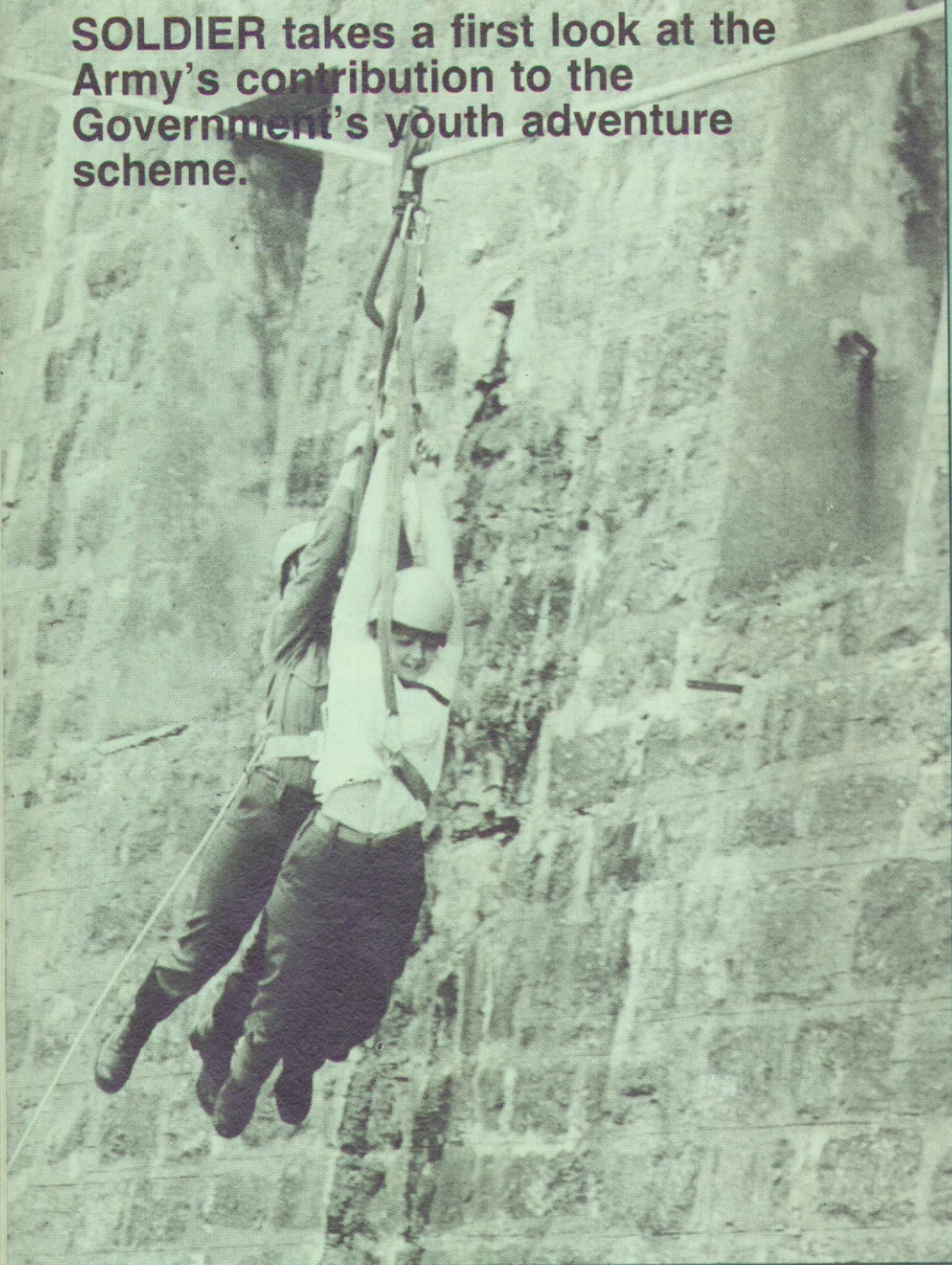
▼ Berlin Brownies enjoy their meetings.



▼ The Charlottenburg Youth Club is very popular.



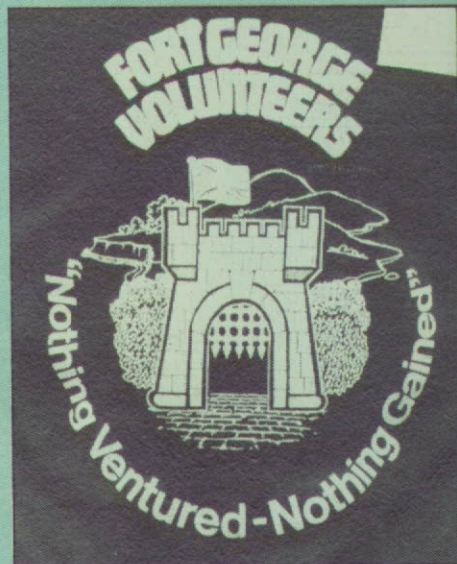
**SOLDIER** takes a first look at the Army's contribution to the Government's youth adventure scheme.



Trying out death slide off fort walls. ▲ Blashers and pack horse roamin' in gloamin'. ▼



Story: John Walton. Pictures: Les Wiggs



## FITNESS AND FUN AT FORT GEORGE

ANCIENT FORT GEORGE, built on the edges of the Inverness Firth after the failure of the 1745 Jacobite Rising, rings with the cries of young people in accents from all over Britain this summer as the Army uses the old barracks as the centre for its part in the Government's youth adventure training scheme.

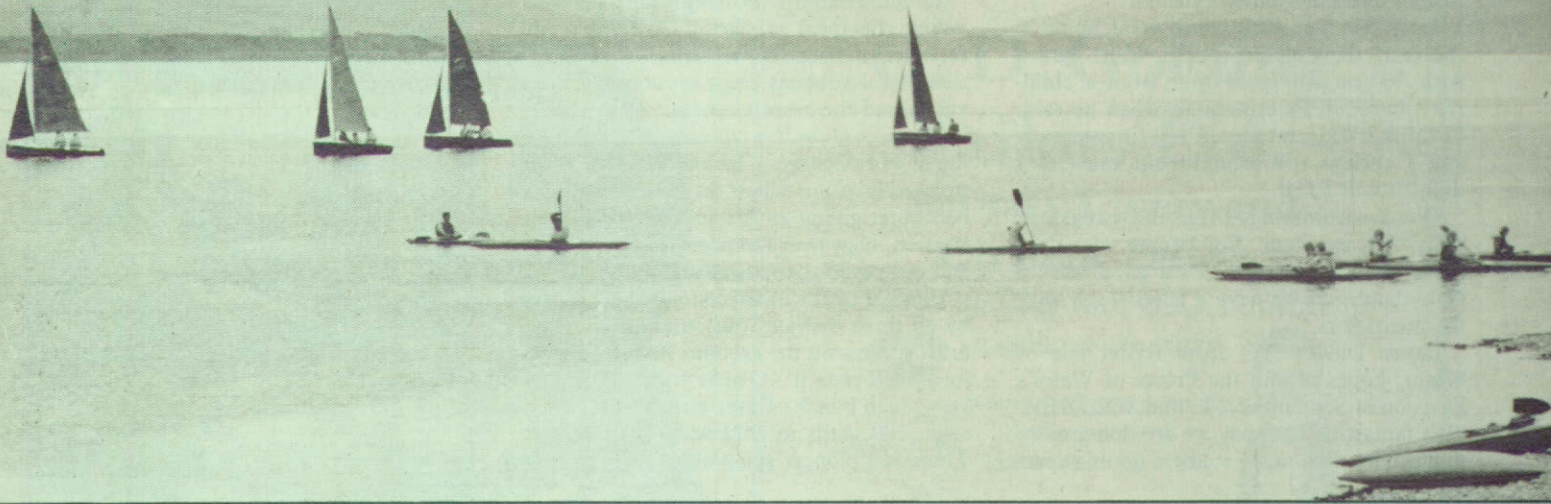
The scheme aims, through a fun environment, to introduce youngsters, many of them unemployed but also including Army cadets and other would be soldiers, to things like canoeing, climbing, mountain walking, riding, swimming and abseiling.

Who better to command these activities than the Army's colourful explorer, Lieutenant-Colonel John Blashford-Snell? Wearing his trusty pith helmet and using a machete to hack away at threatening looking gorse the Colonel showed the press what was going on.

He revealed that he had been a sickly child — suffering from bronchial asthma and always hoping that he would be able to take part in outdoor adventure activities. It had been a struggle for him to reach the required standard and the main need was to have self confidence.

"What better way than to involve them in this wonderful setting of the Highlands — the wilderness of Britain" he said. Colonel Blashford-Snell has had a lot of experience with young people — both on expeditions like his round the world epic 'Operation Drake' and more recently with the Operation Drake Fellowship which has taken young people from deprived backgrounds out into the hills of Wales.

For those who were unemployed he had some message of hope. He disclosed that



many of the Operation Drake Fellowship participants had grown in confidence to the extent that they had found jobs soon afterwards.

"But there is always going to be more leisure time than in the past. If you can get people to enjoy the open air, the mountains and lochs it is a wonderful way for them to use their leisure."

What the organisers are hoping for is a ripple effect. The youngsters will return to their localities with tales of derring do and adventure and will inspire others to follow their example. Some may be encouraged to go forward for things like the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, which has been around a long time and may no longer have the exciting new image of the Army scheme.

The instructors and staff were selected from all parts of the Army. There are about 80 of them and each intake will be about 300 with perhaps 20 per cent girls. Regimental sergeant-major, WO 1 Jim McIntosh of 1 Gordons, echoed Colonel Blashford-Snell in praising the toughness of the youngsters.

"They are a lot fitter and more confident than I thought they would be. They are very enthusiastic. This is a thing that every kid would love to come on. Some of them have never seen a mountain but when they go home they will be able to talk about climbing Nevis."

Fort George has been empty for some time although it is being modernised and

#### Canoeing and sailing out on the Firth. ▲

will eventually house an infantry battalion once again. But a month before the first youngsters arrived it was uninhabitable. The PSA got the plumbing working again and had the rooms ready after a non-stop effort.

Furniture and equipment arrived in 40-foot long containers but these could not travel through the 18th century tunnel-like entrance to the Fort. Sections of Pioneers and instructors had to unload it all into four tonners before it could breach the fortifications.

One of the woman instructors is Officer Cadet Cathy Davies of Heriot Watt UOTC. She is an Operation Drake veteran, having been involved in several stages of the round the world voyage.

She told SOLDIER: "I am quite pleasantly surprised at how keen most of them are. It is very different to the kids we had in Operation Drake Fellowship who had often been in care or on probation and were generally much more suspicious of authority."

Another instructor, Corporal Richard Harker from 22 Engineer Regiment, Tidworth, declared: "They are not very fit yet. But they will be a lot fitter when they go back!"

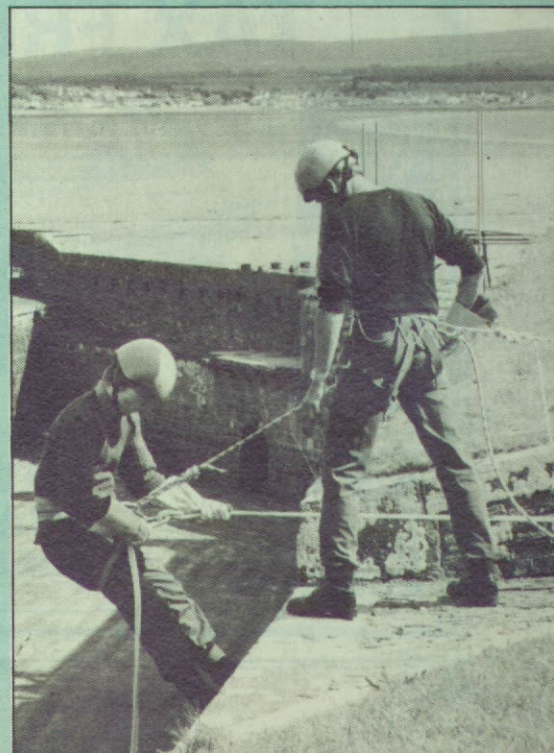
The youngsters were divided into patrols and care was taken to mix them up so that there were no large groups from particular

*continued on page 28*



Two girls fly high above the battlements. ▲  
Abseiling off the walls builds confidence. ▼

#### The home made raft off to a shaky start. ▼



areas. This led to some problems of communication but the idea was to give them an insight into other environments.

Only one homesick youth went home in the early days of the course. Most agreed with 16-year-old Ian Foster from a children's home in Peterborough when he said: "I think it's a great idea. I feel fitter already and I reckon it's brought out muscles I didn't think I had."

Douglas Cumming (18) from Basingstoke said: "It's excellent. For people who have never been to Scotland it's a good way to look about and we have a good laugh with the instructors."

James Davies (16) from Ryde, Isle of Wight, hopes to join the Prince of Wales's Division in September. He told SOLDIER: "It's fantastic. They say we are doing more things here than many soldiers do in a year.

The food the first night was not very good but as it has gone on it has got better."

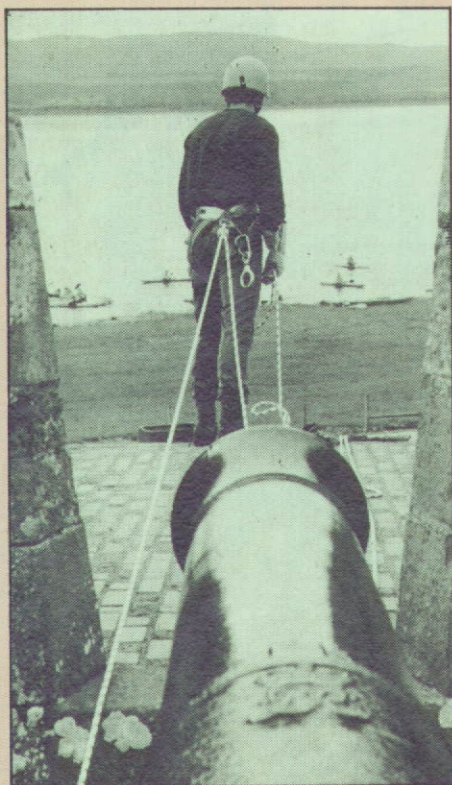
In the evenings the youngsters have invaded the local village of Ardersier and reported a friendly welcome — although some local yobboes crept up one night and vandalised the assault course.

There is no bull or screaming and shouting at Fort George. The loudest cries at the press day came when an RAF Sea King helicopter giving an Air/Sea Rescue demonstration, blew over the press hospitality tent and destroyed the journalists' puddings.

Judging by the initial course the series run by all three Services this summer will be a great success on the ground. As John Blashford-Snell puts it: "These youngsters are a very tough bunch. To see girls plunge in and swim 100 yards in cold water amazed me. There is a pioneer spirit about." ■



Old cannon dominates the ramparts. ▼

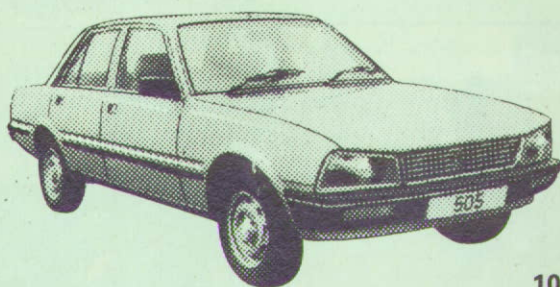


Corporal Hamish Steel gets a point across. ►



The Colonel and his kukri.

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knew...'**

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These men and women have given their minds to their Country. If we are to help them, we must have funds. Do please help us with a donation, and with a legacy too, perhaps. The debt is owed by all of us.

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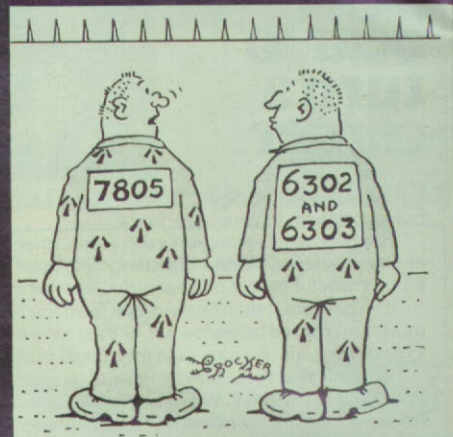
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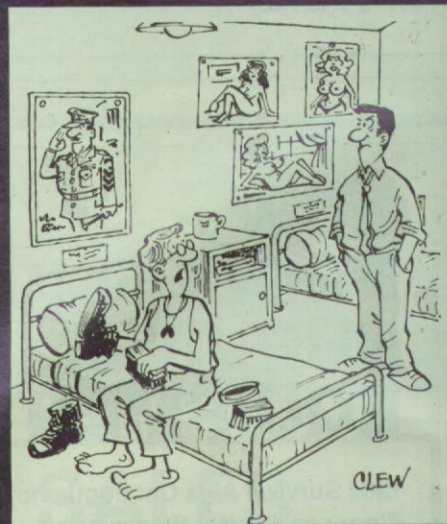


"There's a 500 peseta fine for depositing litter!"



"You're the schizophrenic, aren't you?"

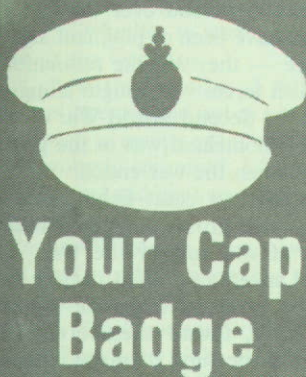
## Humour



"That's not a very nice thing to call me, Rogers."



"Come out Slim, with your hands up!"



No 18

## THE ROYAL ARTILLERY

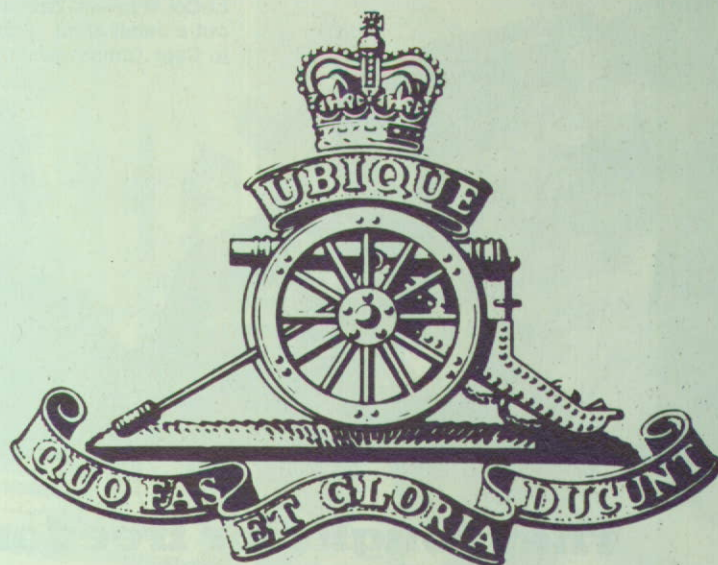
SINCE THE DAYS of Crecy and Agincourt the armies from these islands have enjoyed the support of artillery but it was not until May 1716 that the present Regiment of Royal Artillery was incorporated. In early times the men who served the guns bore such strange sounding designations as Matross, Petardier, Firemaker or — more familiarly — Bombardier. Now generally and affectionately known as 'gunners' this all embracing title is acknowledged by officers and

men alike, both past and present.

Bearing in mind that this service is but one regiment, expanding and contracting over the years according to the country's needs, it is easy to understand why their battle honours are so numerous that the dual mottoes of *Ubique* (correctly translated as 'Everywhere' and not as 'all over the place') and *Quo fas et gloria ducunt* (Whither Right and Glory lead) serve in their stead.

Wherever the British Army has been engaged, in expeditions, small wars or global conflicts, the Gunners have shared in their victories, their hardships and occasionally their failures, but never have they failed in their very considerable duties.

In the year following the adoption of the twin mottoes, 1832, the cannon was adopted as their badge. Cap badges, as such, were not taken into use until the reign of Edward VII and the design has changed little in the intervening years. An old fashioned muzzle loading gun, with or without a movable wheel which has no significance, surmounts a scroll inscribed 'Ubique' ensigned by a crown, and below the gun is the motto 'Quo fas et gloria ducunt', all in gilding metal.



The few changes that have been made are in the design of the crown from the Imperial type to that of St Edward's for the present reign and reduction in size for wear in the beret. Latterly anodised material has replaced the metal. For a time in the 1939-45 war the collar badge, a grenade of seven

flames with scroll below inscribed 'Ubique' all in gilding metal, was worn in the SD cap.  
Hugh L King

Next Issue:  
The Corps of  
Royal Engineers

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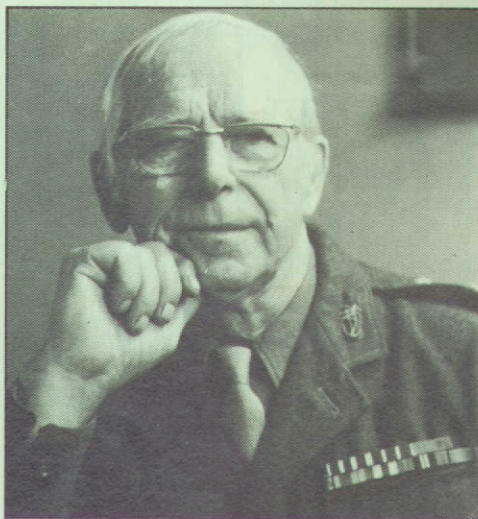


Lt-Col Wyskota-Zakrzewski points out a detail of his Monte Cassino painting to Capt Tomaszewski.

**They fought for freedom but lost their country. John Walton meets two survivors of a proud wartime cavalry unit who never went home.**



Proud memories — Lt Col Wyskota-Zakrzewski.



Capt Tomaszewski — Polish but never in Poland.



The Carpathian Lancers in the Palestine desert during World War Two.

**F**OR ONE GROUP of old soldiers events in Poland over the last few years have been of poignant significance — they are the remnants of the Free Polish forces who fought alongside the Allies in the Second World War only to find that their homeland was in the grip of the Russians when the war ended.

It was to the east coast fishing port of Grimsby that one group of Polish soldiers were taken at the end of the war. The Carpathian Lancers, a Polish cavalry unit with a fine war record from the Western Desert to Italy, found themselves in a strange country speaking a strange language — and with a bleak future awaiting them if they returned to Communist Poland.

A number remained in Grimsby to take up employment in fishing. Others moved to

## POLES APART

the East Midlands around Nottingham and Derby. Still more went to London and some, eventually, emigrated to the Commonwealth.

Today the bond forged between the men who made up the Carpathian Lancers is as strong as ever. The man who commanded them for the latter half of the war is 80-year-old Lieutenant-Colonel Stanislaw Wyskota-Zakrzewski, still living in Grimsby and with a keenness that belies his advanced years.

"At the end of the war we became part of the Polish forces in exile. The Russians had been Allies during the war but for us they were enemies because they fought us in 1939 and murdered 15,000 of our officers at Katyn. They still kept over a million Polish citizens in Russia and according to the Yalta agreement the eastern provinces were incorporated into Russia. Those who had property in the East had lost it."

A few returned to Poland but most did not. The Carpathian Lancers Association, of which the Colonel is President, has branches in Grimsby, the East Midlands, London, Australia, Canada, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

"They have all done well. Most of them married British girls and had children. The mixture of blood is very good. One of our members was a young boy at the end of the war who could hardly speak a word of English. Now he is an architect living in Grimsby."

Those who did return to Poland faced hard times and some were arrested. Today there are about 30 former Carpathian Lancers living there and they are very loyal to the traditions of their wartime regiment.

The Carpathian Lancers was part of the Polish Army which was formed out of the troops who managed to escape as Poland was divided between Germany and the Soviet Union at the start of the war.

Troops in the south of the country crossed the border to Rumania and Hungary where they were interned before being slowly evacuated to France. Further north, Colonel

Wyskota-Zakrzewski, a cavalry officer in the Polish 17th Lancers, faced the agonising choice of whether to surrender to the Russians or the Germans.

"I chose the Germans. I ran away twice and was arrested and put in prison but it was quite easy to escape again as things had not been properly organised. I found an evacuation channel and got away through Hungary to France."

Captain Wincenty Tomaszewski, treasurer of the Grimsby branch, has never lived in Poland at all. At the start of the war he was part of a Polish community in China. Fourteen of them went to the Middle East to join the Polish forces and fight for a country they did not know but whose culture and traditions were part of their birthright.

The Carpathian Lancers were formed in 1940 in Syria as part of the Independent Carpathian Brigade Group. It took its own badge of palm trees and a crescent and based its traditions on the Polish 15th and 17th Lancers.

After the collapse of France the Brigade Group went under British command to Egypt and the Lancers were with the Eighth Army in the Western Desert. Says the colonel: "In the beginning we had horses and when we went into the desert we were partially mechanised and mostly on foot".

They took part in the siege of Tobruk, at Gazala and in the defence of the Alamein line. At the end of 1942 they went to Iraq and became the 2nd Polish Corps Reconnaissance Regiment and were mechanised with armoured cars.

In early 1944 the regiment was put into the front line in Italy and its most glorious battle was at Monte Cassino. It took the German stronghold on the mountain of Passo Corno not far from the monastery.

The man who will always remember that bloody encounter is Captain Tomaszewski, who was a second lieutenant commanding a platoon. "I went up there with 32 men and came out with only seven — the rest were either wounded or dead."

Both men hold the *Virtuti Militari*, the highest Polish military award. Colonel Wyskota-Zakrzewski has the British DSO among his 21 medals, which he plans to give to the Household Cavalry museum.

The colonel was first commissioned as far back as 1920 and that same year fought against the Bolsheviks in the battle of Warsaw — an encounter which won Poland its freedom for a further 20 years.

Today he is pessimistic about the future or as he would describe it 'realistic'. "Democracy is a very weak system and this system cannot have freedom for ever. Sooner or later the Russians will get Europe and the whole world."

Nor did the colonel see any hope in the rise of Solidarity. Says the former commander: "This was to be a bloodless revolution which could not achieve its aims because you cannot fight the mightiest country in the world without any means."

"But the tide is not finished. Those two years of half freedom have hardened the resistance of Poles. They will have to work to rebuild the economy and re-establish some relations with Russia."

"We must wait for when the time will come. My advice would be to keep your hate in your heart and your knife in your pocket."



Carpathian soldier meets Anthony Eden. ▲



A joyous welcome in Ancona in WW2. ▲



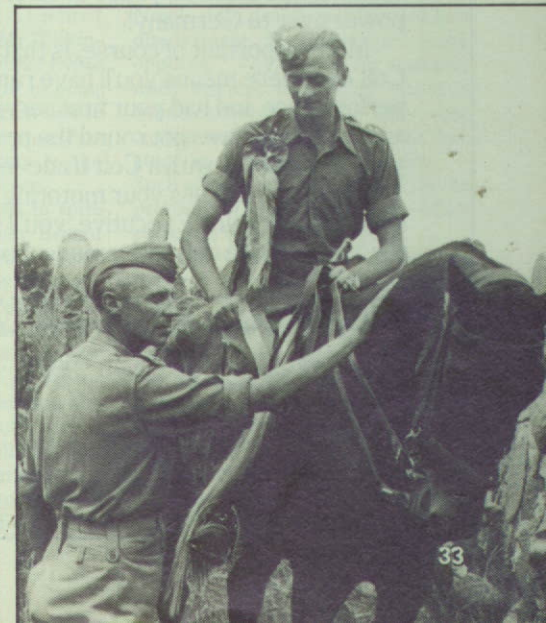
The former CO (centre) on captured German position. ▲

A wartime decoration from Gen Rakowski. ▼



Capt Tomaszewski in days of former glory (left) escorting regimental standard. ▲

The CO (left) with Lancer in Palestine. ▼



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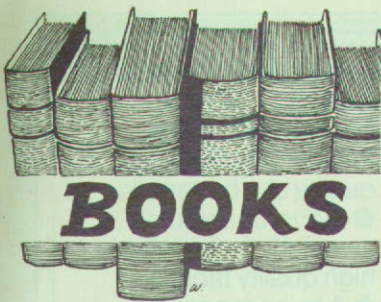
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## Military Helicopters of the World:

**Norman Polmar and Floyd D Kennedy Jr**

The development of the helicopter is outlined here, followed by a comprehensive study of practically every model used in the armed forces of the world. Photographs and detailed specifications of over 200 models are arranged by country of origin and there are appendices listing and discussing designers, designations, armament and serials. All kinds of rotary-winged craft are shown including compound helicopters, tilt-rotor aircraft, autogiros and convertiplanes. The ACH-47 'flying battle-ships' of the United States' Army and the Mi-10 Harke heavy-lift plane of the Soviet Union impress with their capabilities. The Harke, with its long-legged undercarriage and looking like a huge dragonfly, can settle over and lift a prefabricated house.

The Fairey/Westland Rotodyne in the Great Britain section is a reminder that the United Kingdom is noted for excellent aeronautical design. The Rotodyne of 1957 was the largest helicopter of its day and established a world speed record. It could have been fitted to carry a complete field ambulance but, with the Government ready to order 18 in 1962, the project was suddenly halted. Another British idea that was never completed, because there was no longer an operational need, was the World War Two Hafner Rotachute designed for one man, his parachute, machine gun and 300 rounds, and the Rotatank big enough to carry a 16-ton Valentine. Both required an aircraft tug and the helicopter was unpowered but with a free moving two-bladed rotor that made it perfectly controllable.

With its full review of past and present projects this volume could become the standard directory needed by students and historians alike.

*Arms and Armour Press, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London NW3 1QQ — £14.50. GRH*

## The Bitter End: Richard Holmes and Anthony Kemp

This is the horrific story of the fall of Singapore, captured by the Japanese after they had forced the British, Indian and Australian forces from north to south down the full length of Malaya. It is a long tale of shortages, disasters, miscalculations and misjudgments of the enemy. Yet the one fact that has so often been declared, that the island's guns could fire only seaward, is here finally refuted. They could and did fire inland and were actually used against the Japanese on the Malaya mainland. But — they

had no high explosive ammunition, only shells that could pierce warships.

The myth that the defence of Singapore was based on a fortress conception and that no attack could be launched down the Malaya Peninsula is also exploded. In 1937 General Sir William Dobbie, GOC Malaya, and his Chief of Staff, Colonel A E Percival, in a report to the War Office prophesied exactly what did happen: landings in the north and a smash right through Malaya. Percival was GOC when the attack came but Singapore had been denied the necessary protective forces and planes. Defensive preparations were always secondary to the production of commodities like tin, considered to be absolutely essential to the British war effort.

The full story in this book also shows how the invading 'little men' were misjudged. They had full know-



**General Percival (seated right) surrenders to Lt-Gen Yamashita on 15 Feb 1942.**

ledge of the country and they proved to be fine fighting soldiers. Later they showed themselves to be absolutely relentless and cruel in accordance with their inherited warlike code. Churchill signalled Wavell that the battle for Singapore "must be fought to the bitter end" but this became impossible as water and ammunition ran out and with 300,000 Asian civilians to consider. For the troops and European civilians the 'bitter end' came during the three years of captivity. Another gruesome story.

*Antony Bird Publications Ltd, Strettington House, Chichester, Sussex — £9.50. GRH*

## The Age of Chivalry — Part 3: Liliane and Fred Funcken

This is the third and final volume dealing with the period from the 8th to the 15th century in the *Arms and Armour* series. It is as finely and artistically illustrated in colour and with great detail as the preceding volumes and the text bears the same mark of painstaking research and personal knowledge of the authors — a husband and wife team.

Weapons, horses and tournaments are the subject of the first section of the book, which is followed by a detailed study of helmets and armour and ends with a review of the role of artillery in the development of tactics. Each section is divided and subdivided so that each item of weaponry or armour, etc, is dealt with separately and in detail. For example: twenty-two different types of gauntlet are illustrated and explained methodically.

Yet this is no dry-as-dust study. Full page and double page action pictures give good and clear impressions of the soldiers using the arms, armour and equipment in the Age of Chivalry. A worthwhile addition to the military library of all interested in this period.

*Ward Lock Ltd, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ — £7.95 GRH*

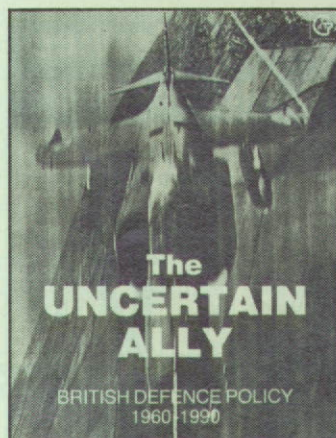
## The Uncertain Ally: British Defence Policy 1960-1990:

**Michael Chichester and John Wilkinson**

Determination to preserve Rhine Army at all costs has become "almost a Maginot type obsession" of British defence policy according to the authors. The security of 65 kilometres of the Nato Central Front in West Germany cannot remain the inviolable priority of British defence policy when it has become a crippling financial burden unbalancing both the British contribution to the Alliance and the British forces themselves.

So, they argue, peace-time Rhine Army should be reduced to the equivalent of two divisions based as close as possible to the clutch of Royal Air Force bases West of the Rhine. The savings, not the least of which would be those made by reducing the numbers of dependants and locally-engaged German civilians, would help to pay for improved air and naval contributions to Nato and the defence of Britain.

This, perhaps, is the fiercest of the cats thrown among the pigeons by



two Conservative politicians in a stimulating review of Britain's defence policy. Both authors have Service experience: Mr Chichester is a retired Royal Navy commander; Mr Wilkinson, a former Royal Air Force flying instructor. They are careful to point out that the book was written before Mr Wilkinson's appointment as Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Defence.

The authors concede that in spite of acute financial stringency Britain maintains remarkably balanced and effective, "though largely regular" forces, but say it is not credible that this impressive effort can be kept up for ever. One reason is the high cost of regular Servicemen in pay, pensions, amenities and so on, and the search for cheaper substitutes inevitably leads to a look at conscription. On purely military considerations the authors find it "difficult to establish an overwhelming case" for the re-

introduction of National Service, though in wider terms there is more to commend it.

More confidently, the authors put forward plans to increase voluntary reserves, which include a proposal to give reserve units tasks and duties to be performed throughout the year by a continuous stream of reservists, a scheme linked with the likelihood of a shorter working week and longer holidays.

A proposal made topical by the Falklands crisis is for the provision of a British brigade group with air mobile and amphibious intervention capability. This would be able to deploy in the Indian Ocean and South Atlantic, where the West's strategic interests are threatened. The authors point out that this force could also be used as an invaluable addition to the Allied Mobile Force on Nato's flanks, or even, in the case of the air and land components, on the Central Front.

*Gower Publishing, Croft Road Aldershot, Hants GU11 3HR — £15. RLE*

## Arsenal of Democracy II: Tom Gervasi

The bulk of this book is an up-date (to May 1981) of the 1978 edition which lists in detail the military equipment on the shelves of the American arms shop, but a long commentary on the arms scene makes it more, and much livelier, than that.

In particular, there is the author's allegation that most published figures comparing the resources of the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact with those of the West are incomplete and misleading in showing the West at a disadvantage.

By his calculation, for example, there are 64 active Nato divisions pitted against 68 in the Warsaw Pact, with 2,800,000 men in Nato's standing force compared with the Pact's 2,600,000. Full mobilisation, he says, would give Nato a force of 5,184,000 compared with 4,800,000 — and the Nato figure does not include France's 326,000 men.

As for the oft-quoted Warsaw Pact superiority of 27,200 tanks to Nato's 11,800, it should also be stated that Nato now deploys 193,000 anti-tank weapons, most of them precision-guided missiles, while the Pact can muster only 68,000, few of them comparable in lethality to those of Nato.

Even the lack of standardisation on Nato's side, usually put forward as a disadvantage, Mr Gervasi sees as the opposite. "The Soviets, for example, must attempt to develop effective counter-measures to the radar, fire control and homing mechanisms that guide no fewer than 103 missiles. . . Such advantages more than offset the problems of handling so many different kinds of equipment."

Mr Gervasi finds that the West has the lead in almost every field from strategic nuclear weapons downward. Why the con? He sees reasons in the vested interests and complexities of the defence industry, and he also recalls advice given to President Truman: to expand military preparedness it was necessary to "scare the hell out of the country".

*Columbus Books, 24 Red Lion St, London WC1R 4PX — £7.95. RLE*



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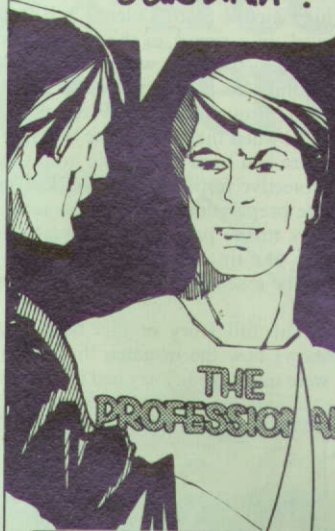
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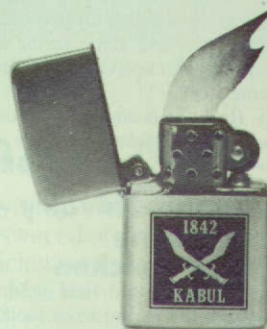
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# RARE WINES

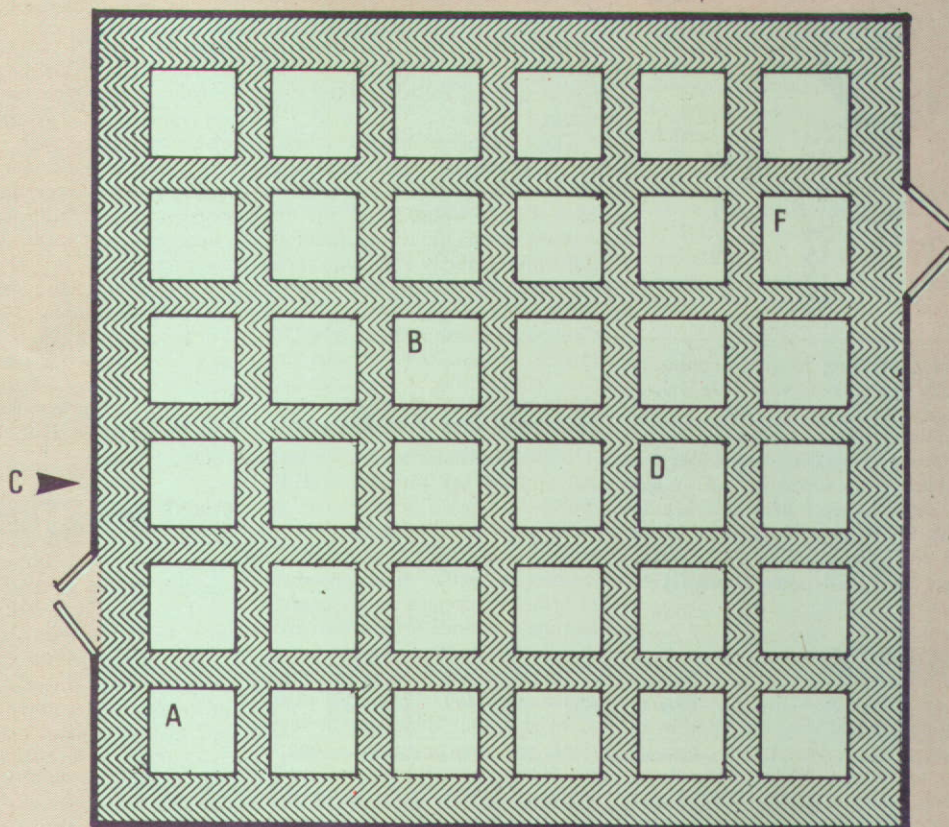
IN THE SPECIAL vault of a Continental wine store were some of the rarest wines in Europe — and not only wines but rare brandies and liqueurs. All were bottled! Some were nearly priceless.

The cellar was in the form of a square as shown in the diagram and the bins were arranged so that six were to be found in each horizontal row and six in each vertical row. By a remarkable coincidence each of the 36 bins contained a different number of bottles from the solitary remaining bottle of Napoleon brandy in one bin to 36 not-quite-so-rare ports in the bin with most bottles.

Strangely, though no two bins contained the same number of bottles, each horizontal row *did* contain the same number of bottles. Even more strangely, each vertical row contained the same number of bottles as each horizontal row. Yet stranger still, each of the two major diagonal rows also contained that same number of bottles.

Of the four corner bins BIN A (marked in the diagram) contained the least number of bottles while of the four central bins BIN B contained the greatest number of bottles. In the horizontal row C, BIN D showed the least number of bottles in that row while in the vertical row E the greatest number of bottles in that row is in BIN F.

The number of bottles in each vertical, horizontal, and major diagonal row was 111:



so, if the total number of bottles in the cellar was 666 how many were there in each bin?

Show your answer by means of a diagram. Since we've done most of the work for you that shouldn't be difficult. Should it?

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 16 July. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 9 August. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 294' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or pre-paid labels will be disqualified. Send your answers by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 294' label to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

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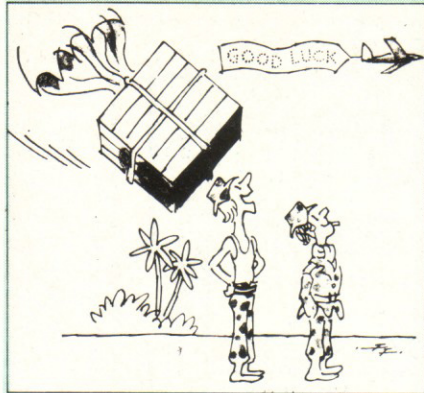
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# MAIL DROP

Got something to say, a point to make or a story to tell? This is your page to exchange your news, views, comments and opinions. We're offering £5 for the best letter we publish every fortnight. All we ask is that you keep it brief and include your full name and address. Write to: Mail Drop, **SOLDIER**, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

## LIBERTY

I am Belgian with dual British nationality and very interested in all concerning the British Army because my father was NCO in the Royal Tank Regiment during WW2. I am a 'Briton born abroad' but I feel myself more British than Belgian.

I am taking the liberty to write to you about your column 'SOLDIER to Soldier' and to tell my deep appreciation about these words on the Armed Forces. As a police sergeant in Brussels I understand very well your position about the Servicemen's responsibility from Belfast's streets to the Falkland Islands.

I have a great admiration for the members of the Armed Forces and wish them the best of luck and a great victory in the Falkland Battle, a battle for liberty and democracy. I am proud to be British. — **Kenneth J Heselwood**, 2 rue E Bouilliot, Box 5, 1060 Bruxelles, Belgium.

Thank you for those heartening words, Mr Heselwood. It is good to know our friends across the channel support us and £5 is on its way to you. — Ed.

## NEW MEDAL

The announcement that campaign medals may be struck for award to members of the Armed Forces serving in the Falklands operation is welcome news.

It would be timely, now that the Government has recognised that campaign medals may be awarded when war has not been declared, if they could rectify an unhappy decision made by their colleagues 30 years ago. Two Divisions had been despatched to the Canal Zone to defend our legal rights to protect our lifeline to the Commonwealth threatened by Egyptian forces after Nasser had abrogated the Treaty.

They had suffered 54 killed and over 69 wounded in four months (as many killed as in one year at the height of the Malayan Emergency). When General Sir Brian Robertson, C-in-C Middle East, asked that this service should be recognised by the award of a medal; it was refused on political grounds in that we could not

give offence to the Egyptians as we were not at war. This, however, did not stop them awarding their own troops a medal.

There are several instances of medals being awarded over 30 years after the operation (the MGS Medal in 1848 was 54 years later) and the Government should rectify this injustice while there are still some survivors alive. — **Colonel P S Newton MBE**, Connaught Bks, Duke of Connaught Road, Aldershot, GU11 2LR.

## GUNNERS FUND

The Gunners Association of Australia, appalled by the loss of HMS Sheffield, appeals to all British ex-naval personnel and other concerned citizens to subscribe to a fund for the support and welfare of all dependants of British servicemen who have given and may continue to give their lives during the present Falklands crisis.

The fund has been opened by a donation of \$200.00 from this association and your donation, however small, will serve to support a country which has given so much for freedom in two world wars and is dedicated to the cause of liberty, self-determination and the principles of international justice.

Please be assured that we of the Gunners Association — and men of other regiments are behind the UK and we will do all we can to help from here.

Donations should be sent to: *Public Accounts, Royal Naval Liaison Officer, British Defence Liaison Staff, British High Commissioner, Commonwealth Avenue, Canberra, ACT 2000, Australia.* — **W E Ponting, Heathmont, Victoria 3135, Australia.**

*SOLDIER is impressed by this gesture of Commonwealth support and hope it will go some way towards alleviating the hardship of these families. We should remind readers here, however, that the Ministry of Defence has established the South Atlantic Fund for the same purpose.* — Ed.

## WEAPON ERROR

I would like to point out that the 3 May issue shows a picture of Royal Marines carrying out weapon training on GPMGs.

Well, being a Section gunner myself, I noticed immediately that they were LMGs and not what your caption says. — **Pte Garvey**, 9 Pln Chin-dit Coy, 1 Bn King's Own Border, Montgomery Bks, Berlin, BFPO 45.

You are right, of course, Pte Garvey. Thank you for pointing out our error. — Ed.

## SIGNAL STUNT

I joined the Royal Corps of Signals in 1933 and am a life member of my regiment.

I spent a year in the Display Team (1934) and saw in your magazine (22 Mar) a photo of one of the stunts we did. I know the two soldiers and pony concerned; L/Cpl 'Badgy' Fry on the bike and Dvr H Pearce with 'Patch' the pony. As you stated, our

team for displays consisted of MCs (Triumphs) and horses. I have the souvenir book which was given to us with press photos of nearly all the places we performed at.

I served 13 years with the Signals and enjoyed it very much with 7 years spent in India, one year in Nuziristan (now called Afghanistan) campaigns.

I thought I'd like to let you know how your magazine gets around, and I'm hoping you will publish my letter as I have hoped for many years to meet some of my old pals. I am 71 years old. — **Eric Hawkins**, 4 Charl-ton View, West Hill, Portsmouth, Avon.

## DISTAFF STRENGTH

It has been very nice this year to see the girls getting a little more publicity. I have read it all with interest and envy, being well over age.

The article about girls in the American Army (I used to do a dozen press-ups every morning) was highly informative, in more ways than one.

As to girls being unable to carry a 70lb pack over a twelve-mile march on the road — there was a girl in the Adelaide Bushwalkers Club who was notable for carrying a 70lb pack in the mountains of Tasmania. She was nicely but not largely built, no bulging muscles, just good training and diet. And the right attitude! — **Miss J Eaden, The Coppice, 17 Anzac Ridge, Bridgewater, S Australia 5155.**

## PENSION PARITY

It would appear that the 'index-linking' of retired pay and pensions is about to be either stopped, adjusted or subjected to a compromise of some sort.

No doubt this decision has been made because the Armed Forces are lumped together with all other forms of civil servants such as firemen, police, railwaymen, nurses, miners etc, with the result that the country cannot afford to continue paying such vast sums to such large numbers of people.

But there is the fact that the Armed Forces are uprooted from their homes during service and, more traumatically, on completion of service. The result is a severe drain on their income and savings to enable them to settle into a completely new environment.

I write on behalf of the few remaining ex-Servicemen who received no terminal grant in addition to their pension. Many of these chaps obtained the necessary additional money by commuting up to one third of their pensions. This loss to their income continues for life. Likewise, the 'index-linking' of the commuted part has been lost to them forever.

Is it impossible for our economists and insurance actuaries to get together with the Treasury to formulate some plan whereby the commuted pensions can be looked upon as a form of loan for repayment by pensioners so that their income can be raised a little nearer to parity with

present day levels for equal rank and service? But, probably far more important, is to continue the 'index-linking' of what remains of their meagre pension. — **Capt W E Hills (Retd)**, 1 Hollytree Gardens, Frimley, Surrey, GU16 5EL.

## SILK SOCKS

As a regular reader of your magazine, I find from time to time, items in letters published by you, subjects that sometimes bring back interesting memories to me.

Such a subject was in a recent article, concerning Tidworth Garrison Theatre. Yes, I well remember the visit paid by the late Dame Nellie Melba, it was a Saturday evening concert, I don't believe we were charged an entrance fee, and it was an experience that I shall never forget.

At the time (1927) I was in the 1st Bn Wiltshire Regt stationed in Lucknow Barracks. Whilst on the subject of the Wiltshire Regiment, I wonder how many old Servicemen are in possession of their silk socks, won, so I understand, in place of a medal, in 1932 in Shanghai doing outpost duties, to prevent infiltration of Japanese troops and the Chinese 19th Route army, into the International Settlement.

I believe all Service personnel (including the Navy) were given these socks by the 'Shanghai Municipal Council'. At the time there was my Regiment, 2nd Bn Wiltshire, The Royal Norfolks, the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, plus headquarter troops and a navy cruiser (County class), from the British services plus 4th US Marine Corps, 31st US Infantry and French Colonial infantry. — **Leslie A G Kimble**, 84 Mountearl Gardens, Streatham Hill, London, SW16 2NP.

## HOMEWORK

Mr W R Gamble draws attention to the Boys Brigade (17th May) and refers to the 75th anniversary of the Scout Movement. Unlike your excellent article on the Scouts Mr Gamble has, unfortunately, not done his homework properly and his facts are wrong!

The Army Cadet Force is, I believe, the oldest uniformed youth organisation, having celebrated its Centenary in 1960 and having been re-presented with a banner by His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh in May 1982. In its early days the BB was associated with the ACF, indeed Baden Powell was a Cadet himself in his early years!

Another, but still associated subject is the lovely picture of a Cadet Sergeant Peter Johnson. Can anybody explain why a Cadet was featured in the War Calendar? Even in 1946 we were not that hard up for full-sized soldiers! — **Capt M J Buckley**, Signal Wing, South West London Army Cadet Force, Cadet Training Centre, Mitcham Road Barracks, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 3RU.

## Can You Help?

I am attempting to prepare a history of 14 Berlin Field Workshop REME, representing a pictorial and written history in the form of a scrap book. The Workshop has had a number of titles such as 8 Lines of Communication Troops Workshop, 113 Sub Workshop, 113 Area Workshop and many variants of its present title. Pre-1970 is a particularly barren period with regards to material that can be used. If any readers have any material, particularly photographs, regardless of volume and content, that I could use or copy I would be most grateful. — **WO1 M K Sutton REME, 14 Berlin Field Workshop REME, BFPO 45.**

General G B Mainwaring, late Bengal Staff Corps, championed the cause of the Lepchas, the original inhabitants of Sikkim, Darjeeling District of West Bengal in the North Eastern India and Ilam District of Eastern Nepal. He lived among the Lepchas for many years (approx from 1870s to 1880s). He compiled two books, a Grammar of the Rong (Lepcha) Language and the Dictionary of the Lepcha Language. He published 'A Grammar of the Rong (Lepcha) Language' in 1876 in Calcutta. His Dictionary was published after his death in 1898. I would very much like to know more about his life and works. I will be very happy to hear from any reader on General Mainwaring's life and works. — **WO2 Lyangsang Lepcha, 28 AEC, Borneo Lines, BFPO 1.**

## Reunions

**The Loyal Regiment** (North Lancashire) London Branch Regimental Reunion Dinner. 7 for 7.30pm 11 September 1982, Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour St, Marble Arch, London. Tickets and details from: The Secretary, M Ryan MSM, 18 North Drive, AERE, Harwell, Oxon, OX11 0PE.

**The Devonshire Regiment Old Comrades' Association** Annual Reunion March, Cathedral Service and Dinner, Saturday 17 July 1982. Form up Bury Meadow 1630 hrs. Tickets may be obtained in advance from: RHQ The Devonshire & Dorset Regiment, Wyvern Bks, Exeter, price £3.00.

**The Annual Reunion of the 8th Army and Anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein** at Hove Town Hall, Hove, Sussex, 23 October 1982. 7pm for 7.30pm. Any old comrades will be most welcome. There must be many fathers of present serving soldiers who served with the 8th Army in the Middle East, Sicily and Italy who would like to join the Association, their membership would be most welcome. To any who may be interested to join the Association or to attend the annual reunion contact: A V Goodwin, Hon Sec, Eighth Army Veterans' Association (Sussex Branch), Flat No 8, Sandown Court, 130 Hangleton Road, Hove, Sussex, BN3 7SE or Membership Secretary: Mr C W G Clements, 140a Portland Road, Hove, Sussex.

## Collectors' Corner

Les Martin, 34 John Till Close, Rugeley, Staffs. *Wishes to contact any*

*serving or retired member of the US Special Forces Group or any Legionnaire wishing to write or exchange items ie photographs, uniforms items, badges, wings etc. Has for exchange worldwide Airborne items, WW2 to date, and many other items, British regimental badges, buttons etc. Also wants Scottish buttons. Tel.: Rugeley 70146.*

M Dalton, 18 High St, Watchfield, Swindon, Wilts, SN6 8SA. *Requires January 1970 issue of SOLDIER.*

P T Wheeler, 25 Orchard Way, East Grinstead, Sussex. *Urgently requires an original Entrenching Tool Handle (Helve) Support Strap to complete a set of 1908 pattern Mills Web Equipment as used in the 1914-18 war. Will pay a good price. The equipment will go on loan to a military museum when complete.*

S C McDonald, 93 Tam O'Shanter Drive, Kirwan 4814, Townsville, Queensland, Australia. *Would like to correspond with other collectors of military cap badges.*

L A Rattray, 16 Norrie Avenue, Durban North, Durban 4051, South Africa. *Wishes to exchange Parabat badges from all countries. Has in exchange South African Navy, Army and Air Force badges.*

D Galvin, 30 Clivedon Road, Highams Park, London, E4 9RN. *Wishes to exchange 171 SOLDIER Magazines from 1953 to 1982 for medal/medals.*

Stewart Wright, 19 Laburnum Grove, Cross Roads, Keighley, West Yorks, BD22 9EP. *Wants Polish WW2 medals, badges, militaria. Also Russian WW2 medals, will pay well or exchange for British, foreign, Nazi medals, badges militaria. Also some Foreign Legion items. Tel: Haworth 43978.*

George Newark, 19 Brook Road, Gidea Park, Romford, Essex. *Wishes to exchange or purchase modern worldwide military postcards featuring uniforms, parades, battles and military museum exhibits.*

Rev Del Miller, 8240 St Charles Rock Road, St Louis, Missouri 63114, USA. *British Para re-enactor and collector wants 'X'-type parachute harness and canopy container, WW2 Para kitbag, and no. 4 SMLE felt rifle sleeve. Will pay reasonable prices or trade for WW2 US equipment.*

Sgt M H Johnson, 554th Military Police Coy, HQ US European Command, Patch Bks, D7000 Stuttgart 80, Germany. *Wants Nato Command pocket badges for United Kingdom airforces, Allied Land Forces-Zealand, Med East, Med North East and Royal Marine cloth insignias. Also RM shoulder titles, RMB, RMP, RMFVR, RME, RMCI (small), RMVBC, Marine cadets SCC, plastic RM cap and collar badges.*

B J Green, Box 533, Bracebridge, Ontario, Canada, POB 1CO. *Seeks back numbers of SOLDIER: June 60; Mar, June, Dec 70; Sep 71; June, Sep 73. Willing to purchase at a reasonable price.*

## Pen Pals

**My name is Dawn.** If you are aged 19-30 and can enclose a photo, then you can be sure of a reply. — Miss Dawn Webster, 179 Silkstone Road, Scowdons Farm Estate, Sheffield, S12 8BN.

**My name is Rachel** and I am 18 years old. My hobbies include dancing and travelling and I am in my final year at college. I would like a REME technician penpal. — Miss Rachel Paris, 4 Mount View, Feniton, Honiton, Devon.

**My name is Karen** and I am 25 years old. I am 5ft 6ins tall with dark auburn hair and blue eyes. I would like to write to anyone serving in the Army at home or abroad, single or divorced only. Photo available if required in return for yours. — Karen Young, 269 Crown St, Liverpool, 8LB 7LY.

**My name is Debra** and I am 22 years old. I am 5ft 10ins tall and I enjoy horse-riding, driving, music and nightlife. I would like to hear from someone aged 22 to 26-ish and shall be pleased to answer all correspondence. — Debra Wilson, Ravensdale, Main Road, Sproatley, Hull, N Humberside.

## Competition

Some general knowledge was needed to complete Competition 290, Find the Intruder, not to mention a good

command of the English language. For instance, not many of us here at SOLDIER knew that a tedder had something to do with haymaking! Well done, those of you who did though, and of course those who found the intruder which was *Turner*. Prize-winners were: 1st M A Dight, 55 Corbett Road, Hollywood, Birmingham B47 5LP. 2nd L/Cpl McLaughlin, Dental Centre Hawley, Gibraltar Bks, Minley Road, Blackwater, Camberley, Surrey. 3rd Mrs E S Beedle, 26 The Charters, Lichfield, Staffs. 4th R Harris, 93 Sochi Court, Hesters Way, Cheltenham, Glos GL51 7RS. 5th WO2 K Nicholson, AGPO, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1.

## How Observant Are You?

(see page 21)

1 Right flipper of left penguin; 2 Right foot of right polar bear; 3 Size of small iceberg; 4 Number of fish caught; 5 Ripples round fishing line; 6 Eskimo's hair; 7 Shape of right iceberg at right; 8 "K" in artist's name; 9 Fin of fish nearest waterhole; 10 Toes of right foot of right penguin.

# See-the-Army DIARY

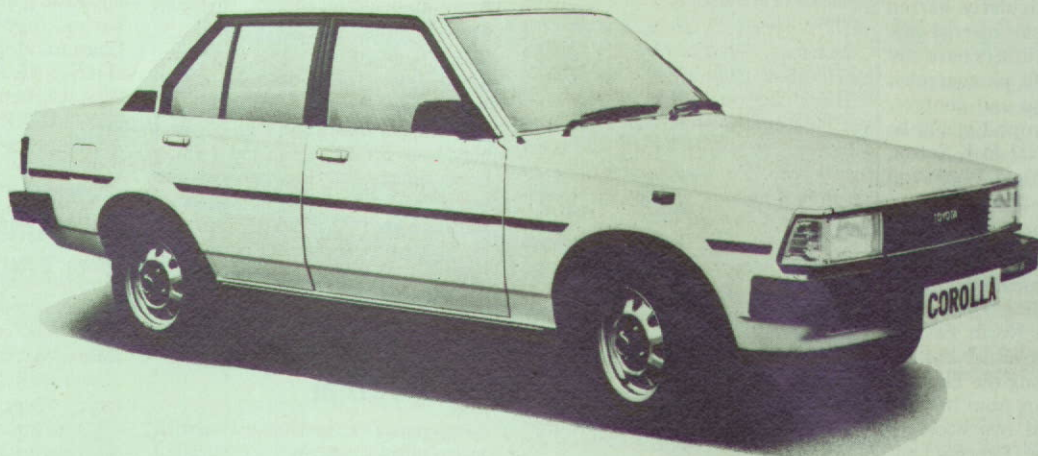
## JUNE 1982

- 17 Northampton Carnival (2 R Anglian Band).
- 18 Essex Show (1 R Anglian band; White Helmets, Red Devils) (18-19 June).
- 18 LI Regimental Retreat, Tidworth (2 & 3 LI Bands, LI Depot Band; Flying Bugles).
- 19 Ashford Extravaganza (19-20 June).
- 25 Aldershot Army Display 1982 (Massed Bands; White Helmets; Red Devils; Junior Leaders RA, RE, RCT; Princess Marina College; ASPT; King's Tp RHA; RMP; PCS; RAVC; Silver Stars; Flying Bugles) (25-27 June).
- 26 Gren Gds Association (Cambs) Golden Jubilee, Longstowe Park, Royston, Herts (Gren Gds band; Guards Frefall).
- 28 Airborne Forces Day (1 Para Band; displays) (28 Jun-5 July).
- 30 Royal Norfolk Show (RHG/D Mtd Band; H Cav Quadrille) (30 June-1 July).

## JULY 1982

- 3 Army Open Day, Simpson Bks, Northampton (Coldm Gds, Junior Mus POW Div bands; Flying Bugles, RA MC JLR RE).
- 4 Royal Signals at Home, Catterick. Signals Band; White Helmets, JRRS Display team).
- 5 HM The Queen's Official Visit to Scotland 1982 (1 Gordons and 1 Para bands) (5-12 July).
- 7 Larkhill Massed Bands (RA Woolwich, RA Mounted, Band of Junior Leaders Regt RA, Band of Junior Musicians RA, R Signals Bands).
- 7 Army Exhibition for Schools and Queens Div Open Day, Basingbourne, Cambs (Red Devils, White Helmets, Anglian and Queens Div bands) (7-10 July).
- 12 HM The Queen's Official Birthday Joint Services Beating Retreat.
- 12 Great Yorkshire Show (Massed bands, White Helmets) (12-16 July).
- 12 Basingstoke Carnival (POW Div band, Red Devils) (13-17 July).
- 14 The Royal Tournament (Massed bands; RN Fd Gun, RM Display, The King's Tp, RAF Police Dogs, Household Cavalry Display; Display by Rutgers Univ New Jersey, RAF Motor Cycle race) (14-31 July).
- 15 Kent City Show (15-17 July).
- 18 Royal International Horse Show, Wembley (RHG/D band) (18-24 July).
- 19 Royal Welsh Show (Junior gymnasts, RM helicopter display and bands) (19-22 July).
- 21 East of England Show, Peterborough (LI Depot bands; White Helmets, RGJ freefall) (21-22 July).

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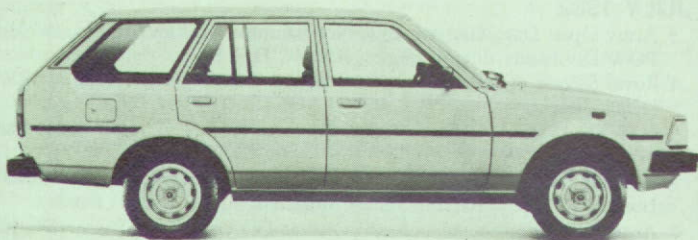
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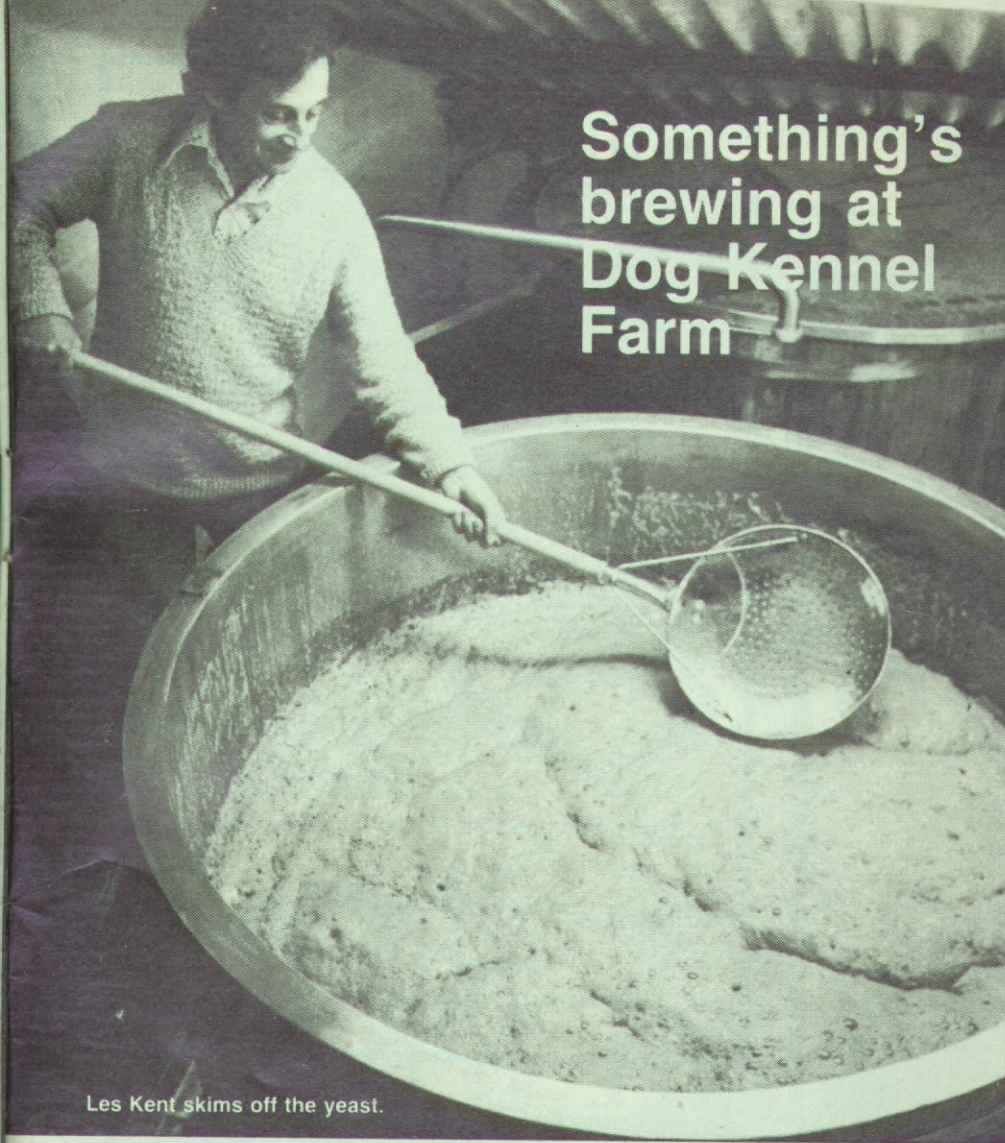
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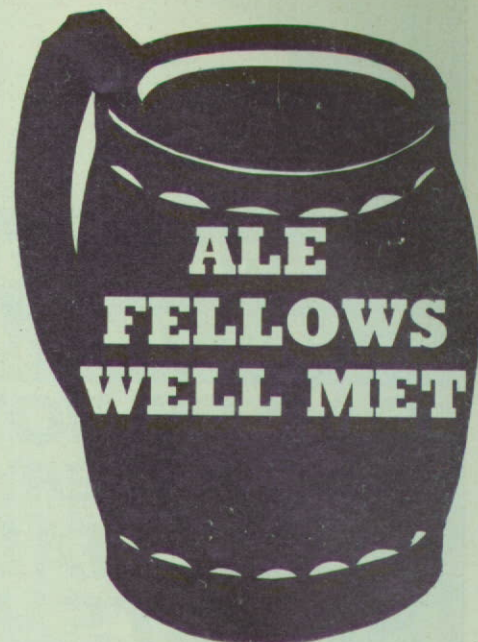
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## Something's brewing at Dog Kennel Farm

Les Kent skims off the yeast.



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Fred Gaylor and Les Kent enjoy a pint of their favourite brew.



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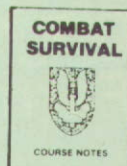
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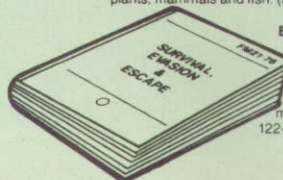
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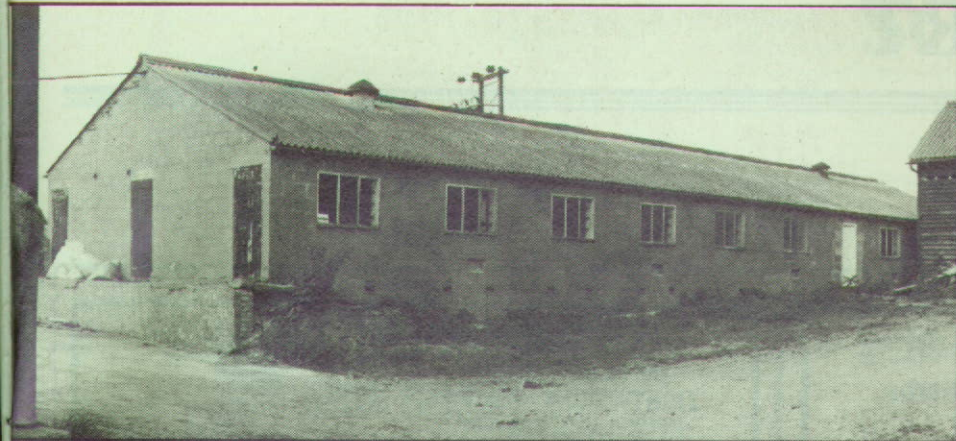
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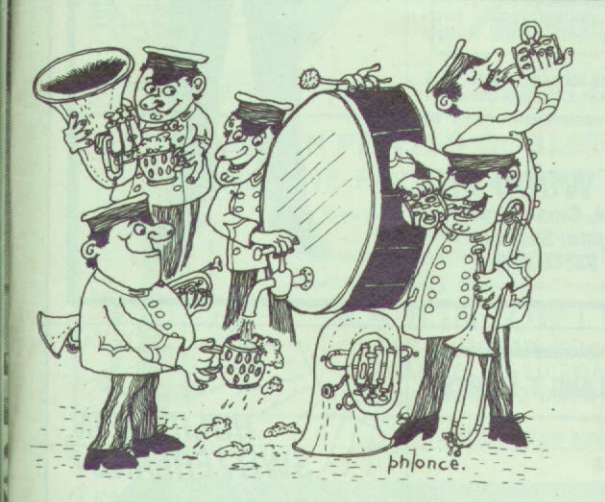
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▲ Former piggeries now house brewing plant.

Filling the barrels from giant vats. ▶



Just off the A505 main road between Luton and Hitchin a small group of British Legion ex-servicemen have started one of these new style breweries. In the former piggeries at Dog Kennel Farm, Lilley, owned by racehorse trainer, Peter Allingham, brewer Les Kent presides over the production of a weekly 720 gallons of Mickles' Birch Bitter.

Les, at one time in the Royal Signals, left his employers for the last 26 years in order to run the brewery. He told SOLDIER: "I have been messing about with making home made beer for the last 15 years and this has given me the chance to turn the hobby into a business."

Les provides one half of the name for the brewery. The Mick comes from Mick Birch, who also gave his name to the bitter. But Mick is no longer a partner although he is still keenly interested in the project and is regarded as the brewery's star salesman.

The other partners in the project are ex-soldiers Reg Hawkes and Charlie Miller, both British Legion stalwarts, and Fred Gaylor, a former TA sergeant with the 5th Battalion, the Queen's Regiment, who handles publicity.

Fred, a onetime regular RAF corporal, blighted his career by showing preference for the Army. He recalls that he obtained an

interview with his commanding officer to discuss his career — and told him that he wanted to transfer into khaki!

By all accounts it was rather like one of those celebrated Bateman cartoons. "He shouted at me and then I was marched out and shouted at all round the building."

The brewery started in a small way last summer with the intention of producing about 15 gallons a week. Says Fred: "What started off as something that came about because we liked to drink together and chat has grown up in a way which has almost been frightening."

The beer is now on sale in 18 pubs and off-licences around Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. In these outlets it can sell for as little as 52p a pint — but it is also on sale in three London real ale freehouses and top price here is about 74p.

Each brew produced by Les is enough to fill ten 36 gallon barrels. They use both wooden and metal casks — according to Les it makes no difference to the taste. He is currently producing two brews a week and once three a week is achieved the new brewery will have achieved take off point.

"It's looking very good," says Fred Gaylor, who lives at Church Crookham and is now actively looking for Army mess and canteen outlets in his home Aldershot area

and Salisbury Plain. The tasty bitter is of medium strength designed to have a wide appeal.

"If you make it too strong you are only going to have one or two pints of it and if it is too weak you are not going to drink it at all," says Fred. "You want to be able to drink four or five pints without falling on your back."

One amusing incident occurred recently when the fans at the brewery were not working and steam shot out across the main road. First the fire brigade arrived and then the police — "they thought we were running an illicit still" said Les.

Not one of the men from Potters Bar British Legion is under the age of 45 and the brewery is something of a gamble with £40,000 invested in plant. But with British Legion clubs as well as pubs, off licences and wine bars looking for the more interesting and esoteric brews they are feeling quietly confident. "The demand for real beer is going up all the time" says Fred Gaylor. ■

Story: John Walton

Pictures: Doug Pratt

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St. Michael's was founded in 1832 and moved first to Uckfield and then in 1941 to Devon. Tawstock Court is a Neo-Gothic mansion set in 60 acres overlooking the beautiful Taw valley. The school is a member of I.A.P.S. and I.S.I.S. and is a Charitable Trust administered by a Board of Governors.

The teaching staff consists of nine masters and three mistresses all of whom are qualified and a full-time Director of Music. Four matrons assist in the general care and welfare of the children and the Headmaster's wife has responsibility for catering. Day children are accepted but only if under eleven.

Children are able to make full use of the grounds for riding as they may have their own ponies and also have bicycles in the summer when they also go camping. Recent developments include Craft rooms, a dining-room/theatre, all-weather sports' areas, a dressmaking centre, a computer room and changing-rooms. All children can undertake Outward Bound Activities including rock climbing, abseiling, canoeing and orienteering, and can learn shooting and to swim in the heated pool. P.E. forms part of the curriculum and Hockey, Squash, Badminton, Fives, Athletics, Netball, Rounders and Tennis are played as well as Rugby, Soccer and Cricket. Senior children learn Ballroom and Country Dancing and importance is attached to creative work in Art/Craft, Carpentry and Drama. Tuition is available for all musical instruments and there are two school choirs.

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Like most of Scotland property does not come cheap in Ayr. As a county town it has a strong virile economy and house prices have tended to hold up well despite the recession. But local estate agents do readily concede the market has been slow for nearly two years.

There are very few terraced properties under £20,000 and most of the semi-detacheds start around £23,000. Detacheds are rarely priced under £30,000 and the better situated properties tend to be in the £35,000 to £40,000 bracket.

Ayr has an enviable life-style. Apart from a beautiful coast line, it has excellent shopping facilities locally or at nearby Irvine. Prestwick international airport is just up the road and local industrial growth centres include "high-tech" companies like Digital and British Aerospace.

**NAP Estate Agents (0292 267248)**

**Slater Hogg & Howison (0292 286866)**

**Kerry Stephenson 01-439 3611/2.**

These articles are prepared in conjunction with Kerry Stephenson of the National Homes Network. This is a private agency with a great deal of experience in dealing with the special problems of the Service Home-hunter. Kerry will be delighted to give you any help he can with your problem in the private sector and can be contacted at National Homes Network, 303 Radnor House, 93 Regent St, London, W1R 7TE. Tel: 01-439 3611/2.

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Further details: Phone Sutterton 574 evenings or write to 17 Rainwall Court, Sutterton, Boston, Lincs. Price £29,950.

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SOLDIER spotlights two women, a WRAC corporal and an RSM's wife, who are battling to get to the top in particularly gruelling sports . . .

# It takes every hour God sends



**MRS PRISCILLA WELCH**, wife of Dave Welch, the Royal Signals RSM at the Nato Forward Scatter Station in the Shetlands, was the 21st woman home in the recent London Marathon. She is already ranked 21st among British women marathon runners.

Priscilla, who is 37, is the Scottish cross-country women's veteran champion. Her London time of 2hrs 53 minutes was her best to date.

Husband, Dave, also a marathon runner, has been coaching her since she took up long distance running.

He told SOLDIER: "This is her second serious season of marathon running and she has changed from just being a little

housewife to quite something. She does all her training in atrocious weather conditions — fierce winds and lashing rain. You are continually doing the same routes and you are constantly being chased by sheep-dogs.

"I've got a row of bites on the backs of my legs but she is lucky and has not been bitten yet. In the winter we had to modify two pairs of Wellingtons and put steel studs on them so we could go running on the ice and wear head torches as there is no street lighting."

The couple hope to take part in half a dozen marathons this year but reckon that the cost of travelling from their remote outpost plus accommodation expenses will set them back £1000.



Corporal Jeanne Challinor — riding high.

**THERE'S RARELY** a quiet relaxing moment in Jeanne Challinor's life. A 23-year-old WRAC corporal and housewife she spends most of her time throughout the year training for five sports.

Current Army swimming champion for both the 100 metres freestyle and 100 metres breast stroke, Jeanne is a member of the national squad for the modern pentathlon — the collection of five sports which brought Captain Jim Fox and his team gold medal success in the 1976 Olympics.

At the moment there is no women's modern pentathlon at the Olympic Games but the event's popularity is growing and insiders predict that it will be featured by the 1988 Games. And Jeanne is now waiting to hear if she has made the four woman British team for the world championships in France this August.

As a top woman Army swimmer Jeanne was spotted by Jim Fox as a potential pentathlete and two years ago she was posted to Arborfield, where she has been able to spend most of her time training for the five disciplines. In addition to swimming they are running, shooting, horse riding and fencing.

"Because it is a multi-sport the amount of time you require for training is as much as you can get" she says. "I train all day and have one session every single night for five nights a week."

On Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings she can be found pistol firing and on Tuesdays and Thursdays she spends 90 minutes running with a local athletic club. At weekends there is more training or competitions. In the winter the emphasis goes

onto long distance running and swimming and riding on the flat. There are only short periods of leave and perhaps one day off a week.

But Army and Combined Services coach, Sergeant Bernie Moss, feels that Jeanne's dedication is beginning to pay off. "Last year she was probably weakest on running and fencing. But this year she is 40 seconds faster on the 2000 metres cross-country run."

Jeanne recently came ninth in an international competition in France and shortly she enters another in Sweden — if she does well she should make the world championship team.

The modern pentathlon requires a particular attitude of mind says Bernie Moss. A disaster in one of the five events can always be accepted. "To actually put all five events together for the best performance of your career will perhaps happen only three or four times." To achieve that you need guts, determination and application — qualities which Jeanne Challinor is showing every day. ■

# HAT-TRICK FOR EILEEN

After a tense and thrilling final bout to decide the champion, Captain Eileen Frank QARANC took the Robertson Cup for the third year running in this year's Army Individual Ladies Foil Championships.

Her opponent, and the runner-up, Corporal (PTI) Jeanne Challinor WRAC looked set to wrest the number one position from the nursing sister this year having decisively won all her earlier bouts, but still the title eludes her.

After some cautious play while both girls got the other's measure, Eileen slipped in a cunning thrust and scored the first point. Jeanne overcoming her first nervousness soon equalised and went on to make the score 3-1.

Then the tables turned again as Jeanne relaxed too much, dropping her guard slightly and allowing Eileen to come back at her. She finally took the match 5-3 in the last minute of the time allowed.

Eileen, who travelled from BMH Hannover to defend her title, was sportingly modest about her win: "Corporal Challinor should have won; she's very good and it was a close thing. But Eileen said she was "delighted" to have made it a hat-trick.

Jeanne, an international modern pentathlete and more used to the epee rather than the foil said she was "determined" to win next year. "Last year I was second, the year before third so I should get it next time!"

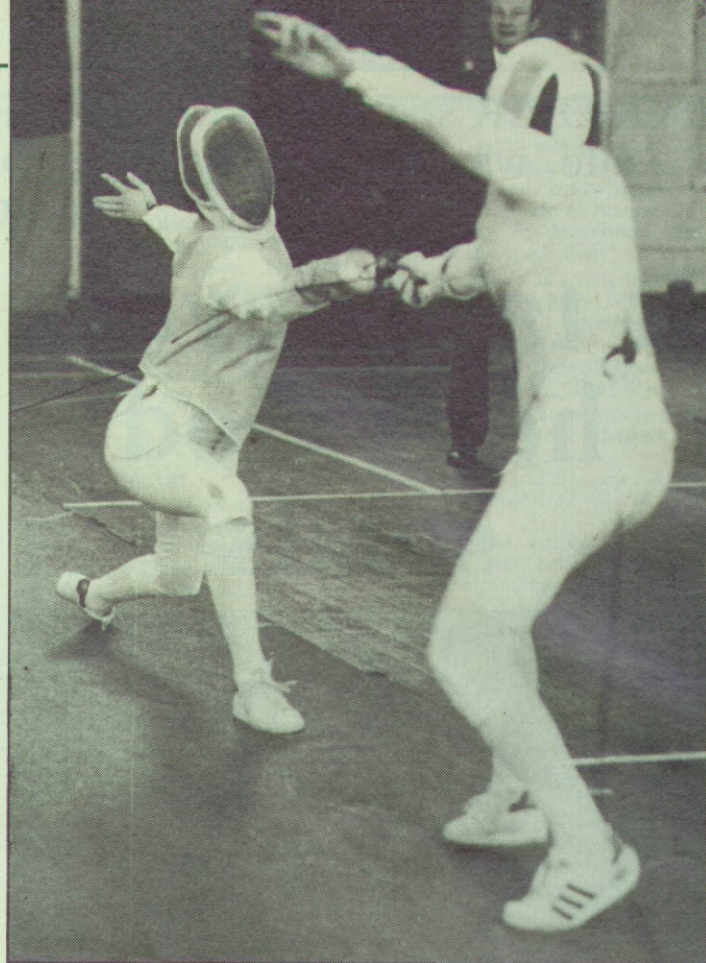
The Chairman of the Ladies

Fencing Association, Lieutenant Colonel Nan Robertson praised Eileen for her efforts and called her a very loyal supporter of the game. "It's not easy for someone whose work is totally unrelated to the sport to find the time to practice — particularly someone on shift work like Eileen. It's marvellous when they give up a 'sleep' day for instance, just in the interests of the game. Eileen has even in the past taken leave to compete in the Championships."

From the pool that fought for the Robertson Cup, a team was to represent the Army at the Inter-Services at Portsmouth but because of other commitments Eileen Frank will not be able to participate.

## SPORTS SHORTS

The second Royal Artillery Hunt Supporters' Club Larkhill Horse Show produced a bigger entry and many internationally known riders. This year dressage classes were introduced,



Foillists Frank and Challinor fight for the finish.

which included the Spiller's Novice with Jumping Qualifier won by Jane Holderness-Roddam riding Gay Gretel. Despite the Falklands crisis riders from the Household Cavalry, The King's Troop, Royal Artillery and the Royal Marines competed for the special military prizes. Lance-Bombardier Line of the King's Troop won the military prize in the Urry Structure Newcomers Preliminary Competition and Trooper Laws of the Household Cavalry came first in the Novice Unaffiliated Jumping.

Army Cyprus retained the Inter-Service Basketball Trophy for the island with an emphatic win against RAF Cyprus. After leading 18-6 at half time they ran out winners by 52 points to 15.

★ ★ ★

The RAOC 'A' team, competing together for the first time, won the Inter-Corps (BAOR) Orienteering Championships in the Arnsberger Wald, beating nine other Corps.

★ ★ ★

For the tenth year in succession an Army team won this year's Inter-Service Modern Pentathlon championships. In the championships held at RAF Cranwell and the RAVC Centre, Melton Mowbray, the Army 'A' team of Captain Mike Mumford RE, Corporal Peter Whiteside REME and L/Cpl Tim Haddon, 13th/18th Royal Hussars notched up 15,765 points. This was 1700 points clear of the Navy with the Army 'B' team third and the RAF fourth.



The drivers of the Army's largest vehicles are becoming as professional on the football field as they are on the road. The Bulford based 150 Squadron RCT has had its best ever soccer season. The two high points were winning the Army Minor Units (Yorks and Lancs) Cup with a convincing win over the RMP Training Centre and taking the RCT Cup in a hard fought match against BAOR contenders, 38 Squadron RCT.

## CYCLING

# Sapper Novices coming through

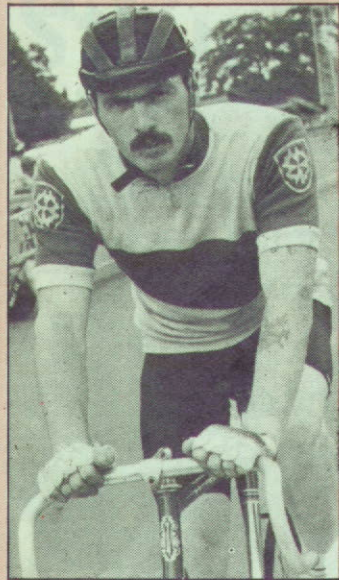
ONCE AGAIN the Royal Air Force triumphed in the three day Inter-Service cycling championships held in the Reading area but the event saw the emergence of a new group of novice Army cyclists whose performances suggest that they will soon be a threat to the boys in blue.

The final event, a 40 mile road race around the Bramshill-Hartley Wintney district, saw the RAF take the first three places — but in fourth and fifth slots came two of the contingent from 40 Army Engineer Support Group at Willich, Germany.

First Army man home, 20-year-old Sapper Tony Peach, had only been cycling for seven months and was in only his second race. He had actually taken the lead half a mile from home but was unable to fend off the more experienced airmen.

"I think I went a bit too soon and got excited," he said. "I'm just learning at the moment but I'm extremely pleased with what I've done."

Equally happy was Sapper Paul Harris, who came fifth in his very first road race "I got dropped off from the bunch at times and had to work like hell to get up again. We have a new team all the way from Germany and we've given the RAF a hard time. It was absolutely brill."



Phil Jackson — expensive trip.

The Engineers' team captain, who got the others interested last winter, was Lance-Corporal John Forbes, who failed to finish after a spill. But earlier in the weekend he had finished fourth in the 25 mile time trial behind Navy rider, PO Ken Rutherford, who set a new course record of 1 hr 1 min and 33 seconds.

For the Army's top rider the three days started well and ended sadly. Corporal Phil Jackson of 26 Engineer Regiment won all three Army track events at Reading — the 1 km, the two lap

## JOHN WALTON reports on the Inter Services championships

sprint and the 4000 metres pursuit — although in each case lost the Inter-Service contest.

Then the week-end turned sour. He lost £80 in cash taken from the changing room at Palmer Park, Reading; had to take the second day off in order to apply for his international licence; and retired from the 40 mile race soon after his chain jammed in the rear gear only two miles out.

Jackson trains every working day by cycling the 26 miles from his home at Hamm to his unit at Iserlohn and then 26 miles back each evening.

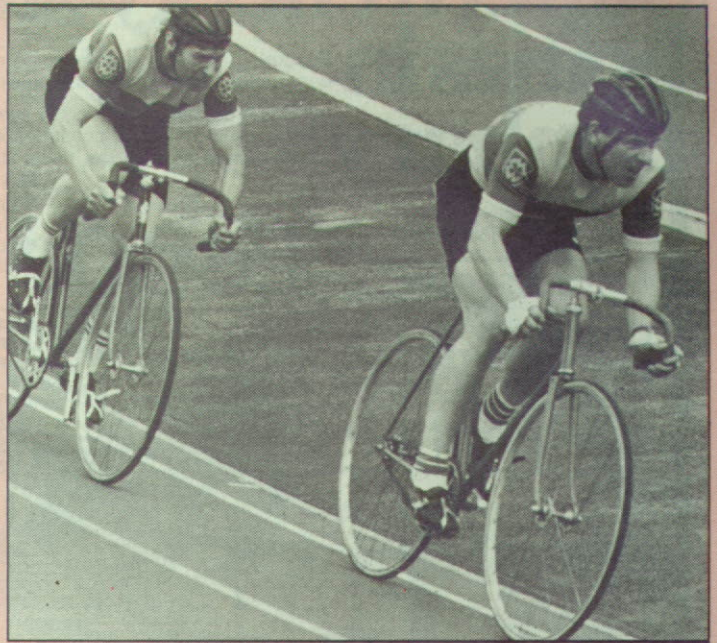
"It's hard going because there is a lot of traffic and about 20 sets of traffic lights and level crossings," he said. "I've been doing it every day since Easter in order to get fit."

To be a keen cyclist costs money and also most of your free time. His road racing machine cost £900 and he has two other cycles for training and track racing. In the evenings he studies at home — taking a year long British Cycle Federation coaching course and at the end he hopes to coach Army riders to better results.

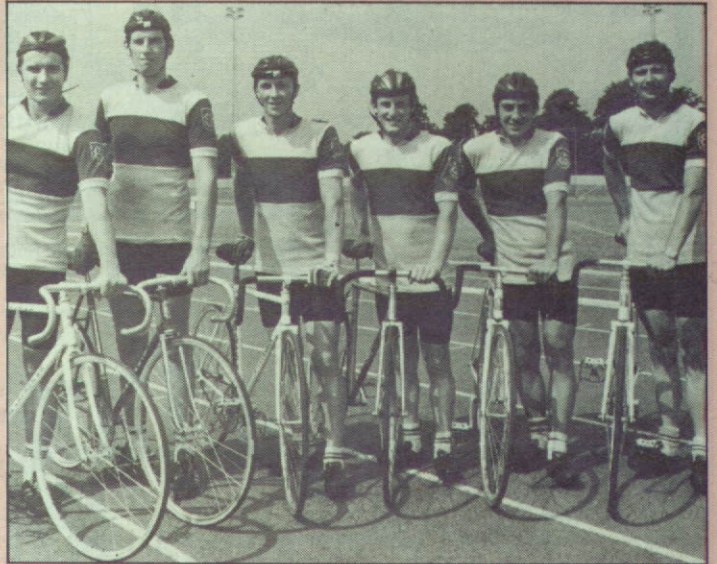
"You see so many people in the Army with so much potential. The Army has internationals at some sports and there is no reason why we should not have that with cycling."

Army Cycling Union secretary, Major Albert Beasley, said the event was "eminently successful." The killing temperatures and humidity had sapped the strength of many of the riders or more records might have been set.

"The 40 Engineer Support Group did us proud," he said. "This is the first year I have seen most of those people. They are all novices and yet they have done very well."



Thrills on the track at Reading.



The new team which had such success.

## Pilgrim's Progress

CURRENT ARMY marathon champion, Captain Keith Arnold RAEC, notched up his fifth con-

secutive win in the Long Distance Walkers Association annual Ultra-distance event held in blistering Bank Holiday weekend heat.

This year's LDWA challenge was held in the south of England, mainly over the North Downs Way and Pilgrims Way. Those who opted for the extra challenge set off from Winchester and the remainder from Guildford to make their way on foot across country and non-stop to Canterbury within 48 hours.

Each competitor had to carry a torch, map, compass and emergency rations and follow an organised route with checkpoints. Temperatures were in the eighties and the hot weather forced the runners to slow their pace to avoid heat exhaustion.

Captain Arnold finished an hour ahead of his nearest 140 mile rival. After a cold beer and cool shower he said: "Although it was specified as 142 miles it was nearer 145 and seemed to be twice the distance because of the unkind weather."

Capt Arnold on his way to victory



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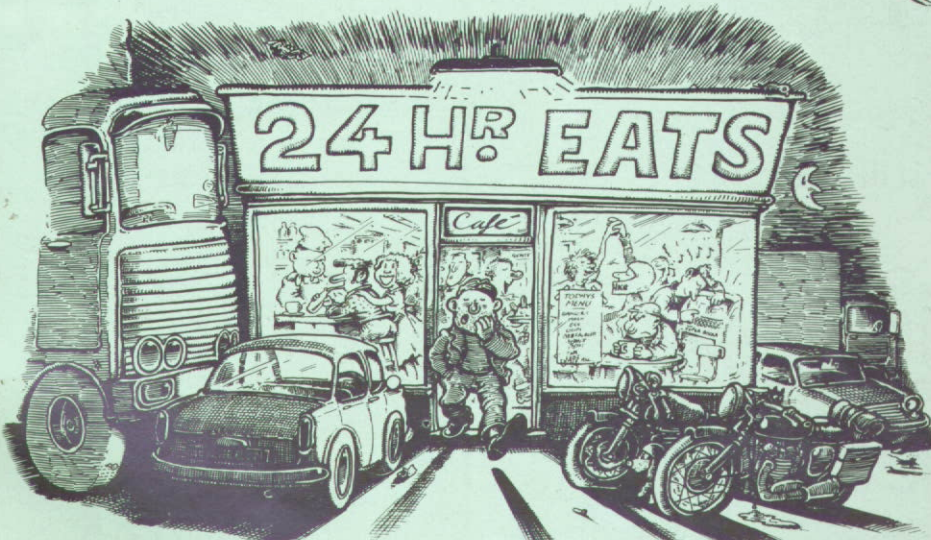
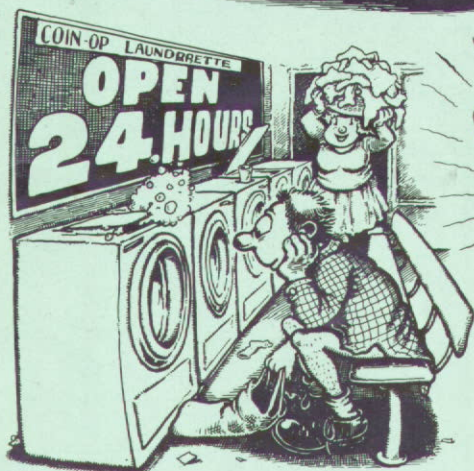
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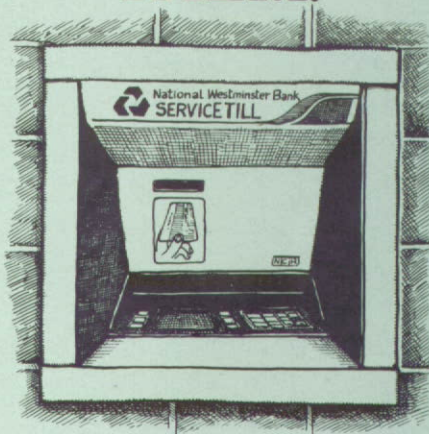
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