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# SOLDIER





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## FRONT COVER:

An emotional and colourful farewell for Captain Rambahadur Limbu, VC at Church Crookham, Hampshire. See centre pages.

## BACK COVER:

Forbidden fruit! Admiring but not picking the oranges in Cyprus is Guardsman Joseph Broadfoot, 2nd Battalion Scots Guards. See special features starting on page 14.

Both pictures: Les Wiggs

Managing Editor  
Roland Thick (Ext 2585)

Editor  
Peter Howard (Ext 2593)

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

Art Editor  
John Rushworth (Ext 2589)

Picture Editor  
Leslie Wiggs (Ext 2584)

Photographers (Ext 2584)  
Doug Pratt  
Paul R G Haley

Photo Library (Ext 2577)  
Bill Stroud

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

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# SOLDIER

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◀ TA Heli-borne  
War — p 11



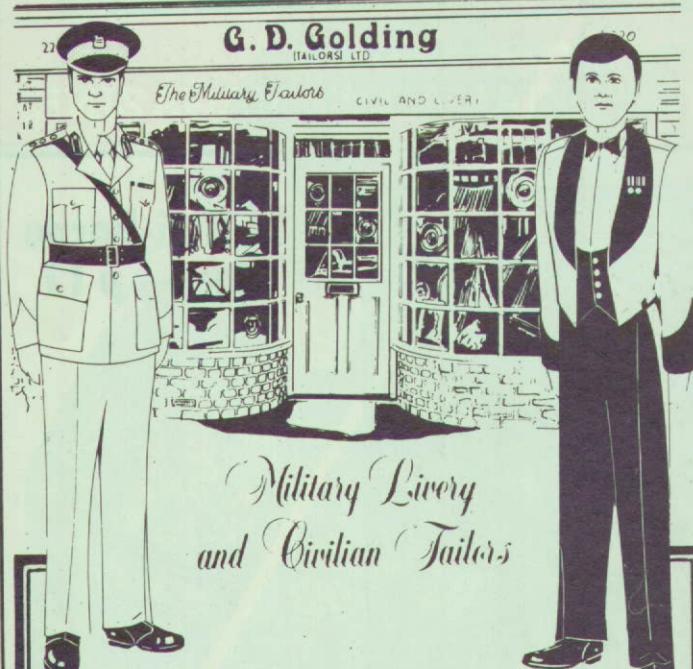
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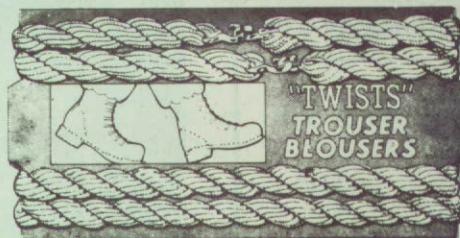
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S26

# New charge packs a big punch!

**T**HE MIGHTY gunners of 27 Field Regiment Royal Artillery have proved they now pack a bigger explosive punch after successfully firing their new ammunition charge No 8 from their M109 guns deployed in the anti-tank role on the Hohne ranges recently.

It was the first time the maximum charge No 8, which was specifically designed for the FH70 Gun, was used in training in West Germany. Approval for the move had to be gained in advance from Ordnance Board chiefs.

The issue of that unprecedented authority was quickly accepted as a decisive challenge by the men of 23 Battery who carried out the

formidable firepower operation without the slightest hitch (right).

This latest gunnery exercise sequence by the Lippstadt based troops was another striking example of men in the Royal Artillery staying in the lead by moving one step forward in practically enhancing their combat potential.

YOU have to be versatile to work for CSE as Phillip Jay found out when he took his first party of entertainers to the Falklands.

"We went down on the 'Herc,'" said Phillip. "Included in the party were a couple of girl singers and dancers and a comic.

"We left Ascension early one morning for that 13-hour flight, but after eight hours had to turn back because of the weather.

"The next day we tried again, but we were only in the air for 30 minutes when we had to return because of engine trouble.

"On landing the comic said he'd had enough and wouldn't go again. So we left him behind and I had to fill in his slot for the lads with playing my guitar and singing.

"You could say," mused Jay, "that the comic lost his sense of humour. So did I when he told me he was backing out."



Locked on target the M109 shudders as it delivers its devastating punch

## CSE GOES COMMERCIAL

**C**OMBINED Services Entertainment, the former MoD section which provides up to 50 live shows a year for soldiers, sailors and airmen is going 'commercial'. "But not completely," said ex-RCT Major Phillip Jay, 43, who has the title of Enterprise Manager Live Entertainment, and is the man who will arrange a complete entertainment package for any Mess or group of Servicemen.

"The message is that we can organise any sort of show," said Phillip, "but remember it is in addition to normal CSE shows put on for units around the world.

"So it has to be paid for by those requiring the service. But anything we organise will be at competitive rates."

Said Derek Agutter, the man in charge of CSE — which now comes under the SSVC umbrella — "nothing is too big or too small for us to handle.

"We can cater for anything from children's parties to airshows, after-dinner speakers, mess functions and summer balls.

"We're in the entertainment business and this is a commercial operation," said Derek, the father of film star Jenny Agutter.

"We are prepared to cater for the TA or any other Service organisation."

The service comes complete, said Phillip Jay. "People will tell us what they want and how much they want to spend.

"We can offer advice on the technical aspects of lighting and sound, provide presenters and technicians."

The launch of the new commercial set-up started on 1 April when Jay flew to Cyprus to drum up business for the new venture.

He went with hopes of selling a complete show package containing the popular duo of Chas and Dave.

With West End *Cats* star Marti Webb already signed to appear at the Sergeants' Mess of the Cold-

by  
**John Margetts**

stream Guards, following the Trooping the Colour, he feels confident that Chas and Dave would go down well with the lads on the island.

"There's plenty of British tourists on the island," said Jay, "and I don't really mind who sits on the seats.

"So long as the Services get first crack of the whip and we make money for SSVC — a registered charity by the way — and other Services charities, we're not worried who fills the seats."

On the entertainment tastes of Servicemen Jay, an RCT soldier for 19 years, said he was convinced that most soldiers did not go for blue material.

"I believe they like clever, off-beat stuff. Saucy and bawdy they rather enjoy, but downright blue material embarrasses them."

"I think they feel as though they're being patronised," he said. A former part-time broadcaster with BFBS and a freelance on commercial radio, Jay is the man carrying CSE's new commercial policy for the Army.

"Whatever people want we will supply it — from aerobatics to acrobatics," he stressed, adding that canvassing for customers would begin in earnest soon with the launch of brochures and advertisements in Service papers and regimental magazines.

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# THE PRINCE OF WALES VISITS WELSH GUARDS IN GERMANY

HERE was a right Royal welcome in Germany for The Prince of Wales during his visit to 1st Battalion Welsh Guards in his capacity as Colonel of the Regiment.

The battalion has been stationed at Hohne, near Hanover for the past year and this was the first time Prince Charles has visited them in their new location.

The Prince arrived at Fassberg German Air Force base to be greeted by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Drewry.

The Prince looked at every aspect of the battalion's work, updating himself on a wide variety of training activities and meeting many of the guardsmen and their families.

During his tour Prince Charles saw an exercise involving the whole battalion in a practice deployment from the barracks to a nearby training area in double quick time.

As the guardsmen deployed into the field, Prince Charles followed them in the turret of an armoured personnel carrier of the Prince of Wales's company.

Sporting goggles and a headset, the Prince commanded the APC en route to the training area, with Guardsman Andrew Morgan the driver and Lance Corporal Eric Williams the radio operator.

He then toured the battalion as they rapidly set up defensive locations in a forested area, digging

trenches and camouflaging their vehicles.

On the following day, he visited Bergen Town Hall, to meet the Burgermeister and sign the Golden Book — just one month after Her Royal Highness Princess Anne had also signed the book.

Crowds of flag waving schoolchildren from Wavell and Slim Primary Schools greeted him on his arrival, and also there to welcome him at the Community Centre were Guardsman Andrew Evans and his wife Susan, the battalion's most newly married couple.

Later the Prince started a 'track splitting' competition on the battalion square — a scene of feverish activity as teams of guardsmen competed to be the first to disconnect the tracks of their APCs.

Not surprisingly, the REME Light Aid Detachment were fastest at getting the tracks apart and back together again, collecting crates of beer from the Prince as their prize.

The climax of Prince Charles's visit came when the battalion formed up on the square to see him present the Prince of Wales's Trophy, an annual award for the best all-round company over the past year, to No 2 Company, Major John Henderson, the Company Commander, receiving the Shield.

The Prince's visit concluded with the presentation of four Long



Prince Charles congratulates Lance Sergeant Tom Davies on receiving the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Proud onlooker is wife Linda Davies.



Prince Charles inspects the guardsmen before their deployment, above, and meets children from Slim and Wavell Primary Schools at Bergen Community Centre



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# THE KING AND I ...

A "grip 'n' grin" picture it might be, but the man on the right is King Juan Carlos, the King of Spain, and for Lieutenant Colonel Robert Lawson (he was then a major) it was the highlight of a two-year course at the Spanish Staff College in Madrid. Fluency in Spanish gave him the chance to attend the course and become the first British student to graduate from the college. Based at HQ BAOR, the fact that the Colonel's wife, Celia, is Spanish, and that he helped in the interrogation of General Menendez in the Falklands campaign, aided his selection.

## ROUND AND ABOUT

### Dutch 'do' for the old 49th

Some say you should never go back ... you'll only be disappointed. Ignoring this oft quoted advice are 53 old soldiers of the 49th West Riding Reconnaissance Regiment who next month leave for Holland to take part in the 40th anniversary of VE Day.

In his letter telling something of the regiment, Mr K A Baker of Oxford, says they were in almost continuous action following the D-Day landings. Now they are returning to celebrate what he calls "the real meaning of the VE Day commemoration ... the re-affirmation that freedom so easily lost is much more difficult to regain, and that it must never be taken for granted, but guarded by every means in our power."

As part of 1 British Corps, the regiment led the advance of 49 Division which liberated many Dutch towns.

#### LINKS

Close links have been retained with a number of them, particularly Utrecht, Leiden and several villages on the south bank of the river Waal, where the regiment held the line for several months during the winter of 1944-45.

Now Utrecht, which welcomed the 49th as their liberators on 7 May, 1945, is to celebrate the 40th anniversary of that event with three days of entertainment for the veterans.

But before the old forty-niners let their hair down — those who have any left — they will meet Prince Bernhard and attend the Dutch remembrance day service in Amsterdam. Sounds like it's going to be a real Dutch 'do'.



LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT LAWSON, KING JUAN CARLOS: course highlight



Preparing for a busy season of showing BAOR based soldiers how to sail are Corporal John Taylor (left), civilian Michael Beer and Lance Corporal Denis Thompson. All three are instructors on the RCT yacht St Christopher III. Starting this month they will be taking part in exercise Young Quadrant, off the Dutch coast, and will be tutoring more than 100 RCT men participating in 18 courses to the end of October. The yacht can carry five. If you want to know available dates and costs write to: Major Mike Nuttal RCT, Hon Sec RCT Activity (Sailing), 627 MCTG RCT, BFPO 29.

### Cooks stay top shots



These lads from the Apprentices College at ACC HQ Aldershot, can not only whip up appetising meals in moments, but can hammer the best when it comes to hitting a 14 mm target from 25 metres. The young cooks showed their

skills when they retained their title by beating seven other teams for the Junior Soldiers' smallbore championship. "Now we want three in a row," said WO2 Ian Taylor. Team: Apprentices Pearce, Downie, Stewart, Brecon and Wilde.

### Medals and prizes for Sappers

For a moment medals are silent as Staff Sergeant Anderson and his family (left), Corporal and Mrs Knight, Staff Sergeant and Mrs Latham and Corporal Scrivener line up with Brigadier F G Sudgen after receiving their LS and GC Medals from the Command Engineer of 1 (BR) Corps. The Commander was

really in attendance to inspect the pass-out parade of No. 10 junior NCOs course of 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment at Hamelin, but combined his visit with medal presentations to the senior NCOs and prizes to the young students.



Pilot Ken takes off for a new engagement



Sqn Ldr Kenny Burgess

Bidding an airman's farewell to 4 Armoured Div's HQ at Herford, BAOR and a big hello to HQ 1 (BR) Corps at Bielefeld, is RAF pilot Squadron Leader Kenny Burgess.

As the sole RAF rep at 4 Div HQ, he provided Army chiefs with an instant response and advice on air capability. He also provided entertainment with his folk singing and guitar playing on a wide scale to a large following.

He'll make a big impact at Bielefeld in his new job as SO2 G3 Air.



GEORGE HOGAN: unbelievable win

## Tony's super cake wows the girls

When the Guards do anything they do it in style — that's for sure.

For when the Girl Guides of Cyprus celebrated their 75th anniversary the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards gave them a monster cake weighing 250 lb.

Mastermind behind Operation Cake was Corporal Tony Campbell of the ACC, who is

Former SOLDIER staff man George Hogan could not believe his eyes as he opened his mail. For there was a valuable colour print of the *Canberra* returning to Southampton after the Falklands war. Personally signed by marine artist Christopher Dee, with copies of the signatures of Vice-Admiral Sir John Woodward and Capt D J Scott-Masson of the *Canberra*, George, it seems, got lucky in a draw.

## SOLDIER story stretches Down Under

Colonel MacVickar, RAMC.

"We immediately sent off outline drawings, but it seems the CD there were interested in using this lightweight, portable table in the event of natural disasters.

The letters came from Wellington, New Zealand and America. Said Mr Dutton: "The letter from New Zealand came from Wellington's civil defence organisation and they were most interested in the SOLDIER story of how the table was developed by

"If you get a 'quake of any size you could find yourself without a hospital. Hence their interest. I've no doubt by now that the commercial side of our organisation has managed to sell 'em a few. And all thanks to SOLDIER."

attached to the Guards for two years.

Tony made it at home and it took him a week. Not surprising really considering the ingredients.

He used two bottles of brandy, more than 300 eggs, 30 lb of mixed fruit, 30 lb of sugar and 40 lb of flour.

It was a wow with the girls.

# PEOPLE

## FACES and PLACES

### A fine sight for the President of West Germany

A rise in a Chieftain of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars and a look through the sight of a Javelin surface-to-air missile, earned high praise from Dr Richard von Weizsäcker, President of the Federal German Republic.

#### Berlin call by French chief

Just for the record ... the new commandant of the French Sector in Berlin, General de Division P. C. Cavarrat, paid his first official visit to the British Sector. He was met by GOC Major General B C Gordon-Lennox, a guard of honour and a band from the 1st Royal Hampshire.

#### Farewell BAOR

When the Black Watch took their formal leave of Germany the town of Werl, where they were stationed for five years, presented them with a town flag in recognition of the friendly links the regiment forged with the German community.



DR WEIZSÄCKER: Javelin demo by Bombardiers John Peterson and Eric Ward, of 2 Field Regiment

#### Germans win shoot-out

A German unit, 801 Transport Battalion, won a three-way shooting contest against 23 Transport Regiment RCT and the Belgian 4 Battalion Logistics. The meet was hosted by the RCT unit, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Peter Robinson.

#### Percy get his 'gong'

It was a long time coming, but after 46 years Percy Cole has received the Imperial Service Medal. Newly-retired head cook at the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Bovington, Percy got his 'gong' from Colonel Tim Green, deputy commander, who told of 'Coley's' excellence as a cook.

# First overseas TA on parade

**B**RITAIN'S first ever Territorial Army unit to be recruited outside the United Kingdom was paraded in Berlin for the first time. The new unit, 408 (Berlin) Field Troop Royal Engineers (Volunteer), held its formation parade before the Engineer-in-Chief, General Sir Hugh Beach, and the British Commandant, Major General Gordon Lennox, at Smuts Barracks in Spandau.

Sir Hugh recalled that 408 Troop in the fifties was at Bindon Barracks, Hameln; in the sixties was a crane troop in support of the Heavy Floating Bridge and Heavy Ferry Bridge Column of 26 Regiment RCT. With the coming of the Amphibians, 26 Regt RCT was no longer needed and its crane troop went with it.

THE men of the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers are top cooks in Wales. Their team entered in Wales' Exercise Combat Caterer and scooped the competition held on Sennybridge Ranges. The combination of their military skills and their mouth watering culinary expertise gave them a narrow victory over the team from 203 General Hospital despite the fact that the medics produced their fittest and most attractive nurses to cheer their team on.

The two day competition started with tests involving an assault course, first aid, shooting personal weapons, a vehicle and kit inspection and a map reading test. Cooking skills accounted for 60 per cent of the marks.

The winning menu was oxtail soup with croutons, chicken casserole with olivette potatoes, button carrots and garden peas and finished off with drop scones



Accompanied by Major Robert Sinclair and Staff Sgt Eric Scholey, General Sir Hugh Beach talked to each member of the new unit during his inspections

408 Troop now forms part of 38 (Berlin) Field Squadron Royal Engineers whose commander, Major Robert Sinclair, started recruiting for it last October.

There was a good response from

among Berlin's several thousand British passport holders and over 100 initial applications for the 28 places available. Selection weekends were held and several members of the new troop have



## TOPICS

already attended training courses in the UK.

Now the Troop starts its build-up to become operational by October. The TA Sappers will have to work hard under their PSI, Staff Sergeant Eric Scholey, to learn and perfect the great range of tasks expected from them.

Lance Corporal Raymond and Private Craig Liddington from Abertillery — all members of 100 Squadron, Royal Monmouthshire RE, based in Newport.

During the prize-giving special mention was made of Private Barbara Evans WRAC, attached to 203 General Hospital, the only girl in the competition. She did everything the men did including the assault course and still helped her team come to a very close second to the Sappers, quite a change from her normal civilian job as a cook at the University of Wales.

The winning team were presented with their tankards by the TA Colonel for South Wales, Colonel Brian John (centre). Left to right: Lance Corporal Neil Stacey (driver), Private Craig Liddington, Staff Sergeant John Turner (team leader), Lance Corporal Raymond Liddington.

## TOP OF THE COOKS



covered in a gleaming jam sauce.

Creators of this winning menu were Staff Sergeant John Turner

(37) from Newport, the team leader and a catering manager for the BBC in Cardiff, assisted by brothers

## OWN BADGE AT LAST



The new badge

of the Kingdom of Wessex since the dark ages.

Officer cadets received their badges at High Barracks, Exeter, from the Corps Honorary Colonel, Major General Sir John Acland.

The General had a word (right) with Warrant Officer Cadet Charity Norman after handing her the new badge. Picture: Exeter Express and Echo.



EXETER University OTC has a new cap badge. Since 1980 the unit has worn cap badges of the Wessex Regiment and the WRAC. But now its members have been presented with their new badges, combining the castle symbol from the city's coat of arms, and the mythical heraldic wyvern which has been the badge of fighting men

# WELSH MEDICS ON THE MARCH



MEN and women members of 203 General Hospital are putting their best feet forward as they get into training for the Army's gruelling Pegasus Trophy competition to be held in May. The competition includes marching more than 40 miles against the clock with back packs and carrying a wooden stretcher.

The Welsh unit are determined to win this year and have a strong enough squad to be able to select the team for this year's competition and bring up enthusiasts for the competition in years to come.

## RADIO TO THE RESCUE

LOCAL radio station Gwent Broadcasting came to the aid of 104 Air Defence Regiment, based at Raglan Barracks, Newport, who are to have a new fourth battery housed in a new purpose-built centre in Cwmbran. Battery Commander designate Major Bob Hall went on the air waves to publicise the need for new recruits, and was interviewed by presenter Colin Briggs.

## 49 BRIGADE'S TOUGH TEST

OUT of the dawn mist, three Puma helicopters swoop in low over the tree tops. Within seconds, their cargoes of troops have leaped to the ground and scrambled for cover, the thud of rotor blades increases in intensity and the helicopters whirl away ... to be replaced immediately by three more.

The TA soldiers of Hertford-based 4 Company, 5th (V) Battalion of the Royal Anglians, have launched their counter offensive.

The counter attack, against men of 1 (V) Mercians, well dug-in and ready to repel the heli-borne attackers, was the culmination of 49 Infantry Brigade's weekend Exercise Polar Dawn in which some 2,500 Territorials took part on Stanford Training Area in East Anglia.

Main purpose of the exercise was to improve the ability of all

units in the Brigade to move, with their equipment, by helicopter, at short notice.

There was also live firing from the guns of 100 Field Regiment Royal Artillery and the mortars of both 5 and 7 Battalions of the Royal Anglian Regiment. Infantry attacks and coping with mass casualties — up to 140 at a time — were also built into the exercise which was commanded and directed by Brigadier John Greenway, whose headquarters is at Chilwell, Notts.



Realistically made up casualties arrived not only by road, but also by the Chinook helicopter load, testing bearers and medics.

Troops of Hertford-based 4 Company, 5th Battalion Royal Anglians, and helicopter drills



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Single file into battle

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NUMEROUS readers have written complaining that we have been unable, so far this year, to produce our popular 'See The Army Diary'.

Unfortunately, a great deal of time and effort has to be expended in producing this list of events — and we are short of staff.

We appreciate that many people like to plan holidays and weekend breaks with some tattoo or pageant in mind. Our postbag ensures that this is the case!

If we can produce the diary in the next few weeks, we shall do so.

★ ★ ★

OUR issues this year have had a lot of anniversary flavour, and one we haven't touched on until now is the 70th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings — on 25 April.

Destined to be published around that time is a new book, Gallipoli 1915: Pens, Pencils and Cameras at War, by Peter Liddle (Brassey's £10.95) which will contain a lot of unpublished material and draws heavily on letters, diaries and personal and official documents.

The author is senior history lecturer at Sunderland Polytechnic and an expert on the controversial campaign. Apart from the book launch in London on 24 April there will be other commemorative events and on the evening of the same day General Sir Hugh Beach will deliver the inaugural Gallipoli Memorial Lecture at Holy Trinity Church, Eltham.

On 25 April there will be a wreath laying ceremony at the Cenotaph, Whitehall, organised by the High Commissioners of Australia and New Zealand followed by a

# SOLDIER to Soldier



special memorial service in Westminster Abbey.

★ ★ ★

THE museum of The York and Lancaster Regiment has moved a few miles from Endcliffe Hall, Sheffield, to a new gallery location in the Brian O'Malley Central Library and Arts Centre in Rotherham.

Yet the move is expected to bring an increase in visitors from hundreds to thousands — because the museum collection will be more easily accessible to the general public.

Regimental Secretary Major John Cooper said: "Rotherham was one of the principal recruiting areas and thousands of visitors are expected, rather than the hundreds that used to come along when it was housed in Endcliffe Hall."

The collection has been considerably increased and refurbished. The 1st Battalion of the regiment long regarded as South Yorkshire's own was disbanded in 1968.

Opening hours for the new museum — 10 am to 6 pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (closed all day Tuesday) and 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday.

While on the subject of opening hours, the Museum of Army Flying at Middle Wallop, Hampshire is now open daily 10 am to 4.30 pm (closed Christmas and New Year).

The small and much acclaimed Royal Hussars Museum has re-opened to the public. The Museum will be open, except on Mondays, until 31 October 1985. Timings are: Tuesday to Friday 11.00 am to 4.00 pm; Saturdays and Sundays 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm.

The Museum, at Winchester, tells the story of the 10th and 11th from their raising in 1715, through amalgamation in 1969 to form the Royal Hussars, to the present day.

During the winter the displays have been brought up to date and the major addition has been a World War 2 Comet Tank which now guards the entrance.

Further details may be obtained from Lieutenant Colonel R B Merton on Winchester (0962) 61781 Ext. 239.

★ ★ ★

A NEW film made on the direction of the Director of Army Training by the SSVC will ensure that the Rhineland battle (William Moore's article SOLDIER 11 February), will not be forgotten.

The Services Sound and Vision Corporation, producers of Services training and instructional films, has just completed a

The Mayor of Rotherham, Councillor Stan Etchells, is pictured, left, admiring The York and Lancaster collection after opening the new museum. With him are Brigadier R Eccles, Honorary Colonel The York and Lancaster Regiment, Mr Gerard Young, Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire and Councillor R J Jones, Chairman of the Libraries, Museums and Arts Committee. Picture courtesy of The Star, Sheffield.

★ ★ ★  
three-part 80 minute programme in their Campaign Series, called "Battle of the Rhineland".

It gives a lucid account of Operation Veritable including the capture of the German towns of Kleve and Goch by British and Canadian Forces in 1945.

It reinforces what William Moore said in his article about the hoped-for short, sharp battle becoming a campaign of weeks because of difficult terrain, bad weather turning firm frozen going into mud, delays and bitter German resistance.

Other Campaign Series programmes include "Falklands — The Land Battle" in four parts, "Bridge at Remagen", "Operation Goodwood", "The Bruneval Raid" and "The Ardennes Offensive". One non-allied campaign, "The Eastern Front 1941-1943", has three parts — "Barbarossa: The Invasion", "To Stalingrad" and "Von Manstein's Counter Stroke".

All these subjects are available on film or video either from the MOD Film Library run by SSVC's Distribution Department for British Forces or for purchase from the SSVC's Acquisitions and Sales Department.

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**UNFICYP is 21 years old. Writer Graham Smith and photographer Les Wiggs have been to see the UN Force ...**



## KEEPING IT COOL IN CYPRUS

**T**HE UNITED NATIONS Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) has recently marked its 21st anniversary in the Mediterranean's third largest and easternmost island. On 4 March 1964, the Security Council unanimously recommended the establishment of the Force with a mandate to prevent the recurrence of fighting which had broken out four months earlier.

Fighting that followed Cyprus being given its independence in 16 August 1960.

Other conditions of the UNFICYP mandate were to help maintain law and order and promote a return to normal conditions. The Force of eight nations then had 7,000 men spread island-wide.

It was deployed in such a way as to coincide with the civil district boundaries.

But as a result of the intervention in 1974 by the Turks from the mainland, the Force was redeployed along the 135-mile Buffer Zone (BZ), five miles at its widest and 10 metres at its narrowest (this in Old Nicosia City), to carry out its task with a number of static observation posts (OPs) and mobile patrols.

Along the length of the Buffer Zone, three per cent of the Cyprus land area, are no less than 151 OPs, stretching from Kokkina in the

west to Varosha, near Famagusta in the east. Of these, 61 are permanently manned; the rest sometimes.

Within the Buffer Zone, by Security Council Mandate, UNFICYP has exclusive control of all military, economic and other activity.

The most important components of UNFICYP are its 2,311 soldiers and 36 civilian policemen, men and women from eight countries who are supported by 35 international UN civilian staff of 21 nationalities and 472 Locally Engaged Civilians (LECs).

Britain has the largest military contribution with 760 soldiers manning an 18-mile stretch of the Buffer Zone with 20 OPs in Sector Two.

There are five sectors in all. Sector One is Danish with 341 men; Sector Two is British; there is no Sector Three; Sector Four is Canadian with 515 men; Sector Five is Swedish with 376 men; and Sector Six is Austrian with 301 men.

In addition, Australia provides 20 civilian police personnel and Sweden another 16.

In all, with civilians taken into account, the total of UNFICYP personnel is 2,382.

Twenty-one years ago the UN Security Council in its resolution charged the embryo Force with

three aims — preventing a recurrence of the fighting; contributing to the maintenance of law and order; and promoting a return to normal conditions.

In 1974 they added two more. These were to support displaced persons as required and to carry out humanitarian functions as required.

The 3,572 square miles of Cyprus today hold a population of about 650,000. Of these 507,000 (78 per cent) are Greek Cypriot, 117,000 (18 per cent) are Turkish Cypriot while 26,000 (four per cent) are minority groups.

After the 1974 fighting 180,000 Greek Cypriots moved north to south while 37,000 Turkish Cypriots moved south to north.

Nowadays, 774 Greek Cypriots live in the Turkish-held north; more than 200 Turkish Cypriots live in the south; half a dozen Greek Cypriots live in Turkish-held Kyrenia while the minority group of 367 Maronites live in three villages around Karpas.

The British and Canadians are the only nationalities to provide professional soldiers from regular formed battalions whereas the Danish, Swedish and Austrian contingents are 'tailor-made', as many as 90 per cent of them being reservists.

It is such a coveted posting for the Swedes to serve in UNFICYP

that it is said there is a five-year waiting list... and 5,700 young men on it. They hold just 376 posts.

Finland and Eire who field just 10 and eight personnel respectively say they could increase the size of their contribution if required.

Britain's contingent, the largest, costs over £23,000,000 Sterling to maintain annually.

UNFICYP is the only current United Nations peacekeeping force operation financed solely by voluntary contributions.

Funding comes from two sources. About one-third of the costs are met by a special fund, the UNFICYP Special Account to which 71 countries have contributed over the past 21 years.

About two-thirds of the costs are absorbed voluntarily by troop contributing countries. Britain contributes just under 21.5 per cent.

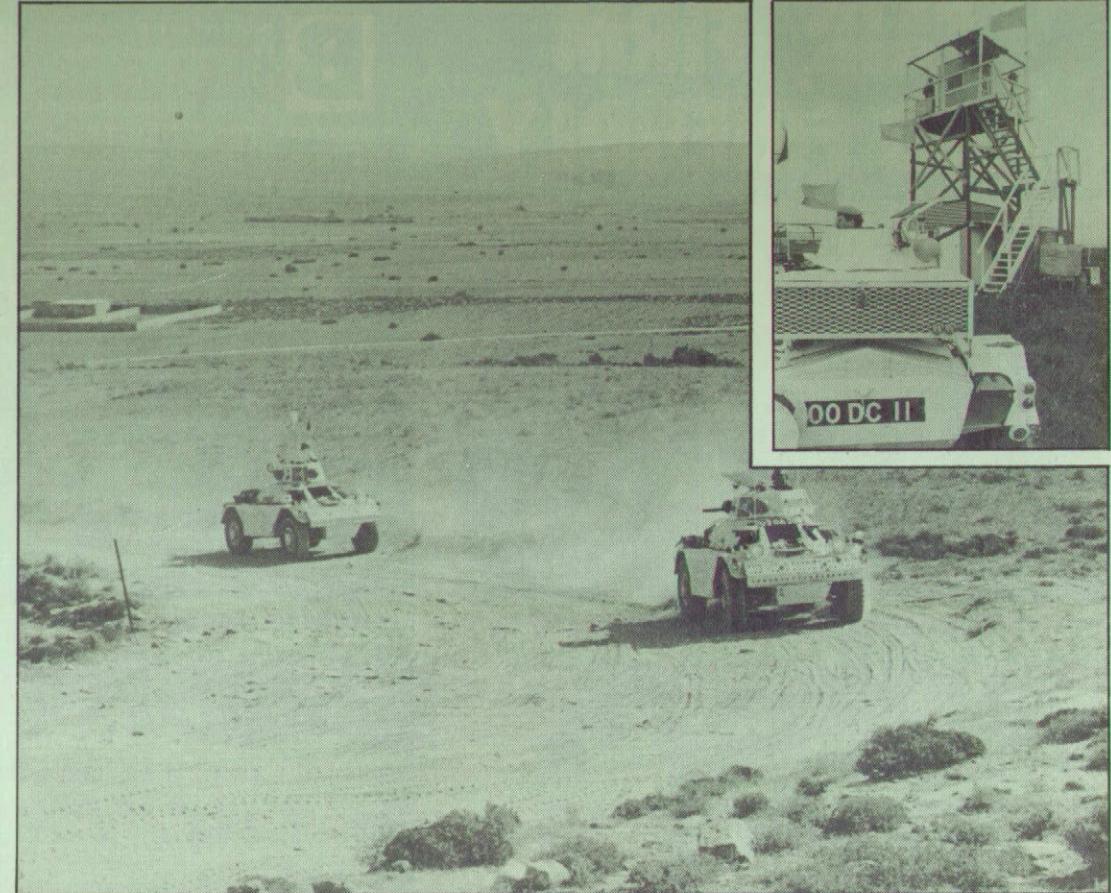
Annual expenditure for each UNFICYP soldier is assessed to be about £43,000.

Within the UNFICYP organisation and of historic interest before 1974 the British Contingent (BRITCON) was spread island-wide, with its principal responsibility being the Limassol and Paphos districts.

In 1974, the BRITCON was re-deployed west of Nicosia International Airport — Sector Two — in the Buffer Zone.

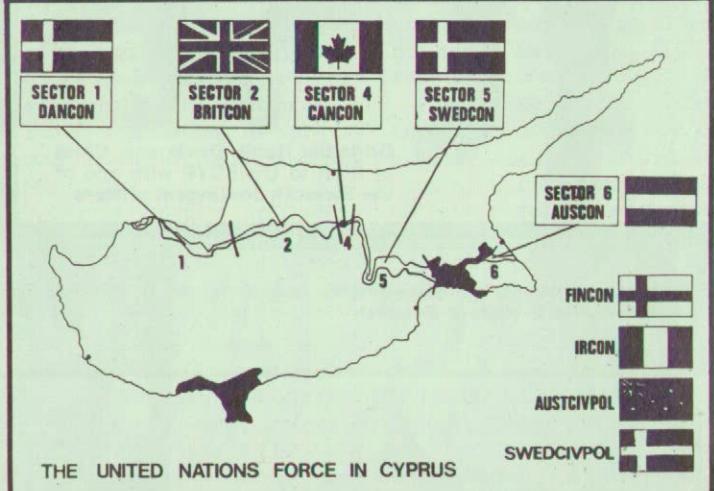


The harbour at Famagusta



Ferrets on patrol on the Green Line

INSET: A Ferret of 16/15th The Queen's Royal Lancers calls at a Swedish OP



THE UNITED NATIONS FORCE IN CYPRUS

and another 100 monthly sorted out at sector level.

Since 1964 an estimated 19 UNFICYP soldiers have lost their lives in 'combat related' incidents.

Also in the last 21 years some 33,500 officers and men from the UK have served with UNFICYP.

To date, there have been seven Force Commanders since 1964 — three Indian, one Finnish, one Irish, one Austrian and a Briton. The latter was Brigadier A J Wilson, Chief of Staff UNFICYP, who assumed the post of Acting Force Commander in December 1965 on the death in post of an Indian general from a heart attack.

UNFICYP's Chief of Staff currently is another British Army officer, Brigadier Robin Duchesne, Royal Artillery.

Present Force Commander is Major General G G Greindl, of Austria who has been in post for three years.

In 1982, Sector Two was extended to the east to include the Old City of Nicosia which divides it from the modern part.

The 'Green Line' was an acknowledged and agreed line drawn on a map of the historic walled city by a British general, a divisional commander. He used a green chinagraph pencil.

Headquarters of Sector Two is at St David's Camp immediately west of the airport and near the village of Kokkino Trimithia.

In addition to its peacekeeping responsibilities in Sector Two, BRITCON also provides the Force Scout car squadron — currently A Squadron, 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers — based at Prince William Camp in the United Nations Protected Area (UNPA). The squadron has a remit to patrol the entire length of the Buffer Zone.

Most of the soldiers remain in Cyprus for six months but a nucleus of staff officers — 56 of them British — are posted to the island for one, two or more years as 'continuity personnel'.

The UNFICYP soldiers are provided with sufficient armaments only for self-defence and are authorised to use them only for that purpose.

The main 'weapons' are eyes, ears, common sense, intelligence and tact. For that reason great attention is paid to ensuring that contingents posted to Cyprus have a complete understanding of the philosophy and practice of peace-keeping.

The soldiers, as in all UN peacekeeping forces — and there are about half a dozen currently

the eight-mile 'Green Line' in the Old City of Nicosia which divides it from the modern part.

The Buffer Zone line is, with some exceptions, defined to the north and south by the ceasefire lines of the opposing forces at the time of the cessation of fighting at midnight on 16 August, 1974, following the Turkish intervention six weeks earlier.

The British contingent in the buffer zone

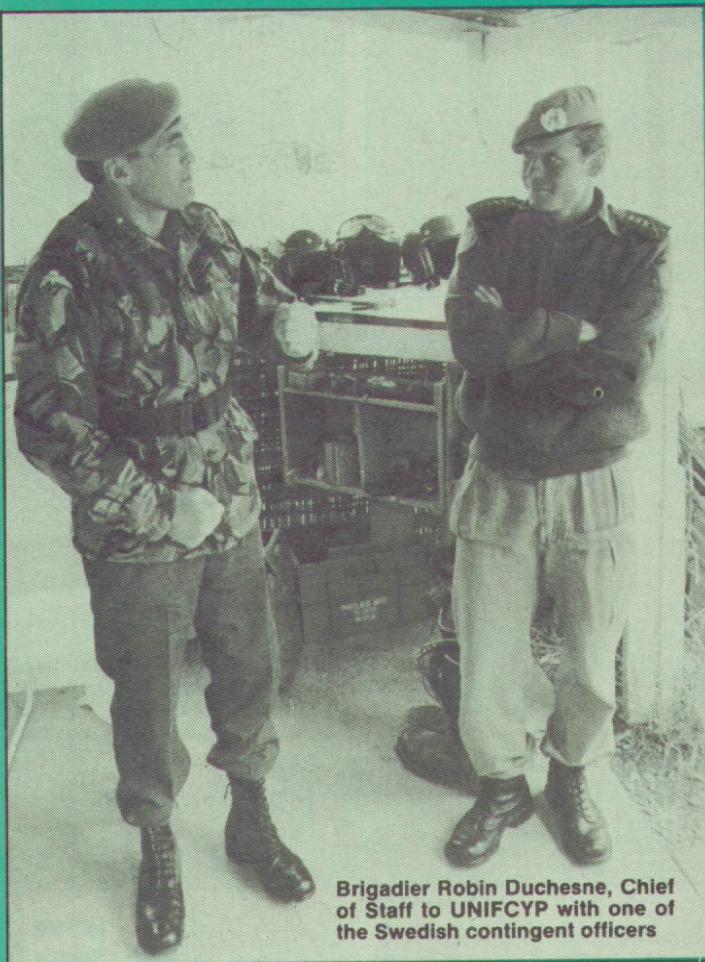
active world-wide — are neither equipped nor mandated to oppose by military means a conventional military attack.

They are there with the agreement of the contending parties. Of the soldiers in UNFICYP today, about half are assigned to watch and patrol the buffer zone, the rest carrying out staff, support or economic or humanitarian functions.

UNFICYP troops strive to prevent any small point of tension or misunderstanding from escalating into a potentially dangerous confrontation. In a very small number of incidents, the problem is referred to UN headquarters in New York.

The average number of incidents for last year showed that 20 a month were resolved at Force HQ level

# FAIR, FIRM AND FRIENDLY



Brigadier Robin Duchesne, Chief of Staff to UNIFCYP with one of the Swedish contingent officers

Time for a cuppa as Brigadier Duchesne (left) visits a Swedish OP

**B**RIGADIER Robin Duchesne, late Royal Artillery, Chief of Staff to the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNIFCYP) said of the major British contribution: "The Prime Minister Mrs Thatcher, has said we will continue to keep a Force here and that we will remain a major part of it.

"We are a guarantor power and therefore we are responsible for trying to keep the peace on the island.

"It's international and that is one of the great motivations for being in it and even though very quiet it's highly motivated. The Force knows it is doing a job that is really appreciated by both sides.

"Farm development, for instance, has been enormous over the past two years and it's mainly in the British Sector, a great sweep of agricultural land and orange groves.

"It is clear to the soldier what he is doing. We have a relatively stable situation where both sides co-operate with us.

"They do have different problems and are very pleased to have us as a referee to absorb any punches at low level.

"Our boys are the arbitrators in the middle who by their own common sense and method of dealing with it employ the three 'Fs' ... fair, firm and friendly.

"At the status quo and preserving the peace our soldiers are

good and I think the British soldier is particularly good at it. It comes very naturally to him.

"They are peace-keepers and have no intention of using their weapons except in self-defence as a last resort. It's all very different from being an infantry battalion trained in Nato.

"It makes us the best organised Force there is and it is greatly appreciated by everybody. It is not static.

"We are always proposing changes like the demilitarising of part of the Old City centre in Nicosia. It is very difficult and common sense does not always entirely apply.

"The boys know exactly what they are doing, in constant touch as they are, with two entities. Quite different from life in the Sovereign Base Areas. We feel it is a real job, worth doing well.

"There is a great underlying distrust here but there are many helpful signs despite the involved recent history and we are working to do our part of preserving stability on the 'Green Line' in Nicosia which will allow politicians to achieve a peaceful situation.

"This is what we believe a number of ordinary people on both sides want. This is a major British commitment."

Footnote: The British contingent — BRITCON — is the biggest of the eight serving in UNIFCYP, currently totalling 760 personnel.



# Scots Guards provide... SECURITY IN THE SUN

**T**HE SECOND Battalion, Scots Guards, heroes of Tumbledown in the Falklands three years ago, have settled down well in the warmer climes of another island... Cyprus.

Based there for just over a year the Scots Guards provide the resident battalion on the 3,752 square-mile island, headquartered at Episkopi in the Western Sovereign Base Area with responsibilities that stretch eastwards to the 14-square-kilometre 'lozenge' of land, Ayios Nikolaos, near the Eastern SBA, it is reached down a 10-mile umbilical cord-like road from Dhekelia and sits just five miles to the west of Famagusta.

Ironically, of the battalion's 627 men who fought in the Falklands only 310 remain, including three officers.

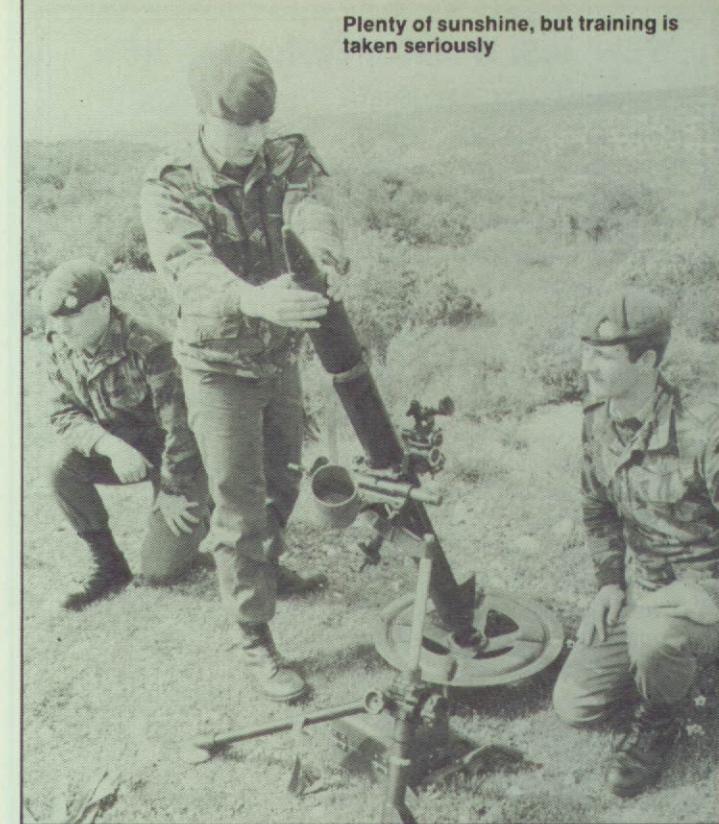
With them in Cyprus are 1,000 dependants all living in Berengaria Camp.

The battalion's role is clear cut. It is to maintain the security of all British installations in the SBAs, protect British subjects and certain retained sites in the Republic of Cyprus. It is estimated that there are 2,000 British nationals living in the Greek-Cypriot area of the island and another 200 living in the Turkish zone.

Examples of retained sites falling under the shield of the Scots Guards are the two RAF-manned sites of 280 Signal Unit some 6,000 feet up in the snow-capped Troodos Mountains and a radar station on the island's topmost peak, the 6,406-foot Mount Olympus.

Limassol port facility, the weather station at Paphos in the west and the British Eastern Mediterranean Relay Station at Zyyi are three more examples.

On patrol in the orange groves



Indigenous Army residents at Ayios Nikolaos — better known to Cyprus hands as 'Aye-Nick' — are 9 Signal Regiment.

The battalion, on a two-year tour on the Med's easternmost island, acknowledges that any threat to British installations or subjects could come from international terrorism.

Cyprus conjures up endless visions of sun, sandy shores and seascapes. That it has, but the Scots Guards take their training seriously as part of their overall role.

They have a 12-week training cycle and doing it are three rifle companies and a support company representing mortars, anti-tanks and reconnaissance. All of whom are liable for a six-hour Notice to Move.

Each of the companies spends four 12-week periods a year devoting three weeks to each of the four company duties.

One company based on Episkopi is engaged on Internal Security, another is dedicated as the Ayios Nikolaos Defence Company or, Reinforcement Company, another on Training One and a fourth on Training Two.

The IS Company has three platoons one of which is known as the Alert Platoon. Half of the company, which includes the 24-strong platoon, is on three hours' NTM and, from within the platoon, is drawn an IS Alert Section which is based round-the-clock in the guard room on 10 minutes' NTM.

This section, in Land Rover and Trailer when on the road, is in permanent radio contact with the Episkopi radio operations centre. Episkopi is their 'beat'.

Plenty of sunshine, but training is taken seriously



The Ayios Nikolaos Reinforcement Company, more often than not, spends three weeks there under the command of the Eastern Sovereign Base Area (ESBA) security commander.

Its duties are mainly patrolling. One platoon covers the 'Aye-Nick' lozenge while the second platoon is split; half mans the Fort Bravo OP at the end of the road corridor, the other half the entry control point Black Knight near the Turkish-occupied zone. A third platoon acts as a reserve and carries out what training it can in the ESBA.

Training One involves spare capacity training on the Akamas ranges on the north west tip of the island. Each company hopes to put in a week there.

Training Two means a platoon virtually has to be provided all year round on Troodos with 280 Signal Unit, RAF. One section guards the unit, another guards the radar site on Mount Olympus while the third section acts as a reserve. The platoons, in effect, rotate weekly, the sections rotating daily.

Separation, at worst, of the men from their families for 120 days a year is rated as 'worse than Northern Ireland but better than London' where the battalion served for five years in Chelsea.

Once a year the battalion moves out on exercise within the island. The last, Tartan Crusade, was an eight-day exercise involving the RAF, the Army Air Corps, RCT LSLs and even some mules.

The battalion's 25-strong Pipes and Drums appear at some 30 engagements a year and have performed at embassy functions in Athens, Amman and Cairo.

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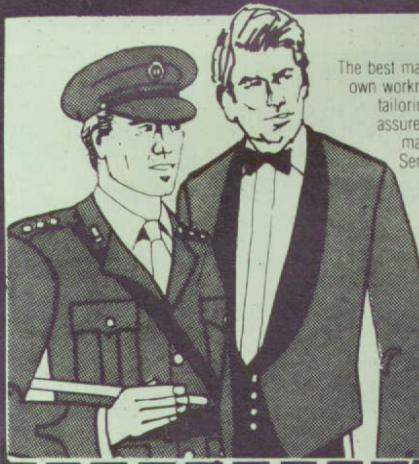
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**UNIFORMAL**

**T**HE 'Farmers' Boys' are back in Cyprus, at home among the citrus groves, artichoke fields, the goats and the sheep tended by softly whistling shepherds and their lean framed dogs.

Better known throughout the rest of the Army as the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire), the 'Farmers' Boys' form, an half-battalion rotation, the mainstay of the British six-month stint contingent to the seven-nation, 2,300-strong United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

While some 260 of them (support elements bringing their number up to 320) man the British Sector's 18 miles of a 135-mile

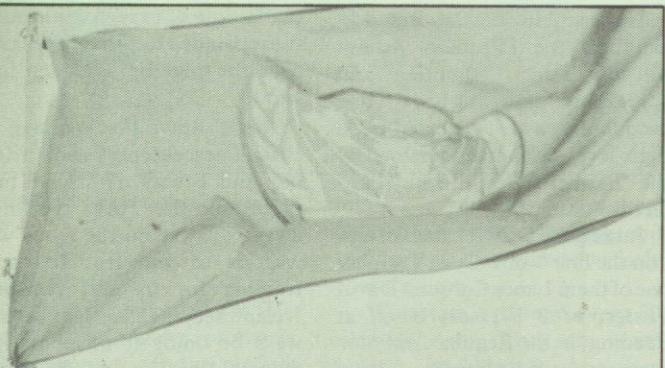
long Buffer Zone (BZ) separating Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities, the other half of the battalion (Support Company and a rifle company) spends its three months at Dhekelia in the Eastern Sovereign Base Area (ESBA).

The battalion took up its peacekeeping duties last December, arriving there from the cathedral city of Canterbury.

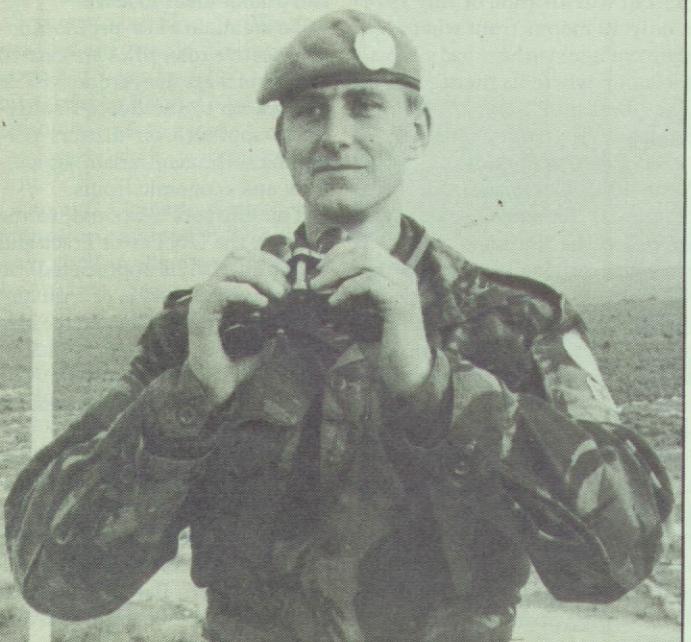
In all, the British contingent within UNFICYP numbers 760.

Like the rest of the other contingents — Danish, Canadian, Swedish, Austrian, Finnish and Irish — the 'Dukes' move about their delicate-nature duties of patrolling and observing both sides in the now world famous white painted vehicles with UN logo,

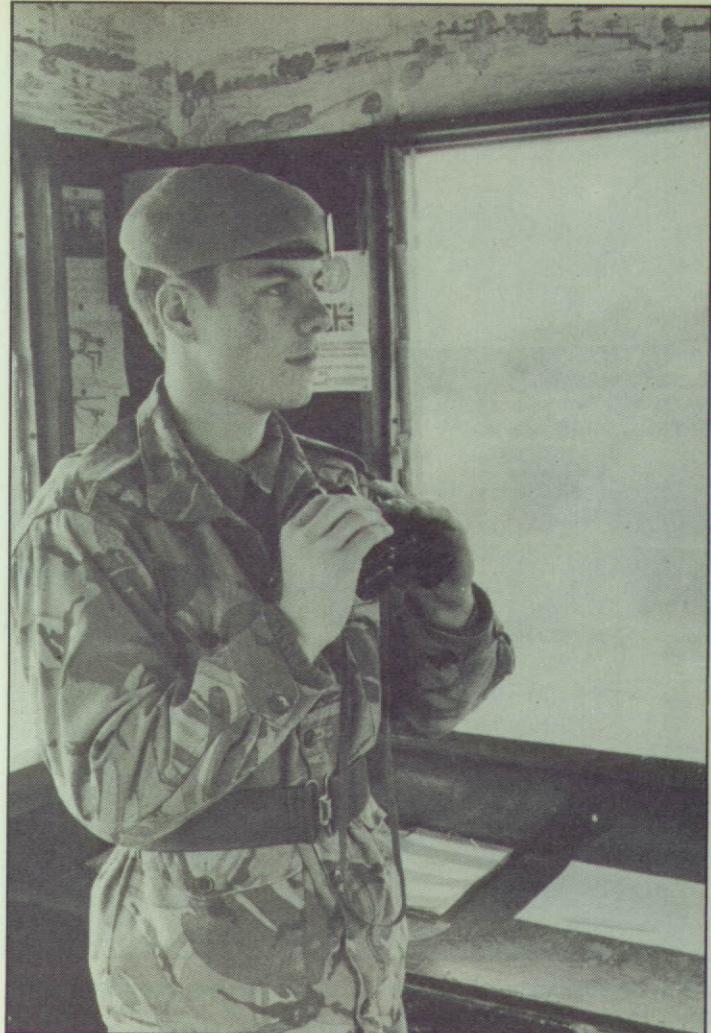
## DERR are at home...



## DOWN ON THE FARM



Lance Corporal David Foster of the TA, on attachment to decide whether to join the Regulars



Private John Learoyd keeps watch from an OP overlooked by Turkish and Greek military

stiffly fluttering blue ensign of identical theme and, of course, wearing the equally well-known Force blue beret.

Cyprus is just one location of UN operation. It is said there are about half-a-dozen others going on currently round the world. The nearest is UNIFIL — United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon — which has no British force among its ten-nation participating contingents.

The 'Farmers' Boys' are responsible for 18 miles of Sector Two, the British Sector. They have settled down well on a rural landscape marked out on one side of a track by sentinel-like 55-gallon white-painted oil drums politely demarcating the Greek Cypriot Security Farm Line (GCSFL).

Running parallel and just yards to the north of the track is the Turkish Cypriot Security Farm Line (TCSFL) delineated by barber shop type red-and-white poles topped by similarly coloured discs signalling the same ground rules.

Both lines of demarcation lie either side of the UN Patrol Track — it runs the entire length of the island — an eight-foot-wide bone-shaking rocky path with about the same amount of comfort in a Land Rover as a typical Salisbury Plain stone embedded artery.

Many a vehicle chassis and a Land Rover gear box has groaned and fallen foul to the rough

treatment meted out by its unkind contours.

The reminders on both flanks of the UN Patrol Track, the daily commuting route to work for the 'Farmers' Boys' clearly spell out 'no entry' to the farmers to the north and south of them... or anyone else for that matter.

It means maintaining the status quo of 1974 following the Turkish invasion or intervention depending on political viewpoint.

And that is where the battalion comes into its traditional bucolic role, lads of the land, who play a vital part. For apart from the patrols, they man 20 isolated Observation Posts, OPs — a dozen of them permanently — the mainstay in-the-field representatives of the Force along the British Sector.

They are there to ensure no-one enters the buffer zone illegally. Not just the military involved in the conflict of eleven years ago but the farmers, too.

Nobody is allowed to farm in the BZ unless they can prove ownership of the land or unless it does not impinge on the security of either side. The BZ has, in fact, just one village nestling within the safety of its British Sector girdle, that of the 200-plus population Dhenia.

The British battalion, no stran-

Continued on page 20



**Private Stephen Hendricks scans the area of a Turkish position through his 'mega-binoculars'**

gers to Cyprus and its people, are there to act as peacekeepers equipped with high-powered binoculars, detailed log sheets, night vision devices, their weapons... and lots of patience.

They operate in all weathers round-the-clock from their oft breezy or sun-baked vantage points observing not just the Turkish Army movements but the Cypriot National Guard to the south of the BZ as well.

Their main assets in lonely vigils are their eyes, ears, common sense, intelligence and... tact.

One of the 'Farmers' Boys' OPs, for instance, is located in a primary school on the outskirts of Nicosia, the island's 6,000-year-old capital. Just 150 metres away, on a bluff, a Turkish counterpart OP. Some 50 metres behind UN post, a Cypriot OP.

Mostly, though, their eyrie-like OPs are spartan affairs. Bus shelter structures of metal framework but always in blue and white UN-painted livery. Many stand quite boldly on top of strategically sited water towers looking like brazen bunkers and seemingly as robust.

It is estimated that as many as 1,500 Turkish Army soldiers are stationed along the length of the 18-mile British Sector of the BZ.

OP hours of business are long. Six hours on and 12 hours off, day or night, are not unknown with no books, personal radios or 'boogie boxes' either to while away the time.

The British take their observation and logging duties of both

Cypriot and Turkish forces very seriously and to good purpose. The battalion moves off to Northern Ireland in November.

In Cyprus, they have a duty to report any breaches by either side of the military status quo set up in 1974. They look and listen for any unusual activity known in UNFICYP jargon as 'moves forward' in the Buffer Zone.

They are on the look out to see if one side or the other has, for instance, added to, widened or deepened trenches in their area.

A loud, sharp noise could just be a back-firing motor cycle. It could be a hunter illegally pursuing the abundant wild birds and animals in the Sector. It might even be an unauthorised military weapon being fired.

The status quo breach might also mean that some new sand bags on a machine gun position could represent an unacceptable improvement which, in itself, could lead to a protest by the opposing sides.

Any such developments and the vigilant 'Farmers' Boys' report in at once by field phone or radio, the keynote being to solve incidents as quickly as possible and at the lowest possible level.

In 1984, for instance, in all five sectors the average number solved at Force HQ level was running at 20 a month. At Sector level the total was 100 monthly, some of them petty misunderstandings but

not to be under-rated in escalation potential.

The 1st Battalion, DERR, UNFICYP contingent is headquartered in a former EOKA terrorist detention centre and an Austrian field hospital of 1964 at St David's Camp, some five miles west of Nicosia (population 120,000).

The westernmost OP is Bravo Three-Two located in a former fruit box-making factory; its easternmost at Bravo Two-Zero.

Two companies, 'B' and 'D', were the patrolling peacekeepers during SOLDIER's whistle-stop visit. 'B' Company, a 70-strong formation, is headquartered at Bravo One-Eight, the former primary school, and is designated the Eastern Company with an area of responsibility stretching eight miles eastward of Nicosia with six more OPs on its 'beat'.

Not far away is a war cemetery almost under the noses of the Turks where the bodies of eight Royal Berkshires lie from 1957.

It is said, on occasion Bravo 18 can hear the 150-metre distant hill-top Turks "shouting and screaming all night." The cacophony usually preceding a high-level visit and understood by the 'Farmers' Boys' to be 'Conference checks'.

Among the DERR battalion reps "on the line" were seven TA men, one of them Lance Corporal David Foster, of 2 Wessex, based at Reading, in the Regular Army for a year to see if he likes it.

Vigils at the 200-metre-high OPs are lonely and strict yet polite. Visiting cars get a smart butt salute from the silhouetted soldiers acknowledging the UN flag in a smart protocol.

The smallest detachments are two men. The largest, perhaps a platoon or two. OP Bravo Forty, overlooking Nicosia Plain, site of the Turkish invasion of July 1974 is only 40 metres from where the regiment is said to have had a Mess, a location where its predecessors, The Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment, were stationed in 1957.

As Lieutenant Colonel Alan Kenworthy, Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, said: "We are called the 'Farmers' Boys', a nickname originally given to the Wiltshire Regiment emphasising the rural background of many of our recruits from Berkshire and Wiltshire. I think we are the right regiment for this delicate type of job."

"Although the battalion has not served with UNFICYP before it is not new to Cyprus, nor indeed, the 'Green Line'. The battalion was stationed in Malta and moved to Cyprus as part of the Nicosia Truce Force manning the Green Line between Greek and Turkish sectors."

"In March the same year the

UN took over and those who had borne the burden of the beginning of the emergency were pulled out. Some members of the 1st Battalion still own and wear the 'Green Line' tie.

"But the 'Farmers Boys' came back between July 1964 and January 1965 when reinforcement companies rotated through the Episkopi Sovereign Base Area. The battalion was also stationed in the SBAs between August 1975 and January 1976.

"We are regarded very much as farmers' boys and we are placing a lot of emphasis on the agricultural side, opening up the possibility of re-farming abandoned fields, thus living up to our nickname. It's a shame for a lot of the good land is going to waste through a lack of proper irrigation. Water itself is not a problem, getting to it is."

Among the back-up available to the battalion is a dozen-strong sapper troop from 36 Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers, from Maidstone, who give their particular line of expertise including the repair of a roof-top OP blasted over the edge by a sudden high wind!

At OP Bravo Forty, one of the British peacekeepers said: "Monday and Friday nights are busy nights for the Turks two miles away. They're on the move with wagons to and fro. It's good training for us and Northern Ireland keeping strict logs because we'll be doing it there in eight months' time."

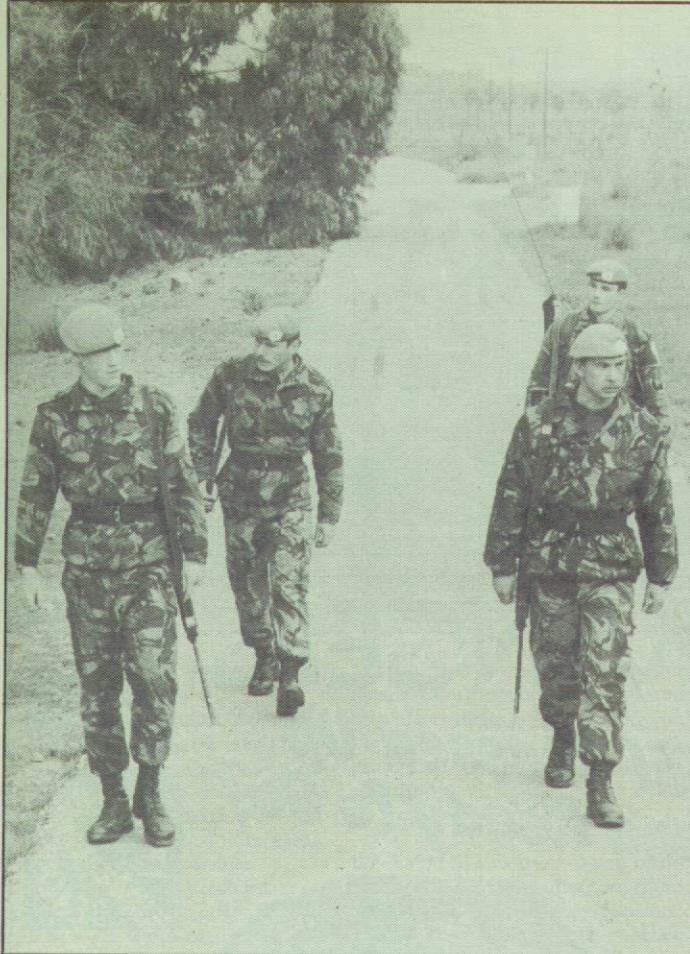
Four-man foot patrols, on an irregular basis, are mounted through the Sector. Again, reporting and logging the unusual even to a shepherd straying a few feet with his flock.

To avoid communications snags the patrols carry pink cards printed in three languages warning trespassers they are in the Buffer Zone and asking them to leave.

To maintain a low-profile, non-provocative role, rifles are carried slung and magazines are not visibly as back up to the. The force's softly-softly approach on matters pertaining to humanitarian, agricultural and economic fronts.

The villagers' response, to the south of the UN Patrol Track and within the BZ, is appreciated. So much so that baskets of fruit and vegetables are on offer and the lads get official invitations to pick at will from the citrus groves. The lads were especially not forgotten at Christmas by the locals.

Two of the uniformed liaison men from the battalion, who have up to 1,000 farmers on their list of potential contacts, some with just one field, others with more, are Sergeants Jeff Barber and Phil Harrill, who operate from a private house not far from the battalion's Western Company's OP, Bravo Three-Two, 13 miles west of St



**On patrol between the opposing lines**

**David's Camp.**

To the two senior NCOs falls the task of chatting over problems in coffee houses with the locals in their smattering of Greek. Wild dogs attacking livestock and even people is one of the thorniest.

The two men also escort the farmers at relevant times into citrus orchards not far from the Turkish positions. If need be, the two soldiers have call on the services from a 'pool' of interpreters, one of them an emigré who returned to the island as a bank accountant.

Sergeant Harrill said: "We are here for the whole six months because it takes so long to learn this particular job and it takes that amount of time to get the trust of the locals when working with them."

Captain Graham Barlow, is second-in-command of 'D' Company, sited in the one-time fruit box-making factory at Bravo Three-Two. It has the responsibility for five OPs and an option on two more in this 10-mile-wide necklace of reporting and observation.

He said: "We man the OPs with the guys watching Turks and Cypriots all round. We send out two foot patrols a day along the UN track. We maintain strictness in our OP work."

"Many of the soldiers are quite

young and you have to get them looking, observing, logging and writing down clearly and concisely what they see.

"We rotate a platoon every 30 calendar days. They are quite pushed, working six hours in isolation at a time.

"Everybody does every OP to try and break the monotony. It can be boring. They spend two months out in the field and one month here at Bravo Three Two."



**Guidance for a farmer**

distant twin SBAs of Episkopi and Dhekelia may not be aware they can visit it.

Captain Philip King said: "Some may think the BZ is a forbidden area but we are trying to arrange visits not only by VIPs but by organisations like wives' clubs and even Sixth Formers. I think we are probably doing more in this respect than other units."



**Sappers in support of the DERR rebuild an OP blown down by strong winds**

# D and D defy the rain

POURING rain did nothing to dampen the spirits of past and present members of The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment when they celebrated their tercentenary with a march through the streets of Exeter, their home town.

Despite the weather the pride of marchers and on-lookers alike in 300 years of glorious history shone through as they stepped out to the strains of 'Widdicombe Fair'.

A two-week break between tours in Northern Ireland and Berlin provided the opportunity for some 250 serving members of the regiment to exercise their right to march through the city with 'bayonets fixed, drums beating and colours flying' and they were supported by a similar number of old comrades.

The Colonel-in-Chief, The Duke of Kent, and the Mayor of Exeter, Councillor Jim Pollitt, took the salute at the city's ancient Guildhall.

The parade was followed by a service in Exeter Cathedral during which the old Colours were laid up.

During his sermon the Bishop of Exeter, the Right Reverend Eric



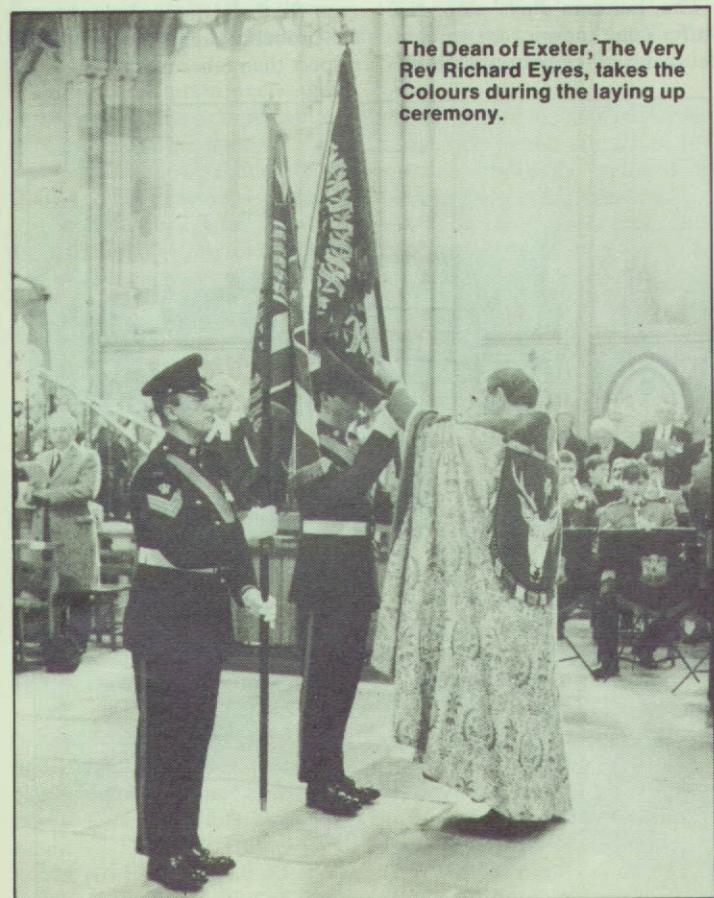
The Duke of Kent has a word with the old timers, Comany Sergeant Major Neville Briggishaw (94), and Sergeants Edwin Mugford (93), and Alan Maynard (79).

Mercer, spoke of commitment, courage and discipline — three Christian virtues that were also military virtues.

"It is perhaps significant that our Servicemen today see themselves as peacekeepers," he said, "and may it long continue. Nobody unless he is a fool or a villain, ever wants to see the world at war again.

"It falls to some to keep the peace and even in some circumstances to make the peace".

Earlier the regiment's colonel, Major General Colin Shortis said the amalgamation of the two old regiments in 1958 had been a happy one. The very ethos of the regiment was in its West Country links, he said. There was not a regiment with a county title more senior.



The Dean of Exeter, The Very Rev Richard Eyres, takes the Colours during the laying up ceremony.

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# When keeping warm is a problem . . .

Letters from wives below highlight the problem many Service families faced in quarters this winter.

Spending the severe weather in system-built houses with incorrect forms of heating meant families coping with different systems, often completely unaware of the cost.

Few had any guidelines, which is especially difficult for those returning from tours overseas where communal heating has been experienced with, hopefully, even rebates at the end of the winter.

Imagine coming back to a district during the cold spell with families shivering while

new paving stones were being laid, plus fences erected on married quarter patches, and landscaping of officers' gardens — all involving a considerable amount of money. Which could have been spent on heating!

Surely the priority in winter should be adequate heating.

My inquiries show all is tied up in votes, one for heating etc, one for landscaping and maintenance of outside areas.

This is fine when money is plentiful but surely there can be a scheme to ensure a transfer from one vote to another, in exceptional circumstances.

I cannot believe it is impos-

sible, nor can I believe that if such a transfer is made in one year that, in the following year, this amount would be deducted as not needed.

What can be more galling than living in quarters with poor heating yet seeing in the same district landscaping being undertaken in other quarter areas?

I am sure the majority of people would understand if money destined for landscaping could be spent on soldiers' heating.

What can be done? First, an explanation to all as to why such work cannot be carried out, while seemingly non-



urgent work is being carried out.

Morale is important, especially when severe winters and large heating bills make everyone conscious that money does not grow on trees.

*Anne Armstrong*

Home tel: Camberley 29653

## Three wives' tales . . .

I am writing to you on behalf of many Army wives, regarding the poor housing conditions in which we live. Could you please tell us why we don't have adequate heating facilities?

I am living in a flat in a UK barracks where the rooms are freezing.

We have spent money trying to keep warm (eg draught excluders for the windows — a waste of time as the metal frames are so wet the excluder just peels off).

We have no heating in the bedroom at all. It is so depressing.

We can get washing dry only if we use tumble dryers which is very expensive.

Could you explain why we are told time and time again that the MOD don't have the money to sort our needy problems but have the funds to provide gardens to be landscaped on the officers' quarters? Surely it would be nicer for all to have some warmth in the homes?

It seems to be very lonely here as your neighbours don't come round for a coffee and a chat as the quarters are so cold.

It not only affects the Army wives but their husbands.

They have to come home to our moans that we are cold and fed up, and this affects their careers. Hoping you can understand and help solve our problems. — (Name and address supplied).

★ ★ ★

We would like to know if you could help. I live in a three-bedroomed house and with only a gas fire, three radiators, one in the bathroom, one in the kitchen and one in the doorway which doesn't do anything at all.

Our house is very cold indeed. We have asked for more radiators to be put in but are told there is no money. I really think something should be done about it.

We would like radiators in the bedrooms and the sitting room.

It is so cold here it's hard to believe. I could use my bedrooms for a fridge. I do hope you can help us Anne. We have been asking since 1978! — (Name and address supplied).

★ ★ ★

This morning I woke to find ice on the windows, and my son with yet another cold! The boiler can hold six to eight radiators yet we have only three, one

in the bathroom, one in the hall which gives no heat out at all, and one in the kitchen.

The bedrooms are diabolical. Clothes are damp, and so is the bed. The carpets get wet when the ice eventually goes to water.

I have no means of drying washing except for one small cupboard. It takes three days for it to dry and usually makes the cupboard smell.

They seem to find money for better-

ing the higher ranks gardens. I haven't got a garden for my child.

They are improving the park with better facilities but the problem is it is too close to the woods.

I go out once a week for my groceries but everything in boxes has to be moved to where the only bit of heating is, in the front room, otherwise it's damp. Hope you can help to solve some of our problems. — (Name and address supplied).

## CENTENARY CELEBRATION

The Deputy Director of SSAFA in British Forces Germany, Mrs Agnes Nicol met SSAFA's patron Prince Michael of Kent when he arrived to attend a symposium held in Catterick Barracks, Bielefeld to celebrate the association's centenary year.

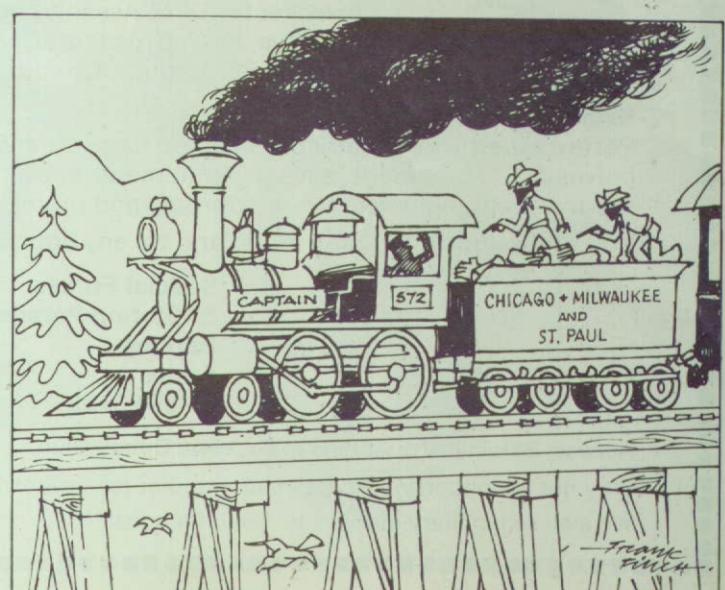
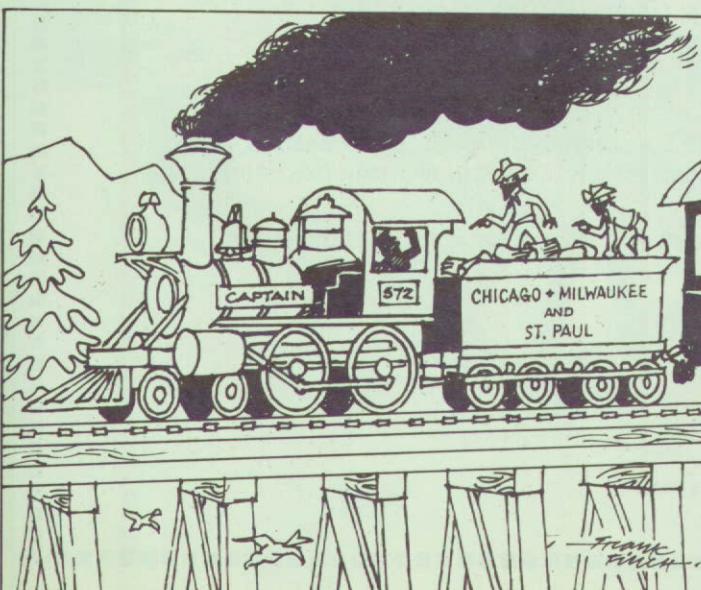
Last year The Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association helped over 44,000 families by providing friendship and practical help wherever Service and ex-Service families are living.

In Centenary year SSAFA aims to assist even more families who feel the need of a helping hand. Picture: Steve Pavey.



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

## How observant are you?



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# NEW LEASE OF LIFE FOR WATERLOO PRIZE GUN

**I**F ANY French Government representatives have attended the Sovereign's Parade at Sandhurst, they will have cast covetous eyes at a 12 pounder gun captured at Waterloo.

The Greeks kicked up a fuss over the Elgin Marbles and perhaps the French could not be blamed if they made moves towards recovering this refurbished Napoleonic bronze cannon.

For four months Don Heighes, 55, has been remaking the under-carriage of the 4.7 inch gun at 43 Command Workshop REME, Aldershot.

But while the hand made wheels and trails gleam with high gloss black paint, the 83-inch long barrel will stay covered in verdigris.

"The curator at Sandhurst wouldn't like it at all if we cleaned

the barrel," said John Dutton, production controller at the workshop.

"There is always a risk in cleaning a museum piece like this, that marks which have been on it since it was made, will be erased. So we've left that alone. But everything else — even the nuts and bolts holding the steel rim to the wooden spokes — has been renewed."

Made by Thury and Gaudet of Paris in 1795, the gun's barrel weighs 17 cwt 3 lb and could hurl a cannon ball for a mile at a rate of two rounds a minute.

It was introduced into the French Army by Napoleon and was known as the 'favourite daughter of the Emperor'.

Coachbuilder Don Heighes restored the weapon to its French

glory in time for the Queen's inspection at Sandhurst.

Inside 16 weeks Don handcut the spokes and rims for the wheels and shaped and fitted the carriage trails.

"We have had to use mahogany for everything," said John Dutton. "Normally they would be of oak and ash and the trails from elm. But it was impossible to get the proper materials and we went to the Navy for mahogany."

For Don Heighes, the refurbish-

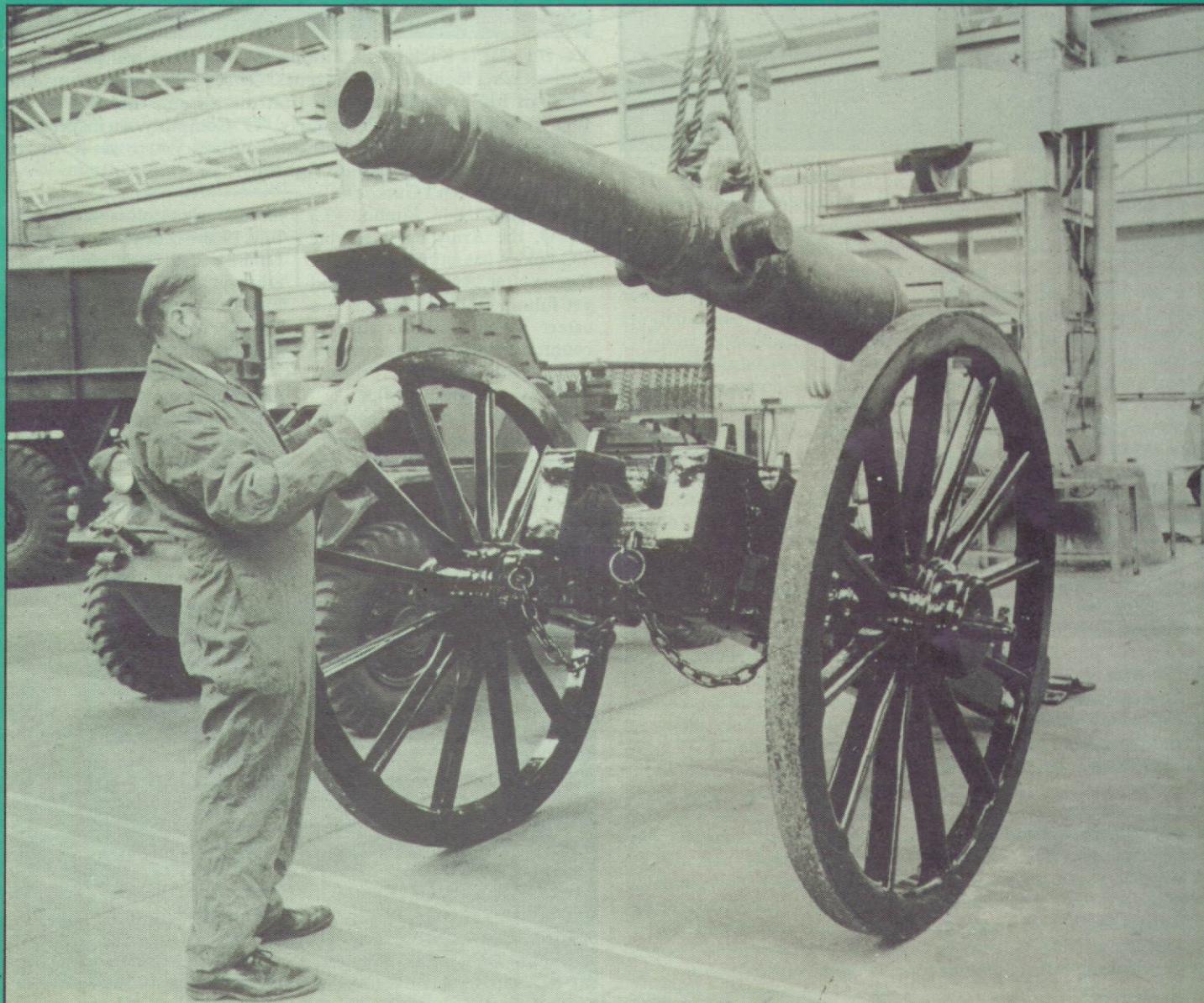
ment gave him the chance to practise his skills as a coachbuilder.

"Not many of us around these days," said Don, who joined 43 Workshop 17 years ago after years of body building for Bentleys and Rolls-Royce.

But although since joining the workshop his jobs lack the classy elegance of his earlier years — he fitted out two mobile fish and chip shops for troops in the early days of the Northern Ireland troubles — admirers of his latest restoration job can be assured that Don's cannon will be around a lot longer than any fancy motor car.

**Story:  
John Margetts**  
**Picture:  
Les Wiggs**

**Don Heighes:  
facelift for Waterloo prize**



# FAREWELL



AT 3.17 p.m. exactly on 25 March a legend in his own lifetime passed through the gates of Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Church Crookham for the very last time — Captain Rambahadur Limbu, VC.

Just minutes earlier VC Sahib had been towed by more than 30 officers and men of the 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles in British Army traditional style aboard a garlanded Land Rover when, at the barracks gates not far from Aldershot, 'home of the British Army', he inspected a ceremonial quarteguard.

A solitary Gurkha piper played him on his way with a rendition of 'Auld Lang Syne' followed by a three-man trumpet fanfare.

Before he left, the Gurkhas' latterday hero was presented with a copy of his official portrait to hang in his home.

The Queen's message to Captain Rambahadur Limbu, VC, read: "Thank you for your message. I, too, am sad that you are leaving the Gurkhas. I send my thanks for your years of distinguished and gallant service and my warm good wishes for your future."

With that, VC Sahib headed for London's Heathrow airport and the long air journey home via Hong Kong.

Yet the gallant little mountain kingdom fighter will be back in the United Kingdom every two years. To attend the VC and GC Reunions.

ing service. I have received several signals from people all over the world.

Many letters from ordinary people in the United Kingdom who have read about you in the papers, people you have never met and too numerous to read out. Among them an old age pensioner who sent a cheque for £5."

Lt Col Cook added: "You have won the hearts of everyone in the United Kingdom and I thank you on their behalf."

Among the well-wishers who sent messages to VC Sahib were 5 Airborne Brigade and the Defence Attaché at the British Embassy in his native Nepal.

With VC Sahib, safely tucked in his uniform pocket, was a congratulatory signal from The Queen in answer to one he had sent to her earlier in the day.

An hour before his Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Mark Cook, said: "Today is a very sad day for the regiment. Nineteen years ago you displayed outstanding courage and won the Victoria Cross.

"Ever since, you have displayed extraordinary courtesy to everyone you have met. You have been the greatest ambassador of the Brigade of Gurkhas.

"On behalf of the regiment and the Brigade of Gurkhas I would like to thank you for your outstanding

# VC SAHIB!



It's cheerio to the lads of the battalion from their hero

VC SAHIB is back home among the Nepalese hill people. An unassuming local hero in the truest sense of the word. A national hero in his own 45-year-old lifetime among the men of his former battalion and, particularly, "C" Company. An inspiration to generations of young Gurkha soldiers yet to serve in the finest of mountain kingdom fighting men traditions.

Captain (Queen's Gurkha Officer) Rambahadur Limbu, VC, MVO, the Army's last serving VC-holder, has retired with all due dignity after 28 years' flawless and yet fulsome military service in a career which took him to nine countries, including three trouble spots, with the 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles.

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second most memorable day — 12 July, 1966 — when Lance Corporal Limbu went to Buckingham Palace to accept his VC from The Queen. Five-year-old Bhakte was with him, Her Majesty expressly asking to meet him.

On VC Sahib's last day in the Army there he was, inspecting a quarter guard among the 400 men of the tiny mountain kingdom's finest; another 200 of them having already flown round the world to take up the battalion's next posting in Hong Kong.

Later that day, Limbu VC started a three aircraft and dusty day's coach trip back to his rural roots.

In civvies now, he stepped down from the rickety coach to a welcome from his second wife, Purnimaya, the village headman and a band of admiring locals. With him on the dirt road, his suitcase, a piece of hand baggage and the only evident piece of military memorabilia... his well-travelled kit bag.

Captain Limbu VC, ex-soldier now, had arrived in typical modest fashion to a heartfelt welcome. Limbu VC had arrived to become a gentleman farmer on his ten-acre spread with its projected yield of maize, millet, rice and coffee.

With him was his replacement

VC. The original had been stolen, along with all his possessions, by a sneak thief on a train journey from India to his native Nepal in 1967.

Just a fortnight before the 8,000-mile flight from Gatwick to Hong Kong by TriStar, then VC10 from Hong Kong to Kathmandu and the final aerial odyssey by Twin Otter to his nearest air strip from Dharan, Captain Limbu VC had achieved another personal milestone.

He passed his military driving test on a Land Rover at his first attempt.

The soldier who had accomplished so much in 28 years while dressed in khaki was home now. All was ready for him at his farm nestling at Damak and his other property on the hot, sweltering Terai Plain as it merges with India.

Yet memories of the area were

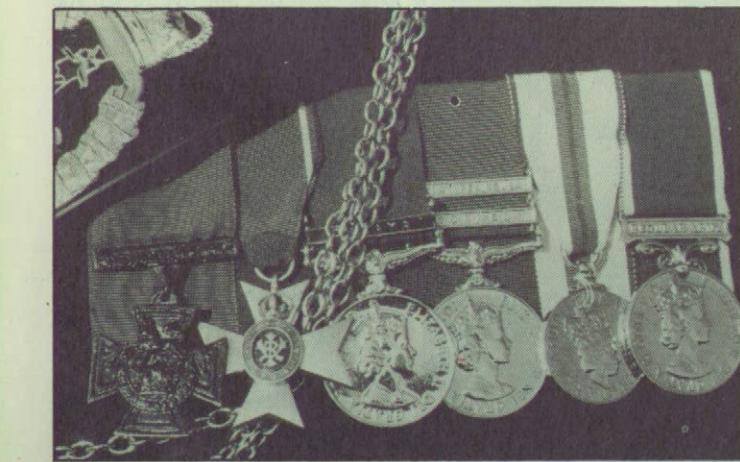
still tinged bitter-sweet.

It was from his late father's farm at Chyangthapu, 160 miles from Nepal's capital of Kathmandu, that young Rambahadur, on impulse,

## So ends flawless and fulsome service...

ran away from his elder brother and their father's estate with a cousin and a friend.

They wanted to join the Army. For six days they trekked to the



A man and his medals including the coveted VC

## Following father



Father and son. On his left, Lance Corporal Bhakte

**Story:**  
**Graham Smith**

**Pictures:** Les Wiggs  
and Doug Pratt

gun post.

The citation is gripping reading. "The enemy were strongly entrenched in platoon strength, on top of a sheer hill, the only approach to which was along a knife-edge ridge allowing only three men to move abreast. Leading his support group in the van of the attack he could see the nearest trench and in it a sentry manning

a machine gun.

"Determined to gain first blood, he inched himself forward until, still ten yards from his enemy, he was seen and the sentry opened fire, immediately wounding a man to his right. Rushing forward he reached the enemy trench in seconds and killed the sentry, thereby gaining for the attacking force a first but firm foothold on the objective."

The enemy, now fully alerted, brought down heavy automatic fire on the attacking force concentrating this on the area of the trench held alone by Lance Corporal Limbu.

Seeing he could not carry out his task of supporting his platoon from this position "he courageously left the comparative safety of his trench and, with a complete disregard for the hail of fire being directed at him, he got together and led his fire group to a better

Continued on page 28

# To the young soldiers he is a legend

Continued from page 27

fire position some yards ahead."

Limbu, however, failed to attract the attention of his platoon commander to indicate his intentions amid the exploding grenades and continuous automatic fire. He moved out into the open and reported in person, defying "the extreme dangers of being hit by the fire, not only from the enemy but by his own comrades."

It was then that both men of his own group were seriously wounded. Immediate first aid was essential for their survival and evacuation from their exposed position. Limbu started the first of "three gallant attempts" to rescue his comrades.

Using what little ground cover he could find he crawled forward in full view of at least two machine gun posts which concentrated their firepower on him. For three minutes he wormed forward and was within feet of the nearest casualty before being driven back by the withering fire of the weapons.

Speed was called for. He tried again, hurling himself on to the ground next to one of the wounded calling for support from two light machine guns.

Limbu picked up the man and carried him to safety out of the line of fire. Then, "without hesitation he immediately returned to the top of the hill determined to complete his self-imposed task of saving those for whom he felt personally responsible. It was clear from the increased weight of fire being concentrated on the approaches to and in the immediate vicinity of the remaining casualty, the enemy were doing all they could to prevent any further attempts at rescue."

Lance Corporal Rambahadur again moved out into the open for his final effort. In a series of short rushes he eventually picked up the wounded man and, unable now to seek cover, he carried him back as fast as he could through the hail of enemy bullets. He had taken 20 minutes to "complete this gallant action," and the events leading up to it, said the citation.

It went on: "For all but a few seconds, this young NCO had been moving alone in full view of the enemy and under the continuous aimed fire of their automatic weapons. That he was able to achieve what he did against such overwhelming odds without being hit, was miraculous.

"His outstanding personal bravery, selfless conduct, complete contempt of the enemy and determination to save the lives of the men of his fire group set an incomparable example and in L-plates off. Passed first time



spired all who saw him.

"Finally rejoining his section on the left flank of the attack Lance Corporal Rambahadur was able to recover the LMG abandoned by the wounded and with it won his revenge, initially giving support during the later stage of the prolonged assault and finally being responsible for killing four more enemy as they attempted to escape.

"This hour-long battle which had throughout been fought at point blank range and with the utmost ferocity by both sides was finally won. At least 24 enemy are known to have died at a cost to the attacking force of three killed and two wounded.

"In scale and in achievement this engagement stands out as one

of the first importance and there is no doubt that but for the inspired conduct and example set by Lance Corporal Rambahadur Limbu at the most vital stage of the battle, much less would have been achieved and greater casualties caused."

The citation concludes: "He displayed heroism, self sacrifice and devotion to duty and to his men of the very highest order. His actions on this day reached a zenith of determined, premeditated valour which must count among the most notable on record and is deserving of the greatest admiration and the highest praise."

Back in Singapore, after Borneo, and tragically for the hero of the foothills, Rambahadur's first wife, Tikamaya died in February 1966

Terence Cuneo's picture of Rambahadur Limbu winning his VC

barely two months before the announcement in the London Gazette of his honour. She had died less than three months after his performance in the battlefield hyperbole of bravery.

The professional soldier who rose through the ranks, overcoming his teenage doubts about a career in khaki, to become Captain (QGO) Limbu, VC, MVO, spoke quietly and briefly about his actions on that November day nearly 20 years ago.

"At that time, a young man is very strong. I would do it again and I would expect my two sons Bhakte and newly-joined Chandrapakash, 19, to do the same.

"I would expect no less from them. I am sad that my father, Dekbir, who died at 65, when I was eight did not live to see the award."

Perhaps the best summing up of the VC Sahib's departure was made by Captain Jerry White, a mortar platoon commander with 10 GR who is now second-in-command at the Recruiting Depot at Dharan.

He said: "It's a very sad day for the battalion. It will be almost impossible to imagine 10 GR without him. He is a tremendous character and I am sure will be missed by everybody. To all of the young soldiers he is a legend; they look up to him."

Happy retirement and good health... VC Sahib!

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# After 200 years gap the Poachers go west

**T**HE 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment — the Poachers — returned to the United States and made a different pyrotechnic impact by firing MILAN live for the first time using the MIRA (Milan Infra-Red Adaptor Sight).

The Poachers were back on American soil for the first time in 200 years, based at Fort Lewis, Washington State, in the Pacific North-West for a month-long stay this time during Exercise Trumpet Dance.

It was an eventful visit. Even down to a Royal Anglian Week including a Trooping the Colour parade and a pageant.

The latter was particularly poignant for the Poachers, marking the date of the Battle of Sobraon, a milestone for the battalion in a regiment marking its Tercentenary Year.

It had been a hard act to follow at the Tacoma Dome. Dolly Parton was there in force the night before and Prince was due to appear the night after. Even so, 3,000 fans turned up.

As with infantry visitors of yore the Poachers ran the gamut of facilities on offer at the sprawling Fort Lewis complex... survival above the snow line, skiing and then military mayhem in the German-style village of Regensburg, a FIBUA (Fighting in Built-Up Area) facility.

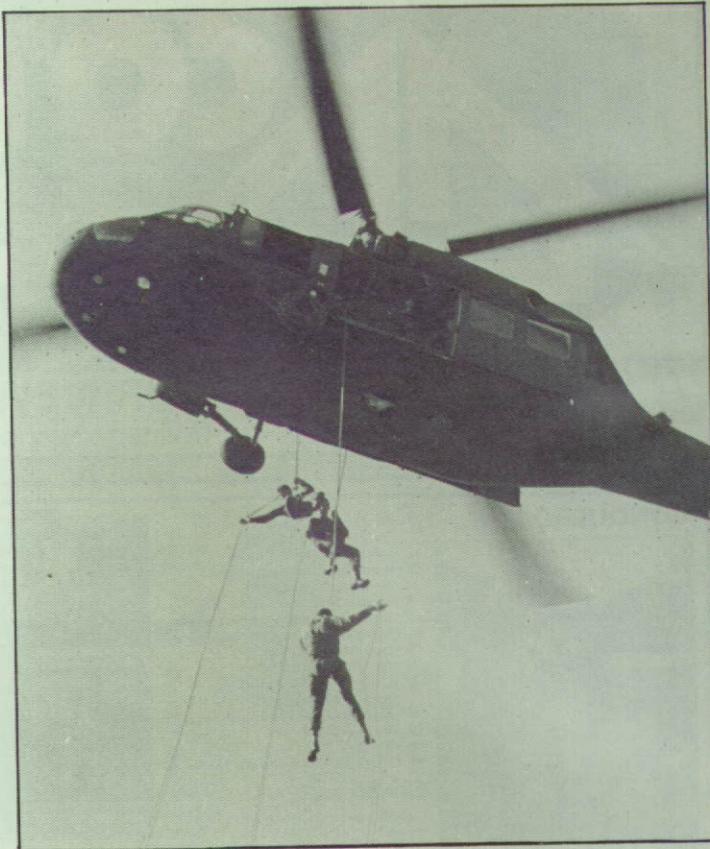
On the off-duty side, a surefire winner was the Dial-a-Poacher

scheme. Locals rang in to invite members of the battalion out socially. Yachting, horse-riding, sightseeing and general 'socialising' were high on the list.

Back on the exercise field, however, the Poachers were well supported by two Gazelles from 6 Flight, 850 Squadron, Army Air Corps. Support was welcome, too, from a detachment of sappers from 34 Field Squadron, RE, who were kept busy providing battle simulation and supporting the FIBUA exercises. Also 'appearing' were the two members of 156 Company, RMP.

For R and R the more adventurous motored the 1,200 miles to "L.A." and San Francisco. Others flew to Hawaii, South Carolina and Massachusetts. Many visited Canada, "just up the road."

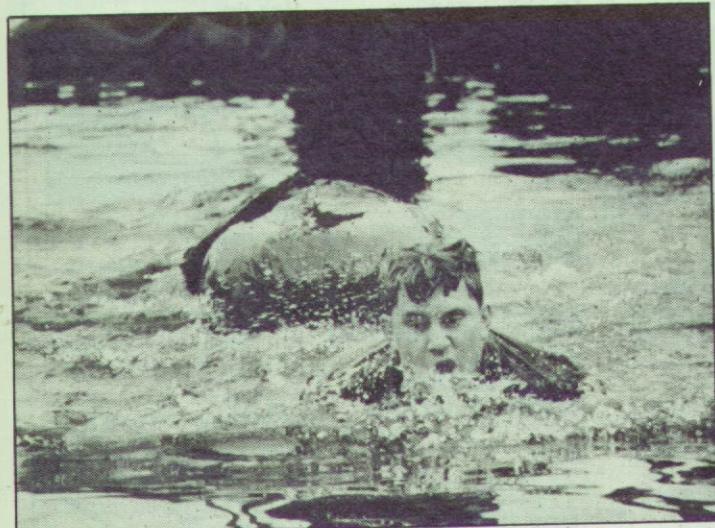
Private Miller's face tells its own story of hard work



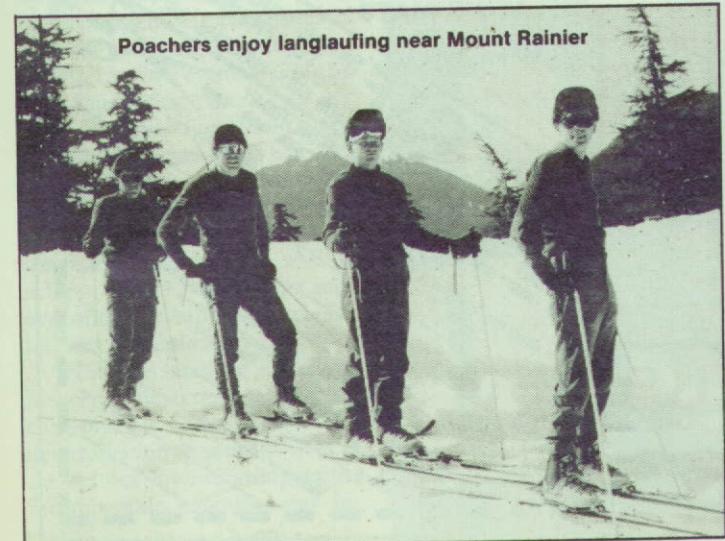
Recces platoon members in action with US Special Forces



Pageant: men of the 10th Foot march to do battle with the Sikhs



Poachers enjoy langlaufing near Mount Rainier



Sergeant York and the Milan platoon



# Experts look at the Army's new Armstrong motor cycle

**T**HE Army Motor Cycle championship at Bordon provided the first opportunity for many of the Army's top riders to assess the new Armstrong MT 500 military motorcycle which is due to be introduced into service this year.

The Armstrong replaces the 250cc Canam which in turn took over from the old BSA B40 in 1978-79. It should reach the first units in BAOR in July with the rest of the Army in Germany being equipped by mid-1986.

At Bordon one machine was on display and a second was available for competitors to try out in between the competition events (see SOLDIER 8 April).

Corporal Dean Skinner, an instructor at the RCT Junior Leaders Regiment at Colerne, spent a couple of hours getting to know the new Armstrong with its 500 cc, four stroke, single cylinder Rotax engine.

"It's definitely a very nice machine," he said. "Power distribution is very good. But it's very big — it's heavy. And it's certainly not for a learner rider. The suspension's not too bad, but the rear end does tend to bounce about on the old bumps."

"This bike is far out of the Canam 205's class for road use. The Canam, being a bit lower is quite good in the woods. But this is going to be a very nice bike for convoy drills."

Kick-starting, he added, needed the touch of an experienced rider. If you didn't do it right first time there was a tendency for the carburettor to flood and the business of starting then became quite difficult.

But there was a significant improvement in reliability.

"This bike has done 14,000 miles," he said, "and there's not many Canams that reach that far. But this sounds sweet just like it's new. It's very nice."

Sergeant Gwyn Barracough, until recently an instructor with the RCT Junior Leaders but now stationed with 1 Armoured Division Transport Regiment, did not have the opportunity to try the new bike but he was impressed with its appearance.

"It certainly looks the part," he said. "It's got a lot of good components on there — a good O ring chain which should last the life of the bike, which is excellent. It has been a big fault on the Canams."

Captain Paul Allen, the Secretary of the Army Motor Cycling Association, spoke with many of the riders who did personal trials on the Armstrong.

"They're terribly happy with the machine," he said. "Initially they were a little worried on the power

## RELIABLE, ENJOYABLE — but not for learners!



The new Armstrong MT 500

output, but having experienced the ride they are thoroughly happy.

"It's a four stroke as opposed to a two stroke. It should be more reliable and I am sure it will be."

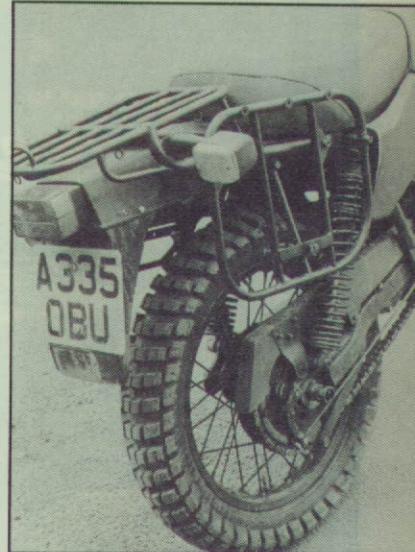
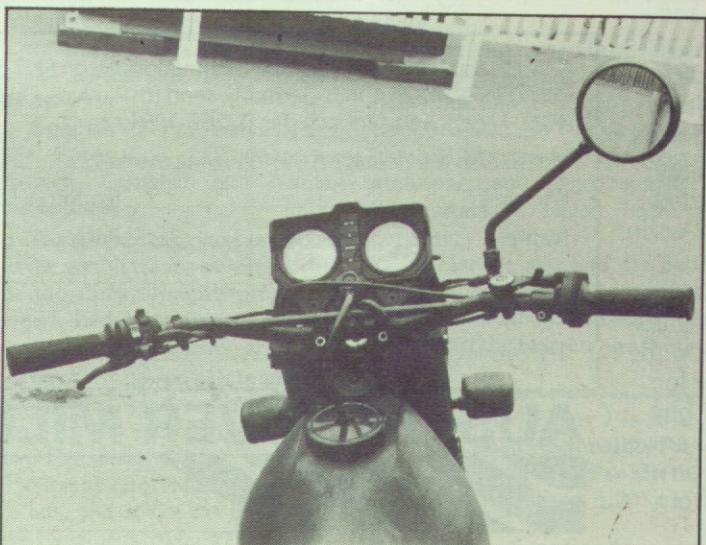
Staff Sergeant Derek Austin, of 2 Field Ambulance, got favourable impressions during a 10 minute

spell on the new machine.

"It's easier to ride than the Canam," he said. "But I prefer four-strokes anyway. They've gone out at last for an Army bike with

**Story: Robert Higson**

**Pictures: Les Wiggs**



Rear view

some of the points we need. The only catch is, it's going to take a lot of training for people to get used to it, otherwise we are going to end up with a lot of bent bikes and hurt people."

The insides of the Armstrong, he felt, would be more robust than the Canam, but there were still vulnerable plastic components, like headlight and side panels, on the exterior.

"Some people think the tank looks too high but when you get on the bike it is actually lower. On a Canam I can just touch the floor, on this I can put my feet flat on the ground. There must be two inches less seat height in it. And it's very confident to ride on the road. I tried it at over 70 mph and it hardly seemed to move."

Lance Corporal Steve Alliston from the same unit commented: "There's a lot of power for first time riders but otherwise it's very enjoyable. I'm a motor cycle instructor and from my point of view people have to be trained on something else first."

"It's quite good on cross country. It looks high, it looks awkward but it's not. And it seems robust enough, but we'll see what happens when it hits the first tree."

A less enthusiastic appraisal came from Lieutenant Hakan Lundberg, a member of the three-man Swedish Army team which was in Bordon for the annual motor cycling fixture against the British Army.

"I thought it a little too heavy," he said, "and maybe for the average soldier it is a little too fast. It is a little too strong I think."

The Swedish Army bike, the Husqvarna 258 automatic, was lighter and more manoeuvrable, Lieutenant Lundberg said. "I prefer not to change," he added.

◀ Instrument arrangement

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# 70 years ago troops would have given a...

## FORTUNE FOR A NODDY SUIT

If a Noddy Suit can have a birthday, it should fall in this month. Soldiers who grumble at a stint in the training compound might be more enthusiastic if they knew that 70 years ago some of the British Army's best troops would have given a fortune for a gas mask, never mind the rest of the kit.

Until about 1700 hours on 22 April, 1915, the occupants of the Ypres Salient had been enjoying the mild spring weather.

by William Moore

Suddenly a heavy bombardment fell on the rear of the French positions on the left flank of the battered city.

Simultaneously jets of white 'smoke' (actually condensation) gushed from the German front line and a greenish-yellow cloud drifted over no-man's land. The era of actual chemical warfare had dawned.

Earlier on the Eastern Front, shells filled with a chemical had



gone unnoticed but there was no way in which the chlorine gas cloud at Ypres could be overlooked.

Two and a half times heavier than air, it could travel some distance before dispersing, and was smelt six miles from the discharge point.

The effect of gas was to choke the victim to death if sufficient was breathed. Not unnaturally French soldiers, many of them from an Algerian division, staggered to the rear, coughing and clutching their throats.

Hundreds of cylinders of chlorine, normally used in the German dye industry, had been buried in the trenches with tubes leading over the parapets.

Intended to create a diversion while eight divisions were secretly transferred from the West to the Carpathians, they achieved an effect far beyond their expectations.

A gap of 8,000 yards was torn in the Ypres line, held then by French, Canadian and British formations.

This was not exploited, however, as the assault troops were doubtful of the flimsy 'mouth protector' which had been issued, a cloth soaked in a neutralising agent.

Two days passed before another favourable wind enabled more cylinders to be discharged against two Canadian brigades.

Already efforts had been made to help and advise the troops and the Canadians held towels and rags

to their faces, some of which they soaked in their own urine (to provide ammonia). They inflicted heavy casualties before falling back.

The War Office had reacted with commendable speed. Civilian scientists were rushed to Flanders, autopsies performed and the gas identified.

A captured mask was used as an example and components were rushed to the front so that divisions could make their own protectors.

The first British mask was a pad of cotton waste soaked in a solution which included washing soda crystals plus glycerine to stop the pad drying out.

Contrary winds delayed further attacks until 1 May when waves of infantry scrambled up the notorious Hill 60 behind a whitish-yellow cloud.

The defenders had little time to don their masks, so close were the lines, but as the heavy gas sank into their trenches the 1st Dorsets climbed out into a less poisonous atmosphere and opened rapid fire. The attackers reeled back in surprise.

The 1st Devons and 1st Bedfords, some veiled, some not, charged through the swirling fumes to support the Dorsets and for the

A WW1 painting by F Matania which first appeared in *The Sphere* first time a gas attack failed to gain ground.

Though 136 Dorsets were reported to have been killed by the gas, the success put new heart into the garrison of the Salient.

From then on it was a race between 'gassers' and 'maskers'. Flannel hoods soaked in chemicals which neutralised the gas as it passed through the cloth were issued to machine-gunners as early as 20 May.

When the Germans introduced phosgene, more insidious in its effect, later in the year, the scientists had foreseen this.

By the end of 1915 each British soldier carried two 'gas bags'. Glass eyepieces held in metal discs enabled him to see. A non-return valve let him breathe without misting up.

Despite repugnance expressed by soldiers and statesmen on both sides, all belligerents developed chemical weapons.

'Sneezing gas' shells, 'tear gas', 'mustard gas' all were added to cloud gas — and countered.

One thing the German high command lived to regret. They did not heed the warning of an officer who pointed out that the prevailing wind on the Western Front for most of the year blew towards the German lines.

Had they done so they might have had second thoughts and the whole grim business might never have started.

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Gas in World War 1 is said to have been responsible for the deaths of 91,198 soldiers — with another 1,205,655 injured.

# BELSEN

## 40 years on all is quiet...

BERGEN-BELSEN, a name that still sends shivers through the strongest of men's spines, is still there.

A horrific chapter of World War 2 which, with other concentration camps like it, surpassed all imagination in the extent of the atrocities committed under the orders of a crazed Führer.

It was the British who penetrated the gates to liberate its degraded inmates on 15 April, 1945, finding 40,000 of them still barely alive and the acrid stench of 10,000 unburied corpses.

Sadly, 13,000 of the skeletal and crater-eyed survivors who hardly had the strength to raise a smile at the relief of their private, and yet very public, hell quickly died before any medical aid could revive their shattered beings.

Belsen is quiet today. Very quiet. It was sanitised forty years ago this month. No building still stands that housed the moans and screams of its occupants. No birds sing there even today.

There are just huge unpretentious mounds perused by muted or silently muttering pilgrimage-making tourists. Round the grassy mounds are inscribed reminders that bodies of many nationalities, in their thousands, lie beneath the rich earth of the North German Plain.

The centre-piece is an impressive clutch of monoliths with giant-lettered epitaphs of remembrance for posterity in various



by Graham Smith

languages.

The horror camp of Belsen is gone but the memories of it cannot but live on.

Just 35 days after the first British troops arrived the 111th and last infamous hut was ceremoniously burned down taking with it a giant Nazi flag and portrait of Hitler.

The first to enter history's ugliest landmark was Colonel D. Bluett, the ADMS with 11 Armoured Division. Accompanying him into the world's cruellest compound went 76 Field Hygiene Section,

SS men captured at the camp load bodies under the eyes of British guards

men who would have the experience of starting their grisly work while the reviled SS were still in charge.

Another officer to enter Belsen, for just two to three hours, was former SOLDIER staffman, Captain Richard Elley, now 69, who was in the Intelligence Corps, and had been tasked to cover its liberation among other assignments (see panel).

With him was Sergeant Monty Berman, a photographer, who heads up the country's most

famous theatrical costumiers, Berman and Nathans in London's Camden Town.

Captain Elley, who had joined SOLDIER that month, after five years in the Middle East, East Africa and Burma working mostly on Army newspapers, recalls: "After visiting Lübeck and Wismar on the Baltic to meet the Russians, we headed back south for one of our set pieces, the burning of the last hut at Belsen, the Nazi atrocity camp.

"Most of the site had been cleared, but for reeking mounds which were the mass graves of 23,000 victims buried by SS guards and other prisoners under British supervision. A handful of the survivors who had been liberated came from nearby hospitals to see the last chapter in the Belsen story."

He added: "The 111th and last hut had been decked with a picture of Adolf Hitler and a flag, both enormous. In front of it stood two Wasps (tracked carriers equipped with flame-throwers) of the 4th Wiltshires.

"As spectators waited for the local commander to come and start the ceremony with a speech, someone accidentally touched a button on one of the Wasps and set the hut alight. Fire extinguishers were produced and frantic efforts put out the flames riving the hut for a few minutes."

Captain Elley was to spend a total of 11 years on the staff of

### Richard Elley looks back to 1945

**Captain Richard Elley joined SOLDIER in April 1945 after nearly five years in the Middle East, East Africa and Burma. He recalls the first of many overseas trips he made for SOLDIER.**

of the Western Desert and Burma jungle, I expected to pick up on the way. It was not so easy. The first DID (Detailed Issue Depot, if memory serves) told me sternly, "No rations without a signature from the area commander. If you get one, come back tomorrow." The Army in Europe seemed to have got back very quickly to peace-time accounting — if it had ever left it. Luckily negotiations were oiled by a pile of newspapers and magazines I had brought from Brussels, and we moved.

We spent a night at Remagen on the Rhine, with a Sapper unit which had a floating Bailey bridge across the river. They claimed it was the longest floating Bailey ever,

even longer than the one I had seen Fourteenth Army Engineers put across the Chindwin, which held the record in its day and which I had watched survive a puny raid by Japanese bombers.

I am not sure now whether it was this, or another hospitable unit, which had a huge barrel of dark German beer on the ground. You helped yourself by operating a vehicle foot-pump which had been ingeniously fitted to it.

On we went to Hamburg. Here was ruin on a scale unimaginable, acres of stinking rubble with roads cleared through it, and long lines of shuffling prisoners of war shepherded by men of the 53rd Welsh Division.

Down at the docks, some of the concrete submarine pens had survived the air raids, and in one we found U-boats that certainly looked serviceable, though we did not go aboard to look for sabotage. In these pens, I worked the remote

flash-gun for Monty, and as I changed bulbs one went off, burning my fingers. Little comment was made about that, unlike the time another Monty, the Field-Marshal was showered with broken glass from another SOLDIER photographer's exploding flash-bulb.

After the horror of Belsen we went back to Brussels, for me to write my stories and Monty to process his pictures. Then we went by crowded night train to Paris for our last set-piece, Field-Marshal Montgomery's opening of a British Army exhibition on the Champs Elysée. It was a good exhibition and the French couple we took round were much impressed. For me, however, the one bit of colour that remains in my memory was of the actor David Niven in the kilt of his Highland regiment with a spectacularly beautiful and well-dressed companion.

From Paris we flew back to London. The whole trip had taken less than ten days.

SOLDIER as soldier and civilian.

The symbolic torching with a vengeance of the huts that day in May had been heralded by a guard of honour of Royal Artillery sergeants firing a volley in salute to Belsen's dead.

Earlier, Colonel H W L Bird had told the men and women who had worked among the most sickening scenes on earth: "The British flag has never stood for cruelty or bestiality. That is why it has never flown over Belsen camp. It is going to fly in a few minutes."

It did. Right after the firing of the volley by the guard of honour.

As the flames took avaricious hold of the wooden structure a cheer went up from the watching troops and Belsen inmates who had endured so much and had tales to tell of the wrong-doings under its roof.

Ten minutes later, the edifice of shame had been reduced to a black, smouldering pile of timber, as dark as the hearts of the people who had administered from within it.

A turn of the head revealed the huge mounds entombing ignominious burial, those who, ironically, had not been able to witness this last act of retribution.

As the palls of smoke poured above the site of such human suffering and intolerance, 13,000 more of Belsen's weakened victims languished, a mile away, in the former SS barracks and Wehrmacht AFV training school's four hospitals.

In all, 28,900 men, women and children were evacuated from Belsen camp after the British arrived. An additional 23,000 who had died in the camp were interred by the SS and other German POWs under British supervision.

At the end of April the daily death toll had been 548 but this daily tally was greatly reduced to about 65.

The transit camps to which the relatively fit were moved produced miraculous changes with good food and medical treatment.

On 17 May, the first 500 fit persons started out to new lives within western Europe while, a few days later, another 7,000 were able to leave for eastern Europe.

Meanwhile, another 6,400 waited for repatriation or new destinations.

The evil world of Josef Kramer, "The Beast of Belsen", Irma Grese and 43 other sadistic nightmare camp administrators was at an end. Their eventual trial lasted 54 days.

The world heard how, two days before the arrival of the British liberators, two bands played dance music all day long while 2,000 men were dragging corpses to the burial pits. SS men clubbed and lashed the stumbling, staggering prisoners to the lilting melodies of Franz Lehár and Johann Strauss.

By no imagination of under-

One of the infamous Belsen huts burns...



statement a grey-haired brigadier serving with the Second Army as a senior medical officer is on record as saying, on arrival at Belsen: "It is the most horrible, frightful place I have seen. I went into the camp with anti-tank gunners and while questioning the SS commander, an enormous man with heavy features and cruel face, shots were fired inside the camp.

"We went outside and saw 20 dead and dying prisoners near a potato patch. More were being shot by German guards as they were stealing potatoes. We saw compounds filled with the dead and dying — dying in front of our eyes.

"There was one crematorium, but the Germans did not use it because they could not cope with the number of deaths. We saw enormous covered death pits. One which was uncovered contained a great pile of blackened and naked bodies.

"There was typhus in every compound but typhus caused fewer deaths than starvation. People were lying dead in gutters outside huts, in which they had gone to rest more comfortably, and died as they lay.

"When the camp was liberated it was found that there had been no water for days. I saw men and women standing naked in the open trying to get themselves clean with cupfuls of water from pools and ditches."

An officer of many years experience, the brigadier paused and then went on: "I cannot vouch for this, but prison doctors told me that there had been cannibalism. Prisoners were so far gone that they took out and ate the hearts and kidneys of people who had died."

Captain Derrick Sington, who later wrote a book "Belsen Uncovered" and was serving as political officer recalling the efforts of the British Army to help among the morass of misery said: "Typhus broke out in the camp and a truce was arranged so that we could take the camp over. In the meanwhile, thousands and thou-

sands of people would have died and been shot."

A separate source ascertained that 17,000 inmates had been cremated in the month before Belsen's liberation by the British before the increasing amount of deaths began to "get out of hand."

The Germans had originally proposed that Belsen should be by-passed. The British refused these terms.

"Some dozen SS men and women were left behind under the command of Obersturmführer Kramer who had been at Auschwitz", said the Captain. "Apparently they had been told all sorts of fairy tales about the troops, that they could go on guarding, and that we would let them free and so forth.

"We only had a handful of men so far, and the SS stayed there that night. The first night of liberty, many hundreds of people died of joy. Next day some men of the Oxfordshire Yeomanry arrived. The people crowded around them, kissing their hands and feet — and dying from weakness. Corpses in every state of decay were lying around.

"One woman came up to a soldier who was guarding the milk store and doling out milk to children, and begged for milk for her baby. The man took the baby and saw that it had been dead for days, black in the face and shrivelled up. The woman went on begging for milk. So he poured some on the dead lips. The mother then started to croon with joy and carried the baby off in triumph. She stumbled and fell dead within a few yards."

Captain Sington said that the Royal Army Service Corps had done a good job in getting food in. The British Army was doing what it could. Units were voluntarily giving up blankets. Fifty thousand arrived while he was there and were being laundered. Sweets and chocolate rations had been voluntarily given.

"The next morning I left this hellhole, this camp. As I left, I

had myself deloused and my recording truck as well," wrote one press man, a certain Patrick Gordon-Walker, the Life Peer who died four years ago. "To you at home, this is one camp. There are many more. This is what you are fighting. None of this is propaganda. This is the plain and simple truth."

Historians chronicling the harrowing events of Belsen remind us it was not torture which killed the prisoners. It was neglect. Sheer indifference by the camp's callous captors.

Kramer and his SS cronies were arrested almost seven months to the day before sentencing at Lüneberg on November 17, 1945. He was, on capture, kept in an ice-box with some stinking fish from the officers' home.

In mitigation, the 'Beast of Belsen' had claimed he was swamped, by train loads of new prisoners from all over Germany.

He told a British Army Intelligence Corps officer and interrogator: "It was impossible to deal with the prisoners. I appealed for more staff, more food. I was told this was impossible. I had to carry on with what I had. In the last six weeks I have been helpless. I did not even have sufficient staff to bury the dead, let alone segregate the sick."

Kramer, 38, and his eager, compliant cohorts of mass cruelty were sentenced — eleven in all — to death for the torture, whipping and shooting of prisoners and for selecting prisoners for death in the gas-chamber.

Today, a discreet foyer-cum-museum with facts, figures and many pictures taken by British Army photographers usher visitors on to the silent, sad site ten miles north-west of Celle, not far from Hanover.

Just 38 years ago, SOLDIER, in a review of Captain Sington's book perhaps made an apt summing up. It was: "If a book on Belsen were published every year it would not be too often."

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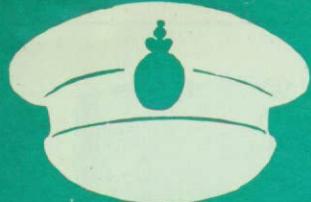
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As such the badge is worn by the corps, which from 1962 has been an all-officer corps. Prior to that date the non-commissioned members of the RAEC had worn the badge in anodised materials or in gilding

metal and white metal appropriately.

Bearing the current St Edward's crown the badge was Sealed 28 February, 1955, the former design ensigned by the Imperial (or Tudor) crown having been Sealed 9 February, 1951.

The original design was completely different being an open book superimposed on crossed lances and rifles. Below, a scroll inscribed Army Educational Corps. In gilding metal for soldiers it was Sealed on 16 August, 1927. Officers' badges were gilt or bronze.

Education in the Army can be traced to the latter half of the 17th century when from meagre beginnings it steadily gained impetus throughout the following century.

In 1846 a school for training Army schoolmasters was established in Chelsea and the Corps of Army Schoolmasters founded by Royal Warrant.

By the end of the reign of Edward VII, the Army List gave a total of 26 Inspectors of Army Schools together with almost 200 Warrant Officers (Schoolmasters).

Inspectors wore on their helmets the 1878 pattern star bearing the appropriate crown of the period in gilt. Within the

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Until the outbreak of war in August 1914 Army Schoolmasters taught recruits, NCOs and the children of soldiers at all stations around the world.

On 15 June, 1920, by Royal Warrant, the Army Educational Corps was founded with a complement of 1,077 officers, warrant officers and NCOs but fortunes and numbers dwindled in spite of its achievements.

In 1939 the corps dispersed to wartime duties but after a year of intelligence, cipher and staff duties, were recalled to their educational role.

In recognition of their services King George VI granted the Royal title on 28 November, 1946, marking the culmination of an evolutionary process that had begun almost 300 years before.

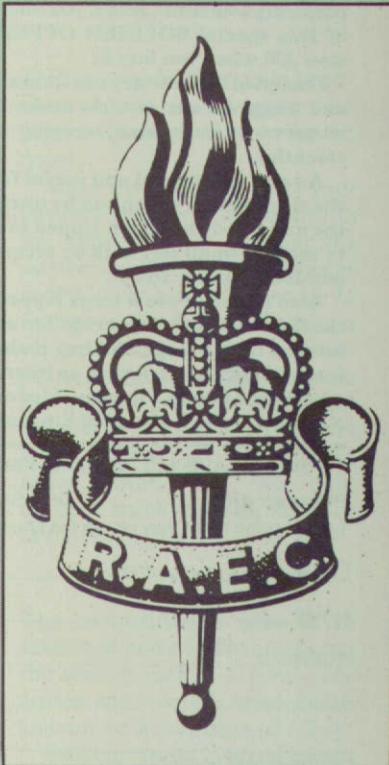
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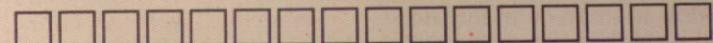
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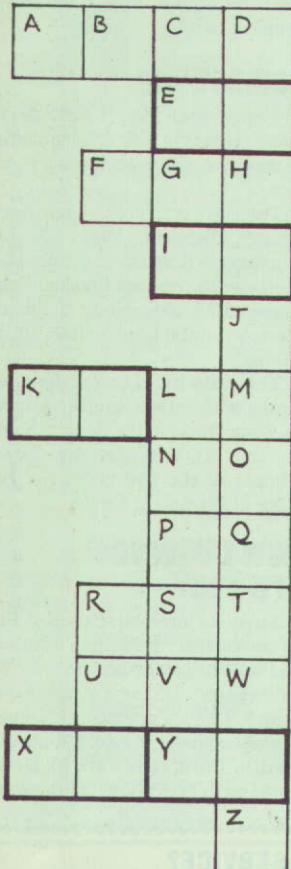
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COMPETITION 361

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## CLUES

- a) Great exhibition
- b) Legs
- c) Emergency call
- d) Commandments
- e) Deadly sins
- f) William II's accession
- g) Pot black five times
- h) Blackbirds
- i) CD XL IV
- j) Quarter to six
- k) b + c
- l) Atomic number of carbon

O R B T I D J

P Z A X M V E

U S H K W Q

C F Y N G L

THE answer to the puzzle opposite will give you the name of a famous figure associated with the Army.

Solve the clues and write your answers (numbers obviously) in the adjacent grid. Transfer the numbers to the appropriate squares in the lower grid, and decode to find the required name. The person we are looking for was a distinguished soldier and Christian who had a most adventurous, useful and self-sacrificing career. He was killed 100 years ago. Numbers in heavy outline are two digit numbers which represent one letter in the lower grid.

□ □ □

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is 7 June. The answer and winner's name will be announced in our issue of 1 July.

Each entry must be accompanied by the 'Competition 361' label at the top of this column. For two entries send two labels (not photo copies), three entries three labels, and so on.

In the case of more than one correct entry being received, the winner will be drawn by lots. No correspondence can be entered into.

Send your answers by postcard or letter to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

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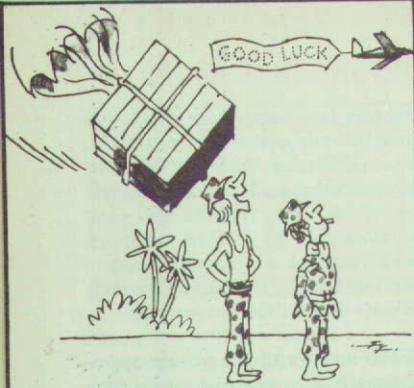
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## DISPUTED

My attention has been drawn to the statement in the 11 February edition of your magazine to the effect that 4 R Irish won the Queen's Cup for TA sport for the third time in 1984. This is not correct; last year's winners were the East Midlands Universities Officers Training Corps.

As a matter of interest the winners have been 1977/81 — 4 Para; 1978/79 — HQ Coy 4 Para; 1979/80 — HQ Coy 4 Para; 1980/81 — B Coy 4 R Irish; 1981/82 — S Coy 10 Para; 1982/83 — 64 Sqn 38 Sign Regt (V) and B Coy 4 R Irish; 1983/84 — East Midlands Universities OTC.

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From this you will see that B Coy 4 R Irish have been outright winners once and joint winners once. A good record, but not quite as good as your article suggested! — Colonel G C P Morgan, Secretary, Territorial Army Sport Board, c/o Headquarters Eastern District, Colchester, CO2 7ST.

## SUGGESTION

I wonder if other readers would join me in wishing to see SOLDIER carry a new series on the lines of 'Your Cap Badge' dealing with British regiments' Colours, Guidons or even drums. With a short history as well. — Bengt Ritz, Hvedemarcken 14, 6400 Sonderborg, Denmark.

## Reunions

The 60th Field Regt RA (60 and 88 columns Chindits) OCA, are holding their 40th reunion dinner and church service at Lincoln on 12/13 October 1985. Details from: J Bartlett, The Aviary, Burton, Lincoln. Tel: 0522-23184.

A re-union of ex-Army Emergency Reservists from Nos 150 to 156 Squadrons of 60 Railway Regiment (RE), Transportation and Movement Control at Longmoor Railway, is to be held 8-10 November. Details from: Lance Corporal 'Llew' Jones (155 Squadron) Craneswood, 3 Bungalow, Brownheath Road, Christleton, Chester CH3 7PP.

## Call-signs

*Mrs Denise Tate, of 160 Worthing St, Clough Road, Hull, Humberside HU5 1PS* is trying to trace anybody who was in the North African campaign, south of Medjez el Bab on the Goubellat Plain and who knew her late grandfather, Pte Clifford Whelan of the Hampshire Regiment, 2nd Battalion. He was posted overseas on 7 Jan 43 and was killed on 9 April 43.

*Mr Raymond Page of 32 Hollywell Road, Ewloe, Deeside Clywd*, is anxious to trace his brother, Leonard George Page, born in June 1917, who was in the Army in 1942.

Any information please about my friend, Sapper G R (George) Hill, 29 Survey Section, 8 Railway Construction Coy, Longmoor Camp, Liss, Hants. I last saw him in France in 1939, shortly afterwards we were withdrawn from France and sent to Norway. — *Harry Cubbin, 37 Bessemer Court, Blakelands, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK14 5JN*.

Anyone who knows the present whereabouts of Edward 'Mohammed' Matthews who served with The Royal Irish Fusiliers in Palestine and Malta, 1938-1943, is asked to contact ex-RSM *John Kelly MBE DCM BA, 204 Foundling Court, Marchmont St, London WC1*.

## Apology

Several readers have written to point out a mistake in a map we used in our Rhine crossing article (25 March) when

we referred to the Oxfordshire and Bedfordshire Light Infantry. It should of course, have been Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire LI. Our apologies to men of the old Ox and Bucks — and we hope the book publishers haven't gone into print with the artwork supplied to us.

## Competition

In Competition 356 (11 February) we asked readers to look at 10 quotations — and give us the attribution in each case.

The answers: 1 St Augustine, 2 George Bernard Shaw, 3 Lord Kitchener, 4 King David, 5 Alfred Lord Tennyson, 6 President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 7 Petronius, 8 Emperor Nero, 9 Horatio Lord Nelson, 10 John Milton.

The majority of competitors were wrong with answer number 4, spoken by King David in the Book of Samuel — and NOT spoken by Samuel. Winner of the £50 prize: Ms Irene Edge of Plymouth, Devon.

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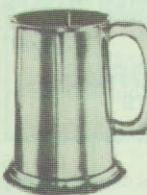
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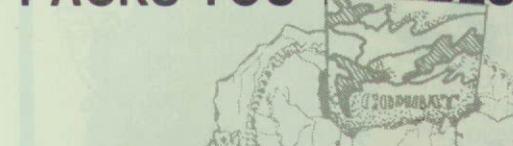
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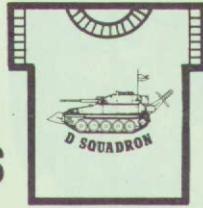
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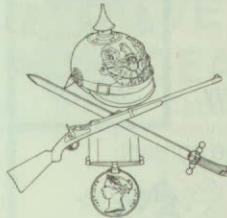
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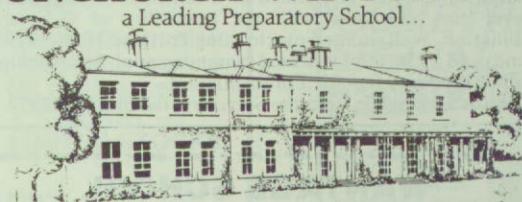
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# ARMY TRIO REACH 'SEMIS'

THREE ABA semi-finalists. That was the tally for the Army at the end of the quarter finals between the Combined Services and Western Counties at Amesbury — and all three of the successful men looked as though they could go further.

Flyweight Driver **Neil McCallum** of the Royal Corps of Transport is 18 and had a promising schoolboy boxing career in Cornwall. He came up against Dean Pople from Bridgwater and gave him a boxing lesson.

Looking sharp and aggressive McCallum carried the fight to his opponent and earned a standing count in the first round. Resisting the temptation to scrap he displayed a maturity beyond his years in constantly evading Pople's attacks while jabbing towards the unanimous points decision.

There was another excellent display from Lance Corporal **Keith Howlett**, from 39 Engineer Regiment, Waterbeach. He was up against vastly experienced international John Knight from the Bridgwater club.

Howlett paced himself well and beat off the worst of the Knight assaults with persistently accurate jabbing. In the last round Knight

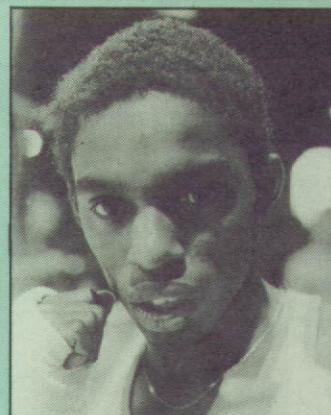


**Neil McCallum**

pursued him desperately but ended a tired, marked and beaten man — albeit by a majority decision.

The southpaw Welshman Driver **Neil Haddock**, an ABA semi-finalist last year before he joined up, again impressed. Against a taller opponent in Tony Hagger from Exeter he continually harassed his man and had him down in round one.

Haddock looked well on his way to victory when he ran straight into a right from the blond West Countryman and fell to his knees. He recovered well to complete the third round and gain a narrow majority points verdict.

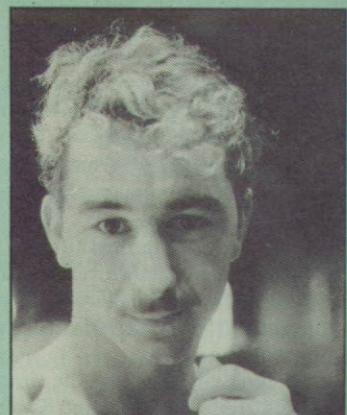


**Keith Howlett**

Two years ago Corporal Horace Miles was beaten at this stage by Harold Hylton, who has already won one ABA heavyweight title and been a finalist on another occasion.

Last year Hylton was suspended through injury and Miles passed this hurdle. And certainly the new look Horace, with a short hairstyle, came out looking as though he intended to make amends for his last defeat.

Often heavyweight fights at this level are an anti-climax but this time both boxers traded punches like bantams in a ding-dong thriller. Towards the end of the



**Neil Haddock**

last round Miles suddenly caught Hylton and had him reeling for a standing count.

But Hylton managed to get off the hook and in a desperately close contest he took the decision with two judges scoring him the winner by 60-58 and the third giving it 60-57 to Miles.

Sadly two of the Army's quarter-finalists failed to appear. Sapper John McLean at light-flyweight decided some 24 hours before that he wanted to end his boxing season and join his new unit in Germany, and Lance Corporal George Jay (1 RRF) withdrew for family reasons.

## RAF END ARMY HOPES WITH ONE GOAL

### SOCCER

If frenetic activity is the hallmark of a good side, then the Army's representative team should collect a lot of honours. But although they hustled and hustled around like a swarm of bees against the RAF in the Inter-Services championship at Aldershot, they lacked sting and were beaten 1-0.

Sunk by the Navy a week earlier (2-0) the Army had to win this match to have any hope. A draw was no good, but that was as much as they could have hoped for on a wet pitch against a side that was heavier, taller and, for the most

part, better in every department.

The only recognisable chance of a goal for the soldiers came in the dying minutes of the game when goalkeeper John Toogood, who has played for the RAF for longer than most can remember, mishandled the ball straight to the head of inside forward McGregor who nodded over the bar.

That was as close as the Army came to equalising, and, although

they displayed some neat touches in mid-field, they all tapered off.

The airmen's goal came after 58 minutes when McDermott made certain with a header off a corner kick.

A well-taken goal, it sparked the soldiers to even more activity which was matched by the lads in blue.

Both sides maintained a furious pace from start to end with the Army accelerating in the last ten minutes.

The pressure was then on the RAF, but lack of finishing power left the Army lads trailing.

## KINGSMEN TAKE THE

AGE and experience counted for nothing on the wide expanses of Aldershot Military Stadium, where Chester-based 1st Battalion The King's Regiment outpaced and outplayed the more mature School of Signals (Blandford) side to become more comfortable winners of the Army (UK) Challenge Cup than the 2-0 score suggests.

The red-shirted Kingsmen attacked from the start. They poured players forward in increasing numbers, the frenzy of their pace more often than not negating some very good approach work.

They almost grabbed a shock lead in the first minute, queuing up in the penalty area when all that was required was someone to prod the ball home.

At times the School of Signals goalmouth took on the appearance of a bagatelle board with the ball bouncing from defender to forward and back again.

The opening goal came following a period of sustained pressure when a long cross was knocked back across the face of the goal by Loftus and Sherratt headed home.

Minutes earlier, Dyer, in the

## CROWN

Signals' goal, got his finger-tips to a header from Cullington which had 'goal' written all over it. From that moment onwards, the eventual outcome was never really in doubt.

Sherratt had two clear cut chances of scoring in the opening minutes of the second half. Again, uncontrolled pace and enthusiasm brought about errors when calm and controlled finishing was really what was required.

It was no great surprise when Cullington, the 'father' of the young King's side, eventually increased their lead.

### JUDO

SIX teams contested the UK Team Judo Championships at the UKLF School of Physical and Recreational Training and after some fiercely fought matches 26 Field Regiment RA lined up against 23 Group Royal Pioneer Corps in the final. After four contests they were all square and the result depended on the last two contestants. 26 Field Regiment won a closely fought fight and emerged as the winners and UK Champions for 1985.

Later the two UK finalists defeated the two BAOR finalists for a place in the Army final. The Pioneers were favourites to win as the Gunners had lost their best man through sickness, but once again the Gunners proved too good and edged the Pioneers by three bouts to two in another exciting final.

### BASKETBALL

FOR the second year running 39 Engineer Regiment have won the UKLF Basketball finals. They won their pool by beating 94 Locating Regiment RA 63-34, Guards Depot 65-43, and RMAS 84-50. In the final they beat Marchwood Military Port 65-47.

The SEE Trophy for the most outstanding player was awarded to WO2 (QMSE) Bunnett.

# Don't mess around with Ken!

PEOPLE don't mess around with men like Lance Corporal Ken Burchell, late of Anti-tank Platoon, 1st Battalion, The Royal Hampshire Regiment.

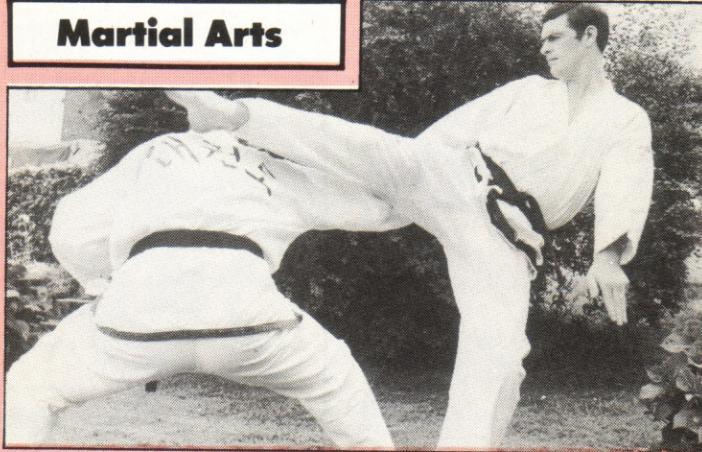
He has returned from three weeks in Thailand where he successfully defended his World Hapkido title for a record fifth time.

Ken began to study this Eastern martial art as a schoolboy and by the age of 15 had earned a Black Belt 1st Dan.

He took advantage of the time he was stationed in Hong Kong with the battalion between 1974 and 1976 to gain his Black Belt 2nd Dan.

His first major success was as runner-up in the 1974 Far Eastern Championship where he fought Angelo Mao, a fighter of mixed Chinese and Korean descent, who has been his most serious rival.

## Martial Arts



Ken Burchell, five times world champion

In 1977 Ken took the European title in Berlin and the following year won his first World title in Canada.

Since then he has successfully

defended it in Seoul, Tokyo, Montreal, Rome and now Bangkok.

Ken's pre-eminence in this martial art has also been recognised by his appointment as British team

## SEME GIRLS TAKE THE PRIZES

### SKIING

WRAC units that with a little bit of effort and organisation it was possible to compete in the sport.

Now that Nordic Skiing has become a recognised sport for the WRAC with specific events for Womens Services in next year's Army Championship, Jan hopes to see many more WRAC Nordic racers.

### RUGBY

## Paras have the edge

THE 10th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, unveiled its recently formed rugby team at Hurlingham Park and beat the Honourable Artillery Company 18-0.

The heavy rain and deep mud was more reminiscent of Flanders than Central London, but proved ideal conditions for the Paras, playing their first match against a team of well organised seasoned players.

The determination and aggression of the Paras soon began to take its toll, with Plumb (No 8) going over for a try in the first five minutes.

A try by Philips, converted by Mulcahy, put 10 Para in the lead by ten points at half time.

HAC put the pressure on in the second half but a loose ruck on their 25-yard line produced a clean ball for Mulcahy on the wing to go over for a third try.

With minutes to spare before the end 10 Para launched a spirited attack with the forwards, pushing Plumb over for his second try.

### COLTS RETAIN TITLE

FOLLOWING their victory against the Royal Navy, Army Colts finished the rugby season in style by beating the RAF 18-15 in a thrilling match at Aldershot to retain the Inter-Services Colts championship.

The Army took a 12 point lead through four well struck penalties by Gunner Mike Stewart (49 Field Regiment).

The RAF then began to whittle away at this lead, scoring excellent tries either side of half time. When they added a penalty they were within one point.

In the closing minutes they added a third fine try and it looked all over but the Army hit back immediately.

Stewart gathered a wayward kick and initiated a move involving all threequarters before left wing Apprentice Sergeant Andrew Dawe (AAC Chepstow) was tackled inches short of the line.

However, Apprentice Martin Tombs (AAC Harrogate) was on hand to gather it up and drive over for the winning try. Stewart converted with a magnificent kick from the touchline to leave the Army victorious.

The RAF pack dominated the scrums and lineouts and their backs often looked dangerous but the Army, tackling heroically and making good use of their limited good possession, were able to carry the day aided by Stewart's magnificent kicking.

Others to catch the eye in the Army side were Sapper Dean Ryan (39 Engineer Regiment) at No 8 and Private George Graham (Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders) who was always to fore in the loose.

The half backs, Gunner Grant Jenkins (LRRA) and Tombs, had a stern baptism but came through with colours flying.

Army Colts record for the season was seven wins and three defeats.

SIX girls from the 17-strong WRAC contingent at SEME Bordon maintained their unit's fine sporting record by taking all the women's prizes at the UK Army Nordic Ski Meeting held in the Clashindarroch Forest north of Ballater.

The girls learned to ski only three weeks before the race when they joined an exercise in Aviemore organised by 212 Field Hospital RAMC (V) from Sheffield.

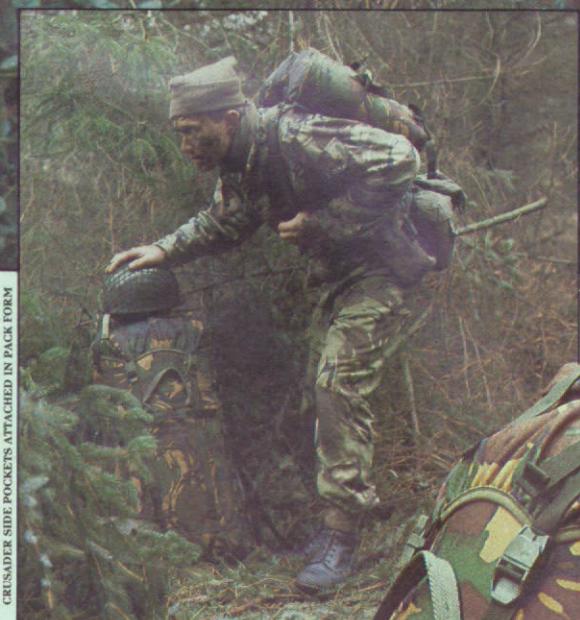
Instructed by Major Roger Thayne RAMC, the girls reached the British Ski Federation Bronze standard and, with the advice of the QARANC (V), learned how to survive in a tent in temperatures down to minus 28°C.

Despite their limited training and experience of Nordic racing,



Nordic winners. Front row (l to r) Pte Ruth Howell, Pte Sarah Chapman, LCpl Julie Banks, Pte Karen Watt; back row Maj Roger Thayne (trainer), Cpl Tina Edwards, Cpl Cheryl Horn, Lt Jan Brodie-Murphy.

# Specialist Personal Load Carrying Systems



The most advanced combat proven load carrying systems available. Manufacturing to the high standards of the British Ministry of Defence Quality Assurance DEF. STAN. 05-24. Meeting the requirement of today's infantry, lightweight internal aluminium frames combine with a carefully designed shoulder harness to transfer load from shoulder to hips. P.U. coated texturised nylon now available in DPM to give complete camouflage concealment.

## SPECIFICATIONS

- TYPE: CRUSADER
- CAPACITY WITH POCKETS: 100 Litres
- CAPACITY WITHOUT POCKETS: 70 Litres
- WEIGHT WITH POCKETS: 2.8 kg
- BACK LENGTH M: 51 cm
- NATO NO: 8465-99-775-3039
- BACK LENGTH L: 58 cm
- NATO NO: 8465-99-775-3040
- COLOUR: Olive or DPM
- FEATURES: Zip Off Side Pockets can be connected to form small combat pack. All Cotton Back. Quick Release Harness.

## SPECIFICATIONS

- TYPE: ROC
- CAPACITY: 70 Litres
- HEIGHT: 1.78 kg
- BACK LENGTH M: 51 cm
- BACK LENGTH L: 58 cm
- MATERIAL: 270 gm/M<sup>2</sup> Coated Texturised Nylon
- Optional Side Pockets (8 litres)
- Colour Option: Olive or DPM
- FEATURES: Quick Release Waist Harness. Side Compression Straps to reduce volume. Reinforced Haul Strap. All Cotton Back. Quick Release Hip Harness.

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