

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 25 PENCE • 22 OCTOBER 1984

SOLDIER





LIONHEART 84

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FRONT COVER: A Milan position of 1st Battalion 51st Highland Volunteers in Lionheart.
Picture: Paul Haley.

FACING PAGE: Orange troops at the ready — with umpires busy too!
Picture: Doug Pratt.

INSIDE BACK COVER: An Army team from Northern Ireland tackle a "bottomless" crevass in Canada. Story — next issue.
Picture: Will Morris.

BACK COVER: WO1 John Wilson, RSM of The Parachute Regiment Depot, pictured during a poignant moment in the ceremonies marking the 40th anniversary of Arnhem. See page 18.
Picture: Paul Haley.

Managing Editor
Roland Thick (Ext 2585)

Editor
Peter Howard (Ext 2593)

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

Art Editor
John Rushworth (Ext 2589)

Picture Editor
Leslie Wiggs (Ext 2584)

Photographers (Ext 2584)
Doug Pratt
Paul R G Haley

Photo Library (Ext 2577)
Bill Stroud

Advertising/Circulation
Mrs Christine Withey (Ext 2587)
Distribution
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Once again we devote a large amount of space to the big Exercise Lionheart, this time concentrating mainly on the closing stages.

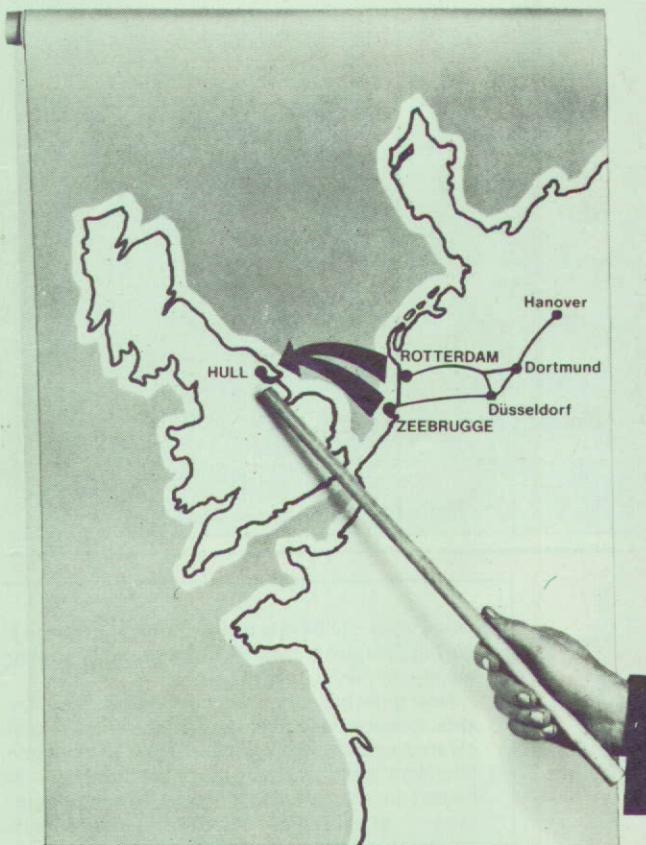
Now quiet has returned to the German countryside, gunpositions like the one above have been cleared and farmers can work their fields again. Men and their vehicles (that's the new MCV 80 below) have returned to barracks. Now comes the process of evaluation before the Lionheart files can be closed...



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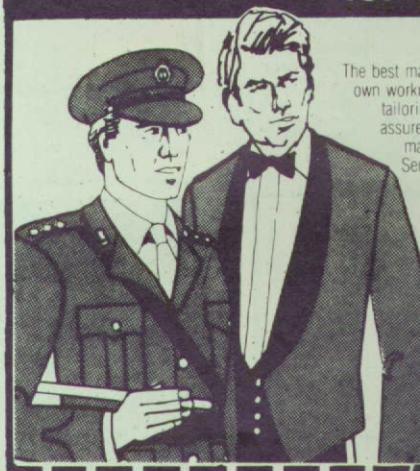
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SUCCESS STORY MARRED

A tragic accident marred what had been a very successful exercise for the 10th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, the unit which hosted SOLDIER on the first week of Lionheart.

On the last night of operations, Private Raymond Atkinson, a 21-year-old glazier from Blackheath, and a member of 10 Para's Number 2 Company, was killed when a vehicle came off the road and hit the defensive position he was occupying with three comrades.

The position had been established to give cover to a couple of bridges across the River Leine. The three other soldiers suffered nothing worse than

grazed limbs and shock, but the civilian driver of the vehicle was also killed.

Private Atkinson was one of three British soldiers to die during the exercise. Corporal Peter Green, 42, of the 13th/18th Royal Hussars, was the victim of another fatal traffic accident; and Driver Paul Bagwell, 22, of 7 Tank Transporter Regiment, RCT, from Sennelager, was killed when a transporter prime mover in which he was a passenger overturned.

About 500 soldiers needed some form of hospital treatment during the exercise — mainly for such things as cuts and stomach upsets. Evidently many of them could not resist the raw vegetables which grew in the fields around their dug outs and bivouacs.

by Robert Higson



WHEN the Corps Commander points something out to you, you pay close attention say Drummers Allen Andrews (left) and Derek Milliken of the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards. The lads were proving that Corps of Drums are not just pretty on ceremonial parades, but have a fighting role too.

Three German civilians died in the 265 traffic accidents which were said to have been involved, in some way, with Lionheart.

There were reports of a house falling down as a German tank went by, of another building being damaged by a British tracked vehicle, and of two cases of power lines being broken.

But the initial assessment of damage was 'light to very light'.

The HQ BAOR unit monitoring the German press said that the vast majority of newspapers had been very friendly and had given the exercise favourable reports. Only on the last couple of days, when there had been heavy falls of rain, did some local newspapers start making complaints.

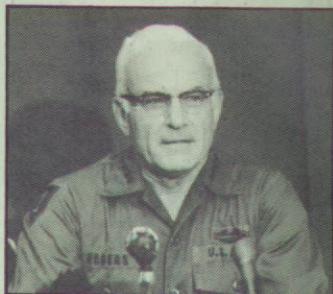
The feeling that the whole ambitious exercise has been a great success seemed to extend from 1 (British) Corps Commander, Lieutenant General Sir Martin Farndale (see page 13) to unit commanders like Lieutenant Colonel Johnny Winter, CO of 10 Para.

Colonel Winter told SOLDIER that practically all 10 Para's trained strength was in Germany for the exercise: "And very few, if any, in the Battalion, have been disappointed."

10 Para had a varied career during the exercise. First it operated as part of Orange Special Forces in 5 Airborne Brigade, raiding the Rear Corps Area and taking part, along with 2 Para, in one of the biggest heliborne assaults during the whole Spearpoint battle.



Round-up



General Bernard Rogers, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, was one of many VIPs to visit Lionheart activity

Then it became attached to 6 Airmobile Brigade, joining in attacks on its former Orange allies. And finally it assumed its normal war role, under 11 Armoured Brigade, of securing bridges in the 4 Armoured Division area.

Throughout the exercise the men of 10 Para maintained their interest and their enthusiasm. Colonel Winter said he had every reason to be proud of his men.

"The Battalion performed well," he said, "And that's what I told them."

Those formidable little fighters — the Gurkhas — put the TA and the Regulars of 2 Infantry Brigade to the test.

Exercising on Lionheart, for the first time as a battalion, in Germany, the 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles, attacked Blue Forces in the role of Orange saboteur groups... a job they shared with two British parachute battalions.

Second-in-Command, Major Lionel Gregory, explained: "10 GR were chosen to come out to Germany because we are a part of 5 Airborne Brigade, and — because of the Brigade's role on the Exercise — we were naturally involved.

"The men were delighted to be taking part in such a spectacular exercise and are finding Germany interesting too."



The soldiers pictured are Lance Corporal Andrew Flatters, left and Staff Cox.

When it comes to marching on your stomach compo rations are what most of the 131,000 troops had to make do with during Exercise Lionheart.

But the REME Fitter Section attached to 4 Company, 1st Battalion Irish Guards from Munster were served a local addition to the stew for which the Battalion's own country is famous.

Staff Sergeant Frank Cox and his men, dug into a hillside overlooking a tiny Lower Saxony hamlet in support of the 3 Armoured Division Blue Forces, found the recipe for success in getting along with their new

neighbours was to keep the local children well stocked with compo sweets and chocolate.

As luck would have it — or was it good planning? — the fitters had pitched up right alongside a sausage factory. Keen to return the kindness shown to the youngsters, factory staff presented the REME lads with some outsize examples of their national delicacy.

"My son Jochen is also taking part in Exercise Lionheart, with the Panzer Grenadiers", said factory owner Herr Eckard Neidhart, "so I've got a good idea of what it's like for the troops living out in the open for two weeks".



ELSEWHERE...

Sergeant David Goodburn, of 70 Support Company, attached to the Queen's Gurkha Engineers based in Hong Kong, has been fatally injured during a climbing accident in Nepal on the slopes of the 19,000-foot Mount Papura.

It is understood the eight-man expedition was descending at the time. The expedition has been called off and it was expected there would be an inquiry held in Hong Kong this month.

Bishop of Lambeth and head of the Archbishop of Canterbury's personal staff, The Right Reverend Ronald Gordon will succeed (1 January) Right Reverend Stuart Snell, Bishop of Croydon, as Bishop to Her Majesty's Forces.

LANDS 3, the department responsible for Ministry of Defence Conservation has changed location. All enquiries and articles submitted to the group's bulletin 'Sanctuary' should now be addressed to Lt Col C N Claydon (Retd), MOD Conservation Officer, Defence Lands 3, Rm 22, Spur 3, 'B' Block, Government Bldgs, Leatherhead Road, Chessington, Surrey. Telephone 01-397 5266 (or Chessington Government Offices mil) ext 3028 or 3029.

LANCE Corporal Stephen Bentall of D Company, 3rd Bn The Parachute Regiment serving in Belize, has been killed in a firing range accident believed to have been caused by a weapon malfunction.

Twenty-seven-year-old Corporal Bentall was serving his last six months in the Army when the accident occurred.

It was a case of 'Onward Christian Soldiers' as far as Reverend Alun Price was concerned during Lionheart.

When the soldiers go out on exercise they don't necessarily 'pack up their troubles in their old kitbags'. While 'Blue' forces always seem to win, Army chaplains hang up their cassocks, climb into combats, and deploy into the field to make sure neither side loses out where spiritual help is needed.

When Padre Price, Chaplain to 5th Regiment Royal Artillery at Hildesheim, went 'marching as to war', a Land rover suitably entitled 'The God Chariot' helped him

Two hardy Gordon Highlanders wept in the middle of a German turnip field when they recognised each other as infant brothers who had parted to different foster homes 20 years before.

A chance remark to a Territorial Army journalist led to the emotional reunion, in the midst of a major mock battle, for Private Gordon McConochie, 26, of 1st Battalion Gordon Highlanders and his youngest brother Private Sammy Duncan, 21, a territorial with D (Gordon) Company of 2/51 Highland Volunteers in Aberdeen.

Sammy was one-year old when fostered by David and Frances Duncan, Peterculter, Aberdeen, who gave him their surname. A bricklayer's labourer in civilian life with contractors Hall, he joined the Territorial Army two years ago in the hope of tracing Gordon and two other brothers who he knew had enlisted in the regular Gordons, although he could not remember them.

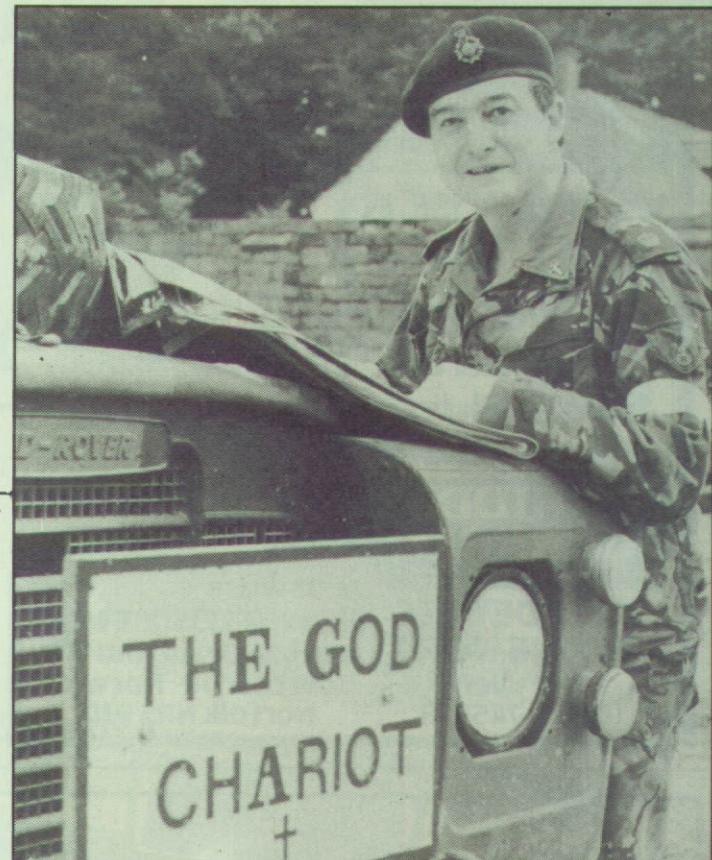
Sandy's trail grew hot when former regular Gordons officer Major Mike Tait took command

Lieutenant Colin Edgar, Gloucester Volunteer Artillery, is a veteran of Goose Green and Fox Bay. But Colin's experience is far removed from the War of 1982 and his days in the South Atlantic stem from 20 years ago.

Colin, who was attached to 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery during Lionheart, went to the Falklands after leaving school as

part of a VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) trip.

He exchanged his role as a chartered surveyor to help man 1 RHA's Area Coordination Centre, acquired a local horse for the duration. To help him, Gnr Taff Allen of 1 RHA has left his job as mess steward temporarily to look after Colin's horse. Who says the days of mounted Gunners are over?



keep up with the armoured chariots.

"We were kept quite busy," says Alun, "with the

soldiers being away from home for about three weeks, the occasional problems crop up that we can often sort out."



of the TA company.

By chance Major Tait had been Gordon's company commander in the regular battalion. And so alike are the two brothers that when Major Tait first saw Sammy he remarked in surprise 'What on earth are you doing here McConochie?' believing him for a moment to be Gordon.

In the heat of Exercise Lionheart, D Company's permanent staff instructor Sergeant Major Crawford McMaster, relayed his tale to TA army news team officer Captain Willie Morrison, an

Inverness journalist, who at once set about effecting a reunion.

Gordon, born in Harthill, Lanarkshire, and Sammy, who first saw the light of day in Maud, Aberdeenshire, found a great deal to talk about in the short hour they spent together after toasting each other in brandy from regulation army mugs.

Before parting again they pledged to keep in touch regularly and to try to reunite the seven-strong family, whose parents separated when the children were very young.

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LIONHEART, the biggest British Exercise since World War 2, obviously demands special treatment — but life has still gone on for those not involved, as these two pages prove ...

NOT THE



An Uphill Struggle



HEADQUARTERS 160 (Wales) Brigade at Brecon has welcomed its new Commander, Brigadier Christopher Lee.

A former National Serviceman, Brigadier Lee was commissioned into the South Wales Borderers and has served in Malaya and BAOR as well as Canada as an exchange officer.

Prior to taking up his new appointment, the one-time Army cricketer was Divisional Brigadier at the Prince of Wales Division at Lichfield, Staffs.

◀ **RAISING** funds for charity is an uphill struggle as Rifleman Tony Keen and girlfriend Jacquie Dyke discovered when, amongst other families and friends of B Coy 4th Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, they tackled the Guards' Depot assault course.

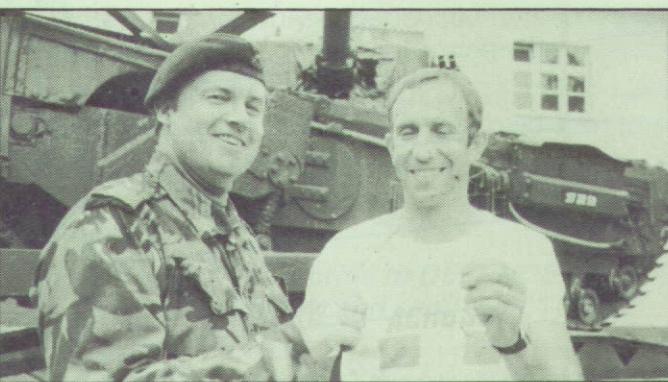
Their aim was to raise £500 to add to the £10,000 the Company has already raised for the Westminster Hospital Lorraine Gadd cancer appeal.

SIXTEEN-year-old Junior Private Gordon Walker based at the Scottish Infantry Depot at Bridge of Don won the Junior Piping Championships at Inverness.

Meeting Piping Championships at Inverness.

Other Army winners were Corporal Gordon Lang of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and Lance Sergeant Brian Donaldson, Scots Guards.

PIPING SUCCESS



FATNESS TO FITNESS

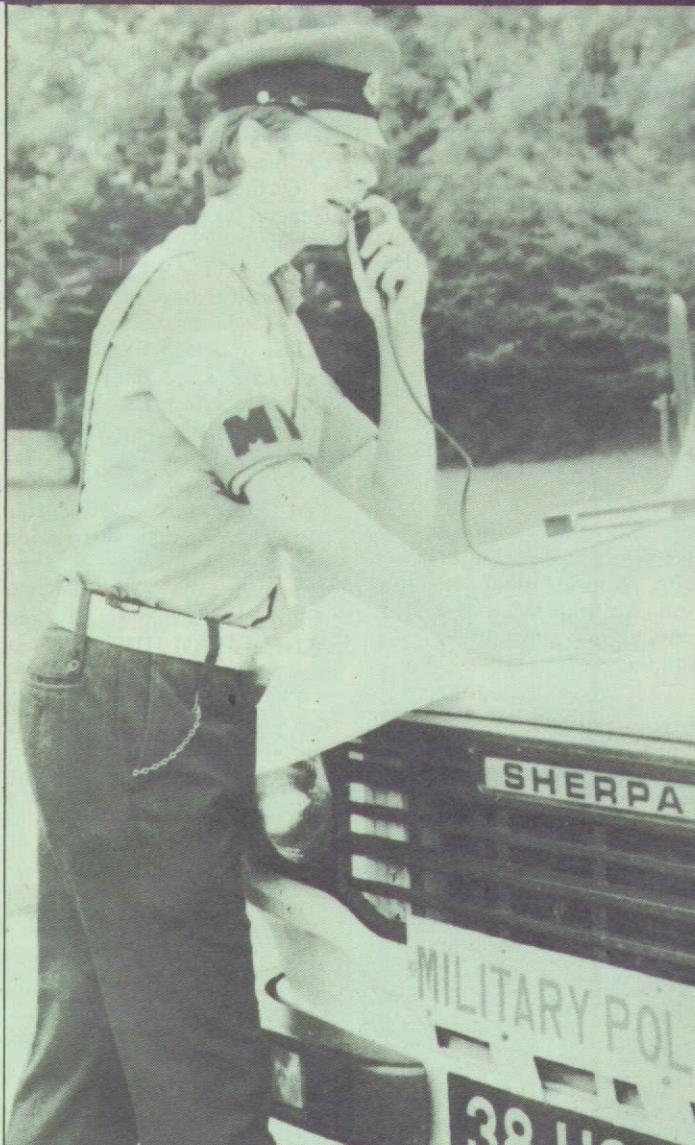
WHO says all clerks are pear-shaped? Warrant Officer Ken Carr's efforts to lose weight, get fit and raise money for the Across Trust charity resulted in the new slimline Chief Clerk of 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment handing over a cheque to his Commanding Officer John McKeown for £538.

Ken's change of lifestyle began in 1983 when he realised that at 36 he was getting fat. One year, two marathons (Bremen and Verden) and three half marathons later, plus two stone lighter, he says he is now fitter and feels more able to cope with the rigours of every day life.



Gordon is pictured here receiving his prize from Grampian Television's reporter Isabel Frazer.

LIONHEART NEWS



Senior Officers test new Simulator

MAJOR General James Brown (left in picture), Representative Colonel Commandant Royal Army Ordnance Corps, and Brigadier Andrew Pavour, Commander Supply 1 (Br) Corps visited 11

Ordnance Company at Soltau to see the new Small Arms Weapons Effects Simulator (SAWES) before it is issued to units of 1st Armoured Division.

SAWES is a new laser simulator designed to add realism to training by providing friendly forces and enemy with the facility to 'kill' each other with a correctly aimed shot from a SLR or GPMG. It will make those being exercised aware just how effective, or otherwise, are their marksmanship, fieldcraft and minor tactics.

The picture, taken by Warrant Officer 2 (SQMS) J Nowak, shows the two senior officers firing SAWES under the approving eye of Lieutenant Colonel David Burden and members of 1 Ordnance Battalion.



Bradbury Rings Restored

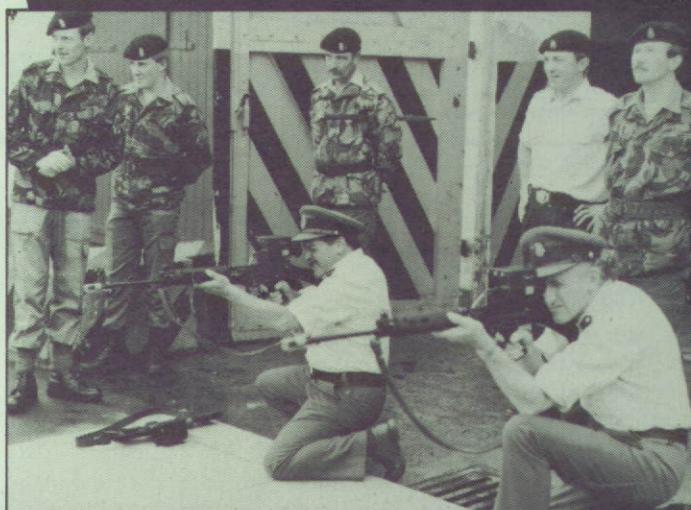
MEMBERS of the Royal Engineers and Royal Pioneer Corps provided the motivation and guidance for 360 youngsters who spent a series of fortnight-long camps at Piddle Hinton, Dorset, over a two-month period restoring the 4,500-year-old Bradbury Rings as part of their help in the Prince's Trust. The Prince of Wales, its founder, is pictured here with some of the Sappers and Royal Pioneers involved in the project.

Hamelin's new 'catcher'

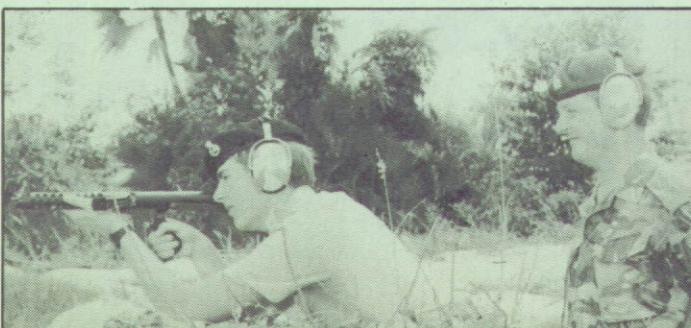
SMART detective work and some fast running by Corporal Neil Watson, Royal Military Police led to the quick arrest of two youths allegedly involved in a 'crash and run' incident in Hamelin.

Twenty-three-year-old Neil serving with the Hamelin Detachment, 114 Provost Company seized the two teenage suspects following a brief chase not long after it was reported they ran away from the scene of the crash. A car they were believed to be in had collided with a roadside tree. No one was injured.

Later, police investigations showed that the youth suspected of driving the car did not have the owner's consent nor a valid driving licence.



Schoolboy shoots for Dad



FOR children visiting their parents in Belize the school holidays offer more than just sunshine.

One schoolboy, David Wood of the Duke of York's Royal Military School at Dover, seen here with dad Warrant Officer 1 Fred Wood, was able to take part in the unit monthly shoot. Being a member of the school CCF, David is no stranger to shooting and in fact was part of the team that represented the school during Bisley 84.

SHEER weight of numbers prevents us from thanking everyone who helps SOLDIER representatives throughout the course of a year, but with the dust — and mud — of Lionheart now settling we would like to thank all those involved in helping us to cover the big exercise.

Lieutenant Colonel Johnny Winter, Commanding Officer of 10th (Volunteer) Battalion The Parachute Regiment, his officers and men looked after our team well and we owe a big thank you to Lieutenant Colonel Donald Pheysey and his Allied Press Information Centre staff at Hildesheim.

We were particularly grateful to Major John Patch, Captain Mark Anderson — and Warrant Officer 1 Peter Griffiths, RAOC and his darkroom staff for invaluable help.

As we've said before, we couldn't possibly hope to cover everything involved in Lionheart — and we owe a debt to everyone involved in ensuring we tackled what we could.

★ ★ ★

AND now, war on your home video! Real war, not your Robert Mitchum type stuff. You

SOLDIER to Soldier

can watch all the excitement of the D-Day landings, or blitzkreig on the eastern front, or fly with a B-17 'flak jockey' in daylight bombings raids over Germany...

An American firm says it has reviewed hundreds of real life (or perhaps it should be death) war films made by the US government during and just after the Second World War and has chosen to release 'the most exciting and informative' as home videos. They feature 'actual combat footage, filmed as these historic battles were fought'.

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You can see, in the comfort of your armchair, 'The True Glory', following the Allied forces as they storm the D-Day beaches, then push the Germans back across Europe. 'Great action footage of the Ardennes Forest breakout, Battle of the Bulge, "Market Garden", crossing of the Rhine, and finally the storming of Berlin. Shermans duelling Tigers, Stukas dive bombing, ME 198s and FW 190s locking grips in classic dog-fight action with Thunderbolts, Mustangs and Lightnings'. What the firm calls a 'four star film'. For just \$44.95.

The films will be enjoyed by anyone with an interest in this important era of military

history, they say. "The first war to be explicitly captured on motion pictures". How fortunate for mankind that there is no need for a second take.

★ ★ ★

THERE are still a few copies available of 'On the Banks of Suez', the £11.50 book which SOLDIER is giving away FREE to those who take out an annual subscription to this magazine.

'On the Banks of Suez' is Israeli General Avraham 'Bren' Adan's personal account of the Yom Kippur War in which he details each crucial stage of the conflict and adds his own assessment.

The 512-page volume, which includes 32 pages of photographs and seven battle maps, is published by Arms and Armour Press.

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★ ★ ★

AT the tenth congress of the International Association of Museums of Arms and Military History of Stockholm, the Director of the National Army Museum, William Reid, was unanimously chosen as president for a second three-year term.

★ ★ ★

Briefing for a royal visitor. Queen Margrethe II of Denmark gets the latest on Exercise Bold Gannet from Brigadier Willie Rous, Commander 1 Infantry Brigade, during a visit to the NATO exercise in eastern Denmark.

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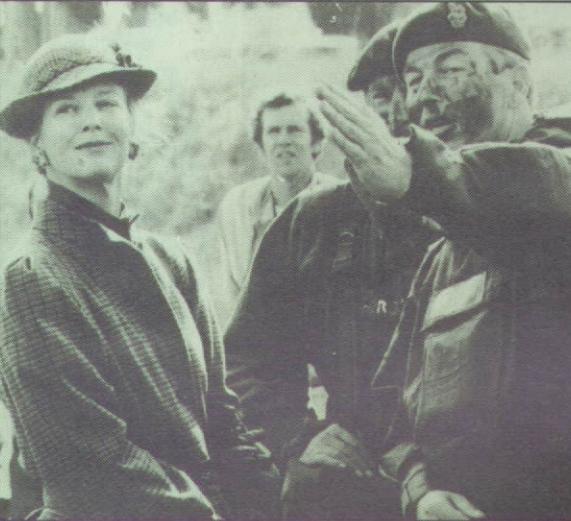
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'Credible... Ready... Effective... Efficient...'

CORPS COMMANDER IS DELIGHTED



Lieutenant General Sir Martin Farndale escorts Secretary of State for Defence Mr Michael Heseltine as he meets Lionheart soldiers. Left is Dr Manfred Wörner, Mr Heseltine's West German counterpart.

"I AM furiously searching for something, but I can't think of anything that has gone wrong," Lieutenant General Sir Martin Farndale, Commander 1 (British Corps, told a Press conference at the conclusion of Exercise Lionheart.

"It sounds a bit platitudinous to say so, but I cannot tell you how delighted I am".

"We set ourselves specific aims. We have carried out every single battle we intended to.

"Equipment has gone well: command and control has gone well: working together with allies has gone well: working together of all arms has gone well.

"Our new systems for co-ordinating air power with the battlefield and for co-ordinating all intelligence systems have worked very well.

"Actually intelligence gathering is now so good that you can even have too much. It can become difficult for a commander because new intelligence comes up which could make you want to change your mind. But you don't win battles by changing your mind.

"It hasn't gone as I predicted. My good adversary (Major General Henning von Ondarza Commander of 1 Panzer Division and the Orange Forces in Exercise Spearpoint) sprang some surprises. But of course that was very good as it enabled the Blue people, who were really under test, to react to surprise situations."

General Farndale said he had been delighted with the serviceability rate of all equipments.

"I was told two days ago in my evening briefing that we did not have one single main battle tank in the workshops," he said. "Now we would have expected to have

two or three by then. Some were being worked on in the forward area which would mean a minor repair — only a matter of an hour or two."

He added that he was particularly pleased with the performance of tracked Rapier with all its attached electronics. "Of course you can only practice a degree of equipment

'a rare peace-time experience'

on an exercise like this because you can't use the weapons. But mobility and so on has been very pleasing."

The exercise as a whole — the largest British troop movement since the war — was described by the Corps Commander as a rare peace time experience for commanders and soldiers alike.

"We have taken the opportunity to give people the chance to command large formations," he said. "This is something commanders rarely get in peace time. My own staff to handle a complete Corps. And even all the soldiers to get the feel of being in large formations."

Was Lionheart the ultimate in exercises, General Farndale was asked, or could they get bigger?

"You are a very brave man if you say that anything is the ultimate or the biggest ever," he replied.

"It is always possible to have a bigger one. But we did mobilise almost everyone who is due to come over to Continental Europe in war so it is hard to think how it could have been bigger."

What about improvements compared to Exercise Crusader four years ago?

"Well I think we mobilised and moved the TA better than we did on Crusader. We were, of course, moving nearly twice as many.

"It wasn't perfect — you have only to talk to some of the soldiers. But you know we moved them in a

remarkably quick time.

"I believe that if it was a war situation, or very close, different things would go wrong but the end product would be much the same. So I am not worried that one or two things went wrong. That doesn't mean that we won't put it right — of course we will."

The Corps Commander was asked about the realism of the Exercise Spearpoint battle — 10 Blue brigades facing four Orange.

He replied that the Orange brigades had the difficult task of representing four divisions which meant they had to come to life during the exercise as soon as they were destroyed.

To another question which suggested that tank movements had appeared remarkably untactical, General Farndale said that real tactics could not be used "when you are on people's farm land."

"A tank does the most damage when it stops, twist, turns and comes up to a new fire position.

"Now on our ranges in Canada or on our training area, tanks always do a manoeuvre called jockeying. If you come up and fire, as soon as you have fired you must manoeuvre to a new place. But we do not allow that on these exercises because they would do a great deal of damage.

"Normally you would not do some of the things we have been doing without some degree of air superiority. When you see tanks it is a combined arms effort and all aspects of the battle must be there.

"So you've got to be careful about drawing lessons from a manoeuvre by itself. But we can do on this exercise the sort of things we can't do on the training areas — handling big formations, command and control over a big area."

On the question of damage, always a matter of great concern on exercises of this nature, the Corps Commander said he had talked to a large number of German people but had found no one who was particularly angry.

"If you take the whole exercise area, 9,500 square kilometres, there are only a few very small areas of damage. Yes, I am pleased, but I do feel deeply sorry for anybody who has been in one of the areas where a little damage has been done. And I shall do my very best to ensure they receive full compensation and quickly."

General Farndale concluded his remarks by saying: "I have no illusions at all that my job, and indeed the job of all soldiers in Europe is to prevent a war from happening."

"I would hope that what you have actually been watching on this exercise is deterrence in action."

"History has proved that wars normally start through weakness of one side or another. By and large, two adversaries who are prepared won't fight each other."

"I believe we have played our small part in demonstrating that 1 (British) Corps with the allies who were taking part are credible, ready, effective, efficient and therefore this will be known to the professional military men on the other side and if they are sensible they won't try anything stupid."

"And in that way we will keep the peace which we simply must do."

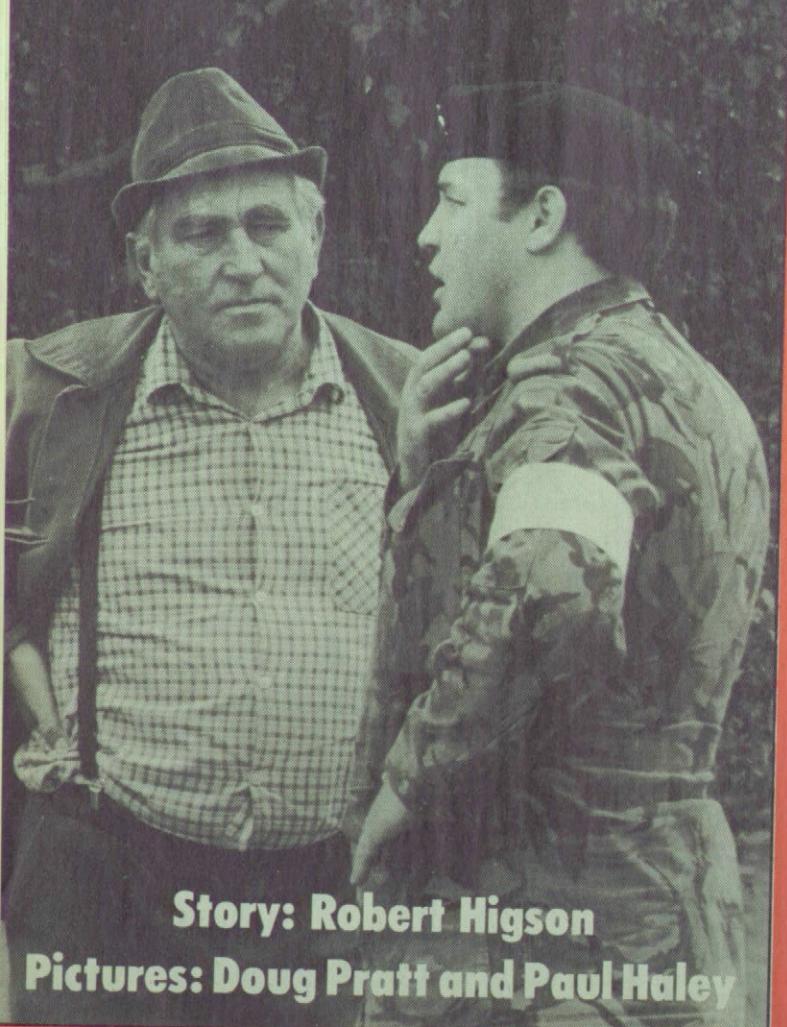


AN UMPIRE'S LOT IS NOT AN EASY ONE!



Major David Grey, an Australian in Germany, tells members of 52 Ordnance Company they have been killed in a gas and conventional air attack... and the procedure to follow.

Sergeant 'Geordie' Hutchinson tries his command of German — good, too! — on the local farmer.



Story: Robert Higson

Pictures: Doug Pratt and Paul Haley

THE first Y Platoon, 52 Ordnance Company, knew of the enemy air attack which had caused them severe casualties was an Australian major descending upon them distributing coloured tickets.

The sentry at the entrance learned that he had received a severe head wound and was no longer able to stand up. The platoon commander was told that he had been hit in the elbow.

"I had meant him to have his foot blown off," said Major David Grey of the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps, "but in the heat of battle I gave him the wrong ticket."

The major went on to inflict more appalling injuries on other members of the platoon who were getting some rest in a 17th Century barn nearby. The pigs who were sharing this accommodation were, however, spared.

Perhaps the unluckiest casualty was the leading driver of a convoy which had just brought in another consignment of HE ammunition for the Yankee supply circuit. He was about to deliver his documents to the Y Platoon tent when he was summarily informed that he was a stretcher case. While the rest of the convoy hurriedly moved on, this driver and his truck remained where they were.

Major Grey owed his god-like authority to his position as one of the hundreds of umpires on Exercise Lionheart. He was one of the 120 Commonwealth officers who were over in Germany helping 1 Armoured Division adjudicate the action between the Blue and Orange forces.

Based in the Corps Rear Area the team was poised to observe the efforts of Orange aircraft and airborne special forces to produce havoc in the complex system of supply to the front line forces.

As second in command of an

ordnance battalion based in Adelaide, South Australia, Major Grey was assigned to the role of supply observer. He joined a team headed by Major Roger Thomas, RAOC, a staff officer at HQ BAOR, which included a fellow Australian, Major Gerry Jones, a New Zealander, Major Ian Juno, and Captain Bill Wiseman, 2 i/c of 12 Ordnance Company.

They lived in one of the massive barrack blocks the Germans built in other times for the Panzer training school at Paderborn — the place now known as Barker Barracks. And daily they set forth to inspect the activity at another rail head or supply dump, observing methods, awarding casualties and making reports.

This was not the most glamorous or exciting end of the exercise as Major Thomas conceded. But, he said, the logistics side was a vital ingredient and its importance to the whole effort could not be under-estimated.

Based in the Corps Rear Area the team was poised to observe the efforts of Orange aircraft and airborne special forces to produce havoc in the complex system of supply to the front line forces.

On one occasion the team travelled to Corps Supply Area (Bravo), an area of some 75 square kilometres of woodland and farm between the towns of Lemgo and Barntrup. The interest here was one of the supply dispersal circuits operated by 52 Ordnance Company.

These circuits are essentially a means of access to a series of well scattered dumps in which supplies are collected for onward dispatch to the forward areas. In CSA Bravo 63 Ordnance Company was looking after engine and major assembly supplies on the southern circuits, while 52 Company stored heavy ammunition in the north.

The umpires made for 52 Company's patch with the prior knowledge that an air strike was shortly to bring devastation to three ammunition dumps and the headquarters of Y Platoon.

Before the strike Major Thomas conferred with a squad of Sappers from 33 Explosive Ordnance Regiment who were detailed to scatter by truck unexploded bombs deemed to come from the aircraft about to attack.

Then followed a team briefing, for this time they were going in not only as observers but also as umpires.

"Can we assume that all the sites have been knocked out," someone asked.

"You can," Major Thomas replied. "I'd like to see all the ammunition taken away by neutral transport, but that's not possible as there aren't the facilities. So it will stay where it is and officially be reinstated in six hours time."

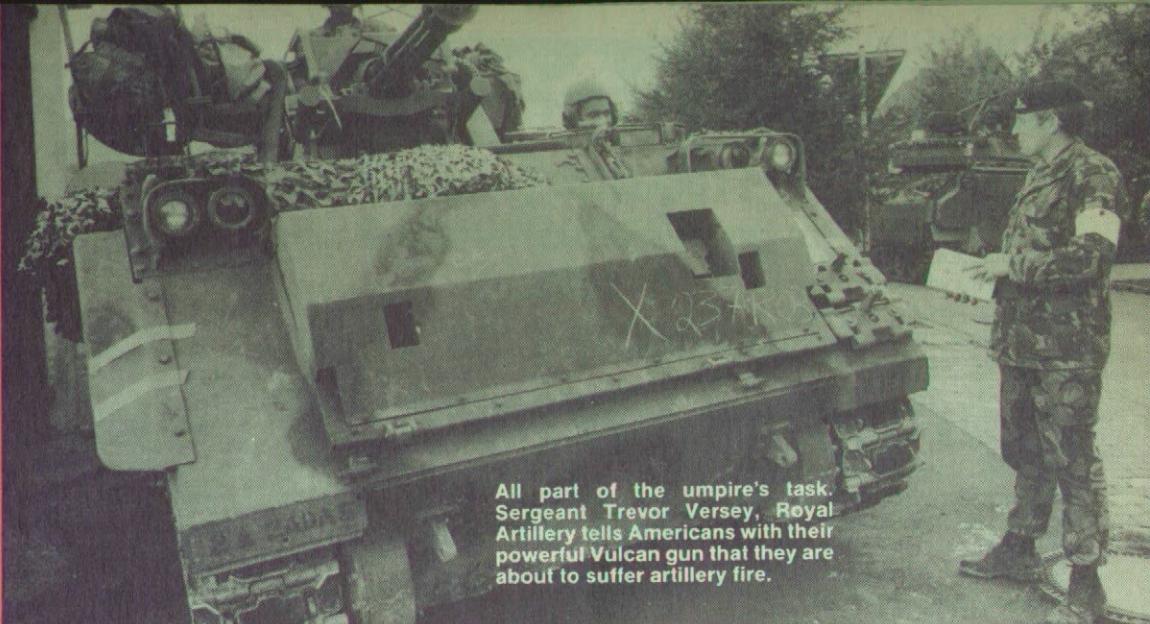
Unfortunately the air strike failed to achieve the hoped for dramatic impact. It seemed as though the aircraft were a little off the agreed flight path. Y Platoon, at any rate, was blissfully unaware of what was happening until Major Grey arrived with tickets bearing such instructions as: "Hold stomach and cry out if touched or roughly handled."

It was all a bit of a shock to SQMS William Richardson.

"I was told that the umpires would arrive and let off a thunder flash and then announce an incident had taken place," he said. "I was flabbergasted when someone arrived and just handed out tickets. If I'd have known I would have got the first card — I could do with a rest."

As it was SQMS Richardson was left unscathed with the job, as senior member of the platoon left on his feet, of rushing round to organise the platoon's reaction. It was warm work as NBC respirators had now to be worn, for it had been established, after some initial confusion, that the attacking aircraft had dropped chemical weapons along with the HE.

Major Grey, the man respon-



All part of the umpire's task. Sergeant Trevor Versey, Royal Artillery tells Americans with their powerful Vulcan gun that they are about to suffer artillery fire.



"For me, the war is over" — RCT Driver 'Streaky' Bacon reflects on the problem of being a casualty.



Major Charles McBean, squadron leader A Squadron 4th Royal Tank Regiment (right) discusses his 'losses' with an umpire.

Now came the air attacks with the news of many casualties and the knowledge that two large unexploded chemical bombs and a blown bridge had made the northern part of the Yankee circuit unoperational.

The planners at Battalion HQ were concerned about the gas fall out from the larger of the two bombs. By plotting the wind drift they could see it might get to Lemgo where a large ammunition train was expected that night. How and where could the train be re-routed?

Then a problem developed. Was the effect of the gas from the air attack persistent, or was it not? Major Thomas's team kept staunchly to the view that the enemy would be most likely to use persistent gases in rear combat areas where its own troops would not expect to operate at least for several days.

However it seemed the battalion was getting other advice from somewhere that the gas threat was only of short duration, and the rigours of full NBC apparel could be relaxed.

The umpires raced around to try to sort out the confusion. "Umpiring must be strictly controlled," said Major Grey.

"Otherwise the whole thing becomes a farce."

Eventually Brigadier Andrew Paviour, the supply commander for 1 (British) Corps, arrived on the scene demanding to know who was controlling the scenario.

He and his staff, he explained, had some important decisions to make about the routing of incoming convoys and supply trains. They needed to have precise information about the nature of the gas threat in order to prevent the contamination of fresh supplies.

As far as Major Thomas was concerned the incident was his and no one else had any authority to change it. He believed that air tests would reveal the gas threat had disappeared if they were made almost immediately. It was then nearly six hours after the attack.

In this way a small incident in a big war came at least partially to an end. There was still the question of the unexploded bombs once the disposal squads could get around to deal with it.

In the meantime the supply trains could roll in uncontaminated and the umpires could at last get home, perhaps with the reflection that even having the power of life and death is not always as simple as it sounds.

ACOLUMN of tanks, lumbering ponderously from a ploughed field and on to the road, was a common enough sight in the mock armoured battle that occupied much of Exercise Spearpoint.

And so was the problem that such a simple manoeuvre invariably produces for where the tanks went, there went also large clods of rich Westphalian soil which soon became plastered on the road.

Mud on the roads was a widespread problem in the most literal sense at the battle end of Lionheart. It was a preoccupation of Major Peter Sheridan, normally OC 39 Field Squadron, 23 Engineer Regiment, Osnabrück, but for the exercise in charge of the Damage Control Centre at Hildesheim.

The map in his crowded office at exercise HQ — the tented city known as Mons Camp — indicated manoeuvre state Yellow on the day we paid him a visit.

This was an indication that the surrounding countryside was partially saturated, allowing limited cross country movement of vehicles at the discretion of local unit commanders.

State Green would have meant that the ground was dry enough to support realistic manoeuvres and virtually unrestricted cross-country activity. Blue, on the other hand, would have practically confined tanks to made roads.

Towards the end of the exercise Major Sheridan's operational map was a mass of coloured stickers — most of them blue indicating the lowest priorities for damage repair, broken road markers, smashed kerb stones and so forth.

Yellow showed the medium priorities — minor mud on roads, small oil spillages, and broken fences allowing stock to stray in areas away from the roads.

Red pinpointed the most urgent jobs — broken fences which let farm animals out onto busy roads, large oil spillages (a serious matter as much of the countryside is used for water catchment) and broken power poles.

The other urgent category — mud on roads — had a colour all to itself, orange.

In his tented office Major Sheridan was flanked by German liaison officers with military and German civil police on hand next door. Out in the field he had 120 Sappers divided into recce and repair teams. They were armed with road sweepers and high wheeled tractors and had the support of road cleaning teams organised by the local authorities.

As Major Sheridan explained it, damage control had three basic responsibilities:

● To prevent loss of life or injury by clearing hazardous mud from roads and mending fences to



DAMAGE CONTROL OR... KEEPING GERMANY TIDY!

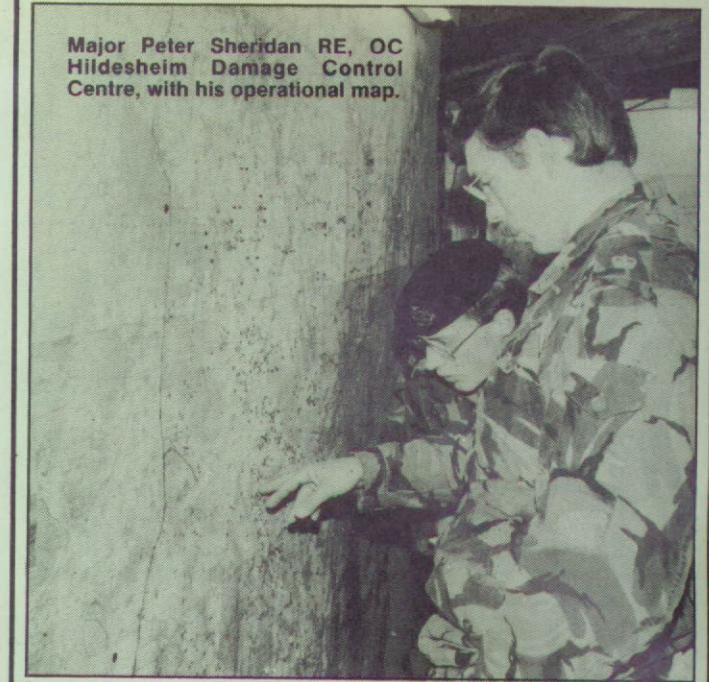
prevent livestock becoming a traffic hazard.

- To repair minor damage and demonstrate to the local population that the Army did in fact care and was prepared to do everything it could to minimise the impact of the exercise.
- To visit places where damage had been reported and estimate what was required to put things to rights.

Half way through the last week of Spearpoint, he was able to report that at least damage to crops had been rather less than expected, due mainly to the fact that damp conditions had tended to keep heavy armour on the roads.

But there were, naturally, some mishaps. A large tanker had fallen into the River Weser. It was recovered, fortunately, without spilling much of its cargo of petrol. Several tanks had come to grief in ditches: a Leopard had knocked out a power pole, blacking out a village and causing a local factory loss of production. Another tank had pushed in the side of a ditch and stopped the flow of water to a trout farm, thereby causing the loss of 200 trout.

Major Peter Sheridan RE, OC Hildesheim Damage Control Centre, with his operational map.



It was stressed frequently during the exercise that damage prevention was not just a matter of good public relations it was also a question of financial good sense.

Figures quoted included up to £54,000 to mend a farm road, £23 for a mere kerb stone, £450 for a property boundary post, and perhaps £50 for each squashed square hundred metres of potatoes.

The 1 British Corps Commander, Lieutenant General Sir Martin Farndale, made the point that as the British Government foots three quarters of the damage compensation bills, the individual soldier ends up paying for any damage he may have caused out of his income tax.

But even with the greatest care in the world some damage is always inevitable. On the River Leine, for example, sappers could hardly help the counter attacking Blue forces get across without doing something to the landscape.

In order to provide approaches for its M2 mobile pontoon bridge 1 Troop, 23 Amphibious Engineer

Squadron, from Hamelin, had to gouge large ramps into the river banks to prepare the approaches.

Further downstream, where a troop of 3 Field Squadron, 26 Engineer Regiment, Iserlohn, had built a medium girder bridge, trucks dumped hard core on a farm field to make the approaches passable for wheeled vehicles.

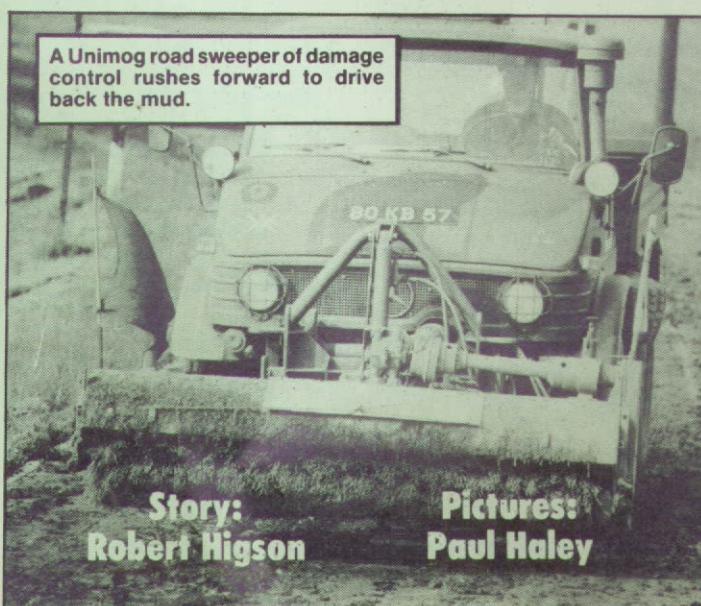
While the need to keep damage to a minimum was always high, there could be no denying the requirements of a demanding exercise.

The troop with the M2 amphibious bridge was working against time. The Sappers had been hit by at least two gas attacks, which required them to put on respirators to continue their arduous work, and they were struggling to get the last ramp formed and covered with metal matting for the impending arrival of elements of 19 Infantry Brigade with a quantity of wheeled and tracked vehicles.

Down at the medium girder bridge to the problem was an artillery barrage, which, according to the resident umpire, had damaged the decking on the bridge. An exasperated troop Staff Sergeant Ian Cook had to call up his tired men and get them to remove all the decking, stack it on the bank and then replace it. Only then could a recce patrol of Scimitars from D Squadron, 9/12 Royal Lancers, roar across and into action.

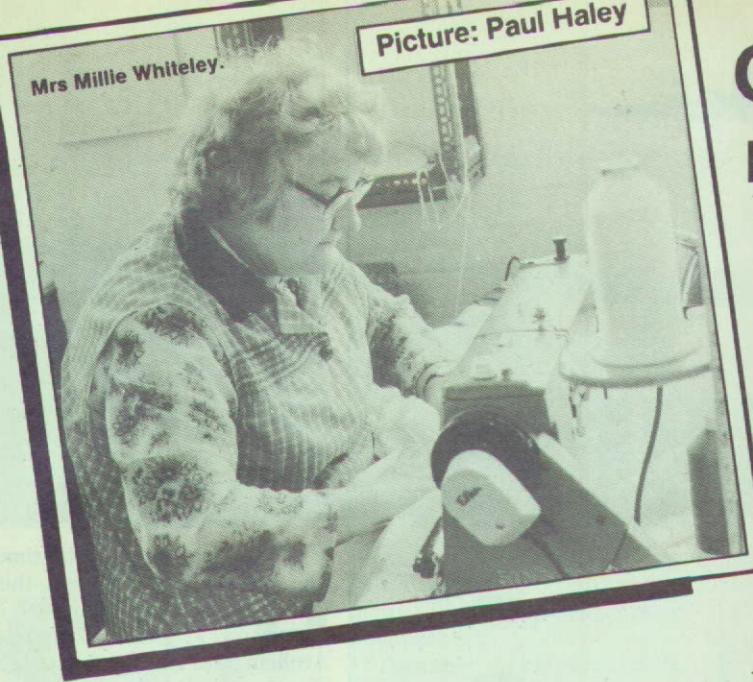
"He's already written off 40 men," the Staff Sergeant muttered looking darkly at the umpire. "And a medium wheeled tractor. I tell you if another artillery strike comes across, he's in the river."

Warrant Officer II David Lord, the umpire in question, was unconcerned. He is Sergeant Major of 26 Armoured Engineer Squadron, and he put it — "The power of life and death — well that's normal for a sergeant major."



Mrs Millie Whiteley.

Picture: Paul Haley



Graham Smith reports on a Woking firm whose quality control airborne forces have relied on for half a century.

A STITCH IN TIME

VERA LYNN'S voice sang out loudly from the wireless loudspeakers dotted round the one-time site of a Woking roller skating rink. Teenage girls, happy in their work, sang along with the Forces' Sweetheart as their hands deftly moved among the yards of khaki fabric, feet pumping treadle sewing machines and hands wielding needle and thread.

Girls like Joan (later Joan Marfleet, the senior cutter) and Millie (she became Millie Whiteley), two 16-year-olds who were making parachutes for the impending airborne drop at Arnhem by the 1st Airborne Division — Operation Market Garden — though they did not know it.

They are still there: Joan and husband, Alan, the harness shop supervisor who has 43 years' experience behind him. Millie, working in the experimental section of the GQ Parachute Company factory in Woking.

It is a firm that has turned out more than two million chutes of all kinds — including aircraft brake parachutes — since 1938 and is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. A firm that deals with an estimated 200,000 metres of fabric and some 950,000 metres of rigging lines annually.

The company was formed in 1934 by the late James Gregory and Raymond (later Sir Raymond) Quilter. Two years later the men submitted a design for a paratrooping parachute. But it took the German airborne landings in the Low Countries in 1940 for the War Office to recognise the potential.

Both men were urgently summoned to London and a meeting

with the planners of Whitehall. Their CQ 'X' Type parachute was officially adopted for use by the British and Allied airborne forces.

During the war GQ produced a 96-foot load-dropping parachute — so big, it had to be packed in the street!

Some of the most regular users of GQ's parachutes are The Red Devils, The Parachute Regiment's elite Free-fall parachute display team and the Army's showpiece aerial squad of such expertise.

GQ with its 130-strong staff employed in all aspects of canopy and rigging line production is a firm that thinks five years ahead says its Technical Director and Chief Designer, Mr Arthur Harrison, who has been there 30 years and has completed 300 descents himself.

Since World War 2 more than 1,000 aircrew — including a couple of Tornado pilots and two Red Arrows aerobatic display pilots — have had good cause to thank GQ by letter for the saving of their lives through their parachutes.

One RAF squadron leader Tornado pilot recently penned: "The purpose of this letter is to pass on through you my sincerest thanks to your workforce for producing a parachute that has all too often been taken for granted. All I can say is that my arrival back on terra firma was smooth, gentle and trouble-free and I shall never forget the sight of my navigator floating serenely to earth 50 yards away on a beautifully deployed GQ aero-conical. It's a credit to your product that I suffered no injuries whatsoever."

Such lucky aviators get a nine-carat badge with a GQ logo and a

certificate from the Surrey firm. The badge is worth £100 and its award ensures membership of the Golden Wings Club.

Techniques have moved along a great deal since the dark days of the war when treadle sewing machines were the main norm. Today the skill of assembly and reliability of the end product is ensured by the use of laser-cutting sewing machines and tensile testing of a high standard.

The firm has a research and development unit using the latest in technology with computer-aided design and manufacture guaranteeing 'creative and innovative design concepts'.

GQ — one of two main Ministry of Defence approved makers of parachutes — have a wide range of military chutes for aerial delivery methods. Chutes for paratrooping, tactical assault and supply drops. The largest is 66-feet; the smallest, a dish cloth-size flare chute.

In the last war they even made hessian chutes to carry pigeon baskets for the feathered message-carriers!

It is probable, too, they say, that the late Sir Douglas Bader would have used one of their chutes when he baled out. Likely, also, that members of the Special Operations Executive (SOE) would have used GQ chutes.

Techniques are ever being refined at the Woking factory. Advanced tactical parachute systems for Special Forces subscribers and scenarios such as HALO (High Altitude Low Opening) and HAHO (High Altitude High Opening) for stand-off parachuting.

The Advanced Tactical Para-

chute System (ATPS) has a nine-cell ram air main canopy chute incorporating a cross-port venting with internal and external stabilisers for stability in turbulence and cross-wind approach.

A unique slotted flap system is incorporated for steering and braking.

Accessories include, if needed, a Bergen rucksack and customised front-mounted pack with oxygen bottles, altimeter, compass and lighting.

GQ is particularly pleased with its 'Unicross' range of supply dropping chutes which are made from woven material supplied from its Lancashire mill. Several types are capable of dropping loads from 100 lbs to 2,500 lbs.

Mr Harrison, the technical director, said: "We make chutes for personnel and for roles such as dropping 50 lbs of medical supplies right up to medium battle tanks supported by eight 66-foot canopies. One-ton containers on MSPs (Medium Stressed Platforms). You name it, we can supply a chute."

One of the few factories with a motto: 'One Jump Ahead', its financial director, Mr John Harrett, said: "The future holds many challenges. We have taken the lead as innovators in parachute design in the UK. We can foresee the advent of motorised parachutes and the remote control parachute is on the horizon."

Meanwhile, Joan Marfleet and husband, Alan, were busily at work in one of the production rooms. Vera Lynn was not 'crooning' now; rather the lyrics and musical style of nearly two generations later from Radio One.

"Where's all the good music gone, like Alan Jones singing 'Donkey Serenade'?" mused Alan. "Yes... a great pity," endorsed his wife who, with five others, used to turn out 40 wartime canopies a day.

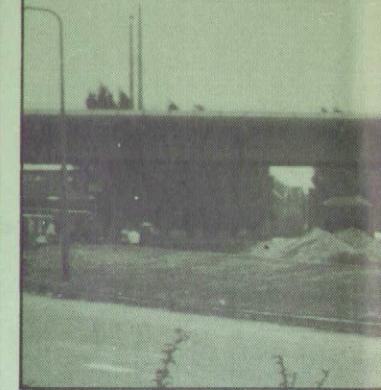
ARNHEM:

**A special place...
A special sacrifice...**



SOLDIER writer Robert Higson and photographer Paul Haley took time away from Lionheart to join the thousands commemorating 1st Airborne Division's magnificent stand at Arnhem 40 years ago

The Paras come marching in for the memorial service at the drop zone on Ginkelsche Heide.



THE weather at the time was marginal but this year's commemorative parachute jump at Arnhem was not going to be abandoned — not if the organisers could help it.

Arnhem occupies a very special place in the collective heart of paratroopers — a feeling that is reciprocated in full measure by the people who live there. And no-one was going to miss the opportunity of paying his respects on the 40th anniversary of the terrible battle which gave the city a permanent place in the annals of the British Army.

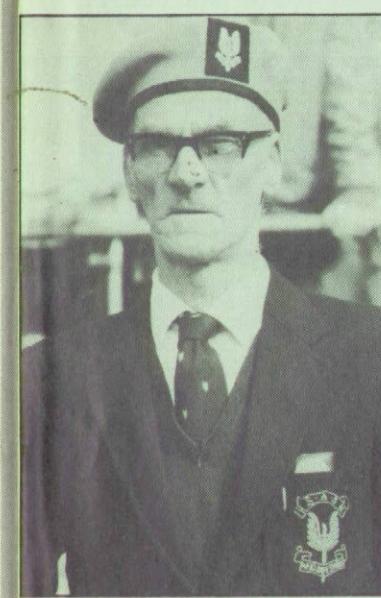
Royalty, from Britain and Holland, was present for the main events of the anniversary weekend along with many veterans, from Major General Roy Urquhart, the commander of 1st Airborne Division, right down to the rank and file.

Relatives of those who had fallen, members of the Dutch resistance and thousands of ordinary Dutch citizens joined them to honour the memory of the men who died in the heroic but doomed attempt to find Montgomery's back door into Germany.

It may seem strange that local people should remember with such affection those who took part in a conflict which brought them ruin and great hardship for the remaining months of the war. But the audacious attempt to hold the bridge over the Lower Rhine at Arnhem, which cost the lives of so many brave men, is still regarded as a heroic sacrifice in the cause of liberation.

Simply wearing a red beret in Arnhem on that anniversary weekend was enough to attract eager well-wishers and children seeking autographs. People smiled and waved and when bus loads of uniformed paras left the Ginkelsche Heide drop zone crowds on both sides of the road applauded.

A Dutch flowerseller had previously passed among the veterans



The proud face of remembrance. A veteran at Ginkelsche Heide.

handing each a single carnation with the simple, un-ironic message: 'Thankyou for what you did for us.'

The weather for this important anniversary was, however, less kind. A cold wind with occasional gusts of rain blew across the open heath as the spectators started to arrive in large numbers at the old DZ.

The original plans to drop 120 were amended to half that number and the crowds were warned that they would jump only if conditions relented.

But there was no stopping Mr Keith ('Tex') Banwell one of the best known veterans of the Arnhem operation. He has made a habit of getting a few friends together to drop in by free fall parachute before the official jump on previous anniversaries. And he wasn't going to miss this occasion.

And so, in his mid-sixties, Mr Banwell made his 1,000th jump to land on the DZ he had first seen as a sergeant with 10 Para 40 years before. He did not quite make the intended target. He was one of two members of his party who were

carried by strong winds into the watching crowds. Fortunately neither Mr Banwell nor anyone else was hurt.

Then came the big event. Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands arrived by helicopter, in time to see the wind diminish and a pale sun emerge for the appearance of two RAF Hercules over the DZ.

On their first pass they disgorged a trail of parachutes bearing 26 members of 10 Para, 25 of 2 Para, two Sappers, two air dispatchers, two members of the Para depot in Aldershot and two American guests.

It was a particularly poignant moment for one of the Depot representatives. Captain James Redman, medical officer at the Para Depot, was making his first jump after his qualifying course and had previously been told rather too much about the recent Arnhem jump when someone went through the roof of a caravan.

But the real importance of the occasion for him was the fact that his father, Dr Theo Redman, was somewhere among the spectators. Dr Redman had jumped onto that same DZ 40 years ago as a medical officer with 131 Para Field Ambulance.

The presence of two air dispatchers, and the dropping by one of the Hercules on a later pass of commemorative airborne panier, recalled the terrible toll taken of air dispatchers during the resupply phase of the battle.

Captain Mike Russell, a regular who commands the TA Troop of 47 Air Dispatch Squadron, RCT, said that 116 of them had died at Arnhem — the highest per capita loss of any unit.

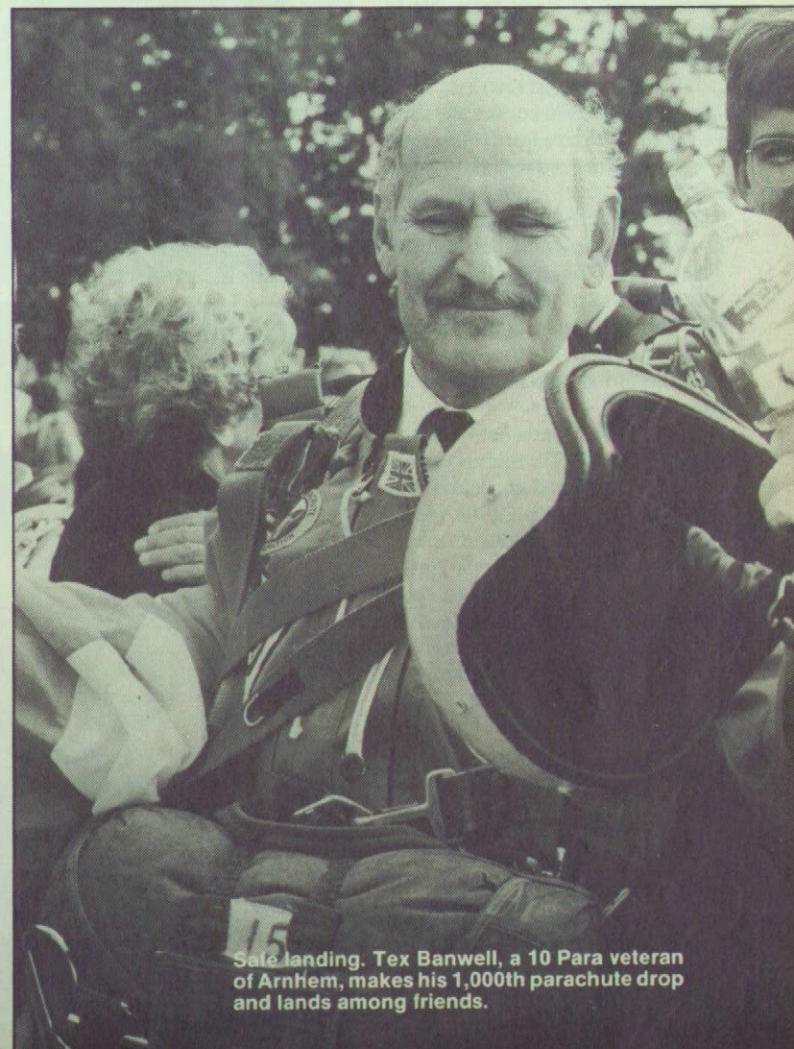
He added that their sacrifice had been particularly tragic for many had perished in desperate attempts to deliver supplies to DZs that had been, unknown to them, overrun by the enemy.

Immediately after the drop there was a brief ceremony at the

continued on page 20



The Prince of Wales, Colonel in Chief of the Parachute Regiment at the Oosterbeek cemetery. His equerry, Lieutenant Colonel David Bromhead, is on the left.



15
Safe landing. Tex Banwell, a 10 Para veteran of Arnhem, makes his 1,000th parachute drop and lands among friends.

• Full colour picture — back page

The Bridge at Arnhem — now named in honour of Major General John Frost who commanded the heroic efforts of 2 Para to hold it against impossible odds.

memorial on Ginkelsche Heide which was addressed by Lieutenant Colonel Johnny Winter, the CO of 10 Para the unit which, more than any other, has kept up the practice of the annual Arnhem drop.

10 Para, a TA formation, claims direct links with the battalion of the same name which was virtually wiped out during the battle. Only 36 men of the 10 Para who dropped on the same DZ 40 years ago managed to escape. One hundred and twenty-five were killed, including Captain Lionel Queripel who was awarded a posthumous VC. The rest, many of them wounded, were taken prisoner.

"The act of remembrance is no less poignant today than it was before," Colonel Winter told the crowd. "We live in a troubled world and the men who dropped today came straight from a major exercise, to which they are to return, to test the defences of the free world."

Among the many veterans who attended the ceremony was Mr George Morris from Pershore. When he had last stood on that ground it was as a 22-year-old private in 10 Para.

"There has been little change," he said, surveying the area for the first time in 40 years. "As soon as I got here I knew where I was."

Mr Morris was taken prisoner after the drive towards Arnhem had been stopped at Oosterbeek. Into the bag at the same time went his friend Ted Ryan from Newport, another member of 10 Para's A Company.

"It all happened too fast," said Mr Morris. "There was no time really to be excited or frightened. There was just too much happening."

Another member of the vast crowd was Mr John Perrott, the showground director of the Royal Showground in Stoneleigh, Warwickshire. He was a member of 3 Para and one of the few who managed to escape back to Allied lines.

"Morale was reasonably high," he recalled. "We didn't know whether things had gone wrong or not until we dug in at Oosterbeek."

When the orders came to pull out Mr Perrott was a little late in getting to the river. "We had the choice to stay or swim. I decided to swim although there was a problem with machine guns firing down the river and a danger of being swept away with the strong currents. But I got across."

"Actually I came out as a civilian. I got some clothes from a Dutch house which was unoccupied at the time. So if a tall Dutchman from Driel who has been missing some clothes all these years comes to contact me, I'll gladly buy him a suit."

Mr Henry McAnelly has be-

come something of an institution since he jumped at Arnhem with 1 Para on that fateful occasion. He is now a well known resident of Oosterbeek, the husband of a Dutch wife, a conductor of tours around the battlefield and a prospective joint Dutch and British citizen.

"It was a perfect jump," he remembered. "No wind, a beautiful day and no enemy activity during landing. But after an hour we ran into the SS."

Mr McAnelly lost his left arm and was made prisoner.

Forty years on, Arnhem is still more than memories for Mr McAnelly. Only that week he had been helping Dutch authorities with the investigation of a wrecked

Dakota of 564 Squadron, discovered, with the remains of four men, in a wooded area to the north of the city.

After a night of reunions in a city bedecked with flags and Para symbols, vast crowds gathered on a cool and misty Sunday morning for a solemn service of remembrance at the military cemetery at Oosterbeek.

They filled every available space inside and crowded five or six deep outside for the service attended by Queen Beatrix and Prince Claus of the Netherlands, the Prince of Wales, as Colonel-in-Chief of The Parachute Regiment, and a host of other dignitaries.

Major General Urquhart was

there and so was one of his brigade commanders, General Sir John Hackett who led the 4th Parachute Brigade at Arnhem. With them stood Major General John Frost, the man whose name has been given to the bridge at Arnhem in recognition of his role, as CO of 2 Para, in the valiant fight to hold it against impossible odds.

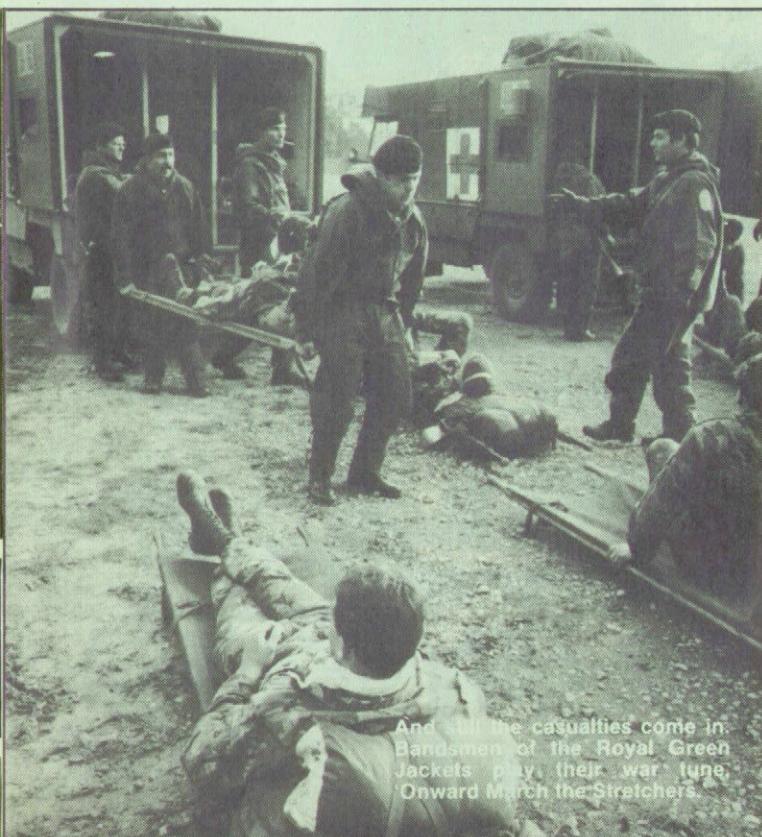
Perhaps the most moving moment in the service came when over a thousand children from the surrounding district laid a bunch of flowers on each of the 1,700 graves. At the request of a Dutch pastor they then spent a moment or two reading the inscribed names of the young men who became, 40 years ago, a part of their country's history.



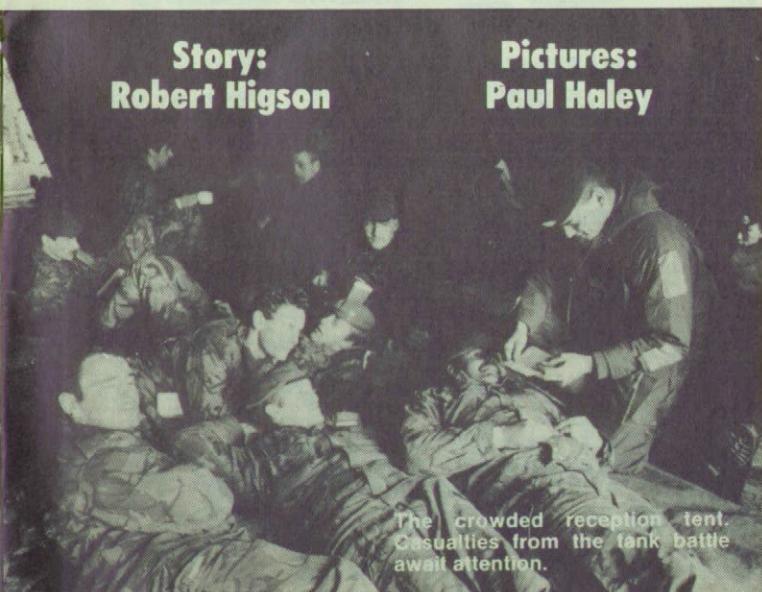
LEFT: A young autograph seeker giving back up support. ABOVE: Polish veterans at Oosterbeek. BELOW left: One of the 1,000 Dutch children who brought flowers to the graves. Right: Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands lays the first wreath.



BUSY TIME FOR THE MEDICS

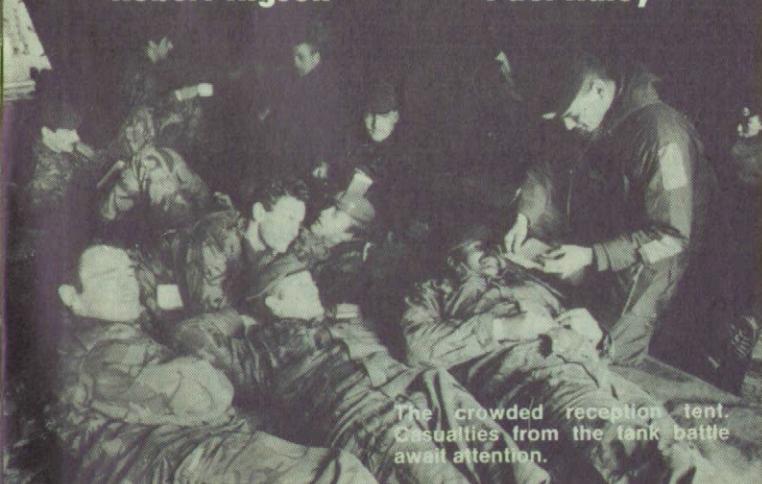


And in the casualties come in. Bandsmen of the Royal Green Jackets play their war tune, 'Onward March the Stretcherers.'



Story:
Robert Higson

Pictures:
Paul Haley



The crowded reception tent. Casualties from the tank battle await attention.



HE large tank battle which erupted around Hildesheim in the closing stages of Exercise Spearpoint meant a great deal of work for the dressing stations of 4 Armoured Field Ambulance, RAMC.

Dressing Station Alpha had come to rest alongside a football field when casualties came flooding in from the battle. It was the seventh move during the exercise. Previously they had been in a barn (considered rather luxurious because it could house the entire unit), a quagmire (very uncomfortable) and a sports hall (five star rating with toilets and showers).

Now they were under canvas with the football field supplying the essential requirement of a landing ground for helicopters. One hundred and forty simulated casualties awaited evacuation to 200 Forward Hospital at Detmold.

The battle came at an awkward moment. The adjutant, Captain David Morris, explained that the TA ambulance drivers had just gone home.

This meant that transport to the rear was at a premium. Anything that moved was being used to evacuate the wounded.

The wounded themselves were simulated casualties in a double sense. For the purposes of the exercise they were deemed to have come from the tank battle some 15 kilometres to the East.

In fact most of them were Welsh Guardsmen pressed into service to represent injured tank crewmen. Even in the most realistic exercises you cannot deplete the real crews and leave tanks stranded.

Despite the loss of its TA component, Dressing Station Alpha still retained the band of 2nd Battalion The Royal Green Jackets who laid aside their instruments to practise their war role as medics.

Sadly this was the last time they

A Puma helicopter near Dressing Station Alpha prepares the collected 'fit again' men for return to units.

would be exercising with 4 Armoured Field Ambulance as the band is to be axed in December.

In addition to 340 exercise casualties, all of whom had to be received, treated, documented and evacuated, there were more than 100 cases needing real treatment. These included tonsillitis, sickness, broken bones and cuts.

Captain Morris said one man had been brought in after a Ferret scout car ran over both his legs. Miraculously he was embedded in the soft ground and suffered nothing more serious than shock.

At the start of the exercise the dressing station had tried out the new NBC protective line — commonly known as the Bubble. This air supported tent with airtight entrances enables casualties to be treated in an atmosphere safe from chemical attack. It was used for cases of simulated contamination but taken down before the end of the exercise.

"We've been very busy," said Captain Morris. "It's been a good exercise for us and we've enjoyed it. And it's been a good exercise for our young lads. Some came straight from recruit training."

The adjutant added that as the Corps Commandeer had laid down that no casualties should pass through the dressing station without getting something to eat, a 24-hour catering facility had been established. The men who arrived had a meal no matter what the hour.

For the staff, working around the clock was simply a matter of routine when casualties were coming in.

"We don't have living accommodation," said Captain Morris. "We sleep whenever and wherever we can. Officers and men together. It's all very democratic."

NATOCARS-

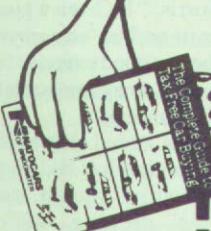
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CYCLE SAFETY

IT may seem very early to think about Christmas presents but for many a bicycle may be on the Christmas list. Or the bike may have been a past birthday or Christmas present. If so, what about giving a practical present to help the cyclist, be he/she six or 60 years old — membership to the National Bike Club.

The ROSPA are ever conscious of the high number of accidents, injuries and deaths which cycle owners face be it on a sports, racing or BMX bike. Many cyclists may not wish to join a Service club but still need protection and advice from a professional cycling organisation.

The National Bike Club offers third party insurance, legal aid and cycle insurance at a specially reduced rate and issues regular newsletters with a host of interesting articles for riders from fun cyclists to those who only take to a bike infrequently. There are special offers to NBC activities and competitions. And for the younger cyclists club membership is linked closely with the ROSPA National Cycling Proficiency Scheme.

The scheme, which is run through local authorities, police and schools and in some areas overseas the Services road safety schemes.

Membership fees are: Under 16 years £6.00, 16 years plus £8.00, Family Membership £20.

More information from: George Barker, ANCO ROSPA, Cannon House, Priory Queensway, Birmingham, B4 6BS. 021-233 2461.

IT IS A SAD FACT that since 1978/79's moratorium on maintenance, modernisation and building programmes on married quarters, we have never managed to catch up.

With continuing cuts in the maintenance budgets families are bound to suffer stress, frustration and inconvenience as they continually try to get repairs done.

Estate Wardens and Housing Commandants equally have a frustrating time pointing out that lack of money, cuts in manpower etc cause delays. They appreciate the problems but are often powerless to act for the solutions are outside their domain.

The families naturally feel aggrieved when they have the rent etc taken off at source and they pay the same rent regardless of the condition or position of their quarter. The only outlet is for the quarter to be assessed for sub-standard rent.

Wives ask how and on what grounds they can apply for their quarter to be assessed as sub-standard. Many quarters suffer from the building systems used in the 60s, others from modernisation programmes or major repairs, all can cause inconvenience although much is done to ease the burden. But where alternatives are not available, then a reduction in the rent should be automatic, be it just for a week, two weeks or longer. One cannot withhold the rent, so this is the only reasonable way of

compensation, although in some cases when the assessment comes through the occupant could well have moved on. Can they be reimbursed?

Another issue which is causing some confusion is the correct procedure for wives to take if their husbands are away, to make a claim against a contractor who has clearly damaged personal property.

The problem is that the occupant has no right to refuse admittance, even if no warning is given. If one does, problems arise.

Another issue raised by wives is the ridiculous mistakes which are still made in new buildings and modernisation programmes. The details often spoil a marvellous job. Placement of plugs, drying rails, wall cabinets, for instance, not to mention the use of orange for kitchen cabinets, carpets and floor tiles. Surely orange disappeared years ago, even for washing-up bowls? Why are Service wives so afflicted, with play areas positioned with no thought, or the equipment out of date.

Council and private estates over the past 10 years have increasingly been built with garages. The majority of Service families have cars, a must in Service life, yet soldiers moving into new quarters still have no garages, some estates are built with no garages at all, or the ratio is so small as to be pointless.

From my travel, and from letters from soldiers and



wives, it is obvious the situation over quarter maintenance is an area of concern, be it poor workmanship, lack of supervision and what some people think sheer waste of money e.g. decoration, then re-wiring so a second decoration, down to no-one returning to 'make good'.

Wives who are members of the Federation of Army Wives Clubs now have quartering representatives. In some areas wives are now included in visits to quarters. This is usually a FAWC representative.

I have raised some issues. There are many more. Comments and answers welcomed.

Anne Armstrong

Home tel: Camberley 29653

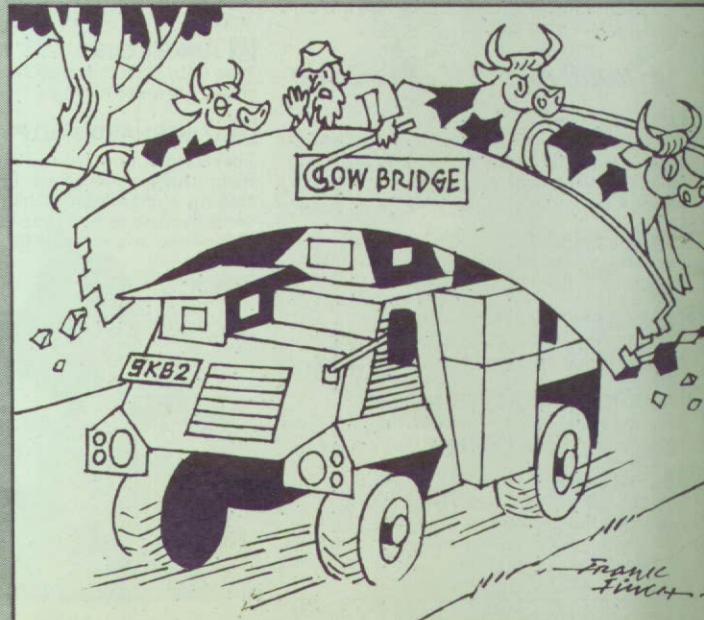
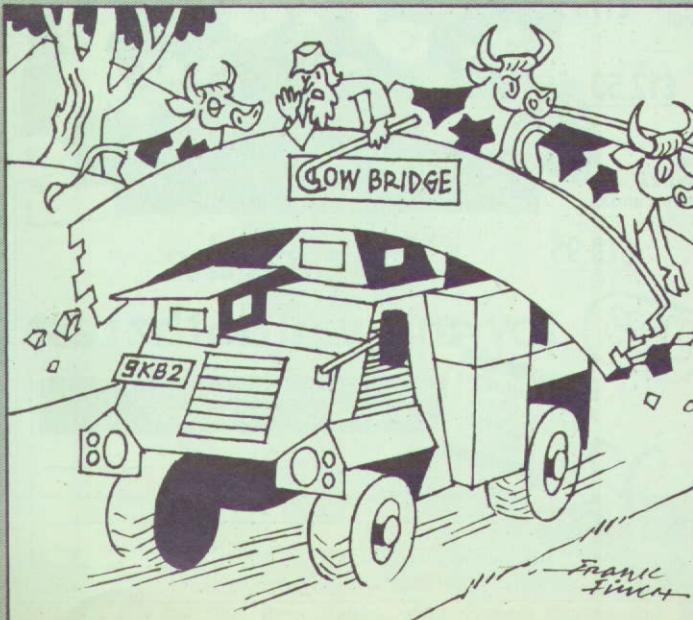
TIPS

FROM 2 Jan next ALL banks in UK will withdraw the facility for Servicemen/women to draw up to £20 in cash.

Seek advice from your bank but don't get caught out if you are returning from overseas and find yourself short of cash.

You may still cash a cheque at a branch other than your own, using your ID card, but this is only a means of identification, and a charge will be made i.e. any phone calls etc.

How observant are you?



These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences turn to page 35.

EXPORT SALES

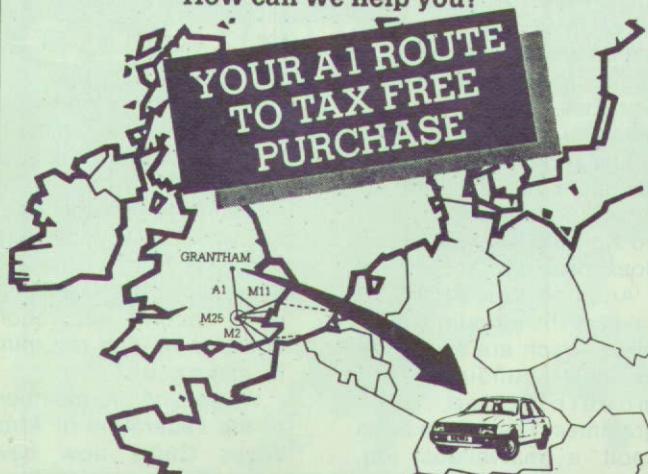
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MILAN 'STARS' WITH 6 AIRMOBILE

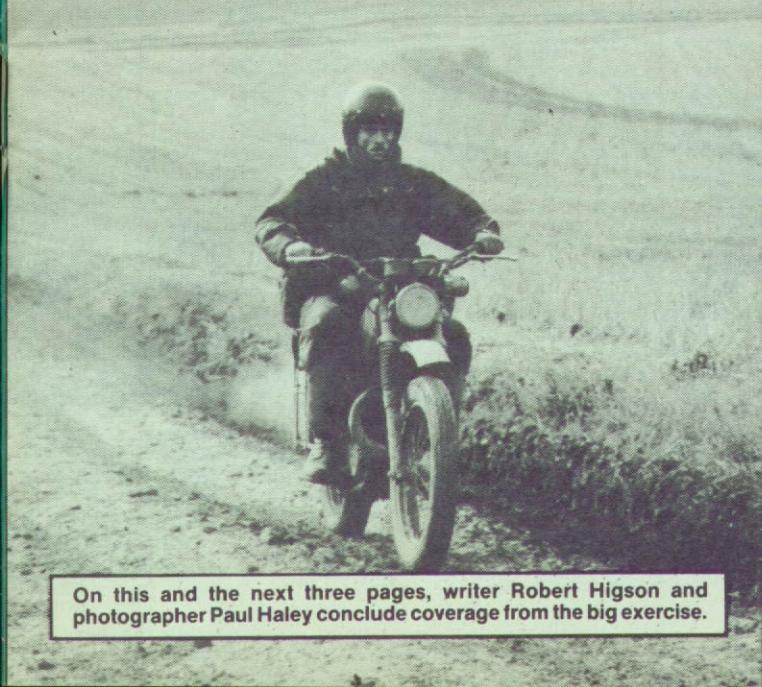


A nicely moving line of Leopards — and the puff of smoke denotes the opening of an attack by 6 Airmobile Brigade.



ABOVE: A German Leopard of 1st Panzer Division moves into the attack.

BELOW: A trail bike borne member of 6 Airmobile on patrol.



On this and the next three pages, writer Robert Higson and photographer Paul Haley conclude coverage from the big exercise.

THE war ended for 6 Airmobile Brigade with the desperate defence of a wooded ridge near the village of Rhene against an attack by a squadron of German Panthers.

A couple of hours after the brigade had been lifted in by helicopter, the Leopard tanks were pounding their positions with simulated shell fire. Finally they moved in for what proved to be a suicidal attack against Milan and Blowpipe.

Previously the Brigade had been operating further north in helicopter strikes against Dutch and American tanks.

Now it had moved down south to conclude the exercise with a vigorous exchange of mock fire with the Germans.

This was the first major exercise in which the recently formed brigade has been able to practise its role as a swift moving and versatile anti-tank strike force.

Sergeant Kevin Gregory, of Support Company, 1st Battalion,

the Light Infantry, said the Brigade had a fair measure of success.

"In some places we dropped there might have been problems," he said. "A couple of the landing strips had rather more armour than we expected and we could have got zapped. But generally our defences were as good as anybody's."

With becoming modesty Sergeant Gregory said that support Company, the Brigade Milan reserve, had won the war for everyone else.

The picture that says it all. End X has arrived and the battle is over.



The closing stages



TANKS GALORE!



An umpire observes as a Challenger races to take up a new position.



THE normally quiet villages and fields around Hildesheim became transformed into a modern battlefield in the closing stages of Exercise Spearpoint — the sharp end of Exercise Lionheart.

Three hundred British, American, German and Dutch tanks manouevred across this farming community in what was probably the biggest concentration of armour seen in the area.

Certainly there would have been nothing since the war to match the scale of this operation. Tanks, mechanised infantry combat vehicles, armoured ambulances and supply vehicles rumbled across fields, down lanes, over roads and through villages to the accompaniment of loud bangs, battle simulation explosions, smoke grenades and signal flares. While attack helicopters hovered like enormous dragonflies behind clumps of trees waiting to swoop on unsuspecting foes.

Such a spectacle in such a Chieftain en route to the battle front.

relatively well populated area would be hard to imagine in peacetime in any other country outside the Warsaw Pact.

At one stage gas-turbined M1 Abrams tanks of the 1st US Tiger Brigade were moving quickly north of Hildesheim to exploit a gap created by the advance of 4 Armoured Division and the relatively slow progress of 3 Armoured Division to the south.

This thrust into the soft underbelly of the Blue advance was eventually countered by the arrival of 4 Armoured Brigade, the Corps reserve, which made excellent time

A Green Howards' general purpose machine gun post confronts an M2 Bradley APC.

to the battlefield despite fears that it might have been delayed by morning rush hour traffic.

In the initial stages of the Orange attack an American column of M2 Bradley APCs and fuel trucks was thrusting northwards behind a screen of M1 Abrams tanks towards Blue positions defended by Challenger tanks of D Squadron, the Royal Hussars, and a dug-in infantry company of the Green Howards.

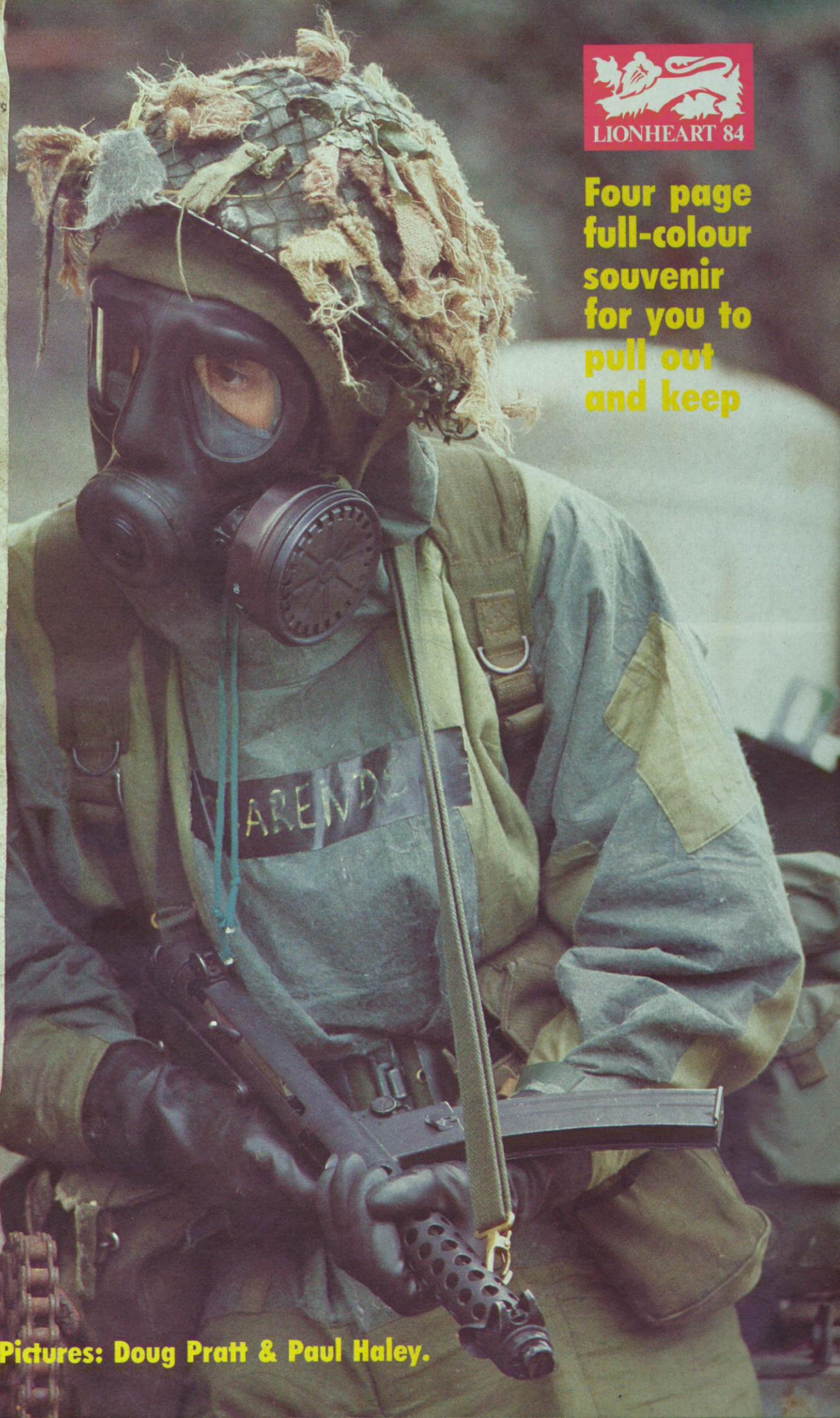
The tiny village of Bierbergen throbbed with the presence of the American column. The tanks, probing the Blue defences, let off a series of simulated gun shots, the Bradleys performed intricate pirouettes on their tracks in the narrow main street and a group of



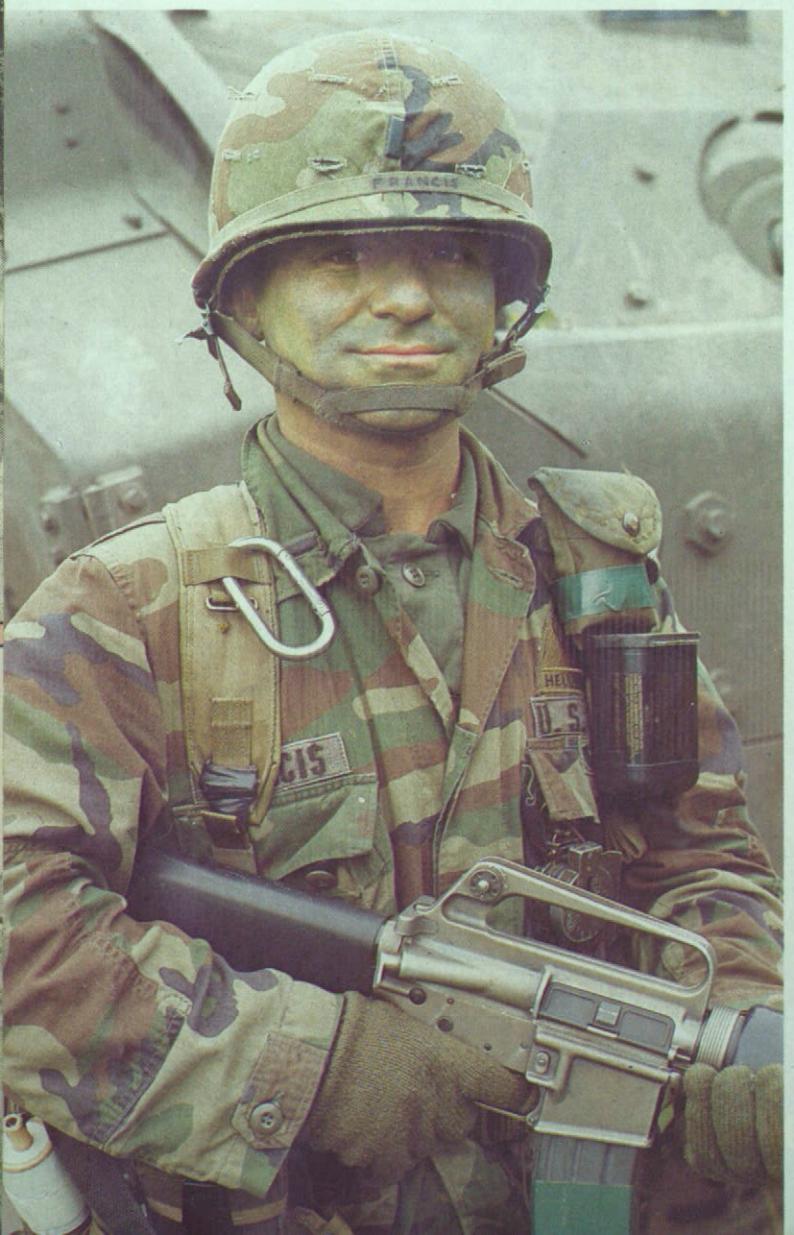
American M1 Abrams probing the Blue defences. Note the rear engine outlet which emits uncomfortably warm exhaust gases.



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Pictures: Doug Pratt & Paul Haley.



Pictures in clockwise order:
M2 Amphibious bridges of 1 Troop, 23 Amphibious Engineer Squadron, preparing for the Blue crossing of the River Leine near Betheln.
Breaking cover. A 432 Armoured Ambulance, attached to A Squadron, 4 Royal Tank Regiment, comes out of hiding to bring casualties to the rear.
Blue watch on the River Weser. German territorials man the defences with 9/12 Lancers in the background.
Safety first. Men of A Squadron 9/12 Lancers keep to the pedestrian crossing on patrol in Bodenwerder.
The Orange Enemy: Lieutenant Francis of D Company 2/41 Infantry Battalion and the way he goes to war — an M2 Bradley APC.
Waiting for Challenger. The crew of an M1 Abrams of the 1st US Tiger Brigade ready for a Blue.





Sergeant John Ferry, 23 Engineer Regiment takes time for a shave.

horses with foals, thoroughly alarmed at the proceedings, were hurriedly led off to sanctuary.

Captain J J Farquharson, a Reserve officer with the 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, was on hand as an umpire, conferring with an American colleague.

Evidently the column had been located and Blue artillery fire was coming in. There was the question of awarding casualties. The umpires' handbook was consulted. What were the batteries, heavy or medium? How many rounds had they fired?

Captain Farquharson was ready with a blue smoke grenade to indicate the artillery strike. Did the Americans understand? Yes, replied the American umpire, they did. But please don't throw the grenade near the fuel trucks.

However, before blue smoke could be released and the casualties informed, the entire American column had disappeared rapidly up the road towards the next village of Stedum where the British Blue forces were dug in and waiting.

Here there was another exercise problem. The US commander did not want to cut across country to his real objective because of the presence of young crops in the surrounding fields. Thus the column advanced up the road and fell easy prey to the waiting Challengers and Milan anti-tank missiles.

Umpire Farquharson followed up behind. "We have to imagine that the tanks cut across country tactically," he said. "And this has to be taken into account when the casualties on both sides are decided."

Another umpire on the spot, Lieutenant Guy Wood, 3rd Battalion The Queen's Regiment, explained that the umpires' handbook on Armoured Vehicle Kill Potential set out the procedures for adjudicating the encounter.

First you noted what equipment had been used, what tactics had been, or might have been employed. Then you consulted the tables and calculated who had won.

Eventually it was agreed that the Blue defenders had scored 12 M1 Abrams and seven Bradleys for the loss of nine Challengers.

Specialist Andy Poirer, a gunner on one of the Abrams, claimed this was the first time he had been killed on the exercise. The day



1,200 horse power of armoured aggression.
A Challenger of The Royal Hussars on the look out for trouble.

before, he said, he had got two Blue tanks, a personnel carrier and a helicopter. And before that he had destroyed five Chieftains in one day.

From the security of a nearby ditch Corporal Peter Bennison and Private John Manby of the Green Howards had added their quota of blank rifle and machine gun fire to the proceedings. "This is only the third time we've seen the

enemy," they said. "It can get very boring, but they always seem to find us something to do."

As this was the first major exercise in which the new main battle tanks, Challenger and M1 Abrams, had taken part there was some interest at the end of the day about any possible assessment of which was the better.

"I have been frustrated all week by that sort of question," said one

officer. "These tanks will never be in conflict with each other. If you want a comparison you should make it with a potential enemy."

"As it happens, Challenger, Abrams and Leopard all have different things they do best whether it is in protection, firepower or mobility. It must be marvellous for any tank force commander to have such flexibility."

Crewmen of an M1 Abrams inspect the way ahead.
The British are out there somewhere.



Into battle. M1 Abrams of the 2nd US ('Hell on Wheels') Armoured Division advance to attack.



T WAS the last day of Exercise Spearpoint and as far as Captain Tim Barrett was concerned it was time to pack up and go home. That was the message that came down from his Colonel — the Commanding Officer of 1st Battalion The King's Own Royal Border Regiment.

So Captain Barrett left the marshy tracks where he had been busy leading the recce platoon and sped off down the main road in his Fox scout car to muster his men.

Unfortunately G Battery (Merces Troop) 7 Royal Horse Artillery had a light gun emplacement on that same road and no one had

EXERCISE ENDS WITH SURPRISE CATCH!

told them that the exercise was over.

As a component of the 5th Airborne Brigade which had been operating on the Orange side against elements of 2 Infantry Division in the area between Alfeld and Einbeck, G Battery was still at war.

"I was going down the road, full of the joys of spring when suddenly I was stopped," Captain Barrett said.

G Battery commandeered his Fox and thrust him into a barn with some other disgruntled officers.

By the end of the morning a happy band of horse gunners had ambushed three Foxes and one Ferret and assembled a bag of prisoners which included one captain, two subalterns, one RSM and six crewmen.

The last report on the prisoners, as everyone waited in the rain for an umpire to arrive and sort things out, was that they were in various stages of being cheeched off.

Had Captain Barrett been an Orange player, and had he been captured earlier, he might have

ended up in Stalag Lionheart — the PoW camp established by TA Pioneers.

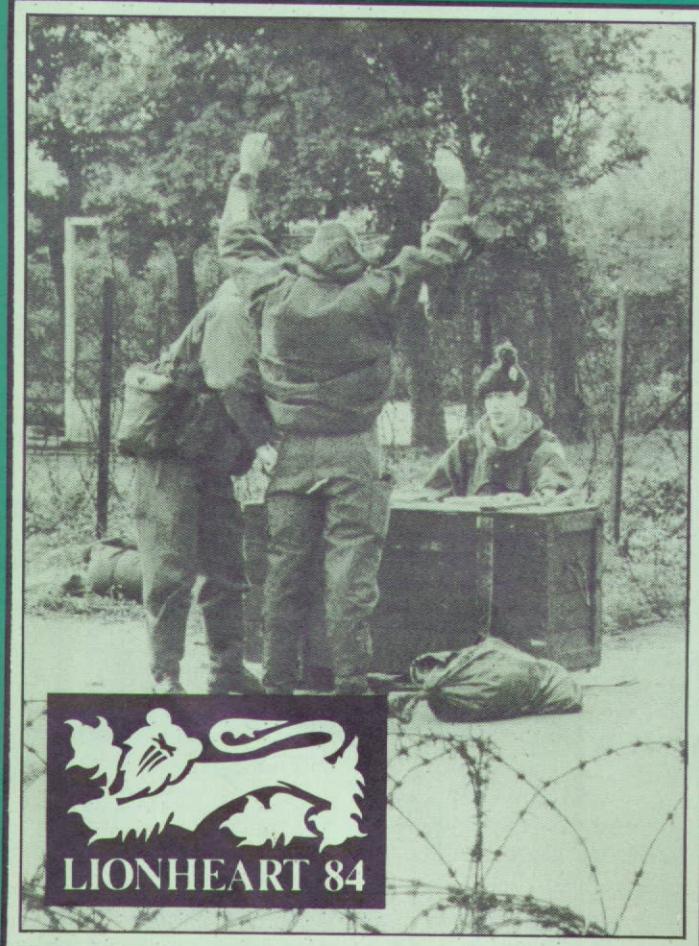
The camp represented one of the first exercise tasks given to 68 Company, Royal Pioneer Corps (V), a Northampton-based unit which recruits its members throughout the country.

With Sergeant Sid Finnemore, from Northumberland in charge, the Pioneers erected 28 rolls of coiled barbed wire and 500 yards of straight barbed wire to convert a barrack block into a secure stockade.

Their efforts were soon put to the test as captured enemy troops, who had infiltrated the Rear Corps Area to sabotage key installations and supply lines, were transported to the camp.

Also being tested were the prison guards — a group of TA soldiers of 4th Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers.

Their search, reception and guarding procedures had to cope with a motley group of British and German prisoners who made it their business to be difficult. Several even tried to escape.



Rangers processing a 'prisoner'.
Picture: Hildesheim APIC.

Surprise ending for Captain Tim Barrett.



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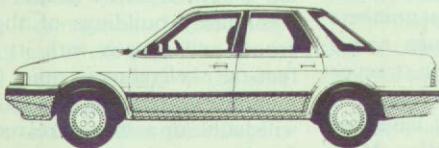


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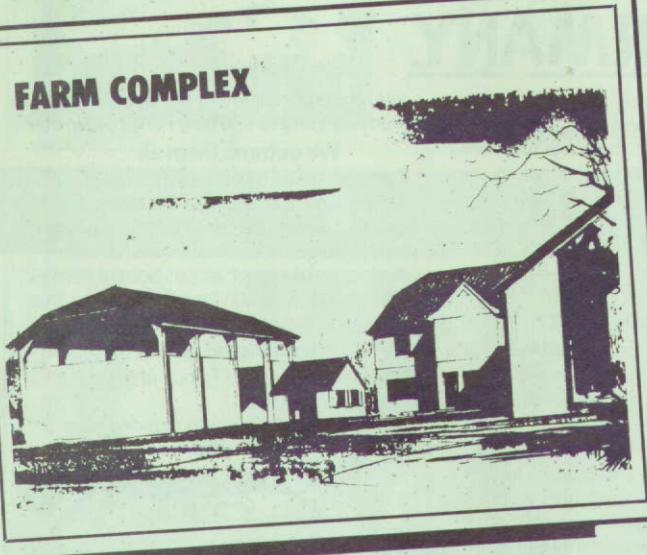
NEW FIBUA

(A slice of Saxony for Salisbury Plain)

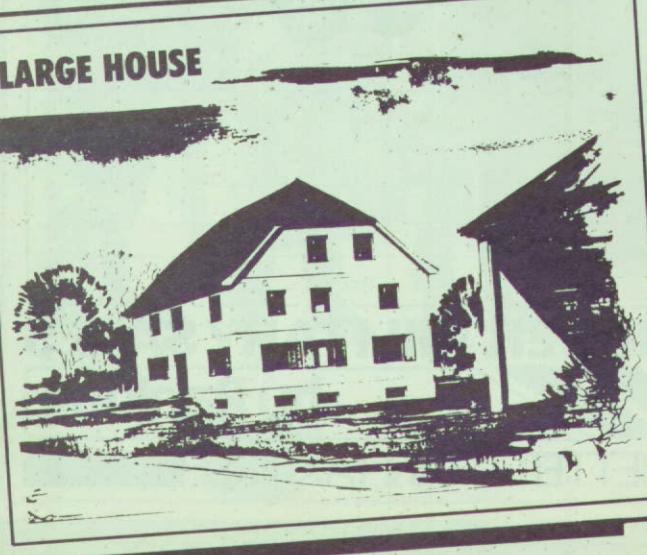


**Story: Graham Smith
Artist's impressions: PSA**

FARM COMPLEX



LARGE HOUSE



A 90-BUILDING purpose-built FIBUA (Fighting in Built-Up Areas) village complex costing £5½ million at today's prices and embodying 'characteristics of several Lower Saxony villages' to convey training realism in a Central Region scenario is being proposed for Salisbury Plain.

A second battalion facility of similar kind is being planned for Sennelager in BAOR.

The Salisbury Plain proposals, the subject of a three-year study, were announced by the Ministry of Defence during a media conference held at HQ South West District, Bulford. The revelation came during the last few hours of Exercise Lionheart in BAOR.

But the new village in the heart of Wessex where once Romans and Saxons exercised in great numbers will not have a German name. Nor will it have German street or traffic signs.

"I don't think we'll have any flossy extras," Brigadier Mike Evans, Deputy Commander South West District told me.

And it could be another two and a half years, it is estimated, before any soldier would set boot in it. This is allowing for various detailed negotiations with local authorities who envisage a two-year building scheme involving a 50-strong work force.

It will provide FIBUA training drills which the nearby intermediate facility at Imber cannot.

The proposed 148,500-square-yard site said to 'meet essential military requirements' is at Copehill Down which lies in a triangular area bounded by Tilshead (three miles), Chitterne (two miles) and

Shrewton (three miles), in Area Nine on the southern half of the Salisbury Plain Training Area. Circling it are 11 tank crossing points.

The only other features within one kilometre are the Copehill Plantation (to the south) and Fox Covert (to the south-east).

The layout of the village is based on a central cross roads with community buildings of shops, school and church with its 26-foot-tall skeletal metal spire ("to minimise visual impact") — it also will double up as the control centre for the exercise directors — and some random siting of smaller houses and farms. Some of the houses will have cellars and attics.

It is said the complex will not be visible from any of the nearby villages and, by careful design of the buildings and 'judicious landscaping' it is hoped the village will not 'look significantly different from an ordinary rural settlement.'

Brigadier Evans reminded: "If we are in the business of producing a credible deterrent then we must provide realistic training and teach proper tactical lessons.

"One such area in which we might have to fight is the North German Plain, an area, in part, of rolling countryside studded with

villages not all that far apart.

"FIBUA skills can be exercised in existing UK facilities but there are no facilities in the UK to exercise all-Arms operations involving infantry, artillery, engineers and signals and including tanks, APCs and air support."

The FIBUA planners in coming up with the Copehill Down scheme say that two changes have occurred in BAOR which dictate the increased use of those villages — the expansion of villages and the longer range of modern weapons.

The Copehill Down FIBUA of 190 buildings is sited on a fairly flat area giving all-round fields of observation out to about 1,500 metres, thus allowing for what they see as a realistic force of two to three mechanised companies, including tanks and APCs, to exercise tactically and manoeuvre.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Edmunds, a staff officer with responsibility for UKLF and Ranges and Training Areas, said: "The majority of training will take place in the village itself. A typical exercise will last three to four days.

"In it, a company level force including perhaps three or four tanks will spend most of the time preparing the village for defence by converting the houses into strongpoints, building sandbag emplacements in them and baulking up the floors and digging trenches around the buildings. Plans for the defence will be drawn up and practised.

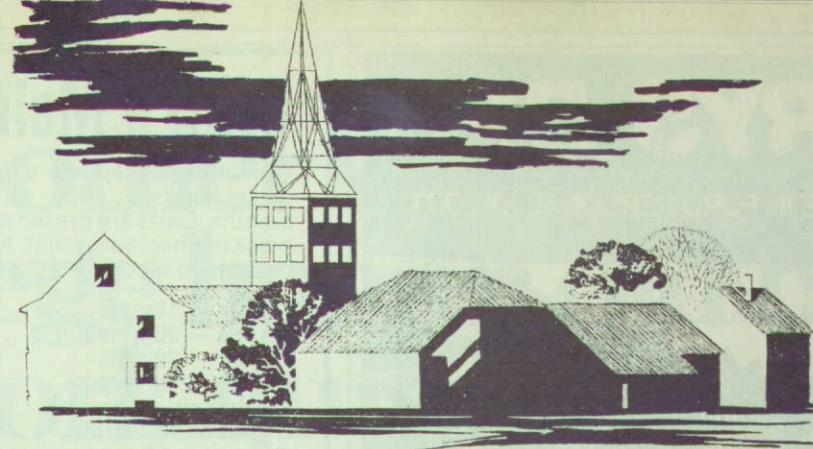
"After about 48 hours the rest of the battalion with more tanks will simulate an advancing force on the village. When stopped it deploys and attacks the complex and this last phase is unlikely to last more than 24 hours, after which the defences will be dismantled and the site prepared for the next unit.

"Because of the limited availability of resources, particularly tanks and AFVs, there will not be a significant increase in the intensity of use of the area. The use of the 11 tank crossings in the area will increase somewhat."

He said that after the village is built it will be used virtually every day of the year including weekends but that much of the training taking place there now would have to be displaced elsewhere. The only increase in the intensity of training would be with AFVs which would increase 'a little.'

A large proportion of the training, he said, about 146 days a year, would be in 'in village' skills — street and house clearing and preparing buildings to resist a major attack. These would involve very little armoured movement.

"Training in the village will be carried out using blank ammunition and pyrotechnics only. There would be no live firing from any source," he said.



FIBUA TRAINING FACILITIES

Copehill Down Near Tilshead Wiltshire

The choice of the site had taken in many considerations including its location where the minimum of environmental impact would occur and disruption to local residents plus the need to build a village without raising the cost "excessively."

Colonel Edmunds concluded his remarks: "There is a pressing need for FIBUA training facilities and while FIBUA is not new — troops fought in built-up areas in the last war — it has not been extensively practised in recent years.

"We need a site for training the reinforcement of troops for BAOR in this country before they leave for that theatre. We need the village in an area where all-Arms co-operation can be tactically and realistically practised. The site at Copehill Down will best fit that bill and we believe that with careful screening and landscaping our FIBUA village will have the minimum impact on the environment."

Another reason for building the all-Arms facility at Copehill Down, say the planners, is that it would be impracticable and too costly to send all UK units with BAOR reinforcement roles to BAOR each year for FIBUA training.

Already, the limited training facilities in BAOR were being fully used by their resident units.

The Copehill Down buildings, they say, should be 'soldier-proof'. External walls will be either in brick or coloured concrete blocks; timber-framed profiled metal sheeting will serve as the pitched roof tiles. Doors and windows will be secured by shutters and 'robust' locks.

Trees like beech, cherry, lime, and whitebeam will take root there for tactical training purposes as well as softening the image, 'minimising the impact', when seen from a distance.

Mr Cyril Bayliffe, the Salisbury Plain Principal Training Area Land Agent, assured all that the complex was well away from Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) archaeological importance; the nearest was nearly 2,000 yards away.

There would be no interference with public rights of way and the

public would be able to walk over land near the village when it was not in use for training purposes.

"It is not anticipated that the training will have any effect upon the wildlife," said Mr Bayliffe, "indeed, it has, for example, already been established that within other parts of the training area larger numbers of wildlife exist than on the nearby farmland.

"We will, of course, discuss matters of detail with the planning authorities following the usual consultation procedure. Everything possible will be done to meet their comments and to construct the facility in such a way as to minimise the effects upon the landscape and the people."

Concurrently with the FIBUA development programme, the Ministry of Defence is planning to carry out further measures in its environmental improvement plan for the Salisbury Plain area.

These include the release of buildings at Old Sarum, improvements to Greenlands and Westdown Camps, increased access to Imber village and improved protection for archaeological sites.

Intermediate FIBUA facilities, for unit training at platoon and company level, already exist at Longmoor near Aldershot and Whinny Hill at Catterick.

Plans are well in hand for two further intermediate facilities at Stanford and Sennybridge training areas.

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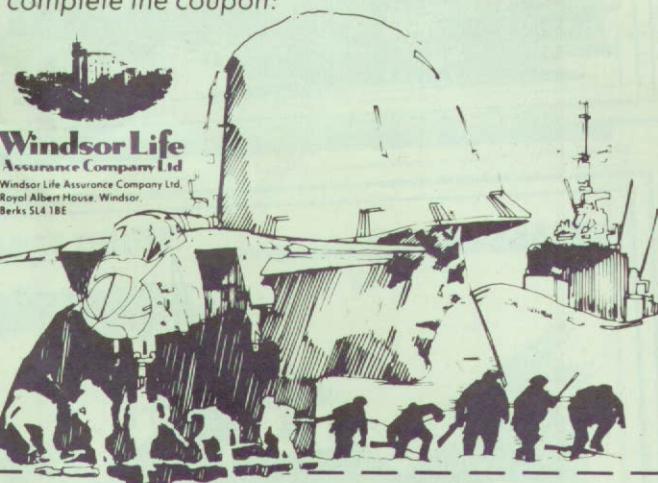
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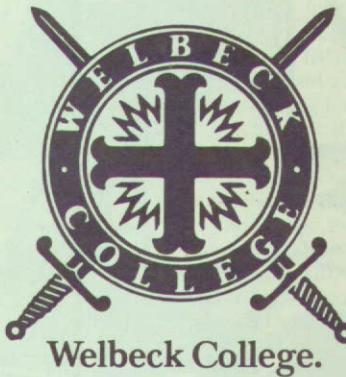
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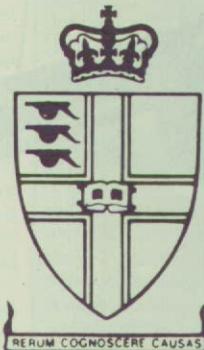
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the APC. The rate of fire is low — the GPMG at a similar rate would be quite reliable.

This gun would double the spares inventory and the training requirement. Perhaps more GPMGs (or five Brownings) would be a cheaper and more flexible solution — **R H Martin, 185a Queen Street, Torrisholme, Lancs.**

Confused

Captain J Brackenridge refers to the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry as part of the Queen's Own Yeomanry (13 Aug). They are now a squadron of the Royal Yeomanry.

Mr Noyce has confused the 22nd Dragoons and the Westminster Dragoons. The former was the correct title of a regiment of the Royal Armoured Corps raised for the Second World War and disbanded at the end of the war.

The Westminster Dragoons were originally the 2nd County of London Yeomanry. Both regiments played a vital role in the D-Day landings. — **Boris Mollo, Deputy Director and Keeper of Records, National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, London, SW3 4HT.**

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

More flexible

I read with interest about the new chain gun (10 Sept) but notice that it is worked by electricity. This could be a problem if the vehicle was disabled or the battery flat.

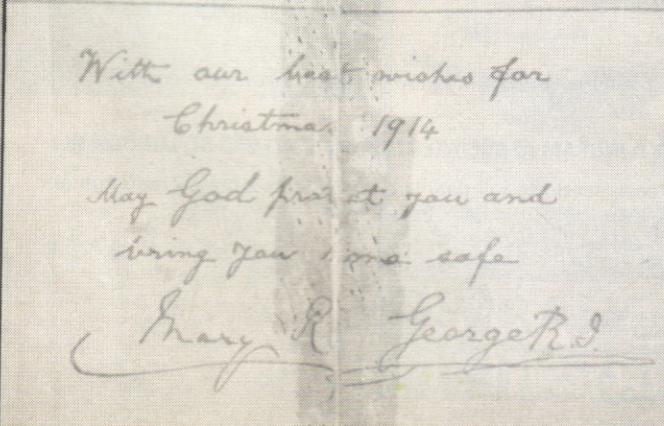
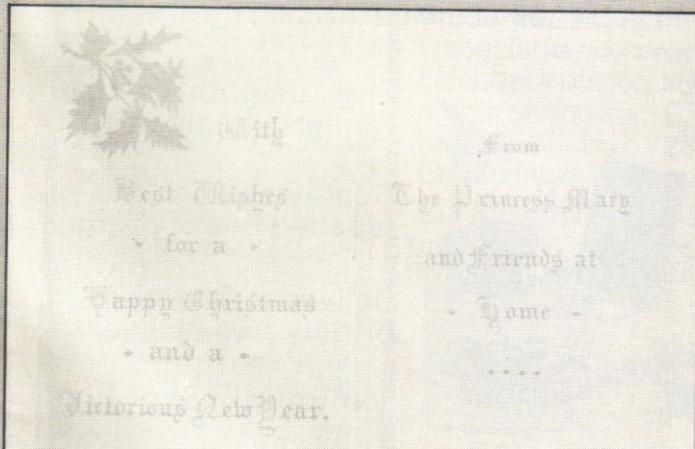
Also, the parts would not interchange with the crew's GPMGs. It would have to be taught separately and it would not be possible to deploy it away from

Little pieces of history

I thought your readers might be interested to see the actual Christmas card (below) that went with the Princess Mary gift box in 1914 (NAM No 5, 21 May).

The gift box that I have was presented to my grandfather while he was serving in France with the Old Contemptibles. The reverse side of the card with the personally written message from the King and Queen has their photographs on it.

The box, which has been handed down over the years, contains my grandfather's war medals and other little pieces of history that he collected while serving with the Army Service Corps and the Royal Artillery. — **Derek M Parker, PO Box 997, Mount Isa, NW Queensland, Australia.**



Can You Help?

I am seeking information re the liberation of a village in Holland namely Sleek-Echt near Himburg in southern Holland.

The village was liberated by British Forces around 22/1/45. Whilst in Spain recently I met a young Dutch couple and the wife told me her husband's mother had a great affection for the British. She had been evacuated some 15kms away because of the heavy fighting in the area around Susteren and the village was liberated five days before her husband was born on 27/1/45.

The army fed and clothed the baby and a constant stream of them were always visiting him and his mother.

Is it possible through your readers to trace what the unit was and to try to see if there are any survivors who remember this time and place?

The young man is called Sjier Maassen and his address is Slekerstraat 38, 6102 V L Sleek-Echt, Himburg, Holland. — **Roy Mackman, 54 Vernon St, Lincoln, LN5 7QT.**

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they were well down.

You will recall we asked readers to sort out from a square of letters (15 x 15) the names of 14 famous military commanders — and 14 historic venues with which they are associated.

The 14 names, followed by the 14 venues, are:

1. Alexander — Arabela; 2. Allenby — Megiddo; 3. Clive — Plassey; 4. Coote — Porto Novo; 5. Joan of Arc — Orleans; 6. Leonidas — Thermopylae; 7. Miltades — Marathon; 8. Montgomery — El Alamein; 9. Moore — Corunna; 10. Napier — Meane; 11. Petain — Verdun; 12. Sale — Jellalabad; 13. Scipio — Zama; 14. Sobieski — Vienna.

Prizewinners were: 1st Capt S R Lyon, 3 RTR, BFPO 16. 2nd G F Royle, 57 Osborne Road, Farnborough, Hants GU14 6AP. 3rd Mr K Hook, 28 Rochford Avenue, Shenfield, Brentwood, Essex CM15 8QW. 4th Mr G H Bendell, 199 Midanbury Lane, Southampton SO2 4GW. 5th R Travers-Bogusz, 77 St Thomas's Road, Hardway, Gosport, Hants PO12 4JU.

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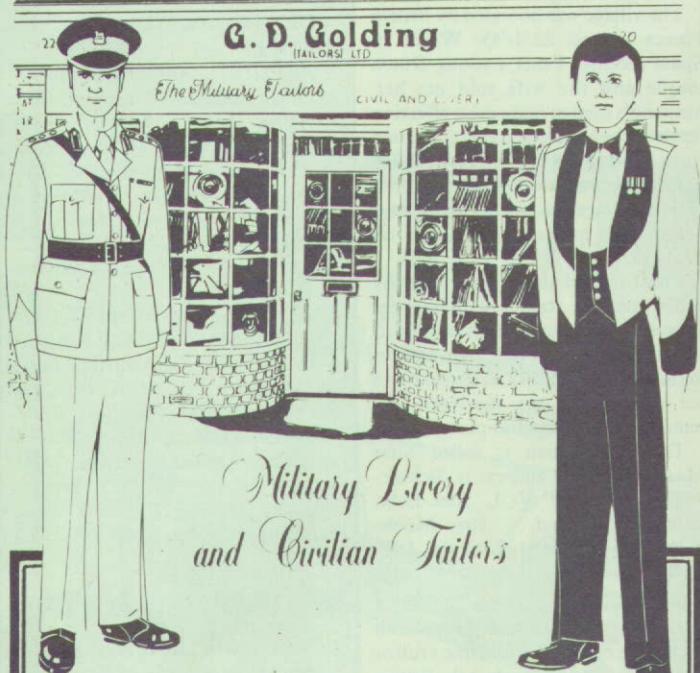
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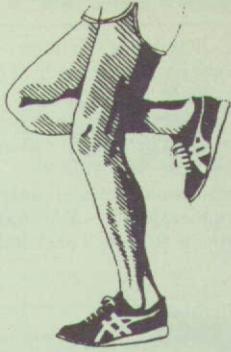
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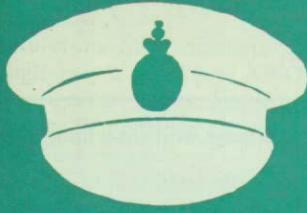
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THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT

This, the youngest yet the largest Regiment of the Infantry was formed as recently as 1 April 1970 and has been on continual operational duty since that day.

It has a strength of almost 7,000 officers and men employed in battalions varying in size from strengths of approximately 500 to over 900. Each battalion contains a small regular element, a permanent cadre and a part-time element.

The duties of commanding officers, training intelligence and security officers, quartermasters, regimental sergeant majors, chief clerks and certain specialists are undertaken by regular soldiers at HQ (Lisburn) and in each battalion.

Permanent cadre soldiers, many of whom are ex-Regular, are full-time soldiers; the officers fill the posts of adjutant and company commands.

Battalions 2 i/c's are part-time officers.

Ops officers, intelligence officers and other major battalion appointments can be held by any of the three elements depending on circumstances.

Almost 4,000 of those serving in UDR are part-time and there are over 700 Women members.

The WUDR were formed in 1973 principally to assist in search

duties but are now employed in operations rooms, on operations and patrols and a wide variety of other duties, they never carry weapons.

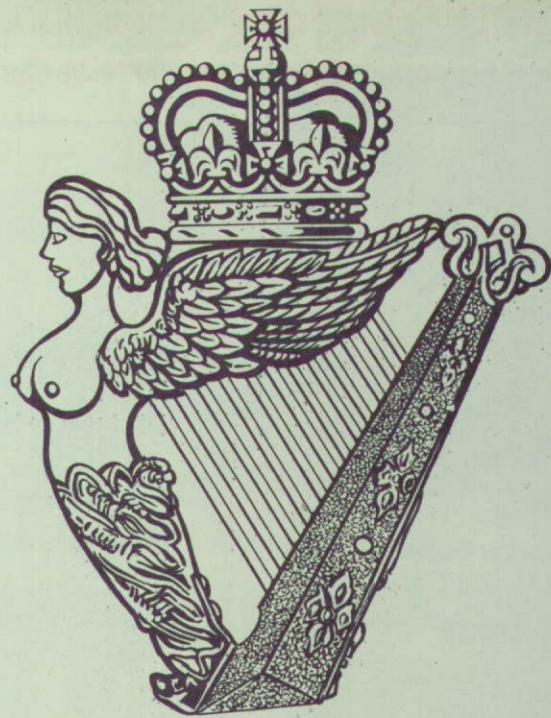
They are affectionately known as "Greenfinches" from their radio appointment titles.

The Regiment has operational responsibility for over 80% of the Province including some border areas but are not required to serve in any capacity out of the Province except for training on a voluntary basis.

The head-dress badge is the Irish Harp ensigned with the St. Edward's crown in gold anodised worn in the beret by officers and men alike.

Originally officers wore the badge in gilt in the SD hat but after two years the SD hat was replaced and the wearing of the gilt badge by officers is now incorrect.

Pipers wear the same format but in gilt and double the size in their distinctive head-dress.



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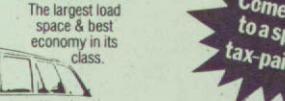
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The REME specialists who maintain the Army's helicopters are of the highest technical calibre and must be prepared to go anywhere at short notice to carry out effective repairs.



KEEPING THE FLIERS FLYING

**Story: John Margetts
Pictures: Doug Pratt**



Lance Corporal Russel Cole joint soldering in the cabin of a Gazelle helicopter.

REME personnel cycle from their 'office' — a large workshop hanger.

IN THE past 12 months ace swordsman David Garrod has won five silver and gold 'pots'.

With the trophies went a hatful of titles including that of Army Fencing Champion at Arms.

But when he collected his spoils from the engravers, his joy at winning, quickly turned to dismay when inscribed after his name were the initials AAC — Army Air Corps.

For like the rest of his 200-plus colleagues at the AAC Centre, Middle Wallop, Corporal Garrod wears the sky-blue beret of the AAC — and he wears it with pride — but on it he wears with even greater pride his own corps badge, that of the REME.

Now the offending initials have been filled in and the mistake put right, gloom has lifted and all is sweetness and light again in the workshops where they keep the Army's helicopters flying.

Not that they were ever seriously bothered, but like every other unit in the Army, 70 Aircraft Workshops REME is proud and anxious to retain its own identity and to see it proclaimed in big letters when one of its own collects a top award.

Like the time Corporal Richard Mitchell (now Lieutenant) won the Sword of Honour at Sandhurst — only the second REME officer to do so — and Corporal Alan Powell,

who was there with Mitchell, did a double by scooping the Anson Memorial Prize for military knowledge and the Signals' Prize.

"That was last November," said Lieutenant Colonel Brian Porter, CO of the unit at the time of writing and now promoted to Colonel and Chief Aircraft Engineer, Army Aviation.

"They are just two of five from this unit over the past three years who have been selected for Sandhurst and who are making a success of their promotion.

"Their achievements are indicative of the quality of the men in my unit, all of whom are highly skilled and well qualified.

"More than 100 of them are sergeants and above, which gives status to match their skills.

"Many have the ability to become officers, and do, but even those who try for a commission and fail, hopefully become artificers, which is from Staff Sergeant upwards.

"The pass rate for artificers is extremely high, but regrettably we have not enough places to accom-

modate them all. That makes competition for the few places available very tough."

Rules in the workshops are tough, too. If a tool goes AWOL when a repair job is complete, it must be found before the aircraft leaves the hanger.

Each spanner has a place on a board which has the silhouette of the tool drawn upon it. As a job is finished each piece must be returned to its appropriate place.

A glance tells if anything is missing. If anything is, then the hunt starts and doesn't stop till it's found.

It's all in the name of safety, because a mislaid spanner in an engine compartment or some vital area could mean the loss of the aircraft and possibly the crew. So safety is high on their list of workshop priorities.

With every Army helicopter in the UK — including those of the Royal Marines — Belize and the Falklands under their umbrella, they are kept busy with second line support, plus first line support for the AAC Development and Trials Unit.

In addition they provide Spearhead back-up to AAC and Royal Marines and second line support to BAOR aircraft deployed in Northern Ireland.

On top of this they provide the skill and know-how for UK-based AAC and RM units when they go on exercises — in the UK or world-wide.

And so it goes on. After all that they can, when required, put out a

five-man Forward Repair Team capable of going anywhere with a spare helicopter engine and switching new for old in a few hours.

"No problems," said Colonel Porter. "It just shows the calibre of the type of guys we have here."

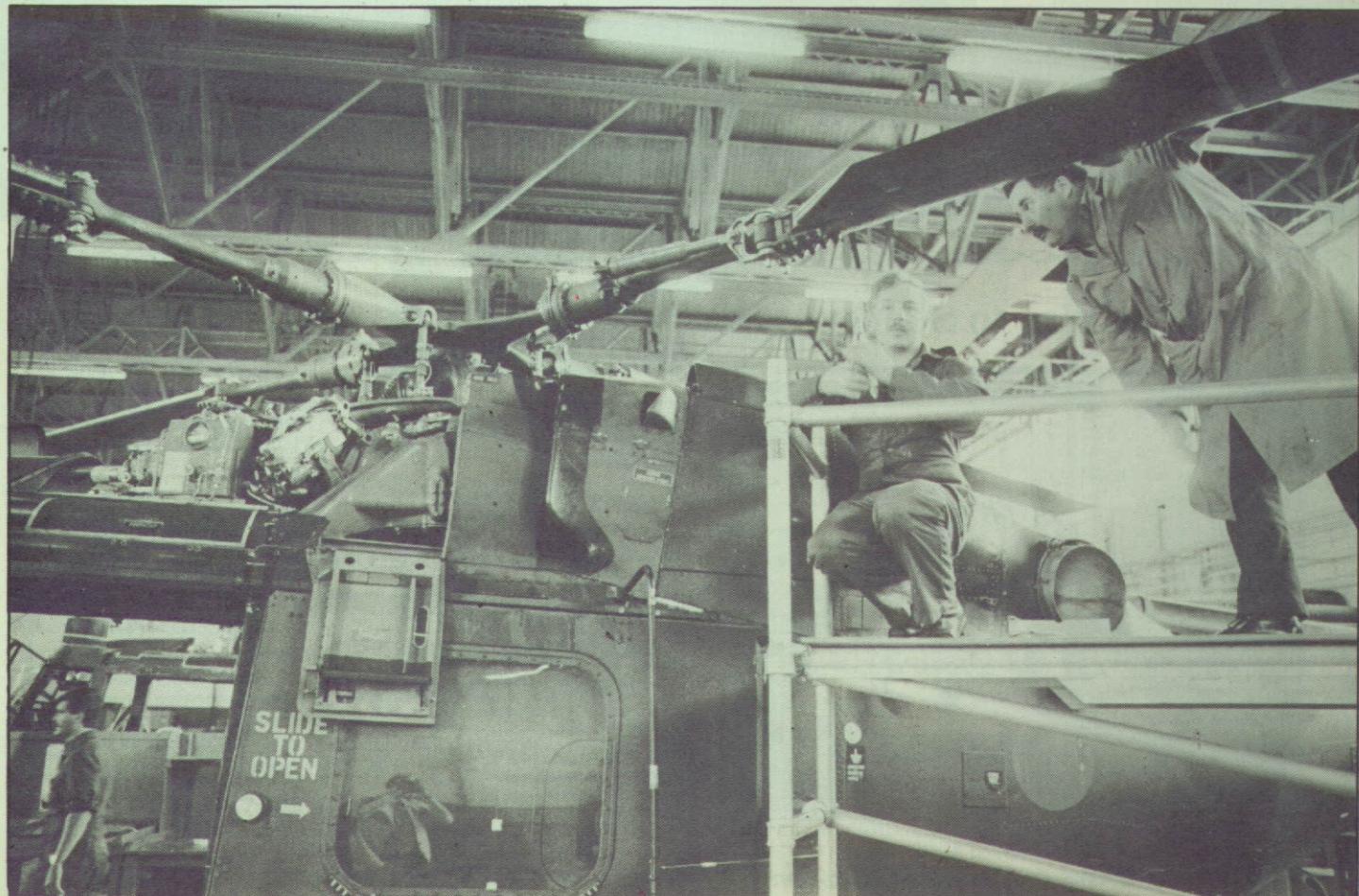
● After the Falklands War, the Director General of the Army Air Corps, Major General Bill Withall awarded a commendation to the workshop for outstanding service. This was the first time such a commendation was awarded to a unit.

● The list of other achievements by workshop personnel is impressive. For example, Staff Sergeant Peter Crosby entered the Royal Aeronautical Society Computer Competition for the design of a micro-computer based flight simulator programme for use in the early stages of pilot training. Against stiff opposition he gained third prize overall and first prize for a visual five-colour moving map display. Staff Crosby is himself now undergoing pilot training.

Sergeant Tim Brash and Staff Sergeant Peter Hill tackle a rotor blade problem.



Corporal David Rimmer replaces a spanner on the shadow board designed to ensure no tools go astray.



WIN THE CAMERA THAT THINKS OF EVERYTHING

That's the prize for winning SOLDIER's competition. The Kodak Disc 4000 Camera is a revolutionary new camera which makes it really easy to obtain super colour snapshots.

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The camera outfit which you can win comes complete with Kodacolour CVR Disc film which is simplicity itself to load, a metal snake-chain wrist strap, instruction booklet

and five-year warranty.

Rules of the competition are the same as usual. It is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 23 November. The answers and winner's name will be announced in our issue of 17 December.

More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a "Competition 349" label.

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

Send your answers by post card or letter with the "Competition 349" label, to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

16	3	2	13
5	10	11	8
9	6	7	12
4	15	14	1

Here is the historically famous square of Albrecht Dürer. It will be noticed that the numbers from 1 to 16 inclusive have been used: it will also be noticed that the four horizontal lines, the four vertical lines and the two diagonal lines each add up to 34.

A	B	C	D
E	F	G	H
J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q

Here is the new SOLDIER'S SQUARE. Again the numbers 1 to 16 are used but each number is represented by a letter from A to Q less I. All you have to do is to arrange the numbers from 1 to 16 with D greater than A and O less than P so that



SOLDIER'S SQUARE

ABCD = EFGH = JKLM = NOPQ = AEJN =
BFKO = CGLP = DHMQ = NKGD = AFLQ =
= ABEF = BCFG = CDGH = JKNO = KLOP =
= LMPQ = AFGC = EBCH = NKLQ = JOPM =
= FGKL = CHJO = EPBM = EHJM = BCOP =
= ADNQ = BEKN = CHLQ = DGMP =
AFJO = 34... in each and every case.

Send in your completed square...

'The Way to Stanley'



This print is taken from an original oil painting by Dave Whittley and was inspired by Operation Corporate from photographs originally taken by PO Phot Peter Holdgate. A. P. Marketing has sole rights of reproduction and so are able to bring you this opportunity to own this superb memento to the Falkland Islands conflict. The actual size of the print is 17 1/4 in x 22 in, image size 13 in x 19 1/2 in.

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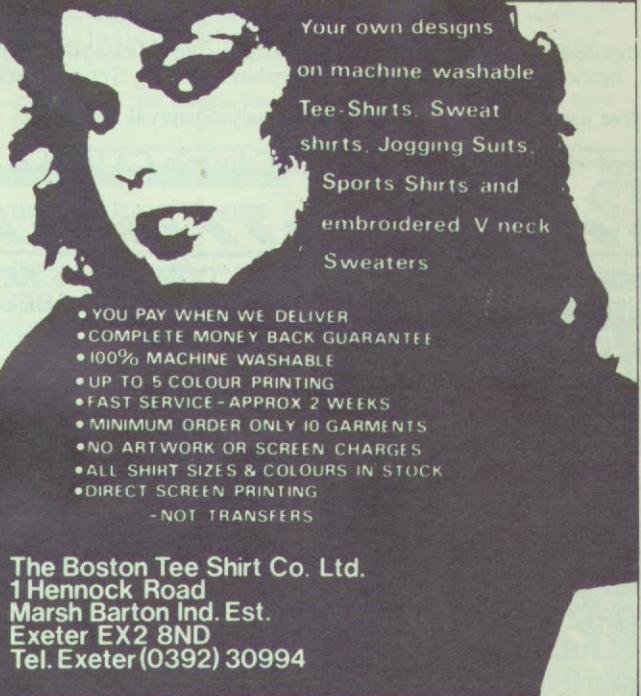
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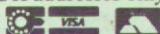
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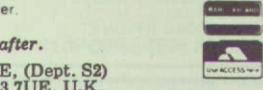
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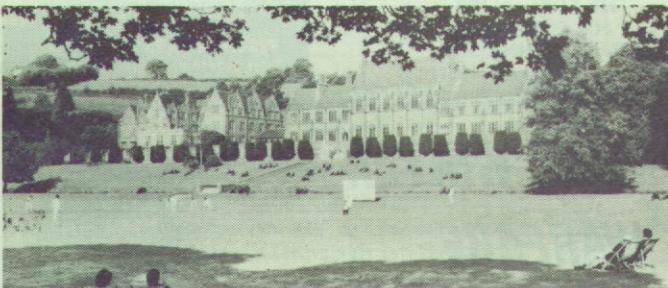
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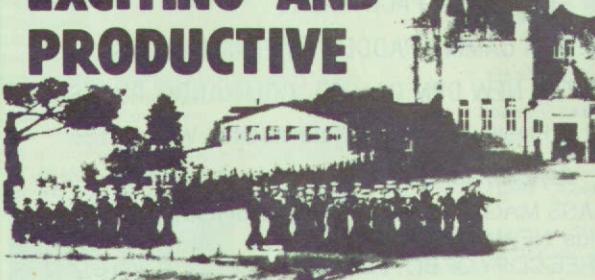


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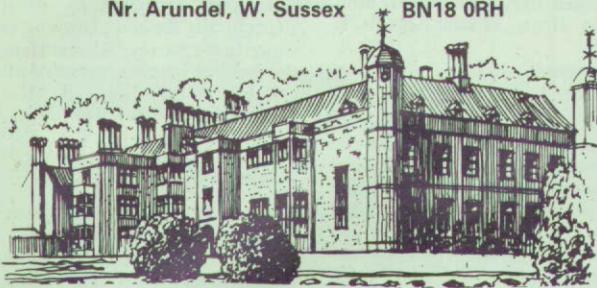
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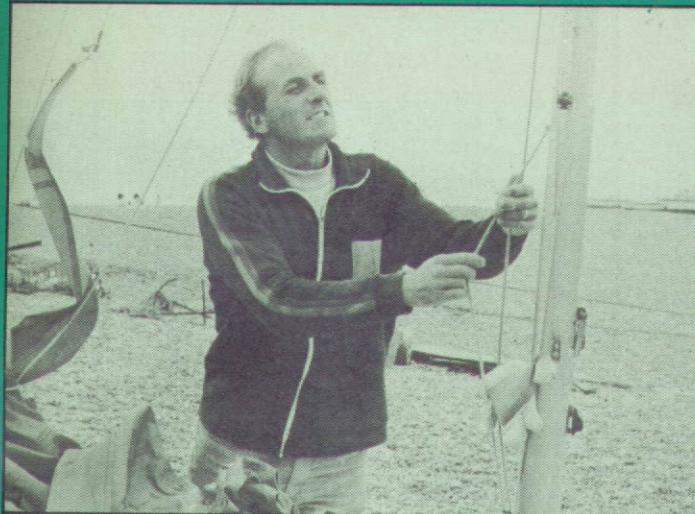
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SAILING AMBITION ACHIEVED



READY FOR WALLABIES VISIT

Tickets for the Combined Services rugby encounter with the touring Australians at Aldershot Military Stadium on Saturday 27 October (2.30pm) have been selling well.

As expected, there will be a good crowd and tickets can be obtained from Army RFU secretary Lieutenant Colonel Pat Dawson, M Block, Clayton Barracks, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2BG — or at the ground on the day.

To remind you, prices will be: centre stand £6, wing stand £5, temporary seating £4, standing £3 — or £2 in the case of a block booking for parties of 20 or more.

Sadly, we can't give you the Combined Services line-up, which was being decided with the aid of warm-up matches against Havant, away, and Public School Wanderers at Aldershot.

There have been several changes among the Army RFU 'backroom boys' — who seldom get a mention themselves, but without whom there wouldn't be any organised rugby.

Lieutenant General Sir Charles

Huxtable, Commander Training Establishments UKLF has taken over as President from General Sir George Cooper, former Adjutant General. The new President is a former commanding officer of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment — need anyone say more about his love for the game!

Brigadier Peter Crooks continues as Chairman, but Lieutenant Colonel Dougie Hathorn, formerly Camerons and now Army Catering Corps, has taken over as Chairman of Selectors from former British Lion, Colonel Mike Campbell-Lamerton.

Colonel Hathorn (Army, Combined Services and Barbarians), we are told, still likes to play the odd game at full-back when chance permits!

In January, the Army RFU will have a new secretary when Pat Dawson retires. Major Hugh Greatwood, formerly Queen's Regiment and The Parachute Regiment, who played for Combined Services and Harlequins, will take over.

SHOCK FOR HERTHA

If Hertha BSC of Berlin thought they were taking on an ordinary Services side when they met the Combined Forces XI under floodlights at the Berlin Olympic Stadium, they must have been swiftly disillusioned.

The score, 4-0 to the visitors, was a convincing margin over a professional team which plays in the equivalent of our Second Division. And it marked the highlight of a short but highly successful tour of Berlin in which Combined Services conceded only one goal in three matches, scoring seven themselves.

As far as the CSFA was concerned the most encouraging aspect of the tour was the steady improvement in the squad of seven Army players, six RAF and one lone representative of the Navy.

In their first match, against Berlin police, they managed only a 1-1 draw. Lance Corporal Stevie Butler, REME, gave CS the lead in the first half, but the visitors faded after the interval (perhaps a reflection on the fact they had only arrived in Berlin the day before) and the police were able to equalise.

Then came the match against a Berlin

combined services XI which the visitors won 2-0. Sergeant Rick Taylor, RAF, crashed a good volley into the net to give the visitors a half time lead. Butler made it two after the interval.

Finally, the triumph at Olympic Stadium. Butler added another two goals to his total for the tour, while Sergeant Mark Bowen, RAPC, and Sergeant Steve Blackmore, RAF, made further contributions to a convincing victory in what was the toughest game of the series.

Two young Army players impressed particularly during this short tour, Craftsman Neil McGregor, REME, who came fresh from Exercise Lionheart, and Corporal Kevin Parkins, RCT.

ARMY and Combined services football coach, QMSI Alfie Coulton has taken over as caretaker manager of Isthmian League Premier Division club, Windsor and Eton FC.

In two years under his coaching the club has twice been promoted and has made the FA Cup First Round proper.

A TWO-month voyage around the shores of mainland Britain has fulfilled a Pioneer officer's long held ambition to become the first person to make the trip in a 14-foot open boat.

That at least is the claim that Major Robin Wither (left), 2 i/c Royal Pioneer Corps Training Centre, Northampton, has forwarded to the Guinness Book of Records.

For some time Major Wither nursed the idea of a single handed circumnavigation of England, Scotland and Wales, despite the fact that he has done little sailing since his boyhood.

Last winter, with the co-operation of the RPC, he began to plan in earnest. He took a course in coastal navigation and managed to persuade the Army to lend him a 14-foot dinghy, appropriately named 'Pioneer'.

When the intrepid major eventually left Aldeburgh, Suffolk, on the start of his 1,813 mile voyage back to where he started, he was absolutely on his own.

He had no back up support of any kind. He had no tows in the open sea and the use of no mechanical power whatsoever. He slept on board the dinghy or beside it on the shore.

The British summer did all it could to make the voyage interesting. There was dense fog in the crowded English Channel, fierce tidal rips and huge rollers off Cornwall, and gale force winds off Holyhead which forced him to anchor for five days.

He had other set backs like a stolen

TWO GOOD WINS

Despite the loss of a number of senior players to the rival fixture known as Exercise Lionheart the Army scored a convincing soccer win over Carshalton Athletic on its visit to the War Memorial Ground, Carshalton.

This fixture is probably the first real test of the season for any potential Army player on trial for a place in the representative squad and was described as an occasion to 'sort the men from the boys'.

The Army scored twice in the first half with goals from Corporal Kevin Parkins, RCT, and Corporal Billy Fee, Royal Signals. After the interval Fee scored again and Corporal Rudi Fleming, REME, added another goal five minutes from time to give the Army

wallet at Cardigan and a lung infection on the East Coast which involved a quick visit to hospital and a seven day course of antibiotics.

But there were good moments too: the companionship of the harbours and the rare meeting of other sailors at sea, and the beauty of the calm and clear night when he sailed up to Lamlash, Arran.

Major Wither kept within 10 to 50 miles of the coastline and was full of praise for the coastguards who 'knew exactly where I was all the time'.

Last minute problems came in the form of a ripped sail, near the end of the voyage. But a few deft stitches enabled 'Pioneer' and the Major to get back in one piece to Aldeburgh, just 69 days after departure.

Although he would not have missed the experience for anything, Major Wither has no plans for any further sea-faring feats.

"It was at the back of my mind for ages," he said, "but now I've done it I am quite satisfied. I've had my fling."

ORIENTEERING DOWN UNDER

victory by 4-0.

It was a fine win in a tough and an exciting game, giving high hopes for a very successful season.

Those hopes continued the following day when the Army beat the Amateur Football Alliance by the same margin with a side which showed seven changes.

Private Davy Richardson put the Army ahead in the first half and then a harrassed defender headed through his own goal from a high centre by Lance Corporal Mickey Spencer after the interval to make it 2-0.

Corporal Fleming added two more before the final whistle to give the Army its second decisive victory in as many days.

The results overall were the best ever on a Swedish tour, where the hosts are ahead with years more experience — but the British Army is learning fast and this visit was of tremendous benefit.

Brett became the first British Army member to win an elite class in a Swedish badge event and another 'first' was recorded by Hirst, the first Briton to be placed in the first three in the Swedish Military Individual event.

The third place for the team in the relay was an excellent placing in itself, though not as good as the second spot achieved three years ago.

The British Army team, managed by Captain (retired) Ken Williams, was: Capt Chris Hirst, RTR, Capt Glen, RA, Lt John Dowty, RA, Lt Charles Bramley Gardner, QOH, Sergeants Charlie Brown and Dave Marshall and Gnr Mike Brett, all RA.

Pentathlon coach looks to 1988

THE 1984 Olympics have gone but now Britain's modern pentathletes, many of them Servicemen, are about to begin their four year slog towards the 1988 Games in Seoul, South Korea.

And one of the key figures in their training and development will be a 30-year-old Staff Sergeant in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Bernie Moss.

For Bernie, it is a case of success through others. His own modern pentathlon hopes ended in a motorcycle accident in 1979 which left him with a damaged knee.

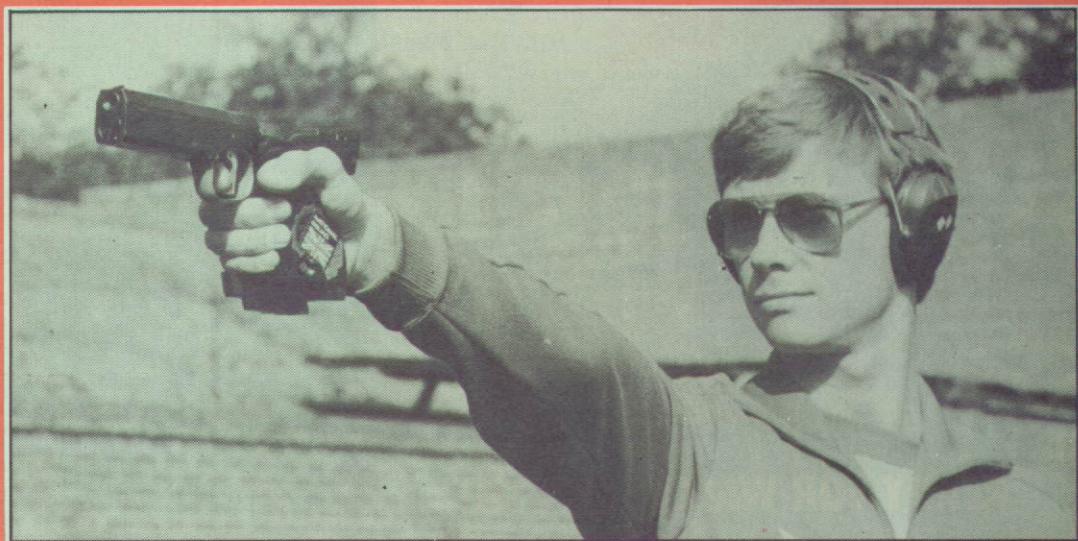
He entered the sport some five years earlier when Captain Jim Fox and his squad were building up to the 1976 Montreal Olympics when they snatched a gold medal.

Bernie had drawn attention to himself with his swimming ability — he had made the REME championships while still a fresh faced recruit and had also made the School of Electronic Engineering cross-country team.

By 1974 he was a full time member of the pentathlon squad at Arborfield — although the 'centre of excellence' was still some time in the future. In the autumn of that year he had his first setback — an infection of the muscles around the heart put him in hospital.

"I was doing a lot of swimming in the pool at the time and I think that is where I got the infection," says Bernie, who was not allowed to train for a year afterwards.

He spent three more years with the squad before his accident and then took up coaching under Captain Fox and Staff Sergeant



Bernie Moss: target is 1988 Olympics.

Pete Younger. He became Army coach in 1981 and when Jim Fox left the Army last year ran the Pentathlon Centre for three months.

The National Centre of excellence in the sport was set up Arborfield in 1982 and since then both military and civilian competitors have trained there. Bernie has become a national coach and travelled to all the major championships in recent times — including the Los Angeles Olympics.

In those Games a civilian, Richard Phelps, retained his title but soldiers took the next four places. Phelps was on 5,343 points with Sergeant Peter Whiteside REME 5,178, Corporal Peter Hart REME 5,021 and Lance Corporal Steve Dadson REME, in his first season, fourth with 4,872. Lance Corporal Tim Haddon (13th/18th) Royal Hussars was fifth.

Notable achievements were by Hart, who won the running and Dadson, who was top marksman. Second in the running was Lance Corporal Richard Radford (1 Devon and Dorsets).

ARMY KEEPS TITLE

The Army easily retained its title in the British Modern Pentathlon Championships — and its reserve squad came close to being the runners-up! The Army notched up 15,071 points — some 2,500 ahead of their nearest civilian rivals while the Army 'B' squad were less than 100 behind in third place.

Richard Phelps, the civilian who came fourth in the Los Angeles Olympics, retained his title but soldiers took the next four places. Phelps was on 5,343 points with Sergeant Peter Whiteside REME 5,178, Corporal Peter Hart REME 5,021 and Lance Corporal Steve Dadson REME, in his first season, fourth with 4,872. Lance Corporal Tim Haddon (13th/18th) Royal Hussars was fifth.

Notable achievements were by Hart, who won the running and Dadson, who was top marksman. Second in the running was Lance Corporal Richard Radford (1 Devon and Dorsets).

Peter Whiteside, who just missed out on selection, is still capable of improvement.

Staff Moss names six or seven young servicemen who he feels have the chance to go all the way with the right training and dedication.

PETER HART. "Corporal Hart has only been in the sport a short period of time. He is going out to Belize but if he takes the sport up again when he comes back he is a good prospect for 1988."

TIMMY HADDON. "A lance corporal in the 13th/18th Royal Hussars he just missed out on selection this time. He is going back to his unit but we hope he will be coming back to Arborfield. He is a very good fencer, a very steady shot, a very good rider but not so good on running and swimming."

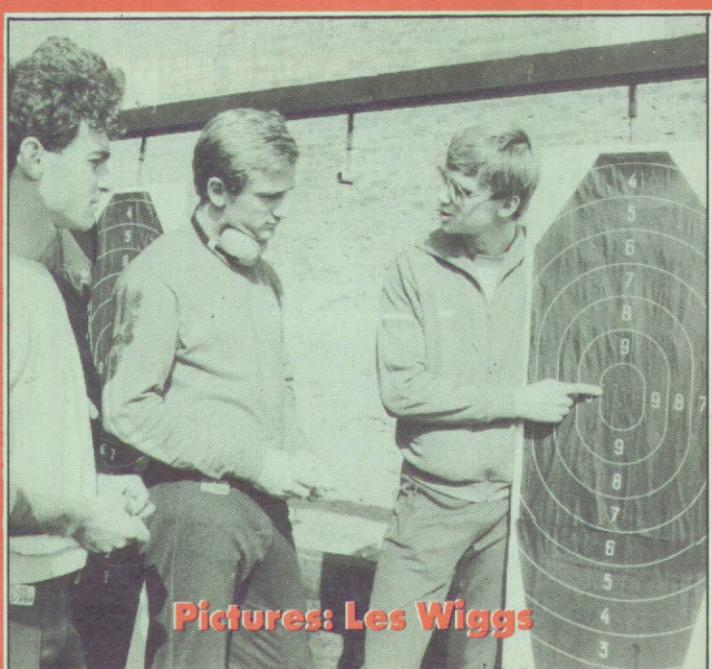
STEVE DADSON. "A lance corporal in REME he has been doing the sport for about 18 months and shows a lot of promise. He is quite a strong runner, a pretty good swimmer, a very steady shot and has picked up fencing very quickly."

ADAM BARNILL. "Transferred from the RAF to REME after winning the Northern Ireland Superstars. He is another good prospect but needs work on his shooting and riding."

Other prospects include Sapper Andy Price, who is going to Arborfield for two years shortly, Trooper Clive Gregory and a strong swimmer, Sapper Sean Morgan.

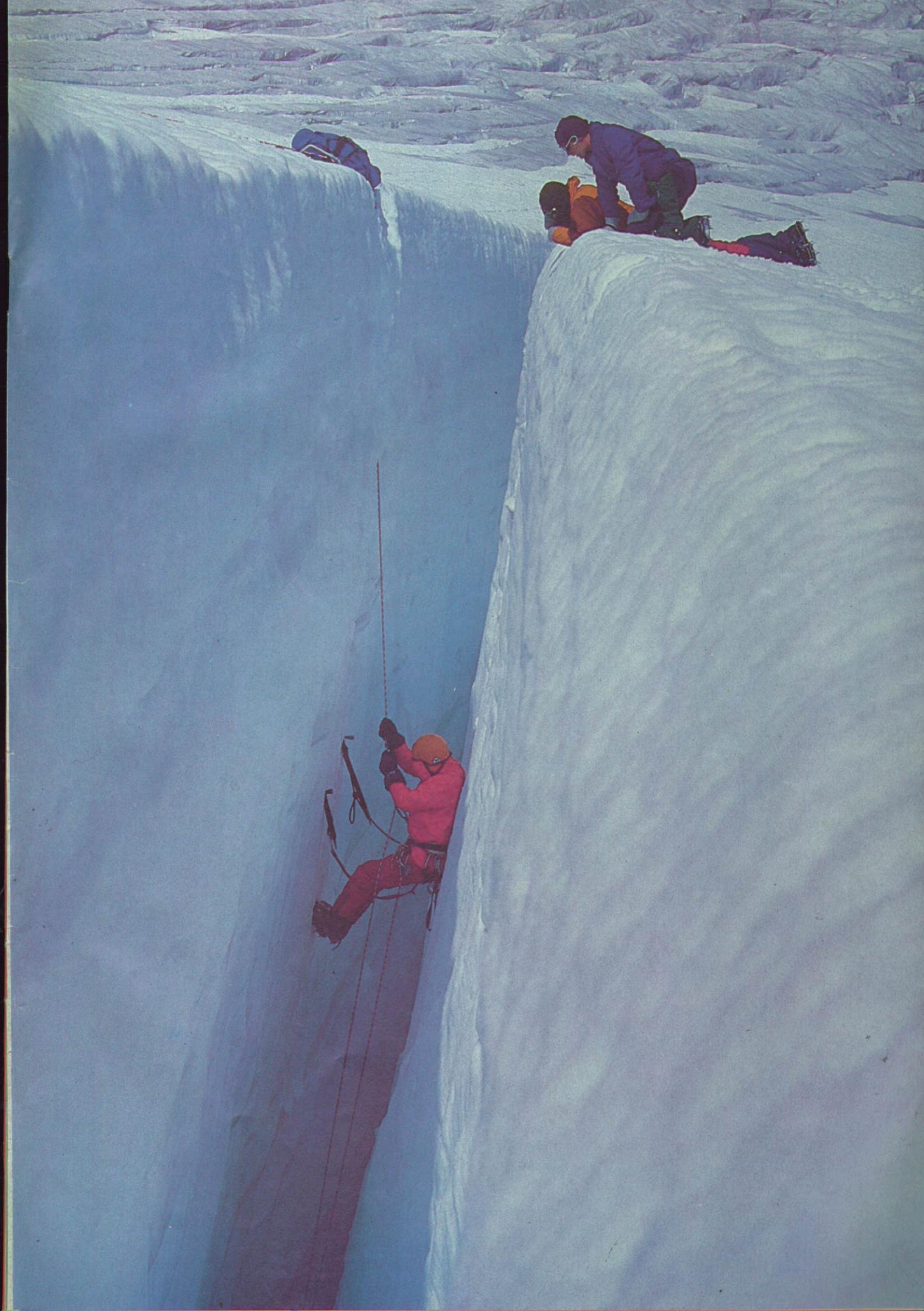
"We have a lot of juniors. They need to be good because when we won the Gold in 1976 it was because we got away from the East Europeans on the running and swimming. Now the Russians and Hungarians have got closer to us so we need people like the RAF's Robin Broom, who are big names in swimming already. We might not win an individual medal but we can win a team one."

Bernie Moss has already laid down the ground rules for those who join up. "My job is to run a regime here whereby anybody who comes in, be he civilian or military, will get a fair crack of the whip to reach his potential."



Pictures: Les Wiggs

Good shooting... Moss, right, and students study the impact on a target



SOLDIER

