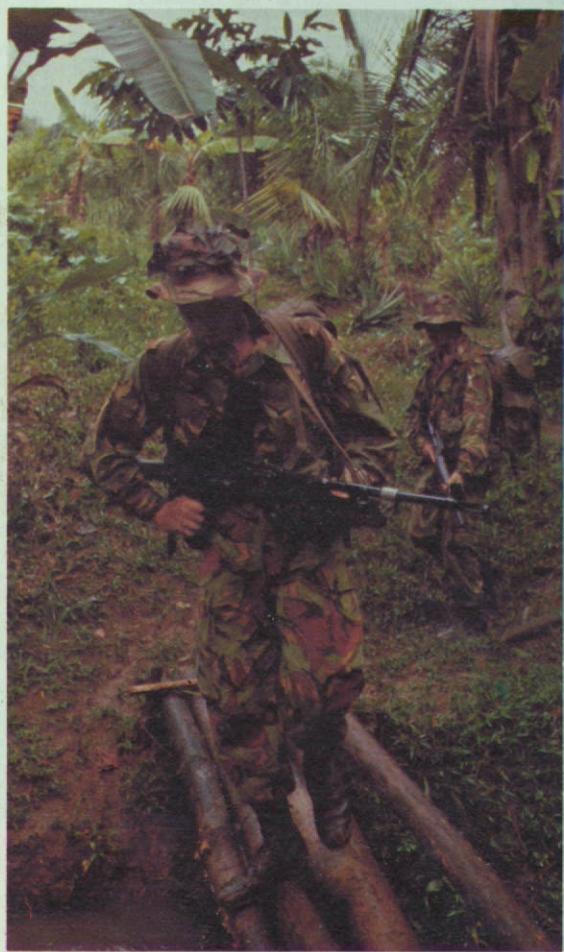


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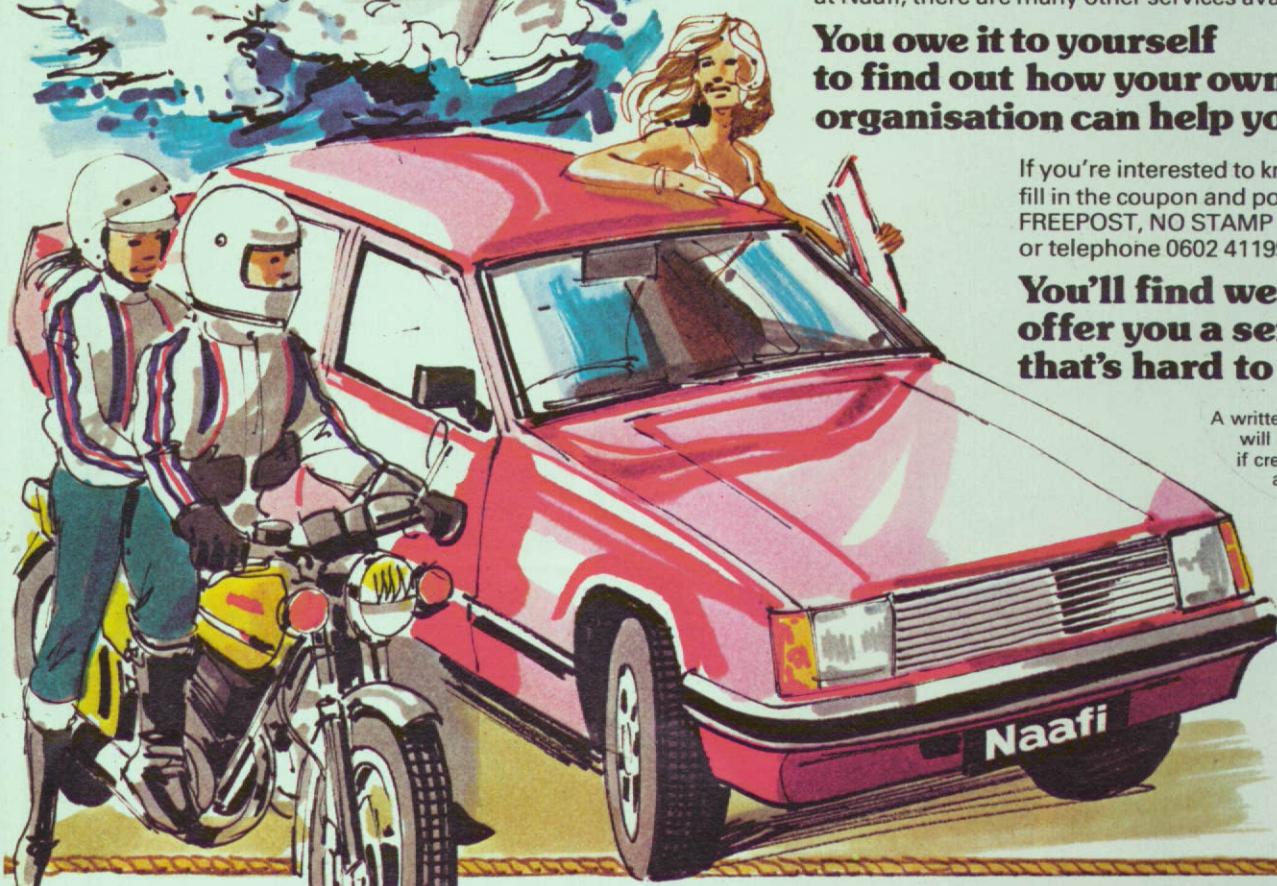
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FRONT COVER

Ceremonial and tough operational training combine on our first fortnightly cover. Left: The Welsh Guards Colour Point outside City Hall, Cardiff, when the Regiment exercised the right, as Freemen of the city, to march through the streets 'with drums beating, flags flying and bayonets fixed'. Right: A jungle patrol of the 1st Bn, The Gordon Highlanders seek out their enemy on exercise in Belize. Pictures: Andy Burridge and Paul Haley

BACK COVER

The British Outward Bound Centre at Isefjær in Norway provides a perfect setting for adventurous training, including some of Europe's best white water canoeing conditions. Story — page 26. Picture: Les Wiggs

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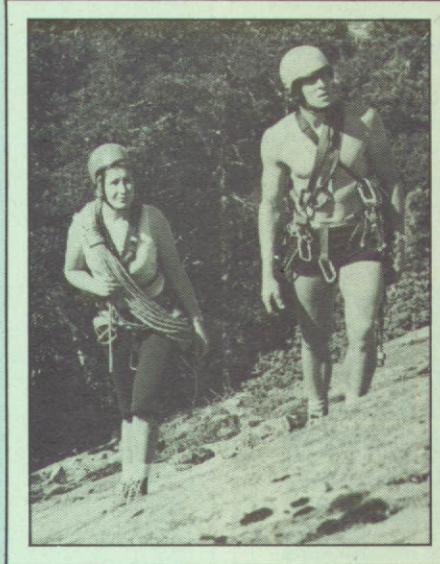
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Subscription (25 issues): UK/BFPO £10.50, Elsewhere £11.25. Send UK cheque, UK postal order or international money order **expressed in sterling** and state when subscription is to start and to whom to be addressed. Payments to be sent to SOLDIER and made payable to Command Cashier UKLF.

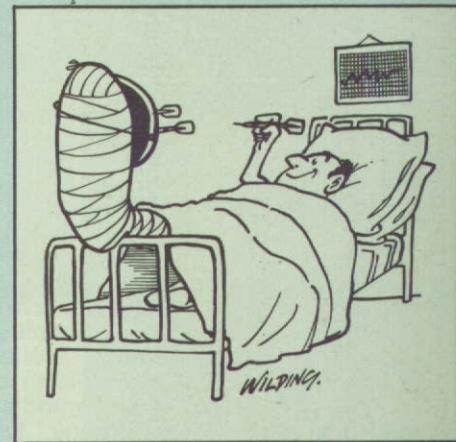
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THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY



• Soldiers find adventure by a peaceful Norwegian fjord — page 26

Line up for our great worldwide darts contest! — page 43



Belize gets its independence but British forces are staying on to help defend it — page 13



Editorial, photographic, advertising and circulation enquiries should be addressed to SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, ALDERSHOT, Hants, GU11 2DU (phone GPO Aldershot 24431, military network Aldershot Military). SOLDIER is published by the Ministry of Defence and printed by Eden Fisher (Southend) Ltd, 555 Sutton Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex. Crown copyright 1981.



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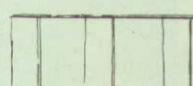
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SOLDIER to Soldier

Well, we made it!

Merging SOLDIER and SOLDIER NEWS into a fortnightly format has provided us with plenty of headaches. In just a few short months we've had to work out completely new arrangements with our customers, advertisers, distributors and printers as well as promote and publicise the changes. And we've had to design and plan this new magazine without interrupting production on the two publications it replaces.

It's been a bit like trying to redesign a motor car while it's already on the conveyor belt. And while we're delighted that our re-shaped model has rolled off the presses right on schedule, we hope you'll bear with us if there are still one or two 'rough edges' to be smoothed out.

As you can see just from the front cover, we've made some changes to the magazine both in layout and content. The biggest change, of course, is that we're now including news, sport and family pages again. But you'll find a number of new features too.

There are also two exciting competitions to kick off this first fortnightly issue. You can test your knowledge of military movies to try and win a video recorder. And we're calling all 'arrow chucks' to take part in a worldwide darts contest.

As always, SOLDIER's globe-trotting feature writers will be bringing you stories of the Army world-wide.

And just because we've got a new look, doesn't mean we're dropping old friends. Rodney Bashford will continue to bring us his candid comments 'On the Record.' Our team of book reviewers will be keeping us briefed on the military publishing scene. Artist Frank Finch, who worked on the very first SOLDIER 36 years ago, will still be baffling us with 'How Observant Are You?' And joining us from SOLDIER NEWS are columnist Anne Armstrong and that military misfit, Pendle.

We're sorry we haven't had room for our 'brainteaser' competition or See-the-Army Diary in this action-packed first issue. But don't worry. They will be appearing in future numbers.

Finding your way round the new-look SOLDIER may seem a little strange at first. But we hope you'll soon get used to the new layout and enjoy the greater variety of coverage that it means we can bring you.

Welcome to your new SOLDIER. We hope it gives you a lot of good reading.

MESSAGE FROM The Prime Minister The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP



10 DOWNING STREET



I am delighted to have this opportunity to wish the new Soldier magazine and all its readers every good fortune.

In these difficult times the Army has a vital role to play and it is of the utmost importance that people both within and outside the service understand what this role is. We learn a great deal from the newspapers, television and radio of the splendid work done by our soldiers in the many parts of the world in which they serve. But much of what we learn from these sources is simply factual news. What Soldier magazine can offer is the background to that news, the human interest stories, the features on units at work and play, the sport and the family life which help to show why our soldiers are what they are, true professionals in an army which is admired throughout the world.

Soldier magazine has gained a most enviable reputation over the 36 years of its life in its several forms. I look forward now to seeing it enhance that reputation in its new guise. I wish the editor and his staff the very best of luck in the launching of the new Soldier.

Margaret Thatcher

MESSAGE FROM The Chief of the General Staff General Sir Edwin Bramall GCB, OBE, MC, ADC Gen.



GENERAL SIR EDWIN BRAMALL GCB OBE MC ADC Gen.

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"I have always thought it important that the Army has its own in-house magazine. In the past Soldier and Soldier News have traditionally provided that need, but the editors have realised for some time that the existing two publications could be improved upon if they pooled their resources. What they have now produced incorporates, I believe, the best of both publications. However, the success of any magazine is not just in the hands of its editors: Soldier must have the support of the Army, both in the form of contributions to the magazine and by the regular readership of as many of you as possible. I would ask you therefore to give every encouragement and support to the new Soldier and go out of your way to buy it, and to see that the Messes and Establishments you belong to do the same. I wish the new magazine every success and an ever expanding readership. It has, after all, a sterling story to tell."

Jan Bramall

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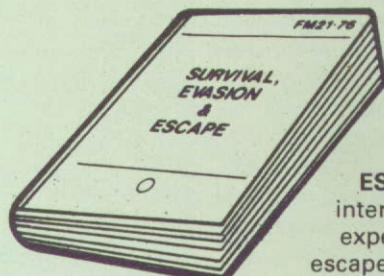
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JUST WATCH IT

Rapier commanders will soon be able to aim their missiles simply by looking at the target, thanks to a multi-million-pound order for the Army for a tiny, lightweight helmet-mounted device.

The Ferranti company has won the order for its Helmet Pointing System (HPS) first demonstrated publicly at last year's Farnborough Air Show.

Weighing only a few ounces the sight allows the observer to aim the weapon simply by moving his head to keep the target in his line of vision. The sight is linked to a radiator located nearby, and to a miniature sensor mounted on the helmet.

Sight and sensor are so small that they were demonstrated at the show mounted on a pair of ordinary spectacles.

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'BRING BACK ARMY MINISTER' PLEA TO PM

SIR PHILIP GOODHART, dropped as Under-Secretary for the Armed Forces in the recent Government reshuffle, has asked Mrs Thatcher to consider restoring the post of Under-Secretary for the Army.

In a farewell letter to the Prime Minister, the newly knighted Member for Beckenham says he understands the political problems of appointing a new Navy Minister after the dismissal of Mr Keith Speed for speaking out about the proposed reduction in the size of the surface fleet.

"But the new Ministerial structure is untidy and does not fit the sensible Service and administrative framework which now exists. There are, I believe, better ways of diminishing inter-service rivalry."

Sir Philip says he is sorry that he was not able to establish a proper scheme for making the Forces' superb training facilities more available to young people.

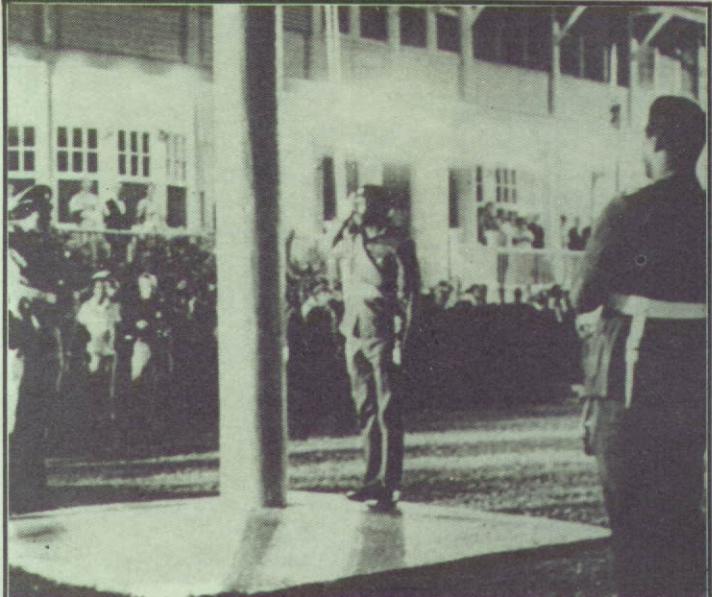
He admits there are problems in that military training is expensive and that the Army would prefer to spend any extra money on real recruits while the Department of Employment wanted money for its own recruits.

"We are now faced with the absurd position where the Armed Services have to increase the current volume of youth unemployment by slashing recruiting quotas at a time when so many of our excellent training establishments are under used. A number of imaginative proposals have been put forward, and I understand from John Nott that you have supported them. I hope they will not be forgotten now."

Sir Philip hopes that a proper determination to stick to financial targets will not inhibit the development of sensible policies. And he cites the example of Germany where several thousand foreign civilians are employed by the Rhine Army on guarding and transport tasks.

"Studies show that much of this work could be done more cheaply by British soldiers, but these savings aren't made because it is feared that any change involving the use of more British soldiers would push us above the upper limit set on the size of the British Army of the Rhine, and would encourage the Treasury to demand compensating cuts elsewhere. It cannot make sense to preserve German jobs while potential British recruits are turned away."

Sir Philip is succeeded by Mr Jerry Wiggin, the Member for Weston-super-Mare. In his letter Sir Philip notes Mr Wiggin's TA connections and says he will be well placed to see that the TA gets the resources it needs.



Members of the Belize Defence Force take the Salute at independence ceremony.

A tropical downpour threatened to put a damper on Belize's independence ceremony but stopped just in time for Prince Michael of Kent, representing the Queen, to preside over the flag-raising ceremony without getting his Royal Hussars uniform wet. The Union Jack was lowered at the governor's mansion on the stroke of midnight and the band of the Gordon Highlanders, backed by a 21-gun salute, played Belize's anthem as its new flag was unfurled.

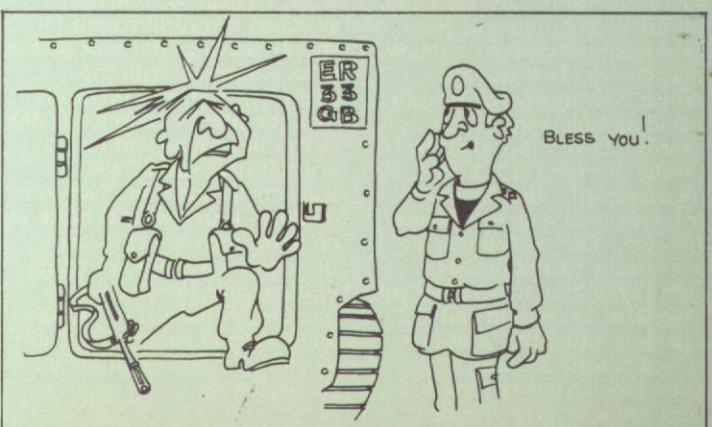
Neighbouring Guatemala refuses to recognise Belize's independence and claims the territory for its own. So British troops will be staying on 'for an appropriate time' to help defend the new nation and train its own national Defence Force.

No ease in Belize — see page 13.

PENDLE



LEAD ME NOT INTO TEMPTATION OR TO THE SERGEANTS MESS ON A STAG NIGHT!





Wreck rocked

The rusting hulk of the 500-ton MV Alacrity (left), which went aground 18 years ago, has been a hazard and eyesore to holidaymakers in Portherras Cove, Cornwall ever since. Now 59 Independent Commando Squadron, Royal Engineers, have been called in to remove it. Severe tides make the job dangerous and it will take several weeks. But already the sapper commandos have detonated two crunching explosions (right) to lift the sunken keel from 18 feet below the grip of the shifting sand.



PHOTO: MICHAEL BLACKMAN

Nato war games

The rural calm of the north German plain traditionally gives way to the rumble of tanks and gunfire each Autumn as Nato countries practise their military manoeuvres. This year the British 20th Armoured Brigade, including Chieftains of The Life Guards (above), provided the 'enemy' for the US V Corps spearheaded by the American 3rd Armoured and 8th Infantry divisions. They penetrated so successfully that at one stage they had to 'rein in' to allow the Americans to regroup and regain the offensive. And they proved equally adept in a defensive role before torrential rains brought 'play' to a halt.

Razor sharp

Hairdresser Gerry Harley of Gillingham was a bit put out when a Japanese contender snatched his world record for speedy shaving. But now he has it back again — with the Army's help. Gerry originally took the title by completing 368 shaves in an hour but his oriental rival shaved 400 students in that time. Not to be outdone, Gerry went to work on no fewer than 845 chins with the aid of a well-known brand of disposable razor. His 'victims' included 129 Gurkha Sappers from nearby Chatham — almost as light-bearded as the Japanese.



Frozen steps

One way of keeping cool when you walk 60 miles from Enfield to Cambridge is to carry your own fridge. But for 23-year-old Corporal Steve Wilson of 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, it was all in a good cause — part of the battalion's effort to buy a specially adapted Mini-Metro for a former Corporal, Dave Smith, who was invalided after falling from a ladder in Cyprus. Corporal Wilson's chilly trek earned £500 of the total £2700 raised.



Triumph for Gurkhas in... Y GYSTADLEUATH MWY ANODD O'R FLWYDDYN*



* The toughest competition of the year

Gurkhas with stretchered casualty during the 'medical test' phase.

Urging on a flagging comrade in final stages of 10 kilometre run.



REPORT BY
DOUG McARTHUR
PICTURES BY
ANDY BURRIDGE

kilometres, the latter primarily for the Territorial Army.

The 4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales won the two day event. To complete the Welsh honours, the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers took second place with the Welsh 'truckies', 157 Transport Regiment RCT(V), finishing third.

As usual the difficulties of the terrain were magnified by the weather. Torrential rain, interspersed with brilliant sunshine, kept competitors steaming.

To give the competition an extra military edge it was built round a scenario of increasing tension worldwide. Teams were told that conditions were deteriorating steadily in Europe, culminating in acts of sabotage and reports of unusual activity by known subversive organisations. A Long Range Reconnaissance patrol had been landed by parachute in mid-Wales, its strength

estimated at about 10-15 men but location targets unknown.

The Army was tasked to move in to help police find and then destroy the group. Because troops available were limited, observation points were set up to try and locate the enemy and a patrol — the competitors — sent out to hunt them down.

Then came a dramatic 'break in' at the Royal Army Ordnance Corps store at Sennybridge Camp. Several vehicles, uniforms, weapons and equipment were stolen in the raid, which was followed by an armed assault on the Elan Valley Dam pumping station. Several policemen were killed, and the dam destroyed, cutting off the water supply to Birmingham.

Competing units were ordered to deploy a nine-man fighting patrol to follow up and destroy

the saboteurs. All they knew was that the enemy might be wearing British uniform and equipment although their headdress of dark beret with red star centre front would probably be retained for their own identification purposes.

In another scenario the patrol commander and the medical orderly were injured along with an 'east European' soldier. The patrol's task was to bandage up the wounded, including the foreigner, who incidentally was carrying secret papers and a concealed grenade.

This went normally until 3rd Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers arrived. The injured 'foreign soldier' was talking in a broken guttural English, while the British soldiers, 3 RWF were chattering away in Welsh. Quite a problem for the umpires!

WEIGHTY PROBLEM ANALYSED

THE BRITISH ARMY is not involved in a latter-day Battle of the Bulge, anatomically speaking, that is. A Scottish Professor of Physiology at Glasgow University has shot down a national newspaper's suggestion that the British squaddie is "considerably overweight" and that the old nickname of "Tommy Atkins" should be replaced by one of "Tummy Atkins".

For the past 18 months, a two-man team has been conducting a special survey at the behest of the Army Medical Services among 6000 Servicemen — and women — a third of them serving with the Army.

The tri-Service survey found that 17-20-year-olds had only 15 per cent body fat. Older men were somewhat heftier.

Measurements taken during access to various military units revealed that while 70 per cent of the over 30s were overweight almost all over-40s were carrying excess body bulk.

Professor John Durnin, 55, a consultant to the Army for 20 years, said of the newspaper report: "I consider the suggestions as a misrepresentation of the situation for the young soldiers, those under 25. They seem to be good physical specimens although the over-30s and over-40s were in a different category and could lose a bit of excess fat.

"Our findings will take another 18 months or so to complete before we can make a final analysis. About 80 to 90 per cent of those we examined were in their early 20s."

The Ministry of Defence believes these new facts on fat will help the Army in future assessments of potential recruits.

At the moment there is no data available which gives a measured profile of the typical British physique — military or otherwise.

Anthropometry — to give the research its scientific name — involves measuring skin fold thickness... skeletal frames... muscle bulk and producing graphs on age, exercise and smoking habits.

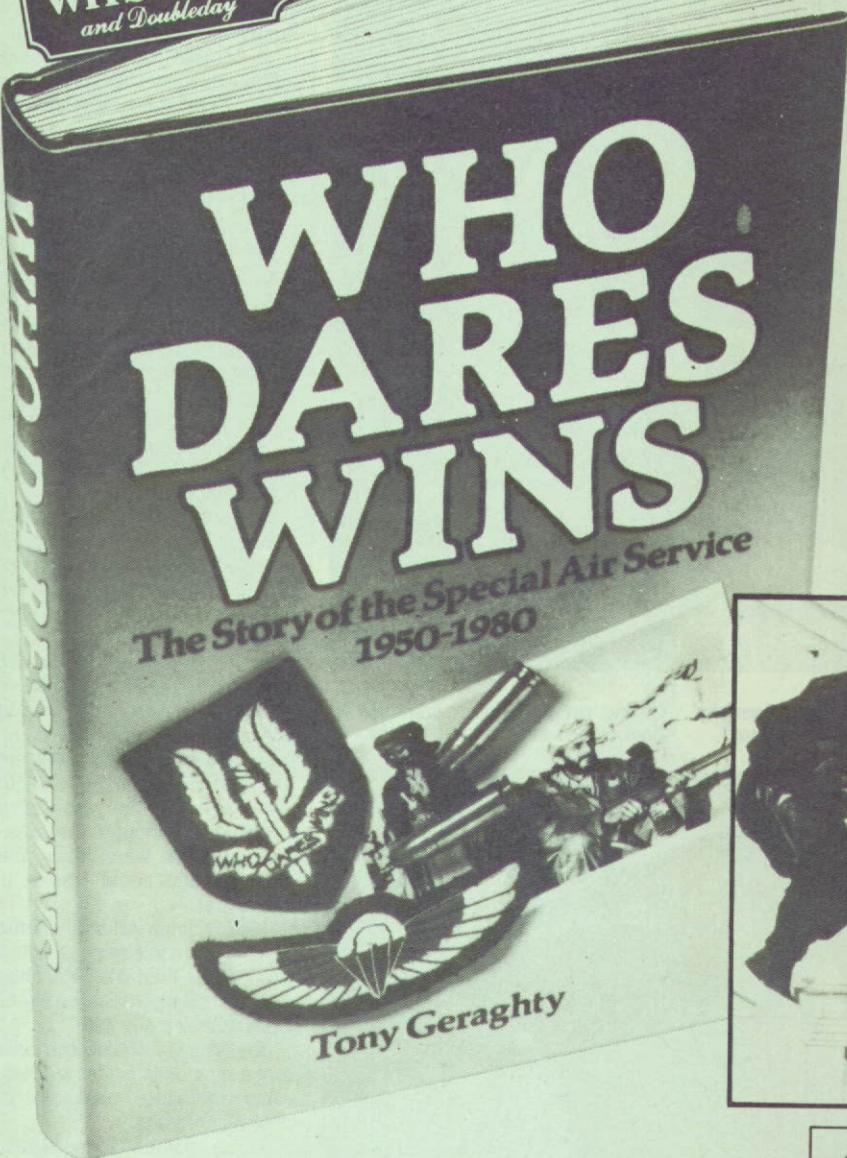
"The British soldier is less overweight than his civilian counterpart," said Professor Durnin, "although there were a certain amount of overweight cases found among those doing sitting-down jobs. Being overweight for the average soldier was a very minor factor."

"Comparative tables currently being used on American information — such as that on weighing machines — are absolutely useless when it comes down to weight and height ratios. They are grossly inaccurate. In our view some of the over-30s and over-40s do have more fat than we think is desirable."

What do the soldiers themselves think? See 'Soldiers Talking' on page 11.

'The men of the Special Air Service are probably more feared, misrepresented and misunderstood than any soldiers since the hordes of Genghis Khan.'

— Sunday Telegraph.



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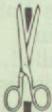


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Too fat to fight?

Every fortnight **SOLDIER** will be out among the Army seeking views on topics of current interest — some serious, some lighthearted. To kick off, we visited Colchester with a newspaper report claiming that "the average soldier is considerably overweight". Research experts say the story was misleading. But what do soldiers themselves think...?



Private Kevin McIntyre. Aged 20. 3rd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regt.

"This newspaper report is rubbish."

"It's not right. You do get some overweight people but even they get three chances to pass their BFTs — and usually do. I play football, go to the gym twice a week and like orienteering."



Corporal Bill Orton. Aged 36. 3rd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regt. Smokes 20 cigarettes a day.

"The newspaper assessment is totally wrong. I'm eleven-stone-four and stand five-foot-six-and-a-half and I always pass my BFT — and the CFT (Combat Fitness Test) which involves completing an eight-mile stretch with full pack in one-hour-forty-minutes! Those who are 40-45, are coming to the end of their service. The majority of my battalion are very fit and very few are overweight."

◀ **Signalman Gary Smith.** Aged 19. HQ Signal Squadron, 7 Field Force.

"You get the odd overweight chap but compared with people in civvy street there is no way the squaddie can be said to be overweight. I do a lot of cross-country running myself — about 50 miles a week during the season. We get good food here and plenty of it but I eat only one meal a day. My advice to the overweight is: get used to pain!"



Corporal Hilary Metcalfe. Aged 24. 156 Provost Company, Royal Military Police and a 200-metre sprinter.

"In the Army there are a lot of people who are overweight and there are some big girls, too. But compared with civilians, any of the Army's overweight are fit for their age. Personally, I don't think BFTs are representative of fitness for someone who just leaves his desk twice a year when he has to cover a set distance in a set time."

Lance Corporal James 'Scouse' Roach. Aged 24. Sapper attached to HQ 7 Field Force and a free-fall parachutist with 70 descents to his credit.

"I've never been overweight and you won't find many 7 Field Force blokes who are, though there might be a couple. It's about the fittest unit I've ever been with. We have to do compulsory five-mile runs. I don't think food comes into being overweight. There are some excellent sports facilities here at Colchester and I would advise any 'fatties' to make use of their sports facilities."



◀ **Corporal Hugh Williams.** Aged 29. A cook. Height five-foot-six, weight 13 stone.

"I play about three hours of squash every other day. I think I'm fit. I'm a cook and I do nibble at work but I eat only one meal a day when I go home. I regularly pass my BFTs."

"With the case of the overweight soldiers I think it's more the beer than food which causes the problem."



Staff Sergeant Harold 'Bruce' Forsyth. Aged 35. Chief clerk. Height six-foot-one, weight 14½ stone.

"I may be overweight but I'm bloody fit. I play every sport at squadron level — rugby, volleyball, swimming and basketball. I've collected four trophies this season already. I feel absolutely fit. I pass my Basic Fitness Test twice a year while many 17 to 20-year-olds are pushing and panting at the back doing theirs. It's mind over matter."



"You are thirteen stones... You are a disgrace to your regiment."

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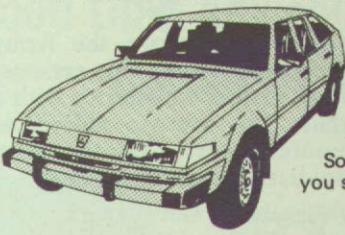
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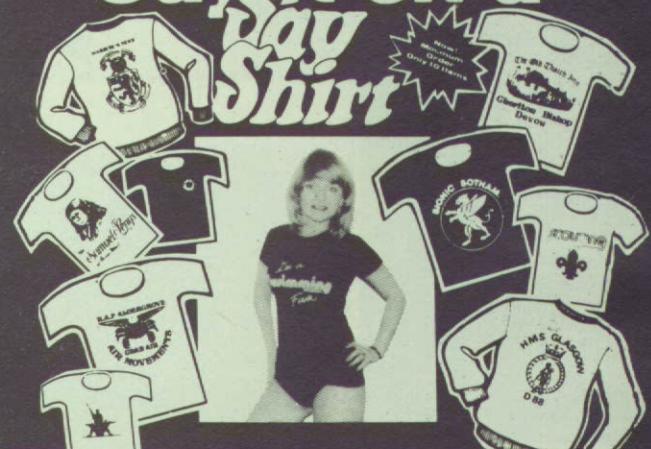
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Belize has just become an independent nation but British Forces remain to help keep it that way. John Walton visited regular and TA soldiers on a recent exercise there.

NO EASE IN BELIZE

BELIZE HAS FINALLY become an independent country. Nearly 120 years after it officially became the colony of British Honduras and more than three centuries after it was first settled by a mixture of British buccaneers and loggers, the Union Jack was lowered for the last time at the 19th century Government House in Belize City at midnight on 20 September.

But the British Forces in Belize, who engaged in a mass five day exercise called 'Montezuma's Revenge' in its closing colonial days, are to remain for 'an appropriate time'. For more than a century the neighbouring country of Guatemala has laid claim to Belize and ever since 1948 British troops have been stationed there to protect its territorial integrity.

Belize, the size of Wales, has a population of 140,000 of whom 40,000 live in Belize City. Its population comprises Creoles, Caribs and Mayan Indians and although Guatemala claims it as the heirs to Spain it was in fact never part of Spanish Guatemala.

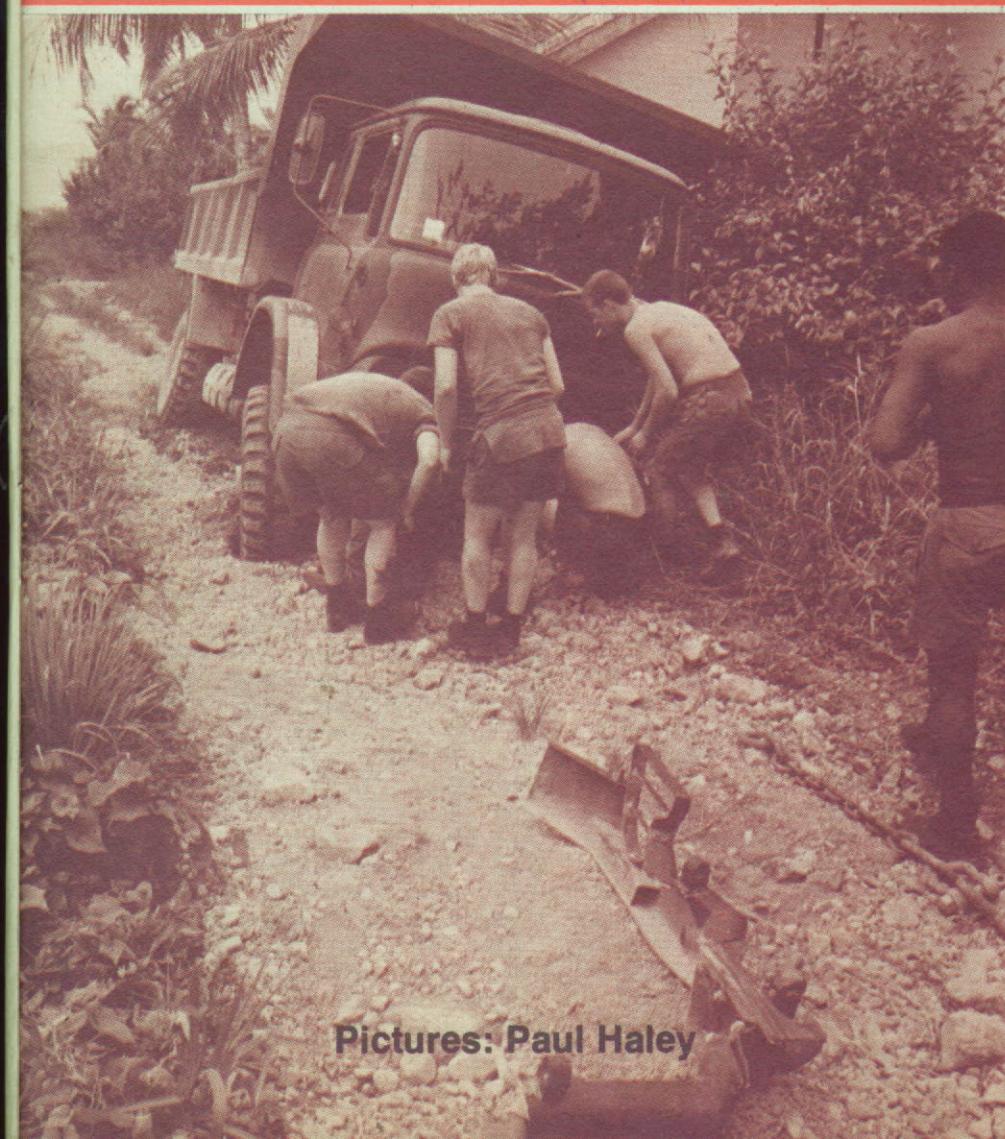
The British Forces in Belize includes personnel from all three Services. About 900 are stationed at Airport Camp, near Belize's international airport, with a similar number at other locations in the country.

The front line border with Guatemala in the south is covered by a company of The 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders, based at Rideau near the small coastal town of Punta Gorda. Further along the border is a company of 7th Gurkha Rifles.

continued on page 14

Roads in Belize are a constant hazard — REME try to rescue a bogged-down Bedford.

Pictures: Paul Haley





Chatting up locals is all part of the job.

Both companies man observation posts, patrol through Indian villages and are in a constant operational state. Indeed this is the thing which is stressed throughout Belize — that our forces there are operational and not merely training (although the chance for jungle training is undoubtedly a welcome one).

Guatemala is keen to ensure free access to its own port of Puerto Barrios to the south of Punta Gorda. Therefore the Gordons know that any attack would be highly likely to come in their area. The Guatemalans have built a road up to the border and the Belizean road, which ends only seven kilometres away, would be a prime target.

The jungle trails, which cross the border, are the only effective routes for invading troops — so these have to be watched. Patrols go out for five days at a time visiting Indian villages, both to reassure the villagers and to obtain information about people such as itinerant Guatemalan pedlars who frequently come across.

In one village recently a patrol was given a letter by the head man addressed to the Queen and asking for information on what would happen after Independence. The letter was eventually sent on to Buckingham Palace for a reply.

At Rideau the Gordons also have about 30 sappers and a complete troop of 40 gunners from B Battery, 1st Royal Horse Artillery, equipped with 105 mm light guns.

It is an area which can be completely cut off from the rest of Belize during the rainy season — apart from by helicopter. Rideau gets an average 180 inches of rainfall each year.

Brigadier Anthony Vivian as the Commander, British Forces Belize, heads the tri-Service force at the major turning point in Belize's history. Of the large Army element he records that just about every service and corps is represented except the Army Legal Service and the Women's Royal Army Corps.

"We run an operational nature to ensure there is no external aggression against Belize. As a result of this the force puts in a great deal of hard work in order to carry out its task. I certainly don't regard this as a training area — our aim remains clear. It is possible that the Guatemalans could react and we should certainly be ready."

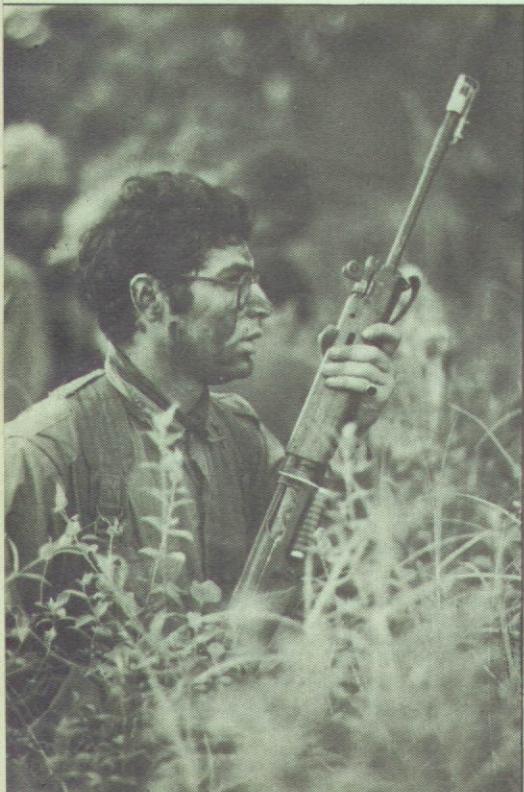
The object of the British force in Belize is to hold off any invaders until reinforcements arrive. So the international airport and its nearby camp — with the Force headquarters and RAF station side by side — are a particular defence priority and one that was well tested during 'Montezuma's Revenge'.

Brigadier Vivian expressed himself delighted with the results of the exercise, which included the first ever parachute drop onto land in Belize.

"The point of the exercise is that the soldier can see all of the components working together. This is the only place in the world where the soldier on the ground in the slit-trench can task a Royal Air Force Harrier to defend him.

"We can shoot just about every weapon here and we did fire Blowpipe on this exercise. And within this operational exercise we can carry out some very good training."

Hot time for terriers



Civvy street was never like this!

THE GROUP OF SOLDIERS gathered round the logger who had just returned from the nearby jungle. In the back of his truck was a five foot long snake — a yellow jaw — one of the deadliest species found in Belize but fortunately, in this case, already dead itself.

"I wouldn't like to come across one of those when I was out on patrol", said Private Sydney Symes, as he examined the five foot long reptile. And the faces of the soldiers as they nervously approached the dead snake and finally held it aloft for souvenir pictures revealed what we already knew — these were no battle hardened jungle troops.

These men were just a few of 100 part-time soldiers of the Territorial Army, whisked away from their civilian jobs in far off UK for a fortnight's camp as part of the big British Forces Belize exercise 'Montezuma's Revenge'.

The butcher, the baker and perhaps even the odd candlestick maker from the West country, the Berkshire area and from East Anglia, had left Brize Norton for the heat and humidity of central America only a few days earlier. The 100 men, a composite company made up almost equally of men from the 2nd Battalion, The Wessex Regiment, the 6th Battalion, The Light Infantry and the 6th Battalion, the Royal Anglian

Regiment, were only the second group of TA men ever to take part in a major exercise in Belize.

On their arrival they had almost immediately been out on a training run — designed to get them used to the ninety-degree-plus temperatures and the sapping humidity.

Within a few days they were in position in various parts of the country; some in the jungle, others, like these men, on a ridge on the foothills of the Mayan mountains — covered with pine like Canada but with the jungle literally less than a mile away.

A few had met similar conditions when they were in the Regular Army — men like Major John Tristram, commanding the composite company, who was in Belize years ago with The Duke of Edinburgh's Regiment. Others had picked up a few tips on jungle survival from the Special Air Service. But for most the preparatory training had been in such non-jungle environments as Ash Ranges near Aldershot.

The role of the Terriers in the exercise was that of the enemy — representing a country named Petenia, which had invaded Belize. Puma helicopters were used for the first stage of the exercise — an attack on Airport Camp, the British Force headquarters — and also for dropping men out at various locations.



'Enemy' patrol emerges from jungle cave.

The rainy season was well in swing and many of the dirt roads were a muddy morass taxing both drivers and vehicles.

Before beginning the advance towards the defending forces, routes had to be carefully worked out. In some of the thick jungle a whole day of hacking and slashing would be needed to travel half a mile.

Beautiful butterflies the size of bats would hover delightfully as the Terriers went out on their patrols. And occasionally they would discover a natural formation like nothing back home — such as a giant cave as old as time through which the river waters rushed.

But the dead yellow jaw and the occasional paw marks of a Jaguar brought salutary reminders of the jungle's dangers. And the daily Paludrine intake and the lumps raised by unseen mosquitoes and black flies underlined the precarious life hold of white men who first settled Belize more than three centuries ago.

Major Tristram said that the TA soldier 'ticked' a lot less than his Regular counterpart because it was an experience he volunteered for. So SOLDIER spoke to a trio of

Terriers to see just what they were getting out of their Belize trip.

Private Symes, from Camberley, is a self employed salesman and had lost earnings in order to come. On Mountain Pine Ridge the soldiers were housed in a local community centre and he was amazed to find it contained a juke box with comparatively modern records.

"It's been a good experience even though I've had the real Montezuma's Revenge. I've been in and out of the toilet. I've also been bitten to death by mosquitoes and I felt the heat and the dirt for the first couple of days. But I'll never get another chance to come to Belize."

Computer engineer, Private Robert Chalker, has a brother in the Irish Guards who had given him some advance warning of what to expect in Belize.

"I am finding the climate exhausting — it's taking up a lot of energy", he said. "But it's not the usual snow and cold and digging holes everywhere. It's good soldiering because you are dealing with wide areas rather than places where every copse has been dug up before and which have compon-

Ready for action as Puma lifts off.



tins and tank tracks all over the place."

Corporal Rod McGregor, from Newbury, was on his second trip abroad with 2 Wessex this year. Earlier he had been to Gibraltar.

"It certainly takes a bit of getting used to. For the first few days all I did was walk round in a sweat and wish I could go home again. But once you get out on the exercise it becomes interesting and quite a contrast to my job which is sitting behind a desk all day."

"The first night I went out in the jungle I saw lots of eyes looking at me and I was a little apprehensive. They turned out to be fireflies!"

At the end of the exercise there was just time for the Terriers to take a couple of days well earned relaxation — mostly out on the cays, the series of coral islands along the Belize shore.

Soon they would be back to the weekly meeting in the local drill hall with their photographs and their memories. But as Major Tristram said: "The most difficult thing for them will be to portray the background noises as they patrolled round the jungle at night."

007 Makes a splash



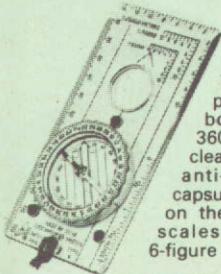
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THEY'VE GOT A JET-POWERED, olive-coloured boat down at the Royal Engineer Training Camp at Wyke Regis, near Weymouth, with a rather special number — 007. But the driver's name is not Bond. It is Stone . . . tug operator Phil Stone.

The craft is sister to five multi-role Combat Support Boats there of the type recently introduced into Army service to replace the Mark Seven Tug.

Almost any day the quiet calm of the River Fleet becomes disturbed as the eight-metre-long boat with a top speed of 40-kilometres-an-hour practices its water-borne paces.

With a draught of only 0.56 of a metre and no propellers, 007 and her sister craft can get close to shorelines and are ideal for rapid deployment of men or stores over, for instance, mangrove-strewn swamp areas of Belize.

The Combat Support Boat is so sturdy that it can push or tow 80 tons of LAFBYS (Light Floating Bridges, Raft), sprint along to lay mines, tote a couple of one-ton pallets, carry 20 men or 13 fully-equipped soldiers, or be used for diving operations.

Its twin turbocharged Vosper engines develop an amazing 212 horsepower which drive water out of the rear for propulsion and can then throw water forwards through the re-aligned jets allowing the craft to stop within its own length from a top speed run.

Phil Stone, ex-Royal Navy and graduate from a two-and-a-half week course on 007 handling said: "I have had her out in a Force Six. I think she is a pretty good piece of kit."

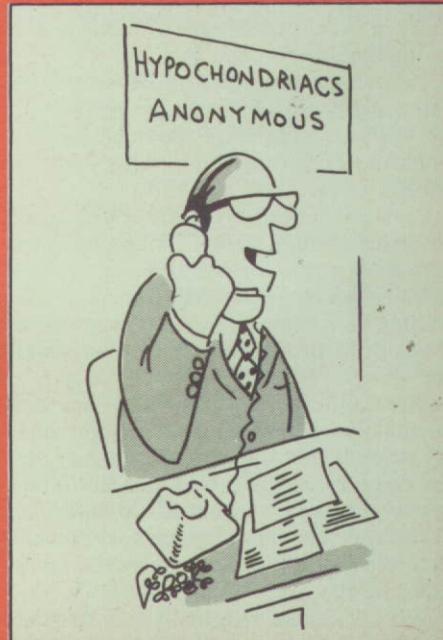
His view is shared by Lieutenant-Colonel Ernie Durey, Commandant of the RE Training Camp, who said: "It's an excellent boat in the hands of a specialist. It will do everything asked of it but it's not a boat for anybody to jump in. It's very fast and very powerful."



Humour



"Learning the ranks is hardest, Sergeant."



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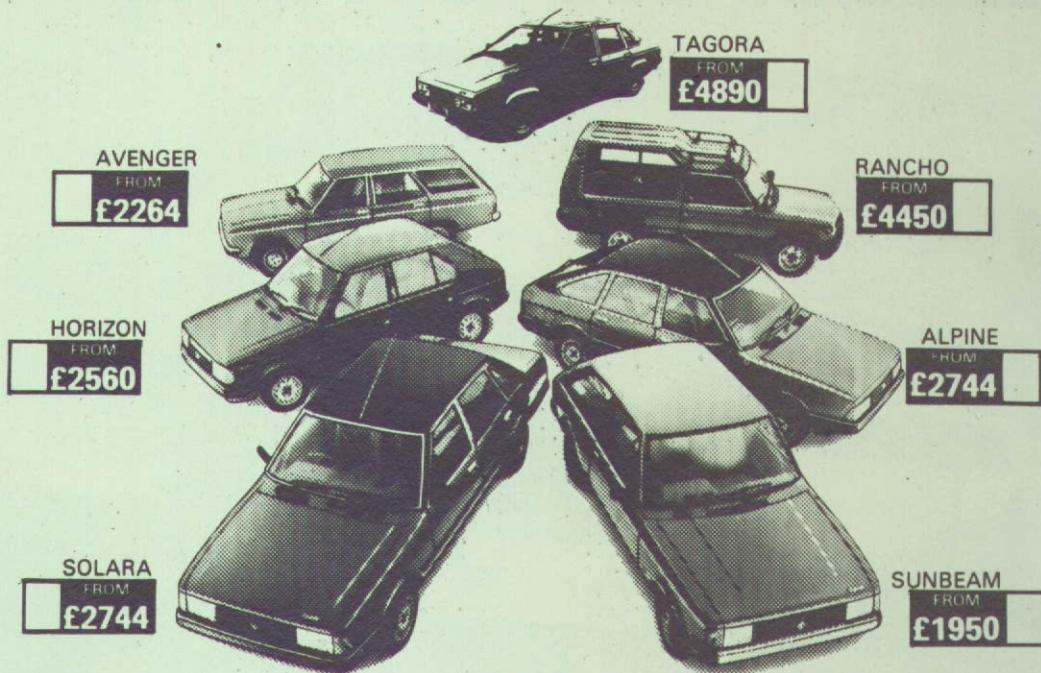
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'Drawing his Remington, Cable lunged through the door. He did not know what to expect and the sight awaiting him brought him to a sudden halt. Hardened killer though he might be, Cable could not prevent himself taking a hurried stiff step to the rear, or hold down a nervous gulp.'

'Draped across the saddle of a horse, left grotesquely stiff by rigor mortis setting in, the body of his deputy did not make a pleasant picture . . .'

Such stirring tales of the old west have gripped the imagination of children and adults alike for generations. But what connection a modest red brick house in the pork pie town of Melton Mowbray could have with them is not immediately apparent — until you go inside.

For behind this door there is not a dead deputy but a very live author and a man who is today one of the leaders in the western genre — J T Edson. A former soldier, he found his bonanza in a Wild West he had never visited and has now attained cult status.

In an office with walls lined with replica guns and a bookcase groaning under the weight of J T Edson volumes, the author greets us. He is a big man, dressed in a bright floral shirt and with large white side-whiskers. In the middle of the table stands his typewriter — not for him the Barbara Cartland style of dictation although his output would appear to have approached Cartland like proportions at times.

What he will not do, he informs us, is wear cowboy clothes for the photographs. Apparently journalists and television companies always seem to think that he sits and types his stories in Western dress. We assure him that such a ludicrous idea had never entered our minds.

'J T' (we found out his real Christian name but he asked us to preserve the mystery) spent his childhood in Derbyshire pit villages and his speech still reveals those origins. His father was killed in a mining accident when he was a baby. In 1946 he was called for National Service and "suddenly found out there was a great big world outside the village". After two years with the Rifle Brigade he transferred to the Royal Army Veterinary Corps as a dog trainer and over the following ten years served in Germany, Austria, Singapore, Hong Kong, Benghazi, Kenya and Cyprus — on anti-terrorist patrols in the last two.

J T had been writing for fun ever since his school days. As his Army career continued he would sit on his bunk in some tropical outpost and scribble away. His Army mates liked to read 'Ginger' Edson's efforts but he had no real thought of publication.

"When I was in Hong Kong I had a decent win on the tombola in the China Fleet Club and bought a typewriter. What

had been a set of semi-legible scribblings began to look like manuscripts. When I came out of the Army I had 12 of them."

Since then J T has lived in Melton Mowbray — where his old comrades in the RAVC are bound to return from time to time. "And it's a long way from my relations and my former wives", he grins.

"I enjoyed the Army life — it's the best job I've had apart from being a writer. I finished as a sergeant and the current RSM at the Centre was my lance-corporal. I don't think he's ever forgiven me for chasing him for a hair cut. Every time I go up there he orders me out of the mess to get my beer mug cleaned."

'I enjoyed the Army life — it's the best job I've had apart from being a writer'

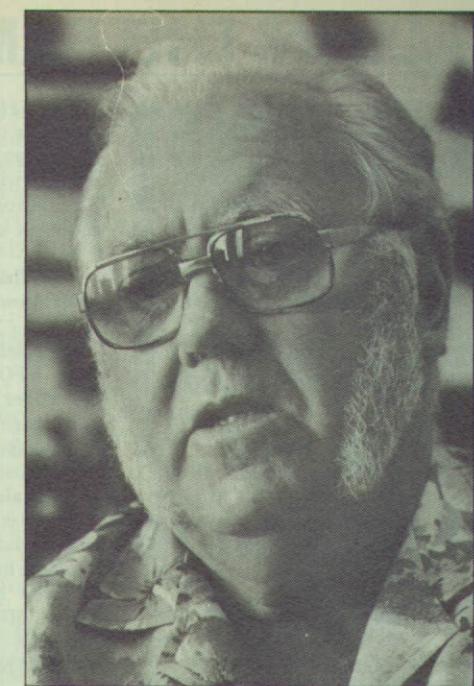
J T opened a fish and chip shop in the town and at the same time took two correspondence courses on short story writing — "neither of which was any use". But he was starting to get regular publication in a boys' paper-cum-comic called *Victor*. Very few of those early stories, from which artists produced strip cartoons, were westerns. One of the most popular series was about Dan Hollick, an Army dog trainer, based on J T's own Army experiences.

A bad fire saw him leave the fish and chip business. As his income from writing at that time was not enough to live on, he worked in a factory. Then followed two years as a full time author, an interval as a postman, and the last nine years as one of the most successful Western authors in the world.

The manuscript sitting in the typewriter was his 113th story — all but a handful of them set in the West. "Now I am writing four a year. The reason I am writing four a year is because I cannot live on one. The original contract was for eight a year and I was filling it. You don't want that kind of schedule at my age (he is actually only 53)."

What made the lad from the Derbyshire pit village write about the Wild West? "I grew up in the vintage years of the western magazine and book. It was just the West of the old Hollywood movies. In Hong Kong there were 30 cinemas and you can bet that at least 20 of them were showing Westerns."

He has strong views about most modern Western writers and film makers. In the cinema space is the new frontier and the



West has gone, at least temporarily, into eclipse.

"All they are doing is writing away from the readers. My theory is that the reason why the Western book and film are not so popular is that they have tried to put too much into them and have got away from the market. Action and escapism are what is needed and when you are marketing a commercial product you give the reader what he wants."

J T Edson certainly does that. His simply told stories now have an initial print order of 75,000 in paperback ("where the money is") and many of the older titles are being reprinted. Hardback editions come later as they are snapped up for libraries. His total sales from both his present and previous publishers, including overseas, are now somewhere around the 15 million mark.

He did not visit the West of his literary dreams until 1972 but since then has returned on another six occasions. And his books are now starting to sell in the United States — surely a case of coals to Newcastle. Apparently his American readers find it all very authentic. "I have never been to New Orleans but people write in telling me they have found places I have been writing about."

On a recent flight to Phoenix, J T spotted a lad on the aircraft reading one of his books. He sent his business card over with a message and bought the young reader a drink.

There is a J T Edson Appreciation Society with more than 500 members, which is now run by his business manager, a lady named Joan. She is currently working on a project to start a western magazine combining fact with fiction.

But, apart from the early Dan Hollick days, why hasn't he written about the Army? "They wouldn't be interested in the way I would want to write about the Army. These days to keep the critics happy I would have to put the Army down and I wouldn't want to do that."

"If I hadn't gone into the Army I doubt if I would ever have become a writer. Let's face it. It's not the sort of thing you did in a mining village." It was time for us to hit the trail.



Anne Armstrong writes

I'M WRITING my first letter for the new SOLDIER having just returned from Gibraltar. I've been seeing for myself what life is like for those of you stationed on the Rock . . . the warm blue seas, the sunshine, the golden beaches, the difficulties of getting to the mainland, the lack of regular postal collections and newspaper deliveries and the dark Levant cloud hanging over Main Street, emphasising the claustrophobia of this concentrated community.

I only had five days on the Rock but I still found opportunities to discuss problems and aspects of the daily life of the 7000 Service personnel. And now I've experienced Gibraltar at first hand, your letters from there will mean so much more.

Gibraltar's unique geographical position accounts for many of the particular problems that its inhabitants face. It's a mere five miles by sea to Spain, but it can take all day by the time you've travelled via Tangiers to circumvent the Spanish border. The only other possible route off the island is by air. Rock-to-shore communications are difficult and not always effective.

In times of economic recession, cuts have to be made. But even Government departments, who are obliged in many cases to play the numbers game in allocating support services, can make mistakes. Perhaps different grounds for assessing social support to such stations should be considered.

If any of you in Gib, or anywhere else, feel that there is a case to be made for some particular service, it pays — literally — to make it. I have been successful in the past in finding funds to provide services and resources. It can be done, so don't give up.

Anne Armstrong

I HAVE HAD a number of replies to my letter in *Soldier News*, Issue 58, regarding the lack of available help for officers' wives in the event of marital break-up or divorce. I have included a couple of letters that were typical.

I feel that it is high time that these difficulties were impressed upon the Army.

Especially pernicious is the Army form AFO 1700 which apparently the officer can complete without the knowledge of his wife and get signed by perhaps a temporary Commanding Officer who knows little or nothing about the case.

There is certainly a great need for an association for officers' wives on the same lines as Ssafa, who will give financial help and advice over a period of very real difficulty and hardship.

Mrs S, Hampshire

The subject that I find most curious and, on the face of it, unjust is the form AFO 1700. I would like to see this form scrapped.

A friend of mine became an illegal occupant of her Army quarter overnight and without her knowledge. The CO had not counter-signed the form but that apparently made no difference. She was turned out of the quarter with threats of the bailiffs. This seemed to me to be incredibly unjust. There appeared to be no protection for her from the Rent Act.

I would have thought that a much fairer system would be to make the letting contract solely with the serving soldier. Then when the soldier wishes to cease to pay rent for the quarter, for whatever reason, he must hand over the quarter to the Army. This way the obligation to house his family remains with the husband.

Under the present system the Army pays, the family suffers, but the husband gets off free.

Mrs D, Scotland

Now some other extracts from my postbag:

I would be most grateful for a copy of the leaflet JSP 342 Education of Service Children.

I have two children in boarding schools in Scotland and therefore expect to find it beneficial.

Mrs A L, BFPO 31

Thank you for your interest. Service families have particular problems in making decisions about schools.

The leaflet JSP 342 surveys the state system of education in UK, discusses independent boarding schools, gives details of schools for Service children in overseas stations and also covers the position of Service children in areas where there are no such overseas schools.

There is also information on the problems of cost, bursaries, special help and schemes for boarding school fees. A separate chapter is devoted to the particular education needs of handicapped children.

The booklet is available from all unit Education Offices or you can write to SCEA (School Branch Advisory Service), Institute of Army Education, Court Road, Eltham, London SE9 5NR. Tel 01-859 2112 ext 215/244.

half hour and, if the inspector is requested to examine plants in situ, travel costs of Dm.24 per Km are payable.

For more information in UK, contact the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Plant Health Administrative Unit, Eagle House, 90-96 Cannon Street, London EC4N 6HT.

I wonder if you have as yet any news for me regarding my claim for Unemployment Benefit?
Mrs L C, BFPO 47

The disruption caused by the civil servants' strike has meant that the DHSS has been unable to reply to the many queries that have been raised regarding benefits.

In addition to the backlog, there are some 27 million individual tax deduction cards for 1980/81 alone held up at DHSS and Inland Revenue offices, so further delays are inevitable.

The DHSS has announced plans, however, for benefit recovery:

Unemployment claims are being processed normally. Payments made under emergency arrangements due to lack of records will be progressively adjusted and should be complete by December.

Child Benefit claimants are still being paid on the stubs of their old books as these expire. However, the issue of renewal books has started again and seven weeks is the maximum time that anyone is likely to have to rely on stub payments.

No payments have been made for newly born babies since the beginning of June. These are being dealt with as quickly as possible and new claims, if uncomplicated, should result in first payments from the end of September.

Sickness and Invalidity Benefit claims will be treated normally now and emergency payments gradually adjusted as the records become available.

Unfortunately, other delays will be unavoidable as the up-dated contribution information will not be available for every claim made in early 1982.

NI Voluntary Contributions, which have not been collected since February 1981, will be collected by the end of October and the DHSS advises everyone who pays these by direct debit to make sure that they have enough money in their accounts to cover their usual payment and their arrears.

Contributions for February and March should have been collected in August, contributions for April, May and June in September, and those for July, August and September will be collected in October.

ASK ANNE

I will be returning to England soon and wondered if you had any information on taking houseplants back?
Mrs J S, BFPO 32

Plant Health Regulations exist to prevent the spread of pests and diseases from one country to another. The introduction of Dutch Elm disease from North America is an example of how destructive certain pests and diseases can be.

All plants, therefore, have to have a phytosanitary certificate before they can be imported into UK. These certificates are issued in the country from which the plants are exported, after they have been examined by a Plant Health Inspector.

Phytosanitary certificates in Germany are issued from offices in various areas. In Düsseldorf, for example, Herr Stelle at Amtliche Pflanzenbeschau beim Flughafen, Düsseldorf, Zimm. 1073. Tel 0211/4216639, will be able to help. The office is open from 1400-1600 Mondays to Fridays.

The cost of a certificate is Dm3.00, administration costs are Dm12.50 per

TIMELY TIP

IT'S OFTEN worrying when you receive a package out of the blue, containing a book, a record or perhaps something else which you haven't ordered.

There are still some firms that send goods to people in the hope that they can be persuaded to buy. The goods may be accompanied by a letter from the firm which says they are on approval and if they don't hear from you within a certain period, say 14 days, they will assume you wish to buy the goods and send you a bill.

If this happens to you, you have two options.

Do nothing when you receive the bill. If you then hear no more from the firm for six months, the goods become yours.

Write to the firm telling them that the goods were 'unsolicited'. If they are not collected within 30 days, you can keep them, sell them, or do whatever you like with them.

STOP PRESS: FIRST UKLF WIVES' SEMINAR — FULL REPORT NEXT ISSUE.

SAPPERS SOLVE THE PLAY PUZZLE

PSYCHOLOGISTS HAVE PROVED to their satisfaction that we each need a certain area of space around us to be able to breathe freely and lead relatively sane lives.

For most of us it is no problem to leave ourselves a comfortable amount of elbow-room. But it can be a different matter if you are one of the 30,000 inhabitants who live on an area of land three miles long and one mile wide called Gibraltar. And it is an added disadvantage when much of that land rises vertically from the sea, flat areas are at a premium and 'intensive living' is the order of the day.

Even so, the quality of life doesn't necessarily have to suffer. In Gibraltar there's a tremendous community spirit of co-operation that proves the difficulties can be surmounted.

The Jubilee Adventure Playground, nestling at the very foot of the Rock on the Laguna Estate, provides a good example. Until recently it was just a play area but it is now the proud possessor of a brand new playhut.

A group of youngsters under the leadership of Mr Elio Victor,

the principal Youth and Careers Officer in Gibraltar, decided to provide the playhut — with facilities for a playleader's office,



an arts and crafts room, a general activity area, toilets and a storeroom.

Finance was the first hurdle. The total cost of the project was put at £10,000 even taking into consideration the voluntary labour used. Much of this came from fund-raising efforts but nearly half was awarded by the Queen's Silver Jubilee Trust.

The Trust, set up in 1977 as part of the Silver Jubilee celebrations, is concerned with young

people helping others in worthwhile causes. Grants are awarded to projects that are eligible for support and imaginative and adventurous schemes, however modest, are particularly encouraged — although it is not possible to fund them all.

In recognition of the hard work and effort put in by the youth organisations involved in building the playhut, the Jubilee Adventure Playground will be presented with a Silver Jubilee Plaque.

Although finance was the first major obstacle, it was when the hut finally arrived that the real

problems started. The Nissen hut had been ordered from UK as they cannot be obtained locally. When the eagerly-awaited pieces arrived however, they bore no relationship to the catalogue from which the hut had been ordered. There were 17 pieces of corrugated sheeting missing, the windows did not fit, there was no sealant and sections were wrongly numbered so that they did not correspond with the instructions.

Far from being a do-it-yourself

exercise, the project had become a major construction task.

So the Sappers were called in. Men of the 1st Specialist Team of the Royal Engineers took up the challenge and helped the youngsters build their hut. They laid the concrete base and then tackled the structure itself.

Corporal Jimmy Barr, the Project Manager, thought it would be straightforward. "I had never done one before and thought it would be fairly simple working from the Army Nissen Hut plans, but this wasn't to be."

Added chippy, Lance Corporal Alan Hunter: "There were two No 7s — one long and one short, the windows weren't fitted with facings and there were no sills. We found that we would progress well then hit another snag which delayed us again."

But they managed to get it together somehow. It took three months in the end instead of the expected three weeks, but should be well worth all the effort.

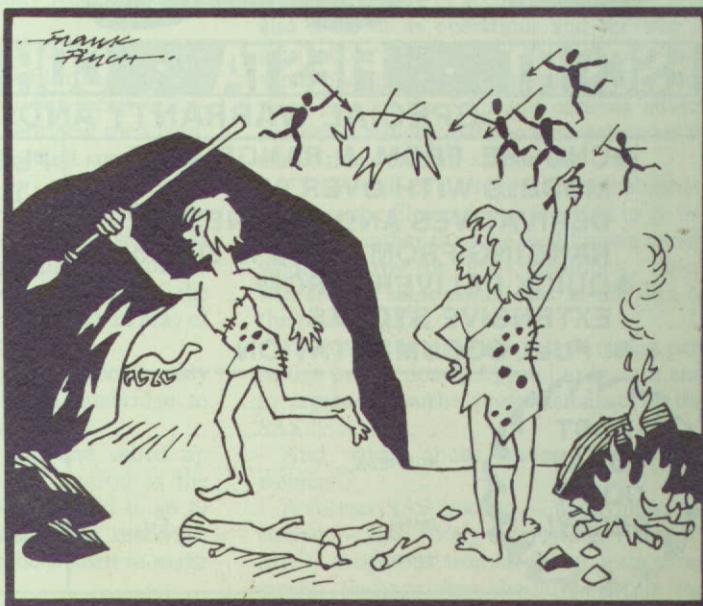
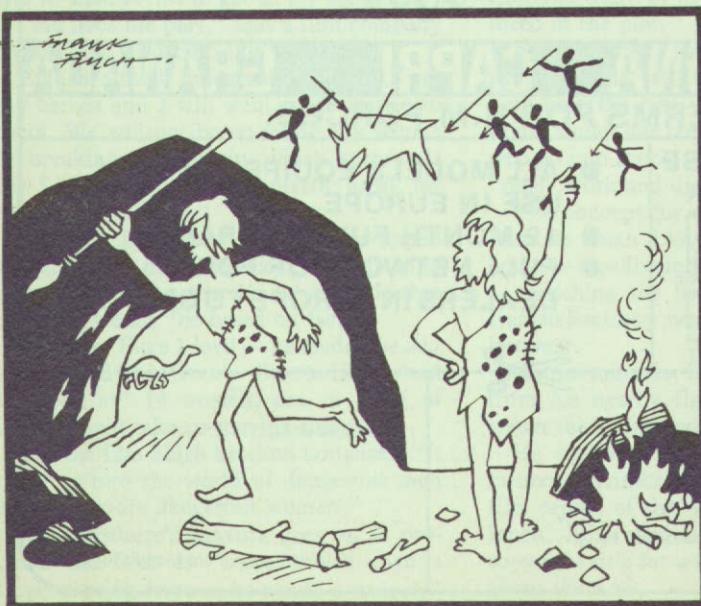
Said Elio Victor, "The building of this playhut has helped tremendously not only in increasing the already existing potential of the adventure playground, but also in bringing together young people in a common pursuit.

"Even though the erection of the Nissen hut itself has been completed, work now has to start on the interior: painting, water and electrical installations, partitions, and so on."

"As far as the actual activities are concerned, these will be left as far as possible to the children to decide upon and we can be sure to count on an infinite list!" ■

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 37.



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TV's Tough Guy shapes up for his most challenging film role . . .

Skellen of the SAS

THE SAS is in the news again. This time with a firm, exciting promise of another shoot-out 'somewhere in London'. But it's only fiction on celluloid and confined, initially, to a Pinewood film set as part of a £5 million production starring TV's tough guy troubleshooter — Bodie of *The Professionals* — alias 35-year-old actor Lewis Collins alias 'Captain Peter Skellen of the SAS'.

The film is called, inevitably, *Who Dares Wins*, after the Regiment's famous winged dagger badge motif. Shooting has already started and will continue over the next couple of months at various locations throughout the UK.

But the script is being kept under what the film's makers call a 'security curtain'. There is no inkling of the story-line except that it is based on George Markstein's book *The Tiptoe Boys*. Part of the fast moving scenario will be 'in London'.

Lewis Collins, a former member of a TA Para Regiment, landed the role because the film's producers felt that other action men like Roger Moore and Sean Connery were too senior in years.

The Birkenhead-born actor is said to be an expert rifle and pistol shot, skilled in unarmed combat and a black belt holder in ju-jitsu. He has spent five sun-drenched weeks in California taking strenuous exercise to shed 25 lbs to get fit for the film.

"He lives the part," said a film company spokesman. "Booze is out".

Collins himself eulogised: "The SAS are my heroes and I will want to do justice to them. We will not be revealing any secrets or breaking the security which surrounds the SAS. This film is a fantastic break for me."

Director Ian Sharp was as tight-lipped and almost as uncommunicative as the elite force itself except that he did concede that the story would "be based on fact."

Producer Euan Lloyd — he made *The Sea Wolves* and *Wild Geese* — flew to Hollywood to "look at" 14 women, one or more of whom might take co-starring title roles.

For the film blurb handout tantalises: "It takes us into the world of dangerous men and even more dangerous women."

The brochure's bravura goes on to proclaim the SAS as "more skilled than a surgeon using force as he would a scalpel."

Taxed about this hyperbole a film com-

pany PR spokesman laughed and told *SOLDIER*: "We leave you and your readers to draw your own comparisons about those statements."

Who Dares Wins is being billed as the first picture about the world's most secretive soldiers which will reveal the role they never talk about — their undercover work against terrorism.

One chink in the curtain of secrecy about



Top left: Lewis Collins in his TA days and (above) in SAS fictional guise.

the film does reveal that the Iranian Embassy siege of last May will not be featured in the plot.

Next summer, the film's mentors assure us, the public will see a film showing not only how the SAS carry out secret operations "under our noses" but how such men, who go into action masked and anonymous, "really work and die."

The concept for the making of the film came to Euan Lloyd as he was sitting at home — spellbound like millions of others — watching the live TV coverage of the Iranian Embassy siege one Sunday in May of last year.

Within minutes, Euan had walked briskly from his nearby flat in Knightsbridge to watch the action for himself.

He ran back to his flat and called up business connections in Hollywood as the film capital of the world prepared to go to lunch. Euan said he wanted to reserve a copyright title for a film he wished to make about the SAS.

The voice at the other end of the line,

unaware of the drama unfolding by the minute 9000 miles away, blandly asked: "What do you want to make a film about an airline for?"

Euan told him to "just do it". The impact of the request would soon be on his TV screen!

Full of praise for the SAS, Euan said later: "We are dealing with warriors unequalled in modern military history."

He then flew off to market his epic film adventure to potential overseas buyers including Australia and the USA.

The film company is desperately keen to stick accurately to the procedures adopted by the anonymous men of military action. But there is no Ministry of Defence or Army involvement with the film.

The company, in reverence to the SAS, says: "The men of the Special Air Service are probably more feared, misrepresented and misunderstood than any soldiers since the hordes of Ghengis Khan."

Film company PR man Laurie Bellew explained: "There are very many reasons which must be apparent why they are playing it close to their chests during the making of this film. They have not revealed the story line and there is no official co-operation from the Ministry of Defence or the Army.

"We have referred to certain sources,

including people in Fleet Street, who have a good knowledge of accuracy about the SAS and some of its operations and the way it goes about things. We have already had some phone calls from people saying they were once in the SAS and offering advice and detail but you just don't have the time to check them or their stories out.

"There will be parts for other established actors in the film and we are trying to go for new faces rather than the well-known which would destroy the film's credibility. There will also be some Americans in the film in their own right.

"We want to make the people taking part in this production feel proud to be in it and to try to show the professionalism of the SAS."

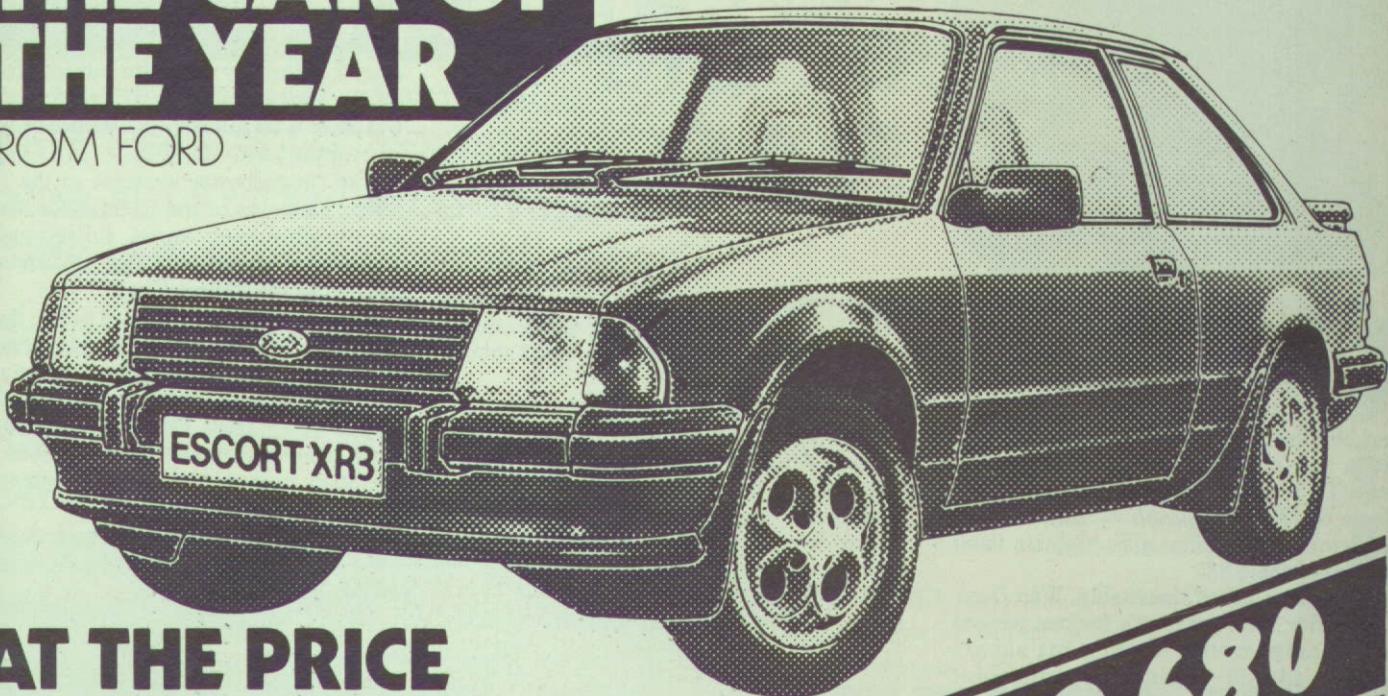
And what about those "dangerous women"?

A former SAS trooper — anonymous, of course — said: "Very interesting. I haven't met a dangerous woman for at least three weeks. Perhaps they should re-entitle the film *She Who Dares Wins!*"

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Every fortnight **SOLDIER** will be visiting a different Army location to learn what life is like for soldiers and their families posted there. We begin with a look at Tidworth.

THE sprawling 13-square-mile garrison town of Tidworth, set aloof on the edge of the Salisbury Plain Training Area, its HQ building literally split down the middle by two county authorities, is all things to its 5500 resident soldiers and nearly as many dependents. And it has long been so.

It's a very long way from the Indian battlegrounds from which eight of its 70-year-tenanted barrack blocks take their names.

Tidworth is also some distance, so those without cars sometimes grumble, from nearby large towns like Andover and the cathedral city of Salisbury — especially if you are a young wife with toddlers, laden down with shopping, having to fork out for a return bus fare of £1.50 or a taxi fare of £4.

One of a clutch of three garrison towns — the others are neighbouring Bulford and Larkhill — and sited alongside the A338 Salisbury-Hungerford road and three miles off the busy A303 London to Exeter artery, Tidworth, it is officially admitted, does have its drawbacks. Isolation is one. A lack of local light industry and selection of larger stores are two others.

But the military townspeople of Tidworth today are certainly far better off than their counterparts of 60 years ago, the 17th/21st Lancers. It was they who decided to do something positive about improving matters.

Amenities then were really scarce.

Regimental records of the 'Death or Glory Boys' billeted in Aliwal Barracks in 1922 show that when the 17th/21st Lancers arrived from Ireland, they were surprised to find that the recreation provided for the troops was 'very inadequate'.

There was only one cinema, few shops, no dance hall and the train and bus services were very poor. At the Barracks itself there was one small, uneven football ground, which was considered to be 'the best in Tidworth'.

The Regiment buckled to. Officers and troopers toiled side-by-side to shift thousands of tons of chalk sub-soil. Turf

was cut from Perham Down and brought in 'limbered wagons'. Two football and one cricket pitch emerged from the labours.

A tattoo ground, an arena and a polo ground all followed with completion by 1923.

Tidworth held its first Tattoo in that year with a small performance in Tidworth Park by the 2nd Cavalry Brigade watched by a group of local residents.

By contrast, 15 years later, and in the last Tattoo before the war, the audience had been augmented to more than 150,000.

Today, Tidworth has two shopping centres — one in Zouch Parade and a score more premises in Station Road. There was once a spur line running through the camp from Ludgershall to Tidworth. The station has long gone and in its place stands the Naafi Families' Shop.

Retired sapper Major David Brotherton, the Garrison Adjutant — "I once played hockey here in 1956" — admits that perhaps everything in the Tidworth garden is not rosy.

"The main problem here is that we are isolated for those with no cars. There is almost a complete lack of local industry and, therefore, job opportunities for wives are very limited," he said. "I understand, though, proposals are being looked at to bring some light industry to Tidworth. Another problem is the lack of the larger stores though we have a very good Naafi and two main shopping areas."

'The main problem here is that we are isolated for those with no cars'

Sporting facilities however, abound for the seven main resident units and two dozen supporting elements.

Tidworth boasts 18 football pitches, six hockey pitches, four rugby pitches, seven cricket pitches, eight lawn tennis courts, two hard courts, four squash courts and an open-air, heated swimming pool.

The garrison's most noted landmark is perhaps the Oval on which major Army and Corps football matches and athletics meetings are held.

Sports facilities are also loaned to civilian authorities. The Oval, earlier this year, staged the Tidworth Carnival.

Geographically, Tidworth is something of an anomaly, for the HQ building with its four staff is split down the middle by the boundary line dividing Wiltshire and Hampshire County Councils.

As Major Brotherton explained: "My office is in Wiltshire and yet you can go to the gents in Hampshire at the end of the corridor. We have two councils, two police forces, two parish councils, two education authorities and the 2275 married quarters are split between the two counties."

The 10,000-strong community is well served with local social amenities such as scouts, guides, Army Cadet Force, a Youth Centre, Venture Scouts, Sea Cadets and so



.... not a lot of shopping choice"

on. Tidworth is also the proud possessor of its Garrison Theatre (see **SOLDIER** April).

There are four pubs, too, serving the needs of the off-duty soldier.

As in any garrison town there are occasional bouts of rowdyism.

But Major Brotherton was quick to put these in perspective. "The punch-up is news just as the bent copper is news. A policeman doing his job is not news. If you have a lot of soldiers you train to be aggressive it would be surprising if you didn't occasionally have the chap who doesn't behave."

Warrant Officer 1 John Wells, the Garrison HQ Sergeant-Major simply added: "It's been no different since Caesar's time."

And how about the wives. How do they fare on a day-to-day basis at Tidworth?

Mrs Sheila Walsh, 21, mother of Peter, aged two, and wife of Trooper Pat Walsh of 'B' Squadron, Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, said: "There's not a lot of shopping choice in Tidworth and I'm not so keen on the Naafi. They are expensive compared, for instance, with Tesco's, in the towns."

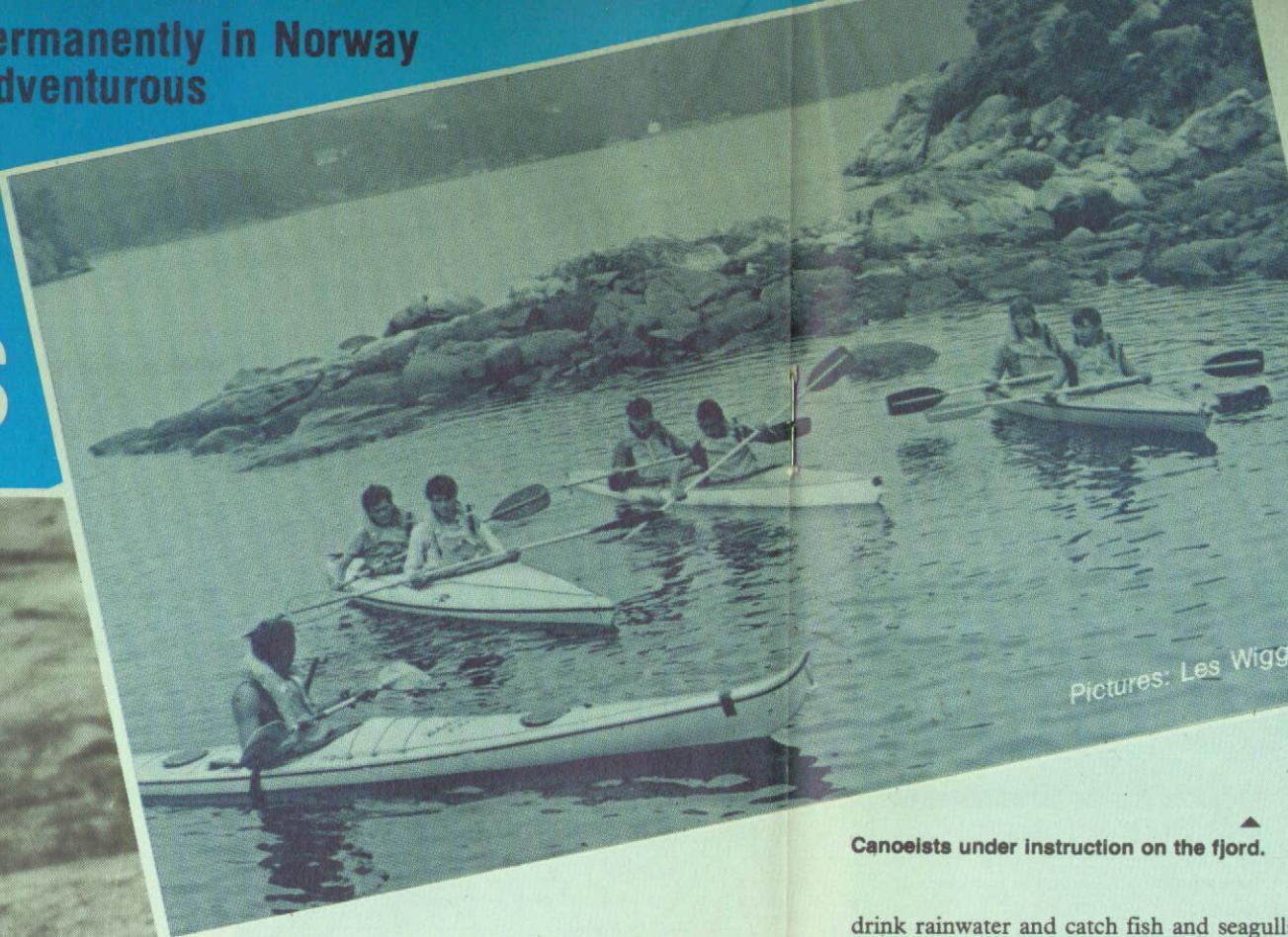
"You can spend the day here going round to other friends' houses or going to the Wives or Toddlers Club. When it's nice weather you can go on picnics or watch polo — if you like polo. It's also particularly difficult to get anywhere if you don't have a car and hard when you come back from town with a toddler and a lot of shopping on the bus. Another year here and we are going to Münster — and I'll be pleased."

Her view was not shared though by non-driver Mrs Meryl Joseph, 33, a former nanny, wife of Sergeant Alan Joseph of 1 Cheshire and mum to Nick (9) and Sally (5). She said simply: "I like it here".

"The place, like any other, is what you make it and I know it's difficult when wives have to be separated from their husbands who may be away in Belize for four months or away on exercise. I think they could do more for the families here by having a place that we could all go to socially. But there's all sorts of things to do here really. There's so much space."

Britain's only military unit based permanently in Norway provides unique opportunities for adventurous training. Graham Smith reports.

HIGH LIFE AND ESKIMO ROLLS



Pictures: Les Wiggs

Canoeists under instruction on the fjord.

A THOUSAND years ago sleek shield-lined Viking longships with fearsome prows slipped out into the North Sea bound for Britain's shores with Odin's blessing; their oars dipping in concerted unison along one of seafaring southern Norway's most sheltered fjords near Kristiansand, their crews with profitable pillaging in mind.

Since 1963, thousands of British soldiers in search of different, peaceful conquests — those of adventurous training — have been reversing the flow, so to speak, for just ten days at a time with Ministry of Defence sanction.

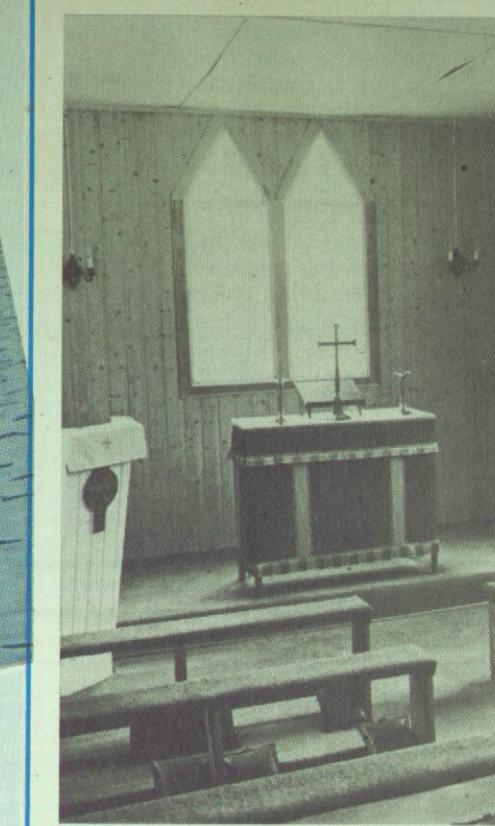
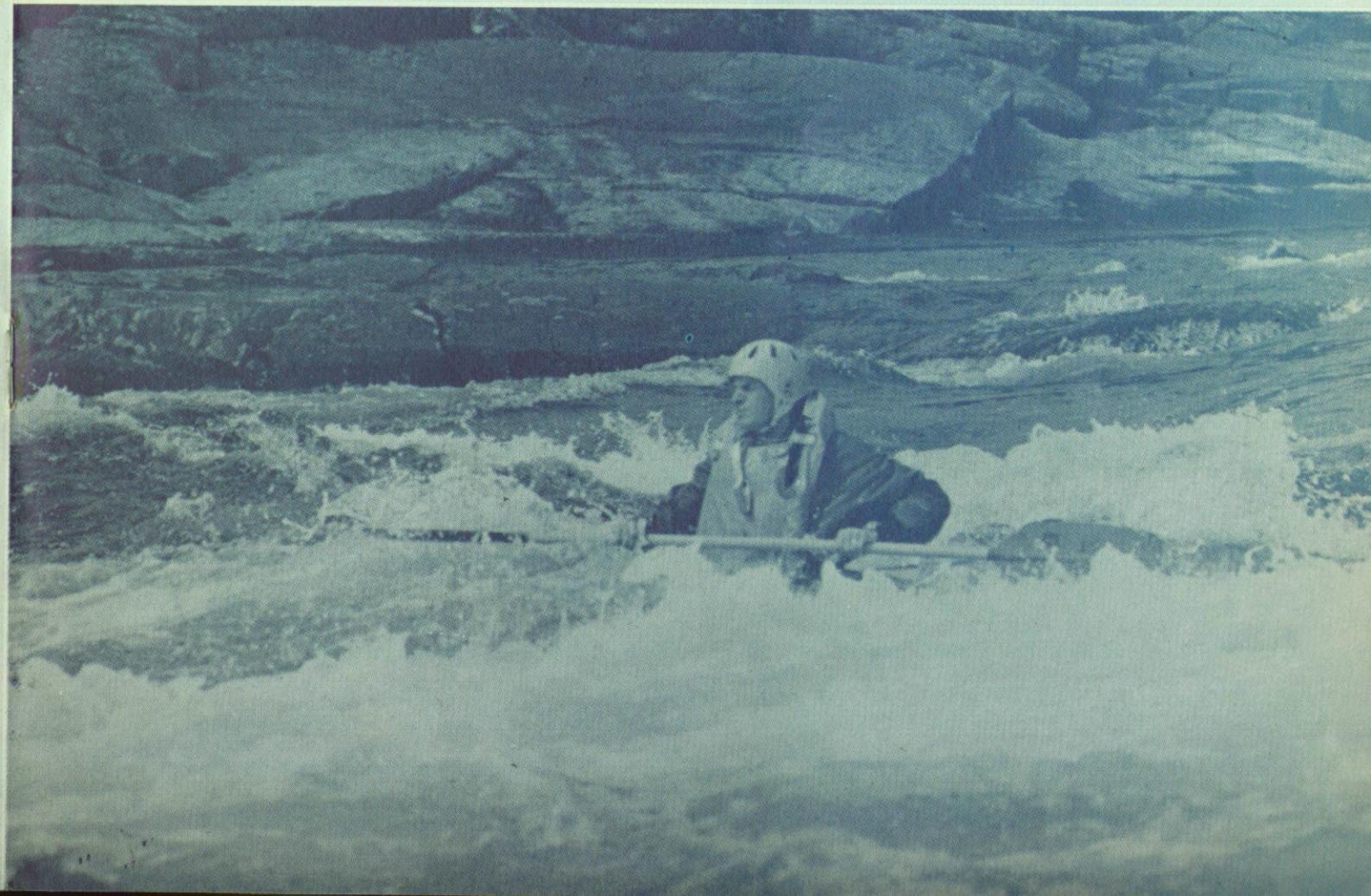
Up to 100 at a time of these latter-day warriors have been deploying from the UK and BAOR by plane and train respectively and regularly 'invading' the Kristiansand area aboard Norwegian ferries sailing from Denmark.

Their destination has been the British Outward Bound Centre (BOBC), a joint Services' adventurous training centre. Its administrative HQ, Canoeing Wing and Special Expeditions section are sited at Isefjaer, at the head of a tranquil fjord flanked by forested hills 12 miles east of Kristiansand. The BOBC is the only British military unit stationed permanently on Norwegian soil.

Up until 1971 the establishment was called 1 (BR) Corps Outward Bound Centre and the emphasis was on survival training.

Students were 'marooned' on three offshore islands for several days with only the clothes they stood up in, a box of matches, jack-knife, fishing line and washing and shaving kit. They were honour-bound not to take food, water or cigarettes and had to

◀ Ideal conditions for rock climbing practice and for tuning white water canoeing skills. ▶



The BOBC has the smallest church in Norway and possibly throughout the whole of the British Army — and it has a chest of drawers for an altar.

Called St David's Chapel, the white, ten-windowed wooden building was erected from driftwood from the fjord in 1963 by three soldiers on the Outward Bound Centre staff.

The British and Norwegian flags flutter side by side above the 60-capacity chapel, a focal landmark at the head of the Isefjaer Fjord.

St David's was dedicated in October 1963 by the Right Reverend Roderic Coote, the Bishop of Fulham, and it has two chaplains. One is a local Lutheran minister who is the officiating chaplain, the other is The Venerable Brian Horlock of the Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway who is Chaplain and Archdeacon in Scandinavia.

Services are held from time to time in the chapel when members of the British community are invited to attend. It is estimated that there are a couple of dozen former members of the BOBC who have left the Army, married Norwegian girls and settled in the Kristiansand area.

tad, an isolated ski resort nearly 2000 feet up overlooking a lake and about 50 miles north of Kristiansand.

At Gautesetad, in the Setesdal Valley, 15 staff run the summer and winter ski training, rock climbing and mountaineering courses for up to 45 students at a time. There is an outstation some 70 miles away

continued on page 28

The British Outward Bound Centre still remembers the story of the Spitfire dragged from the muddy depths of the fjord just yards away from their HQ's front door and its nostalgic reunion with its Scots-born pilot who was presented with a personalised plaque made from a section of the aircraft's wing twenty years later.

It was an eight-strong diving team from 1 (BR) Corps Sub Aqua Club on a visit to BOBC in July 1963 and including Captain Peter Ormerod, Royal Artillery, now a major and Physical and Adventurous Training Staff officer at HQ United Kingdom Land Forces, who successfully dredged the Spitfire from its watery resting place. It was the 1 (BR) Corps workshops who fashioned the plaque from the remains.

Major Ormerod, who was Deputy Commandant at the Centre and then its Commandant in 1965 recalls: "The Spitfire was buried deep in the silt down to a total depth of about 25 to 30 feet. Several expeditions had a go at retrieving parts of the aircraft like the wheels. We tried to lift the engine but the end of the crane broke. The busiest years of activity on the Spitfire were from about 1965 to 1967. We spent, I suppose, about 160 hours' diving over a period of ten days."

The pilot was Alex Anderson, who

northwards for advanced skiers at Hovden.

The BOBC courses accommodate half-a-dozen intakes and up to 105 students at a time. Comparable facilities supplied on a commercial basis would probably cost each participant at least £200 for ten days.

In country that is snow-carpeted for five months of the year with frequent readings of minus-twenty, aspirants taking to the Centre's ski slopes, for instance, will be wearing about £1000 of equipment.

BOBC's courses include langlauf racing, basic ski touring, cross country skiing, snow and ice climbing, basic inland and sea canoeing, advanced and intermediate white or wild water canoeing, rock climbing, introduction to Alpine mountaineering and the Special Expeditions.

The courses have their failures — but not many. Injuries run at about one per cent a year. There are occasional mishaps like backs coming into painful contact with submerged rocks during skills such as 'Eskimo Rolls' (turning sideways through 360 degrees) in canoes. And there are lesser hazards like blisters, pulled tendons or twisted ankles incurred by walkers.

The BOBC is recognised by the Norwegians as a civilian school teaching outdoor pursuits so civilian clothing is the workaday rig for the 42 permanent and incremental staff. They include 14 instructors, among them two RAF personnel, and a member of the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps who is a canoeing instructor. In all, personnel from 14 different corps and regiments serve the BOBC.

In keeping with their 'civilian' status, the BOBC's fleet of four-tonners, mini buses and Land Rovers are inconspicuously

became a schoolteacher in Scotland. He flew his long-range reconnaissance-type Spitfire on a mission to Norway from Leuchars in Scotland in February 1943.

A pair of German fighters pounced on him and the young pilot baled out near Isefjaer to land in a tree, dangling by his parachute harness. The stricken Spitfire crashed into the icy fjord and broke into several pieces to sink into the mud.

Twenty years after the crash Mr Anderson was invited to come to Norway to see parts of his aircraft and to be reunited with the Norwegian couple — the Johnsens — a local grocer and his wife (both now dead) who had sheltered him that February night, put his leg into splints and bandages and hidden him in a room for easy escape if need be.

The young pilot tried to get to Sweden but was thwarted by his injured leg and became a prisoner-of-war in German hands.

The Spitfire, as it came to the surface again, revealed that a wing had been burning before the crash. Parts of the wing's fuel tanks and gas filter were found to be in good condition.

Memories are vague, though, as to where many of these souvenirs have finished up. One component, however, is still at large — the engine. It lies at the bottom of Isefjaer Fjord.

painted in grey, blue or black.

Every month, one of the four-tonners with two drivers makes the five-day trip, including a four-hour ferry ride, to BAOR — and back — via Denmark to pick up stores for the BOBC. Food is bought locally.

Students from the UK — about 20 per cent of the subscriber rate — selected for the Centre's courses go out on the Luton-Gütersloh trooping flight and then make their way to Hirtshals, the Danish port of embarkation. Getting to Isefjaer usually takes three days and new arrivals swiftly move out onto their courses to live under canvas. BAOR's candidates usually start their treks at Hannover.

Major Allan Withers of The Royal Hampshire Regiment, BOBC's Commandant for the past 18 months, explained: "The charter of the Centre is to provide an opportunity for all ranks to develop character, initiative and self-reliance beyond the scope of normal military training.

"Adventurous training is expanding and since BOBC plays a vital part in training instructors it is essential that it is staffed to meet the requirement. This means having well-qualified staff who are interested in the work of the Centre and who have the personality to fit into a small, remote, hard-working community."

His instructors, for example, are expected to be qualified on arrival in at least one activity taught at the Centre and to qualify in all activities during their tours there.

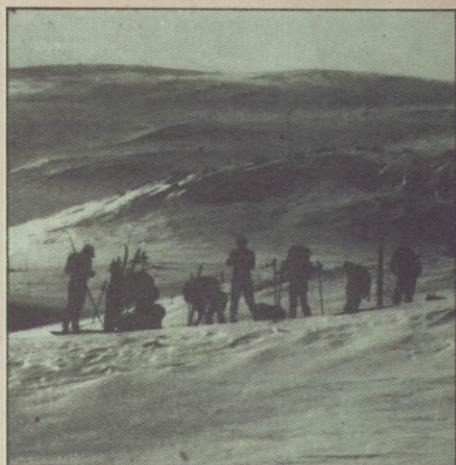
Commented Major Withers: "Instructors are required to have the personality and leadership qualities to teach and supervise groups operating on their own in remote areas under severe weather conditions."

"Every member of the staff has to be prepared to lend a hand to any job that needs doing at any time. Everyone is expected to take an interest in the activities taught here and, given the chance, to take part. It's also important that all members of the staff are able to swim."

The qualifications available to BOBC graduates are various.

There are training and assessment courses for Unit Nordic Expedition Ski Leaders, assessments and up-gradings, too, for Nordic Skiing Instructors qualifying to National Ski Federation of Great Britain standard. And there is snow and ice climbing for those bent on climbing in the Alps who want to qualify for a Mountaineering Instructor Certificate (MIC).

The Scandinavian summers also see training and assessment courses for Unit Expedi-



Skiers take a breather at Gaustad.

tion Leaders; basic, intermediate and instructor climbing courses and accompanying assessment for Joint Services Rock Climbing Instructor (JSRCI); Army Canoe Union (ACU) proficiency and instructor standards for inland and sea canoeing.

There is also a high standard skills course for experienced operators in white or wild water canoeing which involves negotiating foaming rapids up to Grade Seven with the hidden hazards of rocks, whirlpools and undertows in what are said to be, by many, the best white water conditions available in north-west Europe.

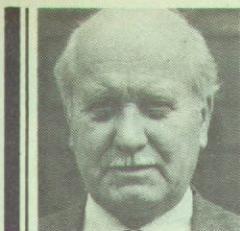
Another offering run by the BOBC is one intended to give junior ranks an introduction, without qualification, to a mountaineering environment.

For experienced rock climbers, Alpine mountaineering introduces them to long mixed climbing routes incorporating snow and ice techniques in such regions.

The Centre also helps maintain Special Expeditions during the summer. These expeditions each comprise seven men who trek with canoes in a wild area some 100 miles to the north of Kristiansand.

Major Ron Reilly of the Army Physical Training Corps, the Centre's Chief Instructor, summed up the role of the BOBC thus: "The particular advantages of training in Norway are excellent skiing conditions, white water canoeing, near Alpine conditions and the vast area of wild, uninhabited country."

"Officers, NCOs and soldiers who attend the courses here are expected to return to their units with the necessary vigour, enthusiasm, skills and qualifications to lead adventurous training activities."



On the Record with Rodney Bashford

Band of The Surrey Yeomanry Regimental Association

Conductor: Bandmaster D Butlin

A privately made record by a band which survives the various reductions in the Territorial Army on a voluntary and self-supporting basis, with the concomitant hazards such survival entails. Lack of rehearsal time is one of them, and I'm afraid the performance of fourteen regimental marches of the old Home Counties regiments suffer accordingly.

Never mind though, for they are played with gusto and obvious enjoyment. You've got an opportunity not only to add a little to association funds but to acquire the regimental marches of the Queen's Royal Regiment, The Buffs, East Surrey, Royal Sussex, Royal West Kent, Middlesex, Surrey Yeomanry, RA Slow and Quick marches, plus *Soldiers of the Queen* for the new Queen's Regiment and *Sussex by the Sea*.

From H E Russell, 21 Cranfield Rd East, Carshalton, Surrey, price £3 inclusive.

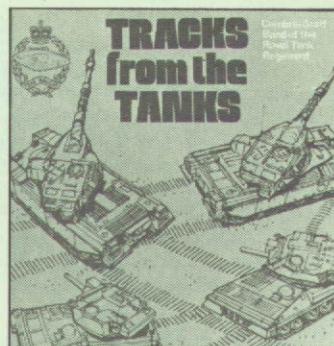


Tracks From The Tanks

Cambrai Staff Band, Royal Tank Regiment. Conductor: Captain G Turner. DR 31

'Tracks from the Tanks' is not a bad pun, but the title of the new march of the Army Legal Corps goes one better. The Judge Advocate General, on being asked to think of a name which would combine the elements of music and the law came up, in four seconds flat, with *The Scales of Justice*. The march of the new corps, formerly the Army Legal Services, appears on disc for the first time and buyers need have no qualms about the remainder of the programme. Absolutely first class, well thought out, and imaginatively presented.

Several rarities long-deserving of an airing appear with a few old favourites in new guise, mostly from



the pen of Captain Turner himself. The marches are *The Middle Watch*, in which the late Major Alf Young once again proves himself 'the greatest', two from the classics in Mozart's *Turkish March* and Strauss's *Egyptian March*, a gloriously chocolate-box evocation of eastern promise occasioned by the opening of the Suez Canal, and finally Seitz's *Granioso* which for some reason has come much into favour lately. A fine march though, in classic mould.

Masterpieces of light music are the old song *Black Eyes*, Morton Gould's own pun for an obviously beautiful lass, *Pavanne*, Leroy Anderson's *Trumpeter's Lullaby*, an arrangement of the Negro ballad *Joshua*, the resurrection of Dick Barton, special agent, in *The Devil's Galop*, a version of *Post Horn Galop* with hounds and full hunting effects, a piece called *Tropical Meringue*, and a medley of nautical tunes, *Shantyland*.

Available to all, but especially our legal fraternity, from Director of Music, Cambrai Band RTR, BFPO 15, price £4.59 inclusive.

The Yorkies on Tour

(Band of the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire) (Conductor: Bandmaster RA Martin) (Music Masters MM 0574)

Not much here for Yorkshiremen to get excited over. Not a whiff of the moors, the dales, Scarborough Fair, or the Bruddersford sewage works. A nondescript programme too lethargic in tempo and attack for my taste, with what I take to be a few youngsters causing problems of tuning and balance.

The tour includes visits to America, Spain and several places in England as far as I can make out, with no explanation for a photograph of the very smart-looking band alongside the Canberra. Marches are *Washington Grays*, *Parade of the Champions*, *State Occasion* by Robert Farnon, Percy Fletcher's concert march *The Spirit of Pageantry*, and the regimental marches *Ca Ira* and *The Yorkshire Lass*. A *paso doble* *El Pico*, theme from *Airport '75*, a saxophone solo *Daydreams*, and two items from the dance band, *On a Clear Day* and *I Write the Songs*, make up the rest.

From Bandmaster, Picton Bks, Bulford, Wilts, price £4.59 inclusive.

The Drums & Pipes of The 1st Bn Irish Guards

Drum Major C P Deane, Pipe Major J Johnston, Music Masters MM 0576

The Irish Guards are nowadays the only regiment which can give us a programme comprising the triple delights of military band, corps of drums, and pipes and drums. Here the two latter elements alternate in some feats of Irish wizardry, wholly captivating, and for at least one Englishman with a spattering of *Cathleen ni Hoolihan* in his veins forty minutes of pure magic. Taken with a dram of the Irish it is easy to see how such music creates the devilry it does. Oh, those Irish flute bands!

The pipes and drums play five medleys of six or seven tunes each, yet so paces them with little or no repetition that monotony, except briefly in a 6/8 set, is carefully avoided. The first group, preceded

by the *Regimental Call* and *Reveille* (yes, buglers as well) comprises the five company marches. The others include such evocative and beautiful titles as *Mountains of Mourne*, *The River Shannon*, *Nell Flaherty's Drake*, *Whiskey in the Jar*, and *Gone to the Hills*, concentrating on the traditional and ancient heritage of Irish folk music.

The corps of drums gives us, in addition to lovely *Eileen Allanah*, *Enniskillen*, *Minstrel Boy*, and *The Hot Asphalt*, a few of the Paddy-ballads like *Slattery's Mounted Fut*, *Begorrah*, *If You're Irish*, and *MacNamara's Band*. That great Irish Guardsman Field Marshal Alexander and Hill 212 are remembered in the final group, with *St Patrick's Day* and *Last Post* to bring this celtic celebration to a close.

From QM Irish Guards, Chelsea Barracks, London SW1, price £4.50 inc. Cassette available.

SOLDIER SPECIAL ALBUM OFFER



A soldier poses for a photograph with folk singer Harvey Andrews during one of his Combined Services Entertainment visits to Northern Ireland. Now the soldier has achieved more permanent fame — he is on the cover of Harvey's latest LP.

In fact, the album *Writer of Songs* was first issued in 1972 and includes the inevitable *Soldier* as well as a number of other Harvey standards such as *Hey Sandy* and *Boothferry Bridge*. But it has not been available for several years and is being re-released on a different label.

Earlier this year Harvey's live album *In Concert* was made available through the post to SOLDIER readers. And so many readers took advantage of the offer that we are now able to offer Harvey's *Writer of Songs*.

Just clip the heading 'SOLDIER SPECIAL ALBUM OFFER' from this box and send it with your name and address direct to Harvey (not to SOLDIER) enclosing a remittance of £5.50 to cover cost and postage.

The address is: Harvey Andrews, c/o Beeswing Records, 68 Limes Road, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, WV6 8RB.

And the soldier in the photograph above can claim a free copy of the record if he drops Harvey a line.

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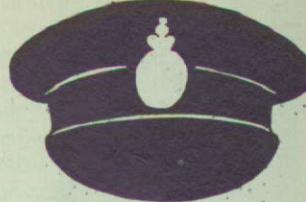
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Your Cap Badge



To coincide with this first fortnightly issue of SOLDIER we begin a new series in which we plan to feature all the Army's current corps and regimental cap badges. The articles are being researched and written by Arthur L Kipling and Hugh L King, co-authors of *Head-dress Badges of the British Army*.

THE LIFE GUARDS

RAISED on the 26th January 1661 from the scattered regiments of King Charles the First's Cavaliers, and being closely associated with the Sovereign ever since, the badges of the Life Guards have naturally always been of a Royal character.

Originally The Life Guards consisted of three Troops, the King's Own, The Duke of York's and the Duke of Albemarle's, one Troop mainly being raised in Scotland.

Initially they consisted of men of good family, many having held commissions in the cavalier regiments, and were quartered, dressed, equipped and paid handsomely. Their task was nothing less than the safety of the Sovereign and the Royal Family, as it is to this day, and they still enjoy many of those privileges — though perhaps not the exalted pay!

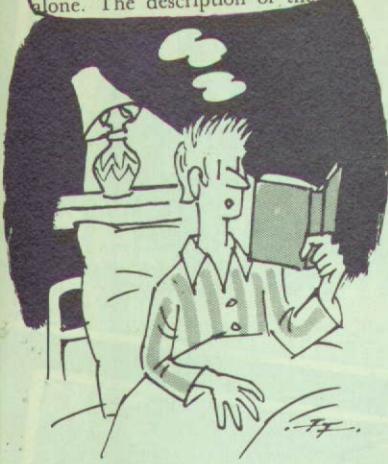
The present badge, shown above, is that worn by Other Ranks in gold anodised, being the Royal Cypher pierced within a circle inscribed 'The Life Guards', the whole surmounted by the St Edward's crown. Cap badges, as we know them today, came into general use at the end of the 19th century, but it was not until 1913, when present at the manoeuvres held that year, that King George the Fifth noticed that his Household Cavalry regiments were bereft of badges in their service head-dresses. His wish to correct this resulted in badges bearing his personal cypher, the title of the particular regiment (in the case of The Life Guards it was the 'First Life Guards' and 'Second Life Guards' to distinguish between the two regiments) surmounted by the Imperial Crown, coming into use.

For a very brief period after 1922, upon the merging of the two regiments, the legend appeared as 'Life Guards (1st and 2nd). Upon the death of George V, patterns bearing the cypher of Edward VIII were made but never worn. Few remain in existence and are extremely rare.

After the Abdication, the cypher of King George the Sixth together with the Imperial crown was adopted, and upon the Accession of our present Queen, the cypher changed yet again as did the crown to that of St Edward.

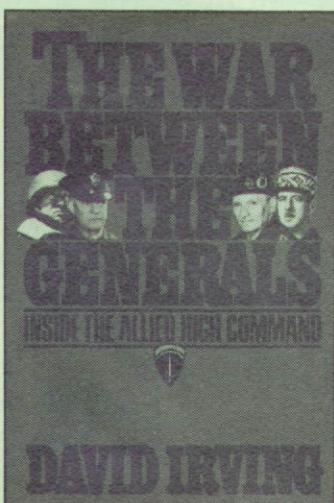
Next issue: The Blues and Royals

If you want to sleep soundly at night, this is a book you should leave alone. The description of the night.



The War between the Generals: David Irving

There can be no denying that the American decision to enter the Second World War swung the tide of war firmly in the Allies' favour. Yet all was not plain sailing between these strange bedfellows. British civilians regarded the American hordes with a mixture of delight and resentment, and even at the highest levels of military command both partners regarded the alliance as a mixed blessing.



Based extensively on the hitherto unpublished diaries of General Dwight D Eisenhower's 'eyes and ears', Everett Hughes, *War between the Generals* tells the story of the personal antagonisms which riddled the Allied High Command, and how such rivalries affected strategic decisions and influenced tactical command. It provides a vivid insight into the personalities of three of World War Two's most influential commanders when at the height of their powers, and graphically and unsparingly illuminates their personal antipathy. The three prime actors in this slightly unsavoury saga are Eisenhower, George S. Patton and General Bernard Montgomery. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander, favoured a close alliance with the British, but was constantly thwarted by Montgomery, who was jealous of his command, and considered him indecisive. Patton, in turn, disliked all British intensely, and Monty in particular; he found him conceited, prickly, overbearing and above all slow. Against the background of some of the fiercest fighting in world

history, these three maintained a personal feud which reduced the effectiveness of the Alliance and involved most of their subordinates and colleagues.

In unravelling the 'cloak of silence' which he claims has surrounded this feud since the end of the war, David Irving has produced a highly readable book, despite his occasionally grandiose style. But it is an unsavoury story with the principals revealed as ego-maniacal prima-donnas. As Irving says in one of the captions "On the other end of the chain of command, the ordinary soldier lived or died according to the wars between the generals". When the Generals are on opposite sides it is bad enough; when they are allies, it is not funny at all.

Allen Lane, Penguin Books Ltd., 536 King's Road, London SW10 0UH — £9.95.

IJK

D-Day: Lauran Paine

Although the Second World War boasted many spectacular successes and equally spectacular disasters, D-Day continues to exercise a grip on the public imagination. It was, after all, probably the most crucial single day in the history of the war; it took four years to plan, two years to organise and yet the Allied landing itself was over in a day. Behind it lay many ingenious intelligence operations and technological achievements. A mass of misleading information was fed to the Germans to confuse the true location of the landing until the last possible minute; even as there was fighting on the Normandy beachheads, Hitler refused to believe that it was the real thing. The fighting itself was some of the toughest of the war, and by the end of the day many German generals privately realised that the tide of war had swung irrevocably against them.

Mr Paine's book is a popular history of the campaign, very readable but not adding a lot to what has been said before. The illustrations, depicting some of the more gimmicky aspects of the campaign of confusion, but show little of the landings and nothing of the fighting.

Robert Hale Ltd., Clerkenwell House, Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0HT — £8.95.

IJK

Arnhem Doctor: Stuart Mawson

The story of Arnhem is well known. The fight for the bridge has been acclaimed as one of the epics of World War Two. The difficulties of the British airborne troops against an overwhelmingly large German mechanised force, and the failure of Second Army to reinforce them, produced a situation that could only end in defeat. Yet the tenacity of the parachute troops enabled them to hold on for a week under intense bombardment when they were equipped and rationed only for a couple of days.

This story of a regimental doctor who dropped with the parachutists is quite a different facet to the well

known story. He is not a martial figure and his task was not to perform heroic deeds. But he has recorded the feelings of a non-combatant under fire for the first time and the everyday tasks and dramas of medical men and wounded.

The courage of the Dutch people is exemplified by the dedication of a



young nurse who attached herself to the dressing station to which he had reported when he lost his battalion.

Her inclusion touches the pages with a hint of romance — yet her name is never mentioned. Hopefully she will come across this record for it is one more link to perpetuate the continuing friendship between our airborne troops and the people of Arnhem.

Orbis Publishing Ltd., 20-22 Bedfordbury, London WC2N 4BL — £6.95.

GRH

Prelude to Fame: Bertram Ratcliffe

Napoleone di Buonaparte, known among his friends as Nabulio and with surname written Bonne Parte, landed at Toulon from his home in Corsica in June 1793. With him was his mother, three brothers and three sisters, and all were penniless. They had been outlawed and their home sacked. Napoleon Bonaparte, to give him the name he elected to use three years later, was at the age of 24 already a captain in the French artillery but had overstayed his leave to play politics in Corsica. He was, however, a skilled gunnery officer and was to prove his brilliance quickly. Within six months he had fought two battles, the second resulting in the fall of Toulon. By 1796, not yet 27 years of age, he was a general, had fought and defeated the Piedmontese Army, having gained six victories in 15 days. He went on to drive the Austrians almost to the gates of Vienna, gaining victories all along the way.

This book tells the story of these first three years when Napoleon was seeking the top with ambition, skill and intrigue. First as a captain, then as a major and soon as a general, he needed 'friends at court' and gained them. He might have been sabotaged

at any point along the way. He almost was. He was imprisoned as an enemy of the state, but gained his freedom to go on to serve out his destiny. Frederick Warne (Publishers) Ltd., 40 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HE — £7.95.

GRH

The Armed Forces of World War II: Andrew Mollo

This work is really the result of the ambition of a five-year-old who, at the end of World War Two, was fascinated by uniforms and insignia. It has taken him more than three decades to accomplish his task and he is now one of Britain's best known military historians and has written 12 books on military uniforms. The volume gives details of the uniforms and insignia of all the protagonists, with separate coloured plates for each army, navy and air force. The author describes the effectiveness of the clothing in the field and how it affected the troops' fighting ability, and a running text knits the whole together and presents a picture of the progress of the conflict. The 365 coloured drawings, 165 first class photographs and 53 plates of insignia all help to make this an excellent book of reference for military students.

Orbis Publishing Ltd., 20-22 Bedfordbury, London WC2N 4BL — £12.50.

GRH

With the German Guns: Herbert Sulzbach

This is an interesting record of day to day events told by a German soldier in the line in World War One. Starting as an enthusiastic enlisted man when war was declared, he gained a commission after two years in the artillery and was twice awarded the Iron Cross. His account is straightforward and detailed and reflects the pride that most German soldiers felt (equally as did the Allies) of fighting for what they believed was a just cause.

This book was first published in Germany in 1935 and is now trans-



lated into English for the first time. The author had a remarkable career, for in 1937, because of his Jewish antecedents, he was forced to flee to England. There he was interned when war came but in 1940 joined the Pioneer Corps and was commissioned in 1945. After World War Two he worked towards Anglo-German friendship and in 1978 was awarded the Croix de paix de l'Europe, of which he is one of only three recipients.

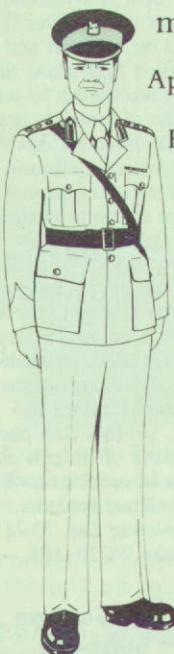
Frederick Warne (Publishers) Ltd., 40 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HE — £9.95.

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What you have to do

One of the great things about owning your own video tape recorder is being able to watch your favourite films whenever you want in the comfort of your own living room. Listed right are ten popular movies of recent years — all with 'military' connections — and ten well-known actors who played leading roles in them. All you have to do is match the actor to the film. For instance, if you think that Rod Steiger starred in *A Bridge Too Far* enter the number 9 in the box opposite that title.

When you've completed all the boxes, tell us — in not more than 25 words — what battle you think would make an exciting new feature film, and why.

The competition is open to all **SOLDIER** readers at home or overseas and the closing date is Friday 6 November. The answers and winners' names will appear in the **Soldier** published on 30 November. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a competition entry form from page 33 — no photocopies accepted. Entries using OHMS envelopes or pre-paid labels will be disqualified. The winner and runners-up will be determined by a panel of judges representing both **SOLDIER** and Pickfords Removals Ltd and their decision will be final. Prizes will be awarded to those entrants who, in the opinion of the judges, have correctly matched the film stars with the film titles and who have shown most skill and originality in completing the tie-breaker.

EVER FUMED OVER HOW your favourite TV programmes always seem to clash... a smashing film on one channel, that big sporting event on another? Or been 'glued' to a serial for weeks only to find you're going to be out on the night they screen the final episode?

Maddening isn't it! But with a video tape recorder you needn't miss any of those TV shows — and now's your chance to win one in this easy to enter SOLDIER/Pickfords movie quiz.

Pickfords Removals and Storage have been helping members of HM Forces move for over a century — not only to and from the UK, but around the rest of the world too. They have a network of offices in the UK and West Germany geared to serve Forces families quickly, efficiently and at very competitive rates. And all their managers understand the special moving requirements of Service families and will arrange for a free estimate on request.

Now — as friends of the Forces — Pickfords are sponsoring the first of our big prize competitions, with a fabulous first prize of a Sanyo 9300PN Betacord Colour Video Recorder and ten runners-up prizes of £10 EMI record tokens.

The Sanyo 9300PN can provide up to 3½ hours of continuous playing time and can be set to record automatically at any time within a 72-hour period. It has a daily mode control for daily recording, a built-in UHF/VHF tuner with eight presettable soft-touch channel buttons and a remote pause switch for editing and still picture control. It's easy to operate and it can be used with any make of TV set.

Not only will the Sanyo 9300PN enable you to record TV shows.* You can buy a compatible video sound camera to make and show your own home movies on it. And you can purchase ready-to-screen cassettes of the latest motion pictures and stage your own private film premieres for family and friends.

So study the rules. Get out your pen. And send in an entry right away. All it will cost you is the price of a stamp. And it could be your passport to a lot of super viewing.

*Recording may require consent. See Copyright Acts.

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THE (SOLDIER/PICKFORDS) MOVIE QUIZ		
A BRIDGE TOO FAR		1 Robert de Niro
PATTON		2 Sir Laurence Olivier
OH! WHAT A LOVELY WAR		3 Michael Caine
APOCALYPSE NOW		4 David Hemmings
WATERLOO		5 George C Scott
THE EAGLE HAS LANDED		6 Ernest Borgnine
ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT (RE-MAKE)		7 Marlon Brando
CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE		8 Ryan O'Neal
CROMWELL		9 Rod Steiger
THE DEER HUNTER		10 Richard Harris

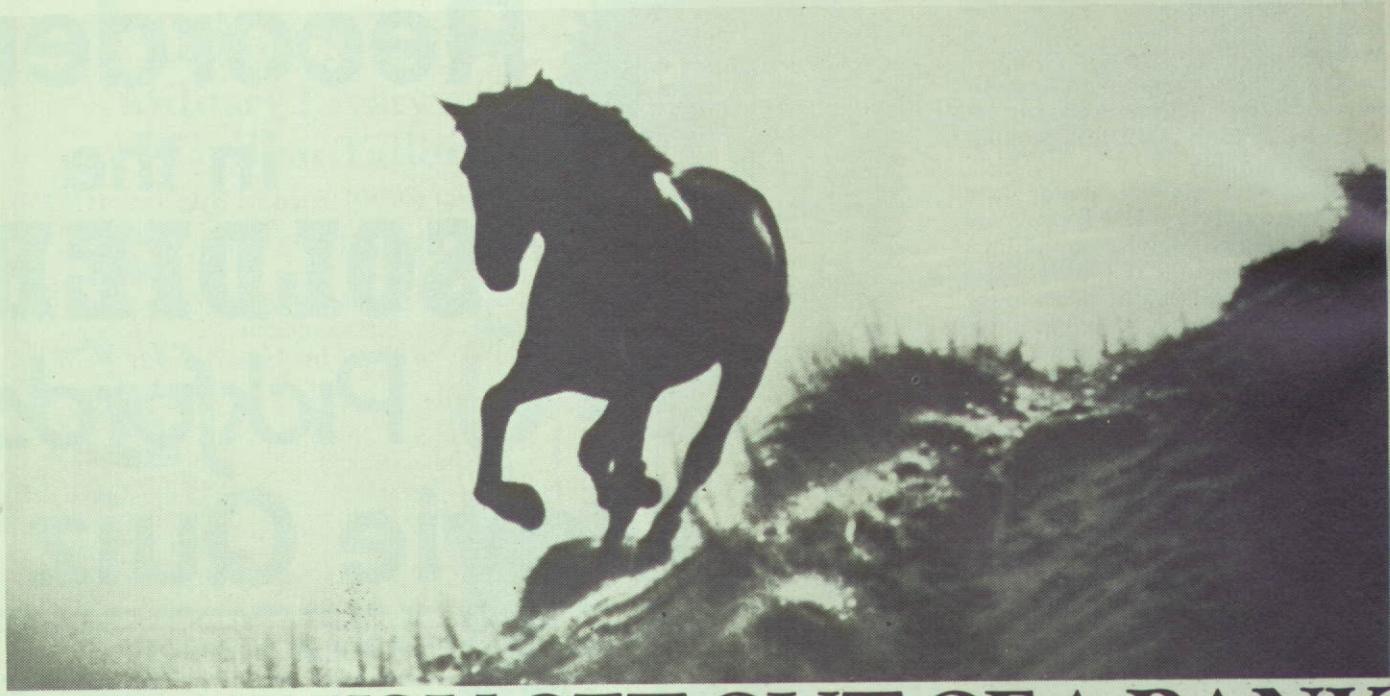


I think that the
(name of battle) would make an exciting new
feature film because (not more than 25 words)

NAME

ADDRESS

Send to: The Editor, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road,
Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU. Entries close on
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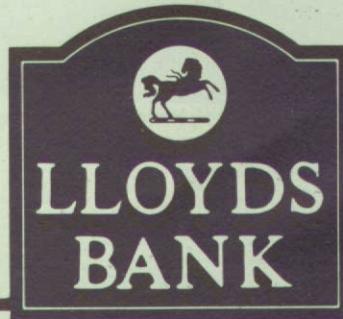
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War of the table tops

LANCE CORPORAL TERRY MURPHY of the Royal Corps of Signals based at Aldershot has been promoted to the rank of general for a day on countless occasions. But the fact has never been recorded on any retired officers' Army List.

For Terry, like an estimated 200 others within the British Army, is an enthusiastic table top war-gamer, a hobby in which blood never flows and even the dead don't get hurt.

In recent years, Terry has become General Rommel... Blücher... Patton... and Montgomery, to name but four, in the pastime which is going from strength to strength in the Army both in the UK and in BAOR.

The accurately landscaped military tactics of the green baize tables set up nowadays in married quarters living rooms have been on the upsurge since the 19th century when the elite of the close-cropped Prussian Army polished up their Kriegsspiel (war game) manoeuvres.

H G Wells was another devotee. He used a spring breech loader gun which discharged matchsticks to decimate row upon row of 54mm tall soldiers in his Sandgate, Kent, drawing room.

Rob Wilton, the deadpan-faced comedian may well have amused us during the last conflict with his catchphrase of "The day that war broke out, my wife said to me...." But every day, somewhere in the UK, 'war' is doing just that among the hobbyists... and the Army wants a bigger share of them.

Corporal Tom Sayers, a 35-year-old dental technician based at Aldershot, is appealing through *SOLDIER*'s columns for more members to join the Army War Game Association of which he is the UK Secretary.

The UK branch has about 125 members while BAOR boasts about 80. And they have, in their own way, changed the course of many a historic battle in the space of just a few hours' play.

For, it seems, battles fought out today in this fashion do not always agree with the official version of the annals.

As an example, Waterloo mostly goes down as a French victory nowadays — and keeps doing so.

Corporal Sayers explained: "We wouldn't make the same blunders today. We wouldn't send the cavalry in a mass charge against a British square. We know the odds. Hindsight is a great thing. I could make a great general now, given those same circumstances. I am as good as Wellington. But I wouldn't have been then. Hindsight is a good thing and it does not take the interest away. The interest comes by getting a better result."

Patience as well as firepower plays a large part in the success of battle on the green baize field. A game could last for two-and-



Lance Corporal Murphy and Signalman Davies prepare for another mini-military encounter.

a-half hours yet only eight moves will have been made.

Like the battlefield, tensions do arise among the players as they try to achieve the optimum of movement, missile fire, mêlée (the meeting of the armies) and morale.

Signalman Ian Davies said: "I would say 70 per cent of the enjoyment of the game is arguing and 30 per cent winning it. There is nothing more annoying than the moment you are getting ready to play your master stroke and the other bloke gets there first. It really gets up your nose. But it's great fighting these wars when you are in them as generals telling everybody what to do."

Terry Murphy, who was interested in military modelling until 1972 when he took charge of the 7 Signal Regiment war-games club, said: "Another advantage of fighting the same battles is trying to avoid the mistakes you made in them last time."

Certain equipment is not always suited to certain battles.

Craig Wilcox, a sales assistant, whose father is serving with the Royal Army Medical Corps, explained: "Certain tanks cannot be used because they are too powerful and they would not be used in such situations."

Discipline amid the arguing of the table top tacticians is governed by rule books which must be agreed before the battle commences, usually in the evening in the comfort of a married quarter.

World War One, the quartet of players agreed, makes for a rather 'boring' battle.

Signalman Davies: "The trench warfare nature of the battles were very much cut and dried and, besides, you cannot gouge trenches out of the table tops."

Simulated realism is achieved with cotton wool being placed on knocked-out tanks — a 'smoking' effect — and the war dead are simply removed from the table and put back in their travelling boxes ready to fight another day.

Some of the better known battles have been known to rage on for weeks at a time. Allowances are made for advances and retreats along natural hazards such as forests, gradients, marshes, rivers and the like.

Ironically, it was a war-time Tank Corps sergeant who called together the first War Games Convention in 1966.

Actors Deryck Guyler and Edward Woodward are among the keenest of the unusual coterie.

Nationwide, the wives of the war gamers have their trying, tactical moments, too.

Mrs Pat Murphy, though, says she does not mind husband Terry taking over the living room in their married quarter. But, perhaps, he used sheer strategy.

Apparently, they fought out a World War Two game for a couple of hours — and she won!

Terry has a private army of 150 tanks made to a 1/72 scale, two companies of infantry, a troop of target tanks, and anti-tank and artillery weapons, mostly depicting the period 1944-45.

The variations of war-games are limitless. Ancient... Roman... Medieval... Crimean... Zulu wars... Napoleonic and so on. One of the most popular in recent years — hypothetically and adhering to the script — were the Arab/Israeli conflicts.

Most of the figures of the replicas are bought through modelling magazines or mail order firms.

Signalman Davies, who is with 6 Field Force Signals, estimates that his collection must total about one thousand or more models — most of these bought out of his BAOR Local Overseas Allowance.

Corporal Sayers said of the armies which no minister ever cuts: "We are not just small boys playing with soldiers. It's got to do something for tactical capabilities by way of training. Also, we would like to be recognised by the Army as an officially sponsored organisation. I think the Army could help us, for instance, to find secure premises where we could leave our models. After all, you can go into any civvy war game club and you are always made welcome, just like a chess club."

He added: "I always think promotion is far better in war games than the Army itself. I've been promoted once — and executed twice!"

On October 18th, the Army men of meaningful manoeuvre deploy to Reading for the Battle of Armageddon — a war game spectacular which will attract thousands to the baize-topped battlefields.

And what of the future? Computers... lasers... satellites?

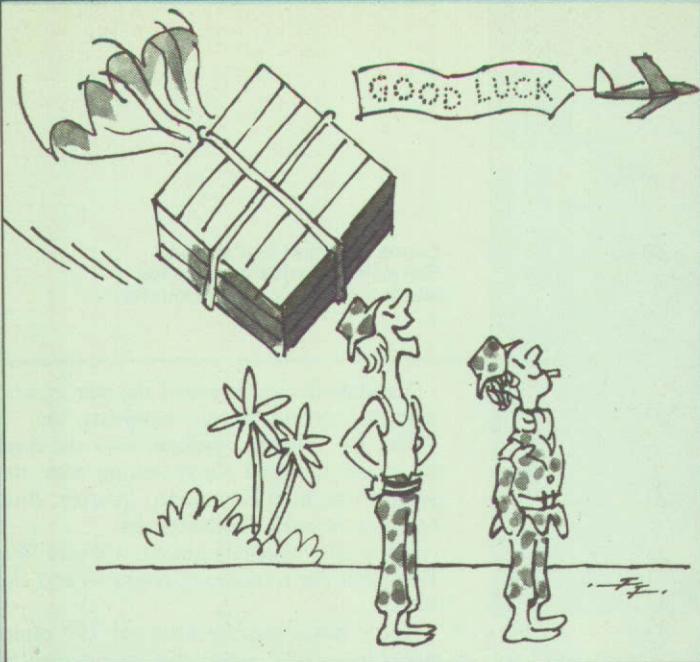
Terry Murphy: "Space battle is going to be the most difficult because you can't research it."

Story: GRAHAM SMITH

Picture: PAUL HALEY

Anyone wishing to know more about the Army War Games Association with a view to joining should write to:— Corporal Tom Sayers, HQ and Training Centre RADC, Evelyn Woods Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2LS.

MAIL DROP



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

This letter wins our first £5 prize.

LOOSE USAGE

By tradition, the term Sarn't-Major is that given to Regimental Sergeant Majors of the Foot Guards, those of the Infantry being addressed and referred to as Mr, Regimental Sergeant Major or RSM!

Until recently the two grades of Warrant Officers 2nd Class were a Quartermaster Sergeant, either Regimental, Staff, Armourer or Technical and addressed and referred to as RQMS, AQMS etc or a Company, Squadron or Battery Sergeant Major who were addressed and referred to as CSM, SSM etc.

It has been noted that some Corps and Cavalry Regiments address their QMSs as Mr. In the Infantry this term was and still is used only for the RSM and Bandmaster.

Today there are far more Warrant Officers Class II in the Infantry, some employed as platoon commanders, particularly at training establishments, others as 2IC of the Signal Platoon, Mortar Platoon, MT Platoon etc, all wearing the 'badge of appointment' of a Company Sergeant Major — a crown.

It follows that it is natural to refer to these Warrant Officers on first sight as Company Sergeant Major (CSM) which they of course are not. How should they be addressed?

Quartermaster Sergeants wear the badge of a crown within a wreath of laurels, this being accepted as the badge of the higher grade of Warrant Officer, and yet Infantry Battalions are permitting those appointed TQMS to wear this badge. So already there is a precedent in allowing an 'appointment' badge to be worn by certain individuals.

How can one readily identify those Warrant Officers who are not

carrying out the duties of a Company Sergeant Major? In my own regiment only the CSMs wear a brown sword belt which helps!

It is suggested that all Warrant Officers actually carrying out the duties of a Company Sergeant Major should become the senior grade of Warrant Officer wearing the badge of a crown with a wreath and that all other Warrant Officers should wear a crown and be referred to as Quartermaster Sergeant.

This will not only do away with the loose usage of calling anyone who cannot be identified in a particular role a 'Sergeant-Major' but will give the Company Sergeant Major the added prestige he so rightly deserves. — Major (QM) J A Barrow, MBE DERR, The Junior Soldiers' Bn, Norton Manor Camp, Taunton, Somerset, TA2 6PF.

1ST CLANGER . . .

The September magazine that my father received today contained the answers to 'How Observant are You?' but not the two pictures.

So, How Observant are You? — Miss Pat Simcock, 1 Dellfield, Chesham, Bucks.

2ND CLANGER . . .

I feel I must draw attention to the picture of the 'Army Guard of Honour' contingent from the Royal Regiment of Wales, shown on page 6 of your September issue. The officer commanding the contingent would appear to be the only individual to have made no attempt at camouflage. His 'soldiers' have all removed the epaulettes from their tunics, changed the buckles of their white belts, altered the shape of their cap-badges to provide some similarity with another service, removed the red

bands from their hats and replaced them with black ones, and, best of all, have sewn on two- and three-span propeller badges on their right arms to confuse the enemy. If the picture had been in colour, could it be that they have used blue dye on their khaki number two dresses? It would then make the Royal Regiment of Wales appear as if they are wearing the uniform of the RAF. — Yeoman Warder Brian Harrison, The Middle Tower, HM Tower of London, EC3N 4AB.

Errors footnote

We were literally bombarded with letters and 'phone calls about the two major 'clangers' we dropped in September's issue. Both mistakes were the result of rushing to put our wedding story 'to bed' — but no excuses. All SOLDIER staff are now being tested for myopia and colour blindness. — Ed.

Hash 'Homission Horror! — Your scribe, in his excellent article on Hashing in the August issue missed three trials — none of them false.

Firstly, Hashing need not be the exclusively male domain some of the Bielefeld chauvinists would have you believe. Here in Berlin our Hounds and Hares are mixed. Even children with sufficient stamina take great delight in fully participating. Our Whippet Restraining Rule, perhaps designed to give runners of the gentler sex a pause, is more often exploited by puffing men! Second, Hashing is international — our turnouts here regularly include our US and French allies and German friends. We are sure other Hashes are also international.

Furthermore, your graphically written and illustrated article on the Berlin Wall missed a Hashing connection. Our routes sometimes take us through woods and parks adjacent to the Wall to evident bafflement of the East German guards and observers.

And finally, you omitted Berlin from the list of flourishing Hashes. Ours has been in being since before 1979 (oldest inhabitants memory!) and has been open to all for that time. Yours in short puffed breaths. — Major I E Kerr, Acting Scribe, Berlin Hash, 229 Signal Sqn (Berlin) BPFO 45.

CITY STATUS

Can we old soldiers and members of today's Army apply to HM The Queen for the home of the British Army to be made a city? The Navy has Portsmouth and Plymouth so why shouldn't there be a City of Aldershot? The status of city is long overdue to this town that must have a place in all our hearts, and would not the Borough of Rushmoor be honoured also? — W G Fleckney, 14 Buckland Path, Buckland, Portsmouth, Hants, PO2 7DB.

STORM

Having read about the 'Ups and Downs' of General Wavell, the following incident may perhaps give another side to the character of this man.

Just after the battle of Sidi-Barani in 1940, I was driver for Colonel Anderson of 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. On our way back to HQ and travelling along the desert tracks at about 15mph, out in front of the Morris 15cwt stepped two military policemen. I stopped the truck and one of the MPs said to my CO "Pardon sir, you are wanted over there", and pointed to a group of 'brasshats' standing on a small hill. Colonel Anderson made his way towards them and I noticed that, as he arrived, one red 'brasshat' moved to him gesticulating quite wildly. After a few minutes of heated conversation, my CO came back to me and said "Corporal Cooper you are in trouble! General Wavell has instructed me to charge you for speeding along the track creating a

sandstorm which could enable the Italian airforce to spot you and come in to bomb this area."

Next morning I stood in front of Colonel Anderson and was reprimanded — now I suppose I am one of the very few (if any) soldiers who was put on a charge for 'endangering a General's life in battle' and by the General in charge himself! — Ex WO2 W Cooper, 26 Friary Lane, Salisbury, Wilts, SP1 2HA.

ALL FOR ONE

With reference to WO2 Stanistreet's comments on the Dunkirk Commemorative Medal (August), may I state that the medal is available to all Veterans who served in the Dunkirk Sector of 1940, including RN, RAF, Nursing Services and civilians who took part in the evacuation.

The medal was originally struck and issued by the Dunkirk Town authorities, was extended to British

CAN YOU HELP?

I have been asked by several regimental comrades to resolve a query; they wish to know the origin of the expression 'Jankers'. We are all extremely familiar with the word and are in no doubt as to its meaning, but no-one we have contacted is able to enlighten us as to its origin. Can you help please? — Major E Kelly DCM, Gibraltar Bks, Barrack Road, Northampton, NN1 3RE.

According to 'The Dictionary of Forces Slang 1939-45' the term 'jankers' was originally used by the underworld fraternity and is a corruption of 'janglers', a slang term meaning chains. — Ed

To complete a War Museum, I am trying to find two old Technical Manuals from the Second World War period: TM 9 — 746: concerning Universal Bren Carrier; TM 9 — 810: Truck, Personnel and Cargo Dodge 1½ ton 6 x 6 WC 62 and WC 63 (used in the US Army). — A J E Neve, Curator, Lessines Historical Museum, B 7860-Lessines, Rue Waterman 49, Belgium.

In 1929 Lieutenant Capper, who was a good boxer, was sent out to India to fight Fusilier (Big Boy) Bryman of the Royal Scotch Fusiliers. Bryman was the heavyweight champion of India for a number of years and no one could beat him. Could any old soldier who was in India at that time tell me the result of that fight?

Also, in what year did Bombardier Billy Wells win the heavyweight championship of India and did he win it in Bombay, Delhi or Mussoorie? — A V Tiddy, 33 Arlington Road, Surbiton, Surrey.

I'm doing research on the British Special Operations Executive of World War Two and would like to hear from people that served in this organisation, with regard to their operations, training and equipment. Anything at all would be most greatly appreciated. I want to tell you what a fine magazine SOLDIER is. I pass mine around where I live and it is very well liked here. — M F Smith, Watkins, Iowa 52354, USA.

personnel in 1970, and is now under French Government patronage. Issue is made to British Veterans only by the 1940 Dunkirk Veterans Association, HQ Leeds. Proof of Service is required and a small fee is charged to check the applicant's claim and for administration. Recipients' names are recorded in the Book of Gold in Paris. Any enquiries should please be accompanied by a SAE. — E C Webb, 156 Caledonia Road, Ayr, KA7 3HR.

TAILORS?

Can anyone please remember when British Cavalry and Infantry of the Line Regiments, Artillery Brigades etc, last mustered regimental tailors on their rolls? (I believe that the most senior appointment was Master Tailor and that, in fact, the Guards and Highland Regiments still keep to this system.)

Whilst on the subject of old Army trades, I understand that, until the motorisation of infantry transport in the late 1930s, there existed the rank of Infantry Veterinary NCO (Corporal). I wonder if anyone can inform me as to the extent of the training of these men and the scope of the treatment they were authorised to carry out. In addition, who was responsible for the shoeing of Infantry transport animals? Was there such a rank as Infantry 'Shoey' (farrier)?

One final point. I would like to know when the growing of moustaches in the British Army became a matter of choice and thus was no longer considered 'de rigueur' for both officers and men. I understand this change took place early this century but would be interested to have more exact information. — R H G Travers-Bogusz, 77 St Thomas's Road, Hardway, Gosport, Hants, PO12 4JU.

Collectors' corner

Items for this column will continue to be accepted free of charge but must, in future, be accompanied by a 'Collectors' Corner' heading from this page. Entries should be as brief as possible — maximum 40 words.

F Moyser, 49 Asterley Drive, Acklam, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, TS5 8QE. Is looking for history dealing with the 2nd Northumbrian Brigade or 50th Division 1914-18. Also photos of Naval contingent taken at Victory parade London 1946. Send price required.

Bill Jolly, 22 Melville Road, Bispham, Blackpool, FY2 9JF. Seeks helmets and bushies. Has spare parts, plumes, badges, side roses, for sale or exchange. Letters only.

V A Gough, 81 Churchwalk House (multi flats), Walker, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE6 3DJ. Seeks officer's cap, collar badges and large buttons to 2nd and 3rd VBNF and successors, 1890-1914. Will buy or has some scarce items for exchange.

Henry E Moss, 6 Saxonbury Gardens, St Mary's Road, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 5HF. Seeks to purchase back numbers of 'The White Lancers and the

Vedelle' journal of the 17th/21st Lancs.

T Jackson, 3 Orchard Avenue, North Leverton, Retford, Notts, DN22 0DE. Wants nylon SAS Bergen (large) or large Para canvas Bergen. All letters answered.

Campbell Kennedy, 46 Cloan Crescent, Bishopbriggs, Glasgow, G64 2HW. Collects out of date Ordnance Survey maps covering all of the British Isles. Will purchase or exchange maps with anyone who has a like interest.

W G Fleckney, 14 Buckland Path, Buckland, Portsmouth, Hants, PO2 7DB. Wishes to exchange letters, photographs with readers who are interested in the uniforms of mounted regiments and to buy breeches from collectors. Offers voluntary services as batman at weekends (not more than 70 miles from Portsmouth).

Reunions

The Gordon Highlanders London Association. Annual Reunion on Friday, 6 November at The London Scottish Drill Hall, 59 Buckingham Gate, London SW1. Details from the Hon Sec, R W Harman, 40 Strawberry Lane, Carshalton, Surrey.

Arborfield Old Boys Association. The Annual General Meeting of the above association will be held on Saturday 7 November in Princess Marina College, Arborfield, starting at 1800 hours. It will be preceded by a tour of the new buildings which starts at 1430 hours. It is hoped to have a buffet supper after the AGM. New members welcome. Write to Membership Secretary at the College.

How observant are you? (see page 21)

CAVEMAN PAINTING

1. Foreleg of animal outside cave.
2. Left man's right ankle bone.
3. Small branch on top of left log.
4. Length of left man's spear.
5. Tail of animal drawn on wall.
6. Spots on artist's leopardskin.
7. Top left flame of fire.
8. Lines on rock at left foreground.
9. Artist's hair, covering ear.
10. Arm of drawn figure fourth from right.

Competition

Our literary competition 'Anagram Pairs' (No 275) must have baffled a good many regular competition buffs because the number of entries was disappointing. Nevertheless, almost all of you who did persevere gave the correct answers, which were: 1 Abelard-Heloise 2 Narcissus-Echo 3 Lancelot-Elaine 4 Hansel-Gretel 5 Gareth-Lynette 6 Roland-Oliver 7 Samson-Delilah 8 Anthony-Cleopatra 9 Dante-Beatrice 10 Bacchus-Ariadne 11 Agamemnon-Clytemnestra 12 Aphrodite-Adonis. As with all Anagrams the answers are obvious when you see them!

Prizewinners were: 1st Mrs B Wright, 66 Dundale Road, Tring, Herts, HP23 5BX; 2nd Mr N Churchman, 100 Woodland Drive, Bromham, Beds., MK43 8LA; 3rd Mr P Isaacson 96 Park Avenue East,

Ewell, Surrey, KT17 2PA; 4th Mr G A Gladman, 33 Victoria Road, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 0AQ; 5th M W C Hunt, 5 Cranbrook Drive, Heald Green, Cheadle, Cheshire, SK3 3EX; 6th Mr E T Smith, 19 Bridgeman Road, Oswestry, Shropshire. 7th Major M S Wilmot; 1 Fetcham Lodge, Fetcham, Surrey, KT22 9RA. 8th Sgt C Secker, 211 Durham Road; Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland, TS19 0QA.

Clever caption winner

The winner of Clever Caption Competition No 35 in Soldier News was ATPR C Edwards of 3 Regt, AAC for his line: "All this just for the Colonel's bloody rock garden!"

Pen Pals

I am 20 years old, 5' 3" tall and would like to write to a soldier. My job is a chef with the Civil Service and my interests are varied. I like most kinds of music.

Miss Denise Lacey
10 Sawkins Avenue
Gt Baddow
Chelmsford
Essex.

My name is June. I am 34 years old, 5' 4" tall with shoulder length light brown hair, blue eyes, slim with freckles. I am familiar with Forces life as before my divorce two years ago I was married to a soldier. I enjoy most leisure activities. I would like to hear from someone aged 34 to 40-ish, athletic, with a good sense of humour but not a continual joker. Please send photo if possible.

Ms June Hornby
166 Hesters Way Road
Cheltenham
Glos.

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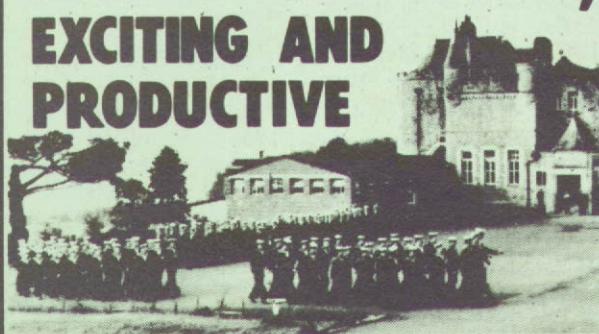
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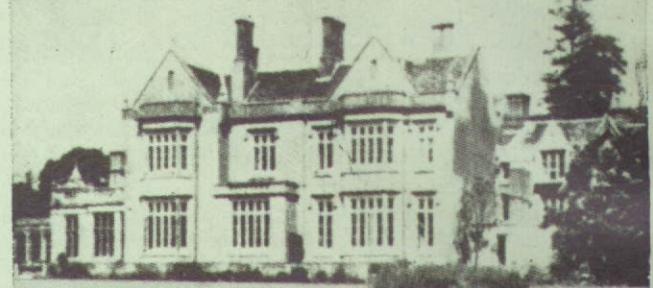
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TEESSIDE RIDES OUT THE STORM

Despite massive cutbacks in the steel, shipbuilding and chemicals industries in the North East Teesside's economy is holding up remarkably well — and with it, house prices.

High unemployment has had an adverse effect on house sales but so far prices have levelled off rather than fallen.

It is possible to acquire a two bedroome bungalow on a new estate in Yarm for as little as £14,500 but most of the homes carry price-tags in excess of £18,000.

Three bedroome semis start at around £18,000 but go as high as £40,000. Three bedroome detacheds start at £31,000 but the larger and better located tend to be in the £40,000 to £60,000 bracket.

The motorway network which encouraged the free-spending workers of the 60s and early 70s to move to the expanding estates in Yarm, Stockton and Billingham is not quite as attractive now that petrol prices are pushing nearly £2 per gallon. That said, however, people have only a few minutes car journey to jobs in Darlington, Stockton and Middlesbrough.

Rail communications are good, with Darlington on the inter-city run. Local bus services are adequate in peak hours and Teesside airport has daily connections to London.

The cost of living is generally lower because of the presence of many big out-of-town superstores but unemployment for young people is a worsening problem.

Dollery Moody & Partners — 0642-780792

Kerry Stephenson — 01-439-3611/2

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

Houses for sale

Andover outskirts. Four-bedroom link house, gas CH, part double-glazing, fitted kitchen, lounge, dining room, garage, very economical, £32,000.

Major Bullock, 112 Bury Hill Close, Anna Valley, Andover. Tel: Andover 57143.

Perthshire, close to Angus Glens and ski resorts. Five bedroome house with shop and restaurant premises. Planning permission to convert to eight bedrooms. Suitable for a variety of uses eg guest house or takeaway foods with restaurant. Price for quick sale: £25,000.

Major Booth, DCMH, Catterick Garrison, North Yorks. Tel: Richmond (Yorks) 833731.

Modern flat Kingston-on-Thames. 15 minutes Heathrow Airport. Two bedrooms. Large lounge/diner. Well-fitted kitchen. 2nd WC. £39,500.

Colonel Vella, 13 Eisenhower House, Vicarage Road, Hampton Wick, Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey, KT1 4EJ. Tel: 01-977 3068

Duckinfield near Ashton-under-Lyne. Three-bedroome town house overlooking Derbyshire moors, Georgian style, very pleasant surroundings, close to shopping precinct. Fully equipped fitted kitchen, carpeted throughout, fixtures, fittings inc. attached garages to garden and access to house from rear. GCH with solar panels as back up to hot water system, plus electrics. £22,250 for quick sale.

WO1 Gregory, 40 Sandy Lane, Duckinfield, Cheshire. Tel: 061-344 5974.

Helston, Cornwall. Offers in the region of £40,000 invited. End of terrace five bedroome house within easy

walking distance of town centre. Part CH. At present run as lucrative Bed & Breakfast business. Secluded garden on three sides also one-third acre paddock with outbuildings. Including carpets and curtains and option of many other household effects. For particulars contact: Kirkby, Lyndale, Meneage Road, Helston. Tel: 2499 or 4877.

Colchester six miles. Three-bedroome semi-detached house. Full gas central heating, carport, quiet cul-de-sac position, ideal area for children. £21,950. Tel: S/Sgt Roberts, Aldershot Military 3457.

Ledbury, Herefordshire. Ideal for RSRE Malvern, Hereford, Worcester, Cheltenham. Detached house, 3 bedrooms, all fitted wardrobes, lounge, separate dining room, kitchen, fitted bathroom, easily-maintained garden, patio, integral garage, installed push-button phone downstairs, ext phone upstairs. Full gas central heating. Fitted carpets could be included for quick sale. £28,000.

Major I Oddie, Tel: Ledbury 4167, Office Birmingham 021-449 3741.

Bath (Avon). Georgian house on South slopes, in excellent decorative condition, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from centre on main bus route, 13 rooms on 5 floors with CH, part double-glazed. H&C in 6 rooms, usual offices. Suitable for family use, letting or B&B. £65,000. Tel: Bath 29530.

Skelmersdale, Lancs. 3, 4, 5 bedroome houses with central heating. 95% mortgages available. Prices £4,900 to £6,500. Contact: Mr A Jolly, Skelmersdale Development Corporation, Penni-lands, Skelmersdale, Lancs. Tel: 0695 24242.

Houses to let

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Enquiries to: T Liddicoat, 21 Spinney Dale, Furze Park Estate, Hythe, Hants.

For sale

Few copies of author's very slightly marked/damaged in transit book, 'The Winged Messenger'. Reduced to £5, P&P £1.50, BAOR extra. P E A Hall, Kohima, 1030 Harrow Road, Wembley, Middx, HA0 2QT. British Army new DP camouflage, lightweight windproof Cammy Suits manufactured from 4 ounce nylon. Starthene treated, imparts tremendous repellency and tear strength coupled with lightness, suppleness and extreme durability. Jacket complete with hood, frontal zip, map pocket, storm cuffs and draw string waist. Trousers have elasticated waist and two entry trouser pockets. Designed as one universal fitting for all sizes. Can be worn over any clothing. The suit when packed in the pouch provided, measures only 11in x 7in x 2in. These Cammy suits have been tested and subsequently supplied to members of the British Army. Price including postage, £20.00 each, or jacket £13.00 and trousers £7.00. Jamie Wood Ltd, Dept SW, Cross St, Polegate, Sussex. Tel: 03212 3813.

77 Yamaha XS 500 motorcycle, alloy wheels, Avon roadrunners, Girling gas shocks, Stuart fairing, top box, 13,000 miles only. £550 for quick sale. Contact WO2 H P O'Neill, c/o 22 Int Coy (V), Artillery House, Handel St, London, WC1N 1NP. Tel: 01-837 4324.

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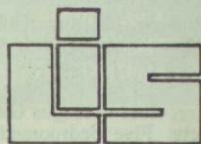
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Ever wanted to take part in a worldwide sporting event? If you and your friends can chuck a mean 'arrow' or two, now's your chance — in our great new darts contest sponsored by Truman the brewers.

Aldershot or Akrotiri, Hannover or Hong Kong — it doesn't matter where you work, rest or play as long as you're not far from a dart board.

The contest will be run on knock-out lines and you may be drawn against a team from the other side of the world. But

KEEP THESE RULES HANDY

- 1 The competition shall be run on a team basis and open to readers of **SOLDIER**.
- 2 A team shall consist of up to six players, any four of whom must play in one game.
- 3 No player shall play, or be nominated, for more than one team.
- 4 The competition shall be on a knock-out basis, each tie consisting of one match, best of three games, 601 up, straight start and finishing on a double. 50 shall count as double 25.
- 5 All matches shall be played on a standard clock board. The board shall be hung with its centre at a distance of 5 feet 8 inches from the ground. The throw is to be made from a toe-line 8 feet from the face of the board.
- 6 In a postal match a team shall play three games, recording a total number of darts taken from the start of the game to achieving the required double. Each player shall throw three darts in turn. If a player exceeds the required total in aiming for the finishing double with the first or second dart, the turn will be considered as completed and three darts will be added to the total.
- 7 Once a postal match has started, the three games shall then be completed and the scores recorded in the order in which the games are played. The scores should be certified by an independent witness and sent to **SOLDIER** by a prescribed date. Failure to do so will result in elimination.
- 8 Any matters arising from these rules shall be dealt with by the organisers at their discretion and their decision shall be final.

we're not asking you to travel thousands — even tens — of miles just for a game of darts. If you can't play your opponents face-to-face, you play them by post instead. Just how is explained in the rules.

You don't need to be a budding Eric Bristow to enter. We want to see lots and lots of teams taking part, not just a few experts representing a whole corps or regiment. Young or old. Male or female. Soldier or civilian. The only condition of entry is that each team must be a regular purchaser of **SOLDIER** (you'll need coupons from future issues to prove it) and must — in the case of non-serving entrants — be members of an organisation with military affiliations (eg an MOD civilian establishment, an Old Comrades' Association or a British Legion Club).

Brewers Truman will present silver trophies to the winners and runners-up plus individual replicas — and there'll be some of that famous Ben Truman ale for

the finalists too!

All fixtures and results will be published in **SOLDIER** and they'll be individually notified to each team.

Entry is completely free. All you have to do is get your friends together and fill in the entry form. The contest is likely to run for quite a few months so to take care of temporary absences you can nominate up to six players — but only four can play in any one game (there are three games to a match).

All entries must be submitted not later than Monday 2 November. So don't delay. Cut out the form and get your friends to sign it now!

SOLDIER WORLDWIDE DARTS CONTEST — ENTRY FORM

Name of team

Team secretary (to whom all correspondence will be sent):

Official address:

Official 'phone number:

MEMBERS OF TEAM (ONLY FOUR TO PLAY IN ANY ONE GAME)

NAME

SIGNATURE

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

All entries should be sent in an envelope marked 'Darts Contest' to **SOLDIER**, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU not later than Monday 2 November 1981. Entries using OHMS envelopes or pre-paid labels will not be accepted.



CANOE TRIUMPH

ARMY CANOEISTS could do no wrong at the Inter Service Canoe Long Distance and Sprint Championships held this year on the River Trent and at the National Watersports Centre at Nottingham. They beat the RAF and the Navy into

second and third place in each competition with decisive wins and crowned their victory with outstanding success in the British Canoe Union National Championships being held at the Watersports Centre at the same time. Army paddlers gained a total of 13 gold medals, ten silver and two bronze.

Corporal Steve Jackson R Signs took the Services K1 Champion title by winning the long distance K1 single race and teamed with Lance Corporal John Speck REME to win the Sprint K2 championships as well.

Staff Sergeant Roy Evans RCT and Corporal Bob Storey R Signs made another winning K2 team, this time in the long distance championships. Sergeant Arthur Haskey RE became the Services C1 champion and a Royal Engineer team won the K4 500 metres race.

The British Canoe Union Gold

Unlucky deflection

Army 0 Uxbridge 1

A stroke of bad luck led to an Army defeat in their first game of the season against an Athenian League side. A brave save by Sapper Spider Lomas RE only diverted the ball to an onrushing forward whose shot was deflected into the net by a covering defender.

The Army enjoyed a fair share of the play and there was an encouraging display of team work by the four defenders, Colour Sergeant Dave Stacey BW, Lance Corporal George Torrance RE, Sergeant Alex Hamilton R Signs and Cpl Dick Briggs REME.

Forwards on song

Army 2 AFA 1

It was third time unlucky for the Army 'keeper Lance Corporal Martin Atkinson CHESHIRE. After two good saves he was unable to prevent an unmarked forward putting the Amateur Football Alliance ahead.

Both sets of forwards dominated and Sapper Dick Parker APTC soon slammed home the equaliser. The vital second goal came in the second half when Corporal Gary Brooksby RGJ scored past the surprised opposition goalkeeper.

A save by Atkinson towards the end of the game made sure of an Army victory.

SOCCE ROUND-UP

Unlucky deflection

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Narrow Victory

THE WRAC Centre rounders team snatched a narrow victory from D Coy 16 Bn RAOC, Bicester in the final stages of the 1981 Army Inter-Unit Rounders Final.

Both teams finished the com-

petition with an equal 15 points to put them ahead of the other five teams taking part. So the final result had to be decided on bonus points, giving the Centre their third win in succession by seven bonus points to Bicester's four.

The Army (Women's) Rounders Association is affiliated to the National Rounders Association and the Inter-Unit Final ended a busy season during which the Army team also took part in the National Ladies Tournament and came a creditable second in a triangular tournament against the British Airways and Leicestershire Ladies teams.

They braved the waves

HEAVY WEATHER in the Channel was only one of the problems facing the Army yacht *Sabre* as she set off from Southampton at the start of a unique race.

Four of her crew had the added burden of personal handicaps. They were all members of Blesma, the British Ex-Service Men's Association, and were missing between them three legs and an arm.

Said organiser Hugh Hamersley, a limbless ex-Serviceman himself, "We want to celebrate the International Year of Disabled People by showing that some limbless people can do as much as their able-bodied colleagues, in some cases more!"

The four handicapped crew members all took turns at the wheel during the race. Among them was Corporal Guy Bramfitt (pictured right), still serving in the REME despite the loss of a leg.

medals went to Major David Howie RAEC, Captain P. Robertshaw and Corporal Bob Storey R Signs, Staff Sergeant Roy Evans RCT, Lance Corporal Etherton 3 Queens, Lance Corporal John Speck REME and Sergeant J. Hayden, Corporal N. Adnitt, Lance Corporal A. Tape and Sappers A. Heath and T. Wood, all of the Royal Engineers.



Of the four sailing boats due to race only two eventually set sail, battling their way through rough seas to France where they made a presentation to their French counterparts, Les Amputées de Guerre de France, before returning to Southampton.

Dr Charles Frankland Moore, who has done much to promote research into improving artificial limbs in UK, presented a cup to the crew of the *Sabre* on their triumphant return.

Alf joins soccer brains trust



luminaries as Bobby Robson, Don Howe, Geoff Hurst, John Cartwright and Howard Wilkinson, augmented by visits from old football campaigners like Joe Mercer, Stan Cullis, Ronnie Allen, John Charles and Dennis Wilshaw.

Said QMSI Coulton (pictured right): "From my point of view it was both intriguing and somewhat reassuring to realise that Captain Jim Geoghegan the Army team manager, myself and the Army coaching staff share very similar and parallel problems with Ron Greenwood and the England staff."

OUT OF THE DOLDRUMS

After a long spell in the doldrums, Army water polo looks to be moving forward again. The Army team put up a great showing in this year's Inter-Services event at Aldershot and only lost 6-7 to the Navy in one of the most exciting finals for years.

Meeting the RAF in the first round, the Army soon forged ahead to lead 4-1 at the halfway point with goals from Sapper John Goodall, WOII Ted Martin APTC and Lance Corporal Roly Rollinson RE. Despite repeated RAF pressure, Ted Martin increased the Army lead to 5-1 before the second RAF goal came. Then a steady stream of goals from both sides in the last quarter took the score from 6-4 to 12-8 at the final whistle.

The game against the Navy was fast and furious. Martin Berke RE put the Army in front and Sapper Willie Williams and Ted Martin added further goals,



Craftsman Clive Anstey deflects a fierce shot in the RAF game.

but despite some excellent saves by Craftsman Clive Anstey the scores were level at 3-3 at the end of the second quarter.

Some spectacular goals from Roly Rollinson and Sapper John

Haywood kept pace with the Navy scorers until the last quarter, and a last-minute goal from Martin Berke made the final result a hard-won victory for the Navy.

the 12 new championship records which were achieved. She clipped over seven seconds off the butterfly record and off the individual medley time.

The Army team in the Men's championships found itself heavily outclassed. Urged on by the raucous cries and singing of sailors celebrating the Navy's Water Polo victory earlier in the day the Royal Navy team won handily from the RAF with 96 points to 81.

The poor old Army could only muster a total of 44 points. In the ten individual events and the team relay they finished last on each occasion. Only in the medley relay did they manage to gather six points for second place — and then only because the RAF team was disqualified.

Hat-trick Golfers

Some brilliant golf by Major Ian Pearce helped the Army to their third successive win in the Inter-Service championships. He won all four of his foursome and singles matches and was four under par in defeating Navy champion, Lieutenant Commander Malcolm Edmunds, despite atrocious weather on the links of the Royal Cinque Ports club.

There were other excellent performances too, from Corporal Steve Mariner, who only dropped half a point, and from Brigadier John Thornton who bade a fine farewell to Army golf by winning both his singles.

The Army's match with the RAF was a nail-biting affair with the Army scraping through by the slenderest of margins, $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $5\frac{1}{2}$. They beat the Navy $7\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$, as did the RAF — by 8-4.

FALSE STROKE ROBS GIRLS

Just one extra swimming stroke under the water lost the Army the Women's title in the Inter-Services swimming championships. The hapless offender, Lance-Corporal Denise McNaught, was immediately disqualified at the start of the 100 metres breaststroke event in the finals at Reading.

Unaware of the decision Denise swam to third place in the event — which would have

meant four points for her team. And at the end of the day the Army girls were pipped by only one point by the WRAF — to give them their third successive victory. The Army has not won the women's championships since 1970.

Nevertheless the Army girls were pleased with their showing — which saw the Wrens trailing badly in third place. And Private Louise Harvey set two of



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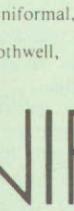


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