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ROC IN ACTION

CRUSADER IN ACTION



VOL 41/25

16 DECEMBER 1985

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FRONT COVER: "Have a cool Yule and a happy New Year," says *Coronation Street* star Bill Waddington. Bill plays Percy Sugden in the long-running "soap." Bill was visiting the Army Catering Corps College at Aldershot when he was caught with a flaming pudding by SOLDIER photographer Paul Haley

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# SOLDIER

INCORPORATING  
THE TERRITORIAL ARMY MAGAZINE



The picture of a lifetime for members of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards band and the Pipes and Drums who played in St Peter's Square in Rome before and after the Wednesday Papal public audience and later met the Pope. The regiment was in Italy for Exercise Roman Dragoon, training with the Italian Army. (Picture by L'Osservatore Romano.)

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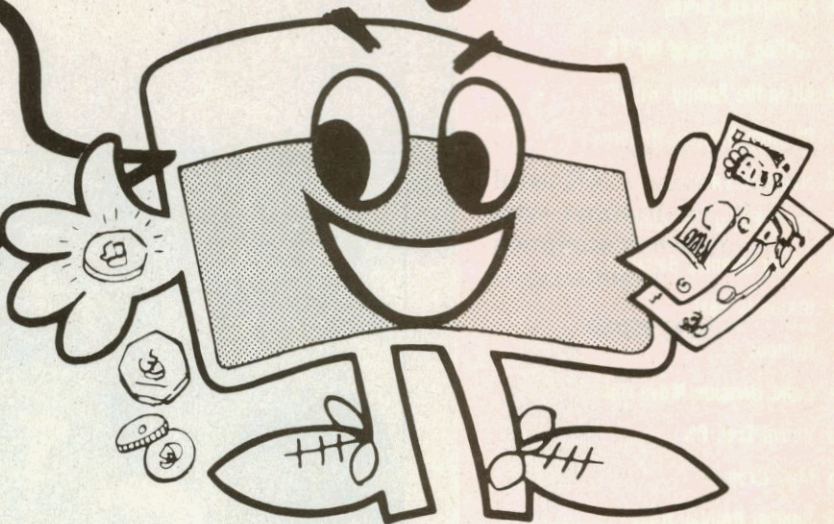
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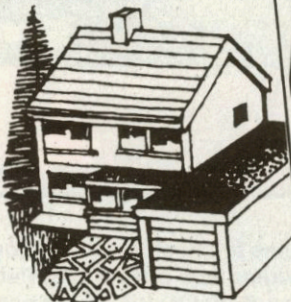
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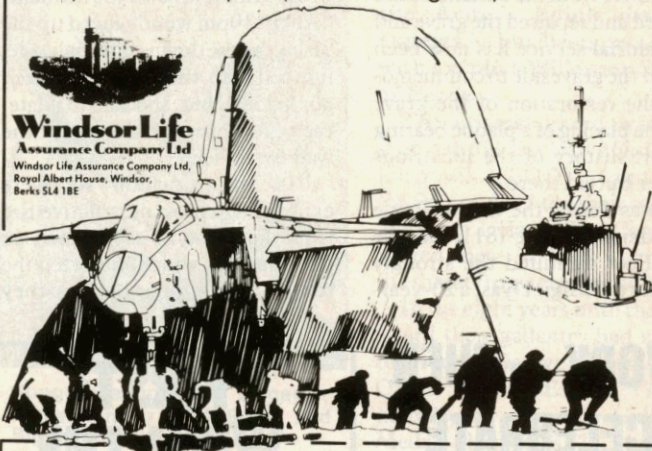
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**T**HE long lost grave of a man once described as "the bravest in the Army" has been discovered in Ballymena, Northern Ireland.

The overgrown grave of Ensign Joseph Dyas of the 51st Regiment of Foot (The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry) was found by 1/9 UDR in the old churchyard behind Church Street, Ballymena.

Soldiers from the battalion have cleaned and repaired the grave and a memorial service has now been held at the graveside to commemorate the restoration of the grave and the placing of a plaque bearing a short history of the illustrious soldier buried there.

It was during the vicious Battle of Badajoz, in June 1811, that the 51st Foot assaulted the strongly held fort. Ensign Dyas, a 20-year-

## 'BRAVEST' SOLDIER'S GRAVE FOUND

old junior officer at the time, led his men repeatedly against the defence.

Sergeant Wheeler of the 51st wrote in his journal of the incident: "About 10pm we advanced up the glacis, broke down some palisades jumped into the ditch and fixed our ladders, but, shocked to relate, they did not reach the top of the wall by six feet.

"In this situation we were exposed to a most destructive fire from the enemy. They opened six guns upon us which showered the trench with grape, besides they

kept up a heavy fire of musketry and filled the trench with hand grenades.

"Our ladders were shot to pieces and every means of obtaining possession of the fort was destroyed. The order was given for retire, which was done in good order. Ensign Dyas' cap was blown off his head and his sword shot out of his hand, my firelock was shattered near the lock and a shot passed through the butt".

A last attempt was made to storm the front on June 9 when Dyas once again volunteered to lead the

assault. He told his commander, General Houston:

"General Houston, I hope you will not refuse my request, because I am determined, if you order the fort to be stormed forty times, to lead the advance as long as I have life".

In those days no decorations were awarded for bravery in the field, but, in consideration of Dyas' heroism, Wellington offered him a Lieutenancy in any corps of the Army which he chose to name. Fortunately for Dyas there was an immediate vacancy in the 51st and the young Irishman elected to serve with his regiment, eventually retiring in the rank of Captain.

The subsequent history of Captain Dyas is unclear but it is known that he lived, apparently peacefully, in Ballymena, becoming a Resident Magistrate in the town before he died in 1850.

## WORK — THEN CELEBRATE

THE peaceful tranquillity of the small wine making village of Traben-Trarbach in the Mosel Valley was recently interrupted when 5 Troop, 37 Field Squadron, 35 Engineer Regiment arrived to build an observation pavilion.

Banging, hammering and sawing could be heard echoing across the valley. Everyone in the troop had a part in the building which was constructed under the watchful eyes of Corporal Taff Williams and Lance Corporal John Pollitt. Eventually the pavilion was completed — in two-and-a-half weeks — and came up to the standard of Staff Sergeant Tomiczek, the quality control inspector.

In true German tradition the locals thanked everybody for their hard work with a party — plenty of wine and food for all.

## 'FIRST' WITH THE GRAPES

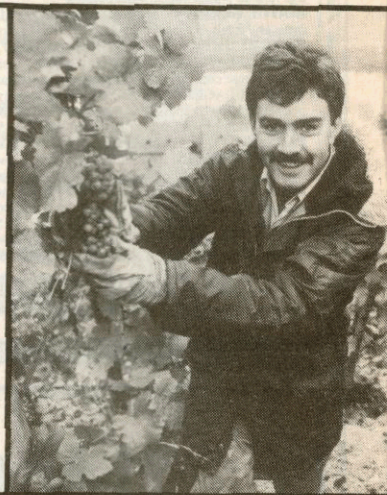
TERRITORIAL Army soldiers from the Liverpool Scottish believe they scored a double first when they took part in Exercise Grape Pick.

A 12-strong team from V Company 1st Battalion 51st Highland Volunteers are thought to be not only the first TA unit to join the annual

grape harvest in the Mosel but also the first UK based unit to do so.

Their two weeks hard work was the brainchild of admin officer Captain Jack Miller who after more than 30 years as a regular soldier came to know the area well. He thought that a couple of weeks grape picking would be a tonic for some of the unemployed lads based in Score Lane. Not only did he organise the trip but also put together a sponsorship package to cover the cost.

Private Ronnie Wood gets to grips with the grapes



## KINNOCK TRIES A SCIMITAR

THE leader of the Opposition Mr Neil Kinnock took a trip down memory lane when he made his first visit to British troops in West Germany.

Mr Kinnock met several soldiers

from 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Wales at Stornoway Barracks, Lemgo. With him was the Shadow Defence Secretary, Mr Denzil Davies.

During his visit, Mr Kinnock

changed into olive green Army coveralls to visit the Reconnaissance Platoon where he drove a Scimitar. "I enjoyed the drive tremendously and would like to do it every day," he said jokingly.

## CHARITY CASH BOOST

BURY'S Fusilier Association have added a further £12,000 to their Krypton charity fund.

The latest contribution came from sponsors at the 6th annual Krypton Assault course challenge. Granada TV's Gordon Burns presented cheques to seven charities at Bury's Castle Armoury — home of D Coy 5 RRF.

Dennis Laverick, chairman of the Krypton Committee of the Fusilier's Association said "It's been a wonderful effort. It means that in six years we have been able to present over £75,000 to charity.



Lance Corporal Michael Turton shows Mr Kinnock how Milan works



# TA Heroes Commended



**THE bravery of two Tyneside Territorials, who saved the lives of a pensioner and a nine year old boy in separate blaze rescues, has been recognised.**

Warrant Officer 2 Gilbert Smith RE(V) and Signalmen Paul Atkinson, R Signals (V) received the

Commander in Chief's Commendation from Brigadier T R M Pulverman, Commander 29 Engineer Brigade in a ceremony at Fenham Barracks, Newcastle.

WO2 Smith helped to drag a 78-year-old man from his blazing home after a gas blast, and Signalmen

**Congratulations from Brigadier Pulverman for WO2 Smith and Signalmen Atkinson**

Atkinson rescued a young neighbour from a fume-filled house.

Both soldiers are currently serving with HQ 29 Engineer Brigade and Signal Troop (V).

## BOMB MEN GET PEACE AWARD

**THE ARMY school of Ammunition at Kineton, near Leamington Spa — it trains all of the Army's bomb disposal experts — has been presented with a replica Wilkinson Sword of Peace.**

The original sword was presented to 321 Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Company, RAOC, in 1977 for their work in Northern Ireland. The Company moved there in 1969 to combat the threat from terrorist bombers.

In the eight years until the 1977 award their gallantry had earned them one George Cross, three OBEs, six MBEs, 24 George Medals, 22 Queen's Gallantry Medals, 15 BEMs, 31 Mentions in Despatches and two GOC Commendations.

During that time the company lost 17 killed and 10 injured while they were dealing with 9,500 actual terrorist bombs.

Footnote: As SOLDIER went to Press, the 1984 Sword of Peace was being presented to 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment at Bulford, in recognition of their work in Gibraltar in 1983/84. Full report in the next issue of SOLDIER.

## NEW CHURCH, NEW ROAD AT MINDEN

**THE first church to be built for the Army for more than 30 years has been opened in Minden, West Germany.**

The opening of St Thomas Roman Catholic Church in Rhodesia Barracks marked not only the beginning of a major chapter in military ecclesiastical history but also planted yet another milestone in the progressively close Anglo-German relationship that flourishes in Minden.

The cost of the building project

— DM 1.6 million — was met by Stadt Minden to compensate the Army for relinquishing the site of the original RC church situated nearby so that a vital road could be laid to re-route an increasingly heavy traffic flow away from one of the town's most densely populated areas.

The church was dedicated by the Bishop in Ordinary to her Majesty's Forces The Right Reverend Francis J Walmsley assisted by seven bishops from the United Kingdom including Bishop James

McGuinness of Nottingham and Bishop John Mone, Auxiliary Bishop of Glasgow.

They were assisted by some 30 priests including the Army Principal RC Chaplain The Rev Mgr J Williams, the Senior RC Chaplain (Germany) Rev Fr D T McIver and all serving chaplains in Germany.

## Royal visit hope for Queen's

**THE Queen's Regiment are hoping that Queen Margrethe of Denmark will visit them in England next year when they will be celebrating the 325th anniversary of the raising in 1661 of the Tangier Regiment of Foot, (later the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment) and also the 20th anniversary of formation in 1966 as a large regiment incorporating the Queen's Royal Surrey, Queen's Own Buffs, Royal Sussex and Middlesex Regiments.**

Brigadier H C Millman, Colonel of the Regiment, and Colonel J W Francis the Regimental secretary, have been received in audience by Queen Margrethe II of Denmark in the Amalienborg Palace in Copenhagen.

## Runners and canal clearers

**A 31-STRONG mixed platoon from the Guards Depot, Pirbright — Juniors from the Welsh Guards and Household Cavalry — have been literally running around in circles, and clearing a stretch of a local canal in the cause of charity.**

The youngsters were hoping to complete, as SOLDIER went to press, 8,000 laps or 2,000 miles on the Depot's athletics track in two teams of ten while a third team was engaged in canal waterway clearance work. A mile stretch was contemplated.

It was hoped to raise £3,000 towards the completion of a new boat which will give pleasure cruises up and down the Basingstoke Canal to the handicapped and disabled. The non-stop run was being done by day and throughout the night.



Left: Gifts from the children, received by Bishop Walmsley



SOLDIER talks to Brigadier Roger Preston, Commander of the Ulster Defence Regiment, following the Anglo-Irish accord, about the regiment which has a

# VITAL ROLE AGAINST TERRORISM



Brig Roger Preston  
Commander UDR

VCP at night

Improvements to the training of the Ulster Defence Regiment which will enable full time officers to attend Sandhurst, and officers and senior NCOs to attend courses at the School of Infantry, Warminster, have been implemented by Headquarters Northern Ireland.

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Mr Tom King, commenting on the controversial new Anglo-Irish accord, made it clear

the UDR played — and would continue to play — a vital role in the fight against terrorism.

There had been wild and unfounded speculation about the UDR, including suggestions that the regiment was to be disbanded during the run up to the signing of the Hillsborough agreement.

Mr King said: "We have no proposals to reduce the UDR at all. The Ulster Defence Regiment is a vital part of the security forces

in Northern Ireland." He said the regiment would be developed in a highly trained way and paid tribute to the 'real achievement' of those serving in the UDR.

The UDR is already improving training. Measures include the establishment of an additional senior post in HQ UDR with specific responsibility for training.

Mr King has also made it clear that the government would be continuing with its policy that when the Army, including the UDR, dealt with the public they should, so far as possible, act with the RUC.

Speaking at his Lisburn HQ, Brigadier Roger Preston, Commander UDR, warmly welcomed the Secretary of State's support. "I am particularly pleased about the opportunity to improve and enhance our training," he said, "and that from next year permanent cadre UDR subalterns will attend the full regular course at Sandhurst for the first time."

He pointed out that young officers joining the regiment in their late teens had the prospect of an interesting career on active service. They would be expected to do all the jobs from platoon commander right through to company commander with, possibly, some staff work later. One UDR officer, Major David Drennan, is already working on the staff of 39 Infantry Brigade.

"It seems to me that if you are going to launch young officers on that sort of career they do need exactly the same training as a subaltern in a regular infantry battalion," the Brigadier said. "It isn't just a question of tactical knowledge, how to deploy the platoon; it is all the business of being an officer which they can only get from going to Sandhurst. So this is a great breakthrough and it means that our officers will now be on a par with their

comrades in the regular army."

Another aspect of training which continues to be studied in detail is the important business of dealing with the public at vehicle check points. Even though a great deal of UDR time is spent on patrols, checking routes for mines and bombs, rummaging through ditches in the countryside and so on, the public perception of the UDR is that soldiers spend their service lives stopping motorists at VCPs, Brigadier Preston said.

"This is where the regiment comes into contact with the public most. We have always trained our soldiers in the value of politeness — politeness as a weapon we call it. But it is an area in which we can always improve and for that reason we keep in close touch with the Royal Ulster Constabulary who are the experts in community relations."

Article eight of the Hillsborough agreement press communique gives the proposed Intergovernmental Conference of British and Irish representatives the job of considering the application of the principle that the armed forces (including the UDR) operate only in support of the civil power with, apart from exceptional circumstances, a police presence in all operations involving direct contact with the community. And, secondly, ways of underlining the policy of the RUC and of the armed forces that they discharge their duties even-handedly with equal respect for unionist and nationalist identities and traditions.

Neither provision involves any change of role for the UDR. It is already policy for policemen to accompany soldiers where possible, especially at VCPs, Brigadier Preston said. On some operations, however, there was no contact with the public and consequently no requirement for a police presence.

As to being even handed with the two communities, the UDR

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## THE 'UNKNOWN' REGIMENT

There are two basic facts about the Ulster Defence Regiment which have been repeated often enough: it is by far the biggest infantry regiment in the Army, and it has had the longest continuous spell of operational duty of any British unit since the Napoleonic Wars.

But in other respects knowledge about this unique mixture of regular, permanent and part time soldiers is sparse. The present Commander UDR (Brigadier Roger Preston) says that when he did an interview for the Irish State broadcasting service, RTE, a considerable number of listeners rang the programme to say how surprised they were to learn that the UDR was part of the British Army!

The regiment was formed in April 1970 in the wake of the

disbandment of the old auxiliary police force known as the "B Specials." At one stage there were 11 battalions. Today there are nine which provide military support to the RUC in 85 per cent of Northern Ireland.

Present strength is 107 from the Regular Army, 2,840 in the permanent cadre, 3,663 part time soldiers, and 683 women, known familiarly as Greenfinches.

They come under Brigadier Preston for everything relating to recruiting, training, welfare — in fact everything except operational duties when they are commanded by either 8 or 39 Brigades, depending in which area they operate.

Between the murders of Private W Donnell in August 1971 and Sergeant Bobby Boyd last month, 150 soldiers of the regiment have been killed by terrorists. Only 28 died while on duty. A further 41 were murdered after they had left the regiment.

The public face of the UDR. A vehicle check point in Belfast with the police in attendance

was determinedly non-sectarian. The difficulty was to get this fact across to the public at large, especially in view of the composition of the regiment.

The Roman Catholic strength had reduced from 18 per cent soon after the UDR was formed to three per cent today. Brigadier Preston had no doubt about the reason for this: "Of the first 25 UDR soldiers murdered, eight — just over a third — were Roman Catholics," he said. "That was a far higher proportion than their 18 per cent and that did not take account of those who were wounded, shot at or just rung up in the middle of the night. I am afraid the numbers of Catholics have gone down because of intimidation."

"The most important thing is that the Catholic community has always been most welcome to join the regiment. We really do want them but we appreciate the difficulties they face."

Only a week before he spoke, another Roman Catholic serving with the regiment had fallen to a gunman's bullets. Sergeant Bobby Boyd of 5 UDR, who had served with the UDR since the day it was formed, became the 150th murder victim.

But young Catholics do still come forward to join the Regiment which is a tribute to the courage of those individuals, said Brigadier Preston. And to the UDR.

"The UDR is determined to do its job to the best of its ability. It now provides front line support to the RUC in 85 per cent of the territory of Northern Ireland. The Regiment has grown in stature and experience during the past 15 years and is now justly proud of its vital role in the defeat of terrorism."

## BOOKS

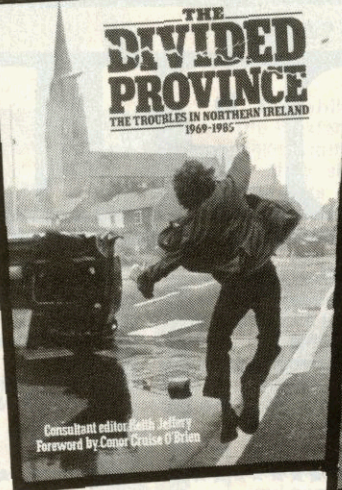
One of the problems of publishing books on the long-running Northern Ireland 'troubles' is the danger that by the time they reach the book stores they are out of date. It's a problem from which two recent comprehensive books on the 'troubles' have suffered; the latest Anglo/Irish accord had overtaken both Charles Messenger's Northern Ireland — The Troubles, and The Divided Province, a joint-author effort with Keith Jeffrey as consultant editor.

But the latest political development makes it all the more interesting to read these two books and their conclusions which map the bloody history of the island's problems, politically, socially and militarily — from their origins centuries ago until now.

Charles Messenger, for 21 years a professional soldier in the Royal Tank Regiment and full-time military historian and defence analyst, anticipates something like the latest agreement, making the point that although no initiative would please the whole Northern Ireland community, some options might well prove acceptable to moderate opinion especially if there was some form of association, albeit loose, with the South.

The Divided Province also marks the importance of an element of co-operation between the governments of North and South: "It seems clear that no significant progress can be made in Northern Ireland without in some way involving the Irish Republic".

But the book's final sentence draws a "serious reservation" from Conor Cruise O'Brien who writes the foreword. After recalling that



the ill-fated power-sharing Executive in 1974 was brought about because of the appalling level of violence in the preceding five years, the book concludes: "A cynic might be forgiven for believing that, ten years on, nothing short of a resurgence of violence on a similar scale could once more prompt the politicians in Belfast, London and



Dublin to look seriously for effective policies to heal the wounds and bridge the deep divides of Northern Ireland".

Northern Ireland, The Troubles, by Charles Messenger, published by Hamlyn Publishing, price £9.95. The Divided Province, consultant editor Keith Jeffrey, by Orbis Publishing, price £9.

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# IT'S A CAKEWALK!

Yeomen of the Guard celebrate 500 years of service

We know Christmas is just around the corner... this is no yuletide confection, but a bumper 40 pounder to celebrate the formation of The Yeomen of the Guard by Henry VII in 1485.

Not to be confused with the Yeoman Warders at the Tower of London — who have been around for about 900 years — The Yeomen of the Guard parade as bodyguard to the monarch on State occasions.

So to celebrate this historic event the Army Catering Corps at Aldershot "built" a special cake in the shape of the Tower and invited Yeoman Warders George Day (left), an ex-ACC man, and Mick Bostock, formerly of the REME, to collect it for their colleagues.

The skilful hands that created this work of art in sugar and spice were those of Sergeant George Sauberlich, an instructor at the Corps HQ.

But neither George nor Mick actually tasted the cake. For as true men of the Crown they and their colleagues gave it to the children's ward at Guy's Hospital.



## PEOPLE

Son-in-law Phil cops provost Harry's job!

When Sergeant Harry Hardy handed in his hand-cuffs after 29 years service, he knew his job as regimental provost sergeant of 40th Field Regiment Royal Artillery, would be in good hands.

For his son-in-law, Sergeant Phil Vango, has taken up the job of keeping the lads in line at the unit's BAOR base.

Harry's military career started with National Service in 1950, rejoining in

1957 to serve with 20 Regiment RA.

Since then he has been drill instructor with 17 Training Regiment RA and the top cop of his present unit since 1967. He was awarded the BEM in 1978.



Sgt Hardy



Sgt Vango

### NEWS in BRIEF

REME metalsmith Corporal John King, has been presented with the BEM for outstanding work in Belize. John received the medal from Canadian Major General Andrew G. Christie, Commander Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (Land), who was visiting the Logistic Support Battalion at Bulford.

Normally Janet Leafe is a clerk with British Rail. In her spare time she's a lance corporal with C Company 3WFR (V). But now, thanks to a course at the Military Corrective Training Centre at Colchester, Janet's well informed on police work. Two other things Janet learned included how to play football — they put her in goal — and that she was the first WRAC (TA) to attend the course.

A tearful farewell for Mrs Eileen Gornall when she left the Civil Service after 44 years. For the last 11 years she has been personal assistant and secretary to six successive commanders of the Army Catering Corps at Aldershot.

## A VC's story: girl's quest for history

In 1917 Sergeant Robert Bye (left) won the VC while serving with the Welsh Guards. At the end of the war he was the sole surviving VC in the regiment.

In 1919 he joined the Sherwood Foresters and became a sergeant. Now his great grand-daughter, Claire Armstrong, 12, is trying to find out about his time with the regiment.

Claire knows lots of the old soldier's service with the Welsh Guards, even to the extent of being able to hold an exhibition of photographs and stories in a local building society office in her home town of Warsop, Notts.

But apart from confirming that he joined the Sherwoods in 1919, served in Germany with the regiment in 1920, and was discharged a year later on medical grounds, she knows little. Now she wants to know more.

Of her great grandfather's heroism at the battle of Ypres, Claire is a veritable fund of knowledge.

She tells his story in words and pictures, in her local exhibition, of how Robert Bye twice stormed German block-houses hurling grenades through apertures in the concrete walls, compelling the defenders to surrender. In all he killed, wounded and captured more than 70 of the enemy.

Entitled *One Man's Gallantry*, Claire's exhibition and her research have led to invites from the Welsh Guards to see Robert's original medals.

Her quest, too, has led to local interest with an invitation from the Notts Dunkirk Veterans Association to attend their meetings.

And her search has even led her to write to the Royal Engineers serving in the Falklands, as she thinks they may have links with her legendary ancestor.

If anyone has any photographs or stories about Robert Bye VC, then Claire of 66 Hamilton Drive, Stonebridge Park Estate, Warsop, Notts., would be delighted to hear from them.



SERGEANT ROBERT BYE AND PALS: celebration time circa 1917... bks his great grand-daughter, what's it all about?

# Fun folk show heads for Falklands

Thirteen acts turned up for the audition, but inevitably, with a number like that, some got the thumbs down. In fact only three — comic Bradley Walsh, magicians Marc and Jane and the singing duo of Distant Kiss — got contracts from

Combined Services Entertainment while the rest got the "Don't ring us, we'll ring you" routine.

They were all appearing at SSSC's Chalfont headquarters bidding for places in CSE shows around the world.

Marc and Jane are already booked for the Falklands in the New Year, while the others could find themselves in Belize, Northern Ireland, BAOR, Cyprus or anywhere soldiers are based.

With shows being packaged and sent out from Chalfont almost on a weekly basis, it is difficult for CSE chief Derek Agutter — father of film star Jenny — and his deputy Gordon Clarke to ring the changes, but that's showbiz for you.

But while three of the four acts heading for the Falklands for Christmas and the New Year have a common theme — they're all folk singers — they should provide the lads there with thoughts of home with sing-songs in the canteens and on the coasts.



BRADLEY WALSH: signed up



MARC AND JAN: magic plus glamour and laughs



## Declan's dream comes true for a day

Antrim schoolboy Declan Henry, who has leukaemia, has been granted his greatest wish — to be a soldier for a day.



DECLAN HENRY: Brave boy, brave salute

Declan, eight, persuaded his father, Mr Archie Henry, to contact his local Army base, 1/9 (County Antrim) Battalion of the Ulster Defence Regiment, who were delighted to make the lad's dream come true.

As the VIP guest of CO Lieutenant Colonel Richard Cohen, Declan and his father went along to the unit's Antrim headquarters for a day with the Army.

His first task, after being greeted by Colonel Cohen, was to inspect a quarter guard of UDR soldiers, then he took part in a two-vehicle mobile patrol within the camp and "took command" while they dealt with an "incident". Then came a swift trip in a helicopter, a guided tour of the camp and lunch in the sergeants' mess.

ONE HALF OF DISTANT KISS: looks and sounds delightful



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# SOLDIER to Soldier

**T**he massive famine relief project in Ethiopia has tended to fade into the background somewhat recently, its suffering overshadowed by the enormity of the latest multi-thousand death disaster in Colombia. But the work has continued...

SOLDIER was about to arrange a visit to Ethiopia to mark the completion of a whole year's disaster relief by the Army and the Royal Air Force next January when news came through that the military men are to be withdrawn at the end of the year.

The relief operation — Operation Bushel to the Army — was well on its way to becoming the biggest operation ever in terms of the quantity air dropped, we were told by Major Terry Lewis, Officer Commanding 47 Air Despatch Squadron RCT, whose men had at that time sent about 34 million pounds weight of sacked grain dropping down from the tailboards of the two RAF Hercules aircraft engaged in the samaritan operation.

The grain, which required 60,000 sacks a week, had been increasing during the air drops at the rate of one million pounds weight every nine days and had already reached some 21 million sacks dropped during more than a thousand sorties on 16,300 base boards made by 48 Command Workshops, REME, Cyprus.

Air dropping was the only effective way of delivering large quantities of grain to the remote areas of the country, said Major Lewis. But the war being fought there, the lack of ground controlled by Government forces, and to a lesser extent the range of the Polish helicopters being used to help in the operation, all combined to prevent the work being extended regularly into the more remote regions.

The air despatchers have had little free time in their three-week stints in the theatre. Each aircraft has been flying 30 or more sorties in that time with flying details and load sorties shared between the men.

Working in the extreme heat of Addis Ababa, some 7,500 feet above sea level, has

obviously not been easy. But, says Major Lewis, the whole detachment has approached its duties with an enthusiasm and professionalism which has won the British Servicemen great respect.

The British Serviceman has once again come to the help of those who are in need, dire need, of assistance. The men who have carried out the work in such trying circumstances can be proud of a job well done. But they will probably be thinking more in terms of the tens of thousands who have suffered among the Ethiopian people. "It's impossible not to become involved", commented Major Lewis.

**C**ould it be that guard duties, or at least some of them, will become at thing of the past for soldiers?

An Israeli firm, working with a California based company, is reported (by *International Defence Review*) to be putting on the market a robot security guard which even has a limited decision making capacity.

The cylindrical shaped robo-guards will be about 1.2 metres tall and 80 centimetres in circumference, and will incorporate sophisticated sensors to detect intruders or abnormal situations. They will also have devices enabling them to counter interference by intruders — just what devices is not specified.

These robo-guards are said to be "semi-autonomous", and could be used to patrol perimeter roads and hallways to sniff out intruders and then report back to human supervisors.

There are certainly advantages over humans, although one can hardly imagine them taking over many of the Army's guard duties — they are "unlikely" to fall asleep, don't need refreshment breaks or holidays, and they are apparently very much cheaper than human guards.

**W**ell over two years ago SOLDIER began its TA Topics pages to cater for the Territorial Army, and the time has now, we believe, come for the TA to become truly absorbed within the 'One Army' in SOLDIER's pages. So from now on, TA Topics will disappear and TA news, sport and features will be treated in the same way as Regular Army stories in the magazine.

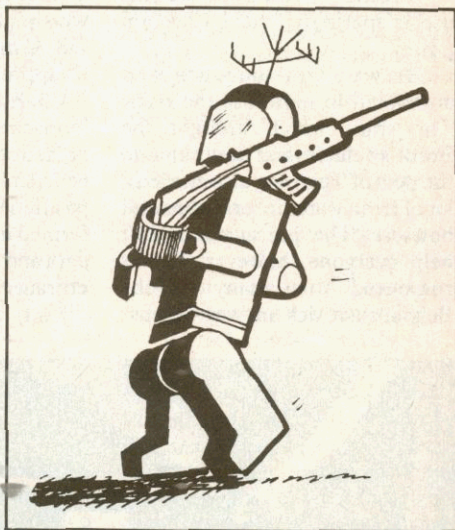
Western District's basic skills competition, for instance, which was submitted for publication with some excellent photographs, is printed as a one-page feature on p17.

There is still as much, if not more need for TA units to send in reports and photographs — news, sport and features. But don't forget they have to compete for interest and quality with other material, TA and Regular.

★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★

As usual, SOLDIER will not be published over the Christmas and New Year period; the next issue will be dated 13 January. So in this last issue of the old year, the Managing Editor and staff of the magazine wish all our readers — and everyone, everywhere — a very happy Christmas and all the best for 1986.



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S23



**C**ORPORAL Les Storey wasn't going to make the same mistakes twice. Two years before, when he had last been in Turkey with 249 Signal Squadron, the AMF(L) wireless unit, he caught what he described as "the screaming hadbads" through drinking local water.

This year for Exercise Archway Express in Turkish Thrace he came prepared. His signals Land Rover was shipped over with four jerry cans full of Bulford water.

During the deterrent phase of the exercise Corporal Storey and the other members of the detachment, Corporal David Taylor and Signalman Matt Pryne, camped out in the wilds alongside Charlie Company, the American 4/325th Infantry Regiment's key (ie forward) company.

Their job was to provide the Clansman radio link between the Americans and HQ AMF(L) some 40 kilometres nearer Corlu.

In the tent behind their signals vehicle the trio used chlorinated Turkish water for washing up and their own 20 gallons from Bulford for all drinks.

"I reckon it will last if we just use it sparingly," said Corporal Storey.

(He wasn't the only one who attempted to minimise the risks. The ships which brought the Force's vehicles and heavy kit into the port of Tekirdag also carried a lot of fresh water in jerry cans and bowlers. The precaution didn't help everyone, however. It was rumoured that many of the Belgians got sick anyway because

their own water was contaminated).

Living with the Americans was a bit of an eye-opener for anyone who might have imagined that the US Army was less regimental in its approach to field exercises.

Charlie Company's camp was immaculately laid out with well graded stones from a nearby creek bed, painted with a blue stripe and positioned around pathways or formed into an elaborate design of para and AMF(L) emblems at the entrance.

And, as Corporal Storey ex-

plained, dress rules were as strict as the decor.

"Back in the signals squadron they are sunbathing," he said, "but not here. No sunbathing is unit policy. These lads can't even take their berets off. So it would be unfair for us really to be able to walk around without our tops and them not being allowed to."

The other disadvantage, especially for a thirsty soldier, was that the American camp was dry.

American MRE (meals ready to eat) rations provided a new exper-

**Off shift — Corporal Les Storey and Signalman Matt Pryne relaxing outside their tent with a brew made from Bulford water.**

ience and so, less agreeably, did the howling of wild dogs outside the tent at night.

The tiny British signals detachment with Charlie Company was only one of several spread around the Turkish countryside during the deterrence phase.

"I provide detachments to the different nations, because they have different equipment, to provide a standard means of communication," explained Major Jonathan Cook, the OC of 249 Signal Squadron. "They are on their own and they have to make it work so its a lot of responsibility for them."

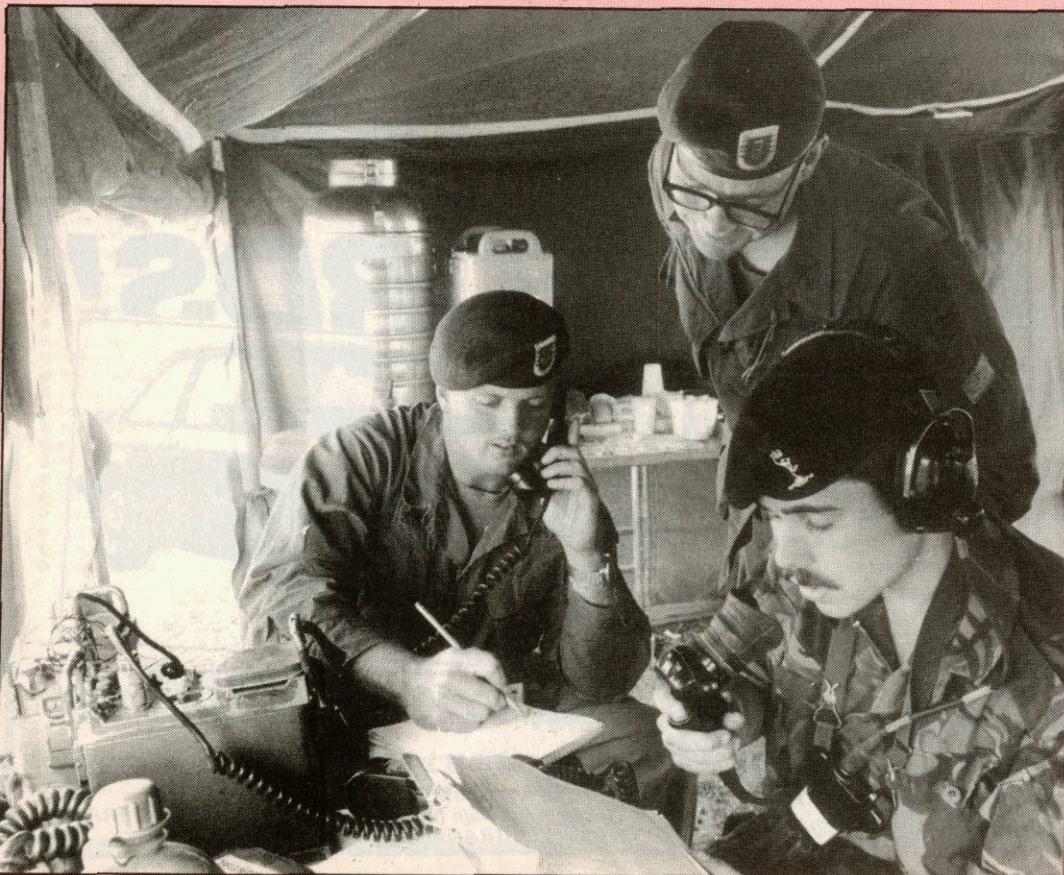
"But I think they relish it because they are away from me and the sergeant major. So its absolute freedom for them as well."

Language was an inevitable problem, the OC added, even with the Americans, and attempts were made to put German speakers with German units and those who knew something of the American idiom with the US battalion.

"The deterrence phase is actually much harder for us because we are stretched right up to the border areas across what can be very mountainous country and its difficult to communicate."

"When we come into combat we close into a brigade sized area so communications get a little easier distancewise, but in some ways harder because you are always on the move. It's just a question of technically being able to keep up with it."

**Signalman Pryne, on his first exercise, at work on the Charlie Company radio.**





**E**XERCISES and accidents are, regrettably, no strangers to each other. In Turkey their relationship is compounded by unfamiliar territory, rough roads, especially off the main highways, and by what could be called the cavalier attitude of many local drivers.

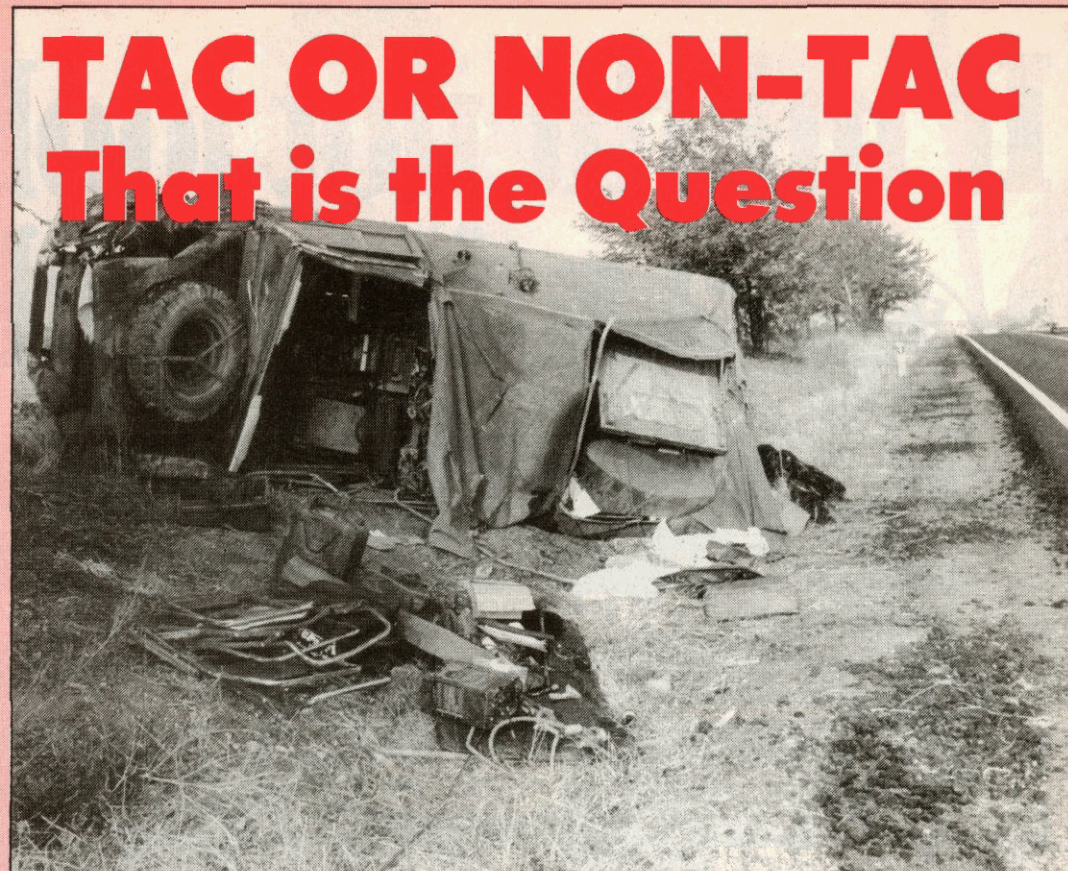
Towards the end of Exercise Archway Express Major Lyndon Powell, RMP, the AMF(L) Provost Marshal, reported half a dozen accidents.

"Its been very light actually," he said. "None of them have been too serious — just one of two injuries. On a large exercise like this with a lot of movement, bearing in mind the local conditions, we have been very lucky. I hope we remain that way."

Not all were straight forward traffic accidents. Some occurred away from the roads during the combat phase of the exercise when drivers were practising tactical driving at night. This means quite simply driving without lights — a fairly dodgy business over rough ground as one of two drivers discovered.

"There was no moon, it was very black. They lost a wheel into a decline and over it went," said Major Jonathan Cook, the OC of 249 Signal Squadron which lost a couple of its Land Rovers during the exercise.

"Of course if you think there's going to be a civilian around you simply cannot take the risk," he added. "You've got to put some sort of light on. But when you know you are out in a field somewhere you do it as best you can and you don't have lights on — you take the chance."



The extent to which realism can be brought into an exercise is often a matter of some delicacy.

"There are arguments for and against tactical driving on exercise," Major Powell. "I think probably on this exercise, bearing in mind it's a fairly rough area and it's new territory, it is justified to use lights rather than not using them. Though I must agree that unless the boys practise they are not going to get used to driving without lights."

Accidents are obviously bad

public relations on any exercise — even more so when they involve civilians. Major Powell said that very strong warnings had been put out about driving conditions in Turkey, especially about the reputation of local drivers for their fairly loose interpretation of the traffic regulations.

At the back of everyone's mind, he added, was the tragedy that had befallen the AMF(L) in Turkey nearly 20 years ago when a bus full of soldiers had come off the road, resulting in seven deaths and many injuries.

Major Powell was on his first exercise with the Force, having only taken over as Provost Marshal in August. He saw the job divided into two areas — the multinational policing of the Force, and supporting combat operations by getting the Force from one position to the next through the various routes.

"It is clearly split, but at any one time both functions may be required," he added.

Each nation was supposed to bring its own legal adviser. But in the case of the British Army — considering the number of exercises undertaken abroad each year — this was just not practical.

Consequently Major Powell had to rely a great deal on the Belgians who never travel abroad without a military judge advocate with his own recording clerk.

"He's been a mainstay for me on this exercise," the Provost Marshal said. "Obviously I am not qualified to get involved in the legal end, but I do get sucked in to a certain extent because we try to keep as much out of the courts as

**One Land Rover which came to grief outside the exercise. It was the victim of a traffic accident. Two occupants were unhurt — the third suffered a broken arm and a dislocated shoulder.**

possible and deal with as many incidents as we can before we return to the UK."

Managing a multinational team of military policemen was not the easiest job in the world. Communication was the essential problem.

"I'd rather have a section from each nationality and deal with it through a senior rank," Major Powell said. "As it is I've got two Italians who speak very little English. They might be very competent, but to get them welded in as part of the force is very difficult."

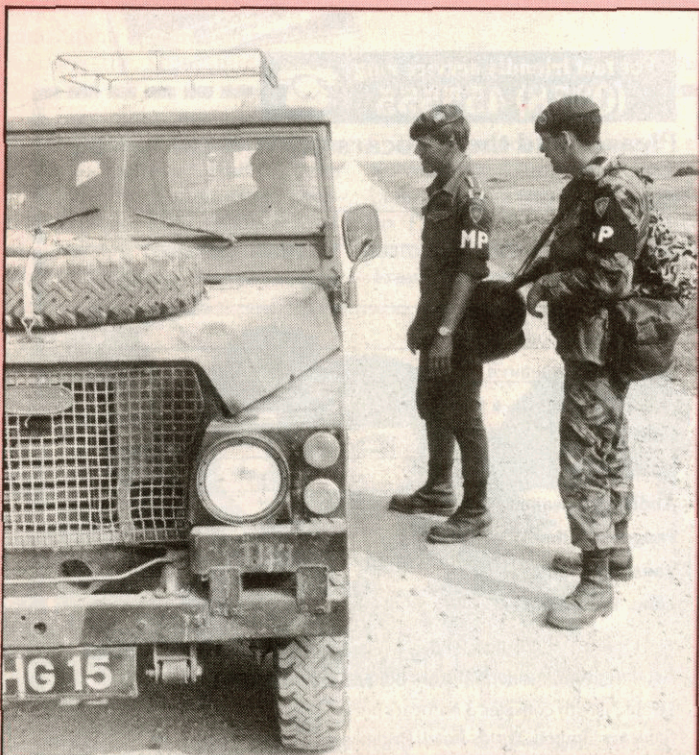
"It can be quite frustrating because I've got the manpower but I'm not able to give the same service that I would do, say in Germany or elsewhere, with the same numbers."

It would be better, he thought, if there was greater continuity among members of the AMF(L) Provost. The same people every year from each country would make a considerable difference.

The job certainly had its difficulties, but it was important not to get too frustrated.

"I've been around long enough now to enjoy the experience," Major Powell continued. "I'm not worried when things go a bit wrong — not to the extent of getting up-tight about it."

"Looking at the back blocks of Turkey, rather than the cities — that's what I like about this exercise — seeing the country in the raw."



**Bi-national check up at Log Base — MPs Unteroffizier Gerherd Sommer and Corporal Alwyn Burnell, RMP.**



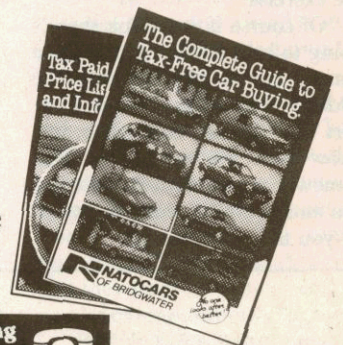
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**T**HE WEATHER did not start out too well for them but it still turned out to be quite a fun weekend for 24 teams making up this year's entry in Western District's basic military skills competition.

An annual event, it attracted entrants from Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Hereford, Worcestershire and West Midlands.

The competition was broken down into ten events. A speed march, patrol base, NBC training, night orientation, assault course, first aid, observation, signals stand, MT and catering.

The whole meeting was Western District's TA patrol competition, an event which attracted two girl entrants, Karen Neale, a check-out girl at the local Co-Op and Alison Hinchliffe, reading civil engineering at Birmingham University.

Alison is hoping to join the



## TESTING WEEKEND FOR TERRIERS



Regular Army and it was her university's Officer Training Corps unit that were runners-up in the non-infantry patrol competition winning the Shropshire Battery Cup.

Friday night, assembly night, did not have good weather but the elements improved. Half-a-dozen robust Army Cadets from Staffordshire later played realistic roles as simulated casualties, spending most of their time — up to a couple

**Trying to look like bushes — members of 143 Plant Squadron RE from Walsall**

of dozen times each — lying out under and near bushes in far less than ideal conditions.

The competition started at Swynnerton Camp, near Eccleshall, which, in turn, is near Stoke on Trent. Fighting patrols force marched their way to Leek Training Camp.

From there, they embarked on a night orienteering exercise in the worst weather of the autumn. The action then moved to Whittington Ranges near Sutton Coldfield for the final phase of the exercise on the Sunday morning.

All the while, the six Army cadets were groaning and moaning their best as simulated casualties, made up by 224 Field Ambulance, RAMC (V) from Stoke on Trent.

Catering competition winners were the Queen's Own Mercian Yeomanry from Telford who dished up cream of chicken and veg soup with sippets (croutons to real gourmets), home-made steak and mushroom pudding, Marquise potatoes, buttered cabbage, Vichy carrots, cabinet pudding and custard sauce, tea and coffee.

Grateful recipients of that were a score of hungry soldiers.

On hand to check standards was Colonel Mike Procter, Director Army Catering Services (UK).

Prizes were presented by Major General Brendan McGuinness, GOC Western District, who said: "It was a very fine training and

**Major General McGuinness congratulates Alison Hinchliffe, whose team were runners-up in the non-infantry patrol competition**

testing weekend. All approached it in just the right spirit, with a great deal of guts and determination. The standards they set were of the highest, and all showed themselves to be well-trained and well-led."

Main prize-winners; Fighting Patrol, D Coy, 5 RRF Bury; Fighting Patrol Runners-up, C Coy, 1 Mercian, Lutterworth; Best non-infantry patrol, C Sqn Queen's Own Mercian Yeomanry, Shrewsbury; Runner-up, Birmingham University Officer Training Corps; Winning MT team, 35 Signal Regt, Sutton Coldfield; Runner-up, B Coy, 5 RRF, Sheldon, Birmingham, Catering Competition winners, Queen's Own Mercian Yeomanry, Telford; Command Task winners, D Coy, 1 Mercian, Nottingham; Night orienteering winners, C Coy, 1 Mercian, Burton on Trent; First Aid winners, A Coy, 2 Mercian, Worcester.



**Stew for 214 Air Defence Battery support team, l to r, Corporal Dave Jones, Lance Bombardier Barrie Surridge, WO2 Pete Shepherd and Gunner Dean Foden**



**Cauliflower cheese, prepared by Staff Sergeant Brendan Kidney and Private Karen Neale, of 89 Signal Squadron, Rugby**



# Talk-in time...

UKLF  
STYLE



MISSION COMPLETED: with the Wilton talk-in finished, delegates pose for their photograph and contemplate the outcome of the seminar

A COMBINATION of tea, sympathy and willing ears was provided by UKLF when they arranged a talk-in for 50 Federation of Army Wives' Clubs delegates.

A leading speaker was Brigadier Dennis Shaw, ACOS, who opened the seminar by assuring wives that he fully acknowledged the work of the FAWC and that he and his staff at Wilton would continue to support and sponsor the organisation.

He also recognised it as an on-going concern and 'standing on its own feet'.

Major General J G D Pank, DGPS (A), in his address told of the financial packages which the Adjutant General and his branch were working on with the Treasury.

So his announcement that the first child in a Service family would now get three flights a year when visiting parents abroad — the same as the rest of the children in the family — came as a welcome start.

Referring to LOA, he said 22 reviews had taken place and that the concept behind the cuts — and in some increases — was to

ensure overseas allowances were in line with the cost of living in the UK.

But despite the cuts, he said, "we are pressing for such things as increased baggage allowances, a housing policy and increased help for quarter maintenance and private house ownership."

Premature Voluntary Release (PVR) also came into the spotlight when he told of a study, commissioned by the Adjutant General, to look into the reasons for the increase in early release.

Called to comment on the study so far, Colonel

Mike Gaffney said he had already talked to 700 wives and stressed the importance of communications.

Group discussions followed supported by military and civilian experts. The findings of the groups would, the delegates were assured, be passed to UKLF for action.

Questions from the floor raised many points, not least medical problems overseas, the cost of flights against that of using a car, wives' employment and many more.

American Barbara Geist-white, here on a liaison tour at Donnington, told

of differences within the US Forces, and how their policies certainly eased problems such as house moving and finding a job.

For the panel of Army experts the questions were direct and to the point, requiring detailed answers and not casual replies.

The fourth UKLF seminar held to hear the views of Service wives, it was evident a lot had been learned over the past four years.

It was also clear that sympathy for the role that the FAWC can play in maintaining the morale of the Army had considerably increased.

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IN MY VIEW

## DAYS OF WORDS AND WELFARE

THE poster said: "Go Home Mrs Pankhurst." It was on the notice board at Bristol University and referred to me. But I stayed as I had paid to attend the Bristol Welfare Course.

As the wife of a commanding officer I was the first Army wife to attend the lectures. Sadly another two years were to pass before the next Army wife signed on for the course.

All that was in the early 70s, but last year, ten years later, I asked to return to lecture on DHSS benefits for Service dependants!

Ten years ago was a breakthrough for women. For it heralded *International Women's Year* and the start of the *Decade of Women*.

I wrote in July of that year, in the now defunct *Army Housing Journal*, a piece headed: *Can't We Women Be More Involved?*

For me the turning point in the decade was 1977, when the weight of feeling from the wives of all three Services about their husbands' pay and conditions erupted.

The wives took the unprecedented step of marching to the House of Commons. Seldom have I seen such support as that shown by the wives for the issues they were raising.

But despite their fervour they were vulnerable to political influences.

The pressure was on, to some extent, for a union for the Forces. This eventually faded, but combined with the unrest it caused a good deal of thinking to be done by the powers-that-be.

Feelings continued to run high and, not to put too fine a point on it, I was none too popular.

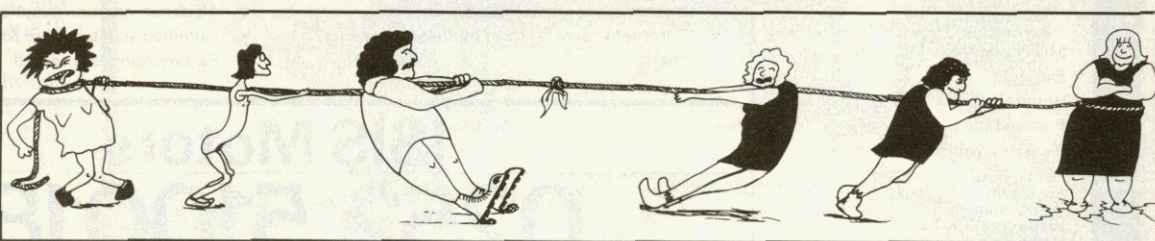
I was known in authoritative circles as a 'disruptive feminist; an ulcer in the belly of the MoD; a ferret in the Bunny club'; and a 'misguided missile.' A difficult time for all.

But has the position of the wives changed? Has this decade seen any improvements for Service wives?

### STRIDES

I think we have made definite strides forward and, dare I say it wives are, I hope, no longer looked upon as camp followers or do-gooders.

I think a new attitude prevails in most Service



circles towards our involvement in the whole welfare issue.

This stage has not been reached without a lot of heart-searching, worry and the fear of harming a husband's career if a wife spoke out.

To some extent these problems remain, but the tide is gradually turning and a less severe climate seemingly surrounds us today.

The emergence of the Federation of Army Wives' Clubs in the UK was helped considerably in creating this with advice and suggestions.

Over the past three years a profusion of studies, reviews, visits and surveys has taken place.

But the most significant change, I think, is the fact that wives' views, regardless of the ranks of their husbands, have been canvassed, with follow-up discussions with the more enlightened gentlemen in authority.

The *Decade of Women* is drawing to a close. The Nairobi Conference has published its findings and we look forward to at least some of its suggestions coming to

fruition since Britain has adopted its forward-looking strategies for possible action within a number of national institutions.

As for the next ten years, well, I think it is up to us, as I wrote in the *Army Housing Journal* ten years ago.

I also wrote then: "Why can't CO's wives attend the welfare lectures which each new CO has before taking up his command?"

Unfortunately their exclusion from these meetings still stands, but they are able to take part in other welfare courses. So some progress

there.

But officialdom should be assured that, as I wrote in 1975: "We are not trying to take over the regiment, heaven forbid. But I was always told — use your resources to the full. I have a feeling the Army does not."

Wives are not camp followers. They weren't in 1975 and they're not in 1985. They are now as then an integral part of a highly efficient force.

Please acknowledge the wife from now on. A happy Christmas and a successful New Year to everyone.

## FAWC HERE TO STAY

THE Federation of Army Wives Clubs (FAWC) is here to stay. This manifested itself at their third annual meeting when two resolutions were passed unanimously: jobs for wives in support of the Army and a call for increased allowances for travel on postings, removals and storage.

The meeting, attended by 126 UK club representatives and 20 from affiliated clubs in Northern Ireland, heard the chairman, Lady Mary Huxtable, quote 'a clear statement' by Lieutenant General

Sir Roland Guy, the Adjutant General, that "an accompanied Army is desirable and should be encouraged."

With this in mind the FAWC is committed to enhancing life for Service families.

Detailed reports from committee members and district representatives all showed increased district activities, plus an acceptance and awareness of the work of the FAWC.

Military speakers included Major Geoff Bradbury, RAEC, who spoke on *Children with Special Needs*, and Captain Bridget Simmonds, WRAC,

of Army Public Relations, who spoke of the image of Army wives and how to improve their communications.

Her advice, "Get out and do something in relation to the media..." raised controversy and the question: would wives be allowed to speak to the media since experience had shown husbands being called to account for wives' actions in this respect?

It was pointed out that, in the UK wives are classed as civilians, but abroad they come under military law.

Shirley Gilberry from Donnington, who lost her sight five years ago, raised problems affecting handicapped Army wives.

All the speakers stimulated much discussion as did the two-hour forum giving wives the chance to air suggestions, and problems such as heating costs, delays in child benefit payments in Northern Ireland (a subject I raised in the 1970s.), lack of maintenance and rent increases for quarters, and repairing pavements before broken heating systems, and re-decorating before rewiring.

It was evident that FAWC has grown in stature, confidence and involvement and has managed to allay official fears that it is working in opposition to the Army.

## SSAFA welcomes the Admiral aboard



ADMIRAL Sir Peter Herbert is the new chairman of SSAFA. He took over from Lieutenant General Sir Napier Crockenden following the association's centenary year service at Westminster Abbey. With a score of top posts to his credit, Sir Peter was Flag Officer

Submarines during the Falklands conflict. His last post was that of Vice Chief of the Defence Staff (Personnel and Logistics) which he describes as "especially rewarding because it was a tri-Service position."

"I developed a much greater knowledge of the Army and the RAF, and a lively appreciation of the varying ways of life of the three Services. This is why I am particularly delighted to come to SSAFA, who look after all Service families."

## How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. You can check your answers by turning to page 38.





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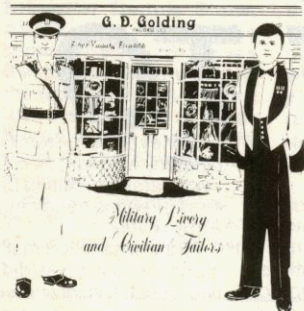
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HER WATER colour portrayals of their forbears in their regimental period uniforms are liked so much by 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards that they have promptly commissioned Alix Baker, a Larkhill-based colonel's wife and artist in her own right, to produce more card sets of the figures. And they are promising to sell like hot cakes to militia buffs.

Alix Baker is more formally known as the wife of Colonel Tom Brembridge, former CO of 4 Field Regiment, RA, based at Osnabrück but now Chief Instructor Tactics at Larkhill's Royal School of Artillery. She is, however, simply mummy to Henry, aged four, and toddler brother, William, aged 18 months.

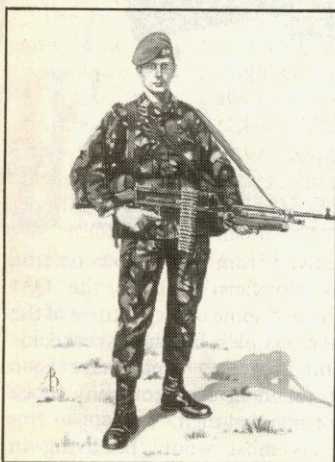
One-time art student, publishing house employee, Foreign and Commonwealth Office career girl and free-fall parachutist, Mrs Brembridge née Baker (the only daughter of Field Marshal Sir Geoffrey Baker) has a straightforward philosophical approach to her painting talents and her choice of specialised subjects.

"It's largely historical detective work and the study of anatomy," she said at their rambling six-bedroomed married quarter shared with 13-year-old shaggy dog pet Bertie and the nanny.

Her military water colours and prints of uniforms and equipment — FH 70, for instance, has blossomed under her brush strokes — are owned by a large number of regiments, museums, headquarters, naval ships and countless people dotted around the globe.

The Royal Family, British and foreign generals also have the Baker touch among their treasured collections.

Another of her works appeared



as a back-drop in a West End play; The Flip Side. The play, and presumably the painting, later toured the provinces.

A huge bedroom, complete with bed, serves as a studio with imposing views over Salisbury Plain. A sort of atelier from where the artist says she can hear the children playing.

Most of the creative paintwork

is done in the evenings although Alix Baker says she has to "discipline herself right into a corner" not to put too much time in on a subject she "lives and breathes".

Furthermore, with the door open she is able to hear "all the crises" downstairs.

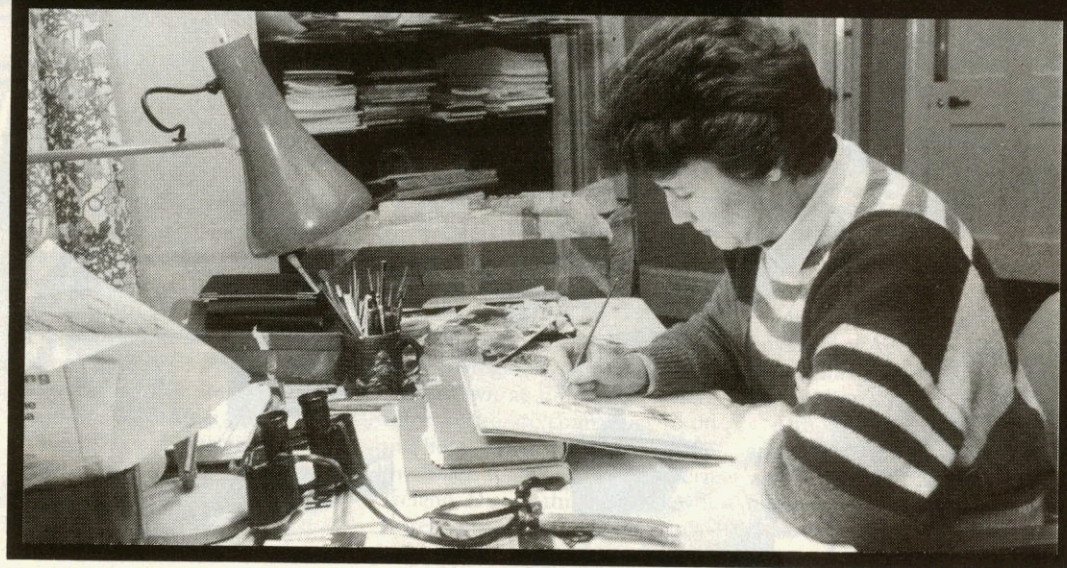
The name is well-known, boosted no doubt in part by a one-person show at Liberty's five years ago. Alix Baker is also a regular exhibitor at the Armed Forces Art Society's annual shows.

And her talents do not end there. She gave help in the design of a stained glass window for the Royal Military Academy chapel, designed a First Day cover and postmark for the Post Office. The British Army Review has also included her work. Book jackets, illustrations and battle maps are other renderings.

Yet Alix Baker does not like to paint battle scenes. "I think they distort history. I try, instead, to record as accurately as I can dress and uniforms. With older battle-field scenes you can only go on other people's say-so and other



# ARTIST ALIX PAINTING MILITARY HISTORY



people's photographs. I think many such scenes were set up."

A woman who says she inherited her artistic and military genes from her father, Alix Baker said: "I decided to go in for military historical painting instead of painting flowers. And I don't mind getting my feet dirty and turning out on to training areas to research and then record my subjects properly. I was once asked to go to the Herbrides by an RCT maritime regiment but I was seven months' pregnant. Another time was spent lying in the snow on assignment with an American artillery unit.

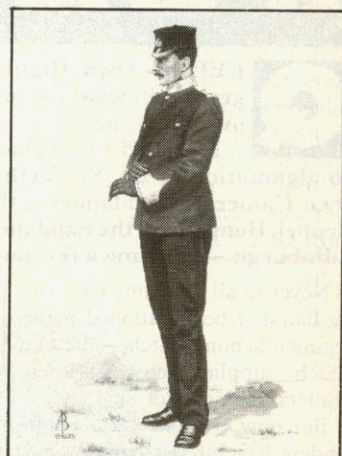


Now, I want to get some more work on books."

She is an artist who is painstaking in her efforts on research. Years ago, she logged detailed differences on uniforms from two military museums (20 or so books nightly) by faithfully recording them with mapping pens on grease-proof paper! Counting rivets on tanks has been a daunting task, too.

Completion of her painting on

Painting... with an ear on "crises downstairs"



the FH-70 was a combination of initial blueprint research and the final up-dated version of the howitzer itself.

Alix Baker has come a long, long way since her first military painting in 1967, an era when a portrait figure fetched £5. Now they are likely to fetch a dozen times that amount.

Yet her career in the world of water colour was not set back when she married her father's ADC who is very supportive of her dedicated hobby.

Nowadays, Alix Baker works mainly on commission but usually keeps a supply of her work in stock. And every day, of course, it's another absorbing and rewarding probe into that historical detective work.

See SOLDIER special offer on back page.



# Queen's Own Highlanders are

## HOME AT LAST

**Q**UEEN'S Own Highlanders have just broken new ground in what could properly be described as their own back yard.

In the 25 years since they were formed (from the amalgamation of the Seaforth Highlanders and the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders) they've been all over the place: Brunei, Hong Kong, the Falklands, Northern Ireland, Tidworth, Edinburgh — to name a few more recent postings.

Never in all that time have the 1st Battalion been stationed on the regimental home patch — the area which supplies most of their soldiers, the north of Scotland.

But now Queen's Own Highlanders have at last come home, so to speak, and they've done so in style by taking over a splendidly refurbished and modernised 18th century fort, just 12 miles east of Inverness on the shores of the Moray Firth.

Fort George was planned in 1747, just after the Jacobite Rising of 1745-6, as an impregnable base for the army of George II.

The danger of insurrection was well past when the building was finished in 1769, but the fort continued as an army barracks and remains to this day a most marvellously preserved example of the latest in mid-18th century fortifications.

For the past four years the old place has been undergoing quite a face lift. While the Scottish Department of Ancient Monuments jealously protects the external appearance of battlements and buildings, work has been going on inside the old stone walls to turn the 200 year old complex into some of the Army's most modern accommodation.

Major (QM) Charlie Millar, the quartermaster of 1 Queen's Own Highlanders, went to Fort George with the advance party and had no doubt about the quality of the conversion.

"I would say it's the finest soldiers' living-in accommodation we've got," he said. "Certainly in my 33 years service it is the finest I've ever seen. Some of the soldiers already living here would say the same — it is absolutely grade one, five star accommodation.

"I don't think it would be correct to say it will spoil us," the QM added, "but it will certainly make us appreciate what we've got here compared with what we've had in the past, and no doubt what we will get in the future."

Most single soldiers will live in the company blocks which form the oblong parade ground in the centre of the fort. The scene from any of the windows looking into the square hasn't changed in two centuries (even the drain pipes still bear the Royal cipher George III) but inside the buildings have been completely revamped.

Each rifle company gets 72 bed spaces in four self-contained 18-man flats. Private soldiers share a room between three; corporals get

Eighteenth century fort — from 20th century aircraft (above)

The drawbridge leading to the main gate from the outer defences of Prince Edward's Ravelin (below)



single rooms with wash basins.

Everyone has the advantage of plenty of locker space and good thick walls to cut out noise disturbance from neighbours. Aspiring pipers can practise secure in the knowledge that they are not upsetting anyone next door.

As Major Millar said: "When they built this place they didn't intend it to fall down."

The flats have all the necessary ablutions as well as a sitting room, a snack room with hot plates and small cooker, and a utility room with ironing boards and, most important in this climate, a large drying room.

On a tour of the barracks before the main body of the battalion

arrived from its previous posting in Northern Ireland, the QM showed some of the features of the new complex, like the locker rooms and ablutions which have been installed in each company block for married men.

As most would be living in quarters at Inverness, 12 miles away, it was obviously important for them to have somewhere to change in and out of sports gear at the barracks.

"It saves them getting mixed up with the living-in soldiers upstairs, that's what this is all about," Major Millar said.

"It is new in so much as we've always been aware of a need for this sort of thing where the married





**Major (QM) Charlie Millar gets a sentry's eye view from the ramparts. Behind him one of the sentinel boxes, still a prominent feature of the outer walls. They are crowned with a mandarin hat motif, a remainder of the 18th century fashion for things Chinese**

quarters are completely divorced from the main camp. We've never had it before in my experience. We've always had to create locker rooms in the single soldiers' lines, so this is an excellent step."

Over at the new junior ranks' dining room, Major Millar pointed to the round windows which give an air of genteel elegance uncharacteristic of many such establishments.

They had to stay, he said, because "we are not allowed to interfere with the external walls or structure of the fort in any way. Ancient Monuments are very strict about that. Personally I'd like to see them bigger to let in more light, but they do add a lot of character to the place."

The kitchens are housed in an entirely new building which, in compliance with the regulations, is enclosed in the walls of an old courtyard. Master Chef WO2 Allan Cockrane, his ACC badge enclosed by a Queen's Own Highlanders glengarry, spoke of a vast improvement from other kitchens in which he had worked, especially in the Falklands, his last posting.

Looking round the spotless display of new equipment, he added: "We've got just about every sort of machinery, except microwave ovens."

The detention centre lies just behind the kitchen complex and here the department of Ancient Monuments decreed that no changes could be made in its function.

"They were quite clear about that," Major Millar said. "It would remain as a detention centre as it has been for ever and a day."

Queen's Own Highlanders defaulter now have the opportunity



for a little personal research into 18th century penal conditions — at least as far as the accommodation is concerned.

"There are excellent single cells here," said Major Millar, "so anyone who steps out of line can be locked up. We don't stand any nonsense in this regiment."

But he thought that the available number of cells — six single and one three-man — would probably be more than they needed.

Outside the walls, newly installed electric target and anti tank ranges, a superb custom built physical and recreational training centre, with a brand new training theatre alongside, add to the collection of enviable facilities.

Of course it all cost a fair bit — £16 million is the figure quoted. But, re-equipped and refurbished, Fort George is a sight to behold. It has the advantage of dating from an age when building standards were a lot better than they are today (William Adam, the architect father of Robert and James, was one of the main contractors) and it's had the luck to have been relatively unmolested in the succeeding centuries.

So it is hardly surprising that Queen's Own Highlanders themselves were delighted to learn of the move two years ago. Quite part from the architectural merits of the place, there are its excellent facilities and the chance to forge new links with the local community.

A good 75 per cent of the soldiers came from the area, said Major Colin Gilmour, the battalion 2 ic who was in charge of the advance party, and a large number had married local girls as well.

"Certainly we will be making every effort to get in with the local community," he said, "be it with bands, charity efforts, sports, or shooting, and particularly with our affiliated cadet battalion and affiliated companies of the local TA battalion, 2/51st Highland Volunteers. It will be jolly nice to do some training with them and try to help them out."

As it is, the battalion won't be able to avoid a fairly high public profile at Fort George. During the summer months 30,000 visitors usually come through the fort.

They are naturally not allowed in the soldiers' quarters but they can normally walk round the battlements and inspect the delightful little chapel within the walls.

For the first six months of their stay the regiment will also be on show down at Edinburgh where they will rotate companies to do public duties at the Castle while the Black Watch are in Northern Ireland. During this period they'll be responsible for guarding Holyrood Palace during the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

For the Commonwealth Games next summer they'll be providing pipes, drums and band for the festivities as well as soldiers to man the butts for the shooting at Barry Buddon, near Carnoustie.

Back at Fort George they will have to undertake the duties of a designated flag station which means flying the appropriate flag whenever a suitably important

#### **The Barrack Square around which the companies live**

vessel sails past the promontory in and out of Inverness.

Meanwhile for the all important business of keeping fighting fit, the regiment have at their doorstep the whole of the north of Scotland.

Although the training area around the fort was quite small, it was hoped, said Major Gilmour, to prevail on landlords, especially those with regimental connections, to use private land for military and adventurous training.

As Queen's Own Highlanders settle into their new home it is perhaps worth noting, for those who like to reflect on the ironies of history, that Fort George, built to subdue the Highlands, is but seven miles from Culloden where the Highland army of Prince Charles Stuart was crushed by the southern soldiers of the Duke of Cumberland. Now, two centuries later, the Highlanders are firmly in control.

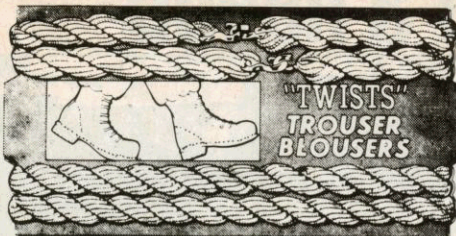


**Story:  
Robert Higson**

**Pictures:  
Les Wiggs**

**Sergeant Roddy McCourt pipes in front of what used to be the main entrance to the fort**





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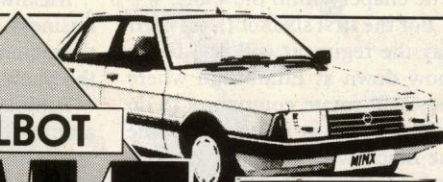
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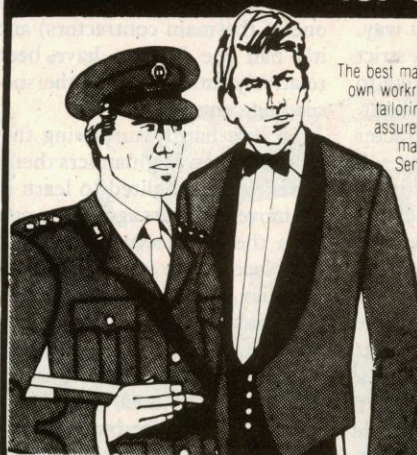
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**UNIFORMAL**



**S**ERGEANT Stuart Andrew has done it again! For the second year running he has been named as Army Photographer of the Year in the Army's official photographic competition.

His prize comes through submitting the best portfolio of photographs with a military subject. Two of them are published on this page.

When Stuart won the title in 1984 — the first time he had entered the competition — he was serving as Force Photographer in the Falklands but was looking forward with his wife and family to a posting to Germany. He is now based in BAOR with the Work Study Team at the Inventory Control Point, Viersen.

Stuart, a Scot, joined the Army in 1972 to train as a combat engineer but after seven years decided to transfer to the RAOC to be a photographer.

The Army Photograph of the Year was submitted by Sergeant Robert Fousert, who works for Sixth Sense in Germany, and took his winning photograph of a heavily armed TA para during Lionheart 84.

The full list of winners:

Army Photographer of the Year, Sgt S Andrew (ICP BAOR); Runner-up, Major Chris Vere, TA North West District; Highly commended, Lt Col C Deedes (HQ Light Division) and Mr R Lortie (HQ 3 Armoured Div

**Rapid Fire, by Sgt Andrew**



Action on the ski slopes, by Lt Col Deedes

# TOP OF THE PHOTOS AGAIN



BAOR).

Best colour photograph; Winner, Sgt Andrew; Runner-up, Sgt Andrew; Highly commended, Major R Mathieson (CLS Osborne Barracks, Hong Kong).

Best black and white photograph: Winner, Lt Col Deedes; Runner-up, Sgt Tony Jones (Public Information, HQ London District); Highly commended, Sgt

Bateman (Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, Sennelager).

Sports and adventurous training: Winner, Lt Col Deedes.

Best photograph by a unit photographer: Winner, Lance Sergeant John Harding (Public Information, HQ London District); Runner-up, Corporal Pang, (Depot Hong Kong MSC); Highly commended, Colour Sergeant

**Recovery in Bavaria, by Sgt Andrew**

Callow (2 Royal Irish).

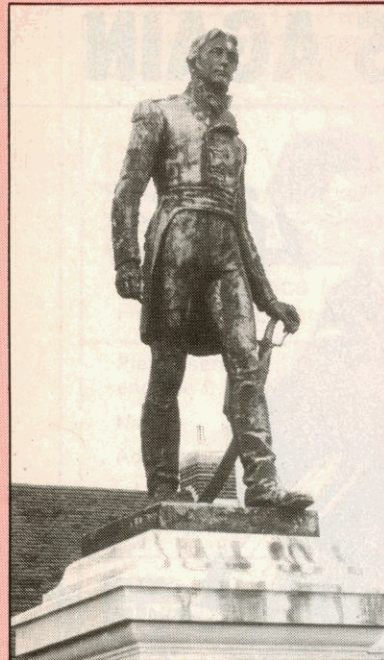
Army Photograph of the Year: Sgt R Fousert (Sixth Sense).

Best photograph by a member of the Territorial Army: Winner, Major Chris Vere; Runner-up, Major Vere.

**Photograph of the Year, by Sgt Fousert**







Sir John Moore who assembled his men at Shorncliffe to fight 'Boney' in the Peninsular War

**T**HE COURSE of military history is slowly but surely changing course at Shorncliffe, near Folkestone, Kent, yet again. A history well steeped in the ozone-saturated barracks perched on a draughty site some 200 feet above chalk cliffs with the Cap Gris Nez coastline just a gaze away.

Nearly two centuries ago, Sir John Moore founded the Light Division there as he assembled his troops to go off and fight 'Boney' in the Peninsula War.

Another assembly, or rather re-organisation, is taking place at Shorncliffe, very recently home to

Graham Smith charts the changes at a...

# UNIQUE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion (IJLB), a boy soldiers' training organisation readily dubbed by military pundits as the "infantry NCOs' Sandhurst," and more recently lauded by the Director of Infantry as a "unique centre of excellence."

For the IJLB of yesteryear is, sadly for Old Boys and historians alike, no more — in name, at least. The descendant of a predecessor which had stepped out smartly as the Infantry Boys Battalion in 1952.

In its place, since mid-September, a new cost-cutting formation, the Junior Infantry Battalion, a new concept military alma mater for the adolescent potential Army NCO. An organisation with the responsibility from next autumn of training just over 1,000 teenagers annually. Not just the traditional Junior Leaders but Junior Soldiers too.

Under new plans and as an interim measure until next September, the four training companies at Shorncliffe will remain, three of Junior Leaders (one each

for The Queen's, The Prince of Wales's and The Light Divisions) and one for Junior Soldiers (The Queen's Division).

Shorncliffe will have eventually disbursed the Junior Leaders from four other Divisions and The Parachute Regiment to other locations.

From next September there will still be four training companies at Shorncliffe (two each for the Queen's and The Prince of Wales's Division) plus two dozen Juniors under training for The Royal Pioneer Corps.

At that time, too, there will be three more training centres for infantry Juniors. Pirbright (Household Division and The Parachute Regiment), Ouston, near Newcastle (Scottish and King's Divisions) and the purpose-built Flowerdown Barracks complex on the outskirts of Winchester, Hants (The Light Division).

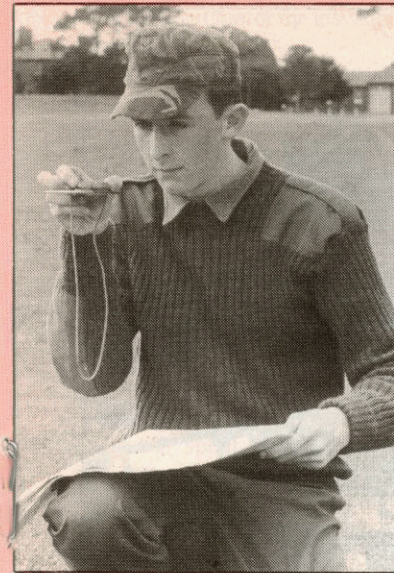
Translated into Shorncliffe numbers, the new battalion will have two annual intakes of Junior Leaders, each of 218; four annual intakes, each of 162, of Junior

Soldiers; and the two twelve-strong intakes of Juniors for The Royal Pioneer Corps. A total of 1,048 compared with the present combined resident population of about 760 Junior Leaders and Junior Soldiers.

Junior Leader training syllabus plans will stay unchanged comprising 42 weeks' training during a year-long course. Junior Soldier training, however, will last 20 weeks followed by 12 weeks at an adult depot for secondary phase training before posting to relevant battalions.

Ironically, the new title almost matches that used by the battalion when it was initiated and stationed previously at Shorncliffe between 1967 and 1974 — the Junior Infantryman's Battalion.

From next autumn, as well, the battalion of hopefuls could see the issue of the Army's three versions of its latest rifle, the 5.5 mm SA 80 series, the Ensign (cadet version), Endeavour (Individual Weapon) and Engager (Light Support Weapon) variants. Instruction will continue on the venerated GPMG.



Junior Leader John Cassidy, on his second day, consults his compass for map reading

The re-organisation will mean, for Shorncliffe, Juniors being recruited from more restricted geographical areas of southern England and Wales, the co-location of Junior Leaders and Junior Soldiers easing transfer between the two types of training "as necessary in individual cases."

Overseeing the Juniors' progress — each youngster costs £68 a day or £40,000 yearly to train and sustain — will be a 183-strong permanent staff. It comprises 43 officers (two of them former Juniors) and 140 Warrant Officers, senior NCOs and corporals (about half of these former Juniors). Added to these is a 106-member civilian support staff including instructors.

It is estimated that about 35 per cent of current Regular Army

strength is made up of one-time Juniors and that some 7,000 Juniors (the four categories of Junior Leaders, Junior Soldiers, Apprentices and Bandsmen) join the Army each year.

Further estimates suggest that the 'graduates' from the Shorncliffe battalion stand three times the chance of becoming a WO2 after 12 years' service than an adult recruit joining the Army in the same year. The adult takes an average of 17 years to reach the same rank.

The Junior Leaders go out on 25 exercises and camps annually to training areas like Otterburn, Stanford, Brecon and Penhale, the latter in Cornwall. The Junior Soldiers, by contrast, carry out eight exercises each year using the facilities on any of the 63 ranges comprising the nearby Cinque Ports Training Area (CPTA).

Thus, from next autumn, more than 1,000 boys will start out on their military careers from the brine-swept heights of Shorncliffe.

Enough professional manpower moulded from schoolboy immaturity to furnish the section leader needs of 18 battalions from the dozen regiments within The Queen's and The Prince of Wales's Divisions. Not forgetting the two dozen Junior potentials for The Royal Pioneer Corps.

The IJLB of old had existed at Shorncliffe since Junly 1974, its origins going back to 1952 as the Infantry Boys' Battalion. The latter was upgraded in 1958 to the IJLB and located at Harrogate and Tuxford until 1954 and a move to Plymouth.

Six years later it moved to Oswestry — Juniors served seven

terms there — until 1974. Meanwhile, in 1967, a Junior Infantryman's Battalion was stationed at Shorncliffe. In 1974 it was merged with the Oswestry battalion to form the IJLB until its demise into the pages of history with a nostalgic passing-out parade this August.

It was at Oswestry between 1960 and 1974, now regarded by many as the 'golden years' that the majority of the Quartermasters and Warrant Officers were produced for today's 34 infantry regiments within the Regular Army.

Following the announcement of the school leaving age being 16, Junior Leaders training was reduced from seven to a four-term cycle. This, in turn, was further decreased to the three-term, one-year course of today.

The move to Shorncliffe, however, was not without its bestowed honours. Just as the IJLB had been granted the Freedom of Oswestry in 1971, the newcomers to the Kent coast received the same recognition from Britain's most famous Channel port in 1977.

The charter of the Junior Infantry Battalion, as before, is to "educate and train Junior Leaders in order to fit them for a career as Warrant Officers or senior NCOs of the British infantry."

As Lieutenant-Colonel David Williams, Royal Green Jackets, Commanding Officer of the Battalion since February of last year pointed out, with some nostalgia: "It's significant and perhaps sad that no longer are the infantry juniors as a whole to be retained in one location from now on. The number of places were Juniors are to be trained has been reduced and yet the same numbers of boys

are to be trained with more economical use of training resources.

"The new system will make the training of young infantrymen more responsive to the needs and rates of development of individual recruits. It will also be cost-effective in reducing the number of separate training establishments."

He added: "On another sad note we, at Shorncliffe, after teaching the infantry's juniors of all badges — 50 of the 55 infantry battalion Juniors have passed through here — will lose the experience of Juniors from several Divisions and The Parachute Regiment embarking on their careers with the corresponding experience of working and learning about one another's traditions, regimental procedures and even differences in uniform."

"There is an adage that leaders are born and not made. If this were true there would be little requirement for the Junior Infantry Battalion. It is true that unless a person has a sufficient latent mix of inherent qualities which go to make up a leader, no amount of training will make him into a leader."

"It is equally true, however, that few people have developed all or any of the qualities required to anything like their limits. The task of the Infantry Junior Battalion is to develop these qualities in a period of three terms' training."

As in years gone by for any enlisted man or youth, the attitudes of newcomers to a new military society seldom changes. The first 'battle' which has to be won by the

continued on page 28



Youngsters from The Queen's Division undergo SLR teachings

Pictures: Les Wiggs



Junior Leaders receive instruction on how to take up firing positions



schoolroom emigres immediately on arrival is that hardy annual — home-sickness. That conquered, they are groomed in an acceptable way. Inculcated with initial leadership qualities, a phased programmed prelude to their chosen lifestyles.

But several of the boys do opt to leave at their own accord within weeks of arrival. They are also advised to leave if "the Army is not for them." Any of four official reasons suffice. Discharge As Of A Right (DAOR), services no longer required, medical or compassionate grounds.

"Many will go for DAOR but tend to enlist when more mature adults," explained Lt Col Williams. "Those who may not make Junior Leaders may make Junior Soldiers. Shorncliffe is, after all, Stage Three in the selection process after the initial approach to the appropriate Army Careers Information Office and later aptitude tests at the Army Personnel Selection Centre (APSC) at Sutton Coldfield."

The emphasis at Shorncliffe may have changed since the former battalion's move to the 400-acre site in 1968 but the accommodation remains basically the same.

The Junior Infantry Battalion is spread out amid a complex built for the RAOC from 1965-1967, living in ten-man rooms, the whole site given historic respectability by resident red-brick Victorian buildings and a statue, outside the library, of its most famous 'son', Sir John Moore.

The lads earn from £52 to £70 weekly before stoppages for food, accommodation and income tax. They are given £15 pocket money a week and the balance is stashed in their chosen building society or bank accounts.

And they eat well, too. Appetites in the sea air are voracious. Meat pies, pizzas, battered fish are firm gastronomic favourites. Plus tons



of chips, in the literal sense. Two hundredweight shovelled on to plates for every 500-man meal sitting, each youngster crunching his way through a seasoned eight ounces.

The educational side of battalion life covers written and oral communication coupled with leadership theory and practice, map reading, fieldcraft, methods of instruction and, importantly, how to instruct others.

The gamut of basic infantry skills implanted into young brains.

Among other vitally instilled infantryman assets are military calculations and orientation techniques for later military use.

Two evenings a week see compulsory hobby sessions — a choice of 18 which include horse riding, pistol shooting, gymnastics, sub-aqua, sailing and The Corps

of Drums.

Still on offer under the new tutorial regime for increased numbers are the many facilities contributing to that 'unique excellence'. Modern classrooms, labs, two gyms, the use of some of the nearby 63 CPTA ranges, a Junior Ranks Club (no alcohol is served), squash courts, an athletics track, an artificial cricket pitch, a dozen more assorted sports pitches and, of course, an assault course.

In days recently bygone, the maximum number of junior infantrymen at Shorncliffe was about 760. Next year, it will top the 1,000 mark. Yet tradition will still prevail. Like that of nominating the Junior Regimental Sergeant Major to head

Assault course enthusiasm from Jnr Pte Tindall and Jnr Sgt Grainger both The King's Own Scottish Borderers

up the prestigious passing-out parades in front of proud parents and pals — the leaving of the fledglings from their cliff-top academic eyrie as potential senior NCOs of tomorrow's Regular Army infantry battalions.

In August this honour went to Junior Regimental Sergeant Major Lee Hopgood, Grenadier Guards, also the recipient of the Best Junior Leader in the Field award, who conducted the 229-strong Junior Leader passing-out parade on the venerable barrack square.

His was a once-in-a-lifetime

## BLUE HAIR MADE ARMY SEE RED

THE IJLB is no longer as such. But former members of the Battalion will have their particular memories of it.

Men like the dozen NCOs who, in November 1973, shared a £14,000 pools win for a mere 50 pence stake each.

Or Junior Leader Johnny Severn who, somewhat disenchanted with Army life, decided to force his company commander to throw him out. Severn dyed his hair bright blue!

Queen's Regulations were hurriedly consulted to discover which offence he had committed with this tantalising tonsorial teaser.

In the end, he could only be charged with 'changing identity without permission'.

Furthermore, the company commander ordered young Severn to take daily shampoos.

Last sighting of the youngster who let things go to his head confirmed that his cranial follicle covering had turned ... blond!

## GUARD THAT EGG

A LOT of guardrooms keep some sort of silver trophy — or its replica — near the security of its provost-biased confines. Sporting achievements or whatever. The Junior Infantry Battalion at Shorncliffe is that bit different... It holds a replica Golden Egg award. Very much a gilded replica.

It was awarded to Arnham and Peninsula Companies of The Junior Leaders in November last year by Noel Edmonds of BBC-TV's 'The Late, Late Breakfast Show'.

The feat was to get a record number of people onto a long wheel-based Land-Rover. The young military geniuses managed to cram 153 of themselves onto the vehicle, pipping into a distant second place the efforts of a Young Farmers' Club.

Right: BBC Studios, London — The battalion in its soldiers-into-a-Land-Rover routine



The Noel Edmonds 'Golden Egg' Award replica



achievement. One for the inevitable annals.

A month later, the new intake arrived. Fresh-faced former schoolboys. Toughies. Mothers' boys. The bright and the not-so-bright among them. The aspiring 'Professionals'. Stubble replacing down-carpeted chins on apprehensive teenagers seeking a man's life in the British Army.

Youngsters who may, or may not, accept the rigid discipline of bed-block making every day. The polishing parades — 'bull nights' to the old and bold — and the first six weeks spent in accentuated arm-swinging, vocal marching 'aloud' round the camp confines. All a purposeful preamble to ridding themselves of the Parastyle 'crap hats' in favour, if lucky, of their head dress associated with future regimental cap badges after 'passing off the square'.

An analytical league table of just two years ago showed that the Battalion was a good jumping-off point for potential section commanders. Juniors could beat adult recruits, contemporaries to the rank of WO2, by up to five years; 12 years' service as opposed to 17.

After 12 years' service, among IJLB personnel, six per cent reached WO2 (2.6 per cent for adult entrants); 22.7 per cent had

made Staff Sergeant (11.8 per cent for adult entry) and 45 per cent attained Sergeant rank (39 per cent for adult entry).

Major Howard Holroyd, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, the Battalion second-in-command, says of his transient Juniors: "Everyone who finishes the course is changed. No selection system is infallible and the battalion receives some recruits who do not possess leadership qualities. However, after a year at Shorncliffe they will all make good infantrymen."

"The majority make good progress. Their knowledge is good. A few more need more time to achieve physical maturity. Some require more experience to improve their confidence and self-control. There are those who leave as established leaders."

Sentiments, one wonders, that may have been mulled over by Sir John Moore, as he surveyed his young men for the impending conflict with Napoleon. Killed at Corunna in 1809, Sir John, architect of a British Army training system at the birthplace of The Light Division, would surely have been proud of these eager latter-day descendants. Students at a "unique centre of excellence."

**Take aim, fire!**



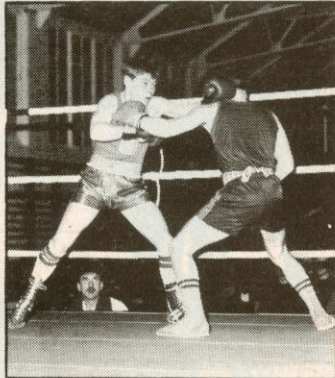
## SERGEANTS WERE SO CHEAP!

TWO YEARS ago it cost nearly £7½ million to train and sustain the 760 Junior Leaders split into four training companies at Shorncliffe.

Two centuries ago, in 1779 to be precise, the cost of maintaining 450 men was £12 a day for four companies. Today's cost is £68 each.

In comparison, 20 sergeants based at Shorncliffe cost one shilling a day; a score of corporals ran to eight pence a day; eight drummers cost five pence a day; two fifers ran to one shilling and four pence each; while 400 privates were billed at just sixpence a day.

## Sporting Champs



Prelude to the hard knocks in store during their adult Army careers



Competition on the sports field. The former IJLB in action against Harrogate's Army Apprentices' College

**THE BATTALION** has always been active in competition within the Army and outside it.

It has been Army Junior team champion in boxing, pentathlon, hockey, judo, trampolining, gymnastics, rugby, basketball, squash, football and tug-of-war.

Boxing has enjoyed particular success, the battalion having won the Army Inter-Unit team championship 16 out of 23 times. It has also produced 11 individual champions in the last six years.

The battalion tug-of-war team, in 1980, were Army and Combined Service champions and runners-up in the national championships.

Individual sportsmen from the battalion have had remarkable success. Junior Leader Crook in 1981 was Combined Services Champion and turned pro. Junior Leader Wood was Army Individual Golf Champion in 1975 while Junior Leader Etherton was Army Individual Canoeing champion and an all-England international in 1978.

Skill-at-arms has always been given a high priority and produced consistently excellent results across the battalion. This is reflected in the battalion's retention of the Bisley Junior Major Unit championship for the past four years. This year, Junior Leader Thomas, Royal Green Jackets, won the Army Junior Small-bore championship.





Ready to ride, sir

Below: The whole company assembled

# BIKING IS BEST, SAY THE FINNS

**Y**ESTERYEAR'S INVADING Hannibal had unerring faith in his Alpine echelons of African elephants. The traditionally neutral Finns still firmly believe in the silent but slow tactical advantages of the pedal-powered bicycle, writes Graham Smith.

So, too, did the British during the First World War. And successive infantry battalions in Hong Kong today do patrols along the 26-mile Anglo-Sino border on ... BMXs.

The outdoor Finns consider the trusty old bike not only healthy 'motion and practice for the soldier's body' but a silent and safe way of transportation. The Swiss still swear by the bike also.

The venerable velocipede, the Finns say, is also quite easy to move into the shadows of trees when an aerial attack is threatened.

Long, long ago when two-wheeled bikes took to the battle

lines their potential was recognised by successive generals. They could be used for recce scouts, despatch riders, sappers (covering a retreat by blowing bridges or cutting telephone cables), medical orderlies (one stretcher slung between four machines), artillery and cavalry guards (during assembly and bivouacking), guerillas (wheeling their way ahead of a retreating



Single file down the track



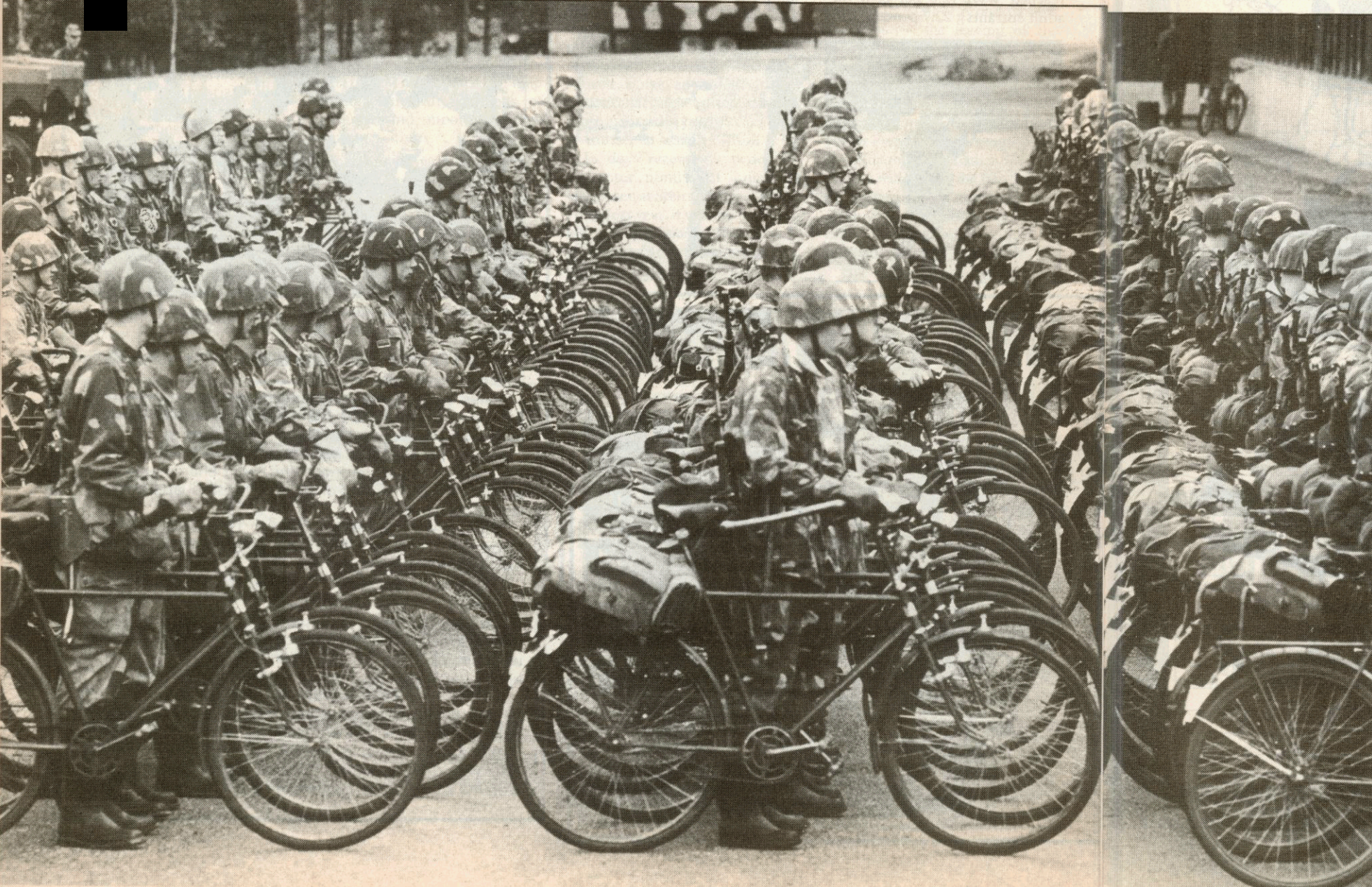
Orders are passed back down the line by hand signals



If an attack is expected, riders dismount so as to be more alert



Sometimes riders take to the woods, for instance if aerial attack is possible



enemy and forming an ambush) and home-based coast guards (patrols and look-outs warning of attacks from the sea).

Above all, cycles were speedy and silent. Cyclists, with rifles clipped to the crossbar, could come into action in seconds and hide themselves behind the scantiest of cover.

Cycle battalions could cover 50 miles a day and small parties of selected riders were able to travel 100 miles a day for several consecutive days without fatigue.

Ironically, cyclists could travel half as fast again as cavalry; more than 12 hours by day and seven by night.

British military cycling was set

in motion by Lieutenant-Colonel A R Savile, Professor of Tactics at the Royal Staff College Camberley, mustering his first parade in 1887 (the year of the pneumatic tyre) on a cricket ground in Canterbury.

The Finnish infantry uses bicycles the year round, even during the coldest months. Conscripts are issued with bikes during their early days of service. Their use: getting to know the garrison area and patrolling.

Tactics then come into it.

Bicycle marches usually involve a 120-strong Company or a 30-man Troop. These are broken down into small groups, each moving at about nine miles an hour and made up of 50 minutes on the move followed

by a 10-minute rest.

With the rider and his battlefield bike go rifles, machine guns and bazookas. Heavier arms are, of course, moved by vehicles and tractors.

Servicing is done on the move with ample spares on issue. There are even mobile depots with more spare parts and reserve bikes.

During his 11-month service the Finnish soldier will have cycled an average of 1,500 kilometres and there are still thousands of bikes in the Finnish Army's warehouses.

Army training officers believe that experience has shown there to be no vehicle that can compensate for those traditional bikes in their organisation.



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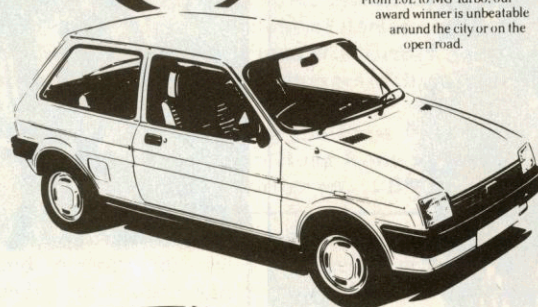
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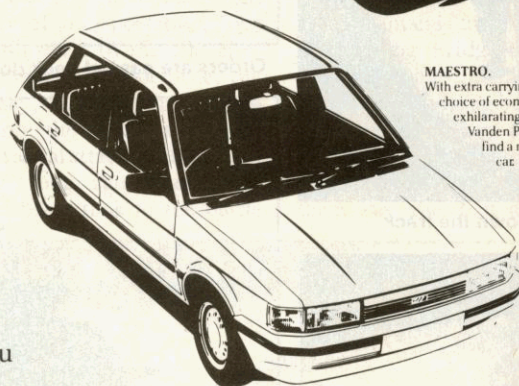
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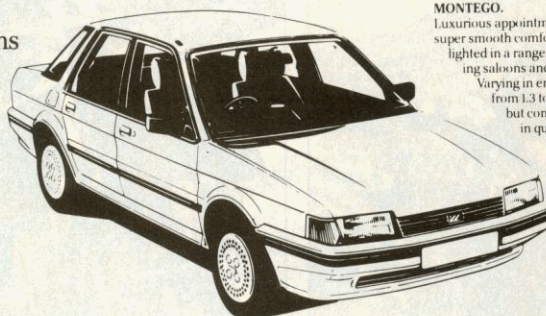
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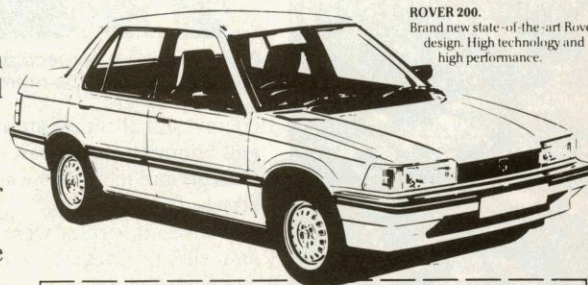
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# Light Division moves from



## A MUCH LOVED HOME

**W**ITH THREE First World War red-coated Chelsea Pensioners — all former riflemen — taking pride of place in the front row, military history ceremonially marked yet another chapter in the regimental annals with the final passing out parade held at Winchester's Light Division Depot of Peninsula Barracks.

A new purpose-built complex, Sir John Moore Barracks, Flowerdown, starts up shortly just 1½ miles from the cathedral city, writes Graham Smith.

Back-dropped by the famous Long Block, a restored fire-razed building which was once envisaged by Charles II as a rival to the Palace of Versailles, proud parents, friends and old soldiers braved the chill morning to watch the 69-strong passing out parade involving

'graduates' from Cassino Platoon.

Unluckiest pair of the accolade day culminating their 20-week training course, however, were Riflemen John O'Connell and David Crockford, both of 1st Battalion The Royal Green Jackets, who were unable to take their allotted places on the draughty square.

Young O'Connell was suffering from a kidney complaint and Crockford stood to attention on a pair of crutches; the result of a training accident at Sennybridge Ranges, Wales.

Even so, on the sidelines of the event, Inspecting Officer General Sir Frank Kitson, recently retired C-in-C UKLF and a former subaltern at the Depot of yesteryear, was brought over to congratulate and commiserate with them.

Minutes later Sir Frank, a representative colonel of the RGJ,

told the youngsters in front of him: "It's sad that our ties with this so loved barracks are coming to an end but it would be wrong to dwell on this aspect of the proceedings for any length of time.

"Suffice to say our military forbears have been blazing a trail of excellence through the centuries. It's the future that matters and not the past, and the future is in your hands.

"Don't be dismayed if, on occasion, you find yourself in a situation which can be made more adverse that you bargained for.

"If you have confidence in yourself and in your friends nothing will stop you. You are lucky to be going to the two best regiments in the British Army. Good luck."

It was the end of a 129-year association as far as The Royal Green Jackets were concerned. A site supporting a military presence for 1,000 years. The place where 1,000 immigrant priests once could be heard chanting as far away as the nearby town centre. A gaol for French prisoners of war from the Napoleonic Wars.

Cassino, Tobruk and Kohima Platoons were mustered in front of the colonnaded Long Block on a square associated with the founding of the King's Royal Rifle Corps depot in 1858.

Naturally, to Cassino Platoon, average age 17, went the honour of a silent movement drill display, the 'orders' given by bugles from the Light Division School of Music at Shrewsbury.

It was Cassino Platoon — the largest pass-out platoon in the last six years — from the famed 140 paces-a-minute Light Division, who doubled past the saluting dais.

Topicality of the day was not forgotten either. Four teams from the passing out platoon ran a race to raise money for the BBC's all-

**Cassino Platoon doubling past the saluting dais**

day telethon for the Children in Need appeal.

Company Sergeant Major 'Ken' Kennedy, watching the teenagers on parade said: "I am very pleased with their performance today. They've done very well, particularly during the final days on the Sennybridge Training Area where the weather was pretty appalling."

Later, the PRI shop did a brisk trade in selling regimental items and souvenirs. At Winchester's impressive Guildhall, 229 people, including 48 guests, sat down to a three-course honour luncheon dished up by the Light Division Master Chef WO2 Meecham and served up by an Army stewards course.

The lunchers tucked into smoked salmon, beef stroganoff, cheese and biscuits and coffee. There, Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, recently retired as Chief of the General Staff made a speech.

In it, he reminded all: "Although we rightly on this grey day are making something of the sad closing of a much loved home which can no longer be developed to modern military needs we are only, in fact, moving 1.6 miles down the road to Flowerdown, to a superb and ample site with wonderful modern facilities in keeping with the needs and deserts of today's young volunteer soldiers. It is certainly not good-bye or even au revoir."

In the afternoon the 1st Battalion The Royal Green Jackets exercised their Freedom of the City of Winchester marching through the city with swords fixed, band playing and bugles sounding. It was last exercised in 1978.

For two years the Peninsula Barracks depot has been one of twin Light Division depots, the other being at Shrewsbury.



Pictures: Paul Haley

General Sir Frank Kitson commiserates with Riflemen Crockford (left) on crutches and O'Connell



## WORLD TREK 85:

# LUXURY IS A PAIR OF DRY SOCKS

**T**HEY ARE back now. Dysentery (five cases of it)... a loss of a stone in weight each... failed to deter a team from the 17th/21st Lancers from their avowed aim of spending 70 days walking across three continents during their Worldtrek 85.

An adventurous odyssey that would take them literally climbing to new heights in Nepal, New Zealand, Fiji and the USA. An expedition boasting 33 sponsors and costing £16,000 in the first three months alone.

For as Captain Hamish Fulton, back from the expedition, says: "It combined the best high altitude walking to be found anywhere in the world with the finest equipment and support available. It provided its team with a unique blend of hardship, travel and danger."

The intrepid trekkers had four main aims. To walk and climb in the Khumba Himal of eastern Nepal; to climb a mountain in the southern Alps of New Zealand in mid-winter; to cross the island of Fiji by foot and by raft; and to climb to the summit of the highest mountain "in the contiguous United States."

The Khumbu Himal trek to 14,000 feet took 16 days amid monsoons, early eventide mos-

quitos, steamy mud and mist, crisp mornings, and endless tea stops.

They yearned for warm and dry beds to a man. What they would have given for a slice or two of the crispiest bacon!

Captain Fulton recalls: "Yet, just to be there, made us forget our warm and sheltered life to the extent when sheer luxury became a dry pair of socks or a nip of our precious malt whisky."

South Island welcomed the adventurers after a "lightning journey" through the varied delights of Bangkok, Singapore and Sydney. Their mountain objective was achieved.

But not before the weather had clamped down changing to snow and freezing temperatures, well below zero. Luckily, they found their tents again in a lofty, whitening world.

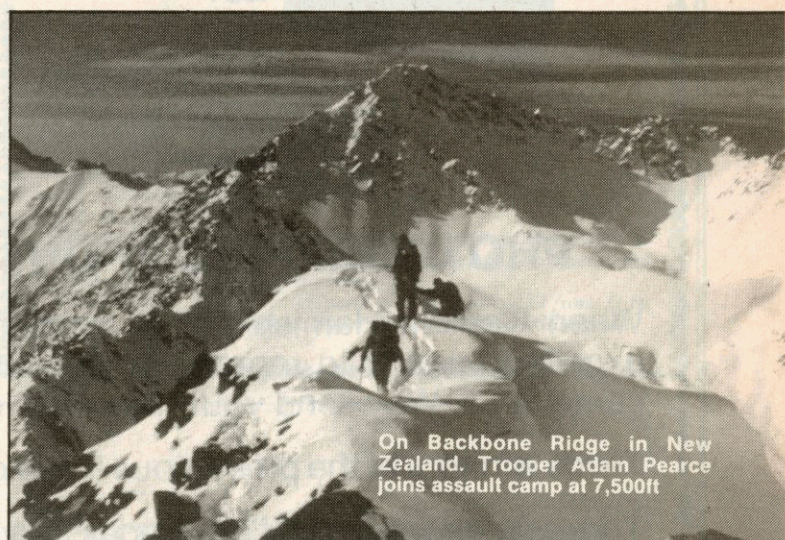
Fiji. That was different. According to the travel log it "oozes sun, let alone cocktails, tourists and beaches."

They had to settle for sun... and boiling days walking along ill-fated paths. They were back-packing, too. Two-thirds of the main island, Vitu Levu, was trekked in six days followed by a 30-mile three-raft dash down the Navua River to the ocean.

But it was America, according to common consensus, which was



Monsoon in Nepal. Cpl Mally Davies and Cpl Vic Waters with Ang Tille Sherpa on the way to Everest



On Backbone Ridge in New Zealand. Trooper Adam Pearce joins assault camp at 7,500ft

to be "our crowning glory". Mount Whitney, 14,495 feet, was the target. Its summit was conquered.

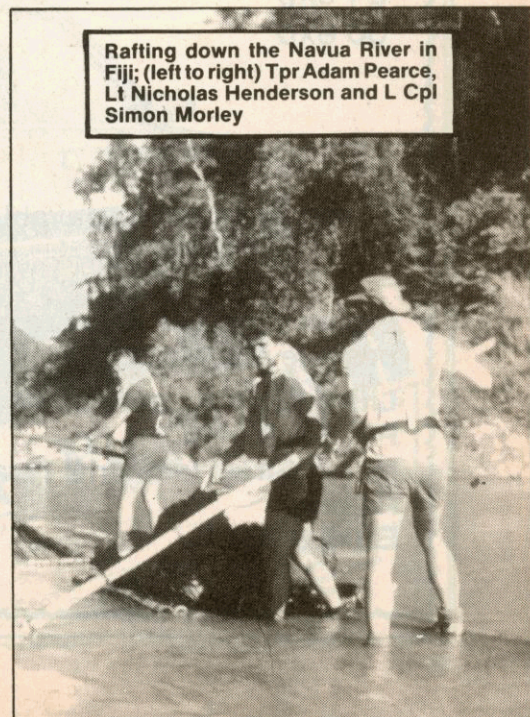
The trek was all but over. Tanned, and missing kit — it had strayed away on mountains or was lost in rapids — the team flew into a drizzle-draped London.

Captain Fulton said: "Our gains

far outweighed all these temporary complaints. For if to go adventure training is the privilege of the minority of us, even once in a lifetime, then Worldtrek 85 will surely last in our minds as the combination of all life's luck and adventure that we are ever likely to want for again."



Base camp in Gladstone Valley, New Zealand

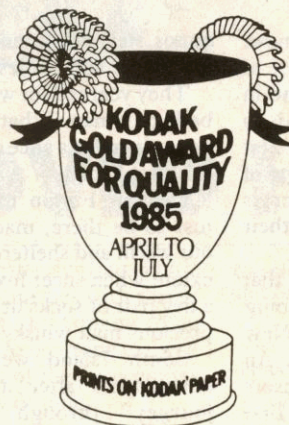


Rafting down the Navua River in Fiji; (left to right) Tpr Adam Pearce, Lt Nicholas Henderson and L Cpl Simon Morley



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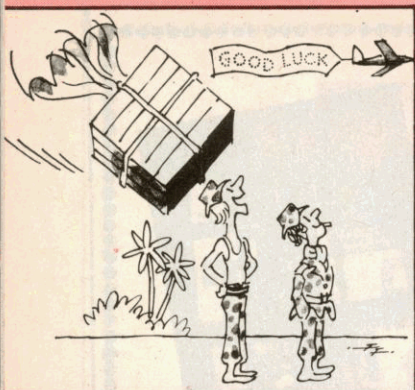
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## SMOKING

I was most interested to read the article entitled 'Fitness is the Key!' in **SOLDIER** (4 Nov). The work currently being carried out at The Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich is certainly an eye-opener — I would, I must admit, probably have been amongst the majority of people thinking that any form of strenuous exercise after a heart attack, or when suffering with any other form of heart disease, would only prove negative. I was pleasantly surprised to read that it is actually the opposite.

I was not surprised, however, to learn that the main cause of heart attacks/heart disease is cigarette smoking. I would not wish to take a 'holier-than-thou' attitude towards the evils of smoking, as I have smoked myself in the past, but thankfully realised the error of my ways before I actually became 'hooked'.

Therefore, although I am fully aware of the unpleasantness that someone else's cigarette causes to a non-smoker, I have no desire to reel off a list of everything a non-smoker finds unsavoury when in the presence of a person smoking a cigarette. Personally I do not find this subject so much disturbing as sad.

It seems such a dreadful shame that people should have to suffer heart attacks and the like purely because of either social etiquette or because of the body's dependency on nicotine. It could all so easily be avoided with a lot of willpower on the smoker's part and with a little help from friends and relatives.

I did not have any difficulty in giving up cigarettes myself, but my husband has smoked since he was a teenager, and although he has cut down drastically over the past couple of years, he still finds it incredibly hard to take the final step and stop smoking completely, which unfortunately is probably the case for thousands of other smokers too.

I'm afraid Sir Walter Raleigh has quite a lot to answer for, wouldn't you say? — (Name and address supplied).

## GREENJACKETS

I was surprised to read an editorial in a national newspaper of the plight of a few ex-soldiers of the Royal Green-jackets who are now existing on handouts from NHSS after being blasted by an IRA bomb while doing their duty entertaining the public in Regents Park.

When musicians of the RAF German band were killed and injured in a tragic coach crash the Senior RAF Director of Music went to work and a concert was organised at The Barbican.

# MAIL DROP

The proceeds were used, I believe, to help relieve the hardship caused.

As a person who has enjoyed military band concerts, at Wembley, in concert halls and on bandstands at the seaside I feel that I am "one of them". So, possibly, do others. Has anything been done to help those musicians? Where can I send my small contribution? At a time when we are helping the starving in Africa, the deprived children of London etc, surely we can help these few military musicians over a sticky patch. — (Name and address supplied).

*The public fund for the Regent's Park injuries has closed but The Rifleman's Aid Society, Peninsula Barracks, Winchester, Hants, will be delighted to receive any donations to help the injured men, preferably for individual bandmen but alternatively for the injured men collectively — Ed.*

## THAT FLAG AGAIN

With reference to **SOLDIER** (18 Nov) on page 32 the caption should read "The British parade commander explains to his NATO friends why the Union Flag is carried on parade inverted".

I hope G Wilmot (Mail Drop same issue) enjoys looking at these 'Real Soldiers' who do not know the correct way to fly their National Flag.

I'll bet the young Nursing Sisters under training in the BBC TV film 'Nurses in Battle' know how. If those giggling girls develop with training into the smart, efficient, keen, kind and caring Nursing Sisters that I have met at the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich, then all I can say is, Thank Heaven for Little Girls, even in they do giggle. — A Maddock, 42 Narrabeen Road, Folkestone, Kent.

## MEMORIES

The article in **SOLDIER** Magazine (4 Nov), referring to an In Memoriam notice by Major General Godfrey Hamilton, about an action on the North West Frontier in 1935, revived many memories for me.

I served with 'A' Corps Signals India, and at the start of trouble in Mohmed territory North of Peshawar, we became part of 'Mohforce' and moved into the area at Ghalania Camp, close to Wucha Jawar, and we could hear the action mentioned in the account.

I still have the Indian newspaper cuttings, giving an account of the action, and casualties, which confirm the account given in the **SOLDIER** article.

The account you published may stir a few memories among any former comrades who served with 'A' Corps Sigs, because after leaving India in February 1939, I have only met two in the last fifty years.

Many thanks for an excellent magazine, and especially so when we get an extra bonus, like the above section in which one was involved so many years ago. — F Faulkner, 16 Tavistock Road, Bolton, Lancs.

## VOICE AND EARS

249 Signal Squadron (AMF(L)) is not a covert unit! 249 Signal Squadron (AMF(L)) is the Force radio Squadron. It is the voice and ears of the Force, providing (usually) comms for the main

**SOLDIER** is delighted to receive readers' letters. These are YOUR pages.

Please keep letters brief and type them if possible. Use only one side of the paper, with double spacing between lines.

Readers' letters must give full name and address, but not necessarily for publication.

Keep your letters flowing to: Mail Drop, **SOLDIER**, Parsons House, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

Unfortunately, **SOLDIER** does not have the staff to undertake detailed research on matters of military history, militia etc, but will try to provide answers on matters of general military interest through these columns.

Contributions for Call Signs are restricted to appeals by individuals trying to trace old comrades, and these, and insertions for the Reunions column, must be brief and will only be published once. Items connected with commercial gain cannot be accepted for free insertion.

staff to the Commanders in the field. As any soldier knows communications are the most important lifeline between the fighting troops and their commanders and vice versa.

So what?, you may ask. Why is it whenever 249 Signal Sqn deploy for example to Norway, Denmark and Turkey this year, hardly more than a sentence is ever written in **SOLDIER**? We do realise that you must try to mention everyone but why it is that as far as the Force is concerned 249 Signal Sqn is left out to let other units come to the forefront every time.

So come on lads, give us 'Sigies' a chance. — Main Troop, 249 Signal Sqn (AMF(L)), Ward II Bks, Bulford Camp, Salisbury, Wilts. Surprise, surprise! In this issue there is a story about '249' which was held over from the last issue because of space problems — Ed

## GOODWILL

On Oct 23 to 27 1944 the 53rd Welsh Div liberated the Dutch town of s-Hertogenbosch. This year the town celebrated its 800th year of the foundation of the city and the 40th year of the liberation of the town.

To mark this event the town invited the 53rd Welsh Div to join in the celebrations. 475 ex-members made the trip with their wives making nearly 1,000 in all. We were all accommodated in private homes free of charge.

The Dutch people could not do enough for us. The friendship and feeling of goodwill to us was fantastic, not forgetting that this was 40 years on. I don't think any of us will ever forget those five days.

I would like to add my personal thanks to Mr Luc Van Sent who organised the whole celebration. — A Short, 32 Tartame Lane, Dymchurch, Kent.

## REFURBISHED

In your Mail Drop columns during I think, October/November 1984, you published a letter from Howard Dodsworth under the heading Heroes' Rest. Mr Dodsworth was appalled at the state of the grave of Colonel A D Borton VC CMG DSO in Hunton Churchyard.

After correspondence with the survivors of Colonel Borton's family and the Vicar of St Nicholas Church in Hunton, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Association undertook to have the headstone refurbished.

This was completed in time for Remembrance Day and after the

Service, wreaths were laid on behalf of The Queen's Regiment and The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment by the Secretary. — Lt Col L M Wilson MBE, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Association, Regimental Headquarters, The Queen's Regiment, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent.

## Competition

Once again, no-one managed to work out an all-correct list of answers for **SOLDIER**'s competition No 373, but two readers had all but two answers right. The lucky winner was Mrs E C Sheppard who lives in Ireland. Congratulations Mrs Sheppard. A £50 cheque is on its way.

## How Observant Are You?

1 Keyhole of door. 2 Number of mistletoe berries above door. 3 Length of left "arm" of girl's balloon. 4 Length of Sellotape in dispenser. 5 Size of TV screen. 6 Man's left thumb. 7 Second tree-ball below star. 8 Girl's right leg. 9 Number of items in Decorations box. 10 Length of mouth of "snake" balloon.

## Call Signs

Mr Frank Langmaid, 72 Easington Way, South Ockenden, Essex, is anxious to contact any former colleagues of 48 DR Section, Royal Signals with whom he served in the Second World War. He joined the Section in October 1939 and was still a Despatch Rider when demobbed in January 1946, having served in France, the Far East, India, Mauritius and Kenya.

All ex-members of the Parachute Sqn, RAC (1965-76) are asked to contact Mr Steve Thompson, in connection with a reunion which is to be held next year.

Mr George Thomas Smith is anxious to contact old Army friends who served with him in the Royal Army Medical Corps from January 1955 until January 1961. A/Sgt Smith was attached to 36 Field Ambulance during service in Oswestry, Nairobi, Nicosia, SHAPE HQ in Paris, and at the Army School of Physical Training. Mr Smith is now in a home for physically handicapped in Rotherham, and his former colleagues should write c/o Mr Ernest Jepson, 11 Firth St, Greasbrough, Rotherham, South Yorkshire, S61 4PP.





**I**T'S 'thinking-about-holidays' time again. So how would YOU like to win a FREE holiday, just by solving a simple competition.

SOLDIER is linking with Ladbroke Holidays, one of Britain's major holiday companies, to offer readers the chance to win a free self-catering holiday for up to six people at any of Ladbroke's holiday sites next year. And even if you don't win that, there are valuable prizes for the two runners-up, and holiday discounts for SOLDIER readers.

Ladbroke Holidays has a total of 16 holiday locations in popular

tourist areas along the east, south and south-west coasts and also in the Scottish highlands, all providing a wide range of family entertainment including heated fun-pools, themed activity areas, games rooms and live cabaret every evening.

Their holiday centres and villages are all within easy reach of beautiful countryside, historic towns and popular tourist attractions. And there are special discounts for their customers at many local visitor attractions.

Ladbroke is spending several million pounds on expanding and upgrading accommodation and

entertainment facilities. Modern, fully serviced accommodation is available including villas, chalets and caravans. There will be quality cabaret acts, live music and dancing in the evenings, a full schedule of outdoor and indoor sports activities during the day.

To give yourself a chance of winning a FREE holiday, all you have to do is enter the 'Spot the difference' competition on this page. Circle at least ten differences on Picture A and post your entry to Holiday Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU, together with the completed coupon. Your entry

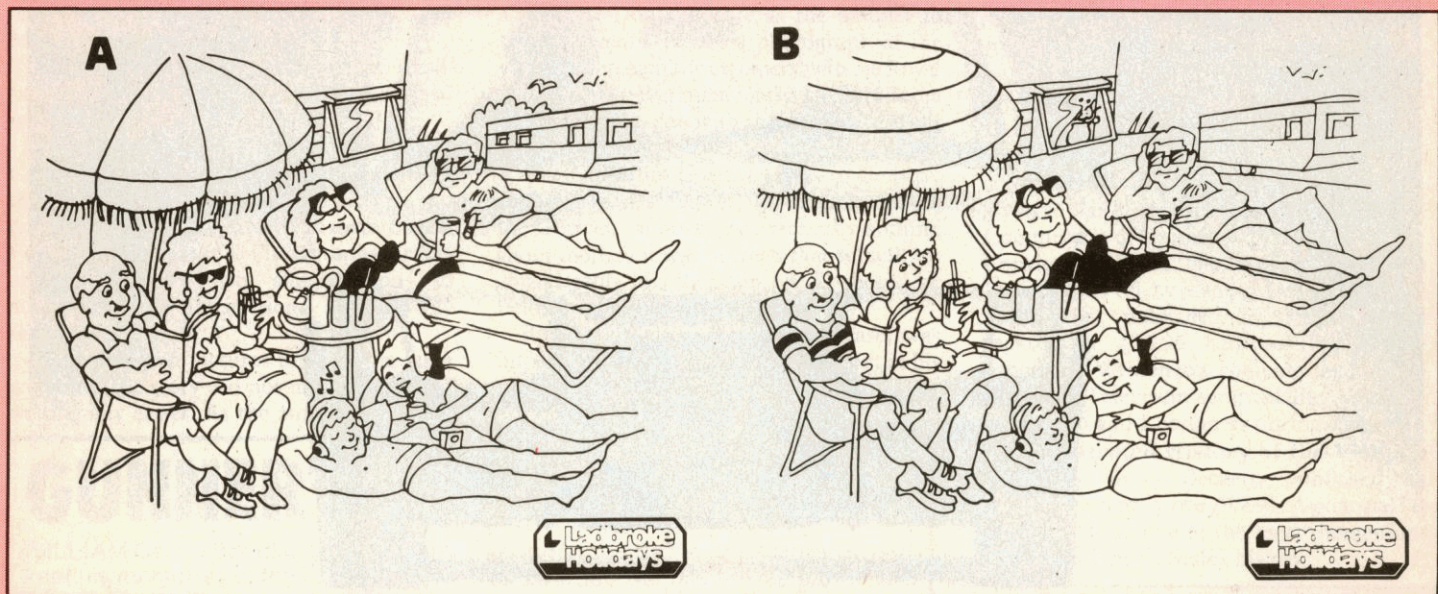
must arrive by Friday 31 January.

To win first prize you must find all the differences on the picture. If more than one person spots them all, the winner will be drawn.

The runners-up prize will be a £75 voucher off any Ladbroke holiday, and there will be a third prize worth £50 off any Ladbroke holiday.

But everyone who enters the competition will automatically receive a discount cheque which will entitle them to up to £40 off a Ladbroke holiday, the amount depending on the holiday selected.

So post your entry NOW. And solve your holiday problem early.



## HOORAY FOR HOAY

THE response to SOLDIER's £50 prize for its HOAY competition (No375 in SOLDIER 4 November) was so enthusiastic that from the first issue of next year HOAY will become the regular prize-winning competition.

In the current issue of SOLDIER you have two opportunities to try your skill at a HOAY puzzle — one on this page with the chance to win a free holiday, and the other on page 18 just for fun.

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# Monty's side beat Germans Forty-Nil

A PICTURE, they say, is worth a thousand words. On that assessment the latest biography on Field Marshal the Viscount Montgomery of Alamein packs more into its 160 pages that a similar work might do in three volumes.

The author is Monty's youngest brother, Colonel Brian Montgomery, who is, apart from one 90-year-old sister, the only survivor of the nine children of Bishop and Mrs Henry Montgomery.

Over 10 years ago he made a substantial contribution to the Monty bibliography with his first book, 'A Field Marshal in the Family'. Now aged 82, and a couple of books later, he has produced 'Monty, A Life in Photographs', which, as the name clearly suggests, is a pictorial record of the life of his illustrious brother.

As a member of the family Colonel Montgomery had one obvious advantage in undertaking the task. He was able to provide at least 60 per cent of the 214 illustrations which form the basis of the book. The rest he had to track down and borrow from individuals or such institutions as the Imperial War Museum or the London Library.

"It seemed to me so many people have written pages and pages about this great man," Colonel Montgomery told SOLDIER. "I wondered whether it would be possible to select a series of photos and arrange them in sequence and thereby try to show his life and work in a much more simple and shortened form, possibly letting his qualities of leadership and his character shine through the pictures instead of the printed page.

"This is an attempt on my part and it will be for the reader to say whether I am right or wrong."

As the author of three previous books, Colonel Montgomery obviously has strong feelings about the dislocation of pictures and text which occurs of necessity in many books. For 'Monty — A Life in Photographs' he has arranged linking text and captions to accompany the illustrations all the way through.

But relying on pictures to carry the main weight of the story did not make the task of writing any easier. As the author explained,



Monty: source of endless fascination

words had to be chosen much more carefully for a text only a quarter the length of a more orthodox biography.

As Monty was 16 when his youngest brother was born it is hardly surprising that there is not a lot of personal reminiscence in this book. However, the author does repeat the story from his own infancy of teenage Monty's remonstrance with his parents when baby Brian was awarded the initials BF.

Like many great men Monty's story is based a great deal on anecdote as the adjunct to stirring events. Hence a photograph of the young Lieutenant Montgomery with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment football team in India before WWI is run with the story of his first encounter with German forces.

The battleship *Gneisenau* was in Bombay and a friendly match was arranged. As the German sailors knew practically nothing about football it was decreed that something considerably less than the 1st XI should be fielded against them.

But Monty, as was often the case, was impervious to political niceties. He put in his very best players who won the match 40-0!

Colonel Montgomery was also a member of

the Royal Warwicks, his brother's old regiment, but only for a short time. His interest in hunting and horses took him to East Africa for a time and later to India where he joined the Indian Army and became the last British CO of the Baluch Regiment.

After partition and the end of British rule he joined the Foreign Service and worked as a diplomat, mainly in the Middle East, for 22 years. And finally, at a time when most people think of little more than retirement, he embarked on another career as an author.

He said his wife Bunty was the main inspiration for the second biography. But she died in 1983 and since then he has been working by himself on this tribute to the remarkable career of his famous elder brother.

As for any suggestion of flooding the market with Monty memorabilia, he didn't think there would be much danger of that. Like Napoleon, or Wellington or Marlborough, Monty would remain, he said, a source of endless fascination for future generations of authors and their readers. — RH.

● MONTY — A Life In Photographs, by Brian Montgomery (Blandford Press £10.95).

## BOOKS IN BRIEF

**Afghanistan:** The Soviet War, by Edward Girardet, Special correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor, Boston, published by Croom Helm Ltd at £17.95. Based on the author's five clandestine trips into Afghanistan with the resistance during the Soviet occupation.

**Clouds of Deceit:** The Deadly Legacy of Britain's Bomb Tests, by Joan Smith, published by Faber and Faber Ltd, cased at £8.95 or paperback £4.95. The story of Britain's nuclear weapons tests in the 1950s, told through interviews and eye-witness accounts, from official documents and evidence given to the Australian Government's Royal Commission of Inquiry.

**London At War:** The Making of Modern London 1939-45, by Joanna Mack and Stephen Humphries, published by Sidgwick and Jackson at £13.95 hardback and £9.95 paperback. Written to accompany the London Weekend Television series, telling the story of London and Londoners during the war.

**The Illustrated History of the Vietnam War,** by Brian Beckett, published by Blandford Press, price £19.95. A pictorial in-depth guide to one of the most momentous periods in United States history.

## GUNNER'S RECOLLECTIONS

WILLIAM Carr, a Scottish farmer's son, kept his memories of the horrors of the First World War in his mind for 60 years before his daughter persuaded him to put them on paper. Now they have been published under the title of 'A Time to Leave the Ploughshares', but sadly William Carr died just before the book was released — in his 101st year.

William Carr was a gunner, commissioned in the Royal Field Artillery in 1916, and found himself posted to 169 Army Brigade, taking over part of the front line south of Armentieres. Shortly before he enlisted, there had been great excitement on the family farm near Stonehaven in Scotland when the first tractor arrived in the area; within the next two years William Carr was to pass from his peaceful life as a farmer's son, to see the first tanks go into effective

action at the Battle of Cambrai — and be awarded the MC for his part in the battle — to endure the massive military barrage which began the German offensive of March 1918, to smell the stench of piles of rotting bodies, to see his comrades slaughtered around him, and to become haunted by the horror of watching his guns blast enemy soldiers into eternity.

His account of the day-by-day life of a gunner officer in the period described by Lloyd George as "the greatest chapter of our military history", is told simply yet graphically, with feeling yet without undue sentimentality. What a great pity he did not survive to see it published. — AT.

A Time To Leave the Ploughshares by William Carr, (Robert Hale, London. £8.50).

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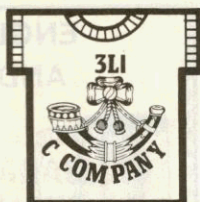
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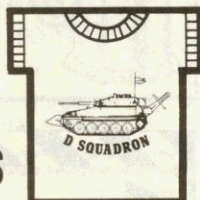
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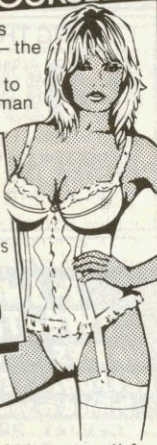
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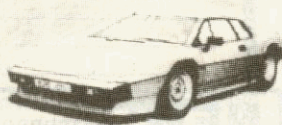
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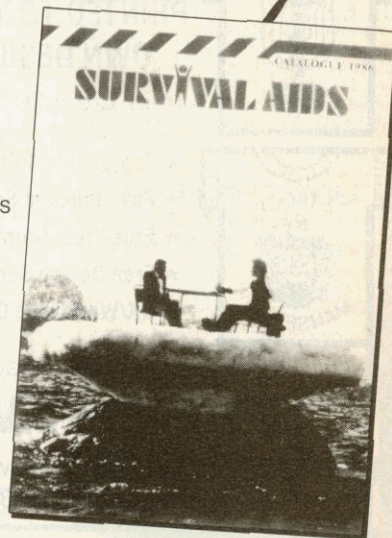
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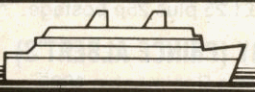
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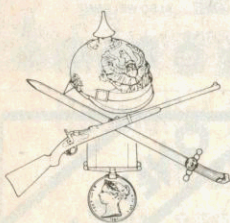
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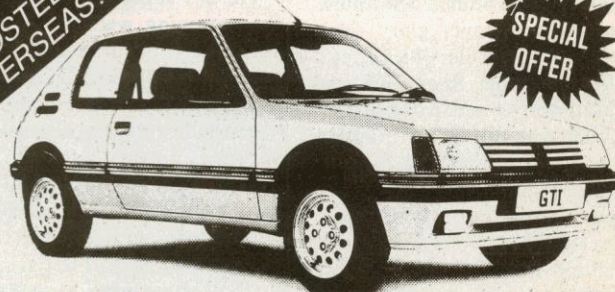
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# Title regained in five game fight

WO2 DEREK Collins has won back his Royal Engineers Open Squash Championship title in a fascinating five-game battle against raw recruit Sapper Nick Turton at Chatham.

Collins lost his title last year to his old rival, WO2 Jim Inglis, now stationed in Hong Kong, and slotted into the 58-man championships as the Number 2 seed, but Inglis's career at the top was ended by 19-year-

old Nick Turton, from the training regiment near Aldershot.

In the semi-finals the young left-hander had a nervous start, dropped the first game an astonishing 0:9, then was in no danger as his confidence matched his style and skill, to take the next three games against WO2 Inglis.

But, in the final on the glass-back court Collins was in blistering form. Turton took the next two

games but he could not match the experience and superb fitness of Collins, and at the end of a tough weekend of squash found Collins unstoppable.

But the stylish youngster looks certain to be a future title holder, and a force in Royal Engineers squash.

Results: RE Open Championships: WO2 Derek Collins beat Sapper Nick Turton 9:6, 9:5, 4:9,

5:9, 9:3. Semi-finals: Turton beat WO2 Jim Inglis 0:9, 9:6, 9:4, 9:7. Collins beat LCpl Nigel Hissey 9:0, 9:1, 9:0. Plate: LCpl Joe Royle beat Sergeant Nick Grimshaw 9:5, 9:7, 9:2.

Team Championship: 1 and 3 Training Regt beat 26 Regt: Sgt Barry Hawksford lost to Hissey 2:9, 9:7, 6:9, 4:9; Turton beat Corporal Gavin Eyre 9:7, 9:6, 3:9, 9:3; Corporal Paul O'Donnell beat LCpl Steve Lowe 9:4, 9:2, 9:4.

## GUNNERS' GLORY

THE GUNNERS have hit the target again — for the fourth consecutive year. The Royal Artillery have won the Inter-Corps Orienteering championships held in the New Forest.

The competition has been competed for annually since 1974 by six-man Corps teams.

This year, 14 teams had entered the event with the winners turning in a time of six hours 23 minutes. The three runners-up were REME with seven hours 19 minutes, the Infantry with a time of seven hours 21 minutes and the Sappers with a timing of seven hours 25 minutes.

Individual gunner glory went to Lance Bombardier Mick Brett, of 94 Locating Regt, RA, at Larkhill who turned in a time over the 10.6 kms of just 58 minutes and Staff Sgt Mick Goode from the same regiment with a clock-in time of just 59 minutes. Captain John Dowty, a TA officer with 100 Field Regt RA (Volunteers) of London returned a time of 60 minutes.

## ARMY TRIO BEAT SWEDES

THREE British Army officers overturned the form book and made a bit of local history when they defeated three strong Swedish Army teams in the United Nations Force In Cyprus (UNFICYP) orienteering championship.

The competition was a three leg relay race between the eight national contingents making up the 2,500 strong force (including Swedes, Finns and Danes).

Captains Richard Croft, Ian France and Mick Heath ran an error-free race to romp home 11 minutes clear of the first Swedish team.

Croft's flying first leg dealt the Swedes a blow from which they never recovered.

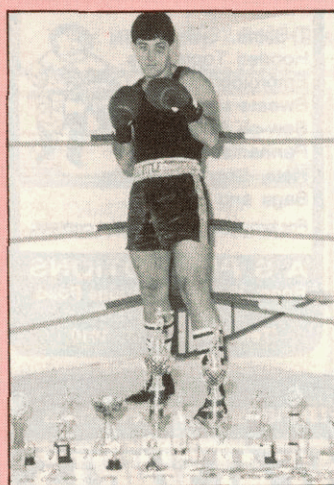
## PAUL KO's THE GERMANS

ARMY boxing history was made at Bochum when Sergeant Paul Davies of the Army Physical Training Corps won the heavyweight amateur title of West Germany, the first Briton to do so.

Paul was born in Malawi and his father coached the Malawi National team, taking them to the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh, so it's not surprising that Paul took up boxing.

He has represented the army for swimming, water polo, boxing and rugby. At unit level he has gained many titles for shot, discus, hammer and badminton and he is a keen golfer, playing off a handicap of nine.

The West German final took place at Bochum and Paul faced a bigger man with greater reach, Godfried Sontgen. The fight went the full three rounds and was a hard bruising battle. Paul took the



fight to the German with a combination of punching to the head and body and his superior fitness. Not surprisingly Paul has had offers to turn professional, which he has declined.

## '66' TAKE TROPHIES

THE carpenters were called in to enlarge the trophy cabinet at 66 Squadron RCT after the Tidworth hexathlon! Competing in six sports against 28 other company-sized teams from 1 Infantry Brigade and Tidworth Garrison, 66 Sqn carried off the winners trophies in football and hockey. By reaching the semi-finals in everything except rugby they became overall winners.

The competition is held annually in Tidworth, and involved more than 1,500 players. Some sub-units had only a handful of men left to hold the fort, once they had taken men for volleyball, basketball, rugby, cross-country, hockey and football teams.

## Champion loses

THE reigning Combined Services squash champion, Capt Robbie Robinson, lost his title to the RAF No 1, Cpl Dave Clark, in the Combined Services Individual Squash Championships at Farnham, Surrey.

Robinson, from JCP RAOC, Viersen, was strongly tipped to win for the third year running, especially as he is the current British amateur champion. He took the first two games 9:6, 9:7. In the third and vital game the airman from HQ Strike Command, High Wycombe, desperately kept up with Robinson, eventually winning 10:8, and then took the next two games 9:1, 9:1.

## SHIPPING BEWARE

SEVEN students currently attending Army Staff Course No 19 successfully crossed the Channel on windsurfers to gain sponsorship for the RNLI and the Army Benevolent Fund. The event was organised by Major Martin Masters RTR.

Bad weather curtailed the first attempt but on the second Major Tony Carruth RE completed a successful crossing in six and a half hours, covering 30 miles.

All the other participants completed between four and 20 miles of the crossing in extremely trying northerly winds.

The participants had been training all year for the crossing. Coastguards at Dover gave considerable assistance by warning all shipping in the busiest shipping lane in the world.

Perhaps one of the most worrying moments on the crossing was when Major Carruth and Wing Commander David Hawkins (RAFLO) crossed only metres in front of an ocean-going tug towing two enormous grain barges. The first recorded attempt to sink part of the EEC grain mountain!

**ACTION** from the Army v New Zealand Combined Services rugby match at Aldershot which the visitors won 37-6. The Army's points came from two penalties taken by Capt Clive Bentley. With only a few matches remaining of their month-long tour, the New Zealanders were unbeaten when SOLDIER went to press. (Pictures: Paul Haley).







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