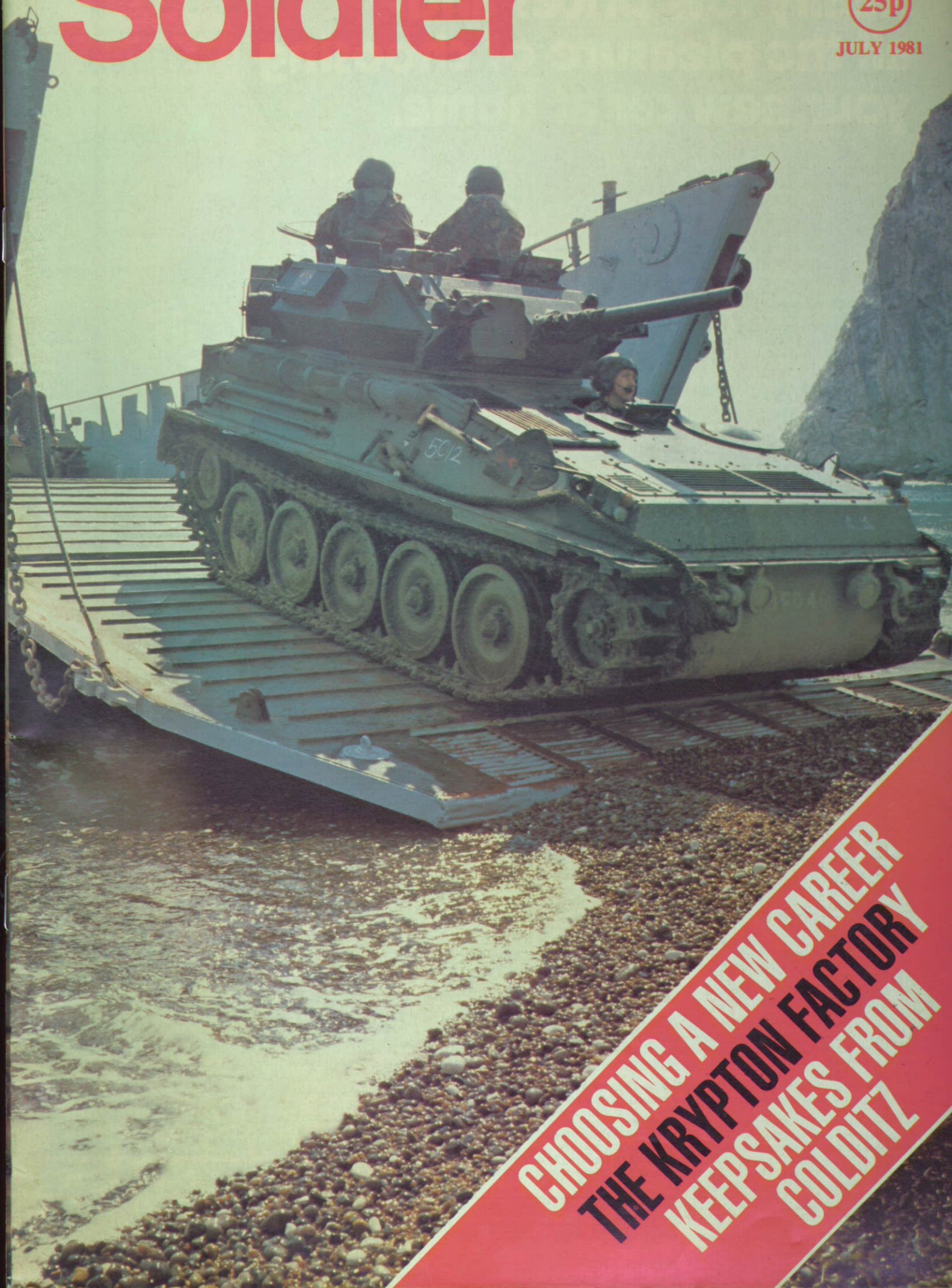


# Soldier

25p

JULY 1981



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A Scorpion of 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers boards a landing craft at Arish Mell beach in Dorset during a recent Navy/Army exercise to practise ship-to-shore landings.  
Picture by Doug Pratt

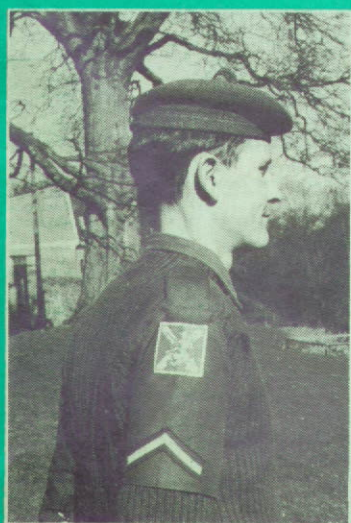


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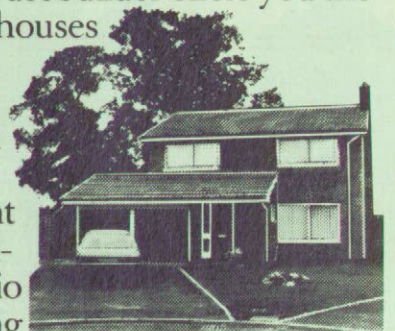
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# SCOTTISH INFANTRY DEPOT



Above: Tossing the caber, Glencorse depot style.  
Right: Same recruits but a whole pole apart.



## WARRIORS BRIDIE

Story: Graham Smith

EVERY YEAR, NEARLY 900 teenage soldiers under adult training for the Scottish Division's seven infantry regiments — three Lowland and four Highland — forsake their haggis and neeps (swedes) to graduate to military maturity at the Scottish Infantry Depot, Glencorse.

And after 18 weeks the youngsters, whether wearing glengarries, kilts, trews, spats, gaiters or simply disruptive patterned combat kit topped by Tam o'Shanter, emerge from Glencorse (regimental headquarters of the Royal Scots, Britain's oldest infantry regiment) with, in the words of one instructor, a "fierce nationalistic pride in the traditional sense of the word" for their new regiments.

The Depot, nine miles south of Edinburgh and overlooked by the Pentland Hills,

also hosts 'J' Company — 215 youngsters aged 16 who spend a four-term year there.

For the permanent instructing staff 'fierce pride' is not just something they try to instil in their charges. They make every conscious effort to involve and interest the families and friends of the young soldiers in the training process too.

Major 'Paddy' Holt, Queen's Own Highlanders, the OC Training, said: "We think it's important to get the parents involved and on our side early on because they become more sympathetic and interested in their sons' training."

"Old soldiers can see what the modern Army does and we think it's an extension of interesting us in the parents and they in us, breaking down any walls of ignorance. Mothers may not know what their sons are

doing and by coming to Open Day, for example, they can see what he is likely to be doing. And dad can feel prouder, too."

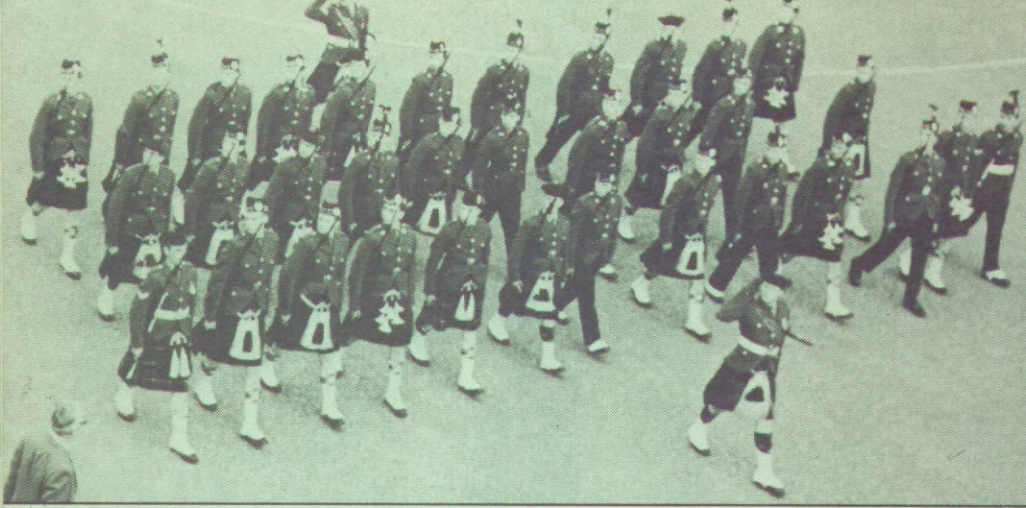
He added: "It's elementary man management and we like to think of the parents as being connected to the Scottish Division. But it's important not just to wait until Passing Out day."

As privates newly-graduated from Glencorse, today's 'Jocks' — under the recently announced pay rise — will get £78.16 weekly for a three-year man and £83.92 for those on a nine-year engagement.

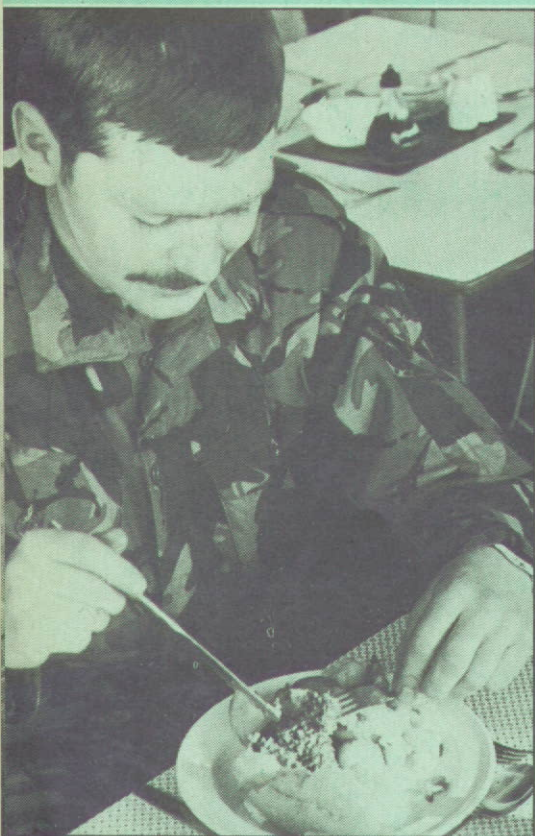
But passing out successfully is by no means guaranteed. In an average year some 28 per cent will not complete the selection and induction courses and are listed as 'wastage', ten per cent leave at their own

*continued on page 8.*





Above: Tartan pride at passing out parade.



Above: A plate of indigenous haggis 'n' neeps.

wish, nine per cent are found to be unsuitable, another seven per cent have medical and other defects, and four per cent are deemed to have services 'no longer required.'

Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Reynolds, King's Own Scottish Borderers, Commanding Officer of the Depot since January last year, says: "We try very hard here to put people into regiments native to their own home towns and areas. We are very conscious of individual regimental representation. There are strong family traditions among the Scots to join the Army and they are good fighting men."

"When your back is against the wall I would rather have a group of Jocks around me than anyone else in the world. Three points down, five minutes to go — and no messing about!"

He went on: "They don't really need me here at all. The enthusiasm is tremendous. I think everyone in the Depot is very cheered and enthused by the achievements of other people, a condition which feeds on itself. Each platoon here is made to feel an entity in itself during training. When recruits arrive here they are briefed on their own regimental history."

But if the oil industry has been good for Scotland it has been less than kind for the Gordon Highlanders who are one of the 'magnificent seven' at Glencorse.

The Gordons recruit in an area which has

Life for young soldiers at Glencorse today is a far cry from that of their predecessors just over a hundred years ago. The 500 recruits who passed through the barracks in the breezy uplands between 1875 and 1877 were given just three months to become fully-fledged soldiers.

A young man wanting to join up took the 'Queen's Shilling', and had 24 hours to think it over. At the end of that he was required to 'attend a magistrate to be attested on pain of being punished as a rogue and a vagabond'. If he then wanted to leave he had to repay the enlistment shilling plus a further 20 shillings as 'smart money'.

Recruits in those days signed on for 12 years — and that was known as short service!

an unemployment figure estimated at only one-and-a-half per cent. Teenage labourers on rigs can take away £250 for their work in the liquid 'black gold' fields, as opposed to just £35 at Glencorse.

But the Depot has its answer to the shortfall — the uncommitted recruit with no set idea on which regiment he prefers.

Lt-Col Reynolds: "We have a board which sits to decide where such recruits will go. The Gordons get a high number of them. About 35 per cent."

On training, he said: "The moratorium on expenditure has knocked hell out of initiatives we are thinking of making for the development of new ideas in recruit training. But we are trying to improve realism. When you make something harder and more lifelike which makes the soldier slightly scared, it gives better training."

"We don't want to feel we are constantly limited by the old-fashioned. We are always looking for new, interesting ways of training."

So what do his recruits have to endure for their 18-week sojourn at Glencorse?

During the first week — the induction period — they are documented, given medicals and kitted out. And kit is not cheap.



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Above: Eight yards of kilt made to measure.

For example, 24 feet of Black Watch kilt costs over £31; an Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders sporran with belt, tassels and so on is £19; a King's Own Scottish Borderers glengarry costs £4.32; Gordon Highlanders spats or gaiters sell for £6.20; a Royal Scots jacket is £21.49; and Royal Highland Fusiliers, shoes, Highland, cost £9.66 a canny pair.

Weeks two to four at Glencorse are spent getting to know the techniques and terse terminology of the drill square, the explanation and practice of minor tactics, on fitness training, and on learning about weapons and the basics of fieldcraft.

The fifth week is occupied in the field at an Army training camp on the moors with more instruction and the application of fieldcraft, compass work and camouflage systems.

Weeks six and seven take in revision and practising drill for the mid-training ceremony of passing off the square watched by admiring family and friends.

The next three weeks — weeks eight to ten — involve field exercises, 'shiny parades' or room inspections complete with bed blocks, all preluding the eventual award for the best platoon.

Week 11 is spent on exercise on the nearby Pentland Hills. The weeks 12-14 give practice for a forthcoming 'battle camp' putting into practice all the crammed theory.

Then come the two weeks of battle camp itself and only a fortnight remains. This is spent in revision, catching up on anything that individuals may have missed during training, and getting the drill just right for the big moment — the passing out parade — because all of the lads want to make a good show on the last day.

The juniors of 'J' Company, by contrast, have four ten-day periods of external leadership training with the stress on hill walking and climbing.

The adult training for the recruits at Glencorse is rigorous enough. Out of a

typical 60-strong intake, perhaps only 40 will pass out.

As one instructor commented: "We put them under a bit more intense pressure to sort out the rough from the smooth. They are nationalistic in the traditional sense of the word as the Scot tends to be conservative with a small 'c' yet is not too difficult to enthuse."

They eat well, too.

The term 'cookhouse' has been consigned to the swill bins as far as the catering staff are concerned. The 'Glencorse Restaurant' serves up a varied diet including the traditional haggis and neeps, on which many a young Scot has been reared.

A cook explained: "When they first come here, they tend to by-pass lamb and roast beef. Some of them are just not used to it at home and many are now getting four square meals a day, a feature which the soldier in England has long been accustomed to having. The Jocks certainly love their black, white and fruit puddings."

With food and exercise à-plenty, height and weight change considerably at Glencorse. The average height, though, is about five-feet-seven inches.

The QM's clothing store makes an initial issue — and three subsequent fittings to lads who are filling out over the months. One youth went back on six occasions!

The Depot's physical education programme 'beefs up' the youngsters with every man undergoing a strenuous syllabus. Some, if it is felt necessary, get 'remedial PT', 20 extra sessions to develop any particular area of weakness such as chest, arms or legs.

Such exertion may be painful at the time, but valuable insurance for them later during the eight-mile march-and-shoot contest which averages one hour and forty minutes with 30 lbs of kit over hilly terrain.

"There is no concession to old fashioned training here. We are as modern as anywhere else in the UK in our approach to the lads who have come straight to us," said one instructor.

His opinion was borne out with evidence as five youngsters heaved a 210-lb pole into the air on end during a four-team race. At its end, his hands and legs spreadeagled, another of their number, looked down from some twelve feet and trilled, at the command of his section leader: "Good morning, world!"

Lieutenant Russell Combe, 22, King's Own Scottish Borderers, who runs the potential officers courses, said: "Life at the Depot here is a complete contrast from what the lads can expect with their battalions. Although it is somewhat like a sausage factory it's hard work, though not necessarily physical or mental, for the instructors. There are problems like financial or marital difficulties. Some lads may feel homesick. There are the tiniest of problems which for some lads with a greater mental capacity could be solved with a 'phone call. The Depot is a great place for platoon commanders."

The Depot, however, was rather a different place in 1803 when it was used to hold French prisoners of war — soldiers and sailors — for the next 40 years until the Royal Scots took it over as their depot.

Then, the French amused themselves by making dice, dominoes, paper-cutters and toys from cookhouse bones or maimed and

injured themselves in duels using broken scissors on the end of stout sticks improvising as bayonets!

Others died from wounds — or were shot trying to escape.

The Jocks over the years have earned themselves the reputation as good fighters, that spirit spawned at birth and fostered at Glencorse.

Warrant Officer 2 Ivan Muckle, 36, a Gordon Highlanders Company Sergeant Major, said: "The Jocks are keener as soldiers than their southern counterparts. They are militaristically suited to the profession and adapt to it well due to the old clan system. They are also prouder to be in the Army than the southern soldiers and take the job seriously."

"The Jock sense of humour is the best you'll get anywhere because he can endure more when the going gets mean. As for fighting, I think they are as good as the Gurkhas. The Jock is respected wherever he goes in the world."

CSM Muckle, in the Army for 16 years and a confessed 'Piccadilly Highlander' — one who has gone south to rejoin a Scots regiment later — added: "Training up here in the winter can be bloody rough in sub-zero temperatures during fortnight-long battle camps. It's a fight for survival making for a better Jock soldier. He may be a conservative with a small 'c' but he is also a soldier with a capital 'S', extremely proud of his regiment and a good local boy."

Training aside, the Depot is very proud of its sporting achievements and its help to the locals through charity work and open days.

Last year, they raised £2000 on a sponsored run for an ex-Servicemens' hospital and their Open Day attracted 10,000 visitors.

The Depot fields players for the Edinburgh Mid-Week Football League and Scottish Services Cross-Country League.

And Glencorse made all the difference to one 19-year-old oil rig labourer who, after four months, gave up his £250 a week to join the Gordons.

"It was fine for a while," he said. "But I began to get bored. My life was patterned into three weeks on the rig and one week ashore. I wanted more than just that — flying between Aberdeen and the rig. Now I'm with the Army I've already got steady comradeship, the prospect of serving with a battalion in different places in the world and a really secure future for myself."

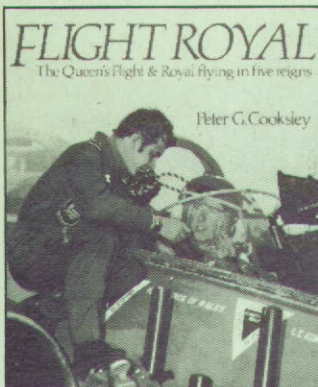
And, of course, as a Gordon Highlander, he is already developing that 'fierce nationalistic pride' in his new regiment. □

Below: Sharp shooting practice on the ranges.



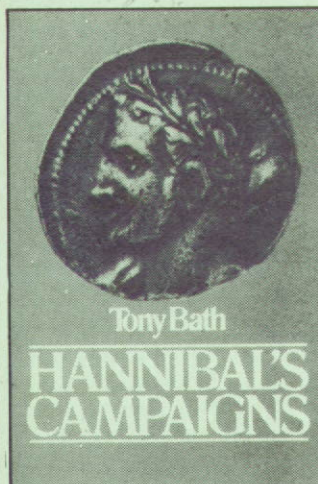


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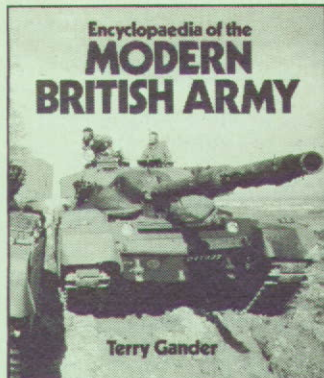
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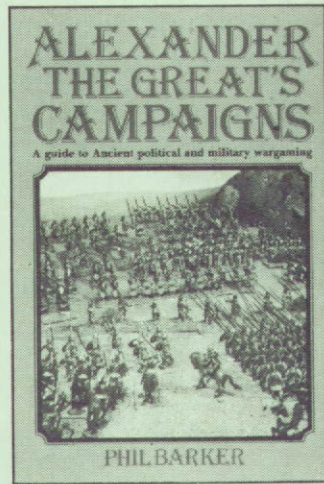
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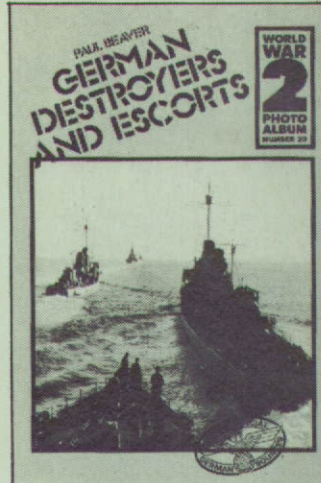
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# SOLDIER to Soldier

**T**HERE will be no increase in SOLDIER's cover price when the magazine becomes a fortnightly at the beginning of October.

Had SOLDIER continued as a monthly, spiralling production costs would have made a price rise inevitable this autumn. But by ceasing to publish SOLDIER NEWS and putting all our resources into a fortnightly magazine, we're delighted to be able to hold the price steady at 25 pence.

So readers will be getting topical, comprehensive coverage of the Army scene in a single publication costing less than half a pint of beer — outstanding value, we believe, when most specialist glossy magazines today cost at least double — often three times — that amount.

As now, of course, 25 pence will be the *maximum* price you need pay. New subscribers will get two free copies a year and, as we promised when we announced the changes in April, those of you who are already subscribers will get even better terms. For your first full subscription to the magazine you will get *four* free copies — that's 25 copies for the price of 21, including a bumper issue at Christmas. Add in postage and that works out at just £10 (if you're a UK/BFPO reader) to have your personal copy of SOLDIER mailed to you direct every fortnight (£10.75 if you live elsewhere). New subscribers will pay £10.50 and £11.25 respectively.

We shall also be offering big discounts to Army units too depending on the number of copies they take — up to 25% off the cover price in some cases. Full details will be circulated to all units soon and are available on request.

Being a regular purchaser of the new magazine will entitle you to a number of special benefits. It will enable you to place announcements in our classified advertising or Collectors' Corner columns absolutely free. It will guarantee you entry to all the competitions that we shall be running — with the chance for some super prizes. And it will also enable you to obtain extra discounts on items such as T-shirts, calendars, etc or other offers that we shall be running from time to time.

One other piece of information. The new magazine will be the same page area (A4) as this one, so it'll stack neatly with all your other copies. We'll be announcing details of new easibinders shortly.

Ideas for the new magazine are still coming in and we are following up a number of them. It's still not too late to let us have your comments or views though. So give us a ring or drop us a line.

And if you want to make sure that you don't miss out when the first fortnightly SOLDIER rolls off the presses, place a regular order *now* with our Distribution

Manager. Her address and 'phone number are on page 3.



**B**ritain's town halls are not always renowned as fountain-heads of wisdom and enlightenment. But France has problems with its civic leaders too, judging by the pronouncements of Monsieur Jean Demailly, the Communist mayor of Seclin in Northern France.

Learning that a party of Dunkirk Veterans from Lancashire wished to visit his town to pay homage to fallen comrades, the not-so-genial Jean cocked a snook at the entente cordiale by refusing the old soldiers a civic welcome. With a volley of ill-aimed political propaganda, he said Britain's treatment of the hunger striker Bobby Sands had "aroused very deep emotions among the French population" and warned that the arrival of former British soldiers in the town would create "serious problems".

Monsieur Demailly conveniently chose to forget that men like those he chose to shun helped ensure Seclin's very survival four decades earlier and that, but for their heroism, his town today would probably be no more than a faded memory on a forbidden map.

Fortunately the memories of most French and Belgian citizens are a little longer than the silly burgher of Seclin and other towns were quick to give the Veterans their usual rousing welcome as they made their annual pilgrimage back to the scene of their sacrifice. Long may they go on doing so.



**I**n 1854 the Army paid £12 an acre for large areas of heathland around a Hampshire village of some 850 souls. From those inauspicious beginnings came the town which has become synonymous with the Army — Aldershot.

Now the Aldershot Military Historical Trust has been launched with an appeal

for £400,000 to help preserve and present the history of the Army's home town. It is estimated that two million soldiers have served there in the last century and a quarter.

The aim of the trust is to establish a Visitors' Centre and museum to show the public the part played by Aldershot in Britain's heritage and to guide them to regimental museums and other military artefacts in the area.

Many leading military men have pledged their support including Field Marshall Lord Carver, General Sir Edwin Bramall and Lieutenant-General Paul Travers. Parliamentary Secretary for the Armed Forces, Mr Philip Goodhart, Lord Montgomery of Alamein and local MP, Mr Julian Critchley are among others behind the appeal.

SOLDIER readers who wish to subscribe should send their donation to: The Appeal Director, Aldershot Military Historical Trust, Freepost, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2BR. No stamp is required.



**A** postscript to our item of last month on the Rhodesia Medal has just reached SOLDIER in the shapes of medals for our own staff — feature writer Graham Smith and Picture Editor Les Wiggs — who helped provide journalistic coverage of the ceasefire operation. The intrepid pair have each received the Zimbabwe Independence Medal brought out by the Zimbabwe Government.

Since opportunities for dazzling military display tend to be limited among the drab denizens of Ordnance Road, envious colleagues whose own campaign honours began and ended in the Boy Scouts have been spared the sight of Messrs Smith and Wiggs in be-medalled and be-ribboned splendour.

Veteran 'snapper' Wiggs, SOLDIER's Picture Editor for the past 17 years, guffawed and said: "This makes up my hat trick of military medals at long last! I got the Defence and War Medals during the war after I signed up in December 1944 and served in India, Burma and Malaya."



"There's that terrible rattling noise again."







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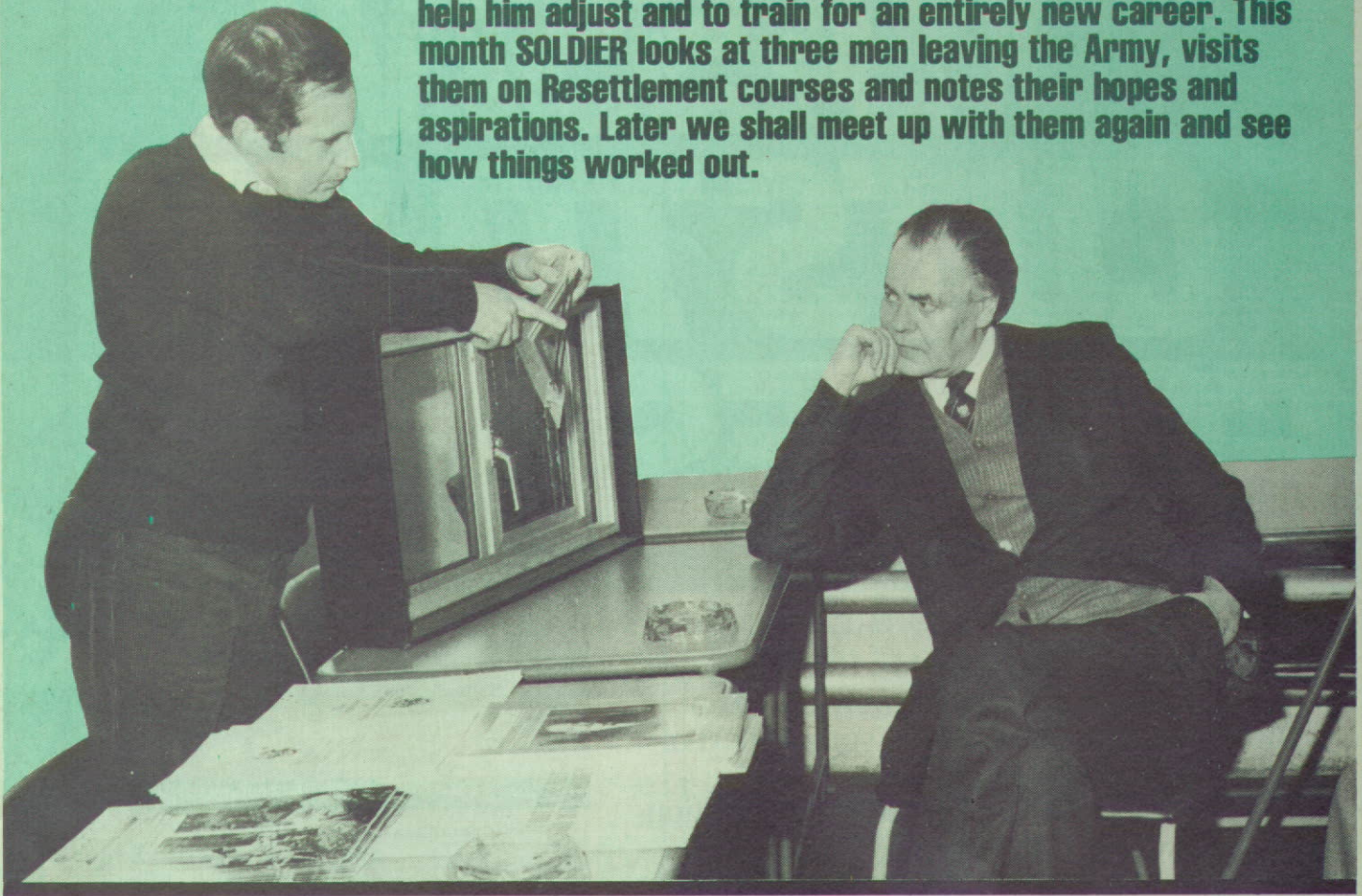
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At the end of his Army career the soldier, who may have joined up straight from school, has to revert to civilian life. At the two Army Resettlement Centres experts are ready to help him adjust and to train for an entirely new career. This month **SOLDIER** looks at three men leaving the Army, visits them on Resettlement courses and notes their hopes and aspirations. Later we shall meet up with them again and see how things worked out.



## NEW JOBS FOR OLD

THERE ARE TWO Army Resettlement Centres. No 1 is at Catterick and has a commerce department, a trades department and general studies section. No 2 is at Aldershot and tends to concentrate more on trades plus courses for the civil service, local government, the Post Office, the police, prison and fire services and junior management.

Generally speaking, the Serviceman about to leave will go to Catterick if he intends to make his home in the north and to Aldershot if in the south. But this only applies when his particular course is available at both centres.

Numbers leaving the Services are low at the moment — in contrast to a couple of years ago when most courses were over subscribed. The Resettlement courses are intended to prepare the Servicemen for civilian life so no uniforms are worn except by permanent staff and a corporal may find himself studying alongside an Air Vice-Marshal.

The aim is to convert the soldier, with his wealth of supervisory experience, to outside life. And the camaraderie on the courses is very strong. Says Major Brian Whittle, deputy commandant and chief instructor at Catterick: "It is the culmination of what has been an enjoyable time for them and they develop a companionship in adversity. They are all in the same boat together in going outside."

Above: WOII John Swales demonstrates his sales technique to class instructor Mr Harry Brent.

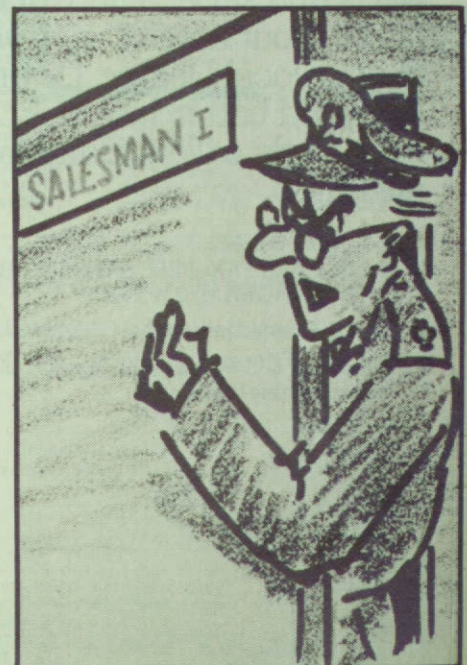
AMONG THE SOLDIERS hoping to become salesmen on leaving the Army was Warrant Officer 2 John Swales, former band sergeant major of 14/20 King's Hussars and during his last three years of service in a similar position with the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps at Bovington.

After 22 years service Sergeant Major Swales had no job lined up. He told **SOLDIER**: "I have written to Boosey and Hawkes to see if I can combine music with selling. I am also interested in aviation and model railways — you have to be interested in what you are selling or you are not going to sell it."

"I don't think I am too worried about unemployment. Once you have your first sales job you are on your way. It has got to be life begins at 40 for me. To finish my career at this age is a bit cruel."

But the sales course at the Catterick Resettlement Centre had proved very helpful. "It opens your eyes to business and things you never deal with in the Army. You see how companies work and get a good grounding before you even begin sales. But I did find it hard going sat in the classroom all day after being an active man."

Story: John Walton  
Pictures: Doug Pratt



"Right! Who's the Clever Dick who sold my car to the CO?"



Below: Interview practice on TV for S/Sgt Penn



**EX-SERVICEMEN MAKE** good prison officers. The authority for this is no less a person than Mr Colin Brown, the Governor Chairman of the Prison Officers' Selection Board (South).

Every time a Prison Officers' course is held by the Resettlement Centre at Aldershot, the Board visits and interviews all those taking part.

Mr Brown admits that in these parlous times they are not taking as many as they used to. He added: "They fit into the prison

service although I'm not sure that it is not because we have so many ex-servicemen, and therefore they find like souls there. A lot join because they think it will be like the forces but although the chaps wear uniforms they are fundamentally civilians."

Among the contenders on a recent course was Staff Sergeant Clifford Penn (31), who had spent 14 years with the 17th/21st Lancers. He told **SOLDIER**: "It is a secure job and similar in some respects to the Army. It is a uniformed and semi-disciplinary force and

there are prospects for promotion."

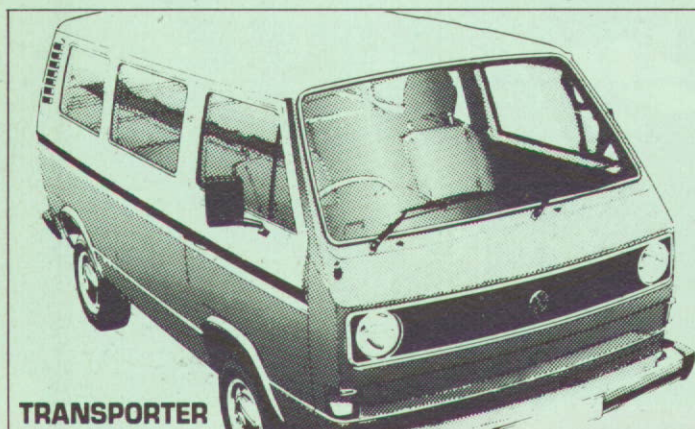
Staff Penn was hoping to get a post at a Borstal, although the nearest establishment was 30 miles away from his home in Dorset and he would have to commute. He described the Resettlement course as "useful as a toning up process for the exam. Most of us have started getting rusty with our mathematics. There are English, general knowledge and intelligence tests although if you have a brain for crosswords you should be able to do it."

*continued on page 17*

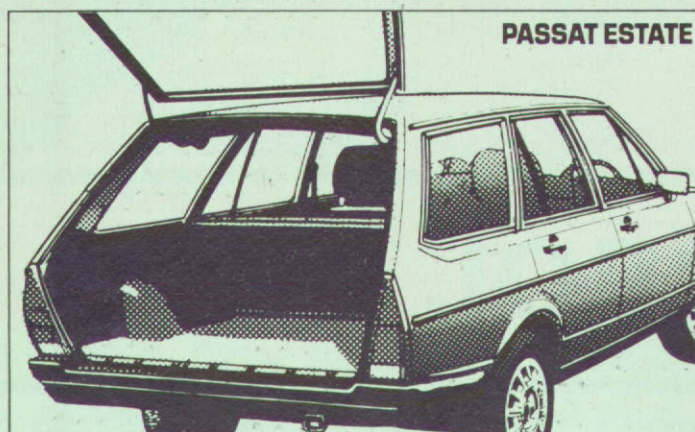
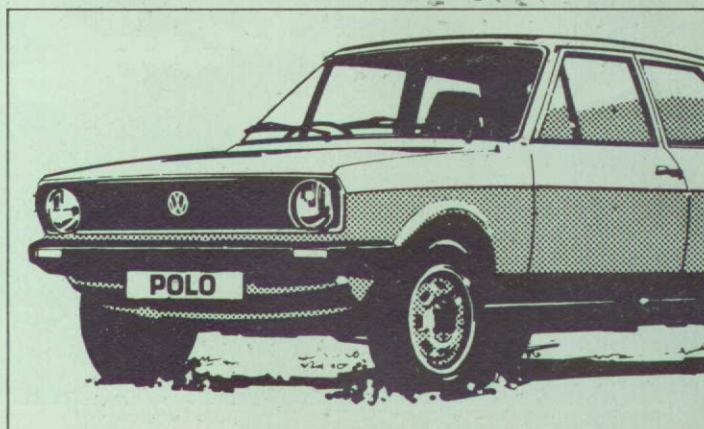
Below: Meeting ex-Army staff at Reading Jail.







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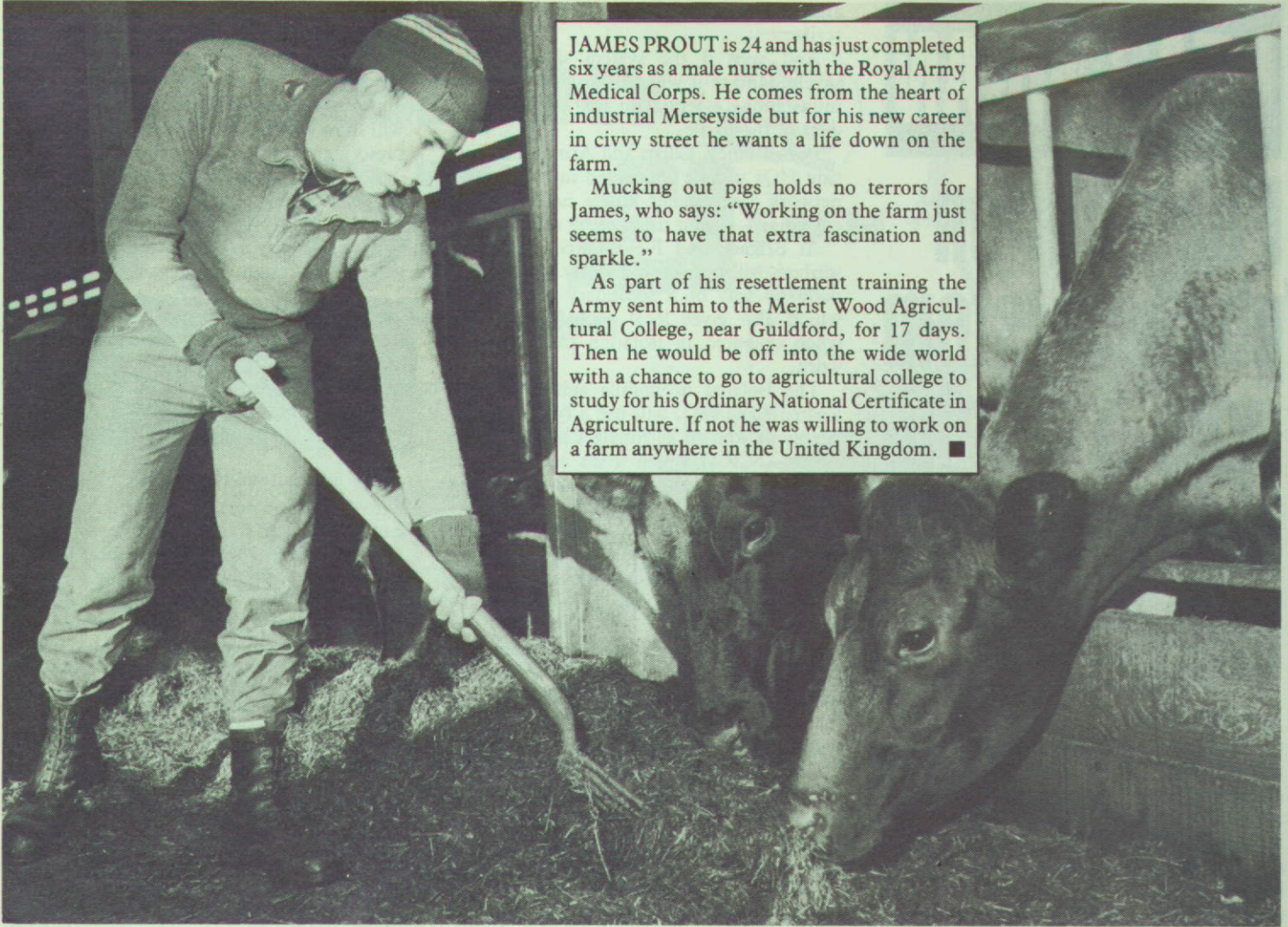
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JAMES PROUT is 24 and has just completed six years as a male nurse with the Royal Army Medical Corps. He comes from the heart of industrial Merseyside but for his new career in civvy street he wants a life down on the farm.

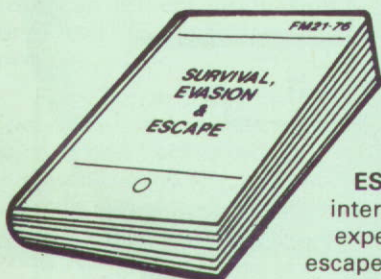
Mucking out pigs holds no terrors for James, who says: "Working on the farm just seems to have that extra fascination and sparkle."

As part of his resettlement training the Army sent him to the Merist Wood Agricultural College, near Guildford, for 17 days. Then he would be off into the wide world with a chance to go to agricultural college to study for his Ordinary National Certificate in Agriculture. If not he was willing to work on a farm anywhere in the United Kingdom. ■



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# PTARMIGAN

## Push-button 'phone system with a world- beating difference

AS ANY ORNITHOLOGIST KNOWS, the Ptarmigan is a species of grouse found in the mountains of Northern Europe which changes its plumage according to the season. And adaptability and concealment are key features of the British Army's Ptarmigan — a technological 'high-flier' that will be winging its way to Germany in a few years time to provide our Rhine Army troops with a world-beating tactical trunk communications system.

Ptarmigan is designed to complement the combat net radio system which will also meet the operational requirement for command and control communications during peace-time training, periods of tension and full scale conflict.

The design of Ptarmigan has resulted from the experience gleaned from the Bruin system — a tactical area communications system — plus detailed studies and feasibility trials jointly carried out by the Ministry of Defence, the Royal Signals and Radar Establishment, the School of Signals and British industry.

Ptarmigan's creation has taken advantage of the latest in technology including the extensive use of computers and allied integrated circuits.

In simple terms, its nearest equivalent is the civilian STD telephone system. Subscribers are connected by telephone lines to a local exchange and these, in turn, are hooked up by cable or radio relay to a grid of inter-connected trunk exchanges allowing a subscriber to call any other subscriber in the network.

The Ptarmigan network comprises groups of signals vehicles called Trunk Nodes which are manned and operated by the Royal Corps of Signals and deployed to form a grid covering the area of operations.

These nodes have computer-controlled, electronic switch vehicles — similar in function to the Post Office automatic telephone exchange — inter-connected by radio relay which is capable of carrying up to 30 simultaneous voice calls.

This network is so designed that many alternative routes exist between trunk nodes

and, consequently, between individual subscribers.

And even if the system should suffer severe damage it will still provide the communications essential to the effective conduct of the battle.

For instance, Corps and Armoured Division HQs will be connected into the trunk network via a major access node — local exchange — again using radio relay.

At Brigade and Field Force level, subscribers will be linked directly into a trunk node by way of a secondary access node which also gives local exchange facilities when operated in isolation from the network.

The isolated or mobile subscriber, not located at an HQ, will use a type of radio-telephone known as Single Channel Radio Access (SCRA) which gives access to the trunk network through an installation called a Radio Central. This gives the mobile user the same facilities and service as the static user, and is arranged to allow him to move freely throughout the operational area without the worry of being in range of any particular Central.

All Ptarmigan static subscribers are provided with a push button telephone instrument (known as a static subset) which lets the subscriber make secure voice calls and includes special facilities for the convenience of the caller and improves the speed and efficiency of the system.

The subset can also be connected with additional equipment for handling teleprinter, facsimile and data messages.

Each subscriber — static or mobile — has a unique seven-figure phone number which relates to his specific appointment and formation. Interface facilities will be provided to permit operation with combat net radio, strategic and civil systems, plus the tactical

trunk systems of Britain's Nato partners.

All Ptarmigan equipment is designed on the modular principle so that faulty or damaged systems in forward areas can be quickly and easily replaced. Built-in test equipment will show which modules are faulty ensuring rapid identification of problems.

Further diagnosis and repair is carried out in the electronic repair vehicle (ERV) using automatic testing equipment.

Revolutionary in concept, robust and serviceable by design, Ptarmigan now gives the

recovery and mortar fire.

g. Communications. The Ptarmigan trunk communications system has now entered production and will enter service in the mid-1980s, replacing the Bruin system in BAOR. It will provide comprehensive and resilient area communications, with automatic re-routing in the event of enemy damage.

h. Changing the face of tactical communications.

**Above: Extract from 1981 Defence White Paper.** British Army a world lead in tactical area communications methods.

Major Eddie Holland, Technical Officer Telecommunications at Blandford, says of the system to be introduced with a target date in Rhine Army in 1985: "Ptarmigan is an original concept and thus unique. There is nothing else like it anywhere else in the world. Without wishing to exaggerate or use superlative adjectives, it's an extremely good system and will change the face of communications in BAOR."

He added: "The system is very close to the end of its development days and the equipment will be rolling off the production lines later this year for use in trials. Ptarmigan does things that other systems do not do and one of its inherent features is that it can fault find and correct itself. It's all infinitely good."

**Below: Controller in the switch installation.**

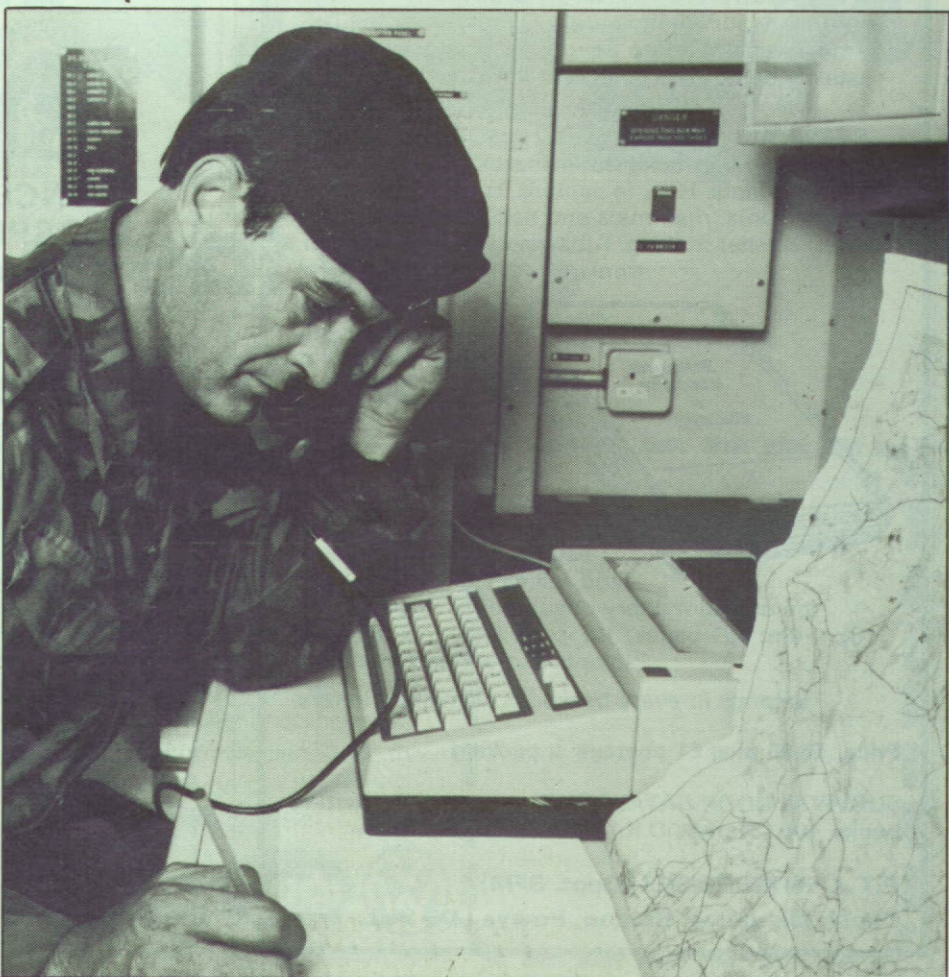


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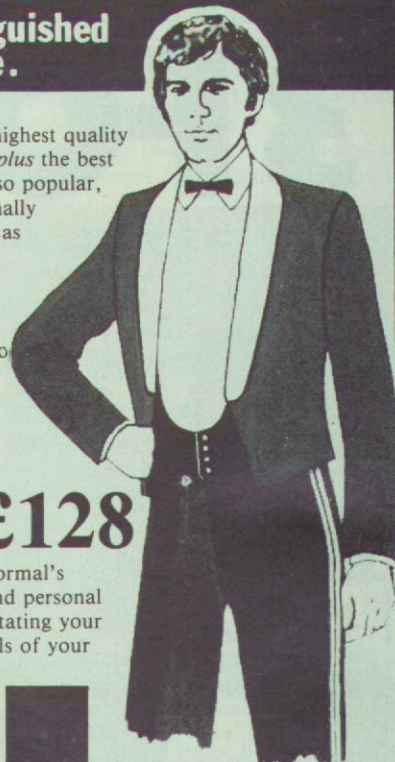
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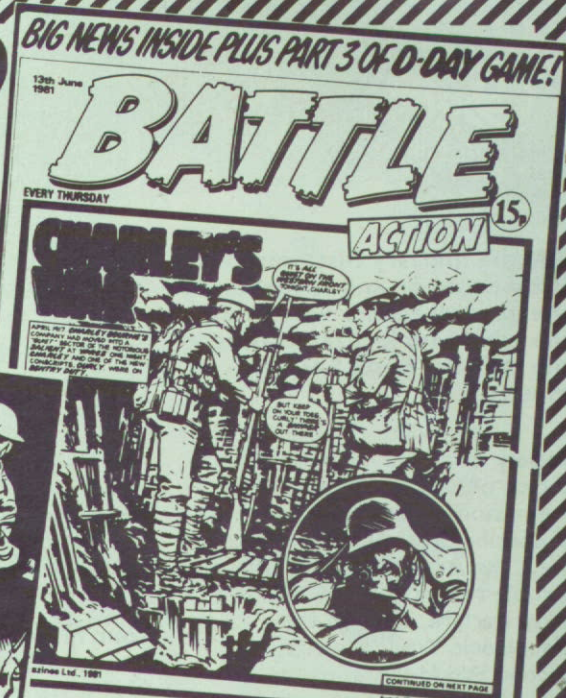
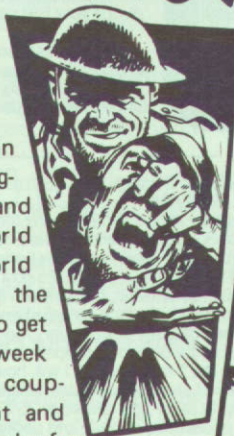


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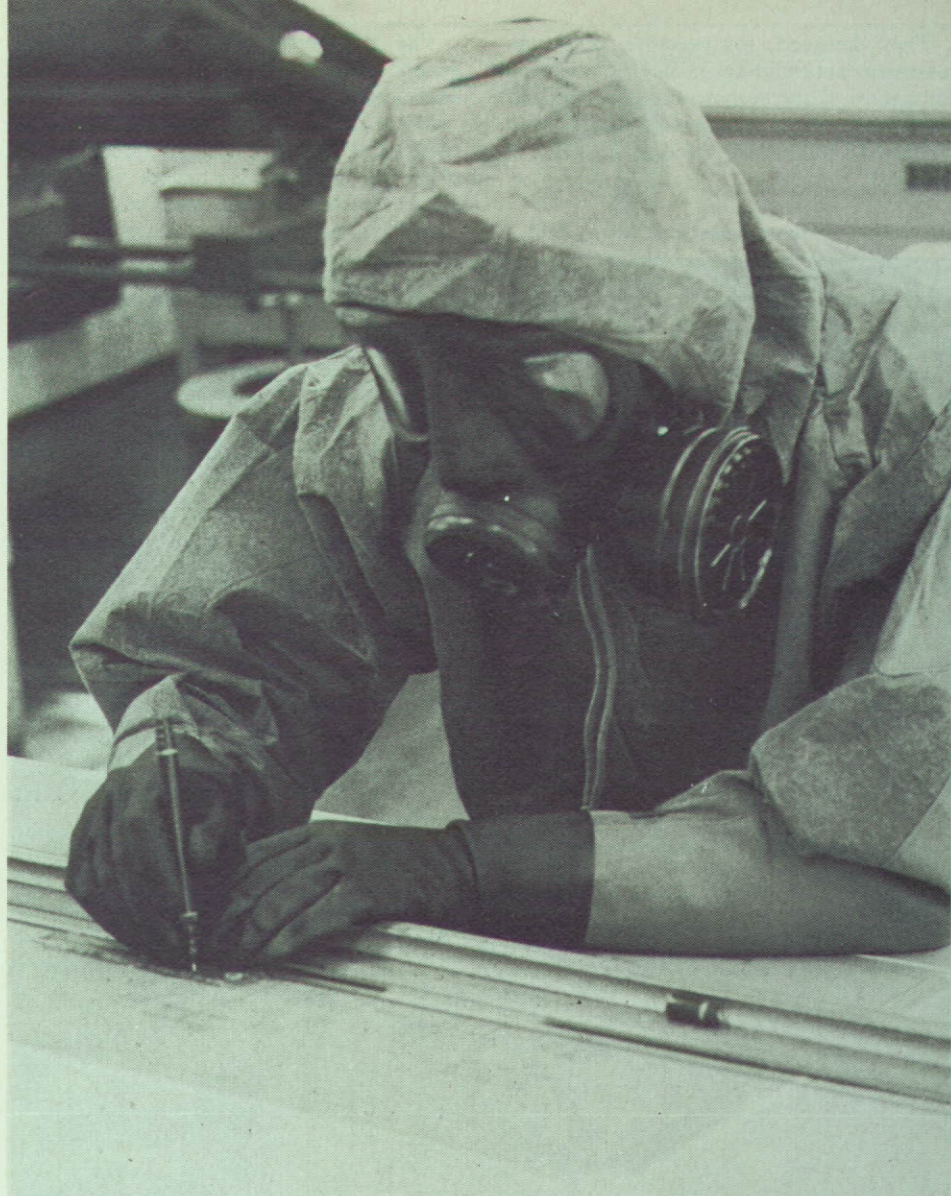
**Graham Smith  
meets the Military  
Works Force, the  
Army's Engineering  
consultants with . . .**

# SKILLS FOR HIRE -WORLD WIDE

WHEREVER IN THE WORLD Royal Engineer field squadron sappers have built roads, bridges or buildings to benefit local communities in recent years, it's a fair bet that the Military Works Force (MWF), the Army's very own specialist consultancy in such matters, will have designed, planned and supervised the projects.

Based at Barton Stacey in Hampshire and

backed by highly sophisticated modern technology, the MWF comprises some 150 or so personnel, many holding specialist degrees in the engineering field.



**Above: Draughtsman practises in NBC suit.**

**Below: A massive well-boring device on show.**

The MWF, in fact, has two main elements in its talented stable of sapper skills — 62 CRE (Construction) and 64 CRE (Electrical and Mechanical). 62 has three teams of design planners and these are backed up by one of the teams from 64 in electrical and mechanical works.

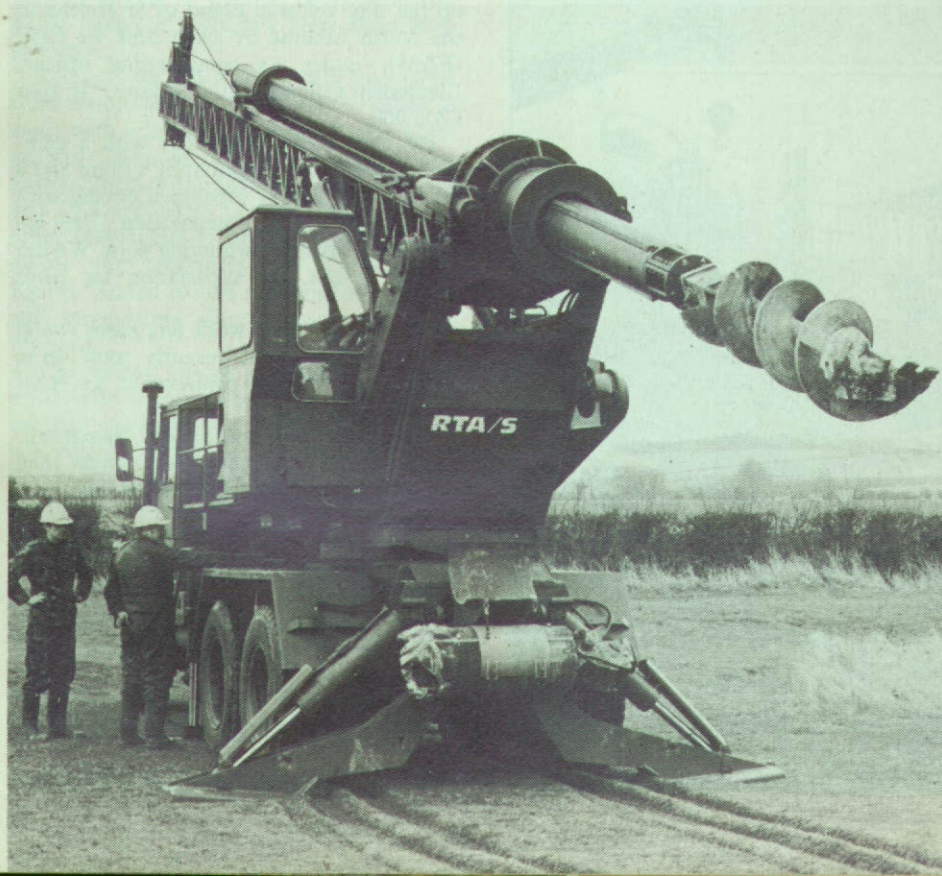
In addition, 64 has two single role teams, one specialising in well drilling and another in bulk petroleum engineering.

The Hampshire-based draughtsmen, design consultants and soil technicians have carried out highly-commended tasks in Norway, Kenya, the Oman, Juba in the Sudan, Canada, the Falkland Islands, Hong Kong, Malaya, Pitcairn and St Helena islands and even the frozen wastes of Antarctica's St Georgeia — to name but a few.

All the schemes of community and local military benefit are undertaken at the invitation of the host countries at minimum cost to the UK taxpayer while providing maximum training opportunity for the sapper field squadrons doing the work.

Last year alone, 62 CRE took on over a hundred jobs which, according to its commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel John Stokes, added up to more than £10 million of consultancy as its doyens of the drawing board ventured far and wide to pass on their highly-tutored skills.

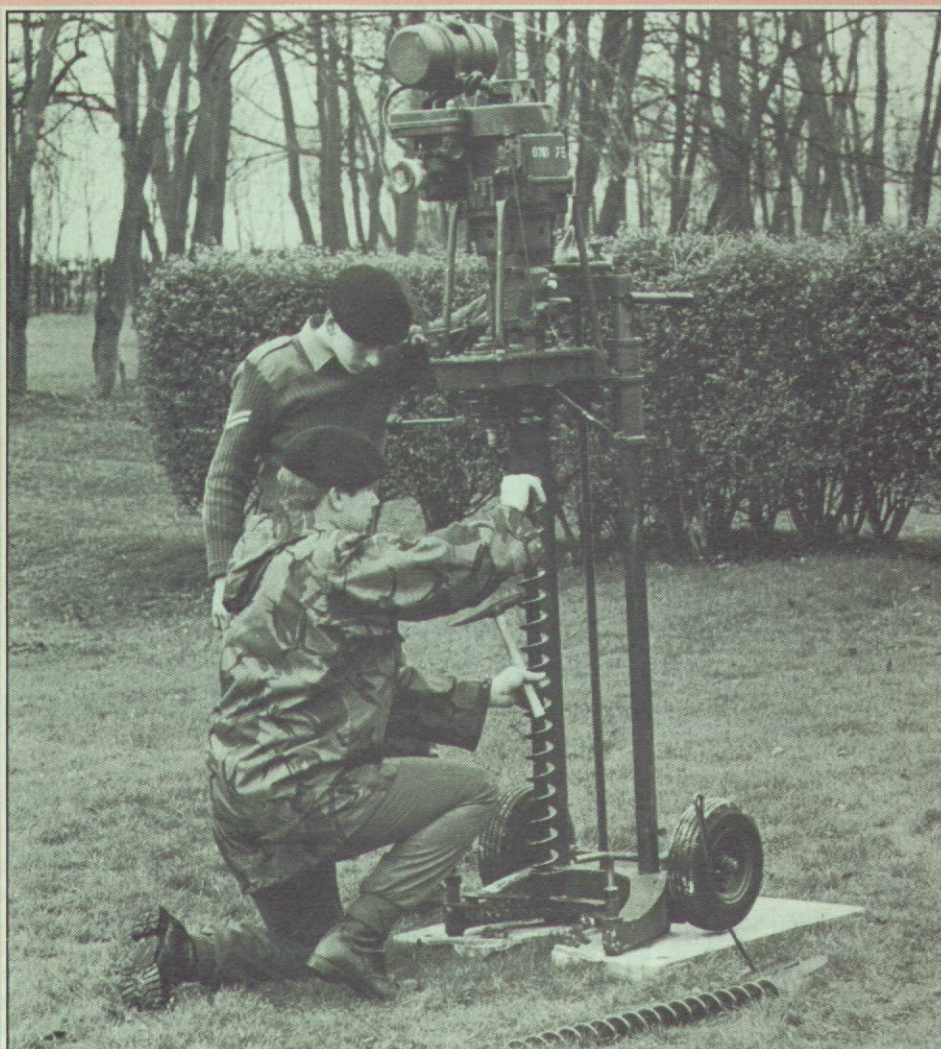
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They designed, for example, prototype blast-resistant buildings in an Ulster scheme for a third of the commercial cost. Civilian contractors, it is estimated, would have charged £3 million for the company HQ at Forkhill.

Below: Barton Stacey sappers test soil by drill.



The Management Team of 62 CRE had gone into what was a no-go area for civilian contractors.

Materials worth £900,000 for building the two blocks and small ancillary buildings had to be taken in by the troops themselves under the ever-possible threat of gunfire.

MWF's policy is to produce clear and

simple designs which can be constructed quickly without sophisticated engineering.

In the event of war, 62 and 64 CRE would have prime roles, deploying to Rhine Army — mostly with TA personnel — as part of the Military Works Force. They would take over the maintenance of essential installations and construction projects such as hospitals and power stations in the rear combat areas from the Department of the Environment's Property Services Agency (PSA).

Peacetime training, which forges closer links with their part-time 'Terrier' specialist team colleagues, involves the collation of what are termed 'technical dossiers'.

Colonel Stokes, who visited southern Italy with a contractor to tender advice following the earthquake disaster (see June SOLDIER) says: "We are based here in England as a single discipline but when we deploy to Germany we become multi-disciplined taking on the electrical and mechanical roles which could, for instance, involve the running of a hospital's operating theatre generator. We would, in essence, sort out technical problems and emergencies."

"We don't anticipate having much to do on the building construction side for the first phase of any hostility but we would have to keep certain installations supplied with our men of distinct expertise."

That expertise is gained worldwide. Subject to all the usual international sanctions and agreements, Colonel Stokes sets out to seek projects globally, on behalf of local military or public works departments — some far from civilisation — which will provide experience for the mix of tradesmen found in sapper field squadrons.

Projects, on average, last for about 12 weeks, slotting into a very busy sapper schedule nationwide.

Once a project has been accepted, he details one of his seven chartered surveyor engineers to visit the area and compile a comprehensive soil and terrain report ready for design presentation. Local machinery and earth moving plant are used wherever possible to cut costs.

One such operation involved 15 months on the tiny volcanic island of St Helena in the South Atlantic by sister unit, 64 CRE (E&M), under its commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Adams. It cost £700,000.

He says: "They were left with a completely new water chlorinating system and a rock crusher facility capable of coping with 40 tons daily for road preparation. They are also better off by a swimming pool. We did all the design and supervision for these projects."

Not that all their work jets them round the hemispheres. 64 recently took on a complicated voltage problem at an RAF station in the UK.

But the hearts-and-minds 'samaritan' sappers of Barton Stacey like to think they embrace the *crème de la crème* of their particular fieldcraft fraternity.

Most of their officers, for instance, are either chartered engineers or technician engineers. Their men come to the units from combat engineering squadrons to become Construction Materials Technicians (CMTs).

The equipment, too, stems from some of the latest in field engineering technology.

Left: CRE's creativity takes shape at Forkhill.



Equipment like the 9845 TV console, digitisers, floppy discs (which act as word stores) and plotters.

Buzby the GPO bird would be proud of the latter's role in life. A surveyor can phone in his field data results — up to 15 minutes at a time from an STD pay phone providing nobody is waiting! — using a handset push-button box connected up to the phone which transmits his data to the computer.

This way, he does not have to write up his report and the design can be drawn up ready for him to check when he eventually gets back to Barton Stacey.

Colonel Stokes admitted: "Our favourite peacetime work is that for the armed forces, entering into the PSA programme of works such as ranges and training areas and the roads and buildings associated with them."

He added: "Subject to the justification of a military client, and if the PSA is short of time or availability of contractors, jobs may be passed to the Army — and that means us, the sappers. Overall, though, our order books are pretty well full. We have even had an interest shown in our blast-proof buildings by the Middle East."

Colleague, Colonel Adams, said: "64 CRE with its electrical and mechanical role has become much more important in recent years. We are now more involved in contingency planning particularly in the UK for our own barracks in the event of electricity or water supply loss. We are also involved in similar mode for disruption of public services during, say, civil unrest."

"There is no way we could handle a Central Generating Board problem but in Northern Ireland, we could run a power station with the help of their management. The same goes for water supply and bulk petrol distribution."

Both commanding officers stressed that they try to avoid involvement with abortive work. About 75 per cent of all work projects actually get built.

Current work involves building roads, water mains, obstacle courses and tracks for moving targets in wooded country on live firing ranges in Canada's New Brunswick province.

Requests for the MWF's help may come from various sources. They may be called to assist with schemes sponsored by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Overseas Development Administration, with military and PSA originated projects, with disaster relief operations or under training agreements with countries like Canada and Kenya. Added to this are jobs for assorted civil engineering clients, again with PSA blessing.

The Barton Stacey consultancy accepts most of its work because it has the requisite reaction speed, instant availability of expertise, cost saving practices, is ready to operate in insecure areas like Northern Ireland and, above all, is eager to apply its many arts in the quests of furthering on-job training.

Colonel John Drake, Commander of the MWF, summed up his organisation thus: "We represent the best qualities of the Royal Engineers typified by their motto 'Ubique' (Everywhere). We offer technical excellence, speed in emergencies and professional soldiers to boot." □

Right: Computer processes telephoned data.





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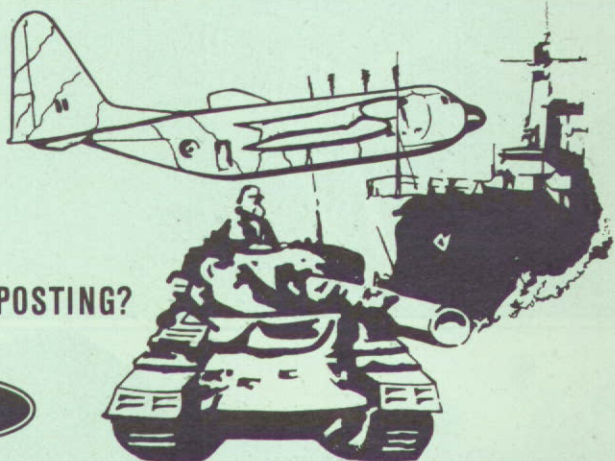
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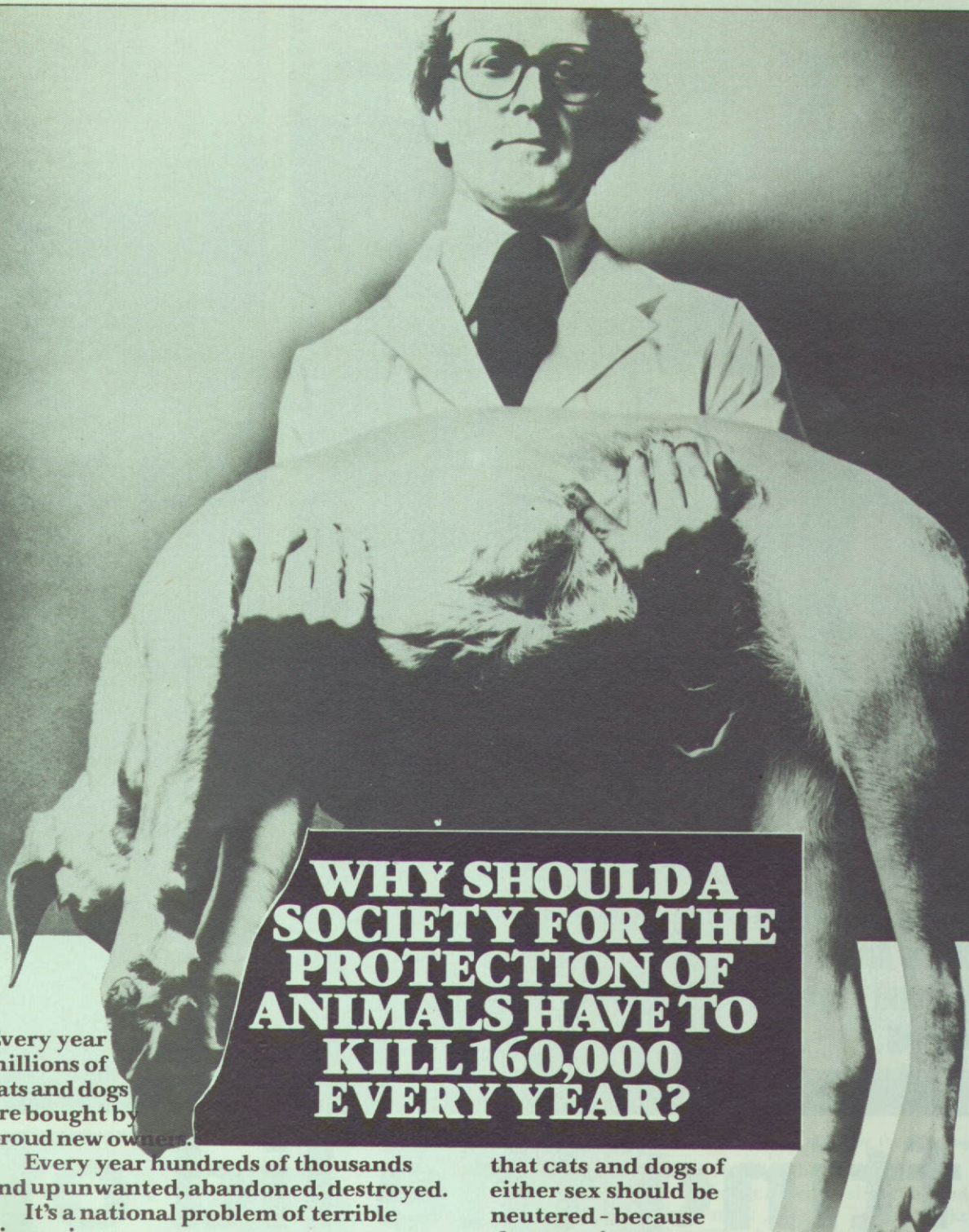
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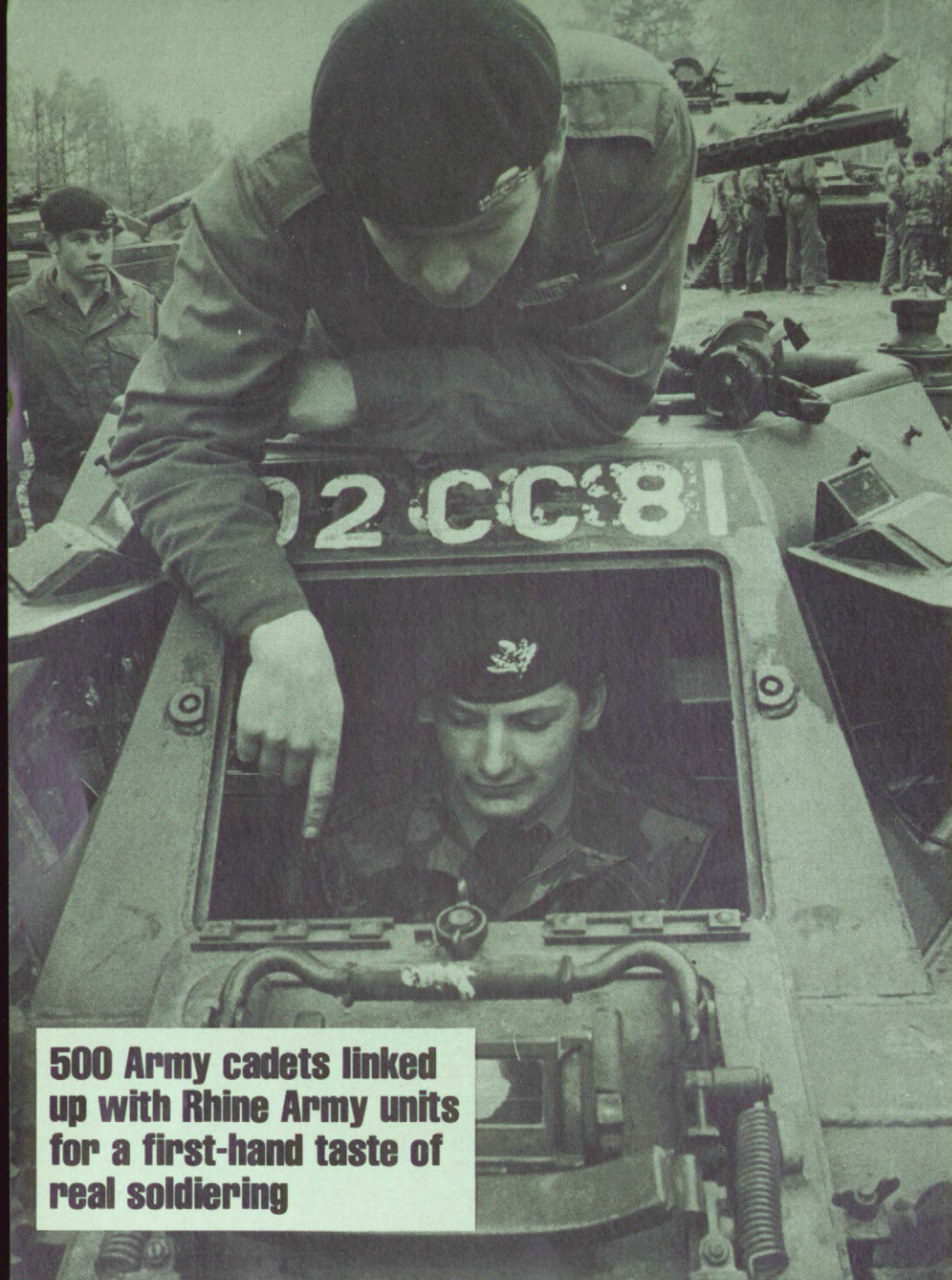
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# THE RSPCA



SOL A7





**500 Army cadets linked up with Rhine Army units for a first-hand taste of real soldiering**



# Lifting the lid off

HOW DO YOU KEEP A DOZEN grinning Army cadets perched on a Chieftain tank's revolving gun turret while travelling at speed over an undulating training circuit somewhere in northern Germany? Answer: in sheer ecstasy!

For nearly a fortnight, Rhine Army's four armoured divisions and Berlin, too, played host to nearly a battalion's worth of part-time boy soldiers — all of them potential recruits.

No less than 29 Army units in 17 locations showed off their professional versatility and latest equipment to more than 500 Army Cadet Force teenagers plus nearly a hundred officers and assistant instructors (AIs). It was the biggest widespread 'invasion' of Rhine Army's strategic central front since last year's massive Crusader 80 war game.

The youngsters — most of whom had paid £83 each and made a visit to their local barbers to qualify for the trip — enjoyed every minute of their 12-day visit to sample the Army's wares and listen to soldiers' attitudes in an operational theatre.

Army surplus stores in the UK, too, must have done a brisk trade in combat jackets and boots. Shirts, trousers and combat kit trousers were supplied but such was the boys' keenness they had gone out to buy jackets costing from £16 to £20 each before setting off.

Trooping flights wafted the wide-eyed, khaki-clad campers from Luton to Gütersloh and Gatow. For many cadets, clutching brand-new passports, it was their first trip abroad and their first time in the air.

But their feet scarcely had time to touch

the ground on arrival as host units laid on action-packed programmes of activities that left few idle moments.

For the lads attached to the 17th/21st Lancers in Munster — the 'Death or Glory' boys — there was the thrill of clambering over tanks and hurtling round a training area clustered like clams round a Chieftain's turret as it traversed through its 360 degrees like a fairground waltzer.

Others sat in seven-ton armoured reconnaissance Scorpions... burned up energy and built up confidence on various assault courses... got involved in weapon handling and firing... lived in the field... or drove mammoth Antar tank transporters round huge tarmac parks such as that at Sennelager.

Pint-sized Corporal Paul Eakins, a 15-



**Above: Any more for the Chieftain joy ride?**

year-old 'badged up' cadet from Edenbridge, Kent — already a bandsman bugler, and a .303 and .22 rifle marksman — said: "It's been really great and good fun being out here, especially driving the Antar because it is so out of the ordinary. It was definitely the best thing on this trip for me."

Paul drove the 333 brake-horsepower transporter round for five minutes, under the watchful eyes of an accompanying instructor from the host 7th Tank Transporter Regiment, RCT.

It all proved to be quite an experience for the lad from the Weald of Kent whose only previous driving experience had been on the dodgems!

Life in the field provided plenty of variety for the youngsters. They were taught how to prepare troop hides, experience night patrols and, in one instance, in the small hours of the morning were able to hear the 17th/21st Lancers 'crashing out' as fighting vehicles poured from Münster's Swinton

*continued on page 28*

**Above: A lesson on how to drive the Ferret.**

**Story: Graham Smith. Pictures: Les Wiggs**

**Left: Trying out the Antar tank transporter.**



Left: Tips on General Purpose Machine Gun.



Barracks to head for a nearby training area.

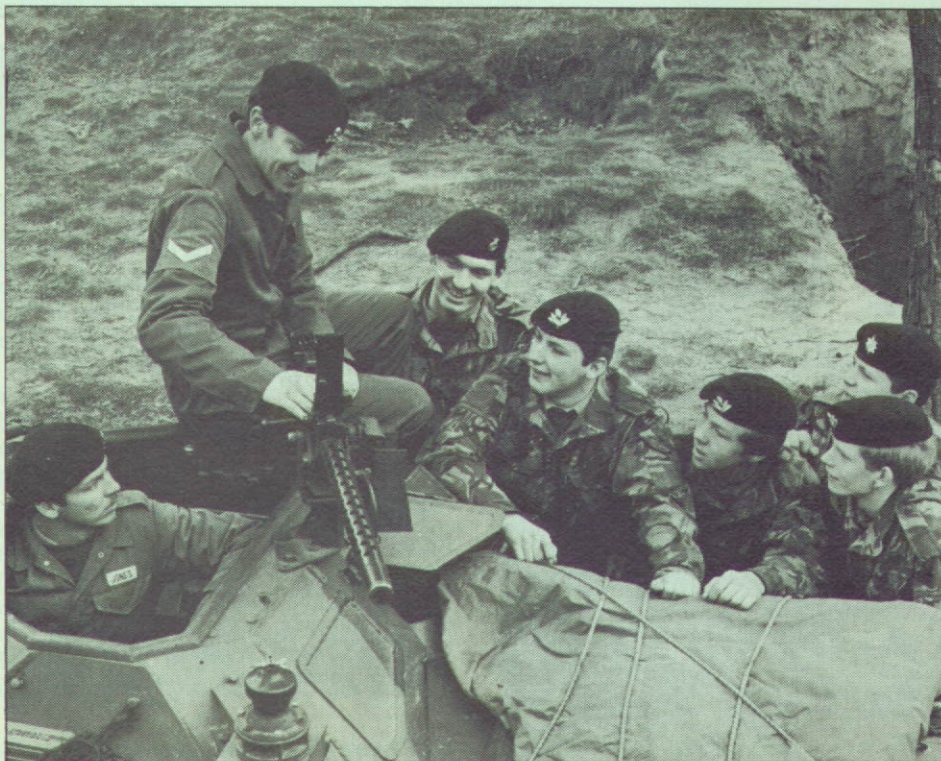
In common with most other locations acting as hosts, Münster appointed Regular junior NCOs to act as 'minders' for the visitors as they made their first forage into the land of the 'Bratty stand' and Naafi space invader machines.

A party of Scots cadets — ten in all — were said to be spending about £4 a night of their pocket money repelling automated aliens, each cadet having brought about £70 to buy presents and 'duty-frees' for their parents, relatives and friends.

But the junior Jocks were among the luckier ones. Their local United Serviceman's Club, near Glasgow, had donated £500 towards the trip and their journey to Germany had only cost about £20 a head.

They went abseiling, canoeing and played five-a-side football against German youth sides while two of the cadets turned rookie reporters to compile a feature for their local paper back home.

Right: Cadets get those drill square pointers.



Twenty cadets from the Staffordshire and West Midlands area logged up a total 15 minutes of helicopter flying in Gazelles and Lynx, seeing the latter in its newly-formed partnership on exercise with the TOW tank-buster missile.

Other lads not only drove heavy recovery vehicles but fired Sterling sub-machine guns on a 30-metre range and had a go on Scimitars and Scorpions.

Some even went on a visit to a toboggan run training facility. Others went ice skating.

Another highlight of the exclusive package deal trip and vital education on Britain's Rhine Army presence, was a visit to the 'wire wall' of the Inner German Border and briefings by the veterans of the British Frontier Service.

Lance-Corporal Paul Jones, a 15-year-old from Newark in Nottingham, said: "I was most impressed with the briefings but surprised to see the East Germans looking quite

normal as they watched us watching them. They weren't stern-faced men in cossack hats as I thought they'd be. I was also surprised to hear how low their pay was and how little annual leave they get."

Almost whimsically, he added: "Still, I suppose we're all on film and record among the files of the Kremlin by now."

Minutes earlier, and the proud possessor of a Certificate of Attendance, Paul had been given some drill pointers by 17th/21st Lancers' RSM Ron Cross.

"A good little chap, that one," he commented.

The Inner German Border also impressed another attachment of cadets and their officers.

ACF Under Officer Peter Bartlam, a 35-year-old police inspector, said: "My lads were bemused by the antics of the East German border guards who followed our progress on motor cycles!"

On a grimmer note, his boys had visited the site of Belsen concentration camp, a gaunt location where no birds sing.

Initiative and self-reliance was another part of the syllabus with the lads tested to

Left: How to fire the 0.30mm Browning.



the full on their map reading expertise during three-hour orienteering sessions.

Lieutenant John Ahern, a 25-year-old telephone engineer in charge of a Nottingham detachment, said of his charges drawn from four county ACF contingents: "We are



Above: A word from 17th/21st Lancers' RSM.

The Army Cadet Force is a voluntary youth organisation for boys between 13 and 18½ with a strength of 43,200 cadets dispersed through 1600 detachments. As an experiment, some detachments admitted girl members for the first time last year and this is likely to continue and expand to other co-educational schools with ACF detachments.

Although sponsored by the Army, the ACF is an entirely voluntary organisation run by people from all walks of life. Its aim is to develop 'the qualities of good citizenship and the spirit of service to Queen and Country' and membership implies no commitment whatsoever to interest in an Army career. Even so, about 16 per cent of regular Army recruits, 23 per cent of young soldiers, 29 per

cent of technical apprentices and 41 per cent of other trades have an ACF background.

The ACF is led by some 8000 adults who get their instruction at the Cadet Training Centre in Frimley, Surrey. More adult instructors, male or female, are needed and anyone interested should apply to the Army Cadet Forces' Association, Millbank Barracks, John Islip Street, London, SW1P 4RR. Telephone 01-821 7196.

Adult instructors get up to 28 days' pay for attendance at annual camp and for any detachments and they get a certain amount of travelling expenses. They parade once a week at their detachments, possibly twice, and will probably put in about two weekends a month although some instructors do a great deal more.

particularly glad to be here with the 17th/21st Lancers as they have such strong connections with our county and, in fact, were granted the Freedom of the City of Nottingham in 1978. My lads have really enjoyed it — they're bubbling about it. They've done everything. The big problem is going to be persuading them to return home at the end of it all."

The same cadets' enthusiasm for the visit was endorsed by 26-year-old Dick Mellors, a police frogman, who recalled: "Before we flew out from Luton we overnighted in Bedfordshire. Nobody slept that night because of the increasing excitement about the trip. Only two of the lads had ever been abroad before."

Overall, estimates among the visiting contingents suggested that most of their cadets had positive thoughts on making the Army their future careers when they were old enough.

Lieutenant Martin Stanley, a Troop

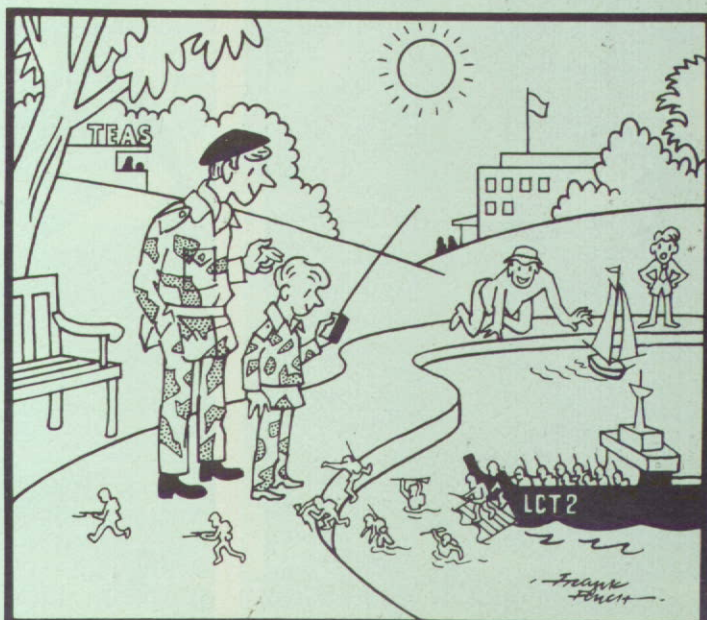
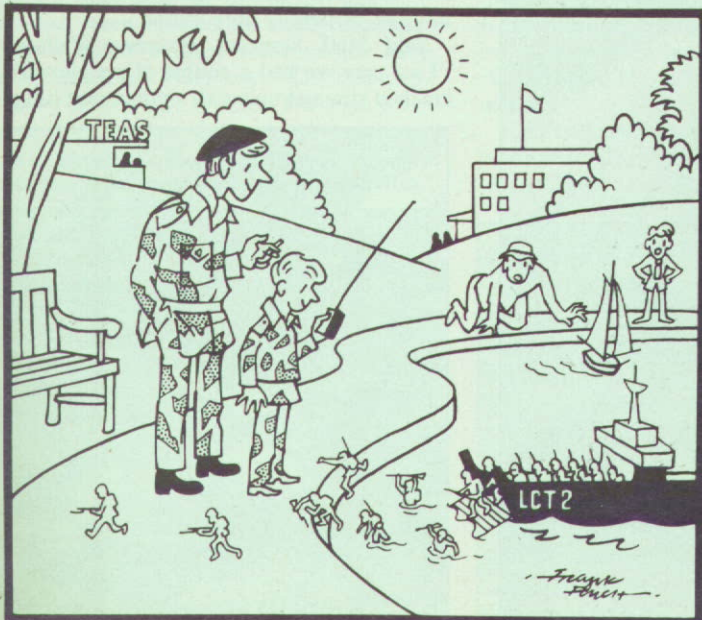
Leader with the 17th/21st Lancers who was involved in the well-being of the youngsters visiting his unit, said: "The boys have been doing something quite different. They have seen a bit of action, too. They have also been talking to the soldiers stationed out here who, in turn, have been giving them a no-bull, accurate assessment of what life means to them in today's Army and what the cadets can expect when they join."

Meanwhile, the Rhine Army hosts, ever mindful of the axiom that continuous work and insufficient leisure dulls the intellect of any growing, enthusiastic Jack-the-Lad, laid on sightseeing tours for their young visitors to give them even more memories to take home.

As one cadet said, clambering up the aircraft steps in combat kit and DMS boots beneath an overcast Gütersloh sky. "It was a thundering good trip — worth every penny I saved for it. I wouldn't have missed it for anything."

## How observant are you?

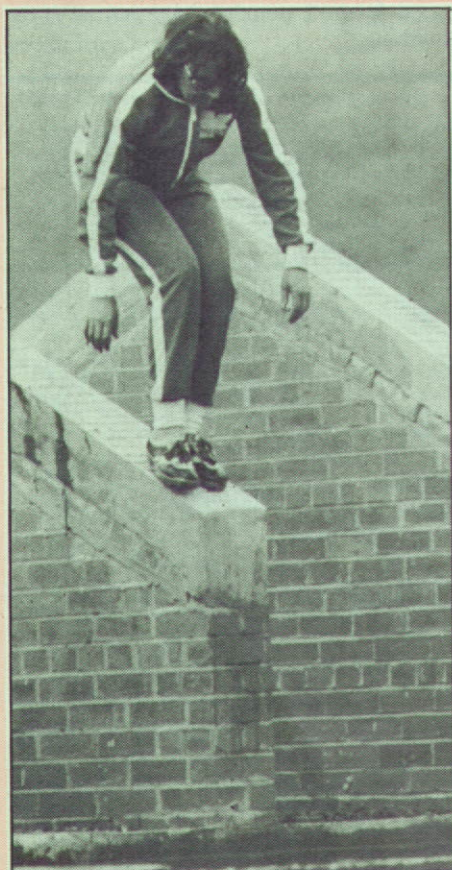
These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences turn to page 53.





Now in its fifth year on TV "The Krypton Factor" is a unique test of muscular and mental agility that owes much to Army help. This year the Army had an extra interest in the show. John Walton took a peep behind the scenes.

# SEARCH FOR A SUPER- PERSON



CLIFFORD KNIGHT is 31 and a staff sergeant with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers down at Warminster. He is also the first soldier ever to reach one of the televised heats of *The Krypton Factor* Granada TV's five year old series which seeks to combine the mental powers of a 'Mastermind' with the physical agility of a 'Superstar'.

A slightly built contemplative sort of man who puffs contentedly on a pipe and is a picture of relaxation, Cliff Knight astonished Granada's assessors during the early wheat-from-chaff sorting by only dropping one point on the mental agility tests.

Some 11,000 people, most of whom would not merit a second glance in the street, applied for this year's contest. Of these around 500 were 'shortlisted' and a final 48 were selected to appear in a televised heat.

The assault course section of the programme is filmed at Holcombe Moor, an Army training camp near Bury and Bolton. The *Krypton Factor* obstacle course, an adaptation of the existing obstacle course, has been amended and enlarged over the last five years. Except for the period when it is used by Granada the course is available to any of the Regular, TA and cadet forces who visit the training area.

Captain Dennis Sears, Master at Arms responsible for fitness in both North East and North West Districts, is in charge of updating the course.

"In the last three years I've changed the obstacles and improved it. I try to make it a little more difficult each year in order to give the competitors something to aim at. It is different to any other course the Army has — we have adjusted one or two ideas from the Para Depot and if we had any trees we would use more," he told SOLDIER.

Captain Sears was accompanied by 12 physical training instructors from units in North East District. The previous day they had shown the finalists over each section of the course — the contenders were allowed to practise each bit but not to run over the entire course.

## Pictures: Paul Haley



Above: Cliff Knight racing up the scramble nets.

Also in attendance were four members of 208 General Hospital, a TA unit from Merseyside. They had brought along their own ambulance and were expecting a crop of injuries, hopefully only minor.

Said Staff Sergeant Maureen Wallace: "Last year we had a couple of people with cracked ribs and one with a punctured lung.







Above: Captain Dennis Sears acts as starter.

But it is mostly minor cuts, rope grazes and knee injuries."

And on the very first practice a woman cut her head open and broke her nose at the finish of the 'death slide' — but she bravely continued to take part in her heat.

Staff Sergeant Knight meanwhile was explaining that despite his outwardly calm appearance he was worried. "I can't help feeling that the Army's reputation is at stake today. I'm the first soldier to appear on the programme and if I should come last . . ."

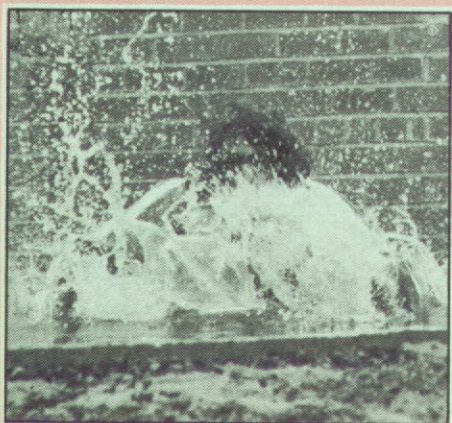
Cliff had been preparing for the event on Army obstacle courses at Warminster as well as daily two mile runs in the Wiltshire countryside.

But as he looked at the course he reflected: "If I had known it was like this I would have spent more time in the gym and less out running on the road because there is no running between the obstacles and you have to be agile rather than fit."

Granada's TV cameras moved into position and the time was fast approaching for the first heat. Captain Sears explained the rules to the competitors and drew a complaint from Cliff Knight when he said that forward rolls over the top of the scramble nets had been banned on safety grounds. "That's unfair because some people have never done it any other way," Cliff objected.

Later he told SOLDIER: "I've been practising for the last four months and my

Below: Rapid fire photo sequence at the water obstacle as a female entrant takes an early bath.



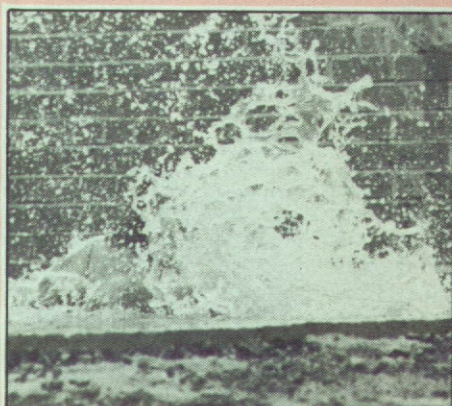
physical training instructor told me the quickest way was forward roll. It's most annoying — fancy changing the rules just before you are going to race. I think some of the others saw me doing it yesterday and were practising it. That's probably what caused the ban."

The Army instructors not only had to show the contestants the simplest and safest way to get over the course and how to speed up times within the safety regulations. They also had to put on their own contests for the benefit of both competitors and TV technicians. One senior NCO caused gales of laughter when his false teeth fell out during the race and he calmly returned, picked them up and washed them in the water splash before popping them back into his mouth!

Eventually it was time for Heat Three and Cliff Knight lined up at the start of the assault course with his three opponents — John Howell, a 34-year-old travel company director from Kent, Howard Spencer aged 33 and unemployed ('a redundancy sampler' as he put it) from near Manchester and 23-year-old Ian Kelly, supermarket manager from Kettering.

Staggered starts according to age saw the three older men out in front first with Ian Kelly powering along in the rear. But soon he had overtaken both Cliff and John Howell although Howard Spencer was a clear winner.

Cliff had trouble with the scramble nets, perhaps attributable to the unfamiliar way in which he had to get over, and as he



approached the death slide he was just in third place. But a fumble with the hand holds saw him finish in a dead heat with Howell.

A disappointed Cliff could only say: "I probably started a little too fast and they were as good as I feared they would be . . ."

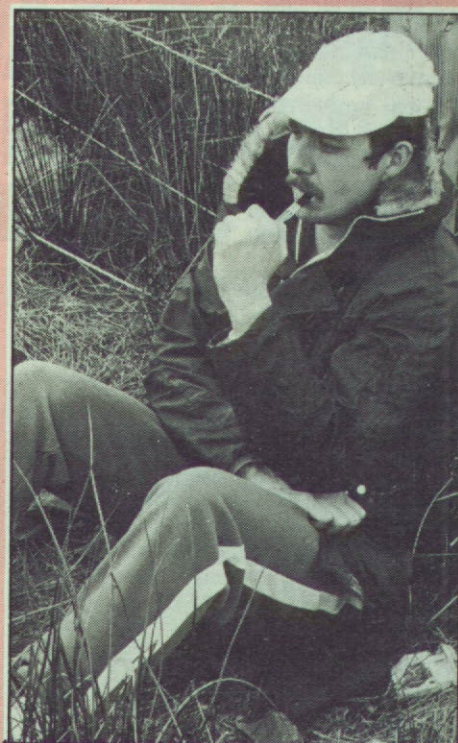
Three weeks later Cliff and the other three contestants turned up at the real Coronation Street — Granada's Manchester studios — for the recording of the mental ability competitions which would decide which of them would go through to the semi-finals of this year's *Krypton Factor*.

Asked if he was nervous Cliff told us: "Not really this time. After all there is not so much at stake. A soldier is allowed to be thick . . ."

Under the hot studio lights they went through a rehearsal in the afternoon but it didn't include any of the type of questions or problems they would have to face that evening — apart from a quick general knowledge session to get them used to the buzzers on their armchairs.

After an afternoon in seclusion during which they were entertained by a video film, the contestants had dinner and prepared for their confrontation. By this time the studio audience had arrived — prominent among them a large contingent from the Kettering supermarket and 30 friends of Howard Spencer. Cliff had not brought any supporters.

*continued over*



Above: A quiet puff for Cliff before the off.





Gordon Burns, the presenter of the show since its inception and also a political commentator, feels that one of the great merits of *The Krypton Factor* is the togetherness which it inspires.

"We get to know the contestants very well. I went on the tour to interview the short list and also spent two days with them at Bolton. It helps them and it helps me. We also get to know the Army very well."

Producer Stephen Leahy is also full of praise for the Army Physical Training Corps: "We would not be able to do this without the Army. It was the Army we turned to in the first place and we have had nothing but co-operation."

An example of how people get involved with the show was provided by a bearded man in a cream jumper sitting quietly in the studio. He turned out to be David Elias, a finalist in 1980, who had returned to set this year's general knowledge questions.

At last the big moment came. The first task was concerned with mirror images of times on a digital watch and statements were made — some wrong and some right. Cliff emerged with four points but each of his opponents took six — and Cliff was now in last place.

Then came probably the hardest studio task — putting together a puzzle to make the letters KF. All four men struggled with this but Cliff was the only one who failed to complete it — by this time his dream of a semi-final place had disappeared.

In the observation test — a scene from the series *Minder* followed by the appearance of nine ladies in lilac dresses, one of whom had been in the clip — the Army representative did well to chalk up maximum points.

But the general knowledge finale was a disaster for Cliff. He was unable to answer any of the questions and finished with 20 points — just half of those amassed by the winner, John Howell, the travel firm director.

Some minor consolation for the Army might be that Mr Howell was with the Infantry Junior Leaders' Battalion at Oswes-



Above: A dead heat between Cliff and John.

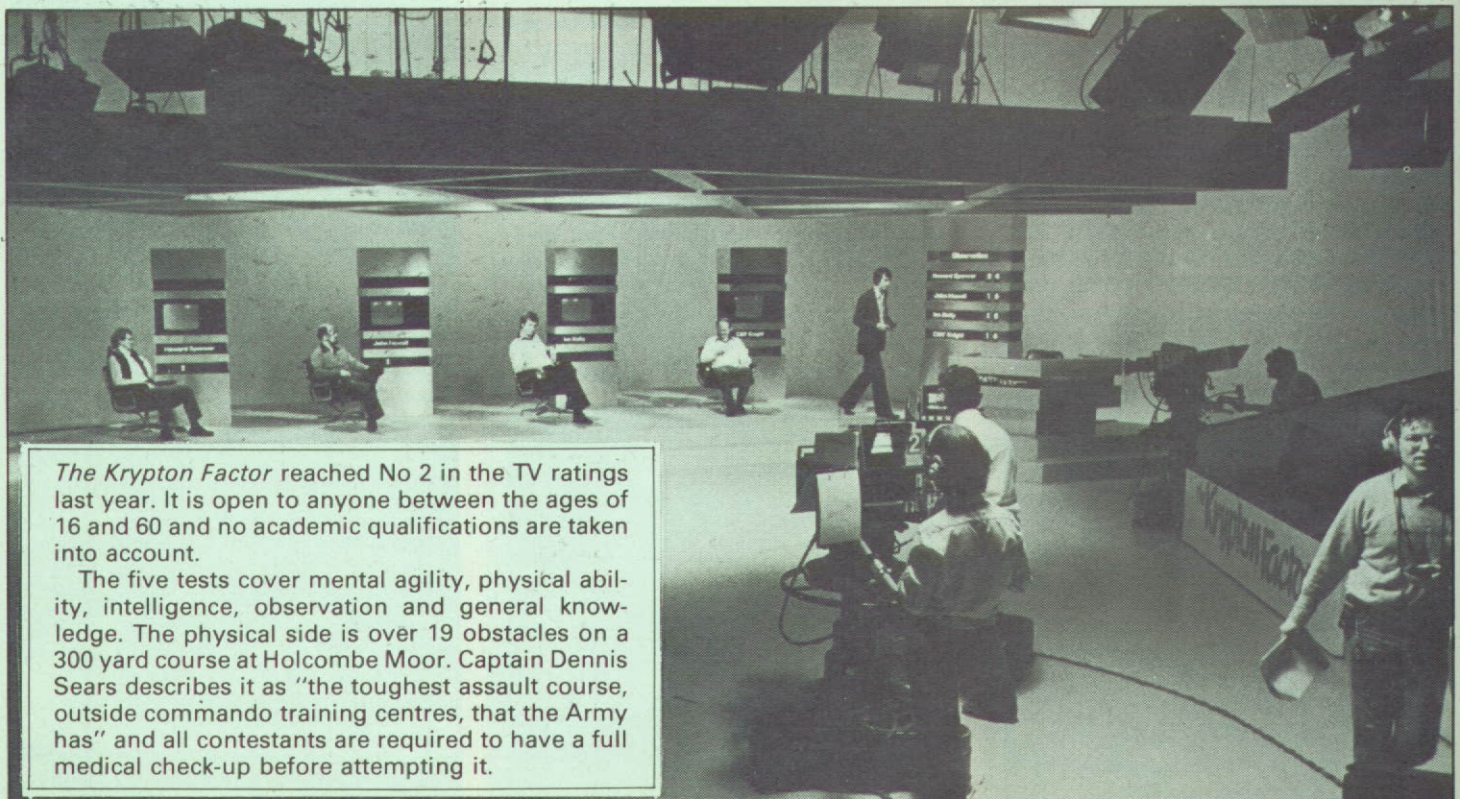
try back in 1963. He wanted to go on for a commission but was rejected because of colour blindness.

Disappointed but not completely downhearted, Cliff Knight told *SOLDIER*: "There are no excuses. I was clearly not good enough to win. But I got a score of 20 points, which is not exactly disgraceful. I think they are justified in their claim that

the person who wins it really is a super person."

And finally, Cliff threw down the gauntlet to *SOLDIER*'s Army readers. He declared: "There must be someone in the Army who is fitter than me and more intelligent than me. Let's have another soldier next year — who can at least better that score if not win it outright."

Below: Rehearsals under the studio lights.



*The Krypton Factor* reached No 2 in the TV ratings last year. It is open to anyone between the ages of 16 and 60 and no academic qualifications are taken into account.

The five tests cover mental agility, physical ability, intelligence, observation and general knowledge. The physical side is over 19 obstacles on a 300 yard course at Holcombe Moor. Captain Dennis Sears describes it as "the toughest assault course, outside commando training centres, that the Army has" and all contestants are required to have a full medical check-up before attempting it.



In the established format of the quarterly magazine *After the Battle*, its Editor, Winston G. Ramsey, looks at the wartime story of the Channel Islands from a 'then and now' perspective, illustrated with comparison photographs taken some forty years after the enemy were shown the door.

Many people will be aware that the Islands were the only British territory occupied by the Germans in the Second World War but it is, perhaps, less generally known that they were fortified out of all proportion to their size, forming as they did a cornerstone of Hitler's Atlantic Wall.

In this book Alderney, Guernsey, Jersey and Sark are visited and the legacy of their occupation explored. Throughout the chapter on the post-war period, the boom of blasting and crackle of acetylene cutters echoes across the pages, and — lamentably — reverberates still in the account of the Islands as they are today. Holiday-makers with a sense of history (and a comparable sense of hearing) may also catch some intriguing sounds as they discover the uses to which the hotels were put by their German guests during their five-year stay.

The book brings together for the first time first-hand accounts of all seven Commando raids in the Channel Islands, for which enthusiasm was not entirely unanimous at the time. There is a complete listing of every military grave in the Islands commemorating the dead of both sides of the First and Second World Wars, and a review of the war museums provides useful information on the variety of relics that enthusiasts have had the foresight to preserve.

Annotated aerial photographs form a fascinating visual aspect of the book — among them unique pictures of Sark for which exceptional permission was granted to enter the island's inviolable airspace. Other photographs were only recently discovered and have never been published before.

Size 12" x 8 1/2" 256 Pages, Over 650 Illustrations

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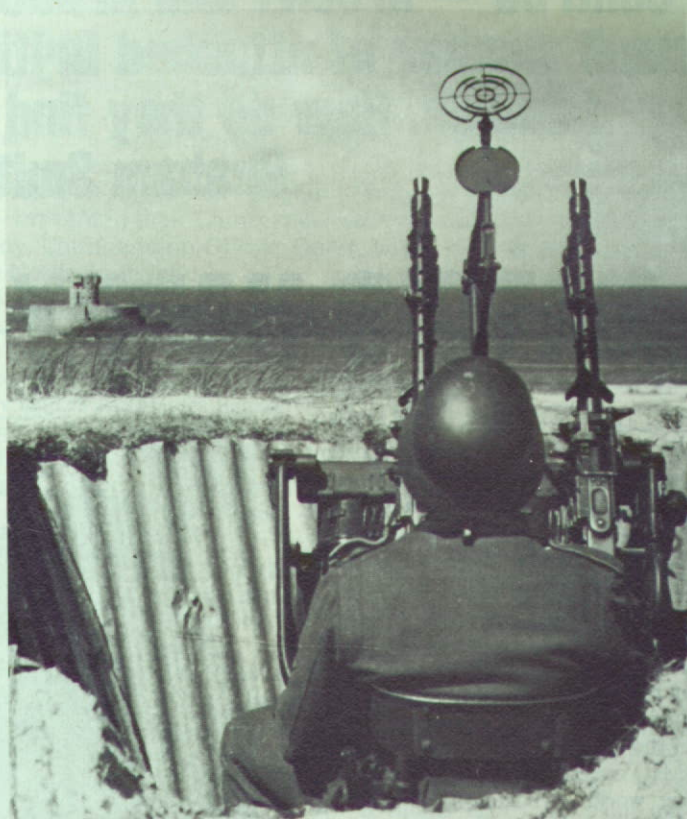
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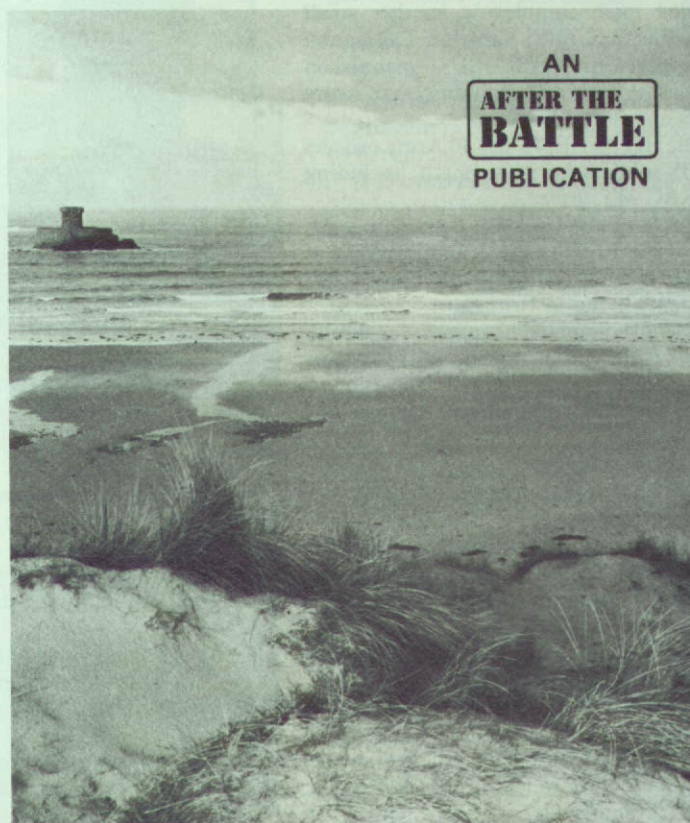
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## THE WAR IN THE CHANNEL ISLANDS THEN AND NOW





**Brunssum and Naples are home to two of Nato's vital nerve centres — AFCENT and AFSOUTH. They are also home to a small number of attached British Army personnel and their families. How do they find life in Holland and Italy? Graham Smith reports.**

## NATO'S HAPPY SUPPORTERS

HQ ALLIED FORCES CENTRAL EUROPE (AFCENT), one of four important multi-national nerve centres in Europe under Allied Command Europe's SHAPE organisation, is certainly not set in idyllic surrounds at Brunssum, a town in the southernmost of Holland's eleven provinces.

With joint strategic and tactical responsibilities incorporating logistics, administration and communications in an area spreading from the North Sea and the Elbe, across the vulnerable heartland of Europe to the peaks of the Alps and the Austro-Swiss border, the HQ operates on the site of a disused coalmine, working in converted buildings long rid of grime and staffed by American, German, Benelux, Canadian and British Service personnel.

AFCENT comprises the Northern Army Group (NORTHAG) and Second Tactical Air Force (TWOATAF) at Rheindahlen; Central Army Group (CENTAG) at Heidelberg; and Allied Air Forces Central Europe (AAFCE) and the Fourth Tactical Air Force (FOURATAF) at Ramstein.

But about a mile a way from the flag-festooned main complex is another small set-up. It is the United Kingdom Delegation and Support Unit — UKDSU — manned on a tri-Service basis and including four Army officers and 26 soldiers.

In all, HQ AFCENT has 40 Army officers and 105 soldiers on its strength, including an WRAC MT driver.

The role of the UKDSU is to supply the needs of the British Servicemen working at HQ AFCENT together with their 2500 dependents living in Brunssum.

Units moved into their converted coalmine premises from Fontainebleau, near Paris, in March 1967 following the French decision to pull out from its Nato military organisation membership.

The mine, they say locally, in the rich coalfields of South Limburg bordering the Belgian Ardennes and German Eifel Mountains, was to close in that year anyway and, despite subtle landscaping, there are still vestiges of this subterranean industry in the town serving 30,000 people.

Wing Commander Ron Penniall, the UKDSU OC, says: "It's difficult to imagine this was the Barnsley of the north less than 15 years ago."

In his Supply Flight stores, the half dozen soldiers there have to learn RAF nomenclature for inventory stocks. They hold 1500 items ranging from buttons and badges to office bureaux and even spare staff car engines.

Other essential functions carried out by



Above: Cpl Philip Allen of the UKDSU MT pool.

the UKDSU include running a Families Office — there are no married quarters as such in Brunssum and surrounds — accounting tasks, making schooling arrangements and providing medical care. More serious cases are moved 25 miles across the border to the RAF Hospital at Wegberg, near Moenchengladbach.

The post office, which handles 1000 items in-bound and outgoing daily, is run by the Army.

A total of 85 families live in an eight-storey town centre condominium and they are all quite happy thanks to a Families Association modelled on RAF lines.

They have built a bar into the cellar of the high rise block and regularly hold functions there such as bingo, whist drives and film shows. Outside of that location, families take advantage of many of the multi-national clubs and their sponsored hobbies. Amenities range from an indoor heated

swimming pool to facilities for parachuting.

Accommodation in the blocks, a two-mile scheduled bus ride from work, is comfortable. Flats comprise a lounge-diner, separate WC, shower — the Dutch, it seems, are not keen on baths as fittings — a kitchen and three bedrooms and all for about £100 a month, unfurnished, or £40 a month extra with furniture.

Mrs Susan Catchpole, 28, mother of three young children, is living in Brunssum on a second tour with husband Tony, who is a staff clerk in the international section at AFCENT and a member of its Folk Club.

"I enjoy it out here. People in the town and the shopkeepers are very friendly," she said. "Wives have got to shop around for good household bargains and, personally, I find shopping in the town a bit cheaper than in the AFCENT Shopping Centre. All the shop assistants speak English and there is no worry there but the money takes a bit of getting used to."

Another mum, Mrs Margaret Thornley, 30, said much the same about life in Brunssum.

Her husband, Corporal Brian Thornley, is on a four-and-a-half-year tour as a draughtsman in the international unit. "I love it here and get great job satisfaction," he said.

He feels that, compared with his last posting to Osnabruck, family life at Brunssum is "100 per cent better" because of the self-help facilities achieved through the RAF-style Families' Association. Previous Army service had only offered, for them, groups like wives' clubs.

He and his wife use the down-town NCO club, modelled on American lines with its seven bars, a handful of restaurants and a brashly-lit battery of fruit machines just waiting for eager investors.

Among the greatest patrons of the NCO Club are the single soldiers — the Army has 19 of them in Brunssum — who live in flats in the town.

When it comes to shopping, Mrs Thornley admits to feeling "more comfortable" in Brunssum compared with Osnabruck which posed language difficulties for her.

Clothes, she said, are expensive in Holland but she had made up her own dress for about £5 which, she maintained, would have cost about £16 in a shop.

Switching on her video recorder, Mrs Thornley has the advantage of watching TV favourites like — *Dallas* and *The Benny Hill Show* in English — thanks to Dutch TV. The *Shoestring* series, she said, had its airing in Belgium even before it made the living room screens of the UK.



What about *Coronation Street*, then?  
 "Coronation Street? Look, I'm from Manchester and we don't want that over here. Not Coronation Street!" she said bursting into loud Lancashire laughter.

Below: Mrs Margaret Thornley and video set.



THE FIVE-NATION Headquarters Allied Forces Southern Europe (HQ AFSOUTH) of today started its operational existence all at sea or, rather, in the bay of the world's pizza capital — Naples — aboard a US warship, two days after the order for its formation was given by the first-ever Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), General Eisenhower.

Below: Sgt Mick Lambert, AFSOUTH postie.



IF YOU WANT TO GET AHEAD . . . then get a hat, so the saying goes. Admiral William J Crowe, Jnr, Commander-in-Chief Allied Forces Southern Europe (CINCSOUTH) in Naples has 180 of them!

The Admiral's collection started seven years ago and an Australian Army digger hat was one of the first to go to his head.

CINCSOUTH also boasts a cardinal's hat . . . a replica of Ataturk's head-gear . . . a bronze replica of the Grecian Helmet of Miltiades . . . various Arab head-dresses . . . a British bowler . . . and his latest, an Irish caubeen.

The Irish connection came about on St Patrick's Day when two HQ AFSOUTH resident Royal Irish Rangers — Colonel Bill Hiles and Major David Emmett — presented their Commander with the caubeen, courtesy of Lt-Col Nigel Lefroy, Commanding Officer, Depot Royal Irish Rangers, based at Ballymena in Northern Ireland.

Nato's southern flank heady collection stands in the Admiral's office.

But HQ AFSOUTH has long since been 'berthed' on dry land in the Naples Bagnoli district and has just celebrated its 30th anniversary with 26 British Army officers and men toasting its continued well-being in vino alongside Italians, Americans, Greeks and Turks.

The bay-borne HQ of three decades ago was activated aboard the *USS Mount Olympus* off Naples on June 21 1951. Nato itself was barely two years old.

AFSOUTH has a responsibility for one-and-a-half million square miles as the biggest of Allied Command Europe's four military regions with an area facing the Warsaw Pact along a 1700-mile arc running from the Resia Pass in northern Italy to Mount Ararat — said to be the resting place of Noah's Ark — in eastern Turkey.

The command is, in essence, responsible for the land and air defence of Italy, Greece and Turkey — these three countries alone account for 42 per cent of the land area and 32 per cent of Nato's European population — plus the defence of the Alliance's sea lanes of communication through the 2034-mile-long Mediterranean as it passes from Gibraltar to the Black Sea.

AFSOUTH, incidentally, also has a French Military Mission at its Bagnoli-based HQ and the post of Commander-in-Chief

Allied Forces Southern Europe (CINCSOUTH) is, by agreement, always held by a United States Navy admiral.

In peacetime, some 5000 Service personnel are assigned to AFSOUTH, among them about 250 British members from the Army, Navy, RAF and Royal Marines.

Happy with his Neapolitan posting is Warrant Officer John Collison, 37, a programmer analyst, who finds life there as varied as anywhere else in the world in which the British Serviceman might find himself.

"When I first got off the aircraft I wondered what I was coming to, but you soon get acclimatised to the different hours, the food — and the Naples driving," he said.

A similar happy viewpoint was made by Mrs Frances Whittington, wife of Corporal David 'Dick' Whittington, now serving elsewhere, with their children Robert, (4) and Richard, (2).

Naples was the first overseas posting for Mrs Whittington, a far hustling and bustling cry from the A303 and Barton Stacey, Hampshire.

"It's smashing here because it is such a new experience and the local shopping is good because you can bargain — as long as you like pasta," she said. "But I shall miss my shared villa 18 miles from the HQ."

And a night at the opera is not such a far-fetched idea, either, among the British contingent in Naples, many having admitted to becoming veritable 'culture vultures'.

It is even possible to go skiing — not in Naples itself but about 100 miles away at the Rocca Rosa given the right conditions.

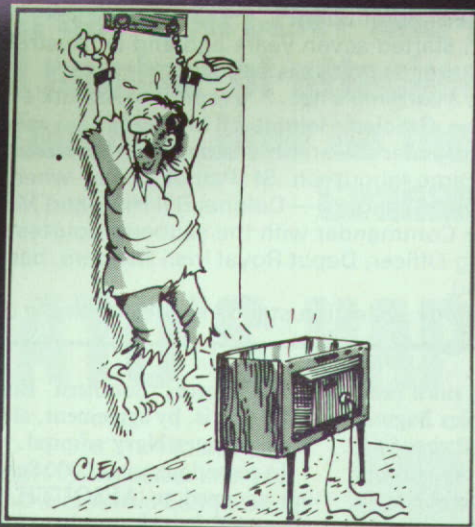
Sailing, golf, swimming and other leisure facilities like camping, caravanning and fishing are regularly available for those posted to AFSOUTH which offers similar benefits to those serving a tour in the sun as did Cyprus when that was in full-swing.

Pompeii . . . Herculaneum . . . Vesuvius . . . Paestum . . . and Agropoli are all there, too, for those who 'dig' archaeology.

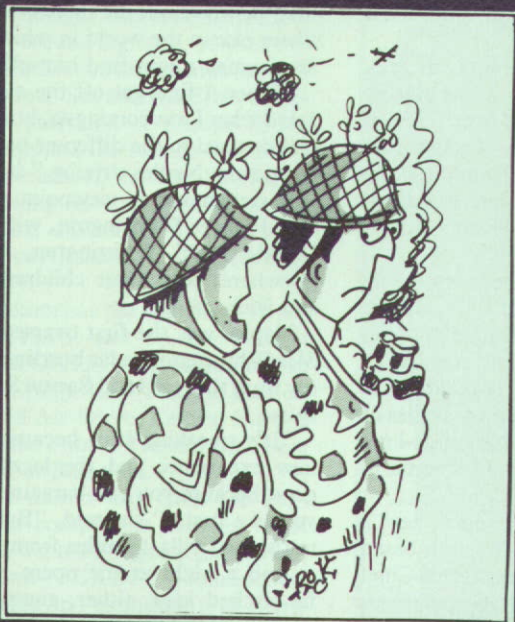
But on the serious side of life most of the British Army representation works for the United Kingdom National Support Unit. Colonel Bill Hiles, the senior British Army officer and chief of Plans, Operations, Exercises and Training said: "The British Army here has a voice in any plans for this area which may involve UKLF or the AMF deployment."

Meanwhile, the appeal of Naples is as strong as ever for many, endorsing the claim made in 1858 by an obscure English aristocrat called Holmes who, in keeping with the end of the Romantic period of English literature with the likes of Byron, Keats and Shelley, is said to have advised all and sundry to "see Naples and then die".

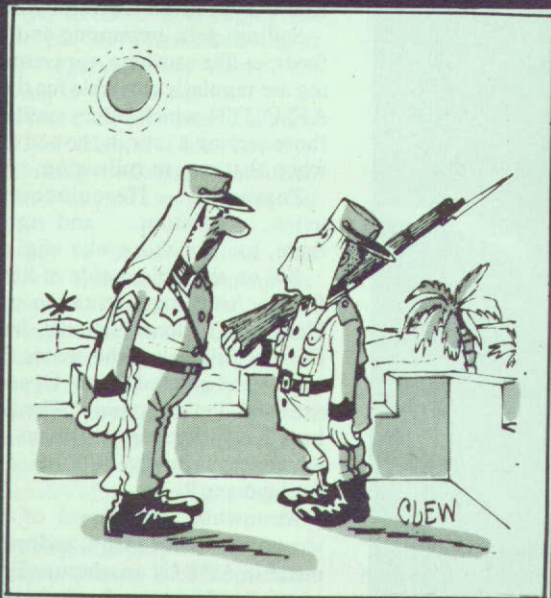




"No, no — not another episode of 'Crossroads'! I'll talk! I'll tell you everything you want to know!"



"Our anti-missile missile has shot itself down sir."



"So your nose was peeling, was it?"



"It's the only way I can get the colonel to take his medicine."

# Humour





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\*In the May 1980 issue of their magazine 'Motorwelt' ADAC (the W. German equivalent of our own AA/RAC service) showed Colt cars top of the reliability table with only 3.9 breakdowns per 1,000 registrations for cars up to 2 years old.

Breakdowns per 1000 Registrations 1979  
of cars up to 2 years old

1	Mitsubishi Colt	3.9
2	Honda	5.4
3	Mercedes-Benz	5.6
4	Mazda	6.7
5	Toyota	7.3
6	Datsun	7.5
7	VW	8.6
8	Opel	9.6
9	Ford	10.1
10	Audi	10.2
11	BMW	10.6
12	Renault	11.4
13	Fiat	13.8
14	Talbot	14.9
15	Volvo	16.7
16	Peugeot	17.7
17	Citroën	17.9
18	Alfa Romeo	22.5
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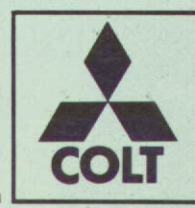
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# BACK TO THE IMJIN

**HILL 325 — THE GLOSTER HILL — IS STILL THERE.** So is the sluggish, impassive Imjin River meandering its way across the oriental landscape as if nothing violent had ever happened along its banks.

Today it's a peaceful South Korean scene where, every spring, pink azaleas blush in rich profusion. But on Sunday 22 April 1951, those placid waters ran with blood as 60,000 Chinese mounted a massive pre-emptive strike, hell-bent on over-running the land south of the 38th parallel.

As the struggle intensified, the Gloucesters used their boots, bare fists, entrenching tools and even well-aimed empty beer bottles to staunch the invaders.

Hill 325 was where the 'Glorious Glosters' repulsed attack after attack by the surging Chinese — it was estimated that for every one killed, five would take his place — who had crossed the Imjin hidden by the friendly cloak of darkness. And on the banks of the Imjin a 16-strong platoon of Gloucesters had a moonlight turkey shoot at the marauders, the river punctuated by dead and dying Chinese bodies.



**Story and pictures by  
Michael Blackman**

It was on Gloster Hill that the West Country regiment made their defiant last stand — all 300 of them — desperately short as they were of food, water and ammunition.

In the last distribution of ammunition, each rifleman was given three rounds, each Bren gunner issued with one-and-a-half magazines (42 rounds) and each Sten had to make do with half a magazine. Only seven grenades could be mustered from within the whole of the defending battalion.

Thirty years later, 50 members of the British Korean Veterans Association, some with wives and families, returned to the scene of the Battle of the Imjin where the 29th Independent Infantry Brigade Group blunted the attack of three Chinese infantry divisions advancing on the South Korean capital of Seoul.

Among them was General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, now Commander-in-Chief of Allied Forces, Northern Europe, but then a 27-year-old captain and adjutant of the 1st Gloucesters of whom all but 41 were either

**Below: General Farrar-Hockley makes a point to his fellow Veterans at the Kapyong memorial.**

**Above: Lt-Col Guy Temple, Sam Mercer and Cyril Papworth by the Imjin at scene of ambush.**

killed, wounded or taken prisoner. Young Farrar-Hockley was among those taken captive and went on to make six escape bids and win the DSO.

Recalling the battle he said: "It was four days hard fighting by everyone involved — no matter what his regiment or corps." And that view was echoed by his fellow Veterans as they made the 30th anniversary pilgrimage. The Brigade as a whole suffered a crippling 40 per cent casualty loss and men from 16 different units returned to remember comrades who had made the ultimate sacrifice.

Also there were two women, Mrs Lucy MacDonald and Miss Ruth Stone, who were nursing sisters aboard the British hospital ship *Maine*.

The Veterans came from every corner of the British Isles and many were from famous regiments now amalgamated into larger regiments. From Northern Ireland there were Mr Joe Curran (63) and Mr David Robb (56) Chief Steward at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, both of the Royal Ulster Rifles. For Wales there was Mr Eddie Lee of the Welch Regiment. And from Scotland came the Piper of the party, Mr Charles Bogart of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, accompanied by Mr Hammerton and Mr John Campbell, whose son Scoular was killed in action aged 22 while doing his National Service with the Black Watch.

Famous English line regiments were represented too — Royal Fusiliers, Royal Norfolks, The Middlesex Regiment and the Light Infantry. There was even one Canadian, Mr McLennan from the 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, who was wounded in the fighting.

Not surprisingly, the greatest single contingent came from the Gloucesters — although their numbers were almost equally matched by the combined group made up from the gunners, sappers, medics, RCT, REME, RAEC and one lone cavalryman in the person of Mr Terence Phillips of the 5th Dragoon Guards.

The Veterans' return started fittingly with a simple ceremony at the British Commonwealth Memorial, Kapyong. Led by the





Piper, the standards of the British Korean Veterans Association and of the Royal Ulster Rifles were slow-marched to the memorial flanked by a Korean army guard. At the steps wreaths were laid by General Farrar-Hockley and Major-General Tony Younger and then, for a few moments, groups of Veterans, with their families and personal friends, came together to recall the days of thirty years ago.

This ceremony and the two which followed to Gloster Valley and to the Pusan cemetery, were the main pilgrimage occasions of the tour. But between these the Veterans were kept hard at it. Not only were they taken to cultural centres such as the Korean National Exhibition and to the brand new Government Assembly Chamber — where the Veterans were the first official visitors — but from the start, the Korean media took a special interest in the visit. General Farrar-Hockley and General Younger were regularly giving interviews, press photographers followed the group throughout and, mid-way through the visit, the entire party appeared on a 30 minute TV programme.

Yet in the quieter moments and on the long coach trips to the various locations, each Veteran had his own personal memories and his reasons for making the trip. As Reggie Jeffs, formerly with 27th Commonwealth Brigade, said, "If you asked someone in the Argylls why they were returning to Korea, they would probably say that their particular memories were of the fighting on the Nakton river where the first VC of the war was won by Major Muir, the battalion's second-in-command."

On the other hand, the Sappers would have remembered the bridge demolitions outside Seoul and the casualties which 55 Independent Field Squadron suffered when, as infantry, they and C Squadron 8th Hus-sars checked the advancing Chinese as they poured south. They all vividly recalled how

heavily outnumbered they had been — the Gloucesters particularly so for, despite being surrounded, they had withstood the main thrust of the Chinese divisions.

Yet for Cyril Papworth, who was awarded the Military Medal as an RAMC corporal with the Gloucesters' forward companies, it was the comradeship. "The tougher the going, the greater the comradeship. We helped to give our soldiering experience and know-how to the younger lads."

Inevitably, it was in Gloster Valley that the Veterans' visit was crystallised.

On the very day and almost to the exact hour where three decades earlier the Gloucesters had made their stand, General Farrar-Hockley led a brief ceremony at the foot of the stone memorial set into the hillside.

He gave a short description of the battle for the benefit of the families present and for those British residents who had come out from Seoul to join the service of remembrance, and then wreaths were laid to the skirl of pipes followed by the observance of a one minute silence.

But for a few others, notably Lieutenant Colonel Guy Temple of the Gloucesters who had flown in from the Arabian Gulf specially for the occasion and for Major Guy Ward of 70 Battery 45 Field Regiment and Mr Morgan of 170 Battery RA, both of whom had supported the Gloucesters during the battle, the brief visit to the actual Imjin river and to the ambush site at Gloster crossing, were equally memorable moments.

Yet, above all, the greatest impression left in the minds of the Veterans at the end of their visit — apart from the overwhelming hospitality by the Korean authorities — was the outstanding progress the country had made since the days of the war: "This place was flat — now it's a city" or "it's unrecognisable: Look at the roads, we had dirt tracks before" were typical of the remarks heard.

The feelings of the whole group were summed up in the words of Nurse Ruth Stone: "At the time there were lots of sad sights but seeing it now, as a thriving expanding country — it makes it all worthwhile." □

Right: Piper Charles Bogart at Gloster Hill.

Below: Peter West and Joe Curran bearing standards at Kapyong in memorial tribute.





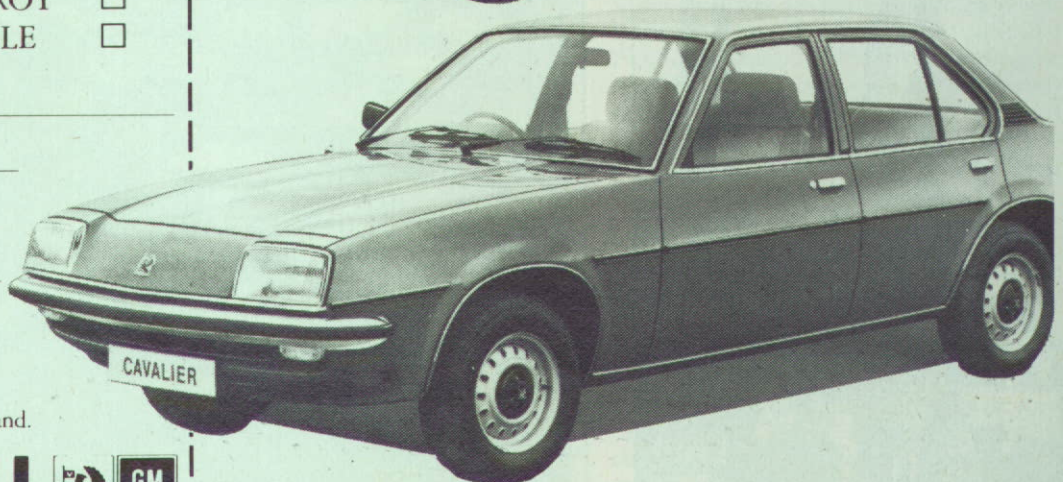
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# THE WARNHAM WAR MUSEUM

THIS IS NOT ONLY a private museum organised and assembled by one man, it is also his tribute to the men and machines of World War Two, housing as it does a truly remarkable collection of military vehicles from Jeeps to armoured cars, even a Naafi mobile canteen. Uniforms, badges, shoulder flashes and all manner of militaria are also on display and, like everything else in this large purpose-built museum, have been acquired over the years by the proprietor, Joe Lyndhurst.

Among the many cars on view there is a Jeep, one of 277,000 built by Ford for the Allied Armies between 1942 and 1945, which has a rather special significance. In splendid condition, it was the first vehicle to be purchased for the museum and marked the start of the present impressive collection.

Then there is the massive Steyr 1500 staff car used by General von Arnim after he took over from Rommel in North Africa while nearby is a Clarkat, one of many which did valuable service towing aircraft on airfield and aircraft carriers. Of particular interest is the 1924 half-track Citroen-Kegresse. Originally designed in 1912 by M Kegresse, the Czar of Russia's head chauffeur, for use in snow, it was the first of its kind and became known as the 'Father of all Half-tracks.'

An 8-cwt Morris radio truck, a Canadian Army Signals Chevrolet complete to the last detail, a Jeep used by the Long Range Desert Group in North Africa, a Volkswagen Kubelwagen, a type extensively used by the Wehrmacht, a Dodge three-quarter-ton ambulance, the most widely employed ambulance in the US Army, and the GMC two-and-a-half-ton truck, a universal cargo carrier in World War Two, are just some of the many vehicular attractions.

Also featured are motorcycles, including a folding 'Parascooter' designed for airborne operations, and bicycles, among them a collapsible model and a heavy duty all-purpose bike. Overhead, an Auster spotter plane completes the picture.

Displays of shoulder flashes, among them a Chindit sign, divisional markings and trade flashes drawn from the British, American and Canadian armies, nicely complement a fine array of uniforms. A Royal Marines battle dress and dress uniform, a Durham Light Infantry colonel's mess kit, a Seaforth Highlander's khaki tunic, kilt and glengarry, a German Afrika Korps cap and an SAS beret are just a few of the many items of dress of all three Services. Fighting knives and an inflatable belt are among

several examples of equipment issued to troops taking part in the D-Day invasion, while items of Home Guard weaponry, the uniforms of a WAAF officer, ATS private, Auxiliary Fire Servicemen and a Woman's Land Army Worker are typical of exhibits which bring the war nearer home.

General Eisenhower's D-Day message to troops and Christmas 1944 greetings from Montgomery can be seen above the engine of a crashed Messerschmitt and several pieces of the wreckage of a Hurricane. A useful piece of equipment is an air crew survival pack containing such diverse items as foreign currency, fish hooks, chewing gum, first aid and a rubber water bottle.

Back on the home front again the St John's Ambulance is remembered with examples of uniform and first aid kit while children's gas masks and a variety of handbooks such as *Air Raid Precautions for Animals*, *Fire Guard's Handbook* or *How to Deal with Incendiary Bombs* help to fill in the picture.

There is an old HMV record of *This is the Army*, *Mister Jones*, models of a V2 launching site and an armoured train on the Russian front, a map of Brighton prepared by the German High Command pinpointing places of strategic importance, an American mine detector and a wheel from a Horsa glider to mention but a few of the many miscellaneous items which can be seen and enjoyed.

The Surrey and Sussex Branch of the Parachute Regimental and Airborne Forces Old Comrades Association has its headquarters at the museum and Militaria and Collectors Fairs are held on the second Sunday of each month throughout the year.

John Jesse

**Proprietor:** Joe Lyndhurst  
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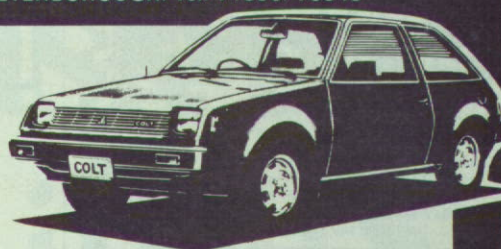
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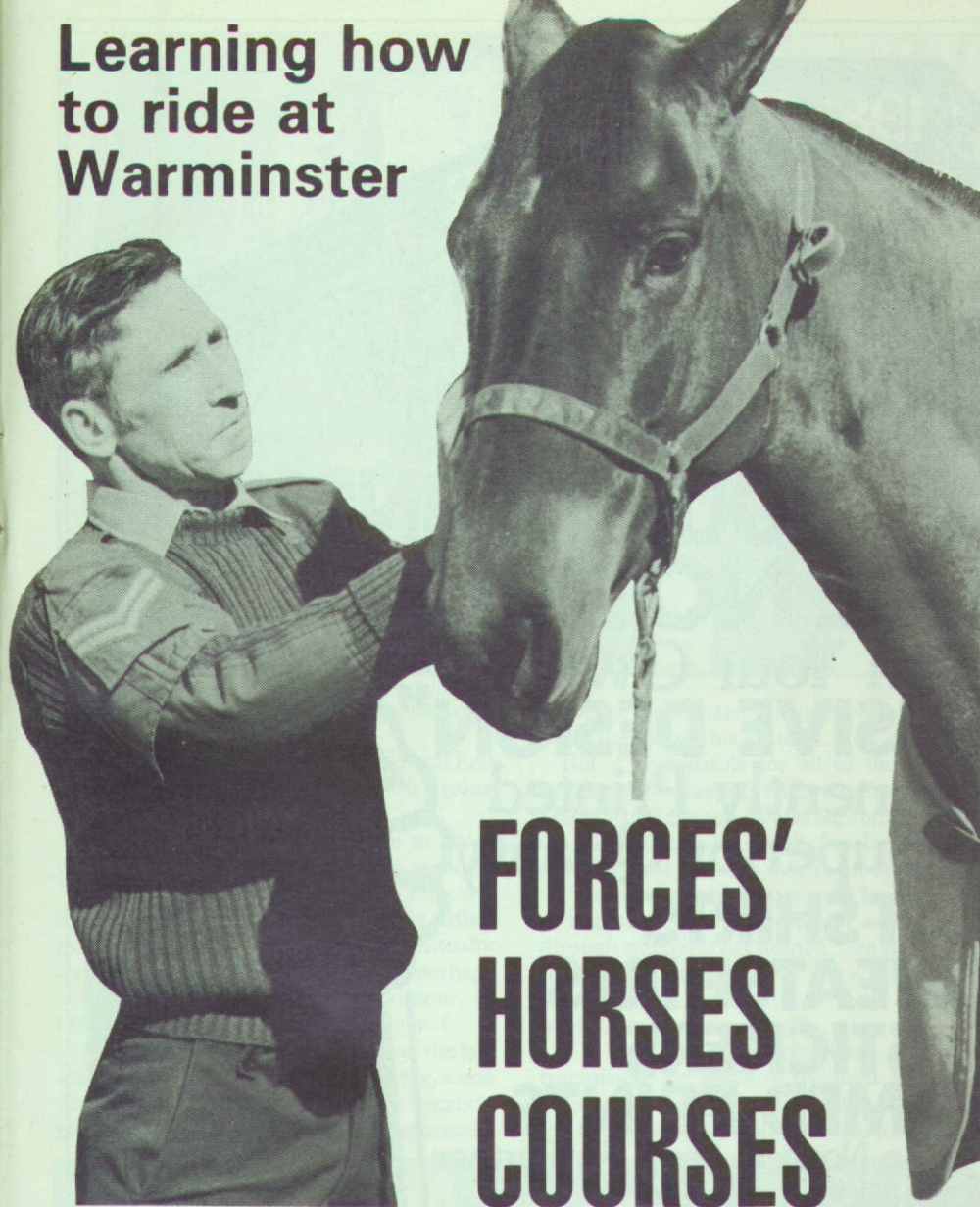
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# Learning how to ride at Warminster



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FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS warriors and horses had the closest of relationship. Only in this century has the advent of machines seen the cavalry converted to mechanised warfare and the relegation of the horse to ceremonial and recreational roles.

It means that today the average soldier's knowledge of horses probably goes no further than his local betting shop. But down at the School of Infantry at Warminster there is a Saddle Club which offers the only beginners' riding courses for soldiers in the whole of Britain.

The inspiration behind the courses and behind the saddle club for the last decade is retired major, Robert Sullivan-Tailleur. When he first arrived at Warminster on a posting back in 1970 the club was very different to today's set up.

"My wife and I used to give riding lessons on the one pony we had," he recalls. "The children used to queue up and we could only give them 20 minutes each."

Now the club owns 12 horses and six ponies and operates on a seven day week. During a normal week nearly 20 hours of instruction are given to both adults and children.

But it is in the courses for beginners and those for people who can ride just a little that the Infantry Saddle Club provides a unique facility. No civilians ever manage to get on these courses, even on a fill-up basis. They are fully subscribed months in advance.

The courses are open to all sections of the Army although infantry get first priority. On the most recent, 35 people applied for the eight places.

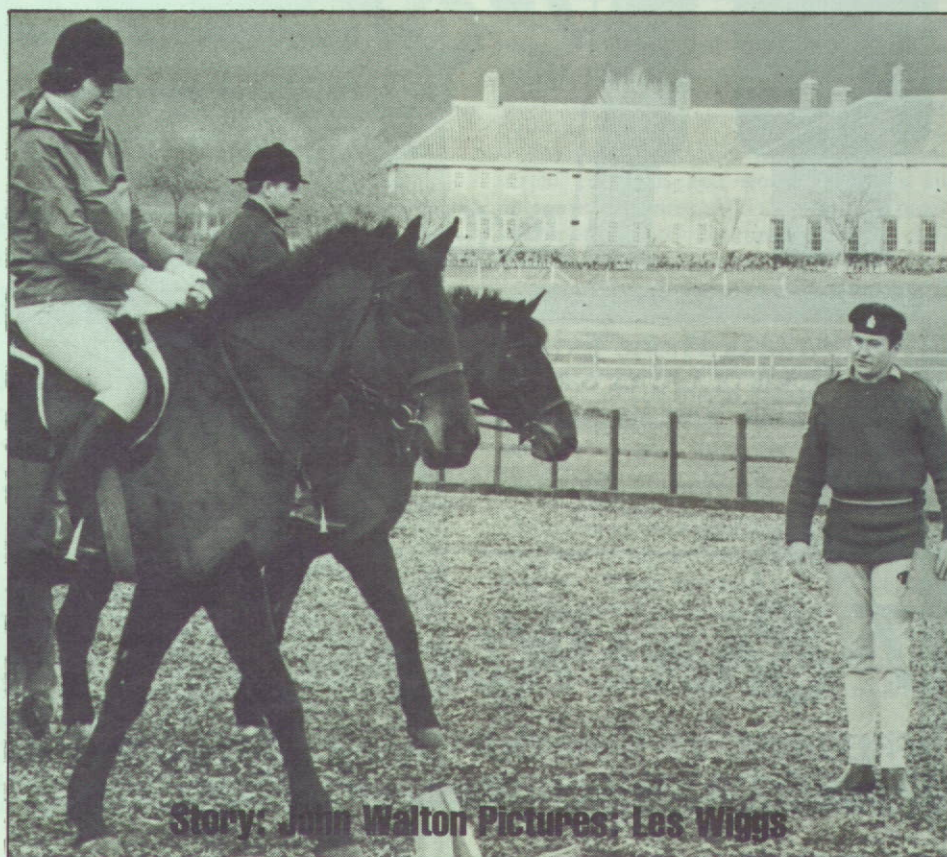
Lucky enough to be accepted were two troopers from the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, Glyn Davies and Jim Berry. Years ago, in their job, they would have been horsemen but both admitted that it was their first time on a horse — "except perhaps donkeys on the sands at Portrush."

*continued on page 45*

Below: Maj Sullivan-Tailleur's anatomy lesson.

Above: Former jockey, Cpl Gregg and friend.

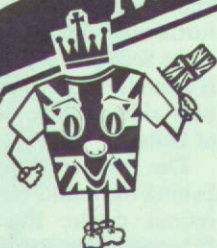
Below: Equitation students under instruction.



Story: John Walton Pictures: Les Wiggs



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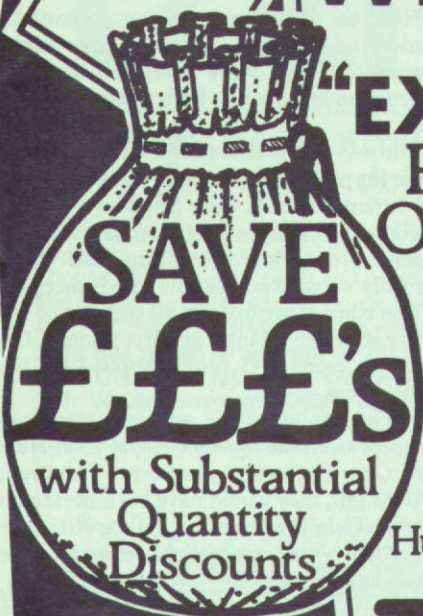
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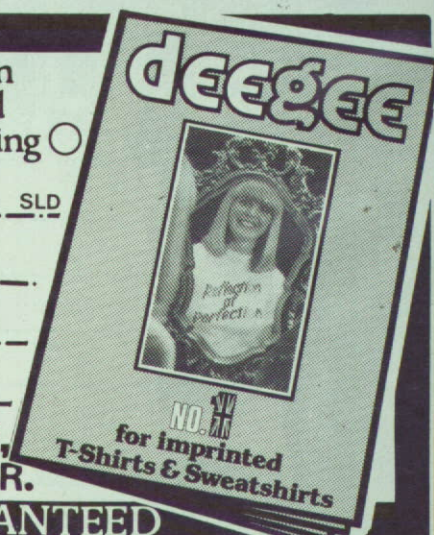
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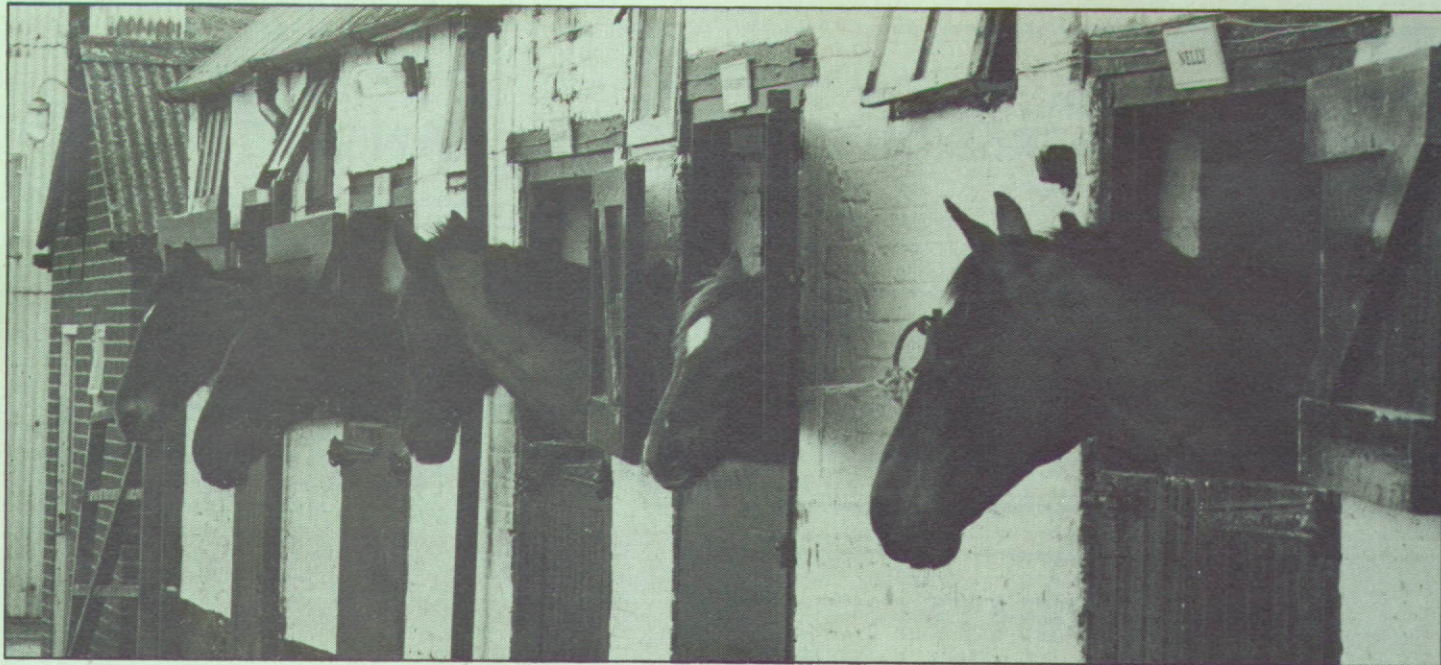
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Above: A nodding acquaintance in the stables.

Said Jim Berry: "I was a bit nervous at first but once you have started you know it's going to be all right."

Added Glyn: "The horses seem to know just what to do — much better than we do."

The idea of the courses is not to create the really first class rider. It is to provide riding as a recreation for all ranks so that eventually they can go out by themselves and perhaps even go over a few small jumps without, in Dorian Williams's phrase, 'coming awf.'

A mainstay of the Saddle Club over the last few years has been Corporal Bill Gregg, a one time apprentice jockey and more recently groom to a general. He has been permanent

groom at Warminster for some years but will leave the Army this autumn.

Bill is responsible for all of the horses' winter cuts — ranging from the hunter clip, which leaves the saddle and legs unshorn, to the blanket clip which looks for all the world as though the horse is wearing a blanket.

"I clip them in November and January and as necessary until the summer coat comes through when it is not needed," he said. "It's something I taught myself. Since I came here we have built up slowly — more by hard work than anything else."

The driving forces behind the club and responsible for much of the hard work are Major Sullivan-Tailour and his wife. The job is unpaid and involves the Major in long

hours outside his normal job at the School of Infantry.

He told SOLDIER: "This job is a vocation. You have to be prepared to give up your life to run it. Either my wife or I are down here seven days a week and we get at least two or three phone calls every night. You must be at people's beck and call."

The only time the Sullivan-Tailours can have a holiday is when the horses are given a fortnight's break in May and another in September. The horses themselves do get a rest day each week as well.

The club membership is divided into two categories. Full members are Service people and their wives or husbands serving in Warminster and there are associate members — either Service personnel stationed elsewhere or MOD employed civilians. The latter pay a bigger subscription and riding charges are also higher.

"We are entirely self supporting. We run without any subsidy but on the charges we make at the moment we cannot afford to rebuild. We are now seeking a grant to modernise and improve the facilities," said Major Sullivan-Tailour.

The present facilities include some converted cowsheds and workshops plus an indoor practice area. And there are two practice cross country courses which the club members built themselves.

It costs a lot of money to replace horses and equipment — a good leather saddle will today run to £200. But some of the horses come from the Army; no longer fit for military duty they may still be able to cope with the lesser weight of the average club rider. And the saddle club gets them for the slaughter house price.

The success of the beginners' courses, which last a week and cost only £12, has surprised not a few. Major Sullivan-Tailour told us: "When we started in 1977 people said we would never do it. But every course we have had has been full. People go away on courses for such things as golf and squash but it was a hell of a game before we could get anyone to agree to this."

Now the nagging doubts have been removed and the Infantry Saddle Club is well established in its role of getting soldiers onto horseback once again. ■

Left: Lieutenant Sue Marriott tends her horse.





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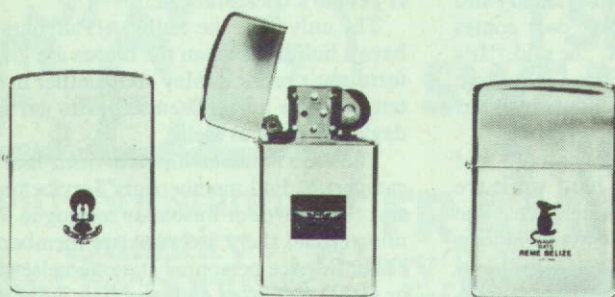
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## Thoughtful study

*'The Tank Pioneers' (Kenneth Macksey)*

It is a sad and well-known fact that Britain gave birth to the tank during World War One and was first in battle with it, but then neglected it to such an extent that in 1925 there were only 40 tanks available for manoeuvres. All this was in spite of the urgings of the tank pioneers, for whom the way ahead seemed clear and who busily dreamed up designs, tactics and organisations. Against them were ranged the forces of conservatism and the vested interests of the cavalry and infantry.

It was not quite as simple as that and after reading Major Macksey's thoughtful study one may emerge with a bit more sympathy with those who put the brakes on tank development — though this is not a prime purpose of the author.

After World War One, the Army had reverted to defence of the Empire as its main task. Most of its overseas stations were not suitable for tanks and India was particularly, and most influentially, unwilling to mechanise. (Egypt was chosen as the training ground for a mechanised force, with excellent consequences in the 1940s.) With only the experience of the primitive tanks of World War One as solid background, the men in control had to decide what tanks could accomplish, what sort of tanks they wanted, how many, and how they should be organised. Every decision had to be coloured by financial stringency and the Ten Year Rule which said they should not plan for a war within that period. So, it was not surprising that they were cautious.

The tank cause was probably not helped by the fact that some of its leaders were not popular. In particular, J F C Fuller (who in 1918 wrote the brilliant Plan 1919, the first indication of the blitzkrieg tactics of 1940) was a maverick who liked publicity, resigned when offered a command he did not like and titled his autobiography, *Memoirs of an Unconventional Soldier*. Percy Hobart admitted he was "damn bad with my superiors" and jeopardised his career by marrying the wife of one of his students at Staff College, Quetta, after a divorce action. He laid the foundations of the famous 7th Armoured Division, was sacked, became a Home Guard lance-corporal, was recalled and ended up in command of the 79th Armoured Division whose 'funnies' played so big a part in Normandy.

Major Macksey traces the interwoven stories of these and other British tank pioneers, including G le Q Martel, Liddell Hart, George Lindsay, Charles Broad and, "last of the pioneers", John Crocker. Foreign pioneers he looks at include Walter Christie, the American designer, and Hans Guderian who built Hitler's panzer forces; he pairs these two with Martel and Hobart respectively.

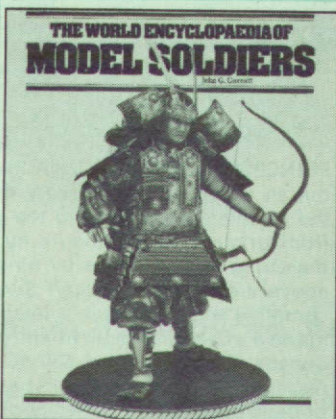
If it is any consolation, Major Macksey makes it clear that Britain was far from the only power to drag its feet in the development of armour. In the States, George S Patton, who had commanded tanks in World War One and was to become famous as a commander of armoured formations in World War Two, wrote in 1933 that mechanised cavalry "will be the exception rather than the rule... in general, mechanised and horsed cavalry will operate together" and "for night marches machines will always be preceded by horsemen, or else become victims of ambush."

Jane's, 238 City Road, London EC1V 2PU — £9.50 RLE

## Small world

*'The World Encyclopaedia of Model Soldiers' (John G Garratt)*

It does not take this book long to persuade an ignorant outsider like this reviewer that there is more to the business of model soldiering than he thought. What is more, the excellent colour pictures of models, not all of them military, indicate that there are some it would be very nice to have around the house.



Once you have learned the difference between, say, flats and semi-solids and read about their development, you can examine the international scene, for there is much exotic about this hobby. Iron Curtain countries, however, do not seem very keen on publicity for their modellers: "actively hostile opposition was encountered" when Mr Garratt tried to get information from Poland, and at a Russian trade fair in London he found "the blank wall of a representative at the stand (had) a chilling effect on the enquirer".

There is more to modellers than modelling. For example, Don and Honey Ray worked in a circus, where Don threw knives around Honey's outline, before they went into model-making. They were doing well in London until their studio was demolished by a Luftwaffe bomb in 1940, went back to the circus after the war but started a family and settled in Canada where they are now happily making a variety of models.

Nor is all peaceful in the modelling world. Pirates abound, not least in Hong Kong — "a name of ill omen", says the author, who is pretty handy with acid comment. In Britain there is some protection against piracy from the archaic Sculpture Copyright Act of 1914, which has been successfully invoked.

Among other notable entries are the names of breakfast cereals and of a Belgian coffee-exporting firm "of rare intelligence" which distributed

model soldiers with their products; some edible models; at least two advertisers in SOLDIER in 1968 who claimed to be model-makers but disappeared without trace; Sir Winston Churchill who "wrote about model soldiers with great feeling in *My Early Life*"; H G Wells, who was a war-gamer; and actor Peter Cushing, a collector who used models to help work out his entrances and exits.

No really keen collector will want to be without this useful and entertaining encyclopaedia.

Frederick Muller, London NW2 6LE — £19.50 RLE

## Making a mark

*'World War 2 Military Vehicle Markings' (Terence Wise)*

Flags succeeded knightly insignia for recognition purposes when groups of men became more important than individuals in battle. Colours became the rallying points when regiments came into being. In World War One, coloured shoulder flashes ensured identification and when motor vehicles became more common they, too, were adorned with formation signs. At first these were individual, such as regimental crests, but they eventually mostly gave way to geometric designs.

This book contains 1000 line drawings of such identification marks, all in black and white, but the copious text and notes give information about the colours used. There are separate chapters for the Allied and Axis-powers, with individual sections for Britain, the Free Forces, Africa, Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, France, Poland, the USA, the USSR, Germany, Italy and Japan.

This volume concentrates all the information about the vehicle markings of all the protagonists of World War Two that the author has been able to accumulate after wide

research. It will become a book of reference for enthusiasts.

Patrick Stephens Ltd, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB3 8EL — £6.95

GRH

## The other side

*'Fritz' (Fritz Nagel)*

Based on a collection of diaries kept for all but the first four months of World War One this autobiographical narrative tells the story of a German soldier, Fritz Nagel, who saw service first as an NCO then as an officer in a succession of anti-aircraft units on the French, Russian, British, Australian and American fronts.

His pencilled notes lay dormant for a long time and now emerge as a vivid account of one man's experiences from green recruit and pre-war gunner to active service on both the Western and Eastern fronts and finally of the hard time back home in Germany from 1919 to 1921.

An added zest to these memoirs is Fritz Nagel's war-time marriage to an English girl. It was in Switzerland in 1912 that he met and fell in love with Dorothy Frances Lane, the daughter of an English surgeon. When war broke out in 1914 the American Consul offered to get them back to England but this was turned down, Nagel saying that the war would be over in 30 days or so. Events, of course, proved otherwise and as an enemy alien Dorothy remained in Bremen for the next four years and finally married Nagel during his transfer from the Eastern Front to France in 1917.

Illustrated by photographs, some of them of considerable interest, the value of these diaries lies in their portrayal of a soldier's life 'on the other side'.

Der Angriff Publications, 1024 6th Street, Huntington, West Virginia 25701, USA, \$9.45 including postage

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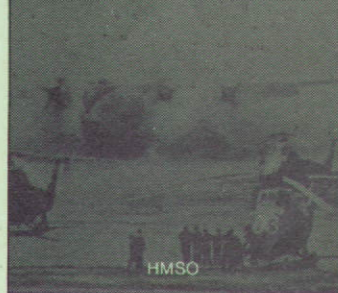
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# MORE BOOKS

## Flight from the Middle East

Air Chief Marshal Sir David Lee GBE CB



### Watching brief

'Flight from the Middle East' (Air Chief Marshal Sir David Lee)

This book concerns itself primarily with Royal Air Force activities in the Middle East and Africa and Britain's policy for watching over these areas from 1945 to 1972. The reduction of the Armed Forces after World War Two necessitated a more economical use of Service manpower. The RAF was ideally suited to cover large areas and long distances and could carry aid and, if necessary, soldiery at short notice and in quick time. Apart from the everyday routine of air force duties over 27 years, this book reflects the co-operation between the Services and also the police forces of the various states during a period that was hardly ever free from trouble spots.

The Mau Mau in Kenya, tribal troubles in Trucial Oman, the Radfan operations, the Kuwait crisis, terrorism in Aden State — all involved the Army and it is interesting to read the accounts written from the RAF point of view. In this respect there is a special appendix listing the correct titles for all the Army regiments involved.

The author feels the RAF will sadly miss the overseas commitments from which they have now withdrawn. There are few overseas tours today and, while many men and families found them tiresome and difficult, they did provide the Force with useful experience that can no longer be gathered and gave junior ranks valuable know-how and greater responsibilities than they can now get at home.

HMSO Books (PMIC), Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Atlantic House, High Holborn, London EC1P 1BN — £9.75

GRH

### Disapproving

'The People's England' (Alan Ereira) Mr Ereira writes of 'ordinary people' over the past two centuries and their struggle to create decent living standards and, in more recent times, to 'improve' themselves. He divides them by kinds of life and among his eight chapter headings is 'Soldiers'. It starts with John Shipp, who enlisted in 1804 (and left some famous memoirs) and ends with the National Servicemen of the 1950s.

The military life he describes is not a very happy one, though it still seems a good deal better than the lives described in the chapters on labourers, miners and factory hands. Of course, it improved over the period. The author writes disapprovingly of military discipline, allows that the Army did cater with lectures for questioning conscripts in World War Two, and seems surprised that relations were less rigid in a fighting unit on a battlefield than elsewhere.

He reckons the Army went back to its bad old ways in 1945: "Soldiers who had been told they were fighting for freedom were themselves deprived of it" and National Servicemen suffered tougher drills and harsher discipline than in war-time. "The Army was a dinosaur that had somehow survived into the new age — an age that had itself been forged out of the experiences of Army life", he concludes.

A good many who soldiered through the war and the subsequent National Service period will disagree. In general, the Army went out of its way to be kind to its peace-time conscripts. But one does not have to agree with Mr Ereira to find his book readable and stimulating.

In his chapter on labourers, the author devotes several interesting pages to the men who were recruited as labourers for the Western Front in World War One, starting with the 'clay-kickers' who were taken from laying sewers under Manchester to tunnel under German positions in France. By the end of 1917 there were 387,000 men in labour battalions, including 90,000 Chinese coolies. This is a subject on which no major study seems to have been published — surely an opportunity for someone.

Footnote. Mr John Terraine recently told us that no World War One German general said, as legend has it, that British soldiers were lions led by donkeys and that the phrase was used about French troops beaten in 1870 (see Bookshelf, February). Now Mr Ereira quotes a Crimean veteran saying, "Punch, in 1855, might well have it that the Crimean army was an army of lions led by donkeys".

Any earlier offers?

Routledge and Kegan Paul, Broadway House, Newton Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 1EN — £9.50.

RLE

### Town and camp

'The Story of Aldershot' (Howard N Cole)

The hamlet of Aldershot, which became an urban district in 1894, was elevated to the dignity of a municipal borough in 1922. However, in 1974 Aldershot Borough ceased to exist when it merged with Farnborough to become the new Borough of Rushmoor. To the military, of course, Aldershot has long been known as the 'Home of the British Army' and Rushmoor has been closely associated with manoeuvres, spectacular parades and military tattoos and displays.

In 1854 the first loads of bricks were being stacked for the erection of the new camp adjacent to the town and the Queen's Pavilion was being built of wood on a hill overlooking



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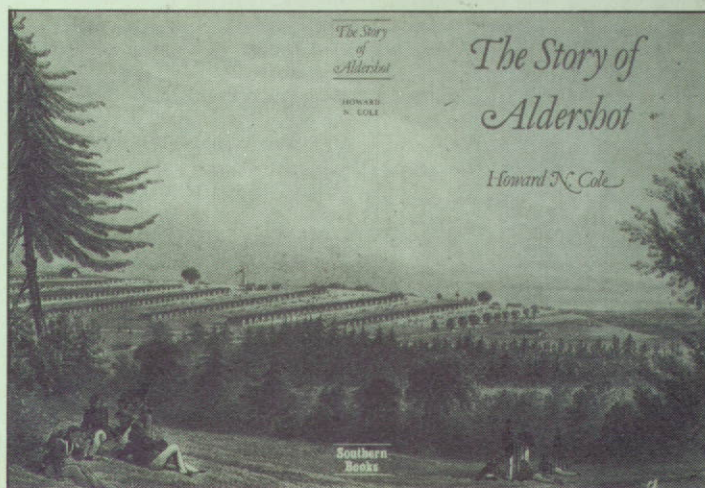
Long Valley. Since then both camp and town have seen many changes and a hamlet that contained but 875 civilians in 1851 enlarged rapidly in 10 years to become a town of 16,720, including 8965 soldiers; much too rapidly, for there was a lack of drainage in civilian Aldershot and an excess of drinking and lawlessness.

Previously regiments were stationed singly in towns, forts and barracks. The camp at Aldershot was intended to congregate larger numbers so that formation training in brigades could be carried out.

The growth of town and camp is a story well captured in these pages and the author has researched all

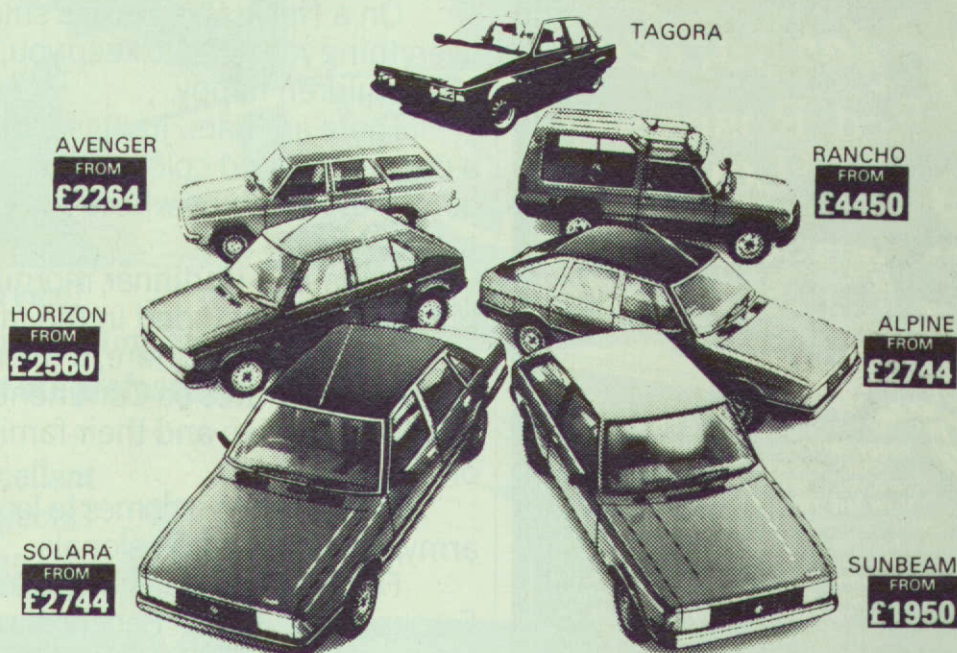
aspects of civilian and military history — a long painstaking task. The book was first published in 1951, but the 30 years since then has seen many more changes, including the rebuilding of the camp. A new chapter completes the record to date — a story of human interest and of military history, with many sidelights discovered by the author (now a lieutenant-colonel retired) who has been associated with the area for 50 years since he first joined the garrison as a Royal Horse Artillery driver. Southern Books (Aldershot) Ltd, 4 Grosvenor Road, Aldershot, Hampshire — £8.95

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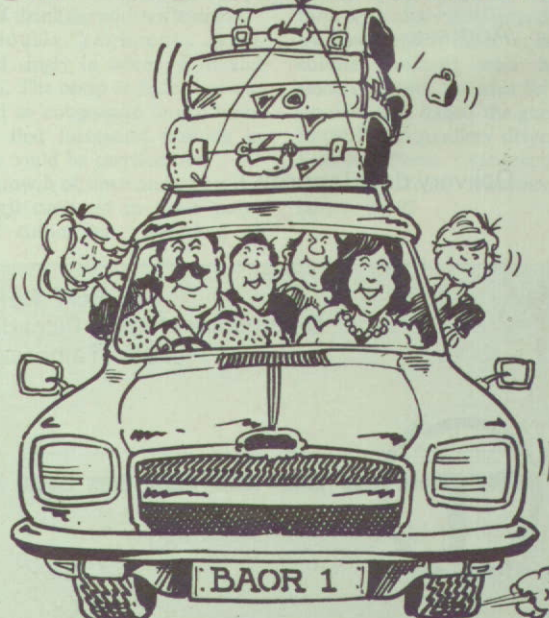
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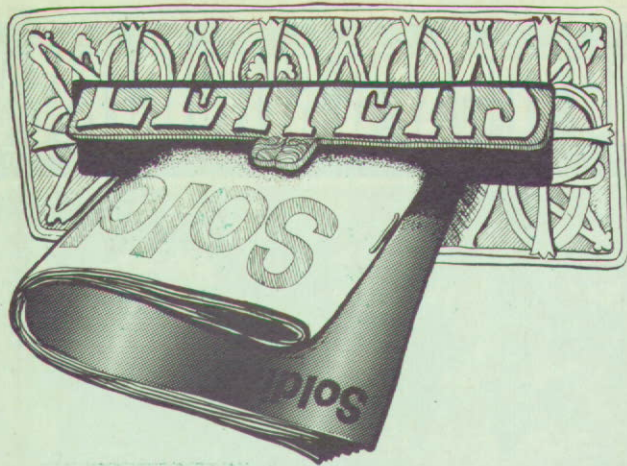
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## Two-tier TA?

It is a great pity that arbitrary age limits should force the retirement from the TA of many a man who would willingly soldier on with just the same effectiveness and enthusiasm as before. And at an age when, in civilian life, people have not reached the peak of their administrative powers — nor called a halt to violent games of squash or early morning runs. There would seem to be a lamentable waste of skilled manpower which the military machine can ill afford to lose.

The obvious solution is a two-tier TA with a second tier for home defence only. One often wonders what will happen when the TA goes off to Nato to a man. Who is going to defend us at home?

In the meantime, there does exist an opportunity for ex-TA Officers

and ORs to serve in a uniformed military force. The Legion of Frontiersmen of the Commonwealth is a cavalry-style organisation with units in the UK and Commonwealth countries. It boasts amongst its former members Sir Winston Churchill and General Jan Smuts. Duties and training are varied and range from Aid to the Civil Power to guards of honour on civic occasions. Uniform consists of a working dress of pullover and beret and a No 1 Dress of 'blues' with shoulder chains, overalls and spurs. It is an opportunity to continue serving and to enjoy the comradeship of other men. — Major T C R Armstrong-Wilson, Gilnockie Tower, Canonbie, Dumfriesshire.

## Footnotes

I saw your article on the new American suede combat boot, 'Yankee suede bashers', or as we call them

'Hush Puppies', and there's really nothing new about them. What our designers have done is re-invented the wheel. Up to the end of World War Two, American Forces were wearing a brown boot. Someone decided we should go to black boots, and the word was put out to units to sandpaper the brown boots, then dye them black. I wouldn't be surprised if we again get the word: 'Sandpaper the black boots and dye them brown'.

The new boots will not be popular with our airborne forces, as they like to wear highly glistened black boots with their No 2 dress. If anyone will shave their toe caps, it just might be an airborne trooper.

Our new helmet will also be in the supply system this year — our designers state that it's a radical new design. Any resemblance to the German coal scuttle helmet of WW1 and II is purely coincidental. — CSM John McCamley, HHC, 2 Bn, 7th US Cavalry, 1st C7v Div, Fort Hood, Texas 76545, USA.

PS: I really enjoy reading your SOLDIER magazine.

All the recent publicity surrounding the new footwear for the British soldier brings to mind the gem of information which I gleaned from a regimental history recently. I think it will interest your readers both young and old.

It is the fact that it was not until circa 1812 that the British soldier was, for the first time, issued with a left and right shoe! Oh, how the common soldiers' feet must have suffered in the early campaigns!

This now useless fact prompts me to ask if it is the answer to the question which has confounded us khaki-clad soldiers for many a year — is this the reason why the old regiments were called regiments of foot and not regiments of feet? — Bill Duggan, 21 Essex Walk, Walcot, Swindon, Wilts, SN3 3EY.

## Bad image

There have been several newspaper reports recently of Servicemen being found guilty of homosexual offences and facing up to nine months imprisonment, followed by dishonourable discharge. It is not my intention to condone homosexuality, but I do feel that the authorities concerned over-react to this particular offence in a most incongruous fashion. We may compare, for example, the recent affair of an officer convicted of withholding information on a double murder case in Ireland, a serious crime by any normal standards. The punishment did not involve any imprisonment or humiliation, however, but merely a polite request to resign.

In their treatment of homosexual soldiers, the military authorities appear to be concerned above all with the protection of the Army's image. The cover-up of the murder of Irish civilians, however, does little for their image in this country or, I would hope, in Britain. — L Megahey, 112 Earlswood Road, Belfast 4.

## Pen-pal plea

Please could we have a pen-pal page included in SOLDIER? It would be really interesting to write to Servicemen and women at home and overseas. — Heather Norbury, 73 Skeena Hill, Wandsworth, London SW18.

SOLDIER NEWS already has a pen-pals spot and this will transfer to the magazine when it goes fortnightly. — Ed.

## Votes of thanks

Thank you very much for publishing my letter in the May issue of SOLDIER. Over a number of years I have made enquiries through your excellent magazine, and have always been successful. I have already had an excellent reply to this latest letter of mine.

SOLDIER is about the best medium to obtain a reply to military problems; must be the circulation. — Major R E Evans, 90 St Mary's Drive, East Preston, Littlehampton, Sussex, BN16 1JB.

You wrote to me in December with the address of a US Army Magazine in Europe who might be able to assist me in my search for General Patton's son. Since that date I have written letters and last week I personally received a short reply from General Patton. I would like to express my deepest gratitude for all your efforts.

I have said it before and I will say it again, your magazine is outstanding! I look forward to continuing to be your subscriber for many years to come. You have proved how good you really are by helping me to achieve a great ambition and make direct contact with General Patton. Mr R J Groves, PO Box 4490, Kowloon Central Post Office, Hong Kong.

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## Old memories

I agree with Mr Andrews (Letters, May) that it would be good for some of us old soldiers to see some past history of our former regiments, especially the ones now disbanded, as it seems that their history has passed away for nobody to read of.

I served with the 1st Bn The Rifle Brigade as a regular soldier until 1952 stationed in West Germany at Osnabrück, Minden and Celle, in the 7th Armoured Division/Brigade and with many other famous regiments who were also wartime comrades to my regiment from the Western Desert, Italy and 'D' Day landing campaigns.

Whilst I was stationed in Germany, we had to go for annual shooting at Munster Lager Ranges. We met up with one of our sister regiments from the Canadian Army who wore the same badge and dress as ours. Except for battle honours you could hardly tell the difference of our badges. I think they were called The Princess Patricia's Rifles and I should like to know if they are still in existence because they were a great bunch of chaps.

If you print this letter in your magazine please let me be remembered to my old friends in the battalion especially members from 'I' Company 13 Carrier Scout Platoon and 'D' & 'M' Wing. I hope to be visiting Germany this September, so if anyone's around then I hope we meet and exchange memories. — **Mr E A Hawkrige, 48 Burgess Ave, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex, SS17 0AZ.**

## Competition

Our March competition 'Pieces of Eight' attracted a terrific response with most people correctly identifying the badges shown: 1 Army Catering Corps, 2 17th/21st Lancers, 3 Devonshire and Dorset Regt, 4 Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5 The Light Infantry, 6 King's Own Scottish Borderers, 7 Scots Guards, 8 Royal Engineers. There were a number of variations supplied in answer to the second part of the question but any that contained both The Gloucestershire Regiment and the Royal Green Jackets were accepted.

Prizewinners were: 1 — E J Pope, 'Renfrew', Vines Cross Road, Horam, Heathfield, E Sussex; 2 — R Cheeseman, 16 Shepherds Way, Lower Stoke, Rochester, Kent; 3 — J H Fraser, Girder Cottage, 148 Scrubs Lane, London NW10; 4 — Maj (Retd) E Chrichton-Daniels CD, 72 Teversham Lane, London SW8; 5 — CLC Josef Maes, Vuurkruisstr. 29, B-3970 Leopoldsburg, Belgium; 6 — N Stafford, 22 Brimpton Common, Reading, Berkshire; 7 — P Rafferty, 27 Pattens Road, Warwick; 8 — D R McFarlane-Johnson, 757 South Circular Road, Islandbridge, Dublin.

## Reunions

**The Welch Regiment Old Comrades.** Annual reunion Saturday 10 October at the Drill Hall, Pontypriid. Details from V D Williams, 41 Cole Bank Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 8EZ.

**The Royal Welch Fusiliers Comrades Association.** Annual reunion

and general meeting 5 and 6 September. Tickets and programmes from branch secretaries or the Secretary, RWFCA, The Barracks, Caernarfon, LL55 2DB, Gwynedd.

**The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire and The West Yorkshire Regiment.** Annual reunion Saturday 3 October at the TA Centre, Colliergate, York. Details from the Secretary PWO and West Yorkshire Regimental Association, Imphal Barracks, York, YO1 4HD.

**15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars.** The 62nd annual reunion dinner and dance Saturday 29 August 6pm for 7pm at the Banqueting Suite, Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne. Details from Major B O Simmonds, Regimental Secretary, 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars Regimental Association, Fenham Barracks, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4NP. Tel: 0632-29855.

## How observant are you?

(see page 29)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Soldier's cigarette; 2 Rear leg of toy soldier third from left; 3 Tie of boy at far right; 4 Pennant of yacht; 5 Mouth of kneeling man; 6 Little finger of nearest boy; 7 Shape of soldier's collar point; 8 Ripple at stern of yacht; 9 Spindle between legs of park seat; 10 Roof of tearoom at left of tree.

## Collectors' corner

N Cherry, 228 New Cross Road, London, SE14 5PL. Has 200 formation signs, shoulder titles and trade badges to exchange for similar. Also wants anything concerned with Army rugby.

Wolfgang Klose, Westpreubenring 20, D-2400 Lübeck 14, Germany. Would like to hear from any collectors of militaria. Especially interested in Scottish regiments.

WO1 C Morgan, Gwent, 23 Heath Avenue, Whittington, Lichfield, Staffs, WS14 9TJ. Wishes to purchase rugby programmes, annuals, books etc. Best prices paid (incl postage cost). Tel: 0543-433201.

Ina Tindall, 86 Hencroft St, Slough, Berks, SL1 1RE. Young collector, with limited financial resources, seeks help with collection of miniature medals (decorations, GSMs, campaigns, WGC etc, genuine only please). Has number of brass buttons for part or full exchange if required.

M J Laker, 36 Oatlands Drive, Otley, Yorks, LS21 2AY. Requires Polish/Czech/Belgian/Dutch/F French wartime badges (cloth, metal, bakelite).

K Miller, 6 Beech St, Clitheroe, Lancs, BB7 1HH. Has badges, buttons, cloth badges for swap/sale. Wants water bottle current issue with cap, good condition.

David Busby, 62 Botley Road, Oxford, OX2 0BT. Requires cap badges of West German, Belgian and Italian Armies.

# CAN YOU HELP?

I am trying to find out anything about the history of the 14th Lancashire Rifle Volunteers and the 14th Lancashire Volunteer Rifles for the period between 1859 and 1882. I would be most grateful for any information especially as regards uniform and manning. — **Mr Simon Gregory, 15 Wood View Grove, Brighouse, West Yorkshire, HD6 2EH.**

The Victorian fort at Newhaven, Sussex, is at present undergoing thorough restoration and will be opened to the public next year. Originally built in the 1860s as a small part of the general defence scheme known to posterity as 'Palmerston's Follies', the fort was modernised in 1901 to mount 6" and 12 pdr QF guns. The guns were finally removed after the last war and the fort was decommissioned in 1962, but since then it has been severely vandalised.

As an integral part of the scheme we propose to establish a museum dealing with both the history of the fort and coast defence in general. Our artillery defences have been so far ignored by the established collections which means that much valuable material has already been destroyed.

We are particularly keen to obtain items for display — artillery equipment, ammunition, WWII period military fixtures and furniture, books, posters, maps etc. In addition, we would like to get in contact with anyone who has served at the fort or who may have information, photographs, letters and so on.

All correspondence will be welcomed and should be addressed to **Anthony Kemp, The Fort, Newhaven, or Miles Wilson, Stanley House, 28 Stanley Road, Worthing, Sussex.**

If anyone knows the present whereabouts of Piper 'Tiny' Hamilton, Royal Irish Fusiliers who served in Malta 1938-1943, I would love to hear from him. **John Kelly MBE DCM (ex RSM), 204 Foundling Court, London WC1.**

W Turner, 2 Sir John Moore Avenue, Hythe, Kent. Requires an East Surrey ladies brooch for a birthday present.

M Harvey, Higher Sutton, South Milton, Kingsbridge, Devon. Wants British special elite forces insignia (especially 'para wings') to buy or trade.

J D Matchette, 3036 N Farwell Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211, USA. Requires for research library 'The Seventh and Three Enemies' by Brigadier G M O Davy, and 'Men of Valour' by Olivia Fitzroy.

D F S Smith, 105 Cromwell Road, Rushden, Northamptonshire. NN10 0NP. Wants official prisoner-of-war cards allied and enemy WW1 and WW2 of 'Gefangenlager', 'Kriegsgefangenpost' of men in German, Polish, Russian, French, Belgian PoW camps, and enemy in allied camps Britain, USA, Canada, etc. Please forward with price details, all letters answered, postage refunded.

I am compiling a dictionary of military abbreviations as used by and about the armed forces of Great Britain, the Empire and Commonwealth. Any examples your readers could give from personal experience, published or unpublished sources, would be received most gratefully, especially those relating to old, obscure or short-lived units and organisations. There will also be a supplement listing the unofficial, and often very rude, alternative meanings of some abbreviations. Any suggestions for inclusion here would also be most welcome. — **B K C Scott ALA, 2 Woodside, Pett Road, Pett, East Sussex, TN35 4HB.**

Five years ago I left the Army and lost contact with two very dear friends. They are, or were, L/Cpl Roy and Julie Stubbs ACC and I wonder if I could get in touch with them again as I don't have their address. Their last address was 24 missile Regt RA, Dortmund, BFPO 20, and I was Gunner Phillips. — **Mr B Phillips.**

I'm afraid you forgot to send us your address, Mr Phillips! So if Roy or Julie read this, perhaps they could write to me. — Ed.

I am seeking news of any members of 1936 'A' Term, Military College of Science, Woolwich, with a view to a possible 'one-off' reunion. I would also be grateful for news of J A Smith, formerly of 1936 'B' Term and also a member of 53 (EA) Field Battery in Burma. — **H Downes, 20 Greenhill Crescent, Merlins Bridge, Haverfordwest, Dyfed, SA61 1LU.**

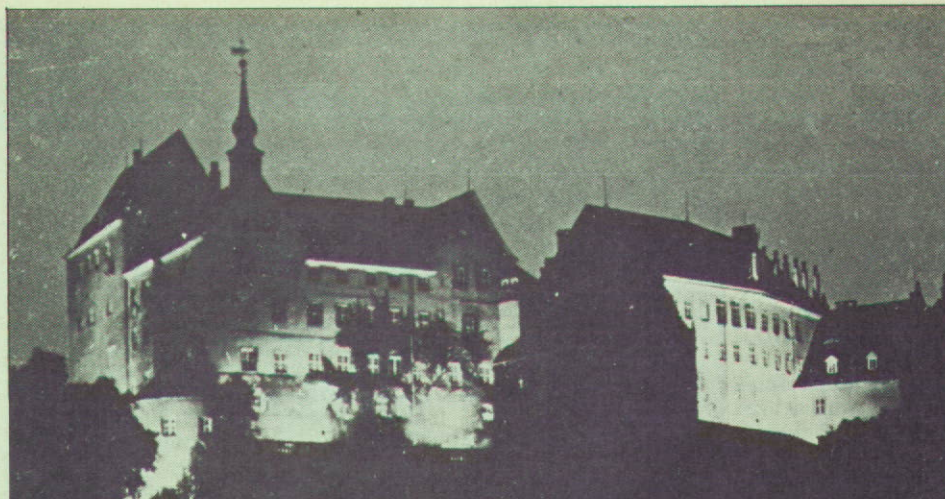
I am trying to find an old friend I was with in Germany. He was 24147221 L/Cpl Colin Grindy with C & A Sqn, 35 Engr Regt, BFPO 31. I was in the QARANC at BMH Rinteln 1971-1973 and my maiden name was Spragg. — **Mrs Pat Telesford, 11 Bingham Point, Wilmount St, Woolwich, London, SE18 6RJ.**

R H G Travers-Bogusz, 77 St Thomas's Road, Gosport, Hants, PO12 4JU. Wants photographs (preferably from negs, expenses defrayed, of size suitable for album 16" x 12") depicting various activities involving British Army in India 1919-1939. Also wishes to obtain suitable material on other Arms — Cavalry, Artillery, Sappers etc.

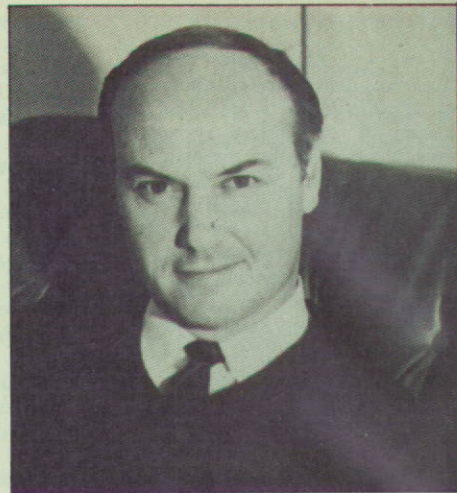
R A Helmé, 6621 West 73rd St, Overland Park, Kansas 66204, USA. Interested in: armoured Desert Rats, long range desert forces, SAS, glider pilot forces, commando units which served in North Africa, foreign armies under British military authority. Also German Afrikakorps interests: Erwin Rommel items, Ramcke parachute brigade forces, Sonderverband 288 forces, Panzergrenadiere items, Panzer tank forces, Luftwaffe forces attached to the Afrikakorps.

V Holden. Offers £50 reward for clean copy of print of 'Crossroads at Oosterbeek.' Phone 0279-20600.





# THE COLDITZ COLLECTION



Above: Sgt Peter Davies, artefacts collector.

Left: The imposing fortress that was Colditz.

TWELVE YEARS AGO, Sergeant Peter Davies, a former SAS signaller, developed what he calls an "insatiable fascination" for reading about escapes from prisoner-of-war camps. He started wondering if any of the material produced in those camps had survived and, if so, whether any of it had been brought back to England.

Since then he has built up probably the largest collection of Colditz memorabilia in the UK. It includes razor blade saws, keys, escape maps, soap moulds for key-making, tiny button compasses, 17 forged passes, a French wooden bayonet and even a length of blue and white rope from a prison palliasse.

Peter, now 37, and a troop sergeant with Bradley Squadron, at the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, has 95 Colditz items altogether, not including photographs, and he is still collecting.

He also wants to visit Colditz, 22 miles south-east of Leipzig, and has a fervent hope that Jimmy Savile will fix it for him!

But why a collection from Colditz?

"I had to start somewhere and it had to be well documented and only two camps really fell into that category then, Colditz and Stalag Luft III at Sagan," explained Peter.

"I finally chose Colditz because, quite frankly, it fascinated me. My main interest was in trying to obtain original escape material, like forged passes, lock picks, moulds, compasses, escape maps, letters, indeed anything I could get hold of."

Imagining it to be "quite a simple task", he wrote to Major Pat Reid, author of *The Colditz Story*, to seek material and names of any of the other officers of the hitherto formidable fortress.

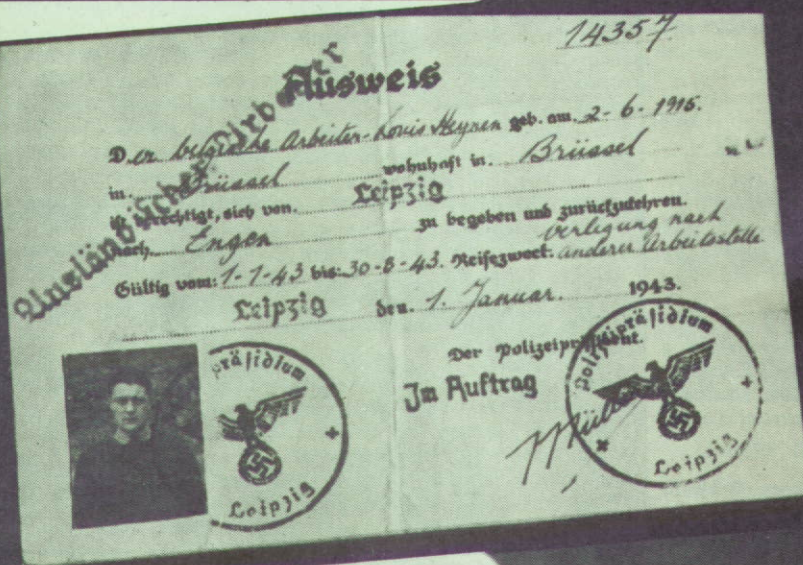
"I decided I would write to them all. I had visions of letters and small parcels arriving full of documents and other escape material. Optimism ran high but it was not as simple as that."

Major Reid, meanwhile, answered all his questions with unstinting help but pointed out, too, that all the forgeries and items were treasured possessions of the people who owned them.

"The future for my intended collection looked distinctly gloomy," Peter recalls. "I didn't give up, though. The people I had

Centre: Typical freedom bid artwork souvenir — forged pass of Captain Bill 'Lulu' Lawton.

Left: Badges and soap moulds from Colditz.



Story: Graham Smith



written to were most helpful so I decided to try and meet as many of them as possible. My interest was, and still is, genuine and I felt that if I could convey my sincerity to them they might, after all, help me."

Among the addresses he received was that of Captain Dick Howe, MBE, MC, Escape Officer for the British contingent at Colditz from 1942 until the liberation of the prison three years later.

Peter says: "He helped me in every possible way. Without his assistance I don't believe my collection would be half what it is today."

Sadly, Captain Howe died last month, aged 68.

Another contact was Captain Bill 'Lulu' Lawton, of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, who, during his stay at Colditz, served nine separate solitary confinement sentences totalling 120 days on bread and water.

Yet another was Dr Reinhold Eggers, the German security officer at Colditz during the latter part of the war who wrote *Colditz, the German Story* and *Colditz Recaptured*.

It was while serving with Rhine Army's 2nd Armoured Division, that Peter visited Dr Eggers who gave him some 120 photographs taken in Colditz, escape maps and several documents including false passes.

"I will always remember that day because it was my first 'scoop' so to speak. I was doing mental cartwheels around the living room of his flat in Bodman/Bodensee," said Peter.

"Since then, I have had the pleasure of meeting many of the English, Dutch and French officers who, during the war, had spent a part or all of their time behind those grim walls."

In 1974, the BBC took four of the Colditz veterans back to the gaunt scene of three decades before. They opened the radio cabin — bequeathed to the British by the French on transfer to Lubeck — to find a veritable treasure trove of escape material.

"Dick Howe very kindly gave me a fantastic array of contraband," said Peter at his

Harrogate home. "It included plaster and soap moulds, lino cuts and rough castings of German badges, razor blade saws, button compasses, escape maps and a master key made from rolled tin. It was a wealth of material for which I shall always be grateful."

Major Reid gave him a master key, Captain Lawton the loan of his POW identity disc and a "magnificently forged" pass and Mrs Marsh Beet, widow of Colditz ace forger, the late Captain Trevor Beet, lent him forged passes and escape maps.

Peter said: "These documents are works of art and when one considers the conditions

Above: A razor blade saw, 20-Reichsmark note, soap mould, escape map and tin master key.

under which these, and all the superbly hand-carved authorisation stamps, badges and other escape items were produced, they stand as a monument to the ingenuity of the prisoners.

"Since those early days of starting my collection many people have helped me to build up in the UK what I consider a unique, and probably the largest, collection of POW escape material of its kind. The items they have given me have been seen by hundreds of soldiers and, indeed, Dick Howe, Pat Reid and 'Lulu' Lawton have visited the College at Harrogate to give lectures to the apprentices."

Peter went on: "The interest they create when a visit is organised — they go to Germany for a second visit this year — can only make us more aware of the problems we, as soldiers, face should we ever be 'put in the bag'. Conditions may change but barbed wire is the same."

Last year Peter, who joined the Army in 1964 and has served in Aden, Bahrain, Norway and Turkey and as a signaller with 264 (SAS) Signal Squadron in Dhofar, Masirah and the Far East, took his interest in Colditz a step further. He was invited to the Colditz Reunion at the Imperial War Museum.

He found them all "very modest" in talking about their exploits. They were, he said, all glad they found themselves among the men with whom they spent those years behind barbed wire.

Peter, himself, has two main ambitions to fulfill. One is to go on collecting more items, not necessarily from Colditz; the other, to visit the site of his personal admiration, to which he adds a rider.

"If you ever read this, Jim, can you fix it for me, please?"

Left: Scene from the film *The Colditz Story*: Midnight 'Appel' and news of a safe escape.



PHOTO: SGT LES PICKERSGILL















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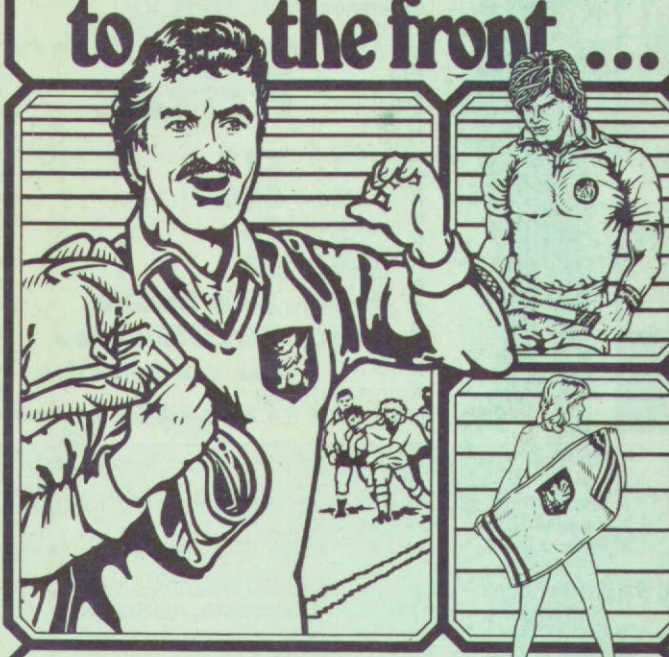


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