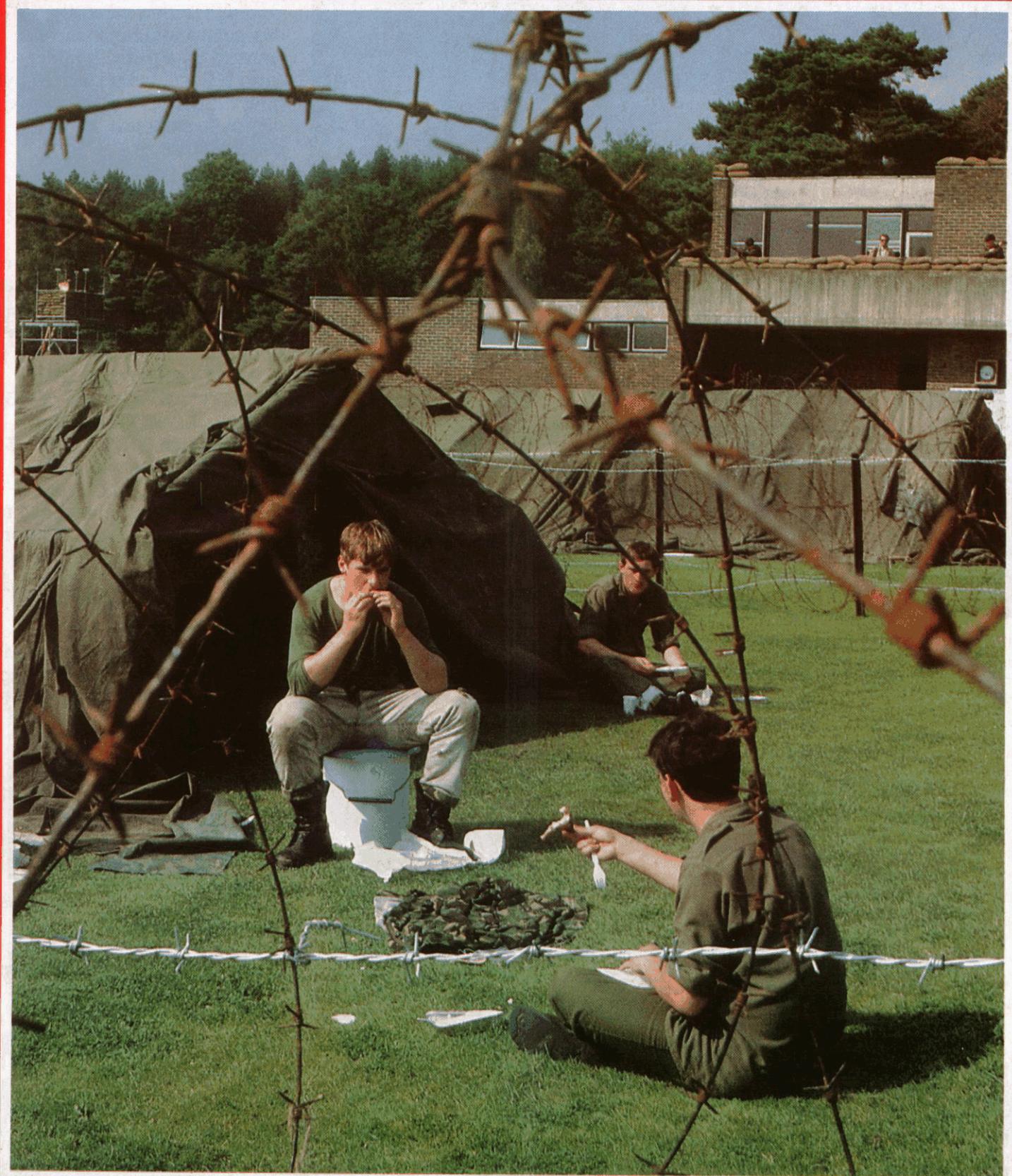
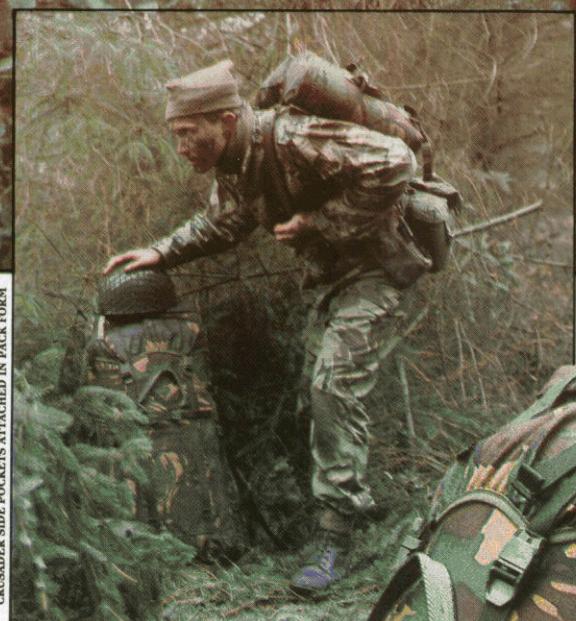


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- **COLOUR:** Olive or DPM
- **FEATURES:** Zip Off Side Pockets can be connected to form small combat pack. All Cotton Back. Quick Release Harness.

SPECIFICATIONS

- **TYPE:** ROC
- **CAPACITY:** 70 Litres
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FRONT COVER: South East District's PW camp at Blackdown. Just one aspect of many in Brave Defender.
Picture: Paul Haley.

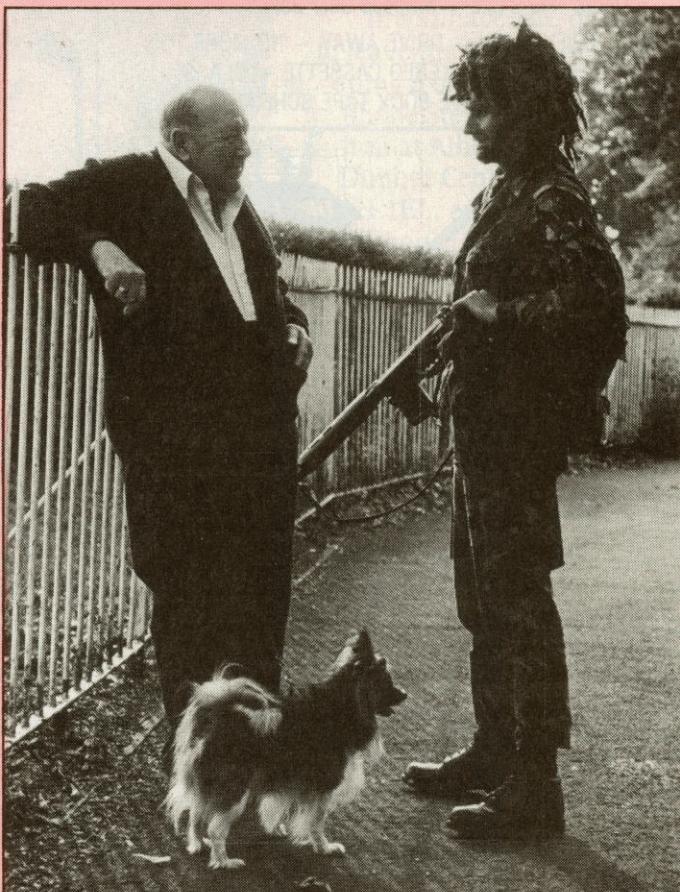
BACK COVER: Gibraltar Tattoo finale firework display at Buena Vista Barracks.
Picture: Terry Champion

SOLDIER

INCORPORATING
THE TERRITORIAL ARMY MAGAZINE



BRAVE DEFENDER, the biggest home defence exercise since World War 2 involved many thousands of people and was of concern to everyone, whether it was Secretary of State for Defence Mr Michael Heseltine at RAF Northolt (above) or the interested citizen of Colchester walking his dog. SOLDIER devotes 10 pages to Brave Defender activities — we couldn't cover it all! — and the main features start in the centre pages.



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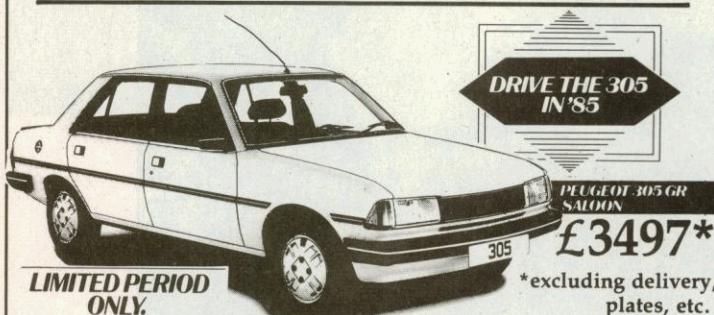
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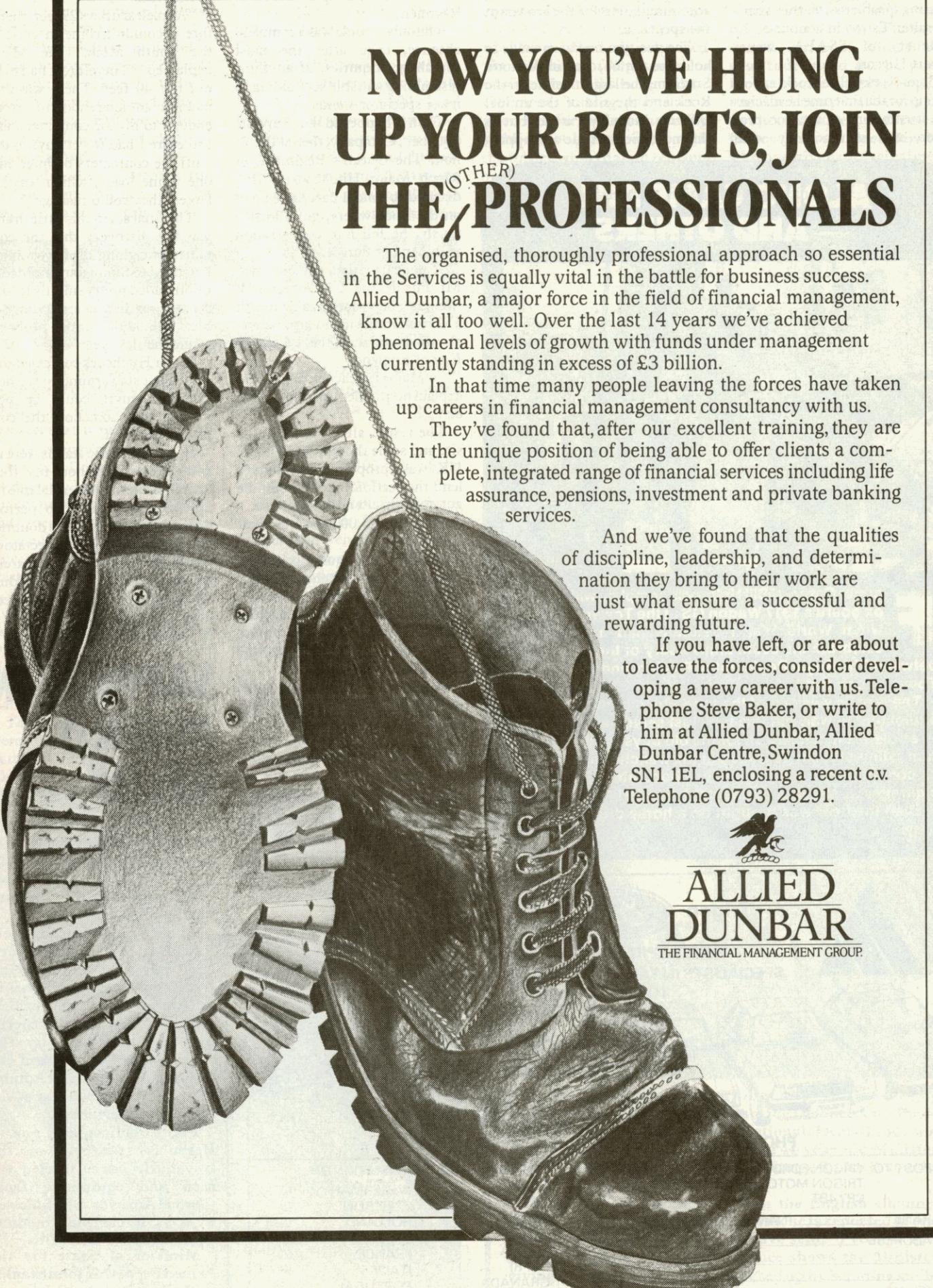
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Chance meeting saves the tattoo seating!

A CHANCE meeting at a local hotel solved one of the most pressing problems of this year's Gibraltar Tattoo in honour of the centenary of SSAFA, writes Robert Higson.

Major Rocky Hitchcock, experiencing for the first time headaches and frustrations of a tattoo producer, was stumped by what

seemed to be an insurmountable difficulty: How to provide seating accommodation for the crowds at the spectacle.

The decision had been made to hold the tattoo, not in Victoria Stadium, the largest venue on the Rock and the site of the annual Queen's Birthday Parade, but in the more picturesque and approp-

priate surroundings of Buena Vista Barracks, the home of the Gibraltar Regiment.

The only trouble was a complete absence, even after the most searching enquiries, of anything resembling suitable scaffolding to make spectator stands.

Then it happened that Support (Quebec) Company, the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, of which Major Hitchcock is OC, decided to hold a party at a hotel on the Rock where, quite fortuitously, he fell into conversation with Mr Ian Purdie.

It appeared that not only was Mr Purdie the UK director of Simons Construction, a firm with a Gibraltarian subsidiary, he was also involved with the TA in the East of England.

So Major Hitchcock was able to explain his problem to sympathetic ears.

The result, after a recce of the site and some thought back in the UK, was a proposal for Simons to lend the scaffolding if it could be got to Gibraltar in return for a donation of £3,000 towards their costs.

"These were quite considerable," Major Hitchcock said. "They had to get the stands designed and produce a scaffolder for us down here to make sure they were put up the right way and safe."

Then came the question of logistics. How to get the 40 tonne consignment to Gibraltar.

"It was a lot of favours all the way round," said a grateful Major Hitchcock.

But the problems were not over even after the stuff had been picked up from Lincoln and moved to the docks, and brought by the

Royal Fleet Auxiliary Appleleaf to the Rock.

"Appleleaf draws 29 feet, therefore it couldn't come in close to the South Mole," the Major explained. "Therefore it had to be put out 40 feet. There wasn't a mobile crane long enough or strong enough to lift the containers, and therefore I had to get guys to unstow the containers by hand into one tonne loads, which was the largest they could manage."

The final act in this little drama was the discovery that the containers (weighing all of two tonnes) belonged to Simons and needed to be offloaded pretty smartly to save them from disappearing down to the Falklands until probably sometime next year.

Major Hitchcock confessed that he did not stay around to see how this manoeuvre could be performed. But somehow the containers came off.

In good time the stands were up and performed without fuss their unglamorous but essential role for the rehearsals and two performances of the tattoo. It is doubtful though that any of the spectators, watching the drama on the arena below, would have had any inkling of the drama which had produced their vantage point.

• Tattoo special—see page 14.

SAPPERS IN MEXICO RELIEF

AS SOLDIER went to press, a party of Royal Engineers were among British Servicemen arriving in Mexico City to aid relief work amid the appalling earthquake destruction.

About 50 men from 32 Field Squadron Royal Engineers, currently part of the Belize Garrison but normally based in Ripon, North Yorkshire, were involved in the mercy mission mounted by the Ministry of Defence and the Overseas Development Administration at the request of the Mexican government.

Puma helicopters and a Hercules transport of the Royal Air Force ferried the men and equipment from Central America to be followed by a VC10 carrying medical equipment from the UK.

Minister of State for the Armed Forces Mr John Stanley said the first priority was special equipment to aid the rescue of people still trapped in the rubble.

ALONG CAME BILL — AND OTHERS



Former Corporal Bill Holbrook, complete with medals, on board a 1917 Wagon GS at the Tower of London when World War 1 veterans had a reunion to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the connection between The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and the City and Tower of London.

The wagon was one of the type which carried men and equipment to war, but this time just served as a reminder — as did the lunch laid on for the old boys, with an official rum ration of the type issued in the trenches and packets of comforts including a bar of chocolate, biscuits and cigarettes... all types on the market in 1914.

Even the beer was brought on a horse drawn brewer's dray!

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BRAVE DEFENDER: REPEAT IN STORE

BRAVE DEFENDER, the biggest home military defence exercise ever mounted in this country, is over.

But there will be a sequel in three or four years, General Sir James Glover, C-in-C United Kingdom Land Forces said as he watched proceedings on the Stanford Principal Training Area.

As elsewhere within the nation, the object of the exercise was to thwart the

attempt of secretly inserted saboteurs, loosely modelled in this instance on the Soviet-trained Spetsnaz or Special Forces.

The infiltrators' role was to destroy or disrupt Key Points (KPs) — some 1,800 land owners had given permission for the right to exercise on their land nationwide — and, in East Anglia, more than 2,000 troops including TA personnel from the 6th Royal Anglians were

involved. (See page 30).

Later, General Glover — he commands 83,000 Regulars and 71,000 Territorials, summed up: "We deliberately increased the numbers of 'Spetsnaz' to ensure that all those Home Defenders taking part had a good run for their money. The public should not be left with the impression that, in tension or in war, the countryside would be swarming with Spetsnaz patrols.

General Glover said the exercise had sought to demonstrate strengths and weaknesses and a "host of lessons" would emerge. There was gratitude owed to the police for their interest and co-operation and congratulations due to the volunteer and reserve forces from all three Services who had given up their time so willingly.

● A week in the life of a general — see page 32.

TROOPS RUSH TO 'DISASTER'

AS Brave Defender reached its sixth day troops who had been guarding key military and civilian installations were called to assist the over-stretched civilian emergency services at a major disaster.

The scenario: Above RAF Catterick, Depot of the RAF Regiment in North Yorkshire, two aircraft bringing home Servicemen and their families from war-threatened Germany, were involved in a mid-air collision and crashed in flames.

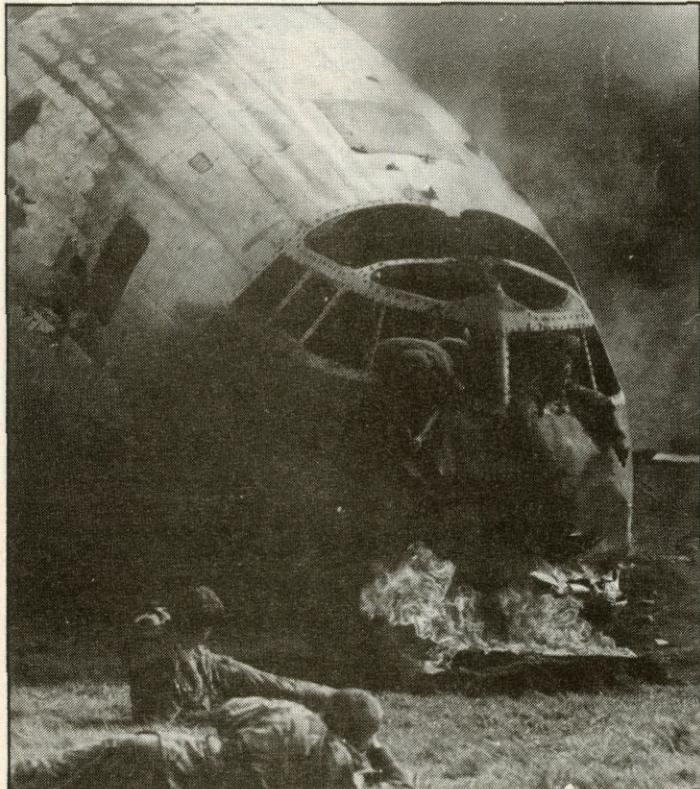
An appeal went out from the civil authorities for troops to be flown in to help and the nearby Duchess of Kent's Military Hospital, in Catterick Garrison, was alerted to receive the casualties, many feared dead.

Taking part in the rescue work were 100 men of C Company 3rd Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers, a 30-strong team from the 24 Field

Ambulance, and 100 men of the Coldstream Guards.

They had been called in to assist by North Yorkshire Police and Fire Brigade who were the first on the scene of the disaster and required help in the evacuation of casualties.

At the Duchess of Kent's Military Hospital nearly 200 doctors, nurses and combat medical technicians of the Royal Army Medical Corps and the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps attended to the badly injured and burned casualties, 'played' by 200 men and women of the 8th Signal Regiment, and 50 men of the RAF Regiment.



Smoke and flames, 'injured' and 'dead'



Yorkshire Volunteers to the rescue

Lord Trefgarne's drop



A SUDDEN parachuted exit from an RAF Hercules by Lord Trefgarne, Minister of State for Defence, into Poole Harbour has benefitted the National Deaf-Blind and Rubella Association by £2,500. The 44-year-old Minister — he is a qualified pilot — took the plunge for his favourite charity along with 50 or so others.

Retrieved safe and sound from the English Channel after his 1,000-foot canopied descent, he is reported in one tabloid newspaper's column to have said: "I've now well and truly joined the wets!" Picture shows the Minister giving a confident thumbs-up backed up by beaming smile beneath taped-up spectacles.

Picture: UKL



WO1 DAVID BRADSHAW AND HIS TEAM: delicious aromatics, murmurs of approval and a pot-stirring display for rivals

DAVID'S WIFE HELPS TO BEAT GOLIATH!



HILARY AND THE GOLIATH BEATERS: cheers for the lone girl

A six-man Army team and one woman braved gale-force winds at Belfast's shipyard to abseil from Goliath, one of Europe's biggest cranes, in aid of SSAFA.

Spectators watched anxiously as six soldiers from 34 Cadet Training Team made their way down the 316 feet to the ground, swinging precariously in the strong winds.

A big cheer was reserved for Mrs Hilary Cooper,

who volunteered to join her husband, UDR Captain David Cooper for the event.

Team leader, Captain Colin Butterworth of the Irish Guards, said they had considered calling off the event when they saw the weather conditions.

"Winds were gale-force five with a prediction of force six to seven later, but people were waiting and we didn't want to disappoint them," he said.

He said this was the

highest free abseil the team had done and claimed a Northern Ireland record had been established.

The soldiers, Sergeants Brian Nicholl, Queen's Royal Irish Hussars; Eamon Grace, Irish Guards; Graham Cotterill, Royal Irish Rangers; Chris Longrigg, Royal Corps of Transport and Captain David Cooper of the Ulster Defence Regiment have already raised more than £1,000 for SSAFA.

ROYAL PLEA: GIVE CASH FOR OLD SOLDIERS

Life is but a string of memories... but you can't live on memories. Ask the thousands of old soldiers from more than 50 countries, who fought for Britain in two world wars and now need help themselves.

The latest bid to raise funds for the old-timers, most of them now well into their 70s, was a gala performance of the musical *Gigi* in London in aid of the Prince Philip Appeal for Commonwealth Veterans.

Administered by The British Commonwealth Ex-Services League (BCEL), the fund needs £1 million now and at least another £4 million over the next few years to help the old 'vets' see out their lives in some

sort of dignity.

The appeal for cash to help the old soldiers was launched by Prince Philip.

His plea stressed that thousands of Commonwealth soldiers came to Britain's aid during the wars and are now

themselves in desperate need through poverty or illness.

If you want to help the address is: Prince Philip Appeal for Commonwealth Veterans, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JG.

Show cooks collect pot and stir it up for next year's rivals

Every time the ACC mobile display team sets up its kitchen and gets cracking with its 45-minute food demonstration, hundreds of watchers murmur 'ahs' and 'oos' as delicious aromatics waft around appreciative nostrils.

Sounds of approval, although somewhat muted, are heard as lucky tasters sample offerings of omelettes, spaghetti Bolognese, saute kidney Portuguese, fillet of plaice d'aglaise, curried chicken and rice, entrecote chasseur, chicken Maryland and pancakes.

Of course, visitors to the team's display van don't get this selection on one menu as only one meal is produced at each display.

But sometimes they put on eight shows a day. And they do that just about every day of their season from April till the end of September.

Headed by WO1 David Bradshaw, who has complete control over how the team fulfils its role of Keeping the Army in the Public Eye (KAPE), the others are Corporals Leslie Stovin and Hywel David,

Lance Corporals Taff Watkins and David Adams and WRAC Privates Phyl Barton and Mauva Peddie.

But although the thousands who trek through their displays offer plaudits and thanks, there are no prizes going.

This is because the team is there to tell and show the world how well the modern Army is fed.

And they don't mind not picking up 'pots'. That's not their role. "But it's nice when we do get official recognition — even if it's not for cooking," said Dave Bradshaw.

First 'pot'

Their first 'pot' came their way at the Guildford, Surrey Show when, in a tour of the site, the town's mayor handed them the cup for the best non-commercial trade stand in the show.

"It's ours for a year," said Dave Bradshaw. "Perhaps we'll win it again next time."

Even if they don't it should stir things up for their rivals!

New 'Adj' to make things sizzle!

Tallest on the right, shortest on the left... And Lieutenant Colonel Larry Brown, CO of the RCT Depot, Aldershot, dutifully obliges as he lines up with outgoing adjutant Captain Geoff Little to welcome newcomer Captain Robin Bacon.

Close on 6ft himself the Colonel is fractionally shorter than Captain Little who is seven inches less than 18-stone, 29-year-old Captain Bacon.

"I hope he lives up to his name and brings home the bacon..." joked the Colonel. "With a name like that he should make things sizzle!"

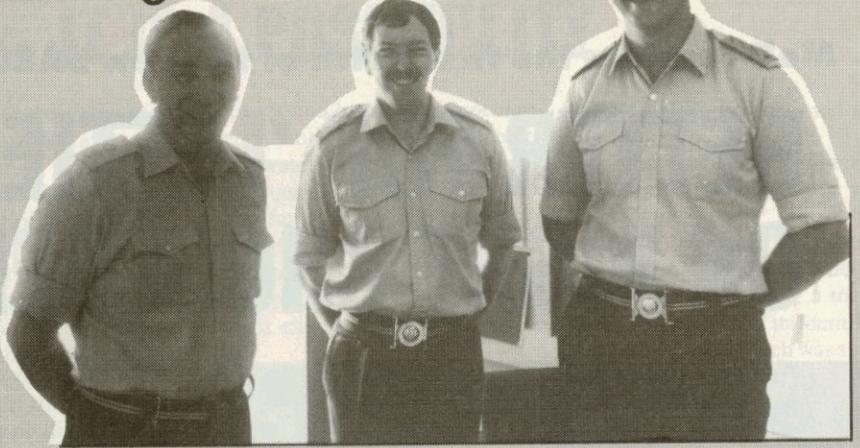
For Geoff and Robin their moves brought them

With a name like Bacon he's got to

into contact again after five years.

The last time they met was in Hong Kong when Geoff served with a Gurkha RCT squadron and Robin with a Chinese squadron.

Now, after a "handover," Geoff has left for an All Arms Tactics Course at Warminster which will be followed by an eyes-down study session at the Staff College, Shrivenham, which will keep him busy for a considerable time to come.



LT COL LARRY BROWN, CAPTAINS GEOFF LITTLE AND ROBIN BACON: living up to a name

DRIVER SAMMY STEERS FOR WORLD DISCO TITLE

NEWS *** VIEWS *** FACES *** PLACES

***** PEOPLE

★ No wonder Driver Sammy Bharath is smiling. He's just steered himself and his disco partner to within an ace of winning a world disco dance title.

Based at Bielefeld with 10 Corps Transport Regiment RCT, Sammy was representing West Germany in the gig held in Italy.

So impressed were the West Germans with his performance, they asked him to represent them again, this time in Istanbul.

Sammy just leapt at the chance and went on to finish fourth out of 40 world-class electric boogie break-dancers collecting a medallion and certificates proving his prowess.

Programme

Dancing now for five years, Sammy has to maintain a daily training programme to keep fit for top-class disco contests.

And he does this in addition to being part of a busy field force regiment.

In between times he manages to fit in water-skiing and ten-pin bowling.

A Londoner, he comes from Ealing, and his parents, Eddie and June, are delighted and amazed by his quick-silver disco successes.



DVR SAMMY BHARATH: disco ace

Terriers bloom at gardening

Everything in the garden is lovely for the Terriers of Alnwick, Northumberland.

For the gardeners of the 6th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers have almost swept the

board in the town's *Britain in Bloom* competition.

TA Centre caretaker James Angus took first prize in the best kept garden section; WO2 Dennis Dundas came second, but first for the best

allotment, while the battalion's HQ came second for the best community effort.

The HQ success in the contest was due entirely to James Angus's green fingers in planting tubs and hanging baskets.

It takes tanks to scare crows!



DENNIS ROBERTS: no scarecrows needed

Farmer Dennis Roberts doesn't need a scarecrow... he's got a World War 2 Sherman tank in his fields instead.

Dennis, who farms at Bob-

bington, Shropshire, makes a hobby of collecting and restoring wartime vehicles.

His latest acquisition is a Mk 19 tank transporter for the Sherman.

To help Mencap raise £40,000 towards a new £100,000 therapy wing in Belfast, 10 runners from 36 Squadron RCT ran 450 miles from the city to their base at Bielefeld. Led by Captain

Paul Rosher, they covered the route in five days. The other runners were SSgt Hensman, Capt Loxton, LCpl Cain and MacBeth, Cpl Iles and Dvrs Thompson, Jewitt and Rao.

QUICK

Win a car for a quid... that's the message going out from Osnabrück Wives' Club. And they really are offering a brand-new Nissan Micra as a prize. They got it from local Nissan rep Ken Thomas who let them have it for £1 in aid of the Westminster Hospital linear appeal.

SPOT

Blistering run!

THE ARMY OF THE FUTURE...

MoD receives the first batch of the new SA80 rifle

BETTER FOR 'LEFTIES' ON RIGHT SHOULDER!



Soldiers who fire the SLR from the left shoulder will, in all probability, be forced to fire from the right when the SA80 rifle — the Endeavour — comes into general use.

This is because a right-hand only version has been ordered for the Army.

If a soldier uses it on his left shoulder, he could have spent cartridge cases whizzing past his nose.

According to the manufacturers there is nothing to worry about.

WO1 Steve Joyce: new rifle and weighty manuals

SA80. The Individual Weapon below, and the Light Support Weapon bottom, which is of similar configuration to the IW but note the longer barrel, bipod and rear pistol grip to give it increased range and accuracy



Story: John Margetts

For they claim their tests showed improved shooting by left-handers firing the lightweight automatic rifle the wrong way round!

Trials carried out on right-handers showed at least a 40 per cent improvement in accuracy.

Now, after at least 15 years of research and development, the first production batch of SA80s has been handed over to the MoD.

Manufactured by Royal Ordnance Enfield, the new rifle is lighter than the SLR, holds 30 rounds compared with 20, has an optical sight and is painless to fire, producing less than a quarter of the recoil of the SLR.

The same applies to the light support weapon — the Engager — which is identical except for a slightly longer barrel and a tripod.

Both fire the same ammunition — 5.56mm — and magazines and most parts are interchangeable.

"You could fire this rifle all day without any bother", said Warrant Officer 1 (AS) Steve Joyce, a REME weapon specialist based permanently at the north London factory.

"And for the soldier in the field it will be easy to maintain as it is simple to strip down and comes complete with its own cleaning and repair kit including a multi-purpose tool."

It is the repair and maintenance aspect that particularly interests Steve Joyce as he is the man who has written the "armourers' bible" for the new weapon.

This sets out in detail the routine for inspections, repairs and maintenance and should be reaching REME specialists any day now.

The book is A4 size and about three-quarters of an inch thick.

"There's a lot of work in that," said Steve, who provides the link between manufacturer and user.

The development of the weapon

Top: Bayonet scabbard. It has an insert for wire cutting and forms a steady for the saw blade, which stows in the scabbard, which also boasts a sharpening stone



has taken about 15 years from the time the idea of a new automatic rifle was mooted to the start of production.

While vague about production figures and prices — "that's between us and the customer" — said one official, the factory will be turning out about 250 rifles a day in a year's time.

This is well inside their capacity and could easily be increased if necessary. To achieve this Royal Ordnance have spent millions setting up robot and automatic tooling to make the 200-plus parts and complete the 4,000 operations necessary to produce each weapon.

Unlike a number of foreign manufacturers they have a restricted market and so rely to a large extent on the British Army which is, in fact, their biggest customer.

With the signal set at go and all trials complete — they even tested the new rifle at 60 degrees below freezing and halfway to boiling point — they're ready to press a few buttons to send robots and automachines into action.

But while the technology to produce the new weapons is right up to date, the building housing this automation is 150 years old.

Although this mix of 19th century architecture and 20th century know-how may seem at odds, it's fitting really because there are still some jobs that the human eye does better than any machine and that has been around a lot longer than both.

One is a final check on the barrel to see it is true.

Admittedly, the checker is aided by a special light, but when you are working to ten microns — one micron is one millionth of a metre — a critical scan with the human optic just cannot be beaten.

All Royal Ordnance have to do now is keep scanning the barrels, pressing a few buttons and hope that orders for their new Enfield Weapon System come rolling in at a fast and constant rate.

FOOD IN BAGS INSTEAD OF TINS? IT IS A POSSIBILITY...

Following hard on the heels of new issue boots and socks and, earlier this month, official acceptance of the new SA80 rifle, come news of "food in the bag" for the Army.

While there is nothing new in the idea of plastic-packed meals, possible adoption by the Army to replace tinned food is a possibility.

"But it's no more than that," said Lieutenant Colonel Vincent Cowley, ACC, of the operational food development branch at Bath, who has been involved in "food bag" trials for many months.

"There are a number of advantages and disadvantages and we are still in the process of evaluating them. But one of the big disadvantages is cost. "But on the other hand the quality of the food in every respect is far higher, and the fact the menus being tested are all brand-new and we have nothing like them in tins is a big plus.

"Other advantages are that the food can be eaten hot or cold, the bag is easy to carry and will, with a bit of effort, burn, and it retains the flavour of fresh food."

Included in the seven-day single soldier food packs under trial are such dishes as Lancashire hot pot, chicken supreme, meat balls and pasta in tomato sauce, pork

sausage and beans, fruit cocktail, apple and sultanas, chocolate cold-water dessert mix and many other tasty, nutritional dishes.

So far the indications are that soldiers in the field eat the new-style food packs with relish.

Helping to prove the point in a recent exercise were 436 soldiers

how the new rations stood up to the rigours of training.

The outcome of the Para trial is still awaited, but should be available soon.

During the wait for 1 Para to appear Colonel Cowley demonstrated how to prepare a meal in the field. Stripped of its identifying plastic cover the pouch was simply boiled in a mess tin of water for a few minutes. The top end was then ripped off and the meal — in this case stewed steak — was ready for eating.

Disposal of the plastic bags posed a bit of a problem as obviously it was undesirable, for tactical reasons during war and for environmental considerations in peace, to leave empty food pouches lying around.

But it seems we are not the only army with these environmental problems.

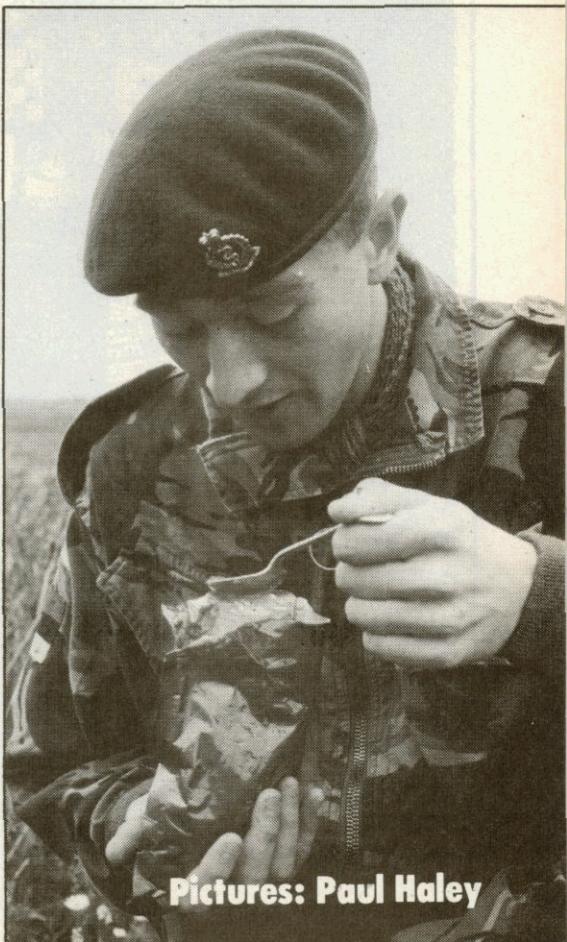
The Americans have also been experimenting with the system and printed "Please don't litter" notices on the pouch itself.

But, unfortunately for them, the ink had come off in the reheating process, contaminating the water and making it unfit for the preparation of a hot drink.

Pte David Craven, of 23 Parachute Field Ambulance RAMC, samples Lancashire hot pot from a bag

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SOLDIER to Soldier

BRAVE DEFENDER is over, the lessons learned are being studied. It was many things to many people and for some it brought rare opportunity.

Take for example Private Lorraine Tromans, WRAC, of The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry.

Her normal job is in the officers' mess at Fulwood Barracks, Preston, but the big home defence exercise gave her chance to exercise her signalling skills — in the air.

Lorraine was specially selected for a role as air to ground observer in a Royal Air Force Bulldog from RAF Woodvale on Merseyside. She acted as "eye in the sky" for the GOC North West District, Major General Philip Davies, and is pictured with Flight Lieutenant



Lionel Warrington, Liverpool University Air Squadron, preparing for a sortie. No stranger to flying, Lorraine isn't averse to leaving aircraft either — she has six parachute jumps to her credit, including one with the Black Knights.

★ ★ ★

SEVERAL regiments can boast affiliation with warships. The Gloucestershire Regiment sports two! The Glosters already have strong links with the Type 82 destroyer HMS Bristol and have added the new "stretched" Type 42 destroyer HMS Gloucester to their collection!

Lieutenant Colonel Paul Arengo-Jones, Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion was among the VIPs invited to the commissioning ceremony of the Royal Navy's latest destroyer and plaques have already been exchanged.

Meanwhile, the links with HMS Bristol continue apace. As you read this, Lieutenant Mike Idziaszczyk and Corporal Wosley of the Glosters should be on their way back from having taken part with some of the ship's company in an expedition to the Himalayas.

★ ★ ★

DURING World War 2 a gigantic excavation programme was undertaken in Gibraltar which was to produce more miles of tunnel under the Rock than there are miles of road outside.

Today the extraordinary results of those

years of hard graft are a great tourist attraction. Visitors can look around parts of the Fordham accommodation area — built to house 17,000 troops underground — and marvel at the work done in such a comparatively short space of time by three British and one Canadian tunnelling companies. The 4th Battalion, The Black Watch, the "In Rock" battalion at the time (they lived in a cavern carved out as a reservoir) also did their fair share of tunnelling as well.

The soldiers involved have long since left the Army, of course, but their efforts are now bearing fruit for Service charities. Everyone who goes on a guided tunnel tour makes a contribution of 75p through the money he pays the tour operator toward the welfare of modern Servicemen and women.

★ ★ ★

THE COMBINED Services alpine ski team have had another successful visit to Australia — and three of the squad were Army men.

For the fourth time the British team won both the Australian Services international event at Thredbo, New South Wales, and at the same venue the Northern Inter-Services Championships.

In a team mainly dominated by RAF representatives Captain Peter Koch de Gooreynd, 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards and Corporal Peter Jones and Lance Corporal Brown, both Royal Signals, played their part in the overall triumph.

Corporal Jones won the giant slalom in the international and the inter-services and the British team took the first six places in each of the two championships.

Seems strange to think of skiing at this time of year — and how delightful to report success in a sport in which we are not thought of as world class.

★ ★ ★

THE ARMY continues to make history. It already has a stand-by astronaut for a bid into space. Now, a WRAC officer has been appointed Assistant Equerry to Prince Charles. A khaki-clad "Miss Fixit" for official engagements.

She is Captain Alison Ewan, 29, currently stationed with the HQ Gurkha Field Force in Hong Kong. Alison takes up her new duties on 28 October.

Captain Ewan is the first woman to hold a post as an equerry. Described as "delightful and efficient" she is a Scot and was educated at Blairgowrie High School.

Commissioned in 1976, Alison said simply: "I am very pleased and honoured."

★ ★ ★

WE are still getting some letters on the pin-ups controversy which we raised some months ago, asking readers whether they thought we should, or should not, decorate the pages of SOLDIER again with gorgeous girls.

We are still mulling the matter over. The response was not as big as we expected and is so far a 50-50 affair.

Captain Lawrence H E (Laurie) Pasco

surprised us with a very brief letter from Durban, South Africa — reminding us of the question and adding "but they'd be a little changed from these 1950s types!"

He enclosed over 50 covers from old SOLDIER magazines, featuring such beauties as Rhonda Fleming (below), Nanette Newman, Debbie Reynolds, Sophia Loren, Kim Kovak and Brigitte Bardot. To name but a few!

Thankyou Laurie. Have you been clearing out the attic? It is a fine collection but we do have our own and if you would like them back — just drop us a line!



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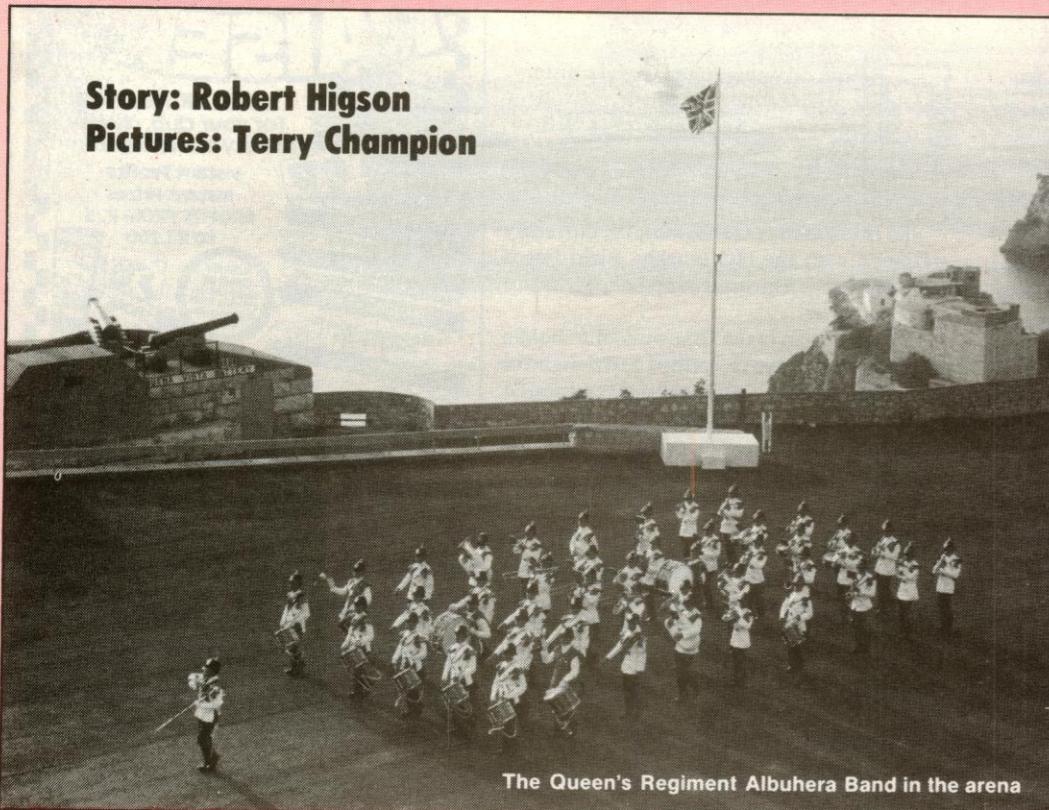
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Story: Robert Higson
Pictures: Terry Champion



The Queen's Regiment Albuhera Band in the arena

THE SETTING IS OBVIOUS, THE PROBLEM'S IMMENSE

IN SOME respects Gibraltar is an obvious place for military tattoo. Since being captured by the British in 1704, possession confirmed by the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, the Rock had become thoroughly impregnated with British military history.

Even today, at a time of greatly diminished presence, the Forces still maintain a very high profile in this tiny community.

But the business of actually staging a full scale tattoo in Gibraltar is not a task for those with delicate nerves or those who get upset by trifling difficulties. The normal multitude of problems surrounding any big event are greatly compounded by two overriding considerations — lack of facilities and lack of space.

Undeterred, Brigadier Dick Hume, the Deputy Fortress Commander, decided to have a go. He got the Dover Tattoo underway in 1982 as Commander 2 Infantry Brigade. This year in Gibraltar, as it was the Army's turn to chair fund raising activities for the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association, he wanted

A member of B (Holland) Company's log heaving gymnastic team gets to the top while his mates hold steady below

to do something special to mark its centenary.

"The brigadier has only one person to call upon and that's the Commanding Officer of the resident battalion, and the CO just happened to call on me," said Major Rocky Hitchcock, OC Support (Quebec) Company, 1st Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, and first time tattoo producer.

"I wouldn't say I have a flair for it, but I have been to tattoos and technical formula seems fairly simple. You want pageantry, noise, colour, mood. Converting the formula into reality is more difficult."

As far as the programme was concerned there was no question of outside help.

"I've been offered horses, motor bikes, parachutists," said Brigadier Hume. "But the cost of bringing them in! You are talking about tens of thousands of pounds. And where would you accommodate them? There hasn't been a horse in Gibraltar since General Elliott's time. If you did get one here there's nothing to feed it on and no where to put it."

Of necessity the heaviest burden fell upon 1 Queens, the resident battalion. From their ranks came the ushers and the arena party, the gymnastic and drill display teams, the soldiers for the mock battle.

The Gibraltar Regiment, a largely TA formation with a 50 strong full time cadre, was also fully involved. They re-enacted the famous Gibraltar Ceremony of the Keys in period uniform, and organised, in the absence of the traditional tattoo field gun race, a position and fire competition between two 105 Light Guns of Thomson's Battery.

In fact everyone was involved in some form or another. The Sappers of 1 Fortress Specialist Team worked out the pyrotechnics; the Royal Navy laid on a Lynx

helicopter; the Royal Air Force a police dog team and a fly past of Jaguars from the Gibraltar flight.

The Queen's Regiment Albuhera Band, with Corps of Drums from 1 Queens and the Gibraltar Regiment, provided the key musical element which included a spectacular version of Tchaikowsky's 1812 Overture complete with fireworks and booming 25 pounder guns. (See back cover).

If that wasn't enough Major Hitchcock arranged for a representative of every aspect of Service life on the Rock, both military and civilian, to march on for the finale.

The result was described by Brigadier Hume as absolutely remarkable considering the lack of facilities.

"I thought it was quite outstanding," he said, "very imaginative and very good indeed."

Needless to say such results were not achieved without a great deal of hard work. A (Tangier) Company, 1 Queen's, had, for example, to invent its contribution to the arena display virtually from scratch.

The company, which was due the following week to mount the Convent guard on the Governor's residence, undertook to provide a silent drill demonstration. And as no one connected with the company had ever done anything remotely like it before, Company Sergeant Major Barry Camille and Sergeant Tony Scully (company drill) had to put their heads together to decide what to do.

The outcome of their efforts — and of three months tough practice — was a squad of 18 men, memorising no fewer than 170 drill movements and executing them with splendid precision.

B (Holland) Company found themselves hurtling through the air in a gymnastic display, or lobbing telegraph poles over their heads in a way that brought gasps from the crowds. (Full colour picture, page 51).

OC Major Peter McLelland explained that the company had been so heavily involved in ceremonial in the lead up to the Tattoo that he feared something in the nature of a mutiny if he had volunteered them for the drill display.

Under the direction of Sergeant (SI) Robert Gildert, APTC, the six-man log teams learnt to toss the 300 lb logs to each other as if it was the easiest thing in the world.

"We had about five casualties at the beginning because the co-ordination wasn't there to start with," Sergeant Gildert said. "There was also some feeling of stage fright which wasn't helped by seeing the man alongside falling with blood coming out of his head."

But the morning of the Tattoo Sergeant Gildert was able to report: "They are doing very well and I

am very pleased. And I think they are quite pleased with themselves as well."

Members of the producer's own company, Support Company, had to learn the commando way of doing things for their part in the show.

The reconnaissance platoon had the task of rescuing a damsel in distress (Flying Officer Annie Walker, the RAF station catering officer) from the clutches of some pretty desperate ruffians who were holding her in the confines of the old Buena Vista battery on the western side of the Tattoo arena.

The job involved a heliborne landing on the roof of the fine stone block at the southern end and then abseiling Commando fashion (that is face first) to the ground below.

It is quite an unnerving experience the first time you attempt to run forwards down a vertical face with only an invisible rope at your back to prevent you, hopefully, from having to embed your features at the bottom.

But by the time of the Dress Rehearsal the recce platoon were leaping down the building like veterans, blasting away with blank ammunition at the enemy as they descended and snatching Fg Off Walker from what would have undoubtedly been a fate worse than anyone could have imagined.

The debris of this battle had to be removed by the hard working arena party supplied by C (Sobraon) Company, who are incident-

ally the current holders of the title 'Kirkies' for the champion company of 1 Queen's.

At the end of it all the CO 1 Queen's Lieutenant Colonel Mike Ball, commented: "We enjoyed it. It was good fun and jolly useful as we need goals to aim for."

On the question of whether the Gibraltar Tattoo could become a permanent fixture, Colonel Ball was less sure.

"It was all new to us so we learnt the hard way," he said. "We made a lot of mistakes. With experience it would be much easier putting it on next year, but to do that you've got to think of new acts and that would be difficult."

There was evident disappointment that the large British expatriate community in southern

Spain — estimated as much as 250,000 within three hours drive of Gibraltar — had not turned up in greater force. Preliminary calculations of the audiences at the two performances were put at 700 each, compared with 1,500 for the dress rehearsal when dependants and others were invited free.

"I wouldn't like to comment on whether there will be another Gibraltar Tattoo," said Brigadier Hume. "It depends on demand."

"It was really us having fun for others to have fun and if it makes a bob or two for SSAFA so much the better."

Men of the Recce Platoon, Support (Quebec) Company, letting their comrades down — fast but gently



The Colours of the Gibraltar Regiment are marched in for the finale



S/Sgt Michael Norfield: organising fire and fury

Bringing O'Hara's Gun to Life again...

(AND OTHER NOISES)

One of the highlights of the Gibraltar Tattoo, in the most literal sense, was the firing of O'Hara's Gun, perched on top of the Rock over 1,000 feet above the area. (See full colour picture, page 51)

O'Hara's was playing the part of the Sunset Gun for the period re-enactment of the Ceremony of the Keys. Of course it wasn't the gun used in the original ceremony, being installed sometime in the mid-1930s, and it wasn't really firing any sort of shot, bland or otherwise.

The tiny field section of HQ and Support Troop, 1 Fortress Specialist Team, Royal Engineers, had rigged up the means of producing an impressive burst of flame and a suitably formidable bang to recall the days when the Sunset Gun had signalled the securing of the Fortress for the night.

Up on the 1,300 foot high battery, with the Tattoo site at Buena Vista Barracks like a postage stamp far below, Corporal Steven Swann explained the process which had brought O'Hara's Gun to life for the first time in 15 years.

A little petrol, a pinch or two of sugar, some oil to simulate smoke, and a tiny quantity of plastic explosive were detonated inside the barrel while a larger explosive charge was let off outside to produce the bang.

O'Hara's is the last of three 9.2 inch hydraulically operated batteries still in working order on Gibraltar.

It rests in the care of Thomson's Battery, the artillery component of The Gibraltar Regiment, and BSM Eddie Vincent takes a great deal of pride in taking visitors underground to see its well preserved fire direction table, (from which the gun could be aimed by remote control), its generating plant hoists, and its store rooms where spare parts still rest in their original wrappings.

The gun was never fired in anger. It, and the others, were loaded and ready to fire when the French Vichy Fleet sailed through the

Straits early in World War 2, but the order to engage never came through.

O'Hara's fired its last shot in 1970 and all the remaining 9.2 ammunition was shipped back to the UK a few years later. Today it remains a potential tourist attraction and the Sappers of 1 FST were careful to avoid any damage by firing their charge from inside a sawn-off oxygen bottle which was placed in the barrel of the old gun.

While Corporal Swann and Sappers Gary Knight and Trevor Pryor busied themselves at O'Hara's on top of the Rock, Staff Sergeant Michael Norfield, another member of 1 FST, was down below on Buena Vista Battery, alongside the Tattoo arena, ready to add more fire and fury to the proceedings.

As a spectacular finale to the Tattoo it had been decided to accompany the Queen's Regiment Albuhera Band's rendition of the 1812 Overture with cannon fire and fireworks. (See back cover)

The firework plot was borrowed straight from the Royal School of Music at Kneller Hall. All S/Sgt Norfield had to do was wire them up to his home made electronic keyboard and hope that the first detonation didn't explode the entire programme.

With only previous experience of igniting fireworks by hand, he was understandably a little anxious about the outcome of his first attempt at an electrically operated display.

"There's no chance of testing the system ourselves," Staff Norfield said as he wired the last of his 57 circuits into his switchboard. "If it doesn't work at the dress rehearsal we're going to be running round like chickens with no heads the morning after trying to modify everything."

Major Alan Kay, the OC 1 FST, dropped by later in the day to check progress. He had been closely involved in the consultations over the design of the system and was naturally equally concerned to see that everything went according to plan.

On the evening of the dress rehearsal Staff Norfield was ready in his temporary bunker on Buena Vista Battery; a large timer in front of him, the cue sheet alongside, and the contact switchboard wired up and waiting. Next to him sat WO2 Frank Francis, band sergeant major of the Albuhera Band, who had his own, slightly smaller, contact board to touch off some thunderflash type fireworks in the final phases of the 1812.

When the time came the Albuhera Band played, the 25 pounders of Thomson's Battery, The Gibraltar Regiment, boomed, and Staff Norfield's fireworks rose majestically into the sky.

During the dress rehearsal however a piece of wadding from one of the guns actually set fire to the bone dry scrub beneath the battery.

The Admiralty Fire Service truck, which had previously been a part of the parade of Service vehicles in the Tattoo, found itself with a more realistic role to play as it moved forward to battle the blaze.

Buena Vista Battery was enveloped in smoke from the mids of which Staff Norfield and WO Francis continued, like gunners under seige, to release salvo after salvo of fireworks.

STITCHES IN TIME REVIVE HISTORY



Some long dormant tailoring skills had to be swiftly resurrected by Warrant Officer 2 Geoff Stone to prepare for the Gibraltar Tattoo.

Mr Stone is now troop sergeant major of Thomson's Battery, The Gibraltar Regiment, having retired from the British Army in 1971.

Before he began his military career over 20 years ago he was a tailoring apprentice, an experience which proved very useful when the Regiment received a consignment of hired uniforms for its period re-enactment of the Ceremony of the Keys, one of the highlights of the Tattoo.

"The jackets for the drummers and fifers were wrong for the period," he said. "So I had to sew quickly the proper white trimmings on the sleeves."

There was also a problem with the hats — there was nothing resembling the fur covered mitre caps worn by drummers in the late 18th Century. So Mr Abraham Seruya, of the Gibraltar Services Police, who had been asked to research the historical details, made the caps out of cardboard and Mr Stone covered them with artificial fur.

The Keys Ceremony dates back to the Great Siege of Gibraltar (1779-83) when the Governor, General Sir George Elliott, had the keys of the gate in the North Wall handed to him every evening by the Port Sergeant. It was said that he slept with them under his pillow.

After the siege ended the drums and fifes accompanied the Port Sergeant and his escort to warn aliens to leave the Rock before the gates were closed. The practice continued until some time after World War 1 before being revived as a ceremony in 1933.

Today it is normally performed six times a year by the Resident Battalion, at present 1st Battalion, The Queen's Regiment. But for the Tattoo it was men of The Gibraltar Regiment, dressed in the uniform of the 12th Foot, later the Suffolk Regiment.

Their muskets were SLRs, stripped of their magazines and equipped with an extended barrel and a silver painted cardboard bayonet.

There was even a donkey, doing its bit to depict life on the Rock 200 years ago.



THE BRITISH ARMY IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Lt-Col Michael Dewar



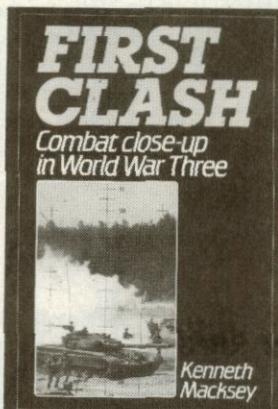
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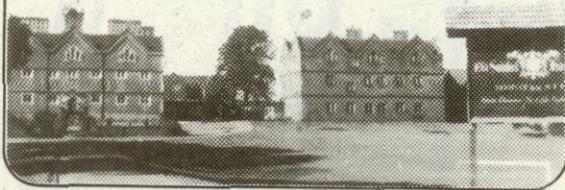
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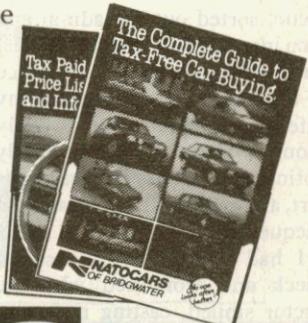
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THE RED Devils are used to all sorts. Ranging from Colin Baker (Dr Who), to Peter Howard (who?) and Fiona Howard (daughter of who?).

The famous, like Mr Baker and Ian Ogilvy (a Saint who took to the skies) had one advantage over the not-so-famous.

They managed to train and leap from an aircraft in one day. The Howards trained one day in June then went to the Queens Ground, Aldershot, drop zone with a mixture of excitement and trepidation.

At around 2000 hours the wind at 2,000 feet whipped up to 20 knots and Red Devils Team Commander Captain Mickey Munn approached the one-day students with crisp military precision and an equally crisp military decision. "I'm afraid it wouldn't be safe... and your descents will have to be postponed..."

We didn't know whether to cry — or breath a big sigh of relief. Along with a party from Yugocars, we represented a mixed bag of men and women, all shapes and sizes, all with a variety of reasons for wanting to leave a perfectly safe and sound Islander aircraft and try a parachute jump for the first time.

We were greeted by Sergeant Bob Harman, who has a world record of over 5,000 free fall display jumps to his credit. He gave us a very friendly welcome, set the scene, sorted out the admin and then introduced a note of essential but slightly disturbing importance — insurance. I thought about my wife Jan, wondered what she really thought about half the family opting for a rare experience of this sort, and reached for a pen and the cheque book.

I had already had a medical check and wondered why the doctor smiled, casting my mind back to pre-National Service medicals when another doctor grinned and said: "You're no Tarzan... but you'll do". This time the doctor facing me knew all about parachuting in the Far East and had an MC among the initials after his name. No wonder he smiled, but I got the clean bill of health.

Things can go wrong — even with the best. After Sergeant Harman came Captain Munn, who had shaken off a plaster cast from a broken leg. Previous students hadn't had the benefit of his brief — he felt a chat from a man with a plaster cast and stick could be a little disconcerting for those jumping for the first time!

We were then introduced to our instructors — Privates Sean Day and Keith Saunders, both of whom were later part of the Red Devils A team, winners of the Four Way Sequential in the Army Parachute Championships (see SOLDIER 23 September). In good hands, they

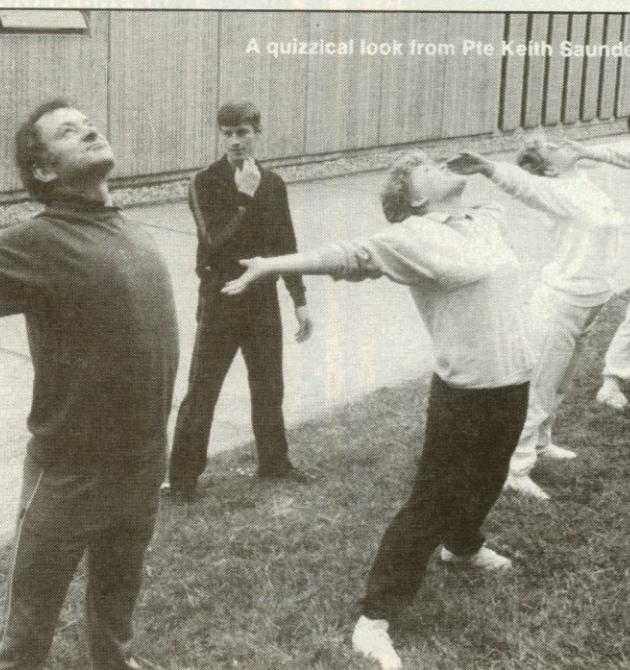


Each year The Red Devils organise a series of 'one jump' parachute training courses for civilian volunteers. SOLDIER editor Peter Howard and his 16-year-old daughter Fiona were among this year's trainees...

MIXTURE OF ELATION — AND RELIEF!



A new angle on Aldershot for the Editor



A quizzical look from Pte Keith Saunders

are confident young men and despite a decade of my being used to military briefings, usually from officers, I was impressed with their bearing, patience, friendliness — and sympathy.

Both different in their approach, each was solid on one point... they didn't expect us to be supermen (sorry girls, superpersons!) but they did expect us to show we were reasonably fit and co-ordinated enough to master a basic parachute landing fall.

This was my problem. I used to be a reasonable tennis player, I was an adequate rugby union threequarter, and prided myself on being a centre half (central defender, now) who, while not being a Bobby Moore on the ball, had some questionable ability to stop some of those who were. They called me 'clogger' for some reason.

Now I was being asked to show that I could stand, arms raised and elbows tucked into my face, knees bent, legs together — then roll over, keeping my legs together throughout.

Side landings right, side landings left, forward left and right... backward left and right. The mind boggled and the legs buckled and I began to think that leaving the aircraft would be the least difficult part!

Our friendly instructors showed us how to spread eagle ourselves and encouraged us to shout, time and again "thousand and one, thousand and two, thousand and three, thousand and four... thousand — check canopy" ... at which point you fling your head sideways and backwards to check that rigging lines and canopy all look in order.

Having found myself failing to satisfy Privates Day and Saunders that I was shouting loud enough, despite losing my voice, I then began to ask myself if it was all necessary? Surely by the time you have shouted the first 'thousand' the static line will have stretched and the 'chute will have opened?

Commonsense and basic training of many years ago prevailed. I reminded myself to keep my mouth shut and do as I was told. The experts know what they are doing.

The physical stuff was carefully and cleverly interspersed with "breathers" indoors, a room decorated with hundreds of photographs (Jim Davidson grinning after an excellent exit), huge blackboard and a big relief map of Queens Ground. Lots of theory. How the canopy deploys, wind directions and speed, safety on take off and in the aircraft, the reserve 'chute.

Possible malfunctions are mentioned — and here the heart starts to pound a little. You can get caught in a 'hang-up' (chute caught on aircraft frame), your rigging lines can get twisted, and the heart

starts to beat even faster. Through each possible malfunction the instructors carefully teach you the drills.

However unlikely a malfunction, the instructors want to know you will be able to cope. As with the reserve 'chute, carefully guarded by right arm across as you board the aircraft. It can be very embarrassing, not to mention damned dangerous, if this opens before it should!

So you are told that if you find yourself hurtling through space and know the main parachute has not opened, or that you are not happy with the state of the canopy if it has... then you pull the reserve. More drills. Feet sharply together, head down, look in, pull the cord — and punch the pouch with both hands to help your saviour safely out and up!

The Military Stadium looked serene, the hospital even more impressive from the air — and I forgot to make the most of a rare opportunity to see what the office looked like from up above.

They had said that judging distance from the ground is awkward when it comes to landing. Very true! I can't remember if I landed forwards, sideways, or backwards — but I was intent on keeping my legs together and it didn't seem too bad a landing. No pains or bruises up above the waist just a hint of a pulled leg muscle the following day... which will probably raise a smile on the faces of Privates Day and Saunders. It couldn't have been 'text book'.

Trying to gather the parachute in the correct manner wasn't easy either, but by then I was 'on a high' and could enjoy watching the last part of Fiona's descent. It looked very good, and, even more boring for a still proud Dad, was much nearer the target cross.

Meanwhile, four Red Devils, including Adam, had gone to 7,000 feet for one of their own manoeuvres. When they came down, our guide and mentor was keen to check that we were still sound in wind and limb. And debrief us on our performance.

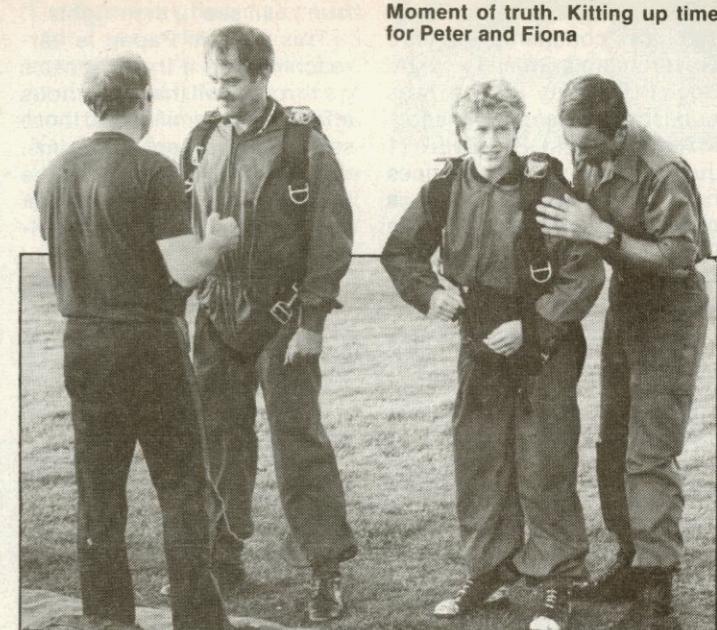
Fiona made a good exit, good descent, good landing. Now to my exit... I was praised on the position I had taken up, but Adam was puzzled as to how I managed to wind up facing the wrong way! Which could well explain why the tug wasn't quite what I expected.

We got a handshake, and a certificate. All in a bit of a daze, still feeling a 10,000 feet dream, let alone 2,000! And now very grateful for the Red Devils' care and attention. I was as impressed with their friendliness as much as their undoubted professionalism.

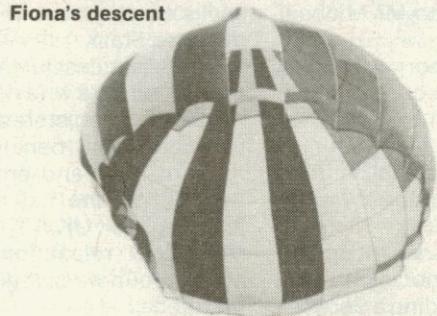
I am also grateful to Fiona — who wanted to raise money for Ethiopian famine relief and Petersfield Community Association — for reminding me that a parachute descent has always been on of my ambitions. I was refused per-

Details of student courses can be obtained from OC The Red Devils, Montgomery Lines, Aldershot, (Tel: Aldershot 24431, Montgomery. Extension 600 or 699).

Moment of truth. Kitting up time for Peter and Fiona



Fiona's descent



Pictures: Doug Pratt and Terry Champion



Terra firma — and excited

mission for a short course in Singapore in National Service days because my colonel felt the Army didn't have National Servicemen working long enough anyway.

Frankly, despite Fiona's excellent memory, I wasn't sure that 48 was a good age for trying such things. Now there is a certain air of self satisfaction, not to mention relief that I landed safely.

I have every faith in the Red Devils and their equipment (even more now) but advancing years do bring increasing self doubt in the physical sense.

It was a fantastic experience — but age does bring one consolation.

I am experienced enough to know that being one-day wonders bears no relation to real parachuting in the military sense, with all the skill and expertise that requires.

The Red Devils have all that before they begin the business of becoming free fall entertainers, delighting crowds all over the place — and I hope their £500,000 target for a new aircraft is soon reached.

My immediate problem is persuading Fiona that she has to join the Women's Royal Army Corps to have any hope, like their current female member Private Annette Heaton, of joining the Red Devils.

The Parachute Regiment itself is likely to remain all-male!

DEADLINE day has now passed for comments on the Government's Green Paper on Social Security which was published three months ago.

As I wrote in SOLDIER (1 July), this time the Services had a chance to make a contribution where the Green Paper proposals affect Servicemen and women and their families.

In the past we have failed to respond, with dire consequences.

SSAFA has made a submission, the main thrust of which is to point out that Service families should not be penalised as they are at the moment.

There are problems, as Mr Ray Whitney, the then Under Secretary of State for Social Services acknowledges. He said in a letter to Mr Michael Mates MP:

"It must be borne in mind that our social security system is designed primarily for persons in the UK. It is mainly for this reason that social benefits are not generally payable outside the UK.

"Nevertheless, we recognise that there are special circumstances surrounding a Serviceman's posting overseas.

"We have found it possible to modify this basic principle to some degree where it would be equitable to do so and where circumstances made it administratively practicable."

I hope as a result of the SSAFA submission that at least some thought and in-depth discussion will take place, so that handicapped children and wives, those seeking unemployment benefit, maternity benefits and many more will not as in the past be excluded

from, as I see it, their rights.

This Green Paper is far-reaching and if the proposals go through will have a serious effect on our families and those seeking social security claims.

I have been involved in the problem since 1975 when I first drew attention to the anomalies.

I now know 25 cases coming up for appeal, with many, many more in various stages covering the whole range of benefits. This state of affairs is appalling.

I quote further from Mr Whitney's letter:

"United Kingdom unemployment benefit is not generally paid abroad. The only exception to this rule is the provision in the European Community (EC) regulations which permits such benefit to be paid for up to three months while a worker seeks employment in another member State.

"To be successful in a claim a Serviceman's wife need only have been registered at her unemployment benefit office for four days and entitled to benefit for one day prior to leaving the UK. This is a significant relaxation of the normal four-week registration period.

"Whether a person is entitled to unemployment benefit is a matter for the independent adjudicating authorities who decide all claims to benefit. If a Serviceman's wife leaves her employment in the UK in order to satisfy the 'registration test' prior to accompanying her husband abroad she will need to demonstrate that:

1) She has not left her job voluntarily without just cause;
2) She was available for work prior to leaving the UK. Otherwise she may not be able to

qualify for any payment.

"Forces wives and other UK nationals who work for organisations serving the Forces in BAOR are insured in the UK insurance scheme as provided for under the 1960 UK/German reciprocal agreement on social security.

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of this Department and their reply will cover this aspect in more detail."

We are in a European Community. We are bona fide citizens of this country. Yet when it comes to a few hundred cases a year, in financial terms a drop in the ocean, the government seems to produce obstacles rather than a sympathetic hearing to see if these matters can be put right.

Anne Armstrong

Home tel: Camberley 29653

MUSCULAR Dystrophy is a crippling disease which attacks children in early life.

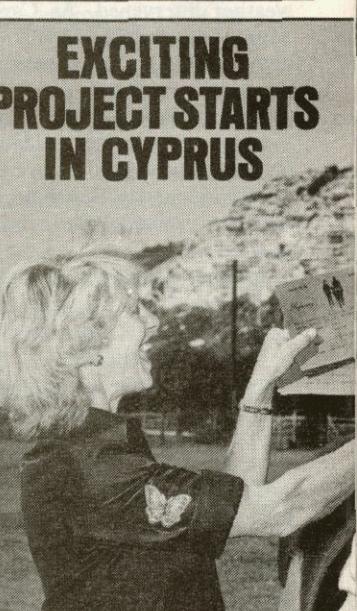
Wherever you live in the world there will be children who will be suffering from MD.

This problem has led to an exciting project motivated by the British Forces and the Greek Cypriots.

The British Forces in Cyprus have been celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Sovereign Base Areas and in one way will leave a lasting project on the island to help severely handicapped children.

Just over a year ago a small group of people started the first-ever Mediterranean based Riding for the Disabled group working from the British Joint Services Saddle Club in Happy Valley, Episkopi. The small group of helpers, headed

EXCITING PROJECT STARTS IN CYPRUS



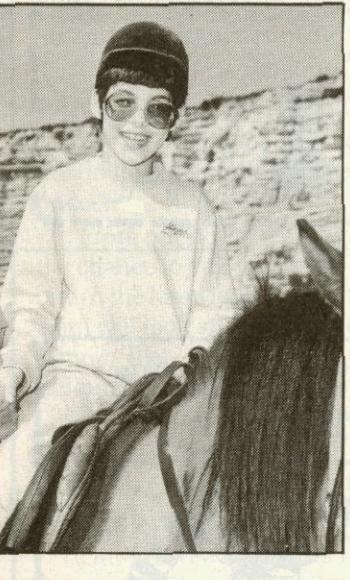
by Lady Langley, Honorary President of the Cypriot Muscular Dystrophy Association of Cyprus, has been able to offer the local children from the Polemedia Red Cross Home a weekly riding experience.

Of 20 of these children, many can now ride without the immediate assistance of their dedicated helpers.

Muscular dystrophy seems to be more prevalent in Cyprus than anywhere else but the Cyprus Ministry of Health have now made available a Cypriot Specialist in neuro muscular diseases, and a wealthy Cypriot in London has endowed a new hospital in Nicosia.

The new Muscular Dystrophy Association has already raised £20,000 to set up a two-year research project to study causes of this genetically transmitted disease, and in the long run it is hoped to establish a Muscular Dystrophy Unit in the hospital.

Meanwhile the ambitious hope is to raise a substantial sum, say £100,000 to help those suffering and develop research.



PASSPORTS

OUR son, his wife and daughter returned to Aldershot in April from a two-year posting in Northern Ireland. He is a captain and in early June he was posted to the Falklands for four months and we looked forward to having our daughter-in-law and granddaughter to stay with us in Holland.

Having filled in the necessary forms for an 'Indulgence Flight' to Wildenrath in Germany where we were to collect them, our son's wife also filled in the forms to have her passport renewed. It was going to expire before they travelled.

Knowing that it does take some time for a passport to be renewed, especially in the summer in England, none of us realised that the situation was quite so bad. When seven weeks had elapsed our daughter-in-law contacted both the Passport Office, who could only say that it was being 'processed', and the Army, who could not help.

To our great disappointment the trip had to be cancelled.

After the eighth week the passport did arrive, but it was too late because their flight places went to someone else.

We cannot understand why it takes so long to renew a passport. Here in the Netherlands it takes just three days to get a new passport. That, of course, is a

Dutch passport. Both my husband and I have had our British passports renewed since we have lived here and it did not take very long. A week. — Mrs A, The Netherlands.

THIS sad case shows that wives must ensure a passport is valid at ALL TIMES.

You do not know when you will need it. The rules and regulations can be found in your unit.

If your passport is due to expire within the next six months then now is the time to start getting it renewed. If you have children, then make sure they are on at least one of the parents' passports.

SCHOOLING

I'M of Indian parents but was born in England and have a British passport. I was brought up in England.

In 1979 I was married to a boy from India, then he came over to England and we had two children, then in 1981 we were divorced.

Last year I married a young man who is Indian but was living here in Germany.

At the end of last year he came over to England to meet the parents and to see if he could find employment in the UK.

He could not so he and I came back to Germany. He has been working since his visit to England

ASK ANNE

in a German factory.

I have, since June '85, brought my four-year-old daughter over to Germany. My son is back in England at school and my parents look after him.

I want to know if I can get my daughter into an English school here in Germany, on a temporary basis, say for about 10 years, as my daughter speaks English.

Where can I go for more information? We live in Dortmund. — Mrs B, Germany.

BRITISH Forces schools overseas are allowed to take up to 20 per cent of non-entitled fee-paying children, starting in the term they are five. Fees are charged each term. Write to the Headmaster of the British Forces school you wish your child to attend.

THANKS...

MANY thanks for your research into ex-Servicemen buying council houses. Watford Council have finally agreed to accept our affidavit.

Your help has saved us a great deal of time. — Mrs S, Watford.

suitable designs for trial.

DDSM6 (RAF) also say that, longer term, they are receptive to the idea of mattresses with removable covers for married quarters. Their view is that vinyl covers would be uncomfortable and noisy but other suitable materials would be considered.

This is on the list of their future projects.

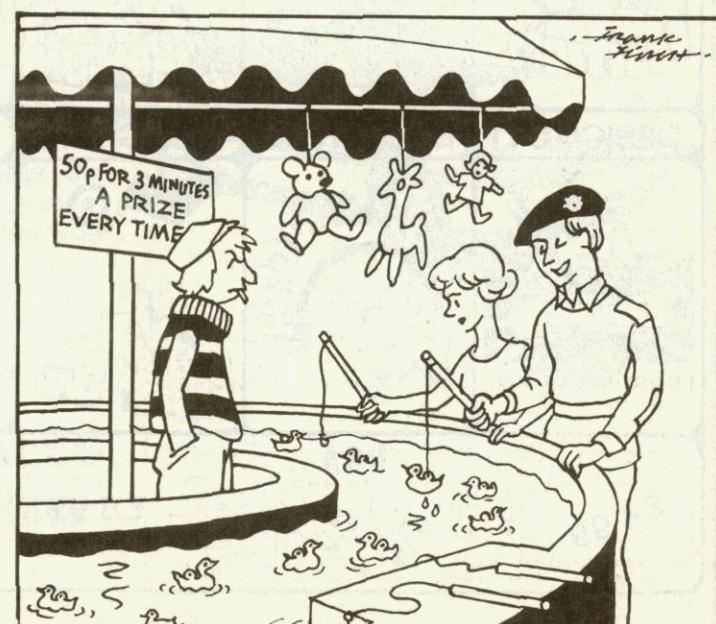
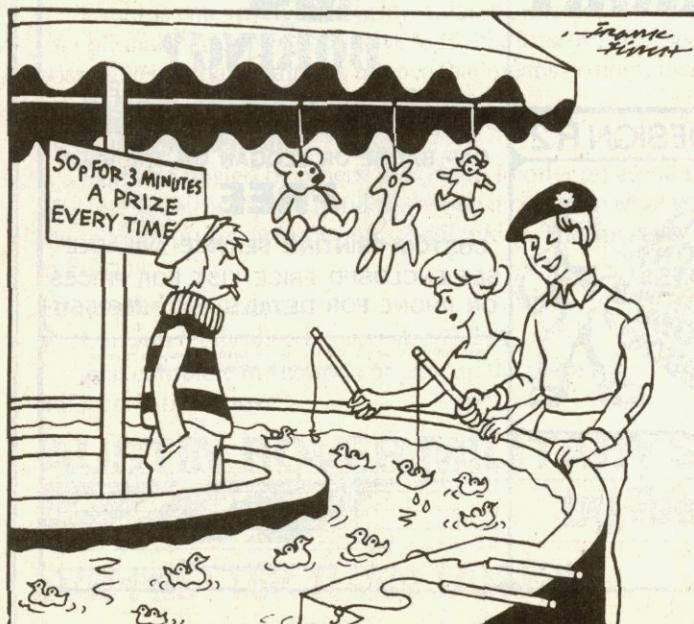
MATTRESSES

and re-used as opposed to the present system of replacing the whole mattress.

Thankyou for your letter and for sending me a copy of the letter which you have received from "Service wife of 20 years facing a 20th move".

The lady's suggestion is for vinyl covers for mattresses which could, presumably, be removed, cleaned

How observant are you?



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

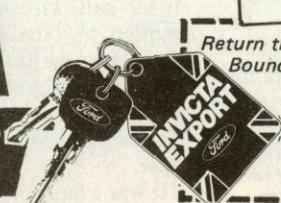
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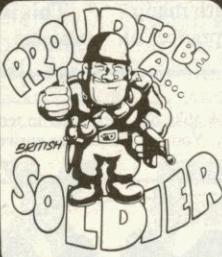


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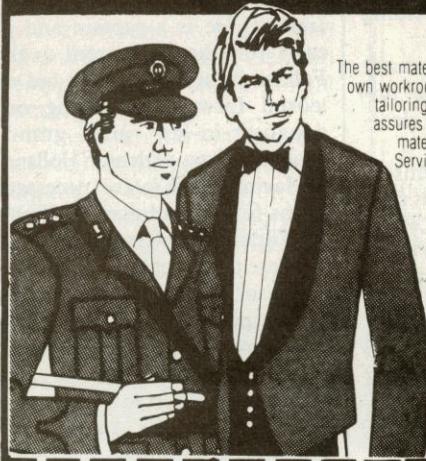
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ALL'S FAIR IN WAR: OR IS IT?

Surprises all round, and all over in massive home defence exercise

ALL'S fair in war — let alone love — as the Gun Troop of the Honourable Artillery Company from the City of London (TA) found out when defending Northolt airfield in the biggest home defence exercise since the war.

Their role in Brave Defender, against the Soviet 'Spetsnaz', started late on a Friday night and finished at lunchtime the following Sunday before returning to their homes and their two-week annual camp on Salisbury Plain.

But in their 36 hours of action at the old Battle of Britain station

on the outskirts of London, they learned that rules are there to be broken when playing modern style war games.

But the HAC had the last laugh when they captured two of the enemy posing as painters and decorators.

"Although capturing them was a feather in our caps — in reality they were SAS men — we didn't know they had arranged to decorate a room on the base two weeks before the exercise started!"

"All a bit unfair," said Warrant Officer 2 Jerry Eales. "But it opened our eyes to what could happen."

The managing director of a company manufacturing lifesaving equipment in East London, Jerry Eales has been with the HAC for 33 years.

He joined following National Service with the Royal Regiment of Artillery and has been with them ever since.

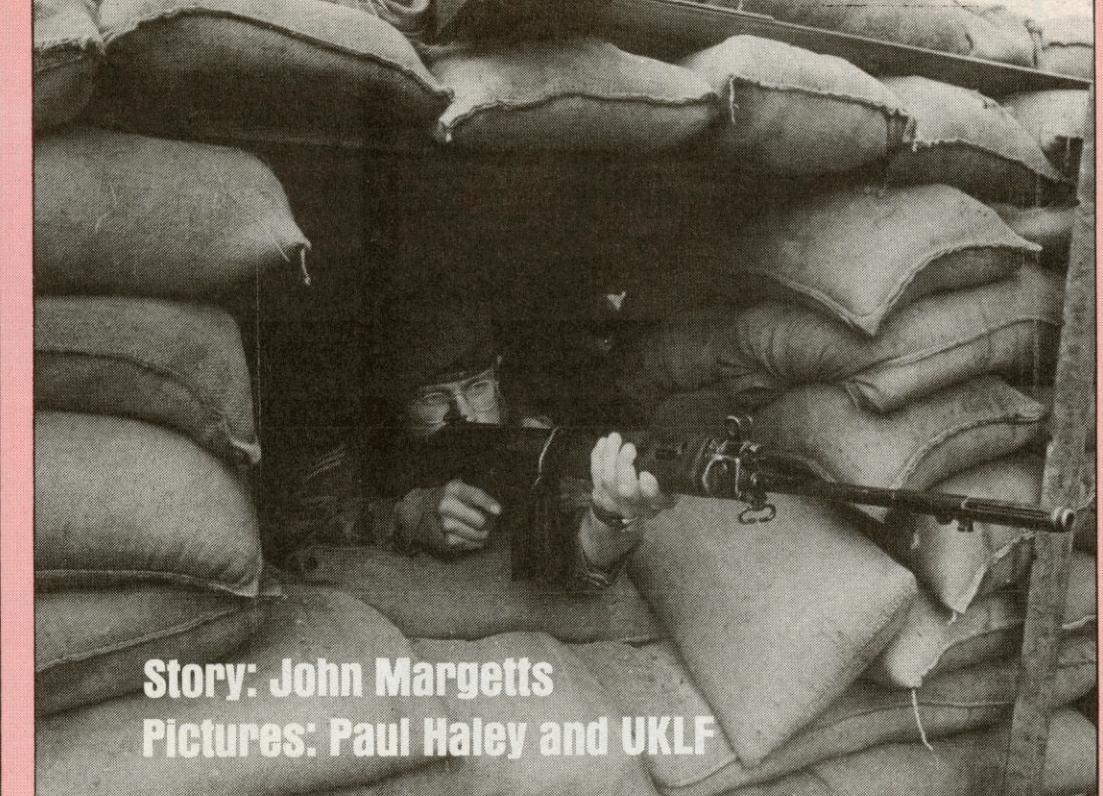
With him in the unit is his son



Men of 3rd Bn The Parachute Regiment and 2nd Bn Coldstream Guards combined to retake South Gare radar station, Tees Estuary ▼



▲ For them the exercise is over! These 'infiltrators' were caught in the act...



Story: John Margetts
Pictures: Paul Haley and UKL

Surrounded by sandbags — a sergeant of the Honourable Artillery Company at Northolt

strated at Northolt were taking place at key points throughout the country.

At Thorney Island, home of 26 Field Regiment RA — the Sussex

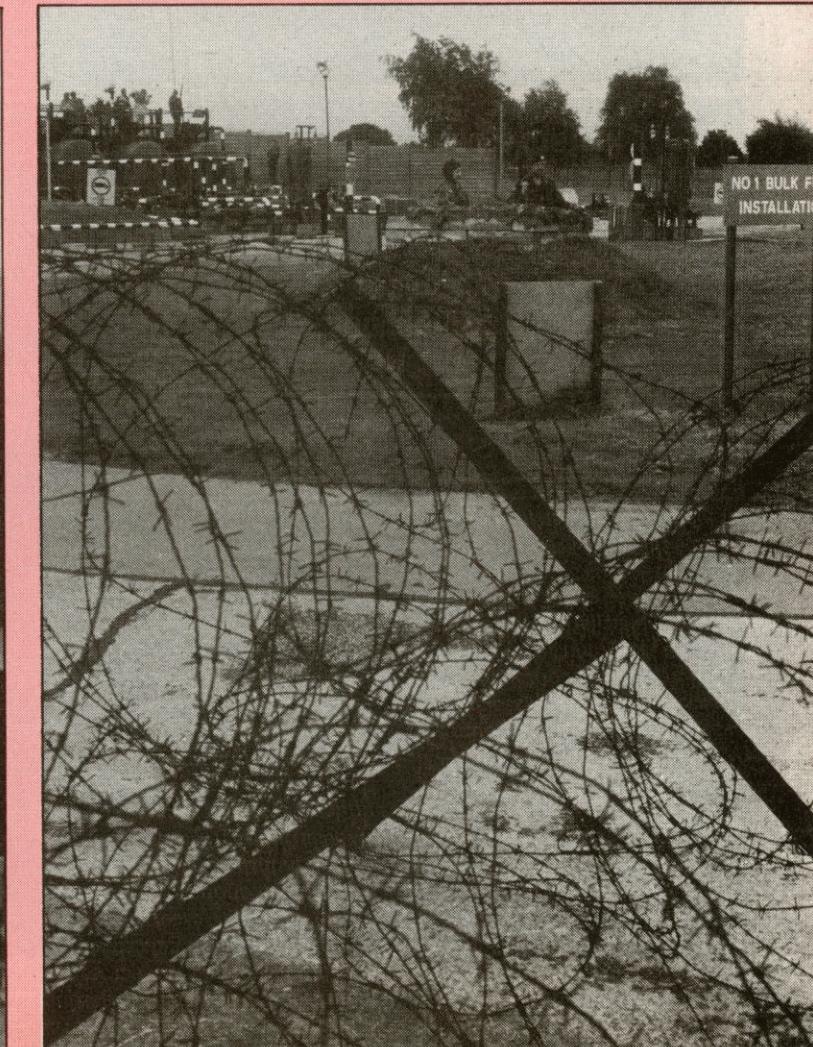
(Continued page 28)

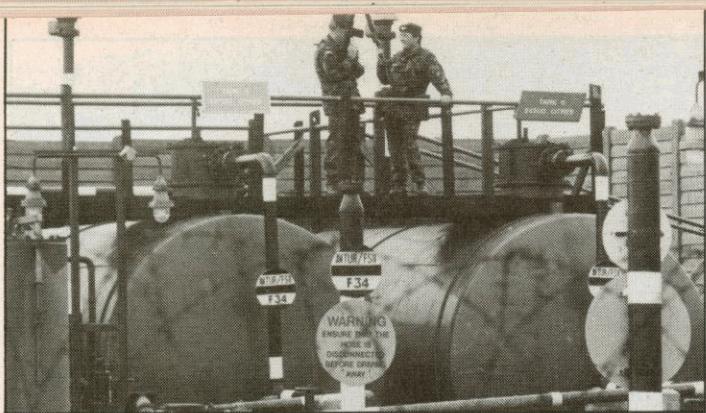
we have the capability to defend those sites.

"The whole point of Brave Defender is to practise the defence of key points around the country should the Soviets ever use their special forces known as Spetsnaz," he said.

"To counter this threat we have developed special techniques and this exercise is to assure ourselves

View from the top: General Sir James Glover and Mr Michael Heseltine at RAF Northolt ▼





More shots of the Home Service Force men during their first big exercise test at Northolt

(From page 27)

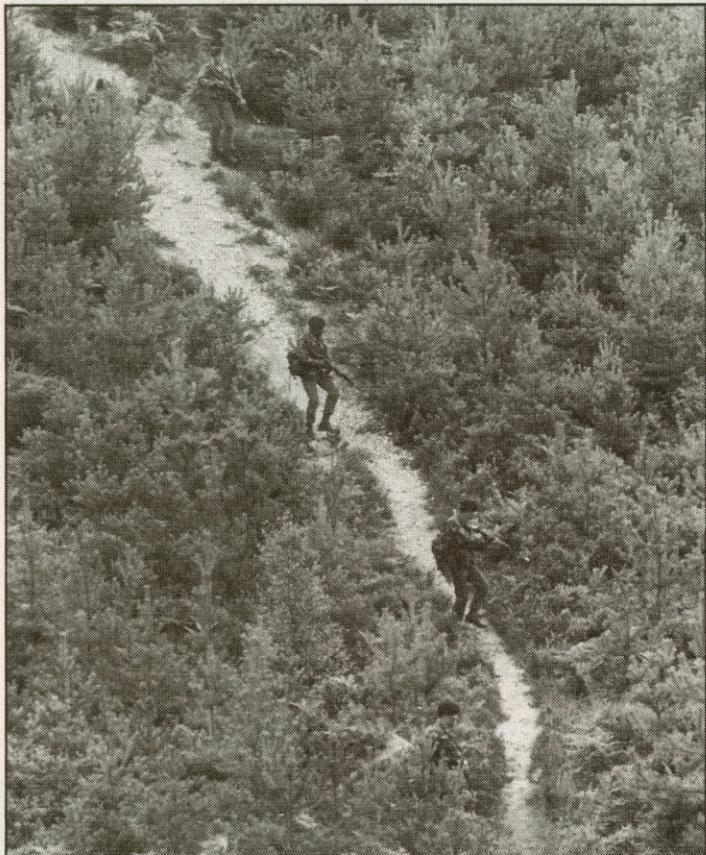
Gunners — platoons from E (HSF) Company, 6/7 Battalion The Queen's Regiment, helped route Spetsnaz infiltrators with the aid of a 'Pig'.

Bought and renovated by a local businessman, he took the armoured personnel carrier along to defend the control tower and radar at the base.

And when highly-trained paratroopers landed from the sea under cover of darkness, they got the surprise of their lives when, caught in the glare of a searchlight, out roared the 'Pig' to capture two prisoners and help kill about 35 enemy for the loss of one man. The owner of the 'Pig' is reported as saying: "We are encouraged to improvise."

Similar action stories came from all over the country. At Colerne, near Bath, a one-time RAF airfield, Regulars from the REME Wing

Sandhurst cadets, forming a composite company, search the countryside for 'saboteurs'...



at the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill, 16 Field Ambulance unit Bulford, the Army Fire Service, an EOD team and Royal Engineers, plus an Army and RAF helicopter, laid on the sort of action that might be expected should Soviet 'sleepers' and shock troops suddenly spring into action.

Watched by senior officers from all three Services — including the Chief of the Defence Staff designate Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, and the Commander-in-Chief United Kingdom land forces, General Sir James Glover — the scenario was spread over the whole of the airfield.

Deliberately overplayed, the action started with two golfers, played by soldiers from the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards from Tidworth, suddenly pulling weapons from their golf bags and blazing away at a hangar key point.

All hell then let loose with action from a Mobile Reaction Force and an exchange of fire between them, gun and assault groups and the infiltrators.

Emphasising that any Spetsnaz would "have a lot to contend with," General Glover said there were a few "notable firsts" about Brave Defender.

"It's really the first time the three Services have got together on a scale like this since the war.

"It's the first time that anything like this exercise has been tried in this country.

"It's also the first time the civil police have taken part in an exercise of this scale and in addition it's the first time the HSF has been exercised in this way.

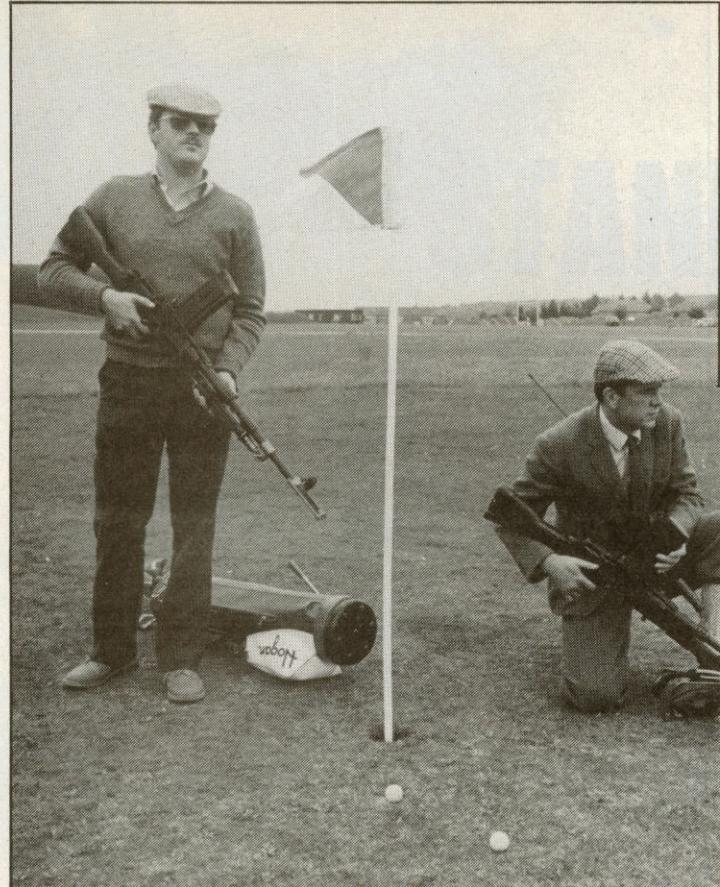
"It has given people the chance to see what it is all about," he said, pointing out that this was a new concept of military home defence.

Brave Defender, he said, was designed to demonstrate how the Army would counter a low-level military attack.

It had a scripted scenario, so far as the Press was concerned, but it



Lieutenant Penny Dickens and Private Karen Traynor were among the "prisoners" taken to a compound set up at Blackdown



Looks like a new helicopter landing platform. Not so, the Lynx was just caught at the right moment by the camera shutter!

Strange looking nine-irons! L/Cpl Nigel Wright and Cpl 'Robbie' Williams, 5th Royal Iniskilling Dragoon Guards with a new line in deception!

gave an insight into what could possibly happen. That was his general theme when answering questions after the demo.

General Glover was the man responsible for Brave Defender and the 65,000 personnel from all three Services taking part.

About 5,000 of them played the part of the enemy in the exercise which covered the UK except for Northern Ireland.

American Servicemen stationed in the UK had a role, paying their own costs in the £3,000,000 bill.

General Glover summed up: "It is vitally important we have a sound, efficient military Home Defence plan, which in itself will contribute to the deterrent.

"This exercise also underlines the critical role of the UK base in the overall NATO strategy."

The exercise took place within the laws of the land which meant, as Mr Heseltine pointed out at his Northolt Press conference, that the exercise was "under the control of the civil police."

Prisoners still have to be fed... carefully

A Quick Reaction Force on the move at Colerne





▲ Foliage and binoculars at the ready, a Blowpipe troop defend the guns of 7 Regiment Royal Horse Artillery

Communications are so vital — especially in the fog of war as the attack goes in ▼

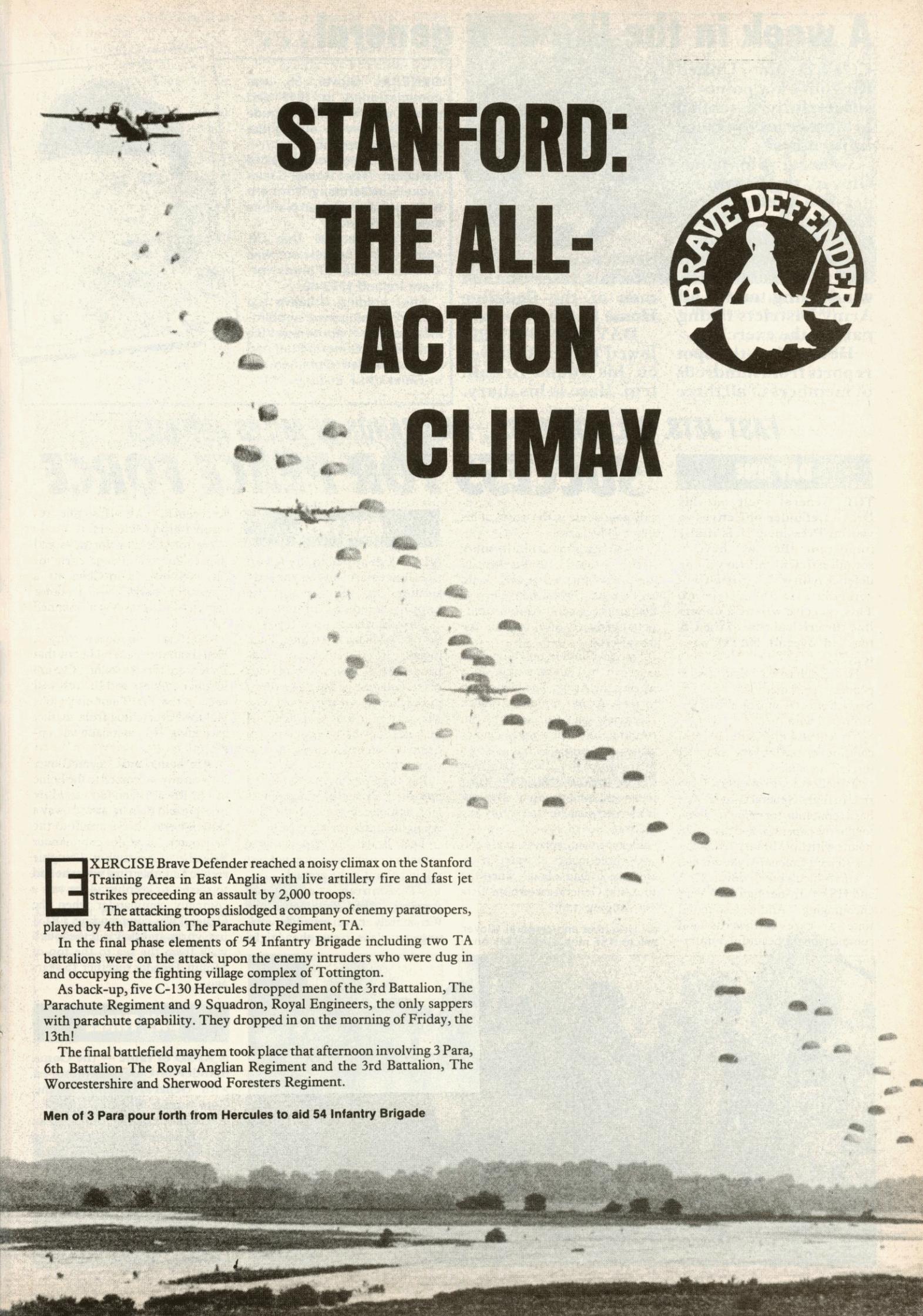


▲ Men of the 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment move up for the final assault

A long way from home. Sgt Kevin Hopkinson from New Zealand, helping 7 RHA with a barrage ▼

Pictures: Les Wiggs





STANFORD: THE ALL- ACTION CLIMAX



EXERCISE Brave Defender reached a noisy climax on the Stanford Training Area in East Anglia with live artillery fire and fast jet strikes preceding an assault by 2,000 troops.

The attacking troops dislodged a company of enemy paratroopers, played by 4th Battalion The Parachute Regiment, TA.

In the final phase elements of 54 Infantry Brigade including two TA battalions were on the attack upon the enemy intruders who were dug in and occupying the fighting village complex of Tottington.

As back-up, five C-130 Hercules dropped men of the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment and 9 Squadron, Royal Engineers, the only sappers with parachute capability. They dropped in on the morning of Friday, the 13th!

The final battlefield mayhem took place that afternoon involving 3 Para, 6th Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment and the 3rd Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment.

Men of 3 Para pour forth from Hercules to aid 54 Infantry Brigade

A week in the life of a general...

COULD the United Kingdom's key points be successfully defended against crack Spetsnaz infiltrators?

General Sir James Glover, the Commander-in-Chief United Kingdom Land Forces, needed to find out.

The only way to do it was to make a whirlwind flying tour of all Army Districts taking part in the exercise.

He heard on-the-spot reports from hundreds of members of all three



GENERAL Glover, 56, was commissioned in 1949 and served with the Rifle Brigade on active service during the Malayan Emergency.

Later he commanded the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, in Germany, Northern Ireland and on United Nations duty in Cyprus.

He commanded the UK Mobile Force brigade and was Commander Land Forces Northern Ireland 1979-80.

After holding Britain's top military intelligence appointment for two years he was Vice Chief of the General Staff and was appointed Commander-in-Chief UKLF in June.



Services, including Territorials, reservists and men of the fledgling Home Service Force.

DAVID McDINE followed General Glover on his round-Britain trip. Here is his diary.

FAST JETS, HELICOPTERS... THOUSANDS OF MILES AND MEN SUCCESS FOR PEACE FORCE

DAY ONE

THE General spelt out his Brave Defender objectives to visiting Pressmen: "It is vitally important that we have a sound, efficient military home defence plan which in itself will contribute to the deterrent. This exercise will also underline the critical role of the UK base in overall NATO strategy."

He emphasised that police primacy prevailed and the tri-Service effort would be closely co-ordinated with them.

"It will also highlight the great contribution made by the volunteer forces," he added.

By helicopter to Western District. In flight General Glover, who has a reputation for enjoying work, fought the paper war and discussed points with his Military Assistant, Lieutenant Colonel Myles Frisby.

He studied a break-down of TA and HSF turn-out figures: "Very encouraging." And he also found time to gaze earthwards and comment on the beautiful country-

side now safely in the hands of his Brave Defenders.

After briefings at Shrewsbury where he was amused to hear of grannies asking where they could see the action, he watched reservists being processed at Sutton Coldfield ready to take part in the exercise.

One ex-Gunner, now a London postman, had put on weight since leaving the Army. The General, a former Army middle distance champion who still keeps fit on running, hill walking and Perrier water, told him: "I hope it won't be too much of a shock for you."

Later the Commander-in-Chief met a splendid group of Mercian HSF men guarding a dummy key point.

One private, splashing around with three inches of water in his slit trench, had a laugh when the four-star General asked him: "Are you lapping it up?"

Mr Heseltine and General Glover talk to HSF men. Media look on



DAY TWO

A LYNX dropped in to pick up the General. As he was the only soldier on the ground he happily acted as marshaller.

On to Northolt to brief Defence

Secretary Michael Heseltine.

Then together they watched as Para-badged HSF men wrote off two make-believe Spetsnaz — with an instant replay for the cameramen who missed it first time. Outside the base, ban-the-bombers tried to drum up some media coverage for their cause.

But the Secretary of State had absorbed all the briefing points and hammered back at the few trying to attack the exercise.

The Brave Defenders were actually preserving peace, not just talking about it, he argued.

"Draconian emergency powers?" asked Pressmen. "No. We merely have sensible contingency plans in case they might

be needed," Mr Heseltine reassured his questioners.

On to Aldershot for talks and then to Portsmouth and a trip for the Commander-in-Chief in a "captain's barge" — a motor launch — to visit a Naval-manned KP.

Chatting to a dozen Wessex HSF men the General heard that three were former sailors, five ex-Regular soldiers and the rest had been in the TA. Their civvy jobs included everything from market gardening to aeronautical engineering.

Winchester, and General Glover was warmly welcomed to the home of The Royal Green Jackets. More briefing and then he waved away a staff car and strode uphill to the helicopter. TAOR commander Brigadier Christopher Dunphie recalled another time when he had to scurry to keep up — he was a company commander when the General was commanding 3 RGJ in Cyprus and they did the tough walk from the sea to the top of Mount Troodos together 15 years ago.

DAY THREE

A KIND of fame — the Commander-in-Chief was pictured with "General Heseltine" in the Communist Morning Star.

At a staff meeting he nodded as an American officer told him laconically "the bad guys were KIA-d" in a key point attack.

The General, whose ability to soak up vast amounts of information is legendary, has a disconcerting habit of bowling a penetrating googlie just as briefing officers are getting into their stride. Those

who survive are told: "Well done — good briefing."

Talks behind closed doors with Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, who is to be the next Chief of the Defence Staff.

Then by helicopter to Colerne to see a make-believe Spetsnaz attack on another KP.

Now it was his turn to be bowled a few fast balls — by the Press. "Is it fair to pit Dads' Army against Soviet special forces?" asked one teleperson.

"Certainly. The Spetsnaz would be operating in a hostile environment but the TA and HSF have priceless local knowledge. They know every nook and cranny..."

Tri-Service talks with the police and then home for a letter-signing session at his residence with the MA — on the table a copy of the National Trust Book of Long Walks.

DAY FOUR

A FLASH of steel at his staff meeting as the Commander-in-Chief pointed out it was time for a reminder that the "joke element" some units were injecting could trivialise the threat.

Discussions at Wilton with CINCNAVHOME, Admiral Sir Peter Standford, and the CGS, General Sir Nigel Bagnall.

Then by HS 125 executive jet to Liverpool Airport accompanied by the Commander-in-Chief BAOR, General Sir Martin Farndale who was visiting the exercise.

The Generals knew one another as subalterns in the Royal Horse Artillery before General Glover transferred to The Rifle Brigade.

"We knew there was no hope of

winning in the Ball Button Sports when this chap Jimmy Glover was running," recalled General Farndale.

At North West District General Glover absorbed more information — everything from the strategic

Kingsman Neil Seddon of The King's Regiment shares a joke with the general at Birkenhead Docks

At a staff meeting he nodded as an American officer told him laconically "the bad guys were KIA-d" in a key point attack.

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DAY FIVE

TO RAF Wattisham in the HS 125 to meet a galaxy of top United States officers including the Deputy CINCEUR, General Richard Lawson.

During their useful talks the loudspeakers warned: "Air raid, red, red, red!" and a pair of "enemy" Harriers zapped the base.

In a country lane General Glover and the Americans watched as Royal Anglian Territorials and a fatherly police sergeant put on some outdoor theatre with two suspects to show the visitors police primacy in action at grass roots level.

Chopping on to Catterick the General watched casualty handling after a simulated air crash.

Everywhere he spoke to as many soldiers as possible. "By talking to soldiers on their own I often learn more than at staff briefings," he explained.

DAY SIX

AFTER fighting another round in the paper war at his



General Glover talks to a defender at the Kingsbury Range KP

Scottish Territorials put in an attack on "enemy" holding a ruined house.

Giant company commander Major Willie Turner took a heavy fall as he jumped across a burn and almost banged his nose on the Commander-in-Chief's boot. "The Territorials are so enthusiastic," commented the General.

South to Norfolk's Stanford Training Area to watch a para-drop which had attracted a large number of military attachés.

Then, still with a trace of Scottish mud on his boots, General Glover faced a wash up media inquisition.

He told them: "We have now validated our new concept for military home defence based on the primacy of the police. This is the real significance of Brave Defender, which on this account alone was immensely worthwhile."

A host of lessons would emerge and strengthen that concept, he said.

"Brave Defender has demonstrated that our contribution to NATO is backed by an effective home defence. This can only enhance the effectiveness of the Alliance and hence of deterrence."

And he added: "We train for war, but we are a force for peace".

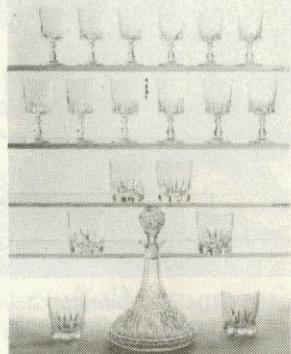


IN darkness General Glover set off at Light Infantry pace through the Glentrool forest.

And as dawn broke he watched and the C-in-C strikes a happy note with PC George Ellison of Mersey-side Police

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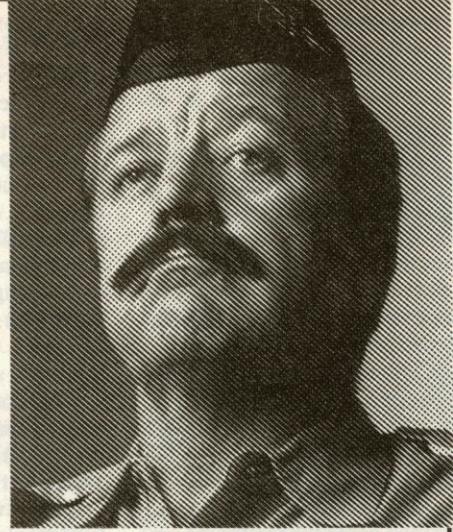
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**'Perhaps
the bravest
man
I ever
knew...'**



**and now,
he cannot
bear to turn a
corner**

Six-foot-four Sergeant 'Tiny' G**r*e, DCM, was perhaps the bravest man his Colonel ever knew.

But now, after seeing service in Aden, after being booby-trapped and ambushed in Northern Ireland, Sergeant 'Tiny' cannot bear to turn a corner. For fear of what is on the other side.

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These men and women have given their minds to their Country. If we are to help them, we must have funds. Do please help us with a donation, and with a legacy too, perhaps. The debt is owed by all of us.

"They've given more than they could—please give as much as you can."

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was, the new 323 is destined to be even more so. The new car is not only more attractive, it's more aerodynamic—thanks to a flush-fitting windscreen, body panels and headlamps. Even the doorhandles have been recessed to keep the airflowing smoothly over the body. And that goes for all three body styles, four door Saloon as well as the three and five door Hatchbacks.

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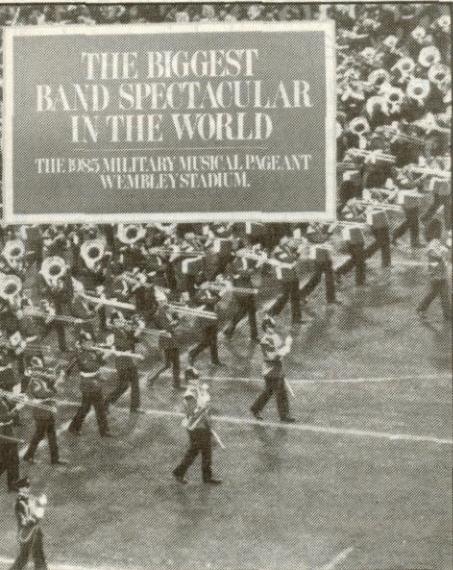
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MAZDA EXPORT
DRIVE A
BETTER BARGAIN

THE two gentlemen named above are merely representative of the couple of thousand involved in this bi-annual display of musical might. They of course bear the brunt of its organisation, with the backing of dozens of other Directors of Music, Bandmasters, marshals and most of the technical branches of the Army. But it is the bandsmen in their hordes who really matter, doing everything by fine basic training and sheer educated guesswork and instinct on the unfriendly turf of Wembley Stadium. They have to, though this year called for more of it than usual in three days of wet, very wet, rehearsal time. And make no mistake about it, this is live recording made under very trying conditions. You wouldn't know it, for the engineers have done a marvellous job.

In an album of two discs comes a feast of martial music with such "presence" that you are almost given a free seat at the actual event. The show opens with a tribute to all those regiments and at least one band celebrating 300 Years of existence, comprising an open fanfare by Captain Roger Swift *The 300th*, and the evolution of military music since 1685 commencing with the Honourable Artillery Company's single drum, the fifes and drums, massed bands of the Light Division, and the pipes and drums. *The Queen's Guards* play Strauss's *Fest Musik Der Stadt Wien* and three marches by Lt Col Dick Ridings, and the massed bands a lively selection including *Hornucopia* for "massed" alphorns, a concoction by Col Duncan Beat. They also



accompany the fireworks with suitable excerpts from Purcell, Handel, Meyerbeer and others.

Forty Years of peace since 1945 is celebrated first by the Royal Military Band of the Netherlands then by all the participants in representations of war, with Holst's *Mars* and Wagner's *Gotterdammerung*, and peace with Holst's *Venus* and *Jupiter*, gods of peace and joyfulness. With World War II vehicles and fire engines dashing around the arena in *Celebration* we have the *River Kwai March* and *QM's Stores*, Moira Anderson singing *Land of Hope and Glory*, and the three anthems of the Netherlands, USA, and Great Britain.

None of the foregoing gives you any idea of the immediacy and vividness of this masterly recording, fine playing in adversity, and above all something we are becoming increasingly conscious of concerning our British Services — sheer professionalism. The music is too much to mention but take it from me you will not be disappointed. And a final word of appreciation to the Drum Majors who, by the grace of God and an inborn homing instinct, lead their charges to the correct points of the compass on that terrifying arena. Without them the whole works would grind to a very messy halt.

From Bandleader and dealers, price £9.00 inc, cassette or discs.

On the Record

with Rodney Bashford



BEATING RETREAT Craighall Studios CD103

Massed Bands, Corps of Drums, Pipes and Drums of the Queen's Division. Director of Music: Captain D. F. Wall. Drum Major: WO2 R. J. Baker.

IN addition to the annual Retreat Beating by the Guards Division other divisions now take a turn at performing this ancient ceremony on Horse Guards Parade. For some years no advantage was taken of having the seating stands *in situ* for the Queen's Birthday Parade, but since the 1960s the high cost of setting them up has been offset by these marvellous occasions when the infantry helmet and light infantry busby (that's what we called it in the 60s anyway) can be seen in all their musical glory. Probably the most concise yet varied musical displays available anywhere in the world.

This year was again the turn of the Queen's Division, and they very properly included the pipes and drums of the 5th and 7th/10th battalions of the Ulster Defence Regiment who are affiliated to them. Together they made this studio recording just before the event with words of command and atmosphere added. *Children of the Regiment* as march on, the *National Anthem* and *Advance in Review Order* set the opening scene, followed by the bands in a medley by Captain Wall of snippets from the classics, *A Little Light Music*; very good too. The corps of drums play a rousing *Songs of the Wars*, and the bands and drums *Wolfe's Patrol* by Bandmaster T. S. Davis and *Mechanised Infantry* by David McBain. So pleasant to hear the latter at heavy infantry pace with all the notes audible. Side one ends with the pipes and drums display which includes a charming *Keel Row* and the *UDR Regimental March*.

Around the Counties by the bands is a selection of all the marches of the regiments which went to make up the Queen's Division, and well blessed they are with such charmers as *La Mandolinata* and *Speed the Plough* from the Royal Anglians, *Blaydon Races* from the Fusiliers, and *A Southerly Wind* and *A Cloudy Sky* from the Queen's, plus many others. Strauss's *Fest Musik Der Stadt Wien*, *Evening Hymn*, *Retreat Call, Pomp and Circumstance*, and Don Pryce's obligatory *The Queen's Division* march make a fitting finale to what must have been an attractive ceremony.

From HQ Queen's Div, Bassingbourn Bks, Royston, Herts, price £4.50 inclusive, disc or cassette, plus a programme while stocks last.

TROOPING THE COLOUR DR 70

Director of Music: Lt Col R. A. Ridings Coldstream Guards. Director of Music: Captain J. G. McColl Life Guards.

THE Queen's Birthday Parade is recorded every year, and is not too often. Tourists are of course avid buyers and there is always an up and coming generation of our own who like to have a copy, if only to play or give to their tourist friends. I find it to be the best farewell present of all. Their forebears on the Mayflower or of Little Ditchling-in-the-Marsh you know.

This year it was the turn of the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards to troop its Colour, with the Grenadier and Scots Guards in support, so only their regimental marches are heard during the march pasts of the Foot Guards. HM The Queen arrives right on time as usual, and I am assured the Horse Guards clock is not doctored for the occasion. The inspection music comprises those fine old Spanish Dances by Desormes and the march *The King's Guard*. The quick troop is an obvious choice but has I think, never been thought of before — *When the Guards are on Parade*. The Old Coldstream Marches the "neutral" slow march past and Alford's *The Vedette* the neutral quick, with *Blaze Away* to

see the troops back to their original positions.

The glorious clatter of the Household Cavalry walk and trot pasts is accompanied by the neutral marches *Preobrazhensky*, *The Coachman's Tune*, the latter a real winner with their neutral trot.

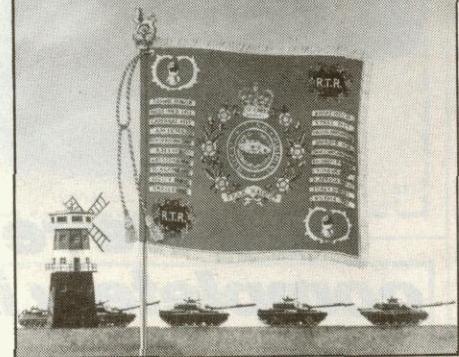
This time you can actually hear Colonel Malcolm Havergal ask Her Majesty for her Guards to march off, which they do to *76 Trombones*. All through the ceremony the words of command are very clear, and there are some very effective and well-placed horse neighs, genuine I would say. All the music other than that mentioned is traditionally played every year for the set-piece movements, with an additional tune from the corps of drums, *Prussian Glory*, which I couldn't place, as last year I never succeeded in reaching my seat and this year couldn't buy one.

From Droit Music, 8 Alfred St, Blandford, Dorset, price £5.60 inclusive.



ROYAL TANK REGIMENT

Presentation of Standards Parade



PRESENTATION OF STANDARDS PARADE MM 0615

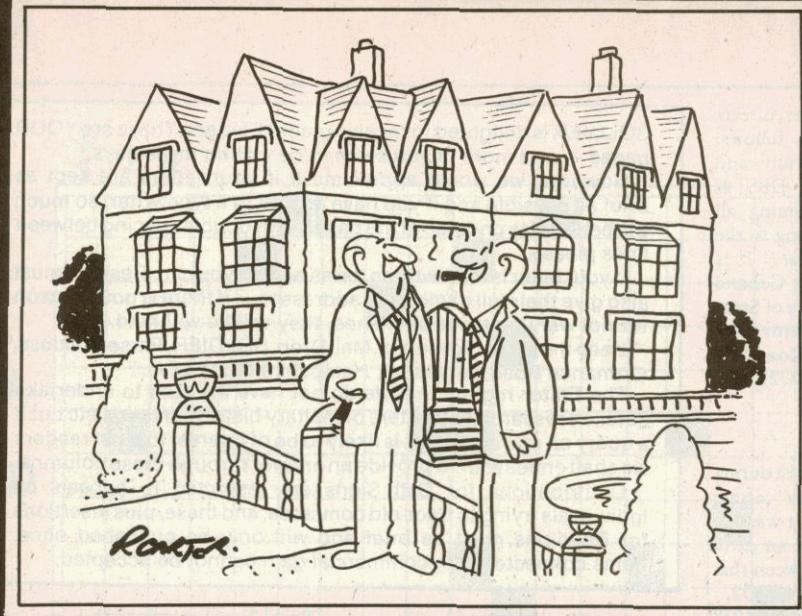
Bands of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Royal Tank Regiment. Conductor: Captain R. G. Tomlinson. Pipes and Drums 4th Royal Tank Regiment. Pipe Major: S/Sgt M. J. Harden.

AT a recent presentation of standards to all four Regiments by HM The Queen the opportunity was taken to record the music of the parade, with words of command and discreet track and sprocket noises to help create a realistic atmosphere. With 150 tanks and other heavy vehicles on parade not much would have been heard of the original music.

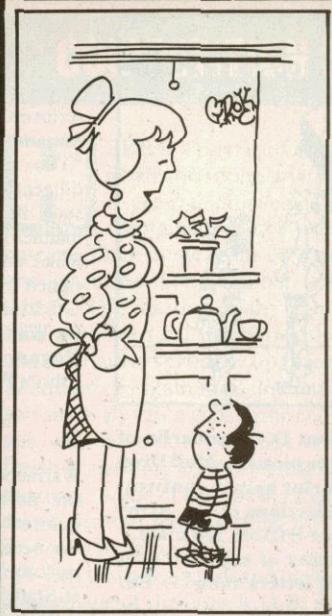
This is a fine digital recording with, unusually for this sort of ceremony, a mixed programme of interesting music or well-arranged oldies. Naturally a frequent interloper is my boy Willie, but he is such a perky little fellow (musically speaking) that he adds a homogeneity to the proceedings not available to most regiments. He appears in Captain Tomlinson's own fanfare *Our Colonel-In-Chief*, a slow march *Cambray*, and *Make Tracks*, as well as himself in the *Regimental Drive Past* and *March Past*. *Chariots of Fire* serves as *Advance in Review Order*, a medley of *County Tunes* as the Review music, and of course *Auld Lang Syne* with *Helian Laddie* as the old standards are marched off. Other aspects of the parade are accompanied by Elgar's *Nimrod*, the *Regimental Slow March*, Denis Plater's march *Fear Naught*, and the marches of the individual Regiments.

The pipes and drums play six tunes as the Regimental Association forms up, and they greet Her Majesty with *Here's a Health Unto Her Majesty*. They also march past, and *Boys of the Old Brigade* and other suitable tunes see them awa' for a no doubt well-earned tot of tea.

From RTR Association, Bovington Camp, Wareham, Dorset price £5 inclusive, disc or cassette.

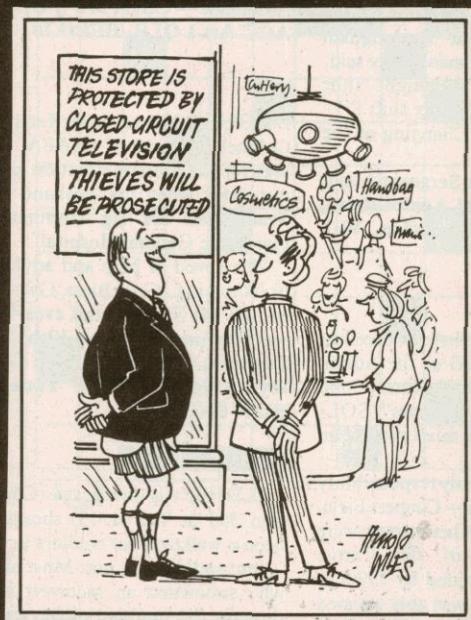


"Y'know Henry, if I had my life over I don't think I'd change much."

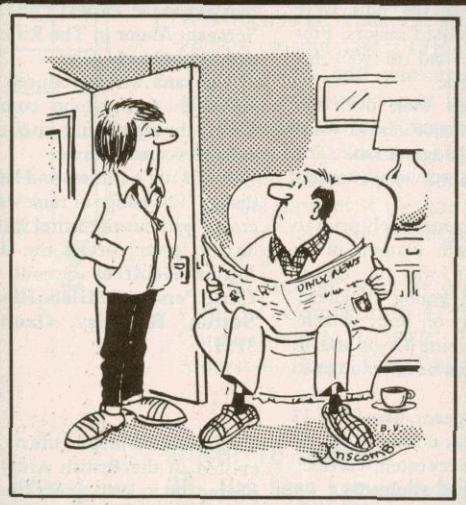


"For the last time Mortimer, daddy is a head chemist, not big cheese of the stinks department."

Humour



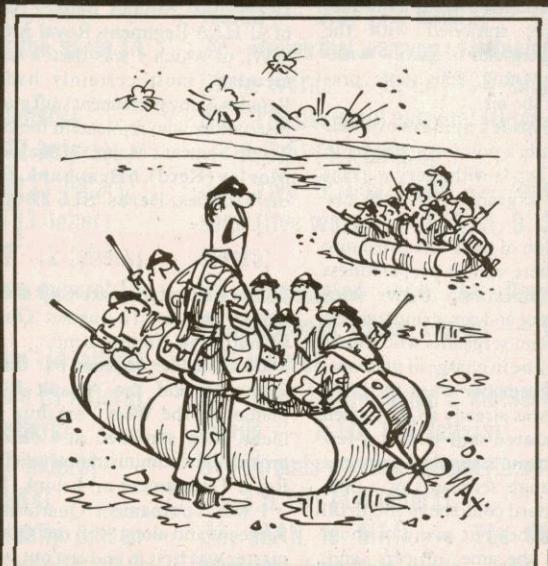
"Thanks to our new Security devices we've not had a single case of shoplifting all day."



"Dad, you're in trouble again — you're going to be a Grandad to Molly Smith's baby!"



"Sorry I'm a bit late — the Editor kept me out until one o'clock this morning!"



"We'll have to wait for the tide to come in."



MAIL DROP

script on parchment-like paper, directs me among other things, as follows: "You are, therefore, carefully and diligently to discharge your Duty as such by doing and performing all manner of things... according to the Rules and Discipline of War." It is signed by the then Adjutant General C G Liddell and the Secretary of State for War H J Creedy. — Major G R Hogan, 5 Queenswood Road, St John's Woking, Surrey, GU21 1XJ.

EXTRA RANK

Warrant Officer Class 3 did exist during the period claimed, for in certain quarters of the War Office it was felt the necessity had arisen for an extra rank to shorten the gap between that of Staff Sergeant CQMS and WO2.

The new rank was introduced in 1938 but was phased out as also claimed during the course of WW2 when it did not appear to justify its retention. — Captain Henry W Corke, 249 Marlborough Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 5HS.

LAPSED

The Rank of Warrant Officer Class 3 did exist in the 1938-40 period and my Uncle, (now) Captain W Criss is a living example. He was a WO3 Platoon Sergeant Major in The Rifle Brigade and captured at Calais.

The rank was introduced to cover vacancies for platoon commanders during the rapid build-up of the Army as war became a threat.

It was not a success and lapsed into disuse. The badge of rank was a large crown without the laurel leaves worn on the lower part of the sleeve. — Major Geoffrey Stroud (Retd), Little Pendor, 12 Glebe Rise, King's Sutton, Banbury, Oxon, OX17 3PH.

TSMs

THE rank of Warrant Officer 3rd Class existed in the British Army. It was phased out in 1940, as Mr Chamberlin claims, either by promotion or natural wastage.

The pre-war Territorial unit, 286 Heavy Anti Aircraft Battery (Goole) of 91 HAA Regiment, Royal Artillery (TA), of which I was then a serving member, most certainly had two Regular Army permanent staff gunnery instructors who rejoiced in the title of Troop Sergeant Major. — Major RG Morley (Retd), 6 Braybank, Bray-on-Thames, Berks, SL6 2BQ.

TOURNAMENT ADMIN

I write with reference to your article in Vol 41/16 dated 12 August: 'Gunners first at Royal Tournament'.

I would like to point out that 'D' Company and the Assault Pioneer platoon of the West Yorkshire Regiment, then stationed at Colchester, provided the administration unit for the Royal Tournament in, I think, 1957.

I was Tournament Quartermaster Sergeant and along with our Quartermaster was first in and last out. — Mr George Hardaker, 9 Laburnum Garth, Malton Road, York, YO3 9LU.

My warrant, written in splendid

SOLDIER is delighted to receive readers' letters. These are YOUR pages — and more of you seem to be writing these days.

However, we would appreciate it if your letters are kept as brief as possible and if you have access to a typewriter, so much the better. Use one side of the paper, with double spacing between lines please.

If your letter is handwritten, be as neat as you can. Readers must also give their full names and addresses — if there is good reason for not wanting these published, they will be withheld.

Keep the letters flowing to: Mail Drop, SOLDIER, Parsons House, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2DU.

The Editor regrets that we do not have the staff to undertake detailed research on matters of military history, militaria etc but if a query on current topics is likely to be of interest to most readers we shall endeavour to provide an answer through these columns.

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

SHIFT CHANGE

It was a bright sunny day and we were enjoying seeing the precision of the Guards' ceremony at Buckingham Palace. Suddenly a woman's voice said, "Yes dear, that's the night shift changing over with the day shift."

So much for the 'Changing of the Shifts'.

Enough to make a Sergeant Major cry. — G Wilmot, 31 Auriol Road, West Kensington, London, W14 0SP.

CARDIFF TATTOO

Without wishing to belittle the excellent work done by 1 QDG as the Admin Unit for the Cardiff Tattoo and reported in "Cardiff Honours" (SOLDIER 26 August), I must correct an error in the report.

The admin unit's only responsibility in the Tattoo rear area — Coopers Field, was for security. All other matters were the responsibility of the Tattoo Quartermaster, provided by 157 Tpt Regt RCT (V), who was ably assisted in the erection and dismantling of the tentage and general camp duties (including security prior to the arrival and on departure of the Admin Unit) by a SNCO, 2 JNCOs, and 15 ORs from 206 Coy RPC. — Major (QM) R G Gower RCT, 157 (Wales and Midlands) Tpt Regt RCT (V), Maindy Bks, Cardiff, CF4 3YE.

THE FIRST?

SOLDIER Magazine (12 August) tells of one Allan White being the first Falkland Islander to join the Army since 1939-45.

Well, this is not so. I was down south during the Falklands crisis serving with 2 Para and at Goose Green. One of the islanders, Kevin Browning, whose parents ran the galley at Goose Green was so impressed with the Paras that in 1982 he came to England to join the Paras with a hope of going to 2 Para.

However he failed to stay in the Paras and is now serving with 4 Fd Regt RA and has been back home on a six-month detachment.

Also, another Falklander joined the Royal Navy in 1978 — John Ferguson (my wife's brother) and was actually in HMS Endurance when the conflict broke out and got a commendation for diving on the wreck of the Argentine submarine Santa Fe, and some of the

Royal Naval vessels sunk.

John now lives with his wife at Swansea and Kevin is serving in Aldershot — Cpl K M P J Ormond, ACC Att 1 QLR, BFPO 16.

THANKS, SSAFA

I WOULD like to thank Lieutenant Colonel F Sewall of SSAFA, Ripon area for the prompt attention given to my sister when her husband Mr A Scaife had his leg amputated at Harrogate General Hospital.

The speed of help and advice was breathtaking. God Bless Col Sewall and all the SSAFA staff everywhere.

— Thomas Cox, ex-12th Royal Lancers, 4 Meadow Croft, Cononley, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD20 8ND.

Competition

SOLDIER's jigsaw puzzle (Competition 368 in Vol 41/15) should have been a walkover for soldiers in Berlin — but sadly it was not. Most of those who submitted an incorrect answer thought the jumbled pieces gave the outline of Borneo when sorted out; the correct answer was The Berlin Wall. The clues in the accompanying narrative, in which some words had to be taken away from others to give the result, seemed not to be too helpful and most people recognised the infamous wall from the jigsaw. Winner of the £50 prize was Mr T M Brown of Tennyson Avenue, Gedling, Nottingham.

How Observant Are You?

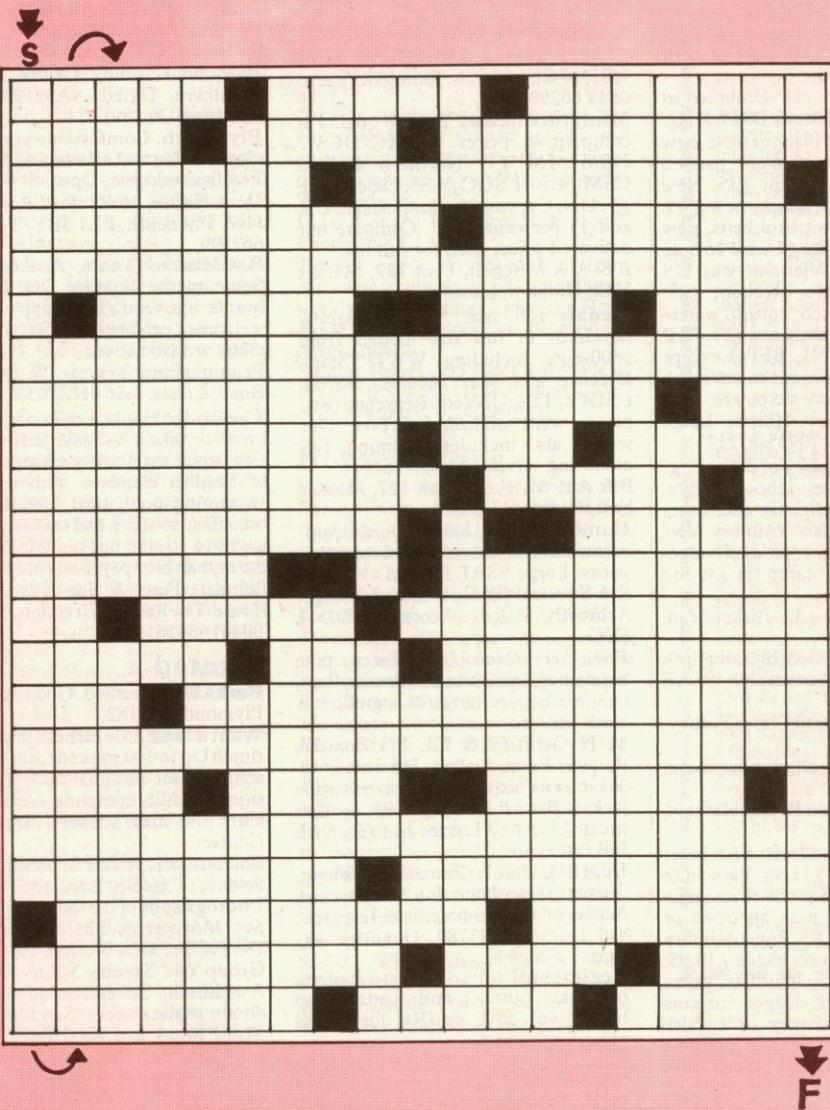
1 Tail of toy giraffe. 2 Left black curve of awning. 3 Back of stallholder's cap. 4 Loop on back of duck second from left. 5 Length of nearest unused 'fishing rod'. 6 Neckline of girl's dress. 7 Girl's left hand. 8 Right wing of soldier's collar. 9 Depth of stallholder's rollneck. 10 Doll's right arm.

Call-signs

J King, 249 Roberts Street, Grimsby, South Humberside, D32 8DT would like to contact any of his old comrades in 'A' Platoon 745 Tipper Coy RASC, attached to the Canadians in Normandy on D-Day and with them until VE Day.

UPS AND DOWNS

COMPETITION 373



WIN £50

1. "And the greatest of these is CHARITY" (so we have altered the phrase) (four words — 7,5,3,4) (19 letters)
2. Associated with the range (two words — 8,10) (18 letters)
3. Winds of the South (three words — 3,7,7) (17 letters)
4. "Journey's End" say some (three words — 7,4,5) (16 letters)
5. Said to be the thief of time (15 letters)
6. Robin Hood's Headquarters? (two words — 8,6) (14 letters)
7. Taking possession of (13 letters)
8. Associated in song with Armentieres (12 letters)
9. Slight of hand (11 letters)
10. A Services rank (10 letters)
11. Here Scott was beaten (two words — 5,4) (9 letters)
12. Often the length of a wonder (two words — 5,4) (8 letters)

Here are the 38 clues:

13. A Fate (one of three) (7 letters)
14. Spinner (6 letters)
15. A Northern City — and Southern (5 letters)
16. Backwards the time's the same (4 letters)
17. A kind of whisky (3 letters)
18. To do with a wizard (2 letters)
19. Sounds like a question (1 letter)
20. Sounds like an insect (1 letter)
21. Could follow "Get set!" (2 letters)
22. What it takes to make a quarrel (3 letters)
23. Follow "Load" and "Aim" (4 letters)
24. Flower of Remembrance (5 letters)
25. Gateway of India (6 letters)
26. To do with dancing (7 letters)
27. Part of Canada (8 letters)
28. TEN TIMES N... not really, just an anagram (9 letters)
29. Where Lady Butler's "lone survivor"
30. Has been known to follow "Eight bells" (three words — 3,4,4) (11 letters)
31. The "Ancient Mariner's" bird (two words — 3,9) (12 letters)
32. Proverbial warning re listening posts (three words — 5,4,4) (13 letters)
33. The basics of earning! (three words — 5,3,6) (14 letters)
34. Two British trees — lauded in song (five words — 3, 3, 3, 3, 3) (15 letters)
35. Associated with the flower of remembrance (three words — 3,7,6) (16 letters)
36. Sent by the bride's mother? (two words — 7,10) (17 letters)
37. Aramis was one of them (three words — 3,5,10) (18 letters)
38. MAN to MAN — The Medway separates them (five words — 3,2,4,7,3) (19 letters)

HERE is a puzzle of a different type in which a rudimentary background of general knowledge is an asset.

Contained in the square are 38 entries. They range from 19 letters down to one letter and then from one letter up to 19 letters. The starting point is at S and the letters run vertically downwards to the base and then move vertically up through the next 22 squares — again to go down to the base... and so on. By this means at the end of the series you will move down the last vertical row to finish at the bottom right hand square of the diagram. Some of the answers you will know about without looking them up: others may involve a little research.

When you have completed the words and/or phrases one of the lines A,D,B, and C should give you a description (name, etc.) of a character of affectionate long standing in the British Army. Send us this line and send us a list of the words (38) you have found from the clues.

Some of you may not get all of them right and all of you may not get some of them right so we will allow 10 marks for the line A, D; B, or C and one point for each correct answer to the numbered clues. The possible marks will thus be 48. How will you fare?

The rules of the competition remain the same. It is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 22 November. The answers and winner's name will be announced in our issue of 16 December.

More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 373' label. Photo copies not accepted.

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

Send your answers by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 373' label to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

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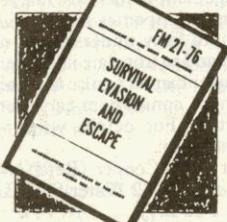
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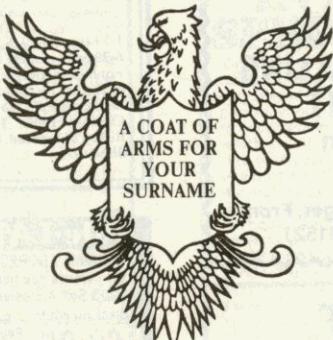
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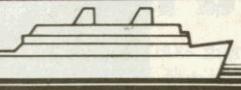
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'Iron Man' of Korbecke

THE 1985 'Iron Man' of Korbecke is Lance Corporal Ian Woods, 19, of 26 Engineer Regiment, winner of the annual 3rd Armoured Division (The Iron Division) Triathlon competition.

His all round superiority in the three disciplines, swimming, running and archery, earned him 4,117 points, just 237 ahead of Lieutenant Robert Pearce, 24, last year's winner from 8 Regiment Royal Corps of Transport.

In third place, with a total of 3,503 points, was Lieutenant Christopher Smith, 26, or 32 Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery.

There was a truly international flavour this year, with teams from the Bundeswehr, the Belgian Army and an American unit being invited to compete alongside the 3 Division's units.

Entry was limited to 24 five-man teams, with all the five individual totals counting towards the team prize.

Swimming across the Mohnesee,

a distance of about 800 metres wasn't really cold — but it was fresh and invigorating!

By bettering the bogey time of 13 minutes the Triathletes could gain extra points, and the fastest swimmers were: 1 Cfn Neil Worthington — (6th Armoured Workshops) 10 mins 47 secs = 1,253 points; 2 Lt Pearce — 11 mins 25 secs = 1,215 points; 3 L Cpl Mark Bradley — (3rd Armoured Division & Signals Regiment) — 11 mins 44 secs = 1,196 points.

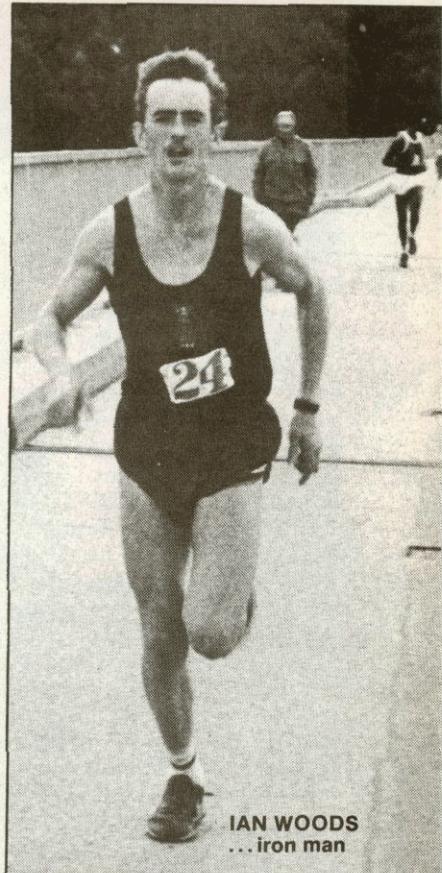
The second discipline was a 10 kilometre run around the Mohnesee Lake. This hilly circuit soon sorted out those who were fit and strong from the less well prepared.

First man home was Lance Corporal Glen Curtiss, 29, from 1st Battalion Irish Guards. He stormed across the finish looking incredibly fresh, in a time of 33 mins 13 sec, earning 2,041 points. Other leading individual placings were: 2 Lt Pearce 1,915 points, 3 L Cpl Woods 1,831 points; 4 Lt Smith

1,735 points.

Having tested strength, stamina and speed it was the archery which called for composure and skill. Practice had been allowed during the day, both before and after the swimming, so the equipment, target and requirements were not entirely new to everyone. In the end the best archer proved to be Lance Corporal Woods, who earned 1,290 points. Three others shared second place.

There is one other aspect to the Iron Division Triathlon that deserves mention, namely the sponsorship and fund raising by the British competitors. During the temporary closure of the British Military Hospital at Iserlohn, (the hospital is being completely renovated and modernised), the medical rehabilitation centre has been moved to Salamanca Barracks, near Soest. Over DM 4600, raised by the Triathletes and their units, is being donated to the rehabilitation centre.



IAN WOODS
...iron man

RECORD SHATTERED IN VERDEN MARATHON

RECORDS were shattered in the fourth Verden Marathon, run in blustery, cool conditions.

Of the 300 runners in this Anglo-German field, which included four women, all but 15 managed to complete the gruelling event.

The convincing winner was ex-Royal Signaller, Mr Peter Bullen from PSV Bremen, in a time of two hrs 23 mins 43.8 secs, which broke the existing record by nearly seven minutes.

In fact the first three competitors managed to break the record, including the first Serviceman home, Staff Sergeant Les Wood from 1st Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment, who finished second.

For the third consecutive year Mrs Celia Duncan, wife of QMSI Bob Duncan who was responsible for setting this demanding course,

The massed start at Verden

won the Ladies Prize, finishing 28th overall in a time of three hrs 11 mins 28 secs. As Celia said after her triumphant run: "I used this event as a good hard training run for the Berlin Marathon".

To add some colour and a light-hearted touch to the event, a team of five cooks from 1st Armoured Division, complete with frying pans and pancakes, managed to get round the course complete with accoutrements. Well done the Armoured Frying Pans!

The Veterans Section of the race was won by Captain Derek Graham of the Royal Pioneer Corps, finishing in a creditable time of three hrs nine secs.

Run consecutively with the main event was the Ladies Half Marathon for which 22 entries were received. The winner for the second year was Mrs Rosemarie May of LGK Verden in a time of one hr 24 mins 30 secs.

UK Team Triumphs



Ideal conditions in Cyprus

COMBINED Service board-sailing teams from the UK, Germany and Cyprus, battled out the third inter-theatre boardsailing championships hosted by the Episkopi water sports club in Cyprus.

A keen competitive spirit and ideal boardsailing conditions gave an exciting two days racing.

The UK team quickly established their supremacy taking the first three places in race 1 with Lt Ian Plant (RN) winning with Flt Lts Bob Jones and Graham Morgan (RAF) in hot pursuit to establish a 30 points lead over Cyprus.

Then came the Cyprus fight back. Sqn Ldr Mike Russell won race 2; Sgt Steve Home won race 3 with Cyprus taking second and third places. Mike Russell won races 5 and 6 with Chris Jackson second in Race 6.

At the start of the final race the points stood at UK — 192½, Cyprus — 221 and Germany — 307.

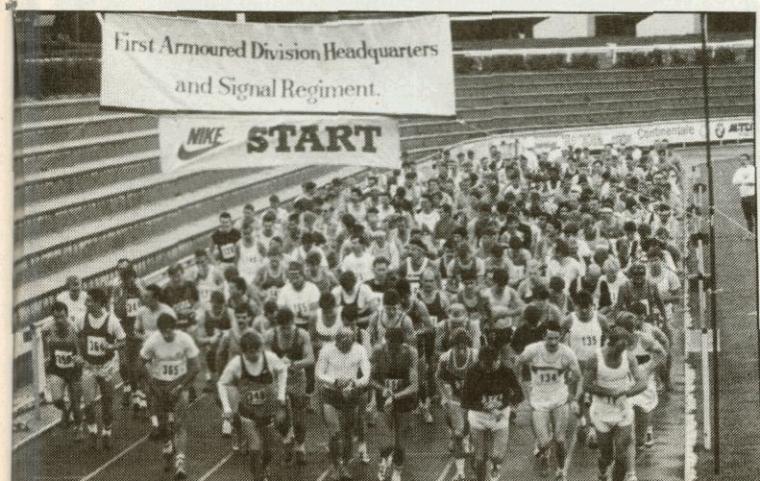
The final race was sailed in over 20 knots of wind and heavy seas. The UK team reasserted their authority to take first, third, fifth and sixth place which, despite another second place by Chris Jackson, was enough to secure a comfortable points victory.

STORMY WEATHER

The appalling weather in August prevented the Army Sailing Club undertaking a sailing trip around Britain in one go. Instead, it was decided to complete the trip in stages.

The first leg Plymouth to Bristol was sailed by a crew from The Prince of Wales's Division, which included two Glosers, Major Durand and Corporal De La Ceaux.

The crew sailed from Plymouth to Fowey, continued around the Scilly Isles and then up the Bristol Channel to Bristol.



KEVIN BEATS THE CHANNEL

IT WAS third time lucky and, in one respect, unlucky for Channel swimmer Kevin Beaton who accomplished the feat in just 18 seconds less than 17 hours from Dover to Cap Gris Nez, writes Graham Smith.

For the 25-year-old conqueror of the Channel, who had purposefully put on over three stones to do it, 'desperately' missed being the first ever Army swimmer to achieve the feat... by nine days.

Former Lieutenant Kevin Beaton commander of 'C' Troop, 7 Squadron, 27 LSG Regiment, RCT, had left the Army and Aldershot on 3 September, making the circuitous 35-mile crossing starting on the 12 September.

Now a captain in the TA with 151 Regiment, RCT, based at Croydon and studying to attend medical college, Kevin managed the crossing at his third attempt.

During the chilly transit — he was smeared in three pounds of grease comprising vaseline and lanolin. Kevin contended with jellyfish stings and a near miss with a trawler. The latter, on automatic pilot, missed him by just four yards!

The successful venture cost him at least £1,000, that subsidised by

With one regret...

his Army gratuity.

His first attempt, last year, ended in frustrated failure when he was pulled from the water after 14 miles, unconscious due to vomiting and an attack of stomach cramps.

Undaunted, he took to the breaker-strewn beach at Dover a month later. The water was getting cold but he got half way across before a Force Seven gale thwarted his chances, his escorting vessel team skipper opting to discontinue.

Last month, however, he left at 10.50am and arrived off Calais just under 17 hours later at 3.50am the following day, having taken two hours combatting tides to make the final 400 yards!

His training routine for the achievement had been helped in large measure by Army Physical Training Corps instructor QMSI Ted Martin. The normally 12-stone Kevin just ate and ate his way to increased insulation putting on more than three stones in weight

for the attempt.

Initially, the Army gave him plenty of time off to train but towards the end he had to train in his own time from his Aldershot-based unit heading down for the coast and the real thing, the sea.

"I had to decide to go for it during the weakest tides and there are only two of these every fortnight", he explained. "You have to go when the tides and weather are just right."

"This was not easy considering the summer we had this year. There were only about six days I could do it."

Kevin started his crossing from Shakespeare Beach. After about nine hours he was about three miles from Cap Gris Nez. Just where the determined tidal waters started to exert their influence.

"That was where I was starting to feel pretty cold in the water and, unfortunately, there was an unexpectedly strong tide. I passed Calais Harbour and eventually found some slack water. The tides started washing me back again, three miles past it. It took me about two hours to get 400 yards from the shore.

Kevin had spent 50 per cent of his training schedule up to the great



MOMENT OF TRIUMPH

day, swimming in sea water. Cold water. He believes he is about the 275th person to swim the Channel since the days of Captain Webb, a merchant seaman, in 1875.

But swimming and Kevin Beaton are no strangers. He was once a county swimmer for Suffolk and was captain of the Sheffield University swimming and water polo teams.

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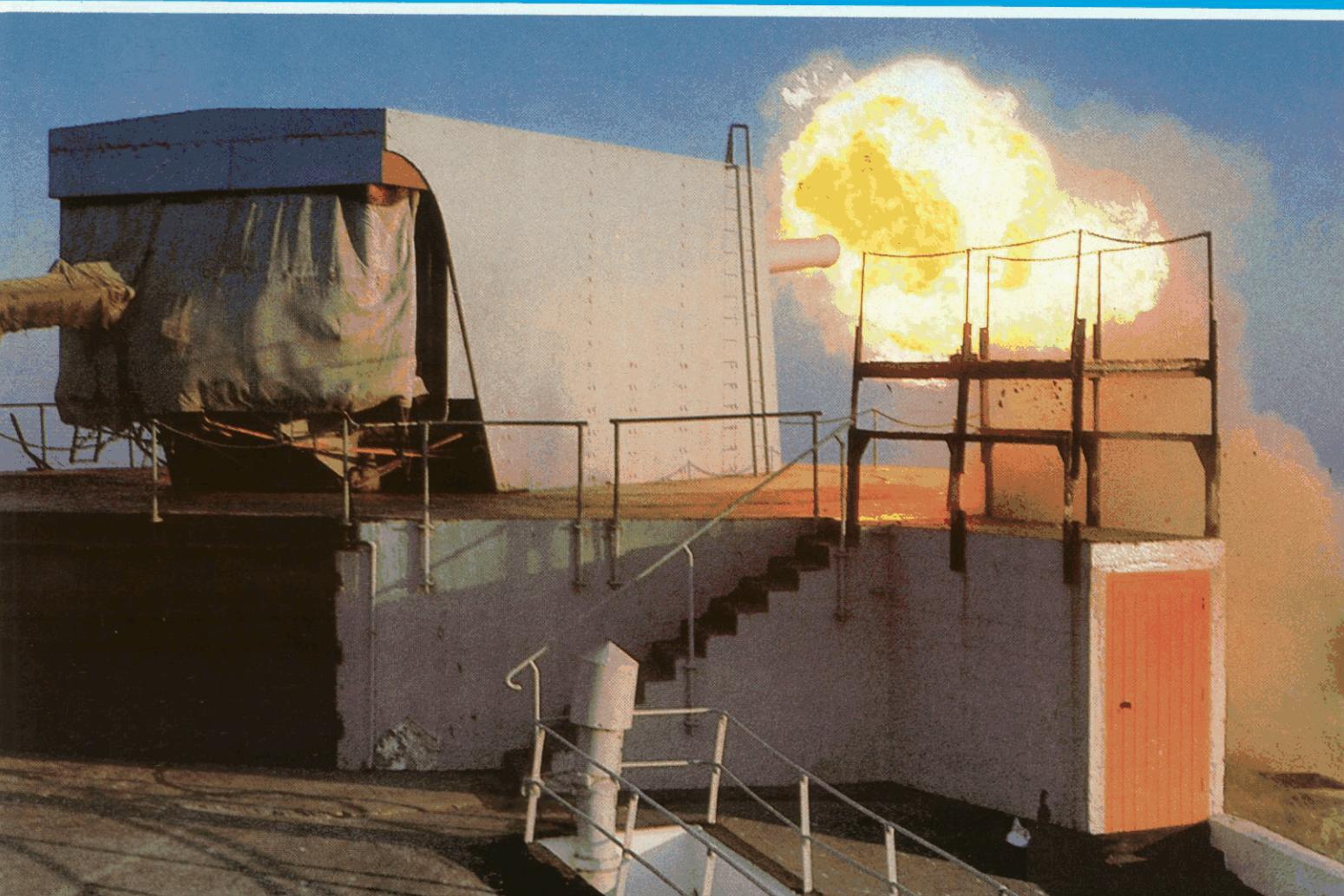
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Above: Making the throwing of 300lb logs look an easy affair are men of B (Holland) Company, 1st Battalion The Queen's Regiment. Below: Flame from a simulated firing of the sunset gun (O'Hara's Battery) during the Ceremony of The Keys. Pictures: Terry Champion



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