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# SOLDIER



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## FRONT COVER:

Gunner John Connor laying the 105 mm light gun during live firing in Exercise Ardent Ground 85 in Portugal (see pages 25-31).

Picture: Paul Haley

## BACK COVER:

10 Port Squadron RCT's vessels at Akrotiri Mole, Cyprus (see page 32).

Picture: Les Wiggs

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# SOLDIER

INCORPORATING  
THE TERRITORIAL ARMY MAGAZINE

If you want to get ahead get a ... Captain Machado Da Silva, the Portuguese Battery Commander, dresses for the part during a live firing preparation of Ardent Ground 85 in Portugal. (Page 30)



Spike Milligan wrote his first poem after burying two of his comrades in wartime Italy. (Page 17)

Visiting a Portuguese gun battery; Major General Andrew G Christie, Commander AMF (L) and four-star General Salazar Braga, Chief of Staff, Portuguese Army. (Page 25)



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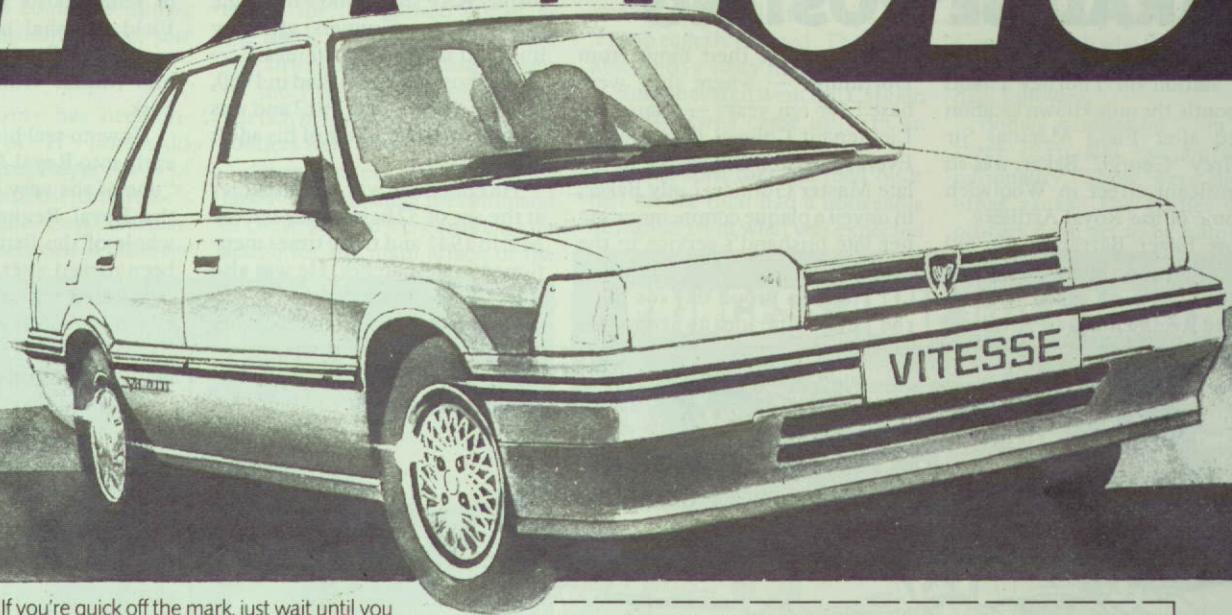


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# HESELTINE: My gratitude to Falklands soldiers

SECRETARY of State for Defence Mr Michael Heseltine told SOLDIER Magazine that he could not "express my gratitude too much" for all that Servicemen and women have done and are doing in the Falkland Islands.

He talked to Editor Peter Howard after the official opening of the new Mount Pleasant Airfield by Prince Andrew.

The Secretary of State travelled in the VIP party making the inaugural flight to the islands in a Tristar of 216 Squadron, RAF, which made the journey from Brize Norton in 16 hours 41 minutes.

Use of widebodied jets is expected to save £25 million a year compared with the airbridge system using VC10s and Hercules, the latter requiring 13 hours to fly from Ascension. The inaugural Tristar lopped five hours off this time.

Apart from the big savings in fuel the Army will also benefit in terms of man hours previously 'lost' in sea travel.

For the troops the wide bodied jets mean considerably more comfort — another sign of improving times in a posting to the Falklands.

"We are aware that this is still one of the most arduous postings, often in difficult conditions", said



Mr Heseltine. "We are doing as much as we can as fast as we can to make facilities as tolerable as we can. Morale is incredibly high, and I think this is because people can see there is a job to be done and resources are being given by a government backing them. Anyone can see the tremendous transformation that has taken place here."

Earlier at the Mount Pleasant ceremony Mr Heseltine stressed the government has no intention

of fortifying the islands "or to establish them as a single strategic base. There is no NATO dimension to our involvement here."

Sir Rex Hunt, Civil Commissioner said "Mount Pleasant Airport will help to provide the security we need to live our lives in peace. It will also do much to facilitate the air links with the outside world which Lord Shackleton, in his reports, identified as a vital need for the islands." Mount Pleasant, 30 miles from the capital

**Bearded Prince Andrew salutes at Blue Beach memorial ceremony. On his left Major-General Peter de la Billiere, Commander BFFI. The prince took part in several official functions before the airport opening.**

Stanley, will also eventually house the bulk of the garrison, which will reduce the size now there is the capability for fast reinforcement if required.

*SOLDIER's next issue will carry more on the Falklands.*

## 'PARADISE' POSTING

UNTIL the re-naming of the old RAF station on Thorney Island last month, the only known location named after Field Marshal Sir Geoffrey "George" Baker, was an insignificant street in Woolwich — home of the Royal Artillery.

Now Baker Barracks, the old airfield which opened in the 'thirties, has been taken over by 26 Field Regiment Royal Artillery.

To complete their move from Dortmund — where they were based for ten years — their CO, Lieutenant Colonel H E Welby-Everard invited the widow of the late Master Gunner, Lady Baker, to unveil a plaque commemorating her late husband's service to the RA.

"This is a proud day for me," she said. "The idea to name this

former RAF station, now the home of the Sussex Gunners, after my husband is a wonderful idea."

Her husband, who died in 1980, was born in India in 1912 and was a soldier for the whole of his adult life.

He ended the war as a brigadier at the age of 32 being awarded the MC in 1941 and three times mentioned in despatches. He was also wounded on three occasions.

After the war he held a number

of senior posts being appointed Field Marshal in 1971. A year earlier the Queen had appointed him Master Gunner St James's Park.

Now, to seal his name permanently into Royal Artillery history, "one of the very best postings in the Royal Regiment, if not the whole of the British Army," has been named after him.

Located within a few miles of Chichester, Sussex, a posting to Baker Barracks, previously Thorney Island, is much sought after.

"I couldn't disagree that, as posting locations go, it's about as near to paradise as you can get," said Lieutenant Colonel Welby-Everard.

His words were echoed by Lady Baker: "It's a lovely place," she agreed.

## Spares from scrap

FORTY years on, two British museums are returning vital components of German Tiger and Panther Tanks from World War II to the Bundeswehr Panzer Museum at Munster to get tanks running again.

Three gearboxes were saved from the scrap heap by the Museum of Army Transport, Beverley. Curator of the Panzer Museum, Colonel Grundies said: "They are unique — I am horrified that they were nearly scrapped: thank goodness they were saved."

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Queen Mother at Liverpool St, with Honour Guard Commander Major Tony Domeisen, OC2 Royal Anglians' B Company, and Equerry Captain James Lowther-Pinkerton, Irish Guards

## POACHERS' train of the age

SOLDIERS of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, stationed at Colchester, now have the opportunity of being taken to London by their regimental namesake.

It won't save them much on fares but it does provide a link with a once common railway tradition.

In the past steam locomotives have borne the names of many famous county regiments, such as The Royal Norfolks, The Royal Lincolns, The Suffolks, The Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire, The Royal Leicesters, The Essex and The Northamptons.

This year, when the 300th anniversary of the origins of many of those East of England regiments is being celebrated, what could be more fitting than the naming of a modern locomotive after their modern descendant, The Royal Anglian Regiment.

The rather drab surroundings of London's Liverpool Street Station became enlivened for the naming ceremony by the scarlet coats of the 2nd Battalion's band

and Corps of Drums and its immaculately turned out Royal Guard of Honour.

Being the only Royal Anglian regular battalion at present in the UK (the others are in Northern Ireland and Germany), it fell to the Poachers to represent the rest when the Queen Mother, as Colonel-in-Chief, officially christened electric locomotive 86246.

Mr Frank Paterson, the General Manager of British Rail's Eastern Region, described the ceremony as a mixture of making history and maintaining tradition.

"We've created history today," he said, "because this morning we ran the first electrified service to Ipswich which, I am delighted to say, ran on time. The traditional part is that our previous railway companies all saw fit to name steam locomotives after the regiments."

Before she pulled the cord to reveal the new name plate the Queen Mother said: "It is particularly appropriate that this splendid engine should be given so fine a name."

## History yields its victims

AS THE British and Russians remember 40 years ago and the taking of Berlin, an alliance of 1813 between the two countries during the Franco-Prussian war has sort of come to life again... in a graveyard.

And the Army has been involved. Men of 'H' Troop, 13 Signal Regiment, Royal Corps of Signals, a tiny outpost just a stone's throw from the East German border somewhere east of Hanover

have been helping a local archaeologist.

His aim was to undertake a search for the massed graves of the Battle of Goerde when both the British and Russians fought on the Prussian side against the French in the battle. At least 2,000 soldiers were buried in the graves.

Among others, the 73rd Highland Regiment under the command of General Lyon were brought into action for the main attack of the

battle on September 16, 1813.

Herr Manfred Rast, the archaeologist, approached H Troop to borrow a metal detector. The Troop eagerly obliged. Their notable find: a rusty nail!

But the search went on. Captain Pete Westwell came up with an 1820 road map.

It was seen that the road built just before then had a noticeable deviation from what was expected

in the area. Could it be a detour round the massed graves?

The road had long disappeared but the theory paid off. It was Capt Westwell who literally stumbled over the first stone. Exploratory digs followed.

Bodies were found... in layers three deep and not buried by nationality. Those were just the other ranks. The bodies of the officers have yet to be found.

## PRINCESS ANNE GOES NORTH

Princess Anne (below) inspects soldiers from the Royal Corps of Signals, of which she is Commander-in-Chief, while visiting Army Headquarters at Lisburn, Northern Ireland... and (left) further north on the island of St Kilda, the princess is presented with her St Kilda passport by Captain T J H Edwards RA, the officer in charge



# Ian misses out on title shot



Cpl Ian MacKillop

Unlucky for some... quiz ace Corporal Ian MacKillop, a pharmacy technician at Aldershot's Cambridge Military Hospital, had the good fortune to get through to the final of the BBC's *Mastermind* quiz when, in an earlier round, contestant Shelia Altreet was disqualified and Ian slipped into the final for a title shot.

But scoring only four points in his specialised subject, the history of the Labour Party, didn't provide Ian with the necessary base on which to build a reasonable score and he finished last of the final four.

In the semi-final his specialised subject was newspaper comic strips and in this he scored an impressive 13 with no passes. He collected the same score in the general knowledge section and his total of 26 was enough to give him a place in the final.

But it was only because of the disqualification of Mrs Altreet that Ian, who was the runner-up in that early round, got his chance in the semi-final.

School laboratory technician Mrs Altreet was thrown off the show because entry to *Mastermind* limits contestants to one appearance. Viewers complained when she was declared the winner claiming she had appeared on the show before.

Ian was unavailable for comment on his bid for the *Mastermind* title as he was taking his final exams for his badge as a Class 1 pharmacy technician.

"But I'll just see if he is around," said a helpful voice at the other end of the phone.

"No, he seems to have left and I'm not sure when he's returning. It seems he finished this particular paper rather quickly. But perhaps that's why he's a *Mastermind*."



Robert, Ann, John, Sheila, Emma, Steven, Virginia, Martin and Anthony

Family life in 1st Battalion The King's Own Border Regiment means something special for brothers Robert, John and Reg Bell. For within the past year they have all joined the battalion's drums platoon. Not only that their sister, Virginia, is the wife of Pte Martin Sheridan, another KOB R man.

So it was a family occasion when the four soldiers took part in a parade at Palace Barracks, Holywood, where the battalion is serving in NI.

Also there to expand the family group to ten was Robert's wife, Ann, and their daughter Emma, John's wife Sheila, and their son Steven, and Virginia and Martin Sheridan with son Anthony.

John was the first to join up years ago, followed by Robert and then John.

That must have been very gratifying for their father, Robert, back home in Wigan, Lancashire. He served with the battalion until 1974, when he

left as a corporal.

Martin's link with the KOB R began when he met Virginia. "We met before I joined the Army," he said. "Virginia knew I wanted to join the Army so she talked me into joining this unit."

But the picture is not quite complete. There is one odd man of the family — Sgt Andy Bell, a fourth brother. He joined the RAC!

## Devils get new 'chuting stars'

The first Gurkha and the first woman to join the Red Devils — the Parachute Regiment's elite skydivers — link up before a free-fall. Lance Corporal Rudra Bahadur Sahi and Private Annette Heaton, 22, are newcomers to the 24-strong team which needs £1½ million for a new aircraft — their current aircraft is more than 17 years old and needs replacing. This year is the Devils' 21st anniversary and in that time they have raised vast sums for charities. Now Annette and her Gurkha pal are hoping to add to that figure by appearing at displays throughout the country.

## Staffords home after US trip

What price Colchester after a month in the USA? The 1st Battalion The Staffordshire Regiment are finding out now they are back home following an exercise at Fort Lewis, Washington.

The exercise included live firing attacks and survival techniques. On the last day of the exercise 140 Staffords were the guests of Seattle.

A Mayoral Proclamation urged the citizens of the town to give a warm and friendly welcome to the soldiers of this famous battalion.

Soldiers travelled in a scenic elevator, visited aquaria and museums and were entertained to a supper and dance by the Seattle Hospitality Committee.

While in America many soldiers took the opportunity to visit San Francisco, Los Angeles, Vancouver, Salt Lake City and the battlefield of the Little Big Horn, where General Custer died.

Now they are getting ready for their new role in BAOR next year.



AUDREY MAXWELL, ISLAY PEDLAR, LORRAINE HEFFY



RUDRA BAHADUR SAHI, ANNETTE HEATON: skydiving for charity

## Girls' Windsor win hopes dashed

Three young RAVC horsewomen — all rider-grooms — went to Windsor to make an impact; to break the men's hold on the Queen's Cup event. It didn't quite come off and as Lance Corporal Audrey Maxwell (left)

explained: "We did well, but not well enough to be placed." With her were Corporal Islay Pedlar and Private Lorraine Heffey, all from the Army School of Equitation at Melton Mowbray, home of the RAVC Depot.

# HAVE DOG, WILL WALK

The old saying: "It shouldn't happen to a dog" has taken on a new meaning in Cyprus where an estimated 600 blind people could soon be thanking the British Services for a novel programme they have just launched.

It is a puppy-walking scheme where families offer to take a two-month-old labrador pup and look after it for ten months.

The dog, or bitch, is then handed back for guide dog training. Certain of the appealing pups are destined for the Pancyprian Organisation for the Blind.

Link man for the SBA (Sovereign Base Areas) is Colonel David Smith, Royal Army Dental Corps, who is seeking Service sponsors for the dogs as there are a number of expenses involved before a fully-trained guide dog can be handed over to a 'blind' person.

Major Julia Kneale, Episkopi's Veterinary Surgeon of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps, has offered to give the pups free treatment and provide hosts with advice and diet sheets for their charges. She will also monitor the progress of each puppy and neuter the male dogs at six months.

Colonel Smith, handing over the first five pups — there is a waiting list of nine 'foster parents' — explained: "Many British families living and working in Cyprus have been dog owners in the UK.

"For a variety of reasons they have

... but only for 10 months

left their dogs at home and the organisers of this scheme hope that some will be willing to take on the initial training of these puppies.

"There are a number of basic requirements which will have to be filled by those selected. They must be experienced with dogs generally, willing to take on the not inconsiderable responsibility and pay for food and other expenses.

"To protect dog and organisation at the end of the ten months they will have to undertake to hand the dog back. Unless the dog turns out to be completely unsuitable there will be no question of the family keeping the animal as a personal pet."

Currently there are only four trained guide dogs in Cyprus and 1,500 blind persons of whom 600 could use dogs.

One of those patiently waiting to take on their pup — they had already decided to call him Brandy — was Corporal Terry Whittaker and his wife, Carole. Terry, with the Glosters, is the admin NCO in the HQ Land Forces (Cyprus) Military Training Wing (MTW).

Brandy would be going home to a special box, a ball of old socks and a couple of rubber toys — a duck and a rabbit.



TERRY AND CAROLE WHITTAKER: tears shed when Brandy is returned

## QUICK

Since February more than eight million pounds of food, mostly grain, have been dropped in Ethiopia from RAF Hercules by men of 47 Air Dispatch Squadron, RCT, based at Lyneham.

## SPOT

# PEOPLE

## FACES and PLACES



SHARON AND RICK AUGIERS: serving together

### The colonel who wears two hats!

Robert Purvis, a management consultant from Hereford, serving in the TA as a lieutenant colonel in the TA pool of information officers at UKLF, has also been appointed Commandant of the Hereford-Worcester

Army Cadet Force in the rank of colonel. This means he will now hold two TA commissions — Group A and B.

He previously served in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserves and in the Royal Air Force.

It's not every day that Army Air Corps helicopter crews get to drop in south-west France's resort of Biarritz, but four pilots and three air crewmen have done just that on their way to an exercise in Portugal, writes Graham Smith.

All from 2 Flight, AAC, based at Netheravon, Wilts, they were bound for Europe's westernmost country to take part, with their four Gazelle helicopters, in the six-nation AMF(L) Exercise Ardent Ground 85, the Alliance's annual live-firing exercise.

Committed to an AMF(L) role, the Flight commanded by Major Peter Adams, were heading there via France and the north Spanish coast to join the exercise.

The Gazelles had left Netheravon to cross the Channel at

Sharon. "Rick was posted here a year ago and we were lucky when I was sent here the following June."

Sharon also has the distinction of being the first, and so far the only woman maintenance engineer to serve with an operational unit of the ACC.

## QUICK

Artist Terence Cuneo's latest canvas has been received by Lieutenant General Sir Martin Farndale, Commander 1 British Corps. The 6ft by 4ft painting depicts Exercise Lionheart and was presented by the artist at HQ.

## SPOT

### Wet welcome for the helo sunshine seekers

Lydd in Kent for the 1,000-mile trip to Nato's southern flank. The first 5½ hours took them to Le Mans for refuelling and then an overnight in La Rochelle.

From there it was a two-hour hop to Biarritz and another night stop.

Up to then, according to Captain Kevin Kerrigan, Royal Engineers, the flight's second-in-command, the trip had been "interesting."

It was the first time any of the pilots had flown into France let

alone Spain and Portugal.

"There can be few armies or corps that get the variety and experience we do in the AAC flying to different climates and places as far apart as Norway and Turkey," said Captain Kerrigan, formerly with 53 Field Squadron (Construction) 39 Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers.

"Norway is high and cold. Turkey is hot and high and Portugal, being further south, should be dry and dusty."

He was wrong. Portugal was in the middle of a wet season with rain beating down on their six-tent mini 'canvas city' on the edge of the Campo Militar de Santa Margarida's hardstanding for helicopters.

As for Biarritz, that's another story. For Ardent Ground coverage, see page 25.

# HSF ON TARGET



## HOSTS DO WELL

THIS YEAR, for the first time, the RCT held its TA Skill at Arms contest in Catterick rather than Aldershot; an event attracting 38 teams. Most of the prizes went to the organisers, 150 (N) Transport Regiment, RCT (V) while the newly formed 2 Inf Div Transport Regiment, RCT, provided the admin support.

Overall champion prize, the York Challenge Shield, was won by 219 Squadron RCT (V).

HOME SERVICE FORCE volunteers from 'A' Company of 103 Air Defence Regiment RA (V) — it has platoons in Liverpool and St Helens — showed the youngsters the way home in the Falling Plates competition held in the regiment's skill at arms meeting.

Major Frank Kirk, company commander, saw his men — with the help of one 'youngster' from HQ Battery — beat the otherwise all-conquering LAD REME who won every other major prize in a thrilling finale.

Picture shows left to right, Gnr Robbie Burns, Stuart Beeley, Major Kirk, Gnr Darrell Woodward and Lance Bdr Brian Jenkins.



## TOPICS

## STAN SOLDIERS ON IN UNIFORM



COLOUR Sergeant Stan Rye has left the 5th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, based near Coventry after 47 years in the Army. Demobbed in 1948 Stan joined the TA and was clothing storeman with 5 RRF. During his career he collected eight medals.

Now 60, the veteran said: "I have absolutely no intention of being put out to grass. I've got a job as a security officer. I've never been out of work for a day since 1938."

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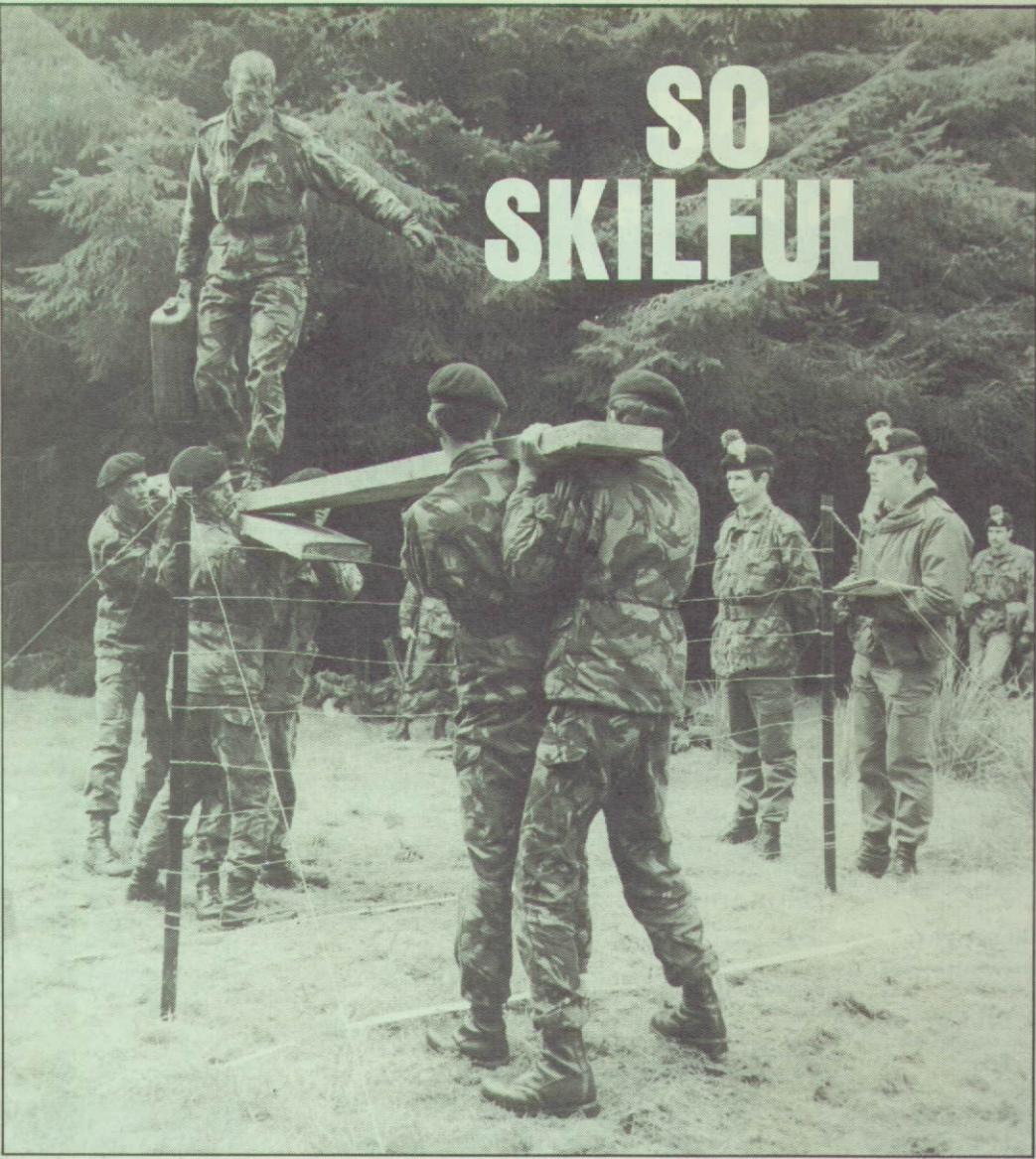
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## BOLTON MAYOR'S FIREPOWER DEMO



COUNCILLOR MRS BARBARA HURST gets a bit of coaching on the GPMG by Sgt John Woodhouse of 4 QLR's Fletcher Street TA Centre, Bolton. The occasion was a Range Day on Altcar Ranges when a couple of local mayors from the regiment's recruiting area were invited to 'have a go'.

# SO SKILFUL



## AND NOW... THE PONY

A 40-MILE navigation exercise organised by men of the Signal Squadron, 67th Queen's Own Warwickshire and Worcestershire Yeomanry raised £760 for their charity choice of the year, the local branch of Riding for the Disabled. The money will be used to buy a pony, which will aptly be named Wellington.

## FLAG FINDS RAMC HAVEN

TO THE care of 202 General Hospital, Birmingham, has fallen the safe keeping of an RAMC unit flag rescued during the early part of World War 2 when the Germans over-ran British positions during their dash to the French coast leading to the British evacuation from Dunkirk.

The flag kept in safety for 45 years by Dunkirk veteran Sergeant Major Paul Derrington, now 73, was handed over to 202's CO, Col Paul Daly.

## DECade of QUEENSMEN

TERRIERS from Horsham (HQ Company), Crawley, Haywards Heath (C Company), Farnham, Camberley (A Company), Hornsey, Edgware (B Company) Sutton and Kingston on Thames (D Company) celebrated their battalion, the 6th/7th (Volunteer) The Queen's Regiment's 10th anniversary with a day-long event at the battalion HQ in Horsham.

In the past decade battalion members have travelled to BAOR, Belize, USA, Canada and the USA as well as various parts of the UK. In July 1981 the battalion was presented with Colours by Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk.

## CENTENARY

THE ARMY Medical Services of the TA for Greater London marked its centenary with a celebration at the Duke of York's HQ in London.

Visitors had the opportunity to meet officers and men, saw special displays, and watched a parade.

SEVENTEEN eight-man teams from throughout Ulster entered the province's annual TA inter-unit military skills competition, including contestants from the 4th (Volunteer) Bn, The Royal Irish Rangers.

Winners of the competition — Exercise Pied Piper — were C Company, from Ballymena with A and B Companies taking second and third places respectively. The Antrim-based 114 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers (Volunteers), also in for top marks, took fifth place.

## SPRING SUCCESS

THE SPRING potential officers' course from north-west units achieved an 83 per cent pass rate with 15 of the 18 getting a qualifying pass on the course run by Liverpool University's Officers' Training Corps instructional staff at Nesscliff, Shropshire.

## Sunderland honour

THE FREEDOM of the Borough of Sunderland has been given to 251 (Sunderland) Field Ambulance, RAMC (V).

A march past and mounted parade by unit vehicles, led by the band of the 6th Bn, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers marked the occasion in the town centre.

## Another veteran says cheerio

MAJOR WILKIE WILKINSON of the 1st Battalion, Mercian Volunteers, Wolverhampton — the unit has a Nato role as part of 49 Infantry Brigade — has retired after 46 years and 28 days service to the Sovereign.

He joined the Army in March 1939 as a boy soldier and saw service in the Royal Engineers and was at Dunkirk. He joined 1 MERCIAN (V) as the battalion admin officer in October 1979.



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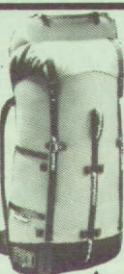
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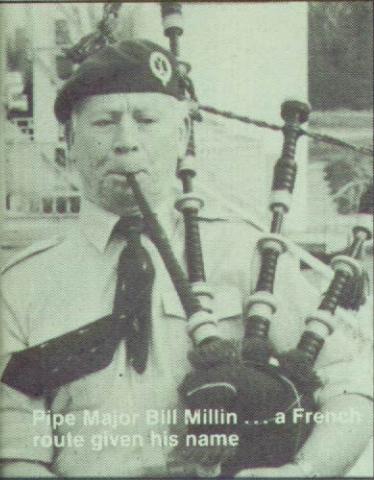
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Pipe Major Bill Millin ... a French route given his name

**O**LD BAGPIPERS, like old soldiers, it seems, never die and if they are like super-fit Pipe Major Bill Millin, now 62, of Normandy fame, a 16-mile march complete with nostalgic pipes is par for the boot trodden course.

For that is what Bill, the D-Day piper who led a column of British reinforcements on a march to relieve Pegasus Bridge, is set to do next month; the second time in as many years he has been honoured by the French.

Wearing beret, kilt and toting his famous pipes, Bill will lead a column of veterans from La Brèche to Amfreville along a route which has been specially named and dedicated to him and Lord Lovat who headed his famed commandos.

Bill, at his Devon home, said "I do a lot of walking at home. The norm is 20 miles there and back between Dawlish and Exeter, and I take part in the Ten Tors expedition. A distance of 16 miles is not going to be unusual for me."

The 16-mile stretch is to be called "La Marche Historique du Cornemuseur Pipe Major Bill Millin et des Commandos de Lord Lovat."

Last year Pipe Major Millin was honoured with meritorious mention of a plaque at Pegasus Bridge itself.

# SOLDIER to Soldier

**F**RENCHMEN could be crossing the Channel to Dover this July for 'le tattoo'. They will see a Dover Military Tattoo with the most attractive programme so far including £4,000 worth of fireworks spreading colour over the famous white cliffs and a galaxy of units from all three Services which are expected to draw 5,000 people a day to the arena display alone.

"I gather that people came over from France last year and this year we are trying to link up with the ferry companies," said Warrant Officer 1 Rod Le Couillard, the show's assistant director.

"We are looking for 5,000 people each day to watch the arena events compared with 3,500 last year, and as many as 10,000 a day will probably see the static display."

High spot, literally, of the arena display at Fort Burgoyne in Connaught Barracks (home of the Royal Irish Rangers although they will be away in Cyprus) will probably be the Royal Navy's button boy. Some 40 sailors will climb on to the horizontal arms of a 90 foot mast before the button boy hauls himself to the very apex.

The Royal Air Force will contribute a police dog display team and from the Army there will be the Light Division's free fall parachute display team, the Trailblazers, the Royal Artillery motor-cycle display team, and the Infantry Junior Leaders assault course competition.

But above all the tattoo will be a

musical feast. With local military units contributing the Band and Corps of Drums of the Royal Marines from Deal, and the Band and Drums of the Queen's Regiment (V) from Canterbury, there will also be music from the Band and Bugles of the Brigade of Gurkhas, the Band and Drums of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, the Band and Drums of the Royal Regiment of Wales (V), the Corps of Drums of the Royal Corps of Transport, and the Pipes and Drums of the Territorial Army.

The whole tattoo, with a static display showing off a large amount of military hardware, is being organised by director Major Tim Weeks, LI, who also ran last year's

tattoo.

**M**OVING now to Italy ... John Clarke, secretary of the Monte Cassino Veterans Association, tells SOLDIER that in November next year it is intended to hold a Commonwealth gathering at the monastery when commemorative windows are installed in one of the chapels.

Idea for the ceremony — 42 years after the battle — comes from the Benedictine monks themselves.

Members of the association make annual visits to Cassino cemetery, which lies near the Rapido River and, says Mr Clarke, must be the most beautiful of all military cemeteries.

Mr Clarke — he lives at 41 Aldermary Road, Manchester M21 2QW, should any Cassino regiments or veterans wish to contact him — also draws attention to the fact that Granada TV will be showing a film about the battle of Monte Cassino on 11 June. He hopes that the film will help jog a memory or two about "the biggest Allied battle of World War 2".

The ruins of Monte Cassino



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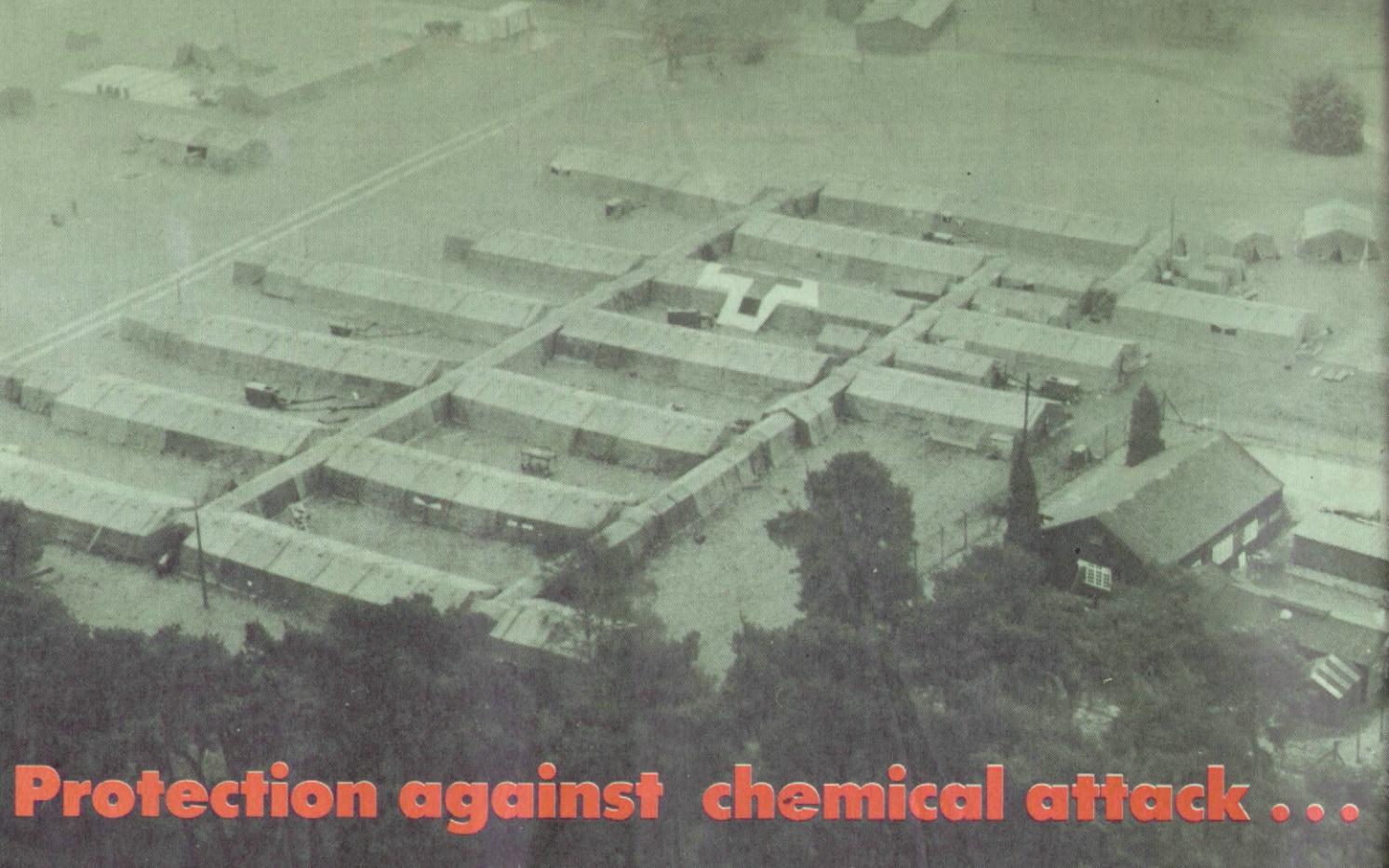
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S11/85

# THE CITADEL



## Protection against chemical attack...



Story:  
Robert Higson  
Pictures:  
Paul Haley

HEY CALL it the Citadel even though it is made of fabric and supported by nothing more substantial than air.

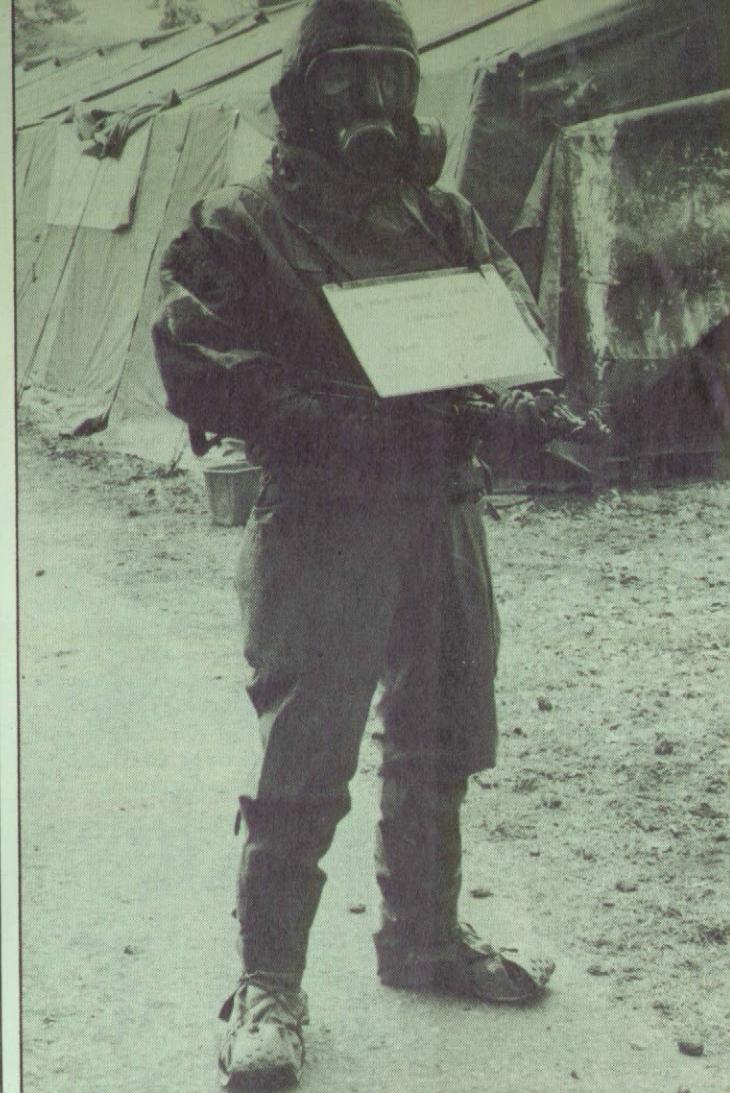
As a defence against conventional weapons it would be useless. But against the potential horrors of chemical attack it provides the best protection yet devised for one essential but vulnerable area of operations — medical care.

Essentially the Citadel is a series of Porton Liners (named after the Defence NBC establishment where they were developed) which seals off the vital operating and recovery areas of a field hospital from the outside atmosphere.

Last year 2 Field Hospital, RAMC, based in Aldershot, gave the system a thorough trial in Denmark. This year, with many of the innovations and improvements incorporated from previous exercise experience, they put on a full scale demonstration for medical chiefs from all over NATO.

The actual business of getting the huge array of kit out of store in a Farnborough hangar and erecting the full field hospital on the Pirbright Training Area is an annual event. It is the time when the unit checks its equipment and

Inside the protected operating theatres the only masks that are needed are strictly surgical



2 Field Hospital from the air. The Citadel is hidden in the middle exercises its cadre and its category I and II reserves.

This year, however, the massive complex of tents concealed an area of Porton Liner kept inflated by 34 air filtration units, each capable of producing 100 cubic feet of clean air a minute.

This Citadel housed two operating theatres, a small laboratory, pre-op, resuscitation and recovery

Hospital receptionist — a fully protected sentry

areas, a 45-bed intensive care ward, and a rest area for hospital staff.

It had one principal entry — a double air lock where a sentry armed with CAM, a hand held chemical agent monitor, had the responsibility of ensuring the integrity of the entire Citadel.

According to 2 Field Hospital's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Trevor Cooper-Tydean,

the Porton Liner presented no extra problems in construction.

"We can erect a 100-bed hospital with the liners in seven hours," he said.

"Once the whole thing is up the main problems really are those of restricted clear access. The area is smaller than we are accustomed to operating in, but other than that there are no problems.

"The main advantage is that for the first time we can actually treat

the casualty in an uncontaminated environment whereas previously they were locked into a casualty bag.

"During a state of alert, where there is no actual chemical threat, one would have to stop operating without the Porton Liner, because you couldn't start an operation at a time when somebody might shout 'Gas', gas, gas' as you've then got to protect the patient half way through the operation."

Britain had a good claim on being a world leader in this sort of technology, the colonel added, which meant that most of the procedures were invented either by the Defence NBC Training Centre or by 2 Field Hospital itself.

The NATO medical chiefs who came to the demonstration were shown the full procedure from the time patients were received at the Casualty Decontamination Centre (CDC) to their eventual dispersal around the wards.

At the CDC, located some 200 metres downwind from the main hospital complex, they were shown how the casualties were doused with the decontaminating agent Fuller's Earth before being cut free of their clothing and placed in an NBC protective casualty bag.

The CDC also contained its own Porton Liner where essential first aid treatment could be given.

After transport to the hospital reception area there was more decontamination as the patients were prepared for transfer into the first part of the Citadel.

In here, behind the first of four zipped panels, a high pressure air flow was maintained from six filtration plants — four in the inner part of the air lock and two in the outer. The air jets were directed to all parts of the chamber to prevent any pooling of chemical agents.

The CO explained: "We can have 10 complete air changes in

*Continued on page 16*



## REVOLUTIONARY BED

When NATO medical chiefs visited 2 Field Hospital, RAMC, under canvas at the Pirbright Training Area they were introduced to a new concept in field hospital beds.

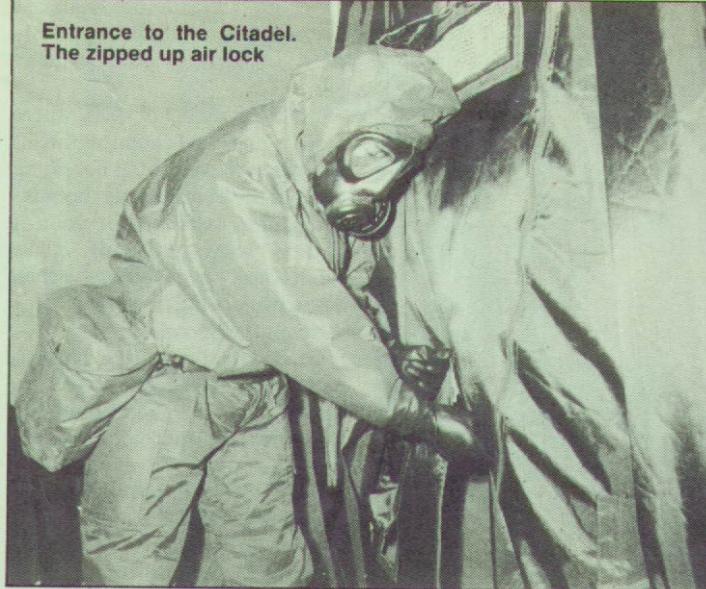
The proud designer is Staff Sergeant Robert Stout, a member of 2 Field Hospital's cadre, who used his experience from the Falklands Campaign to produce a bed which is lighter and narrower than the current model.

Bearing in mind the enormous weight of kit that a field hospital needs on its travels, S/Sgt Stout's idea was a bed which would save two and a half tonnes on a 200 bed hospital and allow an extra 34 beds in the same space.

The new bed also means a considerable saving on laundry. It's equipped with waterproof quilts and sheets which can easily be sponged clean. When asked about the comfort of such bedding, S/Sgt Stout said that he didn't think anyone who had suffered the trauma of being wounded in a damp foxhole would complain about the change of scene.

The bed has been under investigation by SCRDE at Colchester who built the second model on show.

Entrance to the Citadel.  
The zipped up air lock



three minutes here from the 600 cubic feet a minute which is being pumped in. The casualty is in an air flow which is moving across the floor and therefore any vapour hazard is being driven out through the bottom of the panel.

"After three minutes he has his respirator removed and he's transferred through into the inner air lock or reservoir."

There he was checked by the air lock sentry using a CAM. Once it had been established that he was no risk to the rest of the Citadel he was carried through the last zipped panel into the main complex.

Behind the air lock, inside vast tubes that gave the appearance of an underground in miniature,

hospital work proceeded without the need for NBC protection.

There were however a few modifications. Instead of the operating theatre lights being held on a central rod they were clamped to a metal frame inside the Porton liner.

As Warrant Officer 2 Jake Marlee, an operating theatre technician explained, the liner made the normal attachment impossible so the frame had been designed on exercise in Denmark.

There was also a tube to give a downward air flow to dispel any build up of anaesthetic gases or other vapours. All sterilisation was done by cold chemicals as the usual

heat process produced too much steam.

The two operating tables, WO Marlee added, were placed side by side instead of head to head to give more room in the restricted confines of the liner. But the system was still capable of doing 50 operations in 24 hours with four teams working shifts, and of performing 100 operations without re-supply.

In the post operation area, with its adjacent intensive care ward, Major Iona Leith-Macgregor, QARANC, the matron of 2 Field Hospital, spoke of the importance of assessing the needs of patients when they came out of theatre.

"The doctors will decide whether the patient can be nursed in an unprotected ward or needs to be nursed here," she said.

"This area could get very bogged down if one wasn't careful, so you've got to vet the patients very carefully. Out there, once the nursing staff are in NBC suits and gloves they cannot handle small

dressings and some of the smaller details that need to be done for the patient."

Those patients deemed to be fit enough to be adequately treated in their casualty bags in the unprotected wards left the Citadel through a second air lock.

This feature had another important function as the point of entry for supplies. Elaborate drills have been worked out to get food and medically supplies from the unprotected part of the hospital into the Citadel without bringing contamination in with them. The idea is for deliveries to be made inside two bags, the outer being discarded at the point of transfer.

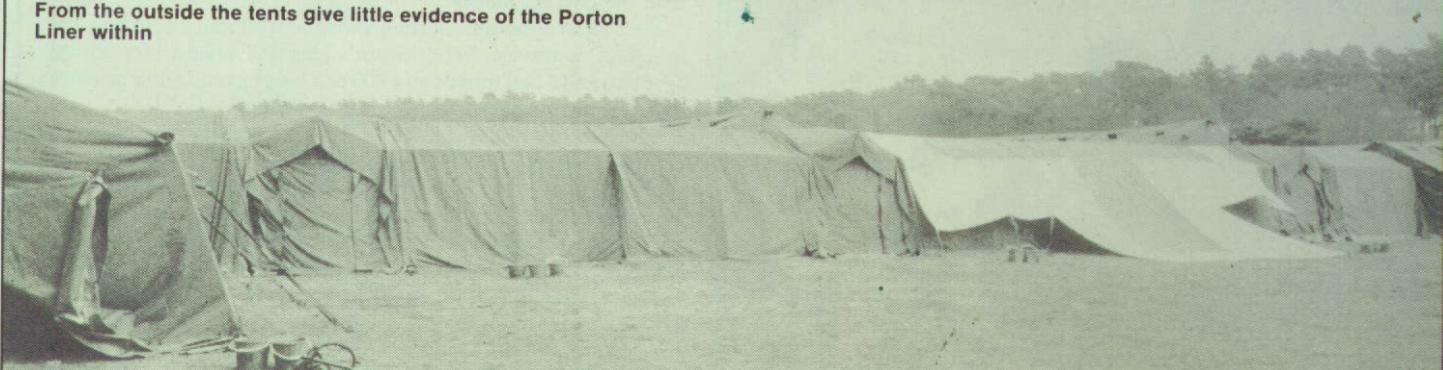
Once the Porton liner is in position it has to remain inflated, gas alert or not. That means that at least the outer panels of each air lock have to remain zipped.

It is, Colonel Cooper-Tydean said, a bit of a restriction but nothing too serious compared with the ability of being able to function freely in a safe environment.

Decontamination with Fuller's Earth in the CDC



From the outside the tents give little evidence of the Porton Liner within





Poets and authors. Seated (l to r), Spike Milligan, Lord Carver, General Sir John Hackett; standing Norman Morris, Dennis McHarrie

## THE POETRY OF WAR

WARTIME experiences and poetry were the common link that drew four old soldiers and a former RAF wing commander together for the first time.

Field Marshal Lord Carver, General Sir John Hackett, one-time acting sergeant Spike Milligan, Norman Morris — "I was a trooper from start to finish" — and wartime bomber pilot Dennis McHarrie, met at the Imperial War Museum to launch *Poems of the Second World War*, a collection of more than 200 poems by wartime Servicemen written just before or immediately following a battle and not years later.

As Lord Carver wrote a short review of the war for the book, published by The Salamander Oasis Trust, and General Sir John Hackett the foreword, they attended the launch in their capacities as advisers. But for former gunner Spike Milligan, ex-trooper Norman Morris and wartime flier Dennis McHarrie it was slightly different as all have poems in the anthology.

Writing and talking of his poem in the collection Spike Milligan says: "It was January 1944, in Italy. A group of gunners had come

**Story: John Margetts Picture: Doug Pratt**

forward to a small wood outside the village of Lauro. We were to dig gun positions for our battery — 19 Bty Heavy Artillery — for the forthcoming attack across the Garigliano river to coincide with the attack on Cassino.

"It was bitter cold. One night I was in my dug-out. It was a quiet night, except for sporadic small arms fire, when I heard the sound of digging.

"I thought it was another gun crew digging in, but it was a much grimmer affair. It was the London Scottish burying their dead.

"Suddenly a piper struck up *Over the Sea to Skye*. It was a haunting experience.

"Ten days later came a midnight disaster. A German gun had found our range and a direct hit killed all but two on one of our guns.

"Next day we buried them. We had no piper, just the sound of guns around us, and I felt moved to write *The Soldiers at Lauro* —

my first poem."

For Mr Norman Morris, who served with the 50th Tank Regiment, it was his wartime experience in Italy, Sicily and the Western Desert as a trooper that created in him the urge to write poetry.

A former schoolmaster, post-war headmaster and university lecturer and now one of the officers of the Salamander Trust, he has many poems to his credit, having written at least 25 while in Italy and Sicily alone.

"I used to write them in my spare time and send them home to my wife," he said. "Although I have had quite a few published, I've never had any payment. I'm just an amateur."

Former RAF flier Dennis McHarrie was the odd man out of the five in that he was in the Air Force and the others in the Army.

Ending the war as a wing commander, he flew with 38 (Bomber) Squadron in the Middle

East in 1942 as a flight lieutenant. He now lives in Blackpool. But it is McHarrie's 12-line poem *Luck* which introduces the 350 pages of World War 2 works.

Describing the poems to a packed audience at the IWM, Dr John Rae, joint chairman of the Salamander Trust said: "There is a general belief that the poems of the 1939-45 war are not worth reading. But 40 years after the war reading them will bring surprise and delight.

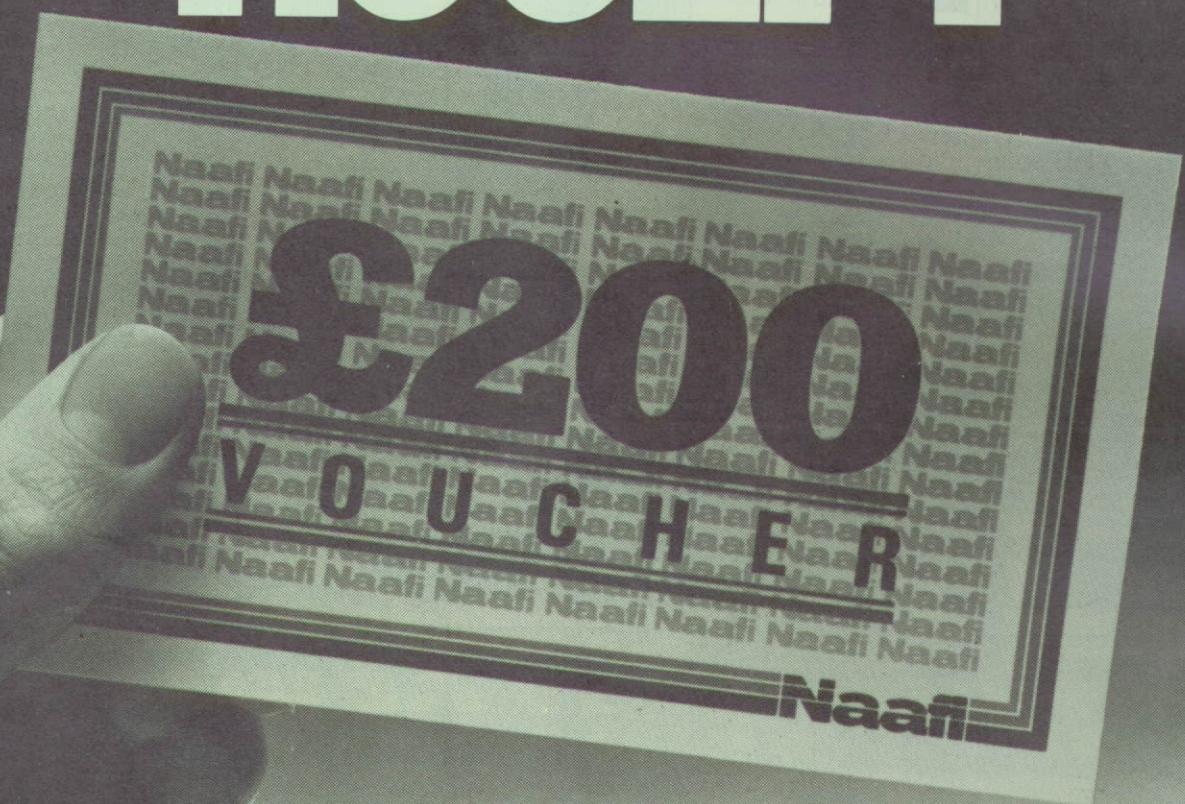
"These are fine poems written by people who took part in the war. They are extremely representative and not just officer orientated."

"They are ironic, irreverent, regretful; they have strength of feeling and observation; they are realistic, compassionate but unsentimental."

"One thing they do not do is to glorify war. That is the last thing these poems do."

He went on to introduce Spike Milligan, and actors Irene Richard and Roger Hammond who read a number of the poems which, for many present, recalled a mix of emotions of those days of 40 or more years ago.

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**T**HE noose used in the last military execution in the British Army; the Provost Marshal's uniform once decked out a scarecrow; original iron rations from the South African War.

These and many other curiosities are now on show in the Keep at Roussillon Barracks, Chichester as part of the newly redesigned and refurbished Royal Military Police museum.

An up-dated RMP museum has been on its way since 1980, but the Falklands Campaign caused a few delays as, for a short time, the museum building became a PoW camp.

When Captain Alfredo Astiz, who surrendered as commander of Argentinian forces on South Georgia in April 1982, was brought to this country for investigations into some previous activities, he was housed in the Roussillon Barracks Keep. The room, which now holds the museum's public display, was to have been his recreation area.

It was only when Captain Astiz was shipped back to the South Atlantic, as the British Government decided he couldn't legally be held in this country, that museum work could begin in earnest.

The display, as conceived by Richard Daynes, a well known designer who specialises in military museums, covers all aspects of Red Cap activity — ceremonial, military, general policing, Provost operations, SIB and close protection.

There are medals from the Peninsula War and accounts of close protection duties in the testing environment of modern Beirut. There is — a nostalgic sight for many old soldiers — a full kit lay out, circa 1950, with bulled boots, burnished mess tins, and regimentally aligned housewife.

There are trophies from World War 2 — notably a couple of German naval flags which Red Caps, often the first men into many areas, had the privilege of 'liberating.'

One was discovered, still in its paper wrapping, in the E Boat pens at Hamburg; the other, a 15 x 10ft standard, was hauled down from the flagpole at Admiral Doenitz's HQ in Dusseldorf.

"Some really regimental old soldiers automatically leave us everything when they've gone," said Mike Dale, a former RMP territorial who has been assistant curator of the museum for nearly 14 years.

"Some of the stuff we pick up through dealers' catalogues such as medals. Unfortunately some medals have been passed on to us from corporation cleansing departments. They've been found thrown away in a dustbin. The

# RMP Museum includes...

## MEDALS FROM THE DUSTBIN

relatives just don't care — when grandad's gone, the medals go straight in the bin".

Any police museum has naturally to deal with the less savoury side of life, and the RMP museum is no exception. One of Mr Dale's favourite exhibits is the noose used to hang a British soldier in the Canal Zone back in the early 1950s. Evidently he had taken a fancy to a girl who was also fancied by one of his officers, and he had killed the girl, the officer and wounded a staff sergeant with a sub machine gun.

Albert Pierrepont, the Home Office hangman, went to Egypt to perform the Army's last military execution.

A small metal canister from the South African War is another of Mr Dale's prized exhibits. One compartment contains cocoa and the other corned beef ("you can see the corned beef fighting its way out"). It was the sort of issue which gave us the expression 'iron rations.'

Alongside is another example of why modern soldiers have reason to be grateful for present day catering. This is a large slab of World War One hard tack biscuit — a substance edible to those without the jaw power of hyenas only by soaking it in rum or water.

Of the other exhibits, the uniform of Major Charles Broackes, Provost Marshal from 1885 to 1895, is worthy of note. It was found on a scarecrow in Northern Ireland about eight years ago.

There is no information on what sort of crop the scarecrow was protecting, but in testimony to the preservative qualities of Irish rain the uniform was in remarkably good condition when it was rescued from its agricultural role.

No doubt the farmer, a descendant of Major Broackes, knew what he was doing. Perhaps the uniformed scarecrow did for the birds what the Red Caps have done for generations of squaddies, ever since Henry III appointed the first military sergeant of police in 1241.

As the museum guide itself points out, quoting the words of Charles I, "the Provost Marshal ... is but one man and must correct many, and therefore he cannot be beloved."

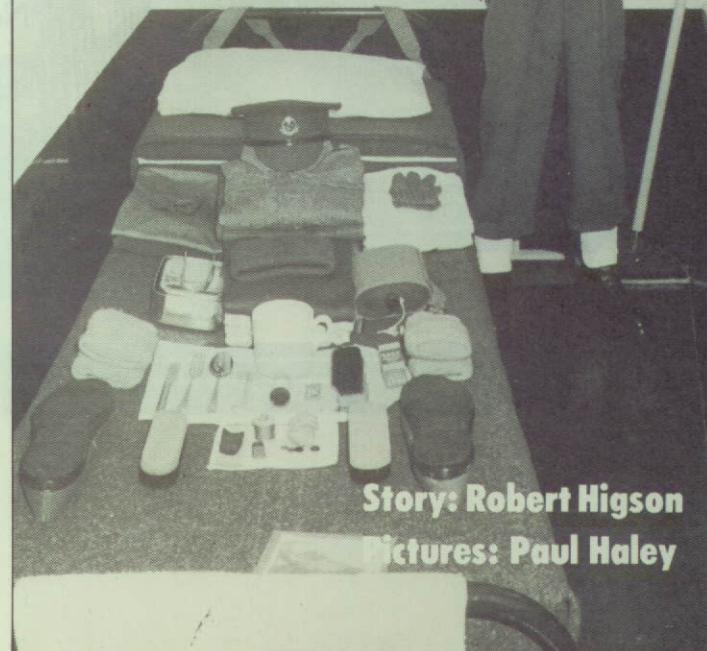
Memories of the trouble in Cyprus



Kit inspection — bulled boots, burnished mess tins, and regimentally aligned housewife



New portrait of the Queen



Story: Robert Higson

Pictures: Paul Haley

## Robert Higson finds a unit where the concept really is ...



# ONE ARMY

Lieutenant Colonel Peter Walton, CO (left) with Captain Paul Winchcombe, 2 i/c 21 Ordnance Company, and assistant adjutant Lt Carol Woodhead

Picture by Paul Haley

**LIEUTENANT** Colonel Peter Walton, RAOC, reckons he has one of the Army's more unusual commands.

In war time his designated post is as supply commander of 2 Infantry Division. In peacetime he oversees the organisation and training of a diverse group of regulars and volunteers.

The 2 Ordnance Battalion, of which he is CO, has one regular component (21 Ordnance Company, Catterick) and two TA (22 Company, Middlesbrough, and 65 in Leeds), both independent companies.

There is also a sponsored TA unit, 54 Ordnance Company, and a cadet unit at Cleveland, not far from his Catterick HQ, all badged RAOC.

It means a busy life for Colonel Walton, especially at weekends and on Tuesday nights when both TA companies parade. But it is an organisation, he believes, which has some distinct advantages.

"It is marvellous to have a regular company stuck in the

middle of your TA battalion," he told SOLDIER. "They are there as a centre of excellence and a ready source of instructors when you've got a problem in the TA as one frequently has. That is one of the great advantages, you can't do it with the teeth arms, but with us you can and it is absolutely magic."

Moreover the organisation presents a wide range of alternatives to anyone wanting to join the Army in the North East. You could sign

on a regular or come in part time. Or as a regular on the way out you could retain links with the corps and the battalion.

If a job became too demanding to allow time for independent training, then there is the chance of transferring to the lesser requirements of the sponsored company.

People often talked about the concept of the One Army without paying it too much attention, Colonel Walton said. But in his case the concept was the reality.

He added that volunteers were offered training in both the corps main trades — warehousing and stock control.

"In Middlesbrough, 22 Company does combat supplies," he said. "It's very much into ammunition at second line in Ger-

many. So therefore if you had a chap who was potty to learn about ammunition that would be a good place to start.

"In Leeds, 65 Company is concerned with spare parts, all that sort of thing. So if they are interested in that, it's Leeds for them."

Colonel Walton was anxious to draw attention to all these benefits because, as he put it: "I am badly in need of committed recruits."

"At the moment turnover is something like 35 per cent which is ridiculous."

"If you think of TA training as a sort of three year cycle in terms of their fortnight's camp — the first year they've got a recruits' course, in the second year they've got their basic trade course, and by the third year it's their turn for turnover. Where's the merit in that?"

"None of us know what the solution to the TA turnover problem is. My idea is to form teams — obviously the army's about teams anyway — but to concentrate on them much more than I believe is usually done in the TA."

"In other words, making a corporal responsible for getting say eight guys in so that he gets it in the neck if they don't show up."

"I believe that if I can make a TA corporal feel responsible for other guys in their area, to the extent that he knows their addresses and goes round knocking on their doors the day before to find out whether they are going to come, then we are beginning to get interest going and beginning to get him committed to getting those guys in."

Attracting people to be TA officers was another very difficult area, Colonel Walton said. Out of an establishment of six officers for each independent company, there were three in Middlesbrough and two in Leeds. There were a few officer cadets on the way up but a serious lack of middle management between the juniors and the seniors at the top.

But despite what he described as the desperate state of officer recruitment, Colonel Walton still had hopes of appointing a TA adjutant for 2 Ordnance Battalion. Much of the real work would still be done by the regular assistant adjutant, Lieutenant Carol Woodhead, WRAC. The appointment would really be a means of grooming talent for the future.

"I wouldn't need him all that much in peacetime except to bring him on a bit," Colonel Walton explained. "But he could get experience, do his camps in a different environment and in due course, perhaps he could go back to his company on promotion and command it. That would seem to me a very satisfactory way of bringing on the career of a TA officer."

I have spent some time looking at the problems which may affect a great number of Service families.

Over the years I have seen the look of horror and revulsion of families offered council sub-standard accommodation. I have received many letters from those turned down by councils and those who had been on a council list for some time only to be told: "Sorry, no house".

There are others who find their savings have not proved sufficient; yet others who face separation just because of the future housing situation.

Case 20 is sometimes not proving the guarantee it was hoped. Should the husband require his house for his family early and only let under Case 20, he cannot get it back, so he will not be living there. How many families have let under Case 20 and Case 11 to protect their rights?

Housing is a minefield of problems, worry, and frustration. It is extremely costly and as such has an enormous effect on the pocket.

Homelessness affects Service families just as it does anyone else, with one million houses unfit for habitation, two million people sharing accommodation, one million living in overcrowded houses, four million living in sub-standard accommodation. But perhaps the figure which affects the Services more is the fact that there are 1,250,000 on council waiting lists.

This horrific figure will have a disastrous effect on Service families thinking that they may have a chance for a council house in the coming years.

Even if the council has a favourable policy towards Servicemen they may not have a council house to offer.

Homelessness may well be staring you in the face, although Lord Skelmersdale, the Government Environment spokesman, has said people's overwhelming choice was that they wanted to own their own homes which was why home ownership was the cornerstone of Government policy. He saw no reason why 70 per cent of people should not be home owners by the end of the next decade. That's fine but how are the Servicemen and women going to become part of the 70 per cent or avoid being one of the 30 per cent who have to look at local authority housing?

It may come as a shock that after many years in the service of your country you discover that in 1985 the dream of a council house has vanished.

Yes, you may have been on the list for five or more years. So along with thousands of others you are trying for one of the dwindling supply of local authority houses, due partly to the present popular Right to

Buy scheme, and because only £3 billion gross was provided for public sector housing, insufficient to meet the shortfall between those buying and those on the council lists.

The next problem facing a Service family is possible eviction. Be it after 90 days, six months, one or two years, possible homelessness has to be faced.

So it comes as a shock when you realise that under section 18 of the Homeless Persons Act, you have to be classed along with prisoners, those detained by the Secretary of State under the same section.

The Act defines that "Residence in an area is not of a person's own choice for the purposes of subsection (1) above if he became resident in it (a) because he or any person who might reasonably be expected to reside with him (i) was serving in the regular armed forces of the Crown, or (ii) was detained under the authority of any Act of Parliament, or (b) in such other circumstances as the Secretary of State may by order specify. (3) A person is not employed in an area for the purposes of subsection (1) above (a) if he is serving in the regular Armed Forces of the Crown, or (b) in such other circumstances as the Secretary of State may by order specify."

What about 'local connections'? This is usually one of the three criteria local authorities ask for along with residence and job prospects.

To date local connections have been interpreted fairly loosely, but this may all change due to a recent judgment in the case of an ex-Serviceman and his wife, Mr and Mrs 'X'. Their case was heard in the Divisional Court, London, where the judge upheld the local council's policy on interpreting 'local connections' with regard to Service personnel in the area (a known large Service quarter area).

The judge paid particular attention to the interpretation of Section 18 of the Act with regard to Service personnel who have been living in Service quarters within a local authority area and dismissed the case that they did not have 'local connections', even if the period of time spent in the area was considerable in a Service quarter.

Mr X joined the Service in 1972, married in 1973, the wife was working in the area but it was not her home, and there were interim postings until 1978 to 1981 when they lived in quarters in the area, finally having a possession order made against them.

The crucial part of the Act states 'Local connection' for the purpose of Section 5 is given the meaning indicated in Section 18 which, so far as is relevant, provides: "(1) Any reference in this Act to a person having a local connection with an area is a reference to his having a connection with that area (a) because he is or in the past was normally resident in it and his residence in it is or was of his own choice; or (b) because he is employed in it, or (c) because of family associations, or (d) because of any special circumstances.

If both 'local connection' and residence cannot be proved under Section 18, then the Serviceman is in a dreadful position.

I am sure that those who had the Serviceman's welfare at heart in 1977 did not realise the implications that the Act could have in 1985 or they would have made representation before the Act was passed.

In this case the judge ruled that Mr and Mrs X must show that they had 'local connections' and local residence. He also took into account paragraph 2.21 on page 8 of the Code of Guidance issued by the Secretary of State under Section 12 of the 1977 Act.

Special circumstances might have helped but the fact they married in the area and had close ties with the church, and that since marriage both had looked upon this area as home was not considered special circumstances.

The judge explored many other areas about employment and establishing a fresh residence, but concluded: "It is the time when the application under the Act was considered that a local connection with the area has to be established. If it had not been for the fact that these applications raised issues as to the position of former members of the Armed Forces under this Act, on which there is no previous authority, I would not have gone into the matter in the detail which I have."

Is this another nail in the housing coffin for Servicemen? It seems whatever way they turn another difficulty looms on the horizon. This case raises many questions. It may not



affect every local authority area, but it does raise issues which may well face Servicemen seeking local authority housing in the future.

On employment the Act says: "A person is not employed in an area for the purposes of sub-section (1) above (a) if he is serving in the Regular armed forces of the Crown." So again the Serviceman may have problems in this area too.

Is the alternative to save for a house? There are many schemes on the market both from the Services and the civilian companies.

However, saving for a house between 1967 and 1980 lost a lot of money.

This particularly affects Service families who are finding council housing will be a thing of the past. Because of the LOA cuts and Service pay not always keeping pace with inflation, saving for a house will need to be looked at very carefully.

The Nationwide Building Society has released some guidelines on house prices in UK. Prices range from £24,360 in Yorkshire, to Scotland at £31,520, Wales £26,870 but London and the home counties reach £46,000 to £48,000.

More and more Service families could be joining the queue of homeless. I pray that this will never be the case, but they must save not only to buy a house but also for the costs involved, which could be in the region of £1,000 plus for a house between £20,000 and £35,000.

Service families, especially overseas, cannot shop around to find savings, and for houses over £30,000 they must pay stamp duty.

So what is best? Buy now, save now and buy just before you leave the Service, buy when you leave the Service, don't save and hope for a council house on discharge, or save, save, save and hope your savings will have kept pace with inflation so that you can buy a house in the relevant price range?

*Anne Armstrong*

Home tel: Camberley 29653

# SHOCKING DISCRIMINATION?

Severe Disablement Allowance, the new allowance which came into effect at the end of 1984, taking over from the housewives non-contributory invalidity pension, affects many Service wives. The remaining anomaly still to be resolved is that should a Service wife or dependant become eligible overseas they cannot submit a claim. The sums involved are £20.40 a week, £81.60 a month or £1,063.40 a year.

Why should the dependants lose this amount when there is no other recourse to finding the money from the State?

I am still awaiting a reply from the Minister about this particular anomaly. As I have previously pointed out the other outstanding problems have been rectified — that if you are in receipt of NHCIP or non-contributory invalidity pension then there is an automatic transfer to SDA, and you can continue to receive SDA overseas. Since 1984 it has been possible to claim SDA immediately on returning from overseas; after much pressure the Minister waived the 193 days qualifying residence.

But the remaining reason why a Service wife/dependant, even if eligible, cannot make a claim when they are overseas — particularly in an EEC country — is that there are rules and regulations to help people who are within the EEC social security system. I have had a reply from the European Commission which says: "Once the conditions for entitlement are met, this benefit must be paid, in accordance with the provisions of the EEC regulations anywhere in the community. This applies to spouses or serving members of the Forces.

But it doesn't comment on the crucial paragraph which comes under Entitlement Conditions. This is the stumbling block. To be able to get SDA you must be living in the UK (this means in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland or the Isle of Man) when you apply for SDA.

You must have been in UK for at least 24 of the 28 weeks when you have been incapable of work, and you must have lived in the UK for at least 10 of the last 20

years. If you are under 20 you must have lived in the UK for at least 10 years since you were born. If you have lived in the EEC the time you spent there may help you qualify.

So non-British people coming from an EEC country can apply for our SDA, yet our families can't!

The EEC legislation on invalidity benefit refers to employed and self-employed but not to their families.

I am pursuing this to see if EEC

## ASK ANNE

legislation overcomes the entitlement conditions, but yet again I feel that this loophole will exclude us.

Article 10 'Waiving of residence clauses: effect of compulsory insurance on reimbursement of contributions', may have a bearing on it coupled with Article 87 'Medical examinations can be carried out in another member State by that member State' so medical examinations are not a stumbling block.

When we are talking about a possible £1,000 loss for families I feel something must be done to enable the wife/dependant to apply.

I am asking for figures on how many EEC persons are claiming UK SDA. Even if it is only one it is a shocking case of discrimination.

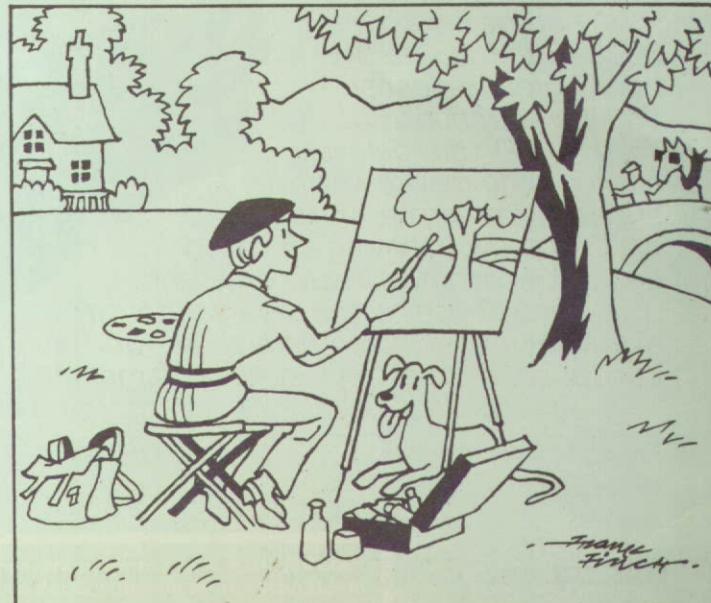
## Don't misuse the plug

The Electrolux vacuum cleaner issued to quarters comes supplied with a moulded on 3-pin plug.

Recently several discrepancy reports have been raised stating that these plugs are faulty because the earth pin can break off and remain in the socket when the plug is removed. Extensive testing has shown this normally happens only after considerable misuse. The main cause of failure appears to be the removal of the plug by pulling the flex rather than the plug. This is obviously not fair use of the item and users must switch off power at the socket and then remove the plug by pulling it from the socket by the body of the plug, not by the flex.

## 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 39.



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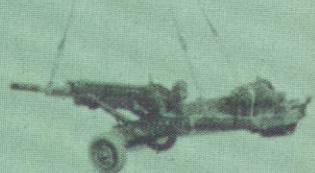
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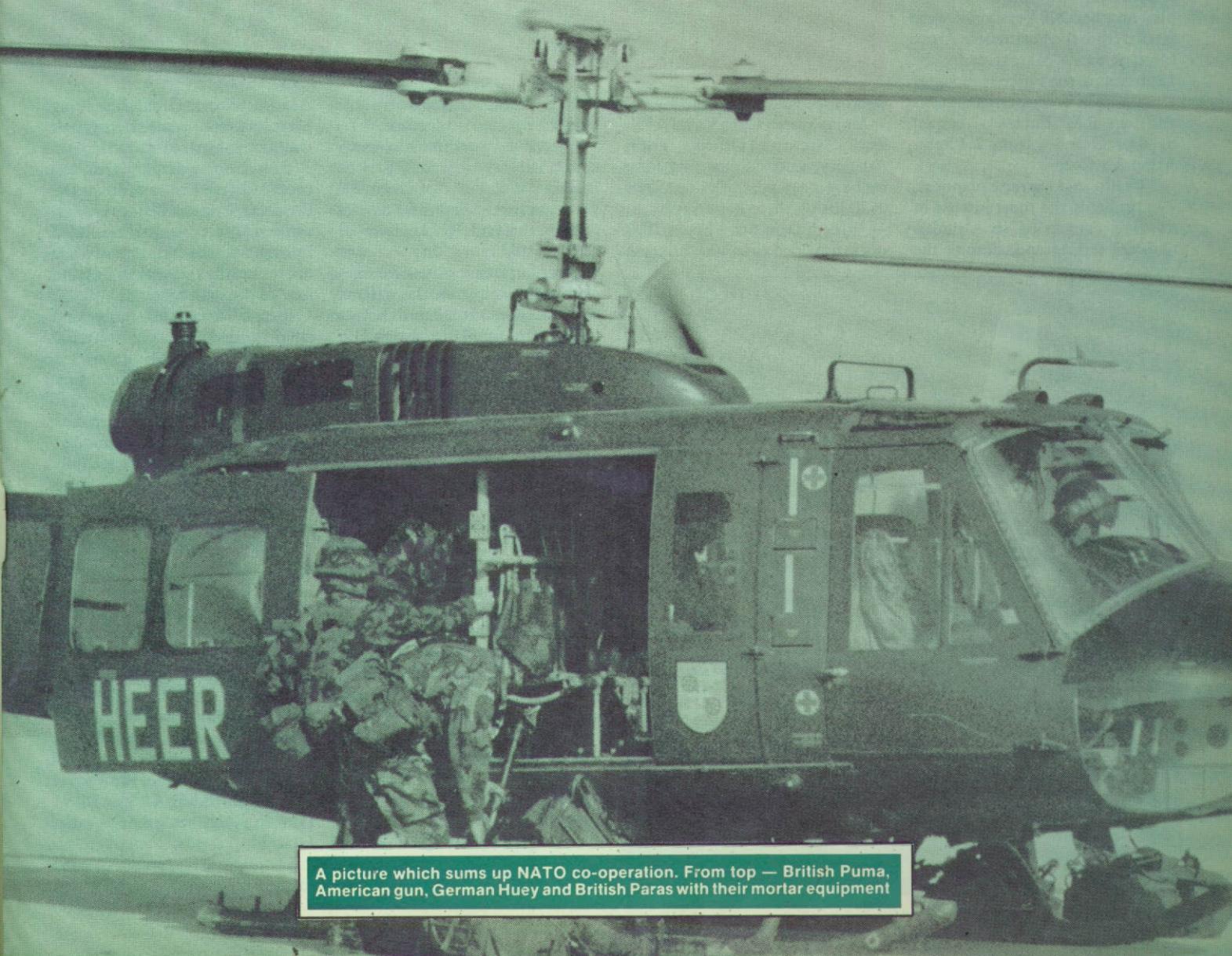
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Writer **GRAHAM SMITH** and  
photographer **PAUL HALEY**  
visit Allies at work in  
**Exercise Ardent Ground 85**

# SPRINGTIME IN PORTUGAL



A picture which sums up NATO co-operation. From top — British Puma, American gun, German Huey and British Paras with their mortar equipment

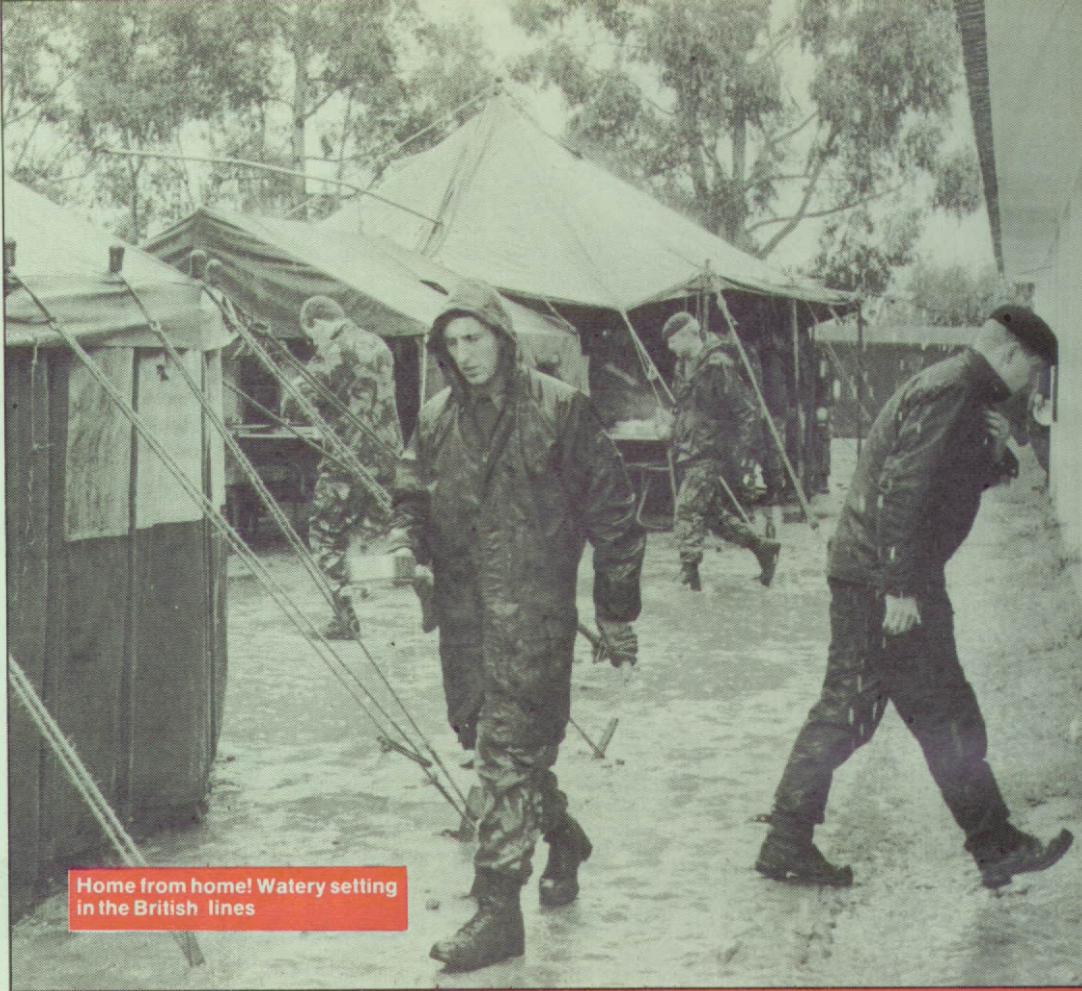
# ARDENT GROUND 85

**A** VIOLENT electric storm interrupted what promised to be a record-making, non-stop helicopter gun lift phase of the Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (Land) — annual live-firing exercise Ardent Ground 85 hosted this year in Portugal.

The rain in neighbouring Spain simply would not stay on the Plain but moved with significant vengeance into Portugal's heartlands. It drenched 1,500 exercise participants from six nations, more than half of them having been lifted out by helicopter 12 hours earlier with field guns and mortars from base camp to up-country locations where they lived under canvas.

The deluge, accompanied by fork lightning, nearly put paid to a proposed 36 hours of continuous helicopter airlift. In all, 36 field guns and 600 men including support elements and 36 mortars plus another 200 personnel were ferried from the Portuguese Army camp at Santa Margarida by the 12 aircraft of the Force Helicopter Unit — eight West German Hueys and four RAF Pumas — helped by four Gazelles from 2 Flight, Army Air Corps.

The lift, said exercise planners, was probably the most intense of its kind ever tried in a multi-national setting and, despite the



Home from home! Watery setting in the British lines

## THE RAIN FROM SPAIN

weather, achieved its objectives.

Major Simon Carr, Royal Artillery, Executive Officer, Force Artillery, said: "Since first light we have been going flat out since 0620 lifting three batteries by air — three lifts in three hours. The storm provided aircrews with some

chance to sleep and they were able to catch up on the schedule."

Europe's westernmost country continually showed itself to be Britain's oldest ally of some 600 years but for the first three days of Ardent Ground 85 the weather certainly did not.

Training areas normally associated with sunny southern flank scenarios were turned into characteristically unkind north-west European type quagmires with vehicle tracks runnels of mud and deep lagoons of rich, brackish water.

Some 1,500 AMF (L) men, their kit, ammunition, vehicles and, of course, their field guns and mortars poured into their tented accommodation in the base camp of Santa Margarida, built 12 years ago and said to have 6,286 acres of training area about 75 miles to the north-east of the capital, Lisbon.

Most had arrived by air, the British by three hours plus of Hercules transport flights from RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire into nearby Tancos airfield.

The less lucky but more economically and scenically orientated Italians, 220 of them, had made the 60-hour trip through four countries ... by train!

Portugal was hosting the second

German gunners find it a dampening experience

AMF (L) Ardent Ground live firing exercise in four years. Last year it was Otterburn's turn.

Exercise objectives this time, as every year, were to co-ordinate the live firing of mortar platoons within artillery fire plans and included Portuguese forces. Air mobile operations involved aircraft from four of the nations.

British Army ingenuity and talent-loaded flair for training procedure improvisation marched smartly to the international fore among the Belgians, Germans, Canadians, Italians and Americans as light gun batteries and mortar platoons strived for target acquisition success and enhanced gun position training on what is probably western Europe's tiniest impact area — all one and a quarter square miles of it!

The British, said the Alliance's Commander Force Artillery Lieutenant Colonel Ian Forward, Royal Artillery, had deployed "native cunning" to beef up and tone up Forward Observer Parties' training while ensuring a mutually beneficial and worthwhile exercise for all those taking part.

Lieutenant Colonel Forward is also Commanding Officer of 94 Locating Regiment, RA, based at Larkhill.

The imported expertise extended to the use of armoured OPs — a





## DID NOT STAY ON THE PLAIN!

trio of 432 APCs — in the danger area, defying obstructive high tree line barriers fronting the impact area ... a 400 square-metre, 14.5 mm sub-calibre scaled down training range for field gun crews of all the nations ... the use of Cymbeline mortar-detecting radar for adjusting artillery fire ... and full exploitation of the loan by the Portuguese of three M48 tanks.

These were deployed at night using their searchlights on the impact area because the firing of illuminating flares was not allowed in such a small impact zone.

So small was the impact area, equating to Birmingham's 'spaghetti junction', that the three closed-down FV432 Armoured Personnel Carriers from 94 Locating Regiment motored valiantly into the danger area to park on the edge.

There, up to two or three rounds a minute of high explosive from light guns or mortars were exploding at anything from 150 to 230 metres away.

The tank bulk targets were identified, fall of shot directed at them and the results all monitored through the APC periscopes.

Sitting in the armadillo-like OPs were battery commanders, observation parties and mortar fire controllers from all six nations as their turn came. The Portuguese

were also involved.

The light guns and mortars, meanwhile, squatted at distances of one to three miles away from the impact area, the whole live firing exercise fall of shot, for the very first time, being directed at high angle. Light gun shells, for instance, streaked two miles skywards before hurtling earthwards to their designated targets.

The British 105 mm light guns used 250 spoilers, plastic devices, to reduce their range in the high-angle mode.

Lt Col Forward said: "We have had to deploy our observation parties under armoured OPs so that they can get close enough to the impact area because although the area is very flat the tree line is at 50 feet and the shrub line stands at five feet. OPs outside the danger area would find it difficult to see the results of the fall of shot unless they clambered up towers a long way away.

"The hope is that all the participating nations' OPs will experience the excitement and effects of rounds landing and exploding 200 metres away from them. It will certainly stretch their imagination and talents to the full."

But British Army initiative in the art of improvisation was to go farther than that.

A British-inspired bonus of

(SMIG) Kevin Houlihan, who is based at HQ RA (South), Larkhill.

"It's a good piece of equipment for them and has been under-used elsewhere in certain cases," he said. "It's the first time it has been used on Ardent Ground. Each round has a three-second time of flight to the target on this range, three white blobs on the grass denoting three houses on a one-tenth scale."

Cymbeline, the mortar-detecting radar, was also brought to Portugal for mutual training aid potential by the British.

This was used during the night firing sequences when each Battery Commander was able to make gun and mortar fire adjustments. Although they could not see the target they did, as Colonel Forward, remarked, "know something was happening out there."

Reciprocally, the British and other Ardent Ground participants had the use of the camp's Invertron trainer — it is made in Sussex — for practice sessions by forward observation teams, battery commander parties and mortar fire controllers.

Both the Invertron trainer and sub-calibre range were used by the observation teams to improve their skills while awaiting their turn to move out on to the ranges for the live firing sequences.

During this phase no less than 36 field guns, all of 105 mm calibre, from the six nations (excluding the Canadians who supplied ammunition this year but including Portuguese crews) fired off 480 rounds per battery into the pint-sized impact area.

An area, said the gunners, that would fit into Otterburn's smallest

*Continued on page 28*

**Observing from a fine height**



# Unique club of battlefield expertise

from page 27

range, Alpha, four times. Otterburn has 57 square kilometres of impact area.

By comparison with the Campo Santa Margarida's range, during last year's Ardent Ground at Otterburn, some 37 to 48 square kilometres were used.

But the mortar platoons in Portugal had their moments, too. A record gathering of any Ardent Ground exercise 36 of them lobbed nearly 400 shells per platoon in three calibres, 81 mm, 107 mm and 120 mm.

Colonel Forward said: "The great benefit of the Portuguese training ranges is that they have more tactical type gun positions than Otterburn. Certainly more than at Larkhill, or Baumholder near Trier, Germany or Elsenborn



**Lieutenant Colonel Ian Forward:**  
"We have deployed our native cunning"

in the Belgian Ardennes. Those are better for training Observations Parties but the sites here are better for training the gun end and for producing the best tactical site in a grid square."

Another exercise inject into the script was an international mortar platoon side-by-side in addition to the customary gun and OP competitions. Each nation ran its own stand with everyone being penalised to some extent.

Each country had the chance to carry out helicopter familiarisation drills, including underslung loads, with the Force Helicopter Unit with rotor-wing activity not unlike scenes from 'Apocalypse Now'.

The Portuguese 2nd Field Battery, from the Serra Do Pilar Artillery Regiment was lifted, for



**Captain David Rowe (foreground), Crew Commander Met/Survey Troop 94 Locating Regiment, RA, checks out a detail with Captain David Adams RA, Battery Captain, HQ Battery, in the Ardent Ground 85 Ops Room**

instance, with their guns, by the Pumas of RAF Odiham based 33 Squadron. A German battery was doing the same thing elsewhere at about the same time.

Visitors to Ardent Ground ranged from 14 Portuguese Army officer cadets to the Very Important in status. No less than DSCACEUR, General Sir Edward Burgess, late RA, making his first visit to an AMF(L) exercise in Portugal. Also scheduled to visit was General Sir Thomas Morony, the UK Military Representative and Master Gunner.

There, too, watching as usual his men in action was the Commander AMF(L), two-star Major General Andrew Christie, Canadian Armed Forces.

Portugal, while a Nato member, is not within the AMF(L) structure and nor is it within the Alliance's five contingency areas. Yet it is a keen host.

Praise for Portugal was high from all quarters.

Colonel Forward said: "They have gone out of their way to help us. They have towed tank target hulks out for us to fire at. They have provided an enormous amount of soldiers to act as safety sentries on tracks leading into the danger zone.

He added: "They have done a tremendous amount willingly and very helpfully."

Very aware of its quick reaction, deterrent role on both northern and southern flanks the AMF(L) planners — the Alliance celebrates

**Part of the Belgian contingent, the Para Commando Battery, with their 105 mm M2 howitzers**

Men belonging to a sort of unique 'club' of battlefield expertise; men who meet annually to ensure that, if the Force were ever deployed operationally, the fire support would be co-ordinated, fast and effective. Overhead, air squadrons from AMF(Air) did their bit practising live co-ordinated fire support.

If they 'fought' hard, they certainly played hard, too — on the sports front — a sports day attracting a large entry of 64 teams for eight events.

From the British point of view, Major Carr summed up their Ardent Ground 85 objectives thus. "We have tried to make the maximum use of the APCs, searchlight tanks, mortar locating radar, the sub-calibre range and the Force Helicopter Unit to develop an interesting exercise. At the end we hope that each nation will have left here convinced it was all worthwhile training together and the time and cost it took to travel here. We hope to be back again one day."

Even as he spoke, more rain came from heavily-laden, leaden skies.



# ARDENT GROUND — THE BRITISH CONTINGENT

MAKING UP the numbers of the 450-strong British contingent during Ardent Ground 85 were the 107 men of 5 Gibraltar (1779-1783) Field Battery, part of 94 Locating Regiment, Royal Artillery, based at Larkhill.

They were there with their half-dozen 105 mm Light Gun Battery as the UK Artillery contingent, a battery which, in common with five others, would loose off 480 rounds during the live firing exercise.

Backing them were the 96 men of HQ Force Artillery, including Meteorological and Survey Troops. Links were maintained in the Ops Room by men of 249 Signal Squadron from Bulford and 244 Signal Squadron (Air Support) from RAF Norton.

Complementing these were the 58 men and their eight 81 mm mortars, the UK mortar platoon, from the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, based at Bulford, under their OC Support Company, Major John Pullinger.



The British Paras' mortar platoon practice mortar drills.

## Never mind the weather!



The British contingent 105mm Light Guns sound off under their cam netting.

Other British input into Ardent Ground 85 came from elements of the Logistic Support Battalion, the four Gazelle helicopters and support crews of 2 Flight, Army Air Corps, based at Netheravon (see page 8), gunnery and mortar

instructions, four RAF Puma battlefield support helicopters and crews from 33 Squadron, based at RAF Odiham, Hants, Forward Air Controllers (FACs) and representatives among the Force Air Support Centre (FASC).



The Exercise Ground Liaison Officer (GLO) from the Force Helicopter Unit (FHU) traces out the danger and impact areas with some helpers

# GOOD VALUE FOR PORTUGUESE HOSTS

**EXERCISE** Ardent Ground was quite an eye-opener for 36-year-old Captain Machado Da Silva, Battery Commander of 2nd Field Battery of the Serrar do Pilar Artillery Regiment, an operational battalion.

Along with his 120 men and their half-dozen 105 mm Pack Howitzers

he was normally on exercise for 24 hours at a time. Here, on the Campo Militar de Santa Margarida Ranges they had already been in the field for 48 hours.

It was, he said, going to test Portuguese Army administrators and their logistic support.

In the Army for 15 years and OC of his Battery for 18 months,

his unit enthusiastically played its part as one of the six gun batteries which would each fire 480 rounds of HE during one phase of the live firing exercise.

An RAF Puma clattered into his tree-punctuated site with a Pack Howitzer underslung by four cables. More followed. Within minutes these air portable role umbilical cords had been quickly released.

West German Huey helicopters, these part of the Force Helicopter Unit (FHU), ferried in gun crews and observers to the busy site where the field artillery was quickly shrouded in cam netting.

His own helmet topped by camouflage, Captain Da Silva — he once served in Mozambique — was obviously enjoying the experience. This, his first Nato exercise.

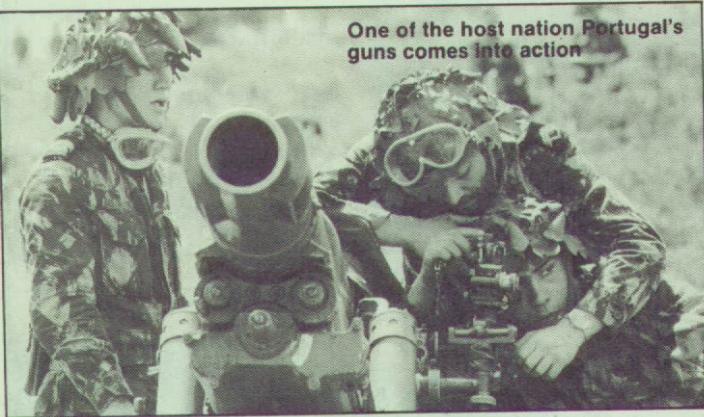
"I think it's very good training with other countries," he said, "it's very good for the officers and men

to work together and learn from one another. Our gunners in the Portuguese Army do four months' basic training."

His men, he said, enjoyed meeting soldiers from other countries in the social setting, too. Trying out their differing foods. Savouring their various wines though more Portuguese conscripts were "drinking water" nowadays ... he said with a wry smile.

Activity all around him six miles from the base camp from where his Battery had been airlifted in, Captain Da Silva added: "I am pleased and proud to lead my Battery on Ardent Ground 85. I admire the exercise and I think it's very good for the Portuguese Army. We can transmit our experience learned here to those still in training."

They were all also impressed with something else ... the 105 mm British Light Gun.



One of the host nation Portugal's guns comes into action

## AIRLIFT PROVES THEIR FLEXIBILITY

**THE AIM** was to mount one of the most intensive periods of non-stop multi-national helicopter gun airlift ever tried but the weather got in the way, thwarting 36 hours of continuous activity. Yet the lift went on.

Six gun batteries, five mortar platoons and nearly half the Force, some 850 men, lifted out into the field by 16 helicopters ... 12 of them from the Force Helicopter Unit (FHU) and four others, four Gazelles from 2 Flight, Army Air Corps, based at Netheravon, which has an AMF (L) commitment.

The FHU comprises eight Huey 1Ds flown by 1/FLG ABT 301



A Force Helicopter Unit West German Army Huey lifts a British trailer from the airhead for ferrying to the gun position ranges

An RAF Puma in attendance with a light gun



German Army based at Niederrstetten and four RAF Pumas from 33 Squadron, RAF Odiham, near Basingstoke, Hants.

The FHU supports the AMF (L) in a variety of roles. These involve the movement by helicopter of men and underslung materials. Tasks include medical evacuations (Medevacs), artillery re-deployment, re-supply, troop movement and liaison duties.

The four Army Air Corps Gazelles are not part of the FHU but are used as battalion assets.

Major Simon Carr, Royal Artillery, Executive Officer, Force Artillery, Ardent Ground 85, said:

"The aim of the airlift was to orchestrate fire on the ground supported by helicopter movements. It certainly tested the staff system in coordinating the arrival of helicopters at the right gun positions, the right ammunition to the right position so that the right range detail fired into the right impact area at the right time and that the right observation teams were there at the right time."

There was, he said, a minimum of two lifts per gun battery. One

every three hours.

The airlift had shown the tremendous flexibility that the Force Artillery could provide for Commander AMF (L) at very short notice.

Major Carr added: "If you can promote people into exercising their brains in an international setting providing you don't upset national pride, it certainly promotes goodwill. People have been trying their damndest to make this exercise work and if that is not what AMF (L) is all about I don't know what is..."



THE AMF (L) badge was designed and approved in 1961, the badge comprising two silver hands holding a single lightning bolt beneath the initials 'AMF' on a green field.

The clasped hands symbolise the fraternity and solidarity of the Nato countries. The hands are armoured as befits a military force.

The lightning bolt indicates the mobility of the AMF while the green shield is in accordance with the SHAPE and AFCENT colours to show AMF's status as a force of Allied Command Europe.

## 'We all gain from each other'

**M**AJOR GENERAL Andrew Christie, the 48-year-old Canadian Commander AMF (L) since June 1983 who was making a visit to Ardent Ground 85 in Portugal was well pleased with what he saw.

He told me: "This area is very similar to one of our five contingency areas so we are able to experience the same sort of conditions. With regard to the training here we are having a very successful concentration from what I can see given the nations have not been together since Otterburn in May of last year.

"We have got three exercises this year and this one obviously tends to pull it together."

In praise of the Portuguese Army and the gun battery taking part in Ardent Ground 85, the Commander said: "They are very, very professional, very well trained and have contributed a great deal to this exercise. They invited AMF (L) here and we are glad to come. I am very pleased with the way things are going. It's all good experience for the soldiers but like everything else when you visit any country it's a two-way street.

"There is a technological interchange that takes place. We all gain from each other."

Turning to Portugal's involvement as hosts he re-affirmed: "We hope we will be invited back at some future date. We hope, too, that our contribution is significant



Major General Christie: "I'm pleased with the way things are going..."

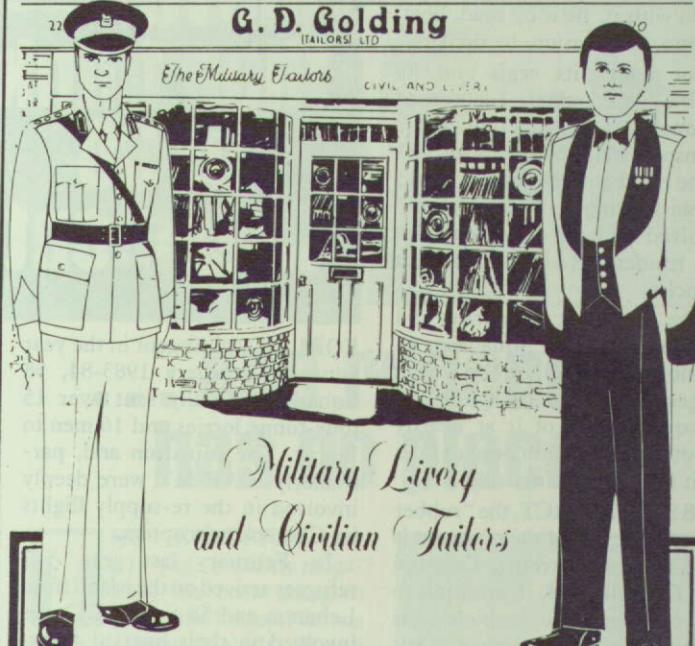
and, at the same time, we consider that of the Portuguese is also very significant. They have put a lot of manpower into making this exercise a success and we hope it will give them fair value in exchange for the resources they have expended.

"I have noted that every officer and soldier I have met in Portugal has been very pleased at being a proud member of the Alliance. They are very keen to participate in Nato, keen to be recognised as a full partner. It's that spirit that comes across to me."

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**I**F IT moves... then 30 Regiment, the Royal Corps of Transport, with HQ at Episkopi in the Western Sovereign Base Area (WSBA) of Cyprus is bound to have something to do with it. Be it by road, boat, air and, on occasion, by donkey!

For under its aegis and its double-hatted chief, Lieutenant Colonel Alan Bush, Commander Transport and Movements and CO of the regiment, the Army's world of transport requirements is heavily involved in joint operation with the resident RAF and civilian agencies.

The regiment comprises 58 Squadron, 10 Port Squadron, an air movements staff on the RAF's biggest airfield in the world, all 25-square-miles of it at nearby Akrotiri and the Joint Service Port Unit (JSU) at Limassol.

58 Squadron, RCT, the "rubber wheels" section of the regiment is split between Akrotiri, Episkopi and Dhekelia and, in addition to its own organic vehicles, is immersed in the running of a fleet of civilian hire vehicles from island contractors. These contractors are responsible for the upkeep of the transportation and replacing it when necessary.

The Army squadron also works closely with the RAF, its 40 military personnel being drawn from the 82 military members of the regiment with its HQ within HQ Land Forces (Cyprus) at Episkopi. The squadron also employs 182 of the regiment's total of 216 Locally Engaged Civilians (LECs).

58 Squadron also provides second-line transport needs to support all non-UN units in Cyprus and first-line transport to units who have no organic transport of their own.

It has a total of 166 military vehicles, known in RCT parlance as 'prime movers', with two troops and a squadron HQ located at Akrotiri.

At RAF Akrotiri both the Army and RAF MT come under the command of the OC 58 Squadron.

Two hire transport troops at Episkopi and Dhekelia control 95 self-drive hire cars and 124 contract buses to help meet any shortfall in military vehicles.

There is a fleet of 55 vehicles at the disposal of visiting UKLF units on exercise which are tasked by the Military Training Wing (MTW) at Episkopi.

It is estimated that the squadron in its various roles covers more than one million miles annually which, in Cyprus, is quite a feat. The movements of ammunition, stores and rations are all part of it.

During the activities of the British Forces Lebanon (BRIT-

## If it moves — then think of 30 Regiment

FORLEB) contingent in the year between February 1983-84, 58 Squadron initially sent over 15 four-tonne lorries and 16 men to Beirut. The squadron and, particularly, RAF MT were deeply involved in the re-supply flights by Chinook helicopters.

In February last year, 517 refugees arrived on the island from Lebanon and 58 Sqn, RCT, was involved in their hurried transportation needs as they disembarked from Royal Navy helicopters.

In addition to normal daily tasks the squadron has, on two occasions, provided a fleet of staff cars for visits to Cyprus by The Queen.

The unit was formed in April 1901 and moved to Cyprus in March 1955 as 58 Company, RASC, from elsewhere in the Middle East.

At RAF Akrotiri the regiment maintains the Army presence working alongside the RAF movements squadron where, for example, during a twice-yearly United Nations Forces in Cyprus (UNFICYP) move of the British contingent 650 personnel and 34,000 kilos of freight are involved each time.

Captain Paul Sturgeon and his five staff are also responsible for the 17 regular major unit exercises in and out of the island by air involving 150 men at a time. Added to this are the needs of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, accounting for another 300 men.

The accent is very much on "jointery" with the RAF.

"The relationship is as blessed as ever it has been. There is obviously some inter-Service demarcation but the working relationship is a good one," he says. "An RCT mover out here can do 'rubber wheels', maritime and air and I don't think there is anywhere in the Army world where you can get that sort of threefold experience."

Another aspect of the Cyprus RCT world is the 23-strong Army run 10 Port Squadron with its home of the past 11 years on Akrotiri



Mole at the far end of the airfield.

The squadron has a fleet which includes a couple of 96-ton Ramped Craft Logistic (RCLs) — the Antwerp and the Arromanches — and a 70-ton, 25-knot vessel, the Michael Murphy VC, crewed by four RCT men and two LECs.

Units visiting the island for training make regular use of the two 100-troop capacity RCLs which double up as assault craft for day and night beach landings.

The squadron's two Mexeflote rafts and the RCLs move heavy items of plant and equipment round the island for the Royal Engineers and also make the seven-hour logistic support trip to the Akamas training ranges on the north-west tip of the island.

They also take part in the placings of a dozen moorings and buoys in the WSBA on behalf of the Directorate of Marine Services (Naval) round the island.

Other roles involve the vessels as lighters for the loading and unloading of rations, personnel or stores from the steady stream of RN and RFA shipping calling at Cyprus.

The squadron also supports the SBA Customs in their maritime duties.

Once or twice a year the military port at Akrotiri Mole becomes operational when the squadron, reinforced by the Joint Service Port Unit (JSU) — six miles across Limassol Bay — discharge ammunition, vehicles and heavy stores from the dedicated LSLs.

Sea safety is an ever present commitment and one vessel and crew is kept at immediate readiness during flying hours from nearby RAF Akrotiri and at one hour's notice otherwise.

Michael Murphy VC, the 24-metre-long, two-year-old high sprint range safety craft has been involved in mercy dashes to bring ashore injured seamen from ships.

In August 1983 the vessel and two RPLs — now replaced by the RCLs — made a number of runs to Beirut. The evacuation of

Force and British nationals during the crisis has also been part of the work of 10 Port Squadron, RCT.

Another role of the squadron's fastest boat is target towing... pulling along a splash target on a 900-metre cable for RAF airmen to get their eye in — at right angles!

The squadron also lays the series of buoys, five-ton anchors and other targets as well as the springtime sowing of 142 red buoys and six swimming rafts in the swimming areas off Akrotiri and Episkopi. These are recovered in the winter.

The Michael Murphy VC has also provided the pitching, rolling platform for the testing of pilots and winchmen during aircrew survival-at-sea drills in Limassol Bay.

Across the water of the bay lies the JSU which has the main task of importing and exporting all sea freight to military and civilian agencies in Cyprus.

It is also involved in the resupply by ship of UNIFIL (United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon) to where containers with vital supplies and victuals make their way to Haifa, Israel, and then by road to Lebanon.

Two RCT personnel back up four RAF men in that and all the other tasks. Portakabins, portable toilets, dry and wet rations, drinks etc., are loaded into the container lifelines bound for the brigadier-sized international force.

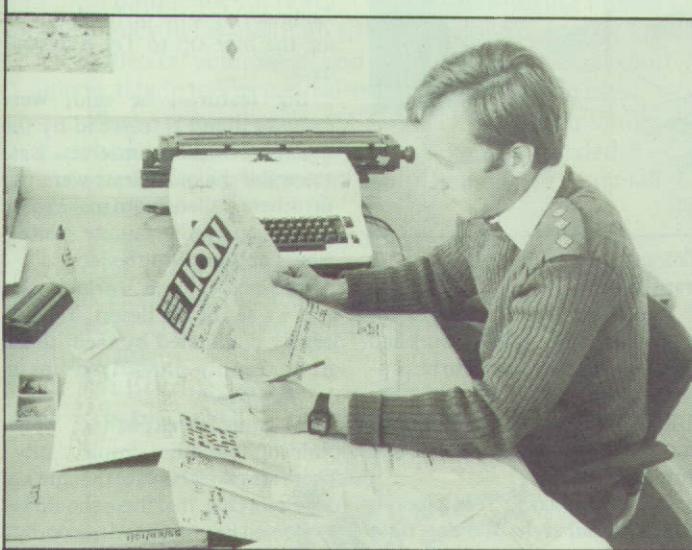
The RCT-linked unit also handles house-to-house removals by sea for Service personnel, more than 500 containers a year destined for ports like Tilbury and Ellesmere. The JSU also handles MFO (Military Freight Organisation) business.

30 Regiment, RCT, has, indeed, a varied role on the Mediterranean's easternmost island. Even down to hiring out a trio of donkeys for a Royal Military Academy Sandhurst exercise!

● Full colour picture — back cover.

**SOLDIER'S** roving team of **GRAHAM SMITH** and **LES WIGGS** take an outward look and drop on three other publications serving British Servicemen and others in the Mediterranean... the **Lion** and the **Blue Beret** in Cyprus and **The Sandpaper** in Sinai for the **MFO** (Multi-National Force and Observers) there.

## No circulation worry in Cyprus...



**Capt Rick Walker, Lion editor**

**T**HE PRESS barons' battles of Fleet Street for circulation figures may go from strength to strength but one newspaper which has no such problems is *The Lion*, the 16-page weekly serving the 4,000 Servicemen, their dependants and some 400 UK-based civilians in Cyprus.

Currently edited by Captain Rick Walker of The Royal Army Educational Corps, the publication with its familiar blue masthead keeps a sense of identity among its readers in a country where the rest of the newsprint is mainly Greek to them all.

*Lion*, which as a circulation of 2,500 copies, has been serving the Forces through thick and thin with information on the Mediterranean's third largest island since 1962.

Faithfully, Captain Walker and his assistant editor make the weekly trip from their office at 55 Army Education Centre at Episkopi to the printers in Nicosia for their ten-hour session of passing the pages into final production.

Editor Rick, in post since November, said: "It's a very busy life and just part of my work here as I have other duties. We try to work a week ahead at least and plan features up to three or four weeks ahead.

"All contributions are sent in by the goodwill of the subscribers. It's an enjoyable job and very different from the duties of a normal educator."

The young captain is still

involved with the Army's EPC (Education for Promotion Certificates) and EPCAs (Education for Promotion Certificates Advanced) before moving over to the part-time world of the khaki-coloured Fourth Estate.

Not only are copies of *The Lion* eagerly snapped up all over the island where there may be British Service personnel and their families but copies also find their way to BAOR, Gibraltar and the Ministry of Defence, mailed there for those who want to keep in touch with friends and events on the island.

The British Forces Broadcasting Service help him out a lot by supplying four pages each week. Another novelty is a basic Greek course compiled by former editor of 14 months, Captain Dennis Quilter who is now at the Royal Army Educational Corps Centre at Beaconsfield, an officer who holds a colloquial exam qualification in the language.

Enthusiastic editor Walker said: "We have no real problems in producing a 16-page newspaper each week, no more than for any other publication. We are well supported in advertising and I've picked up a lot of the printing terms and tricks from the printers. We are very well supported actually by many faithful readers."

He added: "I suppose RAEC officers are chosen as editors because it is thought that we are the only people who can spell and write proper English!"



## ... and rudeness has no place!

**T**HE NEWSPAPER, now a 16-page monthly magazine, has been going as long as the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) and seems, like the Force itself, destined to go on for some time yet.

The 2,500-circulation *Blue Beret*, which is printed in Nicosia, is currently edited by Major Rod MacArthur, Royal Engineers, whose main job is the Force Military Public Information Officer (MPIO).

Luckily, like most popular goodwill projects, he is backed up by 14 subscribing Unit Press Officers (UPOs) drawn from units within the seven-contingent, 2,311-strong Force.

*Blue Beret* is planned three months ahead and the democratically-minded Major MacArthur holds periodic meetings of the UPOs so that they can put their bids in for space and coverage.

"One of the difficulties has been that there are far more British — we are the biggest contingent with 760 personnel — and space allocation has had to be tailored accordingly," said the major.

The whole of the magazine is printed in English and circulated within all of the Five Sectors on peacekeeping duties within the 135-mile-long Buffer Zone. Luckily again, all members of the contributing Force contingents must speak English before they can serve in it.

Contributions come in already typed. These are perused and if the English is very bad, it is corrected.

But the major does err on the side of cosmopolitan entente cordiale. He explained: "If the phraseology is a little different then I leave it in slightly stilted English... so long as it makes



**Major Rod MacArthur, Blue Beret editor**

sense."

All copy is vetted for security and political nuances, a New York locally-based UN civilian checking it out.

"We don't want contingents being rude to each other," said the sapper editor.

*Blue Beret's* unfailing deadline is the 10th of each month. The Nicosia printers set the copy in galley form and send it to the editorial offices within the United Nations Protected Area (UNPA), housed on the former airport area at Nicosia.

Major MacArthur said: "We check it carefully through again, make up a page layout, put on a heading and suggested typeface sizes and it goes back again."

The *Blue Beret* has only failed to appear twice... and that very understandably.

Major MacArthur recalled: "There was a nice, innocent, innocuous story all set for the front page. Then something happened. No-one saw it coming. The next issue appeared four months later."

It was the Turkish invasion of 1974.

(Turn to page 34)

THE 2,580-strong formation — including 73 uniformed women — of the MFO have got their own newspaper, a topical on-base fortnightly called *The Sandpaper* — thanks largely to the British who run it editorially. And it's free.

And they try to do things as slickly and professionally as possible the lynch-pin of periodical production expertise coming from Royal Navy Petty Officer Pete Simcock, the Force Photographer, who had experience on Hong Kong's monthly welfare magazine called *The Junk*.

The 1,000-distribution *Sandpaper* was first published in July 1983, about 15 months after the 11-nation MFO was stationed in the Sinai. It is now some 80 issues into its archive value as an all-military production.

Prefaced with its terracotta colour front cover theme — the MFO all wear berets of the same hue — the *Sandpaper* is compiled on word processors in any of four type faces and sent promptly for setting with photographs, across the border to their printers in Tel Aviv, Israel, about 100 miles to the north-west.

Distribution of the 24-page-plus magazine is not just confined, either, to the 1,800-strong cosmopolitan camp at El Gorah or, as it is known, North Camp, 15

# BRITONS LEAD THE WAY . . .



Choosing the pictures. SP5 Ken Hudson (AUS Army) left, and Petty Officer Peter Simcock

kilometres due west of the border.

It is also sent 400 kilometres due south to the MFO's specially-built camp at South Camp or Sharm el-Sheikh, largely populated by Americans and the Italians.

Editorial and lay-out expertise are improving all the time among its seven-strong staff including three Americans and a couple of

Colombians, one of these a translator.

The *Sandpaper*'s role is for people within the MFO at work and play and was first tasked to be produced by the British contingent (BRITCON) in conjunction with the Chief of Visits and Press Bureau (CVPB).

Said PO Simcock: "We have our own editorial style. We don't use slang or obscure terms of inflection in the language that may give offence to any of the 11 nations here.

"We translate items written in English into Spanish in the same magazine as part of the mutual exchange of on-base information and entertainment.

"We don't have any time for fancy lay-outs preferring to plan one month ahead instead of from issue to issue which can be hectic. We drop in the lay-outs and headlines straight onto a page schematic and then send them with our Royal Engineers 'postie' on his daily run for the base up to Tel Aviv and back."

Big features, he said, were canvassed and researched by the *Sandpaper* staff themselves. Late stories of major interest were put in, others pulled out to make room for an up-to-the-minute professional approach to the job.

But in a spartan world in the arid wastes of the desert, a world largely dominated by men, there are no scantily-dressed pin-ups in the *Sandpaper*.

PO Simcock explained: "The philosophy is quite simple, really. There are two schools of thought on this Base. One, that there should be no women here at all and, secondly, that there should be enough to go round! Pin-ups would not help. It would be a detrimental step."

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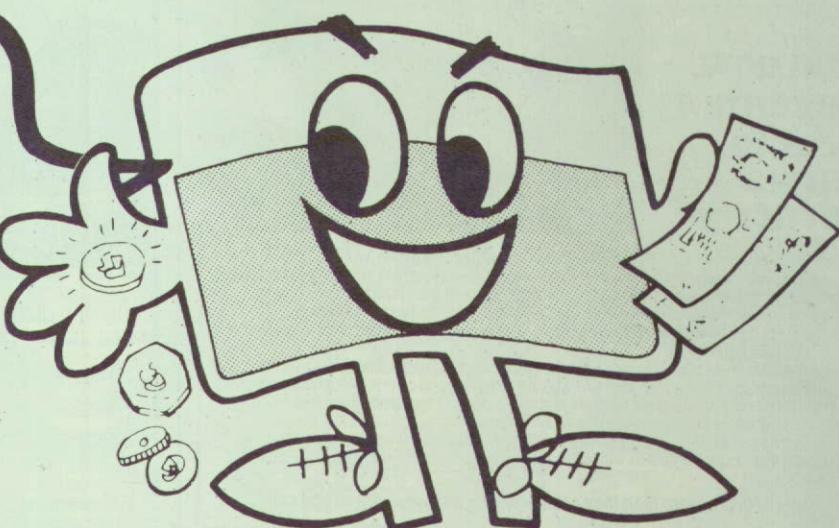
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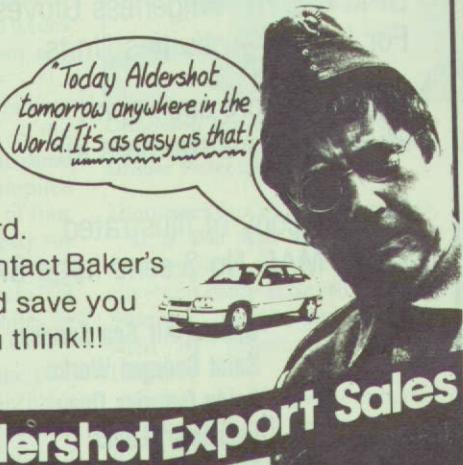


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These men and women have given their minds to their Country. If we are to help them, we must have funds. Do please help us with a donation, and with a legacy too, perhaps. The debt is owed by all of us.

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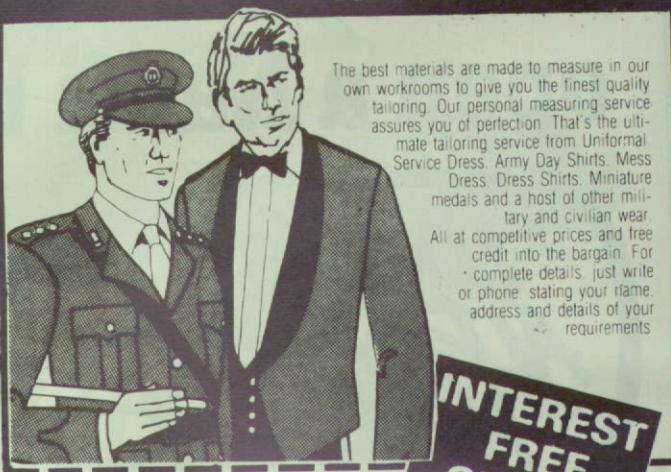
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## ARMY CATERING CORPS

BY ARMY Order 35 of 1941 the Army Catering Corps came into being on 22 March that year, the design of the first of its head-dress badges being Sealed on 28 May.

It is perhaps surprising that in the comparatively short time the Corps has been in existence, the Corps badge and the manufacturing materials should have changed so many times.

The principal feature has remained the Greek brazier, symbolising the culinary art, in the centre of the badge.

The first format was surmounted by the Tudor, or Imperial, crown being worn by the soldiers in gilding metal; officers badges were in the service dress bronze finish.

In line with the wartime need to conserve metal, the badge was produced in a dull chocolate brown plastic, an unattractive material that found no more favour among the men of ACC than it did among the many other regiments and

corps who in like manner used plastic badges.

The third production was of similar design save that the brazier and flames appeared in white metal on the gilding metal badge, this in turn being superseded by a badge made in anodised materials (Sealed 12 March 1951).

On the accession of The Queen the Imperial crown was replaced by the St Edward's crown, and finally in 1973, the current design depicted here which incorporates the motto "We Sustain" on a scroll below the circlet, was taken into use.

Until 1925, the Army had recognised the need for reforms in catering but until that year when an Army School of Cookery was established at Aldershot no positive steps had been taken.

It was but a beginning, for only sergeant cooks were trained there. Cooks were not classified as tradesmen and little incentive for advancement was offered.

It is easily understood why both cooking and service varied throughout.

In 1938 Hore-Belisha appointed well qualified persons to look at the problem.

As a result, Sir Isadore Salmon was appointed honorary catering adviser to the Army and the Salmon Report laid down the guidelines for the formation of the corps.

The outbreak of the World War 2 created an acute shortage of cooks.

There was an urgent need for thousands, this being quickly met by the completion of a new school at St Omer Barracks, Aldershot where, ignoring the

inclement weather, large numbers of field kitchens were set up to deal with the trainees on a double shift system.

Since the formation of the ACC its aims and objects have been realised with at first RAMC cooks, but not until much later regimental cooks of the Guards.

Today, the ACC trains all military cooks, including the WRAC.

The maintenance and improvement of the standard of catering throughout the Army, both in barracks and in the field, and to meet the identified needs remains their purpose.

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# Mountbatten controversy: Barbara Cartland seeks YOUR help . . .

THE world's best-selling author, Barbara Cartland, is about to add another title to her enormous list of publications.

"But I'm not actually writing this one, I'm compiling it," said Miss Cartland.

"It will consist of letters from ex-Service men and women who knew Lord Louis Mountbatten.

"It will be an answer to the official biography of Mountbatten by Philip Ziegler and will show that Lord Louis was loved and revered by those who knew and served with him — unlike Mr Ziegler who never met him.

"It will give ordinary Servicemen and women the chance to say what they thought of Lord Louis.

"Already I have received 150 letters. One, from a wartime Wren says: 'We would have walked on water for him had he asked us.'

"This compilation, which I hope will be out later this year, will give people like this the chance to speak in his favour."

Miss Cartland, whose titles include *Men Are Wonderful* and *The Vibration of Love* — with a short biography, her list of publications takes 12 column inches in last year's *Who's Who* — said her objection to Ziegler's book was that everything Mountbatten did, or was credited with, was queried.

"The author puts doubt on every part of Mountbatten's history. He does this all the way through the book.

"He is what I call a wrecker. Churchill, Montgomery, Eisenhower and the latest, Scott, have all been pilloried one way or another by various authors.

"They can't leave the heroes alone. But this compilation of letters will put a different light on Mountbatten since it will reflect the views of those who knew and loved him."

Miss Cartland writes: "So many people have been upset by the official biography of Earl Mountbatten that I have been asked to compile a book in which the men and women who served with him can express their views on what he was like and the influence he had on them.

"I would like everyone who was a personal friend or who served with him in the Mediterranean, India, South East Asia, or later, to

write to me and their letters will be in the book, together with many photographs of Lord Mountbatten, as a tribute to this amazing man.

"All proceeds from the book will be given to the United World Colleges which were close to his heart.

"I will acknowledge each letter personally and I hope very much to hear from you."

Miss Cartland, who knew Mountbatten for 62 years and was writing a novel with him when he died, is hoping for a big response to her plea. Her address is: Camfield Place, Hatfield, Herts AL9 6JE.

## Here is one 'defender'

The new book 'Mountbatten' by Philip Ziegler gives, in my view some factual evidence and some disastrous and ill-founded personal conclusions by the author, with whom I would take serious issue!

Lord Louis became a legend in his own life-time, and 10,000 other Servicemen ex-World War 2 would agree with me totally!

I castigate this publication of sordid alleged infidelities which serve to deny our Supremo the true merit of his undoubted qualities of leadership — the way WE knew him!

I had the honour to serve on his personal staff at GHQ Delhi — briefed by him to write up a Training Manual for the Indian Army — based on my earlier brigade experience, with mule transport in the Wingate Burma 1942/44 Campaign.

Lord Louis was then, to us all, at all times accessible — we were ALL honoured then to thus serve!

Equally during considerable hospitalisation following the Burma Chindit Campaign, I came to know and love and totally respect 'Lady Edwina' (as we called her) — she was indeed an angel in uniform to us ALL. To thus now read of all her alleged indiscretions fills me with disgust, also!

Mr Ziegler, I believe, denigrates both Lady Edwina and Lord Louis. In common with many others I knew both — personally — and now defend them 40 years on as truly superb, a joy to know, and an honour to serve!

Their joint duty to their country

## MAIL DROP



Happy times . . . Lord and Lady Mountbatten on his return to England in July 1945. Left is their daughter, the then Third Officer Patricia Mountbatten

was exemplary then — and as an old soldier I honour them now!

All Burma Star and Chindit comrades also do likewise!

One hundred per cent! — Major Frank Turner (Indian Army, Ret'd), 16 The Woodlands, Salisbury Road, Downend, Bristol, BS16 5RJ.

## FRONTIERSMEN

The growing awareness of the possibility of invasion of the United Kingdom during war has led to the expansion of the TA with a Home Service Force.

To the many older and over-age trained soldiers willing to serve, however, this brings little comfort and scant opportunity. The newly raised upper age limit is a marginal one and severely limits the number who qualify.

It would be possible to raise the age limit considerably if some intelligent thought were to be applied to the way in which volunteers are employed.

At the moment, the criteria appear to be those necessary for a tough fighting soldier, but it would be possible to release thousands of younger men for these duties if the sedentary jobs were done by those unfit or too old to double across rough country with a rifle.

There seems to be an unwillingness at the Ministry of Defence to adopt a more flexible approach to the question.

For those who wish to serve their country, but are not considered suitable, there is still the Legion of Frontiersmen.

This cavalry-type uniformed body, approved by the MoD, carries out a variety of duties ranging from aid to the civil power and search and rescue, to ceremonial duties.

In fact, at Prince Charles's wedding the Queen Mother was escorted by a mounted escort of the Legion of Frontiersmen. Uniform consists of a working dress and blues with shoulder chains.

Administration and discipline is identical to that found in the Regular Army and TA.

I would be glad to hear from any of your readers who are interested. — Major T C R Armstrong-Wilson, Canobie, Dumfriesshire, Scotland.

## PIONEER BADGE

I bought an issue of *SOLDIER* Magazine on 14 March and was interested in the Royal Pioneer Corps being re-badged. During the war I served as a messenger in the AFS, later a junior fireman in the then NFS. Also I was an RTR cadet in the 41st RTR whose association meetings I attend.

On being called up for Army service I did a period of training in Northern Ireland.

Then I was posted to the Pioneer Corps Army Fire Fighting Wing. The Headquarters was at Catterick, I think in the Mons Lines.

I don't think a lot of people know of the various duties of the Royal Pioneer Corps.

I like the new Royal Pioneer Corps badge but feel it's a shame that the laurel is broken as I think the old badge was the only one of its kind to have an unbroken laurel in the British Army.

Looking forward to the next issue of *SOLDIER*. — R McAlister, 60 Oswald St, Shaw, Oldham, OL2 8RB.

## HAPPY YEARS

I cannot help with the identity of the paratrooper (front cover of the first *SOLDIER*), although it is possible that my late father might have been able to.

My father was A F Anderson (known to his friends as Andy) and the editor in Brussels of the first issue of *SOLDIER*.

I have in my possession a bound volume of the issues published during the first year of *SOLDIER*'s existence which has as a frontispiece the letter from Colonel Sean Fielding. It is good to see that the penultimate paragraph of the letter has been confounded by events.

My father went on from Brussels and *SOLDIER* to Hamburg where he helped to restart a free press in occupied Germany: Sefton Delmer's book 'Black Boomerang' has a good account of this.

After the war my father returned to Fleet Street holding various appointments in the Mirror Group and serving for a time on the Press Council.

His career ended with some 15 very happy and successful years as Managing Director and then Chairman of the

He retired in 1974 and died in 1983.

You may be interested to know that, during the years of his retirement, he sent the original signed typescript of Field Marshal Montgomery's 'Message from the Chief' which appeared on the front cover of the first issue of SOLDIER and which he had retained, to the Regimental Museum of his old regiment, The Gordon Highlanders, with whom he had served throughout the North African and Sicilian campaigns.

Since my father cannot, may I (a sometime soldier and reader of SOLDIER) send all good wishes for the magazine's continuing success. — A J Anderson, 33 Abinger Road, Bedford Park, London, W4 1EU.

## POOR STUFF?

Your article on 'Keeping Watch in Sinai' (SOLDIER 25 March) prompts me to write what a complete waste of time and money it all is. To watch what? What powers have they? Someone is living in cloud cuckoo land.

During the Greco-Turkish conflict in Cyprus, 1963-74 occurrences, such as New Zealand civilian police observing illegal Greek troops arriving from mainland Greece in car ferries at Limassol, their jeep radios were smashed by National Guardsmen, nothing was done about it. When Greeks set up mortars in a hospital grounds at Famagusta and began to shell the Turkish quarter UNFICYP did nothing.

When Turkish irregulars threatened to open fire on Greeks a platoon of Sherwood Foresters commanded by an agitated Lieutenant stopped my wife and myself and pleaded for me to contact the Colonel of the Ordnance Depot to ask for Ordnance troops to be sent there.

When Major Edward Macey, RAOC, disappeared in Cyprus in June 1964, the Australian police were asked to intervene. This they did with great vigour until they came up against a wall of silence. The matter was discreetly dropped.

In recent ITN news programme it showed Israeli troops in an APV firing over the heads of Irish UN troops in the Lebanon. When questioned the Irish captain smiled as if to say "What can one do?"

Remember, Korea was the only war where UN troops did something about it.

On the subject of SOLDIER 40 years on, today's SOLDIER is poor stuff compared with the magazine of yesterday when all and sundry read it.

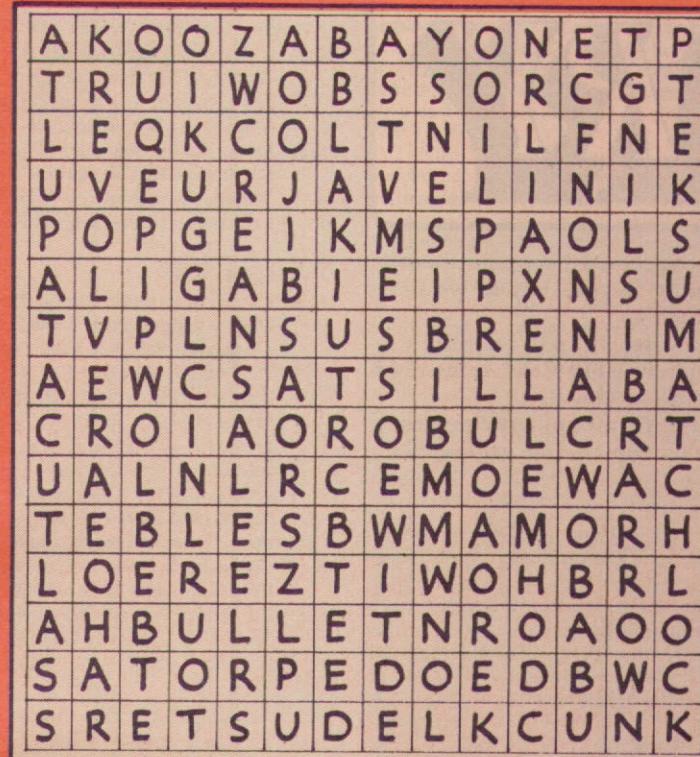
It sold like hot cakes. Of course you won't publish this, your excuse will be 'if space permits'. I have observed fewer letters are published these days — an average of two.

I suggest you employ new staff. Thank you. Perhaps sales will increase. — Frank Acres (Former Ordnance Sgt Major), 42 Westfield Avenue, Ashchurch Gardens, Tewkesbury, Glos, GL20 8QP.

How wrong you are, Mr Acres. SOLDIER is delighted to receive and publish letters from its readers, even when they are critical of the magazine. It has no fear of publishing your letter because the vast majority of letters received are very complimentary; only the occasional one contains general criticism.

# WEAPON CACHE

## COMPETITION 364



## WIN £50

Incidentally over the past year the average number of letters published per issue has been more than four, not two. And that does not include those published under headings such as 'Can You Help', 'Call-Signs' and those written for special subjects such as the D-Day anniversary. — Managing Editor.

## CHAGRIN

I saw, to my chagrin, in the Mail Drop of 11 February, a "correction" which is incorrect in itself — 265 (Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (Volunteers) is one squadron — it actually consists of two troops — 890 Tp and 905 Tp. — Cpl T A Headington, 2811 Det RAOC/EFI, Coastel 1, RAF Stanley, BFPO 666. Major Patrick Mileham (our Yeomanry correspondent) writes: There are in fact two squadrons of the Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry: C Squadron of the Royal Yeomanry, and 265 Signal Squadron.

## PIN-UPS: CONTINUED

Now you wouldn't really like it, would you, if you opened a copy of Playboy and found it reporting on military matters.

So why not keep doing that which you excel in, and leave others to their own expertise.

Also, of course the Army is no longer the male dominated world of the barrack room — what about your many lassie soldiers, and Anne Armstrong's young wives — to be fair you'd have to give them some Mr Universe pictures!

— Harry B Brand, 133 Ranworth Avenue, Hoddesdon, Herts.

## Call-signs

Mrs Julie Cahill of 3 Connaught Road, Worthy Down, Winchester, Hants, is trying to trace Sgt Steve Mallows, wife Tina and son Craig last seen in Munster, W Germany before they were posted back to UK. Anyone who knows their whereabouts and address please reply.

Eric J Fussard, High Rydd, Seaway Lane, Torquay, S Devon, TQ2 6PN would like to hear from any of the men he started Service life with in 1940 at Whatton-in-the-Vale Camp near Bingham, Nottingham.

In those days they were transferred from Sherwood Foresters (5th Battalion) to Royal Engineers, then to Royal Artillery.

Most of the men came from the Potteries, East Midland and the Lincolnshire area.

Just a few names he remembers are L/Sgt Hickling, Bdr Bowring, Bdr Sibley, Gnr Threlfall.

## Reunions

23 Parachute Field Ambulance. A reunion is to be held of ex-members of 23 Parachute Field Ambulance RAMC at Aldershot on Friday 5 July 1985. Further details — write to RSM, 23 PFA, Mons Barracks, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2LF.

## Competition

THE £50 prize in SOLDIER's 40th anniversary competition (No. 359) has been won, appropriately, by a soldier.

The lucky man is Sergeant Flinham

HIDDEN in the 'square' are many weapons (in the widest sense of the word) dating from ancient times up to the present day. Read horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all directions and see how many you can find. Letters may be used more than once. Having cleared as many squares as you can in this way, the remaining unused letters taken in sequence should add three more to your score. How many weapons can you find?

The rules of the competition are the same as usual. The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is 19 July. The answers and winner's name will appear in our issue dated 12 August.

Each entry must be accompanied by the 'Competition 364' label from this page. For two entries send two labels (NOT photo-copies), three entries three labels — and so on.

In the case of more than one correct entry being received, the winner will be drawn by lots. No correspondence can be entered into.

Send your answers by postcard or letter to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Parsons House, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

of 3 Squadron, 21 Signal Regiment, Wildenrath, Germany.

You will recall that because of the special occasion, SOLDIER reprinted the general knowledge quiz that was published in the very first issue of the magazine in 1945. No-one managed to get it completely right, but Sergeant Flinham had the most correct answers.

How about you trying this issue's competition, which is above?

Answers to Competition 359 were:

- 1 Hairy. 2 (a) Oscar Wilde, (b) James Joyce. 3 Stone will not float, others will. 4 A judge in the Isle of Man. 5 Ladies of the Court once used it to cover pimples. 6 Bo'sun's pipe. 7 Making soap and margarine. 8 Ancient Greek 'heaven'. 9 Montague and Capulet. 10 Shakespeare, in 'Othello'. 11 Douglas. 12 (a) Ellen Terry; (b) Boswell. 13 Singer. 14 (a) F Anstey; (b) R L Stevenson. 15 Bombay duck is dried fish; others are birds. 16 Amelia Earheart. 17 Richard I. 18 Bees. 19 Delphinium, Dependence. 20 Obtuse means blunt; abstruse, difficult to understand. 21 Stalemate. 22 Sturgeon. 23 An Acadian. 24 (a) Quo; (b) Sec.

## How Observant Are You?

(see page 23)

1 Small bush on right of house. 2 Top window of house. 3 Width of tree trunk at top. 4 Bridge arch on soldier's painting. 5 Left end of mountain range. 6 Paint blobs on palette. 7 Width of paintbox. 8 Left shoulder-strap of haversack. 9 Dog's ear. 10 Right arm of man with horse.

# See-the-Army DIARY

WE apologise to readers who have expressed disappointment at the non-appearance of this popular feature but as we have explained, this is due to staff problems.

We hope that publication, albeit late, will still be in time to enable some readers to make their plans — but please remember events can be altered or cancelled. Check locally.

We also ask organisers to keep us informed of any changes so we can keep the diary as accurate and up-to-date as possible.

## JUNE 1985

4-6 London, Horse Guards, Beating Retreat (all Household Division Bands).  
 6-8 Wadebridge, Royal Cornwall Show (1 LI Band & Bugles: Trail Blazers free fall parachute display).  
 6 Hillington, Beating Retreat (2 R. Anglian with Corps of Drums).  
 9 Brentwood Tattoo (Household Cavalry musical ride).  
 12 Taunton, Light Infantry receives Freedom of the City (Band: 6 LI; Trail Blazers display).  
 15 London, Horse Guards, Queen's Birthday Parade (all Household Division Bands).  
 15 Edinburgh Castle, Joint Service Beating Retreat (1 Black Watch Band & Pipes and Drums).  
 15 Wells, Freedom of the City march (6 LI Band).  
 15 Shrewsbury Carnival (LDSM Band & Bugles).  
 15 Manchester, Freedom of the City exercised by King's Regiment (1 Kings, 5/8 Kings with Corps of Drums).  
 16-18 Devizes, Combined Services Display (Bands: 1 DERR & Corps of Drums, 1 BW and Pipes & Drums, 1 RRF and Corps of Drums, 1 R Irish and Pipes and Drums, REME, WRAC. Displays: Red Caps, R Signals White Helmets, RN, RAF continuity drill, Red Devils).  
 16 Birmingham NEC, Royal International Horse Show (Warwicks Volunteers and RCT bands).  
 19-20 Lincoln County Agricultural Show (King's Troop RHA musical display, Trail Blazers parachutes).  
 21-23 Wembley Pageant (approximately 40 bands taking part).  
 22-23 Rotherham Tattoo (Junior Leader's RA Band, PT Display Team, Royal Signals White Helmets motor cycles).  
 22 Liverpool, Freedom of the City exercised by The King's Regiment (1 Kings, 5/8 Kings and Corps of Drums).  
 25 Tidworth, 1 RGJ Open Day (RGJ Band & Bugles, Trail Blazers display).  
 26-27 Norwich, Norfolk Show (Gurkha and JLRRA bands, White Helmets display).  
 27 Tidworth, massed bands (1 Glosters & Corps of Drums, 16/5 Lancers, 5 Innis DG).  
 28 Richmond, Yorkshire, Freedom Parade (R Signals Band).  
 28 Glasgow, 1/52 Lowland Colours Presentation (1 KOSB and RHF TA bands).  
 29 Swansea, Lord Mayor's Parade (3 RRW).  
 29-6 Edinburgh, Queen's Visit to Scotland (1 Black Watch Band and Pipes & Drums, 1 Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders).  
 Jul

## JULY 1985

1-4 Stoneleigh, Royal Agricultural Show (Queen's Own Hussars Band).  
 3-5 Bassingbourn, Army Exhibition for Schools (Bands of QDG, 1 Royal Anglian, 2 Royal Anglian & Corps of Drums, 1 Staffords & Corps of Drums, Junior School of Music Queen's Division, displays by Trail Blazers and RA motor cycles).  
 4-5 Shrewsbury, Public Sounding of Retreat (LDSM Band and Bugles, LI Salamanca Band, Trail Blazers display).  
 4 Edinburgh, 2/52 Lowland Colours Presentation (Band of 1 Royal Scots).  
 7 Doncaster, Pageant of the Horse (Household Cavalry activity ride).  
 7 Hull, International Air Show (Massed Bands Kings Division, 1 Kings Own Border, 1 PWO & Corps of Drums, 1 Green Howards, 1 Royal Irish, 1 QLR, Kings Div Depot Junior Band. Displays by Trail Blazers and R Signals White Helmets).  
 9-11 Harrogate, Great Yorkshire Show (Massed bands of the Kings Division).  
 10 Larkhill, Artillery Day (RA, WRAC Staff, JLR RA & 1 Para bands).  
 10-27 London, Earl's Court, Royal Tournament. (Bands of Grenadier Guards, 4/7 Royal Dragoon Guards, 5 Royal Inniskilling DG, Queen's Own Hussars, Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, Massed Bands and Bugles of the Light Division, bands of the Royal Anglian Regiment, the King's Regiment and the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment. Displays by the Household Cavalry and King's Troop, RHA).

12 Preston, Beating Retreat (1 Kings Own Border, 1 Kings & Corps of Drums, 1 Green Howards & Corps of Drums, 1 R Irish, 1 QLR bands).  
 12-14 Fairford, International Air Tattoo (POW Division).  
 16-18 Peterborough, East of England Show (1 Staffords Band & Corps of Drums. Trail Blazers display).  
 19 Dartford Show (Queen's Division).  
 22-25 Builth Wells, Royal Welsh Agricultural Show (1 RWF Band & Corps of Drums, QDG Band. Display by White Helmets).  
 25-27 St Helens Show (1 Kings & Corps of Drums, 2 RR & Corps of Drums; Displays by White Helmets, Red Devils and 1 Kings).  
 26-27 Dover Tattoo (Bands: 2/2 GR, RM, 1 DERR, RCT Corps of Drums. Display by Trail Blazers).  
 28 Stroud, Beating Retreat (1 Glosters and Corps of Drums).  
 31 Ilfracombe Tattoo (Glosters and Corps of Drums).

## AUGUST 1985

1-10 Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo (Bands: WG, RM, WRAC, RA, RAF, QDG, 2GR, 1 Kings, 1 Para, 1 RWF, 5 Innis DG, German Mountain Division. Displays: RN, RM, RA motor cycles, Household Cavalry, Queens Colour Div, ACF, CCF, SSAFA, R MON RE, 3 RRW, 157 Tp Regt).  
 3-4 Southport Tattoo (Bands: Irish Guards, 14/20 Hussars, JLR RA. Displays: White Helmets, JLR RA Gymnasts, Red Devils, 1 Kings, RAF Police Dogs, Junior Signals Regt).  
 9-31 Edinburgh Military Tattoo (Bands: Scots DG, 1 BW, 1 A & SH, 1 KOSB, 1 SG, RAF Central Band, Royal Hong Kong Police Band. Pipes and Drums: Scots DG, BW, A & SH, SG. Displays: RN, UOTC dancing team, Queen's Guard Rutgers — US drill display teams — ACF Guard).  
 16-17 Shrewsbury Flower Show (Bands: LDSM, Bugles LI Corunna Band, RGJ Normandy Band. Display: Trail Blazers).  
 28 Edinburgh, installation of the Governor of Edinburgh Castle (Bands: Scots DG, and Pipes & Drums, 1 BW, and Pipes & Drums).  
 30 Guildford Show (Band: Queen's Division).

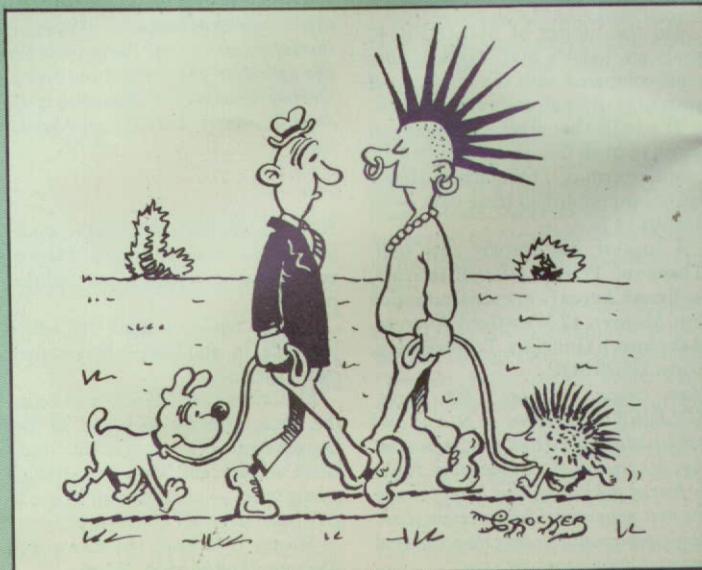
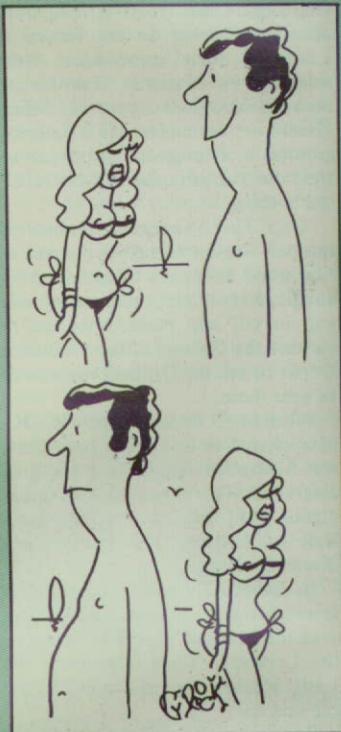
## SEPTEMBER 1985

5 Portsmouth Tattoo (Band: 1 Glosters and Corps of Drums).  
 6 Boston/Grantham, exercising Civic Freedoms (2 Royal Anglian with Band and Corps of Drums).  
 7-9 Lincoln/Grimsby/Cleethorpes/Scunthorpe, exercising Civic Freedoms (2 R Anglian with Band and Corps of Drums).  
 14 Luton Pageant (Bands: 1 RWF & Corps of Drums).  
 14 Romsey Horse Show, Hants (Bands: 2 R Anglian & Corps of Drums, 14/20 Hussars, 16/5 Lancers, 5 Innis DG. Display: Household Cavalry).

## NOVEMBER 1985

9 Royal Albert Hall Festival of Remembrance (Bands of Grenadier, Coldstream and Irish Guards).  
 10 Cenotaph, Remembrance Sunday (4 Household Division Bands).

★ ★ ★



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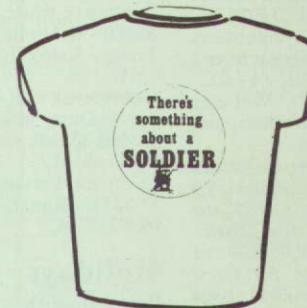
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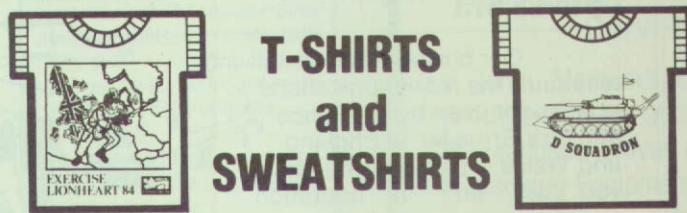
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# Injured in the Falklands, Peter Gray is now...

# HELPING OTHERS

AN Argentine bullet shattered the watch, wrist and Army career of Colour Sergeant Peter Gray in one agonising moment on Mount Longdon during the Falklands campaign.

Now, three years later, Peter Gray is building a new career as an occupational therapist at the College of Ripon and York St John, just outside the ancient walls of York.

At the time of the assault on Mount Longdon he was a member of 6 Platoon in 3 Para's B Company.

"We actually made it to the top of the ridge," he said, "but the other two platoons, four and five, couldn't get up to us. It was during this part of the action that Sergeant Ian McKay got his VC.

"When we first arrived there was no enemy resistance at all. We thought they had left as they had done every other time. It was only when we had been up there a few minutes that they opened fire and we were rather exposed so we took a lot of casualties in a very short time."

Peter Gray was hit in the left wrist. The Army watch he was wearing was embedded and a piece flew off producing a minor wound in his stomach. His left arm is now an inch shorter than it was. He lost rotation in the arm and flexion of the wrist.

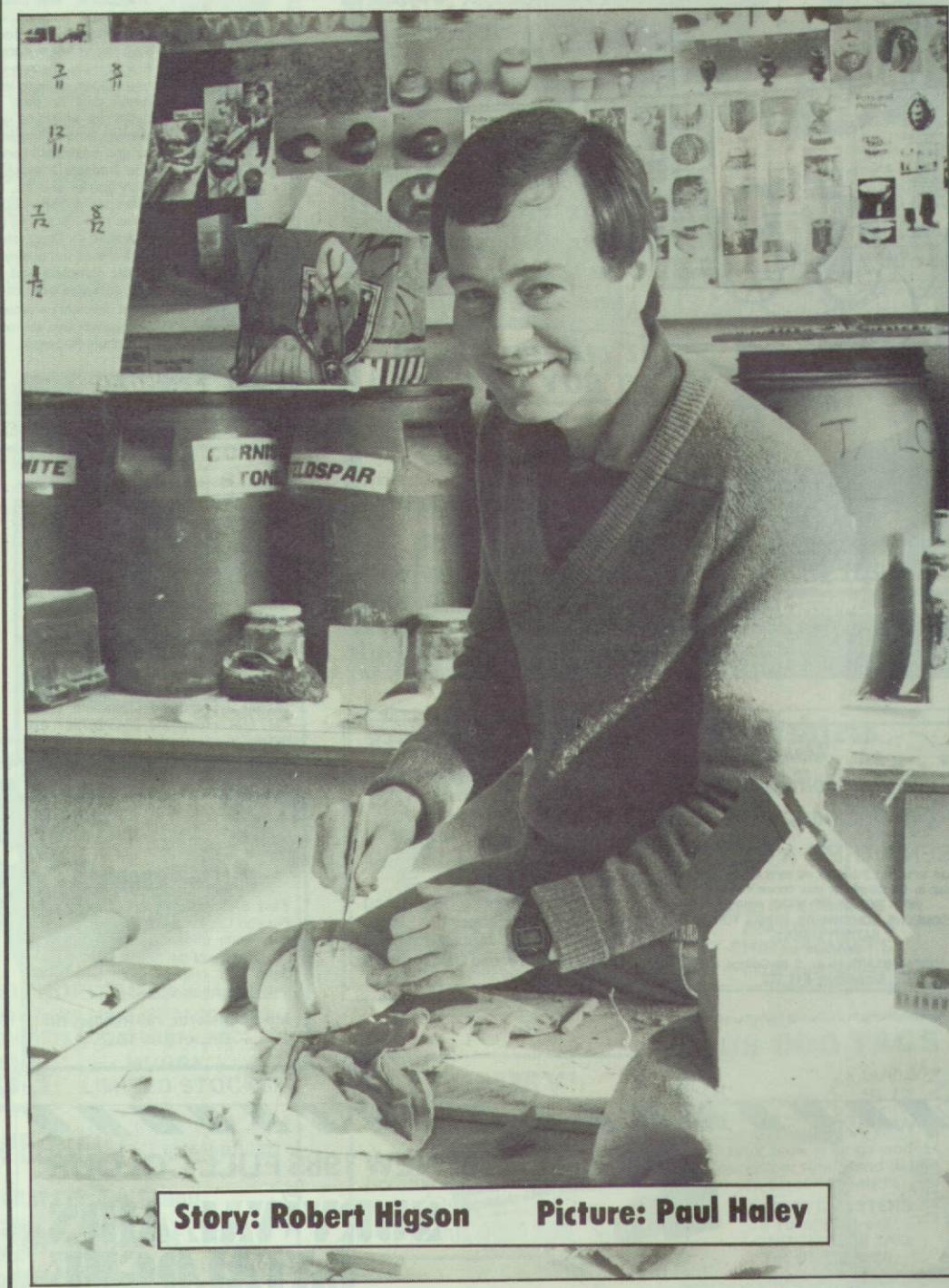
Initially he had hoped to stay in the Army, but he wasn't too keen on the jobs he was offered.

"If I stayed within the regiment I was told I would have jobs as sergeants' mess caterer, officers' mess caterer, things like that. The only thing I was offered outside the regiment was to train as a linguist in the Intelligence Corps, but I've got no linguistic ability anyway."

So at the age of 30 Peter Gray said goodbye to the only life he had known since he left school at the age of 18.

"I wanted another career," he said. "I tried selling cars, I tried a job as an unqualified social worker, but there was no career structure, and at 30 I felt it was too early just to fit into a job for 35 years.

"Actually I managed to sell a car to the head of the occupational therapy department at this college and she said I could become an occupational therapist. I said I couldn't because I'd got a bad hand. But she said it wouldn't stop



Story: Robert Higson

Picture: Paul Haley

me and invited me to come along for a look around. There was rather a stiff interview and in the end I got through."

The three year course involves arts and crafts, which Peter confessed he found a bit difficult, and the ability to assess the needs of patients.

"The job itself entails helping people who are disabled either physically or psychologically," he said, "and now I've got a great affinity with that because I've been

through the problems myself.

"A lot of it is assessment of people's own personal problems and then moulding whatever work they need to bring them back to full potential. It's very similar in many ways to a combat assessment that a soldier does — taking in the facts, looking at the options and working out a solution. It's one of the things I'm better at here, rather than the pottery."

Future job prospects look good, which was another important

Peter at his art class

consideration. Peter said that there was currently a 30 per cent shortfall for qualified occupational therapists and new jobs were being created all the time.

But he still missed the Army.

"I live in Strensall so I still take my dog for a walk around the training area," he said. "But I'm happier out of the Army than having a second rate career which is what was offered me as an alternative."

### TA Entry a Record

A RECORD number of starters in this year's TA Orienteering Event heralded the most exciting competition in recent years. The championship is a two day event with an individual race on the Saturday and a relay race on the Sunday, with the total time of the two days deciding the winning team.

Captain John Dowty of 202 Battery RA dominated in the individual race on Leith Hill in Surrey, winning by over 12 minutes from Sgt John Walsh with WO11 John Mursell of 135 Field Survey Squadron third.

In the TA male team event, the top six were separated by under half an hour at the end of the first day. Old rivals 135 Field Survey Squadron and A Company 4 King's Own Border were less than two minutes apart at the top with 135 just in front. Close behind 6/7 Queens, 48 Sig Sqn, HQ Coy 1 Wessex and D Coy 4 Para were all in with a chance.

In the ladies competition the Brighton Detachment of 217 General Hospital upstaged their team win of 1984 by taking both the team and relay race trophies back to the South Coast. 83 Squadron of 31 Signal Regiment were runners up and it was another 31 Regiment runner, Sergeant Jan Billin of 41 Squadron, who came through to win the individual race.

## SOCER

### 13th Not Unlucky in BAOR

THE TA Association Football Representative Team have just completed their 13th annual tour of BAOR without undue misfortune — except an injury which put team captain, Corporal Peter Mess, 1st Battalion, Yorkshire Volunteers, in hospital with damaged ligaments and cartilage.

With convincing victories against the BAOR representative teams of the RCT and the Royal Signals, the TA visitors had a tough encounter in the last match of the tour against a team drawn from BAOR as a whole. After conceding an early goal, the TA XI pulled itself together and eventually equalised to draw the match 1-1.

It has now been four years since the TA lost a match on this tour and it was the BAOR side which beat them by the odd goal on that occasion.

# QUEEN'S ARE HOCKEY CHAMPS



OVERALL winners of the Infantry Hockey Challenge Cup 1985 are The Queen's Division (the UK winners) who beat the 1st Battalion, Green Howards (the BAOR winners) 2-1 at Royston.

Green Howards became the BAOR Champions after a tough match against 3 Royal Anglians.

Despite some heavy pressure from the Anglians their probing attacks resulted in only one goal at half time. Private Tony Gibson said: "I couldn't believe the pace — after three weeks leave this was a real shock."

After the restart the Green Howards forced the play to a higher

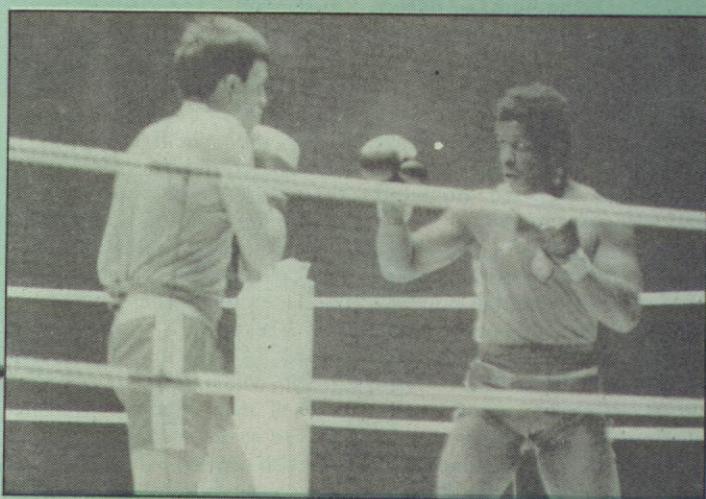
level; they began to dominate and the Anglian defence became vulnerable.

Colour Sergeant 'Charlie' Helm seized the opportunity to score after a short corner, and 10 minutes later scored another blinding goal again from a corner.

The Royal Anglians tried hard

Victorious Green Howards after their BAOR victory — but not so happy later!

but the Green Howards defence remained stalwart. Goalkeeper Private Pete Richards made some gymnastic saves and when the final whistle went all he could say was "I'm gobsmacked".



### A BLOW FOR CHARITY

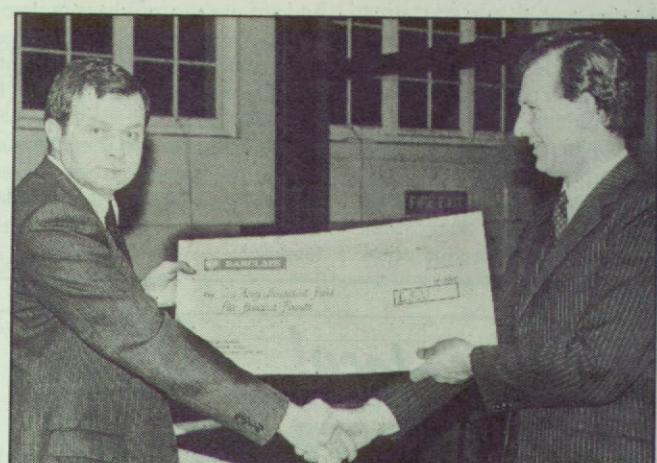
FUSILIER M A Baker of the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, (right) on his way to a unanimous points victory in the heavyweight bout of the Army Novice Grade 3 Boxing Final at Catterick. The bout against Craftsman Collins of 19 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, was one of the most exciting of the evening. The result helped 2 RRF to an overall win 6-3.

### 10 Para Tell It to the Marines

FOLLOWING their victory against the Honourable Artillery Company, the 10th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment Rugby Union team finished their season on a high note by beating the US Marines 17-3.

The Marines, although generally larger physically than the Paras, did not have the same driving force and from the start they were under pressure.

A penalty goal by Private 'Horrible' Holden put 10 Para ahead in the first few minutes of the game — this however was soon matched by the Marines with a penalty goal scored by Private First Class Mike Mead.



At a recent Charity boxing match, sponsored by The Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion, Shorncliffe, Folkestone, the sum of £500 was raised for the Army Benevolent Fund.

The picture shows the boxing officer, Captain V F McLean, Irish Guards (left) handing over the cheque to the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel D A B Williams, Royal Green Jackets.

10 Para then set about pushing up their score with a try by Corporal Micky Plom, converted by Sergeant Geoff Wood. The second half of the game saw two more tries for the Battalion from

Lance Corporal Alan Hardie and Private Bruce Horbury. From a spectators' point of view it was a very exciting match and both teams look forward to a return fixture next season.

# FLYING SCOTS



THOSE flying Scots — better known around 1 Armoured Division Signal Regiment as QSMI Bob Duncan, APTC, and his wife Celia — finished the London Marathon course with the boast of being the most successful Service husband and wife combination.

These marathon 'maniacs' had spent the last six months concentrating on the essential build-up training to the event, putting in an average of 60-80 miles a week throughout the winter. Their efforts obviously paid off and by the time the couple arrived at the mass start of 16,000 competitors they were in tip top condition.

In perfect, sunny but cool conditions, Celia, the star runner of the two, was able to start up at the front rubbing shoulders with the elite female competitors who had previously completed a marathon in under three hours 10 minutes. After a fast start in which she completed the first five kilometres in 17½ minutes and half distance in one hour 20 minutes, Celia remained well in contention.

As she said, "The pace was rather faster than I had planned with Bob, but I felt strong enough to maintain it through to the finish." By keeping up a steady six mins 15 secs for every one of the 26.2 miles, Celia finished in an excellent time of two hours 42 mins 55 secs, improving her personal best time by some three-and-a-half minutes. This placed her 15th overall and 10th British finisher in the elite ladies section — a magnificent effort.

Bob, who was more out to enjoy himself than compete seriously, arrived at the start in traditional Scottish dress — a kilt complete with sporran filled with sustenance, and jacket.

Unperturbed by his somewhat uncomfortable dress he completed the course in three hours 29 mins. As he said after finishing the event: "I am so proud of Celia's result. It has only been achieved by her determination to succeed. Our aim now is to prepare Celia for an attempt at getting into the Scottish team for the 1986 Commonwealth Games."

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## Over the seas to St Kilda

LANCE Bombardier Wayne Drewery, who works at the Royal Artillery Range on the Hebrides, has a date with a potentially stormy patch of ocean later this month.

He is intending to windsurf 55 nautical miles from Benbecula in the Outer Hebrides to the tiny island of St Kilda to raise money for two medical charities — the Highland Scanner Appeal and the Erskine Hospital, near Glasgow.

Having worked as an advanced Rapier operator with 42 Battery, 22 Air Defence Regiment, RA, in Dortmund, Lance Bombardier Drewery was posted to the MT section at the RA Range, Hebrides, in October 1983 where he is now the staff car driver to the CO, Lieutenant Colonel RJMC Webb.

He was introduced to windsurfing at a Royal Yachting Association course at the Mohnesee Sailing Club in Germany in 1982, and his interest grew to such an extent that he became a member of the regimental team.

In Benbecula he purchased his own windsurfing equipment and has taken full advantage of the opportunities to practice the sport.

The idea of an attempted crossing for charity came to him while on the island of St Kilda where soldiers from the RA Range go for four to six weeks at a time.

Sponsorship forms are being circulated locally and on the surrounding islands. Latest reports are that the response has been encouraging.



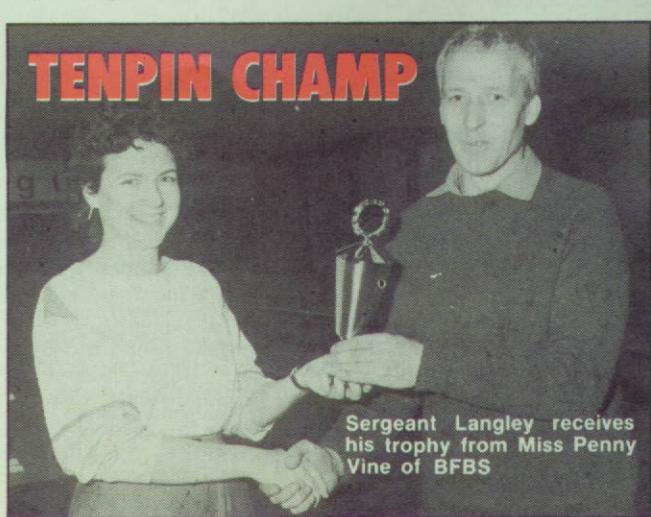
SERGEANT Mick Langley, 21 Signal Regiment, notched up a new Army record of 1,021 pins when he won the men's singles at the BFG Tenpin Bowling Championships, in Brachwede, West Germany.

On his way to victory Sergeant Langley achieved the highest game score in the competition with 256 pins out of a maximum of 300.

The Army also provided the winners in the men's doubles, Captain Ron Aquilina, 3 RTR, and Corporal Pete Smith, 1 RTR, and in the women's singles, Corporal Sue Horton, 3 Postal & Courier Regiment, with Corporal Val Bellamy, of the same unit, runners up.

But in the BFG Master Championship the RAF collected principal honours when Chief Technician Leon Goodal, RAF Gutersloh, finished 44 pins in front of Corporal L Duncan, 14 Signal Regiment.

## TENPIN CHAMP



Sergeant Langley receives his trophy from Miss Penny Vine of BFBS



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