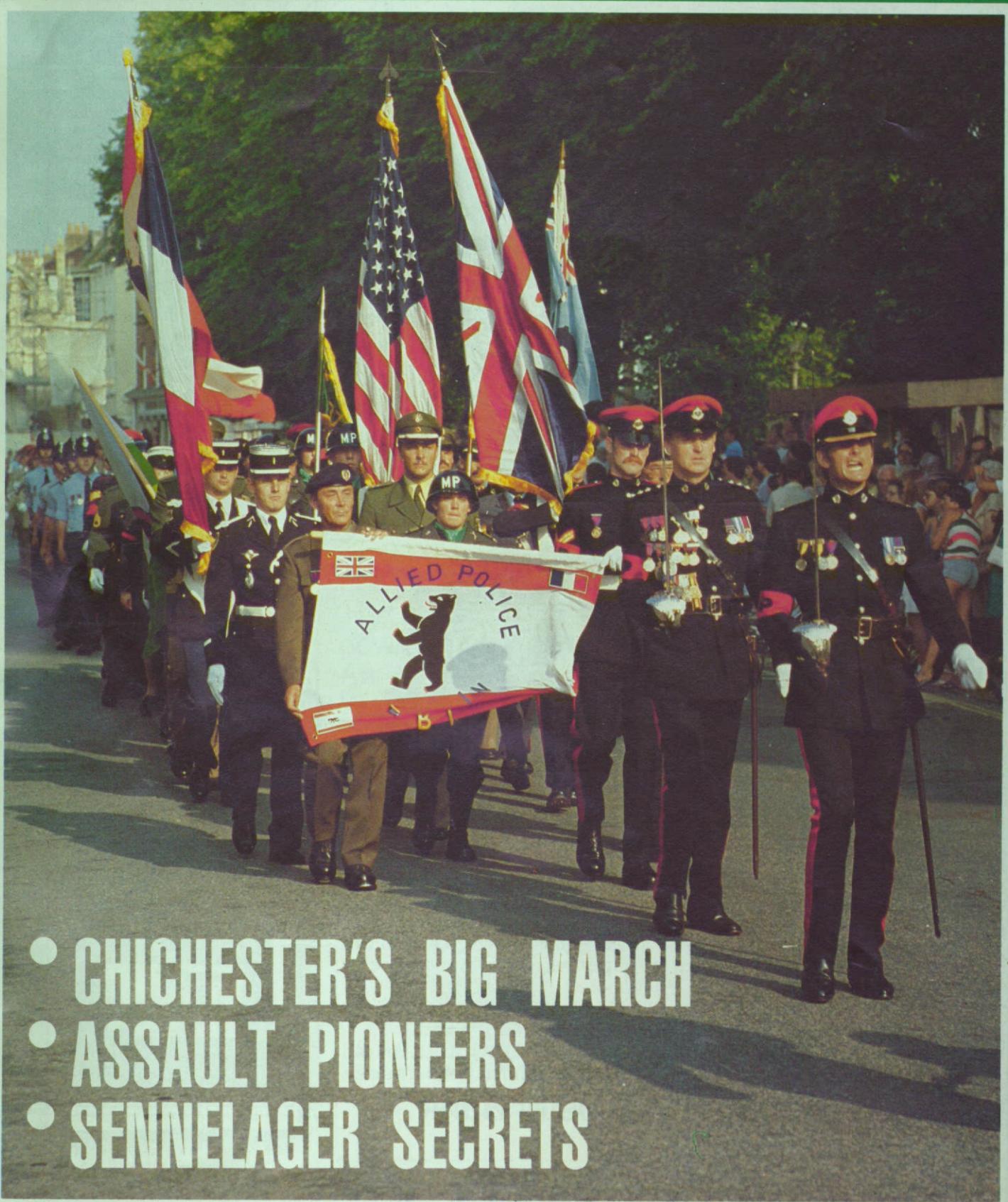
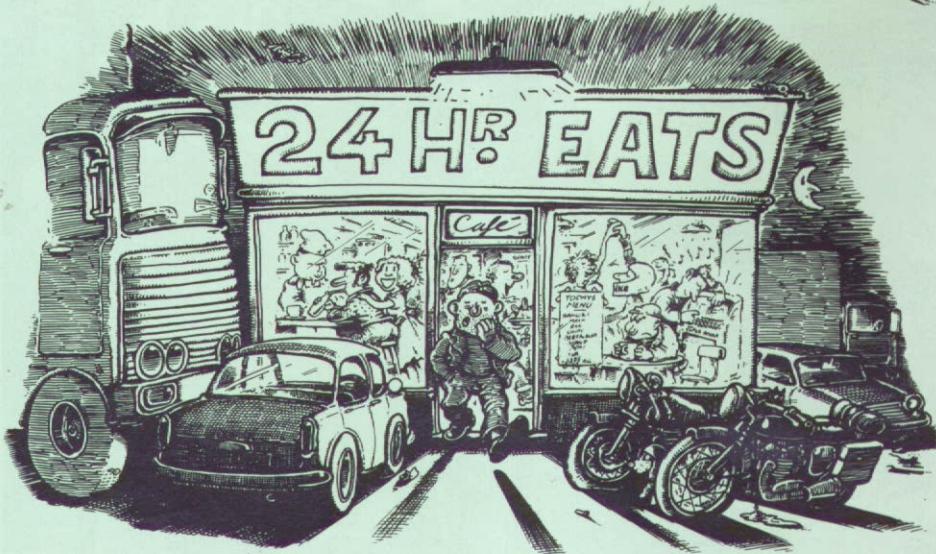
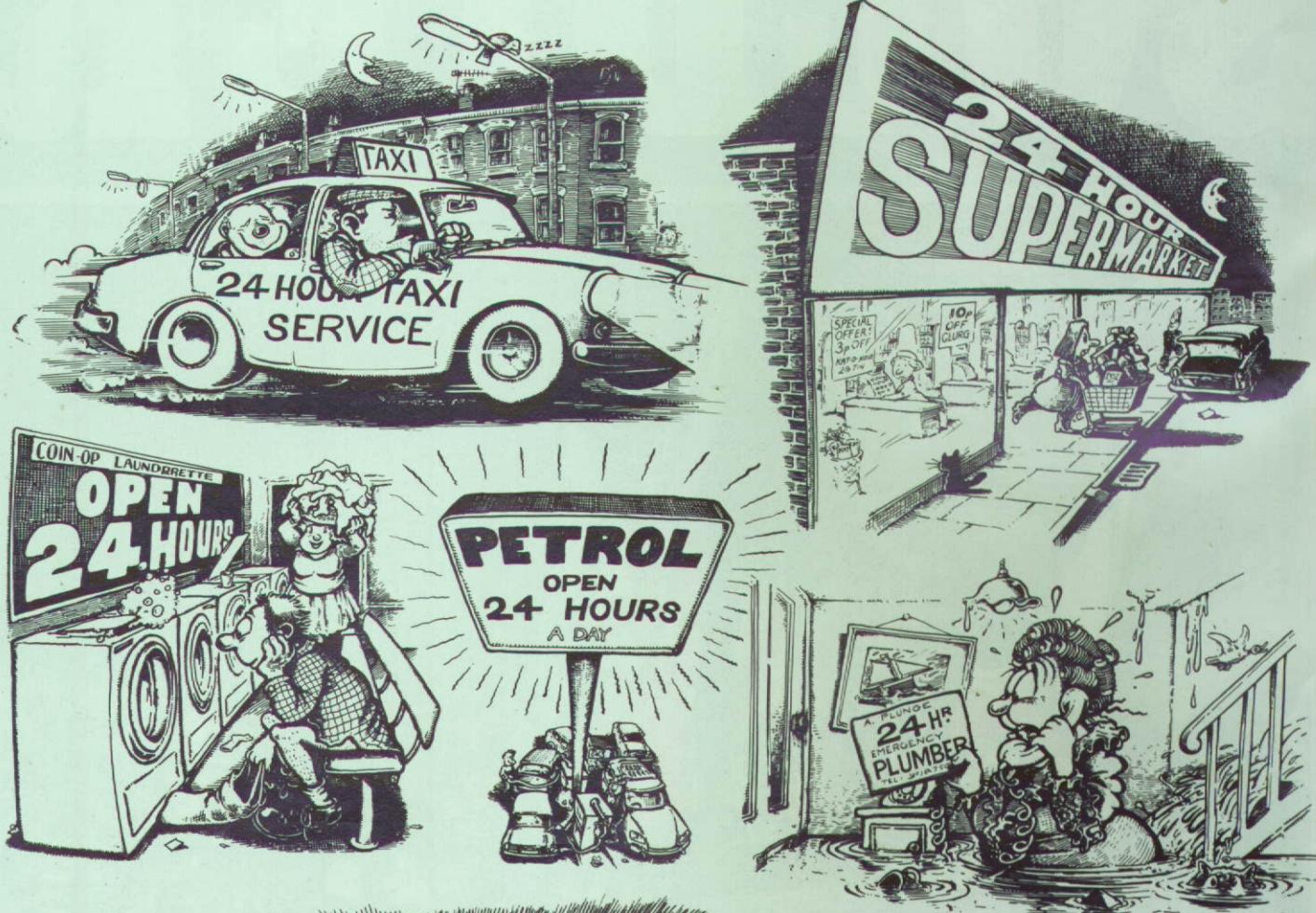


THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 25 PENCE • 23 AUG-5 SEP 1982

SOLDIER



- CHICHESTER'S BIG MARCH
- ASSAULT PIONEERS
- SENNELAGER SECRETS



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CONTENTS

- 5 News Lines
- 8 News View
- 10 Break for bomb horses
- 11 Sniffing out the mines
- 12 More happy returns
- 14 Assault pioneers in training
- 17 IDB marches out
- 19 Profile: Gen Sir John Hackett
- 21 Chichester International March
- 22 All in the family
- 26 Ups and downs at Silberhütte
- 29 How Observant Are You?
- 30 Wildlife at Sennelager
- 34 Your cap badge
- 34 Humour
- 35 The art of battle
- 36 Book reviews
- 37 Prize competition
- 38 Mail Drop
- 41 Rebuilding America's pride
- 47 Sport

FRONT COVER

A contingent of Allied Police from Berlin parade during the sixth annual Royal Military Police and City of Chichester International March. More pictures and details of the march are on page 21.

Picture by Les Wiggs

BACK COVER

Captain Mike Pugh, of 2RTR at Bovington, is one of the rapidly growing army of microlight aircraft enthusiasts. The microlight is really a powered hang glider and has enjoyed a big vogue in the United States in recent years. Mike is also a member of the British bobsleigh squad and you can read about their training for the next Olympics in the next issue of SOLDIER.

Picture by Doug Pratt

Editor:

Bob Hooper (Ext 2585)

News Editor

Gordon Williams (Ext 2593)

Assistant Editors

John Walton (Ext 2591)

Graham Smith (Ext 2590)

Sally Daniell (Ext 2588)

Art Editor

John Rushworth (Ext 2589)

Picture Editor

Leslie Wiggs (Ext 2584)

Photographers (Ext 2584)

Doug Pratt

Paul Haley

Andy Burridge

Advertising/Circulation

Mrs C Wilkinson (Ext 2587)

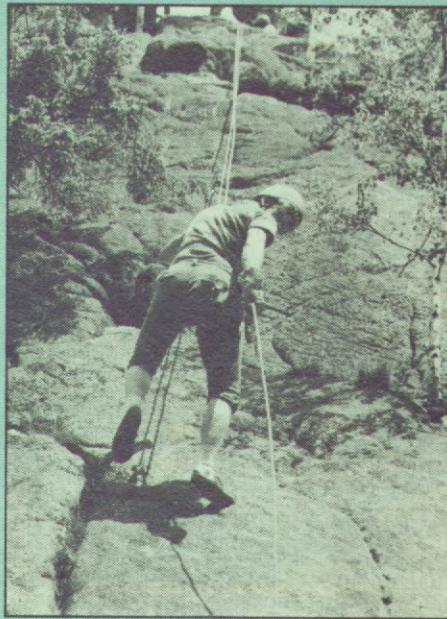
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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY



The highs and lows of adventure in the Harz mountains — page 26

The curtain comes down on a unique Army experiment at Warminster — page 17

After the Hyde Park bomb outrage, Sefton and his friends go away for a rest

— page 10



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SOLDIER to Soldier

NOTHING WE HAVE seen in recent weeks has been more heartwarming than the rapturous scenes of welcome that have greeted our Task Force troops on their return from winning back the Falklands. At airfields and docksides the banners, the cheers, the hugs and kisses have made it a summer of celebration.

None but the most cynical would grudge the victors their laurels. Each wave of returning troops has brought with it fresh tales of valour. And there has been an opportunity, too, to salute some of the unsung heroes of the campaign — men such as the medics who, despite suffering grievous casualties themselves, brought care and compassion to the heart of battle.

Nowhere was the public's regard for our fighting men shown more clearly than in the little town of Fleet where thousands turned out to cheer the Gurkhas as they marched back to their barracks. The men from the mountains may have been thousands of miles away from their own families. But their welcome could not have been warmer had it been staged in Nepal.

Now, just four months after they sailed off to war in the South Atlantic, the Land Forces are back on British soil. Their return closes a remarkable chapter in British history — a chapter written with the blood of brave men. But for our forces it is by no means the end of the story. Repairing the ravages of battle and guaranteeing the Falkland Islanders their future security is a task that will occupy them for a long time to come.

Meanwhile, back home, the detailed analysis of the conflict — and its lessons — continues. But already there has been a preliminary, and encouraging, appraisal of the equipment that the Task Force took to war. A lot of data still has to be gathered and assessed, but most of the weapons and platforms appear to have performed well.

As the interim report acknowledges though, "our success was largely due to the skill, professionalism and courage of HM Forces and the civilians who supported them."

Judging by the ecstatic welcome given to our returning heroes it is an assessment with which the British people wholeheartedly agree.



Of course Britain is not really home for the Gurkhas but they were just as happy as everyone else to get back from the Falklands to their 'home' Church Crookham, Hants. They arrived aboard the hospital ship *Uganda* — see page 12.

FALKLANDS KIT MOSTLY OK — MOD

THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE's first cautious assessment of equipment used in the Falklands campaign is broadly favourable although the report stresses that it is only an interim assessment with much detailed evidence remaining to be collected and evaluated.

But the success of the operation was largely due to the skill, professionalism and courage of the Forces and the civilians who supported them, it says.

Equipment singled out for special praise includes the Harrier aircraft, the Scorpion and Scimitar armoured vehicles and the command, control and communications equipment.

Overall the campaign utilised equipment which was designed

primarily for Nato operations, the report points out. It concludes that "most of the weapons and platforms performed very well indeed and in many cases exceeded expectations."

Commenting on the report Mr Geoffrey Pattie, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Procurement, said there were only a few relatively minor exceptions to the broad conclusion.

"It would be very unusual to pretend that every single item performed absolutely perfectly on every single occasion, he said. "But we are generally very satisfied with the performance and reliability of our equipment."

While pointing out that further assessments will be necessary, the report attributes the shooting down of eight Argentine aircraft to Blowpipe and thirteen to Rapier out of the total of 109 destroyed from all causes. The Harriers' Sidewinder missiles are credited with the biggest score at 27 with five for Sea Wolf, eight for Sea Dart and six for Sea Cat.

On some days Argentine losses were as many as two-thirds of the aircraft despatched.

Praising the cross-country mobility and high reliability of the Scorpions and Scimitars the report says they covered an average of 350 miles each.

Artillery support had an especially important role to play in the success of the land operations and some of the 105 mm Light Guns fired at a rate of 500 rounds in 24 hours with no degradation in general performance.

Golfers saved driver

TWO BRITISH soldiers playing golf in North Germany watched in horror as a goods train ploughed into a car on a nearby level crossing — then they dropped their clubs and ran 200 yards to pull the woman car driver from the blazing wreckage.

The 47-year-old woman apparently did not see the train as she approached the ungated crossing and although the train driver braked he could not avoid smashing into the car which was thrown to one side. It overturned and burst into flames.

Corporals Bob Maskell and Steve Buxton, both of 1 Armoured Division HQ and Signals Regiment at Verden, were on the fifth tee of Fallingbostel golf course when they heard the train's hooter.

According to German police they reacted "like lightning" and managed to pull the woman clear before the flames completely engulfed it. The woman was taken to hospital with serious internal injuries.

New Mail call

THE RAF has developed a technique for snatching mail bags from the ground and hauling them into flying aircraft. Research started during the Falklands campaign because there was no method of rapidly recovering mail or priority freight from the fighting forces.

But within six weeks of being given the task of developing a snatch method, the Joint Air Transport Establishment based at RAF Brize Norton came up with a system which has been proved and now aircrews are being trained to use it.

The grab is made by a Hercules aircraft trailing a grappling hook on 150 feet of nylon rope. The aircraft flies low, between 50 and 60 feet, over two poles snatches a loop of nylon rope attached to the mail bag on a tail of rope.

The aircraft then climbs away lifting the bag cleanly off the ground. Meanwhile the rope, grappling hook, loop and mail bag are winched into the aircraft over the open rear ramp.

After briefing and limited training the technique may be carried out by any transport support qualified crew.

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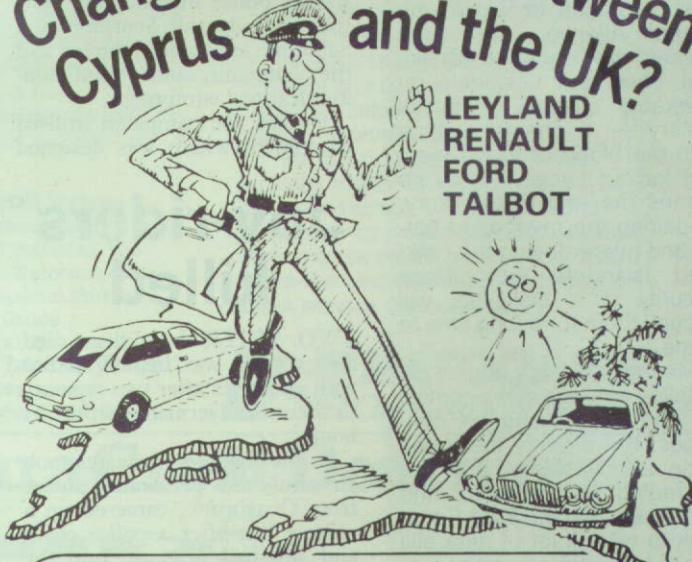
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Farewell tribute from CGS: "Army looks and feels good"

"YOU NEED FEAR comparison with no one" — that was the glowing tribute paid to the Army by General Sir Edwin Bramall on his last day as Chief of the General Staff and prior to taking up his new post as Chief of the Defence Staff in the rank of Field Marshal.

"In all honesty as an old soldier I would have to admit that this generation is probably fitter, more professional and just as courageous as previous ones", said Sir Edwin.

"The British Army, in which you all play such an invaluable part, is in particularly good shape. It looks and feels good in public and in private, is decently paid, well up to strength, increasingly well equipped and has proved its competence in a wide variety of tasks.

"Above all it has recently had under its belt the best possible basis for high morale — operational success — at the Iranian Embassy, in Zimbabwe, and, most recently of all, in the Falkland Islands where our soldiers, together with their gallant comrades in the other two services, demonstrated all the qualities of stamina, courage and professionalism for which we have trained and strived over the years. And they did this against a far from stupid or inept enemy.

"Everyone did so well: the Infantry, the Gunners, the ubiquitous Sappers, the communicators, the heroic helicopter pilots, the light tanks, the doctors, the padres and the logisticians — simply everyone pulled their weight and I believe that history will look back with admiration on their achievement".

"It happened to be those fine regiments and units which were deployed under the circumstances and all honour to them. But it might just as well have been any of you and I would have had just as much confidence that others amongst you would equally have done your duty impeccably."

GFA trial for Cyprus

THE GOVERNMENT Freight Agency (GFA) removal system currently available to Service families moving between the UK and North West Europe, is being extended to include Cyprus for a trial six month period from 1 September.

Details will be issued with posting instructions and applications to GFA will continue to be made in the usual way.

ably, because you, like them, would have had the value of challenging adventurous training; you, like them, would have been fit and competent with your weapons; and you, like them, would have had the vital motivation of your Regimental and Corps spirit that comes from being proud members of a closely knit family and team.

"As soldiers of the British Army, you need fear comparison



with no-one. As a French army friend wrote to me: 'Your men are the same splendid "Tommy" as those that fought at Ypres, in North Africa, Alamein and Normandy . . .'. It was a nice compliment which could hardly be improved upon."

It's the sail of the century!

THE POSTIES have, aptly, called it — the Sail of the Century. A 55-foot-long, £200,000 Nicholson yacht is currently under way to the azure Mediterranean and Alexandria to mark the Army Postal Services' centenary celebrations.

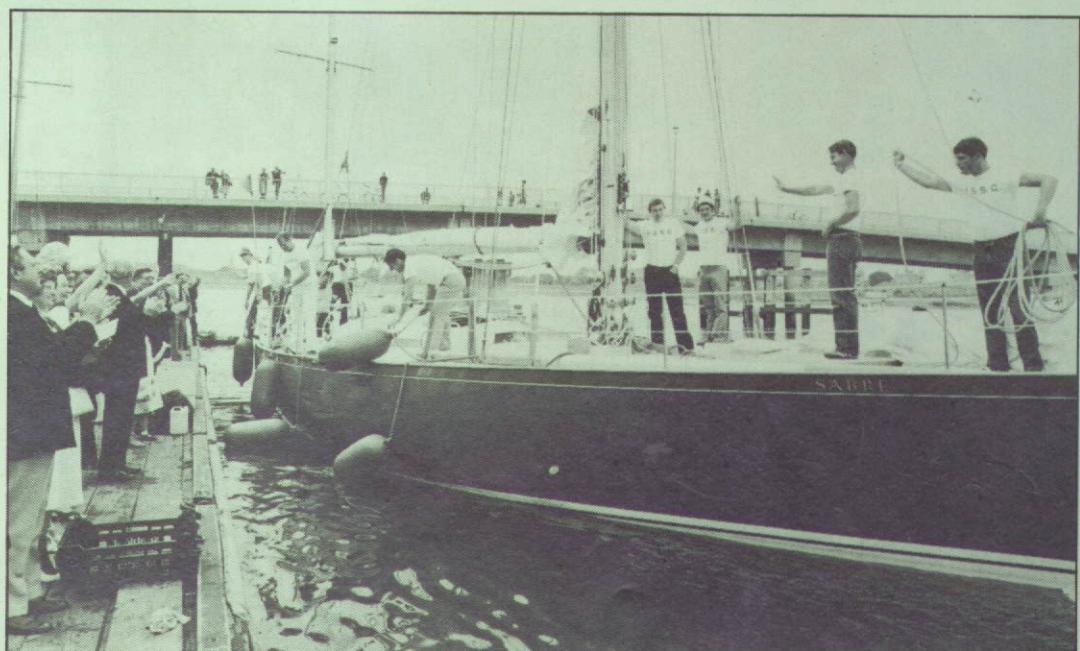
The sea odyssey aboard the HMS TY Sabre is in four stages, covers a total 3500 nautical miles and will last eight weeks. Two girls will be among the four 12-strong crews who will be calling in via Gibraltar, Cagliari in Sardinia, Cyprus and Egypt.

Sabre will be re-tracing the journey of almost exactly 100 years ago to the day when 100 officers and men of the new Postal Corps embarked on the

SS British Prince at Portsmouth bound for Alexandria and the British Expeditionary Force.

With the exception of one crew — made up of Army surveyors from Barton Stacey — the rest comprise personnel from the Postal and Courier Services and they will be ferrying 10,000 First Day covers (each depicting a leg of the journey) to their Egyptian destination.

The idea of the venture came



Sabre's first crew casts off for the Gibraltar leg.

Tasty treat

THE MAIN action at Fitzroy in the Falklands was over. And Sgt 'Todd' Doran, 37, a medical assistant was, he now admits, "rather bored".

'Todd', who had sailed south aboard the QE2, was reading a copy of a national newspaper and decided to enter a competition — a cruise aboard the QE2! But, like the good sailor he now was, he changed course. The paper had arrived late and the closing date had passed but 'Todd' wanted to meet the crew again.

He wrote to the newspaper and expected to hear no more. But out of the blue came a consolation prize — a slap-up lunch on the QE2 and the chance to meet up with some of the QE2 crew again in Southampton.

And the invitation was not just extended to 'Todd' who is serving with 16 Field Ambulance, RAMC, at Aldershot but to his wife, Jane and their three children, Stacey, 15, Luke, 14 and Emma, 9.

"I didn't think I'd hear any more about it", said an astonished 'Todd'. "My wife received a letter from the editor with the offer. She was astounded and really speechless. I think the kids were even more surprised and it is going to be a real thrill for them."

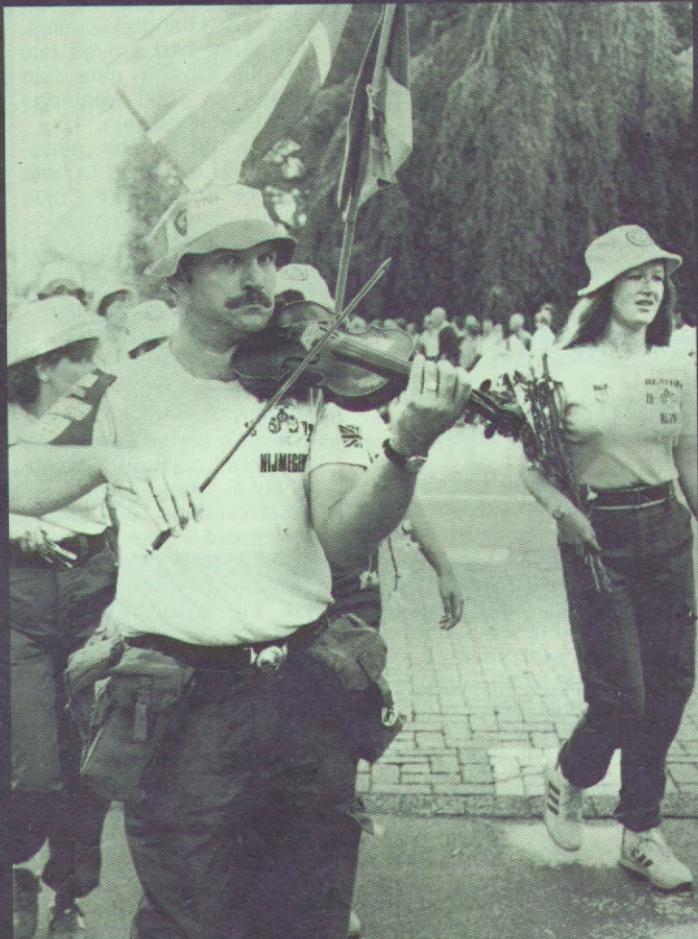
from Warrant Officers Fred Simpson and Dick Inkpen and the bulk of the planning was done by Major Ian Winfield who is currently in the Falklands.

NEWS VIEW



Scots hello

Mr Jerry Wiggin, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, chats to members of 1st Bn The Royal Scots at Ballykinler during a two-day visit to Northern Ireland. His trip also took in a visit to Bessbrook in South Armagh to meet the 2nd Bn The Light Infantry.



On trial

Currently undergoing Ministry of Defence trials is MANSAT, a man portable satellite communications terminal based on design work by the Royal Signals and Radar Establishment and developed by Ferranti. It can be deployed and operating in two minutes.

Meet my Dad

Prince Abdullah, son of Jordan's King Hussein, introduced his father to troopers of the 13th/18th Royal Hussars at the regiment's 'at home' parade in Essex. The 20 year-old Prince has been commanding 5 Troop of 'A' Squadron since April 1981.



Fund run

"I've always wanted to put my running ability to a good cause for the Army," said Cpl David Nicholson, 2 R Irish, after completing a 12-hour sponsored run in Berlin for the South Atlantic Fund. Sustained by Jaffa cakes and encouraged by a regimental piper, David completed over 70 miles and expects to raise more than DM4000 (about £930).

Fiddling it

Not being accepted for one of the TA's 'official' places in the 66th International Nijmegen Marches didn't deter 208 General Hospital from collecting their share of the medals and blisters. The part-time medics from Liverpool and Ellesmere Port paid their own way to Holland where Capt Peter Karran gave them a musical lead on his violin.

Opening time

Mrs Pat Bate, widow of the late Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General A C Bate, opens the Army Apprentice College's new Community Centre at Harrogate named in his memory. Scouts, Cubs and Brownies provided a guard of honour.





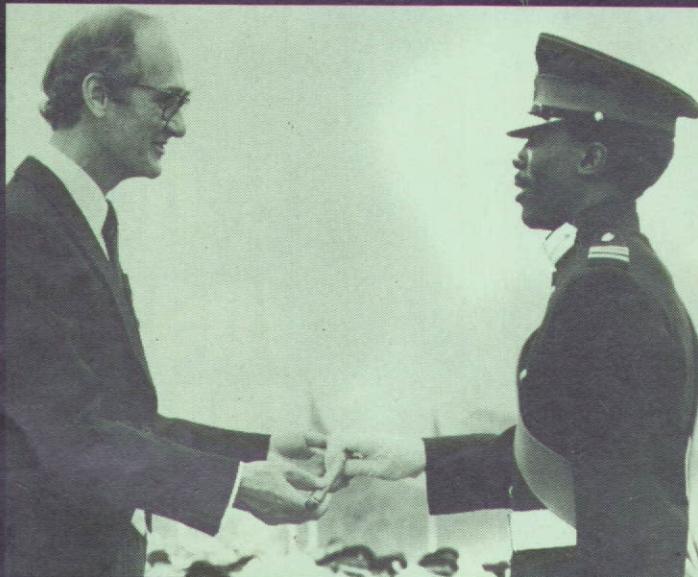
Track chefs

Apprentice chefs from Aldershot trying their hands at some railway work on the Western Somerset Railway — a preserved railway run by enthusiasts. As well as lifting 100 metres of track, they also repainted the attractive Victorian station at Minehead.



Foxed ▶

Members of Y Squadron, Queen's Own Yeomanry, might well wonder what is happening to their Fox armoured car as it disappears under a mantle of scrambling kids at the York Garrison Fete which raised £2600 for Service charities.

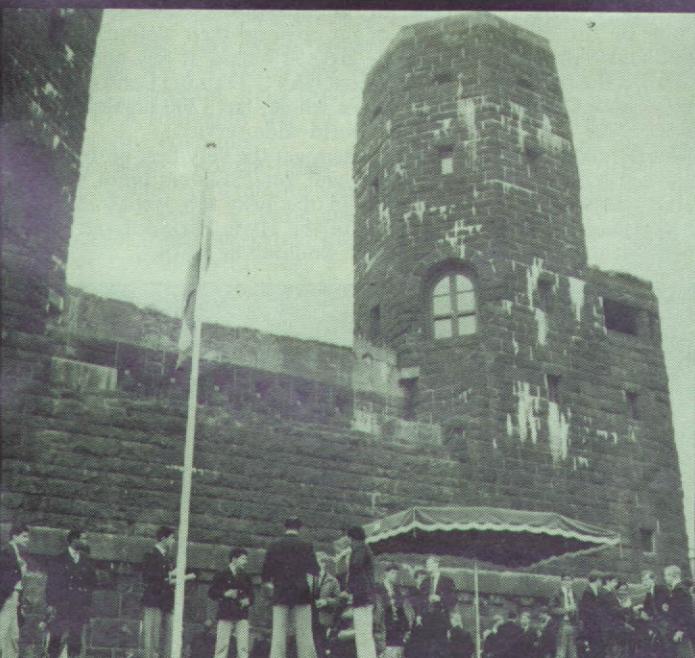


Home . . .

Cadet Sergeant George Michael Clarke (23) receiving the Overseas Award from the Queen's representative, Defence Secretary John Nott, at the 79th Sovereign's Parade, RMA Sandhurst. Cdt. Sgt Clarke will now return home to serve with the Trinidad and Tobago Armed Forces.

. . . and away ▶

The latest group of officer cadets to pass out from Sandhurst at a reception under the ramparts of the ruined bridge at Remagen — the only bridge captured intact during the war. Their visit to the bridge, which is now a museum, came at the end of a two week field exercise in Germany.



Wheel right ▶

Cfn Kevin Doyle of 7 Armd Wksp, Fallingbostel in Germany receiving the aptly designed BP Trophy as driver of the year at the Army School of Mechanical Engineering, Borden in Hants. Presenting Kevin with his award is his CO Lt Col G R Rawlins.



First orders ▲

The Director of Ordnance Services, Major General Jimmy Brown (left) 'christening' the new Sergeants' Mess at the British Garrison in Brunei. With him are WO1 Phil Ball, REME, the Garrison ASM and Lt Col Vernon Beauchamp, Commandant of 2/2 Gurkhas, the resident battalion.

Recovering from the blast . . .



The horses that wouldn't lie down

THREE MONTHS' countryside convalescence has been prescribed for Sefton, the Blues and Royals 19-year-old black gelding, who was viciously wounded in 38 places by four-inch nails and metal shrapnel during the IRA car-bomb outrage in London when seven horses were killed and eight others injured.

Now Sefton and seven of his injured stable mates are back home again — at the Royal Army Veterinary Corps Training Centre at Melton Mowbray where they took the first steps on their military careers.

Awaiting Sefton's arrival at Melton Mowbray was a 'get-well' telegram from the eight switchboard girls at the five-star Hyde Park Hotel in Knightsbridge.

Miss Rosemary Gates, the switchboard supervisor, told SOLDIER: "The horses go by here regularly. We have had a reply to our telegram thanking us for our trouble in writing and sending gifts."

Those gifts include pounds of Polo mints and fruit gums and Sefton is sharing them with his equine companions injured in the same terrible blast — Zaney, Quo Minus, Salamander, Ringlet, Copenhagen, Eclipse and Bandit.

Colonel Keith Morgan-Jones, the RAVC Training Centre Commandant, said: "The horses may be back on parade in November but we cannot make that prognosis for sure. Bits of tin are still coming out of them. The

Zaney meets his new friends. ▼

An X-ray for Sefton.



horses will be treated and we will observe each of the wounds to make sure they heal up safely. Dressings are changed daily and administered with anti-fly powder.

"Meanwhile, we will rest them to build up their condition and treat anything that is persistent. Normally, the horses come back here from London for rest and to get a breath of fresh air."

Sefton, it is expected, will undergo 20 or so further X-rays but it is not thought necessary to operate on him or the other seven horses. "I think their bodies will work any remaining metal out. This is the natural process of a healthy body," said Colonel Morgan-Jones.

Private Jimmy Clarke, a veterinary dresser, said: "I think they'll all make it. I was appalled by their wounds but who wouldn't be? They've all been looked after very well — before and after the bomb incident. You

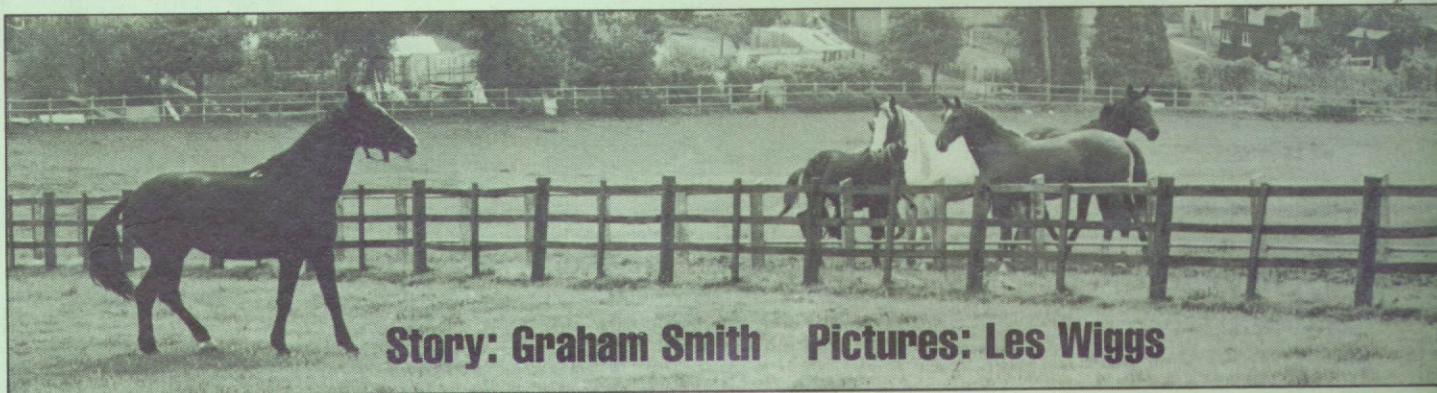
can't find fault with the Household Cavalry in looking after their horses."

After a Press photo-call, Zaney was "turned out" into a meadow where he immediately cantered over to a fence and a greeting from six young horses, all potential Drum Horses, in an adjoining field.

The other seven — including Sefton — were not put into the field for fear that their cantering and possible collisions with each other might open up their wounds.

There are 150 horses at any one time at the 280-acre RAVC Training Centre and the Corps, as a whole, has 1300 horses and 550 dogs in world-wide service.

All of them get the very best of treatment but none will get closer or more devoted attention in the next few weeks than the survivors of the Hyde Park outrage — the horses that wouldn't lie down. ■



Story: Graham Smith Pictures: Les Wiggs

And Army dogs are in the news too . . .



On the scent of DANGER

A DOZEN publicly-donated dogs belonging to the Royal Army Veterinary Corps are being sent to the Falklands to sniff out mines. But, sadly they will never see this country again. They will finish their working lives 8000 miles away.

The canine elite have been quietly and thoroughly training with their handlers at the RAVC Training Centre, Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire for six weeks to detect Spanish and Argentinian anti-personnel mines and Italian-made anti-tank mines.

There are, in fact, 11 types of mines in their countless thousands which were laid indiscriminately by the vanquished Argentinians. Experts reckon they will take years to clear up, perhaps until the end of the decade.

The mine dogs, like Bodie with his handler, Sergeant Mick Playfoot and Satan and his mentor, Sergeant John Davis, will be putting in a four-hour day in their new South Atlantic environment.

Colonel Keith Morgan-Jones, Commandant of the RAVC Training Centre said: "This is, of course, a traditional role for Army dogs. They were last used in the anti-mine role in the Far East in 1962 and we have been training dogs like this for many, many years.

"All the dogs and handlers will be issued with cold-weather clothing. Normal training takes 16 weeks but these dogs already have experience of explosives detecting. They are all pets who have been given to us by people who no longer need them.

"When a dog has found the location of a suspected mine — and he is always on a lead — he sits near it and points to it with his nose. His handler then pinpoints it with a white, plastic marker cone and leaves it to be dealt with by the experts. My men do not

Four of the mine-dog teams take a breather ▲
for the camera.

FALKLANDS FILE



Top left: Sgt Playfoot shows Bodie an anti-personnel mine; above: Detection drill.

get involved in the actual removal of it," explained Colonel Morgan-Jones.

Dogs and handlers will go to the Falklands for a six-months' tour. The dogs, however, will finish out their working lives there. Their average age now is 18 months to two years.

Although an experienced dog handler, Sergeant Playfoot, formerly at Sennelager, had just six weeks' notice of his new role. "The main problem is knowing where the mines are and how deep they are under the terrain of sand, bog and heather. But the dogs will each get their tit-bit rewards when they detect a mine," he said.

His colleague, Sergeant Davis, is also an experienced handler and he was confident

the dogs would do their job well. "The dogs have all done obedience training. For a dog, it's just like a soldier joining the Army. He has to do drill and even six weeks' square-bashing becoming mine specialists.

Colonel Morgan-Jones summed up: "Our Army philosophy for the dogs in training is that all work is fun. This is the only training discipline when we give a physical reward — a tit-bit for a good piece of detection."

And will the dogs, like their human handlers, get a day off?

"Oh yes," confirmed the colonel. "They will make sure of that. Just like humans, they sometimes resolve they are not going to get up or go out to work on a particular day!" ■





Gdsm Aitchison meets Alison.

Back from the dead



FOR GUARDSMAN Philip Williams, the soldier who returned 'from the dead' seven weeks after he went missing in the Falklands, the return to Brize Norton seemed quite an ordeal. After the Commanding Officer's press conference batteries of press photographers fought for the best pictures as the pale faced young Guardsman posed with his family outside Gateway Hotel.

Pressmen had been asked not to interrogate him and, apart from saying that it was fantastic to be home, he maintained a tight lipped silence. His mother said she was delighted, then the whole family beat a rapid retreat.

failed to find him over those three days. Very sensibly he kept his head as he had been taught to do."

The lone Guardsman then found his way to Port Harriet House, which had earlier been used as a base for the regiment's reconnaissance platoon. Here he found quite a lot of food and equipment which had been left behind and he survived on this.

When the food started to run out he made a final effort and reached Bluff Cove — the first step on his way home.

Earlier the CO, Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Scott had allayed newspaper fears that Williams was likely to be court martialled. He said he had interviewed him and "he did particularly well to survive for the amount of time he did and we obviously are very glad he is alive and back with us."

The colonel said Williams had been a member of a stretcher party in the leading company in the attack on Mount Tumbledown. He became separated from his colleagues in very bad weather.

"He then spent three days on a neighbouring mountain and we

As the last Task Force troops came home from the bitter fighting in the Falklands, SOLDIER was there to watch the welcomes

MANY HAPPY RETURNS

A WEEK OF HAPPY and triumphant homecomings has seen all the Army's front line forces back from the fighting in the Falklands. It started at Southampton with a rousing welcome for the SS *Uganda*, the P&O cruise liner converted to a hospital ship that had been at sea for 113 days since sailing from Gibraltar.

All her public rooms were converted to set up the hospital facilities. The ship's concert room became an operating theatre, the smoking room an intensive care unit and the hairdressing salon an x-ray unit. Even the cocktail bar was pressed into service — as a pathology lab.

During a two-month period Royal Navy medical staff treated 730 casualties on board — including 150 Argentine prisoners — and carried out 504 operations.

It was appropriate therefore that

among those returning to share in the plaudits for *Uganda*'s life-saving mission were the Army's own 'medical marvels' — men of 16 Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps, who played a heroic role in providing medical support for the land forces.

In the welter of publicity surrounding the deeds of the infantry, some of the medics' own gallantry and sacrifices often went unmentioned. But there were many classified signals from commanders during the campaign praising the "near miracles" achieved by 16 Field Ambulance, particularly at Fitzroy where the unit sustained three killed and 13 wounded.

The unit's CO revealed that 80 members of the unit were on board the *Sir Galahad* when it was bombed.

"Instead of evacuating the ship they got straight away to work and I have countless stories of people dragging the injured out and dashing back into the flames," he said.

"A sergeant with his hair and pack on fire managed to put out the flames and drag out a man who had lost a leg."

An advanced surgical centre was established at Fitzroy and between July 7 and 15 no fewer than 396 casualties were treated there, including 37 Argentine prisoners.

Also returning on the *Uganda* were 621 members of the 1st Battalion 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles. There were just 16 families to greet them. The rest were 6000 miles away in their homeland of Nepal. But the hundreds lining the dockside more than made up for any lack of relatives as they reserved their loudest cheers for the mountain men. The regimental band was playing the old Peters and Lee favourite 'Welcome Home' and as the Scots Guards' Colonel, the Duke of Kent, went to the foot of the aircraft steps to welcome the first man out, the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Scott, a mighty cheer went up and the Guards Depot Pipes and Drums launched into 'Scotland the Brave'.

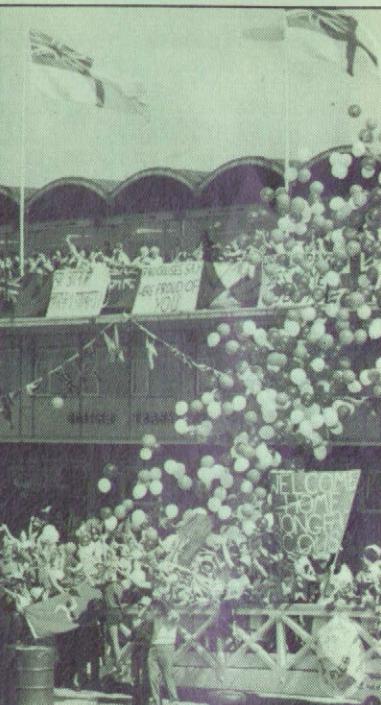
In a little over half an hour four RAF VC 10s landed to disgorge about 550 men from the battalion. After their official welcome from the Duke the men had to battle their way through back slapping well-wishers.

There were hugs, kisses and tears of joy from both the soldiers and their families.

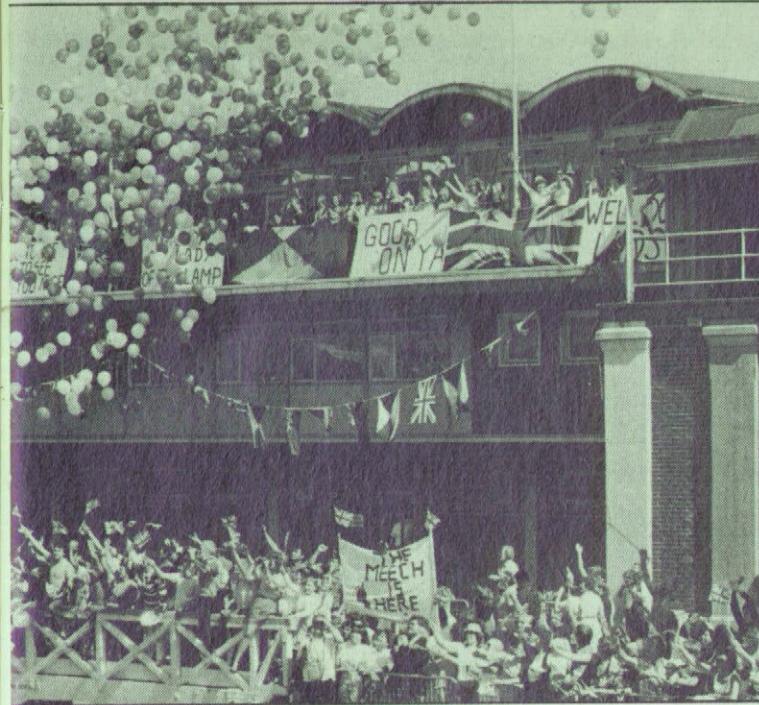
Guardsman Gordon Aitchison, was met by his wife Anne and a tiny stranger wearing a red, white and blue sunhat. It was his two-months-old daughter, Alison, born while he was away in the Falklands. "It's so good to be back" he said as he held his daughter for the first time.

At the press conference later, Colonel Scott recalled the battle of Tumbledown Mountain, and action in which the battalion sustained 90 per cent of its overall Falklands losses, which comprised eight dead and 41 wounded.

The action took place the night before the surrender of Port Stanley. "As far as we were concerned if we had not got that mountain by dawn



A shower of balloons greets *Uganda* as she docks at Southampton.



As she docks at Southampton.

on 14 June we would have been very pushed. We would have had to get at least one company off the mountain because we would have been exposed in the daylight. We did not realise that Tumbledown was absolutely vital to the defence of Port Stanley and with that gone the Argentinians really folded."

The colonel said it had been a tough battle and the Argentinian marines defending Tumbledown were probably as good as anyone they had had on the Falklands.

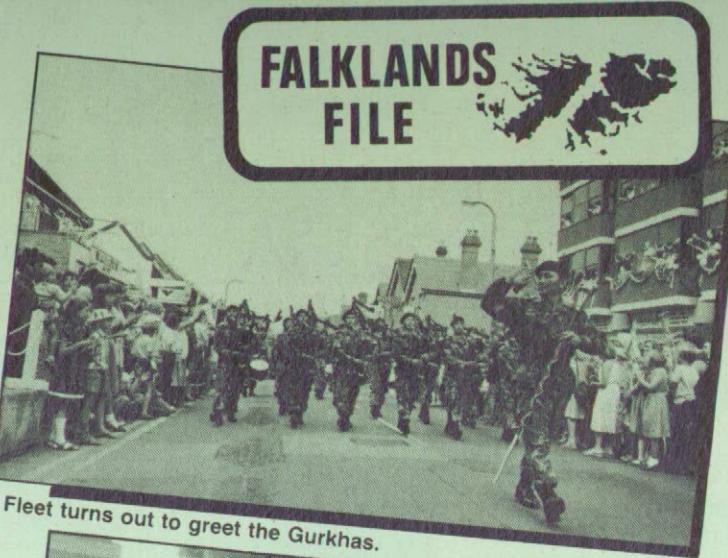
He would remember the cold always. "We had companies waiting to go into the attack who were almost suffering from exposure and had to take a great deal of trouble to keep themselves in good nick."

His young soldiers had acquitted themselves very well. "I like to think the battalion fought as a family and we fought because we were among friends. Therefore it did not matter whether you were 18 or somewhat older."

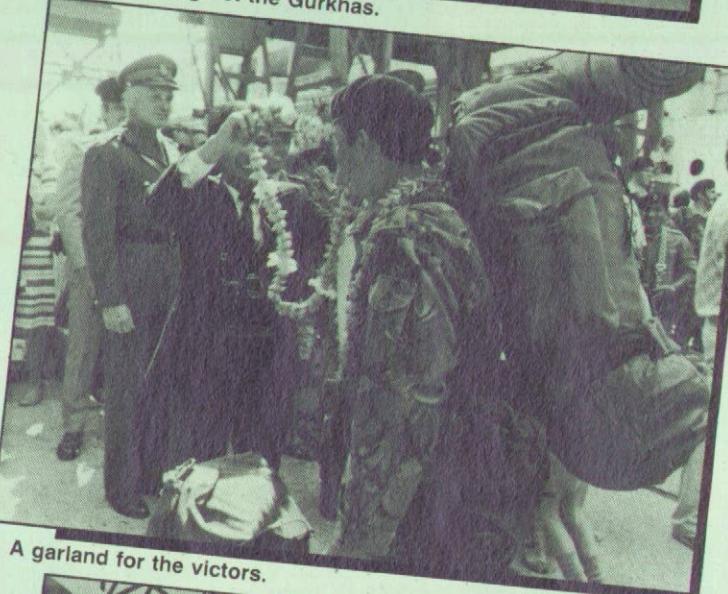
A number of his men had been recommended for gallantry decorations but Colonel Scott refused to be drawn on details. "There were some very brave actions on Tumbledown that night — quite outstanding."

But he did reveal that some of his men had run out of ammunition and then fought on by using their bayonets. This, he suggested, refutes the views of people who contended that the infantry should no longer have bayonets.

The Scots Guards press conference also saw Brigadier David Ramsbotham, Director of Army Public Relations, pay tribute to the staff at Brize Norton for their tremendous



Fleet turns out to greet the Gurkhas.



A garland for the victors.



Jubilant scenes as Scots Guards fly in.



Free beer from the mayor for 4 Field Regt RA.

A MAN WITH FEW EQUALS



Story: Graham Smith



THE ASSAULT PIONEER is a rare breed of soldier. He follows the combat engineering training of the Royal Engineers — but he is not a sapper. Nor, although he can dig field defences with the best of them, is he connected with the Royal Pioneer Corps. He is, first and foremost, an infantryman — but a highly versatile one equipped with a wide range of specialist skills.

The Field Engineer Wing (FEW) training staff of the Royal School of Military Engineering at Chattenden Barracks, near Rochester in Kent, quietly turn out about 100 assault pioneers a year who return to their parent regiments to serve in their newly-acquired role when needed.

They take with them not only FEW's blessings, but the crossed axes badge peculiar to the fraternity which has passed through its demanding tutorials of combat engineering skills.

Their role in war would be a particularly dangerous one. It is highly probable for instance, though no details are available, that assault pioneers were among the first

◀ A young 'Jock' puts the finishing touch to a two-man trench.

Assault pioneer crossing procedure from a heavy ferry. ▼

British troops to be involved in Falklands landings.

Tuition of the budding assault pioneer at his Medway-based Alma Mater of engineering skills is comprehensive.

The syllabus includes such diverse topics as watermanship (although he need not necessarily know how to swim), field engineering, field defences, water supply, river crossings, demolitions, gap crossing, mine laying and breaching, the laying, recording, detection and clearance of booby traps, mine warfare, the properties of concrete, water supply and anchorage design, flotation calculations, bridging equipment and crater blowing.

WO2 (QMSI) Trevor Lenton, of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, one of the four instructors of FEW's Fieldworks Branch, explained: "Our main objective here is to provide men for immediate engineering support for a battalion in specialised roles to release Royal Engineers sappers engaged in more vital duties.

"The assault pioneer works in all conditions and 90 per cent of his work is done by night between 2300 and 0400 hours. He is frequently under stress, has to make on-the-

spot decisions and improvise on equipment for a particular task.

"When he is here, he is told there are limited career prospects although he can be a corporal in charge of a platoon within three to four years. The assault pioneer is also on call 24 hours-a-day and is liable for administration and regimental duties. That understood, the qualified assault pioneer-cum-infanteer has many terms of reference when he returns to his regimental battalion."

And many there are, indeed.

The assault pioneer has the responsibility for maintaining explosive and non-explosive stores, the safe storage, handling and use of mines and booby traps, the correct identification, neutralisation and disarmament of current enemy mines, booby traps and trip flares and the accurate marking of minefields and lanes.

His duties also include the building of thermal shields and obstacles for his battalion, the safe transport of units by assault boat, demolitions, construction of helicopter landing sites, the building of battle trenches and firing positions, the preparation of buildings for defence and the immediate

Crossing 5-bay Medium Girder Bridge. ▲
supply of water to the battalion.

Assault Pioneers have proved their worth time and time again in both world wars and, now in the High-Tech Eighties, many battalion COs are becoming just as convinced of their value.

Roughly half the assault pioneer platoon commanders are officers and they are used to coping with an almost impossible workload. As one wag in the FEW quipped: "Yes, an Assault Pioneer Platoon commander often has to fit 35 days' work into a 28-day month!"

Taking water supplies to a battalion is a prime example of assault pioneering skill. FEW's Major Ian Campbell, Royal Australian Engineers — an exchange officer who spent 12 months as a combat engineer in Vietnam — said: "Our men have to learn to get water supplies from streams and wells in a wartime situation. These could be polluted by industrial waste or enemy chemical agents. That's quite a bit of responsibility for an assault pioneer to undertake. That water could poison the whole battalion and put it out of action."

The watermanship phase of the course

continued on page 16



Team effort on a two man battle trench. ▲

lasts for four days and was clearly being enjoyed by Private Paul Barr, 19, of the 1st Battalion The Gordon Highlanders, who said simply: "All this beats just being an infantryman!"

Corporal Alan Mansell, 24, a section commander of 1 LI, was also enthusiastic: "I've found the explosives and mine warfare aspects particularly interesting."

Sergeant David Meredith, RE, Hardmaster of the Bridging Branch, said of his pupils: "They've all done quite well. They're eager and keen."

The four-day segment devoted to demolitions allows trainees to loose off 15 controlled bangs each — the largest using 25 kilos of explosive.

"Being soldiers, they have all thrown grenades before in training and know just what to expect by way of noise and explosions," said WO2 (QMSI) Gary Garrett RE.

Major Campbell, who is the Fieldworks Branch Staff Officer, said: "The aim of the soldiers' course — ten subjects comprising 205 periods over five weeks — is to train and

Explosives being laid during an open-air class. ▼

test them as assault pioneers before they leave here. The fellows on the courses get instruction, too, on how to plan, co-ordinate and control a task and execute it as a section commander. They are the battalion commanders, immediate source of engineer advice.

"The aim of the Warrant Officers' course — ten subjects split into 95 periods over a fortnight — is to give Class 1 Assault Pioneer NCOs who may be chosen for SNCO or WO1 Pioneer appointments within their battalions, the necessary knowledge to act as competent engineer advisers and planners to battle group and battalion commanders.

"The course is also intended to teach them supervision of members of their battalions on operations and also to instruct them in those engineering tasks which the battalions may have to carry out."

Sheep wander inately among the battle trenches and weapon pits at the nearby Wainscott demo area where successive courses learn the art of digging a whole

range of field defences — from cover for an eight-tonne tracked Sultan armoured command post down to four- and two-man experimental battle trenches. These latter are roofed by a new corrugated arched design called Armco which is strong enough, it is said, to withstand the pressure from any armoured personnel carrier passing overhead.

They learn too how to construct pits for anti-tank Milan missile systems, Wombats, Mobats and 81mm mortars with reinforced metal walls called revêtements — defences which can be started at dusk and completed in 6-8 hours by three to four men, all ready for operation at dawn.

As Major Campbell pointed out: "It was the Romans who came across the arch. We have discovered nothing new. We have just put the arch idea to a different use."

On the site during SOLDIER's rain-soaked visit were two 'Jocks' who will be reporting the effectiveness of the course to their respective units. One was Lance Corporal Eric Kynoch, of the 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders, who recently returned from Belize where he was involved in river crossings, laying cables from dug-out canoes, digging trenches for defensive positions and building helicopter landing sites.

The other was Corporal David Cassidy, of the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, who said his regiment had disbanded its assault pioneer platoon in 1979 but was now having a big re-think.

The same sort of story came from Corporal Malcolm Grundy, 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment. "This type of work varies so much," he said. "One moment you're with the boats, the next, you're digging trenches."

As WO2 Lenton summed up: "The assault pioneer has not only to cope in all climates, sometimes with equipment shortages and frequent improvisation, but he is expected to deal — and does — with a diversity of tasks by his battalion. He also does additional tasks which are not of an assault pioneer nature. What infantry battalion can honestly say it does not need an assault pioneer platoon?" ■

All you need is a lake and a boat for watermanship training. ▼





Marching off for the last time.

Goodbye to the IDB.

A REMARKABLE ARMY experiment has drawn to a close at Warminster in Wiltshire.

The Infantry Demonstration Battalion has been disbanded — four years after it was formed to ease the burden on conventional battalions caused by commitments in Northern Ireland.

With the reduction of force levels in Ulster, there is no longer the same requirement for the unit which is made up of soldiers representing every infantry regiment in the Army, including the Gurkhas. Even so, many will regret the IDB's passing.

The Director of Infantry, Major-General Peter Sibbald, took the salute at a final parade at Battlesbury Barracks, Warminster. At the end of it, the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Houghton of the Welsh Guards, asked permission to disband and the IDB's short life was over.

It will be replaced by the 1st Battalion, the Royal Welch Fusiliers — who will take over the job of providing the support required by the School of Infantry.

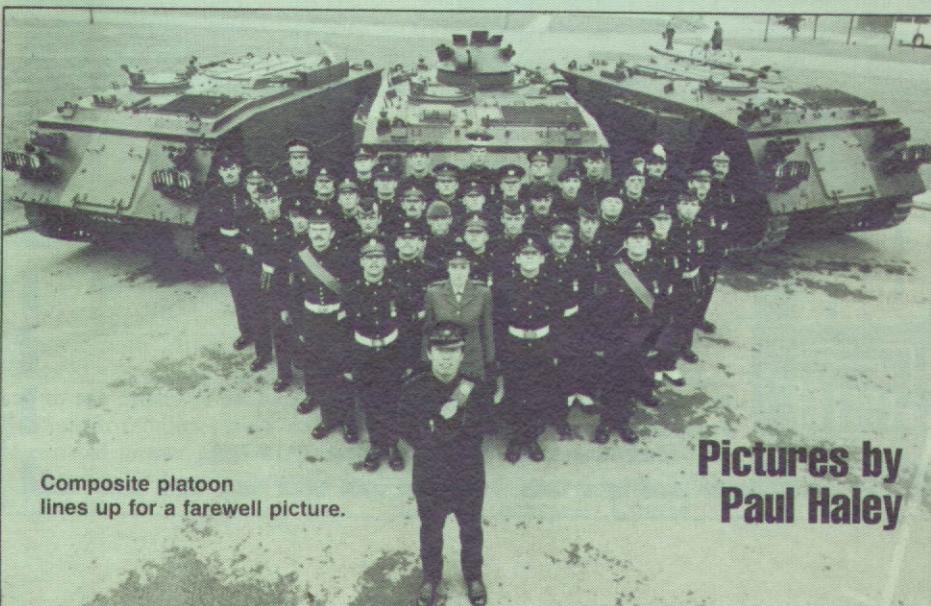


The remarkable variety of cap badges that made the IDB unique.

When the IDB was created there were plenty of critics who said it would never work. Merchants of doom said it was impossible to run a battalion with such a mix — the Guards would not get on with the Light Infantry . . . the Fusiliers would not hit it off with the Jocks . . . and so on.

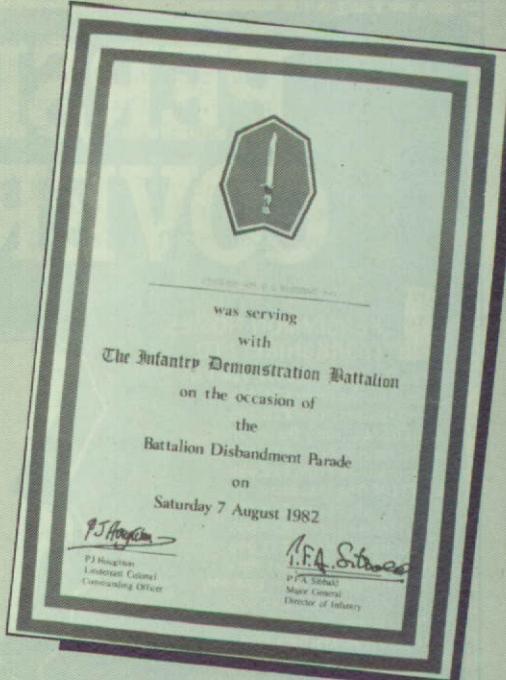
But, in fact, they did. And far from different sections being at loggerheads, the soldiers learned to respect other regiments, their customs and methods. They became united under the symbol they all wore as a shoulder flash — a bayonet in a red seven-sided patch.

Before the battalion finally disbanded each soldier on parade received a scroll marking his service with the IDB. Then they swung past the saluting base to their own march, *The Warminster Rifles* . . . a tune they will remember with pride. ■



Composite platoon lines up for a farewell picture.

Pictures by
Paul Haley



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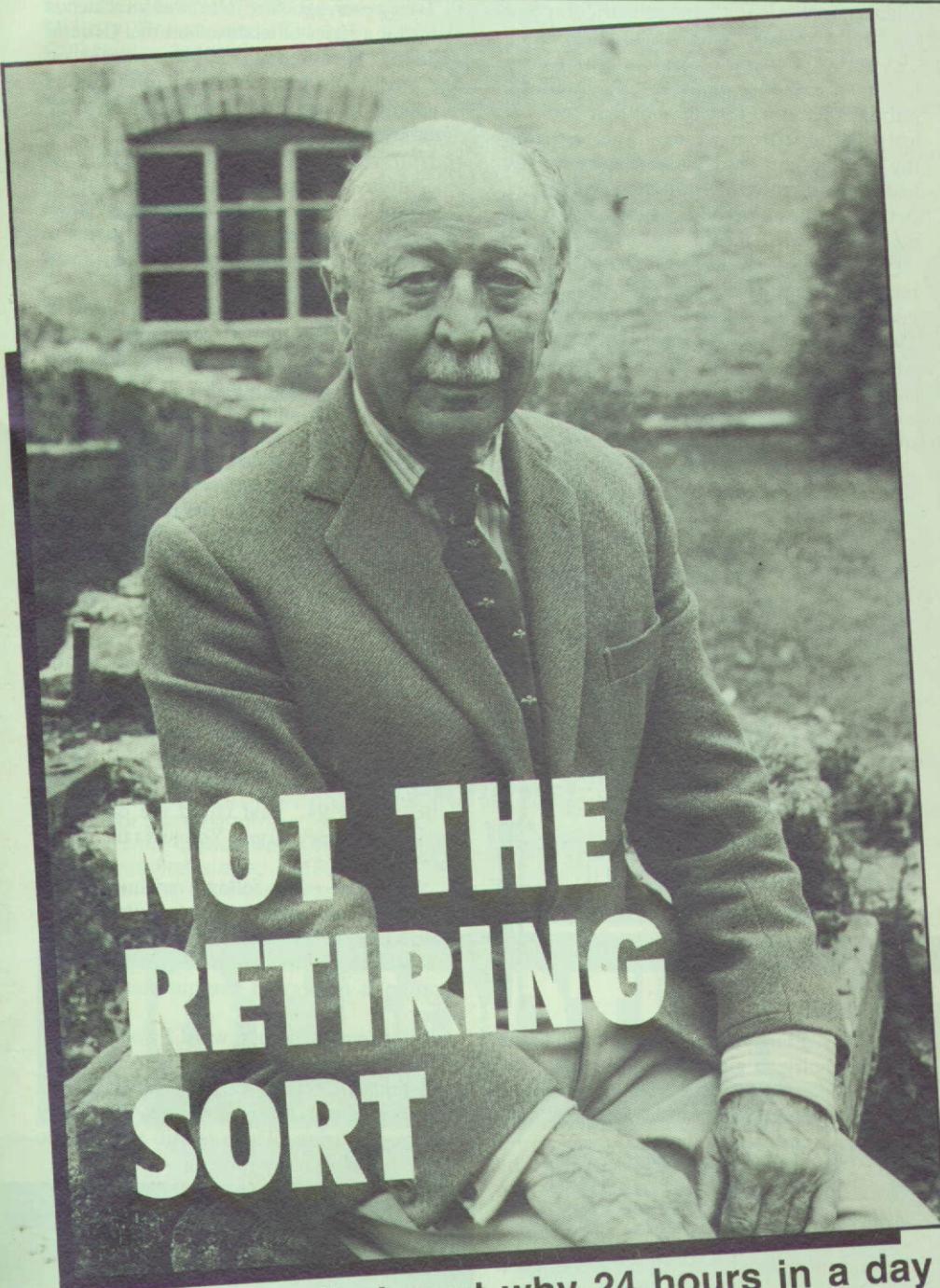
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PERSIMMON HOMES





John Walton finds out why 24 hours in a day are not enough for General Sir John Hackett

IN THE MID-1960's General Sir John Hackett was a top British and Nato commander. Later he was principal of a London University College. Yet today, at an age when most people have retired, Sir John has become a celebrity — appearing regularly in the media and on chat shows.

This transformation from being a famous name in a limited field to being a household name all came about as the result of a book he published *The Third World War*, which to his surprise went into the best sellers' lists all over the world. Now he has a new book at Number One in the British lists.

Sir John lives in an Elizabethan mill house complete with gargoyle set in a peaceful Cotswold valley. A stream trickles by on its way to the mighty Thames. But the quiet pastoral surroundings seem only to spur the 71-year-old former general into more activity. For him 24 hours are not quite enough to fill a day.

He was born in Australia, from a family of Irish gentry, whose menfolk had always gone into the Army or the Church. "We lived both sides of the world. But when World War I broke out and I was three years old my parents reckoned we were safer in Western Australia."

His father, also Sir John, made a fortune out of newspapers in Australia and when he died in 1916 left most of it to the University of Western Australia. "It is an act I always remember agreeing with. If he had left all that money to us we would have been idle. It would be equivalent to £4-6 million today."

There was enough money for Sir John's education and the plan was for him to go to Winchester and then New College, Oxford. His mother remarried and at the age of 12 he was given the choice of sticking to the Winchester plan or remaining at Geelong Grammar School in Australia. "As it would mean that I would only see the family every three years I stayed put."

At Oxford he read Greats and found himself attracted to the military life as well as an academic one. In 1931 he was commissioned into the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars.

"My claim is that I realised in the early thirties that there was going to be war with Germany and we were all going to get killed. I felt it would be more tidy to get killed as a professional soldier than as an amateur. But I always meant to come out some time and return to University. My first impulse was to be a don."

Eventually that conflict came in which Sir John hoped to "have a good war — one in which you got wounded enough to be respectable but not to get killed or badly wounded."

Sir John got his wish. He was wounded in three different Continents — "showing a fine objectivity" — and the last winter of the war he spent in hiding with the Dutch underground while recovering from his wounds received at Arnhem.

"I spent four-and-a-half months being cherished and nursed by three very brave Dutch Christian women until I was well enough to undertake a cycling and canoeing journey out of occupied Holland."

On his return he found that he had been posted as killed so his wife was technically a widow. In fact he had managed to smuggle out the news of his survival by secret channels but his wife had not been allowed to tell anyone.

"I was home in time for her to get a telegram telling her I was alive. There were lots of letters saying what a splendid chap I was. One of the fellows asked for his letter back and said he would never have written about me the way he did if he thought he was ever going to see me again!"

More than 30 years later the story of what happened to Sir John in Holland was the subject of his book *I Was a Stranger*. The book had been first written just after the war without being published.

Came the end of the war and Sir John found a number of civilian avenues opening. He was offered a Fellowship at Oxford to teach Medieval History and had also been adopted for a safe Conservative Parliamentary seat. He opted out of both and remained in the Army for another 23 years.

In peacetime Sir John was not really sure what rank he was. "I was a substantive major, wartime substantive lieutenant-colonel, a temporary colonel, an acting brigadier and had been commanding a brigade for three years. It finally smoothed out as a brigadier around 1951."

He was Deputy Chief of the Imperial General Staff from 1963-4, Deputy Chief of the General Staff MOD 1964-6 and Commander-in-Chief Rhine Army and Commander Northern Army Group for the following two years. "I had a track record of sticking my neck out on Nato. George Brown tried to have me sacked because of a letter which I wrote to the Times."

In 1968 the general finally made his move back to University life. It was a time of student unrest throughout the Western world. Sir John was Principal of King's College, London, And during his seven years reign there were no bad student trou-

continued on page 20

bles — a record which he attributes to his military background.

"In the Services we know you can only lead people from the same side and from the inside. In the university there was such a gulf between the academic world and the students that leadership was impossible."

He found that he had greater authoritarian powers of discipline than as a general. He could fire any student without any right of appeal. "I was busy unglomming all that authoritarian discipline and structure. I drew up a code with striking similarities to what happens in courts martial in the Army. It was welcomed by the student body and served as a model for other universities."

And Sir John was to upset the then Minister of Education, Mrs Thatcher, by leading his students in a street demonstration. "It was probably the only time a vice-chancellor had been on the streets but it was something I felt strongly about."

Sir John had been in print and broadcast many times during his long Army career. In 1962 he delivered the Lees Knowles lectures on the profession of arms. These had something of a cult following in military circles and were used as a standard text book in United States military training.

But the move to a wider public readership came as a result of a letter from anti-porn crusader, Lord Longford, then chairman of the general's publishers. The letter asked him to write a book about the history of the Third World War.

"It was difficult in that it had not yet happened. In Nato I learned that if you want to avoid doing anything you set up a study group or propose a feasibility study. So I agreed to set up a feasibility study. But I could feel that they were getting me into a corner."

Using high level contacts he made in Nato Sir John got together a team and the book duly appeared. "It took off — I was very surprised as who would not be."

Took off is an understatement. The publishers now claim more than three million copies sold worldwide including US paperback sales of two million. And it has been published in 24 editions in ten languages.

The publishers came back for another book on the same subject. Again Sir John was reluctant but eventually he obtained help from two Russian defectors, Viktor Suvorov and Vladimir Bukovsky. They proved a rich source of Soviet material.

Meanwhile the publishers took a 2000 word synopsis of the new book to an interna-

tional book fair. They returned having sold the rights in the United States and several other countries. At this stage Sir John had not written a word.

A period of all out activity, daunting even to a man half Sir John's age, followed. "I put together 100,000 words of that book, at least half of it from scratch. The rest from my contributors and collaborators mostly had to be rewritten. I started on 20 November with a deadline of 1 January and I did get it in. It was a killer."

"I was up at 5 am working each day. But I had not taken into account that this country goes into liquidation from the third week in December until the second of January which was my time of peak production. On Christmas Day I had time out for Communion and a bottle of champagne, but there was no question of not working."

He used four methods — typing direct, drafting in longhand, using a dictating machine and dictating to a shorthand secretary. Then there were problems with the weather. The house was cut off for 12 days by snow.

"I used to trudge out in the snow with what I had done and my secretary would come to the nearest bit of hard standing a

|| 'On Christmas Day I had time out for Communion and a bottle of champagne, but there was no question of not working.'

mile away. Finally, when we got down to the last half bottle of gin I thought 'this is siege conditions'. I got a tractor to tow my car to the nearest bit of hard standing then I used it to drive and get provisions."

Sir John is not in the least taken aback by his celebrity status. Every day the postman brings a thick wad of mail — much of it asking him to make personal appearances. During the Falklands crisis he was in great demand for analysis — particularly by the American media.

"I arrived on the other side of the Atlantic on the evening of 3 April when Parliament met and announced that the Task Force was to sail. The appearance of a military Briton

was like a magnet to the media and they descended on me from all sides."

Two years ago Sir John was in Buenos Aires for a series of lectures and met General Galtieri. "He asked me to open a window on the world for him and his colleagues. I probably opened it too wide and he saw the Falklands."

Until recently Sir John had a relic of that encounter, a marble block with a metal badge of the Argentinian Army and a small plate recording that it had been given to General Sir John Hackett by Lieutenant General Leopoldo Galtieri.

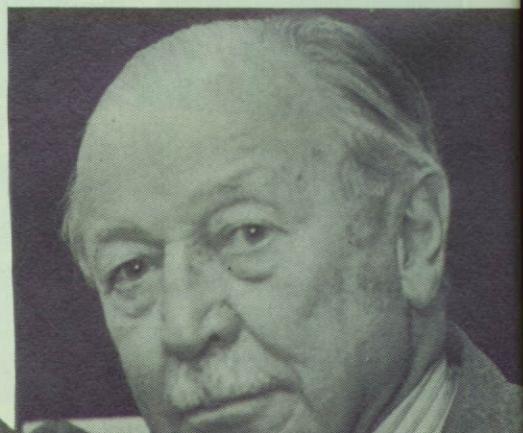
But after a hectic day in London the stone disappeared. Sir John is convinced that he left it in a taxi which took him to Paddington Station. But after enquiring at various lost property offices and each port of call that day he has drawn a blank. Someone, somewhere in the capital is perhaps unknowingly the possessor of this highly collectable item.

In fact Sir John is not the type of man to accumulate what he calls 'military bric-a-brac'. Few items can be seen in his drawing room. He says: "I have seen some appalling displays in the houses of my brother officers."

For a man who has never had any ambitions, life has brought great success. "When I was a young subaltern I turned up an Army list and worked out that if everybody kept his health and did his tour I would get to be Commanding Officer of the regiment when I was 94. That cured me of setting myself a military target. You just take things as they come."

"You have got to follow your inclinations and mine are towards activity. People ask how I have done so much but it is by doing something all the time. Sitting on your bottom is no way to live out your allotted span."

"Retirement is not a word I would recognise. The only move I make is to withdraw and regroup. I have retired three times and the work gets harder every time. So I have stopped retiring. There is still so much to do . . ."



Sir John with some of the many editions of his best-selling work.



A RECORD TURNOUT of 5200 marchers from seven nations took part in the sixth Royal Military Police and City of Chichester March, an event embracing a choice of three walks and ranging from six to 25 miles.

The start was staggered over nearly four hours and went on through the afternoon in high, humid temperatures.

Teams were there from Belgium, Holland, America, Canada, West Berlin, West Germany and, of course, the Royal Military Police.

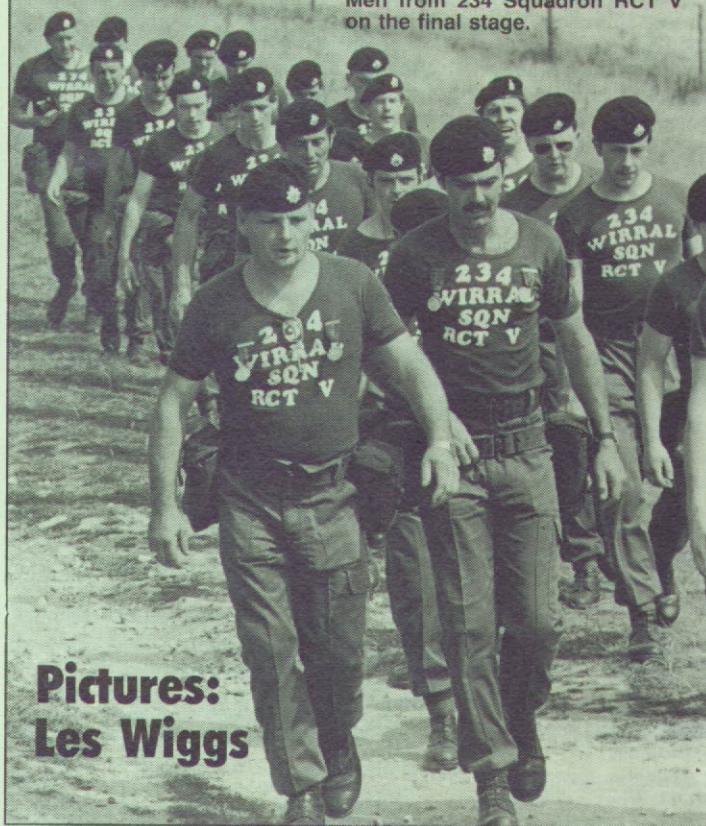
Civilian teams were fielded by organisations as diverse as pubs, banks, boy scouts, firemen, ambulance men, sports centres, Girl Guides and even a party of blind contestants who entered into the spirit of the march held in the South Downs countryside near Goodwood where villagers turned out to see the Sunday spectacular.

Even a general — General Sir Peter Leng, Colonel Commandant of the RMP — took part in the six-mile event, as did the Mayor of Chichester, Councillor Terry France. They both took the salute.

All the successful walkers were given medals and diplomas and team prizes were presented for the best turnout, discipline and behaviour. The march was first staged in 1977 as part of the RMP centenary celebrations.

A record turnout for the Chichester International March

Men from 234 Squadron RCT V on the final stage.



Pictures:
Les Wiggs

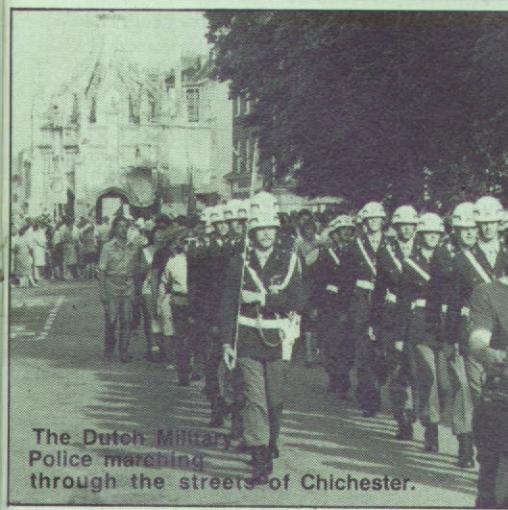


All competitors received this medal in acknowledgement of their efforts.



Feet up and a well-earned beer at one of the checkpoints.

HOT FOOTING IT



The Dutch Military Police marching through the streets of Chichester.



► Bruin of the Berlin Police leads the Allied Police march.

► The US Marine Corps passing through East Dean, and singing apparently!



A seasoned RAF marcher sports his chest of medals — all in recognition of previous marches.

The Dutch team nearing the end — but still looking cheerful.





UNEMPLOYMENT MAY not be staring you in the face but just think for a moment and you will almost certainly know of someone who is out of work: your son, daughter, friend or even your husband if he is due to leave the Services soon.

For the past eight years I have been actively involved with this problem, trying to ease the path or find answers, particularly for the wives and our young people overseas. I have been looking for a useful and constructive guide book that I could recommend and, at last, I think I have found one.

The Unemployment Handbook by Guy Dauncey at £2.50 is exactly that. It sets out a positive attitude to unemployment and approaches a number of situations asking "How can I make the most of this? Can I, or we, turn it into an opportunity?" It offers ideas, information, advice, suggestions and, most important of all, encouragement.

The Handbook concentrates on giving practical step-by-step guidance through the confusion of claiming for unemployment benefit, job hunting, further education possibilities and advice on how to survive unemployment.

It should also be a valuable aid for anyone who is involved with helping the unemployed.

The Handbook is available from the National Extension College, 18 Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge CB2 2HN.

Another publication worth taking the time to read through is the National Association Citizen's Advice Bureau Social Security Appeals' Guide to National Insurance Local Tribunals and Medical Appeal Tribunals.

Written primarily for solicitors and social workers, this clear and authoritative guide takes you each step of the way to an appeal tribunal and includes case histories, advice on giving evidence, writing letters and filling in the correct forms and even advice on where to go for further advice should you need it.

It is available from Social Security Appeals, NACAB, 110 Drury Lane, London WC2 and costs £2.50.

Anne Armstrong

I work as a bus supervisor during school terms. We work a four-and-a-half hour day and most of us pay a full stamp. I believe we are classed as 'casual' as we are not required to sign any contract except a general one that covers the behaviour of the children, cleanliness etc.

We have always understood that we were insured to cover accidents. However, recently, I was thrown to the floor of the bus with considerable force, injuring my back and causing severe bruising, when the driver who was not familiar with the bus used the wrong gear. I was advised to stay off work on bed rest for a week but who would have paid me?

On another occasion, the bus driver braked hard to avoid a car which came out of a turning and the bus supervisor cut her face and had to have medical treatment which has left a small scar. She too was advised to stay off work.

Please could you throw some light on the position of 'casuals' with regard to accident insurance and sickness benefit.

Mrs W, BFPO 36

You raise a complicated question Mrs W, and one which I am sure concerns all the 'casuals' employed with the Services, so I spoke to the Claims Commission in London.

First, any passenger who is injured as a result of negligence on the part of an MOD driver while travelling in an MOD vehicle has a right to claim against the MOD.

If the accident is not the fault of the MOD driver, as with the other bus supervisor, a claim must be made through private insurance against the person responsible. The claim should be made for loss of earnings, pain and suffering and submitted to the North West Europe Claims Office in Düsseldorf.

So much for the specific instances you quoted. On the subject of your insurance cover in general in your job, I suggest that you find out just where you stand and read through your contract again. If you feel you are not well enough covered, personal private insurance may be the answer.

The National Insurance position is that, with sufficient Class I contributions in the correct year, you should be able to claim sickness benefit. In such cases, a sickness certificate should be sent to the Overseas Branch of the DHSS at Newcastle who would assess your entitlement and send the benefit direct to you.

If this does not fully answer your query or there are other complications, seek advice from the Army Legal Ser-

vices in Bielefeld. Your unit will have their address.

Please could you tell me more about the system for applying for assistance with the costs of buying a house.

I am due to leave the Army in

be allowed the additional baggage as if the posting were taking place after 1 September.

Regular readers of these pages will remember a letter from two wives, Cynthia Sharp and Cheryl Stamp, who were asking for contributions to the *Service Wives' Cookery Book* in aid of the South Atlantic Fund.

The book, with illustrations by Hugh Dunford Wood, was compiled and published by The Forces Press (Naafi) in record time and is available from 6 Gleed Avenue, Bushey Heath, Herts WD2 1HE in UK or from Mrs Sawyer, Officers Mess, RAF Rheindahlen in Germany, price £1 plus 25p (p&p).

"We would like to thank all those who generously contributed their favourite recipes towards this book. Regrettably, we have been unable to include them all but hope our final choice will be to your liking", say the authors.

ASK ANNE

four years time and should like to make sure my family has somewhere to live.

Sgt C, BFPO 40

Full details on this can be found in *Regulations for Army Allowances and Charges: Chapter 10, Section 5*. Basically you should have three years residual service to qualify for a refund of expenses connected with house purchase or two years for a refund on a sale.

Incidentally, claims should now be accompanied by a certificate signed by the unit records officer verifying the period of residual service. This is a result of the huge number of claims which have had to be rejected because of insufficient service remaining and which therefore waste Army Pay Services' time.

I am being posted to Aldershot in September or October and, as we have two children, I am worried that we may be over the top with our baggage as it will be after the new rules come in with the defurnishing of the quarters.

We have not been told our allowance yet which they said we would have to compensate for the extra we would have to move. Can you help?

Mrs L, Germany

The wives element of unaccompanied baggage was increased in July to take account of this problem.

From 1 September, soldiers' wives will have an extra 1.7 cubic metres and officers' wives an additional 2.12 cubic metres when they accompany their husbands on postings between UK and NW Europe, including Belgium, Denmark and West Berlin.

There may be instances, however, where families are posted prior to that date although they cannot occupy the quarter until after it has been partially defurnished. In these cases they should

SERVICE WIVES' COOKERY BOOK



In aid of the South Atlantic Fund

"To date, we have sold 840 copies in the four days since the book was produced on July 21 and have almost covered the £900 printing bill. The remaining 2000 copies will all represent profit for the fund. The response from Service quarters has been so tremendous we might even order a reprint!"



"I can't bear to see you decorating in this heat, Maisie — I'm going down to the pub."

DID YOU KNOW?

GENERAL PRACTITIONERS in UK will now only issue certificates for illnesses of less than seven days for a fee (currently £1.20). This ruling, which came into effect at the beginning of June this year, affects officers and soldiers who are sick on leave and who are required to obtain illness certificates from the first day of sickness, regardless of how long they expect to be ill.

Any officer or soldier who has to pay such a fee may claim for the cost of the certificate on his return to his unit and it will be refunded to him.

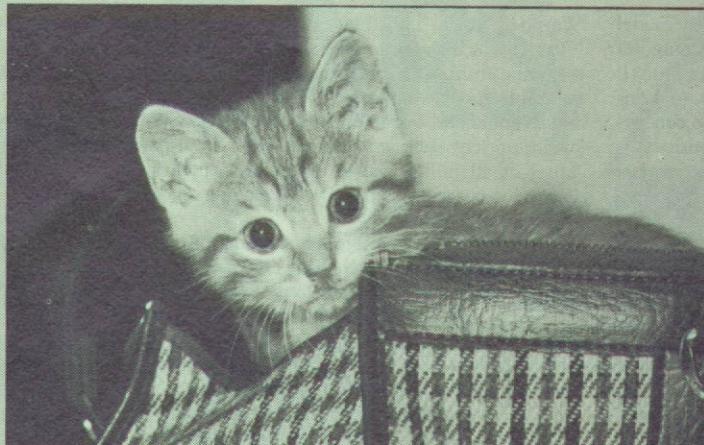
This kitten could

"ONCE UPON A TIME there was a cat called Arthur. He lived with a family in Germany and was very happy. But one day a big lorry came and Arthur realised that the men were putting boxes and cases into it. He wanted to stay with the family wherever they were going and so he sat in the sunshine watching the van being packed and made a plan..."

It could be the beginning of a children's tale of the adventures of Arthur with, of course, a 'happy ever after' ending. It was, in fact, a cautionary tale which might have had a far from happy ending, a tale that had people leaping about like cats on hot bricks themselves rather than sitting comfortably.

A Service family moving to the UK from Germany gave their cat to a neighbour but it could not be found after the Government Freight Agency people had come and loaded the van. A search was made in case he had jumped inside the vehicle but there was no sign of the stowaway so the van set off for UK. GFA, however, had notified officials in Britain and when the van arrived it was driven into an enclosed compound where, when the boxes were unloaded, Arthur was discovered.

Thanks to prompt action by GFA, this tale too had a happy ending and Arthur was returned some time later and is flourishing in his new home. He could have been put down — with no documentation he would have been classed as a wild animal in UK — or he could have been the animal behind a nationwide rabies scare.



Britain has eliminated the deadly disease of rabies and the penalties and quarantine restrictions are harsh and stringent to prevent its reappearance. Animals arriving in UK from abroad have to remain in isolation and

under observation for some time before they are allowed to rejoin their owners. This may tempt some owners to attempt to smuggle the family pets into the country when they are posted home after a spell overseas.

KILL

A film produced by the Central Office of Information and available free from them tells you why not, and makes compulsive viewing for anyone who wants to find out more about the dangers of pet smuggling.

You, not GFA, are responsible for your pet at all times. If you are moving and leaving your pet with another family, it is kinder to make sure it is given away some days before or at least locked up somewhere securely. Pets do seem to sense when some changes are in the air and you can prevent much distress by a little forethought.

Couples come up trumps



Photo courtesy of London Weekend Television Ltd.

SEMINAR TEAM ANNOUNCED

THE DATE OF the UKLF Wives' Seminar draws closer and the following wives have been nominated to attend as your representatives. If you have any points you would like raised at the Seminar, any views or queries on MOD policy that affects you and your family, please let your representative know as soon as possible.

Your Housing Commandant or local Estate Warden will have the full address of the representative for your area.

The outline programme includes matters arising from last year's very successful Seminar, a presentation and discussion of a proposal to form a UKLF Wives' Families Association, an

open forum on quartering and furnishing and much more to make a full and interesting day under the chairmanship of Lady Kitson.

Mrs H Jones, Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill; **Mrs A Middlemas**, Support Regt., RSA, Larkhill; **Mrs C Huey**, School of Signals, Blandford; **Mrs S Bundy**, Support Unit, Warminster; **Mrs W Cairns**, 1 QOH, Tidworth; **Mrs K Cooper**, RAC Centre, Bovington Camp; **Mrs E Hunter**, Arborfield Garrison; **Mrs L C Duke**, 16 Bn RAOC, Bicester; **Mrs S Rumbold**, 1 R HAMPS, Folkestone; **Mrs R Gargan**, RMAS, Camberley; **Mrs J Bonner**, RPO, Brighton; **Mrs S Duke**, 3/51 Highland (TA); **Mrs H Gash**, 1 PARA, Edinburgh; **Mrs A Woodward**, RA

Ranges, Hebrides, Isle of Benbecula; **Mrs W Wall**, HQ Wales, Brecon; **Mrs C Turnbull**, AAC, Chepstow; **Mrs C James**, Depot, PWO Crickhowell; **Mrs J Mason**, 1 COLD M GDS, Pirbright; **Mrs C Patterson**, Blues and Royals, Windsor; **Mrs D Dickson**, 1 IRISH GDS, Chelsea; **Mrs V Dawson**, R SIGS, MOD London; **Mrs K Packham**, 2 QUEENS, Colchester; **Mrs K Powell**, 1 R ANGLIAN, Oakington; **Mrs M Black**, HQ RCT Grantham; **Mrs G Verdon**, AAC, Harrogate; **Mrs P Coates**, 1 DWR; **Mrs R Wilson**, 12 A D Regt, RA; **Mrs M Stone**, 1 R IRISH, Chester; **Mrs D Stephenson**, 2 LI; **Mrs C Hammond**, 2 LI; **Mrs J Diffin**, 1 Q LANCS, Turnhill QLR; **Mrs M McIntyre**, CAD Kineton; **Mrs B Bland**, 1 RMP, BFPO 801; **Mrs A N Other**, SAS Regt.

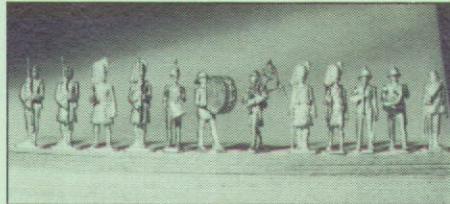
TWO SERVICE COUPLES from West Berlin will be appearing on your TV screen later this year as a new series of London Weekend Television's popular show *Play Your Cards Right* returns in the Autumn.

RSM Richard Whiteford and his wife Linda of 1st Battalion, King's Own Border Regiment faced Lance Corporal Stephen Phillips and his wife Gingie, 2nd Battalion, Royal Irish Rangers in the TV quiz show hosted by the irrepressible Bruce Forsyth.

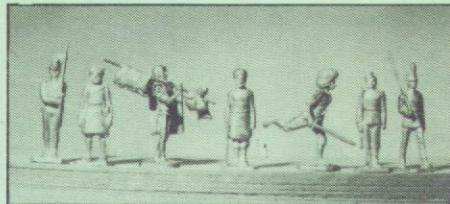
It was the first time that London Weekend had chosen couples from abroad and the Whitefords and Phillips' were the first Army couples to compete for the fabulous prizes on the show.

THE END OF THE BEGINNING FOR JOHN TUNSTILL?

John Tunstill, owner of the Lambeth model shop bearing his name, and also of the range of 54mm lead alloy model soldiers, is hoping to sell his interest in his retail shop, adjacent to London's Imperial War Museum, in order to concentrate on expanding his manufacturing business.



In recent months, due to the demise of a variety of model soldier outlets and manufacturers, more collectors and enthusiasts turn to him as one of the few manufacturers who is approachable by the general collecting public and also is prepared to carry out commissions for figures in relatively small quantities at a very reasonable price as both the National Army Museum at Chelsea and the Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood in East London have found out. Individual customers include Americans wanting Italians; Englishmen wanting Dervishes; a Scottish beer company wanting footguards; a solicitor wanting Roman soldiers in full kit; and a collector of jade and ivory wanting Samurai figures.

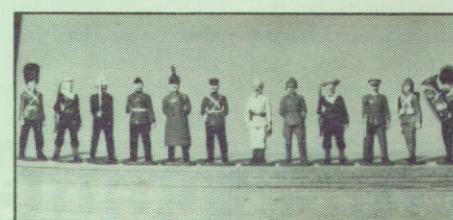


These customers and new requests arriving each week allow Tunstill less time to run the shop. A manager is not the answer because the business requires an enthusiast who can talk to all customers at all levels about all periods and who, because of his personal and financial involvement, will reap the benefits of his ability, knowledge and personality.

The business started twelve years ago and was a natural progression from the magazine 'Miniature

Warfare' which Tunstill published in the early '70s. It was the first professional magazine for wargame enthusiasts and beat the path for colourful publications which followed successfully in its wake. Some odd back numbers can still be found in the present shop amongst the 5000 or so past issues of all military style magazines which are stocked. Lists are free and if you want one send an SAE.

The original shop at No 36 Kennington Road was long, narrow, and incredibly crowded and the walls and ceilings were covered with militaria. The new shop, at Nos 44 and 46, five doors closer to the Imperial War Museum, is twice the size, has a huge basement, a small yard and rear access via a service road. The shop itself is a pleasure to enter. Light and spacious, dark wood shelving and cupboards, spot lighting and fitted carpets, hundreds of books, racks of games, helmets on 1940 style mannequin heads, row upon row of gleaming soldiers, the walls lined with Victorian



military prints, and military music playing quietly in the background.

Apart from all the items which were moved to the new premises, every day two or three people arrive to sell their collections, and at any time it is possible to walk in and find piles of goods which have just been purchased, and are as yet unsorted, priced or put away. Lists of these goods are not available because of the constantly changing stock. But a 'phone call on 01-928 7479 between the very civilised hours of 11am-5pm Monday to Saturday when the shop is usually open will bring you up to date advice on stock availability.

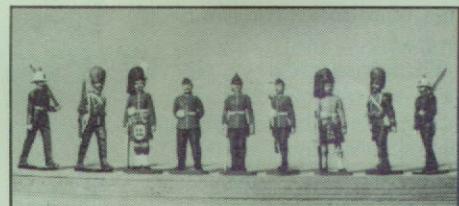
The production side of the business, started five years ago in order to sell model soldiers at a traditional or toy soldier price, has been so successful that now, with 325 figures already fashioned and more being requested every day,

pressure has built to a point whereby it is necessary to separate the two concerns. John Tunstill's Soldiers, as the 54mm range is called, currently retail at a remarkable £1.45 for an unpainted



casting, £2.15 for a traditionally gloss painted figure, and only £8.00 for a matt painted model soldier. The reasons for the popularity of this range are their competitive prices, their physique, stature, and animation. Add to that the fact that out of 325 figures, over 315 of them are of British and Commonwealth forces from around the turn of the century, and again you find yet another reason why Tunstill sold about 25,000 figures last year. He is prepared to sell them painted or unpainted, loose or boxed, with a vast assortment of arms. Very generous discounts are available to anyone buying over £75 worth of figures — just 50 soldiers! Lists are available and cost 50p including postage, and the figures can be sent to any part of the world.

In recent years, Tunstill has launched his second range of figures called 'John's Girls'. These are a series of erotic figures in 75mm scale. These figures are only sold to adults and mail orders are sent out only on receipt of a signed statement to that effect. If you are over 18 and would like a list — not illustrated — send an SAE and ask for John's Girls. Sold in kits, or assembled or painted from £5 for singles and £9 for couples. These represent excellent value for



75mm figures and are incredibly good sellers. Discounts are available, as with everything else produced.

Well, that is the story so far. John Tunstill at 42 years of age is approaching the end of the beginning. He will soon embark on the beginning of the middle. By releasing himself from the retail side of the business, he will have more opportunity and time to devote to manufacturing and his expanding property development business, which, he fears, will never give him the same satisfaction as his shop, although providing the financial background to make it all possible.

If you are quick, have or can obtain the necessary cash, have the ability or knowledge and desire to run one of the world's most specialised shops, this is your opportunity.

For Sale

Magnificent model soldier and militaria shop and basement storage workshop and display. 13 years remaining on renewable 15 year lease. Two bedroom flat also available if required. Full training given if needed. Stock at the value of £50,000. Interested persons with proof of financial ability should apply to John Tunstill, 44-46 Kennington Road, London SE1. 01-928 7479. Partnerships also considered.

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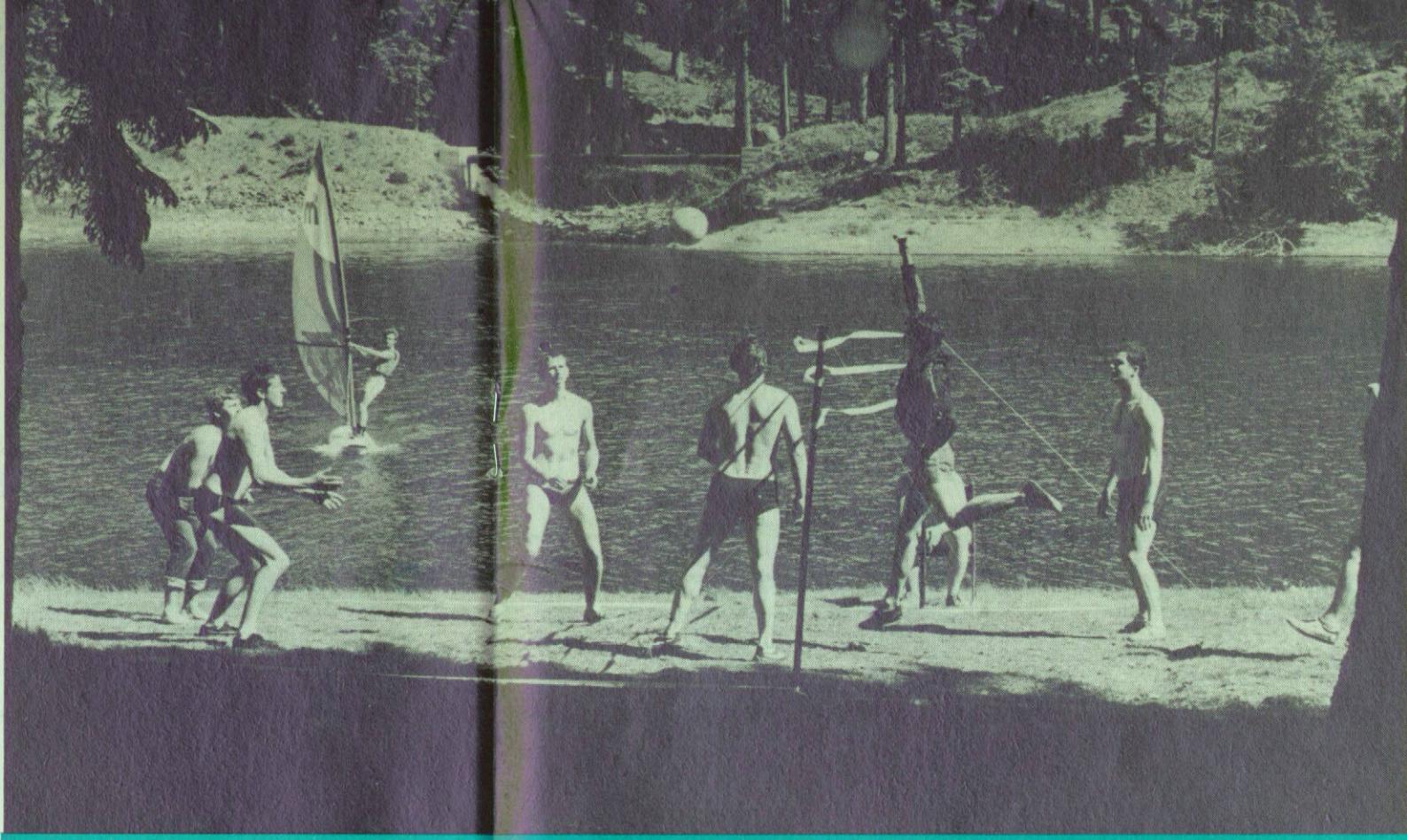
S 7

In a remote mountain setting in Germany hundreds of British Service personnel become . . .



AT EASE WITH THE THREE Cs

▲ Gnr David Thomas emerges from cave shaft. ▼ 2nd Lt Theresa Cook sets about rescue drill.



A moment of relaxation at a lakeside camp in the Harz.

Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Les Wiggs

FORTY YEARS AGO in the Harz Mountains, a four-storey factory sharing a valley floor with a top secret heavy water plant was making small arms ammunition for Britain's enemy of the time — the Wehrmacht.

Nowadays that same building, painted a refreshing cream, is the hub from which the British Army runs basic courses in the three Cs — canoeing, caving and climbing.

The Army Mountain Training Centre — AMTC — at Silberhütte also offers skiing activities in the winter under the noses of tomorrow's threat; lying as it does just six miles from the barbed wire and watch towers of the Inner German Border (IGB).

A thousand feet up amid the bracing, forest-cloaked mountains, the Centre has been in business since 1960 and runs courses almost every month of a programme-packed year for soldiers and airmen serving in West Germany. Every month, that is, except September and October in deference to the red deer rutting season!

A typical year can see approaching 3500 students pass through AMTC's tutelage on over 100 courses.

Heading the AMTC is its 38-year-old Commandant, Major Anthony Forbes, Scots Guards, a man with all the right qualifications for the post. He was formerly chief instructor at Fort George, the Joint Services' Mountain Training Centre in Scotland, as well as a one-time chief instructor at the British Outward Bound Centre (BOBC) at Kristiansand, Norway and the first Force Adventure Training Officer in Belize.

He plays the bagpipes too and, according to one local source, "has made a big impression on the Harz musical folklore".

Major Forbes has seven permanent staff (two officers, three WOs and two APTC instructors) plus six German civilian instructors working for him. During the summer schedules 40 students a week converge on

the Centre for rock climbing, caving and 'easy water' canoeing.

The instructional staff is swelled to 24 in the winter when 180 volunteers arrive weekly for the winter courses which can last anything from five to ten days and involve cross-country (langlauf) and alpine skiing.

It is during these basic and intermediate langlauf and alpine courses that soldiers are given the chance to take National Ski Federation of Great Britain (NSFGB) and Joint Service proficiency and instructor awards.

Courses are also run for up to 300 members of Junior Leader regiments in the UK. And in summer canoeists can try for the Army Canoe Union (ACU) proficiency and instructor's certificates.

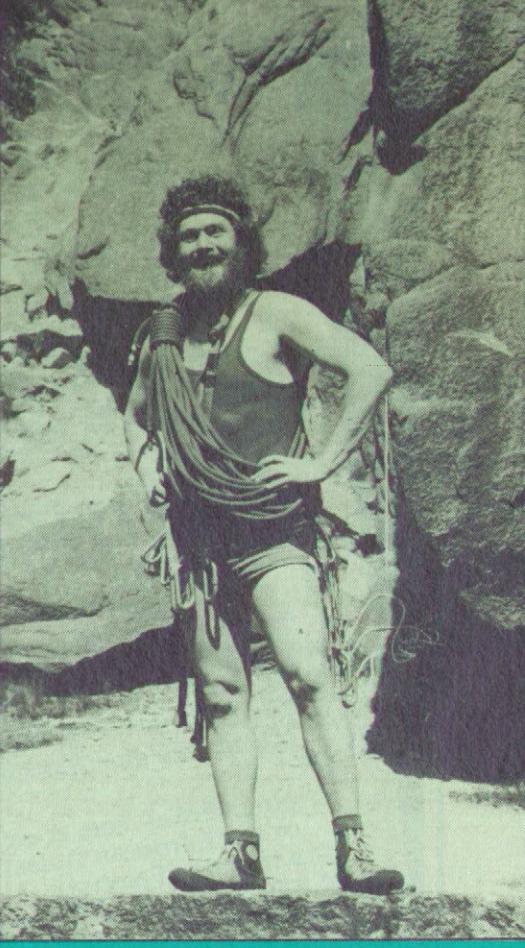
Amid the trees are eight isolated camp sites — canvas 'villages' which are allocated to BAOR regiments and which each offer adventurous training facilities for up to 20 personnel at a time during the 14-week summer 'high season'.

Sergeant Malcolm Harding, a gunner fitter with 39 Heavy Regiment Workshops, REME, at Sennelager, who was living with 19 others in an eight-tent complex by a lake, told SOLDIER: "The boys have thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It's all good fun. There's no regimentation. Our OC on his recce here was most impressed and didn't want to go back. One thing is certain, though, our Workshops guys will be back."

There is no question of the Centre being solely a male domain. As Major Forbes pointed out, girls are always welcome and give a "certain boost" to courses.

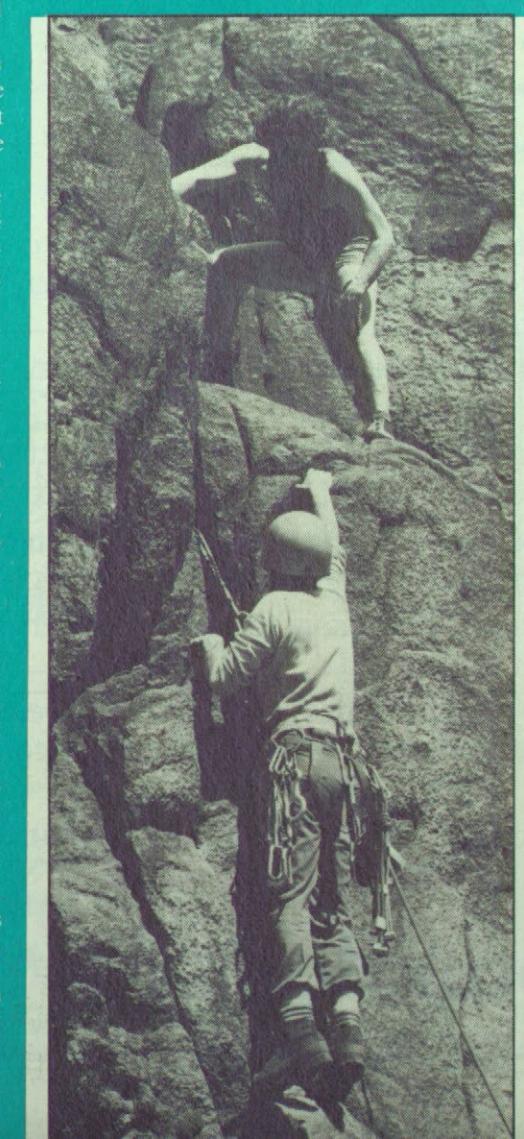
SOLDIER came across a contingent of 20 girls from Rheindahlen's PBX switchboard

continued on page 29



▲ Mountain man Mr Roy Woolgar, one of the instructors.

▲ Tpr John Kennelly making rocky progress. ▼ Wind surfing is always popular. ▼





FORM A

Register of Electors 1983

Representation of the People Acts

Register in force for twelve months from 16th February 1983
Qualifying date 10th October 1982

No one may vote at elections to Parliament, local councils or the European Assembly unless his/her name appears in a register of electors. A new register is produced each year and the law requires the householders to provide the information necessary to produce it.

To vote, your name must be on it.

Are you registered as a service voter?

If you're not, you could lose your vote.

As a member of HM forces, you only need to register once and your vote is assured for the rest of your service career, no matter where you're posted.

Registration forms are available from your ship or unit at all times.

Your completed form should be sent to the electoral registration officer for the area in which you wish to register.

Wives or husbands of members of HM forces can register as civilian voters if they prefer, while living in the United Kingdom.

But if they move overseas they have to register as Service voters in order to vote.

All registration forms must be signed and dated on or before 10th October 1982, and sent to the electoral registration officer as quickly as possible.

Otherwise you could find yourself without a vote at the next election.

It's your vote, don't lose it.

Issued by the Home Office.

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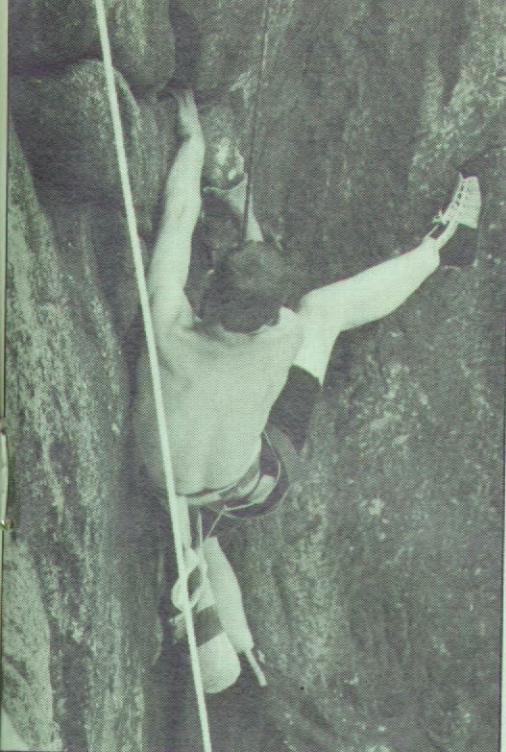
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Climbing the crags — but only five feet up!

who had taken advantage of the facilities on offer to become proficient wind-surfers.

The Centre's success in the Eighties is largely due to the foundations laid between 1945 and 1954 at the then No 4 Leave Centre. Accommodation was found in requisitioned hotels at Bad Harzburg which, in turn, gave rise to pleasure skiing, camping, fishing, riding, rowing and trekking.

Two ski huts were built nearby and taken over by Goslar Garrison for winter warfare courses. A temporary HQ was set up at Bad Lauterberg and the Silberhütte syllabus got underway in 1960 at what was then called the Special Training Centre.

The name was changed to the Army Mountain Training Centre in 1973 and Major Forbes is the ninth Commandant in post.

All the activities at the Centre are popular — including caving at any of four different sites.

Major Forbes explained: "Caving is not everyone's idea of fun but most students want to see what total darkness is like. Secondly, it appeals to people who don't mind getting muddy and grotty. I think it's something to do with the fact you don't have to be smart to go caving. You can go down there and be scruffy. It's really quite popular with the soldiers. When they go caving they expect to see something unknown."

Freshly emerged from the 230-million-year-old caves at Jettenhöhle was Gunner David Thomas, 19, of 42 Battery, 22 Air Defence Regiment, RA, at Dortmund, who said: "It's all very interesting. I've already been to Silberhütte before for basic skiing. There were stacks of falls in the snow but otherwise it was quite enjoyable. I'll come back here for rock climbing and canoeing if I get the chance. My advice to soldiers who are thinking about AMTC courses is to try it for themselves. It's to be recommended."

In the view of Major Forbes, himself a langlauf skier by preference who started up the Guards Adventure Training Wing at Pirbright in 1969, it is the camp sites at Silberhütte "where the good value is".

"Guys get away on their own and do their own thing whereas individuals who go on courses try to learn a skill under professional tuition to get proficiency certificates. On the camp sites the guys get away from their normal hierarchy.

"Compared with BOBC in Norway, for instance, we are here to offer adventurous training facilities and courses to large numbers, particularly junior ranks. BOBC is established to train leaders and instructors. We get the privates and lance corporals who are trying to learn skills for the first time."

Among the novice climbers was Trooper John Kennelly, 18, of 3 RTR based at Paderborn, who was on only his third day of rock climbing and was about to 'lead' a partner up a 250-foot-high granite outcrop.

"It's pretty scary at times but I'm enjoying it," he admitted.

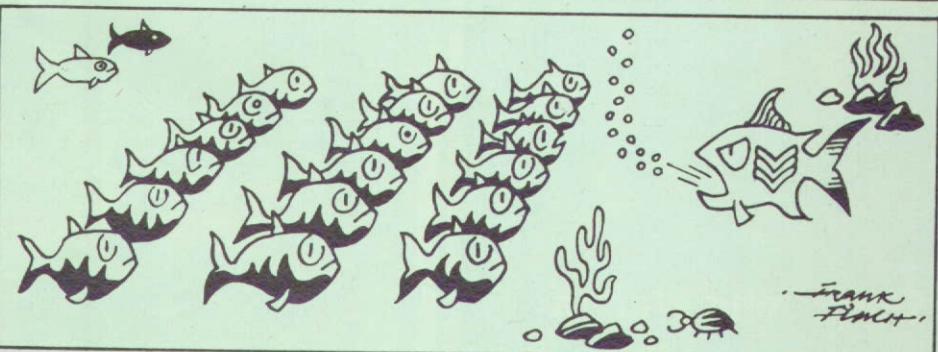
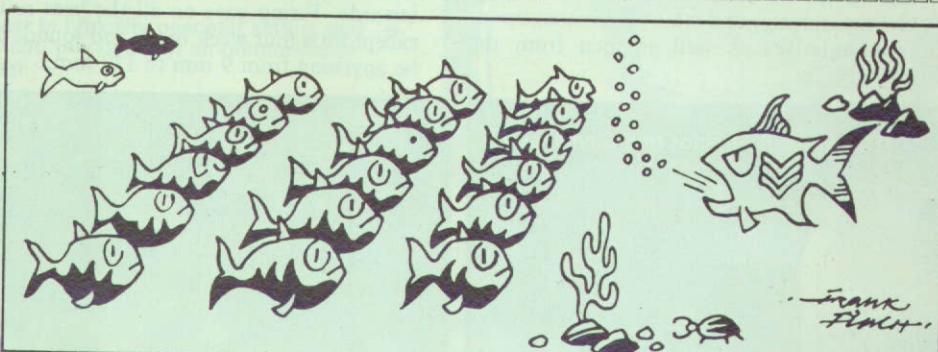
His civilian instructor, Mr Ron Woolgar, at AMTC for eight years, called out to him: "Don't try to hide any mistakes. Admit your

mistakes and if you're not sure — ask! Each move has got to be decisive. Think about it; nice, easy gentle moves. Remember the rule of three-point contact. Hands and feet on the rock face in three places at one time."

John completed his 'v-diff' (very difficult) climb to his tutor's expectations and a delighted Ron shouted down to all and sundry beneath: "There's no holding him. He's so good. I can't stop him!"

According to Major Forbes "very few" men attending AMTC are returned to their unit "psyched out" because they are unsuitable for courses. They simply switch to other activities. Commercially, such courses at a comparable UK centre, all found with full board, would cost at least £100 a week, he reminded.

"There is certainly an amount of apprehension, especially in rock climbing," he emphasised, "but that's what it is all about. The element of risk. The aim of adventurous training is to develop self-reliance, initiative and courage — both physical and moral — for all ranks so they are better prepared to face the demands of war." ■



HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences, turn to page 39.

ON SUNDAY 29 August, BBC Television's wildlife programme *The World About Us* will feature an entire programme on the British run NATO training area at Sennelager in Western Germany. For, amidst the tanks, troops and guns, there exists a naturalists' paradise with animals and birds which have either disappeared entirely or been driven to the Celtic fringes by the urbanisation of the United Kingdom.

Sennelager is only one of many Army training areas where wildlife, far from being destroyed by the military activity, has thrived. For, within its confines, insecticides are absent and there are no hordes of weekend trippers or hunters.

The idea for the BBC programme came from the Public Information office of 3rd Armoured Division, within whose region Sennelager lies. Major Edmund Hudson recalls: "One of the first things I attended here was the Staff College Demonstration. I have always been interested in wildlife and we thought 'let's approach the BBC'. We met over a cup of coffee at Charing Cross station and they agreed to come out and do a recce."

The programme has been assembled from material taken on seven separate visits to Sennelager by BBC camera teams. But two Army photographers will also see their footage on the box — Staff Sergeant Peter Griffiths and Sergeant George Moffett have been taking both still and movie shots to show the year-round story of Sennelager's wildlife.

The range covers over 100 square miles and is encircled by a ring road built in the 1960's. This has the advantage that all of the field firing ranges point to a central impact area. The range is used by British, German and Dutch troops with occasional visitors from other Nato allies.

Sennelager was first established as a military training area by the Kaiser back in 1892. Pictures taken at the time show few trees and lots of sand — but over the years a lot of planting has made it into a heavily wooded area.

Among its denizens are wild boar, roe, fallow and red deer, pine martens, red squirrels, polecats, musk rats and birds of prey including buzzards, red kites and goshawks.

So it is small wonder that there is great

TV producer-director Neil Clemenson.

Story: John Walton

Wild boar, pine marten, red kite, deer and many other wild creatures live side by side with the Army at Sennelager. This month BBC TV is screening a special programme about them.

NATURAL BREAK

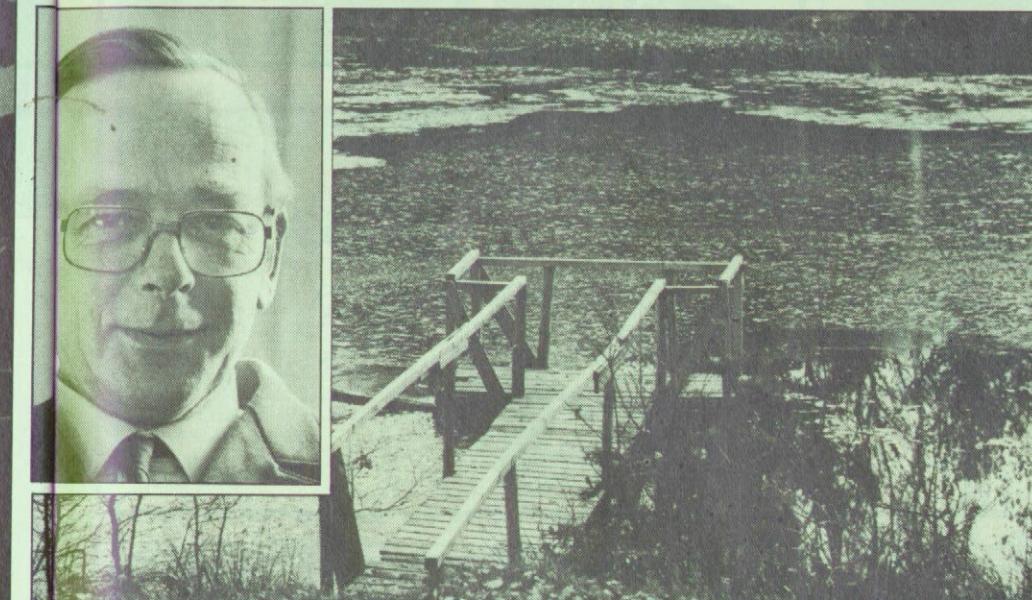
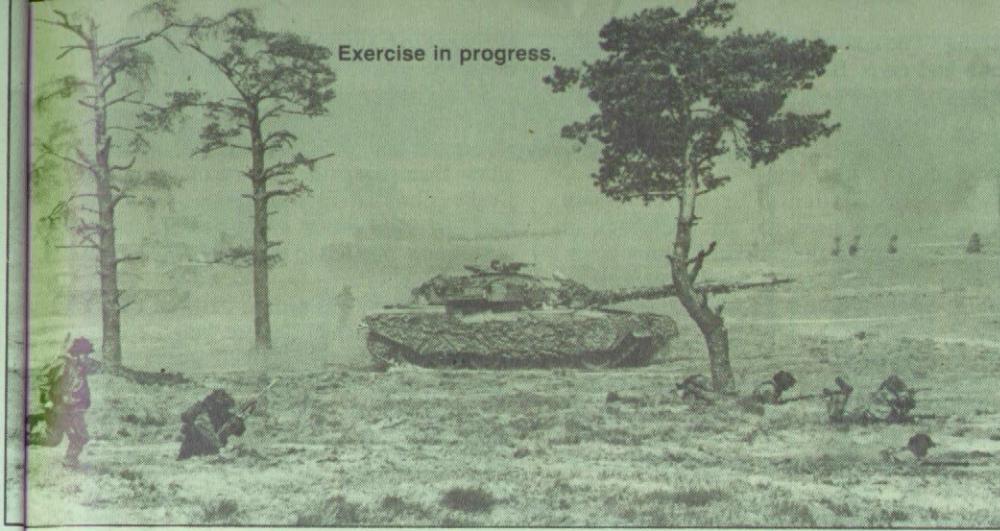
demand from the German public for access and they are allowed to drive through on certain roads when there is no firing. The local foxhounds also meet on the range but for a 'drag' hunt only — fox hunting has been outlawed in Germany for 60 years.

The Training Area Commission meets every two months and conservation is among the subjects discussed. It includes German forestry and state land management representatives as well as men from the military.

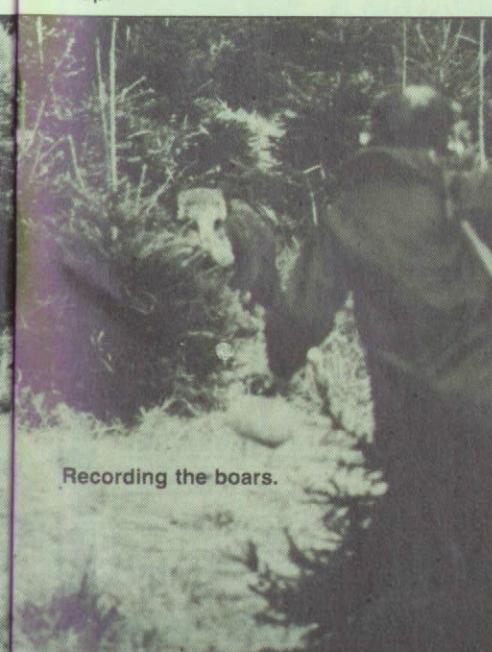
Says Lieutenant-Colonel Tom Dean, Deputy Commandant: "I wish I had an estate manager's training because this is really like running a large estate — except you don't have to worry quite so much about the amount of money you make out of it."

Captain Mike Terry, range control officer, told SOLDIER that there are 17 major field firing ranges, all of which fire inwards. Firing goes on all the year round except for a four week break and rounds can be anything from 9 mm to 120 mm.

Exercise in progress.



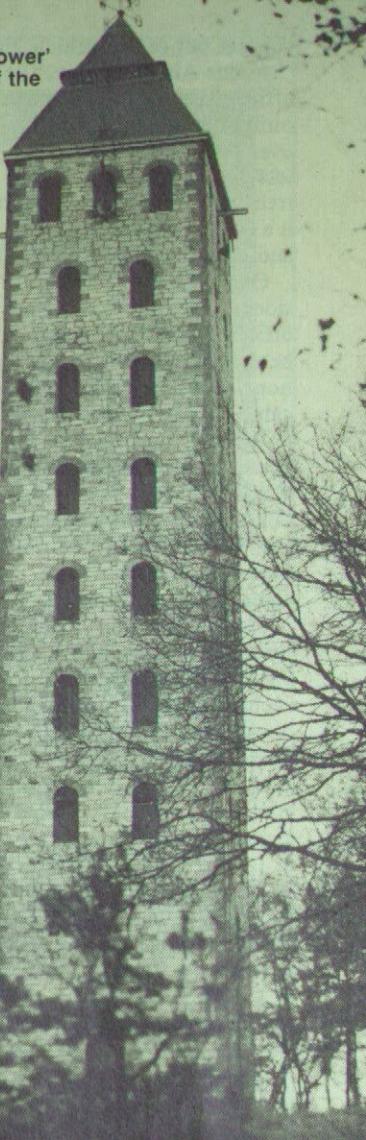
Tranquil fishing lake.
Forestry Director Herr Bernhard von Heydebrand (inset).



Recording the boars.



The 'Kaiser's Tower' in the middle of the ranges.



you get out of the vehicle they're off."

Major Alan Stockley, the range technical officer responsible for targets, adds: "It is built on sand and when the Germans took it over they did make an effort to make it look less like the Sahara Desert. They planted trees not in conservation terms but to make it a better training area. One thing has led to another and it is now a very beautiful area."

Of course the picture is not entirely one sided as several mounted antlers in the offices of local German Forestry officials bear witness. The stags got their horns hopelessly entangled either in telephone cables or in wire used for pulling up targets.

But the forestry director, Herr Bernhard von Heydebrand, maintains: "It is much quieter inside the range than outside. Within the area there are big fields and they just let them grow — we have lots of rare plants including Alpine ones usually only found in the mountains."

Despite the poor ground Sennelager has a lot of woodland. Some 75 per cent is pine, with 15 per cent oak and other species including silver birch and beech. Every year about 10,000 cubic feet of wood is felled and something like 100,000 new trees are planted. The Forestry staff comprises five foresters and 15 labourers plus office personnel.

In fact Sennelager is such a safe haven for animals that not only deer but wild boar have to be culled to keep their numbers down to manageable levels. Springtime estimates are that the Sennelager population is 900 deer of different types and 150 boar.

There are five man-made lakes and two streams on the ranges which are used for

fishing. The coarse fishing includes bream, chub and carp. But the fly fishing facilities for brown and rainbow trout attract anglers from all over Rhine Army. The record for a trout caught at Sennelager is more than seven lbs.

The commandant, Brigadier Brian Emsdon, often goes out on horseback at weekends around the ranges. "I am a countryman by nature and I find I know more about what is going on on the range by riding a horse than ever I could in a vehicle."

Brigadier Emsdon feels that preservation of the countryside and good training go hand in hand. "If you destroy the countryside you destroy its training value.

We want to train somewhere which is typical of this area, not a lunar landscape."

So the ranges have fields and fences and in some areas farmers have been allowed to plant and have dairy cattle. The authorities allow themselves the luxury of being positively conservation minded — no insecticides are used and in one area a special sort of flower is planted to encourage a particular type of bee.

Says Brigadier Emsdon: "It's an exciting place to command because you have that fascinating balance between one's professional military skills and more private interests." How the two lock in together at Sennelager will be seen on your TV screens shortly. ■



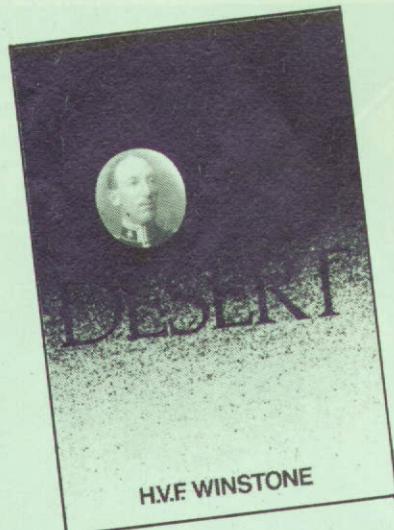
The Life of Colonel Gerard Leachman (1880-1920) British Hero of the Desert War

LEACHMAN: O.C. DESERT

H.V.F. Winstone

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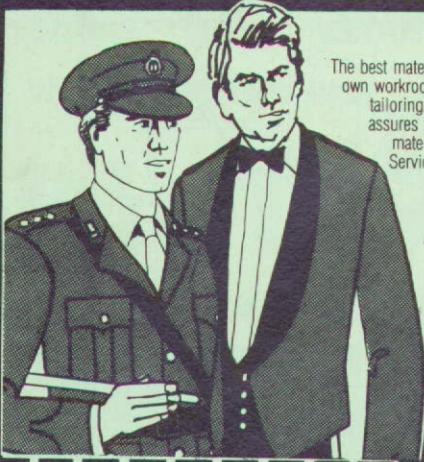
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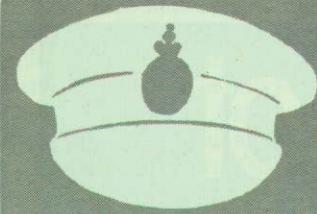
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THE SCOTS GUARDS

THE STAR OF THE ORDER of the Thistle bearing the motto *Nemo me Impune lacessit* (No-one may touch me with impunity) is an entirely appropriate badge for this ancient Scottish regiment.

In officers' forage caps it is worn in silver with the thistle and motto in gilt backed by green enamel, but in the SD cap and beret it is half size. Warrant officers wear a similar badge but of slightly less costly construction. Colour Sergeants, sergeants and musicians wear the Star in silver anodised with the motto and thistle in gold anodised material; previously it was worn in white metal and gilding metal. All remaining ranks wear the badge in gold anodised material, previously gilding metal.

In full dress the bearskin is not adorned with a plume, a singular distinction among the Foot Guards, and the tunic buttons are grouped in threes. The forage cap is notable for its diced band.

The origins of the Third Regiment of Foot Guards may not be obscured by the mists of time but they were lost in the smoke of a fire in the Tower in

1841 when the regimental records were burned. Some say the regiment was raised in 1639 but the official year is 1661.

The regiment's title has undergone several changes over the centuries, at first being 'The Scotch Guards', later the '3rd Foot Guards' and, in 1831 by order of William IV, the 'Scots Fusilier Guards'. Their current designation came about in 1877 by command of Queen Victoria.

A notable feature of 'The Jocks' is the presence of national musicians in the form of pipers in Highland dress with doublets of dark blue and kilts and plaids of the Royal Stewart tartan — men who deservedly enjoy a high reputation for their skill in the piping world. Since 1928, at the wish of George V, the pipers have worn feather bonnets with five tails on the right side, adorned with a blue over red hackle on the left side. Pipers also wear a special badge, being the Thistle Star within a circular strap and buckle bearing the title 'Scots Guards', all in silver plate. The Pipe Major's badge differs in that the Star has a gilt centre backed by green enamel.

Hugh L. King



Next issue:
The Irish Guards



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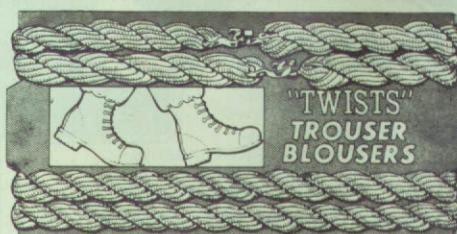
Humour



"We'll take it!"



"The previous occupant was a jungle rescue expert"



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Linda Kitson, official war artist for the Falklands campaign, talks about her work and the war

DRAWING ON BITTER EXPERIENCE

BACK FROM THE Falklands war and full of praise for the soldiers out there, artist Miss Linda Kitson — "I've worked out I'm sort of fifth cousin to Lt-General Sir Frank Kitson" — is a self-admitted pacifist but says she would do it all over again, if only to portray the aftermath.

Miss Kitson, 37, who sailed the 8000 miles to the turbulent waters of the South Atlantic did 350 "scribbles" in sub-zero temperatures, clad in five layers of QM-supplied clothing — "my long Johns were so long I had to knot them over my head." Conditions for drawing were appalling — rain, hail and mist — and so cold that her fingers often became too numb to hold a crayon after just a few minutes' exposure.

During the Falklands fighting, Miss Kitson had been attached to 5 Infantry Brigade and, at a London press conference, paid tribute to the "gallantry and chivalry" of the soldiers who, even on red alerts aboard the *Canberra* in 'bomb alley' were still opening doors for her.

Miss Kitson, a tutor at the Royal Academy of Art, had been commissioned by the Artistic Records Committee of the Imperial War Museum to cover the Falklands action in drawings.

She told the media: "You may think the drawings are awful. That's when I get my D-Day. You may kill me for them. They are a social microcosm within one brigade."

The horror of death did not escape the notice of Miss Kitson but her drawings do not show it.

"You get 14 Pucara aircraft in various states of destruction around you and the pilots in pieces. You look around and find — an arm. Turn over a helmet — a head is still inside. Such sensational and horrifying sights were too obvious," she said.

Her happiest moments, she recalled, were sketching the scenes at the concerts or

'smokers' aboard ship.

"From the drawing point of view they were the most difficult because you are looking around you all the time. You cannot mix with the lads, get pickled with them or join in with them. When they do celebrate they are very sociable creatures, Service people."

Of her own pacifist leanings, Miss Kitson conceded: "I'm turning weakness now into strengths, going for an open mind. I'm a reactive artist now. We're not made of such bad stuff as I thought. It's a shame to have to see it under duress."

She described her drawings as a "running record covered with genuine Falklands Islands mud."

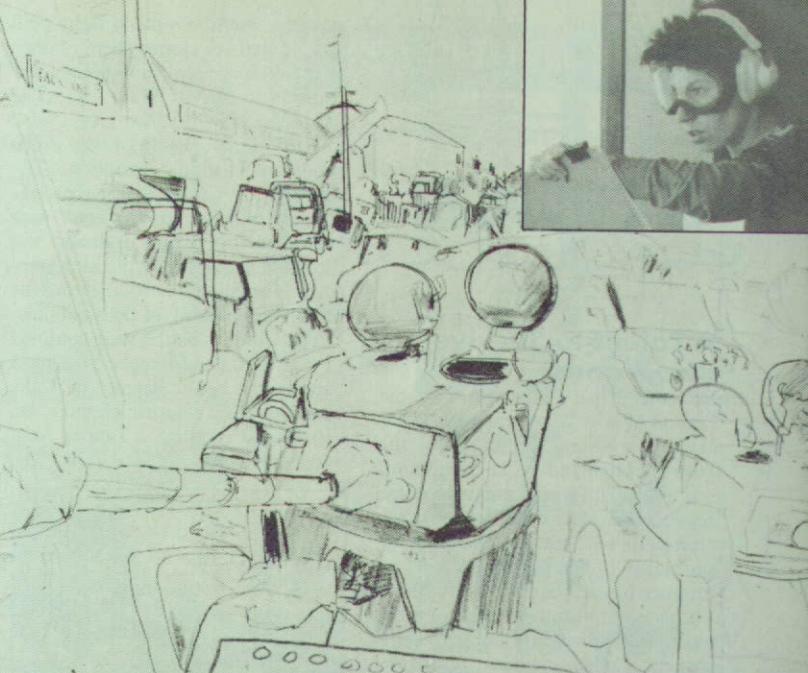
"I still think the value of it could not be done anywhere else but there. The sight of 600 Scots Guardsmen stuck in what had been prisoner-of-war compounds, tick-infested sheep sheds, in an attempt to dry out was sorrowful to see. It was colder indoors than out.

"I use words like 'heroism' guardedly but the conditions with which those fellows had to cope is something no civilian would tolerate. A civilian could not handle the organisation, control and discipline which the soldiers endured.

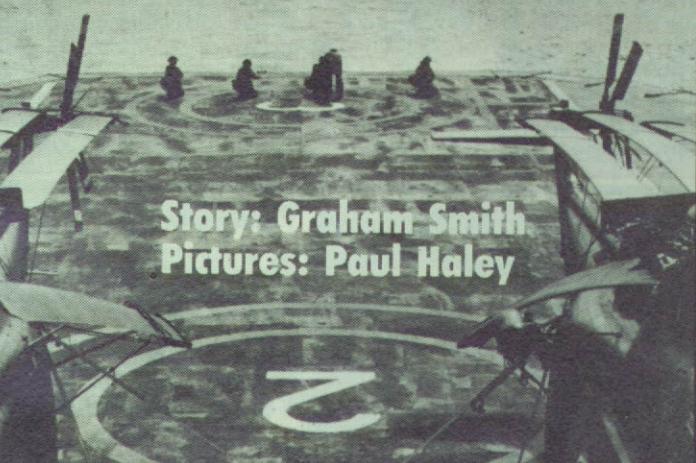
Of the Argentinians' defeat, Miss Kitson said: "Inconsistency of command is what did them in. There were 16-year-old boys, hill farmers with no education and a total belief in all they were told, clutching their fathers' call-up papers. They had been told if they were captured, they would be eaten. They were juddering for days afterwards."

Some of her work on show at the press conference included the demise of the *Sir Galahad*, Rapier positions dug into Sapper Hill, fitness training aboard the QE2 and the Scots Guards disembarking from the *Canberra*.

One person who actually had an opportunity to see Miss



Above: Quick-fire sketch of Argentine vehicle dump at Port Stanley and (inset) Linda Kitson at work on the QE2.



**Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Paul Haley**

Live firing from the QE2's helipad as seen (top) by the artist and (above) by photographer Paul Haley.

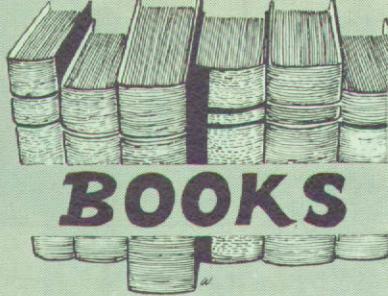
Kitson at work during the Falklands campaign was SOLDIER's Paul Haley who also sailed to the South Atlantic on the QE2.

"The Army appeared to be very wary of her at the outset because she was one of the few civilians and the only woman who was working with them during the fighting on the Islands. But now she is back she has more than proved her worth," he said.

"When she got aboard the

QE2 she knew little about the Army and especially its abbreviated acronyms which confused her. Back now, she is using them just like the Army. I like her drawings. They seem to capture the movement with simple line strokes."

A spokeswoman at the Imperial War Museum has confirmed that a "good selection" of Miss Kitson's drawings — possibly as many as half — will go on show there in November for three months.



BOOKS

A Talent to Survive: Rex Woods

Richard Broad's adventures in the Second World War were extraordinary. As a young lieutenant in the Seaforth Highlanders, he found himself on the run with seven men of his regiment in occupied France in the aftermath of Dunkirk. Despite the problems of keeping such a large number of escapees together, Broad led his group through France, hiding out in barns or sheltering with sympathetic French civilians, until they reached the Pyrenees. From there they crossed into Spain, and finally back to England. It was not the end of Broad's story, however; the qualities which had enabled him to survive in France brought him to the attentions of the Special Operations Executive. He went on to take part in various clandestine operations, including the Gaullist assault on Vichy Madagascar and the Commando attacks on the V-Bomb sites in Europe. The end of the war saw him in Berlin, nursing as souvenirs not only two chunks from Hitler's desk in the Bunker, but a rank of lieutenant-colonel, and the MC, Legion d'Honneur and Croix de Guerre avec deux Palmes!

Based on Broad's own memoirs, this book is Rex Woods' modest account of these amazing real-life wartime adventures.

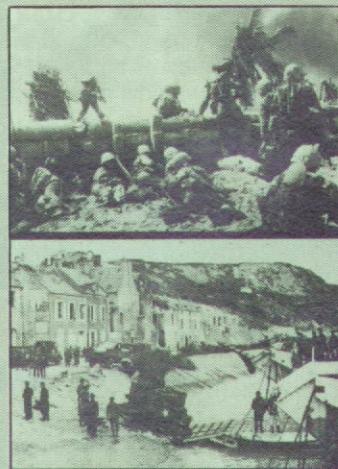
William Kimber & Co, Godolphin House, 22a Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AE — £8.95 IJK

Marines at War: Ian Dear

Among the elite of Britain's military forces are the Royal Marine Com-

mandos, whose ability to fight both on land and sea earned them renown in many successful amphibious operations in World War Two. The United States Marine Corps also fought heroically against stern opposition in similar operations. The exploits of these two corps are brought together in this book with explicit narrative and dramatic pictures which emphasise the high standards of training, the courage and the fine fighting ability of both nations.

The USMC's battles were confined to the Pacific and interest is centred here on the heroic defence of Wake Island, the Guadalcanal landings, the assault and capture of Tarawa Atoll and the storming of Iwo Jima. The



Royal Marines saw service in vastly differing terrains. The operations cited are Force Viper in the jungles of Burma, the invasion beaches of Normandy, the 'Five Rivers' amphibious operations in Europe, and as part of a larger force that attacked and captured Walcheren from the sea. The success of this operation at the mouth of the Scheldt in Holland opened the sea route to Antwerp, then badly needed as a port by the Allies.

The versatile Marines also had an unusual task: the manning and firing of siege guns across the English Channel. 'Winnie' and 'Pooh' were 14-inch guns that engaged German batteries to cover the passage of Allied convoys. The RM Siege Reg-

iment also acquired three 13.5-inch railway guns which they used to good effect. Two were converted to 'hyper-velocity' long range guns and could fire 250 lb shells the remarkable distance of 62 miles.

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Dresden 1945 — The Devil's Tinderbox: Alexander McKee

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to relive it"; thus wrote George Santayana, thereby giving one of the best reasons for reading historical accounts of events that have more painful and shameful than glorious connotations.

Between 13 and 23 February 1945, the German city of Dresden was reduced to a smouldering ruin for, apparently, no better reason than to impress the advancing Russian army. The Allied air raids on this beautiful city caused shock waves to reverberate around the world.

Dresden was largely populated by civilians and refugees, and the decision to destroy it, causing at least 35,000 deaths, has been the subject of fierce debate ever since. But despite the many books written on the Dresden raids, Alexander McKee,

who has been haunted since 1945 by the spectre of the bombing, realised there were no recorded personal accounts of what it was actually like to be there at the time.

To put the raids into their proper strategic and military context, he felt it important to establish personal viewpoints of the Britons, Americans and Germans who witnessed the attacks. Research involved interviews with survivors: wounded SS officers, German schoolgirls, Hitler Youth leaders and nursing mothers. British and American prisoners-of-war experiences are intermingled with stories of the British and American airmen who took part in the raids. Some believed they were right in what they were ordered to do, others were ashamed.

The author carefully assesses the official historians' records and poses the perennial questions: was the city turned into an inferno in order for Winston Churchill to impress Stalin? At what point do 35,000 people's lives become expendable?

The questions are asked but the answers are no more than suggested, which is just as well for the national conscience.

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"Look here Terry, Mummy is a domestic help not an old scrubber."

Puzzling Places

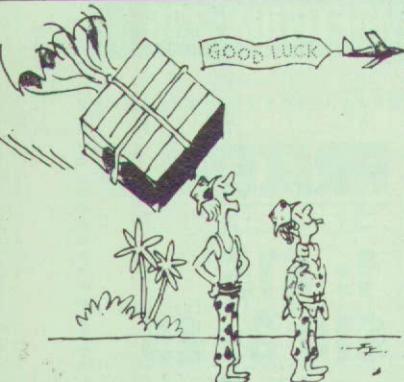
HERE ARE A few British place names — fifteen to be exact. Can you state what they are?

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 24 September. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 18 October. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 299' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Send your answers by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 299' label to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants. GU11 2DU.

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GOOD LUCK

MAIL DROP

days with only a small allocation to weekends — which is when he wants plenty of diary space. Furthermore, the year that interests him is the training year not necessarily the calendar year — which is why the TA Soldier's diary was born.

From the start it was decided that the diary should have unique features relevant to the individual soldier. In this diary he can record his days and drills on a special record sheet which can be initialised by his PSI. He can write down his own personal details such as Army Number, blood group, date of enlistment, run out date, personal weapon number, unit telephone number, sub-unit call sign etc, (nothing will be included that can breach security).

There will be a year planner for the forecast of events, a detailed camp planner, a kit check list for items on his signature and shooting record cards. The largest spaces in the diary section proper are for Saturdays and Sundays with a notes section each week for drill night. In addition, there will be a very basic 'aide memoire' covering many aspects of soldiering with appeal to all units and corps. The price of the diary, although not yet finalised, will be around £2.

In order to obtain an approximate idea of the numbers to print, any unit interested should write to: **Captain M B Ranson, A Coy 3 (V) Bn, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, Hightown Bks, Wrexham, Clwyd, or telephone him on Deeside 814776.**

LEWD LINES

It was with interest that I read RB's review of 'Ubique' (Band of the CRE) (26 July, *On the Record*) — a most worthy appraisal of this recording.

RB is to be complimented on his memory — and his filing system! I am the correspondent of twelve years ago and I would like to point out (again) that the original words to the Corps song, "Hurrah! for the CRE" are not filthy and if my memory serves me correct, I penned the true words at the time to prove the point.

However, I make no apologies for the many versions of the song in the barrack room style, and am the first to concede that these versions are indeed lewd. If RB sang these versions then that's his 'orrible luck' — regiments and bad stations notwithstanding!

No offence meant of course and may he continue to review records for SOLDIER for many years to come.
— D W Luckett, 46 Station Road, Melling, Liverpool.

DISGUSTING

As one of the many Task Force wives, I would like to draw attention to the disgusting welcome that Commando Logistic Regiment Ordnance Squadron received when they flew in to Brize Norton.

After many hours of travelling, families had to wait around for five hours only to be told we were not allowed onto the tarmac to greet our husbands. There was no reception,

nor any word through the media that they had even arrived home. The most annoying thing was that families have been allowed on the tarmac to greet flights arriving both before and after our lads came home.

I wrote to the local television but to little avail so I hope you will mention this point as there are still a lot of angry wives about. After all, our men did their bit as well. — **Mrs Roseann Warden, 55 Barbury Crescent, Southway, Plymouth, Devon.**

MEDAL MYSTERY

Recent letters to SOLDIER have discussed the whys and why nots of medals not being awarded in respect of the Canal Zone Campaign in the 1950's. Another dispute regarding recognition of campaign service occurs in more recent times.

The GSM 1962 Malayan Peninsular was awarded to ground forces serving in Malaya and Singapore up to June 1965. Confrontation with Indonesia was not officially ended until mid 1966. Military records indicate that minor skirmishes between British troops and Communist guerillas in Malaya were still occurring as late as 1969.

Considering the 'war' was officially still being fought for at least 12 months after the final awards were made, it remains a mystery why June 1965 was decided as the final date for awards to be issued in respect of the campaign.

Perhaps some readers could shed some light on the subject. — **Fg Off R D Edwards RAFVR(T), Trem Y Ddol, Maes Madog, Old Colwyn, Clwyd.**

REGULAR TALKS

After reading the letter 'Cadet Plea' (25 June) I would like to say how much I agree with L/Cpl McLean.

I am myself a L/Cpl in the ACF with whom I have served for 2 years, and in all that time I have never known a visit by a member of our parent corps, ours being the RCT.

I do not however agree with the idea that our parent corps should supply equipment. With the defence cuts the parent corps are probably finding it just as difficult as the ACF to supply cadets with more modern,

efficient equipment.

However, I still think talks by members of the parent corps would prove most beneficial to cadets. — **L/Cpl Geoff Farney, Tipton Detachment, ACF, RCT, Wolverhampton Area.**

THE BEST

Thank you for printing my letter in your esteemed magazine which gives me, being chairbound, hours of pleasurable reading.

I followed the Falklands Campaign with great interest and am proud, and pleased, about the way all the troops concerned conducted themselves. They are, without doubt, the cream of the world's armies. The pictures now appearing in SOLDIER, showing individuals, will surely be lifelong keepsakes to the soldiers' loved ones concerned. — **Stan Leaning, 5 Tetley Road, Scunthorpe, S Humberside DN16 1PN.**

THREE IN ONE

Mr L G Kimble's letter 'Silk Socks' (14 June) took the mind back! Slight correction. The Shanghai Citizens Emergency Committee organised the gift — a pair of silk cushion covers to each officer, a pair of silk socks to each OR. I don't recall the Royal Norfolks' presence, but the East Lancs Regiment made regimental history in Shanghai by one battalion taking over from the other.

Why has no mention been made of the fact that the 'Uganda' is the renamed 'Nevasa' commissioned as a troopship in the mid '50s carrying troops to and from the Far East?

Now to Cap Badge No 20, Royal Signals. It might be of interest to explain the origin of the present design. In 1940 Colonel John Leahy raised the first Special Service (later Commando) Brigade Signal Troop and redesigned the badge by removing the oval surround, leaving Jimmy standing on the globe and laurel leaves — three each side. It was admired by all and evidently caught the eye of senior Corps officers who later authorised the change. — **Lt Col A F Austen, 1 Benham Road, Greens Norton, Towcester, Northants.**



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RESETTLEMENT

There appears an excellent case for the present Government to initiate legislation providing 'Positive Discrimination' in the employment of ex-Servicemen and women.

Discharged with a 20% disability pension in late 1948, after only four-and-a-half years service on a seven and five engagement, I was eventually able to return to my craft, enrolling into the third year again, of my City & Guilds course; three nights per week at Tech, homework at weekends while living in 'rooms', a six-day working week! But on reflection I was fortunate, compared with the time-serving soldiers of today. It is almost impossible now to obtain worthwhile qualifications, at craft and technician levels, by evening classes. Most professions now demand a degree prior to entry.

The Open University offers useful higher education. One hopes that the Open Tech becomes a reality. But meanwhile a number of career opportunities, subject to Government help, might be made available in Local Government, the Civil Service and in the Public Utilities.

I suggest that the excellent Training Recommendations produced by the Local Government Training Board, as well as those produced by other ITBs, which contain detailed information, be made available to Education/Resettlement offices.

Correspondence courses are advised in some of the LGTB training patterns which could be usefully considered by Service people looking to their future second careers.

I am now going to write to my MP regarding 'Positive Discrimination'!

— **Councillor C T Wareing LCG MITD, 33 Downsell Road, Webheath, Redditch, Worcs., B97 5RP.**

You win £5 Councillor, for some interesting ideas. — Ed.

TA DIARY

Most of us at the start of the year attempt to keep some kind of diary. But the TA soldier very soon realises that most diaries available in the shops concentrate on space for week-

Can You Help?

I am beginning some research into the Environmental Impact of Military Training on Dartmoor and Otterburn ranges for my degree. I would appreciate any comments and correspondence from readers that would be of interest and relevance to the subject. — Nicholas Buck, 76 Padacre Road, Torquay, Devon.

I am currently a UN observer in the Middle East and would like to correspond with veterans of the 1st Battalion, Royal Fusiliers and the Royal Dragoons who took part in the battle at El Kuneitra on 16 June 1941. I would also like to locate 2Lt Adam Murray who fought alongside French Lt Paul Oddo in southern Syria in June 1941. — Major Randall Carlson, USMOG-UNTSO, APO NY 09672, USA.

In 1938 the Royal Engineers increased the number of Apprentice Tradesmen in anticipation of technical problems arising from the RE mechanisation programme.

Some 600 boys were recruited and their training began at the Army Technical School, Fort Darland at Gillingham (later Gordon Barracks). They were taught various skills ranging from fitters and electricians to carpenters, bricklayers and blacksmiths and painters — all trades necessary for the RE to carry out their worldwide role.

In May 1940, the boys were sent on leave because the barracks were needed to house the returning British Expeditionary Force. From September that year they were gradually drawn into the Apprentices College at Chepstow. By mid 1941 they started moving on, each to begin his adult service.

Now forty odd years later they are trying to form an ex-Darland Boys Association and anyone interested and eligible should write (with s.a.e. please) to: George Young, 6 Dane Court Gardens, St Peters, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 2SB or telephone (0843) 68982.

Pen Pals

My name is Frances and I am 22 years old. I am 5ft 5ins tall with short brown hair and blue eyes. My hobbies are driving my car, music, reading and CB radio. I work as a nursing auxiliary in a Bristol hospital. I like going out a lot and having a good time. — Frances Adlard, 66 Forest Avenue, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 4DA.

My name is Pat and I am 34 years old, divorced with two children. I am 5ft 3ins tall with short red-brown hair and many interests. — Mrs P A Pearce, 43 Woodland Ave, Tettenhall Wood, Wolverhampton.

My name is Tracy and I am 16 years old. I am 5ft 6ins tall with brown hair and green eyes. I am a member of the Dagenham Crusaders drum and bugle corps. I like discos and soul music, Duran Duran and Haircut 100. — Tracy Page, 17 Trinidad Gardens, Dagenham, Essex RM10 9YA.

Reunion

82 Armoured Engineer Squadron

Royal Engineers (formerly 82 Assault Sqn RE), Old Comrades Association 37th Annual Reunion Buffet will be held on Saturday 30th October at the Royal Green Jackets, Sergeants Mess, 56 Davies St, London W1. Please contact: Lionel T Crate, 364 King St, London W6 0RX. Tel: 01-748 6755.

Collectors' Corner

William E Dean, 4657 Driftwood Place, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada V5G 4E2. Wishes to buy copies of the Green Howards Gazette for the years 1951 and 1952. Will give good price and pay all postage.

R P Barnes, 201 Harrogate Road, Leeds LS7 3PT. Seeks all sorts of current issue military equipment from cam cream to Bergan rucksacks, green waterproof jackets, camo smocks, para smocks etc. Please send all details and prices.

David Young, 105 Perrycroft, Windsor, Berks SL4 4HB. Wishes to purchase anodised cap badges of 21st SAS Artists Rifles, 28th London Regiment

Artists Rifles and 1st Royal Dragoons post 1966.

A Watson, 8 Summerfields Ave, Hailsham, Sussex. Wishes to sell complete sets of SOLDIER magazines from Jan to Dec 1963 to 1981. Mint condition. Might consider exchange, badges etc.

C A Halliday, HQ Gurkha Fd Force, BFPO 1. Wishes to get in touch with military medal collectors with a view to obtaining advice, information and contacts in order to start collection. Reference material especially welcome.

Stephen Crump, 12 Harry's Rd, Teynham, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 9DT. Seeks current issue Royal Marines pith helmet, badge, chin strap and globe.

Competition

Well, it seems you all know your birds! Competition 295, Birds in a Tree asked you to find small alternative words for those listed and link them together to form the words of 18 birds — of the feathered variety. These were Robin, Sparrow, Kingfisher, Stonechat, Parrot, Partridge,

Skylark, Redpoll, Wagtail, Starling, Puffin, Moorhen, Pigeon, Razorbill, Pipit, Chaffinch, Lapwing, Heron. The 'whirly' birds you had to identify on the diagonals were Sea King and Gazelle. Prizewinners: 1st C/Sgt Smith, 1 Bn Welsh Guards who has asked for his prize of £15 to be donated to the South Atlantic Fund. 2nd R Joyce, 14 The Oval, St Giles, Lincoln, 3rd Keith Sell, 20 Gaunts Way, Letchworth, Herts. 4th Maj D L S Langley (Retd), Heath House, Aylesbeare, Exeter, Devon. 5th Mrs V J Willson-Lloyd, 5 Rowan Ave, Ravenshead, Nottingham.

How Observant Are You?

1 Tail of black fish at top left; 2 Bottom of Sergeant's tail; 3 Mouth of fish fourth from top in rear rank; 4 Eye of fish third from top in centre rank; 5 Bottom bubble from Sergeant's mouth; 6 Black pattern on fish fifth from top in rear rank; 7 Right frond of nearest water plant; 8 Legs of water beetle; 9 Sergeant's dorsal fin; 10 Mouth of fish at top of front rank.

See-the-Army DIARY

AUGUST 1982

28 South Tyneside Military Tattoo (2 LI and 3 LI bands; Flying Bugles) (28-29 August).
28 Expo Steam, Peterborough, Cambs (28-30 Aug.).
30 St Albans Carnival, Herts (Red Devils).

SEPTEMBER 1982

9-12 Burghly Horse Trials (12 Band of The Irish Guards).
11 Luton Musical Pageant (RHG/D Band, 1 R Anglian Band, 1 Queens Band, and RRF Bands).
24 British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association Golden Jubilee, Edinburgh (1 Gordons Band).

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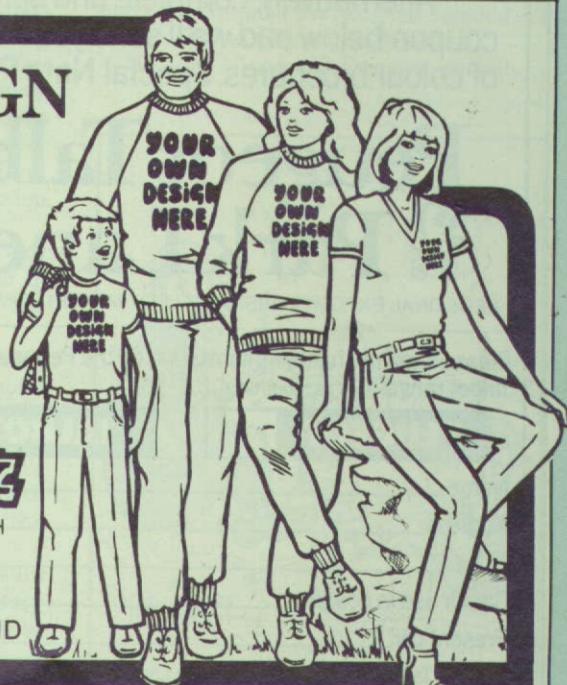
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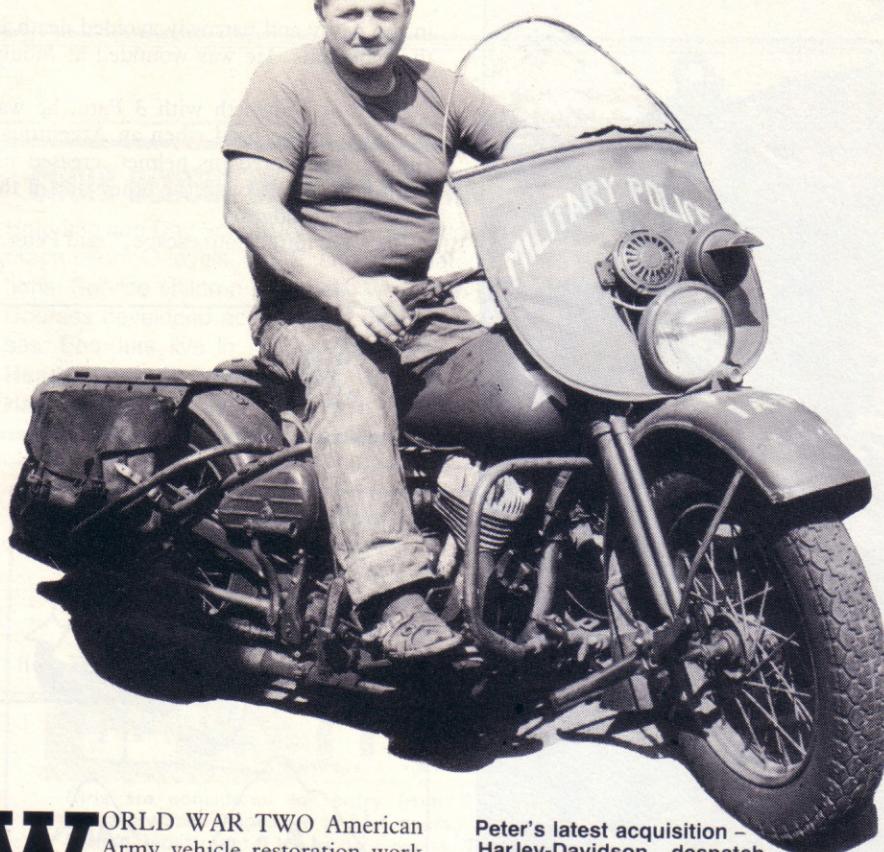
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WORLD WAR TWO American Army vehicle restoration work is doing just fine in a disused railway siding compound alongside Worthing's Central Station — thanks to a tireless labour-of-love by 53-year-old, Mr Peter Gray.

Pride of the fleet — still classified 'secret' by the Americans 40 years after it trundled into action on the European mainland — is the M-10 tank-destroyer, a venerable, 28-ton titan which, on its third attempt, obliquely wrecked a mini in a sketch during a Kenny Everett Video Show!

The same tank, of July 1943 vintage and still bearing the numerals of the American Army's 2nd Armoured Division 702 Tank Destroyer Battalion, once crossed the Spanish border without even the mildest 'olé' from customs officials as it made its way for action on celluloid in a film called 'Cuba' starring Sean Connery.

For his work on restoring the tank, the 2nd Armoured Division — 'Hell on Wheels' — based at Fort Hood, Texas, has made Peter an honorary member and given him a certificate to prove it.

Today, the tank with its three-inch gun is probably worth £20,000 and it still makes crashing impacts at military shows up and down the country — reducing cars to scrap metal or demolishing brick walls to the delight of cheering crowds.

In all, the Gray collection numbers about 15 vehicles, including a 339 Hallicrafter radio vehicle which brought a particular lump to the throat of SOLDIER photographer, Les Wiggs, a former Army signaller, who operated one in Malaya in 1945.

Over the past 30 years, Peter Gray — he is chairman of the 900-strong Military Vehicle Conservation Group — has had about 200 armoured vehicles pass through his restoration processes, the latest a Harley-Davidson 750cc motor bike of the type used by despatch riders. He estimates it will take him a full six months to restore it to pristine condition.

Peter's latest acquisition — Harley-Davidson despatch rider model.

"Unlike vintage and veteran vehicle owners we don't have to worry about chrome plating deteriorating in winter storage nor leather upholstery showing signs of dampness," Peter explained. "What we do have to worry about, however, is the demon rust which has to be kept at bay. Sandblasting is the real answer but immediate priming within minutes is vital as oxidisation starts instantly on the raw material."

Peter bought his first vehicle in 1950, a 19-mpg, Willys Jeep to help him run his one-man bike business. It cost him £32.

Today that same Jeep with a range of 300 miles on a full tank in fully restored condition would fetch about £2500.

"They were comparatively cheap to buy in those days, mostly from farmers," Peter observed, "because it was before the days when Land Rovers came into use. They were easy to find and practically every farmer had one. Today, you normally keep your ear to the ground. They still come up in France and you get people bidding for them at sales. During World War Two, Jeeps were being driven off the production line at the rate of one every 90 seconds."

Out of his 15 vehicles, Peter says three or four vehicles are always ready for use in commemorations, rallies, local fetes and trips to France.

These cross-Channel sorties are for fortnight-long Liberty Highway commemorative tours which Peter helps run for the Military Vehicle Conservation Group. This year was the seventh and called 'Patton's Sweep' which started out from Weymouth and took in St. Mère Eglise and the armoured museum at Saumur.

Conditions of acceptance for the tours are strict. Peter said: "Only Allied military vehicles of the 1939-45 period are eligible to

Down in Sussex
Graham Smith
meets the man
who rebuilds ...

American dreams

take part but Axis vehicles are acceptable if marked as prizes of war and draped in Allied flags.

"All personnel must be tidy — people with long hair are not welcome — and they may wear uniforms without decorations. Combat uniforms can be worn, too, except for the visit to Saumur where no uniform of any sort is worn. Each individual pays £4 and £8 per vehicle."

Surprisingly, Peter has very little information about his vehicles' active service career.

"We've never really been able to trace vehicle histories on my collection. The American Defence Department says these are still classified 'secret' and they can give no information."

Surprisingly too, Peter himself has never been in the Forces.

"I was an 8½-stone weakling and refused entry for National Service," he recalled. "I had wanted to go into the RAF".

His son, 21-year-old Dominic, though, is

continued on page 42



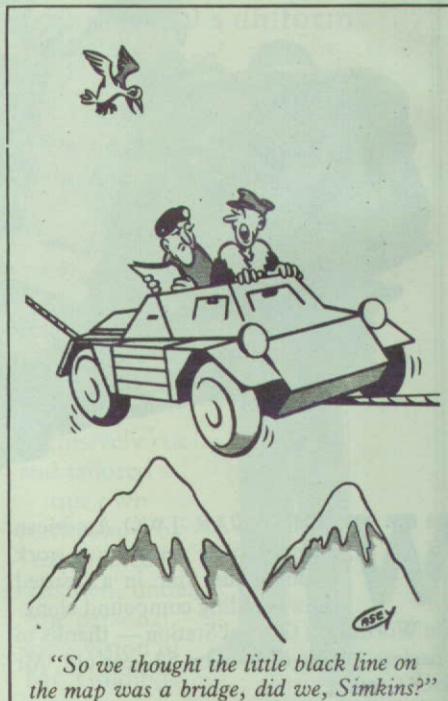
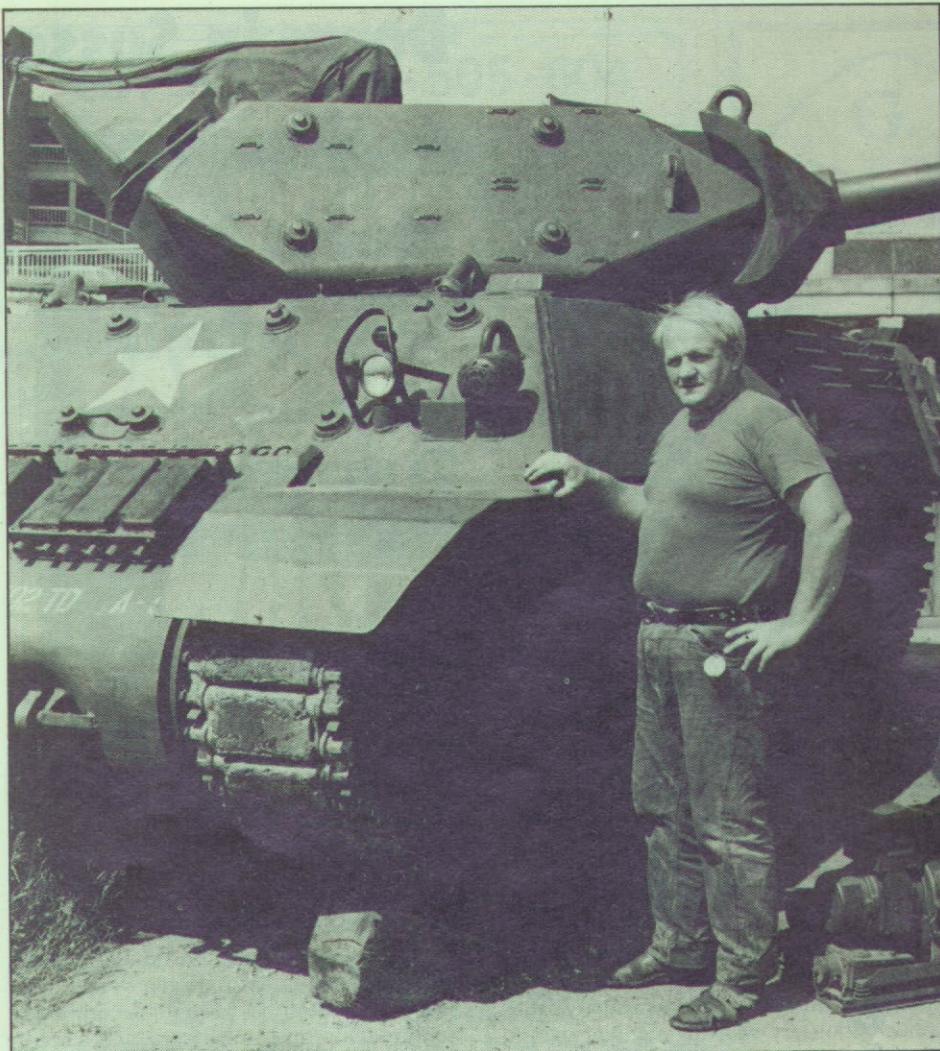
Pictures: Les Wiggs

◀ Still 'secret' 40 years on.

in the Army and narrowly avoided death in the Falklands. He was wounded at Mount Longdon.

Based at Tidworth with 3 Para, he was wounded in the head when an Argentinian rifle bullet entered his helmet, creased his scalp, and left through the other side of the reinforced headgear.

"It was a miraculous escape," said Peter.



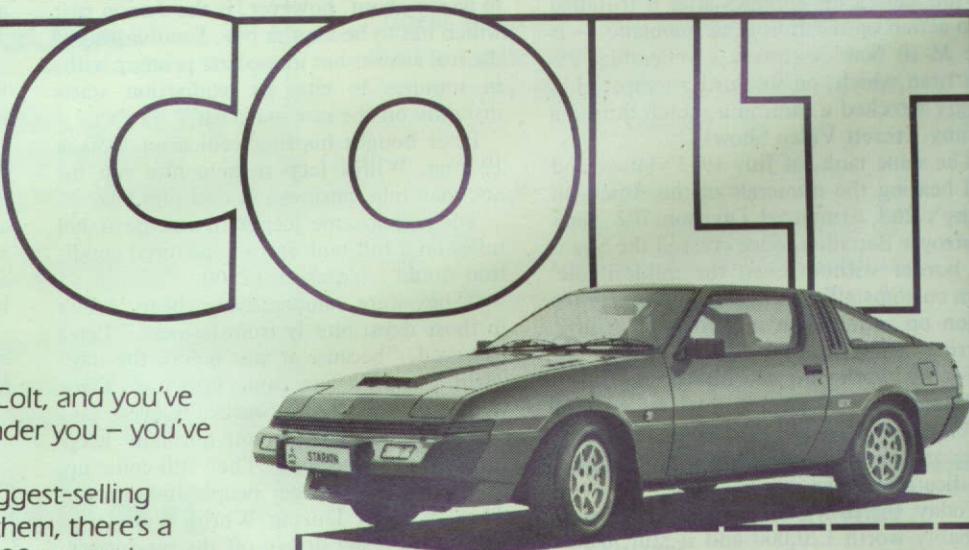
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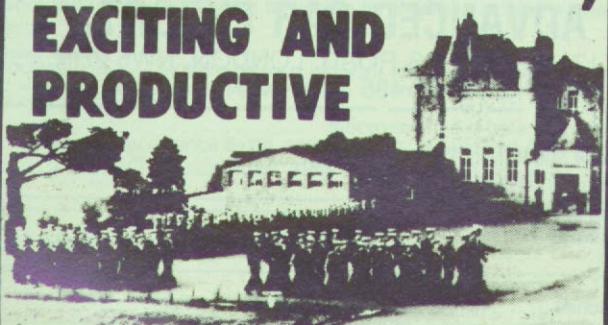
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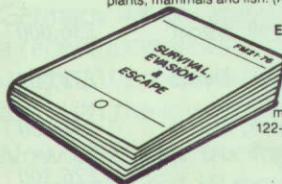
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M Deacon, York Military Ext 2475 or York 489642 or 6 Stockhill Close, Dunnington, York YO1 5NS.

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Don gets his life's ambition

Elevated to the Lords!

ON THE LAST DAY OF JULY Don Trinder, ex-soldier and Army Football's Man Friday, achieved one of his life's ambitions. Wearing a full length white coat he stepped out to umpire a match at cricket's holy of holies — the Lord's cricket ground.

It was the latest achievement of a man, who despite having his promising football career brought to an end by injury at the age of only 22, has spent his life in Army sport.

Don Trinder, now 53, joined the RASC as a clerk back in 1946. He had already played football for the Hampshire under-14 team and found that the Army offered every facility for his twin passions of football and cricket.

During his early days in the Army Don, a full back or centre half, had trials for Arsenal, Sunderland and Southampton. While stationed in Austria he captained the British troops' team there until a broken knee and ankle finished his playing career.

"One experience which I shall never forget is when I had the privilege of playing against Duncan Edwards. It was like having 23 outside rights playing against me!"

To remain involved in football Don took up refereeing which he continued until he was 46. Highlights of his career were officiating in the Borneo Cup Final and taking charge of an international match between the Malaysian under-19's and Borneo.

"One of the most memorable matches I refereed was the Borneo Cup Final. It was played in an enclosed stadium with other pitches nearby. The ball was passed to a winder who was ten yards offside but as the ball was going to the 'keeper I shouted to play on. The 'keeper went to pick it up but a whistle blew from a hockey match next door and the goalie rolled it back to the forward. He then blasted it into the goal and I had no choice but to allow it. After the game police escorted me from the field and I had eight armed policemen to get me out of the ground."

Two years after he left the Army as a Warrant Officer 1, Don got the job of assistant secretary of the Army FA. He is



Familiar TV scene with watching players on the Lord's balcony — but Don Trinder in place of 'Dickie' Bird.



The art of scoring — Trinder style.

SHORTS

For the fifth year in a row the RAPC Apprentices College, Worthy Down, won the Army Junior Soldiers' Cricket Competition. In the final they dismissed the Junior Soldiers' Company, from the Queen's Division Depot, Bassingbourne for 77 and replied with 78-1.

Priscilla Welch, wife of RSM Dave Welch, Royal Signals, won the women's section of the

Caithness Marathon in three hours three minutes to break the women's course record by 55 minutes.

★ ★

British Army orienteers are in Sweden this month to compete in the Swedish Army Relay Orienteering Championships. Last year they were just beaten into second place. Newcomer this year is 17-year-old J/Bombardier G Priestley from the JLR RA, Bramcote, who together with Gunner Mike Brett (18) considerably reduces the team's average age.

the link man between the players and the FA and enjoys the job immensely — "it's tailor made for me".

On the cricket field Don was a regular player at unit level but never a star performer. In 1960 he started taking an interest in both umpiring and scoring but it was not until 1976 that he qualified at both.

He has umpired Service matches against county second XI's and his appearance at Lords in the match between Combined Services and the National Cricket Association Young Cricketers gave him a double — he also scored there.

"My next ambition is to umpire at the Oval, where I have also scored. There were only 50

people watching that game at Lords but it was certainly a fantastic experience."

Cricket is played at a slower pace than football but Don is not at all sure that the referee has to be all that much fitter. "The referee's action is spread over two hours and a cricket umpire may be out for three days on the trot.

"The difficulty is to keep concentration when the standard of play is low. It is tremendous when the ball is pinging around the ground or there's some superb bowling. But you have to concentrate for six-and-a-half hours every day and that isn't easy when there may not have been a run scored for 20 minutes."

NOT LATE

IN YOUR RECENT issue (26 July) you erroneously stated in your Junior Athletics article that the Junior Para team turned up nearly two hours after the start and that after missing some of the earlier events did well to make second place.

The facts are that Junior Para did arrive after the meeting had started but as a minor unit they were not required for the first event until after 1400 hours. They did in fact take part, most

competitively, in all events and the result of their exciting match with the eventual winners was only decided on the last event.

It was actually the RAPC Apprentices College who arrived late. I would be most grateful if you would set the record straight as this article greatly detracts from the success of the winning unit. — Captain B J Johnson, Hon Secretary, SEDIST Athletics.

Our apologies to all the parties concerned. The report was based on incorrect information given to us on the day.



Capt Julia Dixon, winner at both Army and Inter-Service level.

Colin takes a bow

JUNIOR TROOPER COLIN BOND, aged 17, is this year's Junior Army Archery Champion. And as well as taking the individual title at Aldershot, he also captained the team that won the Melville Cup for the highest score in the composite bow class.

Colin, whose home is in Newbury, became interested in archery after joining the Junior Leaders Regiment, RAC, at Bovington, Dorset, in May last year. He has now completed his training at Bovington and will be joining his adult regiment, the Royal Hussars, in September.

Douglas bows out



STAFF SERGEANT DOUGLAS AITCHISON, one of the Army's longest serving footballers, has decided to hang up his boots this season. Last season he captained the SEME, Bordon, side which won the Jubilee Cup. Douglas played for the Army more than 150 times as well as the Combined Services. He was also a member of the last British side to win a Kentish Cup winners' medal.

Army Tennis finals

SEEDS WELL ROOTED

THERE WERE NO SURPRISES in this year's Army Lawn Tennis Championships with the seeds going through much as expected. All week the familiar tennis names had ploughed on towards the finals leaving in their wake a heap of hopefules.

This year's Mens' Singles final was won by Captain Mark Jeffrey, REME who beat Captain Chris Braithwaite of the 15th/19th Hussars. These two are old sparring partners, both having won the Championship twice before. Last year's champion, 2nd Lieut Robert Ashworth has now left the Army.

Jeffrey took the first set after breaking Braithwaite's service in the fourth game. Then in the second set games went with serve and the match was decided on a tie-break with Jeffrey racing ahead to win 7-5.

Play was slow and uninspired in the first set and not helped by the still damp court. The second set saw some good passing shots by Jeffrey who was also adept at coming in quickly after his service and placing his follow-

**Report by SALLY DANIELL
Pictures by PAUL HALEY**

through volleys in textbook fashion. Despite one clean ace, Braithwaite's service was not working well and allowed Jeffrey to murder his second attempt. A few bad bounces did not help his game either.

But Jeffrey too, was not happy with the way he played. "Lots of things went wrong" he said, "like my first services and backhands. But I was getting my second service in and my volleying was OK."

The Ladies' Singles final was for the sixth year running between Captains Julia Dixon and Christine Daybell WRAC. Dixon was in a strong position all the way and Daybell never really got into her stride.

"My opponent made too many errors, which was lucky for me" said Julia Dixon who took the match 6-3, 6-1. "And when you lose at game point you don't get a second chance." Possibly Dixon had an advantage anyway as Daybell had already played in the Mixed Doubles earlier.

In an all-RAEC final of the Inter Arms and Corps Doubles Lieutenant Colonel Barry Reeves and Major Tony Hilton won the title for the twelfth time. The RAEC have been champions for seventeen out of the last twenty years and still await a worthy challenger.

It takes seven months to organise these championships in which this year 112 players took

part. "It's always a tremendous slog" said Major Tony Moore, the honorary competitions member of the committee, "I don't know how on earth Fred Hoyles manages with Wimbledon!"

Results: Mens Singles: Capt M Jeffrey REME; Inter Arms and Corps Doubles: Lt Col B Reeves and Major A Hilton for RAEC; Open Doubles: Major V Smith RA and Capt C Braithwaite 15/19H; Army Ladies Singles: Capt J Dixon on WRAC; Ladies Open Doubles: Capt J Dixon and Lt K Ibbotson WRAC; Open Mixed Doubles: Major D Hughes RAEC and Capt C Daybell WRAC; Army Plate: Sgt W Herlihy; Army Ladies Plate: Lt C Woodcock WRAC; Veterans Handicap Singles: Major McManus RAEC (Retd); Veterans Singles: Lt Col J Woodliffe RAOC; Veterans Doubles: Lt Col B Reeves and Major J McManus; Army Under 21 Singles: Cpl M Hewlett.

But Army rock RAF at last

THE ARMY swept to a shock win in the Men's Inter-Services Tennis Championships, wresting the title from the RAF who had held it for the last 18 years. It is 31 years since the Army last took the honours.

The Army won nine matches (doubles and singles) out of a possible 12 with Captain Chris Braithwaite winning both his singles matches. The airmen had seven wins and the Navy could only manage two.

In the Ladies' championships the Army girls had high hopes of holding onto the title they snatched last year. Army champion, Captain Julia Dixon, won both her singles matches which meant that the Army edged into second place with five wins to the WRAF's four. But the Navy took the title with nine.



Three times winner Capt Jeffrey puts away a backhand volley.

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Cyprus ton-up specialists take SOLDIER title

THE NOMADS from Cyprus are the first winners of SOLDIER's new darts trophy. After battling through four rounds and a semi-final stretching back over nearly ten months, they turned on their best form of the tournament to stave off a determined challenge by the Kolsas Killers from Norway.

Nomads, a tri-Service team of communications specialists, needed only 59 darts to complete their three final legs and chalked up no fewer than eleven 'tons'. Cpl 'Brad' Bradshaw, Royal Signals, led the way with five scores of a hundred or better, and he was well supported by CT John Crawford and Sgt 'Taff' Dowling (both RAF) and CPO Les Howard (Royal Navy).

It was a level of striking that the Killers just couldn't quite match but their 24-23-24 was still a highly creditable performance with six 'tons' being recorded.

So SOLDIER's new trophy will be heading for the Fair Winds Beach Tavern on the Larnaca/Dhekelia coast road to join the Eastern Sovereign Base Area Darts Trophy already held by the Nomads.

Judging by the comments

ATHLETICS

Micks and Missile men in relay drama

A SENSATIONALLY CLOSE finish to the Army Inter-Unit athletics championships, with two teams fighting all the way, ended in drama on the last race.

At the start of the 4×400 metres relay race 50 Missile Regiment RA were three points in front of the team who deposed them as Rhine Army champions this year, the 1st Battalion, The Irish Guards.

As the first leg neared completion with the runners from the two teams neck and neck, a track official stepped onto the track to ask the second leg runners to move back into their boxes. Irish Guards runner, Lance-Corporal Gavin, crashed straight into him — dropping the baton.

Clearly the Irish were out of the contest and their remaining runners almost jogged round. But an immediate protest was lodged.

Said Athletics secretary, Major Tony Preece: 'We had three options. We could either decide it was fair, which we could not do. Or we could make it null and void in which case 50 Missile Regiment would have won. Or we could make it null and void and have a re-run after an

interval.'

So the prizes were presented for the minor units championships and the women's events and an hour later the relay was re-run. In fact 50 Missile Regiment won the event and ended up five points clear of the Guardsmen. The championships are sponsored by Pickford's Removals.

Generally few records fall at the team championships and so it proved. But Lance-Bombardier M James of 50 Missile Regiment can expect to get ratification of his 100 metres dash time of 10.6 seconds.

Not so lucky will be Lance-Sergeant John Taylor, whose 7.26 metres long jump beat the existing record by .01 of a metre. His jump was adjudged to be wind assisted.

The record, held by Captain H Whittle of REME, has stood for a staggering 34 years, since the 1947 championships. Taylor, of 2 Grenadier Guards, told SOLDIER: "This is my best jump so far. I am determined to get that record. It's been standing for far too long."

Other winners were: minor units — P and C Depot RE; women: 29 Coy WRAC.



The Nomads: Brad Bradshaw, Les Howard, Bill Brennan, Taff Dowling and John Crawford holding the ESBA darts trophy.

lowed over the past months!

"The competition has obviously been a great success and our thanks go to SOLDIER for organising the event. We hope it continues over the years to come."

Arrangements for presenting the team and individual awards — including the Ben Truman ale — are currently being worked

out and will be announced in a future issue. Meanwhile our thanks go to everyone who took part in the contest and our congratulations to both finalists.

We hope to be announcing details of next year's contest soon. Any suggestions for improving the event will gladly be considered.

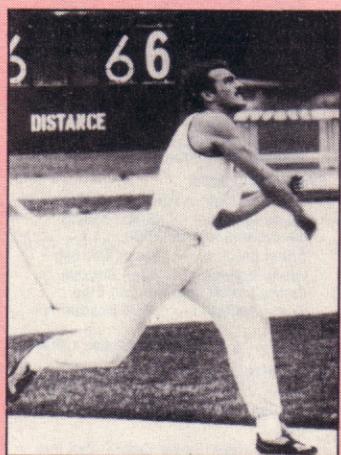
KILLEN STRIKES BACK

JUST A FORTNIGHT after Lance-Corporal Neil Killen had lost both his Army title and Army record to Lance-Bombardier Tegid Griffiths, the decathlon star stormed back — to smash the record by more than 200 points.

It was as though Killen, who has been the backbone of Army decathlon competitions in recent years, was determined to show that he was still the force to be reckoned with. In the Inter-Services decathlon at Aldershot he scored 6676 and almost won the individual title.

The last event was the 1500 metres and Killen was trailing 57 points behind the RAF's record holder, Paul Edwards. He got well away from Edwards and it was only Edwards's gutsy sprint down the final straight which enabled him to pip Killen by four points overall.

Griffiths came fourth with 6387 points and the Army's third best runner was Private Colin Anderson with 5986 points. These figures were



Lance-Corporal Neil Killen.

enough to see the Army trio home by more than 700 points from the RAF to retain the team title.

Army athletics coach, Captain Glyn Morris, commented: "Full marks to Killen and Griffiths for getting decathlon going in their units. Without them we would not have a decent team so it is due to their efforts that we have won the Inter-Services."

Lance-Corporal Killen himself was delighted: "I have been getting a bit of coaching with things like pole vaulting. Over the two days I managed four personal bests and there was no comparison with my performance in the Army championships".

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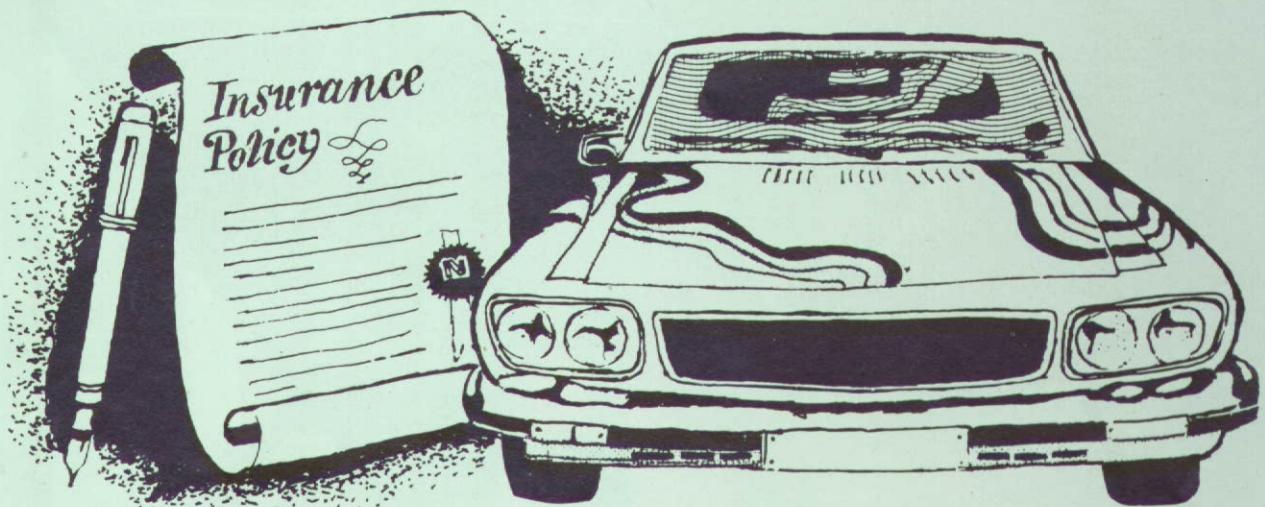
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