

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 25 PENCE • 4th JUNE 1984

SOLDIER



**INSIDE: D-DAY
SUPPLEMENT**



Germany is Wunderbar

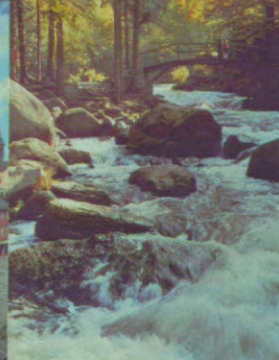


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FRONT COVER

Back on the Normandy beaches — Bill Millin, who piped Commandos ashore on 6 June 1944. See Supplement page 22.

BACK COVER

Action from the recent Army Motor Cycle Association's South East District Championships.

Both pictures: LES WIGGS

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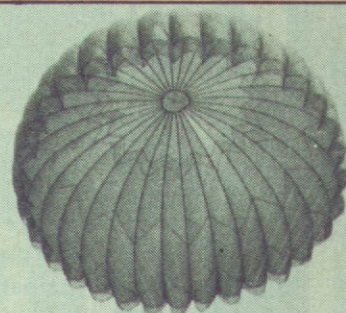
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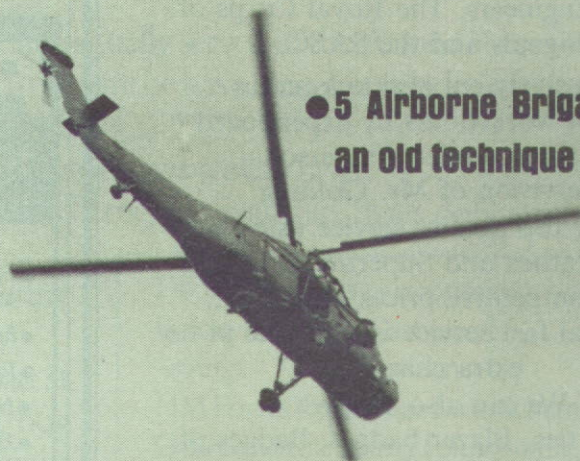
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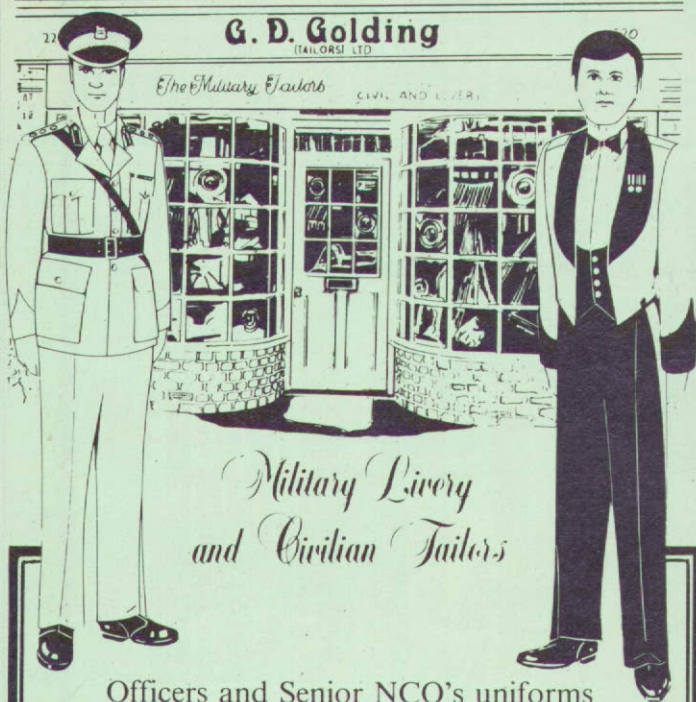


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an old technique — p 12**

● **7 RHA mark return to
airborne role
(pictured here) — p 24**

● **'Screaming Eagles' try
British equipment — p 12/13**

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THE TEETH are biting deeper into the tail. Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine told the Press in announcing his Defence Estimates for 1984: "I intend to get the greatest possible output of front line fighting capability from the inputs of money, manpower and equipment."

For the Army that means switching 4,000 men from the support areas to the front line.

The extra front line men will be found by reorganising training units to use permanent staff more economically; cuts in the size of signals units, especially those behind the front line; by looking closely at the smaller Corps of the Army; by contracting out to civilian firms functions like equipment maintenance and non-operational transport; possibly cutting the size of headquarters and admin units; and by transferring functions to

MORE 'TEETH' — LESS TAIL

1984 Defence Estimates

the Territorial Army.

Some of the soldiers thrown up by these changes will be used to man properly the high quality equipment coming into service, like MCV 80 being introduced into the regular battalions of BAOR, Saxon APC for UK-based regular infantry battalions with their NATO reinforcement roles, two regiments of the Multiple Launch Rocket

System, improved air defence of 1 (BR) Corps with the formation of a regiment equipped with a new missile system, and new equipment for front line logistic support.

Later in the decade an extra armoured regiment will be formed in 1 (BR) Corps.

Mr Heseltine also announced that more effective use will be made of the Army's helicopters, electronic warfare capability will be increased, and new equipment will be introduced to speed increased war stocks to the battlefield.

Outside the NATO area, readiness and capability will be improved to provide a divisional-sized force. Improved logistics and communications will enable a strong 5th Airborne Brigade under the command of an enhanced Joint Force Headquarters to be rapidly deployed overseas, and if necessary 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines could be taken under command.

In the UK, the size of some Home Defence Battalions will be increased.

All this will, said Mr Heseltine, strengthen the fighting capability of the Army to an extent not seen in the past three decades.

Although plans for the re-deployed manpower have yet to be finalised, it is clear, he said, that there will be a very real improvement in the Army's three areas of responsibility — the support of NATO, Home Base Defence, and the ability to send fast moving, lightly equipped forces to trouble spots beyond the NATO area.

Mr Heseltine's statement also referred to the review of the Army's chain of Command being conducted through Exercise Sharp Sword. The results of that review, aimed at producing a simpler and managerially more efficient structure, should be known by the end of the year.

It was a similar story for the other two Services, with eight Royal Navy ships being saved from stand-by through economies on shore, and savings in RAF support leading to a 15 per cent increase in front line aircraft over the decade.

There will be further rationalisation across the three Services. The Defence Statement pointed to co-location of catering training at Aldershot, musician training is to be concentrated at one location, and language training at a Defence School of Languages at Beaconsfield.

Twenty-five per cent of the defence stores inventory is now managed by one Service on behalf of all three, and there has been rationalisation of aircraft weapons and servicing.

Medical services are also being examined. Asked by a Press man if SCEA was also being made subject to change, Mr Heseltine said he was looking at all services where there were three-times repeated establishments to see if they could be rationalised.

The Ministry of Defence itself is undergoing its greatest single overhaul in developing and co-ordinating defence policy for 20 years. There will be more competition for defence contracts — it is intended, for instance, to contract out more than 30 per cent of Army equipment repair — and more privatisation of support services.

The total defence budget? £17 billion plus. Next year it will be £18 billion. But Mr Heseltine affirmed: "My task is to secure the maximum value for money from the sums we spend."

A DOUBLE MURDER

TWO MEMBERS of 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers were killed and two seriously injured when a bomb exploded under their car after they had taken part in a fishing competition in Lough Erne, County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland.

The bomb exploded in the car park of the Lakeland Forum as competitors gathered for prize giving.

The dead were later named as Corporal Thomas Agar, married with one son and Lance Corporal Robert Huggins, married with three sons.

IN BRIEF

THE DUKE of Edinburgh, Colonel-in-Chief of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment will present new Colours to the regiment's 1st Battalion at Canterbury, which is the battalion's current home, on 8 June.

It is the first time a new set of Colours has been presented since two regiments were amalgamated in 1959 from The Royal Berkshire Regiment and The Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's Own).

The occasion has particular significance for the Battalion Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Mackereth the only officer still serving who, as a subaltern, was also present at the June 1959 amalgamation parade ... 25 years ago, almost to the day.



Talking of "Teeth" C Squadron of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars have been achieving some spectacular night firing on the Hohne ranges in Germany. Picture: Stuart Andrew, 3rd Armoured Division.

GUNZEN TRIALS

THE ARMY's new artillery fire data computer (AFDC) Gunzen has now completed field trials with the L.118 Light Gun, to be followed shortly with others on the L.119 Light Gun and then Abbot L.13.

The AFDC, manufactured by Zengrange Ltd of Leeds (they produce the Mortar Fire Data Computer, Morzen) is scheduled to be in service with the Royal Artillery sometime this year. Ultimately, it will be operable with all field artillery up to and including the long-range Lance missile system.

Once completed, Gunzen — like Morzen — will be mounted in the same ruggedised protective case and will weigh only 625 grammes.

Like Morzen, it will operate from batteries with a life of several months.

The AFDC software is permanently etched into incorruptible ROM (Read Only Memory) modules which plug into the back of a computer. Weapon specific information is one a separate module from map data plotting and procedural data. This way, weapon modules can easily be changed to accommodate different equipment and ammunition systems giving a flexible situation for the user.

A pre-production model of the Zengrange AFDC will be on display with the 105mm Light Gun on the Royal Ordnance Factories stand at the British Army Equipment Exhibition.



How the boss got carried away!

When you've gotta go you might as well go comfortably... Lieutenant Colonel John Tinsley took this advice when he left as CO of 2 Armoured Field Ambulance RAMC, Osnabruck, for the Joint National Defence College. To ensure their ex-boss had a comfy, if not stylish start, the

lads of the unit wheeled him out on a converted trolley stretcher. Simultaneously, they made sure their new CO, Lieutenant Colonel Frank Adams, was comfortable, too. For they built him a new office with a new RHQ around it! Full marks for good thinking, lads.

Locusts bug Falklands airbridge!

IT is the dream of all men military to pre-empt any move by a potential enemy. Such a situation arose when reports filtered back from Ascension Island, which hovers somewhere near the Equator, that conditions there were ripe for a massive swarm of locusts.

Since a plague of such bugs could seriously interfere with the UK-Ascension-Falklands airbridge service, the powers-that-be reacted with alacrity and called in experts for advice.

An MoD spokesman explained that when locusts swarm they appear by the million and could, apart from eating every bit of vegetation in the area, choke the engines of any aircraft flying through them.

In this particular case it would mean that incoming RAF VC10s with passengers bound for the South Atlantic, and outgoing 'Hercs' used for the second leg of the journey, would have to stay on the ground till the air was free from locusts.

So Dr Nick Burgess, senior lecturer in entomology at the Royal Army Medical School in London, and advisor to the MoD in these matters, was called in with assistant Tim Chetwin and flown to Ascension to 'assess the situation'.

"We went out there following reports that recent heavy rains were likely to create conditions ideal for locusts to breed and swarm," said Dr Burgess.

"We visited several likely breeding sites, but found no evidence that this was likely to happen.

"It was purely a precautionary measure," said Dr Burgess. "The last swarm happened in 1974 when similar conditions prevailed. We went armed with the necessary insecticide."

The situation is being monitored by the Property Services Agency (PSA).

In a tribute to their watchfulness Dr Burgess said it was one of their staff who first noticed that conditions were ideal for locusts to breed.



■ Lance Corporal Alby Woodward, Private Gary Pearson: top shots.

COOL DUO COLLECT 'POTS'

Two 'Tykes' from the 1st Battalion The Green Howards whipped the opposition in the 1st Armoured Division's skill at arms contest at Sennelager.

Lance Corporal Alby Woodward

(left) and Private Gary Pearson walked off with the individual trophies.

Alby won the champion rifle shot pot, and Gary with the Divisional championship.

Great Scott! It's the RHA yet again

A lot of people are smiling in 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery these days, writes Captain 'Jimmy' James UPO. For Sergeant Bob Newton and Bombardier Owen Carr and their men, gained individual pole positions in the prestigious Frazer Scott competition, BAOR's annual contest for mortar-locating radar troops of the Royal Artillery, for the second year running.

The competition, founded by retired Brigadier Frazer Scott, is a week-long test of technical skills and tactical awareness.

Sgt Newton, the radar commander, and Bdr Carr, the listening post

leader, came awhopping 49 points ahead of their nearest rivals.

At the presentation of prizes, the GOC the Artillery Division, Major General Guy Watkins, praised the teams which included one from the Bundeswehr.

3 RHA were top troop.

But the 1 RHA victory did not end the day's competition for Bdr Carr and rival Bdr Norman Faichney.

They left straightaway after the General's speech to the 22nd Armoured Brigade Athletics Competition where they played a top part in achieving 1 RHA's victory in the 4 x 400 metre relay.



CITY HONOURS BILLY' BRAVERY

Lance Corporal Billy Fullwood, 27, of 1 Glosters receives a recognition for bravery from Lt Col Martin St John Gibbs, Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire. Cpl Fullwood, the first soldier to receive this award

for courage made by the city of Gloucester, rescued 11 colleagues from possible death in Canada during adventurous river training.

Picture: Gloucester Newspapers Ltd.

New job — old title

The 202nd Deputy Constable of Dover Castle is Brigadier Michael Lee. With his ancient title, which he assumed in May, goes the role of Commander of the Dover/Shorncliffe Garrison and the 2nd Infantry Brigade.

All together now

The crack 1st German Corps Roland Regiment invited HQ Battery Air Defence Regiment, Dortmund, along to a recruit pass-out parade at their Wuppertal barracks, and 57^{eme} Regiment d'Artilerie from France.



New look line-up

It's the new look for the Army... and the Queen got a preview of what the soldier of the nineties will

be wearing, shooting and driving when she visited the 1st Battalion The Royal Welch Fusiliers at their

Warminster base.

With the Queen on her walkabout was the CO Lieutenant Colonel Tim Porter, who passed on 'info' on the MCV 80 — not yet in general service — the new-style helmets and webbing, the new SA 80 rifles, the new combat boots high, not to mention the new-look sock introduced into service a short time ago.

PEOPLE

FACES and PLACES

RCT men take pilgrim trail to Monte Cassino

Don't talk of crash courses to the Royal Corps of Transport. They don't like crash courses in anything, writes Gordon Skilling.

But Captain Tom Broadfoot, with the help of Staff Superintendent Wladislaw Paterek, has been in top gear polishing

up on his Polish history before taking a party of Poles and British soldiers on a pilgrimage to Monte Cassino, in Italy.

Tom is second in command of 617 Tank Transporter Squad-

ron in Hamm, BAOR, which is half manned by Poles and which has a standard bearing the Polish eagle.

"It is a great compliment to be asked to take part in the

remembrance ceremony commemorating the 40th anniversary of the victory," says Tom.

"The Germans had resisted every attempt by the Americans, Indians, French and British to break through during seven months of bloody fighting. The Poles broke the line."

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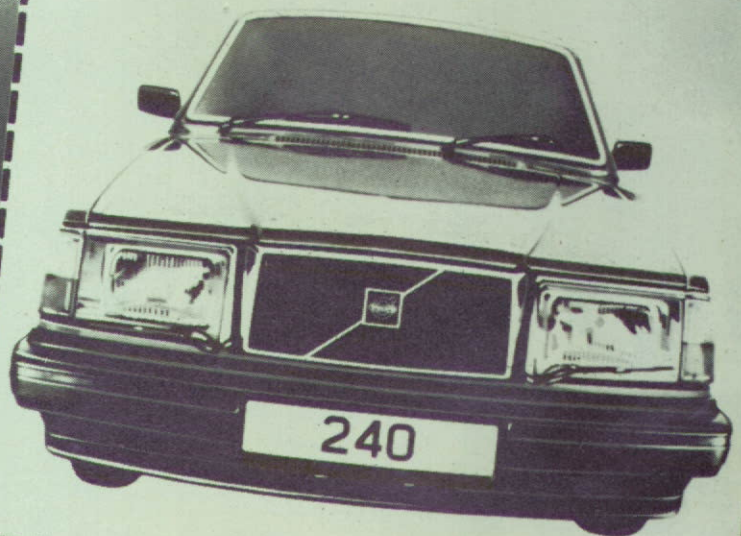
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If readers want extra copies of the supplement, or non-regulars want to buy this supplement alone, then 25p is the price.

While on the subject of readers, we have many of them to thank in addition to the extra efforts of our own staff and colleagues elsewhere in producing the D-Day special, not forgetting our printers.

If one particular reader is upset we have not used his account in full, even at times like this an editor cannot forget one prime duty — to ensure the authenticity of a contribution. Anonymity will be respected if requested, but we must have a name.

This is by way of explanation to a man who survived Dunkirk, North Africa, Sicily, Salerno and D-Day marking each anniversary as it came along... but forgetting to remember his 40th wedding anniversary!

AMONG THE thousands making the most nostalgic trip back to the world's most evocative beaches of 40 years ago will be 60 veterans and 40 of their wives from The D-Day and Normandy Fellowship which has a worldwide membership of over 2500.

The Fellowship, which was founded in 1972, had a stained glass window dedicated in Portsmouth Cathedral as SOLDIER went to press, by the Queen Mother, who later attended a Fellowship reception.

Bearing the coats-of-arms of the 12 nations which took part in the Normandy landings, the stained glass window was one of seven ideas of commemoration which took the top vote.

Joint Honorary Secretary of the Fellowship is 76-year-old Mr Laurence Reed, who landed on Gold Beach as part of the 'hush-hush' GHQ Liaison Regiment. Mrs Reed who was a WVS ambulance driver during the same era is the other joint secretary.

The Normandy Veterans Association, whose founder-chairman Eric Bulman is featured in the supplement, have over 1000 members returning to the scene of their battles in '44.

The Association recently acquired a Standard, which was dedicated at Grimsby, where the organisation began in 1981. Eric tells a lovely story of one member who remarked: "The NVA is marvellous — why didn't you start it years ago?"

"Why didn't you?" was the speedy reply!

SOLDIER to Soldier



WHILE this issue of SOLDIER lays emphasis on the 40th anniversary of D-Day, it is as well to remember that now we Britons and the Germans are strong allies, and firm friends.

A ceremony in Bindon Barracks, Hamelin, home of our 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment, Commanded by Lieutenant Colonel JJJ Thomson, help to prove the point — as have similar acts of togetherness all over BOAR since keeping the peace became a joint objective. To the people of the 'Pied Piper' town, the barracks is still known by its former name — Scharnhorst Kaserne.

At the entrance to the barracks, positioned on the walls by the gates are several plaques which commemorate the Regiments that previously occupied Scharnhorst Kaserne. This series of plaques was made complete recently.

From 1919 to 1936 the barracks was occupied by the 9th and 10th Companies of Infantry Regiment. The Old Comrades Association of this Regiment requested that they be allowed to unveil a plaque recording their presence in the barracks.

The occasion coincided with their veterans' weekend and 60 members attended the unveiling ceremony together with the Officers and Regimental Sergeant Major of 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment. The Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers (Chatham) played, making it an event to be remembered.

After the unveiling ceremony the Old Comrades toured the barracks. They also honoured the memory of 80 of their former comrades who were drowned while taking part in a river crossing exercise on the Weser at Veltheim

Lieutenant Col J J J Thompson and Herr Peter Rudolph pay tribute to 80 victims of a ferry accident in 1925 as they join in a wreath laying ceremony in Bindon Barracks in Hamelin.

in a ferrying operation.

After the two ceremonies the veterans were entertained at a reception in the officers mess. The

German guest of honour Oberst (Colonel) Nolte (retired) made a presentation to Colonel Thompson and spoke of the links of friendship which had been re-inforced through the contact between the former and present landlords of the barracks.

MOTORING towards Royston from Basingbourn Barracks, Corporal Leslie Coleman of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers noticed a small group of people, with another person lying on the ground.

A first aid instructor and medical assistant, Cpl Coleman stopped to offer his assistance to the man, who had collapsed while jogging. There was no pulse beat and the man had stopped breathing.

For about 15 minutes the corporal tried mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and external cardiac arrest heart massage, while others sent for the ambulance.

When the paramedics arrived, he asked Cpl Coleman to stop as nothing further could be gained, and all possible actions had been carried out.

The man was dead.

Subsequently, the local police telephoned to pass on the thanks of the widow for the corporal's valiant efforts — which was consolation for a very brave try.

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MORE THAN 500 men from 5 Airborne Brigade's Parachute Group Force plus their associated equipment hurtled earthwards from 15 RAF Hercules at 800 feet in just six minutes during a dawn sortie over Salisbury Plain practising a "rapid insertion" technique last used nine years ago.

In five waves of three aircraft, the turbo-propped Hercs discharged men and equipment at 120 knots in winds close to the operational peacetime limit of 13 knots.

The parachutists from HQ and Signals Squadron of the recently-constituted Brigade; 2 PARA; 9 Squadron, Royal Engineers; 7 RHA; 63 Squadron, RCT; 10 Field Workshops, REME and the Field Surgical Team from 16 Field Ambulance, RAMC, spent less than a minute in the clear, crisp sky before touching terra firma of the Plain.

With them in the latter aircraft were a dozen Medium-stressed Platforms (MSPs) and other equipment including ¾-tonne and one-tonne Land Rovers and three 105mm Light Guns.

5 AIRBORNE:

RAPID INSERTION RETURNS

Many of the jumpers in the near-freezing first light mission were "veterans" who had gained additional "wings" with other airborne forces such as the United States, Canada, France and West Germany.

For about 120 of them the jump was also by way of rehearsal for men of 2 PARA and 9 Squadron, Royal Engineers who were, as SOLDIER went to press, preparing to jump at Ranville in Normandy as part of the 40th anniversary D-Day ceremonies.

Fortunately, there were only 14 injuries in the six minutes of aerial action during Exercise Falcon Strike and only four of those were classified as "serious" by the organisers. The exercise was part of the Brigade's major Exercise Eagle Talon played out on the Sennybridge Training Area near Brecon in mid-Wales which involved some 2,000 troops.

*7 RHA back in airborne role — see page 24.

Left: Eager Para ready for action after landing.

Below: Towing a 105 gun.

Stories:
GRAHAM SMITH
Pictures:
DOUG PRATT &
PAUL HALEY

THE 'EAGLES' HAD LANDED

FORTY YEARS ago this month, according to one historical source, 6,600 American paratroopers from the "Screaming Eagles" airborne division dropped into Normandy in the early hours of D-Day.

Four decades later and almost to the most famous day of the Second World War, 120 of their airborne descendants from the 101st Air Assault Division's A for Apple Company, based at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, are in England again — with more peaceful but equally purposeful intent.

This time, for a month of exchange training with A Company, 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, based at Bulford but now across the Atlantic in the State

famed for its "blue grass".

Ironically, only one of their number among the guest airborne soldiers, and a "grunt" at that, Specialist Fourth Class Gregory Le Mere, 25, of the US Army — he has never jumped out of an aircraft — had an uncle drop in Normandy. He was Frank Hardy, a former "Screaming Eagle", now living less dangerously as a Wisconsin farm rancher.

Greg, an assistant gunner on the TOW anti-tank weapon system, who leaves the US Army's 1/327th Infantry in September after a two-year stint to study the world of computers, told me: "My uncle does not like to talk about Normandy too much. I don't even know if he was decorated for the action but he was wounded. He is OK now."

Time to unpack the Land Rover!

Above and left:
The mass drop.

Below:
Instruction on the GPMG.



ALLIES OF THE AIR

A few tips on the SLR.

"I think he was proud, as we all are, of Normandy and the "Screaming Eagles" action there because it was such a noble action. I guess I'm very proud of him, too, sir."

During the UK stay, the 'Airborne-all-the-way-sir!' Yanks, guests of 1 PARA's C Company will visit Bovington, Weston-on-the-Green, to do some parachuting from a tethered balloon and exercise at Brecon — including night firing sequences — and more exercise play on the Stanford Training area near Thetford in Norfolk.

Some of the latest generation "Screaming Eagles" will take part in a falling plate and march-and-shoot contest.

Their first day of training after arrival at RAF Brize Norton on a delayed US Air Force Flight via McGuire AFB, New Jersey, saw the Americans in combat kit literally get to grips with British Army weaponry such as the SLR, the 9mm Browning pistol, the GPMG, the 36-lb weight of the

84mm Car Gustave anti-tank weapon and the 9mm Sterling sub-machine gun.

As Captain Al Bishop, OC of A for Apple Company, told me: "We don't have an equivalent of your Sterling SMG and I'm sure we will find it very interesting. It has a nice macho image, a touch of the John Wayne about it, and they think it's very neat."

Reflecting on the actions at Normandy and his unit's predecessors involved in it, Captain Bishop said: "We are all products of a rather affluent society and, with perhaps the exception of Vietnam, we have not been called upon to make such a great sacrifice since the Second World War."

"It's very easy for us to forget how hard won have been our privileges resulting from Normandy 40 years ago. It is as well for us all to stop and think about the high price we had to pay."

Major Mike Rowlatt, OC of C Company, 1 PARA, the Bulford hosts for the transatlantic month-

long visit, said: "Their coming gives an exchange of ideas on tactics and training. I think it's valuable for the Americans, too, to see the way we work."

"From my own Company's point of view, although they are staying here in the UK, I think it is beneficial to learn what the Americans' impression is of them. I'm delighted the Americans are here."

Meanwhile, 100 men of A Company, 1 PARA are in Fort Campbell with OC, Major Bob



The famous badge of the "Screaming Eagles".

Llewellyn, where they will take on the role of an American company.

The Brits will also take part in the "Week of the Eagles", the American equivalent of Aldershot's Airborne Forces' Day.

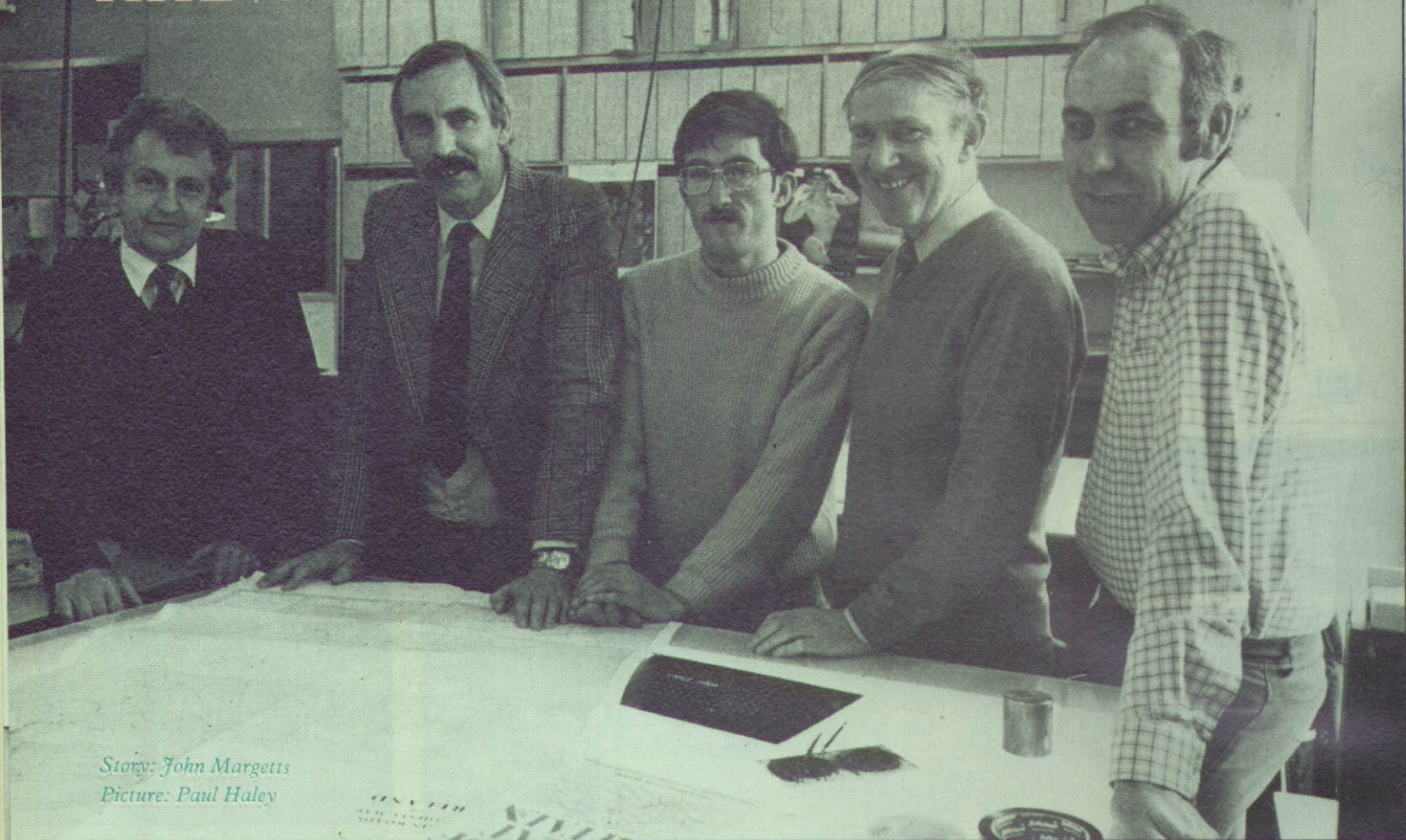
Their training will include familiarisation with American weapons such as the M16 rifle and the TOW anti-tank weapon system. A Brigade field training exercise is also planned.

Writer Graham Smith



Ex-Sappers still making maps

AND FINDING NEW PROBLEMS!



Story: John Margetts
Picture: Paul Haley

COOL, CALM and collected — even cloistered — is the popular image of cartographers and their craft.

Lots of people would have to refer to a dictionary for a definition of one, but if a military map or chart is wrong soldiers could die, ships sink or aircraft get lost with disastrous results and trouble could loom for the guy who drew the map.

If a commercial map is shown to be wrong letters pour in on the unfortunate draughtsman and his job could be on the line.

"That's the main difference between drawing a map for the Army and a commercial enterprise," said former Royal Engineers Warrant Officer Mike Cottingham, out of the Army 18 months ago after 24 years of compiling military maps and surveys.

"And, of course, deadlines are much tighter now than they ever were in the Army," he added.

Mike, 41, is one of five ex-sappers who acted positively on the old advice "Go west, young man, go west," and took a job as chief editor of *Geographia Ltd.*, in the spa town of Cheltenham.

Now housed in offices of 18th-century Regency elegance, instead of the RE School of Military Survey at Hermitage, Berks., Mike

and the others — ex-sergeants Dave Hutchings and Tony Jefferies, ex-corporal Colin Fitch and one-time Sapper Tony Bracey — make up one fifth of the firm's cartography staff in the Gloucestershire town churning out maps.

Think of a map and immediate thoughts turn to a street plan or world atlas.

"But the fact is," said Mike, "there are maps for just about everything you can think of.

"Not only do we produce land, hydrographic and historic maps, but moon maps — we produce those from space photography — geological maps, maps showing oil and water pipelines, maps showing where the birds (feathered) go in winter, maps showing the world's religions and races, energy and agriculture maps, political maps, fishing area maps, maps for banks, pubs, caravan sites, restaurants... there's no end to the types of maps we produce.

"We haven't produced one of Mars yet," he joked, "but we have just completed a full-colour D-Day project showing and telling the story of that June day 40 years ago.

"It's been compiled from wartime maps and is complete even down to place name spelling mistakes.

"It doesn't show motorways or

anything like that as they didn't exist in those days." But the map, drawn by 36-year-old Dave Hutchings, shows and describes the embarkation ports of the invasion force and the touch-down points on the French coast.

The map also features pictures of military leaders who planned and fought the battle, together with biographies and a good deal more information about the armada and subsequent battles.

While outwardly a quiet, even studious occupation, commercial cartography requires speed, quality and accuracy and map-makers and publishers will require all these qualities and possibly a few more, if they are to win their current battle against the Ordnance Survey — a Government department — which sells information from which maps are compiled.

Apparently the Ordnance Survey has started publishing ventures with private companies which could hit other map-makers.

But there are other problems, apart from the home-grown commercial variety, in the map-makers' world.

"We have to be most careful when producing maps for sale in the Middle East," said Mike Cottingham.

"If we're doing a map for sale in an Arab country, Israel must not

From left: Mike Cottingham, Colin Fitch, Peter Bracey, Tony Jefferies, Dave Hutchings.

be named as such. It must be called Palestine. It's what they want. Similarly, a recent map of India showed a certain state the same colour as the main land mass.

"In came an objection. 'It's a separate state,' said the objector. Therefore it must be a different colour.

"Great care, as well as skill, is required and we are constantly checking for these political pitfalls. We also get letters from near home when residents point out that their street name is incorrectly spelt or that the shape of the road is not quite right.

"But we welcome these letters as we can correct the next edition or when we update. In the case of London that is every year and elsewhere every two years."

So, while "drawing lines" is anathema to some people, Mike and his mates positively revel in the practice. More lines — with hardly a straight one between them — means more work.

But like every other profession or trade cartography has its secrets. One obvious one to emerge was, "never get your lines crossed." That way you stay out of trouble. No easy task in this case. ■

THE FIRST BUILDING OF ITS KIND...

THE FIRST of its kind in the country, a residential home for the elderly has been officially opened in Aldershot for SSAFA (Soldiers', Sailors', Airmens' Families Association) by its President, Prince Michael of Kent who described the red-brick building, bought for less than £100,000 from a gift, as a 'marvellous project'.

Among the four residents is an old 'Desert Rat', 5503229

Private Bramley, D B a 67-year-old former well-established Aldershot greengrocer who was put 'in the bag' for two years during his North African campaign days and a man who can even remember the number of his .303 rifle — DV 9650!

The home at Aldershot, the first of others planned by the 4,500-strong SSAFA was brought from the proceeds of a £100,000 gift made by a Jersey couple — the

wife has since died — and will be home to seven residents. Besides Mr Douglas Bramley, The Royal Hampshire Regiment are two Grenadier Guards widows and a former member of the WRNS.

Each resident has his or her own bed-sit with neat wash basin facilities in the house near the town centre and £3,000 has been raised by the 10-member Gibraltar committee of SSAFA for a car park to be built at the back.

**PRINCE
MICHAEL
OPENS NEW
SSAFA HOME**

The house was bought two years ago and stands in half an acre of ground. Its first residents moved in during February of this year under the care of resident housekeeper, Miss Stella Shearman, formerly a SSAFA social worker.

As Mr Chris Hogg, the public relations officer for SSAFA in London explained: "This is SSAFA's first move into supported sheltered housing and the venture has received support and guidance from the established Abbeyfield Society, the national organisation committed to an all-out attack on the loneliness of the elderly."

"The pensions and benefits of those accommodated cover the cost of their keep and allow them spending money. The housekeeper has a self-contained flat."



**Story:
Graham Smith
Picture:
Paul Haley**

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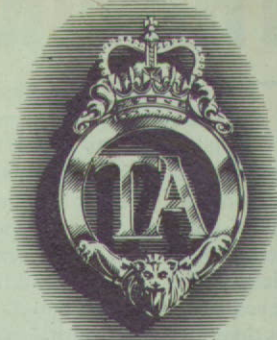
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MERSEYSIDE 'MINI MASH' CALLS



TOPICS

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from Liverpool Airport to exotic parts. Olen, Belgium, to be exact.

The task for Merseyside's 208 General Hospital was a Mini Mash courtesy of an RAF VC 10.



No . . . not *THE* London marathon. It is the 13 bridges marathon for charity run by men of B Company, 4 RGJ based at Fulham House. In fact, a half-marathon run over a 14-mile course between Tower Bridge and Putney Bridge. More than 100 volunteers and their families took part. Target was the raising of £1000 for a local children's charity.

CELEBRATION TIME



THEY CALLED it Exercise Pied Piper. But any similarity between the famed ratcatcher and picturesque town of Hamelin ended there. The event took part in Ulster and was open to TA units who showed off their military skills at Ballykinler.

Winners were the 40th (Ulster) Signal Regiment (Volunteers), above, who took first place in the non-infantry grouping to clinch the Acorn Trophy. Major Crawford McMahon, the Unit Press Officer, said later: "It would appear that the toughest part of the exercise was the winning celebration!"

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THEY CALLED it a "running in" period for a dozen tankards but the canny lads of 5 (Liverpool) Scottish Company, 1/51st Highland Volunteers knew better! The gleaming dozen were the Company's contribution to Officer Cadet John Grgson's prize for winning the 75th TA anniversary brochure competition sponsored by a local brewery. John is fourth from left.

MAJOR SCORES A 'FIRST' FOR TA



Major Neil Johnson, right, with his students.

SIX YEARS ago, Neil Johnson was a TA officer on one of Warminster School of Infantry's Tactics Wing's company commander courses for "Terriers" under the instruction of Regular officers, writes **GRAHAM SMITH**.

Major Neil Johnson, 35, sales director for Jaguar Cars in Coventry, has just returned to Wiltshire to instruct 42 other TA officers on a one-off similar fortnight long course — a TA milestone.

Neil, who is a member of the 4th Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, currently in a staff job on Home Defence and Mobilisation at HQ London District, was running one of the two annual courses which include a fair mix of potential company commanders from around the country, including one from a Yeomanry unit and another from Hong Kong.

Until this year's innovation all previous courses were run by Regular officers.

But as Lieutenant-Colonel David Houlton, the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, who is the Tactics Wing chief instructor and OC Infantry Courses, told me: "The course starts with a presentation and is developed into ten-man syndicates for discussions and training which culminate in a 36-hour exercise. The course deals with various phases of war but the emphasis is one of defence for that is what many of them are likely to be involved in.

"The syllabus incorporates the techniques of attack, withdrawal, fighting in the woods and Fighting in Built-Up Areas (FIBUA) and we do take into account the two types of TA battalion; those of Home Defence and those with a BAOR reinforcement role.

"This pilot scheme has been such a success we may be looking at it as a permanent feature in the future, a situation where the TA and Regular Directing Staff work alongside each other in keeping with the one-Army concept."

Major Johnson, in the TA for 12 years, and a student at Warminster on a similar course in 1978, said of his tutorials: "I think I have learned an enormous amount during the first ten days and I'm sure I'll learn a lot more as the course progresses.

"I have also learned how to avoid going round the edge of a problem and I think this course certainly helps the students when they have someone teaching them with a TA viewpoint.

"It's been great fun...super...useful and thoroughly enjoyable so far."



WINNERS of this year's Fairclough Trophy — it is awarded to the TA unit making the most significant and sustained contribution to public and community relations — were the 6th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. Runners-up were "B" (The Green Howards) Company, 1st Battalion, The Yorkshire Volunteers.

During the year 6 RRF have taken part in many activities.

Pictured above, proudly holding the trophy, is Lt Col C. G. Wood, CO, 6 RRF.

New Commander's opening call . . .



LIEUTENANT GENERAL John Akehurst, newly appointed Commander United Kingdom Field Army and Inspector General of the Territorial Army, chose Scotland for the first of his series of "acquaint" visits.

He is pictured above (centre) during a look-in on a 51st Highland Brigade study exercise at Battleby, near Perth. On the right is the Brigade Commander, Brigadier Bob Tweedy.

NEW ISLAND FLING!

IT WAS certainly the biggest exercise in recent years for the islanders of Uist, in the Shetlands, to see.

Named Exercise Buchan Viking those taking part included men from D Company, 2/51 Highland; 117 Field Support Squadron, Royal Engineers; Aberdeen University Officer Training Corps and members of the Gordon High-

landers Army Cadet Force.

The 'enemy' were men of RAF Saxa Vord on the islands.

As one of the organisers said: "The exercise was conducted throughout in very similar weather to that of the Falklands."

Among the exercise participants was one girl, Miss Sandra Paul from Aberdeen UOTC who completed her part as expected.

A tale of three mayors

THREE MAYORS... from Bury, Salford and Rochdale and two MPs were those who took up the Krypton Challenge trial run on the Krypton Factor assault course on the Army training area at Holcombe Brook, Hawkshaw, near Bury. Organisers of their trial of strength were the Bury Fusilier Association.

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

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



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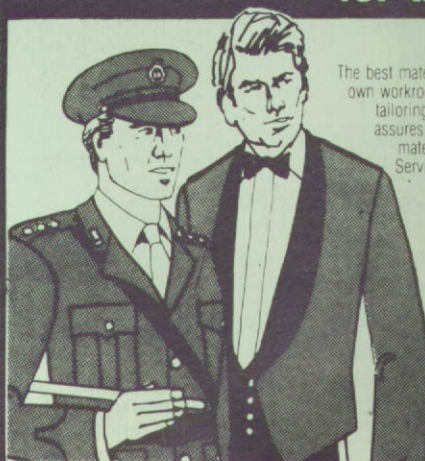
These men and women have given their minds to their Country. If we are to help them, we must have funds. Do please help us with a donation, and with a legacy too, perhaps. The debt is owed by all of us.

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

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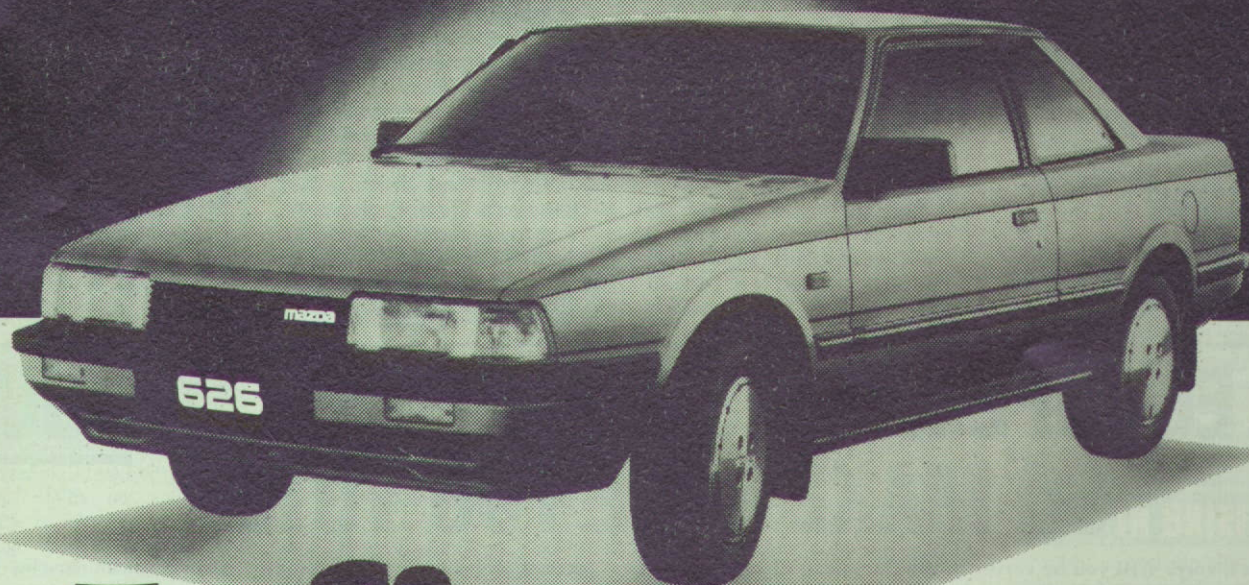
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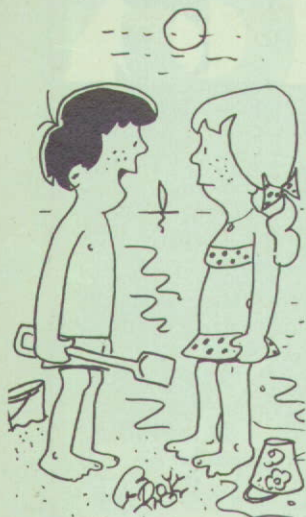
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The Ministry of Defence was given a government grant of £2,361,000 in 1982/3 for passing on to voluntary organisations such as SSAFA, The Red Cross, Order of St John, Royal British Legion, WRVS and others.

Compared with 1979/80, this was



"Just tell them you feel deprived and they'll buy you all the ice cream you can eat."

ANNE ARMSTRONG'S VIEW

an increase of 73 per cent but this does not take into account all the other voluntary community projects which are part of our Service way of life and are in need of funds.

The National Council of Voluntary Organisation's book — "Government Grants" makes an interesting point... "There is no general fund to which voluntary bodies can apply".

Yet Hansard contains references to an amazing amount of money which Government gives to a wide variety of organisations after they have applied. We do not feature, because we have not applied.

Why not? Perhaps we did not know of the existence of this method of seeking aid. Or, perhaps more fundamentally, because we didn't know how to apply — and our sometimes turbulent way of life does not help in meeting application deadlines.

There are agencies who can help unravel the intricacies of Government Grants, or even from the European Social Fund. There are books to help with the latter — "Money and Influence in



Europe" and newly published "Grants from Europe — How to Get Money and Influence Policy" (Obtainable from bookshops or £5.57 by post from the distributors: Macdonald and Evans Distribution Services Ltd, Estover Road, Plymouth PL6 7PZ.

Help can also be obtained from the Charities Aid Foundation, and NCVO's Fund Raising Department.

You might have projects in mind, falling under Community programmes, Youth Opportunities, Voluntary Projects, DHSS New Initiative for Under-Fives, Urban Aid Grant Section 64. A few examples — I have not touched on arts

or conservation.

Conferences and seminars can help. I recently attended one organised by the European Commission entitled: "The EEC and Equal Opportunities Legislation and other measures for Women".

This included a lecture and workshop giving advice on the European Social Fund's plan to help women to return to work. Mr Bob Niblett of the Department of Employment explained the method of applying in UK and as new technology is encouraged I floated an idea to help service wives and this I shall pursue.

Why can't SSAFA have a lump sum paid direct, as in the case of other national charities? This would remove the problem of voluntary Government Grants not being used for Forces welfare overseas. This is another area, in my view, in which we are left in the cold despite being UK taxpayers.

A direct lump sum would also remove arguments like — "Tank or Community Centre" — as there could be no controversy around calls on the Defence budget.

In the meantime do think about whether you and your scheme could qualify for a grant — and ACT.

There is an art in applying and do write to me if you need help or information.

EUROPE MEANS SOMETHING TO YOU SO MAKE SURE YOU VOTE ...

Have you a vote? Will you be voting in the European Election? If not, think again for during the last session of the European Parliament, perhaps shadowed by the debates on the budget and Argentinian policy, women's issues played quite a part in the deliberations.

"End Bias against Women," said the front page headline in the European News in January this year. Both the European Parliament and the European Commission are aware of the wide variety of problems facing women — equal pay, equality at work, at school, in social security. The European social fund. All these directives relate to women.

The milestones to note stem from 1957, Article 119 of the Treaty of Rome.

In 1972 the Paris Summit, introduced the European Social Policy. Then the European Commission drew up a Social Action programme, this was then followed up with programmes in 1975, and in 1981, the directive for Social Security which has to be completed by 1985. Also in 1981 a new programme dealing with equality of opportunity.

A special women's Committee was set up in 1979 and a recent important debate on women's issues was held this year.

The European Commission has also set up services to tackle women's problems, like the women's employment and equality office within the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Education. To the Press and women's organisations the information unit's bi-monthly publication "Women of Europe", is excellent. Also in this field is CREW — the Centre for Research on European Women, a self financing co-operative to cover all women's affairs in the EEC.

It has its own very good newsletter and information sheets. Since I attended the women's debate in Luxembourg Parliament in 1982 and my recent visits to Strasbourg and Brussels an enormous amount of legislation in the form of Directives have been passed with the specific

object of improving the situation for women in Europe.

There are 100 million women to 92 million men, yet of this 100 million, 52% between 14 and 59 have a job or are looking for one, but women make up 41% of Europe's jobless, and at the same time 90% of Europe's part-time jobs are done by women.

The recession has also made women's jobs more vulnerable and service wives in Europe are facing this difficulty more and more as we are discriminated against for a variety of reasons over and above those which face other groups. Few rights of workers seem to apply to us.

When we are outside U.K., there is no unemployment benefit, redundancy pay, maternity leave pay, contracts for work, or equality in seeking jobs when applying for jobs in an EEC country.

I attended a conference laid on by the European Commission on "The EEC and Equal Opportunities Legislation and other measures for women". Dennis Grennan, Deputy Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Ivor Richard, the Commissioner for Social Affairs, spoke about equal opportunities, employment and the equal pay directives.

Sara Evans, who I met in Brussels early this year, spoke about the Bureau for Women's questions concerning employment and equal treatment,

parental leave and equality of treatment in Social Security matters.

With Dipak Nandy Deputy Chief Executive EOC and Bob Niblett of the Department of Employment Social Fund Unit for Women's Projects, showed that a lot of people in Europe are trying to do something for women.

At the conference I raised the specific issues which service wives find themselves in and as yet I have been unable to find chapter and verse of the legislation which denies us various rights.

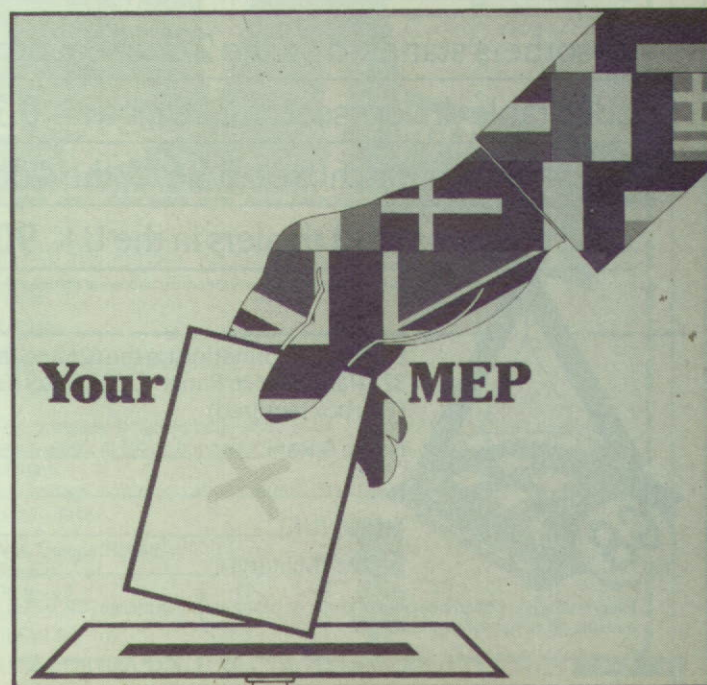
It is obvious that Europe is now the place to ask why we are denied

unemployment benefit, redundancy pay, maternity leave pay etc. I will be following this up, for it does have an effect on the family budget.

Europe has a women's platform to air these issues, so I will take advantage of this, for in their leaflet "Equal Opportunity for Women Europeans File", it says:

"The European Community is constantly striving to improve the lot of working women as part of its efforts to better the working and living conditions of all its citizens."

So do vote and support the European Parliament which is striving to help women in the EEC.



KINNEAR AIDS BIG CAMPAIGN

Actor Roy Kinnear — usually in a humorous role — features in a 12-minute film on the European

GERMANY IS WUNDERBAR



Newly arrived in Germany, or just want a day out? Why not then visit "Germany is Wunderbar", Bad Lippspringe from 9-11 June, the German National Tourist Board display at the British Army Show. Displays show the enormous variety of attractions which Germany offers the visitor to the many regions of Germany. On 9 June a children's theatre group will be presenting a fairy tale quiz (see picture). Whilst you are stationed in Germany make the most of it.

Add fun to your visit by taking part in the rally of discovery where speed has no part.

Write to: German National Tourist Board, Beethovenstrasse 69, D-6000, Frankfurt I.

Parliament and the European election on 14 June.

Which is one good reason for trying to see the film, and there should still be time. Even better, it is on loan free to groups and organisations.

You can borrow it in either 16mm film or video cassette from Guild Organisation Ltd, Guild House Peterborough PE2 9PZ Tel. Peterborough (0733) 63122; or N.A.V.A Library, Paxton Place, Gipsy Road, London SE27 9SR Tel. 01-670 4247; or CFL Hire Library, Chalfont Grove, Gerrards Cross, Bucks S19 7TN Tel. Chalfont St Giles (02407) 4433.

The film is entitled "What are you voting for?". Watch it and you will get the answer...

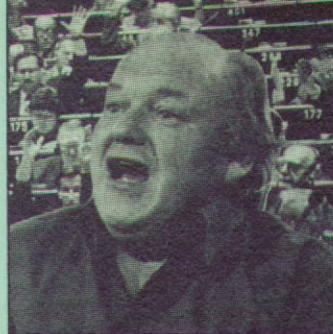
ASK ANNE

I have been asked if Army wives holding a non-British passport are eligible for flights home on compassionate grounds.

The Army Leave Manual (Revised 1976), Chapter 4, gives instructions for leave and travel on compassionate grounds and reference is made to the return of personnel to the UK. When enlisting into the Army the UK is considered to be the soldier's base and if a soldier has a foreign born wife then her base is also considered to be the UK.

However, if a soldier's wife is German born then authority may be given by the MOD for her to travel by an RAF or charter flight to BAOR, at a concession rate, for the purpose of visiting a very seriously ill parent or to attend the funeral of a parent. This is a special concession and not an entitlement.

Other foreign born wives wishing to visit their parents on compassionate grounds may apply for an indulgence passage.



Roy Kinnear.

Recently I have received a number of letters concerning the problems over paying VAT, customs duty and problems over buying from mail order catalogues.

Write to 'Catalogue Mail', The Mail Order Traders Association, 25 Castle St, Liverpool L2 4DT. They will try and sort out your problem, and advise on any further action.

Books and Records: The Mail Order Publishers Authority, 1 New Burlington St, London W1X 1FD. It will try and sort out any problems between you and one of its members.

But do remember, with mail order shopping as well as other kinds of shopping, think before you buy.

The Mail Order Traders Association have written to me in answer to your queries:

"I believe you will find that the prices charged in the catalogues of the companies referred to in your letter take into account the zero ratings of items sent to BFPO customers."

I am a new step-parent and have one child. He has two and one is staying with his first wife. We are due to go to Germany in three months, so I will lose all my contact and help from relatives and friends. There is an association which can help step-parents. Do they have a branch in Germany? If not, I would like to join the one in England before I go. — Name and address withheld.

The National Step-family Association was formed 9 months ago, and have

recently published their first Newsletter, Winter 1984. The Association help in forming a step-families group. To join, £5.00: Mrs Elizabeth Hodden, National Step-family Assn, Mares House, Mares Lane, Trumpington, Cambridge CB2 2LB. 0223 841 306.

Some statistics: one child in every five in Britain will be a step-child before the age of 18 (at the present rates of divorce and re-marriage). In America one child in two will be a step-child before the age of 18. The divorce rate in Britain is 40%, in America it is almost 60%.

Step-parents in Service families have to face up to the many problems with the added problems of the turbulence of Service life. Associations like this one can help in many ways.

Could you give us the rules which tell us how we can apply to take a dependent who is now living with us, to Germany when we are posted next year? (NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED)

The dependent may be granted Dependent Status under certain conditions:

a Application must be made in writing by the Senior NCO before posting, to: G1 (Comp), HQ BAOR, BFPO 40.

b The applicant must be a bona-fide dependent relative.

c If granted permission for Dependent Status the applicant may reside with the Serviceman's family.

d There is no entitlement to travel facilities or allowances.

It is suggested that the NCO should contact G1 (Comp) in the near future to ensure that all requirements can be met.

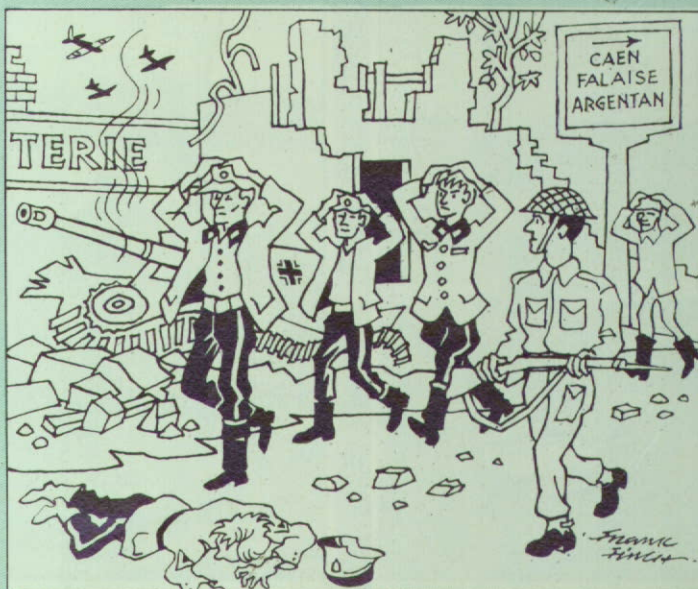
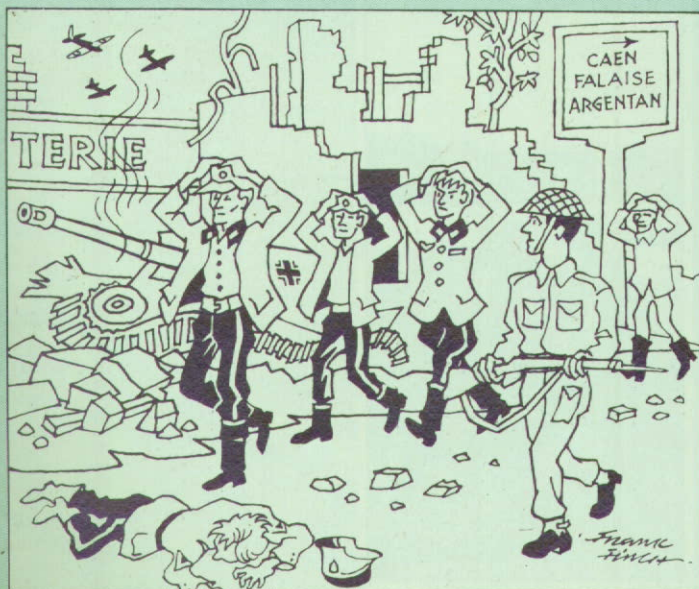
IN BRIEF

A study of 250 families who foster children has revealed that more than half their dogs were mongrels from shelters. According to Foster Care, there are real parallels between obtaining a child from a home and a pet from a shelter. It's published by the National Foster Care Association, Francis House, Francis St, London SW1 (01-828 6266).

Eurofacts — a guide to Brussels — is available from the Confederation of British Industry for 50p and a large stamped addressed envelope sent to the CBI at Centre Point, 103 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DU.

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 40.



OWLS BY NIGHT— SAPPERS BY DAY!

AN ARTIFICIAL lake and the planting of more than 25,000 trees are just two of the reasons why local naturalists regard the Royal Engineers camp at Waterbeach as an oasis for wildlife.

For the onetime RAF station has been transformed beyond recognition since the sappers took it over in 1966 and the wild birds and animals have not been slow to move in and take advantage of its facilities.

Mr Denis Cheason, a leading Cambridgeshire naturalist, is delighted with the way the Army is looking after his property. He told **SOLDIER**: "Agriculture round here is very intensive and most hedges have been ripped out. So this makes a tremendous haven — there is not a lot of rough grassland in these parts.

"In a straight line it's only five

or six miles to a world famous nature reserve and Waterbeach acts as a staging post for that. In the grassland a fairly large collection of voles and field mice has brought in owls and kestrels.

"There are four short eared owls on the airfield, an owl we did not see in this area a great deal previously and there is now a single barn owl — the first I have seen round here for 12 or 15 years."

As the thousands of trees come to maturity so the site will improve. Already water fowl nest on the islands in the manmade lake undisturbed by maurauding foxes. says Mr Cheason: "The Army have been particularly careful with what they have done and it will get better and better provided, of course, that it stays in Army hands. It will be at its best in 15 or 20 years time."

Of course the conservation work

on the camp has not been purely done on environmental grounds — but to make Waterbeach a better camp in which the sappers can live, work and train.

The lake, 1500 by 800 feet, was started in 1977. Traffic from the busy A10 was roaring along the side of the old airfield — very untactical for training troops. So the excavated soil from the lake went into creating an artificial bank to block off the view of the road.

Meanwhile the lake is getting a lot of use. Says Lieutenant-Colonel David Adamson, Commanding Officer of 39 Engineer Regiment: "We use it for watermanship training and it is also used by other parts of the Regular Army and by the TA and cadets. It's basically a training area — but it's also nice to have a lake for recreation."

That recreation includes angling (the Regiment has stocked it with

fish), yachting and surfboarding. A confidence course has also been constructed and will soon be in full use.

There are nominally 900 soldiers on the camp but at any one time more than a third of them are likely to be away — at present the Regiment has two squadrons in the Falklands as well as sappers in Germany. One troop is just back from Kenya and another from Cyprus.

As the trees, a mixture of oak, sycamore, sweet chestnut, ash, willow, conifers and larch, come to maturity the bleak windswept airfield will become a nicer place for soldiers, their families and wildlife alike. "We are already enjoying the benefits," says Colonel Adamson.

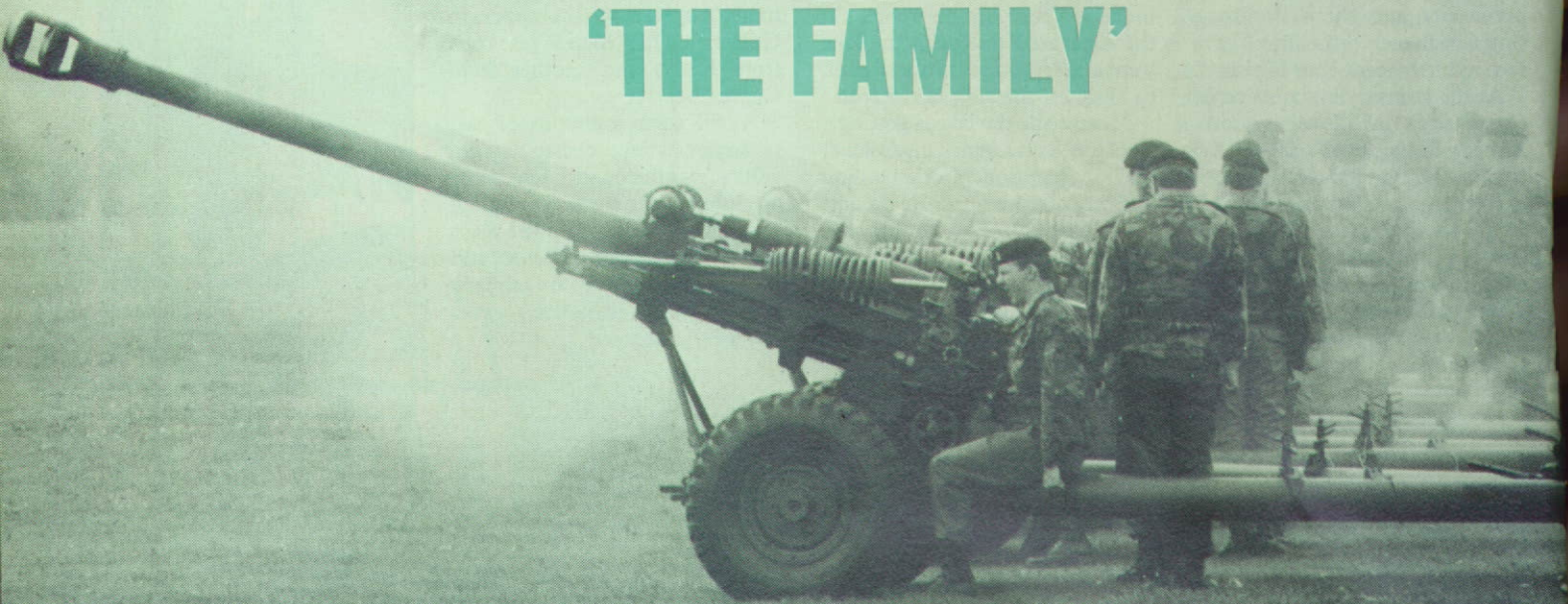


The Adjutant and RSM study a map of the camp.

Swinging time at Waterbeach!



7 RHA BACK IN 'THE FAMILY'



BACK IN its airborne role once again after seven years in BAOR at Osna-brück, 7th Regiment

Royal Artillery, is operational again at Aldershot.

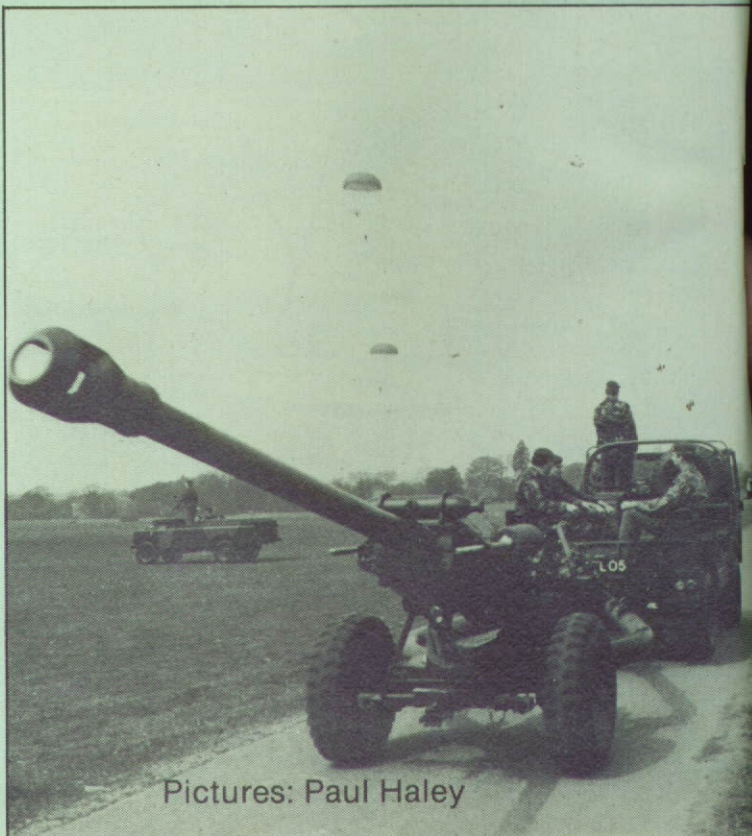
With the disbandment of 16 Parachute Brigade in 1977, 7 RHA gave up its airborne role and moved to BAOR and the regiment's return to the UK coincides with the formation of 5 Airborne Brigade, a role which itself heralds the start of an enhanced parachuting capability.

The regiment's return to Aldershot was marked by a parade

when an 18-gun salute was fired, the gesture taken by Brigadier Tony Jeapes, Commander 5 Airborne Brigade.

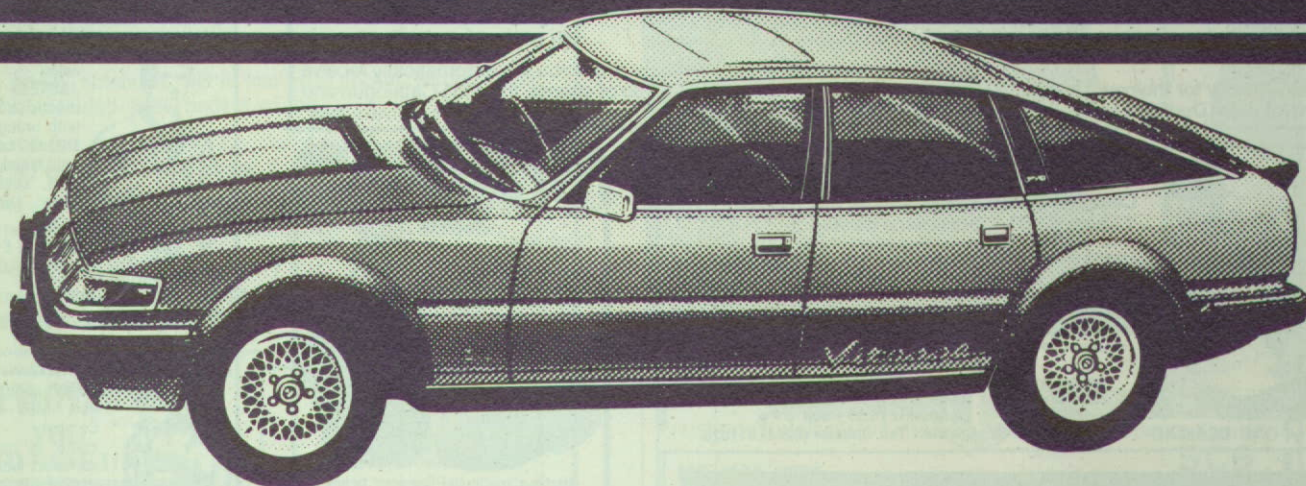
Proceedings for the day started with a para drop. The right-hand gun of each Battery was flown in by helicopter and the remaining field guns driven on to the parade.

Lieutenant Colonel Nigel Richards, Co of 7 RHA, said: "We have long-standing links with the counties of Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Cambridgeshire and I hope we can now renew and strengthen our friendships."



Pictures: Paul Haley

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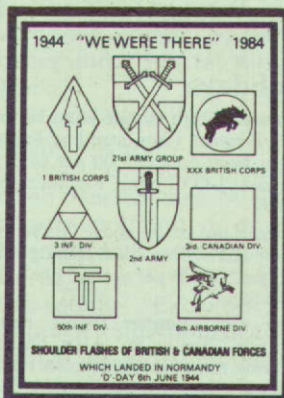
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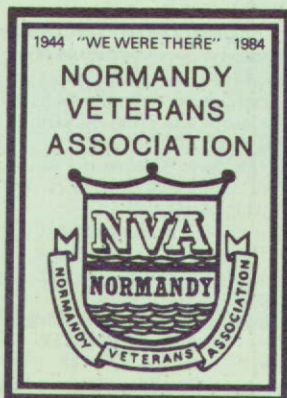
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T J Cottle, 14 Melbourne Road, Doncaster, S Yorks DN4 0UN.

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A Menzies, 16 Redford Bank, Edinburgh.

Military books. Regimental and unit. Send details ref condition and price required.

Derek Hayles, 25 St Marks Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6DJ. Tel: 0628 39535.

Bayonets wanted by private collector (not a dealer). Anything considered. Sketch and/or details of items to:

M J Brayley, School of Inf, Lydd Camp, Romney Marsh, Kent TN29 9JD. Tel: Lydd 20203 Ext 57.

One good set of 1958 pattern webbing. Cheap please — only 14 years old and finances limited.

Damian King, 5 Naze Lane East, Freckleton, Preston, Lancs PR4 1RA.

All forms of badges and insignia, battery and regimental histories, photographs etc relating to Royal Artillery including Volunteer Militia and Territorial. Also require items relating to the HAC and Royal Malta Artillery. Will buy or exchange.

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Gary Packer, 17 Tanyralt Road, Clydach, Swansea SA6 5JQ. Tel: (0792) 842888.

Badges, insignia, buttons, shoulder titles etc relating to infantry and yeomanry regiments of Devon, Dorset, Somerset, Cornwall. Also RM items. A J Wright, 70 South St., Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 8AA.

WRAC No 2 shoes. Good condition please. Size 5½ or 6.

Frances, 2 Ivy Cottages, Uxbridge Road, Hillingdon, Middx UB10 0PJ.

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Peter Garraty, PO Box 67, Truro 5356, South Australia.

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Kenneth Gibbon, 4 Derby Avenue, Benoni, S Africa 1500.

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Hadyn Smith, 63 Porchester Road, Hucclecote, Gloucester. Tel: Gloucester 69957.

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Ian Goode, 39 Allerton Lane, Bromwich, West Midlands B71 2HR. Tel: 021-502 4115.

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Bulletin No 8 contains details of the following surplus Married Quarters offered for sale through the Joint Services Married Quarters Sales Office at UKLF Wilton (Salisbury Military 2684/2693).

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Type 3	1 in Upnor, Kent	£120,000
Type C	2 in Gillingham, Kent	£16,100
	1 in Rainham, Kent	£16,100
	3 in Chatham, Kent	£13,650

The Bulletin will be distributed on 2 May 1984. Further information can be obtained from DCI Army J255/83. application forms will be available through your Unit Orderly Room.

The closing date for all applications for properties offered in Bulletin Number 8 is 4 July 1984.

Your Cap Badge

No. 62

THE SPECIAL AIR SERVICE REGIMENT

Much has been written of this secretive Corps in existence only since July 1941. It was founded on a shoestring, in the teeth of conservative military thinking, by a tall Scots Guards subaltern, one David Stirling. He audaciously gained the permission of his C-in-C General Auchinleck to gather about him a very small nucleus of brave, highly skilled and resourceful men of independent mind and so founded this

Regiment as "L" Detachment Special Air Service Brigade.

As the war progressed so did the fortunes of the SAS gaining by sheer merit a reputation which has not only survived to this day but is continually enhanced by publicity it by no means seeks. Originally the head-dress was a white beret, which proved unpopular, and shortly replaced by a sand coloured, or beige, beret which in turn was superseded in 1944 by the maroon beret of the Airborne Forces when SAS came under the 1st Airborne Army.

At first a locally made brass badge was worn, of which few survive, consisting of what is often described as "A winged dagger pointing downwards behind a scroll inscribed 'Who Dares Wins' ". The "dagger" represents "Excalibur" the sword of King Arthur of ancient British legend symbolising a determination to win freedom from the invader.

Although a metal badge in white and gilding metals was made for a special occasion, and specimens are almost as

rare as the originals, the current badge is of embroidered cloth.

The wings and title scroll are in blue edged with red, the sword ("dagger") in white with black lettering and markings all on a black background proudly worn on the beige beret now restored to wear. The original concept of the SAS Regiment was a small highly trained mobile force of aggressive spirit and as such it remains. Expanding in size and embracing other nationalities



in the later stages of the 1939-45 War it has survived the loss of its creator by capture, employment in roles it was not completely suited for, and disbandment in 1945.

Re-raised in 1947 as a Territorial Army unit (21st SAS (Artists)) there then followed a most unusual happening, for 22nd SAS was formed out of 21st SAS volunteers and Malayan Scouts.

Subsequently squadrons from Rhodesia, New Zealand and the Parachute Regiment joined them and in 1957 they were paid the compliment of imitation, that sincerest form of flattery, when the Australian Army formed their own SAS unit.

Leaving Malaya in 1959 they settled at Malvern into temporary accommodation before removing to their present home in Hereford. Here they enjoy a most satisfactory relationship with the people of that area and are close to the excellent training grounds the Welsh Border country provides.

HUGH L. KING

Sergeant's collection still growing...

After 15 years of collecting military cap badges, Scarborough-born Green Howard Sergeant Bob

Cheetham is very proud of owning one of the finest personal collections in the Army.

Bob, aged 31, a one time apprentice plumber, and merchant seaman is serving with The 1st

Battalion The Green Howards based in Osnabruck, West Germany.

Bob has collected over 400 cap badges, most of which are from the World Wars.

"It's becoming a very popular hobby," said Bob who has a full set of 1914-1918 British Infantry badges and is now putting together a cavalry set from the same period.

Sergeant Cheetham's hobby has proved an expensive one. "When I first started I remember paying 35 pence for a Green Howards Second World War badge. Today I'd have to pay between five and twenty pounds," he said. "You contact other enthusiasts and dealers through magazines and military gazettes. My prize possession is a Green Howard drummer's helmet badge. It cost £100," he added.

Sergeant Cheetham is now just back from Canada with his Battalion on a live firing exercise on the Prairies. Soon he repacks his suitcase and with 120 other Green Howards will fly to Australia for a four-week exercise with the 5th/7th Royal Australian Regiment who are based in Sydney, New South Wales.

"I hope to return with a few Australian Army cap badges," he said with a grin.

Sergeant Cheetham displays his military cap badge collection with the aid of fellow Green Howards.



Men of 3rd Battalion, The Light Infantry, have been trying a 'fun buggy' with possible military use . . .

THE VERDICT: FANTASTIC

Story: Graham Smith
Picture: Doug Pratt



THE RECCE elements of parts of the US Army could soon be going out on operations in militarised "hyped-up" beach or dune buggies.

Men of the 3rd Battalion, The Light Infantry, based at Tidworth, who were on a four-week training exercise at Fort Lewis, Washington State, had their first sight of the low profile, spartan-fitted, two-seater which sports an M.60 machine gun. Some even had a gravel-spewing ride in it. Their verdict: fantastic!

Described as a fast, manoeuvrable vehicle capable of operating on rough: off-road terrain, the welded tubular-framed vehicle called SFAV — Surrogate Fast Attack Vehicle — has been trialled at Fort Lewis by 3 LI's exercise partners Combat Support Company, 3/47th Infantry.

Specifications modestly claim

that it has a top speed of 75 mph though Lieutenant Eugene McGill, platoon leader, says he has had 94 mph out of the 12-foot-long SFAV which is powered by a modified 1,984cc VW engine, has a range of 300 miles at 30 mph, and gulps its 16 gallons of fuel at the rate of 22 miles per gallon. It has a turning circle of 22 feet and ground clearance of just over 13 inches.

The four squat tyres, however, still need attention to detail. For before the SCS demonstrators could proudly show off its wares to the interested British infantrymen there was one small snag. One of them had to be replaced as it had an ungainly list due to a puncture.

Lt McGill told me: "We've been testing this vehicle now for our Army for about two years seeing how tactics can be applied to it. It's a good vehicle to maintain though some details still leave

something to be desired. I understand that SFAVs have already been deployed at times overseas, unofficially, perhaps with our RDF (Rapid Deployment Force) in mind.

"Now, it has an M.60 machine gun as its main armament with a range of 1,100 metres. Soon, we are hoping to mount a new M.19, 40-mm grenade launcher with double that range."

Sgt Ellis Delahoy, a First Section Leader, said: "In this machine with its five harness seat points you must understand tactics to have any use for the vehicle. It gets you in there and out again very quickly. You can spot an ambush position before they have time to react. We can out-run anything and it is rumoured we could have them in service by August of this year. One rule as a passenger is that you must not tense up, just relax and enjoy it. Tactically, it's great and it's fun

A member of 3LI takes a passenger.

to drive and ride in, too."

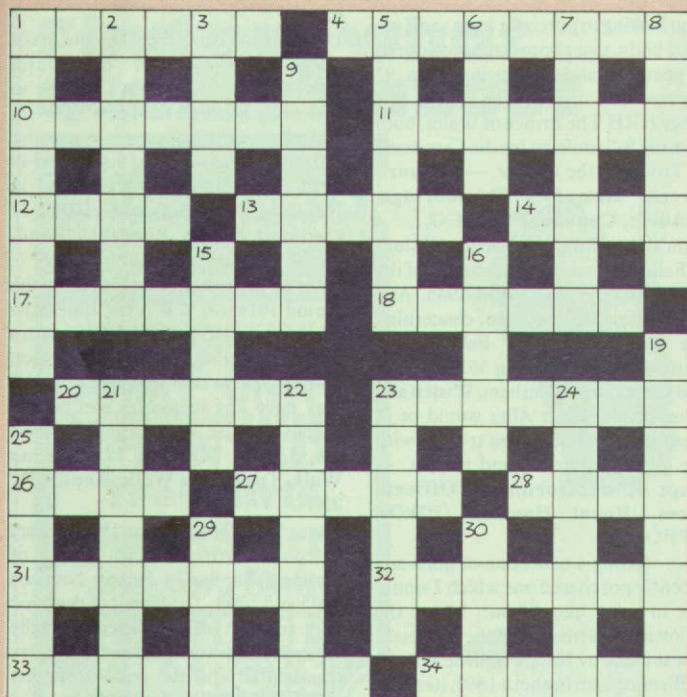
Private First Class (PFC) Thomas Traylor, who has some 50 hours' driving on the SFAV said: "I think it's great. It's fast. It's really a hyped-up dune buggy."



3LI examines the M60 machine gun.

CROSSWORD

COMPETITION 339



The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday, 6 July. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 30 July. More than one entry may be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 339' label. In case of ties the winners will be drawn by lots and no correspondence may be entered into. Send your answers in by letter or post card with the 'Competition 339' label to Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

CLUES ACROSS

1. Finder, of the bullet perhaps? (6)
4. Might it contain an explosive article on weapons? (8)
10. Promote the dear pug. (7)
11. Pierces the Cook's instructions about dishes. (7)
12. Flag waving foreign gentleman. (4)
13. Being alert, I've a fifty start. (5)
14. Forgt to back away and somehow became a creature for the bayonet. (4)
17. Irregular soldier with a dog 'tag'. (7)
18. Emphasise that the rest was turned by the SS. (6)
20. Figure straightforward soldiers march on it. (6) ...
23. ... But not in this ungainly walking manner. (6)
26. Terribly vain Russian? (4)
27. Softly toed around the stores unit. (5)
28. Raking of the Gunners to make a sovereign (4)
31. Takes a trip to become a devoted countryman. (7)
32. Civilian force recruited from a limit I set up. (7)
33. Mount up in DDR and arrive at a German town. (8)
34. Find out why the armoured vehicle went after rabbits? (6)

CLUES DOWN

1. Band instruments — as played by elephants? (8)
2. Difficult to get on with having corners. (7)
3. A short test before morning. (4)
5. Come to a point where one achieves success. (7)
6. A roguish bow in the parchment. (4)
7. Tells how craft got into the little devils. (7)
8. Flag Officer. (6)
9. Does he give away secrets about the bank? (6)
15. Equal to compete with. (5)
16. Wide or bad mixed up woman in America. (5)
19. Gets near Mess rank. (8)
21. Direction in which a soldier lives. (7)
22. The side that gets even about the RTO. (7)
23. Assaults and goes out angrily. (6)
24. Belt Sir on the heel perhaps after a route march. (7)
25. Beaten, but is made an Officer nevertheless. (7)
29. Solid partnership. (4)
30. Stick together, but only when things are sticky. (4)

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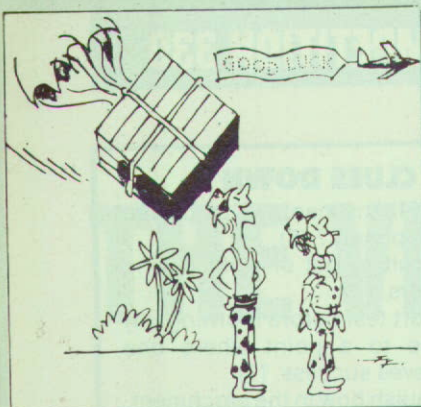
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Got something to say, a point to make or a story to tell? This is your page to exchange your news, views, comments and opinions. All we ask is that you keep it brief and include your full name and address. Write to: Mail Drop, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

ITCHY FINGERS

With great interest I read your article on 23 April about Royal British Legion bands being formed. We at Holmer Green, near High Wycombe in Buckinghamshire are in the process of forming a branch pipe band.

We thought that in the Slough, Windsor areas there must be loads of pipers and drummers with itchy fingers. Well, here's their chance. Write to: J Brown, 75 Sutton Lane, Langley, Slough, Berks; or Holmer Green Royal British Legion, Holmer Green, Bucks.

BATTLE TOUR

In July of this year a group of officers of the Royal Corps of Transport will be undertaking a battlefield tour along the line of the river Weser. The bounds are between Stolzenau and Petershagen.

The principal units which took part in the operation to force the crossing of the Weser were 11th Armoured and 6th Airborne Divisions with 1st Commando Brigade and 6th Guards Armoured Brigade.

May I ask any of your readers who were involved directly or indirectly in the assault crossing to be good enough to write and give me details of their experiences. These accounts will then be included in the brief that is being written for the battlefield tour. — J S Lucas, Deputy Keeper of the Department of Photographs, Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London, SE1 6HZ.

'CHUTE WANTED

The President of our German licensees, Dr Gerhard Sedlmayr of Autoflug GmbH of Hamburg, has been asked to look after the Parachute Exhibits and for this purpose we are making a replica for him of the first Emergency Escape Parachute with which Mr Leslie Irvin, the founder of our company, made a historical descent on 28 April 1919.

● DON'T forget that to have your point of view published on this page, you do not have to have your name and address/unit printed if you do not wish. Please feel free to express an opinion on any subject and if you wish to remain anonymous, we do ask, though, that when writing to the Editor you supply these details so he knows the letter is genuine. (Full name and address required, however, for the Collector's Corner, Can You Help?, Reunions and Pen pals columns).

Also, Dr Sedlmayr would like to have a German World War 2 Emergency Escape Parachute and there are none available in Germany, while the two which are in the Battle of Britain Museum at Hendon cannot be made available.

An alternative, we thought, would be to ask if readers of SOLDIER might by chance have acquired one of these parachutes, during or just after the war, or a German Paratroop Parachute, and would be prepared to sell an assembly to Dr Sedlmayr who would then donate it to the Museum.

In the first place, anyone who might be able to offer us such a parachute assembly should write to me and I will then transmit the letter to Germany for a reply: — S B Jackson, Corporate Technical Director, Irvin Great Britain Ltd, Icknield Way, Letchworth, Herts SG6 1EU.

MISSING MEN

A British unit of the BEF was stationed at Sainghin en Weppes during the period September 1939 to the German invasion. Three soldiers from this unit had the christian names of Frank, George and Leslie and were lodging with my parents whose house faced the church.

I am in the course of compiling a local history and I would like to know the names of these three soldiers and what has become of them. — Yves Costeur, 690 rue Gambetta, 59184 Sainghin en Weppes, Belgium.

I regret that with such little information, especially lack of surnames and unit, we cannot help. But perhaps some reader may recall the time and the men concerned. — Ed.

THANKS A LOT

I am an ex Bristol/Gloucestershire rugby player and have been involved in junior or colt rugby in Bristol for ten years as well as Army Colts.

I would like, through your columns, to express my sincere thanks on behalf of the parents whose boys represented the Army Colts this season to officials for all their hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm. Those concerned are Lt Col P Salisbury, RA (Chairman), Major D Skinner AAC (Hon Sec), Capt G Frobisher REME (Coach), Mr D Price (Asst Coach), Sgt G Poulson RAOC (Trainer) and Sgt P Collins RAMC (Medical).

A big thank you to you all. — A R Sheppard, 5 Yew Tree Drive, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 4UA.

Reunions

The Devonshire Regiment Old Comrades Association Annual Reunion March, Cathedral Service, and Dinner — Saturday 14 July 1984. Form up Bury Meadow 1630hrs. Tickets may be obtained in advance from: RHQ The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, Wyvern Bks, Exeter, price £3.00.

Can you help?

I am looking to purchase from some official body, two photographs, coloured if possible, and measuring 8" x 9" approx. One of HM The Queen, the other HRH The Prince of Wales, both wearing full uniform for the Ceremony of Trooping the Colour. — Bernard Green, Box 533, Bracebridge, Ontario, Canada, POB 1CO.

I am researching the wartime history of Fallingbommel and the crossing of the River Aller, during April 1945. Any information, in any form, concerning the PoW camps at Fallingbommel (Luftstalg XI B, Stalg 357 and 321) and the actions at Rethem, Wisten and after, on the River Aller would be of great help and of course treated with the greatest courtesy and respect. — Capt R de Normann, Officers Mess, Royal Hussars (PWO), BFPO 38.

I am starting a collection of guns and recently purchased one which I would like to know more about. I have the following information of the gun itself. It was made by Joseph Bourne and son in Birmingham in about 1865, its serial number is 43722 and on the butt is written the following: ^{D31} and on the opposite side is the number NKO-21/19-53 and stamped 'British Forces' with a King's Crown. On the barrel is the number 31/65, and it has had a musket with a sight and a bayonet attachment added at a later date.

If anybody could tell me more about this gun or possibly the soldier it was issued to, I would be very grateful. I will refund all postage etc incurred. — Mr T J Bolton, c/o Mrs D Bolton, 24 Marston Drive, Irlam, Manchester, M30 6DG.

For playing games in community groups, some life-expired circular parachutes (canopy only) would be useful. Please let me know of any

Collectors' Corner

Gordon E Bliss, PO Box 113, Gold River, BC, Canada, VOP 1G0. Has for exchange: Canadian cloth formation signs — Pacific Coast CMND; 1st Division; 6th Royal Hussars; Royal Canadian Armoured Corps, Royal 22nd Regt; le Regt de Montmagny; Rocky Mountain Rangers. Canadian cap badges: Queen's Own Rifles of Canada; Manitoba Dragoons; BC Regt; South Saskatchewan Regt; 7/11 Hussars; The Halifax Rifles; BC Dragoons; The Royal Montreal Regt; Lord Strathconas House. Wants: UN/NATO enamelled breast badges; foreign parachutist wings; RAF busby badge and plumes; camouflage jackets; Nazi militaria — belt buckles etc; whistle from a pouch belt; foreign pilot wings; Canadian CEF cap badges.

B Bale, 16 Shrewsbury Road, Sneinton Dale, Nottingham, NG2 4HP. Has for sale or exchange: 7 Bn Sherwood Foresters 'The Robin Hood Rifles' cap badges (QC) in nickel silver; 2 Regiment Foreign Legion Para; Brévets (enamel/metal) £1.50 each (+ SAE) or will exchange.

possibility. — Peter Greenwood, 59 Hayes Road, Bromley, Kent, BR2 9AE.

Does anyone know the whereabouts of Colin Richardson or his cousin Lawrence who were both serving in Aldershot between the years 1974-76, and who might have gone on exercise in Italy in August/July/September in 1975. I lived in Aberdeen Road in Highbury. — Maggie Griffin, 37 Ormond House, Lordship Road, Stoke Newington, London N16.

I am at present researching into the period 1914-18, WW1, the times, the soldiers, and the people. All this with a view to preparing a book on the subject. I would like to hear from anyone who may have any memories and photographs of these long-forgotten times.

— Martin Tizzard, 11 Pennine Walk, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 2NN.

I have been commissioned by Michael Joseph to write a social history of National Service in Britain between 1945 and 1963. The object of the book is to contrast official papers with the memories of those men who were conscripted and the regular officers and men who had to train them.

I would welcome any letters from SOLDIER readers who were in either category — and the more, the better. — Trevor Royal, 6 James Street, Edinburgh EH15 2DS.

Russell Santangelo, PO Box 55, Bridgeport, PA 19405, USA. Wishes to trade US uniforms, insignia, medals or equipment and Eastern European medals for British medals, especially WW1 tris and pairs.

Colin Chen, 1020 St Francis Blvd, Apt 2017, Daly City, CA 94015, USA. Requires new or excellent condition current issue DPM clothing and field equipment. Has access to all current, new US Army issue field equipment and clothing to sell or trade.

B J Green, Box 533, Bracebridge, Ontario, Canada, POB 1CO. Is looking for a cassette recording if there is one, of drill verbal commands, foot drill, arms drill etc. Either by the Brigade of Guards or other infantry regiments of the line. Will cover cost, value and postage etc. Required for nostalgic reasons.

L Cable, 7 Grove Ave, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 7RA. Wants, to complete collection of Cornwall Home Guard Battalion signs: 3 (Castle) Bn, 6 (Liskeard) Bn, 10 (Truro) Bn.

S Mackie, 62 Rustenburg St, Hull, Humberside. Requires British Army sergeant's AC10 shoulder flash. Willing to buy old or new.

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1 First segment of tank track; 2 Broken masonry by top left of tree; 3 Length of arrow on road sign; 4 Belt buckle of leading prisoner; 5 Right pocket flap of leading prisoner; 6 Stripe at top of second prisoner's boot; 7 Buttons on third prisoner's tunic; 8 Left little finger of soldier lying in road; 9 British soldier's right heel; 10 Height of window in middle of picture.

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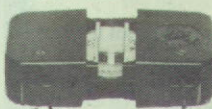


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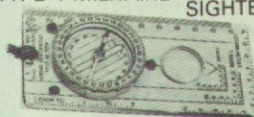


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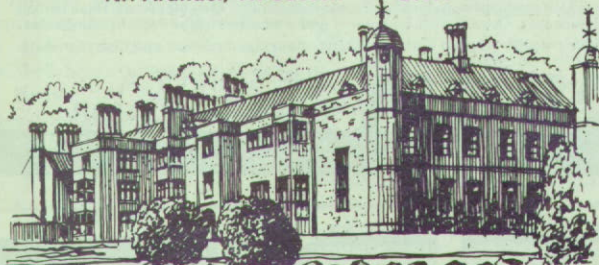
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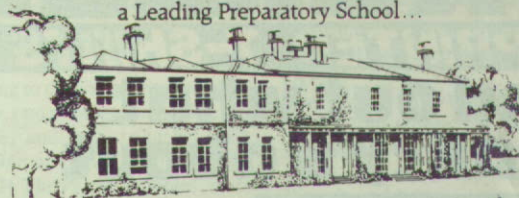
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EX-PRO STEVE IS ARMY CHAMP

Winning a major Army sports trophy is not without its problems — the winner has to clean the 'pot' for a year for a start *writes John Margetts.*

Such a task is facing 25-year-old Corporal Steve Mariner from 22 AD Regt RA who slid home a 12ft putt to win the Army Championship — and the massive trophy that goes with it — at Rye Golf Club, Sussex.

In an 18-hole match play final off scratch, Steve (3) rammed home that last putt after watching 24-year-old Corporal Alistair Brownrigg (4), from Tidworth, miss a six-yarder which, had he sunk, would have taken them on for a sudden-death play-off.

But with two previous tilts at the title, plus his pre-Army experience as an assistant professional, Steve played cool and pushed the ball into the hole for a nicely-played four and the title.

From the way Brownrigg started it looked as though the big-hitting Sapper would power the slightly-built REME man out of sight.

And he did on the first two holes. But Mariner came back to win three and four to level and a win at the eighth put him one up at the turn.

Brownrigg took the tenth and Mariner the 436-yard 'blind' 13th — a monster par four known as the 'Sea Hole' which had them both struggling as Mariner made five and Brownrigg six.

But Brownrigg won the 14th and the 15th to go one ahead, only to lose his lead at the short 17th when he hooked his drive 40 yards left off the green, while Mariner was sitting just a few yards from the hole.

All flat with one to play and anybody's game. Both were pin high with their second shots and it could have gone either way, but Brownrigg's chip left him well short and he had to watch his first putt slide past the hole, while Mariner calmly slotted his for a four, and the honour of getting his

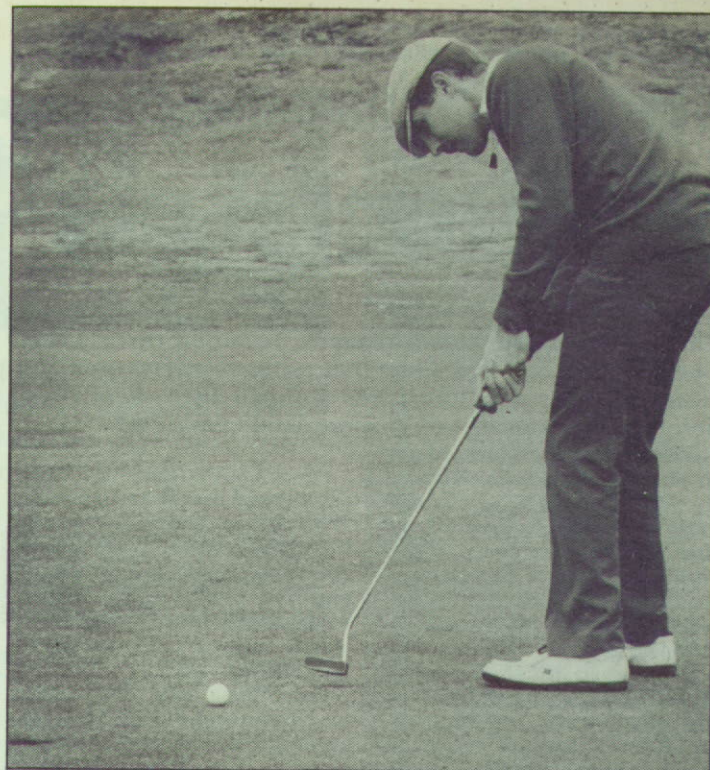
name on the 'pot' at the third attempt.

Earlier in the day the two finalists played off their semi-finals. Brownrigg took on and beat defending champ Sergeant Ian Gray (1) RAOC, at the 18th while Mariner slammed Corporal Doug Spiller (4) REME, four and three.

In the Brownrigg/Gray clash it looked like Hampshire county player Gray would be playing in his fourth final — he won the title in 1978-79 and last year.

He had Brownrigg on the run from the start, but Alistair hung on to match Ian shot for shot and overhauled him on the 18th green.

"I just couldn't putt," said Gray. He wasn't alone for few putts of either semi-finalists or the finalists were up to the hole. Nearly all were short.



Mariner — his unflappable approach paid off in the end.

Pictures: Doug Pratt

But as Major Andrew Turnbull, secretary of the Army Officers Golf Society, organisers of the week-long event pointed out — Rye doesn't flatter anyone's ability. He never said a truer word for up to that mid-way point in the meeting no-one had returned a medal card better than 73.

That honour went to Brigadier J M C Thornton (retired) who returned scores of 73 and 76 off scratch in the Black Watch Challenge Medal. Runner-up was

Major W E Brewin with a 36-hole total of 152.

Major General J L Bartlett won the Generals' Cup, a 36-hole match-play competition and the Army Golf Association Scratch Trophy went to RSM Bob Hanna, RMP who returned 152 in the 36-hole scratch medal contest.

Diary dates for AGA members: May 31-June 1 inter-corps championships at Tidworth GC; July 23-25 UKLF championships at Little Aston GC; September 27-28 inter-units championships at Catterick GC.

WINTER COLOURS — SUMMER SMILES



PRINCESS ANNE went to the Royal Aldershot Officers' Club to attend a reception given by the British Ski Federation to honour the British Olympic Men's Nordic Ski Team which made an impressive debut in the Winter Olympics.

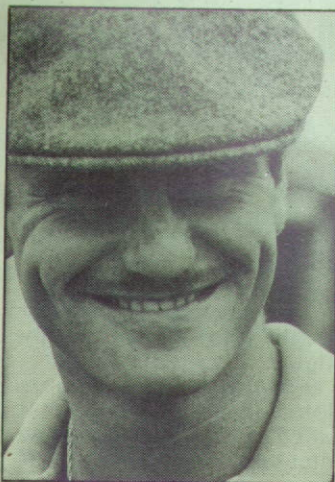
The Princess, President of the British Olympic Association, presented international colours to six servicemen. They

are Marines Andrew Rawlins and John Spotswood, Sergeant David Marshall, Lance-Corporal Martin Watkins (1 Armoured Division Transport Regiment), Sapper Michael Dixon (35 Engineer Regiment) and Lieutenant Mark Moore (39 Heavy Regiment RA).

Other colours went to bi-athletes, Staff-Sergeant Jim Wood, Corporal Tony McLeod

and Bombardier Trevor King and to WRAC Corporal Lauren Jeffrey, a member of the women's team.

The build up has already begun for the British participation in the 1988 Winter Olympics. An article on an unusual Army contribution to the programme will appear in our next issue. *Soldier's exclusive picture by Paul Haley.*



Brownrigg — put out Gray.

Welsh Guards take Courage Sevens after final mix-up

THE LONGEST DAY

The 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, retained their Army Courage Sevens title at Aldershot — but only after amazing scenes in which the final was stopped with them eight points ahead and had to be completely restarted.

The man at the centre of the problem was Guardsman Steve Whitehouse, who ironically had already crossed the line twice when competition chairman, Lieutenant Colonel Andy Carter, raced to the touchline with a megaphone to stop the game.

Keen eyed players from 1 Devon and Dorsets had spotted his appearance and they remembered that he had been substituted through injury during their quarter-final match with the Welshmen.

Colonel Carter was told and after hurried consultations with other officials it was

discovered that the rules made Whitehouse ineligible for the final. The 8-0 lead over 7 Royal Horse Artillery did not count and the match began again with Guardsman Leigh Edwards coming in for the luckless Whitehouse.

Celebrating their return home to North Camp 7 RHA soon capitalised on the Welsh setback. Gunner Sam Thorne streaked down from the right to plant the ball between the posts and skipper, Sergeant Martin Lewis, converted.

The Welsh gritted their teeth and forced their way back into the



Ianto Evans holds the ball aloft in triumph as he makes it 18-6.

game when a defensive slip by 7 RHA saw Lance Sergeant Ianto Evans through for a converted try to make the scores level.

Before the change round the Welshmen were in the lead. Sergeant Spencer Walford burst through the 7 RHA lines for a touch down and Lance Corporal Darrell Jones again converted.

The holders were really starting to get their act together and Evans waved the ball in the air in a victory salute as he sped through unchallenged for another touchdown.

At 18-6 it looked all over but 7 RHA were by no means finished. Lance Bombardier David Coghlan forced his way over the line but the conversion failed and this was to prove crucial.

With the seconds ticking away Lieutenant Niall Beazley streaked away for another converted try. But the Welsh Guards held on for the title by just two points in what was certainly the longest final ever likely to be played in this competition.

Afterwards skipper Walford paid tribute to his opponents, who took the title in 1982. "It was very close but in the end we were strong enough" he said.

Team coach, Captain Glyn White, said the team had restarted the final a little down after what had been a pure mistake in fielding



Welsh skipper, Sgt Spencer Walford, holds the trophy aloft at the end of a long and gruelling day.

the ineligible man. But they had come through and he was delighted.

The plate competition was won by 7 Signal Regiment, the Army Rugby champions. They beat Depot King's Division 26-6 in the final after showing their usual fast running.

The 16 teams in the finals, from 250 who took part in the preliminaries, included the Americans from 3 Armoured Division in Germany.



Touchline summit as Lieutenant-Colonel Carter (with megaphone) discusses the objections with officials and captains.

RMA'S US HAT-TRICK

The RMA Sandhurst Rugby team extended their season for a three match tour of the United States. The party of 19 players began their programme with a match against their famous equivalent — West Point Academy — who hosted them for the tour.

Sandhurst had quite a shock in the first 20 minutes as the West Point pack completely dominated the game. But West Point missed penalties and eventually the Sandhurst pack settled down.

Sandhurst took the lead through an excellent try by 2nd Lieutenant Kenyon but West Point soon equalised. By half-time the visitors were 13-4 in front and they added a further 12 points.

The second game against Rutgers University, New Jersey, belonged very much to the 'Art of Coarse Rugby.' The referee failed to turn up and Captain David Kerr took the whistle. Final score 32-8 to Sandhurst.

The final game in Harlem was again a 'change in coach' event. The posts had to be erected just before the game and removed soon afterwards — otherwise the Americans said they would be stolen as firewood. Against a good Columbia University side the Academy ran out worthy winners 18-10. Thus ended an excellent season in which Sandhurst only lost three matches and collected 588 points for and only 211 against.

PISTOL PACKING

Britain's top pistol shots gathered at Bisley for the Army Target Shooting Club's Open Pistol Meeting. Warrant Officer 2 Alan West-lake from SEME Bordon came second in the overall championship as well as winning the centre fire match in which the runner-up was Mr Bill Smith, an ex sergeant-major.

WO 1 Chris Godwin ACC came third in rapid fire. Runner-up with the standard hand gun was WO 2 Peter Hawkes REME from 22 Air Defence Regiment RA. And the standard pistol tyro prize for the best newcomer went to Sergeant John Kenny, of 40 Field Regiment

EXIT CROOK

THE ARMY has failed in its bid to gain Amateur Boxing 'Association' titles this season. Its last survivor, lightweight Private Carl Crook (1 Para), went down to a points defeat in the final to Scottish champion, Alex S Dickson.

In the final round the para-trooper made a supreme effort but the Scot always had the edge.

Heavyweight hope, Corporal Horace Miles (1 RGJ), had exited at the semi-final stage. After building up a commanding lead he walked into a wild punch and was floored.

Army retain Swinderby title

MARATHON MALCOLM'S FIGHTING FINISH

PUTTING IN A POWERFUL FINISH which almost saw him to the Inter-Services title Colour Sergeant Malcolm French took the Army Marathon crown at Swinderby near Lincoln. Over the last four miles French cut the lead of the Royal Navy's Lieutenant Terry Osborne from two-and-a-half minutes to 34 seconds.

The delighted paratrooper said afterwards: "I wish the marathon was 27 miles or even 26½ — I might have had him." Osborne in fact was so overcome by his effort in the sun around the flat Lincolnshire lanes that he collapsed later and was taken away by ambulance.

French's team from NCO Tactics Wing, School of Infantry, Brecon, easily took the minor units title with Staff Sergeant Ray Butters placed seventh, Colour Sergeant Keith Jacklin tenth and a fourth man, Captain Steve Crowsley 20th. In fact they would also have taken the major units title had they been eligible. Winners of this were 4 Armoured Workshops, REME.

Osborne had gone into the lead from early on and ran unchallenged throughout the race. At eleven miles he was half a minute ahead of an RAF competitor with Major Keith Arnold RAEC running third. Behind them came a pack including French, Butters and Lance Corporal John Grant from the Parachute Depot.

Five miles later Osborne led by nearly a minute, Arnold was still third but Grant and French were gaining. By the 22 mile mark Arnold was back in fifth spot and the race was on to catch the leader.

Grant, running only his second marathon, finished third in two hours 26 minutes 54 seconds — 1 minute 38 seconds behind the winner. He told SOLDIER "I tried to stay with Malcolm but lost him at the last feed station. This is the first time I've been in the marathon and I must admit it's a bit boring with no crowds to cheer you on."

Last year French had run for 3 Para and had finished third behind his team-mate, Lance-Corporal Peter Cawse. This year he was to head six Army runners among the first ten home — thus ensuring that the Inter-Services team title remained with the Army.

He told SOLDIER: "Some of them went out too fast. I bided my time early on then I started going from strength to strength — particularly when I got him in my sights. It's the best finish I have had in a long while."

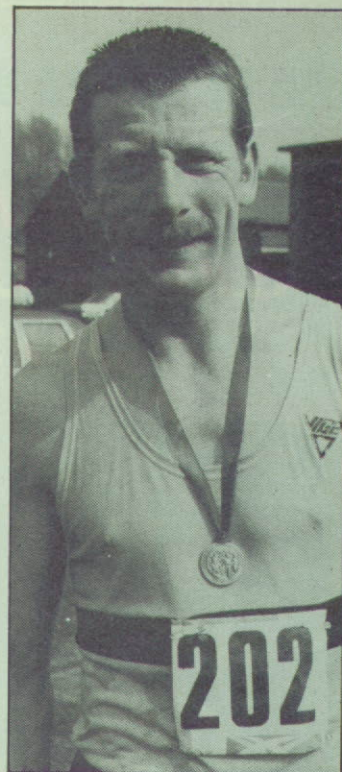
Another man with cause to celebrate was Warrant Officer 2 Ernie Rustell. He came seventeenth overall but because he recently celebrated his 40th birthday became eligible for the veterans' award. The grin on his face said: "Life begins at 40."

More than 400 runners took part in the event, which began around the RAF station at Swinderby ten years ago and turned into the Services' most exacting long distance event in 1978.

**Story: John Walton
Pictures: Paul Haley**

Right: Colour Sergeant Malcolm French — "just another mile!"

Below: Victory for Osborne but as spectators applaud he sinks to the ground exhausted.



TA HOSPITAL DOUBLE

Two sub-units of 217 General Hospital won separate sections of the WRAC/QA competition in the 1984 TA Orienteering Championships. Overall winners were the Brighton based team of Captain Malins, Staff Sergeant Weber and Private Ward while the London girls, Captain Carey-Harris, Captain Davis and Lieutenant Pottle turned in the best relay time on Day Two to win the Holland Martin Trophy.

In the ladies' individual competitions Junior Underofficer Jo Bell of East Midlands UOTC retained her individual UOTC title by more than 25 minutes. In the TA WRAC/QA individual section Lieutenant Jean Payne, a former UOTC winner, took the title.

Corporal Les Hunt of 135 Field Survey Squadron was a popular individual men's winner. Corporal Hunt has done much to promote TA Orienteering in London and the South East and it was fitting that he should win the Lanarkshire Volunteers Trophy for the first time in his last championships prior to his departure to Germany with the PSA. Winning UOTC individual was Officer Cadet Neal Barlow, last year's runner-up.

The team competition was an action replay of 1983. There was no trouble for 135 Field Survey Squadron RE in retaining both the overall championship and the relay trophy. TA runners-up were again D Company, 4 Para and East Midlands Universities UOTC retained the OTC team title.



Taking refreshment on the run as a group of runners pass through one of the pit stops.

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