

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 25 PENCE • 11-24 JULY 1983

SOLDIER



• BALLYMENA'S BIG DAY
• TA COMMANDOS



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FRONT COVER

Top o' the morning, Ma'am! A light-hearted moment as Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother pauses to chat with a staff sergeant of 152 (Ulster) Ambulance RCT (V) on her visit to Ballymena in Northern Ireland to celebrate the TA's 75th Anniversary. More pictures and story on page 11.
Picture by S/Sgt Peter Maile RAOC

BACK COVER

Silhouetted against the evening sky, an Army sports parachutist makes a pin-point descent. A report on this year's Army Parachute Championships appears on page 47.
Picture by Paul Haley

Acting Editor
Peter Howard (Ext 2585)
Assistant Editors
John Walton (Ext 2591)
Graham Smith (Ext 2590)
John Margetts (Ext 2588)
Sally Daniell (Ext 2593)

Art Editor
John Rushworth (Ext 2589)

Picture Editor
Leslie Wiggs (Ext 2584)
Photographers (Ext 2584)
Doug Pratt
Paul Haley
Photo Library (Ext 2577)
Bill Stroud

Advertising/Circulation
Mrs C Wilkinson (Ext 2587)
Distribution
Mrs S McIntosh (Ext 2583)

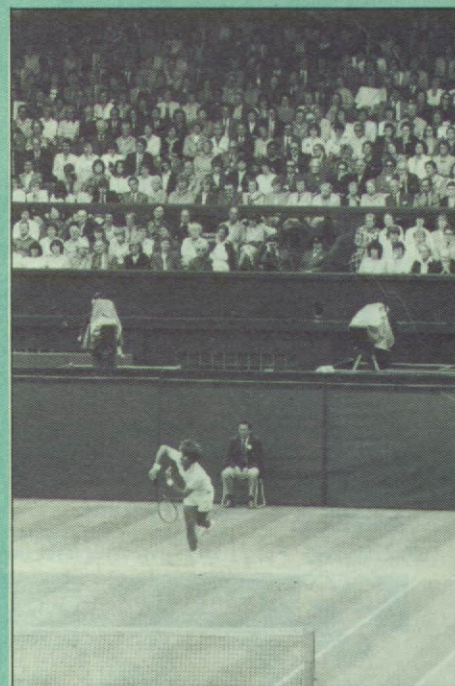
SOLDIER

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THE TERRITORIAL ARMY MAGAZINE**



◀ The Brits who went to Turkey — page 30

They also serve: Army views from the Centre Court — page 35 ▶



CAT 83: Nato's tankies test their marksmanship — page 14 ▼



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SLD5-83

KEEPING IN STEP with the latest technology, Army recruiters are to switch to a new and streamlined method of recruit selection over the next few weeks.

Using a centralised computer the new scheme will further ensure the Army gets the most suitable people for filling vacancies.

Up to the end of April next year the Army plans to recruit 11,500 adult soldiers, 7000 junior soldiers and 1500 Service women — a total of 20,000. "This is a considerable reversal of the 1982-83 target," said Colonel Ray Ching of the Army Recruiting Directorate.

But with this year's extra places comes a new selection system which to some extent will heighten competition. Applicants will now find themselves competing for selection on a national basis.

"It means," explained Colonel Ching, "that by using our new centralised computer at Sutton Coldfield, we will be able to compare applicants on a nation-wide basis and make the most of the best people we can get."

"The existing system doesn't allow us to screen and compare applicants in this manner, but this new system — which will be fully operational in the autumn — will."

This shortcoming in the current method was spotted by

Brigadier Pat Hargrave, Director of Recruiting, when he took over last year.

"He realised," said Colonel Ching, "that we were unable to make country-wide comparisons of applicants and gave the green light for a new system."

Basically, methods of application by would-be recruits remain the same. The major differences in the two systems — apart from the first-time use of computerised comparisons of applicants — is the switch of job briefings for applicants from Sutton Coldfield to the ACIOs and the use of up-to-date-videos instead of tapes and slides.

Explaining the main advan-

COMPUTER BOOST FOR RECRUITING

tages of the new scheme, Colonel Ching said it would reduce form-filling and manual returns, make the Recruiting Directorate more responsive and allow them to call forward for selection the most suitable people available.

"If we have a shortfall in any particular job area, I will be able to pin-point it at once and do something about it immediately."

"Neither is the present system anywhere near fast enough for us to get our advertising organised

and underway. This new system will help us enormously."

Colonel Ching added: "Although we're introducing a new system of selection our demands remain the same: a lad's ability, his interest in the Army and the Army's needs at any given time."

"Our job is to match all three together. This new centralised system will help us do just that by increasing our speed and efficiency in this direction."

YOUTH SCHEME SET TO START NEXT MONTH

THE ARMED SERVICES Youth Training Scheme (ASYTS) will come into effect on August 4th — subject to Parliamentary approval.

Mr John Stanley, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, has announced that the necessary Statutory Instruments have now been laid before Parliament to enable the scheme to go ahead.

In a full year the Scheme will enable up to 5200 young men and women between the ages of 16 and 18 to join the Royal Navy, Army or Royal Air Force for one year's training. Recruits will be

free to leave at any time on 14 days' written notice and will also be eligible to apply for a regular engagement in the Service in which they are doing their training.

"Young people wishing to take part in the Armed Services Youth Training Scheme should visit or write to any local Services Career Information Office," said Mr Stanley. He explained that there will be a limited number of ASYTS places available for women in the Navy and RAF, but the Army's training capacity for women is fully taken up.

Danger men win Queen's award

TWO ARMY explosives men have been awarded the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct for removing hundreds of sticks of dangerous explosives from a disused lead mine in Cumbria.

WO2 (SQMS) David Couling, 40, and Sergeant John Howard, 24, both of the Royal Army

Ordnance Corps, spent three days last December moving more than 200 sticks of unstable gelignite, detonators and fuse from nearly half a mile inside Hags mine, Nenthead. They had to carry the explosives in sandbags strapped to their chests so they could climb over rock falls in flooded areas without jarring.

SQMS Couling and Sergeant Howard were sent to give assistance by the Joint Services EOD Operations Centre after Carlisle Police were told that a quantity of explosives had been found.

The two ammunition technicians were told the mine could not be sealed as it was an escape shaft for another mine; neither could the explosive be destroyed by demolition where it lay because there was an occupied house immediately above the mineshaft.

RANGE SAFETY INQUIRY TO CONTINUE

THE ARMY'S own inquiry into the range incident which led to the death of Mrs Sheila Wenham two months ago will now be resumed and will take into account the evidence given at the recent inquest, and its result.

The jury returned a majority verdict (7-2) of death by misadventure on Mrs Wenham and the Battersea Coroner, Dr Paul Knapman, said he would be making formal recommendations to the Defence Secretary, Mr Michael Heseltine, concerning standing orders regarding safety at Ash ranges.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said: "The coroner's observations have been carefully noted and the military inquiries will include a review of procedures and will particularly

cover matters of concern to the coroner."

When an eight-year-old schoolgirl, Emma Breen, was hit by a bullet at Camberley — there is no evidence a Service weapon was involved — Mr Heseltine ordered the immediate closure of all live firing land ranges under MOD control until the three Services completed a review of range safety standards throughout the UK.

He stressed that the Services "have a very long and impressive record of range safety".

As SOLDIER went to press some ranges had been reopened once senior officers were sure all safety procedures and standards had been checked. Others will follow when the same measures have been taken.

Green light for Falklands airfield

DEFENCE SECRETARY, Michael Heseltine has confirmed the Government's intention to build a new airfield in the Falkland Islands.

The site chosen is at Mount Pleasant, about 28 miles south-west of Stanley, and it is hoped the main runway will be usable by April 1985.

The cost will be about £215m and this includes communica-

tions and navigational aids plus a road to link the strategic airfield with the capital.

Among the main advantages will be the ability to operate wide-bodied jets to the Falklands, which will mean savings in garrison running costs and a big reduction in the time needed for reinforcement. Use of RAF Stanley by the garrison will not be affected during building.

ARMY'S GIANT DEPOT GUTTED

EXPERTS are still studying the effects of a fire which caused multi-million-pound damage at the Central Ordnance Depot, Donnington. As SOLDIER went to Press the cause of the fire was still unknown.

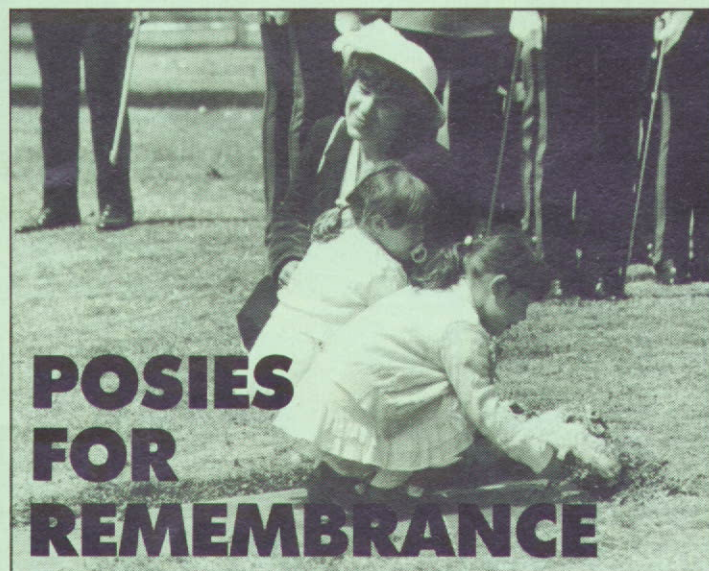
Twenty four appliances and 140 firemen fought valiantly but could not prevent the 10-acre building from being gutted. Among the stores which suffered were textiles, clothing, vehicle parts, batteries, electrical spares and mechanical handling plant.

Small fires continued to burn or smoulder for some days after the disastrous blaze, which

brought additional problems to the surrounding area.

Wrekin District Council mounted an operation to clear roads in East Shropshire of asbestos debris spread around as a result of the fire.

Traces of white and brown asbestos were found and workers began a clear-up. Experts at Aston University failed to find any traces of blue asbestos.



TWO LITTLE sisters lay posies on a memorial stone in memory of their daddy who was killed by a terrorist bomb last July.

Lance Corporal Jeffrey Young was one of four Blues and Royals blown up by an IRA bomb. Now his two little orphan daughters, Louise, five, and Sarah Jane, 2½ and their widowed mother Judith, pay homage to him and his murdered friends.

They were among other young widows and relatives of the dead men at a dedication service in London's Hyde Park. The Queen Mother was one of many VIPs who attended.

Colonel-in-Chief

The Royal Scots, who have been without a colonel-in-chief since the death of the Princess Royal in 1965 have now learned that Princess Anne is to be their new Colonel-in-Chief.

New BAOR Chief

General Sir Nigel Bagnall has taken over from General Sir Michael Gow as Commander-in-Chief British Army of the Rhine and Commander Northern Army Group.

Aged 56, Sir Nigel was commissioned into The Green Howards and served with The Parachute Regiment before transferring to the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards.

Sappers' bouquet for Jacqueline

WITH A BOUQUET of flowers, 24 soldiers of 73 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, returned to the Normandy village of Pont D'Ouilly which the unit helped liberate in 1944, in search of the squadron's wartime sweetheart.

Their only clue was a name, Jacqueline, which they immortalised by naming the bridge they built there over the River Orne "Jacqueline Bridge" in honour of "the prettiest girl in the village". They also had the memories of seven members of the squadron's Old Comrades Association who accompanied them.

Jacqueline was not hard to find. After an interval of 39 years, the former 22-year-old waitress of the village café met the former wartime Tommy heroes, and the village was suddenly 'en fete'.

A Union Jack was hoisted over the Mayor's Parlour. The municipal wine cellar was unlocked for a Vin D'Honneur. Old men changed into their best suits. This most pro-British of French villages was filled with nostalgic celebration.

Mlle Jacqueline Sebire, now 61, is a grandmother of three, widowed, and her health recently has not been good.

The Old Comrades, too, are mostly in retirement. One is a local councillor; another is a retired school caretaker.

The 'pont' of Pont D'Ouilly, dynamited by the Germans, is still known as Jacqueline Bridge, although the girders of the Army Bailey Bridge have long since been rebuilt in stone.



Maj Bill Hughes, Commander 73 Sqn, presents Jacqueline with her flowers at the bridge named after her.

Jacqueline's house is within 50 yards of it, and she has never lived outside the village.

As SOLDIER went to press, the Sappers of 73 Field Squadron were retracing their wartime history by running in relay the 950-mile route which the squadron took from the Normandy

Beaches on D-Day to Rendsburg in the heart of Germany where they were disbanded in 1945.

The run, which was set to raise over £2000 for charity, marked the end of the squadron's independent existence. It is now part of 23 Engineer Regiment in Osnabrück, West Germany.



▲ TOP OF THE PIPES

All Celts revere the pipes, so when pop star Rod Stewart lined up with 2 Royal Irish piper Ranger Brian Bradley in Berlin, he put on a suitably serious expression while posing for a picture with the object of their mutual adoration. Later, Rod reverted to his public image when he gave a concert for more than 5000 fans as part of his European tour.

DUAL ROLE ▲

It was a dual role exercise for the men of 2RTR when they joined French and American units for a week-long scheme in BAOR. The tankies, like Trooper Cresswell standing guard, had to double as 'dis-mounted infantrymen' as well as carrying out their normal armoured reconnaissance role.



▲ IT'S A SNIP . . .

When the civvy barber said he could only attend Bindon Barracks, Hameln, on one day a week, the lads of 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment became somewhat hirsute and the RSM frustrated. Now the lads look more soldierly and the RSM wears a permanent smile, thanks to a local training college. For the school needed models for its hairdressing students and where better to find them than a barrack-full of hairy young squaddies! Now all is sweetness and light at Bindon as the scissors go snip-snip followed by a whispered "Danke, mein Herr."



PLENTY OF PUSH ▲

The best-ever entry for the Arborfield Garrison wheelchair marathon got off to a flying start when more than 80 teams came under starter's orders at the REME Training Centre.

It was a flying finish, too, for it was the RAF Brize Norton team, pushing disabled youngsters from the National Children's Home, Penhurst, who romped home first in 2 hours 39 minutes to give a repeat performance of last year's victory. But forging ahead in the sartorial stakes was bowler-hatted 'pusher' Colonel Geoffrey Slater, Commandant of the School of Electronic Engineering.

◀ AIMING HIGH

Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, Chief of the Defence Staff, aims high with a flare signal pistol to call out the Signal Regiment of HQ 3rd Armoured Division BAOR to set up a headquarters complex 'in the field'. The 'field' was actually the parade ground but it enabled General Bramall to take a first look at the new reduced armoured HQ from which the Iron Division would operate in war. Communications Commander, Lt Col Tim Waugh, said his men could be set up and working in 20 minutes.





◀ SHOW STOPPER

Cutting her own special brand of canine capers, TV favourite Barbara Woodhouse went 'walkies' at the Rhine Army summer show at Bad Lipp Springs. She gave her judgment in numerous dog shows, officiated at terrier racing and even bestowed names on two lion cubs and a tiger cub 'live' on British Forces radio.

This year marked the show's 30th anniversary and it drew record crowds of 150,000 over the three days. Although it began life as a horse show it is now the largest British Army event of its kind to be staged outside the UK.

ONE FOR THE POT ▼

A 'pot' with a difference for Major (QGO) Ganeshbahadur Subba. He received this tongba — a Nepalese receptacle for brewing millet tea — from Lt Col David Scotson, deputy commander of the British Gurkhas in Nepal, when he retired after 43 years service as a soldier and civil servant.

Ganesh joined the Army in 1940 and served throughout the war in Iraq, Iran, Syria, Palestine, Trans-Jordan, Egypt, Libya and Italy. After the war he was involved in operations in Malaya and Borneo being mentioned in despatches in May 1953.



FREEDOM MARCH ▼

In 1980 the Freedom of Osnabrück was granted to British troops garrisoned within the city limits. Now, every time a new unit gets posted in, the mayor and city council invite the newcomers to re-enact the Freedom ceremony. Latest Freedom marchers to take up the offer were the 1st Battalion the Green Howards who, accompanied by their regimental band and the bands of the 1st Battalion the King's Regiment and the 1st Battalion the King's Own Scottish Borderers (in picture), marched through the city's streets for a formal welcoming ceremony from the mayor.



LORRY LUG ▲

The men of the 'Glorious Glosters' have strong muscles and big hearts. Thirty-seven members of the WO's and sergeants' mess have just lugged a 4-tonne lorry four miles to raise more than £500 for handicapped children. And corporals and privates of the 1st Battalion have already given more than £2000 to the 'Gloucester Ward' of Bristol's Stoke Park Hospital.



GUIDED TOUR ▲

Many people would like the chance to drive a Chieftain tank and for Janice Moores of Parkstone, Bournemouth, achieving this ambition has added significance. She is blind and is pictured in the turret with her guide round the Bovington circuit, Sergeant Mick Hellier, 1 RTR. Janice has also driven a car and her next target is a speed boat!





TOPICS



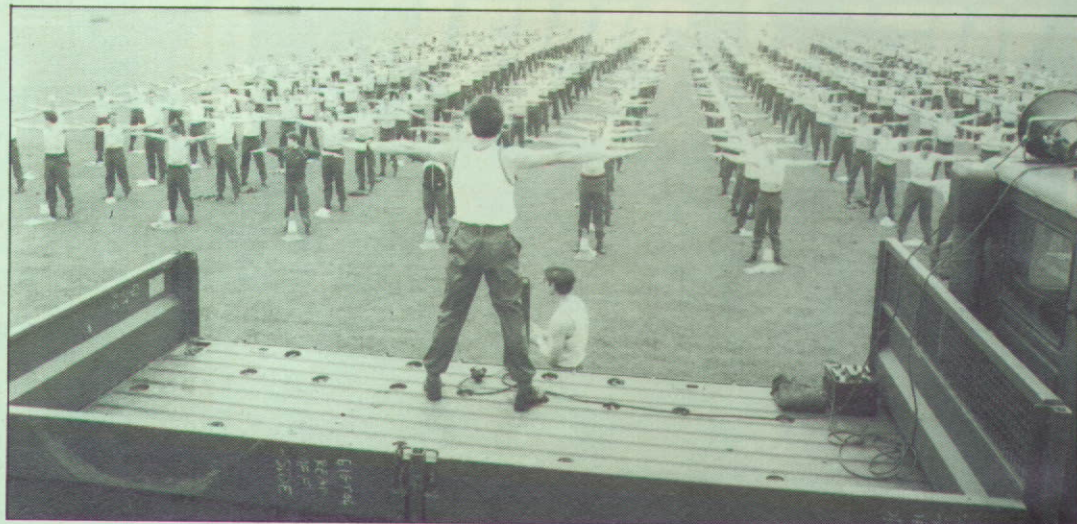
Shona's come-down was no let-down

FLYING THROUGH the air with the greatest of ease has long been a secret desire of Corporal Shona Pittock from Intelligence and Security Group (Volunteers) based in London.

Now she's achieved her ambition by free-fall parachuting at RAF Weston-on-the-Green where, on a basic course, she made 11 para-descents, five of them free-falls with five second delays on the last two.

Shona, who spends her main working day as an MoD civil servant, has the distinction of being only the third woman novice to have attended the course who has achieved free-falling descents while still learning the art of parachuting.

Afterwards she enthused: "The first descent, no matter how good or bad, is the one that has the greatest impression. But from there on it's just a case of wanting to get better and better."



TRAINING WITH A SWING

"ARMS RAISE, knees bend . . . rah, rah, rah." Every day 500 men of 150 (N) Transport Regiment RCT (V) from Hull, went through that well-known routine in the early-morning mists during two weeks of training at their Corps HQ at Grantham. And keeping them on their toes was SSI R N Campbell of the APTC.

As well as the physical jerks, the soldiers carried out a variety

of up-grading courses and many HGV3 and motor cycle licences were attained.

Visitors over the 14-day camp included Brigadier R E L Jenkins, Commander HW RCT TA, Brigadier M A Aris, Commander 15 Brigade and 500 parents, wives and children who came along on an Open Day to see what the lads do when away from home and seemed to thoroughly enjoy their day out.

Clock beats record bid

THE CLOCK beat a team of Army Cadets when they tried to build a five-bay, pre-fabricated bridge in record time.

The bid, by B Squadron from Strood in Kent, came within five minutes of the 15 minute 34 seconds record.

But inexperience, the distance the bridge pieces had to be carried and the weight of the sections — up to 400lb — all contributed to the record slipping away.

Bad weather, too, didn't help and an attempt at the 'stripping down' record was abandoned due to torrential rain.

But it was all in a good cause and while the bridge builders showed their paces to the public at the Cheshire Homes' Open Day at Maidstone, another team from the squadron was selling shots on the rifle range to raise cash for the Homes' fund.



Sports cup shared

THE QUEEN'S CUP, awarded to the TA unit achieving the best results in all sports, is to be shared this year. At a meeting in London of the TA Sport Board, the Vice-President, Major-General Dick Gerrard-Wright presented the cup to the joint winners Major Mervyn Elder (left, representing 4 Royal Irish) and Major Stuart Cottage (right, representing 64 Squadron, 38 Signal Regt (V), Sheffield).

ROYAL GUEST

A ROYAL GUEST, a 13th-century castle and the massed bands of the Light Infantry, made a spectacular setting when the 7th Battalion the Light Infantry (V) hosted a musical display including the ancient ceremony of Sounding the Retreat. Princess Alexandra, Deputy Colonel in Chief of the LI was the royal guest and the castle was Raby Castle, home of Lord Barnard, Honorary Colonel of 7LI. This was the last major event in the calendar for the battalion's CO, Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Chetwynd Stapylton, who leaves the unit this month.

BIG DAY AT BALLYMENA

THE NATION's favourite great-grandmother enhanced still further her universal popularity when she went to Ballymena to inspect the Territorial Army in Northern Ireland.

And the Queen Mother told the assembled volunteers, drawn from the Province's 4000-strong force: "Our gratitude goes to the mothers, wives and sweethearts who have stood by you so nobly and whose encouragement helps produce the quality that is so well known and admired in the Irish soldier."

Her Majesty was making the special one-day trip across the

Irish Sea to attend a 75th anniversary parade of the TA, one of many celebration parades being held throughout the UK.

Security for the royal visit was tight, especially when a copy of her itinerary was stolen from a TV crew's car in Dublin. The programme was later found intact, still locked in a briefcase, but safety precautions were increased when police found a van full of explosives thought to have been prepared by the IRA for an attack to coincide with the Royal event.

But nothing spoiled the day as the Queen Mother told the volunteers how "Northern Ireland has always sent to the Colours soldiers of superb courage and leaders of distinction."

"Over the years the roles of the units here today have often changed and uniforms, arms and equipment are continually being modified with the march of time."

"But there is one thing that does not change — the spirit and resolution of the Territorial Army."

The units on the parade were: 102 (Ulster and Scottish) Air Defence Regiment (V); D (North Irish Horse) Squadron, the Royal Yeomanry — one of two TA armoured reconnaissance regiments formed in 1967 from five

Stepping down from a helicopter of the Queen's Flight on her arrival at Ballymena.

former cavalry regiments and now part of the all-TA 49 Infantry Brigade, in turn part of 2nd Infantry Division; 74 Engineer Regiment (V), a combat engineer regiment with the 1st Infantry Brigade with headquarters in Belfast; 40 (Ulster) Signals Regiment (V) and 69 (Royal Irish Horse) Signals Squadron (V); 4th and 5th (V) Battalions Royal Irish Rangers; 152 (Ulster) Ambulance Regiment RCT (V); the Royal Army Medical Corps, representing the two Northern Ireland TA medical units; the Queen's University (Belfast) OTC; 40 members of the WRAC TA and 254 Provost Company RMP (V).

● Following the parade, 5th Royal Irish Rangers set off for two weeks in BAOR, SOLDIER was there too — see article in next issue.

Report by Jim Allaway; Pictures by S/Sgt Peter Maile RAOC.

A red carpet welcome for the Queen Mother.



Officer cadets (right) of Queen's University OTC wait their turn for Her Majesty's inspection.



Phil sheds pounds for £s

CALLING ALL fatties... Have you a problem with flab?

Then take a leaf out of Major Phil Aindow's book and shed pounds and pounds to raise pounds and pounds!

Major Aindow, who is OC 236 Squadron of 156 Transport Regiment RCT (V), lopped 21lb off his original weight of 14stone 10lb and collected £100 from pals and colleagues in his two-month sponsored slim-down.

Handing the cash to Colonel Donald Gibbs (left), chief executive of the East Lancs Home for Disabled Servicemen, Phil said: "It's a whole new way of looking at BFTs. I've an idea this won't be the last slim-in for the Manchester RCT Squadron."



They used to ride their four-legged friends on parade. Now it's a Fox armoured car for the North Irish Horse (V).

Painful memories

PRIVATE IAN DAVIS looked at the 155mm howitzer without emotion and said: "That's the gun that got me on Wireless Ridge hours before the 'Argie' surrender."

Ian, 24 of 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, was posing for TV and newspaper pictures at Browning Barracks, Aldershot, where the 15-ton gun was being prepared for display. With his left arm hanging uselessly, and with several fingers missing, he told how on June 13 last year he and his pals came under fire from the gun, which was sited in Stanley.

A 'medic', Ian explained how he was attending some injured comrades when a shell from the monster gun exploded 10 metres away.

"One of the lads was killed outright, two were just blown over but unhurt and I stopped a fragment," he said.

That "fragment" took away half his left shoulder and most of his upper arm. Now Ian, a married man with nine years service behind him, is having to think about a future outside the Army — as a computer programmer.

"There's no room in the Paras for injured guys. You have to give the others a chance," he said without a trace of bitterness.



While the gun will be on display in front of 2 Para's HQ for the time being, it is planned to mount it on a concrete plinth alongside the famous wartime Dakota on permanent show on the roadside.

Major Mike Nicholls of 2 Para said there was no indication as to where the gun — one of two used by the Argentinians in the Falklands war — originated.

"We have no idea where it was built," he admitted. "We know it's 155mm calibre with a range of about 16 miles and a plate on the breech indicates it was made in 1978. It's probably the only one in this country."

The men who brought the gun from

Donnington, Shropshire, were Corporal Frank Storey and Driver Chris Bond of 7 Squadron RCT from Buller Barracks, Aldershot. "It's the biggest load I've ever moved on a 16-ton Foden," said Frank.

The job of lifting and lowering the gun to the road fell to trainee Hydro Husky drivers Lance Corporal Peter Rowlands of 59 Independent Commando Squadron, RE from Plymouth, and Sapper Ron Strutton of 28 Amphibious Regiment, BAOR.

"This is good training for us," said Rowlands. "We're on the last week of a six-week course with 56 MT Squadron in Aldershot and it's tremendous experience for us." ■

SOLDIER to Soldier

NOT SO long ago, the only chips to be found in the Army would be sliced-up spuds sizzling in the cookhouse.

But recent years have seen the advent of another variety — the micro-chip — as the Army moves boldly in step with advancing technology.

The computer revolution, of course, is bringing fundamental changes to every branch of our workaday world and nowhere more so than the military sphere.

Marvels of micro-circuitry are giving weapon systems the ability to pick off pin-point targets with infallible accuracy.

Battlefield simulators can now recreate scenarios to test every level of command, control and performance.

And computers are taking over boring jobs too — getting stuck into the paper that clogs up the military machine.

Pay has long been distributed at the press of a button. And now we have the PAMPAS trials (see SOLDIER 30 May) to ease the load of unit clerks.

Against this background, it seems wholly appropriate that the Army's recruiters are now getting switched on to computers with a system to screen and compare applicants on a nationwide basis.

Today's recruits are entering a high-tech Army. What better than a computer to help choose them?

THIS issue is the last to be produced under Bob Hooper's editorship. After four years at SOLDIER Bob is returning to Whitehall to become the Ministry of Defence's Chief Press Officer.

Bob's stint at Ordnance Road has coincided with several important changes on the magazine. His biggest task was to merge SOLDIER NEWS and the monthly SOLDIER into a single fortnightly publication. More recently he has seen SOLDIER take the Territorial Army Magazine under its wing.

Bob's biggest regret, he says, is that all the time spent on reorganisation has prevented him seeing as much as he would have liked of the Army.

He takes away vivid memories of accompanying a midnight patrol through Belfast's Ardoyne and of squeezing his six-foot-four-inches into the driving seat of a Chieftain.

But most of his time was spent 'driving' a desk at Aldershot, battling with a tide of paper and, as he ruefully puts it, "signing other people's travel claims".

Bob's successor has yet to be appointed but his chair is being taken over, for the time being, by the magazine's new deputy editor, Peter Howard.

Peter, 46, first wrote for SOLDIER in his Army national service days in 1959-

60 and has done so more recently from the Falklands as public information adviser to Commander British Forces.

He spent 22 years with *The Star*, Sheffield, before 'signing on' with the Services again as an information officer. In the last eight years he has worked for all three Services.

His hobbies include cap badge collecting and he is a member of the Military Historical Society.

OH, DEAR! Every now and again we have to admit, rather shamefacedly, to dropping an editorial clanger. And now we find we've made the same mistake five issues running...

Eagle-eyed clanger-spotters — a rare breed of bird but still to be found among SOLDIER aficionados — have noticed that the volume numbering sequence on our contents page suddenly shed a year on 2nd May when Magazine 39/8 was mysteriously followed by Magazine 38/9... and 10... and 11... and 12... and 13.

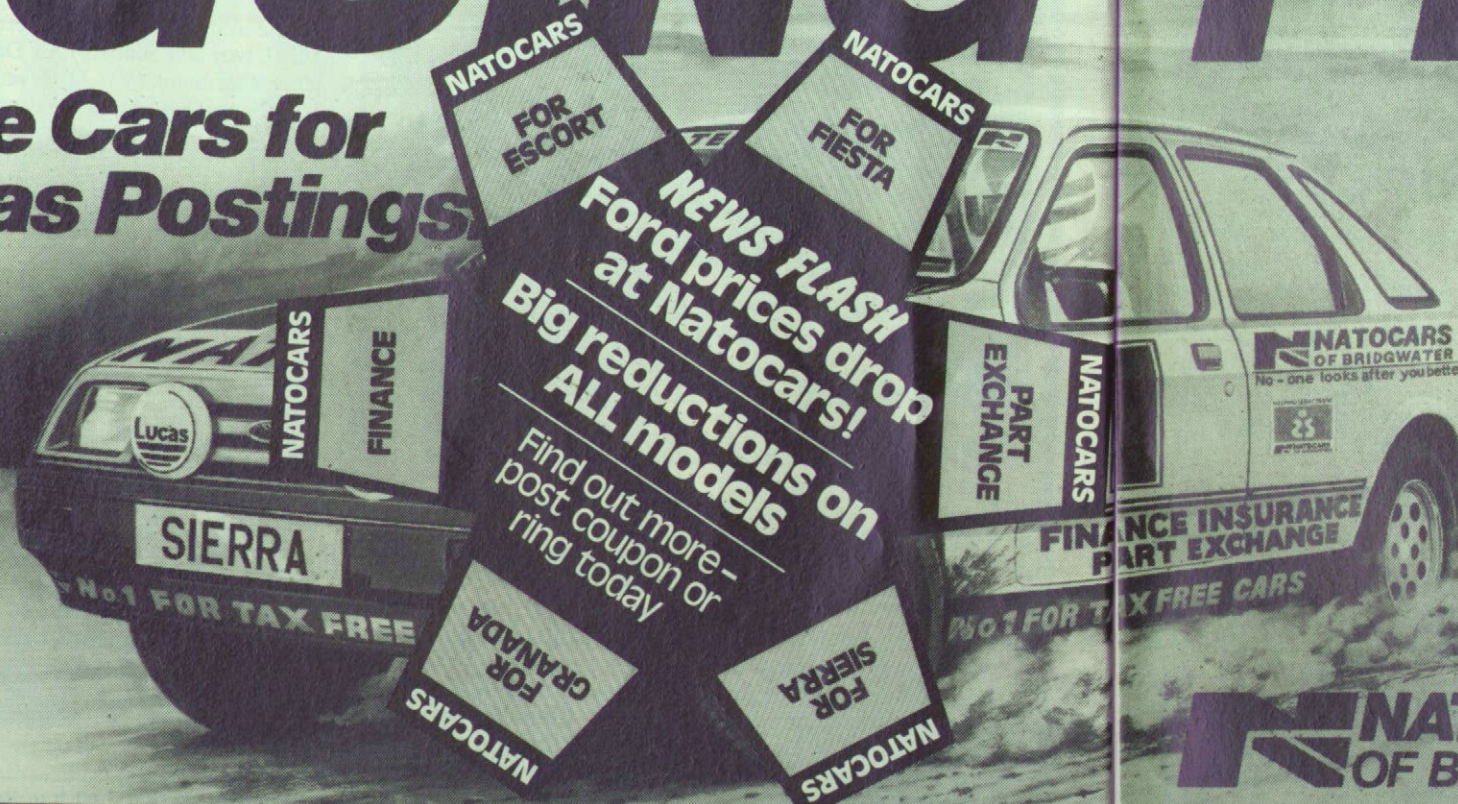
Was it all a plot to fool the Russians, they wondered? Was SOLDIER trying to emulate a popular tabloid newspaper whose page three boobs have won world-wide acclaim?

The answer on both counts, alas, is 'no'. It was simply a typographical blunder that we repeated for five issues before anyone spotted it.

Sorry about the confusion. This issue is definitely Volume 39/14 — and that's official (we think).

GOING PLACES.

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NATOCARS OF BRIDGWATER

This year's Canadian Army Trophy saw the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards carrying the flag for Britain's tankies. From the heat and dust of the Bergen-Hohne ranges in Germany, Graham Smith reports on Nato's . . .



BATTLE OF THE HOT SHOTS

THIS YEAR may not go down in military annals as a vintage one for British tank gunnery skills, but it was not for want of trying "damned hard". That, at any rate, was the view of one competitor in this year's prestigious, five-day Canadian Army Trophy which saw 120 tanks from five nations engaged in a giant shoot-out on Germany's Bergen-Hohne Ranges.

With the internationalism deliberately omitted from this year's event — the 13th bi-ennial competition — the contest was fought out between Nato's Northern Army and Central Army Groups — NORTHAG and CENTAG — in temperatures nudging the 90s. Representing the British element among NORTHAG's armoured gladiators were the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, Scotland's sole cavalry regiment.

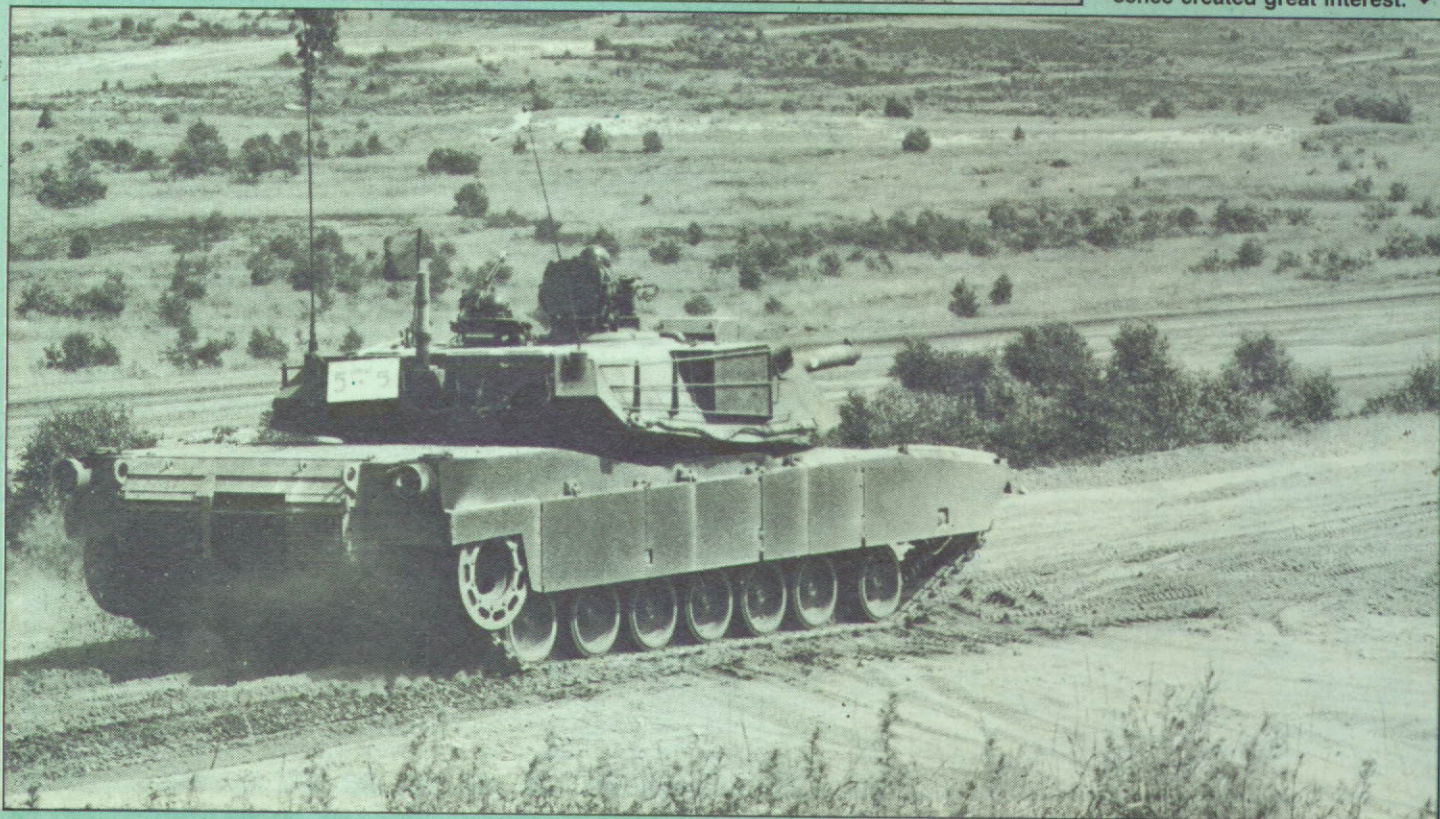
And though, in the end, it was CENTAG who took the Trophy, the Jocks in their Chieftains did achieve scores close to the average of those by other competing teams.

Individually, the winners of CAT 83's highest scoring platoon were from a German Panzer battalion — 16 young men of whom 12 were conscripts on 15-month service.

Great interest centred on the new, 60-ton American M-1 Abrams and the proven old CAT contender Leopard 1 weighing in at a mere 47 tons, both tanks totting the 105mm gun and pitted

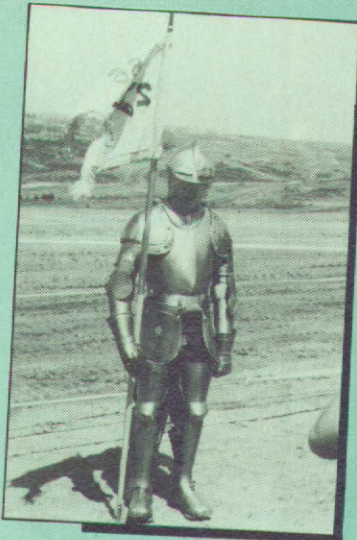
◀ One of the SDG's Chieftains returns to static firing point.

The US M-1 Abrams whose presence created great interest. ▼





An SDG piper plays to VIPs before the Chieftains fire.



Mascot of the US 2/66 Armoured — the 'Iron Knights'.

against the sheer earth-shaking power of the British Chieftain 120mm main armament.

But the Sennelager-based Jocks and their young tank crews refused to be 'psyched-out' by the opposition ranged against them even though they did eventually have to concede higher placings.

No-one blamed the £68,000 IFCS — Improved Fire Control System — for their corporate lack of success, either. Some doubted the merits of Chieftain's big gun as a competition piece but swore by it as a battlefield weapon. Most conceded they were nervous, a condition planned just that way by the CAT 83 organisers.

As one young gunner, his face glistening with sweat and streaked with North German Plain dirt pointed out: "The size of the falling plate and stationary targets out there which have to be located and engaged within 40 seconds are considerably smaller than we would experience on the battlefield. For instance, the Warsaw Pact T.72 is about six metres long. Here, head-on targets are smaller than the width of a Mini at 190 centimetres.

"If those targets had been

other tanks, they would have been dead. There's no doubt about that. Everyone tried damned hard but, somewhere along the line, something went wrong for us."

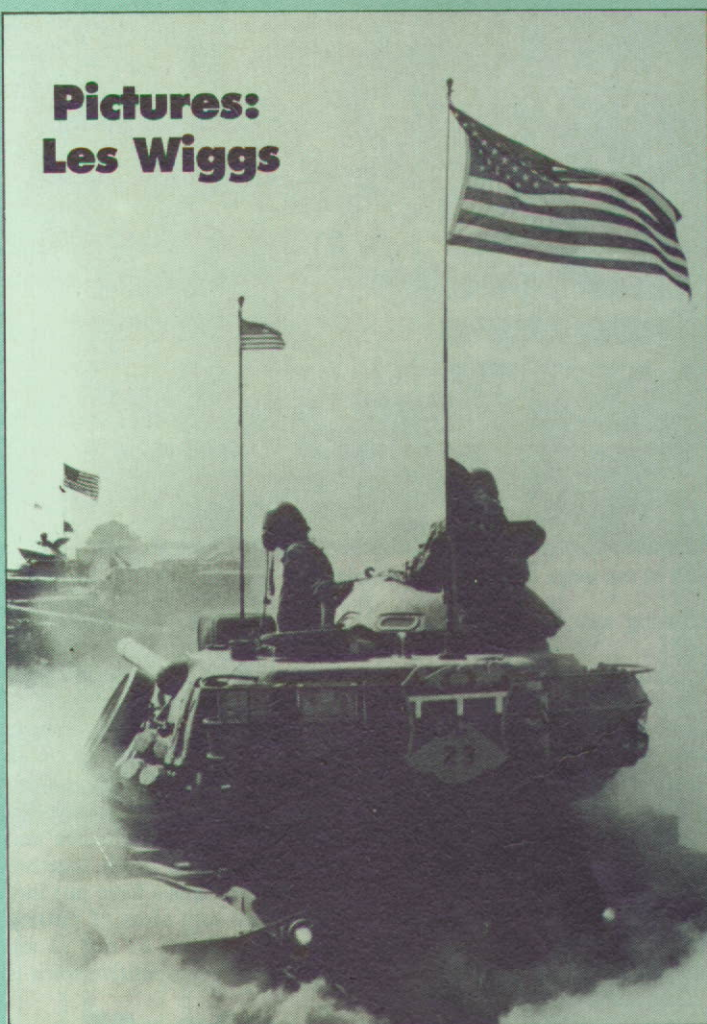
Another experienced voice from within the tank world, pointed out: "We are the only nation to use separated ammunition. In other words, the projectile and the propellant are separate units. The majority of all other competing nations are using single ammunition. This effectively halves the time of their loading compared with ours.

"The difference is, of course, that everything goes out of the barrel. There is no waste and no clutter inside the turret."

As the Jock tankies sallied forth, languid veils of light brown dust in their wake, regimental honour, national pride and sheer professional doggedness were on the line. But reasons for the eventual lack of expected success were largely muted pending the inevitable wash-up in the privacy of barracks.

Earlier, General Dr Ferdinand von Senger und Etterlin, Commander-in-Chief Armed Forces Central Europe (CINCENT) had told all competitors that the contest had been changed into the context of the Nato alliance. Its

Pictures: Les Wiggs



Pennants flying, a US M-60 churns up the dust.

purpose was not, he said, to judge the superiority of one tank over another. The aim was to help improve the standards of tank gunnery in Nato while "forging the bonds of comradeship".

He added: "I believe that the twin aims of the meeting have been achieved already and I'm delighted with the high standard of gunnery we have seen. The harmonious relationship and professional expertise you see in these teams reflect the true spirit of the Alliance. That spirit would be a major factor in effectively

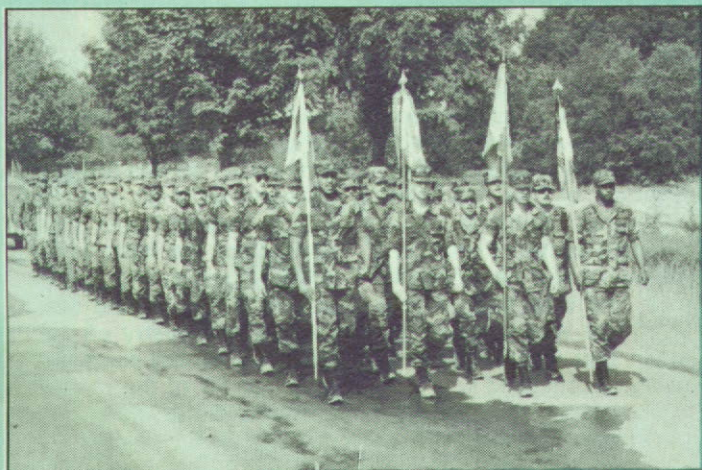
Continued on page 16

Belgian 'reserves' watch to see how their 'first team' are doing. ▸

Onlookers strain to get a better view of the action. ▽



The Yanks are coming — some of the US 'cheer squad'. ▽





Part of the large crowd of spectators.

resisting any aggression against us."

Lieutenant-Colonel Marcus Coombs, Commanding Officer of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards who had been present at the April qualifying shoot-out (see SOLDIER 16 May) and was at Hohne again to see his composite squadron in action, told SOLDIER: "I think all nations are finding some problems and even the Germans have been at the top and bottom of the scores."

"Looking at the whole competition I would say it is, as one general said at the opening ceremony, a competition about people rather than equipment. That has been borne out. A great deal of stress is placed on the crews and you are working within very fine margins."

He said he did not subscribe to the theory that the Chieftain's 120mm gun was just a battlefield gun and not a competition piece. Its weapon system was "superb". And he added: "I don't think we could have done more in every aspect from the sheer gunnery point of view, psychological build-up and the pressure we put our crews under."

"I would have preferred to shoot a little more two weeks ago in order to regain the consistency which we had previously achieved. That's a function of range availability and luck plays its part. But the competition as a whole has enhanced the standard of Nato tank gunnery. That can only be a good thing."

The SDG squadron — 48 crewmen — in their 56-ton main battle tanks had been training for this competition since Christmas while, at the same time, fulfilling their Nato role of support to the 4th Armoured Division.

Supporting them in the five-day competition as part of the NORTHAG team were REME technicians and mechanics plus the usual regimental logistic support units.

At the concluding prize-giving ceremony CINCENT congratulated all the competitors on their "excellent performance".

"I am well aware that you have worked long and arduous hours to prepare for this competition."

"I am very pleased to say that your splendid performance and determination to work together towards new goals have put into reservation any ideas of putting this competition to rest. I am sure that the competitive spirit is



CINCENT congratulates the winning German crew.

as strong as it has ever been. You have been representing the mightiest tank force in the world and everybody here can be proud of that."

CINCENT, a former tank commander himself, reminded all present that a T.72 155mm tank round had a muzzle velocity of 1800 feet-per-second which could penetrate 450mm of steel at 2000 metres and an automatic loader that can pump off shots at the rate of one every eight

seconds.

"We must endeavour to make our own vital seconds quicker," he stressed.

"You have had the opportunity this week to improve your individual gunnery skills and I believe this can only lead to increased professionalism by all concerned. I am sure that CAT will thrive for many years to come and I urge all central region nations to give it their full support." ■

Challenger in the wings

BRITAIN'S NEWEST Rhine Army peacekeeper, the 62-tonne Challenger tank, went on silent and static display at CAT 83. And the crews of the Fallingbommel-based Royal Hussars — 'The Cherry-pickers' — who will eventually take it over are very happy with it.

Lance Corporal Glyn Richards of HQ Squadron, who was with the regiment when it took on Chieftains in 1966-67, was involved in the trialling of Challenger for several months. His verdict: "The engine, suspension and steering are better but the turret lay-out is similar to Chieftain."

For Trooper 'Ben' Butler, main armament gunner, there was no doubting Challenger's superiority. "It's one hundred per cent better than Chieftain," he enthused with obvious pride.

"The 120mm gun seems to be faster and smoother to work with than Chieftain which I've spent the last two years on having just come back from BATUS."

"I'm looking forward to the autumn when I can fire the gun. I'm proud and pleased to be a member of the crew. I



also think it's a better tank than the M-1 Abrams and the Leopard 1 with their 105mm guns. I think Challenger should produce a high kill ratio."

Not surprisingly perhaps, Trooper Butler's assessment of the M-1 Abrams was not endorsed by Lieutenant Mick Mundell of the US 364 Armoured Division. But although he claimed that Uncle Sam's new heavyweight was "the best tank in the world" he was prepared to admit that Challenger had plenty to commend it.

"I must say that Challenger's turret is clean inside

and it's a nice-looking tank. I prefer the 105mm ammunition on ours. But I like the armour on yours. I'm told that Challenger is a very good tank; I believe them!"

Also in the static show amid the 20-vehicle display put on by the competing nations in CAT 83 was Britain's 24-tonne MCV 80 and the 13½-ton tracked Rapier missile system, the latter worth about £1 million and due to start in BAOR service next year. The Ministry of Defence has already placed an order for 50 of the missile systems worth £200,000 with an option on more.



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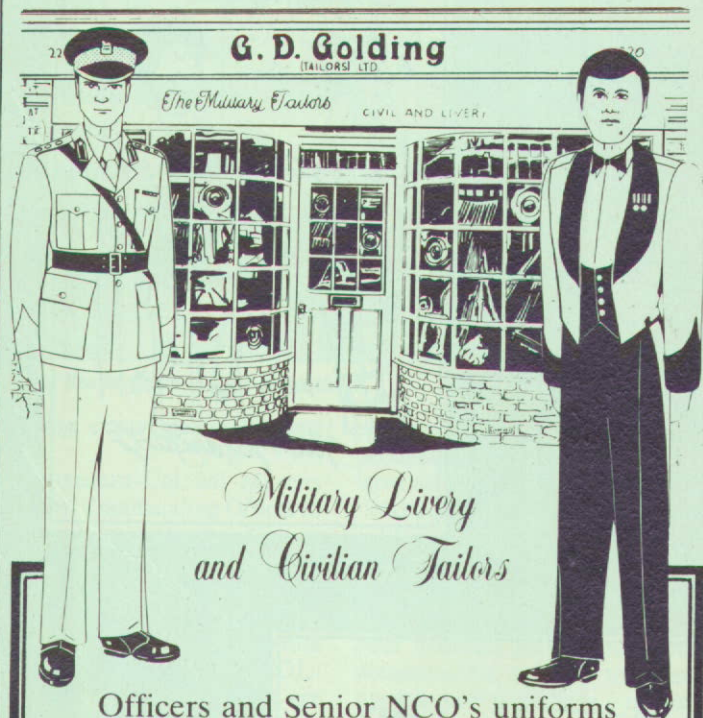
"Sorry, there's no market for escape stories these days."



"What do you mean, he got at you again? It's a poor sermon that doesn't hit you somewhere."

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Sally Daniell talks to a man whose departure from the Army this month has a special significance for World War Two historians



IT IS WELL known that in an operation, the life expectancy of a paratrooper is six hours. Given these odds, one man is indeed lucky to have survived. He is, according to the records of the Parachute Regiment Depot, the only soldier still serving to have taken part in the airborne landings on D-Day, 6th June 1944.

Major Dennis Griss was at the time a Lance Corporal in the 12th (Yorkshire) Parachute Battalion which formed part of the 6th Airborne Division and whose task in Operation Overlord was to capture the high ground beyond the village of Ranville in Normandy.

Today, having spent most of his career in the Royal Military Police, he is the Army Careers Officer for Essex, and SOLDIER went to talk to him on 6th June, just one year short of the 40th anniversary.

Asked if he remembered what he was doing this day 39 years ago, he replied "Well, we were lost! The stick that I was with was dropped way off the dropping zone — about 4 or 5 miles — and we landed in an orchard. There were Germans everywhere and some of those who were dropped before and after me were captured almost straight away.

"There was a hell of a battle going on all day. Some of us grouped together and we laid low throughout the day, trying to keep out of the Germans' way. Only once darkness fell, were we able to move forward.

"We reached the British positions at about dawn on D-Day plus one and were then able to catch up with the battalion. So it's true to say that for the whole of D-Day itself, I was missing!"

From then on the 12th Parachute Battalion was active in consolidating the Allied bridgehead in Northern France and went on to the Ardennes as stand-by battalion in preparation for the Rhine crossing.

During this time Dennis Griss had risen in the ranks to be promoted to sergeant (having spent a mere three days as a lance sergeant) the day after his twenty-first birthday.

"Promotion was rapid then," he said, "if you stayed alive!"

Recommended for OCTU he returned to England in September 1944, having fought in the battle for Breville and won the Croix de Guerre at Pont l'Eveque. The following year he joined 1 Para who were sent to Palestine as part of the peacekeeping force.

This period of his life, while the new state of Israel was being formed, greatly affected

the newly commissioned officer and holds special memories for him.

"I spent two years there and loved it. It's a marvellous place. I met people like Moshe Dayan and Golda Meir both of whom I had tremendous respect for. I met Begin too, though he was on our wanted list."

Next stop was Germany with 16 Parachute Brigade where he became interested in Provost work and in 1950 attended a course at the Special Investigations Branch (SIB). He went straight off to Malaya as Officer i/c SIB and returned to the UK just as the new corps of Royal Military Police was being formed.

"I was a staff captain in Eastern Command at the time and one day I got a letter saying I had been transferred to the RMP. Just like that! But make no mistake, you don't do military police work unless you really want to. It had always struck me as interesting, so I was quite happy."

With tours in Cyprus and Hong Kong, Major Griss has certainly had his share of overseas postings and has enjoyed them all. "Nothing beats an overseas tour," he said. "It's only when you're in the UK that your feeling for the Army can go right down to the zero level!"

When he first joined the Army he was with a gunner regiment in North Africa where, he says, he really learnt how to play rugby. A keen player, and later referee, he

played for the Combined Services in Malaya and has played against the famed Fijians.

At 60, although technically a re-employed officer, in his capacity of Careers Officer, Major Griss is still in uniform. But he hangs up his hat for the last time towards the end of this month. Over his 40-plus years of service, he has seen changes in the type of person the Army attracts and always remembers the old 12 Parachute Battalion as the embodiment of all that is good in a unit.

"They really were a great mob. I don't quite know why, but I always think it takes that extra something to be a Para anyway. Although it was war time and we had a largely conscripted Army, we were all volunteers. Of the three hundred who applied in my intake, only 17 of us eventually got through the course to join the regiment.

"We had in the ranks a complete cross-section from university graduates to people who could not even write their names. Nowadays you don't get that spectrum. The standard of education has improved for one thing so, at least in that respect, the calibre of recruits is still very high and I am sure there is no need to worry about the future.

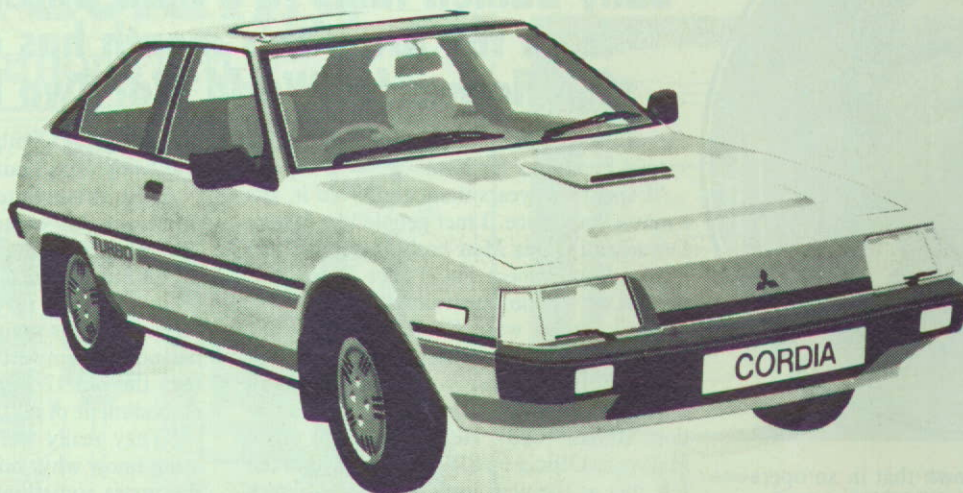
"In the ACIOs we can be more selective these days than we could a few years ago now that the quotas have increased and there is a lot of public interest in the Army anyway. The Falklands obviously helped us a lot."

Dennis Griss is still very much involved with the Parachute Association, being President of the South East Branch and an honorary member of the Polish equivalent. "But I don't consider myself a Para anymore than I do a Military Policeman. I am just a soldier, and that's what it's all about." ■

'Promotion was rapid then — if you stayed alive!'



Dennis Griss (circled) with fellow wartime paratroopers preparing to board a Dakota aircraft for a practice drop.



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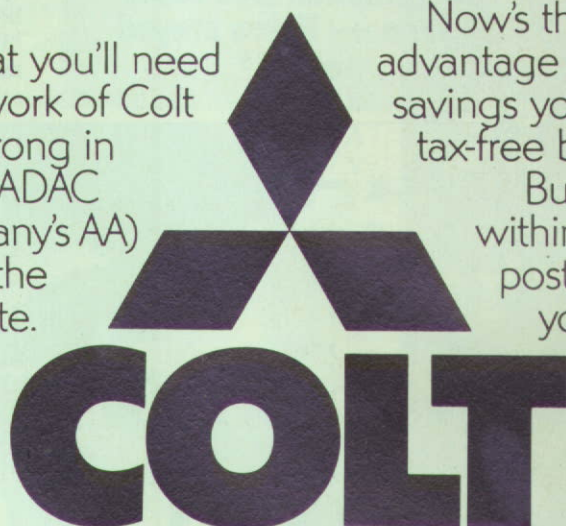
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John Walton sees the Regulars and TA soldiers of 2 Infantry Brigade get together for the first time on a 'training circus' with . . .

NO ROOM FOR CLOWNS

IT WAS THE longest and just about the hottest day of the year. As the soldiers reached their destination after an eight-mile route march in the heat of the noonday sun, most sank gratefully to their knees in the shade while one or two flaked out altogether.

But for these Territorial Army soldiers from the North London suburb of Edgware the respite was to be a short one. Just five minutes later they were on their feet and marching off to Stanford Training Area's tough assault course.

The march and assault course were just sections of a non-stop day's activity in which the soldiers and hundreds like them, both Terriers and Regulars, were taking part in a 'training circus' designed to train them in a variety of military skills.

It was all part of the two week long Exercise 'Second Strike' — the first opportunity that the 2nd Infantry Brigade, based on Folkestone, had had of training together since its formation some 18 months ago.

More than 1000 troops were in Norfolk for the exercise — the Regulars of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Hampshire Regiment and the Territorial Army units, 6/7 (V) Battalion, The Queen's Regiment and 133 (Corps Troops) Workshop REME (V). And for two days they were joined by hundreds of others as 5 Queens (V) and 220 Field

Ambulance (V) moved in to take part in a full weekend brigade exercise.

All of the soldiers experienced in turn the rigours of the march, the assault course, a confidence course, NBC training, defence and attack, grenade work, minelaying and watermanship. This was the opening phase of the exercise and the troops were kept on the go from morning to night.

As the dozenth platoon went through a section attack on the defence and attack



Safely does it — relief for all on the slide. ▲

◀ Time to cool off! Well, it was a hot day . . . range, Major Tony Prior told SOLDIER: "What the men do need is practice. Ideally you could spend one entire camp on this range. They are just getting used to live firing again. But they have been OK."

Sergeant Ken Lightowlers, 35 years in the TA and a founder member of 6/7 Queen's back in 1971, was more fulsome: "I've seen a lot of changes since I joined — all for the better. These lads are far better than their fathers were."

Four German soldiers from 212 Battalion from Detmold were also taking part, each allocated to different companies. As he sweltered in the summer sun Lieutenant Dirke-Uwe Klaas declared: "I always thought that it rained in England every day!"

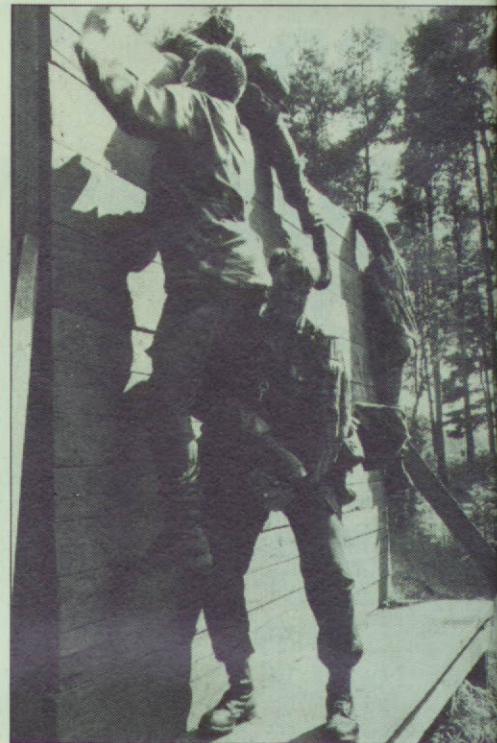
On the confidence course among the trees and ending in a death slide over nettle infested ground, some of the part-time soldiers had no head for heights. There to encourage them was little Private Helen Fairbank from HQ Company at Horsham.

The 5ft 2½ inches WRAC private explained: "I did the course myself yesterday so I'm able to coax them through. I tell them they can't bottle out because I've managed

continued on page 22



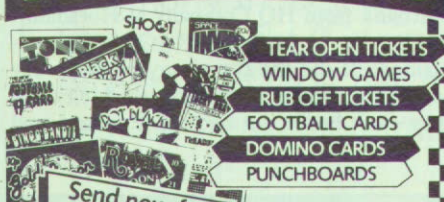
Now for the amphibious bit. ►



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to do it."

About 30 men from 69 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron, Queen's Gurkha Engineers, some of whom were about to depart for Belize, were on hand to give minelaying and breaching demonstrations as well as introduce the troops to Mark 5 assault boats.

As the evening arrived and tired and blistered men from 6 Platoon, B Company, from Hornsey arrived at the watermanship point, Platoon commander, 2nd Lieutenant Kwame Carter, displayed obvious pride in his men. He declared: "They have coped very well and are quite hardy. There has been a good team spirit throughout the platoon. Our problem normally is getting the same men together at any one time. This is the only place where sections and platoons can work together in a cohesive unit."

Each group spent three hours on NBC training covering a number of different aspects including the inevitable visit to the gas chamber. The NBC co-ordinator, Major Peter Shepherd, of the Royal Hampshire, said it had been quite a marathon for the instructors — they were covering the same subject 45 times over three days.

"For a lot of the Regulars this is their first concentrated period of NBC and even some of the NCOs could be rusty. Basically the training here is based on zero knowledge. The TA have impressed the instructors with their enthusiasm and professionalism."

Brigadier Dick Hume, who commands 2nd Infantry Brigade, hopes that he will be able to get them together at least once a year in the future. This year's exercise saw every unit taking part except 1 DERR, who are currently on a Northern Ireland tour.

"In the one-and-three-quarter years of my

It looks, pal, as if we're heading for a dampening experience!

command I have had them all together for about four days — and even then a few people were away in Germany. It is very different from a brigade in Germany.”

The brigade will not operate in the same role in wartime but the fifty-fifty balance between Regulars and the TA has a useful spin-off for both. The Royal Hampshires were able to provide large numbers of experienced people to carry out tasks like range safety, thus easing the burden on TA instructors.

“This allows training to go ahead at a vastly increased speed,” said the Brigadier. “It also allows Regulars to see how the TA works and their strengths and weaknesses. I think it has surprised some of them. I don’t think they realised how enormously enthusiastic they are and the incredibly diverse expertise you get in a TA section of ten men from different walks of life.”

Stanford was chosen for Second Strike because it provided such a wide span of training facilities and could accommodate four or five battalions of men under cover. Said Brigadier Hume: “Men soon lose in-

terest if they spend a fortnight soaking wet. It is important that they have somewhere to go and dry out. There is no particular merit in living in mud and filth and being wet and cold.”

Not that there was any likelihood of that in the early days of the exercise as the midsummer sun beat down on the soldiers. Brigadier Hume was delighted with the results from the training circus — “I’m surprised how fit the TA are and they have stood up to it remarkably. Some are nursing fairly large blisters but no-one has really hurt themselves yet and they have all done astonishingly well.” ■

Opposite page: the many faces of Exercise Second Strike ranging from German Lieutenant Dirke-Uwe Klaas taking a breather, top left, a good pace on the march, top, NBC drill above left and yet another hurdle, above.

Pictures by DOUG PRATT



Grenade being treated with respect. ▲

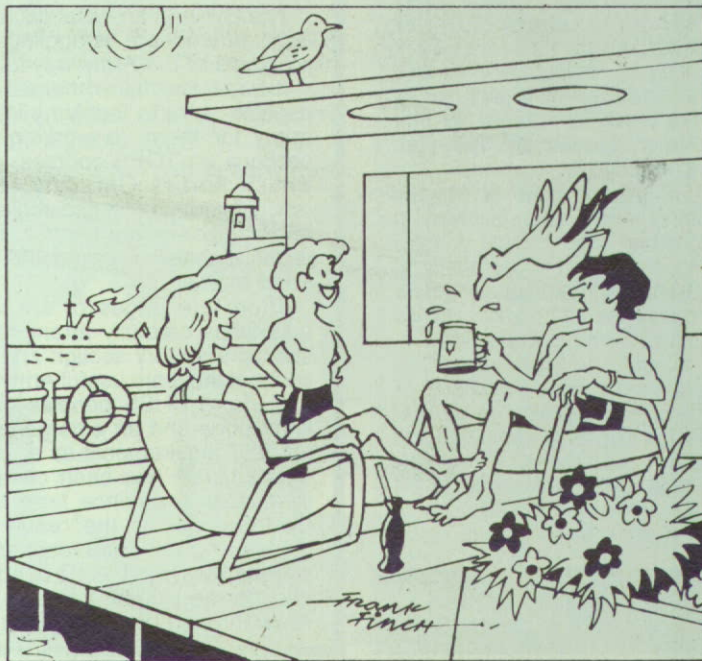
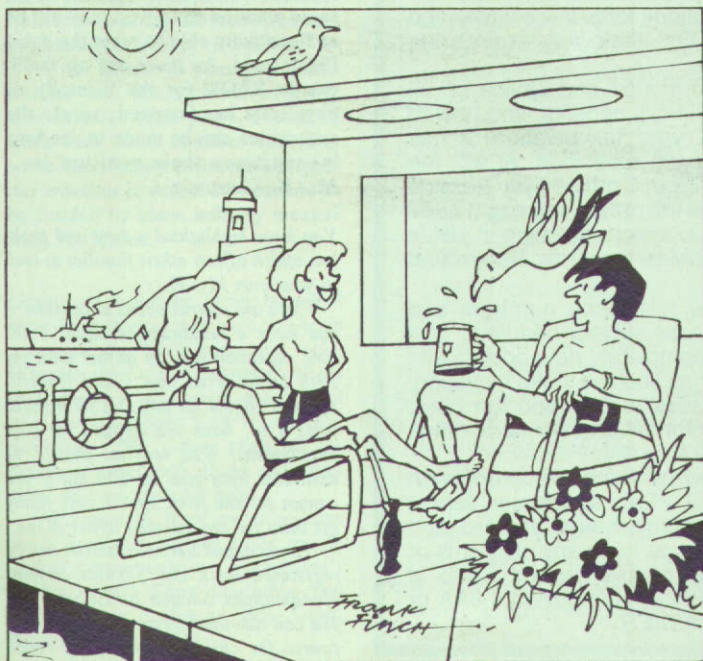
After the eight mile test. ▼

Some people enjoyed a ride! ▼



How observant are you?

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





IT WAS COLD, wet and miserable as the first-ever Transport Mobility Road Show opened at the Road Research Laboratory in Berkshire, but the bad weather could not dampen the high spirits of the visitors who flocked to see the displays.

Disabled people were given the rare opportunity to test, drive, try out or just see vehicles and aids that could be the answer to their prayers. With experts on hand with ready and informed advice, disabled visitors experimented with the variety of wheelchairs and hoists that can mean mobility. They saw cars from 10 manufacturers that can be adapted to suit individual needs.

Disabled drivers are subject to the same regulations and driving test as all other drivers. They have to conquer their handicap as well as the Highway Code and a specially adapted vehicle can help them to the freedom of a driving licence. The Road Show, therefore, was the perfect opportunity to test drive and assess the options available.

There are a couple of leaflets that, if you are — or you know of — a disabled person, are a must. *Door To Door* is a comprehensive guide to transport for the disabled and has been compiled with the help of a number of agencies including the Disabled Living Foundation. It is available from the Department of Transport, Building No 3, Door To Door Guide, Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 0BR. The Disability Rights Handbook for 1983 (at £1.50 + 30p p&p) covers the other side of disability and is produced by the Disability Alliance, 21 Star Street, London W2 1QB (Tel: 01-402 7026).

It was nice too to see the local Army units involved in putting the Road Show together. The Department of Transport particularly mentioned The Irish Guards and the Royal Corps of Transport (Depot and Training Regiment and Junior Leaders Regiment) in their acknowledgements. After all, disability is no respecter of rank and anyone of us may need the help provided by the people who cared enough to put on the Mobility Road Show.

My recent postbag has contained some blasts on the education front:— Last November the locally employed teachers (LETs) in this area formed an association with the aim of obtaining our proper professional status.

We are employed on lower rates of pay (because we do not pay tax?) and at disadvantageous conditions of service compared with teachers employed from UK. These lower rates of pay affect our pensions on retirement and the benefits provided from ERNIC are very limited.

If a teacher in UK moves from one LEA to another, the new employer takes responsibility for sick pay in the first six months of employment. It seems that for LETs this does not operate. Also, locally hired US teachers work under the same conditions and for the same pay as they do in the States. Why is there such a difference in attitude between our respective governments?

Some women employed from UK who have married here have been granted retours by SCS recently. Under what conditions?

The LET Association hopes to become actively involved in the Whitley Committee investigation into dependant representation but this seems very slow in getting off the ground.

Mrs E, Germany.

We arrived here in Germany at the end of last year. I am a qualified teacher with eight years experience and, having taught in UK until we left, I was determined to find a job out here. I had already written to the two Service schools within easy reach of our posting and was lucky enough to start work after Christmas.

I had, naively, assumed that I would be employed on the same terms as my UK counterparts and it

was not until I had been at the school for a couple of weeks that I discovered the truth.

LETs are paid on a scale lower than Burnham and receive no allowances. They pay no tax but, as husbands have to declare their wife's income, tax is inevitably paid in the end.

I find it intolerable that teachers are brought out from UK, get free officer accommodation, subsidised

ASK ANNE

heat and light and, on top of their Burnham salary, receive London weighting and overseas allowance. I merely think that a teacher such as myself should get the same scale for doing the same job. After all, we have the same — and sometimes better — qualifications and experience. It all amounts to unequal pay for equal work — highly illegal nowadays surely?

I have really felt like writing to the European Parliament about this situation. A woman follows her man and ends up being treated as cheap labour and, working for the MOD, is given none of the benefits of state help.

It cannot, in my view, benefit a school to have two distinct 'levels' of teacher and there is certainly ill feeling about it.

Mrs G, Germany.

Since moving with my husband to Afcnt I have come up against a

never-ending problem of mine which I'm sure others share — the boarding school allowance.

I have sent for a prospectus from all the Kent boarding schools catering for girls of 11+ in the ISIS booklet. My husband and myself are both Kent folk and we have relatives that still live there.

Unfortunately, hardly any of the schools were within the allowance of £746 per term. They are between £900 and £1200 per term. Surely, this figure should be reviewed as regards a sound and stable education and not on just a basic grounding of certain subjects to 'O' level grading as the minority of schools within the BSA suggest.

I am after a good school for my daughter to prove her ability in the future and be aware of prospects in the career she chooses. Why should we settle for second best every time as regards education, housing and being second-class citizens when it is our men who provide the strength of a nation?

Mrs G, BFPO 28

My son is mentally handicapped with Downs Syndrome. He has been attending school in England for the last eight years and is now 18 years old.

During the time we have been in BAOR, he has spent the three main holidays (Christmas, Easter and summer) with us. The flights were the normal schoolchildren's allowance of two free flights and one pre-payment flight.

When he reached the age of 18 we put forward a case to the appropriate authorities for these flights to continue because of the handicap. We are now allowed one free flight as a concession but any others we have to pay for ourselves.

Financially we can afford the flights but I object to the illogical attitude that because a person has reached the age of 18 he is no longer considered to be a dependant. Our son will always be totally dependent on us.

I also wonder whether there aren't some families in BAOR in the same position as us who may not be as financially able to meet the extra flight costs. As there are no facilities in BAOR for the mentally or physically handicapped, surely the authorities can be made to see how incongruous their position is.

Mrs K, Germany

You have highlighted a very real problem which affects other families as well as your own Mrs K.

There are several points to consider if you have a handicapped child: Full-time education goes on in fact until the 19th birthday as does Child Benefit. Are you eligible for any DHSS benefits and, if so, have you applied for your entitlement? The leaflets should be available from your BFPO but if you cannot get one from there I will gladly get them for anyone who writes to me.

Handicapped Service children can be registered with the Service School Handicapped Section at Eltham and you can ask their advice about the best course for children when they reach

DID YOU KNOW?

AT LAST! The new, revised and updated edition of the Wives' Guide is now available and you should all be receiving your individual copy during the next few weeks.

The Guide is an essential handbook for Service wives and families who are struggling to find their way around the problems of the Army way of life.

It is packed full of helpful information and advice on all aspects of life in the Army from DHSS benefits, and how to apply for them, to working out your tax position. It has sections on TOPS courses, garrison amenities, AFAB, the British Forces Germany Marriage Counselling Service (should you need it) and spells out the details you might need to organise welfare charter flights, accommodation in UK in an emergency or on how to apply to the Army Benevolent Fund for help.

There are pages of essential telephone numbers and addresses carefully arranged under subject headings in a special Directory section and a completely new pocket with some of the more useful Army forms such as those for voting, a guide to DHSS benefits overseas to give you the basic knowledge and an emergency information card tailor-made for your requirements as a Service family.

The Guide has been compiled by Anne Armstrong with invaluable assistance from MOD PS4b and Major James Goddard and is the result of many hours of hard and painstaking work and research. If you have any criticisms or suggestions for the next edition please contact PS4b at Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square, London W1X 6AA or Anne through these pages at SOLDIER.

Anne Armstrong

school leaving age. Meantime, if you need help when they are at home during the holidays, the Guild of St Helena is very good in this field and will be able to offer sympathetic help and advice.

There are also agencies such as the Downs Children Association at the Quinborne Centre, Ridgacre Road, Quinton, Birmingham B32 2TW (Tel 021-427 1374) or the Disability Alliance, 21 Star Street, London W2 1QB (Tel 01-402 7026) who will be pleased to help.

Could you please tell me why we cannot claim either from the Army or from social services for help towards the cost of keeping our daughter who is at Catering College in Newcastle?

She stays with my parents and we send £50 a month to cover the cost of food. However, as you can imagine, a 17-year-old girl needs a lot of other things too. We claim Child Benefit but this does not go anywhere near what we have to pay out to keep her at college.

We do not expect the Army or the social services to keep her but just a little understanding would be a great help. There are quite a few of us here in Germany who, I am sure, would benefit from a little knowledge and some sort of idea of what to do when our children reach this difficult time in their education.

Mrs G, BFPO 104

The people who should be able to give you all the information you need are the Service Children's Education Authority. You should write direct to Squadron Leader J B Cartwright, SCEA, Schools Branch Advisory Section, Court Road, Eltham SE9 5NR (Tel 01-859 2112 Ext 244) giving a few details about your child's school history and details of his/her course at college.

I have been offered a place at college to study on a CQSW course starting in January 1984. I could not believe my good fortune as there were so many other applicants for the mere 20 places.

My problem now is getting a grant as I have been through every likely channel without any success. As it stands at the moment it seems impossible to accept this place.

As the course is concerned with welfare and, having been an Army wife myself for 11 years, I wish to work with Army families and help solve their many problems, I wonder whether it would be possible to be funded by some military means?

Mrs M, Wales.

Grants are a problem facing more and more Service wives who wish to take up places in the adult education field. Write to the Legal Department of the Department of Education and Science at Elizabeth House, York Road, London SE1 7PH, giving them all the details of your applications and rejections, and ask them for help.

Unfortunately, there are no military funds available but you could try the Equal Opportunities Commission's booklet 'Fresh Start' available from EOC, Overseas House, Quay Street, Manchester M3 3HN.

Sunken Treasures



The heartbreaking heap of salvage that held treasure for some.

TRUTH IS OFTEN far stranger than fiction as Private and Mrs Smith discovered when they arrived in Moenchengladbach to see whether any of their belongings had been recovered from the wreck of the *European Gateway* that sank at the end of last year off Harwich.

As they sorted through the heap of sad remains salvaged by the commercial firm of Salvor from the bottom of the sea, Mrs Smith's wedding ring, which had been in their MFO, rolled out at their feet.

It was a truly remarkable event for the Smiths who had not expected to find the ring, particularly when they arrived at Moenchengladbach to be confronted with over 60 tons of sodden, muddy and rotting remains.

The effects were released at short notice by Salvor, and Mr Brian Barrett and Mr Peter Brookes of the Government Freight Agency were faced with the task of contacting all the owners of goods on board the *European Gateway* when she sank. The effects were mostly unidentifiable and all the owners were invited to view the remains during a two-day viewing period to see if they could recognise their own belongings.

A number of people did recover some treasured items. Apart from the Smiths, Corporal Shinn retrieved a photograph album, Miss Keith, a BFES teacher, was

reunited with her teddy bear although he was rather worse for his experiences and C/T Luxton found his crystal bell which had survived the disaster without a scratch.

Most of the Service families who lost possessions in the disaster were adequately insured but there were an unfortunate few who were not. They will have to wait until a decision is made about the cause of, and blame for, the accident before they will be able to put in an individual claim. And it could take a long, long time. . .

* One disturbing discovery that was made during the salvage operation on the *European Gateway* was that some families had packed calor gas cylinders among their MFO.

This is not only against regu-

lations but is also highly dangerous. 'Normal Service' MFO can be transported either by sea or by air and a faulty gas cylinder in the hold of an aircraft could cause a disaster.

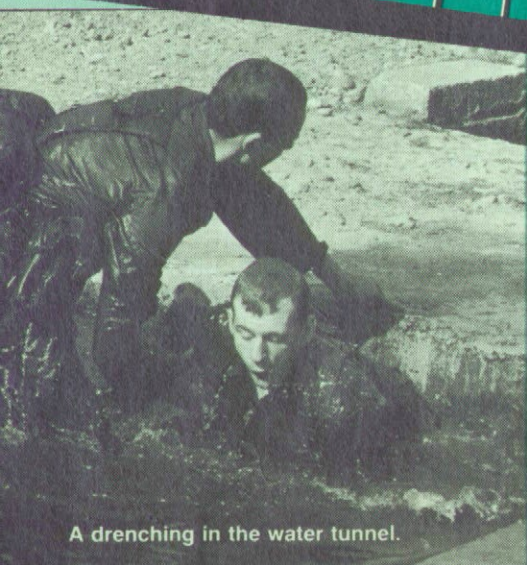
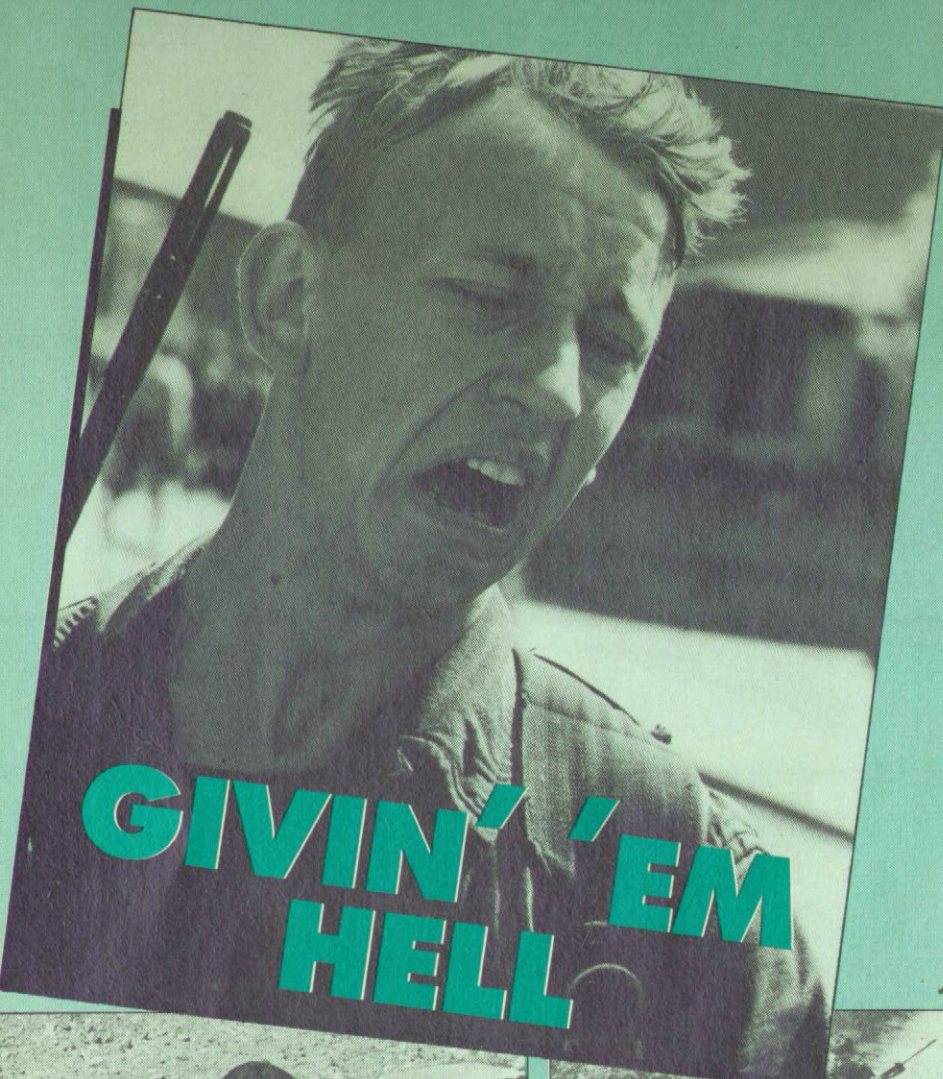
THINK BEFORE YOU PACK and take any dangerous or flammable belongings with you to keep a watch on them.



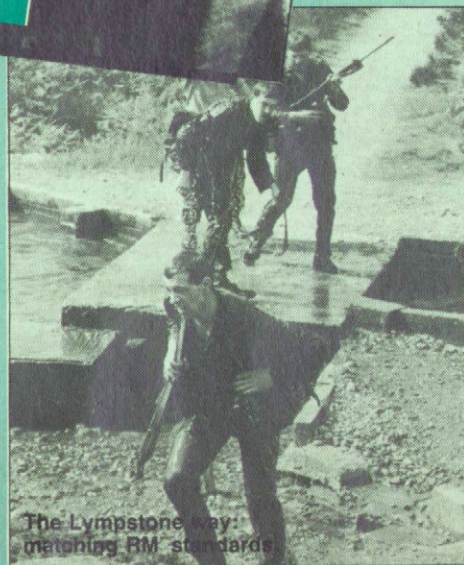
Calor Gas cylinders recovered from the cargo. ▲

Mrs Smith hits the jackpot. ▼

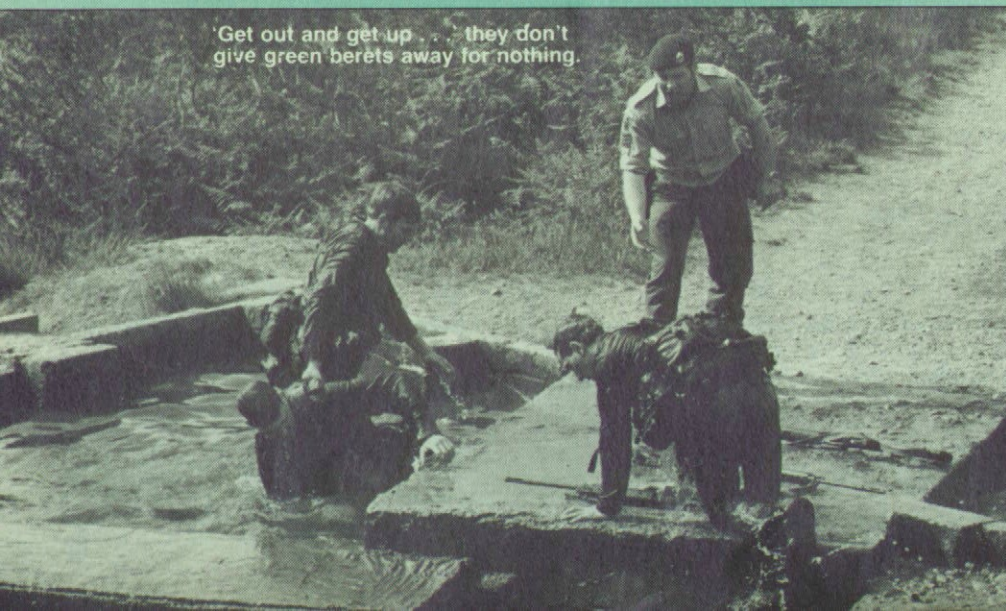




A drenching in the water tunnel.



The Lymestone way: matching RM standards.



'Get out and get up... they don't give green berets away for nothing.'

Becoming a TA commando takes a special kind of effort and enthusiasm. It also means passing the fearsome Green Beret course at Lymestone where the Royal Marines firmly believe in ...

SAPPER GORDON NICKLIN flopped to the ground and said: "I'm absolutely knackered. My wife said to me: 'If you come back without that green hat... don't bother.'"

Thirty-year-old Gordon was one of a batch of 20 from 131 Independent Commando Squadron RE (V) who, with ten from 289 Commando Regt TA(V) RA and two from 383 RAOC TA (V), had just completed a timed, six-mile endurance trial at the Royal Marines Commando training centre at Lymestone.

He and the others were there for a 14-day green beret course, at the end of which they fervently hoped to be presented with the famous dark green headwear. But although the Marines may be personally generous, they are positively parsimonious when it comes to handing out the famous green berets.

For they know what it takes for a Regular recruit to earn one... months of gut-busting training followed by a five-week, strength-sapping, brain and body-bashing course which can end in dismal failure if standards are not maintained by good all-round marks.

So when TA Course No 183 arrived at the Devon training camp for a two-week wham-bam after just a few weekends of training, the first thing the Regular instructors asked themselves was: 'Can these guys match our standards?'

"A good many do, as many as 75 per cent," said Major Graham Smart, OC Com-

mando Training Wing. "But for most to do this we have to make small allowances.

"Even our own Royal Marines Reserve have four to six months of basic training before tackling the same course. These chaps are doing it after six weekends or so. So it's extremely tough for them."

Just how tough is evident right from the start when, within a couple of hours of arrival, they are taken on a 'mud march' across the flats of the nearby River Exe.

"This is by way of introduction," explained Team Leader Sergeant Terry Sandy. "It's one way of showing them that we are not playing. It's the real thing." The 'real thing' goes on for the whole of the 14 days except for the middle weekend when the green beret candidates get some time off — if they're lucky.

"It depends on whether they have been behaving themselves," said Course Officer Lieutenant Jerry Haycock. "If they don't appear to be up to scratch they could well find themselves with extra training.

"The TA would like us to pass everyone taking the course. We would if we could, but there is no way we are going to drop our standards to do this.

"We're aware these chaps are having to cram a lot into their two weeks. We also know they're not doing it for the money, for they only finish up with a few pounds a day." And he emphatically denied an "impression" by one recruit that they were out to "break" those on the course.

"That's not our intention at all," he stres-



sed. "But it is our intention to push people to certain limits.

"There are no problems between us and the TA, but we set the levels of attainment for a pass mark and recruits must reach them if they are to wear the green beret of the RM Commando."

"There's a difference in philosophy," explained Major Smart. "The TA need to know whether a man is good enough to serve in a commando unit before proceeding with his trade training.

"There's not much point in training a sapper for a commando role if he cannot match the physical standards the role demands.

"So they send them here, we train them and they select them. It's very much a selection process."

Soundings among the staff indicated a general feeling that the TA recruits were tackling the course far too early; that they needed more training, especially with rifle firing.

This emerged on day three at the end of the six-mile, 72-minute endurance trial when one gunner confessed that he had never fired an SLR.

Since a minimum of six out of ten shots were required on the target immediately following the run, with a minute added to the run time for every shot less than six hits, his chances of a pass looked slim.

Not so for Sapper Gordon Nicklin, though. For despite having only a minute to spare on his run time — he was home in 71



Lance Corporal 'BJ' Harrison: "Tough isn't the word for this course."

minutes — he slammed all ten shots into the rifle-range target.

"The shooting bit is the least of my problems," admitted Gordon. "It's the pain of the running that gets me."

His words were echoed by many including the two lone RAOC men on the course, Lance Corporal 'BJ' Harrison and Private Bryan Raines of 383 Commando Ordnance Troop, Southampton.

Said 'BJ', who works for Southern Gas and is an ex-SAS signaller (TA): "Tough isn't the word for this course, but we can't expect to get that green beret without really earning it." Social worker Bryan Raines agreed.

"I think the RM are an elite outfit and very switched on", he said, adding ruefully that he thought they could "knock spots off any other unit" even though they were causing him a good deal of pain.

At 37, Sergeant David Woollas was the veteran on the course. Indeed, with the average age in the low twenties he was considered "old".

But that didn't worry David who, with 19 years TA service with the REME, had his experience to sustain him.

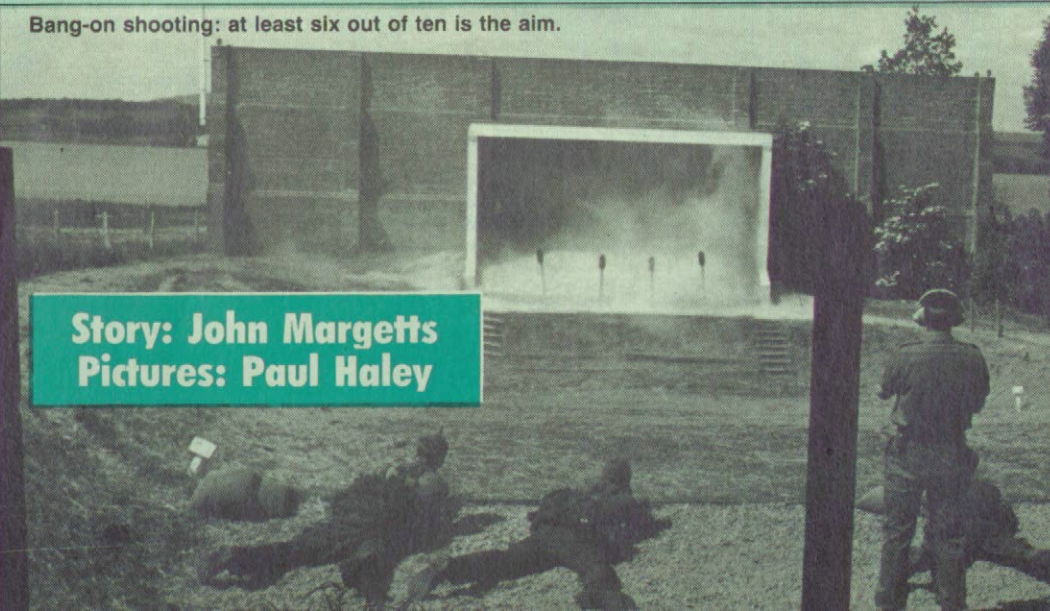
"I'm quite happy with my progress. I know what I have to do. I just need that bit of extra effort."

With three days behind him Second Lieutenant Robert McKibbin, 29, and an architect with the London borough of Hackney, expressed some slight reservations.

continued on page 29



Tackling the Tarzan course.



Bang-on shooting: at least six out of ten is the aim.

**Story: John Margetts
Pictures: Paul Haley**

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Woodbury Common hazard: 'no messing around in the RM patch'.

With 289 Commando Regiment RA from East Ham, Rob put the finishing touches to his bed for the night and said: "Lympstone has a feel all its own. We're in the middle of RM Commando territory and we realise you don't come into their patch and mess around."

He never said a truer word, for next morning at the start of the six-mile endurance trial — the real test had yet to come — he was first off and first through the dreaded water tunnel, a four-feet deep muddy pool in the middle of Woodbury Common.

First home in the trial run was Gunner Kirwin, also of the East Ham unit, in 63 minutes.

"A brilliant time," said Sergeant Sandy, who was clocking them in. But while it gave Kirwin, and many others, minutes to spare for the shooting event — if he had missed every one of the ten shots in the 20 seconds allowed he would still pass — it was pointed out by Major Smart that, even if a man could do 1000 press-ups and run like the wind, he wouldn't be much good if he couldn't fire his rifle at the end of it.

Evidence of this came when one contestant revealed that he managed only one shot on the target out of ten. But his neighbour's target was peppered with holes — about 14 all told — while the man whose target it was still had three shots left in his magazine!

Others ran into similar problems after clearing the 72-minute limit. Lance Bombardier Gareth Jones of 289 clocked 71 minutes for the run only to have four minutes added to his time because his rifle

jammed before he could put six shots into the target.

But like everybody else he would get another go. That was just to give them a taste of the "real thing" said Sgt Sandy, who explained that with several major physical tests to pass, each course gets three 'looks' at each test.

"There's the Tarzan course. That's above the ground and they get five minutes for that; the assault course (on the ground), six minutes allowed and the endurance (72 minutes). "In addition there are two speed marches of four and six miles (40 minutes and 60 minutes) and all carry full battle kit. "On top of that there is the fireman's carry of 200 metres — with full gear, and climbing 30ft ropes."

To signify that they are under training recruits discard their normal berets and wear cap comforters. This gives them a war-like appearance and they double everywhere making them everyone's dogsbodies. Admitted Gunner Mark Muir of 289, a postman in 'civvy' life: "It's not what you really expect on joining the TA, but there it is. They set the standards and it's up to us to meet them."

That Mark Muir and his mates — and many like them — do meet these demands, there is no doubt. And despite what they think the RMC might think about their performances and eventual ratings, they can be assured that the Royal Marines Commando will continue to 'welcome' them to Lympstone and give 'em hell as they strive to earn their green berets. ■



Rope race caper. Just a 'taster' with a fireman's carry to follow.



Sgt Terry Andy: "We're not playing."



How to climb a rope the RM way: no point in trade training if a would-be commando can't meet the physical demands.



**Exercise Adventure Express 83 gave
Nato's ACE Mobile Force the chance to
sample their own brand of**



TURKISH DELIGHTS

SIXTY MILES from the Russian border 1100 British troops have been training closer to the Soviet Union than ever before. The Soviets called it provocative. But, according to General Bernard Rodgers, Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), "The Soviet definition of the word provocative would not be confirmed by Webster's dictionary. We are a defensive alliance".

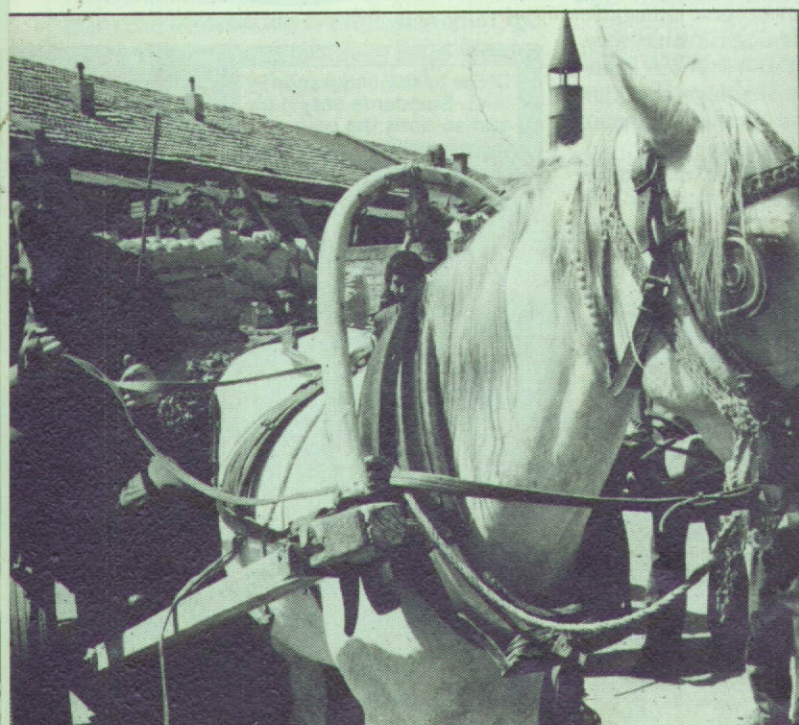
Seven thousand feet up in the hills of north east Turkey, where temperatures vary between minus 5°F at night and 90° during the day, the British contribution to Nato's ACE Mobile Force (L), in conjunction with soldiers of seven different nations, have been practicing their role in the event of aggression on Nato's south eastern flank.

East meets West: Turkish horse and cart and 16/5 Lancers Scimitar.



Cpl Jim West checks off fruit and veg with local tallyman.▲

Deterrent patrolling through a Turkish village.▶



S-Sgt Tony Dales on his weekly visit to the open air market in Erzurum.



Logistical Support Battalion route march over the hills around Pasinier.



Maj-Gen Reynolds reviews British contingent before his hand-over.

Exercise Adventure Express 83 was designed to demonstrate Nato's solidarity and to test the alliance's ability to deter attacks on its flanks. It also provided an excellent opportunity to improve the Force's fighting skills, in unfamiliar country.

Using road, rail, air and sea, men and equipment from all over Europe converged on Erzurum, before deploying some sixty miles north east to their blocking positions in the hills around Sarikamis.

The 16th/5th Lancers with their Scimitar and Scorpion armed reconnaissance vehicles were the 'eyes and ears' of the Force, providing much needed intelligence of the unfamiliar terrain.

They soon earned the nickname of 'Recovery Squadron', after retrieving some 300 bogged-down vehicles in the first three days. Rain and hail had turned the area into a sea of mud, making the roads and tracks almost impassable to all but the most agile of vehicles.

Artillery support was ably provided by elements of 32 GW

Regiment RA, whose 105 light guns were, with the help of the RAF Pumas of 33 Squadron, air-portable.

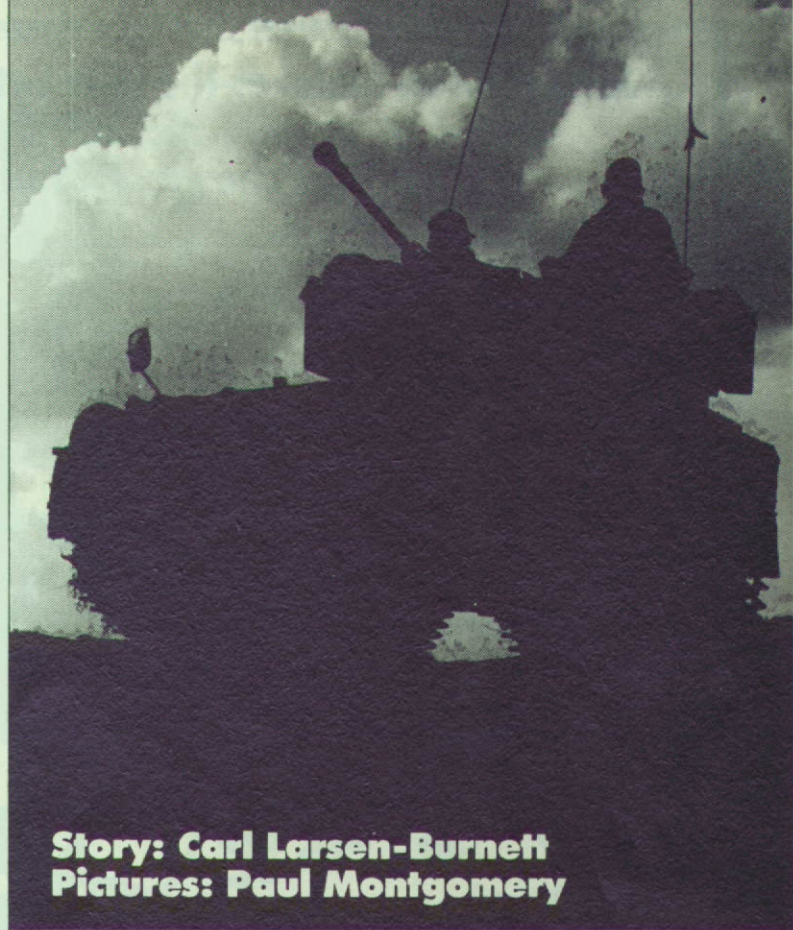
The Herculean task of moving the Force was the responsibility of 50 Movements Squadron RCT, based at South Cerney. The Squadron dealt with some 800 vehicles and over 3500 passengers.

The deployment alone required 218 flights, nine trains and three boats, and at some stages the airspace over Erzurum was stacked with planes of different nations awaiting their turn to land at the primitive airstrip.

Keeping the multi-national force provisioned was the task of the Logistic Support Battalion based at Bulford who looked after all its logistical needs.

This was a mammoth task considering the distances involved and the difficulties of local purchase. Petrol for the 45,000 fabric tanks, for instance, was delivered daily by civilian contractor, but had to be paid for immediately and in cash.

At the other end of the spectrum, fresh fruit and vegetables



Story: Carl Larsen-Burnett
Pictures: Paul Montgomery

The brooding bulk of a Scimitar against the skyline.

were purchased three times a week in Erzurum and 4-tonners jostled with a hundred horses and carts in an old walled market to get the best on offer.

The primitive conditions kept both the 16 Field Ambulance and the Italian field hospital busy. Woe betide anyone who ended up in hospital, and did not like pasta. But sensible precautions and a plentiful supply of pills kept most of the soldiers on their feet.

The exercise was wound up with a change of command parade where Major General

Andrew Christie of the Canadian Army took over from Major General Mike Reynolds as the new commander of the AMF(L).

General Bernard Rogers was present as well as a host of other VIPs including the Nato Secretary General Dr Luns.

It was an impressive parade with each nation providing a guard, the variations in dress and drill movements emphasising the multi-national aspect of the Force and proving, like Exercise Adventure Express, that the AMF(L) can pull together when it counts. ■



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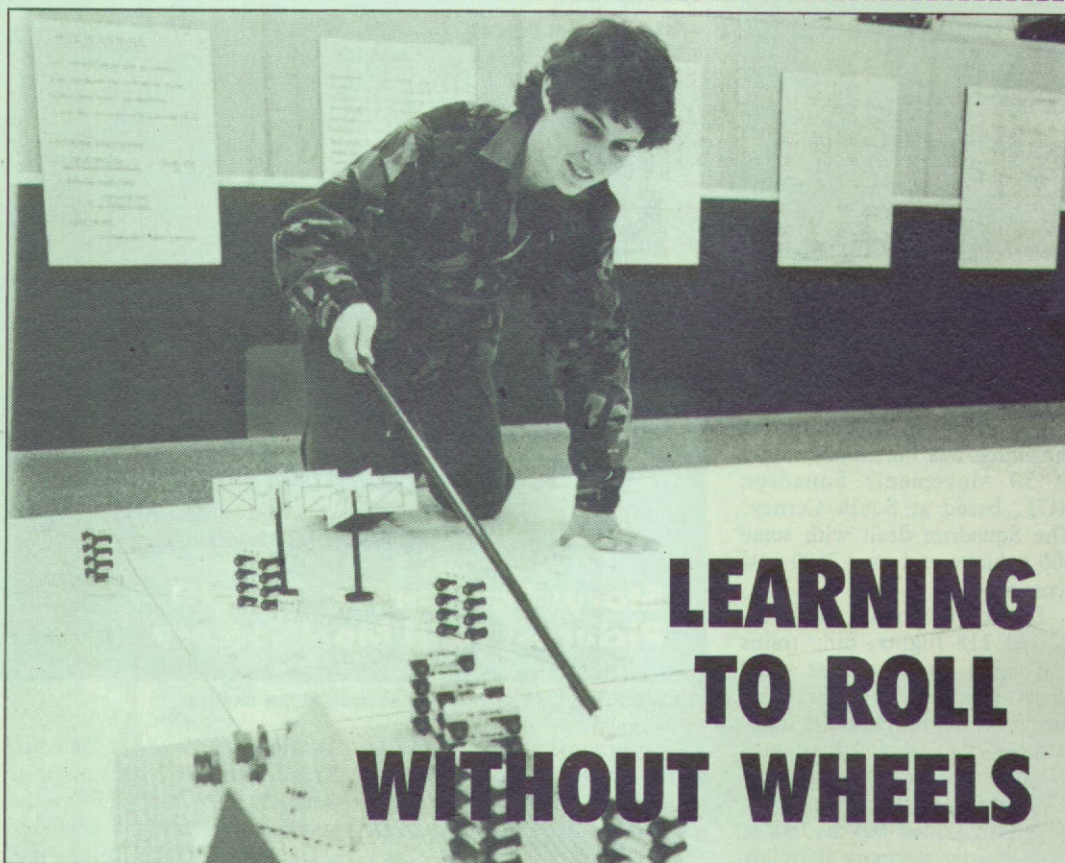
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John Walton looks at the new battlefield trainer aimed at putting the RCT's part-timers on the right road



LEARNING TO ROLL WITHOUT WHEELS

A BRAND NEW command and control trainer, in which the Territorial Army members of the Royal Corps of Transport can practise their war role of moving supplies without the expense and time of setting up a full weekend outdoor exercise, has opened at the RCT TA Headquarters at Grantham, Lincolnshire.

The new trainer, based on a formerly derelict building which had at one time been an RAF roller rink, will be available for use by the RCT's 13 TA regiments and ten non-regimented sub-units and Brigadier Ron Jenkins, Commander of the RCT TA, predicts that it will be in use for three weeks in every four. First bookings for 36-hour weekend exercises have already been made for the autumn.

Brigadier Jenkins declared: "We have felt for a long time that because the TA have so little time for training we needed to provide a stimulus so that in a short period of time they could simulate an exercise without taking troops on to the ground."

The trainer is based on the original concept already implemented at Sennelager and Bovington for teeth arms but it is the first time the principles have been applied by the British Army

to logistics and Brigadier Jenkins believes it may be a world first.

Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Vaughan-Arbuckle, Chief of Staff at the HQ and WO 1 David Mycroft, the project officer, visited Bovington before starting the project. Their brief was to set up a facility to develop and practise in a realistic environment RCT battle drills and operational procedures for command control skills at regimental, squadron and troop level.

Some £50,000 was spent on the deserted building to create the control centre and communications room. The trainer also uses four old air raid shelters around the camp as command posts for squadron headquarters and three non-running vehicles as regimental headquarters and also as what is jocularly known as the 'sin bin'.

Lieutenant-Colonel Vaughan-Arbuckle explains this vehicle's role as being part of the realism of an exercise. "It will house people moving away from locations. For instance, if the CO calls an 'O' group and it's going to take half an hour for them to get from their notional locations

L/Cpl Maggie Day puts another vehicle load into play.

they will be in there for half an hour. Similarly, if the CO decides to move, he will go and sit in there for as long as he decides to be away."

Although the trainer is initially for the TA he believes it may have wider applications and the Regular Army might also benefit from it. But it is the TA who are most urgently in need.

"The TA have a vital role to play in defence plans. In the RCT, volunteers provide over 60 per cent of the mobilisation order of battle."

Key personnel need to be trained and practise their basic

battlefield procedures and field exercises are expensive and time consuming. Colonel Vaughan-Arbuckle believes that the trainer provides far more realistic training than command post exercises which also take a lot of preparation. "We aim to cut out the purely telephone battle" he says.

At present there is only one 36-hour exercise scenario. The large map in the centre of the control room covers an area stretching from Grantham in the south to beyond the Humber in the north. The exercising unit has to get supplies from the south to the infantry in the north. But other scenarios will follow for both UK and Rhine Army locations.

continued opposite

Will the call be put through? ▼



SOME £400 worth of Lego has been used to make the vehicles and supplies which will be moved up and down the map during exercises. The man who thought of using Lego was the project officer, WO1 David Mycroft (above).

"I tried various firms to see if they made small scale vehicles of the British Forces and they didn't. Then one night my young niece and nephew, who were visiting, were playing with my boy's Lego. He's now 18 and we had fetched it down from the loft. It suddenly hit me. Lego is soldier proof and lasts for years and years."

Mr Mycroft leaves the Army at the end of July and says of the trainer: "It is my last fling. It does feel better than a normal job because I know it will be used not only by the officers and NCOs of today but those in the future and somewhere they will probably remember Mycroft having done this."

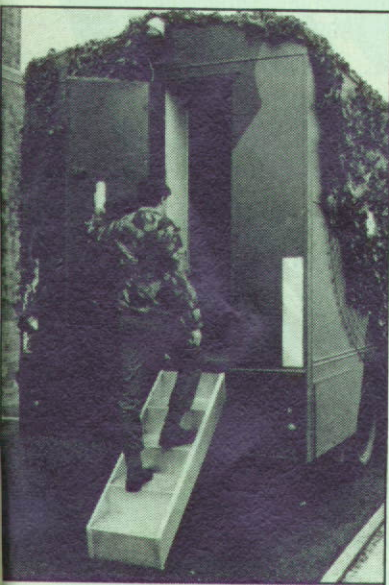
**Pictures:
Les Wiggs**

The second half of the weekend exercise is a 16 hours unbroken exercise in which the supplies are taken north in the teeth of 'pop-up' incidents — punctures, enemy attacks, holes in the road, vehicle breakdowns and many others. It follows a physical reconnaissance by command groups.

An old GPO telephone kiosk stands near the trainer. This can be used during the exercise when players reach a point where there would be a kiosk. But in wartime the 'phone may not be working — a dice will be rolled to decide if the operator on the other end of the line will put the call through on the correct number.

In the adjoining communications room there is a small desk top computer with a teleprinter. This will be used to relay incidents and to calculate strengths and weaknesses such as the number of vehicles off the road and eating and sleeping criteria for drivers.

All conversations will be monitored and can even be recorded on tape. If problems arise, the



Stepping into the 'sin bin'.

exercise director will be able to stop the exercise and sort them out. In fact he will be able to run the exercise according to the abilities of the unit taking part.

Says Colonel Vaughan-Arbuckle: "If we have a good unit which is coping well and finding it too easy he can beef it up. If they are struggling, he can scale it down or even stop it."

All of the commanding officers of TA RCT units were at the official opening last week by Lieutenant-General Sir Edward Burgess, Commander UK Field Army. It is hoped that all will be using the new trainer. In the words of Lieutenant-Colonel Vaughan-Arbuckle: "We believe they will find it a most attractive way of carrying out training with their regiments at least once a year." ■



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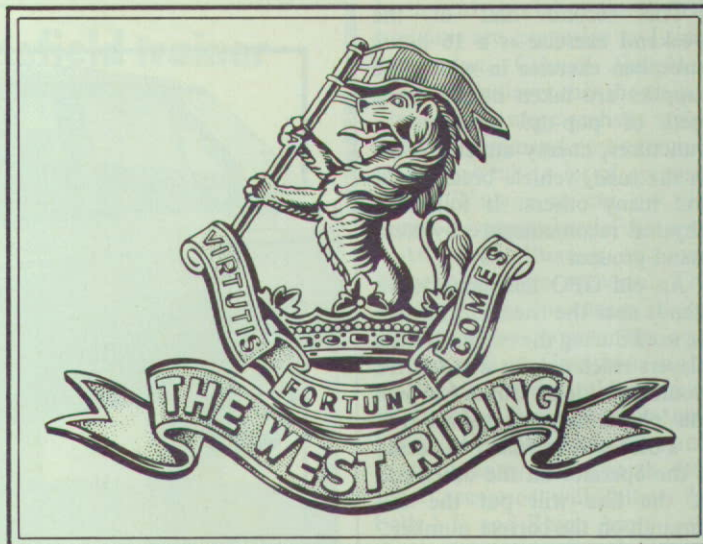
THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT (WEST RIDING)

THE CREST and motto of a man who was not only one of Britain's most eminent field marshals but arguably the best of that select band, are the principal features of the head-dress badge of this ancient and distinguished regiment. It is a demi-lion issuing from a ducal coronet above the motto *Virtutis Fortuna Comes* (Fortune favours the brave), all above a scroll inscribed 'The West Riding'. The crest and motto are in

silver anodised, the scroll in gold anodised. The badge is worn by officers in gilt and silver plate.

The Duke served in both of the foot regiments that came together in 1881, as a subaltern in the 76th Foot and with field rank and as the Commanding Officer, later Colonel of the Regiment, in the 33rd (or 1st Yorkshire West Riding) Regiment of Foot. The 33rd, the older of the partnership, was raised in 1702 and known by the names of its successive colonels. It received its secondary, territorial, designation in 1782 but it was not until 1853 that the association with Wellington appeared in the regimental title. Upon amalgamation it became The 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment).

The 2nd Battalion began life in the Army in 1787 as the 76th Regiment of Foot having its long and distinguished service in India (1788-1806) acknowledged by a change in title in 1807 to read The 76th (Hindoostan) Regiment of Foot. However, this lasted a mere five years until 1812 when the former title was resumed. Today the regiment still carries the two Honorary Colours, unique in the British Army, that were pre-



sented to mark the connection.

The regiment's first Battle Honour was Dettingen which has been followed by 116 others. Twenty-one battalions were raised in The Great War but since 1948 there has been only one, last seen in battle during 1952/53 in Korea. Nowadays the regiment takes pride not only in its military prowess but also in its skill on the rugby field.

'The Dukes' are alone among the regiments of the British Army in being named after a subject and the ducal connection is still maintained. The 7th

Duke, a regular officer in the regiment, was killed in the last war at Salerno and the 8th Duke is their Colonel-in-Chief. The format of the present cap badge was first worn late in Queen Victoria's reign and remained in continuous use until the creation of The Yorkshire Brigade in 1958 when the Brigade badge was reluctantly adopted. The regimental badge was resumed in 1969.

Hugh L. King

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The Royal
Hampshire Regiment

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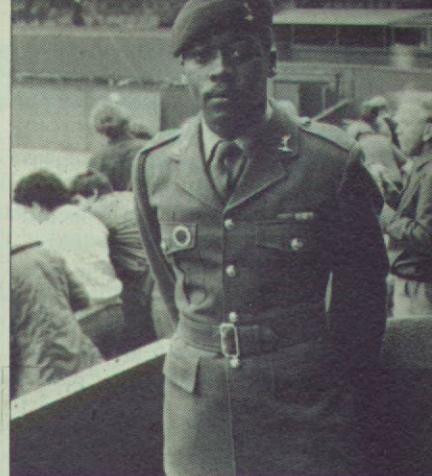
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It takes patience and stamina to be a steward at Wimbledon tennis fortnight but there's never any shortage of Service volunteers. Sally Daniell talked to some of the Army's representatives at this year's championships who helped provide a . . .

WINNING SERVICE



Signalman Eian Jeffrey — "a fantastic experience".

1 Sgt Ann Ward on No 1 Court.

Once at Wimbledon the Service stewards are allocated a post on one of the staircases which they keep to for the entire tournament. Some who come back year after year ask to return to the same post each time.

Staff Sergeant Rashid Laher, RAMC from HQ London District, was at his sixth Wimbledon this year and, as always, posted as the Chief Steward's runner outside his office.

"Actually, this is the most boring job in the world," he admitted, "but it's what you make it. I spend the time chatting people up! You recognise the faces of people who come back each year and they get to know you too."

"It's fun watching the school-children grow up — the same ones come and talk to me and each year they're a little older. Trouble is, I can never remember all their names, even though they always know mine."

Warrant Officer 2 Irene Hall, the Quartermaster at the WRAC College at Guildford, is another veteran, this being her ninth year

continued on page 36



The Chief Steward's runner, S/Sgt Rashid Laher, RAMC.

AT £11 a seat on Centre Court and 24p for a single strawberry, Wimbledon is not cheap. Even to park your car will set you back £4 and a £3 ground ticket only entitles you to jostle with the masses — and no money back if it rains.

Even so, the undeterred turn up in their thousands for whatever they can get at this hallowed corner of London SW19 content to pay a small fortune just to be part of the world's most famous tennis tournament.

There are, of course, those who get in free. Mostly though, these lucky few have a job to do — like the 189 Servicemen and women seen standing at the head of the showcourt stairways. As the television cameras pan round, the uniformed figures from all three Services stand out in quiet dignity amongst brightly coloured T-shirts and sunhats.

They are employed as seating stewards, there to assist ticket holders to their seats, keep movement to a minimum during play, and assist the police when asked.

Warrant Officer Eileen Beasley, WRAF, who is in charge of one of the five sectors on Centre Court, told SOLDIER that this tri-Service commitment during the fortnight is purely "for the public good, but of course all of

us enjoy it enormously. We are all volunteers and are required to take two weeks holiday to come here, and although we don't get any money, the club pays our subsistence allowance for the fortnight. We're all tennis freaks of course; we have to be, we wouldn't do these sort of hours every day if we weren't!

"Notices go out in station or garrison orders in about March but we don't know if we've been selected until the beginning of June. The committee like half of us to be experienced — ie to have been here once before — to assist the new ones."

Two Service seating stewards are always on duty with a civilian steward. ▶

1 WO 2 Irene Hall and Navy colleague before start of play.



Pictures:
Paul Haley



as a seating steward. Her worst experience at the championships had been in coping with the occasional sudden death.

"You get the odd heart attack especially when the action on court is getting tense. You just have to do what you can without drawing attention until the ambulancemen arrive.

"By the second week it starts to get tiring as you are on your feet all day, sometimes from 11 in the morning until half past nine at night. But how else can you see the best tennis in the

world for nothing?"

For Signaller Eian Jeffrey from HQ and Signal Regiment, 1 Armoured Division in Verden, this was his first visit to the tournament and he was having a marvellous time despite being posted to the 'sharp end' or the free standing areas when the stewards can expect anything to happen.

Once the public is allowed into the ground at noon, queues form up behind barriers in seconds, eager to 'bag' their little space for the day. When a good match is expected, especially when McEnroe is playing, the queues are so long they double back on themselves, not once but perhaps three or four times.

"We let them in to the standing area at 12.30 and ten at a time otherwise there'd be a stampede," explained Sig Jeffrey who is a Corps tennis player himself.

"Sometimes you have got to be hard on people because they'll try all sorts of things on if you're not. But most of them are really nice and it's great meeting them all.

"It's a different world in here and a fantastic experience. It's also good working with people from the other Services — I'd never even met anyone from the 4S/Sgt Derrick Head, RAOC, directing ticket holders.

Navy before. And, of course, you've got to get yourself on telly at least once!"

Taking a break from the sharp end this year was Lance Corporal John Hicks stationed with RCT Movements Section at RAF Gütesloh, but he vividly recalled some of the more unpleasant aspects of marshalling the free standing areas.

"1980 was particularly rough because we had all the Italian fans going mad up there when Panatta came on court. We had the usual number of girls fainting of course, as well as an epileptic fit. We also had a case of indecent exposure. That was horrible and everyone was upset. I was, too, especially as my sister was in the crowd at the time."

SOLDIER's guide for the day was Warrant Officer Doug Lackey, RAPC, from the computer centre at Worthy Down. With typical military panache he cut a swathe through all the security and red tape as he led us around Wimbledon's maze of corridors and stairways to meet the stewards.

"Some very funny things happen here and we all have a great time. One of them is dealing with all the foreigners who speak no English; but you get quite good at sign language by the end. And then there are the Americans of

course — it's amazing how many different expressions they use for the loo!"

"We get a small amount of tickets we can give to our families but it's only about 13 divided amongst all of us. We take nothing for granted though and don't abuse our position."

Private Yvonne Livingstone who is with 29 Company, WRAC in Rheindahlen admitted she had volunteered for the Wimbledon 'experience' rather than just the tennis. She was enjoying the atmosphere and the chance to meet so many people.

"Sometimes it gets a bit rough even down here in the seats — none of the Servicewomen are allowed in the standing areas because they can get a bit hairy."

"I'm surprised at the way some people behave though, and it's not really the young people who cause us problems but the businessmen. They come at you flashing some important-looking card or other and expect you to let them in immediately. When you don't they can be quite rude."

But despite the odd abusive character and the bruised backs from all the pushing and shoving, there is always the tennis to enjoy. And that, so far as the Service volunteers are concerned, is what makes it all worth while. ■



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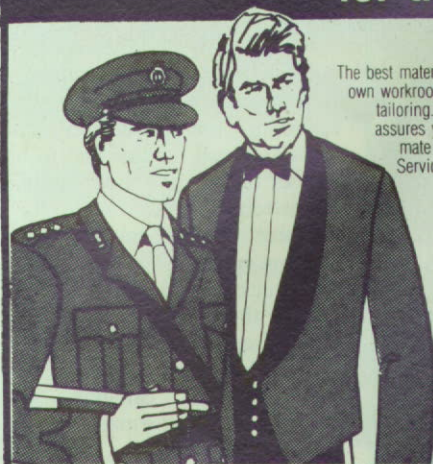
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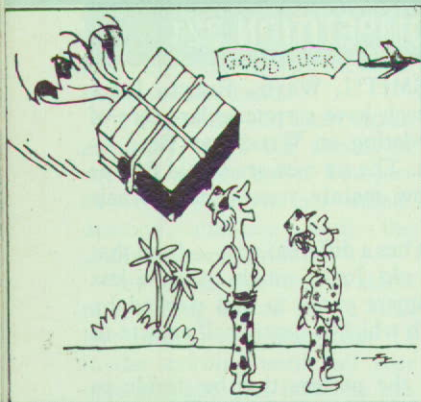
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ATS MEMORIES

It's now nearly forty years since, as a raw recruit in the ATS, I took copious notes during courses I attended at the ATS Clerks' Training School in Strathpeffer, Scotland.

The two foolscap folders with their typed pages on such subjects as military law, message writing, Army regulations etc, together with various charts and diagrams, somehow always defied being thrown out or destroyed despite moving house and similar upheavals which could, so easily, have threatened their existence. But no, they survived and although I had no idea at the time, were destined as it happens for an honourable end.

During a recent programme on Channel 4 TV entitled 'Years Ahead' hosted by Robert Dougal, viewers were invited to submit anything they might have of possible 'military' value relative to the last war. As a result of this programme my notes are now safely housed in the archives of the Imperial War Museum in London!

It's satisfying to feel that all the hard work and effort put in at the time and the safeguarding of the material over so many years has not, after all, been in vain. — Miss Valerie Beck, 18 Shaftesbury Avenue, Barnet, Herts, EN5 5JA.

NO PICNIC

Like all decent people, I was saddened over the murder in Ballykelly last year by the IRA of seventeen people, mostly of the 1st Bn Cheshire Regiment with whom I served in Southern Ireland during the first IRA campaign in 1919-21.

That tragedy brought back memories of active service sixty years ago when as a teenage NCO leaving on patrol I was given handbills to place in conspicuous places in County Wicklow. I retained some handbills. They read: *To members of the IRA — Read this and if you still decide to be led astray by your Leaders in the belief that you are a 'soldier' and entitled to be treated as a soldier, you have only yourself to blame.*

Only Armed Forces who fulfil certain

conditions can avail themselves of the rights conferred by Laws and Customs of War. These conditions are: 1) they must be commanded by a person responsible for his subordinates; 2) they must carry arms openly; 3) they must wear a fixed distinctive sign or uniform recognisable at a distance; 4) they must conduct their operations in accordance with the laws and customs of war.

... Your Leaders tell you that you are a 'soldier' belonging to an Army. They tell you that you cannot wear uniform and come out into the open and fight because the English are too strong for you, but yet they tell you that if you are captured you are entitled to be treated as 'prisoners of war' under the Laws of War.

Your Leaders are only lying to you for their own ends. They rarely get captured. They know that a man dressed in civilian clothes who tries to kill other persons, whether soldiers, police or civilians, is nothing more than a common murderer... Your Leaders are encouraging you to do that for which any civilised nation would lawfully execute you.

Do not be deceived. If you go on murdering disguised as civilians you will in the end pay the penalty either fighting or on the scaffold. Make your Leaders tell you the truth and then make up your minds but with your eyes open. (Sd) Provost Marshall, Dublin Castle. (Certified abridged copy of official leaflet published in 1920 for general distribution.)

Our patrol vehicle was a 3-ton solid tyred 'Leyland' with wire netting cover. Shovels, picks, axes and planks were carried to deal with blocked and trenched roads and paths. We had no radio. When bogged down we stayed with the 'armoured' 3-tonner often overnight. It was no picnic. — R Rimmer, 27 St George's, Chester, CH1 3HG.

24TH FOOT

Captain Davies ought to know better (30 May). The 24th Foot pre 1881 were not Royal Warwickshire Regiment and in no way connected with it. The 6th Foot (Royal 1st Warwickshire) in 1881 became the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. In that year the 24th Foot (2nd Warwickshire) became The South Wales Borderers. — M Ryan, St John's House, Warwick, CV34 4NF.

Your information, Mr Ryan, is borne out by the reference book 'A Register of the Regiments and Corps of the British Army' edited by Arthur Swinson and published by The Archive Press. Can we now close the file on this correspondence? — Ed.

DIARY PLEA

Couldn't your feature 'See-the-Army' Diary have a more prominent position in the magazine? If you recall not too long ago it used to be displayed much more boldly and in every issue. It is the only means of us 'civvies' knowing where the Army events are taking place. — A L Page, 171 Eastern Road, Milton, Portsmouth, PO3 6EH.

MAIL DROP

The 'Diary' has been displayed in the same, or very similar format for at least the last ten years, Mr Page. Since the style of the magazine changed in October 1981, we found 'Mail Drop' to be the most suitable page to carry it regularly. Now that SOLDIER appears fortnightly we feel it is not necessary to publish the 'Diary' in every issue, but believe its frequency is enough to keep regular readers aware of events. — Ed.

ROYAL TA?

Well done the TA, let us have another seventy-five years! I am ex TA, HG, STC and OTC, also Red Cross and Civil Defence Corps as well as, for a short time, a special constable DV. I hope to see the Royal Territorial Army. Why not? — Peter Stevenson, 57 Primley Park Crescent, Alwoodley, Leeds, LS17 7HY.

LOOKING EAST

There's a saying that if you've been to the Far East, there is always a lust to return. There must be many more like myself who served in Malaya in the fifties who would do just that but for the price (fare, hotel etc.) of about £1000?

Is there any way this price could be brought down if we had enough volunteers through SOLDIER to charter aircraft, civil or RAF, and barracks arranged with the Malayan defence force? — Mr V Fletcher, 8 Ellbourne Road, Blackley, Manchester 9.

WELSH WALKS

I am sure that many of your readers will be interested in this year's Welsh International Four Days Walks. These walks, the third to be held so far, are organised along the lines of the Nijmegen Marches, by a voluntary committee aiming to bring together people who like recreational walking in a relaxed and convivial atmosphere. They will take place on 20-23 September and anyone interested in having a go should write to me for an application form. We are particularly keen for soldiers to take part. — Gordon Green, Welsh International Four Days Walk, Llanwrtyd Wells, Powys, Wales.

LOVE ALL

It is common knowledge that men serving in the Desert during the war had a postal address which ended with the abbreviation MEF. This meant, of course, Middle East Forces, but to some it came to mean 'Men England Forgot'. Then the 8th Army Welfare Services opened up a Rest Centre in Derna, Tripolitania. My Squadron Leader, Major 'Crash' Ingham, gave me the news, and, in most glowing terms, explained that the Centre would have running water, all sports facilities, no parades etc; and that men would be there for a week... further that I, together

with Lt Parkinson (killed later in Tunisia), would be in charge of about 50 men from the regiment — the Yorkshire Dragoons.

When we arrived there, the sergeants were detailed to houses lately vacated by the enemy, whilst the men were billeted in tents and houses nearby. We senior NCOs were in for a shock: the only running water we saw was that flowing down the stairs. The previous occupants had cut the pipes and not turned the water off at the mains either. We did not get the luxurious baths we had looked forward to — or even the use of a WC which would have been a luxury after squatting for so long or even using a desert 'Thunderbox'.

Having been there a couple of days, I was strolling round Derna when I spotted a tennis court but unfortunately there was a large bomb crater in the middle of it. I challenged Lt Parkinson to a game of tennis, if we could get the necessary equipment. He accepted, leaving me to find the rackets and the balls... and, of course, getting the court into playing condition. I contacted the Engineer Officer and, 'fair do's', the REs got to work, filling in the crater and cementing into position the net posts. So far, so good!

I enquired at the Stores about the tennis rackets, tennis balls, plus, of course, the net. I was told they had been requested and were actually on their way to Derna. Sure enough, the next day the net and balls arrived... Pop in again tomorrow," I was instructed "Maybe the rackets will be here."

Feeling that the challenge match was likely to take place very soon, I reported next day for the rackets. Yes, the crates had arrived. Everyone was delighted and, on opening the crates, the rackets were indeed there, but, of all things, the strings were not! They had come all the way from UK unstrung. 'Parkie' and I did not get our game of tennis, but then, were we the first to see Hitler's secret weapon? — G W Cowley, 7 Rose Avenue, Marsh, Huddersfield, Yorkshire, HD3 4BL.

WHOLE SUPPORT

The Motorcycle Riders' Association (MRA) is a national body based in the Midlands, aimed at the touring riders and bikers who feel that the authorities misunderstand issues vital to the interests of motorcyclists in this country.

We wholeheartedly support the scheme run by the Bristol Motorcycle Centre (7 Feb) and feel this is exactly the sort of thing we need nationwide.

Any soldiers wishing to join the MRA should write to me enclosing a SAE — Paul Hillock, Chairman MRA, 73 William Bristow Road, Cheylesmore, Coventry CV3 5LP.

NEW GUIDON

The 16/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers are to issue a commemorative cover to celebrate the presentation of their new Guidon by Her Majesty

Can You Help?

Could any reader please inform me of the date(s) when the Australian Light Horse was mechanised? As this corps consisted of some sixteen or so individual units, I presume that the process was a gradual one. Do any of the old regimental titles, eg Royal New South Wales Lancers etc, live on despite the fact that the roles of the units bearing the titles might have radically changed? — **R Travels-Bogusz**, 77 St Thomas's Road, Hardway, Gosport, Hants, PO12 4JU.

I wish to contact veterans of the Crete Campaign, November 1940-May 1941 in order to write a book. — **John White**, 3 Heather Close, North Heath Lane, Horsham, Sussex, RH12 4XD.

The Queen, on the 15th July 1983.

This parade occurs only once every 25 years; the covers therefore would be an asset to any collector. The cover will consist of a colourful insert, depicting the 16/5th Lancers, plus a short history of the regiment.

A special handstamp is to be incorporated with a first class stamp. The price of these covers are as follows: unsigned copies £1.00; signed by the Commanding Officer £2.00; signed by the Colonel of the Regiment £2.50; signed by both the Commanding Officer and Colonel of the Regiment £5.00. For further information and to place orders, write to: **Philatelic Officer, 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers, Assaye Bks, Tidworth, Hampshire, SP9 7AB.**

Collectors' Corner

John McGillivray, 162 High St, Heathcote 3606, Victoria, Australia. *Wishes to buy or trade British Army cloth and metal shoulder insignia, NCOs rank badges, pairs of officers epaulettes, and any similar Navy/RAF items. Would also like to buy Red Para beret with badge size 7½ and cammo set jacket 42" chest, pants 36" waist. All replies answered, airmail answers preferred.*

John Swan, 265 Compton Ave, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K2B 5A8. *Requires one pair genuine WW2 die struck, black, Royal Army Chaplains Dept Jewish collar badges, KC. Willing to buy or trade. Also wishes to correspond with collectors of Canadian badges and insignia, all periods.*

Sgt Pete Dodd, ACIO, Castle Market Building, Waingate, Sheffield, S1 1FZ. *Wishes to increase collection of postcards/photographs of soldiers in uniform 1914-18, particularly Coldstream Guards or other Guards regiments.*

Pen Pals

My name is Kathy and I am 34 years old. I am 5ft 3ins tall with blue eyes and fair hair. My hobbies are reading, records and going to discos. — **Kathy Beach**, 34 Highfield Crescent, Bilton, Hull.

My name is Lisa and I am 5ft 7ins tall with brown hair and blue eyes. I like heavy metal music and motorbikes. — **Lisa Pemberton**, 100 Sherburn Road North, Whinmoor, Leeds, LS14 2BY.

My name is Dawn and I am 18 years old. I am 5ft 2ins tall with brown hair and blue eyes. — **Dawn Labdon**, 39 Cecil Crescent, Hatfield, Herts, AL10 0HG.

My name is Joanne and I am 17 years old. I am studying for my A-levels and enjoy sport and reading. — **Joanne Partangs**, 133 Benares Road, Plumstead, London, SE18 1HU.

My name is Heidi and I am 19 years old. I enjoy listening to music, writing letters and children. — **Heidi Grau**, Jacob Neumanns Vei 28, 1370 Asker, Norway.

My name is Joyce and I am 38 years old. I am 5ft tall and I enjoy most music and like dancing and letter writing. Photos appreciated. — **Joyce O'Connor**, 11a Linden Terrace, Pontefract, W Yorkshire.

I am a taxi driver and would like to write to a soldier in the Falklands. My name is Tricia and I am in my late 20s, 5ft 6ins tall with blonde hair. — **Tricia Brooke**, 6 Mardale Ave, Blackpool, Lancs, F14 4TU.

I would like to write to a soldier aged between 17 to 20 with a sense of humour. My interests include sport and most music. Photos appreciated. — **Marie Gravestock**, 63 Defoe Road, Ipswich, IP1 6SN.

My name is Sarah and I am 17 years old. I am 5ft 7ins tall with dark brown hair and green eyes. I like music, dancing and I work in a flower shop. I would like to write to a soldier who is in the Foot Guards or Royal Horse Artillery who is aged 18-24. Photos if possible. All letters answered. — **Sarah Pendle**, 30 Kingsland, Shotley, Ipswich, Suffolk.

Reunions

The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's) Regimental Annual Reunion Dinner, will take place at 8pm on Saturday 10 September 1983, at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffs, WS14 9PY. Tickets available from: RHQ at the above address, £3.50 each in advance.

Ex-Darland Boys Association 3rd annual reunion will be held at Chatham on Saturday 10 September 1983. Any ex-boys and staff who served at the Army Technical School, Fort Darland, Gillingham during 1939-40 are eligible to attend. If you are one of these, please let us know, so that a register of names can be compiled for future reunions. Further details can be obtained from: **George Young**, 6 Dane Court Gardens, St Peters, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 2SB. Tel: (0843) 68982.

82 Armoured Engineering Squadron Royal Engineers (formerly 82 Assault Sqn RE) Old Comrades Association 38th annual reunion buffet will be held on Saturday 5 November at Royal Green Jackets Sergeants' Mess, 56 Davies St, London W1. Please contact: **A H Smith**, 20 Douglas Road, Lenham, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 2QP. Tel: (07016) 4226.

Competition

You didn't need to be a gardener to do our competition No 317, 'Around the Garden Paths', but some knowledge of geometry would have been a help. Following certain conditions, you had to discover the route taken by the gardener round all the flower

beds each morning. Our compiler gave the rounded up answer as 830 yds, but all our prizewinners were more precise, giving 828. Prizewinners were:- 1st Spr Rae, 42 Fd Sqn, 35 Eng Regt, BFPO 31. 2nd Cfn J Turner, REME, B Coy Crs 218 VMB, Havannah Bks, SEME, Bordon, Hants, 3rd Barry Elliott, Directorate of Army Public Relations, Rm 0360, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1. 4th R C Santon, 157 Ellesmere Road, London NW10. 5th M B St John, 10

Pickering Road, Bentley, Doncaster, Yorks.

How Observant Are You?

(see page 23)

1 Tail of seagull on roof; 2 Ship's lifeboat; 3 Left leg of woman's chair; 4 Straw in Coke bottle; 5 Man's hair at back of head; 6 Toes on man's left foot; 7 Boy's left hand; 8 Woman's right shoulder strap; 9 Base of railing post by lifebelt; 10 Left of base of lighthouse.

See-the-Army DIARY

Previously unpublished events are in bold type.

JULY 1983

- 13 The Royal Tournament, Earls Court (13-30 July).
- 14 Yeovil Festival of Transport (RA Motorcycles).
- 14 Evening Concert at RMSM, Kneller Hall, Kneller Road, Twickenham.
- 16 RCT Corps Week, Aldershot (150(N) Tpt Regt (V) Band) (16-17 July).
- 16 Open Day and Horse Show, Shackleton Bks, Ballykelly, Northern Ireland (1 Cheshire).**
- 19 East of England Show, Peterborough (R Anglian Bands) (19-21 July).
- 21 Evening Concert at RMSM, Kneller Hall, Kneller Road, Twickenham.
- 23 International Air Tattoo, RAF Greenham Common (Aviation's Tribute to Sir Douglas Bader includes seven hour flying display, motorcycle teams, military bands) (23-24 July).
- 28 St Helen's Show (R Signals Band; RA Junior Leaders gymnasts, Blue Helmets, TA) (28-30 July).
- 28 Grand Concert at RMSM, Kneller Hall, Kneller Road, Twickenham.
- 29 Dover Tattoo, Fort Burgoyne, Connaught Bks (Band 1st Bn Royal Hampshire, Junior Leaders gymnastic display, Red Devils, RA Motorcycles) (29-30 July).
- 31 Open Day and Tank Battle, RAC Centre, Bovington Camp, Dorset.

AUGUST 1983

- 3 Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo (WG Band, LI Massed Band, RE, QDG, 1 RWF, 1 D & D, 2 Para, 3 RRW (V), 157 Tpt Regt, RCT (V) H Cav Quad, Royal Signals Display Team (White Helmets), WG Guard Mounting, RAF Police Dogs) (3-13 August).
- 4 Royal Salute (King's Tp RHA).
- 4 Kneller Hall Club Night, Grand Concert, Kneller Road, Twickenham.
- 6 Burnley Services Tattoo (Grenadier Guards and 1 King's Own Border Bands; RA Motorcycle Display Team, Red Devils, RA Junior Leaders gymnasts, RN, RAF, TA) (6-7 August).
- 6 Lord Mayor's Parade, Cardiff (QDG, WG, 1 RWF, 3 RRW (V)).
- 11 Evening Concert at RMSM, Kneller Hall, Kneller Road, Twickenham.
- 18 Grand Concert at RMSM, Kneller Hall, Kneller Road, Twickenham.
- 19 The Edinburgh Military Tattoo.
- 28 QUEXPO 83 (Queen's Regt Band, Red Devils) (28-29 August).
- 29 Leeds Gala (R Signals Band, R Signals Free Fall Team).

SEPTEMBER 1983

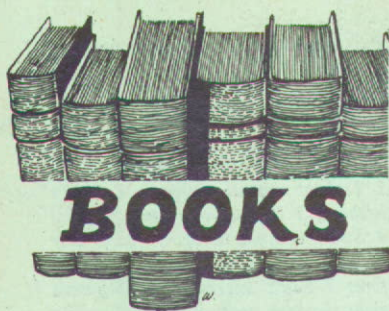
- 3 Stockton Services Display (1 King's Own Border, RAF Trg Regt Bands; LI Free Fall, Blue Helmets) (3-4 September).
- 4 Military Walk, Northampton (Grenadier Guards, Free Fall).
- 12 Burghley Horse Trials (Band IG).**
- 27 Berlin Tattoo, Berlin (27 Sep-2 Oct).
- 28 Joint Services Day, Bassingbourne.

NOVEMBER 1983

- 12 Lord Mayor's Show, London.
- 13 Remembrance Day Parade (2 RRF Band).
- 13 Remembrance Sunday, Edinburgh (1 RS Band), Whitehall, London.
- 13 Remembrance Parade, Cardiff (1 RWF, RAF St Athan).
- 13 Remembrance Day, Hull (150(N) Tpt Regt (V) Band).

★ ★ ★

Please note that due to limits on space this Diary does not include all the many TA events that are being held this year to mark the TA 75th anniversary. Details of these are available on request from Centre Block, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London SW3 4SG price 25p inc p & p.



BOOKS

God on Our Side — The British Padre in World War I: Michael Moynihan

It is surprising that so little has been written about the Army Chaplains' Department (Royal since 1919), particularly as men of the cloth are noted for literary prowess; this is a shame as war historians have generally neglected the padre's role and, when mentioned at all, it has been, to quote this book, in "dismissive, even derogatory, terms".

Michael Moynihan, war correspondent in World War Two, has started to make amends for the omission by writing this book. It is not a history of the service, which can trace a lineage back to the reign of Edward I, and whose official formation date as the Army Chaplains' Department was 1796, when Napoleon Bonaparte was busy conquering much of Europe. It was not until WW1 and the sheer numbers of men involved that the Department found itself with the heavily increased responsibility. From an establishment of 117 at the outbreak of war in August 1914, its numbers had expanded to 3475 by the time of the Armistice in November 1918. Its members were predominantly Anglican but there was also a fair sprinkling of Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Wesleyan, United Board or 'Free Church', Jewish, Welsh Calvinist and Salvation Army representatives. 172 padres lost their lives and four were awarded the Victoria Cross.

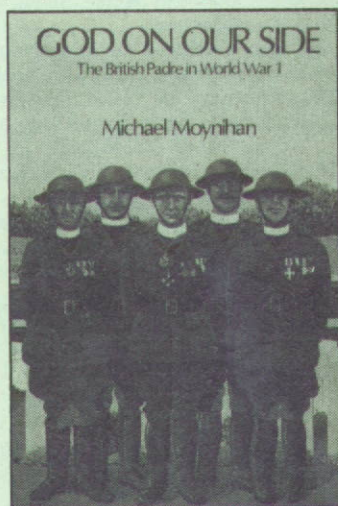
The author has chosen six individual case histories from the 1914-18 conflict, not so much because they were unique, or even typical, but

because they either kept well documented diaries or there exists other related archive material. The first is Harold Spooner, who served both Tommies and Sepoys in the besieged town of Kut-al-Amara on the banks of the Tigris in Mesopotamia in April 1916, and who stayed behind with the wounded to be captured by the Turks. The Rev Spooner's ordeal was such that he was to spend sixteen years in a nursing home after the war "in a state of mental collapse, unable even to recognise his wife and two sons..."

David Railton was a padre on the Western Front who sailed for France on 11 January 1916, witnessing the horrors of trench warfare in the build-up to the Battle of the Somme. He expressed, privately, a mixture of delight and misgivings on being awarded the Military Cross, surviving the war to be the instigator of the tomb to the Unknown Soldier in Westminster Abbey.

One padre who did write a semi-autobiographical novel, *Tell England*, which had a section on the Gallipoli campaign, was Ernest Raymond. Extracts from this have been drawn on for *God on Our Side*.

It is back to the Western Front and, in particular, the slaughter of Passchendaele, for the fourth subject, Maurice Murry, who was a



country parson before going to war in his late 40s. His diary provides some most atmospheric word pictures of the times and the places. Descriptive prose is also featured in the diary of Victor Tanner, who went to France from his post of chaplain at Weymouth College, exchanging the Common Room for the not so alien Officers' Mess. Tanner had the unusual distinction for a padre of capturing 22 Germans!

Lastly, there is Willie Doyle, the Roman Catholic priest who died in the Third Battle of Ypres in 1917. He was recommended for the Victoria Cross but, to quote one account "the triple disqualification of being an Irishman, a Catholic and a Jesuit proved insuperable".

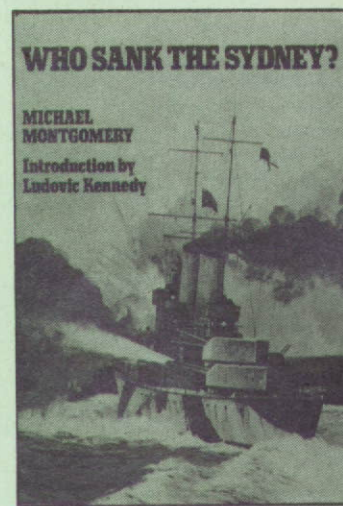
It is a mixed bag, this modest collection of padres, and Michael Moynihan puts matters into some perspective in his epilogistic chapter about the philosophy of God being on one side or the other. Altogether interesting, unusual, yet still completely down to earth.

Leo Cooper/Secker & Warburg, 54 Poland St, London W1V 3DF — £8.95

BJ

Who Sank the Sydney? Michael Montgomery

How could a famous heavily armed battle-proven British cruiser, when sinking a German raider, the *Kormoran*, off the west coast of Australia, be itself sunk without trace? While 318 were rescued from the German boat not one of the 645 men aboard *HMAS Sydney* were saved and mystery still surrounds this wartime encounter in 1941. One assumption is that a Japanese submarine torpedoed *Sydney*, but this does not explain the absence of survivors — and Japan had not entered the war at this date. But were the circumstances of the loss of *Sydney* the reason why Churchill sent Roosevelt a telegram on November 26 which caused him to cease negotiations with Japan? Pearl Harbour followed a fortnight later.



There were other suspicious circumstances relevant to the German crew, including evasive and contradictory answers to questioning. *HMAS Sydney* was the 'Glory Ship' of the Australians and received a tremendous welcome at Sydney when she returned in February 1941 after meritorious service in the Mediterranean. There she had sunk the Italian destroyer *Espero* and the cruiser *Bartolomeo Colleoni* (said to be the fastest cruiser in the world) and had survived major actions and many bombing raids. For nine months after her welcome home she was "somewhere at sea," her movements being subject to strict censorship, until it was made known she was lost.

The author of this book is the son of the navigating officer of the *Sydney*. He sought to solve the mystery of how two ships could, apparently, sink one another, but had to wait for the release of official war records under the 30-year rule before he could begin. During four years of research he found more and more contradictions and believes there is an official cover-up. A fascinating mystery.

Leo Cooper/Secker & Warburg, 54 Poland Street, London W1V 3DF — £11.95

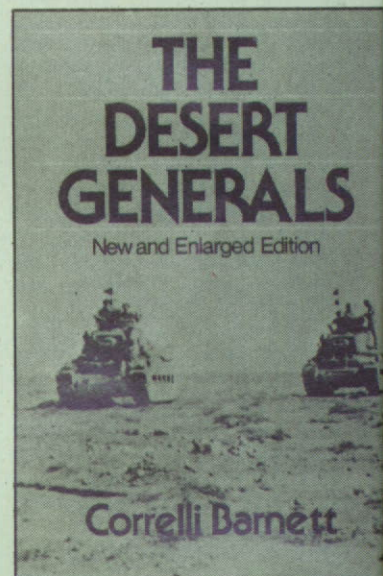
GRH

The Desert Generals: Correlli Barnett

This book aroused great controversy when first published in 1960. In it the author attacked the military prowess of Montgomery whose victories had raised him to a high pinnacle in

the nation's esteem and who, in 1943 with 8th Army, had provided the symbol of determination, forcefulness and success that signalled the beginning of the end for Hitler's Nazis. Now, 23 years later, the author has been able to augment each chapter by further research and from documentary sources not then available. In his added notes he declares: "in 1960 admirers of Montgomery were angered by the portrait of the Field Marshal (in *The Desert Generals*) as vain, egotistical, braggardly, careless of the truth..." He now concludes: "the version of the Desert campaign first presented by *The Desert Generals* and so controversial at the time... has been fully confirmed..."

Nevertheless, Monty is only one of the generals discussed in this book. The characters and achievements of all the principal commanders from Wavell to Auchinleck and the sea-saw movements of the desert war make interesting and exciting reading. The first victor, O'Connor, under Wavell, showed great expertise and originality and won fine victories. O'Connor, not Monty, was the first to produce resounding British successes. Within six months of Italy declaring war he had, in successive



brilliant battles, defeated Mussolini's desert army of 200,000 men, taking most of them prisoner. He could have gone on with every chance of capturing Tripoli before the Germans landed (as Rommel later admitted), but Churchill wanted troops for Greece.

The other commanders of the Desert Army are examined in turn, their characters and battles reviewed. Cunningham, who won great victories in East Africa, failed in the desert, as did Ritchie. Auchinleck, who had taken over from Wavell, assumed command of the 8th Army when the retreat was critical, stopped Rommel in the first battle of El Alamein and laid the foundations for the success of the second.

Many will still not agree with Correlli Barnett's assessment of Monty but there is good reading here — and cause for thought about the British Army's traditional peacetime training for war.

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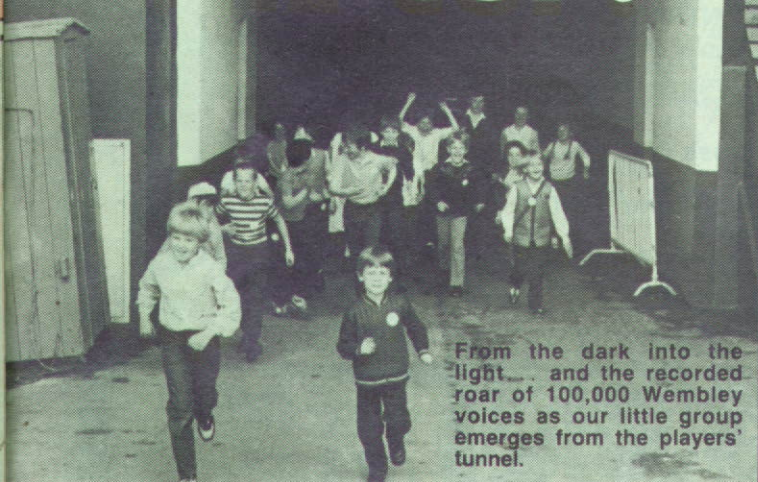


A tour of Wembley Stadium makes a fun day out for the family — and SOLDIER readers can enjoy it for half price! John Margetts looked round with a group of Army youngsters . . .

Royal Box invaders: not the FA Cup — the Schoolboys' trophy. But they don't care, it's where the winners and losers collect their medals from a VIP Royal after the big match.

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UP FOR THE CUP!



From the dark into the light... and the recorded roar of 100,000 Wembley voices as our little group emerges from the players' tunnel.



Unlucky for some... and seven-year-old Raymond Hill, son of Sgt Alan Hill of 160 Pro Coy, RMP, grimaces as guide Charlie McCracken demonstrates a pain suppressant in the 'unlucky' north dressing room.

SIXTEEN PAIRS of young eyes stared at the life-size cardboard cut-outs of former England captain Kevin Keegan and Sir Stanley Matthews, known in his day as the "wizard of dribble".

"Do you know who that is?" asked their guide Charlie McCracken. "Keegan," they responded as one voice. "And who's that?" asked Charlie, pointing at the image of the old maestro in a typical pose.

The silence was deafening. Not a word passed their infant lips. The truth of being here today and gone tomorrow was never more graphically illustrated than by the children's failure to identify the famous footballer.

But if players come and go, the place which has helped put

scores of them in the spotlight of fame, goes on and on.

Wembley Stadium, home of English football — and hundreds of other notable events over the past 60 years — has thrown open its gates between the famous twin towers for tour parties to look at, but not tread, the incomparable, lush, verdant turf.

And though Wembley's famous pitch may be out of bounds to the admiring fans, the Royal retiring room certainly is not.

For here, after climbing the 39 steps to the Royal box area where past and present monarchs have presented cups and medals to triumphant winners and despondent losers, the visiting children from 160 Provost Company, Royal Military Police, Aldershot, paused for a minute or two eyeing the empty, wood-panelled room with its gold-painted wicker work chairs where Kings, Queens and lesser Royals take refreshment during Cup Final half-times.

Prior to this the kids had their photographs taken holding aloft the Schoolboys' Cup Final trophy and inspected the players' twenties-style dressing and bath rooms with considerable interest.

There they gazed with some awe on the communal bath — which takes four hours to fill — and listened to the tales of woe that befall teams that use the north dressing room.

"It's considered unlucky," said Charlie the guide, who has strong links with the Army in that his brother is a captain in the Royal Artillery at Poole, Dorset.

"England never use this dressing room," explained Charlie to the young fans. "Significantly, only five FA Cup Final teams have won after using this dressing room. Brighton used it for both of their Cup games against Manchester United — and look what happened to them!"

Emerging from the dressing rooms, the little party trudged up the slope of the players' tunnel to

the recorded sound of 100,000 bellowing voices booming off the concrete walls.

When we get quadrophonic sound it will sound really terrific," said Clare Parsons, a PR staffer at the stadium who, too, has a brother in the Army — Lieutenant Richard Parsons, 25, who is at the Royal College of Military Science, Shrivenham.

Other facts were gradually revealed during the hour-long tour. Facts such as it took 300 working days to complete the stadium in 1922 with a workforce of 5000.

The cost was £0.75 million and the terraces would stretch 40 miles if laid end to end.

The pitch is 115ft by 75ft wide and is 10 inches higher in the centre to help drainage.

The capacity of the stadium is 100,000, but when the FA Cup Final was first staged there, in 1923, more than 200,000 turned up and tried to get in.

All this information and a whole stack more can be yours if you tour the world-famous stadium. And SOLDIER readers and their families can enjoy the tour for half price by showing this article on arrival.

The guided tours take place daily, including Sundays, throughout the year except for Thursdays, the day before, the day of and the day after an event, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Starting times are 10am, 11am, 12am, 2pm and 3pm. And if you are taking a group of 20 or more special arrangements can be made.

To save money and trouble, check with the stadium on 01-903 4864 to see if the tours are on. Admission prices are adults £1.80; children (15 and under) £1; OAPs £1 and children under five free.

But remember, readers of SOLDIER can get in for half price on production of this article at the turnstile. ■

SOLDIER MART

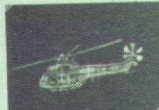
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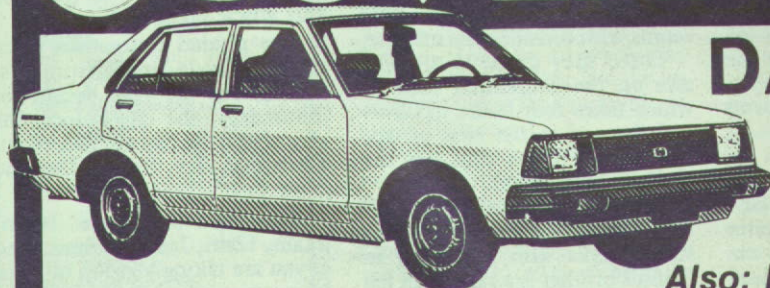
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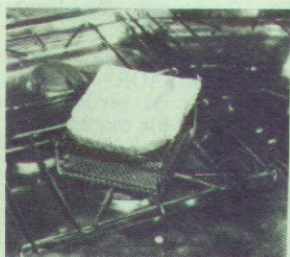
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Treble's Top!

Thanks for the ride

'I am about to retire from the Army (RAOC) after 25 years' service. For the last ten years I have been actively involved with Army motor rallies at all levels, having been BAOR champion driver in 1974 and then with Major Bob Price winner of Magnum Spirit in 1976.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank through the pages of your excellent magazine all those helpful and patient military personnel who have assisted me. In particular I would mention Major Price, SSM 'Beeb' Bellamy-Brown and Major Colin Den-McKay, who have all been brave enough to co-drive for me over the years as well as all those wonderful guys who were part of my service crews. Without you it would not have been possible.

The most exciting and stimulating vehicle of all I have driven was the turbocharged Land-Rover built for me by Allen Allard. It went 103 mph on the flat in overdrive top gear and because of a change of regulations it is the only one which will ever have been seen on UK internationals.'

WO 2 Les Dalton, Directorate of Supply Management, Donnington.

QARANC'S NEW CHAMP

A NEW champion emerged at the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps tennis tournament this year. Captain Pam Hoad, stationed at BMH Hannover beat her opponent, Corporal Sue Caygill, in the final in straight sets 7-6, 6-2.

At first, Corporal Caygill seemed the stronger taking the lead of 4-1, but the eventual winner pulled back to level the score. At six games all, the tie break came into operation with the points exchanged neck and neck until Captain Hoad inched ahead at 8-6.

In the second set the standard of play improved markedly, Captain Hoad, now well into her stride, produced a variety of good shots, coming more into the net. She raced ahead with a good lead and took the set 6-2.

The two protagonists later joined forces in the doubles final against Captains Bridget McEvilly and Mandy Foyster. In a short, good humoured match Hoad and Caygill easily outplayed their opponents to win 6-1, 6-1.

HOLDING ON to his title of Army champion for the second year was Lance Corporal of Horse Steve Treble of the Life Guards at this year's Army Parachute Championships at Netheravon. He won the cups for the senior individual accuracy, best individual (open) and the SOLDIER Magazine trophy for style.

"I was happy with my accuracy score," he told SOLDIER, "but not much with the style really. In the accuracy I wasn't leading but then the others dropped off a bit and I just carried on. I have had quite a lot of competition experience though, and that helps." At the final count Treble, pictured right, notched up a total of only 18 cm off target in ten jumps.

With more than 100 competitors, including teams from the Spanish and German armies, the 1983 championships were considered to have been a great success. This was the first time everything on the programme was completed, despite the usual weather hindrances and the restrictions imposed by an exercise on Salisbury Plain. After two weeks of early to rise and late to bed, the strain was beginning to tell on everyone.

The Rhine Army Parachute Association won the Team Accuracy and the British Army Champion Team trophies and the 'Blue Moves', the Joint Service Parachute Centre's own team, took first place in the four man sequential. The Intermediate Champion was Driver G Chapman, RCT.

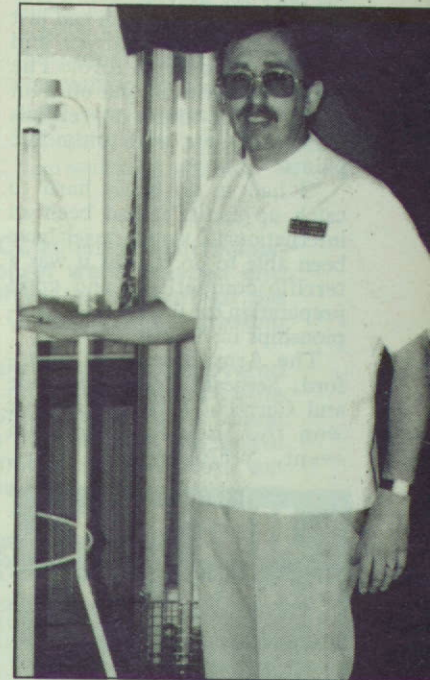


BACKING BRITAIN'S YACHT CHALLENGE

WARRANT Officer 1 Bill Harris, RAMC physiotherapist from British Military Hospital, Rinteln, is to provide medical back up for the 1983 British challenge team for the prestigious America's Cup yachting trophy.

Bill was selected after a request from the team to the Ministry of Defence for a physiotherapist experienced in coping with sport injuries to young adults. He has already joined the 50-strong team in Bermuda for the five month project. He has no experience of sailing.

The America's Cup was first put forward by Britain in the 19th century and was promptly won by the Americans. They have since held it against all comers despite many costly attempts by various other nations. This year Britain has entered a specially built yacht, Victory.



SILVER FOR STEVE

SERGEANT Steve Jackson, R Signals, the Army's leading canoeist recently competed in the Foster Draft International Regatta at Nottingham, winning the Silver medal in the K1 1000m. The winner of the Gold beat him by only 0.3 of a second.

Ones that got away

HOT WEATHER brought fishermen out in force at Aldershot for the Falklands Victory Trophy. But the fish wisely decided to stay away — the 41 competitors only hooked seven fish between them. Winner of the event, organised by Aldershot Garrison Angling Association was a civilian, Mr T Anderson. Army Champion, Corporal John Fowle came second and his wife Sheila third.

MUMFORD STILL IN THE SADDLE

DESPITE AN EARLY setback in the riding section which saw him back in 25th place, Captain Mike Mumford, the reigning Army Modern Pentathlon champion, staged a storming comeback to retain his Army and Inter-Service titles. But for the second year running he was narrowly pipped by a civilian guest competitor.

Captain Mumford explained his riding failure, which left him 180 points adrift, by the luck of the draw for horses.

"I drew a horse which had just been ridden by a novice and which had scored zero. The horse was obviously put off a bit and I had a couple of refusals which left me with only 902 points.

"I had to go really hard to catch up and if it had been an international I would never have been able to do it. But it was a terrific competition and good preparation for the World Championships in August."

The Army's team of Mumford, Sergeant Peter Whiteside and Corporal Peter Hart easily won the Inter-Services team event. Whiteside and Hart,

fourth and fifth in the individual event, were partnered by Lance-Corporal Stan Shaw to take the Army team prize for REME.

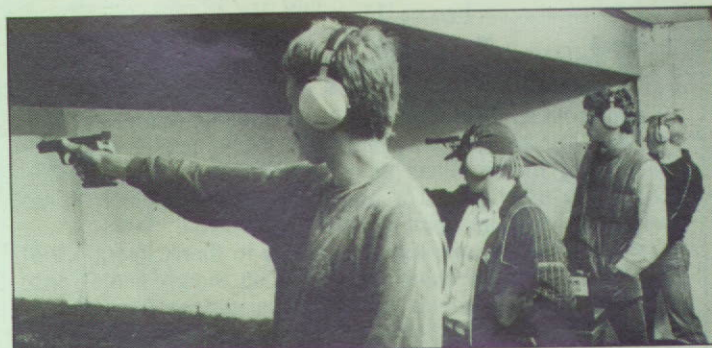
Hart, who won the final 4000 metres cross-country run in bright sunshine, praised the cleverly designed course at Yateley Forest a few miles from Arborfield, where the other four events were held.

New Intermediate champion is Lance-Corporal Richard Radford of 1 D & D, who has only been doing modern pentathlon since March and is stationed with the Army squad.

"My unit has put me on a long term training engagement at Arborfield and are supporting me from Ireland," explained the delighted 22-year-old.

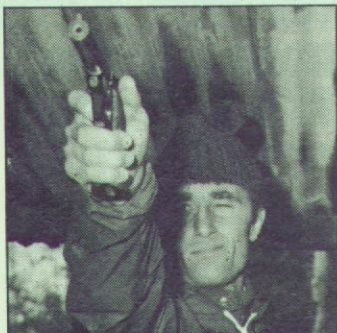


Captain Mike Mumford still looks happy despite an unusually bad start in the riding section.



Because of the live firing on ranges ban the pistol shooting event had to be held indoors.

JIM FOX BOWS OUT



ATTENDING his last modern pentathlon before leaving the Army was the man who had done so much to put the sport on the map, Captain Jim Fox. Best remembered for the Olympic Gold Medal success at Montreal in 1976, Fox won the British championships ten times and the Army 11. At the end of the event he was presented with a framed picture of himself riding.

Locaters find the prizes

LOCATERS took all the honours in this year's Army Orienteering Championships held in Germany. Winners of the major units were 94 Locating Regiment, Royal Artillery while the minor units award went to 22 Locating Battery RA. In fact the first five men home were from these two units including the individual champion, Sergeant Dave Marshall from 94.

This year 15 major and 13 minor units took part with 40

individual entries swelling the field to a total of 145 runners. The main course, 11 km long with 500 metres of climb, saw Marshall clock a time of 1 hour 25 minutes 21 seconds. The shorter course, 7.1 km long with 300 metres of climb, was won in 1 hour 5 minutes 50 seconds by Sergeant 'Charlie' Brown of 7 RHA.

The event was sponsored by N Battery, 2nd Field Regiment RA, who provided the essential back up for the competition.

Major Phillippe Rossiter ACC, the event controller, declared himself well pleased.

"Orienteering in the Army is a popular sport and we wanted to give the maximum numbers the opportunity to compete. It is also satisfying to see so many runners pitting their wits and fitness against a course which took us three months to plan."

Designer of the course was Captain Chris Hirst (3 RTR) who is the current UK national champion.

SPORTS SHORTS

CRICKET

There was lots of batting practice for both sides in the match between Combined Services and Cambridge University. The light blues batted first and knocked up 251 for the loss of only two wickets before declaring. The Services replied with 224 all out and then Cambridge amassed another

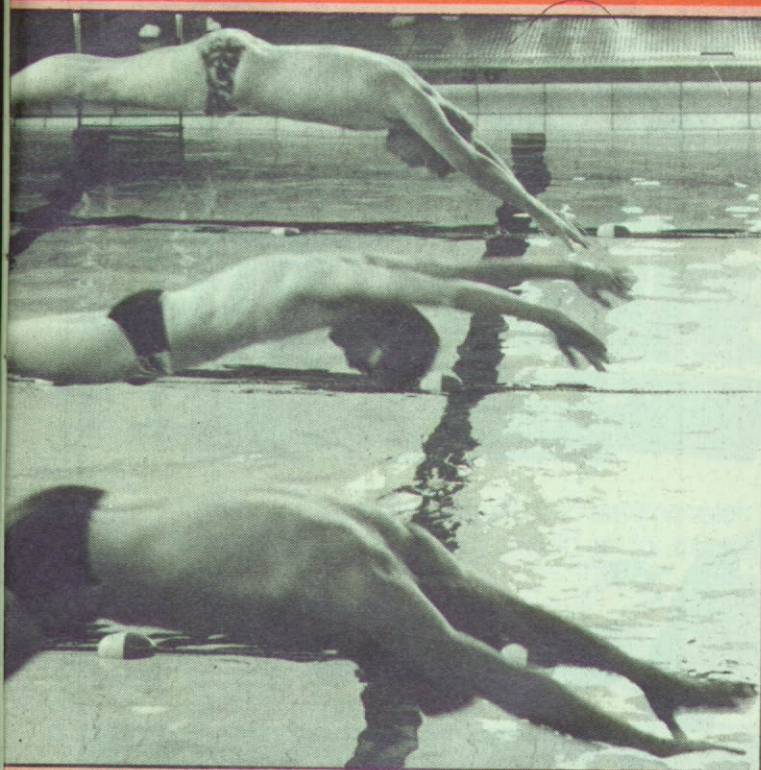
251-6 before their second declaration. At 202-9 with skipper Moylan-Jones scoring a century, the match ended in a lucky draw for the Services.

The Army lost by eight runs to the Free Foresters at Chatham. The Free Foresters scored 210 and 142 with the Army's reply of 180 for 7 declared and 164. Forsythe with 6-20 in the second innings was the Army's top bowler.

ANGLING

The Army Angling Individual championships for the Coe Trophy will be held at Holme Pierpoint near Nottingham on 7 September. The entry fee is £2 and cheques/postal orders payable to 'Army Angling Association' should be sent to Major P L Emery, 1 Grenadier Guards, Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow, Middlesex. Tel Hounslow Mil 440. Closing date 26 August.

RAC JUNIORS PICK OF THE POOL



Taking the plunge for one of the relay races.

WILES AND GUILF

NEW KESTREL Mark 2 boats appeared for the first time in the Army Individual Dinghy Sailing Championships at Netley. The boats, designed by Ian Proctor and made by Ashford Marine of Fordingbridge, are so new that most made their maiden voyages in the competition and many of the helmsmen were meeting them for the first time.

Winds were light and variable most of the time and the wiles and guile of the crews were tested to the full. The result was

in the balance until the last of the five races and the seamanship was high throughout.

Winners were Captain Stephen Pyatt RE from Army Apprentices College, Chepstow and Corporal Graham Pates of 22 Engineer Regiment. Runners-up were 2nd Lieutenant Alexander Tucker REME and 2nd Lieutenant Scott Workman, Royal Signals, Blandford. In third place were Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart Jardine and his son, Robert, an apprentice lance-corporal from Chepstow.

Another Tucker brother, William, a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery, came fourth with O/Cdt John Winchcombe RA.

STOP PRESS

Combined Services batsmen and bowlers came under the lash from the New Zealand tourists in their match at Portsmouth.

The Services side eventually held out for a draw but the Kiwis were in fine fettle with Trevor Franklin knocking up a century. It was the second Combined Services match against an international side this year — after a five year gap. Report and pictures next issue.



The winners of the third race cross the line.

SOLDIER SPORT

AFTER a tightly fought competition at Bramcote, Nuneaton, the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps, Bovington, emerged to win this year's Army junior swimming team championship by 11 points.

The Dorset based lads, who finished third last year, trailed the Infantry Junior Leaders' Battalion, Shorncliffe, for the early stages and after the first of the relays these two were locked in a neck and neck struggle with the home team, Junior Leaders RA. But the gunners were disqualified in the next relay and the RAC team notched up a first and two seconds to go clear with 66 points. IJLB scored 55 and JLR RA 53.

Spare a thought for luckless Princess Marina College, Arbofield. After three disqualifications in a row, followed by a fourth two events later, they withdrew from the final two relays to amass a meagre 18 points and the wooden spoon.

Mr Leslie Stopher, swimming instructor at Bovington for the past 18 years, was delighted with the RAC team's success. He told SOLDIER: "Three of these lads



Maj-Gen Sinnatt hands the cup to Bovington's captain.

have only been with us for four weeks. We have worked hard for it — we have been training at a quarter-to-seven in the morning and then at five in the evening as well as any other time we could get them in. It has really paid off."

Swimming officer, Captain Nigel Capel, added: "All of the units suffer from the vagaries of getting teams together at the right time but our lads got it right."

President of the Army Swimming Union, Major-General Martin Sinnatt, who presented the prizes, said it was the best competition he had seen in his eight years association with it. "Some of you are a lot better than you think you are," he said.

The Petroleum Centre RAOC athletics team (below) from West Moors in Dorset were amazed and delighted to find themselves the winners of the South West District Minor Units Cup at the meeting at Tidworth on 22 June.

However, over the weekend it was discovered that someone had made a mistake in adding up the points and that 1 Signal Squadron were the actual winners. So the cup was dashed from the petrol men's lips and their winners' medals were exchanged for second place trophies the following week.

BITTER CUP



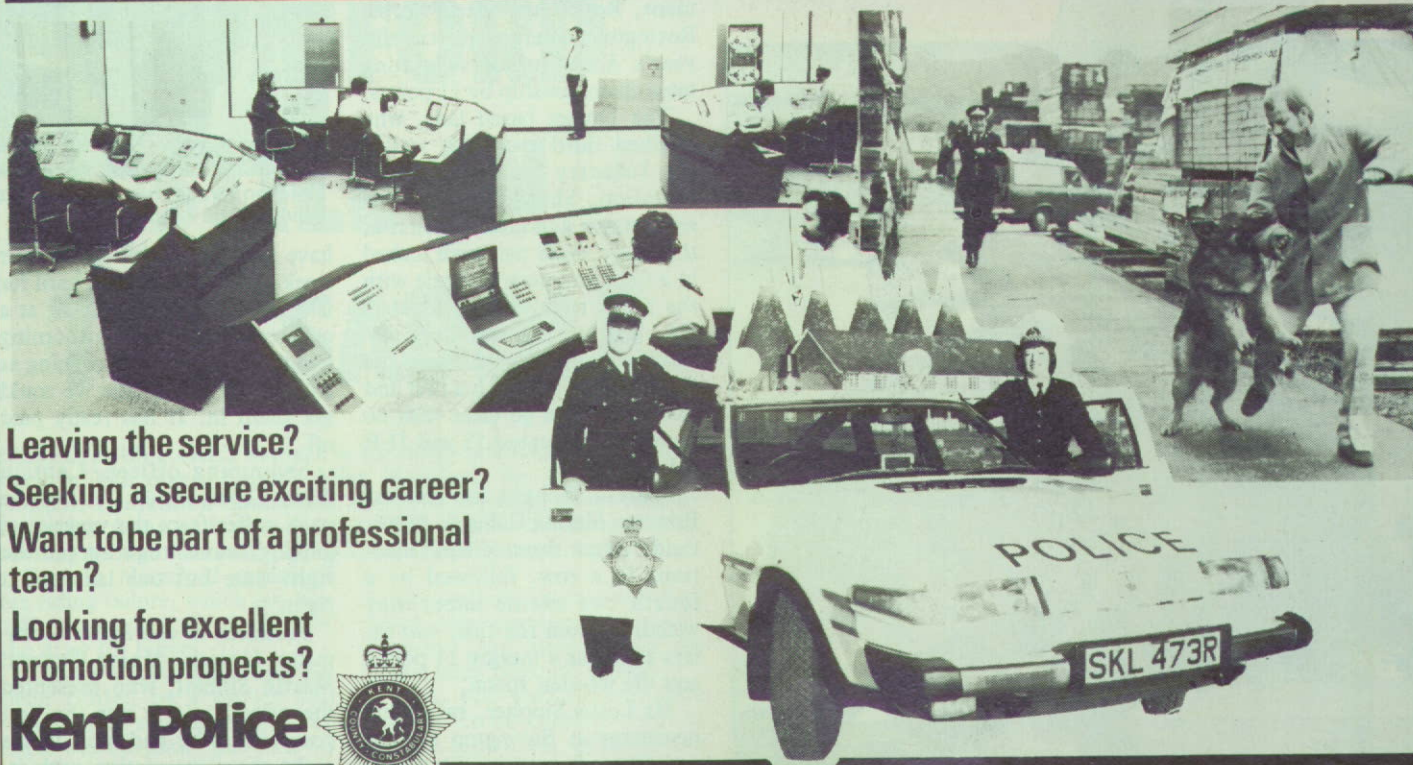
Quick scoring at Arundel

IN THEIR annual match with Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk's XI at picturesque Arundel Castle, Combined Services found themselves on the end of some quick scoring as the Duchess's side swept to 207 for 5 declared. Among familiar names batting was Nick Wisdom (son of Norman) who scored 23 and Colin

Cowdrey (n.o.b.).

Robinson knocked up a breezy 50 which won him the man of the match award as the Services replied with 173 for 8 to force a draw. Colin Cowdrey appeared in an unfamiliar role as bowler taking 2 for 58 with Lieutenant Edward Gordon-Lennox blasting him for 17 off one over.

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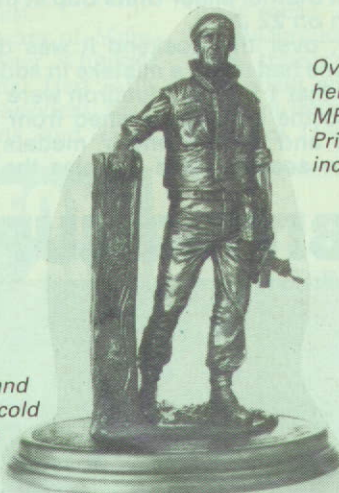


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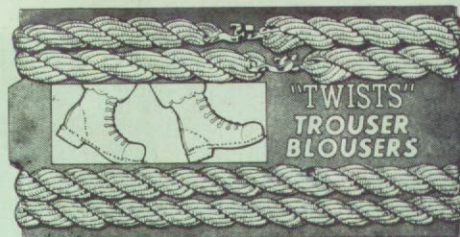


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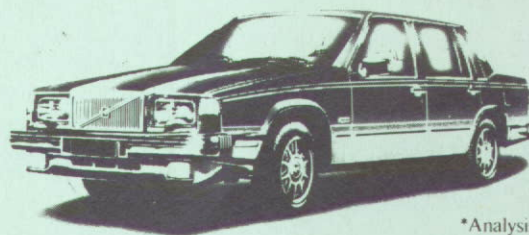
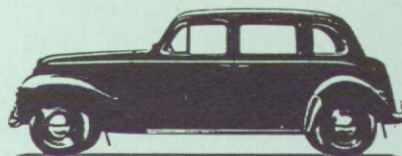
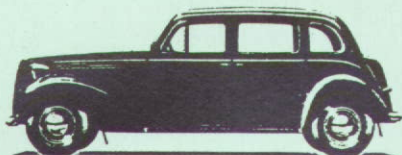
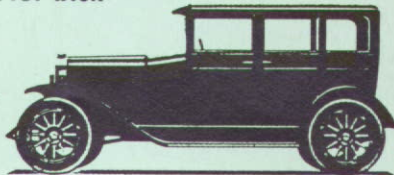
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