

# Soldier

20p

JANUARY 1980

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Deep in the Brunei jungle, 2nd Lt Nigel Rove is winched aboard a Royal Brunei Malay Regiment helicopter during casualty evacuation practice with the 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles. Story page 34. Picture by Doug Pratt.



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In Cyprus, men of the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards take a break from polishing their military skills to brush up on their wind-surfing technique. Story page 6. Picture by Paul Haley.



18 Army know-how backs up a unique expedition in remote Papua New Guinea.



6 In sun-drenched Cyprus a cavalry regiment chalks up a trail-blazing 'first'.



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Editor: BOB HOOPER (Ext 2585)

Deputy Editor: JOHN WALTON (Ext 2586)

Feature Writer: MICHAEL STARKE (Ext 2590)

Art Editor: JOHN RUSHWORTH (Ext 2589)

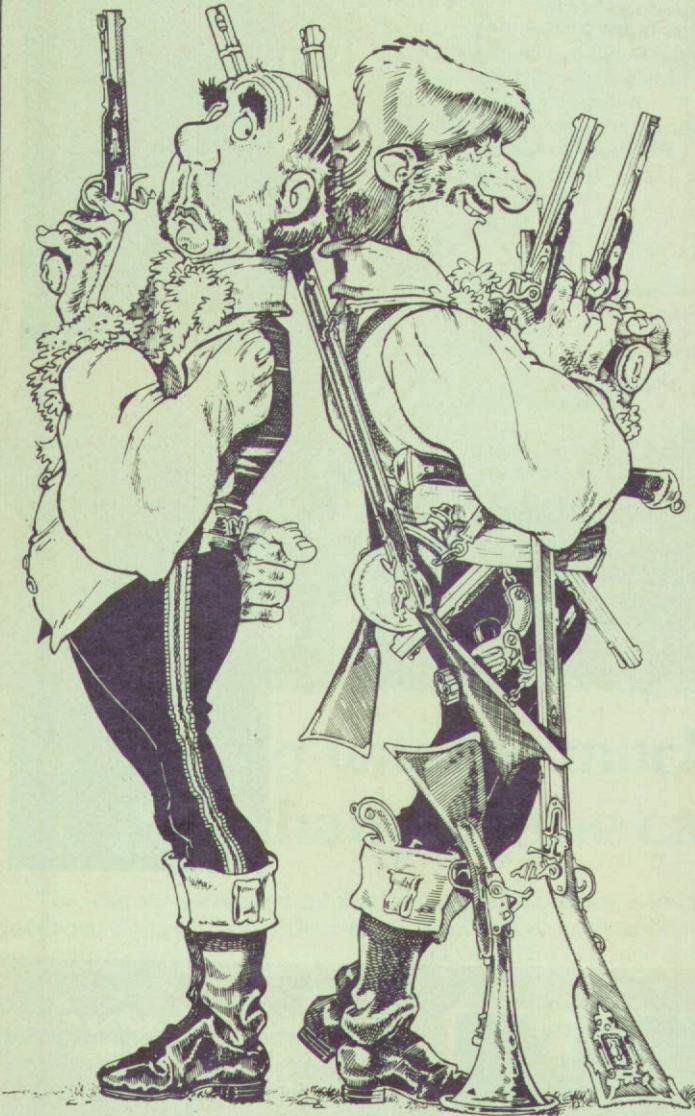
Picture Editor: LESLIE A WIGGS (Ext 2584)

Photographers: DOUG PRATT, PAUL R G HALEY, ANDY BURRIDGE (Ext 2584)

Advertising Circulation: Mrs C WILKINSON (Ext 2592/2587)

Distribution: Mrs S MCINTOSH (Ext 2583)

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service is 14 years. If he died on or after this date the minimum length of service is 12 years.

**You will not** be eligible for this new pension if:

- a You are already receiving a Service Widows Pension awarded by the Ministry of Defence.
- b You are already receiving a War Widows Pension from the Department of Health and Social Security or the Ministry of Defence.
- c You married your husband after he left the Forces.
- d You are, at present, married.

## How much will you get?

Under this new scheme you will receive between £21 and £35 a month depending on the rank held

by your husband in his service. The pension will be paid monthly. The official starting date for the scheme is 12 November 1979 and you will receive your pension back-dated to this date.

## How to claim your pension

You cannot receive this pension unless you claim it; and the easiest and fastest way to apply is by filling in the coupon in this advertisement. This will provide information to establish your eligibility.

When you have answered the questions, please cut this coupon out and send it to one or other of the addresses below depending on the Service your husband was in. A postage stamp is not required.

### IF YOUR HUSBAND WAS IN THE ROYAL NAVY, ROYAL MARINES OR ROYAL AIR FORCE

Send the coupon to: Royal Navy, Royal Marines and RAF Pensions Office DGDA 1A5, FREEPOST, Worcester WR5 1BR.

**IF YOUR HUSBAND WAS IN THE ARMY** Send the coupon to: Army Pensions Office A7, FREEPOST, Stanmore HA7 4BR.

Application for pension. It is important to answer all questions as fully as you can.

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS.

What was your husband's full name?

Christian or given names

Surname

What was his date of birth? Day \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Which Service was he in? TICK ONE  ROYAL NAVY  ROYAL MARINES  ARMY  ROYAL AIR FORCE

If in the Army which Regiment or Corps was he in at the date of his discharge or death?

What was his last Service number? \_\_\_\_\_ What was his pension number? \_\_\_\_\_

What was his rank on leaving the Service or death if he died while serving? \_\_\_\_\_

When did he leave the Service? Day \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

When did he die? Day \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

What is your full name and address?

Christian or given names

Surname

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Put your signature here \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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# IN CYPRUS with 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards...

A NOTABLE 'FIRST' has been notched up by a cavalry regiment on a trail-blazing exercise on the sun-drenched Mediterranean island of Cyprus.

For men of 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards on a scheme with the suitably pioneering codename of Moonbase 3 have become the first armoured unit to go to Cyprus purely on training rather than on a Sovereign Base Area posting or United Nations assignment — and the first armoured unit ever from Germany to make the journey.

Some 150 of the younger men of the regiment were selected to exchange the already-falling snow of north Germany for the still-summery heat of Cyprus and to swap their Chieftain tanks for infantry packs, boots and webbing as foot soldiers rather than cavalry.

The Commanding Officer of 4th/7th RDG, Lieutenant-Colonel William LeBlanc-Smith who masterminded the project, explained his thinking: "We are armoured soldiers. But I am a great believer in us getting out on our feet." Thus his soldiers can be adaptable and capable of fulfilling internal security missions alongside their comrades in other arms.

He went on: "There are three reasons why I pursued this venture, and here they are in reverse order. Firstly, in the Royal Armoured Corps we have nowhere to serve for any length of time but the United Kingdom and Rhine Army. It seems to me a great sadness that we can't have a permanent place in the sun to train.

"Secondly, I'm a great believer that every soldier should be able to fight on his feet. In tanks it is a very technical business nowadays. But we sometimes have to do infantry work too. So to do this in Cyprus is far more attractive than doing it back in Fallingbostel (where the regiment is currently stationed).

"Finally, when we recruit soldiers we promise them all sorts of things; adventure, challenge, junior leadership and so on.

"I personally believe we don't always deliver the goods. But by coming to Cyprus we can actually honour the promise."

Another factor influenced the decision to make up most of the exercise troops from the ranks of the young and unmarried men of the regiment. Said Colonel LeBlanc-Smith: "We've had a year of long separations from home with exercises in Canada and Germany so some 90 per cent of those in Cyprus are the young, under-20 bachelors. Almost all the married personnel out here are the officers and administrators.

"This suits everybody as the youngsters like travel and adventure and it does not aggravate the separation problem for the older, married soldiers."

He added: "This is a one-off chance — we'll never do this again as a regiment. It is a fantastic proving ground to sort the sheep from the goats. The challenge and character-building qualities can provide a good indicator to a young man's leadership potential — it's not everything, but it proves a great deal."

In order to achieve its objectives, the regiment split its forces — formed up for exercise purposes into six troops — into three camps. Two troops at a time spent a week in rotation at each camp during their month's stay in Cyprus.

Headquarters and the military training camp was based at Radio Sonde — a disused communications outstation near Episkopi on the island's western Sovereign Base Area whose few huts were augmented by tented accommodation to house the soldiers.

Each day started with a pipe-opening dip in the Mediterranean, just a short lorry-ride away, before work started in earnest.

The week at Radio Sonde began with range work at Akrotiri — some 15 miles away — when the young soldiers were introduced (many for the first time) to the Self-Loading Rifle (their personal weapon as armoured soldiers is the Sub-Machine-Gun).

After 'zeroing' their weapons there followed

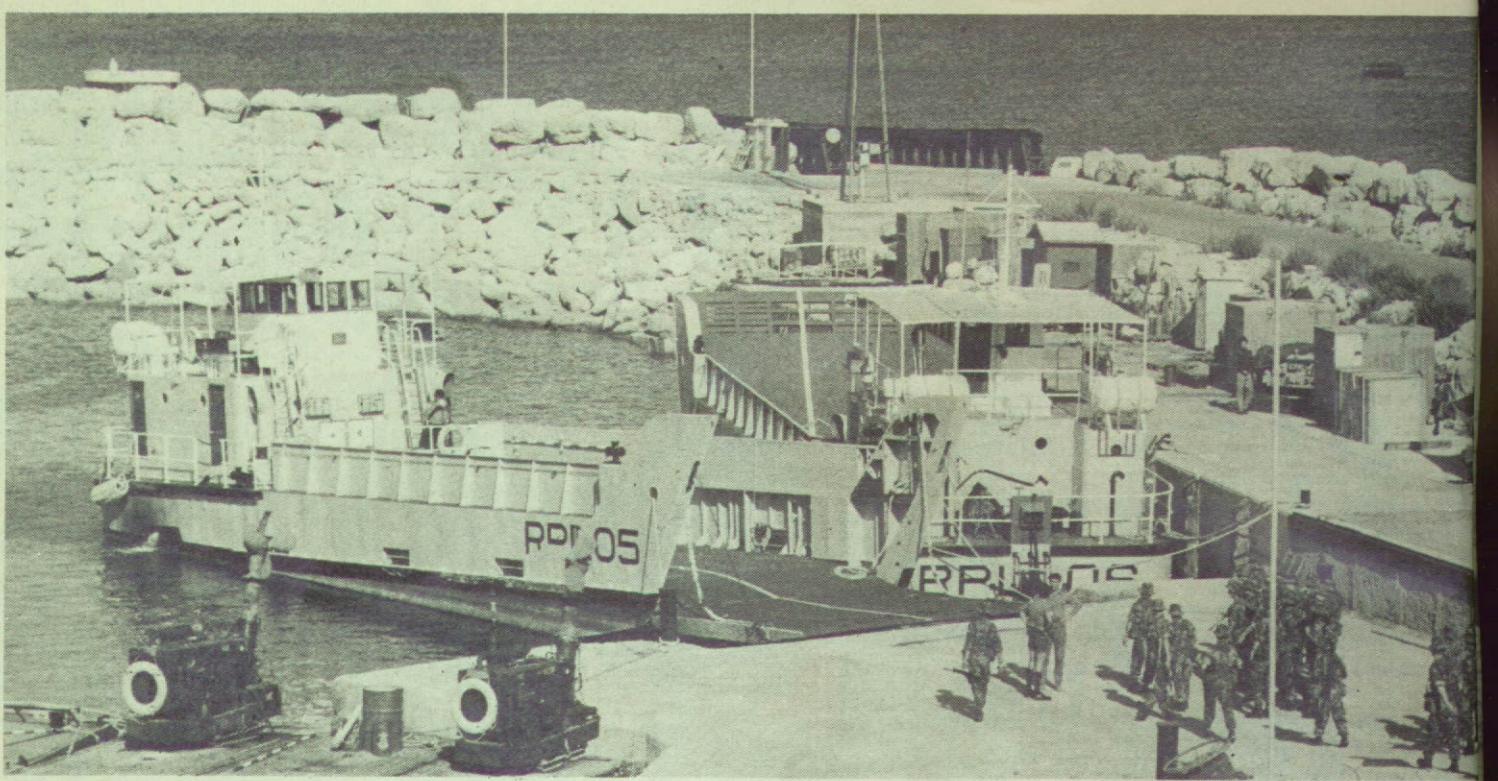
continued on page 8

CIRCLE: The Troodos 'bandits' — and friends.  
RIGHT: Troops relax after the 'battle' ends.

## Moonbase 3- A FIRST FOR ARMoured SOLDIERS

Story: Mike Starke  
Pictures: Paul Haley





lowed a crash course in accuracy over a period of three half days as the troopers blasted away at electrically-operated targets at 100, 200 and 300 yard distances.

Next on the schedule was a cordon and search operation carried out in the deserted Turkish village of Paramali on the outskirts of the SBA. Here the directing staff set up an intricate web of smoke-grenade booby traps and hid caches of weapons and ammunition for 'security forces' to discover and make safe under fire from colleagues playing the part of swashbuckling 'bandits' sniping at them.

The crumbling ruins soon took on the aspect of a battlefield as the unwary tripped off grenades while blank rounds crackled about their ears.

This was the first of three military operations in the week of this phase of the exercise, the next being a jungle clearance operation in a eucalyptus grove near the edge of the shimmering white salt lake near Akrotiri.

Again, the soldiers were split into 'security forces' and 'bandits' to enter the 800 yard-long 'jungle' at opposite ends, the former to capture, the latter to evade. The foliage offered some welcome cool shade from the burning sun overhead and the fresh tang of eucalyptus sweetened the dusty air. But the heat was soon on again as the crackle of dry twigs underfoot was augmented by the crackle of small arms fire as contact was made between the opposing factions.

Climax of the week at Radio Sonde was a 36-hour hunt for 'bandits' trekking down from the Troodos Mountains some 35 miles inland.

This began with the full Radio Sonde contingent making a spectacular dawn beach landing from a Ramp Powered Lighter (RPL) of 10 Port Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, based at Akrotiri Mole, amid a blaze of pyrotechnics designed to simulate artillery and mortar fire. The columns of exploding sand and rumbling detonations reverberating across the morning still of Episkopi Bay made even more unnerving the waist-deep plunge into the sea from the RPL

which the soldiers had to make to wade ashore.

Once established ashore, the newly-fledged infanteers were supported by helicopters of 16 Flight, Army Air Corps, for observation post pickets to be air-lifted inland to take up positions on high ground to watch for bandits making their way down from Troodos — finishing in their turn another phase of the multi-faceted 4th/7th RDG exercise.

Thus the soldiers from Radio Sonde completed their week with a flurry of action involving land, sea and air operations — a far cry indeed from their usual rôle inside the armoured hulls of tanks 'somewhere in Germany'.

Meanwhile, high in the rarefied air of the Troodos Mountains — contrastingly cooler than the arid heat of the coastal plain — another group had spent a week of challenge pursuits working from the well-established British Forces camp thousands of feet up near the towering Mount Olympus.

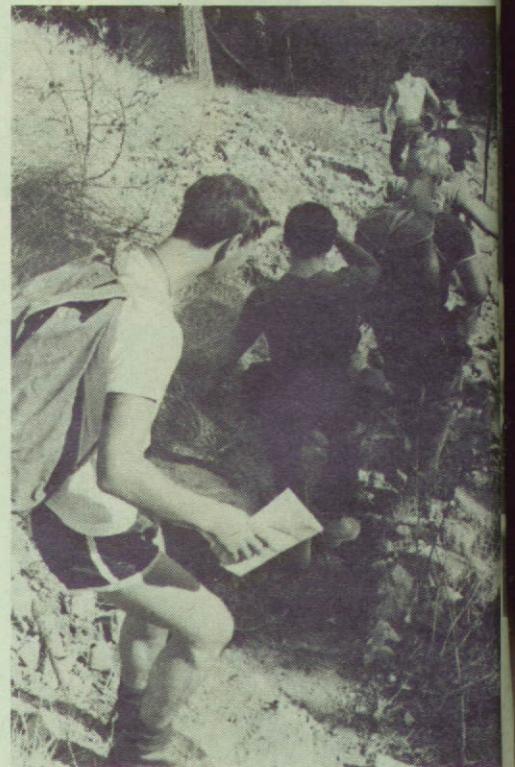
Here the air is cool and crisp and knife-edge ridges of crumbling rock plunge into precipitous valleys whose sides are dotted with hardy conifers.

First on the agenda was a series of vital lectures on mountain survival and safety followed by the issue of necessary equipment which was soon put to the test on a six-mile 'warm-up' trek.

There followed a period of relaxation for swimming, riding and sport before it was back to work in earnest with map-reading lectures and an introduction to the subject of the effects of heat and height when moving on foot.

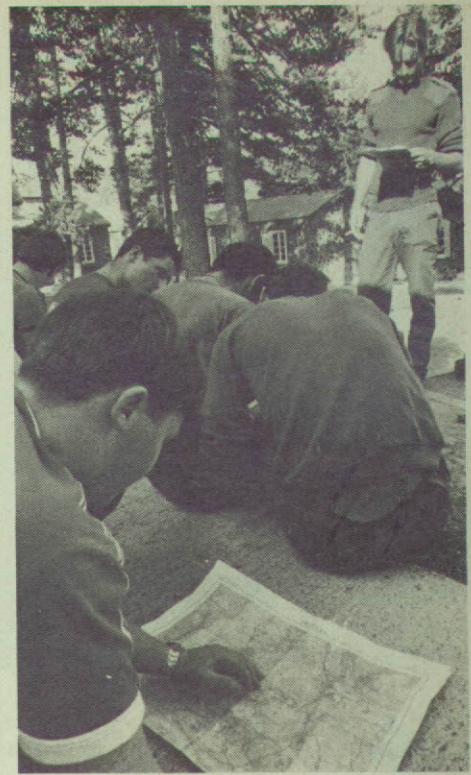
A gruelling switchback orienteering expedition over six miles with eight checkpoints then probed in practical terms what had been learnt in the lectures.

The group later went further afield on a 16-mile trek off the mountain peak — and back — working with map and compass to find the way through the steep-sided vales



TOP: At Akrotiri Mole the young troopers prepare to board a Ramp Powered Lighter of 10 Port Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport.

ABOVE: Orienteers brave the craggy slopes of Troodos, cool after the hot coastal plain.



TOP RIGHT: Trekkers are briefed before setting off for the Troodos mountains.

TOP: Windsurfing is a popular sport with the regiment, and Cyprus ideal for it.

ABOVE: Back to work, the troopers get a briefing on the next phase of the exercise.

which all look the same to the casual observer.

"Here we are challenging a man," said Colonel LeBlanc-Smith, "to see if he has the mental and physical ability to meet these challenges."

Captain James McCain-Bremner, in charge of the Troodos troops, added: "It's very much an individual thing. On this sort of training you can spot the natural leaders. Here they are given responsibility for themselves and for others."

The end of the week at Troodos was taken up with the other element of the exercise-within-an-exercise; Exercise Bandit Trail for which the Radio Sonde element had made their dramatic beach landing.

The Troodos troops made up the 'bandit' enemy and set off to walk — zig-zagging

across the hostile terrain — a total distance of some 50 or 60 miles to a finish point near the sea.

They carried all their essential equipment in packs and slept under the stars making rendezvous' with local 'agents' from the Cypriot community and joining up with donkey trains to help them find caches of 'arms and ammunition' specially concealed along the way.

The donkeys were procured by 30 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, together with their local handlers and while their load carrying abilities were a boon, their traditional stubbornness sometimes threatened the military discipline of their human masters. But it all added spice to the exercise.

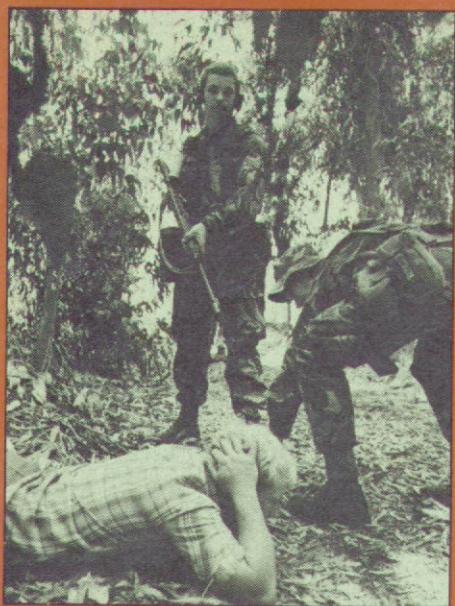
The 'bandits' inevitably moved into the ambushes laid by the 'security forces' and Bandit Trail finished in a flurry of skirmishes with wins and losses on both sides adding to the lessons learnt.

A beach camp in a secluded cove of Episkopi Bay was home for the third batch of soldiers each week. Colonel LeBlanc-Smith declared: "This is for adventurous training . . . and fun. That is not a word we need to be ashamed of in the Army."

Naturally, the emphasis was on aquatic sports and 'ruling the waves' on Britannia's behalf was Captain John Eavis who explained that the 40 or so soldiers he had in the camp at a time were divided into four groups to take part in sea canoeing, sailing, wind-surfing and snorkelling. Some diving facilities were provided thanks to Warrant Officer 1 Dave Holland — an expert diver — representing the Army Physical Training Corps on the island.

By coincidence, he is a past physical training instructor with 4th/7th RDG. The current PTI, Staff-Sergeant Instructor Pat Kaufman was on hand at the beach camp too.

The camp was made up of tents, mere yards from the brilliant blue sea, where 'campers' started each day with a post-dawn dip to wash away the cobwebs before the



TOP LEFT: A 'bandit' prisoner is caught in the eucalyptus grove and is searched for hidden arms and ammunition.

ABOVE: A Royal Army Veterinary Corps dog is called in to track down 'enemy' on the run from the 'security forces'.

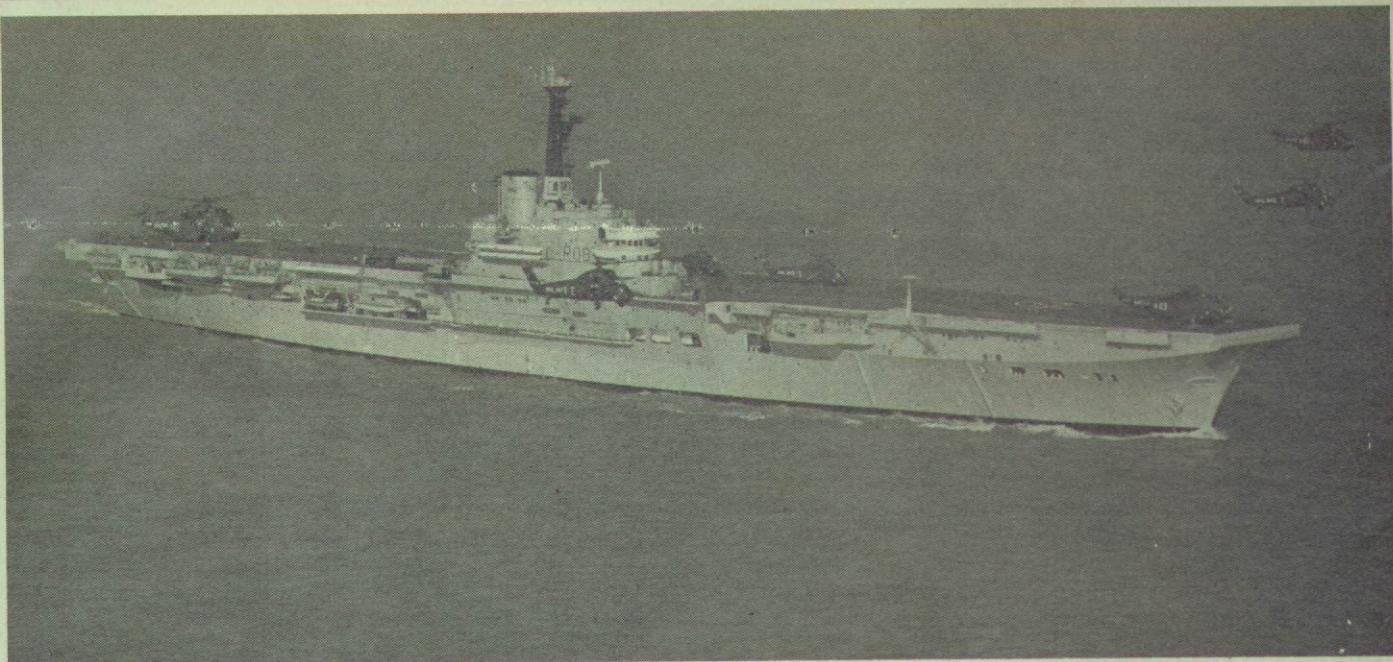
LEFT: After the battle — time to relax with an introduction to canoeing at the sun-drenched Beach Camp on the coast.



BELOW LEFT: Uphill work orienteering in the rare air high in the Troodos range.

BELOW: A deserted village is ideal for cordon and search training.





The climax of the last week of Exercise Moonbase 3 was a visit to the Royal Navy's *HMS Bulwark*. The affiliation with the ship was started by Colonel LeBlanc-Smith in June 1978. He said: "I've always had a great love for the Navy. *Bulwark*'s captain, George Brewer, and I agreed what the affiliation should be. It is not just a matter of exchanging Christmas cards but a real exchange of men for training — entirely a working exchange. And it has gone from strength to strength."

The ship came to Hamburg earlier in the affiliation and some 200 matelots were entertained by the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards. And when she came to Cyprus, 36 hours were set aside for the regiment to visit the ship and do helicopter drills in her Sea King aircraft.

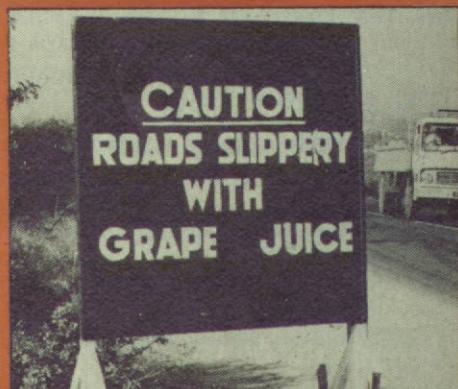
The rest of the final week was taken up with competitive sports ashore once the exercise proper was over.

PICTURE: MoD public relations



ABOVE: A cavalry trooper takes a trick at the helm.

ABOVE RIGHT: The grape harvest brings its own hazards!



adventurous training activities. A cookhouse tent — plus barbecues — looked after the inner man as outer surfaces bronzed in the late-summer sun, cooled by a gentle breeze.

Whether relaxing on the beach or sweating through infantry tactics inland, the young soldiers — mostly from the regiment's recruiting area of Yorkshire — enjoyed a completely new experience in Cyprus as most of them had never been away from England or Germany.

Contented grins summed up their reception of the balmy climate. And as to the military aspects of the exercise with its emphasis on foot-soldiering, one trooper remarked to his pal: "Tell you what, I'll never run the infantry down after this."

"No — just laugh as we pass them in our tanks!" came the wry Yorkshire reply!



# During the week he services television sets.

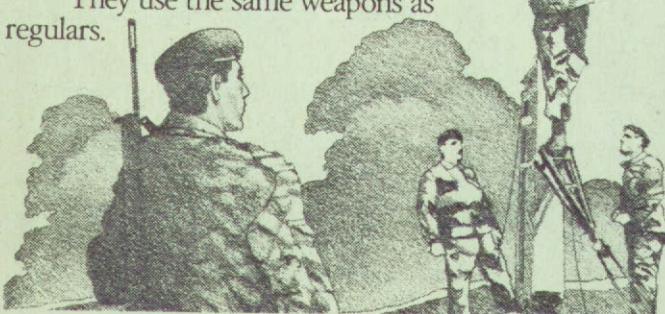
To see Roy Bettney at weekends, you'd never guess he was a TV engineer.

For he's one of the many men who resolved to do something worthwhile in their spare time by taking up the challenge offered by the Territorial Army.

And a challenge it is.

For the Territorials don't play at soldiers, they are part of the Army.

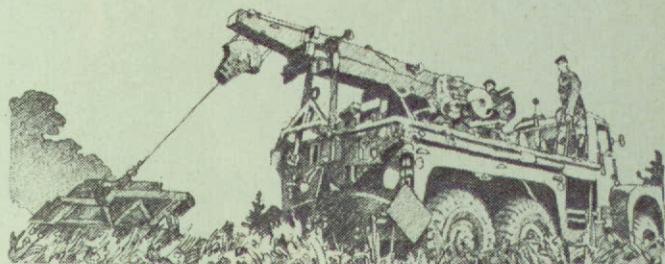
They use the same weapons as regulars.



They go on the same manoeuvres. The same night patrols. They lose sleep. They get soaked to the skin.

The only difference is they'll be home by Sunday evening.

If you join them, you'll have to put in at least 8 weekends in the first year (2 for some specialist units), plus 15 days at training camp, quite often spent abroad.



And though no-one joins for the money, there's no denying that an extra £550 or so a year (part of which is tax-free) comes in very handy.

At some time, you've doubtless spent a whole weekend doing absolutely nothing, only to be asked on Monday "Did you have a good weekend?"

The TA could be your answer.

For your free brochure and full details look in at your nearest TA Centre or Army Careers Information Office or fill in the coupon and send it to Captain Bill Brown, Freepost 34, Room 532, Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square, London W1E 7QZ. There are some vacancies for women too.

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# SOLDIER to Soldier

Some remarkable statistics are revealed from the United States. No less than 12 per cent of its 130,000 Servicewomen are pregnant at any one time. This contrasts with the British forces — where any woman, married or single, who finds herself expecting is speedily discharged.

TIME magazine reports that some old-timers in the US Forces grumble that they are turning into a giant maternity ward. The US Government offers benefits to those girls who continue to bear arms as well as children — free medical care and a liberal leave policy. Standard US policy is to keep pregnant women at their jobs for as long as possible. Then they are transferred to light duty or put on sick leave. A marine second lieutenant is quoted as completing a tough five month course while pregnant — "the last couple of three mile runs I came in slower than everyone else."

That girl worked until the day before she gave birth. Her labour lasted just three hours and in the spirit of those old John Wayne films she declared: "I credit that to the great physical conditioning of the Marine Corps."

An interesting factor is that studies have shown that despite time lost through pregnancy, females miss only an average of 4.22 days a year against 7.03 for males. TIME attributes that to the 'male penchant for alcohol, drugs and general roistering.'

Over here girls are discharged as soon as the pregnancy is confirmed and adequate welfare arrangements have been made. Generally this means that they are out by the time they are 12 weeks pregnant.

WRAC sources report no pressure for any change from the girls themselves and it is felt that if a married soldier has made a conscious decision to have a family she would not want to continue in the Service. And the need for constant mobility with a 24 hour-a-day commitment from all who serve the Queen means that the idea of soldier mums does not find much favour on the Ministry side either.

**S**OLDIER is proud to have played its part in a successful campaign to set right an anomaly of sex-discrimination within the Army.

In September we commented on the fact that male State Registered Nurses were treated differently with regard to their consideration for commissioning to officer status as opposed to women with the same qualification.

Despite the fact that the matter was brought to our attention by the 'shop floor' as a bone of contention — a fact endorsed privately by Ministry of

Defence sources too — SOLDIER's crusade on male medics' behalf ruffled some feathers and brought at least one sharp rebuke.

But our concern has been exonerated by the report that the anomaly is now to be removed and that male SRNs will be treated the same as the women. A Ministry of Defence spokesman is quoted as saying: "It is likely that soon male nurses will have the same opportunities."

We may have ruffled some feathers but, if readers will forgive us for extending the metaphor, we now feel we have some justification for crowing!

★

**A** recognised 'perk' of Army service overseas is the purchase of tax-free consumer durables, undoubtedly the most popular of which is a car. And it is Standard Operating Procedure for a unit posted for two years or more to Rhine Army from the United Kingdom to equip themselves with new cars prior to their departure to take advantage of this perk. There is nothing wrong with that in itself. But recent incidents brought to SOLDIER's attention highlight a problem this brings with it. Well aware of the boost to trade which this tax concession to the Army brings, motor traders in a large garrison town were reported as practically queuing up outside the barrack gates of a battalion about to go to Germany in order to put their sales pitch to the soldiers. SOLDIER was told that this was so successful that one dealer alone managed to sell no less than 19 Ford Cortinas in a week.

Most vulnerable to the salesmen's wiles are young soldiers and in this case they were no exception, apparently. And the lily was gilded for them by the added inducement of a year's free insurance. What was not pointed out was that hire purchase repayments on a high-cost vehicle (albeit rendered attractively cheaper by the deduction of tax) may well become an intolerable burden to many of those young soldiers over the months (pay rise, or no pay rise) and that — after a year — this could be greatly exacerbated when they discover that insurance for the car in Germany for someone of their age and station could be as high as £300 or £400.

While fully appreciating the old legal argument of 'caveat emptor' (let the buyer beware), SOLDIER agrees with the body of opinion within the Army that argues that units being posted to Germany should make greater efforts to warn their younger members of the dangers of taking on over-burdensome hire purchase commitments when lured by the promise of tax relief and the pressure of salesmen.

**W**an pela tok seve olsem yupela ol sik meng supos yupela ikam kisim melasin pinis na igopinis ino ken laon long haus bilong ol masta em inogut. Yes ol samting bilong ol masta istap nabaot. Em tasol.

The above is not an excuse for retired editors or readers of SOLDIER to complain that standards of proof reading are slipping. It is in fact English — or a derivative of it — as used in Papua New Guinea.

The people of Papua New Guinea have always lived isolated lives in small tribes. And they speak 700 different languages. But what is now regarded as their national language is pidgin — most of whose words were taken from English.

What does the first paragraph mean? Well it is a sign which was hung up at the Operation Drake camp at remote Buso and was intended for villagers visiting the camp for medical treatment.

In effect it says 'you fellows who are sick when you have finished getting your medicine do not hang around the masters' long houses because some things belonging to the masters are stopping about. That's all.' That's all indeed.

★

**T**he 'one Army' concept was a good idea, intended to tie the Territorial Army and cadets into the overall Army family. But why is it that the concept does not appear to apply to sport? With very few exceptions, about the only way that cadets or TA can represent the Army is in Orienteering, so automatically a wide band of talent is barred from representative Army sport. At the recent inter-corps orienteering championships, the Combined Cadet Force came third. Last year, the CCF won. And in the inter-Service competition, the Army was represented by one TA soldier and two cadets.

Most Army representative sports obviously accept that the TA is a strong force, judging by the amount of Army versus TA contests that take place — for instance in boxing, hockey, squash and rugby. So it follows that there are some individuals at least, who would be good enough to compete for the Army. Why doesn't it happen? It is a generally accepted fact that there is nothing better than sport for making individuals want to work together for a common cause.

★

**B**ecause of increased postal charges, we regret that readers purchasing regimental drum ice buckets or pewter figures through SOLDIER must now pay more. The new prices are: ice buckets — £9.05 (UK), £7.86 (BFPO), £9.10 (elsewhere); pewter figures — £9.90 (UK), £8.55 (BFPO), £9.25 (elsewhere).





"We're in luck! That cuts him out of the skiing and the après-ski."



"New Year just won't be the same without the wife and kids around . . ."



"What would you advise a rich, elderly, lonely man like me to buy a poor, young, unattached girl like you?"

# Humour



"We worked out the cost of roof insulation and double glazing, and decided to lag granny instead."



"I got Wilfred to make a few New Year resolutions this year . . ."

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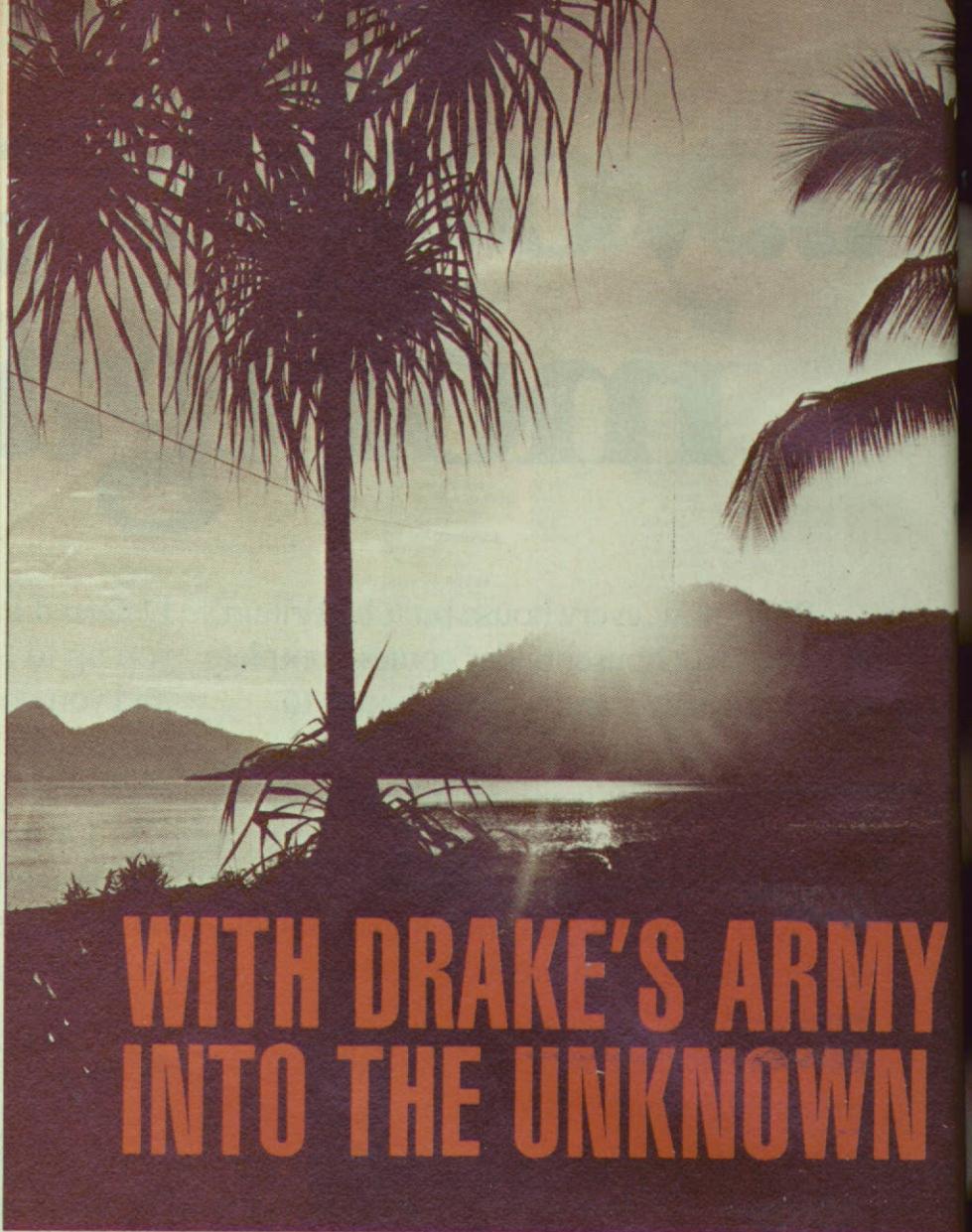
**A round-the-world  
expedition — led and  
backed by Army  
expertise — is just  
completing a five  
month stay in one of  
the world's most  
mysterious and  
unexplored regions —  
Papua New Guinea.**

**SOLDIER met up with  
it and went . . .**

PAPUA NEW GUINEA is one of the world's last great untamed areas — an island of dense jungle, criss-crossed with rocky gorges and swarming with disease carrying insects as well as the largest crocodiles to be found anywhere on the globe. It is, in the words of the Army's most famous explorer, Lieutenant-Colonel John Blashford-Snell, "the finest adventurous training area in the world" and for the last five months he has been there leading teams of young people — backed by scientists and British servicemen — on an action-packed sojourn of adventure and exploration.

Colonel Blashford-Snell, complete with his inevitable 11-year-old pith helmet, has been commanding the second phase of Operation Drake, a two year round the world voyage by crews of young people in a 150 ton brigantine *Eye of the Wind*. Veteran of the Zaire River and Darien Gap expeditions (among 17 in which he has participated) the colonel has already been with Operation Drake in Panama and will join it again later this year in the Sudan.

He told SOLDIER: "It is a very battle to survive against the elements in Papua New Guinea. Even with all the added advantages of 20th century technology your skin becomes infected — everything stings or bites or causes a rash or infection. The country has everything — it is cold in the mountains, extremely hot in the lowlands and has every sort of insect and creepy crawl. Your clothes rot and even the best jungle boots in the world crack up in half the time they would anywhere else. Everything is hostile — except the people who are amazingly friendly. I don't know of any country in



## **WITH DRAKE'S ARMY INTO THE UNKNOWN**

the world where you have to face such extremes."

Yet in those few short months, split into small groups spread across vast and in many cases uncharted areas, the young people of Operation Drake have notched up a multitude of achievements.

They include:

- The discovery of a rich seam of coal — the first time that the fuel has ever been found in Papua New Guinea.
- The climbing of two volcanoes — both of which have erupted this century.
- Panning for gold and searching for a silver lode.
- The construction of an aerial walkway enabling scientists to study at first hand the life in the jungle canopy.
- Signposting old wartime trails for use by the new hardy breed of tourist.
- The discovery of wartime planes lost for more than three decades in the jungle — as well as finding underwater wrecks and old artillery pieces.
- Contact with people still using primitive stone age tools — who had never seen white people before.
- A number of medical projects.

Some 140 people took part in all or part of the Papua New Guinea phase of Operation Drake. The 35 young explorers, selected after hard fought competition, came from Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Fiji, the United States and Iceland. They

were augmented by a similar number of local youngsters.

The phase was run like a military operation with a tactical headquarters at Lae, a medium sized town on the east coast. Colonel Blashford-Snell, as commander, was supported by a second-in-command, an operations officer, an adjutant (a Wren officer), a quartermaster and various other military style appointments.

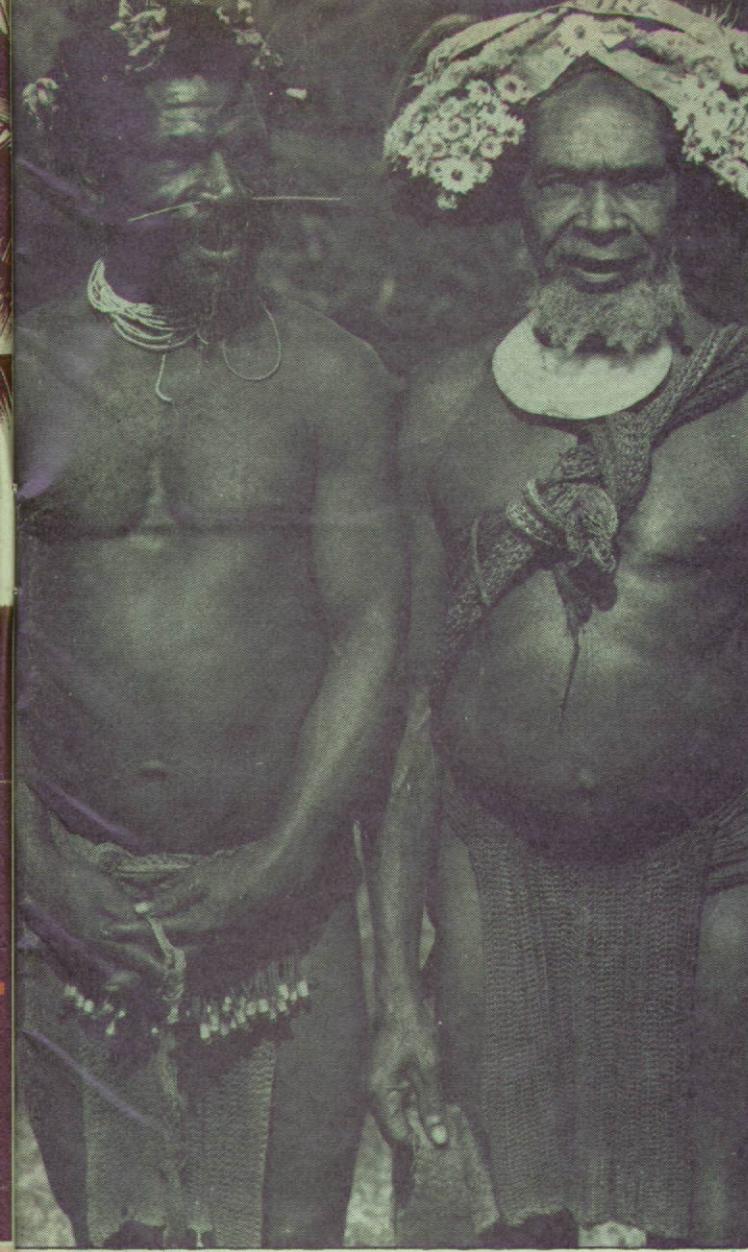
And each patrol — ranging from the underwater team looking at World War Two wrecks to the Strickland Gorge explorers who discovered the stone age tribe — operated in a similar way and were in regular radio contact with Lae using Clansman manpacks.

Each night there was a high frequency radio contact with the United Kingdom through 30 Signal Regiment in Blandford who then relayed messages to and from the Operation Drake headquarters in London.

Sergeant Pete Lavers from 8 Signal Regiment, Catterick, was in charge of a signals team of four who faced a vital and daunting task. For in a country like Papua New Guinea the communications problems are like almost nowhere else on earth.

Apart from a few miles in and around the major towns there are no roads or even tracks which can be used by vehicles. Just mile after mile of thick, impenetrable and constantly undulating jungle. Because of the country's volcanic origins, there is little flat land in Papua New Guinea — it is either up or down,

**Story: John Walton  
Pictures: Doug Pratt**



LEFT: Daybreak and the sun rises on the camp at Buso.  
ABOVE: Who's a pretty boy? Tribesmen from Strickland pose proudly for the camera.

RIGHT: Close encounter. Villagers stare at white men. often almost vertical.

Aircraft are the only means by which the second largest island in the world has been opened up at all. And here the Papua New Guinea Defence Force and the Royal Australian Air Force gave invaluable help to the operation by dropping supplies and ferrying people to and from projects.

The link back to Blandford worked well — apart from the odd period of sunspot activity when signals had to be routed via the Australian Army in Melbourne. Indeed, on occasions, patrols were able to contact Blandford direct from their manpacks — a distance of more than 11,000 miles.

The only site where it was possible to use a line-of-sight VHF contact was at Buso — some 50 miles down the coast and approachable only by boat. Here the accepted range of 35 miles for the equipment was found to be an under-estimate; except when there were tropical storms, reception was loud and clear.

Buso was a camp set up for scientists. Perched on a beach on the edge of thick, dank jungle, Captain Anthony Evans commanded a group of explorers which at one time numbered 44.

They took over two huts which had already been built on the site by a local college which studies jungle life. Using labour from nearby villages they erected more accommodation,

and created a camp which could house the expedition, if not in comfort at least adequately, bearing in mind the ravages of sandflies and malaria bearing mosquitoes.

Four British sappers, together with Papua New Guinea Defence Force engineers, erected two aerial walkways to enable the Australian and English scientists to trap and study their specimens. One was taken down at the end of the project but the other has a potential life of ten years.

Sergeant Louis Gallagher, from 9 Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers, was assisted by Corporals David Watnet and Mark Kerr and Lance-Corporal Bill McGuinness in the erection of the first walkway. But the greatest initial help came from the local sapper sergeant, Robbie Aki, who shinned up two trees 100 and 110 feet high with ease and threw across ropes.

Said Sgt Gallagher, who christened the permanent walkway 'Pegasus Paradise': 'It's certainly been a challenge. I've never done anything like it before although we had our initial sapper training in aerial ropeways.'

Corporal Watnet told *SOLDIER*: 'This has been something I will probably never do or see again. I had no idea about putting bridges in trees and climbing up them was something else!'

The scientists were pleased with the walkways — although a group of Australians who arrived at Buso had to wait for the first one to be completed. However, bird expert Peter



Driscoll, said he had not found them as useful as he had hoped because the amount of activity in building them had caused some of the bird life to retreat.

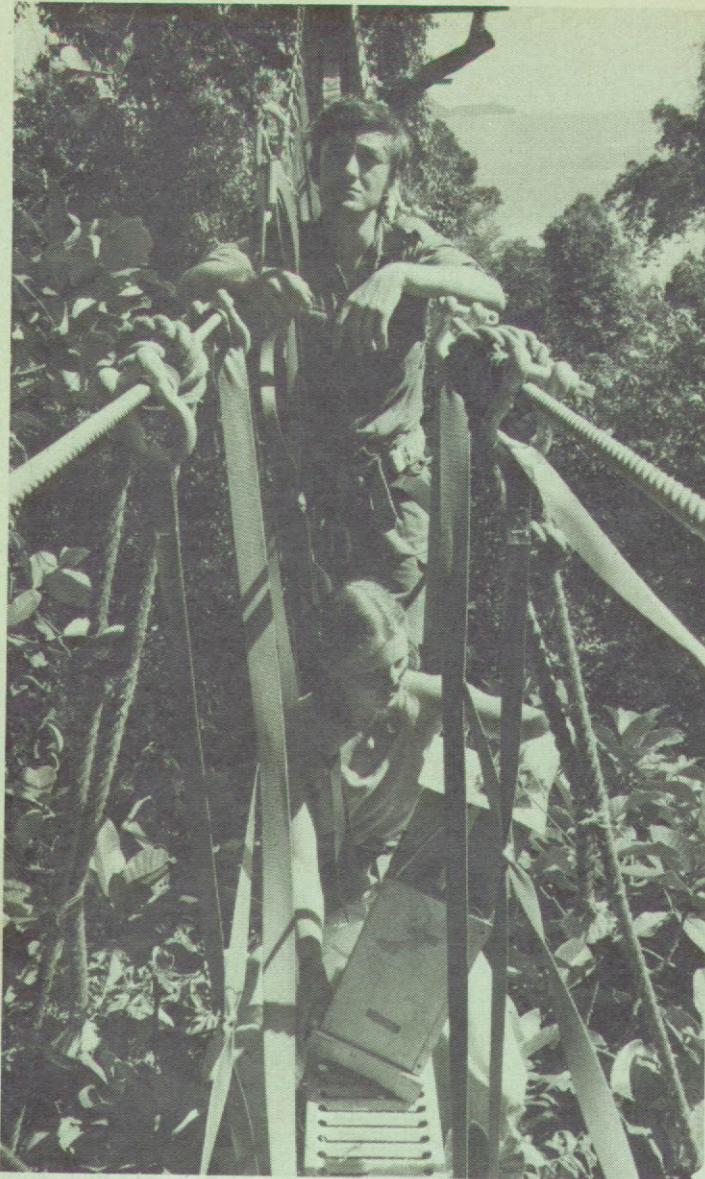
'But we have found over 120 different birds here and have had some interesting captures including birds usually found at high altitude. Many species normally found in lowland forests in Papua New Guinea are missing here and I think it may be because of the local weather pattern.'

Ben Gaskell, from Oxford University, endured the obvious Dracula type cracks as he went out gathering bats. He said that bats had never been caught systematically in the forest canopy in Papua New Guinea before and he had found 17 different types including the large Flying Foxes.

Angie Wilkins, from Leeds University, concentrated on insect life. Her studies and others made during other phases of Operation Drake will be used to assess what might happen if the world's rain forests continue to disappear in a wave of commercial exploitation.

Captain Evans remained in the camp for three months — on the edge of the jungle but not in it. But when fellow Coldstream Guards officer, Lieutenant James Horlick, arrived he took the opportunity to go for a jungle trek for three days.

The group found the going hard. Said Corporal Nigel Stevens, fresh out from England: 'I don't like the jungle much — I'm



ABOVE: High in trees Cpl Dave Watnet and scientist.  
TOP RIGHT: Angie Wilkinson's collection of insects.  
LEFT: Wearing his inevitable pith helmet Lieutenant-Colonel John Blashford-Snell examines coal find.



thick and we only managed three-and-a-half miles in one day. But this is certainly the place to lose weight."

Buso is not the healthiest place on earth. There were ten or more cases of Malaria despite the usual precautions. And the party found that insect bites or cuts had an unpleasant habit of turning into tropical ulcers.

The coal discovery will be important for the future development of Papua New Guinea as it is the first time it has been discovered in the country. In an area which is easily accessible for mining the seam was three metres thick and it seems possible that it may provide 40 to 50 million tons of coal. It is not of first grade or exportable quality but should be of value for local industrial use.

The explorers were tipped off about the possible presence of coal in the Kua River valley by a prospector who had discovered signs some years ago but had to abandon his search through failing eyesight.

The party spent ten days travelling through thick, mountainous jungle beset by insects and leeches. At each small village they asked the villagers if they knew the whereabouts of any black rock. Eventually they were shown the seam — the locals had no idea that the 'rock' could be burnt as fuel.



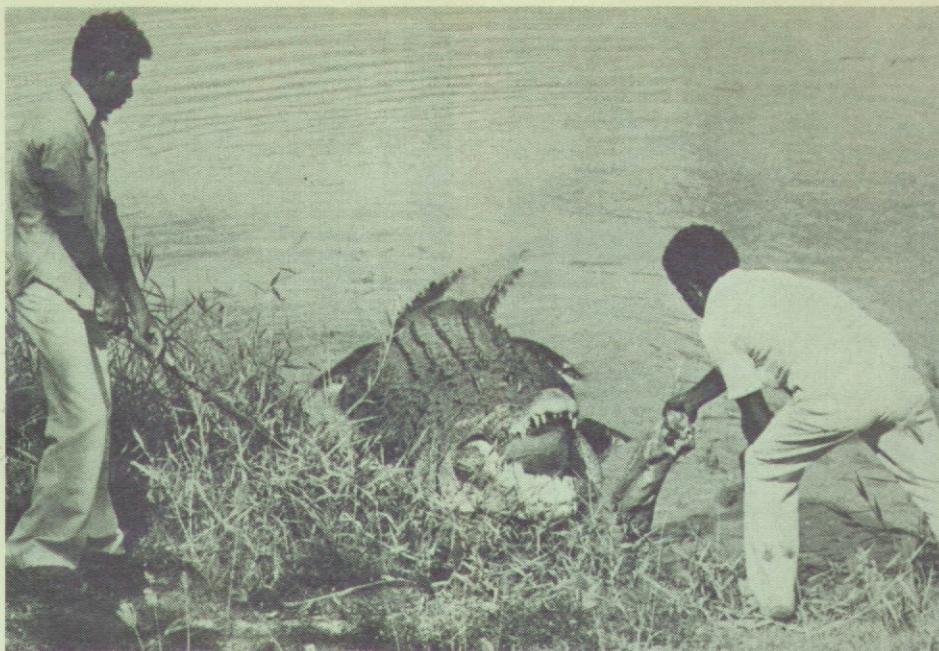
Emboldened by this success another party, including 2nd Lieutenant Mandy Dunn WRAC, a TA reservist, set off looking for silver. Again the prospector set them off in the right direction — he had a lump of rock heavy in silver which he knew came from a certain area. After crossing crocodile infested rivers and sleeping in village huts the party returned with rock samples — which, although they did not contain the precious metal, indicated that there was a silver seam in the locality.

Another party led by Lieutenant-Colonel Robin Jordan, became the first group to ever climb and cross the volcano, Mount Victory, which erupted in a big way in 1890 and continued to erupt more peacefully over the next 40 years.

Colonel Jordan, a Royal Engineer, and his party started their journey appropriately enough on Guy Fawkes Day. Two of the twelve strong party dropped out early on with fever but the remainder spent eight days climbing and crossing the volcano.

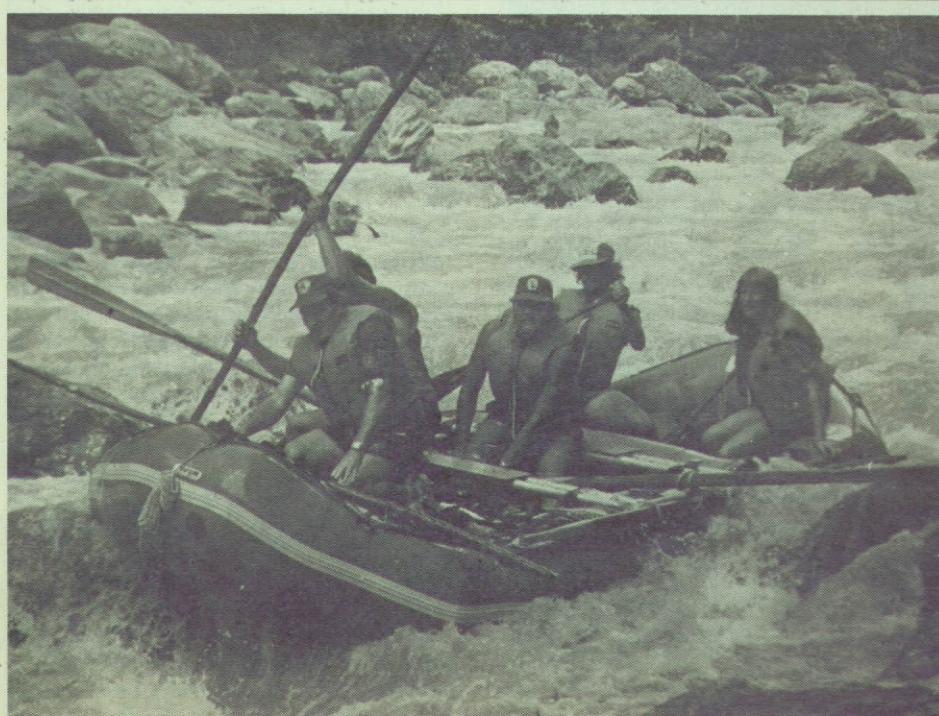
Their progress up was slow enough, often having to test every handhold as they climbed. But after they had actually been into the crater they began the descent by the northern side and found the going infinitely tougher.

Said Colonel Jordan: "We would descend for a bit then we would come to a vertical rock face and have to retrace our steps and try again by another route. It was extremely frustrating and at one stage I thought we were



ABOVE: Feeding time for giant crocodile — Papua New Guinea boasts the biggest in the world.

BETWEEN: Op Drake girls and local youngsters ham it up with wartime helmets and radios from plane wrecks.



ABOVE: Still pointing menacingly skyward — Jap gun.

going to be trapped and would have to climb all the way back up and return the way we had come. In four hours we would progress perhaps half a mile."

Eventually the group made it down and Papua New Guinea Government volcanologist, Mr Ben Talai, declared it was the hardest and most dangerous trip he had ever made. But his readings, despite the constant smell of sulphur and the steam, indicated that there was no danger of Mount Victory immediately erupting.

Another group were to carry out a similar task on Mount Lamington, which erupted with loss of life as recently as 1951. This was led by Major Frank Esson, of the Army Air Corps, who had been with Operation Drake ever since the *Eye of the Wind* had been in the Panama Canal last April.

Major Esson became involved in Operation Drake in an unusual way. As an instructor with the Junior Leaders at Bovington he was in Plymouth on exercise when he saw *Eye of the Wind*. Intrigued he went aboard and soon volunteered to help.

It was for his sailing skill that Major Esson was invaluable. A keen yachtsman he won the Fastnet Race in 1975 and has taken part in Round Britain and Transatlantic races.

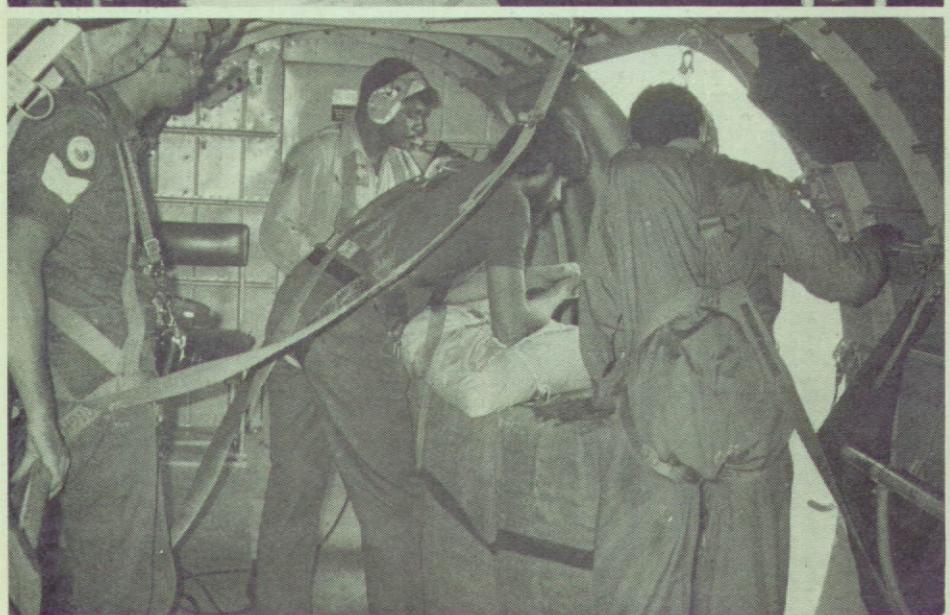
Acting as second mate on the ship he went with it across the classic Pacific route of sailing ship days. In the Galapagos islands, where Darwin confirmed his evolutionary theories, the explorers swam with sealions.

In Fiji, in one day, Major Esson flew a helicopter and a fixed wing aircraft, sailed the ship and jumped off the yards for the benefit of a film. "On this trip I have been soldier, sailor, airman and stunt man — it's been an incredible experience" he said.

Papua New Guinea was the scene of fierce fighting in World War Two between the Japanese and the defending Australian and American forces. Eventually the invaders were stopped north of Port Moresby after the Australians had succeeded in getting artillery pieces (two 25 pounders) into the jungle heights north of the capital. These guns were abandoned after the action and, despite searches, they have been lost to man's sight ever since. An Operation Drake party was to

*continued over*

LEFT: Capt Jim Masters and crew shoot the rapids.



ABOVE: Riverboat about to be dropped by parachute from Papua New Guinea Defence Force DC 3.

BETWEEN: Bargaining for fruit at Buso, Capt Anthony Evans, Major Frank Esson and Peter Driscoll.



LEFT: Fangs for the memory. Ben Gaskell with embalmed Flying Fox which has a four foot wing span. look for these during the final days of their visit but they had already had considerable success in finding relics of the war.

After a three-and-a-half day march to a height of 8200 feet one group found an American P 47 fighter in almost perfect condition — complete with pin-up painted on the side as well as Rising Sun emblems indicating the number of kills it had made.

The pilot's name was on the side of the aircraft but a check with the American authorities revealed no-one missing of that name. Eventually it transpired that a bomber pilot had taken the aircraft out one day and not returned. He had obviously made a soft landing only to perish in the jungle.

Other finds included a badly damaged DC3 aircraft containing bones and small arms, helmets and big guns — one with a round stuck in the breech and made in Newcastle as long ago as 1899. And the diving team discovered many wrecks including a Japanese ship with staff cars in the hold.

The meeting with the lost tribe came in the highlands when a survey party led by Major Roger Chapman, a former Green Howard, were looking for a site where a helicopter could land. Apart from a few metal tomahawks, which they had obtained in barter from other tribes, the tribesmen had only stone axes.

Despite their obvious awe they were soon friends with the explorers and used their stone axes to cut down trees and make a landing pad for the Chinook helicopter. In it came Colonel Blashford-Snell who later described his arrival from the air as "just like Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

But all of these adventures could not have functioned properly without the efficient backing from the tactical headquarters at Lae. And quartermaster, Warrant Officer 1 Len Chandler, had his hands full because he also handled the expedition accounts.

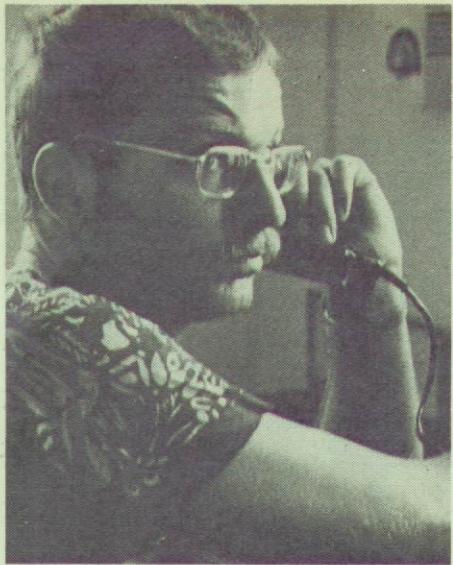
Operation Drake has to run to a tight budget. All of the scientists and civilian helpers pay £5 a day for the privilege of taking part and the servicemen also pay although they receive a partial rebate in form of cash in lieu of rations. The young explorers are all sponsored, mostly by businesses and people from their home areas, and there has been a lot of public and private sponsorship from many parts of the world.

The Papua New Guinea Government gave a sum of money for spending under clearly defined headings and many donations were received specifically to enable local youngsters to take part.

Stores for the Papua New Guinea phase were packed at the Royal Engineers bridging camp at Wyke Regis and eventually three 20 ton containers were shipped out. When Len Chandler arrived in Papua New Guinea at the end of July he received a frantic phone call saying that two of the containers had arrived on one ship.

The containers had been loaded by dock-side crane but, unfortunately, there was nothing large enough at Lae to cope with the unloading. So the stores had to be unloaded on board ship with the managing director of a local firm providing warehouse space to sort them out.

Compo rations started to run out towards the end of the phase because more people took part than had originally been catered for. But local firms and the Papua New



though considerably smaller, broke out of its pen in a native village overnight and killed a dog which got into its path.

So the Papua New Guinea phase was to end on an exciting note with another group off to investigate a tribe living on one of the nearby islands who call sharks by means of rattles in the water and then lasso them.

Colonel Blashford-Snell was well pleased with the success of the first year of Operation Drake. He told *SOLDIER*: "The young people have fully fulfilled our expectations — in fact I have received letters from those on

TOP LEFT: Sgt Pete Lavers on radio to Blandford.



earlier phases who say that it has entirely changed their lives.

"And the younger servicemen have had a lot of valuable experience by being put in straight at the deep end. Hopefully some of these youngsters will be able to lead their own unit expeditions in the future."

Early in the New Year *Eye of the Wind* sets sail again. The next port of call is Sulawesi in Indonesia where they will explore uncharted areas yet again and perhaps meet other tribes which have only been seen from overflying aircraft. The great adventure goes on.

BELOW: Four soldiers whose Sea Raider craft broke down overnight get a lift back to Lae in fishing boat.

Guinea defence force had helped considerably with transporting them.

"Only on two occasions have we had to hire a boat to take stores down to Buso — all the rest has been done by the kindness of the people here" said Mr Chandler. "In a masochistic sort of way I've enjoyed this job. It has been a challenge because whereas on the normal Army exercise everything is laid on, here nothing can be taken for granted and you know you are not going to get more supplies from UK."

But probably the most satisfying moment for Mr Chandler came when he found that two of the signals team on Operation Drake were Corporal Graham Jackson and Sergeant Mick Luckes. For he had recruited both men into the Army in his normal job at the Army Careers Information Office in Exeter.

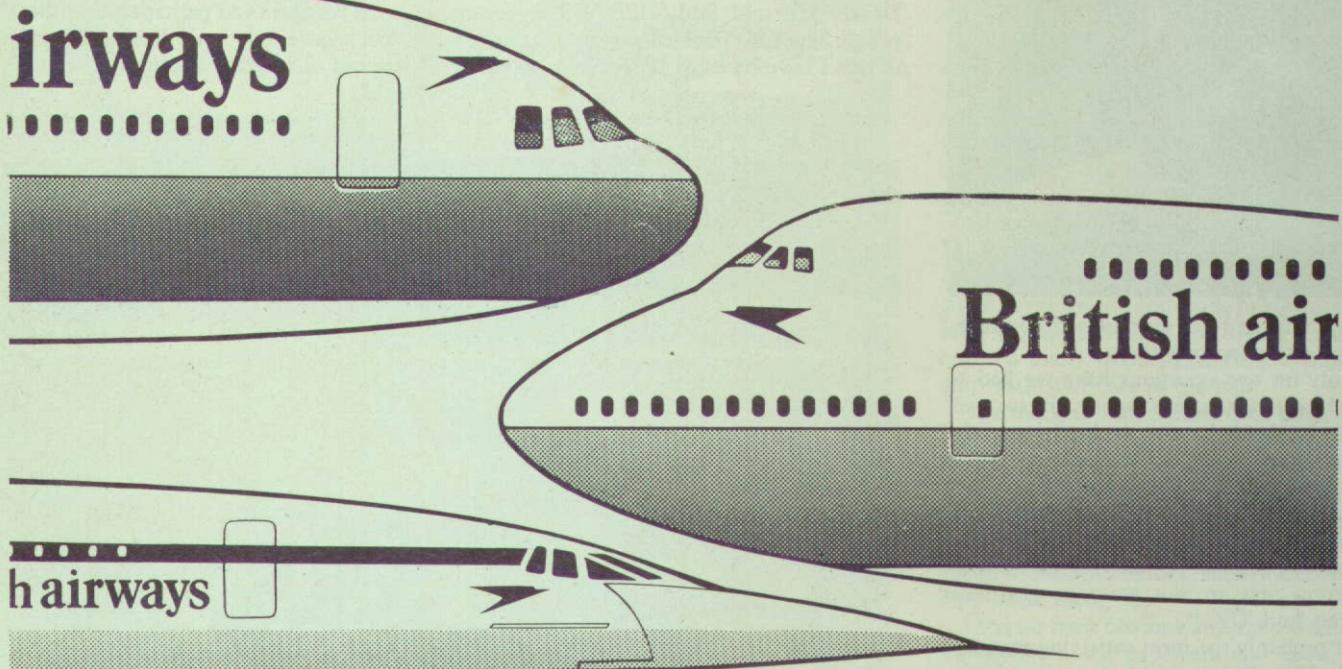
Clair Downham, a Wren officer who is normally a photographic interpreter, found herself in an Army role as Adjutant. She described her job as "frustrating at times but fun." Having to stay at Lae and listen to all the tales of returned explorers she finally got her chance to have some adventure herself as a member of the final expedition.

Led by Colonel Blashford-Snell the expedition planned to penetrate deep into little known areas of Papua New Guinea in search of giant monitor lizards reputed to be 18 feet long. The last of these lizards to be captured,

## 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 see page 58.



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# NEW HONOUR FOR APE KEEPER ALFRED

SERGEANT ALFRED HOLMES'S Army life has just been so much monkey business. And he's just had two pieces of good news. His stint as official keeper of the famous Gibraltar Apes has been extended for another five years and — for the first time — one of his charges has been named 'Alfred' after him.

Sergeant Holmes is understandably delighted, having spent 22 years of his 24 years service with the Gibraltar Regiment looking after the two packs of apes. Normally the animals are named after local and visiting dignitaries and their wives.

The animals are all on the official ration strength of the Army, and they received a clear bill of health when Lieutenant-Colonel Iain Cochrane-Dyet, Administrative Veterinary and Remount Officer from Aldershot, paid his twice yearly visit recently. There is no veterinary surgeon in Gibraltar and if any of Sergeant Holmes's family become sick

• BELOW: Sgt Holmes and Lt Col Cochrane-Dyet with Jean, their motherless charge.



"Some days I sits and thinks . . . and some days I just sits."

the Service medical authorities normally lend a hand.

Indeed the apes are so well looked after that they often exceed establishment levels and some have to be 'posted'. Recently five of the apes were sent to a safari park in Northern Italy and others have gone in the past to the United Kingdom and the United States.

Meanwhile Sergeant Holmes continues his long running battle with tourists who persist in feeding the animals sweets, chocolates and chewing gum — despite large notices asking them not to. "I stop them whenever I am here but it is impossible to prevent it altogether" he admits.

He has recently been rearing a motherless baby. Jean, who was born in July, had a mother who became an outcast from the pack. She subsequently disappeared — presumed killed — and the baby, which had

been injured in a fall, had been taken by the rest of the pack.

"The pack were attacking the young ape who was carrying the baby" said Sgt Holmes. "Jean was not eating so I got her and took her away."

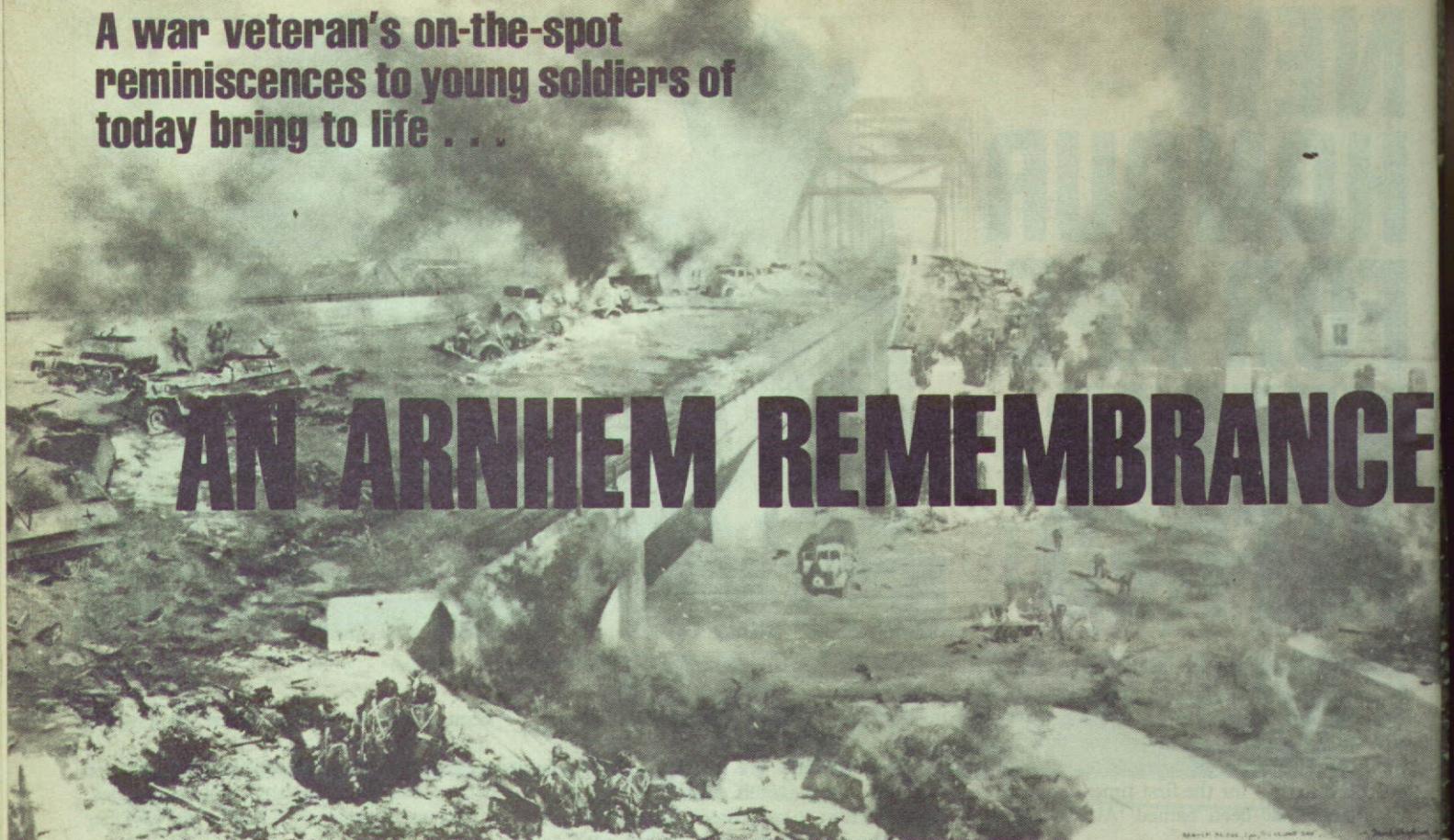
Fed by bottle and then by hand with small bowls, Jean will be gradually re-introduced into the pack. Her rehabilitation will be just one more success for the man who was originally appointed to stop the marauding apes from venturing into residential areas and creating havoc.

Tradition has it that if ever the apes leave the Rock, the British will also depart. If the old saying is true (and Sir Winston Churchill attached much importance to it for morale reasons), Sergeant Holmes will ensure that — for the next five years at least — the British will remain on the Rock they have occupied since 1704.



A war veteran's on-the-spot reminiscences to young soldiers of today bring to life . . .

# AN ARNHEM REMEMBRANCE



REMEMBRANCE DAY — 11 November — means different things to different people. Some recall lost comrades. Some honour regimental dead. Some just see it as 'poppy day' and a time to shell out another small coin for charity. But last Remembrance Day took on a special meaning for one small group of soldiers.

For a party of 35 men from the Royal Army Ordnance Corps' 3 Base Ammunition Depot in Bracht, Germany, took the opportunity to visit nearby Arnhem during the week of the annual tribute to war dead and tour the sites of the short, sharp struggle that has become legend in the annals of Allied Airborne feats of arms.

What made the visit different for the RAOC party was that their guide for the tour was a veteran of Arnhem himself — Mr Henry McAnelly. Just a fortnight before dropping at Arnhem as a sergeant in 1st Parachute Battalion on 17 September 1944, he had celebrated his 21st birthday. He had joined up in 1939, he told his 1979 counterparts, leaving them to work out that at that time he would have been only 16.

He has lived in Holland for the last 25 years, first as a radio operator and latterly in the last five years as an official guide to the Arnhem and district battlefields he once trod as a soldier and where his own part in the war ended with serious wounding and being taken prisoner.

The visitors from Bracht noticed that a quarter of a century in Holland had not erased his Geordie accent nor had time been able to heal all the wounds that scarred him back in 1944, although he patches over the



ABOVE: David Shepherd's fine painting *Arnhem Bridge, 5pm, the Second Day*.  
LEFT: Henry McAnelly and party by the same 'Bridge too Far' as it looks today.



past with a brittle humour as dry as the crisp autumn leaves falling while the party made its pilgrimage.

For pilgrimage it was in an attempt to bring Remembrance Day to life for young men, many of whom have no battle experience and who might easily see Poppy Day as a mere catalogue of death. Through the eyes and ears of Henry McAnelly they could see and hear the long-lost battle and feel around them the comrades in arms — many no older than themselves (the average age of a soldier at Arnhem was 22) — cut down in the grim harvest of Operation Market Garden.

The tour started at the original dropping zone (DZ); flat fields still surrounded by a wooded skyline. "This, gentlemen," announced Henry McAnelly, one of his ever-present small cigars poised for emphasis, "is where the biggest cock-up in military history began!" With graphic detail, sprinkled liberally with personal anecdotes, the early stages of the battle unfolded in words against the actual background where it had taken place 35 years ago.

Where Horsa and Hamilcar gliders slid to rest all that time ago, Friesian cows grazed peacefully. The overhead roar of 4500 aircraft was replaced by the occasional croak of a crow flapping lazily by in the chill autumn sky.

Field-Marshal Montgomery's daring and brilliant plan to end the war in a few weeks with a mass airborne drop on the Rhine closely followed by supporting armour of Corps strength was summed up by Henry McAnelly — ironically addressing men of the modern RAOC — "It was all a question of

*continued on page 28*



ABOVE: Colonel Bill Musson GC lays a wreath at Oosterbeek cemetery.

RIGHT: Remains of slit trenches bear silent testimony to past heroism.



LEFT: The Tafelberg Hotel, once a makeshift hospital for Allied soldiers.

RIGHT: Flashback to the archives — Major General Urquhart at Hartenstein in 1944.  
(Imperial War Museum photo)

which would not fit the gun breeches. They were meant for tanks. Air and ground forces could not co-ordinate their radio frequencies and communications with aircraft on vital re-supply drops broke down. Worst of all, there was no sign of XXX Corps — the force expected to relieve the airborne forces in the field.

But, ironically, XXX Corps played a part in keeping Sergeant McAnelly's morale up: "All the time as things got worse, we kept on thinking, 'never mind, XXX Corps will soon be here.' They never came.

The British forces were told to conserve ammo and not fire unless the enemy made a combined attack. They were thus faced with the galling sight of Germans, tantalisingly within rifle range, gleefully gorging them-



supply — supply we never got."

A couple of miles away, too, he revealed, was the biggest bunker built in Nazi occupied Europe during World War Two. In this was radar equipment that tracked the Allied air armada all the way from their English South Coast airfields!

This, together with the fact that two crack divisions of SS armour were in the area unbeknown to the invaders, led to the heroic stand against overwhelming odds that was to etch Arnhem's name into the battle honours of airborne forces.

Somewhere in England, 17 September 1944 started at 0500 for Sergeant Henry McAnelly. He was on Dutch soil, via parachute, at 1300 with the first wave of airborne troops and with his battalion facing a forced march into Arnhem in a broad sweep through the higher ground to the north of the town.

They had been told that the crow-flight distance of 10,000 yards would take them some four and a half hours to complete: "Back in England they had apparently not calculated what the enemy would do while we were on the march," said Henry McAnelly, his widened eyes twinkling with dry humour as they scanned his audience, "In peacetime you could make it in four and a half hours . . . but not with a bloody enemy in the way!" A quick puff on his cigar while the brittle punch-line crackled in the icy November air.

His brow puckered in seriousness once more as he returned to his narrative: "We moved off at 2300. We were very tired and it was raining heavily. Then we met the enemy armour. We were on the march — not dug in — so we were knocked into a defensive position."

Everything that could go wrong appeared to do so. The radio failed and young Sergeant McAnelly learned that a jeep had apparently run over the brigade aerial. Airdropped shells for the air-portable howitzers chambering a 75mm round were the wrong ones — 75mm all right but with different casings



ABOVE: Monument to courage at Oosterbeek.

selves on British rations dropped short by the re-supply aircraft. Their stomachs ached with increasing hunger and lungs gasped for the cigarettes freely dispensed among the enemy within the sights of their silent, bullet-starved guns.

Retracing 1st Parachute Battalion's footsteps to the north in the 3 BAD green Army bus ('claimed' as a museum piece itself by military historian McAnelly!), the party halted at a crossroad hotel which had been headquarters of 16 SS Battalion during the battle before being briefly captured by the British.

Here Henry McAnelly stood where he had joined an Orders Group given by his commanding officer and pointed to now-mature trees lining the roadside which still bore the scars of withering machine-gun fire.

In nearby woods he showed the visitors slit trenches, only discovered a year ago by him-

self and another veteran of the campaign, dug by a 200-strong company of his battalion who grimly stayed back to slow the advance of 5000 Germans.

The trenches — unlike their human occupants — survived well. The battalion dwindled to a strength of 44 soon afterwards in the nine-day campaign. And it was with this in mind that the visitors went to the Oosterbeek cemetery of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission where the serried ranks of pale-faced stone slabs confirmed the average age of Arnhem's soldiers as 22. Here lay a Victoria Cross holder, there a teenage paratrooper . . . it all added poignancy to a wreath-laying ceremony carried out by 3 BAD's commandant, Colonel Bill Musson. And like that first day of battle Henry McAnelly had told them of — it rained hard and cold.

The party moved on into the built-up area of Oosterbeek to the then-Tafelberg Hotel, a German headquarters converted on its evacuation to an allied hospital at the end of a street known in the battle as The Cauldron because of the fierce fighting there. Now it is a quiet residential area and the hotel is a Roman Catholic retreat.

Here Sergeant McAnelly was brought when wounded and was luckier than others when the Germans shelled the place — wounded and all, "They said they'd bring a tank up and shell it. But they didn't." (pause for puff on cigar) "No. They brought up three. Smaller ones in exchange for one big one I suppose . . ."

His war was nearly over. After being evacuated by horse and cart to avoid slaughter at the German's hands, he was finally passed through the lines as a prisoner and was sent to Munich.

But the battle was not over for his comrades. He took his enthralled party of visitors on to the Oosterbeek-Laag church overlooking the water meadows some 600 yards from the banks of the Rhine and safety, where a

heroic small force held out for some time as Lonsdale Force — named after the Major who gathered together the impromptu command from stragglers.

Here in the meadow behind the church the gunners bombarded the Germans on the other side of the Arnhem Bridge — the Bridge too Far of General Browning's quote, later immortalised on Hollywood celluloid. When their range was finally found, it was here that all their ammunition went up at once as a result of a direct mortar hit, said Henry McAnelly. There were the patches in the church walls . . . there the pock marks of 20mm cannon shells poured into Lonsdale Force from German half-tracks' anti-aircraft guns used against troops with devastating effect.

And this, he added, was the oldest church in continental Europe, "Roman Catholic, of course, until they were all nationalised!"

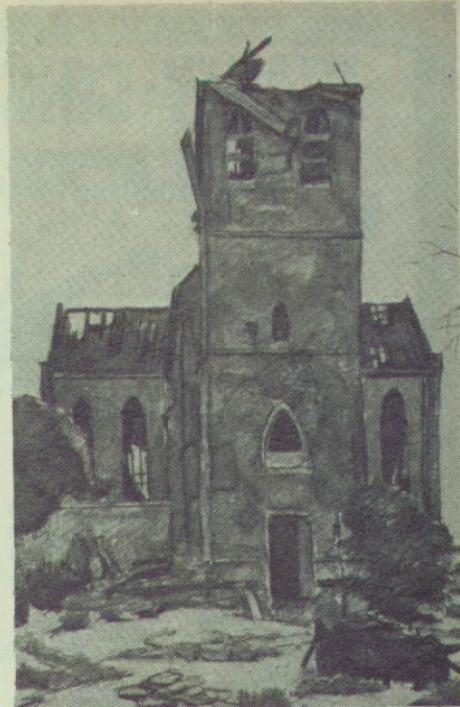
The Bridge itself was the next battle site to be seen. "This was just a skirmish, really," asserted Henry McAnelly whose own battle scars bore witness to the action back at Oosterbeek. So it was not surprising he should feel less involvement with Lieutenant-Colonel John Frost's gallant battle at the bridge. The structure itself is now named after him and its centre span — intact after the Operation Market Garden battle but bombed later by the Allies — has been rebuilt to the original design, using the original plans.

It was almost superfluous to round off the day at the official Arnhem museum, housed in the building that was once the Hartenstein Hotel where Major-General Robert Urquhart, commanding the 1st Airborne Division, made a last stronghold headquarters of the place.

The party traced the chronologically-placed exhibits and a party of local visitors 'shushed' each other to hear a commentary on tape. Henry McAnelly stood back, anonymous in the crowd, his own vivid commentary in his head.

"We were never defeated. The Germans even don't look on Arnhem as a victory as such. The thing is, it showed the fortitude of the British soldier." A puff on the cigar raised to his battle-scarred face . . . "The fortitude of the soldier," he repeated.

His eyes melted into the middle distance for a few seconds as the ghosts of his lost battalion whispered to him through the rustling autumn leaves of the trees that also bore the bullet wounds of 35 years ago. And stood as still-living reminders to the young soldiers of 3 BAD . . . Lest they forget.



ABOVE: Artist's impression of the bombarded Oosterbeek-Laag church.

BELOW: Side view of the same church today. The walls still bear the scars of battle.

**Story: Mike Starke  
Pictures: Paul Haley**

WELL NOW, THE FORM  
IS, I HAVE WITHDRAWN  
YOU FROM THE OPEN  
GROUND BY THE RIVER. I  
WANT YOU TO REST HERE  
FOR 2 HRS IN WHICH TIME  
GET A MEAL FROM WHAT  
YOU HAVE LEFT, GET YOUR  
SELF CLEAN & BE PREPARE  
TO MOVE UP TO A NEW  
POSITION AROUND THE HOUSE  
ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE  
PERIMETER. ON THIS POSITION  
WE MUST STAND OR FALL &  
FIGHT TO THE LAST ROUND.  
THIS EDGE OF THE PERIMETER  
IS BEING HELD BY A MINED  
BAG CONSISTING OF  
LONG LINES FOR  
HOLDING THE CANNON  
IN POSITION  
SO FAR WE HAVE HAD A GOOD  
BATTLE AGAINST THE TROOPS  
THAT ARE NOT UP TO OUR STANDARD.  
WE HAVE FOUGHT THEM IN NA  
SICILY & ITALY, & AT TIMES  
AGAINST ~~THEY~~ THEY THEY WERE  
NOT SO GOOD TO US, FOR US THEY  
WERE A MATCH, BUT THEY ARE NOT  
OUR MATCH NOW. SO GET  
YOURSELF DUG IN AND SHOO  
TO KILL. GOOD LUCK.

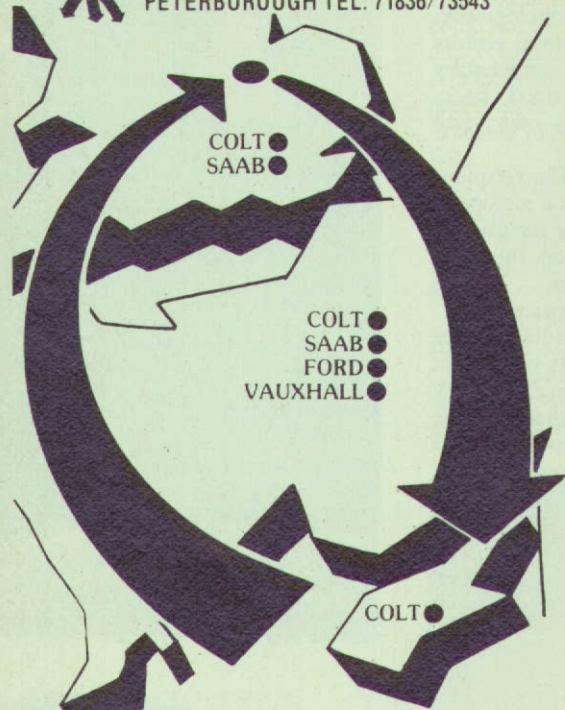


ABOVE: Major Lansdale's rallying call to his beleaguered force of stragglers chalked on wood wreckage.

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(CAPITAL LETTERS PLEASE)

**Four more years in Brunei and extra recruits**



# **GURKHAS TURN THE TIDE**

IN THE 1975 Defence White Paper the British Government announced that, subject to talks with the Sultan of Brunei who pays for the cost of British troops in his oil rich state along the north of Borneo, the Gurkha battalion which had been stationed there since 1962 was to be withdrawn.

Thus began a series of protracted negotiations between the Sultan and Britain until finally an agreement was announced. Brunei, which at present has its external relations administered by Britain, will become completely independent at the end of 1983. And the future of the Gurkha battalion will be decided at a later date — but with a guarantee that they will stay until independence.

For the last 18 months the Gurkha battalion stationed at Seria, close to the oil installations, has been the 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles. Their role is to deter any outside threat to the sultanate and the precious black gold, some of which is inland but mostly offshore.

The Sultan of Brunei pays for the Seria garrison in toto — rations, pay, equipment, accommodation, hospital and medical facilities and all the necessary back-up services. These include three Scout helicopters flown by members of the Army Air Corps.

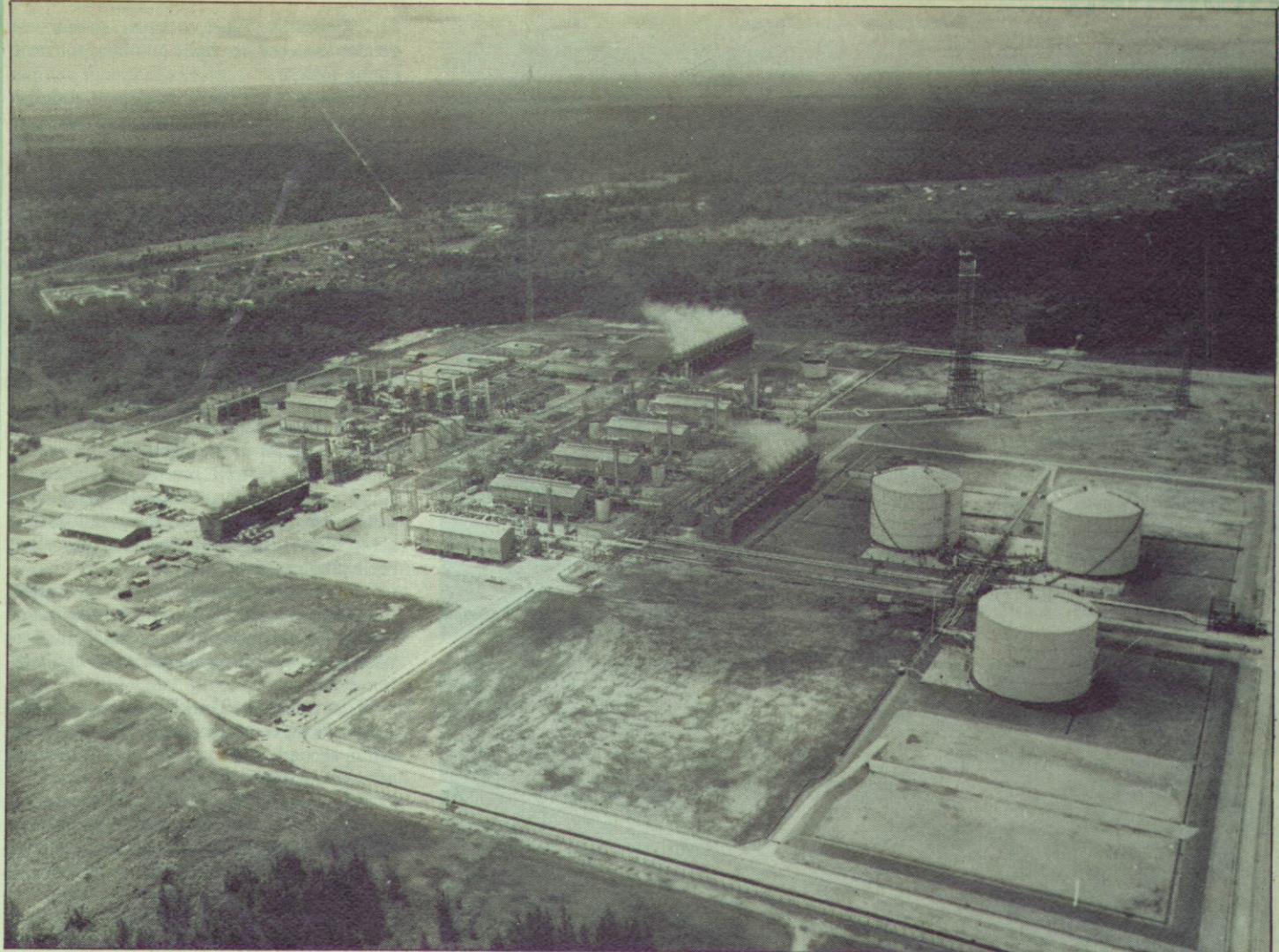
The garrison also includes Training Team Brunei, whose speciality is jungle warfare training. Since the Jungle Warfare School in Malaya closed down in the early 1970's it has been the only official training school of that type left in the British Army. The small team trains instructors from regiments all over the world, even from Rhine Army, so that should a brushfire situation occur there will be men with jungle expertise in every regiment.

The coastal plains of Brunei are flat and often swampy with the extremely heavy rainfall at certain times of the year. But in the hinterland the ground is higher and appears on maps as 'generally jungle covered'.

The Gurkhas have acquired a wide reputation for jungle fighting over many years — during the last war, then in Malaya and in Borneo during Confrontation.

During their stints in Brunei they have plenty of opportunity to maintain and expand on that knowledge. There is a big annual exercise with the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment, there are company and battalion exercises and they have their own special jungle village — Kampong Khajura — named after the particularly nasty species of scorpion with whom they share it.

Says Captain Willie Bicket, a Royal Hampshire officer on secondment who is in charge of training: "We have a number of training areas but the whole of Brunei is one marvellous training area. If I want us to train anywhere in Brunei all I have to do is go along to a district meeting and ask the local autho-



ABOVE: Oil and gas installations at Seria.  
RIGHT: Jungle warfare training.  
LEFT: Young Gurkha on gate duty.

riety if we can do it: If there is to be live firing they announce it on the radio to the local inhabitants."

SOLDIER went out with a Royal Brunei Malay Regiment helicopter which was to carry out a practice casualty evacuation from a virgin jungle site which had been used for a jungle warfare course the previous week.

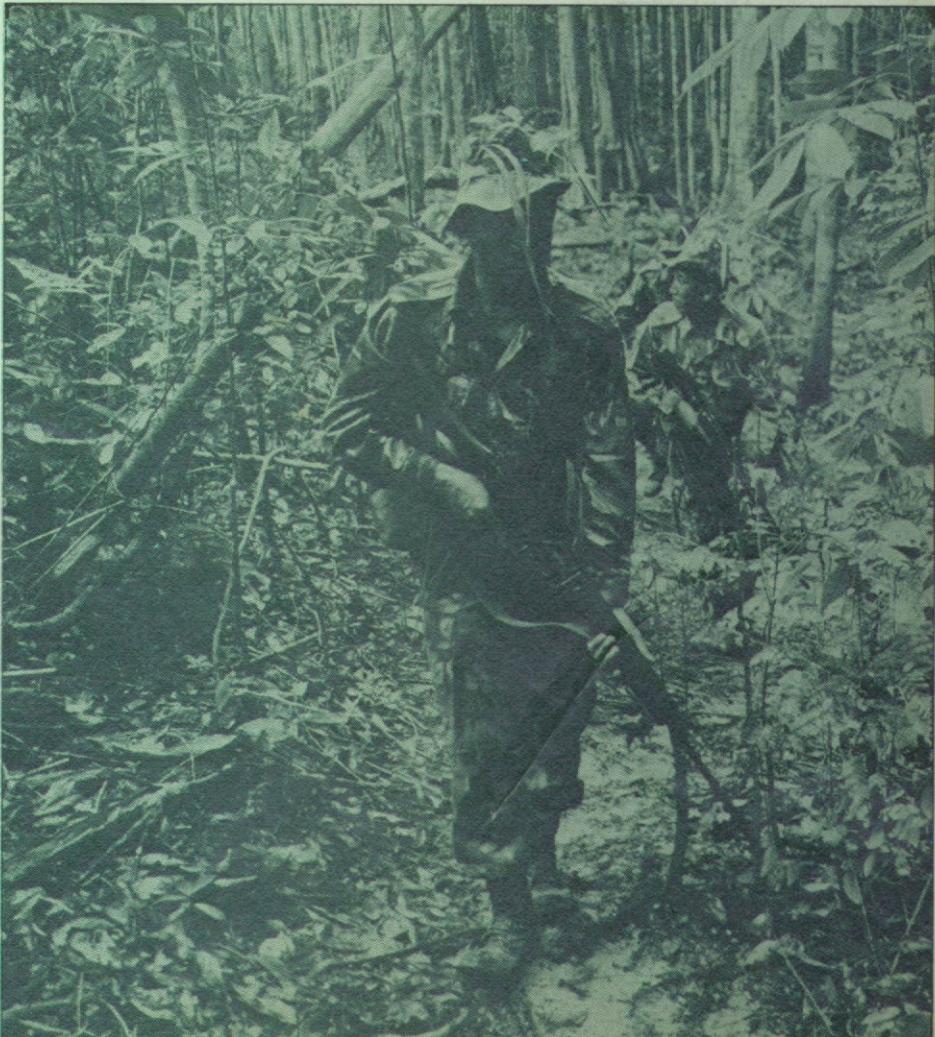
Flying over the jungle in Brunei is like passing over a giant, unending carpet of broccoli. But each of those green clusters below is a treetop and the ground is a further 150 feet beneath that.

The Gurkhas provide the demonstration platoon for all of the training team's courses. And they had spent three days and used 200 lbs of explosives in constructing a brand new landing pad for the helicopter.

The two 'casualties' had to be winched up and first in was 2nd Lieutenant Nigel Rowe, the demonstration platoon commander. Later, after he had removed a nine day growth of beard and relaxed in the Seria British Officers' Mess, he told us about life in the Brunei jungle.

"We were probably the first major group of people to ever go into that particular piece of jungle. The nearest longhouse was six miles away and the nearest big habitation a lot further than that."

There is no thick undergrowth but the terrain is often steep — sometimes with almost vertical drops down to river beds when ropes have to be used. And there are frequent rainstorms — sometimes leading to





flash floods in which a small stream can quickly become an eight or nine foot deep raging torrent.

Monkeys, pheasants, wild pigs and fish can provide food for the jungle soldiers and there are scores of varieties of vividly coloured butterflies.

But there are also 'nasties' — biting centipedes and scorpions, plagues of mosquitoes, leeches and the occasional snake. There are five different kinds of poisonous serpent — two cobras, two kraits and the pit viper.

Recalled Nigel Rowe: "I was very unlucky. I have only seen two snakes in the 14 months in which I have been going out in the jungle. But I had only been in Brunei for five days and was on my first jungle patrol when a pit viper hanging from a tree bit me on the shoulder as I walked past."

Crocodiles are rare but during river crossings someone always stands guard. But despite the privations and the potential dangers, Nigel Rowe and the Gurkhas enjoy their jungle patrols.

"Ten days in the jungle is very nice — after that you get a bit fed up with the muck and the leeches and mosquitoes — but if you were back at camp all the time you could easily get bored."

What makes the Gurkha such an excellent jungle fighter? Major Andy Watt, the battalion second-in-command, puts it down to environmental background.

"They are used to living off the land in Nepal and fending for themselves and they are used to walking long distances in heat, so the adversities of the jungle do not pose the same problems to them."

"They are usually short and stocky and have strong legs because they walk such distances in Nepal and they have a natural tracking instinct and good eyesight."

As proof of the Gurkhas' remarkable jungle survival skill, Major Watt cited the case of the Gurkha in Malaya who was picked up by a patrol in 1948 as a suspected terrorist. It transpired that he had stayed behind after

TOP: Sgt Lalhang Tamang gives a lesson in map and compass reading.

LEFT: Instruction in tactics at the jungle training village, Kampong Khajura.

BELOW LEFT: Erecting a 'basha' (temporary shelter) in the jungle training area.

BELOW: Close up of the kukri, the famous curved dagger worn proudly by every Gurkha.



his unit was caught by the Japanese in World War Two and had lived in the jungle on his own for five or six years.

But it's not all jungle patrols for the Gurkhas. There are ceremonial parades such as the Queen's Birthday and Sultan's Birthday Parades. They operate a safari camp in the jungle for Service and oilmen's children. They take their turn with the provision of a Honour Guard for the United Nations forces in Korea. And they provide the demonstration platoon for the senior non-commissioned officers' wing at far-off Brecon.

Each summer they stage a special Gurkha Fair, which incorporates sideshows and stalls (including hoopla using live ducks!) and Nepalese dancing. The local people flock to this event, the proceeds of which are divided between the regiment, local charities and the Gurkha Welfare Trust.

The Sultan of Brunei is very attached to the Gurkhas. Indeed he has more than 500 former British Gurkhas making up his own Palace guard. The Gurkhas at Seria also enjoy good relations with the local people.

Family men, and there are 252 Gurkha families in Brunei, like the two-and-a-half year posting which gives them a relief from the constant border patrolling in Hong Kong. But for bachelors there is not so much to do.

Says Captain Kamansing Rai "We mix well with the Malays — in fact we eat the same kind of things that they do — the only difference is that they do not eat pork because of their Muslim Religion."

Captain Kamansing Rai is the man who will be in charge of a completely new venture for the Gurkhas in Brunei. In January 200 new recruits, straight from the hills of Nepal, will pour into Seria for their basic training. This is because an increase of several hundred Gurkhas has been authorised and

RIGHT: "a natural tracking instinct and good eyesight." BELOW: Splashing to cover through one of Brunei's frequent rainstorms.





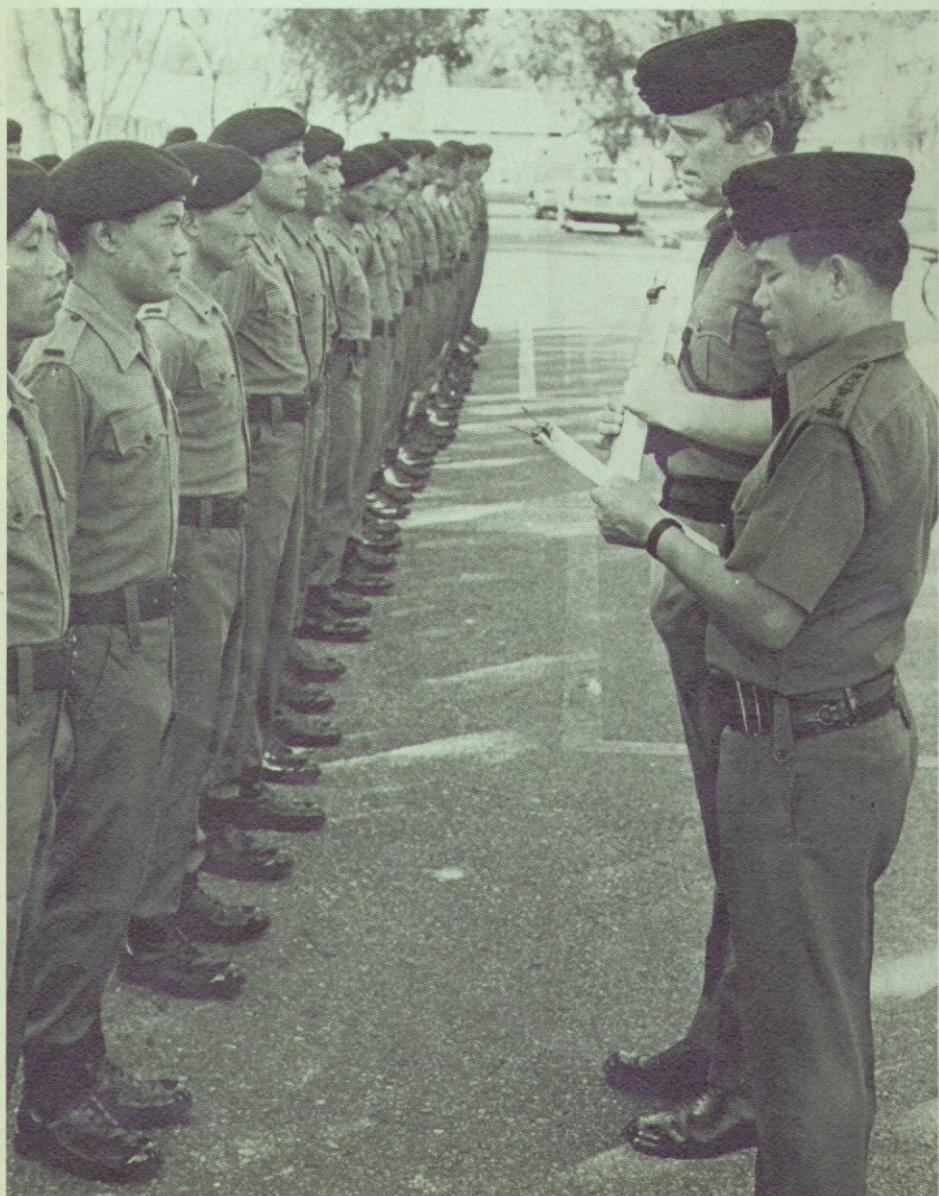
ABOVE: 'My daddy's a Gurkha.'  
the training depot in Hong Kong cannot cope with such large numbers at the same time.

"It will be an interesting job and I am hoping that we can do the same thing next year" he told SOLDIER. "This way we shall be able to introduce them to the jungle at a much earlier stage."

The tide has certainly turned for the British Army's Nepalese soldiers. Not so long ago they were facing cuts and amalgamations. Now the numbers are being restored and the five battalions will continue to serve the Queen in Hong Kong, the United Kingdom and — at least for the next four years — Brunei.

**Story: John Walton**  
**Pictures: Doug Pratt**

ABOVE LEFT: Gurkha married quarters at Seria.  
LEFT: Major Andy Watt takes the morning parade at Tuker Lines camp.  
BELOW: 'Memorial' to victims of scorpion bites reminds others to be watchful.



THE ONLY Victoria Crossholder still serving in the British Army is Lieutenant Rambahadur Limbu, who is currently passing on his 22 years' experience of soldiering to men of 'C' Company in Seria.

In Brunei he is not all that far from where he won his award for actions which were officially described as among the most notable on record. In 1965 when he was a lance-corporal he was in neighbouring Sarawak during the confrontation with Indonesia.

His company attacked a strong enemy force in the border area. The enemy were strongly entrenched in platoon strength on top of a sheer hill, the only approach to which was along a knife edge ridge allowing only three men to move abreast.

In the van of the attack he could see the nearest enemy trench manned by a sentry with a machine gun. The sentry opened fire and wounded a man to his right but he rushed the trench and killed the sentry. The enemy then brought down heavy fire on the attacking force concentrating on the trench which Rambahadur held alone.

Realising he could not support his platoon from the trench, Rambahadur then left its comparative safety and, with a complete disregard for the hail of fire being directed at him, got together and led his fire group to a better position. Then, finding that he could not communicate with his platoon commander by shouting or hand signals, he again moved out into the open ground and reported personally.

According to the VC citation: "It was at the moment of reporting that he saw both men of his own group seriously wounded. Knowing that their only hope of survival was immediate first aid and that evacuation from their very exposed position so close to the enemy was vital he immediately commenced the first of his three supremely gallant attempts to rescue his comrades."

Rambahadur crawled forward for three minutes under fire from two enemy machine gun posts but when almost able to touch the nearest casualty he was driven back by the accurate and intense weight of fire. After a pause he again started to crawl forward but soon realised that only speed would give him cover. Rushing forward he hurled himself on the ground beside one of the wounded, picked up the man and carried him to safety.

He then returned to the top of the hill where the increased weight of fire indicated that the enemy were doing all they could to prevent further rescue attempts. But in a series of short forward rushes — once he was pinned down for some minutes by intense and accurate automatic fire which could be seen striking the ground all around him — he eventually reached the wounded man.

Picking him up and unable now to seek cover he carried him back as fast as he could through the hail of enemy bullets.

The action had taken 20 minutes and for all but a few seconds he had been moving alone in full view of the enemy and under continuous fire. The citation described the fact that he was not hit as "miraculous" and went on: "His outstanding personal bravery, selfless conduct, complete contempt of the enemy and determination to save the lives of the men of his fire group set an incomparable example and inspired all who saw him."

Subsequently Rambahadur recovered the light machine gun abandoned by his wounded comrades and was responsible for the killing of four more enemy as they attempted to escape across the border. At least 24 enemy were known to have died at a cost to the attacking force of three killed and two wounded.

The citation concluded: "He displayed heroism, self sacrifice and a devotion to duty and to his men of the very highest order. His actions on this day reached a zenith of determined, premeditated valour which must

count amongst the most notable on record and is deserving of the greatest admiration and the highest praise."

Rambahadur Limbu received his VC from the Queen in 1966. Since then he has soldiered on with the Gurkhas — becoming an officer in 1977. Quiet and unassuming he told SOLDIER: "I shall do some more years. I enjoy the Army life and being in Brunei."

Not surprisingly his four sons are eager to emulate his military career and already his eldest boy, who is 18, is serving with another company at Seria.

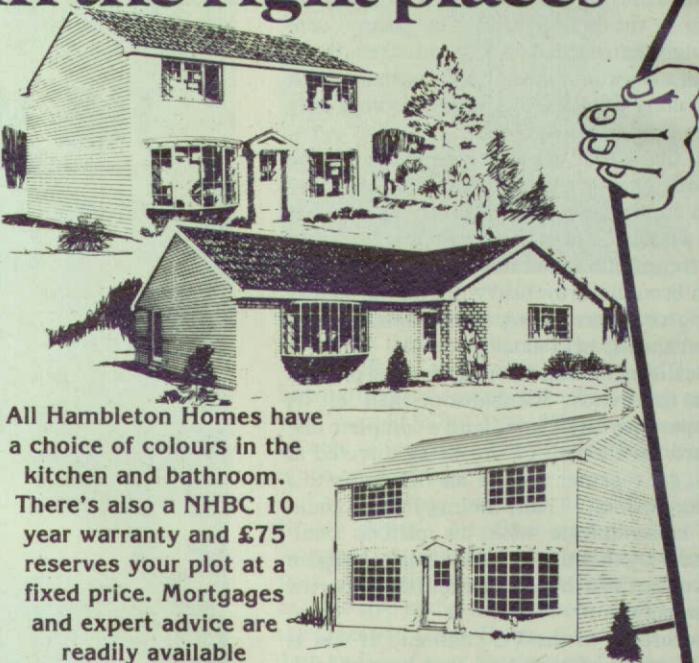
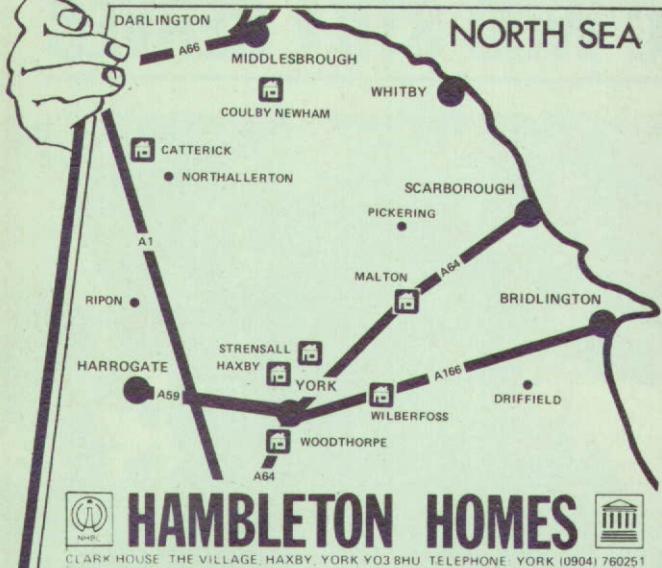
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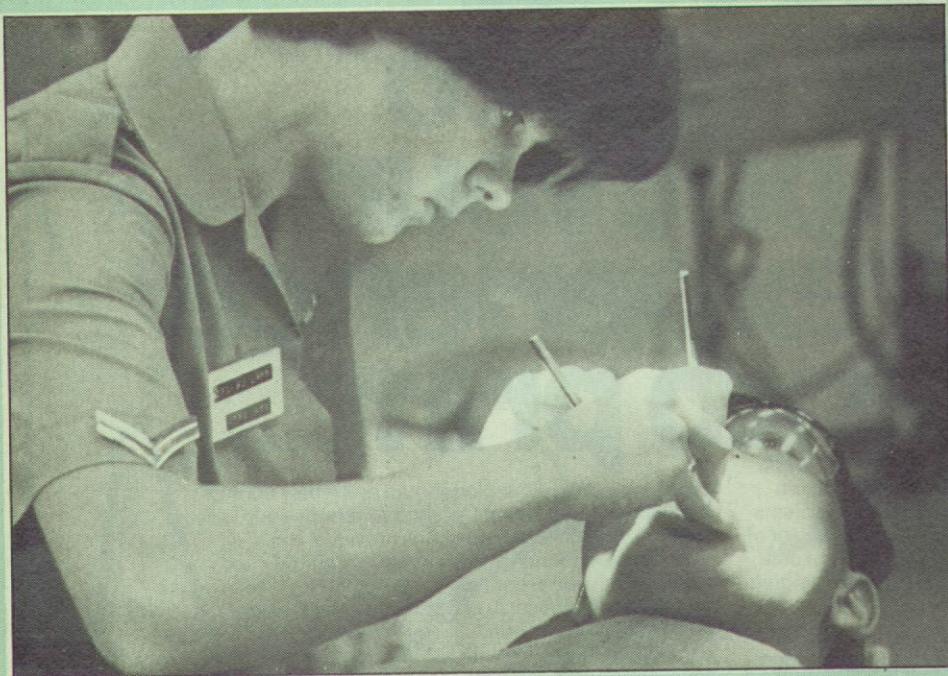
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# TRAINING A TEETH ARM WITH BITE

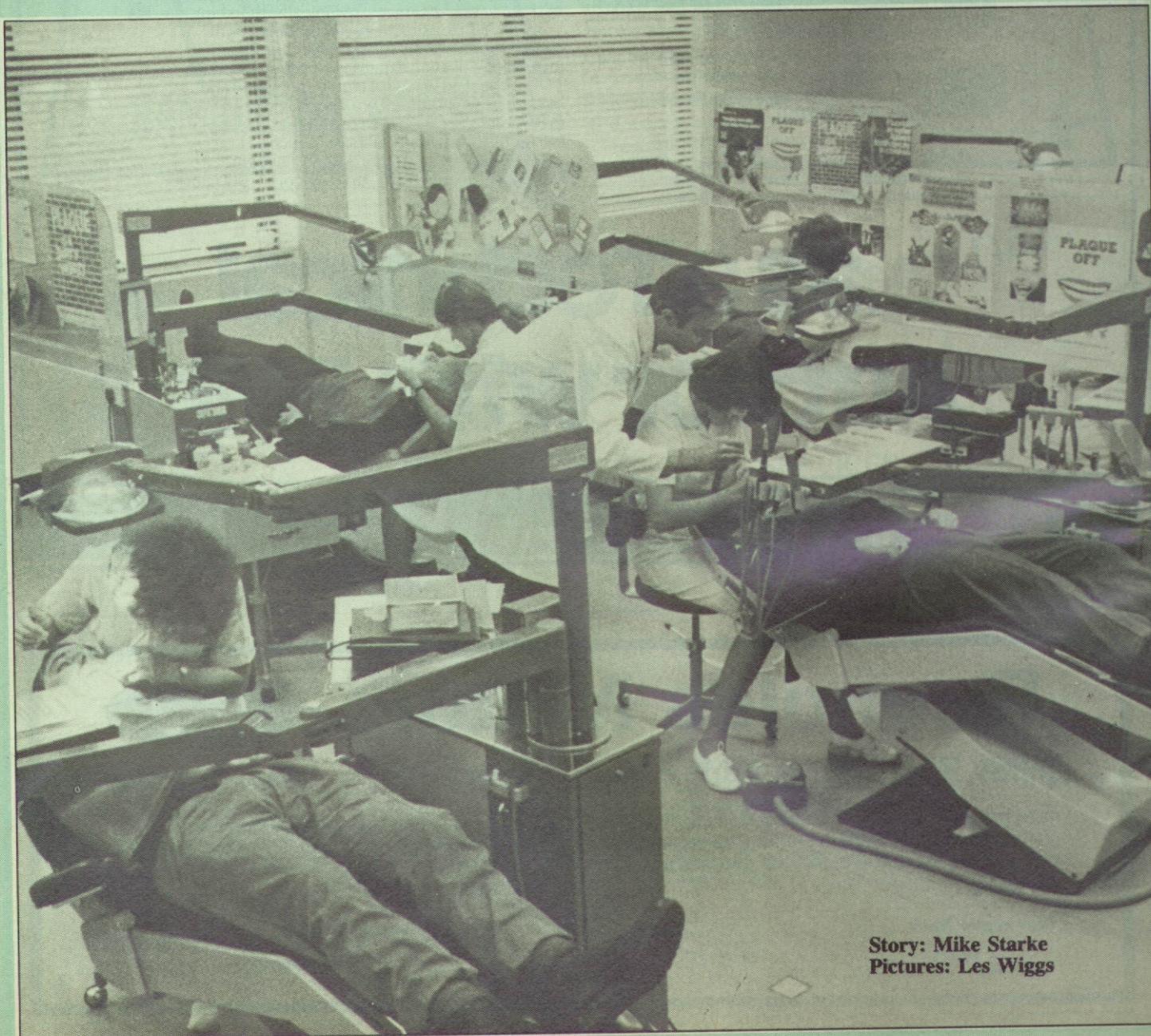


THE ONLY UNIT in the British Army that can literally call itself a 'teeth arm' is the infantry battalion-sized Royal Army Dental Corps. And to give this teeth arm 'bite' its personnel all pass through the custom built Headquarters and Training Centre in Aldershot to gain the expertise needed for their highly specialised job.

The centre was the brain-child of a one-time Director of the corps, Major-General Forbes Finlayson, who saw the post-World War Two dentists in the Army struggling to train hundreds of men at a time in inadequate conditions in Aldershot's Duke of Connaught Barracks.

General Finlayson was particularly aware of the strictures of having to work under adverse conditions. As a Captain in the war when he was a prisoner of the Japanese he made himself a denture from vulcanised rubber after his front teeth had been knocked out by one of his captor's rifle butts.

LEFT: Q/Cpl Alison Lamb treats a Gurkha patient.  
BELOW: Student hygienists under training at the centre.



Story: Mike Starke  
Pictures: Les Wiggs

The general's dream of a tailor-made centre for the new generation of Army dentists to train in, finally came to fruition in the early 70s in the compact building which rose from the rubble of the old Duke of Connaught Barracks.

Since then the centre has more than proved its value by not only providing a service to the soldiers in the garrison — a patient panel of some 9,000 (dependants are treated by the National Health Service in the United Kingdom but by the corps overseas) — but also training its personnel.

And this gives the students the valuable opportunity of being taught in the environment of actual dental treatment rather than having to learn from theoretical cases.

Said the centre's Administrative Commandant, Lieutenant-Colonel Desmond Hopton: "We are able to train soldiers very cost-effectively as we have integrated the training operation with the treatment operation. It is also a very realistic form of training since the soldier — at various stages of his training — is watching the job he is learning about actually being done."

The corps is made up of some 200 dental surgeons, each backed by a notional 'two-and-a-quarter' men and women who are trained by the RADC centre. By far the

largest group in the corps is made up of dental clerk assistants, a group of some 300. In civilian life they are known as dental nurses and the RAF and Royal Navy term their equivalents dental surgery assistants. But the Army demands a greater degree of clerical involvement from its men — hence the different title.

Also backing up the surgeons are 100 dental technicians, responsible for making the appliances used in remedial dentistry, and 50 dental hygienists who clean up the patients' mouths and spearhead the current campaign the corps is waging in the war of preventive dentistry.

"We are wedded to the concept of preventive dentistry in the corps," Lieutenant Colonel Hopton stressed. He added that — apart from its intrinsic value to patients — it enabled dental surgeons to spend more time on precise and excellent work rather than hurried patch jobs on a constant stream of patients with aching teeth which have been neglected.

Dental surgeons are not trained at the centre. They are selected from university graduates who do a five year course in dentistry.

After they have passed their 1st MB — the intermediate medical qualification — they

can sign on as 2nd Lieutenants with the corps. On graduation, they are commissioned as captains, a rank they hold for five years. After this they are promoted to major for another eight years and — if recommended — can then go on to be lieutenant-colonels. And the dental surgeon can achieve all this by the age of 35 or 36 — young by the standards of many other arms and corps in the Army.

But for all his expertise, the dental surgeon relies implicitly on the skill of the ancillary staff assisting him. And it is they who are trained at the Aldershot centre.

"The corps relies mostly on soldiers transferring from other units," explained Lieutenant-Colonel Hopton. "These people have an experience of regimental life which — we believe — makes them better qualified to embark on our training course than a soldier straight from civvy life."

To be a dental technician or dental hygienist it is preferable for applicants to have at least three GCE 'O' Level passes. At the end of the courses, they receive civilian qualifications from the appropriate educational or professional body concerned.

All the new recruits do the concentrated 14-week course to qualify in the basic Class

*continued on page 44*

Army regulations insisted up to 1865 that recruits had good front teeth — for biting open cartridges and grenades. Early this century the Army began issuing dentures to "sergeants of good character."

The South African War saw 7000 men being lost to the fighting forces by having to be sent home, 2000 with bad teeth and 5000 found unfit for fighting because they lacked teeth (history does not record whether these troops were expected to bite the Boers to death!).

But it took General Sir Douglas Haig to finally convince the War Office of the need for Army dentists in 1914 when he himself had a severe toothache and had to summon a civilian dentist from Paris.

Within a month a dozen dental surgeons were commissioned and attached to the Army Medical Corps in France. By the end of the war there were 850 Army dentists and in 1921 the Army Dental Corps was formed.

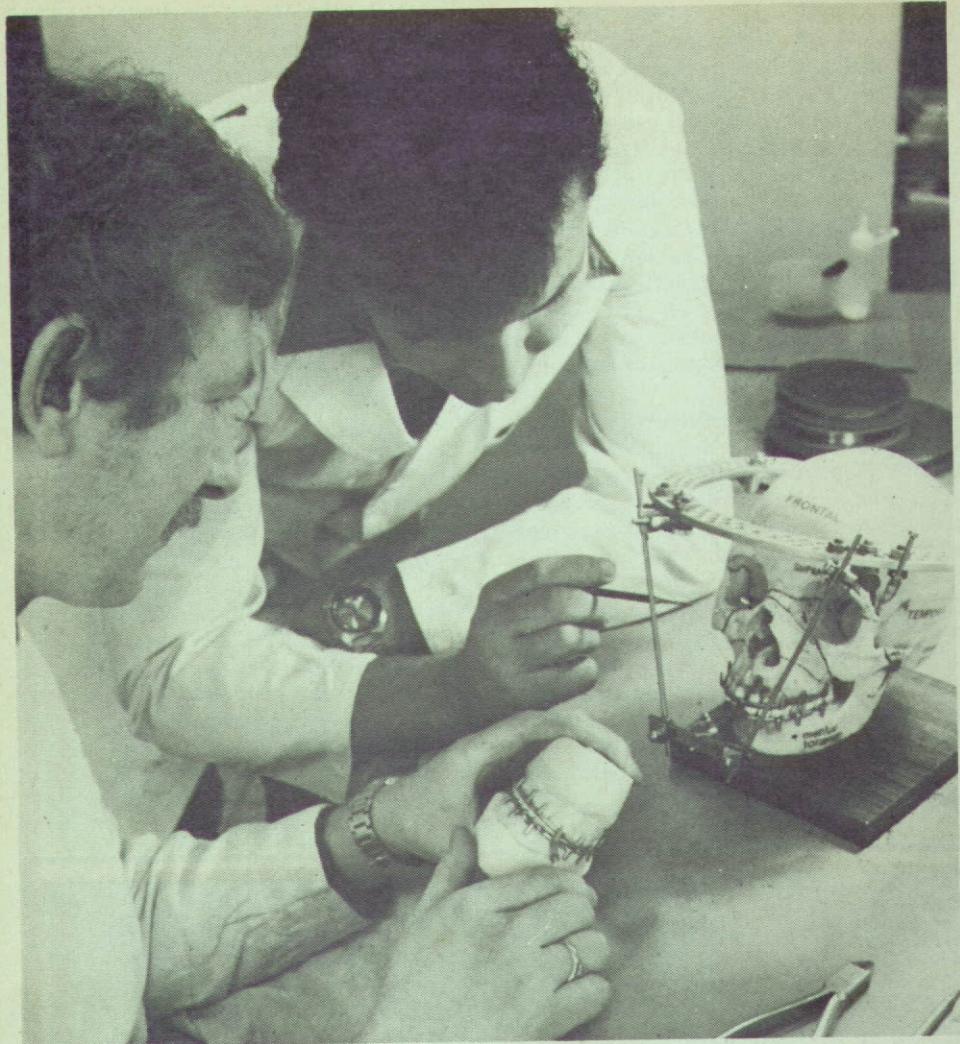
It was a different story in World War Two when the corps' early-1939 strength of 237 officers and 325 men (similar to the figure today) was increased tenfold.

Dental teams worked in tents and trucks, depots, field ambulances and casualty clearing stations. Some parachuted at Arnhem. One — the only dentist among 10,000 prisoners of war of the Japanese in Siam — made an adjustable chair from bamboo and rope for his improvised surgery.

The corps won four Military Crosses and a Distinguished Conduct Medal in World War Two (although, like chaplains and medics, dentists are non-combatants). The cost was high. There were 74 of them killed all told and 100 taken prisoner. But as a reward for devoted service King George VI granted the corps its 'Royal' prefix in 1946.



Emergency treatment at Tobruk during World War Two



III Dental Clerk Assistant trade. "It is fundamental as far as we are concerned," added Lieutenant-Colonel Hopton.

The courses at this level are continuous and overlap throughout the centre's year. They include a four-week stint at the Royal Army Ordnance Corps' training centre at Blackdown, not far away, to study that all-important clerical aspect of the work.

The dental clerk assistant has to be able to support the dentist at the chair-side and act as receptionist and clerk too. He also has to be able to do radiography and make 'bite models' of patients' teeth for technicians to work from.

Clearly, the DCA's job is a vital one and, although no special qualification is needed by the raw recruit, a high degree of motivation is looked for in the successful candidates who will carry a heavy burden of responsibility in the corps' dental centres worldwide.

After gaining the Class III qualification, the newly-fledged DCA spends a year in a dental centre. It is after this year that corps members decide whether or not to continue in that trade or go on to specialise in the technician or hygiene trades.

The Class II qualification for the DCA grade is done 'in the field' with the soldier being tested by his own dental surgeon at his centre, the results being returned to the Aldershot HQ.

After a further year, the DCA returns to Aldershot for an intensive three-week course to complete his upgrading to Class I. And during that intervening year, he will have done a 'correspondence course' with the

LEFT: Studying facial bone structure.



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centre to pack in all that he will need to know.

For he may now be promoted to sergeant and become responsible in a multi-chair dental centre for the support at the chairside of the dental surgeon, the supervision of junior personnel in his discipline, planning the booking and arrival of patients — including liaison with units, supervising dental health programmes and generally operating the logistic support for the surgeon and his centre. In fact, he becomes what is nowadays known as a 'practice manager' with all the responsibilities the title implies.

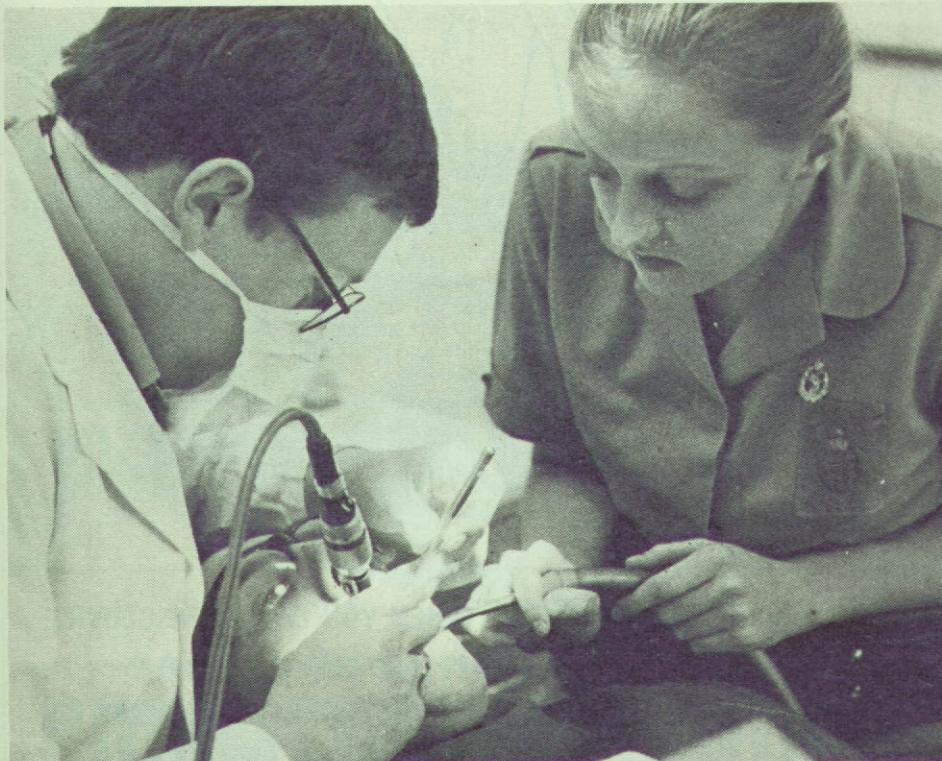
The dental technician will have done the basic 14-week DCA course before embarking on what is one of the course's longest training

BELOW: A QARANC dental clerk assistant gives close support to the dental officer.

schemes lasting three years. Some ten students a year are selected for the training which means the centre is handling some 30 at a time.

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At the end of these courses both technicians and hygienists are graded Class I and they receive their civilian qualifications on successfully taking their examinations.



The modern badge of the Royal Army Dental Corps (redesigned to coincide with the granting of the 'Royal' prefix in 1946) shows a sword in a dragon's mouth with the motto 'Ex dentibus ensis' (from the teeth a sword).

This is a reference to the Greek legend of Cadmus who sowed dragon's teeth which grew into armed men.

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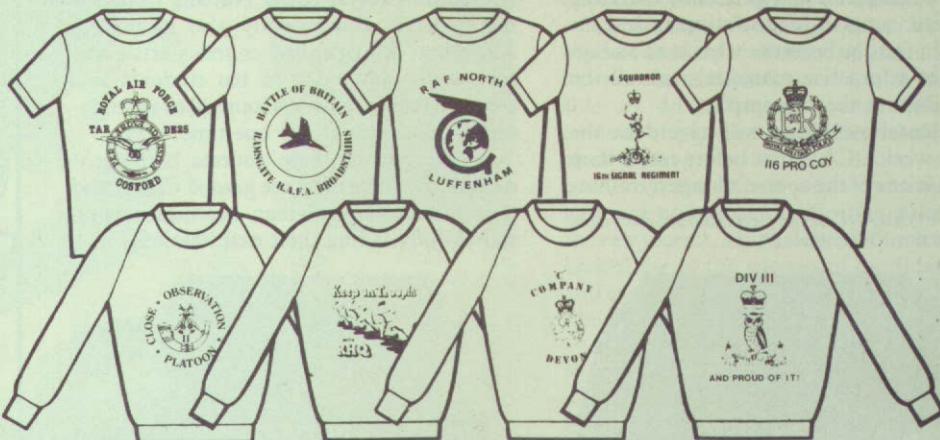
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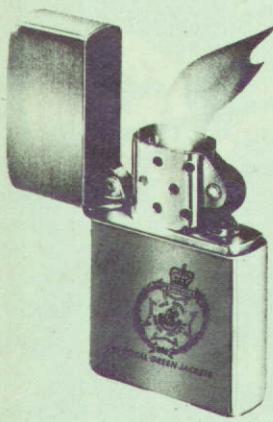
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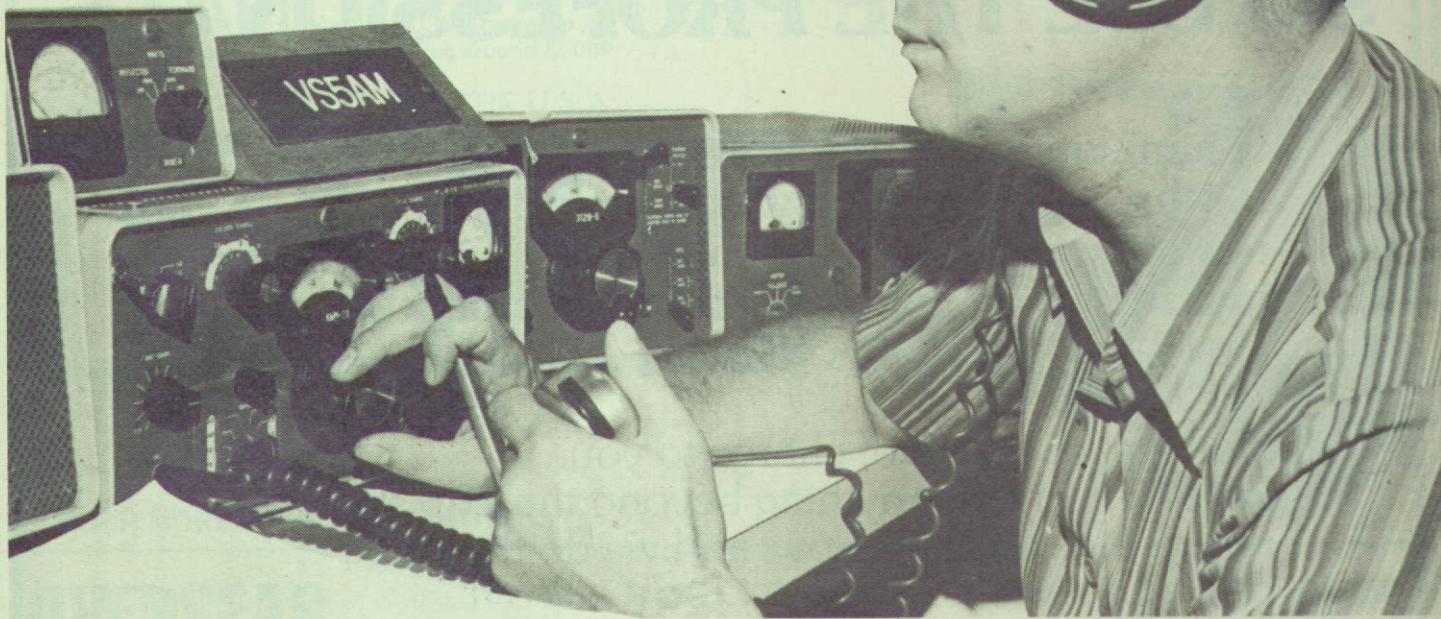
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# BRUNEI CALLING . . .



## COLIN 'HAMS' AROUND THE WORLD

ALTHOUGH he's been stationed in Brunei on the steamy northern shores of Borneo for the last two years, Colin Eastland has never allowed himself the chance to feel lonely or cut-off.

For most nights find Colin, a Warrant Officer 1 (Yeoman of Signals) on loan service with the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment, sitting in front of a radio set wearing headphones while exchanging messages and views with other radio 'hams' in many parts of the world.

Colin first learnt about 'ham' radio back in 1960 when he was a young lad at the Army Apprentices College at Harrogate. But equipment is pretty costly and the interest which was sparked when he was a Royal Signals apprentice lay dormant for the next 17 years.

Then he arrived at Bolkiah camp in Brunei and not only found a 'ham' radio club but learned that part of his job was to run it. Soon

he was 'hamming away' like mad and found that lads from the local Askar Mudari — a boy soldiers unit — were just as keen as he had been at that age.

"We talk all around the world with no pre-arranged schedule and get all sorts of people on the other end," he said. "It rather depends on conditions whether we can reach the UK and of course the eight hours time difference makes things difficult."

There are very few 'hams' in Brunei and Colin finds that once he goes out on the airwaves people queue up to talk to him.

"They want to talk to us just as they would to someone who was at the North or South Pole."

His main contacts are with the United States, Japan, Hong Kong, New Zealand, South Africa, India and Australia. And servicemen stationed at the American base in Guam are often on the air.

"I've never actually contacted another British Serviceman but we do talk to the Malaysian Army amateur radio club" he told SOLDIER.

Colin has had one or two 'scoops' during his broadcasting. During the uprising which ousted the Shah of Iran he spoke to people who were trying to get out of the country and

had radio as their only link with the outside world. And he joined with others in a vain attempt to contact a ship lost at sea in Malaysian waters.

But mostly it is contact with people living perfectly ordinary lives but in a different environment which is interesting to listeners. Cards are exchanged after contacts and the most prized one (which Colin is still seeking) is that of King Hussein of Jordan.

Colin describes amateur radio as "an international club of friendship." And he knows that if he visited any of his contacts around the globe they would make him welcome.

Examinations have to be passed to become a licensed amateur radio operator and licences have to be obtained from the country in which you broadcast.

This, together with the problems of moving transmitters and antennae, means that Servicemen who are constantly moving around the world rarely take up the hobby.

But for Colin Eastland the bug has really bitten. And when he moves to Germany shortly he intends to be back on the air as soon as possible — even though his Brunei callsign VS5 CE will then only be a pleasant memory.

**Story: John Walton  
Pictures: Doug Pratt**

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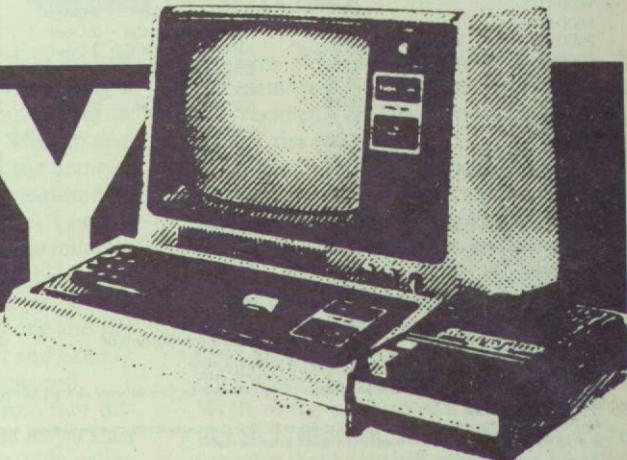
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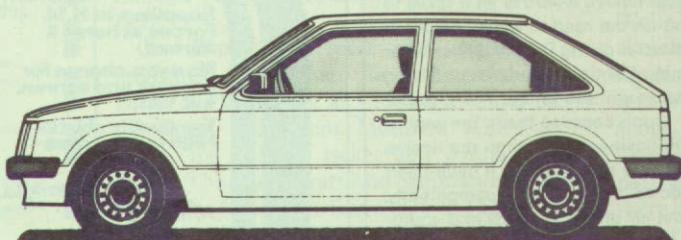


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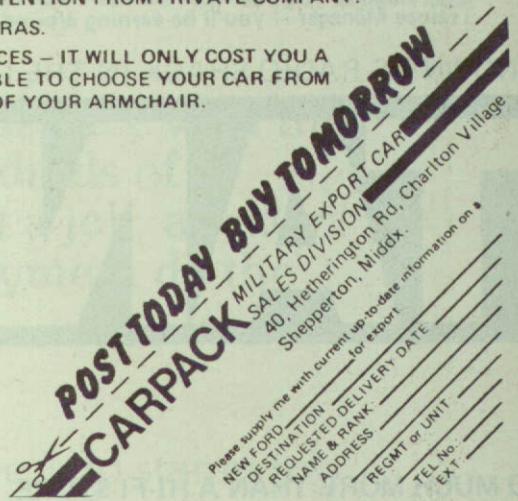
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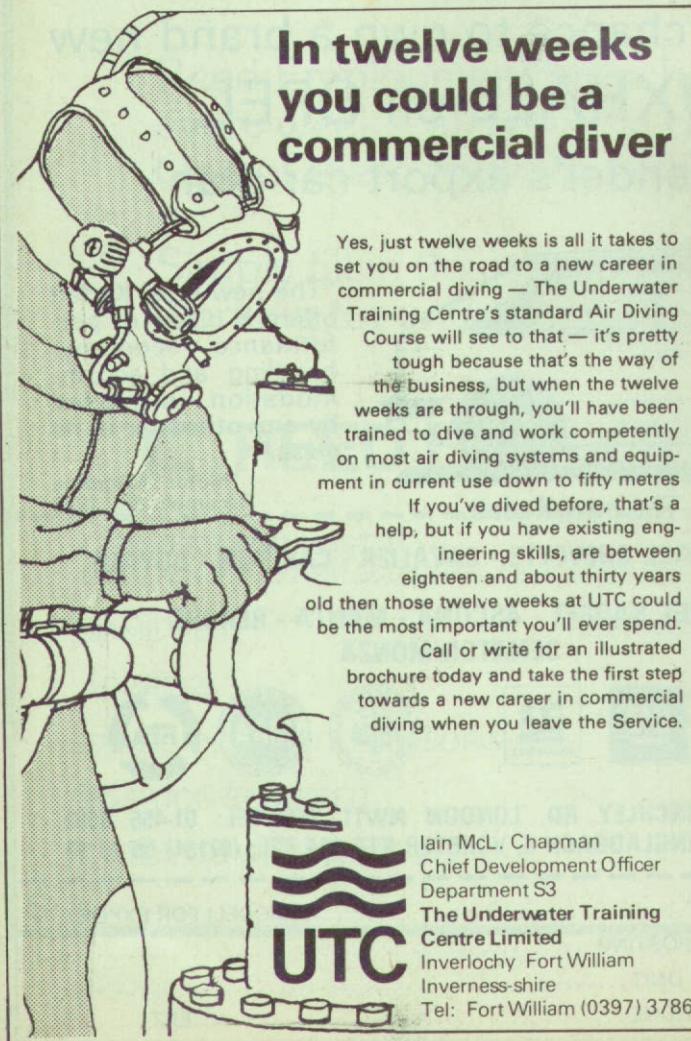
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## MILITARY MUSEUMS

84



## SQUERRYES COURT KENT AND COUNTY OF LONDON YEOMANRY (SHARPSHOOTERS)

STANDING IN FORMAL gardens leading to attractive woodland walks and facing a picturesque lake, Squerryes Court, built in 1681, is a typical example of a William and Mary manor house. It has been the home of the Warde family for nearly 250 years and its present owner, Mr John Warde, is Lord of the Manor of Westerham. There is much to see and enjoy in the house — a notable collection of pictures, period furniture, china, various mementos of General Wolfe and the regimental museum of the Kent and County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters).

The regiment is descended from four different yeomanry regiments: The Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles, raised in 1794 as the East Kent Yeomanry; The Queen's Own West Kent Yeomanry, also raised in 1794 as the West Kent Yeomanry, who were given the title 'Queen's Own' in 1864 in recognition of frequent escort duties during Queen Victoria's journeys through Kent; the 3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) raised as Imperial Yeomanry for the Boer War in 1900; and the 4th County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) raised in 1939.

On display are some well preserved uniforms, among them the uniform of the Duke of Connaught as Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles (c 1900), the helmet, jacket and overalls of Lt-Col Thomas Garratt who commanded the East Kent Yeomanry from 1820 to 1827, the shako, coatee and overalls of Lord Harris who joined the same regiment in 1830, the uniform and medals of Lt-Col C MacDowall, adjutant of the Sharpshooters from 1901 to 1908 and the uniform of an officer of the West Kent Yeomanry.

A 3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) full dress jacket and busby as worn by a soldier between 1901 and 1914 and the original three-page foreword written in Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery's own hand to the regimental history *Sharpshooters at War*, an East Kent Yeomanry officer's sabretache (1859) and an oil painting of the Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles and the Queen's Own West Kent Yeomanry being reviewed by the Duke of Gloucester at Maidstone in 1888 are among several choice items to be seen.

Another eye-catching souvenir is the German Panzerfaust (anti-tank rocket launcher) presented to the Sharpshooters by the 4th

Battalion The Royal Welch Fusiliers to commemorate the association between the two regiments in Germany during the last days of the war.

Upstairs a room has been set aside for objects of interest connected with General James Wolfe, a close friend of General George Warde, whose portrait by Opie hangs over the fireplace. Here can be seen various pictures of Wolfe, the earliest probably being the only portrait for which he ever sat. It is not signed or dated and the artist's name is not known. According to tradition it shows Wolfe in the uniform of a gentleman volunteer in 1740 when, at the age of 13, it was intended that he should accompany his father on the ill-fated expedition to Cartagena. But he fell ill, was unable to go and so returned to school. Recent researches indicate, however, that it was more probably painted about the time when his first commission in his father's Regiment of Marines, was brought to him at Squerryes in 1741. A cenotaph in the garden marks the place where Wolfe actually received the document of commission.

Other pictures include a wash-drawing of Wolfe by Richard Houston from an original sketch made at Quebec by Captain Hervey Smith, Wolfe's ADC, and a copy of Benjamin West's famous picture *Death of Wolfe*. A short sword carried by Wolfe during the Quebec campaign can also be seen. Beneath a portrait of his mother, Mrs Henrietta Wolfe, there is a cookery and medicinal book written in her own clear hand and open at a page showing a recipe for 'A good water for the Consumption'. A letter of condolence on the death of her son at Quebec in 1759 sent to her by the Prime Minister, William Pitt, is yet another memento.

The Wolfe and Sharpshooter rooms are included in a general tour of the house and grounds for which a charge is made.

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**In a tiny village in France, SAS troopers past and present got together to pay . . .**

## Homage to Heroism



IN THE CLOSING stages of World War Two, a party of Special Air Service troopers were parachuted into the Vosges mountains of enemy-occupied France. Their attacks on supply lines soon became more than just a thorn in the side of the local garrison and a massive Gestapo hunt was mounted to winkle them out of their mountain eyrie.

As part of this hunt, 210 French men, women and children were rounded up and deported from the tiny village of Moussey. Only 70 villagers returned, but not one told the enemy where the SAS were hiding.

A tenth of the population of the village paid the ultimate price for their heroism in the concentration camps. At a stroke, whole families were obliterated. But none talked.

Since that time, Remembrance Day has meant a lot to the little village, perched high on the wooded mountainside, for it has a lot to remember. This year, however, was special, for joining the villagers in their memories was a party from Britain — a small group of now-greying ex-SAS men who had fought in and around Moussey in 1944, plus a contingent of Territorial Army soldiers from 21 Special Air Service, who shed their customary anonymity for this special pilgrimage.

In September 1944, the commanding officer of No 2 SAS Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Brian Franks led the last SAS parachute operation onto French soil. The original drop was near Baccarat to the north, and after many adventures the group found itself in the forests near Moussey where a headquarters was established. The operation happened at a time when General Patton's advance was held up by a supply breakdown, which meant that the mission, designed to last about ten days was extended to about six weeks.

During most of that time the group depended on the people of Moussey for many of the necessities of life, and help of all kinds. The villagers responded with every possible kindness even although they were in far greater danger than the hiding soldiers. The SAS could move rapidly from place to place, but, except for some men, the villagers could not, and if they did, inevitably left hostages behind.

Eventually, the Germans, exasperated at the help that they knew the villagers were giving to keep the SAS operating, rounded up as many as they could and interrogated them with fierce brutality. When no-one talked, truckloads were deported to the concentration camps. 140 never came back.

The SAS suffered 32 casualties during the operation, ten of them around Moussey. After the war, the parish priest, the Abbé Gassman, started a little SAS cemetery in his church graveyard, and the village took on the job of keeping the graves neat and tidy, making sure that there were always fresh flowers in the secluded SAS area. A few years later the Imperial War Graves Commission decided that the ten should be re-interred in an official cemetery. But by now they were a part of the tiny village, and there, said the villagers, they would stay. And stay they have, lovingly cared for by people who still remember their sacrifice.

The 66 Territorial troopers combined the pilgrimage with two parachute jumps, one with a small detachment from the French 13th Regiment de Parachutistes de Dragons. The jumps were watched by the small party of 'old and bold', led by the now 70-year-old Lieutenant-Colonel Franks. "I never liked parachuting, I certainly wouldn't have done it for fun," said one.

"It was wonderful to come back," said

LEFT: SAS gravestones in the churchyard.

BELOW: Lieutenant-Colonel Franks (right) and the Mayor of Moussey at the village's memorial service.

### Story: Doug McArthur Pictures: Andy Burridge

Colonel Franks, "and I think remarkable that our reception was so good, considering the caning the villagers took. When you remember that whole villages were wiped out because of us, it is quite something that we were welcomed back at all.

"This visit was a great success, and I hope it was the same for the inhabitants."

Colonel Franks retired at the end of the war when the SAS was disbanded, then when the 'second generation' of SAS regiments were started again, with 21 SAS, he put his uniform back on to be its first commander. The regiment now has its headquarters at the Duke of York's Barracks, Chelsea.

Lieutenant-Colonel Keith Farnes, the present CO explained: "This was really one of the few operations that was truly SAS. And it has a special significance because of the amount we owe to the civilian population.

"The trip was a success on three counts. We paid homage to some brave people and made a contact with the population which I am sure we will try and keep up. It was tremendous for the old SAS to come back and make the contact, not only with the French but with the serving soldiers. We don't have Colours or a band, and precious little tradition, so there is very little opportunity for them to meet us.

"For the boys themselves it has given a terrific conception of total war. Looking at the area and talking to the people has, I think, really opened their eyes. They have also seen that things don't always go smoothly, and that when there are setbacks, people get killed. That is a lesson which is always worth learning."

# Leaving the Forces?

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# Letters

## Uniform plea

Ever since we head about a 'New Uniform' ('The thin green line steps out,' *SOLDIER*, August) many soldiers of all ranks have indicated disbelief in the idea of HMG actually refitting the army with a replacement for a uniform only worn two or three times a year by the vast majority of the Army.

I appreciate that as a Volunteer my contact with other units is limited, but in that limitation the opinion is that we would rather the money be spent elsewhere. One example would be a helmet that would be both comfortable — especially when running — and effective. Another would be a second suit of combat for the TA (a selfish point I know, but being considered).

Every regiment and corps could give very valid and honest alternatives to this 'Let's copy the Canadians' idea, but if one accepts the decision as being made may I please make a few comments as a part-time soldier. In civilian life I work for a woollen merchant supplying cloth to tailors, so have some experience in the subject.

The present No 2 dress is a good classic design that would not have been outrageous in 1914 and will not be archaic in 2014. Why? Because some time ago a craftsman tailor worked out a design of suit that with little but skilled alteration and the wearing of braces would enable every soldier to look as smart as the next. Don't laugh at braces, they work, ask any good tailor.

The colour khaki is right — otherwise why did many other countries copy the idea? Dark green allows grubby soldiers to get grubbier without close inspection.

I would respectfully suggest that your implication that the cloth used at present is 22oz is wrong. But if you are correct in saying that the new cloth is 4oz lighter then I feel sorry for the poor soldier standing on a cold wind-swept parade ground for 20 minutes waiting for an inspecting officer.

The present design of No 1 hat is a disaster. It is uncomfortable, expensive and so open to mishandling that the variety of shapes and attitudes on even the smallest parade is unbelievable. If we were all provided with a beret that was as neat as perhaps the Paras, Army Air Corps or Royal Marines, but in navy blue, the saving in cash and Sergeant Majors' tempers would be considerable. The present stock of 'pancakes' and the various methods of shrinking bear this out.

The dropping of the cloth belt and the replacement by a plastic belt with a metal plate buckle is good — as long as we all get it.

To summarise — leave the Guards Division, The Light Division, the 'Jocks' and the 'Micks' alone, they know what they are doing.

Use the present No 2 but pay a decent tailor an honest fee to get the thing altered properly.

Throw out those No 1 hats and give us all a decent beret.

And please, oh please, ask *all* of us who wear uniform what we consider warm, smart, and effective. It's not just 'the young ones' who will have to wear it. — **Capt John Wakley RCT (V), 217 (Yorks) Sqn RCT (V), Churchill Barracks, Whitelock Street, Leeds, LS7 1AP.**

## Rangers' story

I read Mr Woon's letter (November 1979) on the subject of his recent find whilst 'mudlarking' and feel that I must hasten to clarify a rather muddled exposé of The Rangers' history. I am charitably assuming that the information given to him by the National Army Museum has become confused in the transcription: if not, perhaps a spell of Field Punishment is indicated on a convenient gunwheel for the member of staff who provided it.

The London Regiment, with its twenty-eight battalions, was not formed until 1908 when the Territorial Force came into being. The 12th (County of London) Bn, The London Regiment (The Rangers) was formed from the 22nd Middlesex Volunteer Rifle Corps in that year.

When volunteers were called for to serve in South Africa in 1900, Captain Alt, the son of the then Commanding Officer of the 22nd Middlesex VRC, took some two dozen men to join the City Imperial Volunteers and was, himself, killed at Diamond Hill. Those who came back continued as members of the 22nd Middlesex VRC until the change of title in 1908 when the 12th Bn's new badge proudly bore the honour 'S Africa 1900-02.' At the time of the change of title the unit strength was reported to be 705.

The old 22nd Middlesex VRC achieved distinction by being the first unit, regular or Volunteer, to have machine-guns — they bought their own two Nordenfeldts in 1882. Another interesting feature is that three companies of The Rangers were exclusively raised from the staff of The Gas, Light and Coke Company (which can perhaps be loosely equated to the Gas Board in London today).

The badge found is not particularly scarce. Continuing the story of the 12th London, we see that, in 1922, the title was changed to the 12th London Regiment (Rangers), when a new badge carried some 1914-18 honours. In 1937, The London Regiment ceased to exist and the old 12th became The Rangers, The King's Royal Rifle Corps and changed its badge yet again to bear the regular regiment's title around the central band.

Thus, reverting to Mr Woon's letter, we see that the '27 men' were not Rangers at all; they were 22nd Middlesex VRC riflemen. The stipulations as to their military efficiency and marital status were laid down for CIV contingents and the Freedom of The City of London was granted to all those who returned from the Cape.

It is, of course, statistically possible

that relatives of the twenty-seven men could still be alive today but they would have to be nonagenarians and also readers of *SOLDIER* if we are to benefit from their recollections. However, let us hope that I am proved wrong and that more information is forthcoming. I understand that a fire in the battalion orderly-room shortly after the return from active service destroyed all official records of the CIV party so that any further light on the individuals and their activities must needs now come from private sources — **John Gaylor, Hon Secretary, Military Historical Society, Central Block, The Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London SW3.**

## Voluntary effort

I have a badge similar to the one found by Mr Woon but it has one difference: the outer circle on the Maltese Cross bears the legend 'Central London Rangers 22 Mx'. I also have another badge of the same pattern but without a motto or 'South Africa 1900-2'. The name on the outer circle is 'Suffolk RV Corps'.

I believe that volunteer companies designed their own uniforms and many copied each other.

I also have a badge 'Militia Medical Dept VR' which, I was informed by Col A V Tennuci, the curator and secretary of the RAMC Historical Museum at Aldershot, was the badge used by the forerunners of the Medical Staff Corps and RAMC — and they were a volunteer unit!

This brings me to conclude how poorly organised the British Army was and to appreciate how grateful we should be to the men and women who gave time and money towards improving conditions and efficiency in the Army of those days.

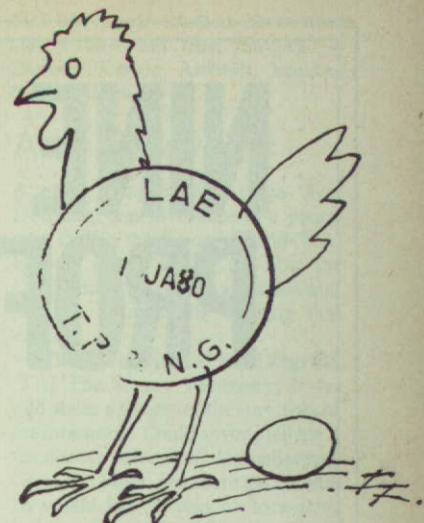
I am writing a book on this subject about how people like 'Aggi' Western, Tom Saddler, and the Sandes sisters of the 'Sandes Soldiers Home' helped make the Services liveable, and I would welcome any help that your readers can give me. — **Sgt Watson (1st and 2nd Devon Regt, Armourer Sgt 30th Dorset Regt, Armourer Sgt RMA Sandhurst) 8 Summerfields Avenue, Hailsham, East Sussex, BN27 3BP.**

## Zulu centenary

I was very interested to see Mr C W P Coan's criticism of my article on the Zulu War Centenary (letters, November).

Firstly, I apologise if my article did not make it clear that the emphasis of the events was to commemorate the brave men of both sides who fought in the campaign, and to avoid future confrontation. However, I feel obliged to point out that space precluded *SOLDIER* publishing a fuller account of the ceremonies, and that it was possible to give only the briefest descriptions of the events. My original text dwelt to a greater extent on the content of the speeches and such like, but much of this had to be sacrificed for a shorter, purely factual account of the itinerary.

Secondly, I agree it would be unforgivably naive to quote the film 'Zulu' as a reliable authority on the action at Rorke's Drift; this was not,



however, my intention. I was merely using it as a point of common reference, since I am sure that most of *SOLDIER*'s readers will have seen it at one time or another, whereas it is less likely that they will have read extensively the historical literature on the subject. In the two instances I referred to — viz the film's depictions of the mission station as having belonged to the Swedish Mission in 1897, and the singing of the Zulu songs — 'Zulu' is substantially accurate — **Ian J Knight, 12 Windlesham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex.**

## And REME too

As a long standing reader and admirer of *SOLDIER* I am reluctant to criticise. I prefer therefore to see this letter as advice on accuracy.

Judith Stares' most informative article about the AAC Chepstow, (*SOLDIER*, Oct 79), claims the production of soldier tradesmen for the "Royal Engineers, the Royal Corps of Transport and the Royal Army Ordnance Corps" since 1924. As a 'Beachley Old Boy' of 1956 vintage I was sad that no mention was made of the fact that the largest customer this establishment has served, certainly since the 39-45 war, has been tradesmen to the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

If statistics on Chepstow output/Corps are available I for one would find them interesting reading, but I will settle in the interim for bringing the REME presence to your attention. By the way, what tradesmen does 'Chep' produce for the RCT? — **Captain A G Chalmers, HQ REME, 1st British Corps Troops, BFPO 29.**

*Judith must have overlooked REME because Chepstow no longer trains apprentices for that corps. Ninety per cent of the intake go to the Royal Engineers with the rest to RCT or RAOC.*

## Entertainers

In the excellent write up you gave to our Reunion for Wartime Entertainers (not only ENSA!) in the October issue there were one or two small errors.

I was in fact a Lumber Jill, not a Land Girl — that is I was a member of the Womens Timber Corps, not the Womens Land Army (Forestry Section). But then the two sections sepa-

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rated — and we had as our distinguishing feature a green beret with brown badge of a fir tree instead of the rather unflattering 'pork pie' hat of the WLA.

Also, the price of the souvenir booklet 'Bless 'Em All' should read 50p including postage, not plus — and we have now cut it to 40p, as the original price included the concert programme (available still if anyone wants it, but not, we thought, of general interest).

During and since the Reunion I have been asked if I will make the first move towards forming an association of wartime entertainers. If there are any members of any of the old entertainment units who would be interested, I'd be pleased to hear from them.

Meanwhile, I hope eventually to find time to return to 'my' subject — Women's wartime service — which has been crowded out for some months now. I would be interested in any relevant books, pamphlets, letters etc — not only ATS, WAAFs and WRNs, but any organisation in which women served. One organisation I would like to know more about, for instance, is the Civil Air Guard. — Bette Anderson, Rectory Cottage, Boyton, Warminster, Wilts.

## Loud reports . . .

May I point out a minor error in your November article 'FH 70 Reporting for Duty': This tripartite gun is a common effort between UK, Italy and Germany (NOT France).

General Sir Harry Tuzo, who knows me well since my days as Military Attaché in London 70-74 and later as Assistant Chief of Staff in Northern Army Group (74-78), will, undoubtedly, confirm that this is only one of our tripartite ventures, another one being the SP Gun 70 coming soon off the production lines (also of UK-IT-GE vintage), as is the MRCA.

I am proud and happy to see since then that Anglo-German togetherness within Europe and elsewhere in other respects is gaining momentum. Please allow me therefore to suggest that all

of us NOW contribute our efforts not so much to pointing out that we fought against each other at such and such a time, but, perhaps find more satisfaction in looking at periods of history when we stood together and how we Germans found our way back into the community.

Incidentally, did you know that in the Duke of Wellington's Army on the day of Waterloo there were more than 36,000 Germans (including the King's German Legion) and 32,000 Britons and others fighting together on the same side? And there were other times too, going back, when we were together. Not to forget the British Royal Family, 60 per cent of whose ancestry came from this country — **Colonel K H Böttger (Retd), Schlueterstr 60, D-2000 Hamburg 13, West Germany.**

*Remarkable that more of our sharp-eyed readers didn't spot our awful error — we must have been under the influence of French wine! Of course it was Germany who helped develop the FH70. No excuses. Just apologies.*

## ... on FH 70

I must point out a glaring inaccuracy in November's SOLDIER in the 'FH 70 Reporting for Duty' article.

The "Last parade for the old 5.5 inch Gun" has not yet taken place. This vintage gun remains in service with two Volunteer Gunner Regiments, 100 and 101 Field Regiments.

The last round is due to be fired from the last 5.5 inch gun to serve with the British Army during Practice Camp at Sennybridge Ranges in July 1980, when 100 (Yeomanry) Field Regiment Royal Artillery exercises for the last time with the 5.5 — **Major A Dorey, 100 Field Regiment RA(V), Napier House, Baring Road, Grove Park, London, SE12 0BH.**

## Silly marching

For me yet another Festival of Remembrance televised from the Royal Albert Hall this year was slightly marred by some of the various

contingents marching onto and across the auditorium with arms flailing shoulder or even (in one case) head-high.

I remember from 'Depot days' (Line Infantry) in the nineteen fifties that it was common to have recruits marching in this exaggerated manner for their first few weeks of training, but only to instill a certain pep into their step. Thereafter the arm moved through an arc, the upper limits of which were reached when the fist came level with the waist (belt).

It is painfully obvious that, for many of the contingents 'on parade' in the Albert Hall nowadays, the usual means of proceeding from A to B is certainly not on foot, and the barrack square would seem for most to have been but a fleeting experience. But to have them execute this clockwork, toy-soldier-like perambulation would seem to inject a comic and ridiculous aspect into a solemn, worthy and otherwise superbly stage-managed event — **R H G Travers-Bogusz, 77 St Thomas's Road, Hardway, Gosport, Hants.**

that has meant much to servicemen and women and their families. — **Doreen Taylor, Ardwell, Lauder, Berwickshire.**

## Any survivors?

A good friend of mine, Chris 'Ace' DeGuitat, was in France as a young man during the Second World War. He was in the area at the time the *Lancastria* was sunk by air attack and has two photographs showing that event.

When I was with 263 Field Regt RA (TA) The Surrey Yeomanry, I was told about a society of the survivors of the *Lancastria*. Could anyone tell me if the society still exists? My colleague, Chris DeGuitat, has more details that he would like to pass on to anyone interested and his address is: 835 E Pine, Fresno, California 93728, USA. — **John Tiley, 2201 Laguna St, Apt 506, San Francisco, California 94115, USA.**



## Collector's corner

**M J Laker, 36 Oatlands Drive, Otley, Yorks, LS21 2AY — Requires Bakelite badges of WWII. Fair prices paid.**

**Jack D Whittuck, 905 Tara Hills Drive, Pinole, California 94564, USA — Seeks shoulder patches of 12th Corp group, particularly a 'Three Trees' patch. Can anyone help? Willing to pay.**

**J S Richardson, 36 Stratfield Road, Summertown, Oxford, OX2 7BQ — Wants military cap badges, old type brass, metal etc, also REME cap badge and US Marine Corps cap badge. Has new anodised type Royal Engineers and Gurkhas cap badges in good condition for sale or exchange.**

**Anthony M Runza, PO Box 140, New Milford, New Jersey 07646, USA — Interested in trading or purchasing British officers uniforms, Army, Navy and RAF. Particular interest badges of rank, hat badges etc, cloth pipes (stars).**

**T Oakes, 10019 Dodge Drive, Northglenn, CO 80221, USA — Seeks WWII Para equipment, helmets, parachutes, gas masks etc. Especially needs a de-activated No 36M Mills Bomb or a No 69 mk 1 Bakelite bomb.**

**J G Skinner, Box 561, Stn A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5W 1E4 — Seeks L 1A1 plastic furniture (handguard, pistol, grip, buttstock) pictures and manuals of same for top price.**

**Bill Duggan, 21 Essex Walk, Walcot, Swindon, Wilts, SN3 3EY — Wishes to purchase red rose upon blue shield, patch of East Lancs ACF, also West Lancs ACF red rose upon green shield bearing white cross. Hackle of Liverpool Irish; blue above red, also any 'sphinx' buttons and/or King's Regt buttons (pre-amalgamation).**

**Museum of Army Flying, Middle Wallop, Stockbridge, Hants, SO20 8DY — As well as present AAC cap badge and 1950-57 Glider Pilot Regiment cap badge (both £1), now have stock of original (1941-50) AAC cap badge replicas (£3).**

**E J Stapleford, 23 Blakeney Crescent, Melton Mowbray, Leics, LE13 0QP — Wishes exchange five ships plaques plus some badges and STs for collar badges or worldwide para badges.**

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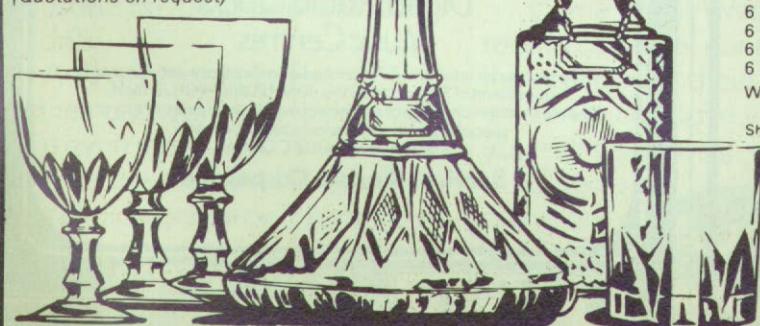
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This picture therefore represents an historic occasion in British military history — the formation of a new battalion made up from every Infantry Regiment. The Platoon in the centre of the parade (dressed in No 1 Dress) contained one representative of each Infantry Regiment, the Parachute Regiment, the Gurkha Brigade, the Royal Army Pay Corps and the Army Catering Corps. This is probably the first time that such a platoon, containing 37 different cap badges, has paraded within a single Battalion.

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**Collectors' Corner (cont)**

Howard Ripley, 10 Red Lion Road, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 7QQ — *Seeks Army buttons, particularly current and obsolete Canadian. Can offer worldwide buttons and some badges.*

M K Blackshaw, 42 Moss Lane, Bramhall, Cheshire — *Requires LP record made by the Band of the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards several years ago.*

Jackie Key, R 121, Eaton Hall College, Retford, Notts. — *Would like to hear from anyone who was with 1st or 2nd Bn, The Sherwood Foresters during the war.*

Mr J A E Windmill, 10 Hope St, Chatham, Kent, ME4 5NL 8 *Seeks Military Modelling magazines, issues number one to 22, Jan 71 to Oct 72. Will exchange for cap badge of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada, KC WM or cap badge of the 10th (Scot-*

*tish) Battalion, The King's (Liverpool) Regiment WM or BI.*

Mr D C Walls, 10 Glenavie Park, Jordanstown, Newtownabbey, Co Antrim — *Seeks Bran Black Watch (Royal Highland Regt) bed plate (Victorian Crown). Also Royal Ulster Rifles, black (plastic) waist belt, chrome buckle, RUR badge.*

R J C Darley, 39 College Court, Hayle Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6PB — *'Old Dukie' seeks school cap badges, Royal Military School, Victoria and Edward VII cyphers.*

R Maryon, Crossways, Hatch Lane, Old Basing, Hants — *Wants RAF, Commonwealth aircrew badges, trade and other badges, nationality titles, RFC collar badges, uniforms. Will pay cash or swap Army badges.*

John Atherton, 9 Richmond Gardens, Redhill, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 8JS — *Wishes to exchange field service cap badge 1897-1901 RHR (first R*

*reversed) Robin Hood Rifles QVC in blackened brass, for Loyal North Lancs Vols QVC or KC white metal cap badge or similar exchange for either 1st or 2nd Vols Sherwood Foresters in white metal.*

Mr E C Harris, Nottingham High School, Waverley Mount, Nottingham, NG7 4ED — *For sale German leather helmet Fredericus Rex early 19th century; Frontier Force (Pakistani) Turban, various Indian/Pakistani badges; set (Chile) officers' collar badges, Officers cap badge RA; Officers Forage Cap 17th/21st Lancers with motto.*

SFC Mike Johnson, Bty A 2/56 ADA, APO 09095, US Forces — *Wants Stanav Forchan, Stanav Forlant UK air and Benechan Nato Command pocket badges in metal and/or cloth. Will swap Nato badges for Nato or para badges. Also wanted RM Commando flashes (42, 43, 44, 45, 46 Commando).*

most problems were the unlikely combination of Raquel Welch and George Washington.

**Prizewinners:-**

1 D M Page, 20 Park Street, Abergavenny, Gwent.

2 WOI (RSM) De Cassell, 22 AD Regt RA, BFPO 20.

3 Mr C E Goling, 14 Heidelberg Road, Southsea, Hants, PO4 0AS.

4 L/Cpl R Foster RAMC, UKSU, Shape, BFPO 26.

5 Cpl G Stevenson, SQMS, 55 Trg Sqn, 3 Trg Regt RE, Gibraltar Barracks, Cove, Hants.

6 CFN Snowdon, QRIH LAD REME, Bhurtpore Barracks, Tidworth, Hants.

7 A R Newberry, 90 Woodberry Drive, Sittingbourne, Kent.

8 G A Bollen, 69 Darfield Road, London, SE4 1ES.

**Competition**  
**How observant are you?**

(see page 23)

*The two pictures vary in the following respects:*

*1 Position of pennant front of leading skier.*

*2 Staff of flag on left of church.*

*3 Shape of middle cloud.*

*4 Bottom ray of sun.*

*5 Number of leading skier.*

*6 Left ski of middle skier.*

*7 Window of house in front of church.*

*8 Cap of skier on right.*

*9 Scarf of leading skier.*

*10 Length of aircraft's nose.*

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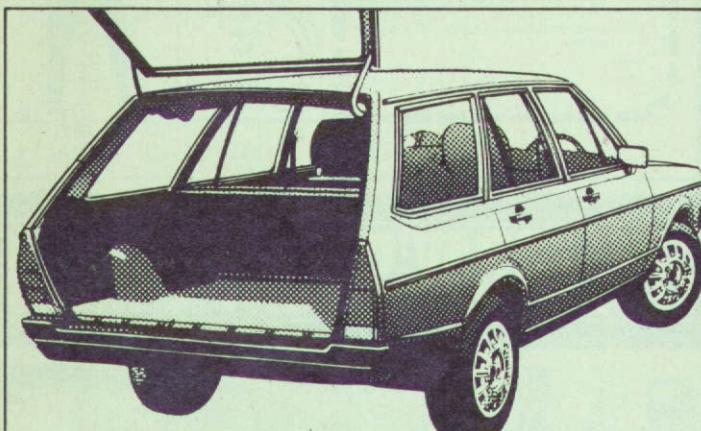
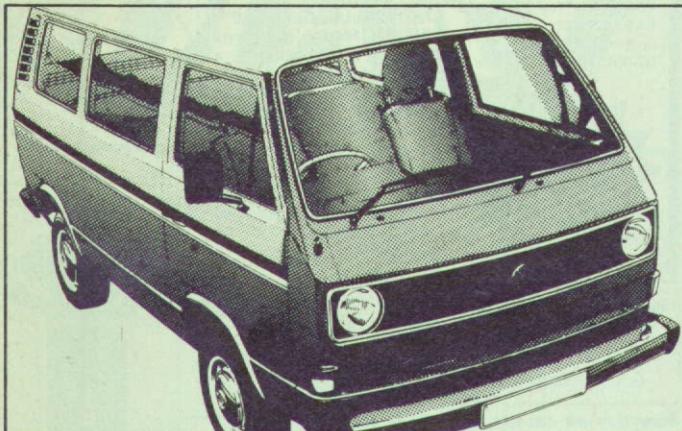
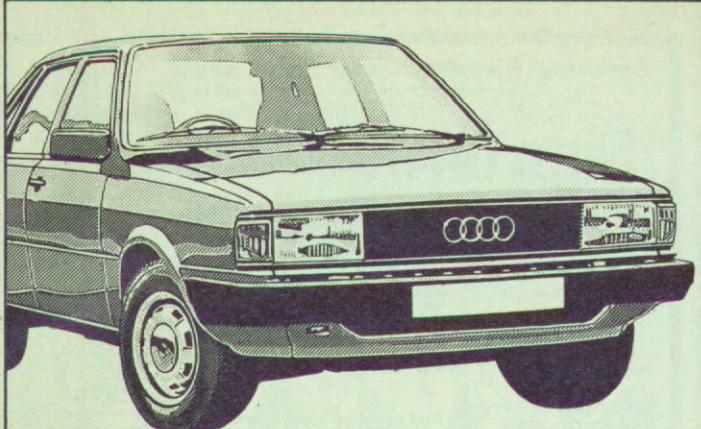
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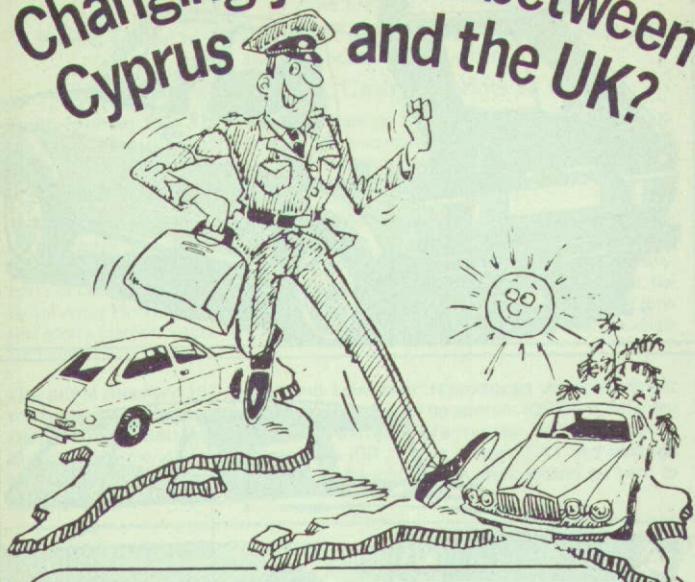
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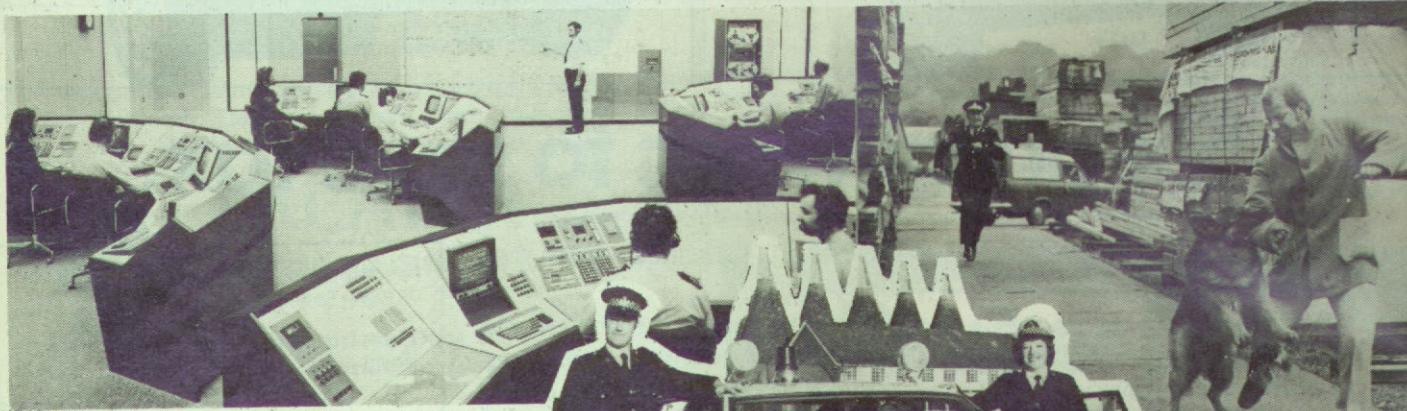
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This month we welcome back our popular feature that keeps you up-to-date on tattoos, open days, exhibitions, at homes, displays and similar occasions on which the public is welcome to see the Army's men and equipment. And we shall be updating it regularly in the months ahead. All the details are accurate (we hope) at the time of going to press. Events are sometimes altered, postponed or cancelled however so please check with local organisers before setting out. We hope too that organisers will advise us of any changes to the diary so that we can keep readers fully in the picture.

# See-the-Army DIARY

## JANUARY 1980

26 Leeds, Concert by Band, Royal Hussars.

## MARCH 1980

16 Burnley, Concert by Band, Royal Hussars.

## APRIL 1980

27 Country Fete, Teesdale.

## MAY 1980

3 Burslem Festival (3-5 May).  
5 Lydiard Park Show.  
7 Royal Windsor Horse Show (7-11 May).  
11 Maypole Week, Birmingham.  
15 Devon County Show, Exeter (15-17 May).  
17 Brighton Festival Tattoo.  
17 Hinckley Tattoo (17-18 May).  
20 Chelsea Flower Show (20-23 May).  
21 Shropshire and West Midland Show (21-22 May).  
23 Beating Retreat, Chester.  
24 Congleton Carnival and Tattoo (24-26 May).  
24 Dudley Spring Festival.  
24 Birmingham Spring Festival (24-31 May).  
24 Herts Agricultural Show, Redbourn (24-25 May).  
25 Carrington Park Rally (25-26 May).  
26 Hove Lions Day.  
28 Royal Bath and West Show, Shepton Mallet (28-31 May).  
28 Stafford Agricultural Show (28-29 May).  
28 Suffolk Show, Ipswich (28-29 May).  
29 Wolverhampton Fiesta (29 May-1 June).  
31 First Rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.  
31 Salisbury Hospital Gala.  
31 International Air Display, Bristol Airport (31 May-1 June).  
31 St Neots Riverside Festival (31 May-1 June).  
31 Burnley Services Tattoo (31 May-1 June).

## JUNE 1980

3 Beating Retreat, Horse Guards Parade (3-5 June).  
5 South of England Show, Ardingly (5-7 June).  
7 Nuneaton Carnival.  
7 Second Rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.  
8 Massed Bands, Horse Guards Parade (8-13 June).  
8 Nottingham Festival (8-13 June).  
14 Queen's Official Birthday Royal Salute, Cardiff.  
14 Queen's Birthday Parade, Horse Guards Parade.  
14 Coventry Carnival.  
18 Lincolnshire Agricultural Show, Lincoln (18-19 June).  
21 Leicester Tattoo.  
21 Ashford Extravaganza (21-22 June).  
25 Royal Norfolk Show, Norwich (25-26 June).

25 Aldershot Army Display (25-29 June).  
29 Chesterfield Carnival.  
30 Royal Show, Stoneleigh (30 June-3 July).

## JULY 1980

2 Army Exhibition for Schools, Bassingbourn (2-4 July).  
2 Larkhill Massed Bands.  
3 Royal British Legion Tattoo, Staverton Airfield, Gloucestershire (3-6 July).  
4 Staffordshire Careers Exhibition (4-6 July).  
5 Open Day, Prince of Wales' Division Depot, Crickhowell.  
5 Army Open Day RPC Trg Centre, Northampton.  
5 Open Day, British Steel Corporation, Middlesbrough.  
5 Birkenshaw Show.  
5 Pelsall Carnival.  
5 West Bromwich Carnival.  
5 Concert, Edinburgh by Band, Royal Hussars.  
5 Aveling Barford Show, Grantham (5-6 July).  
6 Paull Air Show, Hull.  
9 Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London (9-26 July).  
10 Basingstoke Tattoo (10-12 July).  
10 Kent County Show (10-12 July).  
10 Sheffield Services Display (10-13 July).  
11 Taunton Centenary, King's College.  
11 Hereford Careers Exhibition (11-13 July).  
12 Pudsey (Yorkshire) Show.  
15 East of England Show, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire (15-16 July).  
17 Manchester Show (17-19 July).  
18 Malton (Yorkshire) Show.  
19 Stroud Show.  
19 Durham County Show.  
19 Bristol Harbour Regatta (19-20 July).  
19 Bournemouth Air Pageant (19-20 July).  
21 Rotherham Tattoo (21-22 July).  
25 Northampton Borough Show (25-27 July).  
26 Colchester Carnival.  
26 Gloucester Carnival.  
26 Welsh Rugby Union Centenary Celebration, Cardiff.  
26 Cleveland Show, Middlesbrough.  
27 Redcar Carnival.  
29 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (29 July-2 August).  
29 Tyneside Summer Exhibition (29 July-2 August).  
31 Folkestone Tattoo (31 July-2 August).

## AUGUST 1980

1 Southsea Show (1-3 August).  
2 Lord Mayor's Parade, Cardiff.  
2 Newport Military Show (2-3 August).  
6 Bingley (Yorkshire) Show.  
6 Poole Hospital Gala.  
6 Bakewell (Derbyshire) Show (6-7 August).  
7 North Yorkshire County Show.  
9 Lord Mayor's Show, Stoke.  
13 Edinburgh Tattoo (13 August-6 September).  
15 Reading Show (15-16 August).  
15 Shrewsbury Flower Show (15-16 August).  
16 Hartlepool Show (16-17 August).  
16 Skegness Carnival (16-22 August).  
18 Doncaster Horse Show.  
22 GLC Horse Show (22-25 August).  
23 Darlington Show.  
23 Expo Steam, Peterborough (23-25 August).  
23 Town & Country Festival, Stoneleigh (23-25 August).  
23 Expo 80, Birchington, Kent (23-25 August).  
25 City of Leicester Show (25-26 August).  
25 Walsall Show (25-26 August).  
26 Leeds Gala.  
27 St Albans City Carnival.  
27 Bristol Flower Show (27-29 August).  
30 Wensleydale Show.  
30 Holkham Game Fair (30-31 August).  
31 Sheffield Show.

## SEPTEMBER 1980

5 International Air Tattoo, Newbury (5-7 September).  
6 Harley Show.  
6 Keighley Show.  
6 Seaford Show (6-7 September).  
6 Guildford Town Show (6-7 September).  
15 Newcastle-upon-Tyne '900 (15-20 September).  
18 Thame Show.  
20 Stokely Show.

## NOVEMBER 1980

7 Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall (7-8 November).  
9 Cenotaph, Service of Remembrance.

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## COMPETITION 258

READERS have been complaining that some of our recent competitions have been too easy. Hopefully, this month's brain-teaser will keep heads scratching for a while. It's been devised and sent to us by reader T E Kempshall of Coventry, together with several other puzzles which we're saving for future months (you have been warned!).

The competition is open to all readers at home or overseas and the closing date is Monday 3 March. The answers and winners' names will appear in the May SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 258' label. Entries using OHMS envelopes or pre-paid labels will be disqualified.

Send your answers by postcard or letter with the Competition 258 label from this page and your name and address to:

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**GU11 2DU**

ROWS	A	B	C	D	E
a					
b	F	G	H	J	K
c	L	M	N	O	P
d	Q	R	S	T	U
e	V	W	X	Y	Z
VERTICAL ROWS	1	2	3	4	5

AT THE ANNUAL dinner of a certain regimental association it was the custom to arrange the tables so that old soldiers who had formed groups of friends whilst serving could dine together as the same group at the dinner. The tables were arranged in five rows with five tables to a row.

With the exception of table C at which the chairman sat by himself all tables had more than one diner, the table with the highest number of diners being table Q with twenty-five men who had served together in Africa. Further, each table had a different number of diners.

Table K seated eleven more than table G; T five more than Y; P fifteen less than O; E ten more than V and R one less than H.

Each of the rows (see diagram) a, b, c, d and e was served with food by a separate waitress and each of the rows 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 was served with liquid refreshment by a separate waiter (ten servers in all).

At the end of the festivities it was the custom for each guest to leave five pence for the food waitress and five pence for the wine waiter. When all guests had departed the waiters and waitresses each added up their takings with a view to sharing equally. There was, however, no need for the takings to be shared as each of the ten had collected precisely the same amount: £3.25. The total number of diners was 325!

Can you arrange the seating accommodation so that each of the ten (waiters and waitresses) receives the same amount, i.e. £3.25? (By the way, the wine waiters tips were left under glasses and the waitresses tips under plates.)

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# Books

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George Forty



### Tales on a tank

'Chieftain' (George Forty)

The general was visiting 5th Royal Tank Regiment, which had one of the two early Chieftain tanks on trial, when he spotted the tank gun's rammer lying in a corner of the hangar. It was explained to him that the rammer had given trouble and the sergeant in charge of the tank had devised a method of ramming home the projectile by hand, using the charge.

"After a series of questions on our loading drill, he went slightly beserk, talking about the hundreds of thousands of pounds it had cost to produce the electro-mechanical rammer. However, we persuaded him that ours was a faster and less expensive method of ramming," recorded the sergeant.

This is just one of the tales about the Chieftain that Mr Forty incorporates in his book. And he writes from first hand experience having commanded tanks and armoured squadrons all over the world including Aden, the Persian Gulf and Borneo before retiring as a lieutenant-colonel in 1977 to write full time.

The same sergeant also describes an exercise in which the crew stayed 'closed down' for 72 hours — a cold, untidy experience.

Leslie Monger, who was in the team that produced the Chieftain concept, contributes a chapter in which he tells the alternatives they considered, such as having two small tanks instead of one big one, or a pair of coupled vehicles, arming with guided missiles instead of a gun, using a fixed or an external gun.

It is no secret that Chieftain's engine was a rush job, complicated by the demand for a multi-fuel capability, and in consequence has given a lot of trouble. After ten years modifications are being made of which the author says, "collectively these should make a considerable improvement to the reliability of the engine." He adds, with perhaps implicit regret, that there is no intention of fitting British Chieftains with the Rolls-Royce diesel that powers the Shir derivative of the Chieftain built for export.

Engine apart, Mr Forty considers the Chieftain "a very fine tank with gun and gun control equipment

superior to anything in service anywhere." He writes as an officer of 4th Royal Tank Regiment whose fighting days were spent in Centurions and who was with his regiment when it converted to Chieftain.

Ian Allan, Shepperton, TW17 8AS, £5.95

RLE

ese armed forces; other articles include foreign policy, the organisation of the ground forces, the threat to China's future and her defence plans.

Brigadier Kenneth Hunt sums up the present situation in a foreword. The generals are old and the equipment and control machinery they have to work with fit the 1950s. The People's Liberation Army is not fit to defend the country's two vulnerable provinces against Soviet forces. Modernisation is slow because China wants to buy technology and build weapons herself, so as not to be dependent on outside sources again.

Salamander, 27 Old Gloucester St, London, WC1N 3AF

RLE

demand a British front against Hitler in Northern France and another in the Arctic. It was, as Churchill soon pointed out, an unrealistic demand.

British Communists, orchestrated by the Russians, agitated for the Second Front and for once made common ground with the Express Newspapers whose owner, Lord Beaverbrook, after a visit to Moscow was the sole 'Second Front Now' voice in the Cabinet.

For most people, Second Front meant a return to France, and this was what the Americans began to urge after Pearl Harbour when Churchill and Roosevelt agreed that the defeat of Germany should have priority over the Japanese war. Mr Bruce's book describes the complex debates, not always good-tempered, that went on among the Allied leaders and Chiefs of Staff as plans were made, revised, discarded.

The invasion of North Africa, "in effect the right wing of our second front," said Churchill, and then the invasion of Italy, took pressure off the Russian armies more effectively than any ill-prepared adventure in Western Europe could have done. Meanwhile, the build-up of forces went ahead in Britain along with planning for Overlord. Mr Bruce leaves us with the troops waiting in their assault vessels. *Macdonald and Jane's, Paulton House, 8 Shepherdess Walk, London, N1 7LW, £7.95*

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### Horror story

'America's Bloodiest Day' (William A. Frassanito)

The Battle of Antietam earned 17 September 1862 the title Mr Frassanito gives his book by producing more casualties than any other day in the history of the United States. Between them, the two sides in the Civil War suffered 26,000 casualties of whom about 5000 were killed. Even D-Day cost the Americans only 6700 casualties (but the comparison is difficult because Antietam was a one-day battle and D-Day only the start of a long one).

Antietam was militarily indecisive but had political consequences abroad. However, it is not the military or political aspects that absorb Mr Frassanito, but the photographic. Two cameramen, Alexander Gardner and James F Gibson, were on the scene and working by the 18th or 19th and took 70 pictures within five days of the battle and another 25 later. Given that in those days it took ten minutes to sensitise, expose and develop each negative, as well as all the time needed to set up the camera, this is not such a bad record. However, it also means that the pictures are mainly confined to landscapes, posed men — and corpses, plenty of corpses.

Mr Frassanito has been to the battlefield and rephotographed the scenes as they are today to print alongside Gardner and Gibson originals. He has also collected pictures of some of the 'ordinary Americans' who fought on both sides and reproduced them along with some biographical notes.

It all does something to recreate the horror of Antietam but, as a New York Times reporter wrote of an exhibition of the corpse pictures, "You cannot photograph broken hearts."

Mills and Boon, 17-19 Foley St, London, W1A 1DR, £7.50

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### Lid off The Box

'Battle of The Box' (Patrick Turnbull)

The victory of XV Corps in the Battle of The Box, in the Arakan in February 1944, tends to be overshadowed by Imphal and Kohima. Yet, though the numbers involved were relatively small, Mr Turnbull compares it as a turning point and in impact with Stalingrad and Alamein. The British, Indian and African troops for the first time achieved victory over the Japanese, fighting on level terms in the jungle the Japanese had made their own. They proved the idea their training had sought to instil in them: the Japanese were no supermen.

The Arakan is a coastal strip with a steep, jungle-covered mountain range and swampy valleys running parallel to the coast. It has a reputation for being as unhealthy as any other part of Burma. The first victory XV Corps won was against disease, and in a foreword to Mr Turnbull's readable book, the Corps Commander, General Sir Philip Christison, says the total sickness rate dropped below that for troops stationed in Britain.

The Corps was advancing slowly when the Japanese launched Operation Ha-Go. Their intention was to wipe out XV Corps — no great problem, they thought, on the Corps's previous showing — and draw reserves from the central front where the main offensive was to begin two or three weeks later.

Anticipating the attack, General Christison had made it clear there was to be no retreat; all-round defensive positions would be organised and held until relief came. The 'boxes' would be supplied by air.

The Box which gives the battle its name was the administrative area of 7 Indian Division, about a square mile of flat, open ground surrounded by hills and jungles and difficult to defend. But defended it was for 20 days, with clerks, muleteers and other ancillary troops fighting alongside the infantry, until relief arrived.

Overall, the battle cost XV Corps 3500 casualties. The Japanese lost 5000 out of 8000 troops and never had another victory.

Ian Allan, Shepperton, TW17 8AS, £7.50

RLE

### Luxury look

'The Chinese War Machine' (Editor: Ray Bonds)

Following closely on the official American publication, *The Chinese Armed Forces Today*, (SOLDIER Bookshelf, November) this book covers the same ground in a more luxurious way.

Part of the luxury is in the wealth of pictures. Many are in full colour and many are provided by the Chinese authorities, with the result that there are rather a lot of healthy-looking young men in heroic attitudes — which is no great disadvantage. The other luxury is the list of distinguished British and American writers, including Sandhurst's Nigel de Lee, who contribute articles. Mr de Lee writes of the history of the Chin-

### Israel's choice

'War Data, No 1: Centurion' (Lt Col David Eshel and Simon Dunstan)

The first of a new series, printed in Israel and designed "to close a long-existing gap in military literature . . . the weapons systems and combat techniques of the armed forces of the Middle East."

The British Centurion tank was just too late for action in World War Two but was used in combat in Korea in 1951, in Operation Musketeer at Port Said in 1956, by the Indian Army in the Indo-Pakistan Wars of 1965 and 1971, and by the Australians in Vietnam. It has also seen service with the armies of Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Holland, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden and Switzerland, and has been subject to many re-design programmes.

As the spearhead of the Israel Armoured Corps the Centurion proved to be a "major weapon system second to none" and the Israelis liked it so much they set out to modify it extensively. They changed the Meteor petrol-driven engine for a diesel type, the cooling system from water to air, and raised the maximum horsepower from 650 to 750. The 20-pdr they replaced by a 105mm L7. They eliminated four gears and settled for two forward and one reverse and there were hundreds of minor changes which made for ease of operation and simplicity in supply and repair. Then they re-named it Ben-Gurion.

This volume contains many good photographs and drawings and also records details of the campaigns in which Centurion (and Ben-Gurion) took part with much great credit. *Eshel-Dramit Ltd, POB 115, Hod Hasharon, Israel, £1.50*

GRH

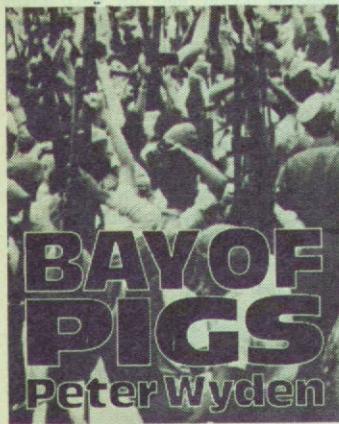
### Second Front

'Second Front Now!' (George Bruce)

No sooner did Joseph Stalin come out of the 'psychic collapse' which surprised at the German invasion of Russia had brought on, than he began to

65

# BOOKS



## Awful warning

*'Bay of Pigs: The Untold Story'* (Peter Wyden)

The Bay of Pigs (Bahia de Cochinos) in Cuba was the landing place in 1961 of a force intended to overthrow Fidel Castro and thus rid the island of Communist influence. The expedition was conceived and masterminded by America's Central Intelligence Agency but was organised to appear to be a revolt by disaffected Cubans. The United States' Air Force and Navy were involved (though without firing a shot) and two Presidents, Eisenhower and Kennedy, were implicated. Also Nixon, then Vice to Eisenhower.

It was a colossal failure and almost started World War Three. Kennedy was later to say: "How could I have been so stupid to let them go ahead?" There were many months of secret preparations and Castro, apparently, knew much of what was going on.

The author of this book interviewed many of the high-ranking and other participants in this extraordinary affair, including Castro and Richard Bissell, Jr, CIA Deputy Director for Plans (a "euphemism for chief of all covert operations") — the chief planner. He also had access to many documents and much of the story is here revealed for the first time.

The book is written like a thriller with characters and situations larger than life but there is a serious warning at the end that it could all happen again!

*Jonathan Cape Ltd, 30 Bedford Square, London WC1, £7.95* GRH

## Table-top war

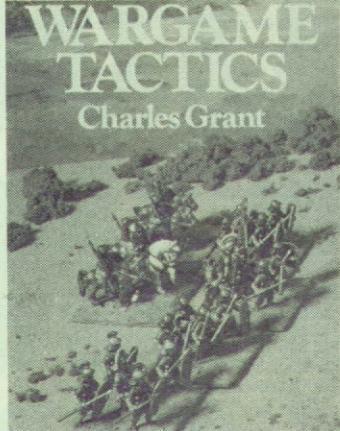
*'Wargame Tactics'* (Charles Grant)

The author's advice to the wargamer who would succeed and who would also derive good fun from his tabletop battles is to study the period. Then to employ the strategy and tactics that were known at that time. Artillery, for instance, played but a small part in early battles, being too cumbersome to move around, while cavalry hardly ever charged straight into a mass of infantry — contrary to the widely held belief that this was common practice.

A number of specimen battles are reviewed, from the earliest times to the Napoleonic and American Civil

Wars. The volume should prove a useful aid to the growing number of wargame enthusiasts.

*Cassell Ltd, 35 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4SG, £5.95* GRH



## Still fighting

*'Armies of the Middle East'* (Otto von Pivka)

World War Two ended over 30 years ago but the Middle East has been in almost constant conflict during these three decades. Jews, Arabs and Christians have been fighting one another and the Arabs also have been fighting among themselves. In this volume a military historian gives a detailed account of the many campaigns from 1948 to the present day, including the Arab-Israeli wars, Suez, the Yemeni seven-year civil war, the Jebel-Akhbar and Dhofar campaigns in Oman, the Ethiopian secessionist wars and the recent revolution in Iran. The accounts are supported by 30 pages of three-coloured battle maps and contemporary photographs.

There follows a review of the 22 states in the area, recalling their history and detailing their strengths, uniforms and equipment, including armour, artillery, missiles and even badges of rank. A technical section shows armour and weapon characteristics. The whole is well supported

by photographs and drawings.

The final section ensures the book is right up to date with full summaries of the most recent events, such as the flight of the Shah from Iran, the return of the Ayatollah Khomeini and the recurring Kurdish problem.

This is a fine attempt to put the Middle East into perspective. The result is a reference book of value to historians, students and military enthusiasts.

*Patrick Stephens Ltd, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB3 8EL, £6.95* GRH

the height of his fame.

This book tells in interesting detail of the build-up towards the mastery of Europe, of the remarkable achievements of the *Grande Armée*, of the strategy, tactics and organisation employed. There are many maps, contemporary portraits, battle impressions and cartoons. An interesting and entertaining volume.

*Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 91 Clapham High Street, London SW4 7JA, £6.95*

GRH

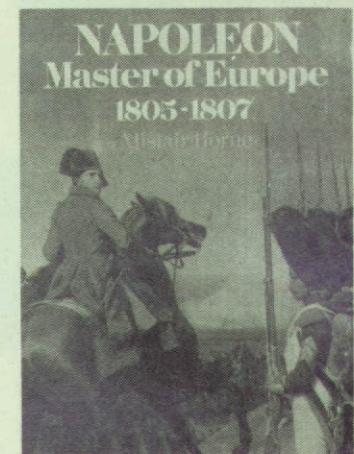
## Camp followers

*'They Also Served'* (George and Anne Forty)

An interesting and very revealing record of the camp follower from the days of the Romans, through two world wars to the present day, including Vietnam. The large number of photographs and sketches provide the authentic atmosphere and show the troops at war and in peace, served by that wide range of men, women, and children too, who followed, and still follow, the drum.

The Commissariat of the 17th and 18th centuries supplied the food and "made fat profits at the expense of the soldiers' empty bellies." One Alexis Soyer changed things with his new field stove in the Crimea and earned himself "three times three" cheers from the patients at Scutari.

The authors have gathered a vast amount of material about the soldier in India, about food, servants, the canteens, the entertainers (including ENSA and Forces Broadcasting), the nurses, doctors and Red Cross. Also the volunteer societies: Church Army, YMCA, Toc H, Sandes' Soldiers Homes and many others. SSAFA has a chapter of its own, equal to 'The Reporters', including the first of the war correspondents. There is



Sir John Moore's infantrymen waded breast high into the sea in practice exercises to fit them to fight off invaders.

Meanwhile the Royal Navy sealed the French departure ports and British cash and material aid boosted the efforts of Russia, Prussia and Austria to subdue the world-beat conqueror. Napoleon gave up, marched his army to the south-east to Ulm and Austerlitz, where he gained great victories, and then north-eastward to Jena and Eylau. He crushed the Austrians, the Prussians and defeated the Russians. In 1807 on a raft in the middle of the River Niemen he and Tsar Nicholas I signed the Treaty of Tilsit. Napoleon was at

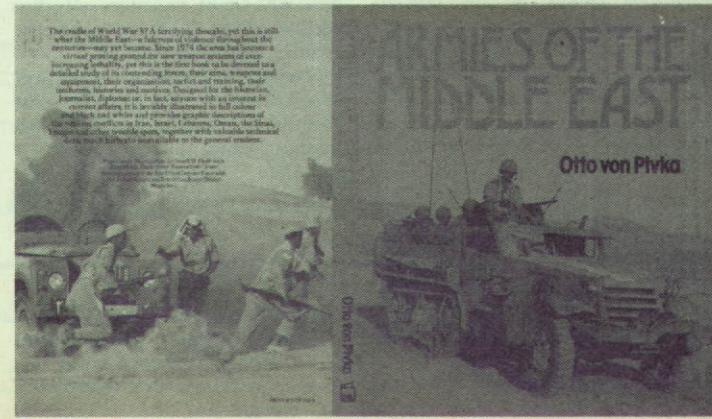


much else, all worthwhile reading.

Harry Secombe, who was a lance bombardier during World War Two and later a camp follower himself as an entertainer, wrote the witty Foreword. The last chapter is entitled 'Free Enterprise'. Small time traders such as the 'lemonade wallah' and the 'flying dhobi' receive their honourable mention but the bulk of these final words is devoted to the prostitute, who has always been in close proximity to every army.

*Midas Books, 12 Dene Way, Speldhurst, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN3 0NX, £12.50*

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