

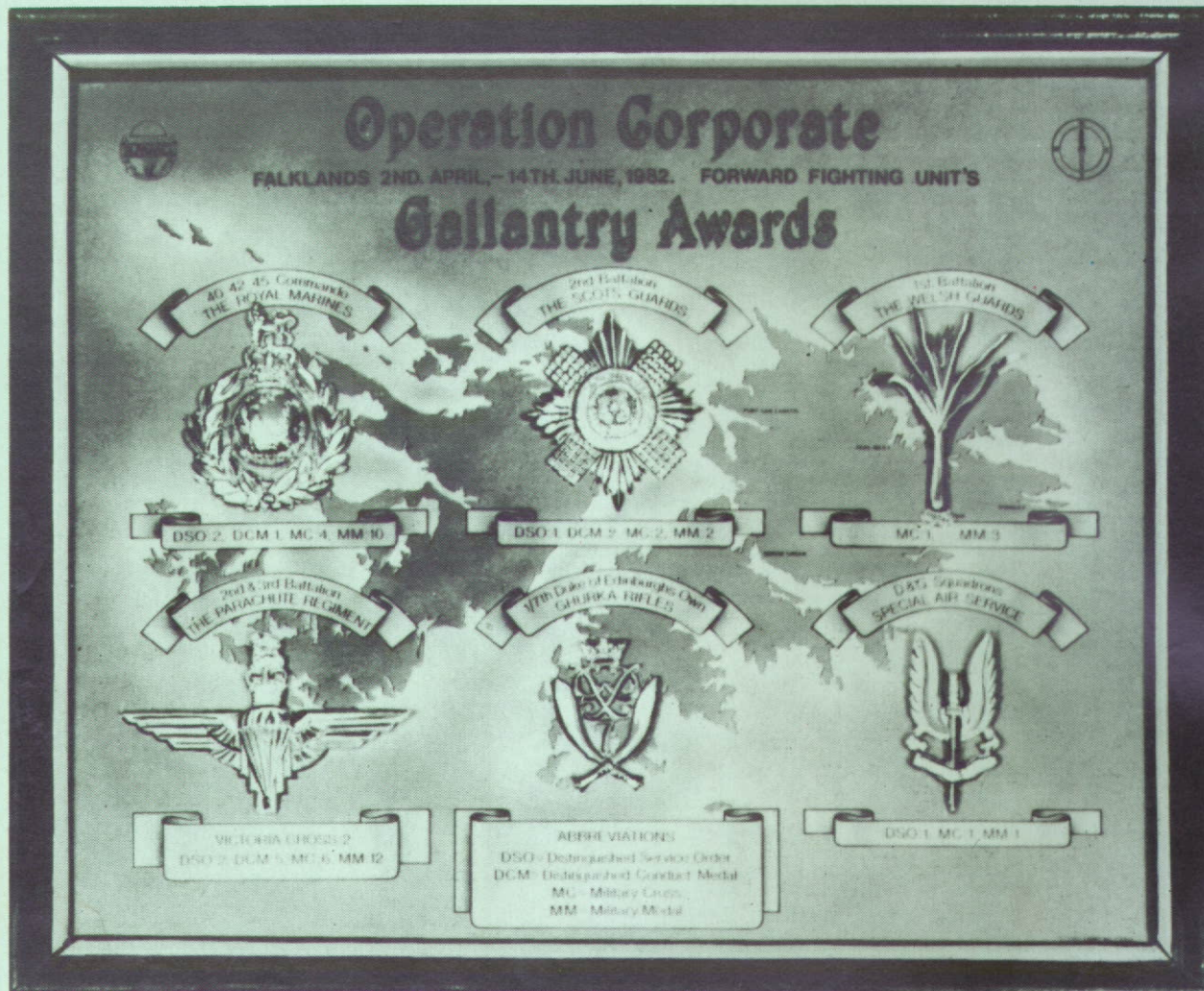
THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 25 PENCE • 25 JULY-7 AUG 1983

# SOLDIER



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### FRONT COVER

To many people there's still an air of mystery about a pace stick, subject in this smart setting of competition between the Guards' Depot, Pirbright and Sandhurst. There's more on pace sticks and the proud men who use them on page 11.

Picture by Doug Pratt.

### BACK COVER

Even cam cream can't hide good looks. Officer Cadet Alison Newey of Bristol University OTC. More about her colleagues on exercise — page 14.

Picture by Paul Haley.

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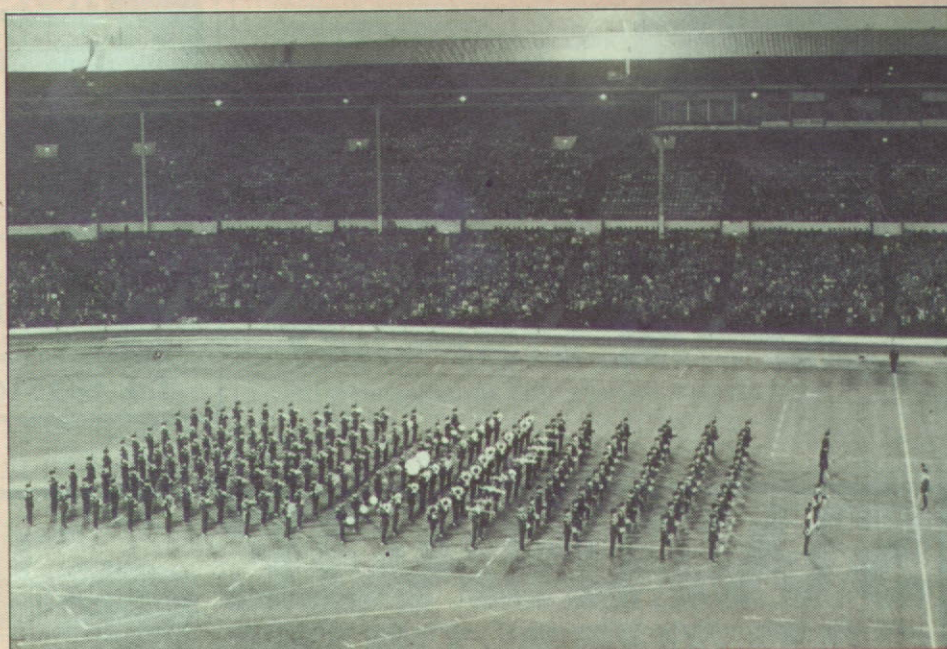


**The Royal Danish Life Guards have their traditions, too. Page 26**

**The Red Devils accept Post Office offer to drop in on a stamp! Page 22**



**One year after the Regent's Park bomb, the band plays on. Page 23**



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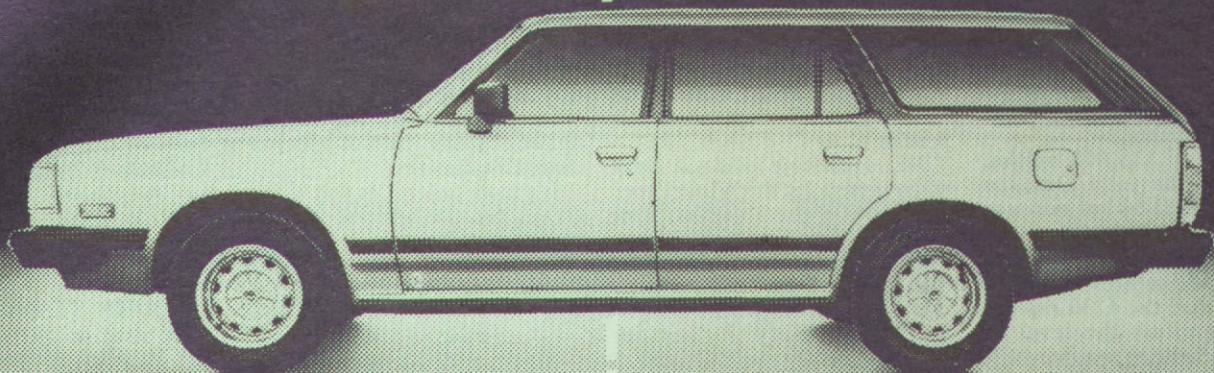
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# NEW WEAPONS ARE NOW LINED-UP

## Defence White Paper

THERE were few surprises for the Army in the 1983 Defence White Paper and little unexpected information on Armed Forces equipment.

A figure of £15,973 million was set as the total Defence budget for 1983/84 but this was later cut to £15,743 million.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence promised that the £230 million would not affect the level of "front end fighting manpower".

A NEW 120mm gun for Challenger and Chieftain tanks and a new lightweight anti-armour weapon (LAW 80) are just two equipment changes to be brought into service for the Army. They were announced, along with changes for the other two services, by Defence Secretary Mr Michael Heseltine when he introduced a £16 billion defence programme for 1983/84.

About half of the estimated expenditure will go on equipment for the Services.

The rest goes on Forces and civilian pay, building, stores and pensions.

Mr. Heseltine made it clear when presenting the White Paper that it was the "unremitting growth" of the Soviet threat that committed the UK to spending such a sum.

The precise budget for 1983/84 is £15,973 million which includes £624 million for the Falklands.

The fifth White Paper on Defence in a little over two years, this was Mr Heseltine's first since taking over, but it contained no major shifts of policy or change of direction.

It's more or less "as you were" except for the increase in estimated spending which shows a 19 per cent increase since the Tories came to power in 1977.

### IMPROVEMENTS

Along with plans for a new tank gun comes news of a smaller, lighter rifle and high explosive bombs for the 51mm mortar.

Plans to "enhance the survivability of the Gazelle helicopter over the battlefield" are being formulated and improvements to the Blowpipe and Rapier missile systems are underway.

The Falklands war showed up a number of faults in equipment highlighting the importance of night-fighting. Now moves are planned to acquire more night vision goggles for infantry and helicopter crews.

Thermal-imaging night sights are also being fitted to armoured vehicles and tanks and to anti-tank weapons systems.

### BETTER SIGHTS

New style mine detectors, capable of locating mines with a small metal content, are also being developed, as is more durable wet-weather clothing and kit.

Other improvements include better sights and warheads for the long-range anti-tank missile Swingfire and the medium-range Milan.

## IN BRIEF

AN ARMY inquiry is looking into the death of 17-year-old Graham Powles of the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion at Folkestone. A trench in which he was sleeping collapsed during an exercise near Thetford, Norfolk.

THE CORONER recorded a verdict of death by misadventure at a Hammersmith, London inquest on Flight Lieutenant John Warburn, Royal Air Force. He was fencing with Army Sergeant Peter Whiteside, whose blade broke and pierced his opponent's neck.

MR JOHN STANLEY, Minister of State for the Armed Forces told Members of Parliament that the recent fire at the Central Ordnance Depot, Donnington, would cost an estimated £150m in replacements and £15m in damage caused.

MAJOR GENERAL R F (Richard) Vincent is to be Master General of the Ordnance, Ministry of Defence, in September 1983 in the rank of Lieutenant General. This appointment carries with it membership of the Army Board of the Defence Council.

A CHEQUE for £10,000 has been presented to BLESMA by 2nd Regiment, Royal Artillery, who had raised the money through a car raffle and a sponsored run from the regiment's base at Münster to Manchester.

The 1983 Royal Military Police and City of Chichester March will be held on 7 August. Entry forms and further information can be obtained from the Hon Secretary, Royal Military Police and City of Chichester March, Roussillon Barracks, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 4BN.

## HAIL SIR NIGEL . . .



The new Commander-in-Chief British Army of the Rhine and Commander Northern Army Group, General Sir Nigel Bagnall, extreme left, is greeted at Rheindahlen by C-in-C RAF Germany and Commander 2nd Allied Tactical Air Force Air Marshal Sir Patrick Hine, the General's Chief of Staff Major General R Zerling and Major General H-u Flade, Chief of Staff TWOATF.

## . . . farewell Sir Michael



Departing as C-in-C BAOR and Commander NORTHAG, General Sir Michael Gow (right) is presented with the Northern Army Group battleaxe by his Chief of Staff Major General Zerling. General Gow also left with a new pipe tune "General Sir Michael Gow's Farewell to Rheindahlen" bringing sweet music to his ears, played by the Pipes and Drums of The King's Own Scottish Borderers.

## STRIKING SILVER!

COMMUNICATION Centre Staff at Bulford Camp have received their first world-wide Tri-Service 'Comstar' award for their exceptionally high standard of work. Major General Mike Gray, GOC South West District, presented a Silver award to Mr Bernie Capper, the Supervisor, who said: "I'm very proud to receive this award on behalf of my staff. It's a miracle because, being a large Comcen, we handle so much traffic."

The silver award is made for handling thousands of teleprinter messages worldwide during a period of six consecutive months with no message handling faults and a maximum of two operating errors. All eleven civilian staff, including four women, live locally, and are attached to 1 Squadron of 10 Signal Regiment. Now their sights are set on perfection and a gold award!



Smiling Warrant Officer 2 Ken Yeoman in his hospital bed with the trophy brought to him by his wife Rose.

ONE OF numerous awards presented at Airborne Forces Day, Aldershot, was the Fishmongers Trophy 1983 — given to Mrs Rose Yeoman to pass on to her husband WO2 Ken Yeoman.

Ken is already well known to the whole nation as the man whose bravery saved a colleague in a parachuting mishap.

The Fishmongers trophy is presented each year by the Fishmongers Company of London to an individual or group in The Parachute Regiment who have made the outstanding achievement of the year. With typical modesty WO2 Yeoman said his wife deserves an award.



● **COMPARING NOTES** at Bulford Camp recently were three commanding officers of the 1st Battalion the Parachute Regiment (above). Brigadier James Hill, left, the first CO at Bulford, in 1942,

met up with Lieutenant-Colonel Ian McLeod the Current CO, centre. Right is Major-General Mike Gray, GOC South West District who commanded the battalion from 1969-1971.

## Triple Triumph In Big Awards

THE ROYAL Corps of Transport, 1st Battalion Queen's Own Highlanders and H Troop, 13 Signal Regiment, Royal Signals, all have particular cause to feel pleased with themselves — all three featuring in big awards announced just before **SOLDIER** went to Press.

The Worshipful Company of Carmen have presented their Viva Award to the Royal Corps of Transport for "outstanding service" to the Task Force during the Falklands operations last year.

The Carmen's Company instituted the Viva Awards in 1957

and is the City Livery Company representing all aspects of the transport function in terms of the carriage of people and goods.

The Wilkinson Sword Group, which annually awards a sword of peace to each of the three Services is this year making an additional award for the first time — and it goes to Queen's Own Highlanders in recognition of their tremendous efforts in the Falklands Islands after the cessation of hostilities.

The battalion undertook a whole range of tasks — not all pleasant — in order to help the people of the Islands return to a normal existence after the shock of invasion and war.

This year the Army's "annual" Wilkinson award goes to H Troop of 13 Signal Regiment — a small unit with a fine record of good relationships with the local people in Dannenberg, near the inner-German border and about 75km from Munsterlager.

Officers and men of the Troop, and their families, work hard at getting to know the local population.

## TOURNAMENT STARS YET AGAIN!

SINCE this year's Royal Tournament features the Battle of Britain and the London blitz, the spotlight is mainly on the RAF — it's their "turn" anyway.

### Recruit of the year?

ROGER MOORE, the world's most famous secret agent, 007 James Bond, must be the recruit of the year. He has just been made a life member of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Comrades Association.

And all because he lost ten bob from a wallet as he slept while doing his basic training stint at Bury St Edmunds as a National Serviceman. (**SOLDIER** 7 Feb).

The Beds and Herts Regt felt so touched by this sneak theft by persons unknown that they recently not only refunded the multimillionaire star of "Octopussy" with the ten bob — fifty pence in cheque form — they sent him a Taylors cap badge.

Now all the Beds and Herts Regt men are waiting for is a surprise call in spectacular Bond style.

But as they rightly lead in the three-hour show old Army favourites such as the Musical Drive by the King's Troop RHA and the stirring sight and sound of the Massed Pipes and Drums, still earn cheers and applause at this year's Tournament at Earls Court, London.

With 15 scenes in the fast-moving show, it's an action-packed spectacular which doesn't stand still for a second.

For the first time the Metropolitan Police are represented in the show.

More than 300 of them give a nine-minute precision display of physical fitness under the direction of former WO1 John Bromley of the APTC.

Now the PT Officer at Hendon Police College, John, 55, left the Army in 1968 after 26 years service.

He said: "I joined the REs as a boy in 1942 switching to the APTC as a corporal in 1945 and later to the King's African Rifles as Brigade WO PTI in Kenya."

While he still talks nostalgically of his Army times, today his whole effort goes into training

cadets for the "Met" and throughout the 2½-week show showing an admiring public just what these 16-17½ year-olds can do.

But while the show must go on — and it ends next Saturday (July 30) — moves are afoot behind the scenes to help world war widows.

To spotlight their plight a special charity lunch was held attended by celebrities and stars.

It is hoped to make this appeal an annual event.

## New Coastel

The first British-built floating accommodation barge for the Falklands garrison was named "Pursuivant" by Lady Travers, widow of the late Lieutenant General Sir Paul Travers, former Quartermaster General, at a ceremony in Lowestoft.

"Pursuivant" was due to be towed out later and floated on to the semi-submersible heavy-lift vessel "Dyvi Swan" which will carry it the 8,000 miles to the Falklands. Full report in the next issue of **SOLDIER**.

## WRAC GIRLS HEADING SOUTH

AS **SOLDIER** went to press, the first group of WRAC girls were preparing to leave for the Falklands for a five month tour of duty in Port Stanley.

The eighteen volunteers will be employed with various units as clerks, cooks, 'posties' and in the stores.

Captain Di Foster, WRAC said they were all looking forward to their posting very much.

"Obviously we don't know quite what to expect," she told **SOLDIER**, "but we're all very enthusiastic even though we know it won't be quite as comfortable for us as in the UK."

"The imbalance in the number of men and women down there doesn't bother us and the girls are expecting rather a lot of social invitations! It's an experience of a lifetime!"

## EARLY START TO TRAINING! ▼

If six-year-old Alex Sibbald looks a natural at the controls this is hardly surprising — his father Sergeant Scott Sibbald is currently serving with his squadron in the Falkland Islands. Alex, with dreams of flying a Gazelle, was one of a group of children from Hildesheim School hosted by 661 Squadron Army Air Corps, 1 Regiment Army Air Corps, in Hildesheim, Germany.



## PARAS RETURN ▼

A parachute battalion has returned to Bulford for the first time in 41 years. To mark the arrival of the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment and their new role with NATO's ACE Force, 650 men paraded before Major General Mike Gray, GOC South West District, a former commanding officer of the Battalion.

The men carried the kit they would take on military operations and lined up with their recce platoon vehicles for the special photograph (below) by Paul Haley.

The battalion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Ian McLeod, has moved into Picton Barracks, Bulford, where they replace The Prince of Wales' Own Regiment of Yorkshire, now in Berlin.

# NEWS VIEW

## MAYORAL VISIT ▼

The Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Michael Taylor, inspects a Quarter Guard during a visit to 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment in Osnabrück, West Germany.

The visit co-incided with the annual regimental weekend, with 75 Old Comrades enjoying the celebrations which included a families open day. The Lord Mayor stressed the importance of past and present links with the regiment and the City of Manchester.

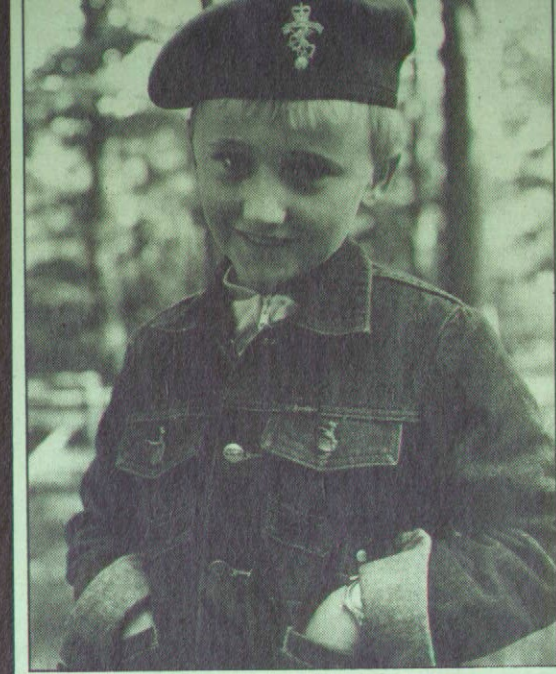
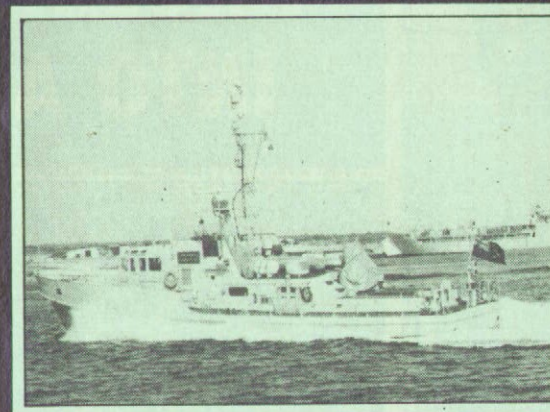


## 'THIS IS YOUR LIFE' SURPRISE ▲

There was a surprise in store for Green Howards Colour Sergeant Frank Dyas on his last day in the Army, when family and friends at the Defence Nuclear Biological and Chemical School at Winterbourne Gunner, Wiltshire, gathered secretly to mark Frank's retirement in the best TV tradition with their own version of 'This is Your Life'.

## MICHAEL MURPHY VC

Michael Murphy VC, the new £1.5 million Range Safety Target Towing launch for 10 Port Squadron Royal Corps of Transport, arrived safely and in fine style at RAF Akrotiri after sailing over 3400 nautical miles from Brightlinsea in Essex, where she was built.



## THANKS DAD ▲

Wearing the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers badge with pride is nine-year-old James McQuillian, son of the late Corporal Peter McQuillian, once a member of 16 Parachute Workshop.

Cpl McQuillian obviously told his son a lot of his days with his old unit and his mother wrote to successors 10 Field Workshop and Lance Corporal Mark Nicholson collected and returned James to his home in Sunderland after being hosted by the Workshop. He stayed with Lance Corporal Ian and Mrs Linda Dorling at their married quarter and after an exciting weekend James now has two prized possessions — a framed picture of a REME airborne soldier and a unit plaque.





## TOPICS

# A SURPRISING WEEKEND FOR YEOMANRY CO

NEWLY equipped with their long wheelbase Land-Rovers for their new recce role with 42 Infantry Brigade, the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry (DLOY) held their first major exercise this season at Warcop, Cumbria.

It was their 'test' weekend, with members of each of the three recce squadrons — A Squadron from Wigan, B Squadron from Chorley and D Squadron from Preston and Blackpool, given 'snap' tests that included

first aid, vehicle fault finding, ambush drills and signals.

While members of the squadrons were being tested, the others had demonstrations of clearing woods and houses by D Squadron, of route patrolling and anti-ambush drills.

All this was a surprise to the squadrons — but the biggest surprise of the day was masterminded by second-in-command Major Brandon Fowden and Adjutant, Captain Charles Clarke. It was Lieutenant Colonel Richard Ferguson's last training weekend as Commanding Officer.

Unknown to him, he was to be invited to take the salute at a regimental drive past. The last duties on the Sunday arrived, and a rather bemused CO was

left on the hard standing on the ranges, but no staff car.

Although staff were around, the squadrons and their vehicles were out of sight.

Was it a leisurely lunch? Or what? When the Regimental parade of almost 60 vehicles was sighted, Lt Col Ferguson was persuaded to mount a pile of pallets (conveniently sited to form a review base) and led by the 2IC, this unrehearsed parade went off without a hitch.

Despite the turning circles of the long wheelbase Land-Rovers, all managed to turn to form the line, and with three squadrons and RHQ from Chorley on parade, the Guidon was marched on, General salute given, and Lt Col Ferguson invited to inspect.



Three cheers. Lt Col Ferguson receives the tribute of his Regiment.

## END OF LONG ASSOCIATION

Gastronomic delights such as observation post onion soup, sliced rare field squadron fillet of 107 Brigade beef and heavy battery broccoli, greeted Colonel Bertrand Cotton when he was "dined out" by officers of 74 (Antrim Artillery) Engineer Regiment (V) at Girdwood Park, Belfast.

The outgoing Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, the menu reflected the Colonel's long association with the TA in Ulster. He is pictured below receiving a portrait of himself from the CO Lieutenant Colonel Willie Shackell.



## ANGLIANS GET INTO ACTION



**More than 350 East Anglian Territorials have been sharpening their military skills with two weeks of intensive training on the south coast.**

The Terriers, from the 6th Battalion, the Royal Anglian Regiment, used the Cinque Ports training area near Folkestone, in Kent, for their annual camp.

Their fortnight's training is centred upon the battalion's home defence role — the Royal Anglians will be called upon to defend the British mainland in the event of war or national emergency — and included mock battles, night patrol exercises, and "live" firing with small arms and mortars.

The battalion's commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel David James, a Norwich businessman in civilian life, com-

mented: "The fortnight's camp presented a welcome opportunity for our soldiers — who are all part-timers — to put into practice the skills they have learned at their local TA centres during the previous months."

The Royal Anglians also used their time on the south coast to provide organised one-day trips across the Channel to France, where — apart from taking a break from their training — members of the battalion visited some of the battlefields and cemeteries of the First and Second World Wars.

"As this year is the 75th anniversary of the formation of the TA it is pertinent for today's soldiers to remember the sacrifices made by previous generations in defence of their country," said Lt Col James.

# SETTING THE PACE

Pacing it out with sticks tapping.

**T**HE Guards Depot team are the World Pace Stick Champions, and that's official. The world what? Imagine the surprise on many readers' faces when they try and grasp this fact.

So you have never heard of this world event. Well you have now! With luck, lots of other people will hear, or read, of this important event and perhaps in years to come the immaculate Guards Depot square of Pirbright will become even more famous.

Because the organisers of this championship genuinely *WANT* people from the rest of the world to take part.

Some Canadians and Austrians, for example, are known by Guards drill experts to carry pace sticks — but can they *use* them as well as their counterparts on British squares?

Academy Sergeant-Major Denis Cleary of Royal Military Academy Sandhurst is genuinely keen to widen the scope of an

event dominated by the Household Division.

"We would dearly love to see more infantry regiments of the line, and the Corps, involved and if we could get competitors from overseas as well that would be great," he said after inviting me to incur the wrath of a ring of warrant officers and senior non-commissioned officers by drawing numbers and initials to decide the order of battle.

*continued on page 12*



Spectators watching with eagle eyes. On the left — Academy Sergeant Major Denis Cleary.

## GUARDS 'STICKERS' HAVE CHALLENGE FOR THE WORLD

**Story: Peter Howard  
Pictures: Doug Pratt**



Winning Guards Depot team (left) receives the cup from the sponsors Whitbread director Bryan Humphrey.



Toe plate clicking  
Arms are ranging  
Stick rotating on hard macadam  
Concentration on the dressing  
Thinks "You up there, don't let me blunder."

*Verse from 'The reflections of a Sticker' by the late RSM R O Barnes*



In short, this particular and very important RSM wants to spread the pace stick word — knowledge of, and skill with, for the use of.

"The competition is good for everyone," said the man who entered a team called Infantry Regiments of the Line and sporting a King's Own Scottish Borderers glengarry and Royal Irish Rangers caubeen to stand out in sharp contrast to the peaked caps of the Household men. "It is a big day for the Line men to be here competing at Pirbright. Look at them, you can see the pride," said Mr Cleary. You could, too, especially when they finished third.

First on for the nerve-racking test in front of the judges and serried ranks of VIS (very in-

terested spectators) were the men from the Household Cavalry Dis-mounted.

A Foot Guards voice was heard to observe "It really is good to see the donkey-wallopers out there." There can be no doubt these were words of tribute for the warrant officer and his team of three performing on a day when the heat was sufficient to bake the best-bulled boots. A sound observation as well, for the cavalrymen finished second!

To the uninitiated it all looked very strange, but impressive, as a team marched on, were inspected and pace-sticks 'proved' ... each open stick being checked for measurement.

Drill in slow time ... pace stick with right hand for 20 paces ... with left hand for 20 paces



Infantry of the Line Regiments team.

Eight teams took part, each chasing a maximum 200 marks, and the first four placings were as follows:  
1 — Guards Depot 197  
2 — Household Cavalry Dis-mounted 193  
3 — Infantry Regiments of the Line 189  
4 — 1st Bn Coldstream Guards 185

... changing sticks, carrying sticks. The halt must have come as blessed relief but then came the more difficult part — the retire in quick time. Sweating palms must have made control very difficult.

To old National Servicemen, like me, the pace stick is part of an overall fear. To Regimental Sergeant-Major Tony Bowen of the Guards Depot it is a "precision instrument, and when you acquire one it is more a badge of rank".

It all sounds a bit like driving. Passing your test is one thing — but only part of the learning process. With pace sticks the fun (or embarrassment) follows when marching with a squad for the first time, not to mention when you add a band as well!

As its name suggests, the pace stick is used to gauge correct length of pace, to measure distances between ranks and to

check drill movements, among other things.

The purpose of drill with this object of fascination is to provide uniformity in the use of the stick.

What could surprise some people is that the origins belong to the history of the Royal Artillery and sticks once ensured correct distances between guns. The infantry, quick to see advantages with a few adjustments to the instrument, stepped in smartly. It was in 1928 when the late Arthur Brand developed a drill — and the stick he used is still carried with pride by AcSM Cleary. Then, in 1952, began the annual competition between RMA Sandhurst and the Guards Depot, who won this year's event by half-a-mark.

The first world event was held in 1981, with the Falklands fighting duties preventing a follow-up last year.

AcSM Cleary has already been questioned on the "world" designation of the championships. With refreshing simplicity — and a twinkle in his experienced eye — he said "I don't know of another event like it, so as it is the only one of its kind it must be a world championship."

There's no answer to that — except for the rest of the world to join in! ■

## SOLDIER to Soldier

**A**LTHOUGH SOLDIER devotes itself mainly to the modern Army, history cannot be ignored and, indeed, soldiers themselves make history every day!

As this edition was prepared for the press, we heard of two Falklands-related awards, one for achievement in war to the Royal Corps of Transport and one for the equally vital function of restoring the proper peace to 1st Battalion, Queen's Own Highlanders (see page 6).

The latter is a special Wilkinson Sword award in addition to the annual one earned this year by H Troop 13 Signal Regiment.

What with all this and soldiers featuring prominently and currently on postage stamps (see page 22) and preparing to help Lydd in Kent celebrate 700 years (page 32) there is no getting away from the past.

All the more encouraging then to note that the new £1m extension to the National Army Museum in Chelsea is bringing in extra people and visitors in these early days have said how much they like the new display.

The extension, covering three floors and 70 years of soldiering from Flanders to the Falklands was officially opened by General Sir John Stanier, Chief of the General Staff.

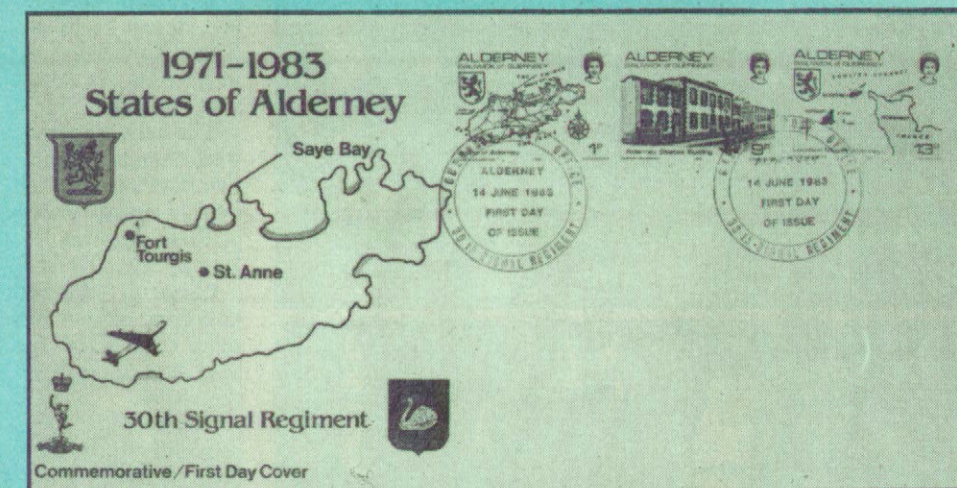
The brand-new permanent display is well presented with life-size reconstructions, realistic backgrounds and informative audio-visual displays.

**I**f we are to enjoy more of the recent blistering weather before summer is over then now seems a good time to remind everyone that the sun can be dangerous.

There have been a number of cases of heat stroke in recent weeks — possibly because we are just not used to the sweltering conditions experienced.

So units have been reminded of relevant safety measures and advised to seek medical advice if in any doubt.

With the holiday season rolling along now don't forget that basking in the sun can present problems.



**T**HE Channel Island of Alderney recently released its first ever set of stamps and 30th Signal Regiment, which has a close association with the island, has issued a special first day cover to commemorate that link.

The envelope (shown below) shows Fort Tourgis and Saye Bay, the two camps where the regiment has been based during its almost annual visits. They were given the equivalent of the Freedom of Alderney in 1971, and hold the covers at: PRI 30th Signal Regiment, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RP, cheques to be made payable to PRI 30th Signal Regiment.

Some 1200 copies of a short set with three stamps were produced and cost £1. For £4 each there are 200 copies of the complete issue comprising four envelopes each of three stamps.

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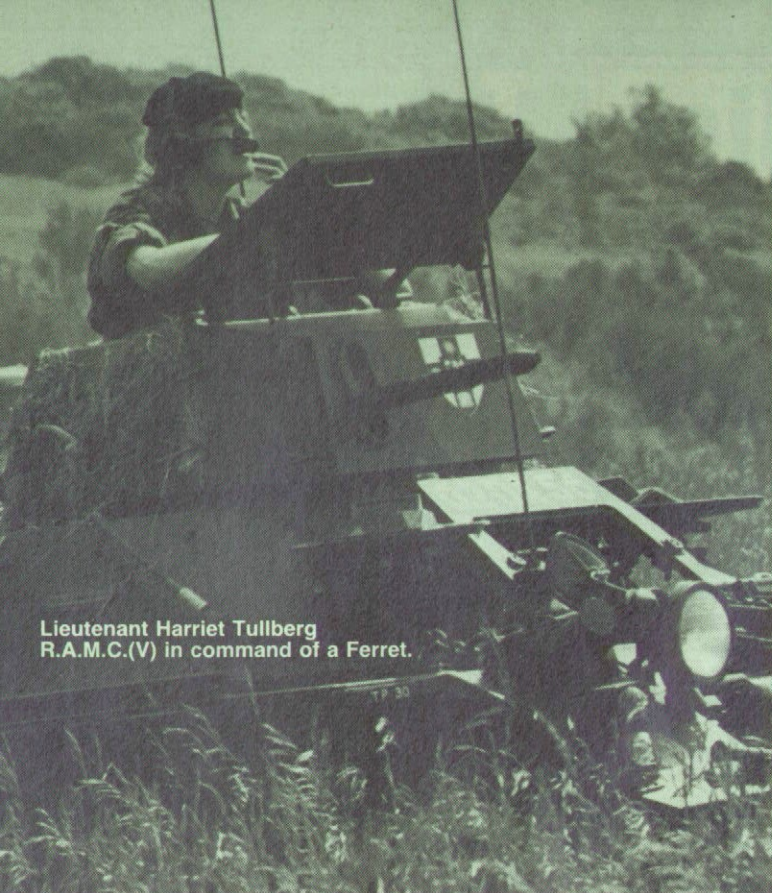
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Lieutenant Harriet Tullberg  
R.A.M.C.(V) in command of a Ferret.



**Pictures:  
Paul Haley**

**JOHN MARGETTS visits Salisbury Plain  
and sees the girls of Bristol University  
Officer Training Corps replace face  
cream with cam cream**

## SORTING GIRLS FROM BOYS!

When student Cathy Jewell signed on with the Officers' Training Corps at Bristol University she joined the Sappers' troop. Then Cathy had no idea what the Royal Engineers did. Recently, on Salisbury Plain she found out.

For Cathy was one of 35 girls and 70 lads — all students from Bristol University — taking part in Exercise Sea Port, climaxing a year's training.

The halfway point of their two week summer camp, they spent two days on the Plain rounding up a 20-strong "enemy" made up of Royal Marines Reserves from Lympstone, Dorset.

Close up, it was possible to tell girls from boys — just. But from more than a few feet away the only discernible difference was in the voices.

Concealed, by shapeless, camouflaged battledress, with faces smeared with green and brown paint, they all looked alike.

It was only when they hollered or shrieked an order that the difference became obvious.

"Don't let their femininity fool you," said Warrant Officer 1 Ron Hubbard of the Queen's Own Hussars and their Regimental Sergeant Major.

"These girls are tough and extremely good. They seem to put more into their roles than the lads.

"Maybe they feel they have to, but whatever they do they do it well. And you only have to tell them once. The same goes for the lads, of course, but the girls give it everything they've got."

Two of the girls "giving it everything" were Lieutenant Harriet Tullberg (RAMC(V)) who was blazing away with a machine-gun from the turret of a Ferret armoured vehicle, and her driver, Officer Cadet Nicola Vile.

While Harriet let rip with the blanks and gave orders, Nicola swung the Ferret over the humps and hollows of the Plain towards the "enemy" objective.

"They're good. Very good," said music student Fiona Cooper, 21, who has just collected her degree and will now be looking for a job.

An "infanteer" with the Infantry Troop, Fiona surveyed her dust-covered boots, dirty hands and broken finger nails.

"I've had three great years with the OTC. I've enjoyed every minute of it and it has been a tremendous experience," she said.

"It has given me an insight into the Army and myself.

"It's amazing what you can do when you have to. Even to keeping awake for nearly 48 hours."

Staff Sergeant Barry Warburton, permanent staff instructor to the Signals Troop verified this when he said: "These girls are mustard.

"I treat them the same as the lads. There's no problems. They're all on equal terms here. Sleeping, eating, working. They're all the same."

Even in the RE Troop it's the same. Whether it's laying mines, putting up bridges or doing any of the jobs the Sappers do, the girls do exactly the same as the lads, with one exception.

A line was drawn when they built a five-bay, single-storey girder bridge for the infantry troop to advance across.

Then a concession was made to the girls, but only because they weren't able to hoist the heavy girders high enough at the ends and so they were allowed to lift from the centre.

That was the only allowance made to Jackie Fogerty, Annette Haxton and Charlotte Wood, three girls in the ten-strong team which built the 30ft by 10ft wide bridge in 45 minutes under the direction of their instructor QMSI Eric Puffett.

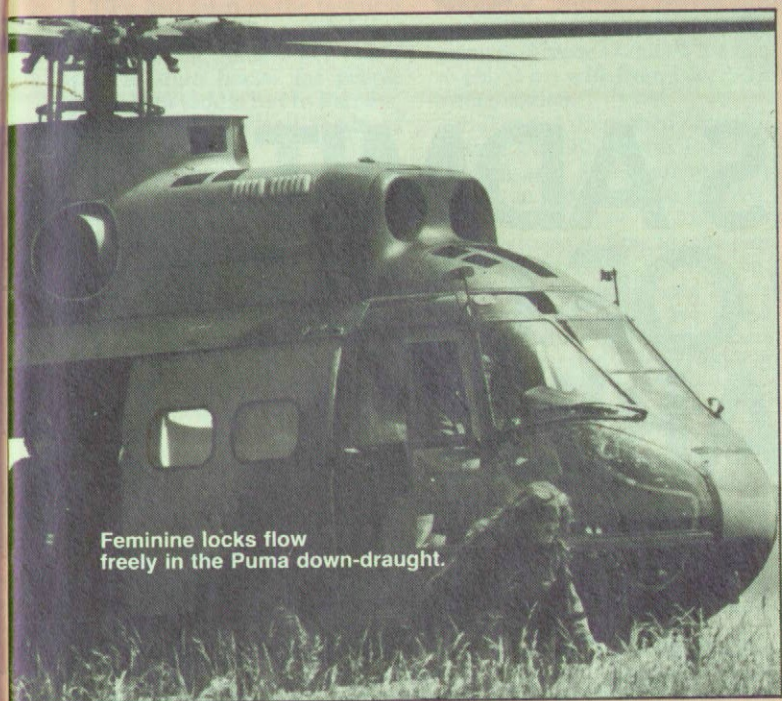
While the RE Troop put the finishing touches to their bridge and waited for the infantry, the RA Troop were some miles away lining up their 105mm air portable guns on a distant target.

Watched by their instructor Battery Sergeant Major Fred Huggins and a host of "top brass", the "four-man" team, led

◀ Welcome rest for  
Lt. Tullberg, left, and  
Officer Cadet Nicola Vile.



Second Lieutenant Christina Johnson. Staff-Sergeant Barry Warburton.



Feminine locks flow  
freely in the Puma down-draught.



by Linda Collins — there should be six to a gun, but they were short on gunners — unhooked the gun from an assisting Royal Air Force Puma and had it set up and operable within minutes.

While Linda gave the orders, Mike Littleton, Andrew Meek and Gavin Van der Pant went through the routine of positioning and siting the weapon.

Their efforts won high praise from Falklands veteran BSM Huggins.

Meanwhile the infanteers had taken their objective and were being debriefed by their instructor, Colour Sergeant Adrian Bryan of the Gloucesters, and preparing for the final phase of the battle.

Up till now the RAF had played a part by providing a Hercules and a Puma and the Army Air Corps a Gazelle. The United States Army, too, helped out by sending a Chinook of 205 Aviation Company, based at Mainz, Germany, under the command of Warrant Officer John M. Parry, pilot.

There was a suggestion that he airlift the Sappers' bridge for them, until it was discovered that it had been built among trees which would have made it a hazardous operation.

"I guess that's not on, Ma'am," drawled John M. to Second Lieutenant Christina Johnson WRAC(V), a former student at Bristol and now attached there in the TA.

A trainee accountant with a London firm, 22-year-old Christina's role in the exercise was that of umpire.

She agreed that the "enemy" were obliged to "lose the battle", but emphatically denied it was a "bang, bang, lie-down-you're-dead" type exercise.

It was a 48-hour three-part exercise consisting of an initial attack, a withdrawal to better defences positions and preparation for the final advance, she explained.

The commanding officer, too, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Cawse RA(V), pronounced himself satisfied with the way things were going.

Which was just as well, really, for it was the Colonel's last exercise with the Bristol University OTC before being promoted to full Colonel and moving to a new command.

A talk with a "captured enemy" soldier revealed one little snag in the proceedings when he told how he and his fellow "enemy" waited three hours for the "goodies" to show up.

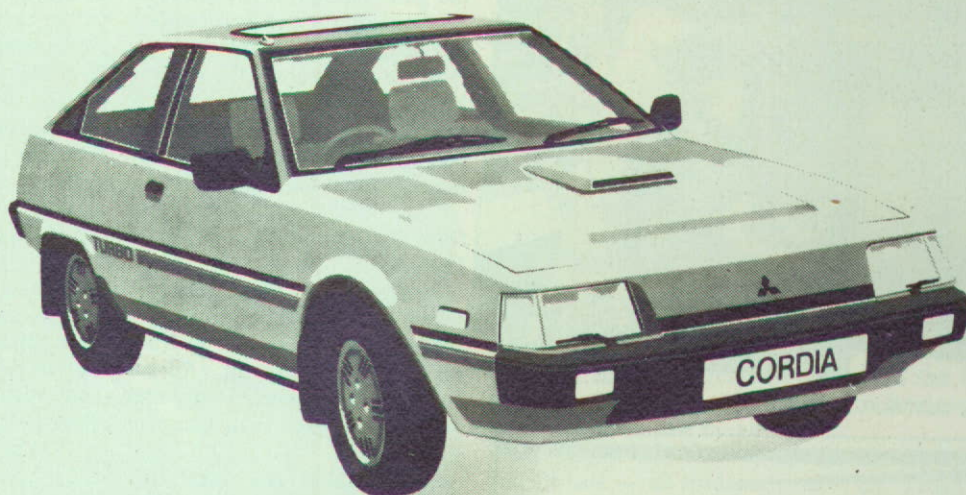
"I don't know whether they got lost or whether we were in the wrong place," he said. "But they never did show."

Yet as someone else quickly pointed out: "Anyone can get lost on Salisbury Plain at night."

A pretty face in combat kit — see radio operator Alison Newey on the back cover.



Zoe Fletcher in  
determined mood



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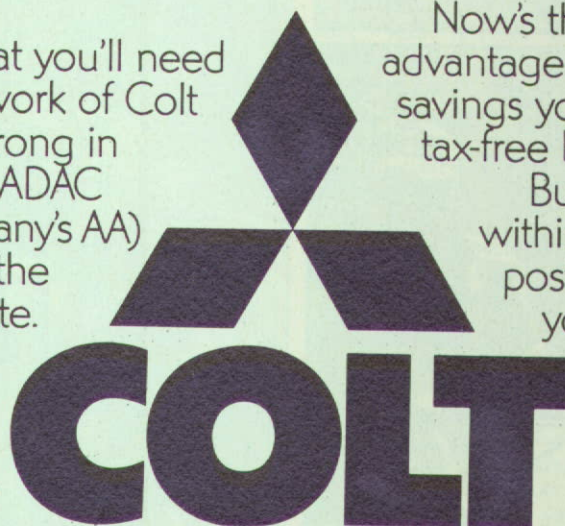
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## Bill Griffiths, ex-Troop Sergeant Major, talks to John Walton about meeting the famous, the big occasions and the sadness of leaving the Army after 35 years.

**B**ILL GRIFFITHS can't remember the first time he rode a horse. Brought up as the son of a horse dealer and breaker in North Wales, riding came as naturally as walking and talking. "We had been in the business for many generations and I was always riding ponies. My father used to train horses for people not only to saddle but to harness. He also used to sell loads of ponies to the pits."

So it is not surprising that Bill's Army career has mostly revolved around horses. He has just retired as Troop Sergeant-Major to the Royal Military Police Mounted Troop after a 35-year career in which he claims to have met every adult member of the Royal Family.

It was conscription just after the war which first took Bill away from the family business. As a youngster he had been operating teams of horses pulling out trees from the mountainsides in North

**'I'd do it all over again.'**

Wales down to where the lorries could pick up the timber for the Forestry Commission.

When he first joined up in 1946 he went to the Royal Welch Fusiliers but soon transferred to the Royal Army Veterinary Corps at Melton Mowbray. After his two years were up he went back to the family business and there he might have stayed had the North Koreans not invaded South Korea.

"I asked the quickest and easiest route to get to Korea and they told me to join the Royal Artillery. Like all the young lads in those days I really wanted to get to Korea — but I never did. I never got any further than Larkhill.

"I found out in the Army that the more you volunteer for something the less chance you have of going, and the blokes who don't want to go usually end up going."

Later Bill heard that the RMP Mounted Troop was about to be re-formed so he transferred and did a 24-week RMP course. He was told that he was ideal material for the new troop and went away on his honeymoon expecting to be transferred to Aldershot on his return. But a surprise was

in store.

"I came back off my honeymoon at midnight and the guard told me to report to the quartermaster. He gave me two kit bags and started filling them up with KD. I said 'I won't need this in Aldershot'. But he said, 'You are not going to Aldershot, you are going to Trieste — NOW!' I had to phone my wife from Liverpool Street station."

Bill ended up in then occupied Vienna patrolling with Russian, French and American military police, an experience he enjoyed. Eventually he got to Aldershot and the troop, in time to take part in the Coronation procession, where he escorted Queen Salote of Tonga, the South Sea island monarch who captured the hearts of the nation that day by riding in an open coach despite the rain.

"Sometimes they show it on television and I can see myself and all the old horses who have gone," he says wistfully. "There was a horse called Tony who was retired out of the Army to a Home of Rest. He got put down about 18 months ago and must have been 36. There are no others left."

Despite his great love of horses Bill is not too enamoured with the idea of retirement homes for horses unless they are fit. "If a horse is chronically ill it is wrong to keep it going. Some people might think they are doing them a kindness but they don't realise the suffering they are causing."

Bill spent some time away from horses in Northern Ireland and Germany and then when Suez erupted he had to put his horse away in the stable and go out on motorcycle convoy escorting artillery from all over the country to Tilbury docks.

Then it was back to the horses and promotion to sergeant. Shortly afterwards he broke a leg in four places while riding at Tweseldown Racecourse. This was the forerunner of a much more serious accident in 1960.

It was on Ash Ranges near Aldershot that Bill was schooling a young horse which tried to throw him and fell across him. He was crushed and the Army saddle tore him open.

"I nearly had my chips. I broke my leg, my pelvis and both collarbones and ripped my bladder. I was on my back in the Cambridge Military Hospital like a Sputnik with tubes everywhere."

After about six months Bill was back at work — but with the warnings of doctors ringing in his



## Gift Horse eased wrench of farewell

ears. "They told me that I thought I was pretty fit but I was going to get trouble with my back — and by golly they were right."

Four years ago he started to get twinges in his back and one morning found he could not move his legs. He was taken into hospital and operated on for trapped nerves — but 18 months later it all started up again.

"I was doubled up on sticks and one surgeon told me my place was not on a horse but out in civvy street" he recalls. After a further operation at Woolwich he was determined to become fit enough to ride in the Royal Wedding procession — needless to say his grit and application saw him on parade on the big day.

Appearances in films like 'Young Winston', state parades and numerous Royal Tournaments, (in the early days they used to ride the horses to London from Aldershot); these are the memories which Bill will take with him to his 16 acre smallholding in Ash where he breeds Welsh cobs. But he has a more tangible reminder — at his farewell parade he was presented with Alice (above) the horse he has ridden in the troop for the

last 12 years.

Sixteen years Bill Griffiths spent as troop sergeant-major and he admits he will find it hard not to be with them any more. But his home is only a few miles away and he expects to keep in touch with the many friends he has made — lots of whom wrote to him after his farewell.

While on his 'demob course' at the Resettlement Centre in Aldershot Bill saw a section from the troop go riding by. Dressed in dungarees he received disapproving glares as he shouted 'Toes Up, sit up!' It was only when one of the Redcaps came to investigate that the dungaree-clad workman was recognised.

Like most veteran soldiers he says: "I'd do it all over again." He adds: "Because I have been a horse breaker since I was knee high I get pleasure out of taking a young horse which knows nothing, and has never seen traffic, and in six to 12 months training turn it into a well disciplined police horse which people admire at shows. It's something which you could not do with a vehicle or a motorbike and it must be the same sort of kick they get out of training recruits in the Brigade of Guards."

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**M**OST OF them never knew it and probably could not have cared less as nearly 350 Ulstermen from the 5th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers, enthusiastically set about their fortnight's summer camp training in BAOR on an area once used by the arms magnate Krupp as an impact area and now partly a marshy nature reserve accidentally discovered some years ago by a glider pilot.

The "Terriers" who wear the distinctive caubeen hat with the green hackles and have Headquarters at Armagh with Companies at Banbridge, Lurgan, Lisburn and Newtownards resolutely withstood the heat — in the high 80s — and the all-pervading dust of the North German Plain on six ranges, part of the 4000 acres on one of the twin training ranges at Haltern, 30 miles west of Münster.

For the first time, too, the Rangers — they go to BAOR every third year — were looking after themselves administratively and living under canvas in more than 200 tents for the first time.

So keen were 50 or so of their number that barely was the Queen Mother's visit to Ballymena over to mark the TA's 75th anniversary than they clamoured out of their ceremonial uniforms and into combat kit for the VC 10 flight from Aldergrove to Gütersloh, then a coach trip, to find themselves in a tactical situation by the following morning.

The men of the regiment (motto: Faugh-a-Ballagh, Gaelic for "Clear the Way") were continuing their long association with West Germany and, in particular, the Iserlohn and Hemer areas of which they have the Freedoms. They even sent a

## GRAHAM SMITH visits 5th (Volunteer) Battalion The Royal Irish Rangers in Germany and gets a taste on exercise of . . .

# RANGERS' RELISH



solitary piper to play on the battlements of Altona Castle in the Markischer district.

Of their number on exercise, 94 were making their first foray

not only into BAOR but also into a summer camp setting and an eventual exercise which, sadly for them in one way, turned out to be one for the 'Guinness'.

They were unable to bring any of the renowned dark brown drink with them but they did get through 9,000 bottles of Dortmunder beer, which, in the evenings, helped to keep up the prescribed daily intake of liquids to defy the heat.

And they took their BAOR reinforcement role in the rear combat zone very seriously. The main party had arrived by four ferries — two from Belfast and two into Zeebrugge — before the road convoy to the training areas.

Out on the heathlands they fired their self-loading rifles, Sterling sub-machine guns, had a two-day 81 mm mortar shoot and carried out dry training with their latest acquisition since January, the Milan anti-tank weapon which has replaced their 120mm Conbats. The part-time

**Two of the Rangers make ready on Milan drills.**

Milan teams hope to fire the weapon for real later in the year in the UK.

One of the men on Milan was Ranger Clive Patterson, a sales rep who has a private pilot's licence and some 50 hours on a single-engined Cherokee in his flight log.

In the TA for just over a year, he said: "The camp is very, very

### Pictures: Les Wiggs

good. I am really enjoying it. I'm off to Tenerife on holiday when I get back and this heat is getting me acclimatised."

His team mate — No 2 on the Milan — was Ranger Ronnie McClune, a maintenance engineer who said he was also enjoying the experience. He said there was no comparison between Milan and the old Conbat in his mind. "Milan is light and

Cpl Andy Cree listens in on his Clansman radio.



*Continued on page 20*

easily maintained and it increases your life expectancy!"

The men from Armagh and County Down also had the use of the electronic target ranges and then took part in heli-borne assaults with the co-operation of German Army Chinook and Huey helicopters.

Specialist first aid and NBC (nuclear, biological, chemical) teams were brought into action, too. Field firing of weapons — also at night — was carried out at platoon and section level.

The stay at Haltern ended with a three-day exercise — aptly named Rangers' Relish — with the visitors guarding imaginary key points and the "enemy" provided by men of "C" Company, 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment, based at Münster.

Watching part of their Nato role in action was Lieutenant General Sir Robert Richardson, GOC Northern Ireland.

The 5th Battalion — there are two Regular and two TA battalions — was raised on 1st April 1971 from three formations, the 5th Royal Irish Fusiliers, the 5th Royal Iniskilling Fusiliers and 6th Royal Ulster Rifles.

It was given a home defence role but after the start of the troubles and the formation of the Ulster Defence Regiment its need as a home defence force was given up and it was tasked with its Nato role in 1978.

As battalion Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Dunseith told SOLDIER: "The 5th Battalion and the TA in Northern Ireland has absolutely no anti-terrorist role. Our role is to Nato and we cannot be used for internal operations in the province.

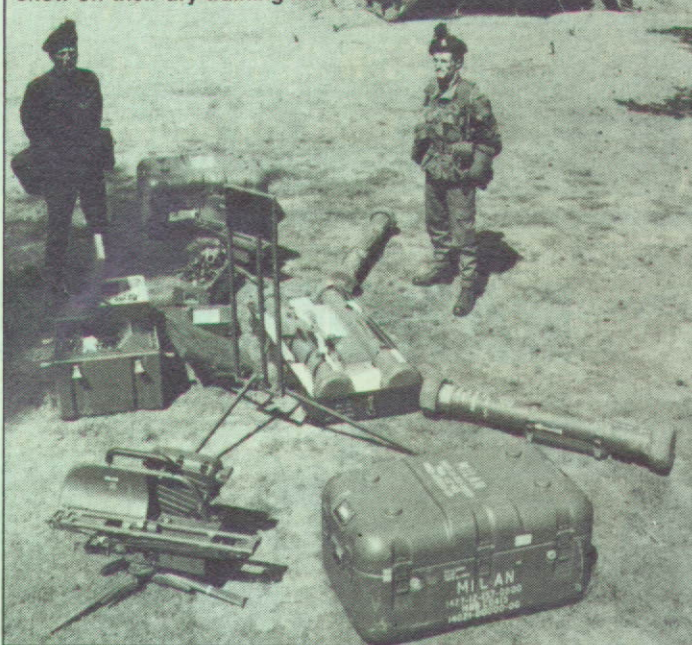
"We are a well-organised and well-trained battalion and we've just received permission to raise another rifle company. We also have the reputation as a shooting battalion in two classes.

"We have won the China Cup, the most coveted TA shooting trophy twice in the past five years at Bisley and, in competition with the Regular Army, UDR and other TA units, we took 7th, 17th and 18th places in the inter-company rifle company competition in Northern Ireland which shows we can hold our own. A total of 43 company-sized units were involved."

Out in the field during the summer camp was the usual cross-section of trades and professions associated with the TA including an abattoir worker, spectacle maker, drama student and a dentist who, according to the CO, "insists on being an infantry officer."

Many of the men were no strangers to BAOR, the Battalion having made a significant con-

One of the Milan crews show off their dry training kit.



tribution to Crusader 80 — the largest deployment of troops to Europe since the last war — and are set for a similar venture next year. This year, too, all had to pass their Basic Fitness Test (BFT), despite the heat but helped by a two-mile run each morning.

In August, a Company goes out to Gibraltar for three weeks of patrolling the frontier, military and adventurous training.

The battalion was also well aware it was one of the few lucky TA units to have the use of the Haltern Ranges.

Lt-Col Dunseith explained: "Because we live and train in Northern Ireland which only has training facilities originally projected for four garrisons but now used by six garrisons, eleven UDR battalions and the police we find it difficult to have a priority on the ranges.

"Therefore, we have got to train elsewhere in the UK or here at Camp. They have done us a favour."

Range superintendent, Mr Larry Springthorpe — formerly a Warrant Officer 1 in the REME and ten years at the Range — endorsed the comment. "Normally, BAOR policy towards the TA is that they should do their shooting in the UK to leave the ranges here available for BAOR units.

"The 5th Battalion are here because ranges were made available due to late cancellations and we are delighted to see them. The last time the TA was here in any number was in 1976 or 1977.

"On 328 days of the year there are an average of 500 soldiers a day training on our two ranges with their combined 7,900 acre size. That's a very good usage."

The pressure of the visiting Ulstermen was kept up at Haltern for as Captain David Twigg, B Company's commander and a former Royal Irish Ranger himself now the Schools Liaison Officer at HQ Northern Ireland pointed out: "With the amount of training time we have made

Digging in: two of the Rangers make ready.



available in Northern Ireland — and we have to be ready to deploy to BAOR in 48 hours — and for the degree of skills it is necessary to achieve, there is really never enough time to go round for all the things we have to do. So, we are doing them in an intensive 15 days' continuous training programme."

One of the men who found himself in a tactical situation just 12 hours after the parade at Balymena and making his fifth trip to BAOR was apprentice sheet metal worker, Corporal Andy "Nip" Cree who has been in the TA for three years. Just 20 now and working the Clansman radio, he said: "The training over here is unlimited."

A regular regimental Permanent Staff Instructor (PSI) who is on a two year posting to the battalion, Sergeant Mike Bailie said: "They are all very enthusiastic and sometimes over-keen. They are keener than regular soldiers and are doing very well but not really used to the heat of a high summer in the training areas."

Two such Rangers who were finding that heat hard to cope with were Gerry Shaw, a joiner and Chris Wilson, a plumber. Chris said: "It's my first summer camp. It's very good and full of excitement as I've never been abroad before."

"I drove a Land Rover on the right side of the road as part of the convoy. I've always fancied the Army life but not as a full-time soldier."

"I'm just about coping with the heat and hope that if there is a next war they don't start it out here in the middle of the summer!"

Another novice to the ways of the summer camp and BAOR was 17-year-old Ranger Nigel Graham, just over two months with the TA and from Banbridge, who said: "I'm very impressed with Germany. I was impressed with the window boxes and steep angles of the roofs."

It's flat here but rolling countryside at home where I can see the Mountains of Mourne from my house.

"The TA takes you away from home at weekends. It's all good experience and you're learning something new all the time."

The Battalion should have no real trouble in finding recruits for its proposed new rifle company if the recipe proposed by Captain Gordon Dodds — an accountant out of uniform — is anything to go by.

He says: "Send them home happy. Send them home tired. Send them home having worked and played hard. They will tell others and you get your additional recruits." ■



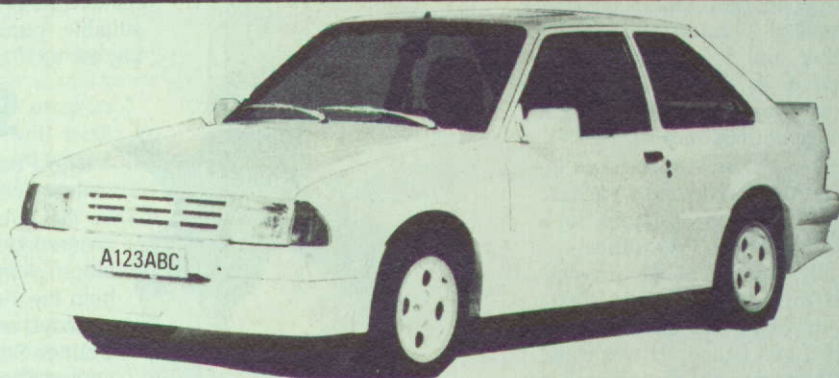
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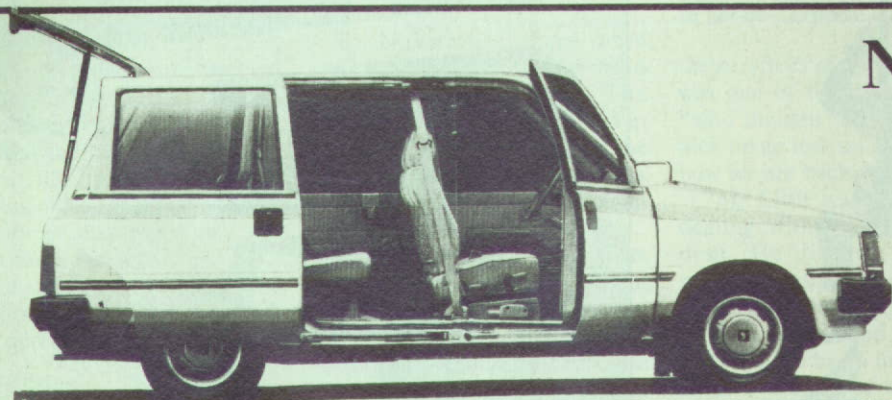
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# FREE-FALL PROMOTION

**T**HREE RED DEVILS kept their high-level appointment in the City of London but without brollies and briefcases as they dropped in on an eight-foot-square dropping zone — with a postage stamps motif.

The occasion was one taken up by the Army's free-fall parachute display team in response to a challenge by the Post Office.

And, almost to the pre-destined minute, the trio's 2000-foot descent from an Army Air Corps Lynx helicopter was made on the greensward centrepiece of the Honourable Artillery Company to coincide with the issue of five stamps commemorating 350 years of military history.

Team leader of the sky-high jump-in was Captain Mickey Munn, 47, who has 1200 descents to his credit. With him were Sergeant 'Dickie' Bird (2000-plus jumps) and Corporal Roy Deakin (400 jumps).

The team's DZ party on the ground in steadily mounting temperatures were Privates Eddie Carroll — he gave the commentary — Mark Flint, and Julian Spencer.

At 11.11 a.m. the trio exited the Lynx, toting their £1000 worth of equipment and with smoke canisters billowing a colourful spiral trail until touchdown four minutes later. Crewing the Lynx were Warrant Officer 1 Malcolm Thwaites and Staff-Sergeant Anthony Merrick.

But only two of them hit the designated square, Captain Munn missing it by a few yards but nonetheless undismayed as the carrier of a special set of first day covers sent by the Post Office to Chief of the General Staff, General Sir John Stanier.

Captain Munn was candidly honest later when he told SOLDIER: "I hoped to do better than that. It was a super day for it."

"I was personally disappointed I didn't quite make it but I shall make certain the other two get a suitable 'punishment' for showing me up!"

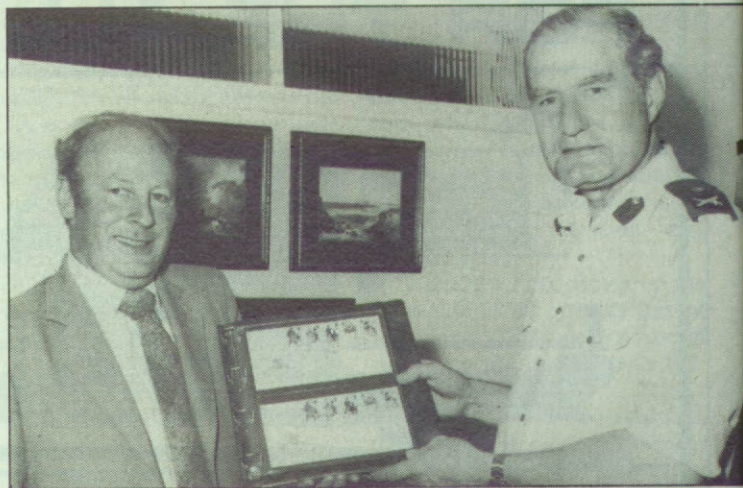
Having responded to and beaten the challenge the Red Devils are now £500 better off for the Post Office has presented that amount to the Airborne Forces Security Fund which was launched after the last war to look after veteran paras.

Also "on parade" in the sweltering temperatures were 13 men in period costume — plus goat and Irish Wolfhound regimental mascots — from the Irish Guards, The Royal Scots, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, The Royal Green Jackets and The Parachute Regiment.

## Special Delivery

The Post Office in Northern Ireland made a unique special delivery when they launched the new series of soldier stamps in the province. Their Regional Controller, Mr Leo King, presented the GOC, Lt Gen Sir Robert Richardson, with an album of mint first day covers. The gift was a 'thank you' for the help the Army gave in publicising the new stamps — special displays were set up in the post offices run by 22 Postal and Courier Squadron RE.

Gen Richardson is Colonel of The Royal Scots, the Regiment featured on the new first class stamp.



## Army's Own First Day Covers

The Lord Mayor of London, Sir Anthony Joliffe, launched sales of the Army's own First Day Covers featuring the new postage stamps at a ceremony in the Guildhall Yard. Sir Anthony, attended by representatives of the five regiments depicted on the stamps in period and present day uniform, accepted a framed set of Army covers from the Vice Adjutant General, Major General John Boyne.

A limited number of 500 Army covers, each individually numbered, has been signed by the five military members of the Army Board and a corresponding number of regimental covers signed by the respective Colonels of the Regiment have been issued. The picture below shows 13 men in period costume, plus mascots, at the Red Devils 'drop in' also in the City of London.



# One year after tragedy THE BAND PLAYS ON

On 20 July 1982 the nation was still riding high after the Task Force victory in the Falklands. London was basking in the summer sun, business as usual, and the camera-clicking tourists packing in the sights. All was right in the capital.

Then, brutally, the peace was shattered when an IRA car bomb exploded in Knightsbridge as members of the Household Cavalry began their march towards Horse Guards Parade.

Two hours later there was another explosion in the bandstand in Regent's Park where the band of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets were playing.

Seven members of the band died and twelve were taken to hospital with serious injuries.

The nation was outraged by these two cowardly attacks.

No-one felt the loss more keenly than the Royal Green Jackets themselves and particularly the surviving bandsmen, all of whom suffered perforated eardrums at the very least.

Most of the ears are in full working order again now, but the memory of that tragic day will haunt them forever.

One casualty, percussionist Corporal David Tims who suffered severe injuries to his spine,

**The big performance at Wembley.**

is still in Chessington rehabilitation centre, though is said to be making remarkable progress.

"The memory will never go away," Bandmaster David Little told SOLDIER, "but as time goes on it tends to fade. We'll never forget it, but now we just get on with the job of playing music."

Twelve months later the band is once more up to strength. Thirteen new members joined in the autumn and provided a willing, if inexperienced core whilst the others gradually drifted back after recovering from their injuries.

By November, there were sufficient numbers for the band to play in public again. The battalion is currently stationed in Northern Ireland and one of the band's first public performances was at the Lord Mayor's Show in Belfast.

February saw the band at its whole complement of 35 as it got down to the hard work of preparing for its 1983 programme.

Sergeant Robert Williams, an alto saxophone player, was one of

**Mr John Stanley, new Minister of State for the Armed Forces, talks to Lance-Corporal Dave Ward.**

the survivors of the explosion. "I was one of the many" he said, "who thought they would never pick up an instrument again. But now we are back to normal."

"Mr Little was very tactful in dealing with us after the incident. He didn't push us but rather let us make up our own minds about when we felt able to go back to the band."

"We have had a lot of support from everyone of course, and

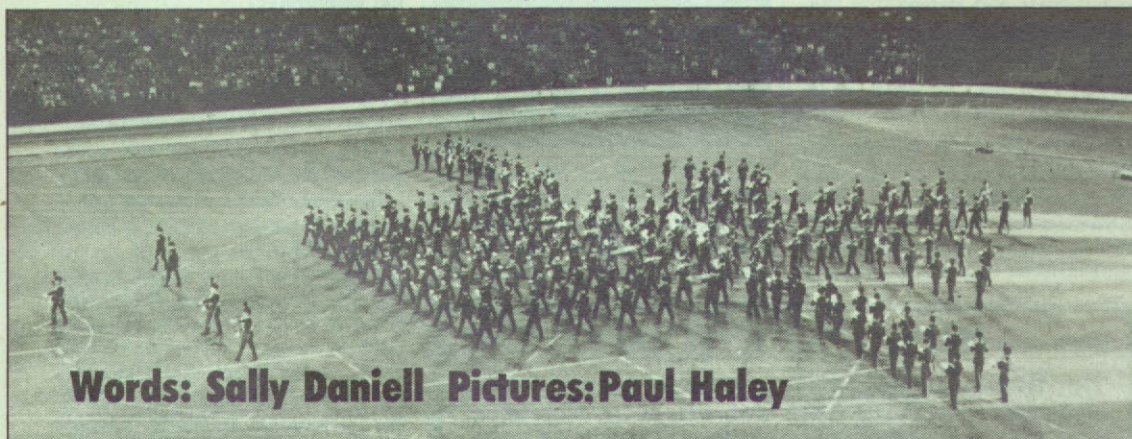
especially from the wives — when you feel bad, it's always nice to have someone to talk to."

Spending two months away from the battalion the band's summer commitments included the Wembley Pageant, that massive military extravaganza where no less than 36 bands played to the thousands of delighted music lovers.

A few days later all the Light Division bands met at the Royal Albert Hall to perform at a special concert.

Green Jacket Week at the beginning of July was the first opportunity for the people of Winchester, the home of the Light Division, to welcome back the band to whom their hearts had gone out after the carnage of the bandstand bomb.

"They have all worked very hard to get up to standard again," said Bandmaster Little with pride. "It's taken a tremendous effort on everyone's part, both the old and the new members. I am happy with the standard we're at now. I believe we're as good as we ever were."



**Words: Sally Daniell Pictures: Paul Haley**



**Getting it right at rehearsal.**



**THE LAST THING** you need to worry about when you are ill, is whether or not you will receive any sickness benefit for the time you have been unable to work.

I have received a steady stream of enquiries and problems on this subject, particularly from wives working overseas, who, it seems, are being told repeatedly that they do not qualify for any sickness benefit payments. One such case that I submitted resulted in a payment of £400 . . .

New claims procedures for Sickness Benefit were introduced in June 1982 which further complicated the issue as they involved Form SC1 which was not readily available overseas but which had to be completed by the individual claimant. April 1983 then saw yet another new scheme, Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) which is now in force and may affect Service families overseas, so it is vital that you have the full and correct details for claims procedures and entitlement.

The following DHSS leaflets are relevant and you should write to DHSS Leaflets Unit, PO Box 21, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 1AY for them if your Forces Post Office does not have a copy — or write to me and let me know that you cannot obtain one from the FPO. If you are in UK of course, you should be able to find the leaflets at your local DHSS office:

NI 244/Mar 83 Check your right to Statutory Sick Pay;  
NI 208/Apr 83 for rates of benefit;  
NI 16/Apr 83 SSP and Sickness Benefit  
NI 227/July 82 Employer's Guide to Statutory Sick Pay;  
SC1 (Rev) Sickness benefit Claim Form (and Invalidity Benefit).

Check your entitlement in the leaflets — and you may be surprised by the number of people who are entitled — and complete the claim form.

Check up on the new rules and procedures now in case you may need to use them. Don't wait until you're sick and it becomes a mammoth task to sort out the details of making your claim. And, above all, if in doubt — claim!

*Anne Armstrong*

The following letter from Staff Sergeant Bell highlighted a problem area for Service families returning to UK from certain overseas postings: Having recently returned to the UK from SHAPE I contacted DVLC at Swansea about a driving licence for my wife.

She passed her driving test in August 1977 and had been issued with a BFG driving licence. Before this expired in 1982 we had moved from BAOR to SHAPE and she received a driving licence issued in accordance with an agreement between Nato and the Belgian government. Now, however, she is facing the prospect of having to take another driving test even though she has over five years experience behind her because the DVLC will not accept the SHAPE licence for exchange as they do for BAOR licences.

She is at present driving in UK on an international licence issued by the Belgian authorities on the strength of the SHAPE licence but we are somewhat baffled by the DVLC's response. It would appear that someone who passed the BFG driving test on the last day of 1982 could apply for a UK licence on Jan 1 1983 with no experience, whereas someone with experience is discriminated against just because they have a SHAPE licence which was itself obtained on the strength of a BFG driving licence.

I took up this problem with MOD HQ BAOR and Logistic Executive (Army). After a considerable amount of correspondence with them and with the Driver Vehicle Licensing Centre at Swansea, certain improvements have been made to the regulations which Sergeant Bell came up against.

Logistic Executive (Army) replied to my letter and stated: "... the United Kingdom Support Unit at SHAPE has notified that it is not permissible for BFG licences to be exchanged at SHAPE for Belgian driving licences.

"Our Department of Transport has stated that the object of the Community Driving Licences Exchange Scheme is to maintain and further social mobility. DVLC, Swansea, has informed that they enable this by permitting the use of



The German Tourist Board has made a big effort in 1983 to make sure that Servicemen and their families stationed in

BAOR see all there is to be seen and experienced away from the normal tourist routes as well as the well-known attractions.

They have produced a comprehensive folder called "Germany is Wunderbar" which is available free together with detailed information about specific areas from The German National Tourist Office DZT, Department GIW Beethovenstrasse 69-D600, Frankfurt am Main.

Discover Germany while you are on the doorstep and make your tour an experience.

any 'care of' address in the UK (eg a bank) through which they can contact their correspondents quickly."

So, the answer is to check with the BFG Licensing Office prior to your departure from Germany to another posting other than UK to confirm the necessary procedure. At the moment you should send your BFG licence to DVLC and give a UK address — a relative or a bank. You will then receive a UK licence and a SHAPE licence as the local rules of the country require.

I'm sorry we cannot make matters better for Mrs Bell but I'm sure many others will be helped by Sergeant Bell's question.

## ASK ANNE

I, and three of my colleagues at work, have a query about sickness benefit. We have all paid full insurance stamp for two or three years now and yet we do not seem to be

able to claim sickness benefit when we are off work through illness.

We have filled in sickness benefit forms which go to the DHSS Overseas Branch through our employers. However we are then told that we have not paid enough contributions to claim the benefit.

Could you please look into this as we are getting no satisfaction from our employers?

Mrs M, Germany.

I hope my letter in this issue helps to clear things up Mrs M. I have had many letters like yours on this subject and am trying to get things unravelled.

Please, have you got the new address for Universal Aunts as I believe they have now moved from Walpole Street?

Mrs L, BFPO 30

Universal Aunts have indeed moved and their new address is 250 Kings Road, (opposite Chelsea Town Hall), Chelsea, London SW3 (Tel 01-351 5767). Cables should be sent to Uni-aunts London SW3.

We are returning to UK for a holiday with family and would like to take them some typical German food — as well as the wine.

Are there any import regulations, on German sausages in particular, and if so what are they?

Mrs T, BFPO 48

There are certain restrictions on the import of meat and meat products into UK. This is to prevent animal diseases from entering Britain, so you must declare anything like sausages, salamis and ham as well as other meat.

Normally you will be allowed to import a kilogram of uncooked meat and a kilogram of meat products per person but there is a complete ban on the import of all uncured pork.

## DID YOU KNOW?

THE DEPARTMENT OF Health and Social Security has produced a new leaflet which gives you all the facts about your National Insurance contributions. Entitled "National Insurance — what you pay and what you get" it is numbered FB 14 Apr 83 and should be available from your local social security office or your Forces Post Office.

It explains the different classes of contributions from those you pay yourself to the credited contributions you can claim when you are sick or unemployed for example. It also explains the Home Responsibilities Protection scheme which is for mothers who stay at home to look after their children. Service wives who have families may find this is of great interest to them.

On the opposite page, the leaflet lists what benefits you can claim on the strength of your contributions and has a comprehensive checklist of the number of contributions you need on your record to qualify. It also recommends that you get leaflets NI 208 and NI 196 to find out just what the current rates for contributions and benefits are.

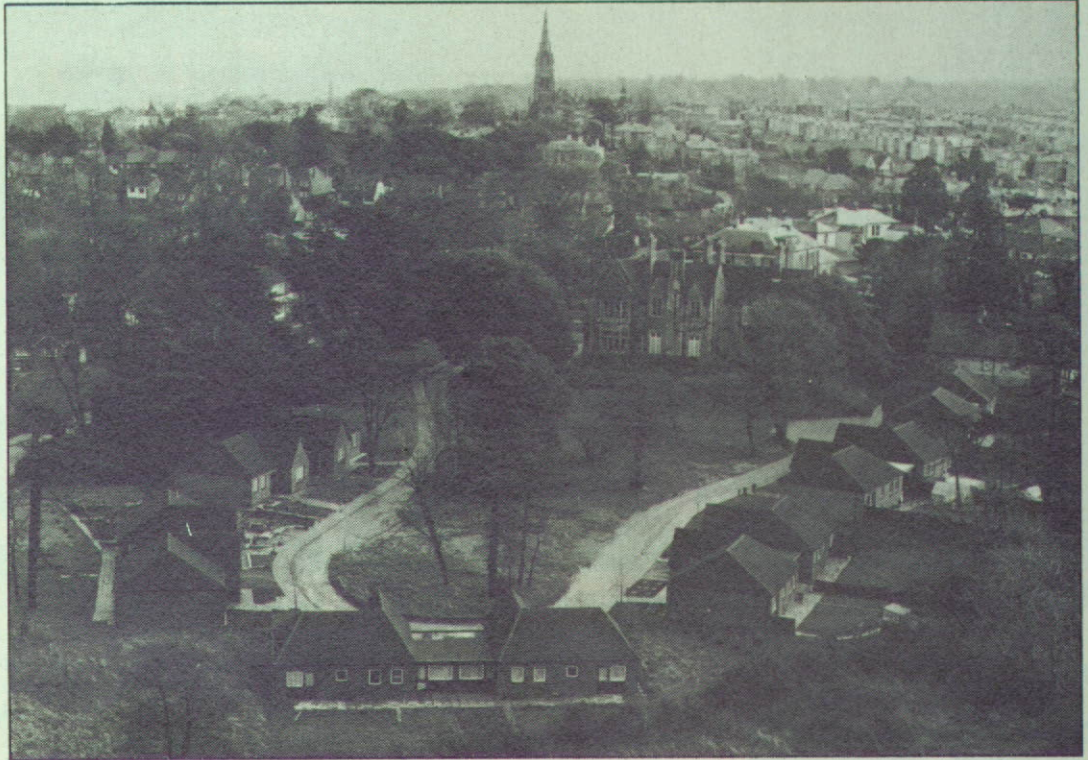
# LORD ROBERTS' LEGACY

LIFE FOR ONE disabled ex-Servicewoman has taken a turn for the better thanks to the help she has received from the Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops. She is only one of the thousands of people for whom the Society has been able to find an answer.

The Lord Roberts Workshops scheme was started around the turn of the century. Wounded and maimed ex-soldiers were taught to make toys and other simple articles and this continued with comparative success until the First World War. By this time the Workshops had been taken under the wing of the Soldiers and Sailors Help Society as it was known at the time. The Society decided that an extension of the Workshops scheme in which Lord Roberts had been so involved would be the most fitting memorial to the Field-Marshal, who had himself died during the war.

The Workshops were to provide permanent employment for men who were too badly disabled to be employed on the normal labour market even after their training period. Business outlets were built up and the first factory, fitted with modern and efficient woodworking machines was set up in the Fulham Road, London. Since then, branch factories have been established in Scotland and Northern Ireland and some even provide clinics where employees can receive the daily massage or treatment they require.

In addition to the Workshops, the Society's welfare work, which takes the shape of financial help, aid with domestic and personal problems and the provision of clothing among other things, continues to increase. There are convalescent homes in Surrey



An aerial view of the cottages at Ryde, Isle of Wight.

and the Isle of Wight as well as specialised housing in the form of 42 cottage homes for veterans and their wives.

The Society is not as generally well known as other Service charities but its 1200 voluntary helpers across the UK have helped over 13,000 cases. They are proud of their record of helping every ex-Serviceman and woman who has applied to them and consider no problem too difficult, no distance too great.

Their Charter allows them to give help where other Service charities cannot. It covers such problems as the death of a dependant when the funeral expenses might cause hardship, for example, and the Society is well qualified to advise on more obscure matters such as help for convalescents, employment grants and even the purchase of special trade tools.

They place great emphasis on helping the single person, the widow or the widower who might be in desperate need of rehabilitation or resettlement help. So often the headlines that focus sympathetically on the family and children fail to appreciate the problems that can beset a single person trying to find somewhere to live or somewhere to convalesce after discharge from hospital.

The Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops has the answers. The purpose-built cottages at Ryde on the Isle of

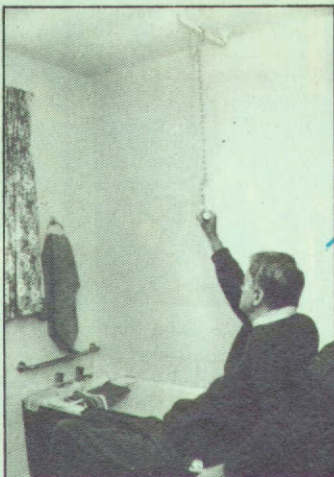
Wight are a splendid example of what can be achieved. Each cottage has been designed with the general needs of the disabled in mind. Doorways wide enough to get a wheelchair through are standard and there are many extra gadgets and devices that are fitted according to individual needs.

At around £40,000 per cottage, funds are a continuous worry for Anne Finley, the Appeals and Press Officer but the Society has annual fund-raising occasions such as the Park Lane Fair and the Floral Luncheon held at the Savoy. These, together with hundreds of smaller fund-raising events nationwide and special efforts such as the Forces Help Society Northern Ireland Inter-

Unit Quiz which raised £561, help the Society to continue its good work.

For the disabled ex-Servicemen who are producing high quality furniture and other goods, the Workshops provide both physical and psychological benefit. People who perhaps never expected to work again have regained their self-respect as they feel that there is a point to life once more — thanks to the compassion, support and practical help from the Forces Help Society and the Lord Roberts Workshops.

Leaflets and information about the Society can be obtained from 118-122 Brompton Road, London SW3 1JE (Tel 01-589 3243/4/5) and visitors are welcome at the showroom.



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**GRAHAM SMITH visits Copenhagen to see a right Royal occasion and watch men of The Queen's Regiment help their friends of the Royal Danish Life Guards celebrate**

# 325 YEARS OF DANISH DELIGHT



◀ Queen Margrethe II takes a libation of the capital's famous lager.



**F**OR THE second time in 25 years Denmark's Queen Margrethe II took the salute as 9202 past and present members of the Royal Danish Life Guards spanning 66 years and including Resistance fighters marched past her dais in six columns to mark the regiment's 325th anniversary.

Among the marchers were three octogenarians — for whom the Queen had a special smile and wave — two women, and a young boy holding his father's hand. Those representing one particular year all wore straw hats while those of 1958 vintage all wore white shirts.

Sitting nearby in a wheelchair was the oldest ex-Guardsman, a former lieutenant and later a reserve officer, Sven Damgaard. He is 102.

The Queen had last been at the Rosenborg Parade Ground ceremony in 1958 when she was an 18-year-old princess. This year, 1200 serving Guardsmen marched past her to the accompaniment of four military bands.

It took all of 90 minutes for the entire parade to pass in front of the standing Queen.

The procession had started at the capital's famed 139-year-old Tivoli Gardens amusement centre, a gourmet's delight with 25 restaurants, for the two-and-a-half-kilometre march through half-a-dozen of the city's main thoroughfares.

And the British were right in

**They're changing the guard — at Amalienborg Palace.**

the centre of the spectacle both in the form of the Regimental Band of the 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment normally based at Fallingbowl, in Germany, and a 12-man Guard of Honour led by Lieutenant Nick Versloot — his father is Dutch.

Queen Margrethe II is Colonel-in-Chief of The Queen's Regiment and the Queensmen on the parade had already been on a joint training exercise with the Danes on Funen.

Bandsman Brian Cunningham had earlier taken a concert in the Tivoli Gardens — it is lit by 110,000 lamp bulbs — for the first half-an-hour.

Later, the Queen presented seven awards to Guardsmen and their new Colours.

◀ Guardsmen — none under five-foot-nine — prepare to move off for guard change.

Former Life Guards of 20 years ago march past their Queen. ▼



trod the green sward past their monarch. The bearing and pace improved as the marchers became younger right down to the last National Servicemen demobbed just seven weeks before.

All had one thing in common — an immense pride in their Queen and the regiment.

The march-past of history had its tone of sartorial elegance, too, with suits, silver-buttoned blazers and flannels right down to the very recent Guardsmen in training shoes, tee shirts and blouses amid temperatures in the high 80s.

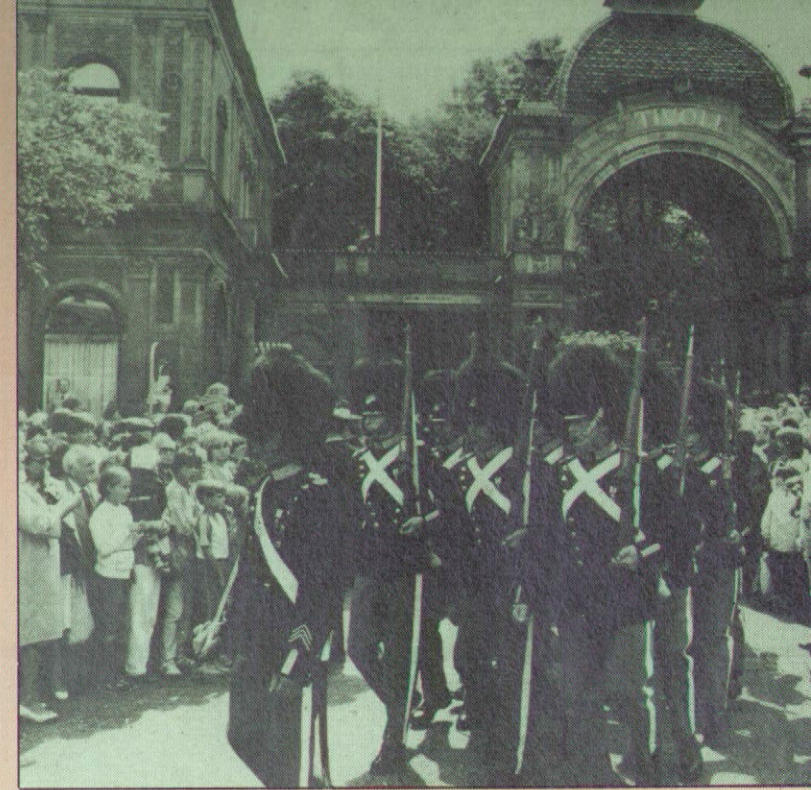
Many marchers carried walking sticks, brollies, neatly folded coats and, some, even brief cases. Three of the more enterprising, carrying shoulder-borne cameras, quickly took historic, family album pictures of their smiling Queen just yards before they passed directly in front of her.

One of the two women on the parade was 24-year-old Lieutenant Birgitta Thor, a reservist, who was not sure if she was going to be in the big parade or not. "I just got my uniform out of the cupboard this morning and came along," she said.

Also marching was a Count — otherwise Private Grenadier Gustav Danneskiold Lassen, 20 — whose uncle Major Anders Lassen was the only Dane ever to win a VC in the last war for an action in Italy. It was awarded posthumously and is now in the Resistance Museum.

In the Army as a nine-month conscript until September when he may become a lawyer via university or go to South Africa, Gustav said: "I was up at 5 a.m. but the parade was very interesting and remarkable for me. I spent two hours on spit and polish."

◀ A Royal Danish Life Guard chats to Lt Nick Versloot, The Queen's Regt Guard-of-Honour commander.



His father, Frantz Lassen, 61, now farms 3000 acres on two estates and is a former Resistance fighter. He was parachuted into Denmark as a member of the Special Operations Executive and later tortured by the Gestapo at Neungamme Concentration Camp.

Another marcher with a more practical approach to the ceremony was 19-year-old Private Grenadier Jens Hillingsoe, who joined the Army in March of this year. He said: "We couldn't always hear the music from the bands and I was among the last on parade but it was all very interesting."

"My company got out of step five times but that may, too, have had something to do with so many beautiful Danish girls waving from the pavements."

"Several of the men in my company had girl-friends out there and there was a lot of talk-

**Like toy soldiers, the Guardsmen move off from the Tivoli Gardens.**

ing out of the corners of our mouths about getting out of step.

"Because of the heat we were wanting to get it all over. Two of our platoon passed out, I am afraid to say."

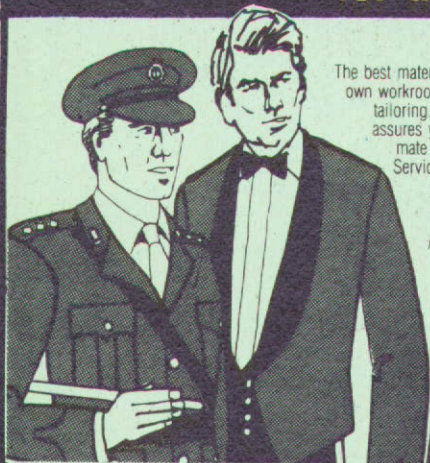
In fact, seven of those in the afternoon parade fainted — one of them twice.

Both young men pledged to be back on the next and 350th celebration parade in the year 2008!

From the humblest to the noblest in the land there were also four former Colonels-in-Chief on parade and the Colour Sergeant receiving the Colours from the Queen was also a Count — Hans Ahlefeldt, a direct descendant of the first Regimental Colonel-in-Chief of 1658, Frederik Ahlefeldt.

Continued on page 29

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The Royal Danish Life Guards memorial statue erected at the Rosenberg Parade Ground in 1958.



Youngsters en route watch one of the four bands set the military pace.

(from page 27)

This year's parade numbered more than 9000. That of 25 years ago featured 6300 former Guardsmen and 1100 serving men of the Regiment. Also there were 300 soldiers from other regiments including bandmen.

## Pictures: Doug Pratt

◀ The band of The Queen's Regiment, in scarlet, add to the spectacle just before the march-past.

## How observant are you?

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



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**They used to be called Barracks Sergeants — now they're Accommodation Services Accountants. And this year they're celebrating a century of help to Army families.**

## MARCHING IN .. MARCHING OUT .. MARCHING ON ..

**A**RMY MARRIED quarters will always have their share of grumblers. But the malcontents might do well to recognise just how preparations for occupancy have improved since days when Barrack Masters issued two sheets per bed at two-pence-a-pair.

Today the successors to the Barrack Masters of old are the stylishly titled Accommodation Services Accountants — ASAs. There are 725 of them — 400 in the UK — in 21 Accommodation Services Units, comprising a coterie of specialists perhaps most renowned for their punctual 'marching in/marching out' duties involving thousands of Army married quarter tenants.

The ASAs have the unenviable responsibility for the furnishings of 75,000 MQs world-wide and this year marks the centenary of the organisation; one for which the current conditions of appointment within the UK are still based on a requirement of 1883!

But the origins of the organisation go back, in fact, nearly twice as far — to 1795 when a Royal Warrant was published and handed to the "trustworthy and well beloved" Major-General Oliver de Lancey, the first Barrack Master General to the Forces.

Barrack Masters of that austere era not only inspected all barracks and camps occupied by troops but had to ensure that "every room or part thereof was to have an inventory stating the particular condition of the furniture and utensils thereto belonging."

And when, in 1883, pensioner Barrack Sergeants were appointed to perform duties of barrack wardens, the direct traceable line to the present Accommodation Services Accountants was established.

Selection for appointment to post as an ASA has changed little since then. HQ United Kingdom Land Forces, for instance, re-

stricts its aspiring candidates to those with more than 12 years' service who have reached the rank of sergeant.

Such impediment, however, is not so rigid in BAOR or West Berlin where the successful may be former Services SNCOs. The ASA spectrum is further broadened with the employment of good calibre German, Belgian, Cypriot or Chinese civilians which gives the otherwise exclusive band a cosmopolitan worldwide grouping.

Major Brian Page, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, the Senior Accommodation Services Officer with the Logistic Executive (Army) at Andover, points out: "The MQ responsibility brings our men into direct contact with the Service occupant and it is here, at that interface with the customer, that the goodwill of the Corps can be enhanced or put at risk."

"Usually, the accountants generally establish a good rapport with Service or civilian wives and are able to help in providing a comfortable home for them."

"Our two watchwords are professionalism and service. The very Service background of most of our men makes for a close affinity with Service conditions and allows for a greater understanding of the problems which can beset Service life."

"They listen sympathetically and also have pleasant tasks to perform as the providers of new carpets, curtains or covers or in arranging for the speedy replacement of a vacuum cleaner, electric kettle or ironing board."

Yet, the ASA's job is far from an easy one.

He may have to raise a debit voucher for losses or damages or break the news to an MQ occupant or a unit QM that a certain replacement item cannot be made available. He may have to reject an MQ at handover stage

Sally Lowe with Scott and Grant welcomes Brian Riddlestone. ►

because it is just not clean enough. Disputes may arise involving damage attributed to unfair wear and tear.

Helping families with special accommodation needs is an important part of the ASA's job. A good example is the help given to Staff Sergeant Vince Lowe, chief clerk at the RAMC Apprentices College near Aldershot, and his wife Sally. They have two handicapped boys, Scott, 9 and Grant, 6, both suffering from a form of muscular dystrophy.

Because of their special problem, the family were given the choice of three married quarters in the township and were helped with extra carpets to soften any fall that might happen to the boys.

"I am very pleased with the help given us by the ASA," said Staff Sergeant Lowe, who moved into the quarter from BAOR six months ago. "I think it is all a matter of attitude towards the ASA by tenants who should realise that they, too, experience problems of their own. If you explain yours they do what they can to help you."

"From what I have seen during my service I think that wives, perhaps, can achieve more than their husbands in certain circumstances with the ASA. But I have no complaints here. They couldn't have been more helpful as they moved us into a ground floor quarter which already had ramps outside and a gate in the fence. They are ideal downstairs facilities in our case."

Their particular ASA is Mr Brian Riddlestone, 47, former RQMS at the RAMC Depot, at

nearby Keogh Barracks and a former Military Administration Officer in London for civilian hospitals.

In post for eight years, he explained: "I treat my families as individuals instead of clutches of married pads. I was aware of Staff Lowe's problems before he came here and we did our best to help when he took over the quarter bearing in mind his boys' medical background. We cut out the risk of danger of injury from falls."

One of our biggest problems is to encourage and tell the younger families in BAOR who are about to be posted back to the UK not to buy German furniture, their 'Schrancks' or cupboards and wardrobes and big double beds.

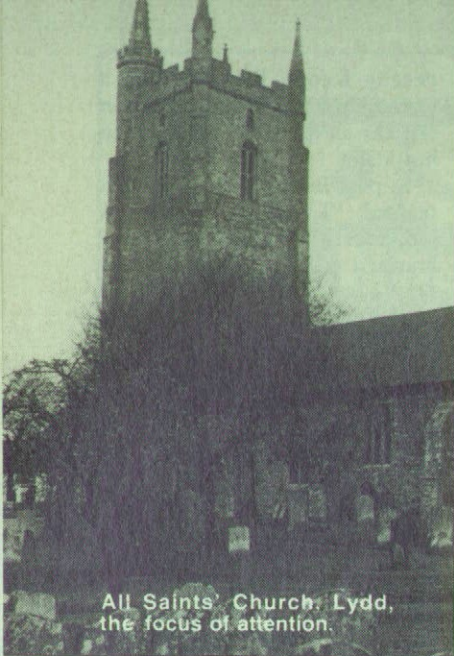
"They often find they don't fit into their UK quarters and they have to finish up selling it all for a song. Furniture height should be a maximum of six feet and double beds no bigger than the six-foot-by-four-foot-six."

The final word on the ASA's role comes from Major Page: "The ASA can provide a shoulder to cry on. Most of us have been 'marched in' or 'marched out' by an Accommodation Services Accountant who may have produced a wry smile when placing a debit voucher before us for signature after discovering a stain on the carpet, a soiled mattress or the loss of a saucepan."

"On the other hand, we have doubtless been grateful on many occasions for his help when our wives have nagged us to intercede in negotiations for new curtains, carpets or covers."

"The accountant has many faces. He has some unpleasant tasks to perform but he is always around to help, advise, to get us off the hook with our wives and to provide a general listening ear to the multifarious requests of his occupants." ■



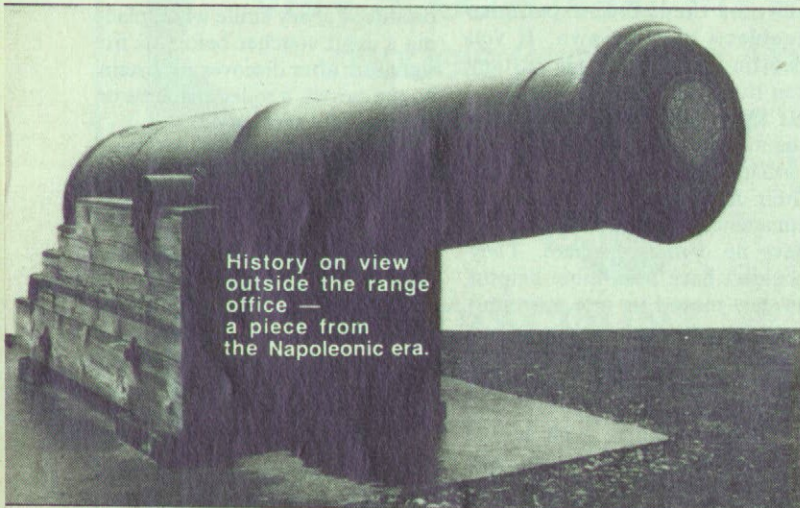


All Saints' Church, Lydd, the focus of attention.

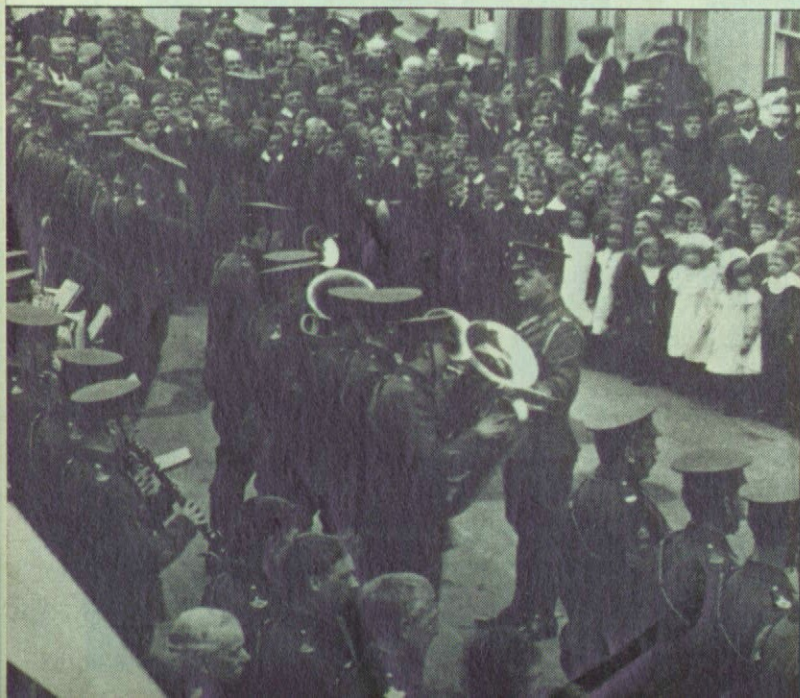


Sunday church parades were once a regular sight.

## THE ARMY HELPS LYDD CELEBRATE 700 YEARS



History on view outside the range office — a piece from the Napoleonic era.



**A**LL SAINTS' Church, which commands the centre of Lydd in Kent, this year celebrates seven hundred years of recorded Rectors, and the parish council has invited the Army to take part in their septcentenary celebrations. During August an exhibition in the church of photographs and other memorabilia, illustrates the Army's involvement in local life, and the Royal Artillery band will play at a church parade on Sunday, 28 August.

It is appropriate that the Gunners should figure prominently in the celebrations. In their early years, the camp and ranges at Lydd were used extensively by the Artillery for training.

Photographs in the exhibition show the horse-drawn guns of the Heavy Artillery passing through the town.

Lydd was startled last autumn by the unexpected buzz of helicopters. The noise disturbed the early morning, whirred on throughout the day and late into the November night.

Townpeople old enough to recall the days of World War 2 on this part of the Kent coast wondered what was going on.

The explanation was re-assuring. Army ranges on the outskirts of the town, which form part of the Cinque Ports Training Area, had been chosen for a Falklands "look-alike" exercise.

With their wild coastline, grazing sheep and boggy terrain, the Lydd ranges proved a useful training area for 1st Battalion The Royal Hampshire Regiment preparing for a tour of duty in the South Atlantic.

During the exercise all wheels were banned and the Hampshires were totally dependent on helicopters and boot leather.

Despite their shattered peace, local people were sympathetic. Lydd has enjoyed a long association with the Army and the town is proud of its military heritage.

The first ranges at Lydd were opened in 1864 and the camp was set up fifteen years later. By the summer of 1886 six thousand men of the Heavy Artillery were stationed in the camp and the



Modern range activity.

townpeople challenged the gunners to a tug-of-war during the annual summer fete — known as "Lydd Club Day". The contest became part of local legend.

The first tug was won by the Army. The second lasted a record 49 minutes; although the soldiers finally won, the Commandant of the camp raised a fund for the gallant losers which totalled more than the prize money for the winners.

About this time a new word commemorating the Army's connection with the town entered the vocabulary of warfare.

Experiments on an explosive material, derived from picric acid, were made at Lydd. By the time of the Boer War the explosive had been introduced in replacement of gunpowder as the bursting charge of common shell for all breech-loading pieces of over 4.7 inch calibre. The material was known as Lyddite.

It was used up to the Great War and after and was regarded as a yardstick for all subsequent shell filling explosives.

A large detachment of gunners from Lydd was sent to shell Pretoria in the early days of the Boer War but when peace returned the camp was used during the sum-

mer months by Territorial units. In August 1908, five hundred horses of the London Territorial Artillery broke loose during a storm and stampeded through the town.

The War Department used Lydd for testing not only new explosives but for trying out new ideas. In 1907 a local newspaper reported "novel experiments" at Lydd testing the value of kites in warfare by men of the Royal Engineers Balloon Observer School, stationed in the camp.

The Royal Engineers were no strangers to Lydd. The prosperity which the military brought to the town had created the necessity for a railway, which opened in 1882. The following year the Sappers laid a track from Lydd station to the camp.

A further fifteen miles of 24-inch gauge track was laid within the camp itself and is used today to move heavy loads round the range area and for the carriage of tank targets.

This unusual little railway is of interest to enthusiasts, parties of whom are given permission to visit it occasionally when the ranges are not in use.

The Royal Tank Regiment was stationed in Lydd for a period of fifteen years between the two World Wars and many members of the Regiment married Kentish girls and on release settled locally.

In 1967 a plaque was unveiled in the church commemorating the regiment's long connection with the town, and members of the Royal Tank Regimental Association will take part in the Church Parade on 28 August.

Lydd was the major anti-tank range in South East England during World War Two. The camp was also a centre of military activity for the whole period of the war.

The town itself was in the front line throughout the conflict and suffered twenty-eight air raids during which over 200 bombs were dropped within Tanks of old on the move. ▼



2000 yards of All Saints' Church.

On 15 October, 1940 a bomb-carrying Messerschmitt 109 dived out of low cloud and scored a direct hit on the chancel of this ancient building.

A soldier of 5th Battalion, The Somerset Light Infantry was on duty on the 120 foot tower of All Saints' when the bomb fell; although the tower rocked beneath him it remained standing as the high altar disintegrated into rubble and dust.

The chancel was restored most beautifully after the war, through an appeal supported by Winston Churchill, who was Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports.

Churchill visited Lydd with General Smuts and other war leaders shortly before D-Day, a visit which was cloaked in great secrecy.

A familiar sight in coastal waters at this time and throughout the war was the 45 foot boat *Adela*. This converted fishing boat, armed only with a light

Matilda Mk 1 continued to serve — as a target.

machine-gun, patrolled the sea danger area off the Lydd ranges between Dungeness and the mouth of the River Rother.

The *Adela's* modern equivalent is a launch manned by the Royal Corps of Transport which regularly patrols the seaward danger area of the ranges. Nowadays the work of the launch is assisted by look-out posts equipped with powerful radar.

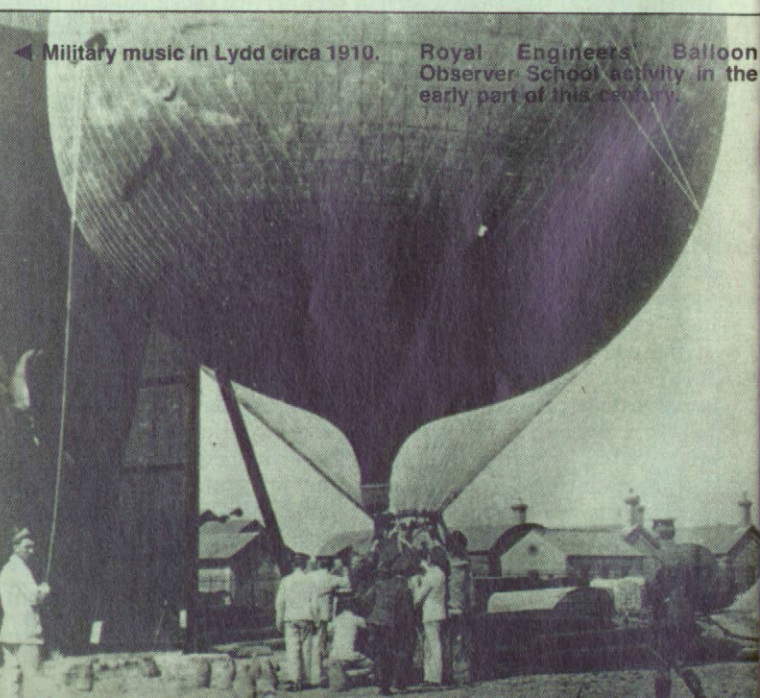
Today there is no battalion resident at Lydd although the camp is well known to most infantrymen. The modern ranges, which consist of about thirty separate live-firing facilities for small arms, medium and light anti-tank weapons, are used more intensely now than ever before in peace-time.

In remembering bygone years, Lydd can be sure that it enjoys strong links with the professional Army of today. ■

Look-out station at Jury's Gap.



Words: JUNE ROCKETT  
Modern pictures: LES WIGGS



◀ Military music in Lydd circa 1910.

Royal Engineers' Balloon Observer School activity in the early part of this century.



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# On the Record

## with Rodney Bashford

### ABIDE WITH US

*Choir of Seaford College Chapel*  
Organist: Carey Humphreys  
Conductor: Philip Hill  
ASV ALA 3004

And still they come, this one with the blessing of Admiral Woodward, and the programme of hymns chosen by members of the ships which took part in the South Atlantic affair under his command.

It is not a recording of a church service although it does commence with *Last Post*, a prayer, and *Reveille*. Representatives of ships' companies joined the choir in St Ann's Church, Portsmouth, to record a tribute by way of suitable well known hymns to those who fought.

Beautifully sung, this disc could serve — for those fortunate people who derive comfort and solace from the well loved words and melodies — as your bedside companion in time of need. The collection is comprehensive and covers every portent, misfortune or hope that mankind is heir to. Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer; The Lord's My Shepherd; Praise My Soul; Immortal, Invisible; Eternal Father; Dear Lord and Father of Mankind; All People that on Earth do Dwell; Jerusalem; He Who would Valiant Be; Lord of all Hopefulness; Lead us, Heavenly Father; Abide with Me; Thy Hand O God; God be in my Head; The Day Thou Gavest.

For service charities, from ASV Ltd, 115 Fulham Rd, London SW3, and dealers.

### THE BEST OF BRITISH

*Band of the Grenadier Guards*  
Conductor: Major D R Kimberley  
Unicorn-Kanchana DKM 6000

All march buffs will have their own ideas of the best of British martial music, but should not be able to quarrel with Major Kimberley's choice. They will though, if only because RB appears in the list in preference to such worthies as George Miller, Mackenzie Rogan, George Willcocks, Fred Harris, Arnold Steck, and all those Godfreys — to mention only ex-Guardsmen. But nepotism is a fine thing.

If we except my modest offering this fine disc contains a remarkable panorama of music of a variety achieved by few if any other countries. Our tradition of military pageantry with its glorious diversity of regimental custom and usage has produced, of necessity, music suitable for every occasion, for every possible military manoeuvre in slow, quick, and very quick time, on foot, on horseback, in church, concert-hall or wet canteen.

It was impossible to cover the whole ground so, having thought up this brilliant title, it behoves the Grenadiers and Unicorn-Kanchana to continue to the exercise with volumes two and three. All those band buffs are waiting for bugle and trumpet marches (which should ensure at least one more from RB), Irish, Scots

and Welsh marches, patrols, and even "military" fantasias of which our bandmasters produced so many.

In this (we hope) foretaste of things to come are the marching marches *To Your Guard* by W T Hughes (Scots Guards), *Step Lightly* (Peter Anderson, Royal Scots Greys), *The Queen's Company* (RB, Grenadier Guards), *The King's Guard* (J. H. Keith, Scots Guards), *Glorious Victory* (W M Kendall, KOSB), and *The British Grenadiers*. Slow marches and troops are *Golden Spurs* (Sam Rhodes, Scots Guards), *Pageantry* (Leo Stanley, Royal Signals), and *By Land and Sea* (Kenneth Alford,

November 1982 as a tribute to two units especially associated with the city, the 22 SAS Regiment and HMS Antelope. The proceeds of the concert and of this record go to the dependents fund.

2500 people queued for hours to hear the concert; you need only send your cheque to The Secretary, Hereford Police Choir (West Mercia Constabulary), Hindlip Hall, Worcester, and hear it at your leisure.

Very effective it is too, with the cathedral lending a fine acoustical ambience to the proceedings. Eight massed choirs give voice in pertinent



A&SH, Royal Marines).

The programme rightly includes four programme marches, a genre in which Britain cannot be approached in quantity or quality. *Fame and Glory* (Albert Matt, professor Kneller Hall), *When Drums and Brass Make Summons* (Dr. Norman Richardson, 5th RIDG), *Glorious*, a TV signature tune by Wilfred Josephs, and two by Malcolm Arnold whose only military service seems to have been in The Light Horse — H G Bloggs, licensee; they are the great HRH *The Duke of Cambridge* (we don't know whether he named it after the founder of Kneller Hall or the pub which stands at the main gate) and the march from his *A Little Suite*.

From Unicorn-Kanchana, PO Box 339, London W8 7TJ and dealers.

### TRIBUTE TO THE TASK FORCE

*Band of the Royal Marines (Flag Officer Plymouth)*  
*The English Association of Male Voice Choirs*  
Margaret Powell, Soprano  
Roy Massey, Organ  
Conductors: Lt D C Cole and others  
This is a live recording of a concert held in Hereford Cathedral on 27th

items whose words were sometimes somewhat bloodthirsty — *Calm is the Sea*, *Comrades in Arms*, *O Isis and Osiris* from Mozart's Magic Flute, the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, Schubert's setting of the 23rd Psalm, and join the band in *Eternal Father Strong to Save*, *Finlandia*, and of course *Land of Hope and Glory*.

The band plays David Cole's own march *Commando General*, the symphonic scenario from the TV spectacular *Victory at Sea*, and Blankenburg's march *Action Front*.

### CHANGING THE GUARD AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

*Band of the Coldstream Guards*

Conductor: Lt Col R A Ridings

Military bands have to hang their hats (bearskin, forage, lance, side, busby or shako) somewhere so why not on the gold-tipped railings of Buck House? The guard changing ceremony is mostly music anyway so the Coldstream band give us just that, omitting all those eyerrrrs fronts, Old Guard hipps, and present hypotheses beloved of the tourists. My readers, I'm sure, belong to the converted and cognizant so just sit back and enjoy the music.

The inspection music is a racy

arrangement of *Blaydon Races* as a euphonium solo, by Gordon Langford. The inspection takes place in Wellington or Chelsea barracks of course, and the sergeant-majors lay it on thick for the oriental gentlemen clicking their Yashicas through the railings. While the New Guard awaits the Colours we have a fine selection of five of Shirley Bassey's hit songs, arranged by Don Pryce, to amuse the lads. The march to form the guard is a rare Sousa, *The Corcoran Cadets*, and to the palace W. T. Hughes's *Espana* and Zehle's *Trafalgar*.

The New Guard approaches the Old in a time-honoured show of obedience (in slow time to signify no evil intent) to the regimental slow march *Figaro*. Sentries are changed while the guards are entertained with Sullivan's overture to *The Mikado* and Ponchielli's *Dance of the Hours*. Colonel Ridings selects the Grenadiers as the Old Guard so they are marched out of the forecourt to *The Duke of York*, another Zehle march *Europe United*, and finally Krier's *La Reve Passe*.

Back at barracks it's merely a case of march off the Colours and fall out yew lot.

Nicely done the band; the troops hear all about it later, much later. From DR Recording Services, 233 Charlton Rd, Shepperton, Middx, £5.60 inc.

### ON THE MARCH Vol. 6

*Band of the Black Watch*

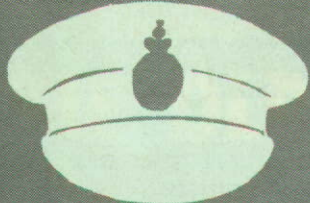
Conductor: Bandmaster N M Rogerson

Continuing their marathon, or route march I should say, through the march library the Black Watch seem to have reached volume six in no time at all. As always the mixture is well thought out to include the familiar and the new, for the familiar must be covered in what purports to be a comprehensive survey of world marches.

Collectors will be pleased to find more than their fair share here, and not a loser among them. From Major Terry Kenny comes *The Hanoverian*, which quotes a well known Hanoverian tune, and from the brass band world one of its famous contest marches, *Punchinello* by Wm Rimmer. Sousa has *The Royal Welsh Fusiliers*, to whom he presented the score, and *Washington Post*, while his great British colleague Alford has *Colonel Bogey* and *On the Quarter Deck*. Other Classics are Bidgood's *Sons of the Brave*, Zehle's *Army and Marine*, Blankenburg's *Flying Eagle*, Laukien's *Thro' Night to Light*, Silva's *San Lorenzo*, Piefke's *Prussian Glory*, and the find of this volume is one that seems to have been unjustly neglected since 1939 — Vlach's *Sylvia* which appears in several of those old march medleys. *Bravura* by C E Dubble and W T Hughes's march based on Chabrier's *Espana* rhapsody never quite made it in spite of having been around for years.

Completely new to me are *Unserer Gaurde* by R Foerster, *Valley Forge* by presumably the bandmaster of that establishment M C Whitney, and *Var Flotta* by Swedish naval commander Ivar Widner.

From DR Orchestral & Recording Services, 233 Charlton Rd, Shepperton, Middx, or Black Watch, £5.60 inclusive.



## Your Cap Badge

No 46

### THE ROYAL HAMPSHIRE REGIMENT

THE TIGER and the Rose badge has been worn with pride by thousands of men since its adoption in 1897. The design records the regiment's association with the Trained Bands of Hampshire who, fighting with Henry V at Agincourt in 1415, were granted by him the "Hampshire" Rose together with the Crown and Garter badge in commemoration.

The Royal Tiger was granted by George IV to record the hard, unbroken 21 years spent in India 1805-26 by the 67th Regiment. The 37th Regiment of Foot was raised in 1702, becoming the 37th (North Hampshire) Regiment in 1782.

It fought at Blenheim, Ramillies, Oudenarde, Malplaquet, Culloden and at Minden when the custom of wearing Minden Roses on the 1st August each year to commemorate that battle originated.

These early engagements were fol-

lowed by many others in Spain, India and Afghanistan and service in Canada, Malta, the Ionian Islands and Jamaica bringing them to their new designation in 1881 as The 1st Bn The Hampshire Regiment.

The 67th Regiment of Foot, originally raised in 1756 as the 2nd Bn of the 20th Regiment, also a Minden regiment, acquired separate numerical identification in 1758 to have as its first Colonel James Wolfe, later General Wolfe of Quebec fame.

In 1782 they also were identified with the county and became The 67th (South Hampshire) Regiment. In 1805 they were ordered to India it being left to their 2nd Bn, fighting in Spain, to obtain the Honours of Barrosa and Peninsula before its disbandment in 1817.

Arduous campaigning in Afghanistan during 1878-80 brought them up to the



union with the 37th Regiment to become The 2nd Bn The Hampshire Regiment. At this stage the combined regiments ceased to wear their numbered badges and adopted The Royal Tiger as the central figure in the design worn in the helmet and glengarry.

At the close of the century the then new-style head-dress demanded yet another change which resulted in the introduction of officers' and soldiers' badges.

The officers' badge was an eight-pointed star, on the star the Garter and Crown, within the Garter the Hampshire Rose. On the lower part of the star a scroll inscribed 'Hampshire'.

The soldiers' badges: The Royal Tiger within a laurel wreath, below the Tiger the Hampshire Rose, on the lower part of the wreath a scroll inscribed 'Hampshire'.

In 1946 in recognition of outstanding service George VI approved that the regiment in future enjoy the distinction of 'Royal'.

The scrolls on both badges now bear Royal Hampshire and to the soldiers' badge was added the Imperial crown. In due time the St. Edwards' crown replaced the Imperial pattern.

During the Brigade system period the Wessex Brigade badge was worn but early in 1969 the regimental badges returned to the delight of all concerned.

Hugh L. King

NEXT ISSUE:

THE STAFFORDSHIRE REGIMENT

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### KENYA DIARY 1902-1906:

**Richard Meinertzhagen**

In 1902 Richard Meinertzhagen was a 24-year-old Lieutenant with the Royal Fusiliers stationed in Burma. Following a row with his commanding officer of the social niceties of a snipe-shoot, Meinertzhagen applied for a transfer, and was sent to British East Africa to join the King's African Rifles. It was a significant incident in two respects; not only did it provide the starting point for the adventures described in this book, but it was an early indication of an aggressive streak in Meinertzhagen which was to plague his military career. *Kenya Diary* is just that, a day-to-day account of the adventures experienced by a young officer policing a large district into which so-called civilisation had made few inroads. The African tribes, particularly the Kikuyu, were constantly involved in the traditional pursuits of looting and raiding, against each other, and, when the opportunity presented itself, against Colonial employees, and Meinertzhagen threw himself into the organisation and execution of punitive expeditions with an enthusiasm that verged on bloodlust. When inaction threatened boredom, he turned to hunting wildlife on a grand scale. *Kenya Diary* is a fascinating glimpse into a largely forgotten part of the Empire, and a revealing study of attitudes towards colonialism. Although he accepted the British right to be in Africa without question, Meinertzhagen, for all his ruthless treatment of malefactors, believed that unless the needs of the Africans were regarded as paramount, trouble would result — a view which anticipated Mau Mau by fifty years. Although Meinertzhagen's career in Kenya ended under a cloud — he was accused of murdering an African chief under a flag of truce, despite the fact that three Courts of Inquiry found him not guilty — his diary is a highly readable insight into the lost world of soldiering in the far-flung outposts during the hey-day of Empire.

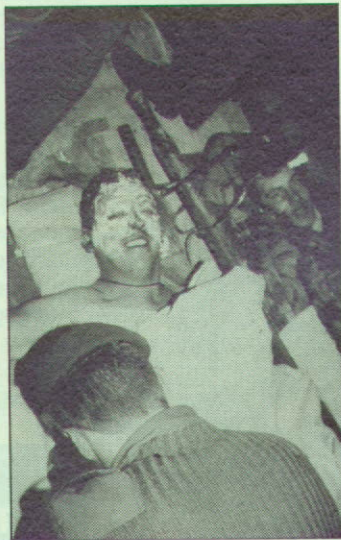
Eland Books, 53 Eland Road, London SW11 5JX — £4.95

IJK

### The Red and Green Life Machine: Rick Jolly

*The Red And Green Life Machine* is one of the first books to come out of the Falkland's war by a participant, and a particularly welcome one it is too, for the image of Surgeon Commander Rick Jolly's bearded, weary face telling the cameras that every British casualty who had reached the makeshift hospital at Ajax Bay alive had also left alive, was one of the

most reassuring for those at home to come out of the campaign at the time. To those in the field, of course, it was of greater importance, as Jolly's team performed emergency surgery on no less than six hundred battlefield casualties in a matter of twenty days, performing the amputations of shattered limbs, the extractions of bullets and shrapnel, the excising of dead tissue and treatment of burns which were necessary if the patients were to survive until the more sophisticated and time-consuming repair work could come later. Jolly's book, based on his diary kept at the time, paints a vivid picture of work in the converted refrigeration plant which served as their hospital, of coping



under bare lightbulbs with the influx of wounded which followed each new Argentinian air attack or land clash. Not that it's by any means an unrelenting catalogue of horrors; the most striking aspect of the book is Jolly's chirpy style, and the humour and camaraderie which clearly formed the team's psychological prop. Despite the presence of one unexploded enemy bomb on the roof, and another dropped squarely in the fridge, it was, says Jolly, "cutting as usual". *The Red And Green Life Machine* is a fitting reminder of the extraordinary courage, dedication and resilience, not only of the medics themselves, but of their patients too, a tribute to everyone who performed their duties expertly and cheerfully under the difficult Falkland's conditions.

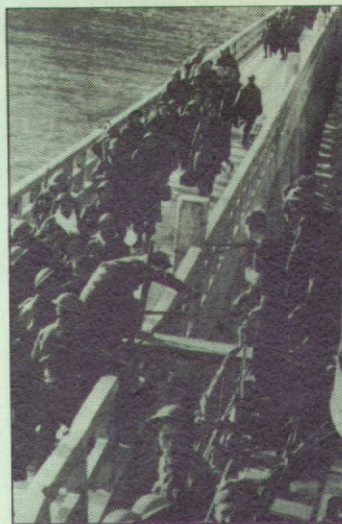
Century Publishing Co. Ltd., 76, Old Compton Street, London, W1V 5PA — £8.95

IJK

### The Miracle of Dunkirk: Walter Lord

The story of Dunkirk in WWII, of the collapse of the French army in the face of Hitler's 1940 blitzkrieg, of the subsequent withdrawal of the BEF to the Channel beaches, and its miraculous rescue at the hands of an impromptu armada of British boats, has become so much a part of the folklore of this nation that one would scarcely think there was more to be said on it. Yet more there is, apparently, though Walter Lord wisely avoids a straightforward trip down the well-worn narrative track, and opts instead for an approach

which relies heavily on personal recollection. In preparing the book Lord contacted over five hundred surviving Dunkirk veterans, on both sides and of all ranks, and their experiences provide the meat of the book around which he weaves his story. The danger of such an approach is that broad trends can become bogged down and buried under a mass of detail, but in this case it suits its subject well, capturing the sense of one crisis unfolding upon another, and the confusion experienced by many individual soldiers, separated from their units during the chaotic retreat. One officer, who had taken a bow and arrow to war with him as an eccentric souvenir, found his detachment cut off by a German patrol; arrows as well as bullets put the enemy to flight! One soldier was seen escaping on roller-skates, nuns and priests near the line were in danger of being shot as fifth columnists, and British units who suffered the misfortune of being captured by swiftly advancing SS troops were likely to be shot on the spot. On the evacuation beach itself, the cour-



age and patience of the troops, under heavy air attack was legendary; though in military terms the campaign could scarcely be considered a success, it was certainly a formidable achievement of human endurance, and it is this aspect which Lord's book best illustrates.

Allen Lane, Penguin Books Ltd, 536 King's Road, London SW10 0UH — £8.95

IJK

### The Yanks are Coming: Edwin R W Hale and John Frayn Turner

The title does not strictly fit the book because, as we all know, it's a quote from the First World War song *Over There*, and this book is about the Mark 2 conflict.

It is an anthology of personal recollections of GIs who came over here to clear up the mess that the limeys had got themselves into before Pearl Harbour on 7 December 1941.

There was a curious relationship between the so-called Allies from the time the first GIs arrived in January 1942; almost every British male was suspicious of them. They were overpaid, over-sexed and over-estimated by the female population. This reviewer remembers losing his first girl friend, Mavis Scratcher, to a Tennessee hillbilly sergeant with the equally remarkable name of Hank Klick; whatever happened to that Scratcher and Klick team, I ask myself.

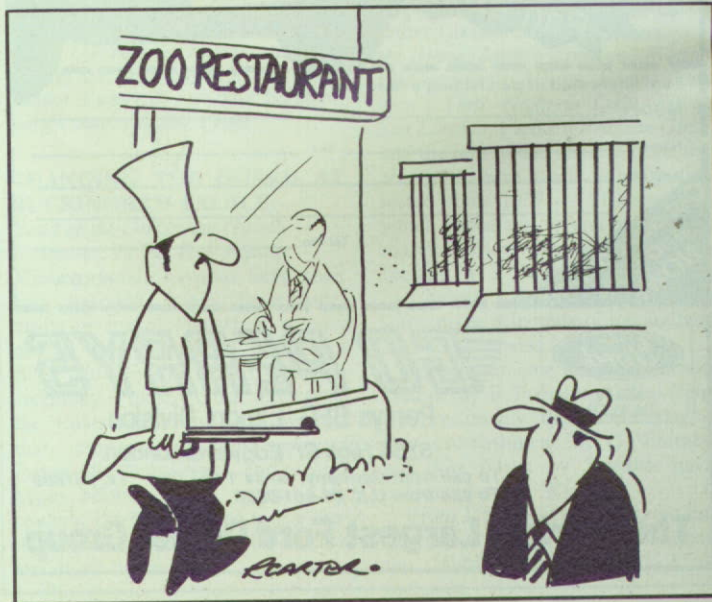
The GIs were brash, bumptious and randy, with better and more clothing, food, vehicles, and cash in their pockets than we had, making their points as if there was no tomorrow — as there was not for many after D-Day or the start of the daylight bomber raids.

*The Yanks are Coming* presents the other side of the coin, the personal memories of those now elderly characters who found themselves lumbered in an alien country populated by 'toffee-nosers' and 'yokels'. In fact, the thirty-three subjects that have been chosen by the authors are remarkably charitable and indulgent. There can be no doubt that the Americans tried hard; Bill Ong's story tells of Christmas 1942, '... we had sat down 200 kids and they had a real Christmas party — with Father Christmas arriving on a bulldozer decorated for the occasion. They all had presents ...'

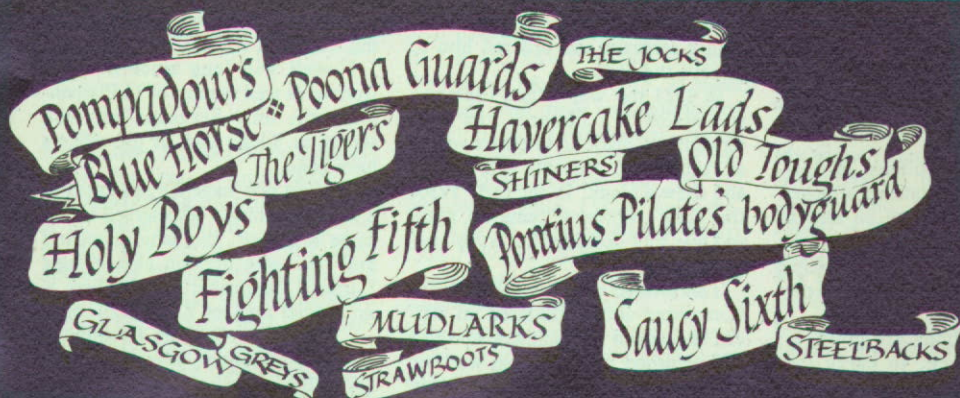
It is an enlightening book and one to be recommended to all who may find themselves in proximity with 'allies', even today.

Midas Books — £9.50

BJ



# THE OLD NICKNAMES



**C**HECKING through a 1914 Army List recently it came to mind that most regiments carried insignia for various reasons, e.g. 'The Castle and Key' of, among others, The Essex Regiment; the 'Thistle ensigned with the Imperial Crown' of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders . . . and so on. Many regiments of cavalry and infantry (and others such as 'The Gunners') had nicknames also — some complimentary and some far from it . . . 'Royal Tigers', 'Old

Canaries' and 'The Immortals' for instance.

Many of the old nicknames have been retained by units after amalgamation: some have gone for ever . . . 'The Dirty Shirts' — the old 101st Foot (1st Bn The Royal Munster Fusiliers), for example, a nickname earned when they threw away their tunics to fight better at Delhi in 1857.

However, here are eleven of the old nicknames (some much older than others and some not lasting the years but all incorporated in the respective regimental history

books. We have given the nicknames as they stood in 1914 and the titles of the regiments as they were. The nicknames (nor the regiments) are not in strict order — they are a little mixed, shall we say. Nicknames are numbered 1-11 and all units have letters of the alphabet so, just write down the numbers from 1 to 11 (as a column) and against each number write the letter you think ought to fit.

For example, if there were a number 12 "Green Linnets" and the letter was (x) against the old 39th Foot (The Dorsetshire Regiment) then 12 (x) would fit the case.

When you have made the list write down the nicknames and if you have them in the correct order and slide them to the left and right a little and take one letter from each name (the right letter, of course) you will find an old nickname of an old infantry regiment. Give the nickname AND the regiment — as it WAS.

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 26 August. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 19 September 1983 and no correspondence can be entered into. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 322' label. In the case of ties, winners will be drawn by lots. Send your answer by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 322' label to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

## NICKNAMES

- SLASHERS (1)
- ORANGE LILIES (2)
- CELESTIALS (3)
- CHERRY PICKERS (4)
- RUSTY BUCKLES (5)
- OLD GREYS (6)
- SAUCY GREENS (7)
- BLOODSUCKERS (8)
- KIRKE'S LAMBS (9)

- MINDEN BOYS (10)
- DIEHARDS (11)

## REGIMENTS (AS THEY WERE)

- 2ND DRAGOON GUARDS (QUEEN'S BAYS) (a)
- 2ND DRAGOONS (ROYAL SCOTS GREYS) (b)
- 11TH (PRINCE ALBERT'S OWN) HUSSARS (c)
- 2ND FOOT — THE QUEEN'S (ROYAL WEST SURREY REGIMENT) (d)
- 20TH FOOT — THE LANCASHIRE FUSILIERS (e)
- 28TH FOOT — 1ST BN. THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT (f)
- 35TH FOOT — 1ST BN. THE ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT (g)
- 36TH FOOT — 2ND BN. THE WORCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT (h)
- 57TH FOOT — 1ST BN. THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN (MIDDLESEX REGIMENT) (i)
- 63RD FOOT — 1ST BN. THE MANCHESTER REGIMENT (m)
- 97TH FOOT — 2ND BN. THE QUEEN'S OWN (ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT) (n)

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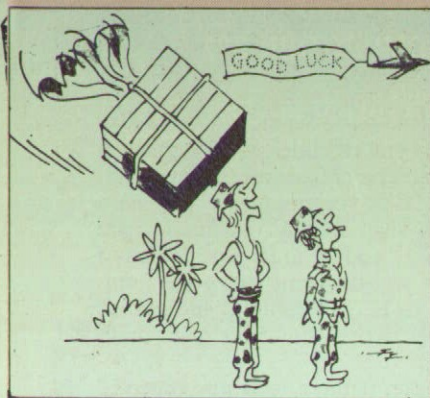
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## MAIL DROP

lance, at the time of the Kaiser's War.

Built by Hillarys of Tunbridge Wells the vehicle would have been designed along with motor cars of wicker and leather bodies, early commercial vehicles and caravans, at my grandfather's carriage works in the town.

The Horse Ambulance is illustrated, with specifications attached to a leaflet designed to be sent to potential customers — including the RSPCA which, it is noted, supplied several such vehicles to the Army Veterinary Corps.

The specifications are given as: 'Good body space, to carry two horses if necessary; front and hind doors hinged, and fitted with cocoa mats; sides heavily padded half-way down, thus assuring the greatest possible comfort to the animal... Our specially devised sling can be fitted, if requested, at a moderate extra cost... This vehicle is strongly recommended by the Army Veterinary Corps as being particularly suitable for the work of conveyance of wounded horses.' — **Desmond Hillary, 14 Lansdowne Road, Purley, Surrey CR2 2PA.**

## BOVVER BOOTS

I am a WRAC corporal, serving with 67 (QOWWY) Signals Squadron (V) at Stratford-upon-Avon, and I feel that with the forthcoming issue of the new boots I must highlight the problem faced by every WRAC in the British Army who takes a boot size of under size 5.

When I first joined seven years ago they had stopped issuing the WRAC Brown boot and all WRAC were to be issued with DMS boots the same as the men, but it was found that anybody taking size 3 or 4 had to have the very ancient PMS commando screw-on sole boot.

This boot is not like the DMS boot in any way other than looks. Its leather is thicker and tougher, the sole is heavy and does not yield to the foot when it bends during normal walking. When trying to break in the boot the result is that water only toughens the leather even more and the leather uppers shrink making the boot even tighter.

I had a pair of these boots for 7 years and the day I threw them away they were as tough as a new pair, which (sigh!) was what I had to replace them. These boots are crippling the feet of us small WRAC.

We have recently been informed that the new boot will be issued from 1 April 1984 but that they start from again a size 5. Please, please, please, will the people responsible for ordering these boots remember that there are many people in the British Army who take size 3 and 4? Why can't they make them that small and let us have them to replace the boots PMS that have been crippling us for years?

It would be interesting to know just how common a problem it is throughout the WRAC regulars as well. — **Mrs W M Perks, 283a Tachbrook Road, Whitnash, Leamington Spa.**

## HORSE AMBULANCE

I read with great interest your review of the exhibition 'Animals at War' (16 May) currently being presented at the Imperial War Museum.

Your article prompted me to look again at photographs and notes for the construction of a Horse Ambu-

Africa, wore the official badge of the rank and could not be reduced without the King's approval. Higher authority told him he was no more than a sergeant and ordered him to remove the badge.

In 1921 the War Office Librarian and Major T J Edwards, the military author, made an intensive search of regulations, warrants and files — and drew a blank. In the early 1930s the King's Corporal came up again and was shot down by the *Naval and Military Record*.

This journal said that a War Office Committee once considered an official suggestion that soldiers who had distinguished themselves in wartime but were unsuited to be NCOs in peacetime should be given some mark of distinction on the right arm preferably an embroidered band, carrying with it a step in rank, while on active service with extra pay and a donation of £10.

The idea was not adopted, though some men were specially promoted in the field in the later stages of the Boer War and were generally known as 'Kitchener's Sergeants'.

The War Office deny there is such a rank as King's Corporal. The Imperial War Museum say there is no conclusive evidence of the existence of King's Corporal. The Royal Hospital, Chelsea say a Queen's Corporal was heard of during the South African War but its existence was never substantiated.

All down the years people have quoted names, regiments and dates, but the person named has always been a distant relative, or the information has been secondhand.

Never has the elusive King's Corporal come forward in person. And he never will — because he just never was. — **W R Gentry, 106 Roll Gardens, Gants Hill, Ilford, Essex IG2 6TL.**

There is no official rank of King's Corporal (27 June). Nor for that matter is there a rank of Officers' Mess Sergeant etc. The rank is Corporal and Sergeant respectively — the prefixes are appointments.

In September 1919 the 1st Bn The Royal Highlanders (Black Watch) left Aldershot for Allahabad, India. With the battalion was one Corporal Newell — a corporal who had been promoted from private in Flanders for bravery.

And since the promotion on the field to the rank of corporal was by the specific authority of the King he was known as a 'King's Corporal'. The rank was Corporal, the appointment was by the King (HM King George V).

I was appointed Acting Sergeant at Lublinitz on 1 February 1922 but on going to India I dropped that rank taking my substantive rank of corporal. Three weeks later I was back in the Sergeants' Mess!

I was posted to 'C' Company to join No 11 Platoon (the 'tough' platoon), and so for three weeks served with Newell on equal terms and then I became platoon sergeant.

Newell had been a regimental scout when promoted in battle and he always wore a large brass scout's

badge above his stripes — and no-one ever had the heart to tell him to take it off as he was no longer a regimental scout. We just ignored it — pretending we didn't see it!

Newell will long since be gone from us as well as most of 11 Platoon. I am the only Sergeant left who served in Silesia and all the officers have gone.

But you now have the testament of a highland soldier who served in the same regiment, the same company and the same platoon as a King's Corporal, remembering that there is no official rank of King's Corporal. — **T E Kempshall, 36 Glendower Avenue, Coventry, West Midlands CV5 8BE.**

## OBSOLETE?

As a regular reader of your excellent magazine, I always read the regular books section and also any adverts for books as well as the many articles.

Thus in *SOLDIER*, I found advertised 'The British Army in the Falklands 1982' — a short account of the feats of the representatives of each Corps and also the battalions of the Army involved in Operation Corporate.

In the section concerned with the REME, the accompanying photograph shows a lorry which looks very much like an Austin K6 6 x 4 3 ton lorry with a Signals Office body. This photograph then shows, it would seem, a major vehicle of the 1939-45 period being used in 1982.

In the light of this I would like one of your military readers to explain two things. Firstly, why a vehicle which is approximately 40 years old was still in service with a main line vehicle repair unit in 1982 (during hostilities?). Secondly, was there to any great extent any other pieces of obsolete equipment used in the Falklands?

In conclusion, I would again like to compliment the staff of the magazine on the constantly high standard of same. — **Nigel L Ryall, 7 Old Hall Courtyard, Heath, Wakefield, West Yorks. WF1 5ST.**

*The REME tells us the vehicle does resemble an Austin K6 but in fact it is a Commer 3 ton 4x4 vehicle fitted with a house type body for instrument repairs. This particular vehicle came into service late 1949/early 1950 so it is of good age and is still providing an excellent service to its new owners in the Falklands Islands, 2 Field Workshop REME. Of course, it went out with 10 Field Workshop REME but was left on the Islands together with the rest of the workshop vehicles for the replacement workshop. — Ed.*

## HUSSARS' HISTORY

Thank you most sincerely for reviewing the History of the 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars 1945-80 (13 June).

Unfortunately, the name and address of Keats House Ltd. was listed in the preview as distributors which is incorrect. My letter listed HHQ 15/19H Fenham Barracks, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4NP as the distributors. Keats House Ltd

has ceased to trade and therefore this is causing problems with orders being placed with them.

The History is obtainable from HHQ 15/19H. — **Major B O Simmonds (Retd), Home HQ, 15/19th The King's Royal Hussars, Fenham Bks, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4NP.**

## JINGLING JOHNNY

A letter from Michael Wood included a plea for less, or preferably, no Glockenspiels on the principle that it is an un-British instrument (13 June). The history of the 93rd Sutherland Highlanders contains the information that the established 'musick' formed in 1800, was supplemented 'by boys and by coloured or other hired men (generally foreigners) who played the big drum, the glockenspiel and the Jingling Johnny'.

The regiment still possesses that Jingling Johnny, our oldest possession and I suggest that the glockenspiel has perhaps a longer history in British Military music than, say, the saxophone (invented circa 1842 by a Belgian).

Let us now turn to your edition of 27 June where Captain Stewart MacVicar states that he likes to think of Edinburgh Castle Royal Salute as one of the big three, including Buckingham Palace and the Tower! QRs 80555 will soon tell him that there is no Royal Salute at Buckingham Palace — there is however, one we like to think as important as Edinburgh fired at Stirling Castle by the Highland Battery of 102 AD Regt RA from Arbroath.

In conclusion, may I turn to a report in the same edition of some unknown ceremony called a 'Beat Retreat' carried out at Portsmouth. To beat is a verb. One can beat retreat: in this context 'following the beating of a retreat' would perhaps be appropriate — or are beat groups now taking over ceremonial duties, due to the reduction in the military band establishments? — **Lt Col G P Wood (Retd), Regimental Secretary, RHQ, The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, The Castle, Stirling FK8 1EH.**

## NEUTRALITY

Mr. Peter Herbert raised the question of why Switzerland should have a 1914-18 War Memorial (27 June).

My Swiss colleagues inform me that Switzerland has constitutionally a "defended neutrality" and had thus on occasions, to defend its boundaries in the 1914-18 war. This led to casualties, some of which are commemorated on the Veveyse memorial. — **Major General D E Isles, CB OBE, The Laurels, Denton, Grantham, Lincs. NG32 1JZ.**

## Collectors' Corner

David Marriott, 11 Cressington Ave., Higher Tranmere, Birkenhead, Merseyside L42 6QJ. *Wishes to purchase or trade parachute wings worldwide to build up collection. Also United States medals wanted. Has plenty of various items to trade plus many back and up-to-date issues 'Soldier of Fortune'. All lists welcome and overseas swaps.*

Walt Barrington, 2 Thrush House, Marlow Drive, Salford, Lancs. M6 6FR. *Has for sale or exchange a collection of shoulder, titles eg 1st City Bn Manchester, Liverpool Vol Guard, 1st and 2nd VTC Camaroon and many more. Main interest Lancashire ST. SAE please.*

D Larkin, SSV, Globe Cinema, Wentworth Bks, BFPO 15. *Requires following cloth, trade and qualification badges: AOBs B Achievement, bugler, trumpet major, wheelwright, range takers, explosive gunnery asst, first aid instructor, surveyor, QADI, bugle major. Also all anodised brigade badges 1958-1969 and all British leather personal equipment, 1903 pattern, 1914 pattern, 1939 pattern, etc.*

P Banyard, 120 The Landway, Bearstead, Kent. *Wants all Canadian cap badges, all periods, particularly numbered battalions of the 1914-18 period. Good prices paid and all letters answered.*

## Pen Pals

I would like to write to any soldiers' wives who, like me, have children and don't get out very much. I am 27 years old and have two children. — **Mrs Beverley Castree, 31 Brandon Crescent, Rushcroft, Shaw, Oldham, Lancs. OL2 7YB.**

*My hobbies are reading, records, making rugs and collecting old coins. I am 18 years old. — Karen Purchase, 37 St Michael's Road, Yeovil, Somerset.*

*My name is Carla and I am 22 years old. My hobbies are reading, swimming and music. — Carla Brooks, c/o Food & Beverage, Kensington Close Hotel, Wrights Lane, London W8.*

*My name is Ginny and I am 19 years old. I am 5ft 11ins tall with blonde hair and blue eyes. All letters answered. — G Filler, 10 Henleaze Ave, Henleaze, Bristol, BS9 4ET.*

*I am a nurse and my interests are records, TV etc. I am 44 years old and separated. — Veronica Holyer, 17 Dalhousie Gardens, Poltonhall, Bonnyrigg, Midlothian, EH19 2LP. I am a 24-year-old Icelandic girl who would like penpals from all over the world. I have many hobbies and I write in English! — Thorunn Skjaldardottir, Krummaholar 8, 109 Reykjavik, Iceland.*

*My name is Denise and I am 24 years old. I am 5ft 5ins tall with brown hair and blue eyes. My hobbies are dancing, cooking and listening to records. — Denise Parkin, 41 Spring Walk, Wharnccliffe Hill Flats, Rotherham, S Yorks, S65 1HW.*

*I'm Juliet and I am 17 years old. I am 5ft 4ins tall with blonde hair and blue eyes. I live in Birmingham and work in a photographic studio. — Juliet McManus, 43 Bartley Drive, Northfield, Birmingham, B31 1AR*

*We are two friends who would like to write to any soldiers aged between 18-20. My name is Donna and I am 16 years old with blonde hair and blue eyes. I like all sorts of music, having fun and enjoying myself. My friend, Maria is 18 years old. She has blonde hair and blue eyes, likes all sorts of music, going to pubs and discos and enjoying herself. — Donna Daniels, 5 Fairlawn Green, Shinfield Rise, Reading, Berks, RG2 8EG. Maria Painter, 73 Winton Road, Shinfield, Reading, Berks.*

*My name is Christine. I am 20 years old, have fair hair and blue eyes and like cooking, pop music and football. All letters answered. — Christine Payne, 52 Lattice Ave, Ipswich, Suffolk.*

*My name is Margaret and I am 34 years old. I am 4ft 11ins tall and I like going to discos and enjoying myself. All letters answered. Photos appreciated. — Margaret Underwood, 42 Sidney St, Grantham, Lincs.*

*My name is Hannah and my hobbies are badminton, music, dressmaking, cooking and knitting — Hannah Robins, 4 Montagu Gardens, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 8ER.*

*My name is Sharon and I am 14 years old. I am 5ft 4ins tall with light brown hair and blue-green eyes. My hobbies are swimming, ice-skating, music, reading and going to the cinema. — Sharon Jarvis, 9 The Close, Danethorpe Vale, Sherwood, Nottingham, NG5 3DB.*

*I and my friend Dawn Baker would like to write to soldiers in the Falklands aged between 18 to 24. Photos appreciated. — Kim Murphy, 26 Goodere Drive, Castle Park, Polesworth, Tamworth, Staffs.*

*My name is Christine and I am 34 years old, divorced with two children. I am 5ft 8ins tall with fair hair and brown eyes. My interests are dancing, music and reading. — Mrs Christine Mason, 47 Marmion Crescent, Henbury, Bristol, BS10 7PA.*

*My interests are dancing and listening to music, sport and writing letters. My name is Gill and I am 28 years old. I am 5ft 7ins tall with brown hair and green eyes. — Gillian Fish, 23 Swift Close, Melton Mowbray, Leics, LE13 0BB.*

*I am interested in the Army and like all types of music. My name is Ellen and I am 15. — Ellen Jenkins, 25 Bitterwell Close, Coalpit Heath, Bristol, BS17 2UQ.*

*My name is Nicki and I am 19 years old. I am 5ft 3ins tall with short brown hair and brown eyes. I am a member of the TA Royal Signals and my hobbies are ice-skating, discos, swimming and cooking. — Miss N Pack, 61 New St, Cheltenham, Glos, GL50 3LY.*

## Competition

Our compiler was back to his favourite subject of birds in Competition 318, 'Cuckoo Wood'. You had to find your way to the cuckoo in the clearing at the centre of the wood by way of spotting eighteen other species. By entering the wood at gate H and the clearing at gate N you will have found the place teeming with birdlife: skylark, chaffinch; blackbird; song thrush; owl; green woodpecker; wren; wood warbler; great tit; greenfinch; jay; starling; wood pigeon; kestrel; whitethroat; tree sparrow; robin; and magpie.

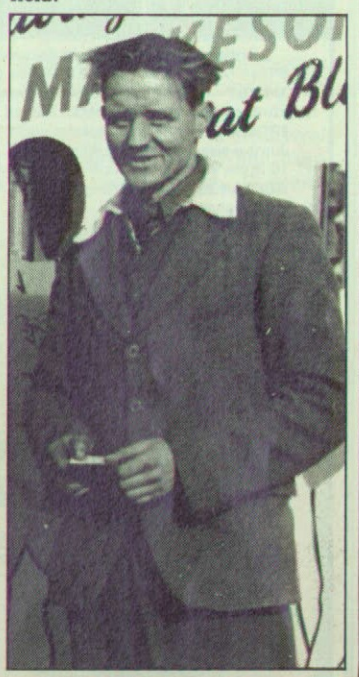
Prizewinners were; 1st Mrs I McFayden, 32 Bn 51 Highland Vols (The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders), TA Centre, Forthside, Stirling. 2nd Miss L G Brown, 17 Khartoum Rd, Brompton, Gillingham, Kent. 3rd M T J Smith, 2 Huntley Ave, Northfleet, Kent. 4th Maj D L S Langley, Heath House, Aylesbeare, Exeter, Devon, 5th Maj I J Peters, HQ Coy 3 Bn RRF, Montgomery Bks, BFPO 45.

## Can You Help?

I was medically discharged from the Royal Army Ordnance Corps whilst doing my basic training at Blackdown barracks at Deepcut in Surrey, and I am anxious to get in touch with anyone who served in Anzio Platoon during the period of 18 July to 22 October 1982. I would particularly like to hear from room-mates Privates Lockhart, O'Callaghan, Tucker, Caines and Galloway but all answers would be truly appreciated. — **Joe Hill, 40 Marshall Ave., Dallam, Warrington, Cheshire.**

Could you help me find a young man called Pete (Peter) (I cannot remember his last name). I met him through a pen pal ad in *SOLDIER* about a year ago. Then he was on a course outside Nottingham (I think Leicester or Loughborough). He called to see me and my daughter Sarah a few times, and took me for dinner at the Durham Ox restaurant on my 21st birthday. He also asked us to go on a day out to Belvoir Castle to see the mediaeval jousting, but we never got there. I know little of his background other than his father was in the Forces and as a child Pete went to boarding school. When possible he returns home to his mother who lives (or lived) in Canterbury. Pete, if you read this please get in touch. — **Ms Jackie Kemp, 30 Richardson Close, Clifton, Nottingham NG11 8RS.**

Does anyone recognise this photo of my ex-husband who is now dead? I would like to know more about his Army life so if anyone who recognises him could get in touch with me, I would be very grateful. He lived in Bradford. — **Mrs B Rawson, c/o 12 Annesley Close, Whitebank Farm Estate, Hasland, Chesterfield.**



## How Observant Are You?

(see page 29)

1 Bird's left wing; 2 Small curve of big chute at top right; 3 Right horn of left bull; 4 Soldier's hair; 5 Flag on building; 6 Legs of right parachutist; 7 End of building to right of trees; 8 Number of windows; 9 Strap of small pack on soldier's right hip; 10 Nose of aircraft.

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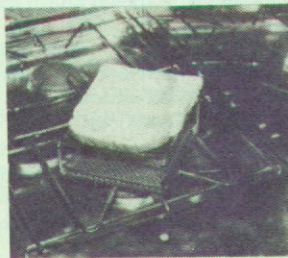
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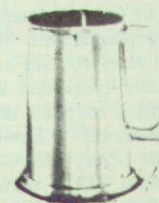
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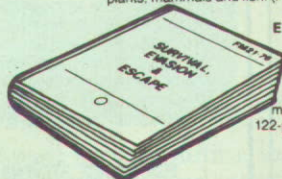
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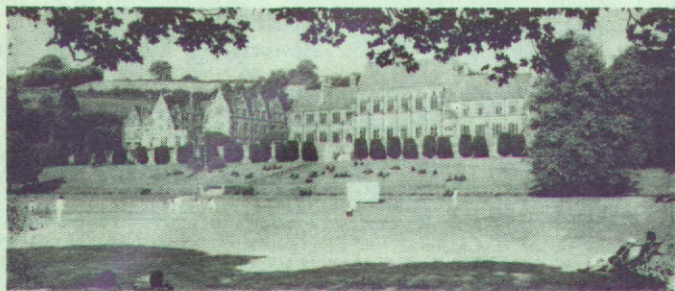
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# CLASSIFIED

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In the first quarter of 1983 54.2 per cent of all building society loans went to first time buyers, representing some 134,000 purchases — a 1,000 increase over the same quarter in 1982.

The average price paid throughout the UK by first time buyers in the period ending March 31 was £16,072 — or a 13.1 per cent increase on a year ago. Do you deduce from this statistic that by March 1984 the price will have risen another 13.1 per cent? Again the answer is no.

The "average" price statistic can be very misleading. First time buyers in London will be lucky to find a flat or terraced property under £25,000. In parts of Wales and the North first time buyers can obtain quite substantial properties for under £15,000. House prices vary from region to region, and even street to street so to base your saving calculations on averages is not good logic.

The golden rule for the best buy is to purchase property if it is rising at a faster rate than inflation. For the past two years house prices have not kept pace with inflation. But now there is likely to be an adjustment, with prices running ahead of inflation as long as mortgage rates remain competitive. So, if you're definitely going to buy a home do it within the next six months. It is still a buyer's market. But the pendulum is starting to swing the other way.

**K. Stephenson, 0277 232913**

These articles are prepared in conjunction with Kerry Stephenson of the National Homes Network. This is a private agency with a great deal of experience in dealing with the special problems of the Service Home-hunter. Kerry will be delighted to give you any help he can with your problem in the private sector and can be contacted at National Homes Network, 104 Kings Road, Brentwood, Essex. Tel: 0277 232913.

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Bulletin No 59 contains details of the following surplus Married Quarters offered for sale through the Joint Services Married Quarters Sales Office at UKLF Wilton (Salisbury Military 2684/2693).

Type 5	1 in Rainham, Kent	£29,750
	8 in Pershore, Worcestershire	£22,000
Type C	1 in Rainham, Kent	£22,500
	1 in Stanground, Cambridgeshire	£18,500
	11 in Chatham, Kent	£18,500
	1 in Litherland, Liverpool	£13,250

The Bulletin has been distributed to all Units. Further information and application forms will be available through your Unit/Ship/Station.

The closing date for all applications for properties offered in Bulletin Number 59 is 17 August 1983

## CRICKET

# OUTSHONE BY KIWI POLISH

The Combined Services cricket side provided some useful batting and bowling practice for the New Zealand tourists over two days at Portsmouth and managed to hang on for a draw. That baldly states what happened but underestimates the value to Service players of meeting world class opposition.

In bygone days, as illustrated by fading pictures in cricket pavilions, Combined Services regularly played touring sides, but in recent times the practice has gone into abeyance only to be revived this year with the advent of the World Cup. The Sri Lankans used the Services as a warm-up game and the Kiwis, who had not

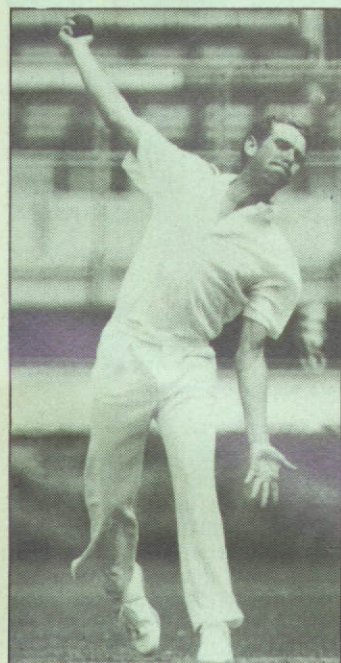
played since their premature exit from the Cup, took the opportunity to limber up for their tour.

The first day was dogged by bad light and rain with a very late start and an early finish. Combined Services notched up 100-5 with Lieutenant Charlie Clark, Royal Artillery, one of only two Army men in the side, (freescoring Lieutenant Edward Gordon-Lennox was 12th man) emerging as top scorer with 28 before he was caught by Geoff Howarth off John Bracewell.

New Zealand put on 50 for the loss of two wickets overnight. The following morning dawned bright and summery and a small crowd gathered to watch a run feast. One lady enthusiast remarked to a friend "Isn't it nice to see the ground so crowded."

Crowded was hardly the word although it did compare favourably with usual attendances at Services matches which tend to be of the 'one man and his dog' variety. I counted 170 around the ground ranging from straw

◀ Willis — toiling in the sun but a great experience.



The Kiwis apply an attacking field as Clark struggles with the Test class bowling.

Story:  
John Walton  
Pictures:  
Paul Haley

hatted retired military personages to autograph chasing youngsters and a group of New Zealanders.

New Zealand lost an early wicket but for the rest of the morning the Service bowlers, including the RAPC's Staff Sergeant Neil Willis, toiled in a vain attempt to contain Trevor Franklin and Evan Gray.

Having reached his century Franklin took a rest after lunch to give others some batting practice. Bracewell failed to take advantage of this and quickly departed for a duck but Grey and Warren Lees took the score to 221-5 before declaring.

In their second innings the Services struggled against the New Zealand bowling line-up of Snedden, Chatfield, Howarth, Bracewell and Gray. Clark, who was in more than an hour for seven, never looked happy and they slumped to 33 for 5.

Two Navy men, Izzard and

Evans, managed to temporarily stop the rot and Willis, batting number 9, scored a creditable 18. When stumps were drawn the final pair were at the crease and an innings defeat had just been avoided. Izzard had batted more than two hours for his 21 undefeated runs.

Although clearly outclassed the Service players enjoyed the two day match. Said Willis, who toiled for hours for bowling figures of 0-51: "It's good to play against them because it improves your own standard. In the normal standard of cricket we play the occasional bad ball but with these guys it's four all the way. They are a great bunch and the match has been played in a much better spirit than against Sri Lanka, who just went for batting practice."

The next day the New Zealanders went to Taunton and battered Somerset for the first 500 plus innings by a Kiwi touring team against a county side. So it was not only the Service bowlers who were to feel the lash from this year's tourists!

## Junior Gunners Triumph

The Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery came in winning form to the Junior Army Inter-Unit (Major Units) Athletic Championships with an overall tally of 96 points ousting the favourites AAC Harrogate from the premier position which they had held for three years.

After 13 events AAC Harrogate and Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps were still jostling for first place with JLRRA snapping at their heels.

Then came the 1500m team race, the hurdles and the relays in which the eventual winners picked up enough points to lead.

The Gunners came first in the 4 x 400 and 4 x 800 relays, the 1500m, the 400m hurdles and, on the field, the pole vault with a combined jump of six metres.

In second place with 86 points was JLRRA who won the 200m

steeplechase in 12 mins 56 sec beating the old record set by AAC Harrogate in 1981 of 13 minutes 02.3 secs. They also were first in the 110m hurdles, long jump and triple jump.

Former champions, AAC Harrogate, were relegated to third position with 80 points but can console themselves with having set an impressive new record in the hammer with a throw of 71.66m, over two metres more than the previous record of 69.04m.

The long running struggle for first place between Junior Para Company and the RAOC Apprentice College in the Minor Units Championships both of whom have won alternate years since 1979, continued this year with Junior Para getting their revenge and winning with 57 points with RAOC only third behind the RAMC.



Bovington lead in the 400 metres hurdles.

# THE CHAIRMAN



A jubilant Corporal Bhagiman Limbu is chaired by his Gurkha colleagues after winning the Queen's Medal at Bisley for the Army's champion shot. It was the third year in a row that the award had gone to a Gurkha.

The winner with 888 finished four points clear of an ex-champion, Major Tony Domeison of the Royal Anglian Regiment. Winner of the TA Queen's Medal was Sergeant Bernard Appleton (1 Yorks).

But the Gurkhas did not have things all their own way. A nine man team from the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards broke a six year Gurkha run to win the team title.

## Gunners pull it off



The Sussex Gunners, 26 Field Regiment RA from Dortmund swept the board at the Army Tug of War Championships winning both the 560 and 640 kgs competitions. Throughout a long hot day they only conceded one pull.

Seconds after they had disposed of their final opponents, MCTC in the 640 kgs event the heavens opened and the prizegiving was held in a deluge. But their dripping coach, Bombar-

dier Des Goodman was like the hero of 'Singing in the Rain'.

"We were determined to win this year and a lot of hard training has gone into it," he said. "The weather was very hot but we had trained a lot in this kind of weather just in case we got a day like this."

Runners up in the 560 kgs event were 25 Field Regiment RA. UK winners were 2 Royal Anglians (560) and MCTC Colchester (640).

## JUNIOR CRICKET

# HARROGATE STORM HOME

There was more than one thunderbolt at the Royal Aldershot Officers' Club cricket ground during the Army Junior Cricket final. A tropical downpour during the tea interval was followed by a spell of bowling which ripped the heart out of the Junior Leaders RAC batting and left the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, winners by 64 runs.

A heavy atmosphere redolent of the East helped the Bovington bowlers move the ball about as Harrogate, who have been scoring freely in Yorkshire local junior cricket this year, progressed at a steady four runs an over but with wickets tumbling accordingly. Mainstay of the innings was opener A/T Sergeant Ian Campbell who scored 32 before

and A/T Adrian Bain, aided by some good catching, shattered the innings. The RAC side was all out for 45 with Barnett taking 5-15 and Bain 4-22.

Afterwards Harrogate captain Barnett told SOLDIER: "I am delighted. When we only scored 109 I was not over confident about pulling it off as they were an unknown quantity, but when



False dawn for Bovington as Harrogate wickets tumble.

finally being out leg before.

The last wicket pair A/T Paul Boughey (12) and A/T Andrew Allen (14) managed to survive the final ten overs and took the score from 86 to 109-9 before tea. Top bowling figures were Junior Trooper Richard Prytherch (5-28) and Junior Sergeant Simon Honeybone (3-9).

The restart was delayed by half an hour and the match resumed with a sodden outfield. Bovington found runs hard to come by and bowlers, A/T Alan Barnett

we are under pressure we seem to keep it a lot tighter.

"Our fielding was outstanding and we owe a lot to the last pair for without them the score would only have been 80 odd and they would have gone for the runs."

**DON'T MISS . . .** the next issue of SOLDIER for a full report on the first ever athletics match to be held involving the British, American and French Armed Forces at Royal Air Force, Cosford.

## SPORTS SHORTS

Most of BAOR's rallying enthusiasts will be at Hamm on 24 September for this year's Starlight Rally which is the sixth round of the BAMA (BAOR) championship for drivers and navigators. Entries close a week before and clerk of course, WO 2 Brian Sanders has kept entry fees to a minimum through sponsorship with prizes totalling over DM 1500.

British teams will be taking part in a NATO badminton tournament organised by The Danish

Life Regiment in Denmark 14-16 October. Last year a Rhine Army-based team won the tournament. Those interested should contact Lt Erik E Mortensen, Sport Officer, Danish Life Regiment, 4760 Vordingborg, Denmark.

★ ★ ★

All Ministry of Defence personnel are welcome to put forward teams for the Swan National Team Squash Championship which begins in September on a regional basis. Teams are of three players plus up to two reserves. Further details from D Groves, Swan National Rentals, Fairfax St, Bristol (tel 20341).

★ ★ ★

## INTER-SERVICE ATHLETICS

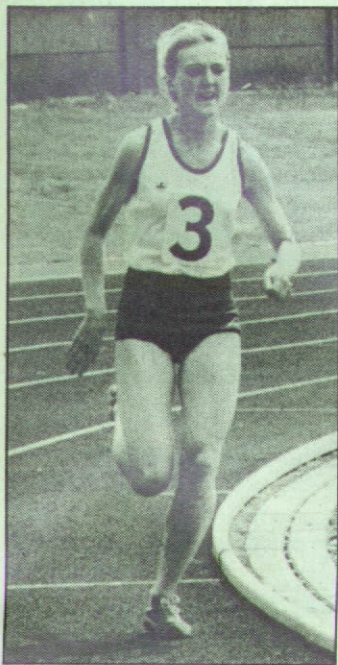
1947 Record goes at last

# BUT RAF WIN AGAIN

Despite a brave fight and some superb performances, including the shattering of an Army record which had stood for a phenomenal 36 years, the Army were finally beaten into second place in the Inter-Service Athletics Championships at Cosford. For the 19th year on the trot the RAF walked off with the title and after an even closer contest the WRAF won the women's events for the fourth year running.

With the thermometer nudging ninety the Army got off to a bright start in both championships. Private D J Grant set a new Inter-Services record of 7.41 metres in the long jump and in the process beat the Army record of Captain H Whittle set back in 1947.

"It felt right today and it's like a dream come true", said Grant. "I want to thank my CO for giving me so much time off. Now I want to see if I can break into the Olympic team."



Sue Parker — record breaking début.

Later in the afternoon Grant suffered a setback in the triple jump when he injured his ankle. After having it strapped up he attempted another jump but had to be helped away from the pit. He could only finish fifth.

Sapper Mark Sterling chalked up another win in the hammer while young pole vaulter, Lance-Corporal Stephen Lyons put in a personal best of 4.2 metres to win the event.

International Sgt (SI) Kris Akabusi was watched by one of his old instructors as he won the 400 metres comfortably. Former Staff-Sergeant Paul Grocott had travelled from Loughborough to see the man he taught as a youngster in the Royal Signals at Catterick. "I had not realised he had reached such a high standard until I saw him on the television against the Soviet Union" he told SOLDIER.

Akabusi was the member of the Army team which won the 4 x 400 metres relay and Lance-Sergeant D Dawson won the shot but in other events Army athletes came second or worse. In the sprint relay the team was disqualified. Final scores were RAF 165½, Army 141 and Navy 84½.

In the women's events the WRAF owe their win to the thrilling performances of SACW Joan Baptiste. She won the high jump and both sprint events as well as being a member of the winning sprint relay team.

emerging top scorer with 186 out of 200.

The Service Rifle Championship for top score over three days went to Lance-Corporal Jhumprasad Gurung (2-2 GR).

## PARACHUTING

The Army team won the eight-way relative work event at the British Parachute Association Championships near Peterborough. They also won silver medals in the eight way speed event and bronze medals in the four way relative work event. The team, led by Captain Mike Smith of Princess Marina College, will represent Great Britain in an international competition in Canada in August.



Triumph for DJ — then injury.

The WRAF finally edged the Army out by 97 points to 90 with the WRNS third on 62. But the Army led for much of the afternoon and put in some excellent performances.

A young officer studying at Cambridge and making her first appearance for the Army won the 800 metres easily and also headed the 400 metres. She is 23-year-old 2nd Lieutenant Sue Parker, who set a new Inter-Services record of 2 mins 11.8 seconds in the 800 metres.

"It was a nice thing to do but I was much better when I was 18. I put on a lot of weight when I was at University and was not training regularly" she said.

Private Caroline Jenkins, a late substitute in the javelin, won it and Lance-Corporal Cheryl Castle bettered her own Inter-services record in winning the 100 metres hurdles in a time of 14.8 seconds. She has been clocked at 14.5 seconds so feels she can eventually lower the record again.

## VEHRTE MEET THE CHEFS

Sadly, we say goodbye to the valiant Berakas Ladies from Brunei after they failed to pierce the armour of the skilful Vehrte CC in the semi-finals of the SOLDIER Darts Competition.

Even so, their efforts were impressive with Carole Tibbs scoring a high 140 for three darts and her team mate Pat Hare also chipping in a brace of tens. The Ladies can be proud to have reached the semi-final in an otherwise all-male competition and we thank them for their sporting contribution.

So now last year's thwarted semi-finalists, Vehrte CC from 1 Kings in Osnabrück, are set to take their revenge in the final. They needed only 58 darts (20-18-20) to finish while knocking up five tens, two scored by Corporal Jimmy Radcliffe — one a magnificent 160; Corporal Brian Gibson managed a 107 finish.

But the King's men cannot relax yet since they can expect stiff competition from fellow finalists, Aldershot Chefs 'B' who defeated opponents High Numbers from Engineer Resources at Long Marston in just 57 darts (21-17-19) including six tens.

## £5 PRIZE

Our £5 prize for this round goes to Corporal Ken McDonald who managed a pair of tens and shot out for 140 in the second game.

Holding our breath while this exciting final is fought between the two first-class teams, we dare not anticipate the result but wish them both the best of British!



## BRIEFLY

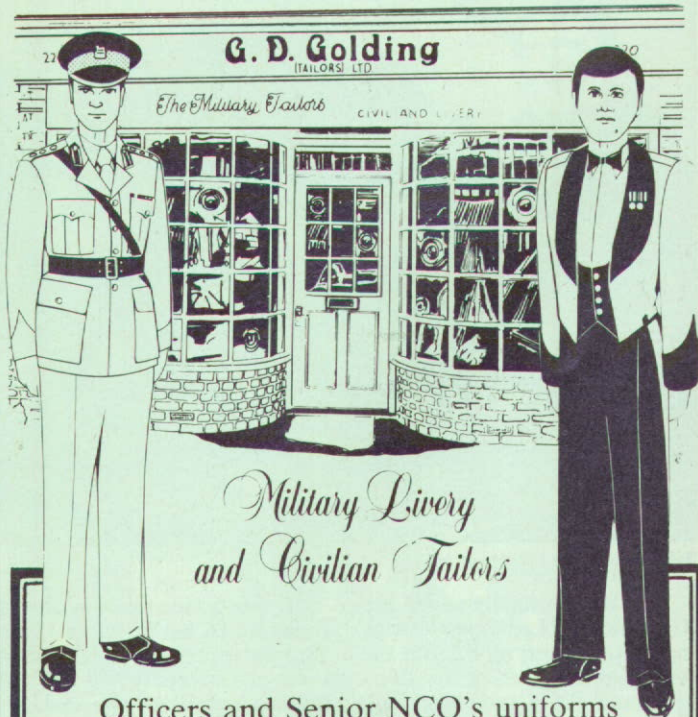
### CRICKET

Sussex 2nd XI defeated the Army by five wickets at Aldershot. The Army scored 199 all out (Lerwill 59 and Gordon-Lennox 39) and Sussex replied with 200-5 (Gelling 2-24).

### SHOOTING

The Regular Army retained the United Services Challenge Cup at Bisleigh-beating not only the other two Services but four foreign Service teams. The Army scored 1409 with Corporal Philip Heyward of 3 Para

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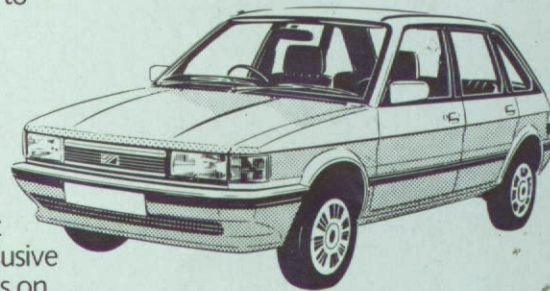
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