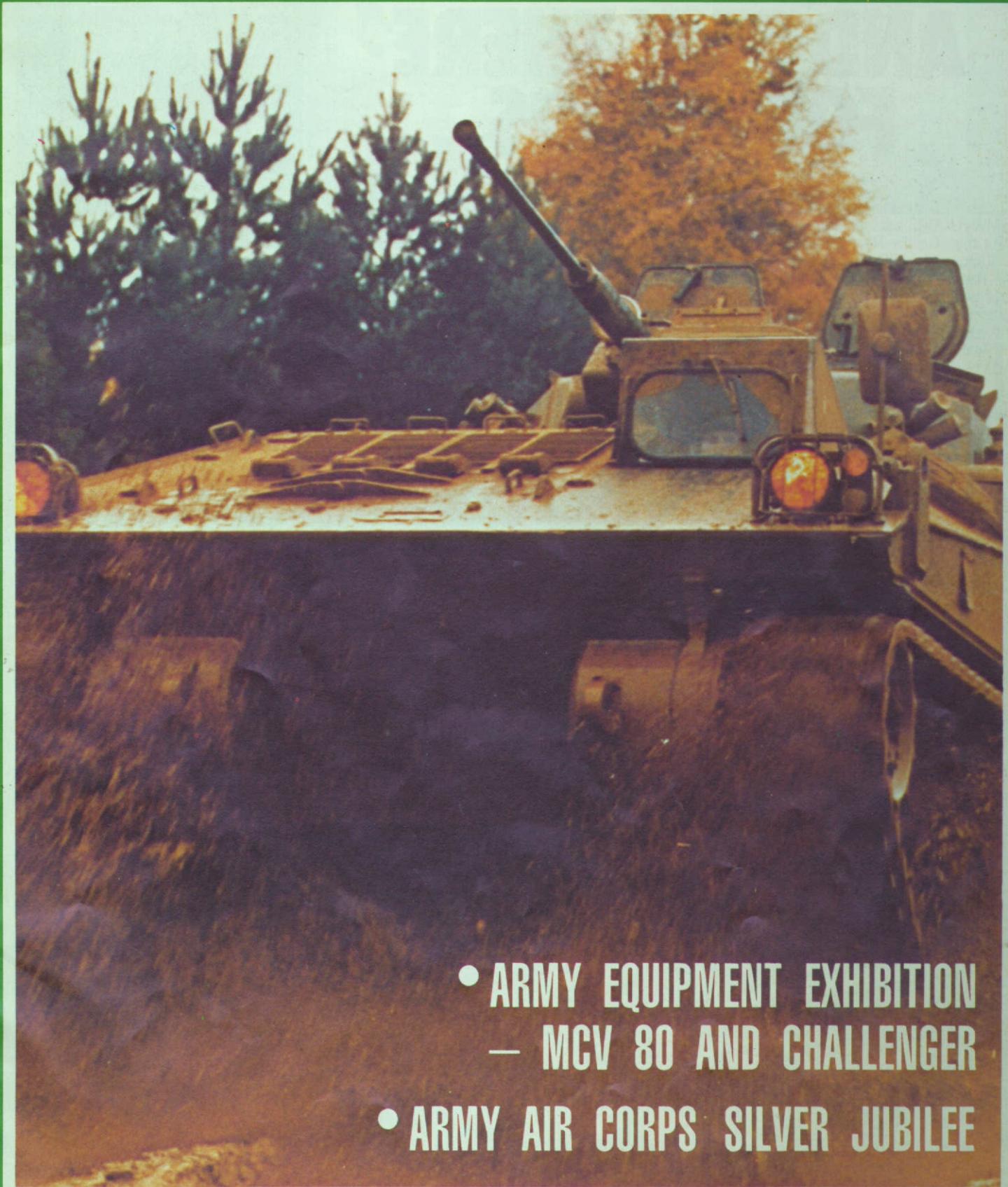


THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

• 25 PENCE

• 12-25 JULY 1982

# SOLDIER



- ARMY EQUIPMENT EXHIBITION
- MCV 80 AND CHALLENGER
- ARMY AIR CORPS SILVER JUBILEE

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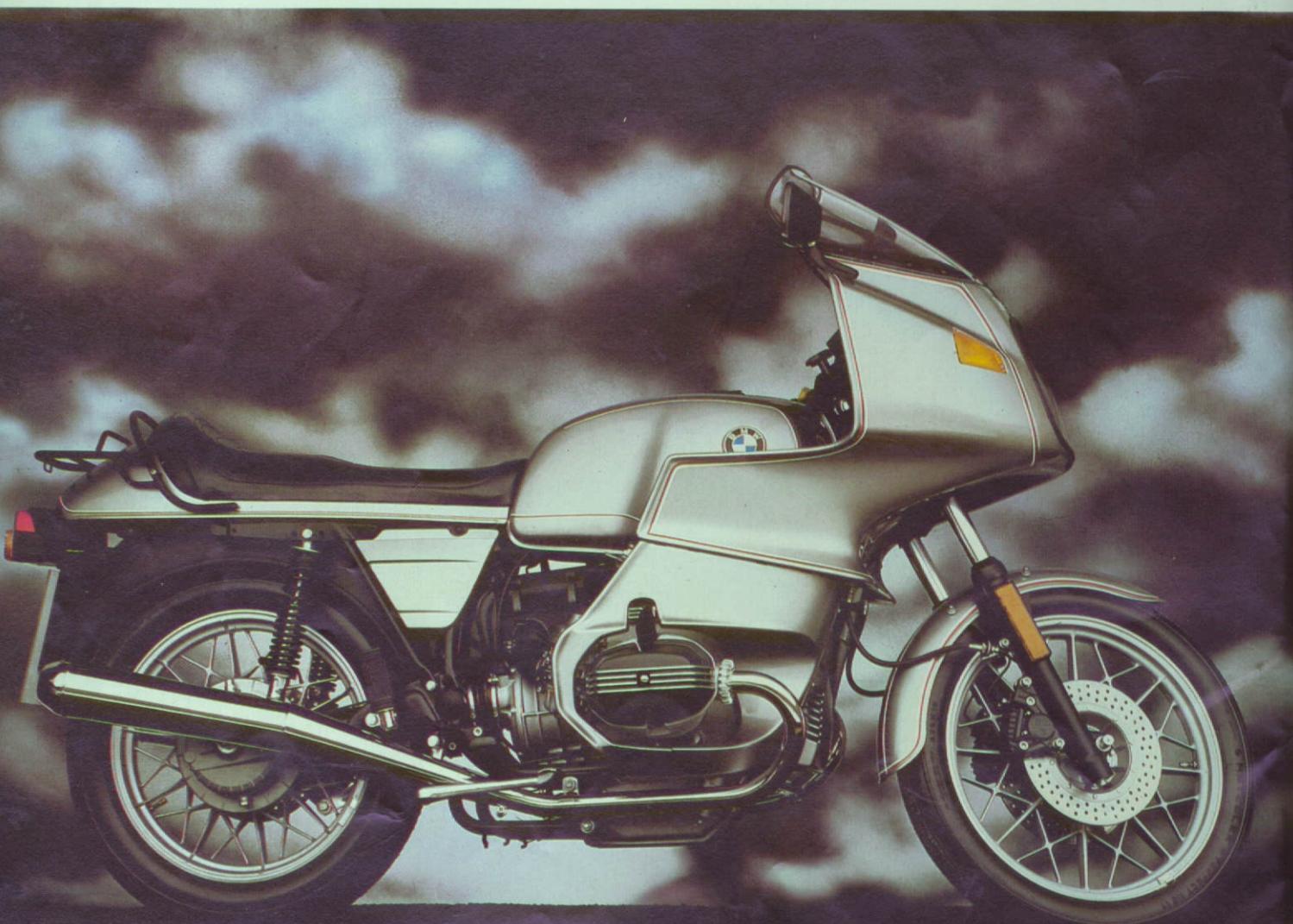


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## CONTENTS

- 5 News Lines
- 8 News View
- 10 Our man in the war zone
- 13 Adventure in Bavaria
- 14 Army Equipment Exhibition
- 17 Profile: S/Sgt Mottley
- 18 Aldershot Army Display
- 21 Humour
- 22 Larkhill Gun Run
- 23 How Observant Are You?
- 24 All in the Family
- 26 Army Air Corps silver jubilee
- 29 Army Air 82
- 33 Your cap badge
- 35 Book reviews
- 37 Prize competition
- 38 Mail Drop
- 40 On the record
- 41 Ottawa's founder remembered
- 43 Dicing with the Dragon
- 48 Sport

## FRONT COVER

One of the Army's new generation of mechanised combat vehicles, MCV 80, made its public debut at this year's British Army Equipment Exhibition at Aldershot. The windscreens on the prototype pictured here is for trials purposes only. More details and a report on the rest of the exhibition are on pages 14-16.

Picture by GKN Sankey Ltd

## BACK COVER

Corporal Phil Jackson of 26 Engineer Regiment heads the field on the way to one of his three Army track titles in the recent Inter-Service cycling championships at Reading. A full report on the event appeared in our 14 June issue.

Picture by Andy Burridge

## Editor:

Bob Hooper (Ext 2585)  
News Editor  
Gordon Williams (Ext 2593)  
Assistant Editors  
John Walton (Ext 2591)  
Graham Smith (Ext 2590)  
Sally Daniell (Ext 2588)

## Art Editor

John Rushworth (Ext 2589)

## Picture Editor

Leslie Wiggs (Ext 2584)  
Photographers (Ext 2584)  
Doug Pratt  
Paul Haley  
Andy Burridge

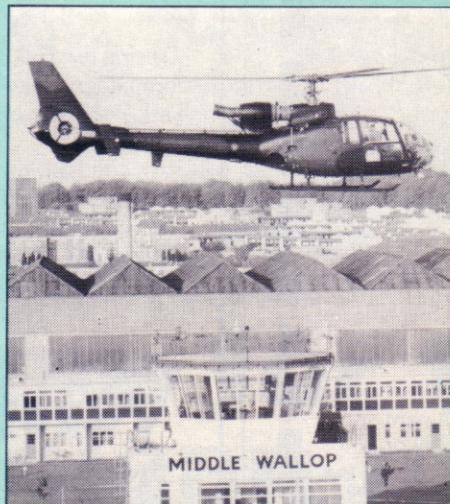
## Advertising/Circulation

Mrs C Wilkinson (Ext 2592/2587)  
Distribution  
Mrs S McIntosh (Ext 2583)

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# SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

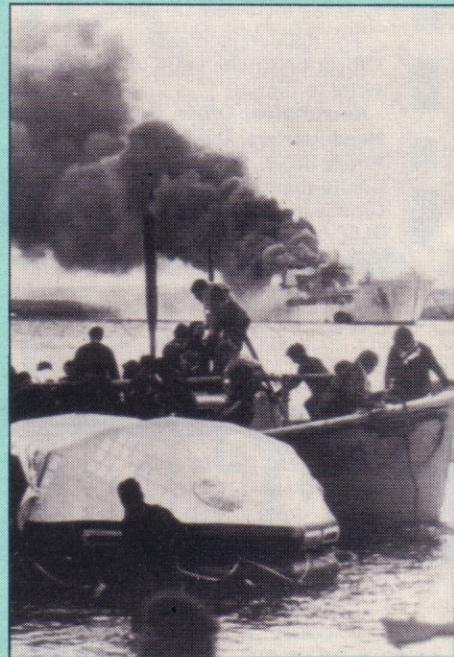


After the battle. Some personal memories from our man with the Task Force — page 10 ▼

Why the Army Air Corps has plenty to celebrate this month

— page 26 ▲

Getting ready for the Gunners' big race —  
page 22 ▼



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GCHQ



# Falkland Islands Emergency

During the Falkland Islands emergency, some insurance companies declined to accept on risk not only those in the Task Force but also all those on standby—at least until the emergency was over!

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# SOLDIER to Soldier

AFTER THE CELEBRATIONS come the questions. The Government is to launch a far-reaching enquiry into the events that led to the Falklands crisis; the military analysts will begin dissecting the performance of men and machines; and the media, its reporters now back from the battlefield, are falling over themselves to tell their version of 'the truth about the war' — Given the vast range of problems to be surmounted, tactical and logistical, and the fact that for most of Britain's Task Force this was their first taste of actual hostilities on such a scale, it was inevitable some mistakes would be made.

What is remarkable about the Falklands campaign is not that there were some errors of judgement but that these were vastly outweighed by so many correct decisions despite being made in appalling conditions by men pushed to the limits of endurance.

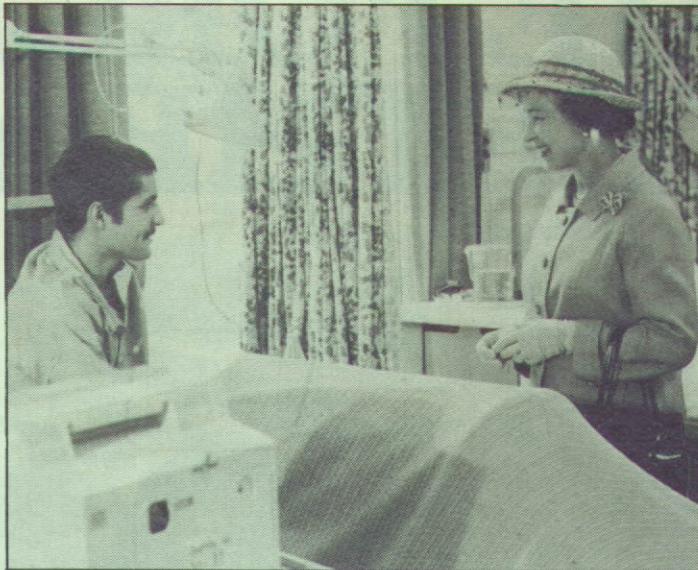
Armchair strategists with the wisdom of hindsight will of course be able to postulate alternative — and perhaps superior — courses of action for certain phases of the campaign. And it is vital that lessons from the fighting are learned.

But in any retrospective assessment of the operations a central truth must not be overlooked. Wars are not won from armchairs. They are won by fighting forces in the field.

Battle is a miserable, bloody business whose grim memories remain etched on the minds of the combatants long after the brief euphoria of victory has evaporated. And those millions of us whose images of the Falklands fighting have been relayed via TV footage or press photographs cannot fail to have been moved by the sheer discipline and matter-of-fact courage of those involved.

Our own man with the Task Force, Paul Haley, interviewed about his experiences elsewhere in this issue, describes our soldiers as "incredibly brave".

When all the politicians and pundits have had their say, that simple fact is the one we should never forget.



A cheery smile for Pte Stephen Shevill from The Queen during her visit to Falklands casualties in the Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot.

# Now for the clean-up

WITH THE SHOOTING over and the bulk of Argentinian prisoners repatriated the long slow process of cleaning up the Falkland Islands has begun. One of the major problems is the vast number of mines of all types indiscriminately sown and scattered by the Argentine forces.

Meanwhile hundreds of British casualties have been brought home and soldiers in hospital at Aldershot and Woolwich were visited by The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Prince of Wales.

Heading for home also were the heroic 2nd and 3rd battalions of the Parachute Regiment, who were due to arrive at RAF Brize Norton as SOLDIER went to Press.

At one stage the mine clearing operation had to stop "for a rethink" after three men had been injured in four days. One of the difficulties was that many of the mines were plastic and did not respond to metal detectors. Now, it is understood, special equipment is on the way. It may include a special plastic mine detector displayed at the British Army Equipment Exhibition.

It works by identifying compacted earth against a known soil sample used to set the device and its makers were asked by the Ministry of Defence to carry out an urgent study into availability.

Without such specially designed equipment the job of clearing the unmarked mines is a dangerous and painstaking task on hands and knees.

But there has also been a quiet victory for the Royal Engineers. Just 10 days after the Argentinian surrender the first British aircraft landed at Port Stanley airfield. Although the runway had not been as seriously damaged as originally thought, the job of making it operational again

## Tribute

A TEACHER at the Cambridge Military Hospital in Aldershot, Anne Pitcher, has rushed out a special book of black-and-white pictures to mark the Falklands campaign, several of them taken by SOLDIER photographers including Paul Haley who sailed with 5 Brigade.

*Task Force Tribute* is available direct from Anne Pitcher, 50 Rectory Road, Hook, Basingstoke, Hants for £1.25 plus 40p postage and packing and cheques should be made out to her personally. All profits on sales will be passed to the South Atlantic Fund.

was a race against the clock.

The other battle is to repair war damage and provide adequate shelter for the troops remaining to establish a garrison. And it is not just a case of throwing up buildings. There is also the problem of finding suitable sites, as the Army baker found when he wanted to set up shop on a playground. He had to think again because of opposition from Island mums.

An American firm which tried to cash in on the crisis by launching a game which awarded points for sinking British warships came unstuck. There was a storm of protest and MPs called for the game to be banned. They need not have worried because no-one would stock it.

# Boots bother Queen

THE QUEEN has told a teenage member of 2 Para, back home from the Falklands and in hospital with trench foot, that she would look into the development of a better, more waterproof boot than the current DMS version.

The remark was made to Private Dick Murray, 19, a machine gunner, by the Queen as she visited wounded from the Falklands in Aldershot's Cambridge Military Hospital.

Dick and his mates from 2 Para had made a wet landing and, thereafter, never really got a chance to change into dry boots and socks. The socks, he said, dissolved and there was "no chance of keeping my feet warm and dry".

The Queen, he said, asked him how he was and said that she had last heard of trench foot during World War One.

"I asked her if there was any possibility of getting a new type of boot," said Dick. "I thought I would make the point and she said she would look into it."

Another of the wounded was Private Stephen Shevill, 21, of 2 Para, who was shot in the chest — the bullet went straight through, leaving six stitches as a legacy — and in the buttock near the hip.

"I was in some trenches at Goose Green when it happened. Some Argies about 50 metres away started firing at us," said Steve. "I was behind my machine gun when a bullet hit me in the chest and then I was shot in the bum. The first bullet had knocked me round. Now I consider myself very lucky to be alive."

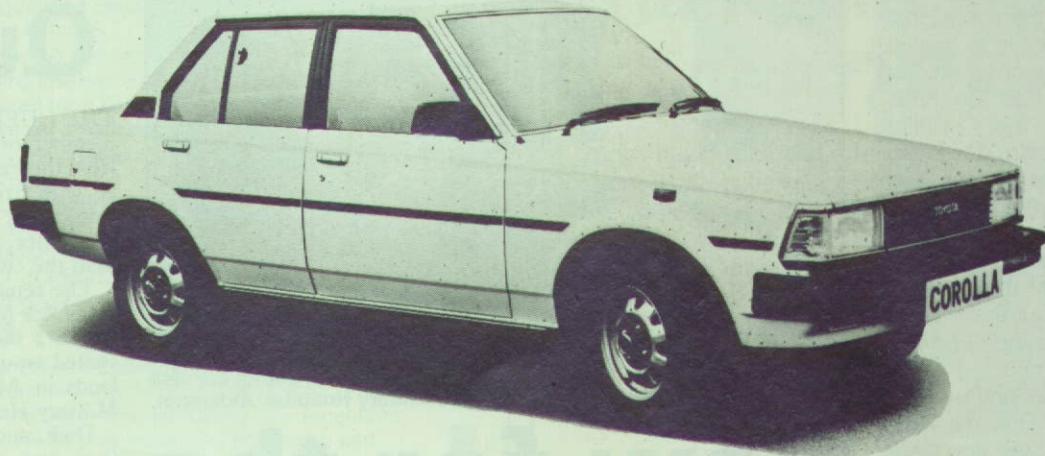
"The Queen asked me what happened and I told her about being hit in the chest but I didn't tell about the other bit. I just didn't want to mention it. I suppose she was at my bedside for a couple of minutes."

The third wounded soldier who chatted to the Queen was Sapper Martin Sankey, 20, of 9 Para Squadron, RE, who was injured while manning an OP in a house. A re-supply mission arrived and the Argentines suddenly opened up with mortar fire on the house.

"A mortar went off and the blast threw me forward, twisted and broke my leg, damaging my ear drums at the same time," said Martin.

● **Bootnote:** A new high combat boot is currently under trial — see SOLDIER May 1981.

# THE FORCES SWEETHEART



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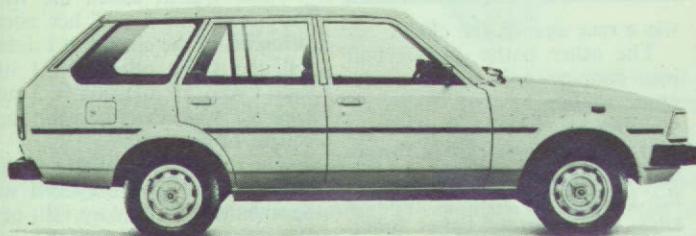
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# "Europe needs Britain"

The particular characteristics and customs of the British make them indispensable partners in the Nato Alliance and the European Community, a senior German officer told an international audience at Rheindahlen.

Major General Hans-Ulrich Flade of the German Air Force and Chief of Staff of 2nd Allied Tactical Air Force, was speaking at a reception to mark The Queen's official birthday.

"Some may mistakenly equate tradition with resistance to progress but we Germans particularly envy our British partners for their traditions, providing as they do a stronghold of stability and common values which our own history has regrettably denied us."

"In Great Britain," General Flade continued, "there is a commonly-held understanding that tradition and progress are not mutually exclusive but that they are in harmony."

"The British have overcome so many crises that they cannot believe that they will not overcome the next. Indeed, they often refuse to admit that there is a crisis and when things are going badly, the 'bulldog mentality' takes over."

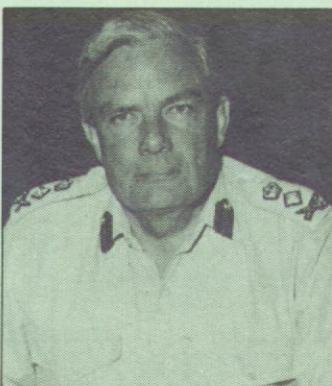
"This rejection of the very idea of defeat is in itself a tremendous factor of the British genius."

"There is a conviction to stand by a just cause and to defend recognised principles and the readiness to make sacrifices for these if necessary."

## TOP JOB FOR CGS



Gen Bramall



Gen Stanier

General Sir Edwin Bramall, currently Chief of the General Staff, is to be the next Chief of the Defence Staff. He will be promoted Field Marshal when he takes up the appointment on October 1, in succession to Admiral of the Fleet Sir Terence Lewin.

Sir Edwin will be succeeded as CGS by General Sir John Stanier, at present Commander-in-Chief United Kingdom Land Forces.



Nurses from 2 Field Hospital at Aldershot waving goodbye as, complete with their mascot and helmets, they boarded the Rangatira at Southampton, en route for the Falklands. They were the first female members of the Army to go to the South Atlantic.

## MORE TANKS FOR ARMY

**THERE WAS LITTLE** new for the Army when the Defence Secretary, Mr John Nott, opened the debate on the Defence White Paper. In the wake of the Falklands crisis the emphasis was naturally on making up the losses and the impact of the lessons on the Government's thinking.

Mr Nott announced Naval orders worth hundreds of millions and they will more than make up for the ships lost in the South Atlantic. And there was a reprieve for Portsmouth Naval Dockyard.

Orders are also to be placed for another 14 Sea Harriers (seven are replacements), 16 Sea King helicopters (five replacements) three Lynx, up to five Gazelles and three Chinooks (to replace those lost on the Atlantic Conveyor).

Turning to the Army Mr Nott said that since the Government

came to power the number of manned tanks had increased by a quarter and a ninth Armoured regiment had been formed.

"I am now able to announce," he continued, "that following the introduction of Challenger in the mid-80s two additional armoured regiments, the 10th and 11th are to be formed — and the provision of a full complement of Chieftain tanks as a war maintenance reserve."

The Falklands battle, he said, had amply proved the quality of British men and equipment on sea, land and in the air.

The lessons learned would necessarily take time to study but another White Paper on the conclusions would be issued towards the end of the year.

## Drive for cover

The Falklands crisis showed that many Servicemen have inadequate life assurance cover. Some soldiers found their lives were insured except in the situation in which they now found themselves, ie war.

Now that the shooting is over the Army hopes some good lessons have been learnt and that front line soldiers particularly will think about insuring their lives properly for the sake of those left behind.

The Army Dependents Assurance Trust Ltd (ADAT) is the Army's own life assurance scheme set up with the agreement of the Army Board, owned by the Army Benevolent Fund and managed by a commercial company. The difference between this and other life assurance schemes are that there are no exclusion clauses and dependents are guaranteed full benefit no matter how the death was caused.

Compared with other policies the ADAT monthly premiums seem low — only £2.67 net, which does not increase in proportion with the risk involved. This is partly because the scheme pays only on death and there is no accrued lump sum to come back when the policy expires.

The Trustees say that a scheme of this nature cannot function unless there is general support Army wide.

Also, say the Trustees, whilst the extent of cover may vary depending on the amount of risk, there is no need to retire from the scheme completely just because the danger has receded. After all, a no exclusions policy is useful security.

Mr Gervis Tinley, one of ADAT's directors said that the number of claims in respect of the Falklands crisis has been 'considerable'.

Soldiers are able to apply for cover by ADAT through their unit pay offices.

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# NEWS VIEW

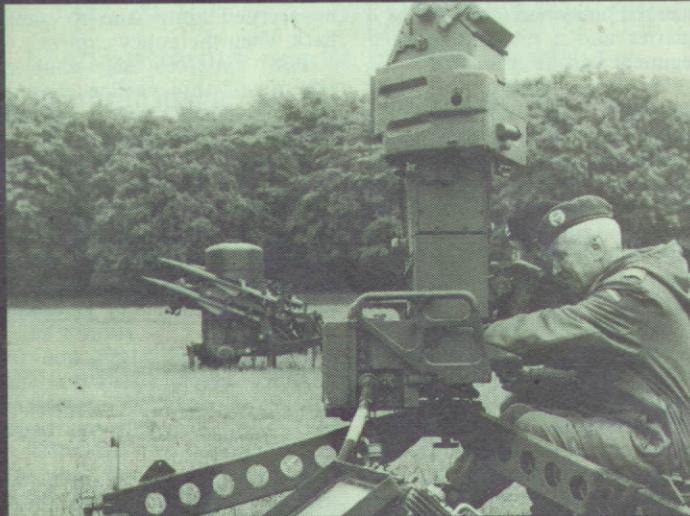


## Long Climb ▲

As the Queen Mother made the long climb up to the Keep of Dover Castle she stopped several times to chat to members of 69 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron who lined the steps. The visit was part of her visit to the Cinque Ports.

## Tankies Meet ▼

Maj Gen Heinz Kasch, commander of the 1st German Panzer division tried the sights of Rapier for himself when he and his staff met their British opposite numbers of 1st Armoured Division. Rapier was among the equipment on display for the meet near Hildesheim.



## Litter Winner ▶

Environment Secretary Mr Michael Heseltine presented a Queen Mother's 80th Birthday Awards Commendation certificate to Maj Pat Rendle of 1 (BR) Corps at a Guildhall, London, ceremony. The award recognises the Corps' "outstanding effort" in its litter abatement campaign.



## Calmer Crossing ▶

To mark its friendship with 101 Provost Coy, RMP, the town of Xanten on the Rhine sent three of its leading citizens, including deputy Burgermeister Frohling, to accompany the unit on a Rhine crossing exercise.



## Keep 'Em Smiling ▶

Blonde bombshell Kim Stevens is the pin-up of Naafi staff serving in the Falklands Task Force. A shapely 34-23-34, she was adopted by the Naafi's own TA — the Expeditionary Force Institutes and now smiles out from Ascension Island to South Georgia.



## Last Cheque ▶

Although 49 Field Regiment RA left Hohne in April for Topcliffe, Yorks, their charity efforts were not over. Now Brigadier Robin Duchesne, Commander Artillery of 1 Armd Div has presented the regiment's last cheque to Maj Molly Finch, acting matron at BMH Hannover.



## Life saver ▶

Cpl Paula Fleischmann of 181 Provo Coy in Northern Ireland averted a disaster when she saw a loose inspection panel inches from the whirling tail rotor of an Army Lynx and got the pilot to shut down. Her action earned her a commendation presented by AAC Director, Maj-Gen Bill Withall.



## Back to Bruneval ▲

Prince Charles, Colonel-in-Chief of the Parachute Regiment, and President Mitterand inspected an honour guard of French and British forces at Bruneval during the 40th anniversary celebrations of 2 Para's famous Bruneval Raid in World War Two.

## Fighting fund ▼

Sgt Vince Lowe and wife Sally formed the first overseas branch of the Muscular Dystrophy Group in Rheindahlen when they learned the sad news that their two young sons had the disease. Before Sgt Lowe left on promotion for Aldershot, Brig David Roberts congratulated him and his group on raising DM 22,000 in six months.



## Yanks yank ▶

When one of 1RTR's Scimitars got bogged down in a marsh near Nienburg it needed the help of a US Army Chinook to pull it free. Elements of 21 Engr Regt and 17/21 Lancers also helped in the recovery.

## Pupil power ▼

Staindrop Comprehensive School raised £4170 for the South Atlantic Fund in only a month and Erica Scurr handed the cheque to Lt Cdr Mike Norman of the sunken *HMS Sheffield*. Watching were Army captains Mark Nicholls, Mark Nicole and Tim Brown, all 4/7 RDG, and Philip Brown, a TA para who teaches at the school.

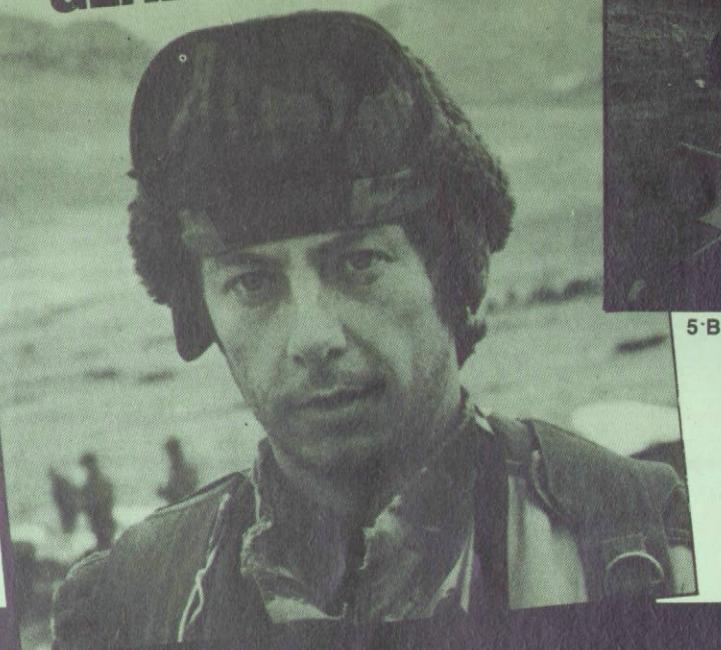


## Busy Band ▶

Two RAOC units, 2 Armd Div Ord Coy and 31 Ord Coy, had to cope with refugees, riots, ambushes, attacks, NBC play and technical supply problems during Exercise Iron Band near Paderborn. Other units provided the 'enemy' — seen here moving back to base after a successful attack.



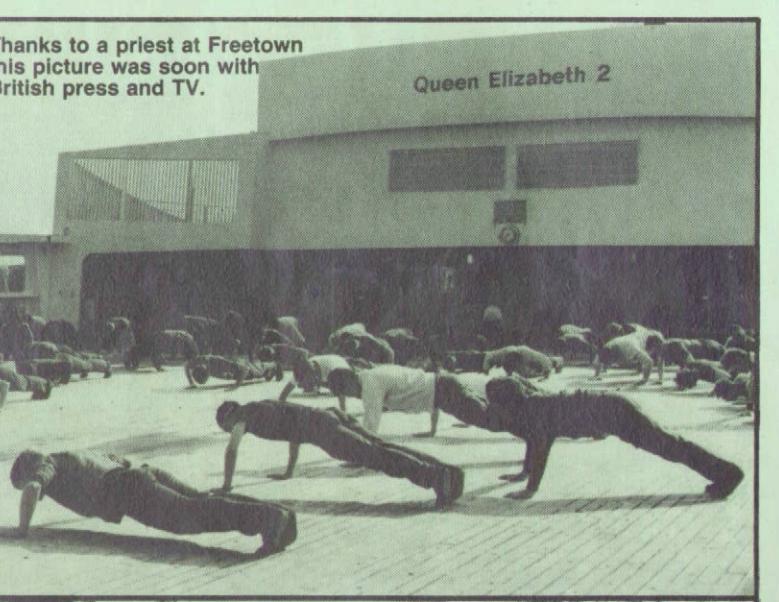
# THE SHOTS I WAS GLAD TO MISS



**SOLDIER**'s Paul Haley was the only official photographer to sail with 5 Infantry Brigade on the QE II. It was to be the start of a hair-raising assignment that took him via the icy waters of South Georgia and the beachhead at San Carlos into the thick of the fighting on the Falklands alongside soldiers he describes as "incredibly brave". In this exclusive interview with John Walton he describes what it was like for an MOD civilian to be plunged into the battle zone 8000 miles from home.

Thanks to a priest at Freetown this picture was soon with British press and TV.

Queen Elizabeth 2



The *Canberra* off South Georgia in Grytviken harbour — where the crisis began.



5 Brigade come ashore at San Carlos.

**I'M NOT ONE** of those people who like messing about in boats. I don't mind flying anywhere in any sort of aircraft but I am the world's worst sailor. Give me the choice of a press hospitality tent on dry land or a cross-Channel ferry trip and, like many journalists, I would take the former every time.

So when I found out at a quarter-to-five one afternoon that I would be sailing on the QE II I was a little worried. But I need not have bothered — what better ship could you have for a long sail down?

When I boarded the liner on May 12 few of us thought we were actually going to war. The feeling seemed to be that it would all be sorted out before we got anywhere near the Falklands.

As we sailed south we heard the BBC World Service reports and kept abreast of developments. And as we rode off Ascension we had a welcome delivery of mail and newspapers. It was around this time that I found I was heading for the war zone.

I asked what was happening to me and was told that Brigadier Tony Wilson considered me to be a part of 5 Brigade and I would travel on with them.

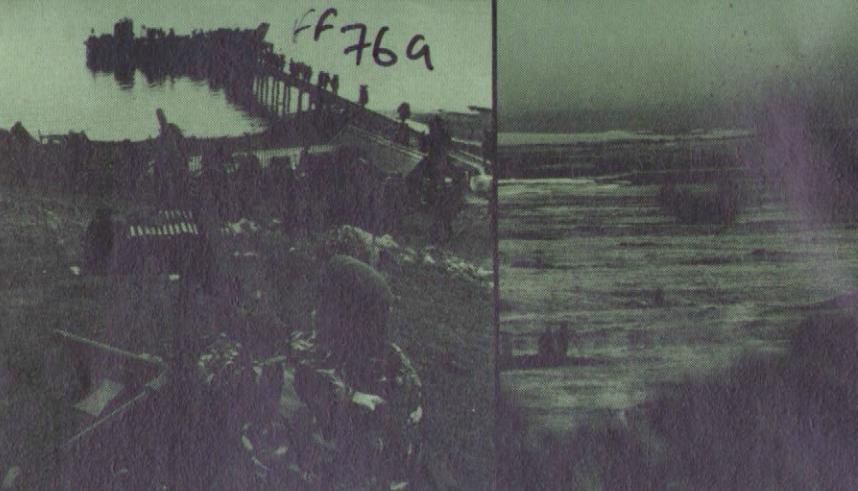
Not that even that first part of the journey had been a pleasure cruise. The mighty liner steamed into equatorial waters but there was no room on the decks for the casual sunbather. From first light to dusk the decks were crowded with troops training.

I kept busy taking photographs — I was there to serve the world's press and **SOLDIER** Magazine but also to keep a record of an event the like of which we will probably never see again.

I managed to get packets of photographs back to the magazine and the Ministry of Defence by various methods. The first lot went in a helicopter which was doing a casevac back to Cornwall. Then off Freetown, Sierra Leone, a priest came aboard to visit one of the padres.

I asked him if he could take the films up to the airport and give them to a British Caledonian pilot to fly to Gatwick. He agreed and it worked. Then I sent a batch by mail from Ascension.

As we sailed south the air be-



Scots Guards dig trenches under shell-fire.



'Tabbing' across the peat.



One soldier's insurance policy.



Defeated 'Argies' in Port Stanley.

came colder and colder and just before we reached the inhospitable shores of South Georgia we saw massive icebergs in the water. One, about 50 feet high, passed only a few yards away.

When we arrived at South Georgia we saw the *Canberra* waiting in the bay. It was like a nautical Christmas card. The *Canberra* and QE II were in the foreground and massive mountains disappearing into the mist with a glacier coming down to the water on the left hand side.

But, as a reminder of the seriousness of our visit, there was the half submerged Argentinian submarine and a helicopter destroyed in the recapture of the island.

We got into one of the requisitioned Hull trawlers *Farnella* and transferred to the *Canberra*. We had to travel light so I just took one change of clothing, an extra pair of civilian trousers and my cameras.

I stripped the motor drives off and left my flash gun and the remainder of my clothing to follow on later. That was the last I was to see of this kit.

I had spent 16 days aboard the QE II and there followed five more on the *Canberra*. By this time we were beginning to appreciate the seriousness of what we were heading for. On June 2 we went ashore from landing craft to the San Carlos beachhead. Goose Green and Darwin had just been taken although we still having air raids.

I went on the third landing craft after dawn and was kept busy taking pictures of the troops coming ashore. It was a quagmire with low cloud and drizzle which made it seem very dismal but at least meant there were unlikely to be any air raids.

I handed my films back to someone who took them back to the *Canberra* where a naval photographer had agreed to process them and wire back the best pictures to the UK. Incidentally it was several days later that I heard on the BBC World Service that 5 Brigade had just landed and were pushing forward!

Obviously my task was to get forward to where things had been happening — at Goose Green or Darwin. My first attempt was on

a Sea King helicopter with a Blowpipe troop. But after ten minutes flying the pilot did a quick about turn when he concluded that we were under attack. At this time there were still small pockets of Argentinian troops scattered about the area.

That night was spent with a group of Gurkhas in a sheep shed. Half an hour before dawn there was a red alert and I scrambled into a trench with two Gurkhas. We sat there for about 30 minutes and nothing happened but I learned afterwards that a Marine had died in that very trench a couple of days before.

I got a helicopter to Darwin and went round the battlefield area taking more pictures. I saw masses of abandoned ammunition, a few Argentinian bodies and lots of prisoners herded into sheep pens.

For the next five nights I stayed in this area. I called at a house for some water and was

**'You are just fortunate if none land right on you'**

immediately offered accommodation. The first thing I saw when I walked in was a copy of **SOLDIER** magazine which had been left behind by some paratroopers.

I was lucky enough to be able to sleep in my sleeping bag on a camp bed at this stage. The house, although it had about 30 bullet holes, had stood up well to the fighting — just up the road was a house which had been totally destroyed.

I moved on to Fitzroy and photographed the *Sir Galahad* being offloaded with stores by helicopter and landing craft. I then thought I would go forward to the Scots Guards, who were at Bluff Cove.

I had just been landed by helicopter when an air raid warning was shouted. I ran up the steep hill and saw five aircraft race down the valley and out to sea. I then saw them coming in at Fitzroy and bomb the *Sir Galahad* and *Sir Tristram*. Flames and smoke poured out of the *Sir Galahad*.

Another five aircraft came in but the Scots Guards were ready

for them and sent up a wall of fire. The last plane appeared to get hit and veered off to the left which set the soldiers jumping in the air clapping and cheering.

Then four aircraft reappeared and one passed through the wall of fire and came over the top of me with fuel coming out of it. It went round the corner and was probably hit by something else because there was a bright orange flare.

That night I had a welcome change. I flew back to *Fearless* to develop some of my films and get some more film. I stayed overnight and was able to have a shower and a real pint of beer. Luxury!

The day afterwards I rejoined the Scots Guards and moved to Goats' Ridge. That afternoon we got shelled. It was quite a frightening experience. Once a shell comes you just wait for the next one. You can see the stones fly up and you hear the explosion afterwards. You are just fortunate if none land right on you. Shells are so impersonal — they are not like bullets which are specifically aimed for you.

At one o'clock the next morning we started towards Tumbledown mountain. The Argentinians were dug in on the top of it about five miles away. They were shelling us and guns from 4 Field Regiment RA were firing over our heads on to the Argentinian positions.

I watched the troops go forward and remained with the medics in the field dressing station. Three or four shells went off about three or four hundred yards away and then one came much closer.

We all dived for the nearest slit trench. A few of the shells came quite close enough for us to have been hit by shrapnel if we had not been in the trenches.

By dawn the mountain had been taken and the casualties were coming back. Some medics were hit by snipers while they were carrying patients on stretchers. I decided to go forward to the top of the mountain and take some pictures.

Just as I got there I met a group of British soldiers. A radio operator put his handset down and said "it's all over". He said

that the paratroops were walking into Stanley.

Tears were pouring down his face and everybody started shaking hands and smiling but most had tears on their cheeks. About eight men had been killed that night on Tumbledown.

My main aim now was to get to Port Stanley as quickly as I could. Firstly I had to go back to the dressing station to get the rest of my kit. On the way back I met a foot patrol and broke the news to them. There was a lot of shouting and waving weapons in the air. I felt as though I had helped — even though I hadn't at all. It was our war.

I later joined up with Marines walking towards Stanley. We thought the area might have been mined so walked in each other's footsteps. Then I saw Snowcats coming down the main road and managed to hitch a lift. Desperately holding on with one hand and trying to take pictures with the other I finally entered the island capital.

I went into an empty house which had been partly damaged and after leaving my kit on a bed went out to take more pictures. I walked into an area where there still seemed to be lots of Argentinian soldiers walking around with weapons — but none of them looked hostile, just resigned. In fact some of them asked me to take their pictures.

There were a few local civilians about who kept coming up to shake my hand. I felt a bit of a fraud really and told them that I was not a soldier. But they just continued to pump my hand and told my how pleased they were to see someone British.

Back in the deserted house some paras were moving in. We had been sleeping in trenches and the idea was to find some shelter from the bitterly cold night. We were chatting in a room when one soldier remarked on the real bed, shook the quilt — and three hand grenades fell on to the floor! There was a mad panic and we all shot out of the room. The soldier gingerly lowered them out of the window.

The next day I saw three women peering out of the net curtains of another house. I waved at them and they came running up and kissed me and shook hands. I went in for a cup of tea and was invited to stay with the three families who were already sharing the house.

I stayed there for the rest of my time in Port Stanley — making journeys out to the airport to take pictures of the aftermath and of the Argentinian prisoners surrendering their weapons.

It was easy to tell the conscripts from the hard case professional soldiers. The youngsters were just cold and hungry, laid their weapons down and were shepherded away. But the older professionals threw down their weapons in disgust and were obviously feeling very bitter.

They had no idea how they would be treated by us. They had been told that they would be killed if captured and even that the Gurkhas would eat them. When I went out to the *Canberra* with prisoners in a lifeboat they thought that the lifeboat would be taking them all the way back to Argentina.

After eight years with **SOLDIER** I have been on lots of exercises but this is the first real action I have seen. It was also the first real sustained action for most of the soldiers. I found them to be incredibly brave.

Having experienced it I cannot imagine why any writer or photographer would want to volunteer to go to another war. I found being shelled quite frightening but hid behind my camera in the hope that by taking pictures I would not get hurt.

It was no protection of course and at times as I listened to the fighting I had to tell myself that this was for real. The artillery were firing just as they would on Salisbury Plain — but these were live targets.

I shall remember the terrain — which reminded me of Benbecula. I shall remember the weather, the hardship, the comradeship and the occasional amusing incident. But I certainly wouldn't volunteer for a repeat performance.

Many more of Paul Haley's pictures from the Falklands, including a number in colour, will be featured in a special 8-page souvenir in our next issue.

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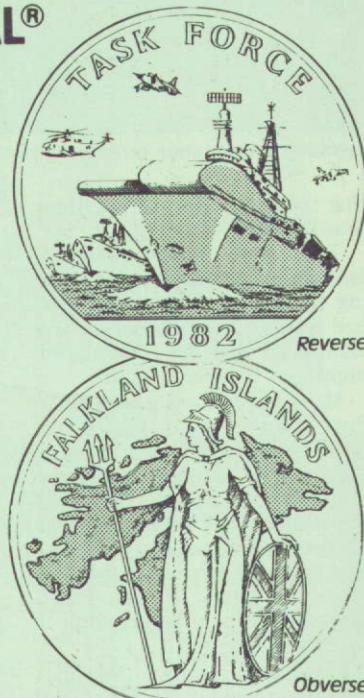
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**DON'T LOOK DOWN.** Whatever you do, don't look down. Don't try to see how far you still have left to fall. Stay here and concentrate. Concentrate on the rock wall in front of you; sheer, almost vertical, no handholds. And here you are, like some human fly — spider, more like — dangling on a thread of nylon rope.

Vertigo. What does the dictionary say about that? *Vertigo: noun. Dizziness, condition with sensation of whirling and tendency to lose balance; a fear of falling.*

Fear of failing, it should say.

Look up. They're all there at the top. The instructor, the others. That reporter from the Newcastle paper. The photographer who keeps saying "Look Up and Smile". The press officer from Div — he doesn't look too happy, just gazing over the edge. One hundred and twenty feet high, they said it was.

And here you are, abseiling down the rock face, paying out the rope, suspended from a tree trunk. Can't chicken out, what would the others say? Nowhere to go but down.

Then suddenly, there you are. At the bottom, looking up at the others and grinning. Nothing to it really. Bit like parachuting, I suppose — after the first go all you want to do is get back up to the top and try again. Proved something, that did. Nothing to it really, this abseiling...

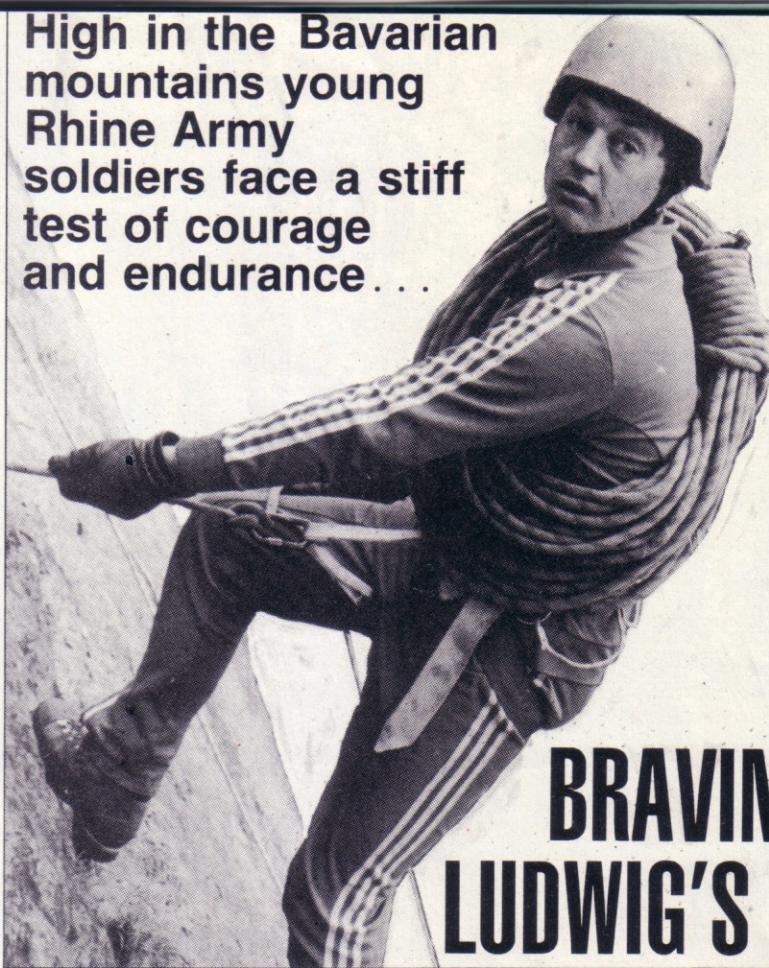
If you think that a week in the Bavarian mountains at the Army's expense sounds like a relaxing touch of the good life, then soldiers from two Northumberland units would like to offer you a second opinion.

They were taking part in Exercise Ludwig's Lair, a series of one-week arduous training courses run primarily for BAOR's 11th Armoured Brigade from the town of Murnau, near the West German border with Austria. Ludwig's Lair is an annual event — begun five years ago — staged by 4th Armoured Division Transport Regiment (4ADTR) RCT.

Each course of soldiers faces six days of escape-and-evasion, rock climbing, white water canoeing, combat survival instruction and a confidence course that visiting Americans have, in the past, judged suitable for training Special Forces or the SAS. (They might have been surprised to hear that one of last year's courses included girl nurses from the QARANC.)

The achieved aim of Ludwig's Lair is to present Rhine Army soldiers with physical

## High in the Bavarian mountains young Rhine Army soldiers face a stiff test of courage and endurance...



## BRAVING LUDWIG'S LAIR

Abseiling down 120ft sheer rock face.

and mental challenges they do not encounter during their normal duties. Some parts of it are also extremely competitive, both at individual and team level, to increase the pressure on students and see how they respond. These responses are watched closely, so that budding personal and leadership qualities can be noted and encouraged.

One of the benefits of the exercise is that it gives officers and NCOs a chance to see their men working under pressure and a criticism made by exercise staff during the past two years has been how few leaders have made the effort to visit the courses their men are on.

Partly this is due to the travelling time and distance to the exercise location in Bavaria from the 11 Armd Bde area, centred on Minden, near Hanover, at the other end of Germany. But it is also felt that young officers should show more interest in their men's progress through the courses. The soldiers themselves make the point that very few officers actually take part as students.

The exercise OC this year was Major Terence Murray of 4ADTR, who said: "We need to make more people aware of what the exercise offers. It's a toughening and testing exercise. People leave here tired but satisfied and hopefully better soldiers than when they arrived.

"I have some reservations about the numbers who attend — there should be more — but none about the quality of the soldiers taking part. The response to the exercise has been better this year than last, in my opinion."

Ludwig's Lair 82 was run as seven courses, with about 100 soldiers on each course. The exercise instruction staff numbered fifty. Maj Murray was particularly pleased that the Commander 11 Armd Bde, Brigadier Garry Johnson, visited the exercise and hopes that other commanders will be encouraged to do the same next year.

"Main base" for the exercise is a tented camp set up on a Bundeswehr training area just outside Murnau. The annual availability of this site is a crucial factor in the success of Ludwig's Lair. From it students can move out into the nearby mountains — with their spectacular rock faces and rivers — for climbing and canoeing instruction, or to the flatter, lake-strewn terrain north of Murnau for the two-day escape-and-evasion test.

"I doubt that there are many other locations which could offer the facilities that we have here in this part of Bavaria," said Major Murray. "The area around here is near-perfect for our purposes." ■

Students make lake crossing by assault boat.

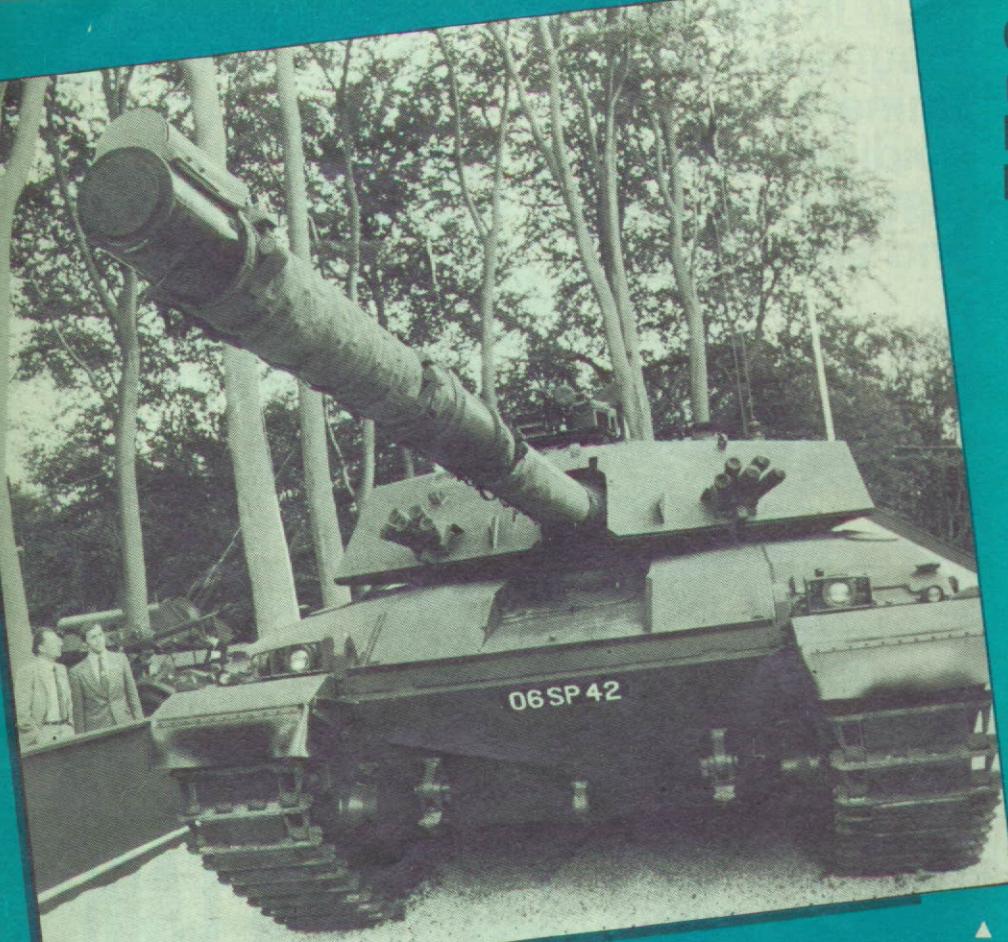


River crossing practice prior to escape-and-evasion challenge.



Gordon Williams  
reports on the  
British Army  
Equipment Exhibition.

# ARMoured ACES MAKE THEIR DEBUT



Challenger's debut attracted much interest.



Opening the show a week after the victory in the Falklands, Defence Secretary Mr John Nott pointed out that much of the equipment had proved itself in battle. Singled out for special praise was the Rapier ground-to-air missile system which was used to such deadly effect against the Argentine air force.

Reports from the Falklands had, he said, shown the success of the air defence weapons and the great importance of the role played by the light gun.

"Just one week ago," said Mr Nott, "British forces were in action in the South Atlantic and I believe that the history of the Falkland Islands campaign will show it to be one of the most remarkable military achievements of this century.

"It will take many months to assemble and analyse a huge volume of detailed in-

*continued on page 16*

◀ Defence Secretary John Nott tried his hand on the AR15 Armalite simulator.

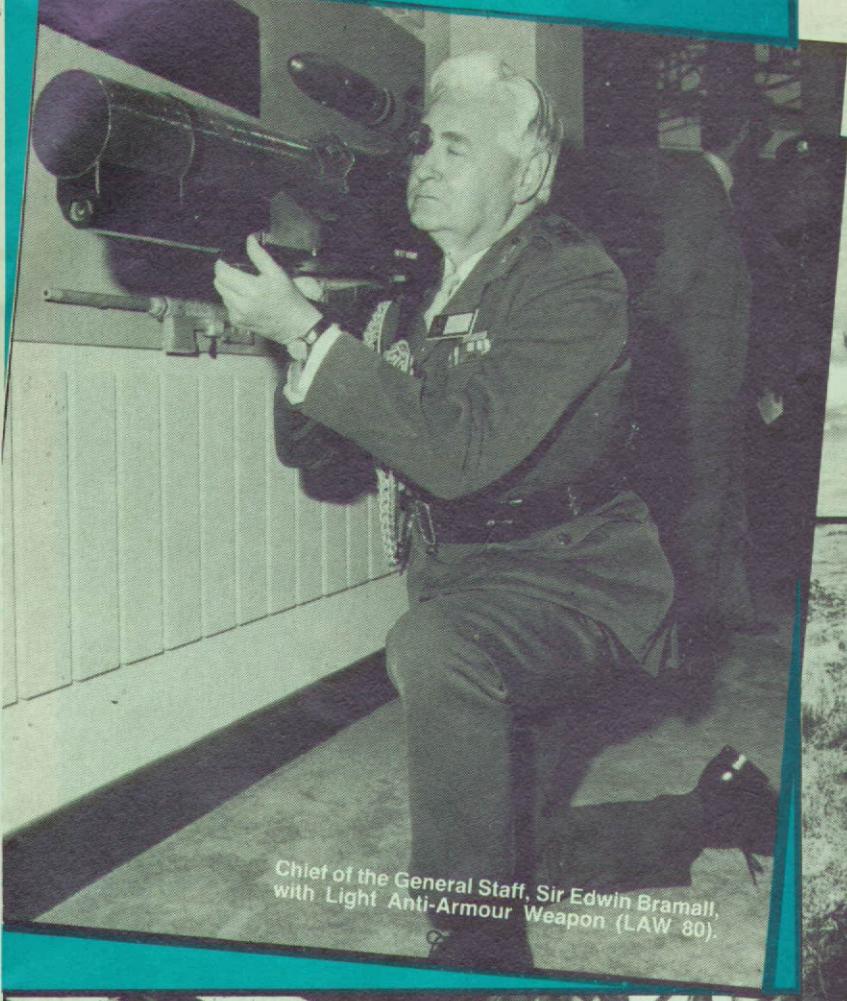


Fox with turret-mounted 25mm chain-gun.



Fox with Milan anti-tank guided weapons.

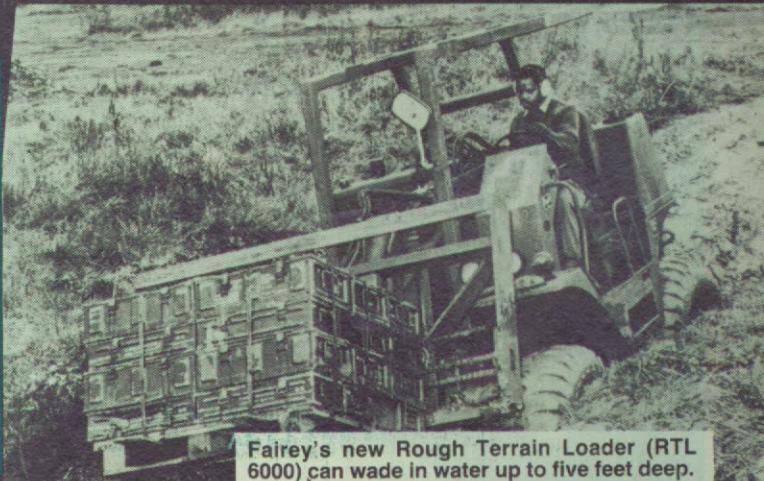
Fairey's Combat Support Boat — over 300 are being provided for the British and US armies.



Chief of the General Staff, Sir Edwin Bramall, with Light Anti-Armour Weapon (LAW 80).



Gen Sir Peter Leng, Master General of the Ordnance, Mr James Blyth, Head of Defence Sales MOD and Mr Simon Honess, Director of Defence Operations GKN-Sankey discuss the new MCV 80.



Fairey's new Rough Terrain Loader (RTL 6000) can wade in water up to five feet deep.



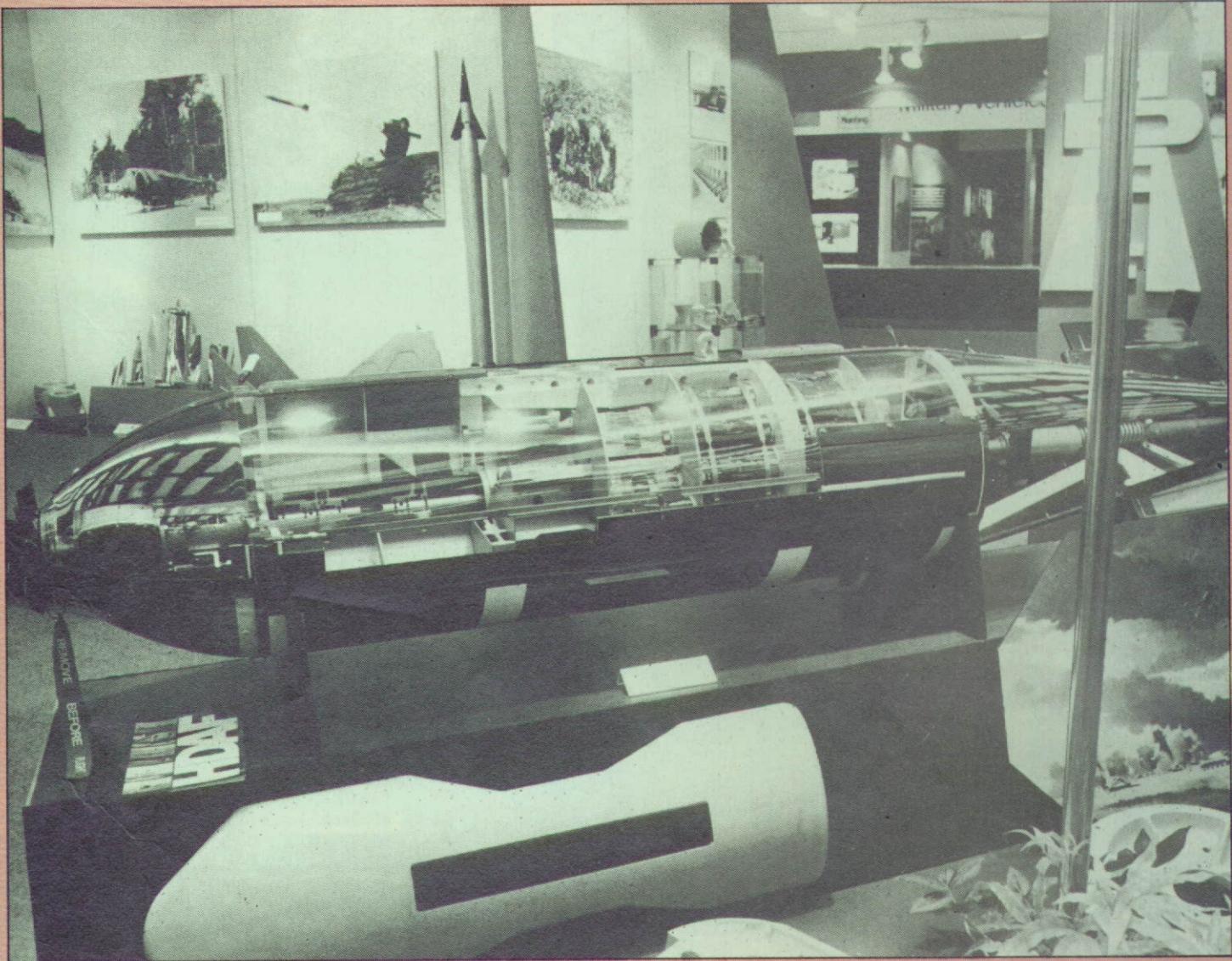
Trucks on show included this Bedford TM4-4.



MCV 80 — BAEE was its first time on show.



Rapier air defence system.



Cut-away of a BL755 cluster bomb — the casing opens to scatter bomblets over a wide area.

Vickers' new universal turret and gun — a new concept in converting battle tanks to a self-propelled howitzer role.

formation on the performance of our weapons systems and the weapon platforms that carry them.

"But our casualties were remarkably low, even though our men were faced with greatly superior numbers. This is a tribute not only to them but also to our equipment."

Apart from the air defence weapons, important contributions were also made by military helicopters, support vehicles and electro-optics equipment, said Mr Nott. And Arctic clothing and personal equipment provided to the British forces had proved its worth.

In answer to critics of defence sales Mr Nott pointed out that Britain had always allocated a substantial proportion of national resources to defence.

But an industrial base on that scale could not be supported solely by the requirements of our own Services. Accordingly with the increasing cost of military equipment and the continuing pressure on the defence budget, there was a powerful incentive to recover our investment in research and development and to reap the rewards of larger production runs.

More than 400 invited guests from 50 countries attended the show in which 230 firms took part, making it the biggest BAEE ever.

Making its public debut was the Army's new main battle tank for the mid-eighties, Challenger. Described as one of the most advanced armoured fighting vehicles in the world it is the pride of the Royal Ordnance Factories.

Challenger has been developed from the Chieftain but embodies substantial advances in all areas of tank design. As well as its revolutionary 'Chobham' aluminium armour its power-pack is based on a Rolls Royce CV 12 diesel engine producing 1200 brake horse power.

It has the exceptionally accurate and proven L11 120mm rifled gun. At an all-up weight of about 62 tonnes it turns in a power to weight ratio of 20 bhp per tonne and has a road speed of about 60km per hour.

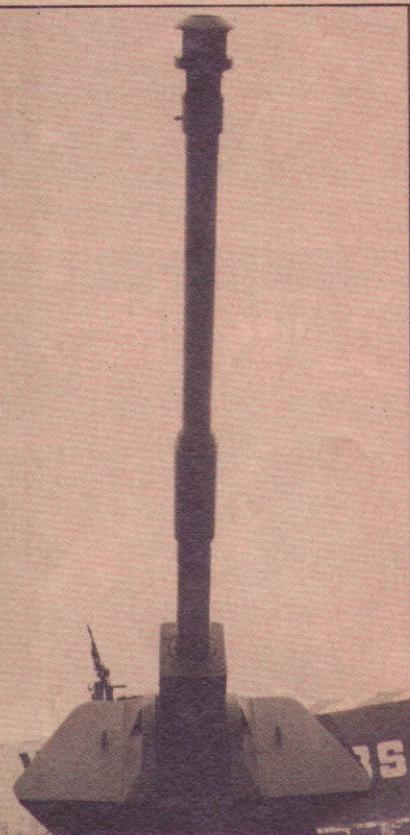
Alongside it in the outdoor park was the latest version of the Chieftain itself, the Chieftain 900, also protected by 'Chobham' armour and using the same Rolls Royce engine and gun.

The Royal Ordnance Factories were also showing the two latest versions of the well-tried Fox family of light armoured vehicles. One is fitted with a turret-mounted 25mm Hughes Chain-gun and the other with the Milan anti-tank guided weapon system.

Another first, and another vehicle protected by 'Chobham' armour, was the MCV 80 platoon vehicle. It is the leader of a new generation of mechanised combat vehicles being developed by GKN Sankey Ltd on behalf of the Ministry of Defence.

Like the Challenger it is due to enter service in the mid-eighties and is said to be the most advanced military vehicle of its type in the Western World.

Able to carry 10 men, including commander, driver and gunner, MCV 80 is also said to offer a considerable improvement in the comfort level for those riding inside it.





Marti Caine presents  
Sgt Mottley with his cheque.

CQMS STAFF SERGEANT Graham Mottley, 34, serving with the Royal Army Medical Corps at Tidworth in Hampshire, likes the Army so much that he will happily — very happily — finish his last six years of a 22-year engagement although many might say he has more than half-a-million very sound reasons why he could be forgiven for changing his mind.

Graham, a married man with two children, recently scooped an astonishing £574,884 with an 8-from-10 permutation on the football pools for a stake of just 98 pence.

By one of those remarkable quirks of fate, he did it in the very last week of a ten-week block entry on his coupon.

Since then, life has gone well. He has had only one big disappointment — he wanted to go to the Falkland Islands.

"As far as I am concerned I am a damned good medic," he told SOLDIER, "but it was felt I would be of more use here. I was a bit upset about it when I was told I could not go. I desperately wanted to go."

But he is still resolute, he says, in his firm determination to stay on in the Service

# Why Britain's richest soldier still wants to serve

Meanwhile he has the problem — or pleasure — of adjusting to being perhaps the Army's wealthiest soldier. Graham is not letting the win go to his head but he has made a few concessions to his good fortune.

Wife Pat, a cleaner, has given up her job. They have bought a Range Rover and a four bedroom house in a village about 15 miles from Tidworth. And their two children Stephen, 9 and Susan, 11 have had their musical dreams come true; Stephen is the proud owner of a new trumpet and Susan has an electric organ — which she shares with dad!

Graham's pools win is not his first. But the one he had six years ago was a little smaller — £1.35!

Before he hit the jackpot, he was going to try to be an ambulance driver when he finished his remaining six-year stint. But all those plans have changed.

"I'm not worried about leaving the Army now," he says. "I know I could go into civvy street and enjoy it but I want to stay with the Service out of loyalty to the Army and to myself."

"I'm not worried, either, about my change of attitude to other people but I worry quite a bit what they are going to think about me. I don't know if people resent me staying in the Army but I would still like to be Staff Mottley working in this job."

In fact, despite his huge, lucky windfall, Graham is conscientious enough still to worry that things go right in his job. But he admits that he now finds it easier to converse with people and has gained more confidence.

"I have luck with health, luck with my family, luck with a good marriage and now a sense of well-being. But I shall still stay on for the rest of my service," he affirmed.

Graham will also keep doing the pools, though with a changed system. He enjoys the satisfaction of devising a winning permutation even though he is no longer interested in the possible financial rewards.

He must be one of Littlewoods' few customers who can actually say, and mean it: "I wouldn't want to win any more. I just wouldn't know what to do if I won another half-million pounds!"

## FANTASTIC FUND RAISERS



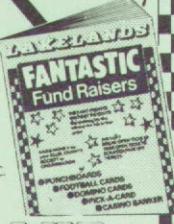
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**'I know I could go into civvy street and enjoy it but I want to stay with the Service out of loyalty to the Army and myself'**

which he joined as a Boy Soldier, subsequently putting in 16 years' man's service.

Graham readily admits though that he was not always so keen on Army life.

"I disliked the Army as a private and even as a lance-corporal I was not too happy with it. As promotions have got further and further, I have got happier and happier with it but I would not want a commission. There are too many headaches and ulcers with that. I'd really made up my mind to stay in the Army after nine years' service."

Graham likes to think of the Army as a "very good firm."

"The Army has been very good to me — there's no doubt about that. But I don't feel I owe it a debt. I've travelled a bit — to Aden as an 18-year-old and often to BAOR — but I don't want to travel now. I would like to stay in England and particularly, in this part of the country."

Weather keeps the numbers down at the Army's big show but . . .

# IT WEREN'T ARF FUN MUM!



Trying out the gun on an AFV 432.



Getting to grips with a Spartan.

AS IF BY military command, the torrential downpour suddenly stopped and the weather half-heartedly promised to behave itself barely one hour before Aldershot's showpiece Army Display opened up to the public.

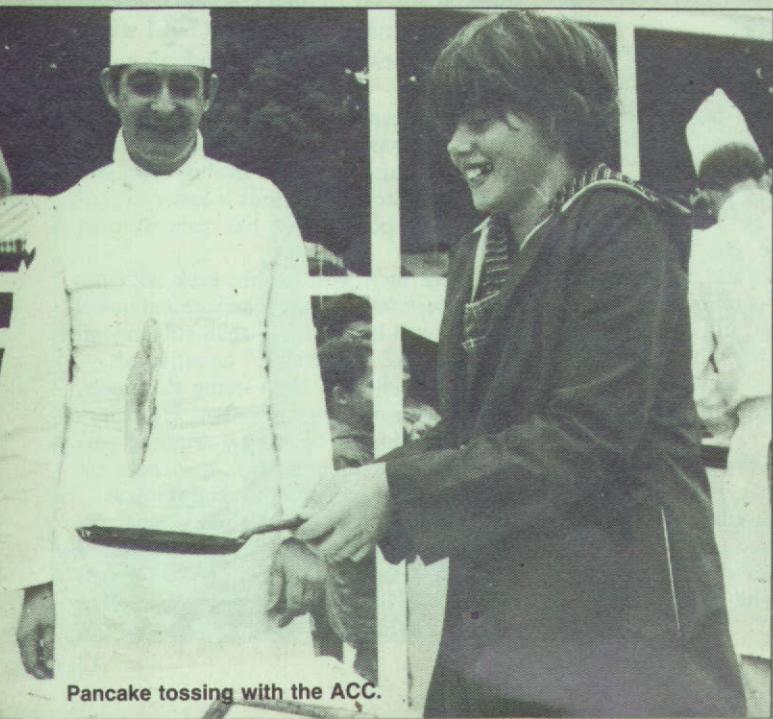
But the threat of a drenching was never far away throughout the three-day event and, in the end, attendance was down by one-third on 1980. Even so, around 200,000 people trod the sodden acres of Rushmoor Arena to enjoy the Army's biggest and best free show. And they were certainly not disappointed.

Typical among thousands of delighted youngsters was eight-year-old Andrew Robins from nearby Farnham. Pitching and yawing in response to his command on the cabin controls of an Army Air Corps Scout helicopter, Andrew was having the time of his life with school pal, Jonathan Holt.

Mum, Mrs Alison Robins, told SOLDIER: "He changes his mind from week to week about what he wants to do when he grows up. Last week, it was a racing driver. At the moment, it's the Army."

Wet, the weather may have been, but the interest amongst children and parents alike was never dampened. There was all the hardware; a 54-ton Chieftain and AFVs like Scorpion, Fox, Scimitar, Spartan and Sultan just ready to be clambered over for the pint-sized asking.

There was also Lynx, the Army Air Corps helicopter with its eight missile tubes, and even a glider, the latter's finer



Pancake tossing with the ACC.



Tackling the arctic slalom.



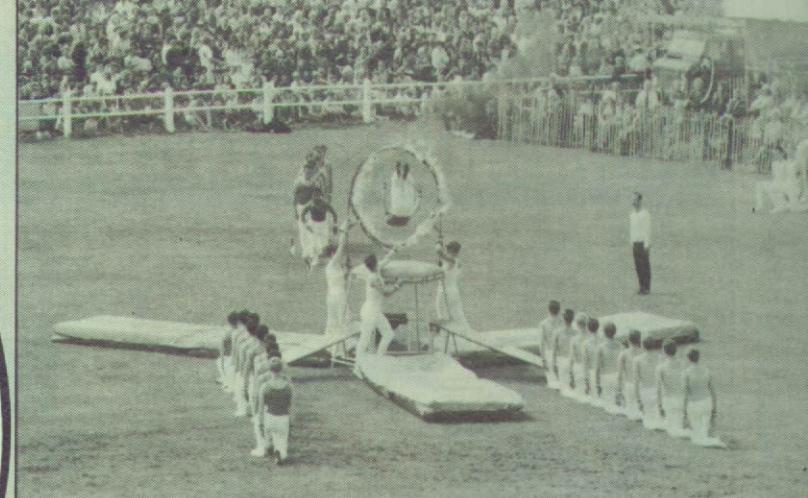
points explained by 22-year-old Private Lynn Gristwood, a pilot of eight hours' experience who quietly admitted: "The first time I went up on a four-minute flight, I screamed."

Back on the ground there was a cooking quiz and pancake tossing . . . video games . . . and shooting from infantry and tank lasers. While for those of stronger constitution, there was even a mini-MASH, where a team of surgeons carried out 24 "operations" in a tent on a willing team of volunteers of Army Apprentices from Aborfield.

And after meeting the Army face to face, visitors could sit back and enjoy the sheer entertainment of the Arena Displays with precision marching, colourful bands, daring routines and a spectacular musical finale, 'The Relief of Ladysmith'.

Colonel Ian Munro, the staff officer responsible for carrying out the planning for the show — his seventh and last before retirement — gave this verdict: "It went very well and we are sorry the weather didn't allow more to come. But it was a good show and it was surprising really, in view of the Falklands, that we were able to put it on at all. The attendance was down by about a third on the 1980 figure of 300,000. The weather deterred a lot of people."

"With the show we like to capture the imagination of the child and, perhaps then, when he grows up he will try the magic of the Army. I shall miss the show greatly because I think the end product is a very valuable one."



Andrew, nearest camera, and Jónathan on the Scout simulator.

Going through the hoop — ▲  
Junior Leaders RA gym team.



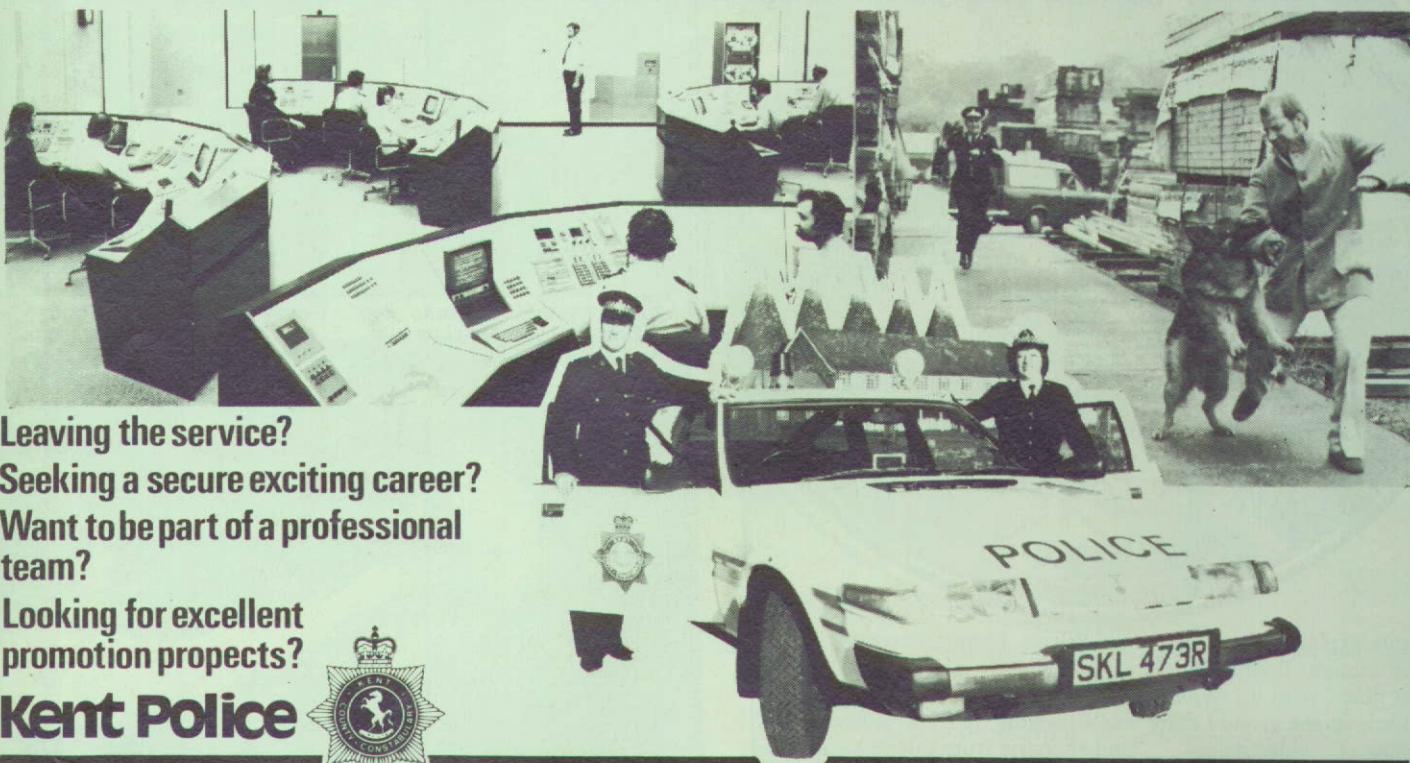
Mine hunting with the sappers. ▼ Even the Navy were on show. ▲



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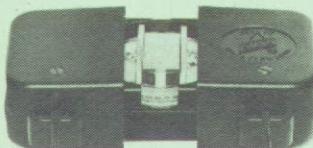


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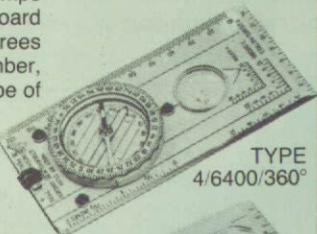
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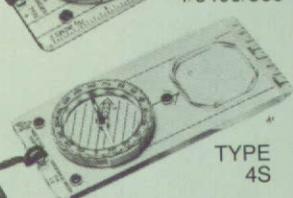
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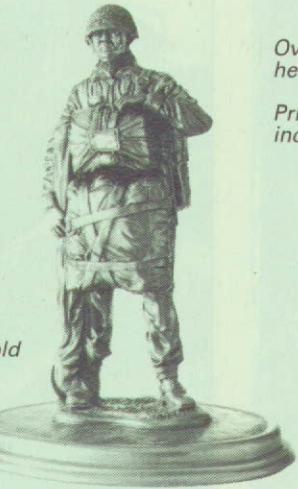


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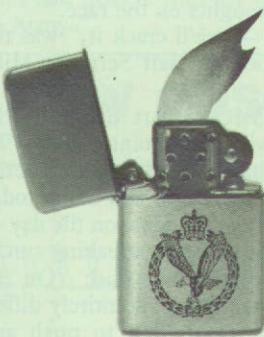
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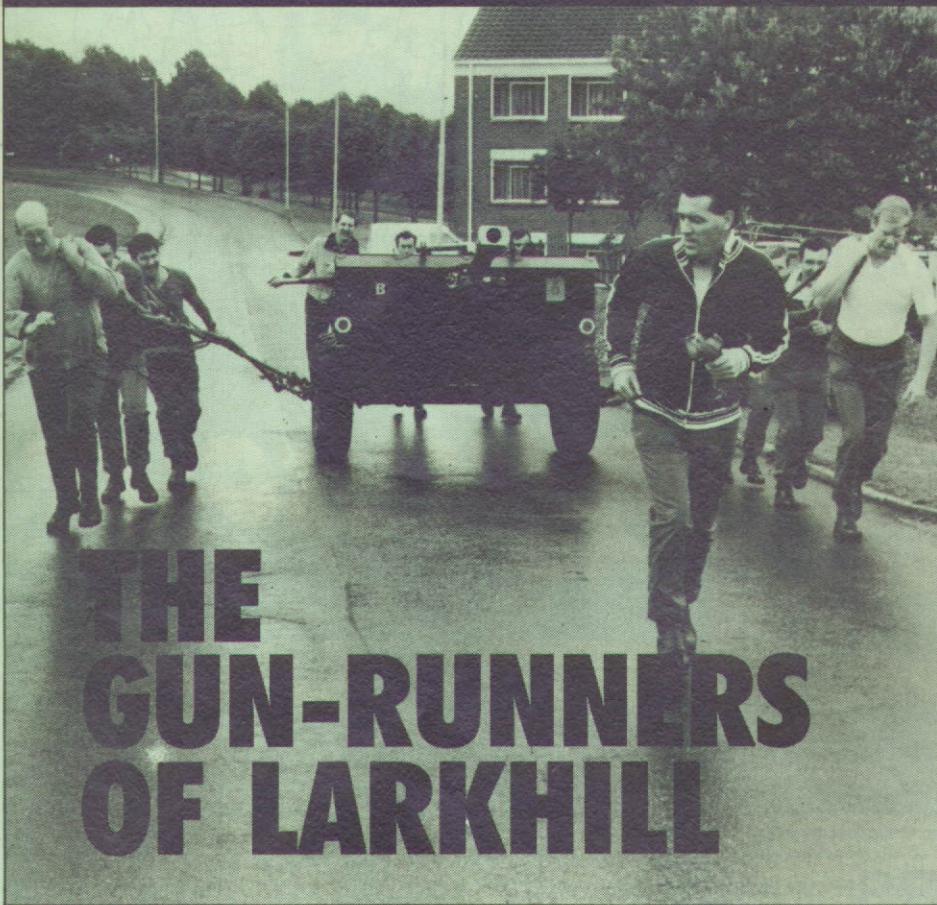
"Let me get this straight. You're saying you met this bloke called Ivan, had a few beers with him, then he lent you his motor to get home?"

# Rumour



"I couldn't stand the humiliation of having to wear those funny hats."

**Writer Graham Smith  
and photographer Doug Pratt pound  
the Wiltshire highways alongside...**



## THE GUN-RUNNERS OF LARKHILL

PORTLY SELWYN DAVIES, 47, was about to ease into his car when he looked over the garden hedge and suddenly called out to his wife: "'ere, love — come and have a look at this! Look at that lot, pulling that gun. I used to pull one of those around all on my own!"

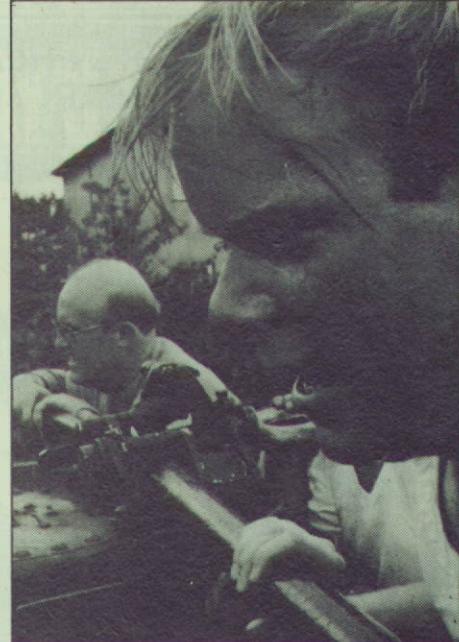
Mr Davies, a nearby resident of Larkhill's Royal School of Artillery and now a civvy of several years in employment on the camp, was commenting on nine sweating, volunteer gunners who were training for the first-ever Larkhill Gun Run as they hauled a two-ton field-gun — a venerable 25-pounder — along the road. SOLDIER pounded along with them.

Exhorting his men to even greater effort was WO2 (SMIG) Terry Hogan, the manager-cum-coach for the Gunnery Wing team, one of seven entries who would be taking part a few days later in the staggered start event over 7.8 miles from Westdown Camp to Larkhill.

"Dig!... dig!... dig! If you puke — step over it!"

But nobody did. Their minds on this, their fourth training stint together, were concerted in the sheer physical effort of taking the strain across their shoulders of the ten-foot-long drag ropes pulling the gun up inclines similar to those they would experience on the day. The six men up-front took it in turns to alternate with the three at the back on the weighty towing eye. For the

► When the going gets tough — the tough get going. Three faces show the strain.



Exertion on the towing eye is total.

Gun Run proper the team would have 18 men, nine pulling and nine running alongside in rotation.

Seven teams had entered for the contest. Every artillery unit had been canvassed, but the Falklands crisis had eliminated many potential entries.

Teams were due to be fielded from Larkhill's Gunnery and Signals Wings, 22 Locating Battery, 176, 132 and HQ Batteries from Support Regiment, Royal School of Artillery and even Manchester's Army Cadet Force contingent. The result will appear in the next issue of SOLDIER.

Gunnery Wing's heaviest man was 17½-stone; its lightest, a 9-stone Bombardier. They would be competing against the clock for a team perpetual trophy, a winning team gold medal and silver and bronze medals for the runners-up.

As Gunnery Wing's men laboured alongside and behind the rubber-tyred field gun of the type which was standard requirement in the last war, SOLDIER asked some of the team for their thoughts on the race.

"It's all right — we'll crack it," was the confident assertion of Staff Sergeant Mike Bolderson.

But WO2 (SMIG) Stuart Eaton, at the back on the towing eye, pointed out: "We have not really had a lot of time to practise this event but it's overcast and damp today and I hope it will be the same on the day — refreshing instead of under a baking sun."

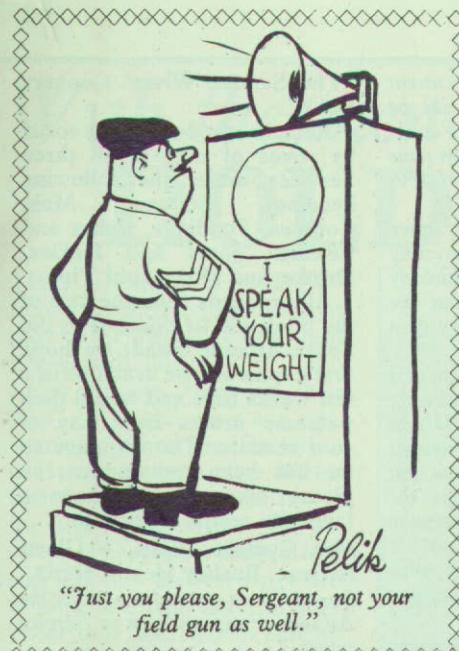
Sergeant David White, said: "On the towing eye you are using an entirely different set of muscles, trying to push and control the gun at the same time. At the sides in front, the effort is sheer pulling."

That effort was endorsed by Sergeant Peter Chaffe who commented: "It's rough. Everywhere is aching. I volunteered for this — when I was drunk!"

Sergeant 'Mac' McCormack's mind went back four decades as he observed: "It must have been bloody hard on the gunners before they had vehicles to tow their field guns."

And manager WO2 Hogan summed up his team's attempts thus: "They've mastered the techniques of pulling the gun all right but they still have the tendency to drop the ropes. Changing over men could be a problem, too."





*Pelik*

"Just you please, Sergeant, not your field gun as well."



'Encouragement' from WO2 Hogan.



Shouldering a two-ton responsibility.

The Gun Run itself is the brainchild of WO1 (Master Gunner) Nick Hills, an instructor on the gunnery staff course.

"I was running along the sea front at Worthing where I live and in training for the London marathon when the idea occurred to me," he explained. "As you run, your mind is turning over various things. I put it to the senior instructor and he agreed. Among the charities to benefit will be the Army Benevolent Fund, BLESMA and, of course, the South Atlantic Fund."

But back to Mr Davies for the final word.

His frame now crammed behind the wheel of his large car, the former gunner at Larkhill in the early Fifties jabbed a finger at the gun and its willing pushers to boast: "I could eat them! I could push a 37 hundredweight gun barrel all round a gun park on my own — and lift it three inches off the deck!"

Could he do it now, though, SOLDIER helpfully suggested.

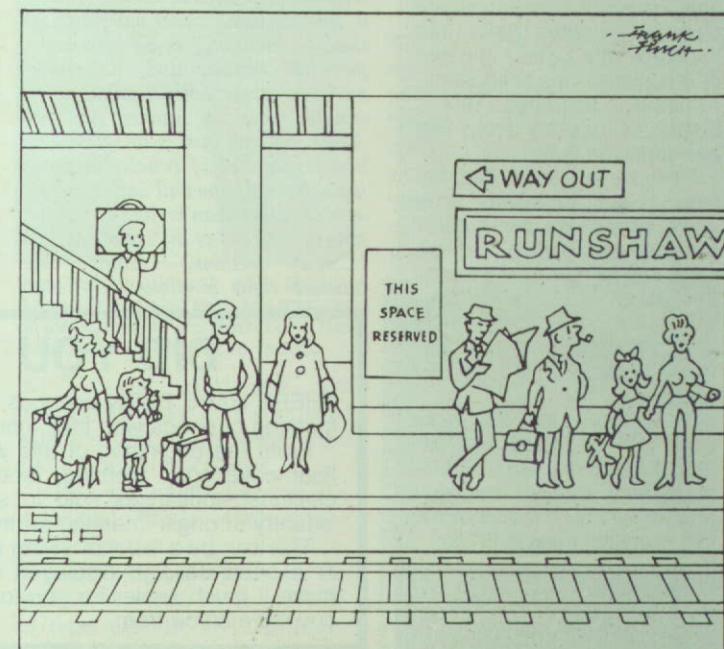
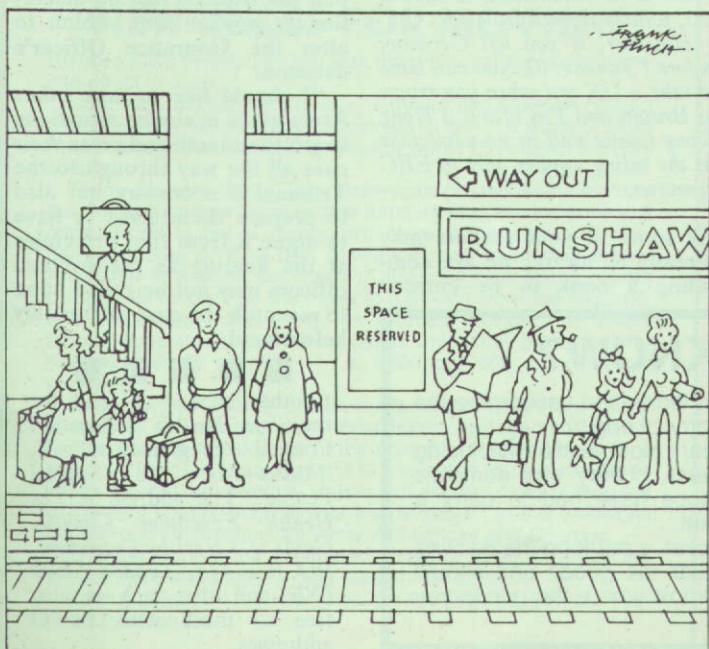
"Well... er, no," he conceded. "You see, I had trouble with my back when I left the Army."



Nearly there... the last uphill effort.

## 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.





FEW BRITISH PRIME Ministers in recent times have been subjected to the intense pressure that has been Mrs Thatcher's lot in the past three months.

For the duration of the crisis in the Falklands she has been in the harsh glare of publicity but still, she has remained poised, calm — outwardly at least — and always impeccably dressed.

And, although the situation in the Falklands has been uppermost in everybody's mind, there have been many other demands on the Prime Ministerial time: the Pope's purple-clad envoy was received, ministers came for discussions on policies and Mrs Thatcher, amazingly, even found time to give a group of schoolchildren a personally conducted tour.



The Prime Minister says farewell to the Pope's envoy.

The Bonn summit meeting gave Brian Hamilton of BFBS Köln an opportunity to talk to the Prime Minister and asked how she, as a mother herself, felt about the loss of life during the action on the Falklands:

"I feel for each and every one. Every time the telephone rings or someone walks into my office with a piece of paper or a message, my heart stops, I think it is bad news. This is instinctive for every family that has someone there."

"Yet we all know that the lives of our forefathers were given so that we could enjoy freedom and justice and we must not let the next generation down. We must be prepared to sacrifice these things as it is a wonderful way of life. One has to think of it in that way."

"Yes, with the sacrifices there are tragedies and we must look after those who suffer in every way but look what it is for: it's for our way of life and everything that is British."

Anne Armstrong

Since the new **SOLDIER** came out I have been reading it with interest and I was delighted to see that your space has been increased. However, despite the improvements, I feel that **SOLDIER** is still missing the market to which it should address itself more precisely. Could I be presumptuous and make three suggestions?

First there are masses of publications directed towards the soldier in the British Army but there is nothing for the soldier and his wife. **SOLDIER** recognises the potential here by including your page but when you consider that 50 per cent of each marriage is female, this is not reflected in the balance of the magazine. I believe there is a crying need to link all our families, half of whose members are serving in the British Army and half of whom are supporting it.

Why not also include the excellent advice put out by the Army Families Advice Bureaux?

One of the factors hampering the circulation of the magazine is that it costs money. This is not because anyone begrudges the 25 pence as such, but rather the tedium of payment. Would it not be possible to circulate it as a free in-house magazine and make the advertising revenue support the costs as the circulation increases?

Give us a magazine that goes to every Army home, that is written for the soldier and his family. If this was done, communication in the Army would enter a new phase, a phase more in keeping with the eighties.

Mrs D, Scotland.

I discussed your letter with the editor, Mrs D, and he made the following points:

"Although one of **SOLDIER**'s primary objectives is to keep serving soldiers and their families in touch with developments in today's Army, it serves a much wider market than that — including ex-Service-men, potential recruits and the many members of the general public who simply have an interest in the Army. So our aim is to include a broad spectrum of articles in each issue that we hope will have general appeal rather than break the magazine up into lots of different 'special interest' sections. Getting the balance right is always difficult

As some of your readers may already be aware, we are compiling a book to be entitled

but, given the size of the current magazine, we think it would be difficult to expand the Family Pages without detracting from some other important aspects of our coverage.

"The idea of publishing more AFAB information is an interesting one. Quite a lot does already appear in the magazine but we shall look into the possibility of a regular AFAB spot.

"With regard to the question of a free **SOLDIER**, this has already been considered by the MOD and rejected. There are strong arguments for and against a free issue but **SOLDIER** only implements the pricing policy, it does not determine it."

We should like to hear your views on this subject so do put pen to paper.

**"The Service Wives' Cookery Book".**

Recipes are being sent to us by wives of men in all three Services under the following headings: Starters, Main Courses, Puddings, Cakes and Biscuits, Jams and Pickles, Drinks, and Household Tips.

All proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to the South Atlantic Fund; we hope that copies will be available in a few weeks time and would then welcome orders from any of your readers. The response so far has been tremendous, so please hurry if you have a favourite recipe to include.

**Mrs Cynthia Sharp, 6 Gleed Avenue, Bushey Heath, Herts.** Sounds like a great idea both for the Atlantic Fund and for us Service wives.

And now some salutary advice from Mrs F in Surrey:

"My application for full Maternity Allowance was recently rejected on the grounds of insufficient National Insurance contributions.

"I appealed against this decision and was subsequently invited to attend a tribunal hearing which I did earlier this year, hoping for a wider interpretation of the standing regulations, the validity of which I do not contest.

"However, at the hearing I was disappointed to discover that the tribunal officers had not even familiarised themselves with my case, nor were they aware that my husband is in the Forces.

"I had expected to receive careful consideration but, in the event, found that although I had done a lot of careful and detailed preparation, they had failed to do their homework and, as a result, my appeal was dealt with only superficially and was rejected because the central issue was not even considered. The reason given was that the tribunal had no discretionary powers with which to alter the Insurance Officer's decision.

"I should like to urge other Army wives in similar situations to grit their teeth and press their case all the way through to the Tribunal if necessary but also to prepare themselves to have to argue it from first principles at the hearing as the tribunal officers may not be relied upon to research the case adequately beforehand.



Another chance to send for the free Health Education Council Pregnancy Pack, 'Mums-to-be are Special People'. The address is *The Health Education Council, Guide to a Healthy Pregnancy, PO Box 411, London SE99 6YE* and the pack is also free to those with BFPO addresses.

## DID YOU KNOW?

THERE HAVE BEEN changes in legislation concerning the marking of goods with their 'country of origin'.

From the beginning of this year, most textiles (including floor coverings), clothing, footwear, cutlery and domestic electrical appliances sold in shops have had to carry a 'country of origin' marking on them.

This can be a label or swing ticket, a mark on the packing or a separate sign displayed near the goods and should make it much easier for you to know where the goods you buy have come from.

*With the men away, they've been*

# HOLDING THE FORT

THE DRAMATIC HEADLINE splashed across the front page of the *Sun* on 10 June read "20 Guards die in Blitz", and added "troops leap for their lives". It caused panic and consternation in the Families Office of 1st Battalion, The Welsh Guards at Pirbright, for it was the first indication they had received of any deaths in the attack and they and the rear party had to cope with the flood of telephone calls from anxious families asking for the latest information.

With crises like this and the day-to-day problems which cropped up in the wake of the departure of the Task Force to the South Atlantic, it was fortunate that the responsibility for the wives and families could be left in the capable hands of the Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major's wives. I spoke to the CO's and RSM's wives of three units in the days just prior to the capture of Port Stanley and heard how they had coped with the problems they faced.

Mrs Fanny Ricketts and Mrs Gloria Davies had assumed family responsibility for the wives at Pirbright, as did Mrs Jean Pike and Mrs Mandy Ashbridge for 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment in Tidworth and Mrs Janice Field and Mrs Paula Matten of 36 Engineer Regiment, based in Maidstone.

There were two main problems. First, there had to be efficient procedures for keeping the wives and families informed as



Janice Field (right) and Paula Matten discuss ideas for the wives of 36 Engineer Regiment.

quickly as possible of the latest reports and events. The crisis demonstrated what a major role the media plays in such a situation. The families listened to the radio around the clock, watched every television news programme and, on occasions, even telephoned local radio stations for the latest news. There was also a need to keep morale high and to make life bearable between the news bulletins.

Within hours of the news of the Task Force departure, rear parties were formed, communication links established, information, newsletters and advice sheets put together and emergency telephone numbers distributed to all families. For the CO's and RSM's wives the importance of being available

was paramount. The 'phone rang almost continually, both day and night, as wives looked to them for help, reassurance and sometimes simply a shoulder to cry on.

The genuine dedication and devotion of these "hot seat" wives to their husbands' regiments meant long hours spent organising outings and activities for the wives as well as the important task of putting together the newsletters, radio cassette recordings and, in the case of one regiment, the video tapes, that were sent to the South Atlantic to keep the men in touch with the happenings on the domestic front



Jean Pike (above) and Mandy Ashbridge (right) with the welfare of the wives of 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment at heart.

in Tidworth, Pirbright and Maidstone. They were also faced with the task of preparing radio and television interviews.

Through the medium of the individual Wives' Clubs there were trips to the seaside and an outing to Penshurst Place for the Maidstone wives, a visit to BFBS to take part in a Task Force request programme for 3 Para

wives and a wonderful surprise visit to the Guards' playgroup by the Princess of Wales as well as regular Sunday lunches and coffee mornings where wives could meet and share their hopes and fears.

There were other, special, problems too. The size of the regiments mushroomed literally overnight as girl friends became soldiers' wives in the days before departure and had to be welcomed into the regiment and cared for as usual. There were problems too for wives employed on camp to look after the needs of the regiment. The departure of the men would have been disastrous but for the foresight of one battalion that ensured that all the wives had alternative employment when they realised they would no longer be needed.

The strain of remaining calm, capable and strong was beginning to tell on the wives I met as they coped with the pressures of being in charge and making sure that even the smallest problem was solved. The family spirit they had encountered though had helped to ease the burden. Babysitting, collecting children from school, and hospital appointments which had to be kept were all minor problems when one family helped another.

But now it is all over. Or is it? The uncertainty and the very real fears for the men in the Falklands have diminished with the British success but most wives will be facing a further period of separation.

Birthdays and anniversaries will come and go before the men return home. Hopefully, their justifiable pride in their husbands' achievements will help to sustain the wives who have, after all, been fighting their own battle here at home, under the leadership shown by their CO's and RSM's wives.



## NEW RULES FOR MOVING

Revised rules to help families with their removal expenses came into effect in June.

Up to now the rules for moving furniture into store on posting overseas have only allowed individuals to select a place of store (with a recognised storage contractor) within 25 miles of the duty station.

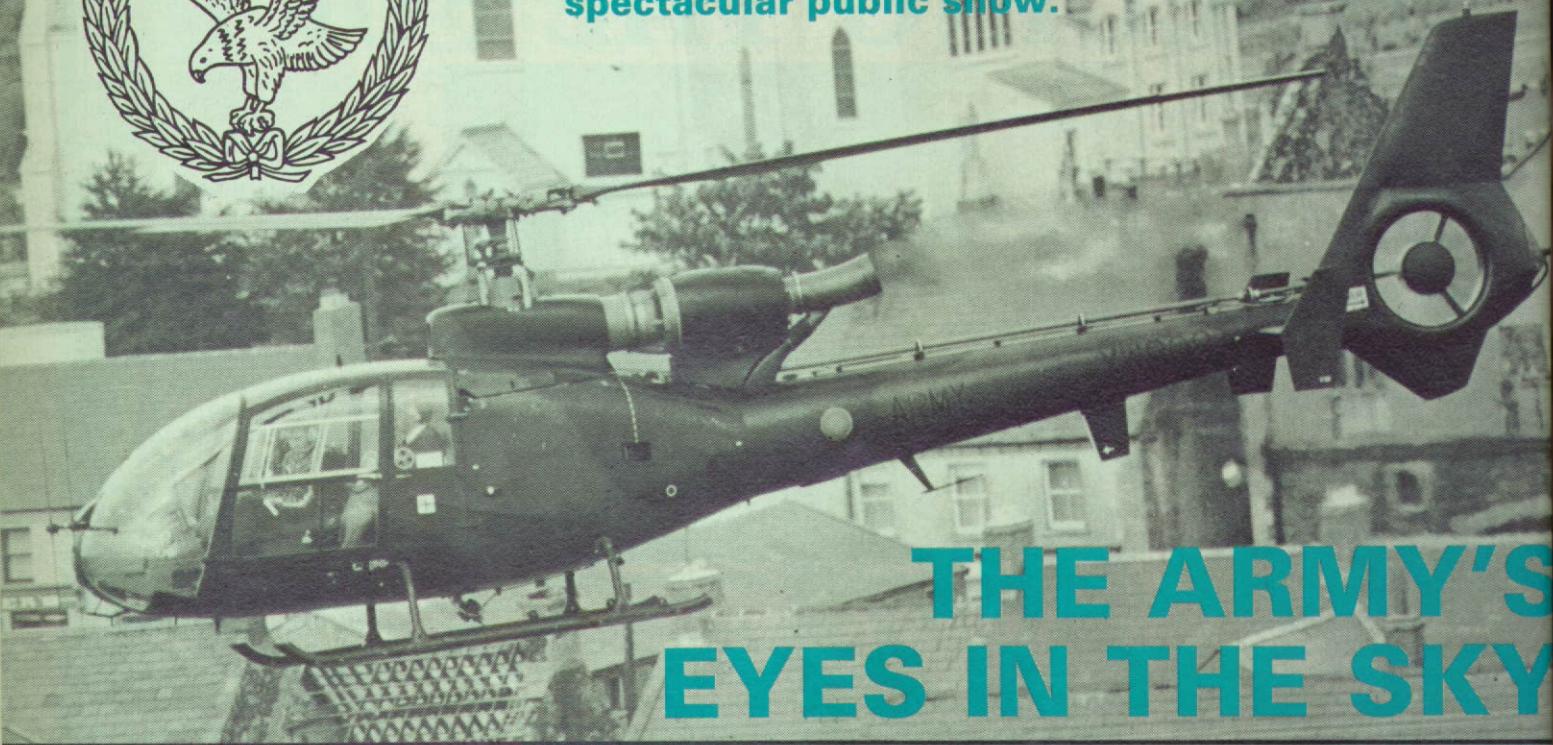
These new provisions allow individuals posted overseas from the United Kingdom to move their furniture at public expense to a place which is not a recognised store, for example to their parental home or their own residence, and to claim a refund within the limitations set down in the new regulations. Three competitive tenders for the move to a private store are required, and the lowest amount may be claimed provided the whole amount does not exceed the maximum which may be claimed for storage over 12 months — i.e. £400 per 600 cubic feet of entitlement.

On return from overseas, individuals will be entitled to a refund of removal expenses, under a three tender arrangement, from a private store to a residence at the next duty station. However, if the move from the private store is to a selected place of residence which is not at the next duty station and another move is required to the duty station, such moves will be subject to the limitations set down in *Regulations for Army Allowances and Charges*.

This means that the 'presumed distance' rules, between the private store and the new duty station, will apply.

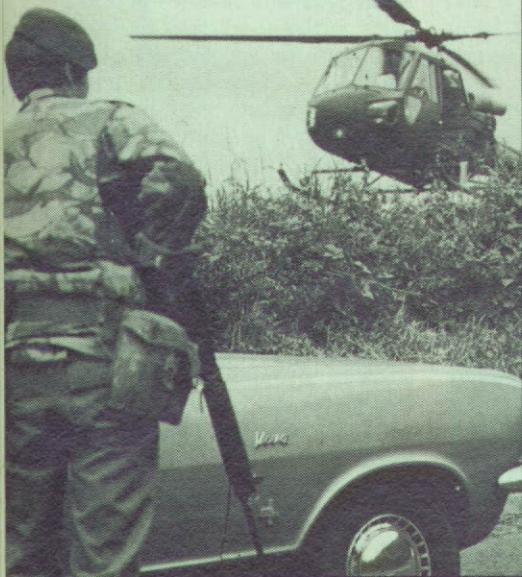
For full details on the new rules, please seek advice from your unit pay office.

**This month sees the start of the Army Air Corps' silver jubilee celebrations with a massive aerial jamboree at Middle Wallop — Army Air '82. Graham Smith takes a detailed look at the modern corps and — on the next pages — previews its spectacular public show.**



## THE ARMY'S EYES IN THE SKY

A Scout drops troops near a lonely road to set up instant Vehicle Control Points (VCPs).



THE ARMY AIR CORPS has come a long way in the 25 years since it was formed in 1957 when Mr Duncan Sandys, the Minister of Defence, directed the War Office to assume responsibility for the manning and operation of its own light aircraft for reconnaissance, direction of artillery fire and general liaison flying. These aircraft would not exceed 4000 pounds maximum all-up weight.

RAF Middle Wallop became the Army Air Corps Centre, the depot and the school of the Army Air Corps.

Since then, there are few parts of the European and North American training theatres in which the distinctive blue berets have not been seen piloting Skeeters, Sioux, Alouettes, Beavers, Scouts, Austers and, in later years, Lynx and Gazelles.

Nowadays, the Army Air Corps operates 269 aircraft — including some fixed wing Beavers — and is staffed by 2086 officers and Senior NCOs as aircrew and groundcrew. 50 per cent of the aircrew are SNCOs and one-third of its pilots are from other Arms.

The AAC has 170 soldier-pilots, 245 officers, 210 aircrewmen and 760 groundcrewmen, the whole supported by 1321 REME and 100 RAOC personnel.

As Lieutenant-Colonel George McMeekin, 42, Army Air Corps and GSO 1/GD Training at the Army Air Corps HQ Directorate, pointed out: "We are very much now in the Lynx and Gazelle era. We are also planning to use the Scout into the 1990s in certain places which means we can get 35 years' service out of it. At the moment, we have about 140 Gazelles deployed, a helicopter which came into service in 1975."

By the end of this year, he said, there

► A Sioux helicopter 'rests' on the prairies of Wainwright.

would be 30 Lynx in BAOR kitted out with its new partner, the TOW missile and, by the close of 1983, there would be twice that number out there.

BAOR has five Army Air Corps Regiments and two small Flights — one in Berlin, the other based on RAF Wildenrath.

"There is a fairly major re-shuffle going on in Germany and we are taking part in that. It is likely there will be some cuts," Colonel McMeekin conceded.

The Scouts, he confirmed, with their elderly SS 11 missiles had now been replaced in BAOR by the Lynx/TOW combination.

He added: "Gazelles will be continuously modified throughout their service life. We are trying to make them harder, more survivable and more aggressive. We are particularly keen to fit guns and missiles for self-defence. We have no illusions: in the next war it will be helicopter-versus-helicopter and this is recognised by the Warsaw Pact."

Lt-Col McMeekin then touched briefly on helicopter operations involving the Army Air Corps in Hong Kong, Cyprus, Belize, BATU in Canada and, of course, Northern Ireland.

He explained that they were established for eight Scouts in Hong Kong which operated in support of the British Garrison in rapid mobility and reinforcement to border areas. There were also a couple of Scouts in Brunei — together with a reserve aircraft — in support of the Gurkha battalion there.

"This is a very useful detachment because it is almost one of the last places we can practise jungle flying skills and techniques which we have tended to lose since the pull-out from the Far East," he said. "It is particularly useful for casualty evacuation work and re-supply training in the jungle."

Cyprus has two small Flights — three



Demonstrating TOWAT — the TOW Missile Airborne Trainer at Middle Wallop.

Deadly partnership — Lynx fires a TOW missile in the anti-tank role.

◀ An Army Gazelle flies over Crossmaglen, South Armagh.

Alouettes in the Sovereign Base Area and three more on detachment to the United Nations Force. The Alouettes, he said, would be retained until the 1990s. They were particularly useful in UN operations because they are able to operate from isolated observation posts.

Belize was served by three Gazelles with one reserve from UK-based units. These units rotated every six months operating alongside RAF Pumas in fairly inaccessible mountainous terrain.

"Belize is a very useful and pleasant detachment for us and gives us the chance to do operational flying in a potentially hostile environment," said Lt-Col McMeekin.

In Canada and at the British Army Training Unit (BATUS) based on Suffield support was given by "some Gazelles" in observation and reconnaissance roles plus range safety duties. It would not, for example, be cost-effective to send the Lynx/TOW over there for missile training.

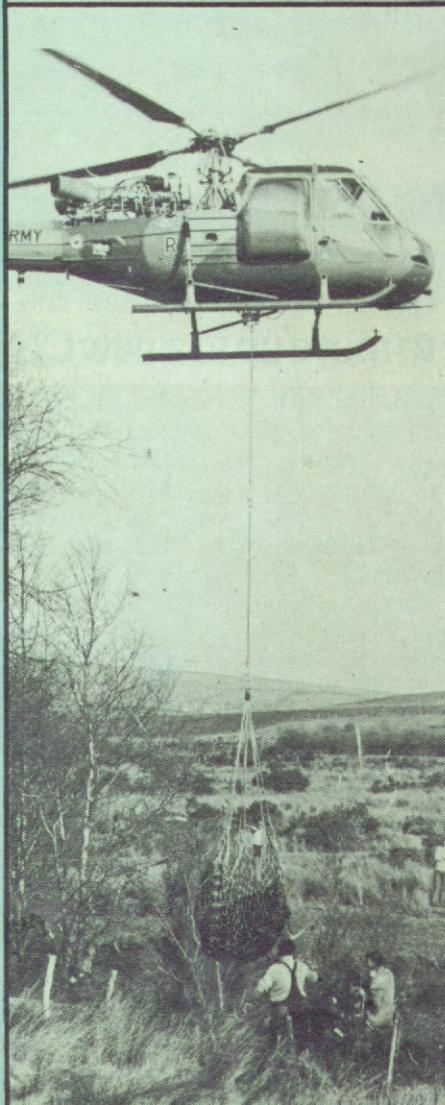
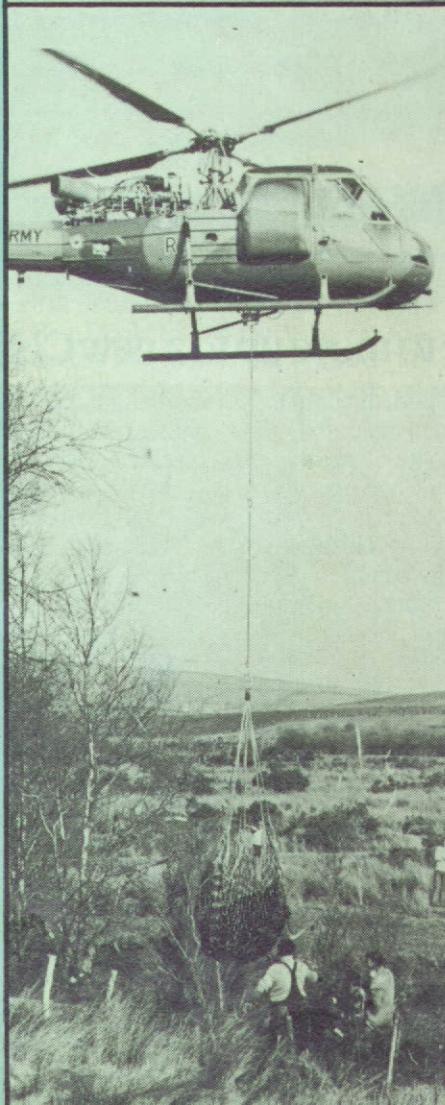
The helicopters of the Army Air Corps had made a "fairly significant contribution" in Northern Ireland with a whole range of roles and capabilities, particularly in observation duties or insertion duties with sections of troops.

"We have had Lynx in Northern Ireland for two years now and it has been really very effective in its utility role," he said.

As for the Army Air Corps itself in the early Eighties, Lt-Col McMeekin observed: "Our manning is extremely healthy right across the board. Our retention is very good, too, on the groundcrew side and we are over the top, really, because there is just not the inclination for people to leave the Service because of the barren climate outside. Our recruiting is potentially very buoyant but we are restrained at the moment like the rest of the Army."



The veteran Scout with SS 11 missiles.



◀ An Army Scout 'casevacs' a sick cow in Ulster.

Servicing a rotor blade on a Sioux helicopter.

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TO MARK ITS Jubilee Year in spectacular style with the likelihood of 150,000 onlookers to share the celebrations, the Army Air Corps is mounting a six-day air pageant — three of them public days from July 23-25 — at the Army Air Corps Centre at Middle Wallop. A famous wartime fighter station five miles south of Andover and 60 miles south-west of London via the M3 and A303, it has the country's largest grass airstrip of 6000 feet.

All the stops will be pulled out to make the occasion a memorable success with attractions including a six-acre exhibition and trade fair with some 200 stands.

The Duke of Edinburgh and King Hussein of Jordan will be there, too, to make it a right royal event.

The three public days of Army Air 82 will see one of the biggest gatherings of military aircraft in Europe this year with daily, five-hour flying displays. And the three previous days, from July 20-22, will incorporate the world's first international military helicopter meet — Heli-Meet International.

As well as entries from all three of our own Armed Services this event has attracted participants from Belgian, French, Australian, Canadian, American and Italian forces. In addition, there are 13 civilian entries.

Another highlight will be the 1982 British Helicopter Championships, and Army Air 82 will literally lift off in panoramic fashion with the sudden appearance of nearly 100 helicopters in formation fly-past to herald the start of the jubilee celebrations.

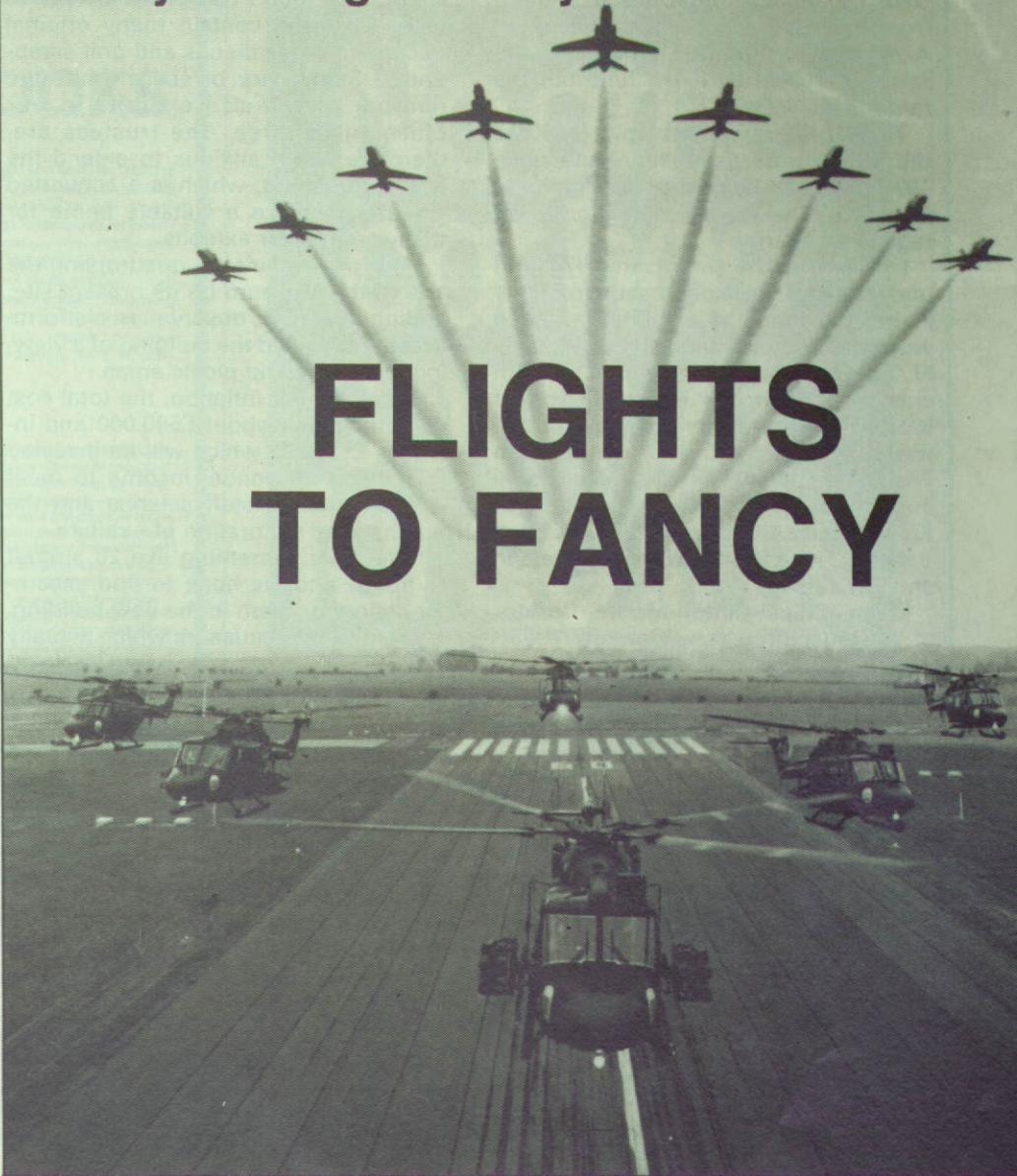
Half-a-dozen Lynx of the Army Air Corps Lynx Flight will also formate on a 'one-off' basis for three days of public approbation as the Silver Eagles helicopter display team.

The show's organisers canvassed no fewer than 67 air arms from 43 countries about taking part in the flying programme. These included some Warsaw Pact nations although not the Soviets themselves.

By the turn of this year acceptances had already been received from Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Eire, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Holland, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Turkey and the USA.

Hungary, though "greatly appreciative" of the invitation to Army Air 82 according to the General Staff of the Hungarian Peoples'

## Army Air 82 gets ready for take off



Armed Forces, had to decline because of "technical difficulties and the limited financial possibilities".

The programme will involve massed fly-pasts, team and solo aerobatics, vintage and veteran aircraft, a heli-borne assault, the free-fall parachute teams of the Falcons and the Red Devils and hot air balloons. Even the famous Red Arrows will be there.

The Red Arrows in spectacular formation with, beneath, the AAC Silver Eagles — both teams will be in action at Army Air 82.

Proceeds from Army Air 82 will go to four Service charities — the Army Benevolent Fund, the AAC Fund, the resident Museum of Army Flying Appeal at Middle Wallop and the South Atlantic Fund.

*continued on page 30*

Silver Eagles above a Wiltshire landscape.



ONE OF the four charities to benefit from Army Air 82 will be the Museum of Army Flying Appeal. It had already raised £170,000 by early June but the target is £500,000.

The Museum was set up in 1960 as the Army Air Corps Museum and since 1973 has been located at the Army Air Corps Centre at Middle Wallop. It is a registered charity.

Opened to the public in 1974 and under its new guise of Museum of Army Flying the scope of exhibits has been expanded to cover all aspects of Army Flying; ballooning at the end of the 19th century, the Royal Flying Corps of World War One, Army co-operation between the wars — the Air Observation Posts and Glider Pilot Regiment era — and postwar operations in Malaya, Korea, Suez, Cyprus, Aden, Kenya, Borneo, Hong Kong, Northern Ireland and Zimbabwe.

Major 'Chips' Clifton-Moore, Curator of the Museum, said: "Serious resear-

chers make good use of the extensive archives which contain many original documents, war diaries and unit scrapbooks. Sadly, lack of space limits the number of full-size exhibits in our Museum to three. The trustees are, therefore, most anxious to extend the present building, which is a converted cinema, to make a suitable home for their many other exhibits.

"Our plans envisage quadrupling the size of the Museum on its present site, adding a car park, observation platform, access roads and the building of a viewing enclosure and picnic areas.

"Allowing for inflation, the total cost will amount to about £500,000 and includes £135,000 which will be invested to provide an annual income to meet non-established staff salaries and the purchase or restoration of exhibits.

"We have something like 20 aircraft to house and we hope to find accommodation for them in the new building. This is the only museum which actually

traces the history of Army flying all the way through and it is well-sited, just off the main A303 and, furthermore, it is located at the home of Army flying at Middle Wallop. The Museum will take a year to build once they get started and will probably open in 1984 with its 20 dedicated aircraft."

The latest acquisition is an L.19 Bird Dog, of the type used by the British on loan in Korea, which is being flown inside a Hercules transport from Fort Rucker, Alabama. It is being swapped for an Auster Mark Nine.

*continued from page 29*

Large static displays will include gatherings of Auster aircraft — "40 Years of the Auster AOP" — backed up by an array of all other Army Air Corps aircraft types.

There will also be twice daily arena displays, of two hours each, with military bands, motorcycle teams and physical training demonstrations.

Major Louis Parsons, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, who is Secretary for Army Air 82, told SOLDIER: "During the show the Army Air Corps will be entertaining its international guests from the armed forces, the aerospace organisations and major industrial firms. The electronics and aerospace industries have played such an important part in the Army Air Corps' development that this sparked off the central theme — the 44-entry international heli-meet."

A pilot of some 4000 hours himself and a former leader of the Army's Blue Eagles helicopter display team of 1972 (they flew Sioux), Major Parsons added: "The heli-meet will be a test of professional skills for helicopter air and ground crews involving tactical tests, recognition, skill-at-arms, survival techniques, fitness and navigation. Support from industry has gone extremely well."

"Heli-Meet International will also give an opportunity for an extensive exchange of views, information and techniques in an atmosphere of friendship and co-operation. This will include a one-day symposium in Reading when as wide a variety as possible of helicopter handling aspects will be discussed. Speakers will be invited from not just

*continued on page 32*



Back row l to r: Lt Jeff Young, Capt Rob Wilsey RM, WO1 Mal Thwaites; Front l to r: Capt Jim Browne, S/Sgt Tony Merrick, S/Sgt Clint Stimpson, WO2 Ken Jackson.

FOR A short public display season of just three days six instructors from the Army Air Corps Lynx Flight at Middle Wallop have formed themselves into a helicopter flying display team, the Silver Eagles. And they have prepared and accomplished their routine entirely in their free time after working hours.

The Silver Eagles, who will be putting on a 14½-minute show before an estimated 150,000 spectators, have been practising their six set-piece repertoire since March with two sorties a week.

Their airborne artistry will be flown at heights ranging from 300 to 800 feet and will have a formation fly-past at 80 knots as one of the highlights.

Team leader is Captain Rob Wilsey of 3 Commando Brigade Air Squadron, Royal Marines, an exchange officer at Middle Wallop, who has 2300 hours to his credit on helicopters and 300 of these on Lynx.

He said: "We chose the name 'Silver Eagles' because it is the AAC's Silver Jubilee and because the eagle is the Corps motif."

Most experienced team member is Captain Jim Browne who has logged up 5300 hours on eight types of helicopter. Man with the most hours on the Lynx is Staff Sergeant Dave Stewart who has flown 1150 hours on the type.



Precision flying will feature in Heli-Meet tests — here Scouts show their version.

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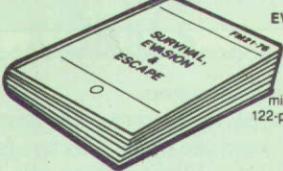
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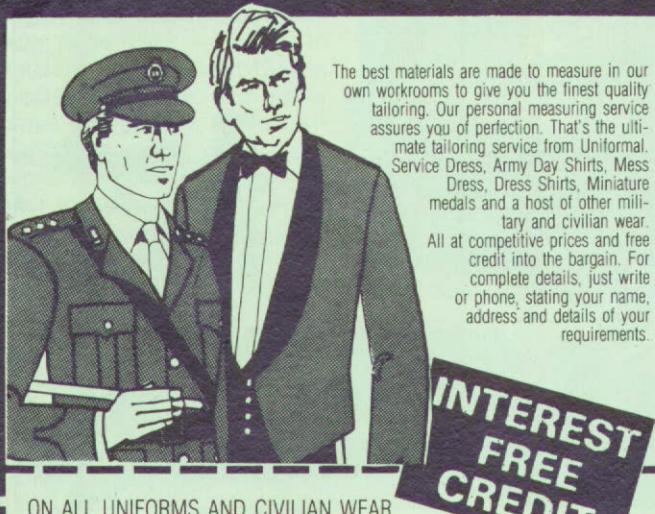
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**FIRST FOR EXPORT**

TO MARK Army Air 82 and the Silver Jubilee, the Army Air Corps has certainly put its stamp on the proceedings.

Two philatelic covers have been produced, both comprising three types — Specials, Pilot-signed and Standards — depending on whose signature appears on them.

The Army Air 82 Cover will be part of the RAF Test Pilot Series and will depict Mr Roy Moxam, the Westlands Chief Test Pilot, against the background of the latest helicopter from the firm — the Lynx WG 30 — and an Army Air Corps Lynx.

A total of 1000 Specials will be signed by Mr Moxam and Major-General Bill Withall, Director, Army Air Corps, together with their career details as an insert. There will also be 2000 pilot-signed covers with the signature of Colonel Mike Badger, Commandant, plus 4000 unsigned Standards.

The Jubilee Commemorative Cover will have the design of an Auster AOP 6 and AH 1 Lynx-with-TOW over Middle Wallop.

In all, there are 10,000 of these covers each with a history of the Corps as an insert with 1000 Specials signed by the first and present Colonels Commandant with career details, 2500 pilot-signed, signed by the Commandant AAC, and 6500 unsigned Standards.

Inclusive of postage and packing, Specials cost £2; Pilot-signed, £1.05 pence and Standards, 75 pence. The Army Air Cover goes on sale on July 23 and that of the Silver Jubilee Cover from September 1st onwards.

continued from page 30

the armed forces but industrial and commercial operators."

And helping the Army's 'chopper' squad personnel to put over their views on the merits of the Army Air Corps in the Eighties will be the HIT men — or, Helicopter Industries Team who are drawn from the aerospace and electronics industries.

As for the actual flying, an international panel of judges will adjudicate on the results of the airborne and ground-based competitions.

The five-hour flying test is, in the words of the organisers, "designed to challenge the most expert crew without denying a winning opportunity to less versatile crews". It will include flight planning, navigation, reconnaissance, identification of targets, air photography, precision flying and a tactical sortie.

Precision hovering and a rescue competition will be held at Broadlands, near Romsey, Hants, and will be open to the public.

Back on terra firma, both ground and air crews will be vying for placings in a half-day competition which includes photographic recognition, fitness, skill-at-arms and even a concours d'elegance for the best-kept and turned-out helicopter. There will also be a mystery event and what is described as a

**ENTITLED "Above and Best", the role of today's Army Air Corps will soon be seen by millions up and down the country in High Street cinemas.**

Major Louis Parsons, the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, who has been involved in the making of the 28½-minute, 35mm colour production, said: "It's sheer entertainment. It does not pretend to be a recruiting film. It looks at pilots, air gunners and technicians and follows them from their training to units in different places. In Northern Ireland, for instance, an incident is portrayed which incorporates filming in England and actual footage from Ulster. Hong Kong deals with the illegal immigrant problems."

**ROY MOXAM** Chief Test Pilot of Westlands



"light-hearted but nevertheless demanding" team challenge trophy.

The quaint, the venerable, and the new will be on the daily airborne agenda at Middle Wallop. There will be the Wing Commander Wallis autogyro, the Dakota of 'Ruskin Airways' featured in the successful TV series *Airline* and the showing of the new Lynx 3, a military version of the helicopter making its debut before the aviation cognoscenti.

Another hark-back to the war years amid the flying displays will be the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight with its Lancaster, Hurricane and Spitfire. In total contrast the AD-500 Airships Industries airship will glide silently over the heads of thousands of

neck-cranning spectators.

Mindful of its history, the Army Air Corps will have one of the Skeeters from its resident Historic Flight making a fly-past in formation with two others, privately-owned.

Major Parsons summed it all up thus: "The event aims to mark the 25th anniversary in style, offer the hospitality of the Corps to overseas attachés and VIP guests, both military and from industry, offer a full day's entertainment to the public, strengthen ties with overseas air arms and, of course, raise money for the four charities."

Admission on the day to Army Air 82 will be £4 for adults and £1 for children under 16. Children under 8 will be admitted free.



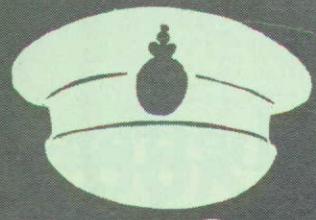
PERFORMING for the sheer pleasure of thousands at Middle Wallop during Army Air 82 will be the Corps' very own Historic Flight.

It will comprise a fixed wing Auster 9, and a Sioux and Skeeter, both helicopters. All were aerodynamically proud airframes in their day.

The Auster 9 — XR 244 — was one of nine aircraft of the last batch of 16 AOP 9s ordered for the Army Air Corps in 1961. It came to the Historic Aircraft Flight in September last year having spent a long career in flying training duties at the Army Air Corps Centre and elsewhere.

With the Historic Flight since 1980, the Sioux — XT 131 — had been used on flying training at the Centre from 1964 and was then in use with the Demonstration and Trials Squadron since 1977.

The Skeeter built in 1959 — XL 814 — was issued to 651 Light Aircraft Squadron in 1960. It later served in Germany in 1965 and returned to the UK in 1968 and a place with the Flight in December of that year.



## Your Cap Badge

No 20

### THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

THE FIGURE of Mercury, messenger of the gods, holds a winged staff or caduceus, in his left hand, his right held aloft; he stands poised on a globe by his left foot, the globe superimposed on a scroll inscribed with the Corps motto *Certa Cito*, which could be literally translated as "reliable information quickly" but is popularly recognised as "swift and sure". The whole is ensigned with a crown, detached from the rest of the badge. The mercury and globe are in white metal, the crown and scroll in gilding metal.

The design shown, with the St Edwards crown, has been worn since 1952 — at first in metals, but since March 1955 in anodised materials. The same format with the Imperial crown had been worn from 18th September, 1946, but the original badge — adopted when the Corps was founded on 28th June 1920 — had incorporated the figure of Mercury and the

globe in white metal within an oval inscribed 'Royal Corps of Signals', the oval surmounted by the Imperial crown and both in gilding metal.

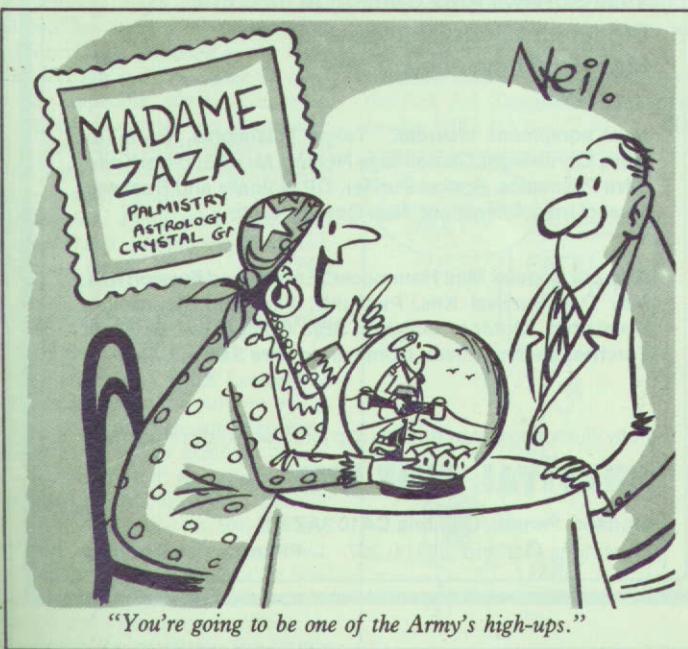
Signalling as such began in the Army with the Radiated Telegraph in 1797 and continued under the care of the Royal Engineers progressing from the visual telegraph, "flag-wagging", the heliograph, the electric telegraph, the telephone, wireless telegraph and radio to the global satellite communications of the present day. It was in appreciation of the sterling work of the Signal Sections RE, that George V bestowed the high honour of the prefix "Royal" on the newly formed "Corps of Signals" six short weeks after its incorporation.

An early piece of equipment was stated to be easily operated by "one officer and six intelligent sergeants" and the standards of today still demand, and produce, men of a high degree of skill and intelligence for this most essential arm.

Hugh L King



Next issue:  
The Grenadier Guards



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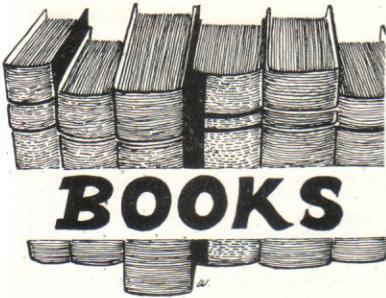
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## BOOKS

### Forward into Battle: Paddy Griffith

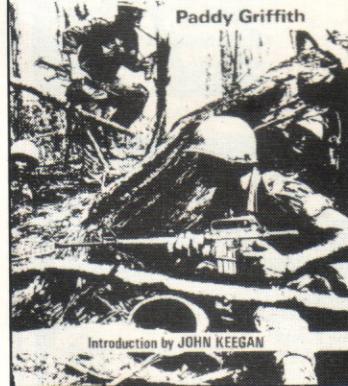
No-man's Land, that deadly arena of close combat where battles are decided as opposing groups of soldiers clash face-to-face, is the scene on which this book concentrates. Instead of the wider implications and outcomes of battles and campaigns our attention is focused on that devastating but vital region where troops confront each other physically and move under direct fire endeavouring to capture ground from one side or the other.

Two informative introductory chapters pave the way to the main body of the work which deals with the tactics of Wellington's infantry, hand-to-hand fighting in the Crimea,

### Forward into Battle

FIGHTING TACTICS FROM WATERLOO TO VIETNAM

Paddy Griffith



the lot of the foot soldier in the two World Wars and a brief review of the 21-day Yom Kippur conflict and its significance on the role of the infantryman. There is much to be learnt from this in-depth study of the part played by front line troops from Albuhera and Waterloo to the Somme, Verdun and Stalingrad.

An appendix giving details of weapons completes an informative and analytical study which throws new light on the whole spectrum of close contact fighting.

Antony Bird Publications Ltd, Stretton House, Stretton, Chichester, Sussex — £9.95. JFPJ

### The Two-Edged Sword: Laurence Martin

These are the six Reith Lectures of 1981 broadcast in the autumn by the BBC. In them Professor Martin reviews in turn the strategic world scene; the master weapon (nuclear deterrence); the European balance (regarding Europe as the historic cockpit); and the strategic dimension of the Third World (the Middle East being the meeting place of three continents and a major source of oil). He then goes on to discuss the limita-

tions of arms control and the "endless search for safety".

Disarmament by itself cannot eliminate conflict. Indeed, complete disarmament could not be attained because there must be sufficient armaments retained for the maintenance of law and order within each nation. Forces needed domestically within a large country like India could well be under suspicion and could of necessity be used against neighbours. In a fully disarmed world suspicion would reign: even pesticide factories would be suspect as possible chemical warfare establishments. Says Professor Martin: "In a disarmed world it would be only prudent to prepare for a possible breakdown of the system." But how — if the possession of arms inhibits confidence?

Professor Martin reminds us that we are only at the very beginning of the nuclear age and that the "dangerous sword" of defence cannot be laid down for good. "Security," he says, "is a game in which the final goal is never quite in reach." Security, like electricity, must be on hand, but cannot be stored. "Every generation must make its own."

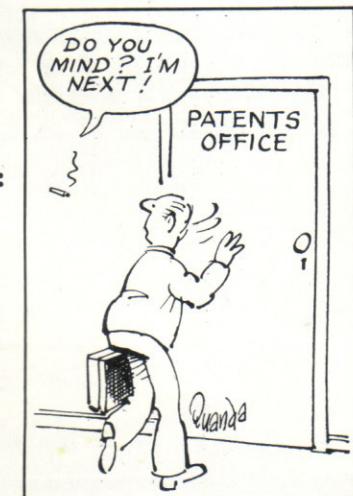
Weidenfeld & Nicolson Ltd, 91 Clapham High Street, London SW4 7TA — £5.95. GRH

### Modern American Armour: Steven J Zaloga & Lt Col James W Loop

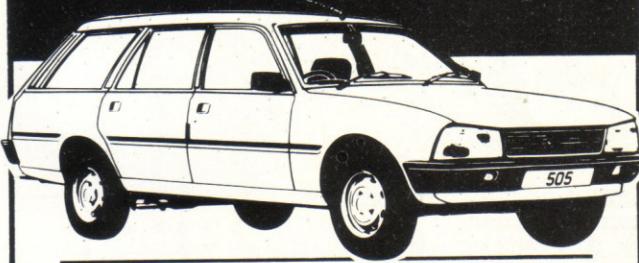
This is one for the AFV buff. After a brief introductory note tracing the development of American tanks and fighting vehicles since World War Two, it gets straight down to the nitty-gritty with over 240 photographs, including 16 pages of colour, depicting AFVs in use by American forces today. There are notes, too, on various rocket launchers, and details of ammunition types. Particular emphasis has been given to armour types currently in use or shortly to be available. Each type is illustrated with good, clear photographs, many of them taken under operational conditions in Vietnam. There are several scale plans which will be of particular use to modellers.

Not a technical handbook, it nonetheless contains a great deal of technical information. If tanks are your 'thing', this is for you.

Arms and Armour Press, Lionel Leventhal Ltd, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London NW3 1QQ — £7.50. IJK



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## COMPETITION 296

# FLOWER POWER

FIVE GIRLS who lived in Lobelia Avenue were named respectively Daisy, Marguerite, Ursinia, Viola and Poppy. Each of the five loved carnations and on a certain day each of the five had a vase of these flowers in her window.

By a strange coincidence each vase contained fifteen blooms. Also, each vase of carnations had blooms of five different colours, viz white, yellow, pink, scarlet and

crimson. Altogether there were fifteen blooms of each colour and each vase contained at least one bloom of each colour but no two colours were represented by the same number of blooms in any one vase.

Further, the number of blooms of each colour differed with each vase — no two vases having an identical number of blooms of any one colour.

The number of Marguerite's pink carna-

	Daisy	Marguerite	Ursinia	Viola	Poppy
WHITE					
YELLOW					
PINK					
SCARLET					
CRIMSON					
TOTALS	15	15	15	15	15

tions was twice the number of Viola's scarlet carnations but only half the number of Daisy's white blooms. Ursinia had the greatest number of crimson blooms and Poppy had the least number of this colour.

If Poppy had given Marguerite two of her white carnations they would each have had an equal number of this colour. Viola had more white flowers than Ursinia but less scarlet blooms than Daisy. Ursinia had one more pink bloom than she had scarlet.

If Marguerite had two more yellow flowers than she had crimson blooms and Poppy's yellow flowers exceeded Viola's white flowers in number, how many of each colour had each of the five girls?

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 13 August. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 6 September. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 296' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Send your answers by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 296' label to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

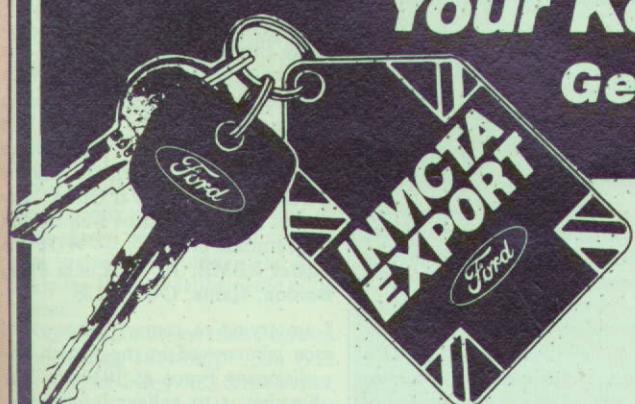
**Correction:** Competition 294 'Rare Wines' contained an error in the diagram; vertical row E should have been the extreme right-hand row (the letters were not meant to correspond to a numerical sequence). Apologies.

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# MAIL DROP

## OCCUPATION?

In your editorial on the Falkland Islands (31 May), there is an assumption that British action was taken purely in the interests of democracy and freedom. It is my belief that the main issue at stake has been national prestige.

Argentina has been a right-wing military dictatorship for many years now, yet far from standing up for democratic principles Britain has constantly supported the regime and supplied them with arms. Only when these arms were used against her did Britain decide to defend democracy.

Furthermore, Britain herself has a long tradition of invading and occupying and continues today to occupy areas of Ireland (notably Fermanagh and Tyrone) with a population much larger than that of the Falklands which has consistently shown through the ballot-box its desire to be freed from British rule. The determination shown by soldiers in recovering distant lands they regard as their property will always be matched, or even exceeded, by the determination of those who strive to regain possession of the land on which they actually live.

My purpose in writing this letter is that readers might question the morality of patriotism as a motivation for warfare, and try to understand the aspirations of other peoples, not least those of their closest neighbour.

— L. Megahey, 112 Earlswood Road, Ballyhackamore, Belfast 4, N. Ireland.

## DECENT

As willing as the public is to contribute to the Falkland Disaster Fund, I feel that it is simply not on! The Government should now do the honourable thing and not only pay a decent pension to dependants of those killed but also bring home the bodies so that loved ones may be able to visit their graves. — Peter McCauley, 3 Camborne Avenue, Woolton, Liverpool L25.

*The South Atlantic Fund was established as a charitable fund and not as a substitute for official state and occupational pensions. — Ed*

## WRAC SUPPORT

I feel I must apologise to Colonel Bashford for my previous letter (17 March) which was stronger than intended — probably because I am fanatical in regard to all matters Army.

I support the WRAC because I married one, from the finest bunch of Service girls ever put together under the Command of Captain E. McCowie WRAC at 18 Training Brigade RA Oswestry. What a crowd! I have never felt such a feeling of comradeship since those days. This lass of Richmond Hill has supported me for twenty-eight years, and when I became ill four years ago became even more supportive, so I feel I owe the WRAC something and support



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

## LEST WE...

Having served in Egypt with 9 Medium Wireless Troop, Royal Signals from 1951 to 1954, I read, with renewed hope, Col Newton's letter (14 June).

He is correct in saying there must be few survivors of the Canal Zone era still alive and I might add there must be even fewer who are still serving. Being one of the latter, my hope is that even after 30 years of 'official' non-recognition we might be given some acknowledgement.

I understand that one of the objections to the issue of a medal was that we were not considered to have been on active service during those hostilities. This I find very difficult to believe as it can be found that an entry on a Regimental Conduct Sheet of any soldier who was in the Canal Zone at this time and of course merited such an entry, would have WOAS (while on active service) written as part of the charge. What further proof is needed?

It really is time our contribution was recognised before there are no survivors at all. — WO2 Brian A. Cumming, Station Staff Office, Minden, BFPO 29.

## FORGET

An old school friend of mine was killed during the Suez crisis in 1952 and I have never been able to understand why his service has never been recognised in the normal way with a campaign medal.

It is certainly not too late to rectify matters and issue a belated clasp to the General Service medal. As well as the Military and Naval General Service Medals of 1848, one can mention the 1927 Mashonaland clasp issued with the 1890 British South Africa Company's Medal and the Canada General Service Medal struck in 1899 for the Fenian Raids of 1866.

In all the euphoria of the Falklands victory, these old soldiers of thirty years ago, who did so much to defend what was left of our Empire should not be forgotten. — Major A. F. Flatow TD, 45 Berrylands, Surbiton, Surrey, KT5 8JU.

them whenever I can. As I do the rest of the Army.

People of the calibre of Colonel Bashford are the backbone of the Army, and anyone who can compose a march of the quality of his march on 'Visions' deserves kinder treatment. I envy him his stereo unit — nylon rubbing indeed — the mind boggles! — A. Higginbottom, 35 Bridge View, Milford, Belper, Derbyshire, DE5 0RG.

## JOYFUL TIDINGS

I am an old soldier, given to living in the past, and one of my hobbies is contacting old soldiers who served in the same regiments as myself. When I am successful I invite them into a cassette syndicate (20 of us at present) and we swap news and stories, past and present.

I enlisted in May 1933 into the 2nd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment and transferred the following year to the first battalion. After six years in India my time expired and I was placed on Z reserve, only to be recalled to Colours in 1939. We were sent to Palestine to reinforce the 2nd Bn and fought with Wavell's forces on the Western Desert.

In 1942 I returned to England attached as a signaller to the 188 Field Regt Artillery. Cliff Britten, ex-Everton and ex-England footballer, was PT instructor. This regiment was stationed in Margate in civilian billets, I at 'Joy House' in 'Joy Lane'. When the regiment disbanded 1943, I was transferred to the 6th Bn KOSB, 15th Scottish Div ('D' Day landings).

I would dearly like to hear from anyone who served in any of these units.

My profound thanks to the Warrant Officer who introduced me to SOLDIER. It has given me a new lease of life, as for the past year or two I have been housebound. — Stan Leaning, 5 Tetley Road, Scunthorpe, S. Humberside, DN16 1PN.

## DEROGATORY

I am most grateful to Mr D. J. Richardson (Mail Drop 11 Jan) and Mr Peter Redman (22 Feb) for supporting me in defence of the late Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck.

But in their enthusiasm, both have again used the words "historic sacking by Churchill", the very words to which I had objected. 'Sacking' is a derogatory word in this case especially as the move involved a normal transfer from one appointment (C-in-C MEF) to another (C-in-C Indian Army). He was not dismissed from service. I wonder why none of the ex-British Indian Army officers have come forward to support me or to defend their ex-Commander-in-Chief.

SOLDIER has a worldwide circulation (advertisers please note) and as the result of my letter (16 Nov) I have been flooded with letters for various reasons. These letters are from collectors of Indian Army mili-

taria (past and present), from pen pals and dear old dames who spent the best years of their life in India. One old lady wants me to put some flowers on her husband's grave. I have even received a gift subscription to SOLDIER and a gift of £5 to have a drink.

At 78 (although postage is a problem for me) I am having a wonderful time in answering their correspondence. — Major Gian Singh, Block 6-36 Jangpura-B, Mathura Road, New Delhi 110014, India.

## HUGE BENEFIT

I feel I have benefited hugely from my Army training and RAMC experiences during my 10-year stint from 1936-46.

Becoming a male nurse, I served in many hospitals at home and overseas, with Polish, Egyptian, South African, and other medical units, and my contacts with the Forces of many other countries broadened my outlook as only Service life can, and fitted me admirably for my post-war career of medical journalism.

Being often published both here and in American medical literature, and sometimes commissioned to do special features requiring deep and thorough research, I'm well satisfied with my neck of the civvy street woods — so thank you RAMC and all those personnel who encouraged me to be serious and enthusiastic about my medical work and training. — Norman F. Thornton, 2 Churchway Cottages, Hereford, HR1 1LL.

## Can You Help?

Does anyone know the whereabouts of Cpl John Beatles who was in the 4th Queen's stationed at Warminster in 1969-70 or does anyone remember me from the 2 Queen's? I was Pte M. Bird, 25 Aberforth Drive, Birchwood, Lincoln.

I am trying to piece together the equipment history of the Army Fire Service up to 1945. I should be grateful if any readers who were wartime members of Army Fire Brigades and Army Fire Fighting Companies can help with the loan of photos or with recollections. I am also interested in wartime vehicles of the National Fire Service, a number of which were based on military vehicle chassis purchased from the War Office. Any photos loaned would be well treated and returned promptly. — WO1 B. S. Baxter REME, 107 St Lucia Park, Bordon, Hants, GU35 0LD.

I am trying to contact officers and men who served in the British Expeditionary Force of 1939-40. The objective is to collect information about service in Lord Gort's army by putting personal reminiscences on tape. If any of your readers would be interested in the possibility of being interviewed they should contact me at the Museum, Lambeth Road, London, SE1 6HZ. — Dr C. Wood, Dept of Sound Records, Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London, SE1 6HZ.

I am trying to trace an old friend of mine. His name was John Hodgson, and he joined the Army in 1941-42 and made it his career after the war, either in the RE or RASC. His birthday is on 12 June and the last addresses I have for him are Crescent Road and Acklam Road, Middlesbrough.

— **Mrs Joan Daley (nee Parry), 3 Harwell Close, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, TS4 3DH.**

I am trying to trace an Army friend of mine, Charles Hibberd, who was a driver in the Royal Artillery with me. We served in Egypt in the early 1930s. We were then posted to the British Fort near Khartoum in 1933 for fourteen months when we returned to our Regiment in Egypt, The Second Pack. In 1935 we were posted to the UK to undertake a vocational training course at Buller Barracks, Aldershot. We completed the course then were placed on B reserve in 1936. Charles Hibberd and I still remained firm friends; his home address at this period of time was No 1 Ladbroke Grove, Kensington. In August 1939 we were recalled to the colours, but I never knew where my friend was posted. Should Charles Hibberd have survived the war, I would like to contact him. — **Sid Francis, 52 Middlemoor Road, Frimley, Camberley, Surrey, GU16 4BU.**

I am trying to locate my old friend Frank Chadwick, 1 Cheshire from Warrington, Lancs. The last time I heard from him he was a WO2; he might even have left the Army by now. — **John Whittingham, 102 Summit Ave, Solvay, New York 13209, USA.**

Would any relatives or comrades of Cpl Sydney (Basher) Bates VC (1944) please contact: **Mr Tom Bates, 120 Hillcrest Road, Berkeley, California 94705, USA.**

I am an ex-member of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards and am trying to compile an immediate pre-1939 history of the regiment. Do any readers have pre-1950 copies of the regiment's regimental journal? — **S M Low, 37 Strathbeg Place, Dundee, DD5 3HQ.**

A large brown simulated leather suitcase containing items of military clothing and sports wear has been found in Morden St, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The only identification is a web belt on which is stamped in red 2024 McGuiness. The case is held at **AC10 Newcastle, 7 Ridley Place, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE1 8JA.**

I am researching my family's military history and would be grateful if any readers could lend me photographs of the following units taken between the dates shown which is when my relatives served in the units. The name following the unit is the name of my relative.

5th Battalion Royal Irish Regiment from 19 Aug 1914 until 3 Jun 1919, Pte William Foley; 422 Siege Battery RGA from 21 Apr 1917 until 8 Jun 1917, No 3 Depot from 9 Jun 1917 to 15 Aug 1917, 244 Siege Battery from 2 Feb 1918 to 19 Mar 1918, 108 Siege Battery 7 Apr 1918 to 2 Jun 1918, Gunner Harry Packer; 3rd Bn Monmouth Regt from 13 May 1929 to 4 Mar 1930, 2 Bn South Wales Borderers from 5 Sep 1930 to 12 Feb 1932, 1 Bn SWB from 12 Feb 1932 to

10 Dec 1937, 2 Bn SWB from 2 Sep 1939 to 8 Jan 1946, Pte Patrick Norris; 159 (Welsh) Field Ambulance RAMC from 13 Jun 1939 to 1 Feb 1946, Staff Sgt Phillip Coshin; 164 Railway Operating Coy RE from 14 Nov 1942 to 12 Jun 1946, Driver Harry Packer.

I wish to have copies made of photographs and then they will be returned. — **Gary Packer, 17 Tanyrrallt Road, Clydach, Swansea, SA6 5JQ.**

## Collectors' Corner

P J Maleczek, Valletta, Beach Road, St Saviour, Jersey, CI. Wants to purchase Polish militaria especially metal/enamel unit badges, WW2 period.

J B Stephenson, 29 Rectory Row, Sedgefield, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland, TS21 2AF. Wishes to purchase Army Service Corps, Edward VII officer's enamelled cap badge and collars to match, also Edward VII ORs cap badge. Also wants spare scabbards for British Commando knife and Dutch commando knife. Also Argentine military combat/survival knife and scabbard. All must be in good condition.

Peter Garraty, PO Box 67, Truro, South Australia 5356. Wishes to obtain home counties brigade cap and collar badges 1948-68.

Mr A C North, 30 Preston St, Timaru, South Island, New Zealand. Wishes to purchase DPM cap as worn in Belize, new if possible, head size 24 inches. Also copies of 'Silver Bugle', 'Pegasus', 'Mars and Minerva', and 'Globe & Laurel'.

2 Lt J B Gatosky, 7 The Link, Fulford, York, YO1 4LB. Requires any items of Warsaw Pact forces issue kit. Insignia, clothing, personal effects etc. Send description and price.

W Wiggins, 12 Southlea, Cliddesden, Basingstoke, Hants, RG24 2JN. Seeks officers' cap badges, silver-plated with enamel K/C & Q/C of the Royal Hampshire Regiment.

## Pen Pals

My name is Lizzie and I'm 19 years old. I'm an unmarried mum with a little boy. All letters answered. — **Elizabeth Adlem, 2 Rose Terrace, Gills Lane, South Dartford, Dartford, Kent.**

My name is Jennifer and I am 33 years old. I am 5ft 1 inch tall with brown hair and blue eyes. I am a typist and my hobbies are writing, reading, stamps, postcards, travel. — **J A Sadler, 1 Bushy Road, Fetcham, Leatherhead, Surrey.**

My name is Jacqueline and I am 24 years old. I am 5ft 8ins tall with short brown hair and blue eyes. I am a nursery nurse in a local maternity hospital. I enjoy travelling, walking, camping, music and dancing. I would like to write to someone aged 24-30 with similar interests. Photos if possible. — **Miss Jacqueline Common, 50 Glebe Avenue, Grappenhall, Warrington, WA4 2SQ.**

## Reunions

The Annual Reunion of the Royal Regiment of Wales (24th/41st Foot) Regimental Association will be held in Brecon on the weekend of 4/5 September 1982. Accommodation

free. Ex-members of the South Wales Borderers, The Welch Regiment, The Monmouthshire Regiment and The Royal Regiment of Wales wishing to attend should write now for particulars to the Assistant Regimental Secretary, RHQ The Royal Regiment of Wales (Brecon Office), The Barracks, Brecon. Tel: Brecon 3111 ext 310.

**PWO Sgts Dining Club.** The annual dinner will take place on Sat 24 July 1982 in the WOs & Sgt's Mess, 1 PWO, Picton Bks, Bulford Camp, Wilts. 7.30pm for 8.00pm. AGM at 1800 hrs. Enquiries to: WO2 P Milner, 1 PWO, Picton Bks, Bulford Camp, Wilts.

**Princess Marina College, Arborfield Old Boys' Association.** It is proposed to hold a grand reunion over the weekend 16/17 October 1982. All members and those eligible for membership (ie former apprentices and members of staff) are cordially invited to attend. Full details can be obtained by writing to the Hon Sec OBA at the College. — **H Shaw, Princess Marina College, Arborfield, Reading, Berks.**

**The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's) Regimental Annual Reunion Dinner.** will take place at 8pm on Saturday 11 September 1982, at Whittington Bks, Lichfield, Staffs, WS14 9PY. Tickets available from RHQ at same address, £3 each in advance.

**The Armoured Trials and Development Unit annual reunion** for past and present members and their wives and friends is to be held at Bovington Camp on Thursday 29th July at

8.00pm. The reunion will consist of a buffet supper followed by dancing. For further details and tickets please contact: SO2 (Co-ord), ATDU, Bovington Camp, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 6LT.

## Competition

There was a disappointing number of entries for Competition 292, 'Old Tom' — in fact the lowest number since before last Christmas. Perhaps it was the deliberately confusing descriptions of the family relationships that put you off. Anyway, you were asked to find everybody's age and the answers were *Old Tom* — 69, *Jack* — 33, *Tom* — 36, *Tom* — 13, *Dick* — 11, *Harry* — 9, *Alice* — 14, *May* — 12, *June* — 10. Prizewinners were: 1st L/Cpl S J McCullough, QM TECH, 16 Sig Regt, BFPO 35; 2nd Maj D L S Langley (Retd), Heath House, Aylesmeare, Exeter, Devon; 3rd Maj G P Kerruish, HQ Wales, The Barracks, Brecon LD3 7EA; 4th Mrs M Staniford, 16 Eaton Cres, Oakengates, Salop; 5th Miss K M Chopping Flat 3, 39 Wilbury Road, Hove, E Sussex, BN3 3PB.

## How Observant Are You? (see page 23)

1 "Y" of "WAY"; 2 Depth of SPACE RESERVED notice; 3 Newspaper pages of man second from right; 4 Arrow on "WAY OUT" sign; 5 Sleeper fifth from right; 6 Leg of soldier on steps; 7 Skirt of left woman; 8 Tie of boy; 9 Lower left brick of platform; 10 Bag of woman next to soldier.

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# On the Record

## with Rodney Bashford

Band and Drums of 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment.

Conductor: Bandmaster R A Ely. Music Masters. MM 0588.

In an accompanying letter Mr Ely says "this is, unbelievably, the first disc made by this band, and probably the last, since we will be effectively disbanded in 1984-85". I doubt it Mr Ely, I doubt it. Not the disbandment, but it being your last disc.

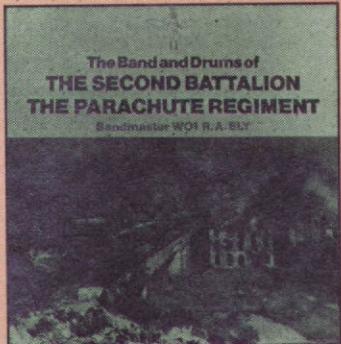
Although this one celebrates 2 Para's past exploits with such titles as *A Bridge Too Far*, from the film about Arnhem's bridge, *Major General John Frost*, a Flemish officer's tribute to the then commanding officer, *Drummitie*, a fine new march by Mr Ely to commemorate those who died at Warrenpoint, and *Bruneval Raid*, another by Mr Ely to celebrate this year's fortieth anniversary of C Company's exploit, there will be present and future heroes and place names to celebrate.

Like the heroes themselves, bandmasters and ex-bandmasters always rise to the occasion. I myself have already finished 'Goose Green Galop' and have started on 'A Falkland Fan-

fare'. Mr Ely being no mean composer will be having inspirations for a march called simply 'H', and without doubt for an extended 'Port Stanley Rhapsody'. Genuine composers and what are known in the business as band nutters are, even as I write, scribbling away at Darwin Dances, South Atlantic Symphonies, San Carlos Cantatas.

In the meantime readers could do no better than buy this one, for in addition to those items mentioned above we have two very fine marches in Leemans' *March of the Belgian Parachutists* and Charles Williams's *Blue Devils*, two solo items in Gounod's *Ave Maria* (euphonium) and Herb Alpert's *Rise* (trumpet), an interesting *Bohemian Rhapsody*, and a tongue-in-cheek medley of *Sousa* and *Alford marches*.

All well and professionally played except, of all things, the *Regimental Slow March* (Pomp and Circumstance No 4) which is taken at a non-marchable tempo. In fact with *Ride of the Valkyries* as their quick march the Regiment was ill advised when, in the late 1940s, they chose



Wagner and later Elgar to march to. Bandmasters do the job so much better than the masters.

From Bandmaster, 2 Para, Bruneval Bks, Aldershot, price £4.75 if collected or £5.50 including p&p. Cassette available.

### In Concert

*Band of the King's Regiment. Conductor: Bandmaster P G Smith. DR 47.* Apart from one item — the ubiquitous *My Fair Lady* — here is a collection of music either new to the recorded repertory or much overdone in pre-electric times but never since. The old piccolo duet *Two Little Finches* and Strauss's *Perpetuum Mobile* both come up fresh as daisies but

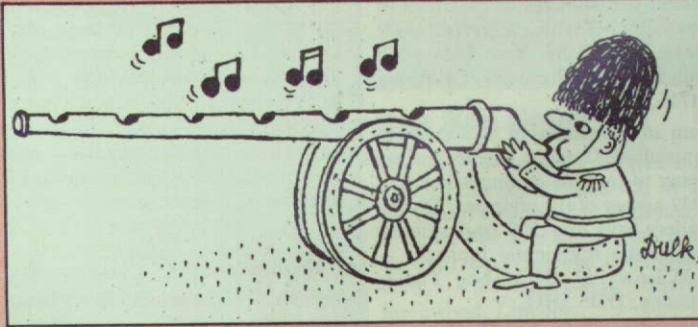
prove the old saying "know your limitations — and stay within them". Perhaps Mr Smith is too young a bandmaster to have learnt this one yet, and that the microphone is a hard taskmaster not to be confronted with anything but complete respect, if not downright servility. Those two items and Walton's *Spitfire Prelude* suffer from dawdling tempos which rob them of their original vitality.

Only in the marches and modern numbers does the band anything like come into its own. These are *The Hanoverian* by Terry Kenny and Mr Smith's *Ladysmith*, not a husbandly gesture but named after the Regiment's chief battle honour. *Interludium* and a suite *Reflections of This Time* both hail from Holland, while *Gentlemen's Agreement* is by a local Osnabruck worthy and features the cornets and trombones. *Brazilian Bombshell* is also by Terry Kenny in his alter ego, and the regimental



quickstep *The Kingsman* ends the proceedings.

From Bandmaster, The King's Regt, BFPO 36, £4.50 plus p&p.



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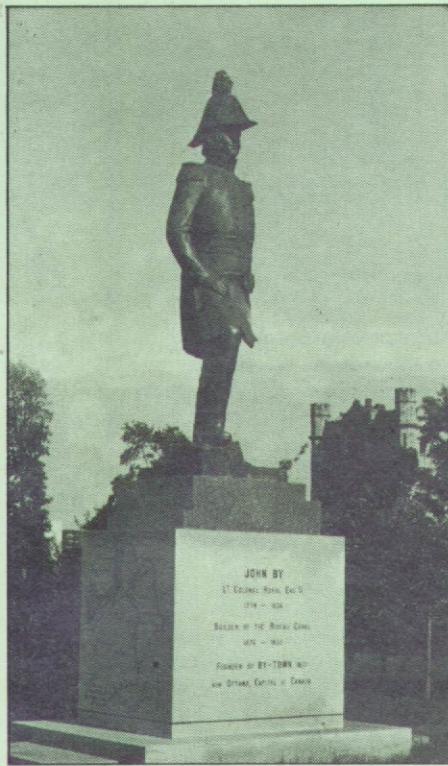
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**CHEQUE/PO NO** .....

**Ottawa celebrates an important anniversary this month and remembers the Royal Engineer who made it possible . . .**



Ottawa's founder stands proudly near his canal.

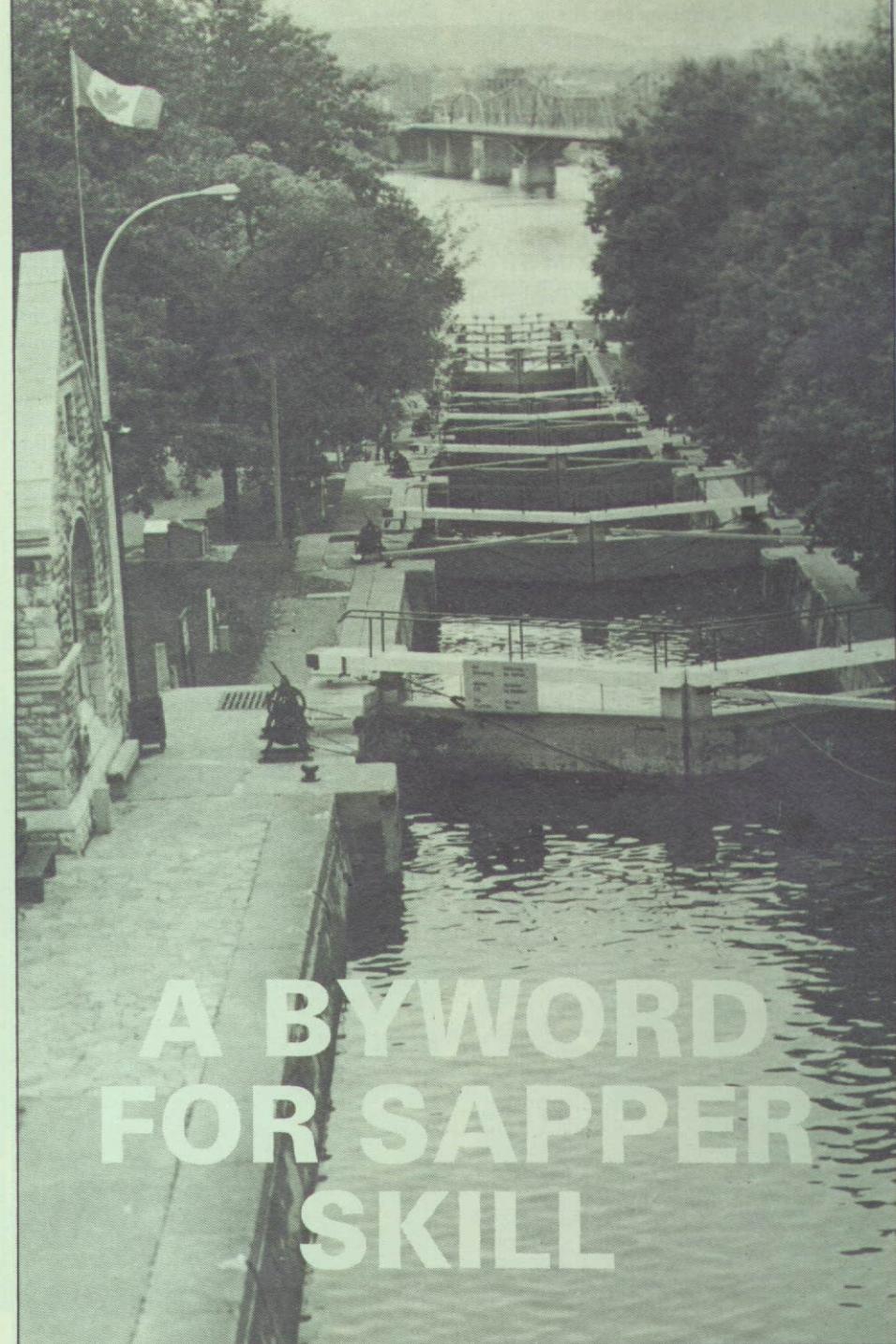
AS OTTAWA CELEBRATES the 150th anniversary this month of the completion of its 123½-mile-long Rideau Canal, they will remember the name of the 47-year-old Royal Engineers lieutenant-colonel who went out to Canada to mastermind its construction, to found their city and help secure it from attack and yet returned to Britain to face Parliamentary censure over the cost of this defensive waterway.

Today, the statue of Lieutenant-Colonel John By, Royal Engineers, stands alone in Major's Hill Park, Ottawa, overlooking the start of the canal which has 47 locks grouped round 23 lock stations along its length to Lake Ontario. The memorial, put up by the Historical Society of Ottawa, was unveiled in August 1971 in a ceremony at which the Royal Engineers from Chatham provided the guard of honour.

The Rideau Canal came into being after the Duke of Wellington, in 1819, had advocated an adequate defence system for the then British North America.

Only seven years earlier, the defenders of British North America had been hard pressed to repel the invaders from the United States. It was decided that existing defences had to be improved upon.

The main difficulty was in the provisioning of Upper Canada, now Ontario. A series of rapids between Montreal and Lake Ontario along the St Lawrence River — the straightest route — made it an expensive



and difficult journey.

Part of the river which formed the international boundary with its southerly neighbour was within range of the American guns. An alternative artery was needed.

A survey had revealed that the best route would be up the Ottawa River from Montreal to the mouth of the Rideau River, then south along an Indian canoe trail, the Rideau River, the Rideau Lakes and then along another river to the Royal Navy base at Kingston on Lake Ontario.

In 1826, Lieutenant-Colonel By, a former gunner (he was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in August 1799 but transferred to the Royal Engineers four months later) was sent out into what contemporary accounts called "the wilderness of Upper Canada" to supervise the building of the waterway. He reported to a Colonel Durnford who was in charge of the Royal Engineers in Canada.

It was Lt-Col By's second visit to Canada.

Rideau Canal with locks flanking the Museum.

He had served there from 1802-10 with the Royal Engineers' Establishment in Quebec before campaigning in Portugal, as a captain, under the Duke of Wellington during the Peninsular War, where he used his acumen and experience as an engineer in fortifications.

During his first tour in Canada, Lt-Col By had built up a reputation for construction in Canada by improving Quebec's fortifications, reconstructing a canal and supervising the building of martello towers as defences.

Between tours across the Atlantic, young By had been put in charge of the Ordnance Mills but defence cuts were in vogue even in those days and By found himself put on half-pay.

The second son of a London customs officer, John By was promoted to lieutenant-colonel on December 2, 1824. He arrived in Quebec in the spring of 1826 with the task of building the canal which had originally been planned as a small barge

*continued on page 42*

Story: Graham Smith  
Pictures: Doug Pratt

canal. Lt-Col By implemented a system of larger locks with a minimum length of 134 feet and a width of 33 feet incorporating a five-and-a-half-foot draught to cater for a generation of new steamers on the Great Lakes.

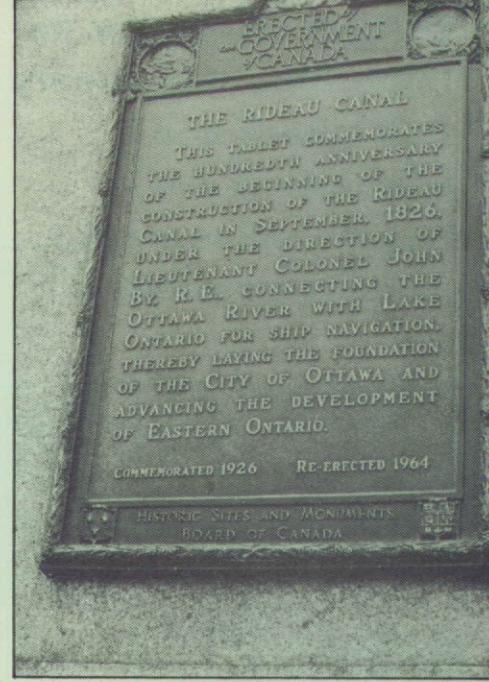
He had set up a temporary headquarters in Montreal and studied the latest surveys. He also met the Governor of Canada, Lord Dalhousie. Just four days later, on a grassy

slope overlooking the Chaudière Falls, it was decided that a series of bridges should be built using a group of islands in the path of the Falls as natural piers for the bridge.

The project was contracted out privately but supervised by Colonel By and his fellow sappers. Indigenous French-Canadians and Irish immigrant workers provided the labour force and some lost their lives including a few who contracted malaria on a swampy lake.

Tents gave way to barracks and a hospital for Colonel By's men and today that location is known as Parliament Hill. The Commissariat and Store is now the Bytown Museum, containing much of the memorabilia connected with the colonel including a writing table, two armchairs, a bookcase, two 9-inch Sterling silver tablespoons and his massive trunk from the Peninsular War which had turned up in a tailor's shop at Frant, near Tunbridge Wells.

On September 25, 1826, the first sod of A plaque outside the Commissariat Building. Canadian recognition of Col By's achievement. Bytown Museum: memories of a British sapper.



the canal was turned and almost a year later to the same day, Lord Dalhousie performed the ceremony of laying a three-ton corner stone. The canal was opened in the summer of 1832.

Though there were moments of festivity during the various stages of the canal's progress — once, a whole ox was prepared and roasted — Colonel By had to overcome many difficulties. There were setbacks such as the sickness among his men and a constant struggle to keep costs down among his three main contractor firms.

Annals show that he greatly appreciated the work of his officers and men. He also recommended "that all who wished it, after the work was completed, should be granted 100 acres of land."

Shrewdly, he also calculated that this gesture would deter any thoughts of desertion from the project!

Lieutenant-Colonel By's name still lives on. Plaques with his name take pride of place in downtown Ottawa, the nucleus of what was formerly a settlement called, very aptly, Bytown.

The canal completed, Colonel By was recalled to England. But there were no bouquets waiting for him — just brickbats for his endeavours from Parliament who cribbed at the £800,000 cost of the six-year project.

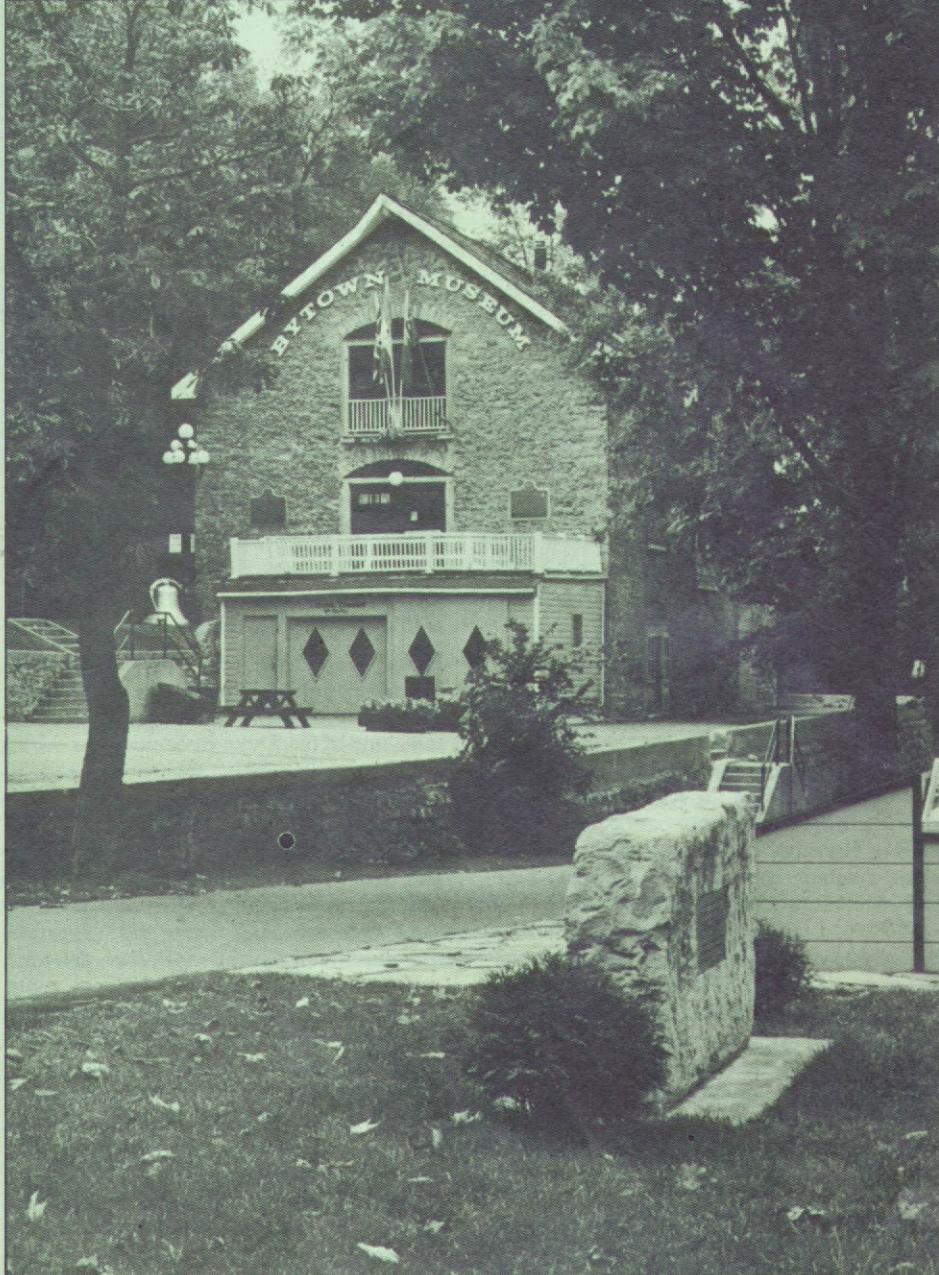
Recently elected under the first Reform Bill, MPs wanted to show publicly their reforming objectives and the Colonel had to go before a Parliamentary inquiry into his activities.

Close investigation absolved him from any allegations of mis-management. But he was not honoured. The Canadians, however, regarded him as "zealous and distinguished in his profession".

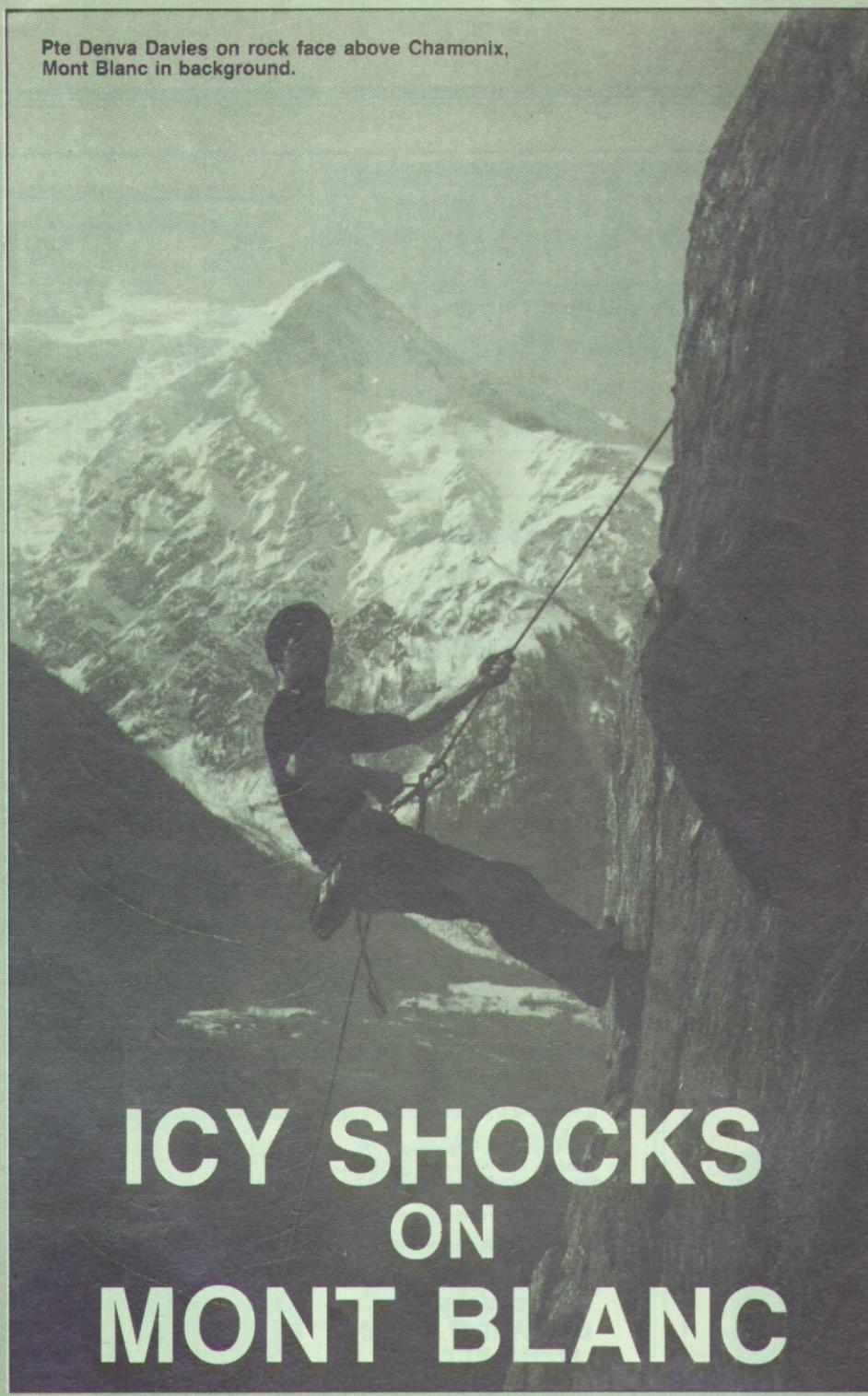
Four years later, the man who had left Canada and his achievement with a "heart full of emotion", was dead. He was 56 and succumbed after a long and painful illness.

He lies buried at Frant, where his headstone records that his death was "brought on by an indefatigable zeal and devotion to the service of his King and country in Upper Canada".

This summer, Ottawa will honour a sapper from Britain who has left them a major historical tourist attraction. ■

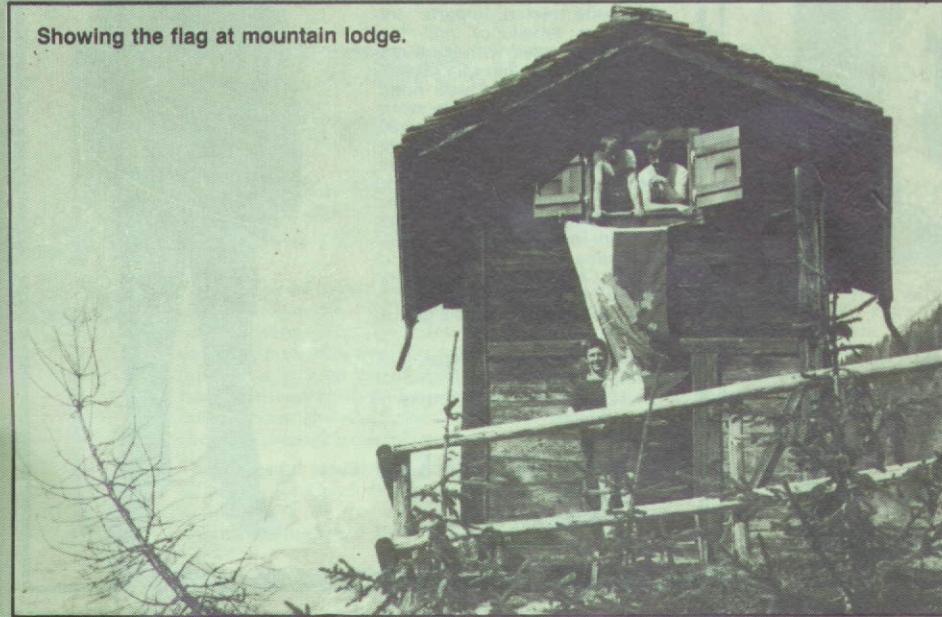


Pte Denva Davies on rock face above Chamonix, Mont Blanc in background.



## ICY SHOCKS ON MONT BLANC

Showing the flag at mountain lodge.



## Ski Mountaineering trip nearly ends in tragedy

THE MOUNTAINEERING Welshmen from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, based at Aldershot, may have had their setbacks and nail-biting dramas high on the slopes of snow-clad Mont Blanc, Europe's highest mountain, but they have pledged to go back there again next year.

They were taking part in Exercise Snow Dragon (SOLDIER 8 March) with the aim of crossing the fickle-climated peak from France into Switzerland via Italy. But it did not turn out that way.

Three personal dramas and a rescue bid of a French couple thwarted the group of six who were led by Major Alun Davies, OC of 'C' Company, a veteran of the famous Zaire River Expedition of a few years ago.

One of their number suffered from altitude sickness, the second-in-command fell into a crevasse — but lived to laugh about it later — while a third member, Corporal John Penny of the anti-tank platoon, slipped, fell and hurtled down 500 feet of snow and ice in about 30 seconds. Miraculously, he survived to tell the tale.

The incident involving the luckless Corporal Penny happened when the team decided to ski down a certain slope. He slipped and never regained his balance, parting company eventually with skis and sticks.

Major Davies said he saw Corporal Penny "cartwheeling" past him. The corporal tried to stabilise himself and regain his balance but hit other snow hummocks to start cartwheeling again.

"I seriously thought he would be killed," said Major Davies. "He seemed to be digging his nails and teeth into the snow, as it were. He hit rocks and was catapulted into the air. It was a mortifying sight. The guide and I found him prostrate. His arms had been cut very badly. He had gone over a cliff and finished up 30 feet from a crevasse."

Eventually, Major Davies — the team's first aid specialist — and the guide managed to get Corporal Penny down to the valley floor.

"Bravely, very bravely, Corporal Penny managed to ski downwards again though falling over incessantly from tiredness and shock," said Major Davies. "In the end, the expedition did not achieve its original objective but we did cross the haute route at 14,000 feet. The whole team did extremely well."

They also came to the rescue of a Frenchman and his wife, the latter just sitting and suffering from hypothermia. The soldier skiers lent them warm clothing and gave them a drink of hot coffee.

Major Davies pledged that RRW would be back on Mont Blanc next year to achieve what blizzards, avalanches, icy slopes and other elements had denied them this year.

He said: "You expect avalanches, you expect crevasses and the idea is to be trained to deal with them. Our thanks go to UKLF who provided us with £500 of avalanche 'leepers' which are used in the case of hazards." ■

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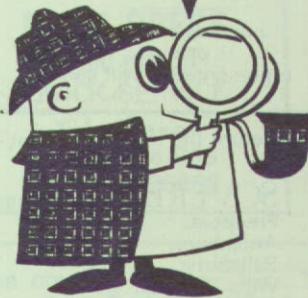
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## Wanted

Private collector wishes to purchase RMP and Guards peaked caps. RMP shoulder badges and Guards grey overcoat.

Del Pontin, Brighton 0273 691172. Au pair wanted Madrid Sep 82 until Summer 83. Ideal for well-educated young lady who wishes to learn Spanish.

Major Pepper, 1 JLB, Shorncliffe Mil 0303 39541 Ext 2241.

# Nomads take on Killers

A BRILLIANT THREE game series totalling just 62 darts — best of the contest so far — has made Nomads of Cyprus firm favourites for the SOLDIER darts trophy.

They needed to be at peak form too, for their opponents — Vehrte CC — finished in 65 darts and were only beaten two legs to one.

Nomads' scores of 24-18-20 included no fewer than six 140s.

For unlucky Vehrte, who returned 20-21-24, Lance-Corporal John Radcliffe notched two 140s and a ton.

It will be small consolation for Vehrte that their score would have beaten either of the other two semi-finalists, Kolsas Killers from Norway or the Hawks from Hohne.

As it was, the men from Norway go through, their 25-24-21 series proving too good for Hawks' 26-26-25.

The Killers chalked up several tons and there was a 120 finish from Sergeant B Morgan. Hawks meanwhile, for the second round running, had no member scoring less than 50 in any visit to the board and Lance-Corporal Geoff Duxbury had one of the contest's few 'maximums' — but to no avail.

So after five rounds and thousands of darts, there are just two teams left to battle it out for the SOLDIER/Ben Truman trophy — Nomads and Kolsas Killers.

Whoever wins, there will be individual replicas for both teams and some of that famous Ben Truman ale too. And we shall be carrying the full story of the final in our issue of 23 August.



FINAL

## MODERN PENTATHLON

# Easy win for Mumford

CAPTAIN MIKE MUMFORD, currently the only military member of Britain's Olympic Modern Pentathlon squad, took the Army title with some ease in the championships held around Arborfield. But a civilian guest competitor pipped him by just two points.

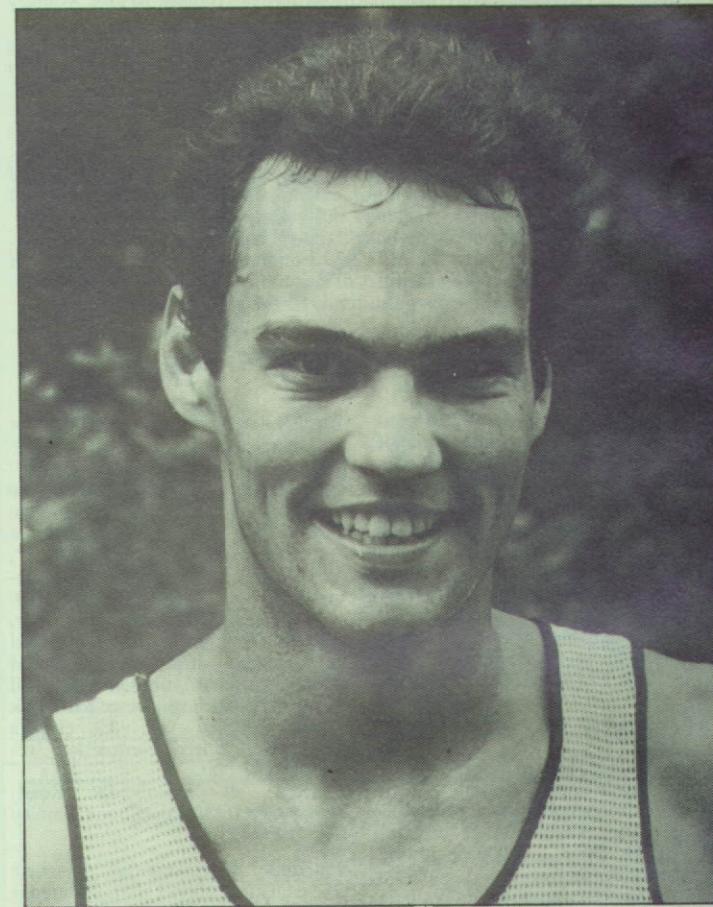
Captain Mumford, who was heading the first ever sapper team to compete in the championships, notched up 5431 points. Based in Berlin with 38 Field Squadron RE, he said he had been quite pleased with his performance apart from his shooting. "I have just not spent enough time on the range," he confessed.

The four days of the event had been punctuated by the occasional fierce storm and intermittent drizzle. Fortunately most of the worst weather came during the indoor events.

Captain Mumford, whose best event is swimming, has been training hard at fencing since he went to Berlin. "The strength of your pentathlon lies in your weakest event which in my case is fencing. Since I have been in Berlin my fencing has really come up and it is now one of my stronger events."

Now the sapper captain, who is also Inter-Services champion, goes on to the World Championships in August.

The team event was won by REME (Corporals Pete Whiteside and Peter Hart and Lance-Corporal Christopher Younger). Lieutenant I Fairclough, also



REME, took the Intermediate title.

New junior champion is Trooper Julian Convery, of the Life Guards, who came 21st overall with 3901 points. Convery, who is 20, is now stationed

at Arborfield with the Army's modern pentathlon squad.

"I felt I was a bit under par this week," he told SOLDIER. "But my aim now is to get into the top ten in the British junior championship on 22 July."

## SPORTS SHORTS

### CRICKET

The Army suffered two heavy defeats against the Free Foresters and the Civil Service. In the two day game against the Free Foresters at Chatham the visitors ran up a first innings score of 222 for 6 declared (Dove-Dixon 5 for 78). The Army replied with 183-8 declared (Bird 49). The Foresters' second outing was declared at 158-7 but the Army collapsed to 100 all out in their final knock.

No red tape bound the Civil Service openers Gooda and Jackson as they shared an opening partnership of 158 and the innings was declared at 227-6. Opener, Major Richard Brooks, was top scorer with 35 in the Army's reply of 120 all out.

### ORIENTEERING

Combining the annual Inter-

Corps orienteering championships with the premier civilian club team relay fixture led to some remarkable performances by corps teams — notably the Royal Artillery who finished 21 minutes behind the civilian winners after eight-and-a-half hours in rain and mist at Catterick. The night contest saw the Royal Engineers start well then fade away to eighth place while the Royal Signals finished well pleased with tenth spot. 38 teams took part.

★ ★ ★

### RUNNING

SI Paul 'Chips' Rafferty of the Army Physical Training Corps took the gruelling TT Course Road Race in the Isle of Man with the fastest time for three years. Paul, a member of South London Harriers, covered the 40 mile course in four hours ten minutes 0.3 seconds.

★ ★ ★

### GOLF

Captain Willy Brewin, Royal Signals, is the last 2 Armoured Division Spring Golf champion. The

Division is soon to close down and return to the UK as 2nd Infantry Division.

★ ★ ★

### ANGLING

The Army Individual Angling Championship for the Bob Coe Trophy will take place on the Thames on 1 September at Tadpole Bridge, Buckland, near Faringdon. Entry fee is £2 and closing date 15 August. Cheques/PO's payable to Army Angling Association should be sent to Major P L Emery, Princess Marina College, Arborfield, Reading, Berks.

★ ★ ★

### SAILING

Overall winners of the annual Royal Engineers Offshore Regatta held from the British Kiel Yacht Club were 35 Engineer Regiment. They held off a challenge from 26 Engineer Regiment in the event, which consists of a series of races using Contessa 28 foot yachts. Winning team was Captain Clarke, Captain Rees, Sgt Cobbett, Cpl Hill and Sgt Prendergast.

# Nobody knew they were there!

## Cricket spectators wanted

THERE WAS NOT a single spectator in the beautiful chestnut bordered garrison cricket ground at Tidworth to watch the Army's top players take on a team which included such names as Tavare, Stovold, Roebuck and Duddleston. Admittedly, with the exception of the latter, they were not the famous players of that name, but all were good enough exponents of the cricket craft to be in the Gloucestershire 2nd XI.

This is one of the ironies of Army participation in Britain's major summer game. Their opponents are of Minor Counties standard yet few turn up to watch or even seem to know about the matches.

This year's Army team includes a number of young players making their mark. Team captain, Major Richard Brooks, returning to the position after four years in Germany, has noticed a lot of difference.

"It's now a young side and lacks some of the experience which we had a few years ago. There are a lot of new young faces about but there is a lot of potential," he told SOLDIER.



Lt Tim Checketts sets about the Gloucestershire bowling.

In the Tidworth match Gloucestershire ran up a total of 175 before declaring, their last man not bothering to come out. And the Army were soon in trouble with three wickets down for only 17.

Among the casualties was young opener, Lance-Corporal Graeme Bird, of 3 Royal Anglians, who collected a duck. The Pompadour cricketer is in his second season with the Army and Combined Services sides.

"It is becoming a very popular sport again particularly since Botham hit the scene," he says. "That is why it is a bit of a

disappointment when you come to a match like this and you don't get anyone watching. You find it easier to rise to the occasion when you get a crowd."

At the end of this month Graeme hopes to achieve one of his two ambitions by playing for the Combined Services at Lords. The other is to score a century for the Army — 50 is his best innings so far.

Two other young batsmen, Lieutenant Tim Checketts (15th/19th Hussars) (40) and Lieutenant Edward Gordon-Lennox (2 Gren Guards) (24) battled away against the Gloucestershire pace

attack and took the score to 63 for the fourth wicket. And at 92 for five an Army victory looked possible. But it was not to be — a later order collapse saw the home side all out for 133.

All eyes now are on the Inter-Services Cricket Festival at Aldershot from August 9-11. Says Major Brooks: "I would think the Navy and the RAF will view us very much as outsiders again this year. But I believe we are a well balanced side. We have a variety of bowling and plenty of batsmen all capable of scoring quickly."

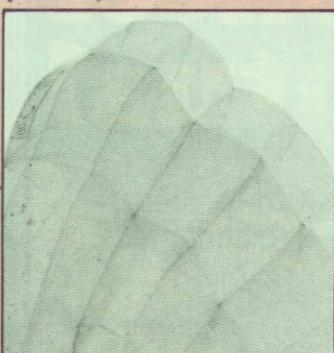
## Sky divers hit by the weather

that Scottie Milne's absence might have devalued his win. "I have beaten him once earlier this year. He might have won — he might not. It's a shame he was not here. It's what happens on the day and luck was on my side this year."

But he described the weather as "the worst I have seen in my six years at these championships. I managed only five jumps in nine days — normally you would do ten if not more."

There was a lot of frustration for competitors as they waited for winds to change or drop. Private Roy Wright, who won the individual accuracy title, told of being up at four some mornings and then standing around all day hoping for the best.

A member of the Red Devils, he decided to enter at the last minute and won his title with a GQ unit — normally reckoned to be the wrong canopy for accuracy. "I was not going to change it for the sake of accuracy as I was not planning to win it," he said.



**HIGH WINDS** and rain hit this year's Army Parachute Championships at Netheravon. Competitors managed less than half the jumps they would normally expect to make during the week long championships.

This year Sergeant 'Scottie' Milne, the new British Parachute Champion and Army individual champion on no less than seven occasions, was unable to defend his title. His successor is Lance-Corporal of Horse Steve Treble of the Life Guards.

Treble will accompany Milne and two other soldiers, Corporal Dougie Young of the Red Devils and Corporal of Horse Dave Spencer (Blues and Royals) to the world parachute championships in Czechoslovakia next month.

He dismissed any suggestion

## Peerless sailor

**MAJOR DAVID PEERLESS**, of the Royal Army Pay Corps, has regained the Army Individual dinghy championship trophy after an absence of two years from the top slot in the winner's frame.

The 1978 and 1979 champion took the 1982 title by storm, winning all four of the races in the series in convincing style with his crew, Mr Bob Voes.

Strong winds gusted up to Force 6 on the first day of the championships at Netley Sailing Club on Southampton Water, thus providing extremely tricky conditions for the fleet sailing off a lee shore into high winds and waves.

By contrast, day two brought a steady Force 2 breeze with calm seas, giving ample opportunity for some fine spinnaker runs among the fleet of Bosun dinghies.

Second came Staff-Sergeant Bill Scullion with his crew, Apprentice Tradesman Robert Jardine (both Royal Engineers).

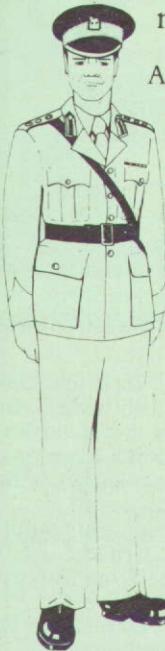


New champion, L/C of H Steve Treble.

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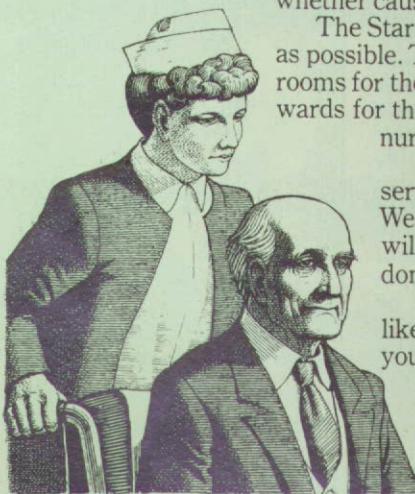
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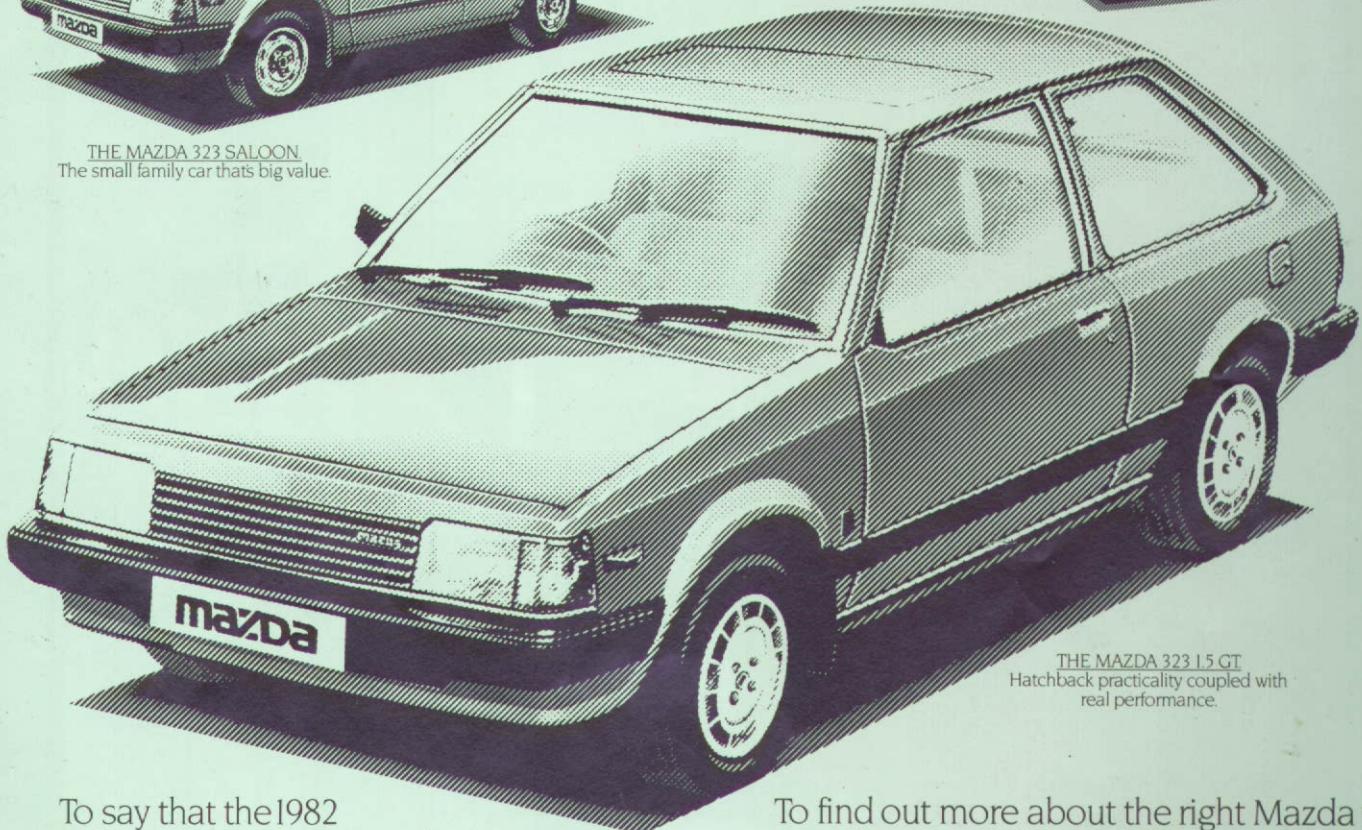
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