

Soldier

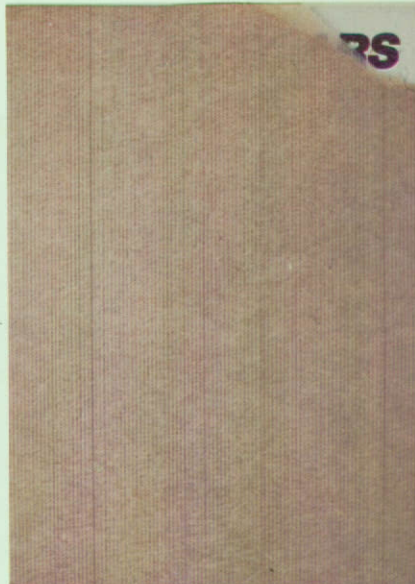
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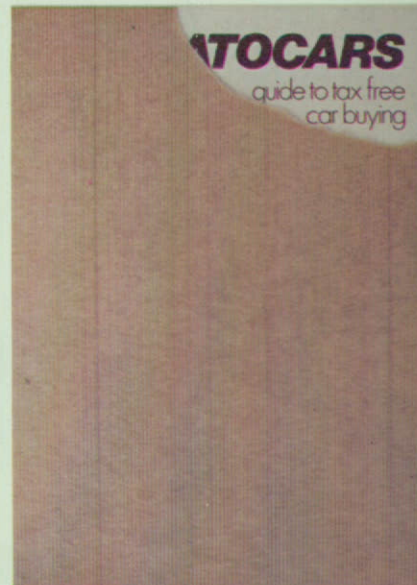




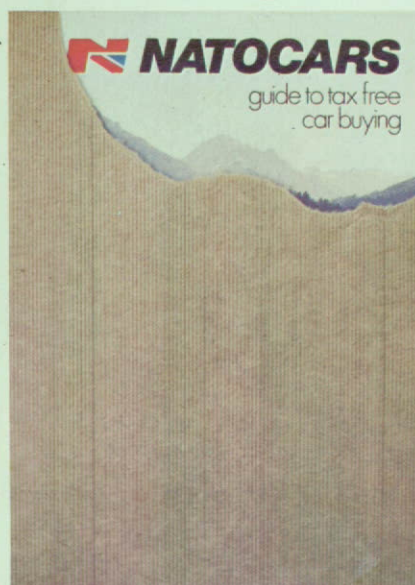
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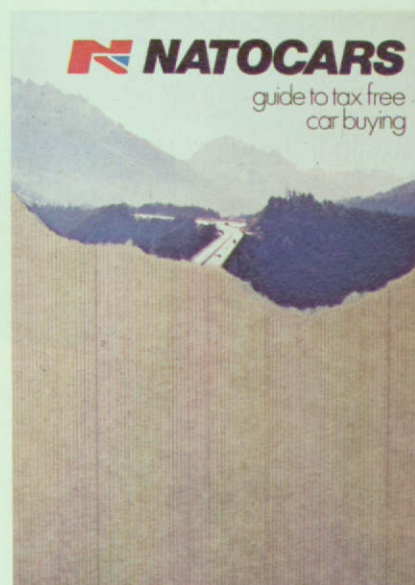
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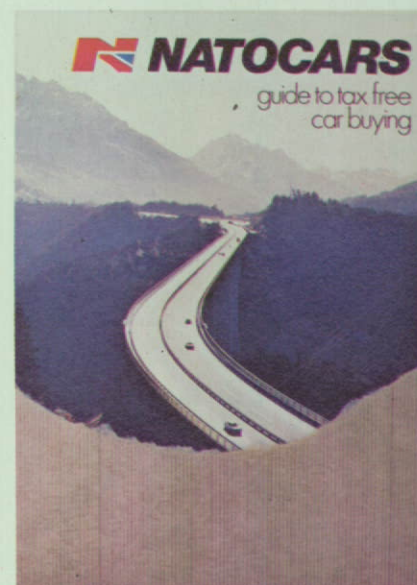
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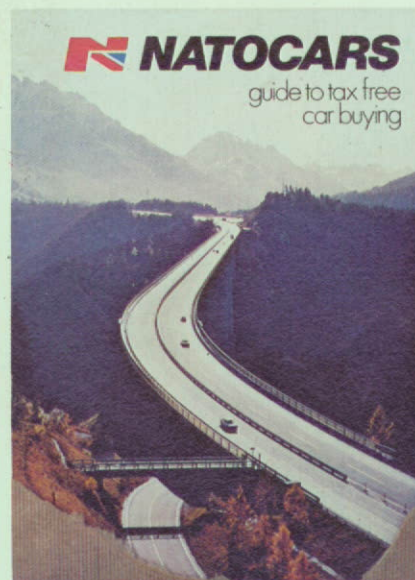
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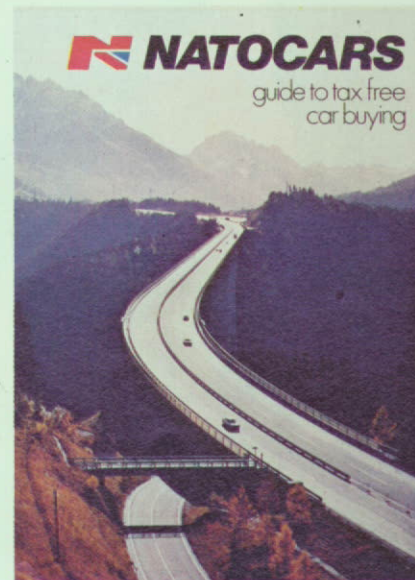
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FRONT COVER

Chemical warfare is a distinct possibility in any future war — here men of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, practise their drills on the new 'Porton Battle Run.'

Picture by Andy BurrIDGE



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Picture by Andy BurrIDGE



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42 Forty years after they were evacuated from the beaches of Dunkirk, Second World War veterans returned to a great welcome.



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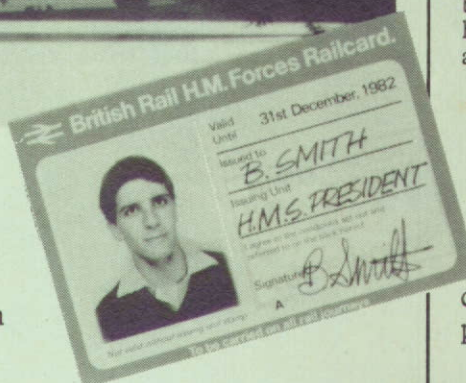
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Army Education in Northern Ireland



"HERE COMES TEACHER — IN A CHOPPER"

Above: Teacher arrives at Lisburn in a Wessex.

Below: A not so educational read in library.

THE FLYING SCHOOLIE' sounds like the title of a ripping yarn from one of those old boy's papers. It conjures up visions of a schoolmaster complete with obligatory mortarboard climbing into an ancient biplane before visiting pupils in some remote part of the Empire.

In real life 'The Flying Schoolie' is Tim Moore, a captain in the Royal Army Educational Corps, who with his own airportable education kit (a rucksack full of books) uses helicopters to fly in and out of some of the hairiest bases in South Armagh.

His job, like that of all the RAEC men in Northern Ireland, is to see that the rigorous demands of a four month tour there do not entirely stop the soldier's education and hinder his promotion prospects.

Tim, whose patch covers the whole of 3 Brigade area (apart from Ballykinler), tries to visit each of his units for half a day a week. The students meanwhile snatch whatever time they can for studying between duties.

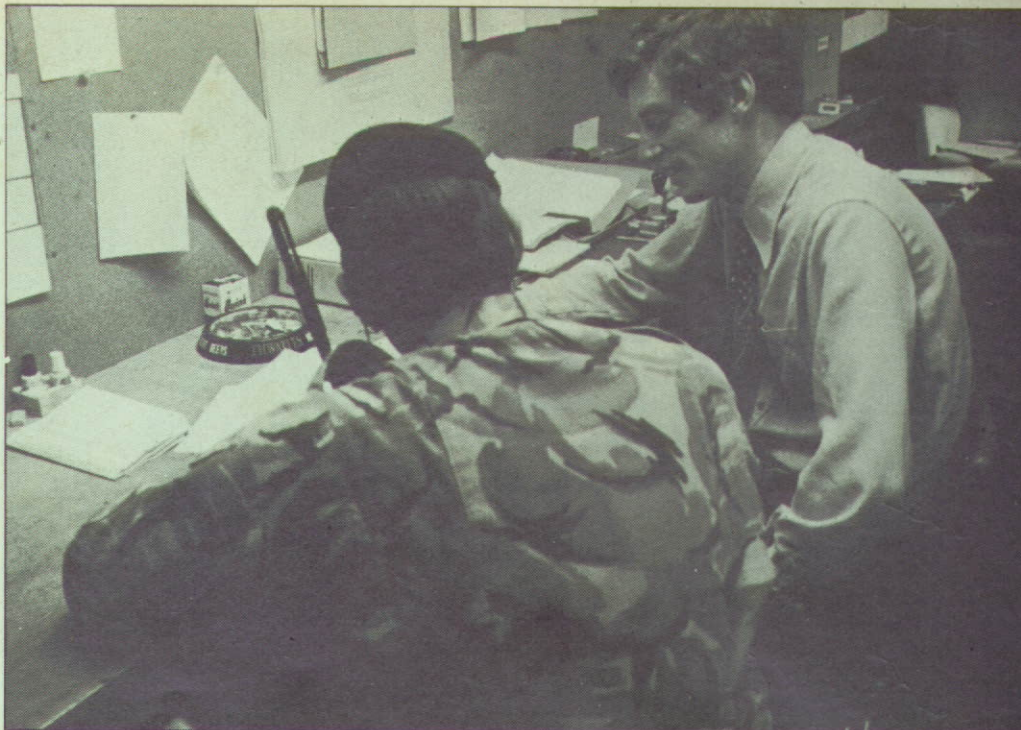
"It's a tutorial system which equates to that in Universities" he explains. "What I try to do is to get groups of perhaps half a dozen blokes together in each location and generally build up a group spirit which helps to counterbalance the fact that they only see me once a week.

"Although I'm known as the 'Flying Schoolie' I use all sorts of transport to get to





Above: Army wife at work in pottery class.



Right: Spelling it out in Grand Central Hotel.

the locations ranging from cars to helicopters and even to vegetable wagons. And some of the rooms in which I teach are most peculiar."

Crossmaglen is perhaps the most difficult place of all. There 130 men work long hours in cramped conditions. But says Captain Moore: "Although there is an element of caution before they start the programme, once they have started they tend to continue and they get good results."

At Portadown Captain Moore and the librarian, Mrs Kay Smyth, share a building which is shortly going to be expanded. The library has a representative selection of 1000 books and paperbacks are issued without tickets. There is also a video film library for units.

Soldiers come into the library, read the papers, watch television and relax — the

Below: The mobile library out on its rounds.

library has become almost a rest and recreational centre. But on the other side of the shelves are desks — and here Captain Moore helps the soldiers with their studies. Soon the building is to be extended and it will then include a hobbies room.

Lieutenant-Colonel John Prince, the chief education officer at Northern Ireland headquarters, sees the bread and butter role of the educators in Northern Ireland as educating the men for promotion to sergeant or warrant officer and emphasises the close links between their studies and their job.

At the two Army Education Centres in Lisburn and Derry full time courses are held at both levels. Mostly the participants are from the resident battalions although emergency tour men are sometimes accepted.

Major Ian Nelson, a keen Army yachtsman, heads the centre at Lisburn and is responsible for the education in Belfast and the southern part of the province.

"My job is to provide as near normal an education service in Northern Ireland as they

would get anywhere else in the world. What we do is less directed to fighting the war against the IRA and more to seeing that the soldiers do not suffer educationally from being here."

His centre operates six full time courses for promotion from corporal to sergeant each year with four advanced courses for promotion to Warrant Officer 2.

"We have an enormous number of nominations for these courses. Because the regiments are all together in Northern Ireland rather than split up as they might be elsewhere they are able to work out just whom they can release and when."

Four subjects are taught at each level — communications skills, military calculations, military management and the Army in the contemporary world. The Lisburn centre takes something like 1200 students a year and the smaller one at Derry about 250. And the pass rates are reckoned to be as good as elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

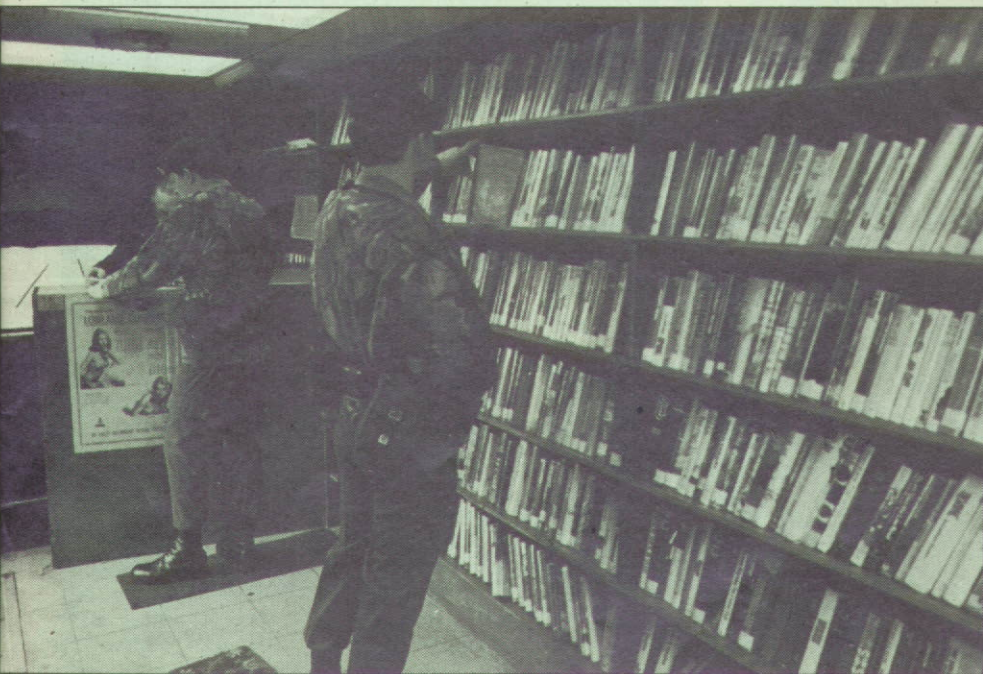
Method of instruction courses are run for senior privates and lance-corporals entering instruction for the first time. The RAEC also gives education advice on a whole gamut of subjects including correspondence courses, boarding school education for children and remedial education for soldiers who are weak at reading or adding up.

In the Lisburn area Major Nelson acts as liaison officer between the garrison and local schools. As the garrison is all trickle posted he gives advice on schools while not coming between the Families Officer and the local headmasters. Some 500 Army children attend local schools in Lisburn.

Major Keith Hardwick, second in command at Education Branch Headquarters Northern Ireland, is one of the men who use Major Nelson's offices to get their children into local schools.

"Although we do have local schools which have anything up to 95 per cent of Army children they are treated exactly the same as local children. They mix extremely well with the other children and there is no discrimination whatsoever."

Northern Ireland is a grammar school area and children may be coming from areas



Left: Major John Holder teaching two Staffords while (below) Capt Fraser lifts out his 60lb box.



which have gone comprehensive. All these children have to be tested as to their suitability under the selection system.

Says Major Nelson: "I find that officers always have high expectations for their children. The junior ranks don't seem to but once they have become senior non-commissioned officers they do".

There are lots of other activities for which the RAEC is responsible in Northern Ireland. In Lisburn, for example, they operate evening classes in such things as picture framing, pottery, woodwork, dressmaking, typing and upholstery.

And the library service plays an important role — both in the permanent centres and with the two mobile libraries which travel round the bases.

The men who drive these mobile libraries know that they are potential terrorist targets. One of them, who visits all the Belfast locations as well as South Armagh, told SOLDIER: "We vary our days and our routes but, especially in certain areas of Belfast, they know this vehicle well. But we have never had any serious trouble — just children throwing stones and things like that".

Resettlement advice is also needed and Major Peter Drew provides that for the resident battalions and also from time to time for the emergency tour men. He also arranges one day careers advice sessions at which the police and prison service are usually on hand to talk about the benefits of joining them.

The education centre at Londonderry is much smaller and most of the troops it covers are stationed in Derry. As elsewhere when courses at the centre are not practicable the tutors visit the men in their locations.

Major John Holder told SOLDIER: "I have taught in a larder, I have taught from the bonnet of a Mini, I have taught in a telephone room — we just use wherever we can. I'm always made very welcome — they live in these little places and if they are not working or sleeping there is very little to do except watch television, read or play cards so they feel they would like to better themselves. We tend to meet lads here who we would not normally see in education centres.

"I lost my whole class the other day. There was suddenly an alert and they all got up and went. That is something that would never happen in a classroom elsewhere but one gets used to it."

Captain Graham Fraser is the man who visits all the Belfast units — either in a civilian car or, in the case of West Belfast, by armoured vehicle. He carries with him a box weighing about 60 lbs and jammed with papers, manuals and teaching aids. In a typical day he visits three or four locations and sees up to seven men in each.

"I cannot try to pretend that it is as good as a course but it is making the best of the situation in which the men find themselves. Some of the people who don't immediately need to take the course take it to pass the time away and relieve off-duty boredom while others need it urgently for their promotion.

"Often if they are on a fairly dull routine job by a telephone they find time to study. Basically they do it whenever they have time. This is why a subject like maths is more successful than any — because if you have ten spare minutes you can sit down and do it."



Captain Fraser says that in the short term the work is rewarding for the teacher. But he adds: "A year is long enough because it becomes repetitive and a little bit wearing. The fact is that you are not developing a course because you are only able to see each person for perhaps 15 minutes a week. But I do get to see the whole of Belfast and I probably know the city better than most soldiers do".

In the former Grand Central Hotel in Belfast, battery commander, Major Clive Bogie, of 27 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, said that Captain Fraser's visits were 'enormously useful' because a tour in Northern Ireland from Germany really cut into the Rhine Army training period.

"The lads' educational and individual qualifications tend to go by the board to some extent in a year in which you go to Northern Ireland. By having the educators here and able to grab the soldiers when they come off patrol or before they go out we see that the lads' interests are maintained. But they have to do most of the studying in their own time which is a bit of a tall order."

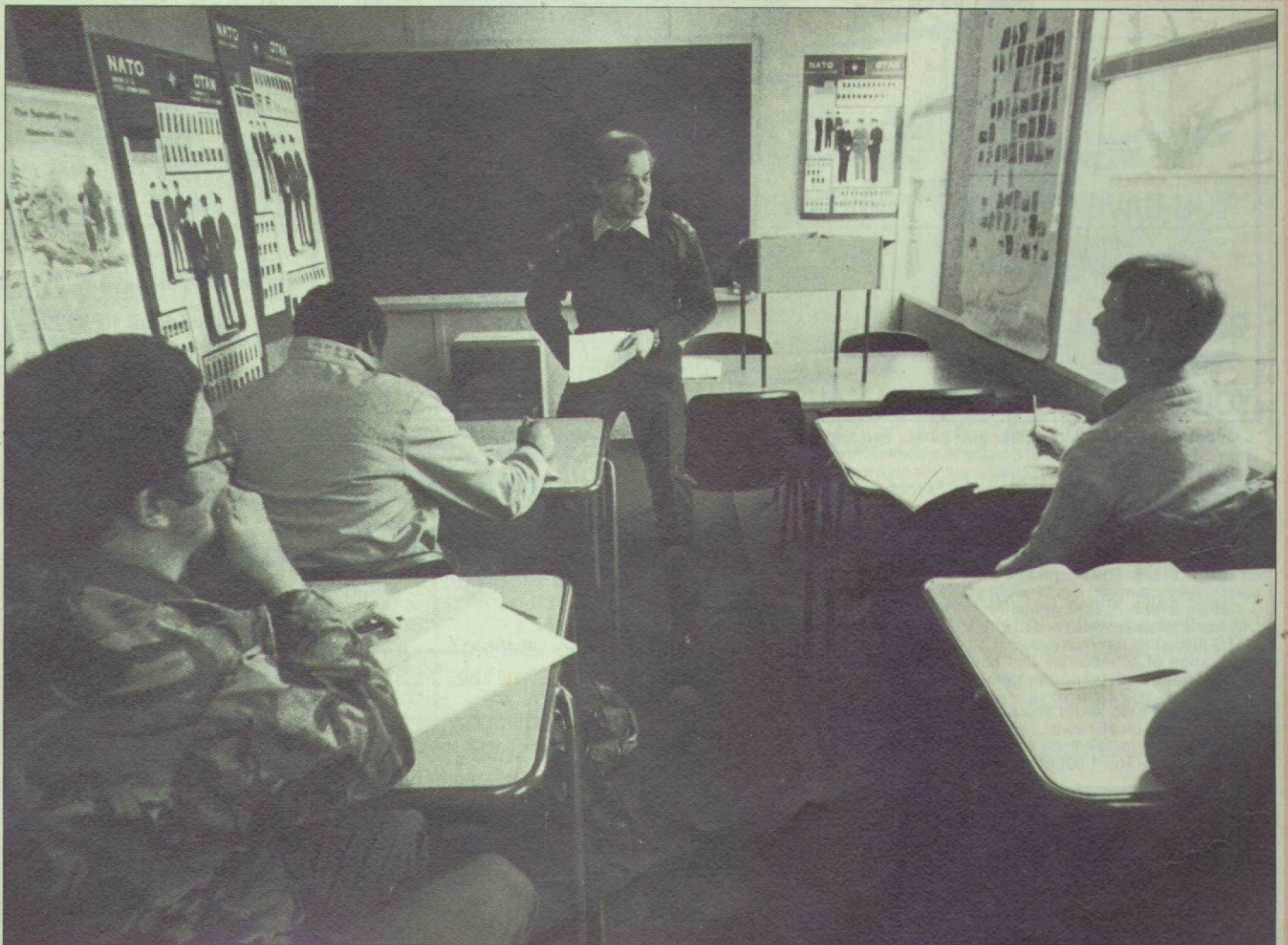
Bombardier Bryan Sore had been up for 24 hours when Captain Fraser called with SOLDIER. After his interview he confessed: "When you have been working like this a lot of it doesn't sink in. A course would definitely be better but I do a lot of studying whenever I get the chance".

So the 'schoolies' continue their behind the scenes task of ensuring that while the fight against terrorism in Northern Ireland goes on the men engaged in it still have the opportunity to learn the things which will make their Army careers even more worth while.



Above: Officers get to learn something too.

Below: In the education centre at Portadown.



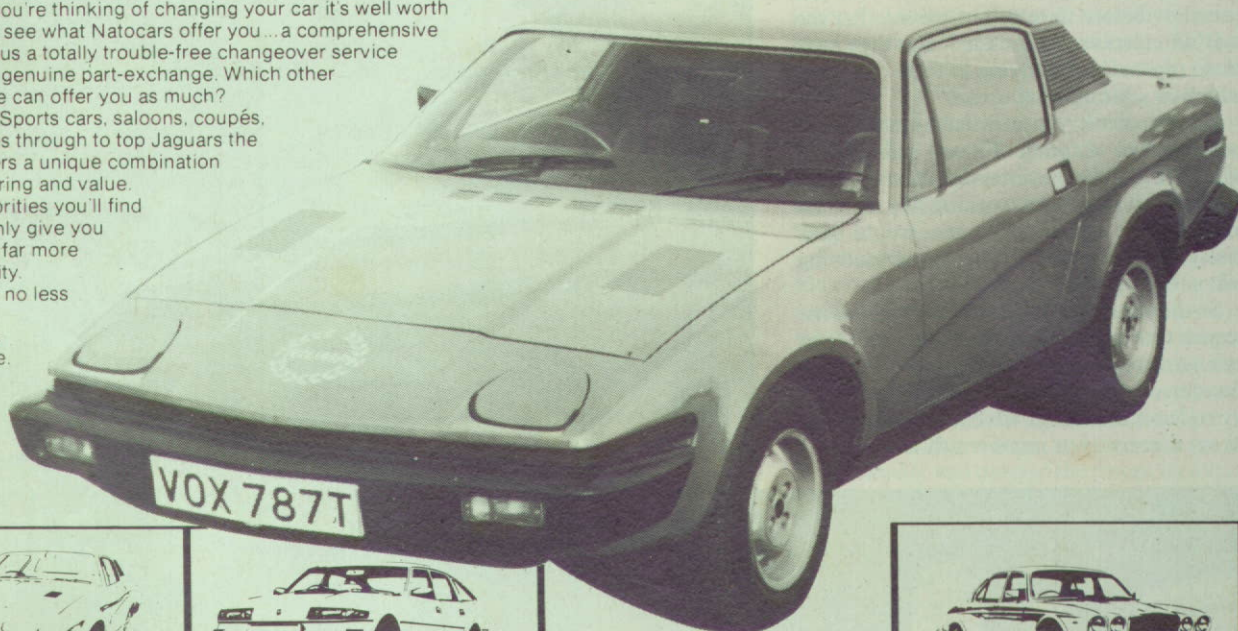
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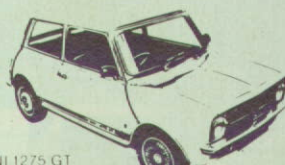
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SOLDIER to Soldier

One of the most striking things about a visit to Berlin is the opportunity to see firsthand the 'other side' of the notorious wall. This monstrous monument to man's inhumanity to man speaks volumes about the attitudes of the twisted minds that conceived it. What a pity, then, that the 'script' (unchanged for at least two years in SOLDIER's experience) of British Army guides to East Berlin has the bias worthy of a Soviet propaganda publication in its uncompromising condemnation of all and sundry in the enemy camp.

Attention is drawn to East Berlin's run-down back streets... seen a British city slum recently? Then there's the 'drabness' of life without advertising hoardings in the East. Having been made aware of this, it is ironic that the first two brightly coloured posters that hit the eye on passing back through Checkpoint Charlie are for beer and cigarettes (the 'tut, tutting' from Army Medical Services is almost audible from here).

No, many of the superficial elements of daily life in a communist state are no better or worse than many in the West (whatever some of our more fervent politicians would have us believe). The fact is, the more significant assaults on human dignity (such as the Berlin Wall) are shocking enough to speak for themselves. And they convince no-one that the brains behind them harbour many thoughts about the much-vaunted freedom and peace professed in high places.



'What's in a name...?' asks Juliet in those immortal lines of Shakespeare.

Too much, according to the Army Resettlement Employment Liaison Cell. They're getting verbal indigestion from using their 37-letter handle and their short title — ARELC — hardly trips off the tongue or conveys anything of what they do.

If you didn't already know, ARELC is based at London's Empress State Building just down the road from Chelsea Football Ground and offers a point of contact between those leaving the Army and prospective employers nationwide. It puts those who register with it in touch with job vacancies and it provides a job information service through the Services Resettlement Bulletin Vacancies Supplement.

Now ARELC wants to change its name — to a title that will make sense to employers in industry and commerce, will be easy to remember and will put across what it actually does. And it hopes SOLDIER readers can help. There's a £25 reward for the suggestion that is used to re-christen ARELC or leads towards the

final choice of name.

Bright ideas, please, to: ARELC (new name) competition, Ministry of Defence, Room 1825, Empress State Building, Lillie Road, London, SW6 1TR. The closing date for entries is 30 September and we promise to publish details of the winning suggestion.



'What was your most embarrassing moment?' Wilfred Pickles used to burble at unfortunates on his long running radio show *Have a Go*. For military and Government officials in Ottawa, the answer could well be the recent visit of the late Japanese Prime Minister earlier this year.

The flags, the cheering crowds and the red carpet all appeared according to plan. But then a military band marched up Parliament Hill playing *Colonel Bogey*. And that stirring tune is best remembered as the one whistled by Allied prisoners of war as they defied their Japanese captors in the film *Bridge on the River Kwai*.

Time magazine reports '... a long

string of officials whose faces matched the carpet'. Just goes to show that no matter how carefully you arrange these things the bogey man may still get you.



SERVICE messes now have something in common with the Russians. Both are now tucking into part of the Common Market butter mountain. In the messes and in such places as Gateway House at RAF Brize Norton the butter comes in little silver packets marked 'Intervention Butter'.

The packets also stipulate that the butter is not for retail sale and that it has been sold in accordance with Regulation (EEC) 1282/72. This means, apparently, that it is available for institutions such as hospitals and also for the forces.

The butter is bought and repacked by Naafi, who get it at a cheap price but have to follow stringent restrictions on its final use. The intriguing question is — are the Russian troops in Afghanistan also getting it in their compositions?



SIDI REZEGH

ONE of the famous tank battles of the Second World War is recalled in the Sidi Rezegh print of which SOLDIER still has a few copies available. From a painting by the world famous artist, Terence Cuneo, the print in full colour, shows the repulse of an afternoon attack by 15 and 21 Panzer divisions at Sidi Rezegh in November 1941.

Standing against the Germans were the remains of 2nd Royal Tank Regiment and brigade headquarters supported by F Battery, Royal Horse Artillery. The brigade major can be seen running across to Jervis, the brigade commander's tank.

The size of the print is 26 inches by 19 inches with an actual picture area of 24 inches by 12½ inches.

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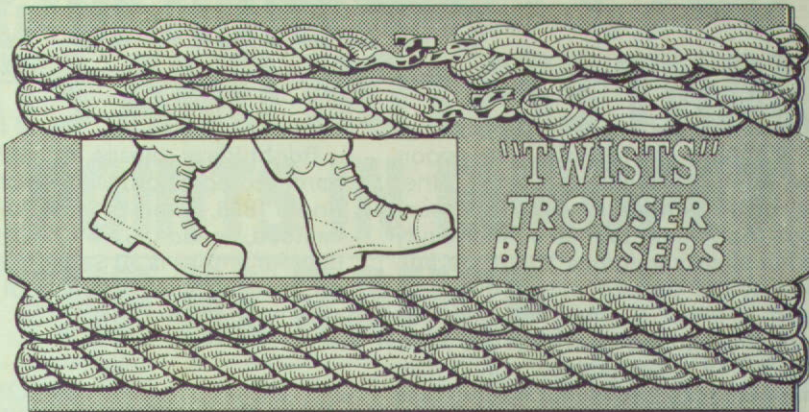
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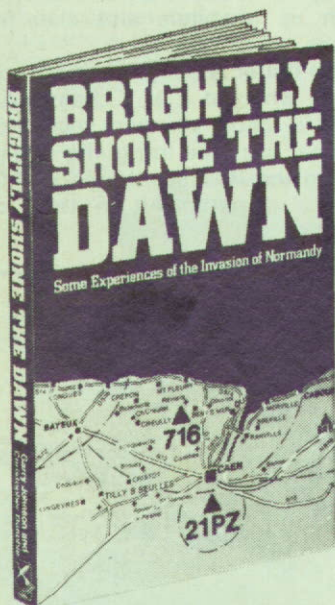
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Soldier salutes the Queen Mother



SOLDIER MAGAZINE PHOTOGRAPHER Arthur Blundell collected a lifetime of memories during his score and more years with us. But one he particularly cherished concerned his two 'chats' with Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother.

Arthur was assigned to two royal events in the same week, both of which involved The Queen Mother. During the first, Her Majesty took time out of her busy programme to come across to the Press enclosure and have a word with those recording her visit. Arthur was lucky enough to be introduced to the Queen Mother who graciously acknowledged that she had seen **SOLDIER Magazine**.

Later in the week Arthur duly took up his place behind the lens to picture Her Majesty again. Imagine his surprise and pride as she passed by the Press enclosure on this occa-

continued on page 15

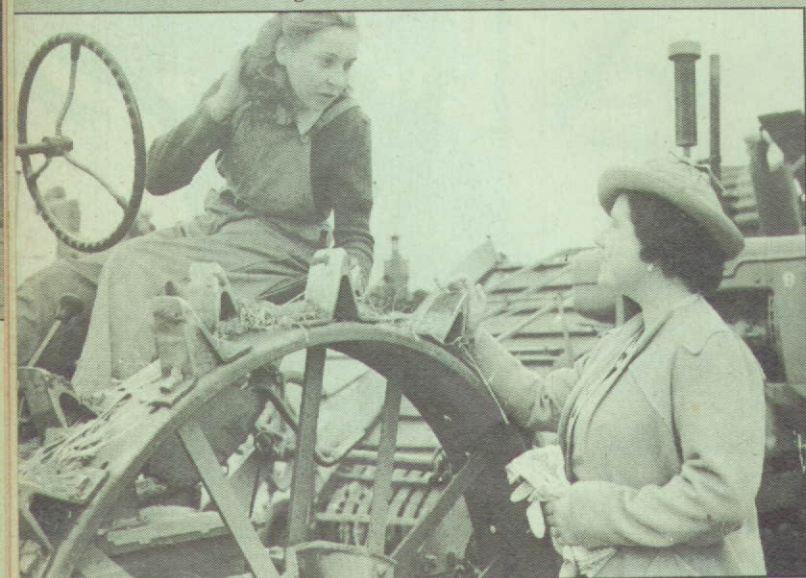
Top: With the King's Regiment after presenting new colours in July 1978 at Colchester.

Left: Capt Ray Cowap presents St Patrick's Day shamrock to Irish Guards' royal visitor, 1976.



Above: the Wartime Queen — smiling as ever — with a guard of honour of overseas Women's Services members in London.

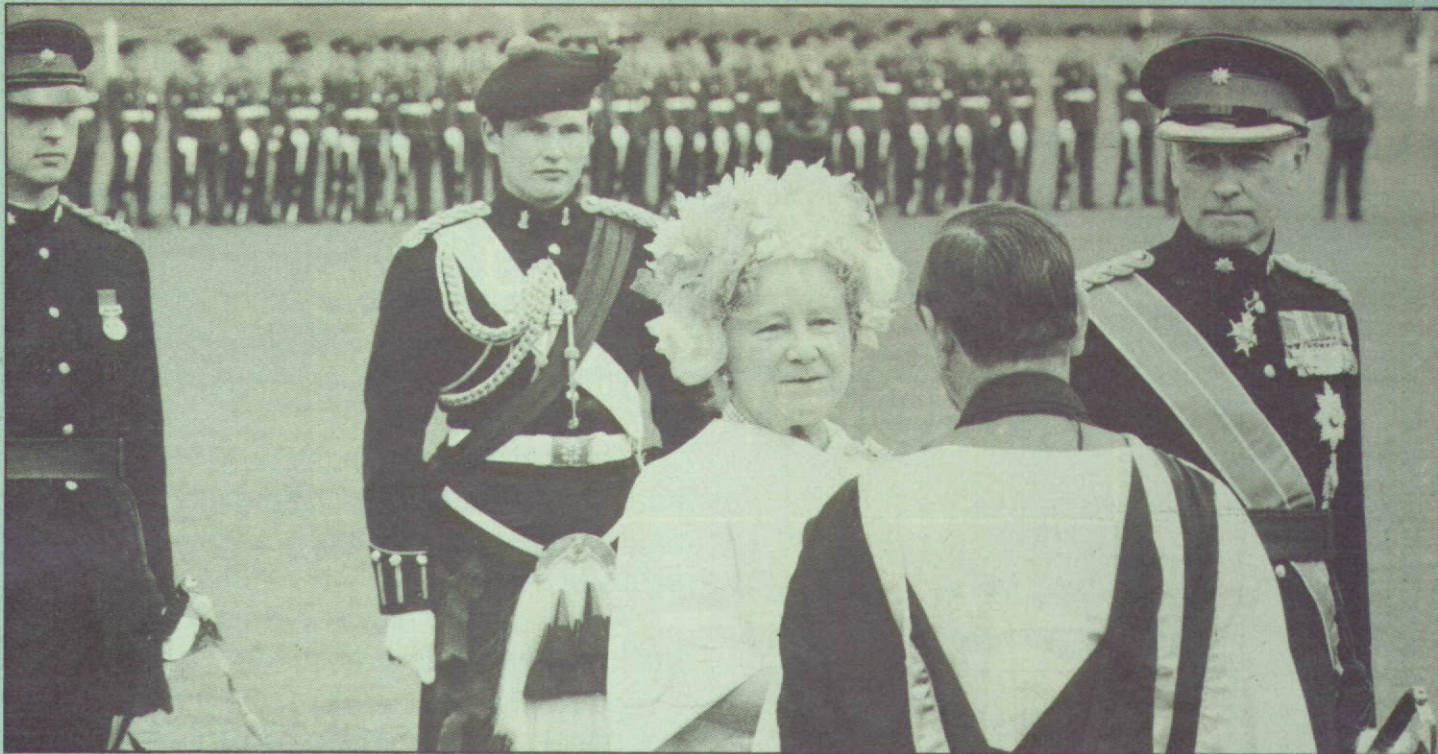
Right: A Guards armoured division 'somewhere in England' is visited during the war.



Above: Promoting 'dig for victory' intensive farming, the Queen is pictured with a wartime landgirl on the Sandringham estate.

Below: London ambulance personnel meet the Queen during the war.





Above: The Queen Mother at presentation of new Colours to The Royal Anglian Regt in 1974.



Left: The annual St Patrick's Day shamrock presentation. The Irish Guards and Her Majesty share 80th birthdays this year.



HM The Queen Mother
80th Birthday Stamp Issue
4 August 1980

The Post Office is issuing a commemorative 12p stamp on Her Majesty's 80th birthday, 4 August — the first time that a royal birthday has been marked on a British postage stamp.

The Post Office will be providing normal first day services for the stamp, including a special cover. There will also be two pictorial first day of issue handstamps available, one from the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh and one from Glamis, Forfar, Angus. The cancellation from the philatelic bureau is in the form of a bouquet to the Queen Mother and contains two of her favourite flowers — marguerites and lilies-of-the-valley. Glamis Castle is featured in the cancellation from Glamis. Covers addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required and bearing the new stamp will be cancelled 'Philatelic Bureau Edinburgh' or 'Glamis Castle Forfar'.

A postcard featuring the new stamp is also being issued from the philatelic bureau — available at main post offices from 21 July 1980.

sion with a cheery "Good morning, Mr Blundell!"

This is typical of the care and attention to detail — not to mention people — that has epitomised the public life of Britain's most-admired royal personage and echoes countless other similar anecdotes told wherever she has travelled during her 80 years.

The Army both at home and in Commonwealth forces has more connection than many with the Queen Mother who holds various honorary positions with a number of units.

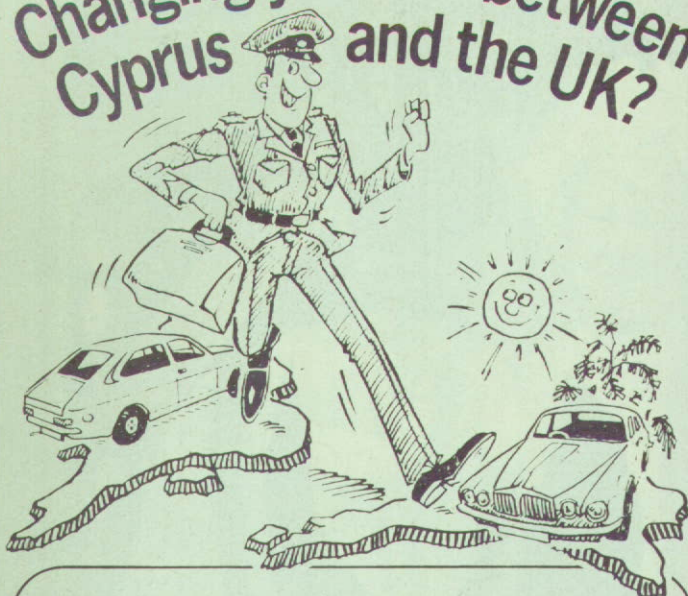
She is Colonel-in-Chief of 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, Queen's Own Hussars, 9/12 Lancers, The King's Regiment, The Royal Anglian Regiment, The Light Infantry, The Black Watch and the Royal Army Medical Corps. She is also Commandant-in-Chief of the Women's Royal Army Corps.

The Queen Mother is also Honorary Colonel of the Royal Yeomanry, London Scottish and University of London Officer Training Corps.

Overseas, her appointments are as Colonel-in-Chief to the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada, The Toronto Scottish Regiment, Canadian Forces Medical Services, Royal Australian Army Medical Corps and Royal New Zealand Medical Corps.

The Queen Mother was born on 4 August 1900 as Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, daughter of the 14th Earl of Strathmore. She married Prince Albert, Duke of York on 26 April 1923. He later came to the throne on 11 December 1936 to become George VI, his wife becoming Queen Elizabeth. Following the death of the King on 6 February 1952, his daughter — now Queen Elizabeth II — succeeded to the throne, her mother becoming Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother.

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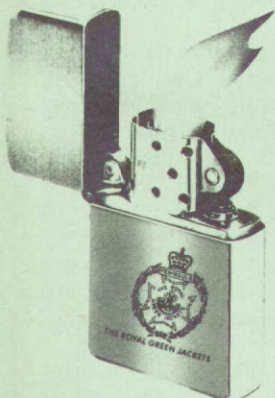
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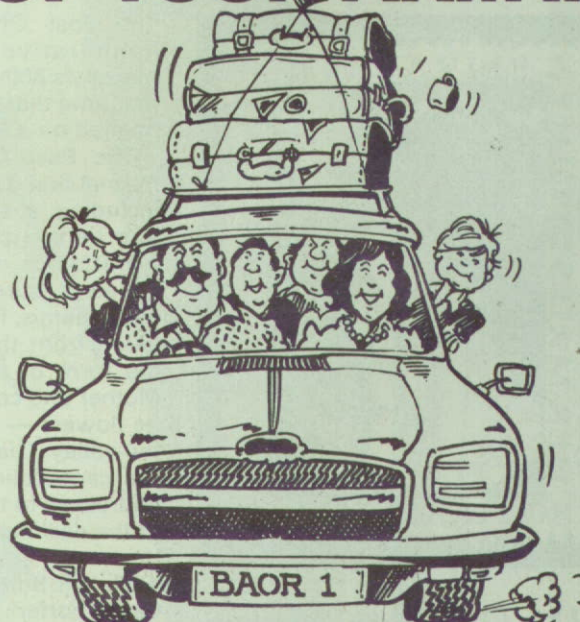
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FREEDOM HONOUR SETS SEAL ON FRIENDSHIP

THE LARGEST GARRISON IN THE BRITISH ARMY is not in Aldershot or Catterick nor even in Berlin or Hong Kong. It is at Osnabrück — a cathedral city of some 156,000 souls in the heart of Rhine Army's northern Germany area of operation.

In Osnabrück there are more than 5000 British troops plus 6000 dependants representing infantry, cavalry, artillery, sappers, workshops and other minor units — a microcosm of the whole British Army.

This year, Osnabrück, a city whose links with Britain go back far longer than the arrival of Rhine Army in 1945, celebrates the 1200th anniversary of its founding by Charlemagne. And to commemorate that anniversary the local council decided to become the first place in Germany to grant that peculiarly British tradition — 'Freedom of the City' — to an entire garrison.

Back in the past Osnabrück and Britain have been even closer — at one time they actually shared the same ruler. George I, the founder of the House of Hanover in Britain, played as a child in Osnabrück and went back there to die.

And during the Napoleonic wars many people from the city joined with British troops at such battles as Talavera and Waterloo. In fact two of the units on parade — 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards and I 'Bulls Troop' of 7th Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery are direct descendants of units which fought alongside the Landwehr Battalion, Osnabrück at Waterloo.

The British influence even extended to the weather for the parade at which the Freedom was conferred. The steady drizzle which swept across the Domplatz by the side of the cathedral soaked with chilling impartiality both the 500 soldiers on parade and the local citizens gathered to watch.

It even rained on the handful of anti-war and Communist activists who had turned up to hand out leaflets. In the city where Erich Maria Remarque (author of 'All Quiet on the Western Front' — that gripping revelation of the horrors of World War I) had been born, trouble had been threatened. But in the event the squads of German police standing by were not needed.

On parade were nine guards from: 7th Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery; 2nd Armoured Division Engineer Regiment and 73 Independent Field Squadron; 1st Battalion The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment; 1st Battalion The Kings Regiment; 5 Field Force Headquarters and Signal Squadron and Task Force Delta Signal Squadron; 2nd Armoured Division Field Ambulance, 15 Squadron Royal Corps of Transport, 2 Armoured Division Ordnance Company and 112 Provost Company Royal Military Police; 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment; 12 Armoured Workshop Royal Electrical and



**Story: John Walton
Pictures: Andy Burridge**

Mechanical Engineers; and 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards.

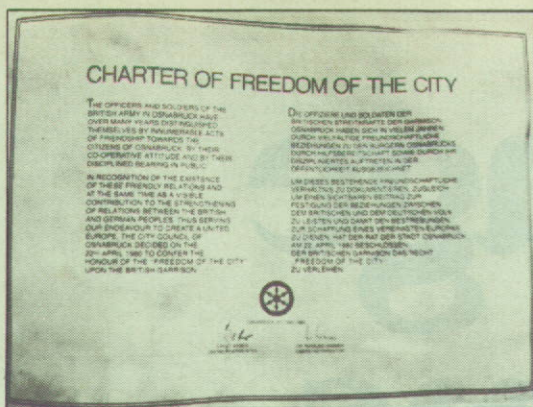
In his speech the Oberbürgermeister (or Lord Mayor) Herr Ernst Weber was surprisingly blunt in his explanation as to how a former victor and occupation force was getting the freedom of the city.

He told the local people that the granting of such status was separate from every legal

and political aspect. It now had a purely symbolic significance and rested on the British tradition of the democratic defence of one's homeland.

"Today, 35 years after the end of what we all hope will have been the last ever world war, the British armed forces stationed on German soil are our allies within the Nato alliance, committed to the defence of peace in

Above right: Exercising their rights of marching.



Above: The scroll which was presented on the day.

that part of the world which is still free. Those who overcame the Nazi regime and who later became the occupying power are now our trusted partners in the alliance. In these circumstances the granting of honorary citizenship to the largest British garrison town in the world is a perfectly natural development."

But he freely admitted that Osnabrück as a garrison town "is no peaceful oasis of harmonious community life between our British guests and the Osnabrück population". This was true of other garrison towns in Germany and applied wherever Nato troops were stationed, including those of the Bundeswehr.

Herr Weber said the garrison officers and the local authorities, as good partners, were always ready to discuss common problems, to try to reduce nuisances to a minimum and to promote social contacts between citizens whether in civilian clothes or uniforms.

"I very much hope that the bestowal of honorary citizenship will contribute to reduce any prejudices which may still exist and to strengthen the ties of partnership," he continued.

Herr Weber said he was well aware that many local citizens viewed military parades with a degree of scepticism. "I am also one of these and, as someone who served in the last war from start to finish, I still possess that touch of scepticism."

However, the march-past with swords drawn and bayonets fixed was an expression of determination to use those weapons for the defence of the town and its citizens — not against it. It was a tradition which should serve to cement the friendship between the British and German peoples.

Replying, the garrison commander, Brigadier Brian Kenny, referred to the British arrival at the end of a war in which Osnabrück had been left in ruins. Eighty-five per cent of the city was destroyed in one night by the Allies.

"During the past 30 years or so, initially as occupier and since 1954 as friend and ally, we have watched with great admiration the dedication and determination that you have shown in rebuilding your magnificent city."

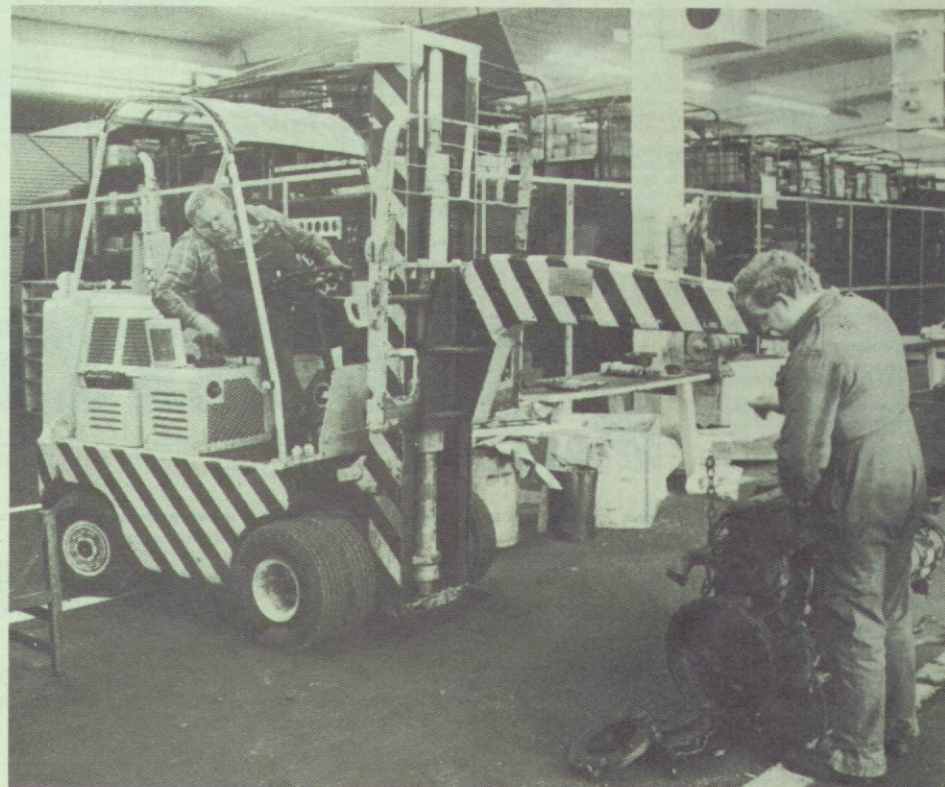
Brigadier Kenny said the British community felt very much a part of the city and its way of life and attached great importance to the encouragement of social, cultural and sporting links.

The British troops, accompanied by the bands of 1 Kings, 1 DERR and 3 Para, marched through the streets of the city playing regimental marches of each of the units taking part. Outside the 500 year old Rathaus



Above: 'Skins' repairing track of a Chieftain.

Below: German civilians in Army Workshops.



(Town Hall) Herr Weber took the salute. Then it was onto the social celebrations of a day in which the British garrison, which employs 1290 Germans, officially became

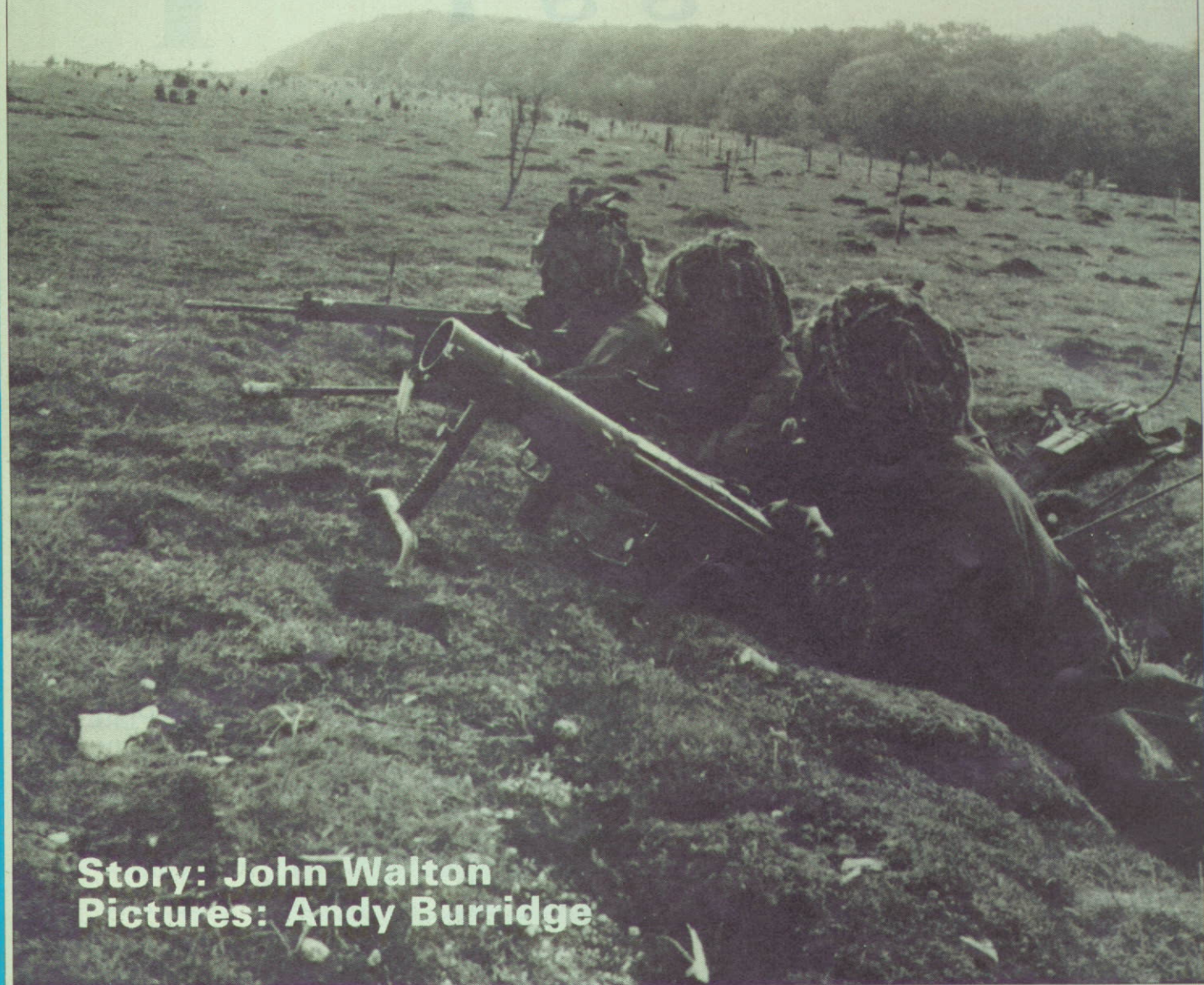
Freemen of a city where the British Royal coat of arms still remains on buildings as a reminder of the days when Britain and Osnabrück had the same ruler.

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RUNNING THE GAS GAUNTLET



Story: John Walton
Pictures: Andy Burridge

ON 22 APRIL 1915 at the second Battle of Ypres a cloud of yellow gas drifted across the Allied lines catching the defenders completely unprepared. The asphyxiating gas was fortunately employed on too limited a scale to be decisive but large numbers of Allied Troops were killed or incapacitated.

Today, Western defence experts believe that the threat of chemical warfare attack has returned, with the Soviet Union possessing a major offensive chemical capability. Its forces have large stocks of chemical and nerve gases and a wide variety of means to deliver them ranging from small calibre self-propelled artillery to a multi-barrelled

rocket launcher capable of sending a large amount of chemical agent into a target area very quickly.

Most of the Warsaw Pact's armoured fighting vehicles have protection against chemicals. All soldiers are equipped and trained for chemical defence and there is even a special chemical defence corps some 90,000 strong.

Says Brigadier Michael Koe, Deputy Director Army Training: "They are prepared to operate in a chemical environment and we in the Army must be prepared to meet that threat as best we can".

This year the Army has opened a new 'battle run' at Porton, on ranges belonging

to the Defence Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Centre where units will be able to train as though they were under chemical attack.

The 'battle run' is open to sub-units of approximately 110 men of the Army, Royal Marines and the RAF Regiment for two 48 hour periods every month. During this time they will be subjected to simulated chemical warfare attacks without warning. Until its inception realistic training involving the use of CS gas has been limited because of safety factors.

Because of environmental considerations the area is smaller than was originally envis-

aged. Within the district there is the largest remaining example of old original chalk downland, the largest stands of young and old juniper in the country, the breeding site for two protected birds and many barrows and other ancient monuments.

Units using it will tend to be those about to be posted to Germany although some TA units will also take part. Brigadier Koe hopes to see similar facilities available in Germany in due course although this will have to be negotiated with the West German authorities. Porton's is believed to be the first 'battle run' of its type within Nato.

In a special demonstration for the world's press a company from 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, were established in defensive positions. After charges "were exploded to simulate an artillery barrage, grenades were fired with CS gas.

"It is an excellent motivation and encouragement in peacetime for a soldier to bear the discomfort of keeping his respirator on rather than face a whiff of CS gas" said Brigadier Koe.

As the gas spread towards the trenches the Green Jackets hurriedly donned respirators. After a while special detector paper showed that the air was clear — the men had been using a new automatic nerve agent detector.

Then came a further attack from the air as a Royal Air Force Hunter jet flew low over the troops and sprayed them with clouds of 'nerve gas' (it was actually a non-toxic training agent). Again the soldiers remained inside their respirators until their detectors showed that all was well.

The Porton battle run is heavily over-subscribed at the moment. But the very fact that it has been set up and that the British protective equipment together with its detectors is reckoned to be the best in the world means that in Brigadier Koe's words "never again will we let our troops face chemical attack unprotected".

Right: Soldier in 'Noddy suit' with Carl Gustav.
Below: Clouds of gas sweep over the trenches.



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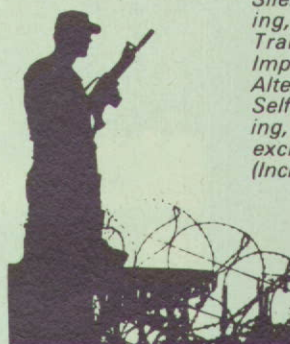
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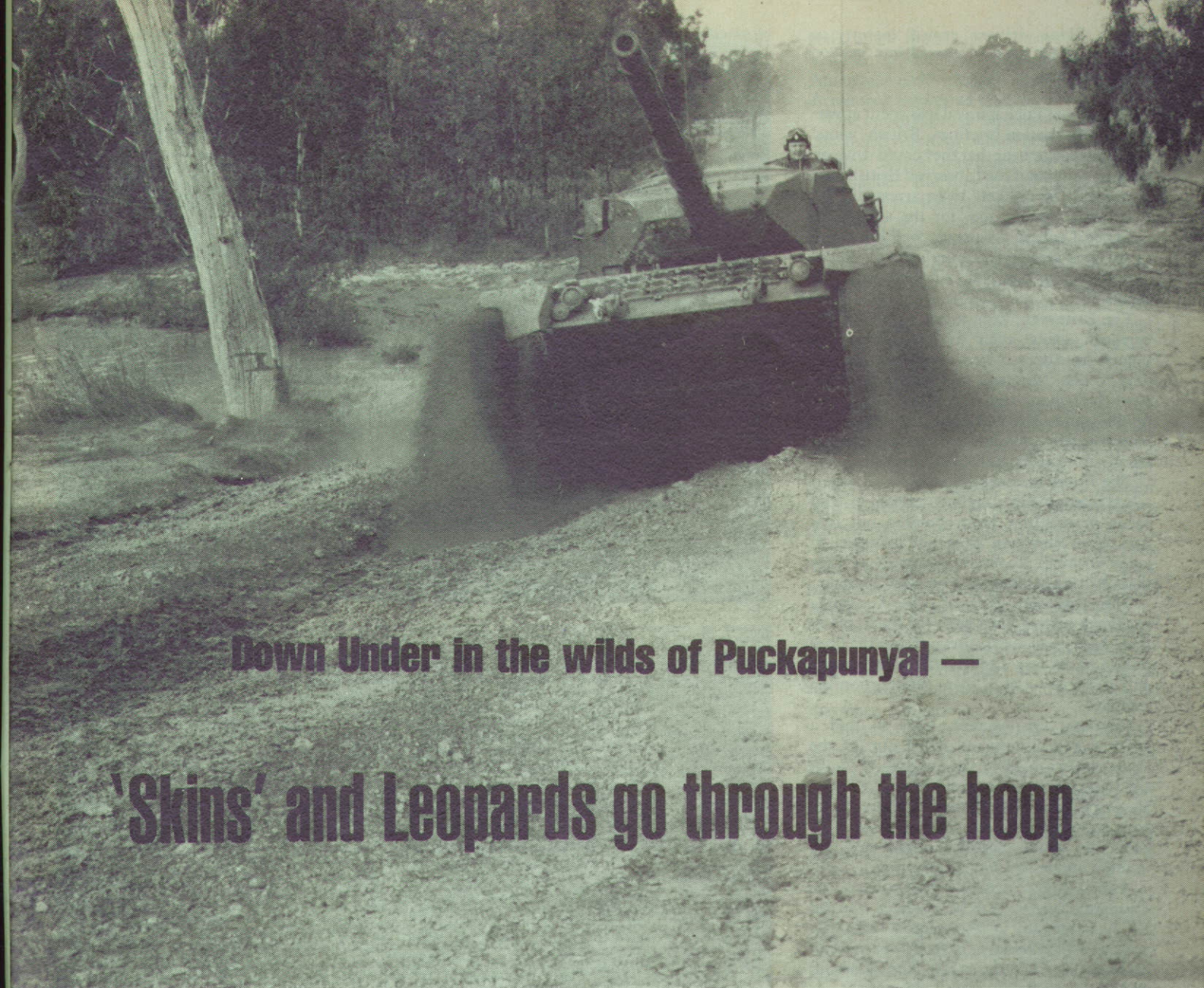
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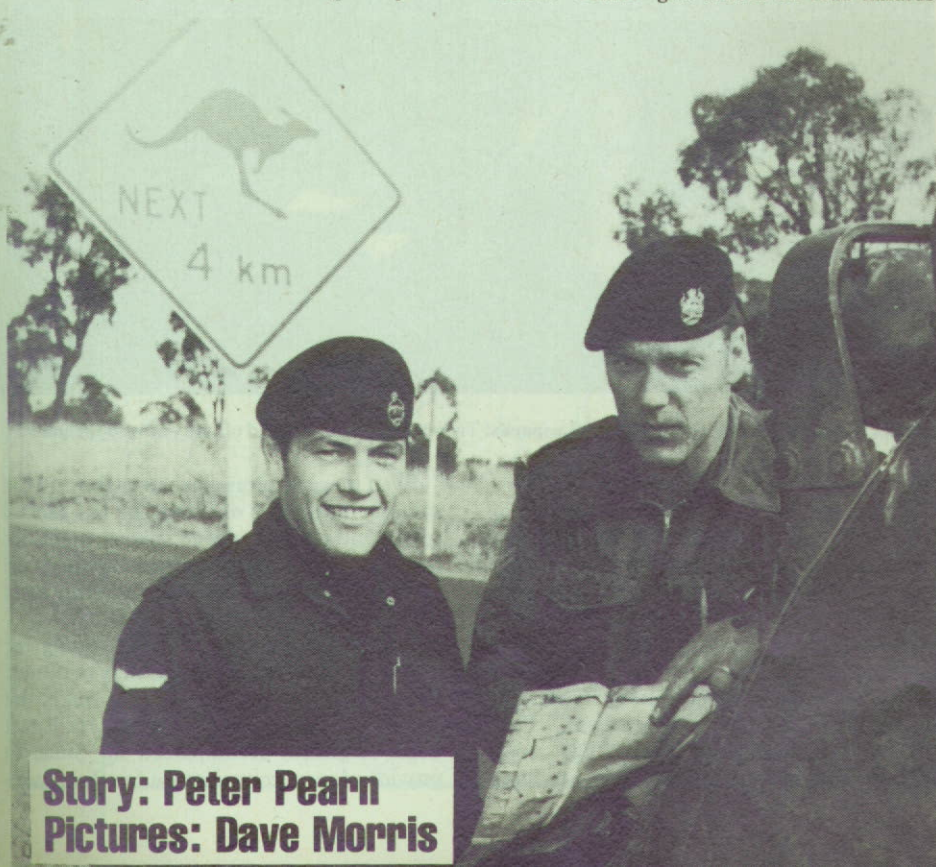
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Down Under in the wilds of Puckapunyal — 'Skins' and Leopards go through the hoop

Above: Putting the Leopard through its paces.

Below: 'Tankie' gets briefed on road hazards.



IT WAS ROUGH hilly country and as night came down over the scattered clumps of gum trees, the silence was disturbed by a distant rumble. A small herd of kangaroos bounded noiselessly past into the bush, and a flock of white cockatoos arose from their perches, screeching shrilly in alarm. The rumbling noises increased to a loud roar as a Leopard approached the edge of a clearing . . .

A leopard? With kangaroos? Surely something wrong somewhere? But this Leopard was no four-footed predator — it was a tank — and driving it was a crew of 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards from Osnabrück, West Germany, on an exchange exercise in Australia.

The contingent from the Inniskillings, or 'Skins' as they prefer to be known, consisted of 120 men under the command of Squadron Leader Major Christopher Gabbey. They had left behind their Chieftain tanks, spruced up and serviced, for the Australian soldiers who were to take their place in Osnabrück.

The 'Skins' who were in Australia for a month, were met at Melbourne by a reception party from 1st Australian Armoured Regiment, who are based at Puckapunyal some 65 miles north of Melbourne.

continued over page

**Story: Peter Pearn
Pictures: Dave Morris**

Right: Skins drivers crowd intently as Leopard power pack is lowered into position.

Day One at Puckapunyal was spent at various familiarisation briefings. British 'poms' were relieved to hear that they could drive on the left, and that if they observed British laws they would be unlikely to be arrested!

It was a chance, too, for the soldiers to meet the Leopard — already well known to them since versions of it are used by one of our most important Nato allies, the German army.

The Brits were keen to see how it would perform against their own Chieftain and reports from drivers were favourable. According to one "the tank was faster and more powerful than the Chieftain especially uphill" and he also found the suspension "far better — very smooth — so there was no need for me to brace myself over bumps".

The fitters meanwhile, who found themselves operating as a regimental pool instead of on a squadron basis, pointed out that Australian crewmen were not expected to know so much about the Leopard as were their British counterparts on the Chieftain.

The first ten days of the Australian exchange proved hard graft for the Skins as their Australian instructors put over the finer points of driving and maintenance, signals and gunnery — all of them different on the Leopard.

Gunners, for instance, were to find a 105mm British-designed rifled gun of the same type as fitted to the Swedish 'S' tank, the Centurion, and to American tanks. But although more elderly tank gunners might have recognised the gun with its brass shell-case, they would soon have discovered that modern sights had much improved it.

Although the British soldiers liked the Leopard, there were to be few later who did not look forward to returning to their own powerful Chieftains — even if they weren't quite so clean, or quite so fast. The Chieftain, said one corporal crew commander, is "definitely a more powerful tank, with better armour — which you need in Germany".

With conversion training finished, the squadron took to the field for troop and squadron exercises on the Puckapunyal training area. The area is superb for tank training — rolling irregular hills with frequent clumps of rather dead-looking gum trees. But despite their moribund appearance, the gum trees, some varieties of which support koala bears, keep their leaves on all the year round.

Graded roads, and fast flowing water in the creeks and rivers, make map-reading more simple than at Suffield, Canada, but at the same time are easily crossed by tanks which can roam at will over the whole area.

Herds of red kangaroos abound, and are often seen close to vehicles at dawn and dusk. Kangaroos are timid creatures, but if cornered could become quite dangerous. For bird-lovers there was the chance to admire flocks of white and red-grey cockatoos as well as all the varying parrot species and even an occasional emu.

In May and June the Australian winter is setting in, and while daytime temperatures remain pleasantly high, nights can be quite cold. British crewmen who relied only on the lighter Australian sleeping bags were in for chilly surprises, but one advantage of the colder weather was to help keep snakes and



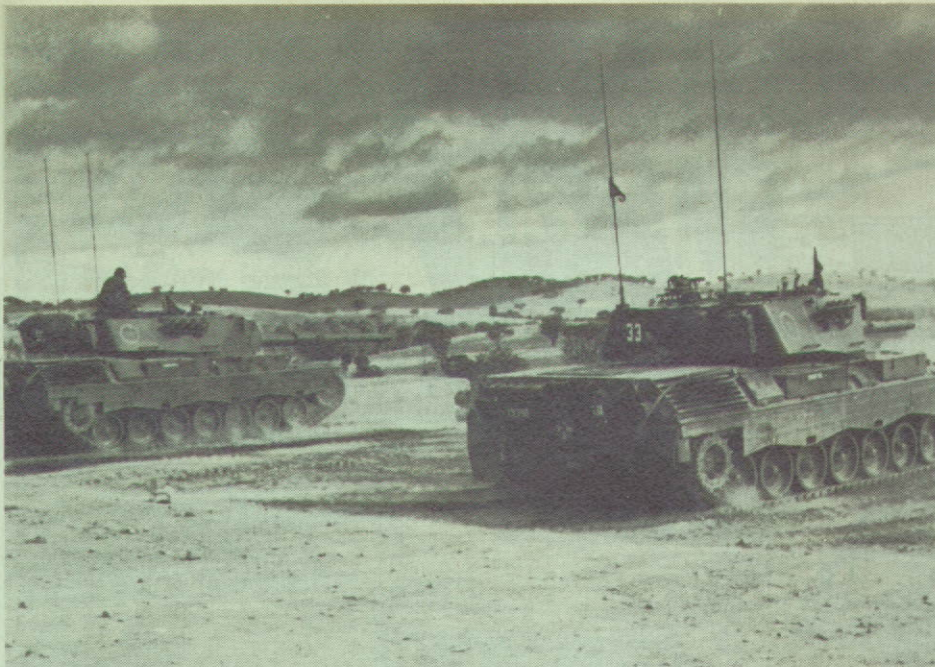
Above: Kangaroos made a change from Leopards! Trooper Stephen Hatfield off duty at wild life park.

spiders at bay.

There are over one hundred species of poisonous snakes in Australia, but thanks to modern medical treatments few prove fatal. Even so, the Skins were alarmed to hear from a captain in the 5th/7th Royal Australian Regiment how a deadly six foot tiger snake had once crawled into the bottom of one of his soldier's sleeping bags during an exercise in tropical northern Queensland. Fortunately the terrified soldier had been extricated before the snake was able to bite.

Even more unpleasant than snakes are the spiders. Two types of these, the red-backed spider and the funnel web spider, which are not a lot larger than European spiders, are liable to turn up anywhere, and their bites will put a man in hospital.

The climax of the Leopard training for tank crewmen was a day's Gunnery camp and there was plenty to do too for the rest of the contingent. A half troop of the 1st Royal Tank Regiment accompanied the Skins to provide close reconnaissance for the squad-



Above: Brits man Leopards at gunnery practice — Aussie instructor squatting on the turret.



ron. They found their Australian 'recce' vehicle to be the tracked M113, an American-made vehicle resembling our Armoured Personnel Carrier.

One novelty for the 'tankies' was the power controlled rear door, which could be lowered or shut like a drawbridge by the vehicle commander. But they missed the protection offered by the Rarden cannon of their British Scimitars.

Combat supplies were brought forward to the troops by the SQMS and his team using Australian army resupply vehicles. The SQMS appreciated the fact that he had a .50 machine-gun mounting on his personal transport, an M113, but found the tracked load carriers (TLCs) to be noisy and slow in comparison with his Stalwarts.

Commenting on the success of the exchange the Squadron Leader, Major Gabbey, said it had run 'like clock-work'.

"It has been a thoroughly valuable, interesting, and unique experience to train and exercise a full squadron with another army's equipment, over terrain quite unlike that of the German plains. It has been thoroughly useful to compare our own methods of operating, including the back up support, with that of the Australians.

"One thing I know that everybody will agree with me on, and that is how much we appreciate the hospitality and help given to us by our Australian hosts. Their hospitality has been staggering!"

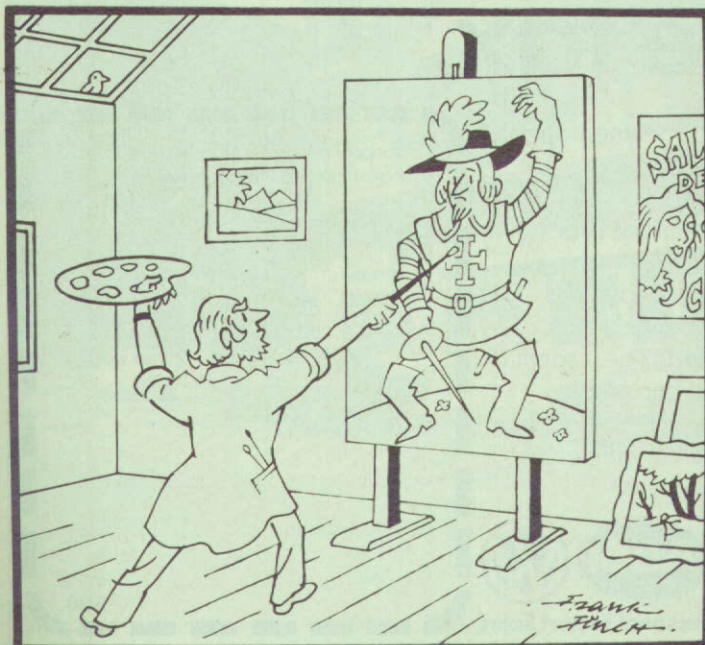
That hospitality included such diverse entertainments as a visit to an Australian Rules football match and an old 19th century gold mine, but the highlight came at the end of the trip with a few days at 'Surfers Paradise', the legendary beach in sub-tropical Queensland, where they were guests of the Royal Australian Air Force.

After the rigours of Puckapunyal it was just the tonic the Skins needed before winging their way back across the world to be the first Irish regiment since 1969 to serve in troubled Northern Ireland.

Left: Tanks may differ but checking them never changes. Work in progress at Puckapunyal.

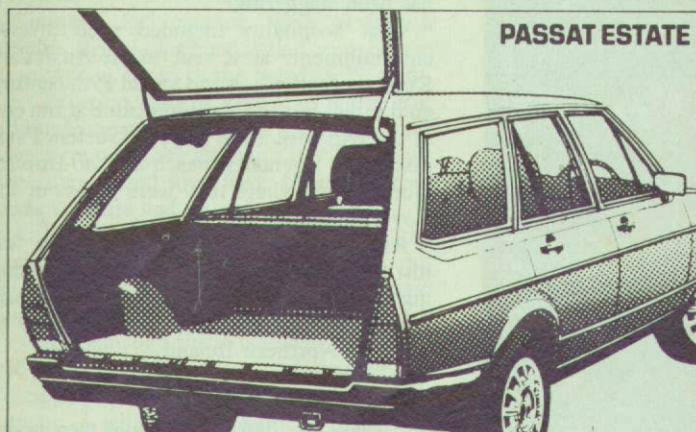
How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences see page 57.





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SD8

SOLDIER staff writer Mike Starke and photographer Paul Haley spent a week in Berlin looking at different aspects of the Army's presence there. In this and future issues we feature their reports . . .

WESTERN ISLAND IN THE EAST

THE ARMY'S MOST EXTRA-ORDINARY GARRISON takes some 3000 Servicemen and their families more than 100 miles behind the Iron Curtain to spend their two years in an island of Allied influence set in a sea of Warsaw Pact territory — West Berlin.

The divided city with its infamous wall that has hacked a random swathe through human rights and dignity in the one-time German capital is still 'occupied' by the World War Two allies — including Russia — which accounts for the presence there of British troops and airmen.

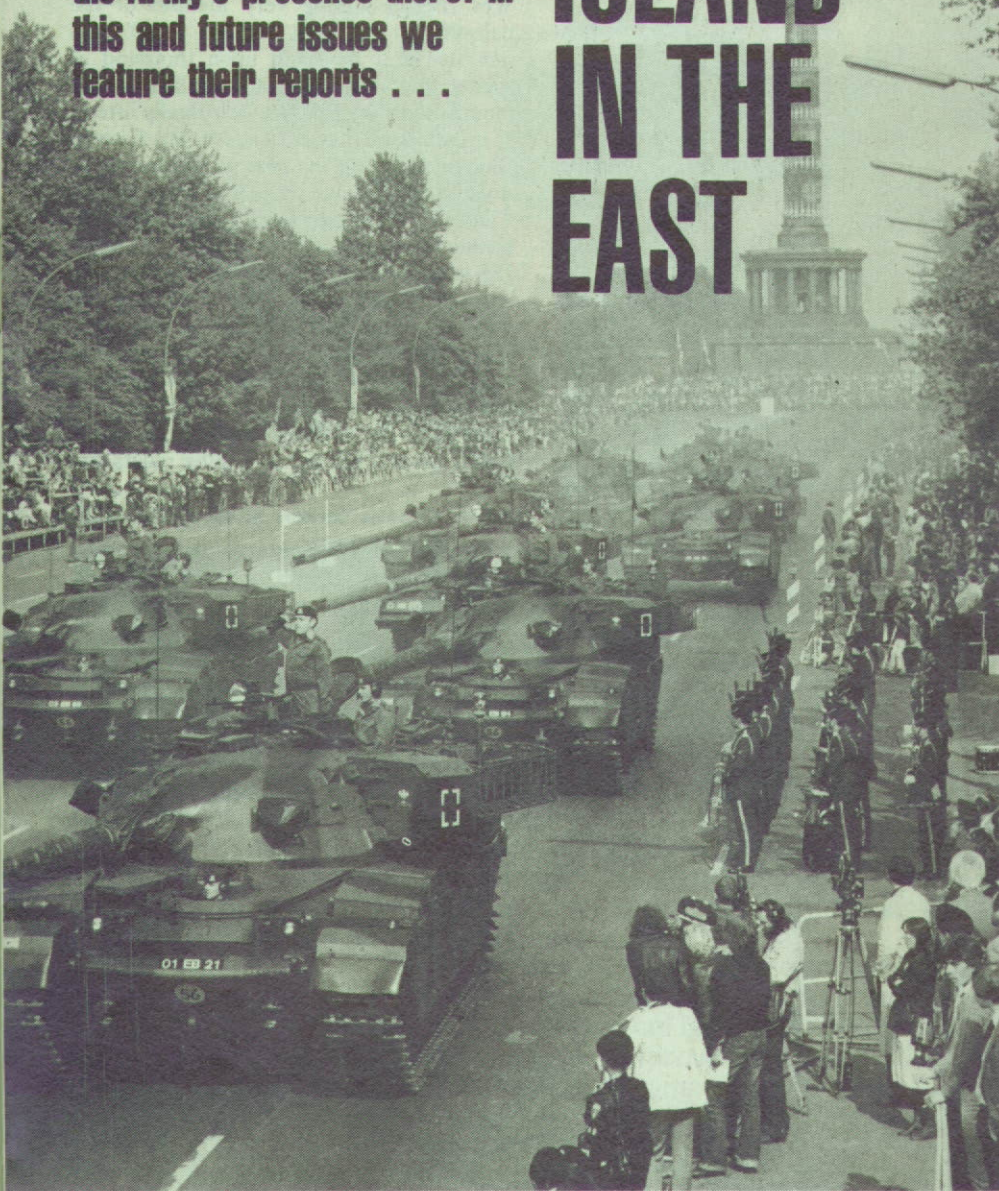
The Allied presence is based on the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany at the end of the war. The ultra-modern, spacious city (on both sides of the Wall, for Berlin is a showpiece for East as well as West) of today is a far cry from the devastated wasteland of rubble that greeted the Allied victors in 1945.

Berlin had been bombed since 1941 and nearly 4000 Commonwealth airmen gave their lives on this continuous mission of destruction. The kernel at the heart of Hitler's much-vaunted 'thousand year Reich' was finally crushed in a nut-cracker of steel as two mighty armies clawed their way street by street, building by building into a city defended at the end by some 10,000 old men and boys — all that was left of Nazi armed might as their Fuehrer and some of his henchmen, in a last desperate act of cowardice, took their own lives in the subterranean recesses of their bunker — rats poisoned in their own sewer. Ironically, that bunker (flooded by the Russians after the war) stands in a barren no-man's land near the Brandenburg Gate in the shadow of a later symbol of tyranny — the Berlin Wall.

Two months after the German surrender, under agreements already made by the Allies, American, British and French forces moved into Berlin to join the Russians who had borne the brunt of the battle. The Western Allies moved the rest of their troops back to what is now the West German border with

continued over

Below left: Russian Flag Tour at Checkpoint Charlie. Below: The famed 'Pope's Revenge'.





Above: French crew with their light tank.

East Germany and the administration of Berlin took on a shape that has changed little to this day.

A four power Kommandatura was set up to run Berlin in the immediate post-war years. But then the Cold War brought the world to the brink of permanent deep freeze in 1948 when the Russians blockaded the surface routes across their satellite East Germany to West Berlin — the very lifelines of the beleaguered city. A heroic airlift was mounted and thousand upon thousand of flights kept West Berlin supplied for 11 months until the blockade was finally lifted.

It took more than a decade for the Eastern Bloc to dream up the next major weapon to isolate and dislodge the Allies from Berlin. This came in the ugly form of the Wall which sprang up overnight on 13 August 1961 when 185 roads in the city were blocked off including the Brandenburg Gate straddling the once bustling Unter den Linden thoroughfare. Either side of the actual city itself, the wall stretched off over some 160 kilometres in a barrier which has become more sophisticated over the years to include dog runs, watch towers, arc lights, gaping moats and

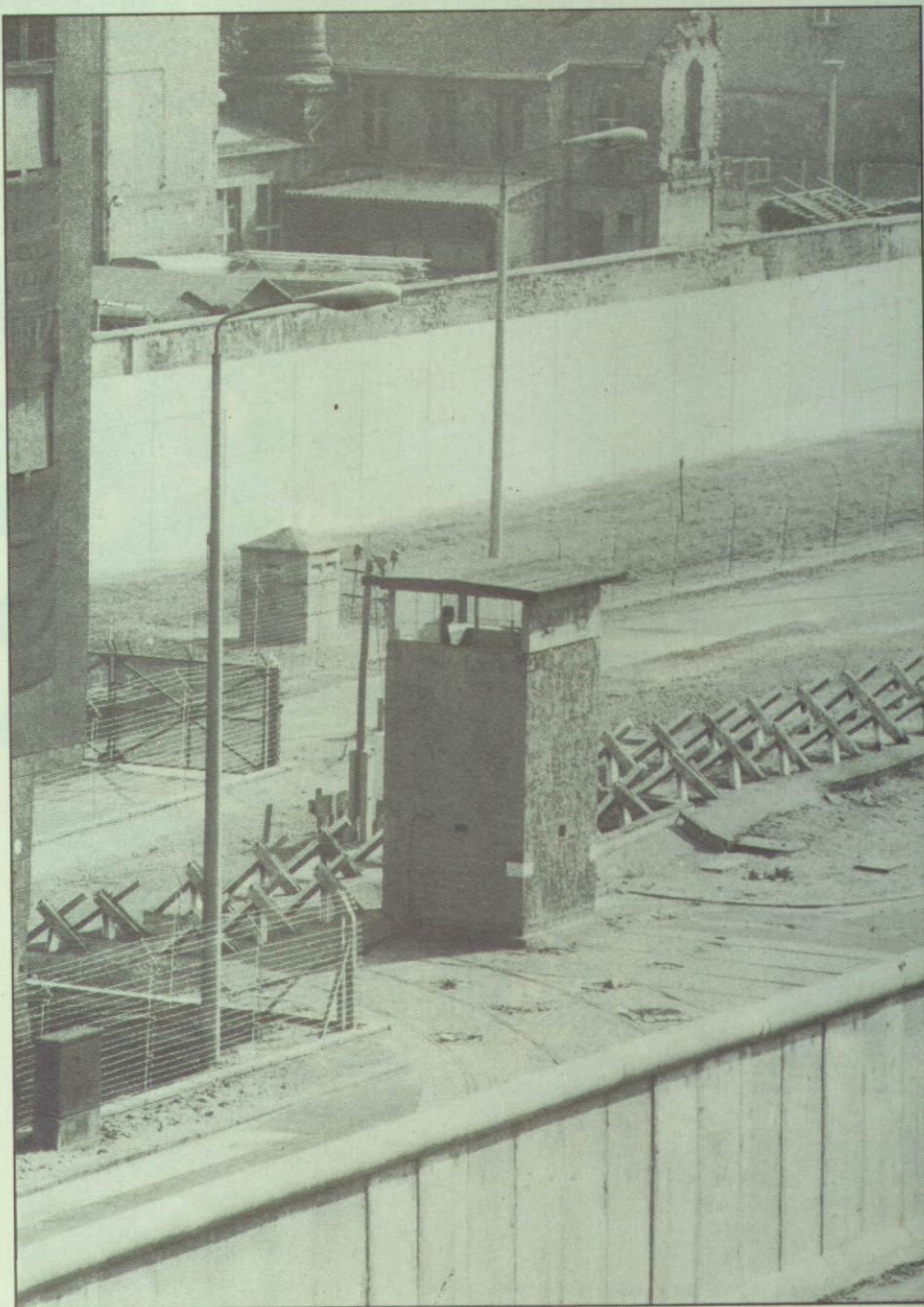
continued page 32

Below: Complex barriers at the Berlin Wall,

Of the 13,000 Allied troops in Berlin, the United Kingdom accounts for some 3000. They comprise the staff of Headquarters Berlin (British) Sector under a Major-General and the 'teeth' arm and support units of Berlin Field Force, commanded by a Brigadier. The Field Force currently consists of Berlin Garrison Administration Unit, D Squadron The Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own), 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment, 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Rangers, 38 (Berlin) Field Squadron Royal Engineers, Berlin Postal and Courier Troop RE, 229 Signal Squadron (Berlin), 3 Squadron 13 Signal Regiment, 7 Flight Army Air Corps, 62 Transport and Movement Squadron Royal Corps of Transport, British Military Hospital Berlin, Ordnance Services Berlin, 14 Berlin Field Workshops Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, 247 (Berlin) Provost Company Royal Military Police, 14 Detachment Special Investigations Branch RMP BAOR, 46 Army Education Centre, 14 Independent Pioneer and Civil Labour Unit, 3 Intelligence and Security Company and RAF Gatow plus ancillary local civilian employees.

The French and Americans run roughly parallel organisations with one or two differences. The US contingent is the largest (at 7000) and their troops include an artillery company and an armoured company equipped with tanks constituting the largest such sub-unit in the US Army. Some 1000 of their personnel are airmen.

Mostly conscripts make up the French contingent, their country now being the only one of the three to still have National Service. In addition to their military element, the French have Gendarmes equating to the Military Police of America and Britain.





The Personnel Carrier.

Look inside the 1980 Ford Cortina and you will find improved seats with new fabrics, a redesigned fascia with fresh and warm air vents and 3-speed heater control. Some models also have 'see through' detachable head restraints and a new centre console unit.

Ford have also introduced a great number of engineering advances on the 1980 Cortina. On the outside there's a new aerodynamic grille, wrap-around front turn indicators, bigger tail lamps with integral fog lamps in saloons, a laminated windscreen and improved body protection and anti-corrosion treatment.

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All-in-all Ford have made the Cortina one of the most practical and reliable cars in Europe.

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*As recommended by The Accident Offices Association (U.K.).

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FORD PERSONAL EXPORT

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Pictured clockwise: • Lemon spray polish made US tanks fresh and fragrant for Allied Forces Day Parade • Military Police peer across the Wall at the Brandenburg Gate • East German ceremonial guard at East Berlin memorial. Balancing the rifle on the palm with the arm crooked is tiring work and the foot bell between his boots is to warn his partner to change hands • US tank on parade • The three allies represented on Allied Forces Day. In the background the Siegesaule (Victory Column) and to the left the East Berlin radio tower with glinting cross — 'The Pope's Revenge' • A colourful display by a French band on parade.

the concrete wall itself with a cylindrical rotating section at the top to throw off would-be escapers.

But escapers there have been — and still are. A trickle of ingenious refugees still manage to evade even today's sophisticated barriers. There are also those who paid the price of failure with their lives and their memorials at the foot of the obscene barrier to their freedom bear mute witness to the inhumanity of the Wall which is manned by 14,000 men, all ordered to shoot to kill.

West Berlin is nowadays administered by three Commandants — Headquarters British Sector is headed by Major-General Bob Richardson — and they retain the ultimate supreme authority over the city. But everyday administration is done by the locally elected Senate and House of Representatives and there is a Governing Mayor, currently Herr Dietrich Stobbe.

Each of the three Western Allied Commandants chairs the Kommandatura in turn and hosts monthly private meetings with the Mayor at his home.

The British Commandant answers to two masters. Firstly the British Military Government of which he is head. This mission is equivalent to a medium sized embassy in status and its responsible to the British Ambassador in Bonn. Secondly, he commands British Forces Berlin (including RAF Gatow — the Forces' air head to the West) and in this capacity comes under the Commander-in-Chief of British Forces Germany.

continued on page 35





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Above: Americans, French and British marching together in Allied Forces' Day Parade to show Western solidarity in face of Eastern threats.

Tension in the divided city was eased back in 1971 when a four-sided agreement was signed to allow — among other things — freer travel between the West and East sectors of Berlin. A Westerner can now spend up to 30 days in the East per year. But he has to pay the equivalent of £1.60 a day for the privilege.

East Berlin is still officially the Soviet sector and the three Western Allies deal only with the Russians in all matters of rights and access to Berlin.

Although civilian visits across the Wall are limited, under the old agreements, the four military occupiers can travel freely from one to the other in uniform. Every day these Flag Tours, as they are termed, send cars full of soldiers back and forth from East to West maintaining the rights of all parties to move freely through all the city.

Allied troops in Berlin number some

Greater Berlin covers some 341 square miles — more than twice the area of the Isle of Wight. It is not all built up; it has lakes and forests and even a few farms. It boasts the biggest inland lido in Europe and this is well used by hundreds if not thousands of water sport enthusiasts.

Berlin is split into four sectors. The Soviet sector (East Berlin) is almost half its area, the other half being split between the French, British and American sectors. In terms of population it is the largest city in all Germany with three million people, two thirds of whom live in the West.

It is the biggest industrial city in Germany too with an annual productivity valued at 46 billion Deutsch Marks (£11½ billion). The Siemensstadt electronics factory complex is a city within a city employing 28,000 people alone. Other products include engineering, chemicals, tobacco, confectionery and clothing.

But as Berlin has no raw materials of its own it depends entirely for its survival on the road, rail, water and air routes to the West. There are three air corridors (20 miles across but still only 10,000 feet high in accordance with the wartime requirement of piston engined aircraft!) and three road accesses carefully monitored by the East Germans through whose territory they pass. There are 200 flights a day to and from Berlin and they may only be made by airlines of the Allied nations, both civil and military.

Canals form a vital lifeline in the network of arteries maintaining the lifeblood flow to the surrounded city by carrying 25 per cent of Berlin's goods. Rail links carry some 26 trains a day, one third of which carry freight only. Half of them return empty.

There is a labour force of 800,000 a tenth of which is made up of Gastarbeiters (literally: guest-workers) half of whom are Turkish — making up the fifth largest Turkish community in the world.

The city's population is older on average than West Germany as a whole as many youngsters leave to broaden their horizons outside the confines of the isolated city.

Berlin means a lot to the Federal Republic more than 100 miles away to the west and it pours subsidies of one billion DM a year (£250 million) into the city, a figure representing 52 per cent of Berlin's budget (although it is still less than one per cent of the whole nation's budget).

So with its material and cultural life maintained at a level higher than many other Western cities (doubtless partly at least as an 'example' to the more frugal East), it is no surprise that West Berlin exudes an air of prosperity which is a far cry from the desolation of World War Two. Indeed, it appears more prosperous than less fortunate communities elsewhere which suffered at the hands of Berlin's onetime Nazi masters.

13,000 and they are uncomfortably aware that they are surrounded by Soviet forces of some 90,000 who exercise regularly on the traditional training areas around Berlin as well as the 500,000 men under arms in the German Democratic Republic itself, a proportion of whom man the 8000 Russian and German tanks that can be called on.

But it is widely accepted that the large numbers of Soviet and East German troops ranged around Berlin may not necessarily be there as a specific threat to West Berlin and that in the event of conflict between the two major power blocs Berlin might well pale into insignificance as a political flashpoint in the light of more glaring global issues.

Perhaps more than in any other place the British Army serves today, the military authorities in Berlin find themselves walking a political tightrope that threatens to trip them up at every turn. Men more used to action appear wary of the subtleties of diplomacy and even the most routine decision can be punctuated by sharp intakes of breath by way of reaction as political implications are read into the simplest matters by those unused to the devious dealings of diplomacy.

In a nutshell, General Richardson summed up his command thus: "The Allied Forces are in Berlin to safeguard the freedom of West Berlin. The West Berliners look to the Allies as protecting powers. Their mission is to identify and deter aggression and this is something which we are confident we can achieve."

"For us Berlin is unique. It is one of the few places where the French can train with the British and United States troops and it is the only place where soldiers, airmen and diplomats of the Allies at all levels maintain a regular contact with their Russian equivalents and still share certain duties with them such as the Air Safety Centre (a 24-hour-a-day air traffic control centre for Berlin)."

It is also claimed to be the only place where military occupation is 'genuinely welcomed' by the inhabitants.

But for all the tensions of the top brass, SOLDIER could not find a Forces family which could genuinely admit Berlin was not one of the plum postings in today's Army. The city itself offers an almost endless variety of entertainment from the sublime (opera, ballet, orchestral concerts) to the 'gor blimey' (punk rock, night clubs, beer halls). Anyone claiming to be bored in Berlin has ceased to breathe.

Living is cheap too. Apart from the usual Local Overseas Allowance, Service families benefit from the Families Ration Issue Section (FRIS) food prices (this was a system introduced to ensure there would never be a shortage of food in the event of another blockade).

FRIS deliveries to quarters — while not covering the full gamut of groceries — do offer such items as steak at 50p a pound ("We use rump steak for stews!" declared one grateful resident).

Outdoor recreation is catered for in abundance too. For Berlin is not only a city, there are plenty of lakes and waterways (Greater Berlin has more bridges than Venice) as well as extensive wood and parkland. There is even hang gliding from Berlin's one and only hill — made from the rubble of the ruined city.

So whatever the strains of duties in Berlin — there's no real need to feel walled in.

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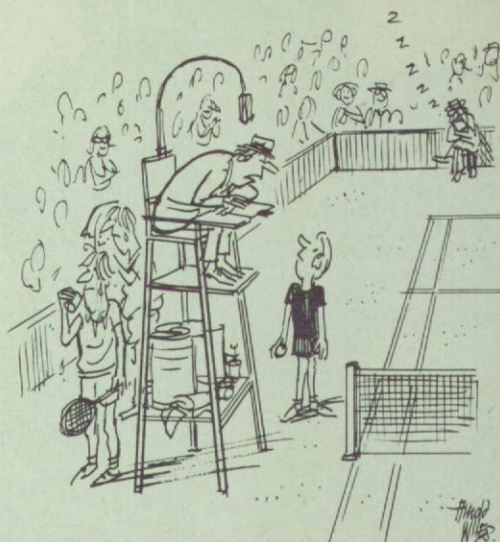
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POWER

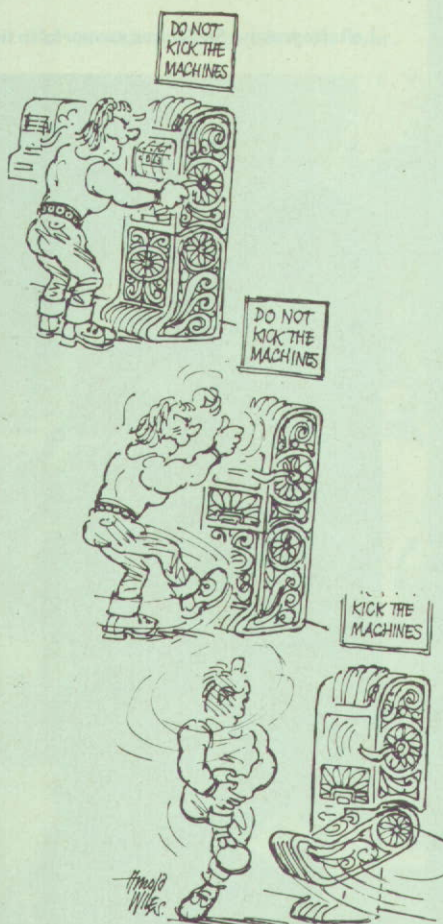
"When I want your opinion I'll ask for it . . .
incidentally, what is your opinion?"



Frank Miller

"Nip over and tell the line judge
the match is over."

Humour



Frank Miller



GOOCHER



POWER

"I think it's the battery."

WELFARE OVER THE WALL

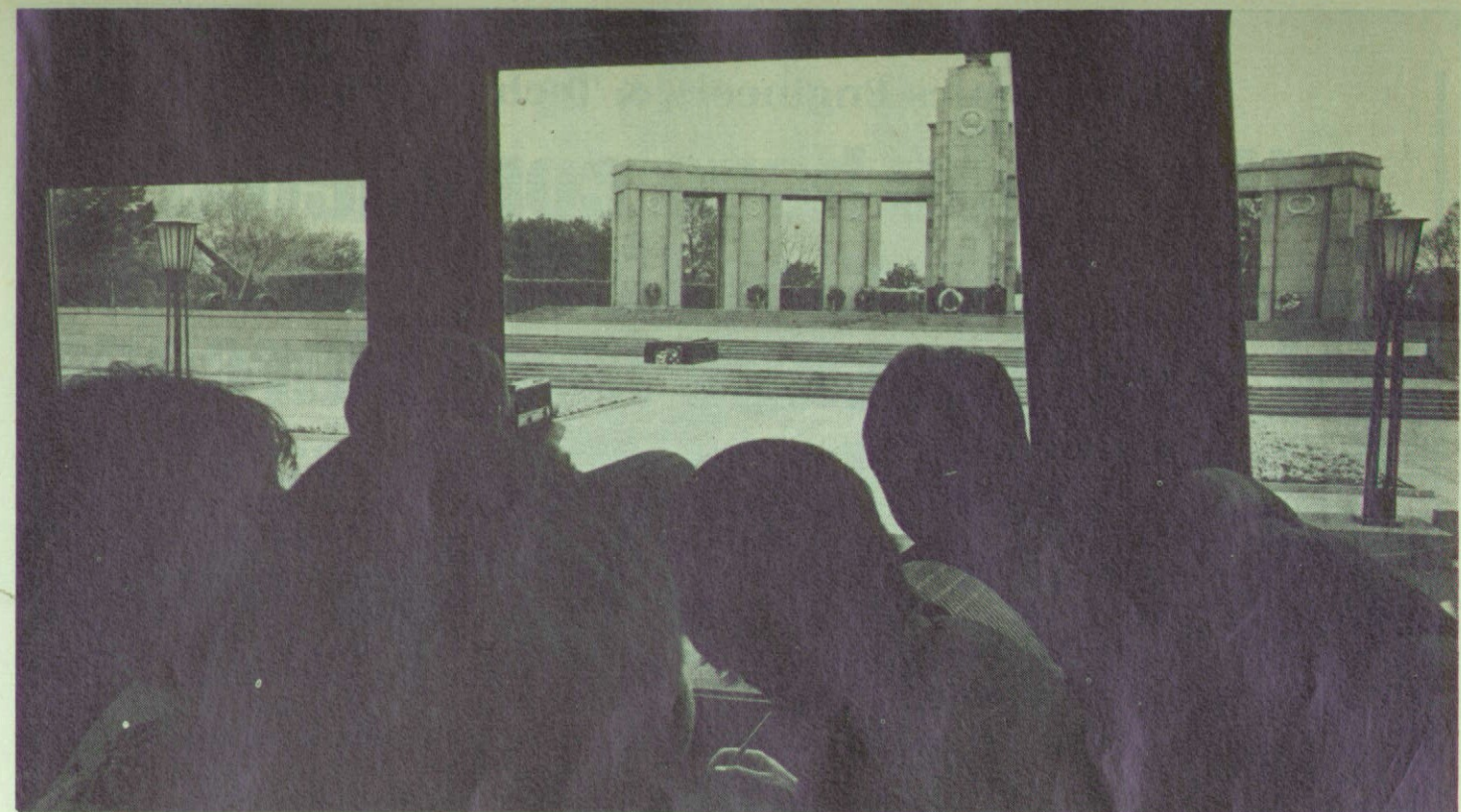
THE LUXURY COACH eased its way through the obstacles at Checkpoint Charlie — the most famous loophole in the infamous Berlin Wall — and a stony-faced East German border guard in his drab grey-green uniform cast cold eyes over the passports and documents of the British Service personnel, their friends and relatives, who were passengers on the coach.

It was not a mass-defection by Britons to the communist East but one of the weekly tours of both sectors of divided Berlin organised by the Berlin Military Welfare Service.

BMWS is a unique organisation set up to fill the void left when the Women's Royal Voluntary Service helpers were withdrawn from Berlin in a recent trim of the defence budget.

The WRVS left some three years ago but

Left: Impressive Soviet war memorial in the East.



the need for practical and positive welfare services to be offered to Servicemen and their families in the British Sector remained. It was filled by BMWS — jointly administered by the YMCA and the British Headquarters in the city, represented at present by staff officer Major Alan Davis — which with its tiny staff but abundant energy and enthusiasm have built up a service that is already the envy of other remote postings. It

has been suggested that a similar organisation should be set up in Hong Kong.

The East/West Berlin coach tour every Saturday is just one of many services offered by BMWS in a busy week but is a highlight for visitors to the city and 'residents' posted there alike.

Up to three buses (depending on demand) set off with their passengers and guides provided by units based in Berlin or the Head-

quarters. And there is plenty to see on the three hour tour of both sides of the Wall.

Both sectors of Berlin are showpieces for the governing ideologies so there is plenty for the tourist to marvel at. Berliners themselves have grown cynical over the years and with their own brand of humour — in similar vein to their Cockney counterparts in London — they have nicknamed some of the more outstanding sights.

continued on page 41

Below: Val Crooks checks passport for tour.

Above: Tour passes the Soviet war memorial.

Below: East Berlin ceremonial guard — off guard!



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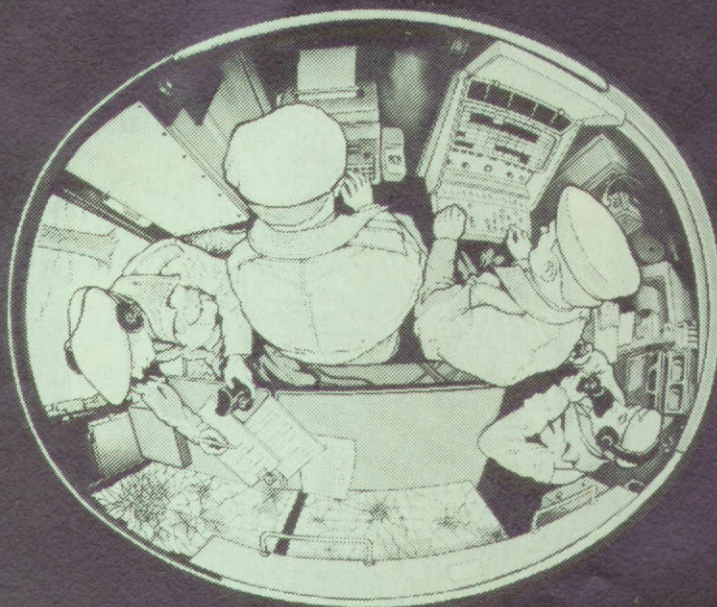
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The new international congress centre in West Berlin for instance, looking for all the world (and beyond) like something from the film set of Star Wars, is now dubbed 'The Coffin'.

While over the Wall in the East the skyline is dominated by a gigantic radio tower with a shiny globular section some two thirds of the way up it. To the chagrin of the atheist regime there, the sun reflects a clearly defined cross from the glittering globe for all to see in the East and West. To Berliners this is 'The Pope's Revenge'.

With an irony not lost on the witty Berliners, another of the West's sights is no more. For during SOLDIER's visit to the city, an older congress centre with cantilevered semi-circular roof sections that had earned it the local name 'Jimmy Carter's Smile' collapsed (luckily incurring only a few injuries) at a time that the United States' president was finding little to laugh about in real life back home!

The climax of the tour of the East is the visit to the Russian war memorial laid out in massive parkland. Amid the statuesque grandeur of the awesome architecture, there is an added poignancy to the tradition of newly-wed brides bringing their bouquets to the memorial as floral tributes.

The tour over, the coaches make their ritual zig-zag through the Checkpoint Charlie barriers to return to the West and their own start and finish point, Summit House, a focal point for Service families set on the edge of Berlin's city centre.

As well as containing Naafi shops and the local British Forces Broadcasting Service studios, Summit House is the nerve centre for BMWS too.

For it's here that two more vital services are offered as well as the East/West tours. Four nights a week young soldiers and Berlin girls 'boogie' the evenings away at a discotheque run by BMWS staffer Malcolm Scott. Some 200 people a time come to join in the fun and although there are the inevitable rivalries between youngsters from different units, Malcolm is surprised how well their own 'vigilante' committees work at nipping trouble in the bud. A Naafi run bar cools thirsty dancers down but Naafi takes no part in the organisation of the disco itself which is entirely a BMWS service.

Perhaps the most widely used and broadly based service offered by BMWS is the booking and information office, also in Summit House. Here Val Crooks, plus a part time clerical assistant, runs a non-stop ticket agency and tourist bureau.

Berlin (East as well as West) is renowned for its cultural life which caters for tastes from Punk to Prokofiev — and all stations in between! When SOLDIER looked in on the office, Val was busy booking tickets for an American circus, several orchestral concerts, Led Zeppelin, the Russian Bolshoi Theatre and a number of operas. Many people serving in Berlin take advantage of its varied cultural life and the 200,000 Deutschmarks a year turnover in ticket booking (some £50,000) bears witness to the use they make of the BMWS reservation service.

The office is there for information too, and Val Crooks takes an obvious pride in keeping up with what's on in Berlin to give the best service to her Service customers.



Above: Service tourists on guided tour of the East.

Below: Changing of the Guard — East Berlin style.



Young, single soldiers make good use of the other BMWS service — the lounges that are based at the main barrack complexes to offer an alternative to the hustle and bustle of the Naafi bars or local pubs and clubs. BMW's senior member, Pat Bere, is in charge here and she showed SOLDIER the lounge currently shared by two infantry battalions.

Pat explained that she opened the lounge six evenings a week from about 6pm to 10.15. She admitted it means curtailing her own social life but clearly thinks this is worthwhile judging by the work she puts in to offer the young soldiers a positive alternative to 'a night out with the lads'.

There are snooker and table tennis tables on hand as well as a television room. A wide selection of cassette tapes can be played on the lounge's music centre while its patrons relax in easy chairs and read the latest newspapers and magazines. And for those wishing

for even more peace and quiet — perhaps to write a letter home or maybe just to sit and think, there is a separate room set aside for the purpose.

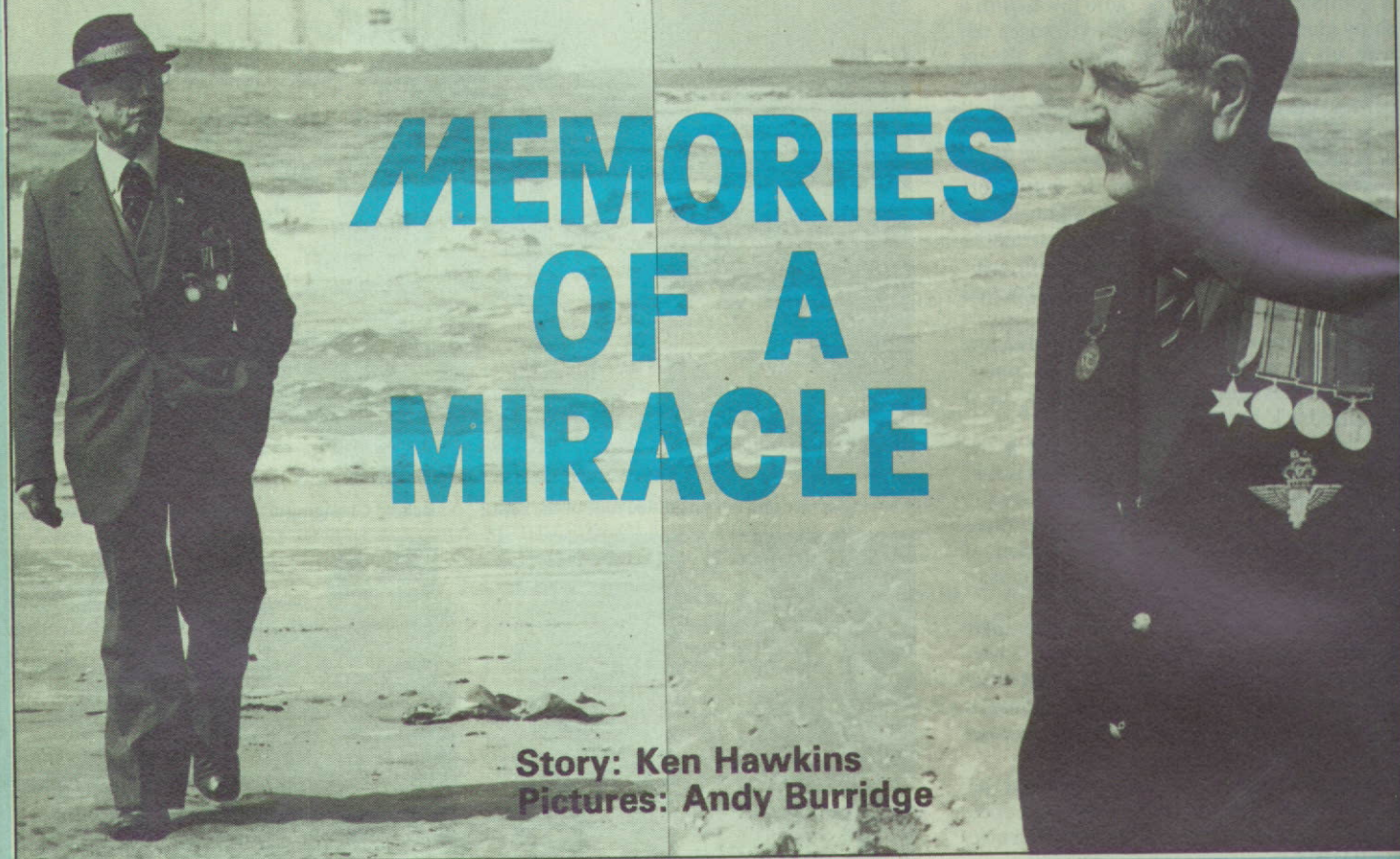
An average of 15 to 20 use the lounges and their facilities each night and Pat is always on hand for a chat if anyone's got something on their mind.

As overall administrator of the BMWS operation, Major Alan Davis has nothing but praise for the small staff: "They do a very good job and BMWS gets a tremendous amount of use by people here".

But, ever wishing to improve the service, he added: "We'd still like more people visiting from the United Kingdom or West Germany to get in touch and find out just what we can do to plan their visit to Berlin".

And for those who want to do just that, the address is BMWS, Summit House, BFPO 45. The telephone number is Berlin 309-4526.

Forty years on, the veterans of Dunkirk go back to the beaches to share....



Story: Ken Hawkins
Pictures: Andy Burrige

Above: Alone with their thoughts on the beaches.

Below: The veterans parade through the town.

DUNKIRK[®]
1940



WAR MEMORIAL CEREMONIES on a scale not seen in Britain since the immediate post-war years marked the 40th anniversary of the Dunkirk evacuation in the once-small seaside town that has now grown to be France's third largest port.

Tens of thousands packed the main square in Dunkirk on a sunny June Sunday morning as the 'miracle' of 1940 was recalled with tributes to the fallen and praise for the valour of the men who escaped to fight another day.

In the afternoon the ceremonies moved to the famous beaches — and there were the legendary little ships, about 40 of them, to join in the moving reminder of the inferno that raged on those sand dunes as soldiers of the British Expeditionary Force and allied comrades-in-arms escaped the clutches of the fast-advancing German Army.

Over recent years there has been growing comment on France's frosty attitude towards the British. But there was not a hint of this at Dunkirk, as old and young generations of the town turned out in their thousands to join their British visitors in remembrance.

Posters and stickers in the shop windows of the main thoroughfares proclaimed a welcome to the British veterans and expressed touching sentiments of those French people wishing to join in the commemoration.

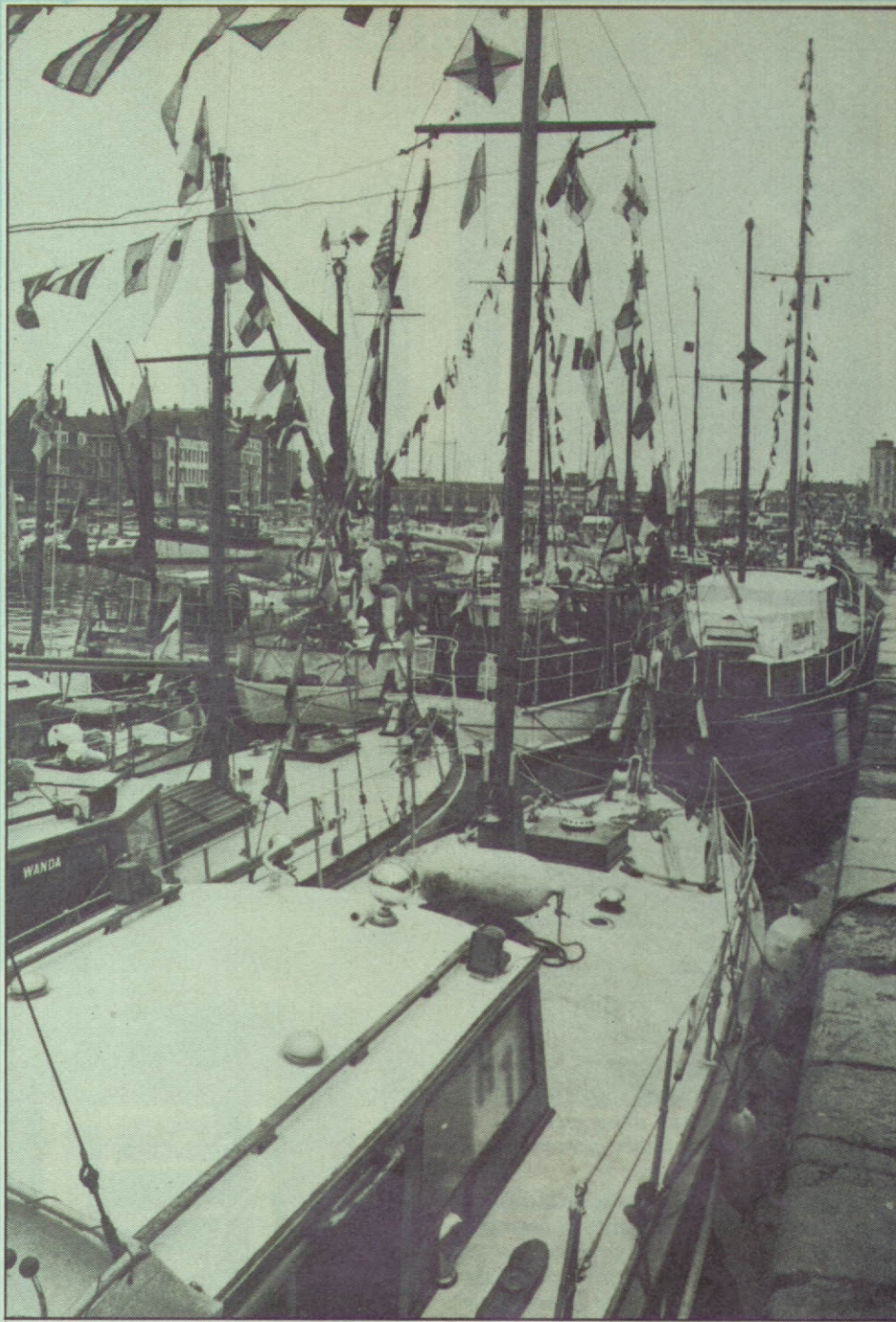
"You belong to Dunkirk," the British veterans were assured in stirring speeches, made in French and English, at the Town War Memorial.

Even people hurrying home with freshly-baked loaves of bread tucked under their arms and the track-suited bicycle-mad men and youths out for their Sunday morning spin were compelled by the immensity of it all to stop and join in the tribute.

Allied veterans not only from France, but from Belgium, Holland, Norway, Denmark and Poland had also come to the town to play their parts in remembering those dark days on the sun-drenched beaches of northern France in 1940 when 330,000 troops were snatched from the claws of the advancing enemy.

These old soldiers from the continental armies were lined-up to join their British, Canadian, Australian, New Zealand and

Below: Pause for a moment's quiet reflection.



Above: Some 'little ships' went back too.



other Commonwealth veterans in the massive march-past.

As the bands pipes and drums struck up *Scotland the Brave* the crowds burst into enthusiastic applause.

The British were divided into three battalions, each about 600 strong. Many of the men marching wore their medals, some so many that there were rows of them, from shoulder almost down to waist. A few men had come back in their wheelchairs, pushed by friends or younger relatives.

Around the square the parade marched, then out into the streets and around the blocks of post-war shops and offices nearby. The parade stretched for several blocks. Bringing up the rear were despatch riders on old Ariel motor-bikes — and then American Army vehicles from a country that did not enter the war until 18 months after Dunkirk.

When the parade was dismissed, back in the square, the time had already come for a lunch break. It gave an opportunity for many of these old comrades to repair to the bars



Above: 3RRF's band added their musical tribute.
Right: Proud French veterans in Jean Bart Square.



dotted around the square and, over a glass of beer — few ever acquired a taste for French wine — to mull over those memories of momentous days when they were two score years younger.

Early in the afternoon those little ships — one was 80 years old — left their overnight berths in the harbour and made for the beaches, now lined with dry docks and terminals that were not there 40 years ago.

One of these little ships had had to give up and retire gracefully from the flotilla that had sailed across the Channel the previous day, but this small fleet was still a touching reminder of the thousands — no-one knows the exact number — of motor launches and river tugs, fishing trawlers and private yachts, Thames barges and pleasure steamers that made repeated trips across the Channel in those days of May and June in 1940 ferrying our soldiers to safety.

It has been estimated that of the 330,000 troops saved at Dunkirk, about 96,000 were gathered off the beaches by these little ships and ferried out to Navy vessels lying off-shore as the enemy shells whined overhead and the Stuka bombers dived on the shoreline.

Rescue operations became too dangerous in the daylight and the order came for evacuation to take place only in darkness.

But the sun was shining brightly as thousands gathered once more on the beaches of Dunkirk this June Sunday in 1980.

Massed around the Allied Memorial on the beach, they joined in singing *Abide with me* and *O God, our help in ages past*.



An RAF helicopter hovered over the little ships, about half-a-mile off the shore, and lowered a wreath of poppies on to the waves.

Other planes still owned by the RAF — a Hurricane, a Spitfire and a Lancaster bomber from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight — flew in formation 300ft above the beaches, a stark reminder of the time when Britain and the Commonwealth were left to fight alone against the Nazi tyranny.

After the service on the beach there was another short service in the Dunkirk Military Cemetery, and in the village of Esquelbecq where nearly 100 British soldiers were massacred by the SS during the retreat from Dunkirk.

The next day similar services were conducted in the town and on the beaches of La Panne, 20 or so miles along the coast and over the border, a resort that has been called 'Belgium's Blackpool'.

It was at La Panne that many of those on the Dunkirk Veterans Association 25th annual four-day pilgrimage stayed, finding these days that France has become too expensive for them. They had a social, a dance and a ball arranged for their evenings with a firework display in La Panne on the Sunday.

But those who time had treated not so affluently had to content themselves with a shorter visit. Some came over just for the Sunday ceremonies, by the overnight ferry, dozing in their coaches.

Others had been brought in the coach party arranged by the War Veterans Association, and local veterans groups had arranged their own charter coach trips from the North of England, from Scotland and from Northern Ireland.

Now in their sixties and seventies, these men — most of them now accompanied by their wives — were proud to be back in Dunkirk on this peaceful Sunday, all of them still glowing with the Dunkirk Spirit.

Below: The standard bearers of the rescued Army.



.... AND ARRAS IS NOT FORGOTTEN



Above: Near Arras — trench at Vimy Ridge.

WHILE THE VETERANS of Dunkirk were making their pilgrimage back to those famous beaches, another momentous event of those dark days forty years ago — the Battle of Arras — was being remembered fifty miles away by a party from The 4th Royal Tank Regiment.

They spent three days following the progress of the battle by way of the many cemeteries in which casualties — from 4 and 7 RTR, The Durham Light Infantry, The Northamptonshire and Wiltshire Regiments, the Cameronians, The Royal West Kent Regiment and others — lie buried.

The pilgrimage was organised by Le Souvenir Francais, an organisation dedicated to remembering the sacrifices of the two world wars.

In mid May 1940, Lord Gort decided to make a stand at Arras in order to try and stem the German advance to the coast where desperate attempts were to be made to evacuate the BEF. As part of the plan, a force of 4th and 7th RTR and 6th and 8th Durham Light Infantry, were to be committed on 21 May to a counter attack swinging around Arras from north to south and turning east to Beaurains.

The result of this brave endeavour is well known. Liddell Hart wrote in *The Tanks*, "It may well be asked whether two battalions have ever had such a tremendous effect on history as the 4th and 7th RTR achieved by their action at Arras".

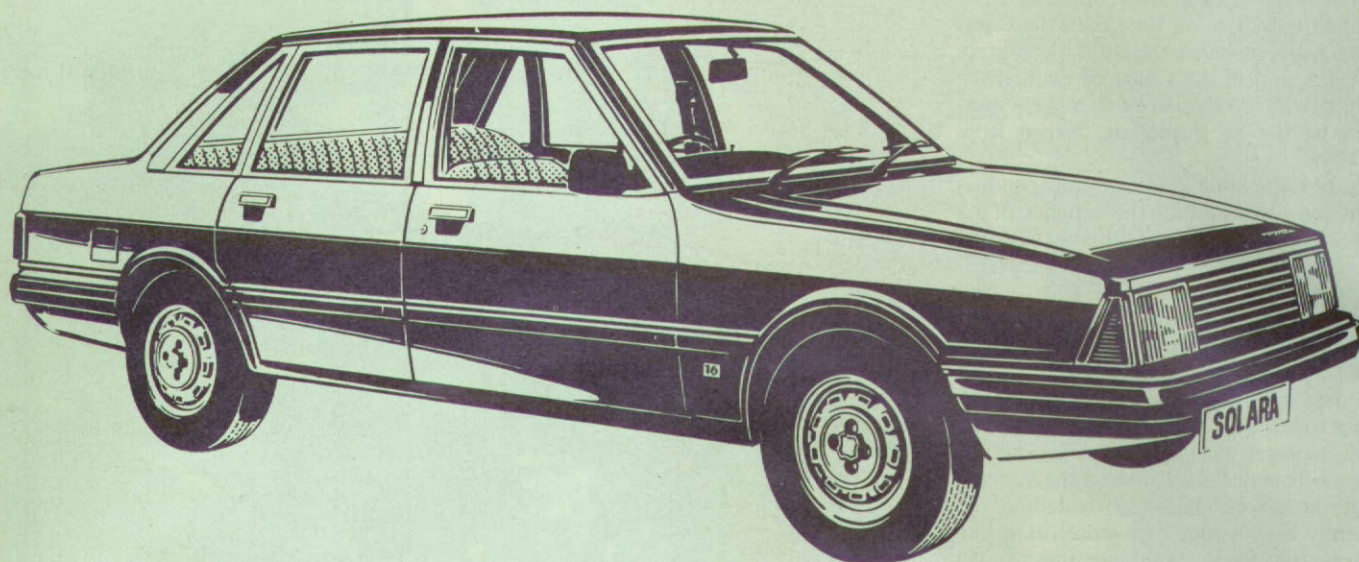
The 32 officers and soldiers from 4 RTR were accompanied by a large and remarkably spry contingent of *anciens combattants* — mainly from the DLI and 7 RTR — and their wives.

In the three days, the 'Tankies' and the old soldiers took part in no less than 20 ceremonies, ranging from one at the splendid town hall of Arras to others in tiny villages.

Camaraderie and good will abounded on all sides. At numerous *vins d'honneur* (drinks for the boys) all manner of kind things were said by the French about the English and vice versa.

Some of the locals had remarkable tales of heroism to tell — about the crews of tanks knocked out by carefully concealed guns; about the brave Private Lungland of 5th battalion of The Buffs who alone held up the German advance into La Herliere for an hour before being killed. Buried where he fell by the Germans he was reburied by the villagers the same night in the cemetery. There were other stories too, some unbelievably sad.

As they finally marched away from Beaurains after an exchange of gifts between the commanding officer and the mayor and the last notes of *The Flowers of the Forest* had fled away, one thing was certain. The dead of May 1940, mostly the same age as the troopers and lance corporals of the guard of honour, had been properly honoured and would not be forgotten.



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YORKIES GO WEST

AFTER TWO WEEKS of American weather even more fickle than England's — 85 degrees Fahrenheit one day and nearly freezing the next — 120 men from the 3rd Bn Yorkshire Volunteers flew home to find the best weather was back home all the time.

They trained with Company B of 1st Bn 151st Infantry Indiana National Guard, equivalent to our Territorial Army, at Camp Atterbury, 50 miles south of Indianapolis.

First surprise for the Yorkshiresmen on arriving at Grissom Air Force Base in a RAF VC10 was a welcome on the control tower which read: 'Grissom welcomes the UK Rifles'. The immediate reaction was: "Who are they?"

The training area at Camp Atterbury was ablaze with dandelions as far as the eye could see. And the sun blazed too with temperatures soaring to the mid eighties on the exposed ranges, causing some of 3 Yorks to need temporary medical attention. The hot spell only lasted three days though and, overnight, temperatures plummeted an incredible 49 degrees to nearly freezing point. Cold winds, thunderstorms and rain followed but the sun later returned.

National Guardsmen had warned the Yorkshiresmen that Hoosier weather was unreliable and were fond of saying: "If you don't like the weather in Indiana stay another day and it'll change".

The heavily forested training area, in which lurked timber rattlesnakes and copperheads, seemed not too dissimilar from the Yorkies' home ground, snakes apart. But on closer inspection the trees were very different. Instead of oak, beech and sycamore there were dogwood, maple, wild cherry and the beautiful redbud and, darting amongst the foliage, the bright scarlet cardinal bird, symbol of Indiana, the cat bird and the mocking bird making their strange cries.

Led by Major Tim Young, an ex-Regular major in The Royal Anglian Regiment and

now a brewery executive in Sheffield, the Terriers were impressed by the weaponry available to the American part-timers.

Experienced only in the rifle, light and sub-machine guns, 3 Yorks, wearing the US Army 'flowerpot' helmet were led to the ranges to fire not only the lightweight M16 rifle, but the M203 grenade launcher, the M60 machine gun, which fires 600 rounds a minute, the massive 50 calibre machine gun, the LAW, Dragon and TOW anti-tank missiles and the 107mm heavy and 81mm light mortars.

The whole point of the trip was for the Brits and Guards to live, work and train together to learn each others' tactics and techniques under varying ground and climatic conditions. This they got down to in the second week during a four-day field exer-



Left: Pte Oliver serves Yorkshire Pud to Yanks. cise when the Brits, particularly the Barnsley miners, impressed the Guards with the size of their fire trenches.

In turn the Brits were more surprised than impressed when the Americans ordered a morning's sleep after a night exercise. As Major Young said: "We generally carry on without sleep!"

They were breathless too after various sporting contests with their hosts including soccer and softball as well as horse shoe pitching. A clerical error by 3 Yorks in orders referred to 'horse pitching' and brought the following reply from the Guards' RSM: "... we are not prepared to compete as we usually only pitch the horse's shoes. However, we should like to be present as we are making bets on the number of times a horse will bounce".

The visit ended with a prize giving ceremony at which Major General Robert D Weliver, the divisional commander, insisted on speaking to each of 3 Yorks personally and presenting all with a certificate 'in grateful recognition for outstanding service' plus regimental badges and divisional flourishes. He said: "You have taught our troops a lot."

In return Major Young gave Company B members a certificate making them honorary members of the 3rd Bn Yorkshire Volunteers and handed the general a silver statuette of a British soldier in full battle order.

Judging from the number of stetsons the Yorkies purchased it looks as though the streets of Huddersfield, Rotherham, Barnsley and Keighley will soon resemble Dodge City. And when they stride through the door of their local saloon — sorry, pub — and ask for some 'loudmouth' they'll be after a whisky rather than a punch-up.

Incidentally, the origin of Hoosier, for a man of Indiana, stems from the pioneer days when the parentage of many of the settlers was in doubt. Newcomers were greeted with the cry 'who's your pa?' and gradually 'who is your' was corrupted into Hoosier. At least, that's their story and they're sticking to it.

Thirty-two-year-old Corporal George McGinley from Barnsley surprised himself by becoming the crack pistol shot of Camp Atterbury. Confessing to having fired a pistol three times before with only moderate success he nonetheless scored 293 points out of a possible 300. Out of 30 rounds fired he had 23 bulls and the rest were only a fraction out. There was not much left of the centre of the target.

George is pictured with his Colt .45 automatic which did the damage and the target. Lt Jill Purvis, centre, a female member of the National Guard and small arms instructor, and Sgt Brown, right, another instructor, said that George's score was the highest ever seen on the Camp Atterbury ranges.

Ten years a Regular with the Blues and Royals in which he rose to Corporal of Horse (Sgt), George is now a forklift driver in a bonded warehouse.

Why the sudden shooting success? He said: "It's a bit puzzling but I think it was because the pistol felt comfortable — the heaviness of the .45 was just right for me".

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MILITARY MUSEUMS

THE HERTFORDSHIRE YEOMANRY

The Yeomanry Room in Hitchin Municipal Museum has been set aside to display historical exhibits not only from the Hertfordshire Yeomanry but also from Yeomanry and Artillery units from the whole county. Administered by the Hertfordshire Yeomanry and Artillery Trust, the museum, although small, is none the less interesting and contains some fascinating exhibits, notably an instructive collection of swords and a special case containing items illustrating the work of a military farrier.

The farrier in question was a local man, Farrier Quartermaster-Sergeant J Fordham. On show are his iron anvil, a variety of horseshoes including some with rope insertions, curry-combs, brushes and other equipment, heavy draught-horse bits and his tool chest containing his blue jacket clearly showing the Farrier-QMS emblem on the sleeve.

Yeomanry cavalry were issued with authorised patterns of cavalry sword from Ordnance but changes of pattern usually came well after the equivalent in the Regular Cavalry and sometimes took several years to become effective throughout the Yeomanry. This is well illustrated in the museum's sword collection which includes a 1788 pattern light cavalry trooper's sword, a light cavalry officer's sword (1822 pattern), a trooper's blade of 1908 and an officer's sword of 1912.

Various items of uniform are displayed to maximum effect. There are two officer's coatees of the North and South Herts Yeomanry respectively as worn in 1840, a captain's full dress in dismounted review order (1910) and an excellent example of an officer's full dress uniform of the same period. Among other items are a heavy cavalry officer's helmet of 1835, a South Herts Yeomanry sabretache, an officer's metal pouch of 1890 and a helmet of the same date with black horsehair plume.

A small display of medals, including a number of groups, is shown to advantage against a background of photographs of recipients and battle scenes. Here too is a South Herts Yeomanry red and blue Guidon of 1835 and in another case there is a flag made by NCO's and soldiers of the 135th Field Regiment at Pagoda Camp, Thailand, and flown from the camp flagstaff after the



Rising Sun had been hauled down following the Japanese capitulation in August 1945. Another reminder of the 135th's service in the Far East is a Christmas card fashioned by men of the regiment and sent to their officers. Tied with the regimental ribbon and featuring the regimental crest there is a drawing inside of Changi mosque and an appropriate verse.

Near the entrance a fine colour print depicts a royal review of Volunteer infantry and cavalry at Hatfield Park, seat of the Marquess of Salisbury.

There are no souvenirs or postcards for sale but a book is obtainable which would be of considerable interest to military historians and medal enthusiasts. This is the 'Hertfordshire Yeomanry and Artillery Honours and Awards' by Major J D Sainsbury. It is the result of much research in official, regimental and private records and lists honours and awards to officers and men of Hertfordshire Yeomanry and Artillery units from the first known award in 1897 to the present day. Included are awards for gallantry, distinguished service in war and meritorious service in peacetime, long service and efficiency awards, coronation and jubilee medals, and Lord Lieutenant's certificates.

John Jesse

Curator: Mr Alan Fleck
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Paynes Park
Hitchin
Telephone: Hitchin 4476
Open: Monday to Saturday 10.00
to 17.00
Closed: Sundays and Bank Holidays

Next month: The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment

New study to help Army designers

WITH TYPICAL JOURNALISTIC HYPERBOLE a Yorkshire newspaper recently reported that 'the future efficiency of the British Army could depend on three photographs in a Wetherby office'.

Well, it's not as important as all that, but there is no doubt that if the work currently being done for the Ministry of Defence by a small team of experts in Wetherby works out, it might mean a more comfortable ride for crews of military vehicles and perhaps more comfortable uniforms and working dress for the rest of the soldiery.

What Photarc Surveys, specialists in aerial survey and mapping, are up to is, in effect, producing contour maps of soldiers' bodies. Working for the Army Personnel Research Establishment at Farnborough they took a series of photographs, both clothed and unclothed, of three soldier guinea pigs — 'Mr Medium, Mr Big and Mr Small'.

From the stereoscopic pictures the team is producing contour maps — using exactly the same principle as Army map makers use with the help of aerial photography by the RAF.

Mr Rory Stanbridge, one of the partners in the firm, told SOLDIER that the great advantage the method has over ordinary measuring is that it provides a permanent record from which any new measurements which are required can be taken. "After a chap has been

Mapping the Military Body



Story: John Walton
Pictures: Paul Haley and
APRE Farnborough

Above: Contour map of man in respirator.

Below: Setting up the stereoscopic cameras.



measured and gone away there is no method of rechecking."

Pictures were taken front and back of each man both fully clothed and in his underpants. Then close ups were taken of his head with and without respirator — one of the problems with measuring men wearing respirators has been that there has been no way of working out exactly the distance between his respirator and his eyes.

Mr Chris Gooderson of the APRE was the man who asked for the study. He explained that in recent years his department had measured over 2000 soldiers and about 200 WRAC girls from different units.

"We took infantrymen, gunners, guardsmen, Gurkhas — all sorts of units and measured them with callipers and tape measures. We got a lot of information which was of use to the vehicle designers at the MVEE Chertsey and the clothing people at SCRDE Colchester.

"But, however well you take a measurement, there is no way you can easily translate it into three dimensional volume of the man and that is what the vehicle designer wants to know. He needs to know the actual three-dimensional space a man occupies when he is sitting in a tank, commanding it, driving it or firing a gun."

So the photographic technique, known as stereo photogrammetry, was decided on. The Army's own map makers were too busy to help so Photarc Surveys were called in.

Said Mr Stanbridge: "We had only done this type of thing for artistic purposes before. We have basically done it at a cost price not only to help the Army but to help us gain experience.

"We have already learned one or two things — such as that you should not use blonde people because you get a reflection from their hair. Also people need to be slightly hairy rather than smooth for the same reason. And we had to put French chalk all over the soldier's helmet because it was so reflective".

From the stereo photographs special contour maps of the human body are produced. The information on these can be fed into a computer for future reference.

Says Mr Gooderson: "It's just a pilot study

Below: Soldier gets pictured in his undies.



Story: John Walton
Pictures: Paul Haley and
APRE Farnborough

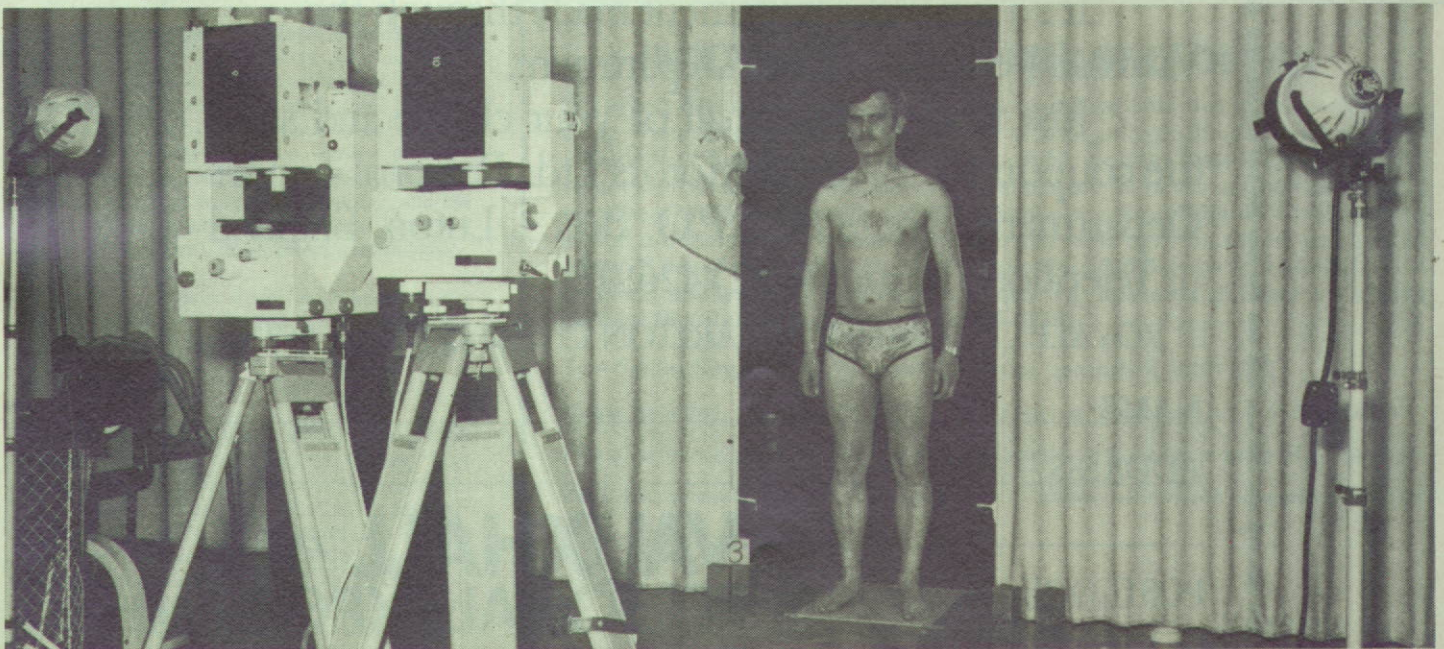
Drawing the contour lines from the pictures.

to see if it produces the data we require and how difficult it was to do. But it seems to be having a lot of success".

Just one small and slightly amusing example illustrates why the study is necessary. Gurkhas are well known to be much smaller than the average soldier. And normally they would be given the smallest pair of battle-

dress trousers with the bottoms turned up to fit.

But the APRE team found there was one major snag: "The trousers have a map pocket and with the Gurkha it was on his knee. So if he had a map in the pocket he could not bend his knee. So exact measurements can be very important".



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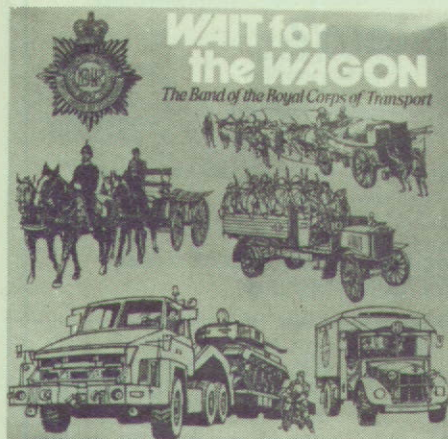
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PERSONAL EXPORT

on record

'Wait for the Wagon' (Band and Corps of Drums of the Royal Corps of Transport) (Conductor: Major T A Kenny) (Orchestral & Recording Services DR 5)

A series of marches which only just avoids the 'hackneyed' epithet. And there's a disappointment for those who will cheer at the mention of Corps of Drums; it is, alas, merely the buglers of said corps with not a fife in sight.

The marches you will already have (and have and have) are *Blaze Away*, *Le Régiment de Sambre et Meuse*, *The Staffordshire Knot*, *The Washington Grays*, *The Ambassador*, *Marche Lorraine*, *The Invincible Eagle* (Sousa), and *High School Cadets* (Sousa).



Major Kenny does a bit of a Sousa in his own march *President Elect* and also provides a couple of operatic march-medleys, one based on *Carmen* and the other on *Die Fledermaus*. But not for the first time a record of marches is saved, for collectors anyway, by one from the pen of Alfred Young. He wrote many popular band pieces under the name Earle Brigham (get it?) and this one, *Boots and Saddles*, only came to light after his death I believe; a fine march from a one time Director of Music RASC and later of the Sappers.

Wait for the Wagon is a marvellous tune deserving special treatment. Why doesn't someone write an imaginative fantasy evoking the romance of those old Waggoners, the Royal Baggage Trains, and everything these names conjure up? Step forward Major Kenny and volunteer a Trek Rhapsody with ox-drawn wagon (molto pesante), horse-drawn wagonette (allegretto pastorale), solid-tyred motor wagon (con malizia), and the latest tank transporter (agitato e lento — for any driver following on). Mud, blood, guts and glory. It only needs writing!

LP £3.45, cassette £3.80 inclusive, from the Royal Corps of Transport Band Office, Buller Barracks, Aldershot, Hants. **RB**

'Double VCs' (Royal Army Medical Corps Staff Band) (Conductor: Captain D Carson) (DR Orchestral & Recording Services, 36 Garrick Gdns, West Molesey, Surrey. Price £3.99 a 50p postage) With the RAMC's Colonel Leake and Captain Chavasse to inspire me I often wonder how, as a stretcher-bearer in World War Two, I failed to win even a measly one VC. The corps rightly takes the opportunity to celebrate its most famous officers who offer the band a fine peg on which to hang this

particular hat. The medal has not, strangely, inspired directly any great music but Captain Carson has found a handful of pieces which serve nicely for his musical tribute, with side two devoted to their own and allied services' marches.

Sir Arthur Bliss's tremendous fanfare *For Heroes* sets the scene, as it has done for many years now on great occasions; a truly heroic piece which in a mere minute and a half says more about heroism than Kipling ever did in many words. Lt Col Lewis Brown, a former Director of Music of the corps, supplies a march *Double VCs*, followed by a pipes and band air dedicated to 'Captain Noel Chavasse VC.' Then two very fine marches, rarely played, but known to all old hands and ideal for this disc, George Gay's *Bravest of the Brave* and Thomas Bidgood's *Silent Heroes*. Gave me quite a turn to hear them again. Then, instead of the many other marches about bravery, we have Sousa's *The Thunderer* and *Liberty Bell*, and Safroni's *Imperial Echoes*. A blot on this rather pleasant programme.

The RAMC Corps March is of course *Here's a Health unto His Majesty*, and two former marches, *Bonnie Nell* and *Washington Post* all make an appearance. The slow march is the lovely old song *Her Bright Smile Haunts me Still* with *Eriskay Love Lilt*. Then the Royal Army Dental Corps' *Green Facings*, the QARANC's *Grey and Scarlet*, Sir Walford Davies's march for the *Princess Royal's Red Cross*, the *St John March* for the Ambulance people and, finally, the new march of The Ulster Defence Regiment. **RB**

'Military Gold' (Producer: Major A J Richards, Life Guards) (Ronco Teleproducts Ltd, 111 Mortlake Road, Kew, Richmond, Surrey).

Every few years a block-busting two or three-record set purporting to sum up all that is best in military music is issued. They all of course comprise tracks from previously issued discs, otherwise the cost of such an enterprise would be enormous. So it is necessary to append a complete list of the music to avoid too much duplication in your own record collection. If you don't have one then this limited edition of a box of four discs should just about give you a digest of what has been going on in the band world during the past few years.

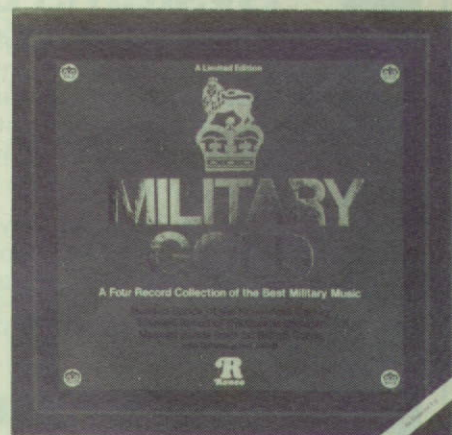
Military Gold out block-busts all the others in size, and the four discs each deal with an aspect of military music — Massed Bands and Military Spectaculars, Marching Along, Tunes of Glory, and Trooping the Colour. An awful lot of marches to swallow in one gulp I'm afraid so this is the sort of jar of goodies that you dip into occasionally, although marches can vary so much in mood, tempo and instrumentation that tedium is cannily avoided. After all Mr Bassett's all-sorts are all licorice deep down.

I will mention some of these goodies just in case you miss them. For march collectors there will be the old Prussian march *Der Hohenfriedberger*, *Rorkes Drift*, famous old Mollendorf's *Parade March*, Blankenburg's *Flying Eagle*, and several by serving Directors of Music. *Double Chelsea*, by Major Richards, refers to that long hike bands have when guard-mounting is from Chelsea Barracks; on hot days, and without the relief of a corps of drums to play alternately, bandsmen always add one word to the title. Then it's all the way back again with the Old Guard, along the longest, unhealthiest, noisiest mile of road known to man.

There are excerpts from tattoos and music shows, a live Queen's Birthday Parade, music of the Welsh Division, the Scottish Division, and the Royal Marines. The bands include those of the Household Division, Royal Marines, Royal Regiment of Wales, Royal Air Force, Gordon Highlanders, Royal Corps of Transport, 1st British Corps, and their pipes and drums.

The rest of the music includes *Radetzky*, *Under the Double Eagle*, *Yellow Rose of Texas*, *Southwood Camp*, *March of the Toreadors*, *Marching On*, *Semper Fidelis*, *The Coldstreamer*, *Sovereign's Banner*, *Aida*, *Sambre et Meuse*, *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, *Anchors Aweigh*, *A Bridge Too Far*, *The Longest Day*, *Dambusters March*, *633 Squadron*, *Tribute to Bravery*, *Amethyst March*, *Reach for the Sky*, *Soldiers of the Queen*, a sea song medley, *Lil-liburlero*, *Sarie Marais*, *Atholl Highlanders*, *Huguenot March*, *Schneewalzer*, *A Highland Gathering*, *Elvira Madigan*, *Isandhlwana*, *Retreat*, *National Anthem*, *Peace to the Nations*, *Cheer boys Cheer*, *Amazing Grace*, *Liberton Polka*, and lots of regimental marches.

All in all well worth the £5.99 you have to pay in SOLDIER's special offer elsewhere on this page. **RB**



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For lovers of military music SOLDIER has a special offer this month — *Military Gold* — an attractive boxed set of four LPs for only £5.99 (VAT and postage included) or available on cassettes for £6.59. Rodney Bashford reviews the records on this page. To obtain your set simply fill in the coupon below and enclose a cheque or postal order to cover your requirements. Cheques and postal orders must be crossed and made payable to PHS Ltd and you should allow 28 days for delivery. We regret that orders can only be accepted from UK or BFPO addresses. If you have any queries regarding delivery etc please contact Mrs Rennard on Nelson (0282) 63353.

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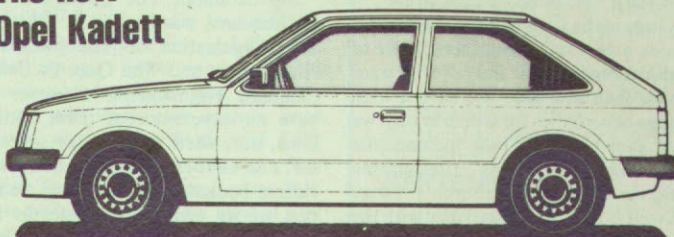
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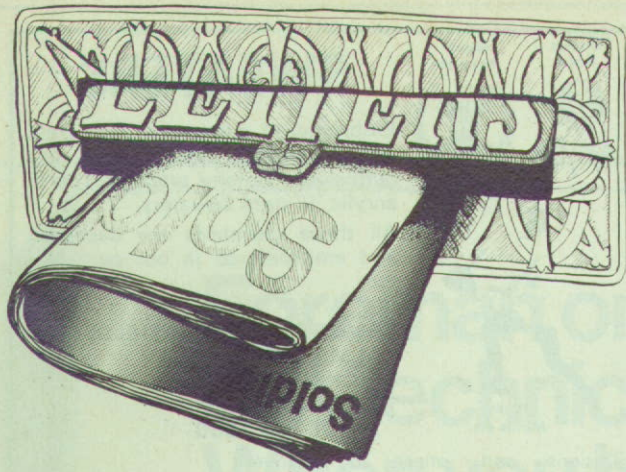
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Fewer ads please

I have been reading SOLDIER for a few years now and find it an excellent magazine as it keeps us informed on other branches in the Army and on what is happening around us, so 68 pages for 25 pence is great value — until you see that 25 pages are advertisements.

I wouldn't mind paying more for SOLDIER if instead of all that advertising we got more feature articles and regular features. If you must have adverts then stick them in SOLDIER NEWS and keep this a good glossy. — **L/Cpl D Dunan, Command Troop, HQ Squadron, Scots Dragoon Guards, BFPO 16.**

If only life were that simple Lance Corporal Dunan. The fact is that without the advertising you mention, SOLDIER'S

price would have to more than double — probably treble — and we should have to recruit more writers to fill all those extra pages. The level of advertising in SOLDIER is no higher than in other specialist magazines — indeed it is lower than most — and the ads themselves provide a service to many readers. As for shifting them all to SOLDIER NEWS, that would only create an editorial imbalance in the paper and provoke even greater indignation than you are now voicing in the magazine.

What do other readers think? Do you want a totally ad-free magazine? And would you pay treble the current price for it? — Ed.

GVC is fun too

I enjoy reading SOLDIER but I was very disappointed when I read the article 'Fall in Ms Cadet' in your June issue and the statement by one of the girls who used to be in the Girls Venture Corps.

She is reported as saying: "We learned First Aid there but now we are working with guns and camping equipment. There's a lot of drill and we learn discipline. And it's fun".

I am in the Girls Venture Corps and enjoy it very much and I would like to inform readers that the GVC do a lot more than first aid. We have a wide range of activities for which in turn we can gain badges. These include rifle shooting, drill, skiing, fire-fighting and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award as well as camps and activities with the ACF and ATC.

I would like to remind ex-GVC girls who join the ACF to think before they speak. — **Cpl P Hobbs (GVC Unit 1290), 70 Stonechat Avenue, Heron Park, Gloucester.**

So girls are joining the Army Cadet Force. Forty years ago I'd have been all for it! Your article (June) mentions problems in getting boots for the girls. Couldn't they wear WRAC shoes? — **R J Shears, 51 Norwood Road, Leicester.**

Enlightening

As an ex-Conductor RAOC, I wish to thank Conductor Penman (May) for enlightening Academy Sergeant Major Huggins on the status of Conductors RAOC. Perhaps the said ASM will now consider paying more respect to his seniors. — **Major**

(OEO) A V Ward, RAOC (Retd), 'Tonanti', 54 Shirley Road, Acocks Green, Birmingham B27 7XH.

Capped

Mr Parrott (June) states that there is only one regimental cap badge with a tiger in it. This is incorrect. There are, or were, three: The Royal Hampshire Regiment, The Royal Leicestershire Regiment and The York and Lancaster Regiment. In addition, the collar badges of The Gordon Highlanders are Royal tigers — **D G Smith, 6 Riding Park, Hildenborough, Kent TN11 9JB.**

Cubs not tigers

So, Mr Parrott, you claim that your old regiment, The Royal Hampshires, are tigers. But compared to the real tigers they are only cubs. Military history states that The Leicestershire Regiment were awarded the Royal Tiger of India and the inscription Hindoostan on 25 June 1825 — a full year before the Hampshires finished their tour of India.

By the way, our tiger is surrounded by an unbroken laurel wreath, itself another battle honour, and not by a cabbage which denotes the old saying for your badge 'the cat and the cabbage' — deny it if you will. And when the Minister of Defence realises his error in misplacing The Royal Leicesters from the Army List we shall be proud to say that we are the 17th regiment and you, sir, may remain the 37th — **J Bosworth, 17 County Close, Market Harborough, Leicestershire.**

Soldier's view

There has been much correspondence of late concerning regimental identities and many calls for certain regiments, such as The Leicestershires, to be reformed. As a young serving soldier may I put across my view?

My battalion, The Queen's Own Highlanders, was formed in 1961 by an amalgamation of The Seaforth Highlanders and The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. However I have no experience of these battalions, only their present day successor. I do not believe that my battalion suffers because it lacks a long tradition of its own. The Seaforths at Imphal and the Camerons at Waterloo are as much a part of the glory of the Queen's Own Highlanders as the battalion's first action in the Far East. The regiment guards its inherited traditions jealously and does not allow one regiment's traditions to overwhelm the other's.

The view held by many seems to be that once a regiment is absorbed into a 'new' regiment it disappears. This is not so. I feel sure that The Anglians are as proud of their inherited traditions as we in The Queen's Own Highlanders are. There is no need for all these calls for old regiments to be reformed. In the current economic climate we can't afford it; and not only that — would the present day successors want to disband and reform? Nowadays a battalion may recruit men from all over the place so how can you expect to form a battalion of Leicestershires if half the battalion come

from Birmingham? In the Scottish Division we have many 'highlanders' from Glasgow, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, and England. (Especially Liverpool!)

I say that the present day battalions are worthy, in the main, of remaining as the guardians of inherited traditions and, as the Irish troubles continue, will go on making a good name for themselves and their predecessors. No battalion nowadays wants to disband and go through all the hassle that accompanied The Argylls disbanding and reforming.

Anyway, if you are going to bring back regiments on the lines of The Manchester Regiment and The Warwickshires, what about The Cameronians...? — **L/Cpl D A Terron, Queen's Own Highlanders, Attached HQ Company, Scottish Infantry Depot, Glencorse Barracks, Penicuik, Midlothian, EH26 0NP.**

Anecdote plea

To assist me in writing the latest volume of the RASC/RCT history, I should like to hear from any readers who have served with, or who have any information about, the RASC/RCT in Northern Ireland before 1970, particularly 26 Coy RASC, and 602 Coy RASC. Any anecdotes on events, personalities or places would be most appreciated. Documents and photographs sent will be carefully returned. — **Major M F I Cubitt MBE RCT, MPO MA4 RARDE, Fort Halstead, Sevenoaks.**

Reunion

The Royal Welch Fusiliers Comrades Association: Annual Reunion and General Meeting will be held at The Barracks, Wrexham, on 4 and 5 October 1980. Tickets and programmes available from branch secretaries, or on application to the Secretary, RWFCA, The Barracks, Caernarfon, LL55 2DB, Gwynedd.

Kine Reunion: A lunch time buffet has been arranged for Saturday 27 September 1980 at the Victory Services Club (11.30-3.00pm, tickets £5.50 each). Contact Mrs G K Stapylton, 98 Paignton Avenue, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear, for full details.

Battle of Britain: A concert to commemorate the 40th Anniversary will be held at the Royal Festival Hall, on Saturday, 25 October. Tickets will be available from the Royal Festival Hall box office, thirty days before Concert.

The Old Boys' Association is holding a reunion from 31 October to 2 November 1980. This will be the last reunion to be held in the old buildings before the College moves to its new location. Full details can be obtained from the Honorary Secretary OBA at the College. All former apprentices and members of staff are cordially invited. H E Shaw, Army Apprentices College, Arborfield Camp, Reading, RG2 9NJ.

The Dorset Regiment Association Annual Reunion will be held at TA Centre, Prewbury Road, Dorchester on Saturday 6 September 1980. Details from the Secretary, The Keep, Dorchester, Dorset.

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The RASC/RCT Association is holding a rally at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday, 25 October 1980, doors opening at 1800 hours. After a short service there will be a display by massed bands followed by a civilian cabaret and dancing. Tickets and further information can be obtained from the Controller, RASC/RCT Association, C Block, Clayton Barracks, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2BX.

The Annual Reunion of the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire and The West Yorkshire Regiment and White Horse Ball will be held at the TA Centre, Colliergate, York on Saturday, 11 October 1980. Details from the Secretary, PWO and West Yorkshire Regimental Association, Imphal Barracks, York, YO1 4HD.

The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire) London Branch Regimental Reunion Dinner, 30 August 1980, Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour St, Marble Arch, London. Tickets £4.75. Details from Secretary, M Ryan MSM, 18 North Drive, AERE, Harwell, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 0PE.

How observant are you?

(see page 27)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: Bird on window; artist's eye-brow; brushes in artist's pocket; angle of artist's right foot; painted man's little finger; right mountain peak on small picture; right curve of artist's palette; height of picture on far left wall; curve

of painted man's collar; top of 'S' on wall poster.

Competition

The sporting teasers thought up by Soldier's photographic department (261) attracted a rather smaller entry than usual — obviously everyone found them quite difficult for there was only one correct entry. There were four near misses, however, and they have been awarded the runners-up prizes.

The correct answers were: Tennis racquet press; golfing iron; 5 kilo weight; rugby ball; demand valve connection to air cylinder; boxing glove; fencing mask; ping-pong bat; shuttlecock; football boots; skipping rope; vaulting horse.

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Duchling
5 St Anne's Avenue
Penarth
S Glamorgan
- 2 Pte Hagley and Pte Lewis
c/o Security Section
3 BAD (RAOC)
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BFPO 45
- 4 Sgt Davidson
ACC ATT 2 Royal Anglian Regt
BFPO 45
- 5 Mr A Hernon
75 Kestrel Close
Tidworth
Hants

Collectors' corner

A E Myatt, 11 Larchwood Close, Heswall, Wirral, Merseyside, L61 6YH. *Wishes to purchase in any condition copies of 'The Household Brigade Magazine', 'The Guards Magazine' and each guards regiment's own regimental magazines.*

R Picton, 40 Maendu Toe, Brecon, Powys, LD3 9HH. *Would like the following journals of the South Wales Borderers to complete his collection. Nos 1, April 1932; 2 Oct 1932; 57, May 1960.*

R Sharpe, 13 Deepdene, Potters Bar, Herts. *Wants copies of the journal 'The Old Contemptible'. Also any material relating to the Retreat from Mons, 1914.*

Burma Star Assn (Slough, Eton and Windsor Branch) *require to buy, borrow or hire any militaria, particularly Japanese. Please contact J R Allan, Pemberton Lodge, Cheapside, Ascot.*

D Edwards, 8 Clos Fforddisa, Prestatyn, Clwyd. *Seeks the following items and has similar for exchange: HPC's, Bakelite cap badges, trade and skill-at-arms badges, formation signs. Also wants old clothing regulations, books, etc referring to issue of skill-at-arms badges. Also photos of soldiers wearing same.*

John F Sukey, 8951 E Old Spanish Trail, Tucson, Arizona 85710, USA. *Needs to purchase a copy of 'The Lee-Enfield Rifle' by Major E G B Reynolds. Would also be interested in corresponding with any RA members or collectors.*

Jan Kopta, Cervený Ujezd 188, 273 51 Unhost, okr Praha-Zapad, Czechoslovakia. *Czechoslovakia military badges collector offers military badges — Czechoslovakia, Soviet, Hungary, DDR — and is interested in Air Force metal wings and army badges.*

Mr A W Rowlinson, 21 Gadlas Road, Llysfaen, Colwyn Bay, LL29 8TD. *Has for sale: Snare drums, cymbals, drumsticks, bass drum, fifes, bass drum sticks, arm music card holders, drum slings, plastic batter heads, web belts, buff belts, knee aprons, drag ropes, bass drum harness buff, Sam Browne belt, sgts sash, secondhand but most in very good condition.*

Mr W A Robinson, 50 Church St, Bingley, Yorks. *Would like to purchase a copy of 'The Regiments Depart' by Gregory Blaxland in good condition.*

Mr G Goodman, 227 Watson St, Suite C, Monterey, CA 93940, USA. *Is interested in obtaining current army training aids such as full scale inert training replicas of L1A1 rifles, L2A1 grenades, L4A1 Brens, GPMG and Blowpipe. Also desires large scale (approx 1/25 scale) training aid models of current Army of the Rhine fighting vehicles and weapons. Bofors L70, FV 432 family, Scorpion family and rapier. All items must be honestly obtained. Will buy or trade. Would also like to be contacted by someone with a VHS videocassette recorder. Would like to trade 'Walter Cronkite and Sixty Minutes for The World at Nine O'Clock' and other projects.*

In this regular feature **SOLDIER** keeps you up-to-date on tattoos, open days, exhibitions, at homes, Army displays and similar occasions on which the public is welcome to see the Army's men and equipment. Amendments and additions to previous lists are indicated in bold type.

SOLDIER is not always notified of alterations and cancellations. Readers are advised to check with the organisers.

See-the-Army DIARY

AUGUST 1980

- 1 Southsea Show (1-3 August).
- 2 Lord Mayor's Parade, Cardiff (Bands).
- 2 Newport Military Show (2-3 August) (Bands).
- 3 Military Vehicle and Fire Engine Display, Duxford, Cambridgeshire.
- 3 Cleethorpes Show (RA Parachute Team).
- 6 Bingley (Yorkshire) Show.
- 6 Poole Hospital Gala.
- 6 Bakewell (Derbyshire) Show (6-7 August) (RA Motorcycles).
- 7 North Yorkshire County Show.
- 9 Lord Mayor's Show, Stoke (Band, 1 Staffords).
- 10 VJ Parade, Windsor Castle. Burma Star Assn., Slough, Eton and Windsor Branch.
- 13 Edinburgh Tattoo (13 August-6 September) (Massed Bands and Pipes, Royal Guard Regiment of Ruler of Oman, State University Band of Long Beach).
- 14 Grand Concert, Kneller Hall.
- 15 Reading Show (15-16 August) (Band, 1 Staffords).
- 15 Shrewsbury Flower Show (15-16 August) (White Helmets, Life Guards, Coldstream Guards, RCT Bands, Flying Bugles, RN Display Team).
- 16 **Darlington Show.**
- 16 Hartlepool Show (16-17 August).
- 16 Skegness Carnival (16-22 August).
- 17 **Fokestone Leas Bandstand, Concert by Band, 1 Staffords.**
- 18 Doncaster Horse Show.
- 20 **Cromer Carnival, Norfolk (Red Devils, White Helmets, Bands. Red Arrows).**
- 22 GLC Horse Show (22-25 August) (Coldm Gds Band).
- 23 Expo Steam, Peterborough (23-25 August) (Red Caps, White Helmets).
- 23 Town & Country Festival, Stoneleigh (23-25 August) (Band, RA Motorcycles, RGJ Freefall).
- 23 Expo 80, Birchington, Kent (23-25 August).
- 25 City of Leicester Show (25-26 August) (Band, RGJ Freefall).
- 25 Walsall Show (25-26 August) (White Helmets).
- 25 **Madesfield Show (Worcs) (RA Parachute team).**
- 26 Leeds Gala.
- 27 St Albans City Carnival (Red Devils).
- 27 Bristol Flower Show (27-29 August).
- 30 Wensleydale Show.
- 30 Holkham Game Fair (30-31 August).
- 30 Sheffield Show (30-31 August) (RA Motorcycles).

SEPTEMBER 1980

- 5 International Air Tattoo, Newbury (5-7 September).
- 6 Harley Show.
- 6 Keighley Show.
- 6 Seaham Show (6-7 September).
- 6 Guildford Town Show (6-7 September).
- 13 Luton Musical Pageant (Massed Bands).
- 15 Newcastle upon Tyne '900 (15-20 September).
- 17 HMS Vernon Searchlight Tattoo, Portsmouth (17-20 September) (RA Motorcycles).
- 18 Thame Show (RGJ Freefall).
- 18 Hove Town Hall, Concert by Bands, 1 and 3 Queens.
- 18 Final Gala Concert, Kneller Hall.
- 19 Army Display, Wales (19-21 September) (Band, White Helmets, Red Caps, Red Devils).
- 20 Stokeley Show.
- 29 Folkestone Leas Cliff Hall, Concert by Bands, 1 and 3 Queens.

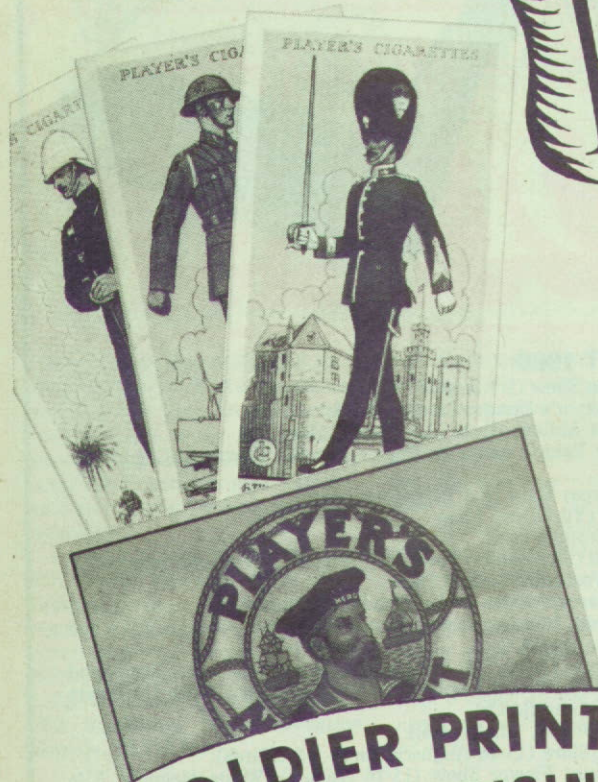
OCTOBER 1980

- 11 Army Motorcycling Championships, UK (11-12 October).
- 12 Southampton Guildhall, Concert by Band, Royal Signals.
- 25 Exercise Roadmaster Army Driving Championships UK (25-26 October).

NOVEMBER 1980

- 7 Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall (7-8 November) (Massed Bands, Gds Division).
- 9 Cenotaph, Service of Remembrance (Massed Bands, Gds Division).
- 9 Welsh National Service of Remembrance, Cardiff.

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BOOKS

Legend denied

'Dunkirk: The Storms of War' (John Harris)

John Harris is better known as a novelist than as a military historian, and has already published a novel about Dunkirk. So it is in character that he claims this book does not attempt to cover the whole story but to give a broad view concentrating on the "sound and the feel and the smell". Accepted. But to understand any account of the campaign, including Mr Harris's, one needs to know something of its geography and the situation of the armies. Yet Mr Harris denies us even one map, or a chart of those perilous evacuation sea routes he describes.

That apart, one can have little complaint about this clear and moving account of the campaign. It owes much to scores of crisp little anecdotes

Mr Harris stamps firmly on the legend that the British Expeditionary Force was rescued by hundreds of amateur yachtsmen. The evacuation, he says, was the result of foresight and planning. Despite the splendid help of civilians, most troops were rescued by Navy-manned vessels and most of the civilians who took part were professional seamen.

What a pity. We've always liked that legend, haven't we?

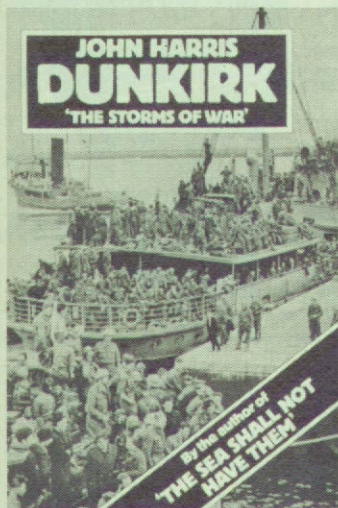
David and Charles, Brunel House, Newton Abbot, Devon, £6.50 **RLE**

Raid by committee

'Dieppe 1942' (Ronald Atkin)

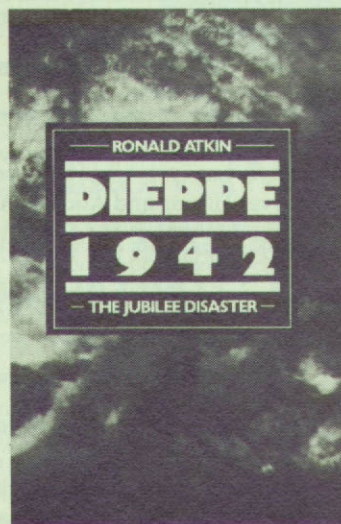
The Dieppe raid was a disaster. It was planned by "a large and somewhat indefinitely composed committee", a case of too many cooks spoiling the broth. No single commander was responsible for carrying it out, but the Canadian Major-General Hamilton Roberts, the military force commander, was made the scapegoat. One historian remarked that if the Emperor Napoleon had been in command off the beaches he could not have done very much more, apart from cutting his losses sooner. The only really successful part of the raid was the attack by Lord Lovat's No. 4 Commando on a German battery west of the town.

The 5000 Canadian troops who took part were inexperienced and inadequately trained; they suffered 3367 casualties including 906 killed.



and the description of personalities. There was a brigadier who offered £5 to anyone who shot down a Stuka; a doctor who diagnosed his own indigestion as due to fright; a Royal Air Force pilot who was shot at by British troops as he parachuted down and complained of their poor marksmanship because they missed him.

There was the unflappable Harold Alexander arriving at Dunkirk on a bicycle to take command, later touring his hard-pressed perimeter in a large staff-car, and finally accepting the War Minister's congratulations on getting so many troops away with, "We weren't pressed, you know". There too was Brian Horrocks, a battalion commander for 17 fighting days, then a very temporary brigadier, but really enjoying himself manning an anti-aircraft machine-gun on his evacuation boat.



Mr Atkin's account of the raid is strengthened by numerous survivors' tales which bring out the wasted gallantry and illustrate the impossible conditions under which the Canadians landed. Thus it is hard to picture the hail of fire over the beaches, but the commander of one small landing craft quantifies it by recounting the 50 bullet holes in his ship's White Ensign. Not surprisingly, the Cana-

dians suspected the Germans had foreknowledge of the landings.

Many men were hit repeatedly. One who survived no less than 23 wounds tells how he failed to get through the security gate check at Calgary airport in 1977: "The buzzer sounded every time I walked through. It was the shrapnel still in my back-side".

One purpose of the raid was to get information about German defences for use in planning the eventual invasion of Europe. Earl Mountbatten maintained that it succeeded and the Battle of Normandy was won on the beaches of Dieppe. Field-Marshal Montgomery, who had something to do with the early, but not the final, planning, said the information and experience could have been obtained without losing so many magnificent Canadian soldiers.

Macmillan, 4 Little Essex St, London WC2R 3LF, £6.95 **RLE**

'Old Picton'

'Peninsular General' (Frederick Myatt)

Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Picton was a difficult subject for his biographer. Like many of Wellington's senior officers, he sometimes let off steam in letters home and (to the Commander-in-Chief's chagrin) some of them found their way into public print. But no collection of his letters exists. He kept no diary and, because he did not marry, there are no family documents to help.

With such a lack of personal material to work on, Major Myatt deserves credit for conveying such a good picture of his subject.

Picton was big, energetic, quick-tempered and foul-mouthed. No woman features in his story, though he liked women, except one whom he may never have met face to face. When, as a colonel, he was governor

of Trinidad he agreed to the mild torturing of Luise Calderon to obtain evidence of her partner in a robbery. He was entitled to do so according to the Spanish law under which, his orders said, he was to govern the territory. His detractors brought charges against him and for six years legal proceedings, and the publicity of a notorious trial, dragged on before he was cleared.

Picton had seen little action or command, but eleven years on half-pay, when he took command of the Third Division in Spain. 'Old Picton' was respected for his victories but not liked in his Division, especially by the 88th (Connaught Rangers) whose fighting ability he admired as much as they did his, but whose indiscipline off parade incensed him. They felt he denied them credit for good work in action and their officers were the only ones who refused to subscribe to a gift when he left the Division after four years.

After the Peninsula, he went back to life as a country gentleman but quickly got back into harness for the Waterloo campaign. He was wounded at Quatre Bras but concealed the fact and was killed at Waterloo two days later.

David and Charles, Brunel House, Newton Abbot, Devon, £9.50 **RLE**

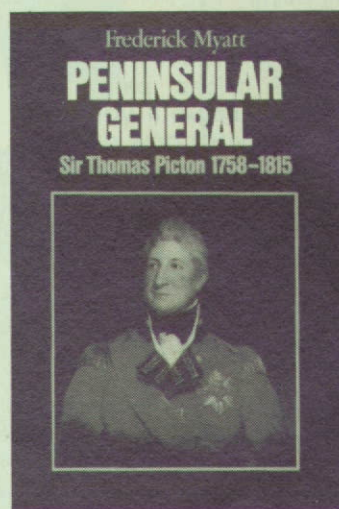
In enemy hands

'The Lonely Path To Freedom' (Derek Thrower)

Sergeant Thrower, RAF bomber-pilot, was having a soft time in a French prisoner-of-war hospital, pretending to be ill, when a German general arrived and questioned him about his part in bombing raids, particularly on Berlin. The pilot cheerfully exaggerated his experiences and the confirmation of successful raids. A little later he was told that the general's family had perished in an RAF raid on Berlin. The following day the author was out of his cushy billet.

It was only one of the incidents which earned him a reputation as a trouble-maker and which he reports simply and modestly. He escaped twice, became involved in a tunneling project, and if there was any chance of defying and annoying the Germans he took it. Bomber crews were hated in Germany and retaliation was sometimes brutal. Once he was put in front of a firing squad. But he finally escaped again as Germany was breaking up and he was being marched towards the Baltic, this time to lie-up dangerously until British tanks arrived.

Robert Hale, Clerkenwell House, Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0HT — £5.25 **RLE**



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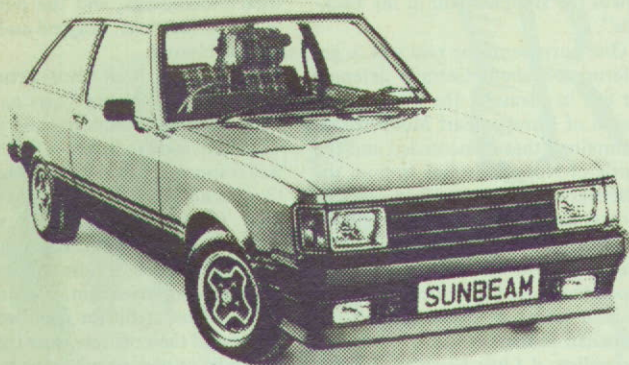
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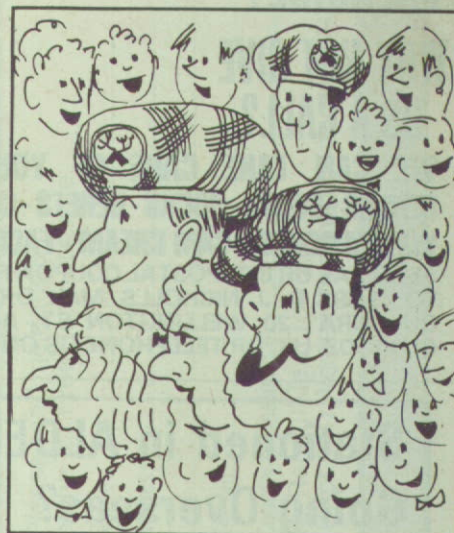
THE BAIRNS

The tiny Highland hamlet of Tartanburn consists of seven families who between them have twenty-nine children. The largest families are the MacLeods and the McAlpins each with six children; the McQueens have five (three boys and two girls); the MacLeans and the MacGregors four each; the MacPhersons three; the MacDonalds only one.

With the exception of the MacLeans who have a bonny pair of twins no family has two children of the same age. Thirteen of the children are not yet of school age (five) and none of the children is over eighteen. Further, no family has a child aged ten.

Young Margaret MacDonald is seven times as old as wee Flora MacLeod whose age is a sixth of that of Gordon MacPherson,

FAMILY	NO OF CHILDREN	AGES (YOUNGEST FIRST)									
MACLEODS	SIX										
MCALPINS	SIX										
MCQUEENS	FIVE										
MACLEANS	FOUR										
MACGREGORS	FOUR										
MACPHERSONS	THREE										
MACDONALDS	ONE										



while Fiona, the eldest of the MacLean children is only a year younger than Margaret MacDonald.

Iain MacGregor is very keen on arithmetic and one day discovered the surprising fact that the squares of the ages of the children of each of the seven families all came to the same total. If the eldest child of the MacLeods is older than the eldest child of the McAlpins and the eldest of the MacGregor children is younger than the eldest of the young MacLeans what are the ages of the children in each family?

The closing date for the competition is Monday 6 October. The answers and winners' names will appear in the December SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 265' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or pre-paid labels will be disqualified.

Send your answers by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 265' label from this page and your name and address to:

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