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FRONT COVER

Corporal Andy Courtney of 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment was one of his unit's ski instructors on Exercise Snow Queen in Bavaria.

Picture by Paul Haley



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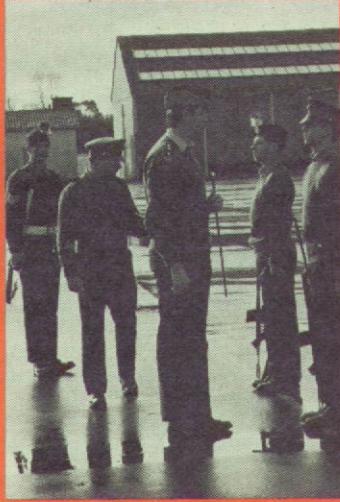
BACK COVER

It's all a matter of height in basketball and these opponents stretching for a ball prove the point in this study of frozen action captured at Aldershot's Fox Gymnasium.

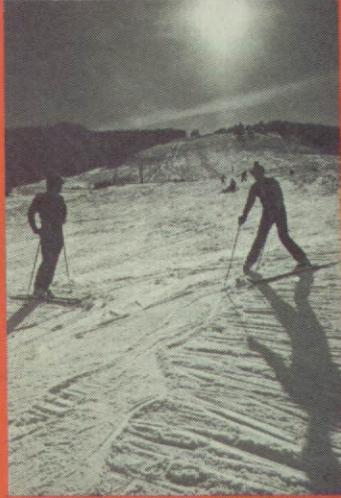
Picture by Les Wiggs



13 Once again the square at Norton Manor Camp, Taunton resounds to the drill sergeant's bark as the Army's newest battalion takes shape.



26 Thrills and spills out on the piste in Bavaria for Exercise Snow Queen.



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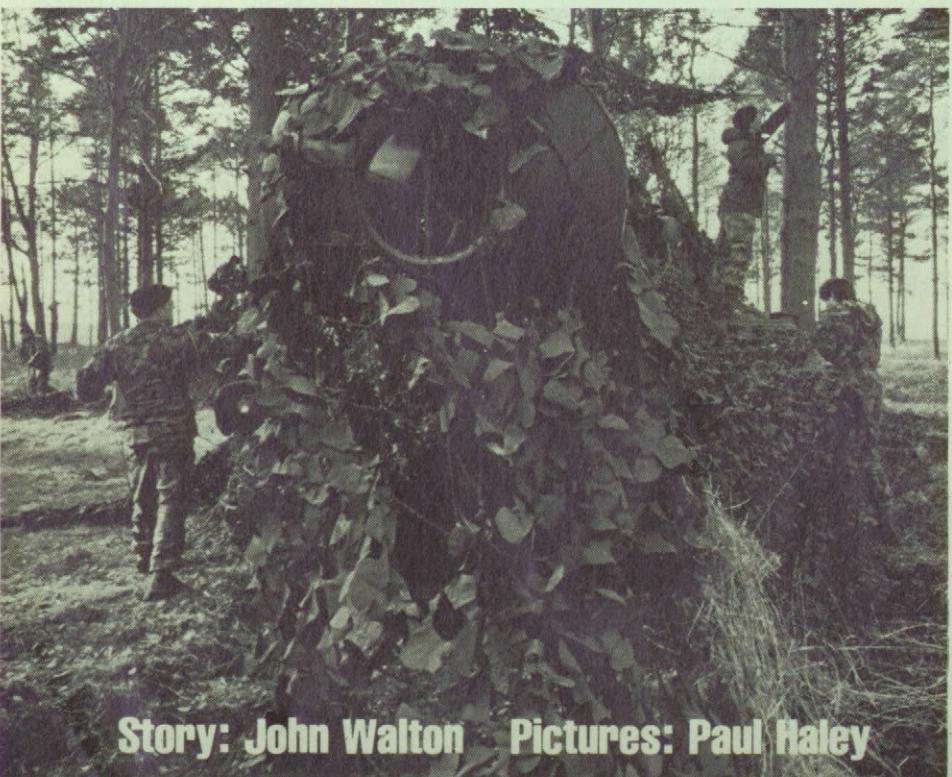
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Where British Soldiers learn the vital art of SEEING WITHOUT BEING SEEN



Story: John Walton Pictures: Paul Raley

IN AN OLD CAMP CINEMA at Larkhill there lies the headquarters of an organisation whose role is to help the British soldier in two of his most important tasks on the modern battlefield — how to see the enemy and yet avoid being seen by him.

The STANOC Centre was set up in 1971 and is unique among Western armies in that it brings together all of the techniques in a field in which the human senses of sight, smell and hearing have been supplemented in recent times by a variety of modern technology.

There are four ingredients which make up the STANOC mix:

Surveillance — The ability to tell what the enemy is doing, how strong he is and what equipment he has.

Target Acquisition — The use and provision of equipments which will enable the Army to hit the enemy hard and accurately.

Night Observation — How to turn night into day with the aid of such things as image intensifiers and thermal imagers.

Counter Surveillance: How to avoid being detected by the enemy — not just old-fashioned camouflage but the means to com-

bat the very equipment being used in the other three roles.

The first thing that Lieutenant-Colonel John Bolton-Clark, who commands the centre, emphasises is that the STANOC Centre is not a part of the Royal School of Artillery.

"So many people think it is and I am always getting letters addressed to the STANOC Centre, School of Artillery," he says. "But apart from one bombardier I am the only serving gunner in the organisation."

In fact the STANOC Centre is a Ministry of Defence outstation which just happens to be at Larkhill because of the excellent range facilities and because it is central for all the important arms schools.

For what the centre does is to represent all of the arms which need the STANOC techniques and equipment.

"Before we were established all of the schools looked at STANOC devices from their own point of view. Now we look at them and ask if they are going to be any good for tanks, infantry or artillery. We provide the overall view," said Colonel Bolton-Clark.

Major Richard Hoare is the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars officer who runs the surveillance side. They teach young officers tactical surveillance, the use of sights and other devices and how to co-ordinate the equipment held by various parts of a combat team so as to cover an entire area.

The centre has its own trials team for common user equipment. At present it is engaged in lengthy examination of various remote ground sensors. The idea is to decide

just what the British Army will require in the future.

"We want close range information for our own protection and long range to tell us what the enemy is about to do, what he is coming with and which way he is coming."

The latest piece of kit, far more compact than previous efforts, can be placed in the ground and its piano wire aerial hidden in grass or brush. Said Bombardier Robert George: "If you weave the aerial through the grass it can't be seen. During one course I put one in the grass outside the centre and 30 people couldn't find it".

The sensors, which can be used with a relay, can thus detect and give information about the enemy without them realising. But they have to be completely dependable — hence the exhaustive trials work at the STANOC Centre.

They tell a true and amusing story to illustrate how good the kit is. Some sensors were taken out to Hong Kong to see if they would be of use in the battle to stop illegal immigration from Red China. A signal came from the area where the equipment was placed — but there was no sign of life and it was thought to be a false alarm. But when soldiers went out to recover the sensor they found an illegal immigrant lying right on top of it!

At the same time as developing a surveillance capability the Army has to assume that the 'enemy' is doing the same thing and take counter measures.

This means camouflage, which according to a recent training magazine is 'about as popular as digging'. What the STANOC

Centre has to do is to stress the importance of good camouflage.

Says Colonel Bolton-Clark: "People are becoming much more aware of its importance. They are realising that if they don't hide themselves properly they are pretty soon going to be found — and killed."

"For instance it used to be thought that at night you sat in a wood and didn't camouflage. One of the lessons we now have to put over to drivers is that, at night, camouflage material *does* provide protection from things that see in the dark. Although it will not hide a vehicle completely at the moment from infra-red detection it can defeat image intensifiers. Whereas an uncamouflaged vehicle will stick out like a sore thumb."

The centre runs five courses a year on counter-surveillance for ranks from sergeant upwards. This autumn a course will be held in Germany for the first time although one-day presentations are already made to Rhine Army. Often personnel from other Allied forces take part.

Last year the centre gave over 50 presentations and lectures on battlefield surveillance to courses including the Senior Officers Tactical Updating Course and the Battlegroup Commanders' Course as well as courses for young officers and senior NCOs. Says Colonel Bolton-Clark: "We are getting a good cross-section — virtually all of the command element of the Army at one stage or another".

Out on the ranges near Netheravon a counter-surveillance course was putting into practice what it had learned. Broken into four man syndicates they were hiding such



Above: Now you see it now you don't. These pictures show how to hide a Land-Rover from the air.

Below: WO2 T Pearce with laser target marker.



Above: Remote sensor which can be hidden in the grass to tell defenders who and what is coming.



Below: A visiting lecturer from SCRDE Colchester speaks of latest developments in camouflage.

Opposite page: Top picture shows how they see at night while (below) others learn how to cover up.





things as an M109 self propelled gun, an armoured personnel carrier and various trucks. After completion instructors would tell them how well they had done — and an RAF Canberra aircraft would pass overhead and take pictures.

Major Mike Lipscomb, the sapper officer in charge of the counter-surveillance section, thought the trainees had made a pretty good job of it. He pointed out that the camouflage was intended to be effective from a distance and from the air rather than the few yards away that we were standing.

He told us how to go about camouflaging a vehicle successfully: "You start off by eliminating shine and shadow, especially under the wheel arches and so on. You put hessian over the windscreen and break up the outline of the vehicle with the net so that it blends into the background. The basic principles are always the same although what you

actually do to each vehicle varies".

Major Lipscomb reiterated the problems in getting the message over to soldiers: "The trouble with camouflage is that it's inconvenient if you are doing it properly. You have to keep your heaters off and keep under cover. You must treat night as day".

The centre is currently trialling a Mark 6 camouflage net developed by the Stores and Clothing Research and Development Establishment at Colchester. Warrant Officer 2 Tony Pearce of the trials staff told SOLDIER: "The overall design is better than the Mark 5 but it is too heavy at the moment. The Mark 5 is water repellent but the Mark 6 absorbs a certain amount of water and is therefore a little difficult to handle".

Because the rest of the staff travel quite frequently there has to be some continuity at the centre and this is provided in the form of Lieutenant-Colonel Ken Litt.

Colonel Litt has been with the centre since it started — and retired from the Army to join it in a civilian capacity. "I was just reaching the end of my service and the next thing I knew I was on the retired list and in this job. It is absolutely ideal because it is just the kind of thing I've been doing in my Service career with the Royal Artillery since the end of the war."

It was the Americans who first started STANO as a co-ordinated science (they don't add the counter surveillance which makes STANOC). But today Britain is the only Western army to have a STANOC centre and foreign visitors are impressed.

"They all say what a good idea it is and how they must go back and talk to their Ministry of Defence," says Colonel Bolton-Clark. So the British concept may be emulated among her Allies in order that all may learn the vital art of seeing while not being seen.



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SOLDIER to Soldier

Back in June 1977 SOLDIER's price was increased to 20 pence. At the time we wrote that the realistic price was 25 pence and this would have to be implemented within the foreseeable future.

Nearly three years have passed since then complete with, at times, roaring inflation. Overheads have risen sharply, printing costs have jumped — but until now SOLDIER has managed to hold its price steady.

During those eventful three years we have seen the emergence of our sister publication SOLDIER NEWS while SOLDIER itself has gone from strength to strength.

It is interesting to note that at the time of the separation of SOLDIER and SOLDIER NEWS the average size of an issue of the magazine was 52 pages. Today it has risen to 64 and often 68 — because of the increased demands from advertisers who recognise its wide readership and appeal. At the same time this has allowed more space for the feature material for which SOLDIER has been renowned over the last 35 years.

Now, regrettably, the time has come for the modest increase we promised back in 1977. From the June issue the cover price is to be raised to 25 pence. This is still extremely low in comparison with similar glossy publications. For instance the much-trumpeted NOW! magazine which was launched a few months ago, sells at exactly double.

Recent postal increases will also have to be passed on to subscribers. A 12 month subscription to SOLDIER will now cost £4.92 for UK and BFPO addresses and £5.76 for elsewhere. But the special bonus of a 13th issue free of charge will remain as an inducement for subscribers — who have the additional advantage of delivery to their home and usually in advance of the magazine appearing on general sale.

SOLDIER is proud of its record in keeping prices down — and we promise that we will continue to provide the best possible service to our readers at the best possible price. Today, as always, SOLDIER is superb value at little more than the cost of a Sunday newspaper and only the price of half a pint of beer.

We have had commended to us a work of science fiction (*The Sirens of Titan* by Kurt Vonnegut Jr) which contains the following medical appraisal of life elsewhere: "When they clean out a man's memory on this place called Mars, they don't really clean it completely. They just

clean out the middle of it, sort of. They always leave a lot of stuff in the corners. There is a story around about how they tried cleaning out a few memories completely. The poor people who had that done to them couldn't walk, couldn't talk, couldn't do anything. The only thing anybody could think of to do with them was to housebreak them, teach them a basic vocabulary of a thousand words and give them jobs in military or industrial public relations." ... Did we say life elsewhere?



This is not a bonanza or a boundless cheque for defence but the most we can afford." Thus Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Francis Pym, summed up the Government's decision to increase defence spending by three-and-a-half percent in 1980/81 and by a further three percent in each of three years following.

His statement, made at the press conference to launch the White Paper *Defence in the 1980s*, reflects the difficulties faced by the Government in arriving at those figures in the current economic climate. Defence experts may have called for more, but with domestic spending programmes being pruned the Armed Forces can be pleased that at least their budget is to increase.

There are few surprises in the White Paper but for soldiers everywhere, its general tone must be encouraging. There is a firm commitment to the concept of the Military Salary and the importance of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body. Recruitment and retention of personnel are given a high priority. And there are moves afoot to help Service personnel buy their own homes as well as a new scheme under which they can buy surplus married quarters at a discount.

The White Paper has some interesting things to say about women in the Services too, particularly on the question of them bearing arms. At the moment it has no intention of arming women for combat, but other limitations are under consideration. No doubt SOLDIER readers will add their voices to the debate.



On the subject of health, the campaign against smoking goes on. It is noticeable that there are fewer and fewer places where smoking

is allowed and that's how the medics like it. But they ask, do you think there should be *more or less* places designated as 'No Smoking' areas. And if so, where? Drop us a line if you have any views.



Readers may not be surprised to learn that the 80th anniversary of the formation of the Irish Guards was 1 April as it was the regiment's 1st Battalion that entered into the seasonal spirit of its birthday to pose for the photographs that accompanied our April issue's story about them trimming their bearskins.

A flood of letters have shown that many of you shared the joke and were not caught out by the April Foolishness. Mind you, one or two were caught. But we will spare their blushes!

We hit the headlines in the national press for our pains with what has now become a traditional SOLDIER item in April. In fact, last year we caught out a leading national daily paper with our jape. But we will spare their blushes too!

Our special thanks go to 1st Battalion, Irish Guards, for their help in setting up the mendacious machinations and in particular to the cast of actors in the barber's shop drama we presented: the Demon Barber himself, Lance-Sergeant Tony Feeney, plus guardsmen Sam Coleman, Jim Gregg, Robert Mohan, Pat Reid and Richard Walne, all of 1 Company.

In fact, once they'd all finished telling us *their* tall stories about bearskins, we began to wonder who was kidding who!



SOLDIERS are fortunate in that their Army sponsors a number of sports which in Civvy Street they might find prohibitively expensive (pay rise or not). Among these is sailing which they can participate in relatively inexpensively both inshore and offshore. But to enthusiastic soldier/sailors thinking of investing in their own craft we pass on the warning offered lugubriously by a flag officer of Netley Sailing Club: "A boat is defined as a hole in the water into which you pour money!" Don't let that put you off though. DCIs tell you where courses are to be had, and when, and the instruction is second to none.



Browsing through the Army telephone directory the other day we came across a list of numbers for a catering department. There was a number for the 'Cat Off' and a number for the 'Cat WO'. Presumably these are employed to control another number further down their department's list ... 'Central Rat Store'.

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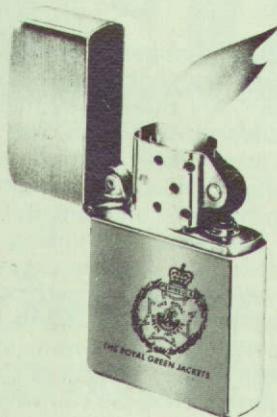
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Army back among the cider apples

NO BULLIES WANTED IN NEW BATTALION



Above: Plaque of new battalion, RSM designed.



Story: John Walton
Pictures: Paul Haley

"After more than two centuries Somerset's county town of Taunton will soon no longer boast an Army presence." Thus reported SOLDIER in June 1978 on the closure of the South West District headquarters there, the departure of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport and the pending removal of the Regimental Pay Office from Jellalabad Barracks.

Local folk were quoted on what a great loss it would be and it seemed there would hardly be a dry eye in the cider town. Yet two years later it transpires that the epitaph was somewhat premature — for once again the square at the Junior Leaders' old home, Norton Manor camp, resounds with the bark of the drill sergeant.

For Norton Manor, the huttet camp which lay silent and deserted for more than a year, has been chosen as the headquarters of the Army's newest unit, the Junior Soldiers' Battalion — created to cope with the greatly increased demand for young soldiers.

The decision which eventually led to the Somerset revival was made by the last Labour administration when it concluded that the junior Army entry needed to be expanded by about 6000 in order to meet manpower target figures and other commitments. To take all of these youngsters at the existing depots and junior soldier camps would be impossible and it was decided to create the Junior Soldiers' Battalion.

Last September the first 342 boys arrived — all from the three heavy English and Welsh divisions of infantry — except for 15 Junior Pioneers. And this autumn the camp, which is undergoing a giant facelift, will have a total of 899 junior soldiers — more than the RCT JLR ever had.

Lieutenant-Colonel Neil McIntosh, a Green Howards officer, was taken aback when he first saw the deserted camp. Radiators had burst, roofs had leaks, the lead had been removed from the roof of the officers' mess and the attic and top floor were affected by rain.

"My first thoughts were 'what have I done in my career to deserve such a place as this?'

"But when I actually came in March it was clear that I had the most superb opportunity because very few people have raised a battalion from nothing. I thought I would have some idea of how the founder of my own regiment must have felt."

It was a bit lonely and primitive when Colonel McIntosh first started work. There was no heating, the electric lighting did not work and the water had been cut off. He had an office with a table and a chair and that was all. A month later the adjutant, Captain Jeremy Lyneham of The King's Royal Border Regiment arrived and others slowly followed as the team was built up. There was even a driver for the Commanding Officer's car although the car did not arrive until later!

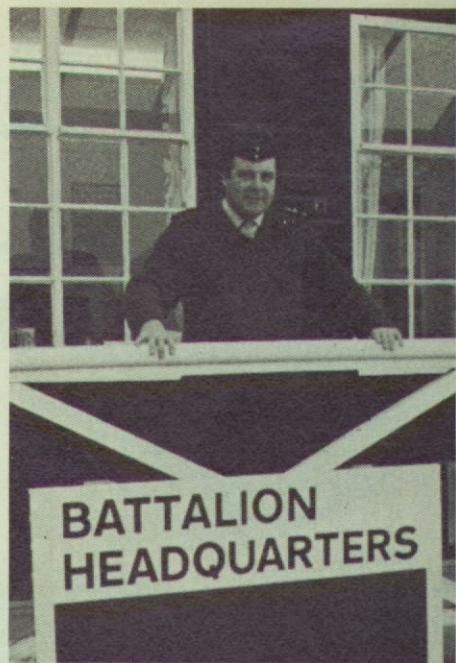
Soon a syllabus had been prepared and enough of the camp's facilities were refurbished in time for the boys' arrival in September. But even then, for the first few

Left: Injured man (oil drum) over assault course.



Above: Learning how to keep rifle ship shape.

Below: Some of the different cap badges in camp.



Above: Lt-Col McIntosh looks at his huttet home.

weeks, film shows at the camp cinema were to an audience squatting on the floor!

When the second phase is completed next September the 899 junior soldiers will comprise 488 infantrymen, 325 from the Royal Corps of Transport and 86 Pioneers. The resulting mélange will be something not repeated anywhere else in the British Army.

Unlike their counterparts at Shorncliffe, the lads from the Junior Soldiers' Battalion wear their regimental accoutrements as soon as they have passed their initial training and learned how to salute properly. There is no special Junior Soldiers' Battalion badge although Regimental Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer 1 Alan Phillips has used his artistic talents to design a battalion plaque. It depicts the RCT and Royal Pioneer Corps



badges with a central infantry bayonet.

There is no special-to-arm training and all of the juniors are treated in exactly the same way. But the mixed civilian and military staff are affiliated to individual companies and travel with them when they go out on exercise.

Taking over a unit which has no tradition to follow means that many of the ideas are still in the formative stage. On the sporting side for instance it was decided to concentrate on rugby and soccer in the first term — with great success in both (they are now the holders of the Army junior football cup for minor units).

Now the net is being extended to include hockey and handball and during SOLDIER's visit the first camp boxing tournament was held. While it was conceded that skill was a little thin on the ground, enthusiasm and whirling fists made for a great afternoon's entertainment and the instructors were pleased.

Sergeant-Major Phillips feels that his charges are shaping up well. "The boys are a good cross-section. They have stayed with us this long and I reckon we are going to make good soldiers out of most of them."

In fact something like 60 of the juniors have exercised their right to depart during the first six months of their Service. Colonel McIntosh says that this is below the infantry average and thus not at all bad for a brand new outfit.

Mrs Marie De Rancourt, the WRVS officer, has been able to make immediate comparisons between the Junior Soldiers' Battalion and another junior unit — for she moved to Taunton from the Army Apprentices College at Harrogate.

"I found it was far more intense than Harrogate at first. They all arrived at the same time and this made it more difficult for me because there were no junior NCOs made up. I couldn't take any time off because things were so critical that I had to be here to act as a sponge."

In fact the early problems soon sorted themselves out and the departure of those who were unhappy eased pressures on the rest.

Colonel McIntosh has no intention of keeping anyone who is dissatisfied. Which is why he acted quickly when he heard that the boys were suggesting that the subject of Northern Ireland was being kept off the cur-

riculum until after their initial six months (when they were no longer free to walk out).

"That was not the reason at all" said Colonel McIntosh. "I don't want any boy to stay here who is unhappy and I certainly don't want to give the impression that I am keeping the less pleasant aspects of an Army career until the time he cannot get out unless he pays."

The intention was to have a full scale seminar on Northern Ireland for all of the battalion during the summer term. They would have been told the history and geography and given a series of talks and films by people who had been there in different capacities.

But in response to the boys' eagerness for information an earlier 'mini-seminar' was held at which talks were given by an officer, a sergeant and a corporal with Northern Ireland experience in the previous 15 months.

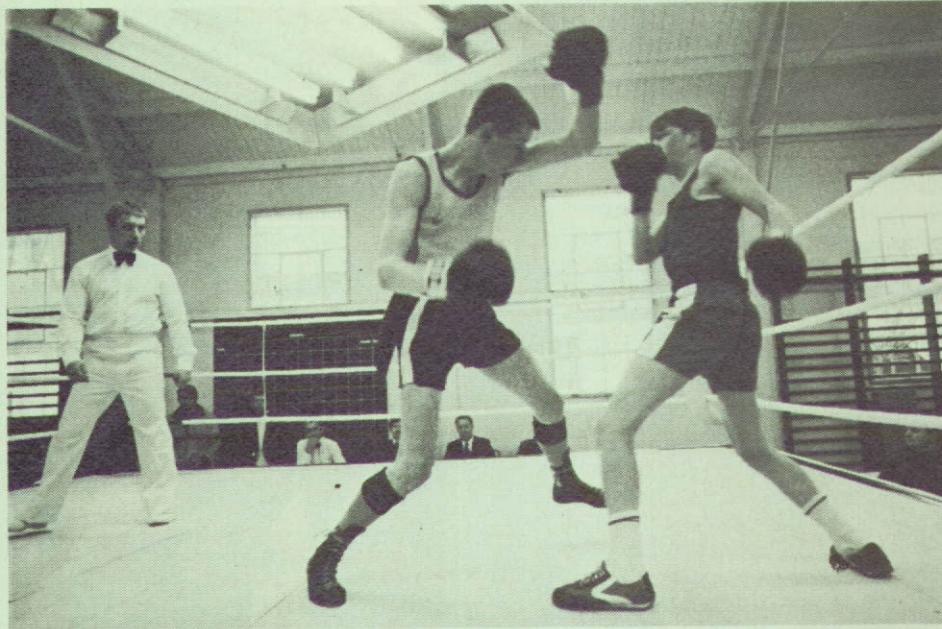
Like everything else at Norton Manor Camp the educational side is something which will evolve with experience. Unlike most junior units the Junior Soldiers' Battalion is adopting a system whereby subjects are studied intensively for 15 to 20 periods spread over a few weeks — rather than studying all subjects over the entire year.

Says senior education officer, Major Mike Howarth-Wood: "The combinations are worked out according to what the companies need. We feel that a chap who does eight different subjects at the same time may find it difficult to remember things from one week to the next. We aim to make it as unlike school as possible."

On arrival, the juniors — who spend their first five weeks confined to camp — take the foundation course. This covers things like the Army, map reading, Service conditions and the soldier's place in society. In short, it's a complete introduction to their future life.

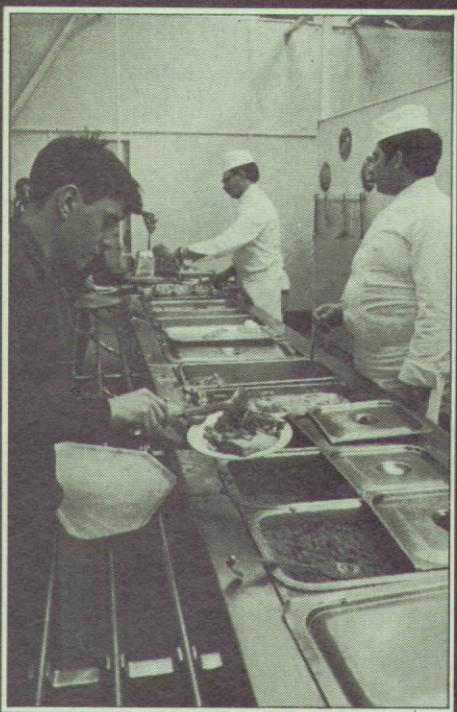
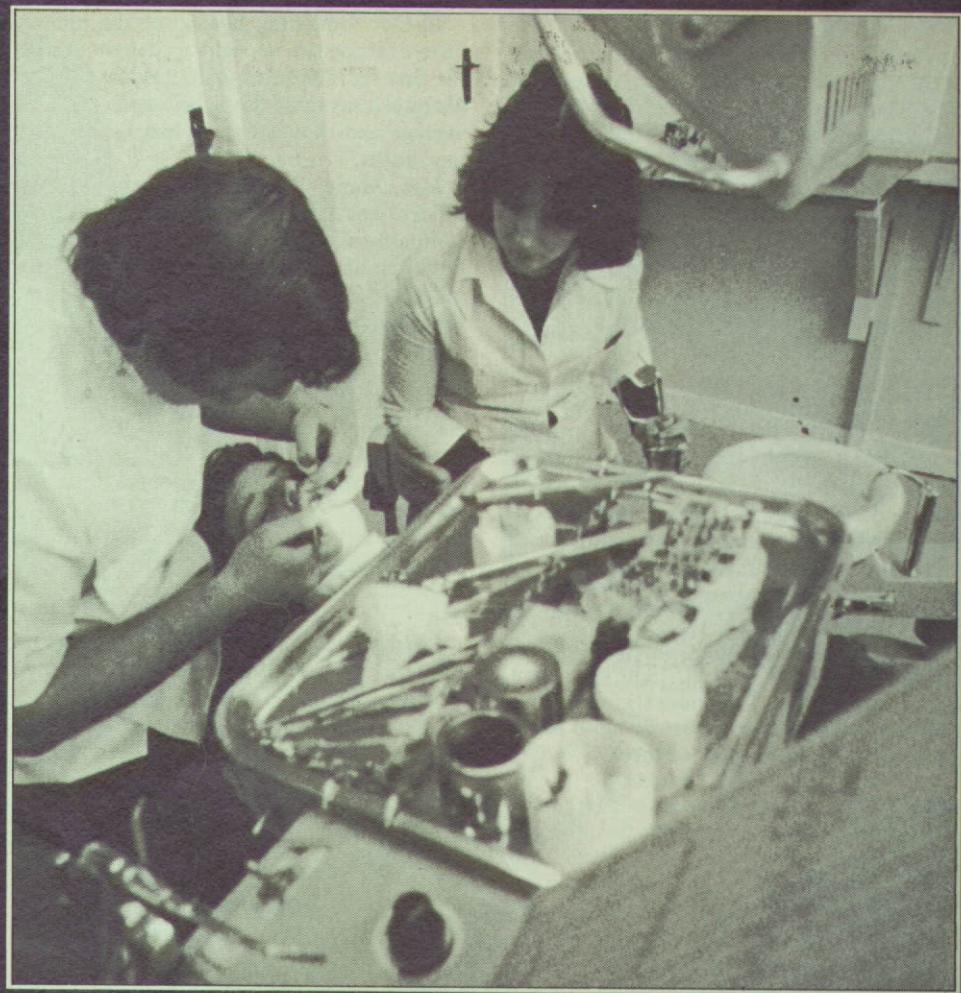
After that the mini-courses of 20 periods each begin. They cover such things as communications skills, leadership, the basic military system, basic German and expedition skills. Next September, when the teaching staff will have risen from the present eight to 22, there should be a clearer picture as to exactly which subject should be allocated to which time of the year.

Left: Novice boxers put lots of effort into it.



Above: Junior Soldier S. Davidson in saddle.
Right: In the gym — a little fitter every day.





The busy and varied life at Norton Manor Camp. Pictures show (clockwise): The RSM, WO 1 Alan Phillips; dentist getting to work on a neglected mouth; hobbies — making model aircraft; learning how to look after a motor car; practising the proper way to lob hand grenades; and piling on the food needed to sustain non-stop energy.



As usual with junior units the transformation in the first few months is quite astounding. In the gymnasium physical training instructor, Corporal Paul Charlton, told **SOLDIER**: "They have got much better — when they first arrived they were terrible. Some have put on a lot of weight while others have shed it."

As always in this type of camp the food is ample and varied. Second Lieutenant Nigel Marchant, on his first catering appointment, is the man who has to see that there is enough to go round and that it is acceptable to the hungry boys.

"My main problem is that they are at every meal seven days a week — whereas in a normal unit people skip meals and go home at weekends. As a result my budget suffers and I cannot put on steak every day."

The cookhouse provides a light meal at lunch (pasties, cottage pie, pizza and so on) and a main meal at night with a choice of seven items — and the chance of 'seconds' if there's any left over.

The juniors invariably opt for chips with everything. Other favourites are burgers and baked beans and they eat a lot of bread and pastry. But they are often very conservative in their taste.

"When we first did pizzas we had to give them to the lads to try as they didn't know what they were," said Nigel. "But they are now very popular. What it boils down to is educating them into eating things other than sausage rolls, chips and pasties."

The dining hall, like the rest of the camp, was left deserted when the RCT unit moved out — and it was denuded of furniture. Gradually it is returning to normal with pictures on the walls. Next priority are table cloths and some plastic flower decorations.

The type of diet the juniors have been used to at home can have less pleasant consequences. Ask the local dentist who is working his way through the 300 mouths.

"Most need something done but some have mouths like sewers. The interesting thing is that a lot of the boys don't understand what's involved in modern dental treatment — presumably because they have never had any."

"I've had to explain to them what even

routine fillings involved — and they are much more frightened of having any sort of dental treatment than I would have expected from young soldiers. When they come in here some of them are shaking and trembling."

The RCT Junior Leaders Regiment left behind a legacy which is proving to be something of an albatross around the neck of the new battalion. The JLR actually won the Wilkinson Sword of Peace for their work among the Taunton civilian community.

And as soon as the new unit arrived at Norton Manor the 'phone calls and the letters began to ask for assistance. While the Junior Soldiers' Battalion is doing some work amongst the local handicapped and for the Army Cadet Force, Colonel McIntosh has been firm that it does not intend to emulate its predecessor.

"I certainly cannot do it in the first year and almost certainly not in the second or third. I've got to sort out this battalion first. We are first and foremost a training organisation for junior soldiers and if the youth of the country want to benefit from our facilities they should join up."

Unlike some junior units who have the philosophy of pushing youngsters hard from morning to night, Colonel McIntosh believes that it is better to keep them happy and interested in what they are learning. Although in the third term the pressure will greatly increase.

Colonel McIntosh has a prototype of the kind of soldier he wants to see emerging from the portals of Norton Manor Camp: "A soldier has to have courage, endurance, must be skilled with his weapons and in the techniques of the infantry trade. And he has got to have understanding, gentleness and a sense of humour as opposed to being a bully. There is no place for the bully in the Army whether he be exercising his trade over other soldiers or over the soldiers of other countries".

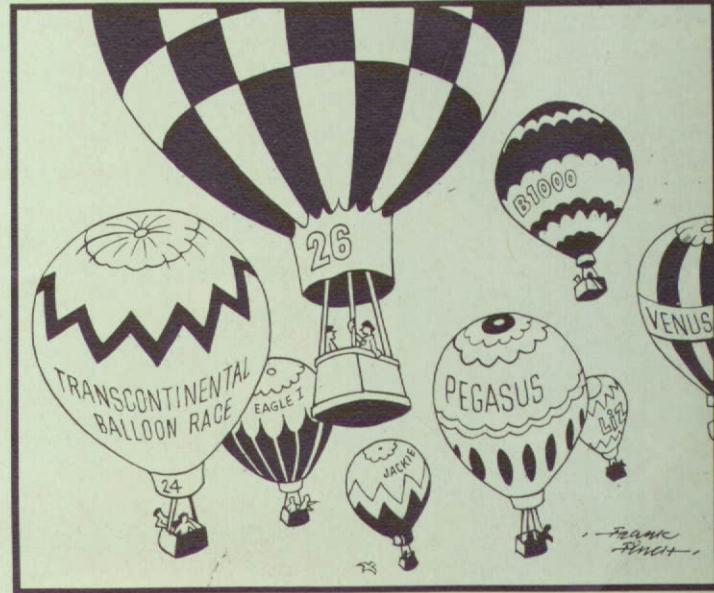
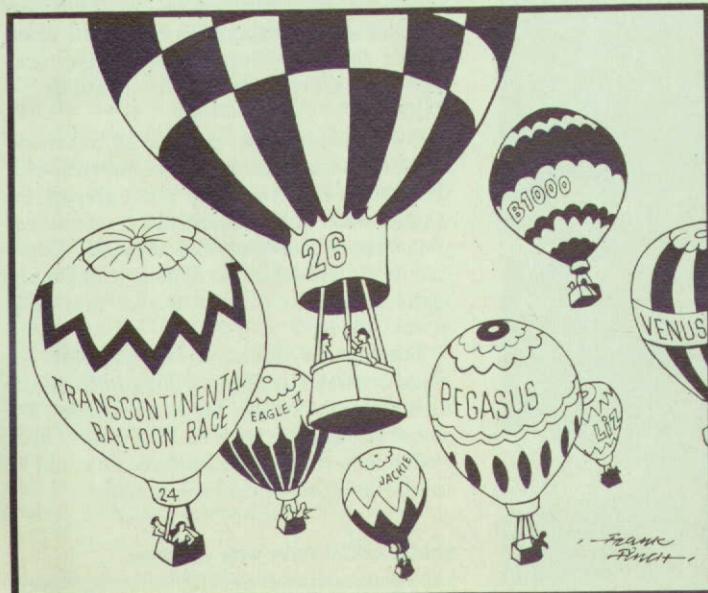
And it is those ideals which are being set as the guidelines for a new battalion which is expected to be turning out soldiers for many years to come.

Below: Learning the basics of resuscitation.



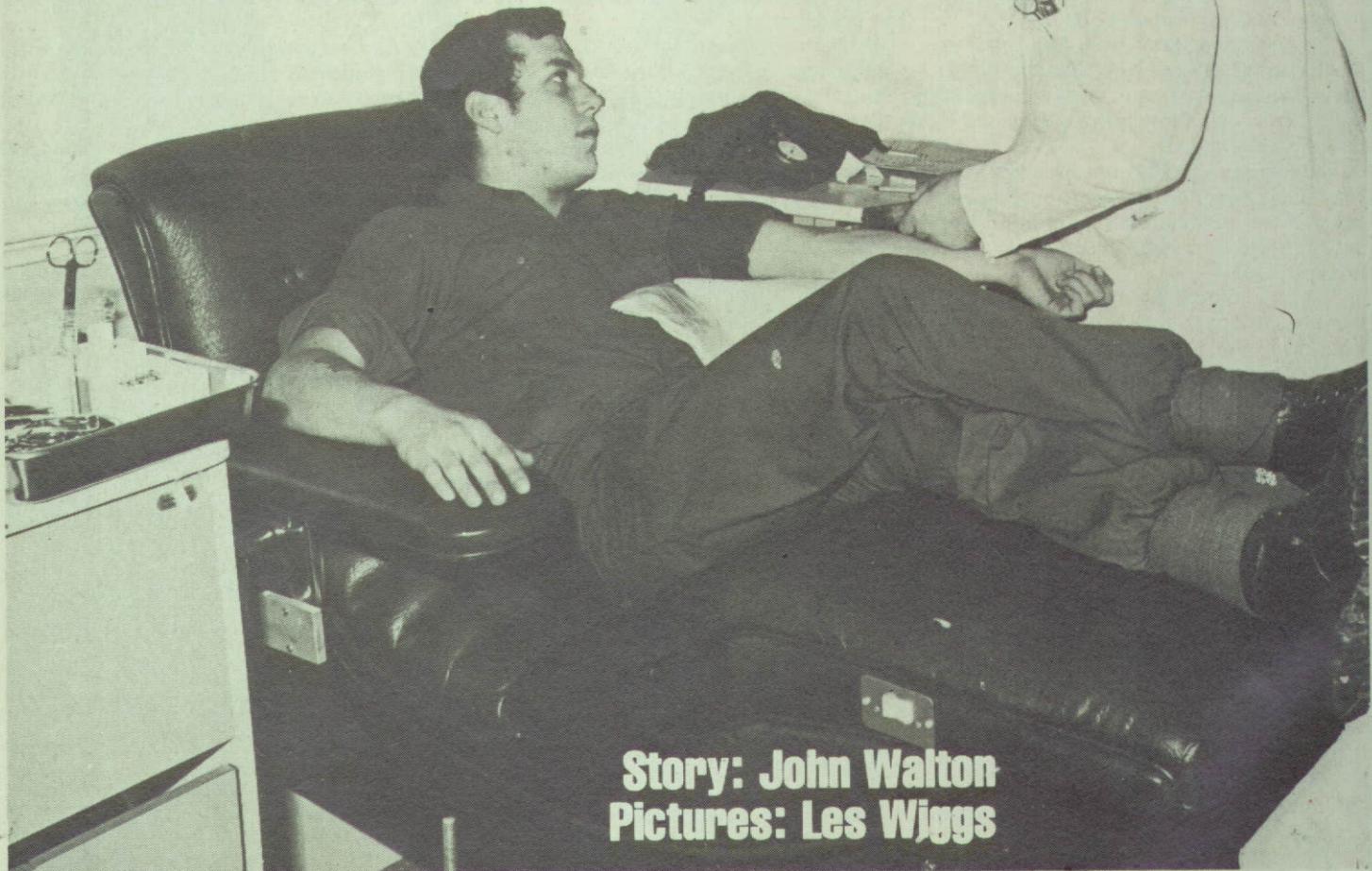
These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences turn to page 57.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

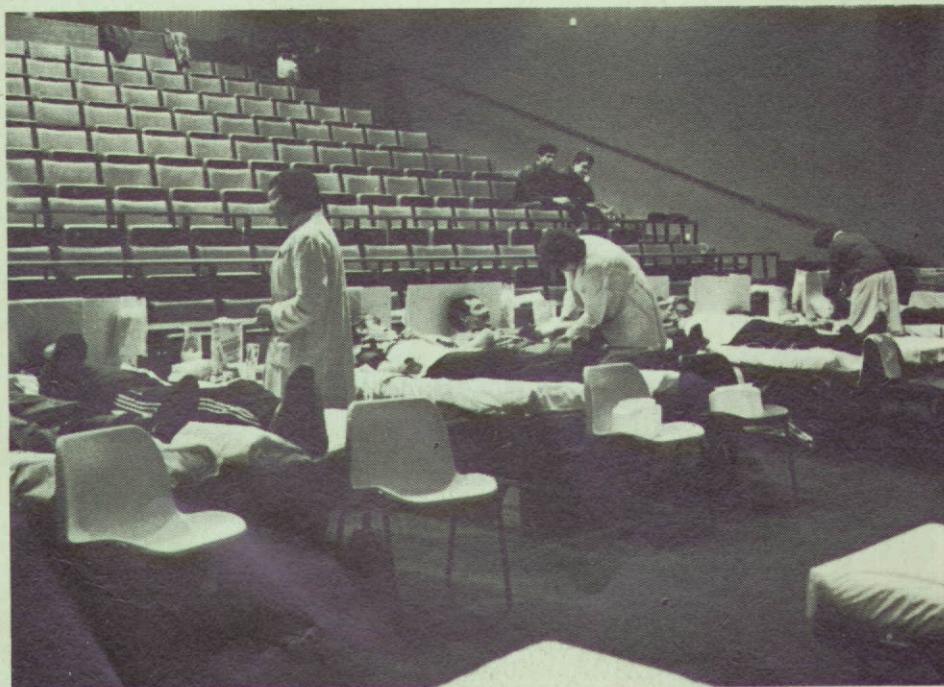


Army pioneers frozen blood techniques

HOW YOUR BLOOD COULD BE USED IN THE YEAR 3780



Story: John Walton
Pictures: Les Wiggs



THE STAFF in a building just round the corner from SOLDIER's offices in Aldershot wear small badges bearing a bat insignia. That's just their little joke — for these men and women are engaged in the life or death task of collecting, supplying and investigating that most vital of commodities — BLOOD.

For armies are always liable to find themselves in the mass casualty business and while the hope is for peace they must prepare for war. If some of the frozen blood techniques pioneered by the Army Blood Supply Depot had been available in bygone campaigns, many thousands of lives would have been saved.

The depot at Aldershot is the largest frozen blood centre in the United Kingdom and the blood remains useable for an incredible 1800 years. Put another way, had the facility been available to the Roman Empire, we could be using the blood of centurions today.

Above: Lt-Col Parry with volunteer.
Left: Donor session at Gibraltar Barracks, Minley.

Warrant Officer 1 John Bushrod, chief technician, has spent ten years working on research problems to do with blood. At present the blood is stored in frozen liquid nitrogen at a temperature of minus 150 degrees Centigrade.

The frozen blood contains a product called glycerol which works like car anti-freeze on the red cells. But the major snag with this process is that the glycerol has to be removed from the blood before it is transfused and this takes half an hour for a single pint.

In any situation involving mass casualties such a delay could be fatal, so the Aldershot Army scientists are now looking for a substitute. And they think they have found it in hydroxyethyl starch — developed and perfected at Aldershot and now undergoing an exhaustive series of experiments involving the injection of groups of Army volunteers.

Says Mr Bushrod: "We can thaw it at a pint every 90 seconds and that can be transfused immediately to a casualty. And although it is Army developed it may also have its uses in civilian situations for train crashes, motorway pile-ups and other natural disasters."

Mr Bushrod is currently studying for his Master of Science in applied immunology and will take the examination in May. In fact Lieutenant-Colonel Ernest Parry, the commanding officer, reckons the depot has one of the most advanced training programmes per head of establishment of any unit. In addition to John Bushrod, it currently has an RAMC technician studying for his Ph.D and three sergeants aiming for the Fellowship of Medical Laboratory Scientists.

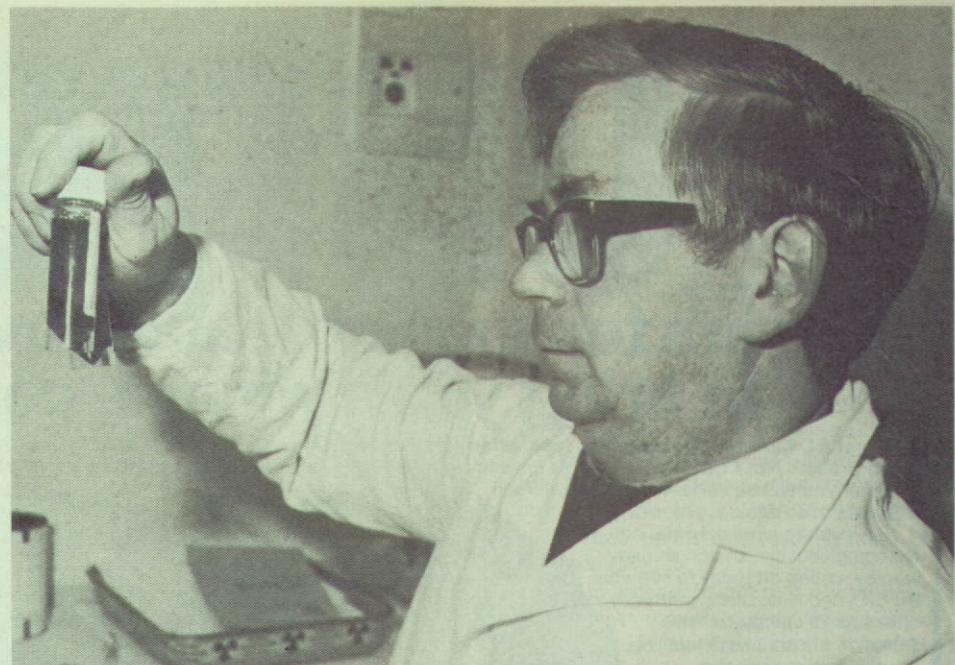
Glycerol frozen blood costs £40 a pint to collect, process, store and deliver — about four times that for fresh blood. But it has other uses than being put by for mass casualty emergencies. For instance, the patients in the bone marrow transplants which have hit the headlines in recent years, all got their supplies from the Army Blood Supply Depot. And thalassaemics (sufferers from a disease which is particularly prevalent in Cyprus and the Middle East) can often take only frozen blood.

The rest of it goes to military patients with special needs such as mums-to-be with high blood pressure who are also grossly anaemic. So the frozen blood at Aldershot is unlikely to be passed down through the generations despite its long life capability.

The depot is also concerned with the routine supply of blood to three Service hospitals at Aldershot, Woolwich and Wroughton. Catterick gets its blood from the National Blood Transfusion Service and in return the Army supplies a small amount of blood to National Health Service Hospitals.

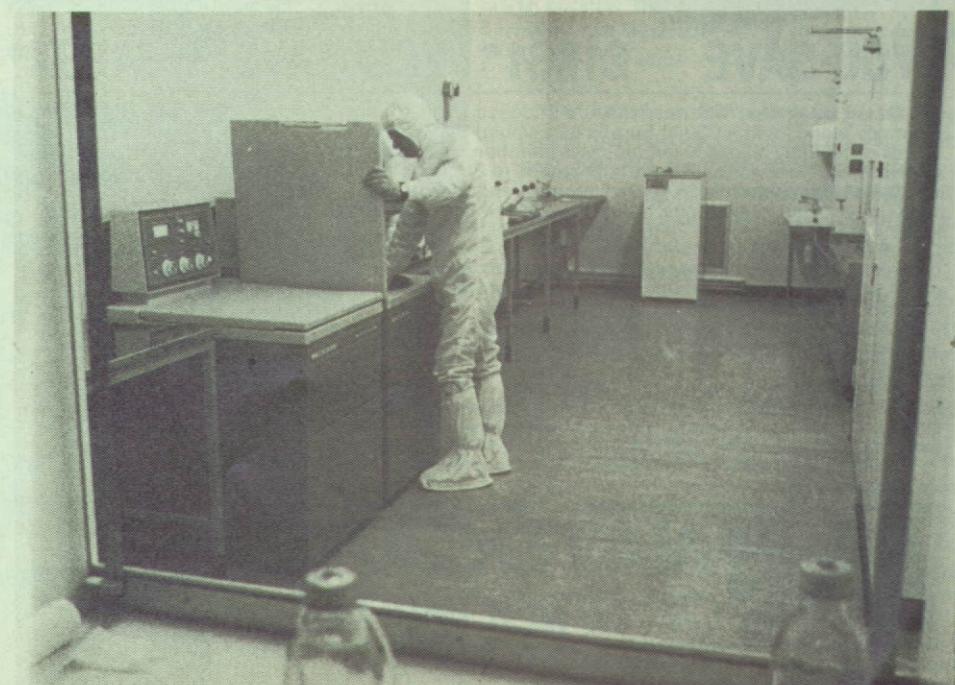
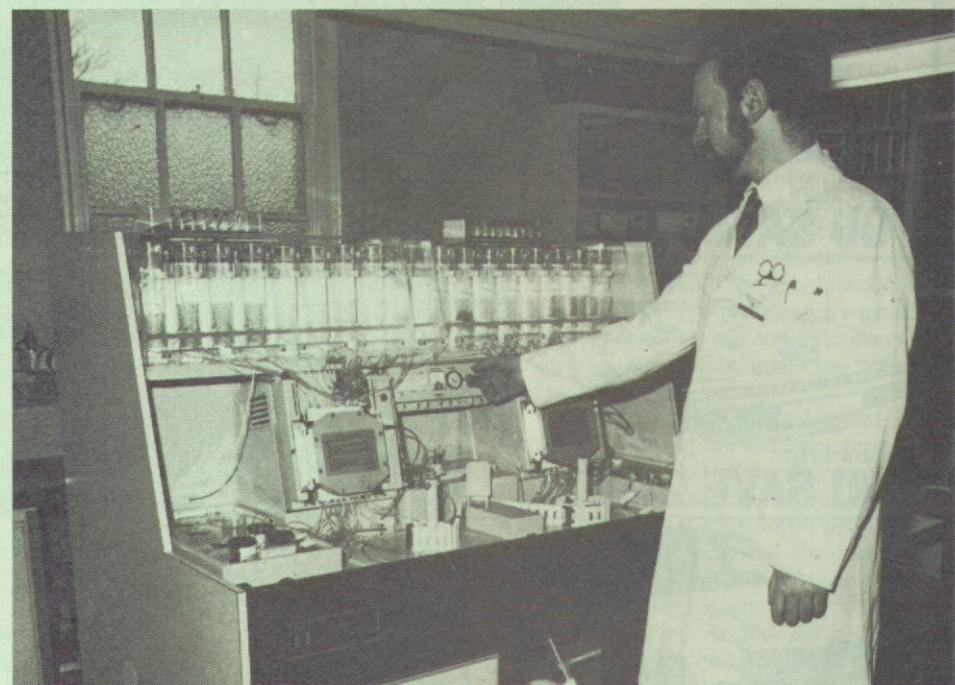
A standard Army bus regularly leaves the Aldershot premises. On board are the medical officer, Colonel Harold Whitcher (retired), and the donor team comprising nine ladies led by Mrs Babs Howlett, together with a clerk. They visit mainly military units throughout a large part of South East and South West District as well as a few civilian premises in the Aldershot area.

Each new donor has to answer a series of questions before he or she is accepted. They include a list of diseases from which the donor may have suffered such as anaemia, diabetes, epilepsy, tuberculosis, hay fever,



Above: WO1 John Bushrod and blood samples.

Below: the new automatic blood grouper.



Right: 'Spaceman' with blood in 'Clean room'.

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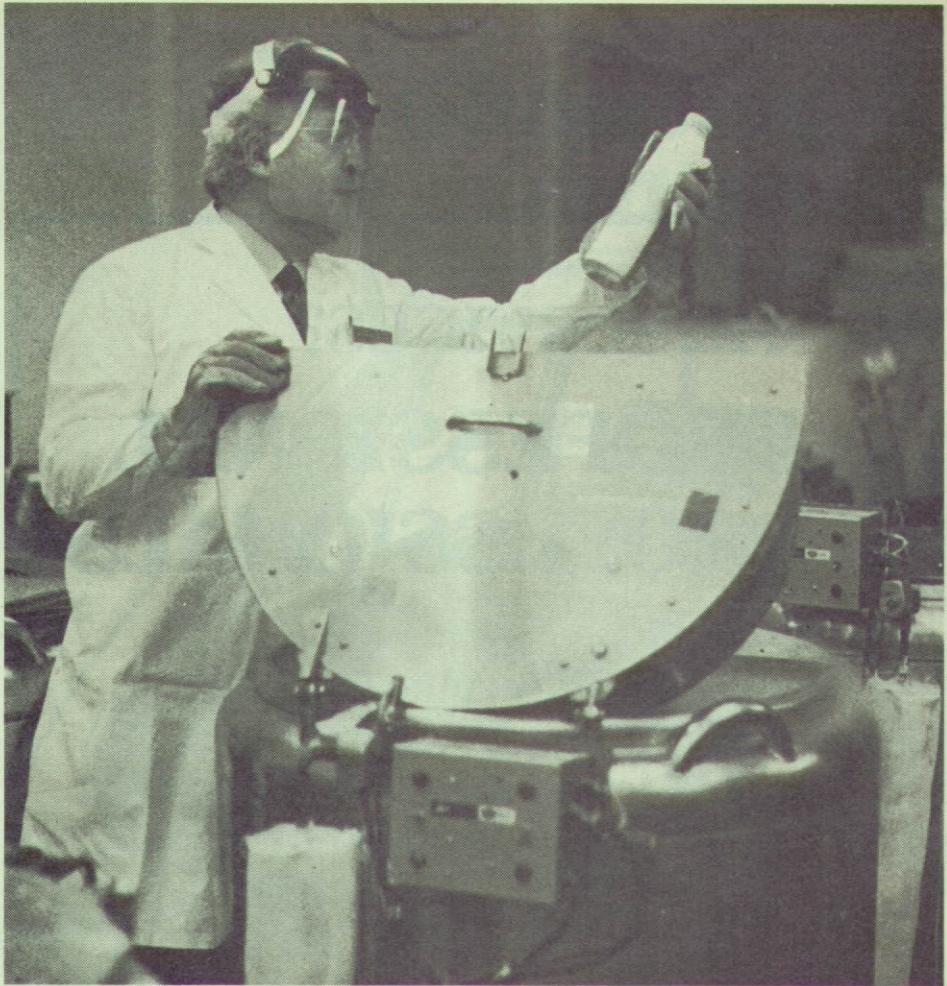
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Left: Colonel Parry lifts out a bottle of blood frozen in liquid nitrogen and good for 1800 years.

asthma and others.

Nowadays some of these rules are not observed so stringently as in the past. For instance, a person who has had jaundice more than a year before will now be accepted as a donor since all the blood is tested before being finally accepted into the blood bank.

If the prospective donor has had malaria however he is likely to be rejected but with hay fever and asthma it all depends on how long ago and other personal factors. The final decision to accept or reject the offer depends on the medical officer at the session.

Another key question is whether the donor has had any tattoos within the past four months. Tattooing, an age old practice which is frowned upon, can easily lead to blood poisoning.

But in any event, there is a vital need for serum for manufacturing reagents on a national scale. So often a donor whose blood may not be suitable for transfusion, can give for this purpose.

Volunteers willing to give blood or to take part in the research are obtained by word of mouth rather than by advertising, and Colonel Parry and his staff value them highly. He says: "The individual donor is the most important and precious thing we have — he is the centre of our organisation."

In the entrance hall stands a roll of honour. It bears the names of those who have given 50, 25 and ten pints of blood and earned the national gold, silver and bronze awards.

How often should one give blood? Colonel Parry says there is no real reason why a fit and healthy person should not give every three months although a six month gap is regarded as the norm.

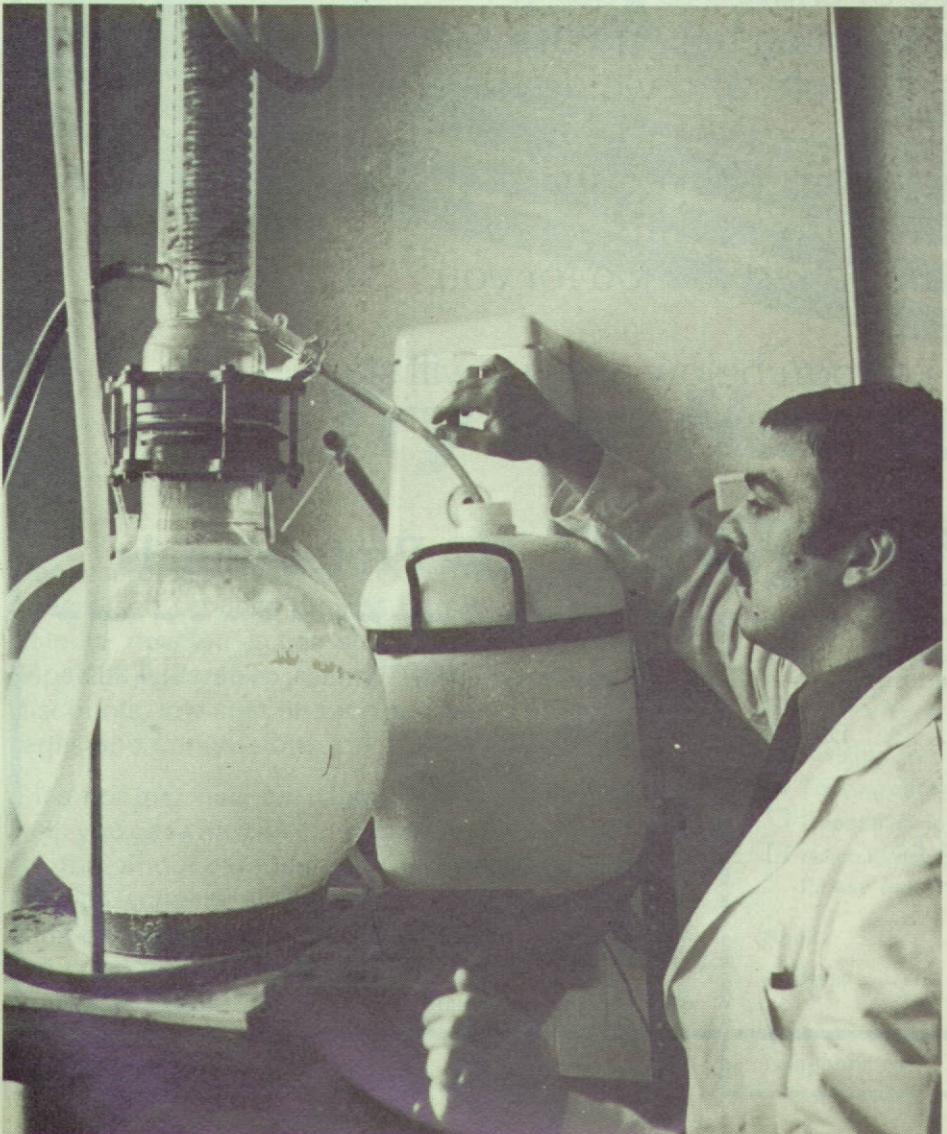
"We were a bit worried about how it affected fitness so we did some tests on soldiers who were blindfolded. From some we took blood and with some we just pricked their arms. After four hours you could not really tell the difference — the ones who had just had the needle pushed against the skin performed only slightly better."

Every soldier in the British Army is encouraged to give blood at least once in case he is required to do so in an emergency. This is because the fainting rate, which runs at about one per cent for the first time donors, almost vanishes completely in subsequent sessions.

The blood, which is kept in plastic bags rather than bottles, is all specially tested on a new £84,000 machine to make sure it is hepatitis free. Then, when it has been processed, it is issued to hospitals, used for research or frozen for the long term blood-for-war programme.

The depot is also responsible for blood grouping every soldier who comes into the Army and this responsibility has now been extended to the Navy. It also runs blood transfusion and resuscitation courses for both the Regular Army and the TA.

After all, it is these ordinary soldiers who in the event of war would be required to thaw the frozen blood and transfuse — an operation which could mean the difference between just another battlefield statistic and a person living to a healthy old age.



Left: The depot distills its own water. Corporal Alan Wondzinski looking after the distillation.

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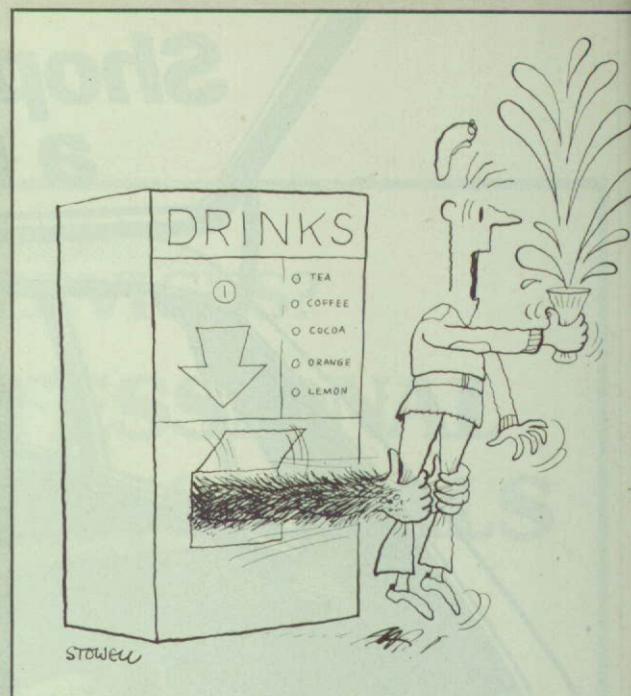
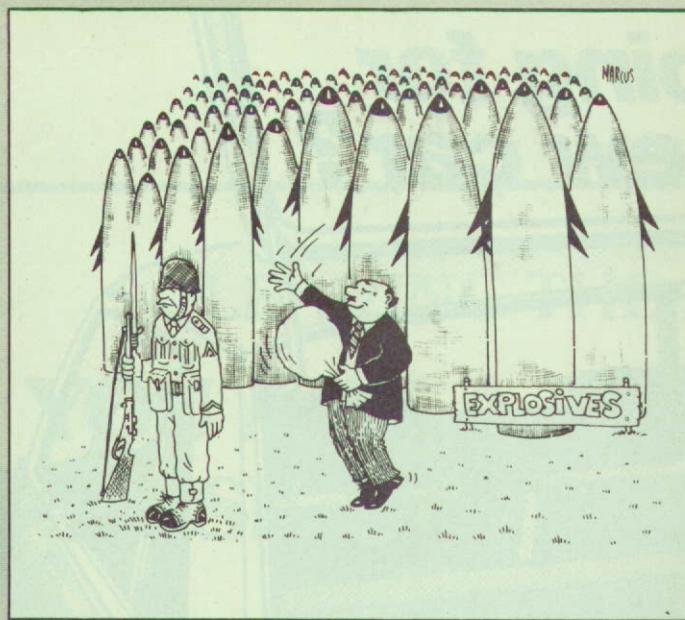
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HUMOUR

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"I've told the kids you're in Cyprus, so try and get a tan."

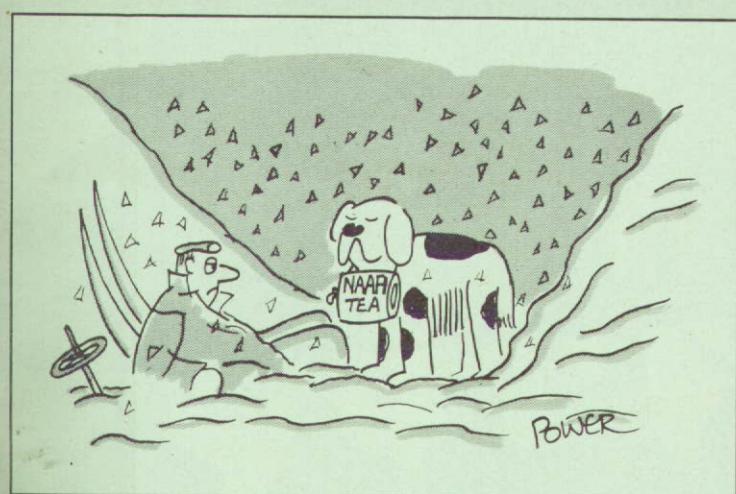




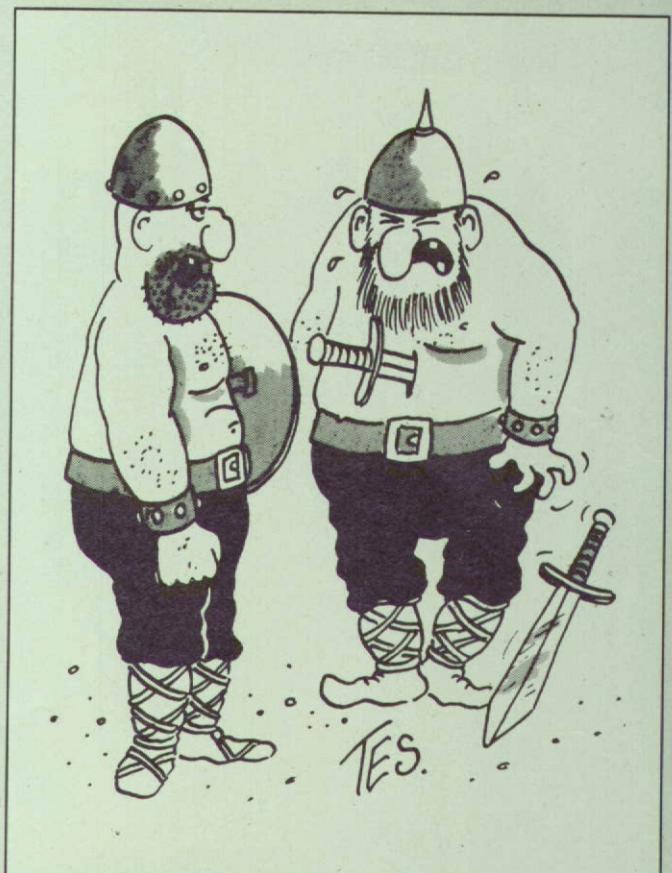
"Ready. Before you again!"



"Sis, it's Action Man."



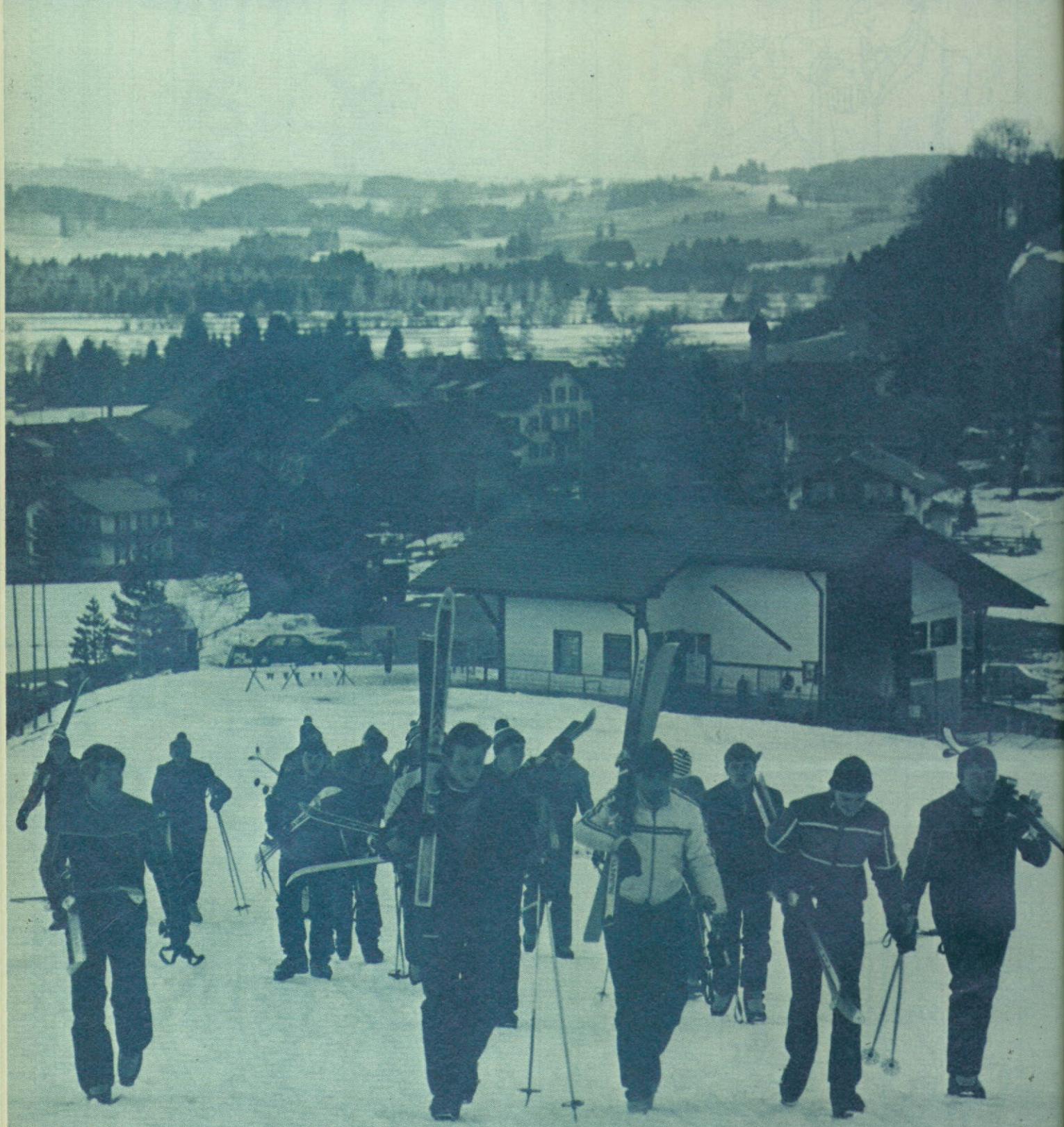
"Of course I wouldn't leave you for another woman. You know how the GOC feels about that sort of thing."



"You lose points when you cry."

High in the Bavarian Alps, the Army's soldier-skiers agree . . .

SNOW QUEEN RULES—OK!



Story: Mike Starke

Pictures: Paul Haley



Above: The first few faltering steps on skis for a class completely new to the techniques required.

Below: A break to visit fairytale Schloss Neuschwanstein, star of film *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*.

A MASS MIGRATION every winter takes thousands of troops from Rhine Army's north German bases to the south in search of the snow. But it's all in pursuit of a military purpose to teach them winter survival skills on the annual Exercise Snow Queen.

With winter warfare a distinct possibility for Nato-committed troops, it is considered vital that British soldiers should get to know some of the techniques necessary to stay fighting fit in sub-zero conditions.

So the object of Exercise Snow Queen is to teach them aspects of winter survival such as snow-hole construction and cross-country (Langlauf) skiing. They also learn downhill skiing — one of Europe's most popular winter sports — since the techniques are closely allied to the more physically taxing Langlauf variety.

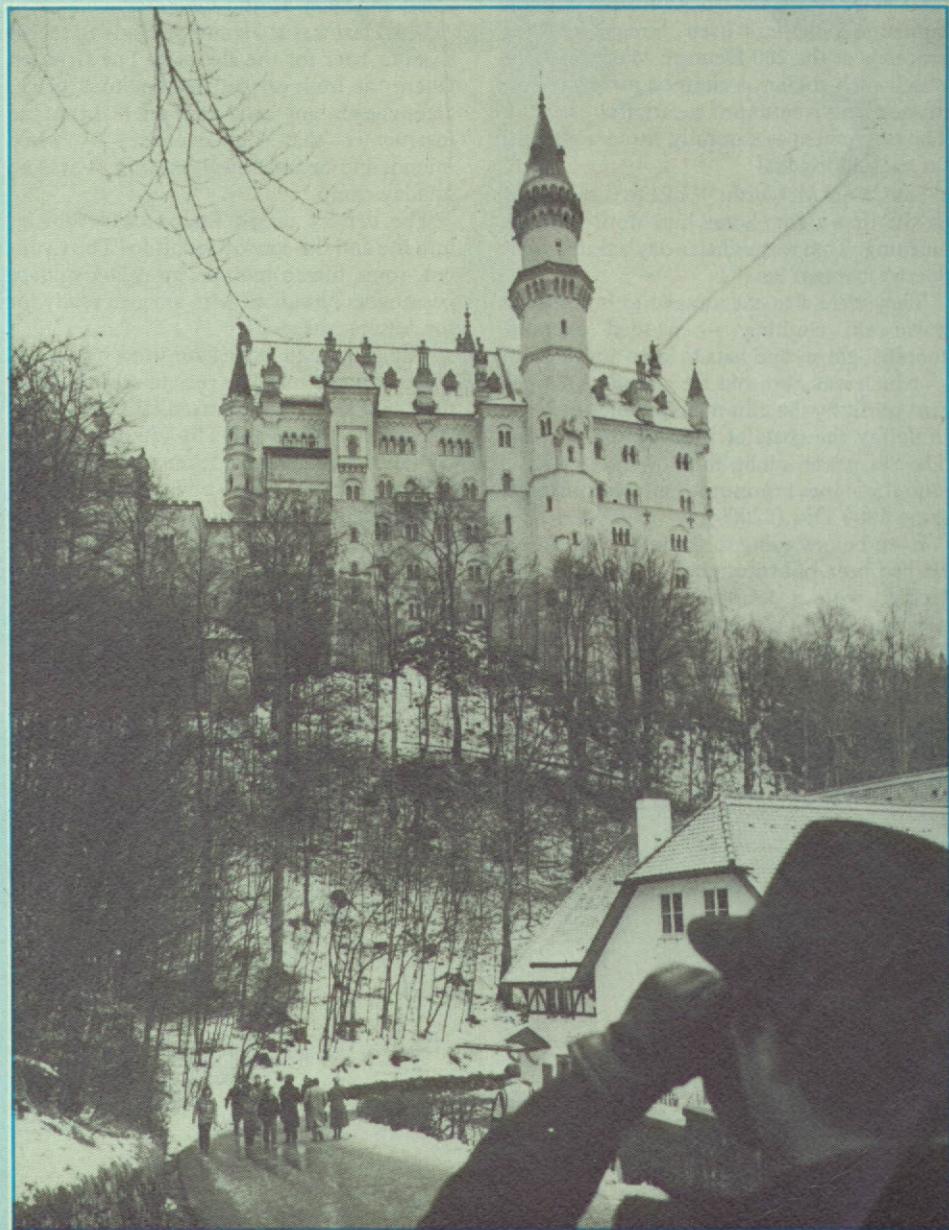
Contract coaches bring the soldier skiers most of whom have never been on the piste — before — from north Germany to the Bavarian Alps. Destination is the little town of Sonthofen, centrally placed as a headquarter area for the exercise and a small cell of administration staff who co-ordinate activities.

From Sonthofen the skiers set off in their own unit transport to one of the 51 huts which will be home for the next fortnight while they master the skills of skiing.

'Hut' is something of a misnomer since these buildings are large Bavarian dwellings — many of some considerable age — with the characteristic low pitched roof and broad, overhanging eaves designed to shrug off the heavy snows of winter without trapping the occupants inside.

One such hut was run for 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment (affectionately known as 'The Woofers') for the December to March season by a small team detached from the unit in Hemer. Their job was to staff the hut and provide instruction for the seven courses —

continued on page 28



each some two dozen strong — that came for successive fortnights throughout the period.

Heading the team was Major Bob Prophet with the chief instructor Warrant Officer 2 Stuart McNeish of the Army Physical Training Corps, attached to The Woofers. Together with the other instructors — Corporal Andy Courtney, Lance Corporals Roland 'Patch' Ball, Tony 'Maggot' Hodges and Brian 'Russ' Russell — they took a special course before the season started to fit them for the job.

Also on the staff were a hut administrator with a quartermaster's role, Corporal Dave Whitehead, together with a resident cook, two drivers, a medic and a vehicle fitter.

A Land-Rover and two four-tonners were allocated by the unit as exercise transport. And the latter were always waiting for the courses as they stepped off the coaches at Sonthofen, tired and stiff after a nine or ten hour journey. "I like to be there to meet them — it makes all the difference. You see some left here hanging about with no-one to meet them and it's really miserable," said WO2 McNeish.

After the last leg of the journey to the hut in the hamlet of Kressen snuggling under the eaves of the cheerful little village with the unlikely name of Bad Oy, the course members were greeted by a hot meal as they took stock of their snug surroundings.

On that first night they were issued with their skis, boots and sticks from the stock built up by the unit itself, bought with the proceeds of the 200 Deutsch Mark (£50) fee which each soldier is charged for his course (some of this is refunded as ration allowance). The equipment is carefully fitted and sized for each individual.

Said WO2 McNeish: "I like to issue the kit on the first night. Some huts do it the next morning. That wastes half a day's skiing, so it doesn't happen here".

They were also encouraged to buy special warm ski clothing — padded overalls, anoraks, gloves and hats to keep out the cold — which was also sold for a modest ten per cent profit by the unit to help build up funds to defray the costs of running the courses. The ski passes alone to allow the students onto the slopes represented an investment of some 8000 DM (£2000).

Even before going to Bavaria, The Woofers had been put through their paces back in Hemer with a four-week fitness course, designed by WO2 McNeish to limber them up for the physical demands of skiing.

A typical day at The Woofers' hut started



earliest for the staff with the resident cook rising in the early hours to prepare breakfast. He was spared many of the more tedious chores of kitchen work by a roster of duty students who were detailed to keep the hut spick and span during their stay.

Breakfast was at 7am to be ready to set off an hour later for the slopes of The Grünten where the bulk of their lessons took place. Sleepyheads got rude reminders from the instructors that the exercise — while intended to be fun as well as work — was no holiday camp.

The drivers teased their frozen vehicles into life and the convoy set off for The Grünten, some fifteen minutes away, its student passengers kitted out with ski gear ready for the lessons ahead.

The mountain slopes are used by several other huts and most are recognisable by their matching ski clothes. Smartness is all part of the exercise image and The Woofers banned casual or scruffy attire from their courses.

The Grünten offers a wide range of ski slopes, from gentle gradients for the novice to precipitous slopes for the expert downhill skier. Much of the Langlauf work was done cross-country nearer the Kressen hut.

For most of the students it was the first time on skis and the local sportsmen seemed to enjoy the free entertainment as the British

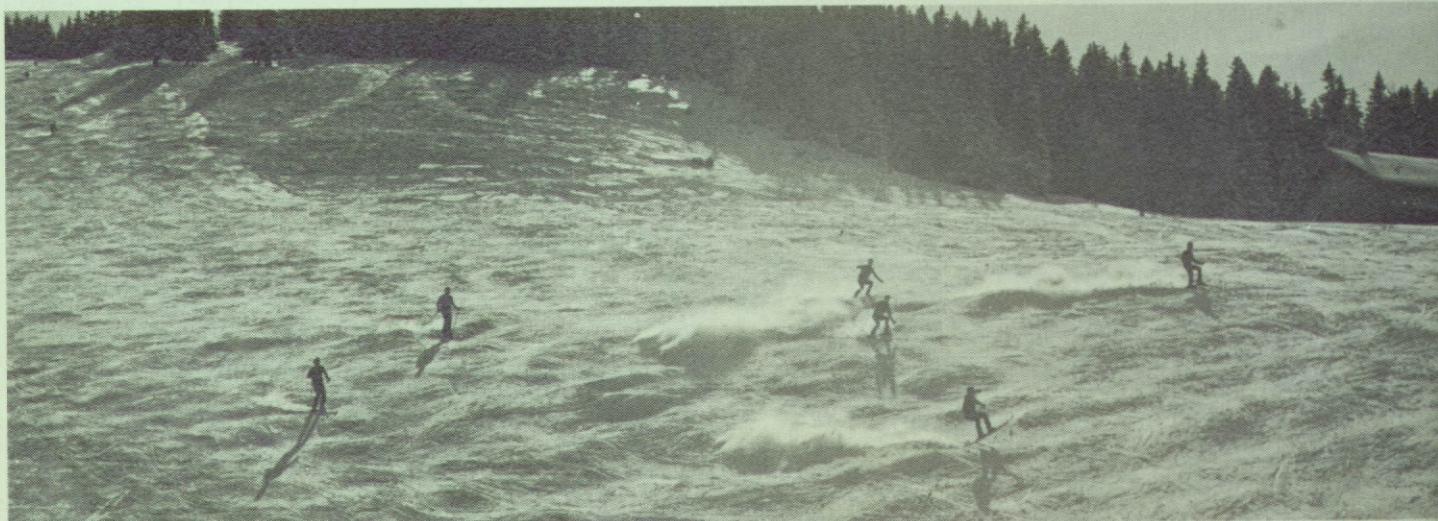
soldiers laboriously got used to skis which seemed to have a will of their own once attached to the end of a pair of inexpert legs!

But surprisingly soon — thanks to patient instruction — most got the hang of it and were ready for the next new experience — the T-bar lift. This consists of a series of inverted 'T' shaped bars suspended from a constantly moving cable. The cross piece of the 'T' is intended to rest comfortably at the back of the legs to pull the skier up the mountain to the ski slopes.

It is easier described than done and WO2 McNeish recalled days when it was past lunchtime before all students had successfully got to the top. "Basically, it's very simple," he said airily. "The knack is not to fight it." Many did . . . and lost!

The four instructors were kept busy with their groups with WO2 McNeish moving from one to the other constantly assessing progress. As proficiency and confidence grew, groups chopped and changed to keep the students together according to their varying abilities.

The lunch break was at noon with a stop for rolls and fruit provided by the hut cook. Thirsts were eagerly quenched by soft drinks from a convenient restaurant half way up the mountain. But no beer — "Beer and skiing don't mix" was the simple maxim.





Left: Lunch break on the piste — only soft drinks!

Above: On their course, the Woofers' band played for a local restaurant — Tyrolean airs, of course.

Right: Some mastered the 'T' bar more rapidly!

After just an hour, it was back to the lessons until 3.30pm when the transport returned to take the tired students back to hot showers, a sit down and a hot meal at 5.30pm. The rations consisted of half fresh and half composite (compo) stores to give the hungry skiers variety as well as quantity.

But the day's instruction was not over then. At 7pm there would be lectures on ski maintenance, survival, equipment and so on to make the most of the time available in the brief two weeks.

Even so, there was some opportunity for 'après ski' with a small bar in the hut and a couple of games machines whose profits all went to the 'firm' to help the unit's ski funds.

Few students were late to bed though after a punishing day on the piste and faced with another early start in the morning.

The Woofers' ski staff were determined to get the best out of each fortnight for their students. The aim, SOLDIER was told, was to get everyone to at least the Bronze Award of the Joint Services ski standard and an average of 75 per cent of each course achieved this.

And for all the pressure to get sometimes reluctant students up the slopes, there were a bare minimum of injuries among The Woofers — none serious — whereas the toll among the exercise as a whole had clocked up over two dozen broken legs and ankles and even two broken backs.

WO2 McNeish explained tersely: "The reason people break things is the instructors' fault for not doing their job properly. There's no excuse for it and it gets the rest of us a bad name".

But success is what was encouraged and The Woofers were clearly having their share of it. One delighted student said: "I'd never have thought two days ago that I'd be able to ski now. It's all a matter of taking it gradually and gaining confidence then . . . it's a great feeling!"

And for all its military emphasis, there's no doubt that this 'great feeling' is what keeps Exercise Snow Queen popular each year.



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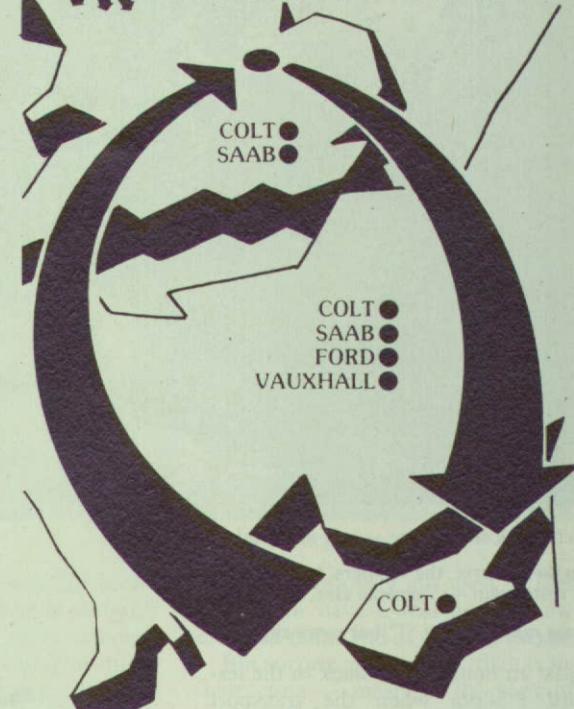
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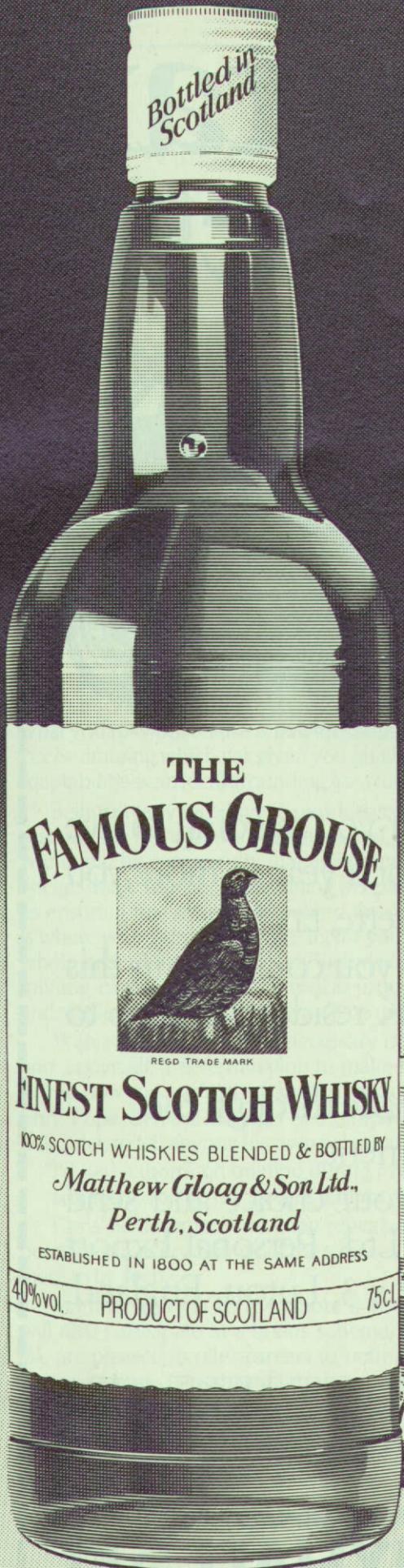
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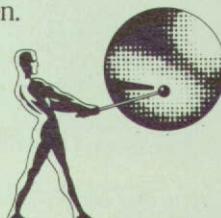
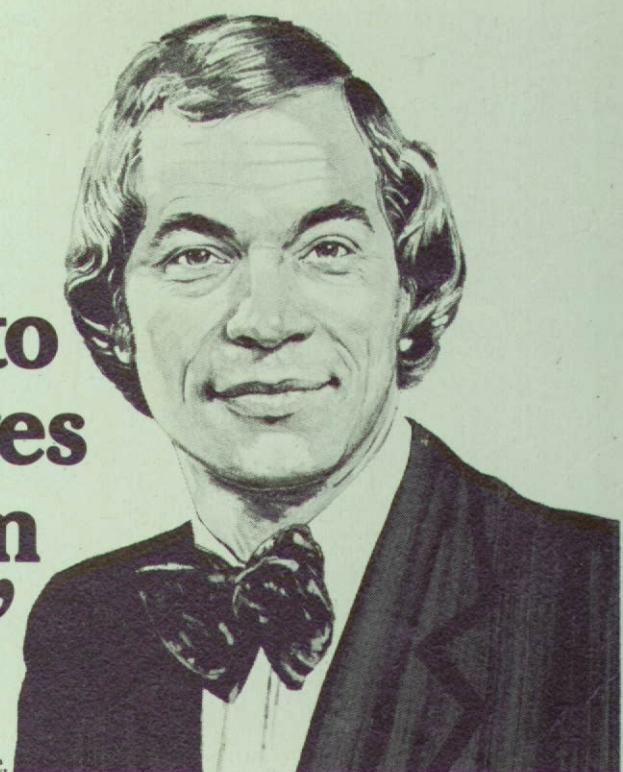
Chris Pope, General Manager of the Top Rank Club in Halifax was, and he's quick to tell anyone his own personal success story:

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HOW THE WEST WAS WON



Pictures: Andy Burridge Story: Ken Hawkins

THEY CAME from all over the south west of England for the first ever weekend exercise for all the Territorial Army in that District. More than 6,000 'weekend soldiers' were on Salisbury plain for an exercise that took in most of the major activities that regular soldiers find themselves going through almost every day of their training lives.

Territorials from as far west as Cornwall, north to Gloucestershire and east to Hampshire were broken up into platoons for tasks scattered over a wide area of the Plain.

Bright and early after breakfast on Saturday morning in a bitterly cold wind they went to beyond Tilshead for a morning of section attacks and first aid practice.

Hot cups of tea and coffee fortified the men before their orders took them out on a high, windswept stretch of plain where volunteers acted out their assigned roles of battle casualties, realistic-looking blood smeared over their faces.

As these fellows suffered patiently, lying in the damp grass, as the chill wind whistled around them, rescue operations were conducted — not always, of course, in the way that they should have been.

Officers were heard to mutter: "Look at 'em! Doing exactly what they've been told over and over again not to do".

But officers and men alike realised that they were out here on the Plain on this cold Saturday morning to learn from their mistakes. Now they really know better — and, hopefully, they won't make those mistakes again.

In the afternoon drivers were kept busy ferrying truckloads of men out to the Imber Ranges.

Above: Territorials charge an 'enemy' position.

Left: A chance to show their marksman skills.

Those up in the control tower had to keep to a tight schedule to squeeze in such a large number of men who would benefit from training of this kind.

Even so, as the afternoon passed its prime, things were falling slightly behind schedule as these enthusiastic marksmen were allowed to show their skills.

Soon the time came for the evening meal: but that was by no means a signal that the day's duties were finished. For many the brief respite at the meal table was quickly followed by the start of night exercises.

Happily, the sun broke through the following morning, and this seemed to encourage most of the men to go about their tasks with even greater zeal and enthusiasm.

For the bulk of the men, this sunny Sunday morning was spent in skilled and safe driving practice through the roads and lanes of Wiltshire edged with hedges and trees not yet quite prepared to burst into their spring finery.

More gunnery practice, on the ranges outside Bulford, brought the time close to that scheduled for the prizegiving and the men's dispersal, so that they would have time to get home—and be ready to go off to their jobs on the Monday morning.

Every moment counts, though, when a number of men of this magnitude are gathered, for the first time, on an exercise designed to squeeze every ounce of value out of a weekend's programme.

So the prizegiving started—while the final platoons were going through ambush training on a nearby section of the Plain.

There were scores of awards to be handed out, after all those participating had been congratulated by senior officers on making such a success out of this pilot weekend exercise.

Clearly, the consensus was that the weekend had shown its value in many ways, and the organisers would make this the first

of a great number of similar exercises in the years to come.

Among the major awards to be presented, 237 Squadron RCT scored particularly well, taking the cup for best overall team and the award for driving. The cookery award went to 2 Wessex.

Then, after a short interval which allowed the completion of the ambush practice, came the announcement of the top award. It went to Bristol University officer training corps led by 22-year-old Paul Chambers.

Young as they are, they have seen, as clearly as the older, more experienced men and women on this exercise, the need for a strong, well-trained Territorial Army at this time in Britain's history.

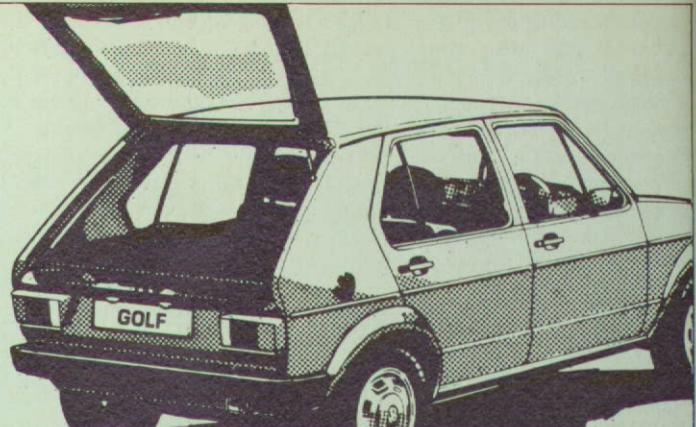
It's encouraging, to military and civilians alike, to see the Terriers' recruiting figures on the upswing.

Below: Sunday dinner's beginning to taste good!

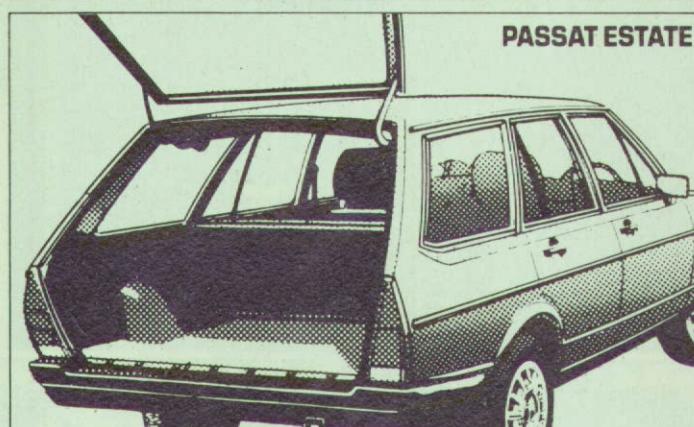


Below: On their way to start a section attack.





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MILITARY MUSEUMS

THE NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM (SANDHURST DEPARTMENTS)

HERE IN THE grounds of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, are two important sections of the National Army Museum, Chelsea. One deals with the Indian Army and the other concentrates on the five Irish regiments disbanded in 1922.

A magnificent chandelier-hung hall houses many valuable relics of the Indian Army — portraits, uniforms, medals and weapons. A major-general's full dress tunic, an ornate sword presented to Lord Roberts by the people of Portsmouth and sheathed in a gilded scabbard bearing representations of his Victoria Cross, Garter and Star of India, Field-Marshal Sir Claude Jacob's baton, the medals and decorations of Field-Marshal Sir Archibald Cossacks and a staff captain's full dress tunic of 1881 set the tone of a far-ranging collection.

Examples of regimental porcelain and the full dress uniform (1912) of a captain in the 26th King George's Own Light Cavalry pave the way to two cases of Indian Army cavalry and infantry dress facing each other on either side of the hall. The mess jackets of officers of Skinner's Horse, the 20th Deccan Horse and the 19th King George's Own Lancers are faced by the mess jackets worn by officers of the 9th Bhopal Infantry, 1st Kimaon Rifles, 19th Hyderabad Regiment and the 12th Madras Infantry — all in first class condition.

The full dress uniform of a lieutenant in the 13th Duke of Connaught's Own Lancers has a case to itself and the full dress tunics of a Royal Horse Artillery officer, a captain in the Corps of Engineers, Bengal, a brigade surgeon, appropriately shown with a case of surgical instruments, and a Transport Corps major's full dress tunic are typical of the many uniforms on display.

As well as nine Victoria Crosses the museum has an exceptionally fine collection of Indian Army medals and badges. One of the original Sam Browne belts specially designed by General Sir Samuel Browne can be seen alongside a snuff mill fashioned from a ram's horn belonging to the 7th Bombay Native Infantry and a replica of the silver staff finial in the shape of a hand which surmounted the standard of the 1st Kushgai Regiment of Fars. This rare trophy was captured by the Poona Irregular Horse during the Persian War of 1856-57.

The coats of arms of all the Governor-Generals of India from Lord Clive to Field-

Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck are there, while adorning the walls are portraits of famous British soldiers who have served in India, among them Lord Slim with his Garter banner hanging beside his portrait and Lieutenant-General Sir Colin Mackenzie wearing native costume. Finally, there is a special Gurkha section with tunics and medals, including two VCs and a ceremonial kukri.

Nearby in another building are relics and mementos of The Royal Irish Regiment, The Connaught Rangers, The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians), The Royal Munster Fusiliers and The Royal Dublin Fusiliers — the five Irish regiments disbanded in 1922.

Two Victoria Crosses, a Maxim gun damaged to prevent its use by Boers at Monument Hill in January 1900 by Private J Barry (who was posthumously awarded the VC) and a massive bronze bell captured at Schwe Dagon Pagoda, Rangoon during the Burma campaign of 1852, are among a variety of items in the Royal Irish room.

A Jingling Johnny taken from the French 88th Infantry Regiment at Salamanca and a Glockenspiel of 1874 dominate the Connaught Rangers display while a tunic, forage caps and a sampler worked by Sergeant S A Rogers in 1915 can be seen in the Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment room. Two VCs and the hunting horn used by the Commanding Officer to rally the regiment at Le Catelet on 4 October 1918 are among a number of reminders of the Royal Munster Fusiliers and finally comes the Royal Dublin Fusiliers room with uniforms, badges and a brass side drum of 1881. Some Colours and a fine array of silver are arranged on either side of a wide central corridor.

John Jesse

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In three years time the new Thames Flood Barrier will make London safe from flooding. Meanwhile the Army stands by with rescue plans at the ready. . .

LONDON ON THE BRINK



Britain is slowly tilting with London and the South East dropping by about a foot every 100 years. At the same time the capital is sinking on its bed of clay and tides are more than two feet higher at London Bridge than they were 100 years ago.

London was severely flooded in 1236 and 1663. In the last 50 years about a hundred people have died in major Thames floods. In 1928, 14 people were drowned in their basements in Hammersmith and Westminster and in the East Coast floods of 1953 about a third of the 300 who died lived in the lower reaches of the Thames.

In 1965 water came within six inches of the river wall top in Central London and in January 1978 there was only a two feet gap from the top of the flood defences. In January 1976 there was a surge — but fortunately it coincided with a low tide.

Picture courtesy Avon Rubber Company Ltd.

IT WILL ALL START with a deep depression moving east across the Atlantic towards the British Isles. The depression will push a surge of water from the deep ocean into the North Sea and then storm force winds will take it southwards to the Thames estuary.

As it goes up the river the water gets higher and higher as the Thames narrows — until it goes over the river defences and large areas of the capital are submerged. The capital is paralysed, more than a quarter of a million homes, factories and offices are threatened and a million people have to be evacuated.

This devastating prospect does not lie in the realms of a fantasy novel. It is a grim possibility faced by the Greater London authorities and one which, if it ever occurred, would probably be the greatest natural disaster to ever befall this country.

And, as with all natural disasters in this country, the Army will be ready and waiting to do what it can to help. Major Giles Crisp, the staff officer at London District responsible for flooding operations, told SOLDIER: "It would be a shattering blow to this country if the capital came to a halt. But we will do the best we can and pour in as many people as we can".

In fact the Thames came within a foot of the river defences as recently as 1978 and the early stages of the Army's flood disaster plan have been initiated several times.

There are five flood emergency headquarters for groups of London boroughs. Each of these will be allocated groups of soldiers from the various regimental headquarters in London while another group from the cavalry will go to the Greater London Council's flood control centre in Holborn Kingsway.

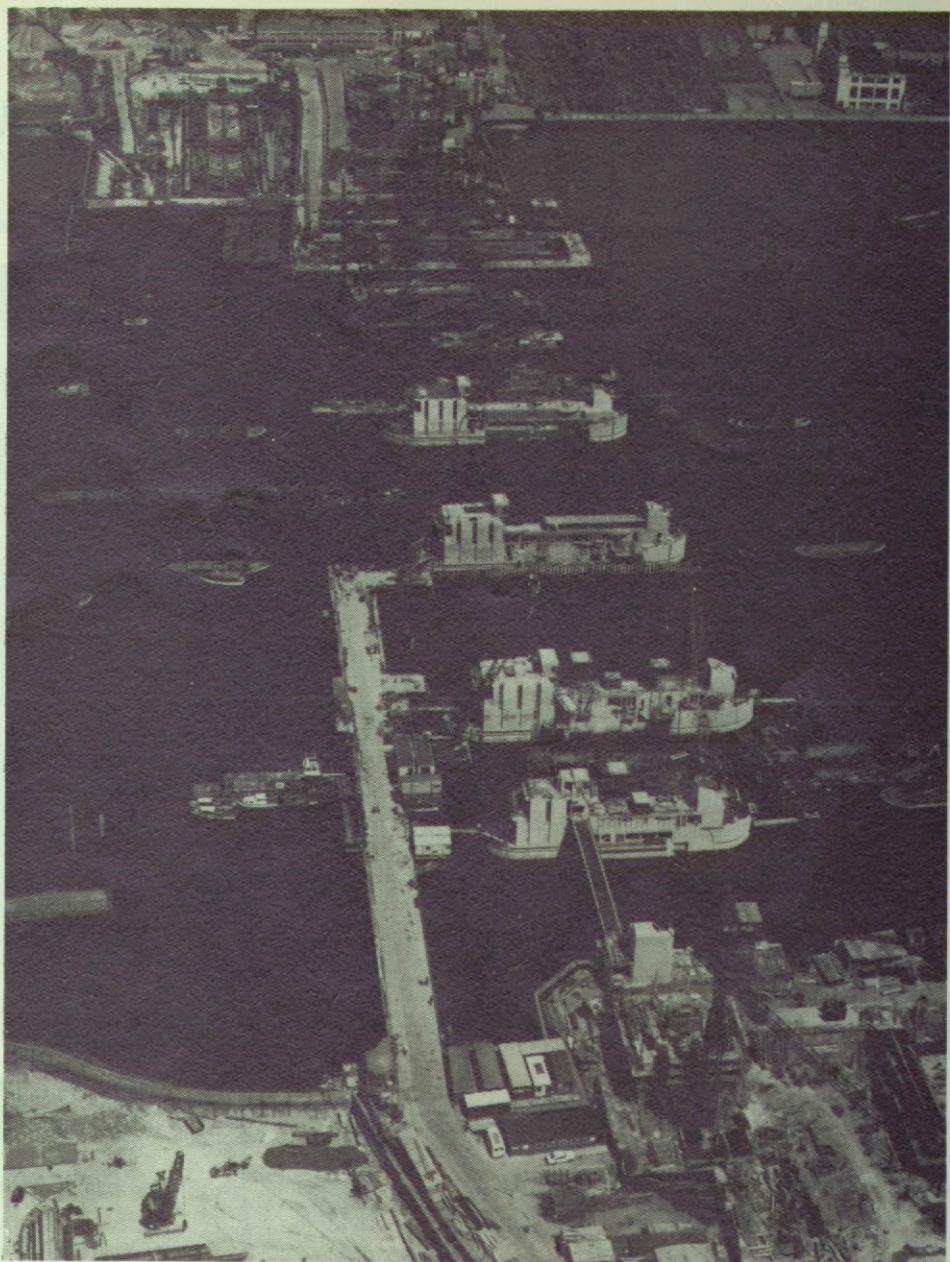
An hour before the water is due to go over the top, five task forces will be deployed to the various centres. And if flooding takes place they will search, rescue and evacuate people from the flooded areas.

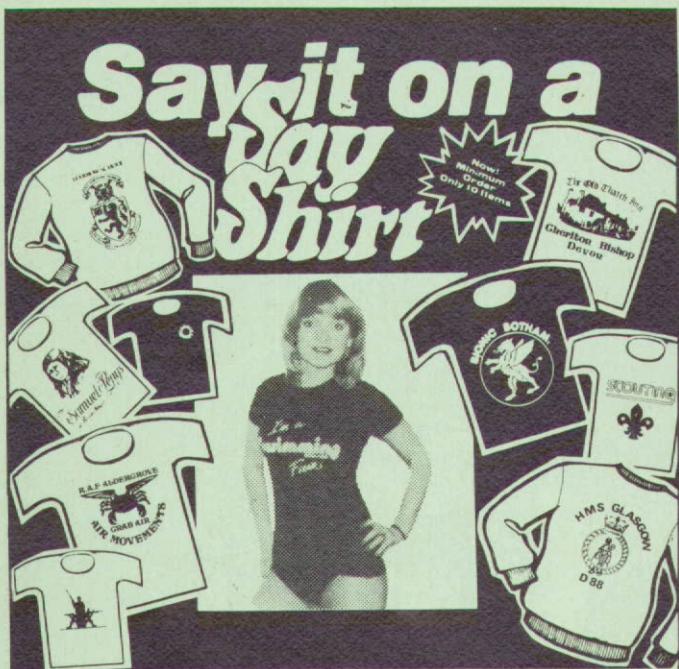
At the same time, the Royal Engineers will

continued on page 41

Right: Thames barrier now under construction.

Below: Flooding at Chiswick only a few years ago.



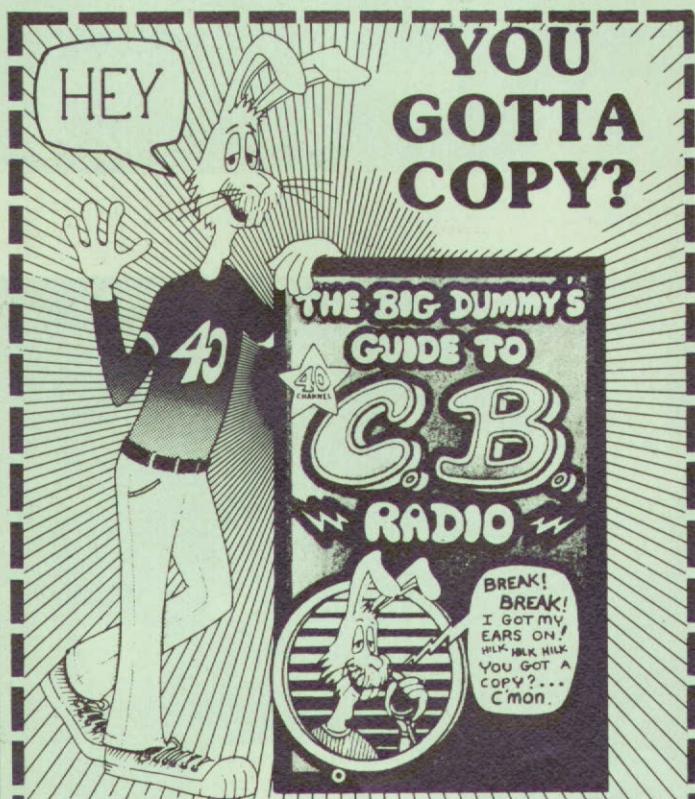


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have two task forces out on the river — using 40 assault boats kept at Woolwich, Chelsea and Pirbright for just such an emergency.

"We would then of course bring in every other man or woman in London District and if they were insufficient we would go to United Kingdom Land Forces for further help," says Major Crisp.

What would be the aftermath of such a flood? 'Horrendous' according to both Major Crisp and to the GLC itself. The underground system could be paralysed for six months, main line stations could be out of action, bridges and tunnels could be unusable, telephone exchanges silenced, hospitals, sewage works, fire and ambulance stations and even the Houses of Parliament could be under water. The direct cost could be as much as £3000 million and the indirect cost many times greater.

But the Great Flood of London need not happen. For the GLC is building the world's largest movable flood barrier at Woolwich and raising the river banks downstream to Barking and Dartford Creeks. The barrier is likely to be in operation by the end of 1982 thus removing the threat to London.

The barrier (at March 1979 price levels) will cost £369 million. Standing as high as a five storey house it will consist of a series of enormous steel gates set between concrete piers which will also house the hydraulic machinery powering the gates. When it is not in use the gates will lie horizontally, recessed in concrete sills — the four largest each half the size of a football pitch — laid in the river bed.

Right: Raising the barriers on the embankment.

The barrier will be manned all the year round and in the event of a surge being forecast it will take only 30 minutes to close after shipping has been warned.

In less than three years the capital will be safe. In the meantime there is a one in 50 chance that the big Flood will come. So the GLC and the Army will keep their fingers crossed and hope that their powder stays dry.



Below: Full scale flood practice using boats.

Transformation – a good bet for the Gunners



**Story: Ann Beecham
Pictures: Les Wiggs**

THEY'RE OFF! and the seven runners leap from the starting gate in the 1980 Horse and Hound Grand Military Gold Cup.

As they gallop round the three-mile course, two horses fall at one of the fences. The field is strung out as the remaining horses pass the winning post. Towards the back is a bay horse called Transformation who is rather special.

For Transformation is the first racehorse to be owned by the Royal Regiment of Artillery or, indeed, by any other regiment of the British Army.

When ex-gunner Brigadier Dick Hulbert died, his widow Marigold wanted to combine his two loves, his regiment and racing, in a memorial to him. She gave the money to set up the Hulbert Trust, with the aim of encouraging young riders and raising the standard of racing in the regiment. She had in mind some sort of cup or trophy and was amazed when the money was used to buy, train and keep Transformation.

"I never dreamed of anything so lovely", she said. "It's wonderful the way it's worked out. I am so thrilled to have a living memorial to my husband. He would have been delighted."

Her pride and enthusiasm were as evident as her pre-race nerves. After the race she

commented "I just wanted him to run a good race. I'm absolutely thrilled he got round".

Transformation was chosen, after a long search, from the training stables of Mr J Old near Larkhill. He is a ten-year-old bay gelding by Charlottesville out of Slag which makes him a half-brother to the well-known Lanzarote. He had shown previous good form although this was his first race over such a formidable course — made worse by heavy going. The Military Gold Cup is one of the few races where amateur riders are eligible and this had afforded Transformation this chance to show his worth at Sandown.

He is now in stables at the Saddle Club at Larkhill with other regimental horses and is being taken through a carefully prepared training programme by his jockey, 22-year-old Second Lieutenant 'Mikey' Heaton-Ellis and Lance-Bombardier Mick Gilson, his 'lad'.

The jockey, of course, is as important as the horse and Mikey is a dedicated horseman — not really surprising for the son of a former commander of the King's Troop. He rode his first race at the tender age of 16 and had his first win a year later. He is studying classics at Southampton University where he takes his finals this year before going to Sandhurst in September.

Above: Taking the last hurdle at Sandown.

However, irregular verbs and Virgil have to make room for Transformation's daily training sessions as Mikey travels up to Larkhill almost every day, managing to combine his studies and his riding.

"When they bought Transformation, they rang me and asked if I would train and ride him. It is the first time I have worked out a full training programme." And the regime of a regular canter with two days a week hard work, paced against faster horses from stables nearby seems to be paying off.

Mikey's comment on Transformation's first steeplechase: "He ran a good race although he's basically a two-miler and doesn't go well in mud. He likes it better on top of the ground. When the horse fell in front of him he was very clever. He jumped the fence and then the horse, but it unsettled him".

Mikey agreed that buying Transformation was an excellent idea and hopes that he will be the first of many. "This time they wanted fairly quick results, so bought an established horse. Next time I'd like to see them buy a young one with potential for the future."

Mick Gilson is responsible for Transformation's daily welfare. He came into the



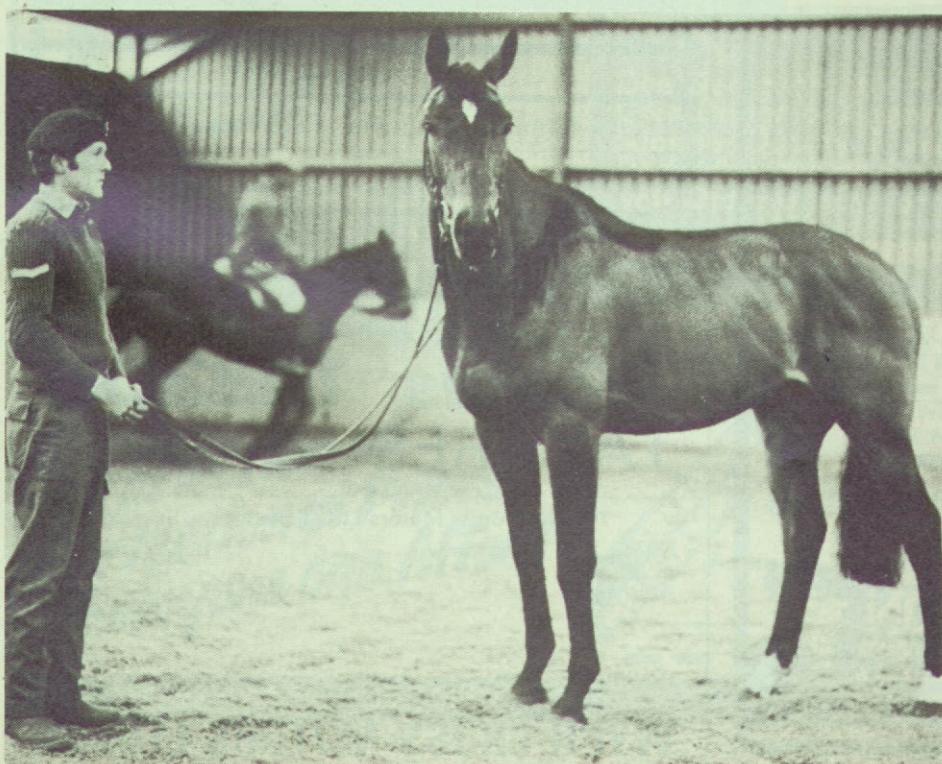
Above: Mrs Hulbert who made it all possible.

Right: Mikey Heaton-Ellis is ready for the off.

Below: The jockeys leave the weighing-in room.



Right: The horse and groom at Larkhill club.



Army from a racing background and is now at the Saddle Club for a time, after having had experience in the King's Troop.

"The main thing is to know the individual animal. Working with horses is a 24-hour job but people nowadays aren't generally prepared to put in the hours necessary."

Mick has been looking after Transformation since November last year. He reckons that the well-being of the horse is as important as the right combination of hard work and general exercise. "Checking his feed is 35 per cent of the job. Some days he plays up over it. They are just like children. On his rest day he gets bored and finds anything he can to do. Sometimes he'll stand in his stall just kicking at the corner."

The obvious pride Mick Gilson takes in his job, and he says it can take four or five hours to turn Transformation out smartly, is reflected in the impressive results he achieves.

As he is led around the parade ring in his Royal Artillery colours of navy and red, Transformation is a credit to his thousands of owners and an example others might well consider following.

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Engineers from different Nato armies are learning that it pays to understand each other . . .

WHICH WAY'S THE ENEMY?



The vast spread in types of mines and explosive devices.

"I THOUGHT WE were aiming to standardise?" "Do you mean that's just a fraction of the mine inventory?" "Take that prepared demonstration over from those foreign engineers? — you must be joking!" "Do we have any common ground at all?"

These are just some of the comments made by the platoon leaders and instructors from seven different nations as they assemble for a two-week Euro-Nato Training, Engineer Course.

The comments are clearly justified. The vast spread in types of mines and explosive devices, all nationally developed and relatively cheaply produced, defies all attempts at standardisation. Recognition of the impossible prompted in August 1977 the development of the concept of 'interoperability training' rather than striving vainly for standardisation. Interoperability is Nato's 'very long word for making different types of equipment work well together.'

In 1978 two pilot courses for platoon leaders and instructors — one each for NORTHAG (Northern Army Group) and CENTAG (Central Army Group) — were held at the German Army's School of Engineering near Munich. These were successful enough for four courses to be held in 1979, two for each Army Group, and five are planned for this year. Subject to the Federal Ministry of Defence's continued sponsorship, the future of interoperability training looks assured.

Like any new ventures though, this training experiment relies on the dedication and zeal of the men who have nursed it into existence. Captain Bernd Zeytz of the German Army, for example, with his background experience as a developer of training objectives, was chosen as course director. He had been horrified to see some of the mistakes made on the handing over of prepared demolitions and other barriers between units of

German and American engineers on exercise.

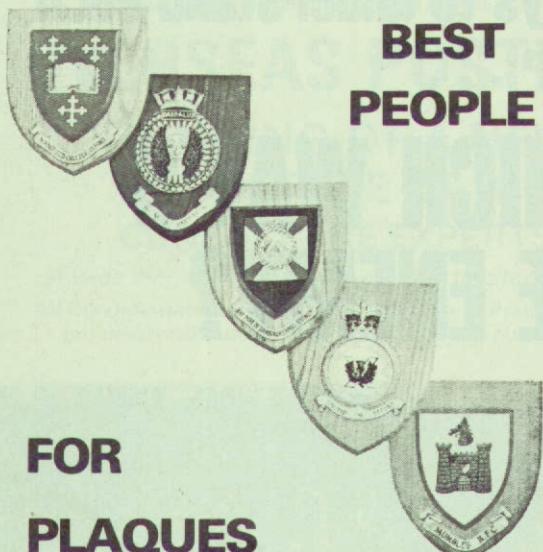
"The biggest mistakes," he constantly points out, "are in the detail. The worst errors occur where people think they have understood, but haven't."

To illustrate his point he displays a standard engineer form with a box marked 'Direction of Enemy'. Engineers of most armies fill this in with an arrow pointing towards the enemy. German Army practice is to point the arrow *from* the enemy. "You could make a mistake here," says Captain Zeytz, "and never know you'd made it until it was too late!"

Lieutenant-Colonel Roger Garnett of the Royal Engineers is the British Liaison Officer to the German Army Engineering School. Although not strictly part of his charter he shares a large proportion of the lessons on the course. He bustles through his instructional periods on how to take over a

continued on page 49

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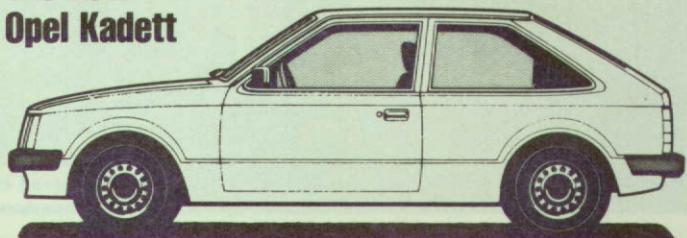
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prepared bridge from engineers of a different army and listens intently to the hard-worked interpreter — English and German are the two working languages of the course — checking for possible areas of misunderstanding.

"The Dutch and Belgian students," he warns, "are working in a foreign language. I must be certain that the Belgian engineer understands the German translation of what I've said in English. Translations of technical terminology can be meaningless if the technical practice of the other man is different".

Another comment on the course came from Captain Dave Verploegen of the United States Army Engineer Corps, who particularly stressed the confidence-building aspect.

"The students on the course," he points out, "are senior sergeants or young officers. Between them they have long experience and considerable academic training as engineers, but they have no experience of military engineering outside their own army and this makes them distrustful of the other fellow's method".

It's part of Captain Verploegen's task to get the men from each nation to realise that the others are quite ordinary human beings and professional military engineers as well.

The course timetable reflects this approach. With only two weeks available, every hour is precious. The day begins at 7.30 and goes on late into the evening, although the evening work is often laced with planned social events so the students get to know each other better as people.

Much of the teaching is done by the students themselves, the aim being not to teach anybody how to fuse a Dutch mine or prepare a Belgian detonator but to demonstrate that co-operation and interoperability can work despite many apparent differences.

The atmosphere of the course is at once hard-working and good-humoured. The skills and practices of each army are appraised, analysed and commented on. Pre-conceptions of national superiority are shattered and new respect for allies is shown. "I'd recommend this course to anyone in my unit," is the universal judgement of all the course members. Brigadier General Horst Kinder, Commandant of the German Army

Right: Preparing for the demolition of a bridge.

Below: Lt-Col Roger Garnett briefs students.

Engineering School, who plays host to this course, numbers it with justifiable pride among the 250 courses run at the school.

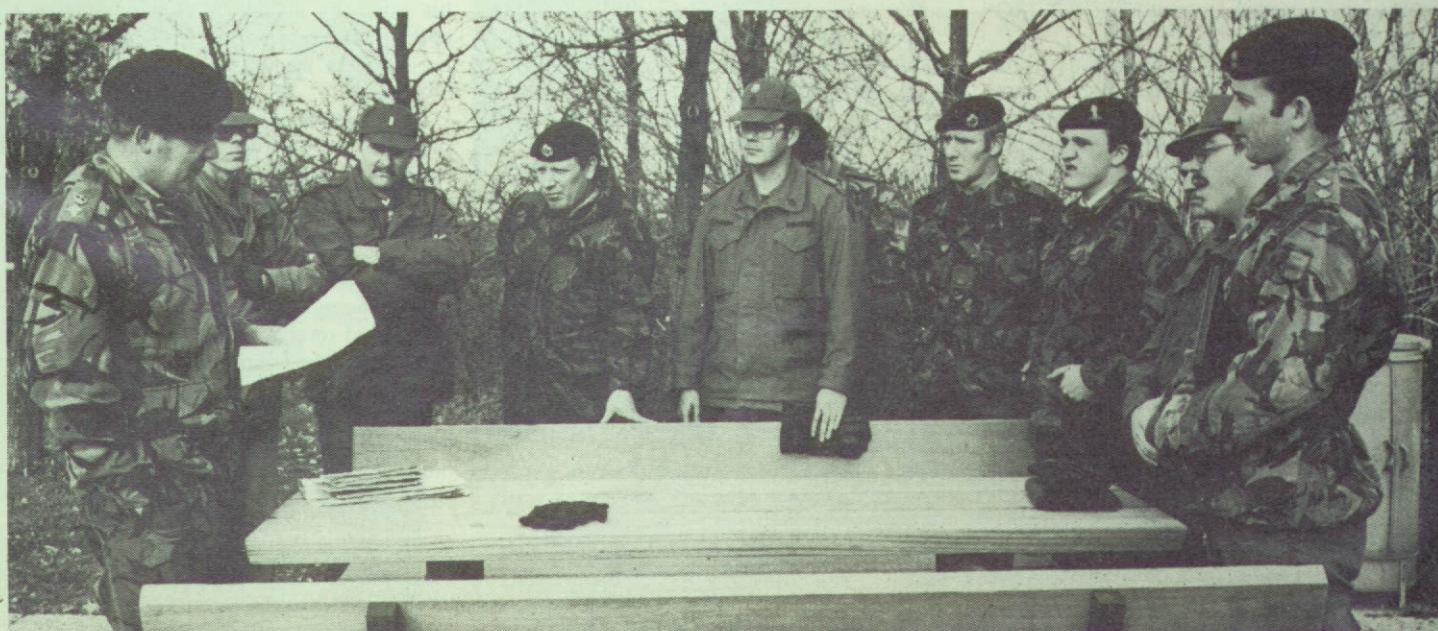
What of the future for interoperability training? Captain Zeytz would like to add a short optional language training module, directly after the course, for those students whose enthusiasm had been fired.

Already there are plans, following a pilot course, for a commanders' and staff officers' course in June 1980. Instruction would be at

a higher level, of course, but the principle of teaching interoperability would be the same.

A final glimpse into the future came from Lieutenant-Colonel Garnett: "If we've made a small start in Euro-Nato engineer training, just imagine the scope for similar work amongst gunners, signallers or any of the Army branches!"

Below: British Dutch and German engineers tackle a theoretical problem of minefield plotting.



OSLO START OSLO



HOLMENKOLLEN



The ski's the limit for new Nordic team



Story: Mike Starke

Pictures: Doug Pratt

FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER a British team is setting out to take its place alongside the world's greats in the gruelling sport of cross-country skiing — thanks largely to the brains, and a certain amount of brawn, provided by the Army.

Although individuals have taken part in the ladies' sections of Nordic skiing, it is not until this season that a ladies team has been got together to represent the nation on the European circuit dominated by Scandinavian masters.

The five-women squad was assembled under the auspices of the National Ski Federation under the watchful eye of retired Brigadier Vincent Budge. He and Major John 'Spud' Leaning, currently serving with 2 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, have beavered away behind the scenes to get the new team off the ground and onto the ski circuits. Not least among their concerns has been to raise enough money to finance a season for the girls.

The ski federation has footed most of the bills with the team relying on small Sports Council grants and private donations to help see them through their first winter together. The girls themselves have paid £1 a day to

help out, although they have not been earning anything for the four months of the skiing season from December to March. They had to give up their jobs to concentrate solely on training and competition.

Team manager is Warrant Officer 1 June Dabbs, a leading member of the staff of the Army School of Physical Training, described universally as TAD — Technical Adviser Dabbs. A proven participator as well as administrator, June has run the British ladies' handball team for the past few years as well as holding her appointment in the Women's Royal Army Corps.

The Nordic squad itself contains a member of the WRAC in the form of Corporal Maggie Allerton, a physical training instructor for her corps at the Royal Artillery Depot, Woolwich.

The other team members are all civilians although all but one have Forces connections. Both Nicola Lavery and Doris Trueman have fathers who are serving as staff officers with Nato and Caroline Brittan's father is a naval officer. Only Scotswoman Helen Paterson has no direct military relations.

The team trainer is an ex-Royal Electrical

Above: Doris Trueman at the 5km start in Oslo.

and Mechanical Engineers senior NCO, Jeff Stevens, who now lives in Norway and runs his own ski school. A fluent Norwegian speaker, Jeff represented his own country in the biathlon events in the 1972 and 1976 Olympics.

It was late November last year that the team first got together as a unit to break into the tough international world of Nordic skiing. Most of the girls were already experienced skiers although Maggie Allerton was only in her first year on skis. But none had entered any major events.

In between training, the girls were slowly introduced to competition. First came participation in the Rhine Army championships (rated as the United Kingdom championships) then it was on to Grenoble in France for five kilometre races against tough opposition from Italy, Holland, Belgium, France and Denmark in the 'Lowlanders'.

And after those events they came to the 'land of the midnight sun' — Norway — for more practice and competition in various local events. It was their first encounter with the elite of the sport in a country that boasts,

justifiably, of being the home of skiing as it is practised today.

The climax of the season came with entry in the ladies' five kilometre race in the Holmenkollen Ski Festival in Oslo. This annual event is rated third only to the Olympics and World Championships in skiing circles and the British girls were thrown in at the deep end to face the world's best. Not only were they pitted against champions but a testing cross-country course that is universally acknowledged as being designed to push the very expert skier to the limit of his or her ability.

Faced with enormous crowds of spectators and a field of 100 or so competitors from all over the world in opposition, the four British girls picked on the day (Maggie Allerton had to sit out the race on the sidelines) faced a formidable 'blooding' in a pack which included many of the sport's very best exponents.

Partly to ease nerves, partly out of necessity, the girls concentrated before the event on the all-important skill of preparing their skis. Air and snow temperature had to be carefully measured and assessed to decide which wax would provide just the right amounts of bite and glide. And several skis

were prepared with different waxes to allow for sudden changes in conditions. Each girl's particular style had to be taken into account when choosing wax too. Bright red plastic wax boxes (there may be a hundred or more waxes to choose from!) are as much part of the international skier's equipment as their narrow cross-country skis with their elegantly curled tips.

As the four Britons set off on their staggered start under the discerning eye of Norway's King Olav V (himself a Holmenkollen competitor) the crowd set up their traditional rhythmic chant of "Higher, Higher!" to encourage pumping shoulders and thighs to greater effort. And June Dabbs commented: "This is the hardest course they've ever done".

The British team did not win any prizes — they did not expect to really. But they gained invaluable experience which will stand them in good stead for next season when trainer Jeff Stevens confidently predicts they will do no worse than finish half way down the field of top internationals. He added:

"They did no real summer training so they lacked a certain fitness but they look all right on their skis. Their technique is OK and — after all — this is only their first year together."

Later a solo effort by Maggie Allerton in the marathon 42 kilometre race did much to restore team morale. After a spectacular

staggered start of 8000 skiers, Maggie came 69th in her class of 594. "I was quite pleased really considering I didn't know quite how to pace myself — how fast or how slow to go." She was 20 minutes behind the winner.

Although there are no glittering prizes this year, the team are being groomed for the next winter Olympics in four years time as well as the world championships a year before them.

June Dabbs and Jeff Stevens have been pleased with the progress this year. From being some four minutes down on the winning times their team has already whittled the margin down to just over a minute.

What they are after now are more recruits. This will not only provide more potential team members to pick from on the day but will inject a sense of competition and need into the squad. And that competitive edge, Jeff Stevens feels, is essential to get the best out of competitors in a sport where success and failure may be just a coating of wax apart.

Any member of the Women's Services wishing to find out more about the British Ladies Nordic Ski Team should contact WO1 June Dabbs at the Army School of Physical Training, Aldershot, Hampshire.

Left to right: June Dabbs, Nikola Lavery, Doris Trueman, Caroline Brittan, Helene Paterson, Jeff Stevens.



Below: Cool drink for Caroline after her ordeal.



Caroline Brittan on all-important waxing.



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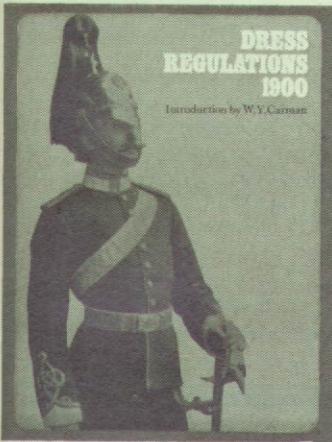
BOOKS

What they wore

'Dress Regulations 1900'

This is a 'facsimile reprint of the official regulations on the dress of the British Army' at the turn of the century and, therefore, a must for all dedicated military students and wargamers as well as for those engaged in modelling or painting representations of the Army of the times. It deals only with officers of the Regular Army and Militia, being their guide to correct dress and a guarantee that additions and extra expensive and flamboyant garments were not worn.

These regulations were the first to include illustrations and there are 500 of them showing tunics, headgear, shoulder adornments, swords and badges all in clear and fine detail. The badges are of particular interest today as they record every unit of cavalry, foot guards and infantry then in existence.



The text, necessarily, gives every detail of material, colour and positioning that the student needs to ensure accuracy. There are also some 12 appendices which include notes on the care and preservation of uniform, the sizes of buttons, quality of lace, description of the service revolver, full details of badges and many other items.

Arms & Armour Press, Lionel Leventhal Ltd, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London NW3 1QQ, £8.95

GRH

German story

'The Shaping of the German Nation' (Werner Conze)

Not a military book, but for the soldier student keen to know much more about his partner in the Nato alliance, this volume takes him right back to the early centuries before there were any real 'nations' in Europe. It follows the growth of the German people and gives a general picture of the development of the nation.

To the present day British soldier the later years are of most interest; World War One, the rise of National Socialism and the gradual, insidious and ever strengthening stranglehold of Hitler. Then in World War Two the Führer's adherence to even the most bizarre ideas in *Mein Kampf* and his determination, right to his last moments in the Berlin bunker, to eliminate the Jews.

The last chapter deals with Germany divided after the war and the rehabilitation of a defeated nation subjected to 'denazification'. It also poses the question of the reunification of East and West. This book was first published in 1963 in German but has been revised and brought up to date and is now available in Japanese and this English edition.

George Prior Publishers, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. £5.95.

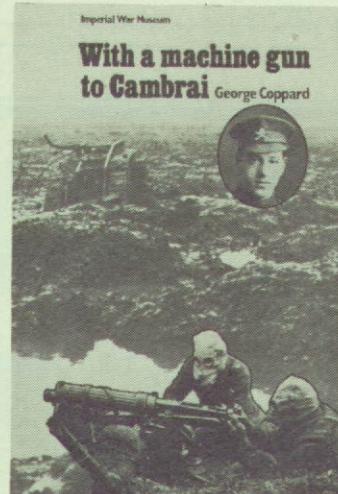
GRH

Trenches classic

'With a Machine Gun to Cambrai' (George Coppard)

This is one of the classics of World War One. Published in 1969 as a paperback it is now reprinted in more permanent form after being revised and with additional material added. There is also an epilogue in which the author tells movingly of his return 60 years later to the battlefields of his youth.

He was youthful indeed when in 1914 he received the King's shilling and signed on as a nineteen-year-old — he was actually only sixteen and seven months! He endured tough training and early shipment to France with The Queens, 2nd of Foot (Royal West Surrey Regiment), and thus began over four years in and out of the line in various parts of the Western Front. He was soon selected to be Number Two on one of the Regiment's two machine guns and when the Machine Gun Corps was formed was transferred to the new formation.



This is one of the few records of the 1914-18 war not written by one of the officer class. It deals frankly and intimately with the life of the Tommy and is not concerned with strategy or even tactics. It reveals the limited view of the men who had to carry out the orders, believing many of them to be absurd, yet obeying with diligence and duty. It also reveals their hearts and minds, hopes and fears, without showing callousness.

There are a number of appropriate pictures from the archives of the Imperial War Museum, which also sponsored this more durable reprint.

Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ, £5.95

GRH

Resistance résumé

'World War II: The Resistance' (Russell Miller and Time-Life Editors)

Another of the exciting and realistic



Bond Street, London W1Y 0AA, £7.50

GRH

Kaiser's handbook

'Imperial German Army Handbook 1914-1918' (D B Nash)

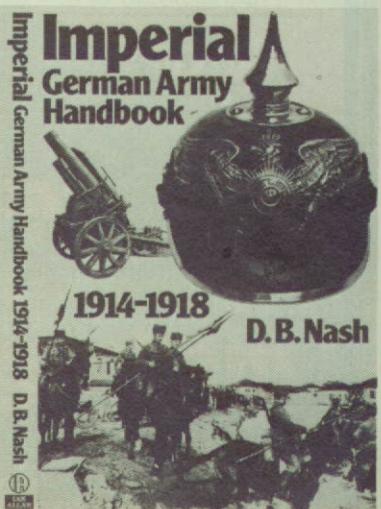
This is not a 'handbook' in the official military sense but a gathering together of material from various sources to give a concise impression of the German Army in World War One. It includes an account of the manning of the force and of the obligations of the conscripts throughout their lives.

It deals with mobilisation, organisation, uniform, equipment and armament and includes a number of photographs and line drawings — some in colour. It shows in detail the composition of regiments, divisions and corps, the guns and grenades in use, the shoulder insignia in all their many varieties, the vehicles and weapons, even the various gases (dates used and how delivered).

But as well as the lists and the tables, much of the text is in story form recounting the history of the German Army and its various formations and following its development during the war. Similarly, although many of the pictures show fine detail of arms, equipment and clothing, others give vivid impressions of troop movements and active operations. There have been many accounts of the Allied forces in World War One. This is a useful one for students, wargamers and the general reader of what was happening on the other side of the wire.

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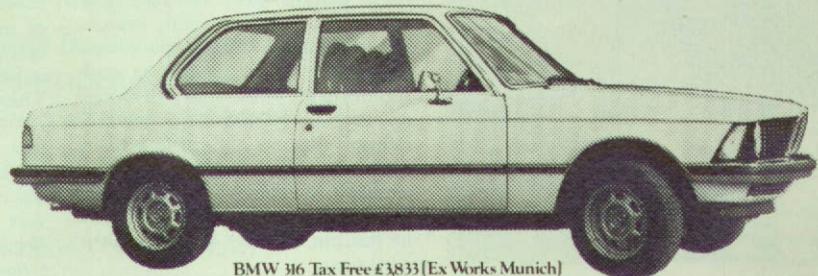
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Letters

Dunkirk miracle

Every year we are reminded of the miracle of Dunkirk and of brave World War Two events such as the Battle of Britain, Alamein, Burma, 'D' Day, and famous Naval victories. Superb films are shown of these, and rightly so, but it is deplorable that no mention is ever made of one of the most heroic episodes of that period.

Among the remnants of the BEF left behind at Dunkirk was the 51st Highland Division, which had fought bravely in that heroic rearguard action from Belgium to Dunkirk. Only one of its brigades was in a situation to be evacuated. The remainder fought on alone (as a Division) against the world's most powerful Army until taken into captivity at St Valery. They numbered around 6000 out of the original full war strength of the Division.

Attached to them in this immortal last stand were details of famous English regiments — the Norfolks, Kensington Regiment, The Buffs, REs, RAMC, Ordnance — many of whom went into captivity with them. Even Rommel recognised the gallantry of the Division, by granting the request of their Commander — General Fortune — to take the salute as they marched past him into captivity. And in a speech on 20 June 1942, General de Gaulle said: "I can tell you that the comradeship in arms experienced on the battlefield in May and June 1940, between the French Armoured Division which I commanded, and the valiant 51st Highland Division, played its part in the decision I took to continue fighting on the side of the Allies until the end".

Many other great stories can be told of the acts of heroism by other remnants of the BEF after Dunkirk until the final collapse of France two weeks later, and even the Pioneer Corps (then known as the AMPC) was engaged in bitter fighting. My own small unit near Rouen on 8 June 1940, began an eight day footslog across France until miraculously evacuated from St Malo to Plymouth on Sunday, 16 June, a fortnight after Dunkirk. Food was almost unobtainable in the deserted villages, and not until the fifth day did we have our first real meal — a couple of boiled eggs in a cafe at Chartres. With blistered feet, unshaven and worn out, we plodded on mile after mile, followed by the pitiful sight of thousands of refugees with their worldly possessions on prams, bicycles or carried on their backs. The day after we arrived back in England the troopship *SS Lancastria* was sunk by German bombers at St Nazaire taking with it three thousand other soldiers of the BEF to their deaths.



This year will see the 40th anniversary of that disastrous period after Dunkirk. It is to be hoped that worldwide publicity will at last be given to the deeds of the courageous soldiers of the 51st Highland Division and other remnants of the BEF left behind at Dunkirk. I am amazed that today — 40 years after it happened — people treat with almost disbelief any mention of our soldiers still fighting in France after Dunkirk. Theirs was not a forgotten Army, it was hardly known to exist at all.

The newly formed 51st Highland Division did of course go out to North Africa eventually to join the 8th Army at Alamein and led the breakthrough in the great battle, consequently suffering the greatest casualties. And it served on in the 2000 miles of desert battles to Tunis, the invasion and capture of Sicily, and the 1944 Normandy invasion. — John Churchill, (Ex-2814916, Seaforth Highlanders. Name and address supplied).

Lost brothers

I wonder whether any readers can help me in tracing two of my brothers? We were all fostered at an early age and I am their younger sister, aged 28. The only information I have about them is that they both joined the Army when they were about 19. Their names are George Edward Bones (born 7 December 1948) and James Patrick Bones (11 December 1950). — Mrs Madge Nichol (nee Bones), 16 Norham Court, Oxclose, Washington, Tyne and Wear.

Canadian Legion

It was with great interest that I read the letter from Commander Ian Hamilton.

We of the Canadian Division, The Legion of Frontiersmen, have a thriving Troop and a Corps of Drums in Manchester. I believe the successors to the 'H' Manchester Troop, mentioned by Commander Hamilton, are now reduced to just one member. The troop was reconstituted just about five years ago and I feel it is a pity their tradition is ending this way.

My thanks are extended to the Commander for such an interesting letter. — Captain A Coleman LF (CD), UK Command Liaison Officer, 6 Philips Drive, Whitefield, Manchester, M25 7PY.

Girls' plea

May I make a plea for help from any SOLDIER readers living in the Cheltenham or Gloucester area?

We are a unit of the Girls Venture Corps, which is a uniformed movement for girls between 13 and 20 years of age, and are in the unfortunate position of losing our Commanding Officer. Unless we can find a willing offer of help, the unit will have to close.

The GVC offers a wide variety of leisure activities for its members and is the only girls' youth movement in the world to possess and fly its own aircraft. Overseas Travel Scholarships are offered annually through which the successful entrants are given a free holiday in the country chosen for study. In addition, each year a group of officers and senior cadets are selected to go to the USA on a three week visit under the International Air Cadet Exchange Scheme.

The GVC is an operating authority for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and enjoys close liaison with the Army Cadet Force and the Air Training Corps. Adventure and initiative training camps are a feature of our work. The weekly unit meetings cater for a wide variety of interests, ranging from dance-drama to rifle shooting.

There are GVC Units throughout the length and breadth of the country but in spite of progress in so many directions, the Corps as a whole is faced with a shortage of officers.

May we make a special appeal to women over the age of 18 to come forward and help. The only qualifications necessary are enthusiasm and an interest in young people. — Mrs P C Barnes, 1 Miserden Road, Benhall, Cheltenham, Glos.

More 'firsts'

Having read with interest the letter of Commander Hamilton RN (March) I would like to add a few World War One 'firsts' of my own.

The first non-regular unit to see action was the South Irish Horse at the defence of Landrecies, 25 August 1914, when they were attached to 4th Guards Brigade. The only non-regular units to accompany the BEF to France in 1914 were B Squadron, South Irish Horse and A and C Squadrons, North Irish Horse. These were Special Reserve regiments, the Yeomanry organisation not extending to Ireland. A half-squadron of the North Irish Horse were engaged at the Battle of Le Cateau, August 26.

The first VC to be won in the Great War was the one awarded posthumously to Lieutenant Maurice James Dease for his actions at the Battle of Mons, August 23. Lieutenant Dease was machine-gun officer of the 4th Battalion, The Royal Fusiliers and came from County Neath.

The first artillery round to be fired on the Western Front by the BEF was that fired by No 4 gun, E Battery

RHA. This battery came into action at 11.15 hrs August 22 from a position on the Mons-Charleroi road. Prior to embarking for France, E Battery were stationed in Newbridge, County Kildare.

Commander Hamilton makes a slight error when he states that the first shot of the war by the British Army was fired on 23 August. It was actually on 22 August and was fired by Corporal Thomas (4th Royal Irish Dragoon Guards).

The first action by any of the British forces took place on the first day of the British declaration of war, 5 August. This was a naval engagement between a destroyer HMS Lance, and a German mine-layer, the *Königin-Luise*, ending with the sinking of the German ship. The 4-inch gun from HMS Lance which fired the opening round in this little battle is preserved in the Imperial War Museum.

The RFC's first casualties from enemy action occurred on 22 August near Mons. These were the pilot and observer of an Avro, named Waterfall and Bayley. They were shot down by German rifle fire and both killed. — James Walsh, 190 McKee Ave, Firglas, Dublin 11.

LS & GC Bar

Before qualifying for the award of the bar to my Long Service and Good Conduct medal, I had to serve a total of 36 years. Yet your March issue (page 26) shows Academy Sergeant-Major Huggins wearing what appears to be a bar on his LS and GC medal.

If this is correct, are exceptions made in the qualifying period since Mr Huggins, according to your write up, did not join up until 1945 and I can't imagine that he would wear an unauthorised award? — E Mackay, 25 Avon Drive, Wareham, Dorset BH20 4EL.

According to *The Medal Office*, the length of service to be considered for the LS and GC medal is 18 years. Up to 1 December 1977, a further 18 years service was required to earn consideration for the clasp, but this was then reduced to 15 years — hence Mr Huggins' eligibility. The change was not retrospective.

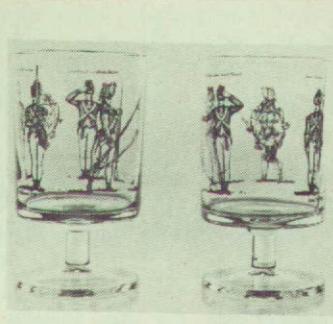
Copper plaque

I have in my possession a 14oz Copper plaque in the form of a 9½" dinner plate which includes an area of 7½" wide depicting a map of Iran with all the main places named including bordering countries, USSR, Iraq, Afghanistan, and, on the right-hand side, a shield above which is etched the words: 'Persian Gulf Command'. It is estimated to be around 60-70 years old. The piece is of topical interest and in mint condition. I would be grateful for any information about it. — Arthur H Silvester, Khanspur, 6 Old Court Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 6LW.

RAOC Conductors

I read the article about Academy Sergeant Major R P Huggins (March) with great interest. I should like, however, to take issue with him on

The National Army Museum has just introduced a new design on its 5" glasses and 3" mugs — Fusée Exercises taken from the New Royal Encyclopaedia 1795. The two other available designs are from the Lance Exercise c1820 and the Gentlemen Volunteers Pocket Companion 1745. For the UK readers the price for single glasses or mugs is £1.50 plus 60p postage and packing. Three goblets or three mugs (one of each design) are available at £4.50 plus £1.40 p & p. Overseas readers will be billed. Cheques or orders to the National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 4HT.



How observant are you?

(see page 17)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Arm of right passenger in No 24. 2 Cross bar of final 'A' in 'Transcontinental'. 3 Top right of zig-zag on balloon 24. 4 Thickness of black pattern below second 'O' of B1000. 5 Left passenger in Pegasus. 6 Small circle at top of Liz balloon. 7 Bird below Jackie. 8 Base of balloon Venus. 9 Bottom left corner of 24's passenger-basket. 10 Eagle's Roman numeral.

Competition

Working out the seating arrangements for the Reunion Dinner (Competition 258) proved too difficult for most readers, even though there were at least half a dozen possible right answers. Only five correct entries were received and the winner of our

J McNish, 38 Victoria Road, Fallings Park, Wolverhampton, West Midlands — Wants all types official PoW cards, Allied and enemy World War I and II, and any interesting associated material. Please send on approval with price required. All postage refunded.

Walt Barrington, 103 Cremer House, Eccles, Manchester — Has for exchange pair medals official impressed Cpl Proctor RMLI (Salford LAD) Baltic 1854. China 1857 bar canton ornate suspender. For 1st Vol Off HP and ORs 1st Vol Glengarry Loyal NL Regt. Straight swap.

N S Major, 26 Buxton Road, Brighton, Sussex — Wants British Army regimental histories in exchange for genuine UK, Canadian, Australian and NZ cap badges. Many pre-1914 and 1914-18 items. Other militaria also available.

Bill Gesswein, 102 Grassmere Ave, Oakdale, NY 11769, USA — Has US medals and worldwide Elite Unit insignia for sale. Also has US Marine professional gazette magazine from Vietnam era for sale. Four copies for £1. Enquiries invited regarding acquisition of any particular US militaria.

Mineard F Smith, RR, Watkins, Iowa 52354, USA — Wants SOE items for private museum. Anything pertaining to SOE in WW2. Especially wants weapons containers, radios, cosh and crossbow and darts. Also seeking Commando knives especially commando gravity knife by Ibberson used in D-Day invasion and F&S commando with 3 inch cross guard and a leather arm sheath for the F&S commando knife. Top rates paid.

Angus Stevenson, 7 Bentra Road, Bal-

fourth prize forgot to submit his name and address. He or she did send us an amusing poem instead, so if the poet writes to us again we'll forward the prize. For those of you still scratching your heads in search of a solution, here is one of the seating plans that the Old Comrades might have used: A9, B22, C1, D10, E23, F15, G5, H8, J21, K16, L3, M19, N24, O17, P2, Q25, R7, S18, T11, U4, V13, W12, X14, Y6, Z20.

Prizewinners:

1 Mrs J Webb, 180 Crescent Drive, Petts Wood, Orpington, Kent.

2 P C Bowden, 509 Upper Elmers End Road, Beckenham, Kent.

3 E M Huwaert, Avenue Stienol 89, B 1020, Brussels, Belgium.

5 Mr G C Bennett, 10 Stockton, Warminster, Wilts, BA12 0SE.

Reunions

XXth The Lancashire Fusiliers

Assn: Gallipoli reunion 25/26/27 April 1980. March past and service in Parish church. Primrose hackles and badge may be worn. Details from the Secretary, XXLF Regimental Depot, Wellington Barracks, Bury, Lancs.

Armourers Dinner Club: 26th reunion will be held at the Victory Services Club 63/69 Seymour Street, London, in the Carisbrooke Hall on Saturday 10 May 1980 at 18.30hrs. A 'Wives &

Icarry, Carrickfergus, Co Antrim — Wants British Army berets, preferably the Paras beret. Will pay good price.

Mrs Pat Adamson, 10 Newton Terrace, Bishophill, York, YO1 1HE — Wants real photographs and postcards of uniformed members of the Armed Forces, men or women. Especially requires black and white photo-postcards of individuals or groups. Single items or complete albums covering any period are of interest. Will purchase or exchange where possible. Please indicate price required.

N Cherry, 228 New Cross Road, London, SE14 5PL — Seeks British formation signs, willing to buy or exchange. Also 70 cap badges for sale or exchange for formation signs.

A D Barrowcliff, 4 Court Close, Patcham, Brighton, BN1 8YG — Seeks mini staybrite cap badges of following units: Lancastrian Brigade, 2nd, 6th, 7th, 10th Gurkha Rifles. Will pay reasonable prices or swap for other staybrites and metal badges.

R Gaines, 4 Lawrence Avenue, Letchworth, Herts, SG6 2EX — Seeks regimental Christmas cards. Can anyone suggest whom to contact for regimental sources. Has for exchange own collar badges (POW) cloth number.

C E O'Donovan, Mill Lane, Castle Hill, Ashley, Cheshire — Collects and researches all aspects of XX The Lancashire Fusiliers. Interested in Christmas cards, any year or condition, Minden or Gallipoli Gazettes, and 2nd or 3rd Vol Bn cap badges. Cash or exchange for other items.

Husbands' night is being held at the Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, Waterloo, London, in the Gascoigne Room on Saturday 12 July at 18.30hrs. Details from the Secretary, Mr R J Manning, 4 North Bank Close, Strood, Kent, or c/o Weapons Branch REME, Ha Ha Road, Woolwich SE18.

Hong Kong, Singapore, Ceylon, Pack Artillery units, and REME/AER OCA 1980 Reunion: Eastbourne, 30 August. Details from 835933 D A Knight ERD, 7 Jutland House, Prospect Vale, Woolwich, SE18 5HZ.

The XVIIIth, The Royal Irish Regt & South Irish Horse: Annual Reunion Dinner will be held at the Irish Club, 82 Eaton Square, London SW1 on Saturday 31 May 1980 at 8pm. Annual Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph, Whitehall, London, on Sunday 1 June 1980 at 11am. Details from P J Boyce, 13 Sticklepath Terrace, Barnstaple, North Devon, EX31 2AY.

Royal Federation of the Veterans of King Albert 1st. Sector 'C' reunion. New standard is to be presented for dedication and blessing at the Church of St Lawrence Jewry, Guildhall, City of London, on Sunday 4 May 1980. Parade leaves Moor House at 2pm. Details from the Secretary, Sector 'C', Mr R J Stephens, 40 Lydden Court, Avery Hill, Eltham, London, SE9 2LE (01-850 5623).

P E A Hall, Kohima, 1030 Harrow Road, Wembley, Middx, HA0 2QT — Wants to purchase military, civil postal envelopes, postcards and GPO oddities etc. 1800 to 1900's stamps required.

Colonel D Ludlow, 50 Wildwood Park, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, R3T 0C8 — Wishes to contact Howard F Willets, a custom model maker of military figurines, of Ilford, Essex. He appears to have moved from Ilford since 1968. Can anyone help please?

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In this 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

MAY 1980

- 3 Tunbridge Wells Tattoo (RA Parachute team).
- 3 Burslem Festival (3-5 May) (**RA Motorcycles**, Band, 1 Staffords).
- 5 Lydiard Park Show.
- 7 Royal Windsor Horse Show (7-11 May).
- 10 Plymouth Military Tattoo, Home Park, Plymouth (Bands, Royal Marines, Coldstream Guards, Devon and Dorset Regt).
- 10 21st Ten Tors Expedition, Dartmoor (10-11 May).
- 11 Mapole Week, Birmingham.
- 15 Devon County Show, Exeter (15-17 May).
- 17 Brighton Festival Tattoo (Bands, RN display, RAF dogs).
- 17 Hinckley Tattoo (17-18 May) (JLR RA Band and gymnastic team).
- 18 Royal performance of 'Star Parade'. Theatre Royal Drury Lane. In aid of Army Benevolent Fund.
- 18 Paignton Festival Theatre, Concert by Bands, 17/21 Lancers, RAC Bovington.
- 20 Chelsea Flower Show (20-23 May) (Grenadier Gds Band).
- 21 Shropshire and West Midland Show (21-22 May) (LI Band, RA Motorcycles, Flying Bugles).
- 22 Concert, Kneller Hall.
- 23 Beating Retreat, Chester (JLR RA Band).
- 24 Poole Wessex Theatre, Concert by Bands, R Signals, Royal Corps of Transport.
- 24 Congleton Carnival and Tattoo (24-26 May) (Bands and RGJ Bugles, Red Devils, Blue Helmets).
- 24 Dudley Spring Festival.
- 24 Birmingham Spring Festival (24-31 May) (R Sigs Band, White Helmets, RGJ Freefall).
- 24 Herts Agricultural Show, Redbourn (24-25 May).
- 25 **East London Veteran Vehicle Competition and Military Display** (25-26 May) (**Red Devils**, RA Freefall Team).
- 25 Carrington Park Rally (25-26 May).
- 26 Hove Lions Day (Red Devils).
- 28 Royal Bath and West Show, Shepton Mallet (28-31 May) (RA Bands, RHA Kings Troop).
- 28 Stafford Agricultural Show (28-29 May) (Flying Bugles, Band, 1 Staffords).
- 28 Suffolk Show, Ipswich (28-29 May).
- 29 Wolverhampton Fiesta (29 May-1 June) (Band, 1 Staffords, JLR RA gymnastic team).
- 29 Grand Concert, Kneller Hall.
- 30 **BAOR Motor Cycling Championships** (30-31 May).
- 31 First Rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London (Massed Bands).
- 31 Salisbury Hospital Gala.
- 31 International Air Display, Bristol Airport (31 May-1 June).
- 31 St Neots Riverside Festival (31 May-1 June).
- 31 Burnley Services Tattoo (31 May-1 June) (Brigade of Gurkhas Band and Bugles, Blue Helmets, Red Devils, 1 Gordons Pipes and Drums).

JUNE 1980

- 3 Beating Retreat, Horse Guards Parade (3-5 June) (Massed Bands).
- 5 South of England Show, Ardingly (5-7 June) (1 Queens Band, **RA Motorcycles**).
- 7 Nuneaton Carnival (JLR RA Band and gymnastic team).
- 7 Second Rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 8 Ssafa Air Display, Church Fenton, **Yorkshire**.
- 8 Massed Bands, Horse Guards Parade (8-13 June).
- 8 Nottingham Festival (8-13 June) (Band Irish Gds).
- 10 Royal Regiment of Artillery Massed Bands Display, Horse Guards Parade (10-12 June).
- 14 Queen's Official Birthday Royal Salute, Cardiff (Band 1RRW).
- 14 Queen's Birthday Parade, Horse Guards Parade (Massed Bands).
- 14 Coventry Carnival.
- 14 **Welcome Garden Party**, Beckenham (**RA Parachute Team**).
- 15 Open Day, Scottish Infantry (Glencorse) (PT and drill displays, static displays, side shows).
- 18 Lincolnshire Agricultural Show, Lincoln (18-19 June) (Band, White Helmets).
- 21 Leicester Tattoo.
- 21 Ashford Extravaganza (21-22 June) (Band).
- 25 Royal Norfolk Show, Norwich (25-26 June) (Bands, H Cav

Quadrille).

- 25 Aldershot Army Display (25-29 June) (Massed Bands, Kings Troop RHA, RA Motorcycles, Red Devils, Red Caps).
- 26 **Grand Concert, Kneller Hall**.
- 29 Chesterfield Carnival.
- 30 Royal Show, Stoneleigh (30 June-3 July) (Bands, RGJ Freefall, RHA Musical Drive).

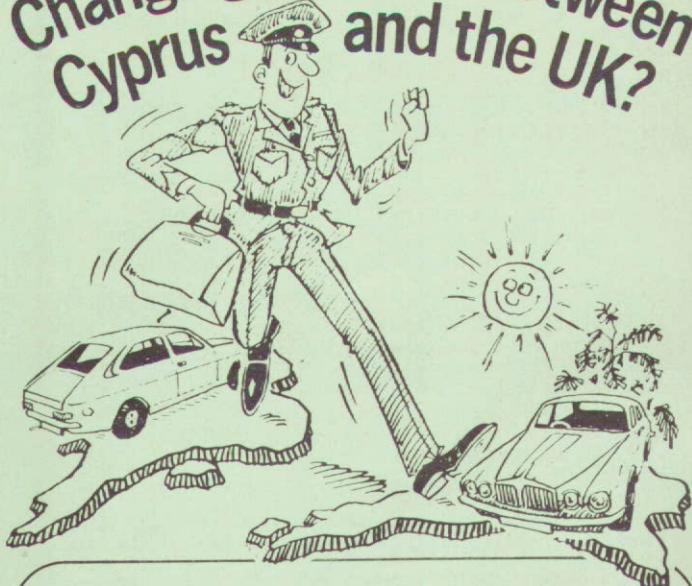
JULY 1980

- 2 Army Exhibition for Schools, Bassingbourn (2-4 July) (Bands, Red Caps, JLR RE gymnastic team).
- 2 Larkhill Massed Bands.
- 3 Royal British Legion Tattoo, Staverton Airfield, Gloucestershire (3-6 July) (Massed Bands, Red Devils).
- 3 **Artillery Day, Larkhill** (3-5 July) (**RA Parachute Team, RA Motorcycles**).
- 4 Staffordshire Careers Exhibition (4-6 July) (Flying Bugles).
- 5 Airborne Forces' Day.
- 5 Open Day, Prince of Wales' Division Depot, Crickhowell.
- 5 Army Open Day RPC Trg Centre, Northampton.
- 5 Open Day, British Steel Corporation, Middlesbrough (Band 1 Green Howards, **White Helmets**).
- 5 Birkenshaw Show.
- 5 Pelsall Carnival (Band).
- 5 West Bromwich Carnival (RGJ Band, RGJ Freefall).
- 5 Concert, Edinburgh by Band, Royal Hussars.
- 5 Aveling Barford Show, Grantham (5-6 July).
- 6 Paull Air Show, Hull.
- 8 **Great Yorkshire Show, Harrogate** (8-10 July) (**Red Caps, Bands**).
- 9 Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London (9-26 July) (Massed Bands, Kenya Army Band and Display Team, Kings Troop RHA, Household Cavalry Quadrille, APTC).
- 10 Basingstoke Tattoo (10-12 July) (Band, 1 Staffords).
- 10 Kent County Show (10-12 July) (Band, Red Devils).
- 11 Sheffield Services Display (11-13 July) (**RA Parachute Team**).
- 11 Taunton Centenary, King's College.
- 11 Hereford Careers Exhibition (11-13 July) (Flying Bugles).
- 12 Pudsey (Yorkshire) Show.
- 15 East of England Show, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire (15-16 July) (RA Motorcycles).
- 17 Manchester Show (17-19 July) (2 RRF, Queens Division Depot, Red Devils).
- 18 Malton (Yorkshire) Show (Bands).
- 19 Stroud Show.
- 19 Durham County Show.
- 19 Bristol Harbour Regatta (19-20 July).
- 19 Bournemouth Air Pageant (19-20 July).
- 20 Concert, Edinburgh by Band, Royal Hussars (20-26 July).
- 21 Rotherham Tattoo (21-22 July).
- 24 St Helens Services' Tattoo (24-26 July) (RA Band, Woolwich, Irish Guards Corps of Drums, RA Motorcycles, Red Devils, RA JLR Gymnastic Display).
- 25 Kempton Park Extravaganza (Bands, static and arena displays).
- 25 Northampton Borough Show (25-27 July) (RGJ Band, RGJ Freefall).
- 26 Colchester Carnival.
- 26 Gloucester Carnival.
- 26 Welsh Rugby Union Centenary Celebration, Cardiff (Band).
- 26 Cleveland Show, Middlesbrough (Bands).
- 26 Tatton Park Reunion Parachuting Spectacular (Red Devils, Pegasus Gymnastic Team, freefall teams), **Knutsford, Cheshire**.
- 27 **Open Day, RAC Centre, Bovington**.
- 27 Redcar Carnival (Bands).
- 29 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (29 July-2 August) (Bands, White Helmets, Royal Army Veterinary Corps Mounted Display).
- 29 Tyneside Summer Exhibition (29 July-2 August) (Redcaps, **RA Motorcycles**).
- 31 Folkestone Tattoo (31 July-2 August) (RAMC Band).
- 31 **Grand Concert, Kneller Hall**.

AUGUST 1980

- 1 Southsea Show (1-3 August).
- 2 Lord Mayor's Parade, Cardiff (Bands).
- 2 Newport Military Show (2-3 August) (Bands).
- 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).
- 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 Hartlepool Show (16-17 August).
- 16 Skegness Carnival (16-22 August).
- 18 Doncaster Horse Show.
- 22 GLC Horse Show (22-25 August) (Coldm Gds Band).
- 23 Darlington Show.
- 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).

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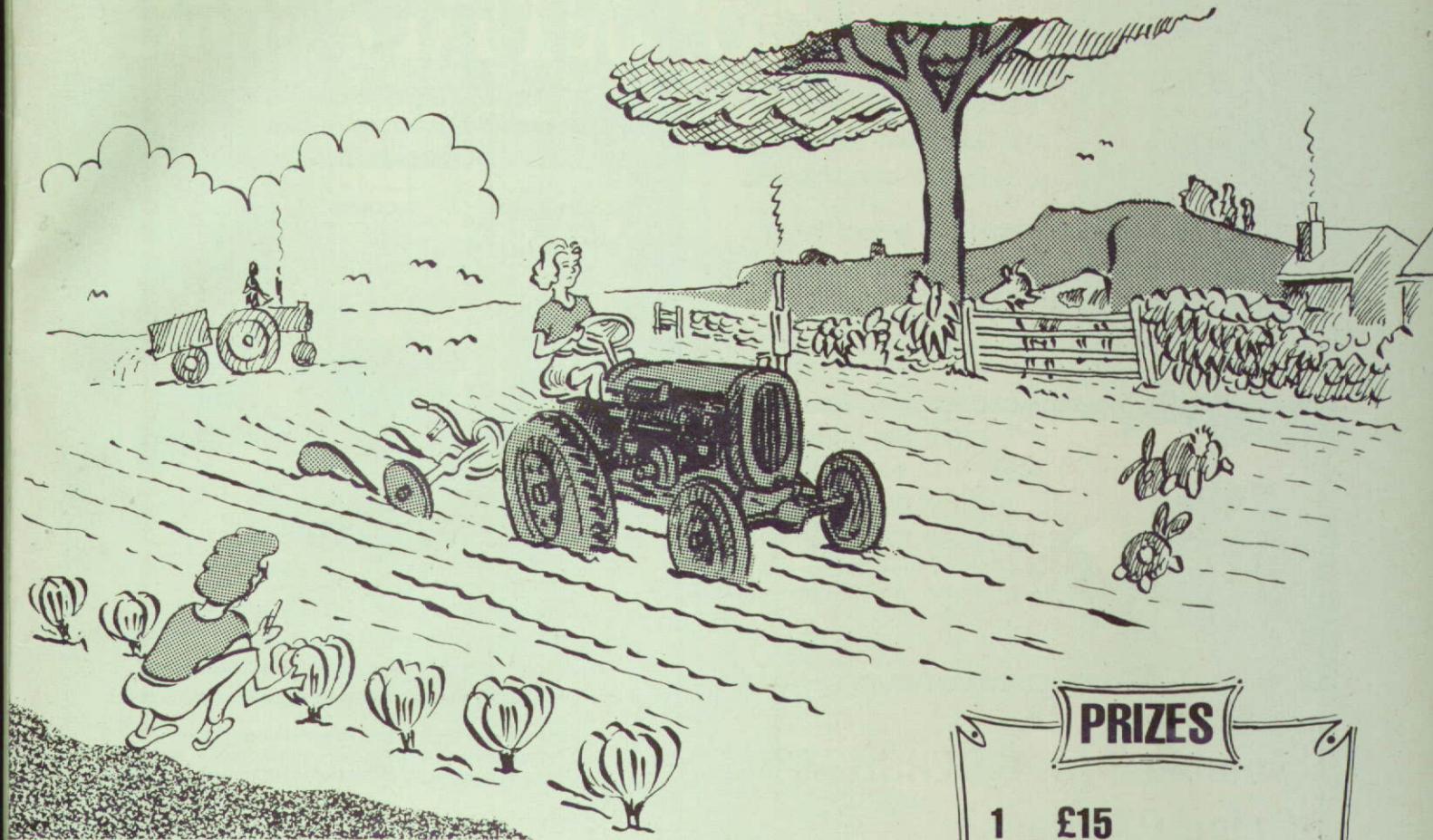
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ON THE LAND

COMPETITION 262



JEAN, JUNE, JUDY, JANE, JOAN and JILL are six girls who work on the land at the same farm. They are all of different ages — the sum of their ages being 123 years.

JEAN has not been cutting cabbages and she will spend tomorrow with the girl who has been picking up potatoes. JUNE is the best worker and the youngest girl is eighteen. JILL likes threshing, but this morning she was put to a different job and the youngest girl had to go threshing in her place.

JOAN went to market last Wednesday and the girl who has been cutting cabbages will be ploughing tomorrow.

JILL and JOAN are both younger than JUDY — who is younger than the other girls. The second eldest girl cannot drive a tractor but the others can.

The combined ages of the girls who have been cutting cabbages and gathering potatoes is 41 and the younger of the two estimates that she has picked up five tons of potatoes.

One of the girls has been to market with the farmer while JANE and the second youngest have spent the day driving a tractor.

What is the age of each girl and how has each been employed during the day?

The competition, compiled by 'Tammy', is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Monday 7 July. The answers and winners' names will appear in the September SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 262' 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 262 label from this page and your name and address to:

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