

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 25 PENCE • 16-29 NOVEMBER 1981

SOLDIER



CANINE BIATHLON

BERMUDA REGIMENT

**GREAT BIELEFELD
MARATHON**

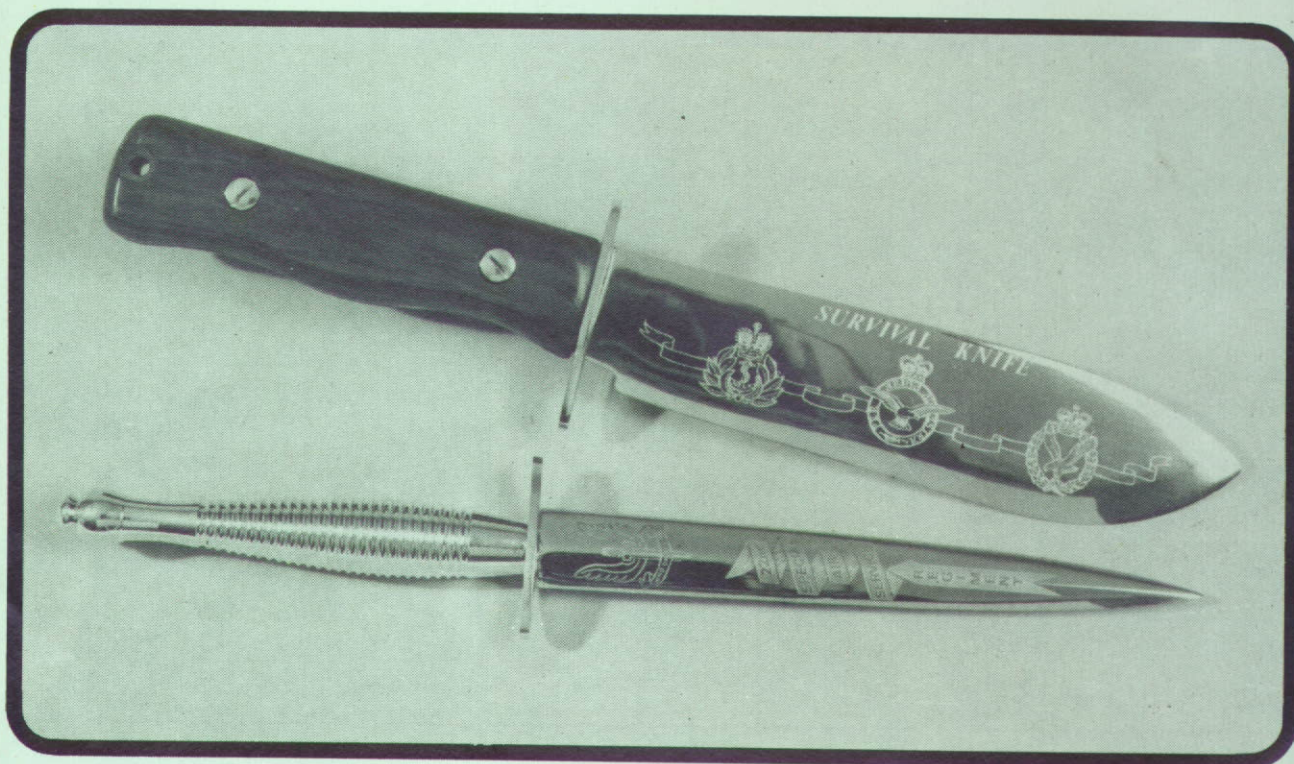
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CONTENTS

- 5 News Lines
- 8 News View
- 11 Soldiers Talking
- 13 Drill hall haunting
- 14 Civvy street cooks
- 17 Home from Home:
Dover/Shorncliffe
- 19 Profile: Derek Agutter
- 20 Your cap badge
- 22 All in the family
- 23 How Observant Are You?
- 24 Bielefeld Marathon
- 26 Canine Biathlon
- 28 Book reviews
- 29 Brits in Bermuda
- 34 Prize competition
- 36 Mail Drop
- 37 Collectors'
Corner/Reunions/Pen Pals
- 43 Sticking with it
- 44 Sports news

FRONT COVER

Left: Guy the guard dog leads his handler, Mr D H Price of the Mixed Services Organisation, up a stiff climb during the Canine Biathlon at Sennelager. Story page 26. Right: Private Phillipa Gregory gives her latest creation the all-important taste test during the field phase of her two week course at the Army Catering Corps Centre. Story page 14.
Pictures: Les Wiggs

BACK COVER

"Off they go." The massed start of the 1 (BR) Corps Bielefeld Marathon. Story page 24.
Picture: Les Wiggs

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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY



◀ The Army's top dogs stretch themselves and their handlers in a punishing military contest — page 26

Volunteer cooks get a taste of life in the field

— page 14



How thousands of soldiers took to their heels for charity

— page 24



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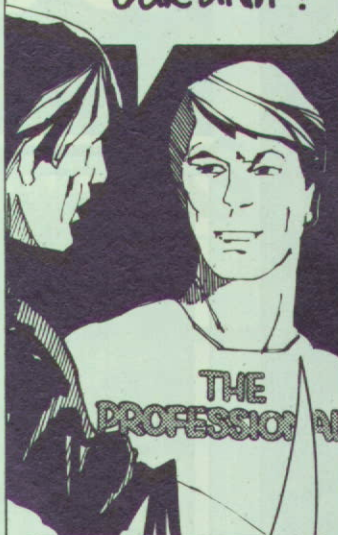
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SOLDIER to Soldier

ANY DISEASE which threatens to jeopardise a soldier's mental and physical fitness must be taken extremely seriously by the Army — and alcoholism is no exception.

But intelligent and objective analysis of the subject can easily be distorted by a few lurid media reports. A drunken soldier on the spree will make headlines in a local paper, a drunken labourer probably no more than a few lines.

It would be impossible for a brief account to do justice to the fascinating paper presented recently by the Army's Director of Psychiatry to the Medical Council on Alcoholism. Closely argued and carefully presented, it amounted to a definitive treatise on the subject of the drinking soldier giving it both historical and contemporary social perspective.

Trend

As Brigadier Wickenden was quick to point out, the British Army does not have a special drink problem. It simply shares in a trend towards increased alcohol consumption throughout the developed world.

But whereas in society at large the problems of alcohol dependence seem in danger of going out of control, the Army is having considerable success in identifying, controlling, educating and rehabilitating its small proportion of excessive drinkers. Indeed, thanks to the vigilance of unit commanding officers in referring cases for expert help, it can often ensure that a potential problem is nipped in the bud before having a drink becomes having to drink.

By using education rather than punishment to counter alcohol abuse, the Army can not only prevent a few young men swilling away their future in the bottom of a glass, it can also avoid having to discharge soldiers that have cost a great deal of time, effort and money to train. The social and operational benefits of such a policy cannot be separated. Together they represent a valuable lesson to society at large.

TA A BARGAIN SAYS MINISTER

THE TERRITORIAL ARMY is "bargain basement stuff" newly appointed Armed Forces Minister Mr Gerry Wiggin told a TA dinner in London.

At little over one per cent of the defence budget the TA provided about 30 per cent of the total mobilised strength of the British Army, he said.

"Not merely manpower, mark you, but formed units, to complete the Army's order of battle," Mr Wiggin told 4(V) Royal Green Jackets. "That's bargain basement stuff by anybody's standards. An equation that cannot be ignored."

Expansion would mean that by the end of the 1980s the TA would be around 86,000 but it was early to be specific about new roles or new units. The structure and organisation must be absolutely right, he said.

But a vigorous attack on manpower wastage, the TA's biggest problem, would be necessary. There would have to be a major effort in the years to come to persuade more recruits to stay on in the early years.

"This is the only way to provide us with a better trained and larger hard core of long serving TA soldiers," said Mr Wiggin.

"I have no doubt that the TA did itself a power of good during Exercise Crusader."

Crusader had been an enormous success for the TA and had convinced Nato allies that plans to get the TA to the Continent and into battle really did work. "And that once there, Terriers could be relied upon to show enthusiasm, resourcefulness and considerable military skill."

All TA infantry battalions committed to BAOR were to be equipped with Milan and the issue of this sophisticated and expensive missile would be yet another vote of confidence in the professionals of the TA. "The TA man is a vital part of our defence strategy... and enormously cost effective," said Mr Wiggin in appealing to employers to be as sympathetic as possible in allowing their men to contribute effectively.

"It is not all one way," he said, "Employers benefit by having men, and women too, fitter, healthier and trained to take responsibility in a self-disciplined way."

'Tiger' display

The late Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer, 'Tiger of Malaya', is the subject of an exhibition which has opened at the National Army Museum in London. It will be open until the end of May Next year.

Drink discharges halved

THE NUMBER of discharges from the Army because of drink problems is well on the way to being halved because of new rehabilitation programmes, Brigadier Douglas Wickenden, Director of Army Psychiatry, told the Medical Council on Alcoholism.

Although more soldiers were being reported for drink problems, he said, only half the number of discharges was necessary because most cases were spotted by unit commanders who called in military social workers rather than disciplining them.

"The Army does not have a special drink problem to contend with," said the Brigadier. "We simply share in a pattern of increasing alcohol consumption which has been carefully measured in the developed countries of the World."

Prohibition, he said, was not the answer because that would penalise the many because of the few. And restrictions on sales in NAAFI shops and clubs in BAOR would simply encourage soldiers to drink elsewhere and take advantage of cheap beer and wine on the local market.

Now, in an effort to expand the rehabilitation programme, recruits joining the RAMC as nurses were being encouraged to become professionally qualified social workers.

New proposals being considered included reporting all soldiers involved in drink-associated accidents and crimes to unit medical officers and a campaign in Army schools to discourage teenage drinking.

"We want to counter the impression that the life of a soldier is one long booze-up," said Brigadier Wickenden. "Neither prohibition nor dogma find much favour in the Army. We prefer to educate people instead."

Cool Captain



COOL CAPTAIN Alastair Goulden averted what could have been a tragic accident by picking up a live grenade dropped by a soldier and throwing it to safety.

Now 28-year-old Captain Goulden, of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, based at Canterbury, Kent, has been awarded a Commendation by Lieutenant General Sir Paul Travers, GOC South East District.

The grenade incident happened in July when Captain Goulden was safety supervisor on the Grenade Range.

"There is no doubt says the citation, "that Captain Goulden displayed extreme coolness and presence of mind, thereby averting what could have been a tragic incident."

Five try New York

Five members of 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment, from Hamelin, Germany, took part in the world's biggest road race — the New York marathon in which 14,500 runners started and more than 13,000 finished.



Prince Charles
thanks the Army
for its wedding gifts

“WE ARE BOTH
OVERWHELMED”

The 18th century mahogany breakfast table,
part of the Army gift to the Prince and
Princess.

THE Prince and Princess of Wales have been “overwhelmed” by the Army’s wedding presents, Prince Charles has told the Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Edwin Bramall.

Asking the General to convey their deepest appreciation and grateful thanks to all members of the Regular and Territorial Army, His Royal Highness said the presents — an antique mahogany table and a swimming pool — would bring much pleasure to them both throughout their married life.

“We couldn’t be more thrilled with these magnificent presents, which will always remind us of the close links we have with the Regular and Territorial Army,” he added.



PHOTO: PRESS ASSOCIATION

A happy flashback to the wedding day.



BALMORAL CASTLE

12th October, 1981

Dear Sir,

We are both overwhelmed by the splendid wedding presents you have sent us. Will you please convey to all ranks of the Regular and Territorial Army our deepest appreciation and grateful thanks. It was so good of you to take the trouble to find the sort of presents which will bring so much pleasure to both of us throughout our married life.

We couldn't be more thrilled with these magnificent presents, which will always remind us of the close links we have with the Regular and Territorial Army.

Yours most sincerely

Charles

No battle handbags — official

WRAC girls will NOT be carrying camouflaged handbags in combat situations despite an idea from Ulster following an observation made at last year's massive Crusader 80 exercise. And that's official.

The thought stems from an incident in Belgium when, it is revealed, a group of WRAC girls clad in combat kit emerged from a Communications Centre into open ground sporting shiny black shoulder bags.

Tactically and in a live situation such a revelation would have been a military disaster. The bags would have reflected sun.

Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Graham, CO of the 40th (Ulster) Signal Regiment (V), did much reflecting of his own as he left the well-concealed Comcen on the edge of a wood in Belgium.

How could this problem of high-viz bags be overcome. Could the girls be asked to give up their containers of confidential artefacts? Hardly.

How about a cover of disrupted pattern material? Better!

The bag was further tested in male bastions of the battlefield on regimental exercises.

But the WRAC Directorate in London does not like the idea which they think is literally being carried too far — even into war.

Captain Sue Burwell, a spokeswoman for the WRAC Directorate in London, said: "It is not normally policy for the WRAC to carry handbags when wearing combat kit. Nor is it envisaged that the WRAC will carry handbags with camouflaged covers when wearing combat kit because there are suitable deep pockets as well as webbing pouches into which a girl can put the things which she normally carries."



The girls from Northumbria who led the 'chase.'

TERRIERS LICK REGULARS

A TA unit beat 88 other Regular and TA teams to win this year's North East District 'March and Shoot' competition. Called the "Stainton Chase" the event was held over three days on the Catterick and Feldon training areas.

And on top of that, an Officers' Training Corps team walked off with the ladies prize.

Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Volunteers, from York, scored 879 points out of a possible 1200 to gain a 17-point lead over runners-up 9 Platoon 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment from Catterick.

In the parrallel "Maiden Scurry" exercise for members of the WRAC and the QARANC it was the girls from the 1st Northumbrian University OTC "A" team who took the honours ahead of the other 15 teams. 3rd York Garrison WRAC took second place.

A one day competition for Army Cadet and Combined Cadet Force teams in the District — "Colts' Canter" — was won

by 1st Tyne and Wear ACF. Runners-up were 2nd Leeds Grammar School CLF.

Lord Mayor's cover

The Royal Army Ordnance Corps have brought out a special commemorative cover to celebrate their involvement in the Lord Mayor's Procession this year.

The covers were on sale during the Lord Mayor's Show in which the RAOC played a major role at the request of the new Lord Mayor, Alderman Christopher Leaver, who was commissioned into the Corps during his National Service.

SOLDIER went behind the scenes at Blackdown as the RAOC prepared for the big day and the full story will appear in our next issue.

Big pots

The maximum jackpot from gaming machines on Army Department premises has been increased to £60, or the equivalent in local currency, subject to commanding officers' discretion. Maximum stakes are now 10p or the equivalent.

Briefly

Two Gordon Highlanders — Colonel Peter Graham and Pipe Major Brian MacRae, who is the Queen's personal piper — are compiling a regimental book on piping incorporating some 400 largely unpublished marches, strathspeys and reels. Information was canvassed from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the USA and South Africa.

★ ★ ★

Sergeant Marjorie Booker, a WRAC recruiting sergeant whose office at Hull has twice topped the recruiting figures for the womens' services — 101 last year — has been presented with the British Empire Medal and her Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by Major-General Ian Baker, GOC North East District.

★ ★ ★

A group of soldiers from the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Engineers, based at Dover, has erected two 10-metre long bridges on the east bank of Loch Lomond. One spans a waterfall, the other a gully.

★ ★ ★

The British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association (BLESMA) will be the beneficiary of another £1,000 thanks to the efforts over two months of 233 Signal Squadron based at Lisburn, Ulster. It was the second presentation by the squadron this year bringing the total amount to £1,550.

★ ★ ★

Warrant Officer John Bond, Chief Clerk of the Ordnance Branch at Bulford Camp's HQ has been awarded a silver salver for producing a play which took first place in the UK Army Drama Festival for 1981.

★ ★ ★

In a three-day military competition for the German Army Reserve four soldiers from HQ 5th Field Force took overall first prize. They contended with a forced march, living in the field, pistol shooting, an assault course race, first aid and driving knowledge.

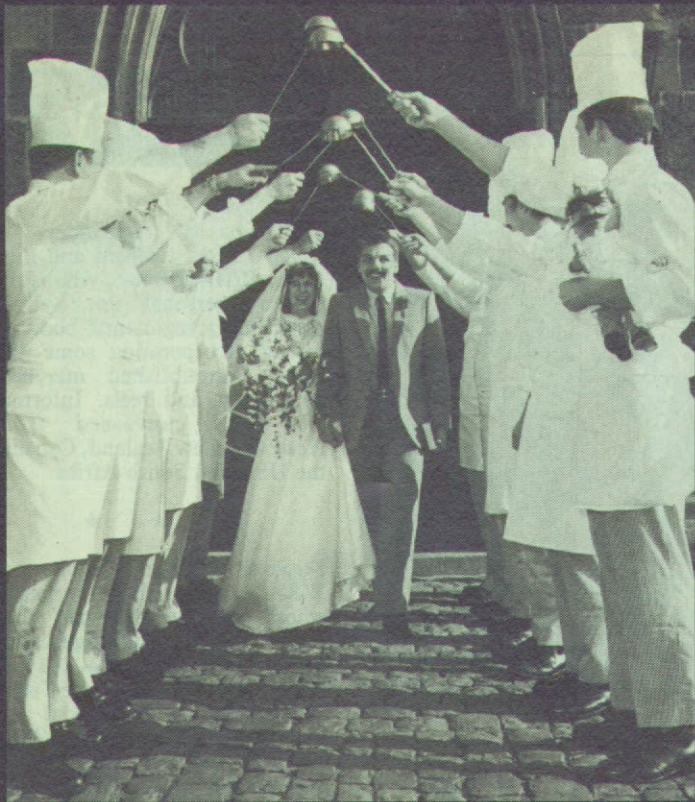
★ ★ ★

A team of 70 members of the 40th (Ulster) Signal Regiment (V) completed a 23-mile walk to raise £1,050 for the Cancer Research Campaign which received the cheque for the largest amount yet raised.

PENDLE



AND REMEMBER O'LEARY WE WILL BE WATCHING YOU!



◀ What's Cooking?

Army cook Nigel Bates and German bride, Gabriele make for an archway of ladles after their wedding in Verden cathedral. The chefs in their "whites", complete with cookhouse mascot Ferdinand, were served up by 1 Div HQ and Signal Regiment.

'Les Paras'

Brigadier Tony Wilson, Commander 8 Field Force, inspects a parade of paras from the 9th Regiment de Chasseurs Parachutiste, at Tidworth, to whom he presented British Parachute Wings after taking part in an 8 Field Force Exercise. The French were guests of the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, at Tidworth.



◀ New Heights

Schoolboy Andrew Reynolds from Mexborough, abseils down a 60-foot tower during a five-day stint with the Army in Yorkshire when 59 schools from the eight north-east counties "joined" the Professionals under a Government work experience scheme. Topcliffe and Catterick were the venues.



◀ Bush 'Warfare'

Lieutenant William Cubitt, right, 1st BN, Coldstream Guards, on a three-month-long detachment to 2nd/1st Bn, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, debriefs his "Kiwi" platoon after a training exercise in Australian bush near Brisbane.

Cadet Skills ▶

Brigadier Malcolm Cubiss, Deputy Commander Western District, presents the Victor Ludorum to Malvern College CCF who had taken part in a one-day Skill at Arms meeting near Sutton Coldfield.





Whisky Mac ▶

Pipe Major Gavin Stoddart, 1st Bn, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, runner-up in the Grant's Whisky World Piping Contest, pictured with the Duke of Atholl at Blair Castle.



◀ TA Medic Centre

Lt Gen Sir Alan Reay, Director General Army Medical Services, inspects a parade at the opening of the refurbished TA Centre at Norbury Hall, Sheffield which houses 212 (Sheffield) Field Hospital, RAMC (V)

Legion Ties ▶

The first senior officer to take advantage of the new British Legion membership rules was General Sir John Stanier, C-in-C, UKLF, who got his membership tie when he became a member of the Camberley branch. Serving soldiers are now entitled to full membership of the Legion under a change in the constitution recently approved by the Privy Council.



Pioneer's Part

A dramatic performance by Pte Bob Gray, 21, Royal Pioneer Corps Defence Company, 1 (BR) Corps, Bielefeld, as a medic makes him up as a "casualty" with chest wound during Exercise Masquerade at Soltau.



Kohima on Canvas

The last phase of the Battle of Kohima, fought on the District Commissioner's tennis court, recaptured by artist Terence Cuneo who was commissioned by the 2nd Division Dinner Club. The painting was unveiled at the annual dinner by Brigadier the Rev Charles Nettleship who was at the battle as Commander Royal Signals.



Chopper Cowboys ▶

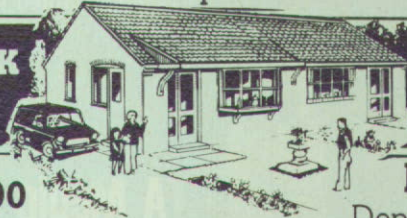
An underslung load with a difference! Diverted during Exercise Claymore in Germany the Lynx crew from 662 Squadron rescued the 1500-lb pregnant Friesian from a steep hillside overlooking the Weser.

A clump of trees broke the cow's fall. The net and block and tackle came to the timely rescue. Four pewter pots were given to the crew by the grateful Town Clerk.

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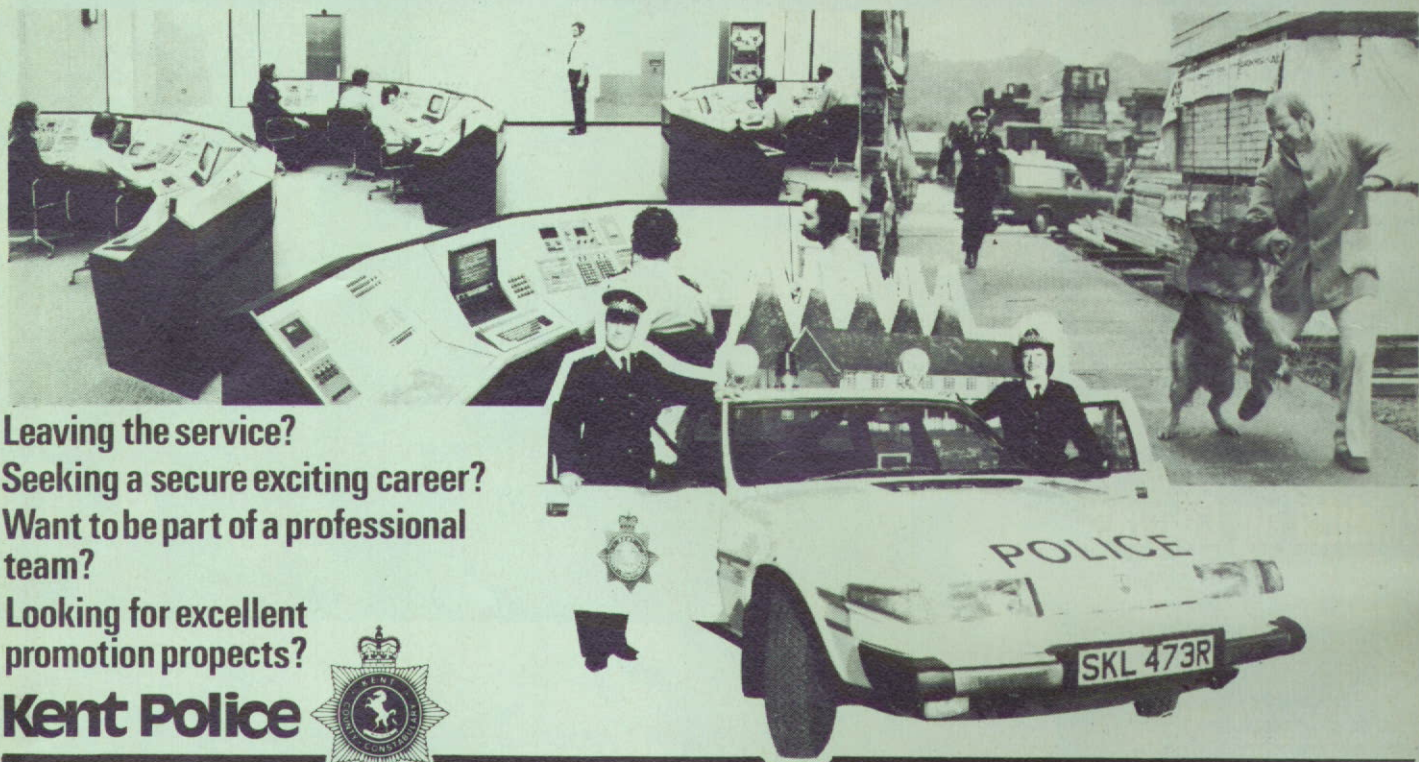
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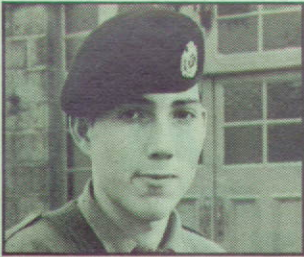
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Apprentice Sergeant KEVIN GRAHAM A Coy. Carpenter and Joiner. Aged 17

"I've really enjoyed my trade but we don't do enough military training here, although we did build a big bridge at Monmouth which was really good. I want to go on and do combat engineering for three years and then get back to doing trade."



Apprentice 'MAC' McNEILL D Coy. Plumber. Aged 18

"I joined for travel, for a trade and security. I'm going to Kenya for three months soon. There's plenty of activity and it's better in the Army than out. I was in the Cadets but this is a bit stricter."

"The Army's changed me. I'm not so much of a nutcase now!"



Apprentice Sergeant GRAHAM MORLEY A Coy. Designer. Aged 17

"The prospects outside were not that good in Nottingham and there was nothing along the lines of an apprenticeship and anyway you're talking about four years for a survey engineer. You can do it in a year and a half at college but that needs 'A' levels."

"I really wanted to be a PTI because I like sports a lot but you have to wait until you're 17½ and I didn't want to."



Apprentice PAUL VARLEY E Coy. Air Survey. Aged 17

"I joined the Army to do surveying. I had been in the Cadet Force and knew what to expect. It's a bit like school during the week but at weekends we go out on exercise. The discipline is good for us and it's not as bad as I thought it would be. I hope it will prepare me for the real Army."

Apprentice Corporal PAUL ROBSON C Coy. Fitter/Machinist. Aged 17½

"I was going to join the police but I looked into the Army and found there was more chance of sport and travel."

"I didn't really know what to expect but thought it would be more regimented. It's been great. I've been able to do a lot of swimming and I really enjoy it."



Apprentice Corporal KEITH DULY E Coy. Surveyor. Aged 17½

"I wasn't sure what I wanted when I joined but I did want to be a surveyor and the course doesn't take as long as in civvy street. The military side is easier than I thought it'd be and I enjoy it when we do it."



Apprentice PETE SHEPHARD C Coy. Fitter/Machinist. Aged 18

"I always wanted to join the Army. The first basic training was exactly what I thought but after two years it becomes part of your life. In some areas there is more discipline than I thought and in some areas, less."

"My friends thought I was daft but they're mostly redundant now so I've come out on the right side."



Apprentice Sergeant MALCOLM AUSTWICK A Coy. Carpenter and Joiner. Age 18

"I joined the Army to get round the world and to learn a trade. It's not so hard as I thought it would be."



Apprentice CSM MARK QUINCE E Coy. Electrician. Aged 18½

"I wanted to join the Services — REME primarily. The trade's the main thing and I joined the Army because it would have taken twice as long in civvy street. The course is bunged into two years instead of being a more practical apprenticeship."

"This place is too much of a school, but it should be different later on."



Apprentice CQMS ALASTAIR WELCH B Coy. Ammunition Technician. Aged 18

"I was fed up with education and just wanted to get out. I didn't want to go to college but as it's turned out I've done a lot of learning here!"

"I wanted to do something exciting so I put down for infantry at first but I feel now that I made the right decision to get a trade."

Proposals earlier this year to give unemployed youngsters the opportunity to sample life in the Services met with a mixed response from MPs and public alike. There is no shortage, however, of young recruits signing on because they are attracted by a career in the Army.

At the Army Apprentices' College, Chesham, boys can join up at 16 to take a two-year apprenticeship. They are taught a trade as well as undergoing basic military and fitness training.

We talked to some young soldiers half-way through their course at the AAC and asked them why they had joined the Army and whether what they had seen so far had lived up to their

GREAT EXPECTATIONS



Apprentice Sergeant RONALD WALKER B Coy. Painter and Decorator. Aged 18

"I joined for the travelling and the challenge. I thought about the RAF first, then decided it wasn't the life for me and I thought a trade would be good."

"It's given me all I wanted. I expected it to be really hard with non-stop running and a lot of bull. I didn't think there'd be time for football but I've done a lot of it and come on a lot."



Apprentice Corporal PHILIP ORD D Coy. Plumber. Aged 17

"I wanted adventure, a secure job, and trade and the Army seemed a good bet. I wanted a trade in case I didn't like the Army, then I'd be OK in civvy street."

"It has everything I expected. I thought it'd be all bull and boots but it's a lot easier and better than I thought. Rifle drill was the most enjoyable thing and being on exercise is more like being a real soldier."

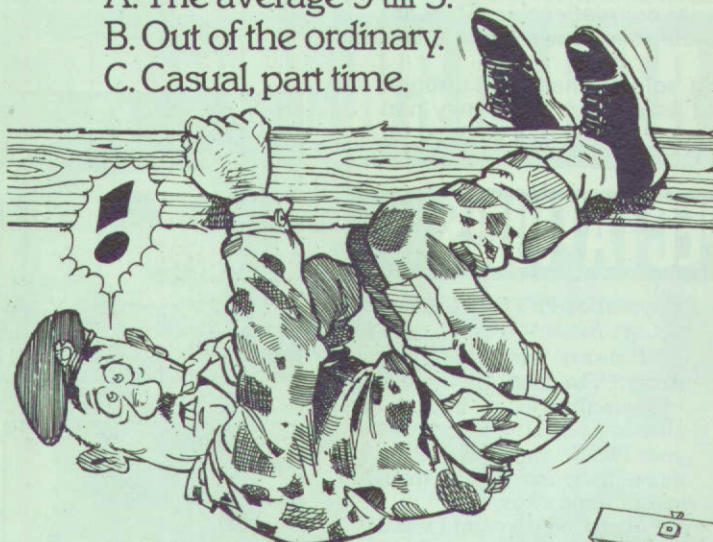
How do you score with money?

1. Do you consider your job to be:

A. The average 9 till 5.

B. Out of the ordinary.

C. Casual, part time.



2. When do you remember to pay the TV rental?

A. In the middle of an assault course.

B. When they come to take it away.

C. Never. I've issued NatWest with a Standing Order and they remember for me.

3. How do you ensure that your wife gets her housekeeping?

A. Don't bother—she'll manage somehow.

B. Give it to mother to pass on.

C. Open a joint account at NatWest so that she can get her housekeeping when she needs it.



4. The electricity bill has come as a shock. What are you going to do?

A. Run and hide in the mess.

B. Nothing. I have a Budget Account at NatWest so I can spread the cost of my large bills over 12 equal payments.

C. Freeze.

5. Where's the best place to get cash at midnight?



A. From the petty cash box in the C.O.'s office.

B. Borrow it again.

C. From a NatWest Servicetill.

Scores: 1. A1, B2, C0. 2. A1, B0, C2.

3. A0, B1, C2. 4. A0, B2, C0. 5. A0, B0, C2.

5 and under: You're not really very good at money matters, are you?

Why not pop in and talk to us at NatWest?

6-10: You've obviously got the right ideas about handling your money.

But with a job in the services you have less time to yourself than most, and may need the extra help that NatWest can offer.

Still puzzled? Pop in and see us next time you're passing. We'll be happy to help.

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GHOSTLY GOINGS -ON AT THE DRILL HALL

WHEN THE PART-TIME soldiers of Stourport step out of line it isn't just their platoon commander they have to answer to. For there at the commander's shoulder may be Colour Sergeant Isaac Nunney, his face showing silent anger during proceedings dealing with any breach of discipline.

On other occasions the Colour Sergeant may have a more kindly expression. But always he remains silent. For Colour Sergeant Nunney is . . . a ghost! He died 12 years ago aged 82. And he has been sighted at least a dozen times during the last ten years and very probably attended a farewell party for a departing corporal as recently as last August!

Always, he is dressed in World War One uniform, puttees up to his knees, wearing a cheese-cutter hat, wide webbing and the old badge of The Worcestershire Regiment (the round one with a scroll). Sporting a moustache, the Great War veteran carries a cane and always stands in the same position for the few fleeting seconds that his apparition appears — usually to the left of the telephone at the back of the desk in the platoon commander's office overlooking Lion Hill at Stourport near Kidderminster.

Mr George Loveridge, 58, a former corporal with 3 Platoon, of 'A' Company, 2nd Battalion, Mercian Volunteers, told SOLDIER: "I've been close enough to him to shake him by the hand. I've seen him at least a dozen times in the last ten years. He is always in the World War One uniform with choker collar. He usually is there for about five to ten seconds."

A stoker with a well-known Kidderminster carpet manufacturers, George was a sick berth attendant on the Narvik Convoy and claims people who see ghosts have to be "receptive".

He added: "I've been close enough to touch the Colour Sergeant but he never says anything. He just seems to be fuming. A breach of discipline was the first time when it started for me and I saw him. But I've seen other ghosts in the past. The night the lads threw a farewell party for me I am sure he was there. Normally, the office is a cold place but the OC said it was warmer than it had been for donkey's years. Colour always stood in the same place behind the platoon commander's shoulder as he sat at his desk."

Another witness who has seen the ghost is 29-year-old Mr Ray Parker, a former platoon sergeant with the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, who did his training at Aldershot.

Ray told SOLDIER: "I first saw him when I was about to go on a course and staying overnight in the office where I had to pick up a sleeping bag. I decided to get my

head down. I heard a noise and found it was a cat and, then, I decided to look in the office. It would be about 11.45 pm. I was stone cold sober as I was going on a course the following day.

"It was then I saw him standing across from the desk. I fumbled for the switch to put on the strip light which flickered on. He must have been there for about 40 seconds.

"He had this look. Looking down his nose at you but it was quite a friendly expression on his face. I kept quiet about it for two years. I didn't tell anybody. No way was I going to be classed as a nut case.

"It was not until Corporal Loveridge told me about seeing him that I said I had seen him, too. I had seen his cap badge. Since then, I've seen a photograph of him taken in



Exterior view of the 'haunted' drill hall.

the First World War and it was him I used to see but I haven't seen him now for two years. One corporal we left in charge of the bar one night locked himself in the office but wouldn't say why he did it!

"Several people have seen the ghost but don't talk about it when they are in a group. When I saw him, he was definitely eyeing me up and it takes a fair bit to put the wind up me. I went back to sleep that night — but left the light on!", said Ray, who has been in the TA for eight years.

Major Richard Amery, formerly training officer and then project officer at the Shirley, West Midlands, TA Centre said: "He seems to be quite a pleasant character but just gets annoyed when anything goes wrong. He gets a bit red in the face when a soldier is being interviewed. He only seems to appear when there is a breach of discipline."



Mrs Cook with her late father's picture.

Had the unit considered having him exorcised?

"Not at all," said Major Amery. "We are quite happy with him and we've almost put him on the unit strength. I don't think anyone is actually scared at the thought of the ghost — he even has a nickname, Fred — but it tends to encourage the younger soldiers to behave themselves and gives that extra edge when it comes to discipline."

But "Fred" or Colour Sergeant Nunney has a family. His daughter, very much of the present is Mrs Dorothy Cook who lives in a different area from where the drill hall has its 'inspection' nights.

She read of the comings and goings of the ghost and recognised the description given in a local newspaper as similar to her father who died in 1969 aged 82 and who had lived for two years — 1931 to 1933 — at a house adjoining the 70-year-old drill hall.

Mrs Cook, reported the paper, had said she did not know if she believed in ghosts but if there were such things it could well be him. She took a photo of her father in First World War uniform to the newspaper office.

She was reported as saying: "He was a stickler for discipline and could well be keeping a special eye on soldiers using the drill hall at Stourport."

The person in the photograph was identified by Messrs Loveridge and Parker as similar to the apparition which had appeared on occasions.

Mrs Cook, however, now gives a different version of the events said to link her late father with the TA drill hall.

She told SOLDIER: "I've got no more interest in the affair. The newspaper report, suggesting the ghost was my father, is totally wrong. I admit now it sounded like my father but I'm a bit sceptical about it, certainly. I doubt it's my father and, anyway, I don't believe in ghosts — do you? It was a bit of fun when I took his old photo down to the local newspaper office. My family — who do not live locally — may not see it in the way that I do."

So the mystery remains. Is the ghost that of Sergeant Nunney? Does it really exist or is it just the collective figment of several vivid imaginations? Like all the best ghost stories we may never know for sure. But down at the Stourport drill hall they're just waiting for the next soldier to step out of line . . .

NO MAGIC JUST MIRACLES

COMPANY SERGEANT MAJOR Tony Scattergood could hardly be described as a fairy god-mother but he is part of a team from the Army Catering Corps Central Volunteer Headquarters who regularly produce miracles with each basic training course they run. They can guarantee to take a handful of volunteer cooks and turn them into smart, confident and competent members of the TA — in a mere two weeks.

The small staff at the CVHQ is now led by Lieutenant-Colonel Jack Bannister, ably assisted by Captain Geoff Wells who deals with the bulk of the course administration. The practical training is in the hands of the Sergeant Major and SQMS Mel Somersall, whose presence alone commands instant attention in a field kitchen, together with the invaluable backup from other ACC Regulars and volunteer NCOs.

All the volunteers who are accepted for courses have had some sort of catering experience. They come from hotels, hospitals, catering colleges and even Wimpy bars. Captain Wells explained, "They are all heading towards a civilian qualification, or already have one, but it's not until they get out into the field that the difference comes. That's the side we teach.

"This is the basic course. When they have done this, they will go on to their nearest military unit for two weekends," he added.

Volunteers who have successfully completed the basic training course are then eligible to join exercises wherever there is a shortfall in ACC strength. Cooks have been sent to areas from Inverness to Cornwall,

◀ **Field cookery — a new skill to be mastered.**

A welcome for the individuals on Course No 7. ▼



excluding Northern Ireland, and also overseas. As the bids come in from units, Captain Wells matches them with volunteers and keeps track of it all on a huge chart in his office.

Since 1976 the CVHQ has tried to recruit, train and administer anything up to 1000 volunteers, although numbers on strength have fluctuated as a result of supply and demand. They have a high proportion of ex-Regulars in the unit and some volunteers transfer to CVHQ from their independent units.

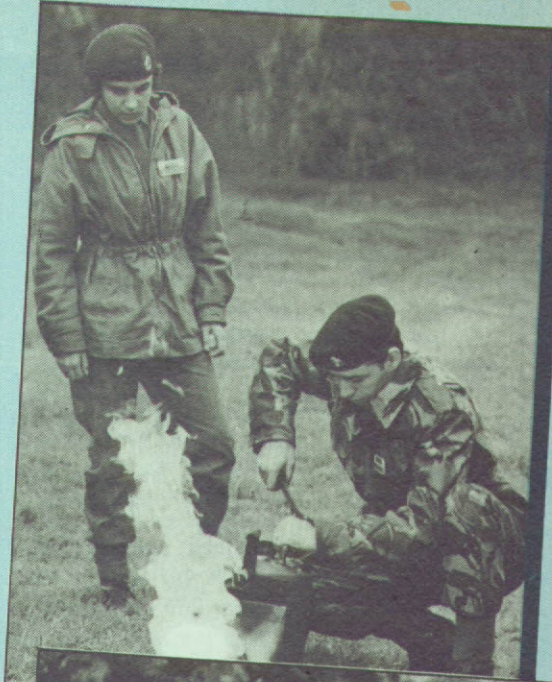
CVHQ itself is a sponsored unit and the volunteers there undertake to give 19 days service each year, which usually takes the form of a two-week exercise and a couple of weekends, although some volunteers opt for training and are invaluable on CVHQ courses. "They guide them along and it also gives us a chance to assess our own NCOs as we might not see them for two or three years otherwise," said Captain Wells. Independent units, local to volunteers may be more convenient for some. They demand 27 days attendance each year, although evenings do count towards this total.

Course No 7 started as usual with a welcome from the staff, individual interviews and kit issuing sessions. The nine girls and ten men had come from all over UK and their training started in earnest with early morning exercise for fitness, seemingly-endless drill, skill-at-arms sessions and lectures on map reading and First Aid.

Sergeant Major Scattergood was disappointed with the progress in drill at the beginning. "They got off to a very slow start but they finally got it together after a week. Since the social do on Thursday, they have been much more like a team."

From then on things had indeed gone well and the group was ready to tackle the field cookery weekend with confidence. Most had never cooked this way before and teamwork

continued on page 16



▼ Course No 7 Passing Out two weeks later.



Story: Ann Beecham

LIFE ON THE CORNER

THE LAND, THE SEA and even the ozone-laden air have all contributed to the illustrious history of the Dover/Shorncliffe Garrison. For 2000 years it has occupied a key role as a cornerstone of the nation's defence.

And it all probably started when the sandalled feet of one Julius Caesar firmly trod the sands of nearby Deal in 54 BC, thereby setting in train 403 years of Roman occupation — legacies by two lighthouses in Dover.

The Normans came at the behest of William the Conqueror and built the magnificent Keep of Dover Castle. On St Martin's Plain, behind the Garrison, General Sir John Moore trained the Light Infantry Brigade for the Peninsular War.

And during both World Wars Folkestone and Dover saw history being made. They were the scenes for the Dover Patrol, the withdrawal from Dunkirk and high-powered artillery duels over the Channel.

In the air, fighters scrambled from nearby RAF Hawkinge during the Battle of Britain to fight off the Hun high over the garrison precincts. 'Doodlebugs' — V1s — pattered over the same stretch of coastline on their deadly journeys to London and its docks.

On the land, a century or so earlier, the Royal Military Canal linking Hythe and Rye had been built to defend the country against Napoleon.

By sea, the Confederation of Cinque (pronounced 'sink') Ports — Sandwich, Dover, Hythe, Romney and Hastings (Rye and Winchelsea were added later) — had the duty, in the Middle Ages, to supply the king with ships, each vessel manned by crews of 50 men and boys.

In 1979 Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, on her installation as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports aptly summed up the Garrison's strategic importance: "It is inevitable that the Men of Kent should be in the front line of the defence of the Realm."

That royal view is heartily endorsed by Brigadier Dick Hume, the 47-year-old Garrison Commander and Commander-designate in the New Year of 2 Infantry Brigade HQ under recently announced Army re-structuring plans within Rhine Army.

Brigadier Hume, who is also the Deputy Constable of Dover Castle and lives in the imposing Constable's Tower, is acutely

aware of the position he commands.

"Dover/Shorncliffe Garrison is very much a cornerstone of England with an endless series of people coming from and going to the Continent, back and forth from Rhine Army," he said.

"The Garrison has an extensive training role. Two of its units are part of the United Kingdom Mobile Force which takes part in regular exercises to test Nato's readiness anywhere from northern Norway to Greece, and the local Royal Corps of Transport squadron moves large numbers of soldiers and vehicles through the ports of Dover and Folkestone enabling Britain to fulfil its Nato commitment."

The RCT Squadron — No 43 — annually moves some 40,000 soldiers and more than 7000 vehicles not only through Dover and Folkestone but also via RAF Manston.

Training is predominant in the Garrison. It tutors, for instance, the middle management of tomorrow's infantry at the Infantry Junior Leaders' Battalion (IJLB) in Shorncliffe and oversees the future senior NCOs of the sappers at the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Engineers, at Whitfield, Dover.

One TA and two regular infantry units are based within the sprawling Garrison area. The Queen's Regiment's 1st Battalion as well as its 5th (Volunteer) Battalion are both based at Canterbury while the 1st Battalion — the Tigers — of The Royal Hampshire Regiment are based on Dover.

Shorncliffe became a camp by Act of Parliament in 1794, a time when the military threat came from Napoleon and Martello Towers costing up to £20,000 each were

'throughout history this area has always had a great strategic importance'

being dotted along the vulnerable coastline.

The Garrison area is big and it's very busy.

Last year, for example, its 63 range facilities in four locations were used by a staggering 1781 units (most more than once) over 324 days.

Its 9000 acres of dry training areas (where dummy ammunition is used) were patronised by 2341 units on 353 days. And its five training camps accommodated over 350,000 personnel.

Brigadier Hume explained: "The Dover/Shorncliffe title is slightly misleading in that the Garrison area does include the whole of Romney Marsh, and most of East Kent including Canterbury, Whitstable, Herne Bay and the Isle of Thanet.

"I think most people would be surprised to learn of the extent of military activity and the size of the Army presence in this key corner of the country. Our geographical position has meant that, throughout history, this area has always had a great strategic importance."

Many thousands of soldiers annually attend the Cinque Ports Training Area for minor infantry tactical and small arms training.

Regular and TA units as well as cadets and members of other services use the

ranges at Lydd, Hythe and Lydden Spout for a variety of training from the routine to the specialist.

Ever since the days when musketry was first practised in the area, the Dover/Shorncliffe complex has prided itself on being in the vanguard of infantry small arms training.

Commented Brigadier Hume: "Our ranges originated during the Napoleonic Wars and are a by-word for excellence and the mecca for the small arms world."

Co-operation between the local community, particularly land owners and farmers, was assessed as "excellent" by the Garrison Commander.

"They accept our military vehicles on their narrow roads and they also give us rights of 'walk over' on their land. The co-operation is first class. But they've had 2000 years to get used to it!"

The Garrison area has more than 800 married quarters spread over five locations. The showpiece development — with 288 of them on town house lines — at Burgoyne Heights, Dover, was completed last year.

Most quarters have the usual support facilities such as improvised Wives' Clubs, a NAAFI shop, Thrift Shop, playgroups and the like.

Shorncliffe, itself, has a total 260 occupied quarters with an estimated 390 residents while 121 MQs in Canterbury are to be supplemented, next year it is hoped, by the same number in a one-million-pound-plus building plan around the Howe Barracks area of the cathedral city.

Helping Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Whitmore, the Housing Welfare Commandant in his daily tasks are a handful of Estate Wardens and a 24-year-old WRAC sergeant who is qualified in social work and provides a valuable link with the wives and outside civilian agencies.

Rail and road connections to the Garrison are good and London is just one-hour-twenty-minutes away by rail. French supermarkets, with the lure of duty-free goods, are about the same time away by cross-Channel ferry.

HQ Rheindahlen in BAOR is an estimated six-and-a-half hours away door-to-door. And for fishing, sailing and swimming the sea is on the doorstep with the delights of the north Kent coast and Margate's Dreamland only 40 minutes distant.

Off-peak tariffs mean that a car and family can make a trip 'sur le Continent' for about £45 with duty-free bargains going a long way to offset the cost.

And the less adventurous need not even set foot on foreign soil to acquire the same duty-free advantages. They can just board a 'streaker' and make the round-trip.

Dover/Shorncliffe Garrison is a popular posting and, some would say, offers more than some BAOR units of comparative size. Excellent sporting facilities and nearness to the Continent are just two of its bonus points.

There seemed to be only one complaint. According to Lance-Corporal John Lightfoot of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, attached to the IJLB provost staff: "It's too far away from any decent football league club!"

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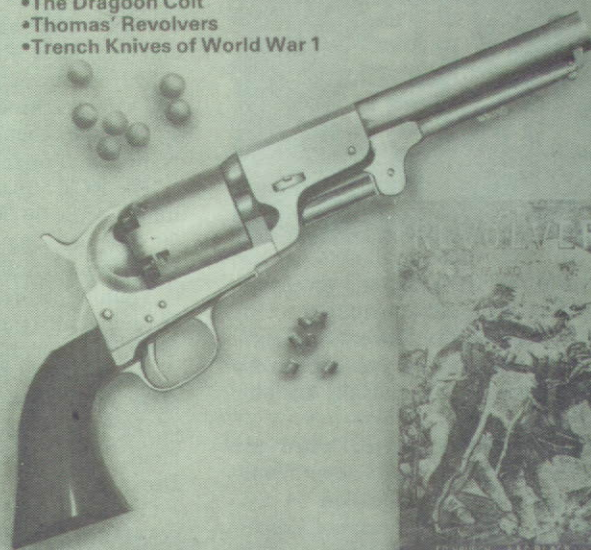
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THE SERVICES' 'MR SHOWBIZ'

IT'S EASY TO SEE why the press usually liken him to Lord Grade or some other showbiz impresario. His office is decorated with signed photographs of stars of both today and yesteryear, the phone rings constantly and if Derek Agutter is able to talk to you on time and without being interrupted it's a red letter day.

When he joined the Royal Tank Regiment as a trooper in 1944 there was nothing to indicate that young Agutter would become the Army's link man with the stars who give up their time to entertain British troops. He had no showbusiness background whatsoever.

After the war he was commissioned, posted to the 4th Royal Tank Regiment in Italy and soon afterwards moved on to Egypt. Then, in 1949, he married — his wife Kit was in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force also stationed in Egypt.

Times were hard for young officers who decided to get married. "After we married Kit was demobbed to the UK. I married in sin in the eyes of the Army because I was under the age of 25. I got only seven shillings a day marriage allowance and as a married captain my first pay chit was £29 for a month. I could hardly pay my mess bill with that let alone for us to live together."

The young Derek was a keen swimmer and boxer and from 1949 to 1950 he was Staff Officer for physical training in Ismailia with an incredible, by modern standards, 19 Army Physical Training Corps instructors working for him.

Eventually Derek returned home and in 1952 he transferred to the Royal Army Service Corps. One of his first major tasks was administering the RASC side of the feeding of the Commonwealth troops for the Coronation.

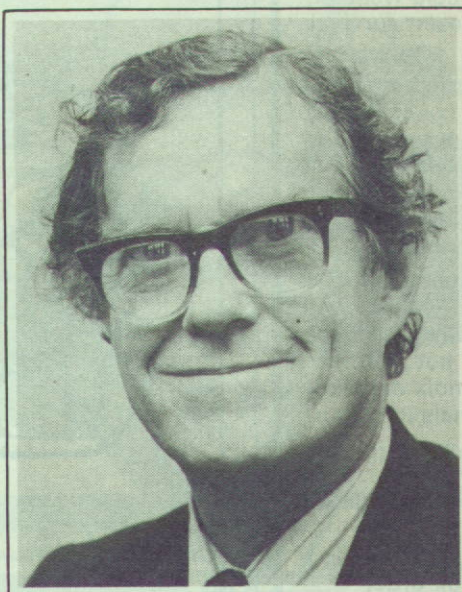
"We took over the whole of Kensington Gardens and lived under canvas. We had a full supply depot and a butchery there. It included Indians, New Zealanders, Australians, Canadians — all sorts. I remember that it rained on the day and we were responsible for the issuing of rum to the street lining parties."

After a spell in Germany Derek found himself in Singapore as adjutant to the Commander RASC. He was Army water polo and swimming captain out there but it was on dry land that he was to make the contacts which would lead to his present job.

"It was part of my duties on the staff of A branch HQ Far East to look after the visiting concert parties. In 1960 I got the first of the golden bowlers and was approached by HQ Forces Entertainment Service in London and offered a job."

The job was based in Cyprus and meant that Derek was responsible for all of the shows in the Near and Middle East. There were two regular tours. One would go through Malta, Tripoli, Benghazi, El Adem, Nairobi and Mombasa and Cyprus over a three week period. The other would cover Aden and the various route stations in the Gulf.

In 1963, after trouble in Cyprus, he had his first experience of what was to become a regular happening in Northern Ireland later — putting on shows in the field in disused warehouses and schools.



The change from the military life to working with temperamental artistes was a big one. "I found to start with that I had to cool down on trying to regiment them. I still said 'you will do it' but 'please' had to be added. I had to tell them in the nicest possible way and persuade them that if they were not on time they would miss the bus.

'We have to muck in and accept the conditions... We have no time for tantrums'

"It was easier then because most of them had done wartime or National Service. Now we are usually dealing with people who have no military background or experience."

Shows with famous names like Harry Secombe, Mike and Bernie Winters, Hughie Green and Bob Monkhouse — as well as many lesser lights — took Derek all over the Middle East and occasionally to the Far East. In Aden things were a bit hot for comfort — "on one occasion with Bob Monkhouse the power line was mortared and we had to present the show without microphones and using vehicle headlights."

In 1969 he returned to Britain as head of Combined Services Entertainment, the job he still holds. One of his first tasks was to revive shows in Rhine Army, where there had been none since the fifties.

Gibraltar and Northern Ireland were added to the list and the latter is now the venue for half of the annual output of CSE. There are 24 live shows a year for the troops stationed there.

Belize now has four shows a year and CSE artistes also visit one of the more remote

Army postings — the bleak, windswept Hebridean island of Benbecula — where otherwise there is no live entertainment at all.

Every two months auditions are held for acts who wish to go on a tour. Of these only about a quarter are deemed acceptable. Among the modern stars who were discovered by CSE are Jim Davidson and Olivia Newton-John. "She worked for me as a double act, Pat and Olivia, at £25 a week," recalls Derek.

Now, of course, Derek has his own showbiz connection — his daughter Jenny is a Hollywood star. When he joined CSE back in 1961 Jenny and her brother went to boarding school. She joined a ballet school in Camberley and was chosen by Walt Disney for the film *Ballerina*. *The Railway Children* and other films followed as Jenny graduated from child star to adult star.

"I've made a lot of friends in this business. Harry Secombe is a particularly close friend — I've toured with him at least 12 times. One of the important things in running CSE is the ability to persuade the artistes that it is different to working the Palladium. We have to muck in and accept the conditions. Only in Germany can we make it more Rolls-Royce by using good Continental coaches and staff cars for the stars."

He has no sympathy with the kind of scene witnessed by SOLDIER on an overseas visit a few years back when a singing group, without a hit for at least ten years, had refused to travel with the rest of the show on the grounds that they were the 'stars.'

"There is no real time for the prima donna in the CSE because we have not got the staff. We give them fair professional treatment, good sound and back up and most appreciate it. We have no time for tantrums. I suppose the most difficult artistes we had in the early days were girl sopranos who could be highly temperamental. But most of the girls we work with now are from the club scene and are pleasantly surprised at the backing we give them."

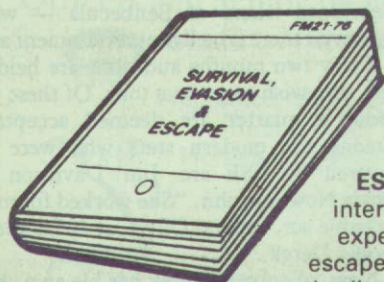
Despite his title Derek Agutter is no armchair impresario. Once a month he goes out to Northern Ireland with a show and he tries to visit all of the other commands once a year.

"The most important thing is to keep a very close liaison with the Army units and the people who are responsible for the shows. I am really in a Jekyll-and-Hyde situation of being the go-between the soldier and the artiste — people who are so different. But it's a job I've thoroughly enjoyed and I've seen the dimension change from the old ENSA theatre type show to the club and cabaret style we now use."

The telephone rang again and we left Derek in the midst of more negotiations. He's a man who has the confidence of knowing he is doing a job which is appreciated. The roars of applause from the halls, messes and canteens are still music to his ears. ■

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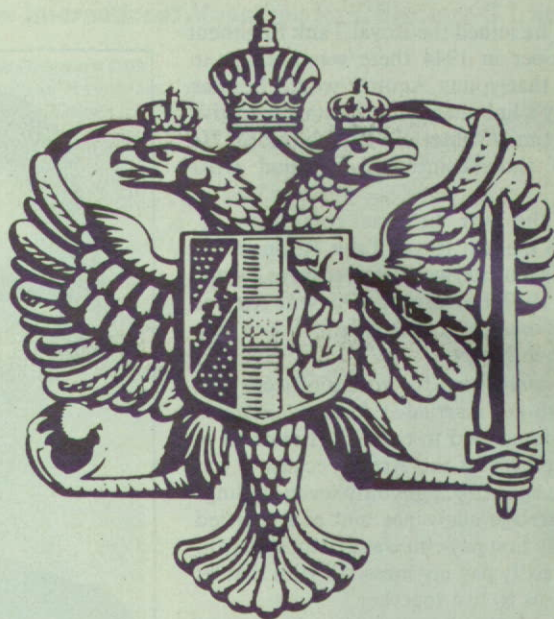
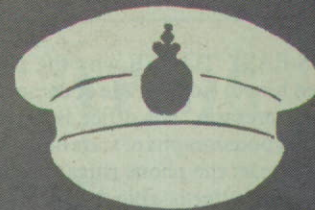
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Your Cap Badge



No 4 1ST THE QUEEN'S DRAGOON GUARDS

THE FORMATION, BY AMALGAMATION, of the 1st Queen's Dragoon Guards on 1st January 1959, brought about a marriage of the 1st King's Dragoon Guards with The Queen's Bays (2nd Dragoon Guards).

The 1st (King's) Dragoon Guards were raised in 1685 at the time of the Monmouth rebellion and known as 'The Queen's Regiment of Horse'. In 1714 the title was changed to 'King's Own Regiment of Horse' until 1747 when a further change produced the title by which it was to be known for over 200 years, that of '1st (King's) Dragoon Guards'.

The cap badge adopted in the last years of Queen Victoria's reign was the crest of the Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria, Colonel in Chief of the Regiment from 1896 until the outbreak of the Great War. This crest consisted of a double-headed eagle mounted upon a three part scroll inscribed 'King's Dragoon Guards' all in gilding metal. The then unacceptable crest of an enemy was supplanted in 1915 by an eight pointed star, the topmost point being replaced by the Imperial crown on the star and the letter 'K' above the letters 'D G' within the Garter. The star and crown were in white metal with the rest in gilding metal.

This design remained in favour until 1938 when the double-headed eagle returned, in gilding metal but without the scroll as before.

Later, in October 1949, the metal was changed to white metal. Upon amalgamation the combined Regiment adopted this format and it is currently worn in silver anodised.

The Queen's Bays raised in 1682 as 'The Earl of Peterborough's Regiment of Horse' suffered a number of changes of title until 1747 when it became the 'Second or Queen's Regiment of Dragoon Guards'. In 1767 an order was made for the Regiment to be equipped with long tailed bay mounds, other heavy regiments — with the exception of the Scots Greys — having black horses. This resulted in the popular name becoming the official title, as has happened so often in the British Army.

From late in the nineteenth century until amalgamation the same pattern of cap badge was worn, differing only in the type of crown, from Victorian to Imperial and finally the St Edward's crown. All were worn in brass and finally in gold anodised, the format being the word 'Bays' in Old English within a wreath of bay leaves, officially described as laurel, with the crown above resting between the ends of the wreath.

by Arthur L Kipling and Hugh L King

Next issue: The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards

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S2



I AM DEVOTING this letter to the question of Pre-School Playgroups.

Behind the tremendous success of the first PPA Forum is a great deal of concern and interest in the welfare and education of the under-fives. Most of the burden of this falls on the willingness of numbers of wives and mothers to help with playgroups and voluntarily give up their time to organise education for the very young.

But they need support — in the form of recognition, training and further education to allow them to give of their best. They need to attend courses and conferences which will help them to take on the responsibility of guiding children at a crucial stage in their development.

Nursery education is not yet Government funded and it is in our own interests to have trained staff responsible for our young children, particularly in the Services where education is invariably a headache for most parents.

For those of you interested in becoming more involved with PPA, here are some useful addresses:

General enquiries about PPA and requests for membership forms should be addressed to the Pre-School Playgroup Association, Alford House, Avelene Street, London SE11 5DH (Tel No 01 582 8871/8920).

Copies of 'Contact' the monthly PPA publication which gives information, features, ideas and suggestions is free to PPA members and the Under-Fives Quarterly Supplement to 'Contact' is available for non-members.

The Open University has short courses connected with pre-school education. For information on these, write to Mrs Lorna Bailey, Open University Short Courses, PO Box 76, Milton Keynes MK7 6AN.

The next PPA Conference is in London in April and there have been suggestions that a coach taking BFG representatives would be welcome. If anyone is interested, they should drop me a line.

Anne Armstrong

I am pleased to see that many readers are putting pen to paper and taking up points raised in previous issues. A lively postbag is most encouraging!

But first, a letter showing that it always pays to ask about benefits if you feel you might be entitled to them and to pursue the matter if you are not satisfied with the first reply you get.

I think I am entitled to Unemployment Benefit under EEC rules. I was in full time employment in England and I signed on at the Unemployment Office a month before we left UK and came to Germany.

I had a letter from UK that I took to the Arbeitsamt within a week and have been several times since then. I received a letter from the Arbeitsamt which said that I'm not entitled to any money as my husband earns too much. Could you let me know if this is right or could I pursue the matter further?
Mrs S BFPO 46

I took this matter up with the Department of Health and Social Security and Mr Nesbitt of the Overseas Branch replies:

"I have now received from Mrs S the information which you asked her to let me have. In the light of the information now available I can confirm that there was entitlement to United Kingdom Unemployment Benefit from the date she registered in Germany, subject to the German control procedures having been adhered to.

"I have arranged to have forms E303 authorising payment of Unemployment Benefit sent to Mrs S so that she can present them to the Arbeitsamt."

How can I avoid paying full National Insurance contributions? I last worked in UK in August 1977. Since then I have lived in Canada until we moved to Germany in 1979.

I started work here for the Army this year and am now paying full NI contributions as I am unable to find the form given me when I resigned from my UK job.
Mrs B BFPO 20

DHSS pamphlets "DHSS NI 1/Jan 81" Parts, I, II, III may explain all. However, if you still have a query, write to the Department of Health and Social Security, Overseas Branch,

Newcastle upon Tyne, NE98 1YX, enclosing your National Insurance number and all relevant information to help trace your past record card.

I fear that you missed keeping to reduced liability as the option came in May 1977.

ASK ANNE

My attention has been drawn to a recent article by Anne Armstrong concerning Do-it-Yourself maintenance in Married Quarters.

I would just like to point out that a scheme whereby occupants of married quarters can be supplied with paint (with a choice of colours) for self-help redecoration has been in existence at Pirbright for some years and is widely used by Service families.

As far as minor repairs are concerned, it is my experience that the good Do-it-Yourselfer does all the minor repairs without reference to anyone — and more strength to his elbow.

The Lump Sum Maintenance Contract operating at Pirbright has not been affected by recent financial restraints and to my knowledge works well. The main problem in any maintenance contract is access.

However, I do not think it would be practical to hand out washers, tiles, Polyfilla and so on to would-be Do-it-Yourselfers on demand, although it would be interesting to find out what kind of demand there would be — if any.

F Adams, Commandant FHWS, Pirbright

I feel that an official correction is called for to Anne Armstrong's article in *Soldier News* No 58. The basic supposition of the article is that, in cases of marital estrangement or divorce, an officer's wife is in an inferior position to a soldier's

wife to receive financial help.

The following are specific points which could be refuted:

An officer's wife is not an "illegal occupant". She may be an irregular one and in that respect is treated with exactly the same care and help as a soldier's wife and is entitled to a 93 day licence. She is just as eligible for help from FHWS and her husband's unit as a soldier's wife and can receive help and advice on rehousing by a local authority. Although not primarily designed for officers, she could also be temporarily housed at Lypiatt.

She is entitled to claim for and receive statutory financial and legal help under the same terms as any other citizen, including DHSS grants.

The article is perhaps correct in pointing out the need for Service charities' charters to be updated in the light of changing social attitudes and morals. This is obviously something that is looked at by the authorities concerned and, as Anne Armstrong says, Ssafo is looking into this matter now.

Commandant
Families Housing and Welfare Service, Waterbeach Barracks

Queen's Award

THE GOOD BOOK GUIDE has been awarded the Queens Award for Export Achievement.

The Guide is now firmly established as the ultimate in postal book shopping. There are many titles to choose from, all attractively displayed with comments and outlines on the content, and this combined with the prompt and efficient service put the Guide among the 93 applicants who were given the award out of a possible 963.

Children's books are given special coverage by the Guide. They include everything from picture books for the very young, through puzzle and joke books to novels and classics for older children.

The Guide prides itself on personal service for both adults and youngsters. And there is still time to get your order in for Christmas. The GBG staff will get your order delivered in time for Christmas if it reaches them by the dates below:

For UK and Eire orders must be received by 14 Dec, for Europe (air) by 7 Dec, (surface) 24 Nov, for North America (air) 25 Nov, (surface) 6 Nov and for other areas by air by 18 November.

The address to write to is The Good Book Guide, Braithwaite and Taylor Ltd., Havelock Terrace, London SW8 4AU. Tel No 01 720 8182.

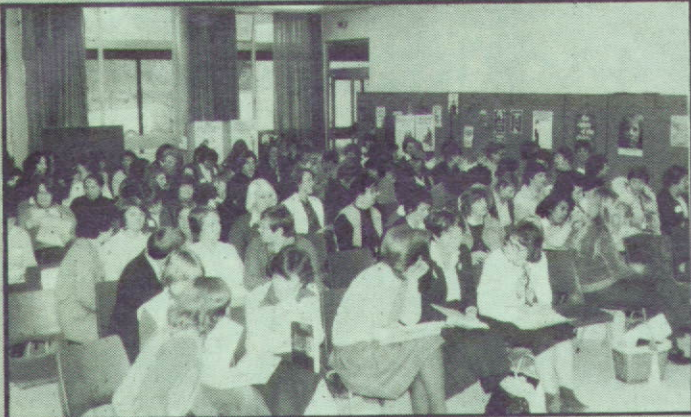
DID YOU KNOW?

MOST OFFICIALS carry identity cards and it is always a good idea to check that the person on your doorstep is who he claims to be. Ask to see proof of identity or check back with their Head Office.

Keep the door locked and the chain on when you answer the door, especially if you are alone in the house, and be extra careful if there are two callers. There have been many cases of one person keeping the householder talking on the front doorstep while the other crook is busy taking things from the back.

Christmas time always brings a flood of door to door salesmen and you may find yourself being pressured into a purchase. So be firm and don't open your door to let anyone in without first being sure you know who they are and what they want.

A good deal for the under-fives



The delegates at the conference.

IT WAS A GREAT day for under-fives when delegates from all over Germany gathered in Rheindahlen for the first Pre-School Playgroup Association conference and forum.

The pioneering weekend in Germany had been arranged by the Moenchengladbach PPA who added it to the other 'first' for which they can claim recognition — they were the first PPA in Germany to register with the National PPA in UK.

There are over 9,000 under-fives in BFG and playgroups are a vital link in their everyday life. Over 130 delegates met to put their views and to suggest

improvements as well as listening to the guest speakers.

The importance of playgroups was emphasised by Lady Plowden, the PPA President, in a recorded message of welcome that was played to the conference. She had been in Germany for a few days previously, visiting seven local playgroups but had to return to UK for the PPA Annual General Meeting before the forum opened.

For some delegates it had been an 800-mile trip to attend the conference and this underlines the concern felt by so many about the under-fives. Valuable contributions came from a panel



Lady Plowden visits local playgroups.

of speakers including Meg Burford, UK National PPA Advisor, John Palmer, a child psychologist, Peter McDermott from the Central Office of Information and Lorna Bailey from the Open University.

Lorna appealed for volunteers who have already done one of the Open University short courses to help new students through them.

She reminded delegates that the Pre-School Child course has a special discount scheme that allows five people to enrol for the price of four.

The conference discussions covered a wide range of topics relating to the organisation and running of playgroups as well as to general child welfare and education. The proposed bulk-buy scheme from Naafi was warmly

welcomed and the need for voluntary area co-ordinators and newsletters was stressed by the delegates. They also discussed topics such as child behaviour and training opportunities when they divided into smaller groups.

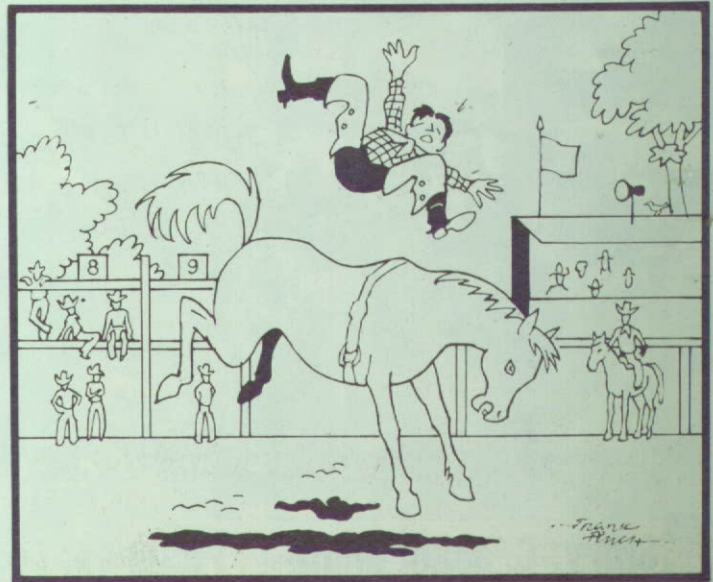
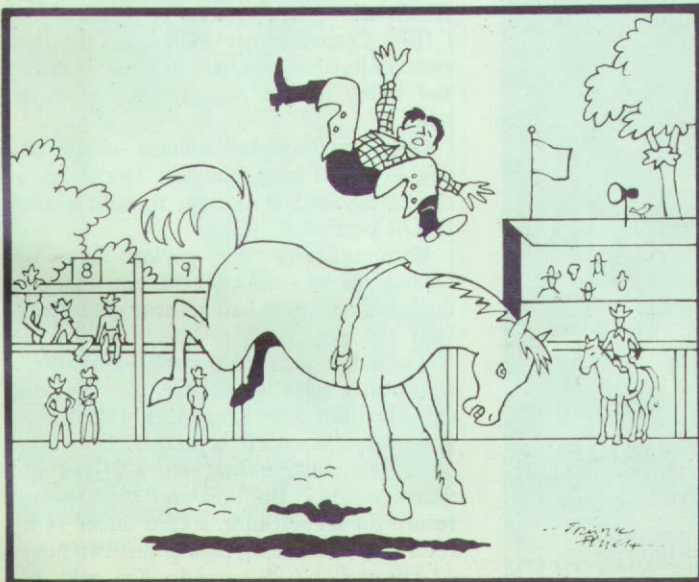
The organisers were delighted with the response to the conference and added that it had highlighted the special needs of the under-fives in BFG.

After the conference, Meg Burford visited playgroups in Hohn and Bielefeld where she met more wives.

"We hope we were able to give those we met some help. We realise there is a great need and we in the PPA will do all we can to help in all fields, but especially with courses and training" she promised.

How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences turn to page 37.





Scene at the start outside the old Rathaus. ▲ Going round the bend — in marathon style. ▼

Thousands of runners took to the streets of Bielefeld for 1 (BR) Corps' first-ever charity marathon. Echoing the words of the once-popular song, they showed . . .

MILES AND MILES OF HEART

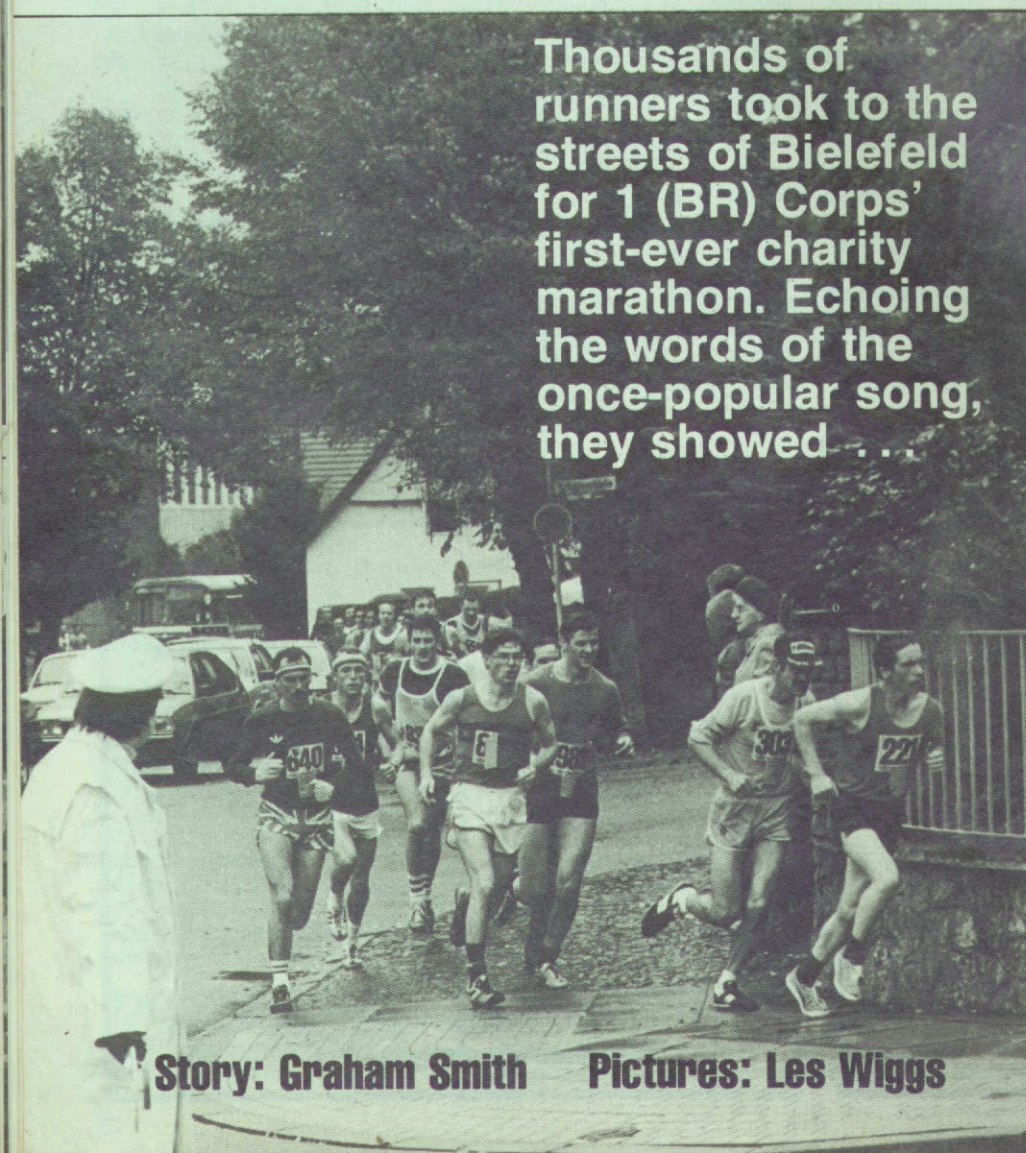
RHINE ARMY was on the run. But there were no Warsaw Pact generals to gloat over the spectacle. Just thousands of cheering spectators and well-wishers lining the streets of Bielefeld. They were celebrating the 1 (BR) Corps Charity Marathon, the first event of its kind ever held in West Germany and being run to raise funds for cancer relief.

Over four thousand runners — and one dog — set off from Bielefeld Town Hall in the 26-mile-385-yard slog, including 2565 BAOR personnel.

Entrants were still paying their ten Deutch marks-a-head (£2.50) entry fees by the hundreds up to half-an-hour of the mass start.

The oldest competitor was 72. He came in last, nearly eight hours later, his shoes discarded within three kilometres of the finish, and his feet bound in bandages.

The youngest entrant was a 13-year-old schoolboy Kai Bublitz who set a world record for schoolchildren aged under 14 by returning an amazing time of just two hours 42 minutes and 39 seconds. Kai, who has



Story: Graham Smith

Pictures: Les Wiggs

run "six or seven" marathons since the age of ten, took 18th place overall.

Altogether more than 3000 finished the gruelling course. Among the pluckiest and most unsung contestants was 57-year-old German Ralf Brokmeier who was operated on for stomach cancer in 1975 and was taking part in his 176th marathon — his 12th this year. He had completed his 175th outing the day before and returned a time of three hours 52 minutes!

Just how much the mass-marathon raised was still being totted up as SOLDIER went to press. The money from the event, which attracted 85 women, will go to the Krebshilfe AV, a German cancer foundation and to the 840-bed Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, which has bought a body scanning machine costing £350,000, is in the process of completing a £170,000 building and will need an estimated £80,000-a-year to meet running costs for the next three years.

At the appointed hour of 10 am the Commander 1 (BR) Corps, General Sir Nigel Bagnall, and Herr Klaus Schwickert, the Oberbürgermeister of Bielefeld, jointly tugged the firing lanyard of a 25-pounder field gun provided by 49 Field Regiment, RA, from Hohne, to signify the start of the race round the city and its suburbs.

Lieutenant-Colonel George Morris, Officer Commanding 50 Missile Regiment, from Menden, the regiment tasked with the organisation of the marathon, joked: "We were not allowed to fire Lance!"

His regiment is the only one in BAOR which is equipped with Lance. Some 500 of his men were involved in the back-up administration and another 120 were actually running and acquitting themselves well in the event which had been split into seven classes of entry, including one for the over-60s.

In fact, nine of the first ten places went to the British forces.

Street entertainment included a couple of pipers and four dancers from the Black Watch stationed at Soest.

Some 35,000 plastic cups were tilted to puckered lips at the seven refreshment posts which also served up lemonade, crackers, glucose, chocolate, fruit and cheese. Clothing had to be safeguarded. A statistics tent



was set up behind the Town Hall. In it, a computer was constantly in use.

Major Peter Davidson, of 50 Missile Regiment, said: "The computer produced two alphabetical lists of British and German competitors in three hours each. It was phenomenal. This way we could tell how an individual runner was progressing from the number on his vest."

Preparation by 50 Missile Regiment had been thorough.

Explained Colonel Morris: "We came off a month-long regimental exercise and started to organise it. We had a CPX and FTX approach at it with 500 men running in the latter stage. We finished sign-posting the route at midnight."

One of the more isolated units to field two representatives was the British Outward Bound Centre (BOBC) in Norway, which recently featured in SOLDIER.

Lance Corporal Neil Abram, RCT, and Sergeant John Self, RAOC, the Centre's Chief Clerk, had been putting in 14-mile daily training runs along the fjord-strewn coastline and finished a 100-mile course up in the hills in the week before their arrival.

Sergeant Self, who returned a time of three hours thirteen minutes in this, his first marathon, said afterwards: "The last four miles was sheer hell. The encouragement you got from the other runners and the spectators was tremendous. I've got blisters but they don't hurt and should not affect my 11-hour car journey back to Kristiansand. Now, I'm going in for the London marathon next year."

Another competitor was Captain Millen Mathew, Adjutant of 10 Corps Transport Regiment, RCT, Bielefeld, who has taken part in an Ulster-Bielefeld marathon (via two ferries) run to raise money for the British Limbless Ex-Servicemens' Association (BLESMA) as part of a 12-man team.

Both 'A' and 'B' Army marathon teams took part, winning the first and second team awards.

Each successful competitor was awarded not only a certificate but a commemorative anorak badge. Prizes were awarded to the first six runners, the first four ladies and the first three teams.

Overall winner was a 31-year old Bundeswehr National Serviceman who completed the course in just two hours 22 minutes and 23 seconds. And he had been running round Bielefeld for half-an-hour just before the start to get warmed up!

"I was surprised that the English soldiers

50 Missile Regiment, RA, had the route well taped.

had set such a fast timing," he said later.

Taking second place was Staff Sergeant John McIlmurray, 32, REME Workshops attached to 50 Missile Regiment, who achieved a time of 2-25.12 seconds.

A veteran of eight other marathons in three-and-a-half years, John told SOLDIER: "It was a very hard course with a lot of side winds and no tail winds."

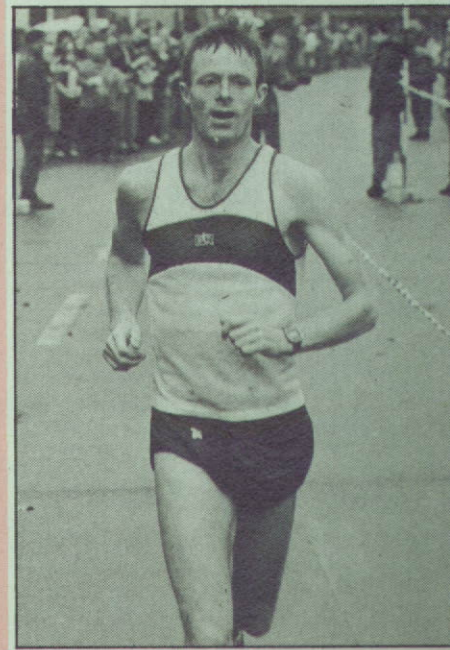
Third place went to Captain Keith Arnold, 34, of the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate. As captain of the UK Marathon 'A' team he was taking part in his fifth marathon this year and was clocked at 2-25.35.

He told SOLDIER: "I was happy with my timing. It was my personal best. I had already run the equivalent of five marathons in one go at Whitsun when I took part in a 125-mile cross country event in the Lake District. I felt fit. I've been running long distance events since the age of nine when I did a 30-miler in nine hours 45 minutes!"

"Today's course was a little bit windy but I don't think that it affected my time too much. I thought there were too many twists and turns and, at times, you were running up the side of your shoes. I'm quite happy with my placing."

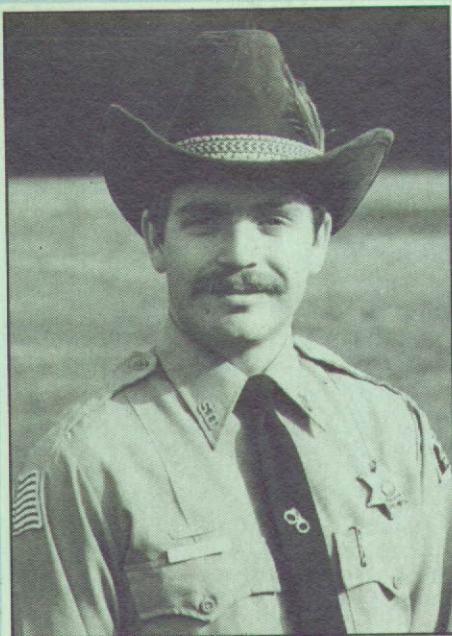


Boy wonder Kai Bublitz, who set a world record.



Staff Sgt John McIlmurray, REME, at the finish.

PAWS FOR APPLAUSE



Deputy Police Sheriff Nope from Louisiana.

THEY came... they saw... and they confidently conquered in the Royal Army Veterinary Corps sponsored, six-nation, military and civilian police dog biathlon. Held over a three-mile, ten-obstacle cross-country circuit through woods and open country at Sennelager in Germany, it attracted 37 entries including an Australian sapper exchange officer who had entered the contest just 15 minutes after joining his unit.

Also competing was the Army's only woman officer vet and sole female entrant partnered by an old lady's "too bouncy" German Shepherd Dog, Laser. And there too was 27-year-old, stetson-toting, Deputy Police Sheriff Wendell Nope from the USA, teamed with his personal dog, six-year-old Uli.

About half of the entries in the six-and-a-half-hour non stop contest were British and not only from the RAVC but from units

such as The Life Guards, HQ British Forces Antwerp, 22 Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery and the Royal Military Police. The oldest contestant was a 43-year-old Belgian; the youngest, a 20-year-old British gunner.

The top dogs went away at the end of their energetic day sporting special collars to be worn on or off duty.

They were competing against men and dogs — German Shepherds, two impressive, black, shaggy-coated Bouviers and a Dobermann — from the German Army, the German police and the Dutch Air Force Police.

The first RAVC Canine Biathlon was held last year at Sennelager for the Corps Commander's Trophy and a similar competition was held in April this year to mark the Corps centenary at which Nato and Allied Forces were invited to compete.

Each of the handlers was armed with a 9mm Sterling sub-machine gun or a machine pistol as they, and their eager, four-footed friends thrashed through water crossings, clambered up steep sand banks and vaulted three-foot-high hunter trial fence obstacles — all against the relentless clock.

They were also advised to take precautions such as completing the course, where possible, with their dogs leashed — Sennelager is a rabies area.

After running 4000 metres of the course and with their barking charges tethered to a stout sapling, contestants from a standing position had to fire ten rounds from their Sterlings or machine pistols from 25 metres at a No 11 target. Their hit or miss rate earned them either a bonus or penalties.

But that was not all. The event finished with an arrest sequence during which the dogs were unleashed to chase lumbering, fleeing 'enemy' figures of 'Michelin Man' proportions. The quarries had been lurking in a bushy hide just 50 yards away in their heavily-padded suits.

Four men from the Mixed Services Organisation, civilians who carry out guard and general duties at Rhine Army bases, had volunteered to lurch from the clump of bushes to be run down and arrested by the bounding dogs. Each would-be escaper was chased and caught eight or nine times.

Three types of Army dog were put through their fleet-pawed paces — search, tracker and security.

The day before the three-mile marathon each animal had tucked into a 28-ounce tin of well-known dog food followed by up to a pound of dog biscuits.

Men from 22 Signals Regiment, Royal Corps of Signals, manned radio check points in Land Rovers and gesticulated to each other with yellow flags as contestants crashed into sight, urging their dogs to even greater effort and total concentration.

At one point, a 'river' crossing — actually a three-foot deep stream running at five knots — Lance Corporal Graham Moore admitted he had been down, at times, to dampen the log straddling the brook.

"Those knots and gnarls on the log are not easy to negotiate, either," he grinned as a Bundeswehr soldier sat astride the tree's limb and edged his way across to the other bank.

Only one man failed to complete the course — a Dutch Air Force police competitor — who sustained a pulled tendon as he made his way across country with the Bouvier. The incident was within sight of the accompanying media, who murmured in total sympathy: "What a damned shame!"

The only female contestant, on a short-service commission, was 26-year-old Captain Julia Kneale of the RAVC stationed at Sennelager who completed the course in 51 minutes 25 seconds with her two-year-old German Shepherd, Laser.

"I volunteered. I forgot the golden rule," she said. "I have been training since early September and tried to put in all the practice I could. The great problem was running in boots."

A graduate from Edinburgh University and a former member of its Officer Training Corps, Julia joined the Army three years ago and was resolute in her bid to enter the biathlon.

She said: "I entered the competition to prove that I am as much a part of the unit as all of the men. My shooting is nothing very special. I am a fair shot and have fired the Sterling before."

Julia, in fact, scored 32 on the range. The maximum mark was 50 and the top score of the day was 40.

◀ The victors: WO2 Alan Bowen and Wayne.



"Laser used to belong to an old lady who gave him to the Army because he got a little too bouncy for her. I have trouble with him at times. His natural exuberance gets a bit much. He enjoys going round the course in training. He loves it. Water, anything, and he's happy," she said.

A pet owner herself — she has a six-year-old former Army dog, a yellow Labrador, Jacob — Julia leaves the Army next August with the hope of going into a private practice.

As she prepared to move off at the starting line, she said: "It's just you and your dog. I hope I get away without falling over my feet."

Later with her time of just over 51 minutes recorded and still unruffled she told SOLDIER: "It was like all these head-banging experiences — it's nice when you stop. It showed what you could do with yourself — a challenge. It was worth doing. I think I could do it again. But today would be too much of a good thing."

Julia beat 11 men in her efforts before slipping off to Spain the next day to "catch a bit of late sun."

Deputy Police Sheriff Wendell Nope from Calvasieu Parish, Lake Charles, Louisiana, who is the first American cop to be on a four-month training detachment with the German police to study "better technology using dogs" turned in a time of 48 minutes 31 seconds.

Calvasieu Parish uses more than 400 dogs in police work, including "cadaver searches" and bronze-starred Deputy Nope is the supervisor for dog work in that area.

He told SOLDIER: "This looks to be a very difficult course even for a fit man. I'm over here for the camaraderie. I'm no Olympic athlete but it's going to be of extreme value to us, the Americans. My Chief is particularly interested in this British Army idea. It's a totally new field for us."

Deputy Nope — he could hardly say "Yep!" — helped off the course by four burly German policemen, was breathless and speechless. His progress over the course had been closely monitored by a coach-load of the German Polizei.

Later, his composure regained, Wendell told SOLDIER: "I have one thing to say after going through the course. I give tribute to the British Army and other armed forces personnel who ran such good times. I cannot believe it. For me, it was very difficult. As for the cheering — it was the only way I made it. The biathlon is a very good British idea. Sure — I would do it again. But not today!"

One of the dogs who willingly carried out his competitive duties on the day was three-and-a-half-year-old Satan, who travelled the course in style with his handler, Corporal Jack Dignam-Thomas, 27, who has been in the Army five years and working with Satan for about 11 months.

Corporal Dignam-Thomas explained: "Satan is a local dog. He's extremely efficient and he loves his work. Today, for instance, he hi-jacked a Land Rover with a checkpoint crew inside it. They just sat there in terror. You can turn him on and off like a light switch. He takes his job seriously but he can also be as soft as a lamb as my three-year-old daughter, Lucy, would tell you."

Another keen player in the pageant of man and dog against the 'enemy' was John



▲ Captain Julia Kneale and Laser wade across river. Trooper Sands, Life Guards, uses the bridge.



Griffiths, 20, of the Mixed Service Organisation, who was 'arrested' nine times.

Struggling out of his padded 'baiting' suit with the help of a colleague, he told SOLDIER: "I've been arrested on at least 17 times previously by Army dogs. The first time you are really sort of scared. You think the dog is going to bite through your suit. Most of the dogs are trained to go for the right arm but you are never too sure. It's all over in about 30 seconds. In fact, you get to enjoy being bitten, almost."

Australian Royal Engineer sapper Captain Keith Christiansen, 26, OC of an Explosives Detection Dog Unit in Sydney, who is on a four-month exchange posting to BAOR, took just 15 minutes to enter the contest on arrival at his host unit.

"I got there at 0830 hours. By 0845 I decided to enter," he said. "It is a very testing course and I hope to take the idea back to Australia with me. I will do my best to organise something like this and convince them it is a good British Army idea."

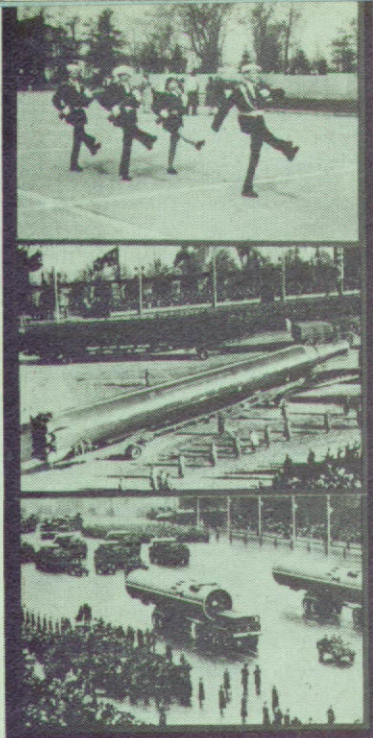
Winner of the Corps Commander Cup

this year with a time of 27 minutes 20 seconds was Warrant Officer 2 Alan Bowen, Company Sergeant Major with 1 ADTU who achieved it with two-year-old, Wayne.

Colonel John Clifford, OC of No 1 Army Dog Training Unit, Sennelager, and Chief of Veterinary Services BAOR, who dreamed up the idea of the biathlon, said: "I am delighted at the very high standard. We have had good liaison between the dog workers of Nato and it augurs well for next year."

Story:
Graham Smith

Pictures:
Les Wiggs



The Armed Forces of the USSR: H F Scott and W F Scott

Russia's military machine has come under the scrutiny of several publishers recently. Jane's *Weapons and Tactics of the Soviet Army* considered Soviet hardware and its application with characteristic thoroughness; this new title in some senses complements the other, in that it studies in great depth the organisation of the Russian army, and its place within Soviet Society.

Using a great many Russian sources, many hitherto unavailable in English translation, the authors chart the development of the USSR's military doctrine from the early days of the Red Army, carefully analysing the practical intent behind the rhetoric and dissecting the complicated organisational structure. They cover fully the postwar development of the Soviet military. Whenever possible, names are named, and the careers of several influential members of the High Command are given in full.

The authors have compiled this account with the avowed intention of educating the West as to the nature of their potential enemy. For anyone seriously interested in the East/West power balance, it is a must — but not ideal bedtime reading for the casual student.

Arms and Armour Press, Lionel Leventhal Ltd, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London NW3 1QQ — £12.95.

IJK

Eisenhower's Lieutenants: Russell F Weigley

In the campaigns in France and Germany between June 1944 and May 1945, which finally broke the backbone of Hitler's Third Reich, the Americans were undoubtedly the most powerful single component of the Alliance. Of the ninety-one combat divisions employed, sixty-one were American. The Americans suffered 586,628 casualties, including 135,576 dead; the remaining Allies a total of 179,666 with 60,000 of those dead. The American contribution was of the greatest importance, not only in

bringing the war to a close, but in shaping the subsequent reorganisation and history of Europe.

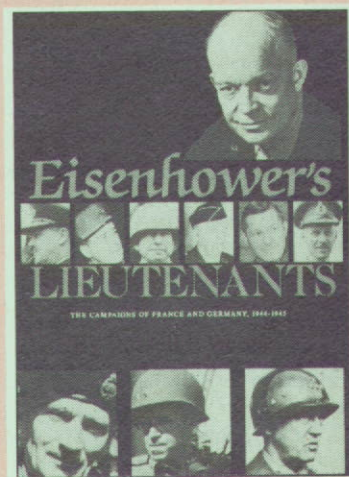
Yet, at the time of entering this great conflict, America was singularly unprepared, both physically and psychologically. It lacked the heritage of mass conflict and professionalism which characterised its European counterparts. Having joined the nineteenth century scramble for empire late in the day, the American army had little experience of fighting overseas, and drew conflicting lessons from the past. Successful policing operations against the Indians on the Western frontiers had led to a respect for mobility, while the lessons of the Civil War encouraged a reliance on sheer power.

How these internal differing ideologies were resolved, and how the mighty American war machine was mobilised and put into use in World War Two is the subject of this important new study. *Eisenhower's Lieutenants* analyses the performance of the American Army at the time of its greatest trial. It assesses the merits of its commanders from a military, rather than personality, point of view, considers their successes and failures, and comments on their contribution to the formation of a unified American military doctrine. Mostly, however, it provides an extremely meticulous and thorough — the book is over 700 pages long — account of the fighting in Europe itself.

New books on World War Two continue to appear at a phenomenal rate. That this one stands out so much from the crowd is a tribute to its scholarship and sheer readability. Thoroughly recommended.

Sidgwick and Jackson Ltd, 1 Tavistock Chambers, Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2SG — £12.50.

IJK



A Source Book of Small Arms: Frederick Wilkinson

This is another contribution to a likeable series of pocket-size volumes which deals with subjects as disparate as dinghies and the industrial past, as well as military matters.

Mr Wilkinson opens with as clear a layman's description of the development of firing systems as you will find anywhere. The black-and-white illustrations, well-captioned, expand

the theme, but the author takes time out for a few novelties. One is a fork (eating, not gardening) with a tiny flintlock pistol in the handle. Handy, no doubt, for dealing with the cook after an unsatisfactory dinner — if you had not shot yourself first while trying to pierce some tough meat.

Other rarities include a 'duck's foot' pistol with four splayed barrels, intended to be fired at once against a crowd; a revolver with two triggers, one for firing and the other for turning the barrel; and a ten-shot revolver with five chambers, each of which takes two loads, and two hammers, one for the front loads and one for the rear loads.

Ward Lock, PO Box 111, Great Ducie St, Manchester M60 3BL — £2.95.

RLE

Medical Stores: Rob Nash

"What! A history of those old crocks in the Medical and Veterinary Stores, with their motley junk! You must be out of your mind." Thus scoffed his friends, when Rob Nash, a pharmaceutical lieutenant-colonel in the Australian Army, proposed this book. He persisted, and not only wrote but published it as well. And a bonzer job he made of it.

Inevitably, a good deal of interest only to students of medical logistics or to those concerned with this branch of the Australian Army, but there are lots of enlivening passages.

Of course, it all originated back in colonial days. At that time, a requisition from New South Wales for six vials of something was considered excessive, and the requisition was sent back for reconsideration from Whitehall — by sailing ship. (There was, after all, no faster means.)

Difficulty of another sort in getting supplies occurred when the Japanese struck and took over sources of quinine supply in World War Two. A commando unit which raided quinine factories in occupied Sumatra kept the Australian Army in the drug for the rest of the war.

The Japanese had their own problems. Their medical officers did not treat venereal disease and Japanese soldiers were willing to pay high prices for a sulfa drug, of which the Australian prisoners in Singapore had a small stock (used for dysentery until supplies ran out). The Australians obligingly traded — with substitute pills made of kaolin and rice starch. Lt-Col R W Nash, Logistic Branch, Russell Offices, Canberra — \$(Australian) 15.50, \$2.50 postage.

RLE

Conquest and Overlord: Brian Jewell

This is the story told, or rather woven, against the background of two great invasions across the English Channel — the Norman Conquest of 1066 and the 1944 Allied invasion of Nazi-occupied Europe code-named Operation Overlord. Each was the subject of two masterpieces of needlework, the Bayeux Tapestry and the Overlord Embroidery.

Richly illustrated, the stories of

both Tapestry and Embroidery are supported by detailed historical notes and there is plenty of information on a variety of subjects such as weaponry, transport and command structures, all of which contribute to a most interesting and instructive work with a wide appeal.

The Tapestry is on permanent exhibition in Bayeux while the Embroidery can be seen at the headquarters of Whitbread and Co in Chiswell Street, London EC1.

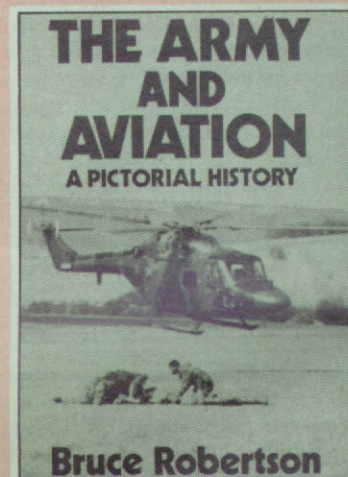
East-West Publications (UK) Ltd, 120 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0JR, Cloth £7.50, Paper £5.95

JFPJ

The Army and Aviation: Bruce Robertson

Copiously illustrated, this book is first and foremost a pictorial survey of the impact of warfare in the air on every aspect of Army operations. From the balloons and airships at the beginning of the century to today's troop-carrying twin-rotored helicopters, every type of aircraft used by the Army's aerial arm is economically and clearly described.

During World War One many of the pilots of those early flying machines were seconded regimental officers. Between the wars the Royal Air Force took over control of all ser-



vice aviation but when an Expeditionary Force crossed the Channel in 1939 the RAF, although a separate Service, was still dependent on the Army for bases, signals and other essential facilities.

In World War Two there were many examples of the two Services becoming interwoven in aviation with the RAF taking, for instance, the cream of Army volunteers for aircrews until the Army required personnel for its own Glider Pilot Regiment. Since then integration has become more marked and it would be difficult to find a British Army unit over the past 60 years that has not been affected by aviation.

Despite the petty annoyance of unnumbered pages this book is a worthy tribute to the Army's aerial role.

Robert Hale Ltd, Clerkenwell House, Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0HT — £9.95.

JFPJ

Regiment with a (rum) punch

"AMERICANS ON THEIR WAY to heaven call at Bermuda and think they've arrived", Mark Twain once wrote. And the thousands of holidaymakers who flock to Britain's tiny West Atlantic colony every year to sip rum-punches by its sun-kissed beaches would probably agree with him.

Four years ago though the island showed a more sinister face, with Black Power rioters threatening civil insurrection and British soldiers being sent in to lend support to the island's hard-pressed security forces.

The cauldron of discontent that threatened to bubble over then soon simmered down leaving British troops free to join the sun-bathers on the sands. But the events of 1977 were a sharp reminder of Britain's strong military links with Bermuda. For nearly a century, officers from the UK have trained the island's part-time soldiers into what is now the Bermuda Regiment. And the ties still bind today with five members of the Royal Anglian Regiment currently putting their professional soldiering skills at the island's disposal.

The 'Brits' work in tandem with Bermudian officers in training 630 men and women who make up four companies: rifle, training, support, and headquarters, the latter including an outstanding 55-piece band.

Major John Drinkwater, who is in charge of training, explains: "Army staff on two year tours are here to supply professional input to aid Bermudian officers, update

army information and train local men and women."

Responsible to the Bermudian commanding officer, Major Drinkwater co-ordinates all training, prepares and directs all operational plans, and takes charge of operations when the regiment forms up. He first came to the island for three years in 1971, and returned as training major in 1980. He has seen the force expand from 450 to its present strength and says: "The regiment is far more professional in outlook; Bermuda's military can take care of the island's security."

Administering the \$3 million annual government grant in his role as paymaster is Captain Dick Gould, adjutant of the regiment. He is also personal staff officer to the Bermudian commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Eugene Raynor.

Captain Gould manages disciplinary

Britain's military links with Bermuda
are still being forged
today



The Regiment's 55-piece band marches through Hamilton on the Queen's Birthday Parade. ▲

measures, security, and organises all ceremonies, including military funerals. Remembrance Day, the Queen's Birthday, the opening of parliament, and at least a dozen beating retreats fill the calendar of parades.

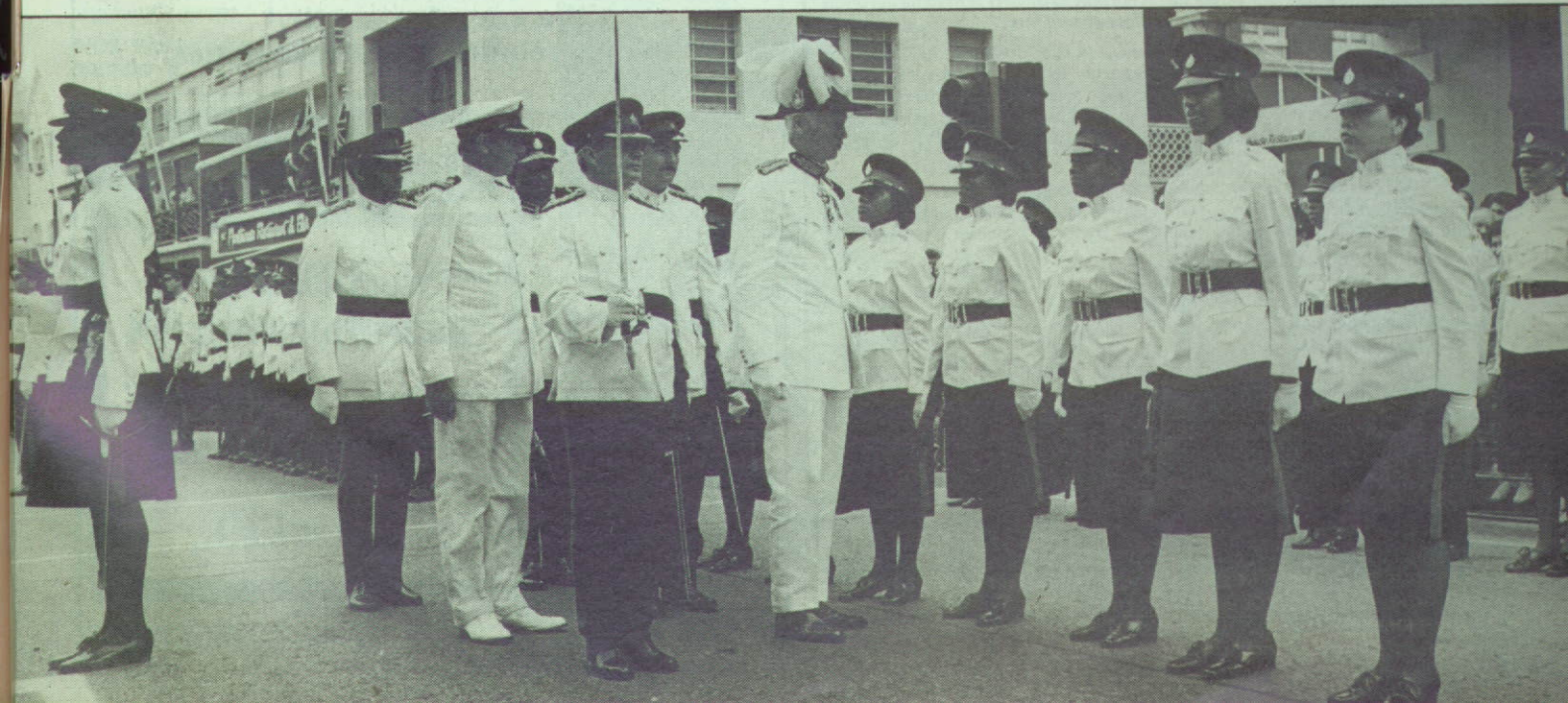
"The Bermuda public and our several thousand, mostly-American, visitors enjoy these colourful events," he says.

"The band in scarlet jackets and spiked pith helmets is extremely popular, and the standard of drill very high."

Top-notch drill precision has been brought about by the three Royal Anglian

continued on page 31

Governor Sir Richard Posnett reviews female contingent. Lt-Col Raynor, the CO, is on extreme left of reviewing party. ▼





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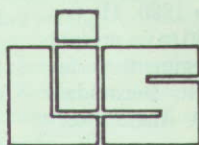
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Maj Drinkwater co-ordinates training. ▲

warrant officers who share the training responsibilities with local officers, pacing the troops through 80 sessions a year. Warrant Officer 2 Roy Smith feels that the soldiers do well with the time and facilities they have.

"The Bermuda Regiment is unique. It's a part-time, mostly conscripted Army, like the Territorial Army in the UK, with training one night a week, the odd weekend, and a two-week annual camp. Under these circumstances, the men and women do an excellent job."

Warrant Officer 2 Tom Norton agrees. "The quality of private soldier is generally good, and we try to encourage a number of them to take the NCO course."

Additional guidance for local officers is offered in courses at Sandhurst and other British Army establishments. Assistant Training Officer, Captain Larry Burchall, a Bermudian, feels very strongly about overseas courses for local soldiers, having himself just returned from two months with the Queen's Division at Basingbourn.

It is important, he believes, for men and women training to have a fresh approach, and absorption of outside army information and techniques is needed to broaden the regiment's scope.

WO2 Norton and Capt Gould examine 25-pounder. ▶



Bermudian Sgt Benjamin at rifle practice. ▲

Two-week camps are also counted among overseas attractions. In Jamaica and the United States, wider spaces than the island's 21 square miles give depth to map-reading and a greater challenge for weapon practice than the home range.

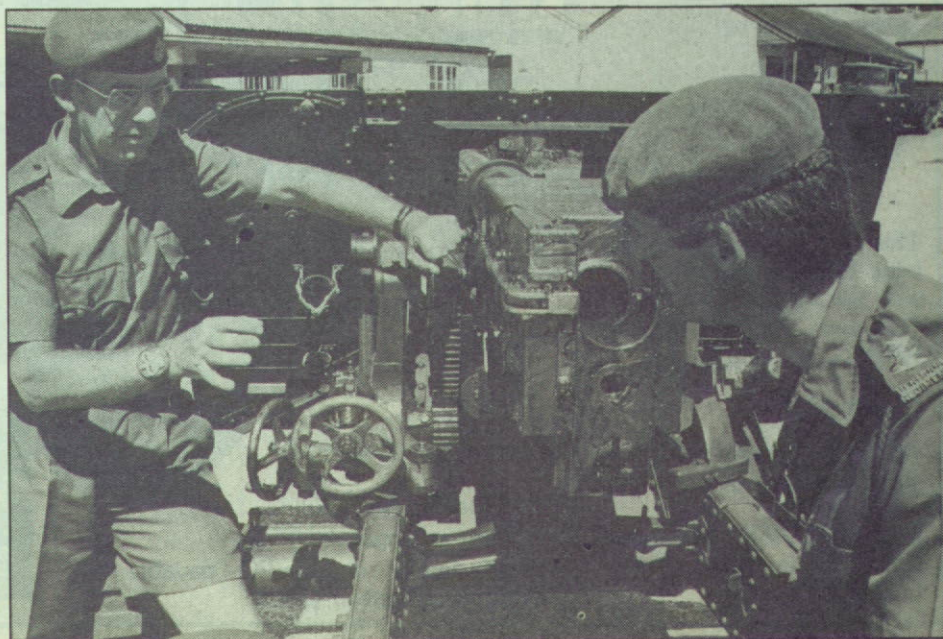
Bermuda also now has a smart platoon of women volunteers. They came together for a first camp in January 1979 and have since grown from the original 12 to 30, with four members now in charge of their ranks.

The Bermuda Regiment's roots stretch back to 1882, when the Bermuda Militia Artillery and the Bermuda Volunteer Rifle Corps were established by an act of the island's parliament. Both volunteer units

served during the two world wars with the Lincolnshire Regiment, now a part of the Royal Anglians — hence the link today. The BVRC became the Bermuda Rifles in 1951, and in 1965 combined with the BMA to form the Bermuda Regiment.

What of future assistance from the British Army? According to Lieutenant-Colonel Raynor, it will continue until there are a greater number of experienced local persons to hold permanent staff positions.

"We have developed our training systems to require a greater input of professionalism. Until we have more local professionals, we shall continue our relationship with the Royal Anglian Regiment," he said. ■



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COMPETITION 280



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THIS COMPETITION sounds more complicated than it really is. Persevere and you'll crack it — honestly!

The answers to the clues are all six-letter words which must be transferred to the hexagons above.

Now for the hard part — you have to decide how to write the answers in, and in which hexagon each belongs.

To help you: The words are written in the same direction around all the hexagons, and the same letter of each word (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.) is in the triangle adjoining the spoke. It does not matter which hexagon you use for the answer to Clue 1, but the remainder, though not consecutive, are equally spaced from the numerically previous clue.

You will know when you have hit on the right combination as you will be able to read off the names of two Army corps around the inner and outer rings (shaded triangles). What are they?

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Thursday 31 December 1981. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 25 January. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 280' 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 280' label from this page and your name and address to: Prize competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

CLUES

1. Let's liquid through.
2. Hey! The conjuror does it quickly.
3. A summary readers know.
4. He moves with rhythmic steps, but not on the square.
5. Foregone conclusion. Beheaded and de-tailed — what a state!
6. Heads or tails?
7. Index or ring?
8. Plan it. Make it flexible.
9. Forsyth's file can be found on the Black Sea.

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CHEQUE/PO No

Army Apprentices from Chepstow are helping to preserve a piece of our industrial past.

THE RIDDLE OF BIG PIT

ONE OF THE great milestones of Welsh history has been restored by a group of lads from the Army Apprentices College, Chepstow. And it proved valuable training for them as well.

The Gwent Joint Land Reclamation Committee is renovating The Big Pit coal mine at Blaenavon, near Pontypool, and eventually it will become an industrial museum.

The engineer apprentices from C Company at the College have taken on the rare opportunity to work on this unfamiliar heavy machinery, and at the same time do something positive for their local community.

Their two projects are to renovate and reassemble a pit prop testing machine and to renovate two early 20th Century steam-driven winding machines.

The pit prop machine was used for several years by Chesterfield College of Technology, then dismantled and shipped to Blaenavon. It took seven apprentices just nine days to sort out the massive jigsaw, put it together and make it work again.

The winding engines are a much longer-term project and have been shipped back to the College to be worked on.

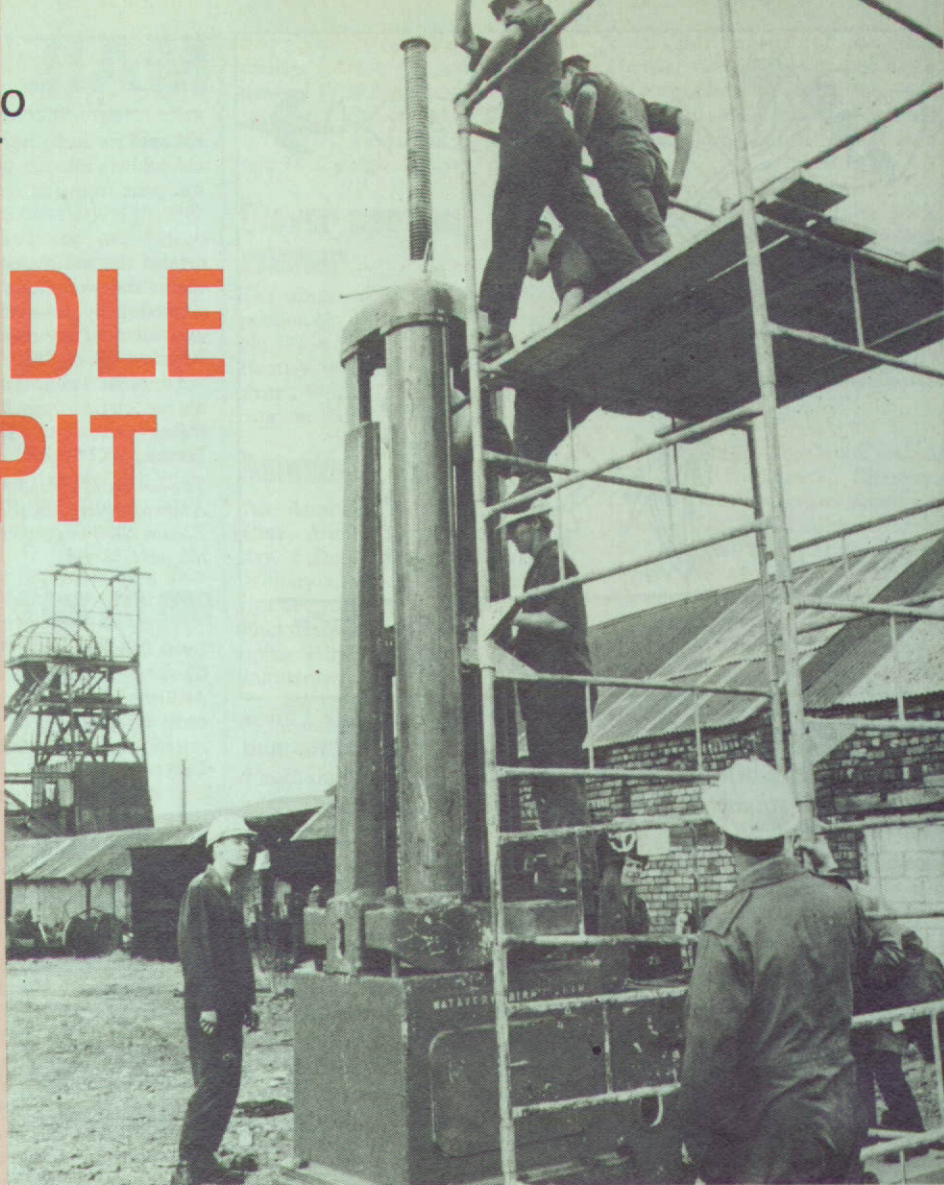
"It was a bit like working on a Rubik cube," said Staff Sergeant David Allen, who supervised the job. "With the help of some drawings we figured out how it was supposed to go together, but the difficult thing was to work out the correct gearing. It was quite a task for the lads."

Mr Gerry Rogers, a fitter instructor at the College added: "They may never see another machine like this again, but they will have to work with heavy plant and equipment probably at some stage in their Army careers."

The project came about through Mr Sam North, head of the College's Engineering and Mechanical Department who had heard of the problem the Reclamation Committee was having in getting the heavy work done.

"When it was all lying there in bits on the ground, I never thought we would do it," said Apprentice Dale Munn, in his first term at Chepstow. "And then when we did get it all together, they threw in some nasties with a box of bits that had absolutely no relevance at all. But we managed. I think the interesting thing was to apply our teaching and move these heavy and awkward weights just using our own resources."

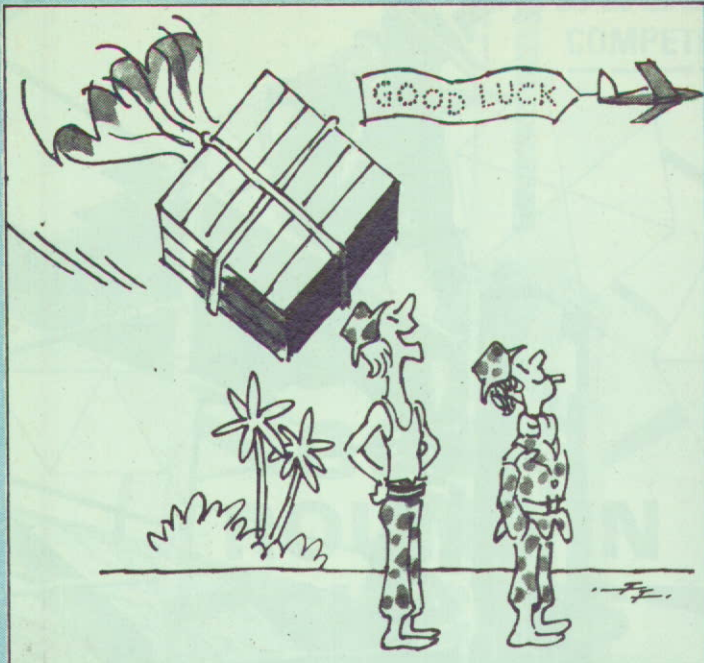
Big Pit is one of the oldest shaft mines in Wales, sunk in 1860, but incorporating earlier ironstone workings which go back to the early 19th century when this mineral was used in the blast furnaces just across the valley. The colliery ceased producing coal in 1980 and is now being developed as a museum and interpretive centre for the South Wales Coal industry. ■



Busy at work on pit prop testing machine. ▲

Puzzling over bits watched by Mr Gerry Rogers. ▼





Got something to say, a point to make or a story to tell? This is your page to exchange your news, views, comments and opinions. We're offering £5 for the best letter we publish every fortnight. All we ask is that you keep it brief and include your full name and address. Write to: Mail Drop, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

BFT TOO EASY

I would like to comment on your article in the 5 October issue 'Too Fat to Fight'.

Well if anything is nearer the truth it is the newspaper article you refer to.

I think it is about time that the British Army, especially the Infantry, woke up to the fact that they are not as fit as they think. Let me say we are not going into any combat situation in red vests, denims and shiny boots and soldiers who reckon they're fit because they passed the BFT are in cloud nine, and out of touch: even our civilian counterparts could pass such an easy test!

Now to make things a little harder, how about trying a two mile run uphill, downhill and on the flat, with the kit that you're going to fight in on your back, ie webbing (35lbs), helmet and carrying your personal weapon. Then ask yourself, if you're an NCO (Jnr or Snr), could I command my section or platoon now?

Even this run done in 18 minutes is basic but a lot more realistic. So come on, how about some honest answers when questioned about fitness. Get your kit on and start tabbing you fatties! — C/Sgt S A McIntyre (DERR), NCOs Tactical Wing, Dering Lines, Brecon, Powys, S Wales.

This letter wins our £5 prize!

AUK DEFENDED

In your write-up on the late Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck in SOLDIER (May 1981) your description "He is best remembered for his sacking by Churchill etc" is a most uncharitable attribute to a fine soldier. You have used too strong a word and highlighted a small incident. At that period of the war, many other Generals like Wavell and Cunningham were also 'replaced'. Such replacements do and did take place in other Armies too. No ignominy should be attached to such charges, as he (Auchinleck) was not removed from service. It was all right for Churchill, sitting far away from the theatre of war, to press for an attack. But generals have to weigh their actions in all respects with the means available for an attack to be successful, and had he acted then on Churchill's prodding, worst disaster may have followed.

It must not be forgotten, as you have rightly mentioned, that Auchinleck had laid the foundation for Montgomery. Credit should be given to him for selecting and holding the line of defence at El Alamein, which brought to a halt the advance of the Afrika Corps.

After Montgomery had taken over, he was apparently "not urged into immediate action" by Churchill. He was given equipment, reinforcements, air support and ample time to build up, before he could start the battle of El Alamein. If the same support had been given to Auchinleck, I feel he would have been equally successful, as at the time, he was, unlike Montgomery, well versed with the terrain and the tactics of the Afrika Corps. He had already evicted Rommel from Cyrenaica and was quite capable of doing it again.

We hope military historians will, in fairness, give due credit to Auchinleck (one of the most brilliant generals that the Indian Army produced) for his vision in selecting and laying the foundation of the battle of El Alamein, which helped Montgomery to launch his victorious campaign. — Major Gian Singh (Retd), Block 6-36, Jangpura-B, Mathura Road, New Delhi 110 014.

OLD BOYS

Why not start a General Army Association, like the Royal Navy and RAF has? They too have unit associations like our regimental ones. There

is a need for such, especially for those old soldiers like me whose regiment has gone from the Army List since 1958.

One can get a General Army crested tie, and blazer badge. I have them, and wear mine with pride. A general Army Association would take ex-soldiers of any regiment or corps, Regular, TA or SR.

I am disabled or else I would start an association myself. — M G E Osborn, 10 Oak Hill, Dawlish, Devon, EX7 9QZ.

The Society of Friends of the National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 might go some way to fill this need. — Ed.

MR OR NO?

I was delighted as a Warrant Officer Class 2 (Quartermaster Sergeant, Artillery Clerk) in the Royal Regiment of Artillery, to read the very interesting letter by Major Barrow (5 Oct) on the subject of Warrant Officers, their related terminology and badges of rank.

Myself, I am either known as 'Mr' or 'Q' — the former in preference to the latter, as a Staff Sergeant (Battery Quartermaster Sergeant) is commonly known as a 'Q'. To the less knowledgeable officers I am incorrectly known as Sergeant Major. I answer the telephone as WO2 and refer to myself as 'Mr' to civilians. I consider the wearing of laurel leaves below my crown as a higher grade of Warrant Officer. However, I also look upon it as a form of administrative badge of rank rather than a Warrant Officer employed in such a troop directing capacity as Battery Sergeant Major or Company Sergeant Major, who does not wear adorning laurel leaves.

I believe that Warrant Officers Class 2 actually carrying out the duties of Battery Sergeant Major/Company Sergeant Major, etc should retain their present badge of rank. All Warrant Officers Class 2 in administrative capacities should wear a crown within a wreath of laurels.

And what of the Warrant Officers performing the duties of Troop Sergeant Major, Platoon Commanders etc? Perhaps this could be solved by the introduction of a Warrant Officer Class 3 in the army. The design of the necessary badge of rank, which obviously must include a crown, may be taken up by avid readers. — WO2 (QMS/AC) Charlton J M, HQ Artillery, 4th Armd Div, BFPO 15.

TA NONSENSE

As you expected, Mr Stevenson's letter (19 Oct) cannot go unchallenged, though I doubt if the author of it is open to persuasion, judging by his tone.

Mr Stevenson contradicted himself in his opening paragraph, by stating that a two-tier TA is "the only answer" and then going on to state that the Home Guard should have replaced the TA in 1947. But assuming that the latter is his argument, then he is sadly awry, for the TA, or the Territorial Force as it was, was

formed as the defence element for the UK as far back as 1908 — even earlier if you take into account the Militia and Volunteer units of the 19th century. Despite being formed for that purpose, TA formations have fought abroad in both wars, and you have only to think of such formations as the 51st Highland or 56th London divisions to appreciate that describing the TA as a "miserable effort" is arrant nonsense.

The TA now finds itself back with its original task of Home Defence, in conjunction with Regular units, and at the same time providing the reserve for BAOR. Whatever its task, each and every TA unit puts great effort into its training for that task, and if the members like a drink, good luck to them. It does not mean that they are going to lurch into battle reeking of alcohol and singing bawdy songs! — Paul Granger, c/o Naafi, R/No 52005, BFPO 33.

NEPAL MARCH

I read with interest the article in SOLDIER News No 59 concerning the proposed mountain march in Nepal by members of the Junior Leaders Infantry Battalion at Shorncliffe.

In wishing the party every success in their venture, may I put the record straight by pointing out that this will not be the first time an ambitious mountaineering expedition has been undertaken by Junior Leaders?

In May 1980 a party of nine from the Junior Leaders' Regiment, RAC, Bovington, climbed the 13,500ft Kinabalu massif in North Borneo. This involved spending ten successive nights at a height of 12,500ft and climbing a total of thirteen peaks, eight of them by rock climbing routes. — R T Backwell, OIC Regimental Mountaineering Club, Junior Leaders Regiment RAC, Bovington Camp, Wareham, Dorset.

HEARTWARMING

Being a Lowland Scot with a great pride in my National Military heritage, it was sad news to learn that rather than amalgamate, the 26th Foot, The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) chose to stand down, after 279 years of service (see SOLDIER, July 1968).

Recently when travelling north on holiday I stayed overnight in Lock-erbie, a lovely little town in the Border country, and highly recommended as an oasis of peace after 300 miles on the motorway. Where also, in the King's Arms, Bonnie Prince Charlie and Sir Walter Scott have also stayed in their time.

There, on the Saturday morning, on every street corner stood a diminutive khaki-clad cadet, collecting on behalf of the Scottish War Blinded, and proudly wearing the dark Glengarry, tartan shoulder flash and cap badge of the Cameronians!

It did my old heart good to see that this famous regiment had not vanished into the pages of the history books, but was being kept alive by these enthusiastic youngsters.

CAN YOU HELP?

I am trying to discover the whereabouts of Colin Grindy, 35 Engr Regt whom I last saw at BMH Rinteln, BFPO 29. If anyone can help please phone Pat on 01-855 9375.

As a Gun Expert for the French Law Court, I have come across a commercial M.1911 colt .45 automatic pistol (C nr prefix); it was manufactured in 1914. I wonder if anyone can explain the particular marking: B H Tayler, 49th GEF? — **M H Josseland, 'Roland', 89130 Toucy, France.**

I am seeking ex-members of The Worcestershire Regiment to join the service activities in London and other OCA functions. — **Maurice Clements, C150 Hayward Gardens, London, SW15 3BX.**

I have lost touch with the following after many years friendship and would very much like to hear from them or from anyone who knows their whereabouts. I have indicated where and when we first met and their home towns. Pre-war Brighton and Malta: Tom Hughes (Leeds), Frank Burke (Stockton), Frank White (Cheltenham), Paddy Dillon (Crook, Co Durham), Andy Handford (Bath). War: Ron Hargrave (St Clears), Dick Keating (Birmingham), Claude Oman (Rochester), Sam Walden (Newport Pagnell), Jimmy Biggs (Seaham), Len Bennett (Farncombe). Post-war AA Command and Todendorf: Jim Murphy (Ashton-under-Lyne), Tony Bottomley (Morecambe), Tom Haywood (Parkstone), John (Jeff) Fletcher (Swaffham-Bulbeck), Albert Sturdy (Stockton), Roy Ogilvy (Alton), Bob Warren (Walsall), John Prendergast (North Shields), George (Larry)

Also made me wonder if any of the other famous old names are still in existence, DCLI, KRRC, Connaught Rangers, to name but a few. — **Harry B Brand, 30 Salmons Road, Edmonton, London, N9 7JT.**

Pen Pals

Is there a guy in the Army willing to be a penpal and friend to a 19-year-old lass with long brown hair and brown eyes? I am single and stand 5' tall. My hobbies are just having a good time. *Miss Karen Eller, 4 Dunkerley Road, Loxley, Nr Sheffield, S6 6RB.*

I am 26 and as I have some spare time in the evenings I would like a penpal in the Forces, male or female. I am 5'3" with ginger hair and a fair complexion. *Miss S M Felix, 3 Longley Court, Lansdowne Green Estate, London SW8.*

We two are seventeen and would like a penfriend each. We think writing to a soldier would be great fun. *Miss Tina Ayres, 70 Manor Road, Dagenham, Essex and Miss Jane Giltuley, 2 Cadiz Road, Dagenham, Essex.*

I am 26 and would like a penpal. My interests are reading, writing, meeting people, socialising and going to pubs. I would like a penpal between the ages of 25 and 35. *Miss Carol Smith, 194 High Street, Rochester, Kent.*

My name is Susan aged 20 and Jewish. I work as a Clerical Assistant for British Telecom at their London

Parkes (Stone, Staffs), John Hatton (Stourbridge), Bill Pettigrew (Bishopston), Jim Girdwood (Calder). — **Martin Burnett, 46 Gordon Place, London, W8 4JF.**

The thirtieth anniversary of the call-up of the members of 84 Squad, Potential Leader Platoon, Home Counties Brigade Depot, Canterbury fell on 15 November 1981. I should be grateful if you would find space to print this in the hope that former members will communicate with me to discuss a reunion.

The Squad was briefly in Wemyss Barracks, but for most of its existence it was housed in the New Infantry (now Howe) Barracks. Approximately two-thirds of the Squad were RAEC recruits, badged to the Queen's Royal Regiment from Tangier Platoon, Stoughton Barracks, Guildford. After passing out, most of these went to G Company, the Army School of Education, Beaconsfield. The remainder of the Squad were from the Buffs Depot. Most of these went on to Officer Cadet School. — **P H Buss MA, 46 Tile Kiln Hill, Blean, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 9EE.**

Bridge offices. I would like to write to soldiers preferably stationed in England. My interests are going to the theatre and cinema, cars, needlework, crosswords, writing, competitions, cards and driving; also television and playing badminton. I am single and wonder if there are any hunky soldiers somewhere out there that would like a penpal. *Miss Susan Davis, 3 Naseby Road, Clayhall, Ilford, Essex, IG5 0NW*

Competition

Competition No 278, 'General Knowledge', produced a fair number of entries although some of the 'generals' suggested were obscure to the point of being non-existent! However, most of you managed to make famous generals out of the cryptic clues and if you had the names in the right positions the correct 'vertical' generals fell into place as follows:—

KESSELRING, BULLER, WOLFE. The other eleven were:—Hackett, Ironside, Lee, Horrocks, Eisenhower, Roberts, Gamelin, French, Howe, Templer and Wavell. Prizewinners were:—1st R E Carpenter, 'Polpero', Bentswood Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 3PW. 2nd J E Marsh, 50 Hatherley Road, Winchester, SO22 6RR. 3rd Lt Col W N Dormer (Retd), 14 Glynde Road, Bexleyheath, Kent. 4th Major A J Greenfield, 2 Int Coy, Int & Sy GP (G), BFPO 40. 5th G Dennis Pilling, 'Ringlinglow', Harvest Hill Road, Maidenhead, Berks. 6th Lt Col W R H Charley, R Irish. 7th R H Garner, 3 Marne Road, Whitteley, Peterborough, PE7 1UQ. 8th R H G Travers-Bogusz, 77 St Thomas's Road, Hardway, Gosport, Hants PO12 4JU.

How observant are you?

(See page 23)

1 Left arm of left seated cowboy on stable 8; 2 Position of bird below right

tree; 3 Studs on left leg-chap of thrown cowboy; 4 Top of flag pole; 5 Shape of numeral 9; 6 Harness above bronco's shoulder; 7 Bronco's teeth; 8 Bronco's left rear leg; 9 Lower curves of bronco's tail; 10 Top right branch of tree.

Clever caption winner

The winner of Clever Caption Competition No 38 (incorrectly printed as No 37) in *Soldier News* was Mr R D Heatley, 9 Dial Close, Seend, Melksham, Wilts., for his apt and crisp caption: "Sit!". Congratulations!

Reunions

7th Armoured Division Officers' Club. Annual Dinner on Wednesday, 2 December in the Naval and Military Club, Piccadilly. Prospective new members should contact the Hon Secretary at once: Maj Christopher Milner, Mill Lane, Radford, Inkberrow, Worcester, WR7 4LP. Telephone: (0386) 792262.

Battersea Army Cadets. Annual reunion of all former members at the Drill Hall, 27 St John's Hill, Clapham Junction on Saturday 21 November at 7.30 pm. Details from Captain J D McNeil at the Drill Hall.

Collectors' corner

Items for this column will continue to be accepted free of charge but must, in future, be accompanied by a Collectors' Corner heading from this page. Entries should be as brief as possible — maximum 40 words.

P E A Hall, Kohima, 1030 Harrow Road, Wembley, Middx, HA0 2QT. 01 908 0202. Wants old technical manuals prior and to WWII on Arms, Vehicles, Communications, Tanks. Anything. Will pay your asking price.

J Thomson, 52 Grove St, Edinburgh, EH3 8AT. Wants buttonhole lapel badges of the Royal Signals and Scots Guards from a series which were made of bright chrome metal and blue enamel and were available in regimental tie and tailors shop not so long ago.

Pte M Graham, Int Cell, HQ Coy, 1 Glosters, Tidworth, Hants. Wants any American, French, Belgian and Dutch Army Divisional patches. Can exchange for British Army badges, equipment or can purchase. Also requires any Warsaw Pact insignia.

M Harvey, Higher Sutton, South Milton, Kingsbridge, Devon, TQ7 3JG. Wants Para Wings of any country (including GB). Will trade or buy.

Bill Duggan, 21 Essex Walk, Walcot, Swindon, Wilts, SN3 3EY. Wishes to purchase or swap brass LF s/tile (without grenade), pair if possible.

Lt Col M H G Young, APO Köln, BFPO 19. Wants 'The History of the 51st (Highland) Division 1914-18' by Major Bewsher. Will pay £15.

SFC Mike Johnson, 554th Military Police Company, HQ USEUCOM, APO New York 09131, US Forces. Wants NATO Command badges: Allied Land Forces Zealand Mediterranean East, Mediterranean Northwest, United Kingdom Air Forces. Also

wants club insignia of the Royal Marines; Colour Sergeant arm badge, metal shoulder titles: RMB, RMFVR, RME and RMR. Also collects US Marine, Canadian and Scottish insignia.

Lindsay Fraser, 37 Barclay Park, Aboyne, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, AB3 5JF. Wants cap badges of Lovat Scouts, Royal Marine Light Infantry, LRDG, V Force, RSR, RNZAF, RCAF, RAAF and Pretoria Highlanders. Also wants RAAF and RAF full dress pilot's wings and British formation signs.

J Reeney, 87 Shipbrook Road, Rudheath, Northwich, Cheshire, CW9 7HG. Offers various numbers of copies of *SOLDIER Magazine* from 1945-1980, £10 complete collection and postage. No seps. Also 31 copies of *Pegasus 1971-80* available. £6 + postage. Books for sale: 'The Essex Regiment 1929-50' by Col T A Martin, £4 + postage; 'Soldiers in the Air' (The Development of Army Flying AAC) by Peter Mead, £3 + postage. Wants 'History of the Cheshire Regiment in the Great War'.

AW3 Dale E Johnson, VS 24 Air Crew, USS Nimitz CVN 68, FPO New York 09501, USA. Wants Anti Submarine and Patrol squadron badges for HS, VS, VP and VQ Squadrons.

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This kind of property is especially in demand in and around commuting London. Some former local authority flats can be found for as little as £21,000 in Hertford, which is only an hour's commuting from central London. It seems that if an area has a good "reputation" there is no dividing line between Council built and privately developed estates. And Hertford is one such town. Properties are not cheap there. A modest three bedroomed semi will cost around £31,000. And there are few detached properties under £48,000. But when measured against similar properties in Surrey and Bucks. the asking prices do look attractive.

When purchasing a Council built property make sure your solicitor has checked out the planning laws thoroughly. Most councils will let you renovate and upgrade your newly acquired properties. Others most certainly will not — preferring the monotony of every door and window conforming to the same colour and design.

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STICKING WITH IT

ONE OF THE STALWARTS of Army hockey for the last 20 years has been Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Stott, who has appeared regularly on the field playing for the Royal Engineers, the Army and Combined Services teams and is still a key figure in the Army defence.

It was an ill wind that first blew Mike into hockey when he was still at school. "My back was damaged in a rugby game when I was 18 and I was advised not to play rugby for a few years," he explained. "The alternative was hockey and now I very much regret that I didn't start playing hockey earlier."

"I eventually went back to rugby as a second sport but by that stage I knew hockey was more important."

He made the 1st XI at Sandhurst after only a year of playing and captained the team the following year. A blue for hockey testified to his skill during his time at Jesus College, Cambridge and his future in the Army side was assured by the time he joined his first unit, 9 Independent Parachute Squadron RE.

Since then he has played hockey for the Army and Combined Services teams every year he has been available. He recalls one occasion when he found that the Inter-Services Championships clashed with his honeymoon — and the Army hockey team were the losers. Availability

is, of course, an asset for an Army sportsman, although this can often turn out to be a mixed blessing for the individual.

"I like going abroad but most of my postings have been in UK. After my next posting to 38 Engineer Regiment at Ripon, I shall have spent 23 out of my 25 years in this country!"

Army hockey has gained from this state of affairs and so have other clubs. Mike has played for Hawks of Weybridge as well as for Berkshire, Surrey and Huddersfield teams and, currently, for North Wilts. His short sojourn in Germany gave him the opportunity of captaining the BAOR side.

He has been faced with difficult decisions too, when loyalty proved stronger than the lure of ambition. He turned down Southgate, one of the top clubs in the country, in favour of the Royal Engineers.

Mike was one of few Army players in recent years to have been selected for an England trial. That was in 1970 and was, unfortunately, as far as it went.

Hockey is fast scaling the popularity stakes, inside and outside the Army and it is encouraging that the BBC are now affording it viewing time. To many people it seems yet another fast, dangerous and relatively incomprehensible game and they turn with relief to football or rugby as familiar sports.



Getting his stick to the ball in the 1981 Inter-Corps Finals in which the Royal Engineers team were triumphant.

Mike is hopeful however, that spectators will be helped to an appreciation of hockey by the TV-eye view of the game. "I read a while ago that hockey is one of the largest participating sports with clubs fielding seven or eight teams on Saturdays and Sundays and some Wednesdays too. It is not an easy sport to watch at the side lines as it is fast at an intricate level and you can't really appreciate the skills and nuances."

Neither, we are led to believe, is it dangerous: "There are far more minor injuries in hockey, like bruising and broken fingers, but not as many major ones as in some other sports." A scar on his forehead is one of Mike's personal mementos of a head-on collision during one particular match.

As captain of the Army team at various times and Chairman of the Army Hockey Association for the last two years, Mike has been involved with the direction and the future of Army hockey. He found that the combination of player and administrator had its problems and has relinquished the Chairmanship to Colonel Keith Hitchcock. "Both jobs tended to interfere with each other. It takes an enormous amount of time being Chairman and getting people released to play and then persuading those people to give up weekends. In the old days Saturdays were made for sport in the Army, but not now."

"We get very little training as a squad — perhaps half a dozen times in a season, mainly because of geographical problems. We cannot get together and the Army side is no longer fitter than Civilian sides who train, once a week at least as a team."

The declining standard of Corps hockey left many players who were not included in the Army team high and dry. During his time as Chairman, Mike tried to encourage Army hockey clubs where there were concentrations of Service people, but this was considered too administratively difficult. An alternative solution, of course, would be to raise the standard of Corps hockey teams.

Aside from hockey, Mike is involved in a host of other sporting activities. "I've always considered myself a jack-of-all-trades in sport," he smiles, "I enjoy cricket most. I have played for the Royal Engineers team and, although I have never made the Army side, I have been on the fringe of it."

He was also a boxing blue at Cambridge but gave that up in his late twenties. "I was interrupting my hockey by getting damaged at rugby and boxing!"

Other ball games have attracted him too, including squash and tennis, although he admits that his wife is a better tennis player. "I love the spirit of team games and I suppose I have a natural aptitude for hitting a moving ball."

And that is not all. "I used to do a bit of cross country and swimming — backstroke and breaststroke — at regimental level, but there wasn't really time. . . ."

Time catches up with all of us — if we let it. But it is going to have to hurry to catch Mike Stott. "These days my mind makes appointments my body can't keep," he admits, "but experience helps and I'll play golf when I'm too old to run." ■

SOLDIER DARTS CONTEST
see next issue for
first round draw

Mike Stott (centre) in action on the field.



SERGEANT ON THE RUN IN WALES

YOU HAVE TO BE FIT to run from one end of Wales to the other and Sergeant Martin Herbert is. He proved it over 200 miles from Caernarfon Castle in North Wales to Cardiff Castle in the south.

The unassuming Platoon Sergeant of 'B' Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, took the 40 miles a day run in his stride as he took a route across his home ground to join his company in Cardiff for a Remembrance Day parade. He was running to raise money for handicapped children and was sponsored by the battalion and by the Friendly Club.

"We did a 12-hour sponsored run before and I thought this is good like and thought I'd run for a handicapped child in

Neath. Then I thought this is the year of the handicapped and why not make it more than one?"

He stopped for a rest day in his home town of Neath, although 'rest day' may be a misnomer for the 36 holes of golf he played.

Keeping fit is the name of the game for Sergeant Herbert and even when he is not in training for sponsored events he spends a lot of time running and orienteering. In the two years he spent at the Depot at Crickhowell, he was a member of the South Wales Orienteering Club. He organises the orienteering for the companies and a number of the lads are keen to follow his example.

He has just given up boxing, a



sport in which he has represented his regiment and also represented Wales four times at flyweight.

"I started when I was eight years old. My brother was a PTI in the Army and he used to take me and my four brothers round the back with our gloves and I've been doing it ever since.

"I'm getting old now though and I'm allergic to boxing — I come out in cuts and bruises...!"

SOCCER ROUND-UP

Cambridge blues

Army 2: Cambridge University 1

An Army XI 4: Cambridge Falcons 1

The Army scored a notable double over visiting sides from Cambridge University, despite the absence of most of their established players.

Falcons held their own for 45 minutes, scoring first and only conceding a goal, scored by impressive newcomer, Corporal Mark Bowen, RAPC, just before the interval. After the break, however, it was a different story. The Army side ran up a comfortable win with goals by Corporal 'Rocky' Rock RE, Sergeant Jimmy Lamb RAPC, and Lance-Corporal Gavin Eyres, Commando RE.

The Army settled more quickly against the Light Blues and went two ahead through Corporal Gary Brooksby RGJ. But on the half hour the Blues got one back through a penalty. In the second half the Army rearguard survived a lot of pressure.

Fair cops

Metropolitan Police 1: Army 1

The visit to the 'Met' turned out to be a delightful battle — lots of good attacking football, goal-mouth incidents aplenty and at the end the right result.

It was not until the 50th minute that the first goal was scored when Craftsman Phil White REME was sandwiched in the penalty area. He made no mistake from the spot.

The policemen stepped up the pressure after this and in the final minute a sloppy clearance led to an equaliser.

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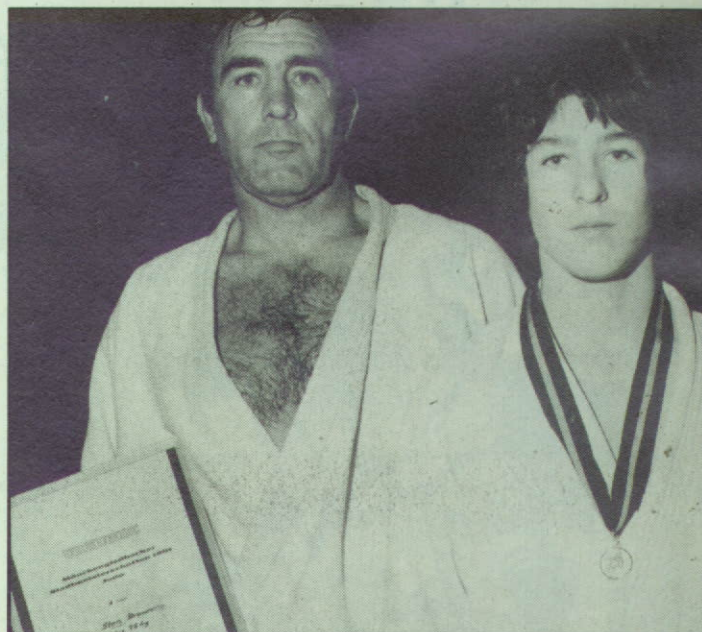
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Tussling hard are father and son, Staff Sergeant Stan Browning of the Military Provost Staff Corps and 14-year-old Danny. Both are now champions at a civilian martial arts club at

Moenchengladbach — Stan a former Army heavyweight judo champion won the 95 kg event and Danny the 58 kg. Stan has set up his own club to teach youngsters judo.

ACC take over Army volleyball



The Army Catering Corps has stepped in to give Army Volleyball a permanent base for the first time since the Association was formed in 1975.

The structure of the organisation was changed recently and a President, Chairman and Secretary were elected from the ACC, all of whom are determined to provide a centre for Army volleyball that will give the squad a chance to improve their game, extend their training facilities and promote volleyball throughout the Army.

Volleyball has always been something of an uphill struggle for the Army. The RAF has maintained a deserved supremacy that has excluded both the Army and the Navy when it comes to Armed Services games and this year's tournament held at Winchester was no exception.

The RAF beat the other Service teams in straight sets to an outright win, which left the Army and Navy battling for

second place. The Army put up a courageous fight and with good defensive playing made the Navy work for their points in each set.

A good start to the second set after they had conceded the first 3-15, looked promising for the Army but the Navy again pulled ahead 15-3. A long and exciting rally in the third set brought the Army to within four points of their rivals at 7-11 but again the Navy side proved stronger.

Team Coach, C/Sgt Gordon Neale, was nevertheless pleased with the results. The squad was down to eight men as a result of injury and one player being required by his unit and, with a mere four days training at Perham Down, were no match for the other Service sides which included a number of National League players.

"They put up a good show," he said "and played better than I thought they would. They gave of their best."

Sappers' Shock Win

By Tony Vickers

The Inter-Corps Orienteering Shield presented to Captain Nick Fresson RE on 1 November already had 1981 'winners' inscribed on it — Royal Artillery! And so it might have been. But one runner from each of the RA and REME 'A' teams, who have between them won seven out of the last eight titles, met an identical fate in the day event — failing to check the code letters at a control 'stream bend' thus disqualifying their teams.

If the weather for both events was kind the control setting for the night event — Perham Down, Tidworth, was less so.

The two strongest corps had some respectable times to carry forward with REME 'A' trailing the gunners, who were without the injured Captain Glen Grant. Individual winner for the night was the Army's most improved senior orienteer this year, Captain Mike Rescorle, Light Infantry in 65.25.

At Cadnam in the New Forest the following morning the forest was very water-logged but otherwise well worth the journey. Army champion, Alan Meekings, proved himself the best navigator and won in 66.51 but over 20 men were under 80 minutes for 9.9 kilometres.

Overnight team placings were unchanged until news broke of the disqualifications. Suddenly the RE team were favourites and they won by over an hour.

Corporal Mick Birchall puts the ball over the net during the Army v Navy game in the 4th Armed Services Volleyball Tournament.

THE BIG MATCH

The Combined Services football team, getting ready for its annual assault on the Kentish Cup, will meet the First Division Middlesbrough side at Catterick on Wednesday 2 December. The league men are expected to field a strong team for the annual tussle.

Kick off at the Military Stadium is at 2 pm and the match is open to military and civilian soccer fans. Admission will be by programme, available at the ground for a small charge. Profits will go to Service charities.

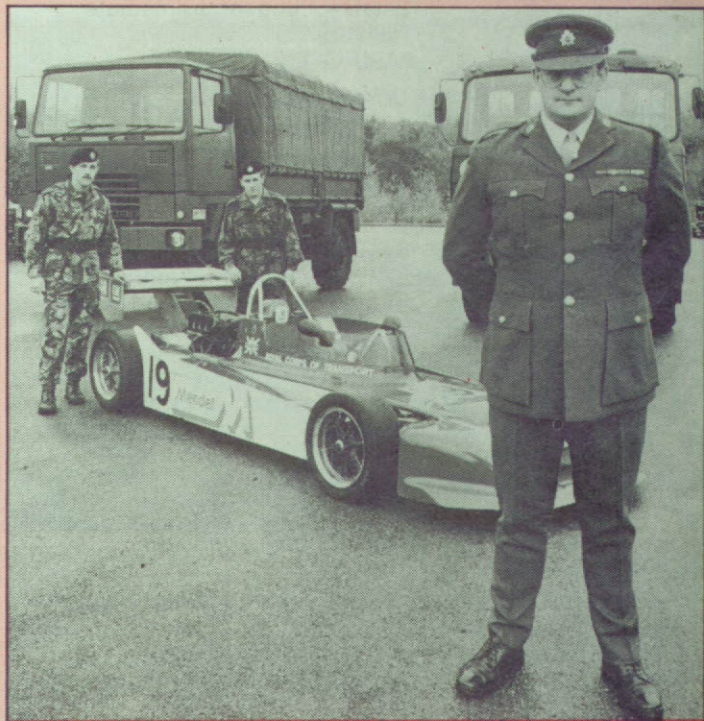
HUNTER TRIALS SET A NEW RECORD

Entries for the recent Army and Royal Artillery Hunter Trials set a new record at 377. The going at Larkhill was perfect and a large crowd attended.

Services Section placings were: Novice: S/Sgt Blakey on 160 Provost Coy RMP 'Bob'; 2 L/Bdr Trice-Rolph on King's Troop 'Sandpiper'; 3 L/Cpl Bennett on Household Cavalry 'Ensign.' Intermediate: 1 Lt Darley on Household Cavalry 'Chieftain'; 2 Capt Fairlie on his 'Abelard'; 3 Captain Stevens on Royal Marines 'Rupert XIV'.

First services' rider in Open Class III was Col Ansell on his 'Bill et Doux.'

BOB'S ON TRACK



The Army's racing driver, Major Bob Birrell, has just completed his most successful season yet in Formula Super Vee racing. Despite a late start because the unit he commands, 8 Squadron RCT, was on UNFICYP duty, Bob chalked up two third places and before climaxing his season with an outright win at Mallory Park to give him fourth place in the 1981 championship.

The Aldershot based squadron is part of 27 Logistic Support Group Regiment, RCT and a number of the regiment's soldiers go along to the races and help. Picture shows chief mechanic, Driver Tim Bamber and Lance-Corporal Chris Bombard (with moustache) who have now started on the car's winter rebuild. It will be stripped down to its last nut and bolt and then prepared for next year's season of ten races in the UK and ten on the Continent.



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