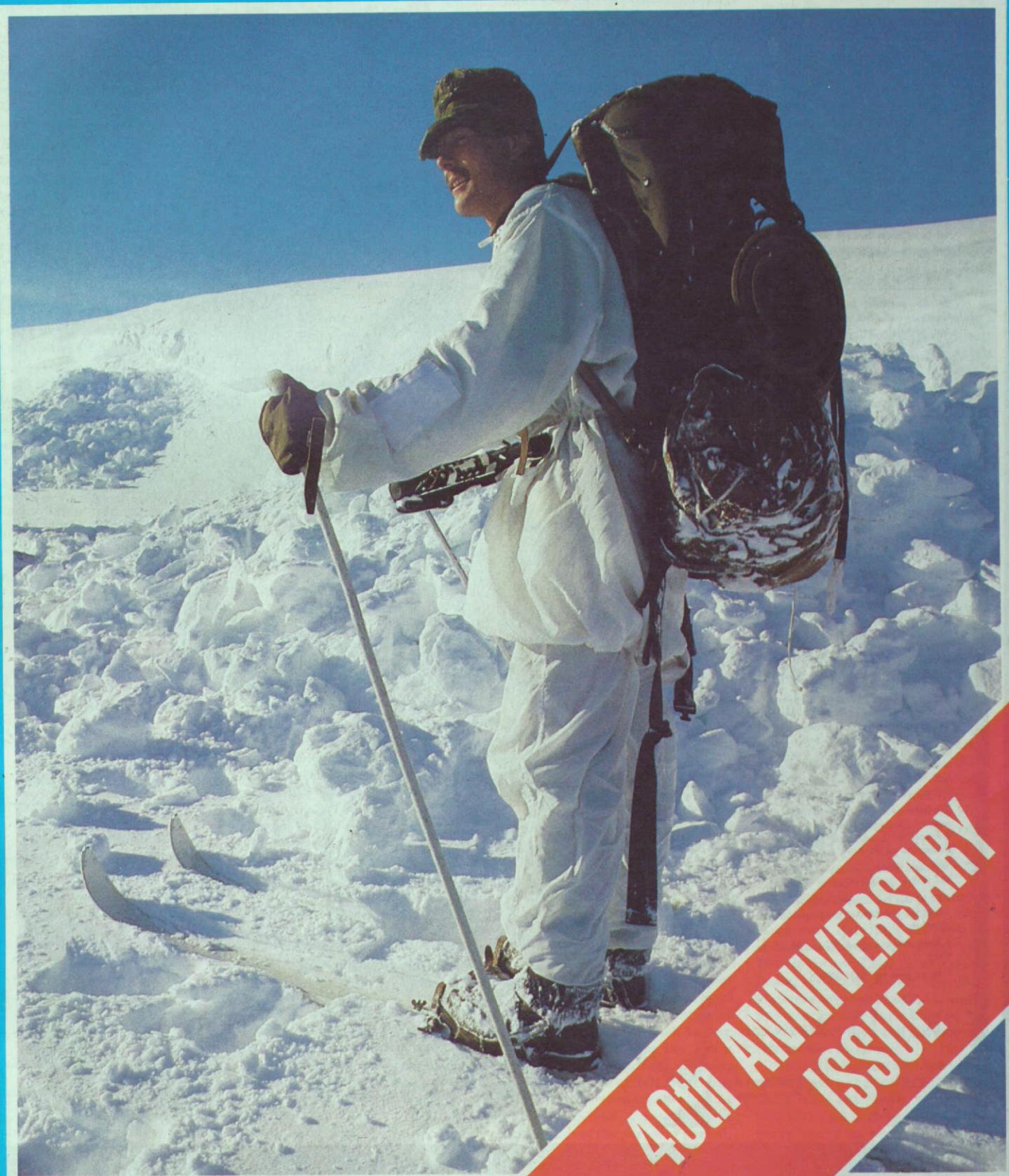


THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 35 PENCE • 25 MARCH 1985

# SOLDIER



40th ANNIVERSARY  
ISSUE

MARCH 19 1945  
FORTNIGHTLY  
VOL. 1 - N° 1

# SOLDIER

THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE



BEST  
EDITION

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

I am glad to have this opportunity of being able to speak to all soldiers in the B.L.A. through the first number of "SOLDIER". You and I have come a long way together; we have been through some very bad times and some very good times.

### And what is the situation to-day?

By no possible conceivable chance can Germany win this war; victory for the Allies, absolute and definite victory, is certain. All that now remains is the conquest of Germany itself.

We are fighting on German soil and we have entered the ring for the last round; there is no time limit for this round; we shall continue until our opponent has had enough.

### And what are we fighting for?

You remember the poem written in the Desert by a soldier of the Eighth Army, in one verse of which he gave his views as to what we were fighting for:

"Peace for the kids, our brothers freed,  
A kinder world, a cleaner breed."

That seems to describe it very well.

I like to feel that out of the comradeship of the great armies that are fighting in this war will be born a new factor: a factor for good, which will be a powerful influence in the difficult days that will lie ahead when the fighting is over.

We must see to it that this will be so.

On your behalf I send our greetings to our comrades serving in other theatres of war. There are many of our friends in Africa, in Italy, in India, in Burma, and in other places; to all of them we send our best wishes, and to the many thousands who garrison and maintain the lines of communication throughout the world.

We salute our comrades in the Royal Navy and the Merchant Navy, and in the R.A.F.; we soldiers know well that without their efforts we could have achieved little.

We send friendly greeting to the soldiers of the Allied nations fighting with us.

And to our families and friends in the home countries we send a very special word of greeting.

I have often wished "Good luck" to soldiers.

I do so now to "SOLDIER".

B. L. Montgomery.

Field-Marshal,  
21 Army Group.



2

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As a politician, I am acutely aware of the value of good communication, and with a background in the publishing world I am an ardent supporter of the written word. Good communication through the written word is the lifeblood of large organisations. Hence the importance of 'house journals'; hence the importance of SOLDIER. But SOLDIER, of course, is much more than a 'house journal'; it is part of the Army's tradition, part of its fabric.

I am particularly impressed by the magazine's unbroken record of publication over 40 years and the quality of content and presentation that has been maintained. SOLDIER has a reputation beyond

There will be several 40th anniversaries this year associated with the end of World War 2. Nevertheless the 40th anniversary of SOLDIER is very special.

SOLDIER forms a living bridge between the victorious British Army of 1945 and the lean, fit all-professional army of which I have the honour to be the professional head today. Go back along that bridge and flick through the pages of past issues of SOLDIER and you

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FRONT COVER: A member of potential instructors course run by Force Artillery at Hjerkinn, Norway. See centre pages. Picture: Paul Haley

BACK COVER: Sinai, New Garrison Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer 1 John Francis, Royal Artillery talking drill with Colombian soldiers. See also page 20. Picture: Les Wiggs

FACING PAGE: The first SOLDIER front cover — 19 March 1945



## Message from the Secretary of State for Defence Rt Hon Michael Heseltine, MP

you can be proud.

Whether one is serving, retired or wholly civilian, if one reads the latest issue then reads an issue of 20 years ago, one has a true feel for what makes or made the Army tick. It is a rare and living barometer of an historic but dynamic organisation.

Of course, the Army you write about and picture — and picture with excellent photographs — ticks like a precision instrument; now,

as always, a national asset of tremendous worth. But it is a precision instrument with a human face and this, I think, is what SOLDIER constantly brings out so successfully. I am always struck by the humour and the humanity of our armed forces. That the Army is able to display such attributes while operating so effectively deserves our pride and our gratitude. Not many nations feel so warmly about their Army as we do.

SOLDIER is part of the bridge of understanding and mutual respect which binds Army and nation. Let us all hope that it spans the next 40 years as vigorously as the last.

## and from the Chief of The General Staff General Sir John Stanier, GCB, MBE, ADC Gen



gain a vivid and detailed impression of the life and times of the Army during four momentous decades.

The hardship of Korea; the bitter emergencies of Cyprus, Kenya, Malaya, Aden, and Suez; confrontation with Indonesia; our superb victory in the Falklands; and, for the last fifteen years, the tragedy of Northern Ireland — it's all there, most often reported in the words of the men and women (our colleagues in arms) who, in large or small measure, made history.

But those pages not only contain the drama of the big stage. One marvels at all the other things which have involved the Army — be they hurricane relief in British Honduras (now Belize); climbing Annapurna or Everest; building anything from a road in Thailand to an airfield in Shetland; playing bagpipes before the boisterous populace of Bogota or the more inscrutable enthusiasts of Tokyo; exercises in nearly every corner of the globe; and nearer home, in the United Kingdom, refuse collecting, fire fighting, flood relief et al. The list could run on page after page; and that's before you touch on the distinguished post-war history of the Territorial Army and the Cadet Forces, and all the other organisations associated with the Army.

SOLDIER has been around the Army longer than nearly every one of us now serving. It is an institution in the best possible sense. You would recognise certain similarities between the 1945 SOLDIER and this issue, just as you would recognise certain similarities between the actual soldiers of 1945 and ourselves. But SOLDIER magazine has changed enormously, and in doing so has reflected the rapid and vast change in the Army itself.

Our uniform, equipment and

weapons are very different for a start (although we still wear berets!). We are much smaller now that conscription is a distant memory, reflecting our enormously changed role from peacekeepers on a vast worldwide scale, as Britain resolved her post-war colonial difficulties, to an Army which is dedicated in the main to NATO and the defence of the United Kingdom.

Some things have not changed, thank goodness, and the astute reader of SOLDIER will sense the strands that bind us to the Army that the magazine wrote about in its formative years.

The most obvious strand is our presence on the Rhine. We had just arrived in 1945. We are there yet. Over the years the presence of BAOR, now accepted as one of the best armies in the world, has been a corner-stone of stability in Europe — deterrence actively and hard at work, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, for 40 years: 40 years of peace.

Another very important strand is the spirit of the Army. That, I like to think, has not changed either. Be it expressed in Regimental tradition; in our particular way of doing things, in the special relationship between all ranks, in dress, mascots or whatever, it forms a solid chain back to our proud past. Of course the chain stretches back hundreds of years beyond the birth of SOLDIER but is particularly remarkable in that it has survived the enormous vicissitudes of the post-war period,

when so many other of our national institutions have changed beyond recognition, not always for the better!

What of the Army today? Well, I think it is in fine heart. I mentioned the Falklands — that campaign speaks for itself, and the whole world has heard and understood the message. Exercise Lionheart last year was another visible demonstration of the efficiency, well-being, get up and go and superb equipment that all characterise the Army of the '80s.

It's a fact of life that the Army is — and will continue to be — asked to do more and more with less and less. That we are able time and time again to produce the goods is the true mark of our worth. That is not to say that we do not have a lot going for us. We have some superb equipment coming on stream. We have, in my view, superb officers and men. Morale is as high as it's ever been.

Motivation, after all, is what it's all about. At the end of the day the Army and SOLDIER magazine both centre on people. All those events in all those pages in all those copies of SOLDIER since 1945 are crowded with soldiers, like ourselves, who believed in the Army, who were fulfilling their duty to the best of their ability and who were great people.

I think SOLDIER magazine is great too, and always has been. Long may it reflect the way we are. My hope is that in the year 2005 a future CGS in congratulating SOLDIER on its 60th anniversary may read these words and say: much has changed but much more, the really important things, are the same.

Soon, like countless others in those past pages of SOLDIER, I shall leave the Army. SOLDIER will stay and with it a little bit of every one of us, past and present.

Subscription (25 issues): UK/BFPO £13.55, elsewhere £15.55. Send UK cheque, UK postal order or international money order **expressed in sterling** and state when subscription is to start and to whom to be addressed. Payments to be sent to SOLDIER and made payable to Command Cashier UKLF.

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# Monty agreed — and SOLDIER was born!

**S**OLDIER made its 20-page debut as the magazine of the British Liberation Army 40 years ago on 19 March, 1945, being published in Brussels.

Since then it has had seven editors, four changes of address and its first Editor-in-Chief was Colonel Sean Fielding, pre-Fleet Street, who headed an all-military staff of 40 including three drivers, four packers and a cook! There was even an office in Hamburg.

Launched and selling at two-and-a-half Belgian Francs and 13 Dutch cents the magazine, complete with clothed but leggy pin-up, was rushed to the 'Tommies'

of the BLA then preparing to assault the Rhine.

It was the only magazine, unlike others, to be produced officially for the British Army as a whole.

The idea of SOLDIER was conceived by the late Colonel Fielding and Lieutenant Colonel Philip Youngman Carter, a sun-drenched continent away, in the Western Desert in 1941-42.

In his foreword to the first issue which rolled off the Brussels presses, the Colonel wrote: "It was conceived by me with FACT as its title and that conception put into 'dummy' form by Youngman Carter and me in Baghdad and Cairo in 1943. The 'dummy' was



Field Marshal Montgomery surrounded by men of The Black Watch prior to crossing the Rhine (see page 14).

brought to England in 1944 and I hawked it round the War Office but found no takers."

But his dogged 'hawking' was to pay off. For in December of that year Colonel Archie Chisholm, then head of AWS 3, was told to produce a plan for an Army magazine for BLA.

He was further urged by the Adjutant-General, Sir Ronald Adam, who had consistently pushed Army newspapers and magazines on a high level.

The project was finally agreed by no less than 'Monty'. Extra staff was grafted on to AWS 3 and a small BLA establishment was centred on Brussels.

Ironically, the title SOLDIER was taken from a similar project planned years before in the War Office by a Mr A E Williams of ABCA and Major General Harry Willans, then Director of Army Welfare. It had been shelved for varying reasons.

The first number was printed in Brussels where, according to Colonel Fielding, the 'presiding genius' was a Major 'Andy' Anderson who built up the BLA editorial, printing, distribution and sales organisation.

Early issues — the first two were free — bore the tag BLA with the intention of printing the magazine simultaneously in various theatres. Thereafter, subscribers had to pay for it.

Full colour facilities came to the magazine on 1 September 1945, using machines on which the highly-successful German forces Signal was produced. By then, Major Ernest Turner was the Editor.

Colonel Fielding — later Editor of Tatler — in his foreword to the historic first edition with its skyward-looking paratrooper on the front cover, concluded on notes of optimism — and pessimism.

He wrote: "Very shortly now most of the people who founded, edited, produced and distributed SOLDIER will be out of the Army and the magazine will be turned over to the Rhine Army as their

sole property. They are very fortunate people since they are getting the best thing of its kind produced by an Army in this war — and I do not except Yank."

He was off target in his concluding remarks when he observed: "It was fully intended that SOLDIER should remain as the permanent magazine for the British Army; but this had been found impossible."

The facts, happily, spoke for themselves in the following four decades.

In summary, the Colonel said: "SOLDIER magazine forms an integral and very important part of the history of Army newspapers and magazines and you can, with some pride, state that you were among those who made it."

Terms of editorial policy have, of course, changed over the years. Then, SOLDIER was sponsored by Army Welfare and while its common aim was to tell the Army about the Army — as it does today — the magazine sought to keep the soldier informed on demob plans and civvy street prospects. Sales boomed... 110,000 copies.

Over the years, SOLDIER has had its 'scoops'. The magazine was the first to tell the story of World War 2 frogmen... details of Operation Sea Lion (Hitler's plans for invading Britain)... and re-tracing the North-West Europe campaign from the Normandy Beaches to Lüneburg Heath.

The war behind it, the magazine's editorial offices moved first to Eaton Square, SW1, in London's Belgravia in 1953, then a warehouse in Holloway, temporary accommodation in Clayton Barracks, Aldershot, and, in recent years, to Parsons House in the garrison town.

As we mark our milestone in this issue, the first edition of SOLDIER had reports on the Reichswald battle, an appreciation of Hitler's three inner 'fortresses' to stave off final defeat, details on release schemes, pithy anecdotes in paragraph form from around the war zones worldwide, a profile of painter William Russell Flint, the Royal Academician, footballer Eddie Hapgood's "worst moment" in the sport, an account of the married families club, letters, a back cover devoted to 'Winnie' at the Siegfried Line and, of course, the pin-up, Miss Ida Lupino.

On the front cover, 'Monty' gave a stirring, morale-boosting message of imminent victory to our soldiers and was the first official 'top brass' and VIP to become a SOLDIER well-wisher for the future.

SOLDIER, too, has proved to be a survivor against economic odds over the years. 'Monty' would have been proud.

## SOLDIER... 40 YEARS OLD

### A Print Order — to be carried out!

I have been a reader of SOLDIER for close on 40 years now and whilst reading through the January issue of 1985 suddenly realised just how long ago it was when the material for the first copy of SOLDIER was not just something I had to read to pass the time away, but instructions on a Print Order which had to be carried out and the result produced on the date the customer required it.

The authorisation for the production of SOLDIER had been obtained from higher authority and arrived with the copy at Printing & Stationery Directorate RASC, Avenue Louse, Brussels in early 1945, where it was blessed and passed on down to the two Printing Units under command and working in Brussels.

I am unable to remember the specifications on the Print Order, as it is a long time ago and I must have read a few thousand since then, but one point remains in my mind that the magazine SOLDIER should be produced similar to the pre 1939 Picture Post and that a pin-up should appear on the back cover.

It was decided that the two Units should work together on this task, and for all they were very different to each other in their type of work, they were all Printers.

The largest of the two was No 2 GHQ Printing Press which was commanded by Major Peatman. It had a strength of over 150 men and was capable of taking over large printing works and producing litho, letterpress, bookbinding etc; this was the type of set up they had in Brussels.

The other Unit was 10 Special Heavy Mobile Printing unit RE of which I was OC. It was very much smaller in numbers but was

a Mobile Field Unit with all of its printing machinery and equipment on vehicles and specialising in high speed printing.

It was the first printing unit in Europe having landed on Gold Beach Normandy on 23 June 1944, where it started printing 21 Army Group General Orders, several million Surrender Passes and leaflets for the Americans and British to stock up their psychological units, and a great number of other tasks.

It was found that the type of press required to run the SOLDIER magazine was not held by either of the two Units, therefore a Belgian printing works in Brussels holding this type of press was requisitioned.

The personnel of both units and the Belgian machine minders worked together on SOLDIER as a team and two people stand out in my memory. They were Staff Sgt Brinkley of 10 Heavy Mobile RE who was an outstanding commercial artist, also CSM Jones of 2 GHQ Press RASC who was works manager, both of whom took a part in the production of the magazine.

There were three editions printed and they seemed to be a success, Staff Sgt Brinkley and myself were asked if we would care to transfer over to the SOLDIER unit, but we declined as we were both very keen on 10 Heavy Mobile, having been founder members of the unit.

At the end of March 1945 10 Heavy Mobile moved forward by stages and printed its way into Germany, arriving at the UFA Film Studio Potsdam for work on the Potsdam Conference.

**Major R H GLUE MBE RE (retd) Stowmarket, Suffolk.**

WHEN SOLDIER first appeared — in Brussels, in that heady Spring of 1945 — the biggest pincer movement in history was closing. British and American troops were across the Rhine, the Russians were moving up on Vienna and Berlin.

By the time the fifth issue of SOLDIER (then a fortnightly) had appeared, Hitler was dead. Came VE-Day — and nowhere better to celebrate it than in Belgium's capital.

The thirteenth issue had news of Hiroshima. By then SOLDIER was preparing to print in Hamburg, a city with a distinct look of Hiroshima about it.

The Army had done its job and its stock was high. Indeed, it was a machine to arouse pride and wonder. It was like one of those Swiss knives with a weapon for every conceivable purpose. "Anybody can do anything."

So the British soldier cleaned up the death camp of Belsen, welcomed freed prisoners of war, fed and housed Displaced Persons, ran railways and ports, patrolled the Rhineland cities he had already

I SINCERELY hope (having just joined the Ancient Order of Dodderers — cut-price haircuts, hop-on-a-bus free (Saturdays only), Christmas goodies from the village and not forgetting a caring Government's bread-upon-the-waters £10 bonus, tax-free but smartly whipped back twofold one way or another) I shall still be around in another ten years. And

## Stories there for taking

SOLDIER, believe it or not, once had offices in Brussels and Hamburg. Editor of the Hamburg office from 1945 until 1953, "bureau chief", as it were in modern parlance, was Captain John Grove of the all-Army production staff of 10 soldiers supported by about 20 Germans.

Mr Grove, now 70, became Editor in the mid-50s until 1962. Before the war he had been a reporter on the Middlesex Chronicle at Staines.

Living quietly in Hampshire where he retired from professional life in 1975 as Controller of Publications for the Post Office, Mr Grove said: "I was a founder member of SOLDIER and started out as a reporter in uniform. Our area was the whole of Europe and later I became involved with printing and distribution of the magazine as well as editorial.

"In Germany we had tremendous problems of production because of the shortage of newsprint. We were one of the very first to go over to full colour.

"In those days there was so much activity going on in the Army particularly. You hadn't got to

# Former Editors recall the old days... WHAT AN ARMY IT WAS!

**E S TURNER** was in the Royal Artillery when he joined the magazine in Brussels and was third Editor, 1946-1957

garrisoned in the Twenties, destroyed dumps, blew up flak towers and U-boat pens.

The Army had become heir to a wealth of "real estate" — barracks, fortresses, castles, palaces, grand hotels, theatres.

On shores, mountains and islands it had leave camps and rest camps. Beyond the Alps it was the same story: NAAFI had a palace on the Grand Canal in Venice (where the Army set the gondoliers' prices).

SOLDIER's pages reflected the pride and rivalry of the divisions which had slogged their way across three continents. While old battles were being refought, the secrets of the war came tumbling out, a great

source of grist to the magazine: tales of frogmen and private armies, of PLUTO (Pipe Line Under The Ocean), FIDO (Fog, Intensive Dispersal Of), artificial moonlight, inflatable decoy tanks, rocket-operated ramps, radio proximity fuses, "funnies" of every kind.

None goggled at this stuff more than SOLDIER's writers who, like most men in uniform, had hitherto seen only their own small corner of the war.

Goggling was all very well, but the mood that summer was "Roll on, demob" and there was a loud call for news of release and resettlement.

What an Army it was! The British soldier stood not only on



the Rhine and Danube, but on the Tiber, the Nile, the Jordan, the Euphrates, the Ganges.

Gradually the "forgotten" garrisons were called home, the vast dumps dispersed. One by one the trouble-spots subsided, even as others came to the boil.

The Army had to be reshaped and retrained for its new peacetime role.

It was a great running story — and it was a great privilege to be telling it. And of all climactic summers, the summer of 1945 was the one to remember.



**PETER N WOOD**, pictured in the jungles of Malaya in 1960 — Peter was the fifth and longest serving editor (1962-79) and is now back in his native West Riding.

## The chequered years of trauma...

I hope SOLDIER will be still around too so that we can all celebrate its golden jubilee.

SOLDIER's future has been continually threatened since its first issue on 19 March 1945. Looking back on 17 years as editor, I wrote in my 'farewell' editorial, "...there have been brief spells of plain

sailing but for the most part it has been a constant struggle to maintain standards and to operate commercially within the framework of an official publication.'

In retrospect, rapid solutions might have emerged had the magazine ever failed to appear — but professionally this was unthinkable. It weathered the lot.

All of which was simply due to a hard-worked staff whose dedication and loyalty were rarely appreciated (though in this business everyone knows there are a thousand brickbats to every bouquet). There were no strikes, no demarcation quibbles. There were times when the whole staff turned to loose-inserting or packing the magazine; there was the move from London to temporary accommodation in Aldershot, closing down on Friday afternoon, working voluntarily all weekend to set up stall, reopening as usual on Monday morning.

Only half the 20 staff went to Aldershot, leaving new (and fewer) people to be trained; of those who moved, this editor, with then a mere 14 years' service, lagged well behind advertisement manager Ken Pemberton Wood, artist Frank Finch, Reg Le Beau (SOLDIER's unflappable packing chief) and photographer Arthur Blundell. Both Ken Wood and Frank Finch joined (still in uniform) within a few months of the magazine's birth and each served it for 30 years plus before retiring. Frank and Arthur Blundell headed their respective seniority lists by decades.

He continued: "I felt, on SOLDIER, it was a worthwhile job doing things which separated them from their homes and kept families in touch.

So they came and they went.



**JOHN GROVE**, pictured during his spell as Editor mid-50s until 1962.

search for stories. They were there for the taking.

"We used to do a lot of travelling abroad. Places like Nepal and Australia. I enjoyed the Army and working on SOLDIER. There were the good and bad times like any other job. I would be a fool to say I enjoyed it throughout the war though I did enjoy the comradeship.

He continued: "I felt, on SOLDIER, it was a worthwhile job doing things which separated them from their homes and kept families in touch.

"When I edited the magazine the Army was going through a very bad time in a sense; an Army which was being reduced rapidly and I well remember that during that time the awful business of infantry regiments being amalgamated."

Nor could any photographer who teamed up with him forget another deputy editor, George Hogan, who with 27 years' Army service from boy bandsman in 1918 to major in the siege of Malta came to SOLDIER from the disbanded British Army News Service (as did former readers' letters 'Auntie Mabel' and museums columnist John Jesse). Army habits die hard; out on 'safari' — and that, at age 68, included Northern Ireland — George would still get up at five and make his own bed (in an hotel!).

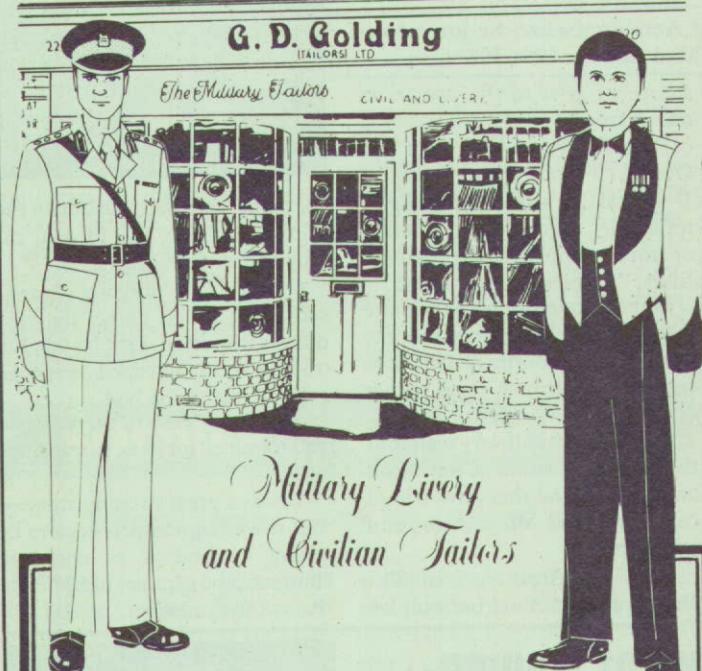
It was Les Wiggs who declared he would move on after four or five years (he is now SOLDIER's oldest inhabitant), who took one of the magazine's best-ever pictures, an award-winning shot of an old lady being carefully lifted into a DUKW during floods.

Five years on, the newspaper has been and gone and SOLDIER is now the fortnightly magazine I seem to remember advocating years ago.

More dark days and threats of extinction may well lie ahead but I firmly believe SOLDIER will march on — so here's to that golden jubilee!

# G.D. Golding

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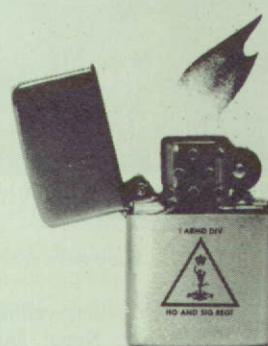
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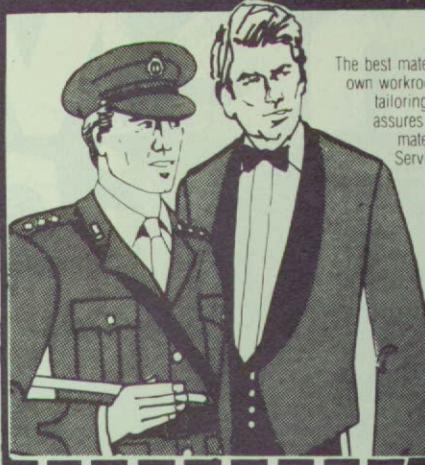


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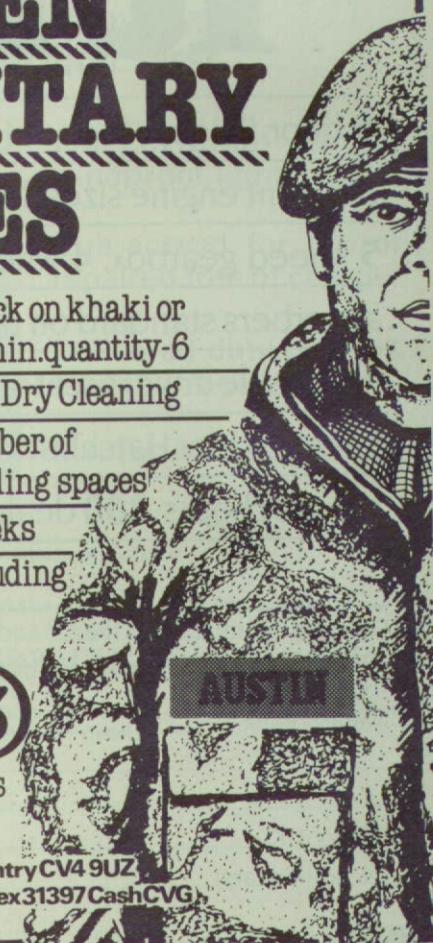
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**AUSTIN**



## Camels still plodding!

THANKS TO Barmy the Camel, the Royal Green Jackets four-man expedition — Jordanian Ride — is still plodding its way across the timeless sands (see page 23).

For as expedition leader, Captain Charles Blackmore, 3 RGJ pens in his third despatch: "Barmy is our main source of amusement. He is our favourite camel, nicknamed that way because he is! He has a split lip and often gallops in the wrong direction with a perturbed rider on his back."

All four ships-of-the-desert were weary and the men themselves had become accustomed to the rigours of the desert and the Bedouin way of life.

Their highest hopes, said the despatch, had not been realised, the "odd night in the warmth of a Bedouin tent and large meals."

The third despatch had been handed in at a police post in baking heat, a small fort in the desert established by General Sir John Glubb — Glubb Pasha — in the 30s and 40s.

The weather turned against the camel trekkers with biting winds cutting into their faces along their flint and rock route.

Meanwhile... Barmy the Camel keeps their spirits high. The men were due to return to the UK on March 17.

## FALKLANDS TV BOOST

TROOPS IN the Falklands will, next year, be able to see their favourite TV programmes within days of their UK screening in a £325,000 scheme mounted by the Services Sound and Vision Corporation (SSVC).

It will be operated from the Mount Pleasant airfield and details of the scheme were announced by Mr John Stanley, Minister for the Armed Forces in a Commons written reply.

It is unlikely that the TV service will reach those personnel serving in the remoter parts of the islands.

## Soldier murdered

A NORWEGIAN civilian has been charged with the murder of Bombardier Alan Douglas, 27, of 92 Locating Regiment, RA, who was in Norway taking part in Exercise Hardfall.

The shooting took place at a private house in Verdal near Trondheim and Bombardier Douglas was off-duty at the time of the incident.

## Tercentenary

WE MADE a bit of an error (sorry) in placing all the Tercentenary celebrations of the Queen's Own Hussars in Birmingham. The correct programme should read:

### May

14: The Queen's Own Hussars at Catterick for the presentation of a new Guidon by their Colonel-in-Chief, the Queen Mother. There will be a Regimental lunch for 1,000 followed by a fete.

15: Display at Catterick of 300 years

# SIGNALS HERO IN BRABANT RESCUE DRAMA

WHEN Lieutenant Commander Clive Waghorn, RN, fell into a crevasse on Brabant Island, it was the quick reaction of 22-year-old Lance Corporal Kerry Gill, Royal Signals, that saved him from certain death.

What began as an adventure training trek on the Antarctic island — where temperatures fall to minus 40 degrees centigrade — has now ended in relief all round, Waghorn's leg in plaster and showers of congratulations for both.

Gill of 4th Armoured Division HQ and Signal Regiment, Herford, West Germany had just skied over an ice bridge crossing the crevasse on the last day of a four-day trek back to their base.

Waghorn, who was roped to Gill, followed. But when half way across the bridge collapsed and the Commander fell dragging Gill with him.

As the officer fell a large chunk of ice fell on him breaking a leg.

of QOH with period uniforms, exhibitions and various armoured vehicles.

17: QOH in Birmingham to accept Freedom of the City.

There was also a little printing confusion (11 March) about the celebrations of The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire. These will take place mainly on 21-22 June at Imphal Barracks, York, with the band and drums playing in six freedom towns between 20-26 June, and not in July as also mentioned.

Additional Tercentenary dates:

August

17: 3 Royal Anglian Regimental Day in Minden.

September

6: 2 Royal Anglian exercise the Freedom of Boston and Grantham.

7: 2 Royal Anglian exercise the Freedom of Lincoln.

Dragged backwards, Gill jammed himself across the top of the crevasse and stayed there until pulled clear by their two companions. Then started a five-day wait for rescue. The alarm was raised when their friends reached base and set the rescue into operation.

But neither Gill nor Waghorn had any idea whether the other two had reached base safely.

With sufficient food and fuel for 15 days, they fully expected to be marooned that long in their little tent because of the dreadful weather.

Freezing cold and in a lot of pain, Waghorn was kept cheerful by the young signaller.

They chatted, told jokes, drank tea and read to pass the time. All the while, unknown to them Navy

8: 2 Royal Anglian exercise the Freedom of Cleethorpes and Grimsby.

## Music 'feast'

OUT pens and diaries, you music lovers, and make a note for June 21 and 22 when more than 2,000 military musicians will be blowing their hearts out in the 1985 Military Musical Pageant at Wembley Stadium.

With more than 40 bands from the British Army and guest bands from Nato countries and the USA taking part in the biennial musical extravaganza, it is claimed by producer Major Michael Parker — ex 10th Hussars — to be "the biggest band show in the world."

All in aid of the Army Benevolent

rescue ships *HMS Endurance* and *RFA Olina* were battling through gales towards the 37-mile long island, which is the subject of the two-year Joint Service Expedition.

Speaking on BBC radio from the *RFA Olina* Corporal Gill said: "Someone had to stay with Clive. Because I had fallen when he plunged into the crevasse, and my fitness wasn't 100 per cent, I was the obvious choice."

"We talked of home and what we had done before and learned a bit more about each other."

He added: "We also talked about what would happen if help didn't come in a certain time."

But after five days the weather improved sufficiently for Sea Kings to fly in with a doctor and three Royal Marines to winch the pair to safety.

Fund, it will be under the baton of Lieutenant Colonel Duncan Beat, Director of Music at Kneller Hall.

The show will open with massed fanfare trumpeters and will include a spectacular musical tribute by the 2,000 musicians to those regiments which are 300 years old this year.

The second half of the pageant will be a celebration of 40 years of peace since the end of the 1939-45 war.

Cavalry, cannon, light infantry, vehicles and equipment of the war will be featured against an exciting, noisy background of fireworks.

The show will end on a nostalgic note with the audience singing along with war-time Forces favourite Vera Lynn.

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## UJ chief heads for the good life

When Lewis Moulton clears his desk for the last time as secretary of the Union Jack Club he will be heading west for Ireland, barely a quarter of a mile from Scotland!

At a tiny village in Wiltshire, Lewis and his wife Dorothy will be setting up their retirement home in a cottage once occupied by Irish weavers. Hence the name of the village.

Just up the road Scottish weavers did their thing in bygone days and their area was named Scotland.

Now Lewis, after 18 years at the UJ, opposite London's Waterloo station, is going to the west country to play golf and bowls and, in his spare time, grow camellias.

"There's just one problem," said Lewis, "the soil in those parts has too much lime to grow camellias. So I'll just have to bung 'em in pots."

A former Grenadier he joined the 1st Battalion in 1938.

In 1943 he joined the 6th Battalion in North Africa, before moving to Italy to combine with the US 5th Army.

When Suez came along in 1956 Lewis found himself heading for Egypt. "But we got only as far as Malta before the whole thing was over."

For seven years he ran the senior boys' club at Eton College before joining the Union Jack as accountant.

### GOOD LIFE

A few years ago he took over as secretary. Now, at 66, he's calling it a day and heading for the good life.

He leaves with optimistic hopes for the club's future. "Room occupancy this year is up on last year, and it's pretty certain that the Way Ahead Committee, which will steer the club into the next century, will be giving serious thought to opening up membership to officers," he said.

While welcoming this possible move, Lewis said he was convinced that the future of the UJ lay in attracting ex-Servicemen and women as members.

"There are millions of them and we are expanding this area as fast as we can."

But he added: "Priority will always be given to the Serviceman and his family. After all, that's what the Union Jack Club is all about."

# MORE WORK!

It's just something extra to smile about

If extra work makes people smile, then these seven SSAFA ladies have something to smile about.

From now on they will also be known as area social workers. This means they will be able to give help and advice on all social matters affecting Army families in the UK.

Said Pauline Bibby, director of SSAFA nursing and social work service: "They will advise commanding officers and district and garrison staffs on difficult cases and new domestic legislation concerning care and adoption, which may affect Service families."

They will also help Army welfare assistants and contribute to the training of other welfare workers. Putting on the smiles at the prospect are (back row left to right): Mrs Rae Swind-



SSAFA LADIES WITH SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT: social role extended

ley, Tidworth; Mrs Iris Throp, assistant director SSAFA social work UK;

Miss Carol Terry, Aldershot; Mrs Irene Piddock, N. Ireland; Mrs Triss

Weih, Bulford; Miss Chris Brown, Catterick; Mrs Joy Sutton, Colchester.



When Lance Corporal Lindsey Horton, Sappers Robert Cockcroft, David Brett and Steve Todd (not present), paddled the 125-mile non-stop canoe race from Devizes to Westminster, they clocked 15th and 20th positions out of 280 boats.

They have now collected from

Colonel Stewart Grainger, CRE 1st Armoured Division, their certificates for their marathon efforts.

"We spent six weeks training for the race," said Lindsey of 21 Engineer Regiment.

Inset: Captain Simon Temple, canoeing officer, 21 Regiment RE.

## Young medic's bravery award

When the hospital at Port Stanley in the Falklands caught fire, Lance Corporal Neil Senior groped his way through dense smoke and flames to rescue two old ladies.

Now Neil, of 3rd Armoured Field Ambulance in BAOR, has received a commendation for bravery and distinguished conduct. His parents flew to Germany for the ceremony.

## Sappers collect river race tribute

### Hardfall gives John a soft snow landing

Staff Sergeant John Webster, Army Catering Corps, went down a slippery slope to retirement on his last day as master chef at Rinnleiret Camp, the base for Exercise Hardfall North.

He was towed out of the camp on a pulk, a sledge used for ski marches, by a team of cooks who were able to resist the temptation of ending his journey in a snow drift, and returned him relatively unscathed in time for the flight home.

John only went to Norway — his fifth time there — to help his replacement find his way round the catering

system.

In addition to the sledge ride, John received a Norwegian regimental plaque from Lieutenant Colonel Nagel Dahl, Trondelag Dragonegi 3rd Regiment, and a tankard from Major Michael Helleland, the Norwegian G3 Training Hardfall, bearing the regimental motto awarded 250 years ago "Plus tot mourir que manquer a ton devoir" (Rather die than fail your duty).

The tankard at least should be of some use, for John, after 22 years in the Army, 14 with the Artillery, plans to run a pub.



SSGT WEBSTER, LT COL NAGEL DAHL: farewell time

# CAP-DOFFING DEMO FOR DOLLY BIRD DEBBIE



**Gallant gunners show chivalry lives!**

**QUICK**

Major General Guy Watkins has relinquished his post as Master Gunner Royal Artillery BAOR. He was 'dined out' in the officers' mess of 39 Heavy Regiment which he once commanded.

**SPOT**

There's nothing like a pretty face to bring the best out in the lads... And junior NCOs of 50 Missile Regiment doff hats to show Deborah Needham — she's Miss Yorkshire Television — just how chivalrous they can be.

Dolly bird Debbie, 20, was on a goodwill visit to the BAOR-based regiment, and earned their courteous gestures after watching the passing-out parade which qualified them for their stripes.

Literally bowled over by such

gallantry, Debbie had a go at firing a rifle, SMG and a pistol before getting behind the wheel of an eight-tonner and an APV.

"It was lovely. I had lots of space and could be really reckless," she said.

# PEOPLE

**FACES and PLACES**

## Golf enthusiast Roger in hit-'n'-run title bid

**Sergeant Roger Sanders may be laughing now, but come 10pm on 25 June he could be wearing an even wider grin or looking as dismal as a golf pro who has just missed a 12-inch putt.**

For Roger, of the RCT Depot, Aldershot, is out to break an official world record.

His aim is to play as many rounds of golf as he can in 24 hours. "And I do mean proper

rounds of golf," said Roger. "No gimmicks. I am out to beat the world record of 22.5 rounds of golf in 24 hours. I understand it was set in Australia."

To achieve his ambition — which is in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund and the Grand Order of Water Rats — he is concentrating on building up his stamina.

To this end he has clocked on for weight training and running and

is in the process of "perfecting the art of hitting a golf ball and running at the same time." No mean feat, as any weekend hacker will confirm.

"I'm keeping off golf at the moment because I want to build up staying power for this 24-hour marathon," said Roger, handicap 16, who opponents describe as "a bigger bandit than Dick Turpin. He ought to wear a mask," they say.

His plan is to start his round-the-clock hit-'n'-run title bid at 10 pm on 24 June finishing the same time the next day.

"The days are long and the nights short at that time of year. I'll be using luminous golf balls which will be a tremendous help once it gets dark."

To help him in his quest for golfing immortality Roger will have the assistance of 18 ball-spotters with six reserves.

They will place themselves along the fairways — and the rough — to locate his ball.

"If I do lose a ball then I simply put another down and keep going," said Roger.

Venue for his mammoth task is the Army Golf Club, Aldershot, and if members decide to play that day, they should take heed that Roger is to be "waved through" every time he appears.



**SGT ROGER SANDERS:** laughing now

## Car blaze rescue wins top German award

**Fast, life-saving work by two gunners has earned them Germany's highest civilian award for bravery.**

Bombardiers Kevin Ray and Cliff Aitken of 5 Regiment Royal Artillery, have been presented with the North Rhine-Westphalia life-saving medal and heaped with praise for rescuing a three-year-old boy from a blazing car.

The car had crashed into an Army vehicle and immediately burst into flames.

The child's mother, suffering from shock, managed to stammer



Bdr Cliff Aitken



Bdr Kevin Ray

that her little son was still in the blazing wreckage.

Ignoring the flames the two gunners scrambled through the rear window to drag the boy to safety.

But it was a close call, as guests at a special presentation in Celle heard when the two soldiers received their medals.



**GONGED!**

Efficiency earned Liz Terry a BEM. Her admin skills were noted when she was based at Werl, BAOR. Now Liz, 25, a sergeant with the RMP at Bulford, commands a six-man section and looks to the welfare of eight WRAC girls. No wonder she's smiling.

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# SOLDIER to Soldier

HERE we are again — and this issue is rather special, marking as it does our own 40th anniversary.

We are pleased to be still providing a magazine which we hope is both a reflection of the modern British Army and a pleasure to our readers, uniformed or not.

Compared with the senior regiments, we are a very junior organisation and we have many former staff members to thank for laying the foundation of what is now very much a part of the British Army.

★ ★ ★

IF YOU served with the Airborne Forces in the war or have qualified as a parachutist and served with Airborne Forces since 1946, play golf and have a spare fiver, then membership of the Pegasus Golfing Society is a must for you.

For after years of dormancy — nobody knows quite how long — the society is to be resuscitated by Lieutenant Colonel John Williams.

Anxious to get cracking with the revival and to see past and present Paras whistling 'em straight down the middle, the Colonel said: "I'm looking for up to 300 members of serving and ex-Servicemen to make up a good, strong society.

"There will be no restrictions on rank, it will be right across the board membership, but all applicants must have a club handicap."

While a revival of this sort entails much work, Colonel Williams said that General Sir Frank King, a former commander of 2 Para in the late '50s, has already accepted an invitation to become the society's President, and offers of matches from all round the country had been steadily coming in these past weeks.

Notable Para battle dates are likely to mark the society's future calendar. "We'll probably hold our spring meeting to coincide with the anniversary of the Rhine crossing, and our autumn get-together will be around Arnhem remembrance time," said Colonel Williams.

But although the society has, to all intents and purposes been a dead "birdie" for a number of years — although they have kept one meeting going each year, that against Moor Park GC — the Colonel hopes to see it soaring like an "eagle" before the season is out.

See Mail Drop, Page 44 for Colonel Williams' letter.

★ ★ ★

THIS has been 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment's second season coping with the Norwegian winter. They took over the AMFL (infantry battalion role from 1st Battalion the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire last year.

There is, of course, an enormous amount for anyone to learn, getting their knees chilled in the far north. But 1 Para have found the time this year to get to know a little more about the host community in the Voss district of Norway, where they do most of their training, and to let the local people know a little more about them.

Spearheading the community relations offensive was what is now called the Regimental Band of the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, undertaking its first important engagement since the reduction and amalgamation of the Para bands late last year.

The band played six concerts (including one special children's concert in the Voss cinema) and provided a musical background at a reception for The Prince of Wales, who was paying a visit as Colonel-in-Chief of The Parachute Regiment.

Apart from the music — evidently very well received — 1 Para also organised talks to local schools and a free fall parachute display, as well as taking the Norwegians on a football and competing with them on a 30 kilometre biathlon.

★ ★ ★

EDWARD Hall's painting of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother at an Army Board dinner in December 1983 has been unveiled by The Duke of Edinburgh. The venue on both occasions was the State Apartments at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

Edward Hall began his preliminary sketches at the dinner, held in honour of the Queen Mother and attended by 24 guests, including the full Army Board. Among the guests at the unveiling were the artist, the Austrian Ambassador, Dr Reginald Thomas, and General Johann Philipp, Commander of the Austrian Army who was visiting the United Kingdom as a guest of General Sir John Stanier, Chief of the General Staff and one of the hosts at the dinner.

Military and civilian members of the Army Board attended the function, hosted by the Minister of State for the Armed Forces, Mr John Stanley.

★ ★ ★

DORTMUND is determined that its post-war restoration as a vibrant, commercial city shall not go unnoticed.

To that end, a festival of peace is being held in Dortmund from May 8-11 and the British Army Garrison there is planning to put on a history of the British Army during the last 40 years... from 1945-85.

But to do it, the Garrison needs help and is asking, through SOLDIER, for any photographs, newspaper cuttings, interesting anecdotes and historical information for this period.

If you have information for this period, send it, please, to Major Mike Carter, DCOS, HQ Dortmund Garrison, BFPO 20. Or, for those verbal, off-the-cuff memories he can be contacted at Dortmund Military extension 434.

★ ★ ★

A TOTAL of 24,000 sailings are being operated this year by leading forces car ferry operator, Townsend Thoresen — the most intensive schedule in the company's 57-year history.

This gives British Forces a choice of up to 64 sailings a day on four convenient cross-Channel routes, including the new Boulogne to Dover service recently acquired by Townsend Thoresen from P & O.



IDA Lupino, a film star adored by fighting troops in World War 2, was the first pin-up picture used in the pages of the first SOLDIER 40 years ago.

We are told Ida is alive and well and we hope the picture brings back happy memories for those who enjoyed her films.

She was the first of many pin-up pictures to appear in SOLDIER, though we haven't used many in recent years. Which makes us wonder if readers would welcome their return.

What do YOU think. Should we use pin-ups? Your views please to the Editor — and the address is on page 3.

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# Soon after the first SOLDIER was printed, some of our first readers had...

**O**N Friday 23 March 1945 the smoke dischargers, the source of the obnoxious fog over a 25-mile stretch of the Rhine for the previous ten days, were shut off.

At 1800 hours the entire artillery of the British Second and the US Ninth Armies opened fire, their shells and 'magic carpets' of rockets passing over the heads of men assembled on the west bank.

It was a breathtakingly fearful but exhilarating experience offering a modicum of comfort in that it would surely soften the enemy's capability and will to fight.

H-Hour for the 51st (Highland) Division and a brigade of Canadian infantry on the British Corps front in the northern sector was 2100 hours.

Major General Thomas Rennie was able to put four of his battalions across the river in seven minutes in Buffalo tracked amphibious vehicles.

Waiting to meet the Highlanders and Canadians were the 15th Panzer Grenadier Division together with the 6th and 7th Parachute Divisions, elite troops determined to sell the soil of the Fatherland dearly.

It was a hard fought battle around the riverside village of Rees and some of the Highlanders were cut off for a while by the paratroops at the village of Speldorf. The commander of the Highland Division was killed.

This northern sector was to prove the most difficult and costly of the entire surface operation.

On the right of XII Corps sector the 1st Commando Brigade, under Brigadier Derek Mills-Roberts, crossed the Rhine at 2200 hours. In contrast to that of the Highlanders to the north, the Commando crossing went almost undetected and they were able to infiltrate the outskirts of Wesel, where the Wehrmacht's 180th Division was

## CROSSED THE RHINE!



ready to defend the town.

Fifteen minutes later two hundred RAF Lancasters flew in and 'neutralised' the town.

The unbelievable ferocity of the bombing of Wesel is something remembered by those who witnessed it.

The Commandos were so close to the bombing that they narrowly escaped destruction themselves from the thousand tons of high explosive that were dropped but, attacking immediately, they were able to take possession of almost all of what was left while the surviving defenders were still dazed.

The Commando Brigade its

command post only fifty yards from where the Germans had their headquarters; Major General Deutsch, the commander, tried to shoot it out from his garden but was killed in the action.

The taking of Wesel was achieved with the Commando Brigade suffering 36 casualties.

Meanwhile, round Xanten the 15th (Scottish) Division, under Major General Colin Muir Barber, made ready to spearhead XII Corps attack on the east bank.

It was with mixed feelings that they set out over the Rhine.

Resistance turned out to be nothing like that experienced by the other Scottish division on the left and fighting thrusts were successfully made in the direction of the Diersfordter Wald, a ridge of relatively high wooded ground through which ran the Wesel to Rees road and where German artillery batteries were hidden.

At Rheinberg to the south of Wesel, the 30th and 79th Divisions of XVI Corps, US Ninth Army, crossed the Rhine on both sides of the town.

The task of the 30th Division was to strike eastward on an axis parallel with the River Lippe which joins the Rhine at Wesel, while the 79th Division was to take the small but important town of

Gordon Highlanders advance over the floodbank on their way to crossing the Rhine. MoD.

Dinslaken three miles inland.

All American objectives were achieved without major problems and by dusk on Saturday evening the US Corps Engineers had bridged the Rhine with a 1,150ft 'treadway'.

Twelve bridges were in service across the Rhine by the evening of D-Day Plus Two (26 March), the bridges at Wesel being built at a remarkable speed despite the hostile activities of snipers.

Prime Minister Winston Churchill was with Field Marshals Alan Brooke and Montgomery at the 'grandstand' observation post on the floodbank of the Rhine near Xanten when he suddenly jumped up with boyish enthusiasm; "They're coming!" he shouted.

It was 1000 hours on Saturday 24 March and the Allied airborne attack, designated Operation VERSITY, had started on time, the 1,572 transport aircraft, over 900 gliders and tugs of the XVIII US Airborne Corps, commanded by General Matthew B Ridgway, flying in from the south-west.

The objective was to put down two divisions, the 6th British and the 17th US, beyond the Diersfordter Wald and near the town of Hamminkeln astride the River Ijssel, which runs parallel to the Rhine. This area, like most of the



Men of The Cheshire Regiment — and the ruined Wesel railway bridge. IWM.

battlefield, was shrouded in the smoke of the action.

The British 6th Airborne Division (Major General Eric Bols) was to take the northern part of the Diersfordter Wald, the town of Hamminkeln and three bridges over the IJssel.

The US 17th Airborne Division (Major General William E. Miley) was given similar responsibilities to the south and to link up with the British 1st Commando Brigade in Wesel.

The paratroopers were the first to land, closely followed by the gliders. Some of the first parachutists to land were off their allotted dropping zones but in one case, at least, the error was providential; because of smoke obscuring their DZ, the 513th US Regiment dropped in the British area, directly on batteries of 88mm guns which were wreaking havoc among the gliders.

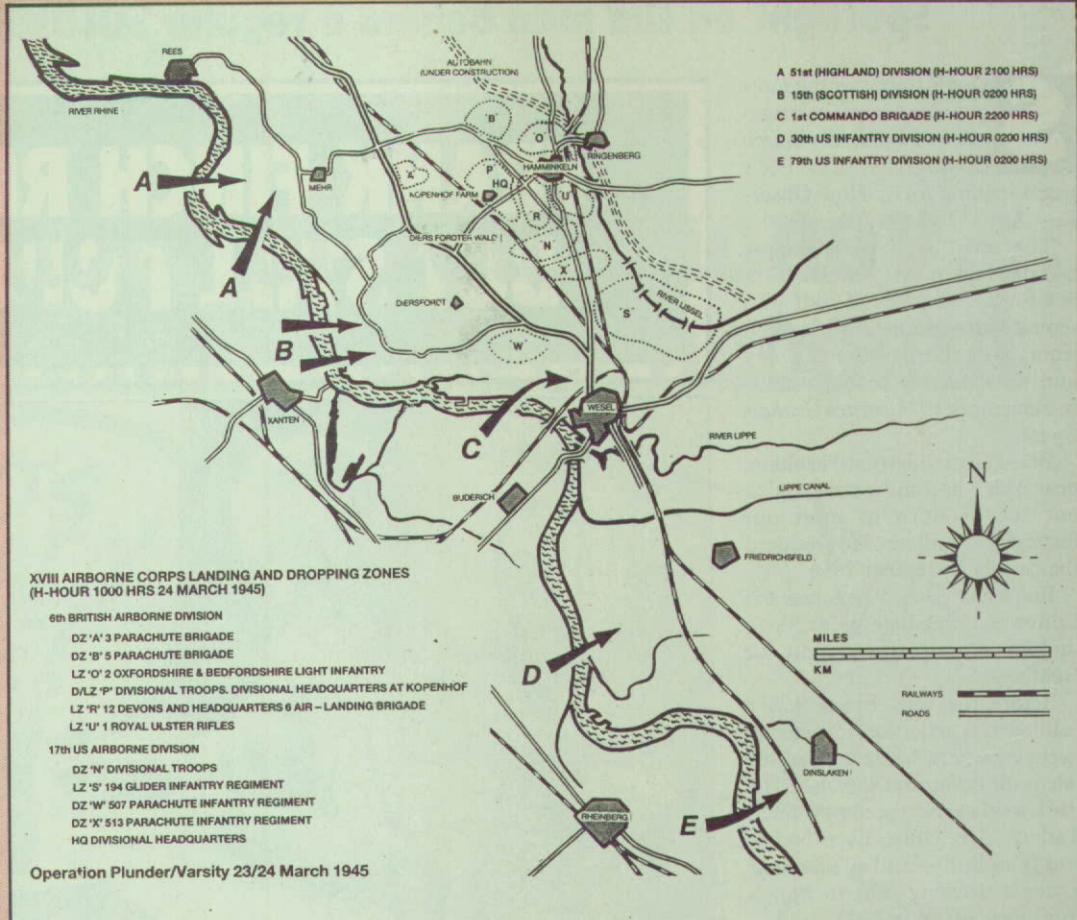
The Americans were able to silence the guns, thus saving many British lives.

It took two hours to land the XVIII Airborne Corps, the primary operation being closely followed by a huge supply drop by Liberator bombers.

The airborne men were in action at once, Hamminkeln being taken by the glider troops by midday. By 1345 hours the village of Schapenberg was in British hands and by the middle of the afternoon nearly all the main objectives had been achieved.

The Germans may not have been

**Horsa glider about to land. IWM**



thick on the ground and there was a lack of armour to counter the airborne troops.

However, the defenders were some of the best the Wehrmacht had at this stage of the war. They put up formidable resistance in a countryside tailor-made for defence: fields and plantations criss-crossed by ditches and narrow

roads.

The 8th Battalion of the Parachute Regiment was heavily engaged in this terrain and was isolated until the following day.

Fortunately, most of the airborne men did not find their movements so restricted and, apart from the gaining of objectives on the River IJssel, there was a gradual

infiltration of the Diersfordter Wald.

By nightfall on Saturday 24 March the 21 Army Group had established a bridgehead nearly thirty miles wide, the depth in the centre sector being nearly eight miles.

It was a night of mixed fortunes at individual level but the main plan was working well and, by dawn on Palm Sunday, news of increasing numbers of surrenders was giving buoyancy to the mood and morale of the Allied forces.

Now fresh waves of surface troops were passing through the units that had initiated the assault and 152nd Brigade of the 51st (Highland) Division was advancing north of the Diersfordter Wald.

By afternoon advanced armour and infantry of the British Second Army and US Ninth Army reached the airborne forces.

The war was not over with the crossing of the Rhine.

The end seemed to be an intolerable time a'coming, with battles for every small town and city suburb.

Even so, the die was irrevocably cast.

**by Brian Jewell\***

\* Brian Jewell was with the Royal Engineers involved in preparations for crossing the Rhine. He is the author of *Over the Rhine: the last days of the war in Europe* (Spellmount Ltd, £3.95) published 16 March.



OME SAY it is the most popular part of the magazine as they rapidly thumb through SOLDIER's pages looking for... How Observant Are YOU?

The artist who painstakingly compiles them, Mr Frank Finch, is a former member of staff who served with acclaimed artistic merit from 1945 shortly after VE day until retirement on health grounds in November 1976, writes *Graham Smith*.

Frank lives quietly at Farnham, near Aldershot, and is still turning out the HOAYs to meet our fortnightly deadlines. He produced the first in December 1956.

For many years, Frank was Art Editor as immediate predecessor to John Rushworth, in post for eight years.

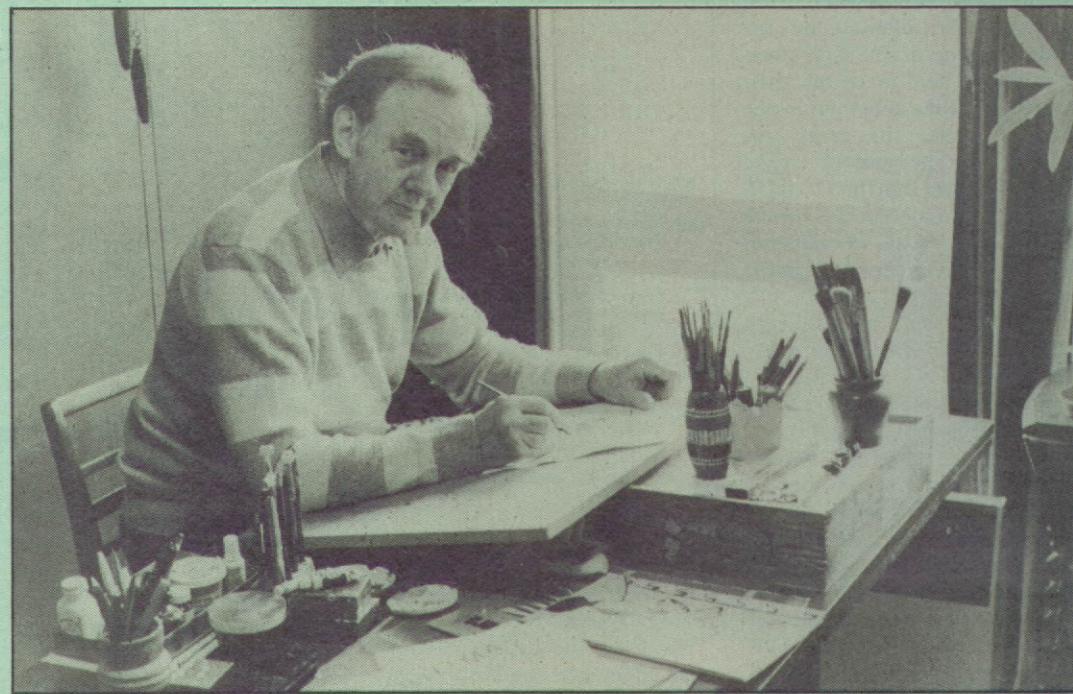
Before the war, Frank was a commercial artist for advertising agencies where he developed his talent for humorous sketches. His work was later accepted by *Punch*, *Tatler*, *Men Only*, *Everybody's* and *John Bull* — and all thanks to a single drawing sent to *Punch* from East Africa in 1944.

Then, he was an RAMC staff sergeant in Kenya working on the local Army command's magazine *Jambo* (as well as producing illustrations of parasites and bacteria associated with tropical diseases as part of his normal work!).

Nowadays, we have a trio of photographers vying for front cover full colour photography prominence. In Frank's time, he occasionally used to produce paintings!

In fact, he was the only member of staff in our 40-year history to feature on the front cover. It was a

## FRANK FINCH RETIRED BUT STILL POPULAR!



PICTURE: LES WIGGS

FRANK FINCH: retired — but still busy!

Below is Frank's latest 'Teaser' for your enjoyment...

January 1946 issue when, in uniform, with his back to artist, he was studying a gallery of soldiers of the past in a drawing by Eric Earnshaw, a staff illustrator.

Frank appreciates that times and developments have changed since the 100,000-circulation early days

of SOLDIER.

"Coverage now seems to be more and more domesticated now. In those early years there was very much more going on abroad with the Army," he says. "Korea, Malaysia and other brush fires. There is far more personal and

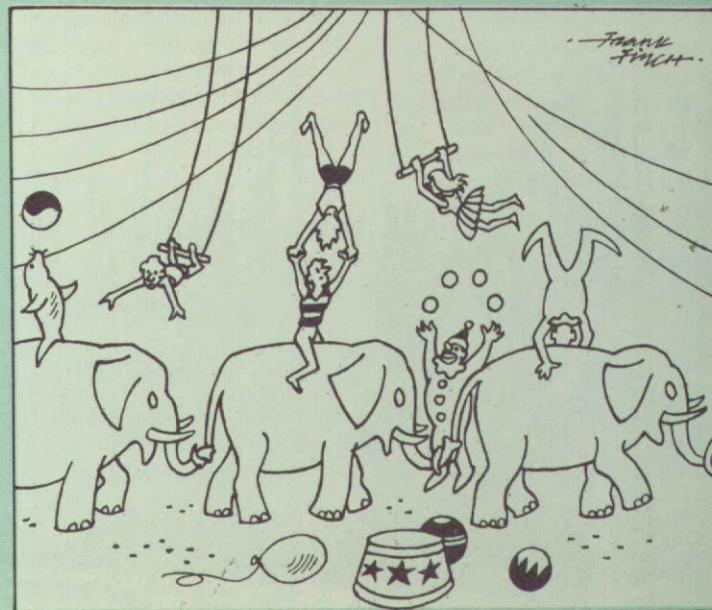
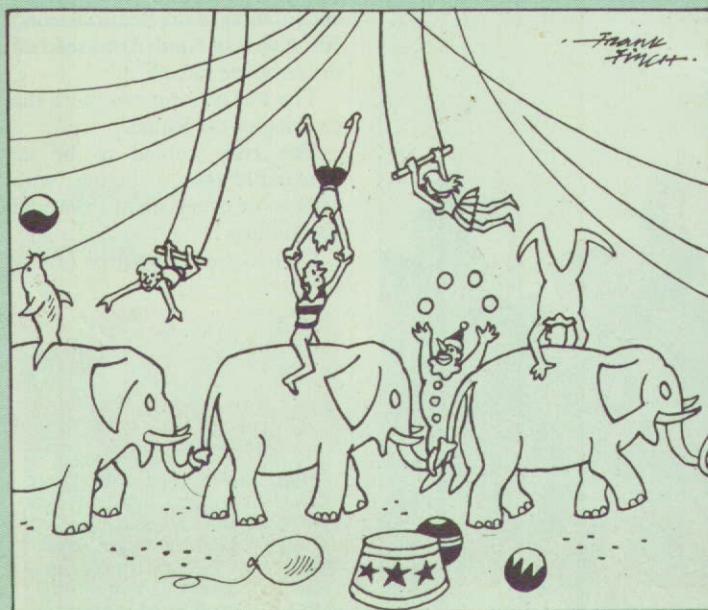
domestic material and sport than there used to be."

Had he ever thought of approaching a publisher over the years to make a *Giles*-type compendium of his military works?

He mused: "I don't think they would be interested in the idea from me. Perhaps it is something that could be best done by SOLDIER!"

## How observant are you?

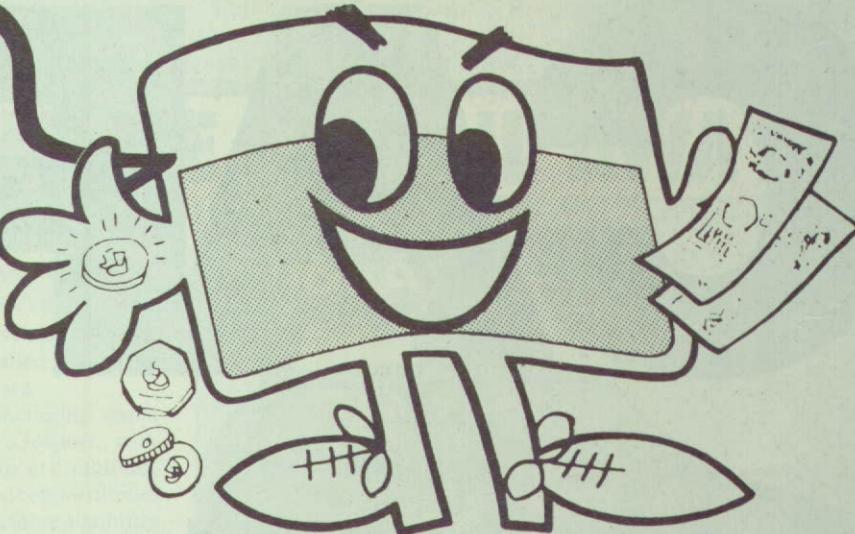
These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. You can check your answers by turning to page 44.



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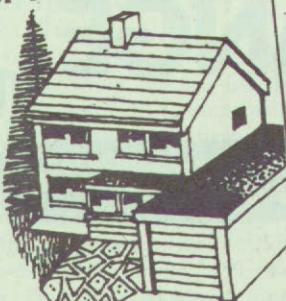
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THE QUESTION often asked by women is whether to return to work or stay at home as a homemaker.

A simple and useful book has been written by Pamela Anderson, 'Simple Steps for Returners'. As Pamela says: "I often discussed the problems which arise for a woman when she is making up her mind whether to become a 'returner' or to continue her career as a homemaker."

The subject is complex and perhaps 'I'll just take anything that is offered' is not always the best course to take, for we all have one bonus: our husbands

are employed.

Even so, more Service wives are returning to work.

Pamela has managed to explain the pros and cons not only by interviewing wives, but managing to explain some complex questions from sex

discrimination to equal pay.

Practical issues such as where to go for references if you have been out of work for some time, to the thought, 'Can I afford to work?'

Sixty per cent of people working part-time are mothers, and there are many factors to consider.

The book opens up thoughts which may be overlooked and if you are thinking about being a 'returner', you may undersell yourself due to lack of confidence or qualifications.

In the book Appendix A & B are a questionnaire, a sort of assessment of yourself from

health, personal circumstances, skills, and so on, to aptitudes.

Appendix C includes sources of further help, listing an enormous number of organisations covering every taste, plus a useful reading list.

So if you think you may be a 'returner' in 1985 for just £3.95, the book published by Poland Street Publishers, 9 Poland St, London, W1V 3DG (01-734-0875) is a useful guide.

*Anne Armstrong*

Home tel: Camberley 29653

# YOUR BIG CHANCE TO SAIL AWAY!

THE LONDON Sailing Project has allotted Army Youth 10 berths for the 1985 sailing season. These 10 places are open to any son of a serving soldier, so don't miss this marvellous opportunity to enjoy the thrill of sailing.

## Different holidays

DURING the last 11 years more schools have been offered interesting and challenging summer courses for all ages.

The field is not limited to sports and outdoor pursuits, now there are computer camp courses for gifted children, sessions for those struggling with the 3 Rs, plus studies on photography, music, drama and film making.

The 1985 ISIS Summer School leaflet gives nearly 80 ISIS member schools who are offering a wide selection of activities.

Send two first class stamps to ISIS association, 56 Buckingham Gate, London, SW1E 6AY.

## TIPS

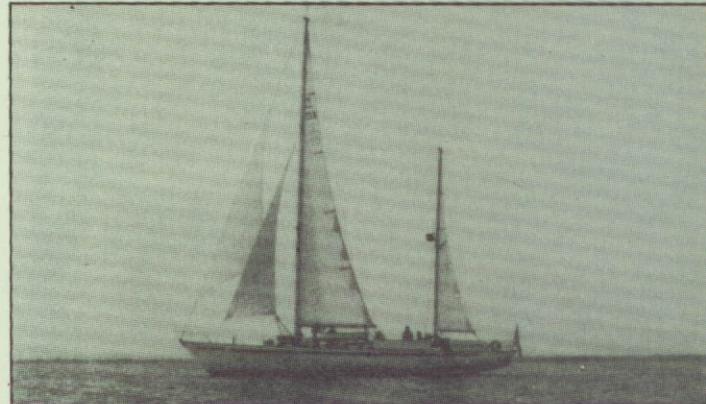
**TO BE TOLD** that your child is suffering from brain injury must be one of the worst nightmares any parent can face, for the problem may well be permanent.

The British Institute for Brain Injured Children offers help and comfort.

If you want more information write to: British Institute for Brain Injured Children, Knowle Hall, Knowle, Bridgewater, Somerset, TA7 8PJ. Bridgewater 0278 684060.

**A WARNING** from the Scottish National Institution for the War Blinded, regarding door-to-door salesmen:

"The Scottish National Institution for War Blinded has NO door-to-door salesmen, nor has the English counterpart, St Dunstan's."



The Donald Searle

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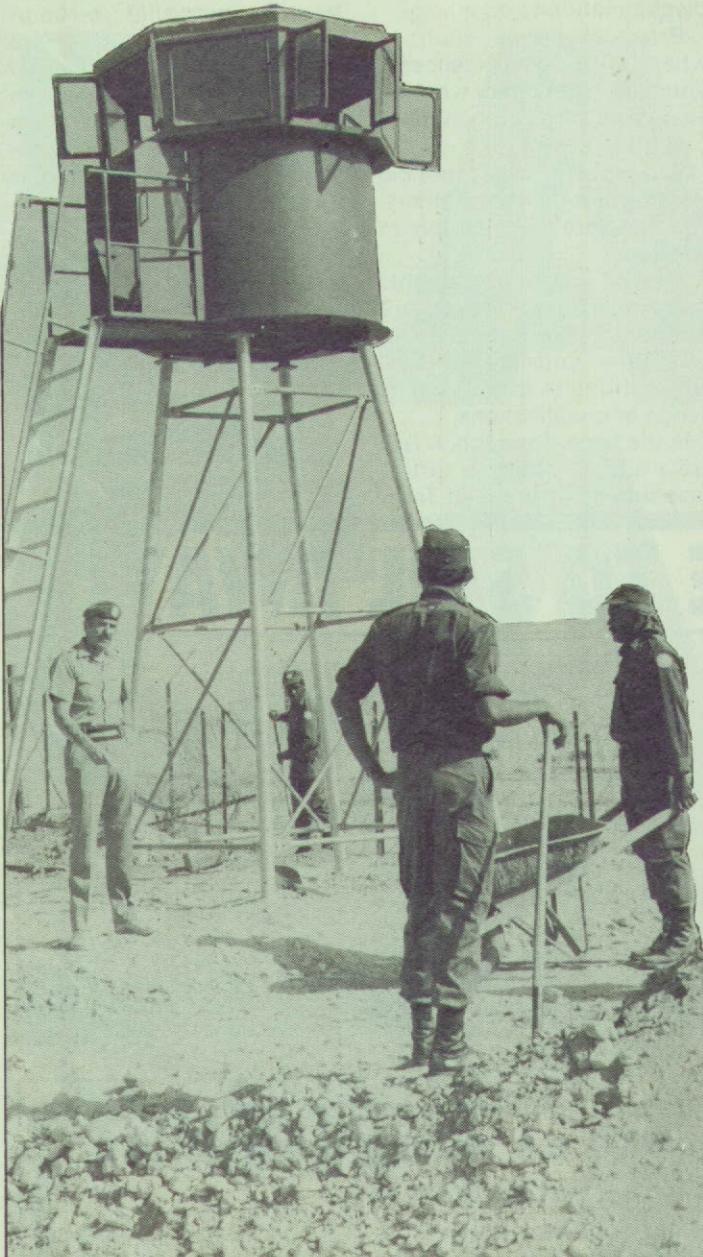
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ABOVE: Major (QM) Chris Kett, RRF, supervises the building of look out towers. BELOW: FSM's past and present cast a critical eye over a Colombian guard detail. On the left, WO1 John Francis, RA, the newcomer; on his left, WO 1 Chris Sayer, Blues and Royals, moving on

**SOLDIER** writer Graham Smith and picture editor Les Wiggs report on the British Contingent's contribution to Sinai peace-keeping. British Army numbers in the desert are small but they have...

## 'A VERY LARGE INFLUENCE ON THE FORCE'

**M**OTES described the Sinai as "this great and terrible wilderness." Napoleon's ill-fated Army crossed its northern region twice; once in hope, then in despair. Some fifty campaigns are said to have been fought in its 7,000-year-old known history while General Sir Edmund Allenby led the British Army across its wastes in his campaign against the Turks in World War I, taking time out to pursue his hobby of bird watching!

Nowadays, there are 34 British soldiers in a 37-strong British contingent (BRITCON) serving deep in Beau Geste terrain on six-month detachments as one of the as yet little-publicised 11-

nation Multi-National Force and Observers (MFO).

With other weekend attractions not more than 200 miles away in any of three or more compass directions they don't rate their sandy home — 130 degrees in the summer — too harshly and unanimously seem to find their role a satisfying one as desert peace-keeping trustees.

Wearing the MFO's unique and very distinctive terracotta coloured beret (made by a Massachusetts firm) embracing a badge showing Picasso's dove of peace in orange-and-white, all of the British, including a Royal Navy Petty Officer and two Royal Marines, with the exception of three Army personnel, are located on a former top secret 36-square-mile Israeli Air Force base once called Eitam but now called El Gorah.

It is the airfield from where the headline-making Entebbe raid was launched in 1976. El Gorah lies within a seven-kilometre perimeter fence with the Israeli border lying across tracts of restless sand dunes 15 kilometres due east.

The British contingent is the seventh to serve in the Sinai among the 2,580-strong MFO — including 73 uniformed women — at two camps as desert peacekeepers in a strip of land, or zone, 20 to 40 kilometres wide and some 400 kilometres deep. The British have been there since the outset of the MFO taking up its functions three years ago on 25 April, 1982.

The MFO forms a sort of "military sandwich" between the Israelis to the west and the Egyptians to the east and is responsible for observing and reporting any incidents or violations by both signatories of the historic 1979 peace treaty.



The British contingent, in common with the ten other nations — though Norway is not classed as a 'contingent' with its four men — is confined to Zone "C", one of three in the Sinai which start due east of the 170-kilometre-long Suez Canal. A fourth, Zone "D", is in Israel itself.

Zone "C" is still said to harbour more than 3,000,000 land mines lurking beneath the shifting sands in "lost" minefields in the Sinai Peninsula, a border demarcated from Rafah in the north slicing southwards to Taba, an area in dispute at the head of the Gulf of Aqaba.

The British contingent, the second smallest in manpower, is totally involved in the MFO purely as an HQ unit responsible for administration and security within the three-square-kilometre camp of El Gorah or, as it is known to the military, North Camp, lying 24 kilometres south-west of the border at Rafah.

BRITCON has one man, Major Cliff Castree, Royal Engineers, down at South Camp located at Sharm el-Sheikh, in an engineering advisory capacity to the Americans. South Camp was specially built for the MFO at Sinai's southern extremity.

All of the British effort is in support of the Norwegian Force Commander and includes staff secretariat tasks, a camp commandant appointment Major (QM) Chris Kett, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, plus administration, QM and MT sections.

Lieutenant Colonel Ted Loden, lately Assistant Chief of Staff with HQ British Forces Hong Kong is the BRITCON Commander and MFO's Deputy Chief of Logistics. Captain Hugh Beaumont, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, is OC of the MFO's HQ unit and the BRITCON company commander.

The 34 Army personnel comprise eight officers, 11 Senior NCOs, 12 Junior NCOs, two privates and a trooper representing seven corps and nine regiments. Of these, 15 are ex-BAOR based.

Three of the Army personnel are MFO "reps". In Cairo, some 200 miles and a five-hour drive due west over the Suez Canal is Lance Bombardier Peter Chapman, Royal Artillery.

To the north-west and across the border in Tel Aviv or "TA" as it is known to the R and R-seeking lads, is Lance Bombardier Ian Green, Royal Artillery, while Major Castree is based at Sharm el-Sheikh's South Camp.

Morale appears to be high among the close-knit Army personnel serving in the isolated Sinai.

Corporal John Robertson, Royal Corps of Transport, more used to driving VIPs up and down the autobahns with 14 Squadron, RCT, at HQ 1 British Corps in Bielefeld — he once drove Prince Michael of Kent — is now driving sand-flanked roads with the Force Commander as his back seat passenger.

No Granada estate car this time, though. Instead, a V-8 "Chevy" turning in a thirsty 19½ desert miles to the gallon.

Barely arrived at El Gorah, Scotsman John has already become familiar with the 204-mile return trip to Tel Aviv on official business.

"A signal came from the Manning and Records Office when I was in BAOR asking me if I'd like to do six months here. I accepted," said one of BRITCON's latest intakes. "I was on the Gaza Strip last week and I've also been to El Arish about 40 miles due west of here along the coast. It's certainly a different posting and I've served in places like Hong Kong and Malaysia in my time.

"I would certainly come out here again for a second tour given the chance. You don't often get opportunities like this. But you have got to have the right attitude to be happy in a place like this. I'm even getting my wife out here on holiday. It's a good jumping off spot for other places in Egypt or Israel."

BRITCON personnel usually do a complete rotation of members every three months, sometimes as many as three or four people leaving during the course of a week. Currently, tours are for six months but it is understood that the Ministry of Defence has agreed and MFO decisions are awaited

on a bid to increase tours from six to nine months in early 1986.

Sergeant Gary Dean, 22, Royal Army Pay Corps, formerly attached to 14 Topographic Squadron, RE, at Düsseldorf, said: "I get to do things here I would normally never do in an HQ, like

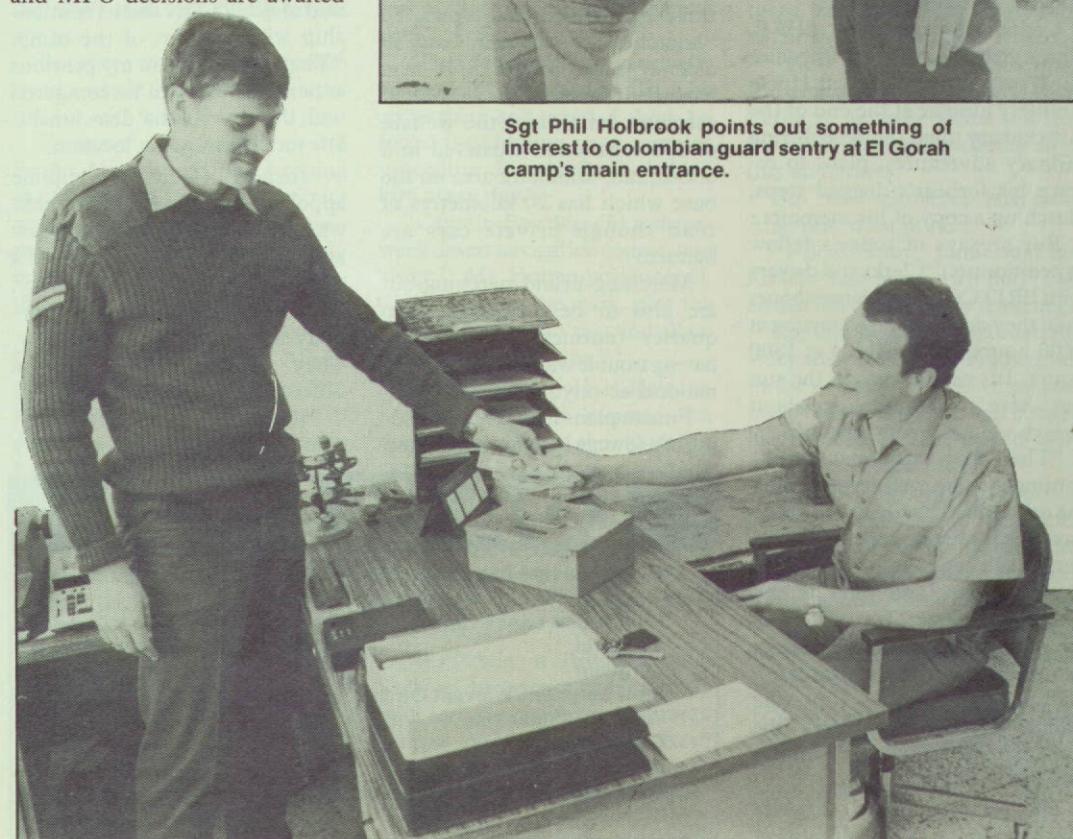
writing Part Two orders. That's new for me."

Leaving in June for an eventual two-year posting again in the Mediterranean — Cyprus — he added: "I think it could do my Army career good being here. If I

*Continued on page 22*



Sgt Phil Holbrook points out something of interest to Colombian guard sentry at El Gorah camp's main entrance.



**It's only money!** Sgt Gary Dean, RA/PC, hands out a 'sub' to Cpl Les Holroyd, on the HQ Staff's secretariat.

# Force Commander: The British, as always, do a very good job

Continued from page 21

get a good report then I'll be noticed, I got told I was coming out here and I've no regrets. You can save a lot of money out here as we don't pay for food or accommodation. That's worth £80 or £90 a month with my £7.42 pence Local Overseas Allowance (LOA).

Sgt Dean said weekends away were really cheap for those on R and R in such places as Cairo, Tel Aviv and Eilat, a sun-kissed beach resort with topless Scandinavian appeal in Israel at the head of the Gulf of Aqaba. Soldiers could stay in five-star hotel double rooms for as little as \$37... a massive 50 per cent discount for MFO personnel.

The really thrifty and cash-conscious can, it seems, play the impecunious tourist at no cost... under the stars in a sleeping bag on the beach!

"My job here makes a nice change from being with a big battalion when you are stuck in one place. The only problem is that you can't ring home on transfer charges from here, you have to make arrangements for family or friends to call you from the UK," said the Yorkshire pay sergeant.

Wives are encouraged to visit their menfolk at El Gorah where they can stay free of charge in special accommodation for up to seven days though they are responsible for paying their own air fare out and back.

The men usually take their loved ones, then, to Cairo or Israel. The Force Commander allows all MFO personnel, including the British, 15 days' extra leave a year, regarding this gesture as "a right and not a privilege."

Captain Beaumont, 1 RWF, whose great-grandfather, Brigadier C. Wray, a former Royal Horse Artillery gunner at the end of the last century plied the Nile during military adventures, plans to retrace his forbear's dogged steps, clutching a copy of his memoirs.

But he says of today's fellow expeditionists: "Clerks and drivers with BRITCON work longer hours than they do in the UK, starting at 0600 hours and finishing at 1800 hours. It's no sinecure in the sun out here. I think just about everybody has a full-time job.

"The four Commonwealth contingents are well respected by the others and it's good we should have such a strong representation here. Each contingent has its own National Day and ours is the Queen's Birthday. In addition to the national days there are eight annual MFO holidays awarded."

Major (QM) Chris Kett, the Camp Commandant, has the responsibility for the camp's security and quartering.

The security aspect involves guard duties by 120 Columbians



and 80 Fijians who do fortnightly stints on and around the camp.

Occasionally, nomadic Bedouin — some 30,000 are said to live in the Sinai — try to penetrate the wire at night for a bit of light-fingered larceny.

Major Kett said: "We may be the second smallest contingent but we are the backbone to the running of the MFO HQ. Nothing would be done without us and our expertise gained over the years. We are bloody good at it. The British Army is more experienced in on-base security than any other Army in the world."

As Major (QM) he looks after the officer accommodation and that of civilians with officer status, the 11 members of the Civilian Management Staff and the 31 members — including two women — of the all-American Civilian Observer Unit (COU).

He also has the "landlord" responsibility for 42 two- and three-bedroomed bungalows, 30 "hootches" or two-man huts, 50 older-type huts, a couple of 14-man barrack rooms used as transit accommodation and the welfare of 178 tenants all clustered in a one-square-kilometre area on the base which has 20 kilometres of road though private cars are banned.

Marching-in and marching-out are also to be introduced into quarter routines. He was still having trouble with all the differing national acronyms, he said.

Future plans include the building of a sewage system on the camp

Another detachment over and another gift for The Three Jokers pub wall. Recipient on its behalf, FSM Chris Sayer, also leaving at the same time.

impeccable. We just don't have the discipline problems of a battalion because everyone is trying to hold up their flag very high and are determined not to be seen to be the ones causing the problems.

"There is a great competitive spirit to make people ensure that standards remain high.

"The British contingent which may be small has had a very large influence on the Force."

He said the Sinai posting had presented a unique chance for meeting people such as Signor Spadolini, the Italian Prime Minister, Mr Casper Weinberger, the American Defence Secretary and even our own Mr Michael Heseltine who was on a whistle-stop visit.

FSM Sayer is now the Garrison Sergeant Major at Tidworth.

## 'A post that needs a lot of diplomacy'

which has enough electricity to light up a town the size of Guildford.

The Olympic-size swimming pool takes six weeks to fill... gradually and in time for each Force Anniversary Day on 25 April.

Pets may be allowed on the camp said Major Kett. "Someone will be asking me for a camel next," he joked.

WO1 Chris Sayer, Blues and Royals, the Force Sergeant Major who was handing over to his successor on the day of our visit said of BRITCON and its relationship with the rest of the camp: "There is nothing in my previous experience that can be compared with this six-months' detachment. It's totally unique in location.

"Instead of being a discipline appointment, an appointment where we can lay down the law and say 'I want it yesterday' it is a post that needs a lot of diplomacy.

"It's about understanding everybody else's national point of view. They all approach it from a different angle... it's fascinating.

"We are spoilt tremendously. The discipline here is really

His successor, Warrant Officer 1 John Francis, Royal Artillery, formerly of 29 Commando Regiment, RA, at Plymouth, said: "I'm still a bit confused by all those initial briefings but this is a posting which I don't think I will ever do again.

"When I leave in six months, just like FSM Sayer, I am sure I'll leave my mark on the HQ."

Praise for the British contribution came from the Norwegian Force Commander, Lieutenant General Egil Ingebrigtsen, 56, its second incumbent — another Norwegian — to fill the post said: "I think there is no doubt from what I have seen of the British contingent that they are very professional. A professional attitude to serving and I have seen only a professional performance from them."

"They have, of course, a lot of experience of serving in places like this. May be not as multi-national as this but with a long history of tradition serving outside England."

"They are normally very good mixers and normally try to use every opportunity when they are out to do more than their formal military business. They are very clever in getting around and taking people on tours."

"I am very pleased with the British contingent and I would like to stress this is not a nicety. I really mean this from a friendly point of view."

He went on: "As a Norwegian, I have had a lot to do with the British before. I've always been struck by their professional attitude and their approach to what they are doing here. The British as always, do a very good job."

## LOA IN SINAI

LOCAL Overseas Allowance (LOA) for Army personnel is as follows and was current for the month of February.

Private and Lance Corporal	£7.16 a day
Corporal	£7.29 a day
Sergeant	£7.42 a day
Staff Sergeant/Warrant Officer Two	£7.61 a day
Warrant Officer One	£7.80 a day
Captain	£9.01 a day
Major	£9.17 a day

Food and accommodation is free and there are 15 days' special MFO leave.

HERE WAS, it is faithfully narrated, this young officer serving in the scorching Sinai with the small but very influential British Army contingent (BRITCON) as part of the 11-nation Multi-National Force and Observers (MFO) who, one day last year, went out and bought himself a camel... for cash!

He was on a six-months detachment with desert exploration under the stars firmly in mind. She, the camel, was a likeable and leggy ship-of-the desert who looked amenable.

She was going to be just the job for Captain Jamie Bowden, The Royal Green Jackets, and BRITCON's 'double-hatted' appointee as its company commander and MFO's OC HQ Unit, on the rambling, isolated one-time Israeli Air Force Base of El Gorah, less than nine miles from the border.

She was so sweet he called her Angelica.

The enterprising infantryman already a sturdy veteran in 19th-century period costume of a regimental footslog, with musket, across snow-capped north-western Spain to commemorate Sir John Moore's epic retreat had a new venture in mind. A lonely trek with hand-picked companions in costume again but, this time, by camel.

As SOLDIER went to press Captain Bowden, 26, now based with the Light Division at Shrewsbury, his chum Captain Charles Blackmore (another Corunna vet), two regimental riflemen for support and a genuine Bedouin were re-tracking in reverse Lawrence of Arabia's famous camel steps across Jordan to Aqaba via Kerak and Petra. (See SOLDIER 11 March).

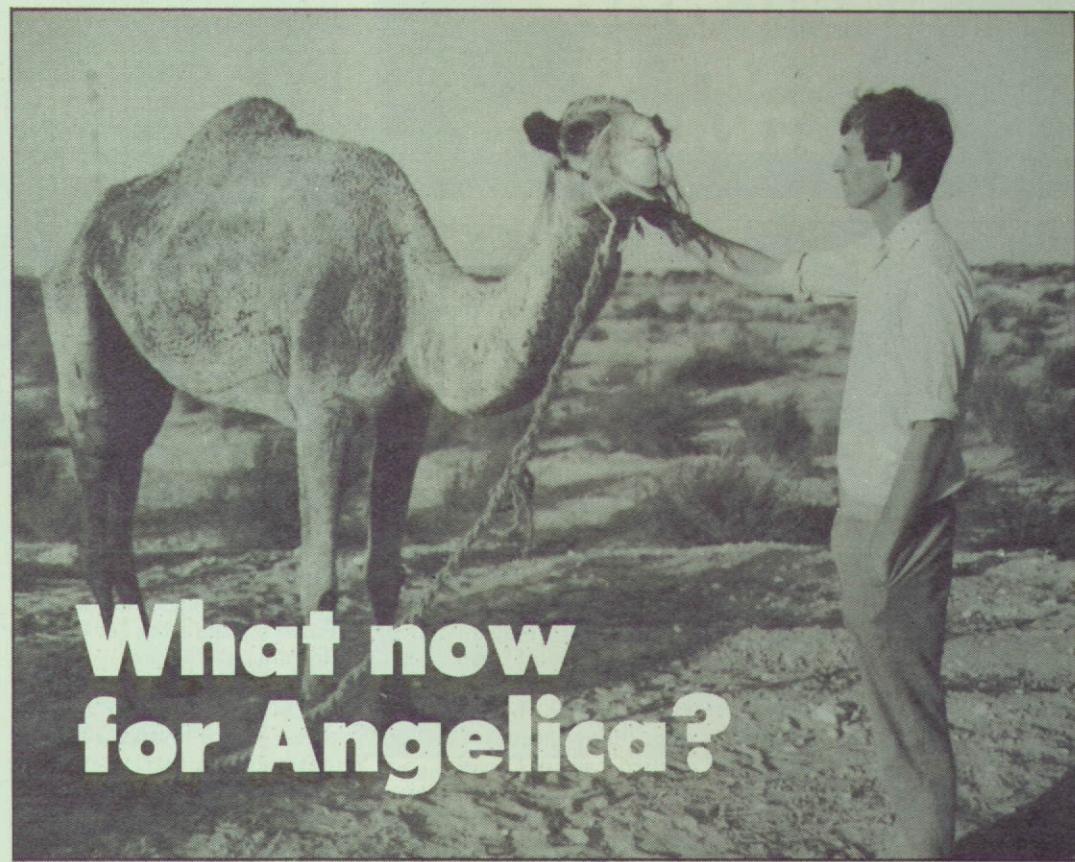
Like any other military operation the captain had done his planning well. A tobacco consortium has sponsored him to the tune of £7,000, chauffeured him in style from Gloucester to London's Heathrow where, British Airways picked up the tab for the flights to Amman, Jordan, where he was due to meet King Hussein.

But there's no substitute for experience. Young Bowden, as Sinai temperatures started to soar well into the 100s, bought the appealing Angelica from a bunch of reluctant Bedouin camel-market dealers who were spontaneously doing themselves no favours in letting him have the low-mileage one-owner youngster for a reported 700 US dollars!

The lissom local transport was his, equipped with seven stomachs with ample water storage facility, sizeable, strong young feet to avoid stalling in the feckless dunes—and a nice nature, as camels go.

Captain Bowden decided at the very outset that he wanted the beast to be anything but a burden to

## The British officer who bought a camel....



### What now for Angelica?

"This is how it's going to be old girl," Captain Bowden seems to be telling an attentive Angelica.

him. On the contrary, the captivating camel was needed for a special conversion course of vital importance for Expedition Jordanian Ride.

He would learn to feed her. Care for her. Ride her and, generally coax her into his way of thinking as he, in turn, probed a female camel's innermost psyche in preparation for his overland trek aboard another of her unpredictable and oft-cantankerous species.

But there was another lady who would whole-heartedly enter the project with him.

Former charity fund raiser and friend, Ms Alison Hulme working at El Gorah under a year's contract with a firm specialising in 'communications' joined in the daily labours of love nurturing the cosmopolitan camp's unusual pet.

Morning... noon... and night Captain Jamie and Ms Alison dutifully proffered huge gorse-like bushes to an ever-appreciative Angelica, her supercilious demeanour disappearing by the well-fuelled minute.

The camp area Bedouin, meanwhile, by way of a sort of after-sales effort, it seems, even volunteered to show the indefatigable infantry officer how to tether, shackle, saddle and, finally, ride his four-legged acquisition.

This new-found training tryst between captain and camel lasted for five whole months. Then, sadly, the aspiring explorer had to move on to make room for his current

successor in post.

"I suppose he was fond of her in his own way," said a suddenly wistful Ms Hulme. "When Angelica first came into the camp to take up residence there was some opposition but the Force Commander's wife and the Deputy Chief of Staff were all for it."

"Angelica could stay. Vets examined her and didn't find her to be flea-ridden. She was given lots of injections. I think she was well-watered."

"The Bedouin don't normally sell camels but Jamie had just gone up to them and asked. I think he found the saddling was a complex procedure. But the Bedouin helped him every day."

"Captain Bowden did a three-week desert navigation course, you know," Ms Hulme volunteered. "How to read the stars, plot the sun and things like that and all on the Berkshire Downs."

She added, coyly: "He's an eccentric and, of course, I'm desperately worried about him but very proud as well. He's so keen on expeditions. I think life will always be on the move for him. He'll be one of the great explorers. He kept reading Lawrence's 'Seven Pillars of Wisdom' to get the feel of the desert."

Meanwhile, a BBC External Services broadcast had, she was told, said the men were hoping to survive on figs, rice and fresh vegetables. There was, she remembered, some mention of a Jordanian camel-handling party back-up

team provided by the Royal Household.

With a mischievous giggle, she added: "He only normally eats fresh vegetables. He is very skinny as well. He's ideally suited to the desert climate. I'm sure he'll survive on a diet of rice. I'm sure he'll thrive on it."

"I think the expedition is a challenge to him because it's never been done before. I don't think there are any regimental connections with this one."

"He's certain to write a book and even articles when he gets back. Perhaps he may write one for SOLDIER, too. He's doing all of this au naturel."

But the adorable, adaptable Angelica, what of her?

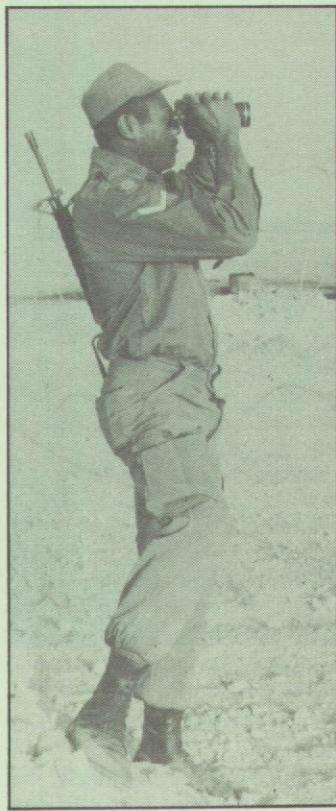
"I don't know. Jamie sold her for less than he paid for her," was all that Ms Hulme could remember.

Captain Jamie did just that, the story was confirmed. Trading her in for — cash. To the very same used-Camel dealer he had bought her from originally. But he only got a third of the price.

Perhaps Angelica is still outside the seven-kilometre perimeter fence of the camp waiting for another Army owner of officer status, another budding Lawrence of Arabia or even El Gorah, to emerge as an intrepid explorer from within MFO's BRITCON.

Who knows? Her buyer may even be able to acquire not only the same camel accessory tack but genuine Bedouin riding outfit to go with it. For a good price.

# SINAI: WHERE STRIFE IS NO STRANGER



**A FIJIBATT** — Fijian Battalion — soldier keeps both eyes peeled behind a high-powered pair of binos at a beach location OP

STRIFE, it seems, has never been a stranger to the 23,800-square-mile sand-strewn Sinai, Egypt's easternmost landmass peninsula at the head of the Red Sea and sandwiched between the Gulfs of Suez and Aqaba.

The first peoples to bring it into world eternal prominence were the two million Israelites (including 600,000 men) who wandered amid its wastes in BC 1300 for 38 years, two years after fleeing slavery in Egypt under Pharaoh where their peoples had lived for 430 years.

With the Egyptians at their backs and herding their sheep, goats and cattle the tribes defied hunger, thirst and mutinous feelings as they trekked towards the Promised Land of Canaan.

In the south, Mount Sinai or Jebel Musa (Mountain of Moses), the 7,497-foot peak is said to be the site where Moses received the Ten Commandments.

Main town of the region is El Arish, half-a-mile from the sparkling Mediterranean where, nearly 70 years ago, another campaign was to feature. The advance on Jerusalem and Damascus through Turkish opposition.

Australians, New Zealanders as



well as Indian and British brigades passed through the town.

Damascus was entered on 2 October, 1917 and Jerusalem on 9 December under the inspired leadership and tactics of General Sir Edmund Allenby.

Forty years later, the Sinai — rich in gas, petroleum and turquoise — was invaded again; by the same nation that had crossed it over 3,000 years previously.

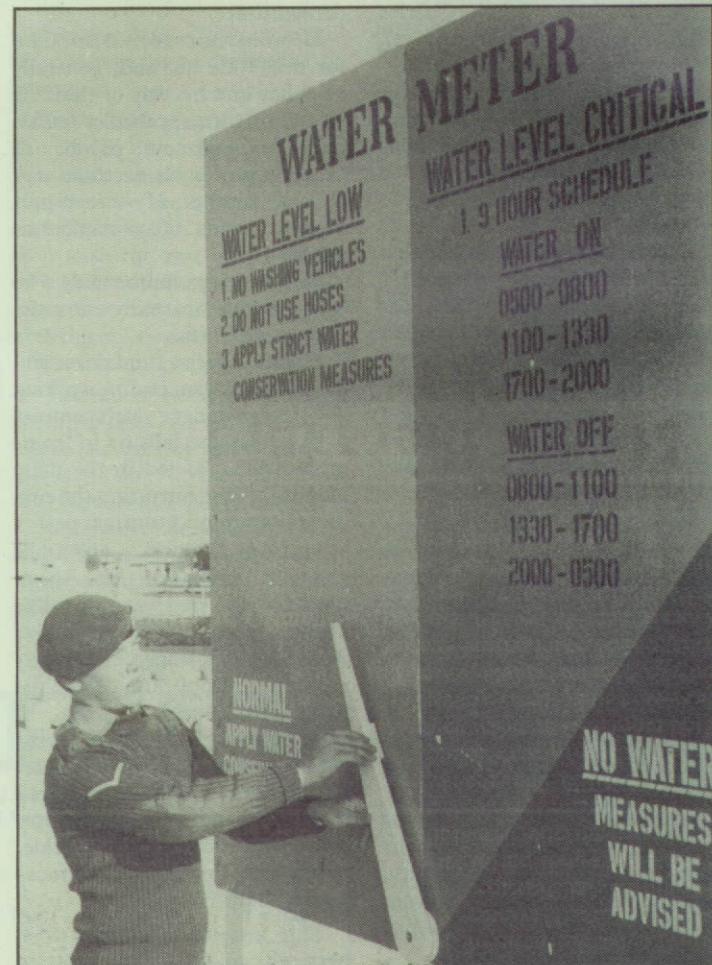
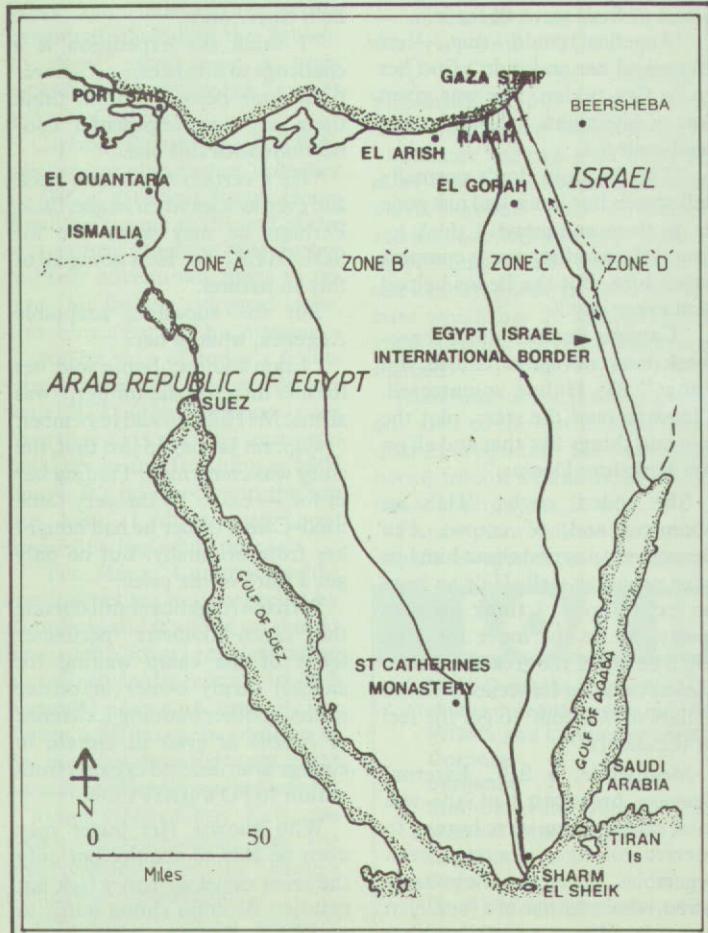
The Israelis occupied it from November 1956 until March 1957, withdrawing to allow the presence of a United Nations Force.

But they were back again, as history books confirm, for the Six-Day War in June 1967. Just over six years later, the Egyptians

retaliated trying to re-take their territory during the Yom Kippur engagement from October 14-19 when, it is said, more tanks were used than at El Alamein.

Again, the Israelis withdrew under the disengagement agreement of 1973 and the Camp David Accord of 1979 from an area west of a line from El Arish.

Sinai was returned to Egypt in 1982 resulting from the Camp David agreement between the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli leader Menachim Begin, thus ending 31 years of war between both countries.



The map showing the MFO Zone 'C' responsibility

Lance Corporal Martin Chambers, RE, promulgates the water state to the camp's daily users.

**T**HE 10-Contingent Multi-National Force and Observers (MFO) in the Sinai, comprising 2,580 personnel — 73 of these, women in uniform — was in place on 20 March 1982, and began its peace keeping functions on complete Israeli withdrawal from the area at 1300 hours on 25 April.

The Force HQ was set up at El Gorah, the former 36-square-kilometre Israeli Air Force base of Eitam, about 40 kilometres south-west of the Gaza Strip and 15 kilometres due west of the border with that country.

Events followed the signing of a peace treaty by Egypt and Israel on 26 March 1979 providing for the withdrawal of Israeli forces to the line of the 1949 armistice boundary ranging from Rafah in the north to Taba, in the extreme south, at the head of the Gulf of Aqaba.

Originally, the United Nations had been asked to provide a peace-keeping force and observers to monitor the disputed area of the Sinai but history shows in May 1981 they were unable to do so. The area would be split into three Zones, 'A', 'B' and 'C' with a fourth, 'D' in Israel itself.

The UN would invigilate specified limitations on armed forces, armaments and equipment in each zone. It did not happen that way.

Instead, the United States Government was tasked to find an alternative solution.

That alternative became the MFO. It followed the 'negotiation of a Protocol' which was signed on 3 August 1981, by Egypt and Israel and witnessed by the USA, providing for an independent organisation for a four-year term.

Eleven nations speaking eight languages now make up the MFO. Three infantry battalions — from Fiji, Colombia and the USA — are involved in basic observation and reconnaissance reporting with permanently-manned checkpoints and OPs. During a typical week this January for example, 173 unscheduled operational patrols were mounted and 120 OPs occupied.

The break-down of contingents is as follows:

In addition to the three infantry battalions and the 37-strong UK input as the largely administrative and camp security-responsible BRITCON within the Force HQ, France provides 43 men who give a fixed-wing capability with one C.160 Transall transport aircraft and a couple of DH-6 Twin Otters.

Australia and New Zealand combine to field 109 and 35 personnel respectively, as ANZAC, with the rotary wing element of eight and two Huey UH-1H helicopters respectively. They are due to withdraw in April 1986, having said at the outset they would

# MFO: 11 nations work as one



A Colombian conscript mans a lofty mountain top OP many miles south of El Gorah camp.

## Eight languages — one purpose

serve only four years with the MFO.

Italy has sent 90 personnel and three converted minesweepers to ensure freedom of navigation through the Tiran Strait while the Netherlands with a signals unit of 81 people and a military unit of 21 representatives takes care of those aspects.

Uruguay has sent 75 men comprising the transport unit who provide engineer maintenance for the 477-kilometre Main Supply Route (MSR) from El Gorah in the north to Sharm el-Sheikh in the south, a 15-hour drive.

In addition to its 800-man infantry battalion — the Colombian and Fijian battalions have 500 men each — the USA also provides a 36-man Army Aviation Element of 10 UH-1H helicopters, a 350-strong Logistic Support Unit (LSU) and 31 civilian observers including two women.

Norway, not classed as a contingent, provides the three-star Norwegian Lieutenant General Force Commander and three staff officers.

The MFO civilian component comprised, as SOLDIER went to press, 224 British expatriates — many former Army personnel — working under contract to an American-based firm and 434

locally employed civilians (LECs).

About 1,835 personnel are located at the three-square-kilometre complex El Gorah which is known as North Camp while another 915 are based at Sharm el-Sheikh or South Camp, specially built for the MFO.

The MFO has representatives in Cairo and Tel Aviv — both Royal Artillery lance bombardiers on driver/liaison duties.

South Camp houses principally the US battalion and the Italian Coastal Patrol Unit.

Zone 'C' ranges in width from 20 to 40 kilometres and is some 400 kilometres from north to south. The border with Israel runs 130 statute miles from Rafah in the north to Taba, in the south, an area in dispute.

In the Zone, in which the MFO is deployed, the territory is split into six sectors.

The three-rifle company Fijian battalion patrols the northernmost sectors, the most densely populated area of the Sinai. The Fijians, incidentally, have a 12 months tour with the MFO like everyone else with the exception of the French and British and, as an Army of only three battalions,

have a second serving in Lebanon with UNIFIL (United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon) with

the 5,600-strong 10-nation force there.

Likewise, the 500-man, three rifle company Colombian battalion patrols the two central sectors, an area comprising some of the most desolate landscapes in the whole of Sinai.

Theirs is a mountainous area contrasting starkly with the flat, rolling sandy plains of the north.

The 800 personnel of the three rifle company — it also has an HQ Company — US battalion, backed up by its 36-member aviation unit in their 10 Huey helicopters located at South Camp are responsible for Zone 'C's two most southerly sectors.

In all of the Zones the monthly air recce and land verification missions with Israeli and Egyptian (Liaison System Israeli) and (Liaison System Egypt) respectively are entrusted to the 31-strong all-American Civilian Observer Unit (COU).

The MFO function is broken down into four missions under the protocol pledging to employ its best efforts to prevent any violation of the security measures set forth in the peace treaty of 1979.

They are the operation of permanently-manned checkpoints,



Above and far right: Two sides to the Sinai or MFO Medal — awarded to all completing a six-month stint there.

Continued from page 25

recces patrols and OPs along the 130-mile-long barbed wire border with Israel or on roads and other key points within Zone 'C': periodic 'verification' not less than twice monthly; additional verification within 48 hours after the receipt of a request from either the Egyptians or the Israelis; and ensuring the freedom of navigation through the Strait of Tiran.

Responsibilities are shared within the MFO among four units. Its headquarters in Rome is headed by a Director-General. Force HQ is at El Gorah and the DG has two representatives in Cairo and Tel Aviv.

The Protocol provides that the expenses of the MFO which are not covered by other sources should be borne equally by Egypt and Israel with the USA agreeing to meet one-third of the MFO's

THE SINAI or MFO medal was personally awarded to members of the Force by its first Force Commander, Lieutenant General Fredrik Bull-Hansen, a Norwegian.

British Army medals, however, have to be awarded by heads of governments of States which are recognised by Her Majesty the Queen as a State, said a Ministry of Defence spokesman. In this case the Force Commander is not recognised as a State.

He added: "Recipients may retain the medals as souvenirs."



## FIRST PEACEKEEPERS

BEFORE the MFO was set up in the Sinai the United Nations had already placed a presence there.

Following the 1973 war between Egypt and Israel, the UN mobilised a peacekeeping force for the Sinai. It was known as the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF II) — there had been a UNEF I after an earlier war between them.

UNEF II provided a stabilising buffer and had its HQ in Ismailia on the Suez Canal and was progressively deployed in zone 'A' from North Sinai down to Sharm el-Sheikh (now South Camp) at the entrance to the Gulf of Aqaba.

Surveillance duties in those days were provided by the American-raised Sinai Field Mission (SFM) in addition to the military components and

battalions of UNEF II.

The bulk of UNEF stayed in the Sinai until about six months after the signing of the peace treaty on 26 March 1979. The majority of the Force left for home leaving in their wake a civilian UN staff based on El Gana airfield in Ismailia, a military component of 120 and a local Egyptian staff.

On 24 April 1980, the UNEF flag was lowered there for the last time by the sole remaining military staff officer and the Egyptian flag raised in its stead. The next day the duty of UNEF II in the Sinai was over.

The requirement for a UN peacekeeping force to occupy Zone 'C' was never fulfilled once the withdrawal of the Israeli forces was complete on 25 April, 1982. As a result, the MFO was formed.

The Force Commander, Lieutenant General Ingebrigtsen, right foreground, chairs a meeting between the Israelis on the right and Egyptians, left, on a minor complaint.



operating costs, too. That is about \$100 million annually.

Troops in the 11-nation MFO in the words of their Norwegian Force Commander, Lieutenant General Egil Ingebrigtsen, in post a year this month, need to be 'tough, resilient and self-sufficient.'

In the period of a year before he took up post after his predecessor, fellow Norwegian, Lieutenant General Fredrik Bull-Hansen, MFO's Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams had neutralised 5,779 devices (the Egyptians are doing it all now) and the Force aircrews had flown 51 medical evacuation missions.

Speaking to *SOLDIER*, General Ingebrigtsen said: "We have a very clear and defined mission. We have been organised and equipped properly to perform that mission. We have a lot of pluses on our side.

"As Force Commander I have found it easier than I had expected. I think we have a very great degree of will to co-operate and overcome difficulties; difficulties stemming from the complexity of the multinationality of the Force.

"I've served in Syria from 1969-70 and I had, at least, a background of the area as a starter when I came to this mission.

"I think it's delightful to command and organise like this with all the good co-operation and good support from all the nations by the contingents they send.

"It's also encouraging to feel the support from the two parties of Egypt and Israel."

Sergeant Phil Holbrook, Royal Artillery, with Colombian soldier AL Uaro Acosta on gate guard at El Gorah

# KEEPING WATCH IN SINAI





## NORWAY:

**T**he Arctic was never a traditional battle-ground for the British Army. Deserts and jungles have been on the menu often enough, but the intense cold of polar and sub polar regions has been rather more rare.

In 1940, in an effort to halt the dramatically successful German invasion of Norway our forces sent in were inadequately prepared and poorly equipped and were soon forced to withdraw.

Since the war, serious attention has been given to equipping British fighting men, both materially and spiritually, to operate effectively in the frigid climate of the far north.

For some 17 years it has become the practice to send units of the Allied Command Europe

Mobile Force (Land) — AMF(L) — to Norway for a taste of soldiering with snow on the boots.

The basic form of the exercise has changed very little over the years, although both equipment and techniques have been considerably improved.

In Autumn the units involved usually get down to what they call their dry shod training at their home bases in and around Bulford. Generally the plan at this stage is to concentrate on fitness and theory. The next phase is the arrival of advance parties in Norway and the establishment of courses to prepare instructors for the main body of troops who arrive towards the end of January. This year the pre-Hardfall phase was also used to instruct 120 novices from the



## Learning to live with the Arctic

1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, which is the present AMF infantry battalion.

Throughout most of February the activity concentrates on unit training, working up from section to platoon to company.

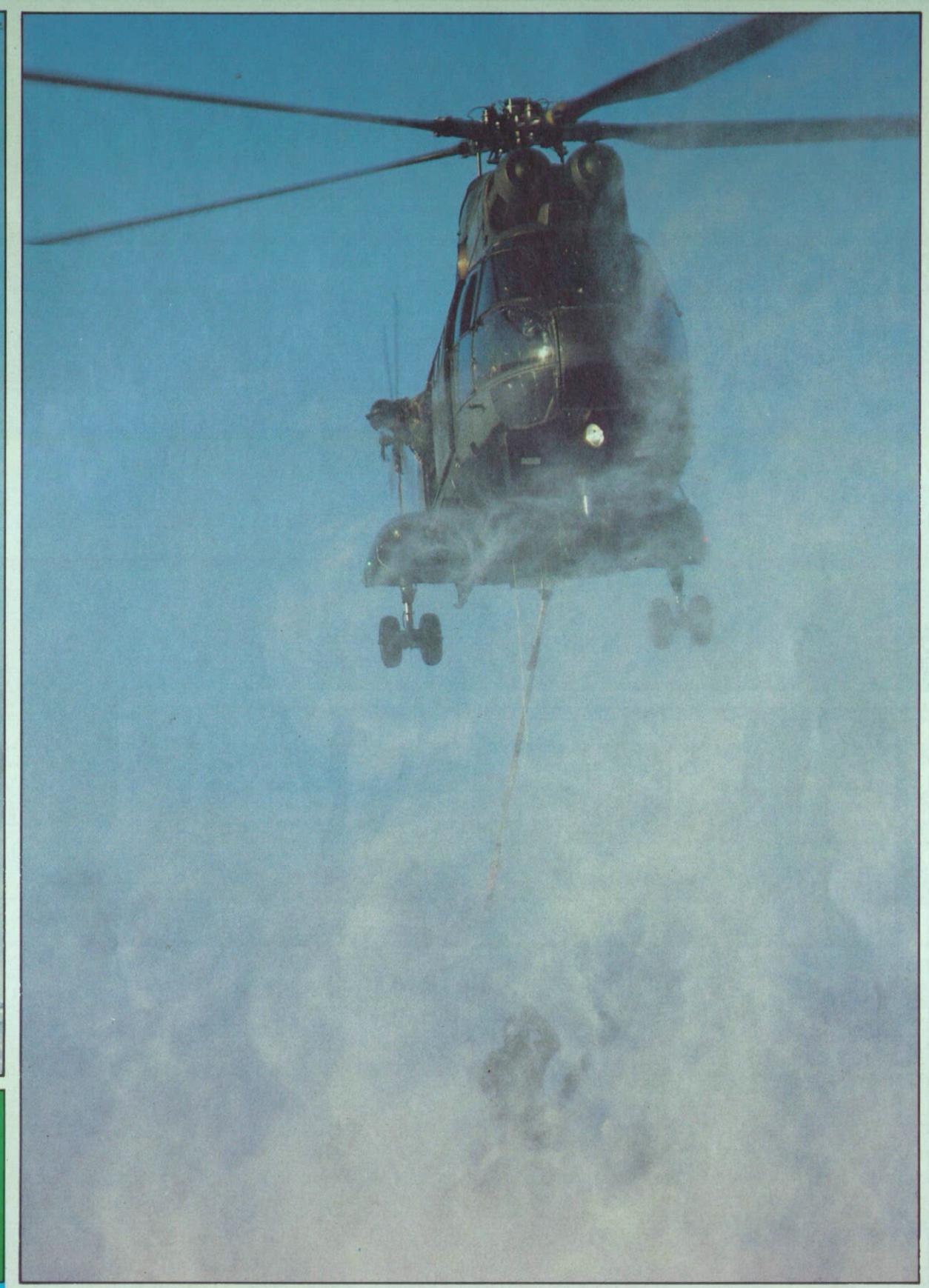
This is a time for basic skiing and survival skills to be taught or revised, and for the units to get the chance to work on their operational capabilities.

At the end of the month the

bulk of the 1,800 strong force, stationed around the resort town of Voss, 160 kilometres northwest of Bergen, undertakes an exercise involving the infantry battalion group.

This is a time for basic skiing and survival skills to be taught or revised, and for the units to get the chance to work on their operational capabilities.

The intention was to test 1



Local storm imminent: Gunners from 5 (Gibraltar) Battery, on their first season in Norway, disappear into whirling whiteout as they learn the Arctic way of hooking up their 105mm light guns for transit by RAF Puma.

**SOLDIER** writer Robert Higson and **photographer** Paul Haley cover **Exercise Hardfall**

Para in a variety of roles — including local defence and rapid movement over fairly long distances. Incidentally 1 Para is now in its second Norwegian winter having taking over the AMF role from The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire last year. The grand finale comes in

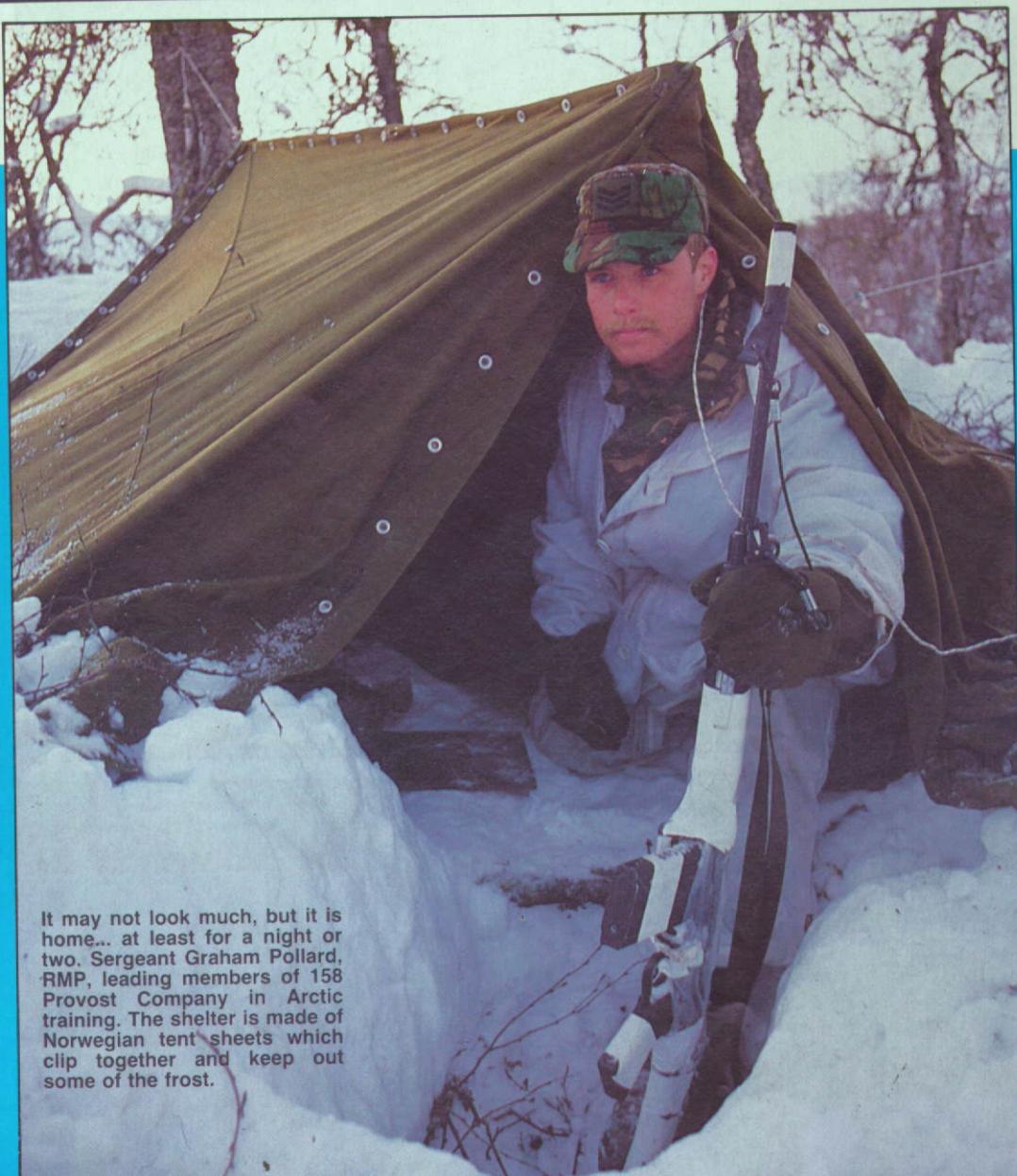
March with the major exercise 200 kilometres inside the Arctic Circle in the vicinity of the town of Tromso. Every other year AMF troops from the United States, Canada, Italy and other countries are involved, but this year Exercise Cold Winter con-

*Continued on page 30*

# Exercise Hardfall Shows Them How...



A Scimitar of Number 3 Troop, C Squadron, 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers, on patrol in the snowbound countryside north of Trondheim. Note the depth of snow at the side of the track. No easy passage for "through snow" CVRTs.



It may not look much, but it is home... at least for a night or two. Sergeant Graham Pollard, RMP, leading members of 158 Provost Company in Arctic training. The shelter is made of Norwegian tent sheets which clip together and keep out some of the frost.

cerned only British and Norwegian forces. 1 Para, with supporting units, were due to come under the command of 3 Commando Brigade in amphibious landings against a Norwegian defence.

This year there was one slight change to the normal pattern. All activity in Norway was kept until after the Christmas break.

"This is the first time we've done that," said Captain Graham Carruthers, a Parachute Regiment officer who is SO3 G3 AMF(L). "In previous years we've run the exercise from a pre-Hardfall base before Christmas and gone on the main exercise later.

"It means, I think, that we are making better use of time. It gives the units prior to Christmas a bit more time to get themselves sorted out, building up, getting used to the kit, doing some mountain work for fitness and so on. To actually support pre-Hardfall really means you've got to take quite a lot of key instructors away from the units at the time they are wanting to do build up training in the UK. This year I think we've got it right."

# SURVIVAL IS THE NAME OF THE GAME



First you dig your hole in the snow; then you plug up the opening (remember first to dig a separate entrance tunnel). A bombardier of the Force Artillery's potential Arctic instructors course working on the inside.

**T**HE TEMPERATURE had gone down to around -30° Centigrade. A group of soldiers was on a 15 kilometre ski patrol, dragging laden sledges known as pulks. An experienced instructor was driving everyone on, keeping them moving, when suddenly he realised he could no longer feel his fingers.

"He came to me more than slightly concerned, to say the least," recalled Captain Geoff Wads-

worth, "because he knew what the implications were. We got him straight back to base but he had frost bite and that means he will never be used in the Arctic again.

"Once you get frost bite the nerves in that area are permanently affected and you are removed from the job and put somewhere else.

"On the same day a soldier went down with hypothermia simply because his detachment made a mistake in not having a hot meal

prepared. We moved out that day at 6am which means getting up at 4am to get everything prepared, meals and hot drinks and so forth.

"They didn't do the drill right with the result that one man went down.

"It could have been a lot more serious. These guys had enough experience to realise what had happened and that they needed to do something quickly. A helicopter was called in and got the patient

away, and the next day he was out again, no problems at all."

Captain Wadsworth is commander of HQ Battery, 92 Locating Regiment, RA, which shares with 5 (Gibraltar) Battery the job of giving artillery support to the ACE (for Allied Command Europe) Mobile Force, Land — AMF(L).

He was describing the sort of hazards which face anyone taking

(Continued on page 32)

## And the demands are formidable



'Surprisingly warm and comfortable'. Big smiles from two Norway novices of HQ Company, 1 Para. Their first experience of living in the snow was better than expected. Note the air quality monitoring candle in the background.

# Life on a windswept plateau

on the formidable demands of a Norwegian winter where winds and freezing temperatures can all too easily combine to make life virtually unendurable.

As a former resident of Canada and a veteran of four training seasons in Norway, he is one of those whose experience is vital for the education of British soldiers in cold weather warfare.

For 17 years now successive generations of soldiers and marines have been learning the art of camping in the sort of conditions which would give most people the shivers even to think about it.

By and large it has been an exercise in persuading the natives of a temperate island (because despite all our moaning about the weather Britain has a temperate climate) that they can actually operate as a credible and effective fighting force in the most adverse conditions.

It is certainly not a task to be undertaken lightly. Those who would get to grips with the Norwegian countryside in full winter had better know what they are doing otherwise they will suffer.

For everyone it is a question of getting back to basics — learning new rules for the fundamentals of existence, food, clothing, hygiene, shelter.

Everyone who goes out to Norway with the AMF has to undertake survival training whether their job is as a fighting infantryman with a rifle company or a clerk behind a desk.

A thousand metres above the tiny settlement where 1 Para had its battalion headquarters, members of HQ Company did their course in arctic survival under the watchful eye of QSMI Haydn Lewis, a graduate of the Royal Marines mountain leaders course. It was a singularly appropriate location as it is claimed to be the training ground used by the Norwegian explorer Amundsen

**The windswept plateau of Hjerkinn. Specks at the bottom: group of potential instructors from the Force Artillery digging in for the night.**

before his conquest of the South Pole.

"We've got 13 people up here — mainly those who are working in the echelon of the battalion," said Major Ian Chapman, OC HQ Company. "They are not required to be arctic warfare trained but they need to be able to survive in a



**Redcaps of 158 Provost Company prepare their defended patrol post.**

given situation where they don't have any outside support.

"They need to be able to live in a snow hole or under tent sheets and they need to know how the basic arctic equipment works. We also give them a good grounding in basic skiing."

Snow holes require a fair bit of hard work. You have to tunnel into a snow bank for several feet before digging out a sleeping chamber. But they are wind proof and with a properly constructed cold air trap — that is with the floor of the sleeping area made as a step above the entrance tunnel — they are surprisingly comfortable.

"This morning it was -30° with the wind chill factor," QSMI Lewis said. "It isn't actually as cold up here as it is in the valley, but the problem is when it is windy the temperature can go down to -50°C."

"When you get conditions like that the only thing you can do is wait in your snow hole and sit it out. It doesn't matter what it is like outside — once you are dug in you are safe. It's very warm and comfortable and you can build into it whatever you want in the way of extra accommodation."

QSMI Lewis's students — all novices to the snow — seemed to agree. "I thought it would be freezing," said Sergeant Roddy Gillespie, Royal Army Pay Corps, "but it was really quite warm. Stripping to the waist to wash is a bit of a shock to the system to start with but after about 10 or 20 seconds it's OK and you get used to it."

In their snow holes the students learned to observe the ritual of the candle watch, whereby one man is always awake to check a burning candle for any sign of interruption to the air supply.

And they learned to shave last thing at night and never in the morning. Shaving removes protective oils from the skin and taking

a freshly shaved face out into temperatures of -20 is like being hit with a bucketful of particularly powerful aftershave.

"In general the lads responded very well," said QSMI Lewis. "There can be a morale problem when it gets really cold, but it depends on who you've got within the groups. Someone with a sense of humour, for instance, and morale stays high.

"They've got to learn not only to look after themselves but check each other as well. When we're out skiing and the temperature drops you've got to check others for frost nip or frost bite by looking for white patches on the skin. You never know you've got it yourself. Your face goes numb but beyond that you wouldn't know anything about it until it is too late.

"It's really a question of working together. The quicker you can make camp and get in, the quicker you can get warm. It's when you get people hanging about hands in pockets, trying to keep warm themselves, they don't get anything done and they start going down with cold weather injuries. But if they all work at it and all work together then there is no problem at all."

Some 20 kilometres to the north of HQ Company's training ground, a group from 158 Provost Company was preparing a defended patrol base on a wooden hill top with trench dug into the snow and sleeping accommodation under tent sheets.

Sergeant Graham Pollard, one of two instructors in charge of the party, explained they were waiting for an encounter with AMF Ordnance Company in the morning.

"We've got a couple of observation posts on the high ground and we'll watch them come in and set up, then get as close as possible for close recce," he said. "Once we've established how strong they are we'll send out a fighting patrol

and bump them."

Sergeant Pollard's 16 men, mostly novices to Norway, were hard at work smoothing out the contours of their trenches to make the position less obvious to enemy reconnaissance.

Despite the hard work and the prospect of another night in freezing temperatures, the RMPs were in cheerful mood.

"If you do it right it's very good indeed," said Corporal Bob Pearson. "We've had about five nights out altogether and we've had no problems whatsoever. But you must get it done properly and first time otherwise you get very cold."

Corporal Bill Lomas agreed: "If you do it wrong it can really give you a swift kick in the rear end. Everyone makes mistakes. We did on the first night out. We dug too deep in the snow."

"On the second night we didn't put the tent sheet up properly. But every time you learn from your mistakes and now we've actually got it right."

Some 200 kilometres further north in the vicinity of the Norwegian artillery range at Hjerkinn 18 junior NCOs from 5 Battery and HQ Battery were undergoing a potential instructors' course, a stage towards becoming possible candidates for fully fledged Arctic Warfare Instructors.

All of them had done several seasons in the snow but, like everyone else, they had still plenty to learn. They were digging in for the night on a 1,300 metre windswept plateau where the only suitable snow was to be found in deep drifts on the leeward side of ravines.

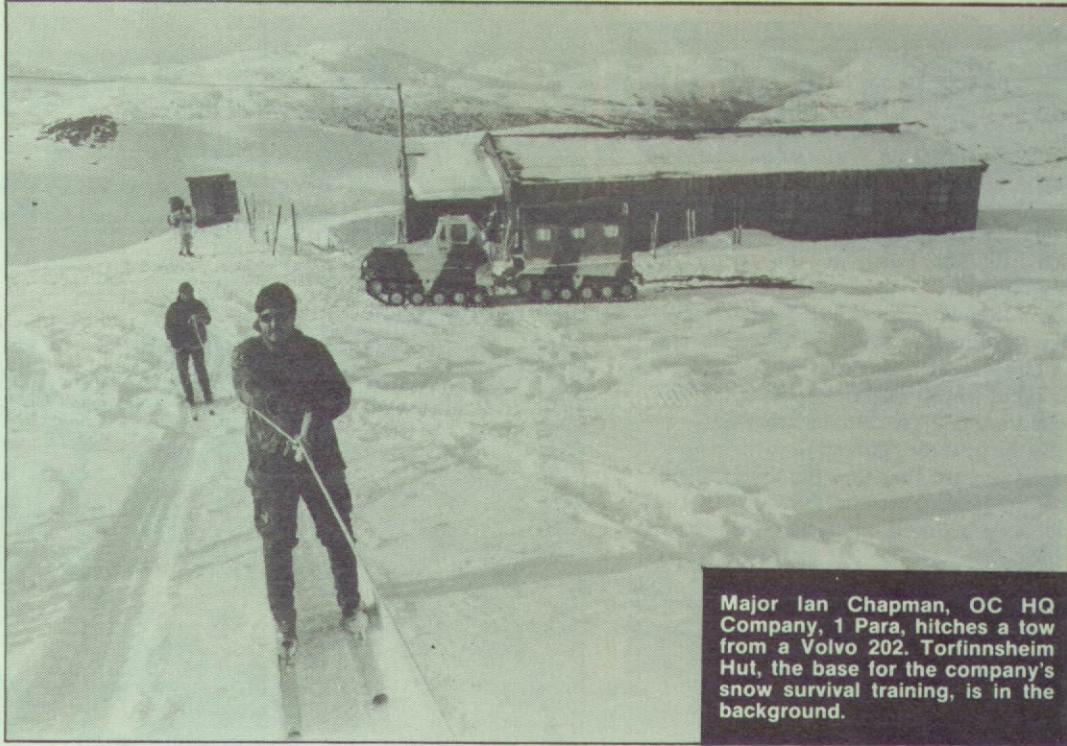
At the time the sun was shining brilliantly out of a cloudless sky, but as one of their instructors explained the temperature was deceptive.

"It's really very cold," said Sergeant Harry Jukes a member of 148 Battery which, as an attachment to 29 Commando, has a fair degree of experience in this sort of climate.

As the members of his class put their energy and their backs into digging a row of snow holes, Sergeant Jukes observed: "The hardest thing is getting around to a bit of self discipline really on what to wear, when you need to take it off and so on. We reckon it takes a minimum of three years before the guys are really starting to get hold of it properly. You don't come out for a year and pretend to be an expert."

As one of the students, Bombardier John McLeod, explained the idea was to start working cold

**Just a few of the things you need.**  
A Bombardier and his kit at Hjerkinn. The brew up is pretty important too — 5,000 calories a day are needed for this environment



**Major Ian Chapman, OC HQ Company, 1 Para, hitches a tow from a Volvo 202. Torfinnsheim Hut, the base for the company's snow survival training, is in the background.**

and then put on more clothing if necessary if you were still feeling too cold.

The thing to avoid was getting overheated and starting to sweat. "Obviously if you sweat and then get cold, it starts freezing," he said.

The men digging inside the snow

holes were stripped down virtually to shorts and trousers with wet proofs on top. Only when they finished work would they rug up once more.

Good organisation, self discipline and a fair degree of fortitude, these are the commonly recognised

keys to survival.

"It's all right at times," said Lance Bombardier Robert Owen, "but when the weather gets really bad it's not a lot of fun. On days like this it's great, but -30 and a wind and it's not very friendly."

"Living in the snow, you suffer it, you don't actually enjoy it" was the comment of Major John Pullinger, OC 1 Para's Support company.

"You can get just about comfortable not more. And you've got to remember the whole pace of life is extremely slow here. You don't achieve anything like the amount you think you are going to achieve in one day."

"If anyone says it is easy they are not telling the truth," said Major Patrick Friend, Provost Marshal of the AMF.

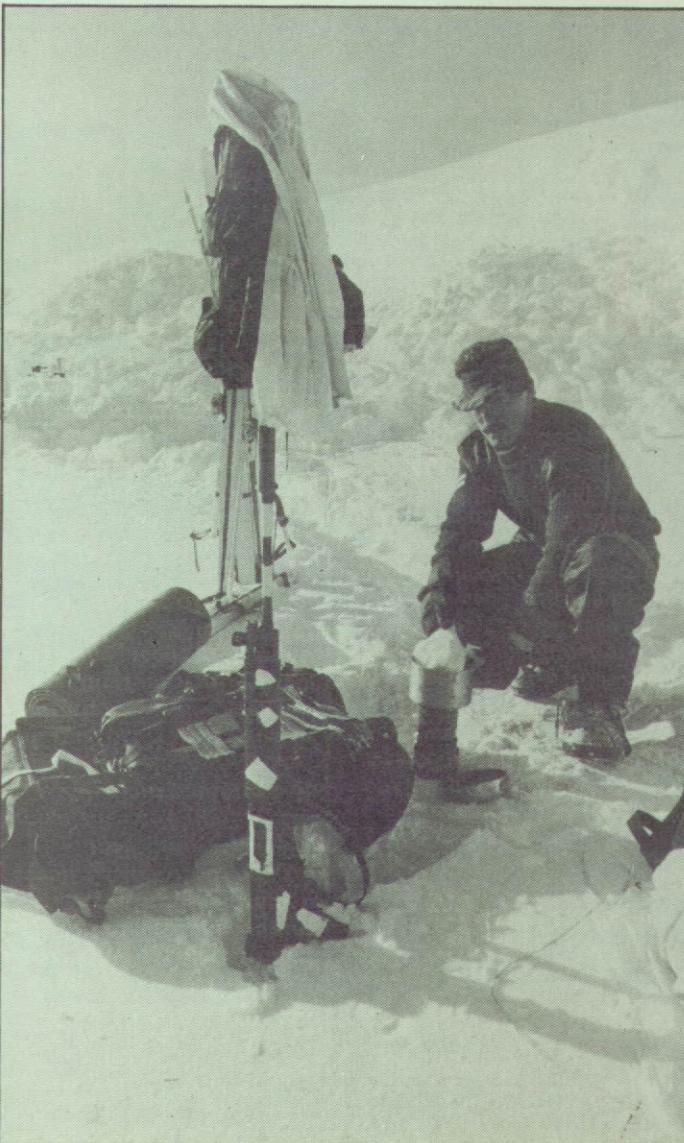
"Everything is ten times more difficult in the snow — moving around, basic functions of the body, firing a rifle or just living. It's all extremely difficult."

But the Norwegian winter has its compensations — calm, cloudless days when the sun sparkles on a frozen landscape of spectacular beauty, when just being alive and on your feet is an exhilarating experience.

"This is my last season and I'll be sorry to leave," Major Friend added.

"I will miss the snow and the mountains, but I've had three good years and so I'm happy."

And Corporal Andrew McGuinness, a section leader in 1 Para's anti tank platoon, put it this way: "It's hard going, but it's interesting. When you've finished the exercise you sit back, have a pint and think — well, I enjoyed that. That was rewarding. You always get something out of it."



# Gun drills are harder in the cold!

AS FOR most people in the AMF(L), Norway means more to the gunners of the Force Artillery than just skiing and surviving in the snow. They also have to learn how to handle their 105mm guns in this demanding environment.

For 48 novices from 5 (Gibraltar) Battery their introductory course involved six nights out and a special course in slinging the guns for rapid transit by Puma helicopters of 33 Squadron RAF (see also centre pages).

By the time they got round to this aspect of special arms training, their numbers according to WO2 James Forsythe, BSM of 5 Battery, had been reduced to 37 through flu and injuries.

On a clear, very cold morning (the temperature was hovering below -20) they went through the drills of attaching cables to a couple of 105s which had already been placed on their custom-built skis.

Then came the unnerving, and uncomfortable business of crouching on top of the guns to hook them up as the Pumas came clattering in, whipping up clouds of flying snow and currents of frigid air. No matter what you do, said one of them, you can never stop some of the snow finding its way inside your clothing.

"It's all very good training value," WO Forsythe said, "and the lads, all novices, are doing very well."

"The basic gun drills are obviously a lot harder in the cold," said Captain Geoff Wadsworth, the OC of HQ Battery the other component of the Force Artillery. "Stagging the gun (ie having someone ready to fire at a moment's notice), laying the gun, keeping the morale going, keeping the boys at it all the time and when they are not working getting them under shelter so they can look after themselves. Just making sure that every man knows his limits and the limits of his equipment."



One of the 105mm light guns of 5 (Gibraltar) Battery being prepared for transit. It is already mounted on custom built skis.



A light gun on the move — towed by a Volvo 202, the over-snow vehicle which has been the workhorse of the Army in Norway for 17 years.

HERE is generally not a lot of TA involvement in the Army's annual winter exercises in Norway, but this year the regulars were pleased to get assistance from 119 Recovery Company, REME (V) based in Prestatyn.

Corporal John Hewett, from Connah's Quay, North Wales, and Craftsman Barry Fogg, from Ellesmere Port, came over to Voss for a couple of weeks with one of their company's giant recovery vehicles.

"It hasn't exactly saved our lives," said Warrant Officer 2 Brian Littler, WO i/c REME Workshops at Voss, "but it's made things a lot easier. It's been a great help, a valuable asset."

The 16-tonne Scammell, with its 20-tonne straight pull winch capacity, had lent a great deal of weight to WO Littler's rather slender recovery resources.

There was a light Bedford recovery vehicle, described as relatively unreliable, and some winch capacity on Volvo 202 over-snow vehicles, as well as a Samson CVRT which 1 Para had gladly loaned on several occasions.

The benefit of the Scammell was demonstrated by the fact that even though its area of operation was restricted by low bridges, it had been responsible for half the 40 recovery tasks to date.

Both Corporal Hewett and Craftsman Fogg had been too busy to see anything of the country outside the routine of work.

"But we hope to get them out on skis and give them some R&R before they go," WO Littler said.

However the two part-time soldiers were clearly impressed with what they had seen.

"It's brilliant," Craftsman Fogg said. And Corporal Hewett added: "Much better than I thought it would be. It was warmer when we landed here than when we left RAF Lyneham."

As to the skiing both were looking forward to getting on the slopes, with some reservations.

"I tried skiing 10 years ago," said Corporal Hewett, "and I wasn't too happy with it. I hope to improve this time."

But on the subject of coming back to Norway he had no doubts. "I would definitely like to come again," he said.

**MORE exercise Hardfall pictures and stories — next issue**

Exercise Hardfall was certainly an appropriate name as far as Captain Martin Knock, RAMC (V), was concerned.

This TA medic, a neuro-surgeon back home in England, was doing a six-week stint as Medical Officer at Bomoen Camp, Voss, and devoting most of his skills to treating twisted knees and ankles from skiing falls on the slopes.

It was a very pleasant experience, he said, "and a nice chance to see some different country. Medically it was very quiet with the 1,400 troops based in the Voss area providing little work."

Apart from skiing injuries, the main problem seemed to be coughs and colds, either the result of the dramatic extremes of temperature between centrally heated interiors and freezing exteriors, or of a flu virus introduced by visitors from Bergen.

At the time there were four patients in

## REME TA: 'a great help... a valuable asset'



Two REME terriers in Norway — Craftsman Barry Fogg, left, and Corporal John Hewett, right, with the snow capped Scammell-Eka of 119 Recovery Company.



Captain Knock examines the injured knee of Sergeant Paul Smith.

hospital and only one — a knee injury — was serious.

This was Captain Knock's first exercise with the Regular Army although he had

done locum work with regulars in the past. Normally his field experience is with his own unit 212 Field Hospital, RAMC (V), based in Sheffield.

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**The Scottish United Services Museum**, The Castle, Edinburgh EH1 2YT. Telephone 031-226-6907. Hours: May to Sept Mon to Sat 9.30-6, Sun 11-6. Oct to April Mon to Sat 9.30-5.15, Sun 12.30-4.30.

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**GLASGOW. Museum of the Royal Highland Fusiliers**, 518 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow G2 3LW. Telephone 041-332-0961. hours: Mon to Fri 9-4, closed public hols.

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**PENICUIK. Scottish Infantry Depot** (Glencorse) Museum, Barracks, Milton Bridge, Penicuik, Midlothian. Telephone Penicuik 72651 (or Glencorse mil) ext 239. Hours: Mon to Fri 9-4.30.

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1EJ. Telephone Stirling 5165. Hours: Easter to Sept weekdays 10-5.30, Sun 12-5.30.

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**CAERNARVON. Regimental Museum of the Royal Welch Fusiliers**, The Queen's Tower, Caernarvon Castle, Caernarvon. Telephone Caernarvon 3362. Hours: April to Sept daily 9.30-6.30. Oct to Mar weekdays 9.30-4, Sun 2-4. Closed 24-26 Dec.

**CARDIFF. The Welch Regiment Museum**, The Black and Barbican Towers, Cardiff Castle, Cardiff CF1 2RB. Telephone 29367. Hours: summer 10-6 daily. Winter 10-4 daily. Closed 24-26 Dec.

**HAVERFORDWEST. Pembroke Yeomanry Trust, Pembrokeshire Museums**, Castle Museum and Art Gallery, The Castle, Haverfordwest, Dyfed SA61 2EF. Telephone Haverfordwest 3708. Hours: April to Sept 10-5.30. Oct to Mar 11-4. Closed Sun and Mon.

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## Re-Opening

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## More Changes

Apart from the 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, all the regimental museums in Shrewsbury (SOLDIER 11 February) are now closed.

The Light Infantry museum will be re-located in Winchester, and the KSLI, Shropshire Yeomanry and Shropshire RHA museums are all in the course of moving to The Castle, Shrewsbury which will eventually accommodate a combined museum with separate galleries for each regiment.

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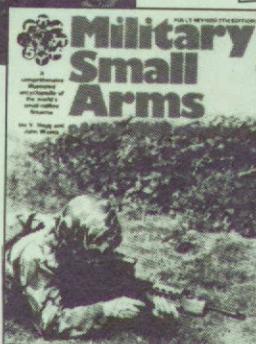
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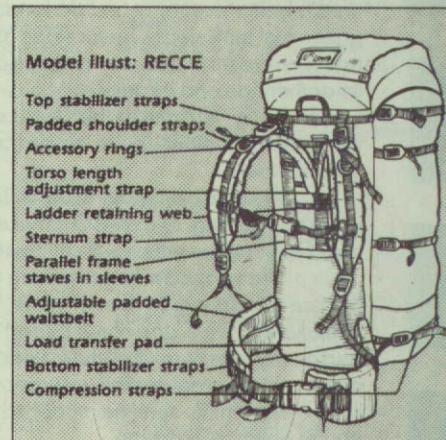
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### ROYAL ARMY DENTAL CORPS

British military dental surgery dates from the 17th century and at that time it was a punishable offence for a man of military age to have his front teeth removed — rendering him unable to open the fuse of a grenade or release the powder from a cartridge!

Although it was well-known to Army surgeons that dental care was important, no dental surgeons were employed in the British Army.

In 1900 a Mr Newland Pedley was permitted to proceed to the theatre of operations in South Africa at his own expense and providing his own equipment, and thereby have the honour of becoming the first British dental surgeon to treat the active service soldier.

The following year six dental surgeons were appointed, two to serve in England, the remainder in South Africa.

They had no Army status, were paid One Pound per day and captain's allowances, and

had to supply their own equipment.

At one stage of the Boer War, to make up for the lack of dental care — and perhaps a reflection on the quality of the meat supplied — a large number of mincing machines were allotted to units to assist in the mastication of food.

Things continued in this unsatisfactory state until Sir Douglas Haig developed severe toothache during the Battle of the Aisne in October 1914.

It must be more than mere coincidence that by the end of the year 20 dental surgeons had been appointed, all serving in France.

Now they were recognised, being appointed temporary lieutenants, held on the General List, and attached to the RAMC.

By November 1918 the need for dental officers had been fully recognised and the count stood at 831.

However, it was not until 4 January 1921 that the Army Dental Corps was formed by Royal Warrant to provide dental treatment to the Army and not until 1 July 1930 to the Royal Air Force also.

World War 2 greatly improved the efficiency and scope of the Corps which particularly benefited from the influx of professional dentists and dental technicians as the Army expanded and new techniques developed.

The first head-dress badge of the Corps incorporated the initials of its title within a wreath of laurel surmounted by an Imperial crown.

It was worn by soldiers in gilding metal, officers wore the badge in gilt or bronze. (Sealed 11 August 1921).

The second design, shown below, was far more imaginative calling on both Chinese and Greek sources.

The Dragon is the Chinese



emblem of dentistry, and in Greek mythology Cadmus, son of Agenor, King of Phoenicia, slew the dragon that had killed his companions.

Instructed by Athena he sowed the dragon's teeth in the ground, and a race of fierce men sprang up called Sparti (Sown).

This format, with the head of the dragon and sword blade in white metal, remainder in gilding metal, was sealed on the 16 January 1948.

It became necessary due to the prefix "Royal" being granted to the Corps in recognition of their services during the late war, and they are immensely proud of that distinction.

The motto "Ex Dentibus Ensis" is translated as "From the teeth a sword".

The present design, differing only in the change of the crown to that of the present Sovereign, dates from 27 July 1954 and is currently worn in anodised materials by soldiers, in silver and gilt by officers.

HUGH L. KING



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S1

# GREEN JACKETS RE-TRACE SHACKLETON'S EPIC TREK

**T**HE Royal Green Jackets have re-traced the steps of Sir Ernest Shackleton's epic antarctic trek across South Georgia.

The team, led by Captain Roger Morgan-Grenville, included Captain Peter Gilbert, RAMC, and Royal Marines Sergeant 'Tug' Wilson, and left Pegotty Bluff on King Haakon Bay in darkness.

Despite two stops forced on it by high winds, driving rain and sleet, poor visibility and a high chill factor, it still managed to reassess the Shackleton route on the thirty mile west to east transit of the islands that took only 31 hours.

Although only 30 miles in a straight line, this became 40 miles by enforced deviations that still

could not avoid wading waist deep in streams of glacier melt, made all the more physically demanding by each man being in patrol order with more than sixty pounds on his back!

The leader calculated that in a single stretch of two kilometres they crossed 300 crevasses!

Shackleton's dash across took 36 hours. It was a last desperate act in an effort to summon help that began with Shackleton and five companions sailing an open boat, the tiny 'James Caird', across 800 miles of antarctic seas from Elephant Island to beach at Pegotty Bluff on the south west coast of South Georgia on 16 May 1916.

Shackleton with two companions, Crean and Worsley, set off lightly clad, without sleeping



Captain Roger Morgan-Grenville by Shackleton's grave at Grytviken

bags, tents or skis, well knowing that they could not sleep, shelter or turn back. They carried only an adze, 50 feet of rope and tea sufficient for three brews.

This successful feat of endeavour and endurance maintained Shackleton's immaculate record — he never lost a man under his command.

For the end result was that all 22 men on Elephant Island and the three left at Pegotty Bluff were picked up alive and lived to tell of their ordeal.

Throughout the reconstructed trek the Royal Navy kept a weather eye open for the team.

The exercise controller, Commander Simon Moore, RN, commanding officer of HMS Berwick, was the first to greet and congratulate the patrol on its jubilant arrival at Stromness.

He was closely followed by Major Christopher Mieville, RGJ, Officer Commanding Troops South Georgia.

Other team members were: Corporal David Tainty, Lance Corporals Stephen Pearce, Sean Mayer, James Harris, and Riflemen Andrew Patrick, Gordon McGlure, 'Jeff' P W Jephcott, Roy Smith, Clive Rowlands.

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Story: Keith Ansell

Rifleman Roy Smith crossing Konig glacier melt stream, above, and Captain Peter Gilbert and Lance Corporal Sean Mayer move away from the comfort of a Royal Navy Sea King.



# THE SECOND TIME AROUND

The first SOLDIER competition, a general knowledge quiz, appeared in Vol 1, No 1 just 40 years ago. You didn't get £50 then for the answers — they were published in the same issue.

To celebrate its 40th anniversary, SOLDIER has decided to give readers another chance to answer those first 24 questions, and this time there will be £50 for the lucky

entrant whose correct answers are the first out of the hat.

If you are fortunate enough to have a copy of the first issue of SOLDIER, your task is an easy one. If not, it will be a little more difficult, but worth it for a crack at SOLDIER's £50 prize.

The answers used to judge the competition will be those which appeared in the first edition

1 Crinose means fat, thin, hairy, bald, drunk, wrinkled, silly?

2 Who wrote (a) *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, (b) *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*?

3 Which of the following is an 'intruder', and why? — Ice, Stone, Cork, Oil, Oak, Orange, Apple.

4 What is a deemster?

5 How did Court Plaster come to be so called?

6 What musical instrument is used in a ship for which no music is ever written?

7 What is copra used for?

8 What are the Elysian Fields?

9 What were the surnames of Romeo and Juliet?

10 Who first said, "Neither here nor there," and where?

11 What is the capital of the Isle of Man?

12 With what other persons are these people associated? — (a) Henry Irving, (b) Dr Johnson.

13 A diva is an Indian bird, singer, Spanish coin, ballet dancer, plant?

14 Who wrote (a) *The Brass Bottle*, (b) *The Bottle Imp*?

15 Which of the following is an 'intruder', and why? — Goose, Turkey, Pheasant, Bombay Duck, Partridge, Guinea hen.

16 Who was the first woman to fly the Atlantic solo?

17 Which king of England was called the Lionheart?

18 What insects make food for human beings?

19 Which of the following is mis-spelt? — Desuetude, Decimate, Dandelion, Delphinium, Dependance.

20 What is the difference between obtuse and abstruse?

21 In chess, what is the name given to a draw?

22 From what creature do we get isinglass and caviare?

23 What is a native of Nova Scotia called?

24 Complete the phrases: (a) Quid pro..., (b) Wait and...

of SOLDIER — the answers which were appropriate at that time.

The rules of the competition are the same as usual. The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is 10 May. The answer and winner's name will be announced in our issue of 3 June.

Each entry must be accompanied by the 'Competition 359' label at the top of this column. For two entries send two labels (not photo copies), three entries three labels, and so on.

In the case of more than one correct entry being received, the winner will be drawn by lots. No correspondence can be entered into.

Send your answers by postcard or letter to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

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# INVICTA EXPORT



# MAIL DROP

the bar in their own private club at normal closing time?

At midnight all lounges are closed. In heaven's name, why? Staff are on duty, and members should surely be able to sit in a lounge and chat all night. When I protested I was told none too politely by the porter that 'it's in the rules'.

There are more rules and regulations displayed in the foyer than one would expect to find in a prison. If one wishes to discuss them with the general manager, he may be seen 'by appointment'. Is he not an employee of the members?

It is quite impossible to raise the subject of rules at the AGM: there isn't one! Nor can one contact the governing body; it seems that no-one may be told who they are. (My thanks to Mr Margetts for enlightenment).

Who gave this autocratic body the right to 'nominate their successors'? No self-perpetuating oligarchy can ever be a good thing.

You illustrate the plaque with its inscription '... for ex-Service men and women ...'. The admission of serving personnel has resulted, I am told, in the occasional inability of members to obtain accommodation.

The USA membership does not help; I met a wealthy (but very friendly) American colonel who told me the cheap accommodation paid for his frequent visits to the UK.

The membership card may be withdrawn at any time and without explanation. I spoke to an ex-officer who had been a member for best part of forty years, and for most of that time had been trying to find out how to get the rules changed.

His advice? "Don't push it, son. They'll try to take your card away, as they tried to take mine." Enough said — **P S Day, 12 The Grove, Woodcock Road, Norwich NR3 3TN.**

**THE VICTORY SERVICES CLUB** reply: *I was surprised that your reader chose to level criticism of The Victory Services Club in your columns, rather than directly to the General Manager.*

*Admittedly, the General Manager is a very busy man, but he will always make time available for members, providing they make appointments. It is nonsense to suggest that he keep an open door at all times.*

*I agree that the room Mr Day occupied*

is noisy, but it is one of the cheaper rooms in the club, and is only offered where no other single accommodation is available. His other criticisms are not accepted.

*The prices in the cafeteria bear comparison with similar establishments in the area, whilst the price of drinks is less than in local bars. Bar opening hours are governed by the Local Licensing Regulations.*

*Certainly there are simple rules and regulations, which are enforced. If they were not, the standards which we strive to maintain, would be adversely affected.*

*The membership, now over 39,000 and still rising, would drop, bedroom occupancy would go down, and money would not be available for improving still further the Club's amenities.*

*Lastly, I should point out that it is due to the professionalism and dedication of the Members of the Council, who give their services entirely free, and to the devotion of a loyal staff, that the club has made such strides over the past few years. — F B P Brayne-Nicholls (Rear-Admiral), Chairman, The Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour St, London W2 2HF.*

## PEGASUS GOLF

Airborne Forces have been playing golf as a society since the late '40s, long before the present day support the game enjoys.

I have taken over as Secretary of the Society.

It is my intention to revive interest in the Society and to organise a full membership with hopefully an interesting and competitive fixture list. The only fixture we have at present is against Moor Park; this year (18 July) marks the 20th encounter.

My first step was to invite a senior member of the Regiment to become our President and after consultation with the Regimental Colonel and several senior golfers an invitation was extended to General Sir Frank King GCB, MBE. I am delighted to report that he has accepted and I am sure that all Airborne golfers join me in welcoming him as our first President.

My immediate aims are to: Encourage all Airborne golfers to become members of the Society at an annual membership of £5; Once the membership is enrolled to form a Committee to manage our affairs; Build up an annual championship and fixture list; Produce a Society sweater and tie.

Membership will be open to any soldier past or present who served with Airborne Forces during the last war, or any soldier who has qualified as a parachutist and served with Airborne Forces since 1946.

If you are interested in becoming a member please contact: Lt Col (SQM) J S Williams MBE DCM PARA Staff College, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 4NP.

## Reunions

Queens School, Rheindahlen (1960-66) former pupils are asked to contact Brian Airey of County Police Station, Walls Road, Weston super Mare, Avon, who is considering trying to organise a reunion.

The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire) annual reunion and dinner dance is to be held at the Masonic Hall, Saul St, Preston on Saturday 1

June 1985. Tickets available by application to The Secretary, The Loyal Regiment (NL) Association, Fulwood Bks, Preston, PR2 4AA. Tel: Preston (0772) 716543 Ext. 362.

The Normandy Veterans Association is taking part in a Remembrance Service on 9 June at 11 am at the Cenotaph, Whitehall. All Normandy Veterans are welcome.

The Arborfield Old Boys' Association will hold its annual reunion over the weekend 18/20 October 1985. Ex-apprentices and members of the permanent staff from both Arborfield and Carlisle are cordially invited to attend. For full details of membership and the reunion please write to: The Hon Sec OBA, Princess Marina College, Arborfield Garrison, Reading, Berks.

## Call-signs

REME 120 LAA Regiment formed at REME Workshops, Barton, near Manchester in 1943, embarking at Tilbury in June 1944, and landing at Ver Sur Mer, Normandy. The unit was disbanded in April 1945 at Goes, South Beveland, Holland.

It would be great to meet up with some of the lads again, perhaps at one of the old pubs at Eccles (Manchester) — **T Clarke (Nobby), 120 Ashbourne Avenue, Aspull, Wigan, Lancs WN2 1HN.**

LIEUTENANT R K Rowley is carrying out research into the 'Life and Times' of Private Richard George Masters VC, who served with the Army Service Corps during World War 1 and was attached to 141st Field Ambulance when he earned the Victoria Cross. Contact **Lt Rowley at Oi/c Masters Project, 30 (JL) Sqn RCT, JLR RCT, Azimghur Barracks, Colerne, Wilts.**

## Correct title

Following numerous letters and phone calls we are happy to correct details given in our caption for the cover photograph (25 February) and stress that it is the Queen Victoria School for the Sons of Scottish Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen — and the location is Dunblane.

## Competition

Tracking down! That was the title of our Competition no 354 (14 January) in which we set six photographic posers — and the winner of the £50 prize is: Colour Serjeant R Andrews, D Coy, 4th Bn RGJ(V), Oxford.

The answers: A-FV432, B-Conqueror, C-Abbot, D-M48, E-Citroen, F-Chieftain.

## How Observant Are You?

(See page 16)

1 Design of sealion's ball; 2 Sealion's left flipper; 3 Foot of top figure on middle elephant; 4 Lower stripe on striped vest; 5 Ear of man on right elephant; 6 Left tusk of left elephant; 7 Toes on right hind foot of middle elephant; 8 Ear of right elephant; 9 Clown's nose; 10 Skirt of girl on trapeze.

**Got something to say, a point to make or a story to tell? This is your page to exchange your news, views, comments and opinions. All we ask is that you keep it brief and include your full name and address although not necessarily for publication. Write: Mail Drop, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.**

## DISGRUNTLED

I AM moved to make a comment or two on your eulogy of the Victory Services Club. I am a comparatively new member, who stayed there for the first time for a few days last autumn.

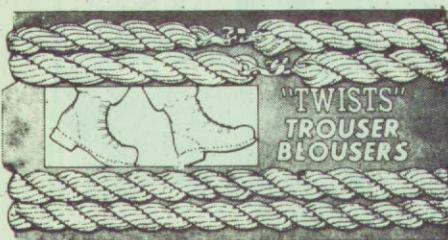
During that time I talked to many members, from all walks of life and from many parts of the world. Not one of them was other than disgruntled, and all said they had joined simply because 'it was handy'.

You mention 'improvements' to kitchen and reception areas. No mention of bedrooms! Mine was cold, bare-boarded, with a tatty strip of what had been carpet, and was furnished with decrepit junk.

My bed was comfortable, but I was not allowed a decent night's sleep, as the staff came on duty in the corridor outside and kicked up pandemonium early in the morning. A complaint to the supervisor made not the slightest difference.

The restaurant is extremely good; I had two splendid and reasonably-priced dinners. But the cafeteria is very poor, and the charges outrageous; a thimbleful of grapefruit juice, for example, cost (from memory) 18p. A litre of the stuff costs about 40p!

The bar is apparently a normal commercial concern, with standard prices. Even the local British Legion Club, which is not residential, sells drinks at discount prices. And why on earth should members be made to leave



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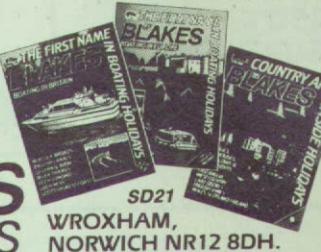
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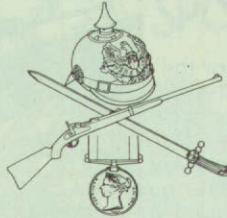
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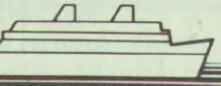
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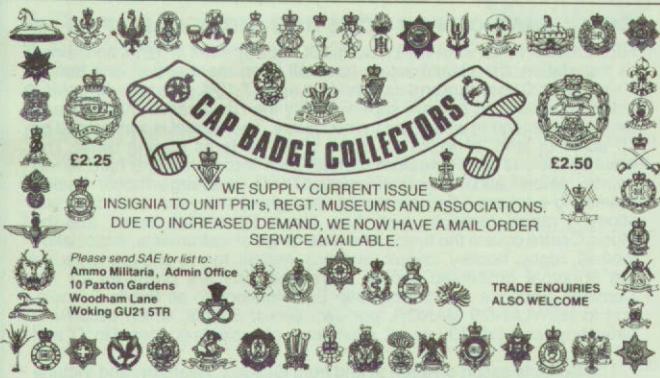
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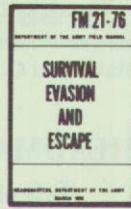
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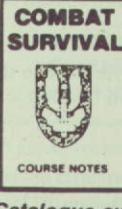
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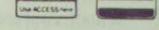
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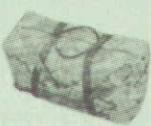
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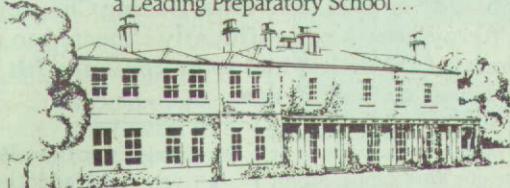
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# ARMY BOXERS SHARE THE SPOILS

## Maggie saves the day...

ONCE again the Army failed to win any of the team events at the Inter-Service Cross Country Championships, held at Blackdown, writes Robert Higson.

The results were a carbon copy of last year with the RAF winning both senior and junior titles and the WRNS taking the honours in the women's race.

There was some consolation for the Army in the way that Corporal Maggie Smith, a PTI at the Cambridge Military Hospital, and Sergeant Lynn Higgs, a PTI at the WRAC Wing, Sandhurst, came first and second in the women's event after leading all the way.

However the Navy got its four qualifying runners in 3rd, 5th, 6th and 7th places and took the team prize.

The undoubted highlight to the championships was the thrilling finish to the senior race in which Lieutenant Chris Robinson, RN, pipped Corporal Steven Jones, RAF, by just two seconds.

Everyone expected Jones, who set a world record in last year's New York marathon, to have little trouble winning. But Robinson stuck to him tenaciously during the three laps of the 6.3 mile course and successfully raced him to the finish.



MAGGIE SMITH  
... salvaging pride

However the RAF had little difficulty in taking the senior team title which they have now won every year since 1973. Their runners occupied every place from second to seventh.

The over-40 veterans' event attracted an entry from no less a competitor than the Director of Army Training, Major General Keith Spacie who came seventh out of a field of 15. The veterans, incidentally, run the same distance as the seniors, 6.3 miles.

THE ROYAL Marines came to the rescue of the Navy in the Combined Services Individual Boxing Championships and the Army, who had confidently expected to take the lion's share of the titles, had to be content with sharing the honours at six bouts each.

The night started well enough for the Army with a walkover win at light-flyweight for Sapper John MacLean followed by a majority decision for their flyweight, Driver Neil McCallum.

Lance Corporal Keith Howlett was adjudged the most promising young Services boxer of the season after he had notched up a unanimous points decision against

the strong Cook Dave Pope.

Driver Neil Haddock repeated his points win over the Navy's Marine Dave Robb.

But Lance Corporal Eddie Gajny, who had crowded his way to victory against skilful boxers this season came unstuck against new find, Marine Peter Waights. Waights packed a powerful punch and scored three counts against Gajny before the contest was stopped.

And Rifleman Tony Velinor (3 RGJ), who lost on a cut eye after six seconds against the RAF, went out after just 24 seconds against Marine Paul Nicholson who aimed for the eye and split it open again.

There was a shock points defeat for Fusilier Erroll Holder (1 RRF) by Marine Andy Ellison.

Then middleweight hope Lance Corporal Nigel Moore (1 Kings Own Border) lasted just one minute 28 seconds against SA Andy Chambers, another Navy surprise.

The Army won the last two bouts. Lance Corporal George Jay (1 RRF) once again outboxed the durable Marine Steve.

Corporal Horace Miles notched up a hat-trick of Services heavyweight titles easily defeating MEM Norman Linton.

The six Army men who go to the ABA quarter finals are the largest contingent for years — but nothing like the ten winners which had been optimistically predicted.

## SQUASH RECORD

THE ARMY won the men's Inter-Services Squash tournament for the 11th consecutive year, a record feat of straight wins since this event began in 1928, by defeating the Royal Navy 4-1 and the Royal Air Force 5-0 at Lee-on-Solent.

The Army Veterans' team also retained their title.

The women's Inter Services, held at HMS Sultan, Gosport, saw a similar victory for the Army girls when they beat both the WRAF and the WRNS 5-0 — their fifth consecutive win.

In the women's Combined Services individual championship Sergeant Joyce Tuomey, WRAC, retained her title by beating Staff Sergeant Kathy Johnstone.

The Army squash team: Back row, left to right: Maj Hugh Greatwood (Secretary), WO2 Dick Sharkey, WO2 Bill McQuilkin, Capt Robbie Robinson, Lt Col John Woodliffe (Chairman). Front: S/Sgt Tom Prentice, Maj Chris Wilson, Cpl Tom Pollard.



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FOR THE FOURTH successive year The Army emerged triumphant from this annual Rugby Union meeting with the Royal Navy — and there was no doubt they deserved to do so, writes Peter Howard.

Yet it will not be surprising if prior to the crucial Inter-Service Championship match with the Royal Air Force, Army scrum half and captain, Staff Sergeant Instructor Gareth Davies had a few strong words for his colleagues — mainly on the subject of starting at the same time as the opposition.

For the first 20 minutes, the 'landlubbers' were a team in the programme sense only, and when Royal Marines Lieutenant Rob Allen kicked a penalty to put the Navy ahead few people at Twickenham could have been surprised.

The Senior Service supporters (perhaps the same in number but certainly more voluble than their rivals) roared with delight and had visions of their men ending a growing period of Army dominance.

Gareth Davies had other ideas and proved a true leader. He was in the thick of everything, seldom putting a foot or hand wrong himself — and encouraging and cajoling his colleagues into playing for each other.

The match was 33 minutes old and Army pressure beginning to tell at last, when centre Sergeant Peter Lockett was stopped just short of the line. The Army pack really put their backs into the scrum and a push-over try looked certain when quick-thinking Davies nipped in to snatch the ball and veer well to the left, leaving Navy defenders startled as he dived over for a well merited score.

The try wasn't converted, but full back Lieutenant Angus Mackay gave the Army a little more essential breathing space by kicking a penalty.

For long periods both sides

Faces show the strain of the big match



## SLOW START — BUT FINE RESULT!

### Royal Navy... 6 The Army... 11

looked nervous. Rain and greasy conditions in the opening stages didn't help flowing rugby either.

Yet within minutes of the second half opening came one of the best moves of the match, the Army's left-winger Corporal Ericson Atkins diving over in the left hand corner for an excellent try.

Just as Davis was frustrated with his side's slow start, his opposite number, full back Lieutenant Christopher Alcock must have despaired as his men apparently forgot there is a large slice of rugby between the beginning and the end.

Some of the Navy's most inspired rugby came in the last 10 minutes, when they showed plenty of inventive thinking and some crisp handling. By then the Army were well organised defensively, gave little away, and the only Navy consolation was a second penalty from Allen.

Apart from Davies, another Army player who took the eye was Mackay. His tackling and handling were sharp and his tactical kicking first class.

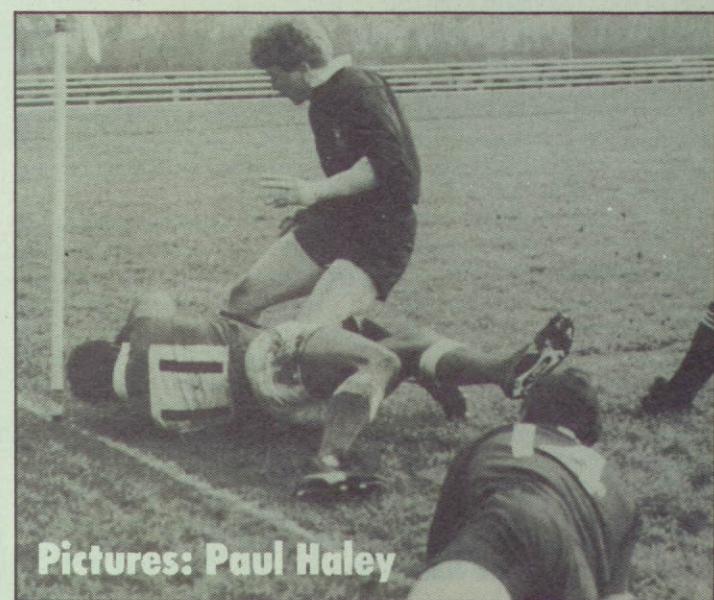
So the Army again claimed the Stewart Wrightson trophy (the sponsors again gave a cheque for £3,000 to each of the Unions) and now have 36 victories in this historic series to the Navy's 29.

Victory was the best possible start for two new Army "backroom boys", President Lieutenant General Sir Charles Huxtable and Secretary Major Hugh Greatwood.

ATKINS...try



MACKAY...sharp



Pictures: Paul Haley

### A quiet word...

...from referee R J Quittenton for team captains Davies, centre, and Alcock



# Army boxers looking good for ABA challenge

**W**ITH resounding victories over the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force (see SOL-DIER 11 February and 11 March) Army boxers enter this year's qualifying rounds for the ABA Championships with quiet confidence, writes **Robert Higson**.

That is the assessment of their coach, Staff Sergeant Mike Gannon, who knows only too well that in boxing, as in so many things, it is unwise to count too much on your chickens before they are hatched, or in this case matched.

But, all things being equal, this ought to be a good year in ABA competition. The Army boxing squad is riding the crest of a wave.

It has won more combined service championships than it has for 30 years, since the days when Henry Cooper and Joe Erskine, then both members of the RAOC, were boxing for the Army.

However Staff Gannon doesn't see the way to the ABA finals at Wembley on 3 May, as particularly easy. The further you go, he says,

the harder it gets.

The first real test, he believes, comes at Gloucester on 3 April, the occasion of the English semi-finals when winners of regional quarter finals will meet to qualify, with winners from Scotland and Wales, for the British semi finals on 17 April.

It is generally conceded, that the English qualifying rounds are the toughest of the three countries. If you can qualify at Gloucester then the chances of getting through to Wembley would be considered pretty good.

As it demonstrated against the two other services the Army squad has a depth of talent at its disposal.

The Army coach considers three members good enough to be recommended for training with the English squad next month: Rifleman **Tony Velinor**, 3 RGJ, **Sapper John McLean**, 26 Engineer Regiment, an 18-year-old light flyweight who was an ABA semi-

finalist as a flyweight last year, and **Driver Neil McCallum**, 10 Corps Transport Regiment, RCT, an NABC flyweight finalist in 1984.

The Army coach has particular hopes for Sapper McLean. "Because of the lack of top flight flyweights, he stands the best chance of reaching Wembley," he says. "And he looks certain to become a Scottish international."

Other Army prospects for the ABA championships include: **Lance Corporal Keith Howlett**, 22, of 39 Engineer Regiment, a relatively inexperienced boxer who has, however, won two of three bouts with internationals this year.

**Corporal Horace Mile**, 1 RGJ. At 28 the oldest member of the squad and competing in his last season. Last year he was a British ABA semi-finalist and is reckoned to be one of the top three amateur heavyweights in the country.

**Driver Neil Haddock**, 20, of

10 Corps Transport Regiment, RCT, a British semi-finalist two years ago and a Welsh international.

**Lance Corporal Keith Moore**, 1 KOB, and **Lance Corporal George Jay**, 1 RRF, are two relatively inexperienced fighters who won their bouts against Navy and RAF opponents.

Of the 23-year-old Lance Corporal Jay, Staff Gannon says he is coming on in leaps and bounds and improving with every bout. He was the winner of the best bout in the match with the RAF which received a standing ovation.

Incidentally the Army hasn't had an ABA champion since Private Max Ryan, The Royal Anglian Regiment, won the light middleweight title back in 1974.

**Lance Corporal Eddie Gajny**, right, on his way to light welterweight victory over Senior Aircraftman Denis Murphy RAF when the Army clinched the Inter-Service championship (see SOLDIER 11 March).

Picture: DOUG PRATT

## GENERAL HAS THE LAST POLO LAUGH!

IT WAS the day the general and his wife pitted their polo-playing skills against those of the cavalry trooper and his officer team mates on ten acres of parched ground under a promising spring Mediterranean sun, writes **Graham Smith**.

The fast-moving occasion was the final of the inter-regimental polo tournament, played out over an hour-long, four-chukka match on a unique clay-covered ground long hallowed to the canter of ponies' hooves in Episkopi's Happy Valley, Cyprus.

Trotting on to represent HQ British Forces Cyprus was Major General Sir Desmond Langley, Commander British Forces, his wife, Lady "Flick" Langley, Major Christopher Le Hardy, 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own), the then HQ PRO, and Ms Morag McPherson, a schoolteacher.

Opposing them were Lieutenants Roger Weatherby, Simon Ackroyd, Captain Marcu Good... and Trooper Trevor Melles, all of the 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars — alias "The Tabs".

Six teams had originally entered the goal-seeking tournament sponsored by a local travel agency. Already eliminated were two Land Forces Cyprus teams, a Scots Guards quartet and an RAF entry.

Watched by loyal supporters and perhaps figuratively spurred on by cheers too, the polo-players' day had got off to an early start with

seven "Tabs" grooms who had been preening 19 polo ponies and umpires' horses since 0630 ready for the final joust just over four hours later.

The ponies would be expected to give of their fleetest of foot for the four scheduled seven-minute chukkas which, for any of several clauses in the game's rules, could go on for up to an hour!

Trooper Melles, 32, a groom, was riding in the first and third chukkas on 16-year-old Freelover and then, Tansy.

Adjudged to be his team's potentially best goal scorer he was wearing shirt Number One for a pastime he grew to love during service in BAOR in 1976.

Trooper Melles is a member of the 71-strong section, including about 20 ladies, of the polo club part of the 200-plus Joint Services' Saddle Club. The polo hobbyists keep 43 ponies and horses for their sport which calls for just £12 annual membership fee and a 25 Cypriot cents charge (about 20 pence) for each chukka.

Giving his first mount a sponge rub-down on its eyes, nose and flanks after the opening chukka, Trooper Melles said: "It's fast moving... exciting... all sorts of things can happen."

Out of the saddle and the stables, though, he enjoys nothing better than quieter pursuits like a game of darts or snooker.

But adjusting his protective helmet in the shade of trees giving shelter to the willing steeds, he

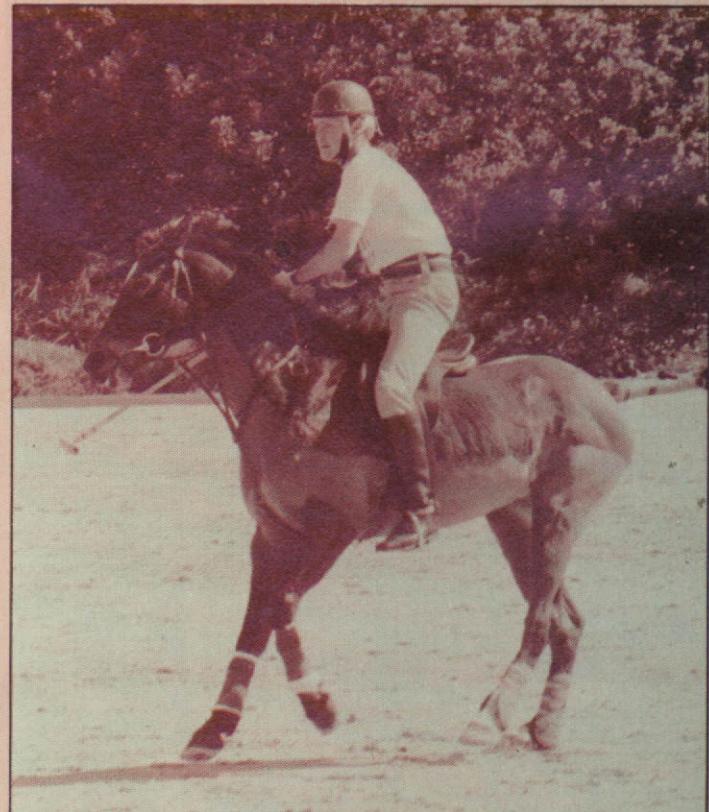
said: "It's hot, I can tell you but it's a good competition and I'm enjoying it."

At the end of the second chukka things looked uncomfortable for the BFC saddle-borne squad. They were down three goals to half-a-goal.

But, after all, it was to be the General's day, the smell of victory spelled out by officer Le Hardy,

the equestrian man-of-the-match, who swathed through the opposition to score again just three minutes from the end. But the desk-bound, horse-mounted HQ staff were still trailing.

Suddenly, with perhaps less than ten seconds left on the unrelenting clock, the General popped the elusive orange pill into the "Tabs" goal to clinch victory by 3½ to 3.



Trooper Trevor Melles: "All sorts of things can happen"



# SOLDIER

