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# SOLDIER





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### FRONT COVER

Happy landing! Private John Rix, individual winner of the Red Devils Accuracy Meet about to land and keenly watched by chief judge Sergeant 'Dicky' Bird, left, and his assistant Lance Corporal Pete Stubbs.  
Picture: Paul Haley — see page 22.

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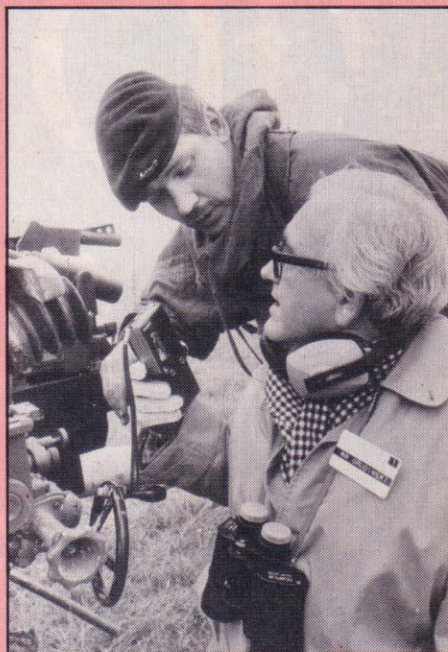
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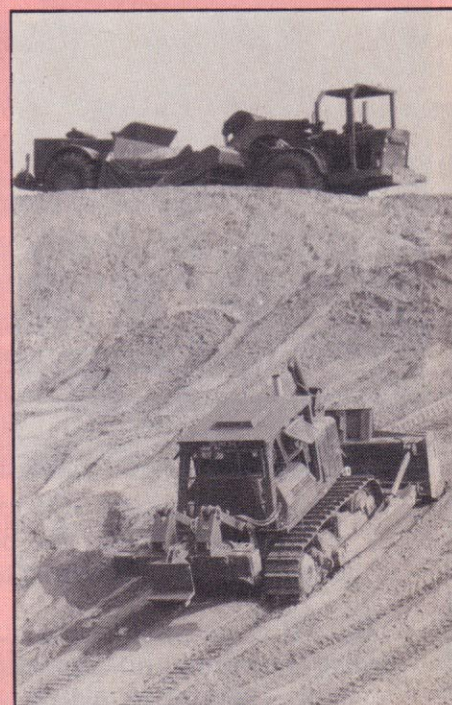
# SOLDIER

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**Journalists see  
the action — page 16**

**Berlin's new range  
is coming — page 26**



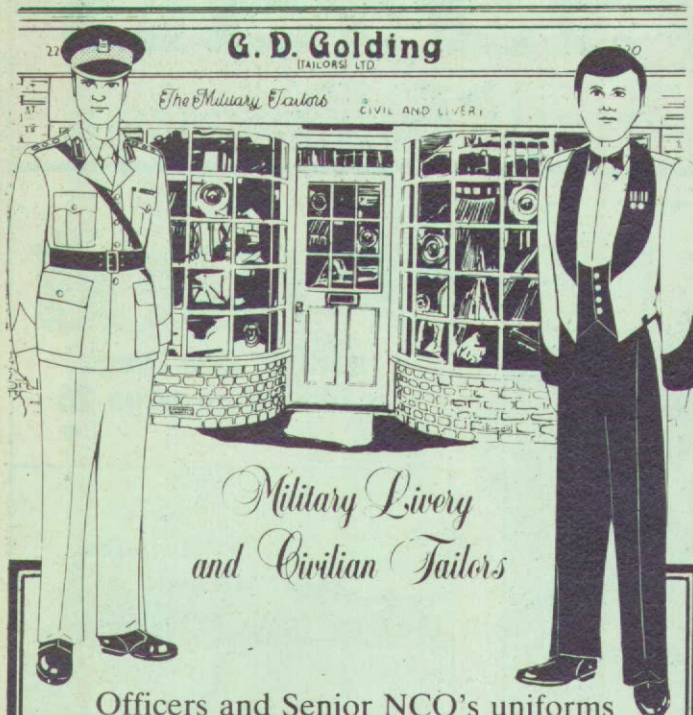
**Farewell parade  
for Fijians — page 13**



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**BARCLAYS**



## ERSKINE'S NEW CHIEF



Colonel Ken Shepherd (above), Deputy Chief of Staff at Headquarters Scotland, has been appointed Commandant of The Princess Louise Scottish Hospital (Erskine Hospital) at Bishopton near Glasgow.

The 52-year old Royal Highland Fusilier is expected to take up his post very shortly.

Colonel Shepherd is a Fellow of the British Institute of Management. His wife Barbara is a state registered nurse.

● SOLDIER feature on Erskine Hospital — see pages 14/15.

## A family parade



Captain Brian Harrison and his 19-year-old son Stewart, a Signaller, were both on parade with 250 men of the Royal Corps of Signals when they exercised their right to march through Richmond with swords drawn, bayonets fixed and drums beating.

The parade, led by the Royal Signals band, consisted of men from the Catterick-based 210 Signal Squadron; 8 Signal Regiment and 11 Signal Regiment followed by boys from the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, and the old soldiers of the Catterick and District Branch, Royal Signals Association. Captain Harrison marched with 11 Signal Regiment, of which he is personnel selection officer, and Stewart, a radio telegraphist and former Harrogate apprentice, strode with 210 Squadron. His father was a member of the same squadron 22 years ago.

# The Taxmen cometh



Supply soldiers of 42 Ordnance Company show Armed Forces Minister Mr John Stanley their tank periscope spares.

## MINISTER'S FIRST VISIT TO BAOR

**ARMED FORCES** Minister, Mr John Stanley, on his first official visit saw units and met crack combat troops of British Army of the Rhine's 4th Armoured Division.

At the start of his two-day whistle-stop tour which was part of a five-day trip to 1st British Corps, Mr Stanley saw a full-scale battlegroup exercise by 3rd

The Royal Tank Regiment at the Soltau/Luneburg training area in Lower Saxony.

To get a bird's eye view and an on-the-spot detailed briefing on the Battlegroup's tactical manoeuvres, the minister joined the battalion's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel John Woodward, in his armoured Chieftain.

After a hectic first day seeing a variety of ground and air forces in attacking roles, Mr Stanley had talks with 4th Armoured Division's Commander, Major General Jeremy Reilly.

Day two of Mr Stanley's busy schedule started with an early morning briefing by the Divisional Staff of 4 Div at its Herford Headquarters before embarking with General Reilly by helicopter on a two-hour long flight over the North German countryside.

Then it was on to St George's Barracks, Minden, where the men of 11 Squadron, 4 Armoured Division Transport Regiment, RCT, slickly demonstrated how they re-supply armour, infantry and artillery in-the-field with vital reserves of rations, fuel, ammunition and spares necessary to keep them sustained and battle-worthy.

Before leaving Minden Mr Stanley met Commander Supply, Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Goad, for a briefing before finally being taken on a short tour of 42 Ordnance Company's Control Office and Stores House.

IF YOU are based in Germany and have a tax problem, the answer could be just a 'phone call away.

For a team of tax experts from the Inland Revenue is to visit BAOR next month to answer tax queries from servicemen and women, their dependants and UK-based civilians stationed there.

The tax men plan to hold their "clinics" in seven areas of the Command — 1, 3 and 4 Armoured Division areas, the Rhine area, Bielefeld, Gutersloh and Berlin.

Headed by Mr Bob Wearing from the Cardiff office of the Inland Revenue, the four-man team plan a 10-day stay, giving up to 40-minute individual question and answer sessions.

A tax office spokesman said: "We think it a tremendous idea. It helps us and the lads talk to their mates passing on information about form-filling and the like."

Because the experts like to have as much information at their fingertips as possible, an appointment system has been set up.

Once they know the names of those wanting to quiz them, they can select information from the questioner's tax file at their Cardiff office and have it to hand throughout the interview.

If you have a tax query and want the tax men to sort it out for you, ring the following military numbers in your area: 1 Armoured Division, Verden 432; 3 Armoured Division, Korbbecke 344; 4 Armoured Division, Herford 2449; Bielefeld 2694, Gutersloh 229, Berlin 4468 and Rheindahlen 2717.

Closing date to make an appointment is October 28.

## 1 PARA TRIUMPH

**BULFORD**-based 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment swept the board in the prestigious NATO Challenge Cup competition in Denmark during Exercise "Ample Express".

Taking part in their first overseas exercise since being attached earlier this year to the Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (AMF) the Paras entered four teams in the competition and romped home with first second third and fifth place against teams from Denmark, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal and the United States.

There was additional joy for the United Kingdom in the Minor Units competition — won by 249 Signal Squadron... also based at Bulford.



# PM's TRIBUTE TO RGJ BAND



## Praise for Bandmaster Little

THE PRIME Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, paid special tribute to the bandmen of The Royal Green Jackets when she unveiled a plaque in Regent's Park, London, to those men of the 1st Battalion who lost their lives as a result of a terrorist bomb in July last year.

Nineteen of the men who survived the terrible blast and are with the reconstituted band were there to hear the Prime Minister pay special tribute to Bandmaster David Little who — “restored the band to its former wonderful performance.”

The plaque reads: “To the memory of those bandmen of the First Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, who died as a result of a terrorist attack here on the 20th July, 1982”.

Among the other VIPs attending were Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Michael Heseltine, and the Chief of the Defence Staff, Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, and C-in-C United Kingdom Land Forces, General Sir Frank Kitson.

## NEW JOURNAL

Hong Kong has a new-look 56-page monthly glossy magazine called *The Junk*, which is designed to serve all three Services based in the Colony.

The Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher, with bandmen of 1st Battalion The Royal Green Jackets.



## Medal for Sefton

Another reminder of that dreadful day in London last year came at the Horse of the Year Show at Wembley.

Sefton, the Blues and Royals mount badly injured in the Hyde Park attack, is pictured above receiving the British Horse Society Medal from Ealing MP Mr Harry Greenaway.

## CONTRACT PLACED FOR FALKLANDS JETTY

THE MINISTRY of Defence is placing a contract with ITM (Offshore) Ltd to construct a military floating jetty with storage and accommodation at Port Stanley.

This project, known as the Falklands Intermediate Port and Storage System (FIPASS), will substantially improve the ad hoc and unsatisfactory arrangements for sea-borne cargo handling and storage since the end of hostilities.

At present most ships have to be unloaded on to a variety of harbour craft because of the limited depth of water alongside the existing jetty, which is itself inadequate for the number of ships needed to support the garrison.

Warlike stores and reserve rations still have to be held aboard ships lying at anchor because there is no available storage ashore, nor resources to construct it.

Both handling and storage problems entail unnecessary waste of effort and loss of material.

FIPASS is based on a complex of six flat-topped barges, each some 2500 square metres in area, which will be linked together and moored on the south side of Port Stanley harbour, not far from where the coastal accommodation barges are moored.

The FIPASS barges are of the same type as those used in the

North Sea and elsewhere to support offshore oil-rig operations, and the complex will be linked to the shore by a causeway capable of taking all types of vehicle in service in the Falklands.

Prefabricated steel warehouses will be erected on three of the barges to provide the storage needed by the garrison. All the construction work needed for FIPASS will be undertaken in the UK principally in Belfast and Tyne & Wear — with some assembly work on site at Port Stanley.

The cost of the project will be saved within three years by releasing chartered storage ships, shortening turn-round times for cargo ships, and reducing numbers of servicemen needed for port handling and storage tasks.

## IMPROVING

Two of the four soldiers injured in a live-firing incident on the Hornby Mountain range area West Falkland, are still in hospital in Stanley — and were improving as SOLDIER went to press. One has moved off the very seriously ill list. An inquiry is being held into the cause of the accident.





# NEWS VIEW

## BAOR gives Prime Minister three cheers

MRS THATCHER saw the whole panoply of Rhine Army's might when she made a two-day visit to BAOR starting with 1 (BR) Corps.

Greeted initially by crowds of cheering schoolchildren, Mrs Thatcher moved out to meet troops "in the field" on exercise near the Munster-Süd training area.

Mrs Thatcher aimed one of 45 Field Regiment's M.109 SP guns under the guidance of Sgt Barry Lane. Later, the Premier visited 20 Armoured Brigade's "Hardened and Reduced" Field HQ where one of her staff was put through to No 10 by 200 Squadron.

Climax of her visit was a full-scale Battle Group attack made by 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards and supporting cavalry, artillery and infantry units on the Soltau training area. This massive display of Army firepower involved nearly 200 tracked and wheeled vehicles and more than 900 soldiers.



In to battle with 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards — escorting in "Boss Hogg" is Sergeant Martin Packard.

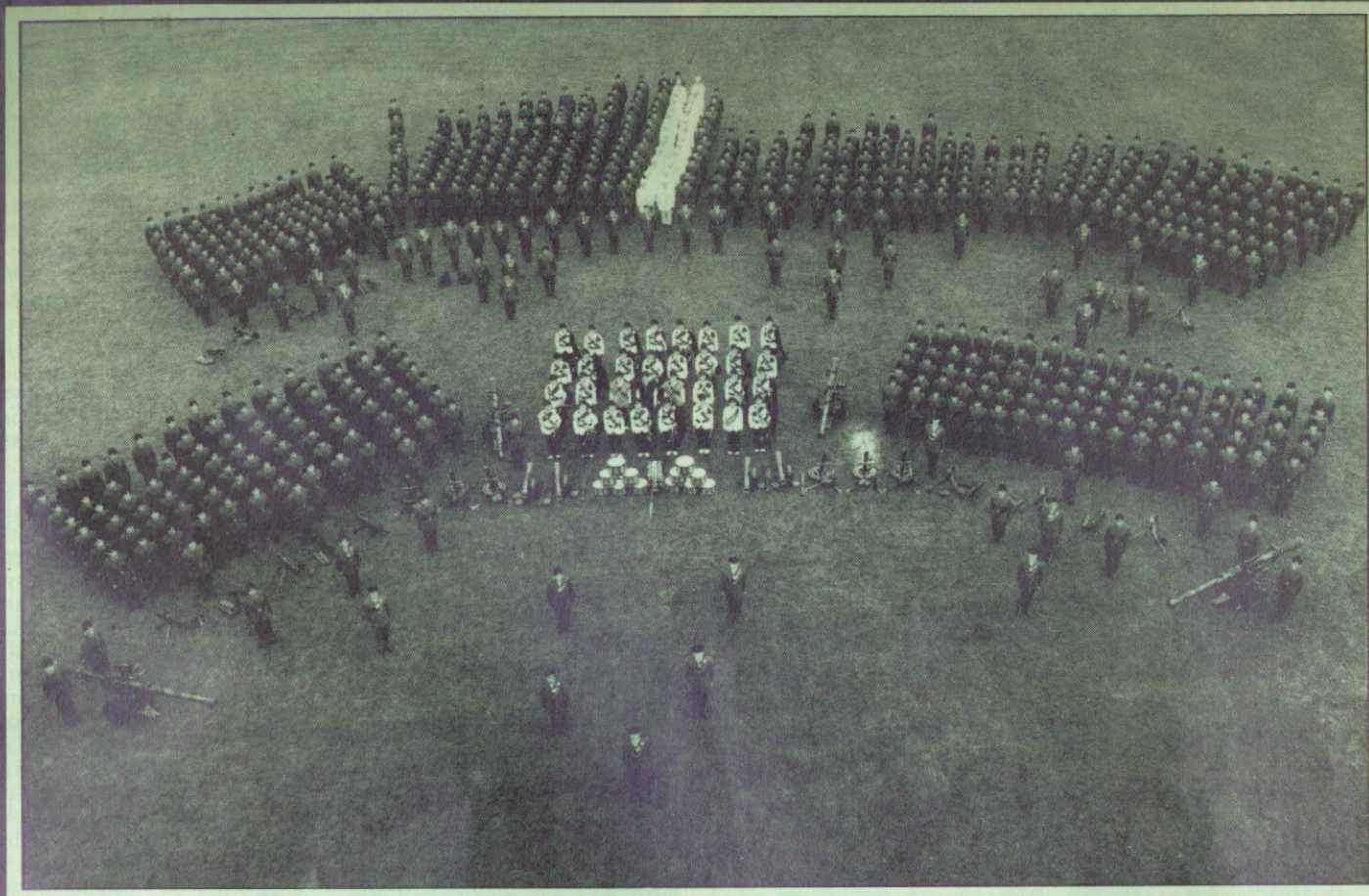
Having just helped fire one of 45 Field Regiment's M109 guns, Mrs Thatcher describes the sensation to (left to right) Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, Lt-Col Chris Copeland, CO of the Regiment, and gun commander Sergeant Barry Lane.



"Three cheers for the Prime Minister" — Standing with her are (left to right) Brigadier Nick Ansell, Commander 20 Armd Brigade, and Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Gilruth, Commanding Officer of 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards.



Probably remembering her days as Minister of Education, the Prime Minister finds out what is in today's lesson for children at Montgomery Primary School, Hohne.



## ▲ GATHERING OF GURKHAS

Photographer Doug Pratt's extremely lofty view of 1st Battalion 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles prior to their departure from Church Crookham for a tour of duty in Belize.

In all, 716 officers and men were on parade — led by Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Mark Cook.

It is the first tour of duty in Central America for the Battalion, many of whom have seen jungle service in Brunei.



## ◀ SO LUCKY SERGEANT

Lucky Sergeant Ian Duncan, Royal Signals pictured here with wife, Janet and their three boys Simon, Jason and Lee in their Hong Kong quarter, has just won over £2000 of audio/video equipment in the Spring 1983 Prize Draw organised by the Britannia Music Co.

The next Prize Draw is scheduled for the Autumn and details of how you too can be eligible when you join Britannia Music's Audio Club are contained in the insert to this issue.

## CROWNING GLORY . . . ▶

King George IV (alias Major Malcolm Watson, Officer Commanding 'D' Squadron The Queen's Own Hussars) was crowned again in the Europa Shopping Centre in Berlin as a prelude to the British Berlin Tattoo.

The accurate replica of St Edward's Crown, the one used on official coronations, is worth £15000 even though the jewels are paste and the 'gold' is painted on!

Major Watson was 'crowned' by Frau Muhme.







## YORKSHIRE SPIRIT

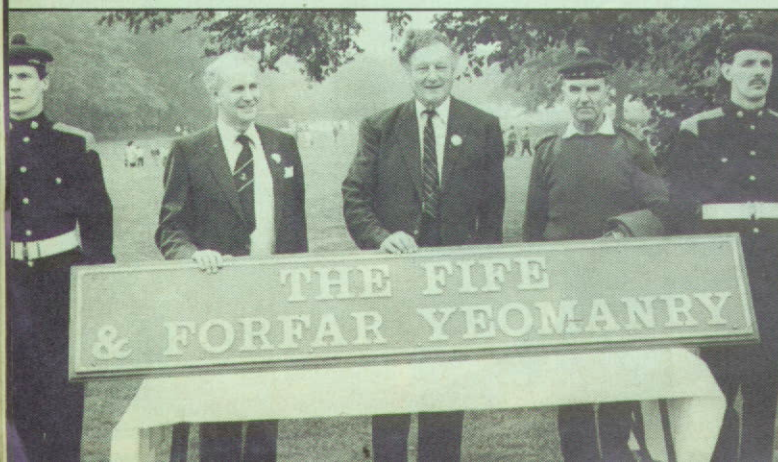


A 16-year-old disabled youth, Darren Brook, is going to spend a two-week adventure holiday in Kenya — as a result of fund-raising by Wakefield-based men of 5th Battalion The Light Infantry.

Darren, despite his problems, can swim and has proved he has a certain degree of independence and mobility.

Said his mother, Mrs Eileen Brook: "Darren is very excited. It is the chance of a lifetime. We are very grateful to 'A' Company for raising this money.

Photo, courtesy Yorkshire Weekly Newspaper Group Ltd, shows, left to right: Major Tim Crowther, OC 'A' Company 5LI, Mr Eddie McGee, Colour Sergeant P Drake who organised the fund-raising events, Gail Ripley, former Miss Yorkshire Television, Mr and Mrs Brook, Sergeant S Bedford . . . and Darren is in the front.



## Merseyside's M.A.S.H.

Merseyside's M.A.S.H. — otherwise 208 (Merseyside) General Hospital whose HQ is in Liverpool, with a detachment at Stanney Lane, Ellesmere Port, were in their 75th Anniversary Camp at Penally, near Tenby in Wales. Over 150 TA Volunteers, RAMC, RADC, ACC, RCT, REME, QARANC, WRAC, RAPC & REME that make this multi cap badged unit were joined by members of the RAMC & QARANC CVHQ.

Administrative Officer, Major Clive Richardson had planned an all-action Camp, and there were visits to see the Bundeswehr firing their 'Gepard' AFVs at nearby Castlemartin, visits to RAF Brawdy, home of the air sea rescue operation of 202 Squadron RAF, trips on the Tenby-based RAF rescue launch, and in the

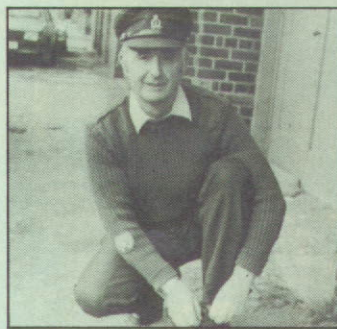
second week of camp, volunteers were winched aboard the Sea King Helicopters of 202 flight from the sea.

19-year-old QARANC Private Sharon McKenna, from Halewood, Liverpool summed up the Hospital's Camp 'It has been really good,' she added 'and there has been lots of excitement'. Hospital CO, Col Nick Haywood who in civilian life works at Blackpool's Victoria Hospital summed up Camp: 'We try to give every member of the Hospital — from the most recently joined Medical Corps Private to the highest trained and most qualified surgeon on the staff, the chance to do things that they have not had the chance to do before. That's why the air sea rescue trips, the Gemini inflatable craft and the Sea Kings plus the Bundeswehr have all helped to make this first ever visit to Wales a most memorable Camp. I think many folk down here will have grasped how versatile the Merseysiders really are'.



## March raises £1,400!

WO 2 Doug Henry, of Liverpool's 208 (Merseyside) General Hospital RAMC (V) has raised over £1,400 through sponsorship in his first ever Nijmegen march, and counting the sponsorship money — and getting it in — Doug told us "It's all going to go to The Merseyside Bone Marrow Transplant Trust."



## NAMEPLATE HANDED OVER

A 19-year connection between the Territorial Army and British Rail came to an end at Dundee when during the Camperdown Park display held to mark the 75th anniversary of the Territorial Army Colonel Sir John Gilmour DSO TD, Lord Lieutenant of Fife, accepted from Mr George H D Mackie of British Rail the nameplate of Deltic Locomotive number 55006 "The Fife and Forfar Yeomanry".

The nameplate commemorates the regiment which fought in North West Europe in World War 2.

In 1958 it amalgamated with the Scottish Horse to form the Fife and Forfar Yeomanry/Scottish Horse, whose successor unit is 239 (Highland Yeomanry) Artillery Support Squadron RCT (V), based in Fife.

The nameplate was unveiled in 1964 by the late Lieutenant Colonel A H McIntosh of the Yeomanry, in Cupar Station, Fife. On that occasion the 100 ton locomotive was driven into the station by James Alexander, British Rail, a serving Lance Corporal of the regiment. His second man was ex-Trooper Galloway of the Yeomanry.

On separate occasions the present OC of 239 Squadron, Major L W F Horne and his predecessor, Major A D F Maclean TD travelled to Kings Cross on TA business hauled by their "private" locomotive.

Photo shows Mr George H D Mackie presenting the locomotive nameplate to Sir John Gilmour DSO, TD, Lord Lieutenant of Fife. (Photograph courtesy D C Thomson & Co Ltd.)



# Highlanders 'invade' California

As part of an exchange agreement between TA units and the United States National Guard a company composed of elements of 3rd Bn 51st Highland Volunteers (Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders) swapped locations with 'C' Company 1/186 Oregon National Guard in one of the largest National Guard exercises since World War Two, located at Fort Hunter Leggat and Camp Roberts, California.

As a direct exchange for the "Jungeleer" company they were slotted into the host unit's orbat and took part in one week's field exercises with the 7th Infantry Division in Exercise Celtic Cross. 1/186, the host unit, come from the Southern part of Oregon and had a two day journey by convoy

to take part.

Some 150 members of "composite company" left Prestwick basking in glorious sunshine for the first part of the trip to Maine and from there to Lemoore Airport, California. The trip was completed in record time arriving about the same time they left!

## BUSY TIME FOR ULSTER SIGNALS



Soldiers from the 40th Ulster Signal Regt (Volunteers) were on hand to help out at a road accident in Pickering in Yorkshire.

A motor-cycle was in collision with a car, and the rider was injured. A RAMC sub-unit from the Regiment was just returning from a seven mile march at Fylingdales and helped the injured man.

Sgt "Scotty" Scott gave first aid, while WRAC Private Sandra McCullough comforted him. Meanwhile, a Sergeant went to the man's nearby home and told his parents of the accident.

Police told the Army party that their prompt action had prevented injuries being aggravated. The Regiment was at Scarborough's Burniston Barracks for its ninth 16-day camp in the resort.

Cpl John Shaw of the Regiment created a record at Scarborough when he bounced for 24 hours on a trampoline in aid of charity.

Cpl Shaw, 43, a physical training instructor with the Regiment, bounced some 77,736 times with a five-minute break each hour when Privates Christine Winters and Frances Gallo-way, Women's Royal Army

Corps, also members of the regiment, bounced through the natural break, and at times towards the end of the marathon bounce to give support and encouragement to Cpl Shaw.

Proceeds from sponsorship and collecting boxes will go to the Scarborough lifeboat and the Mayoress's community fund, a total of £223.

In Ulster £300 has so far been collected in sponsorship for Northern Ireland Action Diabetics.



The Scots were enveloped by the heat on leaving the plane confirming the importance of many lectures on heat problems.

Camp Roberts is located some 70 miles South of Monterey (mid-west California) and some 20 miles inland from the Pacific. The camp itself has been in existence pre World War II and can accommodate some 70,000 troops.

Greeted by Colour Sergeant Hall, QPSI C Company, who was the advance party, the company were reminded of the odd rabid squirrel within the camp but also the happy news that rattlesnakes were hardly ever found in the Camp area!

Four days were spent acclimatising and being instructed in American weaponry under the auspices of Sergeant Smith US Army and his colleagues. As weapons such as the M16 and M60 were relatively familiar (obtained for the warm-up training) the company soon passed muster with the instructors. Other weapons such as the M203 and Dragon (anti-tank missile system) took only slightly longer to learn.

Gradually over a period of one or two days it all appeared to fall into shape and they were ready to deploy into the field. The move into the exercise area was completed and defensive positions set-up astride a hill to be known alternatively as 'Jocks Hill' or 'Stoorie Brae'.

Due to the close proximity of a screening force of friendly forces there was little opportunity of patrolling. The terrain was pure John Wayne — hot, dusty, poison oak, dense shrubbery,

### Mutual exchange of gifts.

contrasting wide open spaces, trees and even the odd dry gulch.

Lieutenant Sloane Smith was rescued by the rest of his platoon whilst being kidnapped by the opposition and the story has become known as the battle of Stoorie Brae.

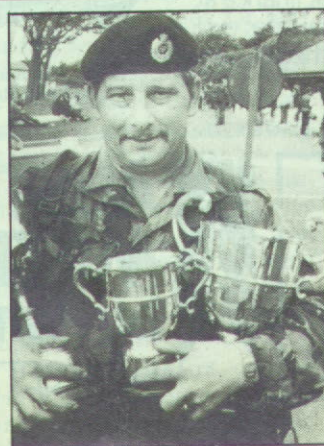
Luckily 3/51 were positioned in the thick of the battle but try as they might, the enemy, provided by 3/32 Infantry, never managed to fully infiltrate the position.

Having spent five days in defence there was the opportunity to attack. With tank engineers, artillery, and mortars in support they started to advance. Pte Dwyer, one of our newest recruits used the "lying-on-the-razor-wire" technique to clear one obstacle, a sight which stunned allies and enemy alike.

Throughout the stay Cpl McNicol the company piper had played many a tune on his pipes but after one attack someone blew a horn causing the said Piper to get a mild shock and break his vital chanter tooth. This was, of course, a disaster; the most important casevac was effected and a dental surgeon was laid on to repair the damage.

The exercise ended on a quiet note, and all the kit borrowed was cleaned and returned to the Americans, pay parade held and then finally a ceremonial parade to exchange gifts and allow the US Army female the chance to admire the Scottish knee.

The Scots are looking forward to any exchange which may come in the future — suggesting Hawaii!



## SHOOTING A LINE

Before Annual Camp in Germany, the North West's Sapper Regiment — 75 Engineer Regiment RE (V) invited wives, families and friends to join them at Altcar, Merseyside for their 1983 Families Day.

It was the second day of the Regiment's Skill at Arms Meeting, so that the programme for the families included seeing Honorary Colonel, Col John Timmins present the prizes, together with a series of awards of the Sgt. Granville Wareing: second time around.

Territorial Efficiency Medal and Clasps.

CO, Lt Col Robbie Reive told SOLDIER: "Families Day is always a good way to say 'thanks in advance' before Camp, and for a Regiment with so many TA Centres as ours — we have eight — its a way for everyone to get acquainted too" I'd like to thank everyone for making it go with a real zip — despite the weather and congratulate RHQ for their victories on the Ranges, winning the Victor Ludorum Trophy!



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# SOLDIER to Soldier

Words spoken by the Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher to men of 4/7 Royal Dragoon Guards at Soltau during her recent visit to British Forces Germany. The message will be appreciated by men and women in the Army everywhere. (See also page 8).

## Fijian farewell — our thanks



Last of the Fijians march through The Gordon Highlanders Guard of Honour.

**S**OLDIER is happy to record the British Army's heartfelt and emotional thanks to those Fijians who answered the call to the colours in 1961.

The summer's last scorching blaze of glory reflected that of 32 of the last remaining Fijians as they marched off the parade square at Dortmund Garrison and into the pages of history.

Their names, service and honours are inscribed in a vellum book which the British Ambassador in Bonn, Sir Jock Taylor, presented to the Prime Minister of Fiji, Sir Kamisese TT Mara.

He also presented him with a silver salver, a gift from the British Army to the military forces of Fiji to commemorate the occasion and represent a lasting link between the two armies.

The Ambassador referred to Fiji's responsible and moderating influence in the world at large and said Britain was particularly thankful to Fiji for its strong support over the Falklands, where Fiji took such a strong independent line on a question of principle so important to the United Kingdom.

When recruiting in Britain was difficult, the British Army sent a recruiting team to Fiji.

The response from the young men and women there was so tremendous that the quota the team were allowed to recruit was doubled, and 212 Fijians joined up.

Since then they have served in many different regiments, battalions and corps throughout the Army. Many saw extensive periods of active service in Cyprus, the Middle East, Northern Ireland and more recently in the Falklands.

The gallantry of individual Fijians has been recognised by one George Medal, one Distinguished Conduct Medal, one Military Medal and a mention in Despatches along with two MBEs and five BEMs for outstanding service.

The Ambassador presented the most recent of these honours during the parade, investing Sergeant Major Romano Naceva of 26 Field Regiment with the insignia as a Member of the Order of the British Empire, and presenting Sergeant Meli Tabuavaka of the 1st Battalion, Light Infantry, with the British Empire Medal.

"The contingent of soldiers from Fiji have been an inspiration to us not only through their gallantry," said the Ambassador.

"The unusual warmth they generate in their daily life, their capacity for friendship and their tremendous spirit so evident wherever they have served has been an inspiration to us all".

Thanking the Ambassador for his words and gifts, the Prime Minister told the Fijians that their country was proud of them. "We are pleased that you have shown you are capable of holding your place in a military establishment which has a world-wide reputation second to none".

He added: "People who believe in peace should back it up with practical example, and we are prepared to play our part." He then presented the Ambassador with a ceremonial Tanoa, or bowl, and a Tabua, or whale's tooth, which had to have special permission before it could leave Fiji.

Some may have been reluctant to take part in such a parade. They were not special, they said. They were not worthy of such honour, they were just part of the British Army.

But to their comrades they have always been something special. Indeed, there was such a strong feeling within their units that they refused point blank to let friends who have meant so much to the British Army leave without saying goodbye to them in a way they would remember.

Two flank guards of honour were provided by 26 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, and 1st Battalion, Gordon Highlanders, while representative detachments of ten men symbolised the spread of their units: 1 Royal Horse Artillery, 5 Heavy Regiment, 16 Air Defence Regiment, 22 Air Defence Regiment, 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment, Royal Signals, 1 Light Infantry, 2 Royal Irish Rangers, and 3rd Armoured Division Transport Regiment.

Music was provided by the

Royal Artillery Allanbrooke Band, whose thoughtful blend of traditional Fijian and British melodies heightened the charged atmosphere, particularly as they played "Will Ye No Come Back Again" and "Auld Land Syne."

Regimental Sergeant Major Meli Basu, specially arrived from 1st Battalion, Duke of Wellington's Regiment in Gibraltar, led the Fijians in their final slow march through the ranks of the guards in their honour, and past the Ambassador, Prime Minister, Commander in Chief British Army of the Rhine, General Sir Nigel Bagnall, and Commander 1st British Corps, Lt General Sir Martin Farndale.

As well as a busload of friends and old comrades from UK, two soldiers from the force in Sinai were present, while Mrs Thelma Lalabalavu made the journey from Fiji to see her son leave the Army.

Marching off the square they were given three rousing cheers and eight guns of 17 (Corunna) Battery crashed out in salute. As peace returned to the square, their normally strong voices, cracking with the emotion shown so clearly on their faces, were heard singing first in Fijian then in English:

"Now is the hour, when we must say 'Goodbye',  
Soon we'll be sailing far  
across the sea,  
While I'm away, oh please  
remember me. . ."

Hard soldiers wept unashamedly for those infectious friendly warriors who were now leaving.

**Words: Gordon Skilling  
Pictures: Peter Griffiths**



Another proud moment for RSM Meli Basu . . .

WE DID intend to puzzle readers by using a photo of a roller-ski bialloun man upside down on page three of our last issue (3 October), but WE DID NOT intend to add to the confusion by asking you to see page 45. It should have been page 46! Apologies . . .



Writer Sally Daniell and photographer Doug Pratt visit Erskine Hospital in Scotland, an "oasis of peace and quiet"...

# WHERE SHATTERED BODIES BUILD NEW LIVES

**H**OME FOR some 360 disabled Servicemen and women is the Princess Louise Scottish or Erskine Hospital near Bishopton on the Clyde.

Limbless veterans of two World Wars and subsequent theatres of conflict such as Aden, Borneo and later Northern Ireland first came to Erskine to recover from their injuries and be fitted with artificial limbs. Some, too disabled to live with their disabilities without constant medical and nursing care, live permanently in the wards of the hospital. Others live with their families in the 43 'sheltered' bungalows within the grounds and those who are able, work either 'outside' or in the hospital workshops.

The grounds of the elegant and imposing mansion house amount to more than 400 acres and as well as providing excellent walking for the fitter patients, offers superb views of the Kilpatrick Hills across the River Clyde. In the words of the Acting Commandant of the Hospital, Major Alec MacDonald Gaunt, Erskine is "an oasis of peace and quiet."

The hospital first began as an auxiliary hospital to the Edenhall Hospital which was quite unable to cope with the appalling numbers of wounded and disabled Scotsmen coming back from the trenches in 1917. At the instigation of the eminent surgeon, Sir William Macewen, a pioneer of bone grafting, and the philanthropy of several leading Glaswegians, Erskine was established and very quickly became the principal Scottish hospital for the limbless.

In its 66 year history, as well as fitting literally thousands of Servicemen with artificial limbs, Erskine has also fulfilled Sir William Macewen's intention of providing "sympathetic care and encouragement... besides advice and guidance" for patients coping with the trauma of living without one and sometimes two limbs.

Currently there are still some 40 patients who are veterans of the First World War and more than 200 from the Second. The latter will increase now as age creeps up on the many disabled men who have been able to live in society with their families but are becoming more and more infirm.

In addition, there are those chronically ill ex-Servicemen struck down, sometimes at a young age, with disabling diseases as well as those who lost limbs in road and training accidents and various military operations since the Second World War.

One of these is 29-year-old George Collins, formerly a private in the Argylls who was critically injured in Northern Ireland when a 500lb IRA bomb blasted his APC. It killed three of his fellow soldiers instantly and put him in hospital unconscious and paralysed with brain, chest and limb injuries for months.

Against expectation, George recovered consciousness and with dogged determination and tireless support from his young wife learnt once more to read, write, walk and speak. He now lives with his wife in one of the hospital bungalows.

In John Calder's book *The Vanishing Willows\**, the story of



Basket weaving in the workshop.

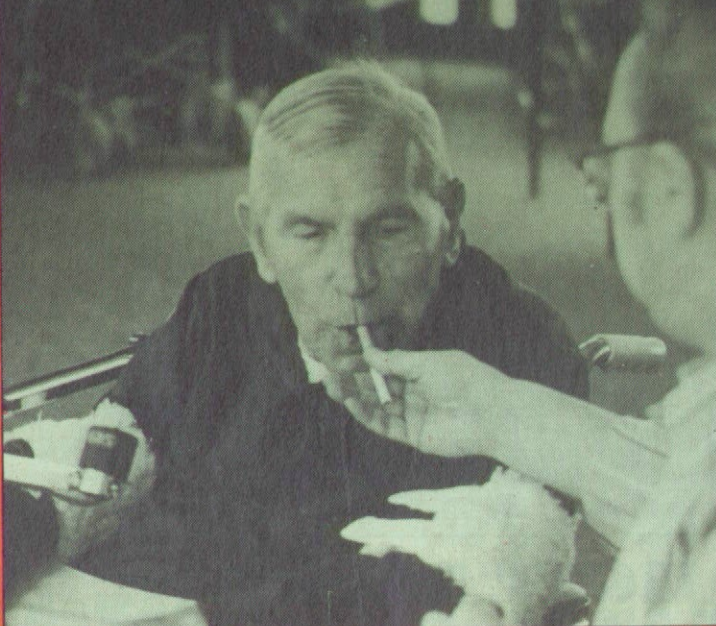
Erskine Hospital, George Collins says "I was in various hospitals where they did their best for me and I am very grateful to them. But Erskine is the only place where I've been encouraged to feel like a man again and not a chronic invalid."

Spurning the indoor workshop pursuit of furniture making, George would work out every evening building up his fitness and stamina and now works for a wage in the hospital gardens.

These gardens are extensive and yield a variety of produce from tomatoes, beans and potatoes to soft fruit sold through two retail outlets and with a reputation for high quality and value for money.

It is not just market gardening that Erskine does on a commercial basis but also surgical footwear, upholstery and furniture repairs, french polishing, printing, basketry and cane furniture.

Although they make a loss, the workshops are an essential part of the hospital's society and in 1980 the sale of Erskine-made products topped £80,000 and contributed more than £2500 to the country's export trade.



A helping hand from a fellow patient.

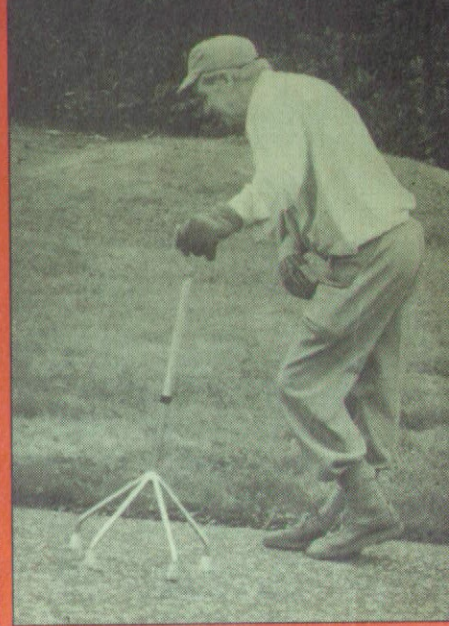
Financing a hospital like this is always a worry when only 20% of its annual expenditure comes from Government grants and a reciprocal agreement with the National Health Service. The rest — about £1m — comes from bequests, investments and yearly efforts on the part of various charity organisations to raise funds. It manages, thanks to the goodwill of the largely Scottish public, but more is always

needed especially for building and modernisation programmes requiring large amounts of money.

Recently, three new flats have been built on to the single men's hostel which are designed for use as holiday flats for couples living independently where one partner is disabled. Carefully designed to meet the needs of a disabled person — wide doorways, waist-high light switches and electrical sockets, ramps for wheelchairs and plenty of supporting bars — the flats are also furnished in contemporary style and include fully-fitted modern kitchens. At £80 a week to rent, the cost is usually borne by sponsoring organisations such as the Royal British Legion.\*\*

Who better a person to have the last word than the hospital's

Major Alec MacDonald Gaunt and Matron of the Hospital.



Off we go again.

patron, HRH The Prince of Wales who in his foreword to John Calder's book says: "On my own visits to Erskine I have been impressed by the high spirits of the patients and the dedication of the staff, who provide the care and rehabilitation that they need. In the year 2000 Erskine hospital will still be needed to care for those who served in the Second World War and subsequent actions. I am sure that with the continuing support of the people of Scotland Erskine will still be there to provide it."

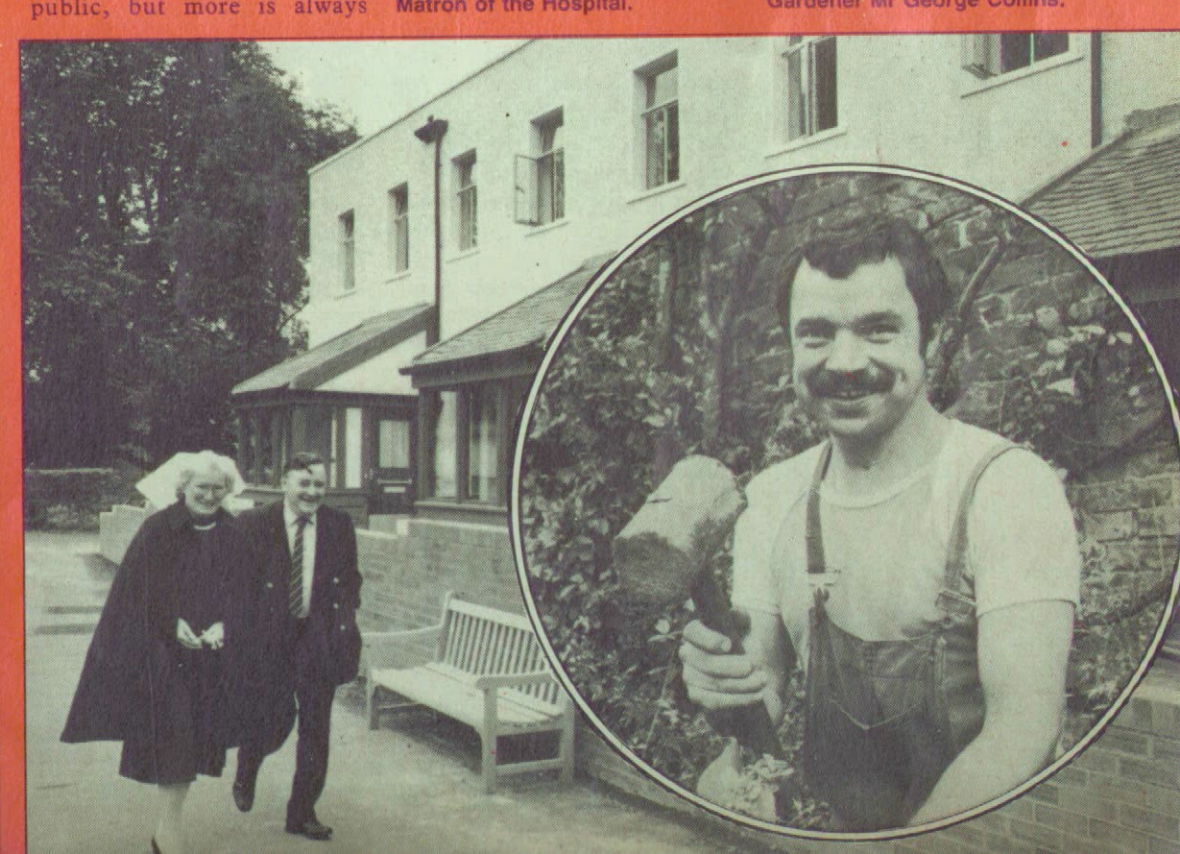
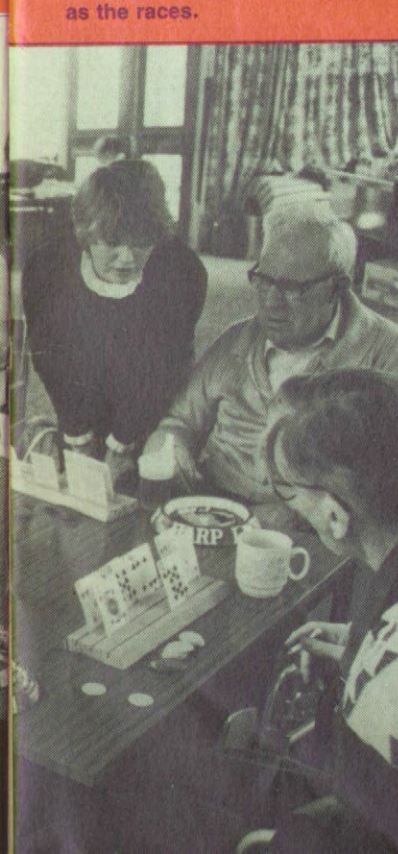
\**The Vanishing Willows* is sold at £2.25 incl. p&p in aid of Erskine Hospital funds, available from the hospital.

\*\*For details write to Erskine Hospital, Bishopton, Renfrewshire PA7 5PU.

Gardener Mr George Collins.



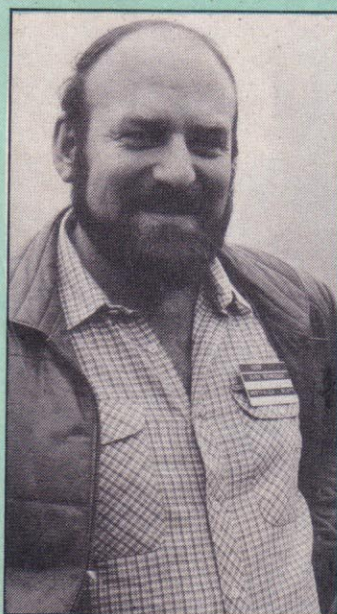
A game of chess.







## VIPs<sup>★</sup> VISIT 15 BRIGADE TO SEE PART-TIME SOLDIERS



**DIRK SCHRODER**  
... political angle.

★ **Very Important Press**

**WHEN THE** volunteer part-timers of 15 Brigade came south to Salisbury Plain for their annual two-week camp, they were trailed by a team of top continental journalists and defence correspondents and a bevy of military "brass".

The writers and their Army escorts were anxious to see whether the Terriers from the north-east had the capability to meet any military demand from 2 Infantry Division, which they form with 49 Brigade (TA) and the Regular Army's 24 Brigade.

Since 2 Division's role, with its headquarters in York, is the rapid back-up of 1 British Corps in BAOR in time of tension, the continental visitors had a special interest and their multi-star 'minders' a more professional involvement.

But neither band of observers need have worried for the Georgies and the Tykes laid on a super "do" with introductions

**Story:**  
**JOHN MARGETTS**

**Pictures:**  
**DOUG PRATT**

and briefings by Lt General Sir Edward Burgess, Commander UK Field Army, and Brigadier Michael Aris, 15 Brigade's commander.

Then it was off to the wide open spaces of the fog-shrouded Plain where gunners of 203 Battery of 101 Field Regiment showed their paces with a few "live" rounds in a 24-hour exercise.

While one of the half-dozen 105mm light guns fired, the others prepared for their turn.

One such team, under the command of Bdr Tony Fallon, in civvy street an auto-sonic inspector for British Rail, told how they enjoyed firing their gun.

"It's best when we use the most powerful charge we have. It really slings the shell a long

way." The rest of his team were L/Bdr Ron Hall, the gun layer; Gnr Mike MacDonald, Gnr Robert Millican and Gnr Kevin Davis, the only non-Geordie in the side, who came from 226 OP Battery at Bristol. "He's doing his camp with us," explained Tony Fallon.

Reassured by 101's gunnery skills, the journalists moved back to Westdown Camp for a display of tank-stopping equipment which will halt enemy armour in its tracks.

Laid out for their inspection were a number of Milan anti-tank missile launchers all fitted with the infra-red Mira sight.

This enables the missile to be sighted at night and in fog and smoke. "No problem," said QMSI Peter Slade of the Small



# Verdict: 'HIGH LEVEL OF EXPERTISE'

Arms School Corps, as he prostrated himself to sight the Euro-missile on a Land-Rover almost a mile away.

Even though it was invisible to the naked eye, and weaving in and out of trees and shrubs, the Mira sight picked out the vehicle without trouble.

"It's the very latest modification to Milan," said Peter Slade, "and should be in service soon."

Still more reassuring was the sight of a twin-barrel Milan mounted on the top of a Spartan armoured vehicle.

This model is fired from inside the vehicle, but loaded from the outside.

A manufacturer's representative said the idea of the turret-mounted missile had been accepted by the MoD, but as yet the go-ahead to start production had not yet been given.

So far so good, was the unani-

mous view of the visiting correspondents. "What impressed me about those young gunners," said Ulrich Mackensen, defence specialist on a leading German daily and a lieutenant colonel in the German Army reserve, "was the fact that these 'Terriers' do this as a hobby. All of them would much rather be in the TA than spend their spare time watching TV. Coming from youngsters I find that most impressive."

Mackensen added that as a defence writer he was more interested in the "overall picture" of Nato and this particular exercise of 15 Brigade was a part of that scenario.

Reporter Dieter Klocke was on the look out for "human interest" stories while political writer Dirk Schroder was looking at the exercise from that particular angle.

Nuri Colakoglu, a London-based Turkish correspondent for an Istanbul daily said: "I'll be looking for a follow-up story about soldiers and their civilian jobs. I'm sure there are some interesting stories here," he said.

With more than half-a-million men in the Turkish Army, he said it was second in size only to the US in the Nato Alliance. "It is all very much like the British Army," he said.

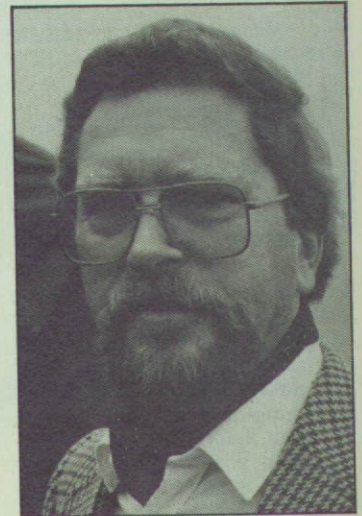
Asked what he thought the TA would "get out of the day's visit by the correspondents", Major General Dick Gerrard-Wright, Director of the TA and Army Cadets, said: "It's far better that people see for themselves. They get a far better understanding of the TA and its role. That way they get the right picture."

He emphasised how cost effective the Terriers are, estimating a total of about 1½ per cent of the defence budget, and went on to tell of their "high level of expertise".

A view, incidentally, endorsed by every one of the visiting journalists quoted.

**'Far better that people see for themselves'**

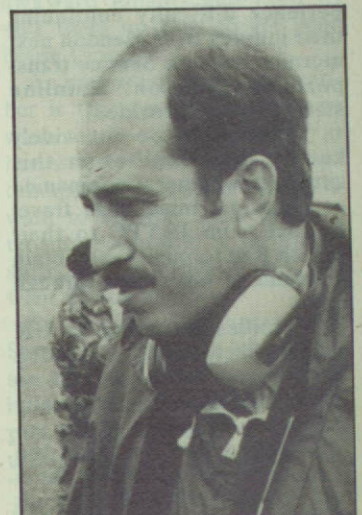
## International Press have their say



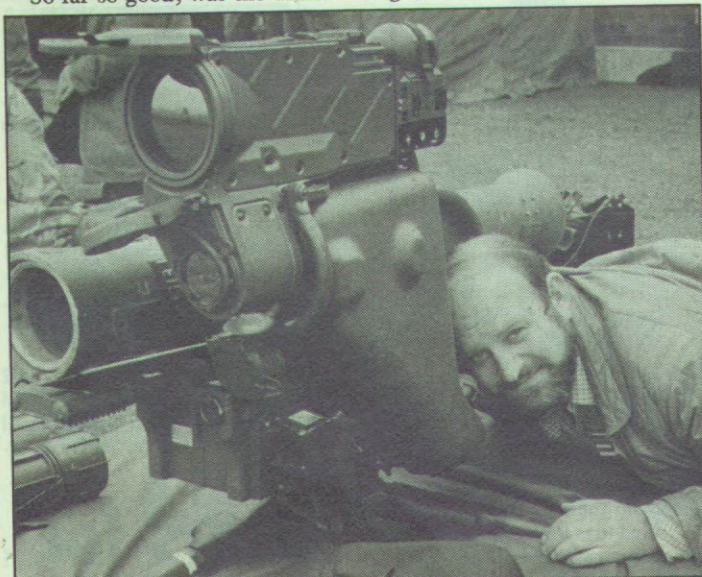
**DIETER KLOCKE**  
... "human interest".



**ULRICH MACKENSEN**  
... "most impressive".



**NURI COLAKOGLU**  
... following-up.



Herr Dirk Schroder gets down to studying MIRA.



A break from firing as Gunners talk to Press visitors.





I HOPE THAT my letter this week will cause discussion, comment, and above all some constructive thinking that will lead to some action.

I feel the time has come for the Services to have a radical re-think on the role of the volunteer in the Service community.

Volunteering has always been something of a corner-stone on which the Services have depended but a corner-stone that has so

often been taken for granted. Now there is a crying need to develop the Service awareness, support and respect for the volunteer efforts within their ranks.

There seems to be a resistance against involving our wives in roles other than those traditional ones in which they have been expected to play their part. But times have changed and with them the concept of a volunteer and these changes have left the Services way behind.

We do not capitalise on the enormous range of talents that our Service wives possess and we are the poorer for it. We tend to dismiss this reservoir of talent with a rebuff and refusal to consider the possibilities of using our professional women and their talents to improve Service life. Often there are doctors, lawyers, teachers, nurses, market researchers or

physiotherapists in our midst who would welcome the chance to use their skills and experience but who are not given the opportunity to do so.

Britain could not function without the hundreds of thousands of volunteers who support and run the numerous organisations and charities that give life in civilian communities an extra dimension. The Volunteer Centre, for example, has a wealth of information on how to help the volunteer and how to set up local bureaux. There are grants and financial aid to back up the volunteer effort — yes, money is available if you know where to look.

It is vital that a research project is set up within the Services to investigate the whole question of volunteerism, to gauge both the need and the response that could be expected. We should set up a

system that will make sure that we feature on mailing lists and that we are told about all the possibilities of grants so that we can apply for financial aid and take our chance alongside other organisations in need.

A volunteer is a very special person and I am sure that we have many in our ranks who would welcome the opportunity to prove that they could be special people in their own way — if we just give them the chance.

*Anne Armstrong*

I have often been amazed to see families struggling with young children, pushchairs and heavy luggage at Luton station or at Colindale, the tube station for Hendon. Families returning or departing overseas by air are entitled to help with all their luggage but so few seem to know that help is there for the asking.



There is a notice at the exit from Colindale station that gives the number to ring for transport so there is no need to tire yourself out. Do ask for help too at Luton station as there are a lot of stairs to negotiate — a hazard with young children and luggage.

The following notes should be a guideline for families travelling via JSATC Hendon and could save you a lot of headaches:

"Families returning to UK on posting who stay overnight at JSATC Hendon frequently experience difficulty continuing their journey from Hendon next morning because Service transport to London mainline stations is not provided.

"It seems to be not widely known that families in this situation, whether accompanied or unaccompanied, may travel by taxi from JSATC to their British Rail terminus and obtain a refund of fares paid through units.

"Families returning to UK who are likely to stay at Hendon should carry sufficient cash to meet contingencies, especially taxi fares, be aware of the entitlement to hire taxis and the procedure for reclaiming fares and should seek assistance from JSATC staff if confronted with difficulties in getting to their mainline station.

"There is no need for families burdened by luggage and small children to attempt the journey by public transport from Colindale station."

Taxi fares from St Pancras to other mainline stations vary but £10 should cover all eventualities. There are also arrangements that can be made with JSATC if there is some genuine hardship which means that the family is unable to make their own arrangements but wherever possible families will be expected to pay their fares in the first instance and claim later for a refund.

So do remember there is no need to struggle.

Now to some queries that I have received on the subject of help for the disabled:

- Q. Can you give me the address of any association that will help mentally handicapped people take part in sport?
- A. Sports Association for People with Mental Handicaps (UK), c/o The Sports Council, 16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0QD Tel: 01-388 1277
- Q. How can I arrange for my disabled mother-in-law to visit us in Germany as I don't drive and cannot therefore go home to fetch her?
- A. Trans-Care International at 193/195 High Street, Acton, London W3 Tel: 01-992 5077 escort and transport the sick, injured and disabled. Remem-

ber to make sure that your mother-in-law has her E111 Form and/or adequate medical holiday insurance cover.

- Q. My son is handicapped and



now needs some toys as he is three years old. We are not sure what to buy him. Is there anyone who can give us advice?

- A. Toy Aids Project, The Aids Trust, Lodbourn Green, Gillingham, Dorset. Tel: (07476) 2256 will be able to help you with guidance and suggestions from their catalogue for modified toys for handicapped children. It is also worth approaching the association which helps with the specific handicap that affects your son.
- Q. Is there an association for mothers of stillborn babies?
- A. The Still Birth Association, 37 Christchurch Hill, London NW3 1JY Tel: 01-794 4601 has information, support and a list of local groups for parents.
- Q. What should handicapped drivers do if they break down



and are unable to leave their car for assistance?

- A. Disabled drivers can obtain a "HELP" sign with the disabled logo. This can be

attached to the driver's window and should attract help from other drivers.

Incidentally, emergency telephones on motorways are now fitted with inductive couplers so anyone with a hearing aid with a 'T' setting can tune in direct to the telephone as it cuts out all the background traffic noise.

The revised DHSS leaflet HB1 April 83 "Help for Handicapped People" is now available, free, in all DHSS offices and in FPOs overseas.

## Stars for SSAFA

SSAFA FUNDS were boosted by a tremendous £40,000 last month. The sum represented the net proceeds of the adventurous and unique son et lumiere production, 'Heart of the Nation' which ran for over three weeks in London during the summer.

Capacity audiences from all over Britain and worldwide were delighted by an unprecedented spectacular.

The show was performed on Horse Guards Parade and among the celebrities in the audience were the Prime Minister, several Cabinet Ministers and the Secretary of State for the Environment whose wholehearted co-operation had been so essential for the production.

Ssafa's President, His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent, and Princess Michael attended the last performance. He paid tribute to the galaxy of stars who gave their services free for the production.

## DID YOU KNOW?

YOU ARE ENTITLED to compensation, either a full or partial refund of your money, if you take faulty goods back to the shop where you bought them.

If you simply change your mind however and decide that you just don't like what you've bought, you are not entitled to your money back. If the shopkeeper offers you a credit note so that you can choose something else, take it — he's being generous!

Do check though whether the credit note has a time limit on it if you intend waiting a while before choosing something else. A credit note may be valid for a short time only — up to three months. If you don't use it within that time you could lose your money unless you take steps to have the credit note renewed before its expiry date.



# Recordbreakers!

ANGLO-GERMAN RELATIONS in Nienburg were valued at 75,000 Deutschmarks during the town's Altstadtfest celebrations when the world record for the longest and highest value line of coins for charity was well and truly broken.

Guides, Brownies, Cubs and members of the youth club of Nienburg Station, together with children from local German schools and soldiers from 21 Engineer Regiment laid approximately 750,000 ten pfennig pieces which stretched for 15.6 kilometers, crashing through the previous record which had stood at £5296 and 6.86 kilometers.

The idea was born earlier this year when the Nienburg Station Youth Club led by Corporal and Mrs. Glynn Askew suggested breaking the world record to raise money for charity. At about the same time, the Stadt sug-

gested to the Commanding Officer of 21 Engineer Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Geoffrey Hyde, that the regiment participate in the Altstadtfest. The two ideas were combined and the joint venture was started with the aim of raising DM 40,000 to break the existing record.

The seven weeks preceding the record attempt were devoted to fund raising activities which included an Anglo-German pram race and a rugby match between the Welsh Cup holders, Pontypool and the Army Champions, 21 Engineer Regiment.

Of the money raised DM 45,000 will go to Aktion Sorgenkind — a German International Charity equivalent to Save the Children fund — and the remainder will be shared between the Stadt Nienburg and Nienburg Station for improving facilities for children.



The glittering bands of coins stretch into the distance as the German and British youngsters combine to break the world record.

Leigh Hay (left), who won the prize for the most raffle tickets sold during the fund raising campaign and who celebrated his ninth birthday on the day the world record was broken, laying coins with (L to R) James O'Connors, Martin Askew, Corporal Glynn Askew, and (far left) Joyce Macleish and (back to camera) Roz Brearley.



## LETTING - AND GETTING IT BACK

IT SEEMS TO ME that horror stories about haunted houses are now rather old fashioned. The modern equivalent as many of you can testify are horror stories about houses with tenants not ghosts.

Unfortunately, tenants are rarely figments of our imagination and there are some landlords who would rather be faced with the problem of exorcising a ghost than with evicting a tenant.

On the other hand, there is more help on hand with tenants than the bell, book and candle routine. It's known as Case 20 and is all-powerful in eviction if you have kept to its rules. There is even a layman's guide to using this great and powerful charm — The Services Guide to Letting booklet, 'To Let'.

When you are a houseowner (wise man) in the Services, you are more than likely going to fall foul at some stage of an overseas posting or even a posting to another location within UK

which will probably mean that you have to leave the house you are buying. "Essentially", says the booklet's introduction, "you have three choices: you may sell, you may rent the property or you may leave it vacant." At times these choices may seem like a choice between the devil and the deep blue sea.

It is a hard decision to make if you consider selling your property and losing your footing on the ladder of property ownership. Who knows what prices will do next? But can you really afford to take a chance on leaving an empty house for perhaps two years? You will still be paying the mortgage, there is a danger of squatters not to mention the damage from the wind and weather that can attack an unoccupied building in the space of a few short, sharp winter

months. Most people decide, reluctantly, to rent.

But the 'To Let' booklet takes you through the details and possible pitfalls of house letting with the clearest of explanations and minimum of fuss. There are chapters on the choice of tenants, property management, rent, insurance, and the all-important contract as well as clarifying the question of income tax and how it can affect you as a landlord.

It explains how you are covered by the Case 20 clause in the Housing Act of 1980 which gives Servicemen grounds for repossession in the event of their requiring the property again. If you were a member of the Armed Forces when you bought the property and when the letting commenced and have not let it other than under Case 20 since November 1980, you can give the

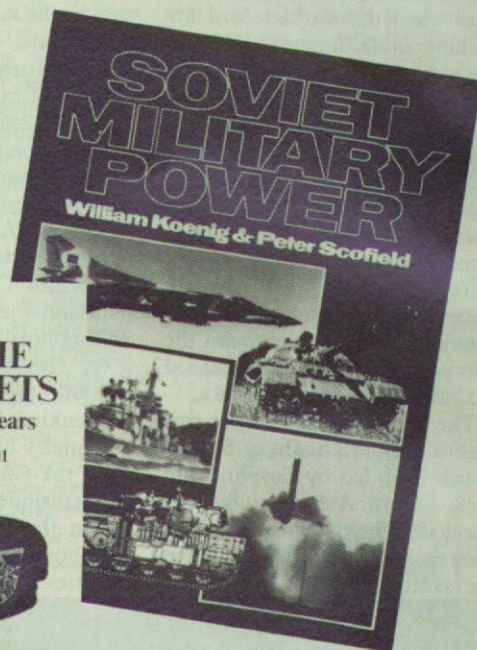
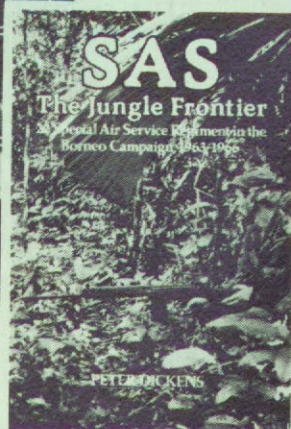
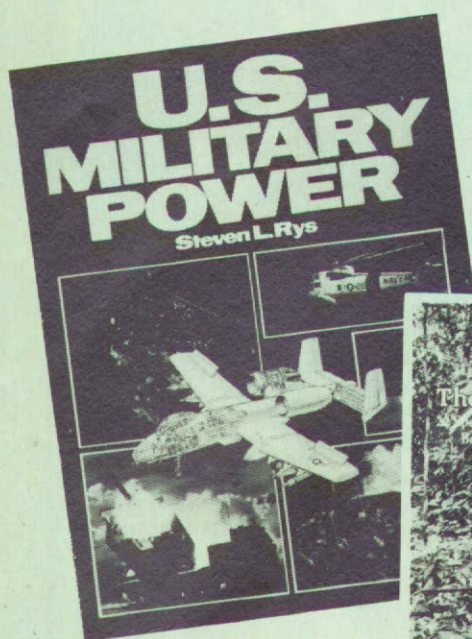
tenant notice at the start of the tenancy that you might recover possession under Case 20. You will then have satisfied the four requirements for repossession and this will stand you in good stead should you find you have awkward tenants and need to take them to court to get your house back.

An interesting point to remember is that you do not have to want the house back to live in necessarily. Under Case 20, you can apply for repossession if you want to sell the house without tenants because it is no longer suited to your needs and you want to buy another.

So, letting your house as a Serviceman need not be a horror story if you take advantage of the help that is available. A few precautions can save you a lot of unnecessary worry. Ask for the 'To Let' booklet at your local Army Education Office and keep those ghosts on the outside of your house.



# Power, Knowledge, Excitement...



## INSIDE THE GREEN BERETS The First Thirty Years

Charles M. Simpson III



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by Charles M. Simpson III.

This fascinating history of the Green Berets offers "inside" information about the most feared group of fighters in the U.S. Army. From Saudi Arabia to the Congo to Leopoldville and Vietnam, this book offers a frank and compelling view of the Green Berets in the midst of battle. However, when not involved in the rigours of war, the Green Berets initiated Civic Action programmes – "winning the hearts and minds of the people" – lending a new dimension to the men who comprise the Green Berets. This is truly a tribute to the U.S. patriots who perform their duty with no regard for personal safety or pleasure.

256 pages; 9¼" x 6¼" (23.5cm x 15.9cm); 42 half-tones and 9 maps; ISBN 0-85368-599-1; **£10.95**. Just released.

## SOVIET MILITARY POWER

by William J. Koenig.

The Soviet Union is the subject of this companion volume to U.S. MILITARY POWER. Well-equipped and vigorously manned armed forces allow the Soviet Union to pursue expansionist policies, but exactly where does this strength come from? The 'Typhoon' nuclear submarine, Backfire bomber, and SS-20 missile are explored, as are the consequences of using such equipment so determinedly in Angola and Afghanistan. Rich, striking illustrations, and a text that is highly informative yet eminently readable ensure that this title is a must for all who are interested in the East-West balance of power today.

224 pages; 12" x 9" (30.5cm x 22.8cm); 280 illustrations; ISBN 0-85368-592-4; **£8.95**. New – just out.



Arms & Armour Press, 2-6 Hampstead High Street,  
London NW3 1QQ. Tel: 01-794 7868 (24 hours)



# STOPPING THE ROT!

**D**ON'T give your teeth the brush off is the message in the latest campaign against rotten teeth, writes **John Margetts**.

Headed by Lt-Col Jim Hardy, OIC Training Wing at the Royal Army Dental Centre, Aldershot, he and his staff are out to show young soldiers and service children that a few simple do-it-yourself dental rules is the best way to a full set of gleaming choppers.

"A mouthful of bad teeth is awful to look at," said the Colonel. "On the other hand it's a great joy to see a mouth without any decay."

To help achieve this happy dental state, he and his team are to circulate tapes and colour slides, posters and stickers in a bid to educate their target audience.

"We're out to convince this and the next generation of soldiers that looking after their teeth is a No. 1 priority."

In straightforward terms it means watching what you eat, cleaning your teeth with fluoride toothpaste and making regular visits to the dentist.

"If we can get this message over there will be a big decline on fillings and extractions by the time the next generation of soldiers comes along in about 15 years," said the Colonel.

"Twelve years ago tooth decay among soldiers was pretty bad. Nowadays it is much better. There's been a big improvement."

Stressing that sugar is bad for teeth, the Colonel said the average adult eats about a hundred-weight of sugar a year. This creates plaque and acid which destroys tooth enamel.

He added that to reduce the chance of tooth decay and gum disease, don't drink so many sugary drinks and eat fewer chocolate bars.

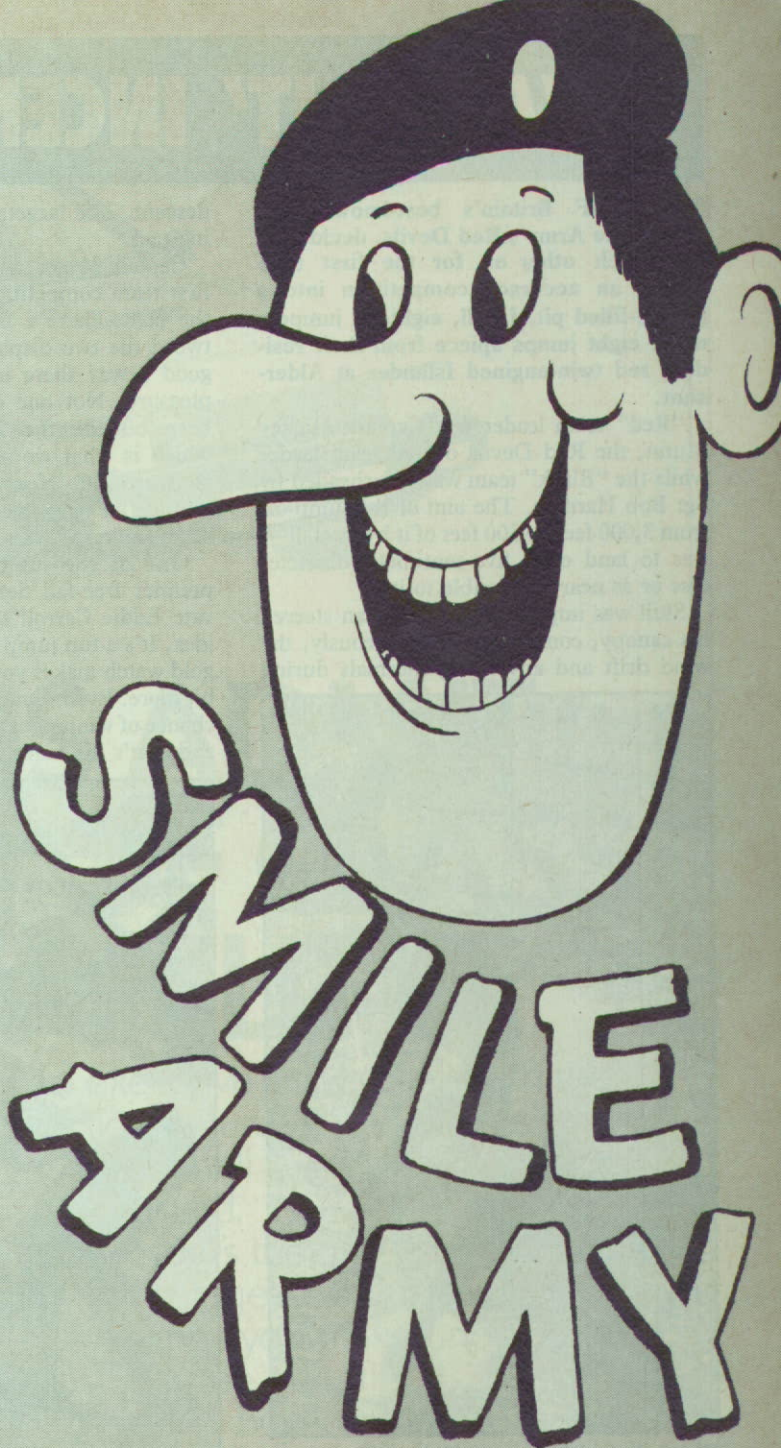
"You need to control the intake of these if you want good teeth," he said.

He is determined to get this message over to youngsters and soldiers alike, but the problem facing him is the fact that youngsters like chocolate and sugar is a well-known energy booster.

So if sugar and spice and all things nice are bad for teeth, what's good?

"Sugar-free drinks, fresh fruit and crackers," said the Colonel firmly.

Pretty bland stuff, but if you don't want teeth like the Colonel is showing in his eight-minute slide show — soon to be seen at most Army dental centres and schools — do yourself a favour and brush up on your dental care and follow the Colonel's advice.



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# 'WATCH IT' INCENTIVE FOR PARAS!

SOME OF Britain's best-known sky-divers, the Army's Red Devils, decided to take each other on for the first time during an accuracy competition into a pebble-filled pit. In all, eighteen jumpers made eight jumps apiece from their resident red twin-engined Islander at Aldershot.

"Red" team leader was Captain Mickey Munn, the Red Devils overall team leader while the "Black" team was spearheaded by Sgt Bob Harman. The aim of the jump-off from 3,000 feet — 500 feet of it by freefall — was to land on a five-centimetre-diameter disc or as near as possible to it.

Skill was imperative as each man steered his canopy, computing simultaneously, the wind drift and any rising thermals during

descent. The target: the electronic measuring pad.

Captain Munn said: "Although this is our first team competition I'm sure it won't be the last. There's always been rivalry between the two display teams and this is as good a way there is to mix training with pleasure. Not one of the 18 jumpers has been outside the 24-metre diameter pit which is what we should achieve at every showground. Next year I would like to arrange an open meeting with civilian and other military teams taking part."

One of the jumpers with the Army's premier free-fall demonstration team, Private Eddie Carroll said: "It's been a great idea. It's a fun jump but the prize of a £200 gold watch makes you concentrate that little bit more. Even though I didn't think I had a chance of winning it's still been enjoyable — and that's the name of the game."

Sadly, for him, it was Private John Rix who won the watch which had been donated by Zenith, one of the Red Devils' national sponsors. After nine hours of parachuting over the Queen's Avenue DZ the team event was won by the 'Black' Team.

In the novice event, Sgt Keith Hopper was the winner. His task: to land and burst a balloon in the centre of a landing cross. He took first place after his fourth and very accurate final descent taking only 2.5 seconds to burst the balloon after landing on terra firma.

Story:  
GRAHAM SMITH  
Pictures:  
PAUL HALEY



Chief Judge Sergeant 'Dicky' Bird, foreground ... its all done by tape.



'Dead centre ... here I come ...'

## Nothing finer — to descend in Carolina ...

FREE FALL parachuting possibilities in Northern Ireland are rare but not 3000 miles away in North Carolina. For that is where Major Dick Trigger and five other novice sport parachutists have just spent 20 days sky-diving during Exercise Eagle's Wing.

All the free-fallers came from Northern Ireland as they steered their Ram-air canopies into an expertise which he calls "relaxed and confident". By the end of their stay they had reached the ninth out of ten levels of skills required by the British Parachute Association, flying canopies and even starting some CRW — canopy relative work — the sky diver's art of linking up in mid-air.

Major Trigger said: "We all managed 60 to 70 jumps in all, in comparison with the UK where you will get in only 15 jumps in a fortnight because of the weather. There was only one day when we couldn't jump at all in

North Carolina."

The quintet comprised, beside Major Trigger, Staff Sgt Andy Hawkins (HQ NI), Sgt Alan Arnold (655 Sqn, AAC), Cpl Dave Wilkinson (NIEW), Lance Cpl Bill Gill (1D & D) and Private Bill Byrne (1 Queens). Also on the venture was their own instructor, ex-Red Devil team member Cpl Sharkey Sheridan, of 1 Para.

Now back in Ulster, Major Trigger is planning to take part in the organisation of training days with the help of the newly-formed NI Sport Parachute Association.

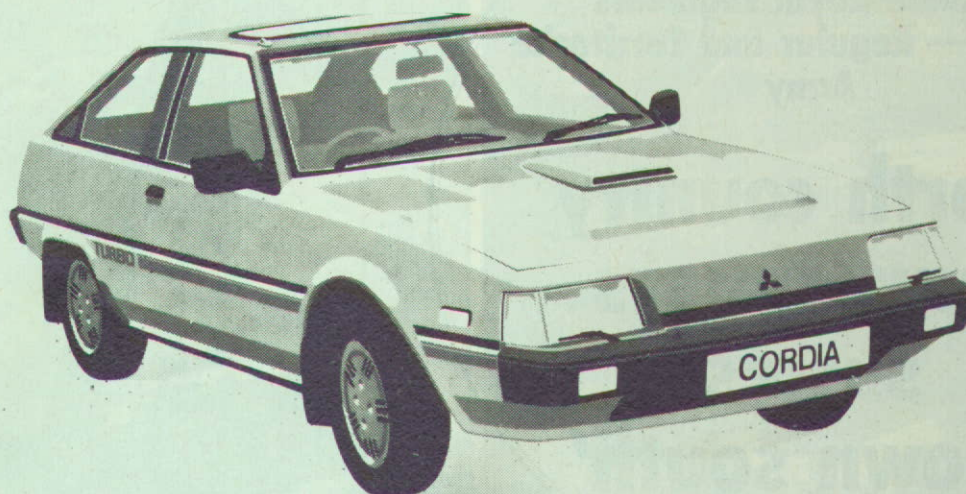
### Sorry ...

Aldershot Military Historical Trust have asked SOLDIER to apologise to the Parachute Regiment for reversing their crest in their advertisement in the 3rd Oct issue. The mistake was spotted too late. The lion will face the right way next time the ad appears.



Private Bill Byrne, 1 Queens ... all smiles at 7000 feet in Carolina.





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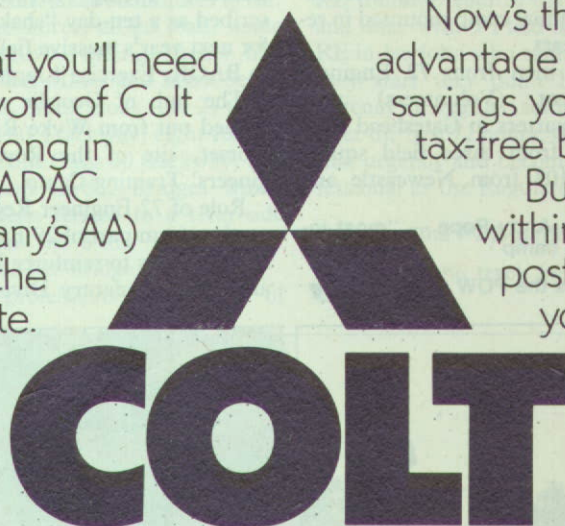
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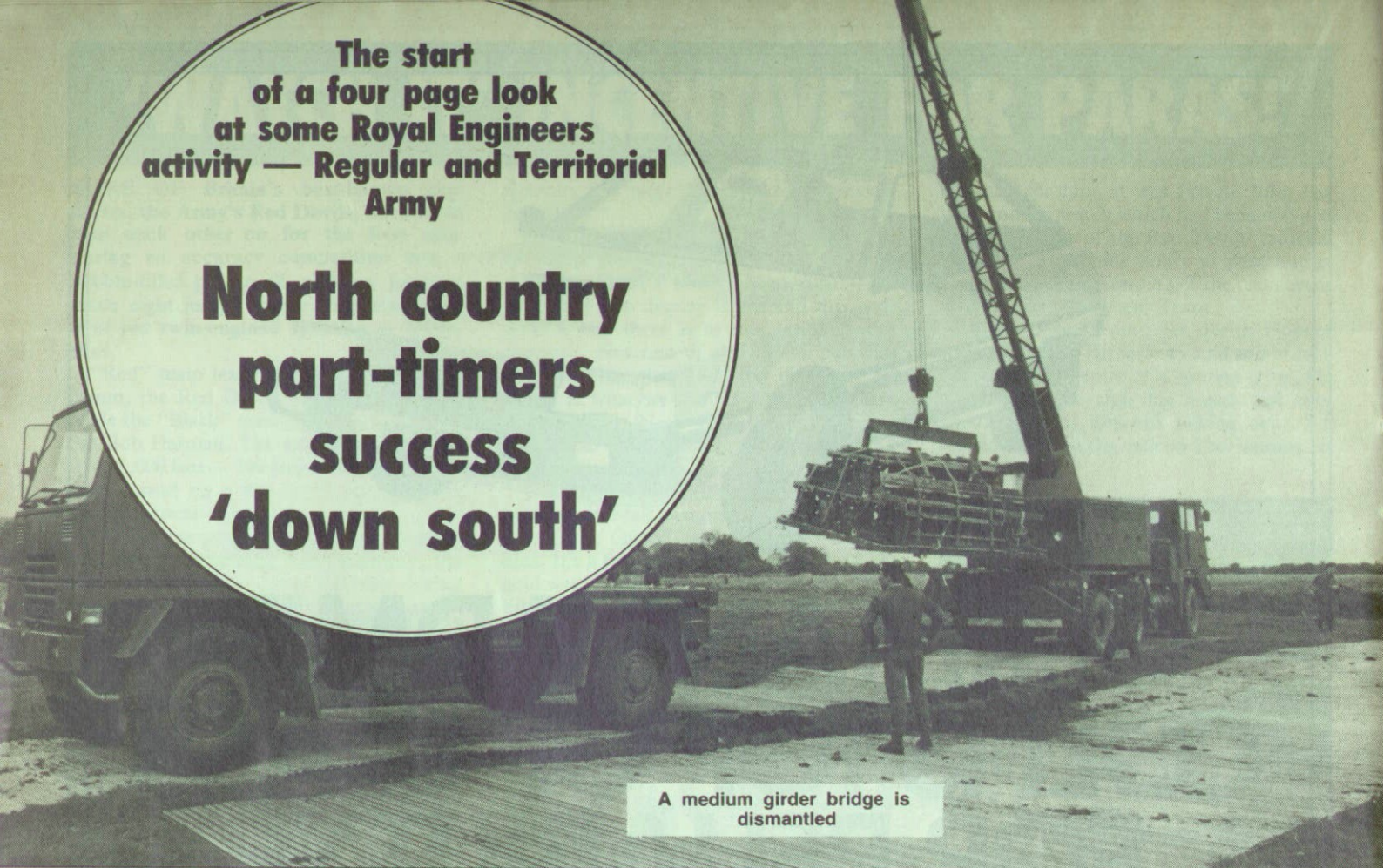
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The start  
of a four page look  
at some Royal Engineers  
activity — Regular and Territorial  
Army

## North country part-timers success 'down south'



A medium girder bridge is dismantled



**M**ORE THAN 400 north country TA sappers have yet again invaded Wessex and certain segments of the Salisbury Plain Training Area for what turned out to be their most intensive field training exercise-annual camp mounted in recent years.

The men from 72 Engineer Regiment (Volunteers) with Headquarters in Gateshead were drawn from three field squadrons, 103 from Newcastle and

◀ Captain Andy Pope — "most intensive camp"

Up goes the POW Compound ▼

commanded by Major Dale Hunter; 118 from Hartlepool commanded by Major Mike Masterman; and 106 from Sheffield with Major John Holden as its OC.

They were all taking part in Exercise Flying Arrow, described as a ten-day "shake-out" for next year's massive field opus in BAOR, Exercise Lionheart.

The hub of Geordie activity fanned out from Wyke Regis in Dorset, site of the Royal Engineers' Training Camp.

Role of 72 Engineer Regiment — they form part of 29 Engineer Brigade — is to reinforce BAOR alongside 2 Infantry Division in

the rear area operations.

With up to 25 per cent of the strength from each of the three squadrons unemployed — though two men had to decline the summer camp because they *GOT* jobs — the men from the north-east, including miners and shipbuilders, soon warmed to their varied tasks which ran practically the whole sapper gamut as combat engineers with the exception of live demolitions.

As Captain Andy Pope, the Regiment's adjutant and a Regular soldier on a two-year posting to them explained: "They were involved in medium girder bridge building, Bar mine and



Mark Seven mine laying, the setting up of water points and carrying out demolitions but using dummy charges.

"Some of the men from the squadrons were active in various parts of Salisbury Plain and each squadron rotated during the combat engineering training so that everyone got a go at everything. We have also been supporting a 4 Para exercise — Border Baron IV — when we gave our engineering help such as laying a minefield during their operations. We have also dug gun pits for 101 Field Regt, Royal Artillery.

"It's the most intensive annual camp the regiment has undertaken in several years and the variety of tasks completed shows sappers are able to turn their hands to anything they are tasked to do, being able to react quickly and with flexibility to any problem."

Major Hunter, a sales executive with a multi-national concern, said: "This camp and Exercise Flying Arrow is just a dress rehearsal for next year's

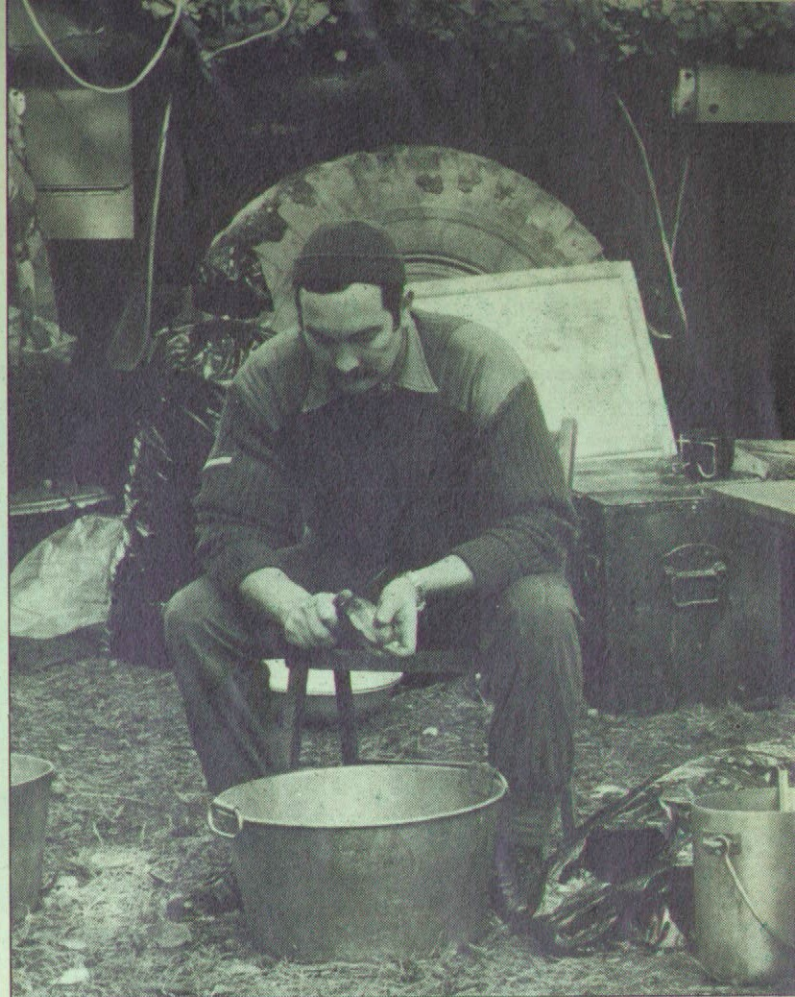
You can't manage without water ...

Lionheart in Germany. We have been coming down here every four years since 1966.

At another point — near Bovington Camp — other men from the Squadron had spent five hours putting into action a water point with seven 8000-litre S-tanks with a total output capacity of 6800-litres of water every hour for eight hours; two tanks for filling jerry cans and five for bowser filling. The 3.75-metre diameter tanks have a 100 litres-a-minute issuing capability. The water supply is purified with calcium hypochloride powder and each tank takes 60 minutes to fill.

The stores, all on loan, made impressive reading. Items like 5500 Bar Mines and Mark Seven Mines, four rolls of 2½-tonne Class 60 Trackway, eight rolls of 3.3-tonne Class 30 trackway, two Medium Girder Bridges which has been ferried to a river-side site in six 8-ton vehicles and trailers per bridge.

A professional assessment of



Good heavens! Not seen 'spud bashing' for years

the Geordies on their annual camp came from former Regular sapper, Staff Sergeant Dave Jones, 14 years in the Army, a former member of a four-man RE training team in the Gambia and once with 5 Field Squadron RE in Iserlohn who said: "When they start they don't have the urgency of regular soldiers but, after the first 72 hours, they learn that urgency and become as professional as the Regulars."

Guarding the POW perimeter ▶

Rolling up the track for another day ▼



General view of the camp kitchen area



Story: Graham Smith  
Pictures: Paul Haley



**Moving 500,000 tons of earth means great experience for 43 Plant Squadron Royal Engineers and . . .**

## SUPER NEW RANGE FOR BERLIN

**A**LL through the long hot summer a group of sappers have toiled in Berlin in one of the Royal Engineers' largest earth moving tasks in recent years. Day after day they have moved the sand and clay on a site which is to be the first 600 metres range for the British Forces in the city, near Gatow airfield.

Their daily target has been to move 3,000 cubic metres of earth and when the earth moving ends next month they will have shifted half a million cubic metres (or roughly the same number of tons).

Lieutenant-Colonel John

Leivers, who is Area Works Officer Berlin, told SOLDIER that the new range, twice the length of any other British range in the city, is being developed so that the general purpose machine gun can be used properly. When it comes into use, probably in about two years, a 200 metre range at Montgomery Barracks will close.

Colonel Leivers said that the original plan was to build the new range below ground level. The deepest they had been able to go because of the water table was six metres but the creation of an eight metre high bund or embankment on three sides

would give 14 metres of noise protection for nearby residents. Baffles along the range to stop bullets going astray will also help to absorb sound.

On the fourth side of the range is a main road and beyond that the infamous Berlin Wall. East German or Russian border guards will be the only people to hear noise from the range on that side.

To do the earth moving Berlin sent for 43 Plant Squadron from Osnabrück and their six days a week work will make them the best trained plant squadron the Corps has ever had. That is the verdict of Colonel Leivers, who

The two Sappers in this shot help to give an idea of the scale of the task.

**Story: John Walton  
Pictures: Les Wiggs**

points out that using sappers rather than civilian contractors will save around £1 million or one seventh of the total cost.

The experience for plant operators will be spread throughout the squadron for sappers have been rotated so that nearly everyone gets a spell in Berlin and the opportunity was extended to other sapper squadrons throughout Germany.

Says Troop Commander, Captain Mike Toogood: "Several other squadrons have taken advantage of this by sending men for up to three weeks at a time and that's as good for them as going on a course in UK."

The site for the new range was previously a land quarry and had

also been used as a rubbish dump. The access road and car park could not be built on top of the rubbish — all of which had to be shifted to make part of the bund.

Working a 12 hour day holds no terrors for the sappers. At the age of 19 Sapper Stephen Murphy, straight from Chepstow and basic training, found himself surveying on the massive job.

"The size was impressive and it took me about a week to get to know where everything was but the longer I have spent on the site the smaller it seems" he told SOLDIER. And there was high praise for him from Captain Toogood: "He was thrown straight in at the deep end but we

could not have managed without him."

Another beaver is Sapper Philip Stone, who puts the final finish on the banks with his D6C medium crawler tractor. His face is tanned to the colour of leather except for two white patches at the side — where his ear defenders sit. "I am one of the lucky ones as I shall be staying until the end", he says.

The last word which sums up the enthusiasm of sappers for the sort of project which seldom comes their way these days goes to the military plant foreman, Staff-Sergeant Ian Horsburgh, who said: "Tell the lads they can have a day off and some of them don't even want to take it!" ■

These photos of the Royal Engineers in action tell their own story and this aerial scene will look much different in two years!

On . . . and on . . . with their very moving experience goes one man and his monster machine.



**'Perhaps the bravest man I ever knew...'**

**and now, he cannot bear to turn a corner**



Six-foot-four Sergeant 'Tiny' G 't' r' e, DCM, was perhaps the bravest man his Colonel ever knew.

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We look after these brave men and women. We help them at home, and in hospital. We run our own Convalescent Home and, for those who are homeless and cannot look after themselves in the community, our Hostel gives permanent accommodation. For others, there is our Veterans' Home where they can see out their days in peace.

These men and women have given their minds to their Country. If we are to help them, we must have funds. Do please help us with a donation, and with a legacy too, perhaps. The debt is owed by all of us.

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**Peugeot Talbot Piccadilly**





It is some weeks since the first contingent of WRAC left for the Falklands — to join the QARANC who were there first. Here's a woman's view of how the fair sex are coping in the South Atlantic . . .

## The climate is cold but the welcome warm . . .

EXPERTS on how to survive both a warm welcome and a cold climate are the girls who volunteered to join the 4,500 male troops on Fortress Falklands.

The arrival of 18 members of the WRAC was the cause for considerable celebration in that isolated garrison.

Under the command of Captain Di Foster, the girls are now happily settled in their own quarters on board the ship *Rangatira*, moored in Port Stanley harbour. With a cabin each, a private shower block, and their own kitchen galley, conditions are considerably better than anticipated, and although they have earned themselves the nickname of "Cinderellas" the WRAC have nothing but praise for their new posting.

To reach the shore means a ferry ride across quarter of a mile of water. The last return trip is 11.45 p.m., so all social activities have to be curtailed to enable a return home before midnight.

Even so, they have been inundated with requests for their company. "I have started to pin all the invitations on a notice board so that they can each choose which to accept," says Di Foster. "So far, nobody has missed the last boat, apart from when it was cancelled through bad weather."

Another item of essential equipment for any party is a shoe-bag, since wellington boots need to be worn for the journey to the jetty. "Trousers and boots are the most practical thing to wear, but some of us make an effort to put skirts on," says Private Mary Wilson, 22. "Wellingtons look pretty strange under Dance time in Stanley's town hall . . . Cinderellas in trousers, boots and wellingtons.

neath a party dress, but it can get very wet and windy aboard a ferry. I nearly died coming back one night — I even had to put a life-jacket on!"

The girls, who were chosen from over 100 volunteers to work as clerks, cooks, postal and courier operators and supply spe-



Cpl Sarah Hickson: 5,000 aerogrammes a day and all out within an hour.

cialists, expect to remain on the Falkland Islands for four months. "We quite expected to be living four to a room, and possibly sleeping under canvas, so it was a big bonus to be made so comfortable," says Corporal Elizabeth Howard, 25, a clerk in the Provost Unit. In fact, she has had more cause to complain than many, since soon after arrival she fell victim to chicken-pox, a mild epidemic of which was sweeping through service personnel. "I had to spend my birthday in bed, but at least I had my mail to read."

Inevitably, letters are considered even more important than food, for the men separated from wives and families, and the girls based in the Forces Post Office work whatever hours are necessary.

"We have to catch the 7.30 a.m. ferry each day and we often don't finish until 8 p.m." says Corporal Sarah Hickson, 21. "When the Airbridge arrives with the mail then it's all hands to the helm, and we try to get everything out within an hour. With at least 5,000 aerogrammes per day it keeps us pretty busy."

Most of the girls are keep-fit enthusiasts and are able to swim

*continued on page 30*

End of a night out for the Falklands WRAC. It's back on board the *Rangatira* ready for an early start the next day.



**Story:**  
**Judith Stares**  
**Pictures:**  
**Paul Felix**

and play squash or badminton on board one of the floating Coasts. Corporal Sonya Steinert, 27, has brought a new dimension to activities in the multi-gym by demonstrating the workout routines. "I do try and sneak into the gym when the men aren't there, because it can be a bit embarrassing," she admits. "But if all else fails I can do my exercises in the corridor!"

Lance Corporal Lorraine Sanderson and Private Linda Jones have brought a feminine touch to the central cookhouse, which caters for over 400 per day. "The kitchens are much better than we expected," says Lorraine. "The only difficulty is getting used to the petrol burners after gas cookers. The men can fill eight burners in the same time it takes us to fill two, but we intend to catch up on them before we leave."

Several of the WRAC have celebrated birthdays since their arrival, and the Army Catering Corps has done them proud with cakes and candles. The next special occasion planned is a 21st

party in November for Private Fiona Garvock. By a strange coincidence, her father also celebrated his own 21st birthday in the South Atlantic. "He was a seaman, and used to come down to the Falklands on the whaling ships, so he was able to tell me quite a bit about the place," she says. Fiona works on board yet another ship, the *Tor Caledonia*, moored in Stanley Harbour, which is used as a stores depot. "It's very hard work here, and long hours, but I enjoy it even more than working in the UK because you can actually see the results of what you are doing."

Corporal 'Becky' Taylor, 24, a WRAC Provost from Telford, Shropshire, arrived in advance of the main party. "I was sent over in May and lived at first with the QA nurses who were already based here. I think they wanted me to get to know the place before the rest of the girls arrived."

Seat-belts have only just become compulsory on the Falklands, and one of her jobs is spot-checks on drivers. "I use a left-hand drive Mercedes the Argentines left behind when I'm on duty, but I also do a lot of foot patrols, and we even do the school crossing patrol."

Becky lodges with a local family in Stanley. "Because of potential discipline problems I have to keep my work to myself, but the advantage is that I have got to know a lot of local people. Everybody is willing to tell you what they know about the place, so it's very easy to feel you belong."

Attempts at glamour are futile, with the constant winds, and a special hairdo means a trip to the Army barber whose HQ is based in Port Stanley. Unfortunately, his salon is not equipped with running water, so customers must arrive with their hair already washed!

**Provost Corporal Becky Taylor: spot checks on drivers, foot and school crossing patrols.**



**Major Janet Gillies (left), patients and staff at Stanley's Military Hospital... tender loving care and skilled attention.**

Such deprivations are a standing joke among the QAs, who have been on the Islands since the end of military action. At the British Military Hospital which is adjacent to the King Edward Memorial Hospital for civilians, they dispense not only skilled medical attention, but a generous amount of tender loving care.

Twelve nursing staff and one medical records clerk, under the supervision of Matron, Major Janet Gillies, cope with anything from a bout of tonsillitis to major injuries.

"Because there is just one ward, with only 25 beds, we treat a whole cross section of medical and surgical cases," explains Captain Rachel Fox, the theatre sister. "Even though there isn't much privacy, morale is high because a lot of patients don't like to be isolated. Most of them stay for a couple of days to two weeks. If a soldier is on a four-month tour and recovery is going to take up to a month, then he might as well be sent back home, so there is a weekly casualty evacuation for the more serious cases."

With an almost entirely male clientele, such specialities as paediatrics and midwifery have been put on one side. So far only one member of the WRAC has needed hospitalisation for a sprained ankle, and a three-bed room was hurriedly cleared for the only female occupant.

"Our main difficulty is the cramped conditions, but a new ward is under construction and soon there will be an extra 30 beds," says Matron. "We usually work a normal 8-hour day, but in an emergency time off just disappears. With a small hospital you only need one Land Rover to turn over and you could have four beds full. Fire aboard a ship is our biggest worry — that would really turn the place upside down."

**Three girls in a boat — Fiona Garvock, Dawn Parke, Lorraine Ewing: birthday parties on the store ship *Tor Caledonia*.**

Sorting out the medical records of the unfortunates is Corporal Sue Leavitt, who is a bride of only two months, to another soldier based in Germany. "I can't complain, because I knew about my posting here before we got married. We shall have something of a second honeymoon when we eventually meet again."

Like the WRAC, the QAs are on a four-month tour, but live in two houses in the centre of Port Stanley. In spite of high morale they all agree that they are counting the days to home leave. "Conditions are a lot better than we expected, but we do tend to get on each other's nerves working in such close proximity," admits Corporal Janice Hanson.

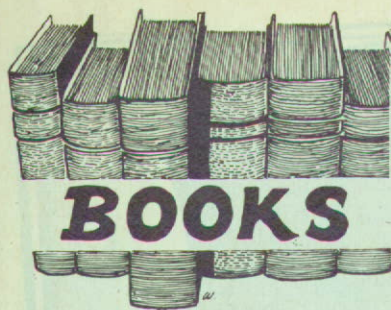
Because of a chronic labour shortage on the Island, all the nurses must do their own domestic cleaning in the hospital. "It has got to be done, so we just get on with it," says Matron. The only chore they can miss out is watering the flowers — the arrangements which adorn the wards are all silk blossoms, since fresh blooms are seldom available. More than one new arrival, however, has been found carefully watering the life-like bouquets!

Home comforts have been stoically sacrificed by all the women, but some surprisingly simple items are top of the list for nostalgic yearnings, including daily newspapers, fresh tomatoes, Marks and Spencers and the occasional candlelit supper on the town!

In spite of predictions there have been no serious romances among any of the Falklands service ladies. "Four months is hardly long enough to form a steady relationship," maintains Captain Di Foster confidently. "In any case, most of the girls are so busy they seldom meet the same person twice!"

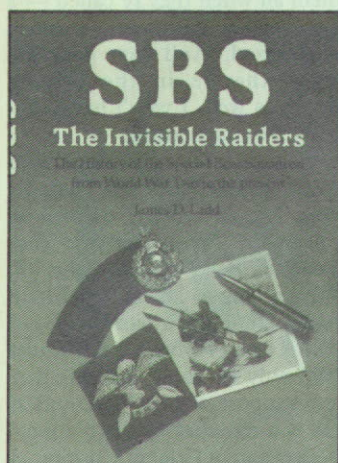






## SBS; The Invisible Raiders: James D. Ladd

Special forces, trained and equipped for clandestine operations outside the routine of regular military activity, by their very nature are most effective when their work is shrouded in secrecy. Yet twice in recent years, at the Iranian Embassy Siege in 1980 and during the Falklands Conflict, Britain's specialist units, the SAS and its Naval counterpart, the SBS, have hit the headlines dramatically enough to fire the public imagination. The



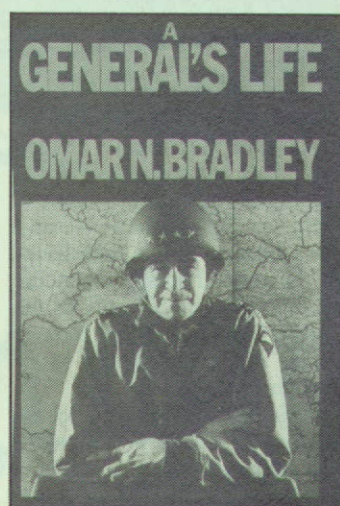
SAS have been the subject of a number of popular histories, and at least one imaginative film, and in this book James Ladd turns the spotlight on the Special Boat Squadron, charting its history from the early days of Commando raids in the Mediterranean in World War Two, through post-war policing operations in Korea, Borneo and the Gulf of Oman, and up to the Falklands, where the Island theatre was perfectly suited to the SBS' raiding and reconnaissance techniques. Inevitably, many of the unit's activities remain unrecorded or at best murky, and insights into current training procedures, equipment and attitudes contain a fair amount of speculation; but enough remains to satisfy much of the curiosity about this elite body's history and methods.

Arms and Armour Press, Lionel Leventhal Ltd, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, LONDON NW3 1QQ. £10.95 **IJK**

## A General's Life: Omar N. Bradley and Clay Blair

Omar Bradley was one of America's most successful Generals in WWII, chosen by Eisenhower on the strength of early achievements in North Africa to command American forces during the D-Day invasions, ultimately commanding four armies, over 1.3 million men, in the most crucial campaigns of the war. In the 1950s, Bradley became Chairman of the US Chiefs of Staff, a post he held

during the Korean War, when much-publicised disagreements between President Truman and General MacArthur led to the latter's dismissal. Clearly any account which describes these events, including as they do some of the most important military decisions in modern history, is of considerable importance. Bradley began writing his autobiography in his seventy-eighth year, in 1971, but found the task hard going, and were it not for the efforts of a military historian, Clay Blair, the project might have been abandoned. Though Bradley died before the book was scarcely a third completed, enough remained in terms of extensive taped reminiscences and documentation, for Blair to complete the 'autobiography', confident that he was following the General's wishes. Though Bradley's own personality remains elu-



sive, his cool account is full of insight into the many important characters he worked with, tracing the disagreements and rivalries which marred relationships between colleagues like Montgomery and Eisenhower, the factors which affected particular strategic and political decisions, and the extent to which those who originated them considered them a success. *A General's Life* is a considerable achievement biographically, and provides an important contribution to our knowledge of WWII.

Sidgwick & Jackson, Tavistock Chambers, Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2SG. £14.95 **IJK**

## Not Over By Christmas: Elmar Dinter and Paddy Griffith

The problem of NATO's defence of its Central Front in Europe is vastly complicated, and one of the virtues of this book is that it sets out the ramifications of that problem in plain English, with little of the jargon that obscures so many works of this nature.

The authors — a German colonel and a senior lecturer at Sandhurst — admit it may be lunatic to try to understand a future battlefield, but that is what they do as, after all, anyone must who seeks to plan for war.

They are adamant that NATO must avoid being provoked into the first use of nuclear weapons of any kind, and so their object is to win the conventional war. They seem confident that if the Warsaw Pact attacks,

it will concentrate on breaking through on narrow axes with the whole gamut of battlefield weapons. NATO's response must be a flexible forward defence to absorb and fragment the enemy spearheads, then to counter-attack to regain some lost ground and "take tokens" in territory or other advantages. By these means, the enemy might be persuaded that there is nothing to gain by continuing to fight and NATO would have a strong hand at the negotiating table.

One of the authors' recommendations is that NATO develop a sound operational doctrine, so that commanders can act within a broad set of assumptions ingrained not only in their own attitudes but in those of their colleagues. In a foreword, Lord Carver points out that the British Army tends to be suspicious of military doctrine, preferring a pragmatic approach. This is due to its historic reluctance to lay major organisational and training emphasis on large-scale continental warfare, to which it is now committed as its first priority.

Among the subjects the authors recommend for NATO study is the fact that modern technology enables the battle to go on in darkness and bad weather, and the tactical concept of "continuous operations" will become the most obtrusive feature of battle to participants. It will have many implications of human fatigue and exhaustion and logistic problems caused by double consumption of fuel and ammunition.

Among the interesting glimpses of detail of the future battlefield is the news that the survivability of pneumatic tyres is being improved, as is the cross-country performance of wheeled vehicles, and it may be that wheels will ultimately make a better option for armoured fighting vehicles than caterpillar tracks; and that enemy ability to pin-point radio transmissions could mean headquarters may not be able to use their sophisticated equipment and the motor-cycle despatch-rider will come back into his own.

Antony Bird, Strettington House, Strettington, Chichester, Sussex — £8.95

**RLE**

## The best of Fragments from France: Captain Bruce Bairnsfather

This is a reproduction of a collection of Bruce Bairnsfather's cartoons, first published by the authors in 1978 and marks the first in a series of books which pay tribute to Bairnsfather, being called the "If you know a better 'Ole' Series", this being No. 1. This contains 53 out of the 79 cartoons published by *The Bystander* under the titles 'Fragments from France' and 'More Fragments from France,' together with 94 other Bairnsfather cartoons: the authors say that the next edition will contain the other (26) cartoons and presumably those from 'Still more Fragments from France' (No. 3) and his numbers 4-8; it is assumed that some of the 94 must have come from these but it would have been helpful if the authors had stated the sources. What they have done is to make comments

under the cartoons which some readers may find unnecessary or even irritating, especially when they miss the point such as in 'A Miner Success'; this is a play on the words Miner/minor and a typical English under-statement since the success is 'major', but most of all they make no mention of sapping under German lines and exploding enormous charges, which is what the cartoon is all about.

The authors claim that Bairnsfather "more than any other individual is 'the man who won the war'" which is stretching a point, but perhaps what he did do for the British soldier is best summed up by a Scots officer writing in *The Edinburgh Evening News* — 'To us out here the "Fragments" are the very quintessence of life. We sit moping over a smokey charcoal fire in a dug-out. Suddenly someone, more widely awake than the others, remembers the "Fragments". Out it comes and we laugh uproariously over each picture. For are these not the very things we are witnessing every day, incidents full of tragic humour? The fed-up spirit you see on the faces of Bairnsfather's pictures is a sham — a mask beneath which lies something that is essentially British'.

Finally, it is a pity that the colour illustration on the cover appears to be a copy drawing and not a reproduction of the "Better 'Ole'" on the cover of 'Fragments from France' published in 1916.

Milestone Publications, Murray Road, Horndean, Hants. £4.95 **PSN**

## Pershing's Pioneers: Moses N Thisted

This American publication deals with United States' pioneer units raised for World War One. It could be of interest to military buffs and historians and to present and past members of the Royal Pioneer Corps. It has a long appendix giving details of Field Marshal Earl Kitchener's pioneers but the bulk of the book is material collected from past members of US pioneer battalions in an effort to assemble some record of use to posterity. One officer defined the duties of his pioneers as follows: "They did everything the Infantry was too proud to do and what the Engineers were too lazy to do."

The chief difference, apparently, between pioneer regiments of the United States and of the United Kingdom was that the former were raised and used solely to work, whereas the British were soldiers first. British pioneer units were trained to shoot and do guard duties and did use their arms in Europe. They did much useful work in and around the front line trenches. The Americans were armed but hardly any knew how to use a rifle. Both countries' pioneers worked closely with engineer units and as they acquired skills were able to carry out some engineering tasks, such as road building, unsupervised. Some of the photographs in this volume are reproduced atrociously, the subject matter not being discernible, but it may be that the review copy was a poor one.

Alphabet Printers, 771, S San Jacinto Street, San Jacinto, California 92383, \$15.00 hard cover, \$10.00 soft. **GRH**



**SALLY DANIELL**

**meets a war veteran known to some Cambridge students as 'The Beast'**

## PROFILE

# Yet the girls find ex-RSM a 'cuddly bear'!

**H**AVING once met Mr Bob Fuller, the Head Porter of St John's College, Cambridge, it is impossible to forget him.

Standing well over six foot and sporting a girth that even Puck would have a job putting a girdle round, he looks like the popular image of a Sergeant Major in the Royal Military Police — which, during World War Two is precisely what he was.

Called up in 1940 the Cambridgeshire lad found himself first posted to the Royal Artillery's coastal defence units around Iceland where he spent 18 months fighting the cold. After a spell with the First Army in North Africa, he transferred to the Guards Division and joined the Provost Company attached to the Grenadier Guards.

This, he says, was the time he enjoyed most during his Army career even though he was hospitalised with a head wound sustained as the Guards Armoured Division pushed northwards in the battle for the Rhine.

"A lot of us were wounded at that time," he told SOLDIER, "but many of us got started again. We felt we had to live, otherwise life was worth nothing."



After several months in hospital, he first of all married and then transferred to the Corps of Military Police seeing service in the Far East and India. He remembers thinking as his ship *Morton Bay* sailed for the Far East that this was perhaps one of the most bizarre operations ever required of Military Police.

"The boat was full of rabbits and ducks destined, I believe, for the British controlled farms and it was our job to look after them. We were told we could have the duck eggs on the voyage but we quickly found out they were all ruddy drakes!"

By this time Bob Fuller had risen to Sergeant-Major, although he modestly denies it was through his own efforts alone, but rather because wartime throws up promotion opportunities with alarming frequency: "It was only because so many others went and got killed," he mused.

Somehow, Sergeant Major Fuller managed to stay alive and see the war out, albeit with several pieces of shrapnel in him after three separate injuries. He was demobbed in July 1946 and two months later joined the staff at St John's College as a junior porter.

"I'd had enough," he said, "and decided I didn't want to make a career in the Army. I'm just a country lad and I wanted to get back to it. But there's no doubt that the training I got in the Army stood me in good stead for this job."

Bob has now been at St John's thirty-seven years, the last fourteen of them as Head Porter, a position which can be described as the bed-rock of Cambridge college society. Throughout his tenure he has perpetuated his Sergeant-Major image — so much so, that he has earned the nickname 'The Beast'. Nothing goes on in the college without 'The Beast' knowing about it.

"I have always known a disciplined society and St John's is just that. We have had the repu-

**In his Army days as a Sergeant-Major in the RMP.**



'The Beast'

tation of being a hard college but things are starting to change now. Our porters are still the best in the University — many of them ex-Servicemen — and that's because I'm on their backs all the time. I joined when the porters still carried coals to the students rooms and still today I always call everyone Sir — or Madam."

Founded in 1511, St John's was one of the last Cambridge colleges to allow female students to enter its portals and the resistance movement enjoyed the vehement support of the Head Porter. "I didn't want them here at all," he said "and I think even though we now have them we're still a male college at heart."

**'I always insist they're properly dressed'**

Despite his prejudice, Bob Fuller has a reluctant regard for the women students who, he says, are very good academically (St John's is a Grade A college) and who have a quietening effect on the men.

"Funnily enough, the boys don't mind a bit of Sergeant-Major. They may complain to my face if I gate them or fine them, but they don't really resent it and I think on the whole they like the discipline here as well. As I said, things are starting to change here now and with the girls it means I adopt a lower profile — they call me 'the cuddly bear'."

Even so, he metes and doles his justice on any student if he thinks they are deserving, no matter which sex. "I even had one of the girls up before the Dean and he gave her a right ticking off!"

"Whenever I take a student to the Senate — and I accompany

them all when they're called — I always insist that they're properly dressed. And that goes for when they're in the Dining Room as well. I won't have anybody looking scruffy!"

For all his tight rules and rough justice (he fines students even for losing keys as well as rowdy or irresponsible behaviour), Bob Fuller does his job only as long as he can be of help to the students; a fact borne out by his often 80-hour week whilst paid only for forty, and his tireless support of college activities. He is a member of the National Federation of Cricket Umpires, a steward of the University bumping races, a boxing steward and seldom misses a rugby match.

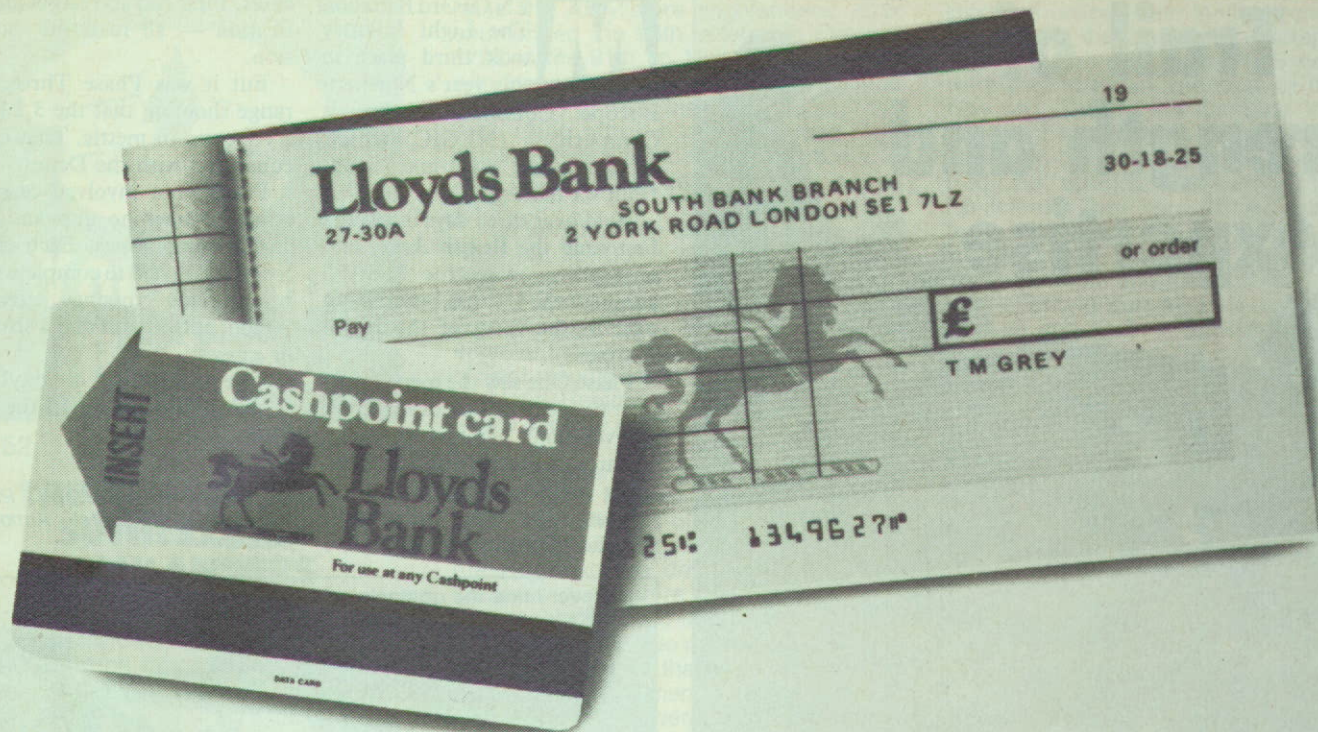
Every Christmas he and his wife, Mary have students to stay.

"It's surprising just how many problems students do have which are non-academic and nothing to do with the college as such. They come in this office and talk about all sorts of things — it might be trouble with the girlfriend for instance — and after a chat and a glass of sherry, we usually manage to work things out."

"I'll never do anyone a bad turn if I can do them a good one. At the beginning of each year I tell all the students what the rules are — and then I tell 'em how to break 'em! They can do what they like, as long as it doesn't upset anybody else and I know about it."

And there's the rub — as long as 'The Beast' knows about it! It's no good doing something you shouldn't because as a University Constable — or Bulldog — Bob Fuller has powers to arrest any student in the University, and he will if he catches you. His training from his Military Police days allows him to sniff out trouble before it has even happened and woe betide anyone who mistakes this Bulldog for a pussy-cat!





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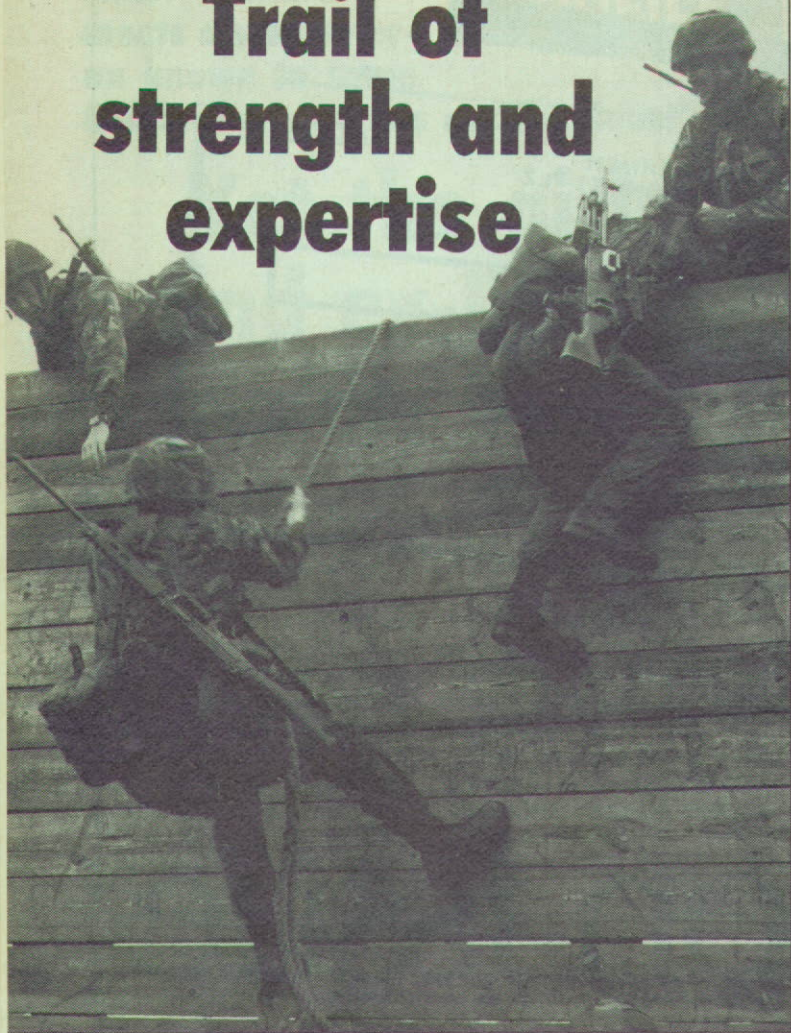
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# Trail of strength and expertise



**M**EN OF 3rd Battalion The Light Infantry took third place in this year's Northern Europe Command Infantry Competition (NECIC) which attracted ten, eight-man teams from six nations.

Held over three days it was the first time the British Army had entered a team for NECIC although the UK has been taking part in the form of the Royal Marines.

Phase One saw the men of 3 LI in at the deep end on dry land for a seven-hour night recce patrol — through several miles of forest using compass navigation.

Phase Two tested the entrants in hand grenade throwing, NBC

drills, First Aid and target identification — all in rapid succession.

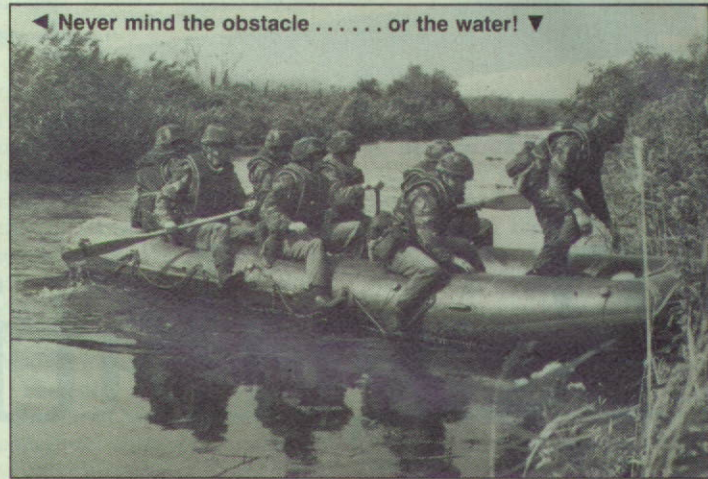
But it was Phase Three, the range shooting that the 3 LI entry showed its mettle. They came equal first with the Danes.

Phase Four involved carrying rifles, a machine gun and two 15-kg ammo boxes. Each eight-man section had to complete rope bridge water crossings, effect an 80-foot cliff assault and a stretcher casevac.

The last phase — daylight shooting — earned 3 LI the first place.

PICTURES AND STORY: Public Information, HQ 1st Armoured Division.

◀ Never mind the obstacle . . . . or the water! ▼



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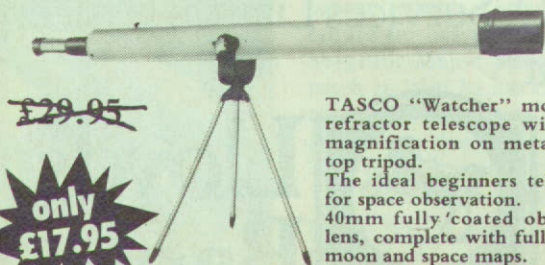
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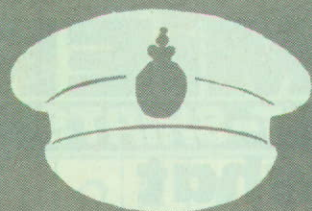
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A letter of Service dated 10th February 1794 authorised John, Duke of Argyll to

raise the Argyllshire Highlanders, later enumerated the 98th, altered in October 1798 to the 91st. In 1809 (breaking faith with the men who had enlisted in Highland Regiments to wear their native dress) the 91st, along with five other Highland regiments were ordered to doff their garb, and to lose the territorial designation of Argyllshire.

The territorial title alone was restored in 1820 but in 1850 they were deprived of their pipers. Queen Victoria's great affection for, and greater understanding of Highlanders caused her in May 1864 to approve that the 91st Highland Regiment of Foot resume the appellation of the 91st Highland Regiment from 1st April 1865, and to become a non-kilted Highland Regiment.

Shortly after they provided a guard of honour to the Princess Louise at her wedding to the Marquis of Lorne, on the 21st March 1871 the Queen commended that the Regiment be designated Princess Louise's Argyllshire Highlanders. Her Majesty also caused the Boar's head and "Ne Obliviscaris" (Do not let us forget), the crest and motto of the Argyll family to be borne on the Regimental Colour.

In 1881 the 91st were amalgamated with their brethren of the 93rd Sutherland Highlanders under the title they bear to this day, as the 1st and 2nd Battalions respectively of a kilted regiment.

Described by one historian as "Perhaps the most Highland of all Highland regiments", the latter unit was raised as the result of a Letter of Service given to General Wemyss of Wemyss in May 1800 and at first known as General Wemyss Regiment of Infantry.

In the following September the regiment was enumerated the 93rd, wearing full

Highland uniform with feather bonnet, kilt and plaid of the Government tartan.

However from 1834 until 1848 the pipers were clad in tartan and hose of the Rob Roy sett. During the Crimean War the Regiment made history which has been described by pen and brush as the "Thin Red Line" episode. Alone among the British Infantry they bear "Balaclava" upon their colours.

The Cat and "Sans Peur" (Without Fear) being the crest and motto of the Earldom of Sutherland can also be seen on the Colours and again in the company of the Boar's head also on the collar badge.

HUGH L. KING



## Big day for RMP in Germany

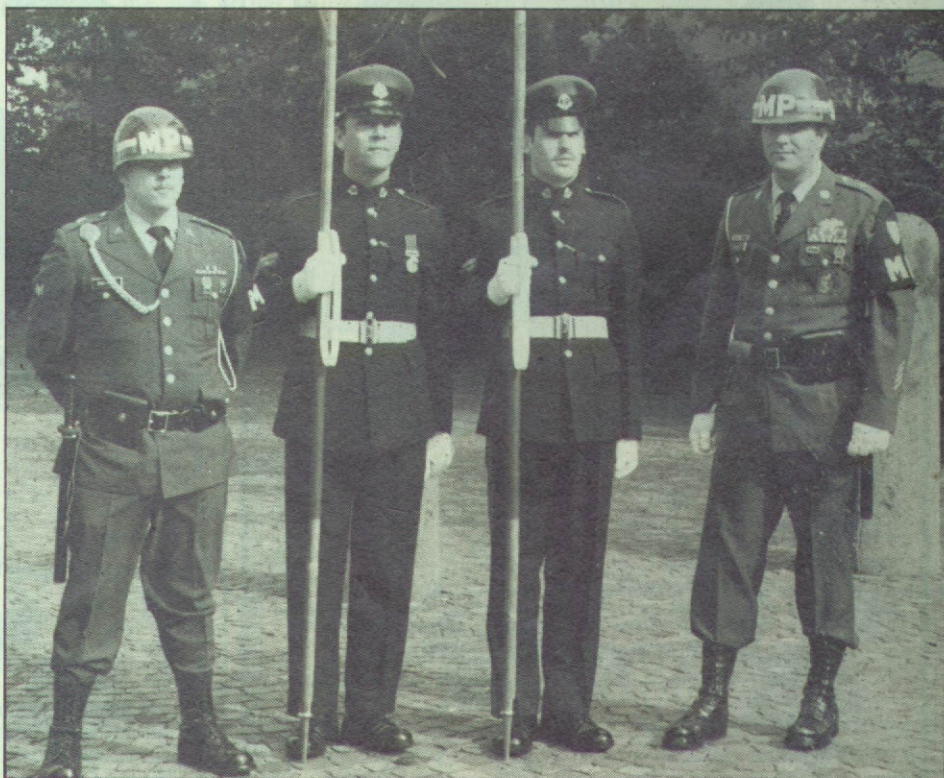
IN A TOKEN of friendship, a Platoon of 230 MP Company, the United States military police unit based in Mannheim, acted as ushers during 101 Provost Company, RMP's first annual parade to exercise their Freedom of the City, awarded by the small historical Cathedral city of Xanten, West Germany.

The Company is now based in Mönchengladbach, but regularly conducts major tactical river crossing exercises on the Rhine just outside the town. It was, in fact, 101 Traffic Control Company, the unit's predecessor, which first established a connection with Xanten. It took part in a battle for the city at the head of the Allied advance into Germany during World War Two.

Watched by 5,000 people in the town square, the military police paraded with Sterling sub-machine guns and bayonets fixed, led by the Company Commander Major Richard King-Evans. With the permission of the Bürgermeister, Herr Derith, the framed freedom scroll, carried by Captain Brian Stopforth, was then marched through the streets of Xanten.

In the ranks were WRAC Provost personnel attached to the Unit.

Among the guests watching the ceremony were two Chelsea Pensioners, both ex-Redcaps, who came specially from the UK: 85-year-old 'Mac' McClelland, and 78-year-old Norman Hopper.



Different uniforms... different nations... but very similar Allied tasks! Royal Military Police lance-bearers at Xanten, Corporals David (left) and Robson are flanked by two members of the United States Army's 230 MP Company.



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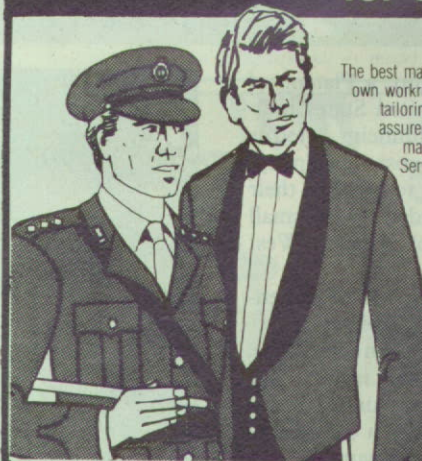
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COMPETITION 328

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Codes have been used for countless years — from the simple codes used by lover to loved to the highly intricate codes used between countries during war and in peace. Nearly all are soluble though it is believed to be on record that two defied the greatest experts in the world. Experts who spend much of their working lives just breaking codes!

We have arranged a very simple statement in very simple code for your delectation. This statement, though in an elementary type of code, may take you a little while to decode, here it is! (shown above). There are 120 letters arranged in six equal length lines and if we tell you any more we shall have done the puzzle for you.

Write the statement in BLOCK

CAPITALS (as shown) and send it to us. (It should be noted that punctuation marks are not used — nor are such things as parentheses) though you will have to show them in your answer. The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 4 November. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 28 November 1983 and no correspondence can be entered into. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition' label. In the case of ties, winners will be drawn by lots. Send your answer by postcard or letter with the 'Competition' label to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

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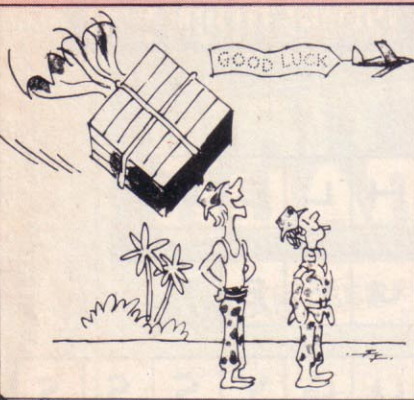
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## How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences turn to page 39.







# MAIL DROP

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

## So irritated

Having just read WO2 J H Wood's letter (SOLDIER 19 Sept) I am saddened and I must admit, irritated by his final comments. Perhaps it has been his misfortune to meet some soldiers "who have been indoctrinated by trade union ideals, who don't wish to work longer than they have to," but besides misunderstanding the aims of the trade union movement, WO2 Wood is doing most serving soldiers a grave injustice.

My husband returned from a 4½ month tour of Northern Ireland at the beginning of May and a short 4 months later, left for a 3-month tour

of the United States of America.

Of course, he is not unique. Thousands of soldiers work the same long hours, suffer the same separation from their families and conform to a discipline in their working life, most civilians couldn't even comprehend.

Our regiment and the REME and MPs attached are certainly hard working and do not "treat the Army merely as a job and not as a career, or as a training ground towards their chosen civilian trade." However good the training in the Army is, I can't see it being worth risking a bullet in Northern Ireland to non-dedicated personnel!

Come off it, WO2 Wood and give credit where it is due. The British Army is professional, if not more so, as in times past.

We can be as proud of the soldiers today as we have ever been. — Mrs C L Graham, c/o Cpl J A Graham, Pipes and Drums, 1 Bn Black Watch, BFPO 106.

## A long way . . .

Your correspondents, Mr Dawson (22 Aug) and WO2 Wood (19 Sept), seem unaware that we live in a changing world. Indeed, WO2 Wood appears to be one of those who harks back to the 'good old days' of the dedicated professional soldier and the keen National Servicemen of the post-war era. Who is he kidding?

I had the unique opportunity of serving as a National Service guards-

man in Malaya, working with the Army as a police officer in the same country and later joining the Army as a regular soldier until 1978.

I have watched the changes from within and as an observer. Most of the changes have been for the better.

Certainly, the calibre of the young soldier of today is far superior to his counterpart of 30 years ago.

I would suggest that WO2 Wood vacates his armchair in Donnington and goes to an infantry battalion where he will find very few trade union orientated people or soldiers learning a trade for civilian life. Who the hell wants a Skill-at-Arms Instructor anyway?

The Falklands campaign was unique, as was Palestine, Malaya, Aden, Borneo and as is Northern Ireland. Whether it was a question of equipment, rations, pay, rest and recuperation, leaves or criminal injuries compensation, the lot of the soldier has improved.

The Falklands Fund was a well-meaning mistake but don't begrudge it, we have come a long way since Kipling's 'Tommy this and Tommy that'. — Jack Lemmon, Camp Director, Dumez PB, Box No 22600, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

## In error

I am writing to correct an error that appeared in 'Mail Drop' (5 September), and correct Cpl P J Toms of the QMs Technical Staff, School of Infantry, Warminster, Wilts. In his letter he said that during the Civil War some of the counties fought against the King's men and afterwards when the monarchy was re-established these counties and their regiments were not allowed the prefix 'Royal'. He quotes as an example of a County Regiment The Devon and Dorsets.

This statement of course is incorrect. In fact, The Devonshire Regiment was raised on 20 June 1685 by the Duke of Beaufort at Bristol, to defend the Sovereign against the rebel Duke of Monmouth, so when he states that the Devon and Dorsets,

but in fact of course then it was the Devonshire Regiment, were Commonwealth Parliamentarians, he is in error.

I would be grateful, therefore, to set the record straight and make the point that the present County Regiment of Devon, whose name is now carried forward, in the senior County Regiment of the Line, namely, the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, were not Parliamentarian troops as stated in this letter. as they were not raised until after the monarchy had been restored after the Civil War. — Lt Col D M Stone, Curator, Devonshire Regiment Museum, RHQ The Devonshire & Dorset Regiment, Wyvern Bks, Exeter.

## The peaks

As a matter of interest I have often noticed the difference between the peaked caps of the Footguards and the peaked caps of other troops ie the peak is made to look sporty, and the top of cap at the front higher. Is there a special reason for that?

The overall effect of the above is that the sporty peaked caps do not look as good as the others.

A further interesting point is that all Foot Guards officers do not have the 'short peak' caps. I believe I have heard the ideas put forward that the reason for this 'short peak' business is to make the guardsmen stand upright, otherwise they will not be able to see where they are going! — Mr P Jackson, 9 Herman Walk, Foxwood Lane, Acomb, YO2 3LY.

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## Can You Help?

Does anyone know the whereabouts of Jock Bell of Newcastle who was with one of the Scottish regiments in Italy up to 1947, attached to ENSA in Naples and married an Italian girl named Pina? They had a daughter born in the military hospital in Mestre in 1947. — Carol Cheese, 55 Park Lane, Aveley, South Ockendon, Essex, RM15 4UA.

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Does anyone know the whereabouts of Dave Woolley who was with 6 Armoured Brigade and HQ Signal Squadron at Soest, West Germany, when I worked for Naafi during 1976-77? He was a lance corporal when I knew him and I would be delighted to hear from him or anyone else who remembers me from my time there. — **Christine Jennings, Flat 2, 17 The Hard, Portsmouth, Hants.**

I am trying to get in contact with a soldier in Germany called Willie Watson. He was a junior leader at Shorncliffe Camp, Folkestone and is 18-19 years old. Recently he paid me an unexpected visit but we missed each other by minutes and I would love to see him again. — **Eleanor Lutton, 28 Beech Close, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 5TB.**

As the members of the Pack Artillery Association and the Mountain Artillery (Officers) Dinner Club are reaching their 80s and 90s, we would like to contact those officers and ORs who served in the Mountain Artillery Brigades during WWII. Please get in touch with us — we need your blood! — **D A Knight ERD, Hon Sec, Pack Artillery Assn, 7 Jutland House, Prospect Vale, Woolwich, SE18 5HZ.**

I am trying to get information about the British Army, its units and how it is organised (from divisions down to battalions), along with Territorial Army units. As a former member of the French-speaking 3e Bataillon, Royal 22e Regiment (affiliated to the Royal Welch Fusiliers) I became in-

terested in the British ground forces but information is very scarce on the subject in Canada. I would appreciate it if somebody could send me information, official or otherwise. — **M Guy Gareau, 170 Boulevard Morin, Ste-Agathe-Des-Monts, Quebec, Canada, J8C 2W3.**

I would like to contact any of my old friends from wartime Tel El Kebir. I was with an RAOC Vehicle Group in the MEF for four years during the last war. — **Ronald Wagstaff, 17 Fairfield, Christchurch, Dorset.**

I was in the RASC from 1953-56 until I suffered a head injury in Korea. I wonder if any of my mates from No 2 PRS Main Div, 1st Commonwealth Division in Korea remember me. If so, I should like to write to them. I remember we had a lot of laughs together. — **(ex-Driver) Peter Wise, Rye Hotel, 48 Sydenham Road, East Croydon, Surrey.**

Having read the story 'An Incredible Escape' (5 September), this relates to a squad mate of mine, one Sgt B Bristow; we were both members of the Cockney Squad, January 1933, The West Yorkshire Regiment.

Sgt Bristow, like myself, would like to get in touch with any other members of the Cockney Squad or perhaps some of the readers of SOLDIER could help to put me in touch with any of them. In 1981 I was able to meet one of the old squad; we had not seen each other since 1940.

I hope that through SOLDIER I will be able to contact some of my old mates. — **C Restarick, 55 Holland Road, Plaistow, London, E13 8DS.**

## Collectors' Corner

Arthur Laycock, 4 Alderney Road, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire. Has for sale Victory Medals 1914-18 from Italy, France, Belgium, USA and Britain, all with ribbons. £25 the lot. Andre Sills, 10 Cordery Road, St Thomas, Exeter, Devon, EX2 9DH. Has surplus to his collection many items of the French Foreign Legion, French Army and Colonial Forces, World Para wings and badges of elite units. Send SAE for lists.

P Dicks, Parkside Hostel, Park Avenue, Mossley Hill, Liverpool L18. Seeks WWII period Italian Army leather belt and shoulder straps and waterbottle.

D L Stalley, 18 Fullands Avenue, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 3DE. Has for sale back copies of SOLDIER from January 1960 to December 1977, 18 years complete, 216 copies. £20 (less than 10p per copy).

G H Davies, 29 Heol Hendre, Rhiwbina, Cardiff, CF4 6PL. Seeks items relating to Army Service 1939-45: cap badge and shoulder flash of Royal Welch Fusiliers, Royal Scots Fusiliers, Duke of Wellington's Regiment; Divisional shoulder flash of 49th Division (Polar Bear).

S Moolgoaker, 66 Hayhurst St, Clitheroe, Lancs, BB7 1ND. Requires the following items: DPM jacket size 4-5, preferably with detachable liner; jungle hat 7-7½ or DPM hat; SAS or Para rucksack. Will pay or swap for all items. Has bayonets, books on Northern Ireland and QVC GR crown. Contact for details.

Jack H Guss II, Box 405 Rd 2, Northampton, Penn 18067, USA. Wants books and magazines pertaining to the Falklands War 1982. Also uniforms, field gear, insignia, books pertaining to the 2nd Bn, South Staffordshire Regiment at Arnhem 1944.

B J Green, Box 533, Bracebridge, Ontario, Canada, POB 1CO. Wants a United Nations cap badge and RAF officers forage cap badge (crown over eagle) in brass. Will purchase or has for exchange all the newspaper issues of SOLDIER News, a few back numbers of SOLDIER Magazine 1960-1970 era, also an LP record 'Trooping the Colour' Silver Jubilee year. All letters answered.

S Johnson, 6 Whitby Drive, Grimsby, DN32 9SS, S Humberside. Requires the following Soviet arm patches: Chemical, Railway, Mil Transport, Motor Transport, Pipeline Troops, Construction Troops, Airborne, KGB, Traffic Controller. Has for trade the following Soviet items: white parade belt and buckle, officers parade cap badge, ORs parade cap badge, 3rd class proficiency badge, belt buckle (old cast type), Artillery arm patch. Sgt S Tagg, WOs & Sgts Mess, 1 LI, BFPO 17. Has for sale collection of foreign Army cap badges. Large SAE for lists.

## Competition

Judging by the number of entries we received for Competition 324, 'Alpha Omega', this was perhaps the most popular competition we have run for a long time. In the two lists of thirteen words each you had to find the missing letters using each letter of the alphabet only once. The answers were List A — tWeeD, sCruB, sPooF, rUmbA, iVorY, fltH, eJecT, eQuaL, bOnuS, bRisK, aXioM, aZurE, aGaiN; List B — OnioN, GuisE, IndeX, Jolly, KetcH, ChoiR, AskeW, UsurP, ValiD, BuxoM, Sniff, Zonal. Prizewinners were: 1st L/Cpl P. Churm, 3 Coy, Comms & Sy Gp (UK), Garats Hay Bks, Old Woodhouse, Loughborough, Leics. 2nd Mrs L Sykes, 2 Salisbury House, Ebbw Close, Tidworth, Hants. 3rd Major J Andrews, Depot Hong Kong, Military Service Corps, BFPO 1. 4th Sgt W F Davie, Pay SNCO, PCAU, RAF Brize Norton, Oxford. 5th Squad 99, TR WG Depot Int Centre, Templar Barracks, Ashford, Kent.

## How Observant are you? (see page 37)

1 Goalkeeper's mouth; 2 Top of right stocking of player second from left; 3 Shirt tail of player in stripes; 4 Shirt button of player second from left; 5 Right boot pattern of player in stripes; 6 Neckline of goalkeeper's jersey; 7 Goalkeeper's right leg; 8 Goal-line at bottom left; 9 Boot studs of right player; 10 Little finger of striped player's right hand.

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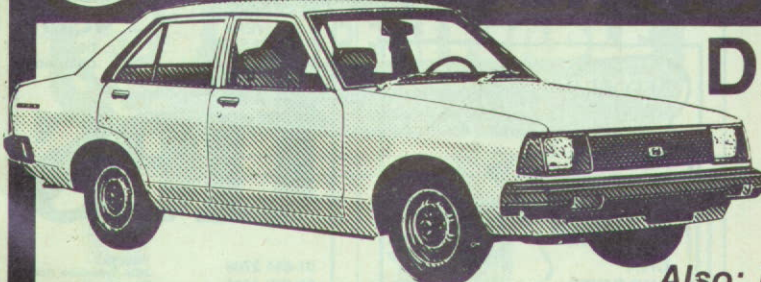
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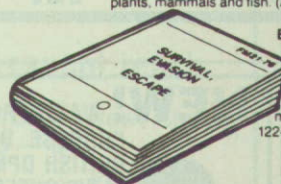
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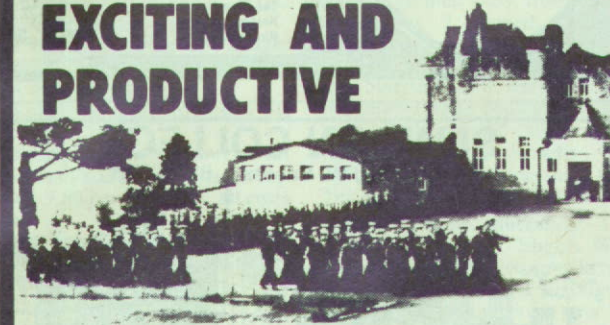
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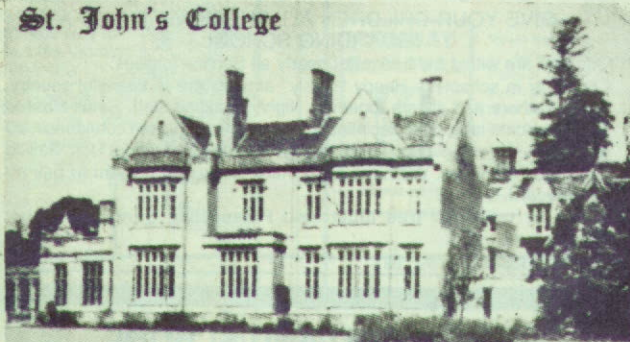
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# HOME HUNTER

## WORST OF THE MIDLANDS SLUMP IS PROBABLY OVER

After three years of ever increasing redundancies and cutbacks in the motor industry the Midlands has been knocked hard. With unemployment near to 20% house prices have been badly dented.

However, this year has seen quite a dramatic turnaround and house prices are set to start improving. Local agents don't expect any "major" increases between now and Christmas but next Spring they anticipate the market to favour the seller.

So the message to first time buyers in particular who are planning to move into the Midlands is buy now — it's a buyer's market and in New Towns like Redditch there is a huge choice of properties and excellent discounts and incentives on offer from builders of new estates.

Buyers, however, are warned not to be blinded by promises of cheaper mortgages for the first 12 months of ownership, free carpets, fridge, etc. Sometimes these high-powered marketing deals do not represent good value for money. Check the small print. Some second hand properties are £2,000, £1,000 or £1,500 below comparable properties on offer on new estates.

Redditch is likely to benefit quickly from the improvements in sales and profits of the British car manufacturers. Starter homes can be found for under £16,000. Modern semis start around £21,000. Even reasonably sized detached properties are on offer under £30,000. Shipways, Redditch (0527 65155)

K. Stephenson, 0277 232913

**These articles are prepared in conjunction with Kerry Stephenson of the National Homes Network. This is a private agency with a great deal of experience in dealing with the special problems of the Service Home-hunter. Kerry will be delighted to give you any help he can with your problem in the private sector and can be contacted at National Homes Network, 104 Kings Road, Brentwood, Essex. Tel: 0277 232913.**

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**Ash Vale,** near Aldershot. Bungalow with 3 good sized bedrooms, large double aspect lounge with separate dining area, fitted kitchen breakfast room with gas/electric cooker points, plumbing for washing machine, fitted worktops and wall cupboards, bathroom with shower fitting on mixer taps. GFCH, garage, large lawned garden. Close to shops and main-line station. £52,250.

Capt R Desmond, BMH Iserlohn, BFPO 24.

**Sandown Close,** Spalding, Lincolnshire. A modern 3-bedroomed house with gas central heating and garage on corner plot. Included in the sale price are many items of furniture, carpets and curtains, most of which are under one year old and in excellent condition. Price £35,000.

Simons & Co., Estate Agents, 26 Hall Place, Spalding, Lincs. Tel (0775) 67301.

**Stourbridge,** West Midlands. Magnificent 2-year-old beautifully decorated 4-bedroomed detached house in select area. En suite shower, separate bathroom/shower, 3 toilets, double garage, central heating, cavity wall insulation, landscaped gardens, many other extras, 10 mins M5. Owner posted. Reduced by £2000 to £41,950 for quick sale.

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**Modern town house** at 20 Spring Lane, Whittington, Staffs. Small village close to Lichfield, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Derby. Three large bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, mink coloured bathroom suite with separate WC, new fitted kitchen with breakfast bar, lounge/dining room with french doors to patio and large secluded garden which is lawned and bordered with evergreens. The garden being quite private. Garden shed, gas fired central heating, garage. The property has been recently decorated internally and the exterior is in good condition and is ready for occupation without a lot of work. Fitted carpets throughout which are available at a little extra cost to be negotiated. Ideal for the first time buyer and/or as a roomy family house. Price £23,995 freehold. Tel No: 0543 433007 or Capt (QM) W J Evans, 1 Cheshire, BFPO 802.

**In Weybourne** between Farnham and Aldershot. 2-bedroomed modernised turn of the century mid-terrace cottage, GCH, attractive garden with secluded patio and garage space. £29,500.

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## Impressive Ranger double



LANCE Corporal Elvis Burke, 2nd Battalion, Royal Irish Rangers (above) distinguished himself by being the first soldier home in this year's Berlin Marathon.

He managed the gruelling race in 2hrs 29mins, and commented that he hopes to do better next time.

This adds to his outstanding run in the Berlin 25Km road race earlier this year when he was again first soldier home in 1hr 29mins.

Burke headed a 56 man team from 2 R Irish, all of whom finished the race and in which over 5,000 people took part.

The "Green Machine" as the 2 R Irish marathon team was nicknamed, included 6 officers and 50 men all of whom said they enjoyed it.



The triumphant 3 UDR team with their magnificent trophy. Left to right: WO2 John Linton, Lance Corporal Ray Reid, Major Jim Henning and Corporal Davy Cromie. Picture: DOUG PRATT



The Chestnut Troop, senior Battery of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, pulling their way to victory in the 1 Armoured Division Artillery Septathlon held in Hohn. The Chestnut Troop also won the hockey, making them the only competitors to come first in two sports.

THE ULSTER Defence Regiment's 3rd Battalion are the new Army Inter-Unit golf champions, beating School of Infantry 10 to 3 in the final at the Army Golf Club, Aldershot.

This is only the second time 3 UDR have entered, and with three single-figure men and one 12-handicap it looks as if it will take a very good team to remove the trophy from their safe-keeping!

Last year was their first attempt and then the competition involved teams of four playing medal rounds.

This year the event reverted to its original style of 18-hole match play off scratch on a knock-out basis.

On their way to the final, 3 UDR disposed of School of Signals and School of Electrical Engineering.

Captain Tom Whyte of the School of Infantry was his team's only victor in the final, beating 3 UDR captain, Warrant Officer 2 John Linton, three-up. The 3 UDR winners were Lance Corporal Ray Reid who beat Major Alan Stockley five-up, and Corporal Davy Cromie beat Colonel Toomey, five-up. And Major Jim Henning, who was three-up after 15 holes, finished all-square.

**Results: 1st Round:** Recruitment SC 0, School of Infantry 21; 40 Fd Regt RA 4, Scottish Infantry Depot 11; School of Electrical Engineering 16, Army Apprentices College, Harrogate 2; 3 UDR 8, School of Signals 1. **2nd Round:** S of I 10, Scottish Inf. D 3; SEE 6, 3 UDR 13. **Final:** S of I 3, 3 UDR 10.

## COMBINED SERVICES SKIING GLORY 'DOWN UNDER'

THE BRITISH Combined Services Alpine ski team swept the board recently when they took part in the Australian Services International Championships in Thredbo, New South Wales, Australia.

The team raced against the Australian Defence Forces and the British team were clear winners in both giant slalom and slalom events.

Rifleman Scott Dobson 2nd Royal Greenjackets, was the individual winner of the Giant Slalom with Captain Peter Koch de Gooreynd, 1st Grenadier Guards, winning the Slalom.

This was the second consecutive year that the championship has taken place. The Australians hope to expand the championships in future years.



British Combined Services Alpine ski team. From left: Lt Sam Brooke, Sub Lt Chris Ameye, Cpl Paul Ford, Capt Peter Koch de Gooreynd, Sgt Tony Pearson, Flt Lt Eric Henry, Sgt Rab Finnigan, Rfn Scott Dobson, Lt Cdr Andy Baird.



# GREAT FLYING ... TOUCH DOWN!



## But Services don't look combined

ABOUT 1500 turned up to watch the touring Canadian Rugby Union side play their first match against Combined Services at the United Services Ground, Portsmouth. The visitors won 17-14 and for the good number of unbiased spectators it was a splendid afternoon out — though for the servicemen streaming away from the ground there was disappointment in the result.

Imagine how their colleagues slumped in the dressing room in their muddled white shirts must have felt! There can be no denying that the Canadians were fortunate to leave Burnaby Road as victors, but that was not their fault.

Overpowered in the scrums — except on one noticeable and inexplicable occasion when they scored a pushover try — they did never-the-less show a willingness to run with the ball and turned in some most attractive play.

It was the Services failure, or lack of confidence, to adopt a similar approach which led to their downfall. Too often a hurried kick led to lost opportunities — and frustration on the faces of three-quarters who ran splendidly in support on a slippery surface, but all too often failed to see the ball.

What could be achieved was shown by the best move of the

Report:  
Peter Howard  
Pictures:  
Les Wiggs

match producing the best try by Underwood (RAF) to level the scores at 14-14 and whatever else was lacking it certainly wasn't effort.

To come back from 6-14 with the second half five minutes old was achievement in itself and but for a close miss with the last kick by Milburn (RAF) it could have been a draw anyway. It was not to be and the 'Combined' seemed to be missing from the title!

Certainly there was no shortage of individual experience at a high level and the Army's quarter, three-quarters Warfield (captain) and Johnson, and forwards Peacock and Christopher, all did well enough.



In the midst of a lot of activity Chief Petty Officer Mark Sheldon gets the vital touch for Combined Services first try.



The camera caught Pilot Officer Rory Underwood in superb flight (above left) before touching down for a magnificent try (above) — but it wasn't enough to stop the Canadian tourists beating Combined Services at Portsmouth. The action below shows Combined Services (white shirts) winning one of many lines out. They failed to make most of their possession.



The Canadians opened the scoring in the fourth minute when full back Wyatt kicked the first of three penalties. Then two penalties from Milburn and Henderson (Navy) put Services ahead for the first and only time.

Sloppy defensive work let in the tourists' Palmer for a try and Wyatt's second penalty gave them a 10-6 half-time lead. If Warfield and his men found this state of affairs unbelievable worse was to come when Canada's captain MacMillan saw his forwards push their rivals back and give him a try.

Then came a really determined fight back, well led by Warfield and there were roars of delight when Sheldon (Navy) was first to the ball after a somewhat untidy affair on the Canadian line.

Even greater cheers greeted Underwood's spectacular try, ending a move which swept from left to right with some magnificent passing, handling and 'dummy' running.

Unfortunately, Wyatt's last penalty proved decisive and served only to underline the lost opportunities in the first period.

The Canadians got the tonic start they wanted and as Combined Services secretary Lieutenant Colonel Pat Dawson said "They were delighted with all we did for them and we enjoyed meeting them — even though the result was disappointing from our point of view".

The Australians come next year and Combined Services will be delighted to host them, given the chance. Here's hoping it comes off — but ideally when the Services have a few more matches under their belt!



Not this time! A Canadian stops Underwood before he can do any more damage!



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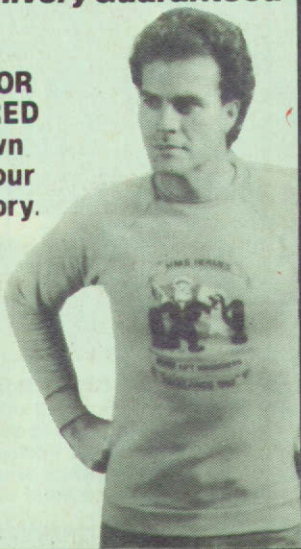
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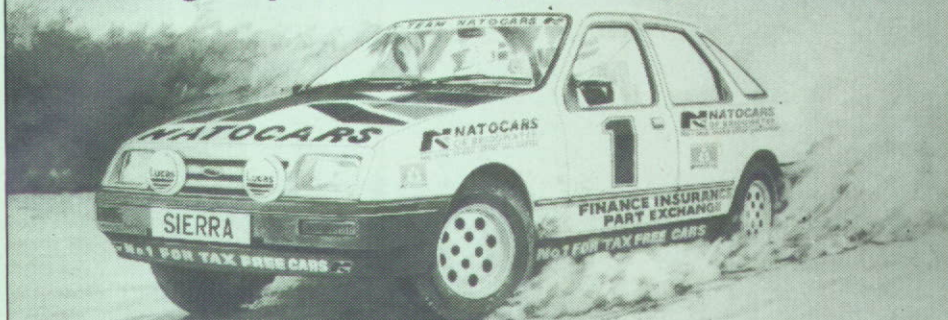
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