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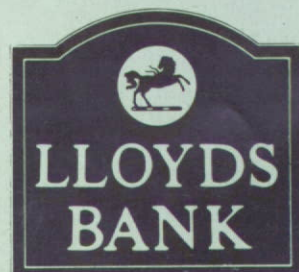
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At the sign of the Black Horse



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FRONT COVER

Colourful scenes from The Lord Mayor's Show: The Corps of Drums, 1st Battalion, the Queen's Regiment marching past London's Mansion House and the Blues and Royals passing St Pauls Cathedral. More pictures of the procession are on page 13 with a special behind-the-scenes feature on pages 26-27.

Pictures: Paul Haley

BACK COVER

An impressionistic glimpse of the Army Inter-Unit Cross Country Relay Championships caught by panning the camera at very slow shutter speed. Report on page 44.

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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY



◀ From the drill square to the Mansion House — getting ready for The Lord Mayor's Show

— page 26

Why Rhine Army soldiers swap their leave for two weeks' hard labour — page 14 ▼



Spearhead Battalion speeds to troubled Ulster — page 11 ▼



Editorial, photographic, advertising and circulation enquiries should be addressed to SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, ALDERSHOT, Hants, GU11 2DU (phone GPO Aldershot 24431, military network Aldershot Military). SOLDIER is published by the Ministry of Defence and printed by Eden Fisher (Southend) Ltd, 555 Sutton Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex. Crown copyright 1981.

Subscription (25 issues): UK/BFPO £10.50, Elsewhere £11.25. Send UK cheque, UK postal order or international money order expressed in sterling and state when subscription is to start and to whom to be addressed. Payments to be sent to SOLDIER and made payable to Command Cashier UKFL.



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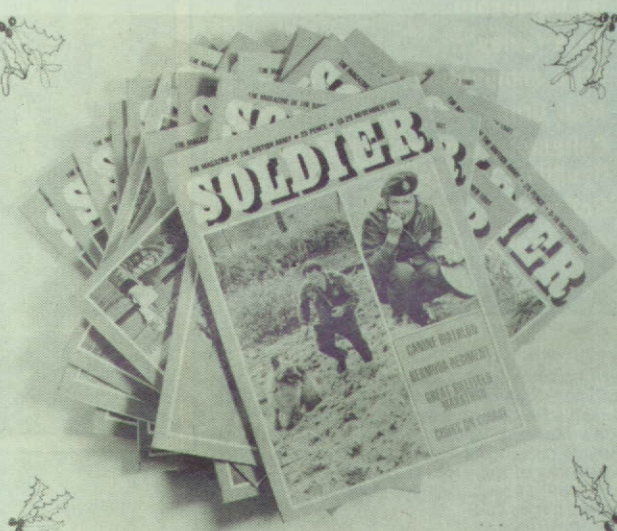
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SOLDIER to Soldier

OUTRAGED EDITORIALS in the newspapers. Indignant comments in the House. Even condemnation from the Prince of Wales...

But the wrath being vented was not being directed against any of our popular public whipping boys. No, the object of opprobrium was a game—a children's game—called 'Bombshell' in which incompetent soldiers with comical names suffer varying degrees of injury in their bungling attempts to defuse a bomb.

Its makers described it as "explosively funny" but it brought an entirely opposite reaction from the family of the police bomb disposal expert who lost his life recently in defusing a terrorist device in a London Wimpy Bar. They expressed shock and disgust that a job demanding the highest skill and courage should be seemingly demeaned and ridiculed.

One can entirely sympathise with their feelings. The game was in lamentable taste. But in all the brouhaha over 'Bombshell' perhaps a more fundamental issue has been overlooked.

War is big business in the High Street. 'Action men' with guns and grenades snarl defiance from the toyshop shelves. Computerised battle scenarios offer kids the chance to blow battleships and tanks to Kingdom Come. Battle comics and annuals package death and destruction in Technicolor.

Children have always been fascinated by war. And many will argue that it is infinitely better to channel aggression into the make-believe world of toys, games and stories than allow it to spill over into street corner blood-letting.

But others will point to the danger that a generation fed on a diet of violence in toyshops and on television may come to accept murder and mayhem as acceptable norms of social behaviour.

The issues are much too complex for simplistic sloganising. But those of us who share responsibility for educating and informing the young should think very carefully of how we introduce them to the subject of war.

Treating bomb disposal as a joke may offend our adult sensibilities. But there may be even greater dangers in injecting the horrors of battle with a spurious glamour and romance.

PARA BACK-UP FOR ULSTER



Members of 1 Bn the Parachute Regiment boarding a Hercules at Edinburgh Airport on their way to Ireland.

Deployment of the Spearhead Battalion, the Edinburgh based 1 Bn The Parachute Regiment, has brought the force level in Ulster up to some 11,500—roughly what it was in the Spring of this year.

The deployment followed a request for reinforcements from the GOC Northern Ireland, Lt Gen Sir Richard Lawson, following consultations with the Secretary of State, Mr James Prior, and the RUC.

Role of the battalion will be to provide military support for the RUC and it is thought that they are likely to be used in the border area.

The Ministry of Defence described the deployment as a sensible precaution in the light of the situation in the Province.

"Send for Spearhead" ... See Page 11.

Scampy goes home

Her great adventure over, Scampy the lurcher is back home with her mum.

It all started when a man using her for hare-coursing on military land was arrested—so was



Cpl Steve Hall hands Scampy over to Mrs Rushton.

Scampy! After the man had been convicted, Scampy was confiscated by order of the magistrates and put into military custody.

Then came nearly two months being cared for by the Royal Army Veterinary Corps unit at Aldershot while tenders for her were invited from the public. One of them came from Mrs Valerie Rushton, Scampy's original owner.

The Government Land Agent for the Area, Mr Ian Harrison, later confirmed that Mrs Rushton's bid had not been the highest. "But her bid was high enough to justify returning the dog to her," he said. "We took the sympathetic view and she paid enough to cover the costs."

Off to Sinai?

Britain has agreed in principle to contribute troops to the proposed Sinai peace-keeping force, the Commons was told. Three other European countries—France, Italy and The Netherlands—are also expected to contribute to the multi-national force.

Britain's contribution is likely to be between 50 and 200 men acting in a support role. It is expected that they will deploy in March, shortly before the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai is due to be completed.

Bowler for some

Some redundancies are likely to be necessary to achieve the Army's revised manpower targets—some of them in 1983—Mr Peter Blaker, Minister of State for the Armed Forces said in a written Commons reply.

Terms had been agreed and applications would be invited, he said.

The overall strength of the Army is to be reduced by 7,000 by 1986 and SOLDIER understands that most of this number will be found from natural wastage and by careful control of recruiting rates.

If there are insufficient volunteers to make up the balance there may have to be some compulsory redundancy but the programme will be phased over three or four years.

Terms will be the same in both cases and will give those with 12 or more years service an immediate pension and a cash payment of up to 18 months pay. Full details are to be published later.

A graduate of the Army Staff College, Camberley, has been appointed Chief of the New Zealand General Staff. He is Maj Gen Robin Williams.

BOMB BLAST

A terrorist bomb which exploded while an Army wife was walking her dog near Government House, Woolwich, the headquarters of 21 Artillery Group, claimed two women and the dog as its victims.

One woman was detained in hospital after losing some of her toes in the blast, the other was released after treatment for minor injuries and shock. The dog had a leg blown off and was being operated on.

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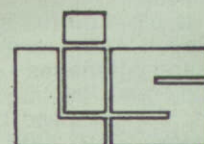
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Cash for faster answers

Nuclear fall-out pattern diagnosis by computer has earned a REME Army major in Germany a cash award of £500 for the idea.

He is Major Peter Davidson who is serving with 50 Missile Regiment, Royal Artillery at Menden.

Currently, the system of detecting fall-out involves collation of field observations by manual means. This results in delay when time is vital.

Major Davidson's alternate method, making use of computer capacity, provides immediate predictions from available information.

Demonstration

He explained: "I produced a demonstration computer programme capable of analysing data on a nuclear explosion, resolving discrepancies in field reports, but allowing for meteorological forecasts. The computer supplies a written assessment of fallout paths in moments and a visual diagram in just five minutes."

His system, also valid for chemical warfare situations, was developed by Major Davidson while he was studying at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham.

The submission to the Army Technical Suggestions Committee won him the recommendation for the cash award.

Major Davidson is OC 50 Missile Regiment Workshops — part of the Army's only unit dedicated exclusively to missile warfare and equipped with Lance missiles, capable of carrying conventional or nuclear warheads.



SANTÉ! Four of the Red Devils — L/Cpl Ray Ellis, Pte Nish Bruce, L/Cpl Graham Copestake and Pte Roy Wright — toast their success at their Frensham Pond water jump.

A NICE DROP OF WINE

There is a new, exciting way of serving Beaujolais. Not gently tilted from a wicker basket — but by parachute from 3,000 feet! At least, that's what wine buff Sir Guy Fison recommends, having savoured one of the first mouthfuls of this year's Beaujolais Nouveau served up by six members of the Army's Red Devils parachute display team.

At midnight the first half-dozen bottles of the unique vin rouge had been stuffed carefully into flying suits as the sky-high waiters clambered into a tiny Islander at Gatwick at midnight to drop in at a Farnborough hotel just 22 minutes later.

The valuable consignment — six cases — had been rushed from a warehouse in Calais by road and to a Lille airfield for rapid air transportation to Gatwick.

HM Customs and Excise had, with pure military precision,

been primed and the cases of Beaujolais cleared within four minutes. The far from vin ordinaire had left France at 11 p.m.

Captain Mickey Munn, Team Commander of the 24-strong Red Devils organisation told SOLDIER: "The air traffic control lads at Gatwick were very good. They let us take off ahead of two other aircraft. We had headlights on our helmets and strobe lights on our legs ready for the drop at Farnborough which involved a final sprint of 150 yards to the waiting tasters. We made the drop at about 3,000 feet and were helped by flares on the ground. I reckon the flight from Gatwick to Farnborough took about 15 minutes."

He added: "It was a hard night because we had a day drop at 0930 the next day at Frensham which included eight men — four dropping into the Frensham Pond and four on to a lawn — at another hotel. This meant changing gear as we had to be up at 0730 hours.

"I thought the Beaujolais was very nice and very palatable. I didn't think I would like the stuff."

Sir Guy Fison's on-the-spot comment: "I think all Beaujolais Nouveau should be drunk after being parachuted in from 3,000 feet in future. It definitely improves the flavour!"

Briefly

The eighth Army Photographic Competition rules are shortly to be published in Army DCIs. The 1982 contest will be split into eight categories. Details of the judging and prize giving will be announced later.

Two Gurkha battalions have new titles. The Gurkha Reinforcement Battalion in Hong Kong is now the 2nd Battalion 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles (2/7GR). The 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles (7 GR), in the UK, is now the 1st Bn, 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles (1/7 GR).

After an absence of 13 years the TA are opening up again in Northwich with nearly 60 volunteers already attested and in the pipeline with the 2nd Bn Mercian Volunteers.

The Army Careers staff of Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire have presented a luxury 8-seater mini bus to Age Concern. An appeal was launched in 1979 and £2,500 collected.

Mr William Reid, Director of the National Army Museum has been elected President of the International Association of Arms and Military History. The election was in New York and he is the first Briton to hold the post having served the previous 12 years as the Association's Secretary-General.

For the eighth time, men of 1 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, based on Colchester, have left for a six-month tour with the United Nations peace-keeping force in Cyprus. The squadron was there in May last year.

Fund aid offer

The Army Benevolent Fund will get a donation from the Tower Mint for every one of their 1981 Christmas plates or pendants ordered by Army personnel. A similar offer last year won the fund a substantial donation.

Crafted in solid nickel silver, the 1981 plate has a frosted central design. The pendant is in Sterling silver or 9ct gold with a 40cm matching chain. Both plate and pendant are on the theme of "a partridge in a pear tree."

The plate sells for £12.50. The pendant costs £17.50 in silver or £85.00 in gold. All the prices include post, packing and insurance. Orders should be sent to the Tower Mint, 23 Greenwich High Road, London SE10.

PENDLE



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NEWS VIEW

◀ Measuring

Measuring up to reality is Mr Jerry Wiggin, MP, who went along to Chelsea Barracks, London, to get himself kitted-out following his appointment as Under Secretary of State for the Forces. Man with the diplomatic task was Corporal of Horse Rob Shipway.

Try On ▶

It was also a try on for mining undergraduate David Goldsmith who was one of the reservists to answer the one-day call-up. The beard would have to go for ex-Artilleryman David if the balloon went up but it did not stop him getting into his NBC suit.



◀ New Site

Mr Allen Kilpatrick, Canadian High Commissioner in Hong Kong, unveiled a dedication plaque on the new site of the bronze statue of a British soldier. It is dedicated to WO2 John Robert Osborn VC of the Winnipeg Grenadiers and through him to all those whose gallantry and self-sacrifice went unnoticed and unrecorded.

Special ▶

There was a special presentation during the General Service Medal parade of 10 Regt, RCT, at Bielefeld when Mr James Bulman accepted the medal awarded to his son Driver Paul Bulman, killed on operations in Ulster. Later Mr Bulman unveiled a name plaque on Bulman Block, renamed in his son's honour.

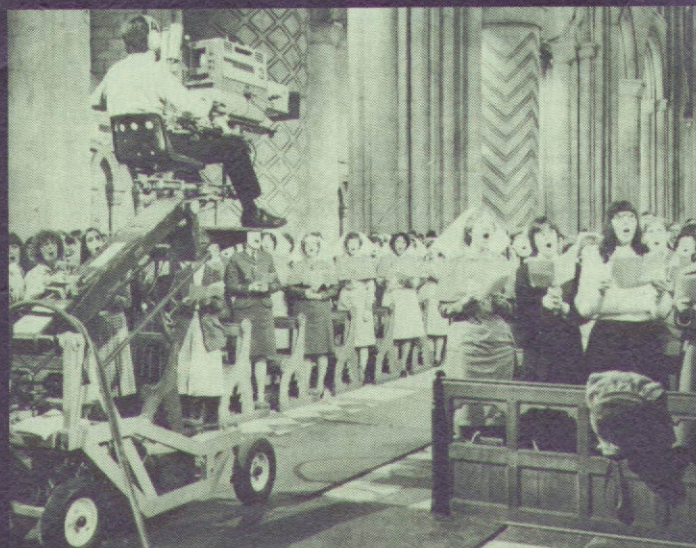


◀ In Praise

The congregation was in good voice as the camera zoomed in at Durham Cathedral for the first in a series of BBC 'Songs of Praise' from Service locations.

Sunny ▶

Sunny Cyprus made an idyllic setting for the wedding of Cpl Kay Simpson and Cpl Christopher Laycock both of 9 Signal Regt. They were married at St George's Church, Dhekelia. Kay is a PTI and Christopher a radio technician.





◀ Last Lap

Running into the centre of Dortmund is the marathon relay team of 16 Air Defence Regiment at the end of its gruelling 375 miles run from St Paul's Cathedral in London. They raised over Dm 10,000 for the Stoke Mandeville Appeal and a local Dortmund church restoration fund.



RMP Lift ▶

A Land Rover goes aboard as two of the new RAF Chinook helicopters airlift a platoon of military policemen from Colchester as part of their involvement in a Wiltshire exercise.



And Again ▶

Sgt John McRae of 36 Signal Regt LAD who has won the manufacturing section of Exercise Southern Craftsman for the fifth time.

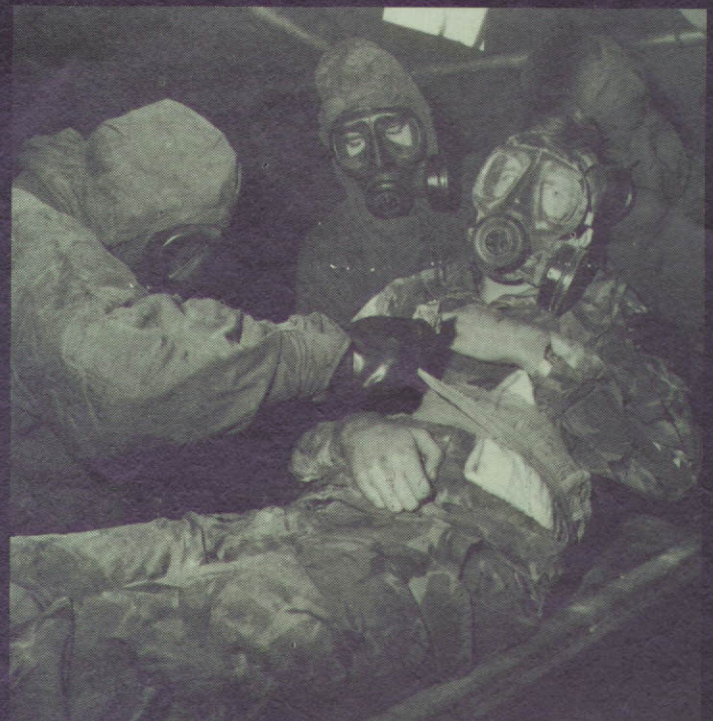
Now Bicester ▼

More than 300 people took part in a marathon around Bicester Garrison, raising £2,500 for charity. Over thirty Army and RAF units took part and winner was Cpl Richard Carey, RAMC.

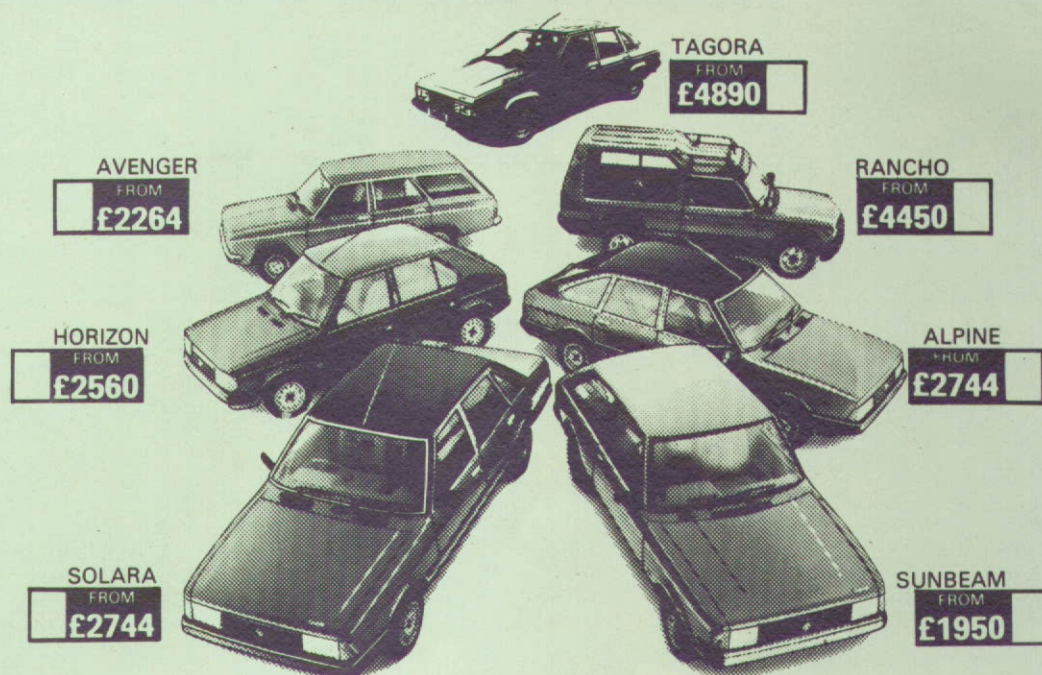


Inflatable ▼

When GOC 3rd Armd Div, Maj Gen Norman Arthur, visited 3 Field Ambulance in Sennelager he was shown techniques for dealing with battlefield casualties who had also been exposed to chemical attack, including a newly delivered inflatable protection area.



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FIRST FOR EXPORT

SEND FOR SPEARHEAD

24 hours a day, 365 days a year, the Army has a battalion standing by for emergency duty anywhere in the world. John Ellis looks at what this means for the men in waiting. And Andy Burrage supplies exclusive pictures of the Red Berets as they answered the latest call. . . .

"IN VIEW of the increased tension the Government has decided to send the Spearhead Battalion to . . ."

A simple paragraph in a news bulletin which covers a purposeful rush of activity by 600 soldiers, supporting headquarters and many services. But what does it involve for those troops?

The most recent Spearhead move was the despatch of 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment from Edinburgh to Ulster.

The Battalion took on the Spearhead role on 2nd November. Each UK-based battalion takes its turn in the roster for approximately six weeks.

During that period the unit knows it will be the first to move and the battalion must maintain a leading element of 150 key personnel at 24 hours notice. The remainder are on 72 hours.

This does not mean that soldiers are sitting in barracks waiting for the whistle to blow — training goes on but with that time factor always in mind.

However some company commanders have admitted a few anxious hours when trying to recall all their soldiers who may be spread over a wild training area.

Spearhead duty and mobilisation are good examples of a modern Army's well

prepared plan and a rolling operation.

By the time a battalion assumes the Spearhead role, its kit will have been checked, mostly boxed and loaded in vehicles. Radio and weapons will all be in full working order. Nominal rolls will have been prepared, with everybody accounted for and their location known. And there will have been practise turnouts to ensure everyone knows his place.

When the actual order to move is received it is usually no surprise because world news reports are listened to as avidly as the sports news.

Because Spearhead duty means being ready to go anywhere, preparatory kit packing has been comprehensive. But when the actual destination is known, adjustments can be made which often involves unloading some items.

When the routine duty of Spearhead for 1 Para in Edinburgh became a real call to action, life was busy but there was no panic. Everyone knew their job and got on with it. The leading element left Edinburgh airport less than 20 hours after the order to go was issued.

The remainder followed as planned and the Battalion was on the ground ready for operations within 72 hours.



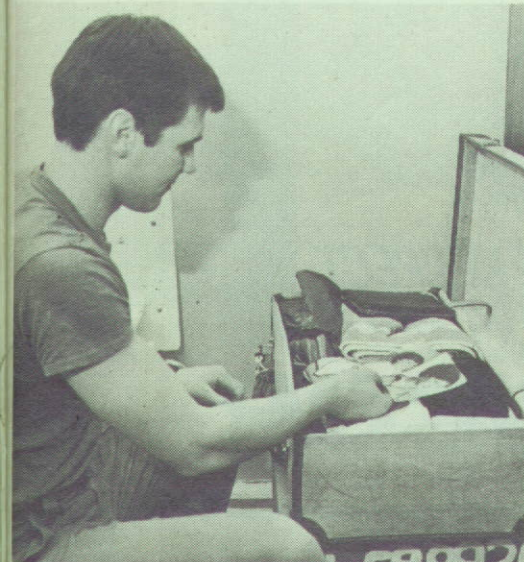
All aboard the Hercules — the leading element are ready to go.



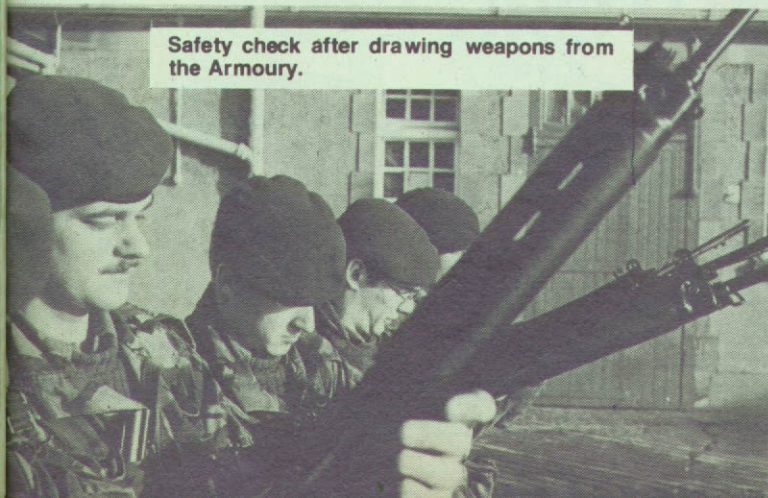
Sgt John Bevan and Pte Mike Ellis stow kit into boxes.

◀ Pte Ian Edwards packs family photos.

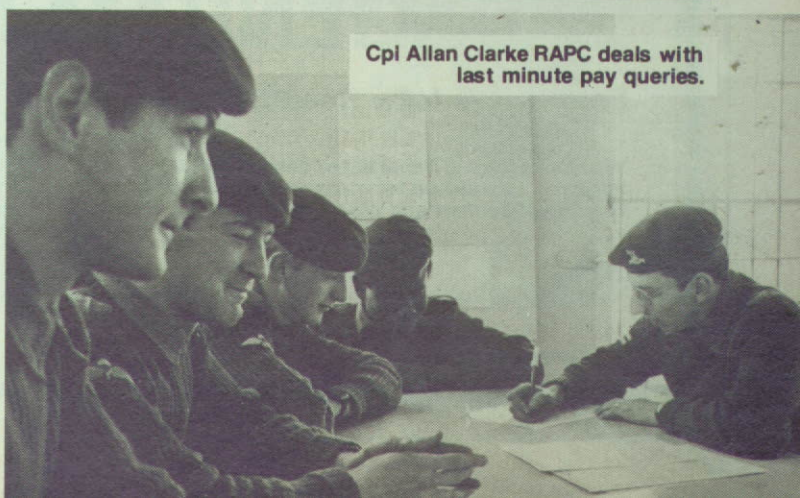
Mrs Isa Hamilton in the regimental tailors shop repairs an urgently needed rucksack. ▼



Safety check after drawing weapons from the Armoury.



Cpl Allan Clarke RAPC deals with last minute pay queries.



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Paul Haley captures
the Army on parade at
the Lord Mayor's Show

London's Pride



Circled: The new Lord Mayor, Sir Christopher Leaver, with his predecessor, Sir Ronald Gardner-Thorpe. Above: Young 'recruit' with member of 4th Bn Royal Green Jackets.



7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha rifles march at the trail past The Mansion House.



Scout helicopter on Army Air Corps float.



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1914 wagon and bicycles — part of the varied Royal Corps of Transport display.



Music on the march from WRAC band.

RAOC's special day — pages 26-27

Every Autumn
in the beautiful
Moselle valley
you can find
British soldiers

Toiling in the Vineyard

WHAT MAKES BRITISH SOLDIERS in West Germany swap two weeks of their annual leave for a fortnight of unremitting physical toil? The answer lies in a grape — or rather millions of grapes — in the picturesque Moselle Valley.

British soldiers have been helping the Moselle vintners harvest their grapes for the past 23 years and have built up strong and lasting links with the region. This year about 160 soldiers from Rhine Army units travelled south from their barracks in Lower Saxony and North Rhine Westphalia to help swell the ranks of part-time pickers working in 17 villages around the tourist town of Bernkastel-Kues.



▲ A grape-filled hod is tipped into trailer by
Tpr Scott Badham, 2nd Royal Tank Regt.

The scene looks idyllic — but hod carrying
on these steep slopes is punishing work. ▼



Story: John Turner

Pictures: Mo Morris

Many men return year after year to work in the wine hills at this critical time for the farmers. They live with the vintner and his family who provide accommodation and food for the volunteers assigned to them. In addition, there is a daily payment — 40 Deutsche Marks this year, or about £10.

The pay may sound quite good for the privilege of spending a few days amidst the beautiful Moselle Valley scenery, but the work is tough as Fusilier Paul Becket of the 1st Battalion The Royal Welsh Fusiliers pointed out.

"The picking itself is very hard — it's a boring, monotonous job, but a good way of picking up the language and getting to know what the German people are really like. I'm stationed at Lemgo, which is a garrison town with all that implies, so it's nice to come to somewhere like this."

An average day in the vineyards starts about 7 a.m. with breakfast followed by work in the cellars before moving out by tractor and trailer to the wine hills which may be some distance away. Picking goes on all day with just a short break for lunch, usually taken in the field.

The soldiers are normally expected to undertake most of the 'heavy' work which consists mainly of humping the grape-filled hods up or down the sometimes near-perpendicular slopes.

Guardsman Brian Mullen, 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards, compared it to mountain climbing. "We sometimes make jokes with the Germans about needing ropes and climbing boots. It's hard on the back but you learn some German and drink some wine. The countryside is very beautiful and the people are nice."

His picking companion, Guardsman Graham Ridley of the same battalion, added: "Yes, it's enjoyable and it gets you away from Army life for a while. You lose a lot of weight running up and down these slopes all day but we were pretty fit when we arrived."

In the evenings the tractors with their precious cargos have to be unloaded and the

grapes, which are mostly of the Riesling type, are crushed to press out the juice. In a surprisingly short time this is transformed into the delicious, light, fruity wine for which this region is famous.

On occasions, the Army visitors have been known to get slightly carried away when tasting and this can bring them to the notice of Warrant Officer 2 Les Hill, who for the past three years has been administrative officer for Exercise Grape Pick.

He recalled an incident last year when one soldier, having sampled too much of the local wine, fell off the Bernkastel bridge into the Moselle River. "This caused quite a problem for the local police who were called out with the German Red Cross and the Fire Brigade, just before midnight on a Saturday night. Fortunately, he was fished out none the worse for the experience!"

A typical arrangement whereby a British soldier is assigned to a vintner was to be found in the village of Erden near Bernkastel, where Coldstream Guardsman Richard Cleal was working for well-known vintner Johannes Mertes.

Richard's day involved picking and hod carrying with the family, eating a hurried lunch in the wine hills and later returning to the cellars to participate in some of the mystic processes which turn grape juice into fine wine. And to make it all worthwhile, and to complete the production sequence, Richard was able to help with the bottling and labelling.

The attitude of the vintners to their British guests was summed up by the mayor of Bernkastel, Herr Willi Kreutzberg, who said: "Without the help of British soldiers we would not have enough workers to get the harvest in. We are very pleased to see them each year. A lot of British soldiers come, we know them and they are fine workers."

And his comment on the 1981 vintage? "It's a finer, better year than 1980 and I think it will be an average year — not the best one, that was in 1976 — but for us it is a better wine than last year."



Tpr Dave Griffiths, Queen's Own Hussars, on his first working trip to the Moselle.



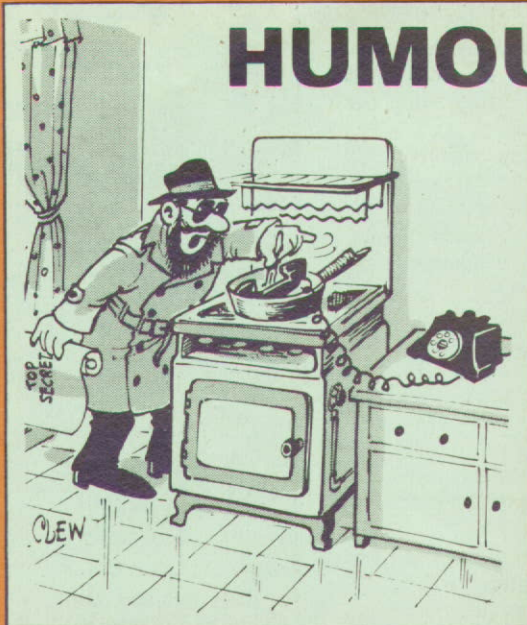
Gdsman Richard Cleal loads a wine press with crushed grapes at Erden.



Nearly finished, bottling and labelling. ▲

◀ Soldiers and locals snatch a well-earned bite amid the vines.

HUMOUR



"It's all right chief, we can speak freely — this call is being scrambled."



"I am not emotionally immature!"



"How long have you been a vehicle mechanic?"



"And if you cure me, I'll make you a general."

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Richmond with its castle — just two miles from camp.



AT EASE IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

CATTERICK GARRISON of today, with its nearby training areas, covers about 20,000 acres and is essentially a military community with "an environment closely fitted to the Army's special way of life." So says the Catterick Guide, the introductory 120-page handbook for first-time 'tourists' to the camp which has had a £20 million facelift in the last eight years.

It is also an area where many a young soldier on exercise sees sheep grazing for the first time in his life, where the sight of a cow calmly chewing the cud can "frighten the life out of him" and where big, powerful motor bikes are the 'in thing' for young squaddies seeking to get away from it all at weekends.

The guide is quick to contradict the drab, regimented image that the term 'camp' has suggested in the past. "Imaginative landscaping and green belt areas combined with creative open planning of the 5000-acre camp area has done much to create a residential atmosphere," it states.

The building of the principal military centre in the North of England dates back to recommendations made in 1908 by Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Baden-Powell, then General Officer Commanding the Northumbrian Division, who was the hero of Mafeking and the founder of the Boy Scout movement.

In August 1914, plans were completed for the first 1000-man camp costing £15,000 — the long term view envisaged 2000 huts housing 40,000 soldiers.

The first occupation was in October 1915 and a camp rail spur line was opened linking it with the Richmond-Darlington artery.

The nomenclature 'Catterick Camp' came about after confusion of the postal address with Richmond in Surrey.

The Romans were there, of course, and the very name Catterick comes from a 'fall or cataract' on the River Swale or, as the Latin Legionnaires called it — Cataractonium.

Thousands of troops were trained at Catterick during both wars and at the end of World War One the camp became a demob centre. At one time some fifty thousand 18-pounder guns, 78,000 lorries and two-and-a-half million blankets were held within the camp's confines.

Admirably sited on high ground, Cat-

terick has been the home of the Royal Corps of Signals since 1925, it having moved there from Maresfield, Sussex.

Modernisation at the Garrison started as long ago as 1938 with the break-away from single-storey accommodation in a project costing £1 million.

Another 'facelift' followed in 1960 and, two years later, the first two barracks to be built at Catterick for 20 years were completed at a cost of nearly £1½ million. An infantry battalion and the Royal Armoured Corps Training Regiment moved in. In the same year, 200 new houses for soldiers were built. A semi-automatic phone exchange replaced 20 manual switchboards.

Two years after that, 370 houses of a

'Catterick is a smashing place although the winters can be a bit blustery and nasty'

"new industrial method of construction" were added for soldiers and their families.

Since 1973 a total of £20 million has been spent on re-building and modernisation programmes.

So what has Catterick Garrison with its total 2080 married quarters spread over 16 estates got to offer the newcomer and his family? Quite a lot.

There are two community centres, two play groups, nursery units, a 13,000-book Army library, eight schools in the area, a Thrift Shop (open twice a week), medical centre on the doorstep, four churches, and a thriving, 500-member Garrison Youth Club. And added to these amenities are nine junior ranks clubs, four self-service Naafi shops, a swimming pool and a children's playground.

Amateur dramatics and cage bird fancying are also on the garrison's agenda of leisure pursuits as well as golf, beagling, fly fishing, riding, indoor dry ski-ing, squash, sub-aqua and dinghy sailing.

There are Wives Clubs for the younger marrieds and recently-weds which, according to the garrison public relations officer, are "quite imaginative".

"It's not just flower arranging and dress-

making. They do have some really good events and trips out. The sports facilities are first class. The Army thrives on sport and there's plenty of it here," he said.

Four miles west of the A1 and two miles south of Richmond, Catterick is also within reach of two of Yorkshire's most beautiful, bracing Dales — Swaledale and Wensleydale — with their castles, monasteries, museums, medieval ruins, manor houses and market towns with cobbled squares.

York and Newcastle are about 40 minutes away by rail.

Quarters are relatively easy to acquire for the newcomer.

Mrs Shelia Hunt, the Group Welfare Officer, whose husband is former Warrant Officer 1 Ted Hunt, an RSM with 11th Signal Regiment and now runs a tobacconist-newsagents in Richmond said: "You can get a quarter here quite easily now. When we were here we had to wait for six months and that was with ten years' service behind us."

The Hunts moved to Richmond in 1975 — their third time in the area — where her husband left the service three years later buying the shop out of his gratuity.

"I think the biggest problem here for the first-timer is if you haven't got a car", said



Catterick's garrison headquarters.

Sheila. "And as for the young wives who say there is nothing to do, they just don't look for anything to do. Southerners find it hard to adapt to the weather. There is certainly a difference in temperature. It's colder."

Mr Hunt from Gosport, said: "Newcomers find it a bit in the wilds at first but soon get used to it up here. I was surprised when I took young soldiers out on exercise that they were seeing sheep for the first time in their lives. Cows grazing in a field frightened the life out of them."

He added: "But I still think Catterick is a smashing place although the winters can be a bit blustery and nasty. Catterick grows on you."

Lieutenant-Colonel David Buckley, Scots Dragoon Guards, the senior Housing and Welfare Commandant, put Catterick into perspective when he said: "Anyone who has never been posted here thinks of Catterick in terms of 1945. But we have won an award for landscaping from the environment people. Those posted in will be pleasantly surprised — although it's still very windy."

Last there in 1959 with his battalion,

continued over

No 5 THE ROYAL SCOTS DRAGOON GUARDS (Carabiniers and Greys)



continued from page 17

Colonel Buckley listed among the minuses the lack of local employment for the wives although the local council was keen to bring it in and the Army was eager to help.

Richmond, though only two miles away, is 90 pence return by bus. But three wives sharing a taxi can make the trip as cheaply — and much quicker and easier with children and shopping.

"It's just like London here," said Colonel Buckley with a grin. "You see taxis flying about at all hours of the day and night. True, a lot of soldiers don't like it here. They want to do their three months' basic training and then join their battalion to do a proper job."

His assistant and Lancastrian, Major Tommy Clare, now retired and formerly with The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, said: "There are some people who adore Catterick for the outdoor interests such as walking on the moors. It's reasonably handy to get across the Pennines to Lancashire. The single soldier has to go to Darlington for his entertainment — and that's not the Soho of the North. It's a beautiful area. The only thing that personally puts me off are the winters."

He added: "It's a lovely area for country sports lovers. Garrison shooting, riding, fishing, beagling and even fox hunting — a corporal is a member of our hunt — and show jumping."

Warrant Officer 1 Peter

Robinson, 37, military training WO with 8 Signal Regiment and married with two young daughters, said: "I think there is a lot to do at Catterick, once you have started looking. But you must have transport. My trainees are buying big, expensive motor bikes to get away on at weekends."

His wife Andrea said: "No wife should be miserable in Catterick. It's a case of finding out what there is and then getting yourself stuck in."

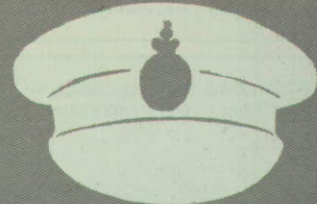
She went on: "Although I would rather go back to Germany from the Local Overseas Allowance (LOA) point of view there are plenty of reasons I like to be here. I'm lucky. I've got a job. But wives will always find it difficult to get jobs here unless they have professions."

The last two comments came from Corporal 'Charlie' Peace, 25, of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, and his 19-year-old wife, Tracey.

Charlie, eight years in the Army said: "It's OK here apart from clothing facilities. We have to go to Darlington. Richmond shops cannot cater. But we are lucky. We are a two-car family."

Added Tracey: "The social life here is quite good. We're both from Bradford, it being a Yorkshire regiment, and it's a good place to be. We can visit both our mums regularly. I knew what it would be like before we got here and I wouldn't mind coming back in future tours. It's OK." ■

Your Cap Badge



THIS SOLE EXAMPLE of Scotland's Pride among the cavalry Regiments is in fact a *menage a trois*. It stems in the first place from a marriage in 1922 between the 3rd Dragoon Guards and the 6th Carabiniers, which incidentally, lacked total commitment in the early years, and in the second place by further amalgamation in 1971 when joined by the celebrated Royal Scots Greys, the 2nd Dragoons. The 3rd Dragoon Guards were raised as Horse in 1685, principally from a Troop commanded by the Earl of Plymouth, to counter the Monmouth rebels. That Troop, with others, became the 4th Horse.

After arduous campaigning in the Low Countries and service against the Jacobites in Britain, they were redesignated '3rd Dragoon Guards'. In 1765 they received the honourable addition to their title of 'Prince of Wales's', that particular Prince becoming the Prince Regent. This was commemorated on the cap badge worn from the turn of the last century, being the Prince of Wales's plumes and motto above a scroll inscribed '3rd Dragoon Guards'; the plumes and motto in white metal, the coronet and title scroll in gilding metal.

The second partner, The Carabiniers (6th Dragoon Guards) were likewise born at the time of the Monmouth debacle, it was they who captured that ambitious Duke. The title 'Carabiniers' (being armed with carbines) was bestowed in 1691 and is carried with pride to this day as the single surviving example of this appellation. In their full dress they boasted another unique custom by wearing the blue uniform and double trouser stripes of the Light Cavalry to mark their temporary role in India at the time of the Mutiny. Their badge was described as "on crossed carbines, the Garter surmounted by the Victorian Crown. In the centre the Roman numerals VI over the letters DG. Below the Garter a scroll inscribed 'Carabiniers'. The centre and scroll in white metal remained in gilding metal." In 1901 the Imperial crown replaced the former crown. When at last in July 1929 a new pattern badge was approved for the combined Regiment — then to be known as The 3rd Carabiniers (Prince of Wales's Dragoon Guards) — it happily embraced the prominent features of both former badges. It is described as "On crossed carbines, the Prince of Wales's plumes, coronet and motto. Across the butts of the carbines a scroll inscribed '3rd Carabiniers'. The coronet and scroll in gilding metal, remainder in white metal." This was later to be made of anodised material.

The last to join this happy band, The Second Dragoons (Royal Scots Greys) can justifiably claim to be the oldest of the three. Taking their name partly from the grey horses they rode, their performance won them great glory in history and the splendid capture of the Eagle of the 45th French Infantry at Waterloo was commemorated on the cap badge they wore from 1903. It consisted of an eagle, with wreath of laurels on its breast, upon a plinth inscribed 'Waterloo'. This above a scroll inscribed 'Royal Scots Greys'. The eagle was in white metal with the scroll in gilding metal. An anodised version was worn from 1963 until amalgamation. Bandsmen of the Regiment wore a small fired grenade in gilding metal.

The final merger of the trio in 1971 produced a design that was to preserve the carbines and the Eagle at the expense of the Prince of Wales plumes, although they are still worn elsewhere on the uniform in some cases. As depicted here it features an eagle with wreath of laurels on its breast upon a plinth inscribed 'Waterloo', superimposed upon a pair of carbines crossed. There is a scroll across the butts inscribed 'Royal Scots Dragoon Guards'. Carbines and scroll were in gilding metal with the remainder in white metal, but later versions are in anodised material. Arthur L Kipling and Hugh L King

As many readers will have noticed, the badge of 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards featured in our last issue was inadvertently reversed. Apologies — and our thanks to those who pointed out the error.

Next issue: 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards

PROFILE

Graham Smith meets the man who immortalised 'The Two Types'



JON — William John Philpin Jones — who has just retired as the Daily Mail's satirical cartoonist after 21 years was thwarted in his choice of Army regiment at the outbreak of the last war because he revealed to an inquisitive Sandhurst Commandant that he did not have a private income of £500 a year — he "hadn't even ten bob".

Even today, Jon is half-convinced he really only got a commission — eventually with The Welch Regiment — from another regiment's intake because he was one of the few who could read, write — and draw. It had apparently been noted that he had helped his barrack room mates write their letters to loved ones back home.

Little did he suspect that later in his Army career a destroyer would be laid on specially to take him and his artistic talents from Algiers to Naples.

The 67-year-old cartoonist, who estimates he penned some 13,000 sketches at the rate of two-a-day for the Mail, is perhaps best known to thousands of SOLDIER's older readers who served in the Middle East, North Africa and Italy for his two Eighth Army characters, The Two Types.

They were depicted as a couple of flamboyantly-attired officer types, both with bristling moustaches, who matured in the desert campaigns and soon began to feel as though they had never known any other kind of life.

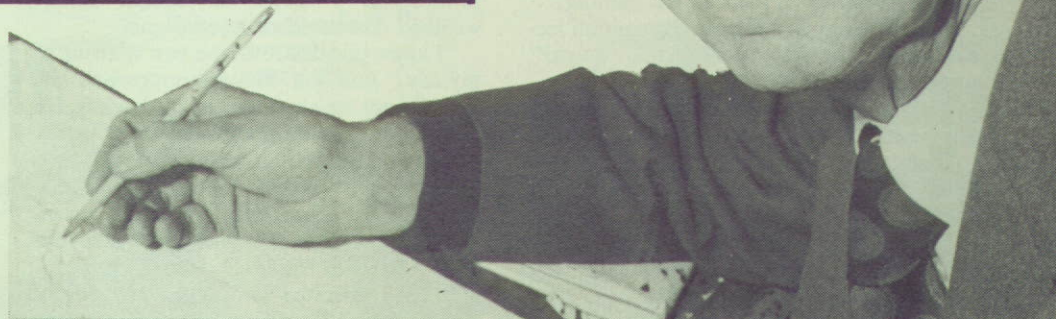
Two editions of Jon's collection of nearly 400 cartoons on the delightful duo were produced, each edition selling more than one million copies.

Their adventures, based on probabilities, captured the spirit of the Middle East Forces when generals and privates alike shed rank differentials in enjoying a good joke.

Jon's vignettes, which appeared in the Eighth Army News and the Union Jack, played a large pictorial part in keeping up the morale of the fighting soldier in the sand-strewn theatres.

Jon, incidentally, was one of SOLDIER's first regular cartoonist contributors and his outlandish Two Types — both captains — appeared on page 18 of the very first issue of SOLDIER on March 19, 1945, a publication collated and produced by a 41-strong, all-Army staff.

The embryo for the Two Types, deliberately un-named by their patron of the quick-sketch pen because of allegations by many units of similarities to certain officers, was born in the mind of Lieutenant W J Jones as he hitched up his rucksack to make it comfortable for his impending inland trek in Sicily.



QUICK ON THE DRAW

Jon of today, explained: "They were leaning against their battered jeep, sunning themselves fatuously in the middle of the bustle. I'd never seen anything like it before. I made a mental note of every detail of their eccentric dress.

"The one with the black moustache was in khaki drill bush shirt with a flare worthy of a ballet dancer. The other — with blond whiskers and armoured brigade beret — wore a pullover with dummy pockets so stretched through a white webbing belt that it almost reached the knees."

He added: "They were the Eighth Army types, odd, extreme characters who seemed

**"they were the Eighth
Army types, odd,
extreme characters
who seemed to
embody all the traits
and habits that were
bred in the desert."**

to embody all the traits and habits that were bred in the desert."

Formerly a political cartoonist on a Cardiff daily newspaper Jon moved to London and, realising a war was coming "despite what Chamberlain had said", joined up. Later he was to be involved in the landings not only in Sicily but at Salerno and Anzio, too.

His introduction to the Army was not a particularly happy one.

"I did my stint at Caterham and it was

pretty tough and then at Pirbright with the Coldstream Guards which was even tougher," he recalls.

"A lot of chaps in the barrack room couldn't write; big, tough chaps couldn't write a letter. I used to help them along and started writing letters for them to their mums and dads. Word must have got round that here was someone who could actually read and write.

"I was called to see the Company Commander, a Captain Pilkington — I think he was from the glass manufacturing family — who suggested I try for a commission. I agreed. Pirbright was like a concentration camp. They gave me some tests or other to see if I was suitable.

"There was a sergeant at Pirbright, a very nice chap — one of the few — who was also chosen for a commission. We packed up our kit and were put into a 15 hundredweight truck and trundled off to Sandhurst. We were laughing. So glad to get away.

"They just dumped us at the gate. We were still laughing as we carried our kit bags up the long drive. Suddenly, a voice yelled out at us from behind a tree calling on us to stand to attention. It was an instructor and we soon found out that all the instructors were guardsmen! And they were the toughest of the lot."

Subaltern Jones, W J — "I can't remember my service number" — passed out from Sandhurst but just before doing so he was invited to take, "with a few other chaps", supper and sherry with the Commandant.

The Commandant later singled out the young officer and asked if he had any preference of regiment for his service. Jones mentioned the Brigade of the Guards and, being a fervent Welshman, opted for the Welsh Guards. The Commandant said he

would put his name forward.

But then, the senior officer suddenly paused and asked the youngster from Llandudrod Wells if he had a private income of £500 a year.

"I said I hadn't got that sort of money. I hadn't got ten bob," said Jon.

The Commandant replied: "In that case I'm afraid it will be a line regiment for you."

Jon joined The Welch Regiment.

He saw service in North Africa. Then, one day, a CQMS from Llanelli came up to him with the proposition: "I've got just the job for you."

There was a vacancy, he said, for an AMLO — Air Ministry Liaison Officer — which would involve a course and, naturally, repatriation to the UK for training.

"You'll be giving aircraft recognition lectures. Shall I put your name down?" queried the obliging CQMS.

The answer was affirmative — without any hesitation.

Jones's CO, however, took a different, wiser view of the offer his subaltern had found impossible to refuse.

"You volunteered? You're a bloody fool! Do you know what you have done?" A-M-L-O means Assistant Military Landings Officer. You are now in Operations!"

From North Africa, the AMLO-designate left temperatures of 120 in the shade for those of 20 below, as he puts it, in the north of Scotland for training.

Young Jones exercised his new trade in Sicily, Salerno and Anzio by which time he was "highly trained and quite efficient" as a Landings Officer assistant.

"Anzio was tough because we were hem-

med in," he recalls. "I came out of there on a hospital ship."

Jon was back in North Africa again — Tripoli. But the scene shifted for him to the combined operations HQ in Algiers — "God it was hot" — and an impending transfer, at the request of the War Office, to the British Army newspaper.

But first, Jones had to demonstrate his cartooning talent to his superior officer.

"You mean — you draw people. Will you draw me?" were the two questions which the young officer had to answer practically.

Jon, his hands sticky in the heat, had no paper or pencils. An aide was ordered to fetch what he needed. Fifteen minutes later the CO with his solitary medal was gazing proudly at a sketch of himself almost weighed down with heroic insignia.

"I knew this had to be the best drawing of my life," said Jon. He was impressed. His eyes did not see anything but the medals. He had more gongs on than Monty."

His CO, face full of wonderment, looked up and asked: "When do you want to go?"

Jon "went" aboard a specially laid-on destroyer — *HMS Atherstone* — to take him from Algiers to Naples.

"That's when the Two Types cartoons got off the ground," said Jon who added that he would not do one of them now for less than a fee of £100 each.

Commercially employed after the war, Jon worked on the Sunday Pictorial, with the Mirror Group and with Kemsley Newspapers as a cartoonist.

The Two Types theme still lives on, from time to time, in his work of the 80s but portrayed more likely as a city gent with his

chum running a pub down in the West Country.

He no longer attends regimental reunions although, in the past, he had been ordered to do so as it "would help circulation-wise".

Jon explained: "I used to go to reunions all over the country and was told to go to every one. But if you accepted too many drinks you were accused of being a drunken sot. If you had just one or two, it was said I was a snooty-nosed bastard. So, I stopped going to them."

He was equally sensitive and caring about his newspaper art.

"Some artists, for instance, recently did cartoons on the Sadat affair. I don't find that amusing. There's enough tragedy in the world."

But the Two Types live on in his memory — and Jon has 44 of his originals for sale.

"I would like a philanthropist to come along and buy them. But I don't want them to go to America. I want them to stay here. They belong here."

A sentiment, without doubt, that the late Field-Marshal the Right Honourable Earl Alexander of Tunis would surely have endorsed as he affirmed in the forward to a compendium of Jon's cartoons a few years ago: "These cartoons were not only exceedingly comical and amusing but were so true to the life and times of those days."

"The Two Types personified a type which was very true — and with all their absurd appearance, they were grand fellows who bore the heat and burden of the day and gave us victory in the Western Desert. They deserve to be remembered and honoured."



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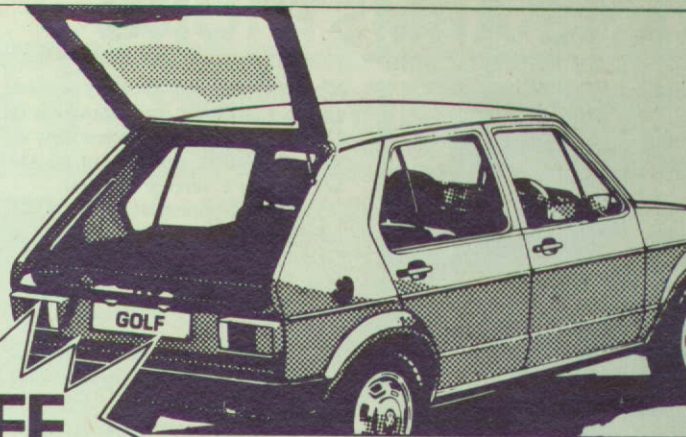
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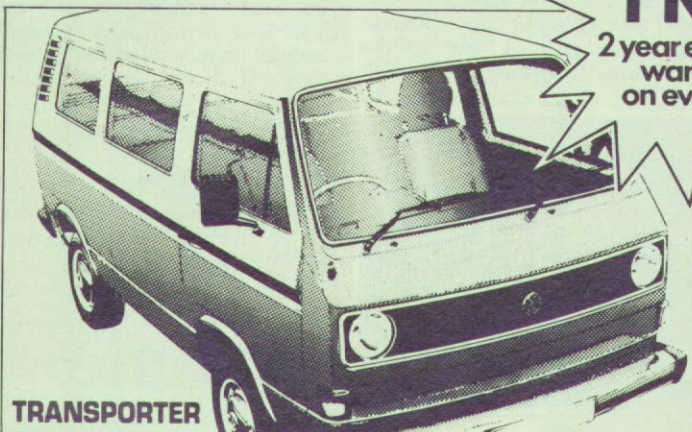
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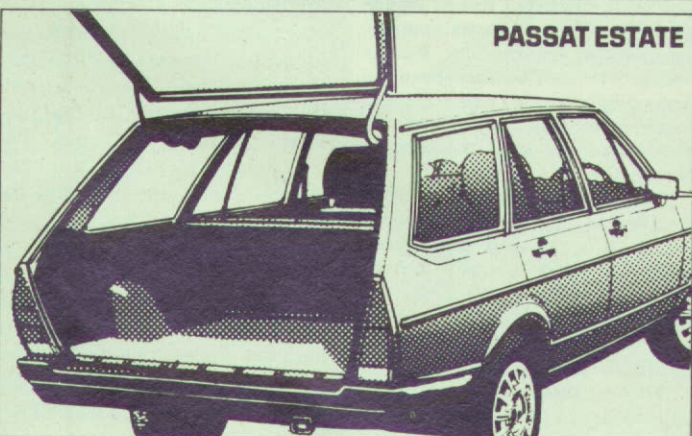


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THE BLOOD-RED POPPIES of remembrance and a photograph of a now-derelict paddle steamer which had once brought home survivors from Dunkirk have prompted some reflections on our heritage and on the part those brave soldiers of yesterday have played in the building of today.

The Garrison Church in Rheindahlen was packed for the Remembrance Day service as the padre rose to deliver his sermon. "The reasons for this yearly act of remembrance are still as great today and yet there are people who would have us cast it aside like some village pop festival which has gone out of fashion.

"Can we dare throw aside our national heritage and tradition without a thought of the sacrifices that gave them birth?" he asked.

A few weeks ago I accompanied my father to a reunion of the old East Surrey Regiment. The reunions were started in 1976 by John Bedford, an old soldier himself, to bring together men from the East Surrey Regiment who had served their country. They come from all over UK, as well as some from Jersey and Canada, in a wonderful spirit of comradeship to recall and reminisce, reminding each other of the bravery, the horror and the necessary laughter even of those dreadful years.

Every year there are fewer old soldiers to continue the traditions and keep the past alive with their memories and stories of battles lost and won and lives wasted in war.

Those who prefer to throw aside our heritage rather than stand up for our country will betray the sacrifices of those who have gone before. We who follow the Army can hold our heads high for our men are prepared to stand up and maintain the traditions of their forebears.

*"If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner
of a foreign field
That is for ever England."*
Rupert Brooke.

Anne Armstrong

My husband has recently undergone a vasectomy operation here in Germany. He paid for it privately as it could not be carried out by the Services in a Service hospital.

Could you please let me know the ruling on this as it affects us here in Germany?

Mrs M
Germany

The Medical Officer at HQ BAOR replies on the general policy regarding vasectomy:

"Vasectomy is carried out in Service hospitals in accordance with the National Health Service (Family Planning) Amendment Act 1972. The Act lays down no minimum age but, in the Army, because of the nature of the operation, special care is taken when considering the operation for those under 30 years of age.

"The prime purpose of our Medical Services is to maintain the health of our soldiers and dependants and to treat patients suffering from illness, disease and traumatic conditions. If for any reason the staffing or facilities of our hospitals become stretched, the treatment of our soldiers suffering from illness, disease and traumatic conditions must and will take precedence over purely social operations until such time as facilities and staff are able to cope with the extra demands of these procedures.

"It is stressed that vasectomy will always be carried out if there is a pressing and genuine medical or genetic reason.

"It is of interest to note that some 450 vasectomies were carried out in BAOR in 1980 — about one in 20 of the population and a figure considerably higher than achieved in National Health Service Family Planning Clinics were a total of 15,696 were carried out in 1979 (British Medical Journal 1981 283:318) about one in 4000 of the population. It is for this reason that private practice and the Charitable Trusts flourish in UK.

"As in the DHSS, should a Serviceman feel he cannot wait, it is recognised that he is his own free agent with regard to obtaining vasectomy privately (Simon's Trust, etc.) in his own time and at his own expense as Service funds are not available."

Please send me any information on The Pre-School Child Open University course. I read your article in Soldier News and am very

interested in taking this course.

Mrs M
BFPO 36

The address for details of the Open University course is Open University, PO Box 76, Milton Keynes MK7 6AN.

And now, clarification on the question of the Nationality Bill and Service families from the Ministry of Defence, following letters in SOLDIER, 2-15 Nov issue.

'On the subject of categories such as "British/English" or "British/Scots", there is a note on the enlistment form concerned which

ASK ANNE

states "If you are a British citizen born in a Commonwealth country, indicate the country, e.g. British/Malta, etc.". This has been an Army administrative and statistical requirement for many years and nothing to do with the current Nationality Bill.

'Since West Germany is not a member of the British Commonwealth, it is obviously incorrect to make an entry stating "British/German" and in such cases the prospective recruit should state the UK category of his father i.e. "British/English".

'Turning now to the subject of nationality. Your correspondent has, I regret, misunderstood the provisions of the Bill. Unless both she and her husband are not British, their children are certainly not second class citizens because they were born overseas. A child born overseas will be a British citizen by descent if at least one parent was, at the time of his birth, a British citizen by birth, i.e. born in UK or overseas to certain Crown servants (with whom I deal in the next paragraph).

DID YOU KNOW?

IF YOU ARE thinking of giving your child a bicycle this Christmas, make sure that you have the added protection of the cycle coding scheme.

Thousands of cycles are stolen each year and, even if the police manage to recover those that are taken, it is almost impossible to trace the owners.

But with cycle coding this can be done. Dealers who display a coded cycle sticker will stamp your postcode and your house number on the frame of your bike so that it can be identified. You also get a free sticker to deter would-be thieves.

WARNING: In UK in 1978 a total of 98 under-14s died on bicycles and a staggering 8639 were injured. Make sure YOUR child knows his road safety code. Be safe not sorry.

'The only disadvantage which a British citizen by descent will meet concerns the nationality of his/her children in certain circumstances. If he/she marries another British citizen by descent, or a foreigner, and their children are born overseas, then those children will not be British. To meet our objections to this provision a further exception was added to the Bill while it was before Parliament. This provides that a child born outside the UK will be British by birth if at least one parent is a British citizen and is a UK Crown servant recruited in the UK. The term "Crown servant" includes members of the Armed Forces.'

MOD's IYDP scheme

AWARDS OF UP to £100 and certificates of commendation may be made for bright ideas and suggestions as part of the Ministry of Defence's Special Suggestion Scheme for the International Year of Disabled People. The scheme has already been launched and will run until the end of the year.

The scheme is open to all Service and civilian personnel within the MOD and covers suggestions and ideas for improving the employment opportunities, facilities and working environment for disabled people in the Department.

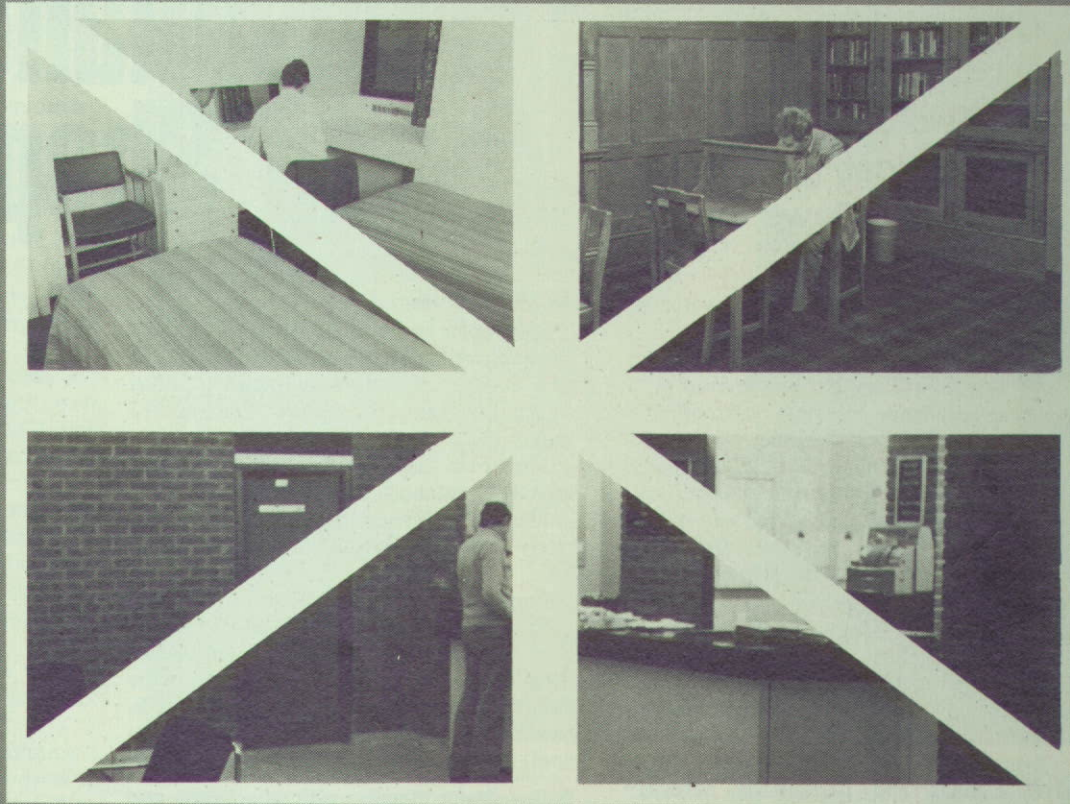
Proposals may include, for example, ways of improving facilities and amenities, modifications to equipment, furniture and tools or novel ways of improving access to working and recreation areas. Any disability may be included.

All entries must reach CM(S)3 Policy Co-ord by 31 December 1981. They may be submitted through normal line management channels or direct to IYDP Special Suggestions Scheme, CM(S)3 Policy Co-ord b, Room 324, Adelphi, John Adam Street, London WC2N 6BB. So hurry with your suggestions as time is running out.

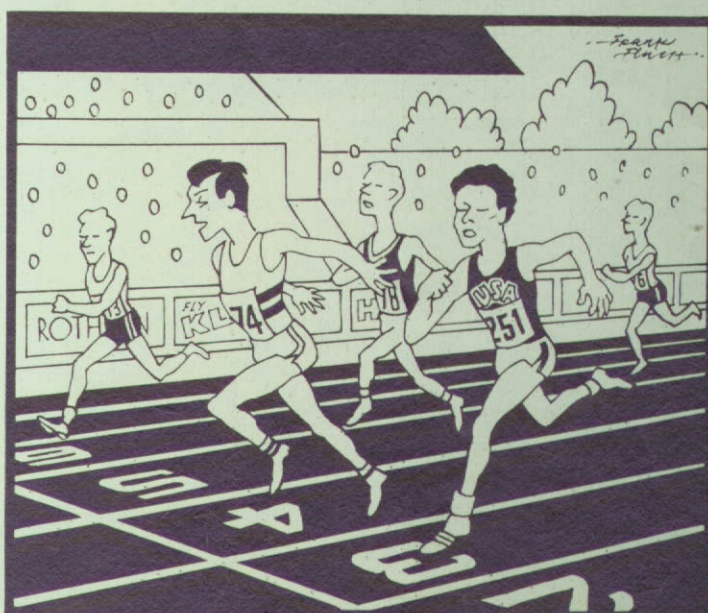
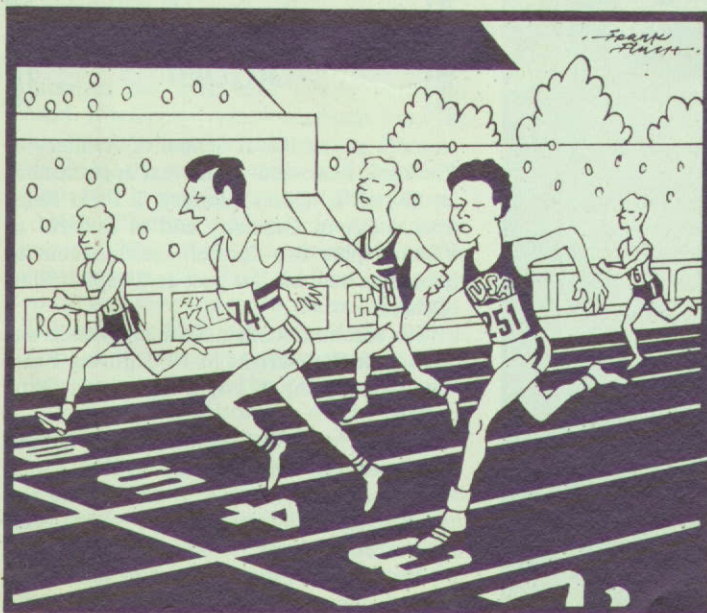
For further details and rules of the scheme, see DCI Army J206/81

If you have relatives in UK who are elderly or receiving Supplementary Benefit, remember to tell them about the DHSS leaflet SB 17/Nov 81 *Help with heating costs* and keep them warm this winter.

Corporal Hugh Mitchell and his wife, Lisbeth spent a week of their honeymoon in London staying at The Union Jack Club. They were full of praise and enthusiasm for the comfort and facilities it has to offer.



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



Exchange postings between Britain and Canada enable members of both countries to widen their horizons — and not just from a military point of view. Two officers from opposite sides gave Graham Smith their views on the . . .

Transatlantic Swap Shop

NO STRANGER to Canada — it is his third detachment there — Army golf champion Major Nick Fleming of the Royal Artillery has just arrived on a two-year exchange posting at the 427-square-mile Combat Training Centre at Gagetown, New Brunswick. And he is very impressed with everything about the contrasting professional and social way of life some 3000 miles away from Salisbury Plain.

His wife, Sandy, is equally impressed. She was able to find two pairs of Double-A fitting shoes almost immediately on arrival at the vast Canadian Forces Base. I used to take hours of foot-slogging round the cathedral city shops of Salisbury to achieve the same objective!

Even their three-year-old daughter, Katie, loves Canada and particularly Saturday mornings. That's when they beam three hours of non-stop cartoon capers courtesy of

the local TV station.

Scots-born Major Fleming, 41, is one of four exchange personnel at Gagetown out of a total of 52 such reciprocal British postings within the Army throughout Canada's 12 provinces.

The base encompasses three military schools — infantry, armour and artillery — unlike the UK where they are located separately at Warminster, Bovington and Larkhill.

Commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1961 and a former helicopter pilot of nearly 1000 hours on the Scout and Sioux, Major Fleming was an Air Troop commander in the Far East, saw service with an ANZUK (Australia, New Zealand and United Kingdom) Field Regiment in Singapore and com-

Below: Major Fleming with wife Sandy and daughter Katie and (right) on his way to victory in the Army Golf Championships.



peted with eight other officers for his latest Canadian tour having satisfied all the requirements regarding availability and qualifications.

These latter included gunnery staff

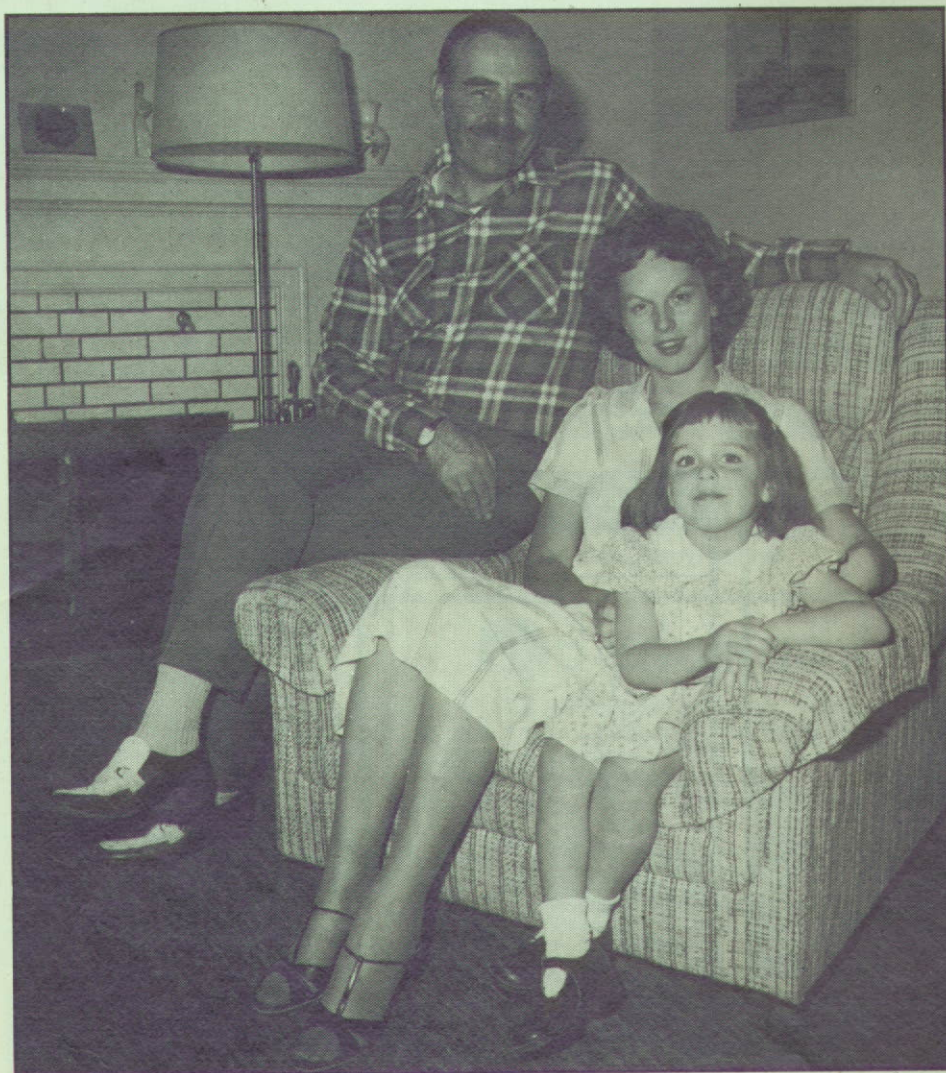
'Everything out here is so much bigger'

courses at the Royal School of Artillery at Larkhill, a two-and-a-half-year appointment as OC of 'L' (Nery) Battery, 2 Field Regiment, RA in Germany and at Suffield in Canada plus two further Larkhill courses where he held his last post as Weapons Staff Officer.

His second Canadian field experience was gained at Wainwright in 1971 during Exercise Pond Jump West, a regimental firing camp.

Part of his CFB Gagetown duties include instructing in field gunnery on the 155mm M.109 and M.105mm C.I. In the next two years, Major Fleming reckons he will teach some 250 students.

He also runs Forward Observation Officer and Command Post Assistant courses and is



the adviser on UK aspects of locating and air defence artillery coupled with commanding officers' practice camps.

"Everything out here is so much bigger compared with a UK unit," said Major Fleming. "At Larkhill, for instance, you are through it in the space of half-a-mile. From my office here it's 2000 metres to the main gate by which time you have passed the Combat Training Centre HQ and three support units."

"Facilities here are quite extraordinary from a family point of view. There is every form of recreational activity. Archery, curling, ice hockey, soccer, rugby, basketball — and golf."

Major Fleming is a reigning three-time champion in golf, playing 'off three'. He is the British Army match play champion, Wiltshire County champion and the Royal Artillery champion.

"They have a much tighter system out here," he explained. "You must play to your handicap at all times. At home in the UK you can turn in just the occasional good score and still keep your handicap."

The list of extra-mural activities available at Gagetown is wide. There are evening classes for woodwork, car repair, small-bore rifle shooting, Highland and square dancing, guiding, scouting, cross-country skiing and even scuba diving.

Major Fleming plans to brush up his French while serving in the bi-lingual province.

"I have 'O'-level French and I'm finding it very useful. My wife plans to go to evening classes for French and for sewing, too," he said. "She also is going to teach seven-year-olds at the Sunday School while daughter Katie will be going to pre-school art and music classes."

A dedicated Scotsman — he is a member of a sept of the Clan Murray — Major Fleming still gets the chance to play the practice chanter and tunes like *The Scottish Soldier* and *The Earl of Mansfield*.

But prudently he left his bagpipes back in the UK because of the climatic extremes in Canada and the effects of central heating on the delicate instrument.

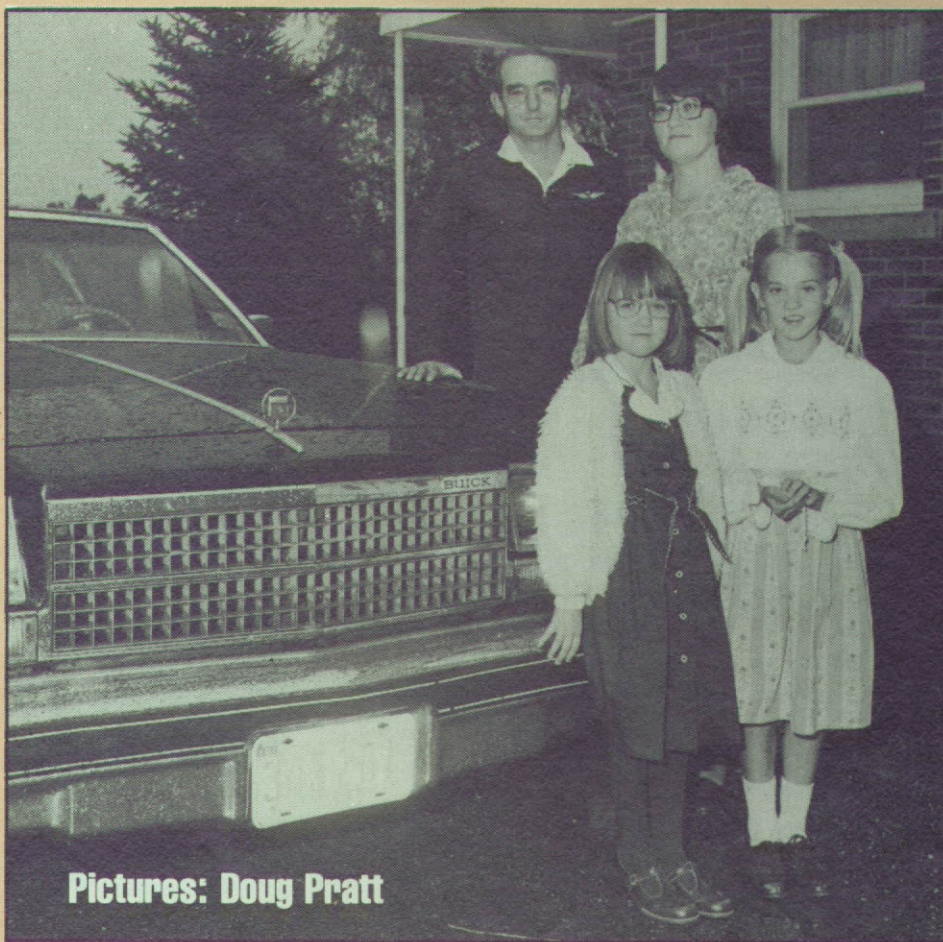
Like her husband, Mrs Fleming (nee Mackenzie) is also Scots-born — from Edinburgh — and has learned to drive, with ease, their eight-cylindered, power-steered, family 'limo'. She has also quickly adjusted to her new surroundings which she describes as "a marked change for us".

"We had our own little house in a Wiltshire village and we have suddenly found ourselves out here with luxury items on hand. It really is a complete change from the fairly quite village life of Chitterne. The people here are very friendly and genuinely interested in people from the old country."

Major Fleming is delighted with his latest posting: "One of the nice things about this attachment is that the Canadians encourage you to visit their country while on duty visits. The military here, too, regard the British Army as the acme of perfection and a lot of their teaching is based on UK procedures."

"I like the Canadians very much. They are such nice people and I'm glad to be over here."

He does, though, have one reservation: "I miss being abreast of events in the UK. I like reading newspapers and I'm interested in politics but one gets the newspapers out here a week or two later when the impact of the news has lessened."



Pictures: Doug Pratt

ANOTHER GOLFER — his handicap is 11 — and a former Canadian exchange officer is Major Gary Leef, 38, serving at Gagetown and just back from two-and-a-half "delightful and tremendous" years at the Staff College, Camberley and the School of Infantry, Warminster.

Now S02 Infantry in the Tactical and Development Division at the base's Combat Training Centre HQ, Major Leef said: "Being in England was thoroughly delightful for my family and I. We loved everything

'Being in England was thoroughly delightful'

about it. The people, especially those I worked with professionally, I found to be very co-operative and my superiors accorded me a degree of trust and responsibility which I certainly appreciated. The officers I worked with knew what they were doing and why they were doing it. Like any other exchange scheme you tend to learn from each other.

"I was absolutely delighted when I learned I was going to England. I had always wanted to go to the Army Staff College. At Warminster (he was GSO2 Training) I was getting experience of a greater range of staff work and dealing with more HQs and senior officers. I had not been exposed to that sort of thing before."

"My present job is just adding to that realm of staff work though it is entirely different. In England I was on the staff in the purest sense of the word. Here, I've got instructional experience as well."

Although pressures of work prevented Major Leef from visiting a British infantry unit, he and his family did manage to 'bed and breakfast' their way around the UK

Major Leef with wife Cyndy, daughters Megan and Christy-Anne and family run-about.

including Wales and, inevitably, Scotland. His mother is a Scot.

He also spent some time in Kent "mostly swinging at golf balls".

His wife and two daughters all became firm anglophiles, too.

Mrs Cyndy Leef said: "I loved it. I met lots of different people, including others from overseas, especially at the Staff College which, for me, was a year unto itself. At Warminster I first lived out of quarters which was alien to me. Then we moved into the 'married patch' and it was tremendous."

"I would go back to England tomorrow but I would never live there forever. It's a very different way of life but we are planning to go back for holidays. England taught me about some of the finer things in life. I think I grew up there."

Elder daughter Megan, 8, observed: "I thought England was nice. I loved my schools. I liked my swimming, my ballet and the Brownies." And six-year-old sister Christy-Anne echoed: "I liked my schools too. And I liked all the trees and the colour of the leaves on them."

Now readjusting to life back on his native soil, Major Leef admitted he was 'not looking forward to the snow.'

"In England I could play golf 12 months a year. I had joined a local club. I was a golf nut."

He is also a keen SOLDIER reader.

"I think it's a super magazine. I enjoy it. There are lots of things which I find interesting, like military music and the 'How Observant Are You?' I particularly like to read about what your British soldiers are doing on exercises in Canada like Waterleap or the Pond Jump series and learning what they are saying about their training."

The Royal Army Ordnance Corps had special cause to celebrate this year's Lord Mayor's Procession. Ann Beecham watched them prepare for a

CAPITAL SHOW



THE TOWER OF LONDON without ravens would be as unthinkable as the Rock of Gibraltar without the apes and when the Royal Army Ordnance Corps Tower of London float took to the streets for the Lord Mayor's Procession, it needed a stuffed raven to complete the picture.

Even for the suppliers *extraordinaire* to the British Army this was a tall order, but the Nottingham Natural History Museum eventually came up trumps and the raven arrived in plenty of time for the great day.

The Lord Mayor's Show always lights up London's streets and the Army was heavily and colourfully represented in the procession as Mr Alderman Christopher Leaver's carriage swept him into office on a crisp November morning.

'Transport' was the theme this year and the Royal Corps of Transport paraded a fascinating array of vehicles ancient and modern.

But for the RAOC there was a special pride in taking part. It was 25 years ago that No 450928 Leaver C, Second Lieutenant, was commissioned into the Royal Army Ordnance Corps during his National Service. He particularly asked that his old corps should be represented in the procession and the RAOC contribution included a marching detachment, the staff band and the two floats, of which the Tower of London was one.

The floats were built at COD Bicester and were designed to illustrate both the historical and the contemporary role of the RAOC. There have been links with the Tower of London since the early 1400s and the first Master of Ordnance operated from there. Even today one of the Deputy Governors at the Tower is traditionally a serving RAOC officer and the float boasted a genuine Beefeater, 'Pop' Davis an ex-RAOC warrant officer.

The other float included an ammunition technician complete with the famed bomb-disposal 'wheelbarrow' as well as showing the modern technology behind supply and communications in today's Army.

Preparations began several weeks before the Procession day and perhaps the most thankless training fell to the squad of some 85 men taken from the Apprentices' College

and the Training Battalion and Depot, out of which the 13 ranks of six were eventually chosen. Under the relentless eye and lashing tongue of Company Sergeant Major Dusty Miller of the Training Company, the squad pounded the drill square for two hours every morning for six weeks.

Major Keith Fisher led the detachment on the procession. He is himself a Freeman of the City of London by patrimony and the family honour which originated from his grandfather made the occasion a particularly personal one for him.

Just before the procession set off he explained some of the problems that faced the marching detachment on the London streets.

"We will be marching in sixes so the dressing will be more difficult and the crowds on either side as we march will exacerbate the problem. We have also had to practice going either side of the traffic islands. Some of them will be taken out — but we don't know where!"

Much of the preliminary planning for the march had been done with models and scale plans of the route but there had also been early Sunday morning 'recces' to familiarise the men with the streets.

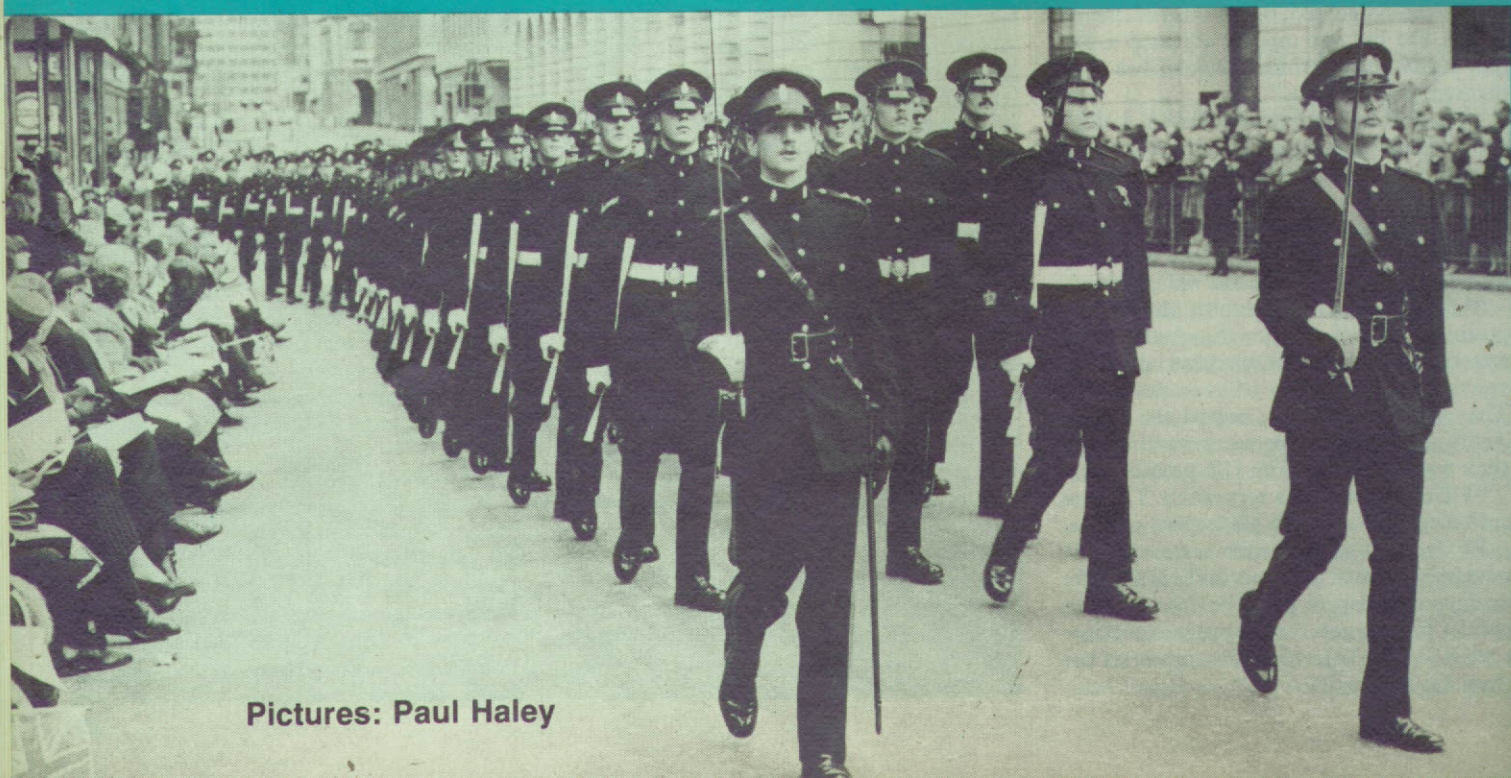
Major Fisher added: "One particularly complicated manoeuvre is getting from six ranks to three on the march as we come up Queen Victoria Street. We shall be coming up blind to the Mansion House in sixes and by the time we come up in front of the Mansion House itself we have to be in threes."

The detachment marched the route in front of the Lord Mayor's coach and were then required to form a guard of honour outside the Mansion House as the Lord Mayor returned after lunch, which they did with an excellence of which even CSM Miller must have been proud.

In honour of the occasion, the men wore blues. This meant a lot of work for the tailors shop at Blackdown with numerous fittings and alterations to the uniforms. The trousers had to be re-striped with a double red stripe down the leg and the epaulettes had to be trimmed with red too.

The Corps had also been granted a dispensation to march through the streets with

Lord Mayor inspects the Guard of Honour.
Marching past the Mansion House.



Pictures: Paul Haley



Words of 'encouragement' from CSM Dusty Miller. ▲

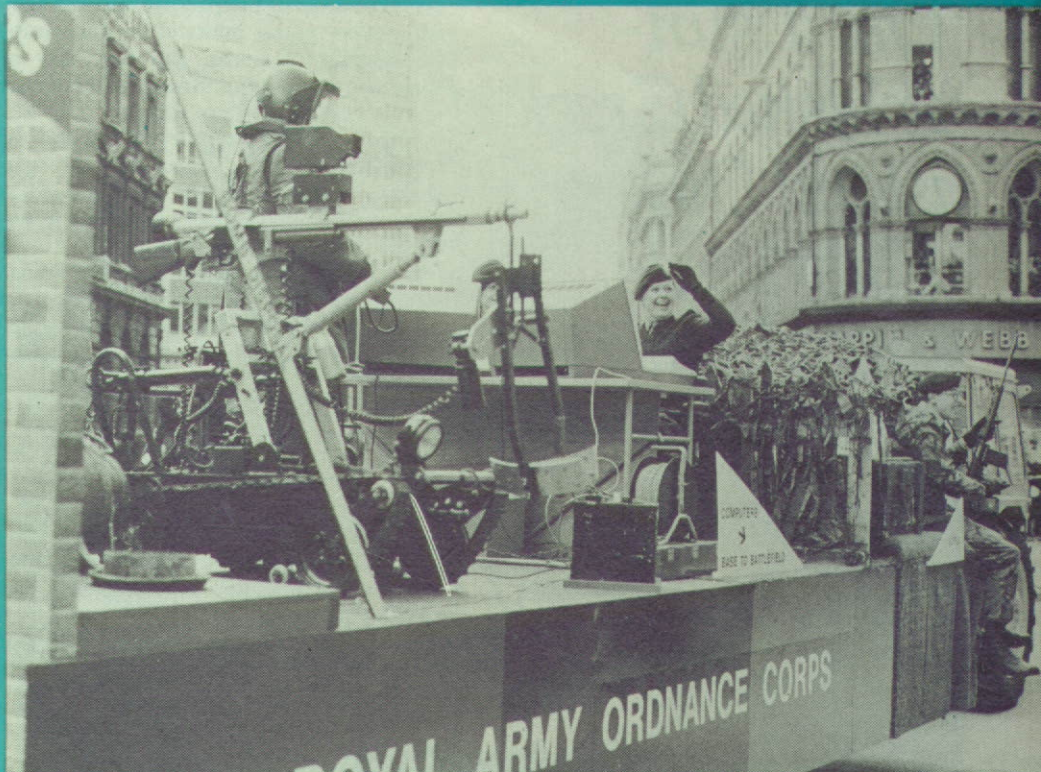
drums beating and bayonets fixed, an honour usually only accorded to regiments with the Freedom of the City.

Naturally the band came too — as Captain Rodney Parker and 38 members of the RAOC staff band provided their share of the music for the occasion. "We shall be doing the normal standard military marches as well as tunes that capture the City of London theme," said Captain Parker. "Obviously the Corps marches will be played where there are salutes."

The staff band was also booked to play for the 750 guests at the Lord Mayor's Banquet at the Guildhall. "It's quite an honour to be asked to do that," said Captain Parker.

The RAOC support role got a big hand from the crowds, many of whom were no

Ann Jones, one of Blackdown's lady tailors, measures Apprentice Sergeant Andy Spinks. ▼



Contemporary float with 'wheelbarrow'. ▲

Captain Parker takes the band in rehearsals. ▶

doubt surprised to see 10 Ordnance Support Battalion from Devizes demonstrating their skill as bakers. And the static display opposite St Paul's attracted a lot of attention.

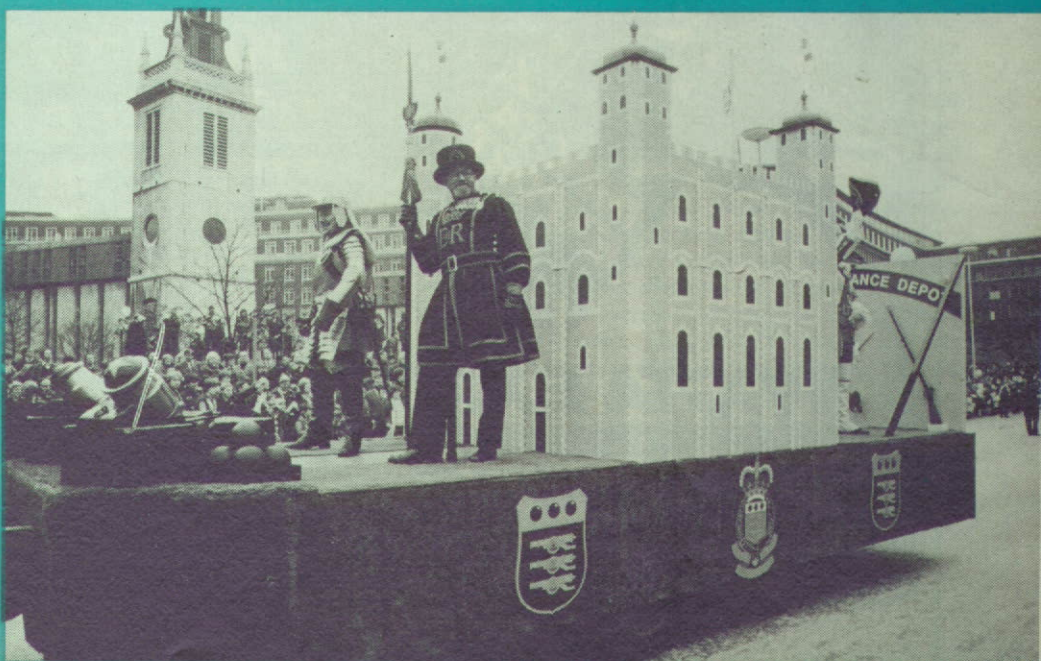
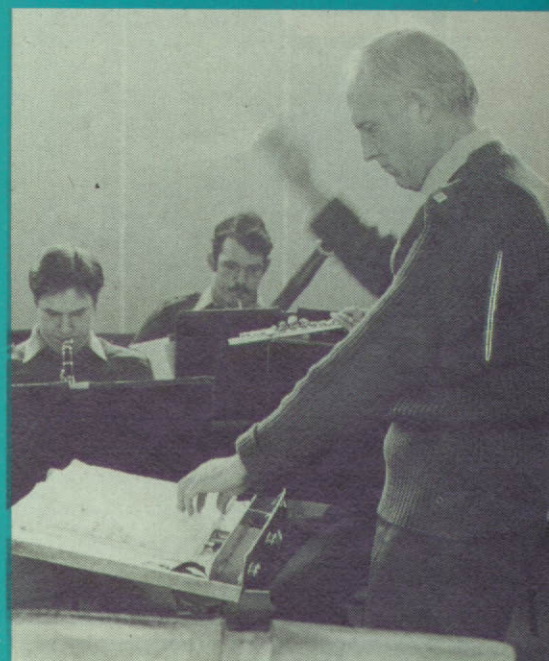
"Everything went very, very well" he said. "We had a super time, the weather was fantastic and the atmosphere was something else!"

"The people loved the band, especially when they played the Lambeth Walk and Knees Up Mother Brown — they were joining in along the way."

"The marching went exceptionally well and a lot of people were very impressed by our manoeuvre and wanted to know whereabouts in the drill book it was!"

He added that the reception afterwards had been marvellous and that the new Lord Mayor had been delighted with the performance given by his old Corps. ■

Beefeater 'Pop' Davis guards The Tower. ▼



On a sun-splashed Greek island Dick Elley sheds some light on a little bit of British military history

IN THE AGE of the package holiday, British tourists by the thousand are discovering the delights of Corfu. But they may be surprised to learn that British soldiers were there a long time before them.

For nearly half a century, Corfu and the other islands in the Ionian Sea were garrisoned by British troops and regarded as "one of the pleasantest stations in the service", according to one historian.

Britain took the islands from the French at the end of the Napoleonic wars, and stayed until 1863, when they were handed over to a new King of Greece. The garrison

easy to picture redcoats at home in the great citadel known as the Paleo Frourio. This fortress is built on a headland separated from Corfu Town by an artificial ditch, and its barrack-blocks are reminiscent of 19th-century barracks in Britain.

Most of the fortress is derelict, but a gleaming exception is a building on the side of the headland which stands out brightly, looked at from the mainland. It is the Church of St George, built originally as an Anglican chapel, reconsecrated to the Greek Church when the garrison left, and rebuilt after World War Two.

CORFU MEMORIES

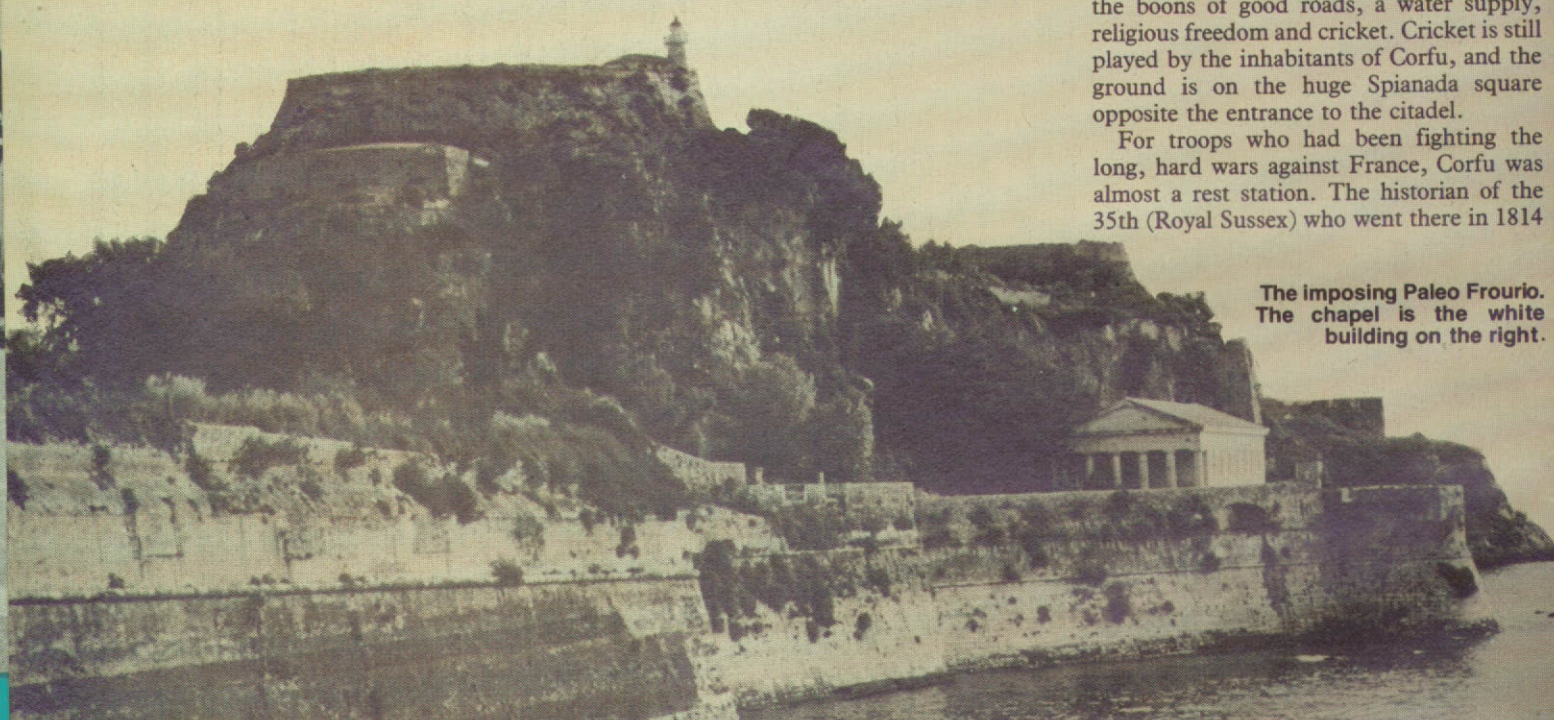
seems usually to have consisted of four regiments of infantry, with engineers and garrison artillery.

There are not now many obvious signs of the former British Army presence, but it is

Tourists tramp freely over most of Paleo Frourio and on summer nights go to what looks like an old parade ground for a dancing display and a *son-et-lumière* show. They learn that the British are remembered for the boons of good roads, a water supply, religious freedom and cricket. Cricket is still played by the inhabitants of Corfu, and the ground is on the huge Spianada square opposite the entrance to the citadel.

For troops who had been fighting the long, hard wars against France, Corfu was almost a rest station. The historian of the 35th (Royal Sussex) who went there in 1814

The imposing Paleo Frourio. The chapel is the white building on the right.



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says their stay "must have seemed like halcyon days when considered in retrospect".

The men were joined by their families and their children soon learned to speak Italian (Corfu had been ruled by Venice for centuries before Napoleon). The regimental band took part in religious processions of the Greek Church and "two files of men might generally be seen each carrying in his hand a lighted taper and fulfilling his part with great propriety".

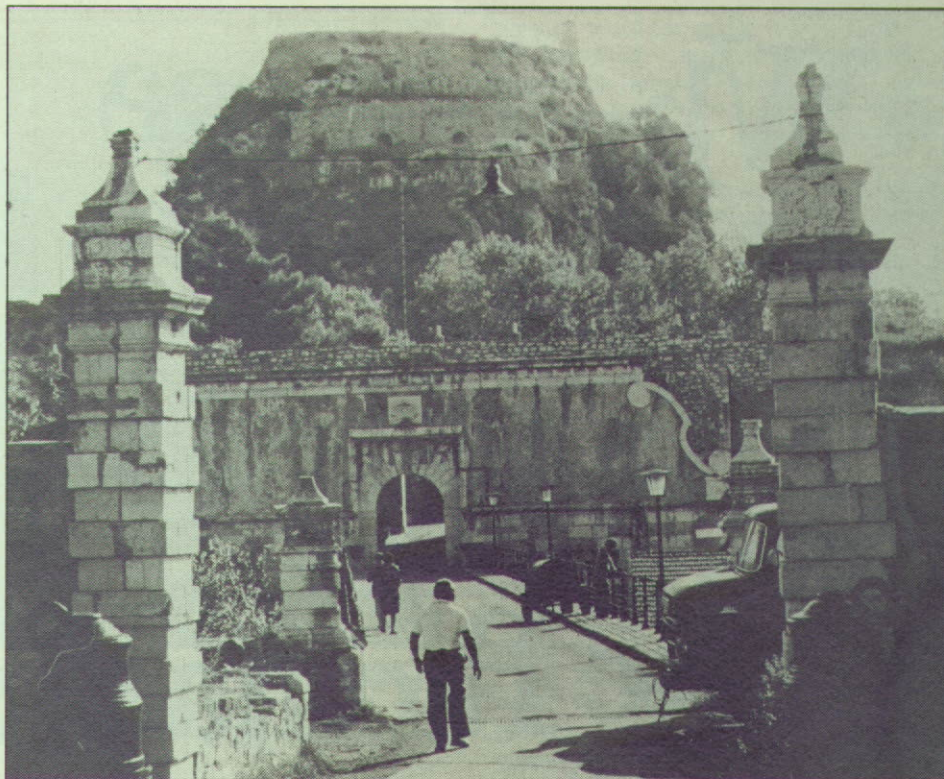
One of the first tasks of the garrison was to disarm the inhabitants, "for the degenerate Ionians were quick-tempered and pistols and daggers were in frequent use", according to the historian of the 5th (Northumberland Fusiliers). His regiment was called on to restore peace "when a zealous American Mission aroused the jealousy of the Greek Church". In that incident, one soldier died of a stab wound and others were hurt.

Corfu gets pretty hot in summer, and the garrison did not normally work between eight in the morning and five in the afternoon. Troops in the citadel had their high, cool barracks, and two companies on Vido Island, the guns of which defended the port, were also well accommodated.

Two other companies on Vido, however, had no building to shield them from the sun. These were marched to "a long shady passage" because their tents were "insufferably hot", says the record of the 4th (King's Own).

Inevitably, the garrison left behind its dead. They lie in the British cemetery which, though not an obvious tourist attraction, is a well-kept and surprisingly beautiful oasis of peace in Corfu Town. The oldest recorded soldier there was 'R Reid, Corporal Pensioner, Royal Artillery', who lived to be 72.

On the other hand, 'William Cumine, Esq.', a subaltern of the 10th, was only 25.



Entrance to the Paleo Frourio. ▲

Cricket on the Spianada in Corfu Town. ▼



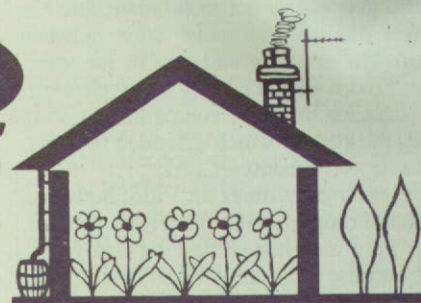
He shares a memorial with his colonel (who had lost an arm at Badajos) and Mr Cumine's "Brother officers thus record and lament the untimely fate of so amiable a companion".

Only a year older was the Hon Charles Gustavus Monckton, captain in the 88th (Connaught Rangers) who "died by the hand of an assassin" on 8th August 1831. To him, "This monument is erected by the non-commissioned officers and private soldiers of the Regiment in testimony of their respect and regard for this most lamented young officer... The feeling of grief and indignation strongly and universally expressed by the Regiment was only moderated on witnessing the prompt punishment of the murderer, Private James Clarke, who was executed on the 11th August 1831".

Last to leave Corfu were the 4th (King's Own), after dismantling defences they and their predecessors had put up, though not at the citadel. Their history smugly records, "A number of English soldiers who wished to remain deserted to Greece, though no such cases are reported in the King's Own".

◀ Studying gravestones in garrison cemetery.

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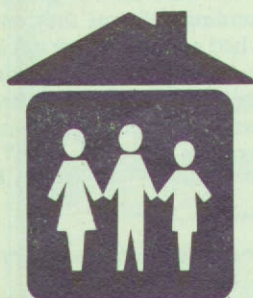
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SOLDIERS ALL AT SEA

THE NAVY'S NEW super-ship *HMS Leeds Castle*, a de luxe fishery protection vessel, spent November operating in the North Sea with a highly trained crew... and some of them were soldiers!

The khaki sailors were men of the 1st Battalion the Queen's Regiment from Canterbury who worked alongside the ship's permanent crew during a series of trials and exercises.

"The soldiers were doing exactly the same jobs as the sailors on board", said the ship's Captain, Lieutenant Commander Peter Melson, "and doing them very well."

"The aim is to promote links between the Services, so that each can have a better understanding of the other's problems".

The Queen's Regiment recruits from the area in Kent in which Leeds Castle is situated, and the ship's crew had the idea of



The graceful lines of *HMS Leeds Castle*.

forging a link with soldiers from that area. The sailors hope next year to spend some time in the Army.

Some 18 Queensmen braved the choppy conditions of the North Sea and none were seasick.

HMS Leeds Castle is the Navy's newest ship, the first of a new class of off-shore patrol vessels for fishery protection and oil rig surveillance duties. She is 266 feet long, displaces 1350 tons, is capable of landing and refuelling a Sea King helicopter — and has a computer-assisted navigation system for tracking fishing boats.

During November she was operating from the Rosyth Naval Base and from Hall Russell's in Aberdeen, where she was built. It was a month of testing and trying out the ship's equipment, including an inflatable ultra high speed launch which can power its way through the waves at over 40 knots.

The verdict of the soldiers was that it was all great fun... though occasionally wet and nearly always cold! But no such complaints are anticipated from two other soldier-sailors, Gunner Brian Tait and Gunner Lawrence Yeates both serving with Chestnut Troop of 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery at Topcliffe near Thirsk.

They have just left a British winter behind them to spend six months with the Royal

Navy on board the guided missile destroyer *HMS Sheffield* — a trip that will take them through the waters of the Atlantic, Mediterranean, Suez Canal, and Indian Ocean calling at such places as Gibraltar, Muscat and Mombasa.

The Chestnut Troop recruits many of its soldiers from Sheffield and the ship has been 'adopted' by the town.

To strengthen the common link, exchange visits have taken place between soldiers and sailors over several years including eight of the *HMS Sheffield* crew spending 17 days with the troop on an exercise in Germany.

But the latest invitation topped them all.

Said Major Roger Fielding, Officer Commanding the troop: "There was a rush of volunteers but we selected two who had finished their current courses and had a gap before going on for further training."

"We are the envy of the Regiment" said Brian, who joined the Army four years ago and is now a driver signaller with the troop.

Said Lawrence, a former Sheffield steel worker who joined the Army in 1977: "It's the trip of a lifetime for both of us... imagine all that sunshine in the middle of winter."

On board *HMS Sheffield* the two bachelor soldiers will help with the everyday running of the ship and go ashore at ports of call.

A Royal Navy spokesman said: "It will be good to have them on board. We'll make sailors out of them yet!"



Pte Paul Stewart at the *Leeds Castle* wheel.

Gunners Tait and Yeates before their trip on *HMS Sheffield*. The beard was a temporary measure — not a mark of defection to the Navy!



Some of the Queensmen at Rosyth. ▲



Village Garage

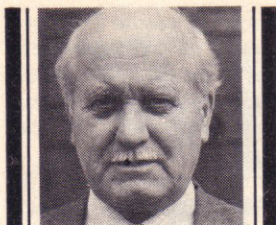
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On the Record with Rodney Bashford

Edinburgh Military Tattoo 1981

Director of Music: Major D R Beat, Scots Guards; Producer: Lt Col Leslie Dow. Waverley TC GLN 1026

As far as reviews are concerned it is tattoo-time again. Just as tattoo producers lose hair and gain ulcers worrying for a whole year what's new for next year, so do reviewers of tattoo records. What's new to be said? We need not worry, for thank God we are preaching to the converted. Tattoo audiences are a race apart, perhaps ninety percent of them knowing beforehand exactly what they are going to get but willing to be swept along in the clatter, bang, swirl, and sheer gusto of soldiers working to well-trying and proven formulae. It never fails, even to old sodgers like me, provided the arena is a square inch too small for the action; one square inch too large and all is lost. Like a dance floor.

Edinburgh, with its fantasy backdrop and sloping postage-stamp of an arena, concentrates the mind beautifully and allows of no loose ends, bands disappearing from sight and sound over acres of turf, and that loneliness of the long-distance viewer.

A gramophone record can do the

same for you, and with a modicum of imagination and some help from a not-too-voluble commentator, a tattoo can be brought to your fireside. Techniques for doing so are improving all the time, and this disc is a fine example of the possibilities of transforming mainly visual delights into sound — massed pipe bands, military bands, a short history in music of the Scots Guards, and Canadiana (a portrait in music and dance).

The Royal Tournament 1981

Director of Music: Lt Col J R Mason RM; Producer: Major M J Parker. EMI NTS 224

Earls Court arena is certainly a mind-concentrator, and on disc imparts an immediacy which is almost capable of providing pictorial back-up for the sounds you hear. Especially when the Royal Marines are around. Their marching sound is unique in its vitality, the music they play often inspired in its choice. How many people would think of slow marching to the slow movement of a guitar concerto? This is exactly what they do most effectively to Rodrigo's *Concerto de Aranjuez* during a marching display which also includes a fine Ray Woodfield arrangement of *Cavalry of the Steppes*. A dashing

fanfare called *The Seven Seas* leads to the Queen's Colour Squadron of the RAF doing their slick memory-test and adding point to the music with butt-slaps and other highly appropriate sounds. A medley of *Sea Shanties*, the ever-to-be-remembered *Sailing*, and *Hey Look Me Over*, accompany the Royal Navy Display Team. Some fine playing also comes from the Marine Band of the Royal Netherlands Navy in a *Viterzny March*, *Fire on the Mountain*, and a *Caribbean Medley*.

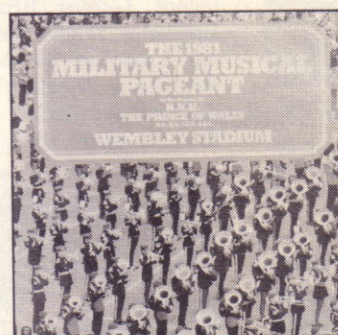
The hornpipe *Jack's the Lad*, with audience participation, and *See the Conquering Hero Comes* lead to Albert Elms's great fantasia *The Battle of Trafalgar*. I have reported on this



before so will merely advise that if you want the tattoo record to end all tattoo records this is it. Truly graphic in its presentation and performance and, more importantly, capable of suffering the repeated listening one expects of a record. Price £3.99.

The Military Musical Pageant 1981

Director of Music: Lt Col G E Evans; Director: Major A F Jackman; Producer: Major M J Parker. Parade Records PRD 2016/17



A tattoo in all but name this one is of course bigger than the rest, using 1800 musicians and supporting elements. Because it is the live performance the commentary does become obtrusive, announcing such passing delights as Pearly Queens, veteran Rolls-Royces, and the like which make no impact on the listener. But again imagination can do wonders if you are one of the converted.

Some thrilling sounds and effects are achieved in spite of the problems of echo and distance. The music is everything in this particular show, and a series of fanfares on drum, bugle, and trumpet, climaxing with Laurie Johnson's great *Vivat Regina*,

set the scene wonderfully. The Household Division give their usual *London Pride* act, but this time including a peal of genuine bells in a *Royal Celebration* by Captain Roger Swift, a brainwave on the part of the producer and a triumph for the composer. The Canadian contingent of bands and pipes form a Maple Leaf design to national music, and the Massed Bands march and counter-march and play a static programme of *Procession of Nobles* and Tchaikovsky's *Capriccio Italien*, both works horribly mutilated where one whole one would have sufficed.

Quick Silver, the Light Division contribution, was its usual success with the crowd, marching at 160 odd paces a minute when 140 would allow of better playing, better marching, and incidentally conform to the drill manual. *Shamrock and Thistle* includes both Scottish and Canadian pipes and drums, and the Grand Finale as many musicians as have ever been seen in one place. 1812 is the evergreen set piece with, I suspect, a few fireworks which never found their way to the display for the Royal Couple in Hyde Park, and the said carillon of bells.

Two discs of as fine a show as the British experts in this field can provide, expertly recorded and available at £6.50 for album, disc or cassette.

Salute to Abba

Band of the Royal Corps of Transport; Conductor: Major T A Kenny. Parade Records PRD4 2015

Many will remember Jiggs Jaeger's record of Beatles tunes, with the Irish Guards Band playing the late and lamented Arthur Wilkinson's arrangements; especially of the marching version of *Michelle*. This disc does the same for the Swedish group Abba with arrangements of their hit tunes by various people led, one may presume, by Major Kenny.

Whereas the Beatles' tunes were capable of withstanding the shock treatment of 'symphonic' arrangement, very few of Abba's have that deathless quality essential to post-operative survival. The undertaker can be called in when the arrangement is better than the tune.

A good idea though to concentrate on one aspect of pop music. It gives the programme a theme and raison d'être which so many band records lack, even if there is not the marvellous homogeneity achieved by Wilkinson, Lennon and McCartney. For those of you who enjoy a military band doing what a band has to do these days, there are seventeen tunes including *Waterloo*, *Gimme Gimme Gimme*, *Dancing Queen*, and *Money Money Money* of course, all in attractive packaging and which would make a suitable Christmas present for teenagers who only hear dad's regimental band ompah-ing on parade.

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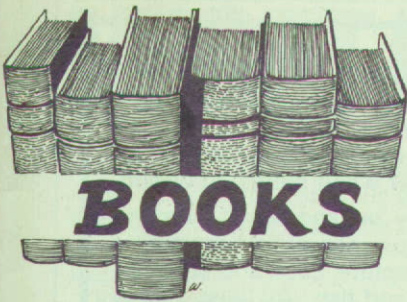
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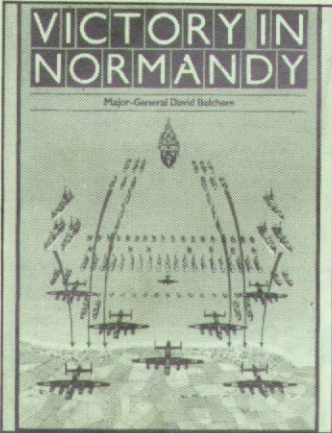
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BOOKS

Victory in Normandy: Major-General David Belchem

The sheer immensity of the operation, the detailed planning and the subterfuge involved in the Allied invasion of Hitler's Europe on 6 June 1944 unquestionably made it the greatest combined military operation in the history of warfare. It involved air, sea and land forces of Britain, the Commonwealth and the United States as well as units from France, Poland, Norway, the Netherlands and, of course, the fighters in the resistance movements of the Nazi-occupied countries of North-West Europe.



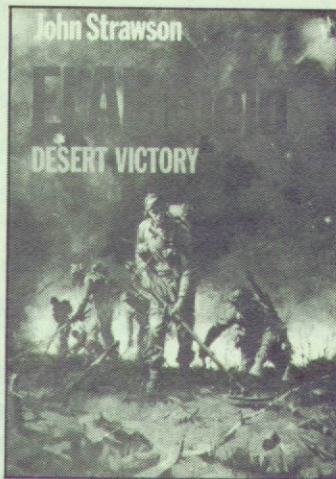
As head of Montgomery's Operations and Planning Staff David Belchem was closely involved in all the various stages of the planning and execution of the invasion and subsequent operations once the landings had been achieved and consolidated. In recounting the story of Operation Overlord from the formation of Monty's master plan to the eventual encirclement and destruction of the German Seventh Army in its suicidal counter-attack on Mortain hoping for a break-through to Avranches and the coast, he writes with the authority of a member of the innermost circle of planning officers.

The book is divided into seven parts which deal with every aspect of the invasion from the choice of the assault area and the dispositions of the German forces in France to the establishment and development of the all-important bridgehead and a concise round-up of the battle for Normandy. A final section is a mine of information for a visitor to the battle areas ranging from the location of military cemeteries to commemorative monuments and museums. Lucid in style and completely authoritative this is a World War Two book of the first water.

A word of praise too for the excellence of the photographs and for the clarity of the 40 or so maps which helpfully guide the reader through the complications of the offensive. Chatto & Windus, 40-42 William IV Street, London WC2N 4DF — £9.95 JFPJ

El Alamein: John Strawson

Much has been written on the battle of El Alamein and this latest book throws additional light on a great British victory which did so much to boost morale on the home front, foiled Rommel's attempt to break through to Cairo and confirmed Montgomery's confidence in himself as a general who could win battles. Alamein, however, was not a decisive war-winner like Waterloo. It was just a battle, albeit an important one, which the British won midway through the second World War. But together with the Allied landings in North-West Africa, which followed



soon after Alamein, it made possible the establishment of Allied control of the Mediterranean.

Major-General Strawson delves

into the background of the battle and analyses its various phases to produce a work of absorbing interest interlarded with reminiscences from British, German and Italian soldiers. His assessments of Monty, Rommel and other generals who played their part in the desert war are penetrating and pithy while detailed descriptions of the fighting and strategy all contribute to making this an extremely readable book.

J M Dent & Sons, Aldine House, 33 Welbeck Street, London W1M 8LX — £8.95 JFPJ

The PzKpfw V Panther: Bryan Perrett; The Centurion Tank in Battle: Simon Dunstan

In 1941 the German Panzerwaffe, according to Major-General von Melenthin, had nothing comparable with the Russian T34, a tank which Field-Marshal Ewald von Kleist described as being the finest in the world. Faced with having to do something as quickly as possible to restore the technical balance in their favour, the Germans finally came up with the PzKpfw V Panther which went into production in November 1942.

Unavoidably technical but comparatively easy to understand, Bryan Perrett's 40-page book deals with the Panther from development to active service.

Simon Dunstan looks at a later tank period and Britain's Centurion which first saw action in the very different and difficult terrain of Korea. Its prowess in the battlefield has been proved time and again while its commercial popularity has been well demonstrated in many overseas sales.

Rather than delving into technical detail, the author recounts some of the exploits of the Centurion in action — Korea, Suez in 1956, the Indo-Pakistan war of 1965, the Israeli offensive in the Six-Day campaign in Sinai, Vietnam and other theatres of war. It is a fascinating story and like all Osprey's Vanguard series both books have the usual quota of coloured illustrations and are remarkably good value.

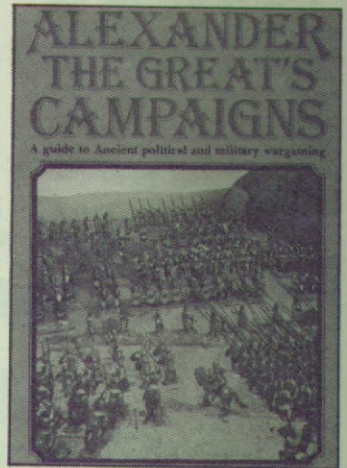
Osprey Publishing Ltd, 12-14 Long Acre, London WC2E 9LP, £2.95 each JFPJ

Alexander the Great's Campaigns: Phil Barker

But for his untimely death at the early age of 32, Alexander the Great, already master of ancient Greece, the Persian Empire, Egypt and the Levant, Asia Minor and large tracts of India, might well have gone on to subdue Carthage and Rome to become the conqueror of the then known world. A military genius and one of the greatest commanders of all time, he also made his mark as a statesman with new theories of government based on the equality of races.

This detailed review of Alexander's campaigns has been written primarily as a guide to help wargamers achieve maximum accuracy in such spheres as armour, weaponry and troop movements of the period. It is also a valuable history faithfully

following Alexander from spartan boyhood, through all his campaigns



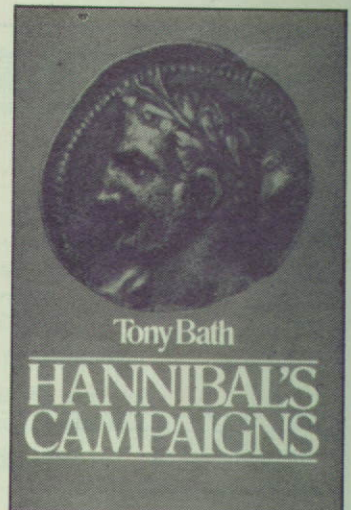
to the ultimate break-up of the empire.

For the modern wargamer specialising in the Alexandrian period the concluding chapters offer a whole range of information from the roles of the gods and finance to battles, oracles and marching rates plus assessments of individual commanders. An informative gazetteer completes this remarkable book which is both a challenge and a mine of information for the dedicated wargamer.

Patrick Stephens Ltd., Bar Hill, Cambridge CB3 8EL — £3.95 JFPJ

Hannibal's Campaigns: Tony Bath

Hannibal, who marched into Italy



from Spain with his Carthaginian army over 2000 years ago, has been portrayed by historians as one of the most evil and ruthless military commanders of all times. Yet, when threatened by Rome, he carried the war right into the enemy's homeland. He used great military skill in his battles, was a brilliant strategist, a coloniser of no mean political acumen and one of the greatest leaders of all times. Eventually Hannibal was defeated and committed suicide and Carthage was destroyed stone by stone.

This account of the Punic Wars gives military students a broader and more penetrating view than usual of that feared phantom remembered mostly because he used elephants to carry his army southward across the Alps.

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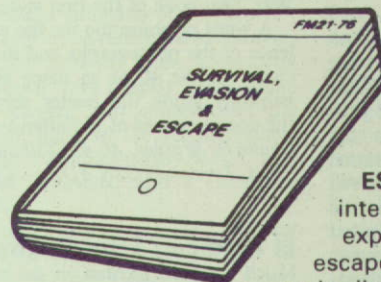
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COMPETITION 281

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First sift out the vegetables, which consist of: *one* containing three letters; *two* containing four letters; *two* containing five letters; *five* containing six letters; *three* containing seven letters; *two* containing eight letters; *one* containing eleven letters.

If you have used the correct recipe you should have thirteen letters left over which, when sorted out and placed in the grid, give the title of a best-selling book and film. What is it?

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 15 January 1982. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 8 February 1982. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 281' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or pre-paid labels will be disqualified. Send your answers by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 281' label from this page and your name and address to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.



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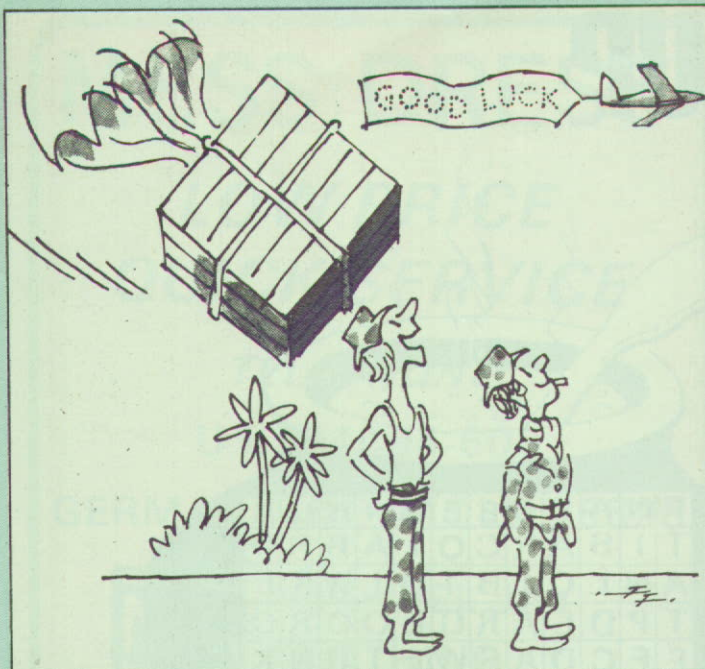
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HITCHING IN UNIFORM

I am writing with reference to a comment made in your issue of November 2 (Soldiers Talking) by Private Andrew Shearer: "If you wear a uniform, I suppose there's more chance of being picked up as a hitch-hiker when you are off on leave."

Having served in the Bulford area, I for one know that HQ SW Dist discourage and punish severely soldiers hitch-hiking in uniform.

With the present security situation, surely all readers must be made aware of the dangers of such a foolhardy practice.

Units are reminded constantly, through the military media, of the dangers involved. I am sure the RSM of the PWO does not encourage this practice. — WO1 (RSM) J A Taylor, Royal Artillery Range Hebrides, Balivanich, Isle of Benbecula, Scotland, PA88 5LN.

Ministry of Defence policy discourages hitch-hiking, and this timely security reminder wins our £5 prize. — Ed.

TERRIERS BARK

Having been a member of the TA for five years (and an ex-regular to boot) I must strongly protest about Peter Stevenson's letter (19 Oct).

The TA is a large body of well trained men and women who give up most of their spare time to help defend these Sacred Isles (in BAOR and UKLF).

In my unit the list of full-time civvy jobs range from the professional occupations to the unemp-

loyed. We exercise once every two years as part of BAOR. The remaining time is spent on weekends (which start on a Friday evening right through to Sunday night). When most people, like Mr Stevenson, are sitting by their tellies or in the pub boozing on a Saturday night, the TA can be found practising ambush drills or NBC procedure. And only after the work is over does the mess open.

I challenge Mr Stevenson to come up here and knock the TA. We all take our role seriously. Don't knock

the TA until you've tried it Mr Stevenson. It is for you and 55 million others that we do what we do. — Cpl Stephen Gibson TA, 20/3 Wauchope Road, Edinburgh, EH16 4PS.

My letter in the September issue stated that the TA is not only BAOR, but home defence committed as well. In the words of Maj Armstrong-Wilson (letters, July), "... what will happen when the TA goes off to Nato to a man", is not true.

I did not enter into the two-tier question at all (Mr Stevenson, 19 Oct). My contention is that people do not realise the TA is pledged to home defence as well as BAOR. I am not concerned, within the confines of my letter, to argue the role, efficiency or organisation of the Territorial Army, Peter Stevenson please note.

Many people more eminently qualified than me will no doubt do so in this column. — Sgt P Smith, Ninoda, Pottery Lane, Yelland, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 3EG.

It is not easy to make comment on the content of Mr Stevenson's letter (19 Oct), after all he has managed to corner the most apt words for his own text — 'evil' and 'puerile'.

He attempts to portray the TA as a formation of habitual alcoholics whose training programmes have been specifically designed to avoid any relevance to current military requirements. I sincerely hope that Mr Stevenson is in possession of the detailed and intimate knowledge that would naturally be required before making such a sweeping and damning statement.

After all, having just chastised Corporal Smith in public, and with such obvious relish, it might be a little embarrassing to be labelled, after the event, as an ill-informed half-wit. — J C Walton, Malthouse Cottage, Boxford, Newbury, Berks, RG16 8DN.

It would appear that my letter is out of context on the subject of TA organisation. If I offend Mr Sloman please will he accept my apology.

The volunteers such as Mr Sloman have had a rotten deal when the Home Guard was reformed after the war. We were getting on very well until Eden gave us the chop.

The TA should be two tier. The first tier, like Mr Sloman's, in reserve to reinforce the regulars. The second co-ordinated with the TA, with a small full time element to be in charge of Home Defence and security.

Mr Sloman has done jolly well, we do not deserve such loyal citizens as he. But many members have let the TA down, badly. Also I fear the regular forces.

Good men like Mr Sloman may disagree, but may I emphasise very strongly that successive governments have behaved abominably to the reserve forces. You cannot run the TA on the same lines as the regular Army. It is not possible, no way!

I too have a lengthy record of service going back to 1938. I am still in the service with BRCS and the Legion of Frontiersmen.

Well done Mr Sloman and Corporal Smith, I am not knocking the TA or the volunteers. What I do knock is the system and the organisation, which is out of date. — Peter T Stevenson, 57 Primley Park Crescent, Alwoodly, Leeds, LS17 7HY.

This concludes our correspondence on the TA for the time being. We didn't have space for all your letters but thanks to all of you who wrote. — Ed

WRONG TANK

We'd like to make a small correction to the Article 'The Action Man the World Envy' in the 19 Oct-1 Nov issue.

Being dab hands at driving and pulling the dear Sultans apart we're sure that the picture you added was a Spartan (or was it a Scimitar)?

Please put our disturbed minds at ease. — Eddie and Graham, 'Sultan Crew', 653 Sqn, 3 Regt AAC, BFPO 106.

Correct. The picture was of a Spartan and not a Sultan as stated. Apologies for the error. — Ed.

LEGIONNAIRES

As the current Military Attaché in Paris I read your article 'The Lure of the Legion' (August edition) with considerable interest. I appreciate that the author was only trying to write an interesting article but even so I think it a pity that he should have chosen to base it on the interviews with two so out of date ex-Legionnaires. Obviously with the passing of time memories blur and exaggeration can unwittingly creep in to embellish stories, and this mix when added to a certain amount of journalistic licence does not, I am afraid, leave your readers with an accurate picture of the present day Legion.

Like any other regiment in any other army the Legion does have its share of trouble makers but not disproportionately so, and the vast majority of Legionnaires are normal men who are blessed with a larger than average zest for life. I have had the privilege of meeting many ex and serving Legionnaires both on and off duty and they have all been men of presence who have shown considerable pride in belonging to this elite organisation.

The Legion is held in very high esteem throughout France and they have earned their reputation as an 'elite' organisation the hard way — on many fields of battle where they served with honour and distinction. They have an enviable regimental history. — Colonel R G Southerst, Military Attaché, British Embassy, 35 rue du Faubourg Saint-Honore, 75383 Paris, Cedex 08, France.

Graham Smith's article was not intended as a definitive piece about the Legion but about two British ex-Legionnaires and their personal reminiscences. While we cannot vouch for the accuracy of their recollections we can state categorically that no 'journalistic licence' was taken in editing or embellishing their remarks. — Ed.

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CAN YOU HELP?

The names below are those men of a platoon of 2nd/3rd London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers) who sat for a photograph in 1915. In June 1916, my uncle, 2/Lt H W Hall, was posted to the battalion and to this platoon, command of which he shared with 2/Lt D J Aron.

2/Lt H W Hall was killed at Bullecourt on 15th May 1917. Of those who appear in the photograph, 11 were killed in the First World War.

In researching this story, I have located a cousin of 2/Lt Aron who was a fellow officer and a close friend of 2/Lt Hall. He is Mr Charles Depinna of Weybridge. He has given me considerable information about those days.

I would be very grateful if anyone with any knowledge of any of the men listed would contact me.

Privates: G Gates, I T German, W H Gibbs, L Gilbert, J Godbeer, E W Godding, F Gray, G W Gray, C Griggs, J Grimwood, J Hammill, P S Hall, Chas Hammond, J F Harris, S W Harris, C J Harrison, S Harvey, E Haydon, Hearne, E Herbert, H C Hoar, Hockley, F Hollingsworth, W Hooper, W Hopping, F L Howard, E G Humphreys, H Hunt, J Hutchens, Ernest H Impett, T W Kane, Harry King, C Kemp, L G Smith; 2/Lt D J Aron, CMS C Kendrick, Cpl F Dealey, Cpl R Hatswell, L/Cpl Attwood, H A Henley, R McK Robson. — Major D D Hall, PO Box 87212, Houghton, South Africa 2041.

We regret we are unable to print the photograph Major Hall sent us because of lack of space. The photograph is now back in his possession. — Ed.

PEN PALS

My name is Jean. I am 21, single, and am in the TA. My interests include sports, meeting people, cooking, disco dancing and fashion. I would like to write to someone of 23 plus who is serving in Northern Ireland. — Miss Jean Venables, Pound Cottage, Okehurst, Billingshurst, Sussex, RH14 9HS.

I am 18 and would love to write to a soldier — black or white but preferably black. I love soul music, jazz, funk and Michael Jackson. Please write soon and send a photo if possible. — Miss Lorna Jean Shepton, 35 Mucham Road, Seven Kings, Ilford, Essex.

I am carrying out research into the post-war reorganisation of the German Police in the Allied Occupied Zones, 1945 — until the end of the Occupation period. I would be grateful for any information, photos, insignia etc of the Control Commission Germany and associated organisations. All letters answered. — Sgt John Evans, RMP, PMO Branch, SHAPE, BFPO 26.

I am seeking details of RAMC unit commanders at the time of Dunkirk. Research is currently being undertaken to find the names of all unit commanders of the BEF and all boats that assisted in the evacuation. Examination of WO files held at the Public Record Office, Kew, reveals that there are no separate RAMC files. We know, for instance, exactly what Field Ambulance and Field Hygiene units were with each division. The trouble is that thorough examination of Divisional, Brigade or Battalion files gives confirmation of units attached but the return of officers gives no detail other than RAMC.

It is also regretted that the RAMC Museum can give no such information.

Any information from readers would be of infinite value to us. — T E Royce, 190 Wiltshire Close, Draycott Avenue, London, SW3 2NZ.

COLLECTORS' CORNER

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

J Jesse, 10 The Viking, Dane Close, Seaford, Sussex. Has for sale SOLDIER Magazines 1958-63 and 1965-72 complete also Feb-Dec 1961 and 1964. £42 ono. Will separate.

Mrs I Stephen, 12 Wannock Close, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex, TN40 2SQ. Still looking for "Freely I Served" by Stanislaw Sosobowski. Any condition. J Leggett, 80 Somersall St, Mansfield, Notts, NG19 6EN. Wishes to exchange over 500 military books for spare badges, buttons, titles etc. Will accept items for single books.

L Martin, 34 John Till Close, Rugely, Staffs. Wants photographs of Paras, SAS and other elite units of any country in different uniforms. Also wants WWII Airborne badges, Foreign Legion badges, kepis and berets. Collec-

tion of Airborne wings and berets for sale or exchange.

David G Marriott, 11 Cressington Ave, Higher Tranmere, Birkenhead, Merseyside. Wishes to add to small collection of worldwide para wings, badges, metal, cloth. Will purchase or trade. List of spares welcome. Also interested in USA war medals, decorations. All letters answered.

Marc Demoitie, Rue Devant-la-Ville, 38, B-4481, Hermee, Belgium. Seeks British Orders, British Red Cross Society medals, the Royal Red Cross, the order of the League of Mercy, Police Medals, Air Crew Europe Star, Territorial War Medal WW1, Mercantile Marine Medal WW1, King Edward's South Africa 1901-02, India Independence Medal, Red Cross Medals worldwide, also Orders. Will buy or exchange with Belgian medals and orders. All letters answered.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(See page 23)

1 Right sock of No. 74; 2 Left lane numeral; 3 Eyebrow of No. 74; 4 Right shoulder of No. 13; 5 Shorts of No. 18; 6 Left kneecap of No. 251; 7 Right end of track line between lanes 3 and 4; 8 End of poster by No. 74's right hand; 9 Corner of poster at far right; 10 Lower hoop on vest of No. 74.

COMPETITION

We were delighted with the response we got to the SOLDIER/PICKFORDS Video Competition. Over two-thirds of the entries were correct and that made the judges task of choosing the winner very difficult. Having correctly matched the actors with the films, we then asked you to name a battle which you thought would make an exciting new feature film. Suggestions ranged from Hannibal's campaigns through 1066 right up to the seige of the Iranian Embassy in London last year. After much deliberation the judges decided to award the first prize of a Sanyo 93000PN video recorder to Sgt R Campbell from 1 Armd Div HQ and Signal Regiment, BFPO32 who made a succinct and convincing case for the battle of Crete in World War Two. The ten runners-up, who each receive a £10 EMI record token, were: L/Cpl Cameron, MT TP HQ SQN, 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, BFPO 32; Fus G Mutch, 53 Briarwood Road, Clapham, London SW4 9PJ; G A McDonald, 138 Elm Hill,

Warminster, Wilts; Pte J Shrigley, ASLT/PNR Plt, SP Coy, 2LI, Weeton Camp, Kirkham, Lancs; Cpl E Campbell RM, DCGRM, Archway Block South, Whitehall, London SW1; WO1 B H Bertram, 657 Sqn AAC LAD, Oakington Bks, Longstanton, Cambs, CB4 5EJ; L/Cpl Thornley, 62 Tpt and Mov Sqn RCT, BFPO 45; T Dunn, West Down, Hindhead, Surrey, GU26 6BQ; Maj A C Holtom, HQ AAC Middle Wallop, Stockbridge, Hants, SO20 8DY; B J Beacock, 76 Shortwood Ave, Staines, Middx.

The correct answers to the competition were of course: A Bridge Too Far — Ryan O'Neal, Patton — George C Scott, Oh! What A Lovely War — Sir Laurence Olivier, Apocalypse Now — Marlon Brando, Waterloo Rod Steiger, The Eagle Has Landed — Michael Caine, All Quiet on the Western Front — Ernest Borgnine, Charge of the Light Brigade — David Hemmings, Cromwell — Richard Harris, The Deer Hunter — Robert de Niro.

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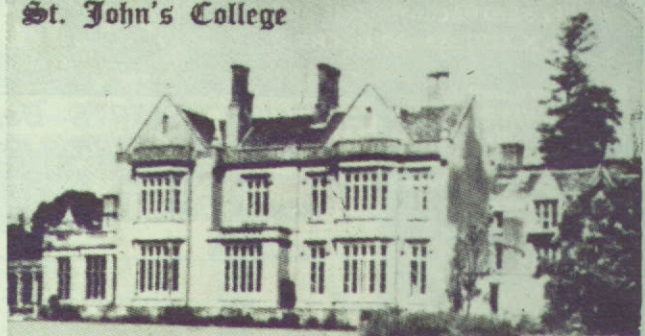
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Rodney Thinn, 50 The Gallery's, Town Centre, Washington; Washington 460100.

Kerry Stephenson: 01-439 3611/2.

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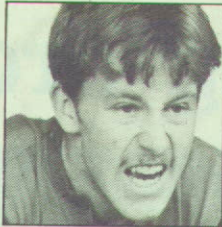
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WO2 A J Orrell, 13 Cedar Road, Loughborough, Leics. Tel: Loughborough 66624.



CYCLING

HARROGATE ROLL IT

SPENDING YOUR weekend on a bicycle pedalling furiously and yet never leaving the confines of an Army gymnasium may not sound everyone's idea of fun. But the Army cyclists who attended last week-end's roller racing championship certainly did their best to recreate the thrills of the open road.

Roller racing is what some cyclists do once the winter arrives and the weather gets a bit too inclement for outdoor events. Their machines are held on to rollers which are wired up to a scoreboard. The faster the rollers go round the faster goes your arrow until you reach the finish.

Two cyclists at a time take part in these unusual contests. They rely on two colleagues holding their cycles straight and on a third who tells them how well they are doing — for they are facing away from the scoreboard.

The Army Apprentices College at Harrogate have made this particular form of cycling all their own. They have won the Soldier cup for the senior events every year since 1975 and have notched up three straight wins in the junior section.

Their *eminence grise* is Captain Alan Green, in charge of cycling at the college for the last 13 years and no mean performer on a bike himself — he finished third in both senior events, the 400 metres and 1500 metres, last weekend.

As his teams headed for victory once again Captain Green told **SOLDIER**: "This is instant competition. It's a very short,

sharp, quickly rewarding or instantly deflating sport and the competition gets very intense."

Rollers really come into their own once the autumn winds and rain arrive. The keen cyclist either likes them or he puts away his machine and takes up another sport for the winter.

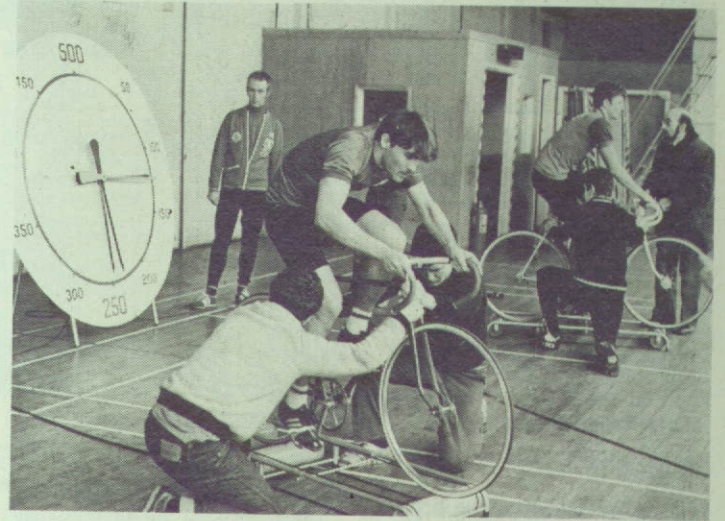
Says Warrant Officer 1 Bob Foster, who made all the local arrangements for the championships at CVD Ashchurch in Gloucestershire: "When the riders finish a long race on the rollers they feel as though they have done 100 miles."

Twenty years ago Bob was the last Army champion at another winter cycling event — Cyclo-Cross. "The following year I cut short my holiday in Italy and came back and it had been cancelled. It's never been held since."

Roller racing is almost a disease at Harrogate. Two of last year's winning team, Signaller Richard Avery and Signaller Chris Binns, made a 28 hour journey from their new base with 14 Signal Regiment at Celle in order to give Rhine Army some representation — and Chris, despite 'jetlag', managed to finish runner-up in both senior events.

Said Richard: "You either like this or you don't. We ordered our own rollers but we only got them a week ago so we have only had that amount of preparation. But it was worth the long train and ferry journey."

Not everyone taking part was that keen on roller racing. Said Private Nigel Bembnowicz, of



Martin Pottage and Chris Binns battle out the 400 metre final

CVD Ashchurch: "It's one of the hardest things to do. You have got to be really fit. And I prefer to go out on the road and see something."

And Lance-Corporal David Keir from 38 Engineer Regiment, Ripon, added: "When you go on rollers you have no objective and you may tend to switch off even if you are trying your hardest."

In a 400 metre race a mechanical failure in the first 100 metres means a re-run — after that it is just tough luck. Lance Corporal 'Olly' Olsen, from Ripon, was making up a lot of ground when his holders pulled him a bit to one side and he went over and out of the contest.

There are also burst tyres from time to time and A/T Lance-

Corporal Mark Phillips ended his winning ride in the junior 400 metres final with a bang — just a few seconds after completing his win over fellow Harrogate rider, A/T Mark Anderson. Phillips also won the 1000 metres junior event.

Winner of both the 400 metres and 1500 metres senior individual titles was A/T Corporal Martin Pottage, from Harrogate. It was the first time he had entered the championships and was the culmination of four nights a week training.

So the season's trophies were presented — and while a great clutch of awards for outdoor events went to the sappers at Ripon, once again it was Captain Green's Harrogate teams who had rolled their way to victory.

Sport Stop Press

JUDO

The second ever Army UK Senior and Junior Novices unit team championships at Bulford set a very high standard and the event is to become an annual fixture.

Eight teams took part in each section after district and zone eliminators. And it was the teams from Princess Marina College at Arborfield who really set the

sparks going. They won both events, which covered three man teams representing different weights.

Results: Juniors — 1 Princess Marina 'A', 2 ACC Chepstow 'A', 3 Princess Marina 'B'. Seniors — 1 Princess Marina, 2 Jnr Ldrs Regt RCT, 3 Queen's Dragoon Guards.

BADMINTON

The second Inter Corps Badminton Tournament ended in victory for the RAOC as they beat the Royal Signals team 5-4 in a colourful and fiercely contested final at Worthy Down.

In a weekend in which Lance Corporal Winston Brown broke

three racquets and produced feats of acrobatics that enthralled the spectators, the Army Catering Corps No 1 pair Major Rod Hill and Lance Corporal Adrian Quinney had a surprise win over REME and Army No 1 Lance Corporal Chris Fetherstone but were defeated by the strength in depth of the R Sigs team in the semi-final.

There was more excitement as Lance Corporal Fetherstone clashed with Staff Sergeant Graham Orszewski, the Army No 2 in the REME/RAOC semi-final. The RAOC only clinched the match in the last rubber to give them a 5-4 win that took them through to the final.

CANOEING

There were over 300 entries for the Army Wild Water Canoe Championships 1981 held on the River Swale at Richmond, Yorkshire and first place in the Army Mens K1 class went to Lance Corporal John Speck.

Paddlers of 16 Signal Regiment swept to victory in the team event, three minutes ahead of their nearest rivals, a team from the School of Electronic Engineering, Arborfield.

In the Junior team event, Army Apprentices College Chepstow cleared the board by taking first, third and sixth places...

Full story will appear in the next issue of **SOLDIER**.

Saints get marching orders

THE COMBINED SERVICES took to the field against First Division Southampton and came away with a well-deserved victory of three goals to one. But none of the Saints' stars, Keegan, Watson *et al* were included.

The match, played at Aldershot Stadium in front of a large and appreciative crowd, was the first this season for the Combined Services side that will play the French and the Belgians in the New Year.

A goal by Lance Corporal George Torrance from a pass by Craftsman Phil White put the Combined Services ahead only for the Saints to equalise a few minutes later with a penalty taken by Steve Baker. But a second, truly Combined Services, goal by LMEM(L) Kevin Maddocks RN from a cross by Corporal John Bartley RAF off Corporal Ian Good for the Army, restored the Services' advantage just before half-time.

Cashed in

Play had favoured the professionals until that point as they cashed in on the Services reluctance to press them and made good use of quick throw-ins — a ploy also favoured by the Belgians.

The Saints came out battling in the second half and it took some determined play from the Services to keep them at bay as they piled on the pressure.

There were some unlucky attempts at goal from both sides and both goalkeepers were kept busy throughout the match. But it was another goal from George Torrance, slamming home a blistering shot, that gave the Combined Services an unassailable lead.

Picture: L/Cpl George Torrance turns away arms aloft after scoring the Combined Services' third goal.



TOP POTTERS, RAOC Training Centre, Blackdown, Sergeant's Messes, led by Sergeant Len Salisbury, won all three matches on their recent Rhine Army tour.

The team of six taken from the HQ RAOC Mess and the Apprentices' College had an easy win over the 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards in Munster with a final score of 6-0, but their games against Combat Supplies Battalion RAOC and 8 Regiment RCT, whose team included a number of RAOC players, were tighter. Nevertheless they emerged triumphant with wins of 4-2 and 5-4 respectively.

This is the second tour that the team has undertaken and they hope to take on more units next year. Dedicated snooker addicts, the team pay their own way and take leave to play the matches in BAOR. Sergeant Salisbury sees these tours as an important step in fostering the game within the army.

Harrogate win clear victory

THE ARMY INTER-UNIT Cross Country Relay Championships for 1981 produced some good times as the team from the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, swept to victory in the Senior Minor Units class, with the fastest time for the course.

The Championships were sponsored and organised by 4 Field Force across undulating ground at Rushmoor Arena and attracted 100 team entries, of which 89 completed the course.

Corporal Andy Robertson, running for AAC, Harrogate Permanent Staff team had a splendid run and a spectacular finish as he took over on the last leg 200 metres behind the 3 PARA runner who was in the

lead. He made up the ground between them, passed him and reached the line seven seconds ahead.

Corporal Robertson was also one of three runners to complete a leg in under 16 minutes. His time of 15 minutes 36 seconds was just faster than Corporal Dave Carr, also from AAC Harrogate, at 15 minutes 49 seconds and Sergeant Mick Binks, RAOC Training Centre, at 15 minutes 54 seconds.

The three 3 PARA teams were all well-placed. The 'A' team won the Major Senior Units section with the 'B' team in sixth place and the 'C' team in seventh.

The main results were:

SENIOR MAJOR UNITS

3 Para	1 hr: 05 mins: 36 secs
1 Cheshires	1 hr: 09 mins: 04 secs
1 Prince of Wales's Own Regt of Yorkshire	1 hr: 09 mins: 21 secs

WHEN THE BOAT COMES IN...

THE ARMY were left high and dry in the 1981 Inter-Service Sea Angling Championships held this year at Plymouth. They brought up the anchor behind the Royal Air Force and winners, the Royal Navy.

The teams were made up of nine anglers from each Service in three boats and catches were relatively low after a day's fishing in less than perfect conditions. There was a very strong tide which meant that the anglers were fishing on the drift for most of the day.

The Army team selection for the 1982 Championships will start early in 1982 and anyone who is interested in taking part in the trials, or anyone interested in angling in general should contact their local Army angling representative.



Rugby

It's Para Sappers — just!

9 Para Squadron RE 6 Junior Soldier's Battalion 3

It took an extra-time penalty goal from Sergeant Derek Sowden to finally give the sappers the edge in this grimly contested UK final of the White & Mackay minor units competition.

The maroon shirted Aldershot team had started red hot favourites. In earlier rounds they had steam-rollered all before them and not conceded a try. Their victories included 60-3, 48-6 and 78-0 scorelines.

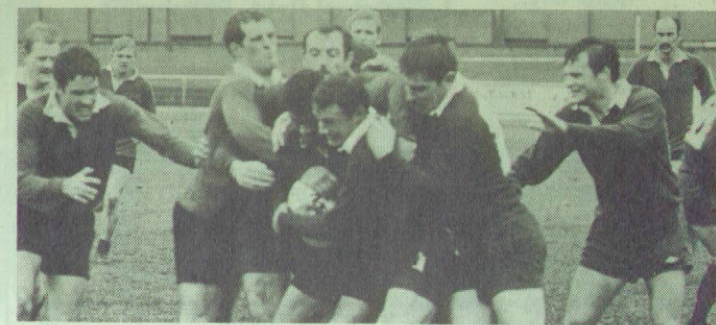
But the other finalists never gave up — and had a penalty kick early in the second half been a couple of inches to the left the trophy would have gone to the cider town.

The match was fought in persistent rain with a strong wind whistling straight down the pitch from the south west. With the wind behind them 9 Squadron soon had the Taunton side well and truly pegged into their own half.

After 16 minutes of almost continuous pressure Derek Sowden put the sappers in front with a penalty goal. For the rest of the half it was a dour backs-to-the-wall performance from the Junior Soldiers with the ball rarely crossing the half way line.

After the interval, Taunton having soaked up all that the elements and the opposition could throw at them, proceeded to use their wind advantage and Major Andrew Edwards equalised with a penalty.

So the match went into extra time — the first Army Cup Final to do so for ten years. By this time 9 Para had the greater stamina and Sowden's second goal clinched the match.



SOLDIER DARTS CONTEST DRAW

CAN THE Hameln Hopefuls beat the Muppetts? Will the Millbank Arrows from Munster be too good for the Nomads of Dhekelia?

Those are just two of the intriguing questions posed by the first round draw in the very first SOLDIER darts contest.

A total of 42 teams have entered, including representatives from England, Northern Ireland, Germany, Cyprus — even Norway. Twenty teams are paired in the first round with the remaining 22 drawing byes.

All the teams competing in the first round have already been sent details of their opponents and score sheets as well as a further copy of the rules. We shall be contacting the remainder as soon as the second round draw is made. All first round scores must be notified to SOLDIER not later than 21 December and must be accompanied by the '1st Round' coupon from the corner of this page.

Reports and results will be appearing at regular intervals in the coming months and the final is scheduled for late June/early July. Remember, Truman the brewers will be presenting silver trophies to the winners and runners-up, plus individual replicas — and there'll be some

of that famous Ben Truman ale for finalists too.

First Round Draw: DKD v Quebecers; Hameln Hopefuls v The Muppetts; Wheel 'em in v Lilywhites; Millbank Arrows v Nomads; Tornadoes v WO & Sgts Mess 9/12 Royal Lancers; Scraftoft Valley Ex-Serv Assoc v Double Tops Club B; The Jack-ets v The Shiny RCs; Glen Parva Sgts Mess v Ale & Artes; Ton up Taunton v ORE Place Social Club; 219 Fliers v Band 1RRF.

Byes into 2nd Round: 16Bn QMS Crusaders, Vehrre CC, The Trials, Wulfen Wallies, Cpls Mess Depot R Irish, 10 Fd Wksp REME, The Hawks, Teddy Bear Company, Derlinghofen Dynamos, Akrotiri HC & CC, 1 KOSB Flyers, CPO BAOR Sgts Mess, Kolsas Killers, IKES 3 RGJ Sgts Mess, TRRE REME Wksp, Cambridge Mil Hosp C, The Chefs 13/18 RH, Double Tops Club A, Eskmeals Owls, Ant Hill Mob, Stampers, Wagonburners.



Corporal Andy Robertson's triumphant finish for AAC Harrogate

SENIOR MINOR UNITS:

AAC Harrogate Perm Staff	1 hr: 05 mins: 29 secs
Postal & Courier Depot RE	1 hr: 07 mins: 38 secs
JLR, RAC Perm Staff	1 hr: 11 mins: 44 secs

JUNIOR MAJOR UNITS:

AAC Harrogate	1 hr: 11 mins: 58 secs
RAOC AAC	1 hr: 12 mins: 16 secs
ACC AAC	1 hr: 12 mins: 23 secs

JUNIOR MINOR UNITS:

RAPC AAC	1 hr: 16 mins: 35 secs
RAMC AAC	1 hr: 17 mins: 59 secs
Junior Para Coy	1 hr: 18 mins: 27 secs

Ilkley Moor Battle

THE FIRST-EVER Women's Inter-Service Orienteering Championships held at Ilkley proved to be a triumph for the Army team.

The Army girls were up against a team from the WRAF as the Navy were unable to field a team at all. The four runners were faced with a tough course of just over six kilometres which took in rough, steep and open

moorland.

It was the fitness of the Army girls which was the telling factor and they came in 1hr 37 minutes ahead of the WRAF, with a total time of 3 hrs 46 minutes and 53 seconds.

The fastest individual time was run by Captain Emma Ford (48 mins 24 secs) with WO2 Pat Rosewell in third place (79 mins 44 secs) after a WRAF girl.





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In response to popular demand the REME Staff Band has produced a new recording, "REME in Concert". Old and new favourites from the band's very popular concerts are included to suit all ages and tastes. Amongst the pieces are: Youth and Vigour, Scarlet and Gold, Trafalgar, 'Star Dust', 'Younger than Springtime', Toccata for Band, a composition by Frank Erickson, and 'World of Sport', a selection of Television Themes taken from various sporting programmes. This last, arranged by Sgt Bert Osborn, has been found to be most popular.

The record, produced to EMI's high standards, is priced at: Records £4.00, Cassettes £4.50.

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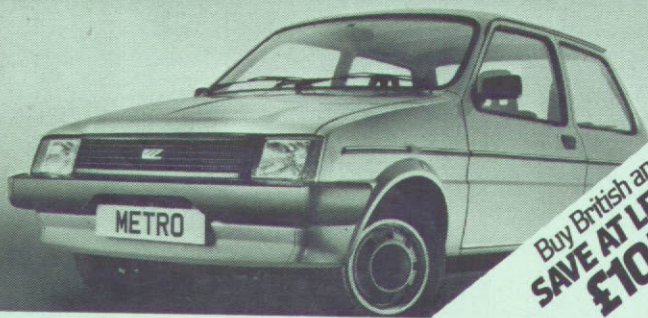
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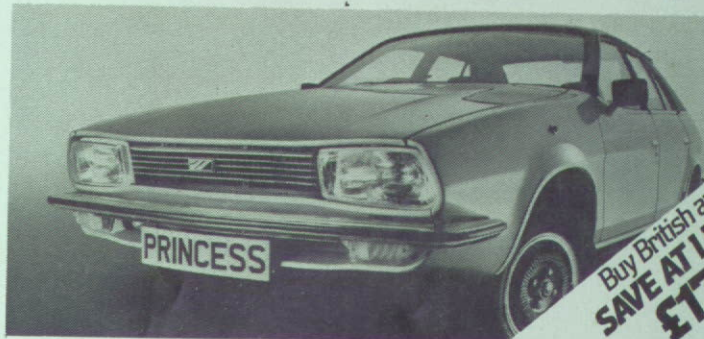
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