

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 25 PENCE • 8-21 MARCH 1982

# SOLDIER



- HIGH LIFE IN CYPRUS
- WRAC AT SANDHURST

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## FRONT COVER

An unfamiliar view of the sunshine island of Cyprus — soldiers of 3rd Battalion, The Light Infantry, carry out a perimeter patrol on the snowy slopes of Mount Olympus, site of a vital military communications post. Full story — page 26.

Picture by Doug Pratt

## BACK COVER

Competitors in the youth division of the Army Cross Country Championships tackle the humps and bumps of Tweseldown, Aldershot. A report of the event is on page 44.

Picture by Paul Haley

## Editor:

Bob Hooper (Ext 2585)

## News Editor

Gordon Williams (Ext 2593)

## Assistant Editors

John Walton (Ext 2591)

Graham Smith (Ext 2590)

Ann Beecham (Ext 2588)

## Art Editor

John Rushworth (Ext 2589)

## Picture Editor

Leslie Wiggs (Ext 2584)

## Photographers (Ext 2584)

Doug Pratt

Paul Haley

Andy Burridge

## Advertising/Circulation

Mrs C Wilkinson (Ext 2592/2587)

## Distribution

Mrs S McIntosh (Ext 2583)

# SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY



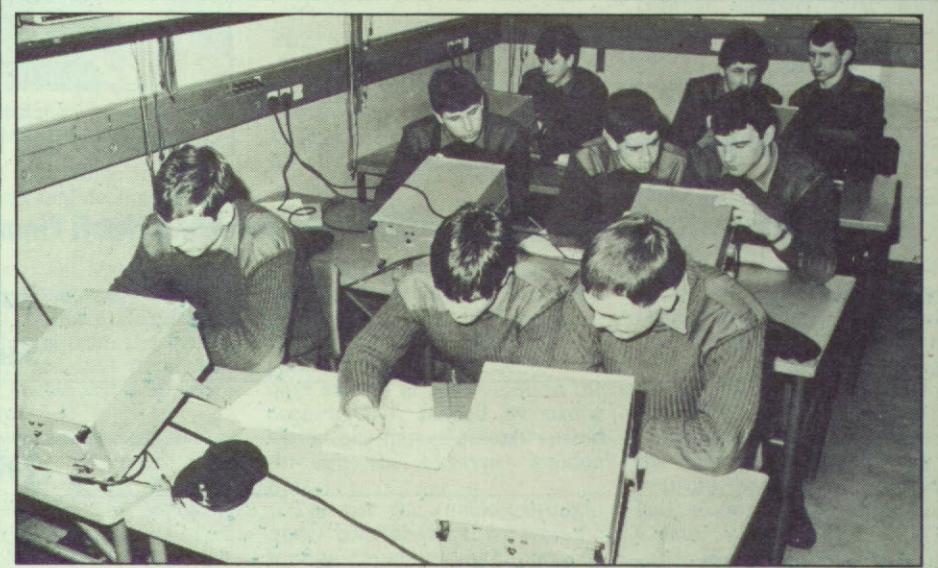
WRAC officer cadets sharpen up on the Sandhurst parade ground — page 14

Soldiers prepare for a ski trip across the roof of Europe — page 34



The special school at Catterick that teaches tomorrow's communications skills

— page 23



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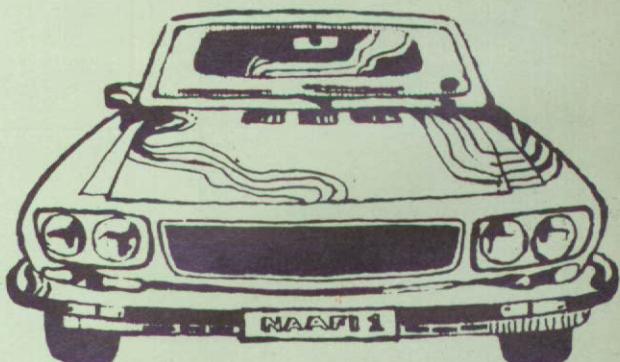
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## NAAFI-We're here to help you!

# SOLDIER to Soldier

THE YEAR is still young but already SOLDIER has been proud to report — in three separate issues — stories of outstanding resourcefulness, courage and initiative on the part of individual soldiers.

There were the five young climbers who helped rescue an injured Austrian on the Jungfrau in Switzerland; the two corporals who crawled under a train to give first aid to a trapped and seriously injured young woman; and now, from Belize, the remarkable story of Staff Sergeant Anthony Liddicoat — helped by Staff Sergeant Victor Butcher — who braved high seas and strong winds in pitch darkness to carry out an exhausting decompression drill and save the life of a civilian diver stricken by the bends.

All these incidents occurred in situations outside the soldiers' usual military environments. They allowed no time for careful recce's, trial runs or detailed plans of action.

The men concerned deserve the highest credit for their quick thinking and courage. But their training must take some of the credit too. The Army is proud of teaching men to think on their feet. Incidents like these show that pride is not misplaced.

★ ★ ★

IT WOULD have been nice, in World Cup year, if the Combined Services could have struck a blow for British football pride by pulling off victory against the Belgians in the Kentish Cup.

But, as reported on our sports pages, just when they were seconds away from a great win the Belgians escaped with an equaliser.

Long gone is the golden National Service era when Britain could parade First Division stars like Bobby Charlton and Duncan Edwards in the competition. Today it is the French and Belgians who can pack their team with young professionals while Britain has to rely on purely amateur strengths — organisation, teamwork and enthusiasm.

Those virtues can still prevail though, as our near miss in Saint Truiden has shown. And now that our Army players have the RAF and Navy battling alongside them, let's hope it won't be long before Brigadier-General Kentish's trophy finds its way back to British soil.

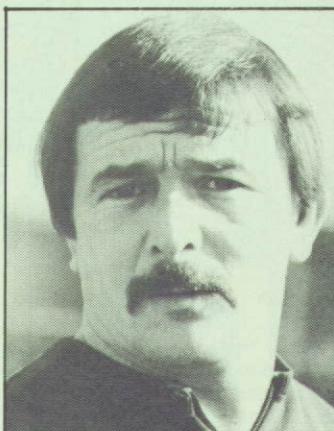


SSgt Liddicoat pictured with the man whose life he saved, during his trip to America.

## QUEEN'S AWARD FOR SAVING DIVER

AN ARMY DIVING instructor has been awarded the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct after saving the life of a 53-year-old American by fitting him with an aqualung and holding him under water for over six hours. The inexperienced diver who helped him has been commended by C-in-C UKLF.

The dramatic incident took place in a lagoon off Belize last August. Now the London Gazette has announced the award to Staff Sergeant Anthony Liddicoat, 33, for 'bravery, prompt



SSgt Inst Butcher, an acting Warrant Officer at the time.

action and skill when undertaking a complicated decompression programme in adverse conditions'.

The American, Mr Alba, who weighs 19 stone was rushed to the British Military Hospital in Belize suffering from the bends. He was 75 per cent paralysed, could not speak and was given the last rites.

There were no decompression facilities at the hospital so SSgt Liddicoat and Acting Warrant Officer Victor Butcher, 36, of the Army Physical Training Corps, put Mr Alba into a rubber dinghy and set off in high seas and strong winds in pitch darkness to get to a deep water point two miles off shore.

With the boat anchored but riding a 10-ft swell in pouring rain they fitted Mr Alba with an aqualung and tied him to a rope seat.

Then SSgt Liddicoat dived with him down to 31 metres and kept him at various depths for 160 minutes. In that time he changed air bottles six times. They were sent down from the surface by WO Butcher.

Mr Alba was then taken ashore but after 30 hours observation showed only slight improvement so was taken back to sea and kept under water for four hours. He was subsequently flown to New Orleans where he recovered and now suffers only slight loss of mobility.

The hospital was so impressed with SSgt Liddicoat's feat that they invited him to be a guest of honour at the opening of their new pressure chamber treatment facility. He was in America when his award was announced.

## BORDON BLAZE

A BLAZE at the School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, Bordon, has completely destroyed a block of soldiers' accommodation. It is believed to have started at about 8.30 in the evening and, fanned by strong winds, the flames quickly spread through the old-type wooden huts.

The fire was quickly brought under control and there were no serious casualties, although one soldier was affected by the smoke.

The cause of the blaze is as yet unknown.

## OFF TO SINAI

A NINE STRONG advance party of Britain's contribution to the Sinai Multi-National Force and Observers has left for the Middle East. The main body making up the 35-man total was due to leave a few days later.

The British Army party of four officers and 31 other ranks is to form a headquarters unit covering essential administrative support. They are led by Lt Col Rodney Martin, of the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars.

The United States, Fiji and Colombia are expected to supply infantry battalions and France, Italy, The Netherlands, Australia and New Zealand will provide other support.

Role of the force as a whole is to investigate and report on activity in the border area and the force is expected to be in position by 25 April before the final Israeli withdrawal from the area.

## Rescue praised

KENT POLICE have praised rescue attempts by Royal Engineers after a combat support boat overturned while carrying a party of cadets (19 February). A 15-year-old girl was drowned and a 14-year-old boy is seriously ill following the accident on the River Medway at Upnor in Kent.

The cadets from Alleyns School Combined Cadet Force Unit, Dulwich, were at the Royal School of Military Engineering for a day's assisted training.

One party went out in the combat support boat without mishap, but the craft turned over throwing the second group into the water.

Fearing someone was trapped, the operator, Lance Corporal Stephen Cleator, 26, dived underneath the up-turned boat. Only one person could be found underneath and Cleator was unable to extricate him.

Meanwhile, Australian exchange posting Warrant Officer Ross Phillips, 37, went to the rescue in a second boat crewed by Sergeant Major Nobby Goldsmith, 36, and 25-year-old Corporal Clive Croft.

WO Phillips dived underneath the boat and pulled out the 14-year-old boy. The boy's pulse had stopped, but Phillips and Cleator revived him.

Shortly afterwards the overturned boat was beached and the body of the girl was found.

An inquest and an Army enquiry will be held.

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## Briefly



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## SECOND DCM FOR 'JAC'

Mr Jakavos Theodoulou has been presented with his Distinguished Conduct Medal for the second time. Originally it was presented by General Wavell in Tobruk but Mr Theodoulou had to leave it behind in his home in Northern Cyprus when he fled South in 1974.

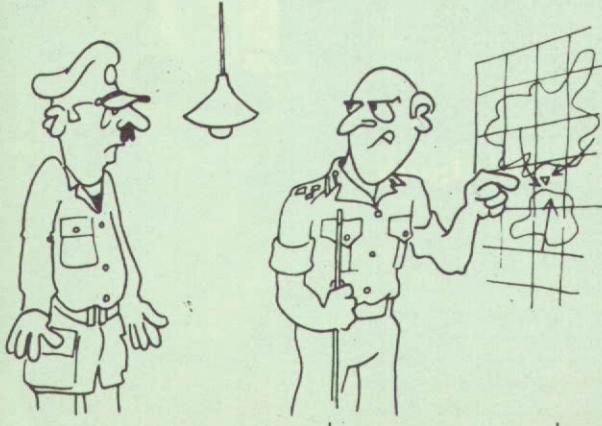
Now a replacement medal has been presented by Brigadier Philip Davies at HQ British Forces Cyprus. 'Jac', as he is popularly known, was also presented with a copy of the original citation and a specially prepared map of the route he took to safety after he had made several daring escapes from the Germans.

He risked his life crossing to the British in Haifa with valuable information gathered during 11 months in hiding on the small island of Kimlos, where he was able to observe the movements of German ships taking ammunition from Piraeus to Libya.

## LOA WARNING

THE MINISTRY of Defence has warned that although the review of local overseas allowance in Germany, including Berlin, is not yet complete, cuts are inevitable from 1 April.

## PENDLE



NOW EARN YOUR MONEY PADRE! WE ARE LOSING!

## FUN RUN TAKES OFF

WHEN MAJOR Richard Grice decided to mark his departure as OC 58 (Eyre's) Battery, 12 Air Defence Regiment, RA, at Kirton Lindsey, by organising a fancy dress charity run-for-fun he got rather more than he bargained for.

Based on the Army's Basic Fitness Test, it was open to civilians as well as soldiers of all ages. Perhaps some wives could be coaxed along? They were — 70 of them!



Easy rider.

On the day, the planned "average man's bit of happy jogging" turned into something of an athletic spectacular with a grand total of 514 entries.

There were firemen, policemen, prison officers, schoolchildren and teachers . . . even farmers' daughters turned out. The youngest was nine, the oldest a man of 60. One entry was pushed round in an old red pram. Gus, an eight-and-a-half-year-old Airedale took part with his master,

2nd Lieutenant Duncan Allen, but the oldest of the canine entries was 11½-year-old Turpin who literally ran away with himself and failed to finish.

Major Grice took part himself and asked afterwards about the runaway success of the event, he said: "We are thought of as a fitness Battery within the Regiment and are always taking flak for it. It became a bit of a joke so I thought it would be a good idea to organise this run. I was greatly surprised at the amount of interest it raised outside."

Also happily surprised was 21-year-old Brian Wallis who has suffered from hemiplegia since the age of nine. Part of the proceeds will go towards helping Brian acquire a specially adapted car which may in turn help him to get employment. Regimental charities will also benefit.

## £14,000 FOR MEDALS

A GROUP OF SIX medals including the Victoria Cross, awarded to Troop Sergeant Major David Spence of the 9th Royal Lancers during the Indian Mutiny, has been bought at auction by the 9th/12th Royal Lancers.

There is no case to justify re-opening the question of alleged outstanding credits to wartime officer prisoners of war, Mr Jerry Wiggin, Under Secretary for the Armed Forces told the Commons.

The Queen is to visit the Army Staff College, Camberley on 19 March. She will see student officers at work, plant a tree in the grounds and visit an exhibition by 47 overseas students and their wives.

In a colourful ceremony at Pirbright, The Prince of Wales presented leeks to 1 Bn Welsh Guards to mark St David's Day. The next day at Aldershot, 1 Bn Royal Regiment of Wales marked the occasion with their own ceremony when the youngest soldiers paid homage by eating raw leeks. Back in the Principality 53 (Welsh) Signal Sqn also had a leek eating ceremony at the Cardiff TA Centre, complete with the WRAC contingent dressed in Welsh costume.

Two Army Air Corps Gazelle helicopters crashed in 'white-out' conditions in Central Norway when they attempted to go to the aid of an RAF Puma which had made an emergency landing. No Army personnel were seriously injured but five RAF ground crew being carried in one of the Gazelles were hurt, three of them seriously.

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## Ambition

Mr Eddie Illsley had three ambitions. To reach his 70th birthday, to raise £1000 for charity and to fly in a helicopter. The first he managed on his own, the second he did by completing a sponsored walk with back-up and the third he achieved with the Army's help. WO Colin Morley, AAC, helped with the harness before the big flight.

## Amnesia

A tired old war horse from WWII is suffering from amnesia in Osnabrück. Belonging to the Royal Belgian Army tank museum in Brussels the Mk IV Churchill is to be restored by 12 Armoured Workshop in a six-months spare-time project but little is known of her history. Project Officer Lt Linton Law is appealing for help.

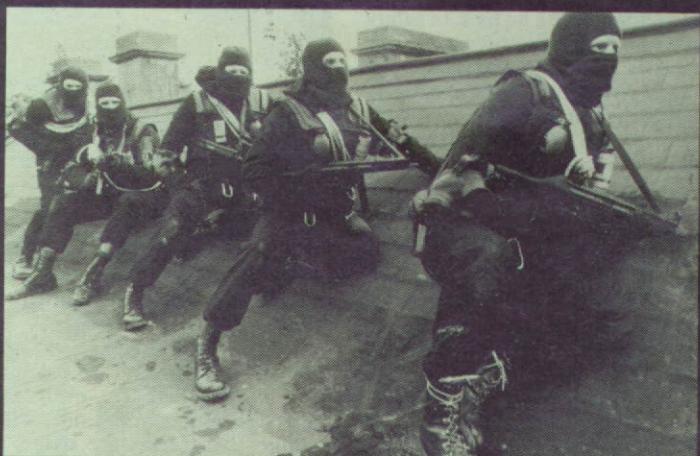


## Merit

Ex-Pipe Major David Caird who spent the last couple of 30 years Army service with the Army Apprentices College (ACC) has been presented with the Meritorious Service Medal. Among his many achievements was seven years spent as personal piper to The Queen.

## Hard Tack

There was a little something extra for eight members of 652 Sqn AAC when the CO, Lt Col Edward Tait, visited them on a winter survival exercise. The kind-hearted boss took them a nice plump frozen chicken when they were already living in temperatures down to -10°C. But they managed to cook it.

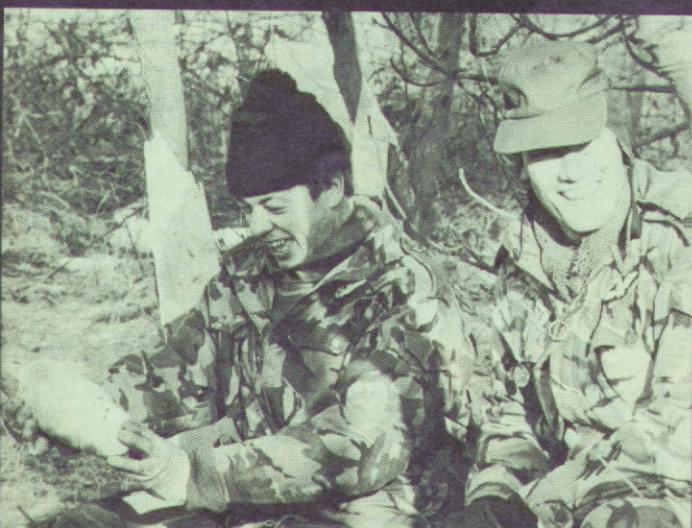


## Screen Heroes

No not the real thing. Actors staging a sequence from the new film *Who Dares Wins* which was inspired by the SAS assault on the Iranian Embassy. Still, it is claimed that the actors are all ex-SAS men.

## Together again

There was a happy reunion for Major Malcolm Wallace when he took over command of the King's Troop RHA at St John's Wood. He met up with his old charger, Doctor Sebastian. In 1974 when the Doctor was but a seven-year-old they jumped a clear round at the Badminton Horse Trials and were short listed for the World championships.

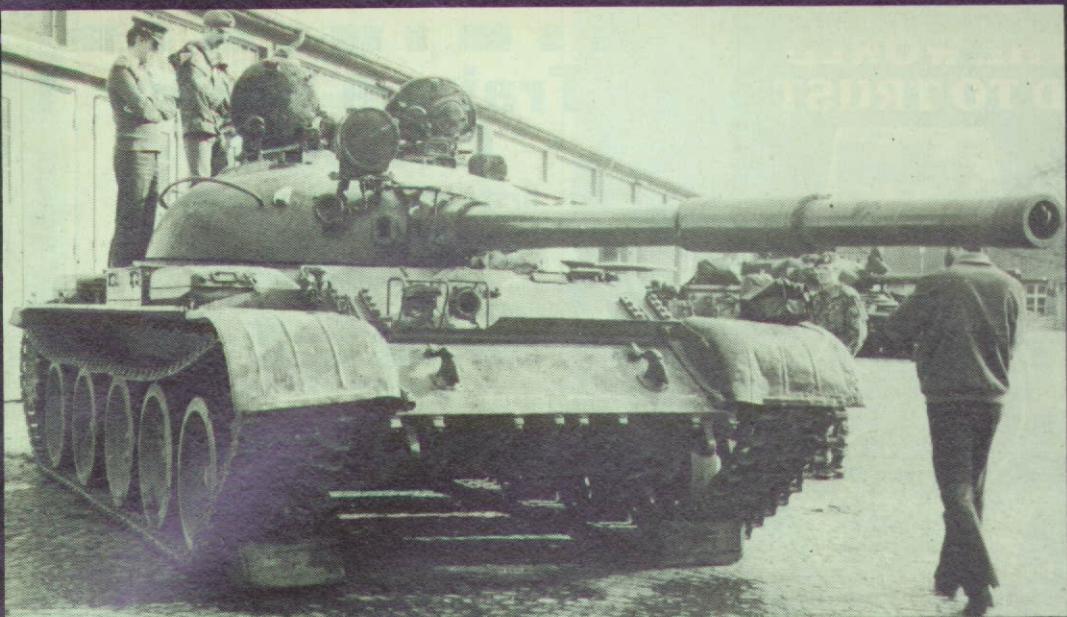


## Lost Property

This Russian T-62 battle tank was centre piece of a display of Soviet armour staged at Bielefeld by the American Army's 'Red Star Company'. It is believed to have been captured during one of the Arab-Israeli wars.

## Big Effort

For the third year running apprentices from the Army Apprentices College (ACC) at Aldershot won the British Heart Foundation Cup for the unit raising the most money on the annual sponsored walk. Regional Organiser Mrs Dorothy Curtis presented the cup to 2Lt Gary Auger while the CO, Lt Col Richard Apperley, looked on.



## Axe Parade

LBdr John Williams, tallest man in the unit, was this year's Battleaxe Bearer when 74 Anti-Tank Battery, RA, celebrated the battle honour they won during the capture of the Caribbean island of Martinique in 1809.



## Carnival Time

Every year since 1977, 37 Rhine Workshop REME, has designed and built the royal carriage in which the "Kinderprinzenpaar" ride through the streets of Mönchengladbach in the Carnival procession. Above CO, Col Brian Smith, in festive mood with carnival personalities and, right, the float leaves the workshop.



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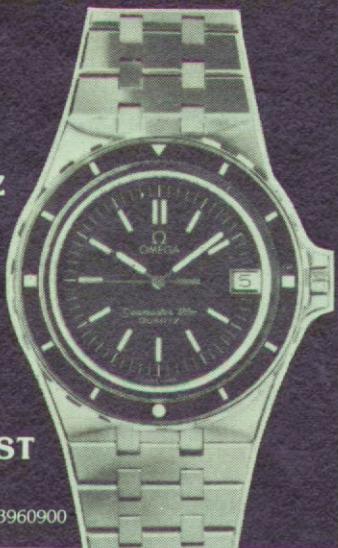
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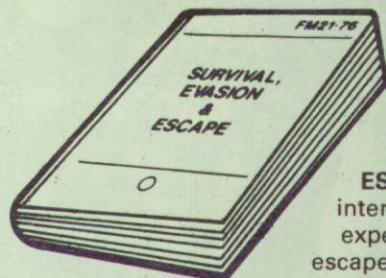
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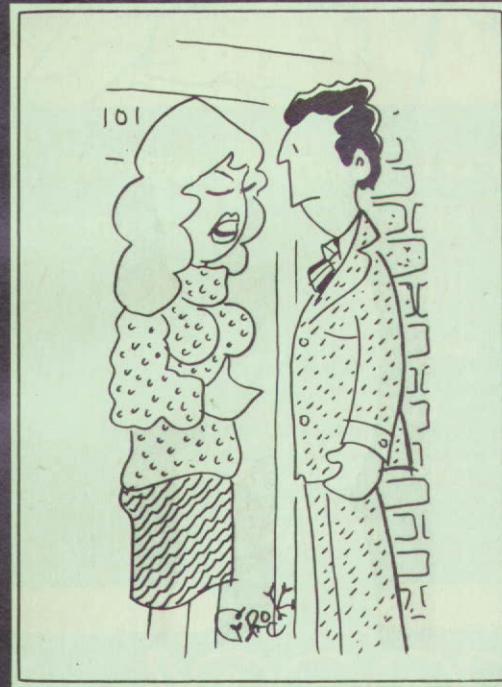
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*"So this is the tank is it, Mr Tank Commander?"*



*"It's nothing, Dora — just Alfred telling me my three minutes is nearly up."*

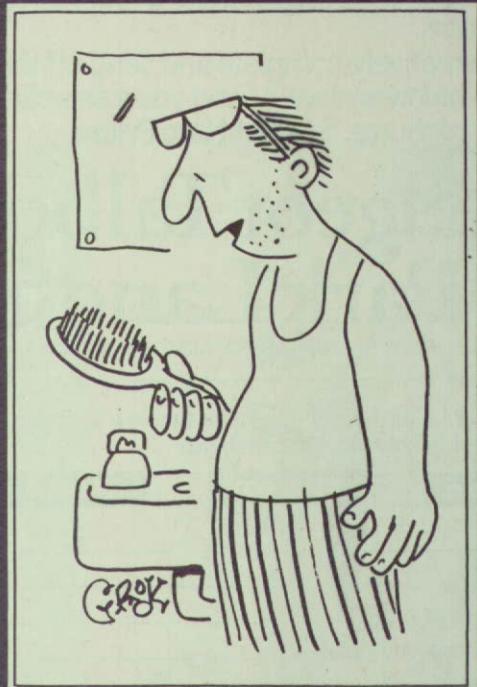


*"I've had a fantastic evening Nigel, but this wasn't it."*

# Humour



*"I said I'd wait for him until he left the Army — so he signed on again."*



*"Ye gods! Do I need a shave!"*

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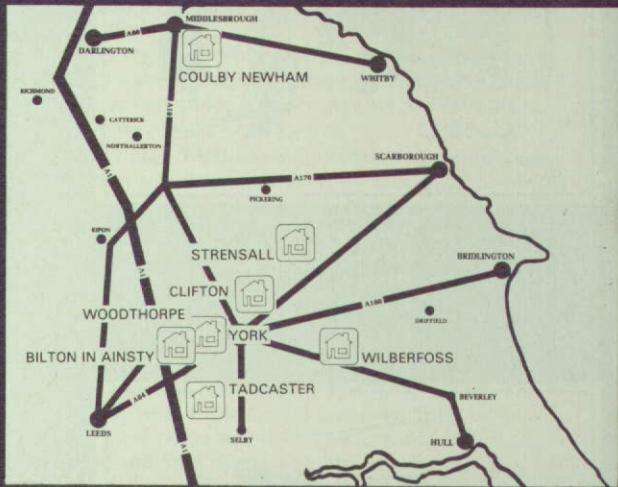
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**Soldiers are trained to react instantly in an emergency — as David Prior reports from Germany ...**

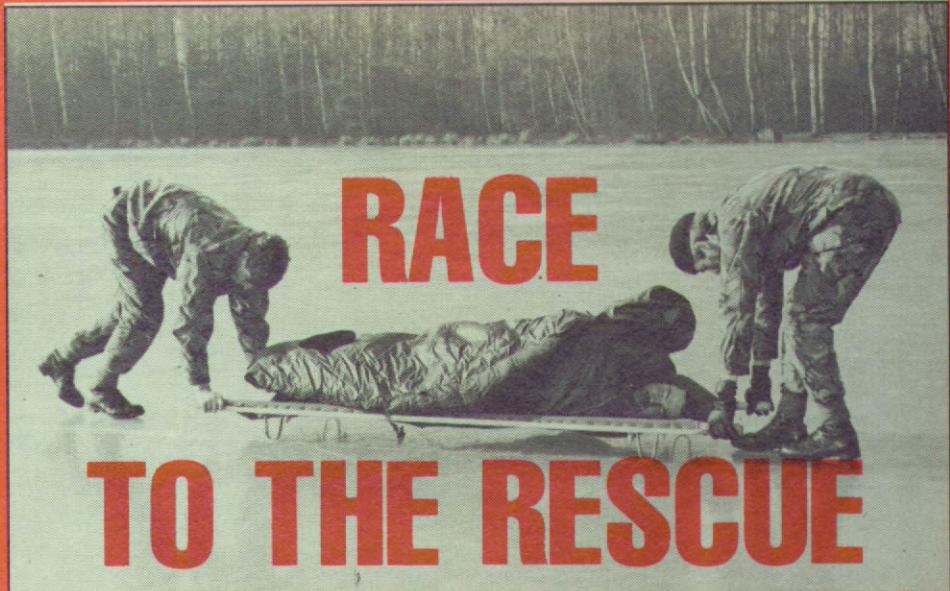
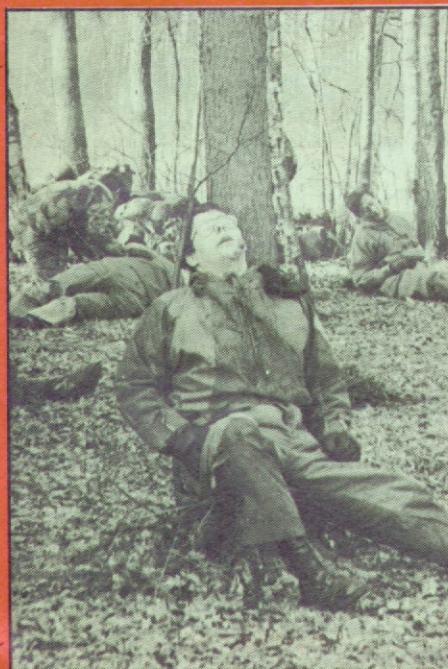


**T**HE JANUARY snows and floods in the United Kingdom gave soldiers the opportunity to practise an aspect of their military training that is little understood by the public.

It is known as Military Aid to the Civil Ministries or MACM. And from time to time various units within the Army carry out an exercise designed to test that unit's response to a given emergency or disaster.

One such exercise was carried out quite recently in Germany involving 2 Armoured

Dazed survivors at the crash scene. ▼



A stretcher case is slid gently to safety ▲ across the frozen lake.

◀ The emergency first aid tent. Trained orderly examines a survivor.

Division's Headquarters and Signal Regiment based in Bünde. The exercise was carried out as part of the regiment's Annual Report on a Unit, or ARU for short.

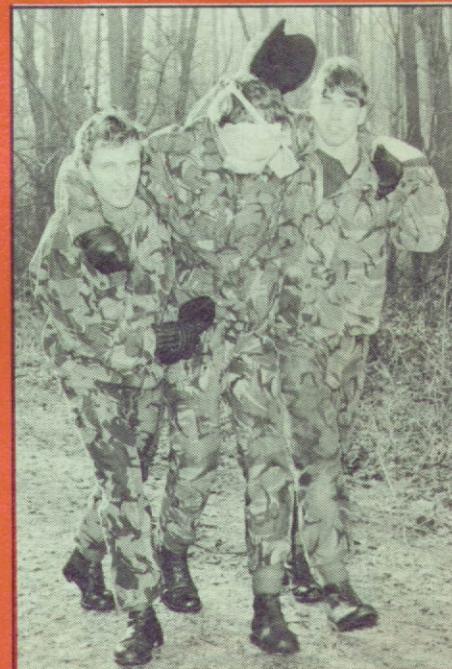
Units generally know they have an ARU coming up. What they don't know is the form it will take.

Bünde's ARU was no exception. At 0900 hours the unit received a signal that there had been an aircrash involving British nationals and instructing them to offer all possible assistance.

For the purpose of the exercise the unit were to imagine that they were on detachment in a remote overseas British Protectorate, the crash having taken place some 300 miles away.

This fictitious scenario dictated that once the advance party had arrived at the crash, assessed the casualty situation and radioed to base for equipment, medical backup and so on, they would not be allowed to return. And once the rescue party arrived they too would not be allowed to return even if they had forgotten to bring a vitally important piece of equipment.

Bringing a casualty back for treatment. ▼



Over a distance of 300 miles you only have one chance of getting it right. Having a second 'bite' would mean critical delay — with border-line survivors dying.

Working from a map grid reference the advance party arrived at the crash scene and discovered it to be an island in the middle of a frozen lake. So with very light feet the advance party set off across the ice to the survivors.

The ice held, the scene was surveyed and a report radioed to base. Sixteen had survived the crash. Four were dead.

Just over an hour later the main rescue party arrived with ready made rafts in case the ice didn't hold. A Puma helicopter from No 230 Squadron, RAF Gütersloh, arrived for casualty evacuation. Within half an hour of strenuous activity, a base camp had been erected, hot drinks prepared, medical equipment laid out and all survivors recovered. The more serious cases were flown out by helicopter.

It was a successful exercise but a very punishing one for the men from Bünde. For their morning didn't begin at 0900 when the alert came. They had been up since 0130, and had completed a 12 kilometre march in full NBC kit only minutes before being called out on the rescue mission. ■

Helping survivor to board helicopter. ▼





**Tomorrow's WRAC officers are facing a new challenge**

## **SHAPING UP AT SANDHURST**



**O**LD COLLEGE SQUARE has echoed to the tread of female feet for almost a year now since the Women's Royal Army Corps College was incorporated into the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

Most of the girls' training is still conducted at the WRAC College itself just up the A30 but, by using the excellent facilities available at RMAS, they gain an extra valuable dimension to their eight month training programme.

At the incorporation parade the Duchess of Kent, Controller Commandant of the WRAC, said the merger acknowledged that the future of the Corps was inseparable from the rest of the Army. The girls are certainly making the most of the opportunity to show they believe this to be true.

The members of Long Commissioning Course 88 stepped smartly across the parade ground with a regular 27-inch pace under the watchful eye of Colour Sergeant Donald Wood of the Scots Guards.

They had only joined the Corps four weeks previously as Captain Sarah Davies, SO3 Co-ord officer from the WRAC College, explained. "Drill at Sandhurst with male drill instructors has sharpened them up. They still have drill at the College but they certainly respond better and this is a totally different sort of drill. They are doing things they would not have done before."

The session ended with a fairly complicated form which the girls accomplished

◀ Cadet Artini-Salleh from Brunei gets instruction on Clansman from Cpl of Horse Henry Wendon.

with ease and Colour Sergeant Wood was full of praise for their progress. "They pick it up very quickly but it can be difficult when they won't stop giggling. You've got to be careful what you say too — you can't boil with them!"

There are only six girls on LCC 88 and they all enjoy their drill at Sandhurst. They feel that they are given praise where it is due and all agreed that their drill has improved one hundred per cent — although some admitted that they find some of the staff sergeants a bit frightening.

Captain Davies has an office in Academy Headquarters and much of her work involves liaison between the WRAC College and RMAS. "I thoroughly enjoy coming down here", she said. "For some of the men here it was a shock to the system as it had never been done before. If we are going to live with them and compete on equal terms in promotion exams, there's no point in them being down here and us being up there."

She added that there were problems of a practical nature at times. "44 Squadron provide transport but time can be a problem and the road is often very busy. It creates a bad impression if we are late, even if it's not our fault."

There is a lot of theoretical study on the WRAC course and professional studies include military technology and background as well as communication, which are not part of the Standard Military Course at Sandhurst. But Sandhurst does provide extended facilities for practical training and it is here that most of the advantage for the WRAC officer cadet lies.

Most obvious perhaps is the assault course. In recent years the WRAC have been using the assault course at Blackdown which is excellent for fitness and confidence training. However they now have the opportunity to have a go at the tougher course at Sandhurst and, although there are some parts of it that they do not tackle, they generally acquit themselves well.

NBC training too has been extended by

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



Tips on aerial tuning for Cadet Andrea Scarff from L/Cpl David Laverick.

the use of the Sandhurst facilities and the intention is that next term will see combined NBC training for WRAC and RMAS cadets.

The Signals Wing at RMAS manages to offer the girls a few periods of signals instruction between the syllabus requirements for Sandhurst cadets and, as many of them will join signals units, this training is invaluable.

Major John Neeve is Chief Instructor in the Signals Wing. "The girls seem to thrive on this sort of thing", he said. "They are less self-conscious and more motivated than the boys and are prepared to trust the instructors and learn the codes more conscientiously."

With a staff that includes three all-arms

instructors, the Signals Wing can provide the basics of more practical, regimental-type signalling admirably suited to WRAC needs.

Three courses have now had the benefit of a partial Sandhurst-based training. WRAC officers are among those on the platform in the Churchill Hall to give presentations to an audience made up of cadets from both College and Academy and, with a few WRAC officers at Staff College, it seems that the merger is set fair to develop in the years to come.

Captain Davies is cautious though: "This is only a basis and the start of something new. Sandhurst is being very helpful but you can't rush these things and Sovereign's Parade is an entirely different thing..." ■

## How observant are you?

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





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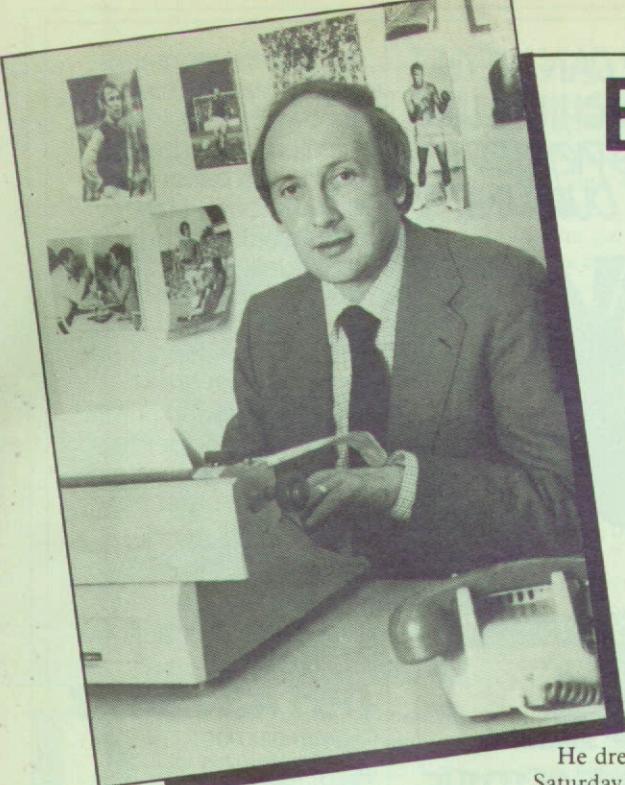
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# BARRY'S DEBT TO THE ARMY GAME



BACK IN THE early nineteen sixties a young second lieutenant was asked by the British Forces Network to provide a round-up on a Services soccer league in Germany. To his surprise he found that he would actually be on the air.

Today the ex-National Service officer lives in a comfortable detached house in Berkshire and is one of Britain's best known football commentators. For Barry Davies that request from BFN's Alan Grace (still with BFBS) was a turning point in his career — without it he would probably still be in the Army.

Barry starts his story as a young medical student. "I went into dentistry, which was a disastrous error. I never enjoyed it and didn't work hard enough. As a result I was called up and sent to Germany.

"I did the one thing you are not supposed to do in the Army — I volunteered — and was put in charge of soccer with the unit in Mulheim."

Summarising football matches and presenting the league round up meant a fair amount of broadcasting for the Royal Army Service Corps subaltern. "It got to the point where the CO asked who I was working for. I found I was doing something which deep down I had always wanted to do. It changed my whole life."

Barry was at the tail end of National Service and when the time came to leave in 1962 he nearly decided to stay in the Army. "But I had a very good CO. He said go out and give it a try otherwise every time you see that bloke Coleman on television you will think 'that could have been me!'"

Alan Grace arranged for Barry to have an interview with the BBC. "There was no job available and the blackest picture imaginable was painted. I was about the umpteenth who had experience with Forces radio round the world. There was no local radio then and Forces broadcasting was one of the places where you could learn the business."

But a few days later the telephone rang and Barry was offered the chance to help out with *Sports Report* on Saturdays — "it was not quite the teaboy but not much better".

He drew his six guineas for working each Saturday and soon gave up his part-time job in a bookshop and went in during the week unpaid.

Barry would accompany Brian Moore, then the BBC's football correspondent, to big matches and eventually he landed a job as a sports sub-editor with The Times. From there he started reporting on football, rugby, cricket and tennis.

One of English football's most memorable years, 1966, loomed and Barry found him-

**'I found I was doing something which deep down I had always wanted to do. It changed my whole life.'**

self put forward as a possible commentator for ITV's World Cup coverage.

"I said I had done an awful lot for BFN although I hadn't and was given a test. A number of us were tested on a Youth Clubs' Cup Final. I spent a lot of time finding out about the clubs and players and getting photographs of them. As a result my identification was better than anyone else's because no-one else had done this."

Barry made the World Cup team but found himself covering matches in the North-East of England. "I learned a lot about the business having to learn all about the North Koreans among others. I probably got about 40 minutes on the air."

That was Barry's summer holiday that year and he returned to The Times. But soon a vacancy came up at ABC TV and he was offered a six months' contract. After two years with ABC he joined Granada and in 1969 went to the BBC, where he has been ever since.

Football is still his first love but he admits that his views on how to commentate have changed over the years. He also enjoys commentating on track athletics and does

badminton as well. For other sports he acts as a link man — "there are only so many sports you can commentate on".

The busy life has meant that his own sporting pursuits have had to take a back seat. "I help coach kids at a couple of schools in Windsor. I occasionally go out and do a bit of jogging and I might turn out for the fathers against the masters at my son's school."

His wife Penny went back to work as a British Airways air stewardess three years ago. They have a daughter, Giselle (12) who was Berkshire under-ten champion at gymnastics. Their son, Mark, who is ten, is also very keen on sport.

The satirical magazine *Private Eye* publishes a regular list of what it calls 'Colemanballs' — gaffes allegedly perpetrated by commentators who have to keep the words going throughout a sporting event. Barry says: "If you take a phrase from the middle of a paragraph you can often make it sound strange."

Not that he has not had his share of mistakes. A few years back he got a Bristol City goal scorer completely wrong when giving his after the match report. Straight away afterwards the actual goal scorer came round to the commentary box and shouted 'I wouldn't mind but I don't score too often!'

The line had to be redubbed for that night's transmission. And in another game Barry did not spot that the referee had not allowed a goal. "For a spell of 20 minutes I had Manchester City beating Liverpool when the goal had been disallowed."

"It does take a lot of preparation. When I commentate on football I say what I think at the time — I open my mouth and hope my foot is not too close to it. If I stopped to think about what I was going to say I would be much more likely to make a mistake."

Unlike newspaper journalists the television commentator becomes a publicly known figure. Barry feels this has to be accepted as part of the job.

"It puts a certain amount of responsibility on you as a person and I can never understand people who say 'my private life is my own business'. Your private life does have a certain amount of interest and there is a responsibility to set some sort of example."

"If a kid asks for an autograph at the ground you ought either to do it or, if you have not got time, explain that he must come back later. I remember what it was like when I was a kid and asked for an autograph and got brushed aside."

"Sport is still the most discussed subject in the local and one has to accept that people want to talk about it. The important thing is to have a circle of friends who like you for the person they know rather than the one on the box."

Barry Davies still keeps up his links with the British Forces Broadcasting Service and does occasional sports jobs for them. And while he is travelling round the country he often meets old Army colleagues.

"I get paid for a hobby. But, because it is a hobby it tends to be there all the time. It's not a job you can switch off. It's a love-hate relationship. You enjoy it but rarely do you look back and get total satisfaction. I suppose if you did you might as well give up."

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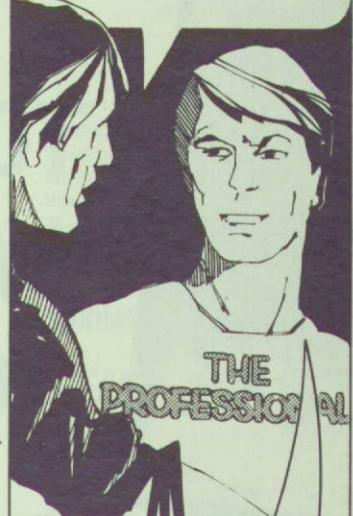
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**D**HEKELIA garrison is home for around 3,500 Servicemen and their families stationed in Cyprus as well as for another 1000 locally employed civilians. It is situated in the centre of the island's Eastern Sovereign Base Area some 67 miles east of Episkopi and close to the international airport of Larnaca, entry point for the thousands of summer visitors who flock to Cyprus during the season.

The ESBA covers 50 square miles and more than half its fifty five mile boundary abuts directly on to Turkish controlled areas. The Swedish and Austrian United Nations contingents are its nearest neighbours in the UN buffer zones to east and west, and it has access to some of the most beautiful beaches on the island.

The quarters and the garrison offices are built on a hillside that rises from the coast and gives a breathtaking view out across the bay. There are 519 quarters in Dhekelia and the other families are accommodated at Richmond Village, Pergamos Camp and Ayios Nikolaos, still within the garrison area. Families are not permitted to live in hirings outside the garrison for security reasons but there are enough quarters to meet any requests for quarters. Most distinctive are the typical tropical type quarters which, although ideal in the long hot summers, do tend towards being too cold in the winter months. There are also the flats at Slim Village which were converted from barracks.

The hutted accommodation at Pergamos Camp and Ay Nik (as the village of Ayios Nikolaos is affectionately known) are comfortable and in pleasant surroundings. 125 families live at Pergamos and another 165 at Ay Nik. Unfortunately not all those employed at Ay Nik can live on the premises so some have to commute up the corridor, a 30-metre wide road between Turkish and Greek areas, from quarters in Dhekelia.

But it seems the most popular quarters are those at Richmond Village, a mile and a half from Dhekelia. Major Iewan Phillips, the garrison housing commandant has noticed a reluctance among families to move out once they have settled there. "The quarters there are sub-standard wooden buildings and families are given the choice after about a

month and can move if they want. Most stay though. The rent is less and each bungalow is completely detached with its own plot of land and often more space inside too," he explained.

The garrison also houses two companies of the infantry battalion that is on UN duty for six months in Cyprus. The detachment in Dhekelia takes up residence in Alexander Barracks until it changes places with the other companies and moves to Nicosia. Major Phillips recognises the problems of these unaccompanied soldiers. "They do not even have cars and they have a pretty spartan existence here without their wives. Those that come in the winter even miss the sun and the beaches. It's not so bad in the summer."

The garrison is surprisingly well-endowed with facilities. There is a primary school in each of the three residential areas and a large secondary school in Dhekelia, three cinemas, two banks, a hairdressing salon — although some women go to the Hilton in Nicosia to have their hair done — a good library, bookshop and thrift shop and a Naafi. Major Phillips was critical though: "There is a miserable choice of shops in the garrison — just the Naafi in fact. On the other hand, the Naafi has a very good district manager now and, although people complain about the prices, after deductions I think Naafi probably works out cheaper in the end."

Many wives make the trip to Larnaca when they want to shop. Sue Ford cannot

"I would say that  
this is one of the  
best integrated  
garrisons I've ever  
been in."

drive but she finds that transport is quite good to Larnaca. "I find it a drawback but the taxis are cheap and there are some buses. Larnaca is good for shopping. Imported goods are expensive but the local meat, fish and vegetables are cheap. Material and leather is inexpensive too and to get clothes made is just ridiculously cheap. You can hire washing machines and things like that rather than buy them which is much better value."

Sue has lived in Dhekelia for over two years now and is soon to return to UK. "It's been smashing. I've enjoyed it but I'll be glad to get back. There were a lot of things I wish I'd known. They don't tell you about the banking hours, the post office facilities and so on. And it's all so different here." She has made the most of the opportunities there are though. "You need something to do — the days can be very long and you find after the first summer that people don't go down to the beach quite so much. Mind you, if anything, there's too much to do. I think you should restrict yourself to one or two activities."

Predictably, for a garrison in Cyprus, the

activities are of the outdoor, sporting kind. Dhekelia has its fair share of swimming, water skiing, football, tennis and riding as well as a thriving yacht club, well-used 'browns' for rounds of golf, a gliding club at Kingsfield airstrip and an enthusiastic board sailing set, plus numerous other sports clubs. Something for everyone, you might think, but there are those who are not attracted to sports. "If people don't like beaches, the sea or the sun and don't like partaking of activities with their fellows, then they won't like it here" said Major Phillips. He added, however, that there was an extraordinary talent in an isolated community like Dhekelia, evidenced by the new Morris dancing club, the theatre club and the archaeological society to mention just a few. "If people are interested in historical things, they sometimes get really carried away here," he said.

The youngsters too have their clubs. These cater for all ages and most interests and include a Combined Cadet Force run by one of the teachers at King Richard's School which is as popular as the Guides and Scouts.

Many people eat out in the evenings. There is no BFBS television in Cyprus as yet and eating out is an inexpensive way to socialise. Sue and her family find it very pleasant and good value. "In the Kebaberie we can, four of us, eat out for under four pounds Cyprus, that's a little over in sterling. Although lots of places look tatty from the outside, the food is very good."

And if you are ill, the garrison has its own cottage hospital. There used to be a large hospital at Dhekelia but now emergencies and first babies are taken care of at Akrotiri under an hour away by helicopter. However, there have been times when even a helicopter has proved too slow and pilot Mike Schofield had to land close to a flock of sheep one starlit night while the midwife with him delivered an eager baby. He is understood to have looked over his shoulder for the three kings to complete the scene . . .

By and large, families enjoy life at Dhekelia. Colonel Douglas McCord is the garrison and ESBA commander and he emphasised the family atmosphere in the garrison. "One of the most encouraging things here is that it's a small community but one of the best integrated garrisons I've ever been in. Everybody mucks in and is extraordinarily friendly. It's a very good community." The community includes the locally-based civilians, many of whom have worked in the base for over 30 years. Colonel McCord has regular meetings with the Turkish representatives to iron out any small border problems and has the greatest respect for ESBA administration officer, George Savvides. "He is a fund of wisdom and a great friend to us all," said Colonel McCord.

There are complaints of course and Major Phillips reckons most people complain about noisy neighbours but he adds: "There is very little moving house though." And, of course, a Cyprus posting is something that can be shared. "Practically every family will have had guests staying with them at some time. The air fare isn't cheap but being near Larnaca helps and they pack them in like sardines! It's obviously worth it."



**SAVED BY THE** National Bus Company's overnight service I made it to Newcastle for my two day visit to the Department of Health and Social Security, dividing my time equally between the Child Benefit Centre and the Overseas Branch.

I had discussions with Mr Neil Hanson the Controller, who is responsible for a 12,500 work force, the Head of the Child Benefit Centre and the Overseas Branch as well as with section heads.

I was able to raise those grey areas and the anomalies and the problems over the interpretation of the rules, which have made me increasingly aware that service wives and dependants were falling into a Catch 22 situation, especially when overseas. Your letters and case histories helped explain these fears.

My discussions covered for example the EEC forms E303 and E301, CFN 982A, the translation of these forms to credit protection, National Insurance Numbers and what happens when one is discharged overseas regarding claiming Unemployment Benefit.

With Mr Milne, the Head of the Child Benefit Centre, I talked about the policy side, eg payment direct to mothers overseas, the new CB payment rules, and how they affect us, the payment of CB when one moves to and from NI.

Everyone was extremely helpful and anxious to eradicate any flaws in the system.

One question over who can claim Sickness benefit when overseas has been resolved.

Anyone who would be eligible for this benefit in UK, and by that you must have paid the correct number of Class 1 National Insurance contributions, then you can claim. If in doubt claim anyway. Send a sick note or certificate from your doctor to the Overseas Branch. Mark it Sickness Benefit. If your claim is allowed, then you will be paid direct overseas. This also applies if you are in an EEC or other country which has a reciprocal agreement with Britain. Then your UK contributions may be taken into account.

*Anne Armstrong*

I have had a number of letters about nationality problems where a son or daughter retains a nationality other than that of parents or step-parents, as for example where the parents are British but the child retains a German passport. I asked MoD for advice on one case in which a soldier serving overseas has a step-daughter with a German passport. This is the answer:

*The Home Office do not anticipate any difficulty on entry into this country since the girl will be accompanied by both parents and will be travelling on a Services charter flight or equivalent. If the intention is that the girl should acquire UK citizenship there are two possibilities. The step-father should legally adopt her while they are all resident in UK. She will then automatically acquire UK citizenship.*

*Alternatively he should apply to the Home Office for the girl to be registered as a UK citizen.*

*If the intention is that the girl should retain her German nationality then the step-father should contact the Immigration Division of the Home Office for further advice on the appropriate steps to be taken.*

I am writing to ask if you can give guidance on holiday to travel to BAOR for my son. He is 16 and at an Army Apprentices College.

We moved to BAOR in November and were told by my husband's unit that my son did not qualify for free flights so we paid for him to come home for Christmas. Subsequently we were told that he could have one free flight a year but that it had to be arranged by his own unit in UK. His unit, however, says that the flight has to be arranged from this end.

**Mrs W, Germany**

*The rules are in BAOR Standing Orders, Part III, Chapter 3 Section 8, Paragraph c. I think your son comes under school children's*

*visits and is entitled to two visits per year, plus one to which you must contribute. If you have any other questions or doubts, write to GI Comp, HQ BAOR, BFPO 40.*

**I do not want to lose out on my National Insurance contributions record when I return to UK in two years time. I have paid full stamps for five years. What should I do?**

**Mrs I, Cyprus**

*Ask at your local BFPO for the following leaflets: NI42/Fe 80,*

*If the BFPO does not have them, ask at your unit Pay Office and also write to the Overseas Branch, DHSS, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE98 1YX, giving your NI number and ask them for your present record. Then you will be able to see how you stand and what action should be taken.*

**I have recently moved to Germany with my husband who is in the RAF. I was previously working full time and also paying the full stamp. Am I entitled to unemployment benefit? Several people have said I should be but no one seems sure of anything.**

*Go immediately and sign on at the German Arbeitsamt. Under EEC rules you are eligible to claim up to three months unemployment benefit in another member state, in your case Germany. However, there are certain rules you must follow. You should have signed on at the local UB office in UK between four weeks and two days prior to departure. If you had, the DHSS would have provided an E303 for you to take to the German UK office.*

*Write to the Overseas Branch at Newcastle-upon-Tyne and explain the situation.*

## ASK ANNE

*'NI Voluntary Contributions'; NI48/July 7, 'Unpaid and Late Paid Contributions'; NI1/Jan 81, 'Married Women, Your National Insurance Position'; NI38/April 78, 'NI Guidance for People Abroad'.*

## SPACE AVAILABLE FOR NEEDY

HOMES FOR disabled ex-servicemen are generally over-subscribed and this fact can lead to a feeling that there is no point in trying to get in. But of course places do become available from time to time and one case of which I have heard is St David's Home at Ealing, London.

They have a number of places, so if you know of a disabled ex-serviceman who could be better cared for, then do let them know.

Founded in 1918 to provide a home where a kindly welcome, sympathetic care and medical attention is assured, St David's is run by the Sisters Of Charity of St Vincent de Paul under a management committee and aided by a staff of nurses and care assistants.

All denominations are welcomed.

There is accommodation for 56 men and the premises are all on the ground floor. The two wards are divided into individual units, one open plan and five small rooms. All are fitted with colour TV.

The physiotherapy unit is equipped with every modern aid through the help of the Army Benevolent Fund and there is also a section for occupational therapy. And they have their own ambulance as well as the support of several organisations which help to provide outings.

If you know of anyone who could benefit from that sort of care then write to The Secretary, St David's Home for the Disabled Ex-Serviceman, Castlebar Hill, Ealing, W5 1TE. The phone number is 01-997 5121.

## DID YOU KNOW?

IT IS PRETTY CLEAR that lots of people serving in Germany do not know that there is a well established rescue service for servicemen and their families who get stranded in the Low Countries.

Most of the victims are, of course, people whose cars have broken down and the system is that the civil police advise HQ British Forces Antwerp of the problem and arrangements are then made for the unfortunate to be returned to their unit (normally on repayment).

So if you have problems ask the civil police to contact the HQ at Emblem, Belgium.

Did you also know that under Belgian Law you must have at least 500 BFrs in your possession when in that country.



# Scouts help others

"YOU ARE NOW A SCOUT. I trust you on your honour at all times to do your best to carry out your duty and to do a good turn to somebody every day." That certificate was signed 'Baden Powell, Chief Scout' and it was dated 1907 — the first year of scouting.

In the intervening 75 years those or similar words have been said or written in many languages and today 16 million Scouts throughout the world are celebrating 'The Year of the Scout'.

From the beginning Baden Powell recognised that there would have to be change and the image has certainly altered over the years. Gone are the shorts and 'Mountie' hats but the ideals of trust, loyalty and duty remain.

When Baden Powell gathered 20 boys for the first camp on Brownsea Island, they learned from the hero of Mafeking the fun, comradeship, adventure and challenge Scouting could offer.

Two days after the official launch of 'Year of the Scout' Major General Michael Walsh became Chief Scout. He has chosen the motto "To help other people" as the slogan for the year, a year which will end with the 15th World Jamboree in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Over 15,000 scouts from 100 countries are expected to take part.

The appointment came as a complete surprise, says the General, "but it is a great honour and I am very proud to be



Major General Walsh appointed.

The mighty movement which he now heads is 653,444 strong and one which is as relevant to today's society as it was 75 years ago.

The message from the World Bureau in Switzerland is: "This is not an occasion on which to sit down and rest, though it is permissible to be thankful." That is an extract from Baden Powell's message on the 10th anniversary in 1918.

No barriers here at the 1981 InterCamp, held in Holland.



Initials still on the wall at Eloff's Fort.

## Mafeking — Root of Scouting

EARLIER THIS YEAR I realised a childhood dream by making a nostalgic trip to Mafeking, the place where BP made a heroic stand. I had read about it during my Guiding days and then, when I was arranging the first page about the siege in my scrapbook, I secretly pledged that I would make it there one day.

For the rest of the family it was Mum's pilgrimage — well! My African taxi-driver was also a bit nonplussed. I was looking for the places used by Baden Powell during the siege.

It was obvious that most of his passengers wanted to see the new city springing up out of the barren scrub plain. It is a modern city miles from any other and he gave me a conducted tour.

But how to find Eloff's Fort in the native reserve? "Don't worry," he said. "I will ask a friend." Eventually we found it, a low two-roomed brownstone building. Just stone walls and a door. Grass and thorn trees now shield it from the mid day heat.

Once the town hall, now the museum.

and with obvious delight the driver's friend pointed out BP's initials scratched on the wall.

Now to find Kanon Koppie. It turned out to be four or five kilometers outside the city with a small sign pointing to the fort. There was a tropical storm brewing and the taxi driver was even more bewildered as, with camera, notebook and tape recorder, I dashed through the gate and disappeared into the scrub.

The boulders and thorn made it a bit difficult to run but there it was — the fort walls, the tunnel where BP's boy scouts ran their messages, small enough to avoid having their heads blown off.

Then I made a final visit to the museum where Mrs Audrey Renew explained how, in four years, she had transformed the old town hall into Mafeking's museum. With utmost dedication Audrey has laid out the exhibits tracing Mafeking's history. Three-quarters of the space is devoted to the siege which lasted 217 days.



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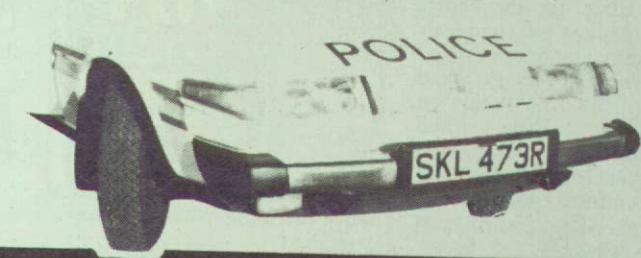
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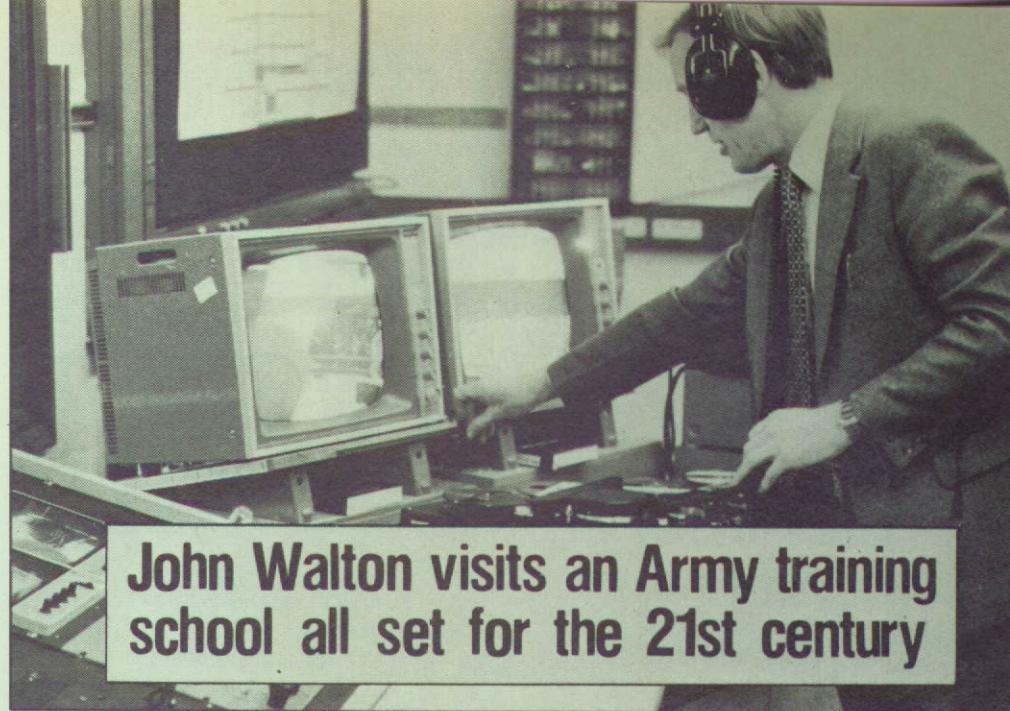
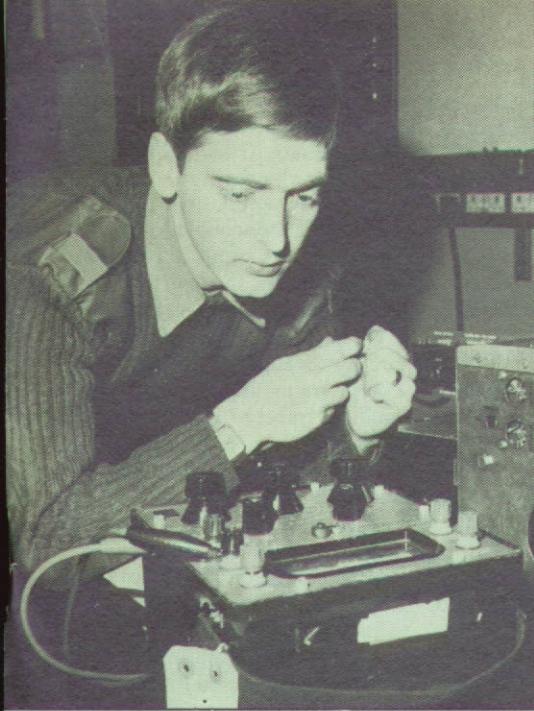
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## John Walton visits an Army training school all set for the 21st century

# A SIGNAL SUCCESS

A MULTI-MILLION POUNDS computer based system for teaching, which will put the Army at the forefront of educational development, is expected to begin within the next two years. The system will be based at the Royal Signals' Trade Training School at Catterick, whose commander, Lieutenant-Colonel David Dudley says: "This will take us into the 21st century and will probably set the pace for all major teaching establishments in this country."

A final study will be carried out this autumn and it is hoped to get the computers installed by late 1983 or early 1984. The principal behind the teaching method is that students should learn at their own pace rather than be tied to a rigid timetable.

Already some experiments on short courses have been carried out at the School although the course has to be administered manually, which is not practicable for the longer courses.

Colonel Dudley told SOLDIER: "If the Students on data telegraphists' course. ▼

### ▼ Fault-finding with transistorised test meter.

normal time for a course is three months we expect people to pass out in a bracket of two months to four months, with more people coming out earlier than they would have done and a few taking longer. But we calculate the gain to be 30 per cent."

Chief Superintending Instructor, Mr Peter Halsey, likens it to learning to drive where pupils take their test when they are ready rather than after a fixed number of lessons.

"We are going to use Open University techniques. That is self paced almost to the point where you can enter the system and never come out of it. Our people will be pushed through the system at the pace their instructors consider they are able to work."

With the aid of the computer the teaching will be able to take into account the exact needs of each individual. For instance he may learn one subject better by one method and need some other stimulus to do his best at another.

It is fitting that it should be the Royal Signals who will be putting into practice this technological breakthrough. The days of despatch riders and semaphore are long gone. Today the communications equipment used by the Corps is highly sophisticated and becoming more so all the time.

Training of Royal Signals has been in Catterick ever since 1925 and the Trade

### ▼ Making a video training film with CCTV. ▲

Training School, part of 8th Signal Regiment, was opened in its present form by the then Prime Minister, Edward Heath, in 1971.

Since that time 45,000 students have passed through the doors and every year there are up to 4000 more. Eighty per cent of the work is teaching young Royal Signals soldiers a trade plus a small number of WRAC. The number of women students is growing as the WRAC moves into new trades.

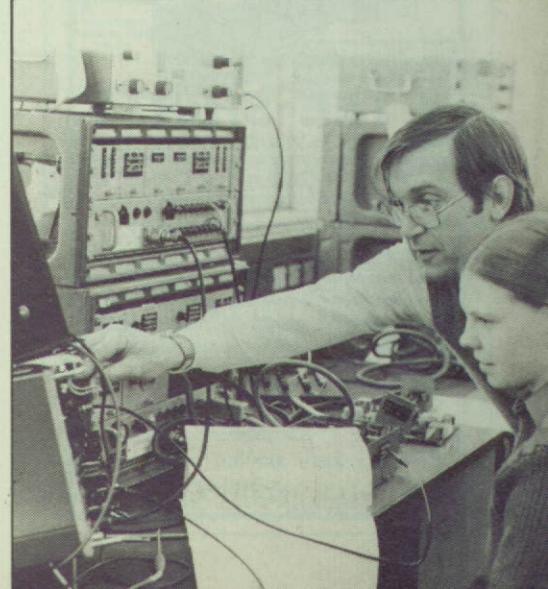
There are also upgrading courses for senior corporals and young sergeants and Colonel Dudley reckons that every soldier in the Corps goes through the Trade Training School at some stage.

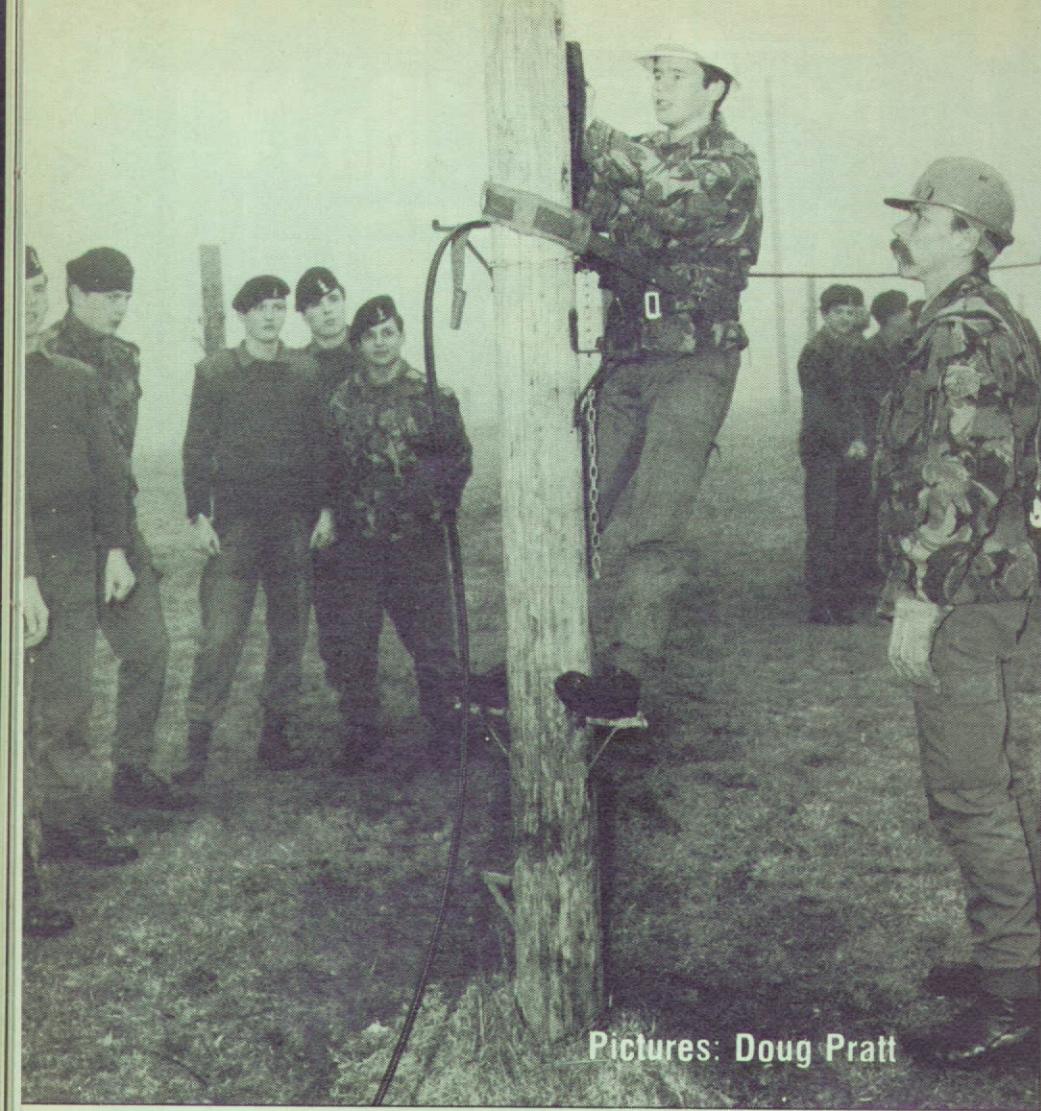
At any one time there are 50 to 60 courses running involving perhaps 900 students. They will also include some TA members, people from other Government departments and personnel from other countries on special courses. The most frequent course is for Royal Signals technicians — with a new one starting every three weeks.

"Every single day here is totally unlike any other day in any other year because of the different courses we run", says Colonel Dudley. "The programming of courses is quite a problem and we have four people whose sole job is timetabling courses."

*continued on page 24*

### ▼ Instruction on the radio technicians' course.





Pictures: Doug Pratt

The school has 150 instructors, half military and half civilian, and they too go on courses to improve their instructional ability. And new training techniques and equipment are always to the fore.

Closed circuit television is used for making training films and the school has a studio and a three man team to produce the films. Over the next two years they plan to produce some 250 to 300 training programmes.

The CCTV packages are supplied all over the world and Mr Evans and his colleagues, Sergeant Tony Orwin and photographer, Mr Mike Smalley, travel to various parts of the world to film the Royal Signals in action.

The weather in Catterick is none too clement most of the time and there is now a new indoor (but unheated) area for work on external lines — complete with mini telegraph poles. A similar facility still exists and is used outside as the potential telecommunications mechanics learn their trade. In fact overhead line construction is no longer required except in Cyprus or Hong Kong — but in a war situation anything is possible.

Data telegraphists, combat powermen and all the other trades which make up the sophisticated Royal Signals set-up of the 1980's pass through the Trade Training School. The building was designed by John Poulson, who achieved a certain amount of notoriety a few years ago. The students who pass through its doors may never be as well known — what they will be is well trained.

Up the pole — Signalman Paddy Keenan gets tips on procedure from Sergeant Jim Beecham.

Combat powermen practise their skills in the School's new indoor working area.

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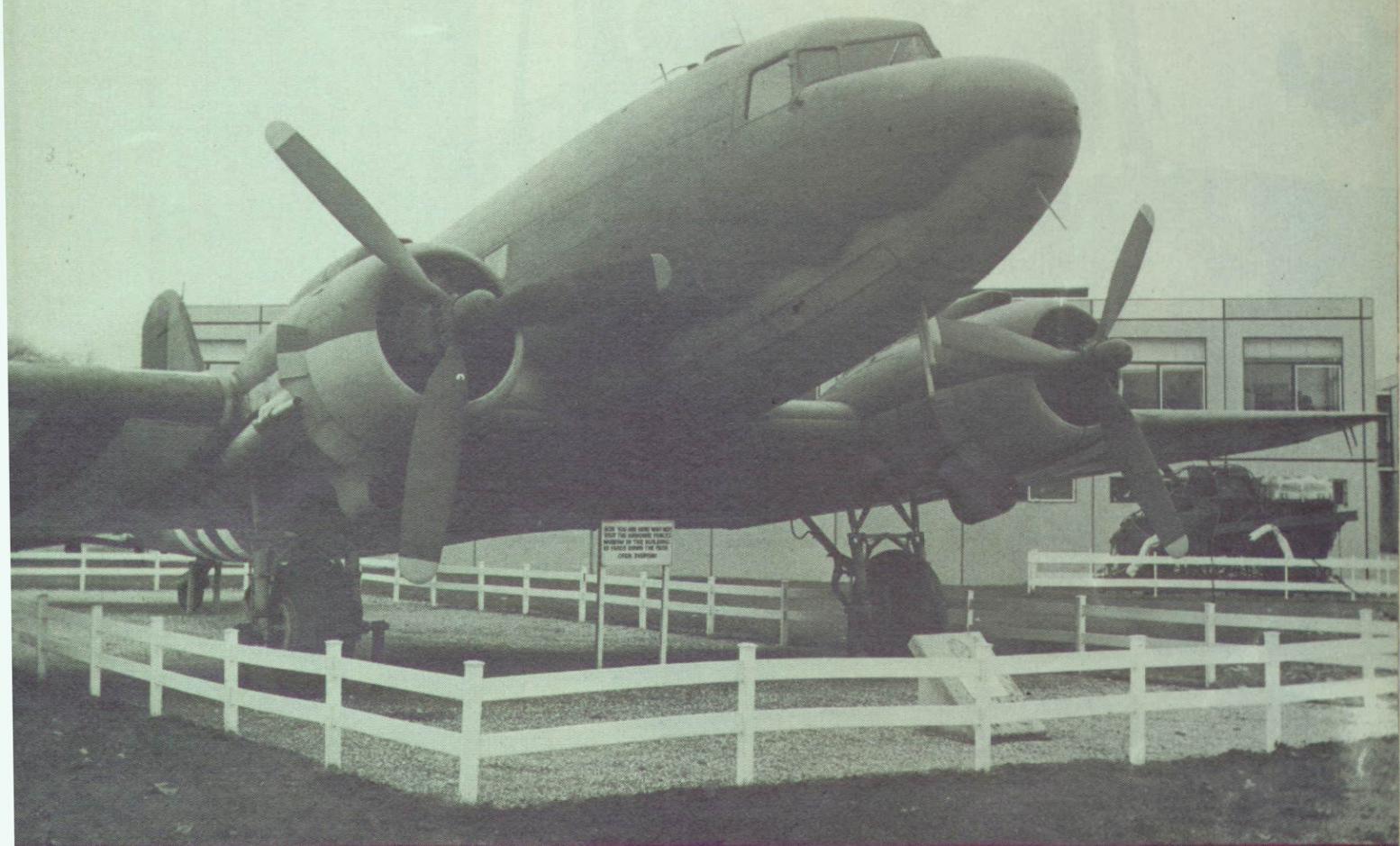
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# WINGED WORKHORSE



EVERY WEEK, recently, millions of viewers enjoyed the fictional adventures of the three-man crew of a venerable Dakota called Vera Lynn in the Yorkshire Television series, *Airline*. The series has just finished, but it is worth noting that the Army has a Dakota of its own which must surely have some very interesting travellers' tales to tell.

Certainly, it must be the only Dakota in the world to be involved in an accident travelling up the wrong side of a dual carriageway!

Dakota C-47B, Mk IV, KP 208, a veteran of some 4600 hours in the air — though probably never in anger — stands outside Aldershot's Browning Barracks, home of The Depot, The Parachute Regiment and within sight of the Airborne Forces' Museum.

KP 208, the Royal Air Force's last flying Dakota in service was handed over to become a garrison landmark on June 27, 1970, as part of the 30th anniversary ceremony of Airborne Forces' Day.

For five years, the twin-engined, postwar Dakota stood in RAF livery near the museum until it was decided to re-paint her in June 1975 in 271 Squadron markings with a fuselage insignia of 'YS'.

Mr Tom Fitch, 59, an ex-Para of 36 years' service and assistant curator at the museum explained: "Our Dakota is a representation of the type which used to carry airborne forces. Its presence here marks the long and close association between the Army and the Royal Air Force. I think we paid about £82 for it."

**A new TV series prompted Graham Smith to take a fresh look at a famous Aldershot landmark...**

The Dakota, the world's most renowned workhorse aircraft, carried paratroopers in all major airborne operations in the last war including Normandy, Arnhem and the Rhine Crossing. But not KP208.

The aircraft was passed as fit for service on 4 June, 1945, from the Douglas Aircraft Corporation factory in Oklahoma City, but details of her subsequent aerial career are patchy.

It is known that she flew in the tropical climes and monsoon belts of India and, in particular, in the service of the British Air Attaché in New Delhi in about 1964. Another record shows that she returned to the UK in 1966.

In 1967, KP 208 operated out of HQ Allied Forces Northern Europe at Kolsas, near Oslo. And a sister service newspaper of about 12 years ago reported that she used to be with the RAF's Coastal Command at Aldergrove, Northern Ireland before passing to a Maintenance Unit.

KP 208's last flight however was on May

18, 1970, from 5 Maintenance Unit at RAF Kemble in Gloucestershire to RAF Odiham, near Basingstoke, in Hampshire.

There, half-a-dozen tradesmen from 16 Para Workshops, REME, at Aldershot stripped the wing fairings, the tail-plane, drained 400 gallons of fuel and then undid 2000 bolts in the wings. RAF personnel dismantled the wings.

Rudder and flaps followed. Then the VIP-fit interior was removed.

Staff Sergeant Ian Gillies, Artificer Weapons, recalled at the time: "What once looked like a luxurious aircraft became a replica of a skinhead onslaught on a British Rail carriage. Can we now claim to be the only serving members of REME to have stripped and assembled a Dakota?"

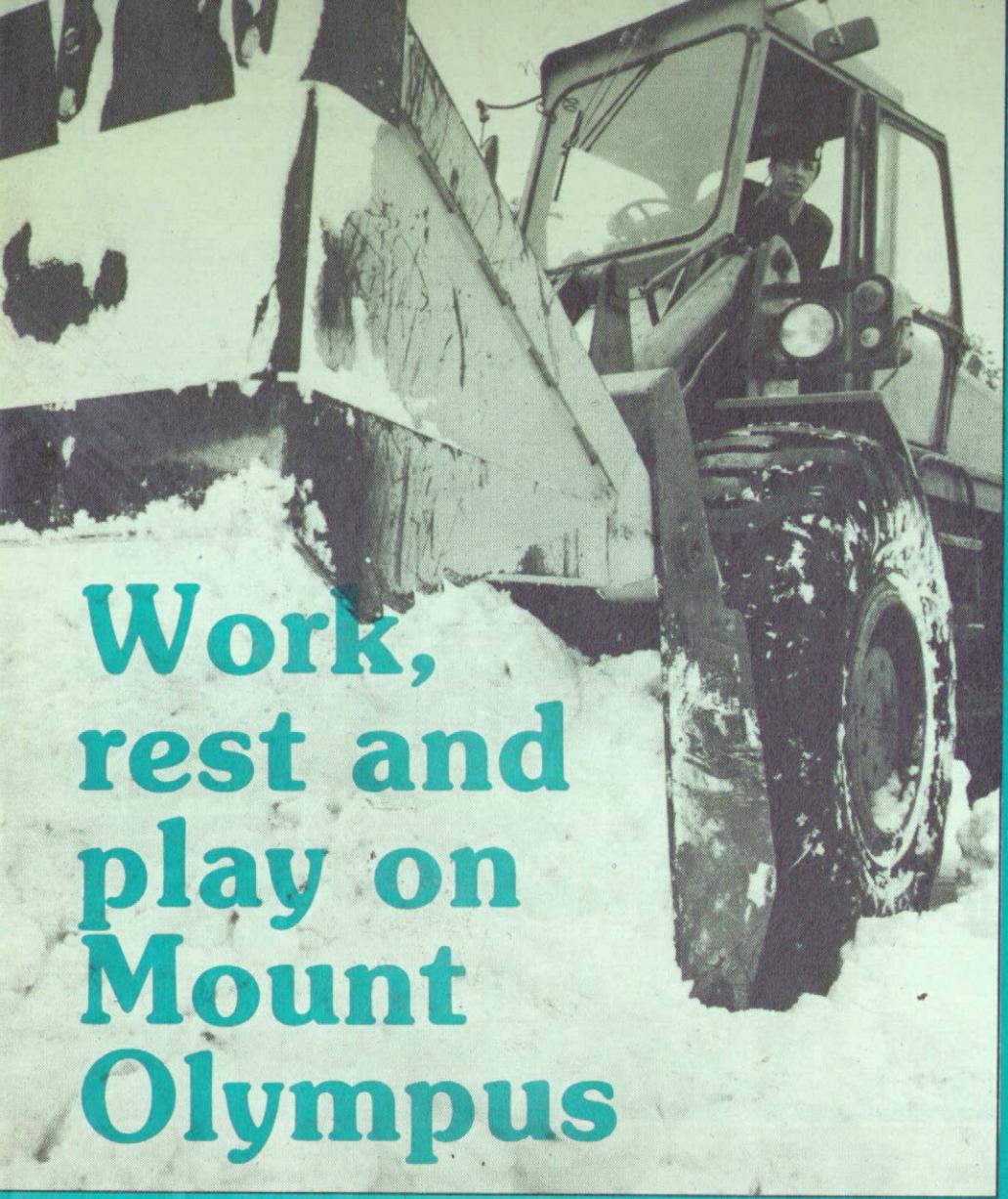
The fuselage was taken to Aldershot aboard a Queen Mary transporter. The wings and tail-plane followed the next day with police escort.

KP 208 did reach its ultimate parking place — but not without mishap. A safety record of some 4000 hours in the sky was dented — or, at least the tail-plane was — on the ground.

As Staff Sergeant Gillies logged: "The Dakota was wheeled to its final resting place at the cost of a small tree. This resulted from the only known accident involving a Dakota which was travelling up the wrong side of the dual carriageway when a lamp post leapt out in front of the aircraft!"

Not even the gallant Vera Lynn in the *Airline* series could boast of an adventure like that!

# Work, rest and play on Mount Olympus



## Ann Beecham samples the high life in Cyprus where soldiers . . .

MOUNT OLYMPUS used to be the exclusive playground of the gods, or so Greek mythology would have us believe, but that was in the good old days. Things have changed a great deal on Mount Olympus. At the first hint of snow, the slopes are crammed with gaily coloured ski suits and the cars make their way up to Troodos in droves from Episkopi, carrying families and friends for the start of the skiing season in Cyprus.

Skiing in Cyprus is a serious business. The dry ski slope is in use from September so that students can get the feel of the sport and be ready to make the most of the snow when it comes, usually around November, although this is by no means certain and some years have seen ski fanatics waiting in vain for the first flurries.

The Leave Centre on Troodos, with its Naafi, shops and accommodation is a hive of activity during the season. People can hire skis, sticks and boots for next to nothing, enrol on skiing courses and even stay in the family chalets that are clustered around the Centre and are for hire at a reasonable cost. It has all the elements of the most fashionable ski resort with a ski store that is a treasure house of equipment in all shapes and sizes and is pretty well self-financing.

There are three main slopes on Mount Olympus: Sun Valley One is a nursery slope for beginners, Sun Valley Two is more advanced while the North Face draws the

◀ Spr Andy Gunn teams up with the Allis Chalmers.

Keeping a weather eye on the perimeter fence. ▶

really experienced and confident performers.

Students are well-catered for and have a variety of courses open to them and their families. Last year there were 332 people on the Milski two-week course for serving soldiers and airmen. Major Richard Lees who, as Training Officer, is responsible for these courses was pleased with the enthusiasm shown for skiing and stressed its value for

**Pictures: Doug Pratt**

developing fitness, determination and co-ordination.

But Troodos is not simply a playground for the snow happy. Behind the cheerful, off-duty world of the Cyprus skiing fraternity are other inhabitants with a very real job to do on the mountain.

Troodos is home for the highest Royal Signals unit in the world. Based 1952 metres above sea level, the Mountain Troop of 259 Signals Squadron, Royal Signals, support 280 Signals Unit RAF at Troodos and provide land-line communications within the retained site. They also have the responsibility of maintaining part of the island's military radio relay system.

The security of the Troodos site is in the hands of the resident battalion on the island, based at Episkopi, who are at present the 3rd Battalion, The Light Infantry. They maintain a defence platoon on the mountain at all times.

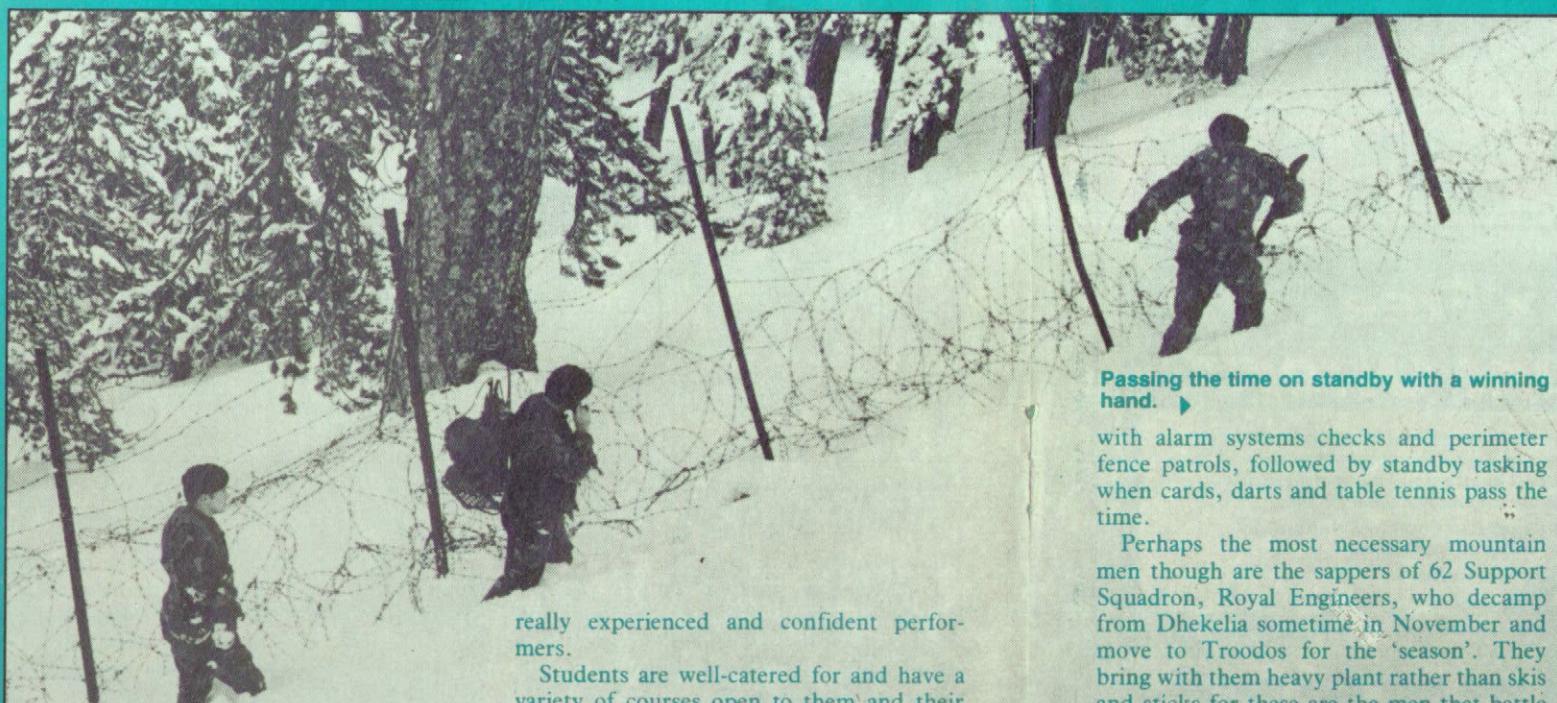
It is a permanent commitment and each company takes its turn on a rota basis, keeping a section at Troodos, a section on duty at the Mount Olympus site and a standby section ready to deal with any emergency that might arise at either site.

Sergeant Mark Speight of HQ Company was in control at the Troodos ops room and explained what was involved. "We are basically tasked to prevent illegal entry, espionage and sabotage. We might also get called out to help with an accident on the mountain and are called on now and again to man the barrier here as we come under the command of the RAF while we are on the mountain.

"The lads enjoy coming up here because it's out of the way of normal working routine. It's a change but too long gets boring", he added.

The men involved in the mountain duties alternate their locations so that a relatively static stint in the Mount Olympus guardroom soon gives way to ops room duties

Towering landmark for 259 Signal Squadron.



◀ Ascent of the North Face: a challenge to be met.

Passing the time on standby with a winning hand. ▶

with alarm systems checks and perimeter fence patrols, followed by standby tasking when cards, darts and table tennis pass the time.

Perhaps the most necessary mountain men though are the sappers of 62 Support Squadron, Royal Engineers, who decamp from Dhekelia sometime in November and move to Troodos for the 'season'. They bring with them heavy plant rather than skis and sticks for these are the men that battle against the elements to keep the roads across the mountains passable. They work mainly in the area around Troodos village and up to the top of Mount Olympus.

Many of the RAF personnel who work on Troodos live in the village of Platres, some seven miles down the mountain side. The



road has to be cleared for them to arrive in time to change shifts at 6.30 am and this means a 4 am start for the sappers. They are on duty 24 hours a day to deal with the roads, the helipad, the car parks and camp areas on the mountain — a daunting task when as much as three feet of snow has fallen in one day.

Their plant is often in constant use and sometimes engines have to be kept running just to prevent the diesel fuel from waxing.

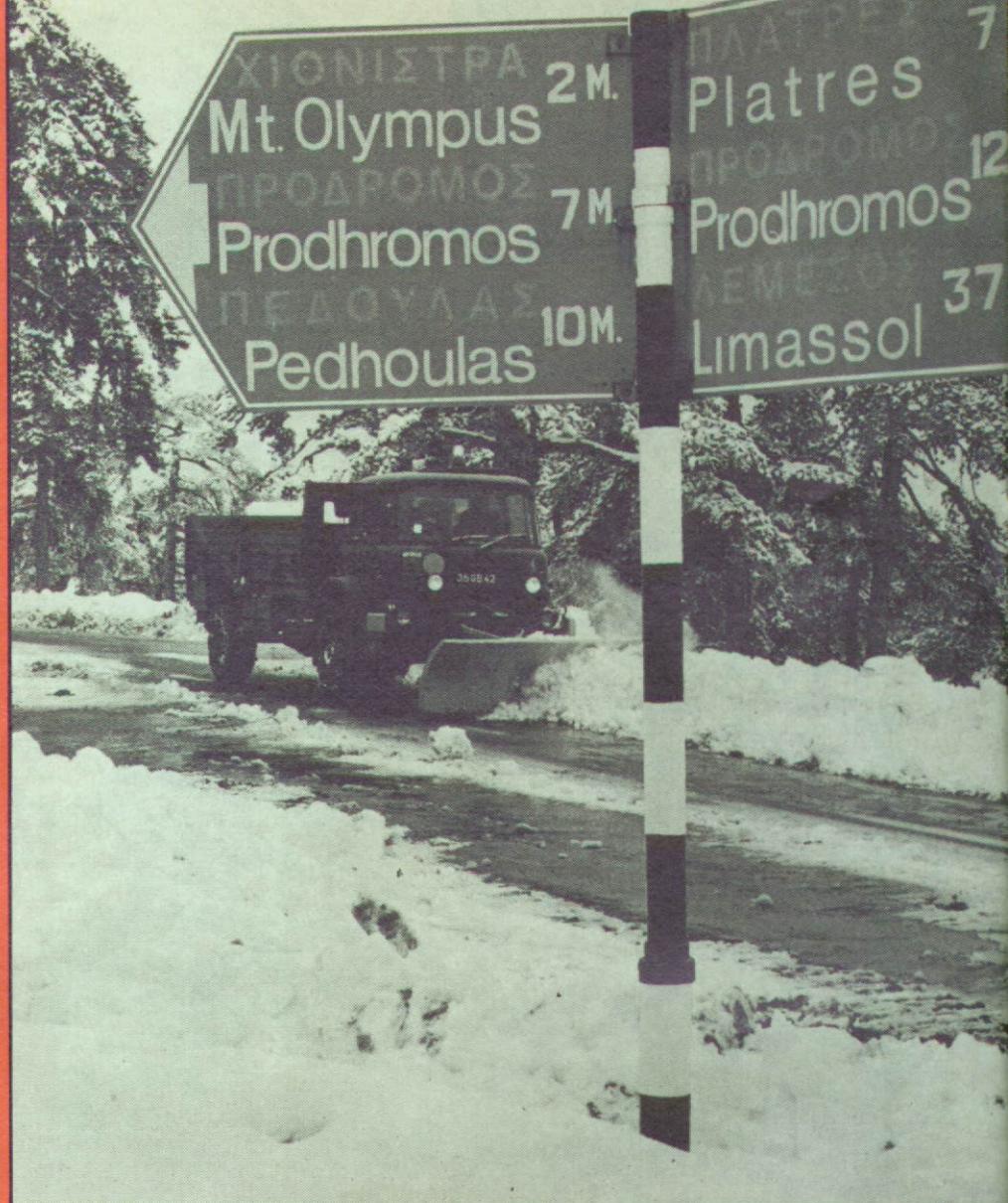
Sapper Eddie Edmonton has done two stints on snow clearance and is an old hand at it. "We can't get all the snow off the road because of its shape so we leave about half an inch which is tightly packed and clear as wide a way through as we can. In fact, we're more like the county council up here!"

The snow they clear from the road makes snow walls on either side which offers at least a modicum of protection to unfortunate drivers who find themselves sliding towards an otherwise sheer drop off the side of the road. "We haven't lost anyone yet" grinned Eddie.

Conditions can be hazardous even for the sappers. "We often have a white-out when we can't see anything so if you didn't know the road you'd just fall off the edge", Eddie explained. "That's why everyone is up here early in November to get to know the road before the snow comes. The main problem we have really is getting the RAF fire engine water tanker up to Mount Olympus. Some days we have to pull it up — and we find too that we have to pull out Cypriots who come up without snow chains and get stuck."

Most of the team are plant operators, although they do have the back-up they need from fitters and welders, and the tasks make a change from their usual work: a sapper with an Allis Chalmers tractor shovel can be a formidable combination on a mountain road.

"It's quite cold and the hours are long but I think everyone enjoys it", said Sapper Andy Gunn. He is married and it is often impossible for the men to make time to go home during their months on Troodos. However, they can hire the chalets at the Leave Centre so they can have their wives with them for a while. "It's easier for them



and we see more of them that way", added Andy.

Other home-grown entertainments help keep spirits up, with sponsored darts matches, charity football matches and sponsored trout-eats topping the popularity list.

The gods may have moved out long ago

#### Using a Bedford to build up the snow walls.

but there is still a lot going on around Mount Olympus. And although ambrosia may have given way to the wines and beers of the Keo empire, many would agree that Troodos is a beautiful place to be.



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S5/82

Ambrose Moore looks at a small REME team in Northern Ireland who need

# SMOOTH SKILLS AND COOL NERVES

IF THE TRACK RECORD of a military unit can be judged on keeping itself up-to-date with the latest technological advances, then the excellence of the Northern Ireland Electronic Workshops is assured. A detachment of 46 Command Workshops REME based at Aldergrove, the NIEW has the task of maintaining and modifying a vast range of sophisticated electronic equipment.

The skilled REME workforce of this six-year-old unit, which has a Province-wide responsibility, numbers just 23 with two RAOC personnel in close support sustaining a continuing flow of intricate spare parts ranging from pinhead sized transistors to cumbersome looking concave radar dishes.

Such is the speed marking the arrival of the latest innovations that what can be described as technically new today could be almost obsolete tomorrow. Indeed it was the result of this non-stop manufacturing momentum that prompted the introduction of Captain Brian Glossop as the first commissioned officer to lead the NIEW. It coincided with a move to the present spacious premises from the Workshops' ini-

tial birthplace at cluttered Long Kesh.

Captain Glossop's handpicked men are first and foremost technicians by trade specialising in radar, telecommunications or controlled equipment, all having graduated from The School of Electronic Engineering at Arborfield near Reading. Their task demands periods of intense on-the-job training with a three-month familiarisation period pencilled in before new team members are deemed fully operational.

Some of those serving at Aldergrove today are already undergoing their second tours with others impatiently looking for prolonged extensions to theirs — despite the inherent dangers.

Testing equipment in relative safety and comfort at the Headquarters' workbenches reflects just a small slice of their duties which are rostered to provide round-the-clock coverage.

For security and safety reasons some items have to be installed at night demanding not only precision skills from the operative but a big share of his courage as well.

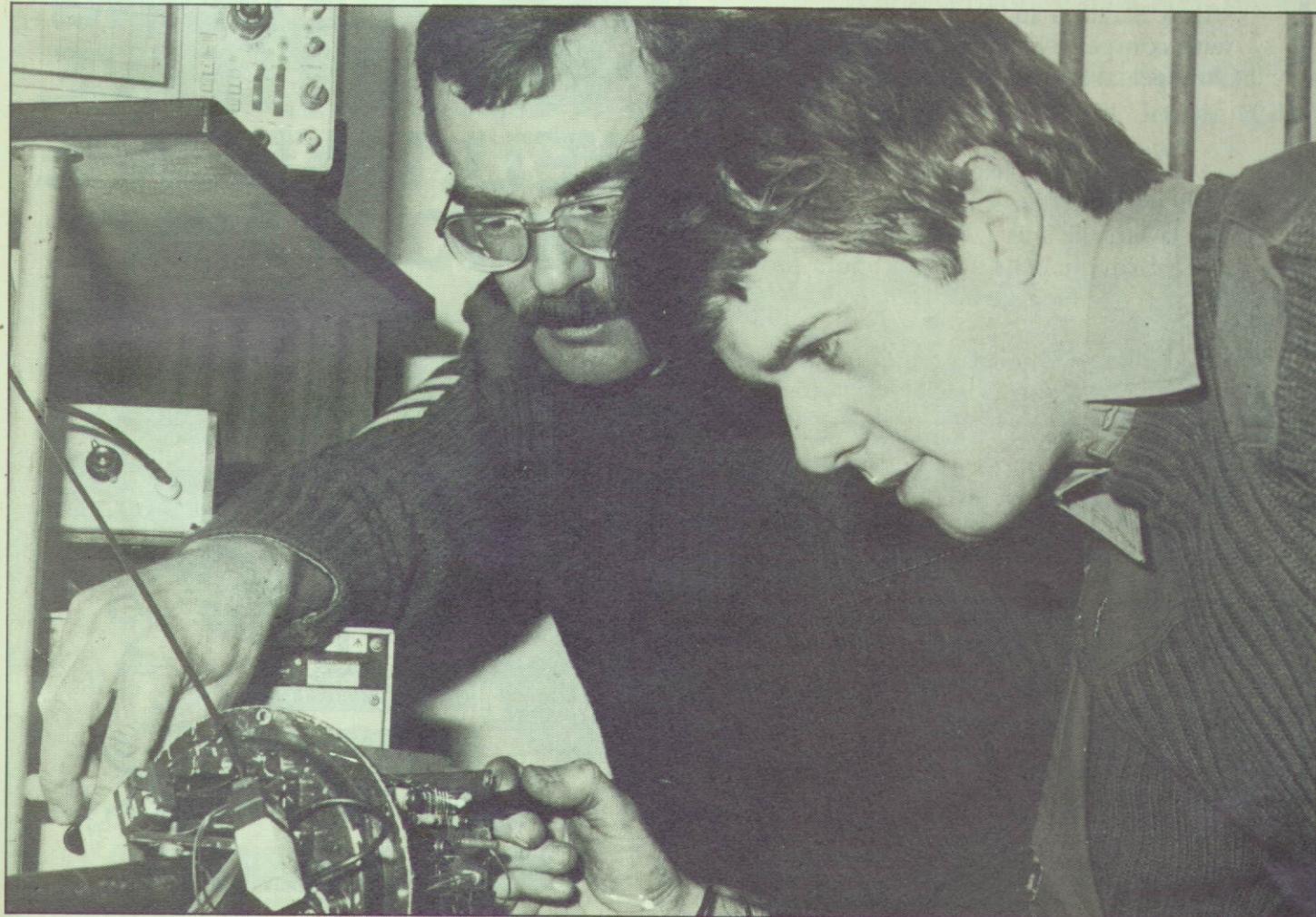
And it takes a special kind of courage to



Sergeant Gordon Young needs sharp eyes and nimble fingers to dismantle this small radio.

ascend and repair tall radio masts rising hundreds of feet from inside some military bases dotted over the Province. To tackle such tasks with efficiency and speed, technicians with a head for heights have attended courses on aerial rigging.

That sort of experience came in doubly handy when two operators — or 'wobblies' as they are popularly known — replaced a faulty surveillance system perched precariously on top of a 100-foot steel mast. The job was originally estimated to take about two hours. It was actually completed in just twelve-and-a-half minutes. ■



Staff Sergeant Jack Warner offers a word of specialist advice to Corporal Keith Durance as he works on an electronic detector.

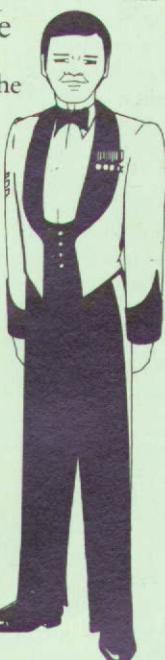
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SGT. B.E. MOWER,  
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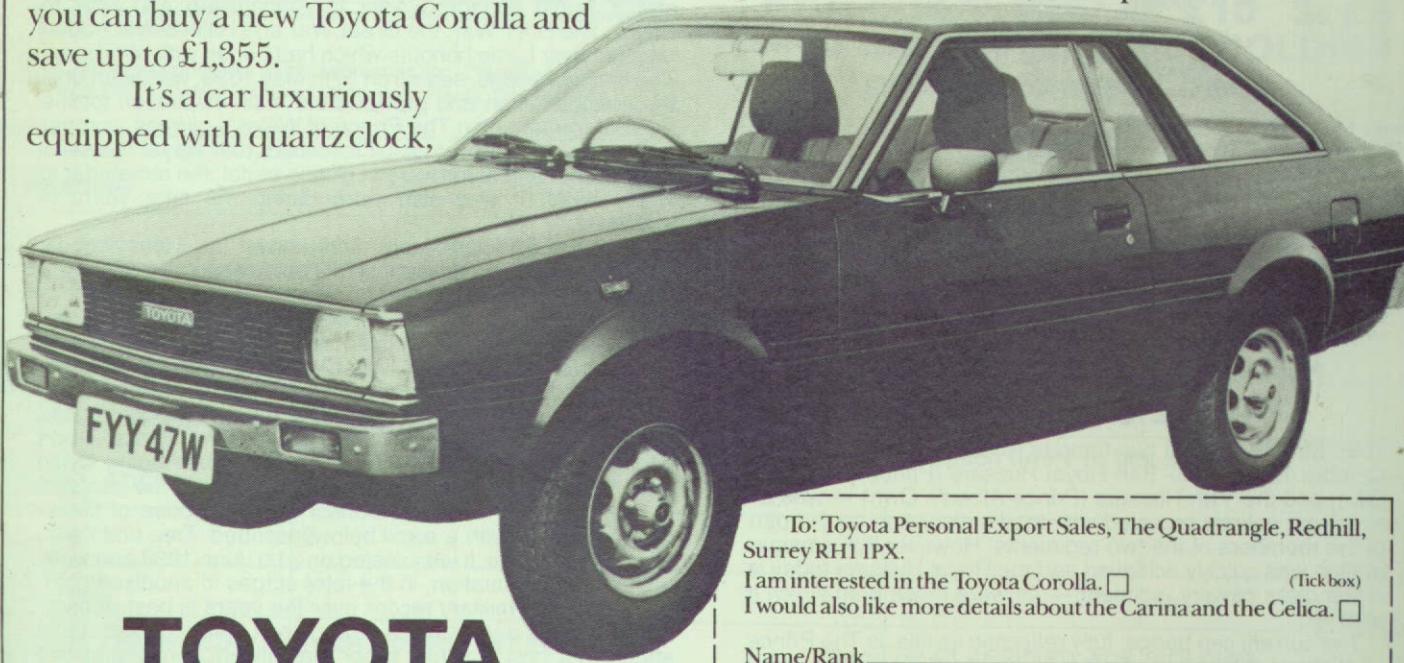
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S8

## TOYOTA

# BOOKS

## The Internal Fabric of Western Security: Gregory Flynn (and others)

This book stems from a project by the Atlantic Institute for International Affairs to examine the consequences of Communist participation in governments within the Atlantic Alliance. It grew into a general examination of the way domestic conditions were gaining an influence over security priorities within the Alliance.

Mr Flynn looks at the consequences of domestic changes in Alliance countries over the past 30 years, and the challenge to external security. His four co-authors contribute chapters covering aspects of the problem in their own countries — Germany, France, Italy and Britain — and Mr Flynn wraps it up with 'Security Priorities in Conflict: In Search of Western Consensus' and adds a final chapter headed 'A Somber Outlook' (the book originates in America).

One of the most significant changes in the Alliance is that the United States no longer enjoys the political, economic and military dominance she once had — not, Mr Flynn points out, because of a decline so much as because the rest of the world has been catching up. In particular, the United States has lost

her economic immunity and with it her ability to act "in the interests of the system". This makes it all the more necessary for West European governments to "internalise" some of the needs of the system, that is to allow international needs to prevail over short-run domestic priorities.

For all the gloomy heading to his last chapter, Mr Flynn takes comfort from the fact that when the necessity has arisen the political will to overcome difficulties has always asserted itself.

*Croom Helm, 2-10 St. John's Road, London SW11 — £15.95. RLE*

## Battles For Scandinavia: John R Elting

The four nations of Scandinavia — Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland — hoped to remain neutral in World War Two. However, they boasted a variety of strategically important minerals which attracted both Russia and Germany, as well as long stretches of sheltered coastline which afforded ideal bases for German raiders intent on harrassing British convoys. Indeed, the awesome *Tirpitz* spent most of the war dodging from one fjord to another in an attempt to avoid detection and Allied bombing.

This book paints a vivid picture of the cold, lonely war in the pine forests and mountains in the usual competent Time-Life style; an easy to read text, crisp, clear maps and, above all, plenty of pictures. An ideal

introduction to the campaign and excellent value.

*Time-Life World War Two Series, Time-Life Building, New Bond Street, London W1Y DAA — £7.50. IJK*

## The Nuclear Destruction of Britain: Magnus Clarke

Unlike all previous conflicts a thermonuclear war would have results so devastating that they can hardly be conceived. Most countries still rely on the deterrent value of the awe-inspiring weapons in preference to building a defence against them. Yet Sweden and Switzerland have taken precautions at reasonable cost. In this work Dr Magnus Clarke of Australia has assumed a direct conflict between Britain and the Soviet Union — merely to simplify the reasonings and speculations necessary to evaluate the possibilities of survival. He believes it is incautious not to be prepared: "The deterrent may fail and contemporary weapons do not permit the making of preparations once war has been declared."

As never before a prospective war must be thoroughly "thought through" right to its termination — and beyond. Dr Clarke has sought all sources of information, published and unpublished, to provide a sound base for consideration of the knowns and unknowns, and has delved into history to seek the reasons for the collapse of earlier cultures. He has tried to analyse "the total effect of such a war on British society, even up

to 100 years after its event." He has taken 15,000 words just to determine the Soviet threat and goes on to consider the failure of the deterrent, the most likely attack pattern (in theory and then in practice), the response, the physical and social effects of the attack, and the chances of British survival. This is a most painstaking

## THE NUCLEAR DESTRUCTION OF BRITAIN



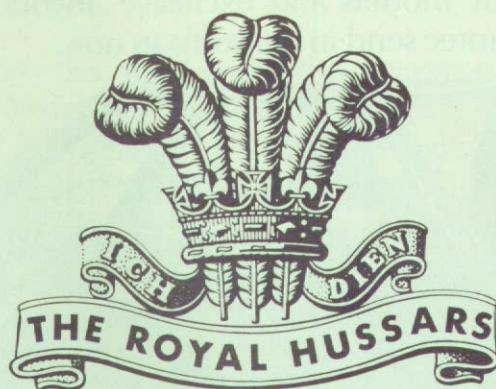
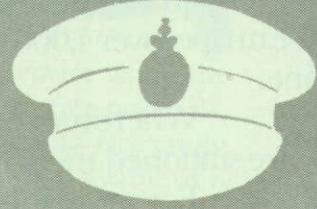
**MAGNUS CLARKE**

research, analysis and appreciation and is worthy of intensive study.

If all fails Dr Clarke believes the most likely time for an attack to be launched is winter, with Christmas Day the peak probability. The time: 0800 to 1200 European time. He considers the safest place in the event of a global nuclear war would be the centre of Tasmania. Don't we all!

*Croom Helm Ltd, 2-10 St John's Road, London SW11 — £11.95 GRH*

## Your Cap Badge



## No 11 THE ROYAL HUSSARS (PRINCE OF WALES' OWN)

THE 'MARRIAGE' of two famous Hussar regiments on 25th October 1969 — the 10th Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own) and the 11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own) — was an event not entirely received with total satisfaction on the part of the members of the two regiments. However, full amalgamation was quickly achieved and the Royal Hussars today is a first class cavalry regiment — as were those from which it sprang.

The current cap badge, fully reflecting its title, is The Prince of Wales's plumes, coronet and motto resting on a scroll inscribed 'The Royal Hussars'. The coronet and scroll are in gold, the remainder in silver anodised.

Originally known by their Colonel's name from their raising in 1715 until 1751, then as 10th Dragoons, they became — in 1783 — The 10th or Prince of Wales's Light Dragoons until 1806 when they changed to Hussars. The Hungarian

national dress and their light cavalry tactics were copied, the word 'hussars' coming from the Hungarian word 'huss' meaning twenty, a reference to the custom of picking one in twenty to serve. Their first active service was at Falkirk and it was due to their efforts that the defeat of the Royal forces was not greater. In the Peninsular War they served as part of Sir John Moore's force at Corunna. In 1811, redesignated 10th (Prince of Wales's Own Royal) Light Dragoons (Hussars), they returned to the fray winning praise from the great Duke himself. Their last action against Napoleon's Army was at Waterloo.

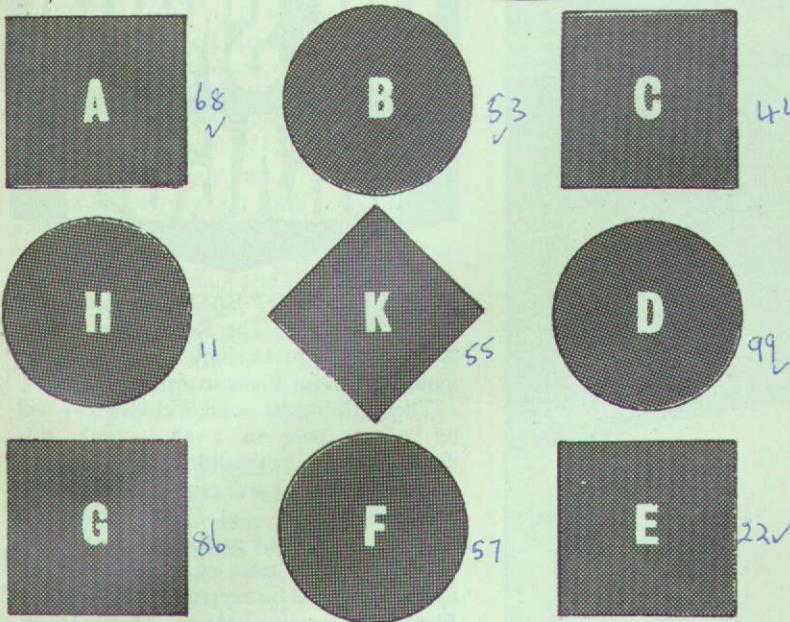
A period of peace followed, broken by the Crimean War, and a single squadron went to Afghanistan and later to Egypt. The Boer War, the Great War and Hitler's War added much to their battle honours which had begun with 'Warburg'. The first cap badge, sealed on 17th May 1898, was worn until the amalgamation and provided the main inspiration for the present format being The Prince of Wales's plumes, coronet and motto resting on a scroll inscribed 10th Royal Hussars. The coronet and scroll were in gilding metal, the remainder in white metal. It was also worn during the later years in anodised.

The 11th Hussars were first known as Honeywood's Dragoons and also raised in 1715 but it was to be over forty years before the numeral '11' appeared in their title. It is possibly because of the colour of their overalls and the subsequent nicknames derived from it that this light cavalry regiment is so well known. 'The Cherubims' was the Victorian version and more acceptable at that time than 'Cherrybumps' but it was as the 'Cherrypickers' that the more recent public will remember them. Providing the escort for Prince Albert when he came to London to marry, led to their being styled 'The 11th (Prince Albert's Own) Hussars' and to the adoption of the crest of the Prince Consort, of the House of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, with a scroll below inscribed 'Treu und Fest', all in gilding metal. It was sealed on 21st June 1898 and worn until the amalgamation, in the later stages in anodised gold. Their splendid military record over the years is best remembered for their part in the Charge of the Light Brigade but this should not obscure their other magnificent services to this country, not least in the early stages of World War Two.

Arthur J Kipling and Hugh L King

Next issue: 13th/18th Royal Hussars

# A time for planting



THE DIAGRAM shows nine flower-beds cultivated by old Ivor Spade, the gardener. Spade planted each bed with a different kind of flower. For instance, bed H contains a few chrysanthemums, bed E contains dahlias ... and so on.

The total number of plants in all nine beds is only five short of five hundred. Strangely enough, each row of beds contains a third of the total number of plants — whether the row be vertical, horizontal or diagonal. Also, the number of plants in the circular beds is exactly equal to the number of plants in the four corner beds, that is, 220.

Again, the total of the plants in each two opposite beds is equal, eg B + F = G + C etc, and each of these totals is equal to twice the number of plants contained in bed K, which bed, as a matter of fact, looks rather fine with its 55 China asters.

No two beds contain the same number of plants and no bed has one hundred plants or more. Bed H, with just under a dozen plants, has the least number. The greatest number of plants is to be found in bed D and no bed has ten plants or less. The total of the plants in A and B is the same as for beds D and E, or C and F, or G and K.

The square of the number of plants in bed H is the same as the number of plants to be found in beds A + B, or D + E, or C + F or G + K.

How many plants does each bed contain?

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 9 April. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 3 May. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 287' 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 287' label from this page and your name and address to: **Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.**

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Ski practice on the dry slopes at Aldershot.



**Six soldiers are preparing for the trip of a lifetime**

# TACKLING THE SNOW DRAGON

SIX ALDERSHOT-BASED soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, will set out to climb Europe's highest mountain, Mont Blanc in April — on skis.

There, the sextet — all Welshmen — will be taking part in a three-week ski-mountaineering expedition called Snow Dragon when they will cross the borders — 3000 metres up — of France, Italy and Switzerland without passport formalities!

Leader of the team of two officers and four soldiers will be experienced Zaire River Expedition veteran Major Alun Davies. They will start off billeted with the French Army, but will later 'bivvy' in isolated Alpine refuge huts during their ten-day tour of Europe's 'roof top'.

If the weather turns rough on the 158 mile journey, the team will be ready with saws and shovels to dig themselves into igloos.

And as a further safety precaution each member will be equipped with 'bleepers' so that — if an avalanche should strike — the victim can be swiftly located.

Training for Snow Dragon started on Aldershot Garrison's dry ski slopes with half-a-dozen hour-long lessons under the watchful eye of part-time instructor, Mr John Speakes, himself a man of ten years' skiing experience.

He said of his pupils: "They are a very typical military group — enthusiastic and putting everything into it. My advice to them would be to listen to the expertise of their guide. Mont Blanc is a fantastic place; it really is."

After Aldershot, the Alpine adventurers headed for a week in the Cairngorms and the rigours of tests in the real snow.

Captain Iain Cholleron explained: "We learned about roping, practised ski techniques, tested our kit, our strengths and weaknesses. We also built snow holes and slept in one for a night."

During another phase of the work-up the team experienced a dramatic drop in temperature — to well below zero — without moving more than a mile or two down the road. They were visitors to the Army Personnel Research Establishment (APRE) and its Cold Chamber.

That particular test was carried out to note the effectiveness of the men's clothing

◀ Major Alun Davies with high protein ration bars and contents of a one-man 45lb pack.

rather than the reactions of the soldiers.

But the six skiers' medical progress will be minutely monitored from start to finish on Snow Dragon and involve such scrutiny as metabolic surveys on skin fatness, measurements of how much energy is used ascending and descending and other tests to assess cold injuries such as frost nip.

Food, too, is on trial atop the majestic 15,782-foot mountain. In addition to their normal rations the RRW party will be carrying a selection of savoury and sweet flavoured bars taken from a possible future lightweight ration pack, to obtain some initial reaction to their taste and texture.

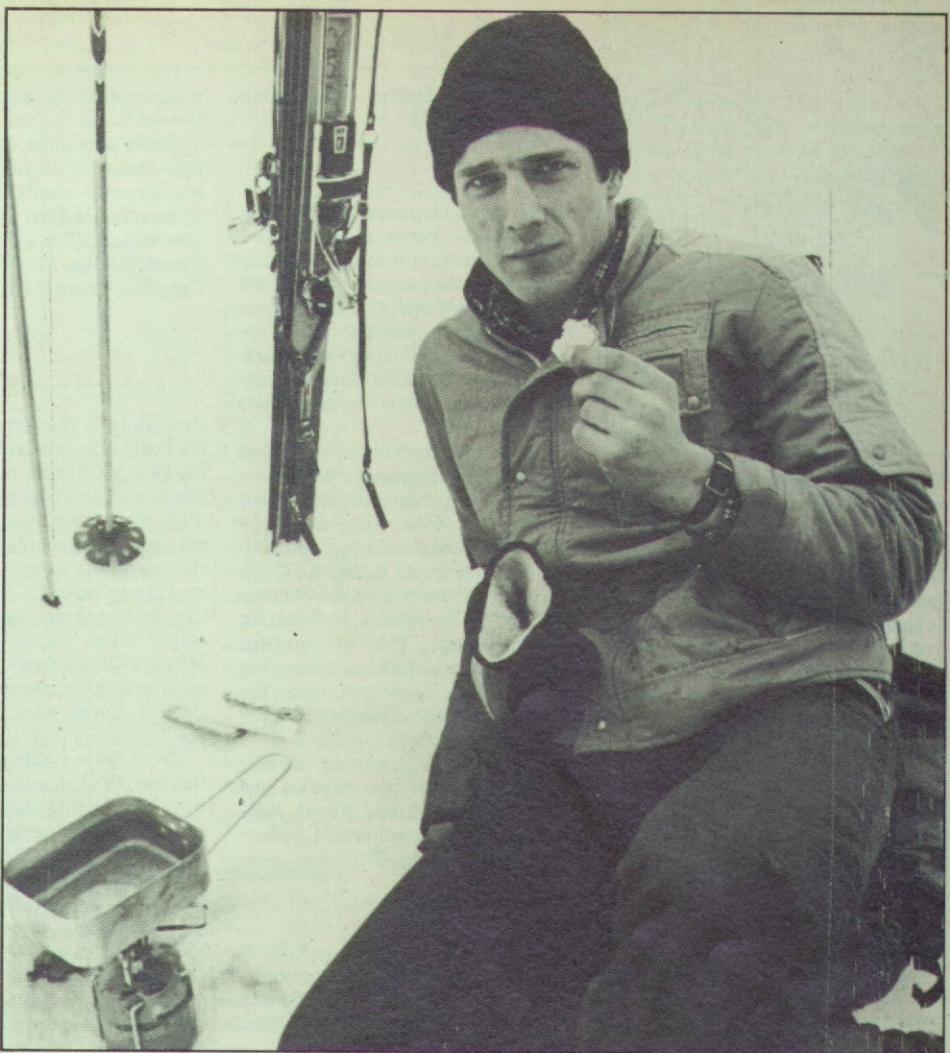
Once out on the slopes of Mont Blanc it is hoped to use the services of an Army Air Corps Gazelle helicopter for practice in casualty evacuation. It will also facilitate high level re-supply and give the team the chance to pre-position itself for skiing on uncommercialised slopes.

The expedition has the backing of the Ski Club of Great Britain and the Army Mountaineering Association and is being partly sponsored by Townsend Thoresen. The team's progress will be closely followed by The Prince of Wales who, as Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Regiment of Wales, is a keen skier himself.

Major Davies, 'C' Company Commander, 1 RRW, who was on the four-month-long Zaire River Expedition in 1974 and is an officer with ten years' Alpine experience, including a similar tour in 1979, said: "We've already had a year of active service in Hong Kong and Northern Ireland plus a large divisional exercise in Germany and it's nice to know we can still find time to go adventurous training with considerable support from the Army at all levels."

Major Davies, whose previous expeditions have led him from the Rockies to the

**Story: Graham Smith  
Pictures: Paul Haley**



Captain Ian Chollerton takes a breather during Cairngorms training.

Red Sea and the Congo to the Cairngorms, added: "We have been given our funds by various adventurous training votes which is very nice. Adventure training was started by Harold Wilson. He told Denis Healey that he thought it would be a good scheme for young soldiers who, if they were to be able

to face the challenge of war, should not just become chocolate box soldiers on public duties. Personally, I am glad I have got the opportunity to have such nice guys with me on this trip." ■

**Getting used to life at -5°C in the cold chamber at APRE Farnborough. ▼**



# MAIL DROP



School of Infantry, Warminster, Wilts, BA12 0DJ.

## OIL PAINTING

I was most interested to see your feature (8-21 February) on Captain Perkins' recent visit to the Staff College to view the painting of the Royal Bucks Hussars' charge at El Mughar. I had the great fortune to meet Captain Perkins two years ago in preparation for my book on Buckinghamshire auxiliary units between circa 1640 and 1940.

The interesting thing is that within our own establishment sharing, of course, the same grounds at the Staff College, we have what might be termed the complementary oil painting of the 1st Bucks Battalion (TF) at the battle of Pozieres on the Somme, July 1916. At present it hangs in Victory College. The two paintings were recently pictured together, but alas wrongly captioned, in the National Army Museum's book 'Armies of Britain'. — **Dr I F W**

**Beckett, Senior Lecturer in War Studies, Dept of War Studies and International Affairs, Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 4PQ.**

## FRIENDLY GIRLS

I have just read the latest issue of **SOLDIER** and would like to congratulate you on yet another brilliant piece of work.

The reason for this letter is to ask if it would be possible for you to run a penpal section with a difference. At the moment Servicemen are lucky enough to get girls to write to but they are all civvy girls, and it doesn't help the girls in the Forces a lot if they want to write to a bloke.

So how about getting a few WRACs, QARANCs, WRMPs, WRAFs or even WRENs to submit their names to you. Then we can all start scribbling.

I'd like to write to, and get to know, a Servicewoman and I bet there are others that feel the same. — **Tpr Chris Berry, RHQ 2nd Royal Tank Regt, BFPO 33.**

*We'd be delighted to publish any letters from female members of the Forces — so come on, girls, how about it? — Ed*

## WAR BADGE

How often does one see worn today the Silver War Badge for Services Rendered?

Many old Comrades of mine have told me that, first of all, they are rather cheap looking; secondly, having worn them in one jacket, they do not bother to change them over to other clothing. Also, since a good many suits nowadays are made without lapel buttonholes, the badges get left in drawers and wardrobes and are almost forgotten.

Something more suitable might be a small medal and ribbon, like the Purple Heart of the USA forces. I think some other Allied nations have similar awards. It need not be an elaborate or expensive affair, and could be issued to anyone entitled to

it on application, and the return of the old badge.

If this were done, the new decoration could be worn with pride at regimental reunions, dinners, Remembrance Day, and all occasions where decorations are worn. — **John Crowley, Flat 22, 9 Bramley Hill, Croydon, Surrey, CR2 6LW.**

## HOT BLOOD

On 29th Jan 1982 a letter appeared in the Daily Mirror's Live Letters, written by a Mr R. Hooper (Gunner). He asked a question that made me go cold, then large veins appeared on my face. After letting the hot blood simmer down in my head, I again read the question: "Was the Pioneer Corps a combat or non-combat corps?" The answer given by the Mirror's Old Codgers, again sent me into the fifth dimension: "In 1942 the Pioneer Corps were fully combatant."

Sir, I joined the army on 11th October 1939. I was sent to France with the BEF without leave. Like most Royal Engineers I was transferred to the AMPC (Pioneer Corps).

The Royal Pioneer Corps stood fast at St Valery, with the 51st Highland Division, myself with 48th Company Pioneer Corps with 5th Group under the command of Colonel D J Dean VC CBE. The unit was ordered to fight rear guard a few miles outside Dunkirk, and to fill any Army trucks up with petrol so they could get on to Dunkirk. So I can vouch for the Royal Pioneers being a fighting Corps in 1939-1940: they are a front line Corps. — **Jack Buckley, 8 Little Field, Stoke Heath, Coventry, CV2 3HB.**

*The R Hooper who wrote to the Mirror wasn't me. Honest! — Ed*

## Can You Help?

2nd Field Regiment wish to obtain a cannon, preferably a 6 or 9 Pdr, on long loan and suitable for prominent display in the regiment's new barracks in Munster. Condition is immaterial as the regiment is prepared to undertake complete renovation of ordnance and carriage. Any reader who knows the whereabouts of such a cannon and which the owner might be prepared to loan to the regiment is requested to contact the 2IC, 2nd Field Regiment, Waterloo Barracks, BFPO 17.

I am researching the history of certain units and wonder if any reader has any information about them during the period from D-Day until the surrender on Lüneberg Heath. In particular, I wish to trace the activities of my father's squadron, 8th Armoured Brigade Group Signal Squadron, which he, as Major Fred Rapsey, commanded at that time.

The units with which he was associated were: 4/7 Dragoon Guards, Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry, either 13/18 Hussars or 2 RTR, Staffordshire Yeomanry, Essex Yeomanry RA, 12/60 KRRC, 21 ASI (RAF liaison), 23 Fd Amb RAMC, 552 Coy RASC. Prominent personalities were I understand: Colonel Jolly, Brigadier Bernard Craycroft and the former commander of 27 Armoured Bde Gp, Brigadier Prior-Palmer, who took over 8th ABG on the dissolution of the 27th.

My specific interest is the exact movements of the Signal Squadron. My father's maps have not, unfortunately, survived. — **Frederick Rapsey, 71 Regent St, Stowmarket, Suffolk, England.**

I am Assistant Professor of French at the US Military Academy, West Point, New York, and am doing research on the combat at El Kuneitra, Syria on 16 June 1941. I would like to correspond with veterans of the 1st Battalion, Royal Fusiliers who were at El Kuneitra.

Please write to **Major Randall Carlson, Dept of Foreign Languages, US Military Academy, West Point, New York, USA.**

During 1956/57 I was a patient at the Connaught Military Hospital, Hindhead, Surrey. I wonder if any old members of staff or ex-patients remember those days in Ward 9S. I would really like to hear from them, particularly Bdr Hodson and Bandsman Surridge and 'Topper' Brown (HLI). — **WO2 E J Marsh, SSI (QLR), Memorial Lodge, Sedbergh School CCF, Sedbergh, Cumbria, LA10 5TJ.**

Signals Wing at the Royal School of Artillery have been given an old Semaphore Machine (shown in the photograph in its reconditioned state), but know very little about it. We do know that such machines, called 'Pasley's Telegraph', were used throughout the last century by the Royal Navy. We also know that

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

## COMPO RULES!

Having left the Army some years ago, I wish to congratulate you on your choice of subject for your back cover of 8 Feb.

I do not wish to enter the controversy about cooking in the Army, I know it's marvellous, but that picture of a British soldier's breakfast beats any of the pin ups you used to publish. I know I am getting old and used to expense account meals — but compo sausages, baked beans and fried eggs in full colour . . . may I re-enlist? — **Brian Barrett, GFA (NWE), BFPO 40.**

*Your culinary eulogy wins our £5 prize Mr Barrett. Coming soon . . . full frontal beefburgers — with chips! — Ed*

## LAST CHARGE?

I dispute that the 6 Mounted Brigade Charge at Qatra in November 1917 was "the last major cavalry charge carried out by the British Army" (8 Feb).

What about the Warwickshire Yeomanry's charge against Turkish infantry, machine guns and guns at Huj in 1918, in which one or two squadrons of the Worcester Hussars also took part?

I remember that The Queen's Own Warwickshire & Worcestershire Yeomanry acquired Lady Butler's water colour of the Charge at Huj when I was Training Major, shortly before the regiment was disbanded in about 1967. The painting then hung in the Officers Mess at Priory Road, Warwick and is probably with one of the reformed squadrons in the Midlands now.

I also believe that the Royal Scots Greys and the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry charged, mounted, in the Middle East early in the Second World War. Perhaps the expert military historians amongst your readers can come up with a true answer on the last major British cavalry charge. — **Major T J Thomas, The Queen's Own Hussars, Warminster Support Unit, 36**

Semaphore machines were used by the Army, at least during the Boer War. Having gone to some trouble to restore this machine we'd like to find



out if it might have seen Army service and if so when, where and with whom. So far our researches have proved fruitless. Can anyone tell us the answer? If you can help us please contact our Yeoman of Signals (Staff-Sergeant Clive Copestake, R Signals) who will be more than pleased to hear from you. The address is **Signals Wing, The Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill, Wiltshire. Tel: Bulford Military Ext 5548 (Y of S) or 5567 (office).** The civil number for Bulford Military is **Bulford Camp 3371.**

I recently had the opportunity of visiting the museum of the Lancashire Fusiliers at Bolton Road Barracks, Bury, Lancashire. During World War Two I served with 59th Inf Division Pro Coy. We had as part of 197 Brigade, the LF's battalion. In the museum I saw a case enclosing cap badges of all the associated units that served at that period 1939-42 — Signals, ACC, Recce, REME etc.

Notably absent, however, was a cap badge of the Corps of Military Police (as it was in those days). Does any ex-member of the Corps possess a World War Two cap badge? I would willingly purchase this so that I may donate it to the LF's museum.

I pointed out the absence to the museum curator and he told me that he knew of the omission of a CMP cap badge, but they were extremely difficult to get. I told him I would do my best to obtain one for him.

I should also be pleased to hear from any members of the 59th Div Pro Coy, also any 1944/46 members of 70 or 72 Sections SIB. All letters will be answered. Finally I still have in my possession a spoon that was issued to 7685374 (a CMP number). I have an idea it may have belonged to a Cpl Jones, who I believe lived in the Manchester area. I would be happy to return it to the original owner, though it is still in daily use. — **Eric Reed, 4 Summerhill, Charterhouse Road, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 2AN.**

Does anyone know the whereabouts of RSM Donald and Eileen Lane, formerly RMP and stationed in the Canal Zone, Egypt in 1952 and then in Married Quarters at Melton Mowbray in 1955? — **Mrs Ruth Martin, 47, Villa Rosa, Shrubbery Rd, Weston-super-Mare, Avon.**

## Collectors' Corner

R A Ricketts, 166 Tp Chatham Coy, Commando Trg Centre RM, Lympstone, Devon. Requires information on the Australian and New Zealand Military forces from 1964 to present day in the form of books, periodicals, photos, service handbooks etc.

Mark R Stone, Flat 14 Adams St, Healey, Townsville 4814, Queensland, Australia. Wishes to swap current Australia cap badges for British cap badges.

Christopher Barrett, 50 Hafton Road, Catford, London, SE6 1LP (aged 15). Would like any spare regimental badges please.

CLC Josef Maes, Vuurkruisenstr 29, 3970 Leopoldsburg, Belgium. Offers foreign Para Wings for trade interested in French Para distinctive insignia. 23 piece medal collection; British, Belgian, Italian and German, some named medals, entire collection for £250. Write for detailed list. US Army patch collection, 900 pieces (full coloured), entire collection for £500 + P & P.

Sal Morale, 235 Elizabeth St, NYC 10012, New York, USA. Requires old battledresses with formation signs and rank badges still on them for charity; to purchase or be donated.

Cpl S D Olley, Provost School, P/Bag X1010, Voortrekkerhoogte 0143, Rep of South Africa. Seeks Military Police insignia, armbands etc (all countries; all periods including Warsaw Pact wanted). Will purchase or can exchange for SA Army shoulder flashes, cap badges etc.

M A Price, 45 Mauritius Road, Greenwich, London, SE10 0EH. Seeks any military band information; musical programmes, march cards, record sleeves etc. Photographs of military bands especially needed. All for book on military bands.

Sgt L Stillman, Area Theatre, Lavarack Bks, Townsville, Queensland, Australia 4813. Wants Australian hat and collar badges and shoulder titles (metal). Has large number of good early British badges, collar badges, shoulder titles etc for exchange.

Mike Johnson, 554th Military Police Company, HQ US European Command, APO New York 09131, USA. Seeks NATO Command Pocket badges: United Kingdom Air Forces, Allied Land Forces Zealand, Mediterranean Northeast, Mediterranean East, Allied Air Forces Northern Europe. Also wants USMC metal screw type metal chevrons from 1950s all except Cpl and Sgt; Woman Marine chevrons 1940s-1950s; USMC Squadron Patches for VMA 121, VMR 253, MCAS Iwakuni, MAG 15, MWSG 17, MARS 17, VMF 121. Also wants White Marine Corps web gear, Ammo pouch, club carrier, holster backing, holster hanger, white bayonet scabbard cover and MP arm band.

Roger Lovibond, c/o RGYC PO Box 150, Geelong, Victoria 3220, Australia. Wishes to buy copies of 'Silver Bugle' (Light Infantry) covering the Ulster years.

T Harding, Town Hall, Peterborough, Cambs, PE1 1NF. Is breaking up collection of Yeomanry/Cavalry/Scottish infantry cap badges — no dealers.

Mr G Nevill, 10 Russell St, Stony Stratford, Bucks. Wishes to purchase a pair of original 1914-18 British Army issue ankle boots. Will pay good price.

## Pen Pals

My name is Jean and I am 20 years old. I like sports, keeping active, children and animals. I would like to write to someone aged between 20 and 35, photos if possible. — **Jean Kibblewhite, 5 Hoyle Avenue, Primrose Bank, Oldham, Lancs.**

My name is Jan and I am 19 years old. I am 5ft 6ins tall with brown hair and grey-green eyes. I work in an office and I like driving, discos and animals. I would like to hear from someone between 20-30. All letters answered. Please enclose a photo. — **Miss J S Hubble, 144 Billet Road, Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex, RM6 5PS.**

I am a 30 year old divorcee with two small children and my hobbies are reading, walking, cycling, cooking continental and English, dancing and quiet evenings out. I would like to write to someone in the Army. — **Brenda Newman, 4 Deneway, Vange, Basildon, Essex, SS16 4TS.**

I am 19 years old, 5ft 7ins tall, with light brown hair. My interests are meeting people, watching films, listening to music, and reading. I would like a pen pal in the Army. — **Stephanie France, 22 Holford Road, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 7NR.**

More pen pals on page 41.

## Reunions

The 45th Annual Reunion of the York and Lancaster Regimental Association will be held in the Gimcrack Rooms at York Racecourse on Saturday 24th April 1982. Full details from the Regimental Secretary, Endcliffe Hall, Endcliffe Vale Road, Sheffield, S10 3EU.

The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards Association London Branch: Annual Reunion will be held on Saturday 1st May 1982 at the Carisbrook Hall The Victory Club, 63/79 Seymour St, London, W2 2HF. Details from Hon Secretary, 1134 Eastern Ave, Newbury Park, Ilford, Essex.

The Annual Reunion of The Royal Hussars (PWO) will be at the Porter Tun Room, Whitbreads Brewery, Chiswell St in the City of London on Saturday 1st May 1982, at 7.30pm. Tickets from Home Headquarters, The Royal Hussars (PWO), Lower Bks, Winchester.

The Queen's Own Hussars Reunion Dinner, Saturday 1st May 1982, at The Baronian Hall, Mincing Lane, London, EC3R 7DP. Dress optional. Tickets £7.50 obtainable from: Major J S Sutherland MBE (Retd), HHQ, The QO Hussars, 28 Jury St, Warwick, CV34 4EW.

## Competition

Our New Year 'Tea Teaser' (Competition No 283) attracted a great many entries hopeful of winning one of the luxury prizes being given away by Russell Hobbs. You had to find the ten tea related words hidden in the square of letters and then complete our limerick. The ten words we were looking for were: *chest, China, caddy, urn, leaf, shop, Darjeeling, gown, time and clipper*. The last lines to the limerick proved very entertaining reading ranging from the risqué to the ridiculous. In the end the judges awarded the first prize of a

Chelsea Teamaker to D E Langford, 176 Bty, 39 Fd Regt BFPO 16 for his line "Darjeeling? Gee, darling, can't wait!" Second prize of an electric filter fryer went to R Harris, 39 Sochi Court, Hesters Way, Cheltenham, and the third prize of an electric kettle went to Cpl Johnson, Sek Kong Det, Hong Kong Pro Coy RMP BFPO 1.

## How Observant Are You? (See page 15)

1 Shape of smallest cloud; 2 Mouth of skier No. 2; 3 Length of No. 2's right ski; 4 Ear of No. 5 skier; 5 White shape in top right corner of picture; 6 Right boot of No. 2; 7 No. 5's left mitten at wrist; 8 Left slope of left mountain; 9 Sun ray eighth from right; 10 Right cow's tail.



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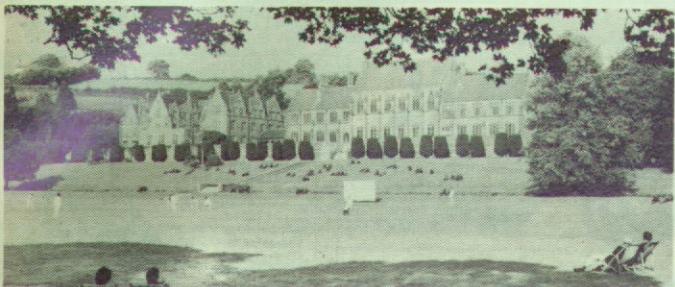
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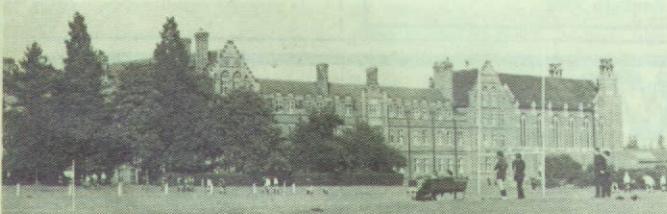
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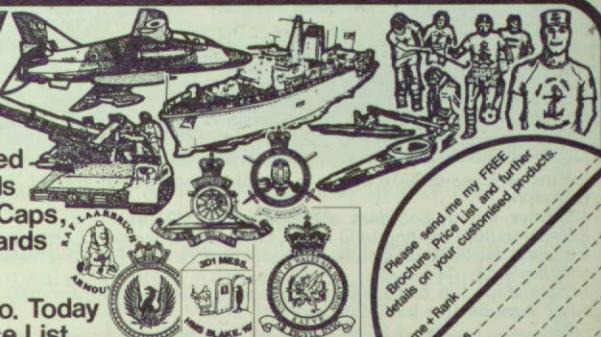
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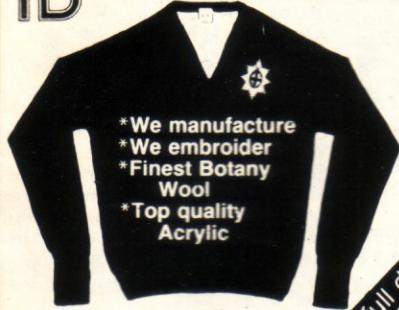


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lived to tell the tale), dancing, swimming and most other sports. I also like being mad, so if you've lost your marbles (or would like to), please write. All letters answered. — Miss Carol Shaw, 72 Hamilton St, Atherton, Manchester, M29 0AT.

**My name is Lisa** and I am 23 years old. I am 5ft 4ins tall, slim, with light brown hair and blue eyes. I work as a hairdresser, and my hobbies are tennis, swimming, squash, dancing and going to the pictures. I would like a sincere, lasting friendship. — Miss L. Rooke, 17 Peverell Close, Henbury, Bristol, BS10 7LE.

**I am 36**, 5ft tall and a typist at an Army camp. I enjoy writing and have varied interests and would appreciate a pen pal. — Miss Sylvia Alcock, 40 Home Farm Road, Fremington, Near Barnstaple, North Devon, EX31 3Df.

**I am 20 years old**, 5ft 3ins tall with chestnut hair and hazel eyes. My interests are football (Manchester United and City), most kinds of music and taking photographs. I also like cooking and writing letters, and I

**I am 25 years old**, 5ft 2ins tall with short brown hair and green eyes. I like playing badminton, walking, swimming, dancing, discos, and reading. I don't smoke but I enjoy drinking. I would love to hear from any soldiers in England or abroad. — J E Marrs, Flat 4, 38 Spring Road, Abingdon, Oxon.

**I am 19 years old** and enjoy writing letters, cooking (although no-one's

would be pleased to write to a soldier in the 20-30 year old range. — Miss Sherry Anderson, Flat One, 1 Whitelow Road, Chorlton cum Hardy, Manchester, M21 1HQ.

**My name is Debbie** and I am 22 years old. I am 5ft 1ins tall, with light brown hair and green-brown eyes. My hobbies include dancing, discos, going to the pictures and writing. I like most kinds of music, especially futuristic and I would very much like a pen pal. — Miss Debbie Reece, 18 Wycombe House, Lissom Green Estate, London, NW8 8SN.

**I am 35**, attractive (and modest too!), 5ft 1ins tall, with blue eyes and brown shoulder length hair and am 35-25-36. My interests are football, golf, cross-country, table-tennis, swimming, roller-skating, photography, dancing, reading, writing letters and making friends. If possible please send a photo with your letter. — Ann Griffin, 9 Heath Road, Wellington, Telford, Salop, TF1 3EQ.

**I am 17 years old**, 5ft 2ins tall, with light brown hair and green eyes. I would love to write to a soldier and will try and reply to all. — Lisa Jacks, 99 Thirlmere Gardens, Wembly, Middx.

**My name is Jill**. I am 5ft 4ins with brown hair and brown eyes. I would like to write to someone in the 30-40 year old range, whether single, separated or divorced. — Miss Jill Trower, 95 Edmund Road, Hastings, Sussex, TN35 5LE.

**My name is Susan** and I am 19 years old. I enjoy sport, travelling and designing my own clothes. I like reading and writing so I am interested in writing to a member of the Forces. — Susan Foskett, 24 Hurtwood Road, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, KT12 3QT.

**My name is Sandra** and I am 19 years old. I am 5ft 7ins tall with dark brown hair and blue eyes. My interests are reading, writing, animals, parties and, given the chance, I would love to travel. I would like to write to a soldier aged between 19 and 23. — Miss S Forrest, Whitegates, Boarfield, Over Wallop, Old Stockbridge Road, Hants, SO20 8LB.

**I am 46** and would like a pen pal in the Forces, and I should be pleased to answer all correspondence. — Miss Joan Redman, 71 Lymington Road, Dagenham, Essex, RM8 1RR.

**My name is Heather** and I am twenty years old. My hobbies are horse-riding, writing, ice-skating, drinking (or socialising in other words) and I would like to write to somebody in the Army of my age or above. — Miss H Jones, 5 Cheshire Close, County Park, Hornchurch, Essex, RM11 3ER.

**My name is Tina** and I would like a pen pal in the Army. — Tina Steer, 1 Lubbock House, Poplar High St, London E14.

**I am 36 years old**, 5ft 5ins tall, slim with long dark hair. I have four children, two working and two at

school and I would like a pen friend in the Army. — Ginny Butler, 11 Pool Road, Aldershot, Hants.

**I am a divorced lady** of 42. I am 5ft 5ins tall, slim with brown hair and blue eyes. I would like to correspond with an unattached NCO of similar age. Photo appreciated and all letters answered. — Jean James, c/o 11a Grosvenor Road, Prestatyn, Clwyd, N Wales.

**My name is Rhoda** and I am 40 years old. I am separated with three children and I would like to write or perhaps meet somebody who is a warm loving person and has a sense of humour. — R H Turner, 17 Canfield Road, Rainham, Essex.

**My name is Nicole** and I am 18 years old. I am 5ft 4ins tall with brown curly hair and blue eyes. I like most kinds of music and have varied interests — I have just joined the TA. I would like to write to a soldier, preferably in the RMP. — Miss Nicole Stormont, 12 Cavendish Road, Bognor Regis, W Sussex.

**I am a 34 year old** divorcee and my hobbies are reading, music, sewing, walking and going out socially. I would like to write to someone of similar age. — Margaret Watkin, 527 Sharp Lane, Robin Hood, Wakefield, West Yorks, WF3 3AA.

**I am 25 years old**, with brown hair and blue eyes and I am 5ft 4ins. I like sport and discos and I am a Spurs supporter. I would like to write to someone of similar interests. — Jackie Vale, 4 Highfield Green, Bury Lane, Epping, Essex.

**I am 18 years old** and my hobbies include writing, swimming, and working with the PDSA on a voluntary basis. I would like to write to someone between 18-24 with more or less the same interests. Photos if possible. — Jackie Mann, 26a Whitefield Way, Anfield, Liverpool, L6 2NB.

**My name is Sarah** and I am 18 years old, 5ft 6ins with long brown hair. I've got a GS 250 motorbike and I play keyboard in a group in Cardiff. I would especially like to write to someone with a motorbike and/or is a rugby player. — Sarah Parnell, 6 Fields Park Road, Pontcanna, Cardiff, CF1 9JP.

**My name is Pauline** and I am 25 years old, 5ft 3ins with black hair and brown eyes. I like dancing and swimming. — Miss P Whitmore, 39 St Michael's Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

**I am 22 years old** and my name is Isabel. My interests are photography, reading and country walking. I would like pen friends in the forces anywhere in the world. All letters answered. — Miss I Russell, 145 Mowbray Rise, Dredge, Livingstone, Scotland.

**My name is Sandra** and I am 19 years old. My hobbies are reading, music, cooking and country walking. I would like pen friends from all over the world. — Miss S Russell, 145 Mowbray Rise, Dredge, Livingstone, Scotland.

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The rundown of the British Steel Corporation has devastated places like Flint in North Wales and Corby in Northamptonshire. But hope and new opportunities are rising from the ashes.

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Ann Beecham meets the Army's new athletics supremo . . .

# Putting back pride in performance

**CAPTAIN GLYN MORRIS** is the man in the athletics hot seat at the Army School of Physical Training. He has been a course officer at the School since last November and was asked if he would take on the job of Army Athletics Team Coach as well.

Glyn is the sort of man who takes things seriously. His last posting was as Master-at-Arms in Northern Ireland. "It was very hectic as they are all very fitness conscious there but it was nice to be able to provide a service." Now his enthusiasm and drive have been focused on the Army athletics team. "I like challenges," he admits, "and the Army athletics team is a challenge."

In fact, it is a challenge that would deter a man whose heart was not in the job. The team record has not been particularly impressive over the last 17 years. They have lost the Inter-Service honours to the RAF with disturbing regularity every year since 1964.

But Glyn has a long and successful athletics background and is confident that he can tackle the job. "I have a good grasp of the problems from the athletes' point of view and I know the problems on a small scale from having been an athletics coach throughout my career — the Army team problems are basically the same."

He hails from Bridgend in South Wales — "JPR country" — and has had a successful athletics career himself. He was the Welsh boys and senior class pole vault champion and represented Great Britain at pole vault in 1964. He gave up in 1976 at the ripe old age of 37, but is now considering taking up pole vaulting again.

He has served in the PT Corps for 22 years, although a posting to the Far East has so far eluded him, and reckons that athletics have shaped his career: "Strangely enough it was because of athletics that I'm in the PT Corps," explained Glyn. "I did my National Service with the Gunners and when I only had 11 days left to serve, I applied for the PT course. You had to have 18 months left to do the course, but I said I'd sign on if I passed the course. It was only because I was the Army pole vault champion that they bent the rules to let me come on the course!"

Now, however, he is concentrating on coaching others to follow in his footsteps rather than on performing himself. "I've set up what I call an Army event coach system with a specific coach for each event. He will be responsible for the top half dozen athletes in each event and will advise, coach and get the athletes together as and where necessary, even in the closed season.

"It's very difficult to get people together, but we're hoping to start the season this year with a performers' course here at ASPT for one week. We shall be trying to start the

Captain Morris puts members of his team through 'bicycle torture' in the gym. ▶

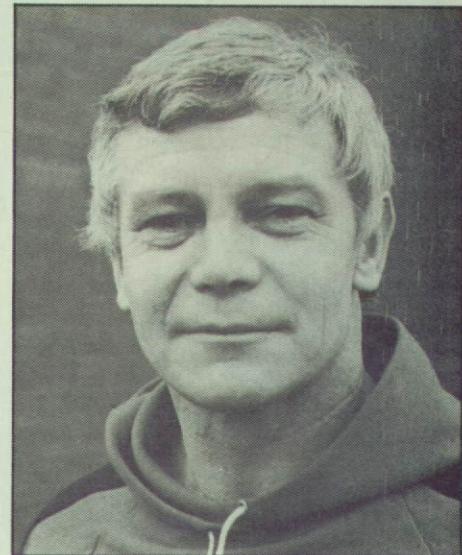
season as a team and to get things moving in the right vein at the very beginning."

It will be a long haul to the top of the athletics tree for a team who are used to losing to the RAF and Glyn is resigned to making haste slowly.

Athletics is probably the hardest sport of all to co-ordinate and coach. "The pure fact that you have 20 different disciplines, all the track and field events, and all the various factions to pull together. They perform as individuals but we have to pull them together as a team. Their performance affects the whole team performance."

Glyn is trying to change the sport from the bottom by encouraging and persuading the performers themselves that they can do well. "If you give an athlete the opportunity to do well, he will do well, but he's got to do something for himself first."

The junior athletes are, of course, important to the success of Army athletics and Glyn does his fair share of talent spotting. "We are including juniors in 'cell' coaching sessions and involving promising juniors with the Army champions to blood them early. They are very important because they are the athletes of the future. We are also

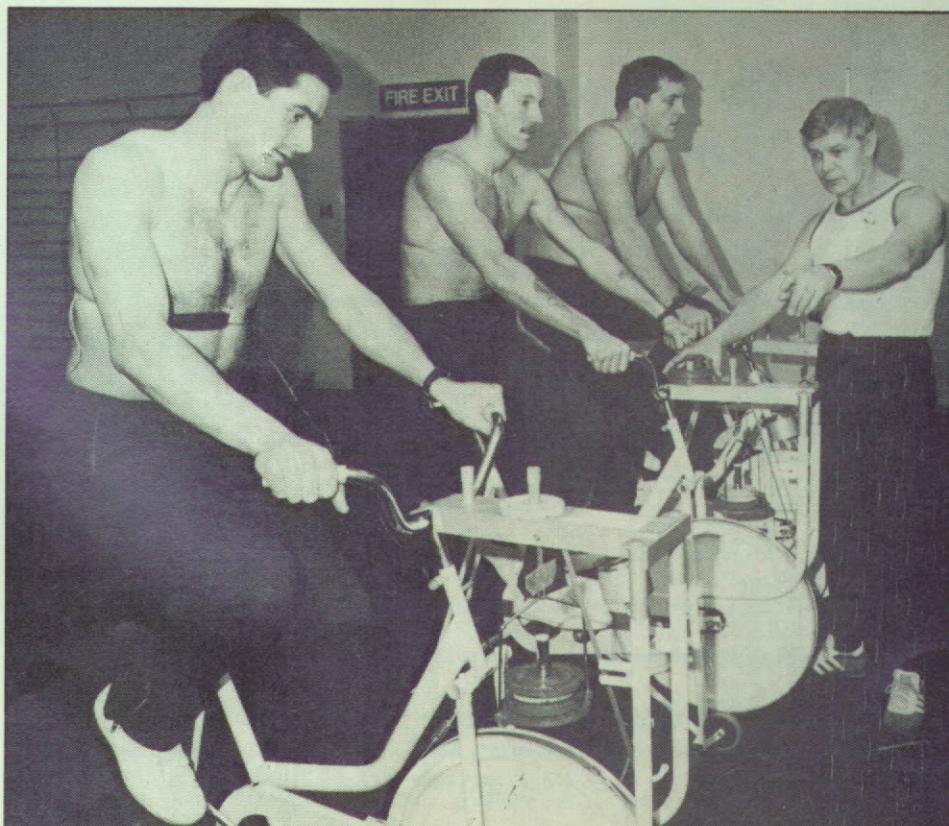


hoping to recommend that we have a junior coaching co-ordinator."

Knowing your men — and women — is a basic requirement of any coach and Glyn knows the strengths and weaknesses of his team. "There aren't so many international representatives as the RAF. They have a lot of superstars but we have more potential in depth. There are more men we can call on if the need should arise."

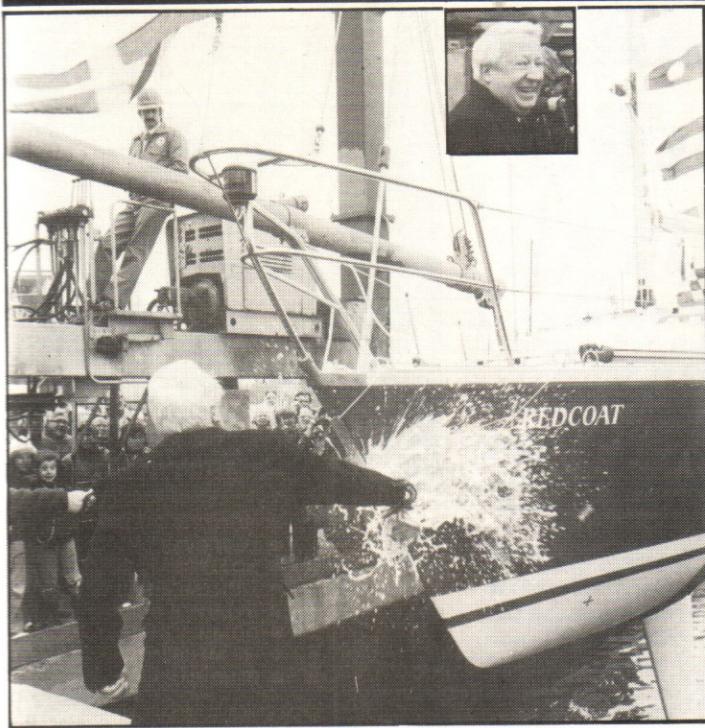
So, as the new-look Army team starts a new athletics season, they will have Glyn firmly behind them. "I want to bring back credibility to the Army, which they lost 17 years ago. There are people who are about to retire from the team who have never known a winning Army Athletics team."

"I'm after excellence as far as the top athletes are concerned. There is a lot of talent there to be tapped but I don't think it will happen this season. Still, if there are a few personal bests at the Inter-Services, we've achieved our aim." ■



## SOLDIER SPORT

### ARMY'S NEW YACHT



WHO IS THE old salt smashing the champagne bottle to launch the Army Sailing Association's new racing yacht, *Redcoat*? Inset reveals the familiar grin and shaking shoulders of ex-Premier Edward Heath.

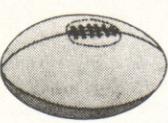
Mr Heath was at Lymington to launch the new yacht, an Offshore One Design 34. *Redcoat* has been given to the Association by an anonymous private donor. The Army can now compete in many of the Solent races and it is hoped to give as many experienced Army sailors as possible the chance to sail the boat seriously.



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### CROSS COUNTRY

## Wade's Shock Win

LANCE-CORPORAL G WADE was a surprise winner in this year's Army Cross-Country championships at Aldershot. Wade, of CRE Rhine Area, had a time of only 14 minutes 36.2 to his credit for 5000 metres before he beat off a strong cross-country field including the hot favourite, marathon runner Corporal Andy Robertson, writes our athletics correspondent.

From the start the well known figure of Army coach, Captain Glen Grant, went to the fore and his aggressive running spread the field so that the quartet of Wade, Grant, Robertson and South-West District Champion, Private Tony Barlow, were well clear.

Barlow set the pace during the early part of the second lap but then Wade opened up a thirty yard gap. Meanwhile Grant dropped back to fourth. The last mile, however, produced some dramatic changes.

Wade steamed further ahead but Grant pulled back into the second slot and went clear of the other two. And the fourth placed runner in the southern junior championships the previous weekend, Sapper Mark Lassetter, produced a dynamic finish to pass both Barlow and Robertson. This gave him third place overall and he also pipped Barlow for the junior title.

In the veteran class Bill Venus and Taff Davies, who between them have more Army vests than the rest of the team combined, battled for the prize. Venus made a late run on the last lap and in a Boys' Own Paper style finish

Davies narrowly held on to be one place ahead at eleventh overall.

The youths and women's races were disappointing. The winners deserve praise but overall standards were poor with more enthusiasm than fitness on display. While the youths merely mirror the fitness standards of newly joined soldiers the women have less excuse as some are in their second or third season. They will need to train harder.

Winner of the youth competition was Apprentice N W Tomlinson of ACC Chepstow with Junior Leader G D Birdall of Shorncliffe second and Apprentice M J Harvey of Harrogate third.

Team winners were Chepstow followed by the Army Catering Corps Apprentices College. Minor units award went to the Junior Soldiers Coy, Glencorse followed by the RAOC Apprentices College, Blackdown.

The women's team event went to the combined London and Eastern Districts entry with Rhine Army second. First home was Corporal Jill Cousin (below) stationed at Melton.



## Tickling Terriers

WINNERS OF the 1981 Tickle Fitness Competition for TA units have been announced. In the first place for larger units were 4 Para (V) followed by 4 (V) RGJ and 5/8 Kings. The smaller units competition was won by 144 Field Ambulance RAMC (V) with Exeter University OTC second and Edinburgh University OTC third.

The competition started in 1978 and is named after the late Mr A J B Tickle, a veteran of both world wars, who left a considerable sum to be used for promoting efficiency in the Army. Some of the income from the bequest is used for prizes for fitness competitions in both the Regular and Territorial Armies.

# Last minute goal in fog robs . . .

## KENTISH CUP

### COMB SERVICES 2 BELGIAN FORCES 2

Only a goal during injury time stopped the Combined Services team from recording a famous victory — their first in Kentish Cup competition in Belgium in modern times. After soaking up everything that the young squad of Belgian professional footballers could throw at them the British boys, playing with heroic dedication, had shocked the crowd at Saint Truiden by twice taking a lead and looking good value for it.

Not even the fact that most of the second half was played in pea soup conditions should detract from the British performance. The Combined Services never allowed the Belgians to really get their game together and at times made the home side look demoralised.

Albert Bers, the man responsible for Belgium's string of eight successive Kentish victories which ended last year at the hands of the French, is leaving the Army this year and was hoping for a victorious send-off. To do this his team needed to beat the amateur Britons by three goals so he picked an attacking team which, according to the Belgian newspapers, would 'dynamite the British defence'.

Conditions were already misty as the Belgians went into their first assault waves. During those first 20 minutes the Britons were penned into their half as raiding forwards tried route after route to the goalmouth.

But in the 23rd minute the sizeable crowd was stunned when the Combined Services broke through to score — Corporal Mark Edwards of the RAF passed to Bugler John O'Connell, Royal Marines, who easily slotted the ball in.

The Belgians continued to mount a series of frenetic attacks but the Combined Services not



only fended them off well but began to play confidently. In the 38th minute the Belgian striker, Bonomi, sent in a hard rasping shot which Patterson did well to take cleanly.

After the break the Belgians threw everything into the attack and Patterson made another fine save — pushing a shot over the bar. Ten minutes into the second half the Navy's Kevin Maddocks was taken off after a clash of heads and airman, John Bartley, came on as substitute.

Suddenly the fog dropped like a blanket and as it did so the Belgians drew level through their popular Anderlecht forward, Didier Electeur.

Unable to see anything more than shadowy figures flitting in and out of the murk like extras in a Hammer film graveyard scene spectators began to drift away. Few people saw the culmination of a fine run by Bartley when he put the British side back in front after 71 minutes.

The Kentish Cup was a lost cause for the Belgians but they still battled for a face saving draw and Silliard hit the bar in the 77th minute. Then, with the referee playing injury time his whistle was heard from the fog.

Above: Goalkeeper Mickey Patterson, peers into the thick fog while (below) he pulls off a fine save.



The Belgians had snatched a second equaliser. From behind the goal SOLDIER photographer, Doug Pratt reported that Patterson had let a ball go only for it to dip under the bar. A cruel blow as the celebration cup was dashed from British lips.

Afterwards coach, QMSI Alfie Coulton, was not unhappy despite the last minute Belgian reprieve. He said it was "a victory for British spirit" and looked forward to better luck next year.

five wins to four the Army Women's Fencing team ended up in third place in the Inter-Services triangular fencing tournament. The WRNS took first place with ten victories, followed by the WRAF with nine and the Army with eight. The Army team was Captain Lindy Esslemont, Lieutenant Jane Ripley and Lieutenant Camilla Aitchison.

★ ★ ★

Only four teams entered this year's Inter-Unit judo championships at Bulford. The winners were Princess Marina College, Arborfield, followed by the Depot the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces and 40 Field Regt RA.

★ ★ ★

The Army Catering Corps Apprentices College at Aldershot

took the team title in the under 19 competition at the Army Junior Squash Championships. Winners of the Under-17½ section were Junior Leaders RE from Dover. The Catering Corps' Apprentice Keenan took both the under 18 and under 19 individual titles. Plate winner was Junior Leader Apperley of the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion (Glosters).

★ ★ ★

With the help of walkover victories at fly, bantam and heavy the Army beat the RAF by seven bouts to three in the second of the Inter-Service team boxing contests of the season. Army winners were Private Carl Crook at lightweight, Guardsman Peter Kearney (light welter), Guardsman M Sangster (light middle) and Guardsman D Bailey (light-heavy).

★ ★ ★

Despite beating the WRNS by

# DARTS CONTEST DOWN TO LAST 16

VEHRTE CC HAVE emerged as favourites for the first SOLDIER darts trophy following a scorching second round success over Cambridge Military Hospital 'C' in which they needed just 70 darts (21-23-26) to finish their three legs. But it was tough luck on the hospital team whose own 80 dart total would have been good enough to win most of the ties and for whom WO1 Les Thorne weighed in with no fewer than four tons including a 103 finish.

Other impressive scorers were 10 Field Workshop REME from Tidworth who needed only 74 darts (27-25-22) to polish off Akrotiri HC and CC despite a 180 for the losers from Corporal Ray Robinson, the only 'maximum' of the round.

There was a close tussle between Stampers and 1 KOSB Fliers with the first leg tied and Fliers winning the second by a single dart. But Stampers powered through in the final leg to win by 15 darts, thus securing overall victory on aggregate.

Trooper Tony Woods notched up four tons for the Hawks, as did Sergeant Mick Simpson of Glen Parva Sgts Mess, and Corporal Dave Kerr fired in a remarkable finish for the Muppets of Munsterlager — an outer 25 followed by a bull.

Most consistent scoring though came from the Ore Place Social Club. They finished each leg in an identical score — 33.

Draw for the third round: Nomads v TRRE REME Wksp; The Muppets v Stampers; Double Tops Club 'A' v CPO BAOR Sgts Mess; Kolsas Killers v Cpl's Mess R Irish; The Hawks v Band 1 RRF; Glen Parva Sgts Mess v Ant Hill Mob; Vehrte CC v Ore Place Social Club; Eskmeals Owls v 10 Fd Wksp REME.



3rd ROUND



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