

THE COURAGE TROPHY

TAVR REGIMENTS IN TRIAL OF BATTLE SKILLS



Mr. Christopher Downes handing over the Courage Trophy to 562 Para. Sqn. RCT (V) in the presence of Col. B. R. Wood and Lt.-Col. Crawford of the Greater London TAVR Association and some of the public who braved the weather.

ON SUNDAY, 16th March, at Battersea Park, SW11, 14 units representing many famous regiments of the Greater London Territorial Auxiliary Volunteer Reserve Association competed in a Trial of Battle Skills for the Courage Trophy.

Pictures opposite

1. Ready for the "off" in the obstacle event.
2. Not the starting gun! A 5.5 in. howitzer of 100 Medium Bty.
3. Part of the vehicle test course—before the mud set in!
4. One of the many static displays.
5. Up and over with equipment and water.
6. Vehicle testing begins.
7. More vehicle testing.
8. A few of the crowd watch a bivouac being set up.
9. Still more vehicle testing—the surface deteriorates.
10. Preparing a bivouac.
11. Believe it or not there are two Land-Rovers here.
12. Another static display.
13. The police went round in pairs! We have yet to discover why.
14. Left to right. Mr. Christopher Downes, Managing Director of Courage (Eastern) Ltd., Maj.-Gen. Philip Ward, Col. B. R. Wood.
15. A reminder of Battersea Park "before the battle".
16. Mr. Downes addresses contestants and spectators.
17. The prize-giving.
18. Consolation prizes—very much appreciated.

The competition took place on a site near the Chelsea Bridge end of the North Carriage Drive and consisted of:

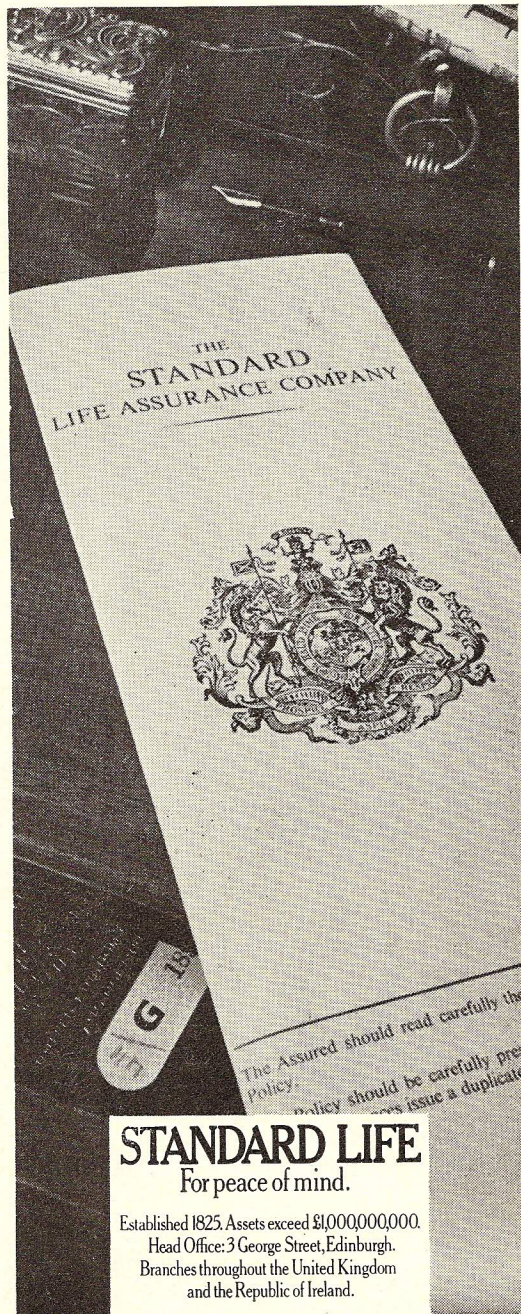
1. An Obstacle Course when teams negotiated five individual hazards and one team obstacle carrying 2 x 4½ gallon Jerrycans of water, their cooking equipment and personal arms.
2. Negotiating a hazardous course with Land-Rovers.
3. Moving into a camouflaged position, setting out sentries, erecting three bivouacs and cooking a meal of tea and hot stew.

The units taking part were:

LAD/REME 100 Medium Regt., RA (V).
135 Fd. Survey Sqn., RE (V).
131 Indep. Para Sqn., RE (V);
HQ Sqn.—36 (Eastern) Signal Regt. (V);
83 (London) Signal Sqn.—31st (GL) Signal Regt. (V);
C Coy.—5th (V) Bn. The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers;
A Coy.—6th (V) Bn. The Queen's Regt.;
C Bty.—6th (V) Bn. The Queen's Regt.;
G (London Scottish) Coy.—51st Highland Volunteers;
D Coy.—5th (V) Bn. The Queen's Regt.
210 (Surrey) Ambulance Sqn. RCT (V);
215 (Essex) Sqn., RCT (V);
240 (Herts.) Tank Transporter Sqn. RCT (V);
562 Para Sqn. RCT (V).

The public were invited to attend the Trial which started promptly at 11.00 a.m. and the winners were declared by 4.30 p.m.

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 and the Republic of Ireland.

Mr. Christopher Downes, Managing Director of Courage (Eastern) Ltd., presented the prizes.

The first three teams were:

First: 562 Para. Sqn. RCT (V).

Second: 131 Indep. Para. Sqn. RE (V).

Third: G (London Scottish) Coy. 51st Highland Volunteers.

It was unfortunate that the weather was cold and there was some snow. Nevertheless, a surprisingly large number of the public came along and, attracted by the activity, braved the elements until the end. The Static Display units seemed to be giving away plenty of recruiting literature.

STATIC DISPLAY—UNITS
TAKING PART

71st Signal Regt. (V);

C Coy.—5th (V) Bn. The Royal Regt. of Fusiliers;

G (London Scottish) Coy.—51st Highland Volunteers;

6th (V) Bn. The Queen's Regt.;

151 (Greater London) Regt., RCT (V);

217 (London) General Hospital, RAMC (V).

BACKGROUND TO THE
TROPHY AS SEEN BY
COURAGE

The Courage Trophy Competition was introduced in 1963 at a time when it created considerable interest and rivalry amongst Greater London units. At that time the competition took the form of a week-end march to Brighton, but it was not as simple as that. It was an endurance test with map reading and other exercises thrown in and included an overnight stop.

The competition lapsed, I assume around about 1967–1968 when the Government re-organisation of the TA was announced.

The competition re-started in 1973 when it was won by a RCT unit at Croydon in a test based on recruiting figures.

Each year we have left the TA to come up with their own ideas for a competition, hence the recent exercise in Battersea Park.

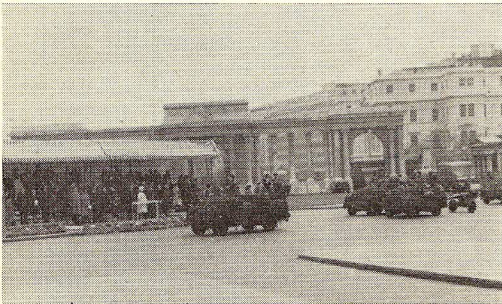
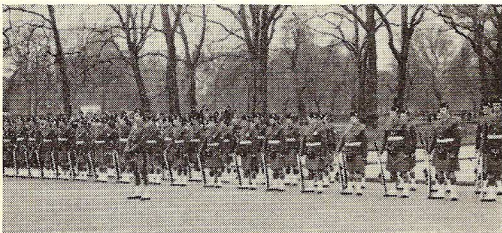
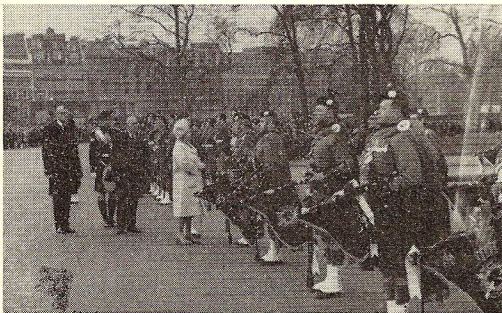
I hope the contest will become an annual affair as it is no doubt an excellent publicity exercise for the TAVR in Greater London and creates goodwill for Courage.

THE NEXT LOCATION

There are various proposals for the siting of the next contest, some favouring a repetition of the Battersea Park location as it is very easy to reach. Others consider that the competition might move to different places in the Greater London area and thus permit more people to visit the events.

Both ideas are good but comment from readers will be welcome.—Ed.

LONDON TAVR REVIEWED B



On Sunday, 6th April, H.M. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother reviewed over thirty units of the Greater London Territorial Auxiliary Volunteer Reserve, in Hyde Park.

The parade formed up on the South Carriage Drive of the Park and the Royal Review began at 2.45 p.m. when the Queen Mother having been welcomed by Marshal of the Royal Air Force, Lord Elworthy, President of the Greater London TAVR Association and by Col. B. R. Wood, the Chairman, drove along the mile-long column in a ceremonial Land-Rover. She then alighted at the Saluting Base at Hyde Park Corner where she received the Royal Salute from the Guard of Honour provided by the London Scottish and 1st Bn. 51st Highland Volunteers. Her Majesty is, of course, Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment.

After inspecting the Guard of Honour and the Pipe Band Her Majesty went to the saluting base and took the salute from the 33 detachments and floats as they marched past.

As Londoners will know, only too well, the weather had been—to put it mildly—unseasonable but there was a pleasant break on that Sunday afternoon and Her Majesty, as well as a very large turnout of spectators of all ages and both sexes, did not freeze in a blizzard or have to seek shelter under umbrellas.

THE MARCH PAST

Led by the Pipe Band of the London Scottish the units on parade marched past, very largely in the vehicles they use in their various combat roles. Naturally, the HAC, in full dress, had pride of place after the Guard of Honour and brought with them their 25 pounders, now relegated to duty for saluting purposes only.

ORDER OF MARCH

The Honourable Artillery Company
The Pipes and Drums and Guard of Honour of The
London Scottish and 1st Bn. 51st Highland Volun-
teers

5th (V) Bn. The Queen's Regt.

Y H.M. THE QUEEN MOTHER



21st Special Air Service (Artists) (V)
100 Medium Regt. RA (V)
4th (V) Bn. The Royal Green Jackets
873 Movement Light Sqn. RE (V)
217 (London) General Hospital RAMC (V)
221 (Survey) Field Ambulance RAMC (V)
31 (Greater London) Signal Regt. (V)
Drums and Pipes of the London Irish Rifles
The London Irish Rifles

FLOAT SECTION

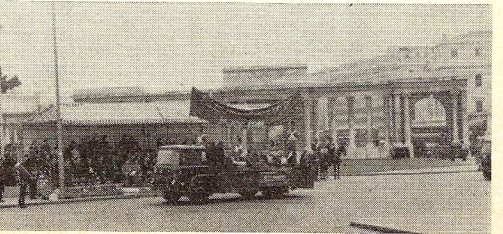
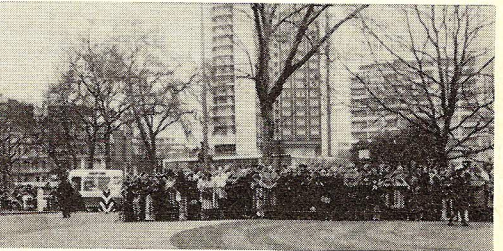
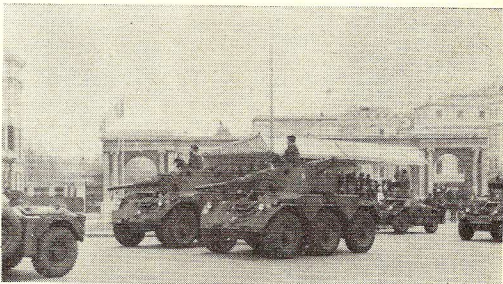
The Pipes and Drums of 257 (Southern) General Hospital
6/7 Queen's—"Yesterday" and "Today"
217 General Hospital—"Volunteer Care of a Soldier"
257 General Hospital—"Operating Theatre"
221 Fd. Ambulance—"Role of a Field Ambulance"
44 Para OFP—"Land-Rover—Ready to drop"
100 Medium Regt.—"1939-1945"
39 Signal Regt.—"Communications of the Seventies"

SECOND DIVISION

Band of The Royal Yeomanry
Mounted Troop of The Inns of Court and City Yeomanry
The Royal Yeomanry
71 Signal Regt. (V)
289 Para. Bty. RHA (V)
10th (V) Bn. The Parachute Regt.
131 Para. Sqn. RE (V)
151 (Greater London) Regt. RCT (V)
University of London Officers Training Corps
Intelligence and Security Group (V)
135 Field Survey Sqn. RE (V)

Band of The Honourable Artillery Company

This well contrived mixture of units together with their equipment gave spectators a very good insight into the various activities of the TAVR and its versatility. Also to be seen was the contrast of uniforms including the disruptive pattern combat kit which added a nice degree of realism to the Parade.



BURBERRY TROPHY



The Queen Mother about to present the Trophy—and the accompanying cheque, to the winner, L/Cpl. V. G. Lambert, 6th (V) Queens. Left, Mr. John T. Cohen.



Top left: H.M. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother receives a bouquet from Cpl. Pat Corby-Jones, QARANC, at the Duke of York's Headquarters on 6th April, 1975.

Top right: Her Majesty presents the second prize in the Burberry Trophy to S/Sgt. Eric Smith, HAC.



Bottom left: H.M. with Col. B. R. Wood, Chairman of the Greater London TAVR Association.

Bottom right: Sgt. R. W. Norris, Royal Green Jackets, receives the third prize from Her Majesty.

After the Parade in Hyde Park the Queen Mother had tea at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Sloane Square, with many of those who were taking part, and presented the Burberry Trophy to the "Volunteer of the Year" L/Cpl. Lambert of the 6/7th Queen's Regt. Representing the Company was the Deputy Chairman, Mr. John T. Cohen.

Victor Lambert, 28, who lives at 2 Tudor Road, Hampton, Middlesex, first joined the TAVR in 1965 when he served with the 6th Queen's Regt. He was chosen as the "Volunteer of the Year" because of his excellent record of all-round service as a junior NCO. He is a skilled radio operator, a Heavy Goods Vehicle driver and is capable of setting up and helping to run Battalion tactical Headquarters. He is also a first class shot with a rifle and a marksman with a light machine gun. Over and above his TAVR duties he has spent countless hours rebuilding the Battalion Headquarters club. In private life he is a carpenter and is married with a daughter.

THE RUNNERS-UP

2nd, S/Sgt. Eric Smith, age 41, 38 Bolderwood Way, West Wickham, HAC.

3rd. Sgt. R. W. Norris, age 35, 16 Shrubland Road, London E.8, 4th Bn. Royal Green Jackets.

THE TROPHY—ITS BACKGROUND

As a result of a TAVR Display staged at Burberrys in the Haymarket in March 1963, the Board of Burberrys agreed to provide a Trophy and £100 per

per annum for cash prizes to be competed for by London TAVR units.

Also agreed that the competition need not necessarily be of the same type or character each year, and could be varied from year to year if desired.

The Burberry Trophy was first competed for in 1964 and was awarded to the unit providing the best Unit Display at an "At Home" (Presented to the London Scottish by Lord Mancroft).

In view of the re-organisation of the TAVR, the award of the Trophy lapsed until 1972. In an Association Recruiting Committee minute of October 17th, 1966, it was agreed that:

"The Burberry Trophy would not be awarded for any particular purpose until Units had had the opportunity of settling down after the re-organisation."

The Burberry Trophy was not competed for again until 1971/72. It was presented by Mr. Edward Heath, then Prime Minister, during TAVR day at the Duke of York's Headquarters on Sunday, 16th April, 1972.

Since then it has been competed for twice, the award being made to "The Volunteer of the Year" as follows:

1973 Gunner A. D. Hayter of 289 Parachute Bty. R.H.A. (V) Presented by Lord Eden at a ceremony at Burberrys in the Haymarket on 18th February, 1974.

1974 L/Cpl. Victor G. Lambert of 6/7th (V) Bn. The Queen's Regt.

Presented by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother at the Duke of York's Headquarters on 6th April, 1975, after the Hyde Park Parade.



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“Breathless in BAOR”

By 2/Lt. J. Shephard, 6 (V) Queen's



DRIVERS of the Paris-Moscow express would probably be the first to admit that they are not renowned throughout Europe for their politeness. Indeed they regard their duty to arrive and depart stations punctually so highly that persons causing delays will be severely admonished in the vernacular and, if necessary, transported free of charge to a destination beyond that which is paid for.

Having travelled from Camberwell to Dover by 4-ton lorry, to Ostend by ferry and Aachen by slower train, 19 assorted Londoners welcomed the arrival of the Paris-Moscow express at Aachen and took the opportunity of resting their eyes after 14 hours travelling. The train sped from one deserted station to another, identical in all but name, and, at 0004 hrs. Sunday, 6th October, 1974, reluctantly slowed down to make its obligatory 20-second stop at Dortmund HFP. Fortunately not all the party were resting their eyes at that time. The name of the station was spotted and the 19 scrambled off the train with all the luggage they could muster. Regrettably, five members of the party had been cautious. At Aachen they had decided that the post carriage would be a good place to leave their suitcases but at Dortmund the post carriage was locked, and the obligatory 20-seconds had expired.

As officer commanding the Volunteer party of 19 from 6 (V) Queen's I had succeeded in transporting the party intact to Dortmund HFP to join 2 Queen's for the 1974 Divisional Formation Team Exercise (no mean feat!) but some 12 pieces of luggage were now heading east, five Volunteers were distinctly displeased at the prospect of going on exercise without their toothbrushes, and there appeared to be a communications problem with the railway staff. My pocket phrase book did not cover the contingency of Moscow-bound luggage and, as my efforts in mime and gesticulation showed few results, the soldiers separated from their luggage became more displeased. Suddenly, however, a red band was sighted on the platform. As it approached it was seen to form part of the regimental dress hat sitting high on a blonde head under which gleamed the buttons and Sam Browne of a tall 2 Queens Orderly Officer. Relief had arrived. The situation having been explained the Orderly Officer quickly arranged with the station official, in fluent German, that the luggage should be removed from the train at the next station whence it would be collected the following day. An impression of confident efficiency was thus given to the visitors by the rapid success of the Orderly Officer, and this was an

impression that was to be confirmed over the following 14 days on exercise with 2 Queen's.

SUNDAY NOT A DAY OF REST

The party arrived at Werl later that night and spent the rest of Sunday preparing kit for the exercise. We were to be split amongst the platoons for the exercise and, because no member of the party had met an APC before, it was with great interest that the beasts were inspected on that Sunday afternoon in camp. Reveille the next morning was welcomed as announcing a new experience: mechanised infantry. Excitement grew as the sections mounted their APCs. The enormous engines roared into life and the vehicles sped out of the camp on to the open road. There is an exhilarating feeling of invulnerability riding on the highway in an APC and as the October sun beamed encouragingly spirits were very high. The bad news was that we had to travel for most of that first day . . . on a train.

In order to conserve invaluable track miles and fuel two troop-trains were commissioned to transport the battalion to the front. Unlike their colleagues on the Paris-Moscow Express, drivers of German troop-trains are the most polite of men. Indeed, in addition to driving their trains at no more than 10 miles an hour in order to enable their passengers to savour the delights of the barren countryside, they need no excuse whatever to stop their engines to let the men "stretch their legs" at 10-minute intervals. This courteous behaviour resulted in the battalion visiting a number of fascinating sidings en route and arriving at the front late that evening. It might well have been quicker to walk.

By dawn on the following day A and B Companies had drawn up to form the FEBA and C Company was Enemy. I had the good fortune to be attached to a platoon in C Coy and witness the destruction that that force was able to wreak. The Secret Weapon of C Coy detached himself early on that Tuesday morning and, together with a small band of dedicated saboteurs, set about harassing the rear of the Enemy. The three platoons of C Coy then began a succession of fast attacks on A and B Coys which continued for the first phase of the FTX, for two days. Contacts were made and exploited with incredible speed, sometimes with helicopter support for vectoring, and C Coy rarely stayed in one place for more than a few hours. At the commencement of this phase it was discovered that a certain corporal commanding call-sign 31B had volunteered to join the Secret Weapon acting behind

the lines of A and B Coys and so Bdr Salussolia, from C Bty 6 (V) Queen's in Camberwell, found himself in command of an APC and section on the first day of meeting this formidable form of transport.

RIVER CROSSING AHEAD

After two days' battering, A and B Coys at last capitulated and the battalion then united for the second phase of the exercise and was joined by some allied tanks. C Company was again busy during this phase which ended at the weekend, with the battalion drawn up for a crossing of the Weser early on Monday morning.

A feature of the FTX was that whenever a night's sleep was allowed it should be taken if possible within the security of a friendly village. This resulted in almost every village in the Divisional area being "occupied" on that weekend. It was certainly a strange position for a Volunteer soldier to be in—resting on a week-end—but the Volunteers on exercise adapted quickly. The Saturday was spent refurbishing and cleaning the vehicles, and Sunday recovering from Saturday night. The quality of the German beer was matched only by the hospitality of

the innkeepers, and this guaranteed an enjoyable relaxation for the battalion. The 18 stones of Bdr Salussolia proved invaluable in assisting tired soldiers to the comfort of their straw beds that evening.

The Weser was to be crossed early on the Monday morning. One company was crossing by bridge, another by long boats and C Coy was to swim. Regrettably the river was too fast, and so C Coy crossed by bridge to reform for further operations in Phase Four. The following phases of the FTX were characterised by swift movements to contact, Wessex drops, and rapid encounters with the enemy, realistically played at various stages by Danes, Belgians, and Irishmen. The Volunteer party had quickly adapted to life in the mechanised battalion and all 19 worked in their platoon just as their regular colleagues. This was invaluable training of a scale impossible in the UK TAVR, and all 19 members of the privileged party are very grateful for the opportunity to train in this way with 2 Queen's.

After a second long day of travel, a 4-ton lorry at Dover Marine was a welcome sight, waiting to return soldiers to their families where further stories would be told.

TWO WEEKS IN BERLIN— A BRIEF ENCOUNTER

By Major T. B. Boulton, ERD, FFRACS, RAMC(V)
(351 Field Surgical Team (V))



HOW refreshing it is to do another man's job for a couple of weeks—simply fitting into his professional slot without having the irksome duties of long-term planning and administrative responsibility. How much more enjoyable still if that job is in a unique place with a feeling of remoteness without being isolated from the benefits of civilisation, but one must recognise that the very factors which make the task enjoyable to the bird of passage may be those which make the situation trying for the permanent incumbent.

The British Military Garrison and its French and American counterparts in Berlin are certainly isolated communities which, by their very presence, are committed to a task which is almost forgotten at home. They are the last visible reminder of that spirit of Allied comradeship in arms which thirty-five years ago faced, fought and conquered one of the greatest tyrannies which ever disturbed the peace of the world.

The writer recently took over the duties of anaesthetist at the British Military Hospital at Berlin as his Territorial Army commitment. BMH Berlin is a pleasant, well-designed, modern hospital built in the sixties as part of post-war preparations with little expense spared. It has a steady but not overwhelming work-load amongst a basically young and fit population of soldiers and their wives and families and there

is time to treat each patient as an individual problem involving an individual person.

NO JUNIOR STAFF

Each specialist on the staff of BMH Berlin is the sole representative of his particular discipline; there are no junior staff and each must take a turn as admitting officer in casualty. One can see that, stimulating as this is for a fortnight when one has no family ties and is living in the adjacent Mess "over the shop", it must be irksome over a year or two even with adequate provision of two-way radios and staff-cars which exists. Isolation from one's own speciality must also be intellectually restrictive.

It is in the closed community of a military hospital overseas, which one might expect to be a place of regimentation and administrative red tape, that one begins to realise paradoxically how much we have lost in civilian life in the National Health Service in successive administrative upheavals. How pleasing it was to find that the matron is still "The Matron", accessible to her own and the medical staff alike, and with individual knowledge of the patients and not a remote "officer" on some District or Area headquarters. How pleasant and helpful it is to find nurses of the equivalent status of "No. 8" (major) doing bedside nursing. How nostalgic to have admini-