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SOLDIER



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FRONT COVER: Men of 1 Royal Hampshire in fighting stance in the FIBUA village in Berlin. More on FIBUA in the next issue of SOLDIER.
Picture: LES WIGGS.

BACK COVER: WO2 Glyn Thomas, SSM of Headquarters Squadron, parades the Standard of 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards at Cardiff Tattoo. See page 28.
Picture: PAUL HALEY.

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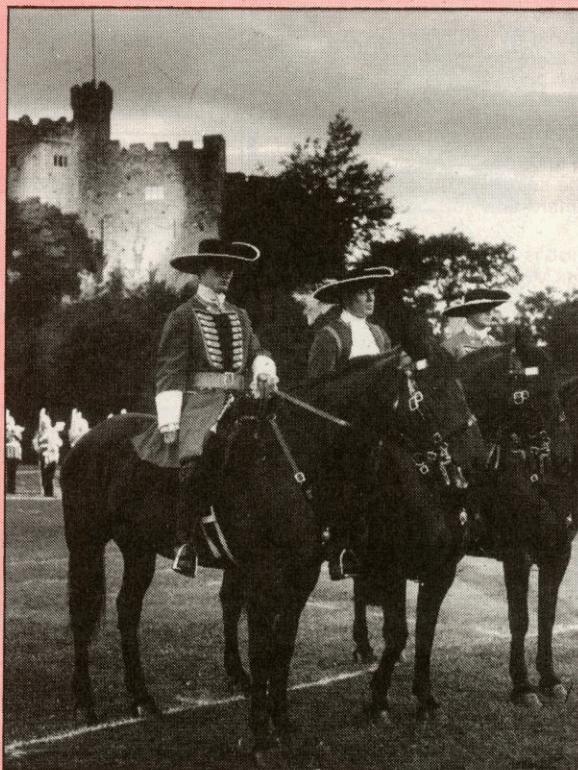
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SOLDIER

INCORPORATING
THE TERRITORIAL ARMY MAGAZINE



As part of the Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards mounted a display celebrating their tercentenary (left) — p28.

Mrs Jennifer House was one of the mothers who had her baby in British Military Hospital Berlin this year (below). With her is Captain Trudy Stobbs — p26.



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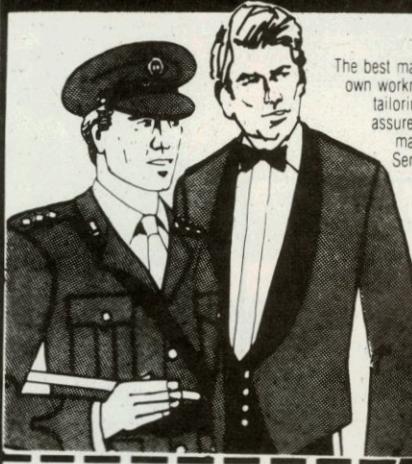
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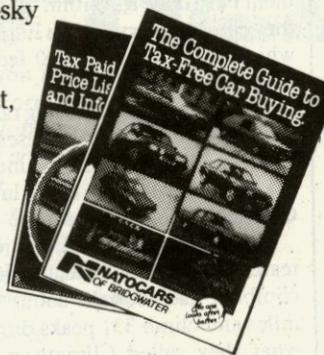


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Falklands send a million Blueys

HE DID not know it at the time but Senior Aircraftman Stuart Baxter serving in the Falklands was making philatelic history.

As he walked into the Forces' Post Office he was just about to post the millionth Air Letter Form — the famed 'Bluey' — from the island outpost 8,000 miles away from Blighty.

Postage is free on the Bluey for all Service personnel serving under British Forces Post Office 666. Families in the UK can obtain the Blueys from civilian offices to benefit from the freepost facility.

So popular is the freepost Air

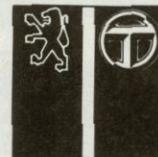
Letter Form among the tri-Service personnel that some of the single men have up to ten pen-pals each, thus maintaining a near constant link with home.

SAC Baxter, for instance, writes home to his wife once a day and



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receives as many replies in return.

The current Forces' Post Office has 13 personnel; a staff regularly handling 3,000lbs of assorted letters and parcels arriving by air from the UK.

The picture shows Captain Rod Small, Royal Engineers and Staff Sergeant Joe Hernandez of the Forces' Post Office receiving the millionth 'Bluey' from SAC Baxter.

£4 million to help needy

The Army Benevolent Fund disbursed more than £2.2 million during the year 1984-5 in relief work in all forms.

As part of the general Army benevolence activities during the same period, Corps and Regimental associations additionally disbursed £1.7 millions.

Of this overall sum, individual grants to soldiers, ex-soldiers and their families totalled more than £2 million while grants by the Army Benevolent Fund to national charities providing for the special needs of the soldier and his family

PEAK RECORDS

The climbers of 1st Battalion The King's Own Royal Border Regiment have done it! Within 21 days, they climbed every peak in England which is more than 2,000 feet in height.

It resulted in £5,000 being raised for the Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust and SSAFA, and also means the team may have an entry in the Guinness Book of Records.

To achieve their goal, the joint team of civilian and military climbers had to walk about 400 miles and climb 331 peaks during what they called Climathon 85, despite having bad weather for 17 out of the 21 days.

Now the soldiers, who are based in Northern Ireland at Palace Barracks, Holywood, are even considering trying to break the record again within the next couple of years.

amounted to £1.1 millions. Interest-free loans on compassionate grounds made by the ABF totalled £861,140.

In the financial year just ended therefore Army benevolence disbursed more than £4 million in relief work of all forms.

General Sir Robert Ford, Chairman of the ABF Executive Committee, said in the annual report: "I am particularly concerned to say how indebted the Fund is to industry and commerce for the substantial help they provide, also indeed to the Variety Club of Great Britain who, as for many years past, have again demonstrated their magnificent support and generosity. The sensible direction of the Fund's financial interests is clearly a matter of very considerable importance indeed."

"That our finances are today so soundly based, and invested to such good purpose is, in large measure, due to the understanding, enthusiasm and efficient control when the finance Sub-Committee and his financial advisers bring to the task of managing the Fund's money. Their splendid work is greatly appreciated."

**WELCOME
WARRIOR**

MCV-80 has got its official name. It is to be called Warrior and the Army is to get 1,048 examples of the combat vehicle.

SCIMITAR TAKES A FARMING ROLE

THE CREW of a Scimitar armoured car in Catterick Garrison turned cow-punchers when their skills were called upon to retrieve the carcass of a dead cow which had fallen into a deep ravine.

The call for help came through as a recce troop from the 14th/20th King's Hussars were on exercise in the area in preparation for deployment to steamy Belize and its jungle terrain.

Driver Ken McKelvey soon had vehicle, which totes a 30mm Rarden cannon, heading down the narrow footpath to the river's edge. With him, the rest of the cowboys-for-a-day, Cpl Steve Wheeler and Lance Cpl Peter Atkins, hanging on for dear life.

A chain was soon secured round their 200-kilo burden which had



Scimitar — one dead cow for you, farmer.

been rescued after a 20-minute drama up the steep incline.

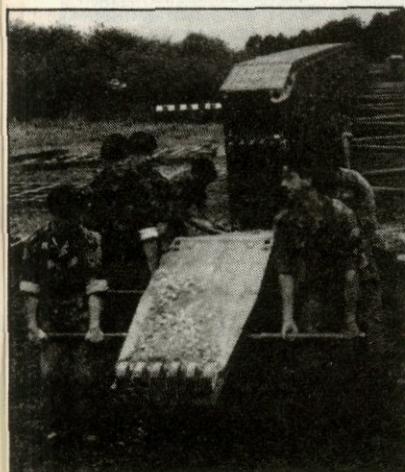
Driver McKelvey said later: "It was fun and very useful training. I have not had to do anything like

that before and it was a tricky bit of ground. I have learned something useful about driving my vehicle and, if it helped someone, that's good, too."

That day on the ranges had helped a very grateful farmer from nearby Northallerton who had not been able to carry out the rescue with his tractor.

SAPPERS OF GOODWILL...

SAPPER SKILLS are never wasted, as the good townspeople of Burgstemmen will



Sappers from Hamelin put their backs into the task.

readily testify.

The sappers of 29 Field Squadron, 35 Engineer Regiment based at Hamelin, have not only just returned to build a medium girder bridge over the River Leine but also built a bridge of goodwill between themselves and the local denizens.

The MGB had been hastily installed in mid-June as a temporary measure but the constant flow of farm traffic using the bridge coupled with heavy rainfall led to it becoming embedded into the river banks themselves.

The bridge was stripped and a sturdier version implanted with typical sapper skill and speed.

After the event, Burgermeister Reider laid on beef stroganoff and beer for the military bridge builders of Hamelin.

AND SAPPERS AHoy!



SAPPERS ARE no mean sailors, either. For 33 Independent Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, based at Antrim, Northern Ireland, have just won the Great Lough Neagh Raft Race which means that one of their chosen charities will be richer by £2,500.

A dozen units entered the event which was organised by 33 Indep Fd Sqn. It was a waterborne spectacle which covered the whole spectrum of nautical style and

panache ranging from canoes lashed together with string to streamlined craft with masts and spinnaker.

At journey's end — 18 miles or nine hours for the fleetest — only three craft had survived although three more were "very close." Some sank; others were rescued.

Second place went to 325 Engineer Park and third slot went to 11 UDR.

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INVICTA EXPORT



Midnight delivery by good neighbour Edna

It's a rare occasion these days when your neighbour has suddenly to become your midwife!

But that's what happened to Mrs Edna Stephenson, mother of two, whose husband Corporal Bob Stephenson serves with Headquarters REME, in Herford, BAOR.

Said Edna: "It was after 11pm and we had just gone to bed, when there was a violent banging on the front door.



Mrs Edna Stephenson.

"Bob went to the front door and saw it was our neighbour, Corporal Eric Ridley, who was pretty excited as he explained that his wife, Lyn, had started labour, and could I help?"

"I ran upstairs and saw that the baby had started to make his way into the world. I told Lyn not to worry and that Eric had telephoned

for an ambulance.

"I turned the baby's head and helped as best I could and after about seven minutes the baby was born. I felt so relieved when the baby started to cry.

"A few minutes later the

ambulance and a nurse arrived. The ambulance seemed quite surprised at what I had done."

A spokesman for BMH Rinteln said: "There are risks involved in having a baby at home, but we would like to congratulate Mrs

Stephenson for reacting so quickly and helping to deliver the baby. Her example of calmness and common sense shows what can be done in a situation of this kind."

Now the proud parents have decided to call the baby boy Dean, using the letters from Edna's name. Needless to say Edna is thrilled that her unusual experience will be remembered in this way.

Widow Mrs Violet Harrison
is going blind, but before losing her sight completely she wanted to see the place where she was born 76 years ago.

Now she has achieved her ambition, thanks to The Green Howards and Lieutenant Colonel Bill Harris, 81, formerly of the West Yorkshire Regiment Depot, who identified her birthplace at Imphal Barracks, York.

Mrs Harrison spent less than six months there and has no recollection of her father's regiment (2nd Battalion 19th Yorkshire Regiment) staying in what was then Fulford Barracks.

But to see her birthplace before her sight failed became an obsession with her.

She said: I had no idea what to expect and I was quite overcome when I saw the place.

"We are a military family. My husband Norman, who died in 1976, was with The 1st King's Dragoon Guards, and my three sons have served with the Army, the RAF and the Navy.

As a souvenir of her visit Mrs Harrison received a Green Howards' wall plaque from Captain Mark Tovey of Regimental HQ.

Near-blind widow goes home



CAPTAIN TOVEY,
MRS HARRISON,
COLONEL HARRIS:
ambition achieved.

Land's End lot wheel in cash

NSPCC benefit
by £2,000

Margate has its attractions. Dreamland and all that, writes Graham Smith. But for a team



L/CPL GOFF, DRIVERSAITKEN, LOWTHER, HEWITT: in credit.

of men from HQ Troop, 7 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, it was the start point of a 50-mile bike ride along the south coast to Land's End.

Part of the squadron's adventure training week, it turned out to be a sponsored event in aid of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Two of the major helpers were Raleigh who supplied the bikes and the National and Provincial Building Society whose offices provided stopping points en route.

As Sgt Geoff Lukins, chief clerk of 7 Sqd, RCT and one of the riders in *Exercise Raleigh Express* recalled: "Not only could our riders obtain refreshments at the offices, but they helped to count the money collected in the streets, crediting

our account at the same time! In the event, more than £2,000 was raised for the NSPCC."

On one occasion the money took more than an hour to count.

The ride itself took its toll of saddle-sore entrants, only one of the 29 having done anything like it before.

Hastings, Brighton, Southampton, Bournemouth, Wareham, Exeter, the towns rolled by. One cyclist was involved in a collision with a car, the bike written off, while another got "lost" on the way to Wareham.

But they got there in the end and the obligatory album-packed pictures were taken at Land's End sign.

Someone, somewhere, muttered something about doing it all over again next year!

Bye-bye Bielefeld, hello Barbados...

Last year's Cricketer of the Year BAOR, has retired. WO1 (RSM) Carl Brome has left 10 Corps RCT, based at Bielefeld, bound for Barbados.

He enlisted in 1964 and his overseas tours took him to Malta, Libya, Denmark, Italy and BAOR. His successor is WO1 (RSM) Russett.

Horse saves dog

GEE, THANKS PAL



CORPORAL NOBBY CLARKE AND FRIENDS: dawn find.

Nobby Clarke and pals get in close for a happy picture that very nearly had a sorry ending — especially for the labrador puppy.

Thought to be about ten weeks old, he was found by Nobby and his horse, Jake, in a weighted sack on the banks of a stream.

A corporal in the RCT and the chief stablehand at Verden Garrison Saddle Club, Nobby told how he was riding Jake in a nearby forest at the crack of dawn.

"Jake suddenly shied away from a sack on the water's edge. The sack was wriggling around and when I untied it I found this little fella wet and bedraggled, but otherwise OK.

"Now we've adopted him as the club mascot and

already he's a firm favourite with his bigger friends."

Nobby, who is keeping the youngster at home for a few weeks until he is able to stand on his own four paws, has been in the Army for 18 years, serving as driver with the RCT for much of his career.

He said: "I first started as a horse transport driver with H Squadron RCT, the Army's pack-horse squadron at Aldershot — training soldiers who might be using pack-horses in the remoter parts of the world. When the squadron was disbanded I switched to wheeled mounts.

Medal men meet again

Close on 200 holders of the Distinguished Conduct Medal meet at Windsor Castle next week (September 14), to celebrate the 130th anniversary of the institution of the medal by Queen Victoria. There's not a lot of them left, but they are coming from all over the world for this event, organised by Major J. C. Cowley, president of the DCM League.

Mike lives up to his nickname

With one wedding at 2.30pm and another two hours later 30 miles away, Padre Mike Walters lived up to his nickname of "Sky pilot" when he had to fly by helicopter to get to the churches on time.

He managed it, with time to spare, courtesy 664 Squadron Army Air Corps based at Minden, BAOR.

But they were only too happy to oblige since it was

PEOPLE

two of their men, albeit attached, who were getting wed.

Flown by pilots Lieutenant Robin Higgs and Sergeant Tony Gray of 664 Squadron, Mike's first ceremony was that of Captain Tony Bourne, Royal Artillery, and his bride Fiona Cameron, a dental

nurse.

Their wedding took place at Isselhorst where Mike heard their vows and watched them sign the register before hopping aboard the 664 helicopter to be whisked to Churchill Barracks, Lipstadt.

There Corporal Terry Tre-

gaskes and Lesley Gaunt, daughter of retired WO1 Gaunt, Royal Artillery, were waiting to be declared man and wife in the station church.

With both ceremonies safely performed, Mike flew back to Minden Garrison where he is senior chaplain.

Roses for Minden men

It's roses all the way for some battalions. ... For not only did the Royal Hampshires collect them on Minden Day (see Pages 21-27), but others are in on the act, too.

Along with the red roses given to the Hampshires, white ones were handed by the wives of the regiment to every soldier of The 2nd Battalion the Light Infantry, based at Hemer, BAOR.

It seems the forerunner of the regiment, The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, was involved in the same battle as the Hampshires against the Prussians in 1758.

The only difference is 2LI get white roses and the Hampshires red.



CAPTAIN TONY BOURNE AND BRIDE FIONA, PADRE MIKE WALTERS: time to spare.

Tank swap puts Russians in a pickle!

Heard that one about the Soviet tank crew who exchanged their vehicle with a publican for two cases of vodka?

The four-man crew were found two days later sleeping off the effects of the booze in a forest, but of the tank there was not a sign.

Their superiors later learned that the tank's now owner had dismantled it and sold the pieces to a metal recycling centre.

The story, reported first in a German publication, said the incident happened during Warsaw Pact manoeuvres in Czechoslovakia in the autumn of 1984.

The report told how the tank crew got lost on the exercise as darkness was falling, in cold, rainy, foggy weather.

They were running out of vodka, since rations had been reduced as part of a government campaign against alcoholism.

It appears the tank drove into a village where the only pub was still open.

The crew parked the tank in a shed behind the pub and walked into the bar as the landlord was about to close.

They had little money, enough for one bottle of vodka only, but later that night were seen leaving the premises with two crates and more than 6lb of herring and pickles.

SNOOZING

Two days later they were found snoozing it off in a nearby wood. The soldiers told the authorities they did not know what happened to their tank.

But a few days later the boss of a metal recycling firm reported he had bought a large amount of high-quality steel from the publican.

Investigations revealed the remains of the tank in the outbuilding behind the pub.

The landlord was reported as telling the authorities he had got it for two dozen bottles of vodka, with herrings and pickles thrown in "as a gesture of comradeship."

Brave Defenders ready for Action

MORE than 300 Territorial Army volunteers from The Royal Anglian Regiment completed two days of intensive training as part of their final preparations for Britain's big home defence exercise.

The men and women, from the regiment's 6th Battalion were at the Battle Training Area at Stanford in Norfolk to polish up their skills for Exercise Brave Defender, now under way (see SOLDIER 26 August).

Also involved were men from the newly formed East Anglian companies of the Home Service Force, attached to the battalion.

During their two-day work-up the Terriers and the HSF men rehearsed for the role they will have in Brave Defender, defending key installations — such as communications centres and supply depots — from attack by enemy forces.

The Battalion, which has bases in Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire, is operating on its home territory during the big exercise, and has recently been issued with the latest Clansman radio equipment.



TOPICS



With 6 Royal Anglians on this occasion is 18-year-old Private Cathy Smith (second from left). Cathy joined the Battalion's WRAC detachment seven months ago. Right, patrol leader Lance Corporal Jim Seamons.



ABOVE: Sappers John Hart, Chris Pugh and Mike Webb take a breather.

BETWEEN: The Troop's Hy-Mac digging out the channel to connect the two lakes.



Sappers' dig is strictly for birds!

YOU probably wouldn't be a volunteer sapper if you didn't enjoy a good dig, especially when there is a worthwhile end result.

Members of 2 Troop, 143 Plant Squadron, Royal Engineers (V), from Failsworth, Manchester, have been giving weight to this theory with the construction of a bird sanctuary at Mere Sands, near Rufford in Lancashire.

The task took 14 days construction and involved moving 5,000 tons of sand and gravel to link two gravel pits with different water levels.

By adding a sluicegate and paddle it's hoped to produce the sort of mud banks which make water birds feel at home, and, with appropriate landscaping, turn a couple of disused and flooded gravel pits into a major nature reserve.

Twenty men from 2 Troop deployed their heavy plant — Hy-mac, Terex, dumper trucks and bulldozers — under the direction of Captain Arthur Cairns and PSI, WO2 (QMSI) Russell Smith.

"The task is just right for us", Captain Cairns explained. "I hope the ducks like it, too!"

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SOLDIER to Soldier

AFTER all the publicity about the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it was some — if small — consolation to the many thousands of Servicemen who suffered at the hands of the Japanese that their plight was eventually not entirely forgotten.

The world is rightly horrified by the slaughter in the two Japanese cities, but war is horrible in many forms, whether it claims the lives of thousands in the explosion of one atomic bomb or of other thousands shot, blown up, burned to death or perhaps who die from malnutrition and ill treatment over a much longer period of time.

It is unfortunately the nature of publicity that if twenty people die in a motorway pile-up there are newspaper and broadcasting headlines, whereas the steady toll of hundreds of road accident victims on Britain's roads during a year is nowhere near as newsworthy. The same applies to war casualties.

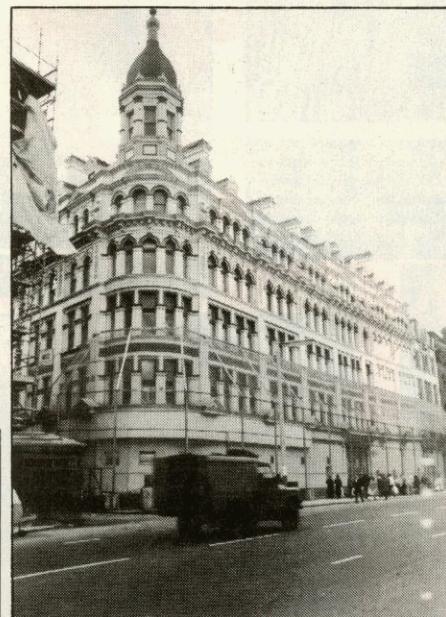
If remembering the carnage at Hiroshima and Nagasaki helps to prevent another war and the possibility of the same thing — or worse — happening again, then that is obviously justified. But we must not forget the toll taken in human lives before those bombs were dropped, or the fact that soldiers and others are still suffering from their horrible experiences in the war torn Far East — or the

fact that had those bombs not been dropped, many, many more would probably have suffered and died.

★ ★ ★

BELFAST'S Grand Central Hotel, which survived years of terrorist bombing and was 'home' to thousands of soldiers during their tours of duty in Northern Ireland, will soon be just a heap of rubble.

What the IRA and INLA failed to accomplish even during the worst days of violence, the demolition men plan to achieve during September as the famous hotel makes way for an extensive £30-million pound shopping and office complex.



The redevelopment scheme, which also involves the former General Post Office building next door, the Smithfield market area and other buildings, in the biggest ever in Northern Ireland, SOLDIER was told by an official of John Laing Developments, the developers of the site.

The Army was associated with the Grand Central — affectionately known as the 'GCH' — for eight years until 1980 when the last 'guests', the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, booked out and returned to their barracks at Paderborn.

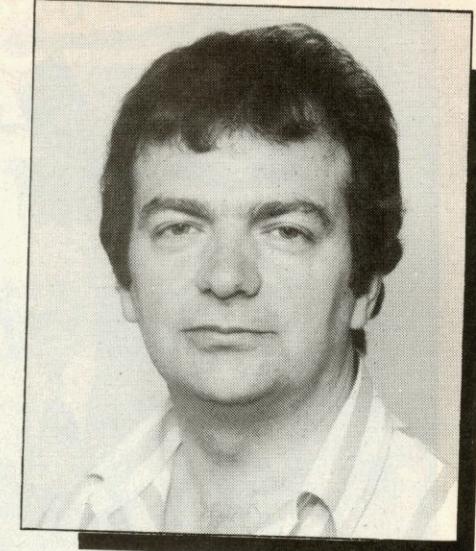
In its earlier life as a smart hotel, the Grand Central had accommodated the famous, among them many film stars such as Bob Hope and Gracie Fields. But soon it will be no more.

★ ★ ★

PHOTOGRAPHERS GO and photographers come. SOLDIER's latest lens man to join the staff in place of departed Doug Pratt is TERRY CHAMPION, who has been involved in the world of putting facts onto celluloid since the age of 16.

Married with two teenage children, Terry has worked at a number of Defence Ministry establishments including Coulport, Farnborough, West Freugh and, latterly, Teddington.

Until now his most exciting assignment has



been snapping an ancient SE 5A from the front seat of a pitching and rolling Tiger Moth.

"I am looking forward to joining the SOLDIER team and much more exciting assignments on a magazine with a worldwide circulation," he said. "And I hope to have my fair share of the coveted and prestigious front cover showcase in full colour."

★ ★ ★

THE EXERCISE season is here again. Particularly on mainland Europe. And especially those organised by Allied Command Europe (ACE).

No less than 21 exercises, involving 10,000 troops, will be "fought out" tactically in the Autumn Forge FTX (Field Training Exercises) series.

The Autumn Forge series started in 1975 and this year's exercise play ranges from a multi-national FTX called Bar Frost in the Northern Region to a Corps-level exercise, Trutzig Sachsen ('Defiant Saxony'). Added to this is an air forces' exercise — Cold Fire — in the Central Region and a combined land, sea and air exercise — Display Determination — in ACE's Southern Region.

Highlight of the year, next month, will be Exercise Archway Express which is being held in Turkish Thrace during this, the 25th Silver Jubilee year, of AMF (L), the multi-national land and air capable conventional force designed to deploy rapidly to areas on NATO's far-flung flanks.

Autumn Forge 85, the eleventh in the series, is substantially reduced in scope compared with last year as the US strategic reinforcement exercise REFORGER (REturn of FORces to GERmany) took place early this year. It will also be the case next year.

★ ★ ★

THERE are two old soldiers living in the Shears Green Court pensioners' flats in Northfleet, Kent, who are both celebrating their 90th birthdays this month and one of their neighbours thought it would be nice to mention them in SOLDIER.

Mr C Dadson served with the Green Howards and Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment at Ypres, the Somme, Cambrai and Armentieres, where he was taken prisoner, and Mr A Turner was with the 4th Home Counties Brigade RA in France and Salonika.

Happy birthdays, gentlemen.

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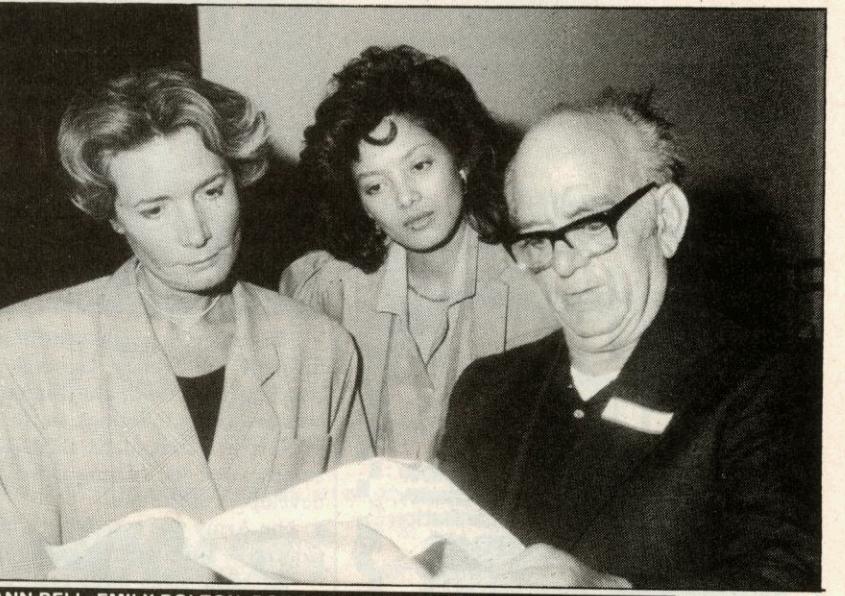
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Bill and Alice Griffiths tell of the Japanese ultimatum: Said Bill, now sightless and without hands, "I had no choice."



LADY PAMELA MOUNTBATTEN: GROUP CAPTAIN LEONARD CHESHIRE: guests of honour



ANN BELL, EMILY BOLTON, ROY PAGANI: *Tenko* PoWs get the true-life story

The unofficial celebration of the end of WW2

Angered by officialdom's refusal to recognise VJ Day as the true end of the war, survivors of the Japanese PoW camps have held their own 40th anniversary.

"This is the unofficial celebration of the end of the Second World War. It's back full circle to the Forgotten Army," declared guest of honour Lady Pamela Mountbatten, daughter of Lord Louis, who was Supreme Allied Commander South East Asia. "The Forgotten Army was still fighting and

story: JOHN MARGETTS — pictures: TERRY CHAMPION

dying three months after VE Day," she said.

She was speaking at the Imperial War Museum, London, to a packed audience of ex-PoWs and wartime Servicemen who spent time in captivity.

"It's not just VE Day we must remember, but August 15, VJ Day, too," said Lady Pamela. "That's really why we're here today," she said to loud applause.

But it was while paying tribute to her father and 'Uncle Bill,' (Field Marshal Sir William Slim who com-

manded the 14th Army and whose operations marked the turning point of the Burma campaign) and the three Services, that Lady Pamela was reminded by a shout from the floor: "What about the FEPOWs?" (Far East PoWs).

"Indeed, yes," agreed Lady Pamela. "That's really why we're here today," she said to loud applause.

Most of those present had spent years as PoWs enduring appalling hardships. Men like Ted Coffey and Jim Mutimer, both Royal Artillery, and Freddie Knight-

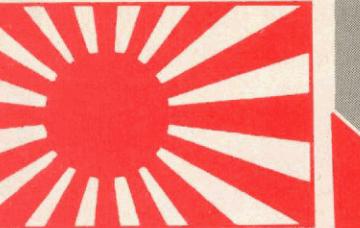
ley, RASC (President of the London PoW Association) all now in their seventies, but full of stories and memories.

Perhaps the most amazing story came from Roy Pagani, 70, a former Regular soldier who joined the East Surrey Regiment in 1933.

He is thought to be the only man to have escaped from the notorious Burma railway and lived to tell the tale.

"The only way out was through a village, he said. "There was no way round it. As I paddled along the road in my loincloth, a group of Jap soldiers came forward.

'Fighting and dying three months after VE Day'



The FEPOWs recall their

STILL IN THE SHADOW OF THE RISING SUN



Lt Col F. Croft: diarist

"So I jumped into a ditch and had a pee. They just walked on by and I got away into the jungle where I teamed up with guerrillas.

"I managed to stay there for about a year before being recaptured, eventually finishing up in Rangoon jail where I taught my Jap guard English."

But it wasn't as a British soldier that Mr Pagani was imprisoned, but as a US airman — Lieutenant Terry Aston Melvin USAF.

"They are my son's Christian names and I thought I'd use them because who knows what would have happened had the Japanese discovered I had escaped from the railway."

Now Mr Pagani has a book coming out telling his story as a PoW.

Among the many well-known people attending the celebration was Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, Lady Slim, widow of Field Marshal Slim, singer Vera Lynn, Group Captain Leonard Cheshire and former RAF man Bill Griffiths who lost his hands and his sight while a prisoner in Java.

Bill has since featured with his wife, Alice, and family in Thames TV's *This is Your Life*.

MARVEL

His survival as a PoW without hands or eyes is something of a marvel. He was captured in 1942 while attempting to rescue some RAF men from the advancing Japs.

But his bid failed and he was taken prisoner and forced to clear British booby traps.

"It was either that or be shot," said Bill. "So I did it. We had to pull the bombs to the side of the road from beneath camouflage netting.

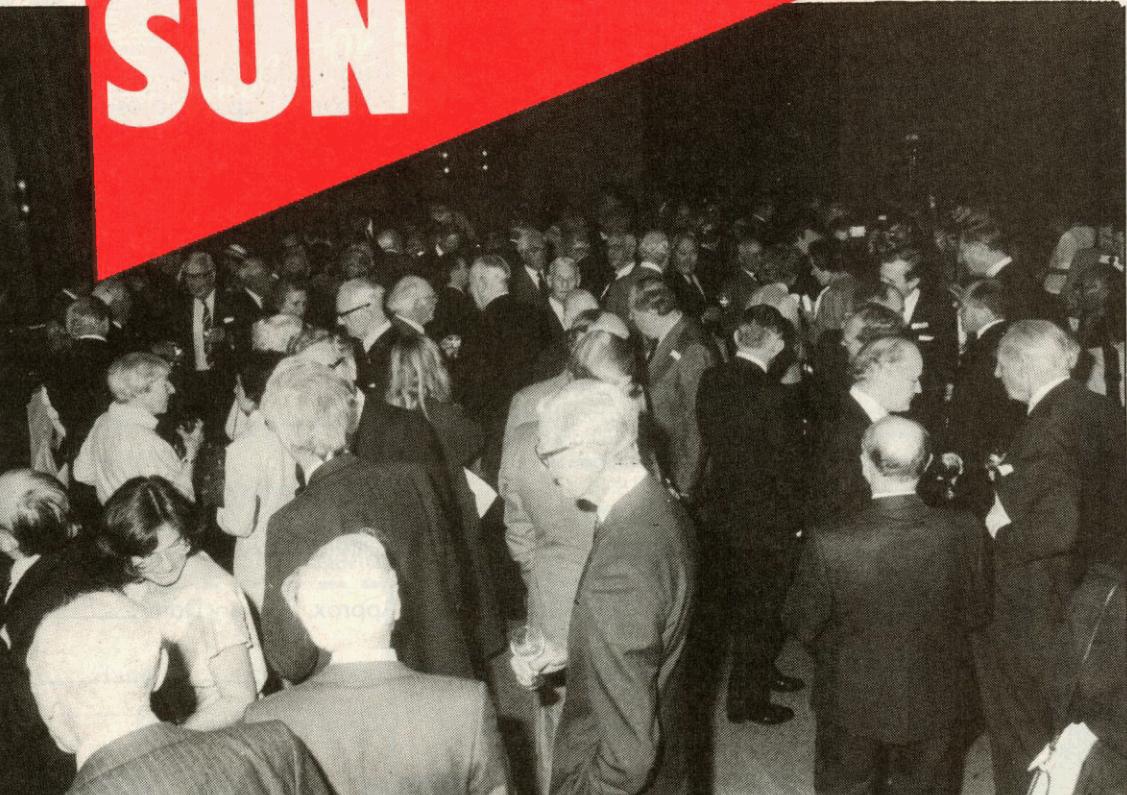
"I was just pulling the net to one side when the whole lot went up. I lost my sight, hands and my leg was broken.

"I was taken to hospital by a convoy of passing lorries where I was operated on by Australian surgeon Sir Edward Dunlop.

"He is a great man and saved my life," said Bill, who also paid generous tributes to St Dunstan's at Brighton for all the subsequent help he received there.

Now 65, he said he last saw his wife, Alice, when she was 20. "But she's still the same sweet girl she was then," he said with great feeling.

VJ DAY REMEMBERED: the 'Forgotten Army' — still forgotten they say





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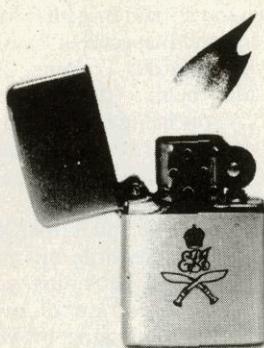
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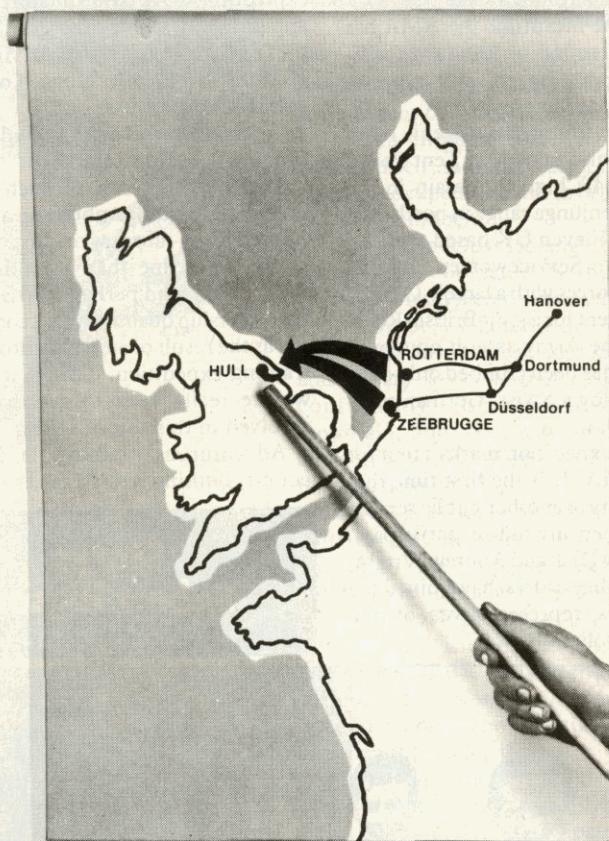
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ROTTERDAM (EUROPOORT) TO HULL. ZEEBRUGGE TO HULL.

ARMY AIMS HIGH IN THE HIMALAYAS

Three years from now the Army Mountaineering Association should be in the throes of final preparations for a second expedition to Mount Everest. Back in 1976 Corporals 'Brummie' Stokes and 'Bronco' Lane, became the first British soldiers to climb the world's highest mountain as a result of the association's first Everest effort.

Now the Chinese authorities have given permission for an attempt to be made on the 29,028 foot peak via the difficult western ridge in autumn 1988.

In the meantime the AMA has a programme of annual expeditions, building up, as it were, to the apex of Everest.

This autumn the target is Kirat Chuli (also known as Tent Peak), a 24,164ft high mountain in the Kanchenjunga range in north-east Nepal. Eleven UK based soldiers, plus two Servicewomen, are due to join forces with a largely Gurkha contingent for a joint British-Royal Nepalese Army assault on a peak which has been climbed only once before, by a Swiss/German team in 1939.

The expedition marks a first for the AMA. It is the first time that members of another public service have been invited to participate. Lindsay Dick and Andrew Wright, both police cadets, have joined the team as representatives of the Metropolitan Police.

This development has been particularly welcomed by Lieutenant Colonel Jon Fleming, the expedition's UK co-ordinator, an appointment made necessary by the fact that the leader, Major Mike Kefford, is based in Hong Kong with 7 Gurkha Rifles.

'I personally feel quite strongly,' Colonel Fleming said, 'that the other public services — such as the police, prison, ambulance and fire services — are now much more in the front line than ever they were before, and perhaps do need the leadership qualities which come out as the result of an adventurous training expedition. That is why we are really keen to get them involved in this sort of thing.'

Adventurous training is, of course, nothing new as far as the

Story:
Robert Higson

Pictures:
Paul Haley

Many of the team are newcomers



Members of the UK contingent for the Kirat Chuli Expedition line up at a reception at the Metropolitan Police College, Hendon, prior to departure. Lt Col Jon Fleming stands on the left, Lincoln Rowe, the expedition artist, is at the back, third from right. The two police cadets, Andrew Wright and Lindsay Dick, are in the front with, to the right of them, Captain Hamish Mackay of 1 PARA.

fighting Services are concerned, and the Army Mountaineering Association can take some of the credit for getting the concept firmly accepted.

When the present president of the association, Lieutenant Colonel (Retd.) Tony Streather, went on an expedition back in 1953 he found he had lost seniority. It took him, he says, 30 years to get it back.

But the mountaineering Association came into being in 1957 (one of the founder members was a second Lieutenant Chris Bonnington, of the Royal Tank Regiment) and two years later, for its first expedition, permission was obtained for all members to be officially on duty.

In 1972 the Principal Personnel Officers agreed to a definition of adventurous training which stressed the advantages of 'challenging pursuits which contain a risk to life and limb and, by accustoming participants to danger and hardship, develop qualities of fitness, self reliance, courage,

initiative, leadership, endurance and inter-dependence.'

'Of course we didn't know that the Falklands conflict was coming at that time,' said Brigadier Mike Perkins, the Inspector of Physical and Adventurous Training, 'but the idea behind this was that nobody was being confronted — the adrenalin wasn't pumping around fast enough in extreme danger situations.'

So, on the grounds that you begin to know a little bit more about yourself, including your weaknesses and ways of overcoming them, clinging by your finger nails to a rock, the idea of public funding for recognised adventurous pursuits came into being.

The 1985 Himalayan Expedition to Kirat Chuli has been granted £10,000 by the Joint Services Expedition Trust in recognition of this principle.

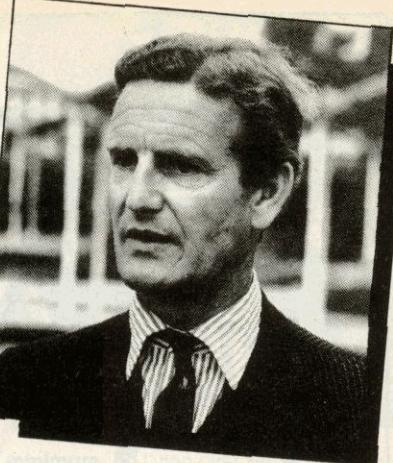
At the age of 49, Colonel Fleming reckoned he would probably be the oldest member of the party. Having retired from the Regular Army, he is now a member of the TA as a liaison officer with 1 Infantry Brigade and will travel to Nepal after taking part in Exercise Brave Defender.

Many of the team are newcomers



Lt Col Jon Fleming: "something for the locals"

Everest — in three year's time



to the world's greatest mountain range. Captain Hamish Mackay, the adjutant of 1 PARA, who has only been climbing four or five years himself, said that one of the aims of the expedition was to bring on young climbers.

"I'm thoroughly looking forward to it," he said. "I think everyone would secretly have some apprehensions, I know I do. All mountains have their serious side and it's very easy to think of oneself confronting this monstrous mountain, but it is a team effort and you've got lots of other people there to help you."

Lack of experience at high altitude raises an important question for all those who have never climbed to such heights before.

"It's one of the things you have to ask," said Lieutenant Simon Gray, of 1 DERR at Canterbury. "'How will I perform at altitude?' You just don't know until you experience it yourself."

Fortunately there should be plenty of time to acclimatise. Flying in to Kathmandu, the Nepalese capital, the expedition will move to the Gurkha base at Dharan before beginning a 300-mile hike, from around 3,500ft to over 17,000ft to get to the base of the mountain.

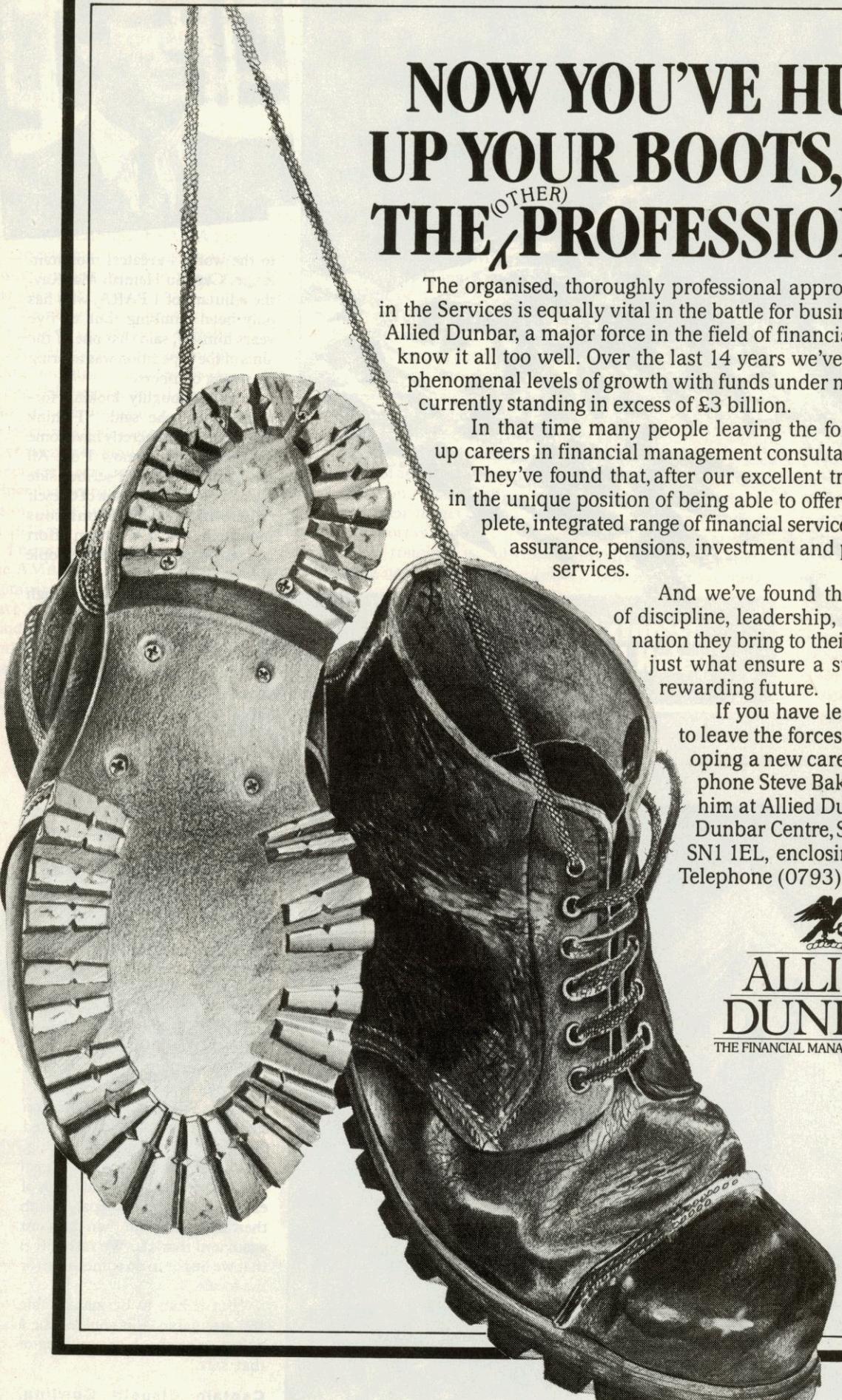
The programme isn't entirely devoted to climbing. Parties will also conduct a botanic survey on behalf of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, and install a water supply system for the tiny village of Gunsa in one of the remoter regions of Nepal.

"Mike Kefford (the expedition leader) is a very committed Gurkha," said Colonel Fleming, "He's very committed to Nepal and both he and I feel that a lot of expeditions go to Nepal, climb their mountain and then dash out again and that's it. We rather feel that we ought to do something for the locals."

"But it had to be manageable and attainable — it couldn't be a palace or a school, or anything of that sort."

Captain Elspeth Cowling, QARANC, and Lance Corporal Simon Damat, two TA members of the expedition, and some of the equipment they'll be using in the Himalayas.





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Why 7 Flight flies six days a week

WATCH ON THE WALL



THE GAZELLE: one of three and 7 Flight's pride and joy



AIR TROOPER MARK BARLOW, CAPTAIN PAUL MANKLOW: flying six out of seven days



Story: JOHN MARGETTS — Pictures: LES WIGGS



Because their minimum manpower strength must not drop below 80 per cent, not more than five men of 7 Flight Army Air Corps, based at Gatow, can be away from base at any one time.

"With just three Gazelle helicopters and four pilots with 23 supporting soldiers, we just cannot afford to have more than that number away — and that includes leave, courses and any other reason," said OC Major Anthony Webb.

"But 'flying the 100-mile Wall' is only part of 7 Flight's duties. "Since only military aircraft can overfly Berlin, we spend a good deal of time working with the German civil and water police — they keep an eye on the thousands of boats using the Berlin lakes and canals — and PR work such as flying journalists and film crews.

"But basically our job is to keep watch on the Wall, its 260 watch towers, 267 dog runs and its miles of fencing and anti-vehicle ditches," said Major Webb.

To achieve this means flying six out of seven days under and above the very eyes of people they are watching.

"With Gatow close to the Wall we're being scrutinised all the time, but we're quite used to it," said Flight 2i/c Captain Paul Manklow, as he manoeuvred his Gazelle over down-town Berlin, pointing out the various landmarks and boundaries.

But while the OC, his deputy and the other two fliers keep an eye over the Wall, who keeps an eye on them to keep them up to the mark with flying skills? For

flying over Berlin is a tricky business and little errors can lead to international incidents.

WO2 Dick Usher, their qualified helicopter instructor is the man responsible for monitoring the Flight's pilots.

"I do regular checks on flying skills and drills as it is very easy to slip into not so much bad, but lax habits," said Dick who combines his fly-watch duties with the role of Flight disciplinarian.

But while Dick and company fly and watch, AQMS WO2 John Morgan of the REME LAD keeps a constant check on the aircraft.

With Sergeant Terry Poole, four technicians and one RAOC storeman, they keep the aircraft in the air.

Just in case one should go absolutely u/s, they have a complete one in bits ready to be assembled should the need arise.

"What it really means is that we have every part of a helicopter in store and could build one if necessary," said Terry Poole.

Of his time in Berlin he said: "A posting here is almost perfect." The only snag for me is going on leave as it's a 12-hour drive to Zeebrugge, a four-hour sea crossing, then a ten-hour drive to Milford Haven.

"I'm about halfway through my two-year tour. I'll be sorry, and I know my wife Julie and daughter Rachel will be too, when it's over."

In support of the LAD team is Corporal Pete Brown, a lone RAOC storeman who, when he's not handing out or stocking up with spares spends his off-duty time at the pictures.

"When I leave the Army next year after 22 years I'll be staying in Berlin and taking a permanent job with the SSVC cinema.

"At the moment I am, courtesy the OC, the assistant manager at the cinema close to Edinburgh House, the Services hotel. When I leave that will be my full-time job. Berlin's the place for me."

Last word from Major Webb: "So long as we're kept flying and the spares are available when required, I'm happy that Corporal Brown should sort out his future over here."

"That's the way it is in Berlin, the *creme de la creme* of Army postings."

40 YEARS OF DAILY SERVICE



THE BERLINER: 40 years of trundling up and down the 'Corridor' — every day except Christmas Day

**BIG DAY
FOR THE**

BERLINER



MAJOR GENERAL GORDON LENNOX AND RAILWAY OFFICIALS: presentation time



BRIGADIER MIKE TURNER, HELMUT FADRICH: 40 years a head waiter

It was a big gala day for everyone aboard the Berliner when it celebrated 40 years of daily trundling between Charlottenburg and Helmstedt at the far end of the Berlin Corridor.

Every day except Christmas day, is the unwritten motto of 62 Transport and Movements Squadron RCT, who operate the train up and down the 100-mile rail link from Berlin to West Germany.

Give or take a few days the train has steamed out of

Charlottenburg more than 14,500 times to make the 3½-hour journey.

But on this occasion it pulled out with 100 VIPs on board for a 40-year birthday jaunt, destination Braunschweig, just beyond Helmstedt and the East German border.

Among those on board were Major General Gordon Lennox, GOC Berlin, and Brigadier Mike Turner, Chief Transport and Movements officer BAOR.

While there to join in the celebrations, they also had

the job of presenting retirement gifts to two men who have been associated with the Berliner since its inception 40 years ago.

"In those days we used to run from Hanover to the Hook of Holland," said head waiter Helmut Fadrich, who retired the day of the celebratory run.

"We did that for 15 years. It's only over the past 25 years that the train has done the Helmstedt run.

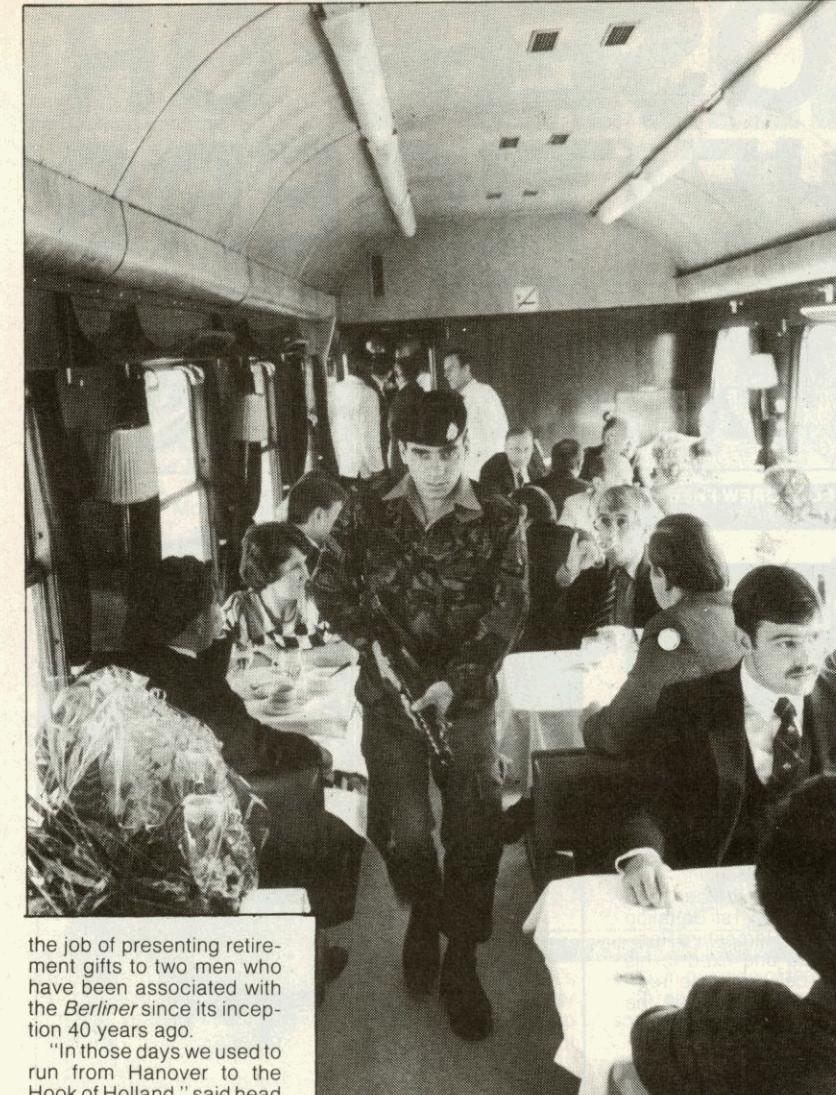
"I've enjoyed my time on the train," said Herr Fadrich, a former petty officer in the German Navy, "but from today on I'm working in my garden at my home in Hanover."

In appreciation of his work on the Berliner, Brigadier Turner presented him with a painting of the train and RCT and RMP plaques before the train set off.

Then, after a superb brunch offering fruit juice, coffee or tea, bacon, egg and sausage, tomatoes and mushrooms, kedgeree, suprèmes of turkey and chicken, cones of ham and salami, baron of beef, prawns in mayonnaise and salad, followed by wines and cheese, the train arrived at Braunschweig. Here the GOC handed over another painting of the train, together with his congratulations, but this time to Herr Charlie Ceger, who has also completed 40 years with the train as a liaison officer and was retiring. In return the GOC received a railwayman's key and a "slice" of railway line from station officials.

Next stop for the "birth-

Scooping out melon balls



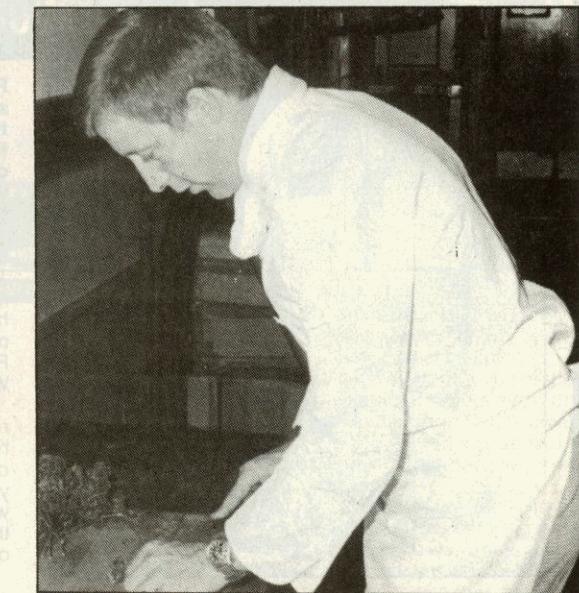
PARTY TIME: congratulations, but the guarding goes on

Story: JOHN MARGETTS

Pictures: LES WIGGS



WO1 ROGER GIBBY: fluent Russian, Moscow style



SERGEANT NIGEL SPENCE: blow-out time for 100

surprise if you're not ready for it."

Trained at the Army School of Languages at Beaconsfield, Roger is up to "linguist level" which means he can read and write the language as well.

"Just now and again I meet a Russian who doesn't speak 'Moscow' Russian. It can get a bit difficult then. But we seem to get by."

By this time the birthday train was pulling into

Beware of the 'Gripper'

the occasion. "Normally the menus are changed every seven days so passengers travelling more than once a week get a different meal," said Nigel. "Those meals are all based on ACC menus and, while not so grand as today's, are very good indeed."

"There is one Russian who, because of his tendency to crush knuckles when shaking hands, we call the Gripper."

"It's just his idea of a joke, but it can come as a bit of a

surprise if you're not ready for it."

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By this time the birthday train was pulling into

Spandau — normally it returns to Charlottenburg — and the party had developed into a bit of a revel with singing and dancing.

Waiting for the revellers was the band of the Royal Highland Fusiliers, resplendent in tartan, playing **Congratulations**, marking the end of 40 years of non-stop rail travel with the West.



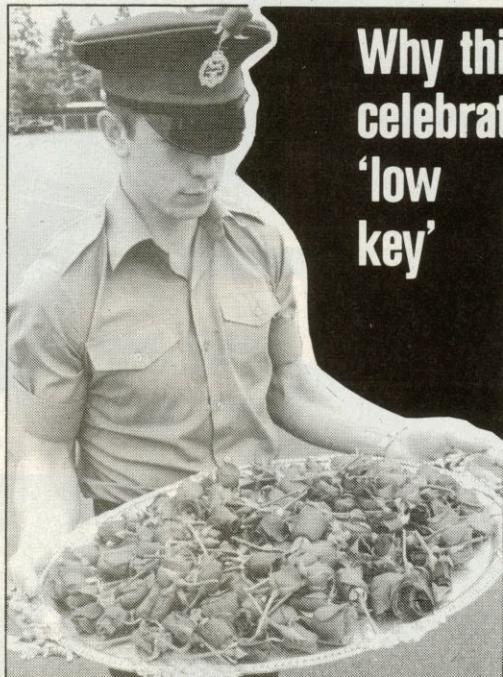
ROSES FOR THE 'TIGERS'



BATTLE OF MINDEN 226TH ANNIVERSARY



LIEUTENANT COLONEL ANDREW FREEMANTLE
"Especially privileged and proud. . . ."



Why this year's celebrations were 'low key'

Roses weren't exactly strewn about the place, but they were in great profusion when the "Tigers" celebrated the 226th anniversary of Minden Day at their Berlin base.

For every officer and soldier of the 1st Battalion The Royal Hampshire Regiment had one fixed to his hat to celebrate the regiment's victory against the French in the Seven Years' War.

Minden Day is one of the regiment's 152 battle honours and is generally celebrated in style, but this year it was a "low-key affair" with a parade, games and the traditional presentation of roses.

Said CO Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Freemantle: "We restricted the day to a families only affair as we are saving ourselves for the visit of the Princess of Wales."

Obviously the regiment plans a stylish reception as the Princess, who has agreed to become the regiment's first Colonel-in-Chief, is to visit Wavell Barracks in October to take on her new role.

Said the Colonel: "Princess Diana has established



herself as a very special person in the eyes of the British people and the whole world.

"We feel especially privileged and proud that her first formal connection with the British Army should be with us."

So it was for that very special reason the "Tigers" padded around with a comic football and hockey match on what is normally one of their big days.

Watching from the sidelines were wives and children and when the time came for the company of the roses the CO's wife, Patricia, accompanied by the wives of the company commanders, handed out the red roses to every soldier on parade.

There were more Roses waiting in the officers' mess after the parade, but this time they were of the chocolate variety — a gift from the 14/20th Hussars who have a squadron of tanks in the city.

While keen to have his regiment featured by the media, the 41-year-old colonel is well aware of the pressures more than 150 news and TV crews will bring when they zoom in on the royal visitor.

That coverage will be world-wide is certain as Princess Diana is front-page news wherever she goes.

Millions flock to buy when she is written-up.

But the colonel is well-used to pressure, although of a different kind, having served in Germany, Malaya, with the UN Force in Cyprus and seen active service in Borneo.

But that's not all, for in 1969 he resigned from the British Army to join the Australian Armed Forces serving with the Royal Australian Regiment and the Australian Special Air Service, a unit with which he saw active service for almost a year in Vietnam.

Released by the Australians he rejoined the Hampshire completing two tours in Northern Ireland and two years in Hong Kong. Early next year he takes the regiment to Tidworth.

He lists his interests as music, cooking and jogging and is famed throughout the regiment for telling officers and men alike that: "When the going gets tough... bite the bullet."

A family man, he has four daughters and a wife who as an SRN worked for 15 months in Nigeria during the Biafran civil war.

With a back-up like that and a unit itching to welcome their first Colonel-in-Chief, it would appear that Colonel Freemantle will have no need to follow his own advice.

... Princess Diana to visit the 1R Hampshire



HANDOUT TIME: Dr Maggie Clarkson, regimental medic, receives a rose

Talk to any soldier anywhere and a moan will crop up. It's the normal thing. Talk of accommodation, uniforms, boots, pay... anything you like and an earbashing ensues.

Even those stationed in Berlin are not free of this military malady, specially when mention is made of LOA and the recent cuts.

But talk of the walled city as a posting and all eyes light up as the excitement and pace of life within its confines are extolled.

Take ten WRAC girls who lined up to tell **SOLDIER** of their time in this unique place.

"Absolutely brilliant," said Corporal Jackie Murphy, a driver with B Troop, 62 Transport and Movements Squadron RCT and with three months of Berlin life behind her.

A former Army representative rounders player, Jackie has been in the Service 11 years and loves everything about Berlin.

"It's a fantastic place to be. The social and sporting facilities are just super," she said.

The only uncertainty for Jackie was her military future. "It all depends on promotion. It's all very speculative at the moment," she said.

But for blonde PTI Sergeant Bev Acres, 26, there was no such doubt. The only WRAC PTI in Berlin, Bev is leaving the Army in January after nine years to become, hopefully, a policewoman in the Essex force.

After two years in Berlin, she echoed, as did the rest of the girls, the thoughts of Jackie Murphy.

"It's been great here. It's a hectic place, but I've enjoyed it and it's as good a place as any at which to end an Army career."

With three brothers in the Army — Roger in Belize, Steve at Tidworth and Trevor in Cyprus, Bev has strong military links. "I know I'm going to miss the life. I've enjoyed every moment specially here in Berlin," she said.

Another one-off specialist was Sergeant Pat Davie, the

BERLIN THE BEAUTIFUL



WALLED IN: they don't care, it's still a great life — the cherry on top of the cream

the West by midnight. It's good to see how the other half lives, but we have to return through Checkpoint Charlie by 12.

"I've been across to the East many times and for any visitor it's an opportunity not to be missed."

For Corporal "Ev" Purves, 22, too, life in beautiful down-town Berlin is tremendous.

A computer operator, "Ev" is on her second tour and told how she has "never regretted joining the Army."

"I've had a smashing time here," she said, adding that she was getting married next spring to Lance Corporal Don Francis at her home town of Kelso, before returning to Berlin to continue with her Army career.

orial on our side of the Wall. "It really is a super place," she said.

For Private Michelle Howell, 21, a telegraphist with the Royal Signals, Berlin is the "best place I've ever been to."

Posted there in May, Michelle is no stranger to the place — "although I don't remember much about it" — as her parents were both in the RMP there 17 years ago.

Now she's back and, while heaping praise on the place and all it has to offer, points out that living is not cheap.

His complaint centred round the LOA cuts and the cost of food — £2.22 a day being stopped from her pay, plus 78p a day for accommodation.

"It's much easier for the

whole of their two-year tours going somewhere different every time they went out, indicating that West Berlin is a mighty big place.

But Sheree said something none of the others did: "I feel safe here," she said. "I never feel, when out in the city, a fear of being mugged. It's so relaxed here."

From 21-year-old Private Andrea Williams came just a niggle of a complaint. "I like it here. It really is a great place," said Andrea, a cook in the officers mess at Brigade HQ, "but when I go home on leave to the Scilly Isles its going to take hours and hours ..."

With nine months Army service, two months of which she has spent in Berlin, Andrea reckons it will mean travelling by air rail and sea to reach her home in St Mary's.

But no such worries from Staff Sergeant Jan Sykes who, with 15 years' service and postings in BAOR, Cyprus and the UK, was emphatic when she said: "I have enjoyed all of my postings, but this one in Berlin is the tops. It's the cream on the cake."

"Unfortunately few WRAC girls get the chance to come here because there are not many vacancies."

Married to WO2 Alastair Sykes, chief clerk with 29 Signals Regiment in Berlin, Jan is currently the top WRAC shot in the garrison.

"I didn't get a lot of competition from the girls, but I managed a good score

with the pistol and SMG which had a number of male chauvinists blushing."

Keen on every sort of sport — and just about every one is available in Berlin except flying — Jan will be sad to leave when her tour is finished.

"This place really is the tops," she said. Of her Army future she was uncertain: "It depends on whether I get a posting with my husband. After all, there is a limit on being apart."

Second to the Senior WRAC in Berlin, Captain Jane Grafton, Lieutenant Gabbi Bushell has been on the inside of the Wall since May and is loving every minute.

"Social life here is tremendous. I can go somewhere different every night if I want to," said Gabbi, an attractive 23-year-old.

There for six months' work experience prior to taking a troop commander's course in the UK, she completed eight months at Sandhurst and will soon appear, with the other girls who were on WRAC No. 6 Course, in a TV documentary about life among the cadets.

As a former student — she has a degree in Eng.Lit. — an au pair and a nurse, Gabbi has a good idea of what having a good time can be. But for her, as for all the girls in her charge, Berlin is beautiful. "It is not just the cream on the cake," she said. "It's the cherry on the top of the cream."

Ten girls tell of life in the walled city

sole military WRAC accountant in the city, who arrived 18 months ago to take over from a male military accountant, handling a budget running into millions.

"It's great to be here," said Pat who has served 9½ years, but leaves next March to marry WO2 Pete Thomas of the RAPC.

"It's going to be a big year for me," said Pat, who thinks that, while Berlin — and she has been there many times as visitor — has an abundance of everything, it has a slight Cinderella air about it because of the curfew imposed when visiting the East side of the city.

"We have to be back in

Similar sentiments about the "city that never sleeps" came from former teacher Corporal Lynne Cannon, one of seven WRAC Pro based there.

Business-like with a 9mm Browning automatic strapped round her waist, she was confident of her ability to use it if necessary.

"I joined the WRAC in June last year and trained for the job of policing at checkpoints Bravo and Charlie at the RMP Depot, Chichester.

"It was a pretty tough course. This posting, my first, keeps me busy with police duties which includes escorting Russian guards from the East to their war mem-

married 'Pads,'" she claimed. "It's tough on the 'singlies', but we're still having a good time — we just grin and bear it."

For Lance Corporal Sheree O'Reilly, 22, it was a matter of "mixed feelings."

"I feel it is a bit restrictive," said Sheree, a clerk in HQ British Sector, where she has been for the past four months.

"Accommodation is not all it might be either," she added. But on the plus side "the night life is great." Every one of them said that. And all chorused that sporting facilities were "great" too. They also concurred they could spend months, if not

BMH BERLIN

SKILL AND CARE FOR THE DAILY BABY



CAPTAIN TRUDY STOBBS: another customer for the scales

Where Hitler's No. 2 goes for a check up

When Hitler's one-time pal and deputy, Rudolph Hess, reports sick in Spandau jail and requires hospital treatment, it's the British Military Hospital, Berlin, which provides the skill and care for the former No. 2 Nazi.

"He comes here because it's the nearest military hospital to the jail," said administration officer Captain Keith Jones.

"We have a special ward set aside for him, just a small room, and after treatment he is whisked back to Spandau. I think he likes it here."

So far as is known these are the only times the old Nazi leaves the confines of

the crumbling red-brick prison.

But treating Hess is of minor importance for the hospital. Their role is the well-being of British Servicemen and their dependants.

"But the less we see of them the better," said Captain Jones. "We like to think we're running a healthy bunch or people out here."

Opened 18 years ago the hospital is German designed and built and has a futuristic appearance, but a tour of the six-storey building reveals it to be ideally practical for the 70 military staff and patients.

"It's impossible to get lost in here," said Captain Jones. "It's built in a square so that if wandering visitors keep walking they'll come back to where they started."

With three wards, maternity, families and children and surgical, most of the hospital's "customers" are young mums and their babies.

"We deliver about 300 babies a year," said Captain Trudy Stobbs, 26, weighing in latest arrival 6lb Thomas Patrick Townsend, the first baby of 27-year-old Kate and her husband Chris, a corporal SRN in the hospital's casualty ward.

How does Chris feel about the new addition? "He's walking around with a permanent grin," said Kate, cooing at the little bundle.

With little Thomas were five other babies and their mums. They were the only charges for the ten QARANC nursing sisters to care for at the time, except for young patients Mark Melrose, 11, son of Sergeant Gordon Melrose of the Royal Highland Fusiliers, in with a damaged big toe, and four-year-old Mala Beresford confined to bed with a broken leg, the daughter of Corporal Leroy and Mrs Jane Beresford of Devon and Dorsets.

Captain Jane Bannan, four days in Berlin from Northern Ireland, was attending Mark and Mala while Trudy Stobbs got on with weighing and cleaning the six bawling babies. Handling new babies requires dexterity, care and skill — as every parent knows — and is not always



BMH BERLIN: impossible to get lost

the most pleasant of tasks, but Trudy tackled it with the same enthusiasm she displays when training for next month's Berlin marathon.

At 5ft tall and weighing in at just seven stone, Trudy will be among the smallest runners in the line-up on September 29.

This will be her second attempt at the 26-mile plus run and she is determined to improve on her four-hour 19 minutes time of last year.

"That was my first marathon," said Trudy, as she whizzed away for a quick five-mile bash. "I'll do better this time."

Heading the team of ten QARANC nursing sisters at the BMH Berlin — the hos-

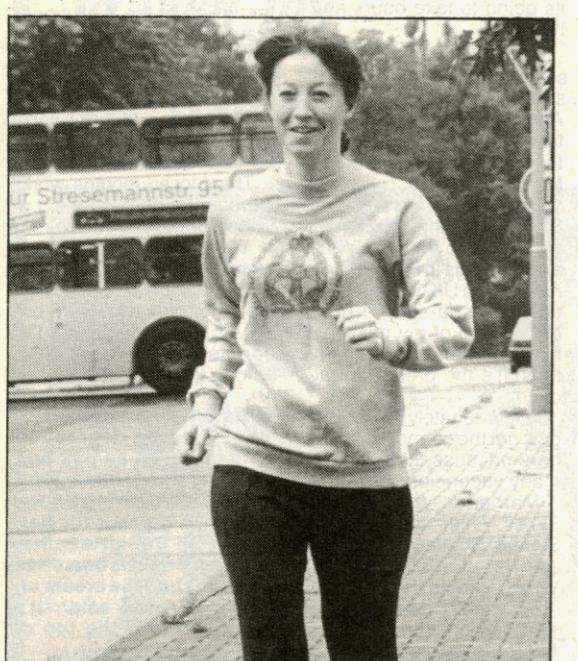
pital has no other name — is matron Major Stella Mary FitzPatrick and her deputy, Major Meg Pyott.

While neither take part in marathon running, they and the rest of their team are keen horse-riders, water skiers, joggers and squash players.

"We just like keeping fit," said Stella Mary, "and here in Berlin we've every opportunity to do just that."

"We also like to have a good time," said Meg, as she and Jane Bannan, dressed in their lightweight summer uniforms prepared to head for East Berlin and a shopping spree. "It's just great here," she said, waving goodbye.

Right: Captain Jane Bannan, four days from Northern Ireland, tends young Mark Melrose, four days in bed with a damaged big toe.

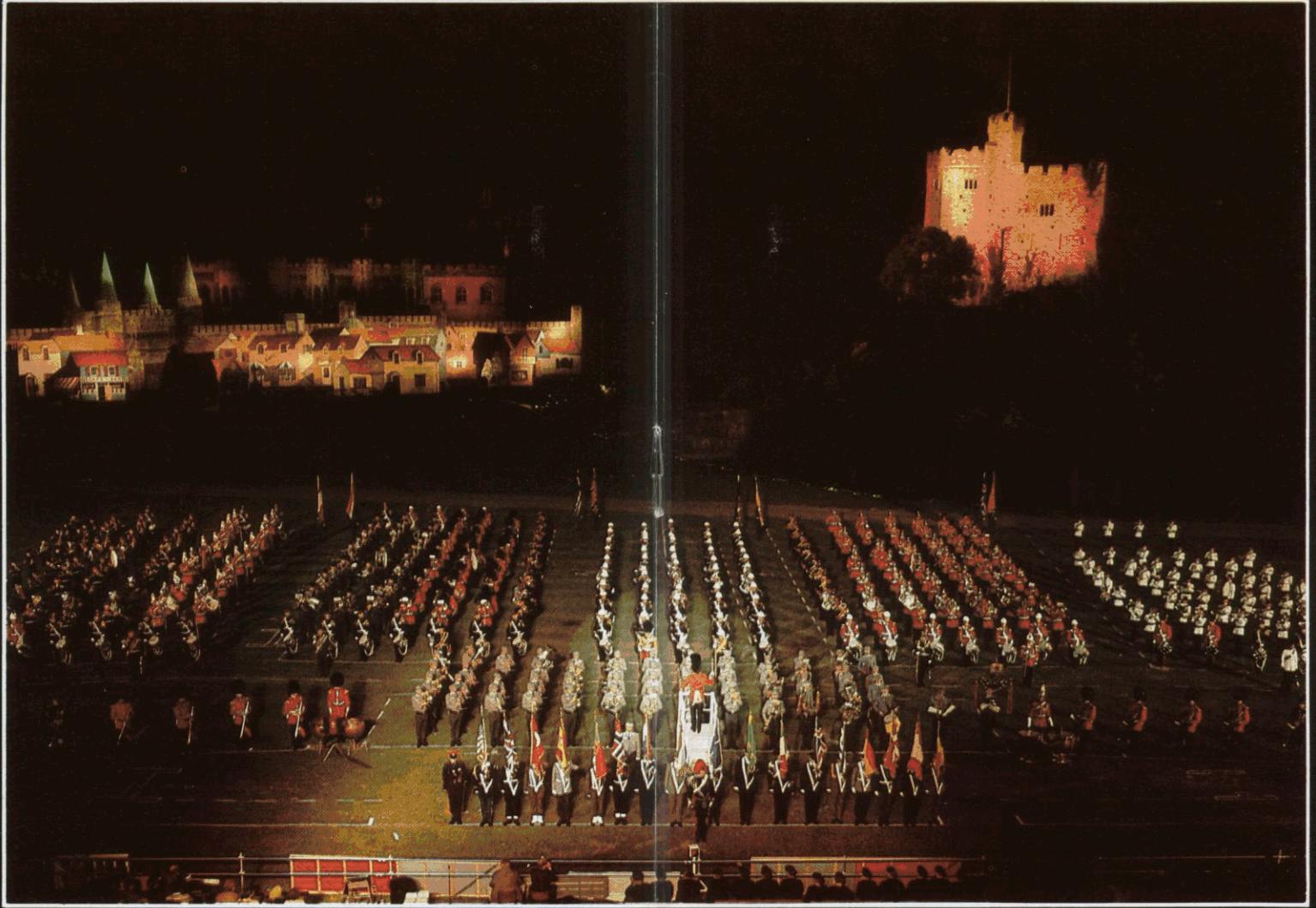
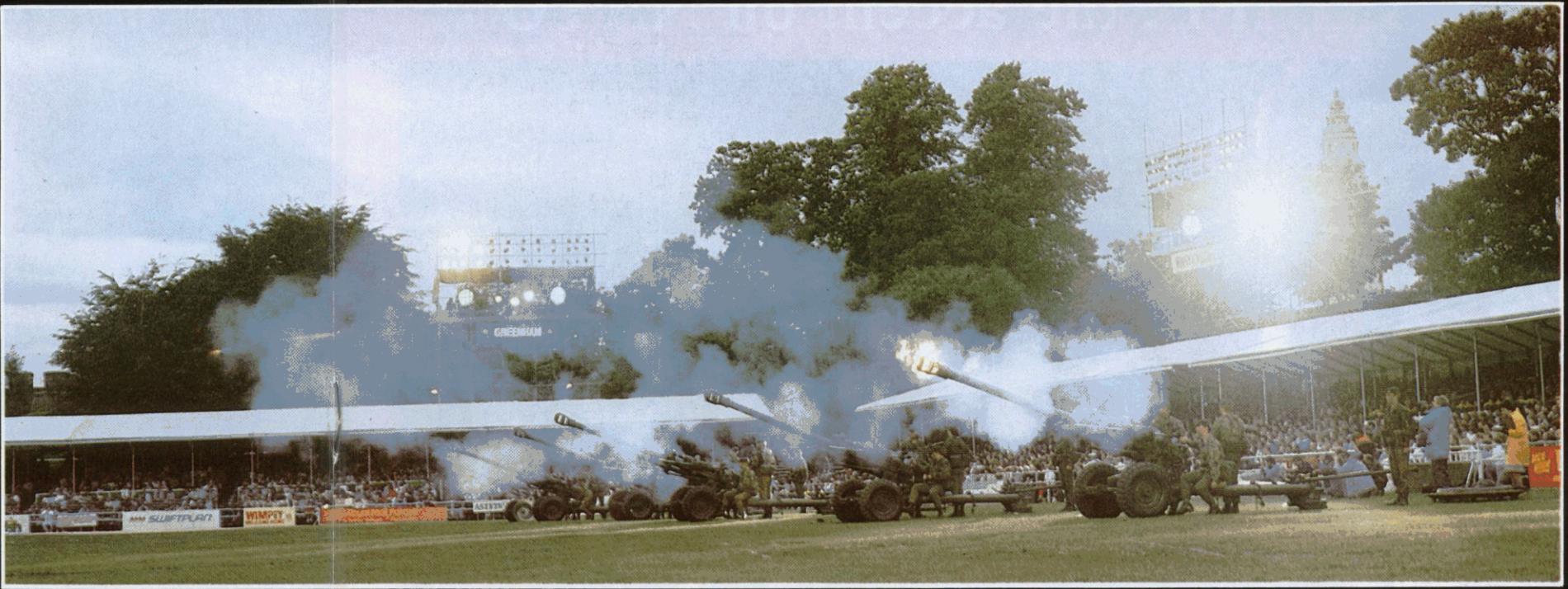
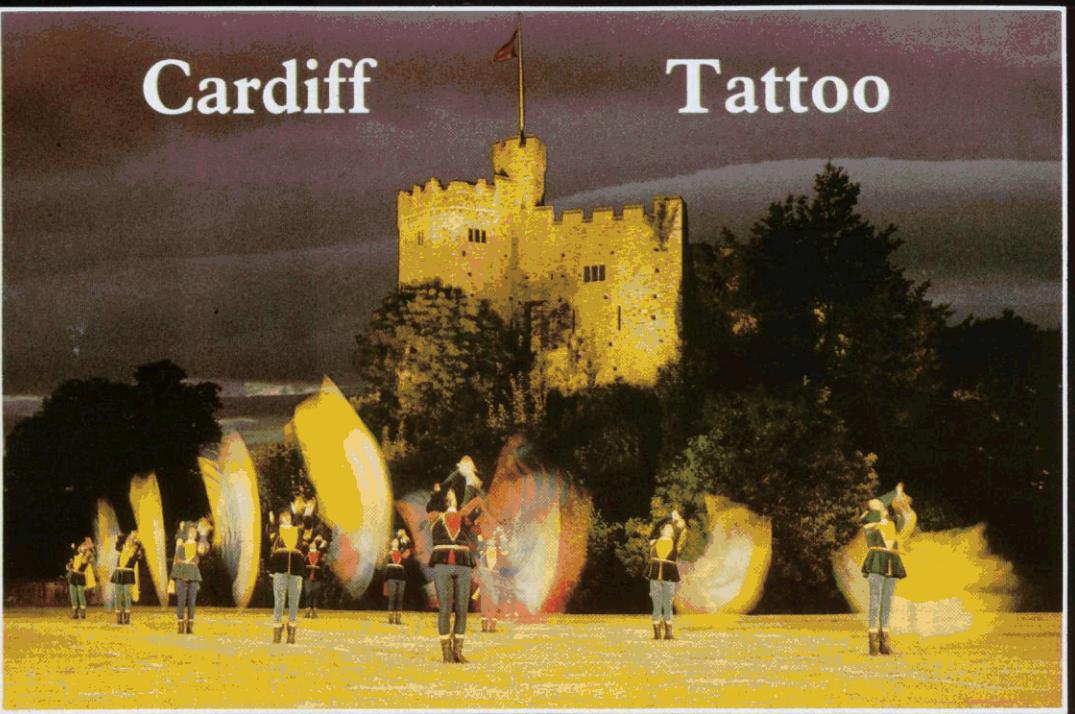


Trudy Stobbs: out to beat the clock



Cardiff

Tattoo



PAUL HALEY's camera captured some of the highlights of the Cardiff Tattoo. Clockwise: The ancient art of flag waving and throwing demonstrated by members of Sbandieratori "Leone Rampante" from Cori in Italy; A salvo from the 105 mm Light Guns of 8 (Alma) Commando Battery, 29 Commando Regiment, Royal Artillery; Two famous flags on parade; Magnificent setting for the massed bands and the finale; The Regimental Goat of 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, with Goat Major Fusilier Peter Wadey.

CARDIFF: the accent on NATO



The SHAPE Honour Guard, formed of members of the international military police assigned to the SHAPE Provost Detachment, form up for the Salute to NATO.

IN 1963 wet weather nearly scuppered the first Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo. Twenty-two years later, in 1985, the thirteenth Tattoo was riding out another rain storm, only this time with no doubts about its chances of long term survival.

Since the early 1960s the Tattoo has become a firmly established event in the life of the Welsh capital.

Originally the intention was to hold it once a year, but the lack of variety in most available military acts plus the fact that Cardiff doesn't have a captive audience (as Edinburgh has for its festival) soon changed the plan to once every two years.

This pattern was broken only in 1969 when the Tattoo was moved forward a year to coincide with the Investiture of the Prince of Wales.

With a splendid backdrop of Norman and Victorian masonry, provided by different stages in the development of Cardiff Castle, the Tattoo has the tremendous advantage of a superb setting. The only problem, from a weather point of view, is that it all takes place in the open air with much of the action on grass.

The first Tattoo ran for four days during which time there was only one dry performance.

Even that suffered because of the inclusion of a Musical Drive by 42 Regiment, Royal Artillery, which involved six Land Rovers pulling 25 pounder guns.

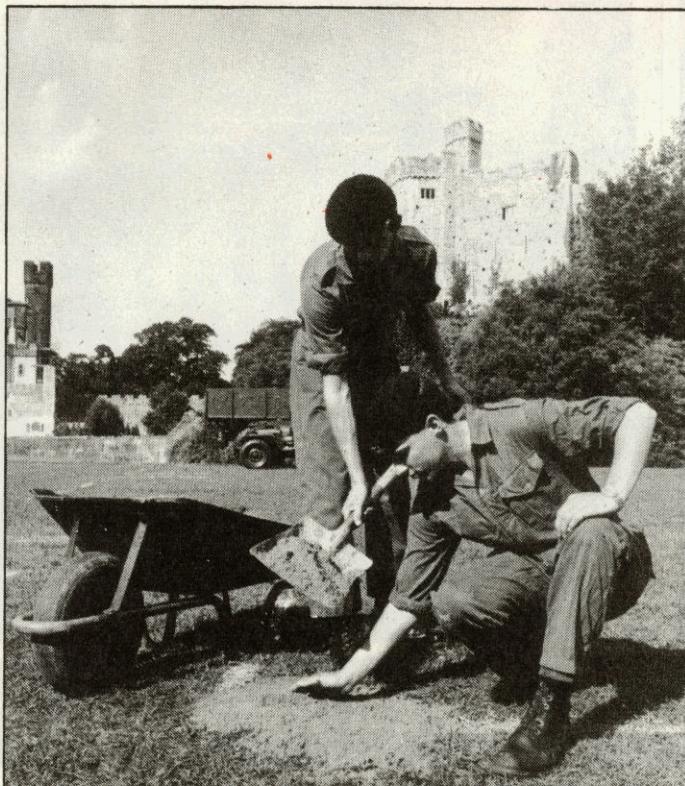
The arena became so rutted and waterlogged that only half of it was usable.

The 13th Tattoo was planned to cover nine days and, with two Saturday matinees, include eleven performances. In the event two evening performances had to be cancelled because of rain, and on a couple of other occasions such items as "The Flying Gunners" (The Royal Artillery Motor Cycle Display Team), the Activity Ride by the Mounted Regiment of the Household Cavalry, and the display by members of 8 (Alma) Commando Battery, 29 Commando Regiment, RA, had to be dropped for fear of too much

And lots of determination to beat the rain!

Story:
ROBERT HIGSON

Pictures:
PAUL HALEY



damage to the ground.

Twice it rained heavily during the performance. Fortunately the first time was during a Saturday matinee when there is usually a smaller crowd as most people prefer to see at night what is after all a Searchlight Tattoo.

The Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas was in the arena at the time with the bugles and display team from 2/2 Gurkha Rifles and in true Gurkha fashion they never flinched.

The performance continued while the rain came like stair rods and the audience from the uncovered seats scrambled for a place

The morning after. Patching up the performance area was a regular chore for members of QDG's party.

in the stands.

Cancelled performances meant frantic behind the scenes activity for the ticket office and in the week after the Tattoo closed officials of the Cardiff City Council (the co-presenter of the event with HQ Wales at Brecon) were busy sorting out the chaos of tickets which had sometimes been exchanged twice.

The weather also meant a lot of extra work for the arena party, supplied by 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards in their debut as administrative unit for the Tattoo.

There was always plenty of remedial tidying up to be done after each performance.

Those members of the Regiment driving CVR(T)s in the display "Horses to Horsepower", which celebrated 300 years of QDG and their two parent regiments, had to be particularly careful to make as few tracks as possible on the vulnerable surface of the arena.

It was all very disappointing, commented one Tattoo official, especially as there had been excellent prospects for a very good attendance. Advance bookings were up some £6,000 before the first day, but after the rain washed out the second performance the takings went down by roughly the same amount.

With the uncertainty of the weather many people obviously delayed attending until the last couple of night when crowds reached capacity and large numbers had to be turned away.

Nevertheless, rain or no rain, the '85 Cardiff Tattoo lived up to its well established reputation of providing a lavish spectacle on a large scale.

At the finale there were 1,200 people in the arena, including 11 bands, three Corps of Drums, three regimental goats and Corporal Pegasus, the pony mascot of The Parachute Regiment.

This year's programme featured a special tribute to NATO to commemorate 40 years of peace in Europe. The band of the 1st Mountain Division of the Federal German Army was present and so were standard bearers from the SHAPE Honour Guard who marched in for the flags of the NATO countries.



Battle scene. A Milan team in position for the mass assault.

CARDIFF:

Involved a tight squeeze for some

CASTLE design belongs to an age when weapon systems were a lot more simple than Tracked Rapier. So perhaps it was fitting — and only just fitting at that! — to discover that the gateway to Cardiff Castle wasn't exactly made with the Army's most sophisticated missile launcher in mind.

TRACKED Rapier — on loan to the Tattoo courtesy British Aerospace — did get through and with men of 22 Air Defence Regiment, RA, at the controls made its contribution to the spectacle of the mock battle.



And last farewell for music master

FOR SIX successive Cardiff Searchlight Tattoos the massed bands, which do much to provide the customary spectacular finale, have been under the baton of Major Derek Taylor, Director of Music, Welsh Guards. This year, when the strains of "God Save the Queen" had faded at the final performance the crowds applauded

as he prepared to step down from his rostrum for the last time. In February Major Taylor retires from the Army after a career spanning 42 years.

"Yes, I will miss it," he said. "It's always been a very happy tattoo — right in the centre of Cardiff, a lovely city. It's the biggest tattoo in the world and I've got a

rather special feeling for it." As the Cardiff Tattoo has recently developed an international dimension Major Taylor has worked with bands from America, Canada and Oman. For his final appearance the Corps of Music of the 1st Mountain Division of the Federal German Army joined service bands, with three Corps of Drums and Gurkha buglers for the rousing finale.

With only three days for rehearsal the direction of such a splendidly vast array of musical talent could be a daunting prospect for anyone without the experience of Major Taylor.

"You learn the technique of handling mass bands over the years through experience," he said. "You've got to address yourself to every single person and be effective to every single person in the bands. You do a little bit of shouting, a little bit of cajoling, and a pat on the back where necessary. But everything you do has got to be positive.

"To put on a tattoo in three days of rehearsal requires a great deal of expertise from everybody and you don't get the best out of people by mucking them around. You've got to be honest and direct."

Major Taylor joined the Royal Irish Fusiliers in 1944 and was commissioned in the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers, after becoming bandmaster in 1955. During the period of his musical studies he was a member of the famous Kneller Hall Trumpeters and played at the Coronation in 1953.

As director of Music for the now defunct RMA Sandhurst Band Corps, his last job before joining the Welsh Guards, he had the distinction of getting the Band Corps into the Army List as the smallest corps in the British Army.

For the record the British bands at his last appearance as Musical Director for the Cardiff Tattoo were:

RM (Plymouth), QDG, 5 Innis DG, RA, 1 Kings, 1 RWF, 1 Para, Brigade of Gurkhas, WRAC, RAF (Western).



Major Taylor, left and inset, at his last Tattoo

UNUSUAL TASK FOR BRIAN

CORPORAL Brian Bate, REME, had a rather unusual task at the Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo.

He was detached from normal duties to look after a group of vehicles very much more elderly and decidedly more idiosyncratic than the CVR(T)s he deals with as a motor mechanic for 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards.

The job gave him his first experience of working with the TA, for members of 157 (Wales and Midlands) Transport Regiment, RCT (V), were also getting some experience of transport rather different from the Bedford 8-tonners they train to operate.

It was all to do with one of the displays in the arena. As a tribute to SSAFA (the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association) in its centenary year a special potted history of the development of family welfare in the Services had been prepared with horse drawn and motor transport coming on to represent the passing of the years.

The vehicles were assembled from many different parts of the country and in many different states of repair. The oldest was a Thornycroft lorry, circa 1916, complete with solid rubber tyres.

"We had to do the magneto on the Thornycroft and find gaskets for the carburettor because it hadn't got any," said Corporal Bate at the start of the Tattoo.

"Things have got to be made, it



is a very old vehicle. It does run reliably enough for the Tattoo. They want 100 per cent reliability and ease of starting."

This requirement was easily understood as the last thing needed in a fast-moving spectacle was a stalled vehicle either in the arena or blocking one of the entrances.

The difficulty of starting the Thornycroft was a good indication Corporal Bate's own favourite

in the temporary collection was an International half-track from the World War 2. It had no brakes, no gears and a non-functioning engine when it arrived from its home in the tank museum at Bovington.

But the museum was able to get spares, still in their original WW2 wrappings, from collectors in Britain and America, and with time granted by his OC at QDG's home base in Wimbush, Corporal Bate

Corporal Bate with the International half-track

succeeded in getting it going. At the Tattoo he was rewarded by being able to drive the half-track in the display.

A self-confessed old car enthusiast, Corporal Bate was obviously delighted with the change from normal routine.

"The other morning I was up to 4am repairing a starter motor," he said with relish. "On modern equipment we'd just order a new motor and fit it, but with these vehicles you have actually got to repair it."

By way of illustration he opened the bonnet of an Austin Utility of the late 1930s and proudly indicated the air filter.

"It had to have a filter and as there was no chance of getting one for a vehicle this old it was just a case of thinking what can I manufacture it out of?" he said.

The answer was a couple of Army paint tins, bolted around a pancake filter from another vehicle and fitted with a sliding plate for priming the carburettor.

Corporal Bate's enthusiasm was evidently shared by the men of 237 Squadron, from the Midlands, and 223 and 224 Squadrons, South Wales, who were at the Tattoo under the command of Major John Reed, second-in-command 157 Transport Regiment.

"Obviously it is all totally new to them," said Lieutenant Patrick Florance, a troop commander of 237 Squadron. "But it is all good experience and the boys are really loving it — all those old vehicles."



Massed manpower for the Thornycroft.

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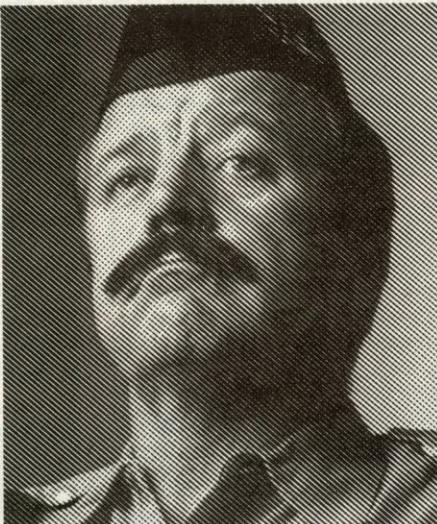
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I ever
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he cannot
bear to
turn a
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These men and women have given their minds to their Country. If we are to help them, we must have funds. Do please help us with a donation, and with a legacy too, perhaps. The debt is owed by all of us.

"They've given more than they could - please give as much as you can."

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S1

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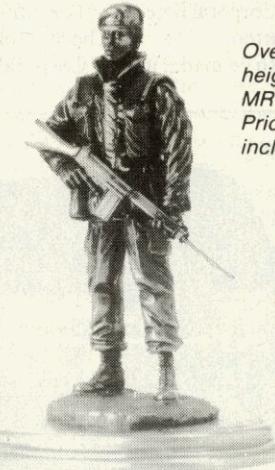
If you or your folks know of an ex-Service family who could do with a visit from their SSAFA friend, again please tell us. Help us to reach those who are either too proud to ask for "charity" or simply don't know that SSAFA exists to help them.

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YOU-AND YOUR VOTE

Parliament has always been concerned to ensure that all those over 18 should have a say in elections. It has particularly thought of Service people and their spouses (usually wives!) who might be abroad at election time with unreliable postal communications. Therefore Service people, meaning officers, soldiers and wives, but not their adult dependants, have always had a special arrangement to vote 'by proxy' if abroad, provided they are registered as 'Service voters'.

Vote 'by proxy'? It means that the voter names someone who will be living in UK (preferably someone nearby who can be trusted) to vote on his/her behalf at elections.

Once someone becomes 18 they become a civilian voter. Every autumn a 'Form A' should be put through the letter-box of every home in the land by the local Electoral Registration Officer and a potential voter's name should have been put on it, to register for that Parliamentary area ('constituency').

The draft register of electors entitled to vote is published on 28 November, and can be seen in mid-February at local Council Offices, the Post Office, Public Library or church to check the name is on the list. If it is not on the draft Register, the Electoral Registration Officer should be told.

What about postal voting? We can all vote by post when in UK for Parliamentary and European Parliament and by-elections. This is perhaps the easiest way for us when we remain registered for our old home address but move around the UK. Whenever an election is announced, immediately ask for an F/VOTE/35 from your unit's Orderly Room and send it off. Again, from 1987 this could be a permanent arrangement.

This entitles you to name someone as a proxy to vote for you in the UK while you are abroad. You have all the rights of a civilian voter, and it's a one-off registration — until you want to end it or change it.

The following advice is given by Lieutenant Colonel David McMurtrie of the Central Manning Office:

a. Are you a Service Voter already? Your husband's Orderly Room can tell you.

b. If you are not a Service Voter, ask for form F/VOTE/34 (green colour) its envelope and the helpful notes too (F/VOTE/656 (1983)).

c. Fill it in for the area in which you are living or going to live in UK or, if you are moving around, perhaps your family area where you know there's someone who will vote as your proxy for you.

d. Send it off to the district council offices for that area or, if you do not know them, the largest town in your area.

What if you are already a Service Voter and you've changed address — or your proxy does? Just fill in another F/VOTE/34 with the new

Why don't the Services apply for Government grants to help UK welfare projects on the same basis that civilians do?

The anomaly which prevents application from overseas is being looked into. However, the subject was again recently brought to my attention when I read through the list of voluntary agencies who had since 1979 benefited from the government scheme 'Opportunities for Volunteering'. More than £30 million had been dispensed to help some 700 projects a year and so assisted in mobilising voluntary effort which is of great assistance in the health and personal social service fields. The one great asset is that it is administered by the voluntary sector itself.

Yet we are continually told that Service welfare projects, new initiatives, support and training for volunteer projects, either fail to get off the ground, or never reach their full potential because there is no money. How many times have we heard it's a tank first, and the welfare project second — defence money should not be spent on welfare.



Why can't the Services be given sums of money like £160,000 which was paid to the Family Welfare Association, The East Youth Community Association £22,000, International Social Services £45,000, Pre-School Playgroup Association £391,000, Radio Lollipop Ltd £15,000, Home Start Consultancy £205,759. All these and many more are listed in Hansard and a DHSS press release.

Why is it we fail to take advantage of the government

Anne Armstrong

Home tel: Camberley 29653

TEN YEARS OF 'OPEN' STUDY

1985 is the 10th anniversary of the Open University Community Education courses which have attracted many thousands of students.

This year's catalogue is full of new and exciting courses for the old stagers. For those who are looking at the courses for the first time it could be quite hard to choose.

To celebrate its anniversary, the OU is offering a new course on healthy eating as well as one on unemployment. New too is the pack to help those who feel they would like to be a 'group leader' running workshops using group sets of the short study packs.

With those winter evenings alone while husbands are away on exercise or in NI or the Falklands, why not get a group together. The greatest asset is there is no need for any qualifications to start.

A comprehensive catalogue and leaflet gives details of the wide variety of courses from 'The First Years of Life', 'Pregnancy and Birth', 'The Pre-School Child', 'Parents Talking', 'The Developing Child' to 'Family Relationships', 'Childhood 5-10', 'Women and Young Children' and 'Parents and Teenagers'.

The pre-school playgroup pack is used by playgroups, PPA workers and training committees, and by self-help groups of parents.

However for those who want to do something different, you can try 'Energy Matters', or 'Caring for the Older People'.

You can either study individually or in groups, because the

courses are arranged in study packs, video cassettes and assessment packs, or group sets. Each package is individually priced so you can work out your own individual or group requirements.

For the catalogue contact your Open University regional offices or for those overseas contact Jean Clinton, Community Education, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AQ.



Settling the new baby into household routine, part of the study material in 'Pregnancy and Birth'

funding? We are as entitled as anybody to apply, and the grants available cover all the areas where we lack funds. As far as I can find out no application for a UK project has been made during the period 1979 to 1985.

Yet an enormous amount of welfare support falls fairly and squarely on our large band of

volunteer Service wives who work unceasingly in this field.

John Patten, Parliamentary Secretary for Health, has announced two exciting government projects — the re-launching of the successful Opportunities for Volunteering from 1 April 86, and a £1.75 million scheme to support self-help and mutual aid, dealing

with specific health or social problems.

Both these schemes offer to those with ideas the possibility of funding schemes which will benefit the community, and they also include unemployed.

Can we in 1986 turn the tables and try at least to submit an application so that in one area at least we have a scheme of mutual benefit?

Drop-in centres for the development of parent/toddler groups, a mobile toy library, a scheme to enable volunteers to provide resources for play schemes by painting a mural for a play area or renovating playgroup equipment, play areas, playgrounds, and more original ideas can all be considered.

The objectives of the scheme are:

- To develop opportunities for unemployed people to undertake voluntary work;
- To expand voluntary work in the field of health and personal social services; and
- To spend the money in such ways that benefits will, as far as

OPINION

possible, continue to accrue in the longer term.

The criteria for funding are:

- The project must enable or encourage unemployed people to undertake voluntary work in England;
- The voluntary work must be of assistance in the fields of health and/or personal social services; and
- The applicant for the grant must be of a voluntary organisation or group.

Details of how local voluntary projects can apply for grants should be available at the end of Sept from Consortium on Opportunities for Volunteering, c/o 26 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HU.

If someone knows of a scheme which has been funded from these schemes do write and let me know, so that others can take heart and apply. If you have a scheme which falls within these criteria, do think about applying for government grant aid.

Students at a weekend residential school learn that discussion is an important part of a manager's routine



The view from a bank

YOUR article in SOLDIER 5 June, highlighted the disturbing problems for Servicemen leaving the Service and relying on obtaining council accommodation.

It would seem that it is becoming more desirable for Servicemen to own their own properties but in your last paragraph you ask some questions which are fundamental to the Serviceman's approach to property buying.

It is not possible to give a blanket answer as everyone's individual circumstances differ but accepting the point that the Serviceman has decided to purchase a property I offer one or two positive thoughts for some guidance.

Saving is essential — for provision

achievable on savings. Even if the first property you buy is very small and not ideally suited at least you will have a toe in the market enabling you to keep pace with property prices.

Mortgage repayments may initially look large but remember that apart from the occasional fluctuation in interest rates they will not increase whereas it is likely that rents will continue to rise in line with inflation.

Mortgages are readily available at the moment with banks and other financial institutions offering strong competition to the building societies; shopping around one can find preferential options for first time buyers and in some cases mortgages of higher than

95 per cent are available.

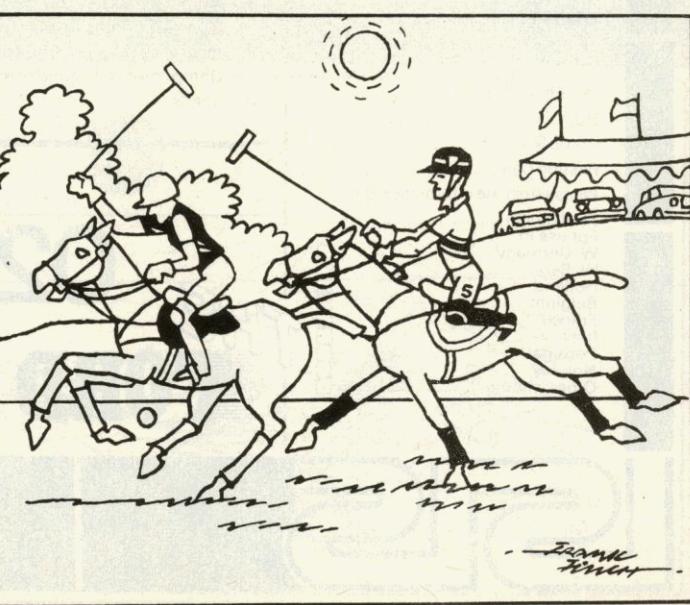
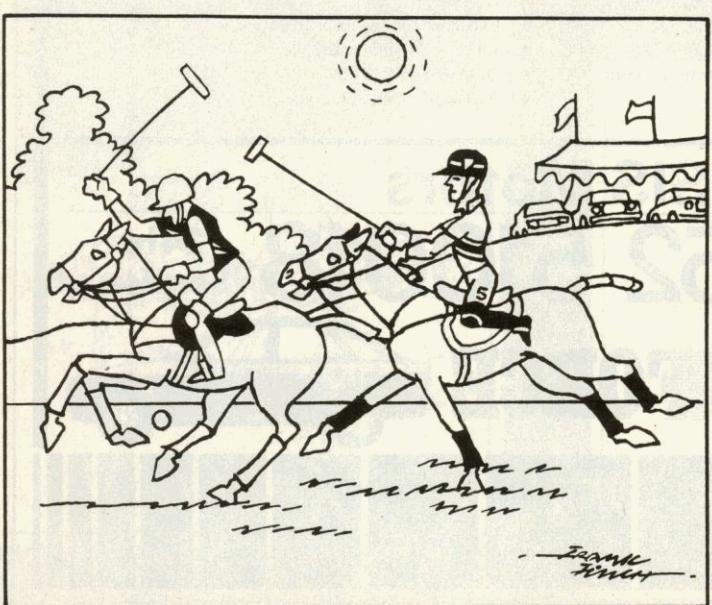
Whilst being aware of the dilemma for Servicemen over property ownership because of the desirability of accompanied service and the occasional difficulties of letting properties, it seems that this course may be more desirable where possible than leaving matters until leaving the Service in the hope that a council property will be available.

As Army Agents, we are pleased to offer advice to individual Servicemen and we would be more than happy to discuss the problems of house purchase and offer constructive and helpful advice.

W E Nelson, Services Liaison Officer, Lloyds Bank, London.

How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. You can check your answers by turning to page 42.



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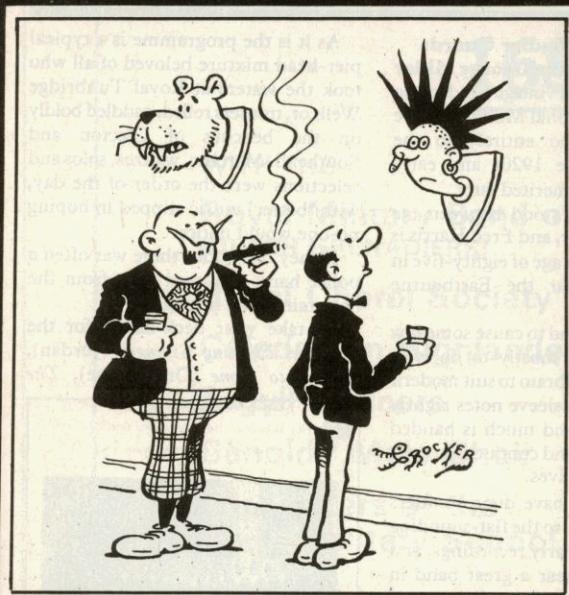
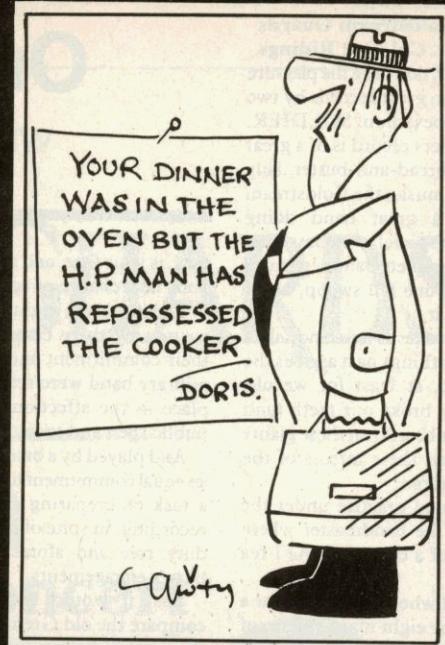
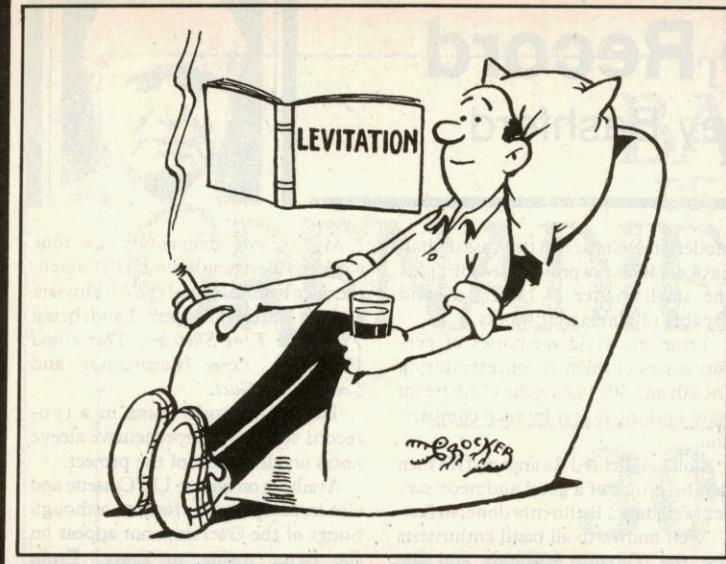
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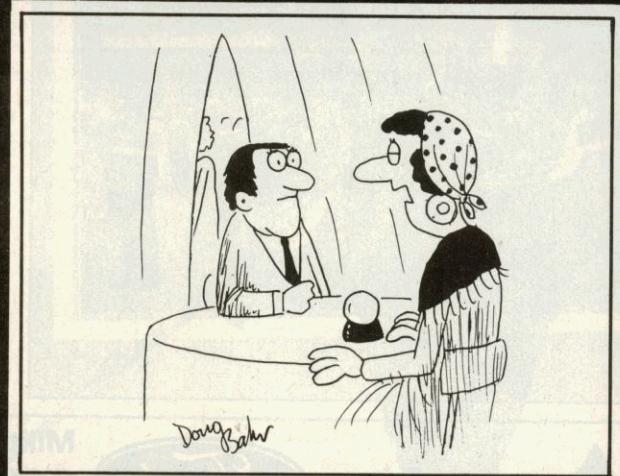
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"Bagged that just East of Sloane Square."

Humour



"You will be the victim of a financial swindle.
That will be £5, please".



"I don't care if you're scared of the dark... let go of my hand".



"That's torn it! It says, 'Just add water'...."

Masterpieces for Band

Band of the Coldstream Guards

Conductor: Lt. Col. R A Ridings

Not often, if ever, do I have the pleasure of reviewing two great records by two great bands in one issue of *SOLDIER*.

The Grenadiers record is of a great band doing its bread-and-butter daily job in b-and-b music; the Coldstream record is of a great band doing something very special — no less than taking on the complete band repertory of the 1930s in one fell swoop, or all that matters of it.

In its way it evokes as much nostalgia and longing for things past as does the Grenadier disc, at least for we old bandsmen who broke our teeth (and our lips and our hearts) on these giants of the repertory, these terrors of the band practice-room.

And after band practice under the fearful eye of the bandmaster where was the price of a cup of NAAFI tea coming from?

Here, for all who have craved for a recording of the eight masterpieces of between-the-wars military band reperto-

On the Record

with Rodney Bashford

tory, is your first, and almost certainly your last, chance of acquiring them.

These are the eight original works written by three composers who, by their commitment and interest in the military band were responsible for its place in the affection of the general public then and today.

And played by a band which needed an equal commitment to undertake such a task of preparing and making the recording, in spite of its normal heavy duty role and aforesaid bread-and-butter engagements.

Yes, it would be interesting to compare the old Grenadier band with the new Coldstream, but of course only

modern techniques, in this case digital, have made such a project possible, plus the small matter of having a band capable of playing the works.

From my vivid memories of performances of them at concerts during the 20s and 30s I know the Coldstream have nothing to fear by such comparison.

Colonel Richard Ridings and his men can be proud of a good and necessary job well done. Brilliantly done, in fact.

Well known to all band enthusiasts are the *Toccata Marziale* and the *English Folk Song Suite* of Ralph Vaughan Williams, and the *Suites in E flat and F major* of Gustav Holst.

Much more demanding are four works by Bertram Walton O'Donnell, the once bandmaster of the 7th Hussars and the Wireless Military Band, being *Two Irish Tone Sketches, Theme and Variations, Three Humoresques, and Songs of the Gael*.

These fine works come in a two-record set with comprehensive sleeve notes on all aspects of the project.

Available on double LP/Cassette and also in compact disc format, although *Songs of the Gael* does not appear on the latter owing to space. From Valentine Music Group, 7 Garrick St London WC2E 9AR and dealers. £7.99.

THE REGIMENTAL BAND OF THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS.

Director of Music: Lieutenant Colonel R.A. Ridings, ARCM, psm.

MASTERPIECES FOR BAND.



Band of the Grenadier Guards

Conductor: Captain George Miller

The third volume of vintage band music from the International Military Music Society is devoted entirely to the Grenadiers of the 1920s and early 1930s, a band I inherited later.

Only one man stood between me and George Miller, and Fred Harris is still thriving at the age of eighty-five in his flat very near the Eastbourne bandstand.

Both he and I had to cause some few changes of style, mostly to do with note-values and vibrato to suit modern tastes, but, as the sleeve notes rightly say, in a great band much is handed down by players and conductors, even in spite of themselves.

The engineers have done wonders in giving *ambiance* to the flat-sounding performances of early recordings, and at last you can hear a great band in most of its old glory.

A tragedy then that we cannot hear them, because of technical restrictions, in the masterpieces of the band repertory reviewed on this page, as played by today's Coldstream band.

As it is the programme is a typical pier-head mixture beloved of all who took the waters at Royal Tunbridge Wells or, trousers rolled, paddled boldly on the beaches of Clacton and Southend. Marches, waltzes, solos and selections were the order of the day, with 'better' music slipped in hoping no-one would notice.

If they did notice there was often a polite hand-delivered note from the entertainments manager.

So take your deck-chairs for the marches *Fighting Strength* (Jordan), *Second to None* (Ord Hume), *The*



Phantom Brigade (Myddleton), *Stars and Stripes Forever* (Sousa), *The Middy* (Alford), *Bond of Friendship* (Rogan), *Rubinstein* (Bigwood), and Miller's fine *Galatea* grand march.

The overture *Zampa* is given an electrifying performance, at a speed perhaps governed by 78rpm disc restrictions, Fabian Rose's obligatory *Hop Scotch Schottische* for all Pittencraff Glen concerts is still a winner, Waldteufel's *Acclamations Waltz* cut to size, and the medleys *Songs of Scotland* and *Nautical Moments* make up the more substantial items.

The world famous Corporal West is the rather wobbly corner soloist in *Softly Awakes My Heart*, a style and a tune guaranteed to ensure him a line of pretty flappers wanting his autograph (and worse) after the concert.

And for pure melancholic nostalgia there is Eva Dell's *Acqua's* booming *Villanelle*, played by the even more famous Sgt Matthews on his magical clarinet.

For this treasure trove write to Mr V Elstow, 14 Butlin Court, Newtown Rd, Little Irchester, Northants, NN8 2EE, price £5.95 inclusive.

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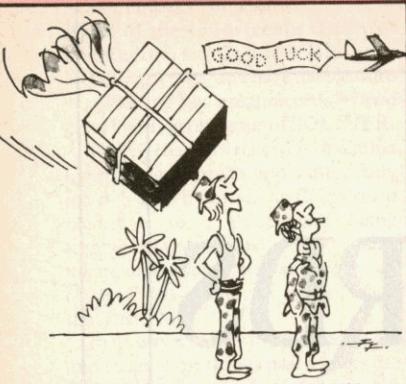
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MAIL DROP



True or False?

I am an ex-RAF Type of WW2 vintage, and a member of the local RAFA Branch.

The branch club boasts quite a few ex-Army Friend Members. They too are mostly of WW2 vintage, although some saw service before 1939.

Like most ex-soldiers of a certain age, my army friends consider themselves to be masters of the minutiae of Service rank, custom, precedence, and tradition.

But I seem to have them baffled when I make reference to Warrant Officers 3rd Class rejoicing in the titles of Platoon Sergeant Majors and Troop Sergeant Majors. I insist that these ranks existed in the British Army sometime between 1938 and 1940. And I further claim that they were phased out, either by promotion to the next Warrant rank or Commissioned.

There has been an attempt to persuade me (as a mere airman!) that I have allowed myself to be misled by some of the Household Cavalry titles like Staff Sergeant Farriers or Corporal Majors.

But I'm not confused by the Household Cavalry, or by some of the extraordinary 'Tradesman' titles to be found among the various specialist Army Corps.

I look to you Mr Editor, and your staff, and your readers to prove this airman right!

And when you have done that I shall position myself at a vantage point at the club bar in order to allow my Swahdi friends to press foaming pints of beer upon me by way of recompense for ever doubting my word. — D. Chamberlin, 119 Wood St, Kidderminster, DY11 6UA.

In Favour

First, I very much enjoy your magazine. I have been reading with interest your question and the responses as to whether or not SOLDIER should feature pin-ups.

Please accept my vote in favour of pin-ups, tasteful ones, perhaps featuring women from the Services, civilian employees, family and friends, volunteers of course. Pen-pal candidates might like to provide pictures.

You might even include pictures of women serving in other nations armed forces in uniforms as well as in swimsuits or other civilian dress. I do not suggest the type of pin-ups featured elsewhere, which I consider coarse, nearly pornographic, and have no place in SOLDIER.

Another feature I would like to suggest might be to describe the uniform features and the history behind each for the various Regiments, Corps and Departments.

SOLDIER is delighted to receive readers' letters. These are **YOUR** pages — and more of you seem to be writing these days.

However, we would appreciate it if your letters are kept as brief as possible and if you have access to a typewriter, so much the better. Use one side of the paper, with double spacing between lines please.

If your letter is hand written, be as neat as you can.

Readers must also give their full names and addresses — if there is good reason for not wanting these published, they will be withheld.

Keep the letters flowing and send them to: Mail Drop, **SOLDIER**, Parsons House, Ordnance Road, ALDERSHOT, Hampshire GU11 2DU.

The Editor regrets that we do not have the staff to undertake detailed research on matters of military his-

tory, militaria etc but if a query on current topics is likely to be of interest to most readers we shall endeavour to provide an answer through these columns.

Contributions for Call Signs are restricted to appeals by individuals trying to trace old comrades, and these, plus insertions for Reunions must be brief and will only be published once. Items connected with commercial gain cannot be accepted.

The British Army has a proud tradition much of it preserved in the distinctive features of the uniforms. This feature could be similar to the popular 'Your Cap Badge'. You might illustrate the article with photos of active service men outfitted in the uniform described. Give the ladies a chance to enjoy 'pin-ups' perhaps.

It could also be extended to include features and insignia of NATO and other countries' uniforms, knowledge which could help to build better understanding and co-operation I believe.

Once again thank you for your fine magazine. — Willard M McCoy, 11 Darnley Greene, Delmar, New York 12054, USA.

A Claim

Concerning the article on the first Chieftain tank in N Ireland (17 June).

The 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards had one Chieftain with them in Lisanelly Bks, Omagh, from about Oct 1968 to early 1969.

The tank was used for training prior to taking over the role of an armoured unit in BAOR.

This, I hope, establishes our claim to have had the first Chieftain in NI.

Keep up the good work on a great magazine. — Sgt R J Griffin, 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, APSC, St Georges Bks, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.

Wrong Drum

Me thinks musician Graeme Thew, Grenadier Guards, featured on the front cover of your issue of 29 July must have been stuck in a 'time warp'. Whilst his uniform is very authenitic he is playing a rod tension drum made within the last fifteen years.

We have recently supplied the Band of the Grenadier Guards with an authentic side drum of the period so one hopes that on future appearances he will be properly 'dressed'. — D J Leech, Director, George Potter & Co (Musical Instruments) Ltd, Potter's Corner, Aldershot, Hants.

In Trouble

It is a savage situation we have to live with, when civilian politicians inflict desecration on fine regiments, by amalgamating them to find that this great magazine SOLDIER, cannot get their old title correct!

Your item 17 June 1985, page 6, 'Two Royals for QOH' line 10 should read '3rd The King's Own Hussars'.

— L W Elledge, 7 Angel Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey, KT7 0AU.

Oops! SOLDIER pleads guilty to leaving out the word 'The'. — Ed

How observant are you?

1 Front of left player's saddle. 2 Position of left player's stirrup. 3 left horse's left hind hoof. 4 Head of right player's mallet. 5 Nostril of right horse.

6 Left player's chinstrap. 7 Window of car on right. 8 Tie line at end of right horse's tail. 9 Right horse's right ear. 10 Right player's toe.

If **SOLDIER**'s correspondence columns were competition between the Army and civilians, the civvies would win handsomely. The vast majority of letters received for Mail Drop come from ex-Servicemen and others who are interested in military matters.

Where have all the Army's letter writers gone? Mail Drop is your opportunity to make yourself heard, to give your opinions, air your grumbles, to seek information etc. Let's be hearing from you — Ed

CALL SIGNS

Mr Jack Woolgar of 27 Malden Avenue, South Norwood, London SE25, wishes to contact Mr G L Lockwood, last heard of at 2 Christchurch Way, East Greenwood, London SE10. They served together in the 2nd Bn West Yorkshire Regt in Eritrea, Western Desert and Burma from 1940-1945.

HMS Bulwark Association is always looking for new members. Any Army personnel who were aboard the Commando carrier either in transit or for exercises are eligible. For details contact secretary: NED Parkinson, 15 Ridgeway Close, Paulsgrove, Portsmouth, PO6 4LT.

Polish Millennium House, Bordesley St, Birmingham, 8pm. Details from Major (retd) J S Knight, Home Headquarters, The Queen's Own Hussars, 28 Jury St, Warwick CV34 4EW.

Naffy medal

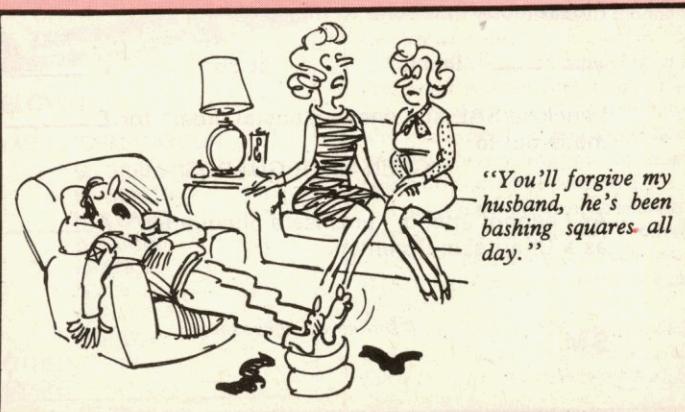
With reference to the letter in **SOLDIER** on 29 July and 26 August regarding the adding of letters after one's name, I well remember when the 1939-43 Star (as it was then known) ribbons were first issued for wear. Letters began to appear after names — NM, EGO (Naffy Medal and Everybody's Got One), except that some added the second lot of letters as EFGO!

In the old Post Office Telephones (before Telecom) we added RWT (Right When Tested) or DOL (One Leg).

When at the age of 60 I took my occupational pension and reverted in rank, I adopted the letters FBI (Failed British Idiot). — Mr F R Reed, 104 Cherry Garden Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN20 8HG.

Reunion

The Queen's Own Hussars Regimental Association and the Polish Ex-Combatants Association buffet/dance, Saturday 9 November at



SQUARE PAIRS

COMPETITION 371

Hang	Arms	Buck	Shot	True	Hand	War
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Chain	Crown	Brown	Trench	Task	Parthian	Mural
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FROM the grid of 49 words, eliminate 48 by forming 24 pairs with military association. Send your list and the odd man out. You could win £50. The rules of the competition remain the same. It is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 25 October. The answers and winner's name will be announced in our issue of 18 November.

More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 371' label. Photo copies not accepted.

In the case of a tie, the winner will be drawn by lots. No correspondence can be entered into.

Send your answers by post card or letter with the 'Competition 371' label to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

SOLDIER readers, you know your poetry! Competition 366 asked you to fill in vowels in verses, and also to give the names of the poems from which they were taken and the names of the poets.

There was a large response, and virtually everyone gave the correct answers despite one or two gremlins in the printing making it more difficult.

The quotations were from The Brook by Alfred Lord Tennyson; Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard by Thomas Gray; and The Burial of Sir John Moore at Corunna by Charles Wolfe.

The lucky winner drawn from the hat for SOLDIER's £50 prize was Captain M D Boyce, ACIO, TA Centre, Coleraine, Northern Ireland.

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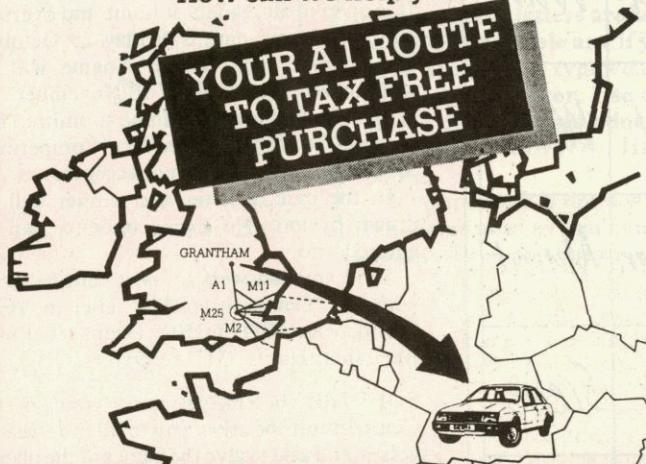
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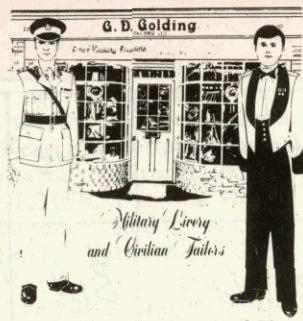
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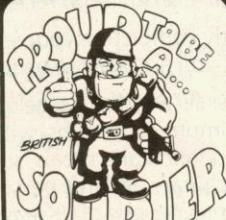
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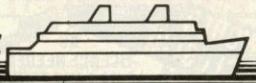
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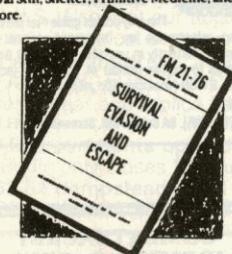
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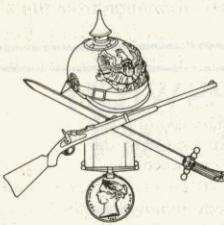
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FIRST TIME VICTORY FOR TOM

Guardsman Tom Wilson — in a winning swing.

A large entry with many new faces at the Army Golf Association championship promised well for the future, but it was also disappointing that there was an absence of so many top Army players at the Little Aston Golf Club, in the Midlands, where this year's contest was held.

However, that does not detract from those who competed, and especially from Guardsman Tom Wilson, 1st Scots Guards stationed at Pirbright, who won both the scratch plate with a score of 328 for the 72-holes championship, and the Handicap Cup.

His score was one shot better than Army players Lance Corporal

Bruce Manners, Queen's Regt, and WO2 Dave Kelly RAOC, stationed in BAOR.

It was a close thing right to the end, with only a handful of strokes dividing eight players going into the last round. Many of these faded in the tough windswept conditions which added to the difficulty of the Little Aston course. Kelly was

the first home with an 81, to give him a final score of 329. Manners, following up, fell away over the closing holes, and a double bogey six at the last gave him a final round of 82, tieing with Kelly on 329.

Wilson was in the last trio on the course. His front nine of 38 (three over par) put him on a winning course, but his back line was littered with dropped shots, and he found himself needing to finish the last two holes in one over par. He missed a three putt at 17 for a birdie, but kept his nerve when he mishit his tee shot at the 18th, and eventually left himself a difficult downhill putt on lightning fast greens requiring to get down in two. He laid his first putt within 12 inches, and had a tap in to win the championship. Quite a victory for someone playing the championship for the first time.

Little Aston is not usually that kind to anyone, certainly not a newcomer. The gods must surely have smiled on Guardsman Tom Wilson.

Later there was a presentation by AGA Captain, Major Harry Meekings, to former SOLDIER photographer Doug Pratt for the work he had done over the years promoting Army golf in the magazine; an inscribed medallion with grateful thanks from AGA.

Fun Week Makes Early Start

The Soccer season started early for some members of the Army Football Association when the second annual Bobby Robson Funweek got under way at Aldershot.

Named after the manager of the English team, whose idea it was to hold coaching weeks for young players during their school holidays, the funweek involved a number of FA qualified Army coaches giving up part of their annual leave to take part.

A capacity total of 105 boys was enrolled — just over twice the number who attended the first funweek last year.

"We were going to stop the number at 100," said Major Alan Dobson, the secretary of the Army Football Association, "but a few sobbing mums rang up and we took the extra five."

The boys, aged between eight and 13, came from a 15 mile radius around Aldershot. About a fifth of them were Army children.

Last year there had been a solitary girl who came along for the five day coaching session. But this year, although the event was theoretically open to everyone, no girls took part.

The recently appointed Army Soccer coach, Warrant Officer I (SMI) Eddie Green, APTC, directed the week with the assist-



Sergeant Joe Roach, APTC, on the ball before a crowd of Army youngsters at the AFA Funweek.

ance of six coaches who had all represented the Army and, in some cases, the Combined Services. They were WO2 (QMSI) Derek Old, APTC, WO2 (QMSI) Mick Ford, APTC, S/Sgt Alistair Macdonald, REME, S/Sgt (SSI) Tom Armstrong, APTC, Sgt (SI) Joe Roach, APTC, Cfn Neil McGregor, REME. Sergeant Brian Lebreton, Royal Signals, attended as the referees' representative.

On the Tuesday of the funweek, Second Division Wimbledon went to Aldershot to demonstrate some of their pre-season training and

give a few hints to the boys.

On the same day Mark Wright, the English international, and Mark Dennis, both from Southampton FC, were among the many visitors to the course. Major General John Boyne, the chairman of Army football, was due to call in later in the week.

With the successful conclusion of the second funweek the obvious question is — will it become regular fixture? Major Dobson wouldn't commit the Association but he expressed his own view: "I'd like to think it would be annual."

Bobsleigh Selection At Chertsey

THE ARMY steal the day at the family entertainment pleasure area of Thorpe Park near Chertsey on Sunday morning 22 September. For that is when the Army Bobsleigh Association hold their push-start contest to find up to half a dozen candidates for the 1988 Olympics.

The Chertsey event is being sponsored by Save and Prosper and Army personnel striving for top places will be drawn from the UK and BAOR. About a dozen are expected to turn up on the day at the National Bobsleigh Centre.

The Army had a bobsleigh team in the 1984 Olympics. On September 22 it is planned that Major General Tony Walker, Chairman of the Army Bobsleigh Association and C-in-C, HQ UKLF, will be there.

AFINE captain's innings by Captain Barry Bennett followed by some excellent bowling from Corporals Steve Durston and Andy Taylor saw the Army regain the Inter-Services cricket trophy which they surrendered to the RAF last year.

All three days of the Inter-Services Festival at Aldershot were marred by rain but each of the three matches developed into a real contest with the outcome only becoming apparent towards the end.

The worst rains were on the opening day and it was mid-afternoon before the Army went into bat against the Navy on a still sodden pitch with slippery outfield.

The Army found runs difficult to come by and eventually they battled to 124-8 with Bennett (22) and Gill (23) top scorers. In fact the final score only reached that mark thanks to some bat throwing by tail ender Durston (15).

But the Navy found things no easier and their first five wickets went for 55 with the overs also in short supply. Captain Charles Hobson, Royal Mariners, who carried his bat with 39, put some pep into the run rate (despite being hit on the head by a ball being thrown in by a fielder).

As the light failed and the target got closer the spectators were entranced. And with one ball to go every Army fielder went out on the boundary — four runs would have tied the game.

Ignoring jocular suggestions that he should bowl underarm Warrant Officer 2 Vic Nurse beat the batsman entirely and the Army had won by four runs.

The second match between the Navy and the RAF was low scoring. The RAF slumped to 92 all out but then managed to put out the Navy for just 76.

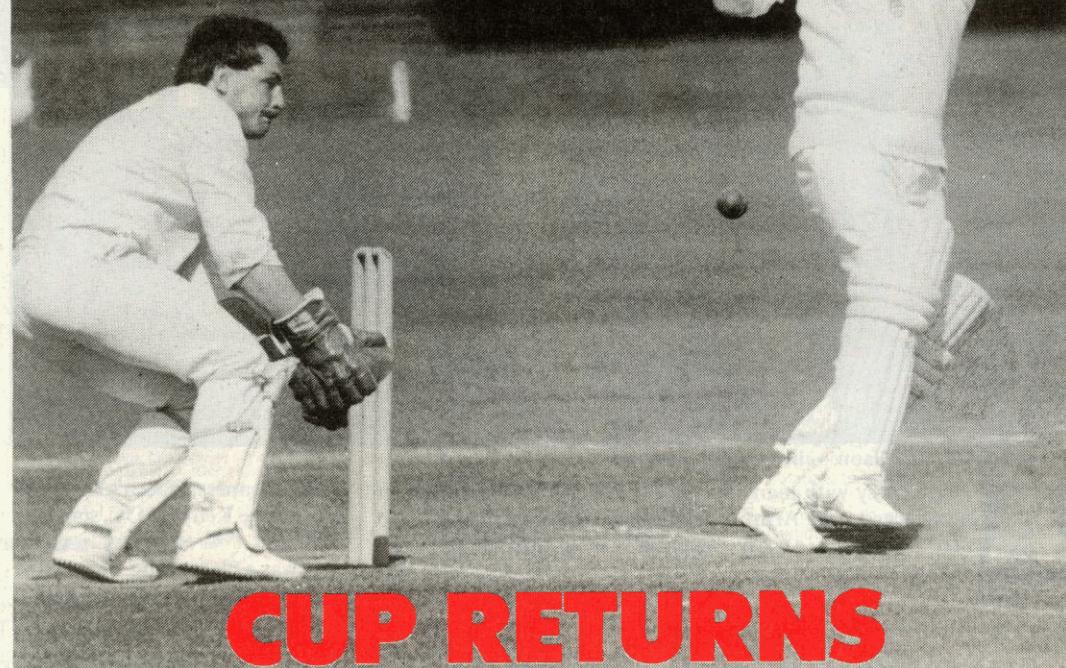
The final confrontation between the Army and the RAF did not start until 2.15pm and was restricted to 40 overs a side after more rain. But Bennett displayed a fine attacking spirit in an innings of 69, which included five boundaries. The Army made 149-7 — the highest score of the tournament.

Any ideas that the airmen might have nurtured of reaching 150 speedily evaporated as wickets began to fall like ninepins. Those batsmen who managed to survive for a spell only did so by defending and the run rate required was quickly way out of reach.

Soon the RAF were 45 for 9 and only a last wicket stand of 16 took them to the slightly more respectable tally of 61. Taylor took the wonderful haul of four wickets for six runs and Durston collected 4-16.

Lieutenant-General Sir Geoffrey Howlett, who presented the trophy to Captain Bennett,

INTER SERVICES...



CUP RETURNS

Barry Bennett — a captain's innings.

praised his innings which he said had made all the difference after three days of very good cricket with tight bowling and good fielding.

At the end of the festival the Combined Services team for the Kenya tour next month was announced and ironically only three Army players, Bennett,

Taylor and second Lieutenant M Rudd, were selected for the 14-man squad. Others would undoubtedly have made it but for unavailability through Army and personal commitments.

The team leaves on September 20 and returns on October 7. It will play five one-day matches and two of two days during that period.

It is the first Services team to visit Kenya for more than 30 years.

TOUR SQUAD: Royal Navy: Lieut A J Izzard (captain), Evans, Wells, Hobson, Campbell, Chester. Army: Bennett, Rudd, Taylor. RAF: Muse, Lamond, Richards, Chapman, Doherty.

ARMY SOCCER PLANS FOR 1985-86

The Army Football Association plans for the 1985/6 season include an outline programme for the senior side much the same as before, with 16 Combined Services and Army Representative matches scheduled to be played at the Military Stadium, Aldershot.

In addition, the Army is sponsoring a visit by the Combined Services to Hong Kong, following which the Combined Services will start the preparation for the Kentish Cup with a fixture against A Southampton XI at Aldershot (6 November 1985) and, four weeks later, entertain Wimbledon FC, again at Aldershot (4 December 1985).

A fortnight later they will meet the Belgian Military Forces in Belgium on 18 December.

The Combined XI will prepare for the visit of the French Military Forces, on 19 February 1986, with

matches versus AN FA XI, at Portsmouth (29 January) and a visit by the mighty Arsenal to Aldershot on 3 February.

The annual fixture Combined Services versus Middlesbrough FC, which the combined side has won for the past two seasons, has been slipped to 14 April at Catterick Garrison.

The Inter Service Championships will be played, on successive Wednesdays, from 12 to 26 March. The Army will visit the Royal Air Force (Uxbridge 12 March) and entertain last year's winners, the Royal Navy (Aldershot 19 March). The Royal Air Force visit to Portsmouth is scheduled for the 26 March.

In the South West Counties Championships, The Army will open their programme with a 'local derby' against Hampshire on 9 December this year (Isle of Wight). They will then travel to Dorchester

for a game against the County XI (29 January) before two home ties Sussex (Aldershot 10 February) and Devon (Tidworth 8 March).

The Army (UK) Cup Final will be played on 26 March and the Army Challenge Cup Final on 9 April — both games under flood-lights with a 7.30pm start.

The Army Six-a-Side Championships will be played at Aldershot on 9 October 1986 when 16 sides, representing all eight Home Commands, will do battle throughout the day. Visitors to Aldershot will include The Amateur Football Alliance (17 September), Carshalton Athletic (23 September), Windsor and Eton (7 October), Metropolitan Police (14 October), Hellenic League XI (28 October), London University (18 November), Territorial Army (1 December) and the Fire Services (25 February). The Army will tour BAOR during 24-28 April.



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