

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 25 PENCE • 31 MAY — 13 JUNE 1982

SOLDIER



OFF TO WAR
ON THE QE2

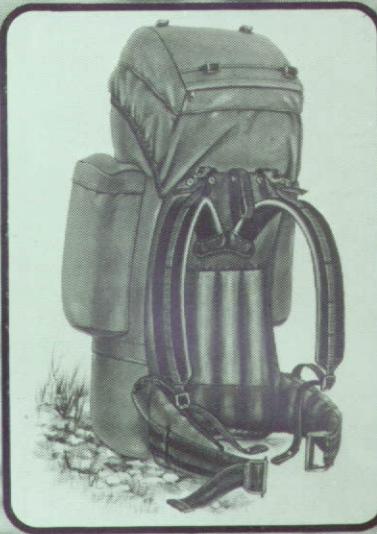
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FRONT COVER

The Regimental Band of the Scots Guards pay a musical tribute to the men of 5 Infantry Brigade as they sail to reinforce the Falklands Task Force on board the liner QE2. More pictures of the ship's departure — and of life at sea — are on pages 11, 12 and 13. Picture by Roger Allen

BACK COVER

A brief rest for WRAC mountaineer Captain Katy Dyer during a practice climb on the upper cliffs of Glyder Fawr in Snowdonia. Katy is general secretary of the Army Mountaineering Association and will be a member of the British Army West Nepal Expedition later this year.

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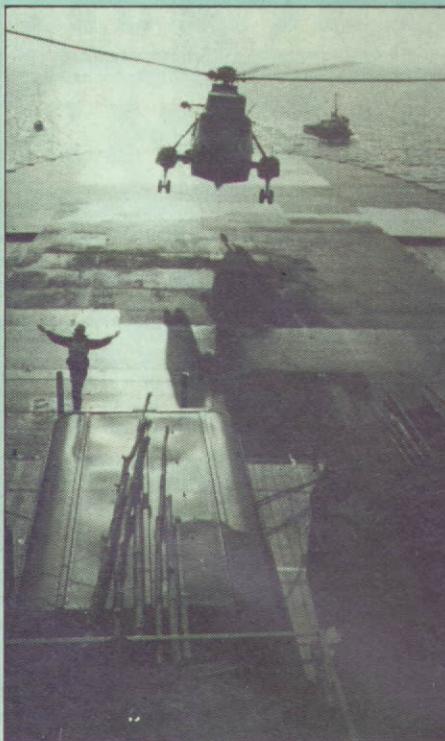
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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY



Off to the South Atlantic: latest pictures from our man on the QE2 — page 10

Britain's most famous home for old soldiers celebrates its 300th birthday this month

— page 32



The Porton Volunteers: we talk to the men and women who are helping strengthen the Army's chemical defences

— page 26



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SOLDIER to Soldier

SO, THE UNION JACK is flying over the Falkland Islands again. Our assault troops have landed. A bridgehead has been established. Now we move forward to finish the job and expel the Argentine invaders.

The past few weeks have been a desperately anxious time of watching, waiting and wondering. Ever since Argentina invaded the Falklands and our Task Force set sail for the South Atlantic, Britain has spared no effort to find a diplomatic solution to the crisis and avert an armed confrontation.

But the Government has made it clear all along that, in the final resort, it would not flinch from using force to defend Britain's rights and those of its subjects. Now that time has come and those of us who must remain mere observers as events unfold can feel nothing but admiration for the courage, skill and resolution of our forces as they begin the task of winning back those distant islands.

That any lives — British or Argentinian — should have to be sacrificed in resolving this crisis can only be a matter of profound regret. Any elation at military success is bound be tempered by sorrow for the young men who have died in achieving it. And whatever the final outcome of this conflict nothing can diminish the grief of the newly widowed and orphaned whose menfolk will not be coming back.

Our hearts go out to them. We hope they may derive some comfort from our collective sympathy — and gratitude. For without brave men prepared to fight for our cherished freedoms, democracy would quickly disappear and the world would be an infinitely darker and more dangerous place.

The Falklands may be only a speck in the ocean. But the principle enshrined in defending them is one of global importance. Unprovoked aggression — wherever it takes place — must not be appeased or unopposed. The cost of resisting it may be high. But the price of surrender, infinitely more so.



WO Laurie Ashbridge, RSM of 3 Para likes a nice cuppa, according to his wife, so it was not surprising that one of the first pictures to be flashed round the world after the British landings in the Falklands should be of Laurie enjoying a mug of tea with a group of islanders. — See Mandy's message, Page 9 (Sarah spreads some sunshine).

Task Force troops secure bridgehead

BRITISH TROOPS are back on the Falkland Islands and the Union Jack again flies.

As this issue of SOLDIER went to press it was clear that the initial bridgehead had been consolidated, with some 5,000 paratroopers and marines together with supporting arms and heavy equipment.

It was an exploit which had captured the imagination of our people, Defence Secretary Mr John Nott told the House of Commons.

Praise for the forces and the merchant marine came from all sides of the House and, asked if the government would seek a ceasefire, Mr Nott was unequivocal. There could be no question of a truce, he said.

Such was the success of diversionary attacks around the islands that the main landings were virtually unopposed. Only the Argentinian Air Force made determined attacks which resulted in the loss of the frigate *HMS Ardent* and her sister ship the *Antelope* as well as lesser damage to other ships. But the cost to the attacker was considerable.

By the time Mr Nott made his statement aircraft losses were nearly four-to-one in the Task Force's favour. Of the British losses only two Harriers and two Gazelle helicopters were in combat.

In the initial action only one small Argentinian garrison was known to have resisted, on Fanning Head. Of these, nine were taken prisoner and the rest ran away.

Port San Carlos and Ajax Bay were quickly in British hands and then the process of consolidation accelerated. Later reports that Goose Green had also been recaptured were not con-

Fire rescue by RMPs

TWO ROYAL MILITARY Police corporals who probably saved the life of another soldier trapped unconscious in his smoke filled kitchen have been commended by the GOC 2nd Armoured Division, Major General Martin Farndale.

Corporal Alexander Goodman of 113 Provost Company was escorting a visitor back to the flats in Munster when he noticed a strong smell of burning. As well as tracing the source, he roused his colleague Corporal Gordon Easton who lived in the block.

Together they forced the door of the flat after failing to get any reply but were at first forced back by choking smoke and heat. Then they got in and found an unconscious Private McKluskie slumped in a chair in his kitchen. The source of the fire was a burning chip pan.

After getting him to safety they raised the alarm and even managed to put the fire out just as the fire brigade arrived.

Happy TA Families

Greater Manchester's Signallers — 42 Signals Squadron (V) — have what they think is a record . . . they have three husband and wife teams in the same Squadron — and now they are claiming an extra half point in the score because Lt Angela Willis became 'Mrs Adjutant' by marrying regular Adjutant, Captain John Willis.

The couples are the Squadron Sergeant Major, WO2 Gary Williams, and his wife Capt Heather Williams who commands the line troop; Sgt John and Mrs Lynne Slamon and Lance Corporals Alan and Sheila Bannon who joined the TA together three years ago when already married. The Williams claim — implausibly — that they met on the LSL *Sir Percival* en route for Germany!

Due to the inclusion of late reports and pictures from the Falklands Task Force our 'Newsview' picture feature and other news stories have been held over to the next issue.

Soldier killed in Londonderry

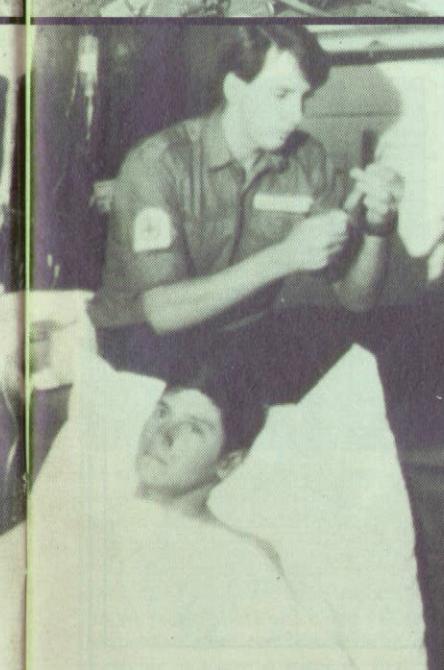
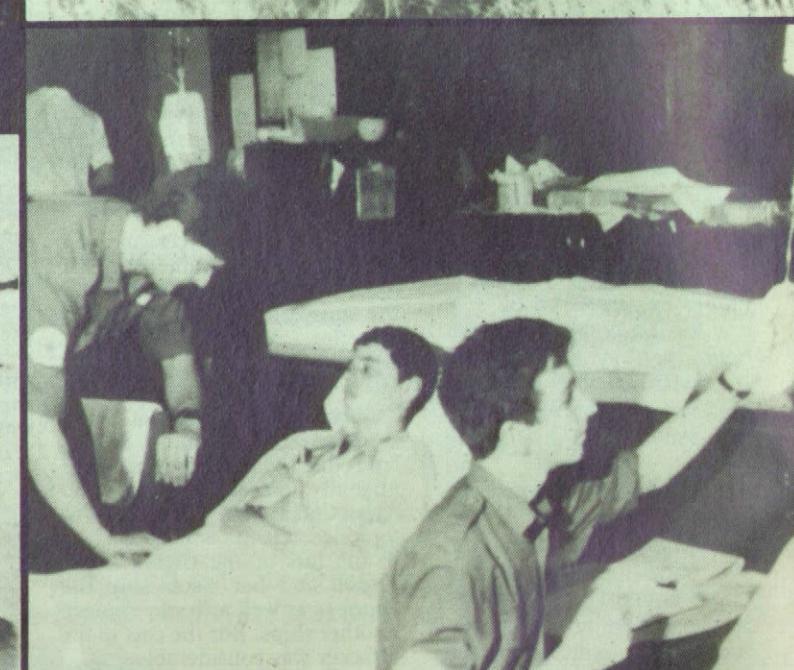
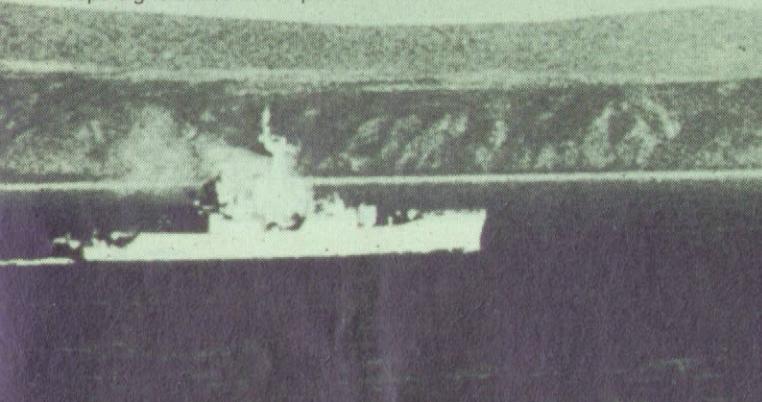
A SOLDIER KILLED in a petrol bomb incident in Londonderry has been named as Private Tony Anderson, 22, of 2 Royal Anglian. Another soldier was reported as being seriously ill but 'stable' after sustaining injuries in the same incident.

FIRST
LANDING
PICTURES
PAGES 6-7

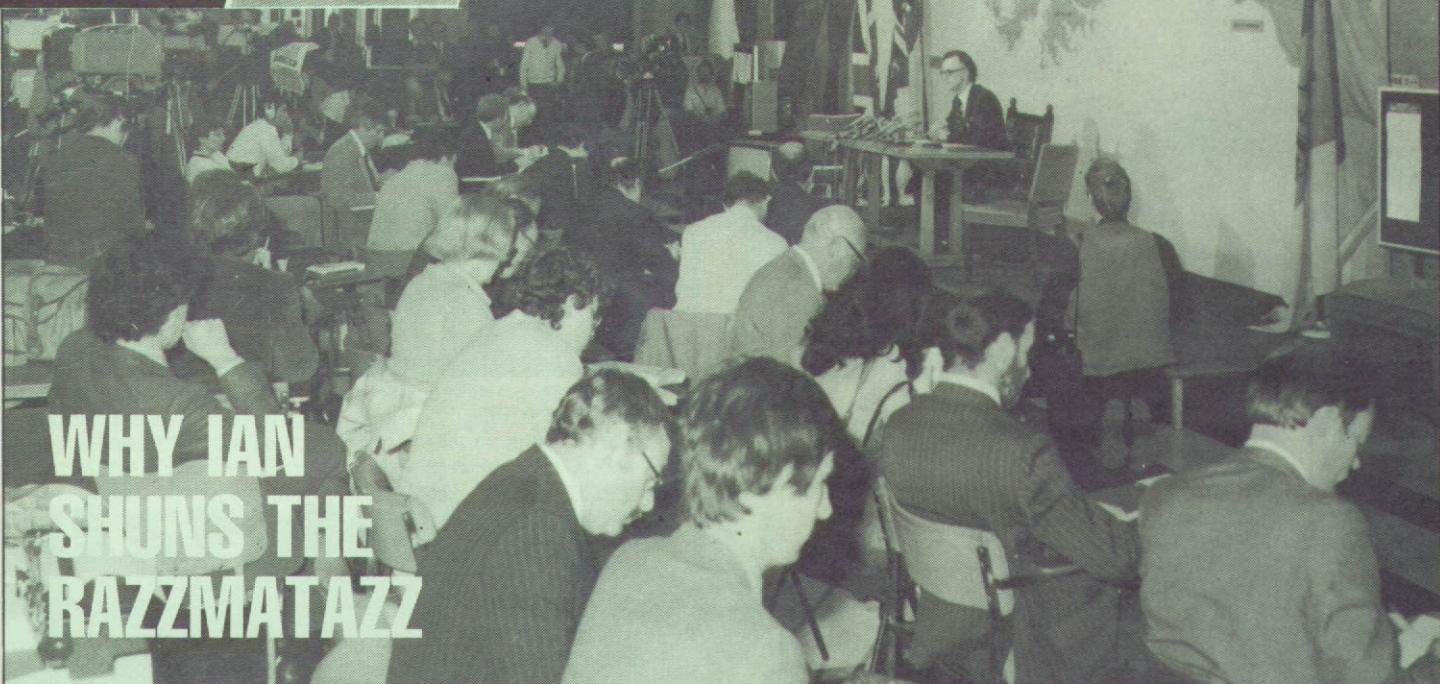
CRISIS IN THE
FALKLANDS

WE'RE BACK!

These dramatic pictures of British assault troops making their first massed landings on the Falklands since the Argentinian invasion, reached SOLDIER just as we were going to press. Clockwise from top left: A British frigate under attack from an Argentine Mirage fighter; Royal Marine commandos hoist the Union Jack; A British soldier on guard as heavy equipment is brought ashore. Examining a sword abandoned by fleeing Argentinian troops; Men of the Parachute Regiment storm ashore; A Sea King helicopter ferries supplies to newly landed troops; Assault craft from HMS *Fearless* (in background) speed towards the Islands; British and Argentine casualties are treated side by side on the *Canberra*; British troops dig foxholes in the peat.



CRISIS IN THE
FALKLANDS



WHY IAN SHUNS THE RAZZMATAZZ

A HUGE MAP of the Falklands dominates the stage in the Concourse Hall of the Ministry of Defence's Main Building in Whitehall.

The clock ticks round towards 12 noon and there is an air of expectancy as representatives of the world's media wait for the daily MOD press briefing.

Sometimes there is a delay and speculation mounts. Does it mean good or bad news? Is some dramatic new development in the offing?

TV cameramen check and recheck their equipment. Photographers jostle for a better vantage point in the cluttered, crowded room. Some journalists scan past press releases. Others type or dictate copy over one of the many specially installed 'phones.

'At times I feel a bit of a fraud with so much interest. It is certainly not of my seeking.'

Well-known defence correspondents discuss the situation with intense deliberation. Surprisingly there is not a uniform in sight. Only the flags that flank the stage give the clue that this is a Service briefing.

Suddenly the powerful TV arc lights are switched on and silence descends as the MOD spokesman, Mr Ian McDonald, makes his way to the stage. Not a flicker of emotion crosses his face for the TV cameras have already started to record. The now-familiar voice begins to address his waiting audience.

"This morning one of our ships in the darkness detected the presence of a vessel within the Total Exclusion

Zone . . ."

Each time Ian McDonald speaks on the air or appears on TV it is the families of the men in the Task Force of whom he is thinking.

There is no doubt that Mr McDonald — who as MOD's Deputy Chief of Public Relations has suddenly found himself thrust into the world spotlight — cares deeply about what he says and the effect his words may have on the families and friends of those involved.

And when I spoke to him, just after one of his now famous appearances in the MOD's Concourse Hall, he said he would like to explain to the Task Force and SOLDIER readers how he felt.

"First I would like to say how very proud I am of doing this job as spokesman for the MOD and how, as the situation developed, I realised the seriousness of the job.

"Speaking to the media and therefore, in a very real sense, direct into the homes of the families of members of the Task Force, it seemed to me that if I was to perform the function there should be no superficial razzmatazz about it.

"It was a very serious situation. People watching and listening would naturally be very worried and concerned. I knew from the start that there would be good news as well as bad and that in this kind of thing, however good the troops are, however well the plans are laid, there is always a risk.

"It seemed to me that in putting across the facts of the situation I should adopt a very even tone and not smile and laugh when it was good news, or seem to be overcome when it was bad. The families at home did not want to know my emotions, they wanted to know the facts of the situation clearly. I believe that evenness of tone was one way of doing this.

"I also felt that when I am upset or very worried and anxious, when listening, I very often mishear. So it seemed to me that with families sitting around a TV set, naturally

Come home soon Dad!

PRETTY SOLDIER'S wife Debbie Torr was nicknamed the "Falklands Flyer" after waving her husband off to war aboard the QE2.

For after giving Gunner Antony Torr a fond farewell kiss on the quayside at Southampton, Debbie (24) made a mad 45-mile dash to a maternity hospital to present him with a bouncing baby daughter.

As she sat on her bed at the Louise Margaret Hospital, Aldershot, cuddling Emily — the big Queen's first princess — Debbie said: "It was a close run thing. I knew Emily was due at any moment but I just had to kiss my husband goodbye. I don't know when I will be seeing him again."

Gunner Torr, aged 21, of the 97 Battery 4th Field Regiment Royal Artillery had planned to be present at the birth of his first baby — but then he got his orders to sail for the Falklands.

"We kept hoping till the last minute that the baby would be born before he sailed," said Debbie. "In the end he only just missed it for Emily was born only hours after the ship sailed.

"Antony wanted a son but I am



sure he will be delighted with Emily, she is so beautiful."

News of Emily, who weighed in at six pounds ten and a half ounces was quickly flashed to Gunner Torr, on the high seas.

"It will give him a tremendous boost," said Debbie.

wondering what was going to be said, they should be given a delivery which was slow, so that even if they were excited and tense, they would not want to miss the facts.

"Of course I accept the publicity and personal interest in me as part of the TV age. It just seems to be out of perspective. In fact the people who are doing the real work and taking

the real risks are not sitting in front of the TV camera but are in the Task Force and I must say at times that I feel a bit of a fraud with so much interest. It is certainly not of my seeking.

"I hope it won't be very long before this whole thing is settled and the Task Force comes home, and I can retire into obscurity."



Mail staff burn the midnight oil

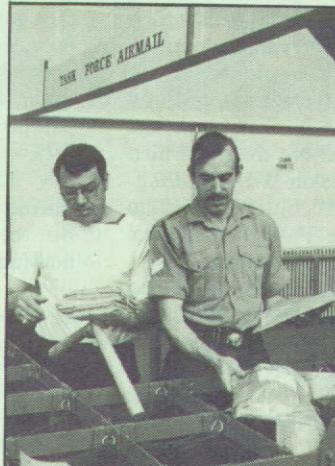
SINCE THE TASK FORCE set sail, the Postal and Courier Depot RE at Mill Hill has had to cope with a 20 per cent increase in their throughput. In addition to all the letters, several tons of newspapers, paperbacks and magazines — some by courtesy of Paul Raymond — have already passed through the Depot on their way to the troops in the South Atlantic.

The 250 or so sorting staff, under the direction of Major Bob Whiting, cope with the extra load of up to 100,000 letters per day by working overtime and cancelling their days off.

The Commandant of the Depot, Colonel Ralph James RE said "it's a lot of extra work but we are conditioned to meet these extra operational needs . . . it is essential we clear the mail from here every day — and we do."

He went on to say that great emphasis is put on getting the mail

through to the troops in times of crises and that some commanders feel that, after ammunition, mail is the next most important load to be dispatched because of its uplifting effect on morale.



FREE POST FOR THE TASK FORCE

A FREE AEROGRAMME service to British troops and civilians in the South Atlantic Task Force is now available.

Anyone with a relative or friend with the Task Force will now be able to go to their post office and ask for the blue-coloured Forces' aerogramme and post it without charge, provided 'HM FORCES IN SOUTH ATLANTIC' is written close to the address. The address for all shipboard personnel is: number, rank, name, mess desk, name of ship and 'BFPO SHIPS'. This address is for Royal Navy personnel and for civilian personnel on civilian ships.

For all Royal Marine, Army, and RAF personnel embarked on Royal Navy ships or other Task Force vessels, the address is: number, rank, name, company or squadron, unit or regiment, 'BFPO 666'.

For Royal Marine, Army and RAF personnel known to be serving on Ascension Island, the address is: number, rank, name, company or

squadron, unit or regiment, 'BFPO 677'.

There is also a free aerogramme service from the Task Force which is for UK addresses and other BFPO addresses only.

All other types of mail, letters, packages, newspapers, and surface parcels can be posted at the concessionary postage rate applicable to HM Forces in Europe rather than the more expensive postage rates which apply for airmail services outside Europe.

Any letter or aerogramme for the Task Force posted in this country should be with the Forward Post Office on Ascension Island within two days. From there it will be sent on to the Force when and by whatever means possible — helicopter, passing frigate or even one of the requisitioned merchant ships.

Once in Ascension Island the letter will take, on average, another eight days to reach the Task Force.

CRISIS IN THE FALKLANDS

SARAH SPREADS SOME SUNSHINE



Sarah chats to Mrs Jill Yeomans.

hours — just to sort the requests from the ordinary mail.

Then it is over to Julia King who now spends her time amid a sea of letters and cards, box files and neat piles of specials. There are files for individual ships and military formations, others for 'stork specials', anniversaries and birthdays.

"I am really glad I am doing this," says Julia. "I just feel that perhaps I can help a bit to make them feel that we have not forgotten them."

One request was a foot square with 200 kisses, another came from a young son for his daddy. Asking for *Bridge over Troubled Water* he said: "My mummy says that my daddy likes this record. Tell my daddy we love and miss him and hope he will soon be home."

That is the basis of all the requests, as it was when a group of 3 Para wives visited the studio while Sarah Kennedy was recording one of the programmes.

And when that particular programme got out to the South Atlantic there was a special surprise for Pte Paul Yeomans of 3 Para. He got his message personally from his pretty bride of a few weeks. After a two-year courtship dark haired Jill had been married to Paul for just two days when he sailed away on the *Canberra* and they had spent only one of those days together. "I love and miss him," she told SOLDIER, "and I want him back soon."

But don't worry about the girls, lads. They are doing fine. It was Mrs Mandy Ashbridge, wife of RSM Laurie Ashbridge — he celebrated his 40th birthday on the *Canberra* — who summed it up. "Of course, we miss our men but the girls are bearing up very well. We just take it a day at a time and we just hope that they will all come back safely."



THE PARAS ARE COMING!

A Report from Brian Barton on the *Norland* 'somewhere in the South Atlantic'

A FEW WEEKS AGO it had never done anything more adventurous than sail between Hull and Rotterdam. But now the MV *Norland*, pride of the North Sea Ferries fleet, is deep in the South Atlantic filled with troops ready for action in the Falklands.

Instead of tourists the ship is crammed with the men of the 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment from Aldershot, who immediately re-christened the line "South Sea Ferries".

Instead of cars and trucks, the great roll-on roll-off decks are covered with a vast range of stores. The 13,000 ton vessel, launched in 1973, is now a floating training camp with a tightly organised schedule utilising every inch of space to keep the men sharp for the task ahead.

Daily, the noise of battle can be heard off the stern as the Paras practise their shooting skills with SLR and machine-gun by blasting at rubbish bags, beer cans and balloons chucked overboard into the ship's wake.

On another deck the physical training

instructors are putting the Paras through murderous exercises. Because of the difficulties of going for long runs on short ships the instructors have devised games which entail running flat out over distances only a deck's width.

One favourite Para lung-burster is a relay race carrying a man in a fireman's lift — good training for the immense loads which the self-contained Paras carry into action. So far no one has run over the side.

Inside the Snug Bar, former haunt of the holiday-maker, the air is alive with the chatter of morse code. More than 100 men are taking a crash course on WT signalling. Because of expected difficulties with radio communications in the Falklands normal voice procedures may not be enough.

The crew of *Norland* volunteered to a man (and three ladies) to make the trip which has meant that the ship's restaurant resumed normal service immediately *Norland* sailed. The Paras are eating varied menus familiar to thousands of NSF customers with the exception of the "chef's special" and

"minced chicken for children" which are no longer available.

The bars, the Paras were relieved to find, are also functioning normally but the soldiers are rationed to three cans of beer a day at 20p a can. However, on the May Day holiday, which was hot out there in the Atlantic, it was announced in orders that six cans would be allowed for "medical reasons because of the danger of dehydration".

Every private has a berth in a comfortable cabin, the purser's information desk is the pay office and walls bear a rash of notices such as "Support Coy", "mortars", "A Coy" and "armoury". Life on Board *Norland* Barracks is as normal as 2 Para can make it. But the men know the task they face is like nothing they've had to do before.

As readers will appreciate, this despatch from Brian Barton was sent before the first waves of British assault troops began landing on the Falklands. — ED

Pictures: Sgt Ron Hudson

Target practice over the rails.

Support Coy of 2 Para say hello for folks back home.

Time off for a game of deck hockey. ▲ Practising landing craft drill.



Thousands say goodbye as the QE2 sets sail for the war zone



A majestic sight as the QE2 sails up Southampton Water.

L/Cpl Gary Hearn bids a fond farewell to wife Faye. ▶

A farewell they'll never forget

WELSH GUARDSMAN Nigel Warburton was a bit frustrated as he watched the Queen Elizabeth II ease away from the quayside. But for a training injury he would have been on board heading out to join the Falkland Islands task force with the rest of 5 Infantry Brigade.

As it was he could only stand on his crutches and wave.

Even more frustrated was Lance Corporal Colin Overton of 1 Scots Guards who actually got aboard only to be carried off a few hours later suffering from appendicitis. He was whisked away in an ambulance.

The first troops had gone aboard at 6 am and by late morning the whole brigade had been embarked. Then they crowded the rails, taking up every vantage point. Even the lifeboats were solid with soldiers.

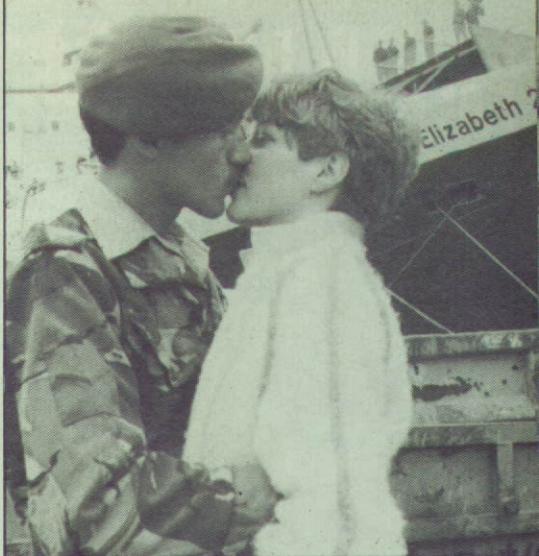
As the great ship waited for the tide the first trickle of families and friends began to arrive and by early afternoon the viewing platforms and dockside were packed. It was a carnival-like atmosphere. Wolf-whistles

and catcalls greeted any girl who arrived near the ship. There was general disappointment when it was learned that gorgeous Linda Morrison, an Australian, was not sailing and had come only to say goodbye to her friends among the crew. She normally runs the ship's beauty shop and was not needed on this trip.

Singing telegram girl Linda Goodrick, 22, from Aldershot, turned up in scanties, opera stockings, suspenders and high heels to see her brother, Gunner Alan Goodrick, on his way.

But hit of the day was 22 year old Army wife Dawn Leyman who found a place on the viewing platform exactly opposite husband Lance Corporal Peter Leyman. Then she whipped off her blouse and bra to give him and pals a real farewell treat. Finally a helpful crane-driver swung the bra over to Peter. And he did it with great delicacy and aplomb.

There was a mighty roar as the QE2 slipped her moorings but as the tugs nudged



CRISIS IN THE FALKLANDS



Britain's most famous supporter Ken Bailey, joined the well-wishers.

her out into Southampton Water and turned her to face the Solent and the open sea the mood changed sharply.

Wives and girl friends dabbed their eyes, children howled. With the soldiers out of earshot, a strange stillness fell on the dock. The reality of the situation had hit. ■

... and pictures of life at sea
— see pages 12-13

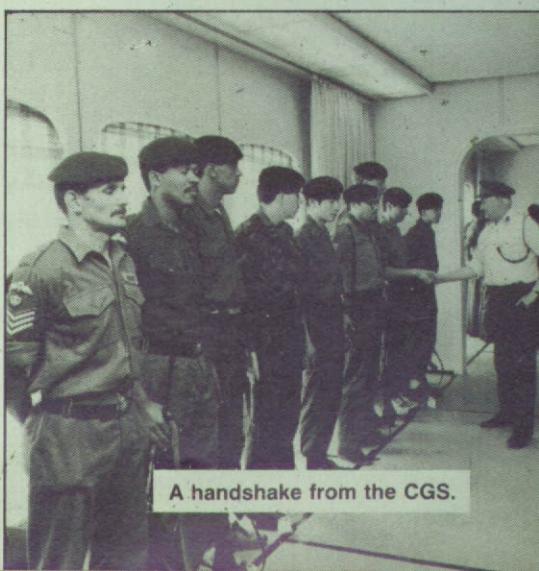


DEFENCE SECRETARY Mr John Nott and the Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Edwin Bramall were both there to see the men aboard the QE2 and after they had toured the ship it was Mr Nott who put everyone's feelings into words.

"It really is a very moving experience," he said. But he added that the spirit aboard was tremendous.

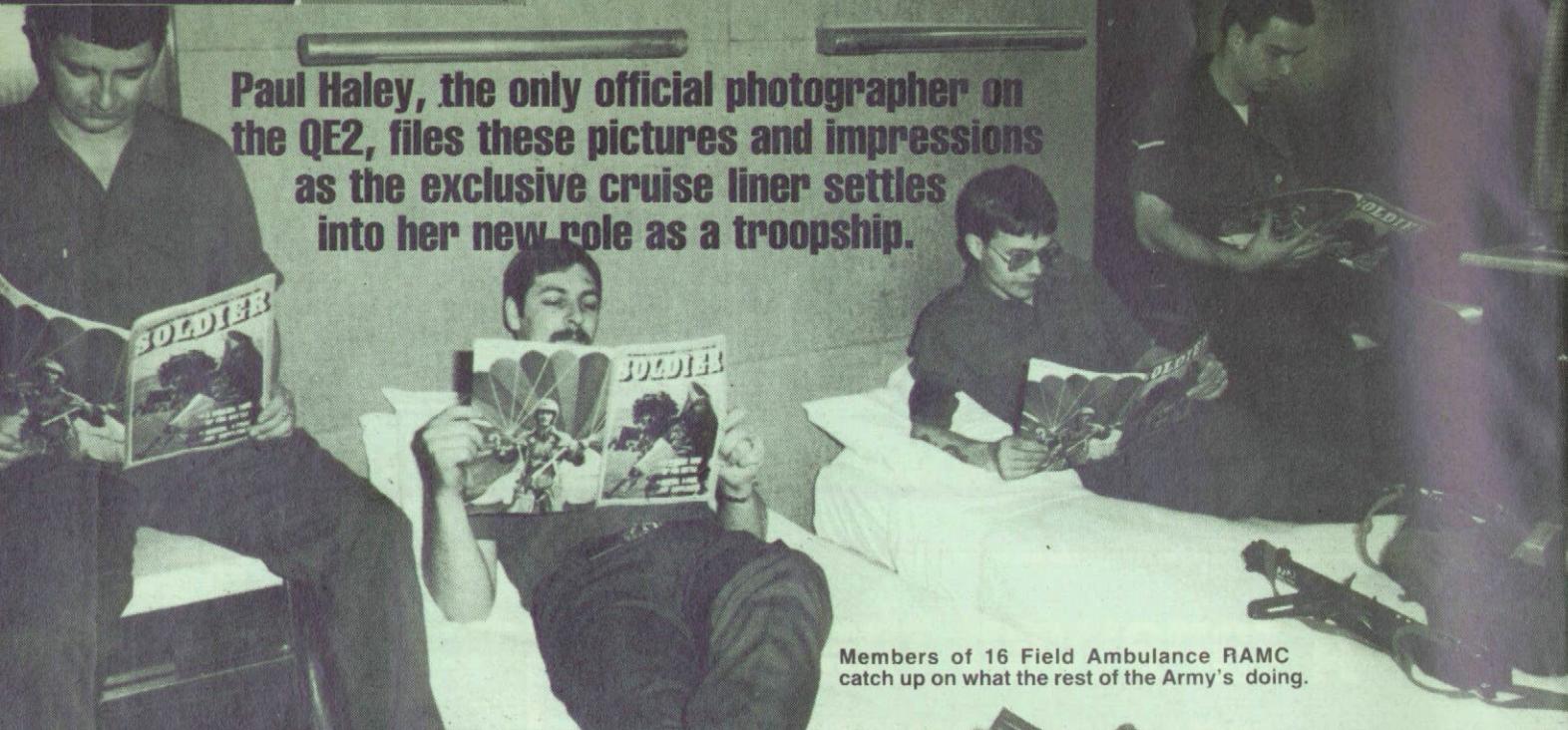
"I wish them the very best of luck," he went on. "If we have to fight, and I pray to God we will find a peaceful settlement, then we are sending out some of the best trained troops in the Army."

Of the risk to the ship he said: "She will be looked after. The Navy will take care of her."



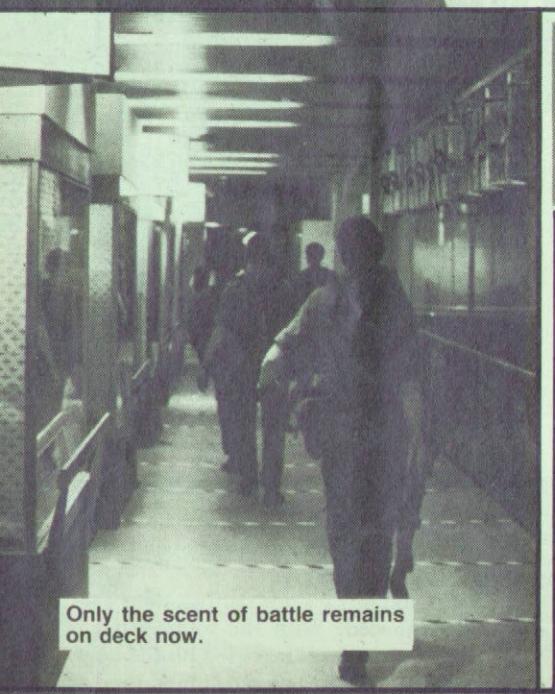
A handshake from the CGS.

CRISIS IN THE FALKLANDS



Paul Haley, the only official photographer on the QE2, files these pictures and impressions as the exclusive cruise liner settles into her new role as a troopship.

Members of 16 Field Ambulance RAMC catch up on what the rest of the Army's doing.



Only the scent of battle remains on deck now.

GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS

SOLDIER photographer Paul Haley is playing a key role in keeping the world's press informed of life aboard the QE2.

He is the only official photographer on board and his pictures have already been eagerly snapped up by several national newspapers as well as the BBC TV and ITN news desks.

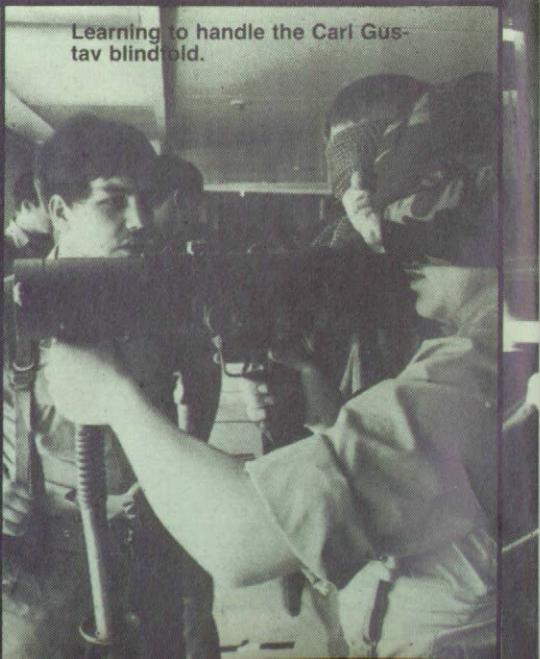
Paul, 32, has been a SOLDIER 'snapper' for nearly eight years, during which time he has covered Army stories all over the world. His trip aboard the world's most luxurious liner has fulfilled a lifetime ambition. "I'll never get another chance to sail on the QE2 with someone else paying my fare," he quipped.



Learning to handle the Carl Gustav blindfold.



Weapon training on deck.



HERE ARE STILL vestiges of a luxury liner to be seen as the QE2 speeds south through the Atlantic. But most of the obvious signs of more affluent times have gone.

The sign over the perfumery boutique door is still there. So are the other shop signs. But there is no pretty lady waiting to dispense Chanel No 5. Nor is there any Chanel No 5 to dispense.

The plush carpets are covered with chipboard — protection against boots designed for tougher environments. Where there was once a swimming pool is now a flight deck; where wealthy dowagers once sunned themselves, wiry Gurkhas train with grenade launchers and mortars.

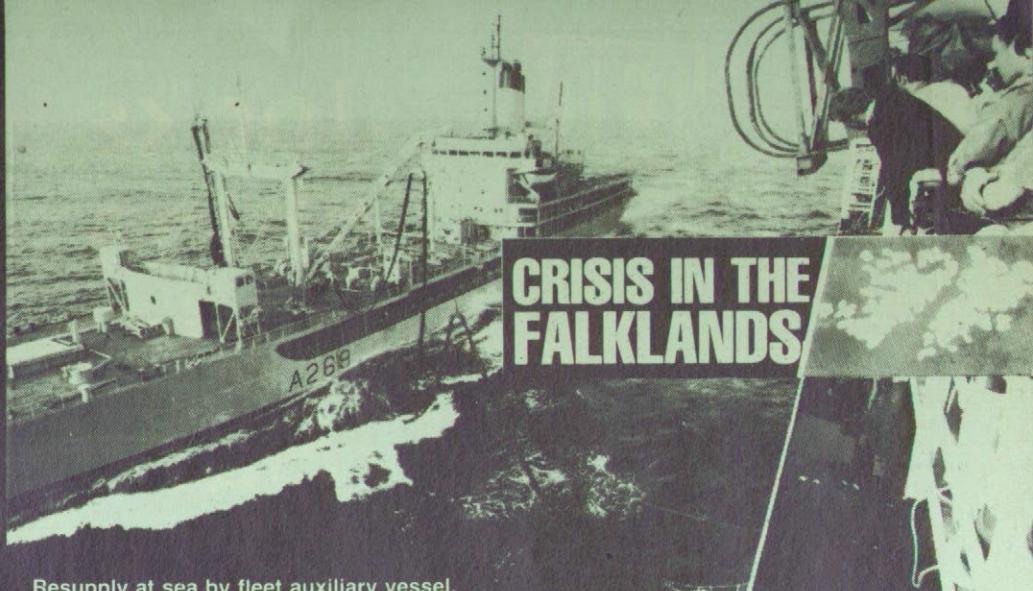
Instead of leisurely promenades round the deck, Guards, Gurkhas and support troops now run and exercise at an unrelenting pace. With over 3000 men on board, space for training is tight and every available corner is taken up by small groups of men doing weapon training.

In any night assault a soldier must be able to use his weapon blindfold. So that's just how he learns — his eyes completely covered so that he knows every inch of his weapon and what it can do without needing to look at it.

It's not all non-stop graft though. And in the odd few hours that 5 Brigade get to themselves when they're not eating and sleeping, there are films to watch and magazines to read.

Not just pin-up magazines either. Among the first bundles of literature to be landed after the QE2 sailed were several hundred copies of SOLDIER complete with news and pictures of the Welsh Falcon exercise which the Brigade had completed just before getting the order to sail and — most keenly read — the details of the Army's new pay scales.

Another diversion from the usual round was the sight of the QE2 being resupplied at sea by fleet auxiliary vessel — another 'first time ever' for a ship that is proving as versatile and resilient as the men on board her.



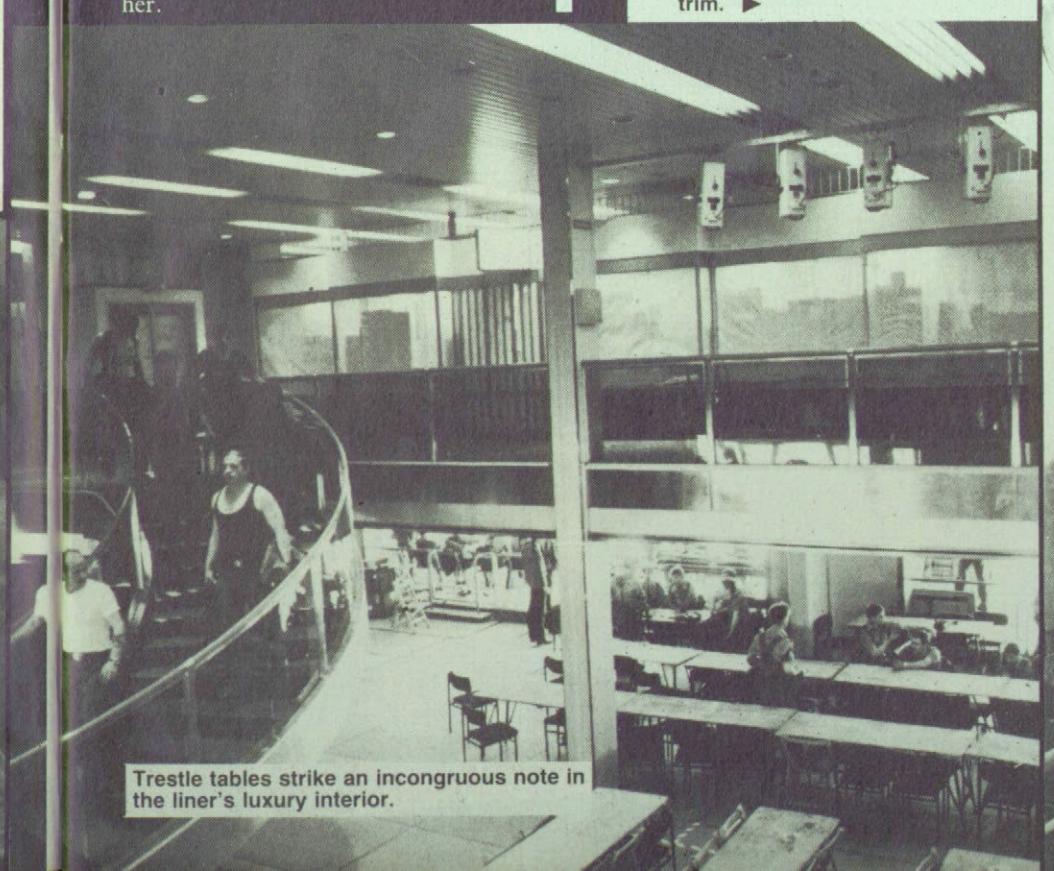
CRISIS IN THE FALKLANDS

Resupply at sea by fleet auxiliary vessel.

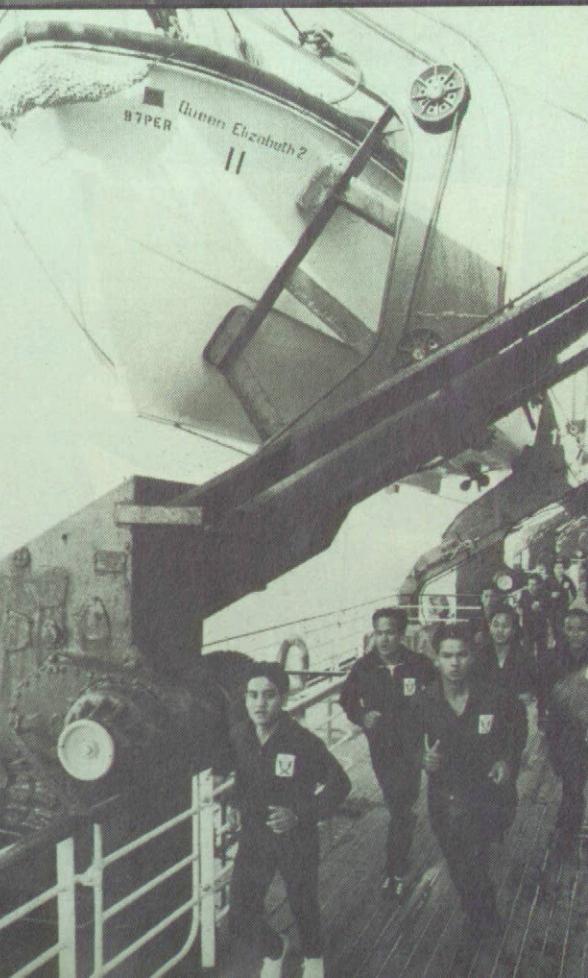


▲ The first Sea King to land at sea.

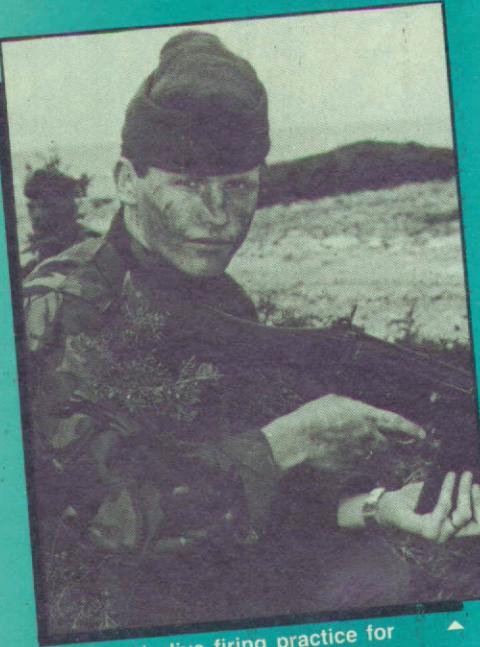
A training run keeps Gurkhas in trim. ►



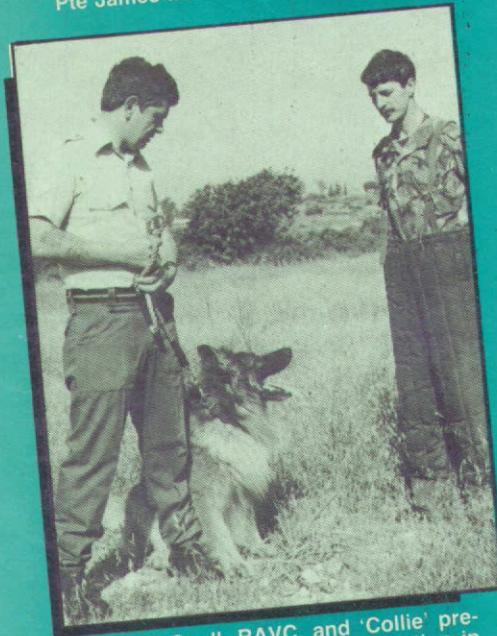
Trestle tables strike an incongruous note in the liner's luxury interior.



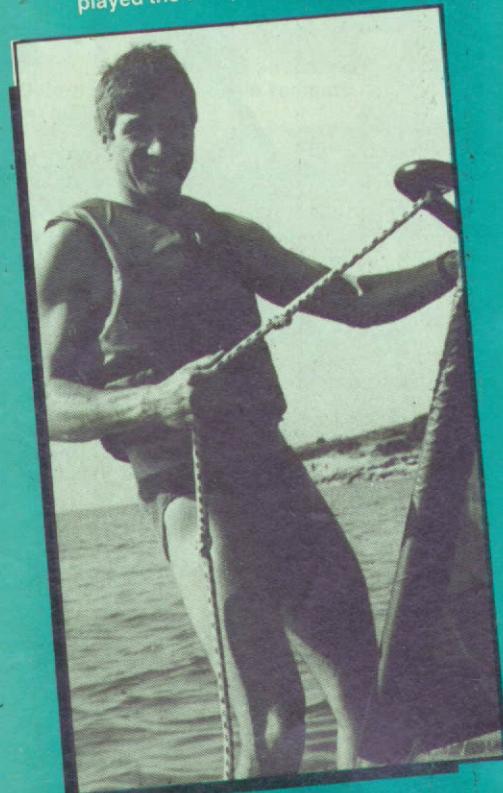
Jocks shine in Lion Sun



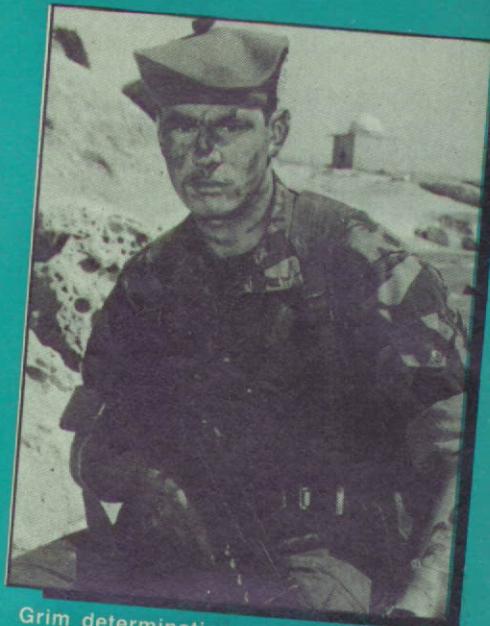
A break in live firing practice for
Pte James McAuley.



Sgt Alex Coull, RAVC, and 'Collie' prepare for a man v dog demonstration in which Pte James Tucker, Gordons, played the well padded victim.



S/Sgt Gordon Girvan gave lessons in windsurfing during a short adventure training programme. Later this year he will lead a 5-man team of Gordons in the first-ever bid to windsurf from Fort William to Inverness.



Grim determination on the face of Pte Peter Whyte.

THE SUNNY MEDITERRANEAN island of Cyprus with its vine covered slopes and glorious, golden beaches may be a perfect retreat for the discerning holidaymaker. But there was little time for lotus eating for a company of 150 Gordon Highlanders who have just returned to their base in Scotland after a gruelling month-long training programme there.

Code-named 'Lion Sun', the programme involved a series of exercises in rough terrain where the Jocks had to cope with the heat of Springtime in the Western Mediterranean as well as master unknown and difficult territory. They also had to pit their skills against a human 'enemy' — often in the guise of the resident battalion in Cyprus, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

Story: Sarah Cullum

"Our 'raison d'être' as soldiers is to be absolutely fit to go to war should the need arise," explained Major Finlay Maclean, Officer in Command of the Company, during the exercise, "and this month in Cyprus is proving that the Gordons are fit and ready."

A major part of the programme was devoted to practice in escape and evasion techniques, with small groups of men being hunted for three days and nights at a time over 64 square kilometres by zealous Argylls and enthusiastic tracker dogs.

"Out of a group of 14 three or four-man patrols who have just returned from one of these exercises, only three were captured," said Major Maclean. "The other eleven eluded the enemy and achieved their sabotage task. That is a very good standard."

There was also live firing practice in a remote forest area in the north west corner of the island with 'enemies' suddenly appearing from behind trees and bushes, as well as the opportunity to use anti-tank guns.

'Home' for the 550-strong 1st Battalion The Gordon Highlanders is, at the moment, Kirknewton Camp near Edinburgh, where they have been since they returned from Belize at the end of last year.

Kirknewton is a far cry from the snakes

and scorpions of hot and humid South America — and so is the Gordons' programme of military training and public duties this year, which include providing the Guard at Edinburgh Castle and Balmoral Castle during the summer months.

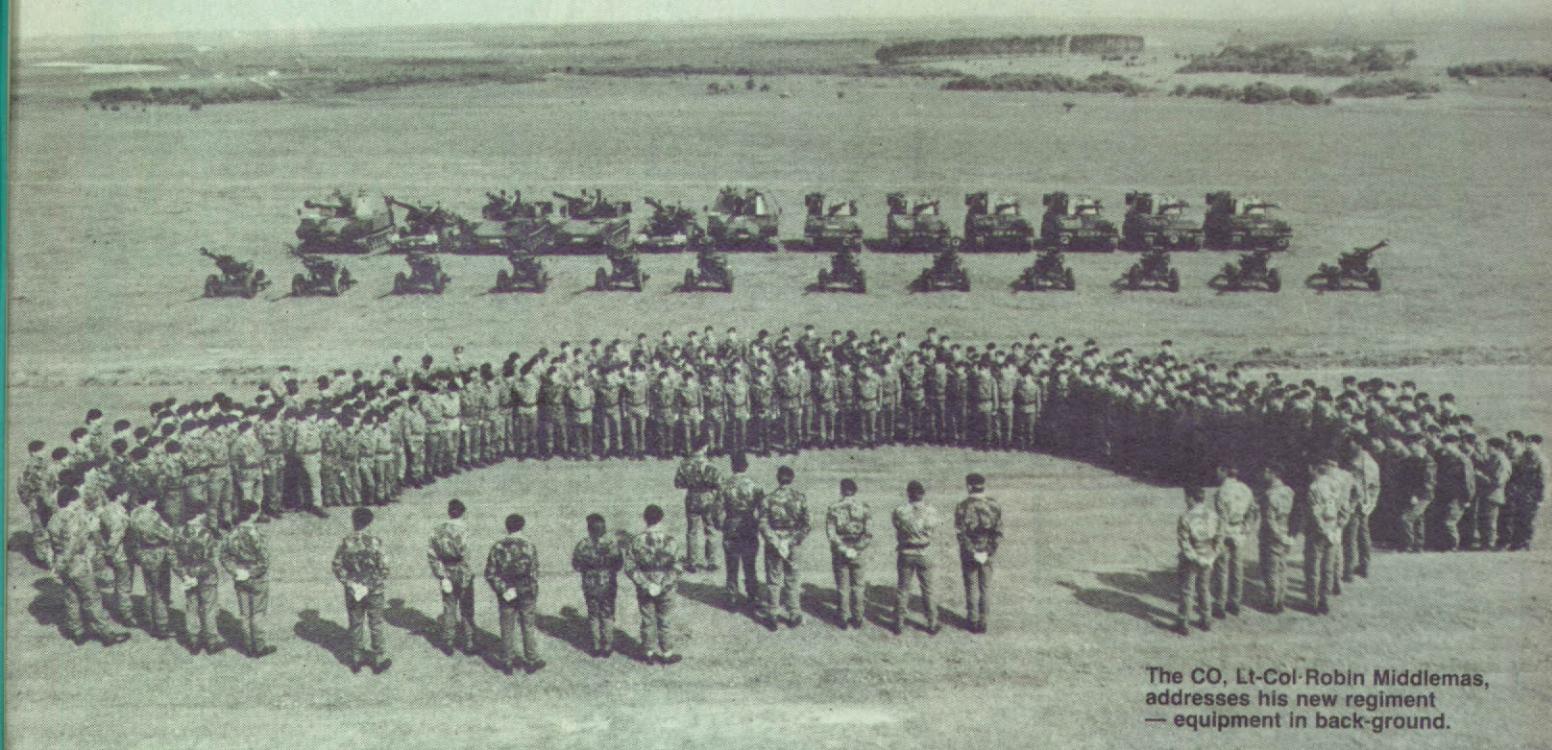
They will also provide support, both administrative and physical, at this year's Edinburgh Tattoo — and thousands of spectators from all over the world will see the Gordons, in full splendour, leading the final parade down the Castle Esplanade.

But after all the pomp and pageantry it will be back to business in earnest with a few months of specialised training and planning as the Gordons prepare for their new role as a highly mechanised battalion in West Germany.

Pte David Crowe found time to try his hand at abseiling for the first time.



BIRTH OF A REGIMENT



The CO, Lt-Col Robin Middlemas, addresses his new regiment — equipment in back-ground.

THE FIRST NEW Gunner regiment to be formed since the Second World War has just taken up residence at Larkhill. To be known as The Support Regiment, Royal School of Artillery, it will play a similar rôle to that of the Infantry Demonstration Battalion at Warminster (which, ironically, was recently disbanded).

Two of the batteries have served together for the last ten years as part of 39 Regiment RA in Germany. They are 132 (Bengal Rocket) troop and 176 (Abu Klea) Battery. The new Headquarters Battery has been manned with personnel drawn from every other Gunner regiment.

The new regiment is currently 400 strong and based at Roberts Barracks, Larkhill. But the plan is for it to move into the Royal School of Artillery and take over its administration wing to bring it to a strength of more than 800 Servicemen plus 200 civilians.

Its primary task will be firing guns for courses coming through both the School of Infantry and the School of Artillery. It is equipped to fire every artillery equipment service including FH 70, M109, M110, M107, Abbot and light guns.

The Falklands crisis and an earmarking for possible action, came at a difficult time for the new regiment as it struggled to find its feet in its new rôle. But Lieutenant-Colonel Robin Middlemas, the Commanding Officer, reports that his men have settled in well.

"Of course most of this was programmed because if there were soldiers in the two batteries who did not want to serve in the UK most were allowed to stay in Germany. Soldiers from other batteries who wanted to serve here and were of the right calibre were allowed to come.

"For many of the men it is the first time they have served in UK since they were

A new unit joins the Army's big guns

junior soldiers and the majority of wives have never served with their husbands in England."

Colonel Middlemas finds a lot of advantages for soldiers in their new location. The two batteries are about one-third recruited from the Birmingham area, which is easily reached from Salisbury Plain. And they are in an area with a lot of ex-soldiers among the civilian population.

"As far as the Royal Artillery is con-

cerned, Larkhill is the focus from a military point of view, although Woolwich is our traditional home. And one of the great advantages is that it is mainly Monday-Friday with early starts and late finishing. For a lot of soldiers it will be the first time in their Service lives they can almost guarantee weekends and holidays."

The new regiment also intends to be active in the sports field. Major Mike Girdlestone, second-in-command and sports co-ordinator, plans to enter a team in next year's Devizes-Westminster canoe race and says they will be concentrating on minor sports like fencing, tennis, and sailing.

Although the Gunners tend to keep their traditions in their batteries rather than their regiments, Colonel Middlemas feels that starting afresh has some advantage. "Because this is such a special regiment the decisions which we make now will have results which we are going to have to live with in the future."

Three of the big guns that The Support Regt RA will fire — FH70, M109 and M110.

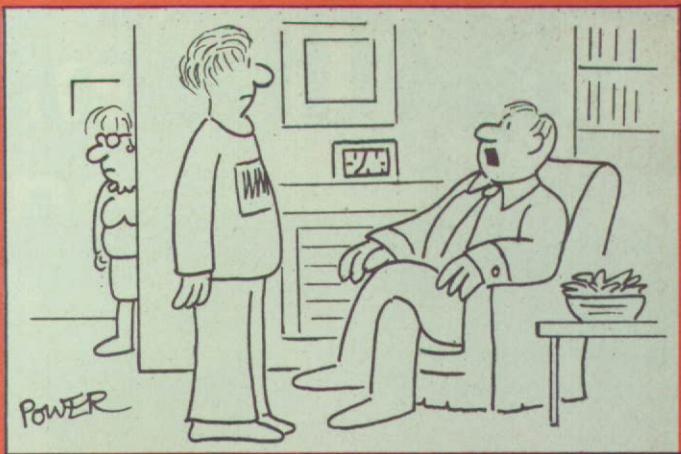


Story: John Walton

Pictures: Paul Haley



"And remember — no pecking!"

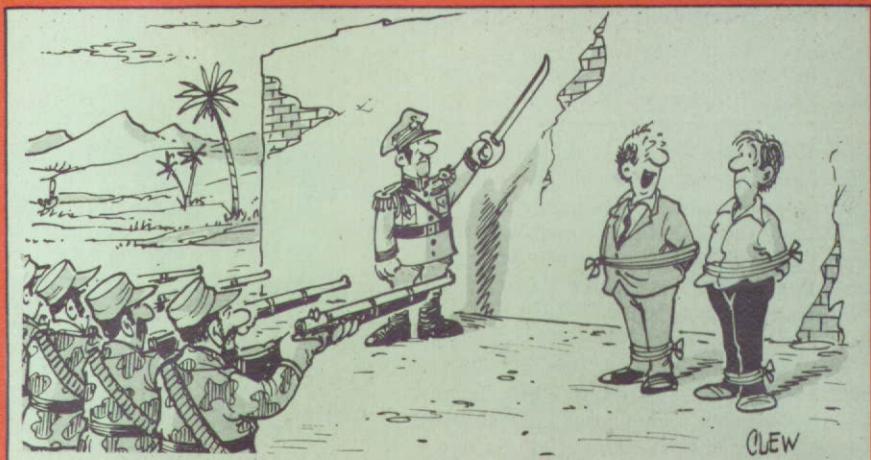


"Quite frankly, Terry, anyone wanting to marry my daughter isn't smart enough to be my son-in-law."

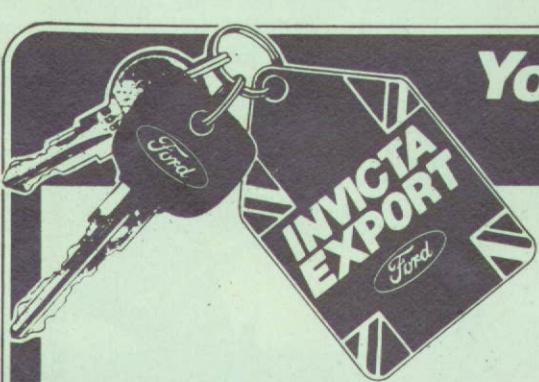
Humour



"Here comes your tossed salad now."



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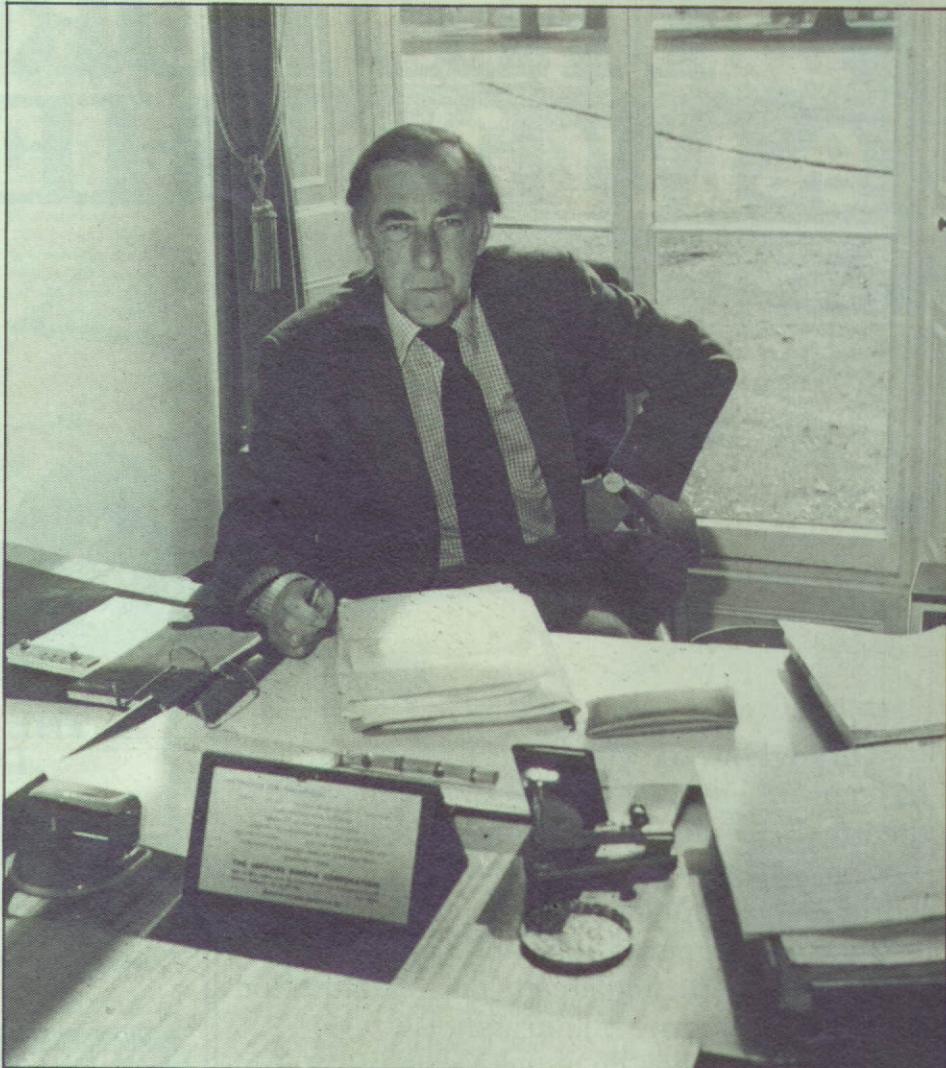
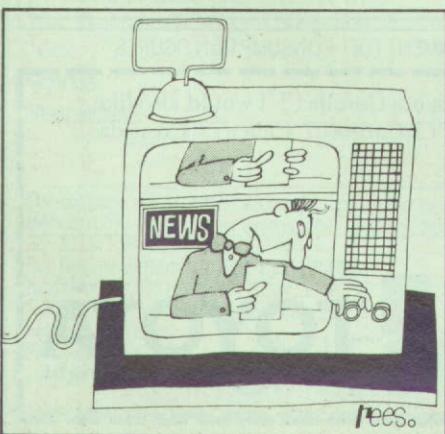
Getting it all together at the SSVC

BRINGING TOGETHER two venerable institutions like the British Forces Broadcasting Service and the Services Kinema Corporation into one new body requires a lot of experience and diplomacy — and John Grist, the managing director of the new company, Services Sound and Vision Corporation, fits the bill. His job over the next four years is to cement the marriage and he has no doubt that the Ministry of Defence was right to go for an outsider rather than someone from within one of the two organisations.

Mr Grist is 57 with 30 years experience in the world of radio and television. After going to Oxford University for a short time he went into the air force and was a pilot on operational service with Coastal Command at the tail end of the Second World War.

In 1946 he emerged to civilian life again and went to the London School of Economics followed by a year at the University of Chicago. "Then I decided that I did not want to become an academic." This decision led to his first appointment in broadcasting — as a radio producer with BBC External Services.

A year or two later he went to Nigeria on secondment to the local broadcasting service and on his return went to BBC Television. During the next 13 years he graduated via production assistant, director, producer and editor to be head of BBC TV's current affairs group. "One of my minor claims to fame is that I produced programmes for four ex-Prime Ministers and eight Chancellors of the Exchequer."



'We regard the business of providing programmes not just for the serviceman but for his family, as very important.'

In 1971 he became Controller for the BBC's regional stations — including such set-ups as Pebble Mill and the Natural History unit at Bristol. Then, in 1978, he went to the United States as the Corporation's representative there.

On his return the Director-General of the BBC told him that MOD were looking for 'a broadcaster with administrative experience' to handle the merger.

"I knew about both organisations. In the broadcasting world BFBS has a very good reputation. It has always been a great recruiting centre in that young people come in and get a good basic training before going on to the BBC or commercial radio or TV. The people who work for it work well and have a variety of different experience in different countries."

Mr Grist does not intend to be the new broom that instantly sweeps clean. He says that of course the merger will make internal differences but "in the terms of the chap who goes to the cinema in Germany or listens to the radio or watches TV he won't see much difference."

But there are some advances on the way.

In Germany, Mr Grist hopes that the radio service will be improved to give a lot more local information. And within the next year there will be live news and some live sport on the new TV link from the UK.

"The broadcasting service abroad is very important in providing a replacement for the entertainment services and things you expect at home as well as in overcoming isolation. We regard the business of providing programmes not just for the serviceman but for his family, as very important."

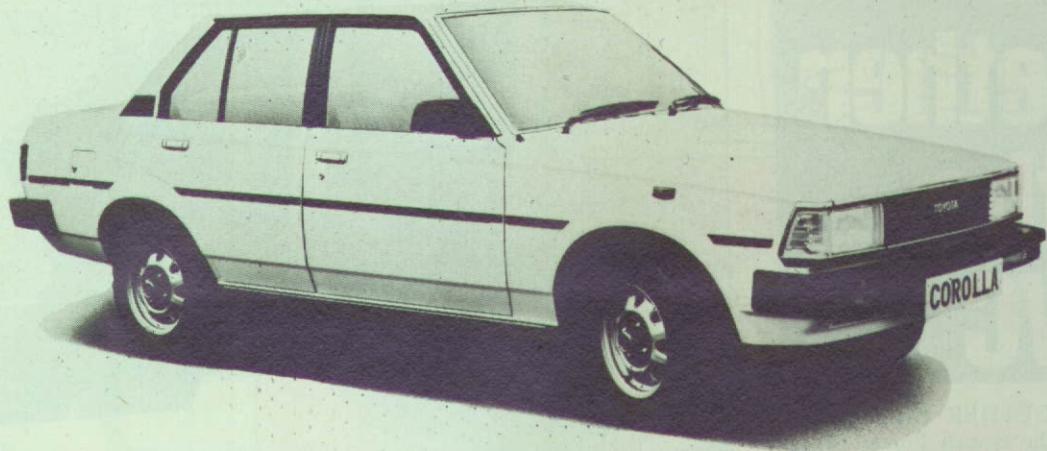
And Cyprus too could soon have some good news. For the new managing director revealed that there are moves afoot to provide a BFBS Television service for British servicemen and their families on the island. There is still a lot of talking to do but a scheme has been put forward.

The lease on the BFBS HQ, at King's Buildings, a stone's throw from the Houses of Parliament, expires in three years time. At that time it is expected that a radio production centre will remain somewhere in central London while other functions will be moved out to the less costly countryside.

John Grist is a man who finds that at 57 he still has an exciting job. He says: "I recommend everyone to change their job totally every five years. It's always more interesting to go into something new and start out from scratch."

"It's very interesting to come in as an outsider and learn about the three Services, how MOD works and to be involved in a broadcasting service as well as in film making. I'm very lucky."

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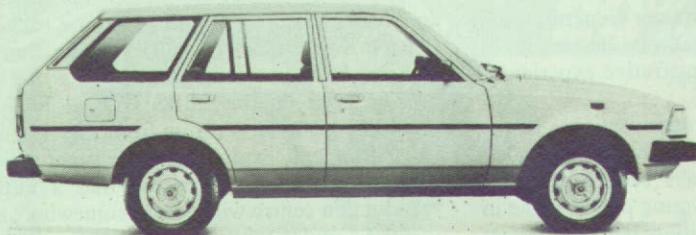
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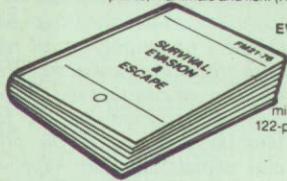
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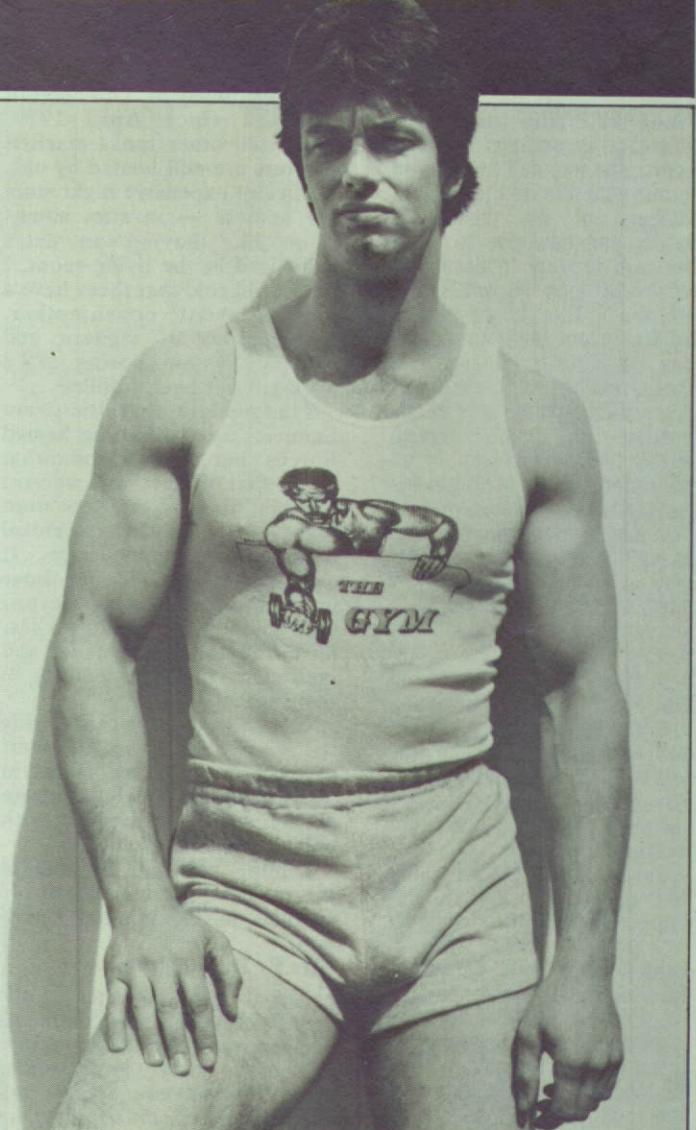
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"A SERVICE WIFE, like a Serviceman, is perhaps a breed apart. She has had to come to terms with the reality of the dangers of her husband's career and now has to show her own bravery in accepting what she took on when she married." This is an extract from a recent letter to a Sunday newspaper. I am sure these feelings, written by an Army officer's wife, sum up the position so many Service wives find themselves in as their men go into action in the Falklands crisis.

In any armed confrontation casualties are inevitable. But if they do occur how are families told? The MOD has a laid down procedure and has given me the details.

In the event of an incident in the South Atlantic involving low numbers of Army casualties, information would be passed to the Ministry of Defence PS 4 Casualties (Army) and the normal casualty procedure would operate.

But if a major casualty incident occurred, a Central Co-ordinating Cell (CCC) would be activated at HMS Nelson, Portsmouth. Once activated, the CCC would be manned on a 24 hour basis. It would be responsible for monitoring all casualty reporting activity, and for passing next of kin information and relevant details to other Service authorities.

Details of Army casualties would be passed to the Ministry of Defence PS 4 Casualties (Army) by the CCC or by other sources, ie C in C Fleet etc, who would in turn give the information to the relevant unit(s). Responsibility rests with the officer in charge of the unit rear party to notify next of kin. In cases where there is no unit rear party, units have been advised to make arrangements for informing next of kin with their District Headquarters or Regimental Association.

After the announcement of a major casualty incident, the media would be given the contact telephone numbers that next of kin should ring.

Our thoughts are with all our men in the South Atlantic. God bless you and may you come home safely.

Anne Armstrong

I read your article 'Aftermath' in the 11-24 January edition of SOLDIER and feel I must respond to the DAQ comment concerning improvements to heating systems in married quarters, particularly the last sentence, "old and inefficient night storage heaters have been replaced and where there are problems PSA will normally take remedial action."

I have lived at Donnington Garrison since April 1979. Some 140 other ranks married quarters are still heated by old, inefficient expensive night storage heaters — in size, something like having an extra sideboard in the living room. I have been told that these have a nine kilowatt consumption. Expectations of modern and cheaper systems being fitted have not yet been fulfilled.

I appreciate that there are financial cuts within the Armed Forces but find it somewhat ironic that officers' and warrant officers' married quarters were fitted with gas-fired central heating some years ago. It seems totally unfair that those least able to afford it, the private soldiers and junior NCOs, have the most expensive and inefficient form of heating in their homes.

It is little wonder that during the extremely harsh weather, many serious bursts occurred in water systems causing damage and distress to families with babies and young children.

I hope you will be able to inform DAQ of the plight of 140 families in Donnington Garrison.

Mrs B, Donnington.

I passed Mrs B's letter to the DAQ's office for their comments and received the following reply: "I fear that the very brief comment about the replacement of night storage heaters which appeared in SOLDIER magazine was imprecise and has unfortunately led to a misunderstanding of the situation.

"The position is as follows: the oldest type of heaters (known as Heatovent) have been replaced. We now have Treasury authority to replace the next oldest (known as Category A) and a programme to

achieve that is in hand. This will have cost us £650,000 by the end of this financial year when, PSA advise me, the programme will have been completed.

"The heaters installed in the Donnington quarters to which your reader refers are of a more recent vintage, though regrettably still expensive to run, inadequate and unsightly, and cannot be replaced under the present programme. I am now seeking Treasury approval to start replacing these Category B heaters, as they are known, so that we could make a start on them with a rolling programme based upon a consistent allocation of money for this each year.

"In addition to this specific programme, we can also replace night storage heaters with an alternative system to provide full central heating when married quarters as a whole are being modernised. I hope that in due course we can deal with the quarters at Donnington in this

ASK ANNE

way, since they are due for re-modernisation. Gas central heating will be installed at that time. There are regrettably many estates in this category and we have to allocate our limited funds on a system-of priorities relating to the age, state and occupancy levels of the various estates.

"I know that the fact we cannot do anything more quickly will disappoint many of the families but, as your reader has appreciated, financial cuts have had to be made in the Defence Vote and they have hit particularly hard at the works programme overall.

"The cost of totally replacing all free-standing storage heaters in Army married quarters will be in excess of seven million pounds so you can see that it is going to take time to resolve the problem entirely.

DID YOU KNOW?

THERE HAVE BEEN some changes in the regulations governing quartering charges which came into effect in April this year.

Soldiers who are living in sub-standard accommodation above their entitlement will only pay quartering charges based on the sub-standard rate for their entitlement. This only applies if they are occupying a quarter above their entitlement for Service reasons.

For example, a corporal entitled to a Type B married quarter but living in a sub-standard Type C married quarter for Service reasons, will only pay Type B sub-standard charges.

If he is occupying the Type C quarter for private reasons, however, he will have to pay the Type C sub-standard rate.

Make sure that you know what you are paying for your quarter.

Nevertheless, I am well aware of this problem, having now visited many married quarters and we will strive to produce money for this programme each year.

"There is one other point in your reader's letter on which I should comment: this is the fact that the officers' and soldiers' quarters at Donnington have different heating systems. I can assure you that there was no question of the officers being given preferential treatment in the choice of heating at the time of installation, although with hindsight it may seem that the soldiers' quarters with their night storage heaters have come off worst.

"At that time these heaters were being installed in large numbers, not only by MOD but also by local authorities. They were considered to compare favourably in all respects with other heating systems. We now know to our cost that this judgement was ill-considered but the fact is that the designers of the officers' and soldiers' quarters happened to recommend different heating systems for the houses and at that time there was no reason not to accept their recommendation.

"Finally, and to look on the brighter side in conclusion, the increased amount of thermal insulation which has been provided in married quarters should help conserve heat and keep costs down. You may like to know that the Army has spent some six million pounds on this, of which £900,000 will be spent this year to complete the programme."

ALL IN THE FAMILY

NANCY COMES THROUGH

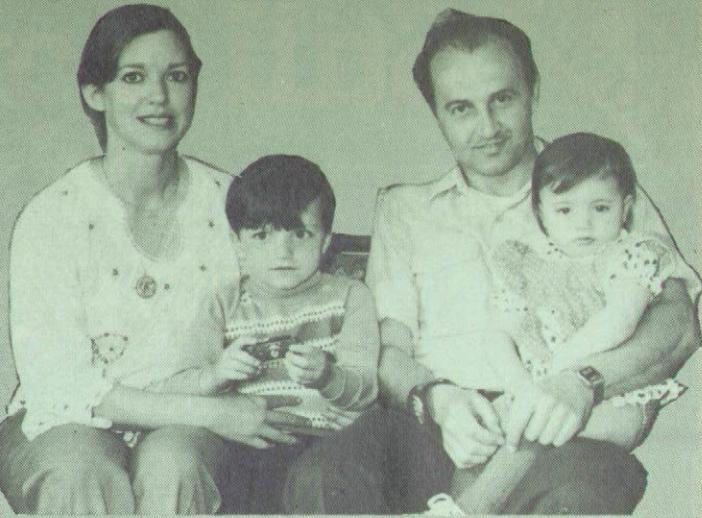
NANCY TERNENT'S blind date with Ian Kirby was an appointment with life arranged by a team of doctors from Westminster Hospital.

In November 1980 Nancy was diagnosed as having leukaemia coupled with double pneumonia and the search was on for a donor to enable the five young doctors to carry out the operation that could save her life. They were pioneering a method of transplanting bone marrow between two unrelated adults. It was a new and difficult method — and a risk.

In fact, Nancy returned home soon after the operation but had to go back to the Westminster a week later as she was so sick. "I thought this time I was really going to die. My weight dropped to six stone and they found I had a type of fungus which I could not keep under control. Normally one can, but not me. The nurses and doctors were so kind that I felt I must pull through so as not to let them down."

Her tribute to the doctors and nurses is echoed in their praise for her. "Nancy did cause us some sleepless nights but her faith, her marvellous courage and her willingness to co-operate, no matter what we asked, was tremendous", the team leader told me.

Nancy survived the operation and eventually returned home in time for Christmas, even though there had been setbacks along the road to recovery. "There were



Happy families — Nancy and George with Cameron and Kirsty.

Ian Kirby had remained anonymous until after the operation but he and Nancy have since got to know each other. "We did not meet in case I did not make it" said Nancy, adding "He's a wonderful person to have given me this chance of life."

So now, Nancy is back home with her husband George and their family in their Aldershot quarter. "Picking up the threads of life again is wonderful. George was marvellous at keeping the

home together all those months I was away. It can't have been easy with his job, two toddlers and visiting me in London." Cameron, now five years old, and two-year-old Kirsty are looking forward to the holiday in Disneyland which Nancy's mother, who lives in America, has promised them.

And Nancy herself is looking forward to a future that seemed far from bright nine months ago. Her first concern is to help to give others the same chance of life that she has had. "The haematology department at the Westminster Hospital needs money for the nurses and doctors there who work under such difficult conditions, so raising money is first, I guess", she explains.

"There is just one room available which desperately limits the numbers who can have this one last chance of life. The room has to be completely sterile and is washed down twice a day. A special filtration system, bathroom, toilet and cooking facilities as well as lots of smaller items would make life so much easier for the staff."

Every day sees Nancy stronger and more able to cope with her life. During her stay in the Westminster Hospital she had many visits from the BFBS UK team and she has now written to thank them for their kindness.

"I can at last write to you. All summer and autumn my hands were too shaky from all the drugs I was taking. I have been home since 23 December and I think I'm on my way now and won't be ill any more. When the weather gets better and I am able to do more, I'll come down to see you all. Meantime, I send you my thanks, Nancy."



Drawing on her experience — Joan the regimental artist

MISS JOAN WANKLYN is a familiar and valued member of the Royal Artillery Association, not only on account of her dedicated work as Chairman of the Association's Ladies Section but also for her reputation as an accomplished artist. Her pictures and prints hang on many a regimental mess wall and her first art exhibition at Leighton House, Kensington earlier this year attracted much interest.

In the early days Joan wrote and illustrated children's books but, soon, the hours spent gathering material at Bertram Mills Circus and the Royal Tournament generated a particular interest in sketching horses and portraits. Her fascination for the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery embraced both these subjects and she turned to the military painting for which she is well-known today.

There are no short cuts in

Joan's work and she can often be seen on the spot, unobtrusively sketching in some muddy field, in the middle of a crowd or co-



ton Horse Trials programme, and produced many personal portraits of well-known military figures and portraits of horses and pets for their devoted owners. She works in oil, pastel, watercolours and pencil.

In 1972 she published privately an illustrated history of the RHA at St John's Wood which she entitled *Guns at the Wood* and one of her biggest successes was a portfolio of fifteen sketches, commissioned by the Royal Regiment of Artillery, which were presented to Her Majesty the Queen in her Silver Jubilee Year. The collection was entitled *All the Queen's Horses* and included sketches made at Balmoral, Windsor, Sandringham, Holyrood and the Royal Mews.

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FORD ANNOUNCE

Still more major price reductions for British Forces.

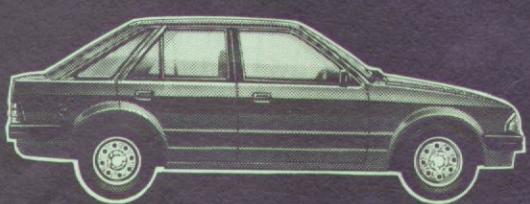
In response to public demand, Ford have undertaken a massive price reduction, economy and value-for-money programme. The benefits of this programme are now available to British Forces and the prices have been reduced even further.



The 1982 model Fiesta

For example:- Maximum tax-free price[†]

	April 1st, 1982	May 1st, 1982	Reduction
Fiesta 1300 GL	£3838	£3061	£777
Escort 1600 L3-door	£3904	£3190	£714
Cortina 2000 GL	£5123	£4056	£1067
Capri 2000 GL	£4576	£3874	£702
Granada 2300 GL	£7182	£5637	£1545



The 1982 model Escort

Ford have over eighty models for you to choose from. To begin with, there are the small but spacious Fiestas, ranging from the thrifty 950cc Popular to the luxurious 1300cc Ghia and the sporty 105 mph* 1600cc XR2.

Equally extensive is the 1982 Escort range, the most efficiently engineered car in its class.

Then comes the car above comparison, the Cortina, with a choice ranging from a 1300cc saloon to a 2.3 litre V6 Ghia.

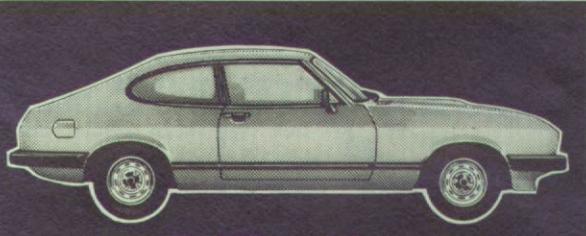
The Capri, the sporting coupé with hatchback-carrying capacity, is amazing value for money.

As for the 1982 range of Granadas, these superb saloons and estates make even a 200 mile drive effortless and enjoyable.



The 1982 model Cortina

What's more, you'll find there's never been a better time to buy, and remember, all Ford vehicles are fully equipped to meet B.F.G. legal requirements which include Continental headlamps, rear fog lamps, passenger door mirror and rear seat belts.



The 1982 model Capri

[†]Maximum tax-free price includes front seat belts. Delivery and number plates at extra cost.

*Ford computed figures.

For more information about the whole range of 1982 Fords, just contact: any Ford dealer in Britain, your local NAAFI car sales showroom in Germany, NAAFI, Nottingham, or Natocars, Bridgwater, Somerset.



The 1982 model Granada

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Last July **SOLDIER** featured interviews with three men on Army Resettlement courses who were about to embark — they hoped — on completely new careers in civvy street. We promised to look them up later and report on their progress. But with three million unemployed they have all found that . . .

BLUE NOTES FOR THE BANDMASTER

A YEAR AGO John Swales was a Warrant Officer 2 and bandmaster in the Army. His hope was to get into a sales position and to this end he went on a sales course at the Catterick Resettlement Centre.

Today the musical notes are definitely blue for the 22-year Army man. He is unemployed and finds that every job he applies for has anything from 150 applicants upwards.

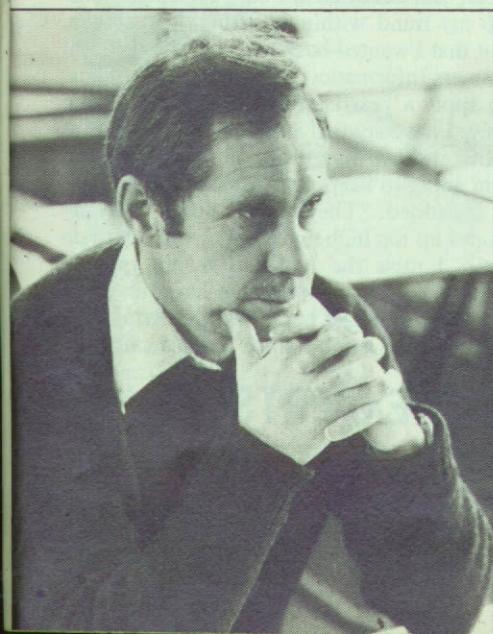
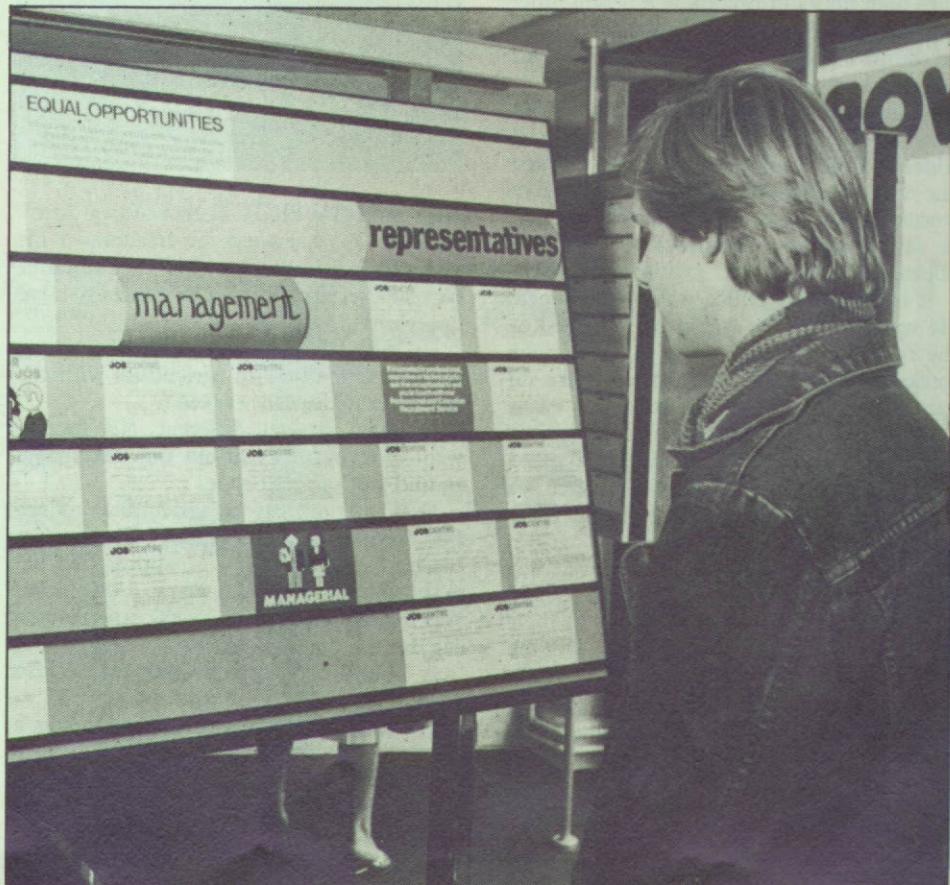
When he left the Army Mr Swales applied John Swales — "I feel wasted . . ." ▼



It's cold outside

The Jobcentre — doorway on a new career or first step in a road leading nowhere? ▲

Vacancies on offer — but with three million unemployed the competition is keen. ▼



RESETTLEMENT *continued*

for about 100 sales positions and only managed to get on three short lists. He then went into insurance — "It was not what I wanted but I took it gratefully."

But the knocking on doors in Dorset proved to be hard and unprofitable. Recently he was sacked for not reaching his sales quota.

"They build you up to be middle management in the Army and then you are out on the streets and you are nothing," he says. "To kick a man out of the Army at 40 today is crazy. What annoys me is that people who get big redundancy pay get a year's pay while they are retraining. From the Army you get a month."

And John had one or two other slaps in the face to tell about. Like the firm who offered him a job provided he would take a reduced salary "as I had my Army pension to live on." And the other one who said they would not take him on because they had a lot of female employees "and an ex-sergeant-major would make them cry and they would all be out on strike in a couple of days."

He has strong feelings about Army resettlement. "It needs to be improved a lot or disbanded altogether. They bring back the guys who have done awfully well but they never let you meet the ones who have not. I should be at my peak earnings now with three kids of 16, 13 and ten. I feel wasted really..."

WHY CLIFF CAME BACK

WHEN SOLDIER last met Clifford Penn he was a staff-sergeant in the 17th/21st Lancers and about to go out into civilian life with high hopes of becoming a prison officer. But those hopes were dashed and today he counts himself lucky to be back with his old regiment at Munster as a sergeant.

Sergeant Penn did well in the selection tests following his Resettlement course at Aldershot and was told that he had obtained one of the best passes. And he has no harsh words for the Resettlement Service, which he says at no time attempted to raise false hopes.

It is the Home Office whom he blames. He was told that he would be informed of the result of his application in about four weeks — a friend was told there were no vacancies but he heard nothing.

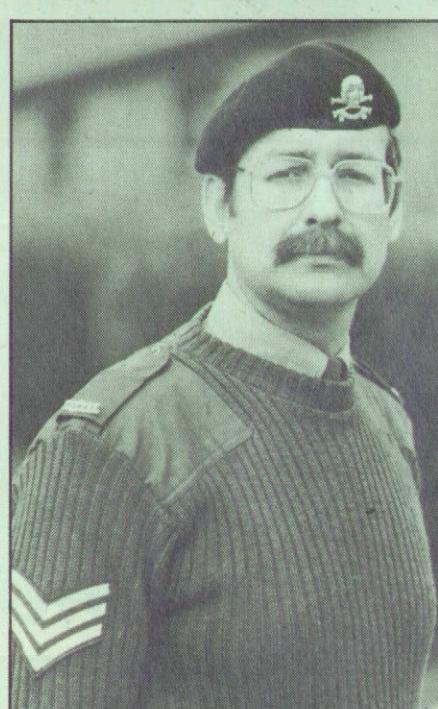
Staff Penn became Mr Penn and took a small job to tide him over until the expected offer. Then — some eight weeks after his application — the bolt came from the blue. There were no vacancies!

He was lucky in these times in that he was readmitted to the Army. Now he is stationed at Munster while his wife remains at their house in Dorset. Hopefully they will be re-united later this year.

"I am disappointed not to have got into the prison service. On the other hand I have a secure job in the Army and I am pretty happy with life again. It's a cold world outside. I don't think I will try for the prison service again. I was psyched up to go into it but I think I will have changed my mind in a further seven years time."

Army Resettlement experts commented as follows on the case of John Swales: 'While it is true that present constraints limit the length of pre-release resettlement training to a maximum of 28 days, the opportunity exists for Service personnel to apply for retraining post release under the TOPS, Training Opportunities Scheme.'

The Ministry of Defence is aware of the attitudes that some local authorities and other employers have to the employment of those drawing a pension and representations have been made on account of individual cases.



Cliff Penn — glad to be back in uniform.

JIM'S BIG MISTAKE

PRIVATE JIM PROUT, of the Royal Army Medical Corps, envied the freedom of his toolseter brother — 'our kid' — and, after six years' service, decided he wanted to leave the Army.

He was given the chance of a month-long resettlement course in agriculture with the aim of being a farm worker.

But now, it is all different. Not for the want of trying, 25 year-old Jim was unable to find work of that type.

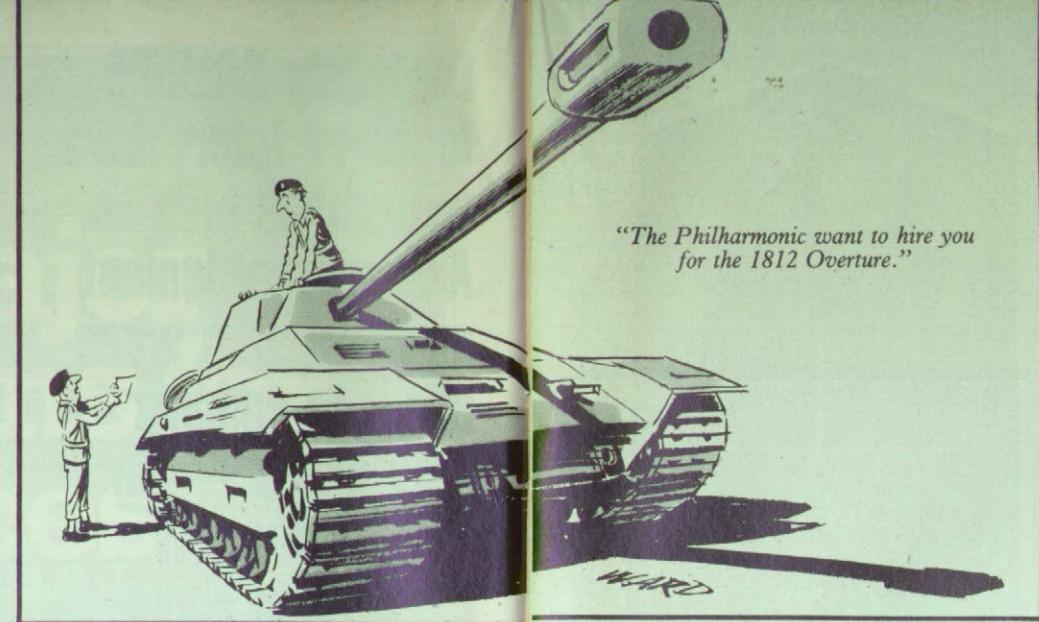
He had applied to an agricultural college but they were unable to help. Drawing on his medical experience, he approached the ambulance service for a job as a driver but was told he needed two years' experience. He did not qualify.

A bid to become a hospital nurse also failed.

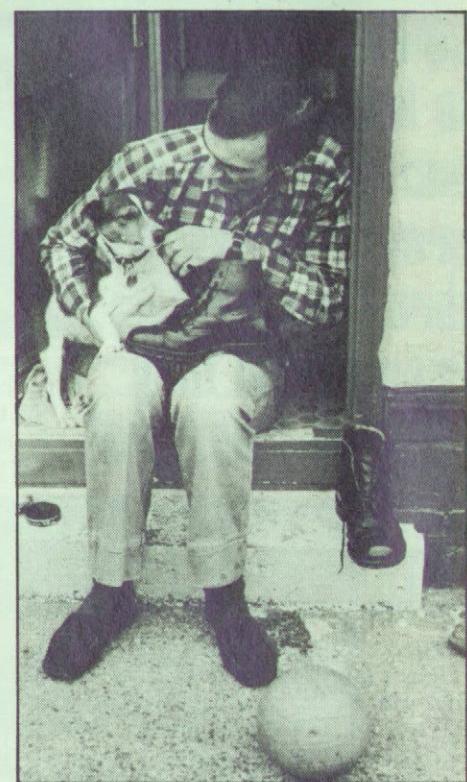
Now, he wants to re-join the Army as a medic.

"It was the most foolhardy mistake I ever made, leaving the Army. I suppose I was stubborn," said Jim at his Ellesmere Port home. "I envied the freedom of our kid."

In fact, Jim is so eager to re-join the



"The Philharmonic want to hire you for the 1812 Overture."



Jim Prout — no luck on the farm.

Regulars he is a part-time medic — a State Enrolled Nurse — with 208 Field Hospital (V), based in Liverpool.

Away from the Army since April of last year, Jim admitted: "I suppose I had made up my mind within a fortnight of coming out that I wanted back in. I went to the local Careers Information Office and they told me to apply a year later if I still felt the same way. I have applied and the application is at Chester. I'm wiser now, more mature and I'm going to keep my nose clean."

He added: "They told me not to build my hopes up too high and I am trying not to do that. I miss the Army. I've got no real mates. You realise what you have missed. I really want to get back into the Army. It's the only job I know since leaving school."

THE EXPERTS SAY...

ALTHOUGH WE FELT that readers would be interested to see how our three resettlement candidates had fared since we spoke to them on their courses, we would not seek to draw any conclusions

gures shows that, hardly surprisingly, it is those who lack civilian qualifications who have the greatest difficulty in gaining suitable placement. Clearly, the moral is to prepare well ahead for eventual return to civilian life, to seize opportunities to acquire skills that are transferable and to apply to attend some of the extensive range of advice and training courses organised by the Army resettlement service.

ARELC, the Army Resettlement Employment Liaison Cell within the Ministry of Defence exists to help with job finding for officers, warrant officers and ranks down to and including Sergeant with 12 years service; that is those with market-

able management skills or some special qualification.

In addition, soldiers should register with the Regular Forces Employment Association (RFEA), the Services' own employment agency with offices throughout the country. Also, in many Job Centres there is a nominated official briefed to deal with the special problems of the ex-regular.

TOPS courses can be undertaken after discharge in a wide variety of skills and trades. Both Services Resettlement Bulletins and posters distributed to all units outline resettlement provision and full information on all aspects of it is available from RAEC resettlement advisers.

And some advice from the RFEA . . .

THE REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION currently advises and assists some 10,000 Servicemen and women each year and directly helps around 50 per cent of them find employment. RFEA's General Manager, Major-General Michael Hogge, offers some valuable tips for those still serving:

- The grass is not always greener on the other side — if you still enjoy your well paid job and are able to sign on, do so.
- If you decide to leave your Service take full advantage of the combined resources of the Services Resettlement Organisation, MSC and RFEA and start your preparation 1½-2 years ahead. Enhance your skills which are marketable in your area, and if necessary learn to drive. If you have the necessary qualification join a Union before you leave, you may find it more difficult to do so as a civilian.
- Be as mobile and flexible as you can in your search for employment. You may not find it on your doorstep and you may have to sell your house and buy elsewhere. Be circumspect over taking on a mortgage based on

your service pay. Those registering for Council housing should use family connections to apply to more than one Council, thus giving more flexibility in job hunting.

● 'Sell' yourself to maximum advantage with every form you complete, every letter you write, and in every interview you are granted.

● Make the maximum use of friends and relations to establish opportunity contacts.

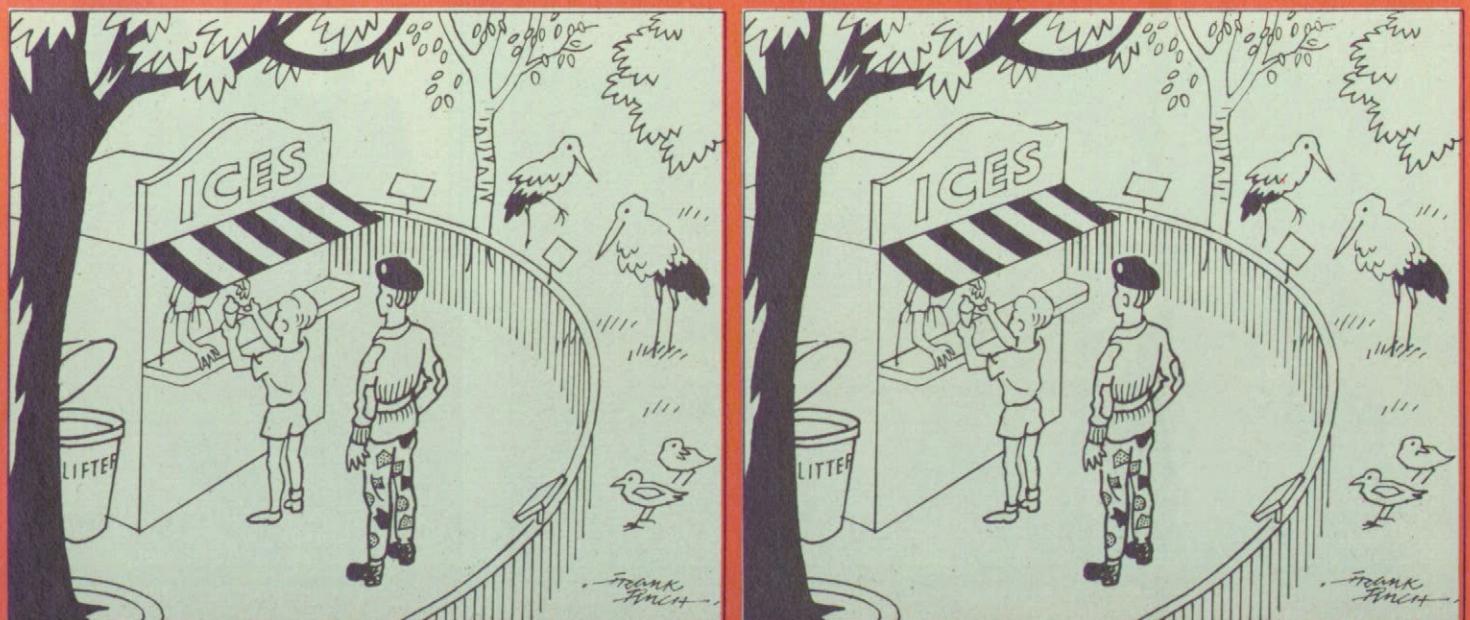
● When release is imminent discipline yourself to a regular pattern of job seeking. Job Centres, RFEA, in newspapers (still the best media), 'on spec' letters, etc.

● Set a realistic minimum acceptable salary level and then use your inherent qualities, skills and experience to improve your standard of living by promotion, or by using the experience gained in your first job to secure a better job in due course.

● If unemployed, visit your local RFEA Employment Officer for advice, assistance and general counsel as often as you wish. Do not postpone registering for Unemployment Benefit.

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

How observant are you?



Graham Smith meets some of the soldiers who are helping in the fight against . . .

TOMORROW'S NASTIEST ENEMY

IT WAS THE GERMANS who started the grim business of gas warfare at Ypres in 1915. And ever since then boffins from all over the world have been developing ever more sophisticated — and sinister — chemical warfare techniques in the search for future battlefield supremacy.

At the same time, research and development on countering these terrible weapons has been constantly refined over the years. And individual soldiers have become increasingly eager to learn what such developments will mean for them in any future combat environment.

Indeed, British soldiers of the Eighties are so interested in the subject that many are willingly breaking that tired old Service maxim — 'never volunteer' — and are letting themselves become human guinea pigs at the 7500-acre Porton Down Chemical Defence Establishment six miles north east of Salisbury. What's more, they are getting paid for it.

CDE, staffed by 18 tri-Service personnel and 600 civilians, is the UK centre for research and development work on defence

Bucket and spade work tests efficiency in NBC kit. ▼



Observers keep close watch on volunteers' performance. ▼



Pictures: Andy Burridge

against chemicals which may be used in war.

Service volunteers are always needed and made extremely welcome. The Establishment's experts have been engaged in this particular line of business for 66 years now and its scientists readily concede that much of the work could not be achieved without the goodwill of its 'guinea pig' helpers.

CDE needs about two dozen volunteer intakes a year, each of a dozen members. Applications are invited through Joint Service Defence Council Instructions (DCIs) and bring in a crop of willing customers.

Last year, for instance, 103 soldiers from the UK and BAOR, 39 RAF personnel and 27 Royal Navy and Royal Marine members attended at Porton in response to the DCI. Many others attended for periods varying between half-a-day and six weeks and eight women also underwent the Porton tests.

Some of the tests include those for skin sensitivity, evaluation of new protective

clothing and respirators, assessment of the safety and effectiveness of substances used in peace-keeping activities and their means of delivery, and medical research into measures to prevent and treat chemical warfare casualties.

The skin sensitivity tests, for example, determine whether materials under consideration for defensive equipment have any effect on the skin of the wearer. Clothing tests monitor the ability of personnel using the equipment to work efficiently in various climatic conditions.

Lieutenant-Colonel David Wilkinson, Military Administrative Officer at CDE Porton for the past three years, told SOLDIER: "The DCI method of recruitment is only part of the story. Units themselves offer volunteers and there is always room for more.

"CDE is well aware of the many pressures on commanding officers and the difficulties of releasing personnel for duties outside the role of their command but I must stress that our Service volunteer scheme plays a really important part in the development of

chemical defence equipment.

"Other than DCIs, volunteers are supplied, for example, by 30 Signal Regiment at Blandford, which happens to be near and is very interested in helping. Our age limits are 18 with an upper limit of 35 and the programmes are open to Regular Service personnel only and not the TA. We do have the satisfied customer who keeps coming back for more who, in turn, gets more people from his unit."

Volunteers, incidentally, have the option to refuse any test or series of tests they are asked to undergo but all the test programmes are rigorously examined by an external medical safety board before they are carried out. The refusal rate at Porton, they say, is very low.

All potential volunteers are very carefully medically screened before and after their stay at Porton.

The women volunteers are usually there to test out respirators — they have smaller faces — or smaller-sized NBC suits and boots.

Lt-Col Wilkinson pointed out: "Motivation, as I see it, is not just financial. We believe people want to come here out of interest. The money is a very nice optional extra and plays an important but not predominant part. It would seem like buying men, a thing which we would never, ever wish to do for this kind of work."

"The rates of additional pay are subject to review from time to time but a volunteer staying for a fortnight could earn up to £70 — less tax — depending on the number of tests undertaken. Unaccompanied volunteers from BAOR retain their Local Overseas Allowance (LOA) for up to 20 days."

He added: "I think we are the leaders among Nato in what we are doing. CDE's name indicates that its total work is to do with chemical defence and understanding the nature of what we may have to defend ourselves against."

"Our scientists must have knowledge of the likely agents that comprise chemical warfare. We develop medicines for use before or immediately after a chemical warfare attack; also clothing and equipment for the

continued on page 28

Monitoring performance on special bicycle machine.



Filling and emptying drill is repeated 10 times. ▼



Serviceman."

Lt-Col Wilkinson confirmed that no test of any germ or biological agent is ever carried out on the volunteers. Every aspect of the research programmes is carefully planned and given extensive scientific back-up.

As for the 'guinea pigs' themselves, they seemed to have no regrets at putting their names forward.

Private Gerry Havercroft, Royal Pioneer Corps from Münster, said: "I'm interested in NBC. We have been spoon-fed it in lectures and I've seen blokes just fall asleep but now it's given me an insight being here at Porton.

"I'll definitely volunteer to come here again."

While Corporal Garry Horton, a QDG clerk at Sandhurst, gave his reasons for coming: "I wanted to see the people who design the clothing and find out if they have to wear it like me."

For Sapper John Lovell, stationed at Osnabrück, the prime motivation was to see what clothing would possibly be coming into Army service and how it was tested.

And Air Trooper Simon Kinsey, Army Air Corps based at Soest, said: "I wanted to see the equipment tested, too, and to see if Porton was everything they said it was."

SOLDIER also got the reactions of two female soldier volunteers, Lance Corporal Jane Craig of 13 Signal Regiment and Private Mary Blandford from 22 Sqn RCT.

Jane explained that she had volunteered in response to a DCI having "always been interested in NBC and very curious in what went on at CDE."

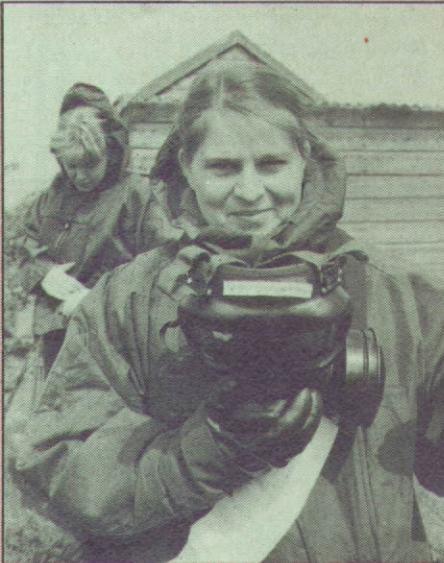
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Private Mary Blandford.

"We take part in two tests a day," she explained. "In the first test we have to walk around a half mile course ten times and each round is timed. We are weighed before and after the test.

"In the second test we have to fill up a bucket of sand, carry it to another pile, empty it and repeat the process another nine times.

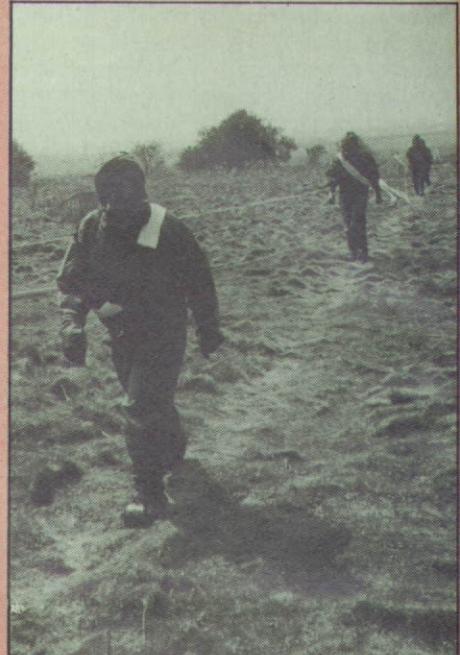
"You are timed on how long it takes you to complete the ten buckets. After the tenth bucket we have to walk round the half mile course once, then fill the ten buckets again. All this is timed. And then we have a rest for half an hour and repeat the process.

"We do this every day in normal combat clothing but next week we shall be carrying out the tests in full NBC clothing and respirator. This is to find out how much longer it takes to complete them when hindered by NBC equipment.

"I've only been here four days but I've thoroughly enjoyed every moment so far."

Mary Blandford was similarly enthusiastic. "There are many reasons why I came here but the main one was curiosity. People had told me so many different stories about the place that I decided to come and find out what happened for myself."

Lt-Col Wilkinson summed up the 'Porton Connection' thus: "There is a degree of discomfort over and above what the soldier might be expected to undergo when he comes to CDE but every effort is made to



Volunteers must walk course 10 times.

ensure that the Service volunteer has an interesting and enjoyable stay here.

"Accommodation has recently been improved with most volunteers occupying single rooms. There are facilities for most sports, a club room — with colour TV — and there are opportunities every evening and at weekends to visit places like Salisbury, Stonehenge and other sights."

So, for the soldier who wants to learn more about chemical defence equipment and clothing — and earn a few bob in the process — the message is clear: Join the Porton guinea pigs. ■



Lance Corporal Jane Craig. ▲



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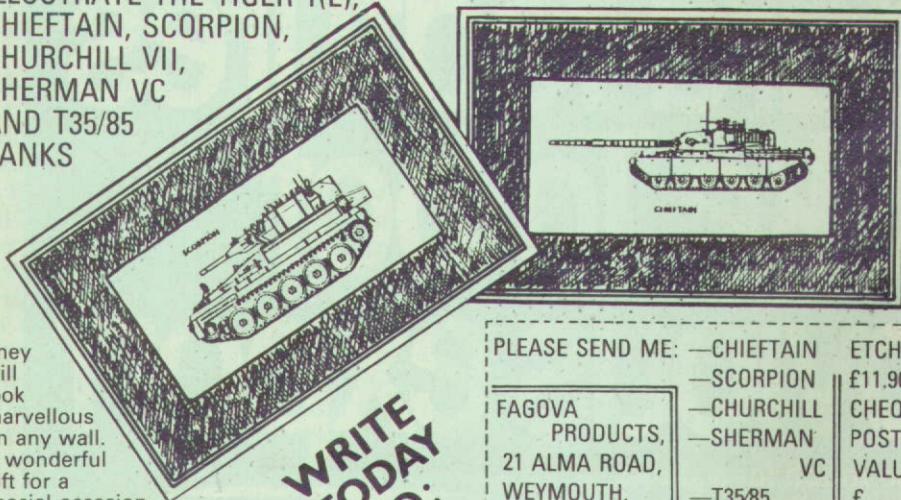
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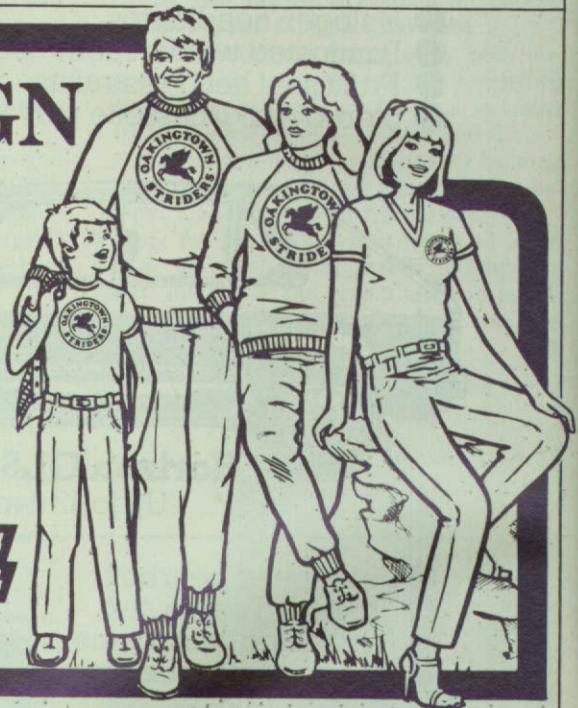
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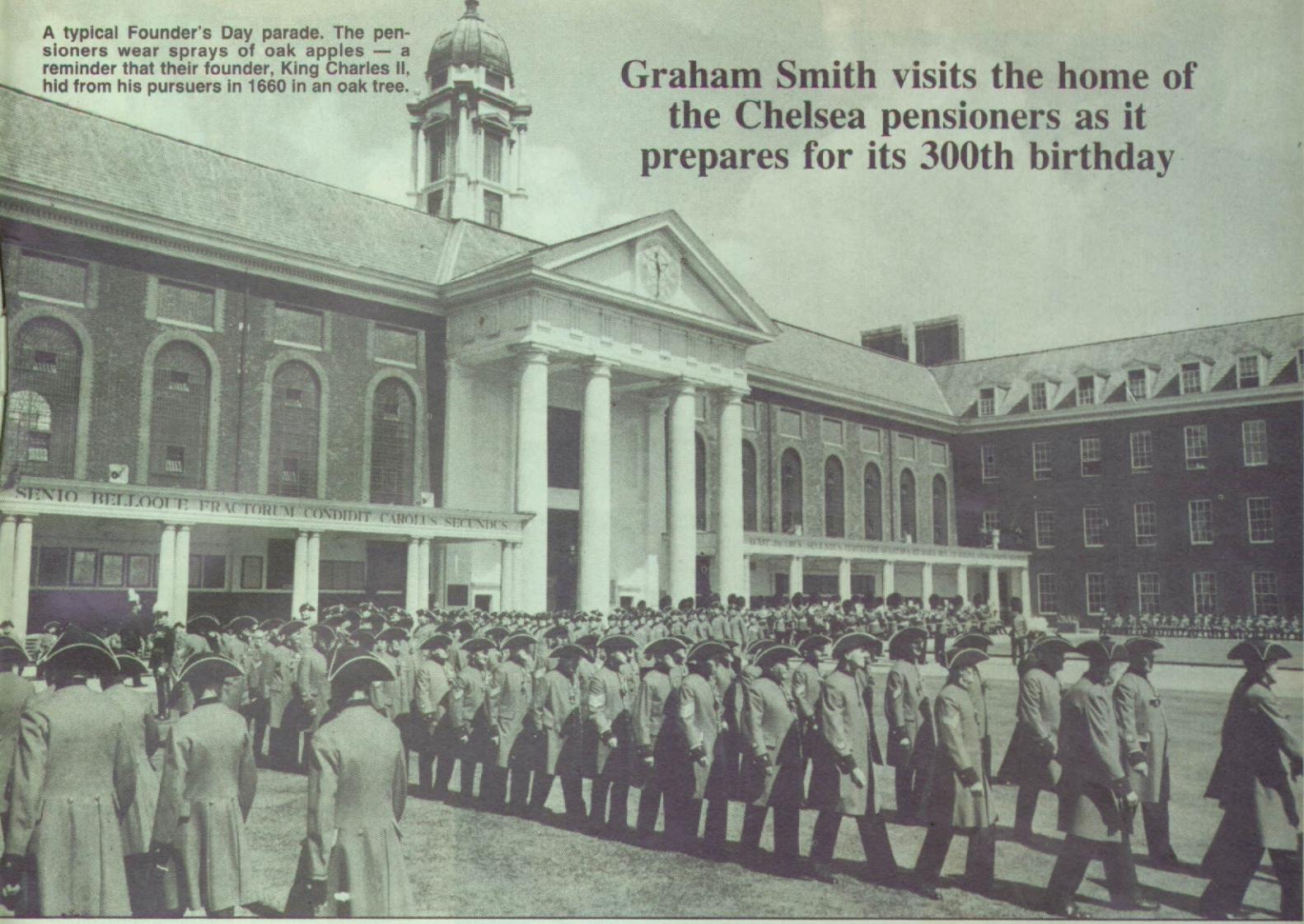
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FOR USE IN MODEL

A typical Founder's Day parade. The pensioners wear sprays of oak apples — a reminder that their founder, King Charles II, hid from his pursuers in 1660 in an oak tree.

Graham Smith visits the home of the Chelsea pensioners as it prepares for its 300th birthday



STILL SOLDIERING ON

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL, 'home' to 430 scarlet-coated Chelsea Pensioners who are among London's most venerable tourist attractions, celebrates the 300th anniversary of its Founder's Day on June 10.

On that day and formed up into four companies, the residents of the Wren-inspired buildings formed round three quadrangles will be reviewed by the Queen on an annual parade at which the band has to keep time with the marchers.

The gallant old soldiers — two are aged 98 and one has lived there for 25 years — will march at 80-to-the-minute with the accompaniment of the Regimental Band of the Irish Guards.

As one veteran quipped: "On Founder's Day, the Chelsea 'tummies' will be well out as we march around!"

The Foundation Stone was laid in 1682 but the Hospital's administration frankly admits that no one knows exactly where it is within the 60 acres of magnificent grounds sweeping down to the Thames Embankment.

Although founded by that monarch in 1682 the Hospital did not admit its first in-pensioner until ten years later. It was proclaimed that the Hospital had been built for "the relief of indigent officers and maimed and decayed soldiers".

continued on page 32

A quiet stroll behind the colonnade. ▶

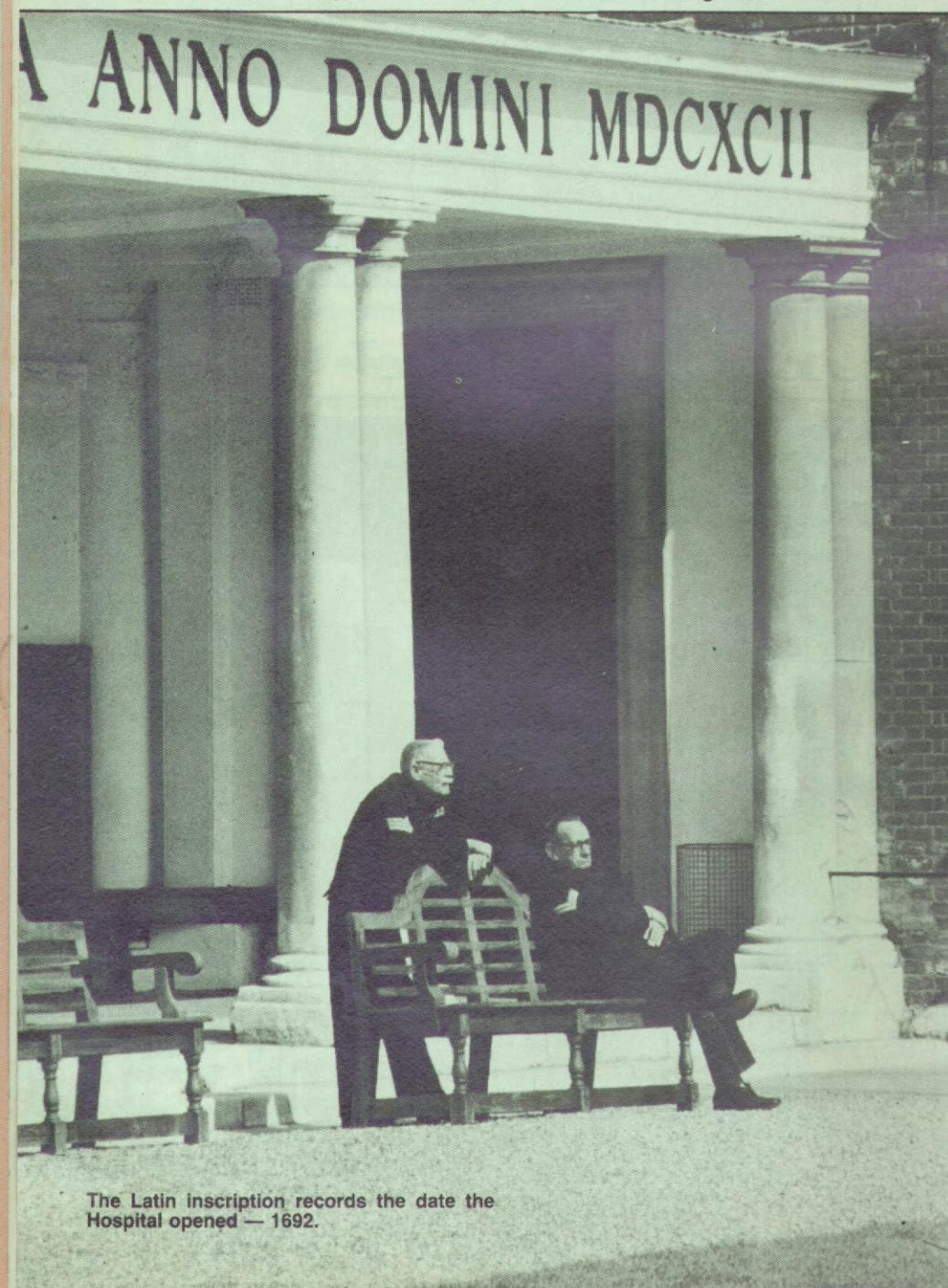




Old guns outside the chapel.



Lunch in the magnificent Great Hall.



The Latin inscription records the date the Hospital opened — 1692.

Eligibility for admission says that a pensioner must have been a regular soldier of good character, be in receipt of a Service pension, be over the age of 55, unmarried and capable of looking after himself.

Enrolled at the Hospital, he surrenders his Service or military disability pension in return for free board and lodging, clothing and medical attention. He gets six weeks' leave a year and a ration allowance.

The men are organised into half-a-dozen companies boasting six sergeant-majors, six colour-sergeants, 18 sergeants and 18 corporals.

Every pensioner has his own small, furnished bed-sittingroom and he eats in the surrounds of Wren's Great Hall which serves as the dining room.

The average age of the in-pensioners is 77 and many of them have jobs within the Hospital itself such as gardening or looking after the Museum or Library for which they are paid a nominal sum.

Mr Michael Raymer, the Hospital's Assistant Secretary, who retires in July told SOLDIER: "Some chaps come in sharp at 65 and the reason that more don't is that they are still married. We can admit a chap

A peep through the chapel doors.



if he is married but tell him that we require a certificate from his wife that she is content that he stays here and she will make no claim on him. We have a dozen men here who are still married. We insist on the certificate for their own protection. We cannot have people coming here to escape from their marriage obligations."

Some of the in-pensioners themselves, though, do reverse the trend from time to time. Four or five of them have found themselves brides during recent years.

Mr Raymer, formerly in the Colonial Service in Nigeria and then a captain in the West African Frontier Force, added: "The Royal Hospital will continue to do what it has always done: look after old soldiers. Often I am asked if we will be able to continue to fill the Royal Hospital in years to come. We are still filling it from yesterday's Army and the day-before-yesterday's Army. We've still got 100 World War One men and we are not yet into the World War Two 'bulge'. There are plenty more of those soldiers to come."

Certainly, the in-pensioner's life need not be a lonely one. London theatres send tickets to the Royal Hospital. So, too, do the Wimbledon organisers. And each year, the London Taxi Drivers' Association sends round two dozen cabs to take up to 80 of the old soldiers down to Brighton for the day.

Mr Raymer stressed: "They can have a jolly good time here, especially if they are fit, because people are terribly kind to them. I never cease to be surprised by people's kindness. They are, in a sense, national pets. They are awfully well worth entertaining. The elderly like talking and our men have plenty of opportunity for talking. They are delightful people."

And what of the Hospital's longer term future, say three decades hence. Might they, one day, admit women?

"It's difficult to say what the Royal Hos-



A chance to rest old bones.

pital might be like in those days," said Mr Raymer. "Assuming there is not another World War and considering the Army and its present size we might be short of in-pensioners. When that happens and I emphasise that it will not be for a long time, they will have to think about what they are going to do and perhaps starting admitting the Navy and the Air Force. They don't have anything like it.

"As for admitting women, in theory it

would be possible, but you would have to alter the whole arrangement of the buildings. It would be very much simpler to retain the male occupation under the original Statute of taking men from the Army and I think that situation should continue for the next 20 or 30 years." ■

Some of the photographs in this article are taken from SOLDIER's picture archives and not all the in-pensioners shown are necessarily resident at the Royal Hospital today.

No 17 THE ROYAL TANK REGIMENT

WHEN SO MANY of our regiments can trace back their history over several centuries, it is interesting to reflect that the Royal Tank Regiment was formed well within the scope of living memory and that some of its original members are still around. When a small unit of the Machine Gun Corps was formed on 16th February 1916, the first name suggested for it was that of 'Tank Detachment'. This was not adopted however and in March it became known as 'Armoured Car Section Machine Gun Corps' and in May 'Heavy Section MGC'. Later, in November, it changed again to 'Heavy Branch MGC', finally being designated 'The Tank Corps' on 28th July 1917 and remaining as such until granted the prefix 'Royal' in October 1923. It took on its present title in April 1939.

Few regiments three times the age can boast a more splendid fighting career or a more glorious list of battle honours than the 'Tanks'. One can only admire the courage and tenacity that its early crews displayed when operating landships which were 'sometimes almost as dangerous to themselves as to the enemy. Although at first badly employed by high command, they contributed vastly — and in an amazingly short time — to the victories that ended the Great War. In the Second World War, with equipment that was, initially, inferior to that of their main adversary, they again earned the respect and admiration of friend and foe alike.

The initial cap badge worn by the officers and men who were to form the nucleus of this Regiment was that of 'the Machine Gun Corps described as "Crossed machine guns surmounted by an Imperial crown" in gilding metal. Upon achieving the status of a separate entity as the Tank Corps another badge came into use: "A laurel wreath surmounted by an Imperial crown. Across the top of the wreath a scroll inscribed 'Tank' and across the bottom of the wreath a scroll inscribed 'Corps'. Within the wreath an early pattern tank". In gilding metal, this badge was worn from July 1917 until replaced by the pattern sealed on 22nd October 1924, when the design was altered to be "A Tank within a laurel wreath ensigned with an Imperial crown. Across the bottom of the wreath a scroll inscribed 'Fear Naught' in gilding metal". Shortly afterwards the same pattern was struck in white metal to be worn in the beret, with the approval of King George V. But this revealed a snag, for the badge was no longer worn in the centre of the head and the tank appeared to be in retreat. A similar format was therefore produced with the tank travelling to the wearer's right, also in white metal. Finally, the badge bearing the St Edward's crown of our present Queen came into use in white metal, to be followed by the anodised silver version, which is worn today.

Arthur L Kipling and Hugh L King

Your Cap Badge



Next issue:
The Royal Artillery

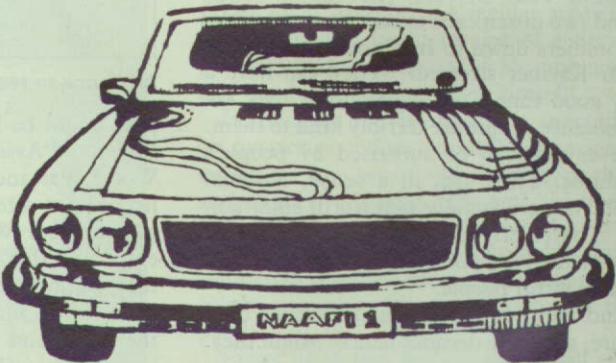
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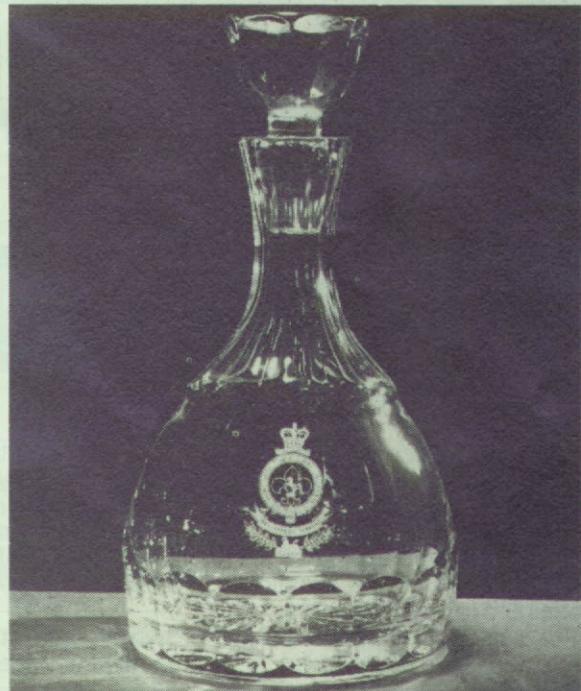
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On the Record



with Rodney Bashford

Berlin Tattoo 1981, Musical Highlights

Producer: Major M. J. Parker. Musical Director: Major A J Richards, HQ Berlin Inf Bde. BBT 4.

This must have thrilled the Berliners, who for obvious reasons need every diversion from the humdrum daily round of a beleaguered city, especially from visiting entertainers. A whole mass of them of course took part in the Tattoo with 3 bands, five corps of drums, a pipe band, massed harps, yes, massed harps, loads of buglers, the Morriston Orpheus Choir, plus the mounted band of the Life Guards proving that Britain is not quite broke yet. If there just happens to be seven bands with bugles from the Light Division, including all three of the Royal Green

Jackets, old Emperor Nepos still has his uses. And what a show they seem to have given, the imaginative musical arrangements played at a correct 140 making so much more impact than the usual frantic 160 paces a minute.

The show begins with an extended fanfare on trumpets, harps, choir and Grenadiers Band for the *Presentation of the First Prince of Wales*, arranged and conducted by Major Kimberley. Then *Mounting the Guard*, first in period uniform and music then in modern fashion; no words of command unfortunately but the music is attractive. After a Welsh interlude in which the choir takes the trouble to learn the German words to *Weinland*, the massed bands play the *Toreadors' March* from Carmen, from Il Trovatore.

tore, and a bit of Berlioz — operation opera in fact, with a scalpel or two left inside the body. More theatrical excerpts come with Purcell's famous *Rondo from Abdelazar*, the *Die Fledermaus March*, and with the choir the *Aida Triumphal March*. All very effective and played with great verve, ending in a march off to the Goodbye tune from *White Horse Inn*.

The Light Division include *Bugler in Vienna* and their bugle show-piece *Post Horn and Echo*; the Life Guards some find old cavalry marches new to me, and the whole show ends with the massed performers in *Procession of the Nobles*, *Royal Standard*, *High on a hill*, more Welshery in *Loudly Proclaim*, and obligatory *Berliner Luft*. In all a welcome mixture of mostly fresh music in attractive arrangements.

From Berlin Inf Bde, BFPO 45, or DR Recording Services, 36 Garrick Gdns, West Molesey, Surrey. £4.60 plus p&p.

Sounds of Ceremony

Band of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. Conductor: Captain R J Parker. Music Masters. MM 0584.

The Band celebrated its 60th birthday last year so this can be considered a jubilee offering. And a good one it is, with music by four past and present Directors of Music and a specially written *Birthday Celebration* by Richard Lambert of the Ward Freeman School, Hertfordshire. This turns out to be an extended fanfare for band in uproarious, not to say frenetic, erratic, and eclectic style likely to become tiring if not tiresome on repeated listening.

Side one is admitted to be "for the use of units within the Corps" and is ideal for amplified use on the parade ground. It includes an opening *Fanfare* by Captain Ron Mitchell, a march-on in the shape of *Glorious Victory*, an inspection tune *Trumpet Piece for a Ceremonial Occasion* by Harold Scull, three good marches for the past in Keith's *The King's Guard*, Henry Jarmen's *Hill and Sea*, and Urbach's *Thro' Bolts and Bars*. *Last Post and Abide With Me*, *The National Anthem*, and the Corps march *The*

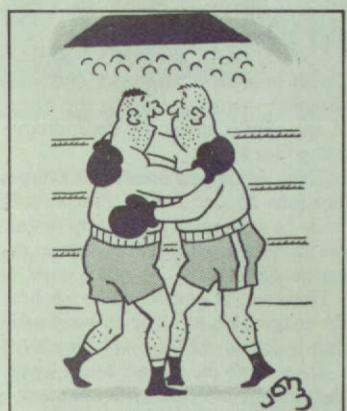
Village Blacksmith supply the final rites and march-off.

On the lighter side we have yet another *La Rejouissance* by Handel, Sôusa's *The Thunderer*, two solo items *Tartan Tubas* and, for saxophone, *Alto Mood*, and an arrangement by Captain Parker of the *Entrance of the Queen of Sheba*. Here she "goes to Town" rather than makes a dignified entrance, and the town is obviously London Town, since she is bombarded with such chunks of non-



Sabaean melody as Land of Hope and Glory, God Save Elizabeth II, and various cockney capers. Handel in the Strand; get it?

All good fun though and well played and presented. From MM 28 St Lawrence Drive, Pinner HA5 2RU, agents, or RAOC Band, Deepcut, Camberley, Surrey price £4.50 plus 50p postage.



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END THESE SALES

I wonder how soldiers with the British Task Force feel about fighting an Army and Navy equipped with the latest equipment supplied by Britain? Pretty disgusted I should imagine.

Whilst we continue to base our economy on arms sales and orders for nuclear power facilities we inevitably contribute to instability in the world.

It would be in the best interests of our Armed Forces. These high-supplying dubious regimes with arms right now. One day, as the Falklands conflict has shown, these arms might well be pointed back in our direction in anger.

Sales jamborees such as the Farnborough Air Show are an insult to our Armed Forces. These high-powered arms salesmen are prepared to sell arms to anyone. The time has come to put an end to this dangerous practice. — A Q Smith, 16 Sutherland Avenue, Biggin Hill, Kent.

NEVER TOO OLD

I wish to complain about the discrimination against people on the basis of age, that is shown by the military and police forces.

There are many mundane everyday jobs in the Forces that could easily be performed by men up to the age of 90, providing they were in reasonable health.

However, as soon as a man reaches the magic ages of 35 or 45 he is told that he is too old for everything.

It seems to me that we lose a lot of the nation's store of wisdom and experience in this way.

Using older men for the routine

light tasks around military establishments would free the young men for more active work.

There is no reason why such things as guard duties, catering, stores, maintenance, cleaning, office work and many other things could not be done by men over 45, either on a full-time, part-time or voluntary basis. And there are many of us who would be glad of the chance to help.

Why scrap-heap your elders? — W Gerald Hardy, Oxford Hotel, 24 Penywern Road, London SW5.

Aren't you rather exaggerating, Mr Hardy? There are a lot of very active over-45's in today's Army who seem to have escaped your so-called 'scrap heap'. As for voluntary service, the recently announced Home Service Force (SOLDIER 22 March) will be recruiting up to age 59. — Ed

SAPPER SMILES

In a Nissen hut in a wartime Army camp a sapper cook was preparing haversack rations for a hungry workforce. As he spread melted margarine on bread with a shaving brush a voice from behind said, "And what are you doing, sapper?"

Without turning around the despondent cook wearily replied, "Riding a — bike."

He nearly fell off his bike when he realised the person showing interest in his culinary talent was a major on OC's inspection...

The Port Construction and Repair Coy RE was heavily engaged in building a military port. One of its Chatham trained divers was in deep water inspecting work on a jetty, his air supply delivered by courtesy of the Pioneer Corps.

Just then there was a German bomb attack and the two men on the air pump followed the example of others and raced for cover.

On seeing this an officer drew his revolver and, waving it aloft yelled, "Get back you b—, get back on that pump."

Meanwhile, the diver experiencing a loss of air opened his helmet valve wider. This coincided with the air supply being restored, with the result that the diver's suit inflated forcing him to the surface, heavy lead boots first.

The above anecdotes are included in my manuscript *I was a Sapper in the Old RE*, part of my war memoirs dealing with Port Construction and Railway operating. All I need is a publisher to make it a Naaifi best seller. — Charles Meacher, 38 Asher Road, Chapelhall, Airdrie, Lanarkshire, ML6 8TA.

Sounds like a bundle of laughs, Mr Meacher. Let's hope you get to prove your point. — Ed

OBJECT LESSON

The admiration that I have had for the achievements and organisation of the Roman Army in West Cumbria has always been very high but the realisation that their forethoughts for the housing and welfare of their garrisons caused them to prepare the way some 1550 odd years before the overseas tour began must be a re-



Can You Help?

I believe the brown, slightly sticky husks/pods of the Locust (otherwise known as Carob or St John's Bread) Tree were often used as feed for British troop and transport horses in the Middle East.

Perhaps any former member of the pre-war Cavalry Brigade then stationed in Egypt (or perhaps someone with Infantry regimental transport experience in either Egypt or Malta) who happens to catch sight of this letter might be willing to explain if this material was used as a substitute for more 'orthodox' feed or merely as a supplement.

I believe also that Wellington successfully made use of this indigenous supply of fodder for his troop, draught and pack animals during his Peninsular campaign. — R H G Travers-Bogusz, 77 St Thomas's Road, Hardway, Gosport, Hants, PO12 4JU.

We are in the throes of arranging a Grand Reunion Holiday during April-May 1983, for all ex-service men who served on the island of Bute during 1940-45. Included, of course, would be their families and relatives.

We have already been assured that RN Scotland and Scottish Command will help us in every way possible.

As you will appreciate we have set ourselves a mammoth task and our first consideration is to make contact with the regiments who did indeed serve part of the war years here in Bute. Perhaps anyone to whom this applies would get in touch with me.

— James F Colvin, Rothesay Reunion, Dalveen, Craigmore Road, Rothesay, Isle of Bute, PA20 9LB.

I am researching the Chinese Labour Corps (CLC) in World War One, and would appreciate references to published or unpublished material; books, diaries, photos etc and would like to buy a copy of *With the Chinks* by Daryl Klein. Also, I would like to hear from freelancers who frequent the PRO and IWM, and who would like to exchange research time with someone on my side of the Atlantic.

— Ronald Jack, 5662 Baillie St, Vancouver BC, Canada, V5Z 3M8.

Would Shaun Cross please contact Michelle Butterworth, 59 Meadowcroft, Radcliffe, Manchester.

At the invitation of the Ministry of Defence, I am about to write an account of the re-possession of the East Indies, following Japanese occupation, in late 1945 and 1946, the conflict between the Japanese and the Indonesian National Party, and the involvement of British military and naval forces in opposing insurgent nationalists, largely in Dutch colonial territory. At one stage, I understand, Japanese troops were serving under British officers. I shall be exploiting Ministry records; and have asked for material from Japan, Indonesia and the Netherlands, but I would very much like to include some personal and more down-to-earth experiences of men who served in this theatre during this period, whether in Army or Naval operations.

— Ronald Bassett, 19 Binsteed Drive, Blackwater, Camberley, Surrey.

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... OOPS!

I refer to No 14 of 'Your Cap Badge' (19 April). The title is shown as 15th/19th King's Royal Hussars. The correct title is 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars.

You will note that on page 34 of SOLDIER 5-18 April the title of the regiment was correctly printed. — Major B O Simmonds (Retd), Home HQ, 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars, Fenham Bks, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE2 4NP.

Apologies for the error, Major Simmonds, and thank you for pointing out the correct title. — Ed.

Royal Irish Fusiliers in Malta and Palestine 1938-39 and in the Siege of Malta GC 1940-43 and who comes from Co Tipperary, Ireland, last seen in Egypt 1943 — could they please get in touch with me? — **John Kelly (ex-RSM) MBE DCM BA, 204 Foundling Court, London WC1. Telephone 01-837 6696.**

I am doing research on the Battle of Crete 1941 and I would like to get in touch with anybody who was there. All letters will be answered. Also, can anyone help me find a book called 'The Path of the 50th Division' which is now out of print. — **David Robinson, 5 Marshside, Brancaster, Norfolk, PE31 8AD.**

The history of 3rd, 83rd, 132 and 133 Field Ambulances RAMC (Territorials) is being recorded and an appeal is being made for anyone who served or can give information for the years 1914 to 1922 or 1938 to 1948. Any information, no matter how small, would be greatly appreciated. The present unit would be pleased if contact could be made with: 221 (Surrey) Field Ambulance RAMC (V), Training Centre, Portsmouth Road, Kingston-upon-Thames. Telephone: 01-546 3364 or WO2 Barrett-Cross, 18 Wandle Court Gardens, Beddington, Croydon, CR0 4SR. Telephone 01-688 8981.

Could any reader tell me if any 78th Division Reunions are still held in London each year? — **Mr H A Berridge, Caravan No 12, Halfleet Grove, Mobile Home Park, Market Deeping, Peterborough, Cambs, PE6 8DD.**

I am trying to trace David Tidmarsh, nicknamed Tiddy. He was in 6th Regiment Terendak Camp, Malaya, Malaysia 1967. He moved to Bulford Camp, Salisbury Plain in 1968. I was Mrs David Powell then, Tiddy was our best man and we lost touch when we got back to England and I would love to hear from him. — **S J Hammon, 54 Allendale Crescent, Studley, Warks.**

Pen Pals

My name is Gillia and I am 16 years old. I am 5ft 7ins tall with dark brown hair and brown eyes. My hobbies are reading, sport, most music, cooking and the cinema. I would like to write to somebody in the 16 to 19 years age group. Photographs appreciated. All letters answered. — Miss Gillia Morris, 38 Coleorton Crescent, Eton Crescent, Eton Wick, Windsor, Berks.

My name is Julie and I am 21 years old. I would like to write to any sincere person who does not receive much correspondence or is genuinely lonely at home or abroad, purely on the grounds of writing only with friendship in mind. — Miss Julie Cliff, 16 Willersley Avenue, Sidcup.

My name is June and I am 35 years old. I would like to write to any sincere person who does not receive much correspondence or is genuinely lonely at home or abroad, purely with friendship in mind. — Miss June Fennell, 11 Shamrock House, Hillcrest Estate, High Level Drive, Sydenham SE26.

I am 15 years old, 5ft 9ins tall with short red hair and blue eyes. My

hobbies are walking, camping and I enjoy all types of music and am an Army enthusiast. All letters answered, photos if possible. — D Harthern, 65 Earle St, Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 2AS.

My name is Eileen and I am 18 years old. I am 5ft 9ins tall with ginger hair and blue eyes. My hobbies are reading, meeting new people and helping people. I also like discos and swimming and I work as a cashier. — Miss Eileen Williams, 69 Rutland Road, Ilford, Essex.

My name is Nancy and I am 16 years old. I like all sports, photography, art, roller discos, most music and most things that are fun. — Miss N Buckland, 106 Heathway, Dagenham, Essex, RM10 9NX.

Collectors' Corner

A J Henderson, 3 Gloncurry St, London, SW6 6DR. Wants old Christmas and greetings cards relating to any of the Highland regiments, including those from the Dominions and Colonies.

B J Green, Box 533, Bracebridge, Ontario, Canada, POB 1CO. Seeks three WWII patches: Supreme HQ Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF); HQ 21 Army Group (British Army); Guard Armoured Division (The Ever Open Eye). All required for sentimental reasons, can purchase or trade with American combat patches.

C W Rawlinson, 60 Harpenden Road, West Norwood, London SE27. Wishes to buy Valise badges (stars), those used on folded greatcoats pre-39/45 war, of any of the following: Foot Guards, Grenadiers, Coldstream, Scots, Irish, Welsh. Full cost and recorded delivery charges will be forwarded.

P Bailes, 24 Carlton Place, Clitheroe, Lancs, BB7 1NG. Wishes to obtain DMP jacket, SAS combat jacket or Para smock, chest size 42. Also Army shirts size 16½ collar. Has the following badges: Victoria Crown QC and plastic badges of WW2. Will swap or buy. Must be in good condition.

P Banyard, 284 Claremont Road, Hextable, Kent, BR8. Wants British WWI officer's tunic with rank on sleeve, any regiment, also any photos or silk cards of the above period. Good prices paid, all letters answered.

P A Laycock, 4 Alderney Road, Dewsbury, W Yorks, WF12 7ET. Wants officer's service dress (tunic and trousers) to fit height 5' 10", chest 40", waist 34", leg length 30/31". Will pay fair price. Also requires DPM combat jackets, hats and hoods (for Army cadets in my detachment), prepared to pay up to £15 for jackets. Also can offer for exchange or sale, assorted militaria including cap and collar badges, cloth and metal S/Ts, buttons, various cloth badges and assorted regimental journals and magazines.

Andre Coilliot, 71 rue Raoul-Briquet, 62000 Béaurains par Arras, France. Collector of militaria British & UK forces WWI and WWII, studying the Battles of Arras April 1917-May 1917 and Somme 1916, wishes all contacts and information from collectors, or anyone interested in these battles or visitors to these battlefields. Possible exchanges war relics.

Reunions

The Royal Welsh Fusiliers Comrades Association. An Open Day is to be held at Depot, The Prince of

Wales's Division, Cwrt-y-Gollen, Crickhowell, on Saturday 3rd July 1982 with a dinner in the evening. A limited amount of accommodation is available for Saturday night.

The Annual General Meeting and Reunion of the Association is to take place at Wrexham on the weekend 4/5th September 1982. There is a dinner on the Saturday evening, a Memorial Service, Church Parade and Service and March Past His Worship the Mayor of Wrexham on the Sunday morning. A limited amount of accommodation is available in Hightown Barracks for Saturday night. Tickets and programmes for both these events are available from Branch Secretaries or on application to the Secretary, RWFCA, The Barracks, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 2DB.

How Observant Are You? (see page 25)

1 Boy's left stocking; 2 Right corner of counter; 3 Name-board between storks; 4 Lower trunk marking of small tree; 5 Soldier's hair; 6 Black camouflage shape on soldier's left leg; 7 Wing of left stork; 8 Beak of small bird at right; 9 Spelling on litter bin; 10 thickness of ICES fascia at far end.

Competition

The number of entries for Competition 289, 'The Critics' was down on the last few competitions. Fewer entrants seem prepared to struggle with the mathematical problems — parti-

See-the-Army DIARY

JUNE 1982

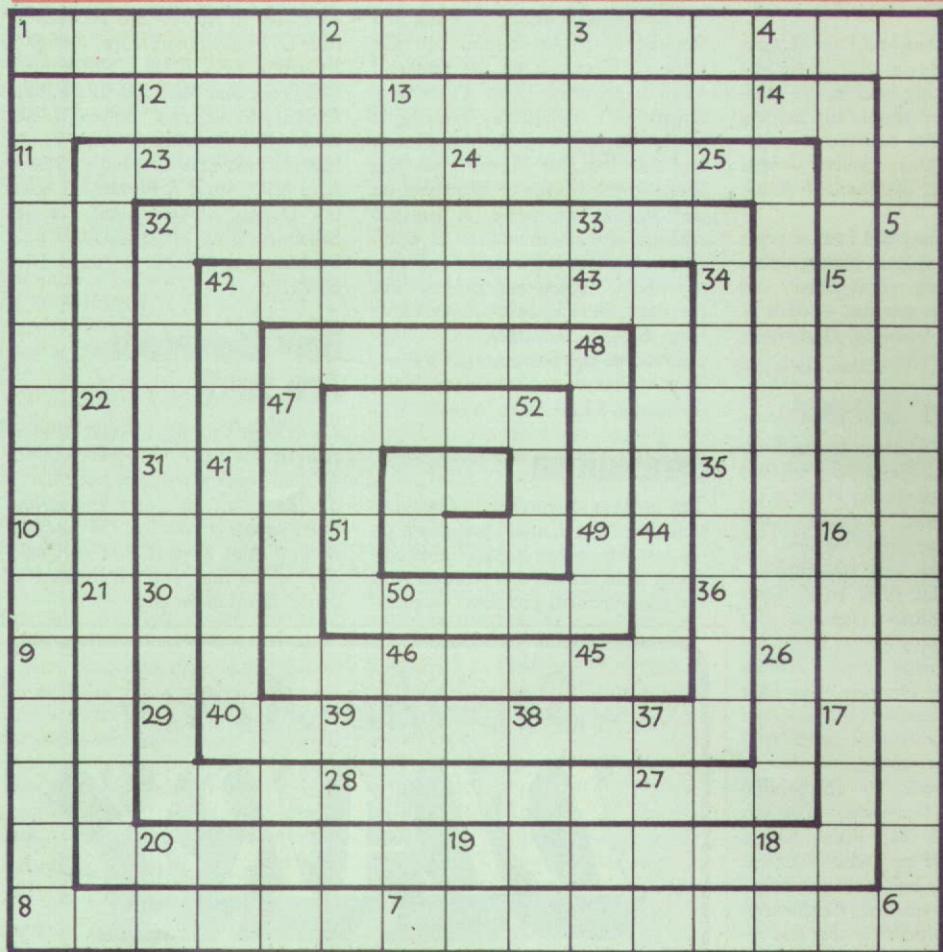
- 1 Beating Retreat, Horse Guards (Massed Bands, Pipes & Drums Household Division) (1-3 June).
- 2 Suffolk Show (Royal Anglian Regiment) (2-3 June).
- 3 Bury Services Tattoo (RA Woolwich, 1 Green Howards, 1 DWR, 1 Cheshire, Red Caps, Red Devils, RAF Flying Display, RAF Police Dogs) (5-6 June).
- 4 2nd Rehearsal The Queen's Birthday Parade.
- 5 ABF Spectacular, Molineux Park (POW Div Depot (Lichfield) Band.)
- 6 Nottingham Festival (Coldstrm Gds Band) (6-11 June).
- 7 Royal Cornwall Show, Wadebridge (LI Depot, Arena, Flying Bugles) (10-12 June).
- 8 South of England Show (1 Queen's) (10-12 June).
- 9 Cambridge Tattoo (Royal Anglian bands and Jnr Musns Queens Div.)
- 10 Nottingham Festival Water Spectacular (1 WFR Band; White Helmets) (12-13 June).
- 11 The Queen's Birthday Parade (Massed Bands, Pipes & Drums Household Division).
- 12 Duxford Air Display, Cambs (1 R Anglian Band).
- 13 Northampton Carnival (2 R Anglian Band).
- 14 Essex Show (1 R Anglian band; White Helmets, Red Devils) (18-19 June).
- 15 LI Regimental Retreat, Tidworth (2 & 3 LI Bands, LI Depot Band; Flying Bugles).
- 16 Ashford Extravaganza (19-20 June).
- 17 Aldershot Army Display 1982 (Massed Bands; White Helmets; Red Devils; Junior Leaders RA, RE, RCT; Princess Marina College; ASPT; King's Tp RHA; RMP; PCS; RAVC; Silver Stars; Flying Bugles) (23-27 June).
- 18 Gren Gds Association (Cambs) Golden Jubilee, Longstowe Park, Royston, Herts (Gren Gds band; Guards Freefall).
- 19 Airborne Forces Day (1 Para Band; displays) (28 Jun-5 July).
- 20 Royal Norfolk Show (RHG/D Mtd Band; H Cav Quadrille) (30 June-1 July).

JULY 1982

- 1 Army Open Day, Simpson Bks, Northampton (Coldm Gds, Junior Mus POW Div bands; Flying Bugles, RA MC JLR RE).
- 2 Royal Signals at Home, Catterick. Signals Band; White Helmets, JRRS Display team).
- 3 HM The Queen's Official Visit to Scotland 1982 (1 Gordons and 1 Para bands) (5-12 July).
- 4 Larkhill Massed Bands (RA Woolwich, RA Mounted, Band of Junior Leaders Regt RA, Band of Junior Musicians RA, R Signals Bands).

PUB CRAWL

COMPETITION 293



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CLUES

- 1 Blood-sucker
- 2 Raise a siege
- 3 High mountain
- 4 Reconstruct
- 5 Getting back
- 6 Citrus fruit
- 7 Irritating
- 8 Snatches
- 9 Foreign agent
- 10 Gaping
- 11 Insect that bites
- 12 Fishing gear
- 13 Instruction
- 14 Speckles
- 15 Early invader
- 16 Nick
- 17 Cricket pitch length
- 18 Concoct
- 19 Flings
- 20 Short, shrill noise
- 21 eg Granny
- 22 In the direction of
- 23 Cattleman
- 24 Entertainment
- 25 Strives
- 26 Game
- 27 Helm
- 28 More unusual
- 29 Legendary bird
- 30 Three
- 31 Summon
- 32 Spectator
- 33 Tear
- 34 Larcenist
- 35 Newt
- 36 Large-billed bird
- 37 Waterway
- 38 Local Government union
- 39 Barbarian
- 40 Measurement of heat
- 41 - - - - Polo
- 42 Struck
- 43 Texan city
- 44 Gloomy
- 45 Musical note
- 46 Very talkative
- 47 Raised in disapproval
- 48 Dog-like animal
- 49 Delicate
- 50 A couple of pints (approx)
- 51 Stands a round
- 52 Barren

THE ANSWERS to the clues are written into the square, moving clockwise around the spiral. The initial letter of each answer falls on the numbered square, and all the answers overlap by one or more letters.

Having staggered round the spiral you will find the names of the 16 pubs you have visited on the diagonals. What are they?

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 2 July. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 26 July. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 293' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or pre-paid labels will be disqualified. Send your answers by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 293' label to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

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- 6-7: Two books
- 8: SOLDIER free for six months

Inn-place for collectors

IF THE FORMER self-styled President of Anguilla, Mr Ronald Webster, ever wondered where his residential flag finished up, he need look no further than the oak-beamed bar of a 370-year-old pub in Brecon, Wales.

The pub — the Blue Boar — one of 17 in the 6300-strong cathedral town, is tenanted by Mr Bernie Duffield, 56, who has been 'mine host' there since he left The Welch Regiment as a staff sergeant in 1953.

The flag was 'acquired' by the Paras during their stay on the Caribbean Island in 1969 and it complements what must be the biggest indoor display of militaria, outside a regimental museum, in Wales.

Clustered around the walls and affixed overhead, the collection is worth an estimated £15,000 yet pilfering, according to Bernie, is very slight.

Everything seems to be there from a Malaysian blowpipe to a siege gun to a couple of shields and matching assegais captured at Rorke's Drift in 1879, an action which won 9 VCs for the 24th Regiment, South Wales Borderers.

On a window ledge stands a modern rocket launcher; in a corner, a 1910 Maxim gun and alongside it, a 1918 Mauser anti-



tank gun of mammoth rifle proportions.

Tunics, muskets, respirators, radio headsets, shell cases, helmets, stable belts, caps, badges and other military memorabilia cram the bar.

Landlord Duffield does not just collect militaria. He deals in it as well. And many of the items he buys in for re-sale are acquired, literally, for the price of a pint of any of the seven brands of ale he has on offer.

A notice behind the bar proclaims: "Swap your Badge for a Pint. The landlord will give

Graham Smith meets the landlord who swaps beer for Army badges Pictures: Paul Haley

you the pint of your choice for any Army stay-bright badge. No limit — if you can drink 'em, we'll swap 'em."

Bernie started his hobby with a couple of bayonets in 1953 and his impressive inventory of hardware has been growing ever since.

Like every trader, he has his successful deals — and his failures. A spectacular example of the latter was the Japanese Ceremonial

►Bernie with his favourite piece — a 1918 Mauser anti-tank gun.

sword that he bought for a fiver and sold for £30. It turned out to be 500 years old and worth 15 times that much!

Jumble sales are a rich hunting ground. But he buys a lot of his stock from passing customers — some of them widows who have heard of his hobby or sipped a gin and tonic amid the tunics.

"I never get one-tenth of what I am promised though," Bernie admitted with a grin. "People come in on spec, tell me they will send me items and I never hear any more from them."

Today, he has about 1000 badges and 500 flashes and all his muskets and rifles — including a Brown Bess — are in working order.

On average Bernie acquires about two or three items weekly through his thirst-quenching part-exchange deals.

He explained the economics thus: "They will have paid about 30 pence for their badges. I give them a pint worth 60 pence and then re-sell the badge for about 80 to 90 pence."

His brass badges, medals and regimental plaques retail at anything from £3.50 to £4.50.

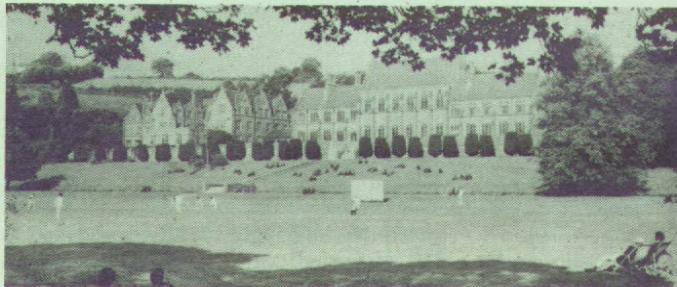
Bernie's next coup, he hopes, will be another flag — perhaps one from Argentina!

A crowded corner of the bar. ▼



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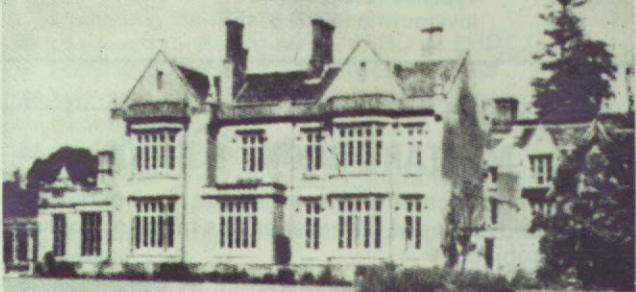
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Lucas Estate Agents, Bangor (0248-52323).

Kerry Stephenson 01-439 3611/2.

These articles are prepared in conjunction with Kerry Stephenson of the National Homes Network. This is a private agency with a great deal of experience in dealing with the special problems of the Service Home-hunter. Kerry will be delighted to give you any help he can with your problem in the private sector and can be contacted at National Homes Network, 303 Radnor House, 93 Regent St, London, W1R 7TE. Tel: 01-439 3611/2.

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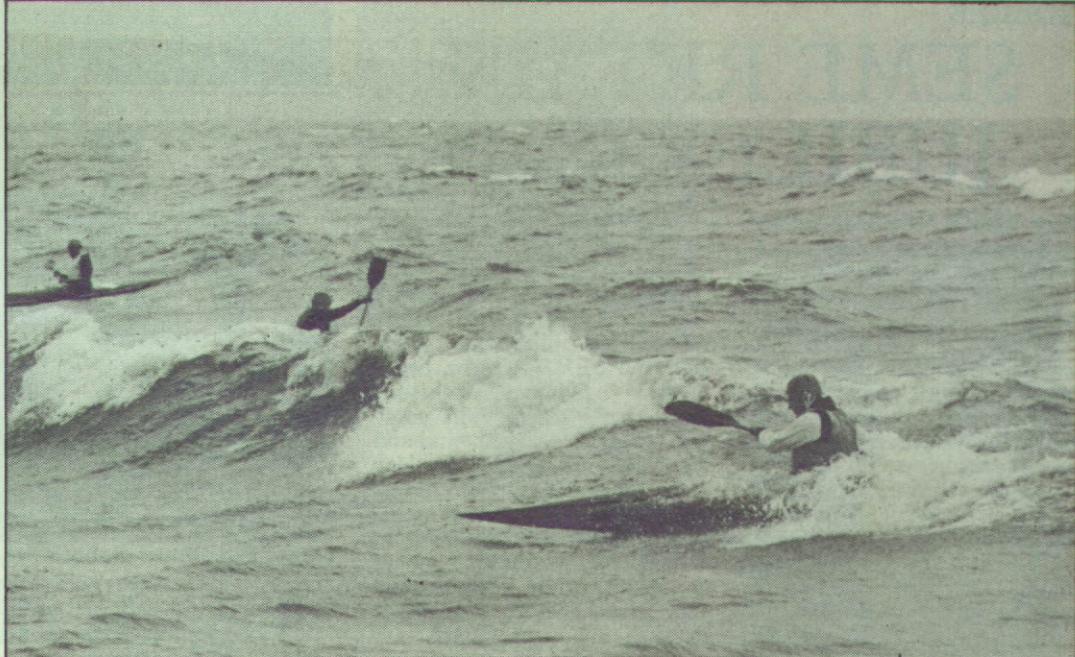
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ALL SWELL ON THE SURF



"GOING FOR a pop out."

"A good turn there."

"He's trying for a pirouette."

Not remarks coming from observers at a ballet class, but the judging entourage balanced precariously on the fold rocks at Saunton Sands during the recent Army Canoe Surfing Championships.

Although under the aegis of the Army Canoe Union and fully recognised by the Army Sport

Control Board, canoe surfing is considered a minor sport and like canoeing in general, mostly done as part of adventure training.

But there are those in the Army who, like ducks to water, take to the sport with wholehearted commitment. One of these is Staff Sergeant Arthur Haskey who travelled from the warm climes of Cyprus to compete in the Open event. He has been involved in canoeing now

for twenty years but became interested in surf canoeing when he met John Mason who now organises the Championships. "And it's gone on from there, really," says Arthur Haskey who is a past Army Champion and was to win the Senior Surf Canoe Ski Handling event this year.

Surf canoeing is a rugged sport requiring toughness and tenacity. You also have to be prepared to get wet! In the chill Spring waters of Barnstaple Bay, it is certainly not a pastime for the fainthearted. John Mason, who is a civilian lecturer at the Army Apprentices College, Chepstow admitted being a masochist and doubted his sanity "to be carrying on with this game at my age!"

But he does — and why? "Well, you get a hell of a thrill, really. You're paddling away to take up a wave and then it catches you and you really go — like a sports car!" The feel of surf canoeing is perhaps best summed up by Arthur Haskey who likened it to being on a big dipper.

Conditions vary but are ideal when there is a good swell. Then the waves can be as high as 20ft and with a fair wind a surf canoe can travel as fast as 20mph. "Faster," says Arthur, "if you're coming off a really good'un!"

John Mason, who has been

doing the sport for the last seven years, explained that the power of a wave is between 45 and 80 kilowatts per metre of wave which equals that, at 50-60 kilowatts, of a small motor car.

With all that speed and power, great importance is paid to safety. A crash helmet and craft buoyancy aid are mandatory and various other precautions and competition regulations are enforced by the threat of disqualification.

Some injuries are unavoidable though and dislocated shoulders are among the more common hazards of the sport.

The main skill required in surf canoeing is being able to stay upright and because some canoes — such as the 'surf shoe' and the 'ski' — are highly manoeuvrable, co-ordination too, is a must. If you do not have this, says John Mason, you learn — that is unless you want to spend all your time in the drink and swimming.

A wet suit and helmet will keep the cold out but John Mason has his own central heating booster in the form of his 'Surfers' Special' — a cheering brew of hot chocolate liberally laced with rum.

As for the cost of the sport; as John Mason put it: "one of the aspects of surf canoeing is that it's absolutely free — because the sea's free."

SALE OF SURPLUS MARRIED QUARTERS UNDER THE NON DISCOUNTED SCHEME

Bulletins No 34 and 35 contain details of the following surplus Married Quarters offered for sale through the Joint Services Married Quarters Sales Office at UKLF Wilton (Salisbury Military 2684/2693).

BULLETIN 34

Type 3	1 in Deepcut, Camberley	£55,000
	2 in Tenby, South Pembrokeshire	£28,000
Type C	4 in Lasswade, Midlothian	£21,000
	1 in West Derby, Liverpool	£14,500
Type C Flats	5 in Edinburgh	£18,250
Type B Flats	6 in Edinburgh	£17,000

BULLETIN 35

Type 5	2 in Eastbourne, East Sussex	£52,500
	1 in Woolton, Liverpool	£51,000
Type 4	1 in Eastleigh, Hants	£25,000
	1 in South Queensferry, West Lothian	£30,000
Type C	1 in Wallingford, Oxon	£26,500
	2 in Eastbourne, East Sussex	£22,500
	1 in Eastleigh, Hants	£22,500
	1 in Romsey, Hants	£18,500
Type B	2 in Romsey, Hants	£19,000
	2 in Romsey, Hants	£18,500

These Bulletins have been distributed to all units. Further information and application forms will be available through your unit/ship/station.

The closing date for all applications for properties offered in Bulletin Number 34 is 9 June 1982, and for Bulletin Number 35 is 23 June 1982.

App Melvin Dodd from Chepstow demonstrates the 'pop out'.



SOCCER

SEME RETAIN JUBILEE CUP

RAF BRIZE NORTON needed to beat SEME by five clear goals — a seemingly hopeless task for the final encounter of this year's Jubilee Cup. But they fought hard and well and did get two goals in front before a late revival by the Army side saw an honourable draw.

The first half was scoreless but exciting with many opportunities missed at both ends. SEME's crackshot, Lance-Corporal Ginger Butler, skied three chances over the bar.

Just after the interval the RAF side went in front. This shook SEME and they had their backs to the wall for a while. Ten minutes later Brize piled on the pressure with a second goal.

But eventually Butler made up

for first half misses with a fine shot and SEME captain, Staff-Sergeant Dougie Aitchison, levelled the scores. The game was played in a strong wind and on a very uneven pitch. The day after the game the pitch was ploughed up in order to get a better surface for next season.

Sheffield Wednesday manager, Jack Charlton, presented the cup, which goes to Bordon for the fifth time in 12 years.

Heron hammered

SEME BORDON, the holders and four time winners of the Watney, Mann and Truman Naafi Jubilee Cup, knocked in five goals when they met the Royal Navy champions, HMS Heron in the first leg of the tri-service contest.

But Heron shocked the big Bordon crowd in the opening minute with a glorious goal. A quick break down the left flank, a flighted cross to the near post and a crisp header went into the far corner of the net.

After that SEME took control and playing some of their best football of the season, set about their task of scoring goals with great enthusiasm.

In the first half hour they squandered chance after chance as their one-way traffic ripped holes in the Heron defence.



The smile that says it all. Skipper, Dougie Aitchison with the Cup.

Five goal Ginger



L/Cpl Ginger Butler grabbed five goals in the two Jubilee Cup legs.

Sappers show the way

SAPPER SURVEY UNITS were in top gear at the 1982 UKLF Orienteering Championships in Norfolk. Six out of the top 20 Regular Army individuals came from 42 Survey Engineer Regiment and the School of Military Survey — and Lance-Corporal Gary Dale of AAC Chepstow took third place.

The Barton Stacey survey regiment produced six good runs on the 6.7 km relay course on Sunday to extend a five minute lead to one of 14 minutes over the favourites for the Major Unit trophy, SEE.

The fast 12 km individual course at Sandringham favoured last year's runner-up, Captain Glen Grant, who powered round in 62.42. Captain Tony Vickers, who came second, could not better 64.24 and declared afterwards: "Glen's route choices and mistakes would have cost me

another three minutes."

Grant's 22 Locating Battery RA team-mate, Gunner Mike Brett (still only 17 and recently included in the British junior squad), improved from seventh in 1981 to fifth, behind Staff-Sergeant Tim Sands, SEE.

Thanks to another fine run by novice, Lance-Bombardier Bob Clark, the Larkhill team took a 15 minute lead into Day Two. But the three man relay contest was not the expected walkover. In the end 22 Locating Battery won by under two minutes in 118.09. SMS were second and SEE just held off the challenge from 42 Survey Engineer Regiment for third.

Comms and Security Group won the Ladies relay in exactly 100 minutes with London District Provost Coy 13 minutes behind. Capt Flaherty of 7 UDR won the Ladies' Individual (Regulars) event from the Provost Coy's WO1 Carol O'Nians.

In the TA contest Lieut John Dowty of 202 Field Battery was clear winner and the team trophy went to 35 Signal Regiment.



Major Peter Martin is currently leading the first Great Britain Small Bore Rifle Team to fire against the Chinese National team. Major Martin, who is quartermaster at the Prince of Wales's Division Depot, Lichfield, has taken his team to Peking for the event. Already this year he has fired in Mexico, USA, and Portugal and recently he took the Gold Medal in the Commonwealth Shooting Federation Championships in Guernsey.

Dobson quits Chelsea

Major Alan Dobson, the Army FA secretary, has resigned from the Chelsea board of directors following the recent change in ownership of the club. Major Dobson, who had been connected with Chelsea for more than 30 years, was immediately offered a seat on the board of Fourth Division Aldershot, which he has accepted.

Iron man Spiller makes it a double

ARMY GOLF has a new name on its roll of champions this year — Lance Corporal Doug Spiller from 4 Armoured Division Workshops, Detmold. In the first-ever all REME final of the Army championships, he beat Corporal Steve Mariner, 22 Air Defence Regiment from Dortmund, by 3 and 2 on the fast-running links of Royal Birkdale.

It was Mariner's second successive year as runner-up and, ironically, the man who beat him caddied for him in last year's final.

With fairways baked hard and brown by several weeks of dry weather, Birkdale's magnificent championship course played a good deal shorter than the 6711 yards on the card. It meant that the powerful Spiller could largely abandon his sometimes wayward wooden clubs and use a 1-iron off the tee, a club that he struck with such consistent ferocity that it drew frequent gasps of astonishment from the large gallery.

But Mariner, though often seeing his woods from the tee easily surpassed by Spiller's formidable irons, is a beautiful striker of the ball who rarely strays from the straight and narrow. He refused to be drawn into a long-hitting contest with his REME rival and stuck to the tactics that had brought him to the final — solid driving coupled with accurate approach play.

Changing fortunes

The front nine holes of the final saw an absorbing tussle that showed just how quickly fortunes in match play can change. After bunkering his tee shot at the 206-yard fourth and watching Spiller slot a fine birdie putt on the 476-yard sixth, Mariner found himself faced by a daunting 12-footer on the seventh green to avoid going three down. He bravely holed the putt, won back the eighth when Spiller three-putted and proceeded to square the match on the ninth by chipping in from off the green for a remarkable birdie three.

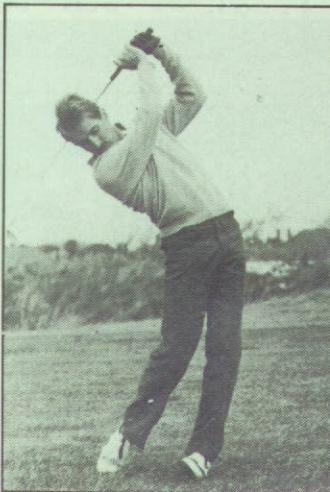
Both players had produced golf of high quality to hit the turn in 36, just one over par, and the standard showed no sign of diminishing on the back nine. Spiller took the dog-leg 10th after his opponent, for once, found trouble off the tee, but Mariner promptly struck back with a magnificent birdie at the 11th where he struck his 6-iron approach to two feet.

Both men missed the green at the short 12th and both played fine recoveries, but Spiller made his par while Mariner watched a teasing three footer just miss.

Spiller struck a further blow at the 436-yard 13th, holing out from 15 feet for a birdie to go 2 up, but promptly yielded the short 14th by bunkering his tee shot and thinning his recovery across the green.

With four holes left and Spiller just one up, the stage looked set for a grandstand finish, but the 15th — a monster of 542 yards — proved a decisive turning point. With Spiller bunkered from the tee and failing to make any distance with his recovery Mariner looked certain to make a safe par and square the match. But Spiller crashed an incredible 4-wood 250 yards to the edge of the green and Mariner found sand with his 8-iron to lose the hole with a six.

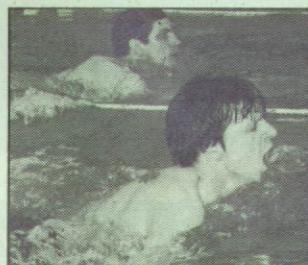
Ten minutes later it was all over. Mariner pulled his 8-iron approach to the 348-yard 16th into a treacherous piece of rough and could only stab the ball into a greenside bunker. He needed two more to escape and with Spiller safely on in two promptly strode forward to shake hands and end a splendid match on a



◀ Classic style from Mariner.

Army Superstars beaten

ALTHOUGH THE Army managed second and third places, RAF Corporal Adam Barnhill proved far too strong for the other competitors in the first Aldergrove Superstars contest. He won every event except the



Hickmott gets his nose in front of Drake in the pool.



Spiller escapes from sand.

note of anti-climax.

The victory clinched a fine double for Spiller who entered the event as the BAOR champion and was heading back for Sen-lager immediately to defend his Rhine Army crown.

It also confirmed that the future of Army golf is in good hands with these two 23 year-olds showing outstanding nerve, skill — and sportsmanship.

Both men showed their stamina too after each surviving a tough semi-final in the morning. Spiller proved just a shade too strong for the ever-reliable Lieutenant-Colonel Chris Wallace, finally getting home 2 up on the 18th green with approximate figures of 73 to Wallace's 75.

Mariner, meanwhile, had to go to the 19th to edge out Sergeant Chris Carveth. Mariner's greater accuracy off the tee kept him ahead for most of the match and he found himself dormie two after 16. But Carveth made his extra strength count over the two closing par fives to square the match with birdies and Mariner needed to draw on all his reserves of courage to win at the 450-yard 19th with a rock solid four.

◀ Classic style from Mariner.

TROPHY SET TO HEAD OVERSEAS

Will SOLDIER's new darts trophy be heading to Cyprus, to Germany, or to Norway in a few months' time?

One thing's certain — it won't be staying in the UK. For the four teams left to battle out the semi-finals are all based overseas.

The Nomads from Cyprus will strongly fancy their chance of lifting the title. Already champions of the Eastern Sovereign Base Area Darts League with 21 wins out of 21, they needed only 67 darts to record a crushing 3-0 win over Eskmeal Owls.

More good form was shown by Vehrte CC but they were given a hard fight by Glen Parva Sgts Mess for whom Sgt Mick Simpson chalked up a 'maximum' and a 121. The first two legs were shared but Vehrte squeezed home to win the decider by a single dart.

Rhine Army's other semi-final survivor, the Hawks from Hohne, also showed good form in their tie with CPO BAOR Sgts Mess. They notched up 11 tons overall and none of their team failed to score at least 50 in every visit to the board.

Meanwhile Norway's interest in the event was being kept alive by the Kolsas Killers who beat the Muppets of Munsterlager 2-1 in a good quality tie. WO2s Mick Baron and Jim Morgan both notched four tons apiece for the Killers while L/Cpl Steve Baker shot out from 110 for the BAOR men.

Semi-final draw: Nomads v Vehrte CC; Kolsas Killers v Hawks.



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