

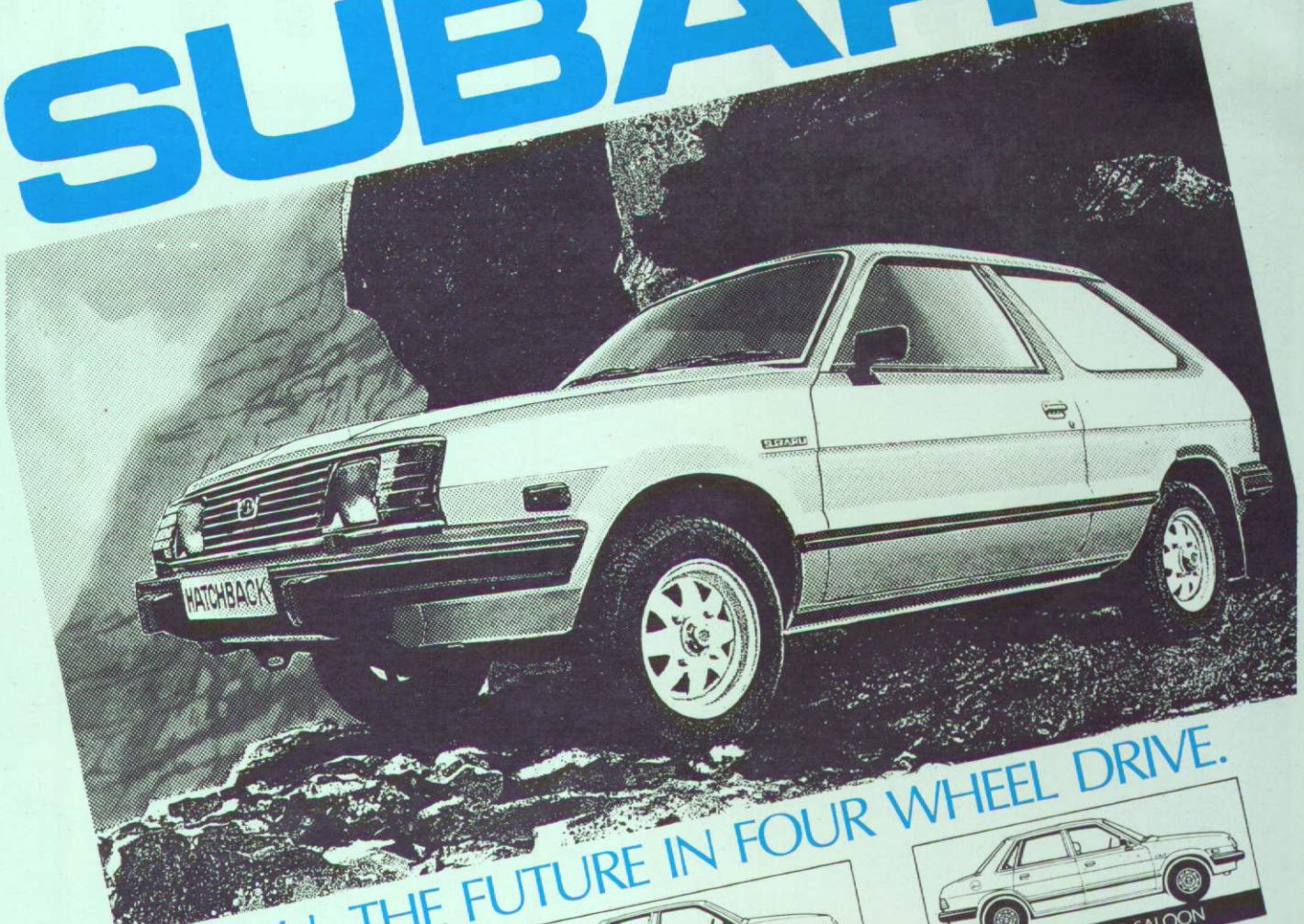
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FRONT COVER

The man in the middle is a soldier — Corporal Stephen Koa of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force. The costume includes bird of paradise feathers and boar's tusks. More on the Gurkhas travels —

*page 20.

Picture: Keith Gibson

BACK COVER

A Royal Air Force Chinook at work lifting a Samaritan. See support helicopters feature — page 14.

Picture: Paul Haley

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EFL girls head for Falklands
— page 24

Ludgershall — 'lair of the tank stackers' — page 26



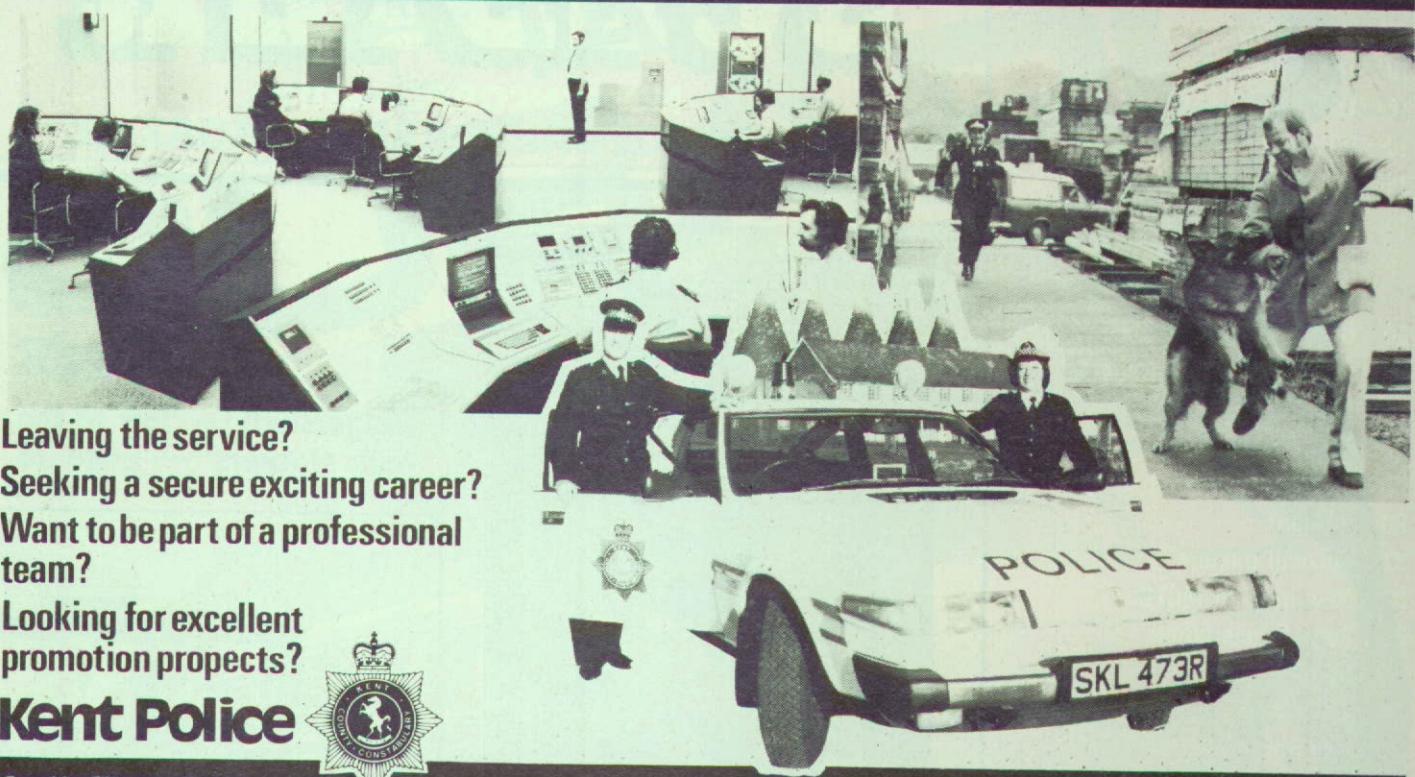
Support helicopters — the
vital link men — page 14



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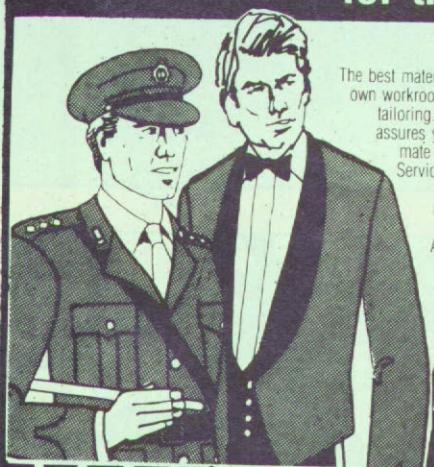


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NEWS

THE RGJ MARCHERS BACK HOME

EIGHT men from the 1st and 3rd Battalions of The Royal Green Jackets are back in the UK after an eventful trip to the snow-capped mountains of the extreme north-west of Spain.

There they had re-traced the steps of Sir John Moore's historic withdrawal to Corunna exactly 175 years before to the day. (See Soldier 16 January.)

It was a trip during which the expedition — in 19th century uniforms — literally had to back-pack their equipment during part of the gruelling 300-mile march because their support vehicle was involved in a collision with a Spanish lorry.

And four days before they were relating their adventures to the media at the 1st Battalion's home base of Tidworth, the Mayor of Corunna — or La Coruña — had held a civic reception for the overland heroes who had spent the last 19 days on the march.

Expedition leader was Captain Charles Blackmore and the only concession to the modern age alongside the old uniforms were the latest in combat boots for protection against water and ice.



LT-GEN Sir Geoffrey Howlett, GOC South East District — he was made a Knight Commander of the British Empire in the New Year's Honours List — has taken over from General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley as Colonel Commandant of The Parachute Regiment.

NEW GOC

MAJOR GENERAL Barry Lane, 51, is the new General Officer Commanding South West District. He has succeeded Major General Mike Gray, who assumes a new post in BAOR.

STAGE DOOR CANTEEN

ASBAH — the Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus — is organising a charity evening on the concept of the wartime "Stage Door Canteen" on Sunday, 3 June at the Lyceum in London's Strand to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

Organiser Mr Barry Mishon says: "I am hoping for a sell-out evening of some 2000 people and we have already had some 700 reservations. The last time we organised such a charity evening was last year in March which was an outstanding success. The evening also coincides with the 40th anniversary of when the London Stage Door Canteen first opened its doors to all Servicemen and women of all nations."

There will be non-stop music, dancing and entertainment from 6.30 p.m. until 12.30 a.m. with the Herb Miller Orchestra (brother of the legendary Glenn Miller), the Ray Shields orchestra from the film "Yanks", a special guest appearance of the Ted Heath Band directed by Don Lusher and the Band of the Welsh Guards will play "Land of Hope and Glory" at the finale.

Yet to be finalised, too, there will be some 40 stars of stage, film and television in attendance, wearing "Canteen" aprons, acting as hosts and hostesses and waiting on tables.

Many Second World War veterans will also be there, especially those from abroad. Uniforms or Forties' dress is optional but recommended.

Tickets (£10) can be obtained from Mr Barry Mishon c/o ASBAH, Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square, London WC1.

He said: "It has to be a most memorable occasion and a full house is anticipated. It is strongly recommended to place orders for tickets now."

NEW AG NAMED

LIEUTENANT General Sir Roland Guy is to be Adjutant General in March. This appointment carries with it membership of the Army Board of the Defence Council.

Brigadier D E Ryan is to be Director Army Education, Ministry of Defence in March in the rank of Major General, and Brigadier C N Thompson to be Director Military Survey, Ministry of Defence in March in the rank of Major General.



THE OLD Green Howards barracks at Richmond, near Catterick, are to become a part of the town's conservation area. At a special meeting Richmondshire Council decided to extend the area in order to protect the 108-year-old barracks from any possible demolition.

The move was prompted by the decision of the North

Yorkshire County Council to sell off the barracks by tender. Set on Richmond Hill, by tradition the subject of the old song 'Sweet Lass of Richmond Hill', the former barracks are currently used as a community school.

The district council had previously tried to buy the buildings but the price proved prohibitive.

GLOSTERS GIVEN A RARE HONOUR

FOR THE first time in their history a Company from the Glorious Glosters "B" Company — has headed north of the Border for public duties at Edinburgh Castle.

FINE FUND RAISING

THE 1st Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment have raised £3,000 for the Gloucestershire Children's Ward of Stoke Park Hospital in Bristol.

During the last year soldiers of the Battalion have raised the donation by taking part in the London Marathon, a Lug-a-Lorry event in Bristol and a sponsored March from Sennybridge in South Wales to Tidworth.

PERMISSION TO SMOKE...

THE ROYAL Ordnance Factories submission for full development of a new Visual and Infra Red Screening Smoke has been accepted by the Ministry of Defence.

After competitive tendering, including exhaustive comparative trials against products offered by a number of firms, the ROFs solution has been chosen as the most suitable system for turreted armoured fighting vehicles.

The 1st Battalion men are under the command of Major John Webster, who said: "We will be up there for a month and this is a unique opportunity for the men to undertake interesting and rewarding duties including adventurous training, sport, skiing at Aviemore and some sight-seeing."

The three platoons will split their month-long stint outside one of the world's most famous castles in rotation with the skiing — the biggest dry ski slope in Europe is just minutes away — and some military trainong.

Family photo albums of the west country recruited regiment are expected to benefit, too, as the famous sidle up for pictures with those mounting the guard.

Usually, guard duties at the Castle with its drawbridge in view of the splendid Esplanade are done by the Scots though, on occasion, such prestige responsibilities are done by Sassenach regiments.

Maj. Webster was awarded the MBE in the New Year Honours list.

ST GEORGE THE ATLANTIC PIONEER



THE ARMY'S latest ship, the RCT's 1400-ton Armament Store Carrier, HMAV St George, has sailed in true pioneer fashion to — the United States.

Commanded by Major Peter Robyns, RCT, the 30-crew vessel left for Wilmington, North Carolina, via Zeebrugge carrying stores both to and from the USA.

HMAV St George is due to return to British shores early next month.

She usually carries 750 tonnes of ammunition and other ordnance from Marchwood Military Port near Southampton to Zeebrugge for BAOR units.

At the time of her sailing the all-military crew were hoping for kind weather across the "Big Pond".

Commissioned in October 1981, the St George — she is crewed by men of 20 Maritime Regiment, RCT — has a range of 5,000 nautical miles and can operate unsupported for 21 days.

She is equipped with all the latest sonar, radar and communications systems with individual cabins for each crew member.

THE SHARP END



MR JOHN Stanley, Minister Armed Forces, pictured at the sharp end — of a kukri — during his visit to Belize and men of the 1st Battalion, 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles junior NCOs cadre.

SEARCHERS' SUCCESS

THE Royal Engineers search troop in Northern Ireland (see SOLDIER, 16 January) were delighted when they found their first bomb.

After weeks of scouring the fields and lanes of the Province, Cpl Andy Walker's five-man team located a 250lb oil drum bomb in a roadside culvert.

Said troop commander Captain Robert Tickell: "We were tasked to clear a suspicious area and we came across this little lot."

Other successes for the troop included finding an armalite rifle and a shotgun, a bomb detonating device and a rifle with 470 rounds of ammunition.

LYNX CREW MISSING

THE WRECKAGE of an Army Air Corps Lynx helicopter and its two crew have been recovered in the Falklands. It was found a few hundred yards offshore in King George Bay.

The crewmen were Captain John Belt, the pilot and his crewman Sgt Roger Jones.

Both men were from 654 Squadron based at Detmold, BAOR. The Lynx was taken to Stanley for examination.

DEATH OF SAPPER

AN inquest is to be held into the death of Sapper David Mead, 23, who died in South Georgia. Married, with a baby daughter, Sapper Mead was a member of 36 Engineer Regiment, 20 Field Squadron.

Dover Tattoo is growing . . .

"THE DOVER Tattoo to be staged in Fort Burgoyne 27/28 July, will have more performances and more seats" said Brigadier Dick Hume when he announced the plans for this year's show at the Headquarters of the Dover/Shorncliffe Garrison in Folkestone.

"In response to the demand for tickets, which come from all over the country, there will not only be more seats available at the evening performances but a special children's performance will be given on Saturday afternoon."

Animals will feature for the first time when the RAF brings its Police dogs and also the motor cycle display team, both

events having been a resounding success in the Berlin last year.

Another first will be the pipes, drums and bugles of the 2nd Battalion The Royal Irish Rangers, while consistent favourites are the two local Junior Leaders Battalions and the military bands of the resident units without which the Dover Tattoo would not be complete.

"Last year the first application for tickets was received in February from a SOLDIER Magazine reader in Leicester" said Geoffrey Hardacre, producer of the last two Tattoos "which is not so surprising as this is the only military Tattoo in the South outside London."



NEW GRASS BECKONS GENERAL ▲

Unsure whether he is coming or going, non-rider Major General Mike Gray manages a tolerant smile as he prepares to trot off to pastures new. He was leaving as GOC South West District to become Chief of Staff, HQ BAOR.



GUARDS' GONG FOR BUSTER ▶

A tentative tickle from Battery Sergeant Major Eddie Ward (left) and a more robust rub from Buster's owner Major Jeremy Glover signalled the end of a perfect day for the dog with a gong of his own. For Buster, favourite pooch of the Chestnut Troop, RHA, based in BAOR, received a special award from Brigadier Murray Naylor, retiring Commander of 22 Armoured Brigade, when he said farewell to the 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery.

As Buster features regularly in brigade and divisional exercises, the Brigadier gave him a special medal featuring his own regiment, the Scots Guards.



PARTY TIME FOR PARAS ▲

Old acquaintances were renewed and friendships rekindled when a small party of 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment boarded the good ship MV Norland. The paras had booked for the special party on board and to meet up with friends who helped ship them to the South Atlantic conflict.

Master of the ship, Captain Don Ellerby, was presented with prints of action scenes from the campaign which will form part of a permanent display of souvenirs and awards on the ship. Pictured left to right: Captain R. Lough, Captain Don Ellerby, Lloyd Newell, chief engineer (North Sea Ferries), Lt G Weighett, Adjutant Captain Worsley Tonks, Captain M Beaumont, Captain T Godwin (2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment).

◀ ROYAL VISIT REVEALED

Artist Peter Archer discusses a detail of his triptych painting of the Queen's visit to Imphal Barracks, York, with Major General Patrick Palmer, GOC North East District. The painting shows the inaugural parade of the then newly-moved 2nd Infantry Division which transferred from BAOR to York last year.

The painting was unveiled by General Palmer's wife, Joanna, and shows the inspection by the Queen, the drive and fly past and the massed bands. A 29-inch by 14-inch colour print can be yours for £6 from HQ North East District and 2nd Infantry Division, Imphal Barracks, York.





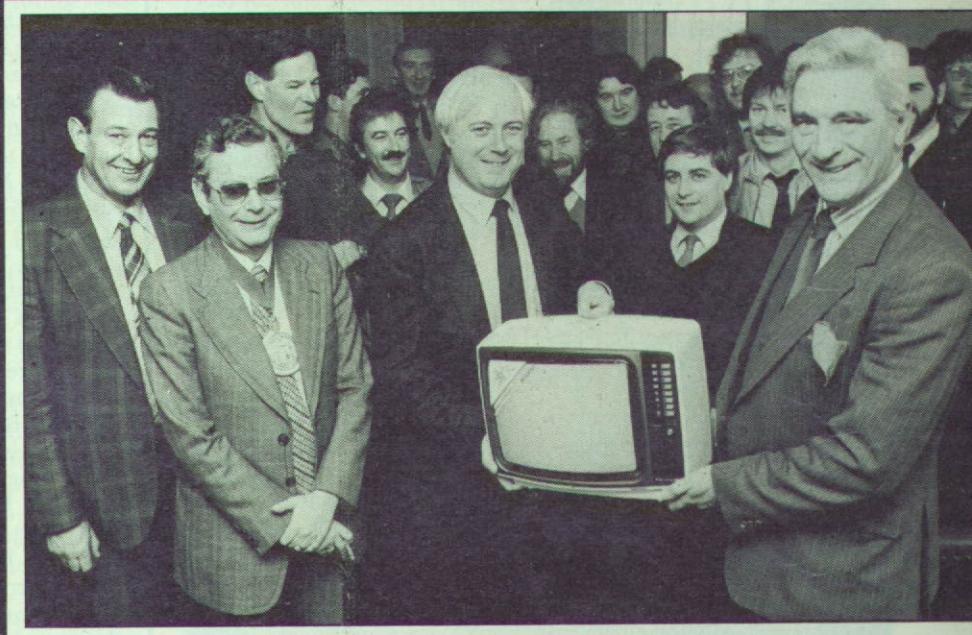
▼ CHAIR MAN'S THANKS

First build your community centre and church then get your furniture. Mr Antoniou Marinos (right), top man of the Maronite Community in Nicosia, Cyprus, did just that then turned to Lieutenant Colonel Malcolm Bryant, OC the Accommodation Services Unit of the Sovereign Base Area, who duly presented tables and chairs to help furnish the new centre. The handshake says it all with SBA administrator Mr Takis Zavros looking on.

REG RETIRES BUT STAYS IN VIEW ▶

Popular Army PR man Reg Peachey (right) receives a colour television from a group of North Essex journalists to mark his retirement as the Army's PR man in Eastern District. In eleven years in the post Reg built up a large network of Press contacts.

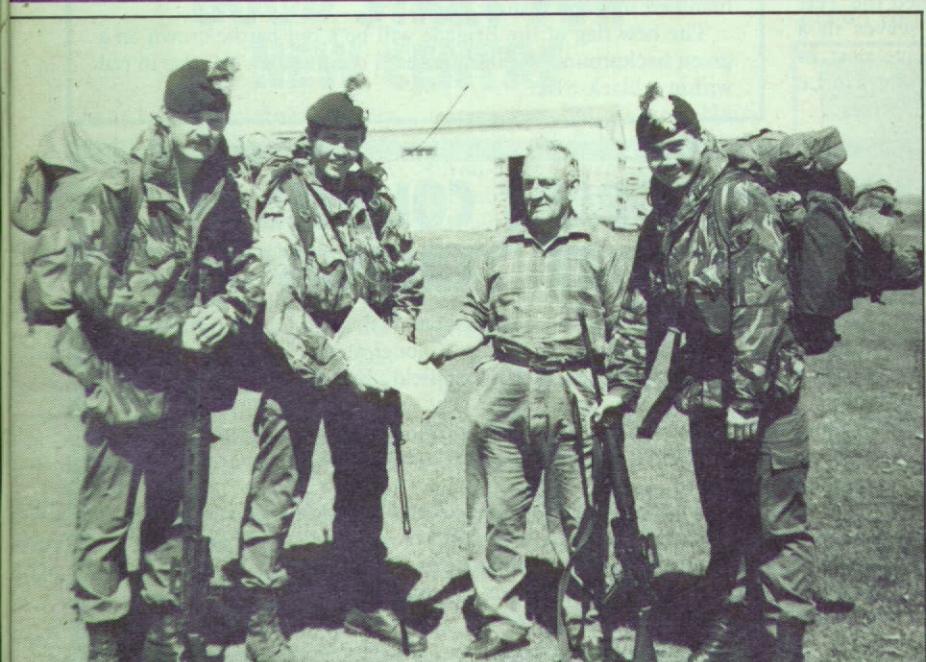
Here the pressmen express their thanks for his help at a presentation which was also attended by Colchester's Mayor, Mr John Bird and Eastern District GOC, Major General John MacMillan.



◀ PATROLS LICK POSTMEN

Patrols are licking postal deliveries in the Falklands. When men of the 2nd Battalion the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers make their routine rounds in the South Atlantic isles, they often take mail for some of the more remote farms.

Here Mr Les Witney of Walker Creek Farm greets Lieutenant Paul Lucas and Corporals John Phillips (left) and Jim Gregg as they hand over letters helping the normal postal air deliveries.





TOPICS

SOUTH EAST TA SOMME TOUR

The South East TAVR Association is sponsoring a battlefield tour to the Somme over the anniversary of this World War 1 battle, July 1.

Following their successful tour last year to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Territorial Army when they went to Ypres and Passchendaele, it has been decided to make another pilgrimage, this time to Vimy Ridge and the Somme.

Anyone is able to join this tour, which will include the Tank Corps Memorial, Newfoundland Memorial Park and the Thiepval Memorial where time will be allowed for a memorial wreath laying ceremony.

Further details are available from Major Storie-Pugh, Oak House, Oak Hill, Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent.

160 Brigade reformed

The old Welsh 160 Infantry Brigade, which fought with distinction in two World Wars has been reformed at Brecon.

The reformation of the Brigade is part of an overall Army Board plan to improve the supervision of peacetime training and to enhance the effectiveness of the command structure.

In practical terms, its job will be to supervise and plan the training of the Territorial Army in Wales.

The Brigade was resurrected on 1 January but the official parade at the Army's Headquarters in Wales at Brecon was held on 4 January to formally mark the occasion.

Staff for the Brigade Headquarters is being found from existing personnel at HQ Wales.

BEM FOR WARMINSTER MAN

Colour Sergeant Martin Wright of The 1st Battalion, The Wessex Regiment (Rifle Volunteers), who lives in Warminster, was honoured in the New Year Honours List with The British Empire Medal (Military Division).

He joined the Regular Army in 1956 and enlisted into The Royal Military Police; in which he served for over 22 years.

In 1974 he was awarded The Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, retired from the Regular Army in 1978 as Staff Sergeant and immediately joined the Territorial Army. He serves in a full-time administrative post in the Battalion Headquarters in Le Marchant Barracks, Devizes.

Each of the three Territorial Army infantry battalions in Wales, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, and 3rd and 4th Battalions, The Royal Regiment of Wales, were represented by a contingent of soldiers, Regimental Colours and Colour Party and Regimental Goat. An opening salvo was fired by the 25 pounder guns of 104 Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery.

At the end of the parade the 160 Brigade flag was handed over by the last Brigade Commander, Brigadier Rollo Price, to the new commander, Brigadier Charles Hince, Deputy Commander HQ Wales.

One of the Brigade's last duties before disbandment was in October 1966 as one of the major rescue organisations at the Aberfan disaster.

HISTORY OF 160 BRIGADE

The number 160 has been used by two different formations, both within 53 Welsh Division, so the new Headquarters 160 Infantry Brigade has inherited the histories of both.

The Brigade goes back to 1908 when the Welsh Division of the Territorial Force was formed with the North Wales, South Wales and Cheshire Infantry Brigades under command. In 1910 a further brigade, the Welsh Border was formed and added to the Division. The arrival of this fourth Brigade led to the South Wales Brigade being redesignated 'Army Troops' attached to the Welsh Division'.

At the outbreak of World War One, nine battalions were transferred out of the Division and the 'Army Troops' attached, including the South Wales Brigade, were used to replace them.

On 13 May, 1915, the Welsh Division was allocated the number '53' and its Brigades numbered 158 (N Wales), 159 (Cheshire) and 160 (Welsh Border) respectively.

During World War One, 160 Brigade served in Gallipoli, Egypt and Palestine where it took part in the capture and defence of Jerusalem. It was demobilised in March 1919.

In 1920 the Territorial Force was re-constituted, 53 (Welsh) Division reforming in the March. It had under command three infantry brigades, N Wales, S Wales and Welsh Border. The Cheshire Brigade was placed under command of 55 (Lancastrian) Division. The number 160 was re-allocated to the South Wales Brigade in 1923.

During World War Two, 160 Inf Bde served with 53 (W) Div, apart from short periods under 52 Inf Div and 7 Armd Div. The Brigade saw action at Caen, Mont Pincon, Falaise, the Nederrijn and the Battle for the Rhine.

At the end of hostilities 53 (Welsh) Division was redesignated X Division until February 1947 when the Brigade HQ was disbanded. Despite several re-organisations, the Brigade managed to survive until March 1967, when it once again marched into the history books.

The new flag of the Brigade will be a red bardic crown on a green background with underneath the number 160 also in red within a black oval.

NEW HONORARY COLONEL OF YORKSHIRE 'TERRIERS'

Lieutenant General Sir Martin Farndale, Commander 1 (British) Corps in BAOR, recently assumed the appointment of Honorary Colonel of the Third Battalion, Yorkshire Volunteers, who are based in Huddersfield, Keighley, Bradford and Rotherham.

He will keep a 'fatherly eye' on the Battalion and advise the Commanding Officer — Lieutenant-Colonel Christopher Tattersall — who is a part-time Volunteer officer.

Despite his background as an Artillery officer General Farndale is no stranger to the Yorkshire Volunteers, having helped to form B Company at Rotherham, when it was converted from an artillery battery to an infantry company in 1971.

The previous Honorary Colonel was Major-General Donald Isles who looked after the interests of the Battalion for six years.

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A 2,000,000 candle power searchlight was used for the first time on a North Yorkshire Army range when more than 1,000 Territorial Army soldiers from the North East were given their toughest military skills test.

The men from units of 15 Infantry Brigade were taking part in a two-day competition — code name "Martial Merlin" after the bird on their formation sign — on the Catterick and Wathgill training areas.

The searchlight, operated by men of 105 (Tyne Electrical Engineers) Plant Squadron, Royal Engineers, from South Shields, illuminated the Wathgill range during night firing tests from dusk until the early hours of the morning.

The night shoot was one of a series of competitions which also included shooting by day, a forced march of nearly four miles with the last mile in nuclear, biological and chemical warfare protective clothing, assault course, first aid, recogni-

tion of aircraft and fighting vehicles and questions on nuclear warfare.

The Territorials were from units based throughout Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, County Durham, Cleveland, Yorkshire and Humberside, who would be flown out to Germany to reinforce the Regular Army.

Said Brigadier Michael Aris, Commander 15 Infantry Brigade: "The manner in which the Territorials switched from being civilians on a Friday to soldiers over the weekend was most impressive. Their performance proved their fitness for their role in Germany".

THE WINNERS

Infantry: 1st. D Company 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, from Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland (3398 points), 2nd. E Company 1st Battalion, the Yorkshire Volunteers, Doncaster (3225 points), 3rd. B Company 2nd Battalion, the Yorkshire Volunteers, Hull (3216 points).

GOOD START FOR NEW CENTRE

The King's Own Royal Border Regiment's 4th (Volunteer) Battalion get their newest TA Centre away to a good start.

Forming a new platoon is not always easy — but Major Mike Diss and Captain Peter Carney of C Company, 4th (Volunteer) Bn, believe their latest platoon is well launched. After an Open Day visited by The Mayor of Ulverston, Councillor Bill Davies, over thirty potential recruits were found, and in a special ceremony the first ten of the 'new boys' were presented with their new berets and badges.

Making the presentations, most appropriately, were two of the 'old boys' of Ulverston's long connections with the TA at Vic-

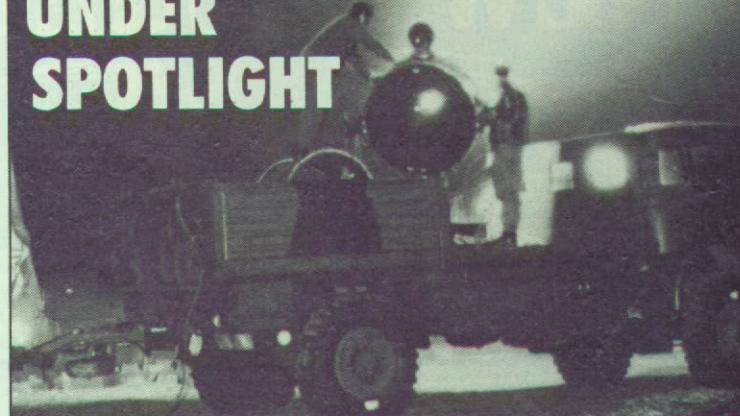
toria Street TA Centre. Harry Spencer, 89, joined the Territorial Force in May 1912 and served in WW1 with the 1st/4th Battalion, The King's Own, until demob in 1919.

With Harry was Jack Athersmith who joined the TA in 1910 (at the age of 14). Ulverston has always had a strong TA connection, and the Drill Hall houses the King's Own Royal Border Regiment Club.

However, volunteers had dwindled in recent years, and so were 'bussed' to Barrow's Holker Street TA Centre to train.

'Now,' said Major Diss, 'everything is going for Ulverston, and with our first ten recruits attested we have a nucleus.'

BRIGADE UNDER SPOTLIGHT



South Shields men light up the sky ...

Other Arms: 1st. 118 Field Squadron of 72 Engineer Regiment, Hartlepool (2771 points), 2nd. 106 Field Squadron of 72 Engineer Regiment, Dewsbury and Sheffield (2557 points), 3rd 203 Battery of 101 Field Regiment Royal Artillery, Blyth (2542 points).

Service Units: 1st 217 Squadron Royal Corps of Transport, Leeds (2382 points), 2nd/3rd

Teams from 124 Recovery Company, based at Aycliffe, Co Durham.

● D Company 4 Para had trained hard for the competition in the short time available since their return from annual camp in Germany.

The battle march was completed in just over one hour and the company scored highly on skills and shooting.



2nd Bn Yorkshire Volunteers tackle the course



The new boys give three cheers for veterans Jack Athersmith, 87 (centre left) and Harry Spencer, 89. The old 'boys' will be pleased to see the Ulverston revival.

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Keen cooks sharpen combat skills

GETTING tougher and trimmer doing vigorous training between 'big calorific meals' is normally a recipe for disaster. But, in fact, it's a complete challenging contest only Army cooks can savour.

Tasting the ample evidence at Detmold's Hobard Barracks were 44 formidable members of the Army Catering Corps of 4th Armoured Division who keenly competed for top spot in the first Military Skills Competition of Southern Catering Region (BAOR).

Outright winners were Central Catering Detmold pushing 4th Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment into second slot. Taking third prize were the cooks of 39 Heavy Regiment Royal Artillery.

But one of the toughest assignments they had to beat was the stamina-sapping obstacle course held in the barrack's gymnasium. Purposefully designed as the stumbling block of the competition it severely tested characteristics such as team spirit and demanded mental as well as physical agility. And not only was it performed against the clock but each contestant had to 'nurse' a nine pound medicine ball through most of the 20 indoor events that included trampolining and high jumping.

It is no wonder ACC cooks are highly rated as great exponents of exquisite cuisine, their domestic renown is widening. For by continuing the trend of holding more and bigger military skill matches in the future cooks are fast getting a genuine reputation as a fierce fighting force in their own right.



SOLDIER to Soldier

WARS have come and gone since the Imperial War Museum first moved into the old Bethlem Hospital, Southwark, in 1936. The number of exhibits has grown to hundreds of thousands, the number of visitors has more than trebled, but the space available for public exhibition galleries is no greater than it was nearly half a century ago.

Add to that the fact that the physical condition of the early 19th century building is poor — roofs are leaky, drains, plumbing, heating and wiring are antiquated and overloaded, and it must be the only national museum which provides its public refreshments from three vending machines — and the need for a £20 million restoration and redevelopment scheme just announced becomes obvious.

More than 724,000 people visited the museum last year to roam the galleries in the shell of the old hospital (once the lunatic asylum known popularly as Bedlam). They saw only a tiny proportion of the museum's 10,000 works of art, 40 million feet of film, five million photographs, 50,000 posters, 100,000 books, 55,000 pamphlets, maps and periodicals, and 6,000 hours of sound recording. Less than a tenth can be displayed.

Plans announced by museum director Dr Alan Borg, to be phased over nearly eight years, would change all that, providing the facilities necessary in a modern national museum but preserving and complementing the Georgian elegance of the old hospital. There would obviously be major disruption while work was being carried out but the museum would remain open to the public.

The cash, unfortunately, is not yet forthcoming. Some might be raised by sponsorship but most would have to come from Government sources.

Pointing out the importance of the museum, Dr Borg says compared with the art galleries it was perhaps not the most glamorous of museums, but it performed an important educational service. "If people don't learn the lessons this museum has to tell, none of us might be around to go to art galleries afterwards".

☆ ☆ ☆

STILL on the museum theme, we start a new series on page 40 — detailing some of the many fascinating items held in the National Army Museum.

We hope this goes down well with readers and for those fervent followers of Hugh King's popular Cap Badge series . . . don't despair. It has not been terminated and the next will appear 13 February, the two series alternating from now on.

☆ ☆ ☆

PICKFORDS Removals, sponsors of the Army Inter-Unit Athletics Championships (Seniors and Women), are again running a poster competition with a first prize of £100 and runners-up awards of £50.

The posters are to be one of two sizes — 41 x 55 cm or 21 x 30 cm in red and blue on a white background with black lettering. They must include an athletic figure or figures, the title of the Championships and the fact that it is 'under AAA and WAAA laws.'

They must also mention that the sponsors are Messrs Pickfords Removals Ltd, leave a blank space for Divisions and Districts to enter the date and venue of their championships as well as the following dates and venues:

BAOR Championships — 29 June at Senneleger; UK Zone 1 Finals 20 June at Aldershot; UK Zone 2 Finals — 4 July at Tidworth; Army Championships — 18 July at Aldershot.

The competition is open to all serving members of the Army and entries are to reach the Marketing Manager, Messrs Pickfords Removals Ltd., 492 Great Cambridge, Rd, Enfield, Middlesex EN1 3SA. En-

velopes should be marked 'Army Poster Competition' and the artist's name, rank, initials, unit, address and telephone number must be attached.

☆ ☆ ☆

ON pages 18 and 19 we pay tribute to Les Wiggs, our Picture Editor, who has just completed 20 years with SOLDIER.

Few people can have seen the Army at work in so many different roles and Les has lost count of the number of famous people met and the many thousands of miles logged.

A most friendly character, he enjoys a laugh — even at his own expense. In 1977 he was part of a SOLDIER team visiting Oman at the end of hostilities there.

The team flew to a remote area where men loyal to the Sultan were on the watch for remnants of the "Adoo", as the defeated insurgents were known.

Greeted by men who were bristling with guns and knives, Les was heard to say as he shook hands with each man — 'How Do?', which sounded like 'Adoo'. A quick nudge in the ribs alerted him before he ran into trouble!"

☆ ☆ ☆

TIME now to say how sorry the Editor is for the mis-spelling (16 January issue) of the name of the Chief of the General Staff, General Sir John Stanier and to General Sir Jack Harman, Deputy Chairman, The National Army Museum. It was he who appeared with Mrs Sara Jones in the photograph (12 December) and not the Director, Mr William Reid as we said. Apologies to all concerned. . . .

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Writer Graham Smith looks at the world of support helicopters and two Army Ground Liaison Officers who provide that



VITAL LINK WITH PEGASUS!

OPERATORS of the RAF Support Helicopters involved in tasking the aircraft for the Army during exercises and operations have just one piece of helpful advice for the "brown jobs" as they are affectionately dubbed. It is: Think big and go in for more imaginative and interesting exercise training plans of appeal to the RAF squadrons so that both Services can mutually benefit from the tactical experience.

The RAF's 1 Group at Upavon — formerly 38 Group — of Strike Command still visibly shudders at the image of their Support Helicopters (SH) being thought of as short-hop airborne taxis or flying four-tonners for freight. More needs to go into exercise scenarios, they say; more sensible utilisation of the already short supply air frames.

Helping to spread that word from RAF Odiham near Basingstoke — "home of the battlefield support helicopter" — are two

Army Ground Liaison Officers (GLOs), Majors John "Spud" Leaning and Mike Martin who are attached to Numbers 7 and 33 Squadrons which, respectively, fly medium lift Chinooks and light support Pumas.

Both GLOs agree that perhaps some of their colleagues in khaki who are unfamiliar with helicopter operations do not fully appreciate what is involved in taskings and what is required of the Army by the RAF to be mutually beneficial to both Services.

Major Leaning, Royal Artillery, who has Royal Marines commando and RA Gun Battery OC experience within AMF (L) said: "Both Services have developed in a completely different way, really. They do totally different jobs and it's only comparatively recently we have had an SH Force which has done so much for the Army. It's sometimes very difficult for the Army to understand this difference in roles. Tasking is done through two agencies, HQ UKLF and the RAF's No 1 Group on a basis of laid-down priorities."

In post at RAF Odiham for nearly seven months, Major Leaning — known universally as "Spud" — is designated 504 (GLO) Section assisted by Corporal Dave Tetlow, his RCT driver and a TA officer, Major John Burgess who turns out on exercises involving 7 Squadron Chinooks, nicknamed by some soldiers as "twin tubs" — washing at one end, spin drying at the other!

Major Leaning reminded that the SH fleet was not big enough in numbers for the tasks they had to do; three Chinooks had been lost in the Falklands fighting. Four were still there and three others were operating out of Cyprus on essential re-supply duties to the British peace-keeping contingent in Beirut. The squadron's crew availability had been subsequently dissipated.

"I consider myself as the link man between the squadron HQ ops cell and the user Army formation," he said. "When an exercise comes up you try to visit the unit in advance to clarify just what is required. The Army can do much more by making sure that the squadron commander and the GLO like myself attend the planning and co-

ordination meetings of planned exercises. There are still not a lot of Army people who have used the Chinook extensively. Even those in the Falklands had only one. It was the only one to survive."

The Chinooks of 7 Squadron, he said, will become fully operational this summer and those of her sister BAOR squadron — 18 Squadron — had become operational last July. Chinooks, he pointed out, could carry 65 troops in "light order" for work-up training and operations.

Many of the Army's exercise planners were not aware of the true lifting capacity of the Chinook with its three underslung hook fit. Striker, the FH 70, and two 105 mm Light Guns plus one-tonne towing vehicle were just three of the combinations capable of being ferried plus 30 or so soldiers in its capacious belly.

Aspiring Army users of Chinooks and Pumas — the latter designated LSH or Light Support Helicopters — also had to bear in mind the RAF's stringent safety measures, particularly those of low-level flying.

The point was emphasised by Squadron Leader Gordon Woolley, second-in-command of 7 Squadron who said that while in transit to a given training area in the UK pilots were restricted to a 300-foot cloud base. Over the training area then the helicopters could work down to 100 feet but weather conditions could prevent initial deployment and eventual recovery of troops.

The RAF, he said, was well aware that the user of helicopters on exercise was regarded as a "morale booster for the lads" and it would certainly help if Ops Officers, GLOs and subscriber units could get together early during the planning stages and not just a week or two before the actual exercise. Two months in advance would be "ideal", he suggested, for a battalion-sized exercise.

Maximum training value for troops and helicopter crews alike should be planned to fully utilise the characteristics and operating capabilities of support helicopters.

Chinooks, for instance, had a large lift capability — up to ten tons and early planning was essential to ensure sufficient loads were available.

Major Leaning said: "We, the GLOs, will advise commanders on the best method of

Photos: Paul Haley

achieving training objectives and, if available, will help supervise the actual training. Often I have hopped out of a Chinook to help out a unit commander of, say, an artillery battery, if he has operating problems with the aircraft. It's much better that it comes from me rather than the pilot who may not know the problems."

Other tips on offer from both tasking agencies suggest that not less than a complete minor unit should be involved and night tasks — of particular interest to MAOTs (Mobile Air Operations Teams) — are well looked upon and, perhaps when UKLF training hours are short, the RAF is prepared to use their own crew training hours for exercises which, again, are of mutual benefit.

Air assaults in ambitious scenarios are out. The tasking agencies think them an unrealistic use of Service aircraft.

A full day's training linked with absolute minimum of shut-down periods, good organisation and planning are further advised.

Major Mike Martin, The Worcestershire

'ET' offloads a Ferret in Beirut.



'OUT OF THIS WORLD'
ONE OF the Support Helicopters currently having its own exciting adventures is a Chinook called ... "ET".

One of a three-aircraft detachment from 7 Squadron and detached to RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus, the tandem-rotored helicopter is currently sharing the burden of essential re-supply to the British contingent making up the four-nation peacekeeping Forces in Beirut.

"ET" — its fin number and now backed up with a huge Union Jack — has links with the City of Truro and made the 2,300-mile flight to Cyprus in one leg fitted with internal fuel tanks.

The RAF air frame which ironically shares the same initials as the sci-fi celluloid hero has been flying to and from the Lebanese seaboard city and the British HQ at Hadath with supplies of fresh meat for the lads of 'A' Squadron, 16th/5th Queen's Royal Lancers.

But "ET" did not have the history-making chapter of making the first flight into Beirut; that milestone went to squadron stablemate "EZ".

In addition to the comestible supplies, "ET" has been lifting in — and out — the sand-coloured, four-ton Ferret scout cars which have been in need of detailed servicing back in Cyprus.

Normally, "ET" will fly about 350 hours a year and, at some time, must have "phoned home". For the helicopter of the famed name flies back to the UK next month for a servicing at its RAF Odiham, near Basingstoke, base.

Helicopters at 1 Group, Upavon, said: "In the past, there have been occasions when joint exercises involving our support helicopters have not worked with great advantage to either the RAF or the Army. This seems to be due to a lack of understanding of each other's problems and objectives linked with mix-ups in control and communication.

The Support Helicopter pilots tend to get little out of an Army exercise which does not use the full capabilities of the helicopters. Some unit commanders are reluctant to bid in the first place because they think they will either be refused or they will not have them long enough or that the aircraft themselves are likely to be unserviceable on the day.

Flt Lt Lobban suggested that the Army should consider using helicopters for tactical phases of exercise play such as positioning cut-off groups, withdrawing standing patrols, low level drops or insertion of quick reaction forces. Another possible advantage to the Army user, he said, was the role of

'ET' delivering food and other supplies.



Major John Leaning ... link man.



Major Mike Martin
... think 'dry'.

Major Leaning
supervises loading.

recce and establishing initial forward command centres.

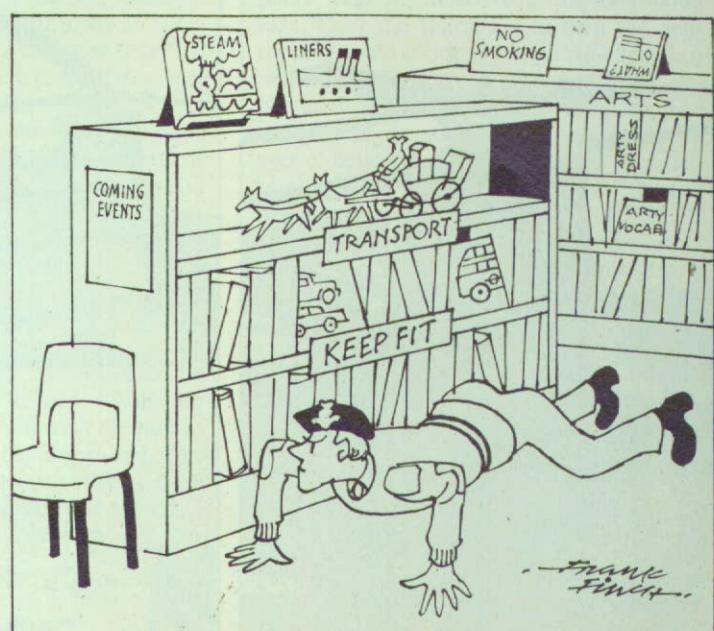
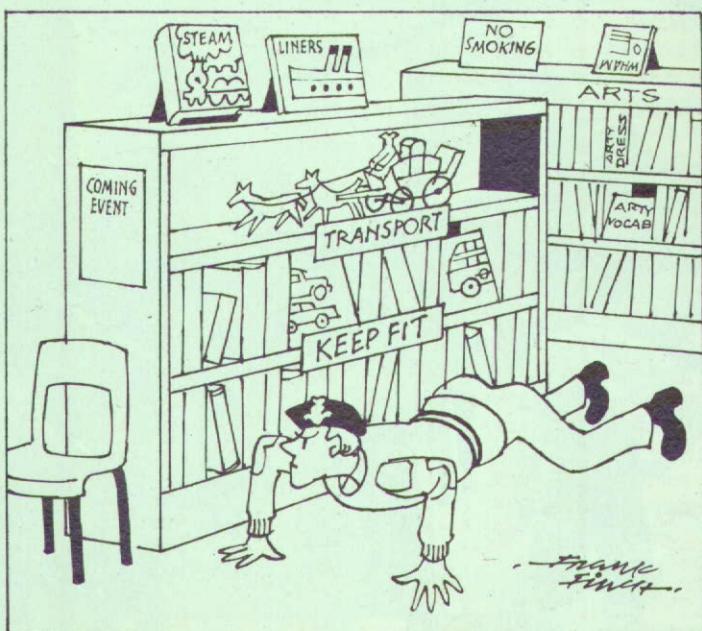
"So much could be achieved if only the Army knew what the Support Helicopters were capable of; if ground commanders knew where they were and what they were doing at all times and thus avoid sending them on unnecessary journeys which wastes valuable flying time."

If the commanders are still in doubt about taskings and how full mutual benefit can be reaped on joint co-operation exercises involving Support Helicopters they should read the helpful Army Training Directive (ATD) 19 and two articles in the Army Training News of April 1982 (No. 8) and September 1983 No. (11).

For, as Flt Lt Lobhan pointed out: "It's worth noting the Support Helicopters logo showing Bellerophon the Greek tasked to carry out difficult missions. His asset was the winged horse Pegasus which he tamed and used on missions helped with a bridle given him by Athena. The bridle is for finer control than the body can give. 1 Group provides the horse but the Army provides the rider and the bridle."

How observant are you?

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



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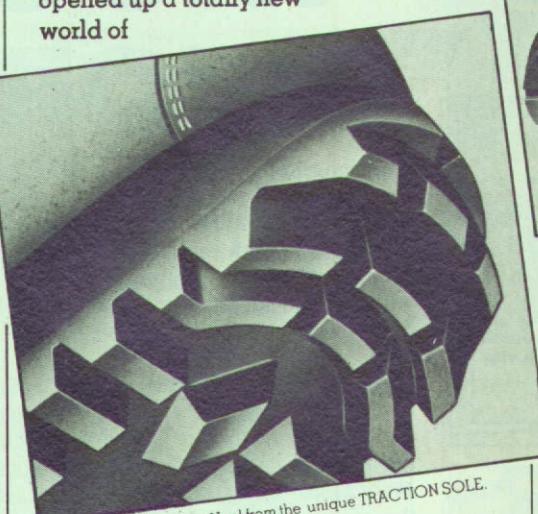
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Detail of the Safety Grip Heel from the unique TRACTION SOLE.

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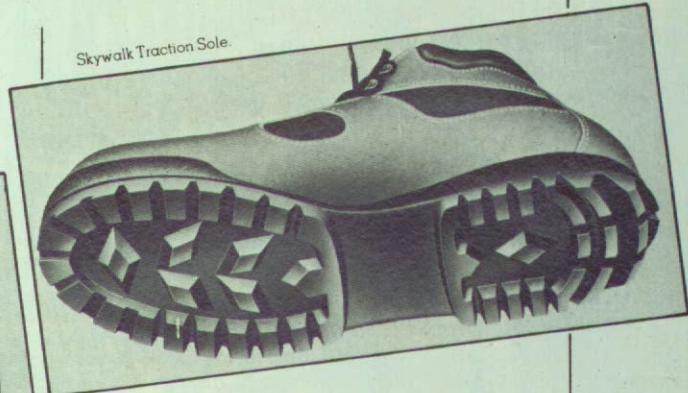
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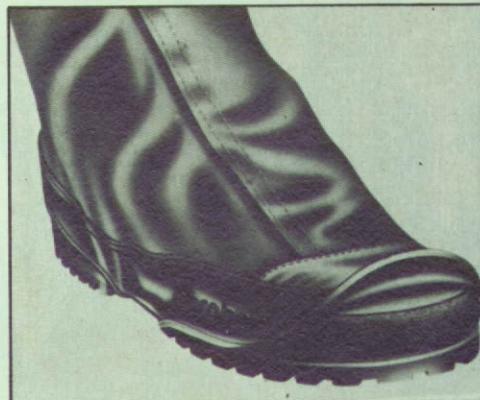


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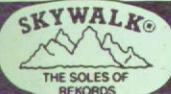


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"Gurkha riflemen with two suspected illegal immigrants in Hong Kong".



WIGGS'S WORLD

The longest-serving member of SOLDIER staff, Picture Editor Les Wiggs has just completed 20 years with the magazine.

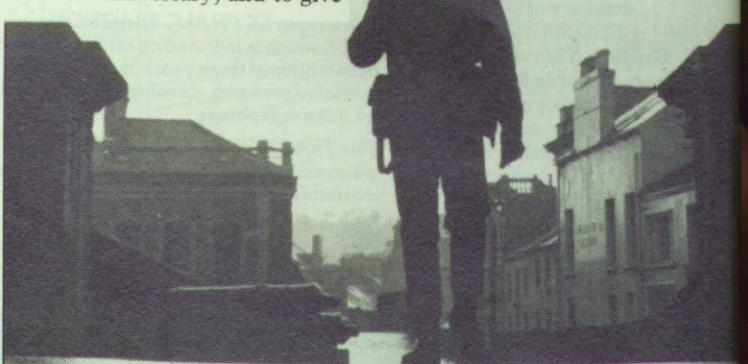
Les, Surrey-born and still living in the county, began his photography with the old half-plate cameras as a 16-year-old with the then Ministry of Supply, and was called up in 1944. He served with the Royal Signals in Catterick, India, Burma, Malaya and Singapore and was demobbed at Cove, Aldershot on Boxing Day 1948.

He worked in a variety of fields including air technical publications and military survey before joining SOLDIER in 1964. Since then his travels with the magazine have taken him to Bermuda, Chile, Brazil, the United States, Canada, Iceland, Norway, Finland, Germany, France, Holland, Belgium, Cyprus, Bahrain, Oman, Aden, Kenya, Rhodesia, Ethiopia, Singapore and Hong Kong.

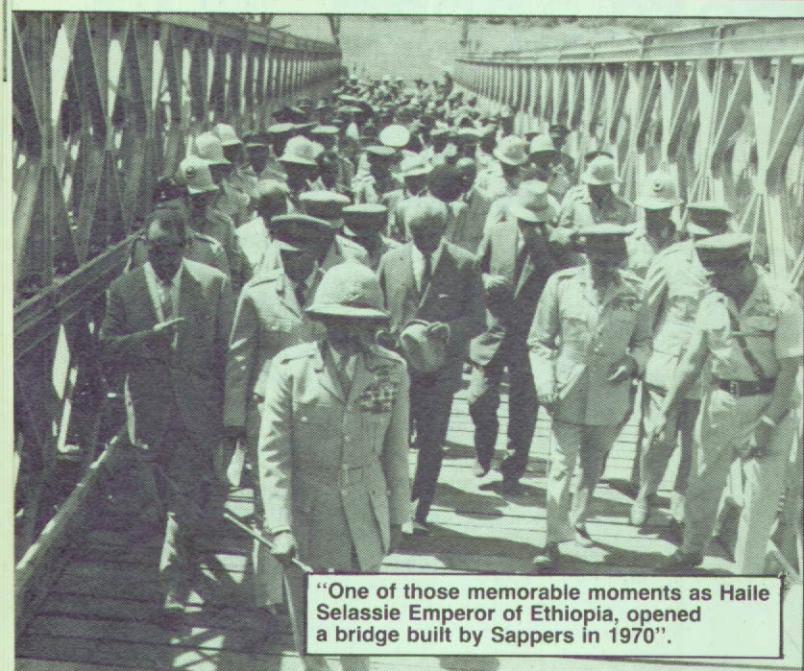
Les was asked to provide a selection of some of the many thousands of photographs he has taken — to mark the occasion of his 20th anniversary, and to give

readers some idea of the wide range of tasks he has tackled.

On these pages are some of the pictures he chose, with captions in his own words. When he isn't roving round the world, or processing in the SOLDIER darkroom Les enjoys all outdoor pursuits, particularly cycling . . . which explains how fit he is to follow the many tasks of today's Army.



"An early morning shot in Londonderry — used since many times as the basis of a logo by SOLDIER and the Army Benevolent Fund".



"One of those memorable moments as Haile Selassie Emperor of Ethiopia, opened a bridge built by Sappers in 1970".



"Men of 7 Royal Horse Artillery helping out at Molesey, Surrey during the floods of 1968 with the aid of a DUKW".

"A sad moment at Farnborough air show 1974 — out of a crew of two American test pilots one was killed instantly and the other died later".



"A Royal Artillery patrol on duty in Belfast".

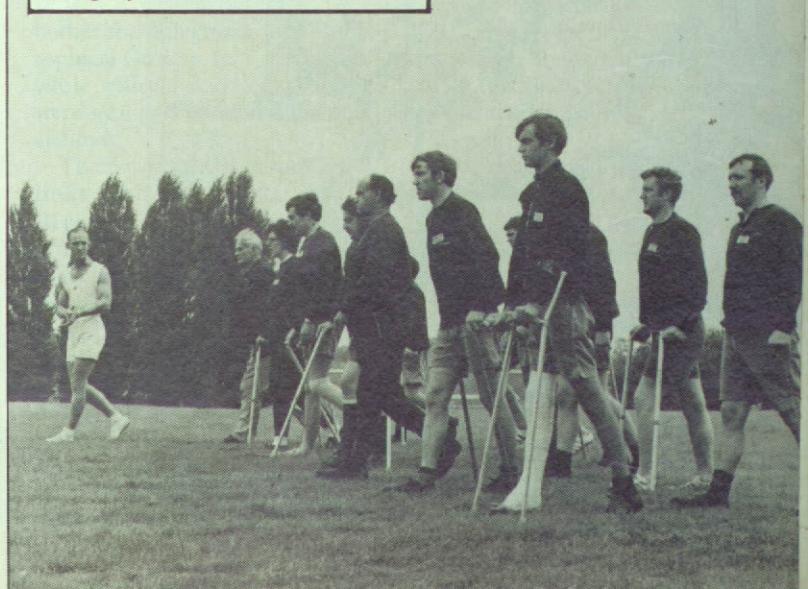


"I've had many trips to Northern Ireland, this was one of the happier shots from the early days near the 'peace line' in Belfast".

"Troops evaluating free-fall dropping from a de-pressurised Argosy. The flash unit failed to operate because of the intense cold — and I got an unintentional silhouette!"



"A touching shot at Chessington — where so much good work goes into aiding injured servicemen."





Gurkhas advancing through a banana plantation during jungle training.

Always keep the kukri sharp — as these Gurkhas demonstrate outside their barrack block in Papua New Guinea. ▼



LIK LIK SMALPELA SOLDIA MAN LONG LONGWE HONG KONG STAP BILONG OLTAIN PREN Which was the Papua New Guinea Army way of saying to Gurkhas . . . **SMALL SOLDIER FROM HONG KONG IS FOREVER A FRIEND**

THE message above may look strange, but when it comes to a description of the Gurkha soldier it was spoken with feeling in a farewell speech by the Papuan New Guinea Army. It means, "Small soldier from Hong Kong is forever a friend". If ever a military exercise won the battle of hearts and minds then the visit of the Gurkhas to Papua New Guinea must rate very high.

Codenamed Exercise Tahro Sathi — Distant Friend — the trip took over a hundred soldiers of 'D' Company 1st Battalion Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles from their barracks in the New Territories to Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea for six weeks.

The title of 'distant friend' couldn't have been better chosen. The inhabitants of this group of South Pacific Islands must be among the friendliest people in the world and they made the Gurkha soldier especially welcome.

Commanded by Major Nigel Mossop, 'D' Company, plus a group of Sappers from 68 Squadron Queen's Gurkha Engineers, took part in a tough training

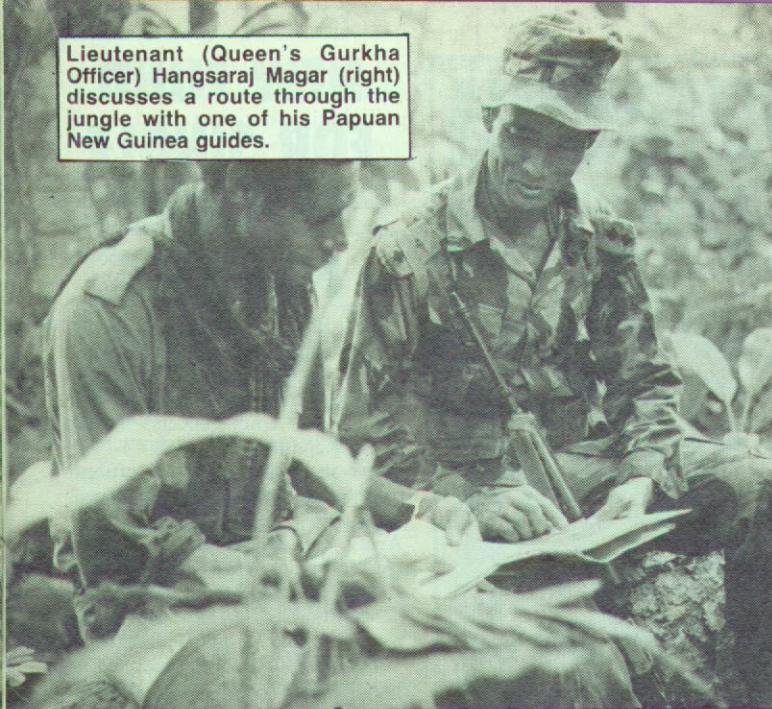
programme to achieve the aims of the exercise. These were, to train in an unfamiliar environment, complete a live firing programme, exercise with the Pacific Island Regiment and to get in as much adventure training as a busy schedule would allow.

The first part of the exercise took the Company to Goldie River, a superb field firing area with a great deal of open bushland similar to the Australian type. They then moved on to the jungle training phase in some of the toughest jungle any of them had ever seen.

This type of country covered everything from primary jungle to plantations and from bamboo thickets to swamps. About half of the Company had never trained in jungle before and for them the going was tough. During one phase the men marched 15 kilometres through the jungle in three days, quite a feat when set alongside a company of the local regiment who moved less than half that distance and ended up stuck in a swamp.

At the end of the jungle training 'D' Company 1/7 Gurkhas became 'D' Company 1st Pacific

Lieutenant (Queen's Gurkha Officer) Hangsaraj Magar (right) discusses a route through the jungle with one of his Papuan New Guinea guides.



Island Regiment, and as such took their place in line for a Battalion attack on a heavily defended hillside in deep jungle. The Gurkhas were the first into an attack which was watched by the Papuan New Guinea top army brass.

The exercise — 'Train Strong' — or 'Try Hard' — was great success. The Gurkha soldier, already tested in combat in the Falklands has more than proved his worth and Major Mossop was heartily congratulated for the expertise of his Gurkha soldiers.

Meanwhile the Sappers had been carrying out projects which were making them friends. A section of divers led by Captain

Peter Gilbert took his men to the island of Samarai where they helped in blowing up seventy two old mooring posts from World War Two.

This proved to be very popular with the villagers on the islands; each of the pilings weighed over two tons and it took a hefty explosive charge to move them — big bangs meant lots of fish. The islanders had a surfeit of fish, courtesy of the Sappers, and returned the favour with generous hospitality.

A second party of Sappers constructed a road bridge in the Goldie River area which meant bulldozing the whole site, raising the level of the roadway and con-



structing a wooden handmade bridge. A third group of Sappers were involved in creating a road way through virgin jungle. All their tasks were completed by the end of the exercise.

For the major part of their stay in Papua New Guinea the Gurkhas had fine weather. They caught the beginnings of the rainy season in their last week and were treated to some real tropical downpours. During one storm in the jungle the top of a tree crashed down on the Company Commander and his radio operator. Fortunately nobody was hurt apart from Gurkhas splitting their sides with laughter as the OC was cut out from the debris.

Throughout the whole of the exercise the Gurkha soldiers worked hand in hand with their Papuan counterparts, to the benefit of both groups. There is a hidden factor in the South Pacific military which is tactfully called "Melanesian time". This means that though events usually do happen, it's not always at the time and place you had planned. It was a system which didn't bother the phlegmatic and philosophical Gurkha very much; but white officers and senior ranks were seen to bite their fingernails at times.

There were already established links with the Pacific Islands Regiment which go back to an official affiliation in 1954. Since that time there have been a number of exchange officers and even one Platoon exercise. But Ex Tahro Sathi was the largest training exercise.

During the same time there were a number of Papuan New Guinea soldiers on an exchange trip to Hong Kong. These included a number of Sappers

Always time to stop and buy one as these Gurkha soldiers bargain for paw paws on a jungle track.

backed up by infantrymen.

The great friendliness of the Papuan New Guinea soldiers came to the fore when it was time to say farewells to their Gurkha guests. The parties seemed endless and many gifts and plaques were exchanged.

It all came to a head with a magnificent barbecue and traditional feast specially laid on.

This included the famous mou mou where pigs, chickens and vegetables are cooked by burying them in a pit of hot stones lined with banana leaves.

As a final farewell the Pacific Island Regiment laid on a miniature 'sing sing' with soldiers and their families dressed in their tribal costumes — most of them looked fearsome warriors.

In summing up the exercise Major Mossop was pleased that he had achieved all his aims and the training had gone very well. He was particularly pleased that his adventure training programme had been so successful, thanks to the availability of free flights which air lifted climbers and walkers to distant trails.

The Gurkha soldiers certainly enjoyed their time in Papua New Guinea.

It was a unique occasion to visit an exotic and friendly country with near perfect training areas — no soldier could want more than that.

They also left behind many good friends and kukris and t-shirts and cap badges . . .

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Papua New Guinea lies about three thousand miles south east of Hong Kong and has a population of just over two and a half million people. With its outlying islands the state covers 178,000 square miles, which gives it a population density of fifteen people per square mile.

The capital is Port Moresby which has a population of eighty thousand with the addition of a large expatriate community. Papua New Guinea's main exports are copra, cocoa, coffee, palm oil and vegetables.

Recent technical advances have revitalised gold and copper mining in the country and the industry looks like a good investment for the future. There has long been a viable logging industry but lack of roads prevents getting the timber out.

Papua New Guinea was first settled by the Missionaries who imported their usual bibles, brassières and bigotry. The land was first under German control and later ceded to the British. After many years mandated to the Australians, Papua New Guinea was given internal self government in 1973.

The bulk of the Australian army has now left the country. It left behind a number of military advisors at various levels and a fine tradition of military service.

The present Papua New Guinea Defence Forces consists of two infantry battalions with an engineer regiment. There is a small navy using patrol craft and a troop landing craft. There is also a small Air Force transport command.

Due to its lack of internal communications the people of Papua New Guinea evolved as a group of tribes with many and diverse languages. They are still warlike people in the remote areas with a reputation for head hunting and cannibalism.

Story: Terry Stockton
Pictures: Keith Gibson



My apologies for a clerical error which appeared in my letter of 14th November 1983 issue — Kings School, Gütersloh, 'A' Level passes should have read 95% — the highest pass rate of the five secondary schools in BAOR.

Continuing on the subject of education, a spate of letters towards the end of the year concerned the difficulties which face some students in applying for grants for further education after leaving school.

Mr. Paddy Ashdown, MP for Yeovil, raised this matter in the Royal Navy debate on the 28th November 1983 in the House of Commons. He said: "Secondly, service families who have served abroad have found themselves discriminated against when seeking access to education grants within the county council system. I hope that the Minister will address himself to that area of discrimination."

There are two FREE guides: Guide to Grants; (i) Grants to Students — a Brief Guide 1983; (ii) Designated Courses 1982; available from the address at the end of the letter.

One has to bear in mind there are two grants, mandatory and discretionary. In the case of discretionary grants each local authority decides its own policy.

An interesting point is raised in "Grants to Students" who have been refused a grant on residential grounds.

"A student admitted to a designated course is eligible for an award only if he or she: i) has been ordinarily resident in the British Islands for the three years immediately preceding the academic year in which the course begins (or would have been so resident if student, spouse, or either parent had not been temporarily employed outside the British Islands)."

ii) Special conditions may apply to the children of migrant workers from member states of the European Community, and their children; and to refugees, asylees and their spouses and children."

If you have been turned down it is worth appealing to the awards and Legal Branch of the DES at Elizabeth House, York Road, London SE1 7PH.

SCEA Advisory Branch at Eltham may also be able to advise where students have been turned down.

Anne Armstrong



The Soldiers', Sailors', Airmen's Families Association received a welcome boost to its funds in Cyprus. On the occasion of a lunch at Air House, held for Mrs Pauline Bibby, Director of Nursing and Social Work, SSAFA and Sherla Philogene, Deputy Director Nursing and Social Work, who were visiting Cyprus, Lady Langley, Chairman of the SSAFA Committee, presented a cheque for £4924. This sum brings the money raised in Cyprus by three SSAFA Committees, based at Episkopi, Akrotiri and Dhekelia to over £7500 this year. Photo shows, left to right: Lady Langley, Jean Tyrie, Pam Guest, Sherla Philogene and Pauline Bibby.

ASK ANNE

My husband has just less than four years to serve and we are considering buying a house next spring. I would be very grateful if you could send me any leaflets you may have regarding this. Perhaps you could recommend other material or books which would be of assistance to us, particularly regarding the renting of the property. — Mrs J, BFPO 16.

Ask at your local Education office to see the following regarding house purchase: 1981 — Resettlement booklet on housing; 1983 — House-letting booklet. Ask for an up-to-date AFAB newsletter on House Ownership, and for Army schemes on saving for a house at your Unit Pay Office.

Why aren't Naafi shops in NI running the Double Discount scheme? I have just come from a Naafi in UK which does. — Mrs W, Northern Ireland.

Naafi's reply:

The shops for the double discount experiment were chosen to give us a representative selection of sizes, locations and arms of the Services. None were selected in Northern Ireland because we were concurrently running a separate experiment there, of deep cuts over a range of goods in all the shops in the province.

My husband and I are going to Berlin in December. I am employed

Anne Armstrong's home telephone number Camberley (0276) 29653.

on his camp so I will have to give up my job and move with him. Is there any way I can claim unemployment money whilst I am away? — Mrs T, Mill Hill.

You may be able to claim Unemployment Benefit for three months from the day you sign on at the Arbeitsamt. You must sign on as Unemployed at your local office between four weeks and four days before you go — it is best to do it a week before. Ask for UBL 22. If you are eligible for Unemployment Benefit in UK then ask for a bi-lingual letter and your E303 — see page 3 of FBS, Social Security Services Families going abroad. Then you must sign on in Berlin at the Arbeitsamt within 7 days — not the PCLU, or you will lose your right to claim. To safeguard your State Pension etc, also ask at your DHSS office for these leaflets: NI 42, NI Voluntary Contribution.

I wonder whether you can help me? My son has had eczema since he was born two years ago. Whilst we were in UK I found our local branch of the National Eczema Society a tremendous help. To be able to talk to other mums about dealing with sleepless nights, creams, diet, special clothes etc was very useful. While in BFG we are rather cut off from such support and I thought I would see if there are sufficient people interested in starting a group within BFG. This may just take the form of postal contact or arranging meetings.

If anyone feels they would like to contact Mrs Johanna Webb, please write to: Mrs Webb, c/o RHQ 21 Engr Regt, Nienburg, BFPO 48.

NEW FUND FOR SINGLE OFFICERS' FAMILIES

A new fund was started this month for the benefit of single officers' families — in the event of the officer dying while serving — and has been named The Army Officers' Dependents' Fund (AODF).

For many years married officers and soldiers and single soldiers have been able to join, respectively, the Army Officers' Widows' Fund (AOWF), Soldiers' Widows' Fund (SWF) or Single Soldiers' Dependents' Fund (SSDF) and now the gap has been filled for single officers.

The new fund will be operated in parallel with AOWF. Male single officers will be transferred automatically on marriage, thus lessening the possibility of newly married wives being left without benefit. The charity commissioners were unable to agree the transfer of female officers to AOWF on marriage because of the original conditions laid down in the Trust Deed for that Fund.

DCI (Army) 238/83 outlines the scope of the new fund and the method of joining and the Paymaster in Chief has also included advice to all unit Pay Staffs in his recently issued instruction (Special PICI No 2 14 Nov 83).

Further items from this booklet will appear in future issues.

PROVISION FOR DEPENDANTS AND SPONSORED SAVINGS SCHEMES A GUIDE TO THE FACILITIES SPONSORED BY THE ARMY ADAT INVESTMENT SUPPLEMENT

ADAT, Kingston Bridge House, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 4AG. A special life assurance policy available only to ADAT members and their wives. Premiums, in multiples of £8.50 are deducted from pay each month, for 10 years. The policy has a guaranteed payment on death, and the investment is fully available for use after 10 years.

Combined application form/leaflet obtained from the ADAT Manager.

ARMY FOUNDATION SAVINGS PLAN

AFAS Limited, Kingston Bridge House, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 4AG.

A general savings package available to all members of the Regular Army and the Ulster Defence Regiment which combines the advantages of a building society account and life assurance contracts. Contributions, in multiples of £5 with a minimum of £10, are deducted from Army pay each month.

Leaflets obtainable from unit pay offices.

HOUSE PURCHASE SAVINGS SCHEME

A facility to set up an investment account with a building society selected by the soldier.

Contributions in multiples of £1 are deducted from pay each month and remitted direct to the chosen building society. Application forms 1796E and 1796F are obtained from unit pay offices.

In this page 16 January issue 1984 Diary dates for the Guild of St Helena Handicapped Children's Holiday were unfortunately left out. They are 22-29 June.

TRADITIONALLY Child Benefit has always been paid by order book to families, including Service families, living in Great Britain. The books allow payment to be made at Post Offices, either weekly or, more recently, every four weeks.

When a Service family is posted overseas however, special arrangements are usually made by MOD to pay the Child Benefit through the Serviceman's pay account.

Paying social security benefits by order books is an expensive operation and recently the Government has been looking at different ways of making payment, not only to save costs but also to improve the service to the public.

As a result of this review DHSS has decided to introduce a new system of payment, "Credit Transfer", by which certain benefits can be paid direct into a nominated account with a bank, National Giro Bank, building society or into an investment account with the National Savings Bank.

The new system can only be used for certain DHSS benefits and people have a free choice whether they want to use it or to stick with their old method of payment.

NEW METHOD

Retirement and widow pensioners were the first people to be offered payment by Credit Transfer and since October 1982 many pensioners have decided to switch to the new payment method.

From this month the DHSS plan to extend the Credit Transfer facility to people who are entitled to Child Benefit. Mothers will be able to have their benefit paid directly into their own account, their husband's account, or into an account in joint names.

Nobody will be pressured into having payment by Credit Transfer against their wishes and the choice will be entirely voluntary.

People who do opt for it will have Child Benefit paid every four weeks in arrears, straight into their bank or building society account.

Anybody who chooses to be paid by Credit Transfer will be able to revoke their choice at any time and switch back to their previous method of payment.

Obviously DHSS has put a lot of planning into working out just how the new payment system should operate and the best way of introducing it.

There are more than seven million families receiving Child Benefit and, obviously, it is no small task letting them all know about the new Credit Transfer

system and getting them to decide if they want to use it. So how will DHSS approach the job?

FIRST STEP

The first step will be to give all people claiming Child Benefit for the first time the opportunity to be paid by Credit Transfer. The Child Benefit claim form, which is completed following the birth of a first baby, has been modified to let people say what method of payment they prefer.

This newly designed form should be available in DHSS Local Offices from the beginning of January 1984. Service wives living in Great Britain use exactly the same form as civilian wives

which will be available to them. This special letter will fully explain the new Credit Transfer system and will be sent out from Child Benefit Centre, Washington. It will include an application form for people to fill in if they want to switch over to the new method of payment.

To prevent operations at the Child Benefit Centre from being disrupted by a flood of applications once the new system gets off the ground, it is important that people don't jump the gun.

The strong plea from DHSS is that you shouldn't do anything until you receive your own personal invitation letter. When you do receive it, if you would like to

application form and carry on cashing your order book until it runs out. After that benefit will be paid automatically every four weeks into the bank or building society account you have decided to use.

After the new system starts, if you are receiving Child Benefit by Credit Transfer and you and your family are posted overseas, (apart that is from Northern Ireland), you can continue to have benefit paid directly into your account in Great Britain.

Alternatively, you can stop having payment by Credit Transfer and instead have the benefit paid into your husband's pay account whilst you are abroad.

Northern Ireland is different because there are special circumstances which make it impractical to continue paying your Child Benefit from Great Britain.

People living in Northern Ireland get their Child Benefit from the Northern Ireland DHSS and if you are posted there payment will be made by that Department.

NOT FORGOTTEN

But what about Service families who have just started or are in the middle of an overseas posting and receive their Child Benefit through their husband's pay account?

These families will not receive one of the special invitation letters from the Child Benefit Centre but that doesn't mean that they have been forgotten.

Special arrangements will be made to make sure that they also have the choice to get their Child Benefit paid by Credit Transfer. At the moment DHSS is finalising these arrangements with MOD and it is hoped that by May 1984 special Credit Transfer forms will be held by all pay units on overseas bases.

Those families serving overseas who want to change to payment by Credit Transfer will then be able to obtain a form, fill it in and return it to the Child Benefit Centre. The forms will be very similar to the special invitation letters being used in Great Britain. When the forms are received the Child Benefit Centre will arrange with MOD to remove Child Benefit from the husband's pay account and it will then be issued direct into the nominated bank or building society account back home in Great Britain.

The Credit Transfer system will be a quick, safe and convenient method of paying Child Benefit, and less expensive for DHSS to operate. I'm sure that many Service wives, especially those overseas, will want to give it a try.

Child Benefit - New Payment System

This useful child benefit leaflet is available at DHSS offices, or Post Offices throughout the United Kingdom — and overseas from BFPOs.



and they will therefore have the same freedom of choice to state how they want their benefit to be paid.

Next, everyone receiving Child Benefit at the moment and being paid by order book, (including, of course, Service wives), will be asked whether they would like to switch over to payment by Credit Transfer. Because of the huge number of families involved it will take DHSS about 18 months to send everyone the special invitation letter explaining the choice

try payment by Credit Transfer, just fill in the special application form and return it to the Child Benefit Centre.

If you are happy with your present method of payment, and find it more convenient, simply throw the invitation letter away. You will continue to be sent Child Benefit order books as in the past. No reminder or further attempt will be made to persuade you to change over to Credit Transfer payment.

If you do decide to try the new system complete and return your

Two pages with the emphasis mainly on women as writer John Margetts sees . . .

EFI Girls queue for Falklands



The Falklands:
Sgt Frances Bowler points the way . . .

pictures: Les Wiggs

NAAFI girls are queuing up to go to the Falklands. Already the first seven trail-blazers have arrived in the South Atlantic to join their male colleagues in Naafi's own TA — the Expeditionary Forces Institutes (EFI).

The girls are running bars and clubs for servicemen in and around Port Stanley.

The seven girls, all single, were selected from 120 Naafi's own staff.

"We had no need to recruit girls from outside our own staff," said a spokesman. "We have more than enough volunteers to meet our needs in the Falklands."

"Mind you," he added, "we're always interested to hear from applicants for our UK clubs." Eventually the seven-strong girls' team will build up to a permanent strength of 20.

"We'll be doing what Naafi's best at — providing a service for the troops at the sharp end," said Sergeant Patricia Cunane.

For Pat, the 8,000-mile air and sea trip to the Falklands was the first time she had ever been abroad.

"It's a long way to go for a first-time trip," said Pat, 27, from Manchester. "I've not even been across the sea to the Isle of Man."

For the girls to serve with EFI meant joining the Army — all of them are either corporals or sergeants — and they are the first Naafi girls to wear WRAC uniform.

When they return from their five-month stint, they get "demobbed" and rejoin Naafi.

"They can stay longer if they want to," said a Naafi spokesman. "Their first extension must be for three months followed by one month at a time after that. "For each month they extend they collect £100 bonus." Headed by Lieutenant Jophy Dehnel, a Naafi official from Aldershot, who left a week earlier than the girls to prepare their accommodation on one of three "coastal" vessels, the remaining five making up the team are: Corporal Jill Wright, 21, Corporal Mandy Simons, 23, Corporal Mary Gallacher, 25, Corporal Kay Winfield, 21, and Sergeant Frances Bowler, 27.



During her four-day visit to the Falkland Islands, Colonel Nan Robertson, Commander WRAC UKLF visited the six WRAC Supply Specialists who are employed with the Falkland Island Logistics Battalion and work on the Stores Company Supply Ship, MV 'Tor Caledonia'. The supply ship is moored in Port Stanley Harbour.

LCPL Liz Preston, PTE Judy Gray and LCPL Lesley Kengington in the photograph arrived in the Falklands in November.

During her visit Colonel Robertson was escorted around East Falkland by Captain Lorna McGregor officer in charge of the 21 WRAC servicewomen in the Falklands.

Colonel Robertson visited all locations where the WRAC girls are employed, HQ British Forces Falkland Islands, The Provost Unit, the Forces Post Office, and at Lookout Rocks Camp.

The current WRAC personnel return home in March 1984.

Col. Robertson, second left, meets some of the girls.

THE NAME of the game was "good news, bad news." Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Norman, kind man that he is, gave them the bad news first.

It wasn't so bad as some of the 53 OTC cadets, straining all week for the Certificate of Military Training (CMT) at Lodge Hill Camp, Kent, had led themselves to believe.

For 36 of them passed all the tests with flying colours, 15 "slipped up" on map reading and the voice test (radio) procedures, and only two failed outright.

The two lads who missed out completely will have to take it all again, but the others — six of them were girls — will take only the map reading or radio tests again, said Cambridge OTC adjutant Captain Adrian Morgan, Royal Signals.

For five days the students, with an average age of 19, had prepared for the trials. A pass mark would go some way towards achieving a commission in the TA; failure would simply mean retaking all or part of the tests.

"There is no question of kicking people out of the OTC just because they fail the CMT.

"These are high calibre students 36 of them at Cambridge and the remainder at Oxford or London universities."

Oozing quiet confidence as she scraped thick mud from her boots, Officer Cadet Lucy Dixon, 19, one of ten girls taking the course, said: "It's the first time I have done this course, but I have no doubts about passing.

"I feel very confident and I found the whole thing most enjoyable despite the rain and cold and getting soaked," said Lucy, who is reading geography at Cambridge . . . and whose confidence was justified!

Her remarks were echoed by Oxford "undergrad" James Ford-Johnston (physics).

For James, too, it was a first time 'bash' at the course which included two written exams on tactics, administration and morale and giving a ten-minute talk on any one of 50-odd military subjects plus practical tests on combat appreciation, reaction to battle situations, map reading and radio voice procedure tests.

While Lucy and James told of the five-day run-up to the trials, WO Ray Whall from Oxford OTC, gave instructions to Patrick Clements (Oxford), Fiona Gardner (Cambridge) and Christopher Hayes (London).

It was the combat appreciation test. In pouring rain the trio listened intently as Ray Whall outlined the test: "You are a point platoon and your section has



pictures: Paul Haley

STUDENTS STRIVING FOR COMMISSION

come under enemy rifle fire.

"You send a contact report and your company commander orders you to take the enemy position.

"Have a look at the situation and make a combat appreciation and plan. The test lasts 20 minutes and you have ten minutes to give your answer."

All three went off and sat in heavy undergrowth with rain trickling down their necks and soaking into their boots.

"We call this a TEWT," (tactical exercise without troops), said Captain Morgan, peering at a mist-shrouded hedgerow 500 yards away.

"That's the objective. They have to decide the best way to take it."

Meantime, in the back of a borrowed Royal Engineers' lorry, their fellow candidates scribbled away drawing plans and writing reports on bits of rain-soaked paper.

"Not very pleasant," observed Colonel Norman, president of the examining board, "but at least it's realistic."

Realism played a part, too,

when it came to marking results. Said Adrian Morgan: "We have mixed feelings about the final marks.

"In general we're very pleased with the results, but that is tinged with disappointment over the map reading. But the dreadful weather conditions and the fact that the maps got soaked with the incessant rain, probably had something to do with it."

He added that he expected at least half of the candidates to go forward for a TA commission while still at university.

"When they leave university the hope is that they will, after settling down in a job, find themselves a unit and rejoin the TA."

He stressed that while on the course equality abounded. "It was exactly the same for the girls as the boys," he said. "But they get 50p a day more than us," said Lucy Dixon. "We get £11 and they get £11.50."

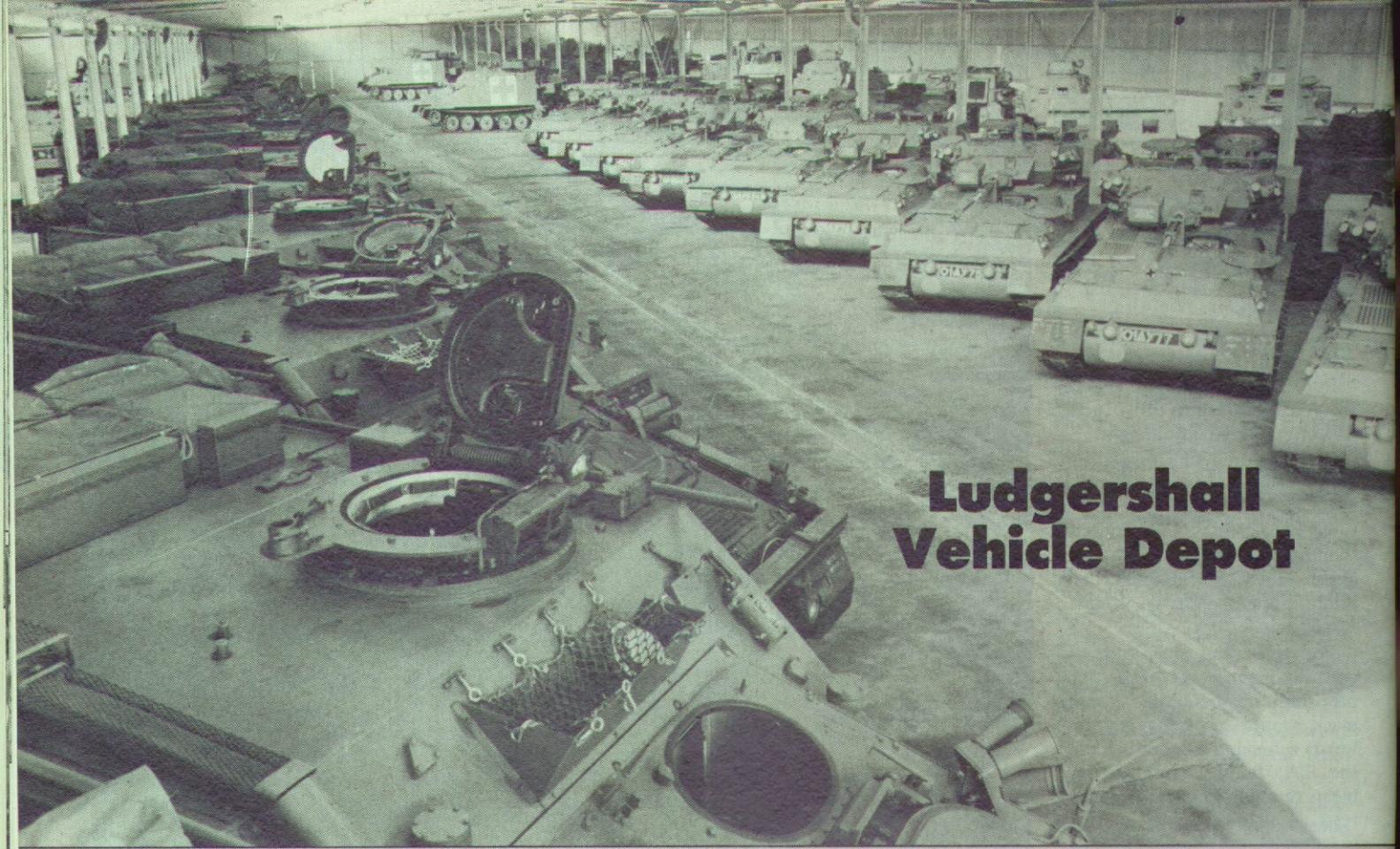
"But if you pass your CMT," said Captain Morgan, "you'll all get £13 a day."

In that dreadful weather it was not a sum to be sneezed at!



ARMY PHOTO COMPETITION

Details of the ninth Army Photographic Competition have just been announced — and the vital details can be found in full on page 41



Ludgershall Vehicle Depot

LAIR OF THE TANK STACKERS



Vehicles arriving at the fallhead.
Top: large store of armoured vehicles.

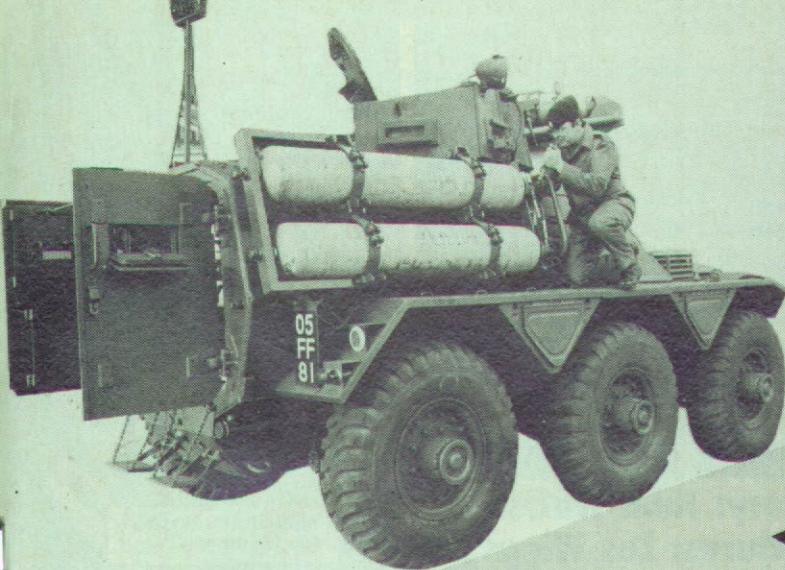
CERTAIN sections of the Army have over the years disparagingly referred to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps as 'blanket stackers'. But the RAOC personnel at the Vehicle Depot at Ludgershall on the edge of Salisbury Plain are only too proud to call themselves "The Tank Stackers".

For all around the depot, in immaculate lines, are armoured fighting vehicles — from those going out of service through the current range to the latest additions.

Just over 1100 vehicles will be at the depot at any one time, including some in reserve and others destined for sale to foreign parts.

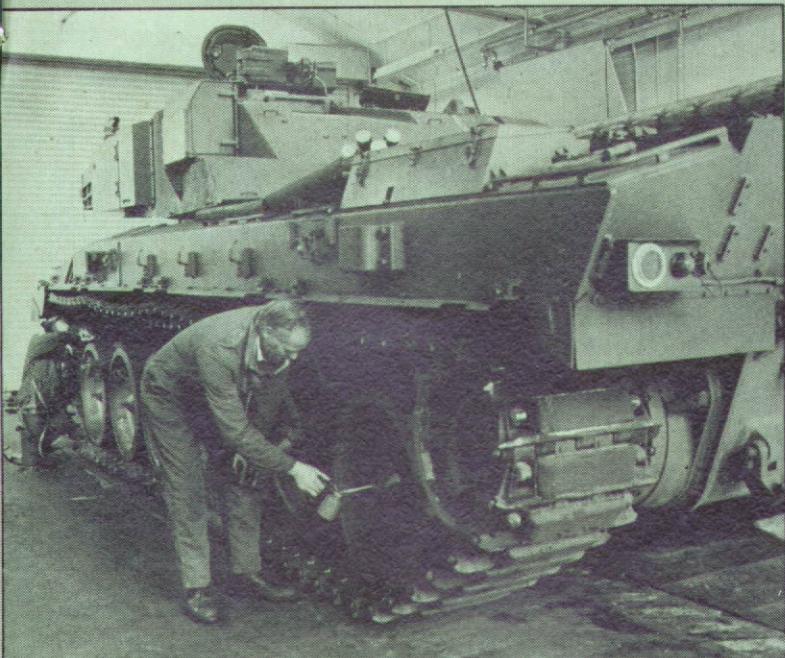
In conjunction with 96 Vehicle Depot Workshops on the same site the depot does control checks on all new armoured vehicles leaving the manufacturers. Says the Officer Commanding, Major John Rose: "We make sure they are up to specification and have all the kit to go with them. For instance a tank has more than 300 pieces of kit not to mention the Army items such as shovels and so on."

The vehicles are sent out from Ludgershall either from the rail sidings to Andover or by tank transporter. They go to British

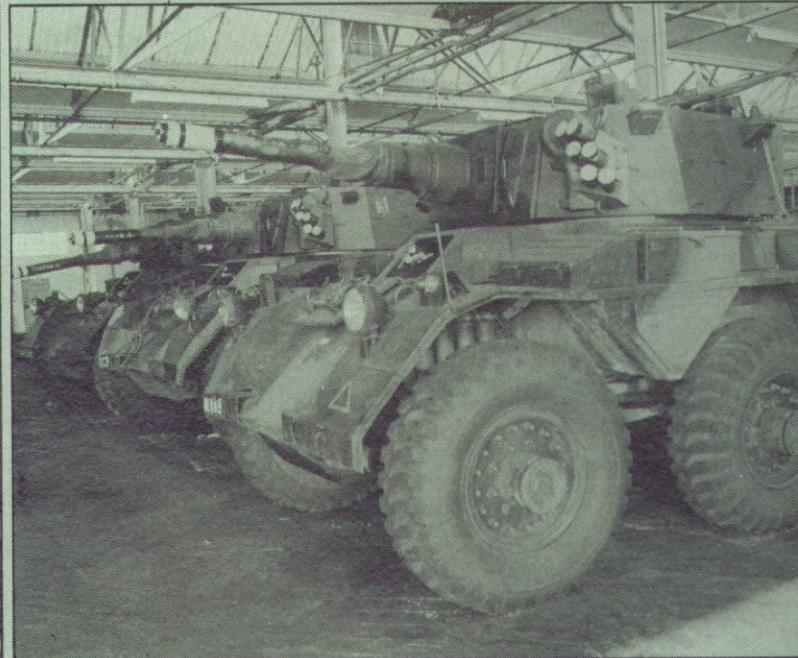


A rare Saracen water cannon vehicle, unlikely to be used but kept in full maintenance.

Washdown for a Khalid tank bound for the Jordanian Army. ▲



A new Challenger gets a check over after arriving from the Royal Ordnance Factory.



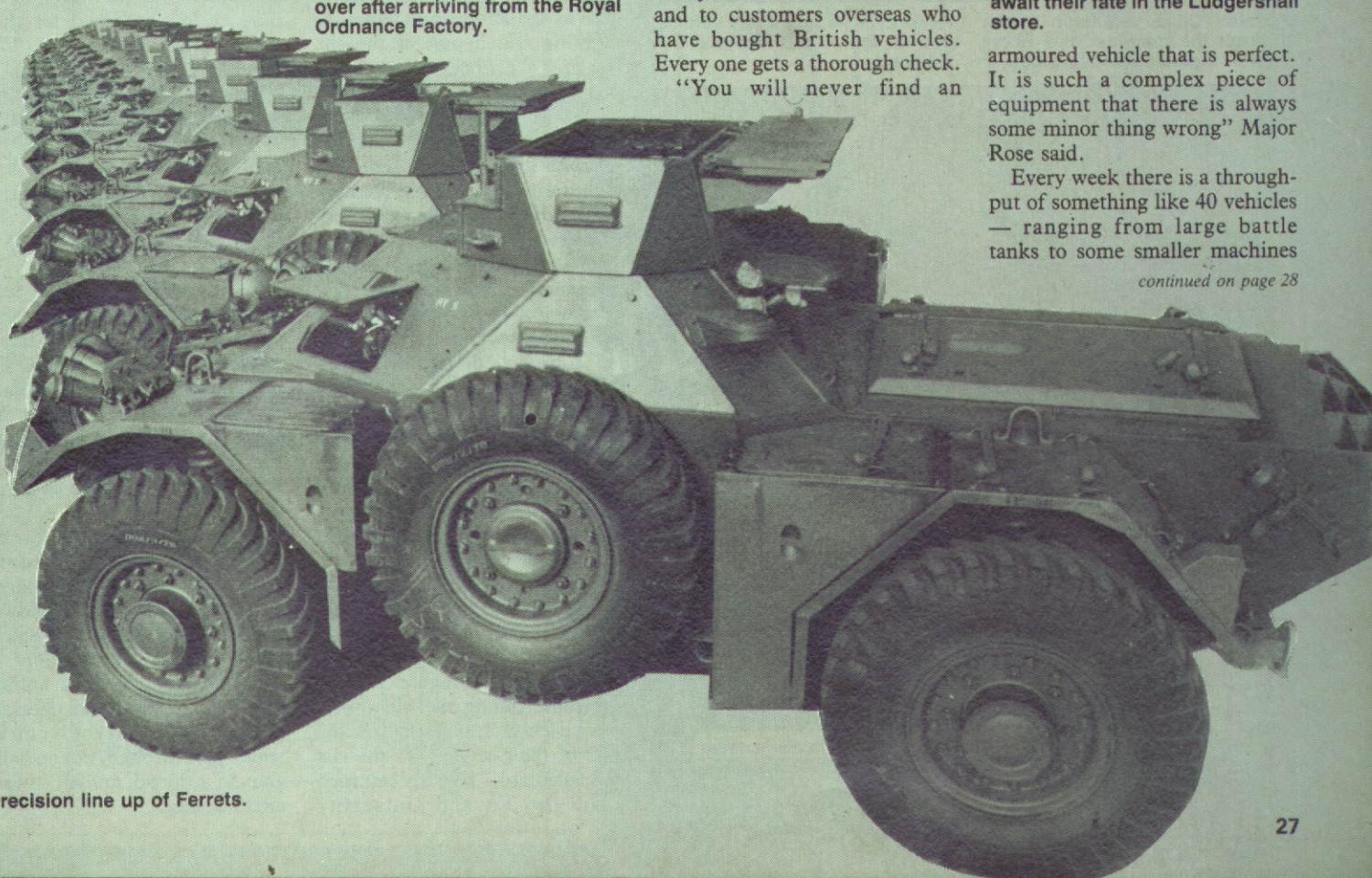
Army units all over the world and to customers overseas who have bought British vehicles. Every one gets a thorough check. "You will never find an

The last of the Army's Saladins await their fate in the Ludgershall store.

armoured vehicle that is perfect. It is such a complex piece of equipment that there is always some minor thing wrong" Major Rose said.

Every week there is a throughput of something like 40 vehicles — ranging from large battle tanks to some smaller machines

continued on page 28



Precision line up of Ferrets.



**Story: John Walton
Pictures: Les Wiggs**

▲ Private Mark Murphy among the store of vehicle batteries.

Ferrets arriving at Ludgershall by rail.



Major John Rose —
"No Mothballs."



▲ Private Clive Johnson runs through the manifest of a Scorpion — including cooking pot.



Respraying Volvo snow vehicles bound for Arctic exercises in Norway.



such as Stalwarts (with the same suspension as Saracens) and Volvo snow vehicles.

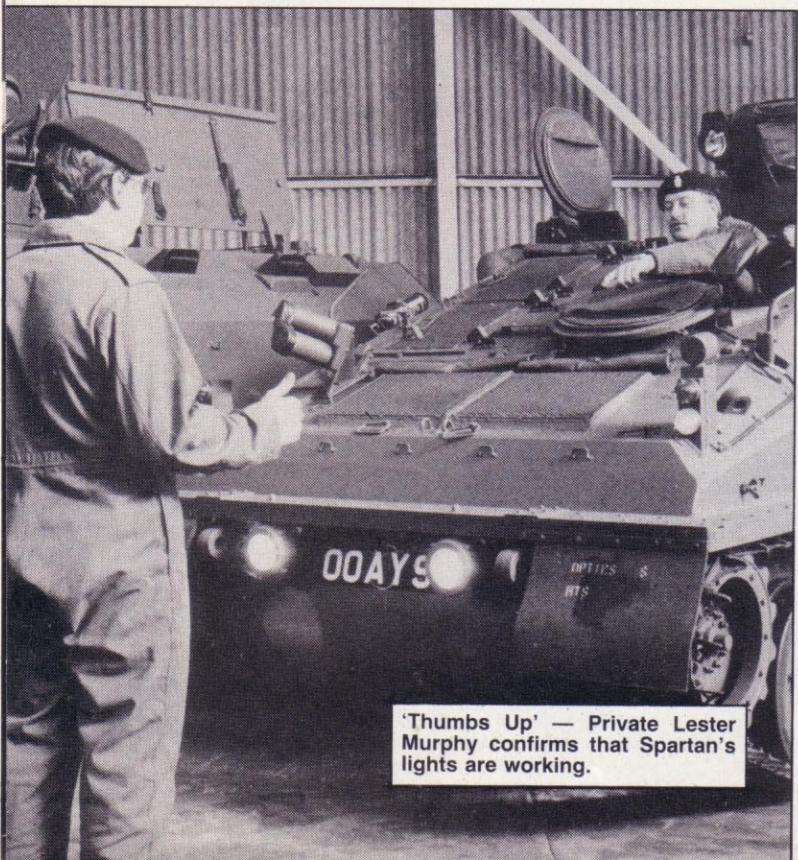
The depot was first opened in 1939 as a lock-up Mobilisation Depot of two buildings and soon afterwards Covenanter tanks were the first of the long line of tanks to pass through its gates.

During the war it was used by Australians and Americans as well as the RAOC and when the fighting ended part of the site became a prisoner-of-war camp followed by squatter occupation of derelict military buildings.

It was in 1947 that it became a storage location for armoured fighting vehicles and it has continued this role under a variety of titles ever since. Every armoured vehicle since that time has been there and some of them are commemorated in a display near the entrance all with pet names.

There's William (the Conqueror), Horatius (the Centurion), Joseph (the Saladin), Robert (the Ferret) and Baden-Powell (the Scout car). With a mixed manpower of 57 military and 160 civilians, many of the Ludgershall workers have seen all of these come and go.

"We have seen them come in brand new and then go off to the history books," says Mr Roy Collett, foreman supervisor in the gun bay and a more than 30 years veteran. Among the old timers now back at Ludgershall at the end of their service are the last ten Saladins — recently returned from the TA and University



'Thumbs Up' — Private Lester Murphy confirms that Spartan's lights are working.

Officer Training Corps and now earmarked for sale.

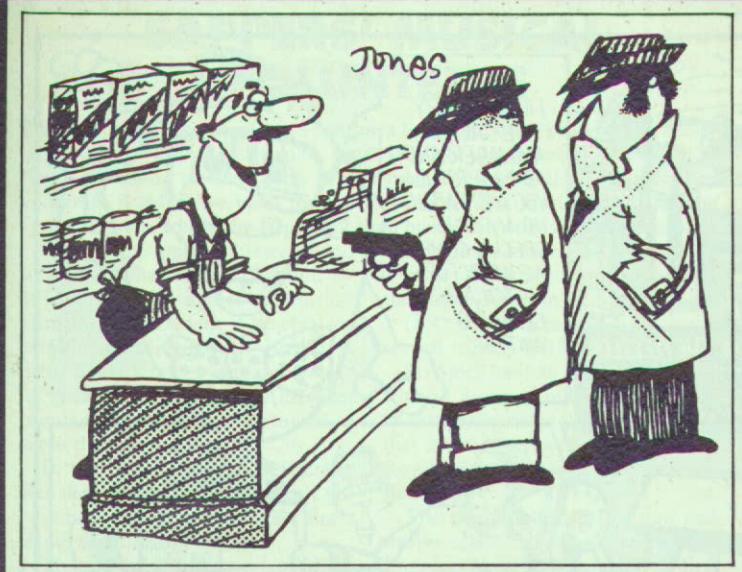
The depot also has one of only three wartime Daimler armoured cars still in running order. It has been carefully restored to its former glory and now Major Rose plans to check out its Service record.

The reserve stocks of vehicles are regularly tested both for running performance and for their guns if they have them. "We don't mothball — everything is in proper storage," Major Rose told SOLDIER.

During the Falklands crisis the depot staff were itching to help — but no armoured fighting vehicles were involved. Eventually some Snow Cats had to be got ready for the Marines.

Recalled the OC: "The reaction was terrific. The men were standing on the railway tracks waiting for them to arrive. The best story of the day was that I looked out of my window and saw a piece of metal running up the hill. It was the front of a Snow Cat and a REME chap had it on his back."

For other emergencies like the Lebanon which require armoured vehicles the Ludgershall depot has been quickly to the fore. For the 'Tank Stackers' pride themselves not only on their neat and precise storage lines, and their expert checking and servicing of the vehicles which pass through, but on being able to respond quickly to any circumstance.



"You two together...?"

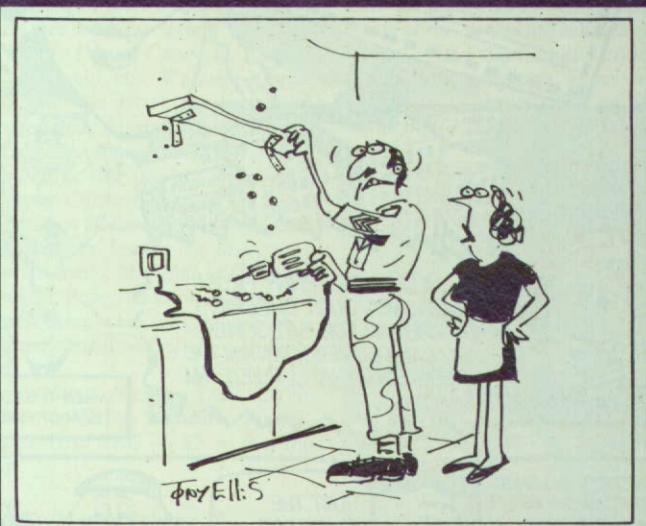


"Honest Miss, I do know the answer but when you look at me with those big blue eyes my mind goes blank"

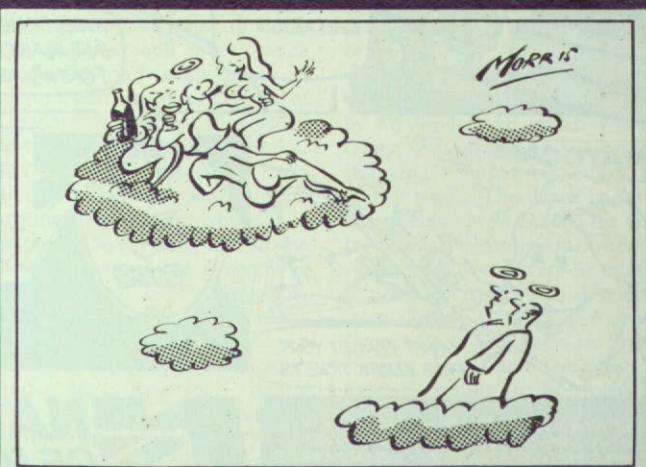


"Don't put the washing too far up — it might attract a ship"

Humour



"Some drill sergeant! Can't drill a perishing hole properly"



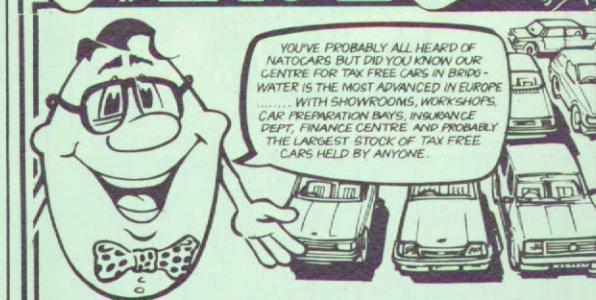
"That's cloud nine!"

Introducing THE **PLEEZERS**

From Natocars of Bridgwater



HI, I'M HENRY THE SALES MANAGER AND I'D LIKE TO TELL YOU A BIT ABOUT US AND THE SPECIAL COMPANY WE WORK FOR - NATOCARS OF BRIDGWATER.

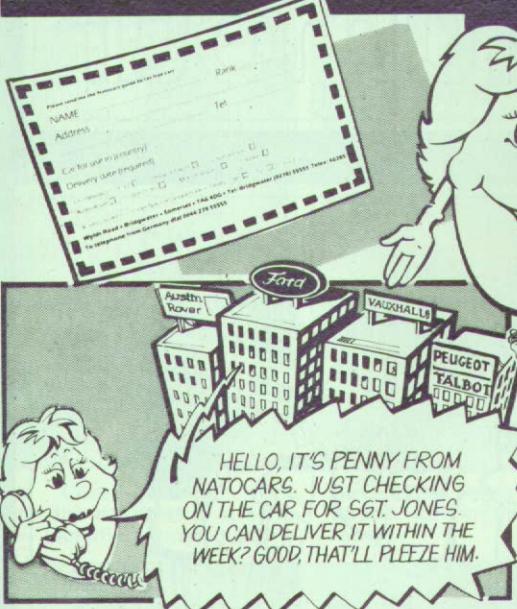


YOU'VE PROBABLY ALL HEARD OF NATOCARS BUT DID YOU KNOW OUR CENTRE FOR TAX FREE CARS IN BRIDGWATER IS THE MOST ADVANCED IN EUROPE... WITH SHOWROOMS, WORKSHOPS, CAR PREPARATION BAYS, INSURANCE DEPT, FINANCE CENTRE AND PROBABLY THE LARGEST STOCK OF TAX FREE CARS HELD BY ANYONE.



LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS - COUPON TO CAR.

BUT THE REAL BEAUTY OF OUR SERVICE IS THAT WE HANDLE THE WHOLE TRANSACTION BY POST. OUR TEAM OF PLEEZERS DO ALL THE WORK WHILE YOU RELAX IN YOUR FAVOURITE ARMCHAIR UNTIL THE TIME COMES TO TAKE DELIVERY OF YOUR NEW CAR.



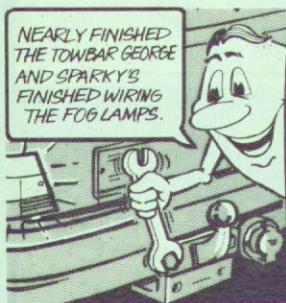
HELLO, IT'S PENNY FROM NATOCARS. JUST CHECKING ON THE CAR FOR SGT. JONES. YOU CAN DELIVER IT WITHIN THE WEEK? GOOD, THAT'LL PLEEEZE HIM.

I'M PENNY AND I'LL POST YOU YOUR COPY OF OUR SUPER GUIDE TO CAR BUYING PLUS THE MANUFACTURERS' BROCHURES AS SOON AS I GET YOUR COUPON OR CALL.

YES, SGT. JONES, WE CAN TAKE YOUR OLD CAR IN PART-EXCHANGE AGAINST A NEW ONE.

A FEW DAYS LATER.

WHEN THE CUSTOMER'S CAR HAS ARRIVED, THE TEAM OF PLEEZERS SWING INTO ACTION.



NEARLY FINISHED THE TOWBAR GEORGE AND SPARKY'S FINISHED WIRING THE FOG LAMPS.

JUST THE ROAD TEST TO DO PENNY AND WE'LL COMPLETE THE FINAL PRE-DELIVERY CHECKS.

WELL DONE GEORGE. INSURANCE & FINANCE FORMS ARE READY.

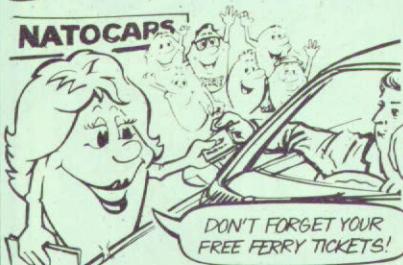


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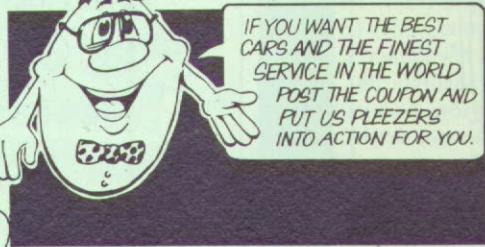


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SAPPERS' MUSICAL VOLUNTEERS

The Corps of Royal Engineers has for a long time been proud of its ability to produce excellent bandsmen, musicians not always employed solely in the Staff Bands of the Corps. There have been several occasions when volunteer Bands have been formed to cater for the musical needs of the Corps in areas where the larger full-time bands can only visit occasionally.

The first Sapper volunteer band formed in Chatham in 1908 and by 1912, under the baton of the Musical Director, Cpl Ogden, it reached its established strength of thirty-two men. Their services were apparently in great demand in the Aldershot training areas and they continued to serve the Corps until the 1920s.

In the early 1940s No 1 Training Battalion moved to Clitheroe in Lancashire and a further volunteer Brass Band was formed.

This forty-man band, with its Glenn



Story & photos —
28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment



Miller style dance section, did a good deal of public relations work in North West England and was always in great demand in the Clitheroe, Burnley and Preston areas.

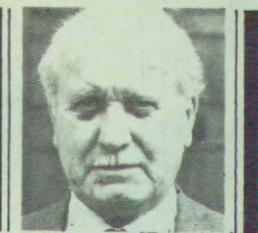
The band began to run down after the War and was eventually disbanded when the Training Battalion moved to Malvern in Worcestershire.

This long standing tradition has been revived in BAOR by the Band of 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment, itself an extra-mural, volunteer band formed under the musical direction of the Bandmaster WO1 P H Sleep in October 1980.

The Band is currently fourteen members strong and in addition to

band was photographed at Brompton Barracks, Chatham circa 1912 with the Commandant, Brigadier Rainsford-Hannay (front, right of centre). The musical director Cpl E G Ogden is sitting with his baton in hand on the right of the front row. The Band of 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment was photographed in December 1983 in the grounds of the Officers Mess, Bindon Barracks, Hamelin with the Commanding Officer Lt Col J J J Thompson He is flanked on his right by the first Bandmaster, WO1 P H Sleep who retired this month and the Band President Maj R I M Macarthur. On his left is the new Bandmaster, WO1 W Hammonds.

ON THE RECORD with Rodney Bashford



Massed Bands of The Light Division

Director of Music: Captain R G Swift
Guest Conductor: Harry Mortimer
Music Masters MM 0604

This concert was staged as a "thank-you" to the staff of St Mary's Hospital for their care in tending to the survivors of the terrorist bomb, which claimed the lives of seven bandsmen of I RGJ. By the very nature of things the programme had to be geared to the venue, the Royal Albert Hall, and by now the Light Division has the vast cavern's quirks and eccentricities well under control. Its galleries, stairs, and echoing corridors — normally a hazard — are pressed into subservience by the noisy ensemble created by massed bands and, particularly, massed bugles. So with their own expertise and the co-operation of the recording engineers we have a by no means noisy concert of Light Division lollipops, including the inevitable *High on a Hill* and *Post Horn Echo*.

In addition to the bugle marches *Silver Bugles*, *Les Clarions Anglais*, and Denis Plater's *Light Infantry* there are also two grand marches, *HRH The Duke of Cambridge* by Malcolm Arnold and Walton's *Crown Imperial*, the latter conducted by octogenarian Harry Mortimer. On the lighter side are a *Marvin Hamlisch Showcase*, the finale of Haydn's *Trumpet Concerto* played by Cpl J Mitchell, a *Bohemian Rhapsody*, and a dedicatory fanfare *St Mary's* by Captain Swift, *Nightfall in Camp* by Douglas Pope, and the Regimental March bring what must have been a very successful concert to a suitable end.

From Music Masters Ltd., 28 St Lawrence Drive, Eastcote, Pinner, Middx HA5 2RU — £5 + 60p for p&p.

On The March Volume 10

Band of the Black Watch
Conductor: Bandmaster N M Rogerson
DR 54

After their mammoth route march, which I have calculated would have taken them from Glasgow to Edinburgh playing each march once through, the band finally arrives in camp for a well earned rest. A total of 168 marches on ten discs, all of which are listed on the sleeve of volume ten. I doubt if the project did their embouchures much good, but the band enters camp in uproarious style with pipes playing and with all the shouts to *Scotland the Brave*, *The Black Bear*, and *Highland Laddie*. Well done lads; and collectors, aficionados, band buffs, should be queuing up for this unique offering.

And Mr Rogerson rightly includes one of his own in the final list; its title *LBSV* defeats me, though he has learnt a thing or two from the German masters.

There are, as always, a couple of gems among the paste replicas and

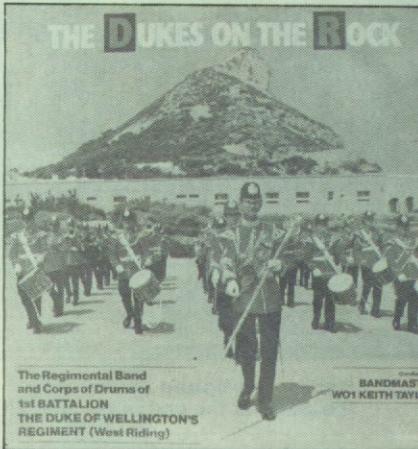
the over familiar Beethoven's *Zapfenstreich No 1* (Yorckscher Marsch) makes even Sousa and Alford sound trite, and *Ein Heller und ein Batzen* will send shivers down the spine of those of us who heard it sung by German troops as they passed by our prison camp. In addition are *Seraphine* (W Clark), *Defiliermarsch* (Faust), *Blue Devils* (Chas Williams), *El Capitan* (Sousa), *The Light Horse* (Blon), *Blaze Away* (Holzmann), *Der Treue Husar* (Frantzen), *Hoch Heidecksburg* (Herzer), *Constellation* (T Clark), *The Mad Major* (Alford), *Konig Carl* (Trad), *Cavalry of the Steppes* (Knipper).

This and all ten volumes from DR Records, 233 Charlton Rd., Shepperton, Middx, price £5.10 each inc.

The Dukes on The Rock

Band and Corps of Drums of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment
Conductor: Bandmaster K. Taylor
Music Masters MM 0595

Bands stationed in Gibraltar need to be in good form, with strong support from the corps of drums, to cope with the many and varied commitments of this somewhat isolated community. The Dukes, on the evidence of this disc, appear to be just that. The corps of drums, like so many unfortunate regiments these days,



can afford no role for fifers but the drummers play a couple of effective beatings.

The programme is wholly light in nature and includes only one march, by Mr Taylor and called *Gibraltar Glory*. *Sousarama* is yet another stringing together of Sousa's best known tunes. The dance bands are also effective in *Ja-Da* and the theme from *The Professionals*, while the whole band seems very at home in the modern style with a selection from *Grease*, *Chariots of Fire*, and *Concert Rock*. Solo items are *Trumpet Filigree*, *Misty*, and *Drummer's Delight*, all adding up to a pleasantly undemanding concert, ending of course with the Regimental March *The Wellesley*.

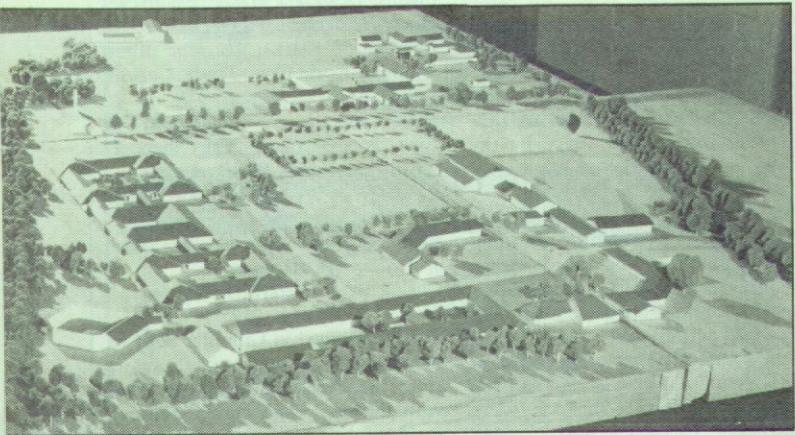
From Music Masters Ltd., 28 St Lawrence Drive, Eastcote, Pinner, Middx HA5 2RU — £5 + 60p p&p.

Writer John Margetts visits Colchester and learns of a . . .

NEW LOOK FOR MCTC

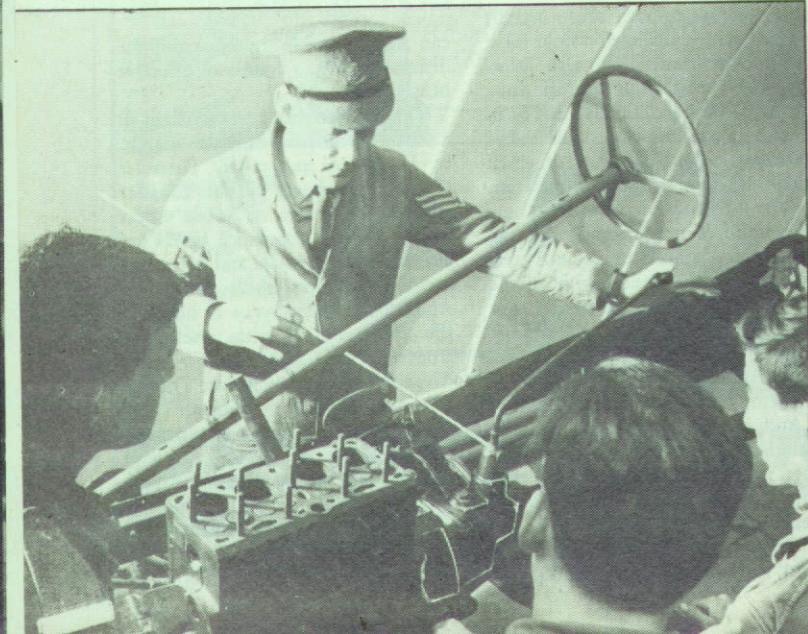
Erected by PoWs for PoWs. This painting of their wartime "home" was by a German prisoner. ▲

New centre plan . . . warm, dry and hopefully rewarding. ▼



Homeward-bound PoWs leave the camp at the end of the war. ▲

Not today's inmates or instructor, but the principle's the same.



HERE used to be dozens of them dotted around the globe. Wherever the Army was present in any numbers, be sure there was a Military Corrective Training Centre (MCTC) nearby.

Now there is only one — and has been for years — and even that is to go.

But even though the bulldozers will move in to flatten the crumbling wartime Nissen huts, erring "squaddies" will still get their marching orders for Colchester.

Because the ancient Essex town, famous for its links with the legions of Rome and the Army of today, is to get a brand-new MCTC at an estimated cost of £7 million.

Work is already well under way on phase one, where soldiers under sentence (SUS) will live and work.

Completion date for this part is planned for March 1985 with the rest following some two to three years later.

A walk round the old camp showed why the decision to rebuild was taken. "The place is falling to bits," said Lieutenant Colonel Jim Robinson, regimental secretary to the Military Provost Staff Corps (MPSC) and the man who had a big say in the layout design of the new centre.

Referring to the old black-painted Nissen huts, Colonel Robinson said: "These huts were put up by PoWs for PoWs in 1943. They have been in constant use ever since and cost a fortune to maintain in any sort of decent order.

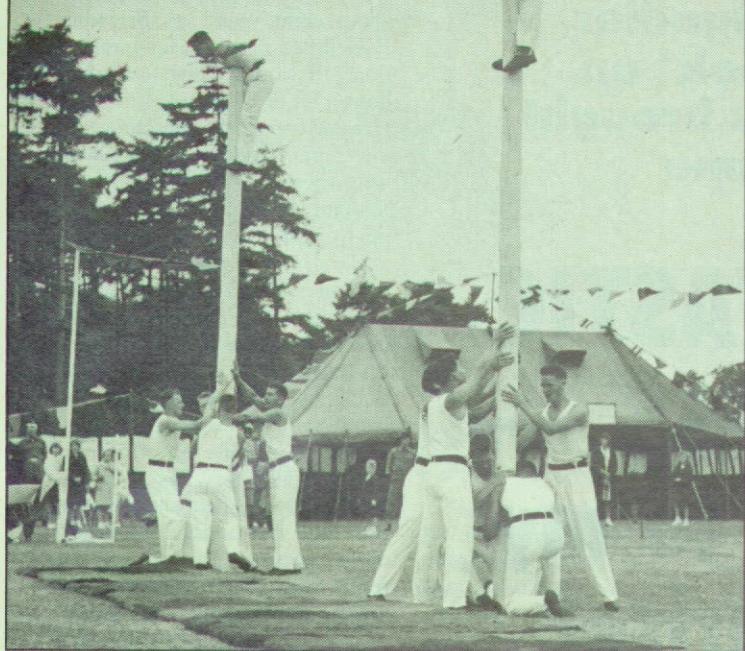
"Moves to rebuild the centre have been discussed for years, but with the size of the Army steadily reducing, together with a different sort of soldier coming in — they join because they want to, today — plans and feasibility studies were constantly being altered."

Eventually the go-ahead to build was given and Colonel Robinson and Property Services Agency (PSA) architects drew up plans for the new centre.



Colchester welcome for two lads who wandered off the "military rails".

Those overweight lose it; those underweight gain it. Simple programme with simple aims — to make them better soldiers.



Now the new self-contained building is well on the way to becoming a reality and will house 210 men — about 60 less than the existing camp — and, by comparison, provide five-star accommodation.

A self-contained single-storey building, there will be no bars at windows and few, if any, high fences. "If people want to escape they can do it easily enough when out with working parties or on the training areas," said Colonel Robinson.

But while barred windows will be out — only a few are barred at present anyway — and fences at a minimum, it will not mean a reduction in security.

For such is the design of the building that windows will be extremely narrow, making a

quick bunk impossible, doors will be locked and all the usual precautions taken.

"People don't get sent here so they can walk out of the place," said the Colonel, who has more than 30 years' service with the MPSC alone.

With all that experience behind him the Colonel reckons the programme the centre operates for its inmates is about right.

"Those who are underweight when they arrive put weight on; and those who are overweight get rid of their surplus.

"The diet is good and you can see the difference in the lads when they leave here.

"Everything we do here has a purpose. There is no question of men shifting heaps of sand just for the sake of keeping them



Guidance in a humane and disciplined fashion.

occupied. Our aims are simple: to improve their efficiency, discipline and morale and establish in them the will to be better servicemen; and for those leaving the services on discharge, to help prepare them for their return to civilian life."

He added: "They're not bad lads, but mostly young soldiers who have gone off the military rails a bit and need some guidance.

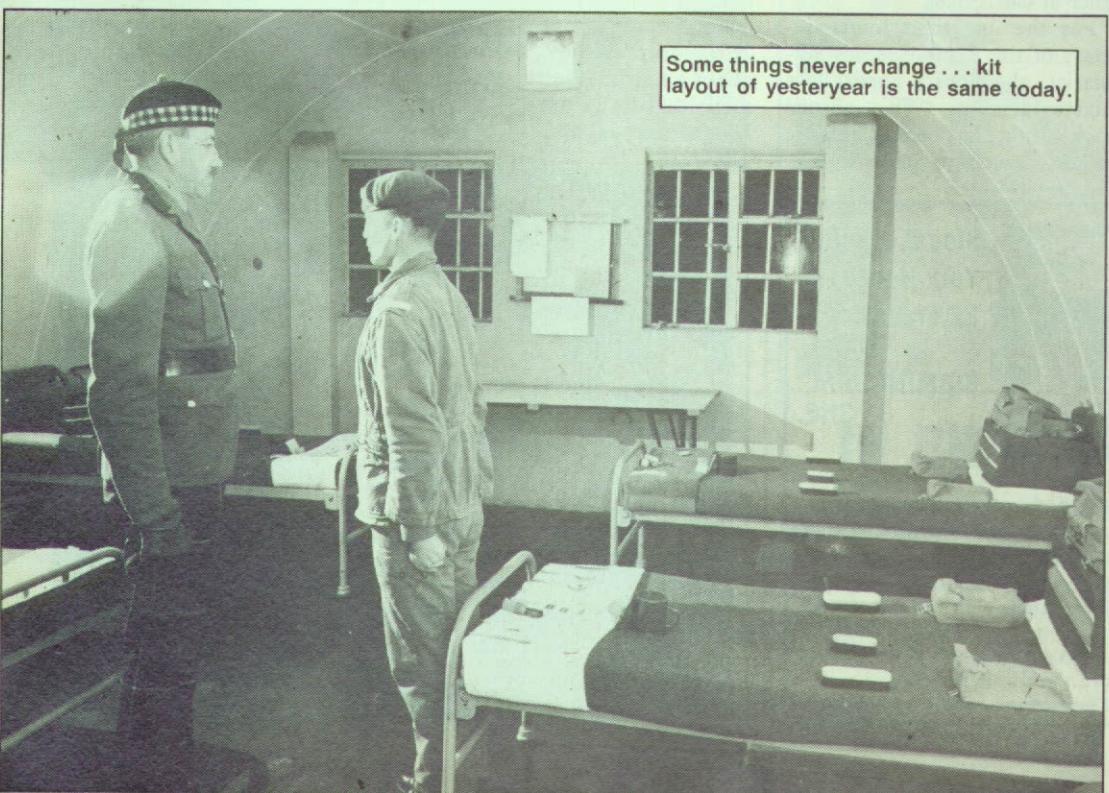
"We're here to provide that guidance in a humane, but disciplined fashion." But the conditions in which the officers and

NCOs of the MPSC have had to work, and sentenced soldiers live, have been steadily deteriorating for years.

So the decision to rebuild the Army's one and only corrective training centre was taken and the first foundations laid just a few weeks ago.

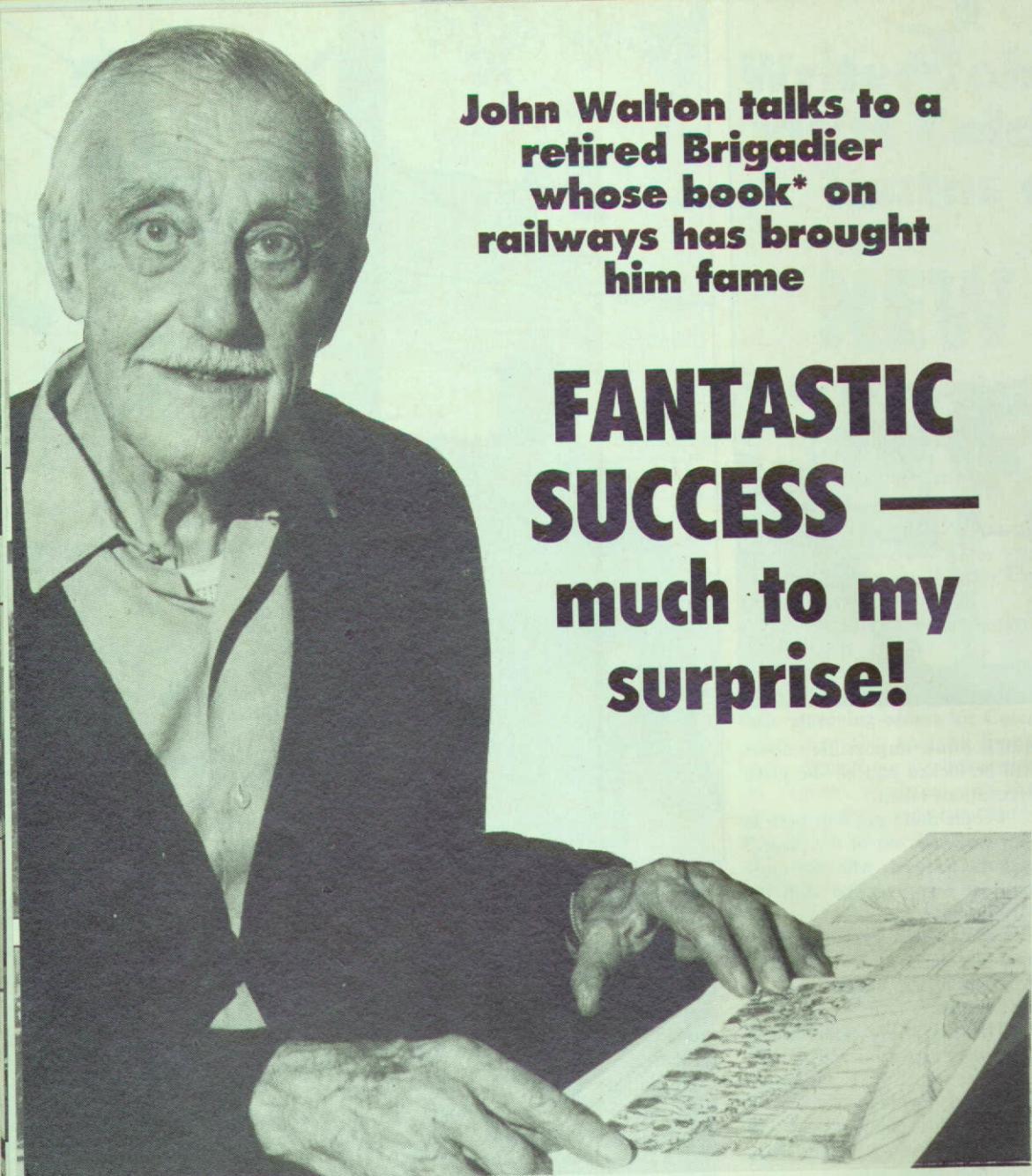
Now, while life for the lads who will spend anything from 28 days to two years within the building's rather daunting walls will be just as tough and, hopefully rewarding, they will at least be warm and dry, even if they are locked in.

Some things never change... kit layout of yesteryear is the same today.



Rebuilding confidence... everything has a purpose.





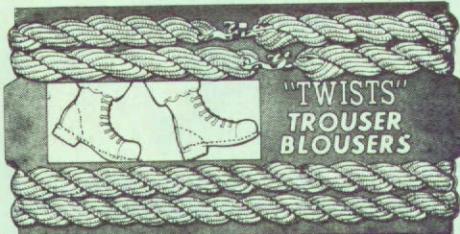
**John Walton talks to a
retired Brigadier
whose book* on
railways has brought
him fame**

FANTASTIC SUCCESS — much to my surprise!

AT EIGHTY FIVE, more than 30 years after he retired from the Army, Brigadier John Faviell is having to get used to the idea of becoming a minor celebrity and best-selling author. For the Brigadier, living in quiet retirement in part of a splendid Kent country house immortalised by Frances Hodgson Bur-

nett in her book 'The Secret Garden', wrote and illustrated 'The Railway Journeys of My Childhood' which was a runaway best seller at Christmas.

For the one time Joint Secretary of the Army Council Secretariat, the book's appeal is a mixed blessing. "This absurd book of mine has been a fantastic success, much to my surprise.



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than since my last job in the Army when I had an efficient secretary."

When he started on the book about eight years ago Brigadier Faviell had no plans for publication. "I could draw, and had done a bit of writing so I thought I would produce something for my great-grandchildren who were then beginning to arrive. I thought in years to come they might find it interesting."

His drawings and recollections so impressed a friend that he sent a copy to Sir Peter Parker who passed them on to another British Rail director. Before long Pan Books wanted to publish and the bandwagon was rolling.

One of Britain's top authorities on railway history has authenticated both the text and illustrations and has praised the Brigadier's accuracy and recall of trains from nearly 80 years ago.

Says the Brigadier: "I had always been good at drawing and painting and as I have done both for about 80 years I have developed a good visual memory. I suppose it is remarkable how I can remember those things."

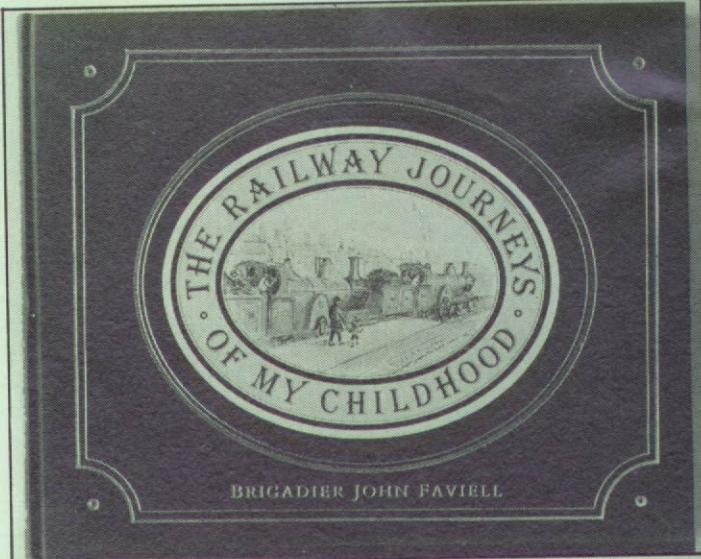
The book tells the story of train journeys made during an Edwardian childhood by a boy who was mad about trains. This was not surprising for railways ran in the blood of the Faviells — his great grandfather built trains, his grandfather built railways in India and Ceylon and his great-uncle another in Australia.

His favourite illustration is the one showing his arrival at Waterloo Station in August 1914 just after the outbreak of the First World War. He had been at an OTC camp with fellow 16-year-olds.

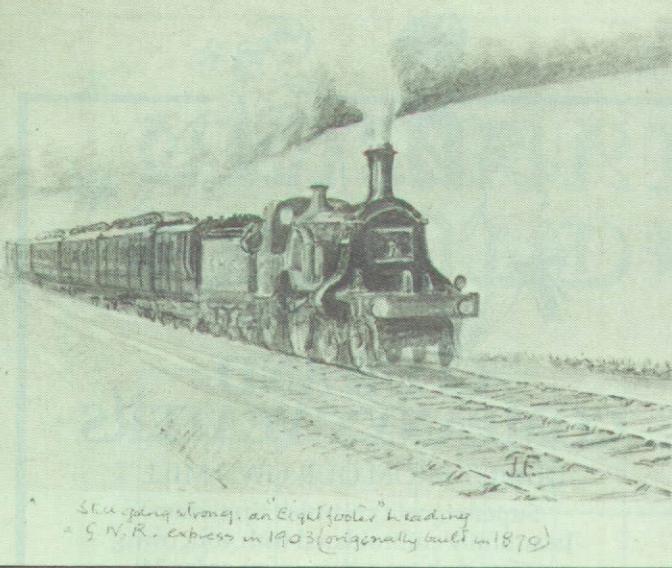
"We all arrived at Waterloo feeling like death and looking absolutely frightful," he recalls. "We were greeted like little heroes at Waterloo because I think people thought we were the advance party of the Expeditionary Force. We were all little boys

**PICTURES:
PAUL HALEY**

Now the publishers are talking about a reprint. But it does land me with a lot of work — I have had a mass of letters — more



BOOKS



* 'The Railway Journeys of My Childhood' is published by Pan Books at £9.95.

and couldn't understand what was happening."

Soon those little boys, John Faviell amongst them, were in the midst of war.

He was to spend 34 years in the Army including Ireland and India — "tremendous fun in those days. You could do anything for practically no money."

During the 1936 rebellion in Palestine he was badly wounded and won the only Military Cross awarded during that campaign. During the Second World War he worked in the War Office —

"I had an interesting time but did not do any fighting because of the nasty wound I got in Palestine in 1936, which made me unfit for quite a number of years."

He sums it up: "I had a jolly good Army life, you know. I saw the Army at its best, I reckon, from the age of the horse."

Successful authors usually have another book in the pipeline but Brigadier Faviell feels that he is too old to attempt another. "I have done a few scribbles on my life in the Army but I don't think they will ever come to publication."

Well written, easy to read and beautifully illustrated, this history of the Royal Navy is a book both to ponder and enjoy.

Macdonald & Co, Maxwell House, 74 Worship Street, London EC2A 2EN. — £12.95.

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RLE

Mysteries: Encounters with the unexplained: John Blashford-Snell

The dashing colonel needs no introduction. His familiar face, often adorned by a pith helmet (photo below), has rarely been out of the newspapers in the last decade as he pursues his insatiable quest for discovery and adventure.

There are not too many 'encounters with the unexplained' for in most cases Blashford-Snell and his colleagues went on to solve the mystery.

But as a rattling good read of the type which used to fill the pages of long defunct boys' magazines the new book takes some beating. It begins when he was a young officer in Cyprus and led an underwater quest to find a long lost Turkish cannon.

We then move on to lost colonies and cities (he has failed to find Atlantis — so far) and the finding of missing aircraft both in desert and jungle. Battles with bandits vie with searches for the Loch Ness Monster and for giant dragons in Papua New Guinea.

Volcanoes and ghosts bring up the rear of this catalogue of the world's more unusual offerings and places and 'Blashers' can be congratulated on producing an eminently readable and interesting book on which to launch his next expedition — the mammoth 'Operation Raleigh'.

Bodley Head, 9 Bow Street, London WC2E 7AL. — £8.95.

JW



Royal Marines with Argentine prisoners.

The True Glory: Warren Tute

From the longships of King Alfred, who is traditionally credited with forming the first English Navy, to the sophistication and high technology of the Royal Navy of today this remarkable book traces every move in the development of British sea power. Nothing is overlooked.

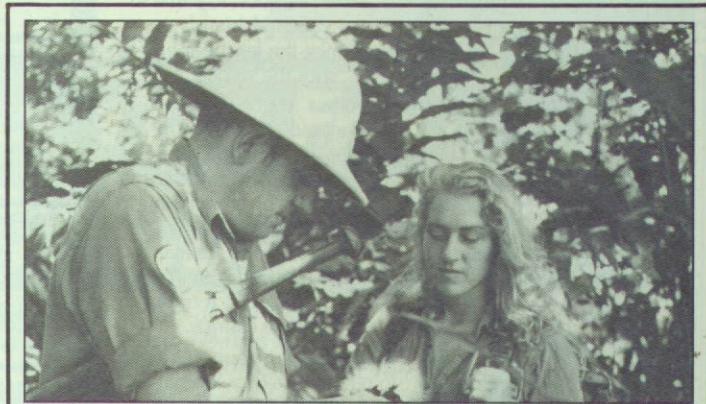
There are brief accounts of every naval personality of note — men like Drake, Samuel Pepys, who for a quarter of a century had the supply, conduct and well being of the Royal Navy in his capable hands, Admiral Lord Anson, great sailor and reformer and, of course, Nelson. Gunnery, the voyages of Captain Cook, signalling at sea, radar and sonar, submarines and the advent of mis-

siles are some of the many specialist subjects to be dealt with.

The Royal Marines are featured in a short historical sketch beginning with the second Dutch war of 1664 when they went into action as boarding parties to their present day assault role so tellingly demonstrated in the Falklands campaign.

Another section deals with the launch of HMS Dreadnought in 1906. This mighty 21-knot vessel with her ten 12-inch guns outpointed every other battleship afloat and was copied world-wide.

Each chapter is introduced by a few pages of background material and chronological information covering people and events, wars and battles, ships and weapons, navigation and cartography and many others.



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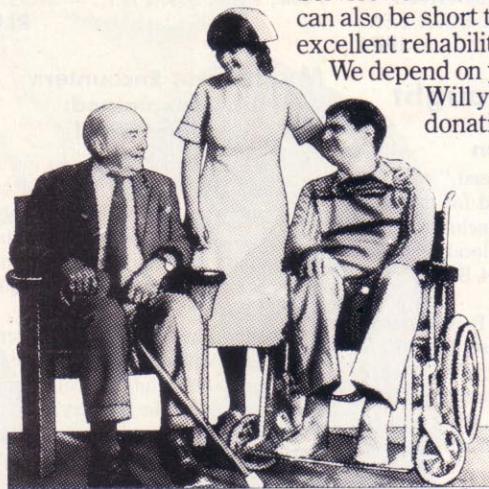
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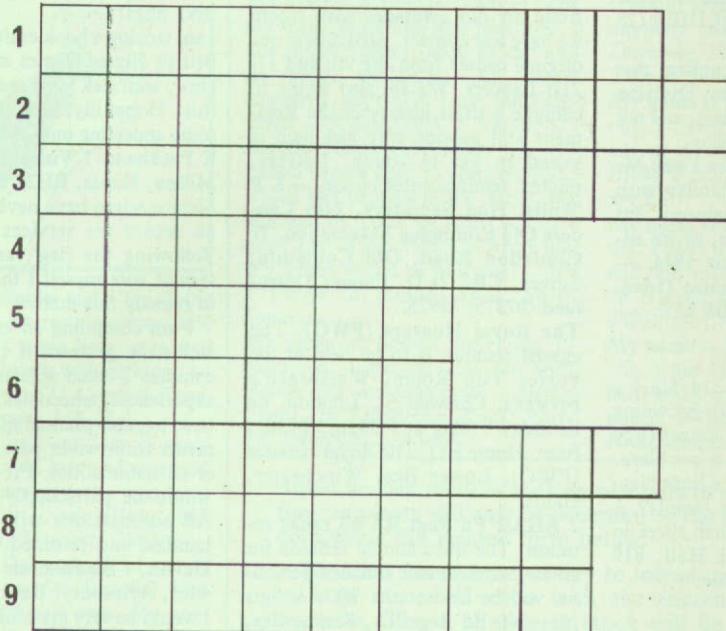
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OUTWARD BOUND



HERE ARE THE CLUES . . .

- 1 Lake of the north
- 2 Town of the south
- 3 Northern promontory of the north
- 4 Western country of the south
- 5 Island of the east — north and south
- 6 Northern cape in the south
- 7 River of the north towards the south
- 8 City of the south

- 9 Northern state — neither east nor west but further north than south

The answers to the clues 1-9 are all terrestrial but if you solve these correctly you will find that the first letters of each name and the last letters of each name are so arranged that they cease to be terrestrial and become celestial merging into the realm of stars, comets, planets, constellations, magellanic clouds and far off nebulae. What are the two celestial objects you seek to find? There is no need to work out light years, parsecs and the like for the names are in front of you. That is, if you have solved the clues correctly!

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday, 24 February. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 26 March. More than one entry may be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 334' label. In the case of ties, winners will be drawn by lots and no correspondence can be entered into. Send your answers in by letter or postcard with the 'Competition 334' label to Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants. GU11 2DU.

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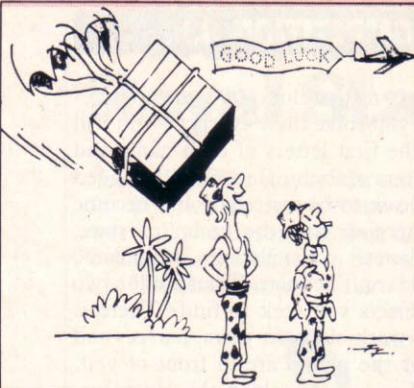
Tick items of main interest

37



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Got something to say, a point to make or a story to tell? This is your page to exchange your news, views, comments and opinions. All we ask is that you keep it brief and include your full name and address. Write to: Mail Drop, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

New museum

Those SOLDIER readers interested in military vehicles of the WW2 era may like to know that there is a new Military Vehicle Museum in the City of Newcastle upon Tyne, at the Pavilion, Exhibition Park, Newcastle.

Created by dedicated and enthusiastic members of the North East Military Vehicle Club, the Museum houses a collection of 40 or more WW2 (and later) military transport, communications and recovery vehicles, mainly British and American. Many of the vehicles are displayed in fully-equipped scenic settings depicting their differing roles and areas of operation, from the Western Desert to the D-Day beaches.

Some of these set pieces contain lifesize figures in battledress, displaying to great advantage the Museum's superb collection of British, American and German uniforms and insignia of the same period.

This is an independent museum, relying solely on public support. It cannot and will not, sadly, continue without that support which it so richly deserves.

All concerned in its creation have achieved a superb presentation of the history of WW2 vehicles. Like many smaller museums, it has atmosphere and a great sense of period. I cannot recommend a visit too highly.

A few minutes' drive from the City Centre, the Museum is open 7 days a week from 10am to 5pm. Any enquiries should be addressed to the Curator (Mr B Morgan) (Tel: 0632 817222). — C Crook, 2 Carlen Cottages, Torrington Road, Ashford, Kent.

Congratulations

I wish to congratulate your team on a fine, outstanding magazine.

I keenly follow the activities of Commonwealth Army units worldwide, particularly part-time territorial units, I myself being a trooper in the Army Reserves 4/19 Prince of Wales's Light Horse Regiment.

I read with interest (2 May) the article 'Rock Soldiers' concerning the Gibraltar Regiment and its recent equipment acquisitions the L118 105mm Light gun and Blowpipe air defence missiles.

Also would it be possible to do a story on the Yeomanry, its tasks and

equipment?

Keep up the fine work. — S J Windler, 95 Hotham St, Collingwood, Melbourne, Victoria 3066, Australia.

Thank you for your kind thoughts and we try to cover all aspects, sooner or later — Ed.

Confirmed

I was very interested to read the letter from Mr A E Smith, SOLDIER (28 November).

I can most certainly confirm that the 3rd British Infantry Division were the Liberators of Flers, and not the 11th Armoured Division.

I am able to say this as I was Mr Smith's Section Commander with 253 Field Coy Royal Engineers, 3rd British Infantry Division, as we entered Flers on 16 August 1944. — Charles Taylor, 133 Centre Drive, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 8AP.

Gun problem

I notice in your pages (14 Nov) a Ferret scout car with a .30" Browning machine gun. In an emergency ammunition could be a problem. Would a conversion to 7.62mm Nato for these guns not ease supply? A bullet in the hand is worth three in the pipeline. — Roger Hall, 819 Cross Road, Morecambe.

Take note

I was very interested to read Richard Parsons' letter on the possibility of SOLDIER having a regular feature on the Army Cadet Force.

Possibly Richard is not aware of the fact that the Army Cadet Force has its own magazine called 'The Cadet Journal and Gazette', published in alternate months by the Army Cadet Force Association. It is available from the Association at Millbank Barracks, John Islip St, London, SW1P 4RR at 40p per copy.

The next edition (due in February 1984) will contain features on Greater London Cadets, as well as Cadet news from other parts of the United Kingdom.

Of course, the fact that we have our own magazine does not preclude SOLDIER from including Cadet news items; in fact, any such inclusion would further the 'one Army' concept and would be most welcome. — Major R J D Gardner, The Army Cadet Force Association, Millbank Bks, John Islip St, London, SW1P 4RR.

Reunions

The Junior Tradesmen's Regiment, Rhyl, Kinmel Park Camp. A regimental reunion will be held at the Showbar, Marina Hotel, Marine Drive, Rhyl, on Saturday 31 March 1984 commencing at 8pm. All who served with the Regiment (permanent staff, ex-junior tradesmen and civilians) are invited to attend. Entrance tickets are £2.50 each to include table snacks. All those wishing to attend are asked to apply by the 28th February 1984 (a maximum of two tickets per applicant). Tickets are obtainable from: Mr S E J Hedges, 105 Foryd Road, Kinmel Bay, Rhyl, Clwyd, LL18 5LU. Tel: 0745 53245

or Mr K Webster, 3 Westcliffe Buildings, Wellington Road, Rhyl, Clwyd, LL18 1LG. Tel: 0745 54555. Cheques payable to 'JTR Rhyl Committee'. Those residing outside the Rhyl area will receive a Hotel and Guest House list with their tickets.

24th Lancers Old Comrades Association will be holding its next annual reunion on 17 March 1984 and we would very much like to hear from any old comrades with whom

we have lost contact, particularly our original cadres from the 9th and 17/21st Lancers. We are also trying to compile a short history of the Regiment and anyone who can help is asked to get in touch. Letters, photos, reminiscences please. — L P Willis, Hon Secretary, 24th Lancers Old Comrades Association, 77 Coulsdon Road, Old Coulsdon, Surrey, CR3 2LD. Phone: Downland (07375) 53975.

The Royal Hussars (PWO). The annual reunion is to be held at the Porter Tun Room, Whitbread's Brewery, Chiswell St, London, on Saturday 5 May at 7.30pm. Tickets from: Home HQ, The Royal Hussars (PWO), Lower Bks, Winchester, Hants.

2 RHA/2 Fd Regt RA all ranks reunion. The third annual reunion for all ex-members and attached personnel will be held at the WOs & Sgts Mess, 40 Fd Regt RA, Kirkee Bks, Colchester, Essex on 5 May. Further details send SAE to: J White, 24 Elmstead Road, Colchester, Essex, CO4 3AA.

Collectors' Corner

J Reene, 87 Shipbrook Road, Rudheath, Northwich, Cheshire, CW9 7HG. Has the following books for sale: 'South Africa and the Transvaal War' by Louis Creswicke, seven volumes, published 1900-02 (excellent history of Boer War) £35; 'History of the 15th Scottish Division 1939-45' by Gen H G Martin, published 1948, £16; 'The Great Deeds of The Coldstream Guards' by F W Walker, published 1916, £2.50; 'History of the Royal Marines' by Peter Smith, published 1974, £3.25. Prices include P & P on books. Please enclose an SAE for reply. A E Innes, 71 Pootown Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire. Seeks prints of Cuneo's D-Day Landings, the Division and Brigade signs of 21st Army Group, 2nd Army and 1st Canadian Army; also the books 'D-Day' by Earl Mountbatten and 'Victory in the West' (Vols 1 and 2), HMSO Publications.

D C Walls, 10 Glenavie Park, Jordanstown, Newtownabbey, Co Antrim, BT37 0QW. Has for sale or exchange (British only), Central South African Railway Volunteers (1902-06) forage cap badge. RE grenade above scroll — CSARV.

J Hurst, 14 Eaton Road, Handbridge, Chester. Wants 3 new Compton-Webb navy blue berets (not with leather headbands), size 58, good price paid.

Maureen Behan, 56 North Lane, Aldershot, Hants, GU12 4QG. Seeks any uniform buttons, Army, Navy, Transport etc worldwide. Has some exchanges.

Can you help?

I am writing a history of 1680 Artillery Platoon RASC, which supplied 147 Field Regiment RA (Essex Yeomanry), 8th Armoured Brigade, in NW Europe 1944-45. I would welcome any information on 'The Windmill Boys', especially news of my comrades. — Percy Upton, 6 Meyners Close, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 8EH.

I am writing a book entitled 'Unusual British House Names and their Origins', and seek your readers' help in this. Hopefully, they will send me some appealing ones. — Mrs Shirley E Peckham, 7 Vincent Road, New Milton, Hants, BH25 6SN.

Service wives have never gone down on record for services rendered in 'following the flag', and as an ex-service wife myself I thought it time to remedy this matter.

I am compiling an anthology and would be grateful if through your columns I could appeal for personal experiences, anecdotes, poems, letters, papers, photographs and documents from wives past and present, of all nationalities. Pre-war material would be particularly appreciated. All submissions will be carefully handled and returned. — Joyce M Davies, 7 Blacksmiths Road, Longwick, Aylesbury, Bucks.

I would be very grateful if anyone can help me get in touch with my nephew Cpl Errol Richards, Royal Army Ordnance Corps staff clerk, SHAPE. — Mrs P Styles, 34 Gwyn Road, Ramsgate, Kent.

Competition

Combining his passion for collecting with his skill at devising puzzles, our compiler came up with another of his popular 'logic' puzzles in our Competition 330, 'The Collectors'. Having gathered the given clues systematically and discarded all the red herrings, you would have reached a table stating who lives where and collects what. In answer to our questions O'Rourke collects cigarette cards and Jones collects medals and lives in Coventry. Prizewinners were: - 1st Cpl L Stimson, 574 Rear Link Det, BFPO 53. 2nd G W Andrews, 7 Hayman Road, Minehead, Somerset TA24 5PA. 3rd Cpl Akashchandra Rai, 6 GR, Tuker Lines, BFPO 11. 4th N J Wood, 20 Jennings Road, Oswestry, Salop. 5th G H Bendell, 199 Midanbury Lane, Southampton SO2 4GW.

How observant are you?

1. Title of book on top of "Arts" shelves.
2. Hind legs of rear model coach-horse.
3. Spelling of "Events".
4. Third book from left on "Transport" shelf.
5. Size of gap in chair back.
6. Little finger of soldier's right hand.
7. Liner's portholes.
8. Soldier's tie.
9. Space between "Liners" book and "Arts" shelves.
10. Top right book on "Arts" shelves.

PEN PALS WANTED



My name is Susan and I am in my twenties. My interests are sport and drama, and I have blue eyes and blonde hair. I work with children. — *Susan McKeown, 31 Cotsford Road, Huyton, Liverpool, L36 2LA.*

My name is Linda and I am 17 years old. I have brown hair and eyes and my hobbies are squash, yoga and rock music. — *Linda Blake, 107 Wharton Road, Winsford, Cheshire.*

My name is Deborah and I am 26 years old. I am 5ft 4ins tall with brown hair and blue eyes. My hobbies are cooking, dancing and driving. — *Deborah Jordan, 103 Evelina Road, Nunhead, London SE15 3HB.*

My name is Wendy and I am 15 years old. I am 5ft 2ins tall with black hair and grey eyes. — *Wendy Staples, 3 Temperance Terrace, Grahamsley, Crook, Co Durham, DL15 9DT.*

My name is Gillian and I would like penpals in the Falklands. — *Gillian Edge, 120 Carrington Lane, Ashton-on-Mersey, Sale, Cheshire, M33 5NG.*

My name is Denise and I am 16 years old. I like dancing and discos and I would like a soldier penpal. — *Denise Yard, 54 Greenacres, Furnace Green, Crawley, W Sussex.*

My name is Madeleine and I am 17 years old. I have blonde hair and blue eyes and I like pop music and going to concerts. I would like to hear from any blonde soldiers aged 17-19 years old. Photos if possible. — *Madeleine Baller, 3 Kiln Mead Close, Northgate, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 2BL.*

My name is Linda and I am 22 years old. I would like to write to somebody between 22-26 years old with a sense of humour, preferably stationed in UK. — *Linda Glenn, 183 Sketchley Road, Burbage, Hinckley, Leics.*

My name is Karen and I am 24 years old with brown hair and blue eyes. I like music, sports, keep fit and also do some modelling. All letters answered, especially from the Falklands. — *Karen Smith, 8 Nuttall St., Burnley, Lancs. BB1 3NR.*

I am a widow aged 36 years old and I would like penpals in the Army. My husband served in the Army so I have quite a lot of experience in Army life, any letters would be welcome. — *Mrs J Barker, 5 Hooper Road, Street, Somerset.*

My name is Angela and I am 19 years old. I am 5ft 2ins tall with blonde hair and blue eyes. — *Angela Clarke, 14 Kirkmaiden Road, Allerton, Liverpool, L19 9DB.*

Again we ask readers seeking pen pals to note that in future their requests will only be accepted by the Editor if they have completed the printed form below.

We have found it necessary to introduce this new system to help our staff cope with the increasing numbers of requests. Those already in stock will be published in the normal way but anyone writing in from now on will be asked to resubmit their details on this form. Only completed forms cut from the magazine will be accepted (no photocopies please). The form will be published frequently in the magazine and as regularly as space will allow.

There is still a large backlog of letters which will steadily reduce over the coming months. So, if your letter has not yet appeared, take heart . . . it will eventually!

My name is Molly and I am 45 years old. I am 5ft 3ins tall with brown hair and eyes. My hobbies are knitting, gardening, writing letters and animals. All letters answered. — *M Playle, 16 Coppice Road, Kingsclere, Newbury, Berks. RG15 8RS.*

My name is Christine and I am 28 years old. I am 5ft 4ins tall with fair hair and blue eyes. My hobbies are knitting, writing letters and jazz funk. All letters answered. — *Christine Hillier, 44 Coppice Road, Kingsclere, Newbury, Berks. RG15 8RS.*

My name is Sylvia and I am 34 years old. I am 5ft 4ins tall with dark hair and green eyes. My hobbies are reading, writing letters and music. All letters answered. — *Sylvia Carter, 24 Pones Green, Lichfield, Staffs.*

My name is Kay and I am 19 years old. I enjoy sports and pop music and I would love to write long letters to anybody who is interested! — *Kay Dromgoole, 28 Strine Close, Wellington, Telford, Salop.*

My name is Linda and I am 34 years old. I have many hobbies and will answer all letters. — *Linda Potter, 29 Broke Walk, Brownlow Road, Hackney E8.*

My name is Maria and I am 25 years old. I have dark brown hair and eyes and will answer all letters. — *Maria, 18 Deacons Walk, Hampton, Middx. TW12 1AA.*

My name is Janet and I am 19 years old. I am 5ft 6ins tall with brown hair, and I enjoy disco and jazz funk music. — *Janet Morton, 49 Beech Road, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1SN.*

I would like a penfriend in the WRAC. My name is George and I am 52 years old, my interests are sports and military band music. — *G Harland, 6 Eastward Ho, Leiston, Suffolk, IP16 4AY.*

My name is Anne and I am 26 years old. I am 4ft 11ins tall with brown hair and blue eyes. My interests are pop and blues music, cooking and jogging. I would like a penpal aged 26-33 years old. — *Anne Mills, 1 Hicking Close, Grantham, Lincs, NG31 7XB.*

My name is Dawn and I am 24 years old. My hobbies are dancing, jogging, swimming and travelling. I would like a penpal aged 21-28 years old. — *Miss D Neate, 32 Kneller Road, Brockley, London, SE4 2AP.*

My name is Helen and I am 22 years old. I am 5ft 4ins tall with brown hair and eyes. I like discos, aerobics and jogging. — *Helen Orton, 6 Garden Road, Woolmer Green, Knebworth, Herts. SG3 6JZ.*

My name is Melanie and I am 24 years old. I am 5ft 4ins tall with blonde hair and blue eyes. I like music, dancing, reading and collecting records. All letters answered. — *Melanie Priest, 27 Ambleside Road, Ferry Fryston, Yorks.*

My name is Gill and I am 19 years old. I am 5ft 5ins and I have brown hair and blue eyes. My hobbies include music, decorating and walking. — *Gill Nash, 76 Hillcrest, Bedwell, Stevenage, Herts. SG1 1PU.*

My name is Carol and I am 34 years old. I am 5ft 3ins tall with brown hair and eyes. My hobbies are decorating, gardening, music and sport. — *Carol Barnes, 9 Raymonds Plain, Welwyn Garden City, Herts. AL7 4TQ.*

My name is Debbie and I am 21 years old. I am 5ft 1ins tall with brown hair and eyes and I am a nursing auxiliary. My interests include riding, sketching and keeping fit. — *Debbie Clarke, 42 Ermin St., Brockworth, Gloucester, GL3 4HW.*

My name is Maureen and I am 28 years old. I would like to write to someone aged 30-ish, 6ft-plus tall, who would like a friend. — *Maureen Davis, 76 Quantock House, Lynmouth Road, London N16.*

REQUEST FOR SOLDIER PEN-PALS

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

STATUS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

AGE: _____

(not for publication)

***OCCUPATION:** _____

***NAME OF SCHOOL/COLLEGE/OTHER TRAINING ESTABLISHMENT:** _____

***SUBJECTS/EXAMINATIONS:** _____

*complete as appropriate

INTERESTS/HOBBIES: _____

AMBITIONS: _____

WHAT SORT OF PEN-PAL DO YOU SEEK? (ie, age, sex, status, interests, etc) _____
DO YOU HAVE ANY PREFERENCE FOR WHERE YOUR PEN-PAL IS SERVING? _____

PHOTO REQUIRED/NOT REQUIRED (delete as appropriate) _____

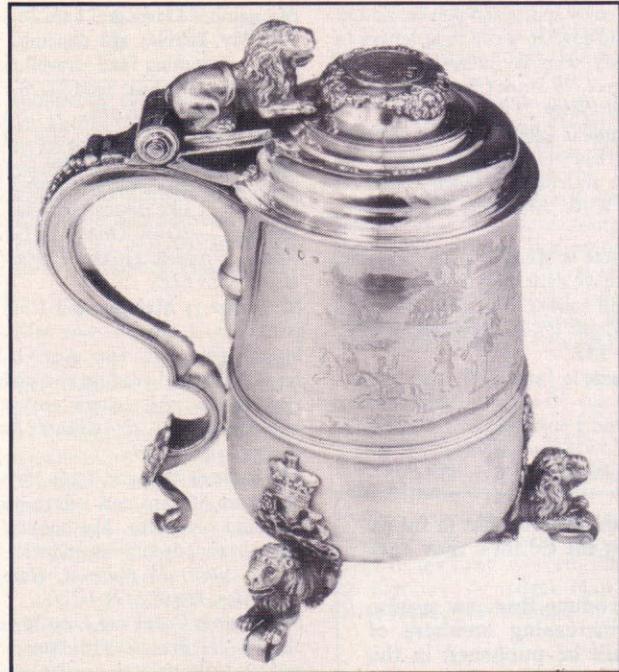
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DATE: _____



COLLECTION

THE CUMBERLAND TANKARD



STINKING BILLY and BUTCHER are not names that spring to mind when we think of a distinguished commander-in-chief who was also a royal duke. But William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, who won a reputation for great bravery at the battle of Dettingen in 1743 and for extreme ruthlessness in hunting down fleeing Jacobites after the battle of Culloden, has never been a popular British military leader, certainly not in the Highlands of Scotland!

Among the souvenirs and relics of his eventful life is a magnificent tankard in the National Army Museum. Made from seven pounds of solid silver, and big enough to hold seven pints of the duke's favourite tipple, it is decorated with roses and thistles, royal lions and dukes' coronets, and engraved with scenes of Culloden. It was there, on 16 April 1746, that the duke smashed Bonnie Prince Charlie's Highlanders and drove the romantic prince into a boozy exile.

The most prominent figure in the battle-scene is the duke himself, a thick-set man of just twenty-five beginning to go to fat. Nearby a surrendering Frenchman offers a scroll inscribed, "Ve be de prisoners of de Gran Monarch de Grande Britain".

This noble cup was made soon after the battle. No one is quite sure why: perhaps it was a gift from some city where Cumberland's military virtues were appreciated, but the absence of a dedication makes that unlikely. He may have had it made and engraved for himself, or as a gift to one of his generals. Or was it a prize to be won in some rich horse-race, for Cumberland was a great racing man? Whatever the reason, this is one of the most outstanding pieces in the great military silver collection in the National Army Museum, where it can be seen among humbler relics of the destruction of the Stuart claim to Britain's throne.

Next issue: The Uxbridge Sabre Tackle

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ARMY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The Ninth Army Photographic Competition takes place this year. The Competition is not just aimed at those employed full-time on photographic duties. All personnel who are interested in photography are encouraged to enter. Details of the judging and prize giving will be announced later.

CATEGORIES AND ELIGIBILITY

The competition will consist of seven categories:

CATEGORY 1: The best portfolio of 10 black and white or colour photographs or transparencies to show overall experience and versatility. It should illustrate a "Year in the life of a particular Unit". Open to all regular British Army and TA personnel, and any civilian photographer employed on Army Public Relation's duty.

CATEGORY 2: The best colour photograph or transparency. Open to all regular British Army and TA personnel, and any civilian photographer employed on Army Public Relation's duty.

CATEGORY 3: The best black and white photograph. Open to all regular British Army and TA personnel, and any civilian photographer employed on Army Public Relation's duty.

CATEGORY 4: The best black and white or colour photograph or transparency which portrays either of the following subjects:

(1) "Tradition in the British Army."

(2) Sport or adventurous training.

Open to all British military and civilian personnel.

CATEGORY 5: The best black and white or colour photograph or transparency submitted by a member of the WRAC, QARANC or UDR 'Greenfinches'.

CATEGORY 6: The best black and white or colour photograph or transparency submitted by a member of the TA.

CATEGORY 7: The best black and white or colour photograph or transparency submitted by a Unit Photographer.

ARMY PHOTOGRAPH OF THE YEAR: This title will be awarded to the best overall photograph entered in any of Categories 1-7.

AWARDS

Winners will be awarded prizes as follows:

CATEGORY 1: The winner of this category becomes 'Army Photographer of 1984'.

(1) A silver cup to be retained for one year.

(2) An engraved tankard and a scroll of honour.

(3) A camera presented by NIKON UK Ltd.

CATEGORY 2

(1) An engraved tankard and a scroll of honour.

(2) Photographic equipment presented by KODAK Ltd.

CATEGORY 3

(1) An engraved tankard and a scroll of honour.

(2) Photographic equipment presented by ILFORD Ltd.

CATEGORY 4

(1) An engraved tankard and a scroll of honour.

(2) Photographic equipment presented by PATERSON PRODUCTS Ltd.

CATEGORY 5

(1) A scroll of honour.

(2) A prize presented by WOMEN'S OWN Magazine.

CATEGORY 6

(1) A scroll of honour.

(2) A silver cup presented by the West Midland TAVR Association to be retained for one year.

CATEGORY 7

(1) A scroll of honour.

(2) A trophy by SOLDIER MAGAZINE to be retained for one year.

ARMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

(1) A silver cup to be retained for one year.

(2) An engraved tankard and a scroll of honour.

(3) A prize presented by NAAFI.

RUNNERS-UP IN EACH CATEGORY. Certificate of commendation.

RULES

Entries must portray an aspect of Army life on or off duty.

Photographs must have been taken since the judging date of the last competition (16 June 1982) and before 30 April 1984.

Only two entries are permissible in each category. A photograph may be entered in more than one category so long as it is clearly marked.

Monochrome or colour prints must not exceed 15 ins x 12 ins.

All entries must carry the following certificates on the reverse.

CATEGORIES ENTERED

SURNAME RANK

CHRISTIAN NAMES

UNIT ADDRESS

HOME ADDRESS

CAPTION

DATE PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN

PLEASE RETURN PHOTOGRAPH (delete if photograph not required)

All entries must have been taken by the entrant but may be trade processed. While every care will be taken by the MOD of the entries, no responsibility can be accepted for loss or damage to any entry howsoever caused.

The right is reserved to withhold awards where the standard is below a suitable level.

The competition will be judged by a panel invited by the Director of Army Public Relations (DPR(A)) who will have the final decision on all matters relating to interpretation of these rules including eligibility for entries for particular categories.

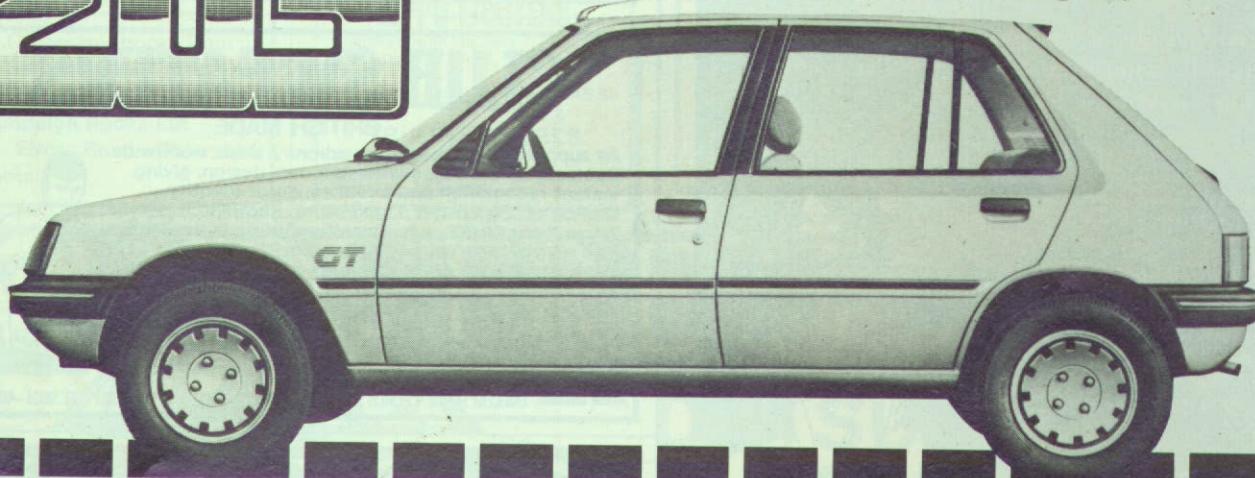
DPR(A) shall be deemed to have the right to arrange the free publication and/or display of winning photographs without payment of fee within the context of the competition, and may retain the entries for as long as necessary.

Entries for the 1984 competition should be sent to:

Army Photographic Competition 1984, Room 0363, Ministry of Defence, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB. Closing date is Friday 31 July 1984.

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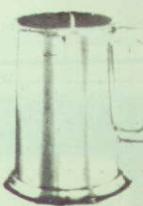
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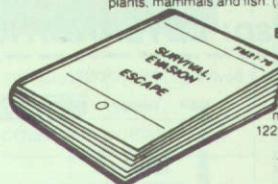
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Contact: Jones and Beardmore (0745 4301)
K. Stephenson, 0277 232913

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, 104 Kings Road, Brentwood, Essex. Tel: 0277 232913.

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SALE OF SURPLUS MARRIED QUARTERS UNDER THE NEW DISCOUNTED SCHEME

Bulletin No 1 of 1984 contains 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).

		Discounted Selling Price
Type 4	1 in Rainham, Kent	£20,300
Type 5	7 in Rainham, Kent	£20,300-£21,000
Type WO	22 in Flintham, Nottinghamshire	£22,050-£26,250
Type C	4 in Flintham, Nottinghamshire	£12,950-£14,350
	1 in King's Lynn, Norfolk	£17,500
	2 in Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire	£15,400-£16,100
	5 in Rainham, Kent	£20,300
	9 in Chatham, Kent	£13,300
Type B	1 in Cardonald, Glasgow	£17,675
	2 in Tidworth, Hants	£12,600-£13,300

The Bulletin has 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 1 — 14 March 1984.

SEVEN UP GUARDS SEND OUT SIGNALS

Junior Regt Royal Signals 0

Guards Depot 7

The Guards easily won the first Junior Soldiers (Under-18) Cup Final by seven clear goals. Even if the game was not as one sided as the score suggests the Guardsmen were bigger, stronger and more talented and once they achieved their initial break the result was never in doubt.

The Signals side had been surprise finalists after beating The Junior Leaders RCT, a more fancied side. They fielded three Youth Training Scheme youngsters in their team.

The Guards went in front after 22 minutes and were three up at half time. Four more followed in the second half in what was a classic case of "a good big 'un beating a good little 'un".

Right: Junior Guardsman Malcolm Austin is chaired by his team after the Cup presentation.



SOCCER ROUND-UP

Creamed Again

Devon 3 Army 1

Two goals in the last eight minutes rocked the Army in their opening game of this year's South West Counties Championship. They were coasting along when slackness in defence gave the home side a win they really did not deserve.

The Army had scoring chances in the opening half but all their front runners were guilty of indifferent finishing. Lance-Corporal Steve Butler shot wide when well placed; Sergeant Mark Bowen headed away with the goal yawning at his mercy; and Craftsman Neil McGregor shot over the top when scoring looked easy.

Devon took the lead early in the second half but the Army fought back with an equaliser by Butler 11 minutes from time. But then came the two knockout blows.

Sharp Shooting

For the fourth year in a row 265 (Kent Sharpshooter Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (V) have won the London District TA Soccer Cup. Their opponents in the final, 68 (Inns of Court & City Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (V) come from the same regiment. During their Cup run the 'Sharpshooters' notched 31 goals.

US MARINES OUTFOUGHT

The Combined Services boxing team edged out the US Marines by five bouts to four in their match at the National Sporting Club, Grosvenor Hotel, London. Private Carl Crook, Craftsman Dave Oag and Guardsman Dennis Bailey all scored unanimous victories.

In another match the Army drew six bouts apiece with London.

IT'S KENTISH TIME

THIS WEEK sees the first game in the annual tri-nation Kentish Cup soccer competition in which the Combined Services take on the young National Service professionals of France and Belgium.

On Wednesday 25 January the British team, cock-a-hoop after their first ever victory over Second Division Middlesbrough, entertain the French Cup holders at the Aldershot stadium. Admission is by programme (price 50p at the gate) and officials are hoping for a bumper crowd (kick off 7.30pm).

The second game in the competition against Belgium will be at Eidsen, Belgium at 2.30 pm on Wednesday 8 February. The match is only a stones throw away from Rheindahlen and it is hoped that British soldiers and airmen will pour across the border to give Combined Services some support to rival the big Belgian crowd expected. We last won the Cup back in 1969-70 but have put up some sterling displays in recent years.

Assault and Battery



Two batteries from the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Artillery, contested this year's final of the Junior Inter Squadron/Battery/Company boxing competition. Picture shows Junior Gunner M Door of 39 (Roberts) Battery receiving the SOLDIER Shield after his team beat 2 (Baker) Battery by seven bouts to two.

SAPPER SAILOR SEARCH

The Royal Engineer Yacht Club has launched a search for more sapper-sailors to follow in a tradition which stretches back to 1846. The club entered a yacht in the very first Fastnet Race in 1925 and has been represented in every Fastnet since then. The REYC finished second in 1925 and won the following year.

In the 1980s the Corps has dominated Army dinghy racing with an average of 50 per cent of the Army team being selected from sappers. Since 1872 the REYC has been entitled to wear the undefaced Blue Ensign on its members yachts and in conjunction with the Royal Engineers Sailing Association is one of the few Service clubs entitled to test its own members on behalf of the Royal Yachting Association.

Says Captain R S Kingswell, Membership Secretary of the Club: "Last year the Corps was hard pressed to find sufficient sailors to fulfil its leading role in the yachting world. We know that there are many serving sappers of all ranks who are interested in sailing but with the great mobility of the modern Army it has been impossible to keep in touch with them."

Now a computer based register of sapper sailors is to be created and Captain Kingswell is appealing for all those who wish to represent the Corps in 1984 to contact him. His address is 14 Topo Sqn RE, BFPO 34.

LADY LUCK SMILES

CIVIL SERVICE 0

As always, the Civil Service provided the chance for Army footballers to shake off the effects of plum pudding and Hogmanay. An early opportunist goal gave the Army the match but they were lucky to hold onto their lead against a side displaying qualities not always associated with the Civil Service — innovation and initiative.

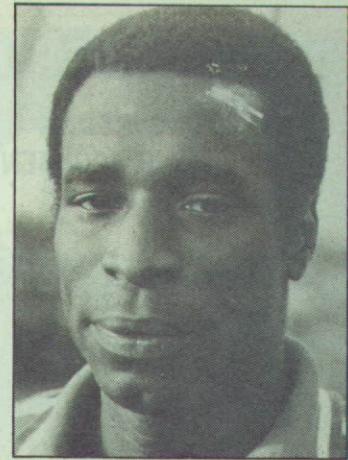
The civil servants took a little time to get their act together — which is not surprising for they only play three representative games a season — against the Services. But they played hard and fast throughout a second half in which, at times, the Army wilted.

Corporal Rudi Fleming, who had already been close, took the Army's chance in the 18th minute when he raced through to take a loose ball and divert it past the Civil Service keeper.

For the next few minutes the Army forwards swarmed around the home goal but without further result and eventually the Civil Service moved into the attack. Lance-Sergeant John Houghton of 1 Coldstream Guards made the first of a series of fine saves which enabled him to keep the scoresheet clean throughout the match.

Escapology was the name of

ARMY 1



Corporal Rudi Fleming and (below) his winning goal.



the Army game throughout much of the second half. As the sun receded over the horizon so the Civil Service rose like Dracula from his coffin. But Houghton

and the other defenders held out for a win which did not reflect the balance of play and the forwards also created chances.

Having said that the Army

played well with a makeshift side minus the Rhine Army based regulars. Testing themselves against lively opposition like this can only help their game.

SOCcer GENERALS

The football team of the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, back in 1955-56 contained two players (ringed) who today are the chairman and vice-chairman of the Army Football Association.

In the front row is Major-General John Boyne who still plays football for the Army Crusaders 2nd XI. Behind him is Major-General John Stibbon, Commandant at Shrivenham, who finally retired as a player last season.

The generals agree that nowadays very few officers play football except the very young ones. "We both believe that football is the soldiers' Number One game and it always helps it to flourish when you have officers who are taking an active interest, preferably playing" declared General Boyne.

Today few UK-based soldiers play for Army sides at weekends — instead they turn out for civilian clubs. Said General Boyne: "The Army has become more of a weekday Army in the United Kingdom and we can't turn the clock back in that respect."

One thing disturbs both generals — discipline on the field — although they are pleased that standards are still far higher within Army sides than in civilian.

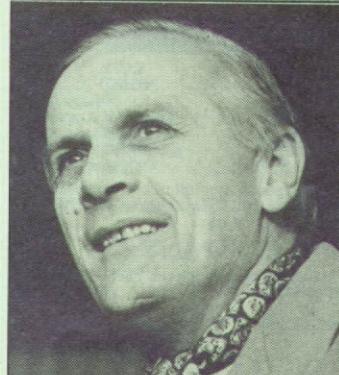
Said General Stibbons: "I think it's a pity that while the standard of refereeing has greatly



Major-General Boyne.

improved from our days the reaction from the players is not as disciplined. We are concerned at disciplinary offences within the Army although we are ten times better than the English counties. And so we should be as a disciplined society."

Army football, like other



Major-General Stibbon.

Army sports, is still in very good shape and hands. That is the verdict of the two footballing generals. And the future lies with young officers.

Said General Boyne: "If you look at that photograph there are three players who are still actively involved in the administration of Army football. Not only do we look to young players coming out of the Academy to get involved in football at all levels but we look to them to be the administrators of the future and to keep the show on the road."

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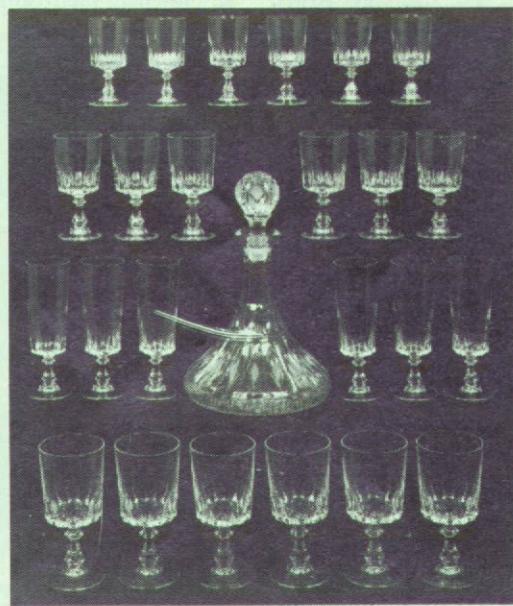
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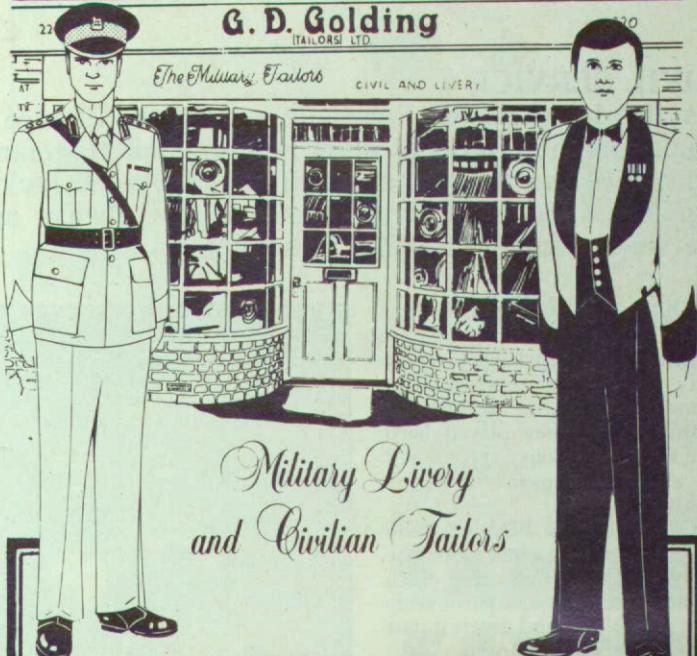
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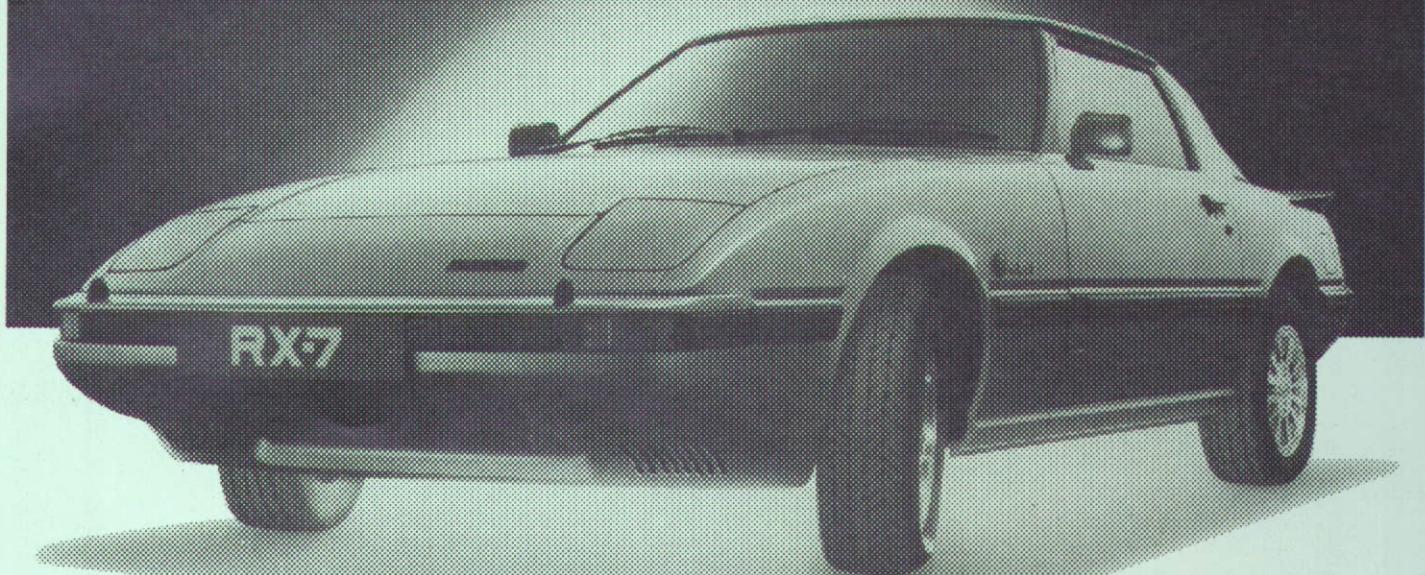
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