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SOLDIER



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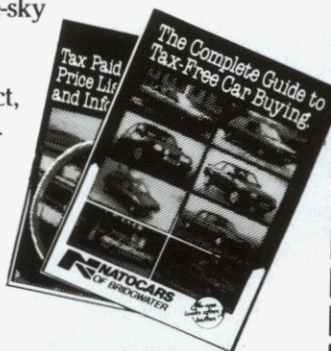


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FRONT COVER: Pipe Sergeant Gordon Webster, 1st Battalion, Scots Guards, on exchange with Left Flank during Exercise Ponte Vecchio, poses on a Venice canal link, with the Bridge of Sighs in the background

BACK COVER: Still remembered. Men of Left Flank, 1st Battalion, Scots Guards, join with Italian military and civilians at Udine War Cemetery during an act of remembrance for 414 men buried there from the Italian campaign of the Second World War.

Both photographs: Paul Haley.

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SOLDIER

INCORPORATING
THE TERRITORIAL ARMY MAGAZINE



Feminine charms for SOLDIER's page 3 from The Sun's page 3 after the national newspaper organised a fund to provide TVs and videos for soldiers in Northern Ireland. The lucky lads are from The Green Howards.

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Led by their regimental mascot — an Indian black buck called Bobby — the Territorial Army soldiers of D Company 5th Battalion the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers have exercised their Freedom of the City of Salford for the first time since the privilege was granted five years ago.

More than 50 soldiers from drill halls in Castle Street, Bury and Baron Street Rochdale, along with the Fusiliers' Duke of Kent's Band plus Fusilier badged Army Cadets and a strong turnout of old comrades renewed links with the City that stretch back more than 140 years.

BOBBY LEADS 'FREEDOM' MARCH

The parade was timed to coincide with the rededication of colours now laid up in Sacred Trinity Church, Salford, of six battalions of the old Lancashire Fusiliers. Among them are those of the 15th, 16th, 19th and 20th Battalions raised during the First World War and dubbed "the Salford Brigade".

During the First World War Salford raised 11 battalions of Fusiliers totalling more than 11,000 men.

After an inspection by Colonel



Ian Cartwright, Deputy Colonel (Lancashire) — himself a Salford man — the parade marched to Sacred Trinity Church for the

rededication service. The parade then reformed to march past the Mayor of Salford, Councillor Fred Brockbank.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Staff Sergeant Bob Cardy APTC and the rest of the physical training staff at Scottish Infantry Depot (Glencorse) set out to paddle by canoe the near-100 miles from Inverness to Oban, but had to contend with abysmal weather and abandon their attempt when they reached Fort William. But they raised more than £600 for cancer research.

Former 5th Battalion The King's Regiment soldier **Ken Moore** has received the Danish Tourist Board gold medal to mark his 20th year of representing Denmark within NATO, where he organises a stream of social and sporting links with towns all over Denmark. Employed as a civilian with the British Army movements organisation in Germany from 1961, Ken — now aged 60 — soon started to arrange cultural contacts with Denmark and became their official representative in 1965.

Lucky **Lance Corporal Martin Greenwood** of 53 Port Support Squadron, RCT Marchwood, has won a Maestro car in a Match-a-

Key competition run by the Abbey National Building Society.

CAPTAIN (QM) David Jackson, 43, of 41 Squadron, RCT, based at Aldershot has raised £250 for the Cancer Research Fund by completing the New York marathon in a time of 3½ hours. It was the sixth marathon, the first for charity and plans include participation in the London and Paris events.

The grave of **Private Michael Murphy**, who won the VC 127 years ago for 'daring gallantry' in India, will in future be 'kept in a condition befitting a hero'. The grave in Darlington North Cemetery, County Durham, was formerly neglected until the present day Royal Corps of Transport — Pte Murphy won his VC while with 2nd Battalion The Military Train, forerunners of the RASC and RCT — took over its upkeep. CO of the 2nd Infantry Division Transport Regiment, **Lieutenant Colonel Derek Williams**, assured relatives it would never again fall into neglect.

THE ENEMY — WITH SMILES

They don't look very menacing, but members of the WRAC were the 'enemy' when HQ BAOR ran Exercise Star Trek in which staff of the headquarters were forced to abandon their complex and disperse into the countryside — senior staff officers included!

The girls patrolled all the main roads around the HQ, ensuring that everyone faced a tough cross-country hike to reach escorts who would take them to a temporary headquarters until a counter attack could be mounted. Roads were strictly out of bounds.



The exercise enabled officers to experience at first hand the value of training laid on for their soldier staff by Rheindahlen Garrison.



HELP FOR THE INJURED

All the Servicemen invalidated from the Army after being injured in the Hyde Park and Regent's Park bombings have received either a pension or lump sum or both from the Armed Forces Pension Scheme and also from DHSS under the War Pensions Scheme. They can also ask for compensation under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme.

The Armed Forces Minister, Mr John Stanley, gave this assurance in the Commons after Press publicity suggesting that the injured men had not been looked after.



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Army Antarctic hero Lance Corporal Kerry Gill has been rewarded for rescuing a Royal Navy explorer from an icy death earlier this year.

West Germany based Kerry, 22, has been commended by the Royal Navy for saving the life of Lieutenant Commander Clive Waghorn during a freezing five-day ordeal on a blizzard-swept mountain ridge on desolate Brabant Island in the Antarctic.

Kerry saved the officer from plunging to certain death down a deep crevasse 3,800 feet up a snow-capped mountain during a Joint Services Antarctic expedition. Lt Cdr Waghorn broke his thigh when he fell through an ice bridge into a crevasse and was saved only by the rope linking him to the young soldier.

The Lance Corporal, a telecommunications mechanic serving in Hereford with 4th Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal

NAVY HONOURS HERO KERRY



Proud moment for Kerry Gill — with his mates from 4th Armoured Div HQ and Signals Regiment

Regiment, volunteered to stay with the injured commander while the two remaining members of the team fought their way back to base

through snowstorms to raise the alarm.

With his regiment on parade Kerry was presented with the commendation by the Commander 4th Armoured Division, Major General John Waters.

The citation says that: "In full knowledge of the risks involved and despite being temporarily hurt by the fall, Gill throughout the potentially disastrous situation remained cheerful, ever willing to administer help to his patient without a single word of complaint or sign of irritation or impatience."

After the ceremony Kerry, shrugging off bravery, said: "I'm really no hero. I was just doing my job which any other soldier in my situation would have done. But the award is a tremendous honour which will always be special to me."

FAREWELL - AND INTO THE SEA!

Staff and students of the Royal Engineers' Diving establishment marched into Southampton Water to symbolise the end of a 40 year link with the Military Port at Marchwood.

Dressed in full diving kit, their air outlets wheezing in unison, they gave a smart eyes right to Lieutenant Colonel Roger Mundy, OC REDE, before entering the water alongside a sign pointing to HMS Vernon.

The diving sappers are moving to the RN shore base at Portsmouth as part of the general MoD policy to co-locate those in different Services who have similar tasks. In future they will live alongside Naval divers though their function will remain very different.

Joining members of the REDE



staff for the historic march past were soldiers from one of the last courses to be held at Marchwood. They came from 51 Field Squad-

ron (Construction) — a part of 38 Engineer Regiment, Ripon — and were due to depart soon for the Falklands for a four month tour.

RATS FOR BREAKFAST

THREE DOZEN wives of personnel serving with the Second Battalion, The Light Infantry, stationed in BAOR, had a Sunday morning breakfast with an epicurean difference ... snails, rats and pigeons!

They were on exercise in Germany raising money to buy guide dogs for the blind — enough money for three as it turned out — and a cheque for £3,000 has just been presented to the Middlesborough branch of the Guide Dogs for the Blind by one of the snail eaters, Mrs Dorothy Coplin, wife of Cpl John Coplin.

Man behind the idea was Families' Officer Captain Dennis Crook, and the three dogs have aptly been named Bugle, Silver and Minden.

Raising the money meant that the 36 wives had to live off the land, move across country and spend one night under the stars.

MEDAL FROM THE MAYOR



Mayoral congratulations for Derek

SENIOR Army postie Staff Sergeant Derek Grunnill has received a medal by special delivery.

Derek, serving with 14 Postal and Courier Squadron, Royal Engineers, was presented with his Long Service and Good Conduct medal by Mrs Barbara Longstone, the Mayor Councillor of the London Borough of Barnet, when she visited various postal units throughout BAOR.

It was a move that made it an important day for both the 34-year-old Detmold based soldier and his Squadron. The medal presentation is the latest expression of the close connection that has developed between the Borough of Barnet and the Postal Courier Depot which is situated within its boundary.

During the Postal and Courier Services Centenary Year celebrated in 1982, the borough granted the PCS's parent body, the Corps of the Royal Engineers, the Freedom of the Borough in honour of the special occasion.

But for Derek, who has spent almost all his 18 working years with the army postal service, receiving the medal from an elegant lady official was something special in itself.

"Having the LS and GC pinned on by the Mayor just made my day," said Derek.

'Last Post' for Light Brigade hero

On the eve of the 131st anniversary of the Charge of the Light Brigade a lone bugler has marked the part played by a flamboyant soldier who survived the carnage.

In a solemn graveside ceremony the plaintive notes of the *Last Post* rang out across the cemetery where Sergeant Denis Heron was buried 90 years ago.

Friends of the dashing Irishman erected a memorial when he died, but over the years the site became forgotten and buried under a coat of ivy.

Members of the Royal British Legion at Bridgwater, Somerset, were able to take satisfaction at seeing the grave immaculate again after their restoration efforts.

As Second Lieutenant Mike Farrant of the Somerset Army Cadet Force played the mournful tune, local Legion President Councillor Jack Davies placed flowers on the grave.

Afterwards he said: "We felt we had to do something to remember someone who was obviously a very brave man and one of the gallant 600".

Sergeant Heron, from County Kildare, seems to have been something of a Victorian Rambo judging by an account he wrote which was published in the Bridgwater *Mercury* newspaper as part of his funeral report.

CUT DOWN

He rode with the 4th Light Dragoons and cut down half a dozen Russians to capture a gun with six horses attached. Sadly he had to abandon his prize when, as he explained, it became clear the beasts understood only Russian and did not move.

He narrowly escaped death when a lance went through his saddle and he had to battle with two Russian swordsmen, describing one as a "very professional soldier."

He was eventually shot in the arm and was later nursed by Florence Nightingale on the steamer *Scutari* on his way home.

PARA-ACE BOB FALLS OUT

Sergeant Bob Harman has said farewell to the Red Devils after 11 years and a world record of nearly 5,500 freefall descents with The Parachute Regiment display team.

The chief instructor's last task was to lead the team along Queens Parade, Aldershot as part of the celebrations to mark the arrival of the Red Devils' new Islander aircraft.

And then he delayed his planned departure for a new career in the United States by one day so he could attend the team's 21st birthday celebrations: "I couldn't really miss that now, could I?" he said.

As Mr Bob Harman he is going to be an instructor at the world-famous civilian parachuting centre in Zephyrhills, 30 miles north of Tampa in Florida, taking with him not just his incredible expertise and experience, but a host of happy memories.

"Of course I'm sad to leave such a great organisation after so long," said Bob, "but I've had such a wonderful time and how else could I have met royalty and so many famous show-business people?"

"I've seen so many places as well," says the man who numbers among his favourite reminiscences dropping in on the Casino at Monte Carlo, the Copacabana beach at Rio and — at night! — into Hong Kong.

And the most memorable descent? "I think this has to be free-falling into Kensington Palace gardens last May," said Bob. "The drop was no problem, but meeting Prince Charles and Prince William was nerve-racking. That was a marvellous experience for us all."

Now he will be concentrating on helping civilians improve their technique and canopy relative discipline — close formation stacking of two or more individuals.



SERGEANT BOB HARMAN: US bound to Tampa, Florida

'Gongs' for US exchange men

The glittering array of medal ribbons displayed by US Army Sergeants Newal Hunter Jr (second left) and David H Ramos, were added to when US Major General Eugene L Stillions Jr visited the ACC Apprentices' College at Aldershot.

For the General handed to each of the sergeants — both 1st Class — the US Army medal for meritorious performance of duty bringing their "gong" total to about ten each.

Newal, 32, and David, 37, are both from Fort Lee, Virginia, and are working at the College as instructors on an exchange tour.

How did US Army food compare with the British Army? "Excellent," they said. "It's chips with everything as it is in our Army. But the standard here is fantastically high."

With them in the picture is Lieutenant Colonel Mike Dickinson, college CO.

Jim exits for oil rig job

It was a classy exit for WO1 Jim Boyle when he retired after 22 years. For Jim, of the RAOC based at Emblem in Belgium, rode off to a new-life style on a North Sea oil rig on a pony and trap.

Jim from Glasgow started his career in 1963 with the Black Watch, transferring to the RAOC in 1975. He also served with the Gordon Highlanders and the Argyll and Sutherland High-

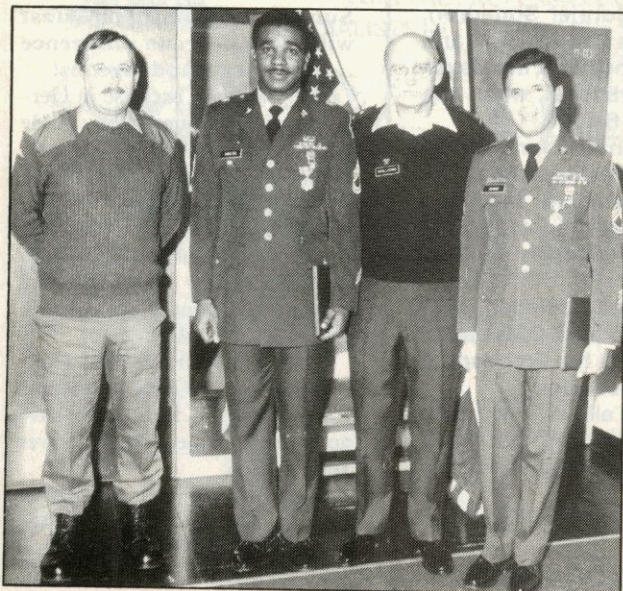
landers.

Since being with the RAOC Jim has been military training officer at the Depot in Camberley, the Ordnance Depot, Antwerp, and 3 Base Ammunition Depot in Bracht.

During his career Jim has toured Germany, Northern Ireland, Cyprus, Aden and Singapore, where he was a jungle warfare instructor.



WO1 Jim Boyle



It was a grey day in Northern Ireland till Page 3 girl Karen Kelly turned up with six colour TV sets and 17 video recorders on behalf of *The Sun* newspaper. But when curvy Karen and model Janine James arrived the day took on a distinctly sunny view. Lucky recipients of the sets were the lads of the 1st Battalion The Green Howards, now back in BAOR after a 4½-month tour in Belfast. The girls, too, have returned for Page 3 duties, but the TVs stayed for use by other units heading for time in the Province.

SUN(shine) view for NI lads!

Mid-Channel lift for mum-to-be

Pregnant mums constantly make news by going into early labour, but few have cut it so fine as soldier's wife Mrs Doreen Hurst, (20), whose time came in the middle of the night on a cross-Channel ferry, writes John Dalling.

A passing helicopter answered the radio call for help, met the ship, hoisted the "terrified" woman aboard and, diverted by fog over the continent, headed for RAF Manston in Kent where an ambulance was standing by.

Half an hour after being picked up by the helicopter the mother-to-be was at Margate General Hospital and ten minutes later she gave birth to a 5lb 15oz baby girl, to be named Nikki.

Among the first to congratulate her was Wing Commander Tom Hindmarsh, OC Manston.

Mrs Hurst, whose husband Kevin is a REME lance-corporal stationed at Paderborn, said it was her first time in a helicopter and she had been terrified, although safely strapped to a stretcher. The baby had not been due for another two weeks.

She had been visiting her parents at South Kirkby near Pontefract, Yorks, and was returning to Germany on the

Dover-Ostend ferry accompanied by her mother, Mrs Joyce Muir, and son Duane who will be three in February.

The helicopter, a search and rescue Sea King of 40 Squadron of the Belgian Air Force, had been on its way to Koksijde.

Double weather role for met man Ken

Even if you don't recognise the face of Ken Ingamells his voice will be familiar to BFBS listeners in BAOR.



Ken Ingamells

For Ken is the man who forecasts the daily weather for Service aviators about to set off on a trip.

But although he draws high praise for his light, professional style, his real job is that of staff met officer for 1 (BR) Corps.

With service all over the world, he says, computers have altered the weatherman's capability from being "something of an art to a science."

But it's still not all that exact, for as Ken admits: "I would be foolish to claim 100 per cent, but our accuracy is at least in the high eighties."



KAREN KELLY AND COMPANY: viewing time for the lads of the Green Howards

PEOPLE

QUICK

It took Roger Driscoll a long time, but he finally managed to get together 17 former warrant officers and two majors who all began in 1939 as Royal Artillery artificer apprentices. He traced and arranged for a reunion dinner at a Coventry hotel. Nowadays the former apprentices work as lecturers, teachers, research workers, project engineers and managers.

SPOT

Meet the wonDERR men of Canterbury

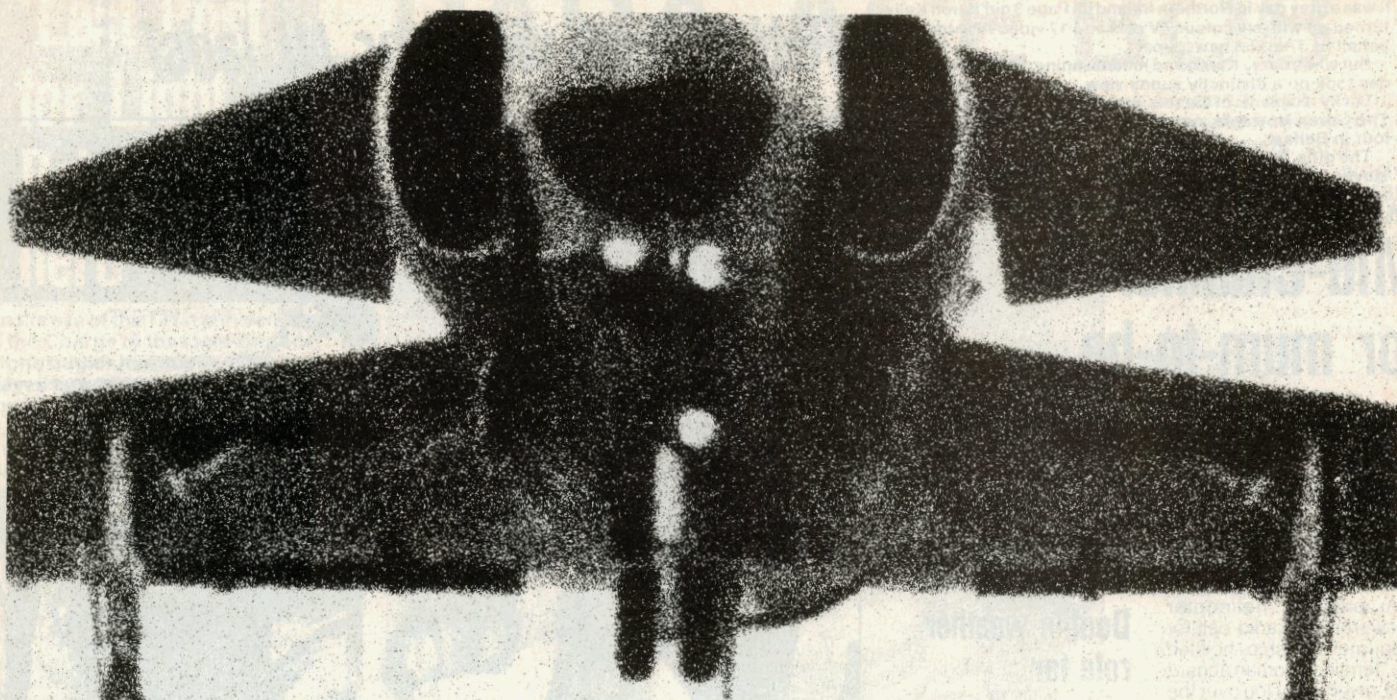
Nicknamed the "wonDERRs" by Canadians following successful exercises, the 1st Battalion The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment have also been voted a hit by the citizens of Canterbury, Kent.

At least 39 local girls have awarded them top marks, for they married 39 of the regiment's men and are now resident at Aldergrove, Northern Ireland.

With tours in Armagh, Belize, Cyprus and Greenham Common over the past two years, the lads still found time to woo local girls and marry them.

Now the newest wives have joined the regiment and, while apprehensive about their first posting, are looking ahead to a move to Hong Kong after NI.





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TA COOKS FIGHT AND FRY

Territorial Army cooks from throughout the North of England went into action with frying pans and rifles to prove they can be as at home on the range as over the stove.

On the Army's training area at Catterick, North Yorkshire, they were tested in such military skills as marksmanship, first aid, map reading and vehicle maintenance. All that in addition to each of the four-strong teams setting up a camouflaged field kitchen and cooking an appetizing three-course meal for 20 people.

The tests, aimed at showing that every Army cook is fit to defend his location, were staged by the Army's No 4 Catering Region.

Taking part were 12 teams of cooks from North East District



Left: Potato judge Lieutenant Beverley Davies from 11 Signals Regiment. Above: Staff Sgt Alan McCurry takes aim, watched by SNCOs of the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry



and 10 teams from units of North West District.

Each team was given a selection of fresh and tinned Army rations but was allowed to spend up to £5 on such additions as garlic salt and curry powder to add that dash of "flair and imagination" to their cooking.

Winners of the North East District section of the event were:

1. 2nd Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers of York; 2. 201 General Hospital (Volunteers), Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 3. 4th Volunteer Battalion The Parachute Regiment, Bradford. North West District winners were 5/8 Battalion, The King's Regiment, followed by 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, and the Duke of Gloucester's Own Yeomanry third.

ACROSS THE RHINE — BY FERRY

The North West's Territorial Army engineer regiment has been busy crossing the River Rhine on what the uninitiated might suspect was a giant Meccano outfit — a hollow deck ferry and a German one at that.

The men of 75 Engineer Regiment had their annual camp at Emmerich near the German/Dutch border.

Their first week was spent on

sapper tasks, such as building and operating the ferry across the Rhine, carrying out railway repairs, demolition and bridge building, before they put their skills into practise in an exercise.

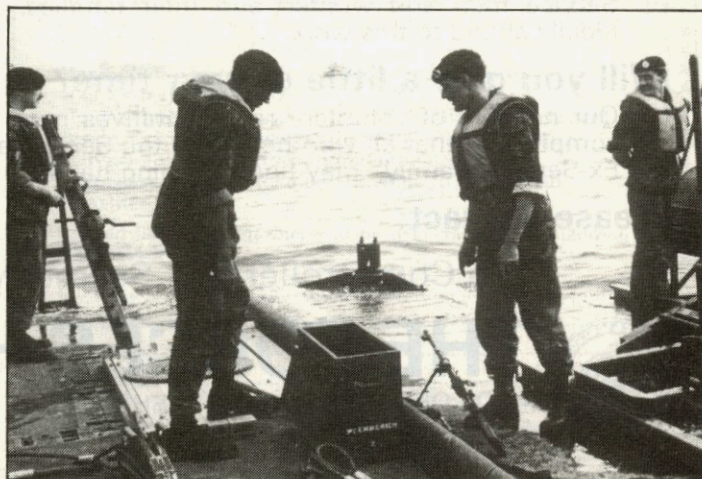
While the field squadrons were busy with their ferries and bridges the plant troop was quietly beaver away building a road at an ordnance depot in Dulmen.

SAS TERRIERS HONOUR FITZROY MACLEAN

The 23rd Special Air Service Regiment (Volunteers) have combined the opening of their new headquarters in Birmingham with a tribute to their honorary Colonel, Sir Fitzroy Maclean.

Baroness Airey of Abingdon, whose late husband Airey Neave, was assassinated by the IRA in 1979 and was a former Commanding Officer of the Regiment, dedicated the new headquarters as Maclean House after Sir Fitzroy Maclean, who served with the SAS in the Second World War.

Among the many guests at the ceremony were Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, the outgoing Chief of the Defence Staff and Colonel Commandant of the special Air Service, Colonel David Stirling who founded the SAS, and former and present members of the SAS.



Ship ahoy — Sappers cross the Rhine

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TWO different pictures of life in the Russian Army have been painted in recent weeks, one showing soldiers crammed into draughty, ill-furnished barracks, the other describing a splendid multi-storey "military cantonment" where everything is geared to making the soldier feel at home.

The article critical of the Russian soldier's lifestyle appeared in The Times; the "home from home" piece was published in Soviet Military Review.

The Times report is specifically about the Russian soldier in East Germany; the Soviet story is not given the benefit of a location — but it is apparently written by a Soviet soldier, Major Alexander Yepifantsev.

SOLDIER to Soldier

Perhaps the Russian soldier lives well at home, and not so well when he is guarding the East German border!

Life on the German front is hard, uncomfortable and probably, for the average tankman or foot soldier, confusing, says The Times. Most of the troops are housed in former Wehrmacht barracks, long draughty halls put up in a hurry 45 years ago.

A block built to accommodate 150 German soldiers is now typically used as sleeping quarters for 400 or more Soviet conscripts. All dividing walls have been dismantled, all cupboards thrown out.

The soldier puts his kit on a stool and his dress uniform is kept in storage. He is not allowed civilian clothes and his personal possessions have to be kept to a minimum; a photograph perhaps, his cigarette ration and a letter from home.

Back at the splendid multi-storey cantonment — "a unique architectural ensemble standing apart for its high aesthetic expressiveness", says Major Yepifantsev — there is always exemplary military order, cleanliness and cosiness in the barracks.

The company is quartered in a spacious well-lit building. Besides the sleeping premises, there is everything envisaged in the Interior Service Regulations of the Soviet Armed Forces — a Lenin Room (for political and cultural work), a room for storage and cleaning weapons, a storeroom for personal effects, a company office, classrooms, an everyday services room, drying room, shower room, areas for smoking, cleaning footwear etc.

The canteen is, says Major Yepifantsev, deserving of the highest praise. Well prepared food, decorative wall designs in the spacious dining halls, light curtains gracing the windows, the latest technical equipment and furniture.

Back to The Times. Russian soldiers in East Germany, it says, seldom go out alone, only in groups. Almost everything outside

their camp is "off limits."

There are barrack room diversions, but they are paltry. Soldiers can listen to their personal radios on Sunday afternoons — but only to Volga radio, the Soviet military channel. And alcohol is banned in the barracks.

But "somewhere in the Soviet Union" it's tradition to show new recruits and their parents a colour documentary film demonstrating what the State gives the fighting men: fine barracks, training facilities, and up-to-date hardware and weapons (says Soviet Military Review). And it is realised that although they have good barracks and Lenin Rooms, if the ideological, educational and cultural work is not properly organised, the troops' everyday lives will lack lustre and be monotonous and will not give the men satisfaction.

No mention there of soldiers going "out on the town". But, says the article, the fighting men do have at their disposal a fine sports complex with clubhouse, swimming pool — and a vegetable hothouse which provides the men with fresh cucumbers and onions from March onwards!

SOLDIER has said farewell to Editor Peter Howard.

Peter had edited SOLDIER for the past two-and-a-half years, but it was back in the late fifties that he first contributed to the magazine when he was in the Far East.

With a background of 20 years as a journalist with The Star in Sheffield, he joined the Ministry of Defence in 1975 and had worked for all three Services as a Public Relations Officer, including a spell as Press Adviser to the Commander British Forces Falklands.

More recently he featured in the news himself when, with his daughter Fiona, he made his first parachute jump, with the Red Devils at Aldershot.

Peter has now decided to leave the Civil Service and has become Features Editor with Janes Defence Weekly. We wish him well.

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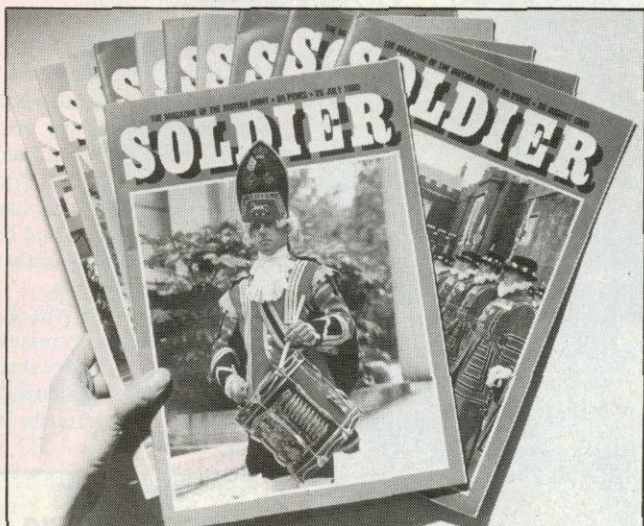
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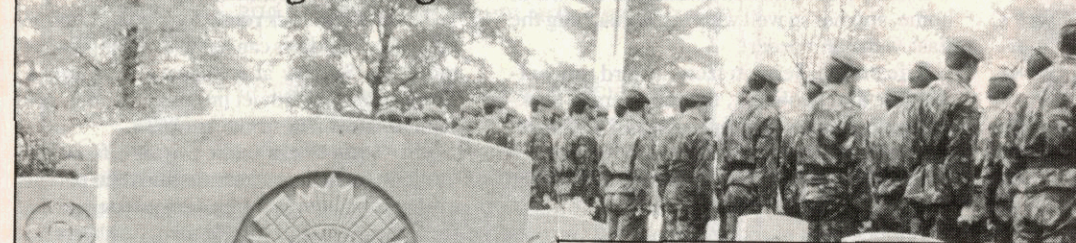
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REMEMBRANCE for most soldiers took place in or near their units. For some men of the 1st Battalion Scots Guards, an exchange training visit gave them chance to visit...



GRAVES OF COMRADES RESTING IN ITALY

The headstone tells it all; Left Flank on rehearsal

Five wreaths ready for laying at the monument



Story: **GRAHAM SMITH** Pictures: **PAUL HALEY**

MEN FROM the Left Flank, 1st Battalion Scots Guards collectively honoured the memory of their 449 fallen regimental forbears of some 40 years ago during a special service at the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at Tavagnacco, less than five miles north of Udine.

Two Scots Guards — they died in 1946 — are among the 414 soldiers, sailors and airmen buried there about 10 miles from the Alpine foothills of north-eastern Italy.

Most of the fresh-faced young guardsmen who stood silently in orderly but personal poignant tribute and attendant solemn mood may have given a thought to the events of three years ago and 8,000 miles to the south; the Falklands. The desperate fight for Tumbledown by their sister Second Battalion, an eve-of-surrender action of 13 June, 1982, which would cost them eight dead and 41 wounded.

At the Tavagnacco remembrance service were seven Scots Guardsmen who fought in that campaign — Lieutenant James Dalrymple, second-in-command Left Flank; Lieutenant James Kelly, Training Officer (formerly Royal Marines but 1 SG since Hong Kong); Colour Sergeant Colin Coull; Sergeant Philip Hutton; Guardsmen Alex Brown, John Hunt, and Gordon Aitchison.

Today, Tavagnacco cemetery is cared for in inimitable War Graves Commission style; in excellence. In this case, by part-time local farmer, Bruno Visintini who from dawn at 4 am had, with wife Ida, spent four unstinting hours collecting fallen overnight leaves by hand in drizzle and breeze.

Four decades ago the Scots Guards' predecessors, perhaps grandfathers and great uncles among them, had completed their entry into military history during the strenuous struggle to advance up the Italian peninsula across its rugged, mountainous spine and on to Trieste.

Briefly, 2 Scots Guards had landed at Salerno on 9 September 1943, as part of Operation Avalanche, the first large scale combined operation to be met by opposed landings on the European mainland of the Second World War. A seaborne landing which had involved 100,000 British and 69,000 American personnel disembarking from a 450-ship armada.

They had landed as part of 201st Guards Brigade later crossing the Volturno River and twice storming Monte Camino. Following the baptism of fire, service on the Italian peninsula ended for 2 SG on 17

January, 1944, at the mouth of the River Garigliano. The battalion sailed for home three months later.

1 SG arrived in Italy during December 1943 and on 17 January, 1944, embarked for Anzio in 24th Guards Brigade. For six weeks it resisted all German attacks until it was withdrawn from the beachhead in March 1944.

Carroceto and Campoleone are two of the more evocative names, Battipaglia and the tobacco factory, two more.

Throughout the summer of 1944 the battalion advanced through Cassino, Rome and Orvieto to Florence. The winter was spent in the mountains near Bologna and, in March 1945, the 1st and 2nd Guards Brigade were withdrawn from the line for reorganisation at Spoleto where the independent 'C' Company, Scots Guards, joined the battalion from the 2nd Coldstream and was re-named 'B' Company.

1 SG joined the 56th Division for the final offensive, broke through the Argenta Gap and chased the retreating enemy to the banks of

They are remembered 40 years on...



Men of Left Flank file out of Udine War Cemetery

unknown soldiers.

Udine was entered by troops of the 6th Armoured Division in May 1945 and burials at Tavagnacco include casualties from the last few days of the war, some earlier POWs in Italy, air force casualties and later garrison burials from 70 British General Hospital which was at Udine from May 1945 for some months.

Some 42,000 Commonwealth soldiers, sailors and airmen were killed in the Italian campaign of which 38,000 are buried in 37 Commonwealth War Cemeteries and 1,500 whose remains were cremated and are commemorated in three of these cemeteries.

The Scots Guards paid a heavy price during the Italian campaign. They are buried in the following cemeteries: Florence (19); Salerno (52); Ancona (4); Arezzo (17); Caserta (11); Naples (16); Sangro River (2); Faenza (4); Milan (3); Bolsena (15); Padua (5); Minturno (60); Foiana della Chiana (2); Rome (33); Assisi (5); Santerno Valley (1); Anzio (88); Udine (2); Argenta Gap (30); Castiglione South African Cemetery (40); Cassino (41); Anzio beachhead (28); Ravenna (1).

● See colour picture — back cover.

Pipe Sgt Gordon Webster and Cpl Dougie Watson pipe in the ceremonially dressed

TA GO LIVE IN RED GROUSE SHOOT

RED Grouse 11 on the Otterburn training area provided a unique "first" for the modern TA — the first opportunity, as far as anyone can discover, since the end of the Second World War for a company-sized group to exercise with live all-arms support.

It was the culmination of 18 months planning and six months preparatory training for the battalion selected to conduct it, the Merseyside and Manchester-based 5/8 (V) Battalion, the Kings Regiment. "There will be precious few TA who will ever have done this — or Regulars for that matter", said Major General Philip Davies, GOC North West District.

Now it is hoped that the success of Red Grouse, which was mounted as a UKLF trial, will lead to regular use of Otterburn — the only training area in Britain able to accommodate such an exercise — by TA infantry battalions for similar manoeuvres.

"The most important development in TA infantry training for many years", the Kings Commanding Officer, Lt Col Chris Woodhouse, "Being able to train in this strength, with this level of all-arms support, means that a soldier learns and practises more in 24 hours than he would otherwise do in years".

Planned to include air, artillery, anti-tank and mortar live firing in support of a company group, the Red Grouse concept was first mounted as a Regular Army trial by 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry in 1983. Permission to develop and amend the concept for possible use by the TA was subsequently obtained by 5/8



Frantic activity on the mortar line

Story: Roger Goodwin

Kings, then fellow members with 2 LI of 42 (Infantry) Brigade.

"I saw it as being doubly valuable for the TA", said Col Woodhouse. "Territorials normally do not exercise at more than platoon level on live firing training and get even less opportunity to work with other arms than the Regular infantry".

In all some 300 men from the battalion took part, formed into two composite companies each of which was allocated a separate weekend during which to mount a 24-hour active phase.

Set on the wild, open moorland of Otterburn, deep in the Cheviot Hills, the active phases opened with co-ordinated attacks by three platoons followed by an overnight defensive phase. Day two began with the company mounting a

dawn attack on the prominent feature of Hindberry Craggs before continuing the advance to the final objective, the wearily distant Crigdon Hill.

Fire support came from the battalion's own Milan and mortar platoons and the splendidly evocative 25-pounder guns of 269 (West Riding) Battery RA (V) from Leeds. The planned offensive air support failed to materialise.

"It's the fire support in particular which really brings the whole thing to life," said Col Woodhouse. "It gives commanders actual experience in controlling and directing artillery and mortars; and for once the soliders can actually see the sort of support — and its effect — that they could expect for real.

"There is no doubt that having

shells whistle over your head, and seeing them explode, while you yourself are also on a live firing attack, does tend to concentrate the mind!"

Otterburn's unique ability to provide an arena where artillery and mortar fire, together with anti-tank weapons and GPMGs, could be directed within easy sight of a company-size attack, gave Red Grouse its special value.

For a variety of reasons, no other training area in Britain — including Salisbury Plain — could accommodate an exercise with the size and scope of Red Grouse. There were initial staff fears that even the vast Otterburn complex could only accept such a task if devoted exclusively to it, and one of the secondary objectives — successfully achieved — was to demonstrate that it could in fact be contained within one of the PTA's three range areas.

Now the lessons learned from the exercise — and from the lengthy period of planning and preparation which preceded it — are being studied at Headquarters UKLF, together with a recommendation that the exercise concept be approved for use by good-quality TA infantry battalions.

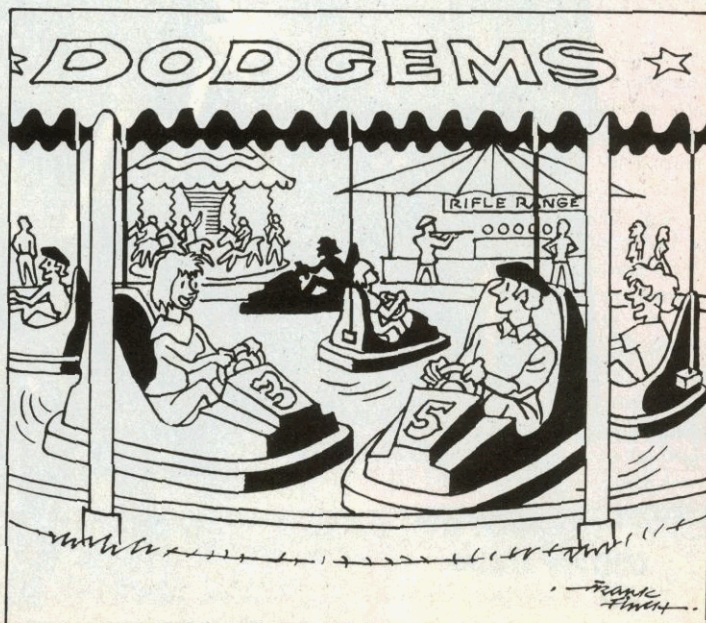
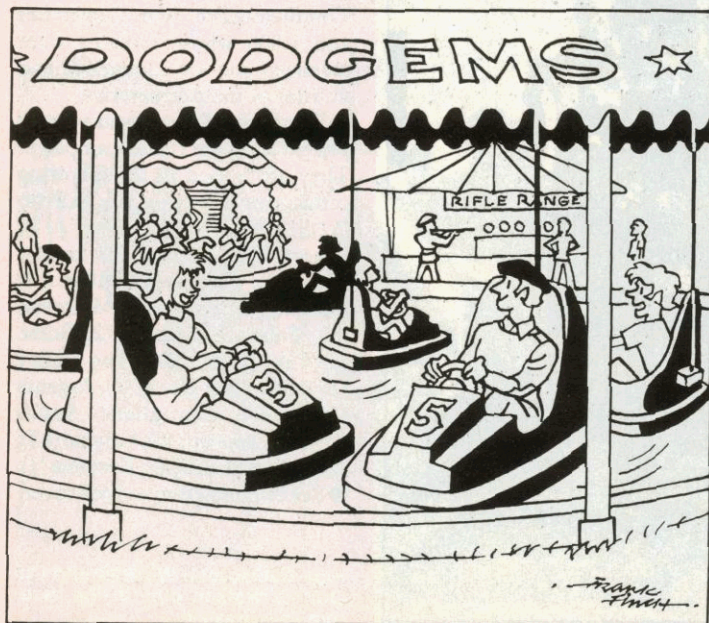
"There is no doubt that the training value from an exercise like Red Grouse is immeasurable," said Colonel Woodhouse, "but it takes an awful lot of very hard work."

Was it all worth it? Last word by 27-year-old Milan Platoon commander Captain Simon Clarke.

"This is the business. This is what it's all about. I've never experienced anything like this in all my time in the TA and it's the most valuable training I've had".

How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. You can check your answers by turning to page 38.



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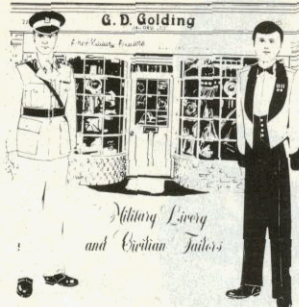
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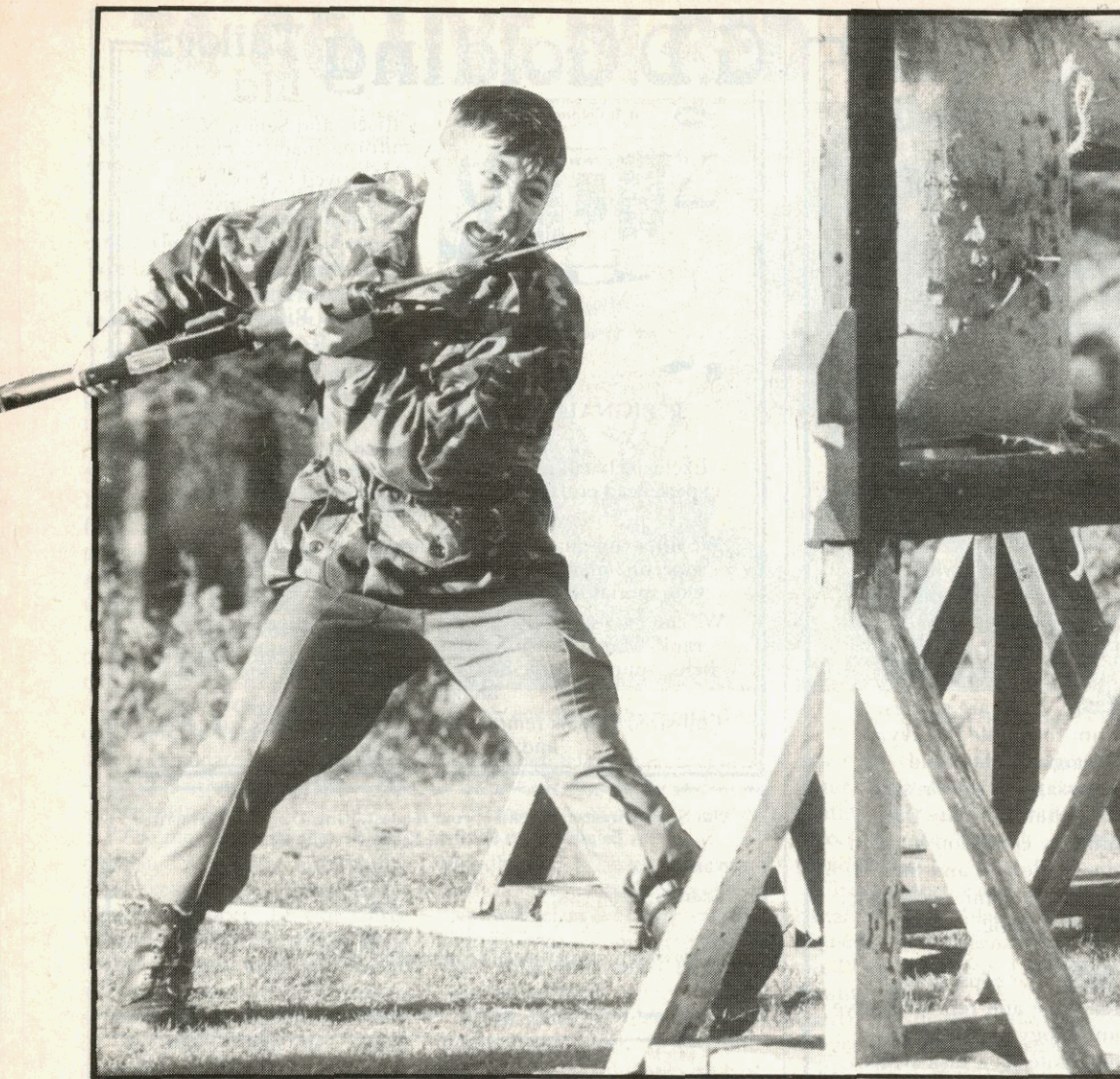
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One of the most promising young pipers putting his heart into bayonet drill. Fusilier Gordon Walker will shortly join the Royal Highland Fusiliers after winning a sackful of piping trophies.



Just 50 years after being opened as the depot of The Gordon Highlanders, the Scottish Infantry Depot, Bridge of Don, to the north of Aberdeen, is about to sever its ties with the Regular Army.

The Gordons are still remembered in the name given to the barracks, but it's been many years since they were resident at the Bridge of Don. After extensive modernisation in the early sixties the barracks became for a short while the Highland Brigade Depot and afterwards the centre for training junior soldiers of the Scottish Division.

It is this latter role which has continued to the present day and which has maintained a high level of local community interest in the depot.

"The north east of Scotland is very friendly towards the Army," said Lieutenant Colonel Ian Shepherd, Royal Highland Fusiliers, the last CO of the depot at the Bridge of Don.

"It is very interested in what goes on and it takes a keen interest

in what is happening in the barracks. The result is that we are very much accepted within the local community and this helps immensely in the training of junior soldiers because you know that should anything go wrong somebody in the community is going to notice it and get in touch with you before anything serious can happen.

"From that point of view — the training point of view — it is a great sadness that the depot should close."

From the point of view of the representation of the Regular Army in the north east of Scotland, Colonel Shepherd added, the city of Aberdeen saw the closure as "The unfortunate ending of a very long link going back for about two centuries."

Bridge of Don won't be lost entirely to the Army. Once the juniors have departed various TA formations will move in — 252 Field Ambulance, RAMC; D Company, 2/51st Highland Volunteers; Plant Troop, 117 Field Squadron, RE; C Troop, Ambulance Squadron, RCT. They'll be joined by three companies and the engineer detachment of the Gordons ACF.

But some of the 52 acre site will have to be sold off as the part time soldiers will simply not have the resources to keep everything going as before. For example it will be hard for them to maintain the same close involvement in such things as the traditional Aberdonian hospitality to visiting warships.

In the past when HMS Scylla (the frigate adopted by the city) or HM Yacht Britannia or recent visitors like the German fast patrol boat flotilla and Dutch survey ship came into port, Bridge of Don was able to offer shooting and sporting facilities as well as issuing challenges for various sports.

The hand over to the TA and cadets won't take place until next year. For the remaining weeks of this year the work continues with the training of the last intake of junior to pass out from the old depots.

In the music block the final course for adult drummers at Bridge of Don is under way, adding its timpani to the chanters and drums of the junior pipers and drummers when the youngsters aren't learning their NBC drills or bayoneting sacks as part of their military training.

In the clothing stores Colour Sergeant (CQMS) William Adams still presides over the bewildering array of badges, buttons, kilts, trews, tartans, headgear and leg gear necessary to supply juniors

Colour Sergeant (CQMS) William Adams holds the badge of the Black Watch. In front, other badges he has to deal with, from left Royal Scots, Royal Highland Fusiliers, King's Own Scottish Borderers, Queen's Own Highlanders, Gordon Highlanders, Argyll & Sunderland Highlanders.

50-year link with regular army is breaking

END OF AN ERA AT BRIDGE OF DON



A variety of headgear and badges during a drill session.

destined for the seven Scottish infantry regiments, plus all their pipes and drums and those of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

The day we were there Major Mike Crowe, OC HQ Company, gave a hint of the complexities involved. His regiment, Queen's Own Highlanders, wear two different tartans in deference to the Seaforth and Cameron Highlanders who were amalgamated to form them: the McKenzie tartan for the kilt and the Erracht tartan for their trews. For members of the band it's the other way around!

It was all quite simple once you got used to it, CQMS Adams maintained, but he added that the first batch of kit had recently been sent down to the new Scottish and Kings Division Junior Battalion at Harlow Hill where — "they are pulling their hair out trying to sort everything out."

Meanwhile Mrs Margaret McGee, WRVS, is in the last weeks of a long association with the depot looking after the less military needs of junior soldiers.

She runs a club for them in what must be one of the most imposing NAAFI's in the Army — a fine stone building right on the square, adorned by a flamboyant Royal Coat of Arms which came from the old Castlehill Barracks when the move to Bridge of Don was made half a century ago.

As the mother of five sons, all of whom were junior soldiers in their time, Mrs McGee is well qualified for talking to the boys about their problems as well as organising games, outings and discos.

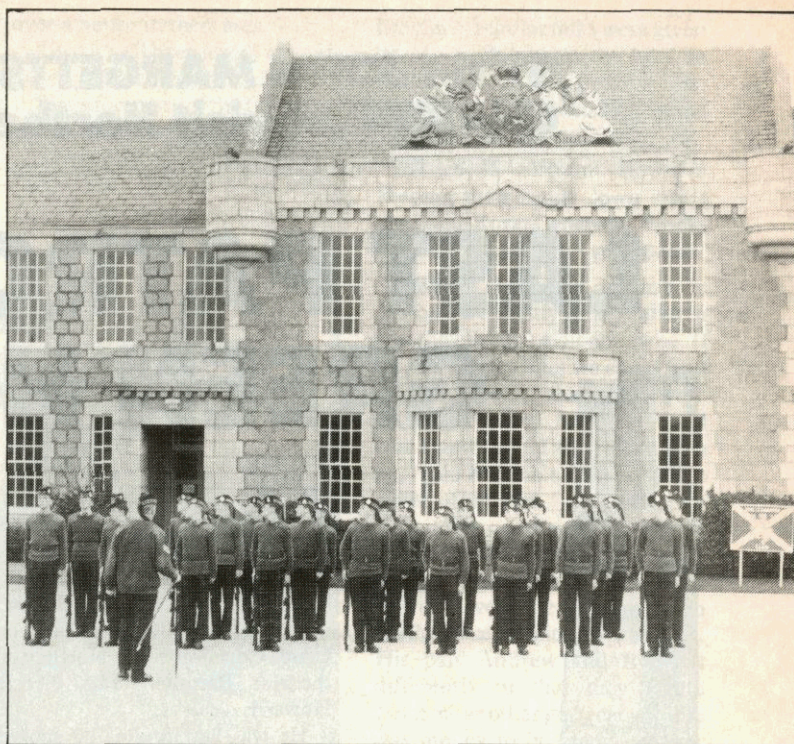
The closure won't mean the end of her involvement in this kind of work — rather it will increase it. Next year she joins the new junior battalion south of the border at Harlow Hill where she will be working with 600 boys instead of the 120 or so she has had to deal with in the final term up north.

For the civilian staff, many of whom will have to retire when the depot closes, this is a sad time. Quite a number have worked at Bridge of Don for many years. Even among the military staff memories go back a fair way as a considerable percentage did their own junior training here.

But the final year hasn't been a time for looking backwards. It has been a time of achievement and high activity with the depot providing the best junior shot at Bisley this year, in the person of Jnr Private S A McCabe, and organising any number of expeditions.

Teams have gone to Iceland, to the outward bound centre in Norway, and to the Mediterranean sailing on 'British Soldier.'

The Depot also entered the Arctic canoe race in Finland with six crews under the command of



McIver Platoon drilling on the square under Sergeant James Queen, Royal Scots. Behind them the imposing NAAFI with the old Coat of Arms from Castlehill.

Major John Cooper, KOSB, OC Training Company. With only six months experience they all completed the arduous 537 km course of lakes, rivers and 100 rapids. By comparison 33 of the total entry of 89 didn't make it.

All in all a busy and fulfilling year. And when the curtain finally comes down on the depot there is every hope of making that a memorable occasion as well.

At the pass out parade for the final intakes it is hoped to have the modern equivalents of all the

dignitaries who attended the opening ceremonies for Bridge of Don on 14 September, 1935. Thus invitations have gone to the present Lord Provost of Aberdeen, the present Marquis of Huntly, the present Colonel of the Gordon Highlanders and so on.

It is also hoped to get the services of Mr Tommy Smith, now in his 70s, who was Pipe Major of 6 Gordons at Anzio and piped them into Rome, and who was, in 1935, a member of the pipe band at the opening parade.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGE FOR JUNIORS

The closing of the Scottish Infantry Depot, Bridge of Don, will mark a significant change in the training of junior soldiers for the Scottish Division, though this has more to do with general policy regarding junior entry to the infantry rather than the closure itself.

The 108 juniors who are due to pass out from Bridge of Don later this month are the last in the Division who will go straight to their units.

The new system is in operation already down at Albermarle Barracks, Harlow Hill, not far from Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, where a new junior battalion for the Scottish and Kings Divisions has been formed.

Juniors, as opposed to junior leaders, will now start training at 16½ and do six months at Harlow Hill before transferring to the Scottish Infantry Depot, Glencorse, to spend three months with the adult training battalion.

The training period for junior leaders won't change, but instead of being at Shorncliffe those of the Scottish and Kings Divisions will go to Harlow Hill.

All junior musicians have already left Bridge of Don, vacating the bottom floor of the block purpose built for the Scottish Division School of Music only four years ago.

They are now stationed at Bovington where a new establishment will train all young musicians for the Infantry (except the Guards) and the Royal Armoured Corps.

But junior pipers and drummers, who are trained soldiers as well as musicians, will do their six months at Harlow Hill along with other juniors before moving to Glencorse to study their instruments more intensively.

Writer JOHN MARGETTS and photographer TERRY CHAMPION visit Northern Ireland and see the...

LAST PATROLS FOR THE GREEN HOWARDS

A CRACK like a rifle shot echoed round the inside of the Land-Rover as it emerged from behind the gate of Fort Whiterock, Belfast. "Take no notice," said driver Lance Corporal Keith Northay of the 1st Battalion The Green Howards.

He was laughing as he spoke: "It's only kids. We get 'bricked' every time we move into the area on Rover patrol."

His was one of the two vehicles providing mobile support for one of the last patrols of Turf Lodge in

West Belfast — a Green (republican) district — before the battalion moved back to their base at Osnabruck, BAOR.

Peering through the starred windscreen — they're not changed till 75 per cent of the glass is cracked and obscure — Keith and his companions, Privates Andrew O'Bryan and Lee Aspery, both 18, told how much they had enjoyed their four-and-a-half month stay in Belfast.

The first in the Province for all three, they agreed they had "enjoyed" their time there, despite the "brickings" and were all better off financially than if they had stayed in Germany.

Bumping around in the Land-Rover, with the odd brick crashing into the sides, they said they were "pleasantly surprised except for the long hours of work."

"Any time off is spent sleeping or using the multi-gym," said Keith Northay.

"But we have been able to save money," said Andrew O'Bryan, who was heading for leave within a few days with a pocketful of cash.

"Because of the restrictions on

our movements, we don't spend anything — or very little. That way we accumulate a fair amount which we wouldn't be able to do in Germany."

As stones and bricks continued to clatter against the Land-Rover Lee Aspery said: "It's a bit of a shock the first time, especially when you see how young the stone-throwers are."

"And at first it's frustrating not being able to do anything about it. But you get used to it, especially in the Falls Road and Turf Lodge areas."

Their vehicle patrol was part of a 36-man patrol needed to protect two policemen of B Division RUC who cover about eight square miles of the city centre.

Describing his tour — his ninth

— Major 'George' Robey, OC A Company, said it had been fairly quiet with about five major incidents, one of which was an incendiary bomb explosion which

narrowly missed one of his Land-Rovers. "Very lucky there," he said.

Another was the recovery of a 2,000 lb bomb when terrorists took

over a house in their area.

"But it's all been a very rewarding experience for the lads."

Since for many of the Company it was a first-time tour in the

Province, regular talks were given by Major Robey on the need to "follow a clean nose policy so that people are not pushed into taking sides."

Hence the restraint shown in keeping their heads down inside the Land-Rovers when the "brick-ing" started with the youngsters.

"We do absolutely nothing. In any case it's mostly young children and they think it a bit of a game. If we did do anything we could find ourselves on a charge and the resultant outcry from the local community could also rebound on us," said Keith Northay, at 23 the eldest of the trio.

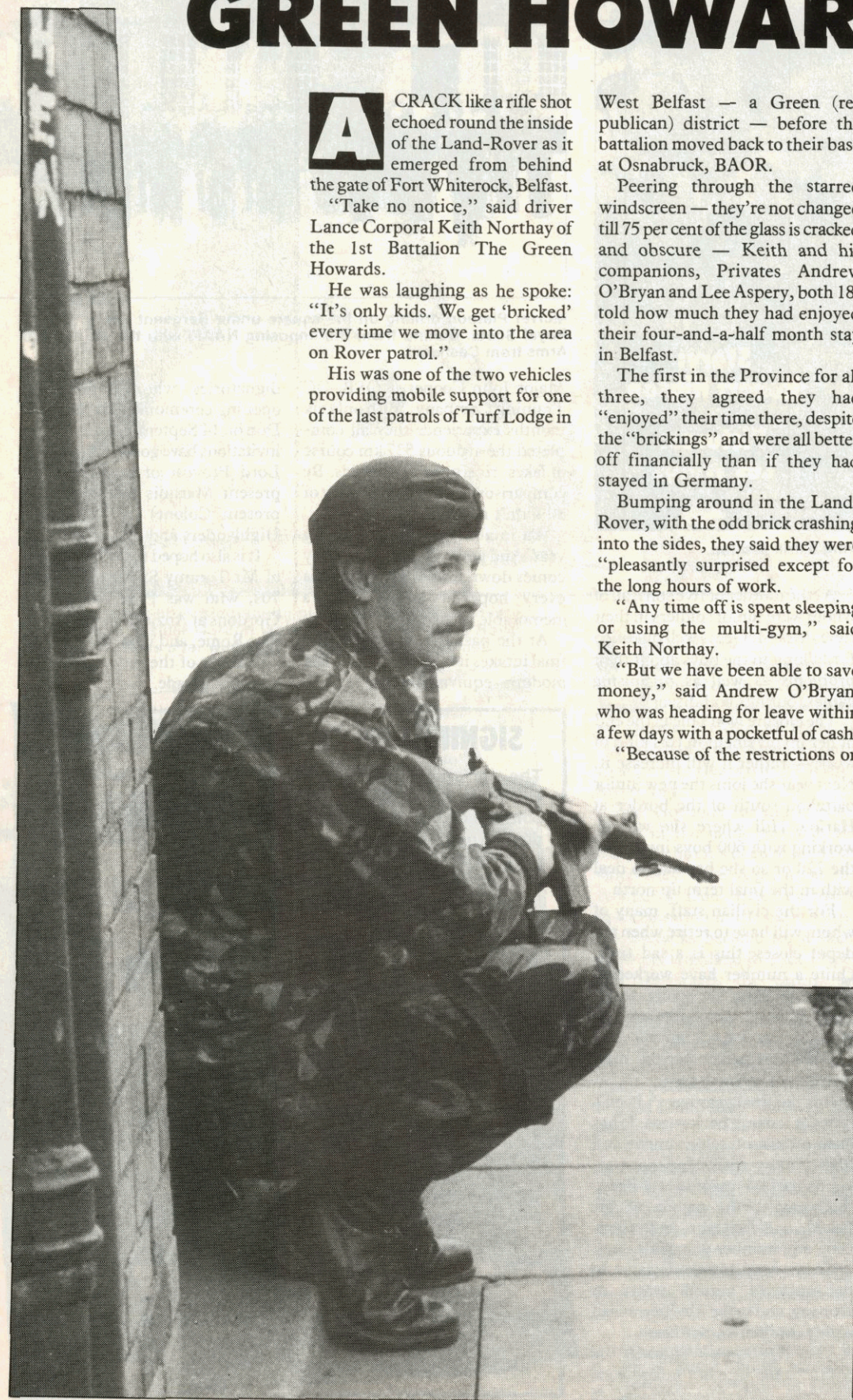
Pointing out the mass of graffiti in the Turf Lodge district, he said he had "mixed feelings" whether he would welcome another tour in the Province, despite the extra cash. His pals Andrew and Lee felt differently in that they would welcome another go because there was money to be made, and for them it was "real soldiering."

But all agreed their time there had been a good deal "easier" than they had expected, even though they were there during the "marching season" in July and August when "things got a bit hot" — specially in Turf Lodge when the bonfires got going.

By now the vehicles had met with the foot patrol at Milltown Cemetery. They had completed their last look round the black marble gravestones — many bearing the names of terrorists — to report to Major Robey that all was well.



Major 'George' Robey, OC A Company and the Rover patrol: all clear, all quiet



Graveyard patrol: a last look round before leaving for Osnabruck



Privates Andrew O'Bryan, Lee Aspery: eight square miles of the city centre to cover

£50,000 for wives to tap high-tech computer skills

Free flights

Good news... from now on the first child of a Service family visiting parents abroad will get all three annual flights paid for. Until now only two of the flights were provided. The new rule brings all Service school children into line.

The cost of the flights for the eldest child has been a big burden on families, specially for those serving in places such as Hong Kong, Belize and Nepal.

Just appointed... a new BFG co-ordinator for the Pre-School Play Group Association. She is Mrs Helen Augar, c/o SLO, Hamelin, BFPO 31.

The Manpower Services Commission (MSC) is all too often criticised for not fulfilling their aims but they are not without successes. Few, for example, know of one of its more successful schemes, the Voluntary Projects Programmes (VPP).

This programme helps provide a variety of opportunities for unemployed people to take up work-training on a voluntary basis, with the aim of improving their future employment prospects.

No enforced attendance or set hours are required, but

volunteers have the chance to do something to benefit themselves and the community without affecting their entitlement to the various statutory benefits.

I often have pipe dreams, and a VPP project for Service wives and teenagers has been one of them for some

HERE TO HELP



time. I felt there was a huge gap in this area, similar to the gap which I saw before the start of the Youth Training Scheme in Germany.

Using the same criteria as I did to start that scheme I approached MSC to find out what could be done to help Service dependants in the more isolated garrisons to improve and teach more skills and keep abreast of employment requirements.

Increasing turbulence prevents many from attending adult education which offers courses in computers, word processing, modern office techniques, social and basic skills, an area not covered in many garrisons.

It's strange how projects fit together, for not long after approaching the MSC I attended a one-day seminar on *How Government Works*.

One speaker was Mr Tony Potter, head of the Voluntary Projects Programme, who spoke on Government plans in the voluntary sector.

I explained my dream to him and, to my amazement, he said it could possibly fit into a VPP 1986 programme and he asked me to send an outline project for a garrison area for him to study.

The good news is that a project is possible and a five-figure sum could be made available to produce a VPP in an Army garrison next year.

With this constructive proposal from the MSC I approached the Federation of Army Wives' Clubs who, as a charity, could act as sponsors.

Now follow-up talks with Rank Xerox for help with computer equipment has led them to loan a micro-computer with a data base and word processor.

This a wonderful gesture and will certainly help the project off to a flying start.

With the scheme firmly under the wing of FAWC representative Pam Ball, it will be known as FOCUS (Federation Office Computer Updating Skills) and it is hoped that, with the co-operation of military and civilian departments, FOCUS will home in on the Salisbury Plain area early in the New Year with the MSC's £50,000 grant and the Rank Xerox equipment.

But before the courses can start a manager has to be appointed and the FAWC are already in the process of searching for a candidate. Full details of this post and others as instructors are available from Mrs Pamela Ball, FAWC Education Chairman at FAWC HQ, UKFL, Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wilt., telephone: Salisbury 742092.

Would it be too much to ask for the application to go straight from the GP to Command Med? For more help and advice contact The National Association for the Childless, 318 Summer Lane, Newtown, Birmingham.

Anne Armstrong

Home tel: Camberley 29653

How to beat the language barrier

With youngsters in mind

Have you ever considered learning German in the university town of Tübingen, the beautiful town on the river Neckar in Southern Germany, where the Language Institute (LIT) has been running highly successful courses for more than 20 years.

The Institute is part of the International Foundation for Social Work, with an emphasis on youth social work, and teaches adults and young people from all over the world English, French, Spanish, Italian and German.

Recently two British Service teenagers attended a two-week course there as a prize for acting as interpreters during an International Federation Key-stone Youth Organisations (IFKYO) conference.

Angela Burry and Paula McIlwaine were the two lucky youngsters who were chosen for their excellent work in translating daily newspapers for non-English speaking German visitors to the Notts talk-in.

Angela took up the offer at Tübingen shortly before starting her four-year BA course in German economics and politics at Kingston, Surrey, Polytechnic.

I spoke to Angela soon after her return from Tübingen, her enthusiasm spilling over as she told of her time there.

"We worked during the mornings, spending the afternoons at sporting and cultural activities with social events in the evenings.

"We spoke German the whole of the time — even the beginners did this. I asked about teaching methods at the Institute. They covered all standards up to university entrance level.

"Their methods were excellent. All the most modern ways of teaching are used with the enthusiasm of the teachers really shining through.

"My group instructor was so keen she even invented games to help us conjugate verbs, which can be boring, but the outcome was we all worked extremely hard.

"The surrounding countryside is beautiful. I shared a room with a Spanish girl, but we all had balconies with plenty of room to study," said Angela.



ANGELA BURRY: quick to take advantage of an opportunity on her doorstep

For some time I have felt this type of experience could be most useful to Service dependant teenagers stationed in Europe.

So I asked Angela how she felt having completed two weeks out of the regular courses which run for up to two months.

She said: "There is no doubt this sort of course should be available to all British Forces students. The average teenager in Germany is isolated from the German community and does not have the chance of such courses.

"Attending a place like Tübingen provides the chance to learn the languages in a truly German atmosphere.

"Some of the British teenagers would like to apply for jobs in Germany, but their German is not so good and they lack confidence. "These courses are ideal

For full information write to: Sprachinstitut Tübingen (SIT), Eugenstrasse 71 D-7400 Tübingen, West Germany.

For preparing you for living and working in Germany. So why not take advantage of the opportunity on our doorstep?"

For full information write to: Sprachinstitut Tübingen (SIT), Eugenstrasse 71 D-7400 Tübingen, West Germany.

LETTERS you write...

When everyone knows of your very private problem

I have recently been confronted with the problem of infertility — a problem faced by thousands of couples in and outside of the Army.

While stationed in UK one has the privacy and access to all the available clinics. But in BAOR (and I dread to think what they are like in Cyprus, Hong Kong and the like) the facilities available are minimal.

If you are lucky, as we were, you reach an enlightened RAMC man who refers you to somewhere in

the UK. If like us you can afford it, you can attend and pay for the treatment.

However, my fear is that Mrs Private cannot take advantage of trips to UK and clinics because of the cost. I shall be having to make several trips at my own expense.

I don't begrudge the cost or time involved of course. On enquiring as to whether the Queen would foot the bill for a flight, one hears that as it is "non-urgent" treatment — "No". The only possible way would be to be "case-

vaced". This way the whole of the orderly room would be privy to what, as you must realise, is vitally confidential.

Neither does SSAFA pay for flights in these circumstances. For soldiers' families stuck in BAOR for five or six years, it must be a desperate matter.

It is an urgent matter for the couple and so very much can be done now.

Because of the strict confidentiality involved it is also something one cannot bring up at garrison or unit level, and is yet another example

of disadvantage due to postings out of UK.

As we all still pay our NHS contributions we should not miss out on the facilities available. Mrs T. BAOR.

Infertility is a problem which sadly affects many people, but because it is such a personal matter it is not one which is often raised or discussed. Yet it is a problem which Service couples face specially when overseas.

The private nature of the problem, the worries, and may I say fears, faced by husbands and wives who only have one source of medical advice to turn to are raised in the above letter. For it is now estimated that at least one in ten couples may need specialist help at some time.

I have spoken to the Department of General Practice which advises the following procedure and, while it appears somewhat complicated, I am assured that confidentiality is preserved. The first step is to consult your GP. He contacts the local hospital who in turn consults Command Medical District which, depending on circumstances, might consult Command Medical BAOR.

Flights home, understandably, cannot be handed out on a plate, but on the other hand if a flight is not granted by a GP and a patient follows the procedure laid down, they feel their problem could become public knowledge. They then cut their losses and make their own arrangements as they cannot face the long procedure to get a flight.

Would it be too much to ask for the application to go straight from the GP to Command Med? For more help and advice contact The National Association for the Childless, 318 Summer Lane, Newtown, Birmingham.

Cyprus-UK dole puzzle

My husband and I moved recently from the UK to Cyprus and have heard some of your BFBS programmes with reference to housing, and renting.

I had been permanently employed in the UK for the past 15 years before my husband was posted in August and I had been paying full rate National Insurance and tax.

If my husband had been posted within the EEC or UK I would have claimed unemployment benefit due to leaving my job because of his posting. I would have received it for a specified period, but I am unsure for how long.

However, I received from the Overseas Branch of the DHSS a paper that states the UK has a reciprocal agreement with Cyprus with regard to unemployment benefit, but it is invalid in the Sovereign Base Areas of Dhekelia and Akrotiri.

Does this mean that these two SBAs are regarded as UK territories thereby entitling me to claim as if I was in the UK or an EEC country?

Like many other Servicemen's wives I am suffering the frustration factor of

leaving a job in the UK to join my husband on posting and losing out on an entitlement that the rest of the working wives in Great Britain take for granted.

It also appears that, on my return to the UK or EEC after 2 1/2 years here in Cyprus, if I cannot get a job, I will still not be able to claim unemployment benefit because I will not have contributed for the past NI year.

However, if I was a Cypriot and going to England to look for work for a period of time, I could claim unemployment benefit under the UK DHSS rules.

I am not a bigot or race prejudiced in any way, but I would be pleased if you could tell me exactly why the SBAs are not part of Cyprus? Or if not, why only part of the UK when taxes need to be paid?

I would be grateful for your help in this matter. Mrs S BFPO 58.

The DHSS reply below, is in my view incomplete, so I have asked for a full explanation.

I might add that Mrs D of Cyprus has been trying for two years for a satisfactory answer. She writes: "I hope you're not taking early retirement, this is taking years!"

The DHSS answer regarding Akrotiri and Dhekelia is: "Basically the position is that the Reciprocal Agreement prevents an employed person working on the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia remaining subject to United Kingdom liability and as such they will be subject to Cypriot legislation.

If a person employed on a base area has paid Cypriot insurance and, on return to United Kingdom, claims unemployment benefit, he or she will have to satisfy the same conditions as any other person coming from Cyprus who has paid Cypriot insurance: ie, they will have to become employed with earnings on which class one national insurance contributions are payable. If this condition is satisfied then Cypriot insurance will be taken into consideration."

Talk your way to a top title

An exciting new language competition for those who can speak two foreign languages has been announced. It is the *Young Linguist of the Year* competition.

A national event for those under 19 on 31 August 86, it

is organised by the Centre for Information of Language Teaching and Research.

Open to individuals, small or large groups, or even combined schools, the contest offers a variety of ways to express language skills,

from performances, video or cine film, writing, computer and exhibition displays.

So if you and your friends perform a sketch, sing a song, write a diary or newsheet, create a project, write a computer pro-

gramme or make videos, use your talents and take part. Information from: Christine Wilding (National Co-ordinator), Young Linguist of the Year, CILT, Regent's College, Inner Circle, Regents Park, London.

B-and-B for hospital visitors

Do remember that if you are visiting patients in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich, or other London hospitals, if space is available for Services and ex-Service and next-of-kin they can stay at Squire House, Woolwich, for up to 48 hours, after which the situation is reviewed in

the light of condition of the patient and pressure for space.

To make a reservation telephone the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Red Cross Office, on 01-856 5533 ext 2436. If in difficulty ask a Welfare Adviser at SSAFA to help.

Draw a poster and a prize

A desk-top computer and a colour television complete with video-recorder are among prizes in a school's competition to increase awareness of livestock worrying by dogs.

Children aged from eight to 14 throughout England and Wales are being invited

to design a poster warning of the problem. The results will be judged by television personality John Noakes. Prizes are worth more than £2,500.

Entry forms have already been posted out to 25,000 schools including BFES schools.

The new Mazda 323



Now we're putting you completely in the picture.

This is the brand new Mazda 323. The most significant new family car for several years. Its predecessor quickly became Japan's biggest selling car and the best selling Japanese small car in no less than nine European countries. But however successful the old model

was, the new 323 is destined to be even more so. The new car is not only more attractive, it's more aerodynamic—thanks to a flush-fitting windscreen, body panels and headlamps. Even the door handles have been recessed to keep the air flowing smoothly over the body. And that goes for all three body styles, four door Saloon as well as the three and five door Hatchbacks.

The new 323 is more comfortable and more spacious. The wheel-base is 35mm longer to give the new 323 one of the largest interiors in its class. The interior has also been completely re-designed with a new dashboard, new seats and a more efficient ventilation system to make it an even more pleasurable way to travel.

The new 323 also has more performance. All three engines (1100, 1300 and 1500 cc) have been refined and improved to be quieter, more responsive and more economical. So if you'd like a test drive, see your Mazda Representative. He's not only got the cars, he's also got details on Mazda's special tax-free schemes into the bargain.

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Getting a move on. Scots Guardsman with M.42/59 machine gun



An historic march-past. For Cividale, at least



Scots Guardsmen, a trio of Italian VTFs, FAL rifles and 42/59 MGs

JUST OVER 40 years ago men of the 1st Battalion Scots Guards were to make a lasting impression in Italy and particularly in its north-eastern provinces. They had courageously fought their way up from the infamous Anzio beachhead and across the peninsula's tactically stubborn spine eventually arriving in the Trieste region. There they served as some of the keepers of an uneasy postwar peace until their departure in 1947.

Four eventful decades later, 90 officers and men of the same battalion's Pirbright-based Left Flank, under its officer commanding Major James Greenfield, have just returned from a nearby part of north-east Italy, ten miles east of Udine.

They were taking part in the three-week reciprocal Anglo/Italian training exercise, Ponte

Vecchio ('old bridge'), an annual exchange event named after the famed Florentine landmark.

Meanwhile, a similar number of 80 pence-a-day Italian conscript soldiers were being hosted by 'C' Company, 1 Scots Guards under its OC, Major Simon Price, during the identical timescaled Exercise Tower Bridge.

In Italy, the Left Flank was

hosted by the 76th 'Napoli' Mechanised Infantry Battalion (commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Ranieri Vicari) which is housed in tall-walled, impressive roomy barracks in Cividale del Friuli, a small, neat, history-steeped town.

Cividale, sited near the River Natisone, was founded by Julius Caesar and is about 40 miles west of Trieste.

Just two days before their arrival in the former Roman legion garrison town, Left Flank guardsmen had been on ceremonial public duties outside Windsor Castle. A few days after their return to the UK the peerless among such duties

(eight battalions spread among five Guards Division regiments) were involved in a State Visit to London by a Middle Eastern potentate, the Emir of Qatar.

Left Flank not only left the town of Cividale with candid praise from the two-star Mantova Mechanised Division GOC, Major General Corrado Raggi, and that of Isonzo Mechanised Brigade and Cividale Garrison Commander, Brigadier General Giovanni Bucciol. They departed also with a large measure of admiration from the townspeople themselves. Professional soldiering and public relations had seemingly won the day.

So impressed were the Cividale

community leaders with the Scots Guards — le Guardie Scozzesi — that each of the uniformed visitors was presented with an individual metal badge memento of his stay by the mayor, Commendatore Dottore Giovanni Pascolini, a former Alpine Regiment officer.

Eighty pairs of immaculately "bulled" guardsmen's boots thudded down, with some restraint, onto an equally burnished janitor-tended wooden parquet floor as the Mayor, chairman of the local agricultural institute and a professed Anglophile, presented the badges in a private ceremony in the high-roofed council chamber.

Then, led by the sturdy-framed battalion Pipe Sergeant Gordon Webster and Corporal Piper Dougie Watson, the guardsmen marched back to the garrison HQ barracks in a dusk drizzle.

Inquisitive heads craned from windows or buildings in narrow streets. Rush-hour traffic was halted by a couple of blue-uniformed, pith-helmeted Carabinieri. Admiring shop girls and customers dropped urgent last-minute gossip of the overcast day to stand smiling, some applauding. Women in rollers defied modesty and a male gaze to leap from beneath hair driers and gawk from normally curtain-veiled portals at the passing parade — of some of the world's best.

The pair of pipers in their £3,500 of eye-catching accoutrements (£1,900 for a set of pipes alone) formed the marching musical vanguard for the men who, apparently, had captured the imagination of an Italian town. Just like their predecessors in the same

region some 40 years ago. A London tourist attraction had come to enchant the locals in the streets and impress the conscripts on the training ranges.

Back at the barracks in the final moments of the Cividale march-past wistful, far-from-home yet curious conscripts more used to the occasional fair in the village square — piazzetta — leaned on elbows from starkly lit upper barracks windows. They would, perhaps, never see the like again.

The stay had been an exhilarating one and enlightening for the Scots Guards who, it was popularly supposed locally, had traded in their traditionally associated porridge for pasta and pizza.

highly of the MG 42/59, 1,000 rounds-a-minute cyclic rate of fire machine gun, a bicep-burning 12lbs heavier than the GPMG.

Praised, too, was the semi-automatic, grenade-launching capability 7.62 mm FAL rifle, bi-pod mounted with extra trigger for gloved use high up in the chilly Alpine slopes.

Lance Sergeant Malcolm McNally, a 10 Platoon Section commander, was complimentary about the FAL saying: "It's very accurate and has the capability to launch grenades but they don't seem to get issued with a cleaning box for the rifle."

One of the themes behind this particular exchange training in

Mounted Guardsman and Venetian Scot.

During Exercise Mounted Guardsman, a two-day scenario, the visitors surprised their host unit by staying out overnight in bashes. The Italians, it was said, prefer to return to barracks each day.

Comparing the VTT personnel carrier, complete with Italian "chauffeur", with the British veteran FV 432, Sergeant Jimmy McLaughlin, of the 28-strong 10 Platoon noted it was faster, had lighter armour, had no air filtration system and lesser NBC capability. It did, however, have a hydraulically-operated ramp/rear door.

Like his cam-creamed colleagues around him Sgt McLaughlin said he was looking forward into British Army service of the 24-tonne MCV 80 or Warrior, as it has since been named, armed with its 30 mm Rarden cannon and 7.62 mm gas-operated Hughes Chain Gun.

As he spoke men of 11 and 12 Platoons, Left Flank, were energetically practising helicopter familiarisation drills courtesy of three Augusta Bell 205s from Carsasa, near Pordenone. Their concentrated efforts were bolstered by the American-inspired vocal encouragement of the Italian aircrews. Their stop-watches were recording embarking times of eight-men sections in twelve seconds and "de-bussing" moves of just four seconds.

On average, two out of every eight Left Flank guardsmen had not experienced such drills before. The others had carried out co-operation of this kind when stationed in Hong Kong.

Continued page 28

Showing how it is done along the river bed. An Italian VTT (APC) and advancing guardsmen



SCOTS GUARDS IN ITALY

'We came, we saw... we had a good time'

SCOTS GUARDS IN ITALY

The familiarisation programme continued for the guardsmen with an introduction to tanks... the 37-tonne, unladen weight, Leopard M1/2. Battlefield armour proudly fielded and painstakingly explained in detail by the "tankies" of the 63rd 'Fiorito' Tank Battalion, based at Cordenons, near Pordenone.

It was another bonus for the lads of Left Flank, for about half of them are unfamiliar with heavyweight battlefield arena

equipment of this type.

Learning about the low-profile Leopard — an engine was lifted out for them in 27 minutes by recovery crane — the Scots were amazed when their interpreter vocalised his translation duties — in a broad London accent. Former St John's Wood car mechanic, now Private Michael Chendi, 28, resident again in Italy with emigré parents five years ago, is doing his National Service... as a tank mechanic!

GUNNER OFFICER AND HIS VITAL LINK



Major James Greenfield, OC Left Flank (left) chats over a point with Lieut Col Herbert Abela, RA, the British exchange officer

MANY OF the arrangements for the three-week stay at Cividale by the Left Flank, Scots Guards, had been supervised by Lieutenant Colonel Herbert Abela, Royal Artillery, the British exchange and liaison officer to the Italian Army based at the HQ of the Mantova Mechanised Division in Udine.

Col Abela is a former OC of 15 Battery, 50 Missile Regiment, RA, — it operates Lance — at Menden, BAOR.

Maltese-born and Italian-speaking Col Abela oversees annually some 30 Anglo/Italian exchange projects, such as Exercise Ponte Vecchio.

They range in size from single to ten-man and to Company-sized ventures and most of these are from BAOR. And the tendency to visit Italy is increasing, he says. An increase in exchanges involving teeth-arms units.

Col Abela, who has also served with the HQ RA Directorate and was the last officer to serve with the Royal Malta Artillery in 1967 said: "The Italians are very keen to exchange ideas. They like to know as much about their Allies as we do. These exchanges — such as Ponte Vecchio — spread goodwill and the Italians are very pro-British."

Italians, for instance, had trained with the British Army on half a dozen BAOR-based vehicles in the recce role with the 13th/18th Hussars, he said. A 30-strong BAOR Royal Military Police detachment from 110 Provost Company had trained with the Carabinieri at Bolzano at about the same time as the Stava dam disaster. Luckily, they had been out hill-walking at the time. Men from the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards had trained in Brescia.

The Irish Guards have trained in Italy. So, too, have 47 Field Regiment, RA, from BAOR. They trained at Gradisca moving onto the ranges at Capo Teulada in Sardinia.

As in the past another FH-70 exchange is planned and, as always, the Monte Bianco adventurous training expeditions continue in the Val d'Aosta region of north-western Italy.

Showpiece in-the-field highlight of the three-week exchange was undoubtedly platoon attacks mounted by Left Flank for the benefit and assessment of an obviously impressed pair of invited Italian generals, their aides and advisers.

Quarry lorries halted for the purpose of an uninterrupted demo and using smoke, thunderflashes and enthusiastically fired blanks from their FALs and MG 42/59 machine guns, the British Army's professionals — Left Flank has seven Falklands veterans among its number — put on a realistic enough show along the expanses of the parched river bed setting.

Tactical movement... a running commentary (by Lieutenant Colonel Herbert Abela, RA, the British Army exchange officer) in Italian... shouted orders... and a victorious taking of a defensive position... re-grouping and re-organisation all played their parts.

So impressed was Major General Corrado Raggi, GOC Mantova Mechanised Division, that he insisted on shaking every "player" by the hand and chatting to them afterwards.

Nearby British observers from Left Flank later said the general had been impressed, in particular,

by two factors. One was the decision-making role of the NCOs, and the follow-through and re-organisation phases of the attack instead of just halting and taking the objectives.

Italy and its largely conscript Army could benefit from what he had just seen, the general said, but "limitations" had to be recognised.

General Raggi then quipped: "There are two reasons why I don't understand infantry tactics. Firstly, I am an artilleryman. Secondly, I'm a general!"

The exchange had its other lighter moments, too. Like the joy-ride trips in the commander's seat of a dust-churning Leopard, its turret gyrating 360 degrees during a high-speed run, surging forward with tracks and road-wheels spewing up small stones and rock along the river bed.

One first-time tank passenger was cook Lance Sergeant David Bennett who said, minutes later: "That was incredible. Exhilarating. I've been in a 432 but would love to be in the driving seat of a tank behind all the power."

Another lighter interlude came during a six-stand (map reading, signals, first aid, stretcher race, etc) inter-platoon competition



Trying it out for size and comfort. Inside the VTT (APC)

among the Scots Guards themselves. Eventual winners were 10 Platoon after battalion padre Major Stephen Blakely had set all contestants a written, 20-question regimental history paper and a "name-that-tune" quiz with a difference.

Which pipe tunes (Cpl Dougie Watson obliging) related to which regimental events viz., 'defaulters' (A man's a man a' that), 'fire call' (The Keel Row), 'COs orders' (Bonnie Dundee) and The Last Post (Highland Cradle Song).

All the visitors smiled politely — if not out of practice — at the inevitable references to the "Scotch Guards" by their eager, helpful hosts. They, in turn, were delighted at official renditions in Italian by the ever indomitable OC, Major James Greenfield.

Training aside, the Scots were taken to see the massive multi-terraced Redipuglia War Memorial, near Trieste, commemorating 100,000 Italian dead from

the First World War.

The Scots also had the chance to see other areas of regimental Second World War significance. Places like Trieste itself... Gorizia. Palmanova.

On less sombre note, the visitors were given the break of a weekend's leave meandering round culture-crammed Venice and its 400-canal arteries. And, there was not one readily identifiable Cornetto ice cream cornet in sight, they reported!

Ponte Vecchio 1985 came to its designated end, the lads flying back into an RAF airfield.

But not before Brigadier General Giovanni Bucciol, Isonzo Brigade Commander of six battalions, three companies and an artillery group within the Friuli region — famous for its Alpine troop recruitment — had said he was delighted to see the Scots Guards hosted within his garrison.

"The Scots Guards brought an extra lustre, for example, to our

WANDERER'S FIXTURE

PRIVATE RENATO CAIZZO, 20, must be one of the Italian Army's most reluctant 80 pence-a-day National Service recruits.

In uniform for ten months now, young Caizzo — Service number A.382809 — not only had to pay his own way to join his unit, the 114th 'Moriago' Mechanised Battalion based at Tricesimo near Udine, he didn't speak a word of Italian, either!

For Private Caizzo is a native born and bred of... Wolverhampton! This private's unlikely progress into the Italian army was accelerated by a technicality in the law, a piece of small print dating back to the mid-50s requiring Italian emigres to the UK to register their offspring. Parents Franco and Rosa just had to comply.

Acting as interpreter for the junior ranks during the Scots Guards Exercise Ponte Vecchio exchange, Renato said: "I was told if I did not do my national service over here I would still spend time over here. Three years in jail. I thought 'use your noggin'. So, here I am."

This Wolverhampton Wanderer with the very homesick difference now spends his time guarding an ammunition depot; four hours on, two hours off.

He was delighted to hear about the Scots Guards arrival and the chance to speak his mother tongue of English again on a regular basis for three weeks.

"I had to pay £100 to fly out here from Gatwick in February but I'll be going home by train next year," he said. "It's cheaper."

At least his mum spent five days with him during some holidays as Italian conscripts are not allowed outside Italy on leave.

"It's been a great experience and I've picked up Italian while I've been out here but I don't think I could settle out here. I wouldn't be able to get used to the system."

Academically certificated as a welder and lathe operator, he lost his job to join up for his military service.

How about a career in the British Army next year, then? Private Caizzo smiled politely and replied: "I don't think I'm cut out for a military life."



Pte Caizzo (right) translates for Italian recruit to 1 SG medic, Lance Cpl Rick Turnbull (centre)

MEANWHILE, back at Pirbright, about 90 Italians from the 1st Company, 76th 'Napoli' Mechanised Infantry Battalion were going through some of their paces on the depot's Number Four Range, using SLRs.

Hosts for the three-week reciprocal visit, Exercise Tower Bridge, were 'C' Company, whose OC, Major Simon Price said: "I'm not quite sure how we came to be chosen for the link but we are thoroughly enjoying their visit."

And Capitano Giacomo Cam-

panino, the Italian OC, agreed with him. For him, it was his second visit to the UK. The first time it was as a helicopter pilot when he attended a Middle Wallop Army Air Corps Centre course last September.

A regular officer among his called-up lads, he said: "We are lucky to have such a famous regiment looking after us. The experience is very good for everyone in the company, too."

"The Scots Guards have gone to a lot of trouble to organise everything possible for us and we have learned from

studying their training methods. We have also learned a lot about their weapons and radios in particular. The biggest surprise was the weather. We were warned it could be bad — but it has been good from the start."

Part of their education in the field was to visit Warminster and watch a night vision demonstration called 'Peeping Tom'. They also attended Mass at the Guards Depot RC church and a memorial service was arranged for them at Brookwood Military Cemetery where there are Italian graves.

Helping overcome the language problem was Maltese-born Corporal Paul Bonavia, RAMC, a clerk with 2 Field Hospital; a clerk who would like to become a linguist.

Also arranged for the visitors were a band concert, disco and the inevitable inter-company football match.

Cpl Paul Bonavia, RAMC (left) interprets for an Italian conscript under tuition from Lance Sgt Ronnie Covery, 'C' Coy, 1 SG

260-soldier passing-out parade and much more to a town which has always had strong links with the military over the years.

"We are very pleased to see them. We are particularly proud, too, because ours is the only Italian Army visit to be selected for this exchange between us and the armies of friendly nations. To the Scots Guards I have just one word to day... "grazie"... thank you!"

In reply, Lieutenant Colonel Kim Ross, Commanding Officer, 1 SG, who had come to Italy to see his men, drew on the analogy of Julius Caesar and his famous British visit quote of 44 BC; that of "I came, I saw, I conquered." In 1985, Left Flank had come to Cividale and their quite would be: "We came, we saw, we had a good time."

Cividale's reaction to the Scots Guards, two generations on, was summed up by Company Sergeant Major Robert Kelly, who said: "The locals really took to us while it's been a chance for the boys to show how professional they really are. The welcome has been absolutely unbelievable. Nothing has been to much for them."



For Logistic Support Battalion...

A MYRIAD OF MULTINATIONAL TASKS

There cannot be that many organisations in the world which have implemented international co-operation the extent of Logistic Support Battalion, AMF(L).

The battalion is basically a British unit with an American 2 ic which resides in Bulford. But when it goes forth, as it does several times a year to support AMF(L) deployment to options in the far north and south of Europe, it absorbs support elements from six different nations and, with some other additions, doubles its size.

This autumn Log Support Battalion came to rest on a grey, dusty plain, a few miles outside Corlu in western Turkey. Here during the deterrence phase of Exercise Archway Express the flags of the various national support elements fluttered bravely around the Command Post while the men of this unusual unit worked hard to get their multinational act together.

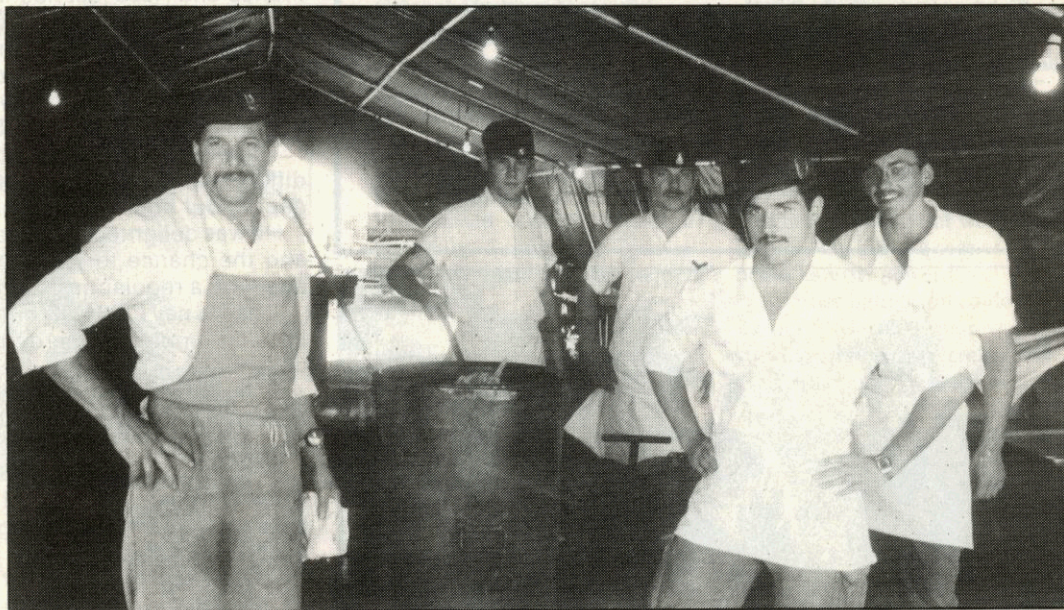
"It is a source of constant wonderment to me that it all works," said Lieutenant Colonel Ian Osborne, RCT, the battalion CO. "But it does work, largely due to a great deal of goodwill, bottomless reserves of tact and diplomacy and a sense of humour on all sides."

"My order groups are particularly challenging and of course there are frustrations, but as the force sees so much of each other on exercise the AMF(L) spirit of multinational co-operation generally overcomes most problems."

Colonel Osborne's men have a very wide range of responsibilities. They negotiate contracts with local suppliers and organise the transport provided by the host nation. They bake bread, repair vehicles, pump petrol, provide showers, sort mail, change money. They handle the full range of stores from chocolate bars to ammunition and when the exercise is over they pay the bills.

Most of this is undertaken by multinational teams because when the national support elements join

Logistics Base during the deterrence phase — like Salisbury Plain, only dry!



up with the main battalion their specialists are attached to the appropriate department.

In Turkey this meant that someone like Master Chef WO2 John Warnes had under his command cooks from Germany, Belgium and the United States as well as his usual British contingent.

Language was always a bit of a problem, Mr Warnes said, and it usually took a bit of time to work out a feeding plan in order to know what to buy.

"Eventually when everybody is sorted out, they work on each other's menus," he added. "But it is a bit strange for them as they are not used to this type of set up."

This year the battalion's British cooks had an additional responsibility: baking and icing three cakes in honour of the AMF(L)'s 25th anniversary. These were made in Bulford and carefully transported to Turkey — one for a reception after the parade, another for the mess and the third for the force commander's birthday.

Nearby Lance Corporals Steve Hogg and Dave Ramsey of 21 Postal and Courier Squadron, RE, were busy sorting international mail and reflecting that Turkey was so far not quite so bad as they had been expecting after the

environmental health officer back home had warned of mosquitoes, scorpions and flies.

"He said it was a bit of a nasty place. But we've got out there and it's OK. No mozzies so far, through it might be different when it rains."

In the next tent Sergeant Michael Townsend of 263 Air Portable Field Cash Office was changing sterling into Turkish lira. At the end of the exercise the office would have a turn over, estimated Major Jeff Smith the OC, of something like 200 million lira (£270,000) once all the bills were paid.

Camped on the edge of the Log Base, 42 Squadron, RCT, was preparing for the combat phase of the exercise when it would operate the Forward Logistic Support Company. But right from the start of deployment some of its men were busy organising coach transport from the airport and vehicle movement from the sea port of Tekirdag.

"We've got 14 motor cycle riders out," said Captain Roger Atkinson, the Squadron 2 ic, "scattered between here HQ and the air and sea ports. They have a good time actually. They quite enjoy it. Language does present a problem but some of the locals speak

Belgian, British and German cooks. Multinational co-operation in the cookhouse.

German and a lot of our guys speak some, having been in Germany, so that is the common language."

During the deterrence phase some of 42 Squadron had the opportunity to practise load lifting with German Huey helicopters, and experience for themselves the high powered Jacuzzi dust bath which invariably accompanied heliborne ops in Turkey.

They also played soccer with a local army team and politely deferred to the host nation by losing 6-1.

About two miles from Log Base, down a dusky track, the Battalion's Supply Company had established its store areas under the prescribed NATO classes.

All the supplies needed by the participating nations were held here with the notable exception of the Italian wine. The OC, Major Richard Bugler, RAOC, explained that the Italians had decided to look after this precious commodity themselves as three or four of Supply Company's mini containers would have been needed to secure it and this was a bit beyond available resources.

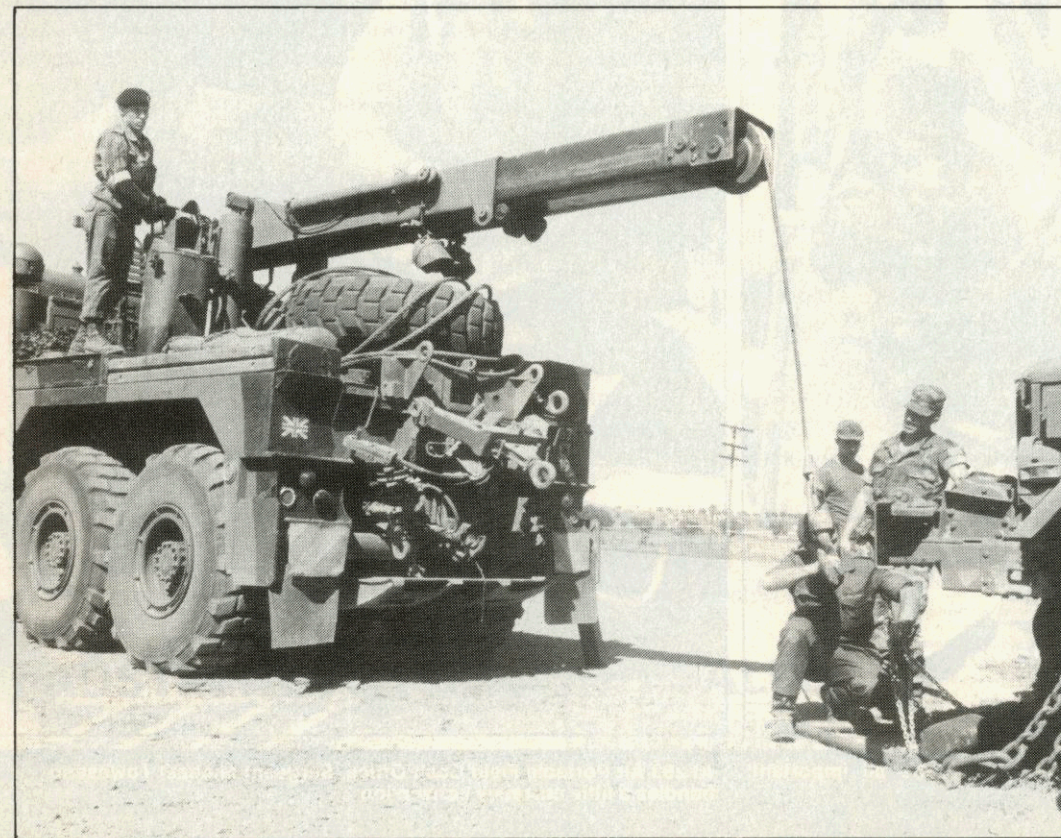
"Our main contact with the Italians is the vet who inspects the

meat," Major Bugler added. "He came down last night and had to write off a lot of beef. He's not been able to see the slaughtering of pigs and lambs so he's put a ban on the issue of that as well."

Many of the multinational representatives working in Supply Company were old friends who had been with the AMF(L) a long time. The OC mentioned one German who had been in Turkey five times ("and there's nothing he doesn't know").



Unofficial support for the troops in the field. Turkish traders operate their own base in the staging area



The British too had their own veterans who helped bring some continuity to the cosmopolitan unit. Master baker, WO1 James Utterson, was due to retire from the Army after being with the AMF(L) for 16 years. He wasn't sure whether Turkey would be his swansong or whether Norway, early next year, would be the farewell appearance.

By and large, thought Major Bugler, relations between the nations worked extremely well.

"We do find that one or two of them tend to be a little finicky about things like, say, the redness of tomatoes," he said. "But these are teething problems and things you have to sort out."

"We certainly don't have any friction between the Brits and the rest. That is something we very much try to avoid as we are a multinational force."

At the time Major Bugler was speaking, members of Class 1 (rations) platoon were unloading cartons of an essential commodity in that part of the world — bottled mineral water. It was part of a consignment of 28,000 litres which the force would consume in the



Corporal Pat Badder and the three AMF 25th Anniversary cakes. He made the one in the middle.

first week or so of the exercise, and it provided a good indication of how supply priorities change in the very different regions of the battalion's operations.

Normal water supplies in Turkey can be quite hazardous for those without the necessary resistance. This is not the case in Norway or Denmark where the provision of fresh water and ice presents little problem. But in Turkey the only ice available was suitable for nothing more than cooling the exteriors of sealed containers.

Further along the dusty track and alongside the main road from Corlu to Istanbul the workshops had set up on the forecourt of a disused garage. Here British, Belgian, German, Italian and American mechanics worked sometimes on their own vehicles and sometimes on those of other countries.

"Co-operation is very good here because of the nature of the work we do," said Major Bill Allen, the workshops 2 ic and the OC of the Forward Logistic Support Com-

pany Workshop in the combat phase of the exercise.

"The idea is to get people together and given them some form of training so that if necessary we can actually work on other people's equipments. That's the idea. If at the end of the day something comes in and you've got only one nation here then they should be able to cope."

On the recovery side the nations were supposed to look after their own vehicles but there was a programme, said Major Allen, to get in some multinational training so that it was possible, say, to recover a broken down American truck with a British AEC.

Such a wide ranging operation, with all its closely interwoven multinational activities, makes Logistic Support Battalion the object of a great deal of attention.

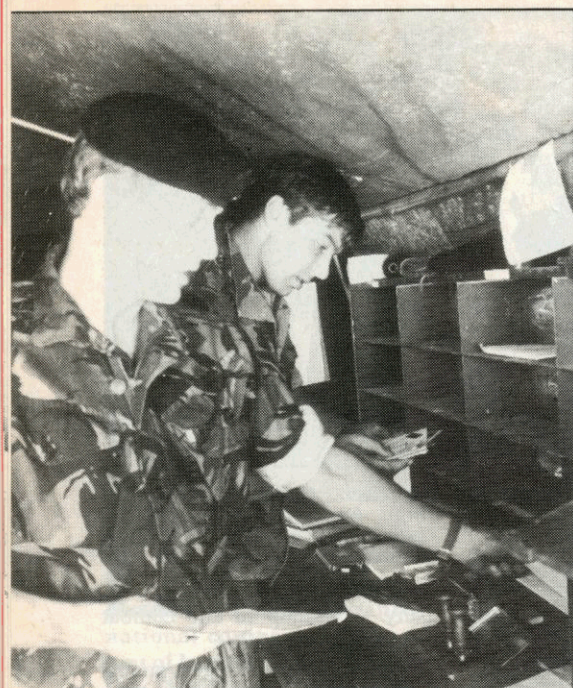
As Colonel Osborne explained: "The battalion is a high profile unit and is a good target for galaxies of generals to the extent that during deployment much of my time is spent receiving and briefing VIPs. Frustrating though this is it is all part of the job."

Indeed this year in Turkey the battalion broke its previous record of 120 stars at one sitting when they had 129 stars assembled for the observers' day lunch.

In the CO's view the battalion's role and the wide range of climate and terrain to which it deploys produced extremely hardy and adaptable tradesman.

"This deployment to Turkish Thrace has gone very smoothly on the surface," he said, "but the outward appearance masks hours of movement planning and patient negotiation with our Turkish hosts on matters ranging from garbage contracts to the quality of meat and vegetables provided by the contractors."

At the REME workshops Lance Corporal Tony Gibson on the AEC practices multinational recovery with an American truck and soldiers from Germany and the US.



Lance Corporals Steve Hogg and Dave Ramsey, of 21 Postal & Courier Squadron, sorting international mail.



US and British soldiers of Class 3 Platoon, Supply Company work the filling station.

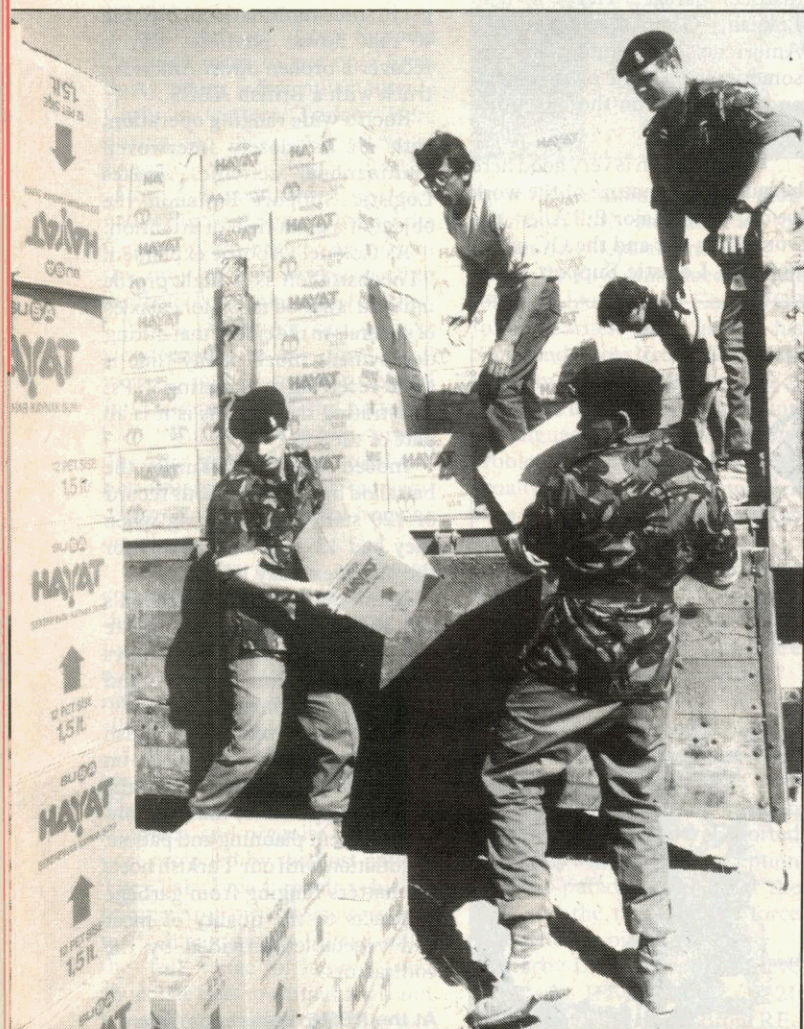
"Nevertheless it has proved a very rewarding experience to see the force deploy and know that its arrival, maintenance and sustenance is entirely due to the hard work of the battalion and its multinational tradesmen.

Hard work or not they still made the time at the start of the exercise to provide a little sightseeing for the soldiers in one of the world's more remarkable cities — Istanbul, the one time capital of the Byzantine emperors and of their

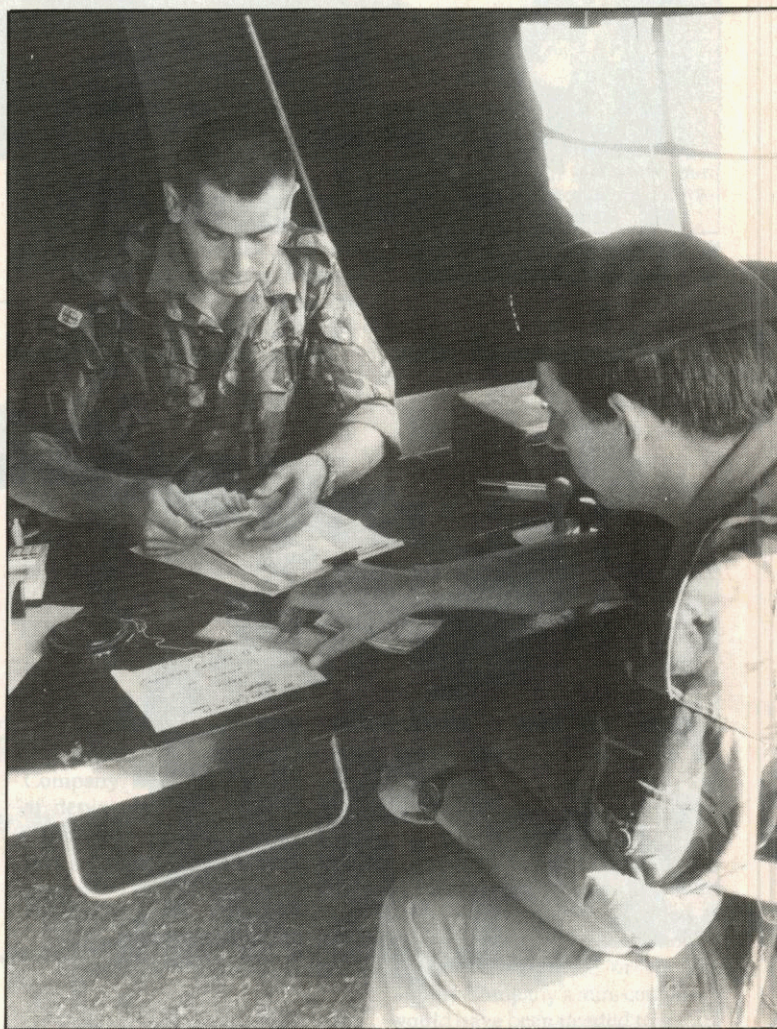
conquerors, the Ottoman Turks.

As the Battalion RSM, WO1 Clive Morris, pointed out: "They fly in, land here at a place which looks like a dusty Salisbury Plain and never get the flavour of the country.

"This time we are making a concentrated effort, trying to get everyone a conducted tour down to Istanbul so they can go home and tell their mums and dads that they've actually seen the Bazaar and the rest of it."



Members of Class 1 (Rations) Platoon unload the all important consignment of bottled water.



At 263 Air Portable Field Cash Office, Sergeant Michael Townsend handles a little currency conversion.

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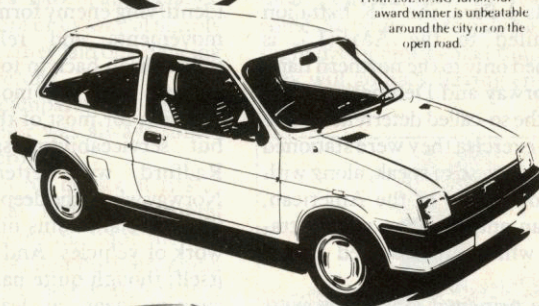
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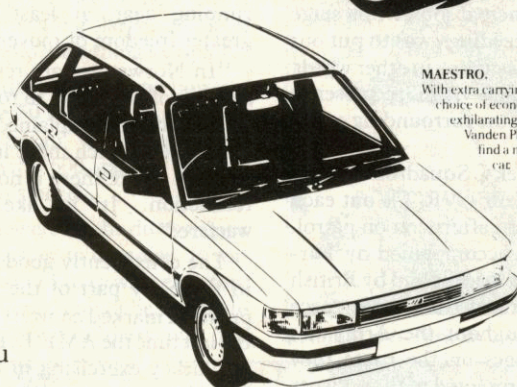
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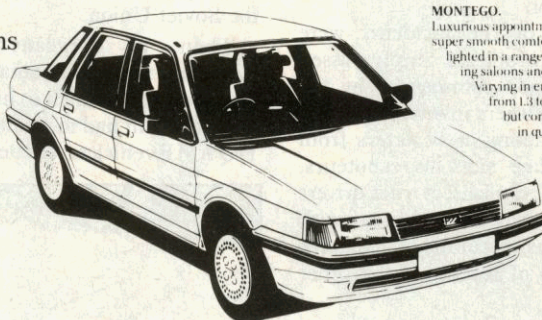
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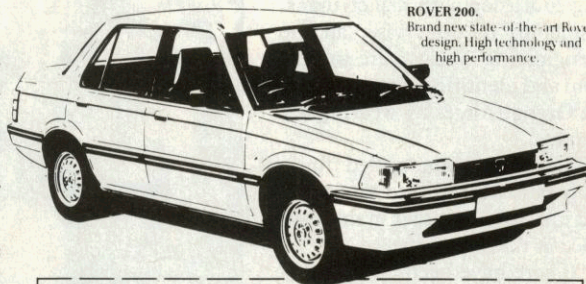
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WHILE most of the AMF(L) were camped on the bare, dusty plains in the staging area and logistic base around Corlu, the Force Reconnaissance Unit spent the opening phase of Exercise Archway Express in a pleasantly shaded oak wood off to the north-west.

C Squadron, 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers have had the fascinating but demanding recce job since 1980. In Turkey they were, apart from 5 (Gibraltar) Battery, the only British fighting unit as 1 Para, the UK battalion committed to the AMF(L), is assigned only to the northern flank — Norway and Denmark.

In the so-called deterrence phase of the exercise they were stationed up country, so to speak, along with key companies of the American, Belgian and German para battalions which are assigned to the south.

The principal job at this stage of the proceedings was to put out deterrent patrols — in other words staging a high visibility presence throughout the surrounding countryside.

For a week C Squadron had two troops of four CVR(T)s out each morning and afternoon on patrol. They were accompanied by Turkish escorts in jeeps and by British umpires drawn from other recce units throughout the Army. At certain stages on the route they would be presented with incidents to test their response and quickness of reaction.

Some of the incidents were "paper" problems simply passed to the troop commander by the umpire. Others involved Turkish soldiers acting as deserters from the Orange side, as saboteurs, suspicious civilians, or truck drivers who had crossed the border with eye witness accounts of a massive build up of forces on the other side.

In order to avoid any embarrassing confusion with real civilians, suspicious or otherwise, all the participating Turks were in uniform and identified as members of the Orange forces by wearing red helmets.

The programme called for a fairly rigid timetable to get patrols and incidents together in the right place at the right time.

"There have been problems of communications between the two sides," said Major Mark Radford, the OC of C Squadron. "But frankly, with patience, we've been able to sort it out. It hasn't always been the most authentic or one hundred per cent satisfactory way of doing it but in the end we have

achieved our aim of being able to receive the information and if necessary making it a bit more credible before passing it back to HQ AMF(L)."

The exercise scenario called for the incidents, which were being reported back to HQ by patrolling para key companies as well as the recce squadron, to assume a more serious nature as time went by to the point where deterrence had obviously failed and needed to be replaced by action.

In this combat phase the squadron practised its real role of identifying enemy formations and movements and relaying the information back to force HQ.

Dust was the most obvious problem for most of the exercise, but serviceability, said Major Radford, was better than in Norway where the deep cold placed very special strains on the metal work of vehicles. And the terrain itself, though quite hard on track running gear, at least allowed greater freedom of movement.

"In Norway we are restricted, because of the snow, to roads and tracks," the OC explained. "Here we are very much more into tank country where there is no natural restriction. It is like desert warfare."

The consistently good weather in the early part of the exercise proved a marked contrast to 1983, the last time the AMF(L) had been in Turkey exercising in Anatolia (the larger Asian part of the country) not far the border with the Soviet Union.

Then, as Sergeant David Whitear of the REME detachment recalled, it had rained so hard that the recce unit had to rescue all the HQ AMF vehicles from deep mud



A Scorpion of 1 Troop leads a deterrence patrol back to base

DUST AND DETERRENCE DOWN SOUTH

on a hill top.

For those with time to spare between duties the warm and sunny days during the deterrence phase were a relaxing and enjoyable

period. "If we could only get a beach up here," said Sergeant Whitear, "it would be very nice."

But even with the patrolling there was still plenty to do. A

couple of soldiers went parachuting with the German Wire Company, the Squadron's support company fired with Turkish infantry and provided cover for the American engineer company when it undertook a bridge demolition demonstration.

As Squadron Liaison Officer, Captain Martin Gill set forth with slides and projector to negotiate the lights and electricity supply in the nearby village to explain the Force Recce Unit's role to a large crowd of fascinated villagers. Whether as a mark of appreciation for the lecture or by way of simply being polite, they laid on a dancing display in return.

In the comparatively remote location water was always something of a problem.

"It was a bit dodgy at first," said medical orderly Corporal Mark Linnemann, "but the US engineers got their purifiers going and things got better. Before that I was throwing large doses of chlorine into everything we drank."

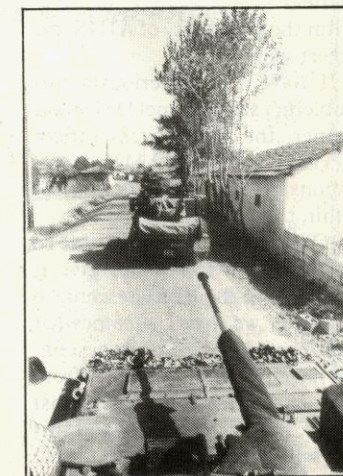
Every day the two water bowsers made the 50 kilometre journey to the American water supply to return with 600 gallons for the squadron's needs.

But showers for the dusty troops proved harder to organise. It was several days of strip washes before arrangements could be made to send relays of soldiers into the

nearby town of Luleburgaz for their first experience of baths Turkish style.

You sit in a bowl, explained one of them, and you tip hot water over yourself. You keep a towel round your middle at all times because Turkish custom doesn't approve of too much personal revelation.

"It is nice to see a new part of the world," said Major Radford. "A lot of soldiers will never come anywhere near here again. They'll be able to dine out on it and tell their grandchildren in years to come. So while there may be some slight disappointments I think that they will go back having enjoyed it."



Scimitar eye view of a patrol



The first taste of town life. Troopers Mark Groundwater and Everton Reid take a look at a Turkish market after freshening up with the first shower for 10 days



"All we need is a beach..." C Squadron's somewhat idyllic home for the opening phase of Archway Express

THE current concern about AIDS virus in donated blood necessitated an important change in the scheme to give 200 pints of soldiers' blood to the Turkish Red Crescent on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the AMF(L).

In Turkey, as well as other countries around the Mediterranean, many children suffer from thalassemia, an hereditary disease of the red blood cells, which generally proves fatal without regular transfusions.

The idea was to make a gesture to the host nation while at the same time undertaking an important exercise — the force's first attempt at a blood donation programme in the field.

But the possibility of AIDS was a great worry.

"I took it very seriously this problem," said Colonel Dr Harald Renner, the Bundeswehr officer who is adviser to the AMF(L) and responsible for medical services within the force.

"Of course it is not possible to get the blood today and give it tomorrow to the Red Crescent, so therefore we have a somewhat complicated but efficient system. We have flown in 200 pints from Germany already tested against AIDS, hepatitis and VD and this we will give to the Turkish authorities. The blood we take here will go back to Germany where it will be tested."

Starting with Major General Andrew Christie, the AMF(L) commander, 200 soldiers of all the nationalities present for Exercise Archway Express trooped through the Italian Cleaning Station to donate their pint of blood.

It was not only, said Colonel Renner, a case of helping the host nation and demonstrating NATO solidarity at work, but also an important occasion from a military point of view; the first time they had tried the operation in field conditions.

"Everybody knows there are casualties in a war," he said. "Blood is needed — up to six pints for a

25th Anniversary present for Turkey



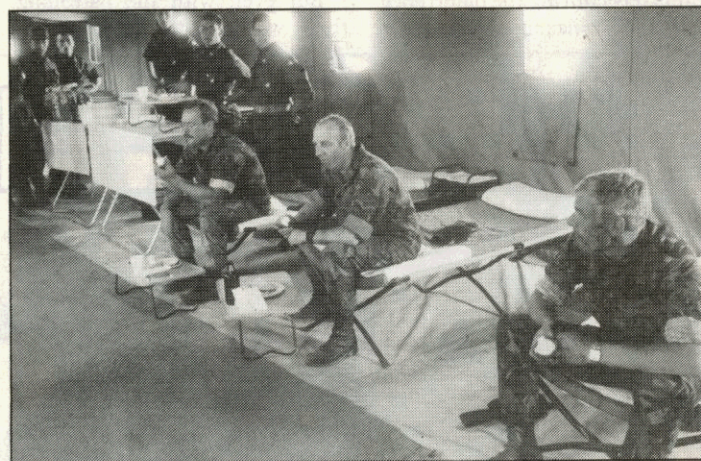
British soldier, Italian nurse, German doctor. Blood giving on an international scale

severely wounded casualty. And not just in Turkey, but worldwide we do not have enough blood even in peacetime. As everyone can imagine during a war it would be worse. That is why we try to get independent."

As far as the AIDS scare was concerned, Colonel Renner added, this would have to be a secondary consideration in combat conditions. For then tests would not be possible and in any case the prime concern would be to save the life of the severely injured patient by getting the blood into him as quickly as possible.

In the meantime the blood donated to the Turks came free of any harmful contamination — a condition guaranteed by another German doctor — Colonel Professor Manfred Bierther, a noted blood specialist who has done a lot of work on new and more accurate ways of classifying blood groups.

AMF BLOOD WITH GUARANTEE



Above: First they drain you, then they fill you up. Soldiers of 42 Squadron, RCT, get their post donation snack. Below: A general view of the ward in the Italian Clearing Station



BOOK REVIEWS

Gurkhas? Now is Boom Time!

IT WAS not really until the early 1970s that people of the United Kingdom — apart from those who served with them — began to know more about the life and background of the marvellous Gurkha soldiers.

There was never any shortage of admiration and the fighting reputation of the men from the foothills of the Himalayas was well established. The rest was mystique.

Fortunately, the posting of Gurkha battalions to this country led to increased interest among the population and there is now little excuse for ignorance. At least one tv programme this year brought a fair slice of Nepal into British lounges.

Now the publication of three books* within a matter of weeks adds considerably to the wealth of knowledge on a fascinating subject. All three are good value; they are different.

For someone wanting to start from scratch, there is Christopher Chant's 'Gurkha-The Illustrated History of An Elite Fighting Force', which tells the story from start to the present and is well illustrated with lots of black and white photographs.

There are only two minor drawbacks to this work — some of the contemporary drawings from early days have not reproduced well, and the history is well recorded to the end of World War 2, the story since is somewhat summarily dispensed with and does not do justice to the Gurkhas service in Malay in particular.

For the person concerned with mainly general interest, Sandro Tucci's 'Gurkhas' is a truly beautiful book. Hardly surprising in view of Tucci's renown as a photographer.

If it indeed be true that a picture is worth a thousand words, Tucci's camera has caught the magnificence of Nepal itself — and the harshness of the land — and follows the progress of Gurkha boy into professional soldier in a truly remarkable manner.

The excellent colour photographs are complemented by words—beginning with a foreword by Prince Charles — "to be associated in some way with the Gurkhas, as Colonel-in-Chief of 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkhas, is one of the greatest privileges of my life, as well as being one of the greatest pleasures."

The introduction, brief but telling, is by J P Cross, who served with both 1st and 7th Gurkha Rifles and is now a research linguist in Kathmandu. He

can be pleased with his contribution —but won't be surprised if people buy this work for the quality of the photographs alone.

Now we turn to E D 'Birdie' Smith's 'Johnny Gurkha', sub-titled 'Friends in the Hills'.

Another former 7th GR British officer who later commanded the 1st Battalion 2nd GR he set himself the task of telling readers more about the men behind the legend — and what "makes them tick".

Author of a previous excellent work on the Brigade of Gurkhas, 'Birdie' has obviously had to repeat some of the history for the benefit of the newcomer but overall he achieves his objective — and with considerable humour, essential in portraying men who are both determined and skilful fighters, and devilish pranksters.

As the author points out, not everyone recognises Gurkhas as such, and recalls the lovely story of a bystander's query at a Changing of the Guard — "Who are they?" Someone else: "Know the tall ones — them's the Guards, don't know who the other lot are."

The officer's morale rose when another hoarse voice shouted at the Guards: "You blokes want to wake your ideas up. Those little champs are making you look like a bunch of amateurs."

On a serious note, 'Birdie' ponders the future, and stresses that Gurkha units have lived with uncertainty for 35 years. "The most important fact to report is that officers and men serving today are not diverted by unfounded rumours or cast down by idle speculation, knowing well that their task is to uphold the professional standards which have been established over the years, wherever Gurkhas have served the British crown.

"One day fate will decide to end this long, happy and unique partnership but until it does the standard of the Gurkha soldiers will continue to be second to none."

If THAT day ever comes, it will be a real time for tears. — PMH

*Gurkha-The Illustrated History of an Elite Fighting Force, by Christopher Chant (Blandford Press, Poole, Dorset £8.95)

Gurkhas, by Sandro Tucci (Hamish Hamilton, London, £15)

Johnny Gurkha — Friends in the Hills, by E D Smith (Leo Cooper in association with Secker & Warburg, London, £12.95)

OLD TITLES, NEW LIFE

Re-issuing worthwhile titles in hard-back seems to be a growing business in the book trade.

Arms and Armour Press of London have started what they call a Special Forces Library with two well-known works: The Phantom Major, by Virginia Cowles, the story of David Stirling and the early days of the SAS, and Peter Stainforth's Wings of the Wind, recounting the author's days as a troop leader of 1st Parachute Brigade in Tunisia, Sicily, Italy and Arnhem.

Cowles' book was first published in 1958 by William Collins, Stainforth's work even earlier, in 1952 by Falcon Press. SOLDIER reviewed the SAS book in August 1958.

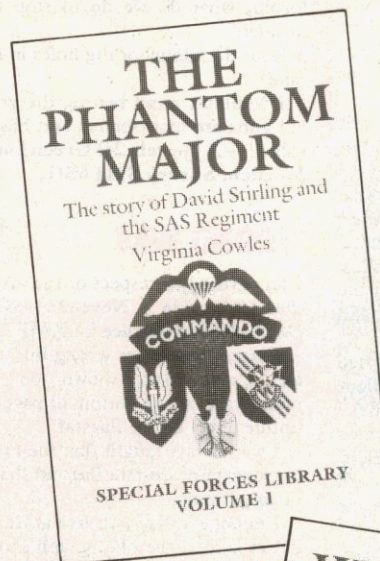
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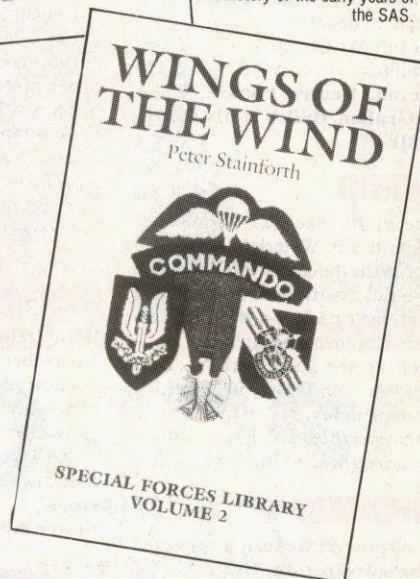
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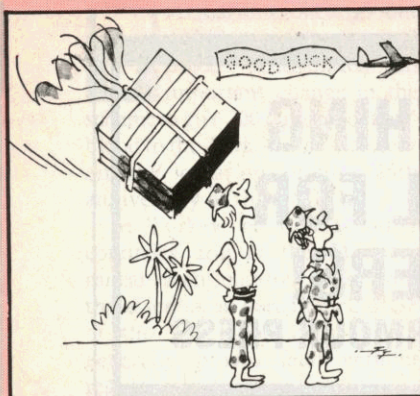
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MAIL DROP



GLARING

I wonder how many readers spotted the glaring inaccuracies in the dress of those 'Blenheim' and 'Waterloo' soldiers performing in the PR film reviewed in your 21 October issue? Although wearing the correct sword belts, the Dragoon Guards have their scabbards secured to the (modern) saddles in frogs — a method not introduced until the 1890s.

They also wield the curved light dragoon and hussar sabres instead of the heavy cavalry straight swords.

The 'Blenheim' soldiers sport the then defunct beaver hat of the James II - William III period. In Marlborough's day the more familiar three-cocked or tricorn hat was the regulation headdress, for Horse and Foot.

In the infantry square at Waterloo only the 2nd or Regimental Colour appears. Was the King's captured?

Since this is a publicity film, which will undoubtedly boost serving soldiers' interest in regimental history and traditions, one might expect some attention to detail.

Tut tut, Mr Carson ("...adviser on military history")! — **J M Brereton, Pentre Fothan, Llandeilo Graban, Builth Wells, Powys LD2 3JF**

SALERNO

Re the Front cover (21 October) — The Glosters in Waterloo Square.

Who made the colour exhibited with 'Salerno' as a battle honour? Bit out of context, isn't it? Is it a *real* Gloucestershire Regiment colour?

Keep up the good work. — **Dan James (ex 70th Foot), 50 Mitchley Avenue, Purley.**

As we know only too well, historical detail can be a minefield! — **Ed.**

SURPRISED

I am surprised that such a respected cap badge expert as John Gaylor (SOLDIER 4 November 85) as well as Captain Thomas should suggest the wreath of silver immortelles as awarded to The South Wales Borderers.

In fact, Queen Victoria in 1880, presented a silver wreath of immortelles to be borne "For ever" on the pike of the Queen's Colour to the 24th (2nd Warwickshire) Regiment of Foot, the predecessors of the SWB.

Army Order 41 of 1 May 1881 named the 2nd Warwickshires, The South Wales Borderers.

I have a recent military history book that states that the present day Royal Regiment of Wales (24th, 41st, 69th Foot, has the "Warwickshire Lad" as one of its marches. — **D Smart, 37 Clopton Road, Stratford upon**

Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 6SN. Surely the South Wales Borderers took over all the 24th honours and traditions. A little 'hair-splitting'? — **Ed.**

SO SAD

As a 64 year old ex-Serviceman, I read the articles on Gibraltar with the greatest sadness; 1,500 men down to just a handful shortly.

I hope they don't throw the old coast guns away.

For example at Holyhead in the last war we had two six-inch guns of the old battleship HMS Revenge. I don't know if they scared off any enemy, but they put the fear of God into us. BEHIND them.

Should another war come, God forbid, what do we do to stop the invaders?

Shut the tunnel or dig holes in the sand?

I wouldn't mind betting the great old guns are moth-balled and black-balled! — **A J Jewell, 241 Green Lane, Morden, Surrey SM4 6SG.**

WRONG WAY

I am writing in respect of the article that appears in 4 November SOLDIER, "Silver Jubilee for AMF".

Correct me if I'm wrong but isn't the Union flag, shown on the photograph at the bottom of page 25, upside down on the flagstaff.

I was always taught that the broad white stripe nearest the flagstaff should be uppermost.

I'm not a 'nit-picker' by nature but if I'm correct the photograph should not have been printed in what I consider to be a professional soldiers magazine. — **J Jones, WO2 RQMS, RRF, Force Quartermasters, BFPO 12.**

Not the first time this has happened, I'm afraid, but at the risk of embarrassing units we cannot be held responsible, nor can we ignore good photos — **Ed.**

DISTRESS

With reference to SOLDIER 4 November 1985. Would you please let us know what action was taken by your photographer to alleviate the distress so evident in the picture on page 25.

We were always told that the Union flag flown upside down was a 'distress signal'. — **T E Kempshall, Glendower Avenue, Coventry.**

A CRATE?

When I looked at the photos of the silver jubilee for the AMF (November SOLDIER) I wondered why the commander of the British contingent didn't check up with the Union Jack transfer on the glacia plate of the CVR(T) before putting the Union flag on the pole. Perhaps then it would be the correct way up.

How about the Boss standing a crate for his lads? — **John McGowan, ex-2 Royal Tanks, Fieldway, Fleet, Hants.**

CLAIM

SOLDIER issues 12 August and 7 October both contain claims to the first

SOLDIER is delighted to receive letters. These are YOUR pages.

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

If your letter is handwritten, be as neat as you can. Readers must also give their full names and addresses — if there is good reason for not wanting these published, they will be withheld.

Keep the letters flowing to: Mail Drop, SOLDIER, Parsons House, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2DU.

The Editor regrets that we do not have the staff to undertake detailed research on matters of military history, militaria etc but if a query on current topics is likely to be of interest to most readers we shall endeavour to provide an answer through these columns.

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

Falkland Islander to join the British Forces since World War 2.

In 1974 Pte Don Jaffray joined 'C' Coy Mercian Volunteers attending Warcop Camp in 1974 and Bodney Camp in 1975.

He was a former member of the Falkland Island Defence Force and he later returned to the Falkland Islands to become a policeman in Port Stanley. He later returned to Rugeley, Staffs and took employment as a face worker with the National Coal Board and I believe was therefore refused permission to rejoin the TA. — **Sgt P G Smith RAPC(V), "C" Coy 1 Mercian, Horninglow Street, Burton-on-Trent, Staffs DE14 1NP.**

EXCELLENT

Thank you for an excellent feature article, Reflections of Empire, dealing with the current NAM Exhibition of regimental silver of a bygone age.

It was of particular delight to me to see featured some of the items of the disbanded 1922 Irish Regiments.

I am aware that many of these fine pieces owned by these regiments are now held in various safe places — Dublin, Buckingham Palace — and some in the messes of descendants of affiliated regiments, but I wonder... can anyone tell me of the whereabouts of the Leinster Regimental Silver placed for safekeeping with, I believe, the Major of Harwich (?), in 1922? In asking the question, I do no wish to cast any doubt on the integrity of the civic authority of Harwich in those days — I just wish to know!

Indeed it would be of some interest to know of any pieces that over the last sixty three years have become 'lost' to public view. — **J Brian Forde, 18 The Corft, Llangybi, Nr Usk, Gwent NP5 1TX.**

SOME DRAFT

I was intrigued by the letter 'Rare Dorsetshire Draft' (4 November) — leaving these shores on 12 December 1935. May I refer to a much rarer 'draft' leaving these shores the very next day aboard the RMS Narkunda (now at the bottom of the Mediterranean Sea).

The 'draft' consisted of two men only — both sergeant instructors of the Army Educational Corps and both well qualified in cypher work.

I was one of the two (the other was MacLeod) and early one Friday

morning I left Northampton for Tilbury.

The date — Friday 13 December — frost and thick fog seemed ominous. However, I embarked on the RMS Narkunda bound for New Zealand.

So we left for Abyssinia (as we then knew it). The first action was to change from field service marching order into plain clothes (someone did not wish it known that we were aboard).

We sailed and eventually met up with sunny skies the other side of the Bay. A stop at Gibraltar then up to Marseilles and then to Malta where we were ordered to disembark having changed back into field service marching order. Most passengers were hypnotized for they had not realised that armed men were aboard.

I arrived in Malta on 23 December and was attached to The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

Then, after a year, home again on being posted to the Royal Horse Guards in London — which turned out to be the 2nd Bn (The Northamptonshire Regiment in Ballykinler Co. Down, Northern Ireland).

I am in my 85th year but I still treasure a letter from Colonel Ozanne thanking me for the work I had done and inviting me to visit the regiment as its guest at any time I wished. A rare draft indeed! — **T E Kempshall FSA Scot, 36 Glendower Avenue, Coventry CV5 8BE.**

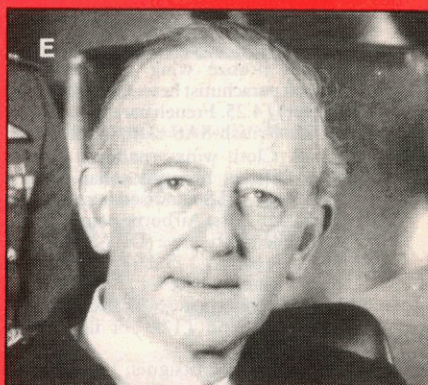
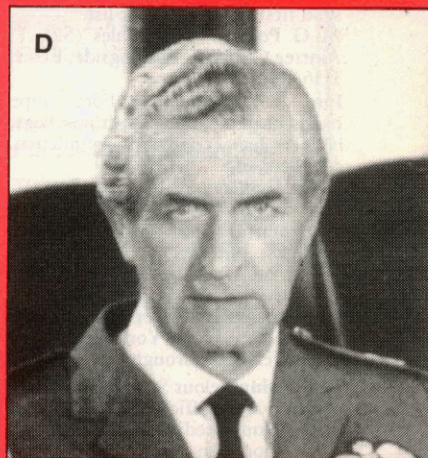
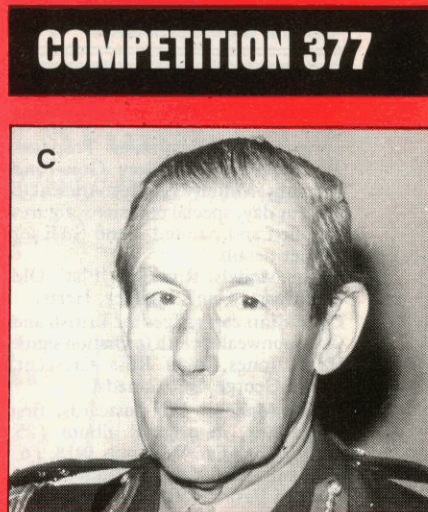
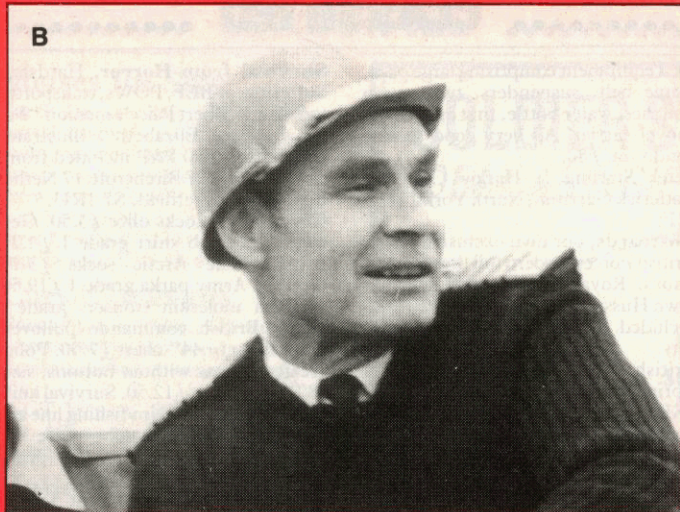
Competition

SOLDIER's Odd Man Out competition (No 372) gave readers quite a test. No-one submitted an all-correct answer, but three readers managed to get 19 of the 20 odd words correct. The one they slipped up on, as did most other entrants, was the fact that diphtheria was spelled wrongly.

The first name out of the hat of the best three was Warrant Officer 2 Hanks, serving at Musgrave Park Hospital in Northern Ireland.

How Observant Are You?

1 Leg of soldier in left car. 2 Left arm of second rider on roundabout. 3 Right end of Rifle Range roof. 4 Number of targets on Rifle Range. 5 Middle bar of "E" in "Dodgems." 6 Girl walking away, right of Rifle Range. 7 Hair of girl driving No. 3. 8 Right collar-point of soldier in No. 5. 9 Belt of soldier with rifle. 10 Star in top right corner.



REMEMBER THE CHIEFS?

WITH THE departure of Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall as Chief of the Defence Staff (he has been succeeded by Admiral of The Fleet Sir John Fieldhouse), now is the time to test your knowledge of previous holders of the United Kingdom's senior military appointment.

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Can you name them all? Better still, can you give also the year in which they took up office?

If you can, there is a chance you could be the winner of our £50 prize.

The rules of the competition

remain the same. It is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 31 January 1986. The answers and winner's name will be announced in our issue of 14 February.

More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 377' label — not a photo-copy.

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

Send your answers by post card or letter with the 'Competition 377' label to: Prize Competition SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

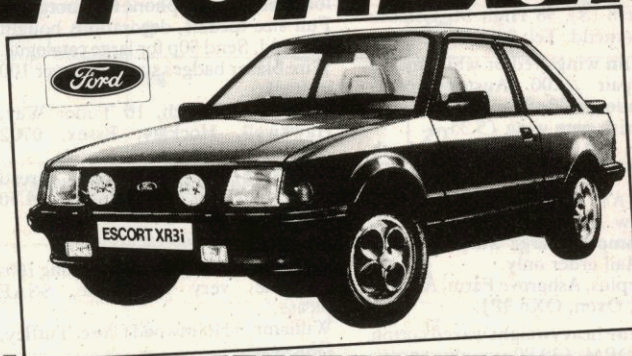
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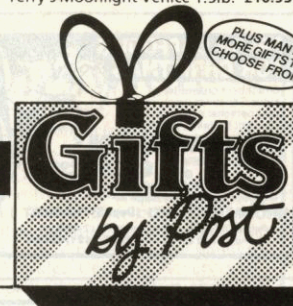
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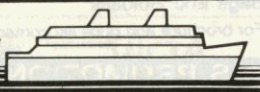
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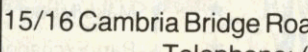
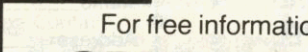
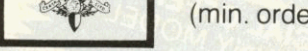
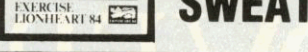
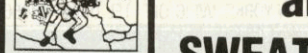
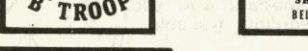
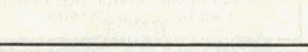
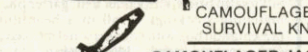
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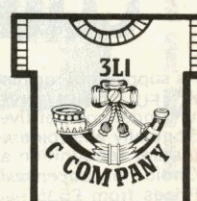
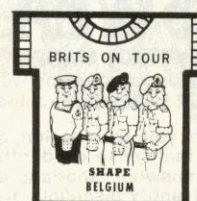
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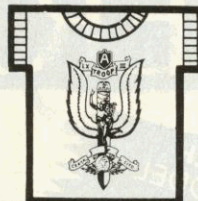
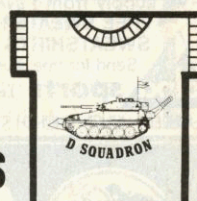
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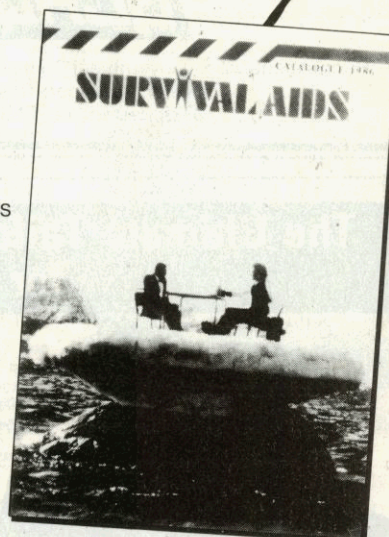
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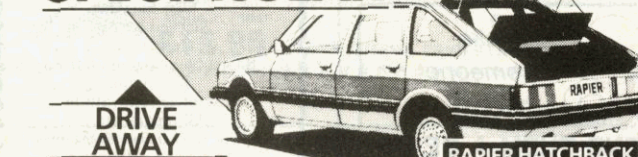
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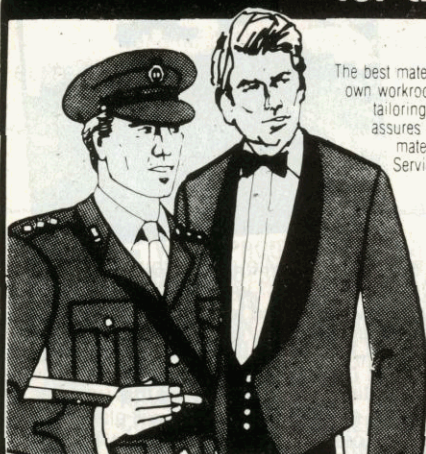
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1 42 Squadron, RCT	1hr 10min 37sec	36/72	414
2 249 Sig Squadron	1.1.52	36/64	411
3 C Sqdrn, 16/5 L	1.11.42	26/83	400
4 Supply Company	1.14.06	29/74	392
5 5 (Gib) Battery	1.15.07	33/58	379
6 US Engineer Coy.	1.22.59	21/59	351

Infantry:	Time	Shooting	Points
1 262 Para Bn, GE	1.1.28	73/42	463
2 4/325th Inf Bn., US	1.15.21	41/67	414
3 1 Para-Commando, BE	1.8.43	33/61	407
4 4/325th Inf., US	1.17.37	27/70	394

point win over the cup holders, 249 Signal Squadron.

It was a particularly galling outcome for the signallers who achieved the second fastest time for the march of any team, including the infantry. In fact they were only 24 seconds behind the German 262 Parachute Battalion, the overall winners.

But on the range their shooting let them down. One rifle jammed and they lost five important shots.

Under the competition rules the first team home in each section gets 275 points, the second 270 and so on with five points less every time.

So, although the signallers won the non infantry march with a time nine minutes better than 42 Squadron, in second place, they gained only five extra points. Had all the teams, infantry and non infantry alike, competed against each other there would have been a 10 point difference.

"Wet and miserable" was the most common expression used for the conditions. When the troops first arrived in the country it hadn't rained in that part of Turkey for seven months.

The rains held off long enough not to be too much of a problem for the exercise but descended in time to make the challenge cup damp, dirty and uncomfortable.

Logistic Support Battalion's

Supply Company were the last team round a track churned into heavy mud by those who had gone before. Even so they made a time slightly better than both teams from the US 4/325th Infantry Battalion, who, much to the surprise of everyone, treated the event as an individual race rather than running as a compact team.

Twenty-four members out of the teams of 26 were counted for the time, having covered the eight miles with rifle, or SMG, water bottle and respirator (packed not worn).

On reaching the range they each fired five rounds at a 120cm x



Staff Sergeant Hunter Donald, Jr, of 1 Platoon, B Company, 4/325 US Infantry Regiment, celebrated his 29th birthday by being the first member of his team across the line. He stayed to welcome the others as they struggled home



Supply Company, the last team to tackle the marshy circuit, come home in fine style

120cm target with a black inner measuring 40 x 45cm. The rifles fired at 200 metres and the SMG at 75, scoring one point for the white and two for the black.

With 36 inners and 72 outers, 42 Squadron made 144 points on the shooting against 249 Squadron's 36/64 which equalled 136.

The German 262 Parachute Battalion, from Merzig in the Saarland, easily eclipsed the other contenders in its section, and indeed in the whole competition, with the fastest march and by far the best shooting.

The battalion thus retained hold on the Royal Anglian Regiment Cup for the best performance by any team.

NEW COACH SEEKS HAT-TRICK

ARMY boxers assembled at Aldershot recently with high hopes of making a hat-trick of victories in the Combined Services team championships, which open on January 23 with a visit to the Royal Air Force at Halton, Buckinghamshire.

Last year the Army routed both of their Service rivals and provided a triumphant swan song for coach Staff Sergeant Mick Gannon. Now the task of motivating them to victory falls to Gannon's successor, 33-year-old Staff Sergeant Kevin Greef.

Kevin is the first to concede that he does not have the boxing pedigree of Gannon. But he does have all the required coaching qualifications and his first posting into the Army Physical Training Corps was as boxing coach to 1 Queens in Germany from 1976 for three years.

Last year was his apprentice-

ship in the job as he watched Mick Gannon steer his team to such overwhelming success.

"It was most helpful and Mick will certainly be a hard act to follow", he said.

Fortunately Gannon is not far away, at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, and will continue to scout and offer advice when needed about personalities, tactics and the whole complicated business of winning such a fiercely contested competition.

More than 30 boxers are currently training at Aldershot — the largest squad in recent years — and Greef is quietly confident. "I believe the squad is even stronger than last year. We have far more talent on show now and even last year we took the title with ease.

"We are putting together young talent, which is perhaps a bit raw, with known talent, and letting them work side by side. Even if some don't make the grade this season they may return

next year."

Nearly half of last year's team have left for various reasons and there will be fierce competition to replace them. Among those who have gone are Lance Corporal Jay (1 RRF), Lance Corporal Ken Moore (1 King's Own Border),

BOXING

Sapper Glenn Boshier (RE) and Gunner Kevin Catherine (RA).

Also missing will be the fearless Lance Corporal Eddie Gajny (Royal Signals) who has decided to hang up his gloves and concentrate on his Army career.

Newcomers to the squad include several who have graduated from junior Army boxing and others "with a known reputation." They have come from as far away as Northern Ireland, Rhine Army and Gibraltar.

The Army has seven boxers currently rated in the top 15 of their weight by the influential Boxing News. And Kevin Greef, like his predecessor, is convinced that within the Army there is still an untapped pool of boxing talent.

The redoubtable heavyweight, Corporal Horace Miles (1 RGJ), will be back in a new role this year — as assistant coach. He replaces Lance Corporal Steve Johnson, Royal Corps of Transport. Succeeding Horace as team captain will be Lance Corporal Keith Howlett (Royal Engineers), last year's most promising young Services boxer of the season.

Greef warns against over confidence because he knows that the Royal Navy, who won the title seven years in a row until the Army took it from them, will do their best to prevent the hat-trick.

But he says: "I am hopeful of a good result. This year we are going to take a lot of beating."

THRILLS BUT NO FRILLS

There are not many frills about the Combined Services brand of football these days. But there is a determination to win, which is backed by a depth of experience, and these qualities gave them a fine 2-0 win over a young and talented Southampton XI.

The Services enjoyed the lion's share of the opening half. They used a strong following wind to advantage in getting the ball quickly forward and pushing players up in support of the strike force. They were unlucky not to go ahead, after six minutes, when a cross by Cpl Sandy Brown (Army) was headed on to the cross bar by Cpl Tiv Lowe (RM). The ball rebounded to Cpl Barry (RAF) whose headed attempt scraped the bar in going over the top.

Cpl Andy Edwards, for many the 'Man of the Match', had a

fierce volley well saved by Phil Kite who could only have seen the ball at the very last second.

The Services played even better in the second half, and it was no surprise when they went ahead. A free kick by Lowe was controlled by Edwards who cleverly dropped his marking defender before steering the ball wide of Kite.

Twelve minutes later, the Services scored again. A free kick for a foul on Brown was aimed at the heart of the visiting defence. Marine John Rich (RM) took on three defenders to bundle his way clear before clipping the ball wide of the stranded Kite. Not pretty, but pretty effective finishing!

The Saints were stung into attack and only a goal-line clearance by Cpl Kevin Parkins (Army) prevented them scoring in the final quarter hour.

Wales Tour Boosts Gunners' Game



Training in Cardiff Arms Park

A thirty strong party of rugby players from 22 AD Regt RA (The Welsh Gunners) Dortmund have been on a two week tour of South Wales.

The tour itinerary was intense and ambitious but gave players an opportunity to compete against first class clubs who fielded quite a few current internationals and some from the recent past. There was a very stiff coaching programme (including a superb Sunday session taken by Ian Hall, South Wales Police and Welsh Youth Club), culminating in the experience of a lifetime when the regiment trained with the Welsh 'B' squad under John Bevan and John Davies at the Cardiff Arms Park.

The game of rugby in Wales for those who have not been there before, resembles rugby in BAOR only in the fact that they play with a similar shaped ball! Everything else is totally different — fitness,

attitude, competitiveness, methods of coaching, tremendous enthusiasm and dedication by everyone associated with the game.

As the tour progressed so did the visitors' rugby. In fact, it was a different type of player that returned to BAOR than had set out, and without doubt the icing on the cake was the splendid 10-9 win over Glamorgan Wanderers in the final fixture.

As the results show, from the point of view of "lifting scalps" it had limited success, but what cannot be demonstrated is the tremendous improvement shown by all the squad.

Results: 1st XV v Cardiff Police, lost 30-0; Bridgend, lost 41-0; Llantwit Major, lost 7-0; Llandaff, drew 6-6; Glamorgan Wanderers, won 10-9. 2nd Polyclun, lost 26-6, Senghewydd, lost 46-0.



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