

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 25 PENCE • 12 MARCH 1984

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FRONT COVER

Keeping an eye on peace. A look-out post of 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment in Cyprus.

Picture: PAUL HALEY

BACK COVER

Rifleman Scott Dobson who swept the board in this year's Army Alpine Skiing Championships, taking first place in downhill, slalom and giant slalom. Dobson, of 2nd Battalion The Royal Green Jackets, also won the Inter-Service titles at the international inter-service event in Switzerland.

Picture: DEREK CATTANI

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Subscription (25 issues): UK/BFPO £11.00, elsewhere £12.50. Send UK cheque, UK postal order or international money order **expressed in sterling** and state when subscription is to start and to whom to be addressed. Payments to be sent to SOLDIER and made payable to Command Cashier UKLF.

SOLDIER

NOW INCORPORATING
THE TERRITORIAL ARMY MAGAZINE



'The Poachers' in Cyprus
— page 25 ▲

Tracked Rapier: next stage — page 14 ▼



The oldest swingers in town? — page 16 ▼



Editorial, photographic, advertising and circulation enquiries should be addressed to SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, ALDERSHOT, Hants. GU11 2DU (phone Aldershot (0252) 24431, military network Aldershot Military). SOLDIER is published by the Ministry of Defence and printed by Eden Fisher (Southend) Ltd, 555 Sutton Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex. Crown copyright 1984.



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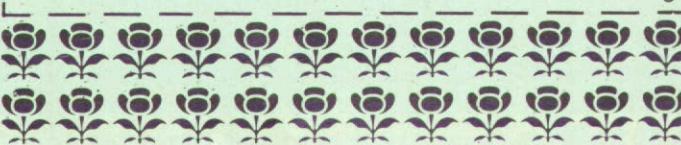
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IN THE background, an Army Air Corps Beaver. In the foreground, Sgn Ldr (Retired) Reg Crumpton, Mr Peter Yeates, author and Mr Jack Lerner, Standard Bearer.

The occasion they had in common was a memorial flight by Army Air Corps Centre Beaver over the crash sites in Norway of 1942 during Operation Freshman, the attempt to sabotage the "heavy water" plant at Rjukan in Telemark.

The plan, 42 years ago, had been to land two Horsa gliders towed by Halifax bombers but both gliders and one of the Halifaxes crashed and the five survivors were taken prisoner by the Germans. They were later shot at Grini concentration camp.

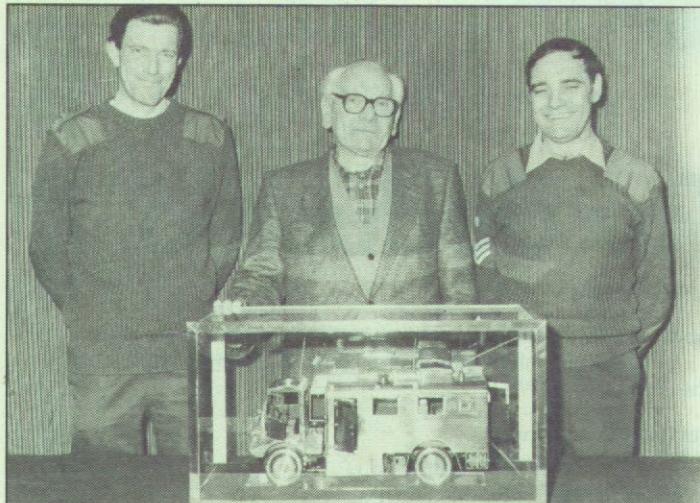
Formed from the Glider Regiment the Army Air Corps paid tribute to these brave men by flying over the crash sites with the Standard of the Glider Pilot Regiment. Mr Yeates is the author of the book Operation Freshman and retired Squadron



Leader Reginald Crumpton is a pilot and instructor at the Army Air Corps Centre.

A memorial service was held at the Eigane Cemetery in Stavanger to honour the four glider pilots and 29 Royal Engineers who died on the operation.

MODEL MAKER RETURNS



IT TOOK six years of non-stop research to find him but find 73-year-old Herr Rudolf Peters they did at 4 Armoured Division HQ and Signal Regiment. A model builder enthusiast the veteran living in Lemgo was recalled to Herford — he was a radio technician with 27 years' service there until retirement — to take a bow for the resplendent solid brass model of a three-ton truck he specially made nearly 30 years ago.

Herr Peters made the small-scale radio truck in 1950 which took him six years of his spare time to complete.

Recently discovered the worse for wear the vehicle was restored to its former glory by 4 Armoured Div Signal Regiment's Staff Sgt Bob Collins, a keen modeller.

The picture shows the trio with the model. On the left, Lt

Col Bob Wright, CO of 4 Armoured Division Signal Regiment, Herr Peters and Staff Sergeant Collins.

HERE TO STAY

REDUNDANCY! The very word, a few years ago, used to send some squaddies racing to the head of the queue. The advice now is: DON'T.

First, the bad and only news. As a result of the latest available planning information on the future size of the Army, according to a BAOR Command Information bulletin.

It says it is clear now that no officer or soldier redundancy will be required in Phase Three (1 April 1985 to 31 March 1986).

Phase Four (1 April 1986 to 31 March 1987) and the redundancy involved in this will depend on current Army reviews.

LONG SIGHTED GAZELLES

FERRANTI INSTRUMENTATION LTD. has won a multi-million-pound contract from the Ministry of Defence to supply a roof-mounted, gyro-stabilised sight for the Army Air Corps' Gazelle helicopters.

The sight is intended for seeking and identifying targets at a distance when the Gazelle is acting in its recce role. The system has been designed so that additional electro-optic equipment such as that for laser designation can be fitted easily.

The contract includes line replaceable units and spares and was awarded following a successful evaluation of the equipment by the British Army.

THESE BOOTS ARE MADE FOR OILING

THE NEW combat boots high on issue are certainly meant for marching but, like the DMS boot of old, they need to be broken in.

So, someone in BAOR has come up with some advice on how to put your foot in it — both, in fact — to avoid the bane of blisters in those early days of barrack and training area usage.

First, as the boot is designed to be water-resistant the leather will not absorb and subsequently soften with water as did its worthy predecessor.

But, wearing-in may be eased by rubbing a vegetable oil — kitchen oil or the like — or leather oil (Neatsfoot) into the inside (flesh side) of the boots.

One big DON'T, however, is that engine or mineral oil should not be used.

Another tip for the initiates to the incoming footwear is that some relief may be given by missing out the middle eyelets when lacing up.

TO BAOR — BY JUMBULANCE

THE JUMBULANCE will arrive in Rheindahlen this summer with a group of disabled people from Britain who will enjoy a holiday with shopping trips, visits to local beauty spots, a River Rhine cruise, a Bavarian night and other entertainment, hosted by Rheindahlen.

The only ambulance with an entry in the Guinness Book of Records, the Jumbulance is supplied by the ACROSS Trust, who provide holiday breaks for 2,000 disabled and handicapped people each year.

It is 60 ft. long, 13 ft. high and weighs 22 tons, cost £188,000 to build, and is equipped with hydraulic lift, two toilets, two kitchens, 12 stretcher beds and a lounge which converts into an intensive care unit with oxygen and resuscitation equipment.

NEW COMMANDER

MAJOR General J B Akehurst is to be Commander United Kingdom Field Army and Inspector General Territorial Army, in April 1984 in the rank of Lieutenant General, in succession to Lieutenant General Sir Edward Burgess.

GLOSTERS GO NORTH

FOR A month men of the 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, have been North of the Border combining three military skills . . . ceremonial duties outside Edinburgh Castle, other infantry methods out of the public eye and adventurous training.

And size has nothing to do with the public PR engendered by the Glorious Glosters during their sojourn in the Scottish capital as shown by five-feet-four Lance Corporal Steven Orchard, 25, a member of the assault pioneer platoon. Until joining the Army seven years ago, Steve — he is married with a baby daughter — was an apprentice jockey and is a trained farrier.

On the adventurous training side of life, a group of the lads from the south-west-recruited regiment tried their hands — or rather, feet — at skiing. Pictured left to right, are Cpl Derrick Allen, L. Cpl Pete Whelp-



CLUTTER CLEARERS

ASK A junior soldier to give a hand to help clear a beauty spot of litter and rubble and he will respond with alacrity.

Such a response came from the Junior Soldiers of 'A' Company, Depot Prince of Wales' Division, Crickhowell, who answered an SOS to help clear a collapsed wall of a church in the Vale of Ewyas.

The youngsters spent a day clearing the fallen masonry at the Abbey Church, next to the

Monastery at Capel-y-ffin, a place which attracts thousands of visitors every year.

Now the builders will be able to get to the wall to repair it.

When they had finished their voluntary stint, the young soldiers camped for the night close to the Abbey Church before leaving early the next day to take part in a navigation exercise over the Black Mountains to their unit at Cwrt-y-Gollen camp.

CASTLE KEY FOR BRIGADIER

Brigadier Michael Lee, Welsh Guards, will be inducted as the 202nd Deputy Constable of Dover Castle at a ceremony on 22 May when Brigadier Dick Hume, Irish Guards, hands over the statutes and the great key to the castle. The High Sheriff of Kent and the 15 Mayors of the Cinque Ports Confederation will be among the 140 audience.

FREEDOM FOR PIONEERS . . .

The Borough Council of Northampton is to present a Freedom Scroll to the Royal Corps of Pioneers at Northampton at the end of this month. It will be received on behalf of the Corps by Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester, in the presence of the Colonel Commandant General Sir George Cooper and the Director of Pioneers, Brigadier Freddy Lucas.

AND 'RED CAPS'

THE BOROUGH of Rushmoor which includes Aldershot "home of the British Army", is to confer the Honorary Freedom on the Corps of the Royal Military Police marking it with a ceremony in Aldershot on 18 April.

Immediately after the ceremony the "Red Caps" will march through the streets of Aldershot with a salute taken by Colonel Commandant of the Corps, Lt-Gen Sir James Glover.

CRANE HELPS CRANE

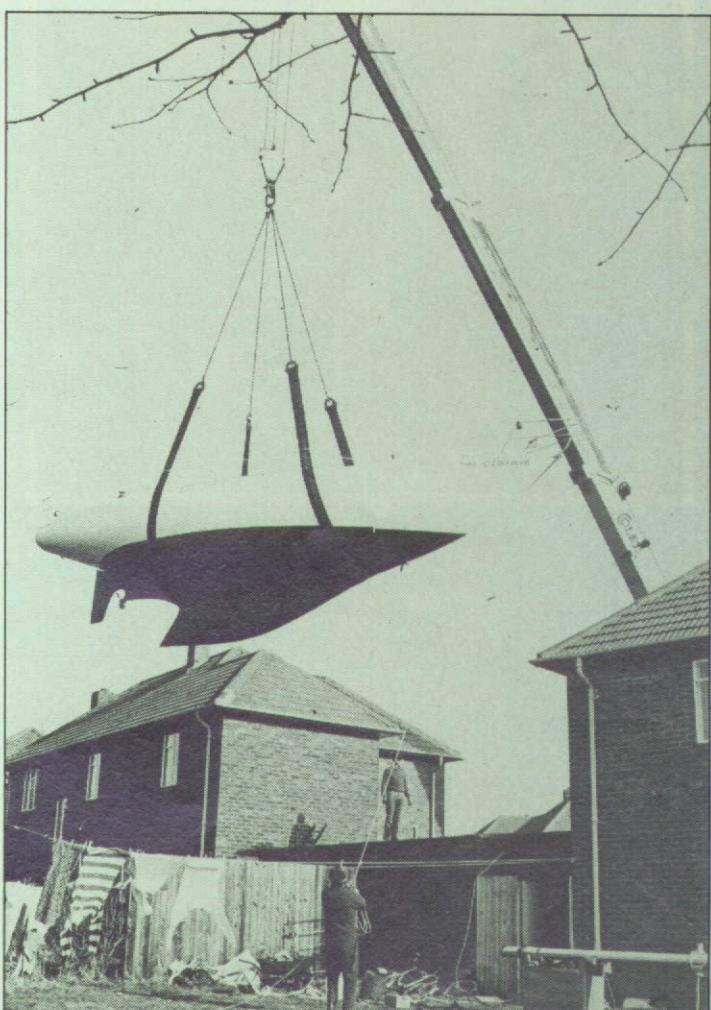
SAILING HIGH over the washing in the back garden of Major Mike Crane's house at Albemarle Barracks, Newcastle upon Tyne, is six tons of yacht — en route to Blyth Harbour and eventually to the Mediterranean when Major Crane and his wife Lin move to Gibraltar.

The yacht, a 38ft. G.R.P. Ohlsen, has been in the back garden since July 1981 when it was in basic form and weighed only two tons. Since then, its

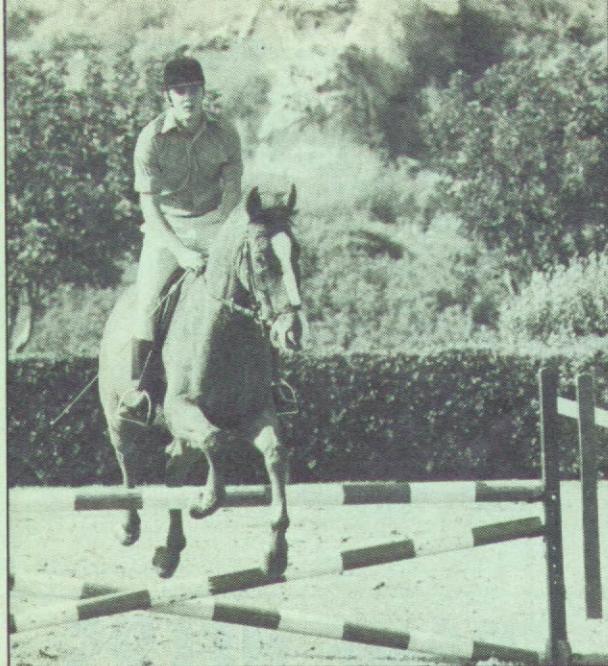
owner has continued to build it and fit it out during his spare time, so that now it weighs six tons, which includes two-and-a-half tons of iron and cement ballast in the keel.

The yacht has also had a 1500 diesel engine fitted, with bulkheads, bunks, cupboards, and a fine old fashioned brass toilet.

When it came to moving it out of the garden, it went out the same way that Major Crane got it in — by crane, of course.



NEWS VIEW



A FORTUNE SAVED ▶

Perhaps a quarter of a million pounds has been saved by the designing of automatic test equipment for the Lynx helicopter autopilot. The first model has been produced by technicians of the Test Systems Flight Office of the RAF Central Servicing Establishment at Swanton Morley, after a two-year collaboration with the Aircraft Branch of REME. And further net savings of £100,000 a year are expected. The control keys were handed over to Lt Col Brian Porter, OC No 70 Aircraft Workshops Middle Wallop by RAF Swanton Morley Station Commander, watched by Col Richard Weston, CO of Middle Wallop.

◀ FIRST ROUND CLEAR

Competing in a jumping competition for the first time young groom, Private Laurence 'Bo' Bissett, of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders managed a clear round in a farewell to the Argylls competition at the Combined Services Saddle Club at Episkopi, Cyprus. His grooms' team won the contest.



CARRIED AWAY ▲

Major Ron McGinley got carried away — literally — when he retired from a life in khaki as CO of the 1st Cadet Battalion, The Queen's Regiment (Kent ACF) after a military career spanning nearly 50 years.

New CO is Major David Martin who moved from County HQ in Maidstone to take command of the Battalion.

CHIEFTAIN PIPED ASHORE ▼

Trooper John Johnstone, 25, from Edinburgh, pipes ashore the Chieftain. Eleven of them were ferried from Marchwood to Esbjerg on RFA Sir Lancelot to make the first seaborne tank landing on Danish soil direct from Britain, to take part in NATO exercise 'Brigade Frost'.

A historic moment for 4 Royal Tank Regiment's 'D' Squadron, as the tanks landed to join German and Danish forces in the exercise at Oksbol, 15 miles to the north of Esbjerg.



BOOMERANG BOOM ▼

Major Kevin Loughrey, an Australian REME exchange officer attached to 7 Armoured Workshop at Fallingbostel hit on the idea of a boomerang throwing contest to celebrate Australia Day in true antipodean style. He made the boomerangs himself from local oak, and recruited six of the workshop's officers as novice throwers.

Kevin declared Major Mike Sibbons (holding the broken boomerang in picture) the winner. The other contestants were (l to r) Capt Pat Maguire, Capt Richard Grey, Lt Mark Bouch, Major Bob Gregory and (in front) Capt John Lister.



"CHARGES" PROVED ▼

A drumhead court-martial? Well, yes . . . and, no. The officer at the rear, Colonel "John" Brown, Commandant of the School of Ordnance, Deepcut, apparently accepted the findings of two "charges." But not before he revealed that he is to be extended in his military service, as Commander RAOC TA as a brigadier.

The two "charges" were that firstly, 'he did command the School of Ordnance for the first time having been a late member of the Royal Army Service Corps being the first officer to do so' and, secondly, 'he did command the School of Ordnance for a second time being the first officer to do so'. Both "charges" were proved to be 'to the benefit of military discipline'.

Leading the quartet is Lt-Col Ian Bradley, Senior Instructor in Management. Behind him, Lt-Col John Royale, (left) Senior Instructor in Supply, and Lt-Col Bob Cook, Senior Branch Instructor of the All-Arms Quartermasters' Branch.



CHESS CHAMP ▲

The Army's chess champion, Cpl Lawrence Jenkinson, Royal Signals, will defend his title at Arborfield at Easter boosted by the knowledge that he has also battled his way to become joint British Forces Germany champion at Rheindahlen.

In the nail-biting concluding match of the three-day tournament, Cpl Jenkinson of 4 Armoured Div and Headquarters Signal Regiment, Herford, shared top spot with Lance Corporal Shawn Butler of Detmold.



EXETER TRIUMPH ▲

A 21-strong team with more girls than lads won a Royal Engineers' combat training course contest. Competing against teams from 17 universities, the 11 girls and ten lads of Exeter University Officer Training Corps swept aside keen competition to win the cup put up by 3 Training Regiment Royal Engineers.

The 320 officer cadets taking part spent two days at Camberley on trials of watermanship, mine warfare, mine demolition, building bridges and aerial ropeways, and a mass assault boat race. Second Lt Tim Dentan, Exeter team captain, received the cup from Brig Neill Carlier, Commander 11 Engineer Group.



TOPICS

WHEN the Right Honourable Dame Mary Donaldson visited 39th (City of London) Signal Regiment (V), they mounted an all-girl guard of honour to welcome her and her husband, Sir John Donaldson, himself a war-time signaller, to their City headquarters.

The choice of guard was all the more appropriate because Dame Mary is the first feminine Lord Mayor of London, the City's top political post. Until she took over last November, the previous 655 incumbents had all been men.

Her visit was an annual one for the Lord Mayor to the Regiment



A smile for the all-girl guard.

which has five squadrons — No 1 Squadron and HQ in London, and the remaining three in Tunbridge Wells, Banbury and Dundee.

And that was why the mayors of the Kent and Oxfordshire towns were present at the Regiment's annual dinner at their Hackney-located headquarters.

While they incorporate in their

title 'City of London', the Regiment's HQ is just yards outside the City limits in the borough of Hackney, and it was the mayor of that borough — together with City sheriffs — who made up a party of "top Brass" for the occasion.

Led by Lieutenant Barbara Moores, the guard of honour came from all four locations of

the Regiment and paraded outside the Regiment's Worship Street HQ for her inspection.

Other notable military personalities attending the dinner were Signal Officer-in-Chief Major General Bob Benbow and Brigadier Helen Meechie, Director of the WRAC.

AWARD FOR TWO . . .

WO2 (CSM) Dave Brannan from Littleborough, left, and WO2 Martin Talks from Radcliffe, both with D Company, 5th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers from Bury, receive their Lord Lieutenant's Certificates from Sir William Donward, Lord Lieutenant for Greater Manchester.



and two more

Two Chester soldiers have had their "outstanding" service recognised with the presentation of Lord Lieutenant's certificates by Lord Leverhulme, Lord Lieutenant for Cheshire.

WO2 George Tinker of 80 (Cheshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron, and Sgt Frank Nugent of C (Cheshire Yeomanry) Squadron of the Queen's Own Yeomanry, were recipients.



TOP HAT — AND TOP RECRUITS

Mr Nicholas Fairbairn, MP for Perth and Kinross, was the Inspecting Officer at the Passing Out parade of recruits for the 51st Highland and 52nd Low-

land Volunteers held at the Scottish Infantry Depot at Glencorse.

Best Recruit was Pte Tony Francis of V (Liverpool Scottish) Company, while Pte Philip Parsons was presented with the trophy for the champion shot. Most Improved Recruit was Fusilier W Mullen of B Company, 1st Bn, 52nd Lowland Volunteers from Irvine in Ayrshire.

Calling the TA

This space, and much more, could have been filled by news about your TA unit. Whether you have just a news snippet, or ideas for a two-page feature, SOLDIER needs to hear from

you. There must be something happening in your unit which is worth telling others about. Get your Unit Press Officer to tell SOLDIER about it. Don't delay. Do it NOW.

WRITING HIS THIRD BOOK — AT 97!

ONE of the country's surviving experts on the Crimean events of October 25, 1854 — and he is still writing books at the age of 97 — Canon William Lummis, MC, has played a vital part in the background researches of a BBC 2 TV team making a documentary about The Charge of the Light Brigade.

Canon Lummis, who enlisted as a trooper in the 11th Hussars in 1904, is the oldest Old Comrade of The Royal Hussars at whose museum in Winchester, BBC 2's programme Timewatch — due to be broadcast as *SOLDIER* went to press — was largely filmed.

Three-quarters of a typed manuscript under his bed at the Surrey nursing home where he is a resident and author of two other books — Honour the Light Brigade (1973) and Padre George Smith of Rorke's Drift (1937) — Canon Lummis was formerly editor of the 11th Hussars journal.

"At that time I thought it would be nice to list the names of the 11th Hussars officers and men who were involved in the famous Charge of the Light Brigade," he told me. I managed to speak to 14 of the survivors during the compilation of material. The last one died in 1927. My list was about 90 per cent correct and I was helped by Sgt John Parkinson of Birmingham who lent me his

list of the Members of the Balaclava Commemorative Society of 1897."

In his book Honour the Light Brigade, a table shows that seven officers and 135 soldiers took part in the fatal charge; 25 soldiers were killed, three officers wounded and 27 soldiers wounded. Eight men were taken prisoner and 72 horses killed.

When the BBC 2 research team interviewed him in the nursing home's television room, Canon Lummis — he left the Army in 1930 and was ordained, spending most of his clerical life in Suffolk and Norfolk — recited a ditty he had learned in the barrack rooms of Northern Ireland relating to the events of that Crimean chronicle.

He reminded: "The brave Nolan brought the order to Lord Lucan. He said: 'There are your guns my lord, just a mile ahead. All tell a splendid story. Proclaim it far and wide. And let your children's children re-echo it with pride. How Cardigan, the fearless, his name immortal made when he crossed the Russian valley with his Famous Light Brigade'."

The team had shown particular interest in the events surrounding one Lieutenant Dunn, an officer in the Brigade and possessor of an "exceedingly long sword," said to have been the property of General James Wolfe of Quebec fame; the weapon had been

found on the battlefield by Lt Dunn's father. Dunn, the younger, had rescued a Sgt Maj Bentley and went to the assistance of one Private Levette who was killed.

On the debit side, the officer eventually eloped with a colonel's wife and spent his time hunting until the Indian Mutiny.

Canon Lummis who was commissioned into the Suffolk Regiment in 1916 was awarded his MC while fighting with them as a company commander at Courcelles le Compte on August 21, 1918, an incident in which a machine gun bullet passed through the brim of his steel helmet, and its sequel when his company captured 300 Germans.

"It was an easy piece of cake," said the nonagenarian who is an Honorary Canon of St Edmundsbury and a former Rural Dean of Hingham in Norfolk from 1961-1965.

He added: "We captured the Germans at Gommecourt two nights after the affair at Courcelles le Compte. We suffered very few casualties ourselves. I later commanded the 2nd Battalion, the Suffolk Regiment, in the last battle it fought during the First World War at Selle on October 23, 1918. Unknown to me then, my cousin from New Zealand, Philip Lummis, from Christchurch, was fighting with the New Zealand Division to the right of us."

Awaiting a new ribbon for his venerable typewriter, Canon Lummis is already on his third book about one Corporal Christian Schiess, the only Swiss to win a VC. His medal is in the National Army Museum. ■

A Charge veteran's grave — see p18

**Story: Graham Smith
Picture: Les Wiggs**



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If you like messing about with boats and can get your hands on one not less than 20ft long and capable of a minimum 25 knots, you could be on to winning the 1,500-mile, ten-day round Britain offshore powerboat race.

To encourage entries from the Services, the organisers are offering a special prize for the first all-Army, or combined Services boat over the line in the 100-boat race.

Civilians can be part of the crew, but the boat must have a majority of servicemen or women crewing to qualify for the special category.

In addition to a boat you also need £500 for the entry fee which must reach the secretary — Mrs E. G. Ireland, 57 Glycena Road, London SW11 5TP (telephone: 01-223 8100), not later than May 14.

But don't let the thought of raising £500 sink you, for there are scores of prizes up to £20,000 cash.

The race starts at Portsmouth on July 14 and finishes there on July 24 after circumnavigating Britain, via the Caledonian Canal, in a clockwise direction.

More information from the secretary.

Presenter Llew Gardener, left, with Sapper Colin Harris.

SCOTS-BORN SAPPER Colin Harris is never at a loss for words or turn of phrase, according to his Army colleagues. So much so that he is taking part in a 12-week TV South current affairs series of studio discussions called "Back Chat" as one of a 30-strong audience, writes **Graham Smith**.

Colin, 26, is serving in the Engineering Cell with 1 Infantry Brigade at Tidworth.

Some of the controversial subjects upon which he has hurled questions at guest celebrities have been on hunting, privatisation of industry and religion.

His wife, Sue, sits up and watches him live — his two baby sons, Jens, 4 and Kyle, 2, preferring to see him later on the video. But Colin tries not to watch himself on the video of the show which is beamed each Thursday between 10.30 and 11 p.m.

He jokes: "I can't stand to see myself on the television. I either switch off the video or watch it bolstered by a couple of Scotches."

The Tidworth-based sapper — nine years in the Army — said he was one of 400 applicants to take part in an audition for the weekly, querulous spot on the show.

"I like to keep up with current

SOLDIER to Soldier

affairs," said Colin, from Glasgow adding, with a canny grin, "and read the papers every day."

NATO's STRATEGY of flexible response is a weakness and is no longer credible. The West's object should be peace not just through disarmament but through a deliberate advance towards world order based on clearer guidelines for East-West conduct.

So says a report by the nine-man British Atlantic Committee which includes three generals and a brigadier.

The report examines weapons developments to the end of this century and analyses their implications in terms of defence, deterrence, arms control and cost.

It is the first time such a comprehensive study of the problem has been ever made in Britain, inside or outside the Government.

The report says: "Technology can help to provide a non-nuclear and thus far more credible defence, if wisely deployed. It can thereby remove the need for the enormous quantity of nuclear warheads on each side, which in terms of deterrence, are counterproductive. The change should be made openly and discussed with the Soviet Union. It should be accompanied by clearly understood rules of East-West co-existence. This will have the desirable effect of raising the nuclear threshold."

It will not remove the need for a nuclear capability, nor the option for First Use; but it will remove the *raison d'être* for each side slavishly to emulate the other and the present senseless obsession about the other side having a 'monopoly' of some species of weapon."

On the committee are General Sir Hugh Beach, General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, Brigadier Kenneth Hunt (vice-chairman) and Major-General Christopher Popham.

DESCRIBE a pre-1939-45 war or wartime shoulder flash and it's a safe bet that at least one of the 200 members of The Military Heraldry Society has an original example.

Formed in 1951 so that collectors of cloth signs and flashes could exchange ideas and items, the Society is now looking for new members to widen its scope.

With a world-wide membership — about half are overseas — they even have some in Argentina, "but we haven't heard from them lately," said Lieutenant Commander W. M. Thornton of the Royal Naval Reserve and the publicity officer for the Society.

With three meetings a year, including an annual meeting at the Imperial War Museum, members also get quarterly newsletters for an annual subscription of only £3 or the equivalent in local currency for those members abroad.

While the armies of the world are their main interest, Society members also collect and swap shoulder titles, regimental and unit flashes of the navies, air forces, marines — in fact anything military — and even those sported by police forces.

For those interested in insignia who would like to know more of the Society, write to: Lieutenant Commander W. M. Thornton, RNR, 37 Wolsey Close, Southall, Middlesex.

THE National Army Museum competition 'Design an Army stamp' which closed on 15 January, was organised to complement the Post Office's temporary exhibition, The British Army on Stamps. It proved popular with children who visited the museum during the Christmas holidays, and among the entrants were several overseas visitors to London.

Book tokens were being sent to the following:

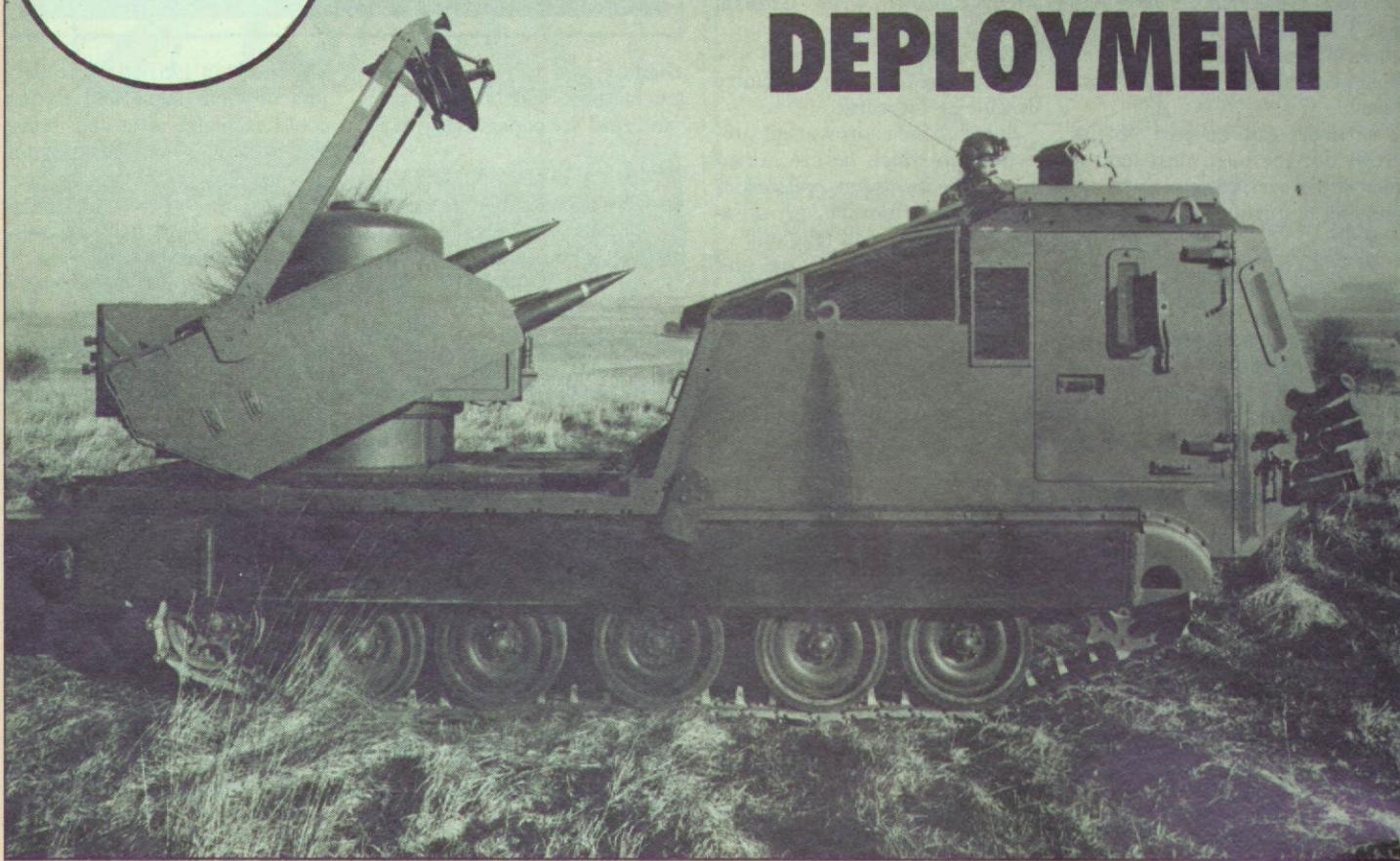
14 years and over: T.D.S. Nanson aged 17, from Wimbledon.

10 to 13 years: O.C. Bradbury aged 11, from Chelsea; Charlotte James aged 11, from Brisbane, Australia; James Grueon aged 11, from Bedford.

9 years and under: Rachel James aged 7, from Brisbane, Australia; Horace Williams aged 9, from Putney; Bobby Brown aged 9, from London, SW1; Jessica Grueon aged 9, from Bedford.

THE NEW LOOK

TRACKED RAPIER NEARING DEPLOYMENT



LOW LEVEL air defence protection for 1 (BR) Corps armoured formations will be significantly improved and increased with the imminent introduction into operational service of Tracked Rapier as a dozen vehicles are deployed with 11 (Sphinx) Battery, 22 Air Defence Regiment, RA, in Dortmund.

In all, the Army has ordered 62 of the 13-ton air defence systems totting twin four-missile armoured elevating bins which can be ready for action within 30 seconds of the vehicle coming to a halt.

Hand-over of the first Tracked Rapier by the British Aerospace Dynamics Group was made to the Army in London in January of last year and, since June, three more examples of the type have been used for cadre training at the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill.

Eventually, 22 Air Defence Regiment will have two Batteries of Tracked Rapier in addition to two Batteries of towed Rapier.

The equipping of that Regiment and sister unit, 12 Air Defence Regiment, RA, is expected to be completed by the end of next year when both three-Battery formations will become four-Battery Regiments.

Lt-Col Frank Plester, IG Co-Ord at the Royal School of Artillery's Guided Weapons Wing told me: "We got three Tracked Rapier last June and from October until December we ran the first conversion courses for selected personnel from Sphinx

Story:
Graham Smith
Pictures:
Paul Haley

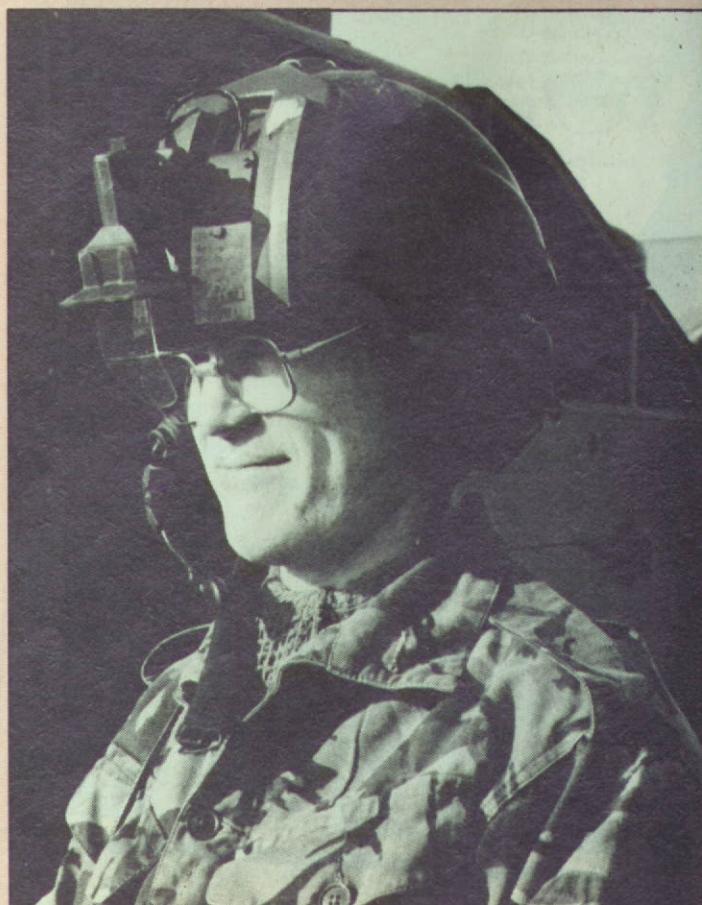
Battery.—30 specialist personnel trained over the space of nine weeks. The next course we shall be running is for those of 12 Regiment.

He added: "With its increased mobility, its added protection to armour in the field and, above all, its 30 seconds into action time, air defence in 1 (BR) Corps should be improved significantly in the next five to ten years.

It has proved to be a very popular piece of kit with the soldiers using it here and we are very keen on it.

"Tracked Rapier was brought into service very quickly compared with some other weapons systems and it is our good for-

The new aiming helmet. ▼



tune. We envisage a Mark Two by 1989 as it is capable of being developed."

As SOLDIER went to press it was scheduled that Rapier would have had its first firings with the Guided Weapons Wing up in the Hebrides.

Certainly, the latest innovation in battlefield air defence will be taking part in this autumn's BAOR Exercise Lionheart.

Its deployment to Dortmund will increase the protection on the ground by another 24 fire units.

Each Tracked Rapier is manned by a three-man crew — the commander, his driver on the left and the tracker operator on his right. All three are accommodated in an armoured cab.

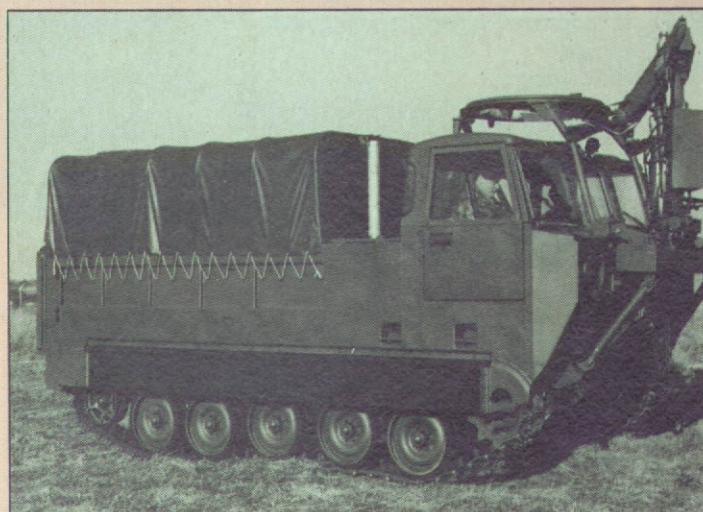
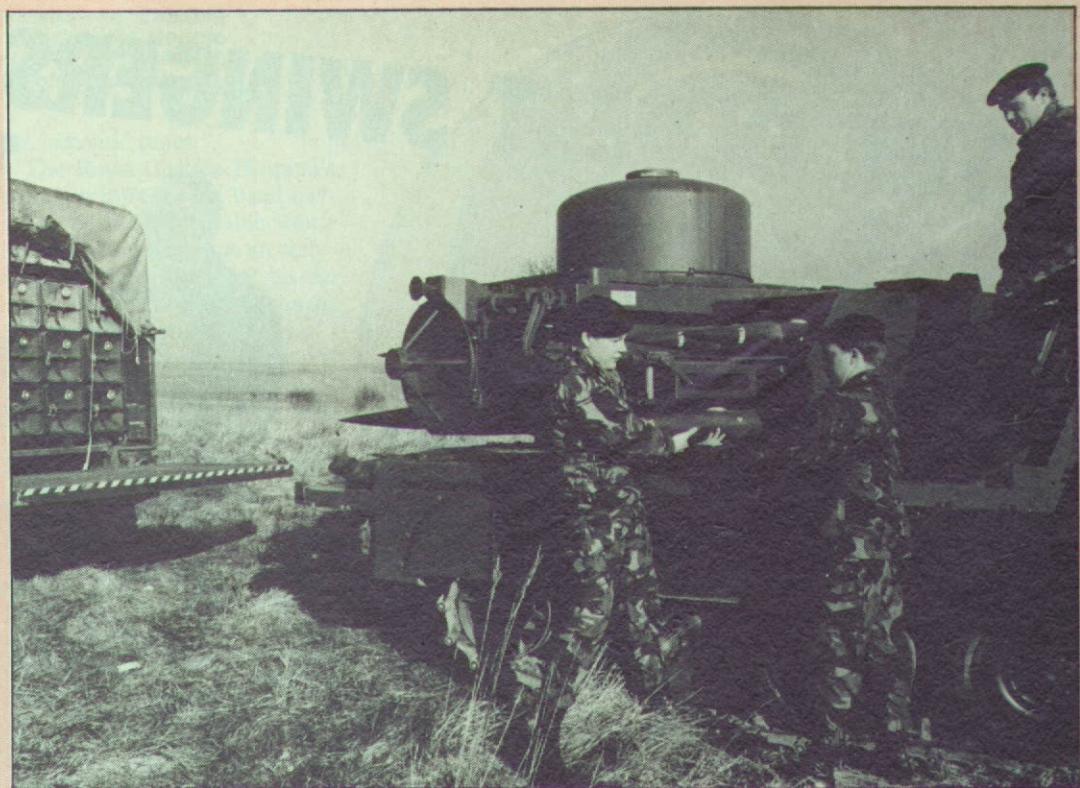
The launcher turntable can be fully rotated through 360 degrees in azimuth. In the centre of the installation at the rear of the crew cabin and amid the missiles themselves is a cylindrical radome housing the surveillance radar antenna.

The Launcher Vehicle itself is the armoured version of the M548 Cargo Carrier from the M113 family of vehicles.

Complementing the Tracked Rapier launch vehicle with its octet of seven-foot-four-inch missiles is a support vehicle — also tracked — with capacity to carry 20 missiles in their travelling boxes and crewed by two men. A second vehicle — FAST — the Forward Area Support Team — manned by two technicians provides First Line maintenance support. The combined crews of both the Launch Vehicle and Support Vehicle can re-load eight missiles in under five minutes.

The Launcher Vehicle carries Built-in Test Equipment (BITE) which can be used by the crew to give a check of the operational status of the equipment. The crew only have to leave the vehicle to re-load the missiles and

The vehicle family line-up, left to right: Ammunition Carrier, Launcher, FAST.



each fire unit is extremely flexible. It can move, deploy, engage, move and re-deploy continuously even in the most fluid of battle situations.

The average time from alarm to missile launch is between six to eight seconds. Tracked Rapier's gathering and guidance system is specially designed to

give a very short minimum range.

This and the system's fast automatic reaction time means that targets which appear from behind cover close to the weapon system can be destroyed at point blank range.

British Aerospace Dynamics say that their system retains the

Above: loading missiles from back-up vehicle. Below: Forward Area Support Team vehicle, neatly covered.

high single-shot kill probability of more than 70 per cent against modern ground attack aircraft.

They say the impact fuses ensure even heavily armoured aircraft and helicopters are destroyed before they can release their weapons. ■

Specifications:

Length: 6.4m
Width: 2.8m
Height:
(Operational): 2.77m Launcher
(For Airlift): 2.5m
Gross Weight: 14,010 kg
Crew: Three (Launcher)
Max speed:
(Land) 48 km/hr
(Water) 5 km/hr
Fuel capacity: 396 litres
Trench crossing: 1.68m
Turning radius: 4.3m
Cruising range: More than 300 km
Operational temps: -30 Cent to 52 Cent



THE OLDEST SWINGERS IN TOWN?



AND THEY SHALL HAVE MUSIC . . .

IN THE strict-tempo musical sense of the word they could, one supposes, all be dubbed the oldest and perhaps, most exclusive, ensemble of syncopated swingers in town — London Town, that is.

For this particular "magnificent seven" of the mini quaver and crochet virtuosity are leisure time musicians whose ages totted together come to 501 years and whose talents are drawn from the venerable denizens of the Royal Chelsea Hospital not far from the voguish Sloane Square set.

The band with its average age of 71.6 years gets together for two-hour practice sessions and in-house performances as just another of the activities on offer for the enjoyment of the 400 resident Chelsea Pensioners, the oldest, a sprightly 100 years old.

Under the direction of ex-Royal Welsh Fusiliers Bandmaster — now Office Keeper — Brian Hughes, 44, the swing-time septet boast a repertoire of some two dozen tunes and are adding to it all the time.

Brian Hughes has a clarinet 'break' and Ivor Merrick's trumpet gets a rest



But the band's very existence and its favourites — from *Ramona* to the *Twelfth Street Rag* — is all down to the initiative and keenness of a woman among the male bastions, their welfare offic-

**Story:
Graham
Smith
Pictures: Paul
Haley**

er and member of the Royal British Red Cross Society, Miss Patricia Wilson.

She told me: "I love music — my voice is trained, you know — and I thought it would be a good idea to form a band at the Hospital. Confident there must be some former musicians here I went round the various wards

A big noise blowing in from Winetka — or Chelsea! — with the aid of (left to right, back) George Mursell, Harry Holland, Fred Evans. Front: Cyril Spencer, Alfie Knox, Brian Hughes, Ivor Merrick and Frankie O'Reilly.

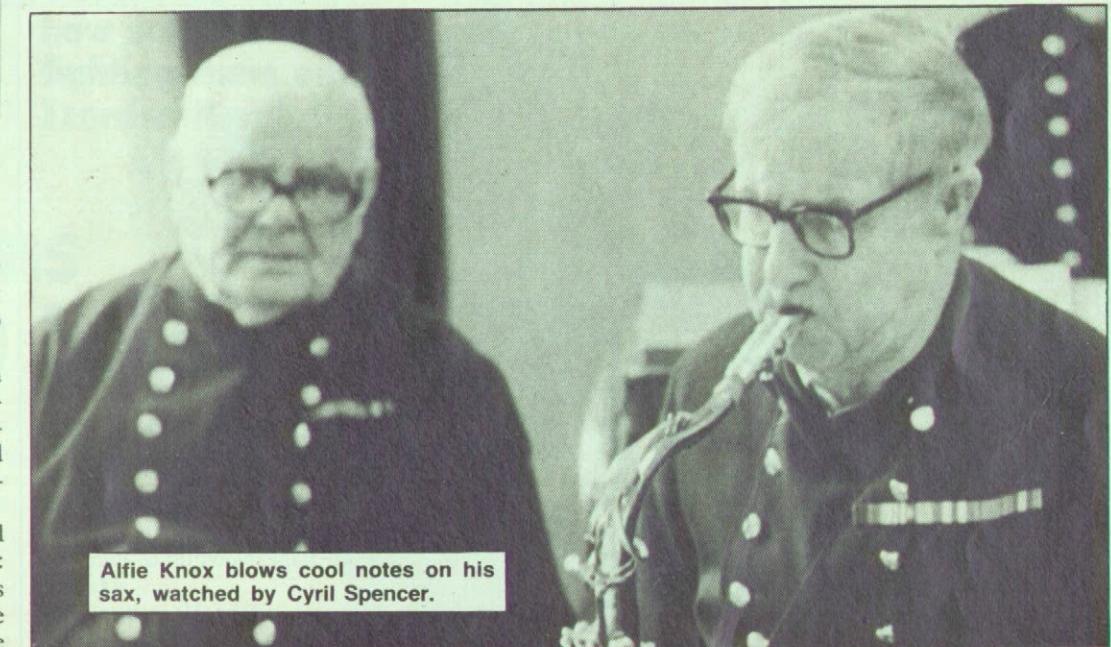
old romantic tunes."

The Royal Chelsea Hospital's administrators see the band having a "therapeutic" value which has been constituted as an activity to give entertainment by the musicians for the sole enjoyment of the resident in-pensioners.

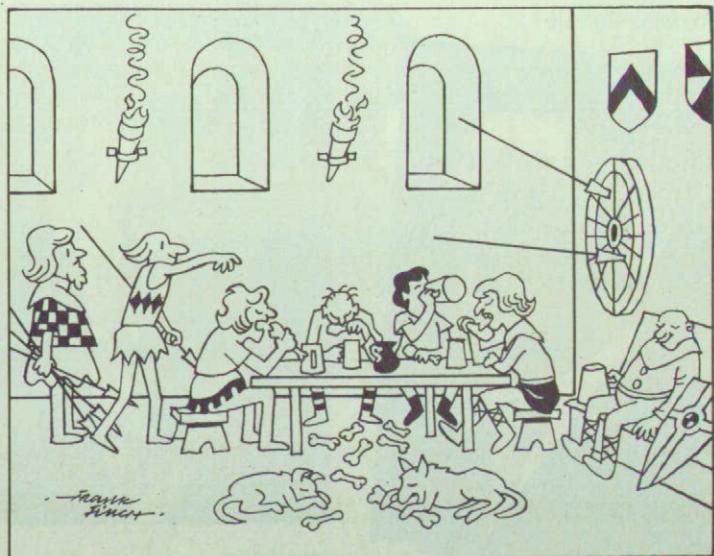
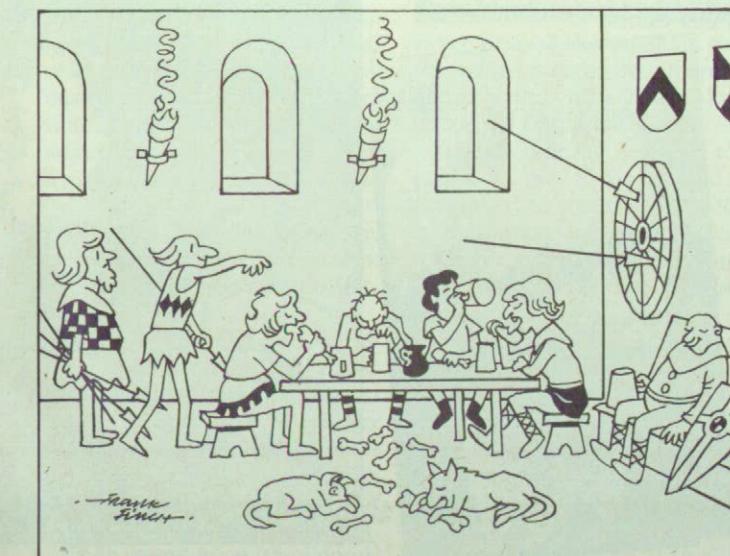
Oldest musician in the group is Frankie O'Reilly, 78, formerly of The Royal Pioneer Corps who plays banjo; the youngest, Alfie Knox, 62, ex-Corps of Royal Signals and late RASC who plays tenor saxophone.

Completing the line-up are George Mursell, piano, ex-Royal Army Dental Corps; Harry Holland, drums, ex-West Yorkshire Regiment; Fred Evans, string bass, ex-Suffolk Regiment; Cyril Spencer, tambourine, ex-Essex Regiment; and Ivor Merrick, trumpet, ex-Gloucestershire Regiment.

Miss Patricia Wilson . . . her initiative sparked the music



Alfie Knox blows cool notes on his sax, watched by Cyril Spencer.



Charge Veteran's Grave Will Not Fade Away . . .

WHEN Sergeant Major Robert Johnston died some 25,000 mourners watched the cortege pass through the streets of the Yorkshire spa town of Harrogate on its way to the local cemetery. For Johnston, only 49 at his death, was one of the survivors of the Charge of the Light Brigade.

The funeral was in November 1882 and as the years went by the monument on his grave began to fade — as did interest in the old hero, but now, over a century later, a group of old soldiers from

Harrogate have begun a campaign to restore the stone.

About three years ago, Mr Peter Burrell, a local bus driver and one-time trooper in the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment, discovered the grave. He and his friends began to visit it regularly and leave flowers.

Someone else remembers . . . for every year around the anniversary of Johnston's death a pot of flowers mysteriously appears. "We have no idea who puts them there but obviously someone else is interested," Mr Burrell said.

The old soldiers, about ten in number, have managed to find out a few facts about the Charge hero. Sergeant Major Robert Johnston of the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars served throughout the Crimean War then went to India where he took part in a number of actions.

His big military funeral was held on 30 November 1882 at Harrogate, two days after he died in the local Cottage Hospital (now the Home Guard Club). The funeral cavalcade included a charger following the carriage.



To the memory of Sergeant Major Johnston . . . but note how the stone is suffering at the top.

The military presence included the Harrogate Volunteers, F Company Yorkshire Hussars and the 2nd Company West Yorkshire Yeomanry Cavalry.

Contemporary accounts record that the crowd had to be cleared from the cemetery before the burial could proceed. The black charger was led to the grave and the 18 man firing party fired a salute.

To reface the stone would probably cost about £1,000, but the old sweeps of Harrogate are determined the work will be done.

Declared Peter Burrell's brother, Thomas, an ex-Gunner: "The graves have to be looked after. The charge is part of our heritage and if the grave is left as it is it won't be long before the writing starts to disappear."

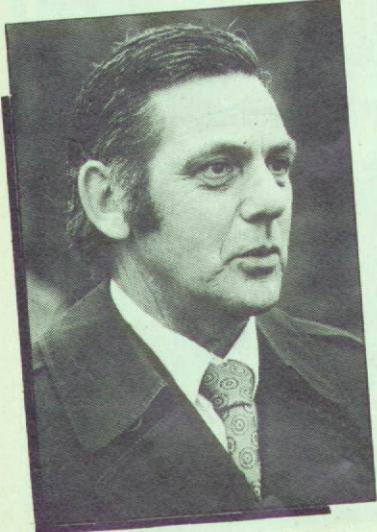
That lettering includes Alfred Lord Tennyson's famous words:

*"When can their glory fade?
Oh the wild charge they made!
All the world wonder'd.
Honour the charge they made!
Honour the Light Brigade, Noble
Six Hundred!"*



Story: John Walton Pictures: Doug Pratt

Thomas Burrell.



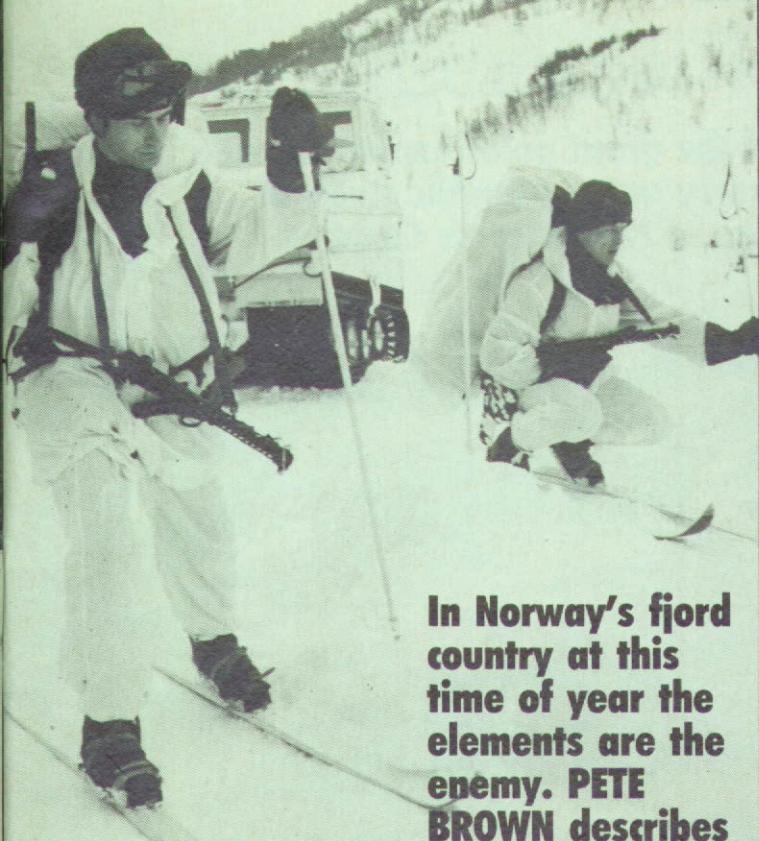
Peter Burrell.



John Leng.



Who else leaves flowers?



In Norway's fjord country at this time of year the elements are the enemy. PETE BROWN describes how soldiers are fighting them on Exercise Hardfall

Training in the mountains — at 30 below

On ice covered mountains and in show filled valleys of Norway's fjord country, 1800 men of the British contingent of the Allied Command Europe (ACE) Mobile Force, are brushing up their arctic warfare and survival techniques on Exercise 'Hardfall' before being deployed inside the Arctic Circle where they will take part in an exercise with troops of the other member nations of this elite multi-national force.

The men of the British contingent serve from three to four years with the force and are normally based with their units at Bulford in Wiltshire. The British infantry battalion currently serving with the force is the 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment, which took over the role in the middle of last year and is now taking part in its first Arctic exercise.

Every member of the British contingent is trained in Arctic warfare and survival and, working to the principle of 'soldier first, tradesman second', aircraft mechanics, clerks, cooks, drivers, and storemen all carry out ski patrols and survival training.

Each member of the contin-

gent is well equipped to cope with Arctic conditions, being issued with up to 60 items of specialised clothing and equipment, from white camouflage coveralls to ski boots, snow shoes and skis.

Exercise 'Hardfall' is aptly named. Sudden snowstorms

**Pictures by
David Morris**

sweep through the mountain passes and the mercury in a thermometer drops to a malevolent minus 30° centigrade.

In such conditions it is all too easy to fall prey to the cold and to avoid this the men use the buddy system, each one checking his colleague for the tell tale signs which indicate the onset of frostbite.

Ski patrols stay in the mountains for three to four days and nights. For shelter they use either two man tents or dig snow holes in which the heat given off by a single candle is sufficient to enable three or four men to survive the Arctic night in their sleeping bags.



For the deployment of troops and as an aid to communications and observation the contingent is equipped with Royal Air Force Puma helicopters and Army Air Corps Gazelles with the pilots trained to fly in Arctic conditions where a sudden snow storm can erase all points of ground reference in deadly 'white-out' conditions.

The mechanics who service the 'choppers' parked out on the snow and ice have their own problems too, when in these sub-zero temperatures the skin of a carelessly ungloved hand can stick to freezing metal.

For everyone the training is arduous and sometimes uncomfortable but the ski patrols move out from their bases unperturbed by the knowledge that their night accommodation will probably be a hole in the snow and their only après ski a flask of hot coffee. ■

The gunner and commander of a 'Scimitar' reconnaissance vehicle of 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment. Below: The BV 206 'Hagglund' oversnow vehicle is now undergoing user trials with British troops in Norway.



Paras of the 1st Battalion are hell-landed high in the Norwegian mountains for survival training.

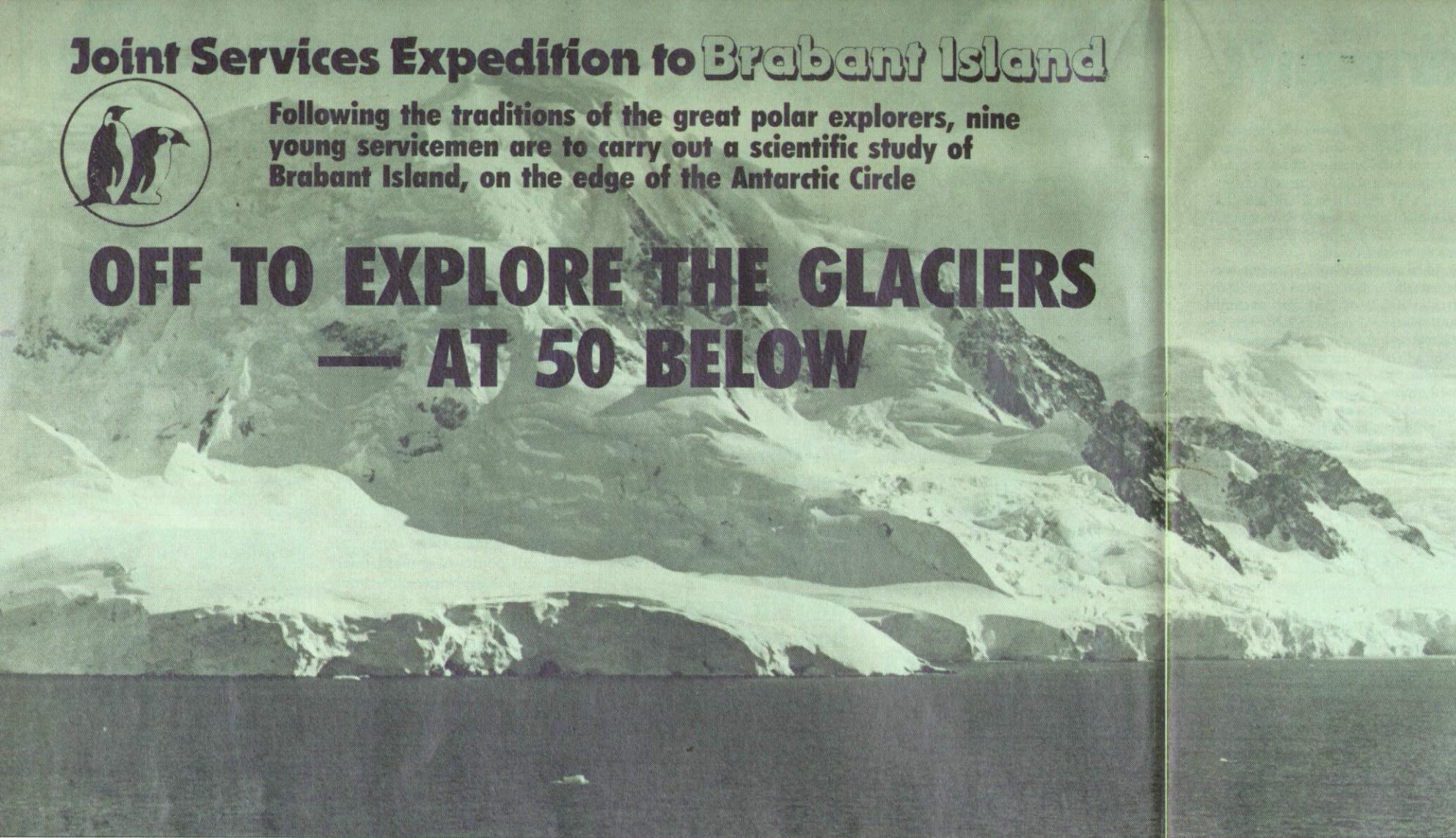


Joint Services Expedition to Brabant Island



Following the traditions of the great polar explorers, nine young servicemen are to carry out a scientific study of Brabant Island, on the edge of the Antarctic Circle

OFF TO EXPLORE THE GLACIERS — AT 50 BELOW



Story: John Margetts
Pictures: Doug Pratt

HEADING SOUTH for the Antarctic on the good ship Fort Austin, a Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel, are seven young servicemen with adventure in mind.

Four are soldiers, the others a Royal Marine, a sailor, an RAF man and also two civilians.

They are heading for Brabant Island, a 40-mile long ice-covered rock on the edge of the Antarctic Circle.

And they will stay there till next December when they will be taken off — if they are lucky — by the Royal Navy's survey ship, HMS Endurance.

Said the team's doctor, Surgeon Lieutenant Howard Oakley: "If anyone falls seriously ill we could have a problem. "Although I'm well equipped with medical supplies, I wouldn't attempt any surgery unless it was absolutely vital.

"If somebody went down with appendicitis I would use other methods of treatment because of

Relaxation time for the summer party, already there on Brabant Island, as they wave away a visiting RN helicopter. But there will be no visitors at all for the winter group; they will be completely alone.

the extreme temperature.

"We'll be living in two-man tents and snow holes so it will be almost impossible to confine a man to bed for any length of time because of hypothermia.

"Since we'll be living and working in temperatures down to 50 degrees below freezing, keeping mobile will be a 'must'."

Harsh is not the word to describe the conditions to which they will be exposed over the next nine months throughout the Antarctic winter.

The place is so inhospitable that only three one-day landings have been recorded since a Belgian Antarctic expedition in 1898.

"It's going to be a tough time," said Corporal John Spottiswood, 25, of 35 Royal Engineer Regiment, based in BAOR. "We'll have no heating, except from our cooking stoves and very little daylight in which to carry out our work."

Unmarried, John's role in this "old-fashioned" expedition is the study of seals and whales.

For 28-year-old REME Sergeant Peter Stuttard of 3 Army Air Corps Flight at Topcliffe, Yorks, the time — apart from the everyday problem of survival in such a hostile environ-

ment — will be the study of the island's plant life and the psychology of the team. Captain Nick Evans, too, 32 and single of the Prince of Wales' Own Regiment of Yorkshire, will be carrying out surveys of the island and its glaciers. And for Lance Corporal Jim Lumsden, 26, and the only married man of the Army quartet — he got married a week before sailing from Portland — meteorology will take most of his time. "When we're not working we'll be either eating, sleeping, writing reports or reading," said John Spottiswood. "Or listening to music," cut in Jim Lumsden. "We've all bought ourselves pocket-size tape players with tiny headsets. We're just hoping the batteries last out," he added.

While this nine-strong team will be the first to spend a whole Antarctic winter in tents, they will be joining a ten-man "summer party" already on the island. Led by Commander Chris Furze, RN, a 48-year-old engineer officer and polar veteran, he and nine others landed just before Christmas.

But while seven of his "summer team" will change places with Howard Oakley's lads, Chris and two others will stay on throughout the winter to complete 12 months on the bleak snow-covered island. An "old-fashioned" expedition in every sense, they will be following the traditions of the great polar explorers and treading where no

man has trod before.

While that in itself is exciting, their real aim is to make the first scientific exploration of Brabant Island to describe the island's rocks and landforms and what grows and lives there. But as they are well aware, with the adventure and the science goes extreme danger.

"Our main dangers are crevasses, avalanches and injury, but we're all well-trained in survival techniques and most are fairly good climbers," said Howard Oakley. "But you can't go on adventure training without some element of danger. We will be making the first ascents of all the peaks on Brabant — some are more than 8,000ft — and the second summer party, the guys taking over when we finish in December, plan to circumnavigate the island in kayaks. If they manage that, it will be the most southerly canoeing yet undertaken." But all that is in the future. At present the team is steaming south for the Falklands where they will embark on En-

durance for Anvers Island — a neighbouring island slightly bigger than Brabant, where they will disembark for the last two legs of their 9,000-mile journey. Once there they will unload their 15 tons of stores and organise shuttle journeys by Skidoo and inflatable boats.

By the time the expedition ends in April 1985 they, and the two summer teams, will have travelled close on 2,500 miles ferrying themselves and stores across snow and water.

In the meantime they are sunning themselves on the decks of Fort Austin enjoying the ceremony of "Crossing the Line" — for most of them the first time — and acquiring tans to help withstand the bone-chilling cold and Force 12 winds.

"Anyway," said Howard Oakley, "even if we're stuck in the tents for the whole of the time, at least we'll come back well read. We've got more than 200 books to get through!"



Southern Skua.



The seven military men of the nine-strong winter party. Standing left to right: Corporal John Beattie, RAF; Sergeant John Kimbrey, Royal Marines; Surgeon Lieutenant Howard Oakley, RN; Captain Nick Evans, Prince of Wales' Own Regiment of Yorkshire. Front: Corporal John Spottiswood, 35 Royal Engineers; Lance Corporal Jim Lumsden, Queen's Lancashire Regiment; Sergeant Peter Stuttard, REME.



During January and February a number of exciting and challenging projects for youth landed on my desk. From Operation Raleigh to my annual quota of finding six places for 15 to 19 year olds to sail with the London Sail Training Project, a trip to America and teams to international and UK competitions, international exchange programmes to conference courses and training, all of which could be beneficial and involve our young people.

SADDENED

I am saddened that so many of these opportunities are missed. Grants from Government, Local Authority, Trusts and Charities remain untapped.

1985 is United Nations International Youth Year so we have just one year to prepare to do something constructive for next year.

Don't let us waste this unique opportunity to highlight IYY themes of Participation, Development and Peace.

ENCOURAGE

This year is devoted to young people. We must identify obstacles to participation and find ways of overcoming them, to encourage young people to join in programmes, leading to an enrichment of the quality of life in developed and, especially, developing nations.

As peace is a pre-requisite for life and the future of young people, it is necessary to educate young people for peace, and to encourage their potential for securing peace.

So the International Year will help all of us to discover new ways in which we can contribute to securing peace, whether between individuals, communities or nations.

Not all ideas cost money to implement but they do need willing helpers to enable us to make a significant contribution to IYY.

Do drop me a line — ideas are very welcome.

Anne Armstrong

I have a friend who is in a surplus married quarter which is going to be offered for sale in the future.

She has been told that they will be given another quarter, but will she get help with moving? — Mrs T., Colchester.

Yes, she will. As the Army is requesting the move she will be able to claim:
a. Furniture removal expenses in accordance with normal entitlement;
b) The lower supplement of disturbance allowance, irrespective of the family's length of service remaining at the duty station, and whether or not the basic rate of disturbance allowance was paid on first posting to that duty station.

Child supplements of disturbance allowance are not admissible, but where a change of school is necessary, individual cases may be submitted through normal staff channels to the Ministry of Defence. Your husband's Paymaster will have more information.

ASK ANNE

Please can you tell me if I am eligible for a grant from the UK in order to study as a part-time external student for a Masters degree (minimum four years) at a British university. The fees are £400pa plus the cost of books and travel to see a tutor three times a year (total £700pa).

I understand that as a dependant, I am not eligible for any grant from the Army. We lived in UK for one year recently, so should I apply to the Education Authority in that area, or to the Authority in my home area which provided my grant as an undergraduate ten years ago? — Mrs B, BFPO 106.

Contact the university, which has accepted you. Also write to: Dept of Education & Science, Grants & Awards Section, Elizabeth House, York Road, London, SE1 7PH. Apply to both education authorities in the two areas you mentioned and read. 'Fresh Start' published by the Equal Opportunities Commission, Overseas House, Quay St., Manchester.

READ ALL ABOUT IT

Even on holiday, illness and accidents can strike, resulting in huge medical bills. All this can be avoided if you take out adequate medical insurance and have got the DHSS guideline leaflets and the DHSS insurance. So do read the following, available from DHSS offices and BFPOs overseas: SA 30 1984 Medical costs abroad. What you need to know before you go. Application form CMI is attached. Complete it and you will receive your EIII.

SA 35 1984 Protect your Health Abroad.

SA 36 1983 How to get medical treatment in other European Community Countries. Do take this leaflet with you as it tells you what to do if you are ill or injured and need immediate medical attention while visiting another European Community country.

YTS for Germany

In recent years I have been extremely concerned about a forgotten group of British youth who were starting adult life well below the bottom rung of the employment ladder, as there was then no Youth Opportunities programme in Germany. Hence my idea to seek an extension of the UK

Germany.

For the first scheme I did manage to get a concession from Mr Jerry Wiggin for Cadets to apply but not for the unemployed teenagers in Germany. At that time I did ask that should future schemes be envisaged then our unemployed youth in Germany be considered.

Then the MOD YTS scheme was launched for 5000 places to be filled by the middle of 1984 with one million pounds of defence money to be earmarked for the scheme, so enabling 16 or 17 year old school leavers to join the scheme. For some this could mean a period of training to be spent in Germany.

In August 83 I wrote to the MOD and asked why this excellent opportunity was not available to those school leavers in Germany who there is even more need to help. With language barriers, and the difficulties of integrating into the German labour market, and no apprentice schemes for our young people, and to make it worse no supplementary benefit, every cut in LOA makes it much more difficult to provide for the teenage school leaver.

Perhaps the saying 'Following in Dad's Footsteps' was not true in 1983 but from my research it showed that a number of sons and daughters do still follow Dad into the forces, not necessarily into the same arm, but still into the forces. So surely this scheme could be of help to some of our young people.

After much research, numerous letters and phone calls I have now received a letter from DS 14 in the MOD, which says:

"You will be pleased to know that ASYTS is to be open to eligible Service dependants in Germany and arrangements have been put in hand to interview, test and medically examine applicants when the Services next send their recruiting teams to Germany. Arrangements have also been made to send advance publicity about the scheme. Successful applicants will return to the UK under similar arrangements as those for entrants to regular service."



Trainee Kevin Harmon receives instruction at RAF Rheindahlen.

scheme to Germany. With the help of Mr Geoffrey Holland, the then Director of the Special Programmes Division for the Manpower Services Commission, my initial work and research enabled the YOP to be exported to Germany in 1982 with its HQ at JHQ Rheindahlen.

From the initial 60 places and two co-ordinators it has grown into a scheme with 500 places and eleven co-ordinators, covering most of Germany and offering a wide variety of training.

The Germany scheme is moving towards the new Youth Training Scheme (YTS) so that those in Germany can also take part in the development of training young people in the transition from school to work, which now covers a one-year programme.

However, two more schemes for youth were initiated in UK, the free Adventure Training with the Services and the Armed Forces Youth Training scheme. Both these schemes were launched without consideration being given to our youth in



Nicola Sherman meets Sir Jock Taylor, British Ambassador in Bonn.

If you haven't got a penny . . .

Twenty million ha'pennies will do — that's the target of Help the Aged's Ha'pennies for Happiness appeal. The organisation hopes to collect that many of the tiny coins before they are finally withdrawn. With 2.5 billion of them currently in circulation, Help the Aged hopes that some of that £12,000,000 will be collected for their campaign.

The campaign was launched by such eminent people as Derek Nimmo, Michael Denison and Bill Pertwee, and by two pedalling pensioners beginning a UK tour on vintage penny-farthing bicycles.

To enable Service people in Germany to take part 2 pfennigs can be taken as roughly the equivalent, and these will be accepted in addition to halfpennies.

Help the Aged's Director, Col John Mayo, said that Abbey National Building Society has agreed to receive the coins for Help the Aged Ha'pennies for Happiness Appeal.

It is the only International Charity which helps the elderly worldwide. This appeal will help fund many urgent necessities, such as neighbourhood buses for lonely and housebound, wheelchairs, kitchen and

other needy equipment for day centres, to smaller items like hypothermia warning thermometers costing just 99 pence which could save an elderly person's life.

Overseas the money will be applied to medical and emergency services. Recently £1000 was given to help the elderly who are ill as a result of the recent troubles in the Lebanon.

The happiness that restoration of sight can bring! Just 1000 halfpennies can help save the sight of many suffering from cataract blindness in places like Somalia or India. It can help with desperately needed medical supplies for drought-stricken Ghana.

Service families in UK are well known for the help they give the elderly through the 'meals on wheels' service, Christmas parties, gifts and outings. So if we can help with the collection maybe our relatives and friends could benefit, for loneliness is a very real problem amongst the nine million pensioners in England alone.

If just 20 million of the 2.5 billion can be collected, a lot of elderly and lonely people will be helped in UK and overseas.

So look out for the Glenfiddich bottles and the Abbey National collecting centres.

More information from: Help the Aged, Ha'pennies for Happiness, St James Walk, London, EC1R 0BE. Telephone 01-253 0253.

Helping in amusing the elderly from a member of the Pipes and Drums of 16 Guards Depot.



Ha'pennies from penny farthings. Arthur Wright (68) being wished well on his vintage bicycle launching the 'Ha'pennies for Happiness' appeal by fellow vintage cyclist Tom Young, aged 74 (left)



During the past few months I have had a spate of letters highlighting the difficulties faced by wives who are employed by the British overseas. Many of the problems concern those employed as Locally Entered Civilians (LECs).

There are only two recognised categories of civilian employee in Crown Service abroad: United Kingdom Based Civilian (UKBC) or Locally Entered Civilian (LEC). There are two main groups of LEC employees in Germany, dependants and Directly Employed Labour (DEL); the latter are civilian employees of any nationality who reside in Germany and work on the German economy. Dependant employees, in common with all other LECs, have their pay and conditions of service determined in accordance with good employer practice in the country concerned. They do, of course, receive any statutory UK benefits to which they are entitled by virtue of paying ERNIC, rather than German social security benefits. In all other respects, however, practice in UK or treatment of UKBCs abroad is irrelevant so far as dependants are concerned. Their comparisons lie, in BFG, in the German economy and specifically with their fellow LECs.

MOD have written to me that UK legislation on redundancy payments does not apply to LECs in Germany. It is also HMG's policy not to apply any local rules regarding the payment of redundancy compensation to Dependant LECs.

PROBLEMS OF THE WORKING WIVES

"There is no statutory redundancy scheme in Germany. The Sending States, including of course the United Kingdom, have, however, concluded a Tariff Agreement, covering their DEL employees, which gives certain benefits in respect of job and income security.

"The agreement provides for payment of a redundancy gratuity of one quarter of monthly earnings for each year of service, subject to a maximum of five months' pay, to employees who are more than 40 years old and have at least 10 years service. This agreement was negotiated with the German Trade Unions and took into account good employer practice in the German economy as a whole. The qualifying criteria in the 'local rules' is 40 years of age and 10 years service, which illustrates that even if HMG policy had permitted application of 'local rules' on redundancy payments to dependant employees, it is unlikely that they would benefit to any significant extent.

"In this connection I take your point that long term employment of dependants with BFG is not entirely unknown. The fact is, however, that long term employment is very much the exception and the average period

of employment of individual dependants with BFG is less than 18 months."

Explaining the difficulty of assessing *Income Tax*, MOD say: "Dependants' rates of pay are derived from the CTA II rates for DEL employees and the only valid comparison is thus with DEL rates.

"Our aim is to ensure that the 'take home' pay of both groups of LEC employees (dependants and DEL) is roughly equivalent. Clearly there can never be more than approximate parity since the amount of income and other taxes paid by a DEL employee can vary considerably according to individual circumstances.

"This, in turn, makes direct comparison rather difficult. There is certainly no unfair discrimination against dependant employees in terms of 'take home' pay, particularly when it is borne in mind that dependants also enjoy the considerable benefits of BFG facilities which are not available to DEL employees."

Wives asked for an explanation as to the differences between *LECs and DELs Incremental scales*: "As explained above, dependant employees are LECs and their pay system is based on that for other LECs. It is in

no way related to the pay structure for the UK Civil Service. The grading system for dependants in BFG is identical to that for their DEL colleagues. Under this system they are categorised according to the type of employment.

"The main categories so far as dependants are concerned are 'A' (Wage earners), 'C' (Salaried employees), 'H' (Employees working in Catering Establishments, Messes, Hostels etc) and 'K' (Employees in Hospitals and other Medical Units). It was mentioned that the adult 'C' Grade Dependant pay scale had three incremental points. These give pay increases after one, two and four years service respectively. For 'K' Grade dependant employees there are two increments which come after one and three years respectively. For DEL there are seven increments but the maximum is not reached until 10½ years in the case of 'C' Tariff and 16 years in the case of 'K' Tariff employees. In this respect, therefore, the department's incremental scale has been adapted to suit their particular circumstances. As stated above the average period of service of a dependant employee with BFG is less than 18 months. By having a short incremental scale for them we can at least ensure that a substantial number have some prospect of reaching the maximum. Had we simply used the DEL incremental scale for dependants the vast majority would stand no chance of ever reaching the maximum."

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S3/84

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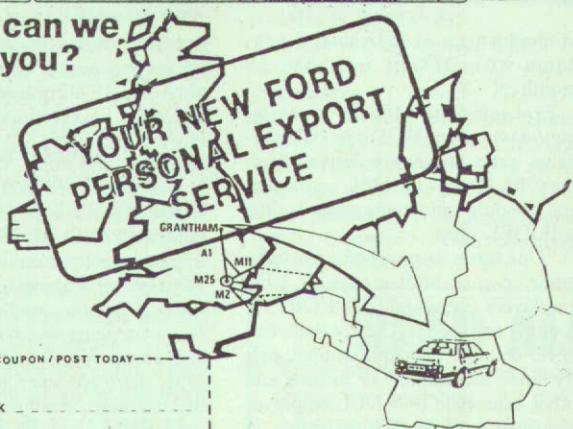
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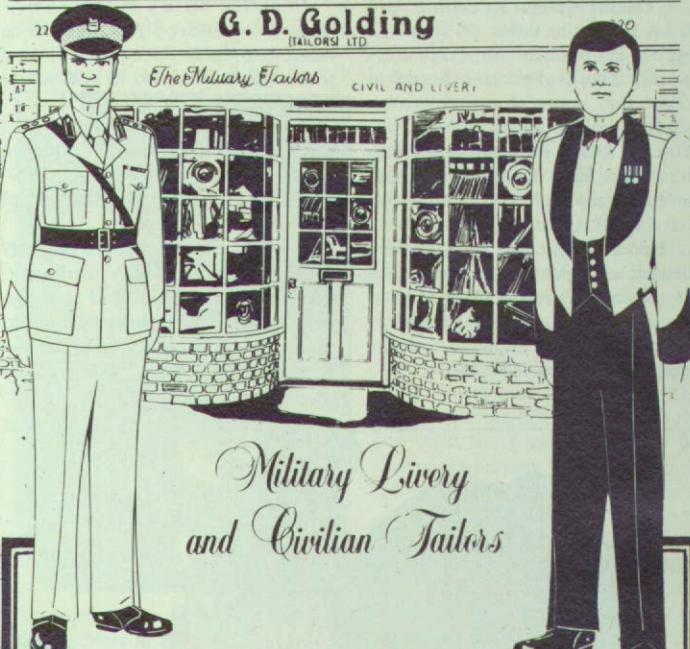
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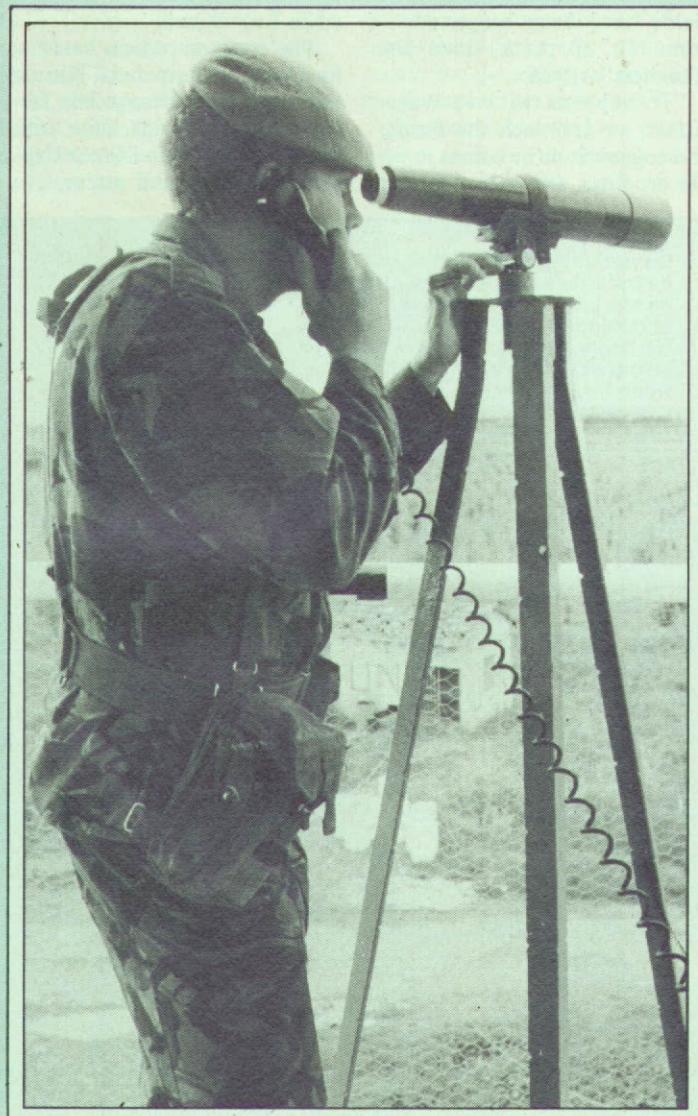
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CYPRUS: WHERE THE POACHERS . . .



TURN PEACE-KEEPERS



STRUNG OUT along 171 kilometres of the ceasefire line dividing Greek Cypriots from Turkish Cypriots the United Nations force maintains a watchful presence from observation posts set on anything from rocky peaks to water towers. It is 20 years since the UN first came to Cyprus and almost a decade since the Turks invaded and divided the island between the two communities.

Britain has always provided the biggest contingent of the 2500 strong UN force and currently supplies 760. During their six months tour of Cyprus most members of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment — 'The Poachers' — will serve 90 days on the truce line and earn their UN medals.

The sector which two rifle companies of Poachers patrol runs for 15 miles east of the old Nicosia International Airport — now a ghost building full of faded advertisements and with ten-year-old tickets and papers blowing through its draughty confines.

The Anglians have a troop of scout cars and a troop of sappers in support as they operate 16 observation posts — three of them during daylight hours only. It's not just a question of watching — the UN does try to see that the economic life of the divided island goes on as best it can.

Farmers whose fields are in the buffer zone have to be protected and public utilities have to be maintained. Electricity from power stations in the south serves the north and water from the north travels south. Thus the two communities have to rely on each

4-page Soldier Special
on 2nd Battalion The
Royal Anglian
Regiment and their
United Nations role.

Story: JOHN WALTON
Pictures: PAUL HALEY

other for natural resources — the UN provides protection for maintenance workers.

Captain Robert Edmondson-Jones is the sector humanitarian officer for the whole six months tour. He says: "In most people's eyes I'm a cross between a Wurzel and Dan Archer."

When the division took place in 1974 some people remained on the wrong side of the dividing line. There were a handful of old Greek Cypriots in the north plus Maronite Christian communities and in the south about 80 Turks stayed.

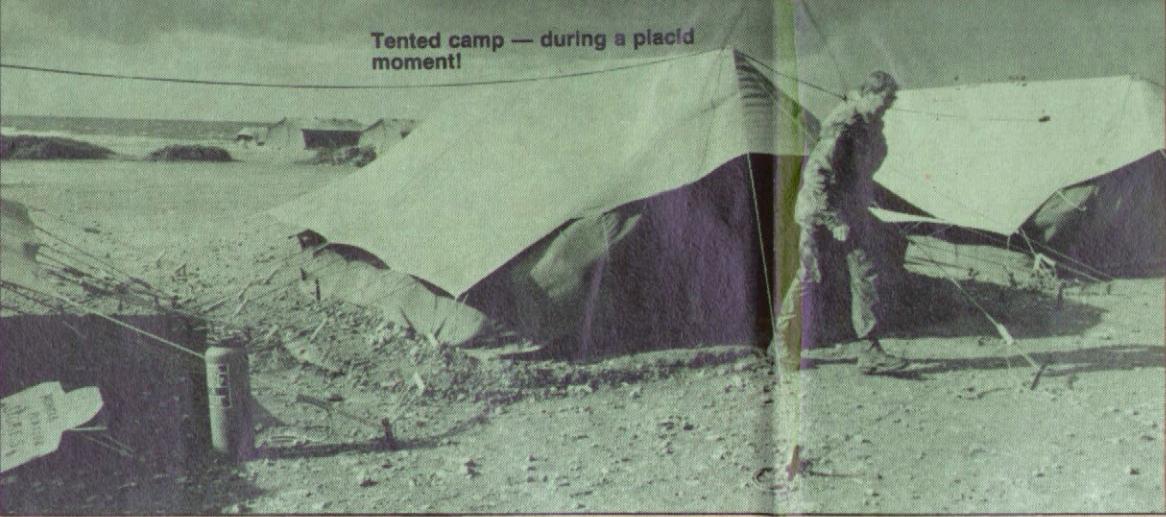
The humanitarian officer visits these people on both sides,

continued on page 26

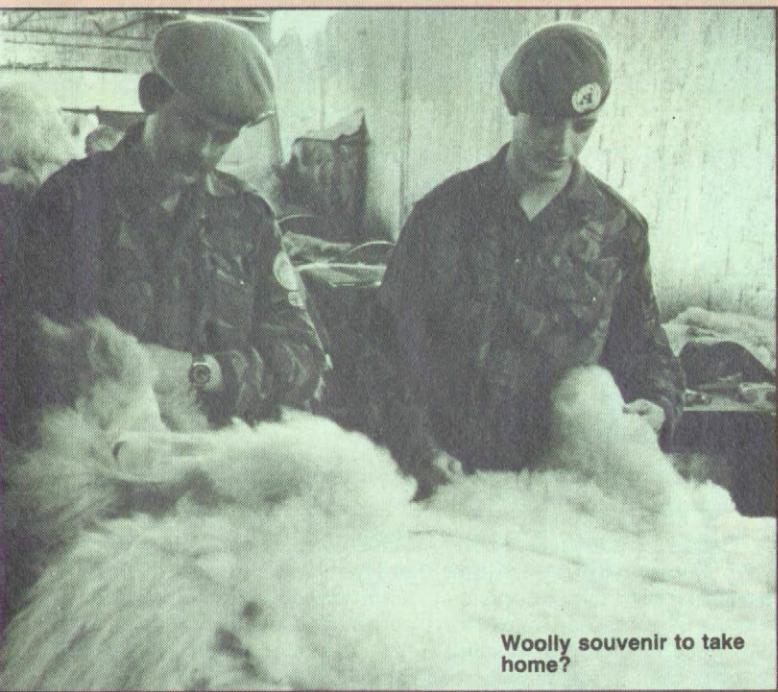
Look-out post on the peace-line.



Tented camp — during a placid moment!



The sign says it all...



Woolly souvenir to take home?

arranges transfers and family reunions, delivers mail and family and Red Cross parcels and tries to help people living in an unfriendly environment.

Recently he had to intercede with the Turkish authorities after a Maronite village found its water supply had been cut off without warning. When medical problems occur in the ageing population he arranges transfer to hospital in Nicosia.

On the farming front Captain Edmondson-Jones has already made a big impact — fields which have not been tended for a decade are now being farmed again. In the last few months 321 fields have been reopened — some 50 of them since the 'Poachers' arrived.

"It happens in two ways. Either we approach the farmer and suggest it or he comes to us. He produces an ownership case

to the head of the village who certifies it genuine. We then accompany him down to the field to add our seal of approval."

The Turks are prickly on security matters so the field has to be no threat to their security. The British sector also contains two villages and any new building here has to be within the existing village.

Captain Edmondson-Jones enthuses about his role: "It's the best job here because at the end of the day I actually achieve something. The only drawback is when some of the villagers bake cakes for me — sometimes I have to smile and think of England when I eat them!"

The two companies, based at St David's Camp near Nicosia and at a former orange box factory at Pano Zodia liaise with both the Turkish and Greek Cypriot authorities and attempt to

sort out any minor problems such as stray dog packs and straying farmers.

There are three Greek Cypriot villages in the section covered from the box factory and the buffer zone is set through a rich fertile plain. For the watching and patrolling soldiers there is much to see — and no real tension.

Said a company commander: "When they came here we had to tell them that it is not a tense situation like Northern Ireland and they carry their rifles on their shoulders when out on patrol."

Serving with the Poachers for their Cyprus tour are 18 TA members of the Anglians' 5th, 6th and 7th battalions. One of them, Private Richard Johnson from Cambridge was working as a 'hobby chef' in one of the posts

— a far cry from his job as a

digger driver in Cambridge. "They asked for volunteers and Cyprus appealed to me," he said as he tackled a mountain of potatoes.

In fact many of the soldiers have to try their hand at cooking — spreading out along the line in penny packets means there are just not enough chefs to go round.

Company Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer 2 Bill O'Driscoll, said there were no complaints about any of the Territorials: "They are really good and come with the correct attitude. I don't think there are any periods of boredom in this job because everything is interesting. It's information gathering and of course the possibility of protests keeps the lads on their toes."

At one observation post, known as B-47, the British sentries are just a few yards away

from their Turkish counterparts. They get on well together. Said Private Kenneth Fountain: "They always ask to exchange cigarettes — and they get the best of the bargain!"

Meanwhile the rest of the battalion is stationed at Dhekelia on the eastern sovereign base. But for the best training they go right to the western tip of the island — on the Akamas range.

On the seashore but with mountains nearby Akamas offers opportunities for live firing of all infantry weapons. Yet while Cyprus lives up to its reputation as a sunshine isle even in the winter — it can also be inhospitable.

An early morning gale saw the tent for officers and senior NCOs almost blown away while its occupants struggled to hold it down. Recalled Colour-Sergeant

continued on page 28

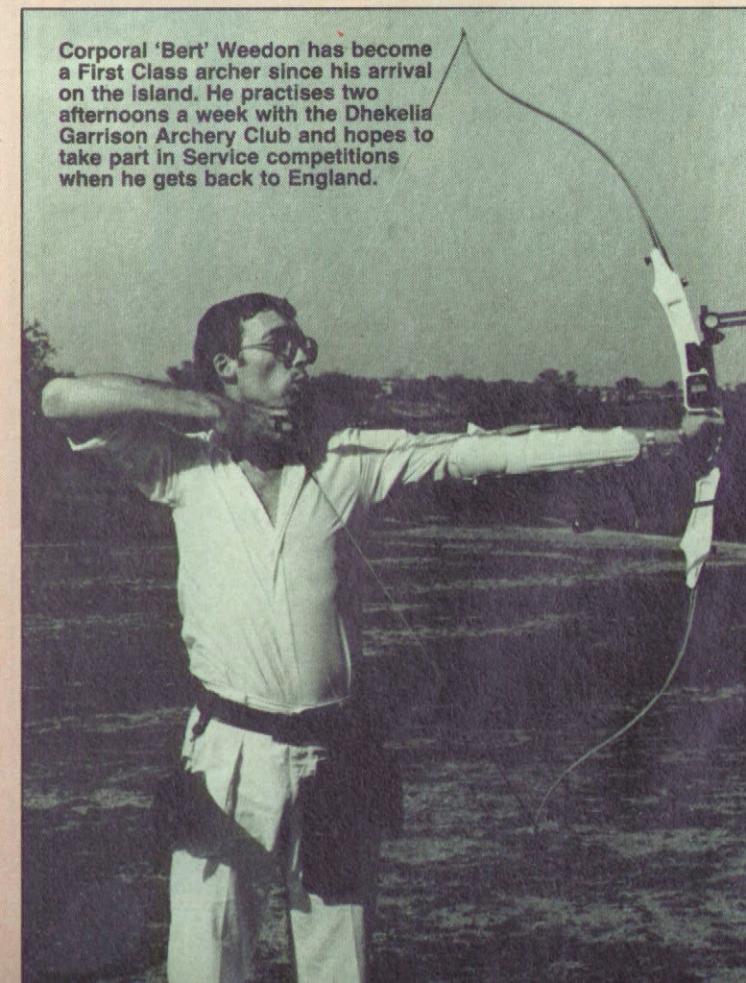


The Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Julian Browne.

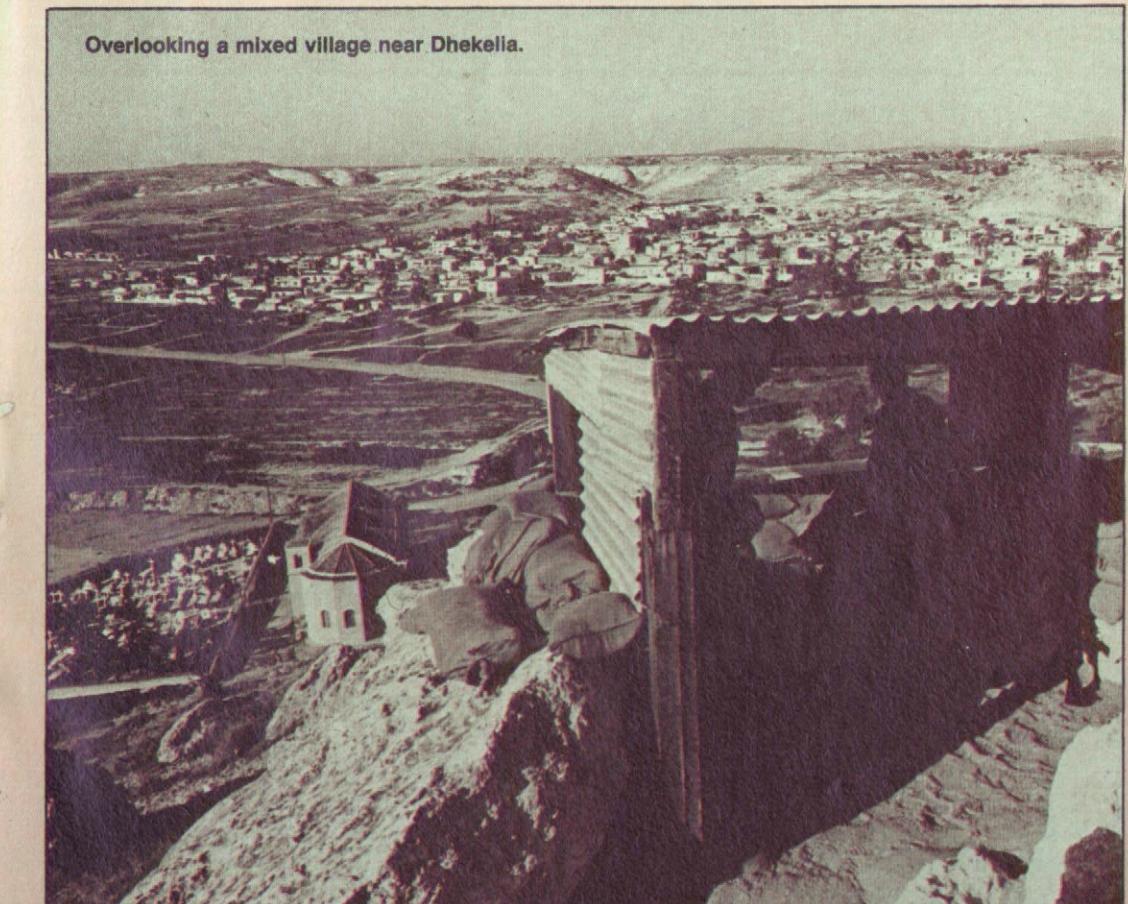
Infantry training goes on.



Solar panels provide hot water.



Corporal 'Bert' Weedon has become a First Class archer since his arrival on the island. He practises two afternoons a week with the Dhekelia Garrison Archery Club and hopes to take part in Service competitions when he gets back to England.





A familiar face to soldiers from 18 regiments who have served in the 'Box Factory' over the past nine years.

Mick Scott: "It was literally Gale Force Nine. There were five of us hanging onto the mess tent and a lieutenant was hanging about four feet from the ground in his underpants!"

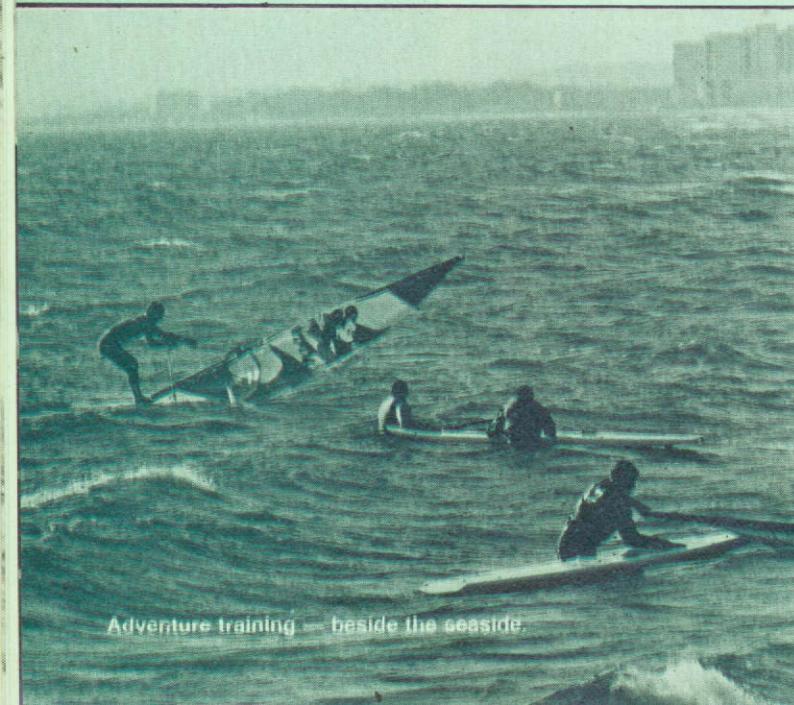
In Dhekelia there is more training as well as standby duties, patrolling the sovereign base perimeter and guarding 9 Signal Regiment. Each platoon is rotated through the various roles but there is still an opportunity to sample the island's unrivalled adventure training facilities including skiing, parachuting, gliding, rock climbing and water sports.

Adventure training officer, Captain Roger Antolik, actually taught 20 Poachers to water-ski before he even had a go himself! "I taught 20 of them after a fashion by reading it up in books. Then the CO said I had better have a run round myself. In fact I

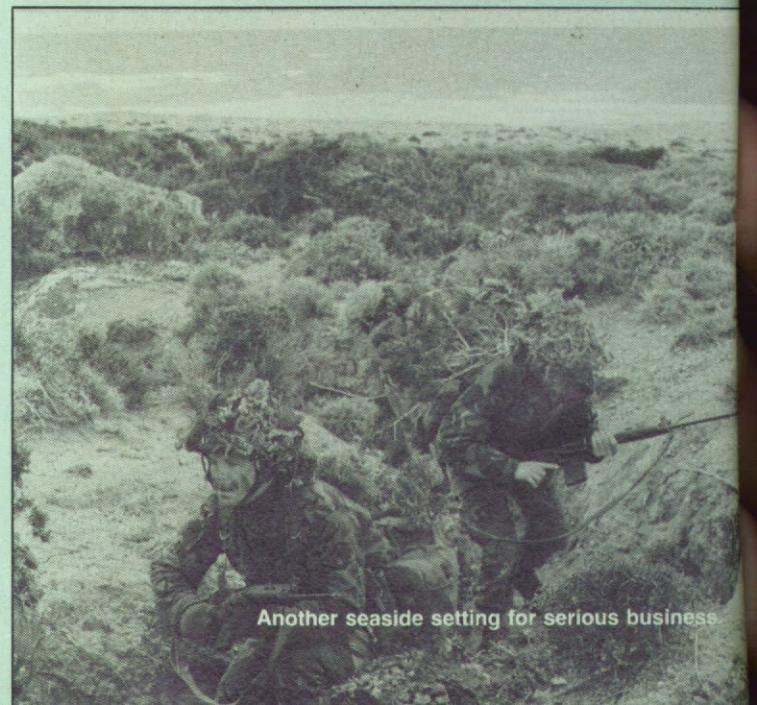


Captain Robert Edmondson-Jones discusses a problem with locals in Mammari.

Horse riding — and beginners all.

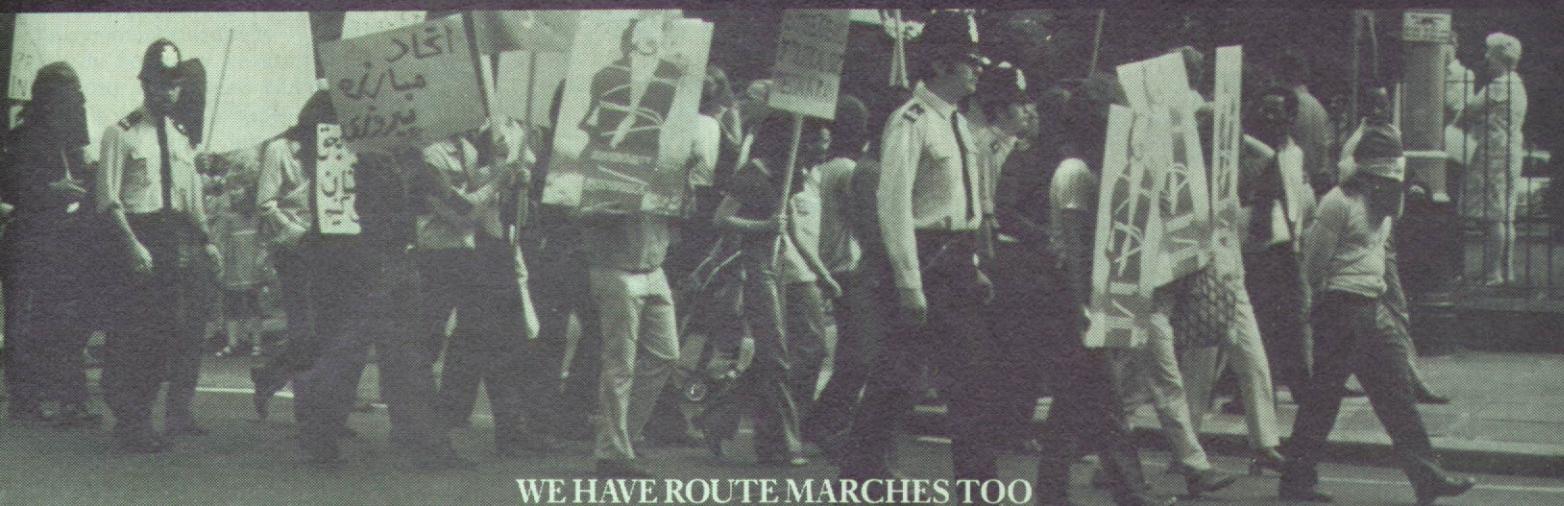


Adventure training — beside the seaside.

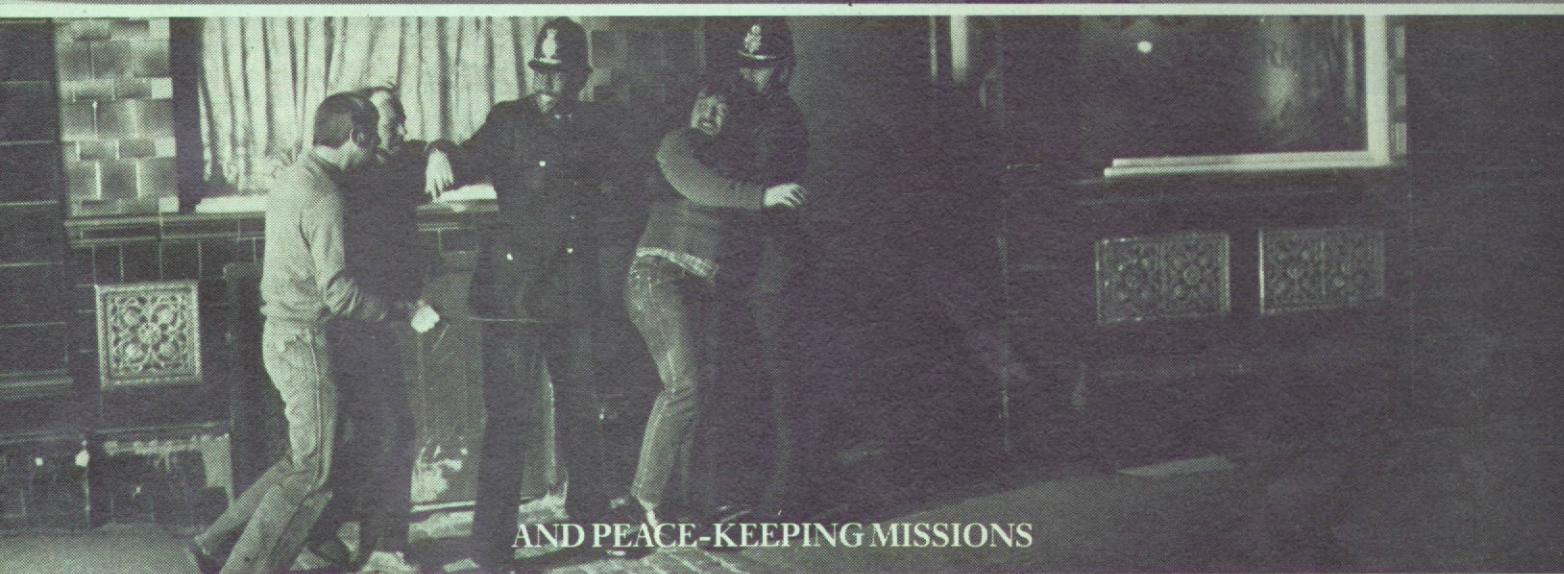


Another seaside setting for serious business

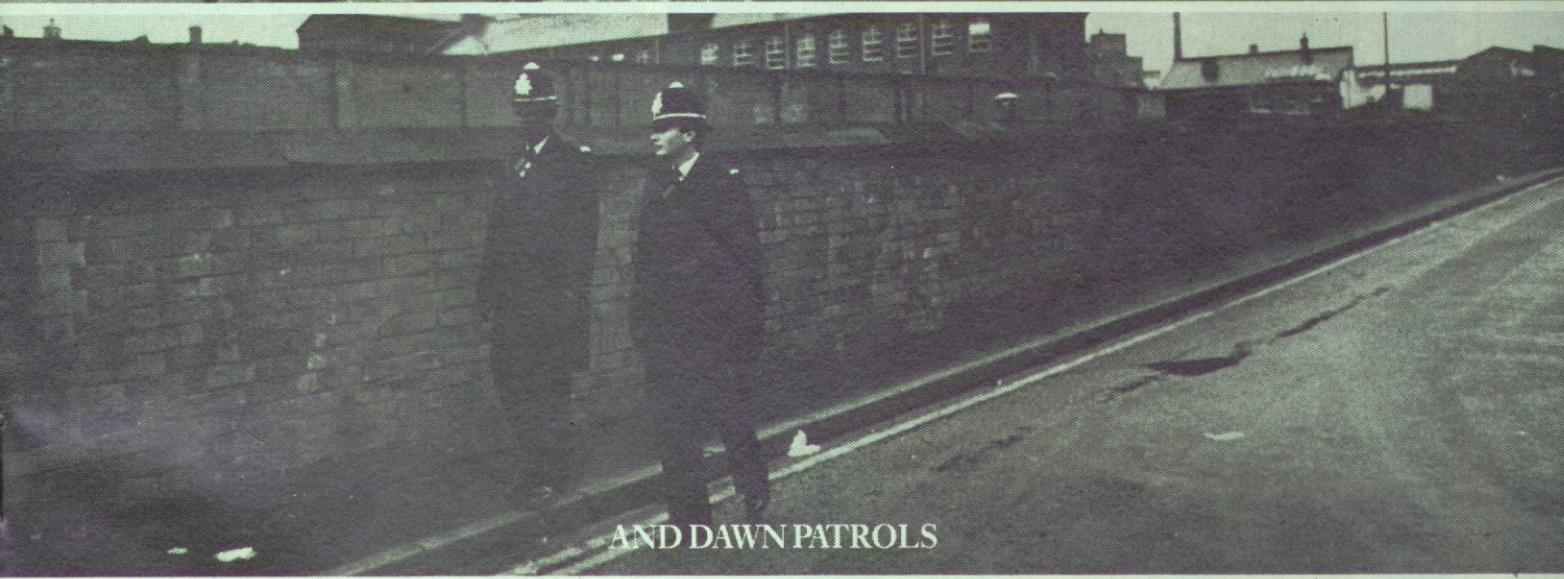
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POLICE OFFICER 

ROB GETS HIS SNAPS BACK — VIA SOLDIER

TWAS his first Saturday night in Stanley for 20-year-old Sapper Rob Trigg. He had already taken some initial photographs on his pocket instamatic including a picture of his sapper mates, Gilmore and Richardson.

Eight thousand miles from England and a whole hemisphere

from home, young Trigg and his pals celebrated the start of a six-month stint in the faraway Falklands. But, somehow, a temporary memory failure followed. Trigg lost his mess tins, his respirator case, his haversack and two dozen souvenir shots of the place — as yet still on celluloid.

A tough break but a story that

has developed, as it were, a happy ending, thanks to a letter signed by a Falkland islander — and, of course, SOLDIER.

Until recently Lance Corporal Trigg, C.R. — he is now on a nine-month metal workers course at Chatham's Royal School of Military Engineering — had forgotten about the films

until, that is, he saw SOLDIER magazine of February 13th — a truly lucky day for him.

In our SOLDIER to SOLDIER column we published a photo — of Sappers Gilmore and Richardson as it turned out — which had been found, presumably in negative form, by a Falkland islander "working at his peat bog". We wanted to find out who was on the picture and, more importantly, to whom it belonged.

The signatory says he found the film in "the hills above Port Stanley".

Lance Corporal Trigg spotted our appeal while glancing through a copy of the magazine in the Brompton Barracks NAAFI.

"I couldn't believe it when I saw the picture with my mates Gilmore and Richardson. I think they are both in BAOR now", he told me. "At the time I lost the film I was serving with 60 Field Support Squadron, Royal Engineers during the massive cleaning-up operation. I lost the film some time in August. The first sight of the island was during a snow storm! I honestly never expected to see the film again. I would certainly like to know of the islander who sent the negatives and processed prints to SOLDIER. I will gladly reimburse him for his trouble."

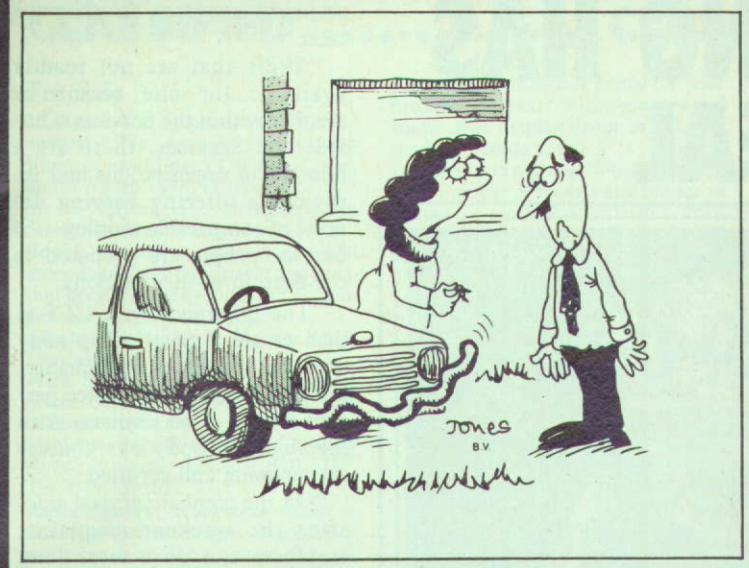
Story:
Graham Smith
Picture:
Paul Haley

He added: "Now I must try and find my mates over in Germany. One thing puzzles me, though. I never went into the hills. I thought I lost the films somewhere near Stanley's main street."

Staffer Paul Haley — a Falklands conflict veteran of some 2,700 photographs himself — who was present at the reunion of Lance Corporal Trigg and his pictorial memories, says: "His prints must have travelled some 24,000 miles as I don't remember any processing facilities down there. It was very kind of the islander to have them done, presumably in the UK, for return to the Falklands."

Major Niel Skinner, OC of 36 RSME Squadron, said: "The unit is very grateful. It's very nice that the islander took sufficient interest in the activities of a British soldier and his personal souvenirs to make the effort to have them processed. It's very laudable, I am sure."

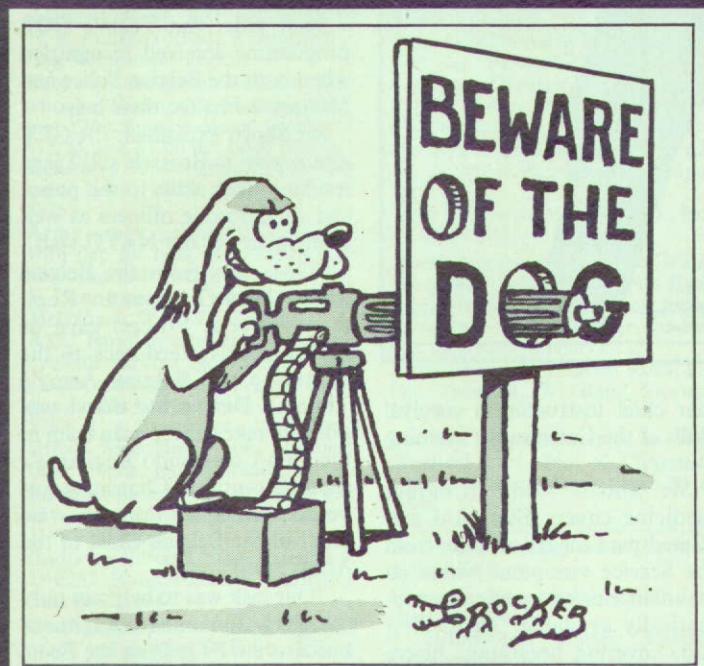




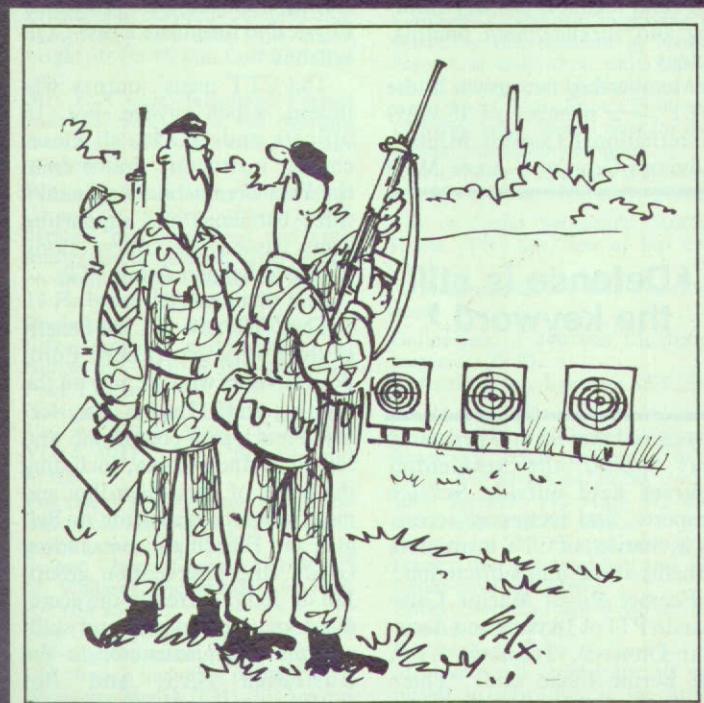
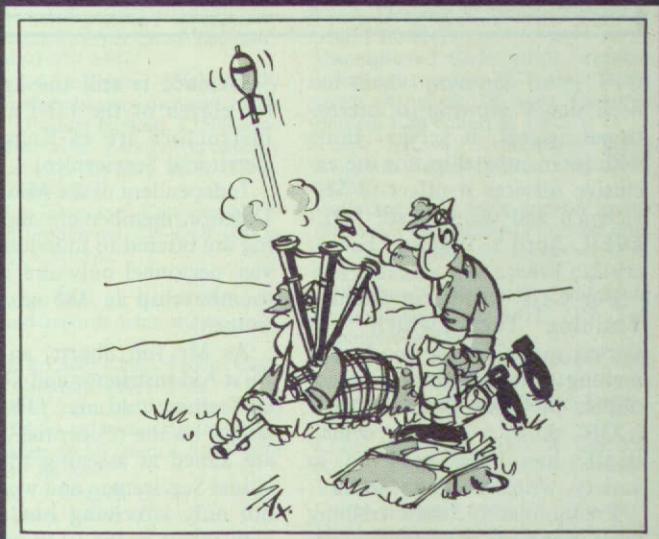
"I've never liked this car, George — the bumpers are so awkward"



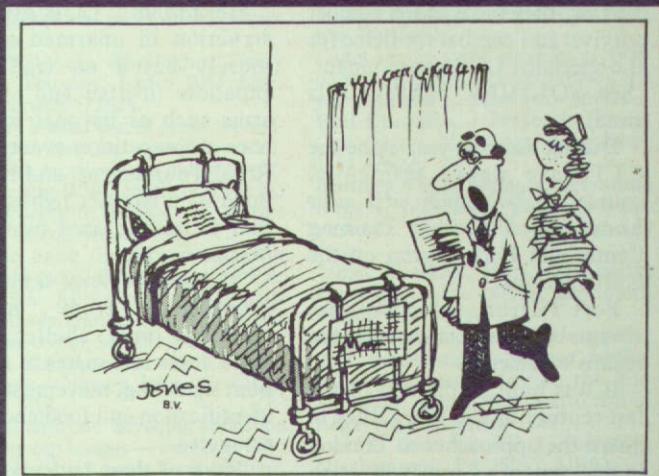
"As you can see madam, the rooms here are quite large"



Humour



"Start and finish on the old double, I suppose . . ."



"Ah, Mrs Smith — I see you're due for surgery this morning!"

COMBAT TRAINING HAS WIDENING APPEAL



CTT is an acronym which has been slowly growing in international appeal, it seems, along with its membership, for the exclusive services it offers to Servicemen and women (see *SOLDIER*, April 5, 1982 and February 21, 1983).

For CTT stands for Combat Training Team which was started in 1975 as a non-profit-making cadre offering the techniques of Close Quarter Battle (CQB) skills; a syllabus which, itself, has been growing in variety, writes **Graham Smith**.

Predominantly, their training takes in the arts of unarmed combat and skill-at-arms.

Now, they have added combat survival and combat medicine for the specialist CQB environment. (See *SOLDIER MART*, this issue).

During the past year alone the CTT have staged residential courses at two main sites near London — Pinewood Training Centre and Fort Pilgrim on the North Downs.

Fort Pilgrim, ironically, has always been associated with the realms of defence.

It was built at the end of the last century by the War Office to guard the approaches to London in the event of a German invasion following their success during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870.

Defence is still the keyword for eleven of the CTT's dozen instructors are ex-Regular or Territorial Servicemen.

Independent of the Ministry of Defence, membership and training are offered to individual Service personnel only and current membership is 385 men and women.

As Mr Jim Shortt, an SRN, First Aid instructor and Director of Training told me: "The skills taught on the residential courses are aimed at assisting the individual Servicemen and women in not only surviving but coping with threat in the CQB environment.

He added: "CQB gives instruction in unarmed combat loosely based on traditional Japanese ju-jitsu and skill-at-arms such as bayonet fencing, once a competition event of the Royal Tournament, and bayonet pugil — a bayonet fighter's version of milling sired by the US Marine Corps.

"Combat Survival skills cover everything from making clothing, tools, shelter, fires, traps, lures and snares to navigation, signalling, movement, plant identification and food and water resources."

Tutor of these latter skills, he said, was former WO 2 Ted Keland, who retired after 22 years in the Royal Marines and a for-

mer chief instructor in survival skills at the Commando Training Centre.

Mr Shortt said: "Combat medicine covers First Aid and related para-medical subjects from the Service viewpoint where an ambulance or casevac is not automatically available. Basic First Aid, covering breathing, bleeding, burns, breaks, poisons and the like is also dealt with including fluid regimes, primary suturing and survival/plant pharmacology."

Membership has grown in the CTT — a member of ICMAG (International Combat Military Advisors Group) — since MoD

‘Defence is still the keyword.’

has agreed that Service personnel may attend the residential courses held outside Service property, and reciprocal access, by invitation, of CTT instructors remains at the unit's discretion.

Former Royal Marine Commando PTI of 18 years and Assistant Director, Training, CTT, Mr Bernie Finan said: "There are a number of well-motivated Servicemen and women who

would like to learn the skills we offer.

"Skills that are not readily available for one reason or another within the Services. Outside the Services, there are a number of organisations and individuals offering varying degrees of comparable training — if Service people are prepared to dig deep in to their pockets.

"The difference with CTT is that we are a membership body providing necessary high quality, low-cost courses for Service personnel only — no civilians. As a membership body our courses are on-going and certified.

"On the combat survival side, after the weekend acquaint, members can do a week-long course in the south-west and, later, a fortnight instructor course in Wales with Ted Keland."

Last year, the Team's CQB programme received recognition when both the Belgian Police and Military asked for their help.

Mr Shortt explained: "A CTT group went to Brussels and Liège teaching their skills to the police and gendarmerie officers as well as members of the NATO staff.

"Observers from the Belgian Army Para-Commando Regiment (Special Forces) gave us such a positive feed-back to the course to the Belgian Army's Training Directorate that I was asked to take a three-man team to the Para-Commando Regiment's training centre at Chateau Arenberg, Marche-les-Dames — by order of the Belgian Chief of the Army Staff!

"Our task was to help not only the Para-Commando Regiment but also the PTIs from the École d'Infanterie, Belgian Forces in Germany and the Institute Royale Militaire d'Entrainement Physical to formulate a new CQB syllabus."

The CTT mens' journey was indeed, a bon voyage. For, 15 officers and NCOs, all close-combat instructors drawn from the Para-Commando Regiment's three battalions and supporting arms passed the course along with five Belgian Army PTIs.

And that's not all.

The CTT now has the benefit of three very experienced European advisors who are now on the training staff; Lucien Ott, former French para-commando who served in Indo-China, including the battle of Dien-Bien-Phu and more recently instructor to Belgian and French police including GIGN elite intervention group; Jan de Jong, currently the accredited unarmed combat and skill-at-arms chief instructor to the Australian SAS; and Bo Munthe, Swedish military and police advisor.

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HOME HUNTER

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C. Broom 0244 316695

These articles are prepared in conjunction with Carol Broom of the National Homes Network. This is a private agency with a great deal of experience in dealing with the special problems of the Service home-hunter. Carol will be delighted to give you any help she can with your problem in the private sector and can be contacted at National Homes Network, Refuge House, Watergate Row, Chester. Tel: 0244 316695.

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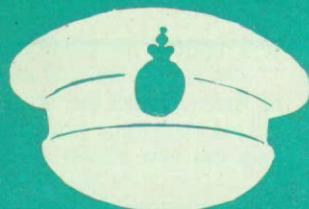
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Your Cap Badge

No. 59

THE QUEEN'S GURKHA SIGNALS

"By your badge men shall know you. By your loyalty, by your behaviour and by your technical skill, they will judge you as men and measure your efficiency as soldiers."

On 23 September 1954 at Kuala Lumpur in Malaya, the Major General Brigade of Gurkhas spoke these inspiring words to the men of the Gurkha Signals who had been presented with their new cap badge, the design of which is shown here.

It is the figure of Mercury on a Globe surmounted by the St. Edward's crown. Below a two-part scroll inscribed "Certa Cito" (Swift and Sure); superimposed a pair of crossed kukris, crossing over the Globe, cutting edges upwards and crossed left over right. The crown and motto scrolls are in gilt, Mercury and kukris in silver. Soldiers wear the appropriate anodised materials.

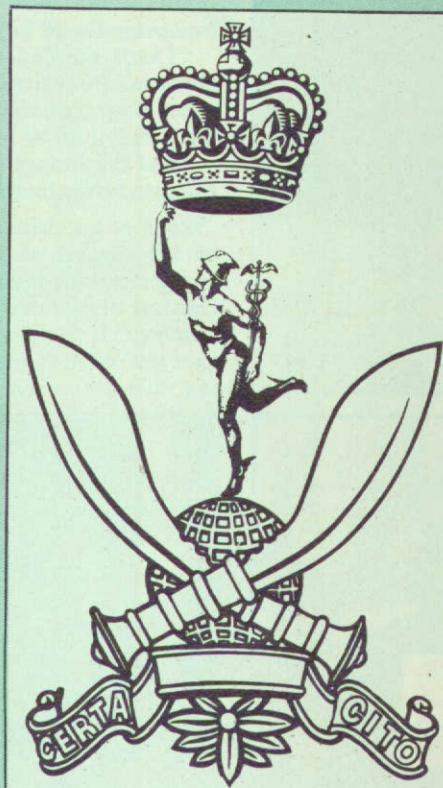
Raised in November 1948 during the first days of the Malayan Emergency a small cadre of one Royal Signals officer and eight soldiers plus seven Gurkha soldiers from infantry battalions provided the original training team.

By the end of 1950 Gurkha Signals were providing the communications for a brigade on active service.

By 1954 communications for the 17th



Signalman Dhanbahadur Thapa at work high above Hong Kong.



Gurkha Division and the brigades under its command were completely provided for by the Regiment.

The following year Gurkha Signals became part of the Brigade of Gurkhas and is unique among the signal regiments of the British Army that it appears separately in the Army List and within a Corps of Infantry.

In the same year it raised a pipe band wearing the Grant tartan and the appurtenances of its affiliated regiment, the 51st Highland Division Signal Regiment.

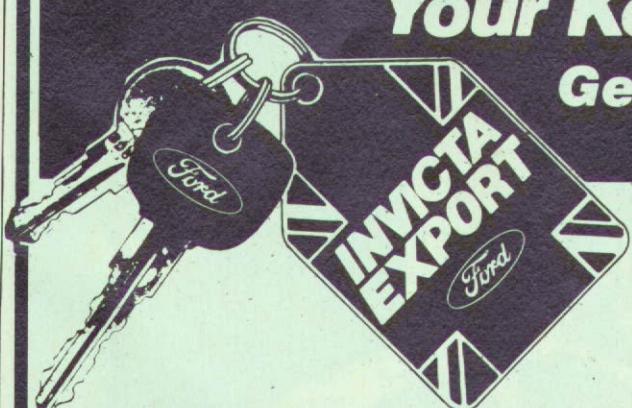
This affiliation has now been transferred to the 32nd Scottish Signal Regiment (Volunteers).

As would be expected Queen's Gurkha Signals have been present wherever the Brigade has been employed, in Malaya, during the Confrontation with Indonesia, and in Borneo following the trouble in Brunei. They also provided a troop for the Gurkha Parachute Company.

In the period 1968 to 1971 the strength of the Regiment was reduced by 600 trained men and is now carefully tailored to meet its commitments.

In 1977 Her Majesty bestowed the Royal title of Queen's Own Gurkha Signals upon a formation that in its comparatively short life has upheld the aims the Brigade Commander outlined in 1954.

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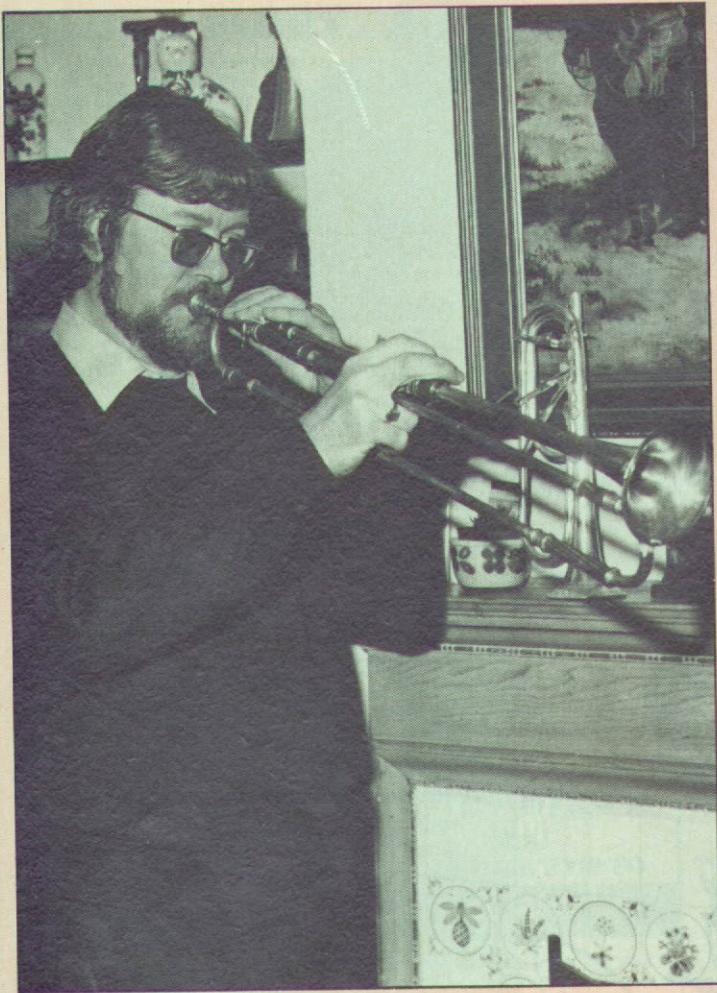
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A kick from a horse put David Edwards out of the Army and into a new career where he truly . . .

BLOWS HIS OWN MADE TRUMPET!

It was a low blow when a horse kicked former Life Guards trumpeter David Edwards in the mouth.

"That's the end of your career as a State Trumpeter in the Household Cavalry," he was told by doctors.

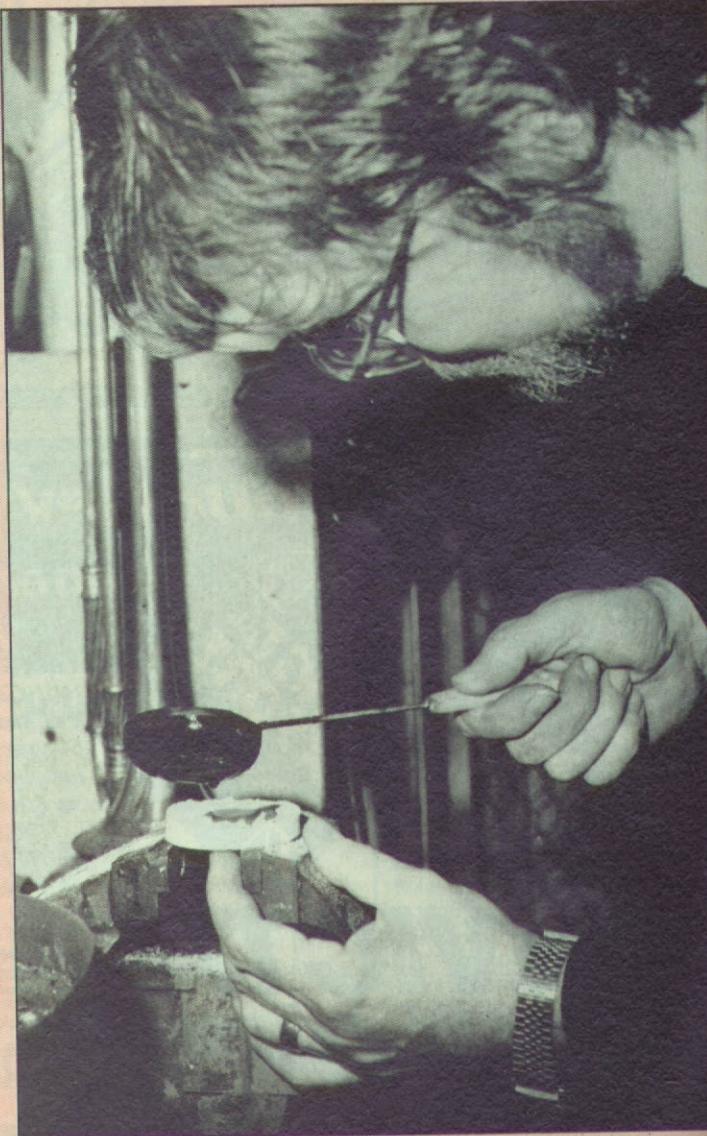
But they repaired his smashed jaw and replaced his missing top teeth with a set of gleaming falsies.

"And the strange thing is," said David, "I now play the baroque trumpet better than ever."

Proof of his claim is indicated by the number of professional engagements he is offered from classical orchestras around the country. "It was the Army that gave the polish to my playing of this valveless instrument and had

it not been for that horse putting his hoof in my mouth, I would have stayed in the Army to finish my 22," said David, who left the Service 12 years ago after 15 years.

So with new upper jaw and



teeth he launched himself as a freelance baroque trumpeter.

Now he has enough work to keep him busy since there are not that many people who can play the instrument.

"It takes seven years to learn to play it properly," he said. "It's a bit like an apprenticeship. That's why there are not many players around."

But playing alone was not enough for ex-Life Guard David and he decided to have a go at making a replica of the 17th-century instrument.

Now, for anything up to £250 he makes them to order from a seven-foot length of brass tube.

"That's how they start, anyway," he said, exhibiting his latest creation. "They're all copies of those made by William Bull, trumpet maker to Charles II. I find it fascinating," he said.

But who buys these trumpets? "Students and academics mainly," he said. "But theatre, TV companies and medieval societies also put in the occasional order.

"One of the spin-offs from an order was getting a job as technical adviser on the BBC TV production 'The Sword Divided'.

"And then, of course, there's the teaching I do. I have a contract to teach school children. Some of the kids are good and could, in time, start collecting notes of a different kind for those they produce on this instrument. In a few years there'll be a lot more players of the baroque trumpet around than there are today. And better ones, too."

Sounds like the mini-music-makers of today are striking a hopeful note for the old masters of yesteryear tomorrow!



Story: John Margetts
Pictures: Doug Pratt

Military Musical Pageant 1983

Director of Music Lt Col D R Beat
Producer; Major A F Jackman
Bandleader 3001

The producer lives in Somerset, the director of music in London, and the performers are scattered all over the British Isles and half Europe until a day before the first rehearsal. On the first day of two and a half days of rehearsal a fair percentage of the musicians are involved in the State Opening of Parliament. The remaining two days are a battle against the acoustics of the stadium, echo, time-lag, and inadequate entrances and exits. Afterwards, those of us involved in this massive exercise in logistics wonder how it all came to pass so successfully. I can only liken it to the Falklands campaign, for its roots in fine basic training, professional know-how, instinct, and even heroism of a sort. For what Major-General would risk standing on a podium directing so speedily-prepared an operation as this, with many unblooded troops and an audience of

ON THE RECORD with Rodney Bashford



many thousands every two years?

Music? Yes, of course. I'd nearly forgotten to mention it. Music by the ream, most of it copied out by hand over many months and despatched to well over thirty bands plus pipes and drums and corps of drums, and all beautifully performed in spite of all those logistics.

The recording of it is also a heroic performance. The gunnery, fireworks, and surfeit of musketry caused insuperable problems during the actual battle scene but it, and the rest of the pageant, come across with terrific vitality and marvellous detail.

The pageant begins, literally, with

a bang from the Honourable Artillery Company, and a *London Flourish* of fanfares by Roger Swift. "Music of the Queen's Guards" includes *Tudor Music* from the court of Henry VIII and *Machine Gun Guards*. "Celtic Pride and Pageantry" has several tunes for the teams of dancers from the London area, and the Massed Bands play a *Fanfare Overture* and a ragtime *Chocolate Dancing* by Laurie Johnson, the latter a definite hit with the audiences, and the old war horses *Finlandia* and *Radetzky Marsch*. The Light Division do their act both swiftly and boldly to great effect and applause, and the first part ends with

Beethoven's battle symphony, known as *Wellington's Victory at Victoria*. Only a small part of the music is lost by the aforesaid musketry, itself caused by primitive bolt action on the 19th century muskets. Then the remainder of the performers march on for the Grand Finale to *Fearless and True* and *The Crags of Tumbledown*. When all 1500-odd are assembled we have *Cheer Boys Cheer* and Colonel Beat's tear-jerking setting of *Last Post with Auld Lang Syne*. In fact, as always, handkerchiefs were near to hand for much of the pageant, not least among expatriates in the audience, for whom this great show must be a very moving experience. Even this old cynic blinked a time or two.

So will you, to all this and much more music I have not mentioned. All in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund and available as follows: Double LP album BNC 3001 at £7.50. Double cassette BNC 63001 at £7.50. From *Bandleader*, 7 Garrick St., London WC2E 9AR

MAIL DROP



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

Bomb heroines

It may be of interest to the members of the 33 Engineer Regiment in particular and to your readers in general to know that in 1940 a WAAF Sgt Elizabeth Mortimer received a Military Medal for helping to defuse unexploded bombs on the airfield at Biggin Hill.

This information is contained in a book entitled 'Battle of Britain; The Hardest Day' (18 August 1940), by Alfred Price. I happened to be reading this book when I got **SOLDIER** and read the stimulating article on the Sappers and their bomb disposal exploits. — F. Kelly, MM, 13 Millward Road, Keynsham, Bristol.

In fact there were two other WAAF heroines at Biggin Hill who received the MM at the same time as Sgt Mortimer — Sgt Helen Turner, who died in 1947; and Corporal Elspeth Henderson. In 1974 three roads in the vicinity of the wartime station were renamed after them in their memory and honour. — Ed.

Same museum?

On reading the letter headed 'Sowers Reap', in Mail Drop, I began to wonder if the National Army Museum referred to by M J Bush was the one with which I am familiar.

On the several occasions I have used the Library the staff have always been very helpful. As for the arrangement for books that are not on open shelves, this is surely only a minor inconvenience considering these valuable books are being protected for the benefit of the many students who make use of the Library. — M T Moon, 21 Dells Lane, Biggleswade, Beds.

Minus & Plus!

In continuing to enjoy the magazine I would still like to see perhaps one subject (article or story) done each month in more depth.

I do miss the details, explanations and generally better individual story coverage of your older format.

You have increased the photos, I think, and that is a plus, especially since you identify most of the chief subjects in each photo, which is super journalism and takes a lot of attention and trouble. Most USA Service publications do not use many identifications in photos. Your method means, also, that photos are fresh, up-to-date and help to complete the text. — Earl N Levitt, **Regimentals**, PO Box 2348, Williamsburg, Virginia 23187-2348, USA.

Competition

In competition no 333 (16 January) we presented readers with "A Riddle and a Riddle-Me-Ree". This only appealed to 37 readers and the vast majority supplied correct entries and the answer to "What Am I?" was;

A RIVER STEAMER

The prizewinners are;

1st Mr J C W Blencowe, The Old Rectory, Chidham, Chichester, W Sussex, PO18 8TA. 2nd Sgt B R Casburn, 22 Somerset Close, Catterick Garrison, N Yorks, DL9 3HE. 3rd Major A Burns, 5 (QOOC) Sqn, 39 Sig Regt (V), TA Centre, Banbury, Oxon. 4th Mr J A Johns, 38 Devonshire Road, Salisbury, Wilts, SP1 3NW. 5th Maj (Retd) W H Moulder, Gypsy Hill, Tanners Way, New Polzeath, Wadebridge, Cornwall.

Reunions

1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards annual reunion dinner, Saturday 5 May 1984 at the Surrey Tavern, Kensington Oval, London. Tickets £8.00. Contact: Major (Retd) K D McMillan, HHQ 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, Maindy Bks, Cardiff.

The Queen's Own Hussars Reunion Dinner Saturday 5 May 1984, at the Baronial Hall, Mincing Lane, London, EC3R 7DP. Tickets £9.00, dress optional. Obtainable from: Major (Retd) J S Knight, HHQ The Queen's Own Hussars, 28 Jury St, Warwick, CV34 4EW.



"Listen, if I could give you the winner of the 3.30 would I still be stuck in this blinking lamp?"

Can You Help?

I am presently engaged in a graduate-level research study examining the 'Near-Death Experience' as it occurs in military combat situations. I would like to correspond with combat veterans who have had experiences during a close brush with death.

This subject has not been systematically studied before, and the results are expected to be useful in the counselling of veterans and their families.

Information will be obtained by questionnaire, or occasionally by telephone interview. Identity of those responding will be held in strictest confidence. Combat veterans, and others with information on the subject are invited to write me at the address listed. — Robert M Sullivan, Capt USAR (Retd), PO Box 540, Willow Grove, Pennsylvania 19090, USA.

I am trying to obtain a copy or copies of the 'Burma Star' newspaper, issued free to troops in Burma. My father, who served in Burma, often talks about it and would like to see any that may be available. — Cpl G Nicholls, HQ Sqn 2 Inf Div, HQ & Sig Regt, Imphal Bks, York.

I am compiling a roll of officers and men of The Welsh Regiment, who were decorated during the 1914-18 war. If any reader is able to furnish any information, photographs or newspaper or magazine cuttings etc., about any officer or man of the Regiment who won a gallantry award (including foreign), or received a Mention-in-Despatches during the Great War, I would be most grateful. After copying all items would be returned. — Robert Mansell, 113 Penrhineber Road, Mountain Ash, Mid Glamorgan, South Wales CF45 3SF.

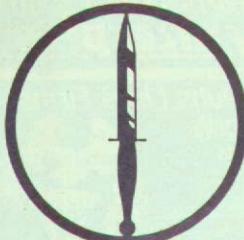
I have recently taken over command of 57 (Junior Leaders) Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport based at Colerne, near Bath. I am hoping to extend the Squadron history and scrapbook and am especially interested in the period that 57 Company RASC served in Korea. I would be most grateful if any of your readers who served in 57 Company (or who know of the whereabouts of ex 57 Company RASC members) could get in touch with me. Any photographs relating to RASC support activities in Korea would also be highly valued. These could be copied and the originals returned to the owners. — Major J P Shearer RCT, Junior Leaders Regt RCT, Azimghur Bks, Colerne, Chippenham, Wilts. SN14 8QY.

der flashes. Also 300 collar badges and metal titles. Please send wants.

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1. Lowest spearhead of left man.
2. Handle of left tankard on table.
3. Top hair of man second from right.
4. Teeth of man second from right.
5. Base of shield above dartboard.
6. Number of bones under table.
7. Eye of left dog.
8. Right hind leg of right dog.
9. Left ankle of man second from right.
10. Front of left man's shirt.

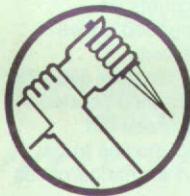
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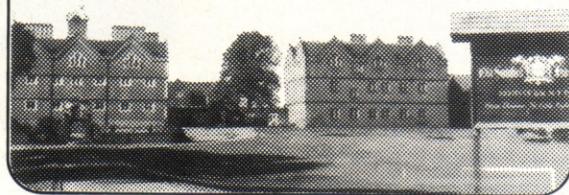
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Examination of candidates seeking entry at age 11, or earlier, will be held on Saturday 5th May 1984.

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Further details and prospectus from The Headmaster.

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Tuition bursaries available.

Applications to the Headmistress: Telephone Ringwood 2856 or 3197.

EX-PARA TURNS HOBBY INTO WORK

EX-PARACHUTE Regiment officer Alec Honey has traded his airborne career for a life afloat as the principal of his own sailing school in the South of France.

Major Honey spent nearly 20 years in The Parachute Regiment and he says that he has been able to adapt aspects of the Paras' tough training to his sail training.

"Sailing is a challenging sport," he says. "So I aim to reflect that challenge in my training schedules."

"It doesn't mean I push people to the limit physically and mentally like, for example, the young recruits training for the Paras.

"But I believe in applying a certain amount of pressure to each of my students to suit his or her needs."

He explains that this might mean something as simple as asking a complete novice to tie a reef knot or as daunting as getting a more qualified yachtsman to undertake his first night navigation voyage unaided.

Of course, Major Honey is always on hand to oversee the proceedings. For, as principal of the Mediterranean Sailing School, he sails with each cruise in his 35-foot Beneteau First 35 to give the tuition his own personal touch.

The thoroughness of Army courses taught him the value of good individual tuition and he believes it is vital that student sailors get proper teaching in an adventurous pursuit that has an element of danger in it.

He learned his own sailing as a boy of 12 when he took up the sport as a dinghy racer.

When he joined the Army in 1962 he soon took advantage of the opportunities for sailing that he found and before he left in 1981 he had become a Joint Services Yachtmaster Instructor.

He is also a Royal Yachting Association Yachtmaster Instructor, a member of the Royal Institute of Navigation and of the International Association of Cape Horners.

He gained the latter qualification when he was First Mate on Great Britain II, the prize-winning ketch skippered by fellow-Para Chay Blyth in the first Whitbread Round-the-World Race in 1972.

Major Honey served with the Paras in Aden, Borneo and Northern Ireland.

It was when he was a company commander with 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, and coming up for 40 years of age, that he decided he was still young enough to embark on an active second career combining his business with the hobby that had absorbed him since childhood.

He said: "I enjoyed my Army life enormously but I knew I would have to make the break sooner or later. The opportunity came along for me to set up in business with my own boat as a sailing school so I took it.

"It allowed me to achieve that rare and coveted combination of making your hobby work for you."

Major Honey and his French wife, Christine, moved to Port Camargue, an ultra-modern leisure port on the Mediterranean coast of France, and set about tempting clients to share their lifestyle full of sun, sea and sand.

A further inducement for customers is that Christine Honey prepares all the cordon bleu menus on board Major Honey's

A First 35 like Medsail II basks in the Mediterranean sun.

yacht, Medsail II, and the food — plus the local wine that goes aboard for each trip — are included in the price of each course.

"Although I try to show my students something of the challenge of sailing, I also aim to see that they have a really memorable holiday," says Major Honey. "I cater for families as well as individual sailors so I have to see that everyone is satisfied."

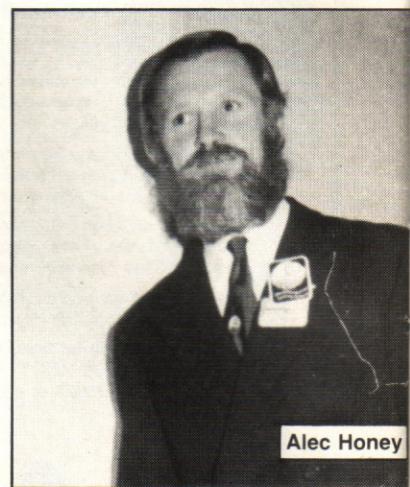
Mrs Honey stays ashore to handle course administration. Her pre-packaged meals, many made up of fresh food, are left to her husband and his crews to serve.

It is because the Honeys have managed to divide the bulk of the school's day-to-day running, both ashore and afloat, between themselves that they have been able to keep costs down.

A week lazing along the sunny coast of the Languedoc/Roussillon area, renowned for its wild white horses, can cost as little as £130.

And even the top-priced cruise for a fortnight to the Balearic Islands with stops in the lesser-known ports and creeks of the spectacular holiday islands costs under £300.

Mrs Honey's cordon bleu cooking is a far cry from the



Alec Honey

compo rations Major Honey often had to eat on active service and the Riviera lifestyle he shares with his students is in sharp contrast to the tensions of patrolling with the Paras in Borneo or Belfast.

But he believes there are some similarities between his first and second careers.

He says: "As a soldier, you were always taught to expect the unexpected and make the best of whatever hand fate dealt you.

"It's much the same with sailing and the constantly changing challenge it offers those who take it up."

YACHT ENSIGNS — warrant changes

In October 1983 the Ministry of Defence announced that from 1 April 1984 entitled yacht clubs would be empowered by MOD to authorise members to wear special ensigns on their yachts, in place of the present system of direct issue of warrants by MOD. The concept was generally welcomed.

At the request of a number of yacht clubs the Royal Yachting Association have now asked for the introduction of the scheme to be postponed to permit further detailed discussion about how its operation might be facilitated for them. The MOD has also received representations directly from other yacht clubs.

The MOD has agreed not to implement this scheme from 1 April 1984. There will be further consultations with the Royal Yachting Association, and it is hoped to introduce a modified scheme in time for the 1985 season.

In the meantime the present procedures will continue, whereby C-in-C Naval Home Command issues yacht warrants to individual yacht owners qualifying under the current conditions.

These include the requirement for yachts to be registered under the Merchant Shipping Act 1894. The extension of eligibility to yachts registered on the Small Ships Register which was part and parcel of the new scheme designed as a whole to reduce the burden of administration falling on the MOD, will similarly be postponed.

The MOD will be writing direct to the yacht clubs concerned to inform them of the postponement.



NAVY TORPEDOED!

GANNON'S SURPRISE PACKAGE ENDS SIX YEAR BOXING REIGN

A SENSATIONAL NIGHT at the Aldershot Military Boxing Centre saw the Army humble the Royal Navy, Inter-Service champions for the last six years, by six bouts to four. It was a momentous win for the young Army boxing side, average age 20, pitted against confident sailors spurred on by a vociferous band of supporters.

In recent months, with the cancelling of the Army Inter-Unit team event and the small number of contests in the Army Individual championships fears had been expressed that Army boxing was in a bad way. But new coach, Staff-Sergeant Mick Gannon, had been quietly predicting an upset and so it proved.

Said Gannon afterwards: "It's our time to rule the waves for a bit. Every one of those kids was dedicated and gave their all. I am over the moon with them. This will be the start of a revival of boxing in the Army — all the youngsters will want to get into the team now."

Both teams had disposed of the RAF by eight bouts to two so the stage was set for a needle contest in front of a packed hall. First into the ring was the Army find of the season, Apprentice Tradesman John McLean from Chepstow. Just 17 McLean displayed a maturity beyond his years as he kept his Navy opponent at bay with stinging jabs to the face to win a unanimous points verdict.

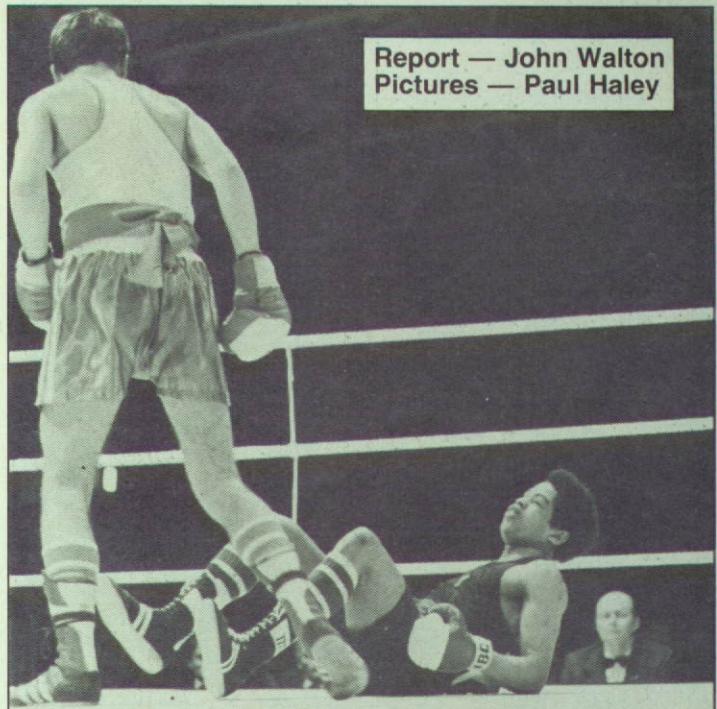
Bantamweight hope, Sapper Keith Howlett from 26 Engineer Regiment, looked outclassed in the early stages of his bout with Marine Slater. Slater, a classy mover, began to pile up the points but in the third round Howlett launched a terrific onslaught and turned Slater's mouth into a crimson gash. Slater got the decision but Howlett will relish meeting him again.

The featherweight clash between Craftsman Dave Oag (60

Squadron RCT) and Marine Colin Day turned into a slugging battle with no quarter given. The majority decision went to Oag, who appeared to have landed the more decisive blows. One judge scored it a draw but none of the three agreed with the Navy supporters who greeted the result with a storm of boos.

Signalman Eddie Gajny of 207 Signal Squadron, reappearing in an Army vest after several years away, faced the much fancied Marine David Robb. In the second round he began to get the better of the all action contest with Robb's face turning into a bloody mask before the end of the contest.

Three-one up and a fourth was soon to follow as Private Carl Crook (1 Para) moved up to light-welterweight to take on Young England boxer, MEM Brian Kearney. Kearney, a fast



Report — John Walton
Pictures — Paul Haley

OUCH! The Navy's Kearney hits the canvas after meeting a left from stylish paratrooper Crook.

mover, ran straight into a left from Crook in the second round for the only knockdown of the night. He recovered but in the last round Crook pulverised his man to get a unanimous decision.

Able Seaman Wayne Green, a former England captain who

has dominated the welterweight division for years, got his usual win for the Navy. But young Guardsman Dean Hunt took everything the wily Green threw at him and came back to pin the sailor on the ropes at the end of the contest. For the Navy even Wayne seemed to be on the wane.

The Navy pulled back to 4-3 when their tall rangy SA Andy Chambers managed to keep far enough away from Sapper Geordie Bosher (21 Engineer Regiment) to land the blows which gave him a unanimous decision.

The Navy boo boys came out again at the end of the next contest. Private Paul Bryan (1 DERR) had faced the aggressive Leading Seaman Denis Ricketts. Bryan had seemed to gain in confidence as the match went on but even neutral observers were surprised when he got the majority verdict.

Those old sparring partners, AB Brian Schumacher and Guardsman Denis Bailey met again at light-heavyweight. A year ago Schumacher knocked out Bailey and while the Irish Guardsman survived this time there was no doubt about the winner.

If heavyweight king, Corporal Horace Miles (1 RGJ) had lost the championship would have been shared. But his henna haired opponent, MEM Norman Linton, did not really want to mix it and Miles went on to a workmanlike points win.

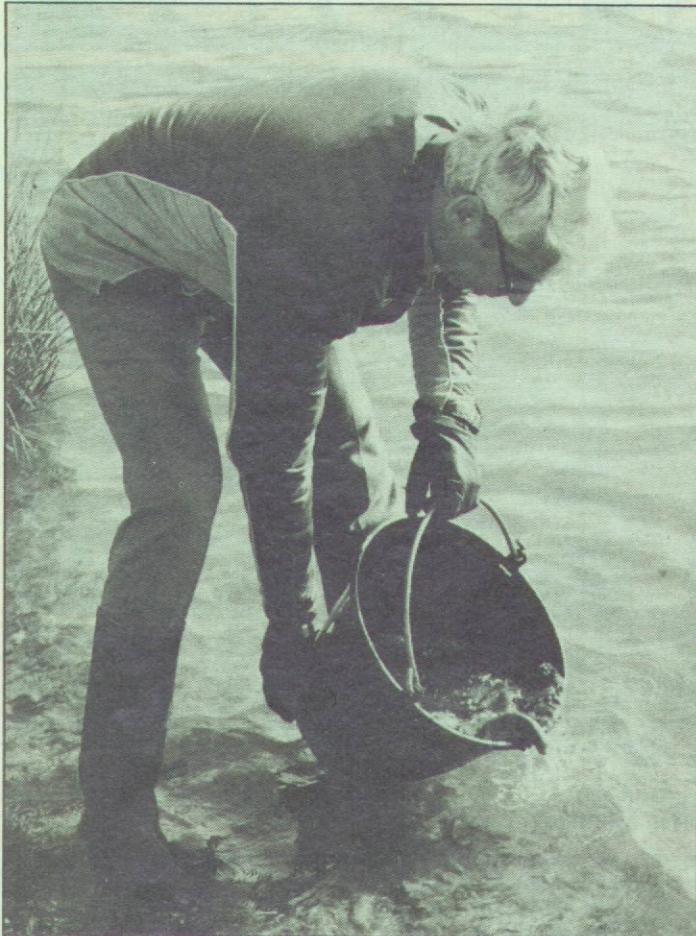
Oag, Crook and Miles have been called up for training with the England squad. Army boxing is on its way back!



Guardsman Dean Hunt (white vest) undeterred by the reputation of the Navy's Green. Right — Oag, winner of a bruising battle.



FISHY STORY



Captain John Tyrrell, treasurer of Aldershot Garrison Angling Club, releases part of a consignment of 1500 Rudd into a lake off Camp Farm Road, Aldershot. The fish, weighing about 330 lbs, will turn the lake into an all the year round angling centre for the club which has 200 members. The cost of stocking the lake was borne by the club, Army Angling Association (South East District) and Aldershot Garrison.

SOCCER

TA CUP SHOCKS

In a weekend of major upsets both of last year's TA Soccer Cup finalists were knocked out of this year's competition. The holders 238 (Sefton) Squadron RCT from Bootle were knocked out 3-2 by the Northern Irish champions, C Company, 4 Royal Irish Rangers who go into the semi-finals.

The new Scottish champions are HQ 15(S) Para Battalion (V) who beat 124 Lowland Field Regiment RE 1-0. 124 were beaten finalists last year. The Paras then beat B Company 1 Yorkshire Volunteers 2-1 to reach the semi-finals.

★ ★ ★
The Kentish Cup is now back in Aldershot. It was presented to Major Alan Dobson, Army FA secretary at the end of the third match in the tri-nation tournament in France. The French beat the Belgians 5-2 in an excellent game refereed by Sergeant Peter Kitson, Royal Signals.

IN BRIEF

SQUASH

The Army easily won the Women's Inter-Services Squash championships held at Farnham. They beat both the WRAF and the Navy 5-0. Sergeant Joyce Tuomey went on to retain her title as Combined Services Individual Champion with a resounding 3-0 victory in the final.

★ ★ ★

RUGBY

The Army Colts Rugby team went down to the Welsh Rugby heartland and emerged with mixed fortunes. They were beaten 10-0 by the Boys' Clubs of Wales but the next day they triumphed against Bridgend by 30 points to nil.

★ ★ ★

SNOOKER

Steve Davis received the BFB Sporting Personality of the Year award from the Duchess of Kent.

★ ★ ★

CROSS-COUNTRY

The Army won the Cyprus Inter-Services Cross-Country with nine out of the first ten runners home.

YOU CAN HELP OLYMPIC EFFORT

The Winter Olympics are just over and now the athletics world is looking forward to the Olympic Games in Los Angeles this summer. But to send a team costs money and the British Olympic Appeal is fighting desperately to raise enough cash to do the job properly.

By July the British Olympic Association needs to raise £1,500,000. It sounds a lot but just to transport the equestrian team will cost more than £100,000. The Government does not contribute to the cost.

Army units are being encouraged to organise fund raising events for the Appeal and SOLDIER readers may like to send a donation to The British Olympic Appeal, 1 Church Row, Wandsworth Plain, London SW18 1EH (Tel 01-874-8978). Units wishing to organise or take part in fund raising should contact the same address.

KENT NOVICES JUDO TRIUMPH

The Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion, Shorncliffe, had the rest of the junior Army on the mat at Bulford when their teams took both first and second place in the Army Judo UK Novice Junior Team Championships. Third equal were Apprentice College RAOC and Junior Leaders Regiment RA.

The senior team event was won by the 1 Devon and Dorsets followed by Larkhill Garrison and SEME Lisburn Garrison. Entries were 20 per cent up on last year and Staff-Sergeant Terry Dolan, Army team manager said: "The standard was so high that some of them seemed like professional novices!"



UNLUCKY AGAIN

They came, they saw, but for the 25th year in succession the WRAC hotshots of the Army Women's Rifle Association failed in their bid to win the Women's Inter-Service Shooting Championship, writes John Margetts.

Even the presence of their 15-year-old white terrier mascot, Morag, at the shoot-out at RAF Uxbridge, failed to inspire the ten-strong team to anywhere near notching up a first-time win.

Before the shooting started team captain Sergeant Denise Curran confided: "I don't think we're going to do it this year."

Her prophecy proved correct with the event being a repeat performance of last year's Valentine Day's massacre with the WRNS winning yet again — the 16th time. They scored 1938 out of a possible 2000 with the

WRAF coming a close second just four points behind.

It was one of the closest matches in the history of the event, but unfortunately the WRAC did not figure in it as they trailed third with 1903 points.

Asked before the shooting began why the WRAC have never managed to win the title, Denise Curran said it all depended on how the team scored on the day: "We've just had 25 bad days, that's all," she said.

Team: Lieutenant Lesley Davis, Sergeant Denise Curran (captain), Sergeant Midge Dingley, Staff Sergeant Maggie Humphreys, Staff Sergeant Herne Emary, WO1 Jackie Walton, Corporal Carrie McKeon, Corporal Julie May, Corporal Agnes Graham, Corporal Kathy Scuffam.

BARLOW IS NUMBER ONE!



Untroubled Barlow races along the sacking to the finishing line.



The mass start — nearly 300 brave the raw cold.

NEW CRICKET FESTIVAL

A new Inter-District Festival, which will double as trials for this year's Army side, will launch the Army cricket season. The festival will be held over three days at Spring Bank Holiday Weekend at Aldershot.

Six teams will compete representing: South East; London; Eastern; Northern Ireland; North East, North West and Scotland; and South West, Western and Wales. Each team will play three games. The Festival will be sponsored by Gilbey's Gin.

TONY BARLOW, the young paratrooper private who finished second in last year's Army cross-country championship made no mistake this year. Wearing Number 1 on his vest he went straight to the front and left nearly 300 runners trailing in his wake.

Barlow, now 21 and representing 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment, had won the 10,000 metres title on a scorching summer's day last July by grinding down a quality field. For his cross-country victory at Tweseldown he again set a blistering pace despite the raw weather.

At first the Rhine Army champion Lance-Corporal M Lassiter (3 PC Regt Royal Engineers) matched him stride for stride but soon Barlow had ground his way to the front. Lassiter, exhausted by the effort of keeping up with him, drifted back and ended out of the first five.

For the remaining two-and-a-half laps Barlow was a solitary figure in green and never under threat. He finished 20 seconds ahead of his nearest rival, Sergeant Mickey Binks (AFCENT) with Captain Chris Hirst (Royal Tank Regiment), the Army Orienteering champion, in third spot.

Afterwards Binks paid a glowing tribute to Barlow: "He ran a good race and deserved to win it. Lassiter paid for inexperience. He took Barlow on early and he blew. You cannot take anything away from Barlow — he's a classy runner."

Barlow, winning at his fourth attempt, told SOLDIER: "I'm overjoyed. By the first hill I had pulled 30 yards clear and I couldn't understand it. It was a bit lonely out there for the last two laps."

Despite his win 3 Para surrendered the team title they had won

for the past two years — dropping back to third place behind



Maggie Smith — last to enter but first home.

The 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire.

The Queen of Army distance running, Corporal Maggie Smith, won her fourth title by a street. Her name did not even appear on the programme as she has just returned to Aldershot from Germany and found she had not been entered.

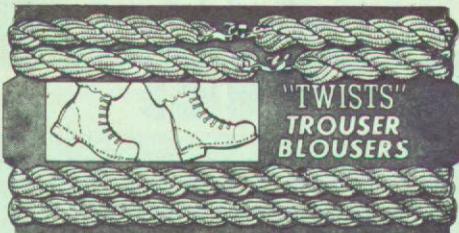
"I didn't realise I had not been entered until a couple of days ago," she said. "I had been ill recently so was not feeling confident this year but it was all right once I got out there. I felt quite strong and really enjoyed it."

In the junior event first runner home was Apprentice Sergeant David Chepstow, who finished fourth last year. His team from Army Apprentices College, Chepstow, easily retained the junior major units team title.

TEAM RESULTS: Seniors — Major units — 1st P.W.O., 2nd 4 Armd Workshops REME, 3rd 3 Para; Minor units — 1st 1 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn, 2nd 3 PC Regt RE, 3rd 75 Corps Support Sqn RE; Juniors — Major units — 1st AAC Chepstow, 2nd IJLB, 3rd Jnr Ldr RE; Minor units — 1st Jnr Para Coy, 2nd Jnr Soldiers Coy POW Divn Crickhowell, 3rd RAPC App College. Women — 1st 29 Coy WRAC Rhine Army; 2nd WRAC College, 3rd Women's Services NI.



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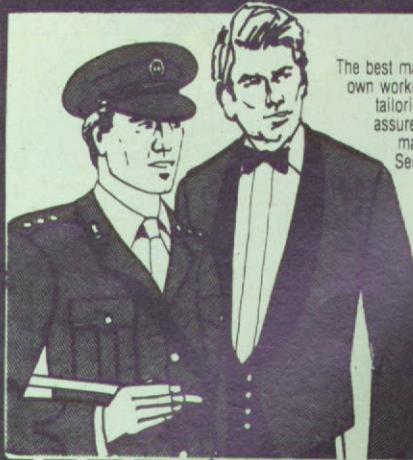
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