

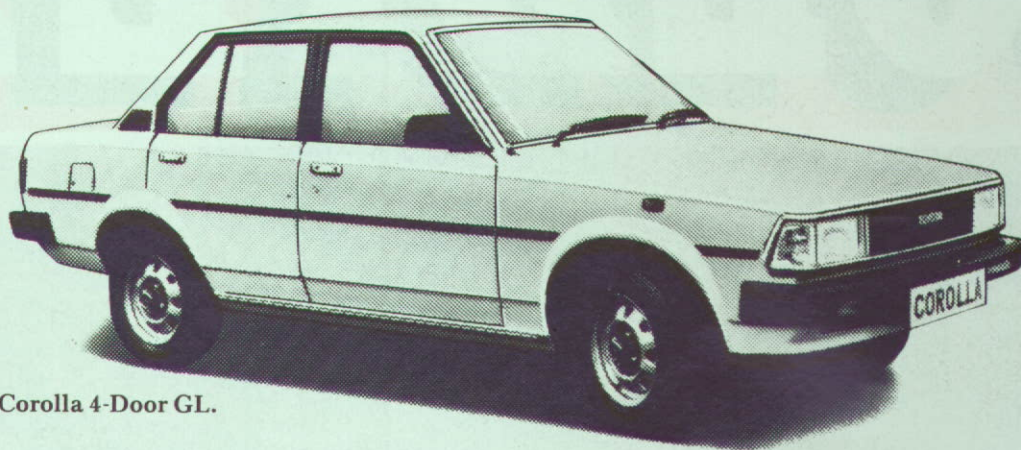
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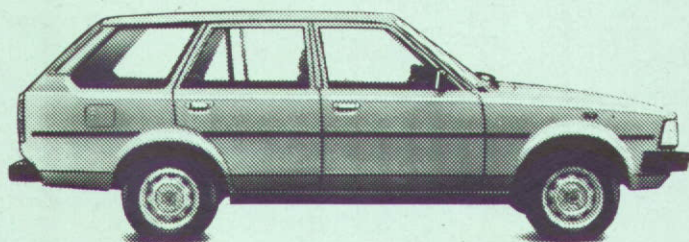
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FRONT COVER

It was more like a scene from the Somme than Salisbury Plain but these TA soldiers from 155 Regt RCT (V) weren't put off by a bit of mud as they battled through a 48-hour march and shoot marathon. More pictures and the full story of the event are on page 26.

Picture by Les Wiggs

BACK COVER

Bombardier Frank Jamieson of 50 Missile Regiment, RA, carries out lining up and sighting procedures before preparing a Lance missile for firing at the Bundeswehr Artillery School in southern Germany. The school gives members of the regiment a unique opportunity to train alongside their opposite numbers from other Nato countries. Full story starts on page 18.

Picture by Doug Pratt

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◀ Sappers in the Falklands celebrate a crowning achievement — page 14



Overseas students explain why their long journeys to Sandhurst were worth it — page 34 ▶

Old haunts but new skills: why Gibraltar's part-time soldiers were especially pleased to be back in the Land of the Leek — page 21 ▼



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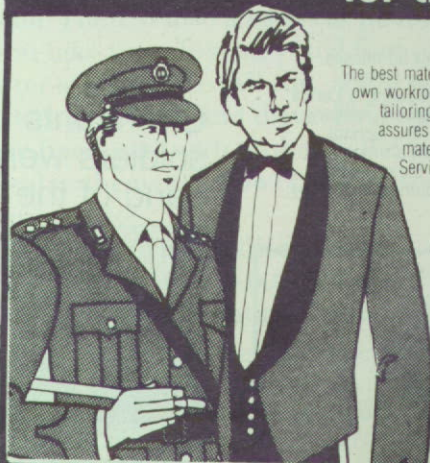
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S18

FALKLANDS FAMILIES LOOK TO THE FUTURE

NOW BACK from their personal pilgrimages to the battlefields, the families of those who fell in the Falklands have lost no time in forming and registering a Falklands Families Association.

Of the 165 families who made the 8000-mile trip to the South Atlantic, 158 are already reported to be members of the Association which came into being after a half-hour meeting aboard the *Cunard Countess* on her way back to Britain.

Secretary of the Association is 22-year-old Miss Sue Taylor whose brother, Nick, was the first Harrier pilot to be killed during the conflict. He is buried at Goose Green.

Sue is a student at Slough Technical College completing a five-year management course. The youngest person at the ship-board meeting when a book for signatures was placed next to a donations box, Sue volunteered to become the Association's secretary.

Her mother, Mrs Edith Taylor who lives on Dartmoor, told SOLDIER: "We had a very hectic trip to the Falklands but the majority of us felt it was a super trip and the islanders were just lovely. Nick is buried at Goose Green and the local people really treat him as one of their community. We live on Dartmoor and Goose Green is like home.

"There were probably about a dozen at the meeting and the idea of the Association is to divide the United Kingdom into different areas with secretaries appointed for those areas. Everyone felt we just had to go again and the suggestion is within the next five years.

"We had more than 90 children on the trip with us, a lot

were toddlers and it was felt that the little ones would want to go back when they were old enough to understand.

"A lot of the islanders get leave and come over here and we would, as an Association, like to offer them our hospitality as well as keep in touch with each other. There is a tremendous bond of sympathy within the Association and there was never any question of differences in rank being applied. The Association has now been registered and Sue's first job was to get out all the letters to the members. Plans for the return have not got any further but we wanted to stick together."

The Association is open to all relatives of those lost in the Falklands, not just those who went on the pilgrimage. Prospective members should write, giving their name and address and the name and Service of the relative they lost, to: Miss Sue Taylor, c/o Greenacre, Vale Down, Lydford, Okehampton, Devon EX20 4BB.

NEW DRIVER TRAINING BOOST

A NEW COURSE for staff car drivers has been approved by the Ministry of Defence. It was introduced last month at the Army School of Mechanical Transport (ASMT) at Leconfield, Yorkshire, as part of a new positive concept for staff car driver training generally.

The course, titled Staff Car Driver (Advanced), is designed for RCT and WRAC personnel and is part of a three tier level progression for staff car drivers that places greater emphasis on security awareness.

Staff car drivers on first entry to a staff car unit will now be programmed to attend a basic familiarisation course and then, later, will progress to the Advanced level course at Leconfield. Finally, for those specially selected, a yet more specialised course is run by the Royal Military Police.

There are 15 Advanced courses held annually at ASMT, with a student capacity of ten for each course. The ratio of Charter students is six RCT to four WRAC but where there is a shortfall of Charter students All Arms personnel, who meet the pre-course criteria, may be accepted on a 'fill up' basis.



Comforting a bereaved relative aboard the *Cunard Countess*.

GUNNERS GET THEIR GIRL

BEAUTY QUEEN Kim Davis — she is currently Miss Rams-gate — celebrated her 22nd birthday two days early by winning another beauty title. This time Kim became Miss Kent Gunner, the name given by 94 Locating Regiment to their personality girl for 1983.

An officer, a sergeant and a young gunner elected Kim — she is a computer operator near her Broadstairs, Kent, home —

and one of her prizes will be a trip to Celle in West Germany where the regiment is based.

Said Gunner Alan Allport, from Manchester: "Since I've been in the Army I've been asked to do some strange jobs, but sitting on the panel which elected Kim must be the best job yet."



IN BRIEF

Lt-Gen Sir Nigel Bagnall is to become C-in-C, BAOR on July 1 in succession to Gen Sir Michael Gow. The post, in the rank of general, also incorporates Commander NORTHAG.

★ ★ ★

Lt-Gen Sir James Glover is to be Vice Chief of the General Staff (VCGS) on May 31. The appointment carries with it membership of the Army Board of the Defence Council.

TIGERS SHOW THEIR CLAWS

THE FALKLANDS FIGHTING has been over for nearly a year but the 1st Battalion, The Royal Hampshire Regiment are ready — just in case.

They have just held a company strength exercise aimed at testing their ability to react to an enemy incursion and the scenario was held on the large field firing range of the Hornby Mountains in West Falkland.

Code-named Upland Tiger — an appropriate nickname as the regiment are known as The Tigers — the live firing exercise was organised and run by Major Tim Glass, the battalion's second-in-command. Similar exercises are likely to be carried out by other battalions in the future.

"The opportunities available in the islands are unique," said Major Glass. "The ranges are extensive and the support available to us is second-to-none. Here, the infantryman can see all the weapons fired that would back

him up in war and the exercise is as close to the actual thing as safety constraints will allow."

Milans and 81mm mortars were fired from the battalion's resources with outside help coming from a battery of 105mm Light Guns of the Royal Artillery's 129 (Dragon) Battery, SS 11 missiles from 658 Squadron, Army Air Corps, naval gunfire from one of the on-station frigates and ground attacks from the RAF's Phantom and Harrier detachments. Chinook helicopters flew in the assault troops.

When it was all over, Major Glass summed up the value of the exercise: "It brought home to many the achievement of those who fought in the war and some of the problems they would have faced. It also served as a warning that the Upland Tiger is not a creature to annoy by uninvited visits to his lair."

Realistic battle simulation. ▼



ARMY TO JOIN YOUTH TRAINING SCHEME

UNEMPLOYED youngsters seeking work experience under the Government's new Youth Training Scheme should be able to volunteer to spend a year with the Armed Forces from September.

The Services are making around 5200 places available for the YTS with the Army expected to take the lion's share of around 3700. But shortage of training capacity for female recruits will mean that no girls will be accepted by the Army under the scheme for the time being.

Detailed regulations have still to be worked out and approved by Parliament. But the intention is that young 16 and 17 year-old school leavers will be able to apply for places at their local recruiting offices.

If accepted, they will be treated exactly the same as any other new recruit. They will get the same training, wear the same uniform and cap badge, and be

subject to the same discipline.

As Defence Secretary, Michael Heseltine put it in announcing the scheme: "In the eye of the sergeant major they will be just another squaddie."

But there will be one important difference. Unlike their regular counterparts, the YTS trainees will be able to leave at any time subject to 14 days notice.

The total cost of the scheme will be around £20 million which will be met by provision for the Youth Training Scheme. The youngsters themselves will be

paid £25 a week of which £10 will be deducted for food and accommodation.

They will get normal leave and travel warrants. But they will not serve in Northern Ireland and they are unlikely to be posted to Germany or other overseas stations.

Commending the scheme to the House of Commons, Mr Heseltine said: "I have been considering the role of the Armed Forces in the Government's programme to provide training and work experience for unemployed school leavers. The high

quality of the training provided by our Armed Forces has convinced me that they should play a part."

Although he proposed to make some 5200 places available, the exact number of places in the first year would depend on the response in applications and the capacity of the Services training organisation. Part of the 12-month engagement, said Mr Heseltine, would be spent in formal training and the rest in work experience. This would be of general help to youngsters going on to look for work.

Although final details had still to be announced, it was expected that teenagers joining the Army scheme would find scope for training in light engineering skills such as fitters, plant and machine operators.

ROAD DEATHS CLAIM 87

FIGURES released by the Ministry of Defence show that road traffic accidents — with 87 fatalities — were still the largest single non-operational cause of death amongst serving soldiers for the year 1982/83. The total lives lost during the 12 months was 369 which included the 122 deaths incurred in the South Atlantic.

Grants from the Soldiers' Widows Fund and Single Soldiers' Fund have been increased from £1650 to £1750 and from £1100 to £1250 respectively although annual subscriptions to both funds remain the same at £1.80. Membership of the Soldiers' Widows Fund has stayed at 99 per cent while that of the Single Soldiers' Fund has increased to a record 95 per cent. Unfortunately six single soldiers who died during the year were not members of the fund.

The Soldiers' Widows Fund awarded 135 basic grants to widows and dependant children, totalling £220,000. Similarly 163 basic grants were made to members of the Single Soldiers' Fund totalling £177,300. The South Atlantic Fund contributed a combined sum of £154,550 to the two funds.

The number of training deaths increased from five to 14 per cent over the year and the Ministry of Defence is concerned about the rise in suicides — from nine in 1980/81 to 27 in 1982/83.

GOODBYE DEVIZES

Men of 9 Ordnance Battalion, RAOC, have paraded through Devizes for the last time. The battalion moves to Corsham in June and 9 Bn is the main logistic unit of the United Kingdom Land Forces (Land).

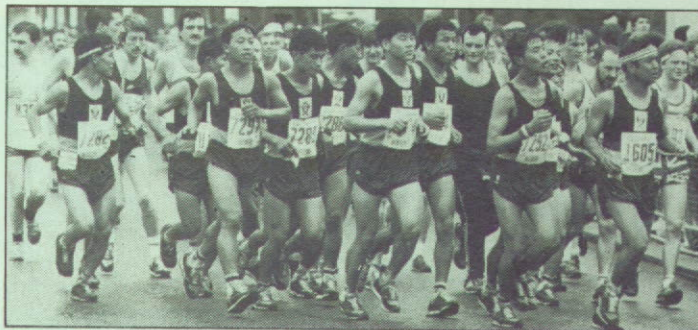
Miles of smiles for Gurkhas

WHAT THEY lacked in achieving their planned target time, a team of two dozen Gurkhas from Church Crookham certainly made up for in terms of sheer public relations during the Gillette London Marathon — cheered all the limb-aching way to the finish.

The men from A Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles, had set themselves a time of three-and-a-quarter hours but had to settle for a time of 3 hours 37 minutes.

They had pledged they would finish in formation and that is just what the first 15 runners did — breaking into a quick march 100 yards from the line.

For the little mountain men from the tiny kingdom of Nepal who had fought and marched in the Falklands it was their first-



ever marathon over the tar macadam streets of a city.

Organiser and pace-maker was their CO, Major Mike Sear, who said that his men had come through the Falklands unscathed and wanted to do something for those who had not. Proceeds from sponsorship were being sent to the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association.

Sergeant Basant Dewan said afterwards: "People were cheering us all the time and it was a great thrill for my young boys."

There were many other Forces representatives among the 18,000 starters, among them TA medics carrying a stretcher

and a dozen SAS men all running as 'John Smith'.

Also there was an RSM's wife from the Shetlands, Priscilla Welch, who took 10th place in the ladies event with a time of 2-29-38 and could win selection for Great Britain in either the World or European championships.

Husband Dave Welch, with the Nato Force Scatter Station, told SOLDIER that she had been putting in 70-90 miles a week in all weathers to prepare for the race.

Gun runners thwarted

INTERNATIONAL gun runners intent on smuggling no less than a heavy cannon across the Irish border, reckoned without a vigilant patrol of 4th Battalion Ulster Defence Regiment who thwarted them with an impromptu amphibious operation.

Soldiers of C Company were on patrol when a man tipped them off about strange goings on alongside a cabin cruiser at lonely Innishfendra Island on Upper Lough Erne. The Fermanagh UDR men borrowed a boat, landed on the island and nabbed a group of Germans apparently trying to manhandle the big gun into their cruiser.

It turned out they were tourists with a holiday home in the Irish Republic and the cannon was a 300-years old relic from the Battle of Newtownbutler in 1689. The UDR patrol commander contacted Lord Erne, owner of the island, and the old gun was taken, not south of the border, but to his home at Crom Castle where it is safer from holiday souvenir hunters.

LEBANON TROOPS TO STAY LONGER

BRITAIN's military presence in Lebanon — BRITFORLEB — as part of the multi-national peacekeeping force there, is to remain for a further three months at the request of the Lebanese Government unless there is an earlier "substantial Israeli withdrawal".

Currently C Squadron 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, equipped with Ferret Scout cars, are in Beirut (see SOLDIER 21 March), but no final decision has been taken on which unit will take on the additional commitment. No increase in the British force level is planned. At present it is less than 100-strong.



NEWS VIEW

◀ SILVER DIB-DIB

Bob a jobbing round Wavell Barracks, Berlin, cub scouts from the 3rd Berlin Spandau Scout Pack, helped Colour-Sergeant Damien Delacy and Corporal Bob Skillen to clean the 2 Royal Irish mess silver. Picture shows the cubs with Akela, Margaret Dunne and two older 'cubs' brushing up on their saluting!



RIVER BOMB ▶

The two Army bomb disposal experts who successfully defused a Second World War bomb dredged up from the bottom of the Thames. The riverside area came to a complete standstill as Major John Quin (left) and Lance-Corporal Michael Rawley did the job. Major Quin said later that if the bomb had exploded it would have scattered debris and glass splinters for over a kilometre.



WESER WATCH ▲

Sappers from 26 Engineer Regiment from Iserlohn gave close support to the Royal Canadian Dragoons from Lahr when the Canadians practised swimming their Cougar Direct Fire Support vehicle across the Weser near Hameln.



PIPE TOUR ▼

Pipe Major Mick Hardin, second ever pipe major to 4 RTR, sizes up against one of 'C' Squadron's 56-ton Chieftain tanks at Tidworth. Pipe Major Hardin will be playing a prominent role in this year's Edinburgh Military Tattoo and London Royal Tournament as well as touring round the major cities of Scotland.

EDUCATIONAL TRIP ▶

Education Corps units in Aldershot had a visit from their Colonel in Chief, HRH The Duchess of Gloucester, last month. Here she discusses some of the rare prints and maps in the Prince Consort's library with (from left) Maj Gen Tony Trythall, Director Army Education, Lt Gen Sir Richard Trant, GOC SE District, and Col Philip de la Haye, Commander Education for SE District.



NEW BOSS ▲

Taking over as new administrator of the Sovereign Base Areas and Commander British Forces Cyprus is Maj Gen Sir Desmond Langley, seen here being greeted by Col John Symons, Head of Secretariat on the island. Also in the welcome party was Lt Col David Thomson, CO of 1 Bn Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, whose men helped provide the Guard of Honour.

HAPPY UNION ▼

Fish and chips were on the menu when German miners leader, Herr Hans Alkers, sat down with 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards for a field lunch on a look round the Bergen-Hohne gunnery ranges. No doubt he found firing the 120 mm gun of a Chieftain tank child's play after wrestling with a tomato ketchup bottle!



MUSICAL LEADERS ▼

Trumpet Major WO1 Eddie Cooper congratulates Junior Gunners Alastair Cook and Michael Darby as Best Drummer and Best Trumpeter of the year at the Junior Leaders Regt, Royal Artillery. Their awards are sponsored by former members of the Boys Battery RA, who all joined the Army soon after November 1942 — at 14 — and several of whom are still serving.



FUND BOOST ▲

The Prime Minister showed she could wield a nifty spade when she planted an oak tree to commemorate the Falklands campaign during a visit to the Postal and Courier Depot, Mill Hill. She also handed over three cheques totalling £3000 for the Army Benevolent Fund, including one of £1000 from the Depot. Mrs Thatcher is president of the Barnet ABF, and watching her spade work approvingly was her vice-president, Depot Commandant Col Rolph James.

BAND AID ▼

Bandsmen of 3 Armoured Div in Germany swapped their euphoniums for elastoplast as they practised their war role of medics in a tough first aid competition. They won good marks from the examiners — particularly the winners, the Band of 1 Light Infantry, whose C-Sgt Nobby Clark and BdsM Dale Price are seen here tending a casualty in a gory car crash.





TOPICS

MID-WEEK cadres especially for the benefit of the unemployed TA soldier have been introduced by the 6th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers based on Newcastle-on-Tyne. The scheme was given a six weeks trial and has been so successful that it is to continue.

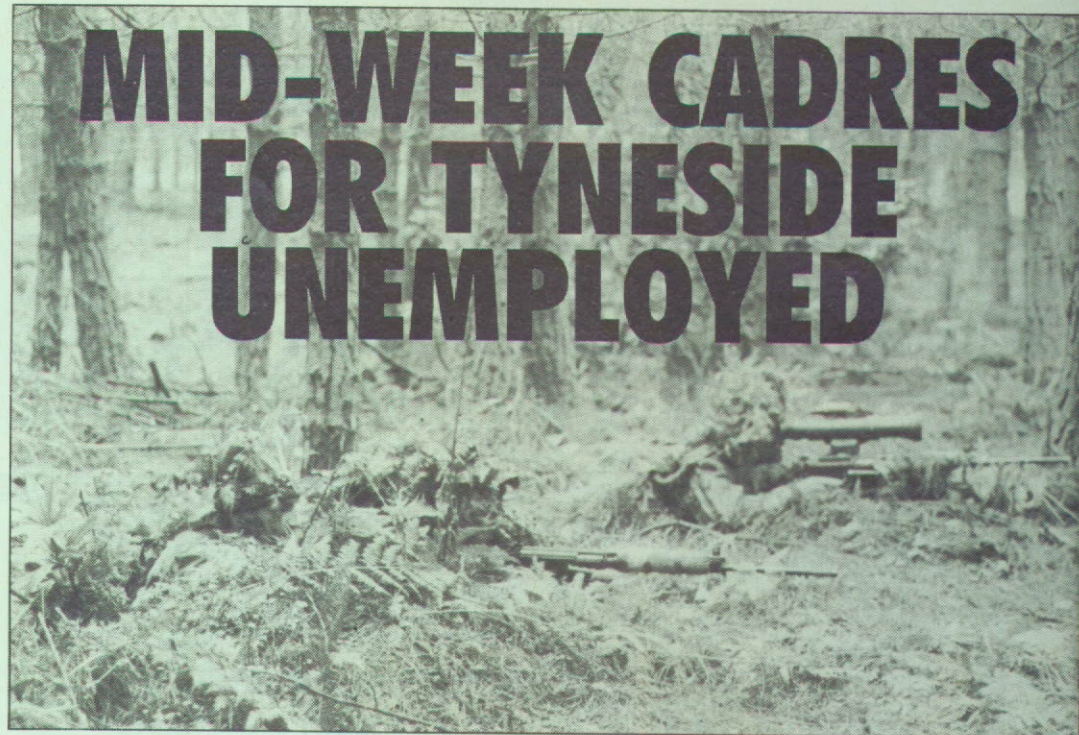
There have been two main objectives for the 20 unemployed Terriers who have attended regularly. Apart from giving them a part-time activity it has improved the standards of training. The cadre has been run by Colour Sergeant Dave Craig, a perma-

nent staff instructor from X Company.

Subjects imparted to the eager subscribers include camouflage and concealment, patrolling, occupation of hides and voice procedures. The picture shows Fusiliers of X Company in Tyne-side's Chopwell Woods.

And just to show that the

volunteers can achieve equally high standards on the ceremonial side of life, Z Company of the Fusiliers from Ashington, Northumberland, produced a guard of honour for Colonel, The Duke of Northumberland when he presented his Lord Lieutenant's certificates to two of their members.



NO CHANGE IN ULSTER

THE NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE is not now to consider whether the TA should be used as an integral part of the Security Forces in the Province.

A recent statement by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr James Prior, said, "Regardless of any measures which might have to be taken to improve people's safety, there is no plan to change the role of the TA in Northern Ireland; the Regular Army and the UDR can and do provide all the military support required by the RUC."

This statement followed an earlier commitment by Mr Prior in the House of Commons, in answer to a supplementary question from Mr Harold McCusker, MP to "look at" the advisability of any change.

Mr McCusker was prompted to ask the question after the murder of a TA senior NCO, Mr Trevor Elliot, by the Provisional IRA. Mr Elliot was killed instantly in a burst of automatic fire as he was leaving a grocery shop in the town of Keady in County Armagh. Mr McCusker was particularly concerned with what he said was an increasing level of terrorist activity in his constituency and was anxious to know whether any measures would be taken to improve the personal security of TA soldiers.

Although the Government accepted the need to examine urgently whether the TA might now become more at risk, its role as a Nato reserve force would remain unchanged.

That's Champion Grub!



TOP TA cooks in Ulster's Army Field Cookery Competition were the men of the ACC attached to 40 (Ulster) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) based on Belfast. Runners-up were 21 Ambulance Sqn, RCT (Volunteers) with third slot going to 220 Ambulance Sqn.

Seven teams were entered in the cookery skill contest which involved setting up a tactical field kitchen in two hours followed by preparing a set meal for ten soldiers.

But that was not all! The men had to

produce an original dish of their own choice from basic Army compo. The results were tasty . . . flans, pizzas and baked spuds with cheese topping. There was even a cheese dip with biscuits.

Lt-Gen Sir Robert Richardson, GOC Northern Ireland, who presented the prizes paid tribute to the skill, dedication and initiative of the volunteer Army Catering Corps both as soldiers and cooks. The picture shows him enjoying a bite with the winners.

TANDEM PAIR ARE NEARLY THERE

THE TWO young TA officers on a trans-Sahara tandem trek have reached Niger and were coming to the end of their marathon journey as SOLDIER went to press.

Lieutenant Mandy Dunn and 2nd Lieutenant Paul Wright of 265 (KSY) Signal Squadron (V) at Bexleyheath completed the

most daunting phase of their journey when they travelled from Tamanrasset in southern Algeria to Arlit a uranium mining town in Niger.

Most of the journey was on 'the piste' — unmade tracks across the desert. Said Paul: "In some parts it was as hard as asphalt and we were able to race

along. The sensation of actually cycling across the desert was one of the most exhilarating I have had — equal to my favourite sport of rock climbing."

However, the piste also took them through sand dunes and Paul reports they had no alternative but to plough through them.

The couple had to make two

attempts at the journey — the first ended with "a front wheel shaped like a figure of eight and forks that looked like a clock at quarter to three."

The journey from Tamanrasset to Arlit took 28 days — seven of which were spent sheltering behind rocks or burned out cars as sandstorms swept over them. And they spent two days in Algerian Army custody after straying onto a training area. Nineteen punctures and a broken rear axle completed the mishaps.

After a few days in the Air Mountains Paul and Mandy were setting off for the final leg of their journey and their final destination — Kaduna in Nigeria.

Showing their skills at Altcar

UNITS OF 42 Infantry Brigade have just held their season's first joint skill-at-arms meetings at the Altcar Range complex on Merseyside. The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry were

put through their paces on a Saturday, with 4th Battalion, King's Own Royal Border Regiment competing for their honours the following day.

For the Yeomanry, the Preston-based D Squadron were overall champions, with A Company (Workington & Carlisle) finishing top for 4 KORB.

Both COs, Lt Col R Ferguson of the DLOY and Lt Col C R Day of the 4th Battalion, were delighted with the event and said afterwards: "We'll do this again next year — it worked splendidly for us and much reduced the administrative load. And the Range staff did us proud."



D Sqn DLOY with trophy haul. ▲

DLOY WRAC race away at start of Falling Plate shoot. ►

SALUTE FROM THE PAST

FOUR GRAND old soldiers with a combined age of 370 years lined up to take a proud salute at Winchester last month.

The quartet were all members of the TA when it was formed in 1908 and were attending a special 75th Anniversary lunch as guests of the Eastern Wessex TA Association.

Pictured left to right are Mr Fred Scott, who joined the Buckinghamshire Battalion of the Oxfordshire Light Infantry; Captain Harry Bailey, who was with the Hampshire Royal Garrison Artillery and won an MC on the Somme with the South African Heavy Artillery in World War One; The Reverend Aubrey

Hooper MC who joined the Officer Cadet Training Corps at Cambridge University and served in France with the Royal Artillery; Mr Joseph Knight, who, like Mr Scott was with the Bucks Battalion of volunteers and served with the Home Guard in World War Two.



Back to Khaki for King's

IT'S ALL change on top in the North at the moment with the agreement of the King's Division to a suggestion that the colour of their berets should now be khaki.

The five regiments concerned have all worn blue berets since the 1950s but now they are to revert to the original khaki colour as this is considered to be more distinctive and appropriate to an infantry organisation.

The 1st Battalion, The Yorkshire Volunteers are the first unit to effect the change and have all been 're-sprayed' since the end of last month. The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, the Green Howards and the King's Own Royal Border Regiment will now follow suit.

IN BRIEF

FROM the 13 entries for the GOC North-West District's Scrap Book Prize for the top public information portfolio for last year, that of the 4th Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, based at Lancaster, was adjudged to be the best. Runner-up was 33 (Lancashire and Cheshire) Signal Regiment from Huyton, Merseyside.

LT-COL Ernest Britto, CO of The Gibraltar Regiment, is this year's TA Rifle Association Short Range Individual Rifle Shot champion with a score of 594 points. He also won the Serving Members Prize.

Other prize-winners were, Capt Masterman of 118 Fd Sqn, RE, who took second place; 2nd Lt Hutchins, SE London ACF, WO2 Wiltshire of 265 Port Sqn, RCT, Cpl Love of 265 (KSY) Sigs Sqn and L/Cpl Gosling of B (SRY) Sqn, RY who all shared third place.

The WRAC prize went to Capt Mackintosh of Queens University OTC.

THE Bristol Unigate Marathon will be held on Sunday, 24 July at Horfield Common starting at 1000 hours in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund. Volunteers please to Mr J Hockey, 51 Briar Way, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 4EB.

AFTER ONLY three-and-a-half years' existence the Junior Soldiers' Battalion is no more. The unit, which trained more than 700 youngsters a year for the Infantry, The Royal Corps of Transport and the Royal Pioneer Corps, bowed out with a final passing out parade at Norton Manor Camp, just

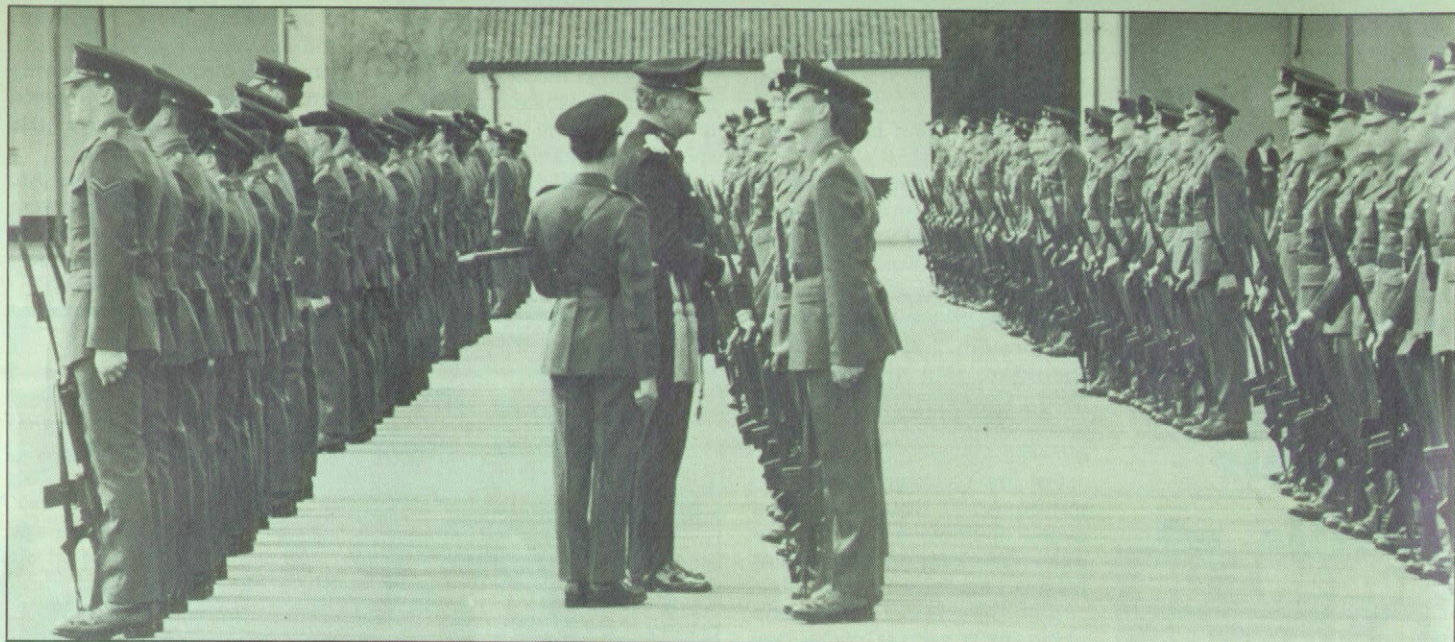
outside Taunton.

Now only a rear party remains and later in the summer the camp, which was reopened and refurbished when the Junior Soldiers Battalion was formed in the autumn of 1979, will be taken over by 40 Commando, Royal Marines.

It was created at a time when it was

concluded that the junior Army entry had to be expanded by about 6000 in order to meet manpower targets and existing depots and junior soldiers' camps would be unable to cope.

The Director of Infantry, Major General Peter Sibbald, was the inspecting officer at the final parade. ■



JUNIOR SOLDIERS BOW OUT

SOLDIER to Soldier

THERE WERE predictable cries of indignation in certain quarters at the Government's decision to provide over 5000 places in the Services for unemployed youngsters under its new Youth Training Scheme.

Some critics saw it as a first step to restoring conscription. Others objected that the Armed Forces were being used as a dumping ground for the unemployed. A few, on the more hysterical fringes, even claimed that the Government was offering young people an apprenticeship in killing when it should be preparing them for living!

Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine freely admitted that the decision offers few benefits from a purely military standpoint. In today's high-tech Services it takes a long time to train a raw recruit to make a viable contribution to a unit's fighting strength. Certainly the youngsters who volunteer to serve under the new scheme will not be stiffening the Services' sharp end.

No, the Armed Forces are participating in the scheme because, as the servants of their country, they recognise that they have a duty to society which is wider than just a military obligation. And seen in this light the scheme has much to commend it.

The effect of working in a disciplined, highly professional environment with an opportunity to learn new skills as well as

serve their country, will be an attractive prospect for many young people. And, unlike the conscripts of National Service days, they will still be able to opt for a return to civvy street at any time.

Few, we suspect, will exercise that option. For the Forces present the kind of challenge that most youngsters will rise to and thrive on — a chance to rub shoulders with a group of fit, enthusiastic and well-motivated professionals and, in mixing with others, to discover more about themselves.

It is a pity that a lack of training facilities will prevent girls taking advantage of the Army YTS programme. It is a pity, too — though inevitable given current recruiting needs — that having whetted the appetite of some of the boys for Service life the completion of 12 months training will bring no firm promise of a permanent career.

But although there are bound to be some for whom a spell in the Forces will simply be a brief, busy interlude in the monotony of the dole queue, others may well find it a stepping stone to a happier future that they can face with new vigour and self-confidence.

Our Armed Forces may only be able to make a modest contribution to alleviating the scourge of unemployment. But we can be confident that it is a commitment they will honour in full.

ARETIRED Cavalry officer is wrestling with a particularly knotty 'missing persons' problem.

He is trying to track down every surviving member of the first post-war intake of officer cadets at the RMA Sandhurst in 1947. Because he wants to invite them to dinner!

Ex-Major Dick Brett is planning the third — and probably the last — reunion dinner of the celebrated 'Guinea Pig' brigade, so-called because it was the first Sandhurst intake to experience the new officer training methods evolved from the lessons of the second world war.

The first reunion took place at the RMA on the intake's 25th anniversary in 1973 and was followed five years ago by a 30th birthday celebration. Now, Major Brett is planning a third get-together on July 14th.

It will also be the last dinner at which any of the guests from Intake 1 will still be serving officers. There will, in fact, be three of them, all now generals — General Sir Richard Lawson, Commander-in-Chief Allied Forces Northern Europe, Oslo; Lieutenant-General Sir Edward Burgess, C-in-C UKLF and Major-General Peter Sibbald, Director of Infantry.

From an original total of 277 cadets, nearly 150 were located for the 25th anniversary 10 years ago. Since then many have moved and most are now no longer on the officers' reserve list.

Former 'Guinea Pigs' with nostalgic leanings can contact Major Brett at: King's Farthing, Princess Road, Allostock, near Knutsford, Cheshire. Telephone Lower Peover (056581) 2809.

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**FALKLANDS
FILE**

PROJECT ZEUS -

SUMMIT OF SUCCESS



**Story:
Jem Dent**

PROJECT ZEUS, a classified radar construction project and one of the most spectacular that the Royal Engineers have taken on in recent years, is drawing to a successful close before the Falklands winter. And to celebrate the progress that had been made against all odds, Major General David Thorne, until recently Commander British Forces Falkland Islands, visited the mountaintop radar station to present each of the jubilant sappers with a beer.

The general was honouring a promise he made on New Year's Day 1983 that he would reward the 34 Field Squadron Sappers who work on the site if they could achieve the progress he demanded. The men on Project Zeus have conquered numerous setbacks, a shortage of stores and the fickle nature of helicopter operations in the variable weather to create a liveable, workable site in a hostile environment.

In conjunction with the ceremonial issue of beer, the Officer Commanding, 34 Field Squadron, Major Ian Plant, invited the General to unveil a plinth. The bronze plaque mounted in the top reads: 'ZEUS — A ROUTINE TASK FOR 34 FIELD SQUADRON'. But, as Major General Thorne was quick to emphasise, "It was anything but a routine task, carried out by exceptional soldiers. I have nothing but admiration for the way in which each soldier buckled down to this task and carried it through".

Personnel of the RAF's Radar Erection

◀ Work stops as a Chinook responds to a hooker's directions.

◀ A Chinook delivers two skips of aggregate to the Project Zeus site.

Team, a group of the recently arrived Royal Irish Rangers and men from 30 Air Defence Battery have all now joined 34 Field Squadron on the remote summit of Project Zeus.

Construction started in December 1982 after a planning report was pushed through in a tight schedule. The Royal Engineers have built the bases for the RAF's technical equipment and a domestic complex to allow men to live on Zeus and operate the radar station. Now only some minor electrical and water supply work remains before they finish the job.

Major Ian Plant believes the success of Zeus hinged on two factors: "The stamina of the workforce was incredible. The ninety sappers, REME, ACC and RAMC medics never lost a single day's work during the four months of living with their heads in the clouds! And they could not have done without the back-up in stores and administration. The men of HQ, Support and 1 Troops, working on sites near Stanley, have also done Zeus proud".

It is something of a miracle that the project got off the ground at all. The relatively short planning and execution time, the need to order specialist stores and equipment from manufacturers 8000 miles away and the total reliance on Chinook airlift for all technical materials, equipment and day-to-day supplies set problems which many, from outside and inside the Services, doubted would ever be solved.

Here Major Plant pays tribute to the RAF: "The achievement of Zeus is a great credit to the Chinook detachment. Unfailing support in terms of hundreds of sorties to bring men and material to the mountaintop has allowed us to get Zeus finished. The Chinook helicopters have given us what we wanted despite being fully committed to other sites and units."

The Chinook detachment commander, Squadron Leader Gordon Woolley called it: "One hell of a task. I was pleased, though, with the teamwork which developed between our aircrew and the sappers' hookers. 34 Field Squadron have developed the most professional helicopter handling team we have met."

It was this slick work at the airhead just outside Stanley which enabled the Project Officer on Zeus, Captain Chris Moulder, to vary his priorities according to the task's progression. "We had a good service from the bottom," he said. "Of course, there were misunderstandings, but they came up with the goods when they were needed."

Despite the high work rate required to finish the project on time, soldiers were allowed to take helicopter lifts to Squadron HQ on the outskirts of Port Stanley. The men labelled it 'Raz', taken from the Navy's acronym for Replenishment at Sea.

The two days doing laundry, relaxing and sightseeing regenerated the sappers' batteries before returning to Zeus as Major Plant explained. "When you live and work in such conditions for protracted periods, amenities such as the sauna, the cinema and the pub are not luxuries — they are essential priorities."

The determination of Squadron HQ to give the site the same facilities as the rest of the Falklands Garrison even led to the 'high-jacking' of a Combined Services Entertain-



ments (CSE) Show. With the Squadron's first class ground/air radio communications, sometimes better even than the helicopters' controllers, the CSE Show's aircraft was guided into the Zeus helipad.

Despite the limited facilities, the artistes gave a rousing performance and singer Kerry Washington confirmed afterwards: "It was the best show of the tour. The lads entertained us, as well, in the pub. They were real gentlemen!" Zeus has now become a permanent fixture in the CSE itinerary.

Early work on shuttering for random walls.

Major Ian Plant summed up the feelings of many sappers in the Falklands: "The magnitude of engineer tasks here is both essential and exciting. The diversity of skills practised by men and all Royal Engineers throughout the Islands is a tribute to the Royal School of Military Engineering, Chatham. Project Zeus and other engineer tasks in these Islands will long remain a monument to the Corps." ■

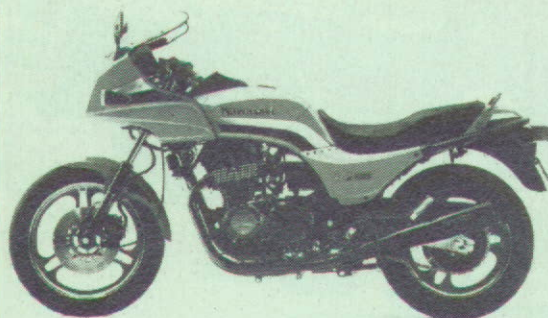
Errecting the generator site screen. Inset shows Officer Commanding, Major Ian Plant.



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FOR THOSE IN PERIL ON THE SEA



Story: John Walton Pictures: Doug Pratt

MAJOR 'MAC' MacCORMACK comes from a family with possibly the longest record of service in the Royal Artillery — he is the fifth generation of Gunners and his son, a sergeant-major instructor in gunnery in Germany, is the sixth.

And Major MacCormack is still in uniform — 16 years after he retired from the Army to become the range officer at the Proof and Experimental Establishment at Pendine in what used to be Pembrokeshire.

Here he has earned himself a new reputation — for saving lives at sea. Together with ex-Redcap, Stan Ward, Major MacCormack has put to sea several hundred times in recent years to save lives, using the Gemini dinghy belonging to the Establishment.

'Mac' knew quite a lot about sailing before going to Pendine. He was with the Royal Marine Commandos during the war and took part in the Normandy landings. He also has an offshore yachtsman's skipper's ticket. But little did he realise when he came to Pendine that his sailing ability would be needed quite so much.

Work at sea is part of the trials at the Establishment and the local coastguards, knowing that a dinghy was available, started calling upon it to help with rescues.

"The problem we came up against was that once we had done a few turnouts during duty hours the coastguards started calling outside duty hours. The Ministry of Defence said we were at our own risk outside those hours so the only thing for those of us who piled in to help was to become auxiliary coastguards."

Now the major and his coxswain, Stan, are called out regularly in all weathers. "We get more false alarms than real ones although we have had the real thing as many as nine times in one day."

Major MacCormack describes the bay as a nasty one and says that if the wind is northerly, holidaymakers get a false sense of protection by high ground at the rear.

"If the tide is in you get lots of holi-

daymakers and kids playing around on air beds. Gradually the tide recedes and they get to the point where the wind comes off the beach and starts to hit them. Before they know it they are a mile out at sea."

He has every faith in the sailing prowess of Stan Ward. "On a bad night he is the only one I would go to sea with. He rides the craft by the seat of his pants. The whole weight of the Atlantic comes flowing into this bay with enormous waves. Usually on a wild and windy night in the dark you are going across the estuary with the sea beam onto you — and that can be extremely dangerous in a small boat."

One of the snags they have found in rescuing children is that the panic stricken youngsters jump off their air beds and strike out for the dinghy before they are really near enough. Yet only one of their rescue attempts has ended in tragedy when they found an old tyre but no sign of the lad who had been playing on it.

'Usually on a wild and windy night in the dark you are going across the estuary with the sea beam onto you — and that can be extremely dangerous in a small boat.'

One of their most memorable rescues involved a family who had been picnicking in a hollow in the cliffs and found themselves cut off by the tide. Called out after dark Major MacCormack found that because of a power strike there was not a light to be seen. He had to arrange for a police Land-Rover to be situated at the clifftop with its lights on to guide them to the aid of the woman, two children and a dog.

On another occasion Mac found himself called out to five cows stranded on a sand-

Mac the birdwatcher (inset) and, above, with Stan Ward and rescue dinghy beneath a brooding Pendine sky.

bank and threatened by the incoming tide. The rescue took most of the night.

"I went out with Master Gunner Wyn Jones and we had to stay with the cows over the high water line and keep their heads above water. We were swimming most of the time. Eventually we had to tie the cows' feet up so they could not move off the bank."

After the tide receded the rescuers used an old barn door to save the cows one by one — winching them to safety. They later received the RSPCA certificate of merit.

Pendine Sands was the scene of many of the pre-war world land speed record attempts by such people as Sir Malcolm Campbell. More recently Major MacCormack has been involved as range officer in two other attempts, both of which failed ingloriously.

"I would not expect to see another world land speed record on these sands," he says. "When Malcolm Campbell and those sort of people came here they waited for months until everything was favourable. Now they come on Thursday and expect to be gone by Saturday or Sunday."

"Four or five miles of the sands are runnable by car but they are not really suitable for a record attempt today. They were the right sort of thing for the speeds and cars of pre-war days."

When he eventually retires, Mac MacCormack intends to stay around Pendine. He has finally put down roots and is chairman of the local community council.

Then he intends to concentrate on his birdwatching, an interest he picked up as a young soldier armed with binoculars on a lookout post in Palestine. "I have spent a lot of my life on various hilltops with binoculars and you see a great deal of nature. This place is a paradise for the birdwatcher and I shall continue to take an interest in the MoD conservation group we run here." ■

SOLDIER visits the British gunners in Germany for whom Nato partnership means a chance to master new skills

GUIDING THE MISSILE MEN

THINK OF LEARNING gunnery skills and Larkhill springs to mind — and the bleak flatness of Salisbury Plain. But twice a year a handful of British artillerymen have the opportunity to learn their job in entirely different surroundings.

Nestling on the wooded slopes of the Nahe valley in the middle of Germany is the town of Idar-Oberstein, the home of the German diamond cutting trade and the Bundeswehr Artillery School (Artillerieschule.)

Here the scope of training is similar to that at the School of Artillery in Larkhill but on a much larger scale. The total strength of the West German Artillery is over 42,000 and with the majority conscripted for a

period of 15 months, there has to be a massive training programme.

Courses at the Artillerieschule provide training for about 10,000 students a year with up to 2000 attending one of 40 annual courses at any given time. From basic recruit training to battalion commander, the programme encompasses all aspects of gunnery skills, specialist and career training.

Under the command of a Bundeswehr general, the Artillerieschule is divided into four wings dealing respectively with officer training in field artillery, rocket artillery, reconnaissance and locating (including drones) as well as NCO and driver training.

Coming under B Wing is the Sixth Inspektion which amongst

other things, has responsibility for the Eurotraining programme — Eurotrain.

Courses are run twice a year for selected commissioned and non-commissioned officers from various Nato battalions using the Lance missile system. Their aim is to provide students with a working knowledge of operation and maintenance of Lance including instruction in the basic vehicle, the launcher, the loader-transporter, sighting, surveying and laying as well as the missile itself.

Out of a total of 216 hours, no less than 144 are devoted to practical exercises.

Based in Menden on the Ruhr, 50 Missile Regiment is the one BAOR unit which sends students on Eurotrain along with

Bombardier Frank Jamieson practising the intricate technique of sighting.

representatives of Lance units from Belgium, Italy and Holland as well as the host country, Germany.

This is an all ranks course for about sixteen students in all — usually about five British, five Dutch and two each from the other member countries. It is conducted entirely in English, so all the students must have a working knowledge of the language. Even so, there are inevitably communication difficulties for some of those whose mother tongue is not English.

SOLDIER visited the Artillerieschule during the tenth course since Eurotrain began in 1977, and learned first hand how

the multinationals cope with not only language, but also cultural differences.

During off duty hours the various contingents tended to stick to their own groups, even to the extent of going to different bars to drink in the evening. No real attempt was made to integrate socially, largely because this was a time for relaxation and particularly important for the non-British students who struggled all day in English and

Sergeant Barry Massey and Lieutenant Holger Ullhorn with the theodolite.

looked forward to easy conversation in their own languages.

Another barrier was the difference in sense of humour — the other nationals describing the British humour variously as 'weird', 'crude' and 'incomprehensible' and the British, rather typically, accusing the others of not having any at all.

One problem the Brits did

have, though, was with the food. Lunching in the field on noodles and schnitzel, they certainly had no intention of passing their compliments to the chef. Commented one, "If I served this junk to my lot, I'd be wearing it!"

Unable to face the cold continental breakfasts, the highly flavoured meats and sauerkraut, the British preferred to buy their own food from the PX at the nearby United States Army base.

Care is taken transferring missile from transporter to launcher.

But even the hefty, Texan-sized steaks did not compensate for the lack of chips — real chips, of course, not pommes frites.

When it came to the course itself, however, whether in the classroom or in the field, it was a different matter with everybody helping each other. During practical exercises members split up into smaller, multinational groups so that on the firing positions each gunner was of a different nationality.

Course instructor, Hauptman Harry Ahders told SOLDIER "This course is run in the true spirit of Nato. Here it is not the generals getting together, but the soldiers themselves, at grass roots level, working in co-operation with each other. They learn to feel as Nato and act as Nato."

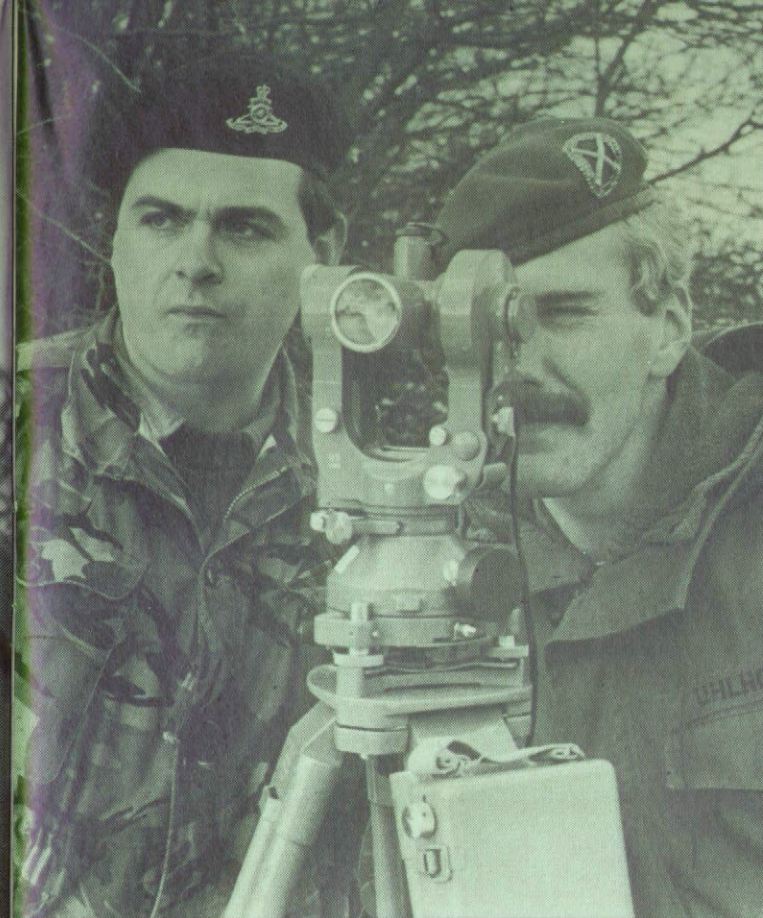
The content of Eurotrain barely differs from the similar course run biannually at Larkhill, but the advantage to 50 Missile Regiment is that it can train more of its men, particularly those who would otherwise miss the opportunity of gaining experience that would be useful in wartime.

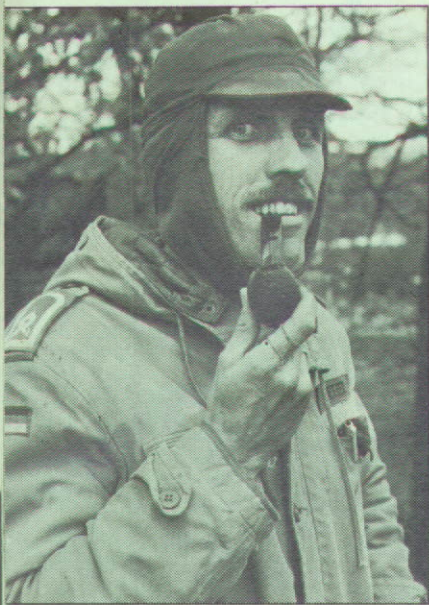
Captain Tony Moore, an officer of the regiment visiting the course with Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel George Morris, explained just how important Eurotrain is:

"When a soldier joins the regi-

continued on page 20

Alouette helicopter allowed crews to see firing positions from above.





Sherlock Holmes... or is it really just Sergeant Major Karl-Heinz Sietzer?

ment he knows nothing about missiles at all — only how to put one leg in front of the other whilst swinging opposite arms. We take him and teach him the basics — and I mean the very basics — of the missile system. Then if he goes on to show aptitude we send him to Larkhill for the advanced course, after which he is qualified and gets the extra pay and rank.

"Where we gain the advantage

from this course is particularly with NCOs who have already got the rank but want to learn something new. We wouldn't send them to Larkhill because they would be taking up a valuable slot. With Eurotrain it means we can train almost twice as many men than we would otherwise."

For Bombardier Christopher Eland, Eurotrain provided the chance of re-training. He had been a clerk with a missile battery and although he had had some dealings with the system, his experience was largely on the reconnaissance side. A place on this course meant he could rejoin his regiment fully conversant with Lance and able to take up an operational role.

Similarly, Captain Jim Baillie was in the process of transferring from the Royal Army Education Corps to the Royal Artillery and after completing his training he could now look more hopefully towards the position of battery commander. Speaking for himself and his fellow Brits, he told SOLDIER: "We do actually find the course slow but that's mostly because the others have trouble with the language."

Though sympathetic towards the difficulties of the other students, Bombardier Eland thought it might also have something to do with the differences

between a professional and conscripted army. "We seem to learn faster," he said — a view borne out by the instructors.

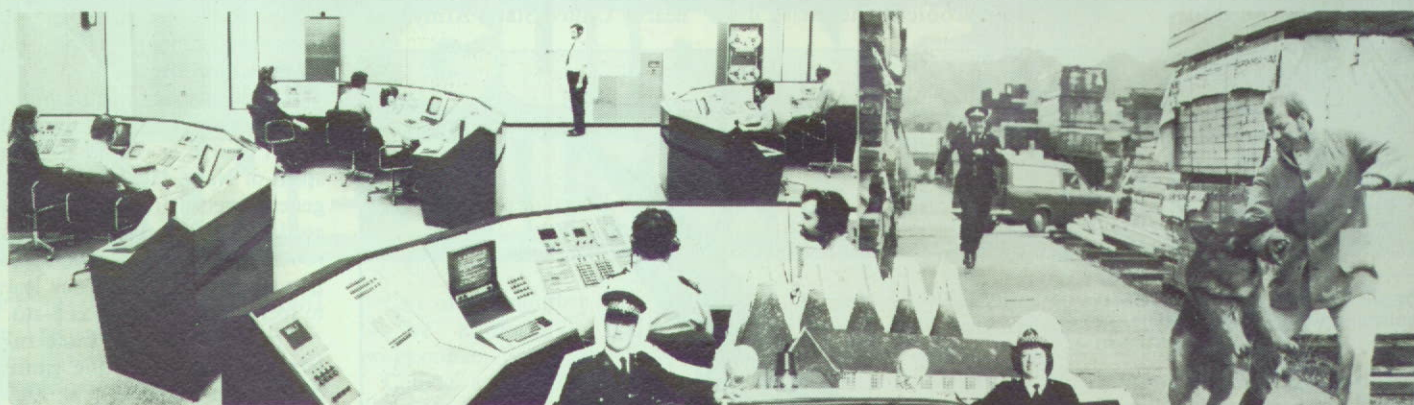
Eating their evening meal of Spiesbraten — a local speciality of barbequed spiced meat — all the students shared at least one

sentiment: after five weeks' intensive training, they were all looking forward to going home. And for the Brits that meant the prospect of a big treat in store — a plate of *real* chips! ■

Relaxing at the end of course barbecue with Spiesbraten.



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Helped by British instructors, the mostly part-time Gibraltar Regiment have just fired their new Blowpipe missiles and 105 mm light guns for the first time — a step which they believe takes...

ROCK SOLDIERS INTO THE EIGHTIES

Familiarising themselves with new 105 mm light guns which had just arrived on the Rock.



UNTIL RECENTLY the Gibraltar Regiment might have been entitled to feel overlooked. Still firing obsolescent 105 mm pack howitzers and wartime 40/70 Bofors guns long discarded by the rest of the British Army, they nevertheless demonstrated the keenness and determination of the beleaguered community on the Rock.

But just before Christmas their commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Ernest Britto, a local businessman, had some important news for them as they assembled at dawn after a two day exercise.

He told them that the gunner field troop was to be re-equipped with the 105 mm light gun and that the air defence troop would be moving onto Blowpipe missiles. They would also be getting more vehicles and would soon be re-equipped with Clansman radios.

"People were standing there drooping in the early dawn," recalled Colonel Britto. "They were tired and hungry but as I spoke the enthusiasm went through the ranks and people were still talking about it two hours later. Nobody wanted to go home."

At Buena Vista Barracks in Gibraltar the evenings were busy this winter as the mostly part-time soldiers of the Gibraltar Regiment began to learn all about their new equipment. An instructional team from the Royal

School of Artillery was sent out to instruct them on the conversions.

The Gibraltar Regiment, which has just celebrated its 25th anniversary in that name, operates just as a TA unit except that it has a small permanent cadre of five officers and 30 full time soldiers. There are no problems with travelling for no soldier is likely to find himself more than a five minute drive from his home.

There is a waiting list for entry and the keenness of the men can be gauged from the fact that drill nights tend to go on until around midnight!

But neither the guns nor the missiles can be properly fired in the confined spaces of the Rock and the gunners had to come to Britain for their practical experience. "The proof of the pudding will be in the first firing," remarked one of the RSA instructors.

So the field gunners found themselves out on the vast expanses of Salisbury Plain — where they acquitted themselves well with the new 105 mm light gun.

Former British sapper, WO 2 Geoff Stone, married a local girl after a posting to Gibraltar and eventually returned there and joined the regiment as a private soldier. He recently returned as gun position officer after a spell as the Governor of Gibraltar's

continued on page 22



driver. During that time he drove the Prince and Princess of Wales through the streets of Gibraltar when they visited the Rock on their Honeymoon — “the proudest moment of my Army career.”

He describes the men under him as: “Well trained and professional. They are good at their job, enthusiastic, willing to learn and work hard.”

WO 2 Stone is one of a number

Ready to load the light gun for firing at Larkhill. ▼



Testing wind strength at Manorbier — too strong. ▼



of ex-British Regulars living on the Rock and part of the regiment. Another is Gunner William Roberts, ex-1 RRF, who is on the permanent staff as part of the maintenance troop. He says: “I find them easier to work with than when I was doing infantry work.”

First time at firing camp was 18-year-old Gunner John Balloqui, one of three brothers in the regiment. His verdict: “Everything looks so big here and you have to wear so many clothes to

keep warm. But I am enjoying it and I'll be coming again, that's for sure.”

Down in what used to be called Pembrokeshire, now Dyfed, is one of the Army's remaining air defence ranges — Manorbier. Every year the troop with the Bofors guns goes down to this remote part of west Wales — and they have become a familiar part of the local community.

This year they were to fire their Blowpipe missiles for the first time — a task approached



◀ In Gib young recruits get evening classes on GPMG.

with trepidation by some as their conversion was a much greater task than that of the field troop. And the opening weather did not help. Bright sunshine but fierce winds meant that they had to go into spider huts for dry training rather than fire.

Although it would have been possible to fire Blowpipe in such conditions it was felt that, for their first-ever firings, the Gibraltarians should have the best possible conditions to give them confidence in their equipment and abilities.

Sergeant Tito Serra on his 13th visit to Manorbier reflected: “We have got to know this area so well that about four years ago we took the Tenby Male Voice Choir down to Gibraltar. This is our favourite spot and the people are so friendly to us.”

At lunchtimes the regiment splits and heads for two nearby hostels for pub lunches. To the left and the Castle Inn go the officers and senior NCO's. To the right lies the Lydstep Arms where the rest of the men get a warm welcome.

Landlady, Mrs Barbara Evans, had painted a picture of the ruined Manorbier Castle for them this year. She reported: “They are always as good as gold. We have never had any trouble and we always try to give them priority as we know they haven't much time.”

Master Gunner Ron Rowe, range controller at Manorbier, likes them too: “We've always had a high regard for them as soldiers who are well versed in drills and procedures. They are a pleasure to work with and everyone's delighted they are back.”

As they waited for the chance to fire and the weather changed to mist and drizzle with poor visibility, some of the men admitted to being frustrated.

Due to be the first to fire was Sergeant Alfred Brittenden, 23 years with the regiment on Bofors. Surprisingly enough he was not nervous: “We have been through so many firings on the trainers — we have to do 1300 on the trainer before we are allowed to fire. But hanging around does get you down a bit and the rain doesn't help either.”

Corporal Kenneth Payas told SOLDIER: “With the 40/70's we were able to fire in this sort of weather. Obviously they want us to get the best possible conditions for firing our first missiles but it is a bit frustrating.”

Adjudged the best student on the Blowpipe course, Private

◀ Blowpipe comes out of its box at Manorbier. But the weather conditions still weren't right.



Crunch! Gib Regiment takes a bite into Welsh leeks.

Michael Pizzarello, added: “After all this time it would be a shame to go back without having fired, especially as this is the first time. Hopefully we will still be able to get rid of all the missiles.”

And that is what happened late on the second day as the clouds rolled away and the wind dropped. Major Sidney Blowers, in charge of the practice, said later: “They fired successfully and the shooting was good. The Gibraltar Regiment operators did very well considering they were first time firers.”

Now the Gibraltar Regiment is back on the Rock for another year. But no longer will local residents be able to compare their equipment unfavourably with that of the resident British battalion. As one officer put it: “It was a wonderful Christmas present. No-one in Gib will be able to say we are a Boy Scout outfit now.” ■



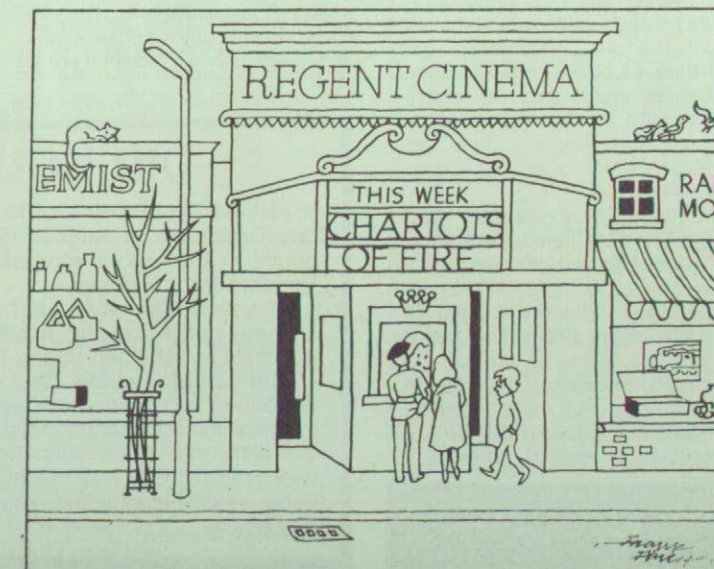
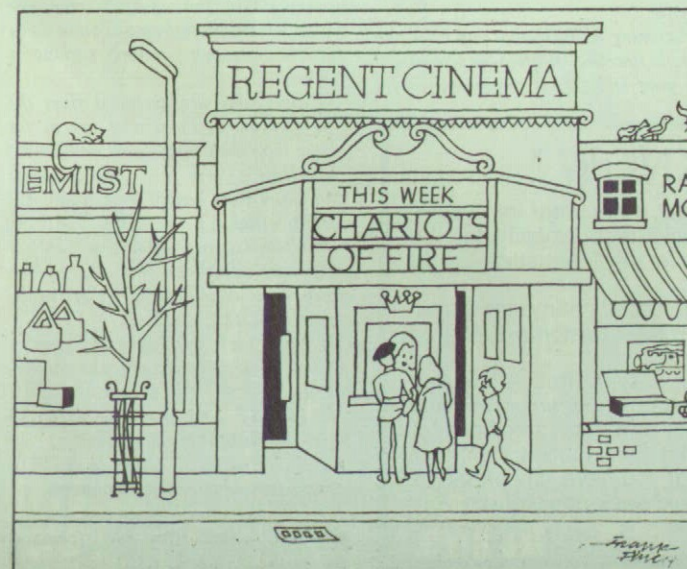
What they all looked forward to — live firing out in the open spaces of Salisbury Plain.

Landlord's wife, Mrs Barbara Evans and painting she did for the soldiers who visit her pub.

Story:
John Walton
Pictures:
Doug Pratt

How observant are you?

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





A SENIOR OFFICER asked me the other day why I do not put the names and addresses of correspondents beneath the letters I print on the Families pages.

The reason is quite simple: I do not want the wives and Servicemen who write to suffer repercussions of any kind. It does happen. Servicemen have been questioned, hauled up before their boss to account for their wife's actions and even warned about the effect such actions might have on their career. That is why I simply indicate that the letters are genuine by putting 'Mrs P, BFPO?' or 'London'.

It saddens and puzzles me that there should be these witch-hunts when wives or soldiers express their personal opinions on matters that closely affect them — for example, on housing, employment, station facilities or, most recently, the LOA cuts.

Sadly, I am writing from experience. I know this has happened to correspondents who have written to SOLDIER and other 'in-house' publications. Why does this happen in a caring community such as the Army where each opinion should be of value in creating a better way of life for everyone?

The fear of damaging a husband's career is very real to all Army wives; wives who are loyal and usually confine themselves to expressing their views in Service publications rather than bringing anomalies to the notice of the national press.

Surely these personal opinions need not be seen as attacks on individuals but rather as indications of where improvements may be made? They are so often the result of a genuine concern about the issues which affect their day-to-day living.

These very people who usually end their letters with, "Please do not print my name and address" may eventually not even take the trouble to write in the first place and a valuable forum for such an exchange of views may be lost to us for ever. Where there are no questions, there will be no answers — and no progress.

Anne Armstrong

I have received letters of all kinds since I have been writing these pages but the one Mrs R sent me from Norfolk must rate as one of the most sickening I have ever come across.

Mrs R received a chain letter from a friend in BFPO 23 and was concerned that it might be doing the rounds in BAOR and causing much distress.

It starts with a quotation: "And all things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer ye shall receive" Matthew 21.22, and goes on "This quote has been sent to you for good luck. The original is from the Netherlands. It has been round the world nine times. The luck has now been passed to you. You will receive good luck within four days of receiving this letter provided you in turn send it back out — this is no joke! You will receive it in the mail. Send copies to people you think need good luck. Do not send money — for Fate has no price on it. Do not keep this letter. It must leave your hands 96 hours after you receive it."

What then follows is a very sick form of blackmail which we advise you to ignore, but if you feel worried about the consequences of ignoring it, do seek advice from a chaplain or priest.

Can you give my husband and myself any advice on tax? We have been married two years and have one child and yet we have never received a tax rebate. Many other families who are in a similar situation to us but married for less time have all received rebates. We have had two tax forms to fill in and our tax has never changed.

We have just returned from BAOR and would appreciate any help you can give us with regard to our entitlements as we are having a little difficulty managing on only one wage.

Mrs W, Dorset

Tax matters are best dealt with directly by the tax people at Public Department 5, Ty Glas, Llanishen, Cardiff CF4 5QT. Explain your particular position to them and they will help you.

It might also be a good idea to approach the local Citizens' Advice Bureau and the local council to ask about rate and rent rebates. Your local Social Security office will have advice about Supplementary Benefit if you ask them.

I have recently started work and was asked for my National Insurance number. I have no idea what my number is and wondered if you could advise me where I could find out.

Mrs B, Aldershot

Your National Insurance number is very important, particularly when you start work. If your employer has no number or writes it down incorrectly, you could find at a later date that your payments have been credited to another record and you will lose certain benefits.

You can find your number by writing to your local Social Security office — and once you have it, keep a note of it somewhere safe.

ASK ANNE

We are posted to Hong Kong for our next tour and will not need to take all our things with us. We would also, naturally, like to buy the items offered for sale from our quarters here in Germany but what will happen to these and our other possessions? We have not lived in UK for five years now but can we send items back to UK to put into store for two years?

Mrs T, BFPO 36

If you already have things in store, Mrs T, the rules allow split consignments of baggage — one consignment back to your store in UK and the other to the overseas area. GFA is aware of this arrangement and the baggage (within the overall entitlement) will be moved at public expense.

However, problems can arise when a family has accumulated furniture overseas in which case movement and storage would be at the individual's expense, or when the family already has a full entitlement in store, in which case movement would be at public expense (within the overall entitlement) but additional storage would be at private expense.

Assuming, though, that you have nothing in store in UK already, you should put your individual circumstances to

MOD's PS 10 (Army) who have said that they are prepared to look at genuine cases which are outside the Regulations.

You may remember that I wrote to you some time ago about sickness benefit. I had been unable to obtain the DHSS leaflet N1 16/Sept 80 and the claim form SC1 here in Germany until you sent it to me but, after that, I made a claim and the DHSS gave me the full amount owing.

I am writing to you this time however, on behalf of a friend who is worried about the new rules that came into force on April 6 1983. These say that an employer will pay the first eight weeks benefit in any tax year but what happens if we lose our jobs after 28 days or only get a week's notice either way? Who will pay our sickness benefit?

Will the claim forms be available overseas or will we be told what we must do to claim? My friend could lose £27.70 a week. Can you help us?

Mrs P., Germany

This letter has raised a number of interesting points for those working overseas for a British employer and paying National Insurance Class 1 contributions. I am still trying to get answers to certain queries that I have on this subject and other circumstances related to it, such as what happens if you are being paid sickness benefit in UK and then move overseas.

Meanwhile, the new regulations that came into force last month in UK are worth knowing even if you are at present overseas:

From 6 April people who work for an employer will come under the statutory sick pay (SSP) scheme when they fall ill. They will receive SSP from their employers at a weekly level that depends on their earnings, instead of state sickness benefit.

There are various conditions relating to SSP but basically it means that an employee has to be ill for at least four days in a row (including Sundays and holidays) before SSP is due. The first three qualifying days are 'waiting days' for which SSP is not payable. After that the daily rate is paid for each qualifying day.

There are no formal claims for SSP but an employee does have to tell his employer when he or she is sick and usually follow this up with some evidence — either self-certification or a doctor's statement for long periods of sickness.

People who are excluded from the SSP scheme or those who are ill for longer than their eight weeks entitlement should get a form from their employer and claim state benefit from their local DHSS office.

Employees and employers can get help and advice on how the scheme works from their local office or see the following DHSS leaflets:

NI.244 Check your right to Statutory Sick Pay (a brief introduction for employees)
NI.16 SSP and sickness benefit (a more detailed guide for employees)
NI.227 Employers guide to SSP (a detailed guide aimed at employers)
NI.208 National Insurance contribution rates from 6 April 1983 (contains current SSP rates as well).

DID YOU KNOW?

ELM INTERNATIONAL of Northfield, Kent went into voluntary liquidation in August 1982 and responsibility for the goods in their store was taken over by Manhattan Ltd of Penders End, Middlesex.

However, Manhattan Ltd have raised a charge for 'handling into store' on the accounts of all customers of Elm International affected by the change.

The Chief Paymaster, Army Pay Office (Officers' Accounts) and regimental paymasters have been authorised, in these exceptional circumstances, to reimburse claims for 'handling into store' submitted with continuation claims of customers of Elm International so if you have any problems because of this situation, you should seek advice from your pay office.

Heidelberg plays host to happy families



HEIDELBERG, THE OLDEST university town in Germany, stands today as it did in days gone by when it was the centre of German Romanticism, overlooking the River Neckar. Its historic castle ruins are outlined against an often cloudless blue sky and are the delight of the many visitors to the town.

It is home for the American and Canadian Servicemen stationed at the bases just outside the town and also for the small contingent of British Servicemen who are serving with the Ace Mobile Force (AMF). There are at present 12 British families on postings to this unique station in Southern Germany hundreds of miles away from other British Servicemen serving in BAOR.

It was in 1960 that the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe (Saceur), announced the formation of a small, strategically mobile, multinational task force to be made up of Servicemen from the eight countries in Nato, ready to go anywhere at any



British families from scattered German villages around Heidelberg get together for coffee and a chat. ▲

time.

For the British families a posting to AMF means making a home in the villages that surround Heidelberg and, often, there is just one family in the German community. The majority of Canadians and Americans live on the huge self-contained bases and so there are few English-speakers nearby. Anyone who speaks some German, therefore, has a tremendous advantage. It is very different from

other postings but most people settle in after a few months and enjoy the lifestyle.

Most families live completely on the German economy. They shop locally, join music and ballet classes as well as local choirs, go ice skating and swimming nearby and learn many new crafts and skills.

The Germans are extremely friendly and in some villages there is a system for welcoming new arrivals and helping them settle in called a Welcome Wagon. Few families feel the need to tackle the six-hour drive to the nearest large Naafi at Rheindahlen very often!

Jobs are hard to find around Heidelberg, although again a knowledge of German does help. Service families join the registers of the local German doctors and dentists for medical treatment and the children usually go to school with their Canadian counterparts at the Lester B Pearson Canadian School or Ecole Canadienne.

It does take some adjustment. The kindergartens are usually booked up a year ahead and there is often a gap for the British children as Canadians usually start school nearer the age of six rather than at five years old. But, once there, the children benefit from a mixture of British, Canadian and American influences and seem to thrive on it.

The school was originally set up for Canadian children but the 21 British children who go there at the moment now account for half the pupils. There is an 11:1 pupil-teacher ratio and Headmaster Bob White confirmed that most work is completed early in the school year because of the small classes. This gives the pupils added time to tackle extra projects and subjects in addition to the syllabus work.

It is a small, friendly, purpose-built school with a library that houses an impressive 7000 books. The fiction comes from anywhere but the non-fiction tends to be Canadian-oriented. However, they do hope to have a selection of British books and music in future.

It is a long day for the pupils as the school bus starts its rounds at 7.15am for an 8.30 start to lessons. The children take a packed lunch and participate in a wide range of after school activities.

There are also 'Get-Away' programmes which take the children to places as far apart as London, Berlin and Switzerland. Parents do contribute to these trips but there is a community fund programme which also helps.

An AMF posting may be a challenge but there are enough advantages and benefits for all the family in Heidelberg to mean a busy and exciting two years.

Children browse in the well-stocked library at the Lester B Pearson Canadian School. ▼



**SOLDIER drops in on a
TA birthday party with
a difference**

WESSEX WINNERS

TWO DAYS of virtual non-stop battle against the clock and the elements in the middle of Salisbury Plain might not be everyone's idea of the perfect way to celebrate a special birthday. But 20 eight-man teams of TA soldiers from the Army's South West District cheerfully tackled a gruelling test of physical fitness and military skills in

an annual competition that, this year, marked the TA's 75th Anniversary.

The part-timers, representing the companies which form the Royal Wessex Yeomanry, hailed from an area stretching from Hampshire to Cornwall and Gloucestershire to Dorset. And a further eleven Royal Wessex teams took part in a field kitchen competition.

The main contest was a day and night 48-hour marathon that involved a four mile march and shoot plus a ten mile route march as well as first aid, NBC, attack and ambush drills.

After completing the night route march, the teams prepared for a night in the field and were up bright and early — and immaculate once again — for the tests next day.

◀ Brig Rory Walker presents C Coy, 1 Wessex, with shield.

Unfortunately, the weather changed overnight from bright sunshine to cold drizzle. But spirits were not dampened as the competitors grittily set about the march and shoot.

Then, tired but satisfied, they ate the meal prepared as part of the field kitchen competition. Each team had brought the basic Army equipment with them and were given the same composite and fresh rations. They were also tested on their standard of camouflage and discipline.

Watching the whole 48 hour exercise was Major Mike Gudgin of HQ South West District Pub-

lic Relations Staff who said "All the teams had great determination to get on and do their best. They were tired at the end but they all thought it was a worthwhile exercise and they felt great elation at having achieved what was a pretty difficult test."

There was particular elation among the ranks of 1st Battalion, the Wessex Regiment. Their C Company finished more than 160 points clear of their nearest rivals to win the main contest while their B Company triumphed in the field kitchen section.

But this was a weekend when everyone who came through successfully could count himself a winner. ■

Another soaking during the march and shoot section.

**Pictures:
Les Wiggs**

Members of Bristol University OTC take it all in their stride.

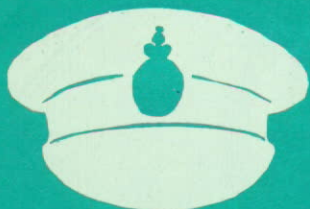
Winners of the field kitchen contest, B Coy 1 Wessex, serve up a treat for weary finishers.

◀ Teams arrive at the range for final phase of march and shoot.

▲ Pte Amanda Hopgood, 6 LI, scours dixie in field kitchen contest.

Overnight downpour turned tracks into quagmires. ▼

▲ A big cleaning job ahead for this mud-splattered competitor. ▼



Your Cap Badge

No 40

THE KING'S OWN SCOTTISH BORDERERS

THE REGIMENT was raised in 1688 in the City of Edinburgh by the Earl of Leven from men who were so keen to serve that, according to tradition, its full strength of a thousand men was realised in just four hours. Up to 1751 it was known by its colonel's name and also as The Edinburgh Regiment of Foot, after which year it was enumerated as the 25th (Edinburgh) Regiment of Foot. This title was retained until 1782 when, as the result of a "petty quarrel" regarding its privilege of recruiting in the streets of the City without asking leave of the Lord Provost, it was re-entitled the 25th (Sussex) Regiment of Foot. As can be appreciated this proved highly unpopular and in 1805 the title 'King's Own

Borderers' was bestowed upon the regiment by George III together with the Badge of the Royal Crest and a motto *In Veritate Religionis Confido* (I put my trust in the truth of religion) chosen by the King himself. Authority to retain the motto was dated 26th May 1828. The castle of Edinburgh and the use of the City's motto *Nisi Dominus frustra* (Unless the Lord be with us, all is in vain) was authorised on 8th March 1832.

The current design embodies the Crown of St Edward in the Royal Crest. Earlier versions incorporated the Imperial Crown and the Victorian. Up to 1887 the title carried on the badge was the then current 'King's Own Borderers' and until 1881 the Roman numerals 'XXV' also. After 1887 the national association of the regiment was proclaimed in its title and has remained unchanged.

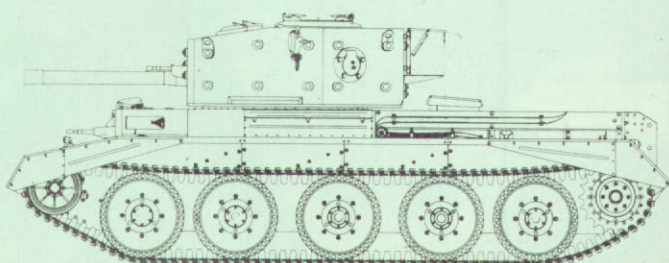
Today the badge is worn in silver anodised material by the soldiers and in silver plate by the officers. Over the years the regiment has enjoyed few nicknames, originally known as the 'KOB's' and next as the 'KOSB's'. No others have been coined, so take heed and be warned that under no circumstances should the regiment ever be referred to as the 'Kosbies'. The regimental tartan is that of the Leslie pattern and worn by all except the pipers who are resplendent in the Royal Stewart tartan. It would be fine to relate that the cap badge has been worn without significant change for well over a century but, as with all other regiments of the Lowland Brigade, the headdress badge of that formation was worn from 1958 until 1969.



Next issue: The Royal Irish Rangers



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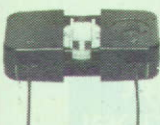
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How Army medics in Belize lend their skills to serve the community

SHARING THE CARING



EVERY THURSDAY, a Land-Rover and $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton trailer pulls out of the Medical Reception Station at Force HQ based on Airport Camp, Belize, to head upcountry for a place called Orange Walk Town.

There, a six-strong all-Army Field Surgical Team (FST) headed by a Royal Army Medical Corps surgeon set up a clinic and operating theatre in the local hospital which serves the largely Spanish-speaking 5000-strong community.

Major Peter Chapman, the team's leader and a surgical specialist, describes their work as dealing mainly with "lumps and bumps".

Supporting him on these hour-long weekly safaris to the north of the former British colony are an anaesthetist, a Resuscitation Officer — a WRAC lieutenant-colonel from the Royal Army Dental Corps — an NCO in charge, an Operating Theatre Technician (OTT), a Dental Clerk Assistant (DCA) and, of course, a Royal Corps of Transport driver.

The team normally carries out four operations each Thursday, the most popular being tubal ligations — female sterilisation. The men, apparently fearful of

continued on page 32

Major Chapman (centre) and team carry out a minor operation. ▶

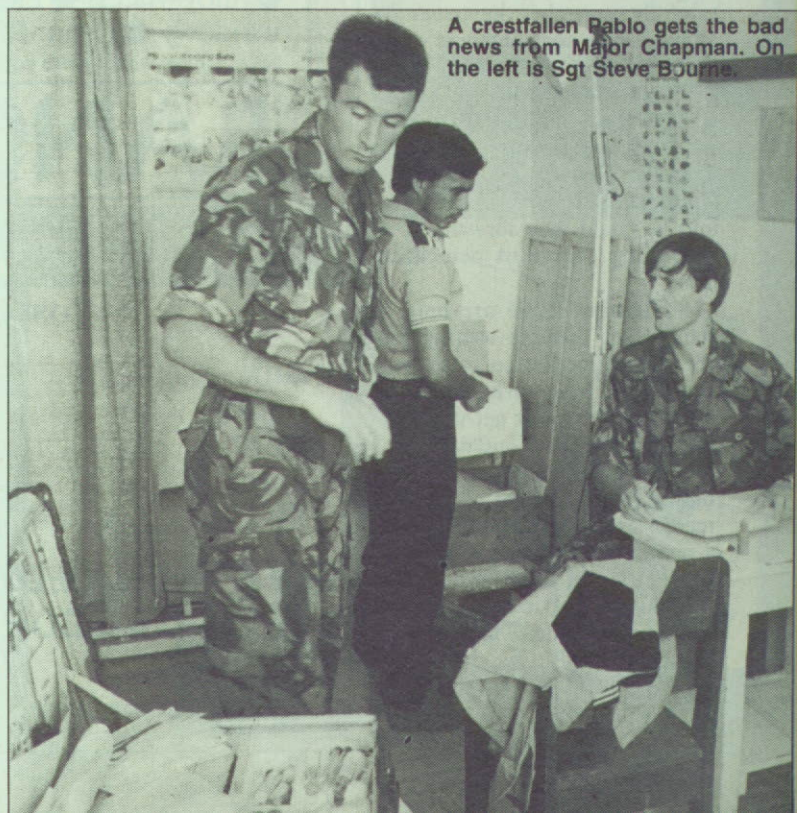


**Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Doug Pratt**

Advice for a local mum and child.



A crestfallen Bablo gets the bad news from Major Chapman. On the left is Sgt Steve Bourne.



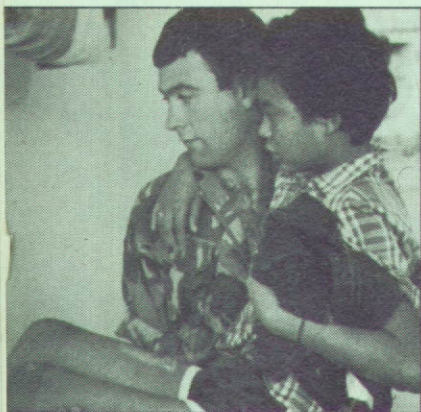
continued from page 31

losing their macho image, prefer to ignore vasectomies!

Another frequent task is to remove shotgun pellets from various parts of the anatomy. 'Potting' each other in local squabbles with air guns seems to be quite a popular pastime.

During SOLDIER's visit to one of the clinics and subsequent surgery sessions, a 33-year-old woman was being given a check-up following sterilisation. She had only had a baby a fortnight previously, then had decided with her husband that enough was enough — with 11 children!

Major Chapman also gave a post-hernia check; examined a septic insect bite on a nine-year-old girl's leg; prescribed a circumcision for an 18-month-old baby; gave clearance on a former breast abscess; and ordered a 13-year-old boy, subject of a recent skin graft on a compound fracture of the leg, to stay in hospital for a week.



A young patient with an injured leg is helped to a stretcher.

He also dealt with 23-year-old Pablo who had entered the surgery with a broad grin on his face but left in a more subdued mood after being told to try and carefully remember the names of all his female acquaintances over the previous two months.

Pablo said he did not know what he had but Major Chapman soon enlightened him: "You get it from ladies!" The careless Casanova had syphilis and was told he could look forward to a week-long course of penicillin jabs.

Sometimes there are only a handful of patients waiting for the Army medics to carry out their samaritan work; on other occasions they may get as many as 17 customers in one day.

But Major Chapman has no doubt that his team of mobile medics are appreciated. And it's a service he is pleased to give.

"It's classed as aid to the local community and it stops us getting bored. We don't have a lot to do otherwise. But we don't deal with births or draw teeth — we don't want to take trade from the local practitioners." ■



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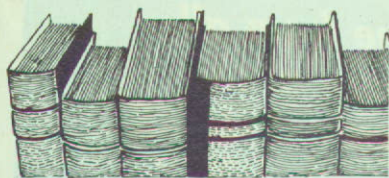
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BOOKS

Vietnam Tracks: Simon Dunstan

When France returned to claim her colonial possessions in South-East Asia after World War Two, the conventional wisdom in military circles was that armoured fighting vehicles were not appropriate to the style of war which subsequently developed there. Not only were Vietnam's waterlogged paddy fields, jungles and mountains unsuitable terrain, but the very shapelessness of the war deprived the tank of its greatest advantage, the ability to concentrate massed fire power on a given front. And yet, the practical experience of first the French, then later the Americans and Australians, as well as, 'belatedly' the North Vietnamese

VIETNAM TRACKS

Armor In Battle 1945-75

Simon Dunstan

Foreword by
Maj. Gen. George S. Patton,
US Army (Ret.)

Army on the other side, proved time and again that imaginatively and efficiently employed, the tank was a most effective weapon even in such an inhospitable theatre.

Simon Dunstan's book chronicles the history of the AFV from the first obsolete pieces used by the French in 1945 to the sophisticated American weapons supplied to the ARVN units on the eve of the fall of Saigon. He describes how enterprising tank commanders learned to cope with the problems of terrain, how the Viet Cong learned to overcome the firepower advantage of their enemies by the co-ordinated use of mines and ambush, and how the Americans, in turn, evolved tactics to cope with such attacks.

For the general reader, a little more background information shedding light on the confusing campaigning would have been welcome, but tank enthusiasts should have a field day with over 200 well-chosen photographs, each with excellent captions alive with expert technical information. Nor do the lessons which might be learnt from so recent a conflict go amiss; the foreword is by Major General George Patton, whose

distinguished record as a tank commander throughout the war adds weight to his pertinent remarks about the use of tanks in guerilla wars.

Osprey Publishing Ltd, 12-14 Long Acre, London WC2E 9LP — £9.95

IJK

Lost Victories: Erich von Manstein

Von Manstein was, in many respects, a typical product of the German military High Command at the outset of World War Two, a thorough professional who submerged his political opinions beneath the tradition of unswerving loyalty to the State. His progress through the war was distinguished, so much so that many had him marked down as a future Commander-in-Chief.

As Chief of Staff of von Rundstedt's Southern Army Group, von Manstein directed the successful campaign in Poland, and his reputation was further boosted by the part he played in planning the 1940 Ardennes Offensive. He went on to conquer the Crimea, and was given the task of relieving the German troops of General von Paulus, besieged by the Russians at Stalingrad. At this point, however, he was no longer able to separate his profession from politics, for his military decisions clashed increasingly with Hitler's refusal to countenance withdrawal, no matter what the circumstances. Von Manstein stated his opinions bluntly and publicly; in March 1944 Hitler dismissed him.

Von Manstein's memoirs were first published in the 1950s, and his

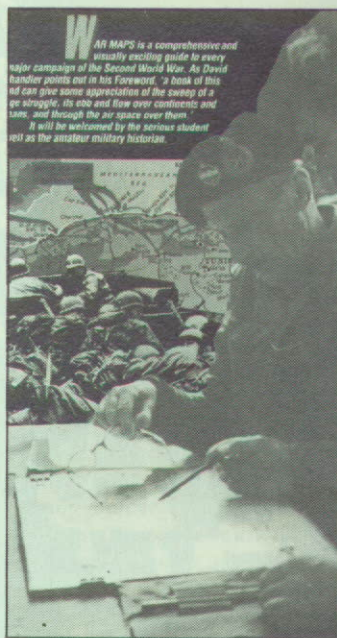


detailed and precise accounts of his campaigns, as well as his perceptive judgements on the personalities and abilities of his contemporaries, and his insight into the reasons underlying the collapse of the German High Command, make this one of the most important military accounts of the war from the German viewpoint. Arms and Armour Press, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London NW3 1QQ — £11.95

IJK

War Maps: Simon Goodenough

This large-sized, coloured and comprehensive collection of over 200 maps and pictures brings together in one volume the great land, sea and air battles of World War Two. The maps are supported by contemporary photographs of vehicles, guns, ships and men — most of them dramatic and many with action. The accom-



panying text and captions supply details of the opposing forces, including numbers, commanders and the progress of the battles. The maps themselves are full of detail, showing the distribution and locations of forces, the various thrusts and results. Sea battles recorded here emphasise the different military tactics of the sailor and are well worth study with realisa-

tion of the long distances and the time element involved.

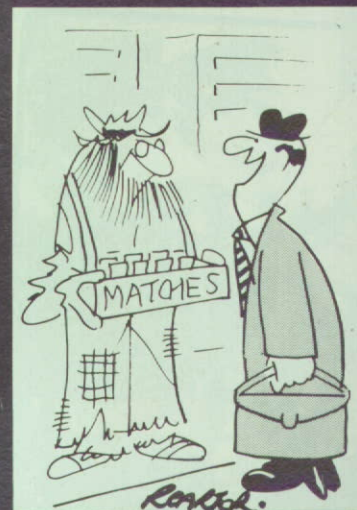
From the blitzkrieg on Poland in 1939 to the atomic bombs on Japan six years later, these maps demonstrate how worldwide was the conflict and how versatile were the combatants. All the well known battles are here: River Plate, Britain, Dieppe, Taranto, Wavell's Libya, Malta and Arctic convoys, Kharkov, Leningrad, Stalingrad, Moscow, Greece, Berlin, Alamein, Normandy, Malaya, Burma, Madagascar, Midway, the Philippines, Kohima, Rangoon and many more, not forgetting the smaller but vital commando raids.

Some war histories suffer from a lack of maps. This book graphically augments them and, incidentally, supplies details not generally realised today. For instance: There were 80,000 immediate deaths at Hiroshima 'an important military HQ and supply depot'. The Japanese ignored surrender ultimatums and another A-bomb was dropped on the seaport and industrial town of Nagasaki. Here 40,000 died, but the fire-bomb raid on Tokyo five months earlier had killed 80,000 and wounded more than 100,000.

Macdonald & Co (Publishers) Ltd, 74 Worship Street, London EC2A 2EN — £9.95

GRH

Humour



"We still laugh about the way you told the boss to stuff his job."



"I'm afraid 'sort of hippo-like' won't do. I must have your wife's exact measurements."



"If you've got £1500 for the operation Mr Gladwin, the crisis is over."



"What can I offer as security? You can keep all your teeth if you give me a loan!"



Second from left, Prince Wenzel of Liechtenstein.



Sultan of Oman reviews parade with the Academy Sergeant Major.

Student soldiers come from all over the world to learn at the Royal Military Academy. SOLDIER has been finding out what they think of the experience.

SANDHURST TRAINED — THE HALLMARK OF EXCELLENCE

FOR THE VERY newest of the Army's officers it is a day when even the shortest may feel he is the tallest — the Sovereign's Parade. Culmination of months of concentrated physical and mental effort, it is the occasion when he formally ends his days as a Sandhurst student and takes his first steps as a fully-fledged holder of the Queen's commission.

The three Sovereign's Parades at the Royal Military Academy each year see several hundred young British officers proudly putting their foot on the first rung of the Army career ladder. But the parades are not just a British occasion. Sandhurst's worldwide reputation for excellence has made it an international military mecca. And, over the years, hundreds of overseas students have taken their places among the ranks drawn up in front of its famous portals.

None were prouder than the 19 who attended the last Sovereign's Parade where His Majesty Qaboos bin Said Al Said, Sultan of Oman, reviewed the parade on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen.

It was the biggest parade to be held at the Academy during the last eight years with 481 graduates under the public and VIP gaze of whom 316 were having their commissions confirmed or were receiving their commissions into the British Army.

Over its past illustrious years, the Academy's corridors have echoed to the boots of many princes and not too many paupers.

Taking part in the most recent parade were two princes and a Kenyan surveyor's son who turned out to be the winner of

the top overseas student award.

Cadet James Ikinya, 21, the best overseas cadet, thought it all worth while and a great honour to have been offered, and held, a place at Sandhurst.

"I'm more mature now and I've learned how to lead people and, most important, get that extra confidence in myself," he told **SOLDIER**. "I found the course very interesting — the weather was the worst thing for me to overcome. But Kenyans have been coming here since 1963, the year we got our independence. Of course, I would like to be a Chief of Staff one day, but who knows?"

"I'm so pleased to have been picked as top cadet. I worked hard while I was here but I did not work hard specifically to get the award."

Another of the students on parade was a six-foot-four Royal prince from a country which does not even have an Army — Prince Wenzel, 20, ninth in line for the throne of Liechtenstein, the tiny 160 square-kilometre kingdom of 25,000 inhabitants.

The Prince is joining the Grenadier Guards for six months and will then leave the Army — to study medicine at a Swiss university.

Prince Wenzel explained that he had not been forced to come to Sandhurst. "I was quite interested in joining the Army. I couldn't do it at home as we have no Army. I had a choice but went for the British Army because yours has so much more tradition and is much more professional than, say, the American Army."

"My parents know your Royal Family quite well and they managed to arrange something for me. Here, at Sandhurst, you learn a lot about yourself first of all and then improve quite a lot

of things in your character and leadership qualities."

For a member of another Royal Family, Prince Abdulaziz Al-Saud, nephew to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, Sandhurst was also his first military experience, and took some getting used to.

"In one respect I found the first five weeks the hardest because I had to get used to the military approach. I had to learn that here you do things because you are told to, not because you want to. The drill, marching and of course the bull I wasn't used to at all, being a civilian, but you do accept it, eventually, as part of the training."

This is only the first of the courses Prince Abdulaziz plans to take before returning to Saudi to join the Army Aviation Corps. First, he is staying on here for a Regular Career Course and then he is off to the United States to learn how to fly helicopters.

Also staying on for a Regular Career Course will be Nopadon Mungkalaton, 23, of the 200,000-strong Thai Army.

"I think I've got through enough basic training here to become a platoon commander back in Thailand. Ten of us were chosen for overseas academies — I was sixth — and while the others chose the United States, Australia and Germany, I opted

for Sandhurst. I found the weather a little different over here while I was working hard, but such things can be overcome.

"There are two types of Thai who come to Sandhurst — those under our Government sponsorship and those who come here under private means. The Royal Thai Military Academy runs five-year courses and whereas, here, I have remembered everything, back home you tend to forget what you learned in that first year. I think the British training is quite comprehensive although I tend to think that Army basic training is the same all over the world. But what I've learned here, I'll never forget."

Nopadon was particularly impressed with the fitness instilled into Sandhurst cadets and said he would take that idea back, eventually, as a concept for further development in the Thai Army. But, first, he is off to the United States for a five-year stay to study for a degree from which he will emerge as a full lieutenant.

Although previously in the Zimbabwe Corps of Signals, Phidelis Karimupfumbi admitted he had "no idea what Sandhurst was like and everything was new. You adapt quickly, though — you have to — but the most difficult thing to cope with was the weather. I found this

hard and the training involved is not relevant to the role of the Zimbabwe Army because the weather's always good there.

"The course was harder than I expected, but it works and I think it is a good thing to mix with people of other nationalities because we all have different ideas."

At 21, Abie Nxumalo has been a member of the Swaziland Border Guard Corps since 1978 and was going straight back to the Corps as a newly commissioned officer. One of just three candidates in his age group for officer training (Swaziland has no officer training college of its own) Abie was the only one brave enough to quit African shores and come to Sandhurst.

"It's been a great course, very demanding" he said, "but I have enjoyed every part of it! Like others, though, Abie had experienced trouble with the cold weather and even had to be hospitalised for a week suffering severe effects from the cold during an exercise in the Welsh training areas. "I'll never forget Wales," he said, shivering at the memory. "Although it did mean I wasn't fit to go to Scotland on similar exercises and was able to go to

Top overseas cadet James Ikinya: "I've learned how to lead..." ▼



Prince Abdulaziz Al-Saud: "A great feeling of satisfaction."

Cyprus instead. Much better!"

Despite their different backgrounds and nationalities, all the overseas students seemed united in their admiration for the training they had received.

As the young Saudi Arabian, Prince Abdulaziz Al-Saud, put it: "Sandhurst is the best place to come to. It is first class training — the best in the world."

"I chose the worst time of the year to come. But now it's all over I have a great feeling of satisfaction and achievement." ■

Abie Nxumalo: "It's been a great course, very demanding." ▼

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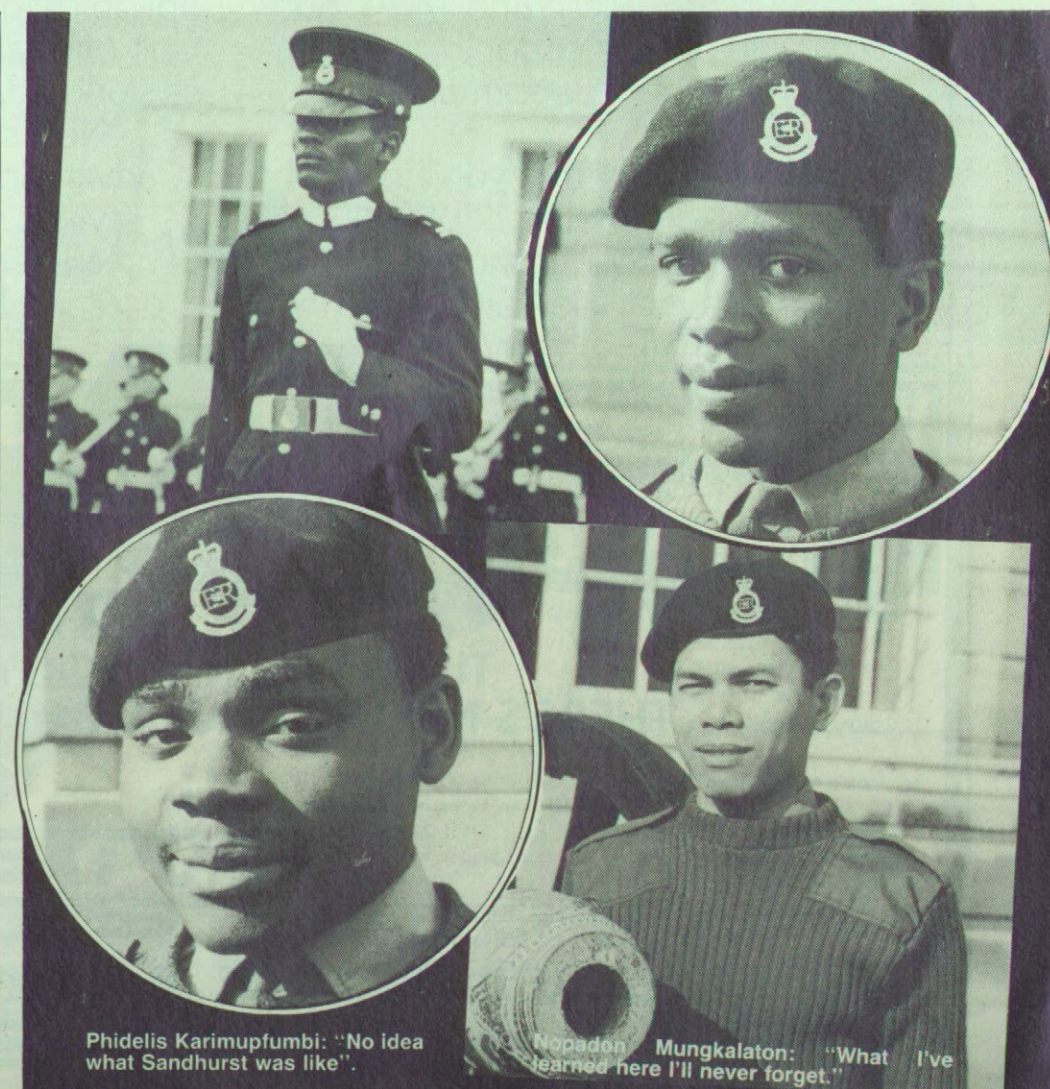
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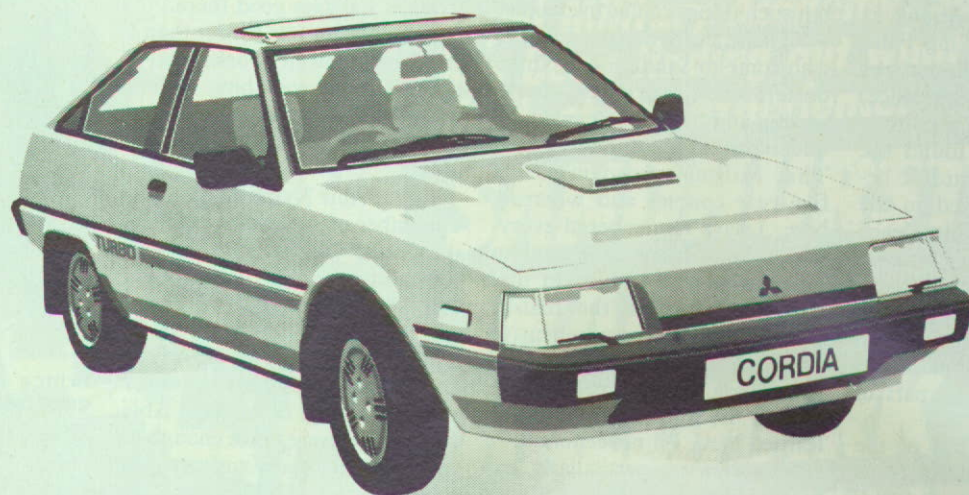
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Phidelis Karimupfumbi: "No idea what Sandhurst was like".

Nopadon Mungkalaton: "What I've learned here I'll never forget."



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GOING PLACES

COMPETITION 316

LET US SUPPOSE that you had the chance of visiting the following places by sea — starting and finishing at DEAL:- RYDE, BUDE, CORK, WICK, HULL and SARK.

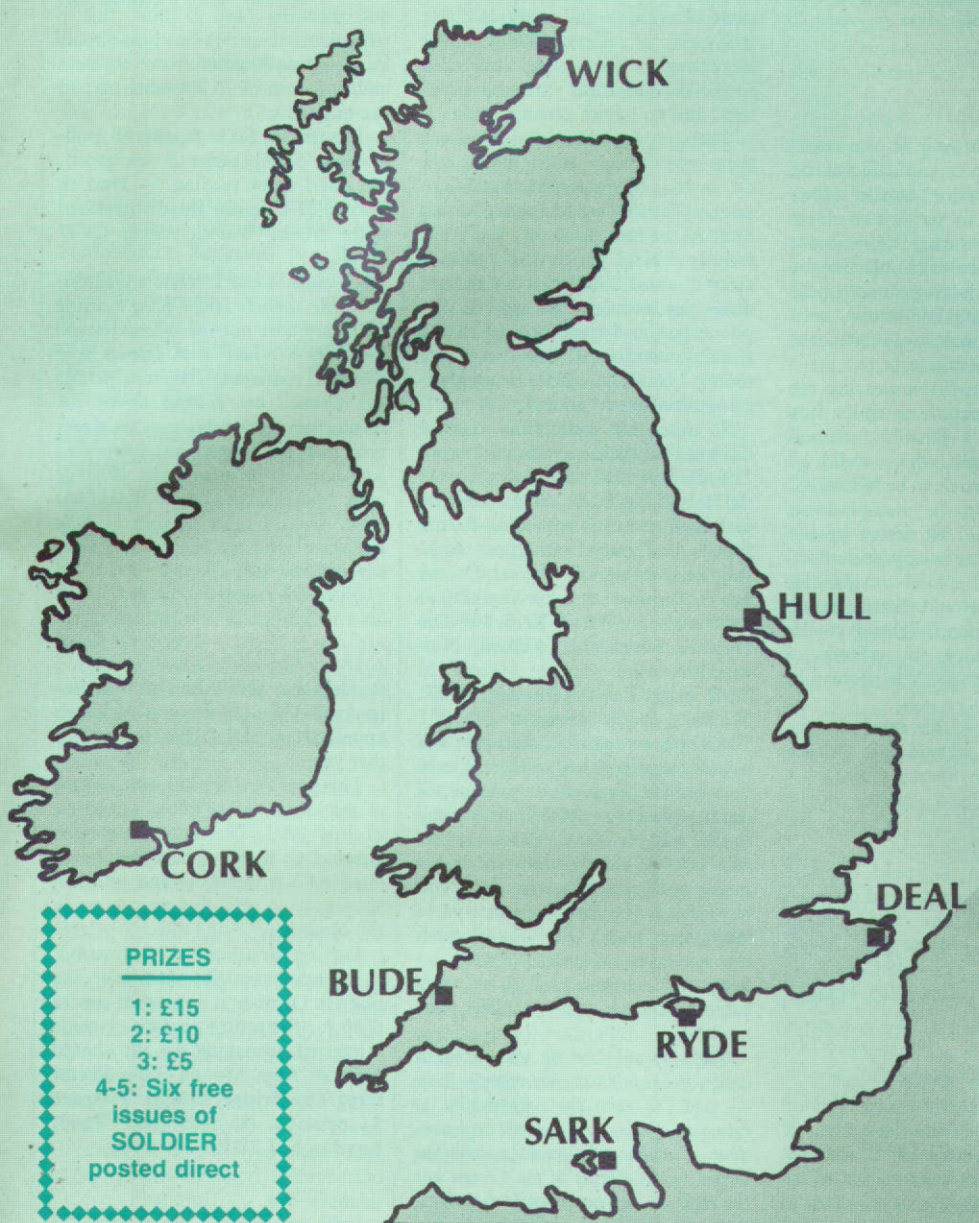
Then a fire at the boat station puts an end to the dream. So you do the trip in imagination by writing down the names of the places you would visit (as above) and by building proper words between the places (in your selected order) by changing one letter at a time as you go from DEAL to DEAL in say 40 — more or less — words. *Not* proper nouns except for the place names listed above.

For example — it is possible to go from PERTH (in Scotland) to MARCH (in England) in three moves only by changing one letter at a time: PERTH, PERCH, PARCH, MARCH. Do you get the idea?

Off you go then on your DEAL to DEAL journey — one letter at a time being changed — with real words being made in every case and no word being used twice.

Send in your list of moves stating the total number of words used to complete your round trip. Obviously lists of words will be different — for many of you will travel by different routes. One may go firstly from DEAL to SARK and on: another may make CORK their first visit. But it is the shortest way of doing the trip with the least number of words that we want to see. By the way, count each place name as a word, including the first and last (both DEAL) — so you already have eight words to start.

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 3 June. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 27 June 1983 and no correspondence can be entered into. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 316' label. In the case of ties, winners will be drawn by lots. Send your answer by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 316' label to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants. GU11 2DU.



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MAIL DROP

space to bands in future. As for adverts 'lowering the tone', have you also considered that they are lowering the cover price? Where else can you buy a 52-page specialist mag these days for only 25 pence? — Ed.

REVOLUTIONARY

With reference to your 21 Mar issue, I should like to congratulate you on the 'Gleam Machine' article. However, the comment that it is an objective way of measuring shine is not strictly true. To be truly objective the articles should be measured under the same lighting conditions, as a passing cloud could well influence the outcome of some tests.

My suggestion for improving the device would include a sentry box equipped with a flexibly mounted 200 watt spotlight which could be directed at the article to be measured. The box would be mounted on wheels and could be drawn by the regimental mascot as appropriate.

A selection of soldiers on parade, say 10 per cent, would then be scrutinised under standard lighting conditions thus making the offence of 'lack-lustre' more likely to succeed in law.

Other uses for this revolutionary device might include the 'chef's whites' test, the 'dental gleam' test and more advanced versions might include a 'white lie' detector for Royal Military Police use.

In conclusion I would applaud your efforts to maintain and improve standards but assume that it is all 'just in jest'. — Major A C Monk ACC, HQ ACC Training Centre, St Omer Barracks, Aldershot, Hants.

PROPAGANDA?

Having just belatedly read a copy of your Nov/Dec 82 issue, I felt I had to write to you about what I can only term the blatant propaganda of at least one of the articles. I refer here to 'Taking the Platform — Ssafa'.

I read here of all the good works being performed by this organisation, ie "just some of the tremendous achievements in the past months of Ssafa's continual involvement with the needy, the unemployed, the bereaved, and the one parent families to all of whom the organisation gives help and comfort." All I could feel was rage and disgust as my experience of these do-gooders is certainly not the same. Tell me — just what do these people know about being poor, unemployed — and what this does to one parent families? I must also state at this point, that my feelings do not stop with Ssafa, but also extend to the good works of The Royal Air Force Association.

Many months ago, I contacted both these organisations in urgent and desperate need of assistance, hubby having just 'cleared off' leaving myself and the children trying to survive on the pittance of £32.30 per week which is all the law says he has to pay.

The response I got from these associations, first from the Rafa, was for someone to come round and take a

few details then tell me these would have to be sent off to London for a decision. I have heard nothing since. As the situation worsened, and I became ill again — the result of living with years of violence — I found it increasingly difficult, physically and financially, to cope with the situation, and on advice phoned Ssafa.

The reply I got there was to tell me there wasn't very much they could do, and to give me another number to phone. Yet the reason I was phoning Ssafa in the first place was that I was fed up being given the 'phone-around', and finding it more and more inconvenient to get to the phone box and stand around in the freezing conditions, only to spend money I could not afford being given other numbers to phone!

So much for their home visits. I did not find them very helpful at all. I'm afraid it now occurs to me, that the only thing these 'do-gooders' are any good about, is appearing to 'do-good!' Just more 'samartan' organisations, doing more good for the ego of the 'doer' than for anything or anyone else. — Mrs L Reid, 109 The Downs, Silverdale, Wilford, Nottingham.

Chris Hogg, Deputy Director, Public Relations, Ssafa, comments:

'Ssafa does not usually discuss the work it undertakes on behalf of those it seeks to help. However, it is right in the circumstances to say that Ssafa is trying to find help for Mrs Reid who, as her own letter so vividly makes clear, has serious problems. At no time has Ssafa responded to Mrs Reid in an uncaring or indifferent way. The Association's representative has visited her in her home and doubtless will do so again before Mrs Reid's problems are resolved.'

Ssafa would like no one to be in doubt of Ssafa's sincerity when we say — and we take this opportunity to repeat it — any wife, widow or dependant of anyone who serves or who has served in the Forces of the Crown has the right at any time in life to look to Ssafa for help.

ONE ARMY

Your article on soldiers of 1 RRW on HMS Zulu (4 April) states that the South Wales Borderers part of 1 RRW fought at Rorkes Drift in 1879 hence the link with Zulu. To be historically correct it was the predecessor unit to the SWBs, the 24th of Foot (2nd Warwickshire Regiment) renamed SWB's in the 1881 reforms.

This is not the first time that this error has appeared in your columns — I would expect SOLDIER to be historically correct in Army matters. I hope Hugh King in his cap badge series on the Royal Regiment of Wales makes this quite plain.

May I make a comment also on your plans to devote two pages to the TA in future editions of SOLDIER. May I ask that this be two pages worth of news etc and not two separate pages. The temptation I am sure would otherwise be for readers to skip them if they are not interested in TA, and I suspect that regular soldiers will not be, just as I skip the

pages devoted to family matters with Anne Armstrong. I tend to go direct to the pages concerning the military.

If the one Army concept is to have any meaning (and I think this is ridiculous) then TA business should be alongside Regular Army business and not devoted to a special part of the magazine.

Thank you for a wonderful publication, one perhaps I tick about, but one I enjoy reading. — Derrick Smart, 37 Clopton Road, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 6HW.

Point taken about 1 RRW's predecessors, Mr Smart. Hugh King's article (18 Apr) does put the record straight however. We note with interest your comments concerning TA coverage. The TA Council are anxious to see TA News given a separate slot in the magazine and we propose to follow this format for at least a few issues. What do other readers think though? Would you rather see TA news separate or fully integrated with the rest of our Army coverage? — Ed.

KOREA VISIT

Readers may recall the visit to Korea in April 1981, an account of which appeared in SOLDIER in July of that year.

This year sees the 30th anniversary of the armistice in Korea signed on 27 July 1953. The Korean Veterans Association in Seoul have kindly invited BKVA members and immediate family to visit this year to mark the occasion.

Full details are not yet known but it is hoped that the visit will take place in October at a personal cost of £550 for the return air fare. Anyone interested in making the trip should write to Alan Moody, Hon Secretary, The British Korean Veterans Association, 35 Leicester Road, London E11 2DW.

DRUMMED OUT

The Queen's TA battalion was recently granted the Freedom of Worthing, Sussex. Having an excellent 'Corps of Drums', I was most surprised to see no fifes or bugles; the only accompaniment was by two glockenspiels which just did not sound right with the drums. They were more akin to a children's band than a TA battalion on the march. It was a complete break with tradition, of course, as glockenspiels should be played with other instruments, not just percussion. Let's hope they will be replaced with traditional fifes (Queen's TA please take note).

I also noticed that while the band was on the march the bandmaster was marching at the side of the Drum Major and conversing with him, turning around and sometimes conducting the band while in this order. The Bandmaster's place should have been within the band or at the rear. I followed the parade and was disappointed at the spoiling of a good Corps of Drums and Band. — D J Macleod, 18 Beachcroft Place, Lancing, Sussex.

Can You Help?

Will anyone who was in the Cockney Squad, January 1933 of the West Yorkshire Regiment, Fulford Barracks, please contact me. — Mr H Jackson, Breck House, Whittington, King's Lynn, Norfolk.

I am doing a project on world army uniforms and need information on the insignia and uniforms worn by The Congo, Kenya, Chile and Iraq. — S D Bland, 32 Linnett Close, Chingford, London, E4 6UB.

I would like to contact anyone who served in India with the 1st Bn North Staffordshire Regiment in 1936-44 and also Reg Corke who was a Regimental Nursing Orderly at The Military Hospital, Poona, India 1937-8. — Mr F Foster, Flat 9, Ty Wesley, Australia St, Ponciau, Wrexham, Clwyd.

Urgently wanted for reunion, RASC (GR) George Rex cloth blazer badge. — A H Smith, 36 Linaker Street, Southport, Merseyside PR8 6RP. Tel: Southport 0704-35568.

Some years ago, after service with the Royal Artillery, I began the Military Miniature Museum, dealing with replicas and artwork to present the public with an overview of both military history and technology through the medium of scale models.

Now we need a few 'real' bits and pieces to display along with the models, to give a feel of scale and to add interest. What we are after is shell cases. We have a few, gleaned from antique shops etc and a few from the School of Artillery Museum given me while I worked there with Master Gunner Ian Hogg back in the sixties. But we should be grateful if any readers can help in obtaining any of the following: 25 Pdr, 105mm Howitzer, 40mm L70, 17 Pdr, 6 Pdr, 105mm Tank, 76mm Saladin Gun, 20 Pdr Centurion, 4.5" Vickers Navy, 2 Pdr Vickers Pom Pom, 30mm Aden (Harrier etc), 20mm Oerlikon, 27mm Mauser MK (Tornado), 35mm Oerlikon, 20mm M56 Vulcan (Phantom). — A S Debski, 3 Nelson Road, Colchester, Essex.

Via the library of the Ministry of Defence in Holland in which I'm a Civil Servant I have been an avid reader of your magazine SOLDIER. I am very interested in World War Two and have been looking for years for some books pertaining to the North-West European Campaign 1944-45. I tried in vain to obtain them via the well-known out-of-print dealers in your country. Neither are they in any of the Ministry of Defence libraries here in Holland. Maybe readers can help me obtain copies of the following: 'Operations of VIII Corps' by Lt Col G J Jackson; 'Operations of the 2nd Army in Europe' by General Sir Miles Dempsey; 'History of the South Wales Borderers (part 4)' by Major J J How; 'From Normandy to Nijmegen' by J Hart Dyke; 'The 5th DCLI in NW Europe (1944-45)' by Brig George Taylor; 'Push on 20: Peace Sqn 15/19 The King's Royal Hussars' by Capt R T Butler. — J van Weerden, van Leeuwenhoeklaan 284, 2713 RH Zoetermeer, Holland.

Collectors' Corner

Paul H Sayles, 15D Circle Drive, Tiburon, California 94920, USA. Seeks Queen's South Africa Medal to A C Turner, Surgeon. May have clasps Cape Colony and South Africa 1902. John Strutt, 58 Livingstone Road, Walthamstow, London, E17 9AX. Wants airborne badges of the world. Good prices paid.

R Wollam, 47 Dallamoor, Hollinswood, Telford, Salop, TF3 2EE. Seeks 78 rpm recordings by the Massed Bands of pre-1939 Aldershot Command Searchlight Tattoos, 10" or 12". Bjorn Martensson, Skravlingsvagen 27, 852 54 Sundsvall, Sweden. Wishes to buy copies of 'The Kukri' 1966, 1967, 1960-63. Also any copy of SOLDIER Magazine 1947 and older. Has some old copies for exchange.

Paul Turner, 78 Brighton Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU12 4HN. Wants military (Air Force/Navy/Army/Marines) pilot wings worldwide. Will trade or purchase. All letters answered. Walt Barrington, 2 Thrush House, Marlow Drive, Salford, M6 6FR. Has for exchange Officer's HM silver 1914 Argyle & Sutherland bonnet badge for a HM silver cap badge Loyal North Lancs Regt. Also some OTC cap badges and ST and German items for sale or exchange, please send SAE.

M Harvey, Higher Sutton, South Milton, Kingsbridge, Devon, TQ7 3JG. Wants world para items (especially wings). Will trade or buy. Andrew Gilchrist, 5 Hume Drive, Kylepark, Liddington, Glasgow, G71 7DW. Wants any books on the 79th Armoured Division. Also photographs, information on the FV 180 Combat Engineer Tractor. Good prices paid.

WO2 T Ross, HQ 7 Int Coy, BFPO 39. Seeks badges and insignia of the Warsaw Pact Armed Forces. Has USA, West German and British military insignia for exchange. Mike Lukich, 12 Petch St, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland. Has a large number of world paratroop wings to sell or exchange. Wants old South African and other colonial badges.

Reunions

The Loyal Regiment Association reunion dinner. Saturday 11 June 1983 at the Masonic Hall, Saul St, Preston. Apply to: The Secretary, The Loyal Regiment Association, Fulwood Bks, Preston, PR2 4AA. Royal Pioneer Corps annual Old Comrades reunion, 9 July 1983. Details from: General Secretary, RPC Association, 51 St George's Drive, Westminster, London, SW1V 4DE. 6th KOSB (Normandy to the Baltic) Dinner Club. 33rd Annual Reunion on 21st May 'at Maxwell Hotel, Galashiels. Details from: Mr Alex Kidd, Pendle, 4 Marmion Road, Hawick, TD9 9PD, Scotland.

Pen Pals

My name is Yvonne and I am 21 years old. I have brown hair and blue eyes. I am working in France as an au pair and I like reading, sightseeing, swimming and music. I would like to write to someone who is kind with a mature outlook. — Yvonne Peace, c/o M & Mme Dussenne, Helistel Marine, Apt 406, Chemin St Hubert, St-Laurent-Du-Var 06700, France.

My name is Elizabeth and I am 22 years old. I am 5ft 4ins tall with brown hair and blue eyes. My hobbies are driving, dancing, swimming and horse-riding. — Elizabeth Herbert, 46 Ashbourne Avenue, South Woodford, London, E18 1PL.

My name is Kathy and I am 20 years old. I am 5ft 6ins tall with light brown hair and green eyes. I like music, reading and my CB. — Kathy Foster, 6 Longhayes Ave., Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex, RM6 5HD.

My name is Debbie and I am 22 years old. I am 5ft 8ins tall with brown hair and brown eyes. My hobbies are writing to people, discos, squash and walks. I would like a penfriend aged between 23 to 30. — D Rayle, 3 Burnaby Close, Basingstoke, Hants, RG22 6UJ.

My name is Sandra and I am 18 years old. I am very interested in the Services and would like an English or American penfriend no older than 20. — Sandra Turner, 210 Linley Drive, Hastings, E Sussex, TN34 2BY.

I would like to hear from a military person or family. I am a married family man who likes sports and outdoor life. — Mr Reg McIlroy, F/2 90 Queenspark Drive, Parklands, Christchurch, New Zealand.

I am 17 and am from an English family now resident in NZ. I would like to hear from a pilot or infantryman. — Peter Frost, 164 Lord Rutherford Road, Brightwater, Nelson, New Zealand.

I am in my twenties, and would like to hear from a sergeant or corporal. I have been a NZ soldier. Tony Gray, 5B Purakanui Place, Belfast, Christchurch 5, Canterbury, New Zealand.

My name is Sharon and I am 15 years old. I have brown hair and blue eyes and my hobbies are sports, eating and music. All letters answered. — Sharon Gilmore, 7 Kingsmill Avenue, Levenshulme, Manchester, M19 2UE.

We are two friends who would like penpals. Cally is 20 years old, 5ft 5ins tall with dark hair and dark eyes. Her interests are music, darts, discos and dancing and she would like penpals aged 19-25. Carolyn is 27 years old, blonde with green eyes. Her interests are music, dancing, keep fit and antiques. She would like a penpal aged 26-32. — Cally Clarke or Carolyn Hadley, 11 Fosters Avenue, Studley, Warks, B80 7QJ.

We are three 16-year-old friends who would like soldier penpals. Paula is 5ft 7ins tall with dark hair and blue eyes and she likes Heaven 17, The Beat and Madness; Danielle is 5ft 5ins tall with auburn hair and blue eyes and she likes Roxy Music, the Stranglers and Dexy's Midnight Runners; and Louise is 5ft 3ins tall with dark hair and brown eyes, she likes Bob Dylan, the Doors and Bruce Springsteen. — 28 Nantwich Road, Fallowfield, Manchester, M14 7AP.

My name is Julie and I am 22, married with a baby and I would like to write to anyone aged between 18 to 40. I'm 5ft 4ins tall with blonde hair and blue eyes and I like animals. — Mrs J S Morgan, 5 Groves Hall Road, Dewsbury Moor, Dewsbury, West Yorks.

My name is Shirley and I am 46 years old. I am homely, plump and a foster mum with a sense of humour. — Shirley Johnson, 106 Sheppey Road, Dagenham, Essex.

Competition

In Competition 312, 'Feathered Friends', you had to combine your skill at crosswords with a knowledge of ornithology. You had to provide alternative words to the given clues and from there add letters to find the names of 24 birds. The answers were blackcap, snipe, heron, puffin, redwing, stint, swan, twite, coot, crane, wren, nuthatch, diver, grouse, plover, rail, smew, swallow, teal, raven, bittern, chough, curlew and brambling. Prizewinners were: 1st WO2 G A Boss, 57 Oxford Close, Basingstoke Bks, Royston, Herts. 2nd Maj T A N Nicholls, HQ & Trg Centre, RADC, Evelyn Woods Rd, Aldershot, Hants. 3rd Mrs W Wright, 37 Roseberry Way, Tring, Herts. 4th Mr R Aitken, 22 Edingale Rd, Coventry. 5th Mr C Kershaw, 2 Witney Close, Ickenham, Uxbridge, Middx.

How Observant Are You?

(see page 23)
1 Short centre branch of tree; 2 Roof moulding of cinema at top right; 3 "G" in "REGENT"; 4 Crown above paybox; 5 Soldier's left foot; 6 Middle bottle in chemist's window; 7 Base of lamp post; 8 Right stripe of sunblind; 9 Shape of boy at front; 10 Dome of model locomotive in shop.

SALE OF SURPLUS MARRIED QUARTERS UNDER THE NON DISCOUNTED SCHEME

Bulletin No 55 contains details of the following surplus Married Quarters offered for sale through the Joint Services Married Quarters Sales Office at UKLF Wilton (Salisbury Military 2684/2693).

Type C	1 in Hull, Humberside	£17,250
	9 in Gloucester	£17,750-£18,250
	4 in Chatham, Kent	£18,500

The Bulletin has been distributed to all Units. Further information and applications forms will be available through your Unit/Ship/Station.

The closing date for all applications for properties offered in Bulletin number 55 is 25 May 1983

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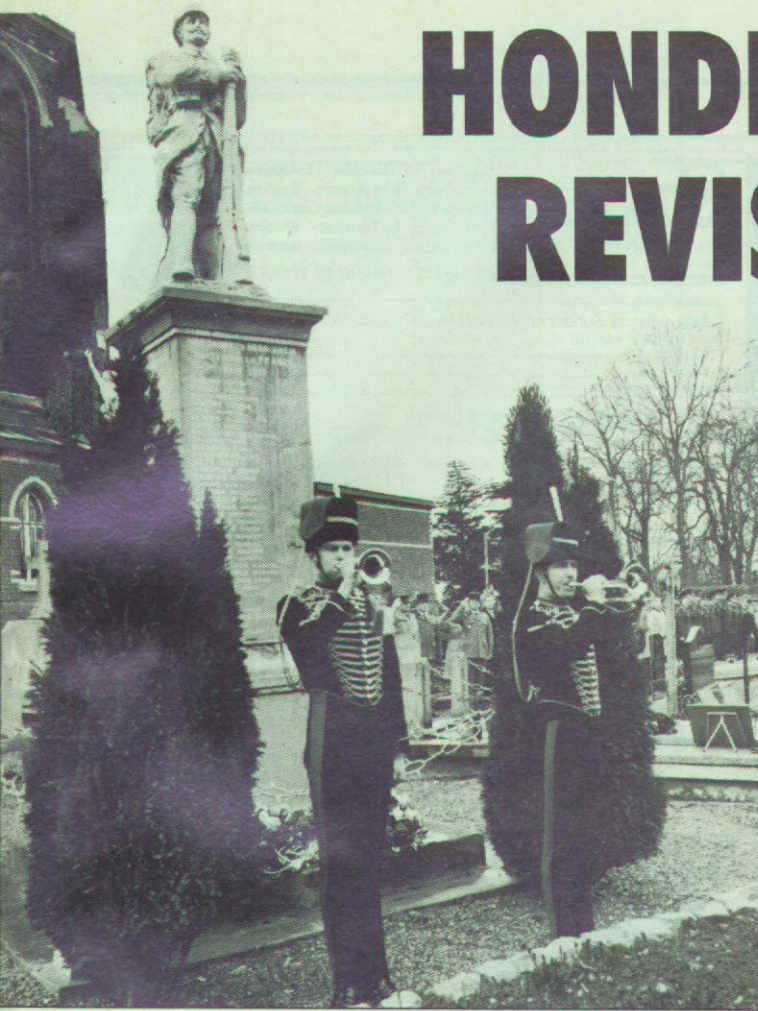
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HONDEGHEM REVISITED



'IN ALL THE close-range fighting that took place between British and German troops in France during the last fortnight of May 1940, there was no more gallantly contested engagement than that of the defence of Hondeghem village. Here, during more than eight hours of continuous fighting on May 27th, two 18-pdr guns of K Battery of the 5th Regiment, RHA, held off vastly superior enemy forces.'

Thus wrote Douglas Williams, the Daily Telegraph's correspondent with the British Expeditionary Force, in his opening to a dramatic account of the action 43 years ago.

And the proud memories still evoked by his despatch were brought vividly to the fore by 70 members of today's K (Hondeghem) Battery when they returned to the tiny Flanders village to honour their fallen forbears.

There to illuminate their tour with his own recollections was the last surviving officer of the action, 63-year-old Major (retd) John Whitcombe. Then a 19-year-old 2nd Lieutenant with no war experience, he recalled how his battery had been ordered to buy time for British troops pulling back towards Dunkirk by holding off the German Army

advancing in full strength with tanks and infantry.

In a moving ceremony in the graveyard of the village church, which still bears the mark of fighting, the Mayor of Hondeghem, Monsieur Regis Dubrulle, and the Battery Commander, Major Peter Blessington, accompanied by Major Whitcombe, laid wreaths on the grave of one of the gunners who died.

Among the watching villagers was an 85-year-old lady, Marthe Verbaere, who had pressed German commanders to bury the body, still seated on an 18 Pounder gun, after the battle was over. She also recovered the soldier's personal possessions and

kept them safely until the end of the war, when she returned them to his family.

After the ceremony, soldiers and villagers celebrated together with a 'Vin d'honneur' and a buffet luncheon prepared by the regimental cooks. The building where it took place, situated on the village square, was itself a scene of some of the desperate hand to hand fighting which characterised the action.

The Germans had managed to establish a machine gun there. A K Battery gun crew situated on another corner of the square, coolly loaded a shell with a No 1 Fuze, and scored a direct hit, destroying not only the machine gun, but their own entire ration store. The building had been used as their own cookhouse.

A painting by David Shepherd, representing the heat of the battle in the village square,

is now a prized battery possession.

In all, members of K Battery, supported by a small number of men from Searchlight Regiment in the vicinity, held out for 11 hours with only two 18 Pounders (two others having been knocked out in the first few moments of the fight).

After a final 'bayonet charge' when ammunition had run low, the survivors withdrew by driving over a minefield laid by retreating British soldiers. Among them was the young John Whitcombe, who was to spend three years recovering from his wounds.

None of the 70 Gunners visiting Hondeghem, including the Battery Commander, was even born when the action took place. Major Blessington, who organised the visit, said: "The battery has not been back to Hondeghem for 15 years. Sadly, a lot of ex-members have now died. Probably this is one of the last chances to come back with an ex-member of the battery to show us around.

"I believe tradition is extremely important in the British Army, it gives a sense of pride to those units which are nurtured on it. It is, if you like, the glue that holds us together."



85-year-old Madame Marthe Verbaere recalls the action for Maj Peter Blessington.



Maj Whitcombe and K Battery in neighbouring village of St Sylvestre where he was wounded in the withdrawal.

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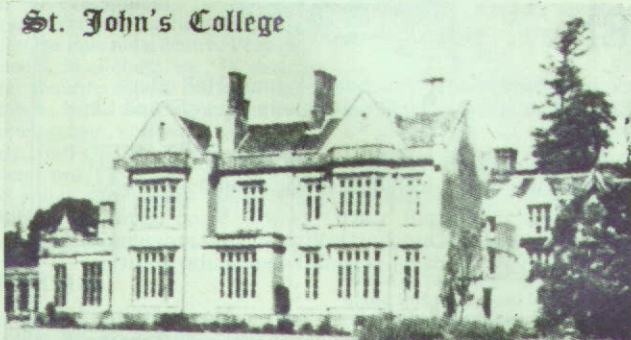
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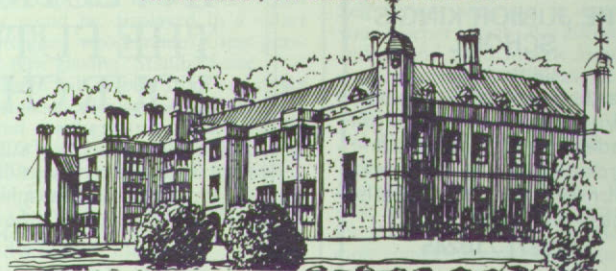
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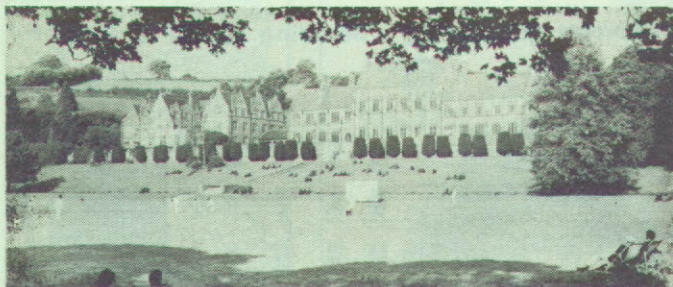
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DUNCHURCH-WINTON HALL
Dunchurch, Near Rugby, Warwickshire.

WHAT'S WHAT ON THE WIRRAL

Some of Britain's best value for money residential property is situated on the Wirral. That said, prices do reflect the Wirral's popularity for those who are employed in Liverpool, Chester, Runcorn and to a lesser extent areas like St. Helens and Warrington.

After nearly two years of static prices, the market is on the move again. So if you want to catch a rising market do it now.

First time buyers, in particular, will be impressed with the range of semis on the market in say, Sutton or Little Sutton. Prices start around £15,000. And for £20,000 you would get double-glazing, gas fired central heating, three bedrooms, one reception and a fitted kitchen.

If you don't want the hassle of a house you'll find purpose built flats (two bedrooms) for under £17,000.

Some really attractive detached property is being offered from £30,000 to £33,000 and there is the occasional four-bedroomed semi, with large garden on agents' books at under £30,000. £40,000 buys you four-bedroomed luxury in places like Neston and Parkgate. Mortgages are still obtainable but not always immediately "off the shelf". You may have to shop around.

Access to North Wales, the Lake District and, of course, the Midlands via the motorway network is fast and direct. Food, as well as housing, is cheaper.

Jones Chapman Harland, Little Sutton (051-339 4878)

Kerry Stephenson 01-439 3611/2.

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

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Ring Blandford Forum 54930 or McNeill & Critchley, Inverness (0463) 225000.

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Crumlin 53486.

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Aldershot. Immaculate modern 4-bed detached house. Quiet, private cul-de-sac south of town on exclusive small development. Lovely open aspect over playing field to wooded hill. One mile town centre. Very near schools, local shops etc. 18 months old. Double aspect lounge/diner, kitchen, bath, cloakroom, four bedrooms, garage, utility/workshop, gardens. Full GFCH. Three telephone points, two TV points, double electric points throughout. Happy and comfortable family home. Owner

posted. £52,500 freehold. 01-218 7932 business hours.

Warminster. Modern semi-detached well maintained chalet-style house in quiet cul-de-sac. Three bedrooms, coloured bathroom suite, pleasant lounge, kitchen/diner, garage, gardens front and rear. To include all carpets. Oil central heating. £24,650. Mrs M Crean, 24 St Andrews Road, Warminster, Wilts. Tel: Warminster 214393.

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Kirkby, Fleetham. Four-bedroomed detached centrally heated house, integral garage, hard standing for two cars. Cloakroom with WC, bathroom, separate WC. Double-glazed sealed units to ground floor windows including sliding 8' patio doors from L-shaped lounge/diner onto patio and large rear garden. Kitchen is plumbed for washer, split level cooker and hob and double width glazed doors to side garden. Village 1½ miles A1, on bus route serving Richmond, Catterick (5 miles), Northallerton (8 miles). Village school, shop, pub and cricket team. Property divided from neighbouring cottages by thick hedges or 6' fencing.

Tel: Weekends McLoughlin, Northallerton 748347; office hours Scarborough 64345.

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If you need to let or have problems with letting property in Devon, Dorset, Somerset or Cornwall, contact:

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House Exchange

Exchange 3-bedroom rented house in South Bucks for smaller south of London preferred. Must be RE or ex-RE.

Mrs Ball, 4 Morris Close, Chalfont St Peter, Bucks. 0753-884407.

forms of music, going to the pictures, going out for a meal occasionally, but most of all, sadly miss the life which we had while attached to the Forces. If any Senior NCO or above, would like to correspond with me, on a genuine basis, who is not married, I would very much like to hear from you. All replies answered. Replies to 'Jane', c/o SOLDIER.

Personal

I am 38 years old, divorced with two children, boy aged 13 years, girl aged 12 years. Privately educated. Have not known any other life but the Armed Forces, and have thoroughly enjoyed the life. Enjoy all forms of outside activities, plus reading, travelling, gardening, driving, all

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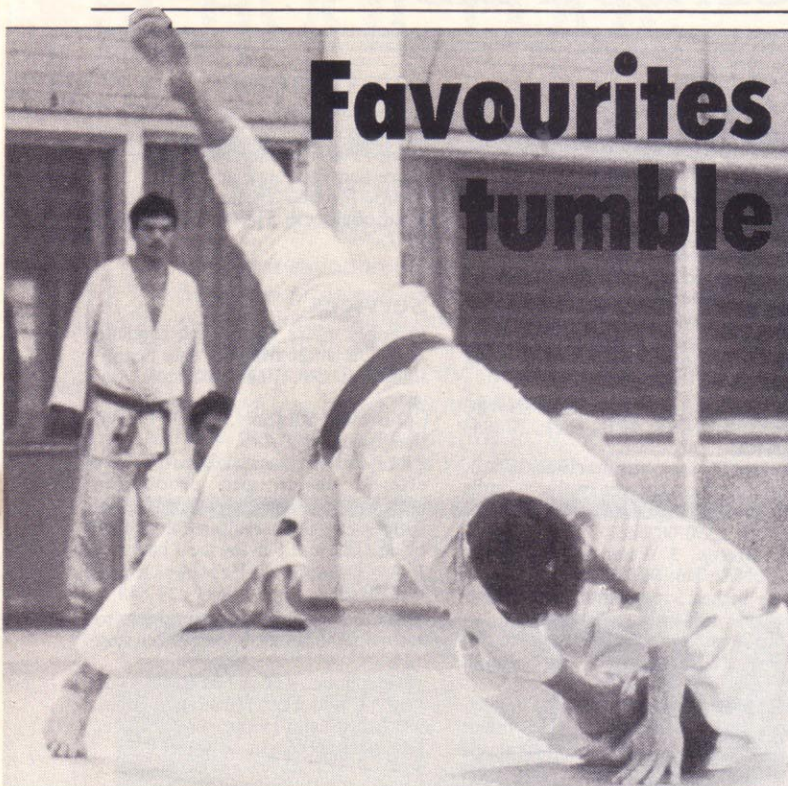
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Favourites tumble



Spectacular throw for Corporal Stu Hogg for a winning koka.

LAST YEAR's Army Judo Inter-Unit Champions, 26 Field Regiment, went down to defeat this year at the hands of opponents who had started with only slender hopes in an all Royal Artillery final.

The UK champions, the permanent staff of the Junior Leaders' Regiment RA, Bramcote, raced to a three nil lead before losing the final two fights both well inside the five minute time limit.

Sergeant Mac McNamara, JLRRA gave his side the head start in his over 86 kgs fight against Gunner Malcolm Tipple when he won with a 30 second hold down.

The next two fights, both over 71 kgs went to full time; Sergeant Bill Connor won by a yuko and Corporal Stu Hogg, after recovering from a stranglehold in the first three minutes, scraped through with a winning koka.

Bramcote were pretty pleased with themselves at this stage but the BAOR champions stemmed the tide with a come-back in the lower weight competitions as Gunner Paddy Barnes defeated his opponent with a 30 second hold down when the fight had hardly begun. In the under 65 kgs, Gunner Stephen Arrand was forced to submit to Gunner Mac McDonald's stranglehold.

Afterwards, 26's manager,

Staff Sergeant Mal Williams, was clearly disappointed and said "We should have won really, but in the over 71 kgs fights we had the team in the wrong order — but that's the luck of the draw. We'll win again next year definitely."

The winners were jubilant and realised they had had luck on their side. Team captain, Captain Lloyd Daykin told SOLDIER: "We thought we had a fifty-fifty chance — a definite maybe. We came hoping to win but not expecting it — especially as we knew 26 were very strong. But we're very pleased!"

SPORTS SHORTS

BOXING

The Army Intermediate Boxing final at Colchester went right to the last round before 2 RRF from Berlin beat 2 Royal Anglian by five bouts to four. The final deciding bout was a welterweight contest between Fusilier P Hinds and Private S Cooper for the Anglians. Even that went to a majority decision with Hinds getting the verdict.

★ ★ ★

SHOOTING

Cambridge University Officer Training Corps won the UKLF Inter-Unit Small Bore Target Rifle Match at Bordon.

★ ★ ★

SOCCER

The Army is to play First Division West Bromwich Albion at the Military Stadium at Aldershot on Monday 16 May (kick off 6.45 pm). Albion will field their first team.

★ ★ ★

CHESS

The first championship of the recently formed Junior Army Chess Association was won by Princess Marina College, Arborfield. Five teams took part and in the final round Princess Marina defeated the Junior Leaders' Regiment, RA, unofficial champions from previous informal tournaments.

★ ★ ★

ANGLING

In his first attempt at top class competition, Gunner A W Ford of The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, took first place in the Army and Inter-Service Beach Angling Competition. This ensured that the Army had a runaway win in the Inter-Service teams competition and earned Gunner Ford fifth place in the all-England and European championship.

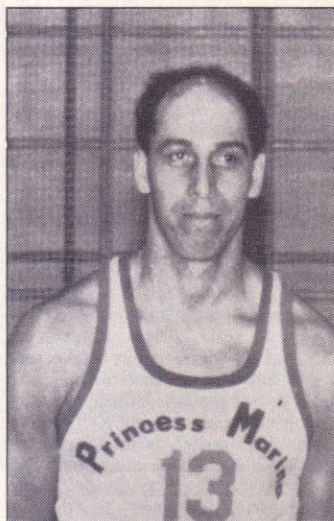
ERIC'S FINAL BASKET

PRINCESS MARINA College, Arborfield, retained the Army Basketball Cup after travelling to Germany to play the Rhine Army winners, 25 Field Regiment RA, at Paderborn.

Before a capacity and partisan crowd the match got off to a fast and furious start which set the trend throughout the game. The College crept in front in the early stages and the combination of Captain Terry Goulding and WO1 Eric Ricketts, who has since left the Army after 20 years service to Army basketball, put 25 Field Regiment under considerable pressure to extend the lead to 15 points at half time.

During the second half the German based side tried hard to reduce the deficit but Princess Marina retained the cup with the final score running out 83-73.

WO1 Eric Ricketts — bowing out of the Army in style.



Sappers show the way

BRILLIANT SCORES of 180 and 140 by Sergeant Mick Stephenson helped 6 Field Support Squadron from Andover to a three game total of just 58 darts (19-21-18) in their victory over Herdewykes in the second round of SOLDIER's darts contest. It also earned him our special £5 prize for the best individual performance.

Just a single shot higher than the Andover sappers were Vehrte CC, whose 23-20-16 included six individual tons and was just a shade too good for The Whalers. Now they meet 6 Field Squadron in the next round in what should be the tie of the tournament.

There was low scoring too

from the Kolsas Killers who needed only 66 darts to dispose of the Artful Dodgers.

Aldershot Chefs A and B teams both progressed to the last eight in face-to-face clashes with B Coy Bombers and Ore Place Social Club respectively. L/Cpl Stuart Williams chalked up three tons for the A's including a century finish.

But the closest match was the tussle between Berakas Ladies and the RAFA Club, Melton Mowbray. Both teams won a game each with the first one tied, but the ladies from Brunei just edged through on a lower overall total, Doreen England and Bridget Watson contributing finishes of 84 and 94.

In the other ties, High Numbers were still a little too low for E Troop 233 Signal Squadron and Odds and Sods needed only 77 darts to put out Eskmeal Owls, Sgt A Haimes notching four tons.

Because of postal delays in getting the results through, we decided to publish the 3rd Round coupon in our last issue (18 Apr) to speed things up. This should be attached to all third round result sheets.

Draw for the third round is:

Berakas Ladies v Chefs A; Odds and Sods v High Numbers; Chefs B v Kolsas Killers; 6 Fd Sp Sqn v Vehrte CC.

WHITE WASH!

Two goal Phil ends SEME jinx

SEME BORDON 3 28 AMPH ENGR REGT 1

SEME BORDON finally laid the Army Challenge Cup bogey which has haunted them during the 1980's when, in their third successive final, they beat 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment before a large crowd in one of the best finals for years.

For once it went as the experts forecast with SEME front runners, Lance-Corporals Phil White and Steve Butler, proving just too much for a gallant sapper defence in which Corporal Tony Dunne was a tower of strength and Lance-Corporal Chris Lomas outstanding in goal.

The Rhine Army side produced the early shocks, when after barely surviving the opening SEME onslaught, Corporal Steve Rock first rapped the crossbar then backheaded a free kick across the face of the SEME goal and inside the far upright to give them the lead.

The Bordon side plugged away and were unlucky when a fine move ended with a flick by Butler being hooked from under the crossbar. The resultant corner was headed down by White but Lomas blocked Butler's shot before Craftsman Dickie Briggs fired the rebound into the side netting.

In the 28th minute SEME drew level when continuing pressure ended with Sergeant Alan Walton hammering a fierce ground shot wide of Lomas, and not long afterwards White put

them ahead, fastening onto a ball headed on from midfield and driving it into the roof of the net.

The calm and experience of Staff-Sergeant Doug Aitchison in midfield (making positively his last Army Cup Final appearance), and the fierce and uncompromising tackling of Briggs, was now starting to have a marked effect on the game.

Before the interval SEME appeared to be taking control but after the break the Engineers opened briskly and there were one or two anxious moments in the SEME defence. Just when it appeared that the flow of the game might change though, SEME attacked and Dunne was adjudged to have handled the ball in the penalty area. White lashed home the penalty kick for his second goal and from that moment on SEME took control.



Still daylight with Man of the Match L/Cpl Chris Lomas already rising to the occasion.

Lomas and Dunne never gave up but in the end it was a convincing win for Bordon.

Pictures: Les Wiggs

Mr Arthur McMullen, vice-chairman of the Football Association, presented the trophy to Lance-Corporal Phil White, who had really earned the honour and enhanced his growing reputation. But he was shaded out as man of the match by 28 Regiment's captain and goalkeeper, Lance-Corporal Chris Lomas.

POSTER WINNERS

Winners of the competition to design posters for the Army Inter-Unit Athletics Championships were Maj A Bailey of 42 Survey Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers, Barton Stacey and Lt-Col J J McMullen from HQ UKLF. Both receive £100 from the sponsors, Pickfords.

BACK IN THE SWIM

THE ARMY WATER POLO team confirmed their recent revival at a tournament in Rosyth, Scotland when they were shaded out of first place by the Scottish team by a single goal but defeated old rivals, the Navy, in the process.

Newly appointed player/coach, WO 2 (QMSI) Ted Martin of the APTC, said afterwards that this success — after six days of training and playing games together in preparation for the tournament — confirmed his belief that the Army has always had the material within its ranks but has not utilised it properly.

The team training demanded effort and reaction not experienced for a long time and some of the younger players found difficulty coping. But Martin declares: "I learned my water polo from two of the all-time greats — they proved their success and I intend to prove mine in a similar way."

The 'greats' he refers to are Norman Shand, who was with the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Engineers in Dover when they were not only Army champions but recognised as the best team in the country, and the late Lt-Col Jim McLeod.

The current Army team now has plenty of time to mature. "We've never been as good and as young for a long time," says the now reserve goalkeeper, WO2 Andy Stewart of the Royal Scots.

The Army beat the Navy 6-3 and the British Police 6-4 in the Rosyth Tournament. Now they are eagerly looking forward to the next Inter-Services contest in August.



SEME skipper, L/Cpl Phil White, blasts in the penalty to settle the issue beyond doubt.

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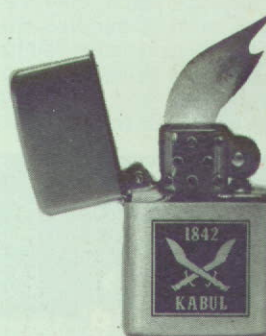


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