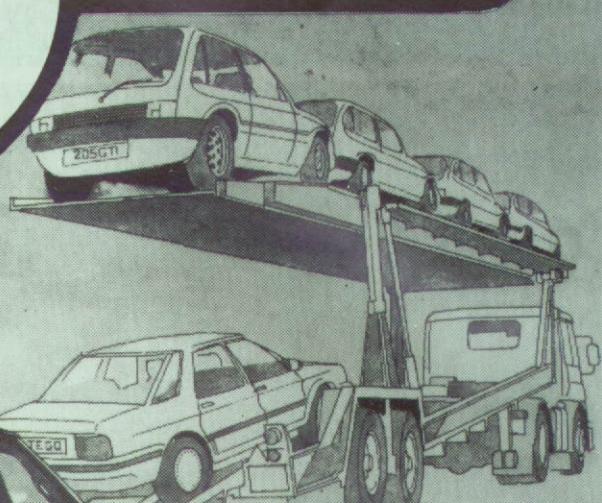


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# SOLDIER



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## CONTENTS

- 6 News
- 8 People
- 10 TA Topics
- 13 SOLDIER to Soldier
- 14 Signals in Northern Ireland
- 17 Humour
- 19 Tercentenary Plans
- 20 Tercentenary Family Tree
- 22 All in the Family
- 23 How Observant Are You?
- 24 Imperial War Museum Appeal
- 25 'Ole Bill' does his bit
- 26 Environmental Health
- 28 New way to travel the Falklands
- 30 Signals show infantry skills
- 32 Looking at Books
- 35 Very Special Mascot
- 37 Your Cap Badge
- 38 TA man finds sunshine
- 39 Competition
- 40 Mail Drop
- 41 Pen Pals
- 49 Sport

BACK COVER: Modern soldiers, old uniforms, instant food. Two 'actors' relax during rehearsals for the recent Albert Hall 300th Anniversary Tribute to great British regiments, presented by the Royal Tournament.

Picture: Paul Haley

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# SOLDIER

INCORPORATING  
THE TERRITORIAL ARMY MAGAZINE



## NOVEL FORM OF TRAVEL

Smiling Lance Corporal Sue Dicks was one of 12 intrepid travellers who found a new way to see the Falkland Islands. Full story: page 28.

## FRONT COVER

At the service in St Paul's Cathedral to commemorate the centenary of the death of General Gordon of Khartoum, Pipe Major John Bisset of 71 (Scottish) Engineer Regiment (V) played to the congregation, which included members of the Gordon Boy's School — the school founded as a memorial to the famous Sapper General who died defending Khartoum against the Mahdi's hordes.

Bisset, who was selected for the task because the organisers wanted an Engineer piper, is himself the product of military schooling being a former pupil at Queen Victoria's School for the Sons of Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen in Glasgow. A bus driver in civilian life, he has been with the regiment 26 years during which time he has toured widely in Europe with the band and even made it as far as Tasmania.

Picture: Alan House, Reps.

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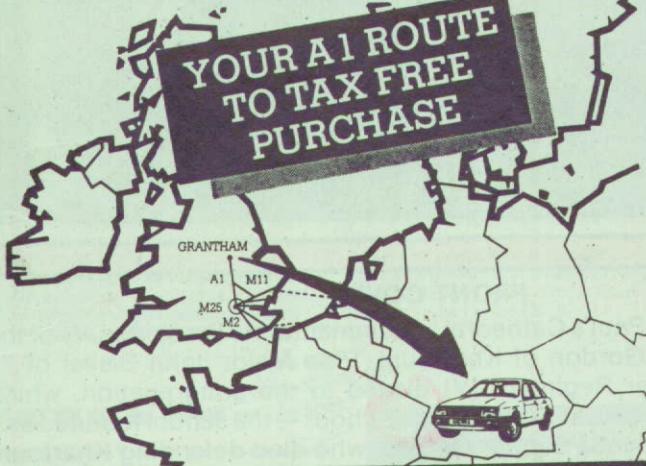


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# EXPLOSIVES DETECTOR ORDERED

## NEWS

### Paul's dream comes true

PRIVATE PAUL BURNS, 24, one of only two paratroopers to survive the Warrenpoint massacre has had his wildest dreams come true.

He has been accepted for a place with the Army's free-fall parachute display team, The Red Devils, who are all members of The Parachute Regiment.

Paul lost a leg in the attack which claimed the lives of 18 of his pals six years ago. He is currently in Cyprus training to be a parachute rigger and is expected to do about 100 jumps a year.

He will use a square parachute which will not require him to roll over on the ground on his artificial leg.

### RMP Major dies in parachute accident

A TRAGIC parachuting accident at Netheravon on Salisbury Plain has killed Major David New, RMP, the Deputy Assistant Provost Marshal of 1 Armoured Division, in Verden.

Major New, 40, was taking part in a course for potential instructors organised by the British Parachute Association

THORN EMI, its makers, claim it is probably the best portable system of its kind in the world... a back-pack explosives detector which could be on issue to the RAOC and RE towards the end of the year.

The Ministry of Defence has just awarded the firm a contract worth more than £600,000 for the system following extensive Army trials.

The detectors will replace the

cumbersome trolley-mounted machines and will be able to detect all nitroglycerine and nitrobenzene-based explosives through a hand-held probe. In some cases, even detect where explosives have been stored previously.

Unveiled at the British Army Equipment Exhibition at Aldershot last summer it is claimed by Thorns to be "the world's most sensitive explosives detector."

for both servicemen and civilians.

He had jumped out of the aircraft at 5,500 feet for a free-fall descent which was supposed to involve three manoeuvres when he got into difficulties.

An inquest, a Board of Inquiry and an investigation by the British Parachute Association will all be examining the circumstances of the fatality.

Major New was commissioned in 1970 when he joined the Royal Military Police. His previous job before going to Germany was in Northern Ireland.

A brother officer described him as a keen parachutist who had practised the sport for some time as a hobby.

Major New is survived by his wife, Jill, and two children.

### Terrorists kill third brother

A PART-TIME soldier in the UDR, Mr James Graham, 40, has been murdered — the third of three brothers to be killed by terrorists in four years.

Mr Graham, father of two teenage children, died in a burst of automatic fire as he sat in his parked bus outside a school at the border village of

FIELD MARSHALL Sir Edwin Bramall, the last senior service chief to have served in World War 2, is to retire on 1 November.

His replacement as Chief of the Defence Staff will be the man given much credit for the success of the Falklands campaign, Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, the present Chief of Naval Staff and First Sea Lord.

Senior appointments announced at the same time by the Ministry of Defence include the following:

General Sir Nigel Bagnall to succeed General Sir John Stanier as Chief of the General Staff.

Lieutenant General Sir Martin Farndale to be promoted General and succeed General Sir Nigel as Commander-in-Chief BAOR.

Major General Brian Kenny to be promoted Lieutenant General and succeed General Sir Martin as Commander 1st British Corps.

Lieutenant General Sir James Glover to be promoted General and succeed General Sir Frank Kitson as Commander-in-Chief UKLF.

Major General Derek Boorman to be promoted Lieutenant General and succeed Air Marshal Sir Michael Armitage as Chief of Defence Intelligence.

### Another farewell for the faithful Saracen

— was handed over to the RAOC by 4 Squadron Royal Corps of Transport currently on a round tour.

At one time the six-wheel Saracen was a familiar sight in Northern Ireland and during the 1970s there were well over 100 of the vehicles fulfilling a variety of roles including riot control, bomb disposal and ambulance work as well as their primary function as armoured personnel carriers.

Their tasks have now been taken over fully by the Humber Pig and

specially protected Land Rovers. The Special Water Dispenser version of the Saracen was equipped with a turret mounting a high velocity cannon which could shoot a "slug" of water to deal with terrorist bombs.

Newer, more effective equipment has since been introduced for use by the Explosive Ordnance Department in the Province.

Relatively few Saracens remain fully operational with the British Army, although several foreign forces are

equipped with the vehicle. When it appeared in 1952 it was the first true, purpose-built APC to be designed for the Army, which during World War 2 used American-designed half-tracks or specially converted tanks.

With the entry into service of the FV432, the Saracen faded from the scene. Many were issued to TA units, driving schools and to various trials units. Some were even used as hard targets on firing ranges.

Then came the troubles in Northern Ireland, and in the early 1970s the Saracen returned to duty to form the backbone of the Army's APC fleet in Ulster.

Some Mark 3s, originally intended for sale to the Middle East but not delivered, even turned up on the streets of Belfast in desert camouflage.

The Saracen's ability to remain operational after any two of its wheels had been blown off by a mine proved invaluable on many occasions. To reduce the risk of injury after such an explosion which could tip the vehicle, the occupants wore protective headgear and seat belts, and each seat was fitted with a head retractor.

The last farewell. The sole remaining operational Saracen drives out of Moscow Camp with the officer in command of 4 Sqn RCT behind the wheel. Providing the salute is Sergeant Major Bob Macpherson.

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ONE national newspaper called it the biggest single operation undertaken by the Royal Engineers since the crossing of the Rhine in 1944. That may have been something of an exaggeration, but there would hardly have been anything in the UK since the war to compare with the Sappers' overnight construction of seven and a half miles of barbed wire fencing around RAF Molesworth, Cambridgeshire.

Since early November plans had been made in absolute secrecy at HQ Engineer Support in Tidworth to construct a defensive barrier at Molesworth to protect civilian contractors when a permanent fence is built around Britain's second cruise missile base.

Over 1,500 Royal Engineers and their support, particularly Royal Corps of Transport, were deployed under such security that few of them knew what they were supposed to be doing when they were assembled the day before.

One of the units involved, 24 Field Squadron, from the Royal School of Military Engineering at Chatham, was obliged to cancel a rugby fixture without being able to tell their opponents that they could not appear.

Soldiers were drawn from units in many parts of the country — the biggest contingent, over 600,

## Brave man removes the danger

AN Army Warrant Officer risked being blown to pieces by carrying a box of highly unstable explosive 400 yards away from houses in a North Yorkshire village. "It was like watching a man on a tightrope", said a watching villager.

The explosive, five pounds of gelignite probably once kept for blowing up tree stumps, was found by a workman in a garden shed in the heart of a housing estate at the village of Hipswell.

It had probably been there for 15 years and was particularly dangerous because some of the active ingredient had leaked from the gelignite into a corner of the bag.

The village was cordoned off and civil and military police evacuated villagers into a nearby school.

The EOD unit from Gatterick-based 521 Ordnance Company was called and an unnamed Warrant Officer carefully put the gelignite into a cardboard box packed with sawdust before carrying it for 400 yards to a field where it was put into a sandbagged ditch and blown up.

"It was the most courageous thing I had ever seen", said one onlooker. "The police had warned that even a sneeze could have set it off. The soldier was ice cool".

# Massive fencing operation at Molesworth base

coming from 39 Engineer Regiment at Waterbeach near Cambridge. This regiment, incidentally, had the distinction of having probably the only woman on the operation.

Captain Jan Harper, 27, is a qualified chartered engineer and the commander of 1 Troop, 53 Field Squadron (Construction). She led 26 of her men at Molesworth, rigging lights around the perimeter.

Other forces were drawn from 36 Engineer Regiment, Maidstone, and 22 Engineer Regiment, Tidworth. A squadron came down from 36 Regiment at Ripon in Yorkshire.

Gurkha sappers were involved

and so was a special troop formed from Engineer officers on a training course at the Royal School of Military Engineering.

The massive logistic support requirement was provided by 27 Regiment, RCT, from Aldershot, with the help of a troop from 60 Squadron in Catterick.

All three of 27's squadrons, including 66 Squadron, Tidworth, moved out with 170 task vehicles the day before the operation to collect material secretly gathered at the Engineer Resources Establishment at Long Marston. They reached Molesworth via Colchester and Waterbeach and then deployed to pre-designated section of the airfield. In all some 260 men of 27

Regiment were involved. The huge convoy with its police escort evidently caused quite a stir as it made its way to the target area. One eye witness said that people were brought to their doors in amazement in village after village as the lorries streamed by.

Operations, under the command of Brigadier John Wilks, Commander Engineer Support, UKLF, began just before midnight. Throughout the night sappers toiled to erect some 100 miles of straight barbed wire and about 5,000 coils. By dawn the great fence was more or less finished, although work on the construction of the gates and on the 132 lighting towers continued during the day.



Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine talks to troops at RAF Molesworth, Cambs., after the lightning-fast operation to erect a barbed-wire fence

## Recruiters head for some fresh air...

A LETTER from their boss urging them to seek the wide open spaces as a change from their stuffy offices, has prompted 12 London District 'office bound' recruiters to head for the Welsh mountains.

Stirred into action by the suggestion, Sergeant Brian Bartlett of Wandsworth Careers Infor-

mation Office, has organised get-away-from-it-all walking and climbing tours in Snowdonia.

"There will be two teams of six, including two girls, from four London offices," said Brian.

"The first six leave on March 15 for the three-day event and will probably include Army squash champion Sergeant Joyce Tuomey, who is based at the Surbiton office," said Brian.

"The other girl is Sergeant Tess McMullen who works in the Strand office, but the rest are men with only a couple claiming experience of rock climbing and abseiling.

"How much actual mountaineering we do depends largely on the weather," said Brian, himself an experienced climber and well aware of the dangers facing novice climbers.

Two thirds of the way through his CIO tour, Brian will be rejoining his regiment, 1 Queens, in Gibraltar later this year.

"It will make a nice change from nine to five office work which, although greatly computerised, still presents CIO staff with a heavy workload.

"In fact paperwork, despite computerisation, seems to have increased," said Brian, "and it is because of this, and the fact that we're office bound five days a week, the idea was launched some of us should head for the hills for a few days."

## UDR man jailed for life

FULL-TIME members of the Ulster Defence Regiment for seven years, Geoffrey Edwards, 26, has been jailed for life in Belfast for the murder of a Sinn Fein election worker in Armagh more than two years ago.

Edwards, who was stationed at Armagh, had also admitted 18 other charges, including six attempted murders.

## Sappers win big 'match'!

FOOTBALL clubs are used to winter weather forcing postponement of fixtures — but Sheffield United lost a Second Division Saturday fixture because of a one-ton German bomb from World War 2 days.

As SOLDIER went to Press, bomb disposal experts from 33 Engineer Regiment at Chatham — led by Major Alistair Craib — has successfully neutralised the bomb.

The letter in our 28 January issue was to the point: "1st LAA Regiment, RA 40th and final reunion dinner will be held at the Victory Services Club, London, on April 26..."

"After 40 years we're just running out of people," said former captain and troop commander Eric Rawlinson, honorary secretary of the regiment's old comrades' association.

"Those remaining and attending our dinners are getting old and, while we have around 40 names listed, only about 20 turn up for the reunion."

"Records of personnel serving in the unit in France and Norway in 1940 were lost and any that existed from the desert battles were lost when almost the whole regiment became casualties in 1943 on the islands of Cos and Leros, off the coast of Turkey."

"It was there on the island of Leros, that we of 3 Battery lost all our guns — four 25pdr field guns and 12 2pdr Bofors."

"Only 11 members of the Battery escaped to neutral Turkey. While from Nos 2 and 4 Batteries, located on the island of Cos, even fewer evaded capture."

"At no time since the war have we been able to get in touch with more than 70 people and now, with age taking its toll, we are down to about 20."

"However, some of us who live near London hope to continue to meet each year on an informal basis on the last Friday of each April for as long as possible."

Old comrades come from all around the UK, said Mr Rawlinson, and for some London is a long way to travel and expensive to reach.

For those interested — not to mention the old comrades of the 1st LAA — the main history of the regiment dates from 1940. Prior to that the batteries were independent, 2 and 4 Batteries fighting with the BEF in France and 3 Battery taking part in the Norwegian campaign.

They came together during the London blitz before sailing from Liverpool for Port Said about a year later.

Should you be a former member of the regiment and would like to meet up with some old wartime pals, this could well be your last chance.

For, as dinner organiser Mr R. S. Rogers said in his letter to us, this is the 40th and FINAL reunion of the 1st LAA.

Write to him at 25 Kit Hill Avenue, Walderslade, Chatham, Kent ME5 9EU. Alternatively write to: Mr E. W. Rawlinson, Honorary Secretary, 3 LAA Battery OCA, 14 St John's Avenue, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3 BE.

## Day the Duchess dropped in for a cuppa



THE DUCHESS OF KENT, SERGEANT VINCE ROSE: time off from the Maze for tea

### A sweet smile of success for Sgt Vince Rose

At ease for the Duchess... Sergeant Vince Rose of 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards has tea and a chat with the Duchess of Kent during her visit to Northern Ireland, writes Anton Hanney. Relaxed and radiant, the Duchess rounded off her tour with a visit to Alexander Barracks, Aldergrove, where she spent an hour talking to 60 members of the 4/7

RDG, the regiment of which she is Colonel-in-Chief. Currently the unit's 150-strong A Squadron is spending two months as military guard group at the Maze and Crumlin Road Prisons. The detachment which attended the royal meeting represented the maximum which could be spared from duty at one time.

## Top-brass praise for George's Belize job

Back from the steaming heat of Belize Corporal George Bader proudly displays a Commander British Forces commendation for a job well done.

Some months ago, George, of 518 Company, Royal Pioneer Corps, was posted to the base in Central America

to oversee a number of construction projects combined with guard duties.

For three months of his six-months tour George acted as platoon sergeant "achieving high standards and displaying exceptional leadership that inspired the rest of the platoon."

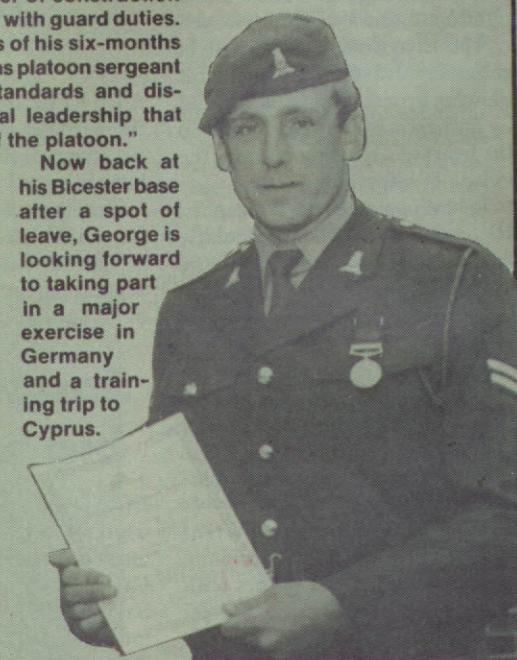
Now back at his Bicester base after a spot of leave, George is looking forward to taking part in a major exercise in Germany and a training trip to Cyprus.

### Three-way split for titles



It was a three-way split when the Cyprus driving titles were awarded. Craftsman Ian Redman REME (left), won the best young driver award, Corporal Paul Gascoyne, RAF Akrotiri, best individual driver and Marine

Hughes of 40 Commando RM was runner-up. The team winners were 58 Squadron RCT represented by Lance Corporals Dave Luckhurst and "Geordie" Rutherford, and Driver Mark Davey.



CORPORAL GEORGE BADER: exceptional leadership

### Amsterdam up for grabs

Winners of Naafi's sporting knock-out quiz will get an all-expenses paid weekend in Amsterdam. Final night is in mid-summer

at Brize Norton, meanwhile clubs hosting early rounds of the quiz will be selling beer at half-price when staging the contest.

## How the Sappers learned to paddle their own canoe

### Fast making a name in the world of canoeing are the lads of 25 Engineer Regiment.

Within weeks of starting from scratch — they had to beg, borrow and cadge cash for new boats and equipment — they had snatched third place in the BAOR 500-metre sprint relay.

That was last year, just after regimental admin officer

Captain Stafford decided it was time the unit took a header into the world of white water.

"That placing was the signal to increase training," said team members Sappers Martin Andrews and Kenny Ball.

The big time came with their bid for the BAOR Whitewater Championships "to round off an un-

believable first season with outstanding results.

"The unit team, represented by Captain Stafford, Sergeant Hadfield and Corporal Stewenton came fourth, but as individuals we swept the board.

"Sergeant Hadfield took the BAOR title in the intermediate class, Martin Andrews the novice, with Private Bayliss as runner-up."

## Wet nose, moist eyes, sharp teeth — GRRR!

The guy on the left is an RAF man — but we won't hold that against him — while on the right, complete with Royal Army Veterinary Corps beret and badge, is Army Dog No. 2B70 Shah.

Steve Woolley, 23, a Senior Aircraftman with

34 Squadron RAF Regiment, goes into a friendly clinch with Shah following a dog training course at 3 Army Dog Training Unit in Cyprus.

According to the blurb that arrived with the picture, Steve's smile and the benign expression on

Shah's face, is indicative of the "close co-operation that exists between the armed forces in

Cyprus." Good news. But there's something about those teeth...

## Don't rib Jenny for she'll carve you up!

Before 22-year-old Lieutenant Jenny Chambers joined the WRAC she was a fully-qualified meat inspector at an abattoir in her home town of Bideford, North Devon.

Now she's the assistant adjutant of 26 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, (the Sussex Gunners) at Thorney Island and the only WRAC on the unit.

A woman alone among

### Bob Finch, 91, last of the line

The last surviving Old Contemptible blinded in the 1914-18 war has received a sum of money and a silver cup.

The award to Mr Robert Finch, 91, of the 1st Worcestershire Regiment, was made by Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, who handed over the bequest by the late Alan Nicholas, founder of the St Dunstan's branch of the Old Contemptibles Association, who wanted "to give his comrades the will to live."

To this end he left a sum of money and the cup for the last surviving war-blinded member of the Old Contemptibles.

500 officers and men, she's used to a bit of leg-pulling.

But don't try ribbing her on the hockey field. For Jenny is Thorney's Oi/c hockey and will be playing in the regimental team.

A willowy, brown-eyed blonde, she reckons she used to sling large lumps of meat around with ease during her meat trade days.

"It wasn't just strength," said Jenny, "technique came into it quite a lot."

So future hockey opponents of 26 Regiment had better watch out, for Jenny is not just a pretty face, but can claim to have represented the WRAC in pentathlon events and has clocked in as a former champion at arms of 16 Signal Regiment based at Krefeld. Be warned!



SAC STEVE WOOLLEY AND SHAH: friendly smiles all round

# PEOPLE

# FACES and PLACES

### QUICK

Packs of blankets are the latest in a long line of gifts from British servicemen in Cyprus to the old and poor people living in the foothills of the Troodos mountains. The blankets supplemented the tables, chairs, wardrobes, and beds given last year by servicemen based at Episkopi.

### QUICK

The increasing popularity of unit barbecue evenings throughout the Army, has led the Army Catering Corps to include a course on barbecuing in their training syllabus. Courses on how to charcoal "bangers 'n' burgers" starts at their Aldershot HQ within the next few weeks.

SPOT

SPOT

# PROUD OF NEW PIPE BANNER

THE 2nd Battalion 51st Highland Volunteers has a fine new pipe banner as the result of a Dutch town's determination to honour their liberators of 40 years ago.

The town of Waalwijk, some 20 miles north-west of Eindhoven, was one of many towns to have been liberated by the 5th Battalion, The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders between Normandy and the German border during the final stages of the War in Europe.

But it is practically the only one which decided to mark the 40th anniversary. Contact was made with the Ministry of Defence by the Lions Club of Waalwijk and eventually the form of commemoration took shape.

It was decided that Lieutenant General Sir Derek Lang, who commanded the 5th Battalion at the time of the liberation, should lead a party of veterans, and that the town itself should present a pipe banner to the 2nd Battalion, 51st Highland Volunteers, as the logical TA successors of the wartime formation.

So on a weekend of festivities, enlivened by the Pipes and Drums of Queen's Own Highlanders,



true professional style, onto the base drone of Corporal Gordon Duncan's pipes.

Corporal Duncan, a foreman joiner from Elgin, and Major Roddy Balfour, an Inverness solicitor, were the only TA representatives

Major Roddy Balfour holding the presentation scroll affirming Waalwijk's gratitude and friendship.

The new pipe banner proudly displayed by Corporal Gordon Duncan

at the commemoration. But this year Lieutenant Colonel G S Johnston, the CO of the 2nd Battalion, hopes to maintain the Waalwijk connection by taking a party across to Holland when the battalion holds its annual camp at Folkestone.

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# ANOTHER MEDAL FOR MUSIC MASTER BERTIE

THREE days after his 14th birthday Bertie Crossman enlisted at Hounslow and went to serve with the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Fusiliers, at Shorncliffe.

That was in 1938. Some 47 years later WO1 Bandmaster Crossman was receiving his Territorial Army Efficiency Medal from the hands of Lieutenant General Sir John Akehurst, to go with his Regular Army Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

The event marked a total of 39 years service. Mr Crossman left the Regular Army in 1965, following a three year appointment as Bandmaster at The Parachute Regiment Depot. In 1972 he joined the TA as Bandmaster, the 5th (Volunteer) Battalion, the Royal Anglian Regiment.

Incidentally the presentation

took place at a Regimental concert which raised £900 for the Army Benevolent Fund. It was a poignant occasion in more ways than one for Mr Crossman as he had only just retired after teaching band music at Beford School for nearly 20 years.



Bertie Crossman, aged 14, as a new recruit.

Far right: Bandmaster Crossman after the presentation of his TEM. Looking on is Sergeant Richard Tutton who received his medal at the same time.



## Gunners' Inspection

ON a recent snowy drill night 201 (Hertfordshire & Bedfordshire Yeomanry) Field Battery, Royal Artillery (V) welcomed an important guest, Brigadier John Greenway, Commander 49 Brigade.

He had come to carry out their ARU inspection and to present seven long service awards to members of the company. These included a Territorial Decoration for Captain Alistair Scott, three bars to the Territorial Efficiency Medal to WO2 Bob Towell, WO2 Dennis Middleton and Bombadier John Bonfield. There were also TEMs to be presented to Sergeant Bob King, WO2 Garry Cook and Sergeant John Ellingham.

After the presentations the Brigadier spoke of the importance of the TA as an integral part of the Army as a whole and praised wives

and families of TA soldiers for their tolerance and support. He later met members of the battery and their wives in the canteen over a drink and had supper in the officers' mess.

Historic note: 201 Field Battery traces its origins back nearly two centuries when troops of yeomanry cavalry were raised in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire to counter the threat of a possible French invasion. In 1920, as the face of warfare changed, the two county yeomanry regiments were converted to artillery. Amalgamated in 1961, the unit was reduced to one battery in 1967. Initially it was known as 201 Medium Battery, but the name was changed to Field Artillery in 1978, two years before being re-equipped with 105mm light guns.

## BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

FOXY LADY... former Miss Northern Ireland, Alison Smith, takes the wheel of a Fox armoured car at the Province's Festival of Youth 85.

Her host is Ranger Simon Clarke, a TA member of The Royal Irish Rangers. He was one of the many Territorial soldiers who joined Regulars in constructing and manning the Army's stand at the

five-day show at King's Hall, Belfast.

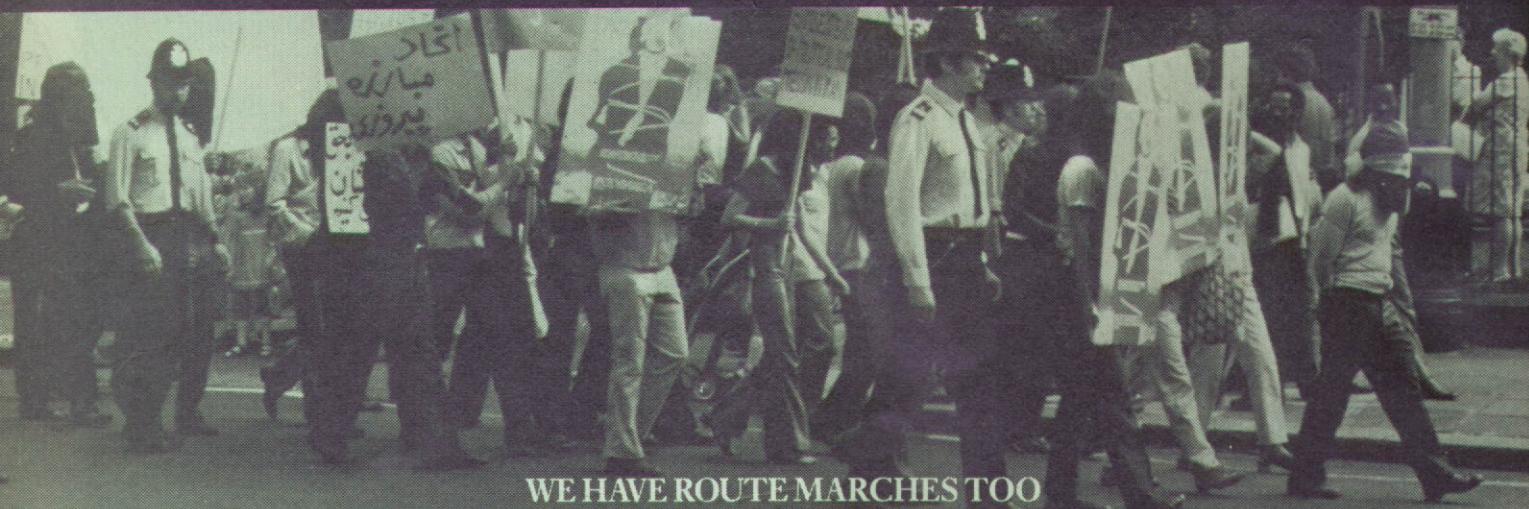
Other visitors to the stand — the largest at the display — included former Lions and Ireland rugby captain Willie John McBride and the GOC Northern Ireland, Lieutenant General Sir Robert Richardson.

An estimated 50,000 youngsters were attracted to the show.

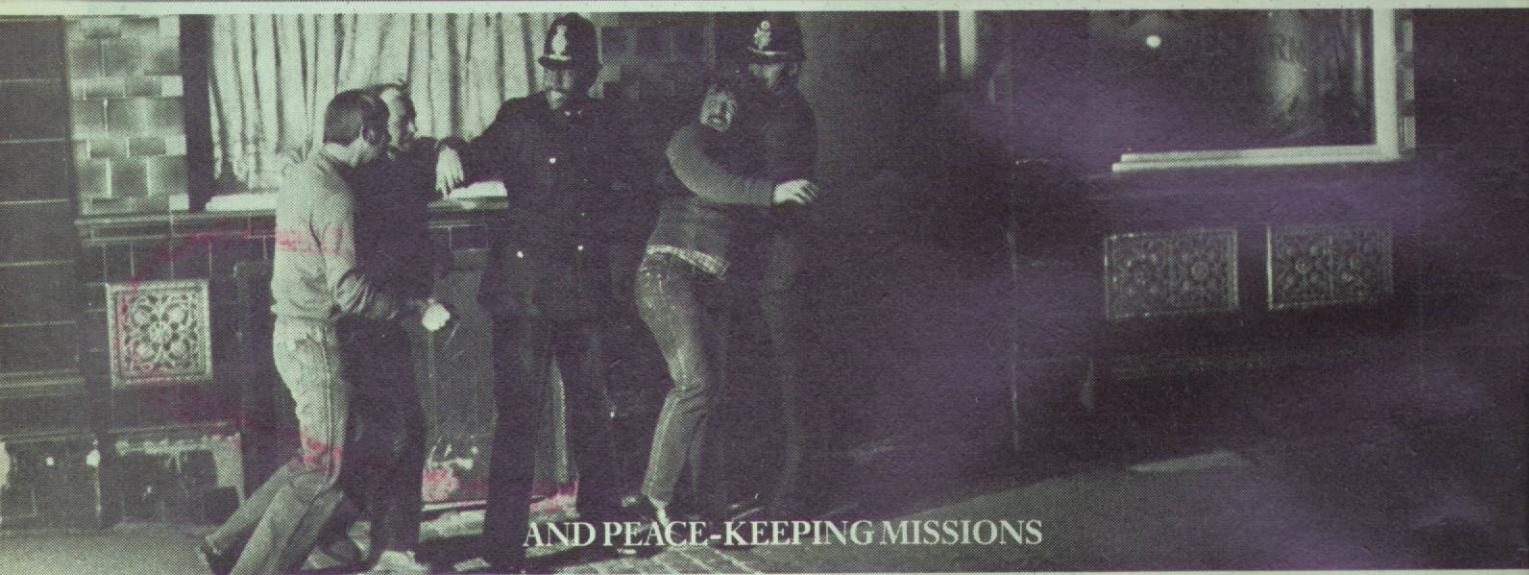


Beauty and the beast. Brian Boru, Irish wolfhound mascot of the Royal Irish Rangers encounters rather prettier company at Northern Ireland's Youth Festival 85. Handler is Cpl Nick Enstone.

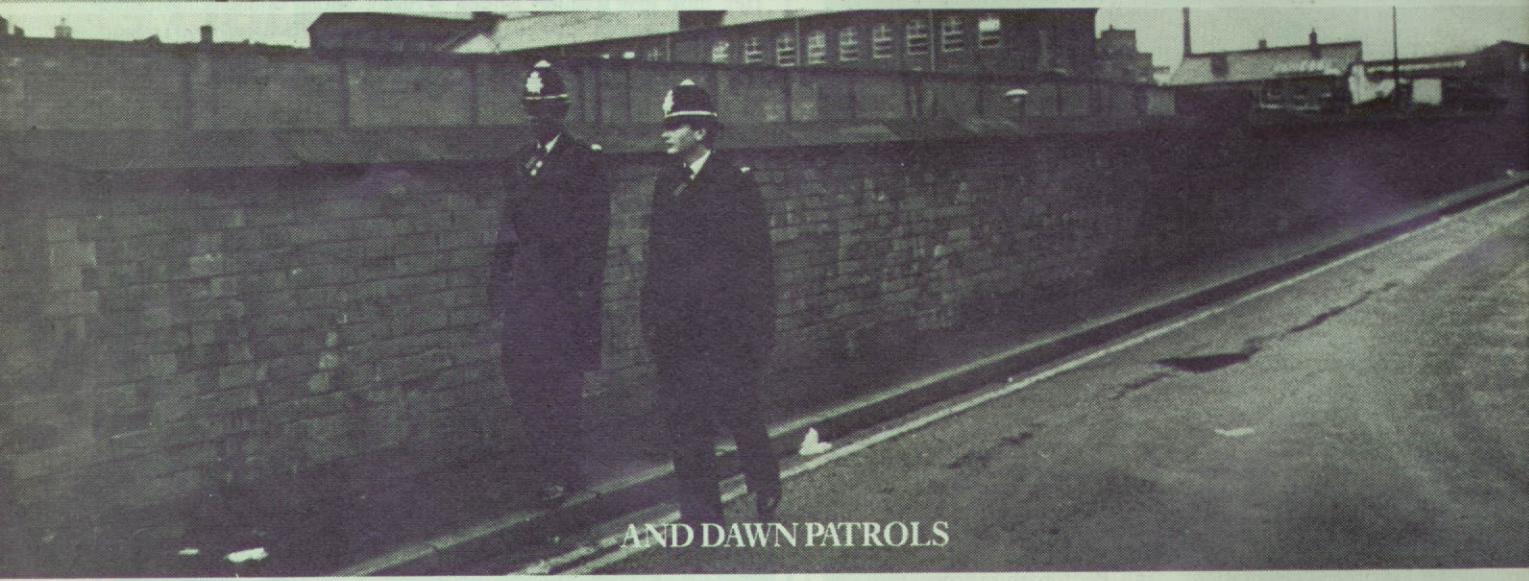
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**POLICE OFFICER** 

**N**EXT month sees the 40th anniversary of the crossing of The Rhine and among organisations marking the occasion will be the Shepway Society for the Mentally Handicapped.

They are sponsoring a philatelic cover, to be carried on a pilgrimage organised by the Airborne Forces Security Fund 23-26 March. On 28 March, Bob Mortimer — a former Airborne Gunner — intends to make a parachute descent by courtesy of the Red Devils at Queens Avenue, Aldershot.

The covers will carry a hand-coloured illustration of the parachute wings and Pegasus symbol superimposed on a map of the battle area. They will carry a special parachute drop cachet and the 17p Flying Scotsman stamp, machine cancelled at Aldershot.

Profits will be divided between the Shepway Society and the Airborne Forces Security Fund. The covers cost £2.25p if signed by Mr Mortimer and a further 25p if carrying the signature of a Red Devils member. Cheques payable to Shepway Society MHC and further details can be obtained from: 155 Dolphins Road, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 5QA.

Former members of 6th Airborne Division who wish to remember "Varsity" by visiting the area on the dates mentioned above should contact, if they haven't already had details of the cost and itinerary; The Controller, Airborne Forces Security Fund, Browning Barracks, Aldershot, GU11 2BU.

★ ★ ★

**T**O PROVIDE instant recognition for passers-by and to add some visual fizz, a pair of 5.5in guns, a Centurian tank and an armoured car are to be positioned outside the National Army Museum.

Currently there is nothing, other than a few signs, to indicate that the 14-year-old purpose built building in Chelsea, London, houses one of the finest collections of Army uniforms and light weapons in the world.

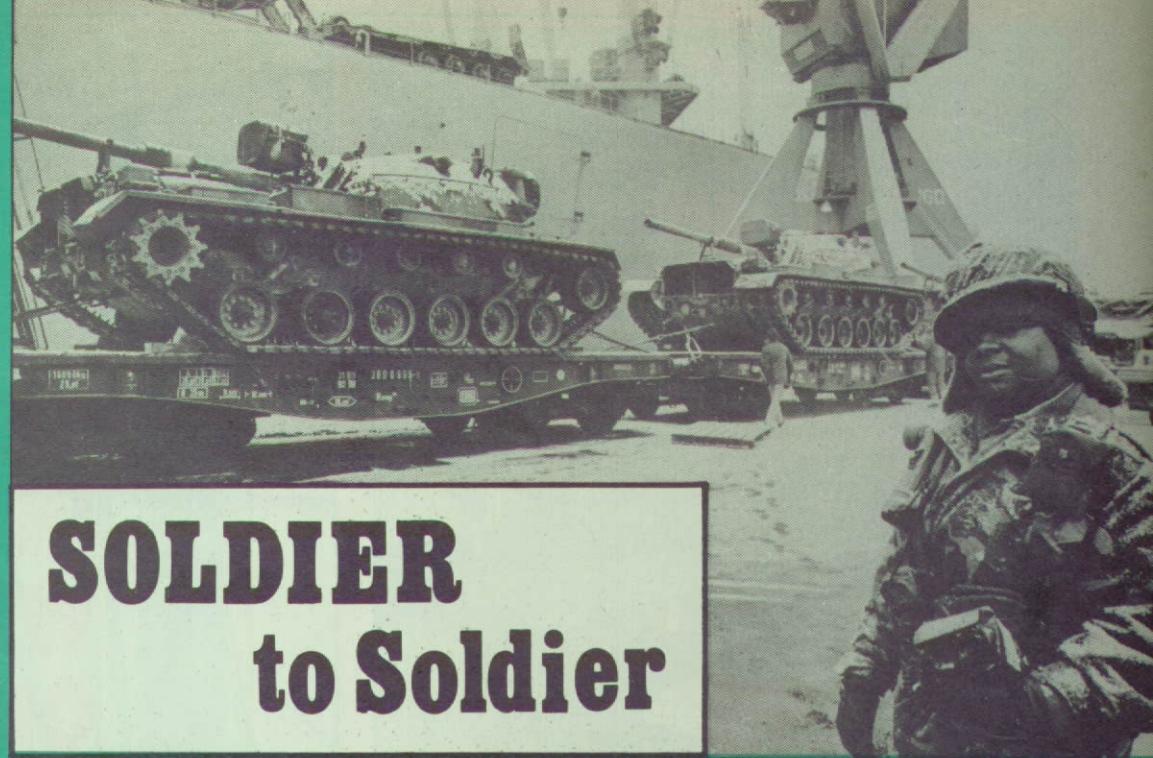
Now work is under way to prepare and strengthen areas to accommodate the 50-ton Mk 5 tank, the Mk 2 Saladin and the artillery.

"Delivery dates have not yet been fixed," said research scientist Dr Alan Guy, "but we're hoping for delivery by the summer."

"The tank is coming from Ludgershall and the guns from Donnington and should add a great deal of interest for visitors to the museum which tells the Army story from its beginning to the present day."

Another addition, planned for the World War I gallery, is a stuffed rat.

"Because of criticism that the 1914-18 trench display was minus



## SOLDIER to Soldier

a rat, we've arranged for one to be delivered which will provide added realism for the Western Front scene," said Dr Guy.

As visitors to the museum will know, there is another animal about the place called Tom.

A great big tabby he survived the Crimea, being brought back to this country where he died, was stuffed and then disappeared.

"He turned up a few years ago in an inscribed case, was presented to us and now resides in the uniform gallery," said Dr Guy.

"We do move him about occasionally, but he won't be going in the trenches. We don't want people telling up there was no such thing as a cat strolling about the front line."

"Anyway it would look a bit odd with old Tom lying down next to a rat."

★ ★ ★  
**S**ORRY folks! We have sold out of our share of 1985 Army calendars and we shall not be having any more.

This year's emphasis on some of the VCs won by men of regiments now celebrating their Tercentenary year proved a very popular buy, but we have already had to disappoint a large number of readers and return their money.

★ ★ ★  
**I**T'S FOR you-hoo! Yes, SOLDIER is calling all those people who would like to read the magazine every fortnight but for some reason can't obtain it regularly.

Letters frequently arrive at SOLDIER's Aldershot office from potential readers who say that their military unit or local newsagent can't supply them with copies of the magazine. The latest was from someone in Northern Ireland who

had been assured by his newsagent that SOLDIER had ceased publication. Well, it's fairly obvious it has not.

Do you have difficulty in buying SOLDIER? If you do, please write to the Managing Editor and tell him the problem, including the name of military unit, NAAFI or newsagent involved.

Of course, the best way of ensuring that you receive the magazine regularly is to take out an annual subscription. Application forms are printed frequently in the magazine, or you can call Aldershot 24431, ext 2583, and speak to the Circulation Dept.

★ ★ ★

**T**HE pink (for British) areas on the world atlas may have reduced considerably in post-war years, but the influence of Britain's military training is still being felt throughout the world.

During last year, the armed forces of no fewer than 82 countries and territories were provided with training by the British Armed Forces. Countries of all sizes and ranging from Australia, Canada and New Zealand to Ecuador, Ethiopia, Libya and the Yemen.

Providing the House of Commons with a list of 82 — six more than in the previous year — Mr John Lee, Under-Secretary of State for Defence Procurement, pointed out that specific details are confidential.

He also gave the Commons a list of 40 countries or territories whose armed forces last year benefited from members of UK armed forces on loan, secondment or exchange. It showed that soldiers, sailors or airmen had been on duty in such countries as Bangladesh, Lesotho, Qatar, Swaziland and the United Arab Emirates.

Just a reminder that we don't have an exclusive interest in big exercises. The United States recently brought 500 tracked vehicles, 1,400 wheeled vehicles, 700 trailers and 41 helicopters to Europe by sea for Exercise Reforger (Return of Forces to Germany). This picture shows tanks arriving in Amsterdam's Westport.

**S**OLDIER readers — particularly those with an interest in Rapier or the Falklands — will be interested to know there is another source of attractive prints.

37 Squadron RAF Regiment, normally based at RAF Bruggen in Germany, are one of four RAF Regiment Squadrons on roulement to provide Rapier cover for RAF Stanley.

On their second tour there in May '84, they decided to commission David Bell, a visiting MoD-sponsored artist to paint Rapier in a Falklands setting.

Detachment call-sign 31 Delta was chosen as his subject because of its excellent views over Port Stanley, its harbour with a backdrop of hills made famous during the Falklands campaign; Sapper Hill, Mount Longdon, Tumbledown and the Two Sisters.

There will probably be many soldiers who would like a souvenir of their tour, as well. Further details from Adjt, 37 Squadron RAF Regt, RAF Bruggen, BFPO 25.

★ ★ ★  
**S**ALLY Daniell has left the staff of SOLDIER, to start a family. Mrs Daniell, expecting twins, joined the magazine in August 1981 and tackled a variety of editorial tasks, ranging from writing features to collating Mail Drop and Books pages. She also stood-in for the Advertising Manager for several months. Here's wishing Sally — and her family — happiness...

# G

OOD communications have always played a vital role in any Army operations and nowhere are they more important than in Northern Ireland today.

As part of the Security Forces in the Province, the Army's role is, as we all know, extremely difficult in terms of conventional soldiering and one that is always changing, depending on the political and security situation at the time.

For this reason, communications must at all times be equal to the job and the Royal Signals in Northern Ireland have the task of ensuring not only that Army units can communicate effectively with each other, but also that their systems dovetail with those of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, the medical services, the fire brigade and the Government offices at Stormont.

To this end, user systems are constantly under review and since 1969 when the Army first moved to the Province in a peace-keeping role, communication systems have, like Topsy, "just growed and growed."

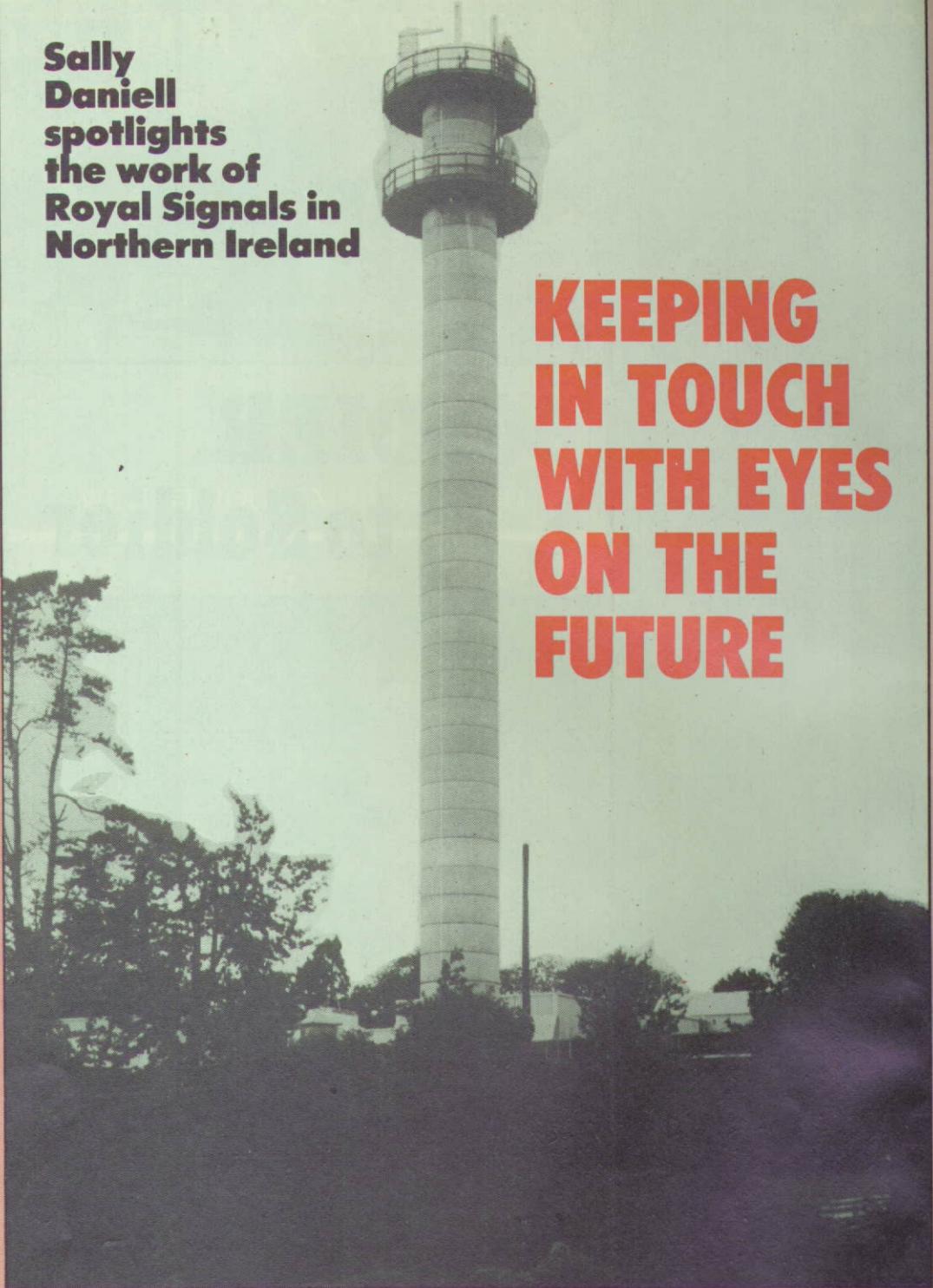
As a result, fifteen years later, some of the systems are now unwieldy and old. The plan over the next two years is to replace the separate existing telephone, telegraph and data arrangements with one integrated digital system incorporating all the newest technology.

In addition to these new fixed communications, a new commercial radio system is also to be introduced from January 1986. Apart from the new system being more flexible, it will also require less maintenance. When installed, GSR 3787, as the new system is currently called, will be unique in the Army.

Co-ordinating these mammoth projects is the staff of the Comms Branch at Headquarters Northern Ireland at Lisburn who, together

**Briefing before a task**

## Sally Daniell spotlights the work of Royal Signals in Northern Ireland



# KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH EYES ON THE FUTURE



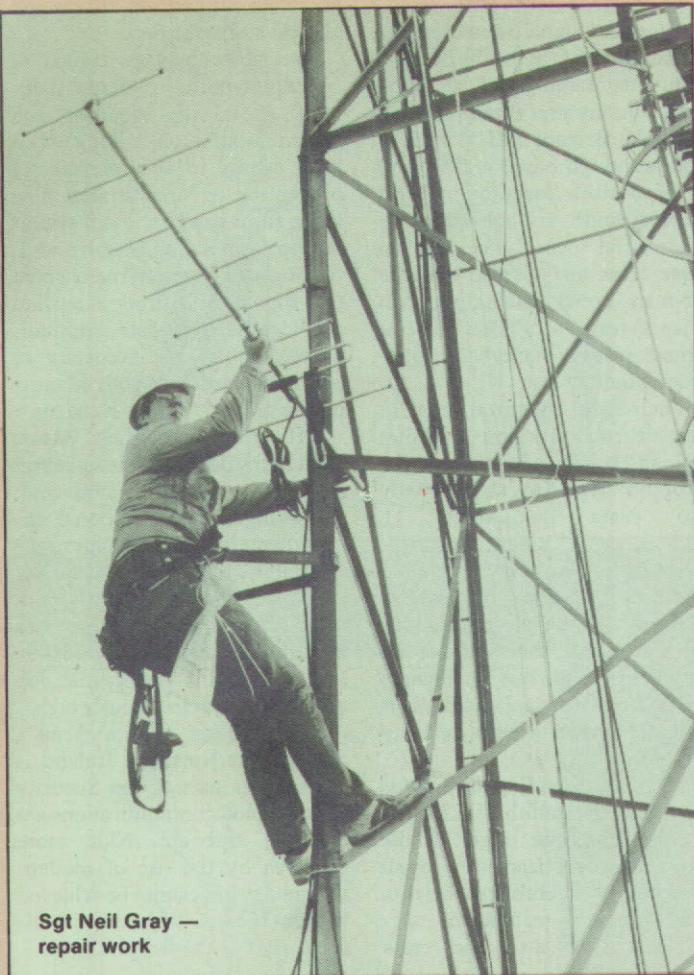
**The famous mast at Lisburn**

with other Signals units in the Province come under Commander Communications, Lieutenant Colonel Rex Stephenson.

"The role of the Royal Signals here is two-fold," he said. "We provide communications to ensure that Security Forces can effectively deal with terrorism while at the same time looking to the future. The Communications network here is like a great big amoeba — changing shape as operational requirements change."

Whilst great plans for the future are being laid by Comms Branch, other Royal Signals units are dealing with the situation as it is at the moment.

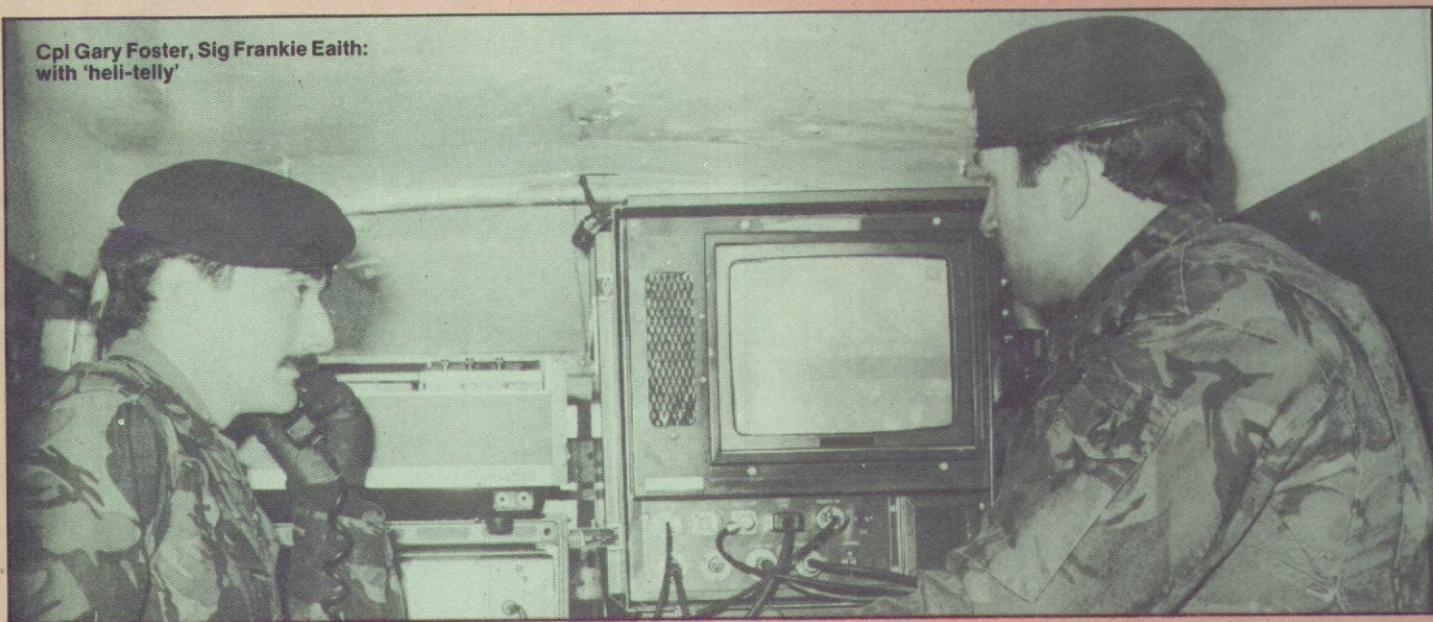
233 Signal Squadron (NI) pro-



Sgt Neil Gray —  
repair work



Cpl Pete Fruess —  
radio specialist

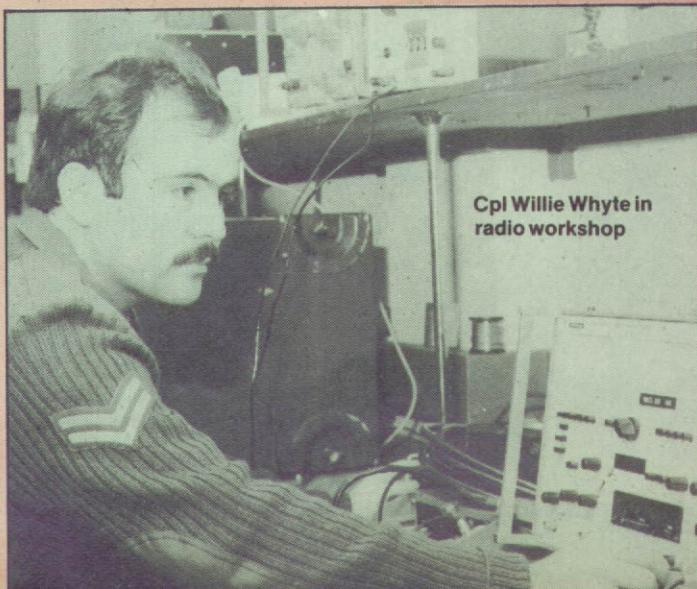


Cpl Gary Foster, Sig Frankie Eaith:  
with 'heli-telly'

vides Province-wide communications in support of HQNI while two brigade signal squadrons support the headquarters of both 8 and 39 Brigades.

Lisburn is the centre for many of the existing fixed communication systems like speech, telegraph and data, and it is the job of 233 Sig Sqn to provide the necessary access for user units as well as carrying out equipment maintenance and quality control.

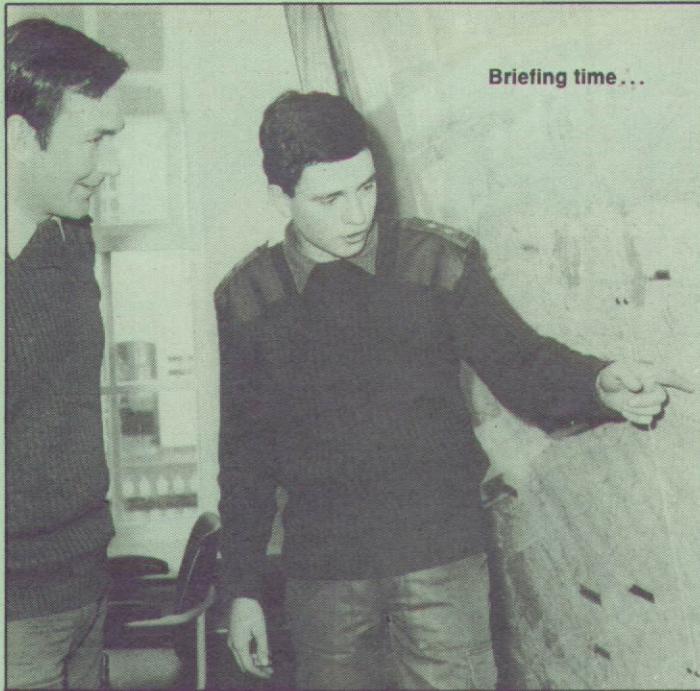
The Headquarters switchboard, comcen, radio centre and workshops all come under its control as well as various computers which, amongst other things, can produce up-to-date statistics on shootings,



Cpl Willie Whyte in  
radio workshop

casualties deaths etc useful to HQ operations staff as well as Ministry of Defence headquarters, the RUC and the Northern Ireland Office. The squadron also has a mobile element allowing an operations room to be set up anywhere in the Province in an emergency.

Of the 600 or so signallers based in Northern Ireland now, 233 Sig Sqn accounts for 300 (including attached REME, RCT and WRAC personnel) most of whom work a shift system; fitting in specialist and military skills training as well as sport and leave whilst operating a 24 hour service is no easy task for its admin officers.



Briefing time...

At Brigade level, the Headquarters and Signal Squadron staff spend much of their time out and about maintaining and installing static comms sites often in 'hard' areas. 39 Brigade's HQ and Sig Sqn, although based at Lisburn, is responsible for sites in West Belfast, South Armagh and many other rural places. The risks in these areas are obvious and the six-man crews (including two drivers) travel in 'Piglets' or semi-armour-plated vehicles with bullet-proof windows.

Their sister squadron at HQ 8 Brigade runs risks on a similar scale and since the bombing of the Droppin' Well Inn at Ballykelly two years ago when 11 soldiers were killed, security-consciousness has increased. Two members of the squadron were also killed in an ambush in Londonderry about the same time as the Ballykelly bomb but fortunately the frequency of such incidents is kept down due to extra security precautions.

The unit, including the brigade staff officers, numbers 220 and includes antennae riggers (those who need a cool head and a tough constitution to climb great heights in all weathers), technicians, telecommunications mechanics, radio

operators plus admin, driver and clerical support.

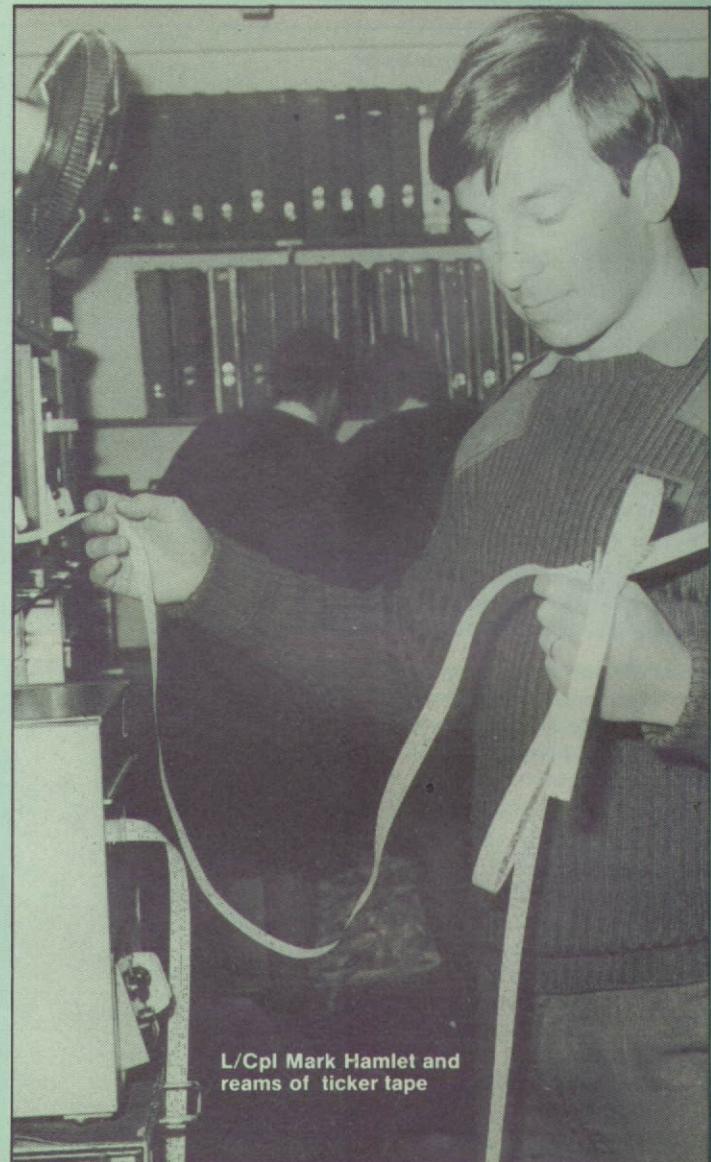
Specialist equipment such as helicopter-borne cameras (helitelly) allows the squadron and brigade staff to monitor certain local events in the interests of preventing terrorist attacks. The video films can be viewed simultaneously in a mobile unit and in the brigade operations room where the Signal Squadron extension provides the up-to-date communications equipment necessary to maintain close links with all units on the ground — and in the air.

Officer Commanding Major John Kirby described the squadron as very busy and highly motivated: "Working in an operational environment has its attendant problems and a normal life is just not possible. Most of our guys work three or four nights a week as well as during the day but because they know the job is worthwhile, job satisfaction is tremendously high."

For as long as the Army's presence in Northern Ireland is required as part of the Security Forces, good communications are essential and are made more effective by the use of modern technology but cannot be achieved without the well-trained and dedicated staff of the Royal Signals.



Lt Paul Bailey (foreground) and L/Cpl Bob Frew



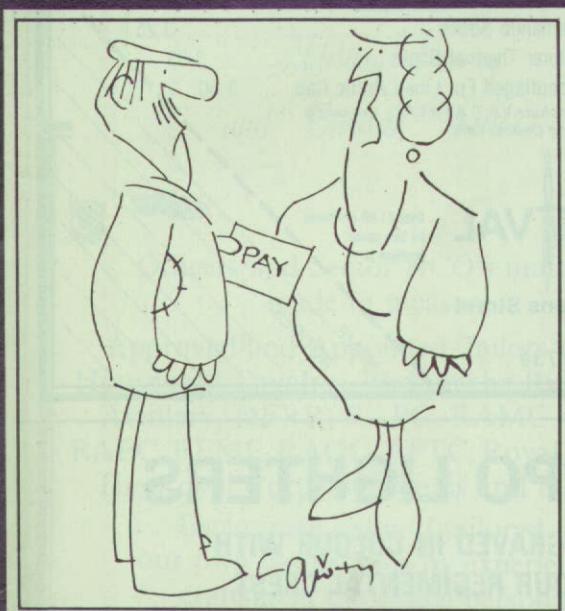
L/Cpl Mark Hamlet and reams of ticker tape



"Hey, Yorick! Bring the basket — you don't want him to bump his head do yer?"



"Sad case — progressing well, then laughed himself to death at a get well card."

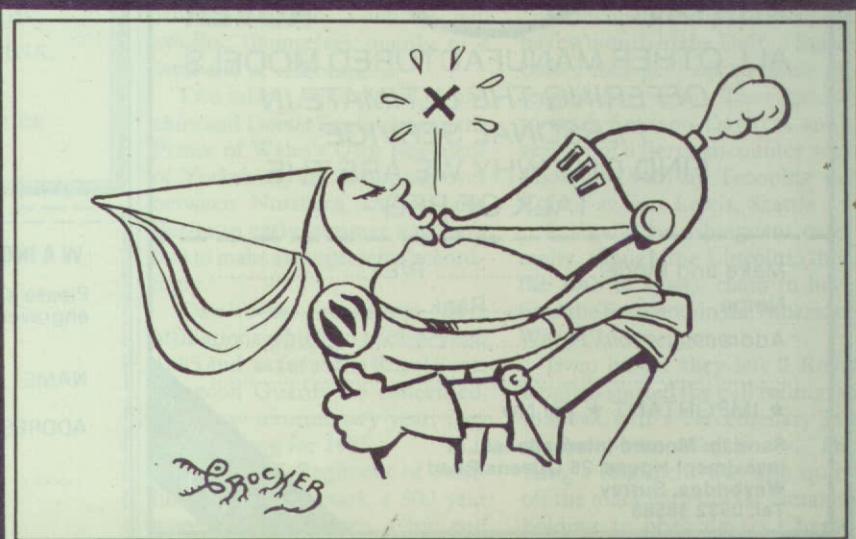


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# Humour



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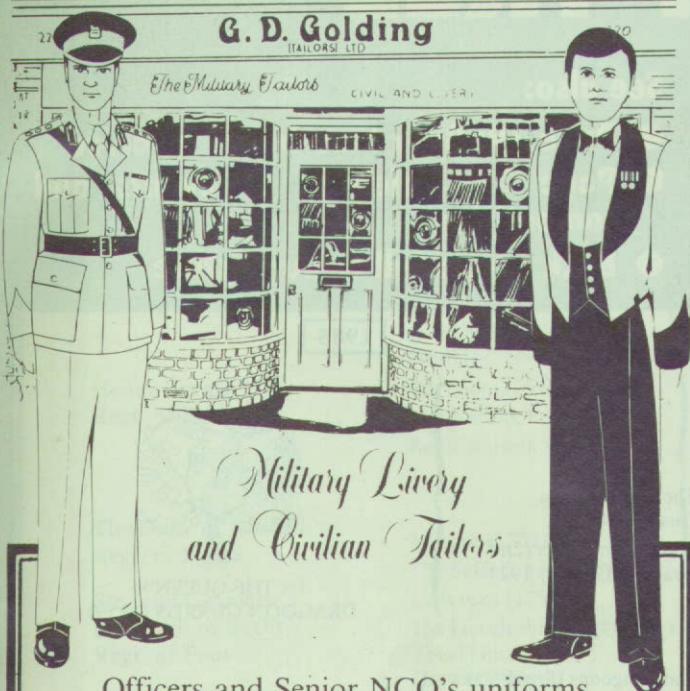
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# Tercenary regiments prepare for celebrations

THE STREETS of many cities and towns will echo to the sound of marching feet this summer as new civic freedoms are granted and rights to old ones exercised.

The bands will play and old comrades will meet. There will be displays and dances. And, in some instances, new Standards, Guidons and Colours.

All in all it promises to be a busy time for many of the regiments which mark this year three centuries of service to the British Crown.

— by —  
**Robert Higson**

Twelve modern regiments trace at least part of their origins back to the summer of 1685 when James II made what proved to be a futile attempt to safeguard his throne and his religious policies by the enhancement of his army.

The celebrations will not dwell to any great extent on that disturbed and unhappy period of national history. Rather they will concentrate on the regimental spirit which evolved over two centuries of British imperial greatness and its relevance to the changed conditions of today.

Germany-based cavalry regiments, like The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars and the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, will confine themselves mainly to a weekend of celebrations.

Two infantry units, the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment and the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, are swapping over between Northern Ireland and Berlin in early summer and have had to make arrangements accordingly.

Two other regiments have affiliations which go back beyond 1685 and, as far as the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards are concerned, 1978 was tercentenary year: they plan nothing for 1985.

The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers intends to mark a 300 year association with the City and Tower of London where James

raised his own Royal Fusiliers in 1685.

Naturally many celebrations will concentrate on regional connections: The 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards will spend about three weeks in Wales; the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards will be in Chester for an Army display; The Queen's Own Hussars will stage a weekend of events in Birmingham; The King's Regiment will be in Manchester and Liverpool on separate weekends; The Light Infantry have a full programme in Somerset and South Avon; the Devons and Dorsets will be in their counties before the move to Berlin; and PWO will be back in York for a few days from Northern Ireland.

The Royal Anglian Regiment, whose three regular battalions still retain old county connections, has only one — 2 Royal Anglian (Lincs, Leics, and Northants) — at present home based. It will bear the brunt of the Regiment's celebrations.

In point of fact 1 Royal Anglian jumped the gun by holding its tercentenary commemoration last June in anticipation of a move to Northern Ireland. But the battalion will be sending a party back to home territory to exercise the Freedom of three cities.

3 Royal Anglian (Beds, Herts and Essex) have no 1685 ancestors and they won't be doing anything more than holding a Regimental Day at their current home in Minden.

Incidentally, 2 Royal Anglian will have a month in the United States before they get back to tackle the tercentenary again. They are due to mark Sobraon Day (the anniversary of a fierce encounter with Sikhs in 1846) by Trooping the Colour at Fort Lewis, Seattle.

It should be a poignant ceremony, though the Lincolns (then the 10th of Foot), claim to have fired the first shots in the American War of Independence.

Even before they left 2 Royal Anglian started the ball rolling, so to speak, with a Tercenary Ball at their base, Colchester. The King's Regiment was also quick off the mark with the 1st Battalion holding an open day at Chester early this month.

# TERCENTENARY FAMILY TREE

**It is not easy to be brief about 300 years of military history ... but we hope this family tree showing the evolution of many regiments, to the point where 12 are involved in this year's Tercentenary celebrations, proves a useful guide.**

1685

The Queen's (or 2nd) Regiment of Horse

The Earl of Peterborough's Regt. of Horse. (3rd Horse 1688)

The Scots Greys were first formed in Edinburgh 1678

The Earl of Plymouth's Regt. of Horse. (4th Horse 1687)

The Queen Dowager's Regt. of Horse. (8th Horse 1690)  
1st Regt. of Carabiniers (1692)

The Earl of Arran's Cuirassiers. (5th Horse 1690)

Earl of Devonshire's Regt. of Horse (1688) (10th Horse)

The Duke of Shrewsbury's Regt. of Horse. (6th Horse 1687)

Sir Albert Cunningham's Regt of Dragoons (1689)

The Queen Consort's Own Regiment of Dragoons

Cunningham's Dragoons (1690)

Princess Anne of Denmark's Dragoons

Henry Cunningham's Regt. of Dragoons (1693)

The King's Own Regt. of Horse (1714)

The 1st King's Dragoon Guards (1746)

The Princess of Wales' Own Regt. of Horse (1727)

The Queen's Own Royal Regt. of Horse (1727)

The 2nd Queen's Dragoon Guards (1746)

The Royal Regt. of North British Dragoons (1707)

2nd Royal North British Dragoons (1751)

The 3rd Regt. of Dragoon Guards (1746)

The 3rd (Prince of Wales's) Dragoon Guards (1765)

The 6th Regiment of Dragoon Guards (1788)

The Carabiniers (6th Dragoon Guards) 1921

1st Irish Horse or the Blue Horse (1746)

4th (Royal Irish) Dragoon Guards (1788)

4th (or "Black") Irish Horse (1746)

7th (the Princess Royal's) Dragoon Guards (1788)

2nd (or "Green") Irish Horse (1717)

5th Dragoon Guards (1784)

The 6th, or Inniskilling Dragoons (1751)

The King's Own Regiment of Dragoons (1714)

3rd (King's Own) Dragoons (1751)

7th, or Queen's Own Dragoons (1751)

4th Dragoons (1751)

4th, or Queen's Own Dragoons (1788)

8th Dragoons (1751)

8th or King's Royal Irish Light Dragoons (1777)

See also:

- Page 19: Busy time for all involved
- Page 39: Calendar of events and competition
- Back cover: full colour picture

1985



1st THE QUEEN'S DRAGOON GUARDS (1959)



THE ROYAL SCOTS DRAGOON GUARDS (1971)



4th/7th ROYAL DRAGOON GUARDS (1922)



5th ROYAL INNISKILLING DRAGOON GUARDS (1922)



THE QUEEN'S OWN HUSSARS (1958)



THE QUEEN'S ROYAL IRISH HUSSARS (1958)

1685

Northumberland Fusiliers first raised 1674	5th Foot (1751) 5th, or Northumberland Fusiliers (1836)
Warwickshire Fusiliers first raised 1674	6th Foot (1751) Royal Warwickshire Regt. (1881)
Our Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, also Our Ordnance Regt. Sir Robert Peyton's Regiment of Foot (1688)	7th (Royal Fusiliers) (1689)
The Princess Anne of Denmark's Regt.	20th Foot (1751)
Henry Cornwell's Regt. of Foot	The 8th (the King's Regt.) (1751)
The Duke of Norfolk's Regt. of Foot	The King's (Liverpool Regt.) (1881)
Sir John Granville's (the Earl of Bath) Regt. of Foot	The Manchester Regt. (63rd & 96th Foot) (1881)
Solomon Richard's Regt. of Foot (1688)	9th Foot (1751) The Norfolk Regt. (1881) Royal Norfolk Regt. (1935)
Archibald Douglas's Regt. of Foot (1688)	12 Foot (1751) The Suffolk Regt. (1881)
The Duke of Beaufort's Musketeers	10th Foot (1751) The Lincolnshire Regt (1881) Royal Lincolnshire Regt. (1946)
The Earl of Huntingdon's Regt. of Foot	17th Foot (1751) The Leicestershire Regt. (1881) Royal Leics. Regt. (1946)
Sir Edward Hale's Regt. of Foot	16th Foot (1751) The Bedfordshire Regt. (1881)
Sir William Clifton's Regt.	The Beds. & Herfordshire Regt. (1919)
	The Essex Regiment (44th & 56th Foot) (1881)
	11th Foot (1751)
	13th Foot (1751) The Somerset Light Infantry (Prince Albert's) (1881)
	Duke of Cornwall's L.I. (32nd LI Regt. and 46th S. Devonshire Regt.) (1881)
	68th Foot (1758) The Durham Light Infantry (68th & 106th Bombay LI) (1881)
	King's Shropshire LI (53rd Shropshire Regt & 85th Bucks Volunteers — the King's LI) (1881)
	King's Own Yorkshire LI (51st 2nd Yorks West Riding Regt. 105th Madras LI) (1881)
	14th Foot (1751)
	15th Foot (1751)

1985

Royal Northumberland Fusiliers (1935)

Royal Warwickshire Fusiliers (1963)

The Royal Fusiliers (City of London) Regt. (1881)  
The Lancashire Fusiliers (1881)

The King's Regt. (Manchester &amp; Liverpool) (1958)

1st East Anglian Regt. (1959)

1st Battalion (Norfolk &amp; Suffolk) 1964

2nd East Anglian Regt. (1960)

2nd Battalion (Lincs &amp; Northants) 1964

4th East Anglian 1962

3rd East Anglian Regt. (1958)

3rd (16th/44th Foot) Battalion (1964)

The Devonshire Regt. (1881)

The Dorset Regt. (39th &amp; 54th Foot) (1881)

Somerset &amp; Cornwall LI (1959)

The Prince of Wales's Own (W. Yorkshire Regt.) (1881)

East Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of York's Own) (1881)



THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF FUSILIERS (1968)



THE KING'S REGIMENT (1969)



THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT (1964)



THE DEVONSHIRE &amp; DORSET REGIMENT (1958)



THE LIGHT INFANTRY (1968)



THE PRINCE OF WALES'S OWN REGIMENT OF YORKSHIRE (1958)

# Cuts: 'Outlook bleak for families'

RECENT statements have warned us that cuts are being sought in various government departments. The Ministry of Defence will not escape, and cuts are expected to affect the quality of life of Servicemen and wives.

Improvements, hard fought for, are now in jeopardy, such as better wardrobes, and carpets for single soldiers and new three-piece suites. It could mean delays in introducing fire-resistant curtains and new hygienic mattresses.

How much money are we talking about? I believe it is somewhere in the region of £16 million, something like a 25 per cent to 30 per cent cut in the 85/86 budget.

If this is so, then it will probably mean a 10 per cent cut in hard furniture, 10 per cent in soft furnishing, and 10

per cent in curtains and carpets. One in 10 wives will not get what she had hoped for.

It is anticipated that there will also be swingeing cuts in articles such as bed linen.

To find savings of this magnitude is hard. It is rumoured that cuts of £11 to £12 million have been identified but if the full amount is found, it will have a severe impact on the 'quality of life' articles.

These cuts will also drastically affect things like furniture repairs, and minor repairs.

In time, this is bound to have on-going repercussions for all single soldiers and families.

Army families are, I fear, going to come off very badly in comparison with the other Services, because the RAF and the RN have a far higher percentage of unfurnished quar-

ters.

The RAF have 37 per cent in UK, the Navy an even higher percentage because they have a traditional allowance of long-lease quarters in naval stations like Portsmouth.

All round it looks as if the Army is going to bear the brunt of these proposed swingeing cuts. At the time of going to press the outlook was bleak for the Army.

If we add the anticipated cuts for quarter maintenance then the quality of life will surely drop even more.

Are we heading back to 1977 and the moratorium? We all know how long we took to recover and in some areas I don't think we have.

Hopefully the new assessment of rent for quarters due to be implemented in April will bear these points in mind.



Here's a suggestion. During a recent visit to an RCT wives' Club a wife suggested: "Why not take our mattresses with us?"

It would save families these terrible charges and embarrassment, reduce recovering charges and all that is entailed in storage and collection.

Surely, for internal UK postings this might be worth looking at? Perhaps the JSFC may wish to look at this.

*Anne Armstrong*

Home tel: Camberley 29653

## SSAFA WANTS TO HELP EVEN MORE

SSAFA's 1985 centenary year aim is to make the association's work better known. Despite helping over 44,000 families last year, SSAFA still wants more families in need to know where to find friendship and practical help.

The design of the winning poster in SSAFA's centenary competition fits in so well with this theme that it has been printed as an official centenary year poster with the name of the winner, Shyla Assanand, printed on it.

The poster will be seen not only in the United Kingdom, but throughout Europe and in Hong Kong, Cyprus and Gibraltar, wherever Service and ex-Service families are living, to remind them that SSAFA is around for those who need a helping hand.

The Queen Mother, who paid a centenary year visit to SSAFA Head Office in London, first became a Vice-President of SSAFA in 1923. In 1936 King George VI and Queen Elizabeth



both became Patrons.

During the war years the Queen Mother showed the greatest interest in SSAFA's varied and ever-expanding work on behalf of the families.

It was in 1948 that she set up

The Queen Mother presents Shyla Assanand with a framed copy of her poster

The Queen Elizabeth Fund with the gift of a substantial sum which she has most generously replenished ever since. The help this

## ANY COMPLAINTS?

THE Parliamentary Ombudsman may be able to help you if you think you've been wrongly treated by a Central Government Department.

For instance: problems with social security and unemployment benefits, mistakes in your tax assessments, unhelpfulness or slowness by departments in dealing with correspondence. But you must ask a member of Parliament to submit your complaint.

For more information pick up a leaflet from your nearest Citizens Advice Bureau or write for information to the Parliamentary Ombudsman, Church House, London, SW1P 3BW. There's also an audio-visual programme on the work of the Parliamentary Ombudsman, on free loan from CFL Vision, telephone Chalfont St Giles (02407) 4111.

If you have a complaint about your treatment by a

health authority or a family practitioner committee you can lodge it with the Health Service Ombudsman, either directly or through your local community health council.

A leaflet is available from libraries, Citizens Advice Bureau and the office of the Health Service Commissioner, Church House, Great Smith St, London, SW1P 3BW, tel 01-212 6271.

## DON'T FORGET YOUR P45

REMEMBER to ask for your P45 BEFORE you leave your job. This is particularly important if you are overseas.

On leaving the service make sure you are given this on the day of discharge.

Unemployment Benefit is now taxable. However, you can't get Income Tax refund until you stop claiming benefit or until the end of the tax year.

Give your P45 to your Benefit Office.

Full details are available from your UB or Tax Office.

MY husband and I have recently moved to West Germany following a posting in the United Kingdom. As we have no children I am now trying to find employment through the local PLSU.

I attended an interview there recently and was asked the very personal question of whether I was planning on having any children.

Unfortunately, I suffered a miscarriage last year and besides being upset by the question I feel that such information is private between my husband and myself.

I appreciate the fact that the PLSU are trying to give jobs to people who will be there for some years. But bearing in mind postings, mothers who may find the strain of working and running a home too much, and those who may not be suited to the job, I wonder if it is absolutely necessary for them to pry into such a personal matter.

On previous postings in Germany I have worked for the Army in three different units. In each case I was not asked questions of this nature but was required to

sign a declaration that I was not pregnant on commencing employment.

I doubt that the PLSUs are covered by any sexual discrimination laws but I do feel that they should be forbidden to ask such very personal questions.

I hope you do not mind me bringing this matter to your attention, but with all the good work and campaigning you do on behalf of Service families, I am hoping that you will be able to persuade the appropriate authorities that PLSU staff should not pose such delicate questions to prospective employees.

I think you do a marvellous job on our behalf, so keep up the good work. — Mrs R, BFPO 15.

*HQ BAOR reply:*

*It is certainly not our policy to question job applicants on their future intentions with respect to pregnancy. We do need, however, to establish whether or not a prospective employee is pregnant at the time of recruitment.*

*This is in order to avoid unnecessary turnover of employees which, for dependants in particular,*

## ASK ANNE

is already quite high.

*It may be that your correspondent misunderstood the intent or nature of the query made by our recruiting staff.*

*It is certainly not a matter which should result in offence being taken or given, as the intent is solely to establish employability at the time of recruitment.*

*If the employee were to write directly to this address, the purpose of the query made could be fully explained at a personal level — HQ BAOR.*

I HAVE been told that there are different credit limits for officers and soldiers under the NAAFI Budget scheme. Is this true?

*Yes, it is. The limits are £720 for Officers and Senior NCOs, £480 for other ranks (18 years of age and over) and £240 for other ranks*

(under 18 years of age).

*Your NAAFI manager will be happy to explain how simple it is for you to open a NAAFI budget account (you can even apply for the issue of a second budget account card for use by your wife or husband).*

*Pick up an information wallet at your nearest NAAFI shop or club or simply write for details to: NAAFI Customer Accounts Branch, FREE-POST, Nottingham, NG1 1R (with no obligation).*

I AM shortly to go to Germany and would like to carry on doing Short Open University courses. Is there any help in Germany? I don't want to give up as I have found the family ones so good.

*If you contact Mr R Gee, c/o BFES Teachers Centre, Queens Avenue, HQ, BFPO 40, I am sure he'll be able to help.*

## MINDER FINDER

## HOSPITAL PLAY SCHEME NEEDS £2,000 MORE

THE Help Save Cambridge Military Hospital Play Scheme Appeal has reached £4,000. Please help us reach the target of £6,000 by 31 March. Our thanks to all who have already contributed.

Cheques can be made out to the Cambridge Hospital Children's Welfare Fund, c/o Anne Armstrong, SOLDIER, as I am the Appeals Organiser.

The following letter is typical of those offering support:

"I heard your appeal for the Cambridge Hospital Children's Welfare Fund on BFBS-UK with Tommy Vance and I enclose a cheque for £20 as my little thank

you to the Cambridge for saving my life in the Spring of 1916 when I was nine months old. I had an infected mastoid process and in those days of no antibiotics it was frequently a fatal complaint. However a number of Harley Street specialists were there because of the war and I was lucky!

I am now a widow and living in Cyprus. My grandfather, father and husband were all Army and I was born in Aldershot. I love it! — Mrs F E Dobbie, BFPO 53."

*Thanks too, to The Support Unit Wives Club School of Infantry Warminster for their generous donation.*

## HOW WIVES MANAGE

AN interesting new book is 'The Incorporated Wife: in the Police, Oil Companies, Armed Service, Expatriate Countries, Colonial Administrations, Oxford and Cambridge Colleges'.

Each chapter is written by individuals and gives an insight into how other wives manage — or not! — when plucked away from the areas they know in UK.

The section on the Armed Services is by Mona Macmillan, a fourth generation member of a Service family, with such sub-headings as 'The Long Road to Recognition', 'Wifehood', 'Motherhood' and 'Womanly Qualities in a Man's World'.

The book is published by Croom Helm Ltd, price £15.95.

"I NEED a Childminder!" How often we hear that cry, or meet the friend who says "Do you know of a good childminder? I'm going into hospital and will be away for a month," or "At last I have a part-time job to help with the mortgage, but there is Johnny..."

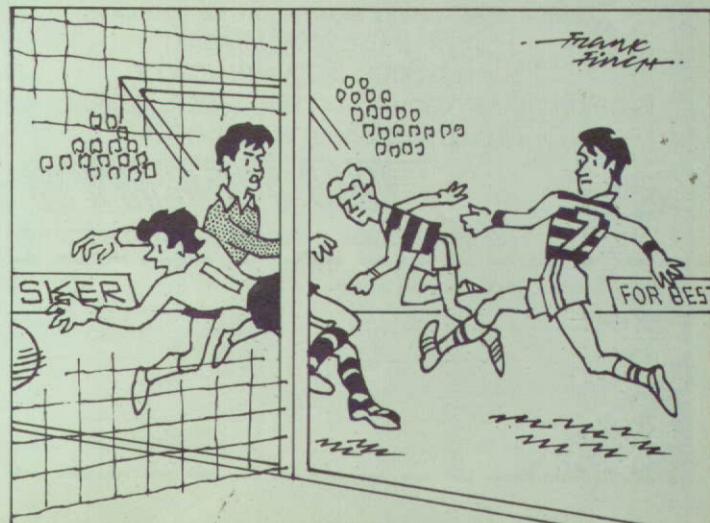
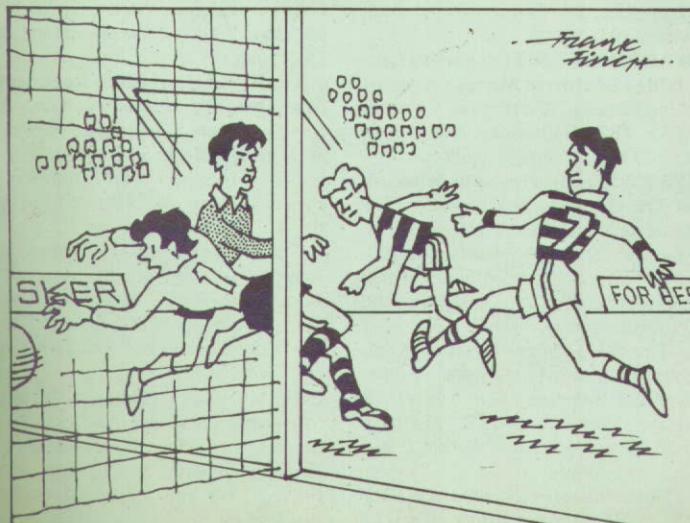
When I saw that the National Childminding Association had published an informative and helpful free booklet 'I Need a Childminder.'

I felt it was a must for all those in this field — parents, childminders, health and social workers, unit and family officers.

Covering such topics as how to find a childminder, rates of pay, and settling a child in, the booklet is invaluable. Write with SAE to: NCMA, 204/206 High St, Bromley, BR1 1PP.

## How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. You can check your answers by turning to page 40.



THE Imperial War Museum, which houses hundreds of thousands of exhibits and which has been visited by more than 700,000 people in a year, has launched a redevelopment appeal for £2,500,000.

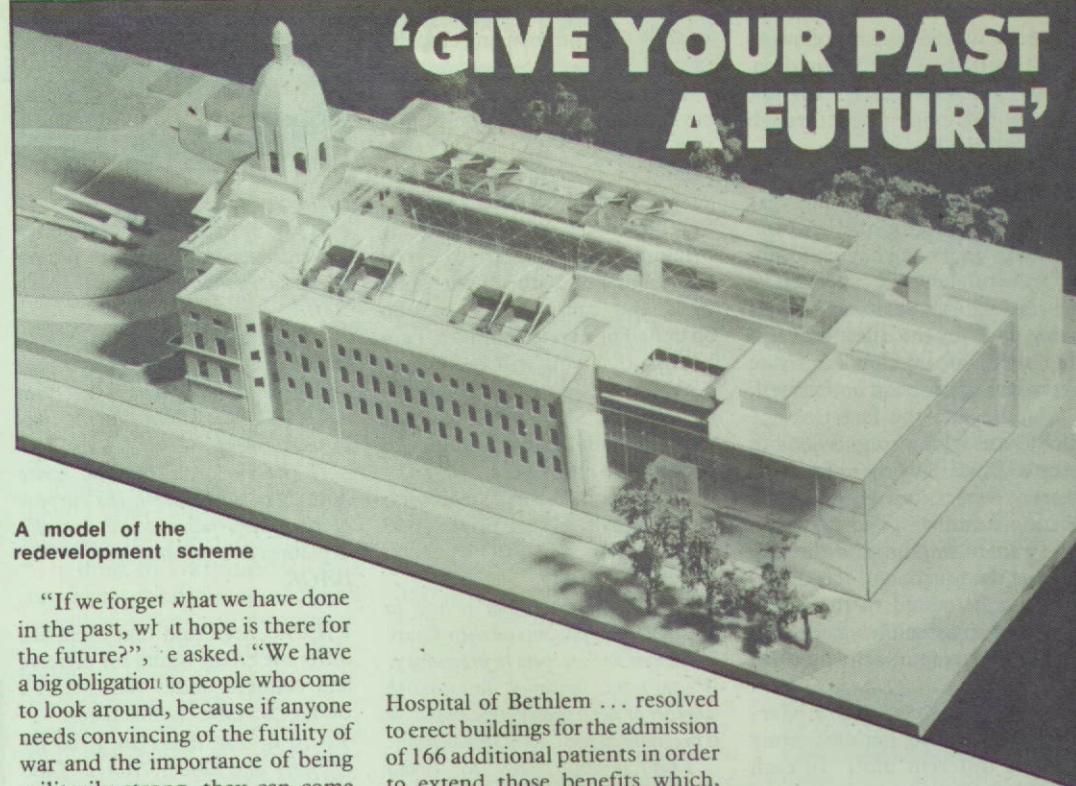
Using the slogan 'Give your past a future', the museum — in Lambeth Road, London — hopes to start building in August 1986.

If it can raise the money, the government has said it will contribute the rest of the £9,000,000 necessary for the first phase of the redevelopment plan.

Already £350,000 has been promised by the Wolfson Foundation, and more grants are hoped to be announced shortly.

The appeal was launched at a ceremony at the museum attended by a large number of VIPs including Lord Wilson and Lord Home, former Prime Ministers.

Speaking against the background of a Lancaster bomber fuselage and in one of the original temporary galleries installed in 1936 in buildings which had been occupied by the old Bethlem Hospital, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir John Grandy, chairman of the museum trustees, described the redevelopment as an essential job "certainly for those of us who remember the Second World War".



A model of the redevelopment scheme

"If we forget what we have done in the past, what hope is there for the future?", he asked. "We have a big obligation to people who come to look around, because if anyone needs convincing of the futility of war and the importance of being militarily strong, they can come here and freshen up their ideas".

Sir John revealed that the foundation plate for the last major extension of the building in 1938, was recently discovered after being lost for many years. It mentioned that "the accommodation of 169 lunatic patients, being inadequate ... the governors of the Royal

Hospital of Bethlem ... resolved to erect buildings for the admission of 166 additional patients in order to extend those benefits which, under providence, have hitherto attended the endeavours to alleviate the calamities of their fellow creatures".

"The need today for public beneficence is as great as it was then", Sir John declared.

The three-stage redevelopment programme which it is envisaged

will last seven-and-a-half years, will provide new exhibition galleries at four levels, a new roof and new load-bearing floor, in its first stage.

Later work will add a large gallery two floors high, further galleries, a new education centre, public reading rooms and a restaurant, offices and stores.

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## YOUR GUIDE TO ARMY MUSEUMS — 6

**TAUNTON.** Somerset Military Museum, County Museum, The Castle, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4AA. Telephone Taunton 73434 ext 663. (Closed until further notice).

**TWICKENHAM.** Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, Twickenham, Middlesex TW2 7DU. Telephone 01-898-5533. Hours: by appointment only; not weekends or holidays.

**WARNHAM.** The Warnham War Museum, Durfold Hill, Warnham, Horsham, Sussex. Telephone Horsham, 65607. Hours: Daily (except December 25) Easter to Oct 10-6, winter 10-4.30.

**WARRINGTON.** The Queen's Lancashire Regiment Museum, Peninsular Barracks, Warrington, Cheshire WA2 7BR. Telephone Warrington 33563. Hours: Mon to Fri 9-3.

**WARWICK.** Regimental Museum of The Queen's Own Hussars, The Lord Leycester Hospital, High Street, Warwick. Telephone Warwick 492035. Hours: Mon to Sat 10-6, closes at 4.30 November to March. Closed Sun and 25 December.

**The Royal Warwickshire Regimental Museum**, St John's House, Warwick. Telephone Warwick 491653. Hours: weekdays 10-12.30 and 1.30-5.30, closed Mon. Sat 2-5, Sun 2.30-5 May to Sept only.

**Warwickshire Yeomanry**, The Court House, Jury Street, Warwick

CV34 4EW. Telephone Warwick 492212. Hours: 10 April to 26 Sept Fri to Sun and Bank Hols 10-1 and 2-4.

**WINCHESTER.** Royal Army Pay Corps Museum, Worthy Down, Winchester, Hants SO21 2RG. Telephone Winchester 880880 (or Winchester mil) ext 2435. Hours: Mon to Fri 10-12 and 2-4.

**The Royal Green Jackets Museum**, Peninsular Barracks, Winchester, Hants. Telephone Winchester 61781 (or Winchester mil) ext 288. Hours: April to Sept 10-12.30 and 2-4.30, Sat 2.30-4.30, closed Sun and holiday weekends. Oct-Mar 10.30-12.30 and 2-4, closed weekends and 24 Dec-1 Jan.

**The Royal Hampshire Regiment Museum** and Memorial Garden, Serle's House, Southgate Street, Winchester, Hants SO23 9EG. Telephone Winchester 61781 (or Winchester mil) ext 261. Hours: Mon to Fri 10-12.30 and 2-4.

**The Royal Hussars Museum**, Lower Barracks, Southgate Street, Winchester, Hants. Telephone Winchester 61781 (or Winchester mil) ext 239. Hours: Easter to 30 Oct Tues-Fri 11-4, Sat and Sun 2-4.

**PIRBRIGHT.** Guards Depot Museum, Alexander Barracks, Pirbright, Surrey. Tel: Brookwood 4511. Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 2-4 pm. Other days by appointment.



LE Bill' took to the road again to help raise £2,500,000 to redevelop the Imperial War Museum in London.

With a jazz band happily playing away on the open top deck, 'Ole Bill' chugged in dizzy circles around the forecourt of the museum while schoolchildren visitors gaped in excitement at the transport relic of more than 70 years ago.

'Ole Bill' (obviously a male bus) has seen a bit of service.

Nothing very exciting in his early days, routinely plodding along the capital's roads between Willesden and Old Ford or picking up and dropping passengers along Route 25 from Victoria to Seven Kings. Seldom, one would imagine, ever reaching his top speed of 20 mph.

In those days, 'Ole Bill' didn't have a name; just plain B43, one of the first standardised double-decker motor buses to enter service with the London General Omnibus Company.

No dreams of an heroic career or of the drama, excitement — and carnage — that, as 'Old Bill', B43 was to see.

'Ole Bill' was one of a family of more than 2,800 B-types produced in four years up to the beginning of World War 1.

Some of them continued to rattle along the streets of London until 1926, but for others, including 'Ole

## 'OLE BILL' DOES HIS BIT

Bill', there was first a call to the Colours. And some of them didn't return from the Front.

'Ole Bill' and some 1,300 other London motor buses went to war on the Western Front. At the outbreak, the Army had plenty of horses — 165,000 of them available to the British Expeditionary Force — but very little mechanical horse power.

Many of the 1,200 motor vehicles available were lorries or ambulances. So as the German threat to the channel ports developed in September 1914, buses started to be recruited to transport naval forces being sent to protect the ports. Seventy Daimlers manned by volunteer crews crossed the channel to help.

Their valuable contribution prompted the Army to requisition B-types from London and 150 were taken to the continent in time for the first Battle of Ypres.

When they arrived they still wore their red and white livery, complete with destination boards and advertisements.

But that was no way to go to war, and soon lower-deck windows were boarded up, the buses became

drab khaki to match the hundreds of troops clad in mud-spattered uniform, puttees and helmets.

Some of 'Ole Bill's' family were converted into ambulance and wireless equipment vehicles; others sprouted a roof with cages built on top to serve as mobile lofts for pigeons which at that time were still widely used for message carrying.

Moving troops around by bus became quite an efficient system. During the last 18 months of the war, the embussing and debussing of a division seldom took more than half an hour, and the record time for embussing a brigade was reduced to four-and-a-half minutes.

In recognition of the work of the omnibus companies during the critical days of the German offensives in early 1918, the Auxiliary Omnibus Park was 'Mentioned in Despatches', the only Army Service Corps unit to receive that distinction in World War 1.

'Ole Bill', now restored to his red and white livery, proudly bears the RASC badge mounted above the cab in memory of those days at

the Front. And along his sides his battle honours — Antwerp, Ypres, Ancre and the Somme.

When he was demobbed, he went back to work in the streets of London. In those post-war years, his service received royal recognition when, with a group of 35 ex-Service drivers, he was inspected by King George V at Buckingham Palace. The King even climbed aboard, the first bus he had ever been on.

'Ole Bill' finally retired in the mid-1920s, but until 1970 when he was presented to the Imperial War Museum, he appeared regularly at Armistice Day parades and other special events.

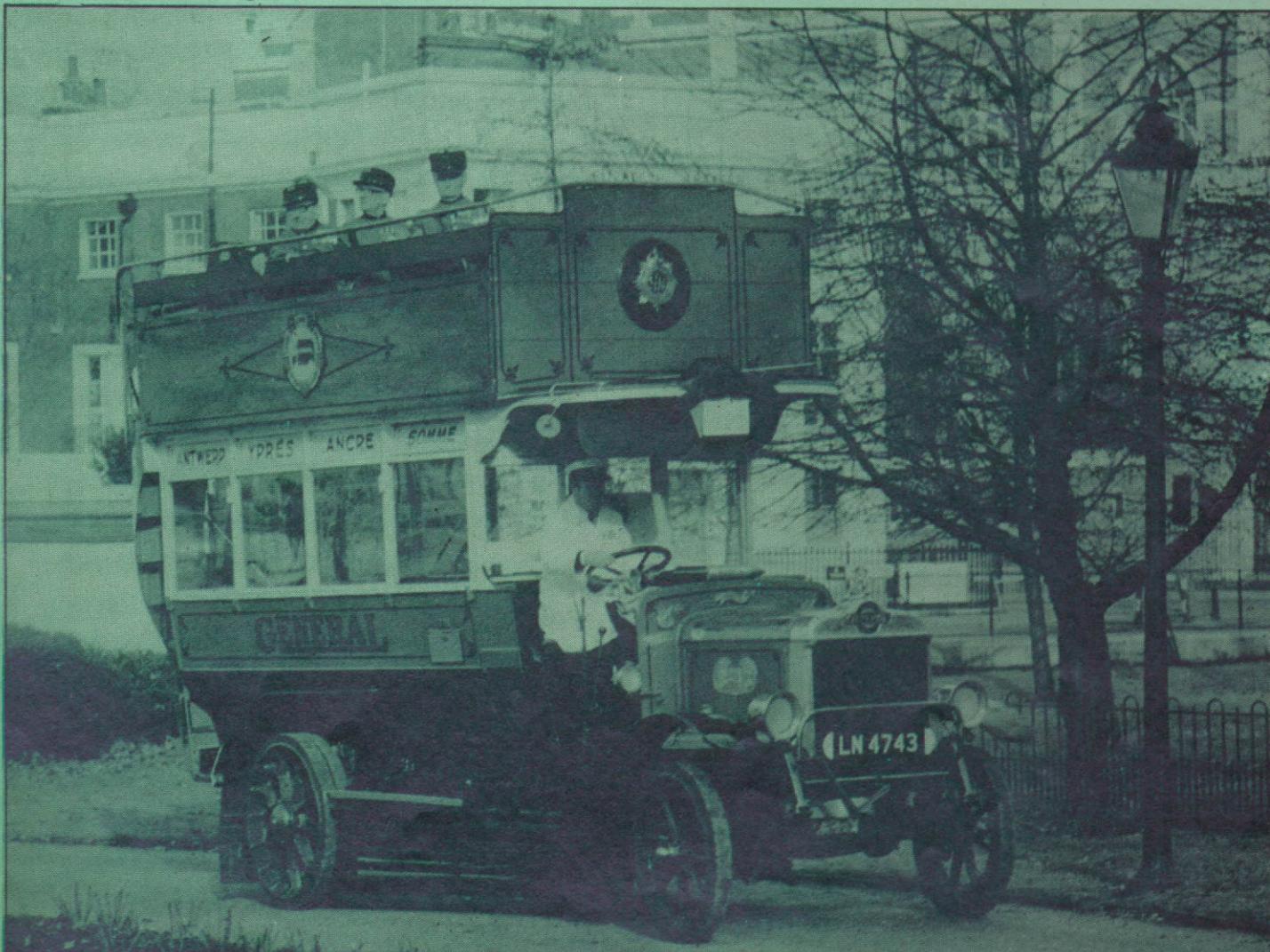
Nowadays, he doesn't go out much, but as the VIPs arrived for the launching of the museum's redevelopment appeal, 'Ole Bill' trundled round the forecourt, with the jazz band thumping out rhythm on his top deck.

Perhaps a little undignified for a grand old soldier, but then 'Ole Bill' has seen a lot of changes in his time.

Given a few more years he will see his home, the Imperial War Museum, take on a new look too. Partly due to 'Ole Bill'.

He's still doing his bit.

'Ole Bill' still doing his bit, this time giving a ride to Chelsea pensioners. He sported a jazz band as well recently



## VERY SELECT BAND WITH VITAL TASK

DURING the last years of World War 2 and in the Far East, in particular, the Army probably lost more men to the ravages of disease than it did to the bullets of the enemy.

Ever since, the Army has maintained a keen awareness of personal health and welfare care in an area now known in the 80s as environmental health.

It looks upon itself as a sort of military public health department with a wide range of responsibilities such as domestic complaints, annual inspections of units, occupational and industrial problems, investigations into food poisoning and advice to units exercising abroad.

There are about 80 personnel, all of them members of The Royal

# KISS

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...and TASTE the difference.

ber — SO 3 Med (Prev) — the District's Environmental Health Officer. He is helped by a WO 2 Environmental Health Inspector and four Environmental Health Assistants. By now, two more personnel should have been posted in to bring the unit up to strength.

"We try to get away from the popular image of being just toilet inspectors," said Captain Memery. "We carry out inspection programmes of all units, Regular and TA, and training camps in the district including visiting units from outside the District such as the ACF, CCF and University Officer Training Corps units."

Naafi shops and a half-dozen swimming pools also come under team scrutiny; the first for food presentation, the second for pool-borne bacteria.

Complaints from married quarters residents are also investigated. Niggles ranging from dampness to cockroach invasions.

One such team operates in South-West District which comprises the Army's second largest District in troop numbers. It has the responsibility for 137 units stretching from Bulford to Bristol and way down to Cornwall.

Furthermore, it is said that the team's two Chevette estate cars are perhaps the most repeatedly serviced vehicles in the HQ's fleet!

Part of the Medical Branch HQ SW District, the team is commanded by Captain Bryan Mem-

Working conditions in office or workshop are also among the terms of reference dealt with by the team. Lighting is measured by special meters, heating is checked to see that temperatures are neither minimal nor excessive.

Ventilation, fumes, dust, noise and lead on the Army's indoor firing ranges are also invigilated scrupulously.

Even microwave ovens are checked, such is the thoroughness in the fight against contamination and the emphasis on personal hygiene by everybody at all times.

Plans and inspections for new buildings are examined and, if necessary, any modifications to architects' plans perhaps overlooked during their initial appearance at blueprint stage. Considerations such as enough toilets and general ablution requirements.

Food poisoning incidents are also dealt with — extremely quickly — by the team. Luckily, last year,

there were only three such outbreaks reported.

The team moved swiftly to verify the source of its spread, the contaminated food (salads, in this case) and the culprit was traced to a cook who had failed to wash his hands and himself had fallen victim to his own carelessness in personal hygiene.

Captain Memery said: "We also give health presentations to units going overseas and, occasionally, as part of a unit's health training programme.

"The team also provides personnel for environmental health cover of units exercising overseas. We were not on BAOR's Lionheart, for example, but one of my sergeants will be on Exercise Hardfall in Norway this spring."

Sergeant Paul Smith is the Environmental Health Assistant (EHA) in the Arctic conditions of Norway and Exercise Hardfall. He was formerly in Hong Kong

and that team's inspections involved not only visits within the Colony but to Nepal, Brunei and Korea. Visits to training camps and locations along the 26-mile Anglo-Sino border in the New Territories.

"I used to lecture to unit personnel on Army health subjects as required, such as pest control, health in extremes of climate, water purification, food hygiene and disease prevention," he said.

"I used to collect routine bacteriological water samples, submit them for analysis and take follow-up action if required."

As technological advances have been made over the years so the Army has modified its own approach as it keeps smartly in step.

"It has got more technical now," said Captain Memery. "We are looking into the health and safety aspects a lot more than we used to. Areas like camp and general hygiene.

"There are a lot of units that expect us to do the work for them but we tell them hygiene is their responsibility and it is our role just to help and advise them."

Yet the Army's Environmental Health experts do not claim to be any better than comparative civilian firms.

It takes more than two years before an RAMC EHA becomes a Class One Tradesman. A journey that will have taken him from a B-3 grade on an Aldershot Division's Health Assistant course which lasts for an initial four months before attachment to a District for practical training.

A year later he returns to the source of the Environmental Health Division at Keogh Barracks.

The B-3 tradesman stays there for a further six weeks. There, he undergoes further training. He then becomes a B-2 tradesman returning to the District for another 10 weeks.

Captain Memery said: "We maintain a good liaison with local authority health departments and the Health and Safety Executive on matters of joint interest."

Equipment scales include a

pump for detecting fumes, noise level meters (for hearing conservation hints in workshops or firing ranges), meters to measure the lead content of indoor firing ranges, dust samplers (such as asbestos), light meters, thermal comfort indicators (the measuring of temperatures and humidity), a digital thermometer (dipping in meat or foodstuffs, rice and flour bins), a damp protimeter and even a gas vapour detector kit.

Captain Memery explained: "All of our technical equipment is for basic screening. We identify if there is a problem and we react to it as an environmental health monitoring team. If we need really sophisticated equipment this is referred to Aldershot and the Division which has a mini laboratory."

Like an estimated 30 others among the RAMC personnel engaged in that type of work, Captain Memery is a holder of an Environmental Health Inspector's Diploma. "It's a very selective band, our particular trade," he said with obvious pride.

All of which sounds, and is, a long way from the out-moded image of being seen as 'toilet inspectors.'

A whole range of problems — some of which COULD affect YOU



Pictures: Les Wiggs

# Exercise Lafonia Express, or...

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BV crossing Fitzroy Bridge

Sergeant Mike Nottage checks the route

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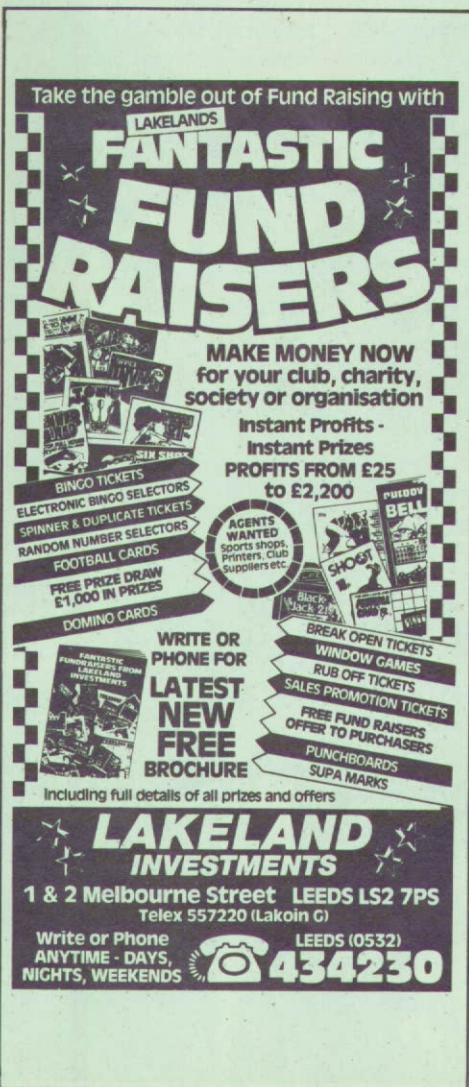
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**T**WELVE adventurous spirits of the British Forces on the Falkland Islands have just returned from an exciting trip travelling to the end of East Falkland by BV — a tracked vehicle similar to a snow cat.

The trip from Stanley and across Lafonia to Bull Point, the most southerly point of the Falklands, was the idea of 30-year-old Sergeant Jon Mills of the Royal Corps of Transport, who wanted to combine three jobs into one — just to prove it could be done ... and prove it he did with a team that included four WRAC, an RN photographer and a local schoolteacher.

As chief clerk of FIPASS — Falklands Intermediate Port And Storage System at Port Stanley, he wanted to plan and carry out a resupply and support programme so that a vehicle and its crew could get to Bull Point and back using land, sea and air supply agencies.

He intended to use the journey to update existing maps and to present gifts to the children of the settlements visited on the way.

After the first stop at Port Harriet the Camp telegraph was obviously in action for the BV was met everywhere by eager, expectant children.

At North Arm the BV was met by an assortment of motor bikes and Land Rovers that led the way into the settlement in a triumphant convoy.

The BV is an ideal vehicle for this type of journey across flat plains, for the rolling grassland of Lafonia has few rocks to mar the way. However, one temporary bar to progress was Bodie Creek, a swiftly flowing stream, which was crossed as an underslung load of a Chinook helicopter.

But the careful pre-positioning



Lieutenant Helen Booth polishes up on her navigation skills

## THE TEAM MEMBERS

Leader	Sgt Jon Mills RCT, 73 Port Sqn
2 i/c	Lt Helen Booth WRAC/RAEC
Nav/Cartographer	Sgt Mike Nottage RE
Mechanic	S/Sgt Geoff Phillips REME
Radio Op	L/Cpl Sue Dicks WRAC HQ BFFI
Medic	Rfn Paul Alsop RGJ
Asst Nav	Pte Carol Rowland 77 Stores Coy RAOC
BV driver	Pte Phil Nertney RAOC
Asst Mech	Dvr David Gosling RCT
Asst Medic	Pte June Bowie WRAC 77 Stores Coy RAOC
Teacher	Mr Don Naylor Camp Education Scheme
Photos	LA (PHOT) Bernie Petterson BFFI photographer

Warm greeting from settlement inhabitants for the unusual visitors



of fuel and spares by land, sea and air proved successful and kept the vehicle on the move.

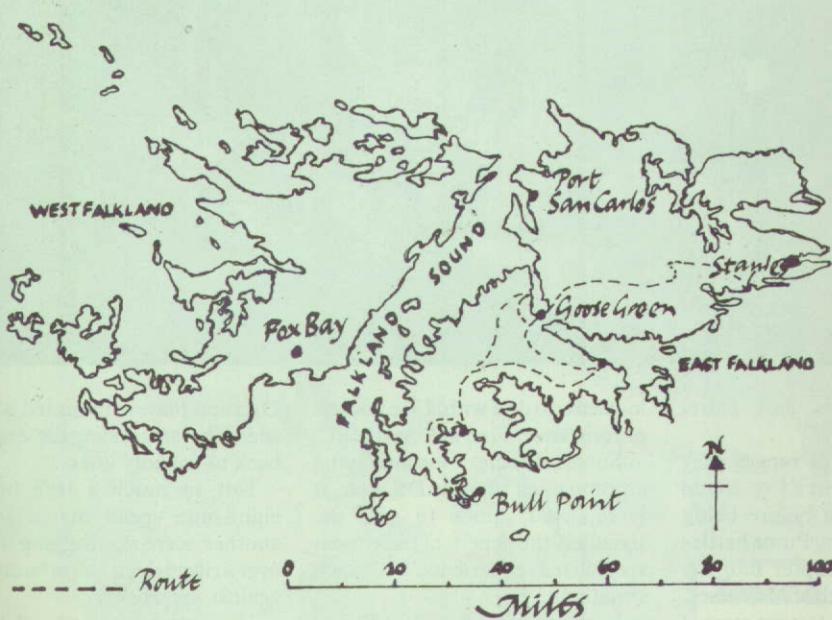
At all the settlements the travellers were made welcome and all spare beds were put to good use by the tired explorers.

Every traveller had the experience of being awakened by young hosts who insisted on playing with their new friends ... sometimes at five o'clock in the morning!

Although 11 wheels and two differentials were replaced on the

trek, the week long journey that covered more than 500 kilometres of desolate countryside was completed without mishap, and the Dirty Dozen, as they began to call themselves, were ready for a well earned bath!

Private June Bowie and new friend





## 3 DIVISION SIGNALLERS SHOW INFANTRY SKILL

**T**HE IRON DIVISION Royal Signals have been in action deep in West Germany's Sauerland on manoeuvres.

The up-to-date, switched-on men of the Corps of Royal Signals took on the role of patrolling infantrymen.

A role that called for a Combat Fitness Test in the middle of the night and a very early morning cold bath — in full kit — as numbed hands slipped from rime-covered ropes straddling a river.

It was a grand chance for the 3rd Armoured Division men in BAOR to get out of barracks and blast away any cobwebs that might have shrouded their basic military skills.

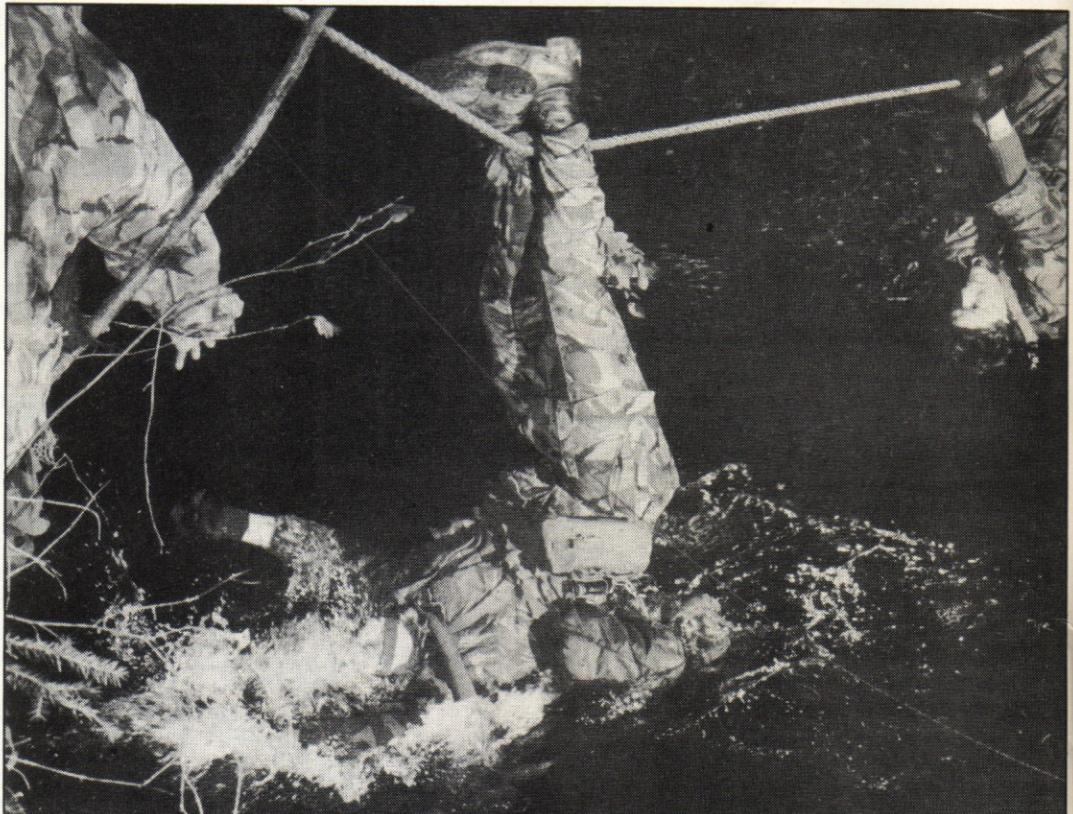
Two days in the Sauerland were a bright prospect. Bright, that is, until men of The Gordon Highlanders kept 'interfering' with irritating raids which needed quick, decisive section counter attacks to rout them out.

The more cunning of the Iron Division signallers slyly crawled away into dead ground during such unwelcome incursions.

The Directing Staff were no great comfort either. Pontificating on who would live and who would die. Umpires who took grave exception if the signallers had forgotten to check their safety catches before unloading personal weapons. Adjudicators who would gravely add five minutes to your overall time — the cads!

The Iron Division's day of invigilation started at St Sebastian Barracks with an inspection before the platoon move-out to the

Lance Corporal John Ginty, 206 (Airmobile) Sqn heads for an unexpected dip during the last lap of the exercise. Behind him, not getting wet, Signaller Titus Reene



Salamanca Ranges and patrol sequences.

On the expansive ranges they re-learned how tight a five-round grouping could be before being 'choppered' away by Puma battlefield support helicopter into the Arnsbergwald, south of Möhnesee.

It was then the testing started in earnest. Each section was given a different route to get them to the RV. Each section had a variety of

incidents to deal with. Like pockets of resistance. First aid. And NBC.

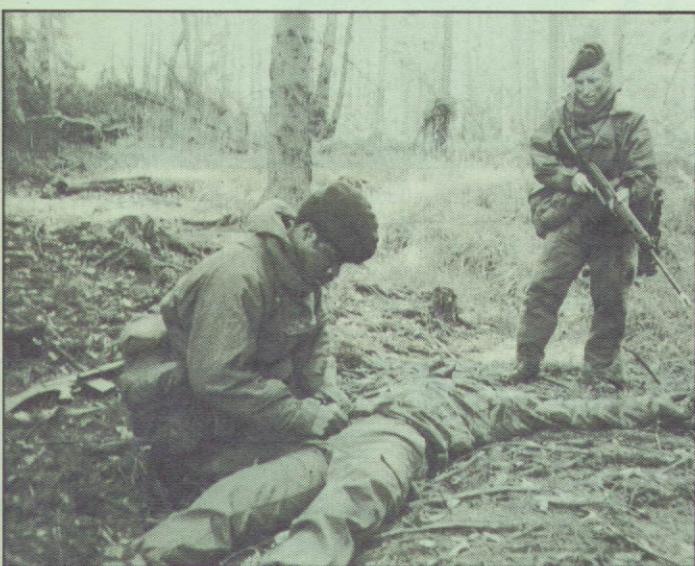
Some of the Gordons who accompanied them as DS were, it is reported, quick to give the signallers the benefit of their "own specialised experience" of such situations.

Back at patrol base 'scoff' was organised and sleeping arrangements made prior to night patrols. Information gleaned, the Iron

Division players mounted a night snatch before tackling the long trek back to friendly lines.

Not so much a trek but an eight-mile speed march to yet another scenario. Rigging a rope over a river which had to be crossed against the clock.

Hot, steaming mugs of 'char' re-dressed the balance later with lots of worthwhile, low-level tactics lessons vibrantly relearned.



**CLOCKWISE:** The expression tells it all as lips quaff a strong mug of 'char'. Your commander needs you! Lance Corporal Paul Connor delegates responsibility. The 230 Sqn, RAF, Puma battlefield 'Taxi' has arrived. Corporals Mick Churchfield, left, and George Gage wait their turn. The 'body'... immaterial. Corporal George Gage checks it over. Lance Corporal Sid James stands by



**From a report by Gordon Skilling  
Pictures: Roger Lortie, Malcolm Lawson**

**T**It may come as a surprise to some to learn that the 130,000 men who form the hard core of the Army (excluding officers and senior NCOs) include 89,000 serving boy soldiers and ex-boy soldiers, which is 68 per cent of that total.

However, on reflection, it must be to the advantage of the Army as it reduces costs but at the same time ensures continuity and thorough training, writes A W Cockerill in 'Sons of the Brave: The Story of Boy Soldiers.'

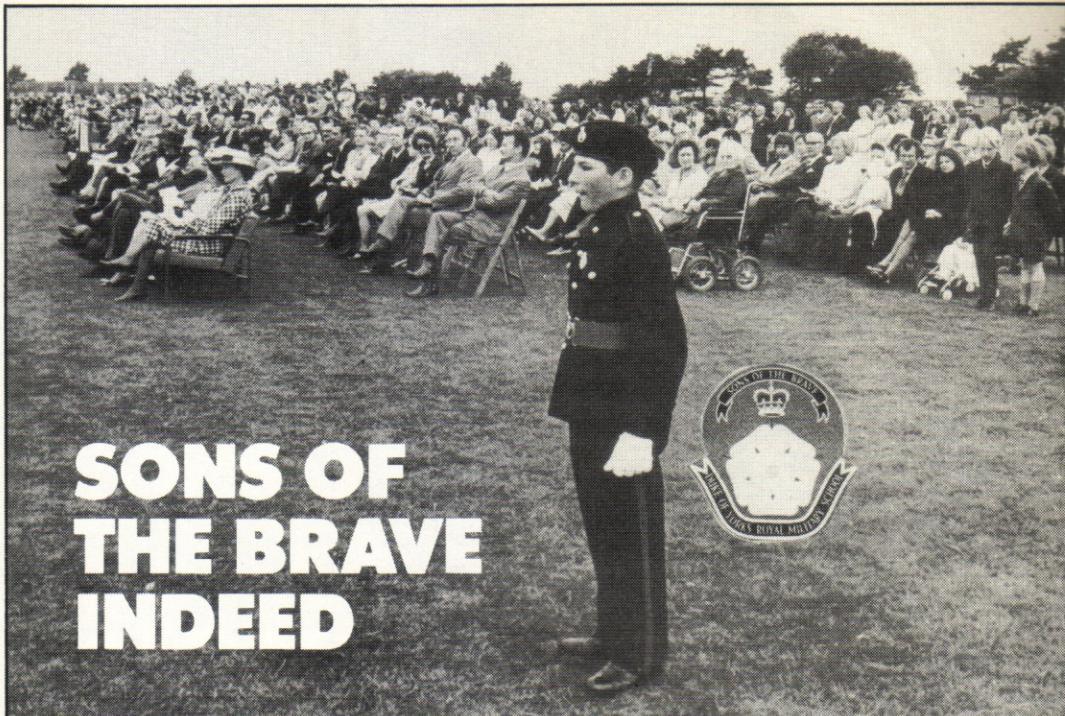
Mr Cockerill, himself an ex-boy trained at The Duke of York's Military School and now a journalist in Canada, has written an enlightening story about young soldiers throughout the ages, including young officers such as Sir John Moore who was an ensign at 14.

His research in fields such as the Commandant's Letter Books (1805-45) and the Order Books of The Royal Military Asylum (1850-70), as well as unpublished manuscripts from The Royal Hibernian Military School, is unique and makes fascinating reading for both the military and social historian.

At the RMA, Woolwich, created in 1741 to teach young soldiers a sense of discipline and the rudiments of an education, 'the boys fought like wild animals whether on parade or at school' and were described in one report as 'scabby sheep whom neither lenity will improve, nor confinement to a dark room (the black hole) and being fed on bread or water will improve.'

One has to admire the courage of these youngsters and those at The Duke of York's School who faced punishments such as confinement to a cage hoisted to the ceiling or shackled to logs by the wrist.

Those were tough times and life was relatively short but these boys undoubtedly were well equipped



## SONS OF THE BRAVE INDEED

to join their regiments and face the hardships of the Peninsula, the Crimean and other wars.

Mr Cockerill emphasises, however, the Army's caring attitude and imaginative training of the

boys at the three military schools established for them — Duke of York's, Royal Hibernian and Queen Victoria's School.

The title of his book is apt, as it is the title of The Duke of York's

School hymn: these boys as well as being brave themselves were indeed 'Sons of the Brave'.

*Leo Cooper with Secker and Warburg £12.95.* PSN



PAGE after page of pictures, excellent and dramatic in content and illustrating military history over 4,000 years, at once give this volume a live and broad base. From the Spartans, through Athens, Rome, Prussia, Napoleonic France, to the British military men of today the profession of the soldier is viewed pictorially and reviewed at depth throughout its development. The text is based on the Lees-Knowles lectures given by General Hackett at Cambridge in 1962. Acknowledged as a classic of their kind they have now been brought up to date and amplified.

The profession of arms has developed as education has become

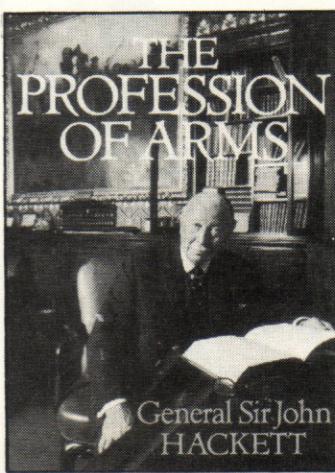
more easily accessible to the masses. Weapons have improved and increased in variety, number and power, and more and easier ways of killing — at close hand and at vast distances — have made war all the more undesirable and the more likely to obliterate the whole of mankind.

Sir John demonstrates, through the sayings of generals of various nationalities, that soldiers do not like wars.

"They spoil the armies," said a Russian Archduke. While, after 1919, the British Army was glad to get back to 'real soldiering' — maintaining the Empire and keeping the peace.

Meanwhile, the Army was becoming mechanised and modernised and professionalism was taking the place of amateurism. Officers had been ill-paid and needed independent means for they were really getting 'half a day's pay for half a day's work.' With the general availability of higher education the junior ranks of today have greater responsibilities, so that the young officer is able to concentrate his efforts on tasks more demanding of his mental powers. Well worth the reading.

*Sidgwick & Jackson, 1 Tavistock Chambers, Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2SG, £12.95.*



# LOOKING AT BOOKS

**A**NY Army units with South Georgia on their posting schedules could do themselves a favour by making sure they purchase a copy of a new book on the island little known until the dramatic events of 1982.

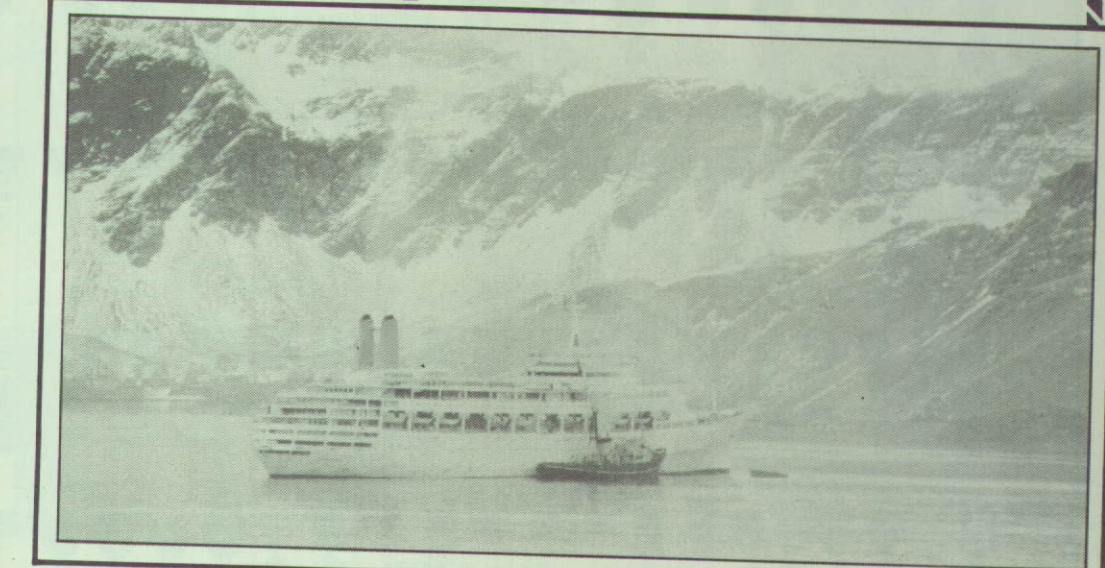
'The Island of South Georgia', by Robert Headland is the first really detailed work on the island since Dr L Harrison Matthews's 'South Georgia, The British Empire's Sub Antarctic Outpost' published in 1931 and out of print for many years.

Headland — Bob to his pals — acknowledges his debt to Matthews, but his own long experience has proved invaluable in bringing the story of South Georgia up to date.

This is particularly true of the Argentine invasion, dealt with at the tail end of the work in a most matter-of-fact manner and not used as a 'gimmick' to perhaps make the book more saleable.

Headland was with the British Antarctic Survey on South Georgia during those eventful days and surrendered the civilian population, being taken prisoner by the Argentines.

In true scientific fashion, Bob Headland deals with the history, geography, geology, biology and



Canberra in Grytviken harbour 1982. Picture: Paul Haley

government of this beautiful land and does so in a way which should please scientists and laymen.

Even if you haven't the slightest interest in the place now, read this book and I'll be surprised if you don't become a convert.

Tourists have been going there regularly since 1970, mainly wealthy North Americans in ships which have to serve as accommodation

all the time — there is no commercial bed and breakfast ashore!

As a work of reference, Headland's book will prove invaluable. It is well illustrated, with some beautiful photographs of plant and wildlife, and though some readers might have welcomed more colour (confined to the dust jacket), the beauty of South Georgia loses nothing in black and white.

Headland feels that after recent events the potential changes for

the island may well be great... "but, it is to be hoped, not uncontrolled".

It is good to read praise for the British forces currently there.

The author says they "have come to appreciate it as a potentially excellent place for Polar training and exercises. They have demonstrated high regard for the wildlife in the operations so far conducted."

Cambridge University Press  
Cambridge University Press £14.95.  
PMH

## Rockets & Missiles of World War III: Robert Berman & Bill Gunston

IN these days of nuclear weapons one tends to forget that rockets can trace their origins back to 11th century China and their first recorded military exploitation over 200 years later when the Chinese broke a Mongol siege by launching a barrage of rocket-propelled arrows.

The opening chapter of this book deals with the history of rocketry

from those early beginnings to Nazi Germany's 'V' ballistic missiles and the sophisticated weaponry of today. Since the Second World War developments in rocket and missile technology have expanded enormously to reach a point where they now not only dominate the relationship between the superpowers but have created a delicate balance of terror which threatens the very existence of the human race.

Robert Berman concentrates on the strategies of the superpowers, describes the technical and service background of their long range missiles and assesses the smaller but none the less deadly weaponry of Britain, France and China. Missiles can pinpoint and destroy tanks, aircraft and airfields, radar installations and ships and it is in this connection that Bill Gunston describes the weapons developed by NATO, the super powers and smaller powers.

A feature of this informative work is the high quality of the many coloured illustrations, themselves valuable reference.

Hamlyn, Astronaut House, Hounslow Road, Feltham, Middlesex TW14 9AR £7.95. JFPJ

## In Hell Before Daylight by Ian Fletcher

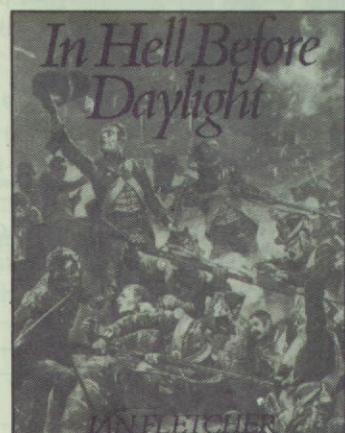
THE siege and storming of Badajoz in the Spring of 1812 was one of the British Army's finest achievements.

The appalling events that followed in the hours after victory must rate among the most disgraceful.

The glory and the horror are well recounted in Ian Fletcher's *In Hell Before Daylight* — which no doubt covers the feelings of both the surviving troops, and the unfortunate inhabitants of a fortress the French considered well nigh impregnable.

There is no doubt that Wellington's troops achieved a fantastic victory against all the odds and despite horrendous casualties, yet the discipline that carried them over the walls broke down as soon as the wine barrels were smashed open.

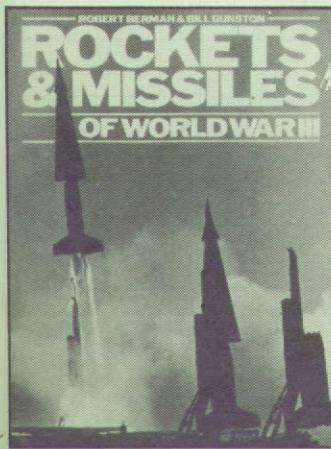
The author has drawn heavily on



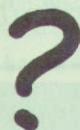
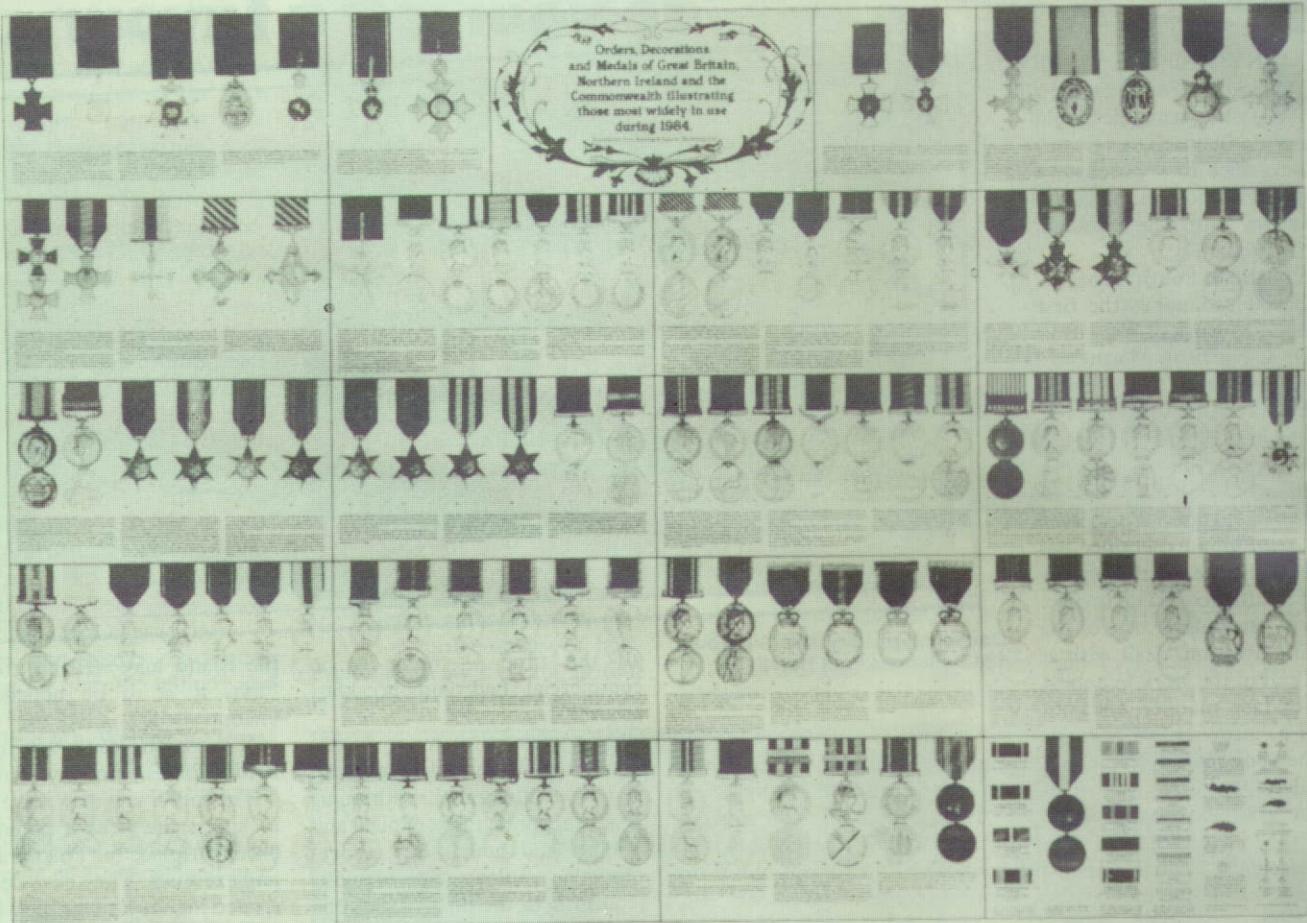
contemporary accounts and the book is well illustrated with black and white reproductions of paintings. Particularly commendable is the inclusion of useful background on siege warfare of the time, backed up with excellent drawings and glossary of terms, maps — and modern photographs of the town.

A useful addition to the growing collections of works on the Peninsular campaign.

(The Baton Press) £10.50. PMH



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T CAN, on occasion, be a right Royal dog's life, though one might have thought Conchobar (Connor) Mac Nessa might have looked a bit happier about the whole thing!

He is, after all, the ninth Regimental Mascot of the Irish Guards pictured here being sort of 'presented' to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, who was welcoming him into the Regiment at Clarence House.

The soldier with a docile and hang-dog weight in his sturdy arms is Lance Corporal David Rutherford, the regimental dog handler. He is also in charge of Connor's unrelated predecessor, Cormac of Tara who has served with distinction from 1976.

But the gangling Irish Wolfhound knows he is still too junior and inexperienced yet to march with his bearskin-topped comrades-at-arms and now faces a year of training by Lance Corporal Rutherford and ... of course, the canine encouragement of retiring Cormac of Tara.

Though Cormac wants to hang up his collar he is 'dogmatic' he will not do so until young Connor has successfully completed his basic training.

Which all pads very neatly to the coincidental return of the 1st Battalion Irish Guards to London early next year.

# ROYAL WELCOME FOR V.I.M.



Mascots, it seems, do not travel with the battalion, having no wish to serve six months in quarantine after an overseas posting such as to Oxford Barracks, Münster, BAOR.

The pup-like Connor — he will eventually stand six feet tall on his back legs and tip the scales at

170 lbs — will have to develop a musical ear among his many public duties. He will work with the London-based Regimental Band.

The first of the line of magnificent Irish Guards mascots goes back to 1900 with one Brian Boru. The origin of the name gracing the latest canine incumbent is that of the ancient and victorious King Connor who ruled in Ireland at about the time of Christ.

Connor has quite a pedigree himself registered at the Kennel Club thus, sired by Killy-Kean Sauron of Sanctuary out of Melanter Eilean at the Melentair kennels.

He may look dog-tired in the picture by Sergeant Tony Jones but Connor's main duty will be to lead Irish Guardsmen to public duties at either Buckingham Palace

or Windsor Castle. Other ceremonial and public occasions are promised, too.

But he will need his stamina in training. Connor, turning a shaggy-eyebrow and deaf ear to the canned tin blandishments of TV advertising, thinks nothing of scoffing his way through three pounds of meat at one sitting ... or is it, standing?

**(Very  
Important  
Mascot!)**

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R Caren, 18 Avalon Drive, Freckleton, Preston, PR4 1PE.

**Sri Lanka** (Ceylon) military cap badge collection, selling the lot, approx £3.50 each. Send international reply coupon for list.

Major Sam Wijesinha, 12 Castle Lane, Colombo 4, Sri Lanka.

**Limited** edition of 52 proof finish sterling silver medals and military insignia representing phased out regiments. Housed in beautiful chest. Sadly these regiments have now passed into legend but their imperishable memory lives on in this magnificent collection. 3000 sets struck only. Price £1100 ono.

J Pritchard, 81 Lakeview Drive, Holly Park, Tamerton, Foliot, Plymouth, S Devon, PL5 4LW. 0752 702500.

**Battles Book** — a quality diary/reference book for military enthusiasts/wargamers. Contains 160 pages of battle anniversaries, index of wars, over 50 illustrations, battle maps and cartoons. An ideal Xmas present for only £3.25 incl P & P. Send PO or cheques made payable to:

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**Collector** has large amount of American police patches for sale. Send SAE for list. Also requires military police items worldwide.

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**One** 58 pattern s/bag, excellent condition £45, one brown feather/down s/bag, cotton, brand new, tapered, £35, one Jaguar 6 rucksack, used but excellent condition, sand and brown, £35.

J Bainbridge, Moat House, Redehall Road, Burstow, Surrey, RH6 9HR. Tel: Smallfield 3125.

**Offers** cigarette ration card 70th Middx (1942) original owner selling. Crawford, 186 Montagu Road, London, N18 2NP.

**Muster** roll, 1897, 3rd Prince of Wales Dragoon Guards. Photograph Prince of Wales Own, circa 1905 showing colours, named officers, Prince and Princess of Wales. Photograph of medical staff, Aldershot 1886. Book of photographs, French Infantry regiment No 147 at Sedan, 1905, showing officers, colours, companies by platoon, bugles and drums.

Tel: 0734 590080 evenings.

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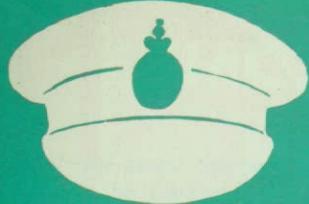
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WO1 RSM Taylor, WO's & Sgts Mess, Oakington Bks, Longstanton, Cambs. Oak Mil 205.



# Your Cap Badge

No. 73

## SMALL ARMS SCHOOL CORPS

THE £1,000 included among the Army Estimates for 1853 for the formation of an establishment for the instruction of the Army in rifle and target practice must surely have been one of Queen Victoria's better bargains.

The School of Musketry, first situated at Hythe, was destined to remain there for 116 years.

The designation of the Corps lasted until 1919 when the title of Small Arms School was adopted, this in turn being replaced by the current appellation in 1929.

It is not generally known

that the high standard of musketry demonstrated by the men of that "Contemptible little Army" deployed in France in 1914 was due to the School's insistence that every trained soldier should be able to fire a minimum of 15 aimed rounds a minute and that many achieved 25 or more.

This standard was considered necessary by the Chief Instructor when it was made clear the General Staff had decided that two machine guns per thousand men were 'adequate' to fight a major war in Europe.

In 1916 the Machine Gun School was formed at Grantham, moved to Seaford and in 1921 established at Netheravon.

During 1926 the Small Arms School expanded to include Netheravon and the HQ transferred there until 1941.

Hythe became the Depot of the SASC in 1946 leaving 23 years later to settle into its present home at Warminster, where the successors to the officers and instructors of the 1850s continue to ensure that the British Army receives the best available instruction in the latest weapons.

The original badge of the School of Musketry was cross muskets surmounted by the crown of Queen Victoria borne

in the shako and on the buttons.

In the reign of King Edward VII, in common with most training establishments, the instructors wore the Cypher of that Sovereign, a rather ungainly brass badge not graced by the crown.

This gave way to a brass cap badge of crossed rifles surmounted by the Imperial crown which continued until 13 October 1930 when a brass badge similar to the current design bearing the Imperial crown was adopted.

In September 1956 the for-

mat shown here was Sealed and described as "A Vickers machine gun and thereon a pair of crossed rifles with bayonets fixed, with the St. Edward's crown within the angle formed by the rifles above the machine gun. The whole within a wreath of laurel, on the wreath inscribed, on the left side 'Small', on the bottom 'Arms' and on the right side 'School'.

Worn by the Soldiers in anodised silver finish, officers' badges are silver plated.

HUGH L. KING



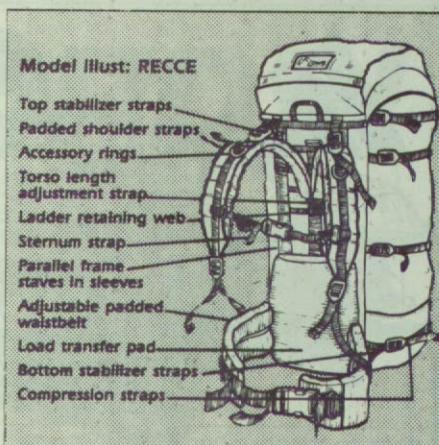
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**T**AKING a winter break in the Bahamas is a popular and expensive dream these days.

For Stephen McMurray (23) from Northern Ireland the dream has come true.

He is spending three months in the Grand Bahamas as a member of the Operation Raleigh expedition.

Stephen has the responsible job of radio operator which helps him keep in touch with home.

His normal job is working as a steelworker in the Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast and he received his radio training in 102

(Ulster and Scottish) Air Defence Regiment, his local TA unit.

Stephen applied to be considered for the expedition early in 1984 and was accepted in July.

His civilian employers gave him unpaid leave and he was faced with the problem of raising nearly



£1,000 to cover his expenses.

The Army has been interested in the scheme since it was launched by the Prince of Wales in London in February 1983.

Stephen's demanding and responsible job on the directing staff of the expedition is regarded as valuable training so throughout the expedition he will be paid as a Lance Bombardier in the TA.

Harland and Wolff, for whom Stephen has been working since 1977, contributed generously towards his expenses.

The officers, sergeants and junior ranks of 102 Air Defence Regiment also helped out. Stephen

Time off in the sun — Stephen McMurray takes a break from Operation Raleigh

Territorial Army soldier Lance Bombardier Stephen McMurray at work with a theodolite in the Bahamas during Operation Raleigh

also added over £150 to his fighting fund by getting his friends to sponsor him on his Military Basic Fitness Test.

Stephen is on the first phase of the expedition which has now reached New Providence in the Grand Bahamas.

#### FIRST SURVEY

The islands of Grand Bahama and Andros have a network of underwater caves around their coasts and under the islands themselves.

Operation Raleigh plans to make the first survey of these and also to study some of the animals on the islands.

The scientists on the expedition are particularly interested in the various species of bats which nest in many of the caves.

Operation Raleigh will have at least 15 three-month phases spread over four years.

These will involve about 4,000 young people from Great Britain, the USA and other parts of the world.

#### ARMY FAMILY

Stephen is no stranger to adventure and the military life. When he was born his father was serving in England with the Irish Guards.

The family moved to Northern Ireland in 1966.

Stephen joined the TA in 1979 and since then he has learned to drive Land-Rovers and HGV 3 vehicles as well as being trained to the level of Class One Signaller. He was promoted Lance Bombardier in 1982.

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# TERCENTENARY TEASERS

WITH the accent this year very much on the Tercentenary regiments, Competition number 357 is designed to test your knowledge of these famous units.

We have set 12 questions. Some are easy, especially for men serving with the regiments involved.

Some may be more difficult but with a £50 prize at stake they should be worth a little research!

Answer all 12 correctly please, and if no-one can manage this then the winner could be the competitor with most correct answers.

The rules of the competition are the same as usual. The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is 12

April. The answer and winners name will appear in our issue dated 6 May.

Each entry must be accommodated by the 'Competition 357' label from this page. For two entries send two labels (NOT photo-copies), three entries three labels — and so on.

In the case of more than one correct entry being received, the winner will be drawn by lots. No correspondence can be entered into.

Send your answers by postcard or letter to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Parsons House, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

1) Why did The Queen's Bays earn the nickname 'The Rusty Buckles'?

2) The Royal Scots Greys were famous for their grey horses. There is another, older, connection with the colour. What?

3) Who were 'The Mounted Micks'?

4) What is the significance of the castle worn as a cap badge by the 6th Dragoons and collar badge by the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards?

5) Where did the two regiments now forming The Queen's Own Hussars first fight alongside each other?

6) 1896 a future Prime

Minister joined the 4th Queen's Own Hussars. Name him.

7) What is the origin of the scarlet-over-white hackle of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers?

8) When was The King's Regiment the Queen's?

9) 'Rule Britannia' now forms part of The Royal Anglian Regiment quick march. What other connection has the Regiment with Britannia?

10) Sergeants of the old 13th Foot (Somerset Light Infantry) wore sashes over the left shoulder instead of the right. Why?

11) How did the Devons earn the title 'The Bloody Eleventh'?

12) Who were 'The Snappers'?

## March

19-28: 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, conducts a KAPE tour of the two counties with band and drums.

23: Devons and Dorsets exercise the Freedom of Exeter by marching the Old Colours through the city, prior to laying them up in Exeter Cathedral. Colonel-in-Chief, the Duke of Kent, takes the salute. A regimental reception and lunch for serving soldiers and old comrades follows.

## April

27: 2 Royal Anglian receives the Freedom of Wellingborough, Northants.

## May

13: A locomotive named 'The Royal Anglian Regiment' by The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, at Liverpool Street.

14: The Queen's Own Hussars in Birmingham for the presentation of a New Guidon by their Colonel-in-Chief, The Queen Mother. Regimental lunch for 1,200 follows.

15: Display in Birmingham of 300 years of QOH with period uniforms and 22 armoured vehicles.

15: Light Infantry tercentenary cocktail party at Palace of Westminster.

17: QOH lay up Old Guidon in Birmingham Cathedral and receive the

## Tercentenary Calendar

Freedom of the City.

17-19: 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards tercentenary weekend at Detmold.

18: 4/7 RDG receive a new Standard from their Colonel-in-Chief, The Duchess of Kent, at Detmold.

24: The Corunna Band & Bugles of The Light Infantry sound Retreat at the opening of the Bath Festival.

25: The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars hold a Regimental Mounted Parade on the Dorbaum Training Area near Munster, in the presence of their Colonel-in-Chief, The Duke of Edinburgh. Lunch for old comrades, soldiers and families followed by vehicle and equipment displays. Various evening functions.

26: QRIH church service.

29: The Light Infantry at the Royal Bath & West Show (to 1 June). Arena displays by 1 LI, Bands and Bugles and the Trailblazers free fall parachute team. Regimental reception 30 May.

June

1: 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards in Chester for Army display: beating Retreat and producing tribute to Captain Oates's self-sacrifice.

3: 1 LI KAPE tour of Somerset &

South Avon (to 8 June).

10: LI Bands and Bugles start tour of Somerset and South Avon.

12: Granting of the Freedom of Taunton to The Light Infantry March past by 1 LI and 6 LI (V), displays of weapons and equipment, Regimental reception, and band concert. Bands and bugles sound Retreat.

12: The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers acknowledges its tercentenary connection by exercising the Freedom of the City of London with a march from the Tower to the Mansion House.

12: The presentation of a New Standard to the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards by the Prince of Wales at Tidworth. An all ranks ball to be held in the evening.

13: 5 INNIS DG service in Salisbury Cathedral. Separate functions for officers, sergeants and corporals.

13: The Royal Anglian Regiment takes part in the display by massed bands of the Queen's Division on Horse Guards. A Regimental reception follows attended by The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief.

14: The King's Regiment in Manchester. KINGS attend a service in Manchester

Cathedral and exercise the Freedom of the City. Civic and county receptions follow.

14: The Light Infantry exercises the Freedom of Wells. Cathedral thanksgiving service, march past by 1 LI and 6 LI (V), displays, receptions, concerts etc.

20: 1 KINGS barbecue at Chester to celebrate the anniversary of the raising of the Regiment.

22: The King's Regiment in Liverpool (to 23 June). Cathedral service, exercise Freedom of the City, receptions by civic and county authorities.

28-29: The 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards holding its tercentenary celebrations at Wimbish, Saffron Walden. The Queen Mother, as Colonel-in-Chief, attends a special parade. Other events include a Regimental display, balls for the officers' and sergeants, and a church service.

July

5: The King's Regiment's Tercentenary Parade and battalion open day at Chester, attended by the Colonel-in-Chief, the Queen Mother.

20: The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment celebrates the 300th anniversary in Berlin.

● More Tercentenary diary dates — next issue

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# MAIL DROP



Got something to say, a point to make or a story to tell? This is *your* page to exchange *your* news, views, comments and opinions. All we ask is that you keep it brief and include your full name and address although not necessarily for publication. Write: Mail Drop, **SOLDIER**, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

## A GRUMBLE

When watching TV shows in which the Army is portrayed, I frequently have a shudder down my spine when I see the way the equipment has been put together. I ask "Why don't these producers seek the advice of experts on such matters?"

Now, in **SOLDIER** (11 February) I was horrified to see the photographs on pages 18 and 19 concerning your Tercentenary Time depicting 'Corporal Thomas' wearing the 1908 pattern equipment with the haversack shown on the *right* side — which happens to be the *wrong* side as it should be worn on the left and over the bayonet frog.

The bayonet scabbard too, looks as though Corporal Thomas is well on the way to a serious injury with it stuck between his legs! How ever did he get it there, unless the bayonet frog was fixed to the belt buckle?

If it had been fixed in the proper place ie over the left buttock, he would never have been able to get it tangled between his legs.

Then the next picture shows a pseudo-German soldier, with his bayonet scabbard apparently in the position that a sheik would have his knife whereas surely it should have been in the frog!

Again, the British troops are shown with the haversack on the right side instead of the left.

I know that **SOLDIER** is not

responsible for these horrors but is merely printing the pictures, but why, oh why, cannot the producers of these shows ensure accuracy?

I enlisted in the infantry in 1919 and we had the 1908 equipment and I would be quite wealthy if I had a pound for every time I had assembled it up until it was changed for the pouch equipment in the early thirties at the time of the introduction of the Bren Gun.

Sorry to let off steam, but perhaps old age (82) makes me pernickety. — **Major F H Blackburn (Retd)**, 53 Devonshire Road, Mill Hill, London, NW7 1NE.

*Major Mike Parker, the producer of the Tribune, says — "Thank you very much for pointing out the mistake. The producer is very sorry and he'll try to do better next time."*

## Reunions

**Old Welbexian Association President's Dinner**, 18 May 1985, at Welbeck. Details from Capt G S Lane, Welbeck College, Worksop, Notts, S80 3LN. Tel: (0909) 476326 Ext. 30; (0909) 723291 evenings.

**3rd Bn Coldstream Guards**. A reunion dinner is to be held in Wellington Barracks, London on 13 April 1985. Details are obtainable from: Major (Retd) F P Horsfall MBE, Staff Superintendent, House of Lords, London, SW1A 0PW.

## Competition

Entries were about average in total for Competition 353 (17 December) 'Letter Boxes', in which we asked readers to solve nine posers — and come up with an anagram. The solution: 1 Services, 2 Shrapnel. 3 Land Mine. 4 Espionage. 5 Epaulet. 6 Territorial. 7 Legion. 8 Neutron Bomb. 9 Breastplate. And The 'Pan's Magic' anagram was — CAMPAIGNS. The £50 prize goes to Miss B M Marshall from Exeter.

## How Observant Are You?

1 Number of spectators in right group; 2 Numeral on goalkeeper's jersey; 3 Left ankle of player second from left; 4 Stripes on No 7's right shoe; 5 Left wrist of player second from right; 6 Hair of No 7; 7 Stripe on shorts of player second from right; 8 Collar of No 7; 9 'R' of left poster; 10 Base of goalpost.

## Call-signs

I am trying to contact soldiers with whom I served during my National Service in 1949-51. I spent most of my two years with the Royal Signals Troop attached to The Queen's Bays. — **Betram Frederick Ratcliffe** of 6 Lonsdale Street, Branston, Whitehaven, Cumbria, CA28 6BY.

*Mr Ratcliffe sent a photograph (below) of some of his fellow Servicemen at Fallingbostel in 1950.*

I am seeking information on the Army record of my grandfather, George Albert Leach, who was born in 1880 and when he married was living at 8 North Down St, Battle Bridge, Kings Cross, London. He is believed to have been a Sergeant PT instructor, and in the King's Royal Rifle Corps. — **C J Leach**, 15 Cattsfield, Stutton, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP9 2SP.

I am trying to trace an old pal who was in the same Company as myself. His name is Fred Bone, last heard of at Sunnyside Road, Chesham, Bucks. We were in 689 Road Construction Company, Royal Engineers. — **H Merritt**, 1 Westbrook Farm Cott, Elsead, Godalming, Surrey, GU8 6LJ.

Calling ... Edinburgh born George Craig, former drummer boy, 2nd Bn Royal Scots Fusiliers 1939, and a Fusilier until 1942, when we parted to go our ways on different drafts. Contact — **R N Ball**, 37 Bracken Avenue,

Kesgrave, Ipswich, IP5 7PP. Phone 0473 622286.

I would like to hear from those who served with me in 1 Light Bde, 8 Heavy Brigade (HK), 6 Coast Regt (Ceylon) and 67 Med Reg (BAOR) RA, 1933-1950; and those comrades of REME/AER 1950-1963. — 835933 'Knocker' Knight, Hon Sec Ceylon Artillery Assoc, UK Branch, 7 Jutland House, Prospect Vale, Woolwich, SE18 5HZ.

Gunner Aussie Taylor would like any members of B Troop 10 Assaye Bty, 36 Heavy Air Defence Regt who served with him between June 1973 and Dec 1976 to write to him at — Pledgdon Hall, Henham, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM22 6BJ.

Jim White of 24 Elmstead Road, Colchester, Essex, CO4 3AA, would like to contact Clifton Lloyd Billings, aged about 44, who he met at the Royal Artillery Depot, Woolwich. Both went to Malaya and joined 2nd Field Regiment, RA, in July 1959, subsequently being posted to Colchester. Mr Billings later lived on Arnold Miller Road, Lakenham, Norwich, but moved in 1971 and may be in London.

Does anyone know the whereabouts of Tommy Cairns (known as Paddy) who served with my husband Mark as a Junior Leader at Bovington during 1977 and 1978? — **Mrs Julie Goodwin**, 99 Greenlands Road, Chelmsley Wood, Birmingham B37 7BX or tel 021-643-7404.

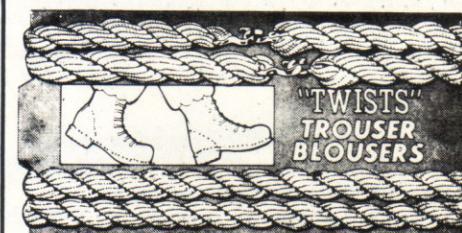


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## PEN PALS WANTED



As we have explained in the past, because of staffing problems **SOLDIER** can no longer accept contributions for this column. The ones you read now have been in stock for some time, and when we have used the remainder, this service will cease.

**S Kapilaratna** is a male nurse with the SLAMC and his interests are sports, writing letters and music. He would like to hear from any female nurses aged 25-30. — *Military Hospital, Colombo 3, Sri Lanka*.

**Linda Richardson** is 33 and a former teacher. Her interests are squash, aerobics, swimming and theatre and she would like pen pals aged 30-40 who are kind, intelligent, and with a sense of humour. — *59 Main Street, Alrewas, Burton on Trent, Staffs. DE17 7AE*.

**Tracey Healy** is 15 and her ambition is to be a nursery nurse. Her interests are swimming and reading. — *613 Whitson Place, Edinburgh, E11 3BB*. **Denise Chappell** is 29 and is a clothing inspector. Her interests are swimming, dancing and music and she would like pen pals aged 29-40 with similar interests. — *11' Wingfield Mount, Barkerend Road, Bradford 3*.

**Barbara Piper** is 33 and a shop assistant. Her interests is word puzzles. She would like pen pals aged 30-40 serving in UK or abroad. — *121 Cromwell Road, Boreham Wood, Herts.*

**Sarah Smith** is 18 and her interests are camping, shooting, swimming and horses. She would like a pen pal aged approx 22. — *Ranch House, Station Road, Rustington, Sussex*.

**Dawn Reed-Peck** is 23 and a civil servant. Her interests are music, reading and modern history. She would like pen pals aged 23-30. All letters answered. — *208 Ashcroft Road, Luton, Beds.*

**Pat Hargreaves** is 39 and is an export sales clerk. Her interests are astrology, letter writing, socialising and current affairs. She would like pen pals aged 35-45 with similar interests. — *46 Furnival Way, Whiston, Rotherham, S Yorks.*

**Mandy Parry** is 21 and her interests are volleyball, running and music. She would like pen pals aged 25-30. — *78 Eastville Ave, Rhyl, Clwyd, N Wales, LL18 3TW*.

**Elain Dodshon** is 20 and her interests are the TA, squash and swimming. She would like pen pals aged 20-30. — *14 Cranwell Grove, Thornaby, Cleveland*.

**Barbara Smith** is 28 and her interests are photography, horticulture, animals and travel. She would like pen pals aged 30-36 with similar interests. — *Park View, 203 Village Way, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 3NN*.

**Debbie Baker** is 20 and is a supervisor of a shoe shop. Her interests are drawing, reading, music and films and she would like pen pals aged 24 with same interests. — *5 Green Lane, Boughton, Monchelsea, Maidstone, Kent*. **Mary Horner** is 26 and her interests are music, theatre, dancing and sport. She would like pen pals aged 21 plus. — *17 Gatwick Gardens, London, SW16 8YT*.

**Norman Robinson** is 27 and is an infantry soldier. His interests are letter writing and photography and would like pen pals aged 20-27. — *Mortar Plt, Sp Coy, 3 RRF, BFPO 45*.

**Dell Griffiths** is 17 and her interests are swimming, shooting, camping and hockey. She would like pen pals aged 22. — *151 Brighton Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN1 2EU*.

**Steven Marshall** is a driver and his interests are driving, fishing, swimming and dancing. He would like female pen pals aged 18. — *No 3 Platoon, Alpha Coy, 1 Black Watch, BFPO 106*.

**Karen Thompson** is 18 and is a clerical worker. Her interests are walking and reading and she would like pen pals aged 19-25. — *32 Sturring Road, Chesterfield, Derbyshire*.

**Linda Watson** is 34 and her interests are swimming, decorating, jigsaws and reading. She would like pen pals aged 35-40 with similar interests. — *6 Kimberley Ave, Peckham, London SE15*. **Janine Frith** is 18 and her hobbies are cooking, music, reading and travelling. She would like pen pals aged 18-24. — *7 Malvern Gardens, Smedley St, Matlock, PE4 3JH*.

**Rosemary Meyer** is 36 and her hobbies are dancing, music and home maintenance. She would like pen pals aged 35-40. — *61 Howbury Road, Peckham, London SE15*.

**Liz Brown** is 17 and her ambition is to become a social worker. She likes discos, letter writing and reading. She would like pen pals aged 17-25. — *47 Kenilworth Road, Fleet, Aldershot, Hants, GU13 9AX*.

**Sharon Rofe** is 21 and is a bank clerk. Her interests are keep fit, writing and she would like pen pals aged 22-26. — *7 Harpfield Road, Bishops Cleeve, Cheltenham, Glos.*

**Sheena Harris** is 20 and is an assistant matron. Her interests are keeping fit and music and she would like pen pals with a good sense of humour aged 19-25. — *109 Leyland Road, Southport, Merseyside*.

**Denise Goodman** is 23 and works at Addenbrooks Hospital. Her interests are music, discos and cinema and she would like pen pals aged 24. — *9 Ufford Place, Chalkstone, Haverhill, Suffolk*.

**Tracy Hill** is 18 and is a waitress. Her interests are hang gliding, rock climbing and roller hockey and she would like pen pals aged 18-25 in UK. — *12 Wanstead Way, Rix Park, Nottingham*.

**Ann Walsh** is 20 and her interests are running, sailing, dancing and music. She would like pen pals aged 19-27. — *WRAC Wing, Old College, RMA Sandhurst, Camberley, Surrey*.

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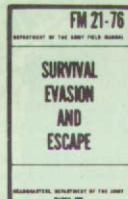
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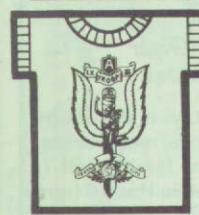
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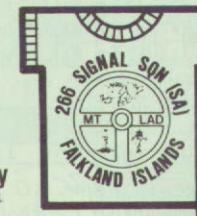
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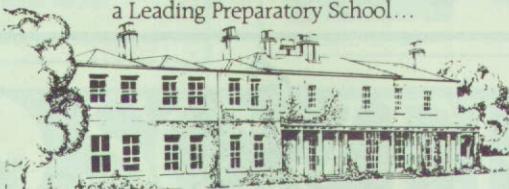
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# Rugby Squad builds 'quiet confidence'

THE Army XV has been building a quiet sort of confidence as they prepare for the 'big one' — the opening Inter-Service fixture against the Royal Navy at Twickenham on Saturday 2 March.

In their game against Harlequins, the Army did well to hold the powerful club side to a 26-12 scoreline. There has already been plenty of publicity concerning the Quins' captain Cooke, who scored a try against the Army, then nipped off to play for England against Rumania!

The Army, despite losing, performed creditably.

The weather did nothing to help the Army preparations, with fixtures against Hampshire and Oxford University being cancelled. Once in action again, against Surrey at Aldershot, the Army

showed great determination but came off second best.

Then Cambridge University came to Aldershot — and left well beaten, 12-3.

With both the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force losing to the Light Blues, this match gave the



Gotcha! A 7 RHA man downs a rival in the UK Major Units final at Aldershot.

Army great heart for the Inter-Service matches. A feeling which continued with a dramatic 29-27 win over the Civil Service at Chiswick, a try by left winger Peter Lockett clinching this one in the dying minutes of a real thriller.

The Army Under-21 continue to sparkle and had the joy of becoming first winners of the Charrington Shield following their 7-4 win over the RAF at Aldershot in the first ever match at this level.

## IN BRIEF

THE first women's inter-service Indoor Hockey Championships did not prove a very auspicious occasion for Army sports results. Although hosting the event at the Maida Gym, Aldershot, the Army failed to win either of its two matches and finished third. With two clear victories the RAF became the first service to hold the championship which will now be held on a regular annual basis following last year's highly successful trial at Portsmouth.

WINNING their fifth successive Inter-service squash championship, Army women made a clean sweep of the

opposition at HMS Sultan, Gosport.

One of the highlights of the tournament was the match between the Army's number 1, Sergeant Joyce Tuomey, and the top Navy player, Leading Wren Sue Hudd. Sue Hudd has been runner up to Joyce Tuomey for several years and as this was her last chance before leaving the forces a determined effort could be confidently predicted. But in the end Joyce Tuomey's strength and experience was too much and the Army champion took the match 3-1.

Joyce Tuomey also took the individual title for the seventh successive year. She beat Staff Sergeant Kathy Johnstone.

— Cpl Challenger, 1 Armd Div Tpt Regt. First Novice — Tpr Thomas, 9/12 L. First Team — 1 Armd Div Tpt Regt. Team Slalom — 45 Fd Regt. Individual Slalom — Cpl Challenger, 1 Armd Div Tpt Regt. Team Alpine Minor Unit Combination — 1 Regt AAC. Team Nordic Minor Unit Combination — 29 Sig Regt. 3rd Armoured Division, at Fulpmes in Austria.

Champion Unit: 19 Fd Regt RA. Major Units (Nordic): 26 Engr Regt, 19 Fd Regt 5 Hy REgt.

Major Units (Alpine): 50 Msl Regt, 3 ADSR, 19 Fd Regt. Minor Units (Nordic) 206 Sig Sqn, (Alpine) 101 Pro Coy RMP.

Individual Alpine Champion: Bdr Zamudio, 5 Hy Regt. Individual Nordic Champion: Spr Worrall, 26 Eng Regt.

Nordic: Individual 10km: L/Cpl Wood, 26 Engr Regt. 4 x 10km relay: 19 Fd Regt. 4 x 7.5km biathlon: 26 Engr Regt. Individual 15km: Gnr Read, 19 Fd Regt. Patrol Race: 26 Engr Regt.

Alpine: Individual Giant Slalom: Cpl Atkinson, 3 ADSR, Team Slalom: 3 ADSR 'A', Individual Slalom: Bdr Zamudio, 5 Hy Regt. Downhill: Cpl Atkinson, 3 ADSR.

## Kentish Cup slips away

THE Kentish Cup, won in such exciting fashion by Combined Services last year for the first time in many years, is returning to France.

The French Armed Forces beat Combined Services 2-1 in Cherbourg and as the home team have

already beaten the Belgians, the trophy goes to France for the third time in four years.

Combined Services hoped to gain some consolation from their match against the Belgians.

Full reports — Next issue.

Consolation for Combined Services as Corporal Geoff Hancocks (RAF) scores the equaliser in Cherbourg. But it wasn't enough...



## HOCKEY

Women's Indoor Inter-Service Championships. At Aldershot: Royal Navy 6, Army 4; RAF 4, RN 2; RAF 6, Army 2.

## MARATHON

Hong Kong International: 1, A Luzare (France) 2 hrs 18 mins 34 secs; 2, Zhu Shuchen (China) 2-18-35; 3, H Sandstrom (Finland) 2-19-25; 4, WO1 (SMI) E C Turner (4 Armd Div HQ) 2-22-07; 8, W Venus (1st Veteran) (England — Ex Army) 2-26-02; 10, WO2 P Marsh (Ord Svcs Viersen) 2-27-12; 11, C/Sgt M French (Tactics Wing Brecon) 2-27-50; 14, S/Sgt (SI) R F Butters (Ord Svcs Viersen) 2-30-49; 15, L/Cpl J Grant (Depot Para) 2-31-43; 18, L/Cpl J Shaw (4 Armd Wksp) 2-34-44; 22 Maj K J Arnold RAEC (15 AEC) 2-36-20.

## CROSS COUNTRY

BAOR/Berlin Infantry Competition. At Sennelager. Teams: 1, 3 Royal Anglian; 2, 1 PWO; 3 1 R Hamps. Individuals: 1, Cpl Wilson (1 PWO); 2, Lt Wadman (3 R Anglian); 3, Pt Hill (1 PWO).

## RUGBY UNION

Combined Services Colts 21, The South 0.

## RESULTS

Army Colts 6, Blackheath 0. Civil Service 27, The Army 29 (at Chiswick). Richmond 14, The Army 7. Inter Services Under-21. The Army 7, RAF 4 (at Aldershot). Major Units UK Final: 7 RHA 18, SEE 13.

## SQUASH

Army Championships. At Woking. Final — Capt R Robinson (RAOC) bt Maj C Wilson (RA) 3-0. Women's final — Sgt J Tuomey beat S/Sgt K Johnstone 3-0. Over-35 final: Maj Wilson bt WO2 D Sharkey 3-0. Inter-Services Championship: Army 4, RN 1; Army 5, RAF 0.

## FOOTBALL

Kentish Cup: French Armed Forces 2, Combined Services 1 (at Cherbourg).

TA Football Challenge Cup. Scottish Final: C Coy 3/51 Highland 6, 222 Sqn RCT 4 (after extra time). Other results: South East: Support Company 10 Para 7; A Company 2, Wessex 1.

## SKIING

1st Armoured Division. At Axams, Austria. Champion Unit — 1 Armd Div Tpt Regt. Runners-up — 45 Fd Regt. Individual Allrounder — Lt Hillkirk, 1 Green Howards. Runner-Up — Cpl Challenger, 1 Armed Div Tpt Regt.

Nordic. 15km race: Individual Winner — Dvr Smith, 1 Armd Div Tpt Regt. First Team — 1 Armd Div Tpt Regt, who also won the 4 x 10km relay, 4 x 7.5km biathlon relay and patrol race.

Alpine. Downhill: Individual Winner — Cpl Challenger, 1 Armd Div Tpt Regt. First Novice — Lt Shakleton, 1 RTR. First Team — 1 Armd Div Tpt Regt. Giant Slalom: Individual Winner

FOR the sixth time Captain Robbie Robinson, RAOC, has become the Army's squash champion.

By beating the Scottish International, Major Chris Wilson, RA, 3-0 at the Woking Leisure Centre he now equals the number of championships held by Captain Neil Stewart, Royal Signals, and is within striking distance of the record established by Brigadier Mike Perkins — eight titles.

## ROBINSON — AGAIN!

Capt. Robinson, who commands the stores platoon, 1 (BR) Corps Troops Workshop, REME, at Bielefeld, won his first title in 1979 as a sergeant. Since then he has won every year, with the exception of 1981 when Capt. Stewart came back to win his sixth championship.

The winning score against Major Wilson, 9-7, 9-3, 9-4, did not completely reflect a long, hard fought match in which rallies of up to 60 strokes were not uncommon.

Major Wilson had some compensation, however. He beat WO2

Dick Sharkey, the Cumbria champion, 3-0 in the over 35 event.

Sergeant Joyce Tuomey, WRAC, won her fifth consecutive women's by beating Staff Sergeant Kathy Johnstone, 3-0.

Although dogged by a virus and not at her best, Sergeant Toumey, an Army recruiter stationed at Woolwich, demonstrated that she, like her fellow combined services champion, Captain Robinson, remains in a class of her own.

## KARTING HISTORY MADE IN CYPRUS

THE Episkopi Kart Club made history when they hosted the first ever Inter-Service Karting Championships in Cyprus.

The Western Sovereign Base of Cyprus has two kart clubs, one on Episkopi Garrison the other at RAF Akrotiri and both have Army and RAF members. As may be expected inter-club rivalry was buried beneath a desire to beat a new enemy.

Four, 15-lap, heats were used to decide the championship with a scoring system; no points for the winner, two for second place, three for third and so on.

Non-starters/non finishers scored 10 with the lowest overall



score to win.

*Army: Captain Sgt Phil Hill R. Signals, Sgt Simon Pruce RAMC, Cpl Andy Henry and Cpl John Walton R. Signals, Cfn Ian Redman REME, Reserve L/Cpl*

### COLTS BREAK THE BARRIER

EIGHT Army players were in the Combined Services Colts side which beat the South at Aldershot in one of three preliminary England Colts trial matches. Combined Services had never previously beaten an England area side in one of these matches. That they were successful this year by the wide margin of 21-0 reflects great credit on all concerned.

Outstanding in the Services side was scrum half Gnr Andrew Vicary (7 RHA) who has been rewarded with a place in the England Colts final trial together with flanker WEA(A) Kevin Clough of the Royal Navy. Spr Dean Ryan (39 Engr Regt) has been selected as a travelling reserve and Gnr Mike Stewart (49 Fd Regt) a non-travelling reserve.

Stewart kicked a penalty, scored a try and converted a penalty try after off side South players had prevented a pushover. Other tries were scored by LAC Andrew Bush of the Royal Air Force and Vicary.

The Army colts also had a good start to the New Year. They just managed to get their match in against Blackheath before the weather clamped down. Blackheath were beaten 6-0 in an exciting game. Vicary was again outstanding and scored the Army's try which was converted by Pte Philip Cooper (3 R Anglian).

*Ian Carter R. Signals.  
RAF: Captain Flt Lt Ken Park, Chf Tech Pat Gillett, Sgt Tim Lewis, Cpl Paul Bird, Cpl Ian Paget. Res: Sgt Keith Richardson.*

Heat one produced a mixture of luck for the Army, although Cpl Ian Paget took race honours the next four places went to the Army.

At the events halfway point the Army had built a commanding 10 point lead.

In similar style as the previous heat Sgt Phil Hill took the chequered flag but the RAF secured the next two positions, however they failed to consolidate and the Army team gained two more valuable points.

In the final heat the RAF were left with the almost impossible task of taking the first five places to

win. Both 'supersubs' were brought into the fray at the expense of Cpl John Walton and Cpl Ian Paget. The Army sealed their win by taking first place for the third time with Flt Lt Ken Park trailing in the winner's exhaust.

After a highly successful event Air Commodore Offord, AOC A4Q Cyprus, presented individual trophies to the driver and handed the Inter-Service Karting Championship Trophy to the day's most successful driver, the Army Team Capt, Sgt Phil Hill. The overall scores being Army 105 — RAF 111.

## WINNING HIGHLANDERS

C COMPANY, 3/51 Highland beat 222 Squadron, RCT, to win the final of the Army in Scotland stage of the TA Football Challenge Cup. The score, after extra time, was 6-4.

It was an excellent cup tie which produced some first class football despite the icy conditions. 222 Squadron took an early lead when Lance Corporal Cameron scored from close in. It wasn't until nearly half time that C Company managed to equalise, through Private Meikle, and then go one up through Lance Corporal Ramsay.

But just on the stroke of half time Cameron scored again to put the two sides on even terms.

From long range Colour Sergeant Allan gave C Company the lead once more when play resumed. Staff Sergeant Duff levelled for 22 Squadron from the penalty spot,

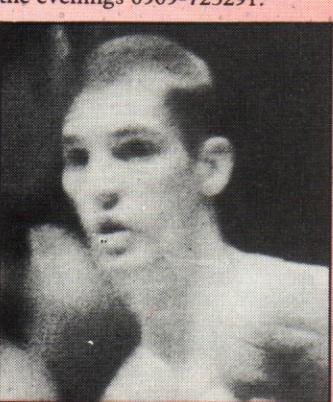
but Lance Corporal Cook soon had C Company back in front.

At one stage it looked as if the Highlanders would hold out until the final whistle but Lance Corporal McGovern got the equaliser.

The first period of extra time produced no score, but then Meikle and Allan put the issue beyond doubt with a goal apiece.

There were congratulations afterwards to both teams for such a sporting, yet highly competitive match in the arctic conditions. Trophies were presented by the GOC Scotland, Lieutenant General Sir Alexander Boswell.

The large exercises in September, the Christmas and New Year holiday period, and bad weather have all been blamed for causing fixture problems in some of the Districts cup tie competitions.



WE were in such a rush to tell the world of the Army's 8-2 boxing triumph over the Royal Navy that we selected the wrong caption for the photo on page 3 (11 February).

The man with hand being raised in triumph was not Lance Corporal Eddie Gajny (above) but Lance Corporal Ken Moore, 1st Battalion King's Own Border.

Our apologies to both boxers.

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