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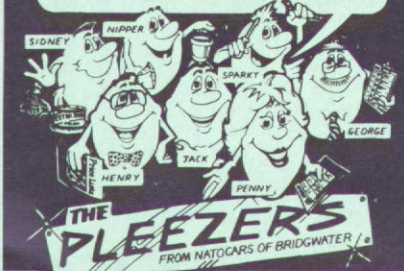
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FRONT COVER:
The longest dragon in the world? It is certainly very colourful!
See Page 25.

BACK COVER:
The Australian Rugby Union tourists start another attack against the Combined Services. Action from the recent match at Aldershot.
Pictures: Paul Haley.

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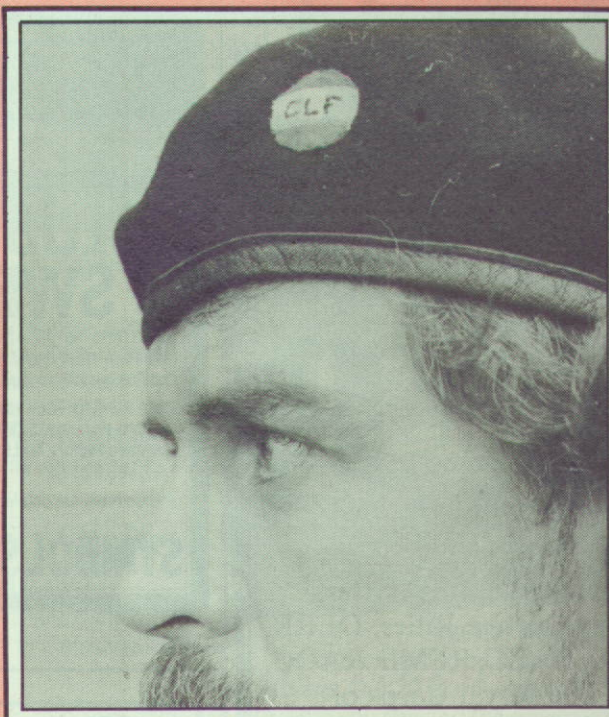
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SOLDIER

INCORPORATING
THE TERRITORIAL ARMY MAGAZINE



WHO ON EARTH IS THIS?

CLF? That rings a bell... but you could be wrong. Look at those lengthy locks! He is a former member of the Territorial Army and is now very famous. You can discover his identity by turning to page 16...

MIDFIELD BATTLEGROUND

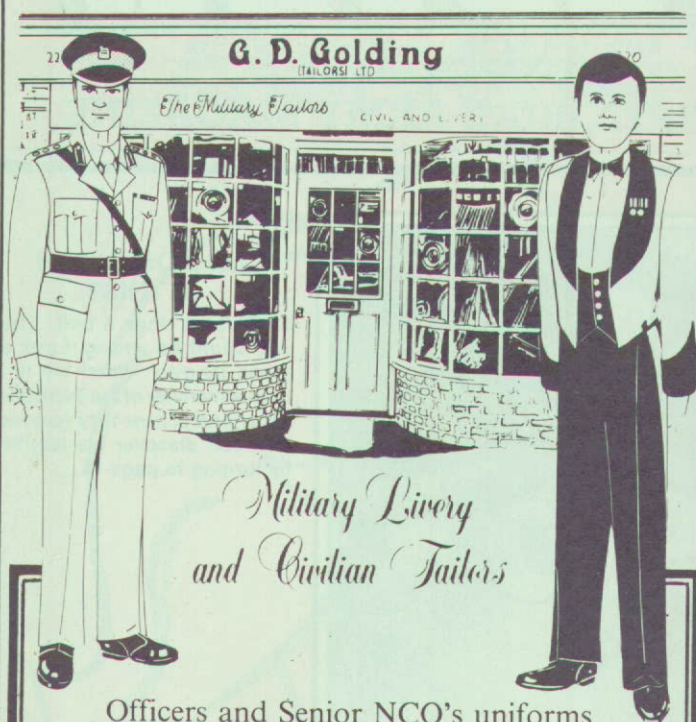
Sorting out who won this mid-field encounter with two Territorial Army players and an Army rival is quite a problem. The result of the match was not so problematical. Report and picture — page 49.



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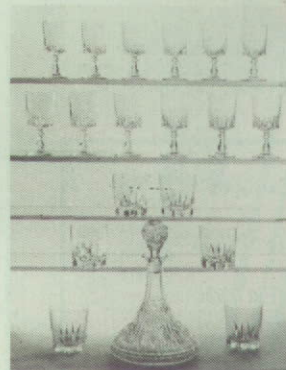
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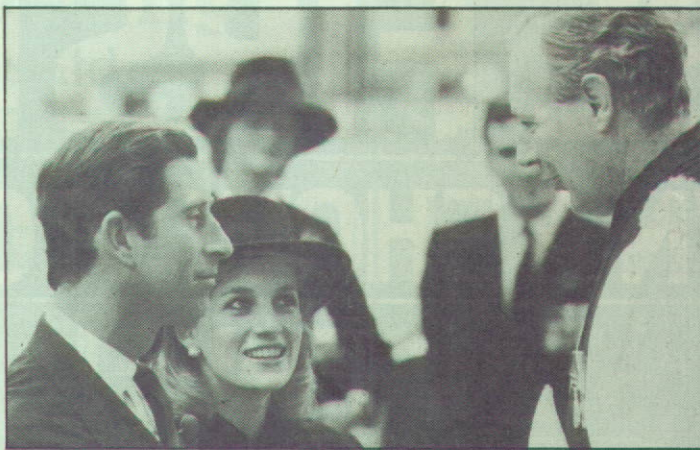


Girls can now join in army YTS scheme

THE Prince of Wales has had some contrasting engagements. During a day of national remembrance he is pictured right with the Princess of Wales talking to Colonel Neville Thomas, chaplain to the Household Division and of the Guards Chapel, Birdcage Walk. The service was followed by a wreath-laying at the Guards Memorial.

Prince Charles is Colonel of the Welsh Guards.

Below Prince Charles is pictured with Captain Mike Kitchenside in Sir Walter Raleigh, flagship of Operation Raleigh. The Prince took the helm as the ship left Hull on the start of its four-year, 120,000 mile journey.



The operation, with service youth project yet numbering 4,000 boys and girls aged between 17-24.

THE Army is coming into line with the Navy and the Air Force by offering places to young women under the Government's Armed Forces Youth Training Scheme.

Mr John Stanley, the Armed Forces Minister, said in answer to a Parliamentary question, that 50 places would be offered in February or March of next year.

Successful applicants would be employed as supply controllers, drivers, switchboard operators, post and courier operators, kennel maids and grooms.

Investigation Summary

MILITARY investigations into the death of Mrs Sheila Wenham near Pirbright Common, Surrey, on 20 April 1983 have concluded that no blame could be attached to the soldier who fired the shot.

An earlier inquest reached a verdict of death by misadventure.

The military investigation also concluded that there were a number of failures in the administration of the Stoney Castle Field Firing Range and in the organisation and supervision of the exercise.

A number of remedies have been proposed and are being implemented.

The bullet which killed Mrs Wenham was never found so it was not possible to identify the weapon and the soldier who fired the shot, which, as the summary of the investigation says, was fired well wide of the correct arcs of fire.

This was not the fault of the firer, whose aim would have been directed at badly placed targets outside the authorised arc of fire.

In Ethiopia

Warrant Officer 2 Paul Foley of 47 Air Despatch Squadron (RCT) has travelled to Ethiopia to investigate the possibility of air despatchers being required to aid the RAF part of the famine relief operation.

ACCIDENT INQUIRY

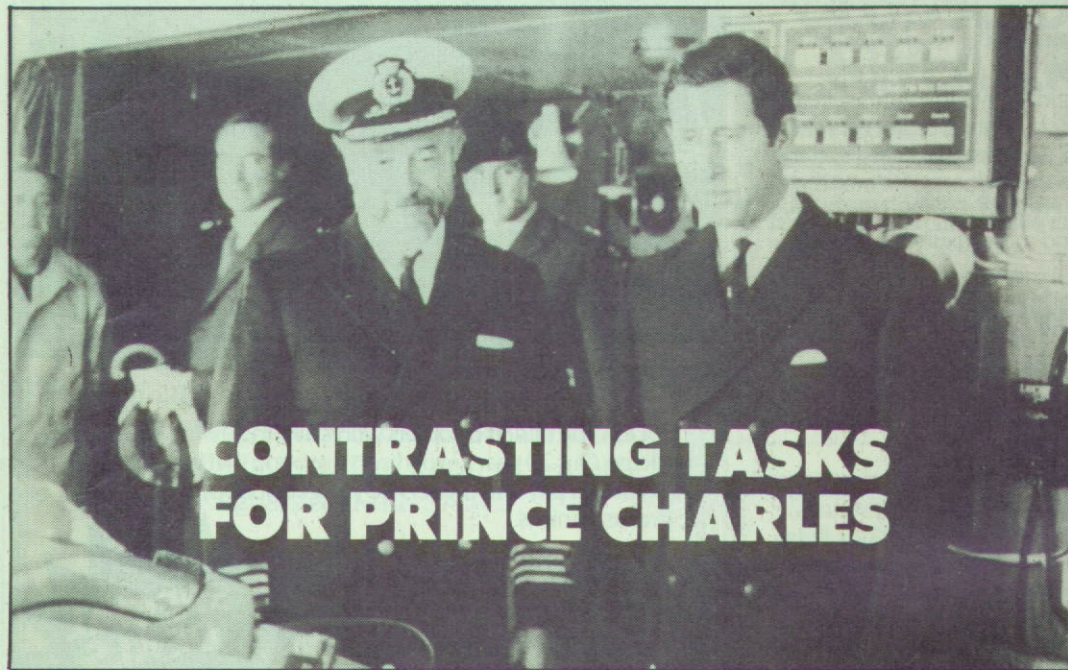
A schoolboy was killed, two other children hurt, and a soldier received chest injuries when the Fox in which they were travelling at Bovington, Dorset, overturned.

The children were in a party of 48 from Farleigh Preparatory School at Andover on one of a series of regular schools visits to the camp when the accident happened.

The soldier from 1 RTR, who was the vehicle commander, was taken, with the three children, to Poole General Hospital and was later said to be 'comfortable'.

An inquiry is being held.

CONTRASTING TASKS FOR PRINCE CHARLES



Brabant Island — last leg

AS Britain cools into winter, 16 servicemen were precipitating the onslaught of cold by flying off to Antarctica.

The final party to leave for the Joint Service expedition to Brabant Island, the group were to carry out scientific studies on the island where temperatures dip down to as low as minus 40 degree.

Led by a Royal Navy lieutenant Commander, but with the biggest contingent from the Army, the group were flying to the Falklands where they were to be met at Christmas by HMS Endurance and journey by sea on to Brabant Island to arrive in the New Year.

Helping to load their gear on to Endurance at Portsmouth in the picture are (left to right): Sergeant Willie Lawrence, RE; Lance Bombardier Martin Hughes, RA; Lieutenant Allistar Moffat, RE; Captain Tony Williams, RAMC; Lance Corporal Kerry Gill, R Sigs;



Second Lieutenant Simon Allen, 3 RTR; Captain Stuart Martin, RAMC; Lieutenant Richard Clements, R Anglians; Staff

Sergeant Graham Greenway, REME, and team leader Lieutenant Commander Clive Waghorn, RN. Picture: DOUG PRATT

DROPS, a term synonymous with medical solutions, has taken on a totally new dimension.

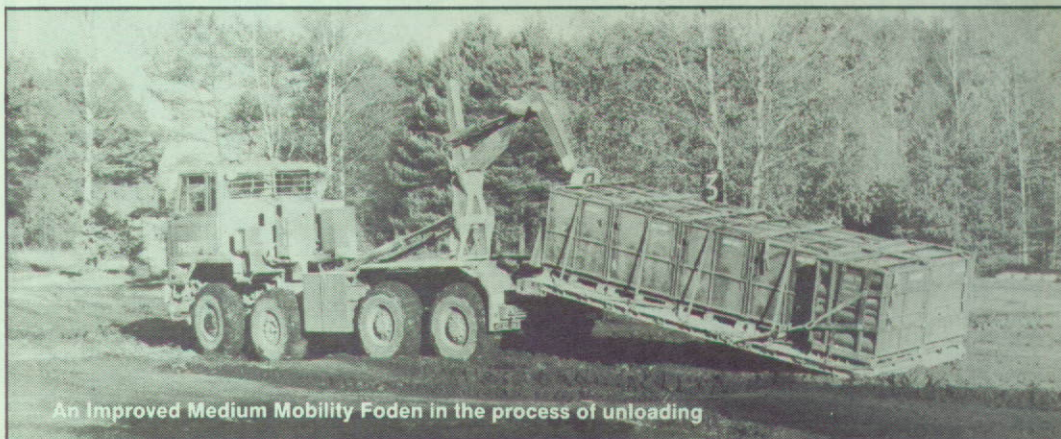
For top logistic experts in BAOR it denotes a capital project now under trial in West Germany that could revolutionise the Army's huge stores handling and replenishment capability for years to come.

And like many potential technological breakthroughs it is based on an essentially simple concept that can turn futuristic theory into practical performance in a matter of seconds. What is more, in doing so it promises to slice costs and operational time by massive margins.

The key to 'DROPS', trade jargon and acronym for Demountable Off-loading and Pickup System, is the flatrack — a highly compatible rack measuring 20 ft x 8 ft on which ten standard NATO pallets or Unit Load Containers (ULC's) can be loaded.

Once loaded, the flatrack can be easily handled as a simple unit right throughout the logistic chain without the need for cross loading which makes it a markedly better

DROPS — a new concept



An Improved Medium Mobility Foden in the process of unloading

proposition, in the opinion of the assessors, than the current system. This requires each pallet or ULC to be handled individually many times during its journey, demanding levels of manpower and equipment not needed by the challenging 'DROPS' method.

For manoeuvre action and rapid mobility 'DROPS' scores and is compatible not just with road and rail transport but air also.

The major part of this "concept feasibility evaluation" is being carried out under the guiding eye of Major Stephen Searle, Officer

Commanding one of the smallest and arguably newest British Army Unit — BAOR 'DROPS' Trials Unit (BDTU).

It is based at Crocker Barracks, Sennelager where it comes under the administrative care of 7 Tank Transporter Regiment, RCT.

MAJOR GENERAL Sir David Thorne, Commander 1st Armoured Division and his HQ staff left their offices 'en masse' for a day to host a visit to Hohne Training Area by Major General Henning von

Ondarza, Commander 1st Panzerdivision, and his officers.

This was the 10th anniversary of this 'Tactical Picnic', an annual event that gives the senior Armoured Division's staff a chance

A TACTICAL PICNIC...

to meet their German counterparts, discuss matters of common interest and examine new equipment.

Among the special guests at the get-together was Major General Julian Thompson, Major General, Royal Marines (Training and Special Forces).

General Thorne warmly welcomed General von Ondarza, Brigadegeneral Graf von Schweinewitz, the Deputy Commander, and their staff to the Hohne ranges before they saw a spectacular display of the latest in British Army equipment, some of it still under trial.

First piece of hardware to be put through its paces for the appreciative audience was Challenger, Britain's latest main battle tank, skilfully handled by men of 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, who recently received their first Challengers.

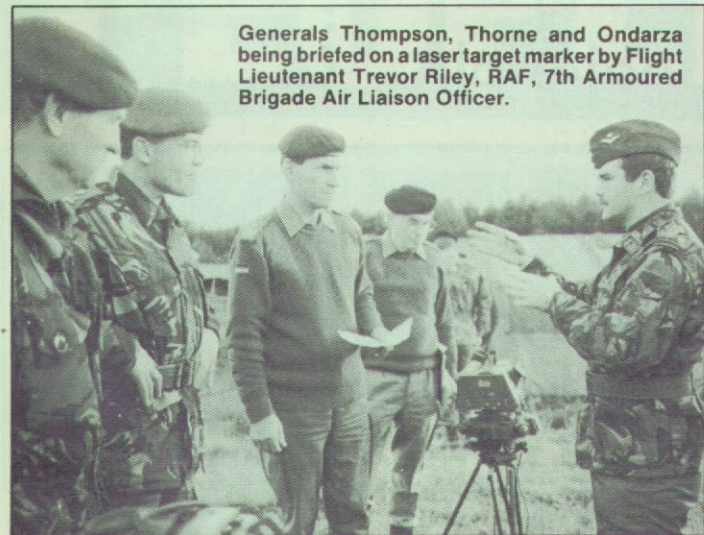
Also on display was the new

tracked Rapier air defence missile system, in service with 22 Air Defence Regiment RA, and MCV 80, a new mechanised combat vehicle on trial with 1st Battalion, Irish Guards. Having a top speed of 46 mph, MCV 80 is equipped with a 30 mm Rarden gun and a 7.62 mm machine gun.

SURPRISE

A surprise was in store for the spectators when the rear doors of the vehicle burst open and a Guardsman dashed out to exhibit SA80, the latest infantry weapon system, and new webbing which is still on trial.

A Chinook from RAF Gütersloh provided a grand finale to the show, bringing in a 105 mm Argentinian gun captured by 4 Field Regiment RA in the Falklands, to demonstrate this twin-rotor helicopter's underslung-load ability.



Generals Thompson, Thorne and Ondarza being briefed on a laser target marker by Flight Lieutenant Trevor Riley, RAF, 7th Armoured Brigade Air Liaison Officer.

Recovery rules — OK?

THE light was beginning to fail as the Centurion tank reluctantly left its watery grave, ground up the rocky bank and over the brow of the hill.

Reluctant maybe, but with the combined pulling power of two Chieftain armoured recovery vehicles working in harness to tow it clear, it was soon high and dry.

The recovery crew, sweating but elated, secured their giant 'catch' against slipping back, unhitched the 90-ton breaking-strain hawsers, cleaned up their pulleys and tackle and moved on to their next task.

Meanwhile the instructors set about returning to the flooded

quarry the venerable battle-wagon — still giving valuable Army service years after being built, albeit very different to the aims of its designers — for the next syndicate to get it back out again. And next time it might be in pitch dark!

However, such a daunting challenge was rapidly becoming 'all in a day's work' for the students on Exercise 'Samson's Pride 9'.

'Samson's Pride' is an annual vehicle recovery exercise, a gruelling course organised by the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, 1st Armoured Division, in Germany.

The aim is to train junior REME

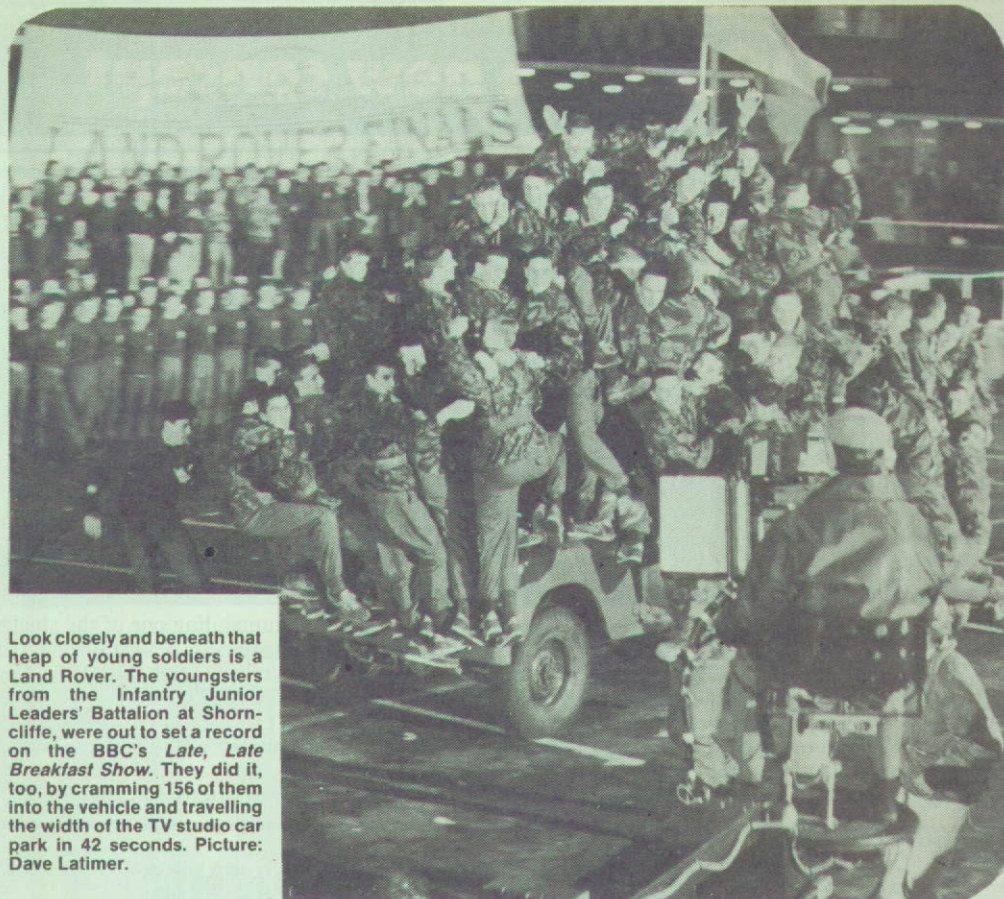


The first stage of recovery — and a wet one!

tradesmen in the salvage of tracked and wheeled vehicles involved in accidents either on exercise or while moving from one peacetime location to another.

Run by senior instructors from

7th Armoured Workshop near Fallingb., the course makes excellent use of the Army training ground at Reinsehlen, near Soltau in north Germany.



Look closely and beneath that heap of young soldiers is a Land Rover. The youngsters from the Infantry Junior Leaders' Battalion at Shorncliffe, were out to set a record on the BBC's *Late, Late Breakfast Show*. They did it, too, by cramming 156 of them into the vehicle and travelling the width of the TV studio car park in 42 seconds. Picture: Dave Latimer.

Whirlwind first visit for Royal colonel

A whirlwind schedule faced Princess Anne when she made her first visit to The Royal Scots as their Colonel-in-Chief.

Formally greeted by CO Lieutenant Colonel P J Cardwell Moore at the Kirknewton base, she was soon listening intently to accounts of the regiment's tour in the Falklands and its progression to a mechanised unit.

Visits to all companies and departments followed with emphasis on the battalion's training programme.

A presentation to the Pipes and Drums and Military Band of her own pipe banner saw Adjutant and Pipe President Captain Bob Wells hand the Princess a photograph.

Calls at the WOs and Sergeants' mess followed with lunch; then a visit to the unit's community centre and the presentation of bouquets by Leeann Steer, daughter of Lance Corporal and Mrs Steer, and James Fraser, son of Private and Mrs Fraser.

JOINT WINNERS

Two of the smallest units in Cyprus are joint winners of the 1984 Tickle Award — the Supply Depot at Dhekelia and 3 Army Dog Training Unit.

Major Paddy Davison, RAVC and WO1 Ivan Jones, representing his OC, received the award.

It's a fair cup!

Everything comes to those who wait... but you've got to keep working while waiting. That's what Staff Sergeant Jaeger and her colleagues of 114 Provost Company did. Now, for their road safety work in Berlin, the unit has collected the Police Adviser's Trophy for the first time.

Army cook puts RAF in a stew

A soldier cook has put the RAF in a stew. For Corporal Paul Francis, a cook with 21 Signal Regiment stationed at RAF Wildenrath, walked away with two firsts and a second in RAFG's culinary contest.

With stints in Northern Ireland and the Falklands behind him, 31-year-old Paul has to be good for his wife Karen is a WRAC cook at nearby 13 Signal Regiment.

Paul's winning entries were in the royal icing class, where his cake, decorated with Karen's name took top honours.



Cpl Paul Francis.

QUICK

Latest VIP to visit 49 Field Regiment RA, is Dr John Hapgood, Archbishop of York. His three-hour programme included a salute from a regimental quarter guard, meetings with military and civilian padres; a display of guns and equipment; a look at soldiers' accommodation; a dedication service; a commemorative plaque and collecting £300 from CO's wife Mrs Sylvia Burson, proceeds from a unit Families Day fete, for St Leonard's Hospice.

SPOT

Captain Dennis Skelly on an exchange posting to 158 Provost Company, Royal Military Police from the US Military Police Corps, does not see life through rose-coloured glasses. Swapping sunny Florida for windswept Salisbury Plain must seem strange, but as one of 300 captains eligible, it was he who found himself in the UK for two years. Now Commander of the RMP element of the UKMF he says: "It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience, the highlight of my military career. I intend to make the best of it."

On an exchange posting as part of the Veterinary Officer Exchange Scheme with 1 Army Dog Training Unit, RAVC, at Sennelager, Captain James A Blagg of the US Army Veterinary Corps has received his Meritorious Service Medal for his work with the US Army Medical Department of Fort Ord, California. Presenter of the 'gong' was Colonel C Durrant, Commander Veterinary Services BAOR.





A big smile that Willie can't see

A big smile from Mrs Joanna Cameron, wife of Brigadier Duncan Cameron, for World War 2 Black Watch veteran Willie Hardie.

But Willie, from Glasgow, can't see his visitors for he is blind. The Brigadier, Divisional Brigadier of the Scottish Division and formerly of the Black

Watch, was visiting the Linburn Centre of The Scottish National Institution for the War Blinded to see sightless soldiers at work.

Here Mr Hardie demonstrates his skill on a cane chair he is making. Next year sees the 70th anniversary of the founding of the institution.

PEOPLE

FACES and PLACES

QUICK

New tanks, role and location for 1RTR. This month their advance party moved to Hildesheim for the unit's new role as 11th Armoured Regiment BAOR.

SPOT



Adam Paxton



Simon Limb



Andy Townend



Terry Goss

Hot-foot record for 1 Para

When Private Terry Goss saw smoke puring from a house while taking part in 1 Para's bid to break the John O'Groats to Lands End team run, he dashed into the house, rescued a mother and her three youngsters and then continued to finish his five mile stage. And despite the lost time he still completed his section of the run inside his 40-minute limit.

Lance Corporal Andy Townend

and Privates Terry Goss, Simon Limb and Adam Paxton, rocketed over the 866-mile course to clip four hours 40 minutes off the record of six days 12 hours set by The Parachute Depot, Aldershot.

Now they've got the record, the four lads — all in their early twenties — hope to collect promised sponsorships totalling £5,000 for the spinal unit at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

Piper pips rivals for a dram

Two trophies and a bottle of 12-year-old malt whisky came the way of Lance Sergeant Brian Donaldson when he out-piped rivals to take the Bratach Gorm trophy and third place in the London Medallion event in London's Glaziers' Hall.

Brian, of the Scots Guards, is serving with the Army School of Piping at Edinburgh Castle and received his prizes from the manager of the Cardhu Distillery.



Mice on the menu

Somewhere a mouse is lurking. Artist Terence Cunéo indicates the whereabouts of his famous logo to the Duchess of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief of the Army Catering Corps. It was the occasion of the ACC's triennial cocktail party — a time when the Corps Director (at present Brigadier Keith Hudson) entertains senior officers and civil servants.

This year a feature of the event was the presence of Mr Cunéo and the canvas he has painted for the ACC HQ's officers' mess, Aldershot. It shows ACC soldiers serving with the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, during an actual incident at Port San Carlos in the Falklands.

In detail it reflects not only the professional catering aspects of the Corps, but the additional tasks of ACC soldiers in combat, like acting as medical assistants, manning weapon pits, helicopter marshalling and loading, handling stores, watch keeping and guarding prisoners.

★ **TERENCE CUNEO, THE DUCHESS OF KENT: a mouse in the field kitchen.** ★



FREEDOM OF NEWCASTLE

MORE than 240 members of 201 (Northern) General Hospital RAMC(V) marched past Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, along Cermeonial Way at Newcastle-upon-Tyne's Civic Centre.

Earlier, in the Centre's banqueting hall, the Queen Mother — Colonel-in-Chief of the RAMC — had received the Freedom of the City on the unit's behalf.

The scroll bestowing the Freedom was presented to the Queen Mother by the Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Councillor Norman Stockdale.

Selection of the unit for a Freedom ceremony was linked to the 150th anniversary of Newcastle University's Medical School from which many of the unit's past and present medical officers have graduated.

In her acceptance speech the Queen Mother said: "It is of special significance that this distinction should come not only on the 150th anniversary of the medical school but also in the 75th year since the formation of the General Hospital Corps".

"Since those beginnings you have served your country with courage and distinction at home and overseas in two world wars and in time of peace."

Northern General Hospital first appeared in the Army List in July 1909.

Disbanded in 1919 after serving in France, the unit was re-formed in 1937 and served in France and Egypt in World War Two. Disbanded again in 1946 the unit came to life once more only a year later.

In 1967 the unit received its present title.

The war role of 201 is to establish and staff an 800 bed hospital in Germany.



The Queen Mother meets the Second in Command of 201 (Northern) General Hospital RAMC(V) Lieutenant Colonel Jeremy Feggetter RAMC(V). Also pictured: Commanding Officer, Colonel Katie Clarke, the Lord Mayor and the Honorary Colonel, Colonel Hugh Brown.

Their strength is 53 officers and 191 other ranks nearly all of whom

work in and around Newcastle-Upon-Tyne.

Efficiency medal — 65 years late!

this day, he still finds shell fragments that have worked their way through his skin!

After World War I, he emigrated to Canada, joining their Customs service at Niagara Falls. Nothing was heard from him until he returned to the UK on a holiday in 1969. He enrolled in the Manchester Artillery OCA.

When he visited in April 1983, there was discussion about medals, and he thought that with War service counting double, there was a good possibility that he was due for his Territorial Force Efficiency Medal — so the Commanding

Officer of 103 Light Air Defence Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Peter Cook tested the Army's records of service documents.

Bombardier E C Knight 705150 — was indeed due for the medal, having qualified for it a month before his discharge in 1919.

Making a special visit to Manchester, Mr Knight received his medal at a special presentation held at Belle Vue Street TA, when Brigadier Jon Howarth — Commander 42 Infrantry Brigade and the North West's senior serving Gunner — made the presentation.

IT may very well be a record — a First World War Territorial Force Efficiency medal has just been presented to Mr Edwin Knight — who was demobbed in 1919 as Bombardier E Knight, MM, of the 2nd East Lancashire Brigade, Royal Field Artillery (Territorial Force).

Aged 90, Mr Knight was born in Manchester in April 1894, joined the then Territorial Force in October 1911 and served with his battery at the old Hyde Road Drill Hall until mobilisation in 1914, when he served in France and later in Gallipoli. Twelve hours before the Armistice in 1918, he was severely wounded, and three members of his gun crew killed by a shell burst on their position. To

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Selection headache in OTC boom-time

THE PROBLEM facing Lieutenant Colonel Colin Herbert, Volunteer Commanding Officer of Liverpool University Officers Training Corps at the beginning of their autumn term was one of numbers.

There were too many applications from freshers — men and women — from Liverpool University, Liverpool Polytechnic, Liverpool Training Colleges and Colleges of Further Education — and the OTC's Lancaster Detachment from The University of Lancaster, and from Preston Poly.

With his establishment ceiling — which would allow him to reach full establishment within a couple of weeks of the beginning of term, the only answer was 'selection tests'. The OTC and would-be members from the freshers were invited at Freshers Fair — a weekend at Halton Camp on the banks of the river Lune, just upstream of Lancaster.

Major Larry O'Connor, Detachment Commander at Lancaster takes up the tale.

"We wanted to tell the freshers what it was all about — but we wanted them to show us what they could do too. So with the help of the River Lune we made our selection.

While the 'seniors' were being trained by company officers, we took the junior under officers as instructors and squad selectors, and set up a series of command tasks and a watermanship exercises for the would-be members of the

Corps.

"With the help of 75 Engineer Regiment, we had improvised rafts, watermanship, lashing and knotting plus canoes and assault boats. While the newcomers showed what they could do, we were watching them, very carefully.

"We wanted to see who held back, would not get their feet wet, and those who waited for others to lead.

"The JUOs, the CO, the Training Major, Major Jim Taylor and I all compared notes and that's

how we solved our problem of how do you fit well over 100 volunteers into just over 50 vacancies!

"We then told those who had been selected the good news on the Sunday evening before moving back to Liverpool or Lancaster, and for those who tried but who were not selected — there is perhaps a chance of joining other

TA units nearby, or re-applying to join the OTC later in their academic career.

"But it certainly shows that 'the best club in the University' is not an easy one to join today as more and more undergraduates realise the benefits that accrue from service in the Officers' Training Corps."

Story and pictures: Chris Vere



Reviving Border Patrol...

BETWEEN the years 778-796 AD the Mercian King Offa, an Anglo-Saxon, built a dyke to establish a border between the plundering Welsh and the settled Anglo Saxon English, stretching from Prestatyn in the North to Chepstow in the South, much of which is clearly visible today.

'A' Company 4th (V) Battalion The Royal Regiment of Wales (24th/41st) based at Llanelli decided it was time that the Welsh TA soldiers should 'patrol' the border once again, showing that the modern TA soldiers were as durable as their forefathers.

A walking party of nine men, two women and a small admin party of three, left Llanelli and started to walk from Prestatyn at 1400 hrs going South some 176 miles (200 allowing for ascents, descents and the odd disorien-

tation!!).

Each member of the party carried a rucksack containing a survival pack and enough equipment to walk at an average of 24 miles a day.

Some nights were spent under the stars, which were mostly invisible through the rain, others were spent in TA Drill Halls or ACF Halls.

Some 102 blisters, one torn ankle (hospital), 4 damaged knees and a thousand aches and pains later the party arrived in Chepstow on Sunday having walked eight days.

The walkers were: — Captain R J Williams, Colour Sergeant N Ley, Sergeant A P Wright, Corporal J Morgan, Privates G Jones, D Thomas, J R G Jones, M A Brooks, S D Hopkins, Women privates E Jones, J Morgan.



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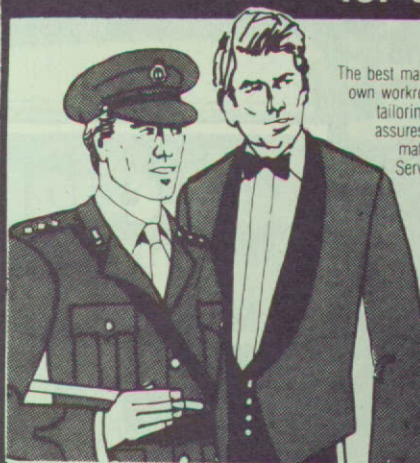
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SOLDIER to Soldier

THE Battle for Crete in May 1941 is not one of our happiest memories of World War 2.

The Germans took the island with a massive airborne invasion which demoralised the British, Australian and New Zealand defenders.

Though, it must be said, German losses were such that they never again attempted an airborne operation on a similar scale.

Losses for Allied ground troops totalled 1,800 dead, with the same number wounded and 12,000 taken prisoner. Thanks to the valiant efforts of the Royal Navy, despite suffering 2,000 casualties, nearly 18,000 men were evacuated from the island.

To commemorate the 45th anniversary of this tragic battle the newly formed Crete Veterans Association is hoping to organise a pilgrimage in 1986.

The association came into being last August and numbers at present no more than 30 members. But, according to the organising secretary, Mr Vincent Williams, of Birmingham, more are coming forward.

Mr Williams himself was a Colour Sergeant in the 1st Battalion, The Welch Regiment, one of the units which was in the thick of the fighting in Crete.

He joined the battalion after the battle but in the way of most organisations, he was persuaded to take on the job for want of other volunteers.

In 1981 he went to Crete and carried the only British war veterans' banner to appear at the 40th anniversary commemoration.

Anyone wishing to find out more about the 45th anniversary pilgrimage, or about the association itself, should contact: Mr Vincent Williams, organising secretary, 41 Cole Bank Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 8EZ (Telephone 021 777 1316).

LOOKING to the future, and with more pleasant subjects in mind, The Army Bird Watching Society is campaigning for new members.

Membership is open to any serving and ex-member of the Army, to civilians employed by the Army, and their families.

Members of the TA are particularly welcome. The AWBS maintains representatives world wide and within the counties of Britain and on most training areas, where it makes a significant contribution to conservation.

The Society produces a quarterly bulletin and an annual journal which contains articles on a wide variety of ornithological subjects of interest to the serviceman.

It also has a large selection of books, journals, slides and tapes available for loan.

In addition the Society conducts field meetings within UK and organises overseas expeditions. If you are interested write to: The Secretary Army Bird Watching Society MOD Defence Lands 3, Block B, 3/32 Leatherhead Road, Chessington, Surrey KT9 2LT.

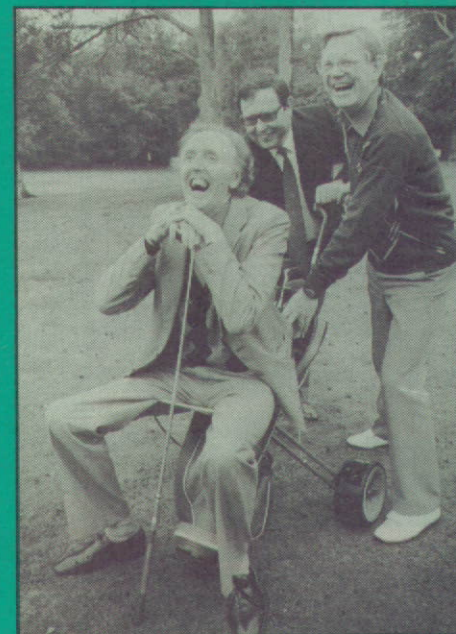
LOOKING forward to celebrating the 40th anniversary of the liberation of the Channel Islands are members of the Guernsey Branch of the Occupation Society.

Now, if any of our readers (a) served in the Channel Islands prior to demilitarisation in 1940, (b) were engaged in operations in or around the islands during occupation or (c) served in Liberation Force 135 and the subsequent removal of German Forces, then you are asked to contact, as soon as possible: E A Thomas, Multaulhof, 110 Fort George,

Guernsey, Channel Islands (Tel: 0481-21143) as soon as possible.

COMEDIAN Cardew Robinson is known as 'the cad'... or should it be 'caddie', as the master of mirth was caught on a golf trolley, about to be given the push by Army Golf Club captain Peter Compton, and Vaudeville Golf Society captain Bill Martin.

The occasion was a charity match at the Army Golf Club, Aldershot, and £600 was raised. After the match the Variety Club put on a show to entertain Army GC members to thank them for their efforts.



HAVE you looked at the prices of publications on your newsagents' shelves lately? If you have, you'll probably be saying "Aren't magazines expensive". SOLDIER can't really speak for the others of course, the £1 and £1.50 a touch glossies. There are plenty of them, and their combined circulations run into the hundreds of thousands.

So presumably there are hundreds of thousands of people who feel they are good value for money, even if they are costly.

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Since then the index of retail prices has risen by about 75 per cent; military salaries have at least doubled.

The time has now come, unfortunately, when the price of SOLDIER must also rise. We won't take any of your Christmas cash by raising the price before then, but as from the first issue in January the price will rise to 35 pence.

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There's a coupon on page 29 for you to fill in and send with your cheque/postal order — but it must arrive at SOLDIER before the first day of January to qualify for the present price.

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Robert Higson follows up Egon Ronay's glowing praise of Service catering by talking to some of the Army personnel involved. . . .

'OUR LANCASHIRE HOT POT MUST BE THE BEST IN THE WORLD'



No longer the mess hall. Junior ranks at 36 Engineer Regiment dine surrounded by potted flowers and shrubs. Below: Preparing for lunch.

The inspectors praised 36 Regiment for its lunch time omelettes, its "finely risen" Welsh rarebit and its "irreproachable" sweets.



Pictures: Les Wiggs

LIKE jokes about mothers-in-law, humour at the expense of Army cooking is out of date. The Army Catering Corps has never doubted this fact, but now they have got the authority of Egon Ronay to drive the point home.

Ronay, who has been in the past the scourge of motorway service stations and railway cafeterias, applauds the standards of Services' catering in "Egon Ronay's Lucas Guide 1985 to Hotels, Restaurants and Inns" (see **SOLDIER**, 19 November).

The findings of the Ronay inspectors, while very gratifying, came as no great shock to Brigadier Keith Hudson, the Director of the ACC.

"I reckon we are dedicated to producing a high quality soldier and craftsman," he told me. "First of all we look for a very high quality recruit. He's a volunteer, he's motivated, he wants to do the job and we offer very high quality training facilities in the largest and most modern corporate training centre in the world."

The calibre of the staff at the ACC Training Centre was demonstrated by the fact that two civilian instructors had recently won major awards at the International Culinary Olympics held at Frankfurt. Mr Brian Taylor came away with three gold medals and Mr Ian Cowley won one silver, one bronze and a certificate of merit.

As a matter of interest, the Brigadier added, the United States Army Culinary Arts team at this event was managed by Major Sidney Denham, ACC, on exchange from Britain.

And two team members had also been exchange ACC personnel, Warrant Officer 2 Ray Gernon, who won two silver medals, and Warrant Officer 2 Stephen Miller,

who took one gold and a gold clover leaf award.

In addition, at the Hotelympia — the latest British International Salon Culinère in January — the Corps had secured no fewer than 100 awards.

According to Brigadier Roy Skelton, Commandant of the ACC Training Centre, all this is proof of a basic training philosophy which has always put the emphasis on individual craft skills.

"A lot of armies — the Americans for example — tend to rely much more on systems as opposed to individual skills," he said. "They put much more of their resources into the preparation of foods, so that when they are prepared there is less for the cook to do and less skill required."

"We consider this, in the circumstances in which the British Army operates, unsound. We can never guarantee what's going to happen: in places like Belize and Zimbabwe, for example, our troops were actually being supplied with meat virtually on the hoof. So a cook had to be able to take the raw ingredient and produce a jolly good meal from that."

As Brigadier Hudson put it: "The aim is to ensure that the

soldier, wherever he may be, is fed to the highest possible standard. This doesn't mean giving him caviar or pheasant. But it does mean that our Lancashire hot pot must be the best hot pot in the world."

As many old soldiers will remember, this was not always the case. But Brigadier Hudson says the real breakthrough in Army catering came as far back as 1950 when "we had something called the Woolwich experiment where, as I prefer to say, we reversed the spoon on the hot plate."

"Instead of the soldier being given a portion of this, that and the other he was allowed to take what he wanted. Now this was revolutionary in Army terms because it had never happened before, and out of it sprung the opportunity to introduce a system where the soldier could choose what he wanted out of a reasonable variety of dishes."

Another very important change came later when the old system of doleing out set rations to units was replaced by a cash grant. These days a Master Chef like Warrant Officer 2 Barry Parker of HQ 36 Regiment, Royal Engineers, in Maidstone, has a daily messing rate of £1.11 for every man he has to feed.

"Now you can actually buy what you are short of," he explained, "as opposed to having, say, a lot of vinegar in the store and still having to take issue of more vinegar."

It also means that Mr Parker can respond to the wishes of his customers.

"We have mess meetings once a month where the soldiers can say if they would like different things on the menu, or if they find that too much of one thing is repeated. Complaints, like potatoes not being cooked, we actually get on the day."

"If they find there is something wrong they will return the meal to

us and we'll either change it or make amendments to make sure it doesn't happen again."

Mr Parker describes his customers as basically very plain eaters who do not always take kindly to new gastronomic experiences.

"If you try to do anything a bit exotic you find you've got to introduce it very carefully," he said. "You put, say, a Chinese meal up and although they won't actually take it — they'll take their sausages or omelettes — you say: Would you take some of that and let us know what you think of it. You introduce it to them that way."

Sometimes the introductions are not very successful. "We do things like carbonade of beef with brown ale and the first time they brought the steak back and said: 'It tastes funny'. The same with chicken chasseur done in wine. But it's all a matter of trying to upgrade their eating habits and standards, and then explaining to them what that funny taste is."

Mr Parker was the Staff Sergeant at the 36 Regiment main kitchens when the Egon Ronay inspectors came to call last May ("reading other Egon Ronay reports we thought we were going to get sort of pulled apart.").

In fact the inspectors were impressed with the "splendid choice" of dishes prepared on old fashioned equipment and under spartan, though spotlessly clean, conditions.

The report underlined one of the chief difficulties facing the catering management at this location: the fact that numbers fluctuate a great deal from one day to the next as the regiment's various squadrons go about their duties in different parts of the world.

Since May, Barry Parker has been promoted WO2 and assumed the responsibilities of planning for numbers that can rise in one month as high as 344 and sink as low as

139.

He has under his control 22 military and four civilian chefs and 10 civilian dining room attendants and kitchen hands. These days no soldiers do kitchen fatigues at 36 Regiment — except those given extra duties for some misdemeanour. Even spud peeling — that once traditional means of employing soldiers — is now done by the civilian staff.

On the day we visited the kitchens, there were 344 for lunch in the junior ranks dining room. They were able to serve themselves from a salad bar and a grill bar; they were able to get individual pizzas, or toasted buns known as cheese and ham dreams, or corned beef with fried egg, or Durham cutlets, or assorted omelettes. There were naturally enough lashings of chips, with the alternative of creamed parsley potatoes.

The young soldiers sat down to eat at tables already laid by civilian women staff who act as dining room attendants. These women are also responsible for the watering and care of the many potted flowers and shrubs that now give the appearance of a restaurant rather than a traditional mess hall.

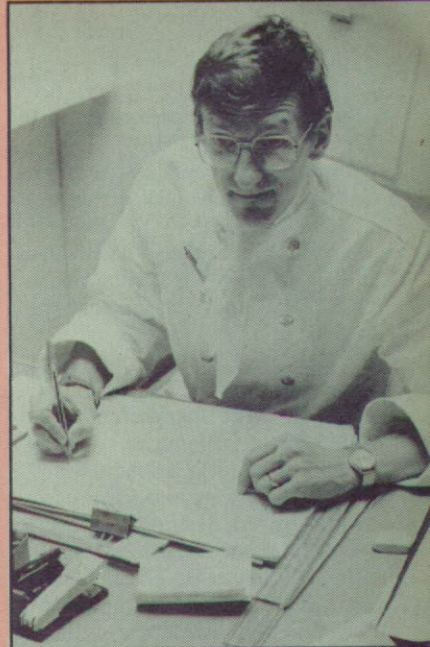
Catering standards may have greatly improved, the surroundings may have altered beyond recognition, but some things never change. There are always plenty of soldiers ready to complain given half the chance.

Some had just come back from an RAF Station in Germany where, they claimed, the food was so much better. Here there was only a reasonable choice if you got in first at the head of the queue, and if you thought the food was good you had only to look at the swillbins to see how much was wasted, etc, etc.

But there wasn't much evidence of waste when we were there and everyone we spoke to readily agreed that £2 a day (the amount soldiers pay for their meals when not on exercise or prescribed military duties) was very good value for money.

Mr Parker has no doubt that his kitchen maintains a high standard. He believes it is easier to achieve this in the Forces than outside because soldiers can be disciplined in a way that civilians cannot. Anyone not pulling their weight in 36 Regiment's kitchens will simply get his free weekend stopped. No civilian employer has this sort of sanction.

In fact this is only one of the reasons why Army Catering men are sceptical of Egon Ronay's suggestion, flattering although it undoubtedly is, that they could give much needed advice to their



"We maintain a good standard."
The man in charge, Master Chef of 36 Engineer Regiment, WO2 Barry Parker.

civilian counterparts.

"There is no short cut to having a really well trained craftsman, and, in our view, we can't afford not to have well trained craftsmen," says Brigadier Skelton.

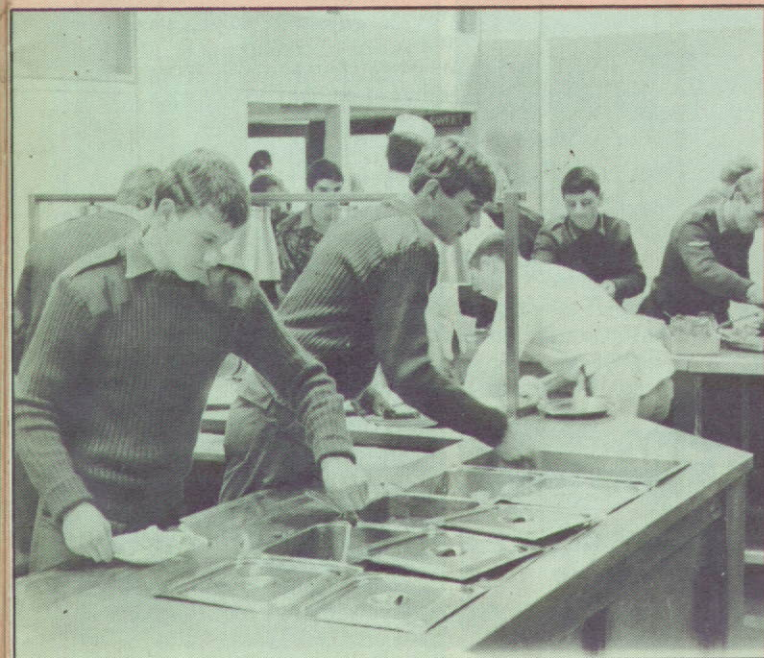
"Commercial caterers have a profit margin to look at, which is not a constraint that we have, and they have all sorts of pressures upon them to persuade them to use the cheapest way of producing food."

"It would be very difficult for me to give an easy tip to a civilian caterer where I don't have to operate in the same environment and the same climate."

Private Glen Perryman at work on the attractively presented salad bar.



The reversed spoon on the hot plate. Soldiers help themselves to the inevitable chips.



The answer to our page 3 question...

ACE SHOT and failed Bisley performer on the day, 22910736 Private Connolly, W. from Glasgow, a veteran of 25 para descents left his Glasgow TA Para unit because he became "deeply disillusioned, non-violent, non-nuclear, a folkie and one of the hairy people."

Instantly recognisable as Billy Connolly or the 'Big Yin' — he was on set at Shepperton Studios during the filming of 'Water', a story-line with a Caribbean flavour. His co-stars are two more former soldiers, Michael Caine and the late Leonard Rossiter.

Billy is cast as guerilla leader, Delgado Fitzhugh, complete with cammed-up guitar; the leader of a rag-tag Cascara Liberation Force (CLF) who prefers to sing his way out of trouble with a commercial streak to his nature.

Off the set for a few moments, Billy told me his entry into the TA in the early 60s had been a happy one, though he was unhappy in his normal job in a shipyard.

"I was beginning to panic in the shipyard. Is this my life for ever, I asked myself? Am I going to be an old welder? Then I met this guy, a carpenter or plater. He was a sergeant in the TA," recalls Billy, now 41.

"He was in the Paras and said I should go along to drill nights. He said it was great. They went to camps. They went to Germany. They jumped out of aircraft."

Young Connolly was convinced and joined the 15th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, based at Glasgow's York Hill.

He said: "I became one of them. We did a really strenuous test, climbing over things. I went

IN THE FILM 'Water' made by Handmade Films (Productions) Ltd., produced by Ian La Frenais, and directed by Dick Clement, Billy Connolly plays Delgado Fitzhugh, the island's singing rebel who is ever alert to a quick business deal; a man who has sworn a vow never to communicate in anything other than a discordant song as long as Cascara suffers under the imperialist yoke.

The diplomatic future raging round Cascara — now the fount of a medicinal mineral water in unlimited supply — culminates when Delgado represents the island's Cascara Liberation Front (CLF) at the United Nations. His music turns the General Assembly into a worldwide rock concert.

'Water' is due for release early next year.

BILLY CONNOLLY

Who looks back on TA days with affection...

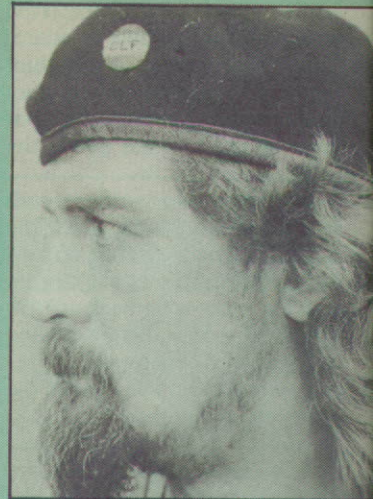
to No 1 PTS (Parachute Training School) at Abingdon and to summer camps in Cyprus, Malta, Libya and the South of France. I had signed on for four years but only did three."

Connolly liked the drill and the shooting. "I was an ace shot with the Enfield .303 — the king of rifles — and I was picked for Bisley. I was really good. But on the day I was really rotten. I must have been



Story:
Graham Smith

Pictures:
Paul Haley



BILLY CONNOLLY... as you can now see him!

drinking the night before and my eyes were not together."

He is particularly proud of his 25 jumps from static balloons, Argosies, Hastings and the tail-boomed Beverley.

A few years ago he was appearing at Southend and happened to visit a local aeronautical museum. All three types were exhibited there. "I felt so old. I had never jumped from a Hercules and, for me, the Beverley tail boom was the most exciting thing in the world."

But that excitement died for the Glaswegian comic, star of another recent film, 'Bullshot.'

He explained: "I got deeply disillusioned. A change came over me. I mixed with the folkies and the hairy people. I became non-violent and non-nuclear and really questioned what I was doing but I've still got a lot of pals around in the TA."

"The year before last, my old regiment was presented with new Colours by Prince Charles and I went to it. It was quite extraordinary. There were two guys who were in when I was. We got pretty drunk. In those old days some of the guys were talking about new weapons coming out and I found that a bit pretentious. But nowadays I look upon my time in the military, the TA, with great affection. I have learned a massive amount."

Part of that learning curve of militaria was passed on by one-time Private Connolly during filming in St Lucia when he showed "some guys a little bit of drill" including how to halt.

Connolly remembered with happiness his drill competitions in Glasgow and the time that his Glasgow 'A' Company would try to beat rival Edinburgh's 'C' Company who always won.

"I really enjoyed drill," said Billy as, in olive drab vest and disruptive pattern combat trousers stuffed into coloured socks encased in boots, DMS, he took to the set again for another 'take'.

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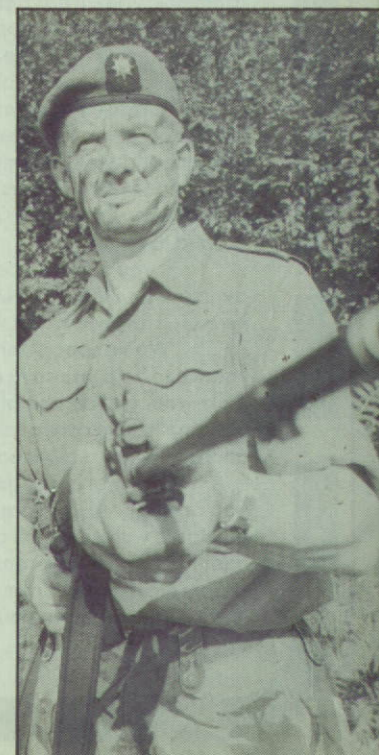
**Story: Paul Davidson
Pictures: Mike Cleary**

GETTING ON A BIT — BUT *NOT* DAD'S ARMY!

Time to clean rifles. From left: Dave Houghton, aged 45, Brian Morgan, 46, Brian Saunders, 47, Robin Gell, 46, Dick Hardwicke, 51.

with a heart attack — all for the sake of showing off.”

Like Robin, 47-year-old Brian Saunders was last in the Army as a National Serviceman with the Royal Artillery from 1955-57. Now Brian, who is the boss of an amusements company and a grandfather of four, finds he is enjoying being in uniform again.



THEY could be a group from almost any Regular or TA unit — except that these five carry an inch or two more round the waist than might be usual, and their hair is either grey or thinning. Or both.

This is not surprising. For the youngest of them is 45 and their combined ages add up to 235 years!

The five are all members of the Bedford-based No 2 Platoon of 3 Company Home Service Force — one of the four HSF Companies set up under a pilot scheme two years ago.

Within weeks of the launch the company (it also has platoons at Cambridge and at Norwich) was fully-recruited.

Since then the HSF men have shown themselves capable of fulfilling the home defence role the pilot scheme envisaged.

Lieutenant Colonel Alastair Veitch, CO of the 6th Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment — the TA unit responsible for No 3 Company — says: “The HSF contains some of the keenest and most dedicated members of the TA.”

“Over the past two years they have proved their effectiveness in

training and shown that they have a vital role to play within our defence plans.”

Yet for some of the new recruits of two years ago, joining the HSF was the first time they had been back in uniform since their National Service days nearly 30 years before.

“My wife thought I was bats when I told her I was joining the Army again,” says 46-year-old Robin Gell, whose only previous time in uniform was as a National Serviceman in the Royal Engineers of 1960.

Robin, who is a storeman in civilian life, is now a lance corporal with the Bedford platoon, and “loving every minute of it.”

“Some of the young lads looked at us in an old-fashioned way when we first turned up at the TA centre.

But once they saw that we could go and do it they accepted us straightaway,” he says.

“Going and doing it” means, for the HSF men, training nights at the TA centre, the odd weekend exercise, and joining 6 Royal Anglian for a few days at annual camp.

This year that was at the Stanford Training Area in Norfolk. And the HSF men were justifiably proud that they were able to take all-night exercises and living out in the field as well as the younger TA men did.

They even joined in a route march, carrying a 45lb pack for five miles in an hour-and-a-quarter.

“The TA boys did seven miles,” says Robin Gell, “but there’s no point in knocking yourself out at our time of life. We know what we can do, and we sometimes surprise ourselves by being able to do more than we thought.

“But it’s no use getting older if you don’t get wiser. And no-one’s going to thank you if you collapse

John Churchill — at the ready.

"I think that in retrospect we all enjoyed our National Service days, although we didn't want to do it at the time," said Brian, a private with the Bedford platoon.

"Now you've got the opportunity to do some of the things you skived out of then, and to find out that they are not so bad after all.

"Another good thing about the Home Service Force is that you get a chance to meet with other chaps your own age. We've all got similar interests, and the same sort of family backgrounds, so we all get on well together.

"I don't know why we've joined exactly. Some people like the camaraderie, others feel as though they are doing something for their country, and there's those who

want to prove something to themselves. It doesn't really matter, just as long as everyone fits in and gets on with the job."

Yet, as well as the ex-National Servicemen, the HSF has others for whom their new unit is just an extension of long years of Army experience.

Forty-six-year-old Derek Harrison, for instance, was a Regular with the Royal Engineers for 24 years, finishing as a WO1. Now he's a private and says: "I found it strange at first to be saying 'yes corporal, no corporal.' But we don't stand on a lot of ceremony in this mob — everybody just gets on with the job and it's all first-name terms for most of the time."

And Dick Hardwicke, 51, is now a private again after finishing 27

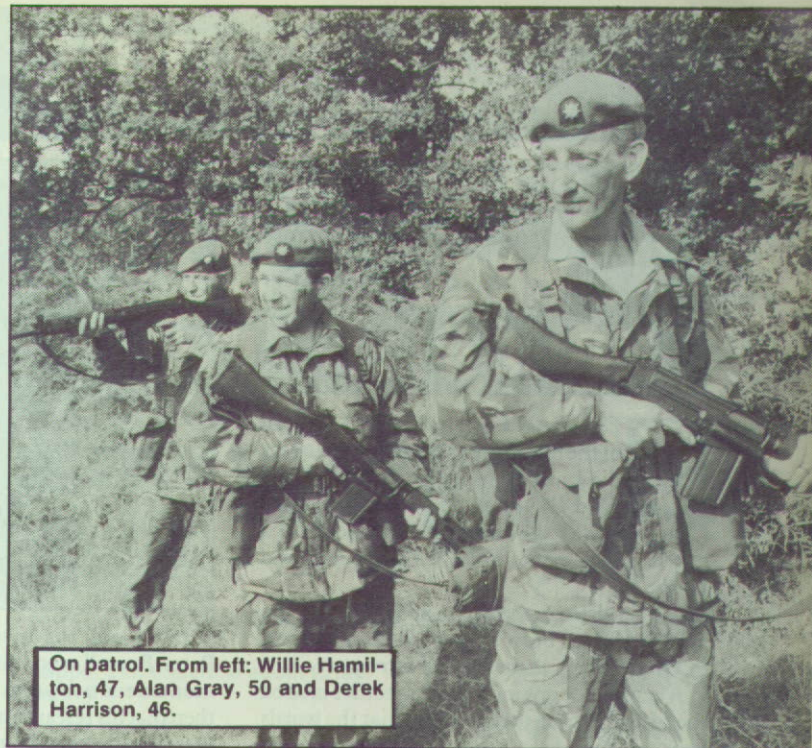
After a successful two-year pilot scheme in which four companies of the Home Service Force were set to assess their capability in assisting the TA in the home defence role, the Force is now being expanded.

There will be a total of 47 Companies — including the existing four — with a total strength of 5,000 men and recruiting is now getting underway ready for the expansion to begin next month.

The HSF is open to those who have previously served with any of the three services, and to others with certain relevant experience, such as the police force or cadet forces.

The training commitment is for six days a year and one night a month and the minimum age for enlistment is 20 and the maximum 50 (although exceptions may be made. The force is part of the TA and the less demanding commitment is proving attractive to those who would have difficulty in meeting the full TA requirement.

The maximum retention age is 60 and the HSF role is a clearly defined one in the defence of important installations. It is not a revival of the old Home Guard.



On patrol. From left: Willie Hamilton, 47, Alan Gray, 50 and Derek Harrison, 46.

years TA service with the REME as a WO1.

"It's a strange thing in that you are considered too old for the REME, where most of the time you are inside a workshop, and then you join the HSF and spend your time charging about the countryside or sitting in the rain in foxholes.

"We all find the physical bit hard at times — and when you look at our ages it's no wonder.

Yet there is a lot of experience here. Not just military experience, but experience of life, so what we sometimes lack on the physical side of things we make up for in other

ways."

The platoon's commander, 52-year-old Lieutenant John Churchill, has no doubts about the calibre of his men. "They are all absolutely first-class," he says.

Lt Churchill, who has 20 years' experience as a Regular officer with the Suffolk Regiment and then the Royal Anglians, and who won the MC in Oman, adds: "I think the Regular Army might learn a thing or two from us.

"When it came to choosing NCOs, for instance, we got everyone to fill in a form saying who they thought would be best. We elected our own NCOs if you like, and so we have some cases of ex-National Servicemen leading blokes who were senior ranks in the Regulars.

"We are only supposed to do one training night a month, but these chaps are so keen they are there every week. And all of them are mature responsible people so discipline is no problem whatsoever. You just say what's wanted and they get on with it.

"They are very good technically, too. We had a nightshoot recently when we got fantastic results, the sort most Regular units would have been more than pleased with.

"Even the lads who had not seen a rifle for 30 years were knocking up good scores, so it must say something for the National Service training."

Lt Churchill, who runs a recreation centre in civilian life, added; "I have no doubts at all that we could do any job that our role requires us to do. We have been concentrating on our fieldcraft tactics and any enemy who came up against us would be in for a bit of a surprise.

"We may all be getting on a bit, but one thing is certain — we are definitely not a Dad's Army."



A determined dash by four Bedford HSF men during a training exercise.

MAINTAINING OUR HERITAGE

CRIMEA HERO HONOURED

SERGEANT Major Robert Johnston of the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars died just over a hundred years ago aged 49 — a survivor of the ill-fated Charge of the Light Brigade and veteran of a list of engagements in both the Crimea and India.

A friend later erected a memorial to the gallant Dublin born soldier who came to rest in Grove Road cemetery in Harrogate.

A century of unkind British weather eroded the historic stone to the extent that the words became illegible and the crumbling masonry a forgotten tomb.

Now, through the efforts of many local people, ex-servicemen and today's Hussars, the gravestone has been restored to its former magnificence recalling both the glories and tragedies of a bygone age.



It was local bus driver and amateur historian Peter Burrell who 'discovered' the neglected monument two years ago. Little did he think then that his research into the Sergeant Major's life would lead to the grand occasion on Balacava Day this year when more than 200 people watched as Harrogate's mayor, Councillor Alec McCarroll unveiled the renovated memorial.

Mr Burrell contacted SOLDIER and an article in this magazine helped to re kindle

The standards of the British Legion and the Green Howards Regimental Association dip in salute, as Band Sgt. Maj. John Bainbridge plays the 'Last Post' BSM Bainbridge is the BSM at the Army Apprentices College at Harrogate.

interest in the memorial.

The repairs cost more than £800 and were met by generous donations including £100 from the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars who also sent four men, joined by dozens of veterans, to salute the rediscovered hero.

Cyprus Cemetery to be renovated

AN extract from the Cyprus Herald of Wednesday 24 May 1882 reads:— On 19 May 1882 "a small plot of ground recently purchased by the Government as a last resting ground for such of Her Majesty's troops or their families as may die in Cyprus, was the scene of the solemn and impressive ceremony of consecration by the Right Reverend the Bishop of Gibraltar".

One hundred and two years later the same plot of ground, nestling below the village of Polemidhia, now donated in perpetuity to the British Community by the Government of Cyprus, was the scene of a meeting of the successors of those military personnel and civilians of the 1880s. The purpose was to establish how British Forces Cyprus might help to renovate the cemetery which is now suffering from the effects of passing years.

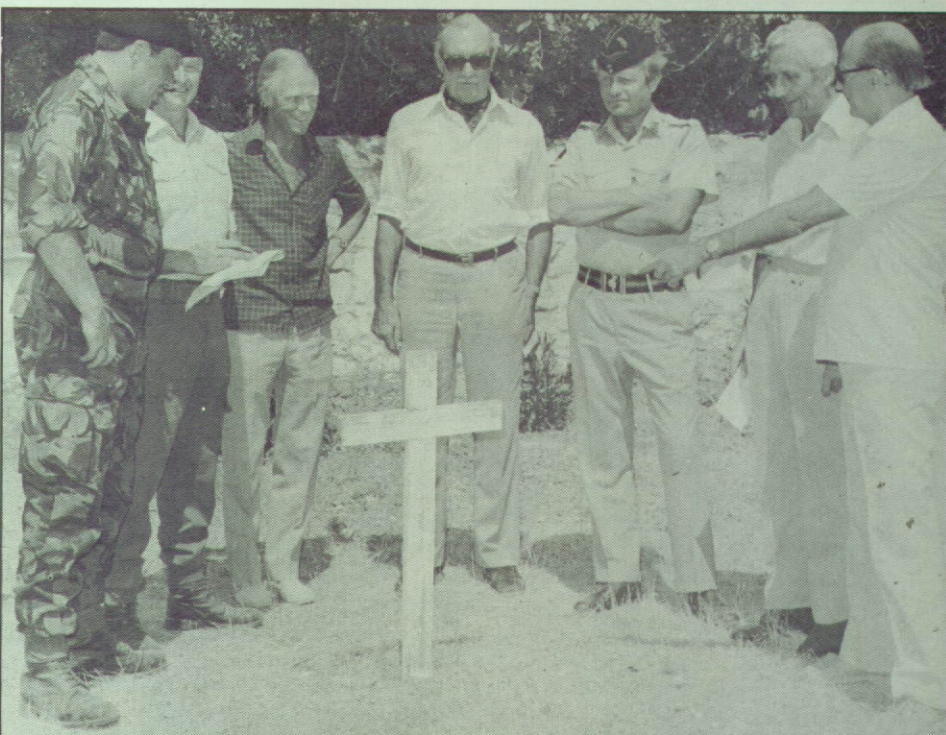
As a result of the meeting the sappers of 62 (Cyprus) Support Squadron Royal Engineers and the Royal Pioneer Corps intend to assist the British Cemeteries Committee by constructing new paths and repairing the boundary wall.

An appeal is being sent by Colonel Bill Dodd, Chief of Staff at HQ Land Forces Cyprus, to those successors of the first regiments that served in Cyprus, who have officers, soldiers and their families buried at Polemidhia, seeking their support, both moral and financial, to restore the simple old wooden crosses and unmarked plots with a more permanent memorial to those that died in Cyprus of fever, wounds and accidents.

Over 60 of the graves are unmarked and many are military. With the help of the

Ministry of Defence in Britain, the Register of Burials at Polemidhia kept at St Barnabas Church, Limassol, and an undated plan of the cemetery, it is hoped that every grave will eventually be identified and properly marked.

The Polemidhia site contains eight official War Graves which entitle the Committee to the princely sum of £3 per grave per annum, the only income apart from burials for the upkeep of the whole cemetery.



Left to right: Major Simon Douglass, the Officer Commanding and Captain Jack Gardner, the Projects Officer of 62 (Cyprus) Support Squadron Royal Engineers, Commander (Ret'd) Peter Robinson RN, Major (Ret'd) Jack Walliker of the British Cemeteries Committee, Colonel Bill Dodd, Chief of Staff at HQ Land Forces Cyprus, Major (Ret'd) Ernest Proctor, who works as a Retired Officer at the HQ Episkopi Garrison and Squadron Leader (Ret'd) Jack Fleming RAF.

SAPPERS 'FRESHEN' STANLEY WATER

Sapper Jeff Ingledew about to lay piping.

hammer on a JCB.

In replacing the town's old six inch steel cast pipe network, tons of sand were dug and deposited to bed the pipe.

In digging the trench unexploded Argentine ordnance was found as well as the odd rifle preserved immaculately in peat.

Commanded by Major Mike Wiggins RE, the Squadron is normally at home at Claro Barracks, Ripon, in support to the Harrier Squadrons of RAF Germany for whom it makes hides, pads and short runways; but the Squadron is no stranger to the Falklands.

11 Field Squadron had the first black berets in action during the conflict when they scrambled ashore to build Harrier pads at San Carlos.

Its pipe laying task at Stanley was divided into two stages, using the World War 1 memorial as the half way mark.

From there 1 Troop under Staff Sergeant Peter Johnson worked its way past the Cable and Wireless dish, up the hill and around Government House to Dairy Paddock Reservoir overlooking Port Stanley, while 2 Troop under Staff Sergeant Gordon Woods was responsible for the waterfront work from the memorial hugging the coastline past the Beaver hangar, the golf course and the slaughterhouse on to Moody Brook Water Treatment Plant.

On completion of this task that provides a new fresh water supply for the town, the Squadron embarks in the SS Uganda leaving the Falklands next month.

Staff Sergeant Johnson indicating progress to Major Wiggins.

A PIPE laying task over four kilometres sounds an uninteresting routine assignment for any unit.

Yet when 60 Sappers of 11 Field Squadron, 38 Engineer Regiment stationed in the Falklands were tasked with laying a new eight inch water main from Moody Brook Water Treatment Plant to the Dairy Paddock Reservoir overlooking Stanley, they had a few surprises.

Starting in September and allocated 15 weeks for the job they will certainly be finished earlier than expected despite setbacks such as rock outcrops, peat beds and their draining problems; Argentine military equipment and ordnance that on occasions cut back progress to only 15 metres for a solid week's work.

Eventually the rock outcrop behind Government House was cleared by using a Montebert rock



**Story: Keith Ansell
Pictures: Paul Cowper**

OPINION

SSAFA: Do we all know what these letters stand for? Yes, you will say, but it may surprise you that there are thousands of people who don't know it stands for Soldiers' Sailors' & Airmen's Families Association, and this applies to some serving and some ex-Service families.

SSAFA's centenary year slogan "100 years of family care" will be seen throughout 1985, in the hope that along with the many and varied functions, SSAFA will be brought to the hearts and minds of many who may not realise that this caring organisation is there to help.

SSAFA centenary year will not have fund raising as its major function but will put across the message that SSAFA is there to help and that SSAFA does need more, lots more,



voluntary workers.

Following a recent TV announcement in Wales, within a week 319 letters and phone

calls were made to the office.

So the need for volunteers is ever with us. Support, and training expenses can be given. Service wives of all ranks are welcome, so do think SSAFA in 1985.

You just never know when you or a friend may need SSAFA.

So please do publicise the fact that SSAFA is 100 years old in 1985. Your branch will have all the information on centenary year.

I have worked for SSAFA at home and abroad for nearly 20 years and seen the volunteers dwindle from 12,000 to 6,000, yet the work grows. As a recent SSAFA advert says: "Remember your very special wedding present to your wife, SSAFA's help for the rest of her life and yours too. We need you."

Throughout 1985 we will be covering this historic year in SOLDIER's families pages.

There will be a national



centenary flag week in May — just one of the areas where helpers would be welcome. Do support SSAFA events in your area, be it a tattoo or thanksgiving service.

Contact your local SSAFA representative whose address can be found in the Post Office or telephone book. If not, write to: 27 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1H 9BZ or telephone — 01 222 9221.

Anne Armstrong

Home tel: Camberley 29653

STOP THE YOUNG SMOKERS!

A GOVERNMENT survey shows that one in four 16-year-olds is a regular smoker, and other research suggests that regular adult smokers had their first cigarette before they were nine.

The Pacesetters Campaign is one of a range of Health Education Council activities (designed to cut the number of young smokers) which include school health education courses and a research programme.

The posters are designed to appeal to young people aged from eight to thirteen, and are available free.

To support the campaign, a wallchart has been mailed to all schools with children in the target age range in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The chart is accompanied by advice to teachers on how to use it, suggesting classroom exercises and subjects for debate.

Stars from showbusiness and sport are joining a Health Education Council campaign to persuade young people not to smoke.

'Pacesetters don't smoke' is the slogan appearing on posters which feature June Croft, the swimmer; Lenny Henry, the comedian; Finola Hughes, the dancer and actress; Nik Kershaw, the pop singer; Liverpool Football Club; Lesley McNaught, the show-jumper; Daley Thompson, the decathlete.

Other stars who are backing the campaign include athletes Sebastian Coe and Wendy Sly, England cricket captain David Gower,

snooker player Tony Knowles, badminton player Helen Troke, and pop singer Hazell Dean.

The HEC hopes that others will

come forward following the campaign launch.

The aim of the venture is to persuade children and young

people that smoking is neither grown-up nor sophisticated, factors which research has found to be important among young people who take up the habit.

CANCER

The Health Education Council's recent releases are well worth adding to your wives club library and for individuals families.

"Can you avoid Cancer?" is a free 30 page publication, supporting a recent BBC TV series. Although 150,000 people are estimated to die from cancer in Britain each year, experts believe that about one third of cancer deaths can be prevented.

Copies are available from: The Health Education Council, PO Box 419, London, SE99 6YE.

THRUSH

Do you know what Thrush is? It affects many women at some time in their lives but so often is not talked about.

If you want to know more then the Health Education Council has produced a pocket eight-page 'Self Help Guide to Thrush'.

Free from Local Health Education units or from: Thrush booklet, PO Box 414, London SE99.

MEASLES

"Measles is Misery — your children needn't have it" poster and leaflet available from your Local Health Council. Overseas write to: The Health Education Council, 78 New Oxford St, London, WC1A 1AH.



YOUR LETTERS

WHENEVER you go to a different location in Germany you are faced with many problems, the first being the language; the second not having any idea where anything is.

I feel the majority of people have the same problems. The frustration of not knowing where the filling stations are, the school, hairdresser, hospital, even where the camp is to begin with.

Here we got lost trying to find the place and another couple took four hours. A waste of time.

It is a fact that not every NAAFI can supply the needs for shopping.

My idea is this: to put on sale or offer in the home when you arrive a cassette giving the directions for shops to buy food, clothes; restaurants, petrol station, hospital, SSVC, Post Office... the list goes on. When you arrive you could play the tape in your car or at home.

If they were sold in the NAAFI you would have all the information before you even left your other posting.

In the tape you could have places of interest and so on. It would be a good project to give to the wives clubs. It would be so easy to do. I feel this idea could benefit the families and I feel we need all the help we can get. Thanks for listening. — Mrs C, BFPO 33.

This idea has some merit. We all know that when faced with a new posting we are very eager to find out more, both on the civilian as well as

the military net.

So what about a tape? Sadly, people do not read so much, but to listen to the information while in the car or in your quarter could be most interesting.

What about it?

The MOD have explained the position for families returning to UK without a Child Benefit payment book.

"The current dispute does not involve all computer operations and new books are being issued — albeit after a delay of about 10 weeks.

"The contingency plan was designed to take effect in the event of a total shutdown and the inability of service dependants returning from abroad to obtain benefit. The current strike position means that were the Service to issue CB through pay it would be possible for both MOD and the DHSS to be paying benefit at the same time. This is clearly unacceptable.

"We have been assured by the DHSS that during the time lag period emergency payments can be received from local offices, but only where financial hardship can be proved."

I HAVE been told that there are admissible extras which are allowed for children at boarding school. My daughter wants to take up ballet but it will be quite an extra expense, my son is only 13 but when he's 14 he can add carpentry as an extra to the ones he's already doing.

Will we have to pay for this also? — (Name and address supplied).

The rules that govern what is admissible and what is inadmissible as an extra on the school bill are laid down in Army Allowances and Charges para 1216. The full list can be found in Unit Pay Offices or I have lists available on request.

HELP TO SAVE THE HOSPITAL PLAYScheme

HELP! The Cambridge Military Hospital, the Army Reference Centre for Paediatrics, needs £6,000 to save the Save the Children Hospital Playscheme from closure on 31 March '85.

The Hospital Playscheme, born during International Year of the Child, has been funded by Save the Children Fund for three years.

Their play specialist Annie Colligan has comforted, amused and supported 1,400 in-patients and 800 out-patients plus their visiting brothers and sisters in 1984 alone.

Hospital play schemes are an essential part of a children's ward, and this scheme has established a valuable service.

If we could raise £1,500 in UK, £1,500 in Germany, and Hong Kong, Cyprus and Gibraltar £500 each, this would give the scheme a little more time to raise the rest of the £6,000.

The majority of children are admitted without warning because of accidents and emergencies. When parents cannot be there, the hospital play worker has an important role.

Surely we can save this marvellous project for the sake of those who might have to have a spell in the Cambridge Military Hospital Children's Ward.

As Col Rennie Marshall, the Consultant Adviser in Paediatrics to the Army, and resident at the



Annie Colligan — pictured at the start of the scheme with two 'customers'

Cambridge, says: "I think that this is an essential service as has been shown in civilian hospitals.

"We should certainly not accept standards less than those required by the National Health Service.

"This scheme is even more important for children who are long-stay patients, and for those who come back from overseas."

Please send contributions to: Commanding Officer, Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot, Hants.

Computer Studies has now been added to the list of admissible extras.

Ballet is an inadmissible extra whereas woodwork is admissible but it does depend on each school bill as to whether it is a composite or consolidated extra. That is why it is best to check first otherwise you may have to pay if the extra does not

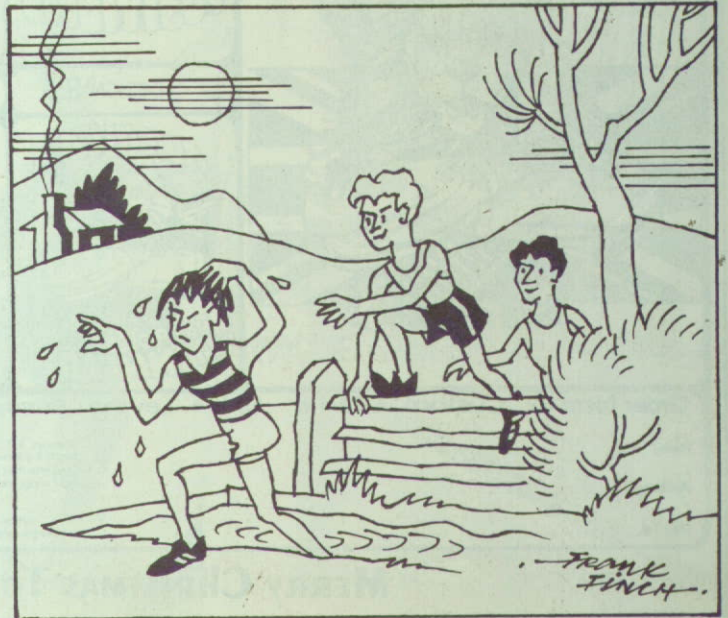
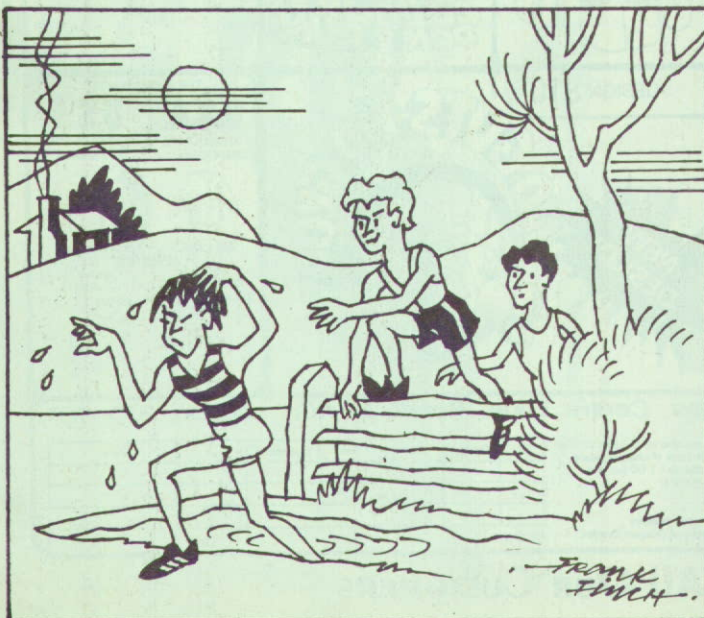
fulfil the criteria laid down.

Information from your Unit Education Office where a full list should be held.

● Please keep your letters brief and we must have a name and address — even if you wish to remain anonymous in print.

How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences turn to page 40.

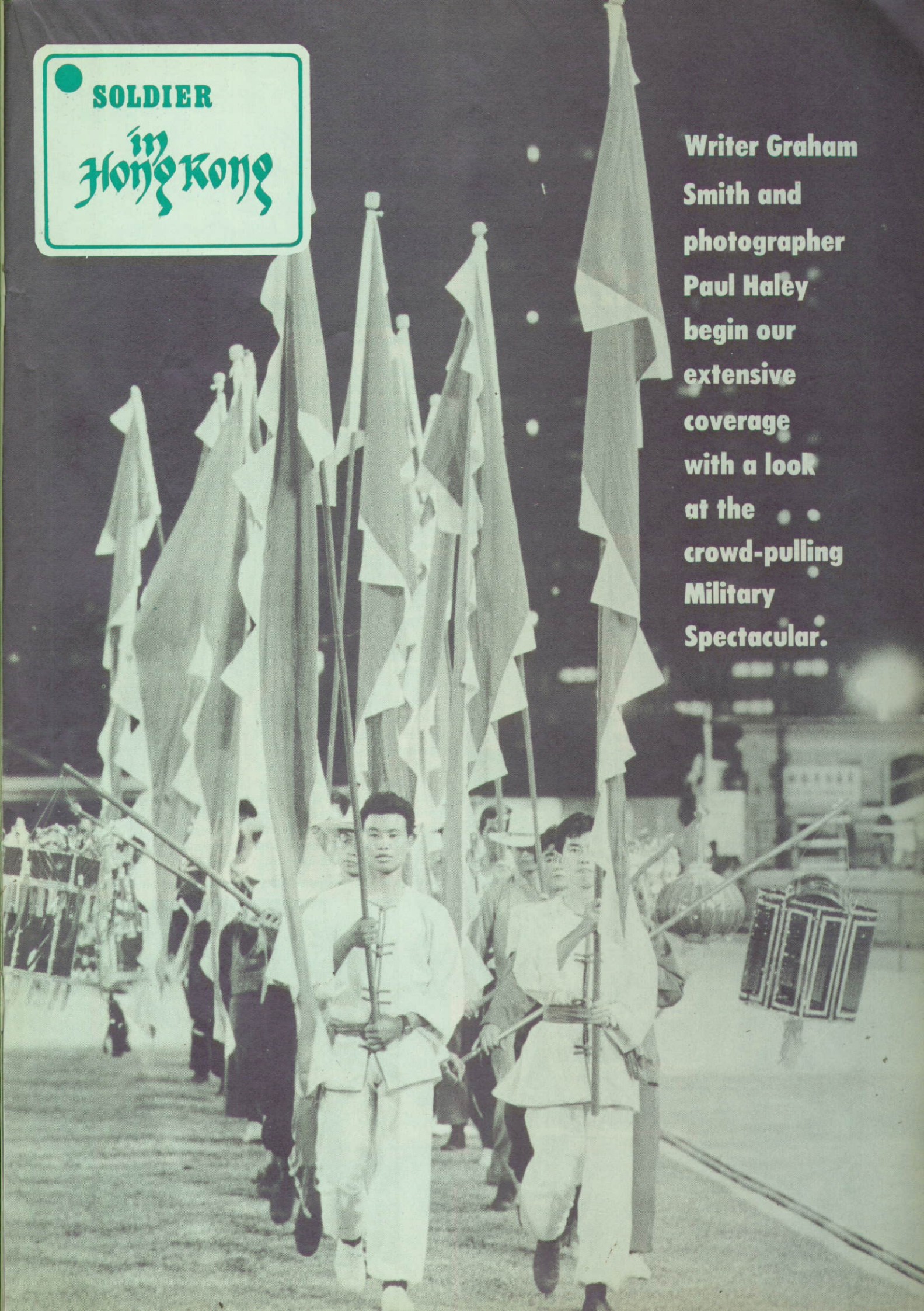




SOLDIER

*in
Hong Kong*

**Writer Graham
Smith and
photographer
Paul Haley
begin our
extensive
coverage
with a look
at the
crowd-pulling
Military
Spectacular.**



Extravaganza aids SSAFA

MEN FROM The Cheshire Regiment, the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals and the Brigade of Gurkhas were among the 800-plus Hong Kong based tri-service personnel who took part in a military spectacle of 'soldierly craft seldom seen in public' for an estimated 28,000 onlookers at the Colony's Stadium.

It was an extravaganza designed to raise funds for a local charity and the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmens' Families Association (SSAFA).

Flown out from the UK to play as part of the massed band finale

and as individual input was the 50-strong Band of the Royal Corps of Signals which complemented the musical miscellany supplied by the Band and Drums of the resident 1st Battalion, The 22nd

◀ Gurkhas light the way with torches.

(Cheshire) Regiment.

The regiment which is on its first Hong Kong tour — it took over from the Scots Guards — delighted thousands of hand-clapping locals with an energy-sapping relay race which tested the unit's infantry skills and physical stamina to the full.

The platoons from 'A' Company — unabashedly calling themselves the A-Team of TV fame — competed in the race over obstacles which had been set out in four sections.

Three GPMG teams sprinted the length of the Colony's famed arena, over the three obstacles, assembled the rapid-firing weaponry and pumped off 20-round bursts each.

The second element of the relay involved a stretcher or 'casevac' section and the third phase, the man-handling of hefty food ration boxes on to two-wheeled trailers.

The final section which heightened the crescendo of audience approbation involved the Cheshires tugging the laden trailers behind them to the finishing line in a total time of less than three minutes.

◀ All action in The Cheshires relay.

Grand parade of all the entertainers.

The organisers were certainly keeping their promise of a 'feast of military music', too, with the marching display and the skirl of pipes from an, at first, unlikely source — the Pipes and Drums of the 8,500-strong Brigade of Gurkhas.

It was these small fighting men from the mountain kingdom of Nepal who set the oriental theme of impending lion and dragon dances — this, involving the longest dragon 'anywhere', presumably, Hong Kong. All 200 metres of it were kept aloft by swerving men fielded by the Colony's Hong Kong Military Service Corps (HKMSC) and the Corps of Transport.

Among the performers taking to the floodlit arena bathed in brilliance by some 250 gantry-mounted arc lamps were four fire eaters, a pair of uni-cyclists, acrobats, four scurrying rickshaws on loan from a film company, and even a couple of subdued water buffalo depicting Chinese heritage of foregone eras, their coolie-hatted companions giving encouraging nudges.

Local flavour from Chinese dancers.

The theme of entertainment oriental style was further perpetuated by five traditional Nepalese dances accompanied by singing, drumming and 40 flaming torches presented by the men — half-a-dozen of them dressed as lady dancers — of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles.

Another highlight of the two-hour show in the valley setting with slim, high-rise luxury apartments and scanty squatters' huts for neighbours, was a continuity display of foot and arms drill in complete silence put on by the Junior Leaders Corps of The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) — the Colony's own TA. They were accompanied by the Band and Drums of The Royal Hong Kong Police.

Major Lau Po-chi, a Volunteer officer, said of the latest generation teenage soldiers: "The boys of the Corps come from all over Hong Kong and carry out general military training on two weekend days each month. The aim of the training is not so much to make them good soldiers but to make

them responsible citizens of Hong Kong.

"It's in teaching teamwork that the silent drill comes into its own. To reach the standard required for a public display some extra rehearsals have been needed but all of them had to be out of school hours.

"The principle qualities needed for the silent drill are a good memory, quick reactions and, above all, that teamwork."

More British Army input came from the 21-man motor cycle display team toggled up in traditional white overalls and white helmets. The men, from 29 Squadron, RCT, lived up to their billed 'short, exciting and spectacular' appearance in all the usual tableaux of positions associated with such displays of co-ordinated mobile skills.

Architect of the spectacular was Major Aubrey Jackman for whom the Hong Kong display was his 86th offering for the Services. His last promotion of that ilk on the Colony was 1973.

In 1977 he was producer of the Services' contribution to the Silver

Semaphore skills of sailors and Wrens.

Jubilee Pageant and has since produced others in Paris, Brussels, BAOR, the Oman, Canada and 22 such shows in the UK alone.

Major Jackman is also the producer of the Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo.

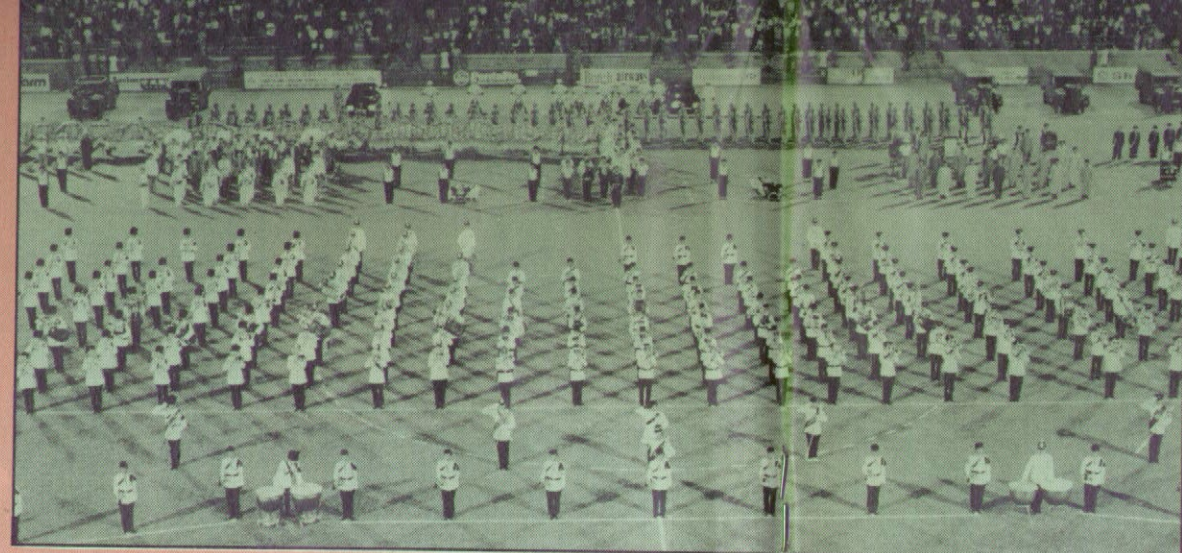
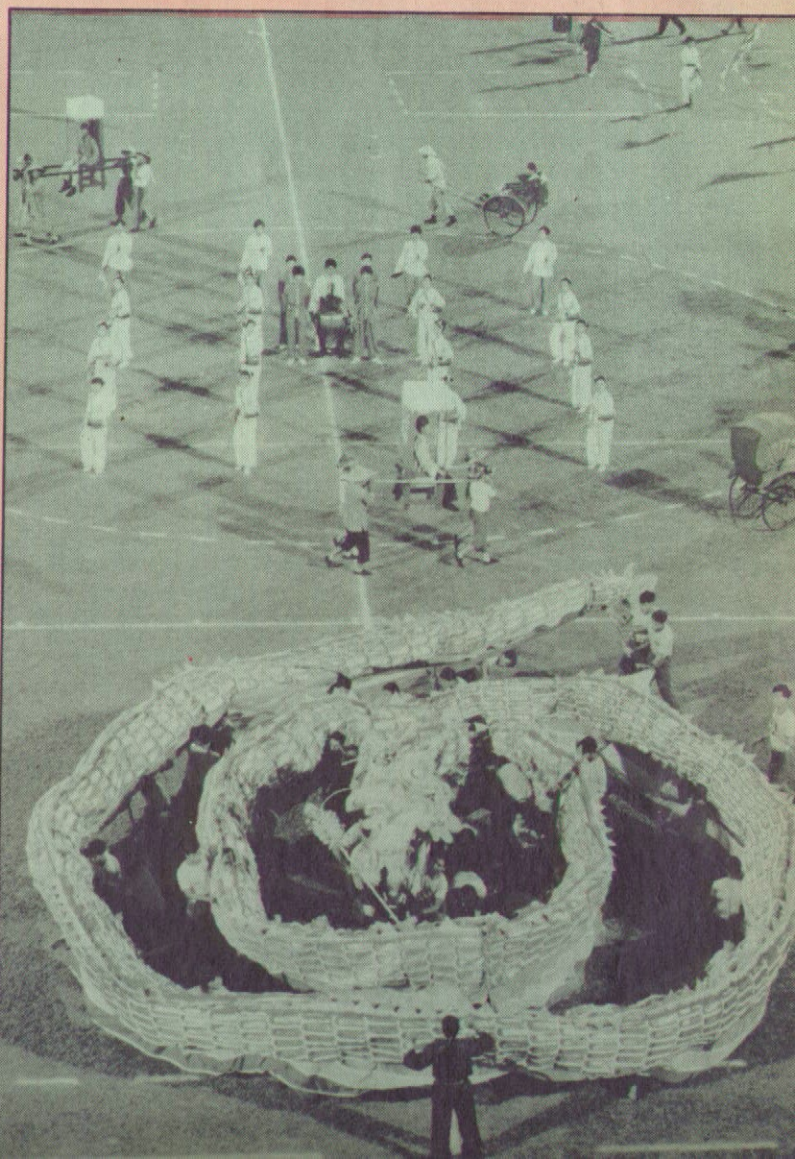
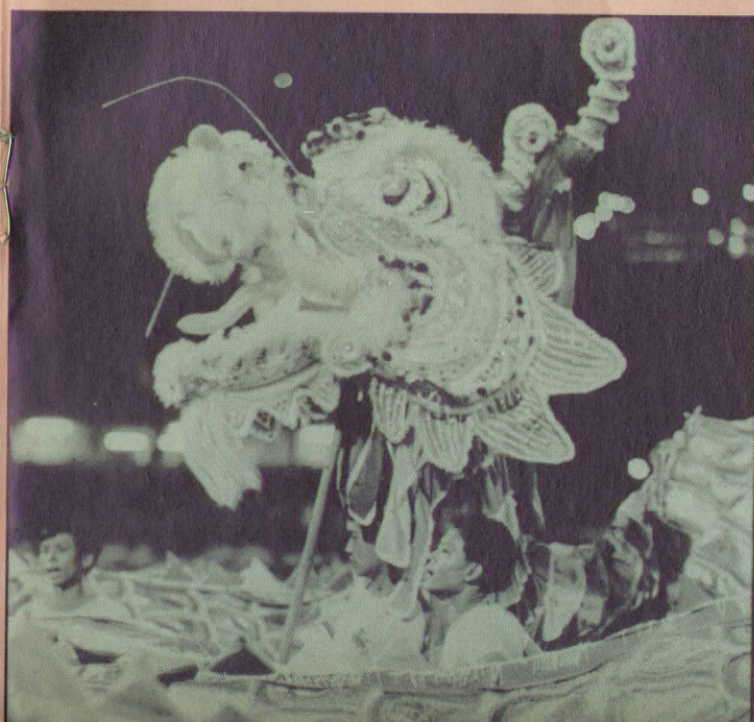
Mr Hilton Cheong-Leen, the show's joint promoter with HQ British Forces Hong Kong said: "This extravaganza is a colourful pot-pourri of widely varied and amusing entertainment, presented in the spectacular style of a three-ring circus and is designed to be

Musical direction is all his.

in marked contrast to the principally military content which has presented demonstrations of soldierly craft that is seldom seen in public."

Among the glittering array of dinner-jacketed and uniformed VIPs watching Hong Kong's Military Spectacular '84 was Sir Edward Youde, Governor of Hong Kong and Commander-in-Chief of Hong Kong's Forces and Major General Derek Boorman, Commander British Forces Hong Kong.

The human heads look somewhat small beneath the dragon's head (below) and the picture right gives some idea of the length of the massive beast!



Multi-national cooks keep entertainers on their toes

SOLDIER

*in
Hong Kong*

AN ARMY not only marches on its stomach but it also gives public performances on the sustenance of it as Napoleon, were he still alive, would doubtless agree.

Some two dozen Army — including Gurkha — cooks were on culinary hand during the Hong Kong Military Spectacular to dish up western and oriental fare befitting such an occasion to an estimated 800 or so participants and 160 back-up staff including fatigues parties, firemen, sappers, signallers, medics and, of course, other cooks.

And it was not just for the two days of dress rehearsals and the big night itself but three days of preparations during the setting up of tents and communication links at the Hong Stadium setting.

Some 700 portions of piping hot bhat or curry and 300 portions of Chinese and Western food were served up from the nine No 1 burners and four 'kualis' or woks, large round cooking pans.

Serving hungry entertainers.



Staff Sergeant Chu Sun Fan — and a big 'wok'.

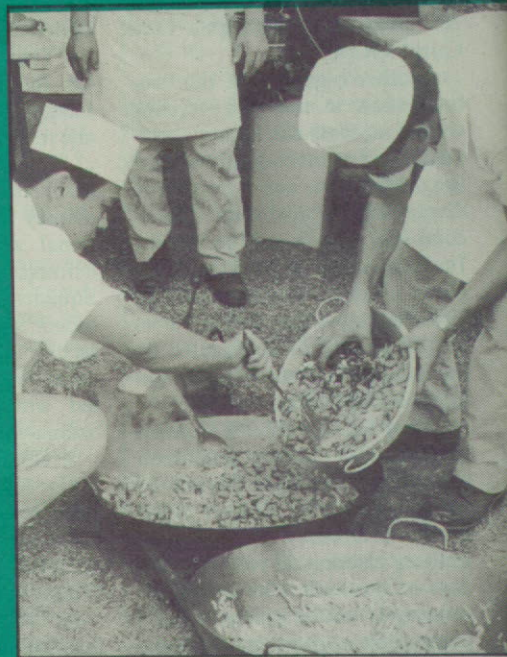
Fielding the chefs were the Cookery Instruction wing of The Training Depot Brigade of Gurkhas (TDBG), the 2nd Battalion, 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles and the British Military Hospital.

Backed by five instructors and senior ranks the 20 cooks, including a dozen students were in action for two hectic 90-minute periods each day during the catering phase. Their efforts had been three weeks in the planning.

Culinary offerings produced on the big night used 1,400 lbs of meat, 80 lbs of bean sprouts, 60 lbs of carrots, 200 lbs of onions and potatoes, 1,650 lbs of rice and enough tea and soft drinks — but no beer — to fill the baths of a small English town.

What a pity it was too late for the Egon Ronay inspection teams!

Preparing Chinese fare. ►



PRETTY PENNY IN PRI SHOP

PRETTY PENNY Shepherd, 20, (right) pondered over the perfumes, silk head-scarves, deodorants and leather handbags on the barracks building counter.

The up-market choice of Christian Dior fragrance with the marked-down prices was going to be difficult.

Finally, she picked a track suit for a friend in the UK far removed from the distinctive lines of regimental items on offer at the PRI shop of the Hong Kong Military Service Corps (HKMSC) where she is a lieutenant colonel's secretary.

Off duty the HKMSC men could boast to be among the most dapper trendsetters in neckwear fashion in the Colony; their wives and girl friends the sweetest smelling feminists on Hong Kong Island as they rub shoulders with their downtown counterparts.

For the barracks, just moved to Stonecutters' Island, twixt Hong Kong Island and Kowloon peninsula, has no shopping facilities of its own — not even a Naafi.

Lieutenant David Cheung formerly the Chief Education Officer and now the QM explained: "We canvassed the Wives'

SOLDIER in Hong Kong

Club and it was they who came up with the idea of what they would like to buy."

The perfume, he said, of good quality sold at anything from £15 to £20. Real leather belts with a Christian Dior monogrammed belt went for about £20. Silk ties, too, were sold at good prices, all of them far cheaper than in the teeming shopping areas of the Island or Kowloon.

He added: "Our goods are cheaper than any duty free shop you care to name whether it be Dubai, Kai Tak or even Gatwick. We get a lot of help from friends and former servicemen who have set up in business here in Hong Kong and are able to supply us with goods at much lower prices.

"Of course, it is not just perfumes, ties, belts and head-scarves that we sell. We also offer all kinds of regimental items like



plaques, track suits and the general run of what you might expect. We even supply ornate walking sticks.

Our success is due to our research whether people want sports goods or black shoe polish."

ANOTHER BOMB AWAY

IT WAS a case of bomb gone! Courtesy of a group of sappers from the Queen's Gurkha Engineers based at Perowne Barracks at Hong Kong who rid the Royal Hong Kong Police of a 1,000-lb beauty from right under their noses... next to the police station.

The America-made bomb, of wartime vintage, was found on a building site uncomfortably close to the bustling city's Central area "cop shop."

A police bomb disposal expert proclaimed the one and a half-

metre-long relic to be "quite safe" but he was taking no chances. He sent for the Gurkhas.

Headed by Captain Ian Wright they obliged, lifting it gingerly onto a trolley, pushing it across a tense Report Room and loading it into a police breakdown towing vehicle.

The bomb was then driven to the Queen's Pier in Central, transferred to a police launch and then taken far out into the South China Sea for its final and watery burial place.



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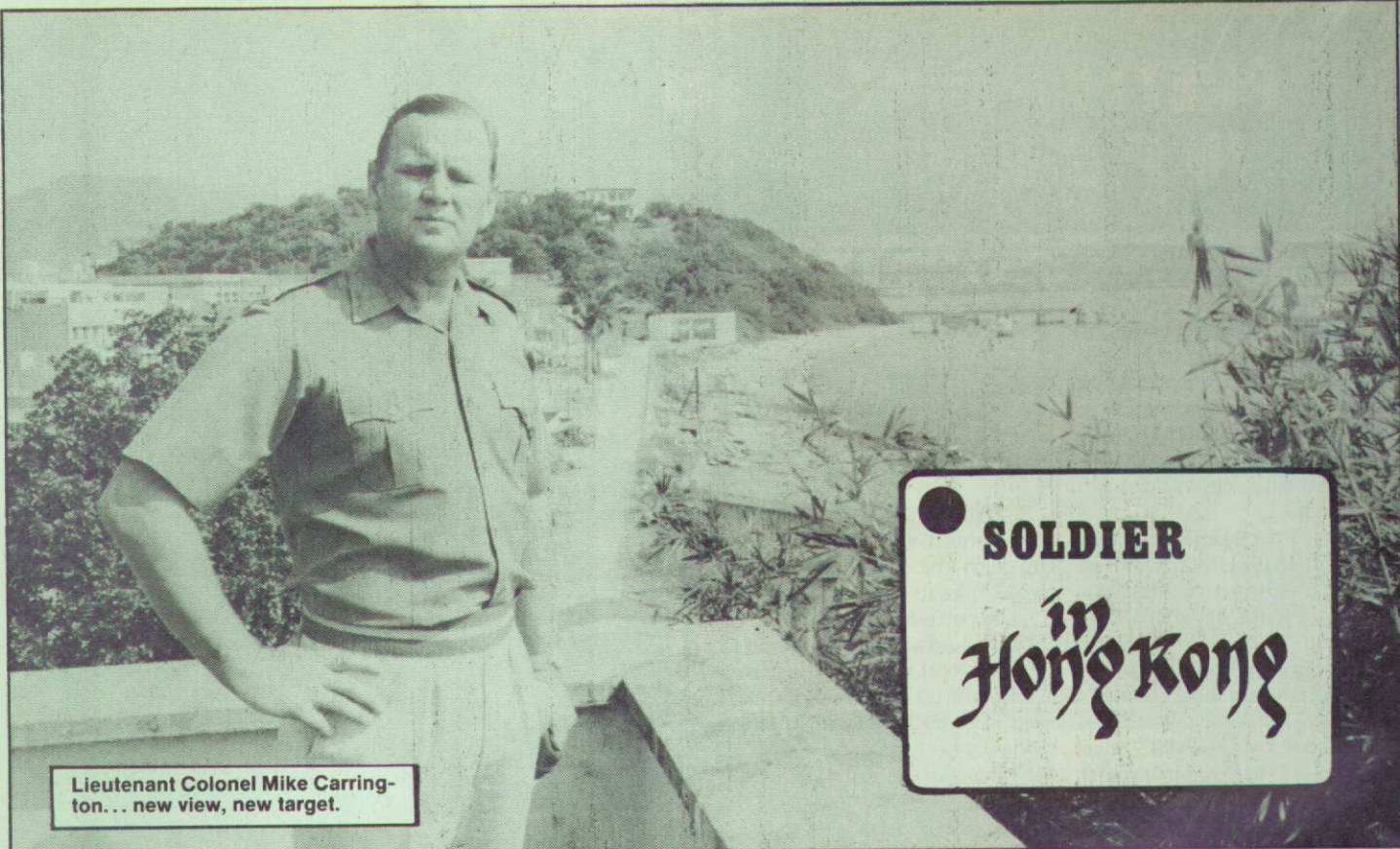
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Lieutenant Colonel Mike Carrington... new view, new target.

SOLDIER in Hong Kong

NEW IMAGE, NEW HOME FOR MILITARY SERVICE CORPS

THE 94-YEAR-OLD Hong Kong Military Service Corps (HKMSC) has moved its 'home' after 36 years at Lyemun Barracks to a former setting once dubbed the Orient's answer to Alcatraz Island, this one Stonecutters' Island lying in Hong Kong harbour between the Island and Kowloon peninsula.

Well-chronicled with historical anecdotes the new island home, a granite and tree-covered outcrop was once mooted as the location for a prison to contain the Colony's

miscreants.

During the war it, like the rest of Hong Kong, fell into Japanese hands. They immediately turned it into a leave centre complete with

geisha house! They also set up a snake farm — pit vipers and cobras still lurk there — to develop serums for snake bites.

The HKMSC have just spent three weeks moving lock, stock and barrel — from their pig farm to drawing pins — into partially purpose-built premises and renovated old buildings, one dating from 1863.

The impressive gatehouse has been modernised to house the 25-strong HQ element and work, involving a reported 500-man work force, started on the as-yet-unnamed barrack complex two years ago.

Of the 1,260-strong Corps, which was formed in 1890, about 350 of their number will be based on the island which is reached by 36 daily half-hour ferry runs to and from the HMS Tamar Dockyard.

There are several British service families living on Stonecutters' and the Corps has the benefit of 135 instructors and permanent staff.

The Training Wing at any one time has 100 recruits on 20-week courses, five weeks of this on English-language tuition. There are two intakes annually.

Lieutenant Colonel Mike Carrington, King's Regiment, Commanding Officer — the eighth in

office — of the Corps, said: "We train all the junior and senior NCOs, too, for up-grading and promotion cadres which accounts for another 300 residents each year. Each student undergoes 45-minute study periods.

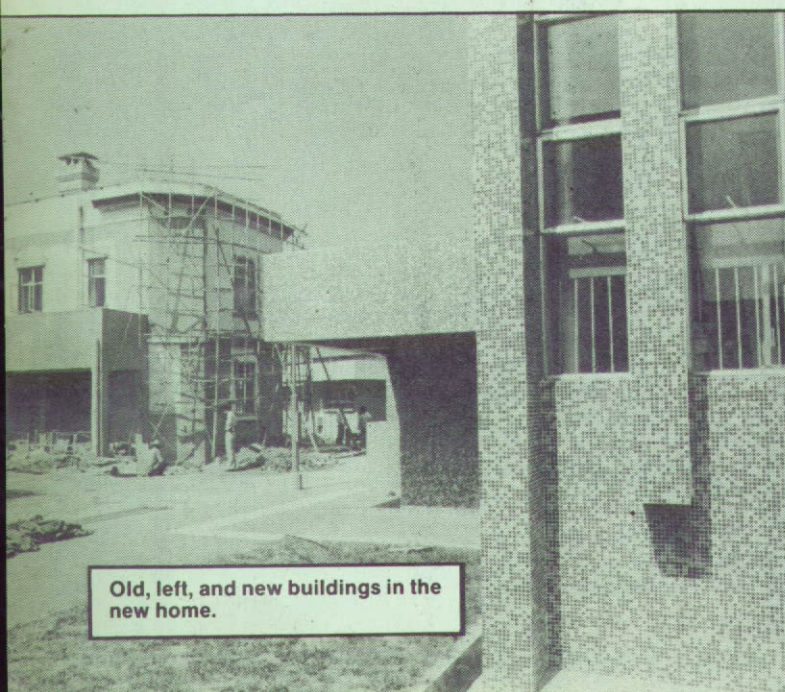
"Out of classroom facilities include 25, 35 and 300-metre outdoor ranges including the only fully-computerised range in the British Army which eliminates hours and hours of work totting up results of each individual's efforts."

The HKMSC is particularly proud of its marksmanship for, this year, they fielded a team at Bisley for the first time. They came away with three magnificent silver trophies and a third overall placing in the Minor Units with the Guards Depot.

Also part of the new home is a gymnasium, an indoor training theatre and range, netball and basketball courts.

The Corps shares their island home — once said to be a "prehistoric camp site" — with the Royal Navy, 415 Maritime Troop, RCT and the RAOC's Ammunition Supply Depot.

The Corps kitchen will have four of the biggest cooking dishes — "woks" — that one is 'ever likely to see,' each 24 inches in diameter.



Old, left, and new buildings in the new home.

Administering and using them are 15 catering staff.

Ironically, the bills of fare for the digestive tracts are not exclusively Chinese, though. Indian and many European dishes find their way on to the rotational weekly offerings.

The wives of British personnel are even having out-of-hours lessons in Chinese culinary art, courtesy of the resident military Hong Kong personnel.

Nearby, are two restaurants seating 125.

Colonel Carrington, CO for the past 13 months has moved into a five-bed, two-bathrooomed house with roof garden overlooking the vibrant harbour area with its jetfoils, hydrofoils, tramp steamers, ferries, sampans and motorised junks.

'A point often forgotten...'

Five of his staff are British and he says of the Corps today: "It forms nearly 20 per cent of the Garrison. Without the administrative functions which it carries out the Garrison itself just could not operate.

"One of the points which is often forgotten is that we as a battalion will go on the border with China for four weeks at a time.

"We have had soldiers deployed there ever since anti-illegal immigrant operations started about five years ago. We are there 365 days a year.

The Officers Mess building — new look on the way.

"The soldiers are immensely hard-working, loyal, efficient and they are particularly keen to better themselves.

"They are trained in exactly the same way as the British soldier. They attend Support-to-Arms training in the UK. They are a very self-disciplined people.

"In a year of command I have had three soldiers on orders and only one in the guardroom.

"I have been working over the last year or so trying to develop a Corps esprit in as much as the efforts of these soldiers have gone unnoticed for many, many years. It's a long time since their efforts have been recognised.

"We have made considerable efforts to improve overall standards both in military training and I would use our performance at Bisley as an example of that.

"We have also made considerable efforts to help those less fortunate in the Chinese civil community raising more than 100,000 Hong Kong dollars (£10,000).

The Corps, he said, though without a motto has its regimental day to which its Old Soldiers, included a dozen local millionaires, always turn up in their 'Rollers' and Mercedes Benzes.

Colonel Carrington is sure they will still be turning up for a few years to come yet... strictly by local Maritime Troop, RCT, only from now on!



More features and pictures from Hong Kong will be appearing in our next issue, 17 December.

Keith tackles Macau rally with Mini 'tank'

IT WAS hardly Monaco at its best but it was an unusual challenge for 30-year-old Keith Norris, an assistant secretary at HQ British Forces Hong Kong and an experienced racing rally driver.

His 20-minute entry was in the 1984 two-day Macau International Classic Car section, hosted by the organisers on the Portuguese enclave 40 miles east-north-east and 50 minutes' jetfoil distance from the British Colony.

No thrusting and snarling Formula One's here, though, stridently taking the bends of the city under Portuguese patronage since 1557 and the era of Henry the Navigator.

Keith was driving, for the first time in such exalted surroundings of the motor racing fraternity, his 1969 bright red 1,000 cc Mini Cooper. Watching him was wife, Susan.

His objective, as SOLDIER went to press, was to get round the circuit and secure a high placing at the end of the half-dozen 3.8-mile laps.



Keith, four months in Hong Kong, has had a car racing pedigree since he was 17 but has usually achieved his on-track success in single seaters.

He took second place in the UK's Castrol Formula 5000 championship earlier this year. He has also raced in Germany, Austria, Belgium and Holland.

In Macau he was testing his mini — affectionately dubbed 'The Tank' ("more the fish tank than the FV") — in events which featured veteran MGAs, Jaguars, Corvette Stingrays and Porsches. Most of the entrants were British.

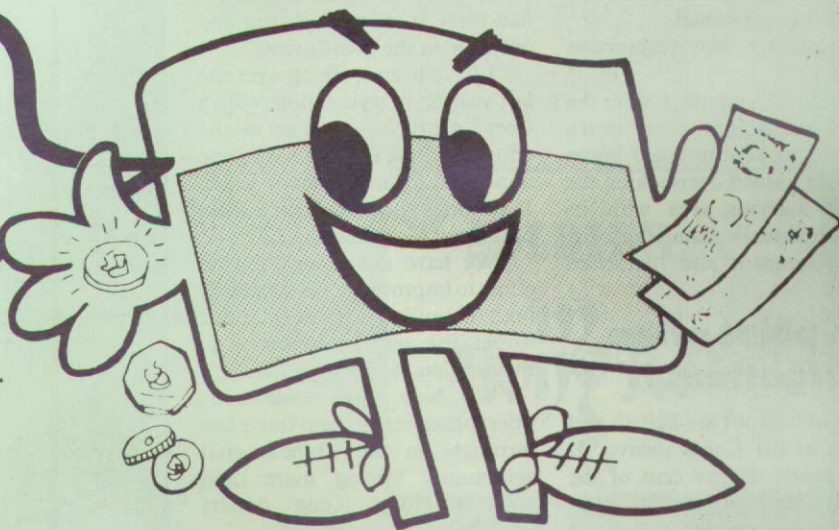
Keith's only knowledge of Macau was gained from tourist maps and he had spent many hours getting 'The Tank' ready for Macau.

Keith Norris... fresh challenge, two steering wheels!

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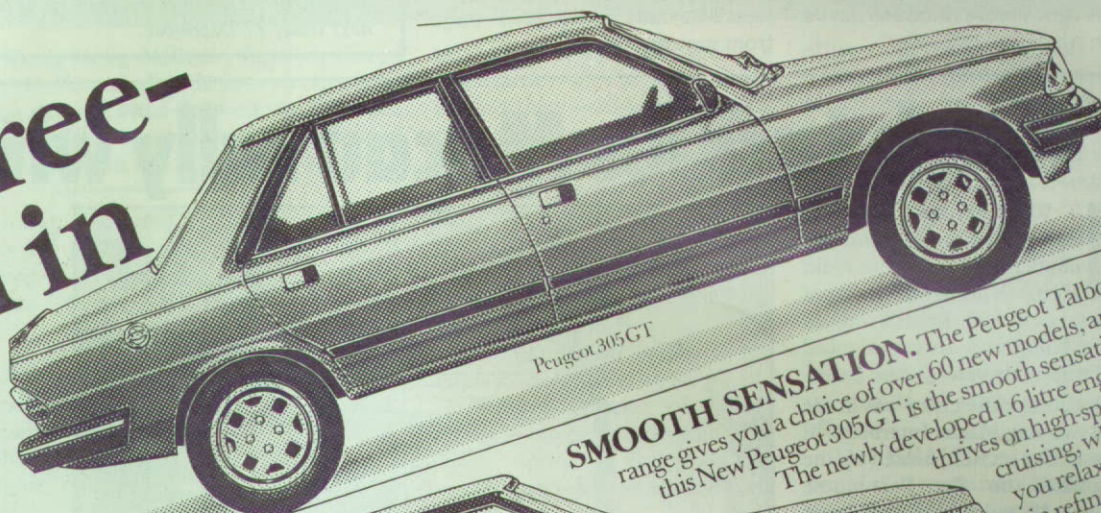
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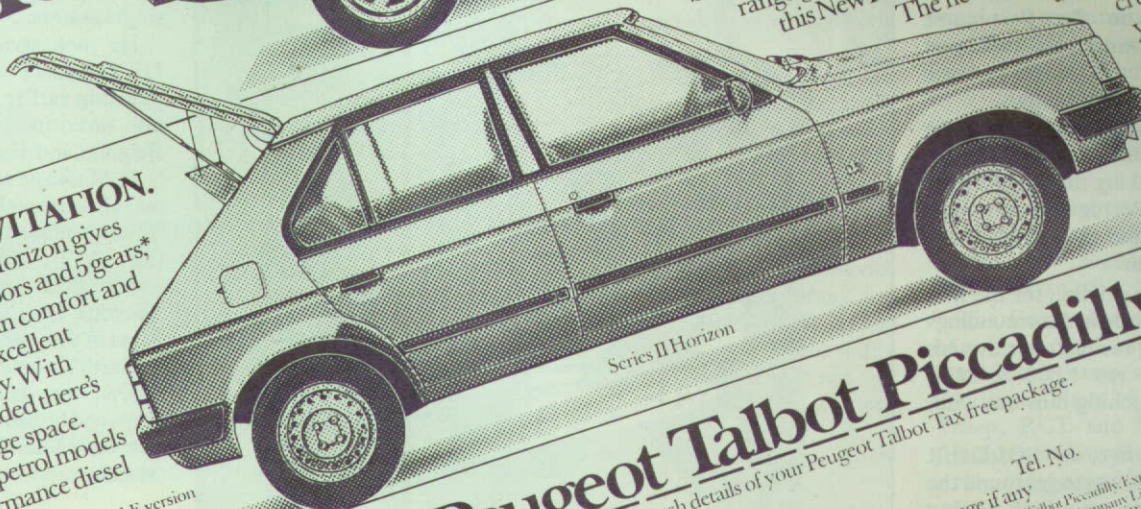
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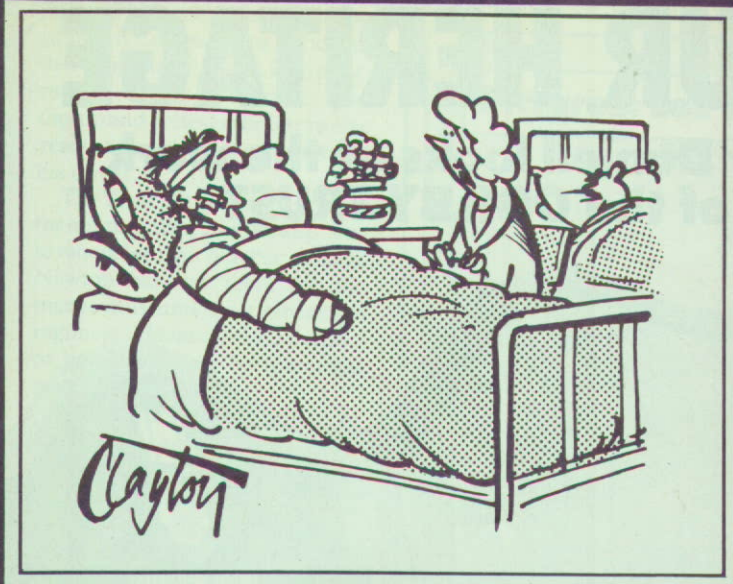


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"Look on the bright side George, I'm saving a fortune on food while you are in here!"

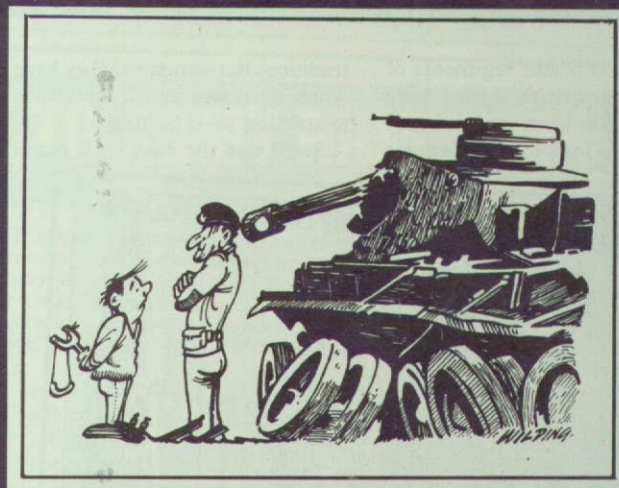


"Mirror on the wall, who is the fairest one of all."



"What kind of gongs are those?"

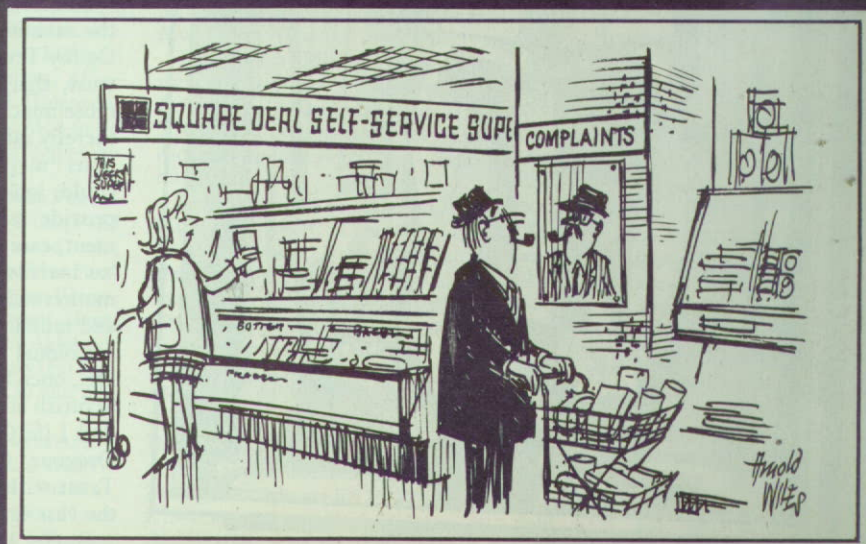
Humour



"It wasn't me, mister — honest!"



"That film gave me a headache."



YOUR HERITAGE

Sally Daniell looks at the work of the OGILBY TRUST



Secretary Colonel Newton and the founder's medals.

CORPS and regiments of the British Army have never been slow to foster and uphold their singular

traditions but sometimes they have lacked the resources and experience to stabilise their heritage.

Such was the case with many

military museums which hardly existed before the World War 1, regimental artefacts being stored often in officers' messes, periodically exhumed for parties, tattoos and for carriage to another posting. Thus, many important historical items were destroyed either through misuse or neglect.

It was only when men came back from France in 1918 — the lucky ones, that is — sobered by what they had seen and endured, that such items were treated with more respect. Thereafter gradually, along with the regimental silver, all manner of kit, uniform, diaries and personal possessions began to be highly regarded.

Yet it was not until 1954 and the creation of Army Museums Ogilby Trust, a private charitable trust, that regimental and corps museums could assume legal status thereby safeguarding their collections 'in perpetuity'. Now they could look to the Trustees to provide 'encouragement, equipment, care and maintenance' and 'to increase interest in the promotion and fostering of regimental and military tradition'.

Colonel Robert Ogilby, DSO, DL, once Colonel of the London Scottish and formerly both of the 2nd Life Guards and of the 4th Dragoon Guards, endowed the Trust with what was at the time the vast sum of £100,000.

But by 1983, even with shrewd

investment, the revenue has dwindled to the point where the Trust urgently needed a fresh injection of funds.

The nine Trustees launched an appeal setting a target of £30,000 and canvassed both Army units and commercial firms as well as individuals. As *SOLDIER* went to press £24,632 had been donated.

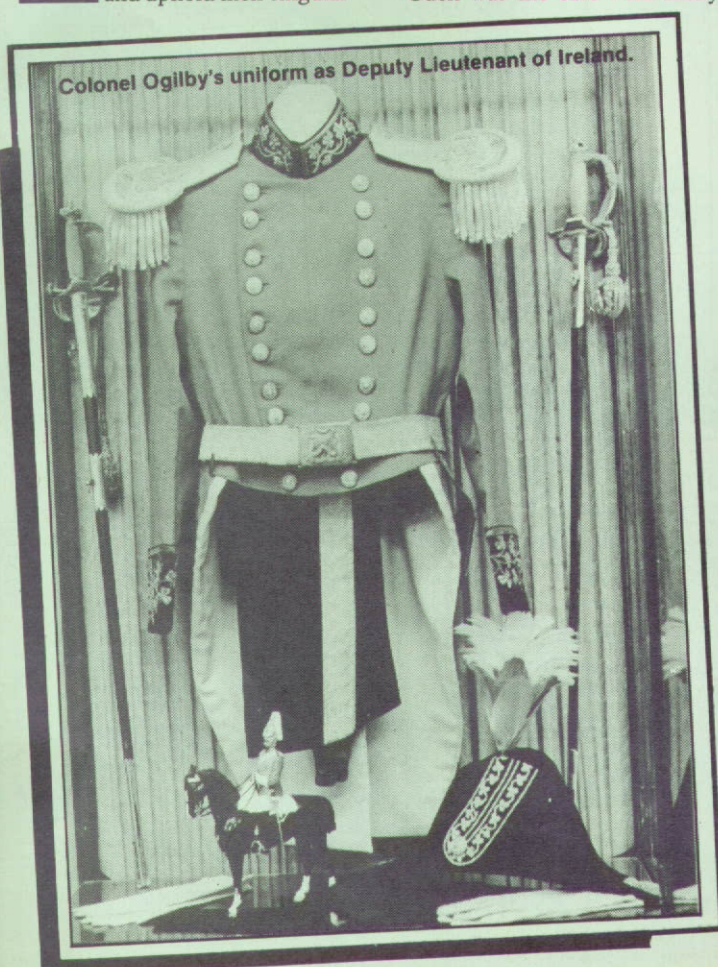
Thus invigorated, the Trust can, in the medium term, carry on its work which on a day-to-day basis means scouring the pages of saleroom catalogues for suitable items, informing the regiment concerned, going to auctions and advising curators on display matters.

The Secretary of the Army Museums Ogilby Trust is Colonel Pip Newton who has been doing the job now for 12 years and incidentally is one of *SOLDIER*'s book reviewers. He is one of two full-time staff and is supported by a part-time researcher/Secretary.

In his charge are the 140 military museums scattered all over the British Isles which he aims to visit at least once every four-and-a-half years.

Not surprisingly, he cannot always be found at his paper-strewn desk in a cluttered office once part of the Connaught Hospital in Duke of Connaught's Barracks, North Camp, Aldershot.

Always interested in history,



Colonel Newton, at one time the youngest Commanding Officer in the Army (Royal Sussex Regiment) considers himself lucky to have the job and believes the last twelve years to have been the happiest in his career.

The Trust not only helps provide for military museums but also aims to rationalise their number. Colonel Newton believes there are too many; museums exist where the regiments themselves are defunct or have long since been amalgamated.

A more practical solution, he advocates, would be to centralise museums on a county basis, preferably under the auspices of the civic authority, where the many collections may be displayed to better advantage and be seen by more people.

"I think it is important that one stabilises, wherever possible, within understandable regional parameters" says Colonel Newton. "We are, after all, a nation of people with strong regional ties and it is people who make history."

This concept has already been adopted and proved successful in Somerset, Dorset and Cheshire for instance, where militaria and regalia of the county regiments, both Regular and Territorial, are displayed side by side.

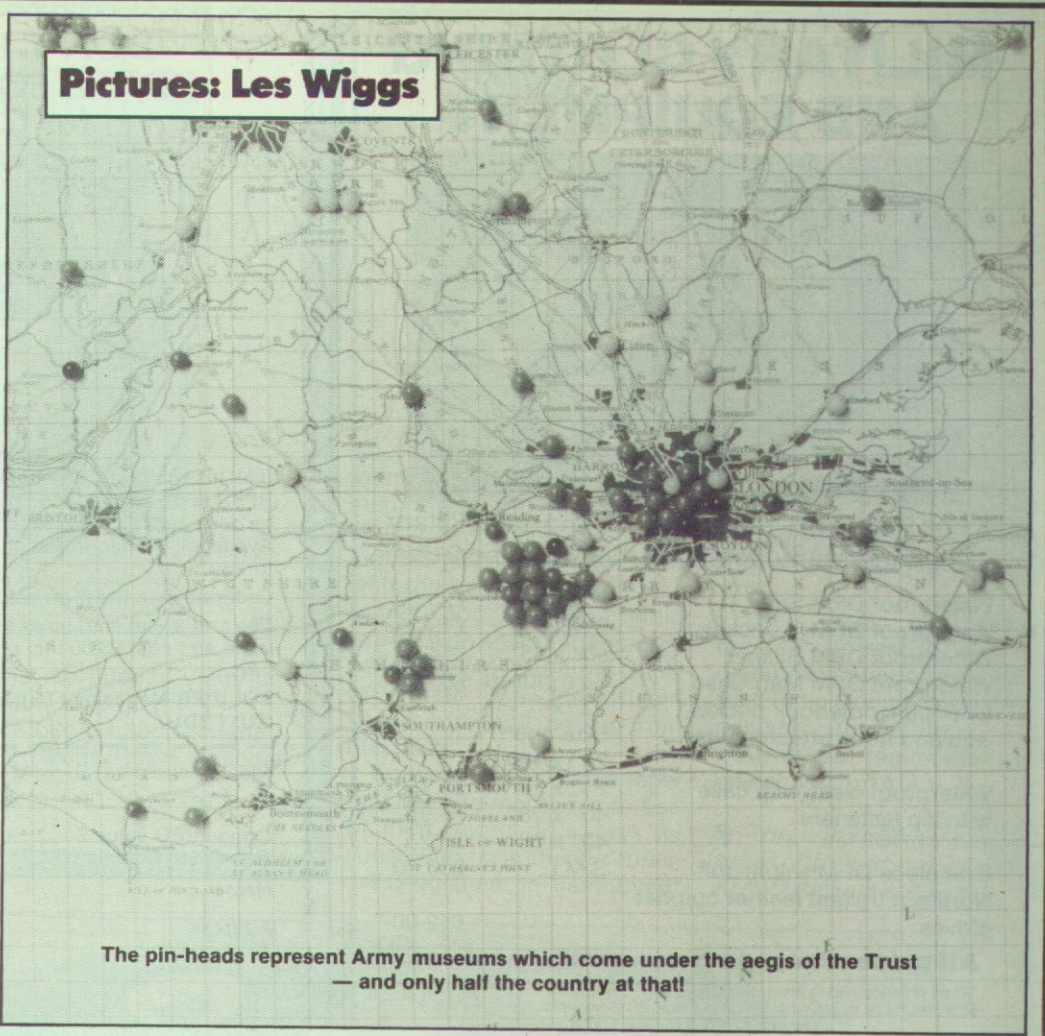
Until this policy can be implemented across the nation, the Trust continues to work on behalf of the individual collections. Paying up to 50 per cent of items of over £50, the Trust has to date helped buy 55 oil paintings, 65 water colours, 41 prints, 74 miniatures, 64 uniforms, 94 medal collections and 103 pieces of equipment.

In addition, it has made 110 grants in aid. Even as *SOLDIER* visited the Trust, there were items recently bought at sales awaiting onward transmission to museums including the 1927 Shanghai albums and scrapbooks of Lieutenant R V Holdsworth, Green Howards; the miniature and medal of Lieutenant J M W Ensor, Lincolnshire Regiment c. 1830; a wax relief portrait of Field Marshall Sir H Wilson, Royal Ulster Rifles; and the 1914-17 letters, diary and medals of Second Lieutenant W H V Smith, East Lancashire Regiment, killed in action.

At the Trust's inception, Chindit leader Bernard Ferguson, later Lord Ballantrae wrote: "It is not given to many men to be able to do what Colonel Ogilby has done. By a generous stroke of singular vision he has put both the past and the future in his debt."

Sadly, museums cannot live by vision alone. The Army Museums Ogilby Trust will continue to need money if it is to realise the terms of its charter, namely to safeguard the traditional artefacts of the British Army 'in perpetuity'.

Pictures: Les Wiggs



The pin-heads represent Army museums which come under the aegis of the Trust — and only half the country at that!

YOUR GUIDE TO ARMY MUSEUMS — 1

TO BE CONTINUED...

FOUR and a half million people visit the Army museums each year and with a view to boosting this number we are in this and succeeding issues, printing a comprehensive A to Z of regimental and corps museums open to the public. SOLDIER being the magazine of the British Army, we have not included mention of Naval and Air museums or private collections. For full information of these and other museums write to Athena Press, St Mary's Road, Doncaster, S Yorks DN1 2NP for Terence Wise's Guide to Military Museums.

ALDERSHOT. Army Museum, Queen's Avenue, Aldershot, Hants. Telephone Aldershot 314598. Hours: 10-5 daily except Christmas Day.

Army Physical Training Corps Museum, Corps Depot, Queen's Avenue, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2LB. Telephone Aldershot 24431 (or Aldershot military) ext 2111. Hours: Mon to Fri 9-4, weekends by appointment.

Gurkha Museum, Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Church Crookham, Aldershot, Hants GU13 0RH. Telephone Fleet 3541 ext 63. Hours: Mon to Fri 9.45-4.30, Saturday 10-12 by appointment.

Museum of the Airborne Forces (Parachute Regiment and all Corps and Arms of services connected with Airborne Forces), Depot, The Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces, Browning Barracks, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DS. Telephone Aldershot 24431 (or Aldershot military) ext 619. Hours: Mon to Sat 9-12.30 and 2-5, Sun 10-12.30 and 2-4.30.

Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps Museum, QARANC Training Centre, Royal Pavilion, Farnborough Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 1PZ. Telephone Aldershot

24431 (or Aldershot military) ext 301 or 315. Hours: Tues, Wed 9-12.30 and 2-4.30, Thurs 9-12.30. Mon, Fri and Thurs afternoon by appointment.

Royal Army Dental Corps Museum, HQ and Training Centre RADC, Evelyn Woods Road, Aldershot Hants. Telephone Aldershot 24431 (or Aldershot military) ext 3470. Hours: Mon to Fri 9-4.

Royal Army Medical Corps Historical Museum, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale nr Aldershot, Hants GU12 5RQ. Telephone Aldershot 24431 (or Aldershot military) ext 212. Hours: Mon to Fri 9-4.

Royal Army Veterinary Corps Museum, RAVC Laboratory and Stores, Gallwey Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DQ. Telephone Aldershot 24431 (or Aldershot military) ext 2261. Hours: Mon to Fri 9-5, weekends by appointment.

Royal Corps of Transport Museum, HQ The Training Group RCT, Buller Barracks, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DL. Telephone Aldershot 24431 (or Aldershot military) ext 2417. Hours: Mon to Fri 10-12.15 and 2.15-4.30 excluding Bank Holidays. **ALNWICK. Royal Northumber-**

land Fusiliers Regimental Museum, The Abbot's Tower, Alnwick Castle, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 1NG. Telephone Alnwick 602152. Hours: May to Sept 1-5, closed Sat.

ARBORFIELD. Corps Museum Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Moat House, Arborfield nr Reading, Berks RG2 9LN. Telephone 0734-760421. Hours: Mon to Fri 8.30-12.30 and 2-5 (Fri 4.30).

ASHFORD. Intelligence Corps Museum, Templar Barracks, Ashford Kent TN23 3HH. Telephone Ashford 25251. Hours: Mon to Fri 10-12 and 2-4.

BAGSHOT. Museum of the Royal Army Chaplains' Department Bagshot Park, Surrey GU19 5PL. Telephone Camberley 71717. Hours: Mon to Fri 10-12 and 2-4 by appointment.

BARNESLEY. Cannon Hall Museum and Art Gallery (13th/18th Royal Hussars), Cannon Hall, Cawthorne, Barnesley, S Yorks. Telephone Barnesley 790270. Hours: Mon to Sat 10.30-5, Sun 2.30-5. Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, 27 December and Good Friday.

BEACONSFIELD. Royal Army Educational Corps Museum, RAEC Centre, Wilton Park, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 2RP. Telephone Beaconsfield 6121 ext 286. Hours: by appointment only.

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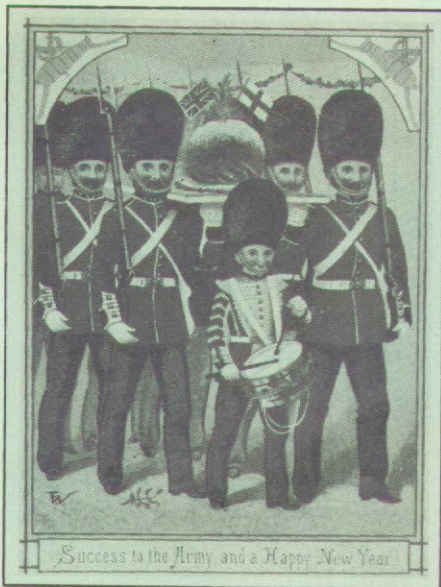
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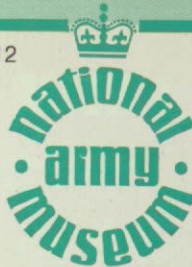
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The National Army Museum has reprinted a Victorian Christmas card from its collection.

Copies are available in packs of 10 for £1.35p, including postage, from: National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 4HT.

No. 12



COLLECTION

THE TURK IN ENGLAND

The tambourine is an instrument more often associated with the Salvation than the British Army, but in the late eighteenth century it was used with the bass drum, cymbals, triangle and Jingling Johnnie (a pole with an arrangement of bells dangling from cross-bars) to create the fashionable 'Janissary' music copied from the Turks.

Contemporary pictures show that the regiments made use of their negro drummers as substitutes for authentic Turks, dressing them in flamboyant

pseudo-Turkish costume.

The new-fangled sounds were as popular in the concert hall as on the parade ground but not everybody approved.

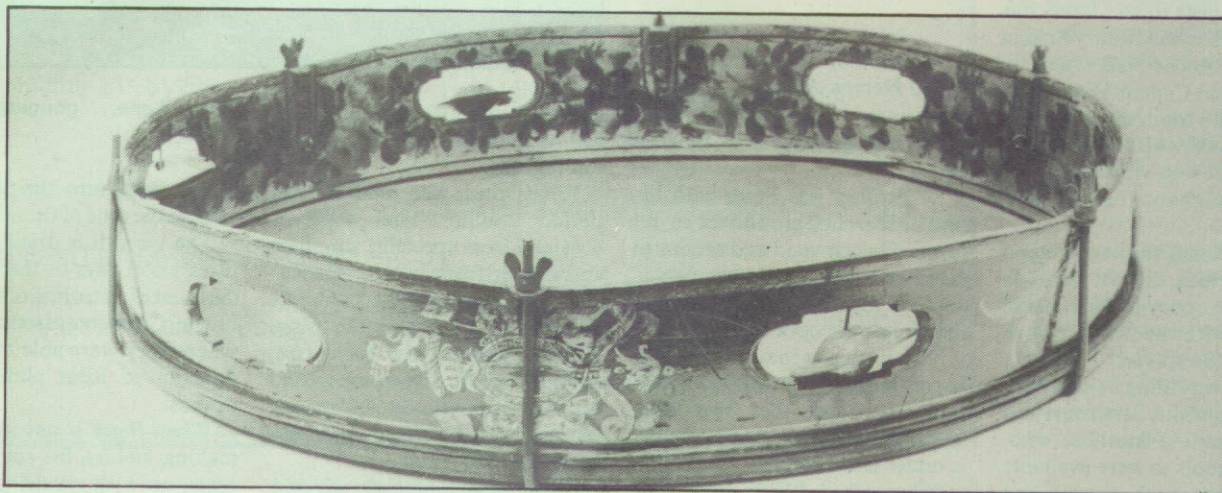
Poor mad King George III was believed to have taken a turn for the worse as a result of his son the Duke of York's attempts to promote 'Turkish' music in the Army.

This brightly decorated tambourine, which can be seen in the Uniform Gallery alongside such other outlandish instruments as the serpent, key bugle and ophicleide, belonged to the Royal East India Volunteers, two regiments of which were formed in 1796 and a third in 1798.

Their exotic title was in marked contrast to their unglamorous duty of protecting East India Company premises against riotous mobs.

All three regiments were disbanded in 1814.

● *This is the last in the current series of items from the National Army Museum collection.*



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'A beautiful little instrument so cunningly devised of wood and strings'. — Tennyson.

WHAT is it that has made the name of Stradivari famous throughout the world and the violins made by him such sought after masterpieces?

This question has been asked by countless musicians and stringed instrument makers for two and a half centuries.

Is it the wood, the way the belly and back are carved to such fine tolerances, the varnish?

Or is it the care, dedication and incredible craftsmanship that goes into each instrument?

One man who has become involved in his own search for the elusive secret is Sergeant Peter Cane of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Peter's interest in violins began when he was eleven years old and first started to play the violin at school.

He continued to study the violin until the age of seventeen when he joined the Army having been auditioned into the REME Staff Band.

His first year in the Band was spent at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall where, in fact, his father, Captain Peter Cain, studied to be a bandmaster in 1950.

Peter stayed with the Band for four years during which time he toured throughout the UK and BAOR.

Despite leaving the band Peter's interest in music did not wane, in fact quite the opposite. He became fascinated with the life and work of Anthony Stradivari.

He read everything he could lay his hands on about Stradivari and other Cremonese masters, who, using such tools as were available to them made such outstanding instruments. The more he read the greater became his desire to emulate the old masters.

It was whilst browsing through a dusty book shop in Oxford that he discovered a volume entitled

**A REME
sergeant
with an
unusual
hobby...**

Discovering the secrets of Stradivari

Violin Making As It Was And Is,
by Ed Herron Allen.

He immediately bought the book and at home read it from cover to cover.

So thrilled was Peter with his find he searched around for an old piece of beechwood and set out to discover if he could carve what is possibly the most difficult piece of the violin, the neck and scroll.

The result was so successful that he continued to build his first violin round it. Since then two more violins have followed and a fourth is under construction.

When asked: "Why make your own violin?" Peter replies, "I think it is plain obsession and a desire to learn the secret of Stradivari and attempt to make what he described as the perfect instrument". An instrument of excellence of crafts-



Peter Cane... gouging out the 'belly'.

manship, and a deep mellow tone full of richness, yet sweet in the top register.

What goes into making the perfect violin? The wood is obtained from specialist suppliers and comes from several species. Ebony for the fingerboard, tailpiece and button, nut and the pegs, Acorn maple for the back, ribs, neck and scroll. Swiss pine is used for the belly, soundpost, interior blocks, linings and bassbar, and beech for the bridge.

All the wood is specially selected and cut from the tree with violin making in mind.

It takes approximately 250-300 hours of work to manufacture and put together the sixty-four different parts of the violin using the methods of the old Cremonese masters.

It involves about forty-five different stages of construction using a vast array of special tools many of which are home made.

The finish and subtle colour tones of the violin are obtained by the painstaking application of approximately fifteen coats of one or two basic types of varnish, oil or spirit base, both having many recipes.

It is no longer possible to obtain the exact ingredients of the varnishes used two hundred years ago, so Peter has to utilize more modern substitutes.

A violin is never stained as this

The final touch: all-important sound.

would soak into the wood and cripple the tone of the instrument.

The varnish is dried using the ultra violet rays of the sun, thus the finest of instruments were made in the Cremona district of Italy where they were able to reap the benefits of ideal climatic conditions.

When Peter is not involved in making violins, his spare time is taken up with repairing stringed instruments, and to keep his musical ear in tune he plays the violin, zither, and harp, often frequenting local folk clubs.

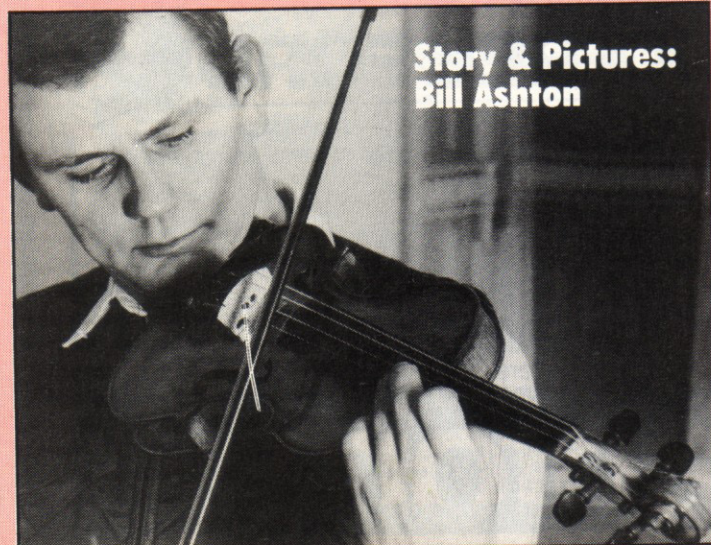
AN OBSESSION!

Having such an obsession requires an understanding wife! One who will put up with the hours he spends in his workshop two and a half centuries away, and sweeps up the shavings and sawdust when the master re-enters his own time.

Perhaps this was Stradivari's secret. Fortunately for Peter his wife, Mary is very understanding.

What does the future hold for Peter Cane?

"Well, I'll carry on making violins and hopefully find a market for them, then maybe in 250 years time someone will pick up a violin inscribed, 'Peter Michael Angelo Cane', Oxford, England, and wonder."



WHAT AM I?

*Would you
like to win £50?*

**COMPETITION
352**

A RIDDLE

ONCE again SOLDIER is offering £50 for the correct solution to its competition.

Each fortnight there will be either one bumper prize of £50, or another valuable prize, instead of the several small prizes which have been offered in the past.

Make sure of your chance of winning £50 by ordering your regular copy of SOLDIER now.

The rules of the competition remain the same. It is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 4 January. The answers and winner's name will be announced in our issue of 11 February.

More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 352' label.

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

Send your answers by post card or letter with the 'Competition 352' label to: Prize Competition SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

I'm deep in the heart of the Pennines;	Yet I'm not known in Cuba, Chile,
I border the Nullabor Plain:	Portugal or far Peru;
I'm common to tundra and jungle	Dorset, Cheshire, Suffolk, Essex;
Yet in desert you'll seek me in vain.	Waverley or Waterloo.
I'm found in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne,	I am found in the morning, the noon and the night;
Durban, Auckland, London Town;	I am found when it's sunshine or rain:
I'm quite at home in Scotland, Ireland,	I am lost when it's cloudy, or foggy or bright;
Inverness or County Down.	Till I'm found in the rainbow again.

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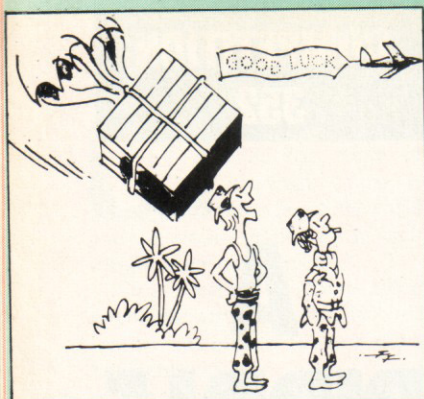
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Got something to say, a point to make or a story to tell? This is your page to exchange your news, views, comments and opinions. All we ask is that you keep it brief and include your full name and address. Write: **Mail Drop, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road,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

JERRICAN TIP

Articles in **SOLDIER** this year (on 6 Ord Bn, RAOC and especially the RAOC's responsibility for providing the Army with petrol) have prompted me to write on the subject of jerricans.

I cannot ever recall having read an article or a book which dealt with the origin and history of this most useful item. I remember first seeing jerricans in the Western Desert in 1942, but these were the original Wehrmacht model. They must, obviously, have been invented and produced in Germany before then. The Germans had two distinct types which were identical in size and shape, both of which had an exclusive purpose. One was clearly marked 'Kraftstoff' for petrol, and the other, marked 'Wasser' or 'Trinkwasser' was for drinking water and these bore a large white cross.

Later, the Allies produced their own model, but the original German model had an ingenious stopper at the top that worked on the cantilever principle and it also had a tiny air pipe inside for the air to escape as petrol was poured in. The German jerricans were dark blue as far as I can remember, whereas ours had a large circular screwtop with a small chain attached and were painted green.

The 8th Army had previously had to rely on the notorious four gallon non-returnable tin which wasted a lot of petrol due to its flimsy construction. These were soon christened 'flimsies' and were to be found wherever the 8th

MAIL DROP

Army had fought. They were ideal for other purposes, though, especially for making tea and no self-respecting 8th Army tank or truck was ever seen without its brew-can hanging at the rear. The flimsies were cut in half and one half filled with sand and half a pint of petrol — petrol being more plentiful than water. A match was then thrown in and the top half of the flimsy placed on top. Tea was made in no time!

Finally, another tip we copied from Jerry was their way of marking tyre pressures onto mudguards over a wheel — but that's another story. — **R M Cooke, 15 Avening Close, Nailsea, Bristol.**

NO THREAT

A friend of mine in the States with whom I exchange military band news and music sent me a tape recently — Bands of the Army of Norway — and very good bands they are.

Thirteen area and I suppose 'regimental' bands are featured and Norway may well have more. I wonder whether their government plans to cut the number of their military bands in order to economise? Don't make me laugh! The saving on two or three bands would hardly make little Norway a financial threat to her European neighbours.

The same applies here. Cutting a dozen bands from the establishment would not even make a ripple in the Exchequer.

At 70 I shall continue to enjoy our bands for as long as I can and hope that at least some will be left for future generations to enjoy. — **I Andrews, 37 Picquets Way, Banstead, Surrey.**

IMPROPER

From time to time one sees photos of WOs and Sergeants not of an infantry regiment wearing the red sash.

The red sash is an infantry distinction (and includes only APTC and SASC) and it is quite improper for others to wear it. Queen's Regulations refer. — **G A Simmons, 3 Plough Cottages, Maidstone Road, Sutton Valence, Kent.**

SIX BADGES

Your series of articles on the origins etc of cap badges prompted me to assemble those representing the units

Can You Help?

I am ex-RASC and served for just under three years in UK (1953), Korea (1954) and Kure, Japan (1955). A head injury sustained after falling almost 130ft ensured my early discharge in 1956.

I have never met such a great bunch of lads as I did in the Army, especially in Korea even though it was hell out there. I mention the following addresses in the hope that someone who was at either place with me might get in touch: No 2 PRS Main Div, 1st Commonwealth Div, BAPO 3 and Holding Wing

JRBD, Kure, Japan BAPO 5. — **P Wise (ex-Driver), Rye Hotel, 48 Sydenham Road, East Croydon, Surrey.**

Having been a regular reader of **SOLDIER** I wondered if you could help me trace some friends of my late husband Sergeant Edward John Griffin of 309 Pioneer Regiment. He was stationed at Didcot from 1942 to 1945 and his friends were Sergeants Levy (of London), Cotton (Birmingham) and Knight and Lawrence from Ireland. — **Mrs E Griffin, 22 Uxbridge Road, Freshbrook, Swindon, Wilts.**

Reunions

The London Branch of the **Dorset Regiment** Old Comrades Association meets on the first Monday of each month at the Royal Green Jackets TA Centre, 24 Sun Street, Finsbury Square, London EC2 at 8.15 pm. We would be pleased to see any old comrade living in the London area or any old soldier, for that matter, who would like to come along. The Honorary Secretary's address is Mr F M Strelley, 131 Beaconsfield Road, New Southgate, London N11.

Collectors' Corner

Miss R Williams, 40 Brynedydd Road, Rhyl, Clwyd, LL18 3UG. *Wants RMA Band Corps Royal Army Chaplains Dept Brigade of the Gurkhas 9/12 Royal Lancers, all Queen's Crown anno cap badges.*

H G Bowyer, Forge Cottage, Bradley, Alresford, SO24 9SA. *Wants copy of 'A Register of the Regiments and Corps of the British Army' by Arthur Swinson. J F Sukey, 5860 E River Road, Tucson, Arizona 85715. Wants one Vickers Mk I water can and one .303 belt loading machine.*

G J Watts, 630 Aronimink P12, Drexel Hill, PA 19026, USA. *Would like to purchase British cap badges, pre-1946.*

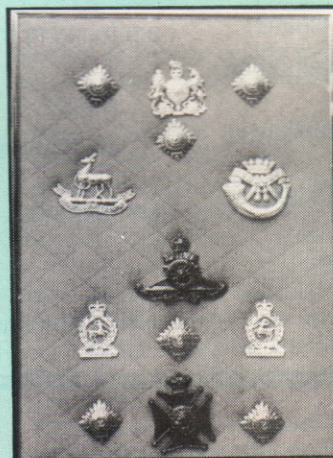
Competition

Competition 348, Flying Round in Circles, for which we offered a single prize of £50, will have appealed to aircraft buffs since, after completing the radar screen from the clues, you had to find the names of six aircraft hidden in the jumble of letters in each segment. First, the answers to the clues: 1 Wellington 2 Sword 3 Victor 4 Belfast 5 York 6 Halifax 7 Valiant 8 Skua 9 Hawk 10 Mosquito 11 Fulmar 12 Span 13 Gladiator 14 Anson 15 Brigand 16 Cat 17 Spitfire 18 Footballs 19 Emu. The hidden aircraft were: *Nimrod, Wapiti, Vulcan, Battle, Auster, Walrus.* The lucky winner was Mr R Gorrings, Clapham, Bedford.

How Observant Are You?

1 Lines across sun; 2 Top right branch of tree; 3 Water drops by front runner's face; 4 Stripes on front runner's shoe; 5 Neckline of second man's vest; 6 Second man's hair on right of ear; 7 Third man's mouth; 8 'N' in 'Finch'; 9 Length of middle rail of fence; 10 Right ripple in water.

with which I served both as a Regular and in the TA. Having had them mounted, it occurred to me some of your readers might be interested to see them. Of course, I realise that there may be many other readers who have worn six badges as well, but for what it is worth, here they are: from top General List (Graves R&E) 25/9/43 to 30/12/45 (Capt); 5th Bn Royal Warwickshire Regiment (TA) 1/12/1922 to 13/10/1924; DCLI (Depot and 2nd Bn) 14/10/1924 to 1/12/1926; Royal Artillery TA & TARO 1/4/1948 to 6/8/1956 (Capt); RAVC 2/12/1926 to 24/9/1943 (RSM WO1); KRRC (Cadets — Church Lads Brigade) 1919 to 1921. — **A R Thomas, 14 Manor Close, Tunstead, Norwich.**



TIMESHARE

I am starting a Timeshare Exchange for any Service personnel, MOD civilian personnel and friends or families of those employed in the Services environment.

The idea is to effect a 'No Cost' introduction service for those with timeshare properties who wish to effect an exchange holiday. This is aimed at a personal service where individuals can discuss exchange plans in detail.

It is envisaged that the advantages will be an earlier positive exchange, more detailed knowledge of the exchange property, personal briefs by owners on local environment and the ability to discuss any specialist requirements eg childrens and sports facilities etc.

If sufficient timeshare owners are interested it is intended to commence exchanges with effect from January '85. Anyone interested should send a large SAE for sample documentation to — **Sqn Ldr J A Martin, 8 Sparrow Close, Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambs PE18 8QY.**

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Elke Matthes is 19 years old and is a gardener. Her interests are learning English, music, swimming and writing. She would like a pen pal aged 19-25 serving in Germany or England. — *Brandesburgerstr 7, 3003 Empelde, Ronnenberg, Germany.*

Susan Salmon is 22 and is a housekeeper. Her interests are collecting postcards, decals, coins and spoons and she would like a penpal aged 26. — *2025 36 Avenue, SW Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2T 2B8.*

Susan Mathison is 22 and unemployed and her interests are driving and horse-riding. She would like a pen pal aged 22 plus. — *15 Castledine Croft, Brightside, Sheffield S9 1DW.*

Kim Macalister is 17 with fair hair and blue eyes and her interests are swimming, badminton and music. She would like pen pals at home or abroad and will answer all letters. — *3 Shortcross Ave, Mapperley, Nottingham NG3 5JX.*

Julie McAlpine is 25 and unemployed and her interests are travelling and meeting people. She would like a pen pal aged 25-35. — *c/o 4 Eastgate, Stobhill, Morpeth, Northumberland.*

Ann Mansfield is 17 and would like to become involved in hotel management. Her interests are cookery, squash and horse-riding and she would like a pen pal aged 19-25. — *Cadogan House, RMSG, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire.*

Tracy Wardrope is 23 and is a clerk. Her interests are jogging, walking and writing and she would like a pen pal aged 25 plus. — *256 Oldham Road, Grotton, Oldham, Lancs OL4 5BE.*

Beverley Adams is 23 with fair hair and blue eyes and is a typist. Her interests are swimming, badminton and travelling and she would like a pen pal aged 20-30. — *19 Woolridge Way, Frampton Park Estate, Homerton, London E9 6PP.*

Janet McKone is 20, 5ft 11in with brown hair and green eyes. Her interests are animals, reading, music and swimming. She would like a pen pal aged 21-25 and would like a photograph. — *70b Anlaby Road, Hull, North Humberside HU4 6BP.*

PEN PALS WANTED



Lisa Cole is 17 and is a clerk. Her interests are bowling, horse-riding and badminton and she would like a pen-pal aged 18-20. — *21 Eastcote Lane, South Harrow, Middx.*

Diane Soutar is 16 and single and her interests are roller skating and tennis. She would like a pen pal aged 16-20 who is serving in America or Sweden. — *18 Gisborne Close, Mickleover, Derby.*

Steve George is 22 and is a TA medic. His interests are music, travel, outdoor life and writing and he would like a pen pal aged 18-25 in the WRAC or QARANC. — *23 Sherbooke Avenue, Wilnecote, Tamworth, Staffs B77 5EJ.*

Samantha Lloyd is 16 and her interests are dancing, music, walking and writing. She would like a pen pal aged 18-21. Send a photo if possible. — *11 Brewery St, Pontygraith, Rhondda, Mid Glam.*

Teresa Rinder is 17 and is a sales assistant. Her interests are discos and writing and she would like a pen pal aged 19-25, serving in Germany. — *85 Thornhill Place, Longstanton, Cambs CB4 5EF.*

Patricia Loc is 34 and divorced. Her interests are gardening, reading and country and western music and she would like a pen pal aged 37 plus with similar interests. — *43 Cadge Close, North Earham, Norwich, Norfolk NR5 8DE.*

Charlotte Fletcher is 16 and her ambition is to join the Army. Her interests are camping expeditions and the Girls Venture Corps. — *30 Scarborough Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 3EF.*

Elaine Cheattle is 29 and her ambition is to learn languages. Her interests are stamp collecting, music and writing and she would like a pen pal aged 25-35. — *118 Yorkminster Drive, Chelmsley Wood, Birmingham B37 6TR.*

Samantha Owens is 16 and her ambition is to qualify as a hairdresser. Her interests are walking and writing and she would like a pen pal aged 18-22. — *82 Llewellyn St, Pontygraith, Rhondda, Glam.*

Tracy Jones is 20 and is a pupil nurse. Her ambition is to nurse in underdeveloped countries and her interests are writing letters, walking, dancing and meeting people. — *51 Gittin St, Oswestry, Salop, SY11 1DU.*

Maxine Platt is 18 and is a dental nurse. She likes music and dancing and her ambition is to travel. She would like pen pals aged 20-25. — *42 Saffron Close, Hoddesdon, Herts.*

Caroline Droken is 20 and is a dental nurse. She likes dancing, travelling and sports and would like pen pals aged 22-30. — *75c Ditchfield Road, Hoddesdon, Herts.*

Marilyn Coates is 33 and is a control clerk. Her ambition is to go to Australia and her interests are driving, cooking and travel. She would like pen pals aged 30-35. — *100 Carden Ave, Halton, Leeds 15.*

Elaine Procter is 17 and is an assembly worker. Her ambition is to live abroad and her interests are walking, writing letters and dancing. She would like pen pals aged 18-23. — *3 Peel St, Oswaldtwistle, Accrington.*

Paula Storey is 18 and is a nanny. Her interests are TA, writing letters and music and she would like pen pals aged 17 plus. — *43 Green Lane, Edgware, Middx, HA8 7PZ.*

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Diane, Top Flat, 84 Southgate St, Gloucester.

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Dave Tite, 92 Eaton Road, Kempston, Bedford.

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Stuart Cook, 22 Parkside, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 8NG. 0440 703046.

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Richard Lee, 96 Guildford St, Chertsey, Surrey, KT16 9AD.

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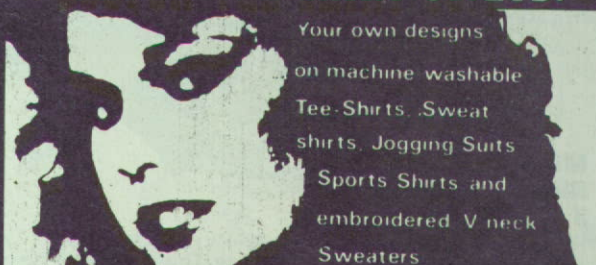
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REGULARS BEAT TERRIERS

THE Army beat the Territorial Army 2-1 in the annual soccer encounter played at Aldershot.

The Regulars could have won by a bigger margin, but for some brilliant goalkeeping by Private Rob Park (CVHQ REME) and some wasted chances.

The home side took the lead in the 23rd minute, when Guardsman Sandy Jardine (Scots Guards) and Corporal Billy Freear (Royal Signals) set up a chance which Lance Corporal Micky Spencer (REME) gratefully accepted.

Other chances were missed before, early in the second half, the Army went further ahead when a glorious long ball from Guardsman Rob Sharp (Scots Guards) dropped behind the defenders and Freear rounded the advancing Park before rolling the ball into the empty net.

More chances went a'begging and Park made three fine saves as



both sides began to tire.

The Army were then caught napping, having been searching for further goals. Two defenders failed

to clear a cross and Craftsman Steve Rawlings (156 Transport Regiment [Volunteers]) nipped in to reduce arrears.

A Territorial Army defender heads danger clear — ordered on by 'keeper Park! — in the encounter with the Army at Aldershot. Picture: DOUG PRATT

IRON LADY No 2!

BRITAIN now has two Iron Ladies. The one with the blue suits and lacquered hair everyone knows about; the other is equally well known in sporting circles and particularly among endurance athletes.

She is Captain Sarah Springman, OC the Sapper Wing, Cambridge UOTC and British Women's Triathlon champion. Since we first reported on this impressive athlete (SOLDIER 16 July) who is currently working for her PhD at Cambridge, she has competed in the World Triathlon Championships in Nice and more recently notched up another success at the Bud Light Original Ironman Triathlon Championships in Hawaii.

The contest, which began in 1978, is the one all endurance athletes aspire to, it being one of the hardest. It is not just the 2.4 mile swim, the 112 mile cycle race and gruelling marathon to finish that set the competitors apart from the rest of the human race, but also the powerful tradewind and oven-hot temperatures that accompany them.

When SOLDIER first met Captain Springman she was not sure how she would get to Hawaii this year because of lack of funds. But thanks to the WRAC, Eastern District, the TA and the Royal Engineers who all sponsored her,



she was able to fulfil her dream and compete in this, the world's toughest race.

And neither did she disappoint her sponsors, coming 142nd overall out of 1,153. She was the eleventh woman home and the first British and European. With the exception of one South African woman, those who beat her were all professionals.

Iron woman she may be but to the TA, Cambridge UOTC and as an inspiration to all British amateur endurance athletes, Sarah Springman is worth her weight in gold.

Major Dobson loses seat

MAJOR Alan Dobson, secretary of the Army Football Association, was among the directors swept from office after a bitter struggle for control of Fourth Division Aldershot.

A consortium led by former Chelsea 'Iron Man', Ron Harris, took over the club at an extra-

ordinary meeting of shareholders. Major Dobson refused to resign after the defeat of the chairman but was then ousted 54-17 on a show of hands. He is a former Chelsea director.

GUEST TAKES THE PRIZE

THE annual Berlin (British Sector) Cross Country Championships saw 132 runners taking part, including guest teams from the West Berlin

FLY FISHERMEN TAKE THE CROWN

THE Army and Inter-Service fly fishing competitions were held at Rutland Water.

For the Army competition there was a record turnout of 40 competitors.

The top placings were very close and only a few ounces separated first, second and third. Top five: 1 Lt Col M Conroy 13 lbs 8 ozs; 2 Maj P Holdsworth QDG 12 lbs 15 ozs; 3 Lt Col B Hannigan RAMC 12 lbs 14 ozs; 4 WO2 D Woolcott ACC 10 lbs 9 ozs; 5 Sgt W McDougall REME 10 lbs 2 ozs.

The best fish was caught by Major R Wiseman — a brown trout of 3 lbs 7 ozs.

This year the inter-services competition was sponsored by RCA Ltd (Services Division).

Selecting an Army team proved to be difficult, but the fourteen selected were: Col C Heap RADC, Lt Col M Conroy RAMC, Lt Col B Hannigan RAMC, Lt Col (Retd) P Leech MOD, Major J

Batchelor REME, Major P Holdsworth QDG, Major J Wiseman 1 RWF, Capt M Wall RRF, Lt Coe Depot Para, WO2 M Horobin 1 Gren Gds, WO2 D Woolcott ACC (Captain), W Barton Int Corps, SSgt D Smith AAC, Sgt W McDougall REME.

Everyone in the Army team caught fish and went on to earn a well deserved, but close win over the RAF. Results: 1, Army 73 fish weighing 97 lbs 6 ozs; 2, RAF 74 fish weighing 95 lbs 11½ ozs; 3, Royal Navy 54 fish weighing 73 lbs 8½ ozs.

Individual honours went to the Royal Navy, PO D Riley winning with a bag weighing 14 lbs 3 oz including a brown trout weighing 5 lbs 8½ ozs. First five: 1 PO D Riley (RN) 14 lbs 3 ozs, 2 Major P B Holdsworth (Army) 12 lbs 12 ozs, 3 Col C Heap (Army) 10 lbs 13½ ozs, 4 Flt Lt Matson (RAF) 10 lbs 11 ozs, 5 SSgt Smith (Army) 10 lbs 10½ ozs.

Police and the US Sector.

The overall winner was guest runner Herr Sensburg of the West Berlin Police in 35 mins 35 secs.

The Major Units Championship was won by 1 PWO 'A' team, with 1 PWO 'B' second and 1 R HAMPS 'A' third, and the Minor Units Championship was taken by the RAOC/REME team, followed by 229 Sig Sqn and D Sqn QOH.

The women's event, run over half the distance, was won handsomely by Sgt Chris McLoughlin WRAC in a field of one!

IN the boxing centre at Aldershot the scoreboard still reads Royal Navy 4 — Army 6. A reminder of that glorious night last Spring when the Army broke the Navy's domination of the Combined Services championships after six naval victories in a row.

On Guy Fawkes Night, Staff Sergeant Mick Gannon, the man who achieved that success in his first season as Army coach, assembled the squad which he hopes will manage to keep the Navy at bay in this season's championships.

Of the RAF the Army has no fear — but the Navy took defeat hard and is already on the comeback trail.

"The Navy have been training since September and they really want that title back," says Gannon. "Usually we don't start training until early in the New Year but that would not give us enough time before the big match."

That big match will be on 24 January at Portsmouth in front of a large and fiercely partisan crowd, but by then Gannon hopes to have put together a team which will not be daunted by the opposition.

Before Christmas there are five matches against amateur boxing clubs in various parts of the country, as well as club shows, so that all boxers will be ring-fit.

"We never take off that scoreline. It took us seven years to get it up there. Now we have to beat them at their own place."

Aged 31, Mick Gannon followed his two elder brothers into the ring at the age of seven and represented Warwickshire as a schoolboy. He joined the Army Catering Corps as a junior and was junior welterweight champion when he was 17.

Later he joined 10 Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, as a cook — and found himself in one of the top boxing units of the day.

"They were the last real Army champions" he recalls with pride. "Nine out of the 11 boxers in our team in the seventies were Army representatives."

While he was there he re-badged to the RCT but soon crossed back — when he was accepted into the Army Physical Training Corps.

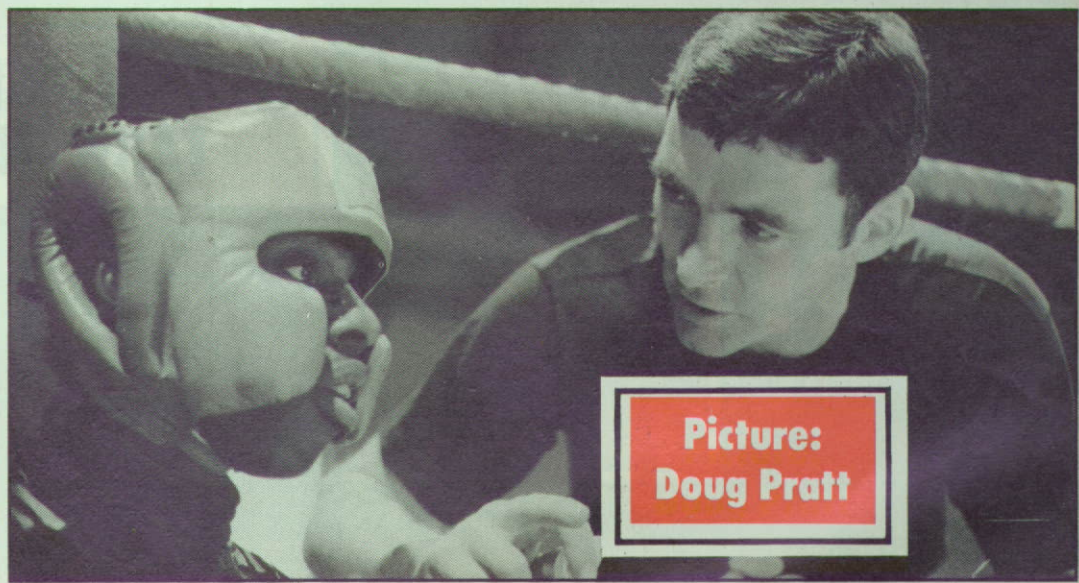
He was Army welterweight champion and captained the Army squad for three years. He was an obvious choice when the coach position became vacant.

This year he is losing his best known boxer, Private Carl Crook, who has just left the Army. But the coach says that replacing Crook will not be as difficult as it might appear.

"I have got four very good lightweights in the squad. One of them, Driver Haddock, was a British semi-finalist in the ABA championships when he was a

Sporting spotlight on the Army's boxing coach...

THE MAN WHO AIMS TO KEEP THE NAVY AT BAY



**Picture:
Doug Pratt**

civilian."

Haddock is now with 10 Regiment, who seem intent on rebuilding their position. This is the second year the Army open team title has not been contested but Mick hopes that before long it will be back on the calendar.

"It will stay on the shelf for a couple of years but hopefully as we upgrade the boxers we shall get the major unit teams back."

The last champions, 1st Battalion, The King's Regiments, are now back in England and for the first time in three years he expects to have some of their men in his Army squad.

"We are much better off this year. I have got 36 names and of those I will get a final squad of 25 — which is seven more than entered the Army championships last year," he enthused.

Team captain again will be Corporal Horace Miles, thought

to be a good bet for an ABA heavyweight title last Spring until he walked into a wild punch in an unguarded moment.

"There is nothing in the Services to beat him and he should do it in the ABA championships this year."

The find of last season was 17-year-old apprentice John MacLean at flyweight. This year another small man joins the squad which Gannon believes means they will wrap up the two lowest weights. "His name is McCallum from 10 Regiment RCT and he was a National Association of Boys' Clubs finalist last year. He will beat anything the Navy or RAF have got."

Three good boxers around the featherweight mark in Oag, Catherine and Owens and a light middleweight from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment — all add to the strongest Army squad for years.

There have been rumblings that the Services might bow to pressure and abandon boxing as a sport. But Mick Gannon feels the future is secure.

"Headguards will come in eventually and I don't think that's a bad idea because it will stop a lot of eye cuts. People are always asking why men stand and hit each other but there is no need for people to get hit.

"The idea is to learn the skills — if you can hit and move you should have no problem. All my boxers have sharp noses and sharp features — what you have to learn is how to box rather than scrap.

"I can't see boxing ending in the Army because it is one of the three most popular sports. There are very few people in the Army who have never had a pair of boxing gloves on in their lives."

Like all good managers and coaches Mick Gannon believes that you need to look after your charges rather than boss them about. "We have a nice little family when we are together. The training dis-

**Mick Gannon (right):
'nice little family'**

cipline is there and they respond well to whatever I ask."

The battle to retain the Services title began almost immediately after the last bout of last year's finals.

Staff Gannon has travelled all over the country to watch potential Army representatives — clocking up 22,000 miles a year in his car in the process. That 6-4 scoreline stands to spur him and his fighters on. "Now we know we can beat the Navy as long as we don't freeze because we are away in Portsmouth."

Boxing Calendar: 24 January Army v Navy (Portsmouth); 6 February — Army and Under-19 championships (Aldershot); 21 February — Army v RAF (Aldershot); 6-7 March — Combined Services Individual Championships, Aldershot.

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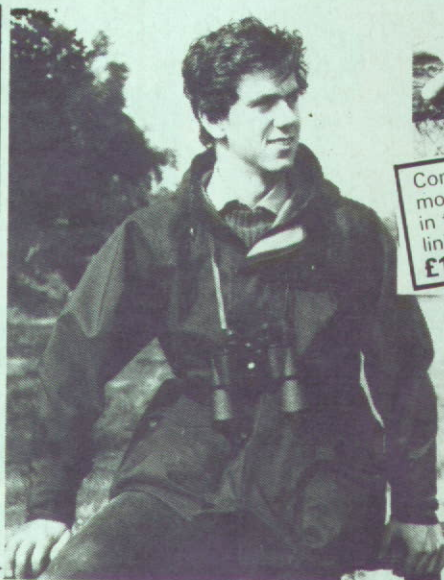
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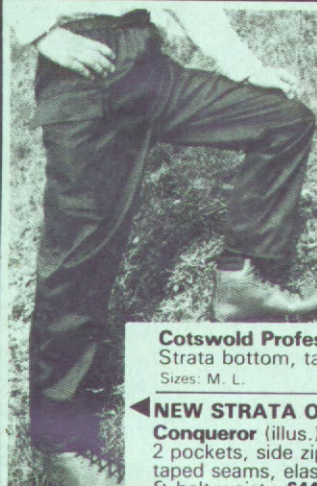
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