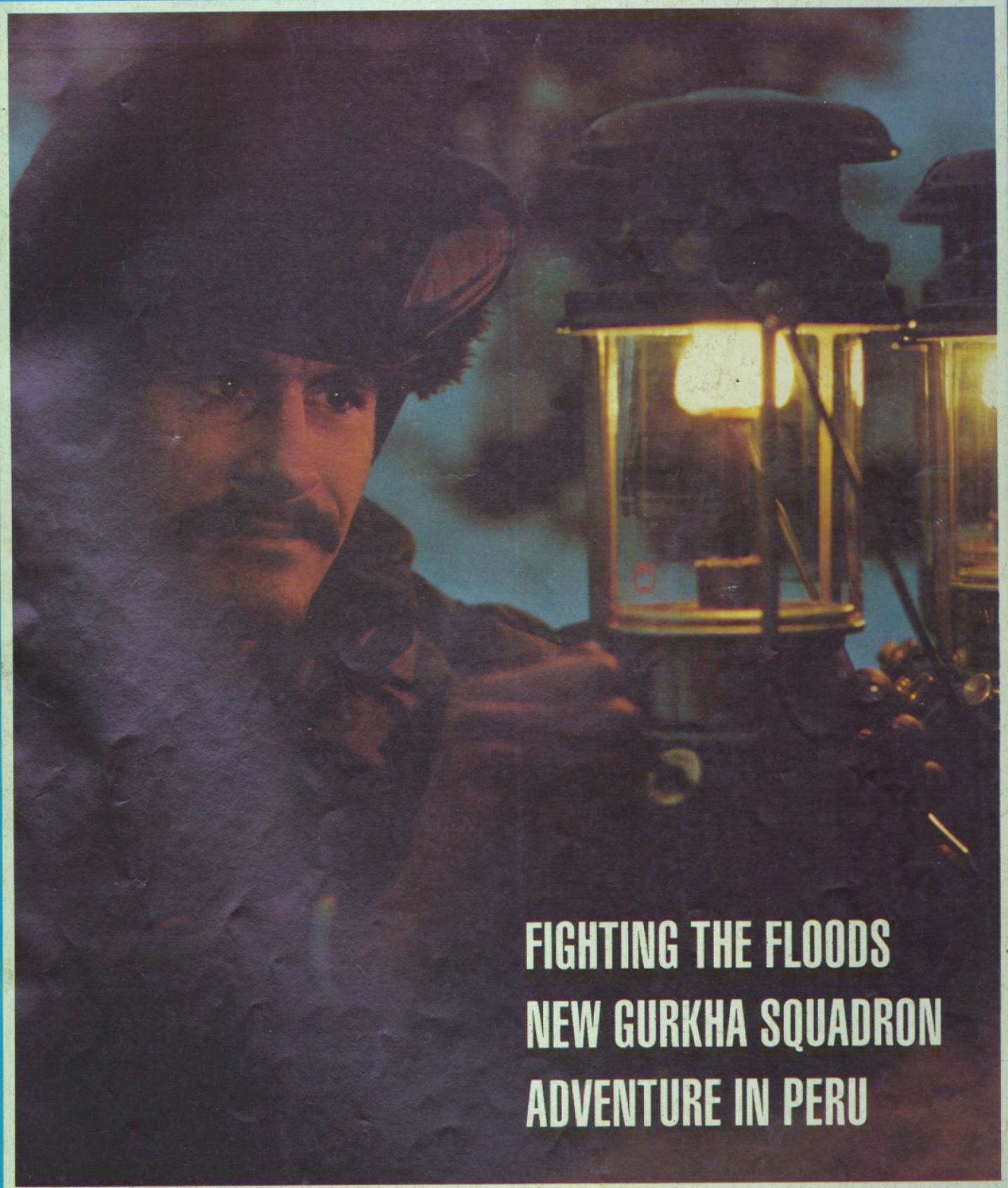


THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 25 PENCE • 25 JAN — 7 FEB 1982

SOLDIER



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FRONT COVER

Deep inside the Arctic Circle at Bardufoss in Norway a British soldier with Nato's ACE Mobile Force lights one of the high pressure lamps used to illuminate the tents. The Force deploys to Norway each winter to practice warfare and survival skills in sub-zero temperatures — perhaps this winter they should have come to Britain instead!

Picture by Doug Pratt

BACK COVER

The lads of 26 Regt Wksp REME were so impressed by Kate Sampson's picture in SOLDIER NEWS last February that they asked to adopt her as their pin-up. SOLDIER arranged for her to visit the unit in Dortmund just before Christmas and she is going back to see them again this month.

Picture by Paul Haley

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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY



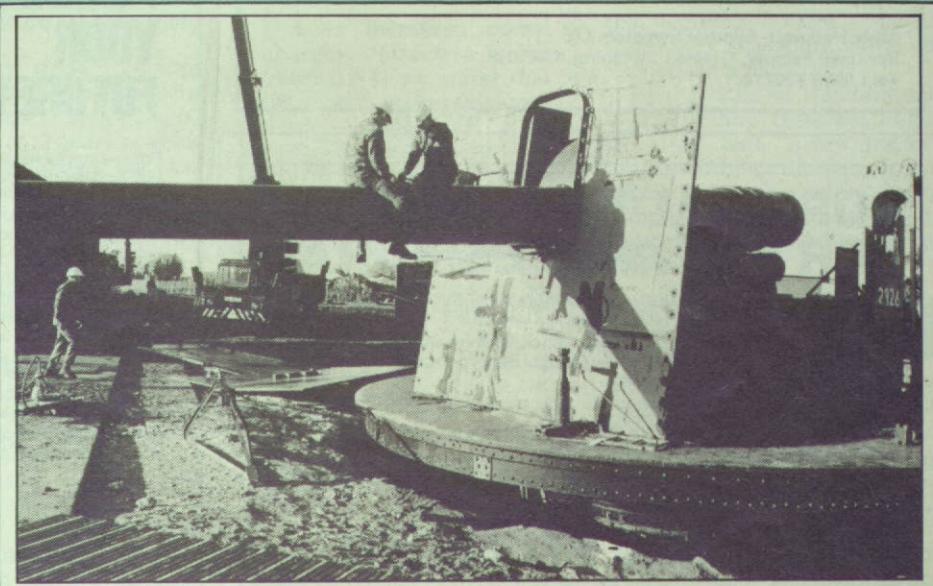
As Britain was battered by its worst winter weather for 34 years troops battled through floods and snowdrifts on errands of mercy

◀ page 10

page 26 ▼



Gibraltar's big gun finds a new resting place — page 24 ▼



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SOLDIER to Soldier

THE WEATHER is always a favourite topic of conversation among the British. And the blizzards and floods of recent weeks have provided enough talking points to make even the most taciturn among us positively garrulous with tales of hardship.

Many of our readers, basking in sunnier climes, may wonder what all the fuss is about. But we make no apology for devoting several pages of this issue to the remarkable job done by the Army — Regular and Territorial — in helping the community battle through Britain's worst winter for more than three decades.

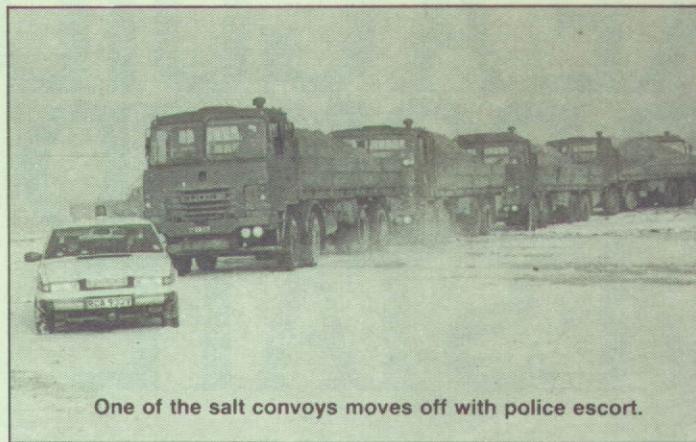
Fighting the floods in Yorkshire, digging stranded citizens out of snowdrifts in Wales or ferrying vitally needed supplies of salt to the West Country, our soldiers have been superb.

The way in which our Army responds to a crisis with immediate practical help and expertise speaks volumes about its men and its leaders. In the free-wheeling, anything-goes Eighties there are plenty ready to scoff at such 'old-fashioned' notions as service and discipline. There are those who dismiss the whole concept of defence as a pointless drain on the public purse. And there are others who give soldiers the cold shoulder — like the pubs who refuse to serve them or the councils who clamp down on recruiting tours.

Fortunately those who malign the military are in a minority. A recent survey of social attitudes showed that 81 per cent of the British public held the Armed Forces in high esteem while only 40 per cent had a similarly high regard for Parliament.

Such confidence is not misplaced. For when the chips are down and a dirty, difficult or dangerous job needs doing — fast — the Armed Forces have no peers.

Shovelling snow or baling out water may be no more than a temporary diversion in our soldiers' more fundamental tasks in defence of the realm. Yet the spirit with which they set about the task — and the efficiency with which they carried it out — has given the public further proof that they have an Army to be proud of. In the current chilly climate, that at least is a warming thought.



One of the salt convoys moves off with police escort.

ARMY TO THE RESCUE

AS THE WORST weather for more than three decades clamped Britain in an Arctic grip the Army swung into action to back police and emergency services.

Both TA and Regular soldiers found themselves literally in the thick of it as blizzards brought chaos to railways, communities were cut off and motorways were blocked by abandoned vehicles and huge snowdrifts.

Worst of the weather hit Wales and the South-West. On Salisbury Plain members of the UK element of the ACE Mobile Force preparing for Exercise 'Hard Fall' in Norway suddenly found that their snow vehicles and skis were in great demand.

Pte Garry Wilson and Pte Neil Shaw of 48 Sqn RAOC made a five-mile dash in a Snowcat, over deeply rutted snow to reach one mother-to-be but the journey was so rough that they took her across country to hospital, where she gave birth to a baby boy.

Men of 22 Engineer Regiment from Tidworth worked by moonlight throughout one night and well into the next day to break through 18ft snowdrifts to the village of Braydon. Then they had to cut a route to a remote farm so that the vet could get through.

Ski-trained troops of the Prince of Wales Own Regiment of Yorkshire spent hours checking hundreds of abandoned vehicles to ensure that no one was trapped inside.

Conditions in the Bristol area were so bad that members of two TA units, 37 Signal Regiment and 266 Battery RA were called in to deliver 400 meals on wheels to the needy.

In Wales every single unit, TA and regular was involved in some aspect of the emergency from the start. On the Sunday 203 General Hospital responded to 96 emergency calls, ranging from pleas to help pregnant women to digging out ambulances. The Royal Monmouth Engineers were out with heavy plant clearing the M4 motorway.

In one incident a 92-year-old woman was carried piggy-back

BRIGADES ARE BACK

BRIGADES ARE BACK in the British Army. Following the changes foreshadowed in last year's Defence White Paper, the two new headquarters have been formed to group together existing TA units.

The 15th Infantry Brigade, with headquarters at Topcliffe, North Yorks, will encompass units whose volunteer soldiers live in the eight North-Eastern counties, plus two squadrons of the Queen's Own Yeomanry from Ayrshire and Cheshire.

With headquarters at Chilwell, Notts, 49 Brigade will take in units mainly in the East and West Midlands and the London area.

Together with one regular Brigade, currently designated 5 Field Force, they will form the new 2nd Infantry Division whose headquarters will be located alongside HQ North East District and commanded by the same GOC.



But the blizzard did not stop the changing of the Queen's Life Guards in Whitehall.

SORRY

Due to increased postal charges, effective from February 1, we regret that the cost of annual subscriptions to SOLDIER must rise. The new charges are £10.90 for UK/BFPO readers and £12.00 for readers elsewhere.

from her remote mountain farm to hospital. In another 16 Boy Scouts were rescued from their adventure training camp and cared for at Crickhowell Barracks.

Then as the great clear-up got going another 150 men of 1st Bn Royal Regiment of Wales were drafted-in from Aldershot to help the stricken Cardiff area.

Urgent pleas for help from Avon County Council sent a fleet of 16-ton trucks to Cheshire to collect badly needed rock salt. In two days they moved 1300 tons

despite 12-hour journeys through freezing fog and spartan conditions in whatever accommodation could be found. Members of the mixed force found themselves shovelling up to 20 tons of salt a day.

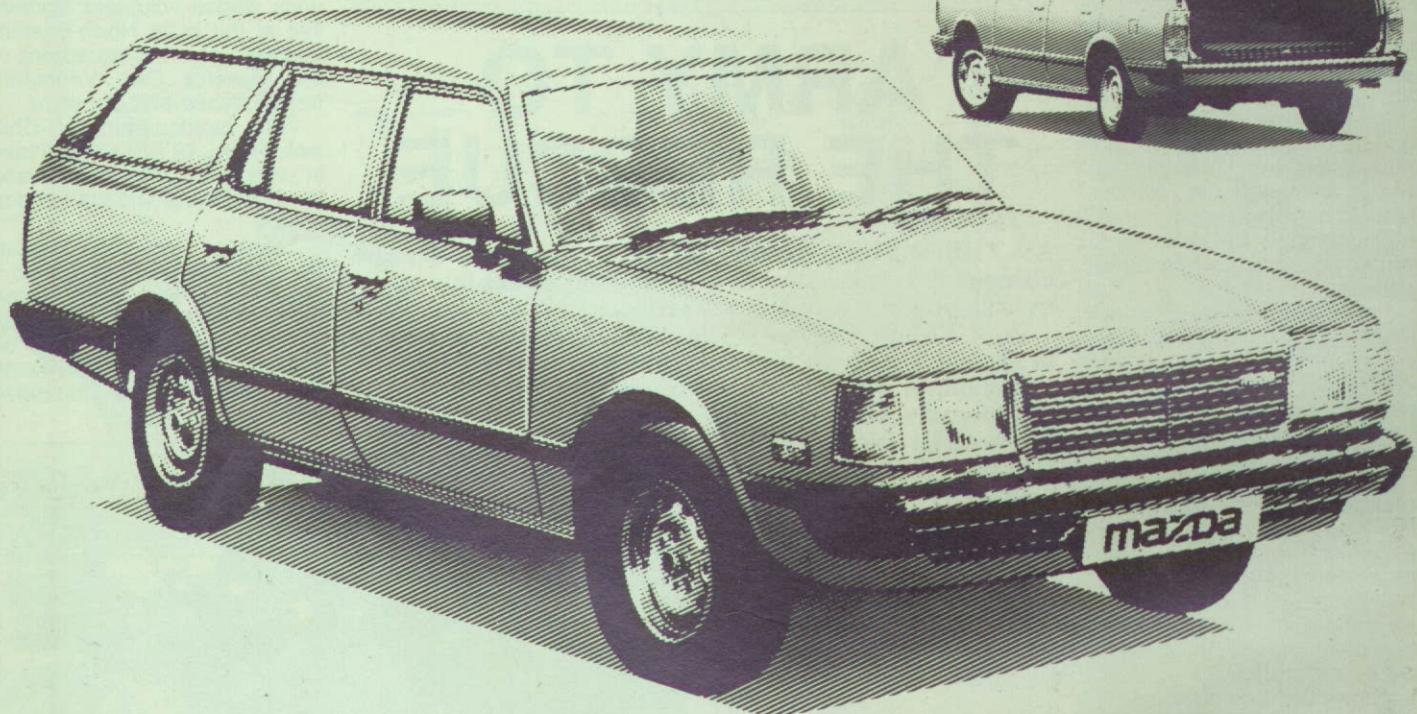
Farther East in Hereford and Worcestershire, there was a similar story with Army tractors battling through the snow to get fodder to starving calves, heavy equipment helping to clear roads and emergency deliveries to hospitals.

PRIZE GRUB

MEMBERS OF THE Manchester and Bolton Artillery — 209 Air Defence Battery RA — have found a novel way of raising money for charity. They raffled their cook, WO 2 Peter Danby, ACC.

The lucky winner will get £100 worth of food, wine and service to provide a meal of their own choice in their own home, cooked by WO Danby.

TAKE A GUIDED TOUR ROUND OUR ESTATE

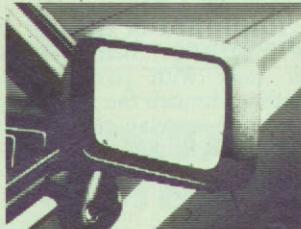


You won't be disappointed if you make a special visit to see the Mazda 929L Estate.

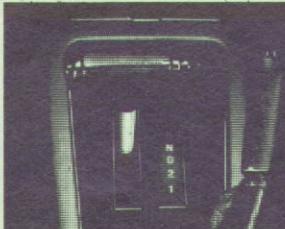
Outside, you'll find a quietly elegant exterior that's in the best of taste. Inside, there's a marvellous combination of luxury and practicality.

When the rear seats are folded down, the 929 offers a fully carpeted load area of 64cu.ft. And the individually folding rear seats give even greater versatility.

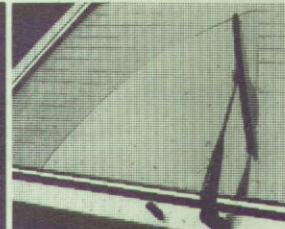
All creature comforts are provided for as well.



A luxurious touch is provided by the 929's electrically adjustable drivers door mirror.



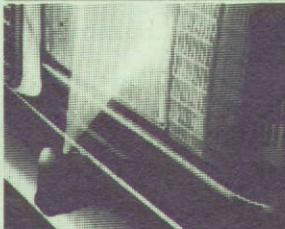
Automatic transmission is available on the 929L as an optional extra.



Part of the standard equipment on every 929 is a rear screen wash/wipe.



The 929's individual folding rear seats make it even more versatile.



Another little extra that comes as standard on the 929 are headlamp washers.



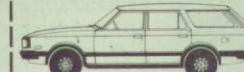
If you're after even more luxury, then power windows are available as an option.

Headlamp washers, an electrically adjustable drivers door mirror and rear screen wash/wipe are all fitted as standard. While power windows and central locking are available as optional extras.

If you're after something not quite as palatial as the 929L, then Mazdas 1400 Estate should fit the bill. It has a very generous 55cu.ft. of fully carpeted load area with its rear seats folded down.

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Train drama duo rewarded

TWO CORPORALS of 3 Bn Royal Regiment of Fusiliers have been presented with Royal Humane Society awards for helping to save the life of a young woman trapped and seriously injured under a train.

The drama happened at a London station last year when Cpl Joe Coleman and Martin Dunwoody, both 22, were travelling home to Manchester on leave after a tour at Fallingbostel.

The woman was trailed for several yards before the train could be stopped and she lost a leg above the knee.

The quick thinking soldiers pushed through the crowd and crawled under the carriages, calling to onlookers for bandages and swabs.

Said Cpl Coleman, "The most frightening part was when the train had to be uncoupled. There were barely inches to spare between us and the carriage floor moving above our heads."

They attributed their success to the first-aid drill taught to all Army recruits, which also came in handy when four of their colleagues suffered cuts and bruises in a mortar attack in West Belfast last June.

As well as their official awards, the two have also received congratulatory letters from two generals and a brigadier. One of the generals actually saw the incident and admired the spirited way the two went promptly into action.

World Airways is offering members of the forces serving in Germany, UK based civilians and dependants a 35 per cent reduction on economy fares on its Frankfurt Gatwick service.

PENDLE



"Actually, we wondered if you wouldn't mind changing into civvies before going down to the town."



A Spaniard's eye view of The Rock before repair work began in preparation for the re-opening.

ROCK GATES TO RE-OPEN

SPAIN IS TO RE-OPEN its border with Gibraltar on April 20, just a week after Easter.

The agreement was reached in an exchange of letters between the British and Spanish foreign ministers and announced by Senor Calvo Sotelo, the Spanish Prime Minister, during a visit to London.

The frontier was closed by the Franco regime in 1969 although the gates on the British side have remained open throughout the intervening 12 years.

Immediately following the announcement Spanish workers began refurbishing approach roads and customs buildings.

Under an agreement reached in Lisbon in April 1980 the border was to have been re-opened on June 1 that year and unconditional negotiations were to start immediately afterwards. But Spain attempted to renegotiate the agreement.

Now Spaniards working in the colony will be given the same rights as other non-EEC workers.

Family affair

FOR THE COOKES of Oldham, the Passing Out Parade of the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps, was a real family affair.

WO2 Roy Cooke, together with his wife, Mavis, daughter Samantha, and his two sons, Stephen and Martin, were at Bovington Camp, Dorset, to watch the third member of their family pass out to join the 15th/19th King's Royal Hussars.

The family association with the 15th/19th began back in 1957 when young Roy Cooke started his National Service. He liked the life so much that when he was demobbed he just could not settle down in civvy street.

He left his job as service manager with a motorcycle firm and re-enlisted. The next twenty years saw service in West Germany, Northern Ireland and Cyprus.

Meanwhile his sons began to follow in his footsteps. Stephen, now aged 21 and a Lance Corporal, served as a Junior Leader and completed his course at Bovington in 1977. Martin, now aged 19, completed his training at Bovington in 1979. And now the youngest son, Roy aged 17, has marched off the square to join the family regiment.

Briefly

Orders for the British Aerospace Rapier low-level air defence system have exceeded £600 million over 12 months. The total includes orders from Switzerland and the USA as well as the £160 million contract for Tracked Rapier for the British Army.

A coastal artillery museum is planned as part of the re-developed complex of Newhaven Fort on a cliff-top west of the Sussex port. The fortification dates from 1780.

Brig David Ramsbotham, 47, late the Royal Green Jackets, has been appointed Director of Army Public Relations in succession to Brig Guy Watkins who becomes GOC The Artillery Division in March in the rank of Major General.

Captain David Ian Waters, RE, TA has been commended by C-in-C UKLF for his brave conduct in rescuing a man from a blazing barn in October.

The British garrison in Munster is to be granted the Freedom of the City.

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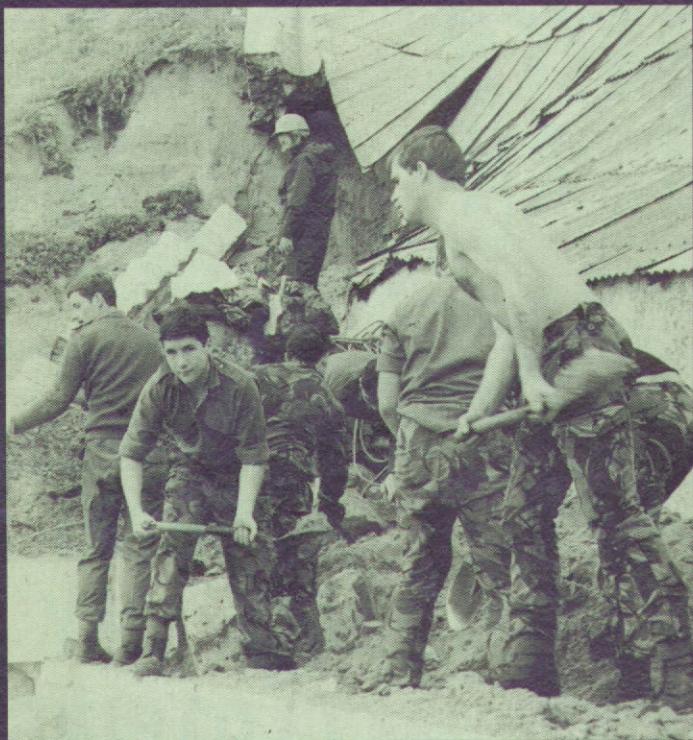


◀ Last Bread

Mrs Barbara Feltham wrapping the last batch of sliced loaves from the RAOC bakery at Hohne which has closed after 31 years. Now the job of supplying bread for 1st Armoured Division has been transferred to Bielefeld.

Test ▶

Maj Gen Geoffrey Howlett was proud of passing his heavy goods vehicle test during his time as GOC 1st Armoured Division and his skill was really put to the test during a farewell visit to Verden. They gave him a 67-year-old steam traction engine to drive.

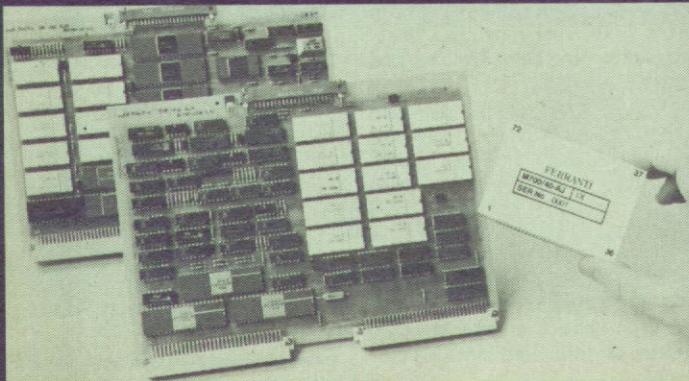


Shoulders ▲

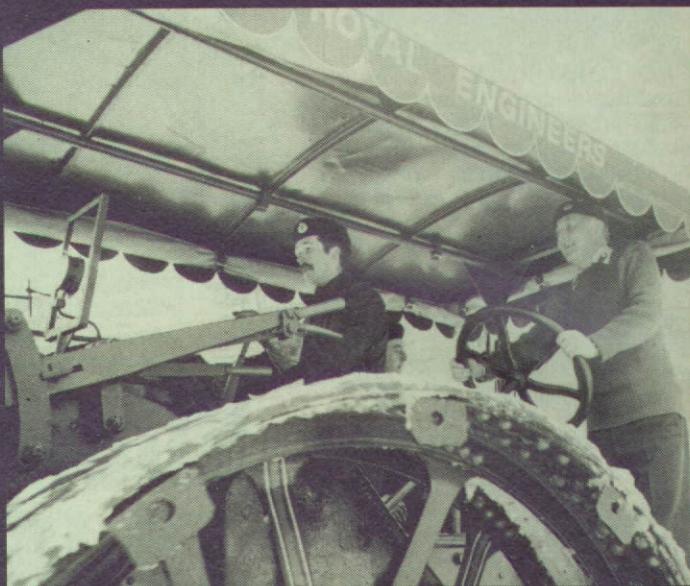
Putting their shoulders into it are members of a team of Sappers and Staffords who went to work in Gibraltar in an attempt to save some of the retaining walls of the Rock's East Side water catchment system after part of it had collapsed.

Smaller ▼

The new M700/40 microprocessor for which the Ferranti company has won a Defence development and manufacturing contract, compared to the twin pack system which it will replace. The new system can process 1.6 million instructions per second and has already been adopted for future developments on the Rapier air defence system.



NEWS VIEW



Happy ▶

Ex-sapper Bill "Hoppy" Thorne is happy again thanks to Royal Engineers at Rheindahlen. They promised to replace his WW I medals, lost many years ago. Now he has a new set including the Military Medal, Service and Victory medals.



New Unit ▶

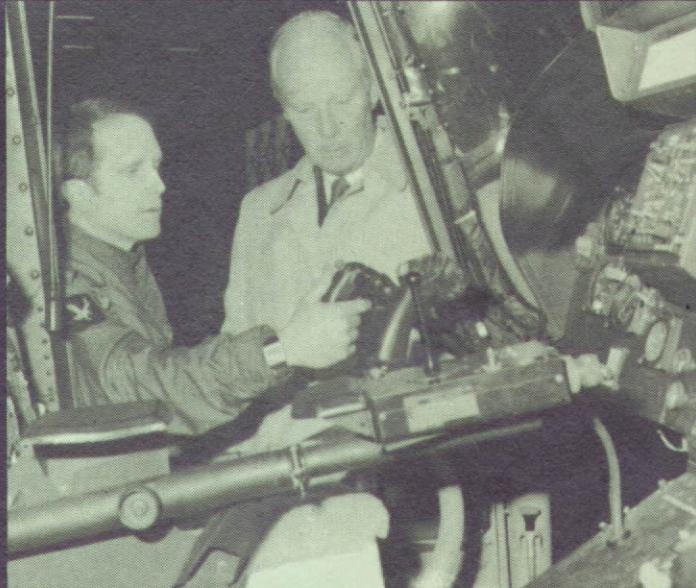
The self-styled 'Lancashire Rangers' get the once over from RSM Hugh Lamour of 4 Bn Queen's Lancashire Regiment during a visit to Kimberley Barracks, Preston. The Army-barmy lads were invited to visit the barracks after their leader, 'Colonel' Christian Maylor, 11, wrote to the CO.





Kukri ▾

Sgt Wong Chun Man RCT, NCO in charge of Hong Kong's New Territories group practice ambulance drivers, receiving an engraved kukri from Brigadier Morgan Llewellyn in recognition of the unit's four years of accident free motoring.



Brass Carol ▾

The last Berlin tripartite exercise of 1981 was officially called 'Christmas Carol' but the British, French and US participants quickly renamed it 'Brass Monkey'. For three nights temperatures were down to minus 17C with a daytime high of minus 6C. This patrol of 1 Bn King's Own Royal Border Regiment were not specially impressed by the Christmas card setting in the Grunewald.



First ▾

US ambassador to Britain, John J Louis Jnr, became the first diplomat to fly in the Lynx, the Army's latest tank-buster, during a visit to BAOR. Here he gets a briefing from Maj Phil Curtiss, a US Army officer on a two year exchange with the British forces.

Courage ▾

Plucky Pte Ann Duncan WRAC receiving the commendation of C-in-C UKLF for her "prompt and courageous action" in twice rescuing a 62 year old woman from a serious fire in her flat. The incident happened while Ann was home on leave in St Helens, Merseyside.



Cold ▾

Maj Jim Steele, leader of the RAOC free-fall parachute team, had a distinctly frosty reception when he returned to HQ 2nd Armoured Division after four months in Australia as part of the 'Long Look 81' exchange.

Irish ▾

Songstress Iris Williams and dancers Cherith Fowler, left, and Helen Clark seem to have gone Irish after a visit to Rideau Camp in Belize! They had been quickly adopted by the boys of B Coy Royal Irish Rangers when they arrived for a CSE show.

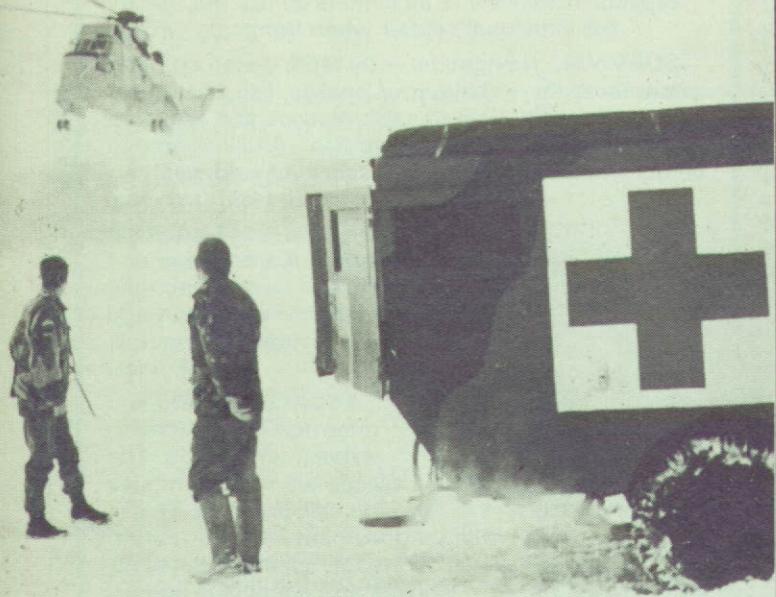


SOLDIER photographer
Andy Burridge braved the Big
Freeze to follow TA medics on mercy
missions in South Wales

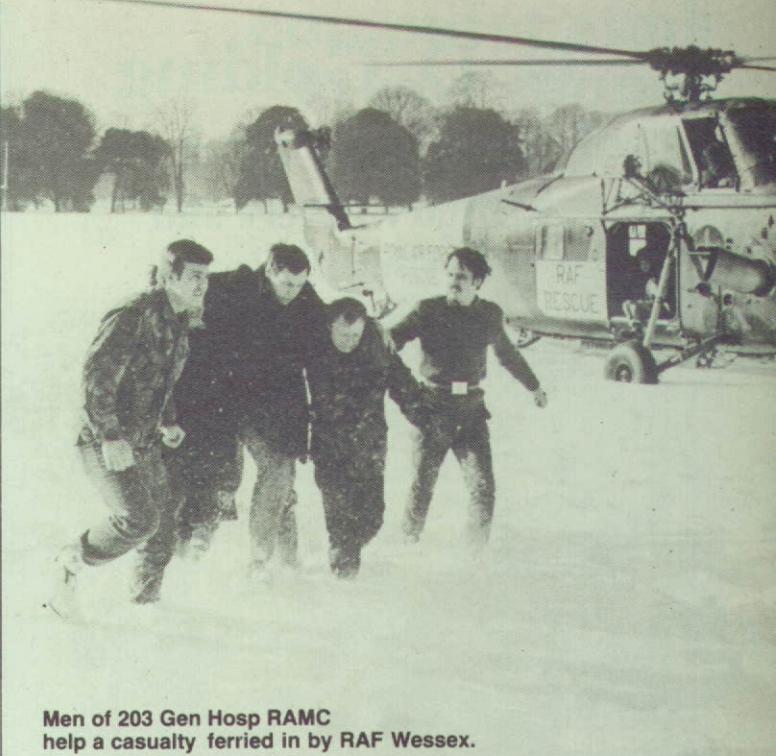


Hands across the snow

RAF 'chopper' takes off from Cardiff ambulance
depot after delivering another snow victim.



Soldiers of 144 Field Ambulance await the arrival of Sea King carrying kidney patient.



Men of 203 Gen Hosp RAMC help a casualty ferried in by RAF Wessex.

THE WINTER WHITE-OUT that transformed Wales into one gigantic snowdrift gave the TA plenty of opportunities to show its mettle. A broadcast appeal for volunteers to mount a massive rescue and snow-clearing operation brought an overwhelming and enthusiastic response from part-time soldiers throughout the Principality.

SOLDIER followed three of the TA units in the thick of the action round Cardiff — men from 144 Field Ambulance RAMC Collecting Coy HQ and 203 General Hospital who provided para-medical skills and 108 Field Squadron RE who helped keep the ambulance wheels moving in the appalling conditions. Working round the clock in 12 hour shifts they battled through piled snow to ferry sick and injured to civilian ambulances, some of them brought in from outlying country areas by helicopter.

In some cases emergency first aid had to be administered and several Land-Rovers were hastily rigged up with oxygen equipment and stretchers.

And all over Wales it was a similar story as volunteer units lent warm hands of friendship to the snow-bound.

The rains came too; Fighting Yorkshire's floods — page 26.



Willing hands get a civvy ambulance moving.



Transferring an injured patient from military to civilian ambulance after negotiating blocked roads.

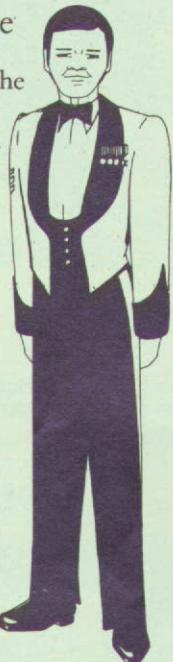
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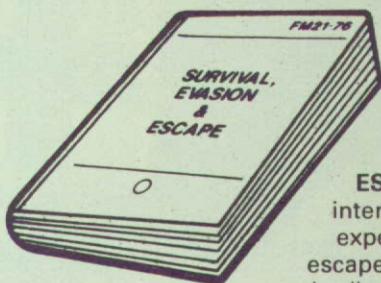
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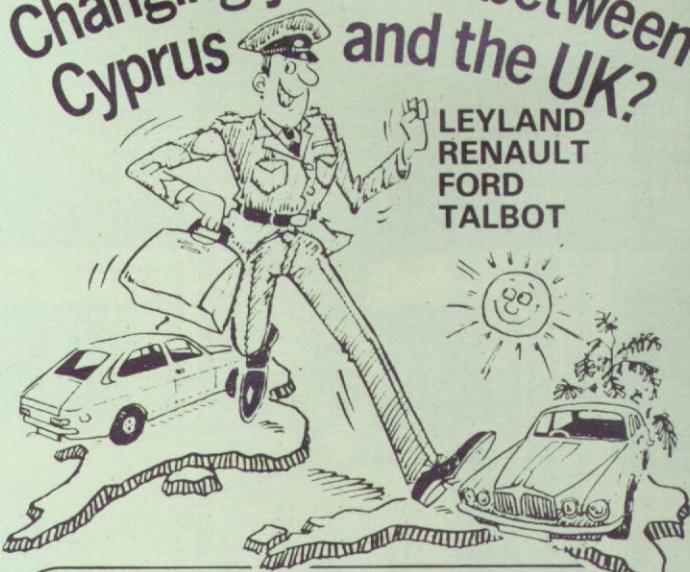
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WINNING THE NUMBERS GAME

A new Army computer aims to save money — and lives

IT'S ALL done by numbers in Andover these days. Who would suspect that, behind the warm, friendly exterior of an RCT driver and his vehicle, there lurks a giant superstructure of millions of figures, computer programmes and print-outs? Not for the Army Transport Management Data Centre cosy calculations but, rather, mind-blowing mountains of statistics in a dialogue with a computer superbrain at Bureau West, Devizes.

The military penchant for abbreviations has been given full rein at the Centre which forms part of the Logistic Executive (Army). Staff grapple with an ADP system that covers TAAS and VUDS which, roughly translated for the layman, means that they apply Automatic Data Processing to a Traffic Accident Analysis System and to a Vehicle Utilisation Data System.

The Services lose about the equivalent of a battalion of men each year in traffic accidents. Figures for Army accidents in the year ending March 31 1981 were 12 killed and 732 injured. Major Bruce Burgess explained that the prime requirement at the Centre is to reduce this accident rate.

The analysis of the causes and contributory factors of each accident highlights any common factors which can then be corrected. "Every accident that happens to a military vehicle in all three Services worldwide is reported here with all the details to give people on the road an idea of why it is happening," said Major Burgess.

"For example, an RCT unit in Germany was having a number of accidents when vehicles were overtaking ten-tonners. Somebody asked why and it was discovered



A soldier was killed when this Scorpion crashed, but analysing accident data may help prevent such tragedies.

Mrs Dawn Matthews prepares to key in a TOR scrutinised by Maj Bruce Burgess.

that they had a very bad blind spot. New mirrors were fitted and the accident rate dropped dramatically. Even if it only saves one life the system has paid for itself over and over again."

The VUDS covers 5000 RCT administration vehicles. Details of mileage, petrol consumption, hours on and off the road and so on for each vehicle are punched into the computer through the keystations at the Centre.

"The idea is to make maximum use of the admin vehicles and to show HQs and unit commanders the pattern of utilisation," explained Major Burgess. "With manpower cuts throughout the Services, there is no time for each unit to analyse in this way." The results can be used as a basis for the rationalisation of unit transport requirements.

As the sheaves of TORs (Traffic Operation Records) and TARs (Traffic Accident Reports) come in to the Centre, nimble-fingered girls key-in the information. They can make as many as 23,000 key depressions in a hour and the six girls process around 1200 documents a day. To help avoid mistakes, each document is keyed-in by two

different girls to validate the entry before it is finally accepted by the computer.

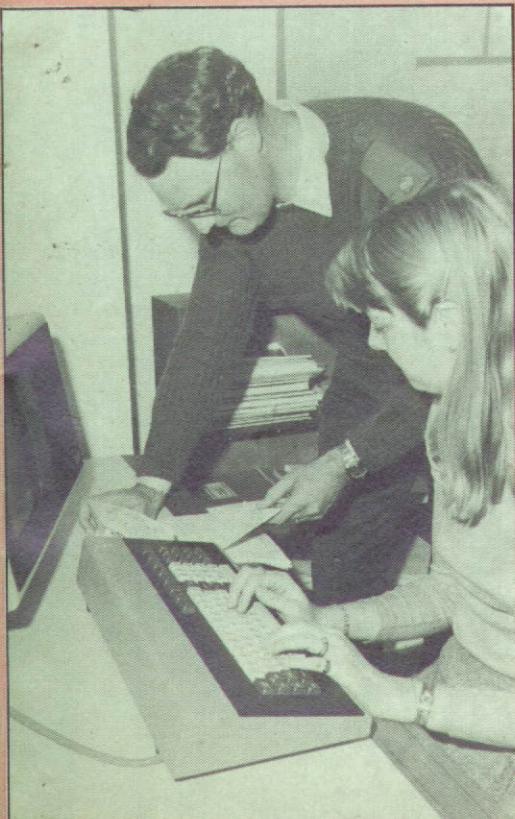
Paul Davies, the senior programmer, admits to around a one per cent margin of error. If, for example, both girls read a German driver's '1' as an English '7', the incorrect number may be accepted by the computer. But if the analysis is patently ridiculous, the computer may still hiccup and reject the material it is being offered.

One of the latest projects to be put in hand at the Centre concerns freight movement in UK and is in the tender care of Roger Atkinson. With some 900,000 items moved to 16,000 addresses in UK every year, he faces a mammoth task as he attempts to make the existing system more cost-effective and efficient.

Of more direct benefit to the Serviceman and his family perhaps will be a future project aimed at helping the Services Booking Centre. By feeding in all the available information on alternatives for a particular route, the SBC should, it is hoped, be able to come up with the most cost-effective journey at the touch of a button.

With big pay-offs promised by increased efficiency in moving the Army's goods and people around, the stakes in the numbers game are high — and the Royal Corps of Transport are playing to win.

Story: Ann Beecham



Ann Beecham meets the Gurkha sappers



An improvised footbridge on the Yantlet Range. ▲

The squadron's formation ceremony in Hong Kong. ▼

CHATHAM'S NEW FRIENDS FROM NEPAL

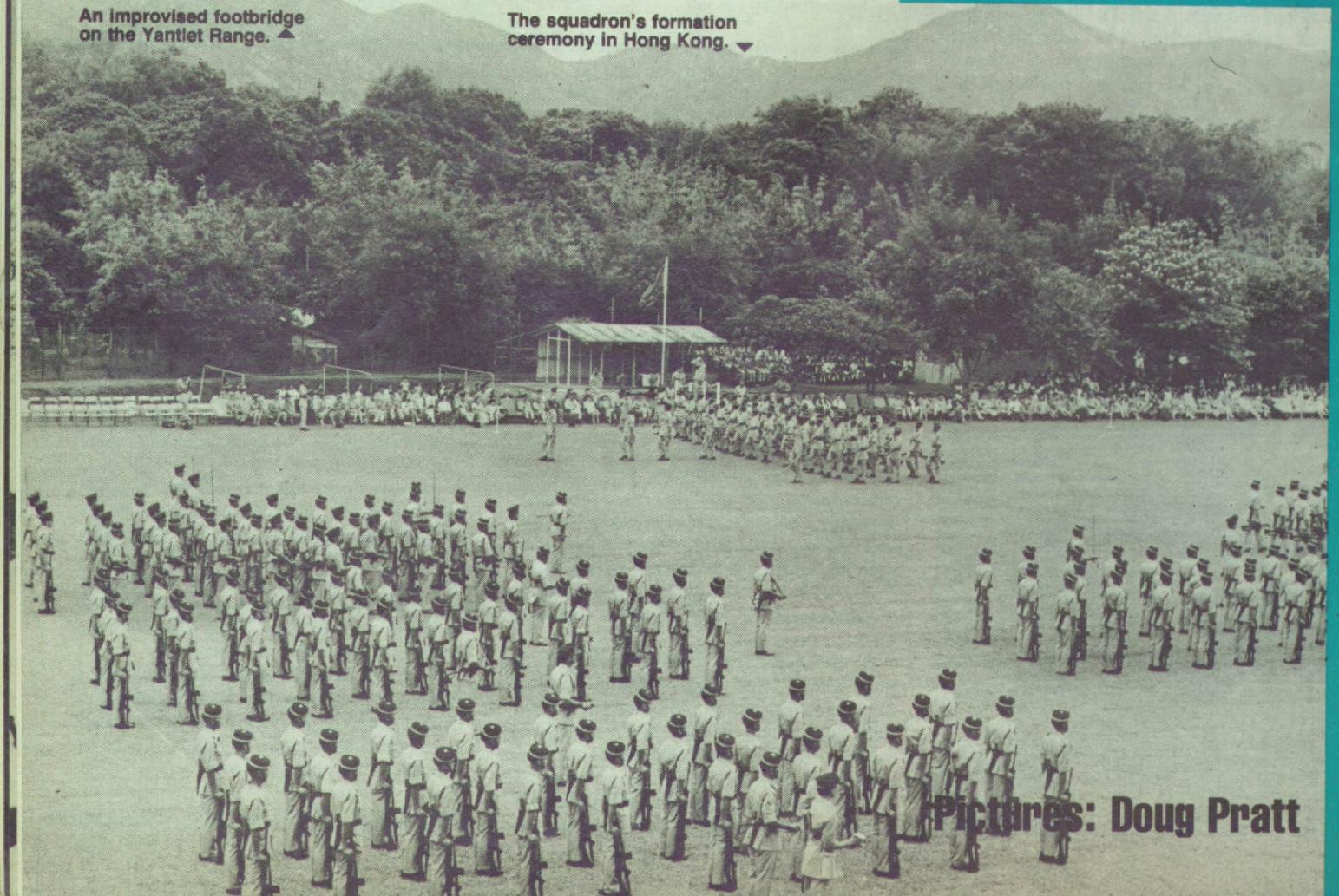
AS THE HOME of the Corps of Royal Engineers, Chatham has been used to a sapper presence, but the townspeople have developed a special affection for the latest residents of Kitchener Barracks.

As 69 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron marched through the streets of the Medway town in September, announcing their arrival and reformation after an absence of some 13 years, they were given a rousing welcome.

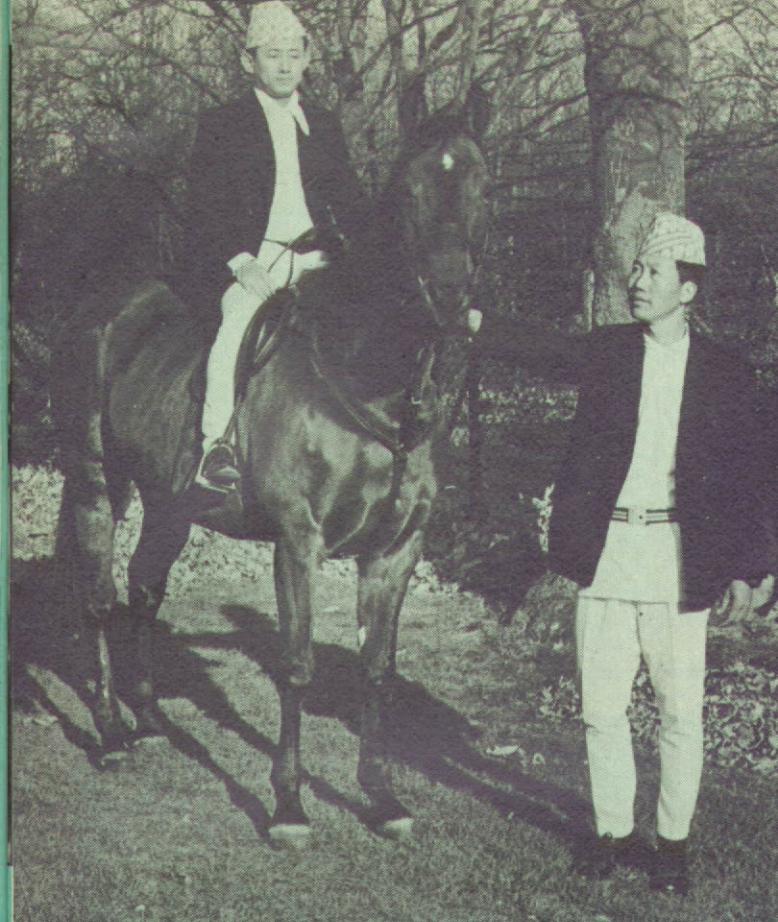
Their Commanding Officer, Major Bill Chesshyre explained their *raison d'être* thus: "We were created to help overstretch among sapper units in UK and will expect to do anything that other UK field squadrons do, except serve in Northern Ireland."

The squadron consists of three field troops, the Quartermaster's department, a Signals wing and an MT support troop with plant, vehicles, tradesmen and REME back-up. There are about 180 men on strength at any one time, allowing for ten or so who will inevitably be away on training or courses, and they are commanded by seven British officers and five Gurkha officers.

Captain John Durance is Second-in-



Pictures: Doug Pratt



Sgt Pra Sad Limbu gets to grips with Foxtrot — moments later he took a tumble. ▲

command of the squadron and the senior Gurkha captain is Captain (QGO) Sunar Gurung, whom Major Chesshyre describes as the key man in the operation. Certainly, as an ex-Queens Gurkha Orderly, there could be few men better equipped to help establish a new UK Gurkha squadron.

Inevitably, the formation of the new squadron has caused some problems. "The sudden expansion has caused certain strains," explained Major Chesshyre. "They were able to produce enough soldiers at senior level where there is plenty of talent for sergeants and staff sergeants, but the others were difficult."

The problems arise because a Gurkha's 15 years of service are generally arranged in three year periods, during each of which he is allowed six months leave in Nepal. At least one three year period is an accompanied tour. The two year unaccompanied posting to Chatham therefore is only available to a certain number who are due neither for leave nor for an accompanied tour. Even

with a trickle posting system to the squadron this can be tricky to arrange.

Since their arrival in Chatham, the squadron has been busy settling in and making Kitchener Barracks a home from home as well as helping around the Chatham area on local projects. A group of men under the direction of Lieutenant Hukumrag Thapa were tasked to construct improvised bridges on Yantlet Range on the Isle of Grain.

The area is a well-used demolition range and deep troughs and churned-up mud were making it impossible to use. Access roads and bridges were needed to use the areas of the range further afield and the troop had been working in biting winds and freezing temperatures.

"It has taken a week to build the bridges," said a shivering Lieutenant Hukumrag Thapa. "It has been slower because of the snow." The troop has also fenced off a reed bed as a conservation area for good measure.

A demonstration at the Military Vehicles



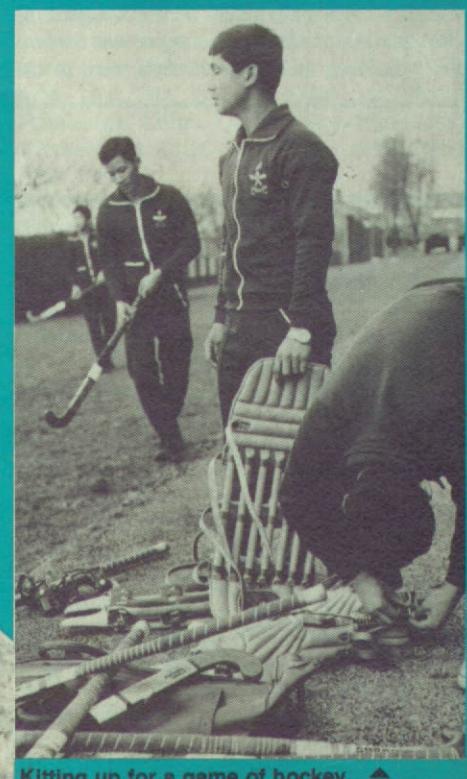
L/Cpl Naredrakumar Limbu building the maulo. ▲

Engineering Establishment of a new method for constructing a medium girder bridge proved to be another success. Despite their lack of inches which can sometimes prove a problem, the Gurkhas knocked eight minutes off the estimated time for completion.

1982 promises to be a busy year for 69 Squadron. As well as their normal commitment they are scheduled to provide sapper support for the Aldershot Show and the British Army Equipment Exhibition at Rushmoor, to assist 24 Squadron with dam-

PHOTO: KENT EVENING POST

Arming a mine with a tilt fuse.



Kitting up for a game of hockey. ▲



Sgt Cook Narbahadur Thapa in the kitchen.

age control and to help in a projected home defence exercise.

Major Chesshyre has served with the Gurkhas on two previous tours in Malaya and Hong Kong and, although he admits it can be a challenge and a headache of a unique kind, he enjoys his position as the squadron's CO.

"There are differences of course but they give one, in a way, more satisfaction. They are so loyal and enthusiastic in their work. There aren't so many welfare problems — but when there are they are difficult."

The 'differences' lie in the most fundamental areas of day-to-day living. The variety and scope of the menu is endless — as long as it is curry. Mutton curry, chicken curry, fish curry, goat curry and egg curry, with rice, dhal and chutney of course, are the staple diet of the squadron.

Communication is mainly in Ghurkali, which all British officers in the Brigade of Gurkhas learn. Major Chesshyre was thrown in at the deep end when he first went to the

Gurkhas, as are many young subalterns.

"I was sent out on exercise as soon as I arrived. To start with, the men will speak English but, after a few weeks as a troop commander all officers are sent on a course in Ghurkali and after the course, suddenly nobody speaks English any more!"

Allowances are made for special days in the Gurkhas' calendar and they celebrate their own festivals. Dasher, a four-day holiday in October is the main festival with Jamare, a couple of weeks later, running a close second.

Jamare, which in India is the Festival of Light, is the only time of year when the Gurkhas are allowed to gamble — and they make the most of it.

At present 69 Squadron is without its own temple but one of the buildings in Kitchener Barracks is being converted for this use and a maulo, a sort of totem pole with religious significance, is being sited in front of the temple building.

UK postings used to be the sole preroga-

tive of the Gurkha infantry regiments and the possibility of a tour at Church Crookham lured many a would-be Gurkha Engineer into the other regiments. For a Gurkha soldier a tour in UK offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to improve his standard of common engineering with different equipment and tasks, to better his command of English and to boost his family fortunes.

The Gurkhas also find time to try new sports and pastimes. The troops of 69 Squadron challenge each other on the hockey field as well as at volleyball, and the more adventurous have tried their hand at riding at the nearby saddle club — with mixed success.

Chatham may be a far cry from the lush valleys and snow-capped mountains of Nepal or the bustle and bright lights of Hong Kong, but it is a place the Gurkha sappers are proud to call home.

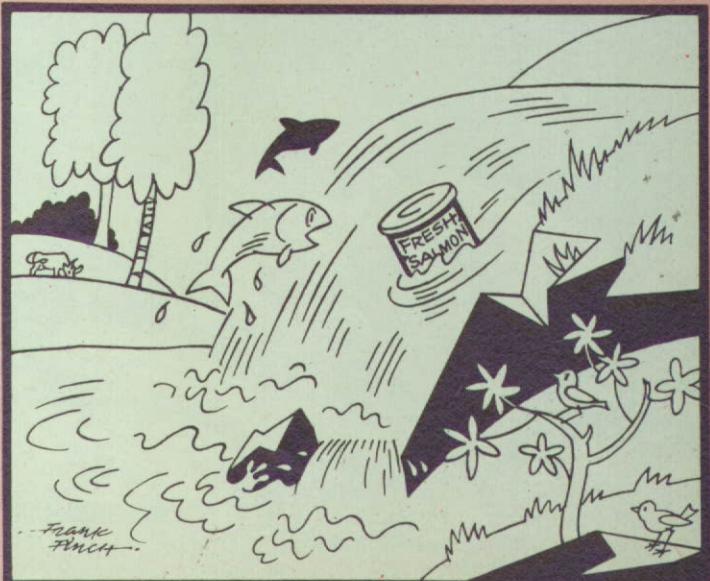
Preparing radios for mounting in Land-Rovers. ▼



How observant are you?



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





THE 'LILI MARLENE' GIRL

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL once paid her the exclusive compliment that she had a "very warm, compelling voice." In North Africa, her songs helped raise the morale of the 'Desert Rats'. The inmates at Castle Colditz listened in on improvised shoe-polish tin radios to her resonant tones and, some twenty years later, British servicemen in the Suez crisis marched and whistled to one of her ballads.

Miss Anne Shelton, who as a teenaged, silver-toned trouper of the footlights began entertaining servicemen 40 years ago, is still a Forces' favourite.

It was in 1942 that Anne, a convent-educated evacuee from Dulwich, started touring Army, Navy and Royal Air Force camps throughout the United Kingdom.

"I was 13, had signed a recording contract that year and was too young to go overseas. You had to be 18," she explained.

The BBC, however, quick to recognise Anne's growing popularity with the Forces and her entertainment potential soon gave her a special programme *Calling Malta*. The show ran for five years and was the only link with Malta during the whole siege period.

Simultaneously, another programme, *Introducing Anne*, was beamed to North Africa and used to counteract German propaganda put over to the Allied troops.

Anne's signature tune was 'Lili Marlene' with an English lyric specially written for her. It was a song that became one of her all-time favourites and holds many special memories for her.

"They even heard my English version of the song in Colditz," she proudly recalls. "The late Rupert Davies — he played TV's Maigret — was a POW there. One day, they were tuned in to one of their improvised radios made out of a Cherry Blossom shoe-polish tin or something when my record came on.

"Somebody yelled out to Rupert 'Turn that bloody row off!' He told them to hang on as there was an English girl singing it in English. Her name was Anne Shelton.

"I got such a great thrill hearing them play 'Lili Marlene' as the lads marched past the Cenotaph during the TV coverage of the

last Remembrance Sunday Service — the day before my 54th birthday — it was almost like having a VC to me."

Anne has always been in demand as a singer to entertain the troops and has defied danger to do so in locations as diverse as Berlin and Southend.

"During the Berlin Airlift the boys were asked who they wished to have out there to entertain them. They were told only one artiste could get on the airlift. They asked for me," said Anne.

"In I went on a plane full of mail and coal to do a dozen shows in three days and I sang 'My Yiddisher Momma', another of my hits, in Hitler's own theatre. They were amazed to hear it because the last time had been in the early 30s before the Nazis came to power."

Her brush with danger in Southend was rather different.

'I had been standing and performing on live ammunition. I shudder to think what could have happened.'

"I played to an ack-ack outfit there. After the show an officer came up and asked me what I thought about the stage. I said it was absolutely marvellous. He said that was just as well because I had been standing and performing on live ammunition. I shudder to think now what could have happened!" said Anne.

She was lucky. So was a young officer in the Western Desert as he was driving along a supposedly mine-cleared track in convoy.

He heard Anne's voice singing on the radio. The officer asked his driver to pull up so that he could listen. It was against regulations to stop. But he did. The vehicle following was blown up and a shocked officer later wrote to Anne saying he probably owed his life to her that day.

Her famous admirers as a performer have

been many, including Sir Winston Churchill who, on hearing her sing at an Aid-to-Russia fund-raising event at London's Queensbury Club, told her: "You have a very warm and compelling singing voice that makes people listen to you."

Sir Winston's favourite request, says Anne, was 'Run, rabbit, Run.'

Glen Miller and Bing Crosby both asked her to appear with them in shows they were putting on in the UK.

Since then, Anne has topped the bill in every leading variety theatre in the country.

In 1956, it was Anne Shelton who helped British servicemen to march and whistle into action during the Suez crisis with her rendition of 'Lay Down Your Arms — and Surrender to Mine'.

Three years ago, a US Army lieutenant-colonel organised a trip by 1200 GIs from World War Two to re-visit the D-Day beaches on which they had landed.

Bournemouth was chosen as the site for the reunion. They needed a star celebrity for the cabaret. Anne filled the bill.

And carrying on her American connections, Anne was asked to sing another of her hits 'I'll Be Seeing You' in John Schlesinger's film, *Yanks*. She accepted and attended the première both in London and New York.

A couple of years ago, Anne was one of the stars invited to take part in the ENSA charity show held in Salisbury, Wiltshire, said to be ENSA's birthplace during the war.

Anne is also a committee member of the Not Forgotten Association set up for all ex-servicemen of both World Wars, the Korean conflict and, of course, the Northern Ireland hostilities. She supplies and appears in two shows a year which are held at Buckingham Palace.

The Lili Marlene Girl, as she was known, thinks highly of today's Army.

"They are fabulous. Great lads. Just as good as their dads. When I was in Belfast some of the lads came up to me and said I was their dads' pin-up girl. I said that was OK just as long as I wasn't their granddads'! The nice thing when appearing with the Army in shows is that I still get the wolf whistles."

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ARBORFIELD in Berkshire, less than seven and three miles respectively from Reading and Wokingham, has recently undergone a £26 million facelift. Its military residents proudly proclaim it to be one of the most self-contained garrisons in the United Kingdom.

Home of five major units — HQ and REME Training Centre, REME Officers' School, School of Electronic Engineering, the Princess Marina Army Apprentices' College and the Training Battalion and Depot, REME — Arborfield was an Army Remount Depot before the First World War but has been associated with the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers since its formation in 1942. Covering an area of one-and-a-half square miles, it boasts a 2300-strong military population plus 700 daily civilian workers.

But it is perhaps the driving enthusiasm of the wives which has contributed to the success and support of the 'on-base' facilities, housed in half-a-dozen buildings pioneered back in 1977.

The garrison is not adjudged big enough to warrant an SKC cinema, yet the firm but delicate woman's touch has instigated, over recent years, a comprehensive series of facilities for the benefit of the garrison's families.

These include a families centre; post office and newsagents; hairdressers; youth centre; 7400-book library; nursery school; creche; thrift shop; slimming club; Ssafa services; family planning; coffee shop; two churches; six shops and a Naafi; wool shop; baby and speech therapy clinics; ante- and post-natal parentcraft classes; a playgroup; dressmaking, knitting, crochet, needlework and ballet classes; wives' clubs; a mums-and-toddlers club and Gingerbread, an organisation for one-parent families.

Arborfield, with its 600 married quarters spread over three estates, has a lot to thank the ladies for — and so does Garrison Commandant, Brigadier Tony Palmer who says: "I think the most important aspects in my garrison are the people. If your soldier and his family are happy then they work harder, they produce a whole lot more and they

Wives get together in the wool shop.

'The wives take it upon themselves to act, not talk. When there is a need for a facility the wives fully endeavour to provide it.'

enjoy life. That is why I place so much importance on the Community Centre and its activities.

"The Centre is run by the Arborfield Garrison Families Association (AGFA). There are no officers or soldiers involved. It's all down to the wives themselves. The Centre is responsive to the families' wishes. They don't run it how I think it should be done. It's done how they, the wives, want it to be done. It's a centre I'm very proud of."

Membership is not compulsory but it costs the wives just 10p a week — enabling them to buy items from the coffee shop and travel on the Friday shopping bus to nearby Earley or Bracknell.

Arborfield's record of achievement, not only through its community centre but in self-help effort generally, drew praise as a prime example of what can be done at the recent United Kingdom Land Forces Wives' Seminar at Bagshot.

Major Peter Watson, the Unit Press Officer, summed up: "At Arborfield we have either got very young soldiers — recruits or apprentice tradesmen — or older, senior NCOs with responsible families who want to do things. They are not the type of person to sit in their quarters and fester. For example, there is a morning cinema held in the Garrison Theatre every other Saturday when more than 100 children attend for just 30 pence each.

"I think the REME soldier is possibly

more articulate, more responsible, more out-going than others and this reflects on his entire family. The wives, therefore, take it upon themselves to act, not talk. When there is a need for a facility the wives fully endeavour to provide it."

Mrs Mary Tinkler, mainstay of the community centre activities, said: "We have tried to create the atmosphere of the village pump all located on one site. Rank has no bearing on the community centre. We just don't think about it."

But everything in the Arborfield garden is not all rosy. As with a number of other garrisons, access to the 'outside' world can sometimes be a problem. "There is a tendency for people to think because we are less than seven miles from Reading that we don't have any problems as regards relative isolation," explained Brigadier Palmer. "Arborfield is fine for people who have cars. But we have an awful lot of people, living in quarters, who have to depend on public transport. All the local bus services are quite appalling and we have to make other arrangements so it means that you have got to have a garrison with all sorts of facilities."

He added: "I think I've got one of the best jobs in the Army because it's a very happy garrison to command."

SOLDIER took a random selection of opinions from among families of the REME which, as a Corps, enjoys the Freedom of Wokingham, a town, according to the Commandant, that makes them "extraordinarily welcome."

Mrs Eleanor Hunter, whose husband is Warrant Officer 2 Graham Hunter, an instructor, said: "The community centre is open every day. We hold a newcomers' coffee morning on the first Thursday of every month and no wife at Arborfield should feel lonely. The community spirit can work and Arborfield is a great example of it. Some £500 has been raised for charity and we are very, very lucky here because the centre has no rank bias. The majority of officers' wives are great and I wish we could see more of them coming in."

"People sometimes come in who look a bit shy and suspicious but they soon settle in. There are, of course, exceptions as anywhere. If you want to become involved in a garrison and are prepared to meet people then this is the place for it. My husband has 14 years to do and I would be quite happy to stay here all that time."

Mrs Lorraine Exley, wife of Sergeant Philip Exley, an instructor at the Apprentices' College, said: "I came here 18 months ago from Marchwood, near Southampton, and it's better here than there. The bus service could be a lot better though. This is a good place and I mix with the other mothers. Everyone is friendly. We sit and talk to the officers' wives. They don't wear their husbands' pips and we don't wear our husbands' stripes!"

Mrs Doreen Barnes, wife of Sergeant Dick Barnes, a control equipment technician, was even more enthusiastic: "It's the best place I've ever had. I don't want to leave. We were at Hohne in Germany. It was lovely with the money but I would rather be here. We've been here two years and I like

the social life. We're out nearly every night and there's bingo on Wednesdays."

But Mrs Susan Everett, wife of Corporal David Everett, was less impressed: "I don't go out at all. The first thing I did when I came here was to learn to drive because of the isolation of Arborfield. But I don't go out in the evenings. I'm not happy with the medical services here either because we don't have the chance to change doctors once you are registered with a Service doctor. A civilian doctor will turn out at any time."

A student before becoming an Army wife, Mrs Everett added: "I shall be glad to go because I want to settle down somewhere for two or three years. My husband is here on a 12-month course."

Mrs Tina Griffiths, wife of Captain Tony Griffiths, said: "When I arrived it took me quite a time to settle down. My little boy was only three weeks old and I was not involved with things much. But I went to see if any help was needed when he started school and was roped in to help in the Wool Shop."

Former Wren, Mrs Jackie Muir, wife of Sergeant Eric Muir, a Depot instructor, who is on her second stint at Arborfield, said: "When I came here first in 1977 I'd only been married a week. I didn't know a soul. I thought it was the most unfriendly place I had been to. No-one came to see me and I thought the Army, too, was very unfriendly.

"When I came back this time, though, I walked into the community centre and was absolutely petrified just walking in. But it was so different. If you are new they are very friendly and they try to make you feel



WO1 Bruce Poole and Cook Sgt Dick Wyatt.

welcome."

Away from hearth and home, Arborfield offers garrison facilities for most sports and leisure pursuits including a swimming pool, squash courts, a bank, netball facilities, running track and sports field, the usual Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies, a dramatic society, clubs for flower, camera, radio and chess enthusiasts and no less than three sorts of advice bureau.

Overseas course student Private Chevalier Jackson, 19, from the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force, said: "I've been here eight months and the life is quite pleasant. The sports facilities are good and I've made use of a few of them, particularly cross-country, volleyball and cricket."

Lance Corporal Terry Wyeth, 22, Royal Pioneer Corps who was doing Regimental Police duties, enthused: "It's magic for the single man. It suits me right down to the ground. Sporting facilities here are very good."

Sergeant Dick Barnes observed: "This is a training garrison and 60 per cent of the strength is made up of students of one form or another who don't have time for social activities during the week. Family men can go down to the south coast and places like Hayling Island and Bournemouth and you

can get to London from Reading in about 25 minutes on the Inter-City trains which are quite cheap with the help of railcards."

Platoon Sergeant Jim Green, 26, from the Army Apprentices' College, said: "My two children really enjoyed the schools here. There is a lack of traffic and they can play out. My wife didn't like the quarter but we have bought a house in Nottingham. A driving licence is a necessity to get yourself out."

Warrant Officer 1 (Artificer Sergeant Major) Bruce Poole, 38, commented: "I like it here as a family man and I've got a nice quarter. But I find the Naafi's very expensive when you've got supermarkets six miles down the road. It's a lovely spot at Arborfield. As for sport — there's everything here for everyone. I've spent six years in Germany but I've got a house here as opposed to a flat and, by that fact, I prefer to be here."

Cook Sergeant Dick Wyatt, 26, said: "We like it here but the bus service is very poor. I like it because you are left to yourself in the quarters. It's a clean estate and nobody's too nosy. If you drive for two minutes you are away from the Army environment."

There were no reservations from Sergeant Garry Pentz, 28, chief Clerk at the Army Apprentices' College: "It's fantastic for me. My last posting — Bielefeld — involved a seven-mile drive to work. Here, you've got everything. The kids' school is just over at the back. My wife loves it here. In Germany we lived in a fourth-floor flat. Here we have our own quarter. It's the best thing that could have happened to her. Everything is within easy reach and everyone is really helpful."

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HAVE YOU HEARD the one about the insurance man who fell overboard while on a holiday cruise in the tropics? A man-eating shark raced towards him, sure of a tasty morsel for dinner, but suddenly veered away at the last moment. The watchers on the ship's deck were speechless with amazement, wondering why he had been spared. As he was hauled safely back on board, the insurance man gave them the answer, "It takes a shark to recognise a shark!"

This story was told by Michael Morris, Director General of the British Insurance Brokers Association at the third annual dinner of the Armed Forces Insurance Brokers Committee to illustrate the dangers of unscrupulous insurance selling.

Insurance, sadly, is one of the fields in which unsuspecting Servicemen and their families can be conned by doorstep salesmen. Army Legal Services, so I am told, have a number of cases outstanding at any one time, involving Servicemen who have taken out policies, paid the premiums in good faith, only to discover that they were not getting the protection for which they were paying.

The Armed Forces Insurance Brokers Committee has a membership of 70, pledged to look after the interests of Servicemen and their families, yet few people have heard of them. Service representatives now attend their management committee meetings and the committee can take action if one of their members falls short of the professional standards demanded by them.

Anyone who intends to take out any insurance should first check that the salesman is a member of the British Insurance Brokers Association or of the Armed Forces Insurance Brokers Committee as all insurance brokers now have to be registered under an Act of Parliament that gives you a degree of protection. It's worth shopping around and comparing offers before you pay that first premium.

Many of you have enquired about the new arrangements for the payment of child benefit which come into force in March:

I have received a letter from Mrs Lynda Chalker, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of Health and Social Security, and the following should make the position of Service families clear.

"As part of its campaign to reduce the administrative costs of paying social security benefits, the Government has decided that, from March 1982, child benefit will normally be paid four-weekly in arrears.

"In Great Britain, mothers who become entitled to child benefit for the first time after 15 March 1982 will normally be paid at four-weekly intervals. But lone parents, including widows and families in receipt of family income supplement or supplementary benefit and any families who experience hardship as a result of four-weekly payments, will be able to get weekly payment.

"These arrangements will also apply to Servicemen's families who first become entitled to child benefit on or after 15 March 1982. If the family is abroad at that time, the new arrangements will apply when they return to Great Britain.

"All mothers whose entitlement to child benefit begins before 15 March 1982 will have the choice of continuing with weekly payment if they so wish. Renewal order-books issued between now and next March will contain a card at the back of the book explaining the position. If a mother wishes to remain on weekly payment she should sign the card and return it to the Child Benefit Centre at Washington, Tyne and Wear. An envelope for this purpose can be obtained at the local post office. If a mother does not return the card, her next order-book will contain four-weekly payments. But, if she finds she cannot manage, she will be able to switch back to weekly payment within six months of receiving that order-book.

"There will be no changes in the method or frequency of paying child benefit to Servicemen's families whilst they are abroad. Special arrangements have been made for Servicemen's families who are receiving child benefit before 15 March 1982 but who are abroad during the change-over period.

These families will be able to ask for weekly payment when they return to Great Britain. They will have six months in which to make this choice. They will be told about this when arrangements are being made for child benefit to be paid on their return.

"Families who are at present in Great Britain and who elect to continue with weekly payment and then go abroad will be able to continue with weekly payment again when they return to this country."

Having served with the East Surrey Regiment, I read your column in SOLDIER Nov 30 - Dec 13 with great interest.

Please could you send me the address of the East Surrey Regiment Old Comrades.
Mr G Wilmot, London W12.

Delighted, Mr Wilmot - the Old Comrades Association, The East Surrey Regiment, The Depot, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey.

ASK ANNE

Where do ex-Service personnel stand with regard to their DHSS benefit if they remain in an EEC country after discharge?

Mrs F, BFPO 48

Information on this can be obtained from the European Communities Commission, Information Office, 20 Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8 4QQ (01-727 8090). Ask for the F R Germany Guide No 1979 2nd Edition, Social Security for Migrant Workers. The DHSS Overseas Branch, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, should also be able to help.

As our son is now coming up to the age of 11 years, I would be grateful if you could send me the National ISIS Schools leaflet concerning special conces-

DID YOU KNOW?

YOUNG CHILDREN attending nursery school or playgroups may qualify for the child element of the disturbance allowance.

Children have to be attending the nursery or playgroup for at least half a day during each weekday to qualify. A claim for the allowance should be supported by a description of the group, including sponsors and stating whether there is an educational content.

Playgroups must be recognised by the Local Education Authority or be established under formal agreements. They must offer an element of education and be run by qualified staff. Under normal circumstances ad hoc playgroups, such as those organised by Service wives, would not qualify.

sions for Service families and, if possible, any further information on boarding school education.

Mrs G, BFPO 104

Two addresses that should be of some help to you are the Independent School Information Service, 26 Caxton Street, London SW1H 0RG (Tel: 01-222 0065/01-222 7353) and Institute of Army Education (School Branch Advisory Service), Court Road, Eltham, London SE9 5NR (Tel: 01-859 2112 ext: 215/244).

Ban on birds lifted

AS WAS mentioned briefly in the last issue of SOLDIER, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food have announced the lifting of restrictions on the import of captive birds into the United Kingdom.

Subject to revised conditions, family pet birds can now be brought into the country when you return home after an overseas tour.

You will still need an import licence, obtainable from the Ministry or Department and an additional licence is required for Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands.

Quarantine restrictions apply for at least 35 days after import and at least two inspections must be carried out during the quarantine period by a local veterinary inspector, for which you will have to foot the bill. The birds may be kept in quarantine in a private residence but this must be approved by the Ministry prior to import.

There could be some delay in handling your application, the Ministry warns, because of the need to inspect premises before import and because of the backlog arising from the suspension of imports, but they will deal with all applications as soon as possible.

Applications for import licences should be addressed to the following offices.

England: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Import Section), Hook Rise South, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7NF.

Scotland: Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland, Animal Welfare Branch, Chesser House, 500 Gorgie Road, Edinburgh EH11 3AW.

Wales: Welsh Office, Agriculture Department, Crown Buildings, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NQ.

Anne Armstrong

Skating on very thin ice

AS THE OLD YEAR gave way to the new, many of us struggled to work in deep snow, treacherous ice and sub-zero temperatures — and this could be just the beginning of one of the worst winters for many years.

Keeping the car moving and the pipes from freezing is possible if it is tackled in the right way, although bent bumpers and crumpled wings bear sorry witness to the contrary and plumbers are having to work overtime. Many of us have learnt lessons the hard way.

Luck

Congratulations to those of you who have so far come through unscathed. But dare we suggest that it might be more luck than good judgement that is responsible? In any event we have some hints on coping with bad conditions that might extend your run of luck or show how they ought to be tackled.

Severe weather conditions make driving particularly hazardous. Even the lightest overnight frost can leave unexpected patches of ice, and deep snow and fog add to the danger. Remember to switch on your headlamps and rear fog lamps if your car is fitted with them. In fog or falling snow, two fog lamps can be used instead of headlamps.

The first warning of ice may be that the steering feels light. Use your brakes, accelerator, gears and clutch very gently and remember to reduce your speed, observe any warning signs and give other drivers plenty of room. It takes much longer to stop safely when the road is wet or slippery and a breathing space in which to react could be a life-saver.

Drips

Pipe lagging is the most effective way to combat the freezing

temperatures and is something that should be done before the first bite of winter. Make sure that exposed pipes, particularly, are protected and that there are no drips or leaks that you have not yet repaired. Make sure you know where the stop cock for the water system is and how to shut it off. Check your water supply now — it could save you a lot of money and trouble later.

Old people and children are at extra risk in spells of bad weather. The fun of a toboggan or skates can give way in a few short minutes to terror and disaster. An ice-covered pond makes a tempting but dangerous playground as ice which looks firm can suddenly give way. Children should stay close to the edge of the pond where the ice is normally thickest and should not play on the ice until it has been tested by an adult. Ideally they

should be accompanied by an adult in case of an emergency.

And, finally, a word of warning about old people whose lack of mobility makes them particularly vulnerable to the menace of hypothermia. Warmth is the answer to this problem and blankets, extra clothing and adequate heating are essential weapons in the fight against the cold.

Make sure too that any portable heaters you use are in tiptop condition. Heaters that have not been properly looked after can be a major cause of fires, especially when they are brought into use again after the warmer weather.

Checks

Check that the heating element is free from dust and that the wiring is not frayed or brittle. Oil heaters should be cleaned regularly, especially the heating and reflective surfaces and tested, in

the open air, until properly adjusted. If you have a butane gas heater, you should check that there is no cracking of the tube, particularly around the connections. Ideally, any rubber tubing used with gas appliances should be replaced every two years. And if you are not sure that your heater is safe, get an engineer to check it for you.

Everything takes longer in bad weather so allow more time for your journeys whether you are driving or walking. It is the anxious and impatient traveller that is the danger to everyone. Who knows, you might even arrive early and have time to appreciate the beauty of the crisp white snow as it sparkles with bright sunlight beneath a wintry blue sky, secure in the knowledge that your family (and your pipes) are warm and protected against the elements.

Army Youth set for the sea

WE DON'T OFTEN have the opportunity to include items of a nautical flavour or brandish expressions such as "Ship ahoy!" and "Avast there me 'earties!" in SOLDIER, but we make the most of it when we do. This week we have details of two schemes designed to take Army youngsters on the high seas.

Cruises on the Sail Training Association schooners *Sir Winston Churchill* and *Malcolm Miller* start in February and go through to July. The cruises are for boys and girls and last about a fortnight. The cost varies between £95 and £310 and youngsters between the ages of 16 and 24 can apply individually or through their youth organisation to join the crews of either ship. No previous experience is necessary.

The organisers aim to "pro-

vide young people with an outlet for their spirit of adventure and an opportunity to develop a sense of responsibility, self-discipline and above all, an ability to work as one of a team", but they add a word of warning: "Remember, this is a serious challenge; it is not a yachting spree."

Full details and application forms can be obtained from the STA, 2a The Hard, Portsmouth, Hants PO1 3PT Tel: Portsmouth (0705) 832055.

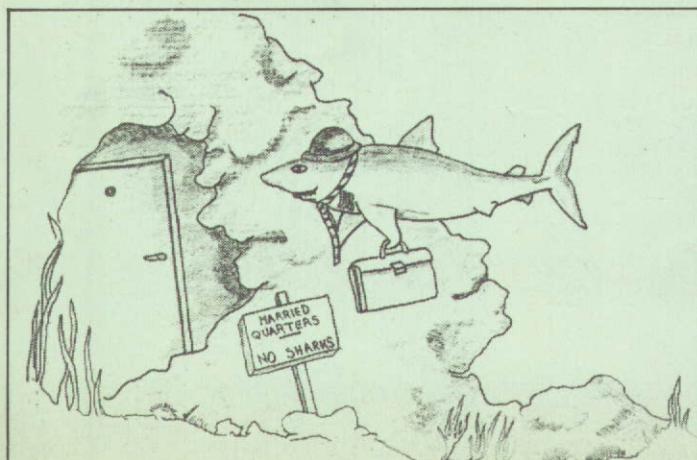
Just as serious but rather less expensive are the cruises announced in the 1982 London Sailing Project programme. The Army has again been invited to take up 10 places on the cruises on the *Rona* and the *Donald Searle* which have been allocated to Army Youth representatives. The courses last six days and aim

to give sea training to boys from London and the Home Counties between the ages of 16 and 19.

The *Rona* is the Project's flagship and is a classic 77-foot ketch built in 1895 but maintained to a high standard. She carries a Skipper, a Mate, three Watch Officers and three Watch Leaders as well as a crew of 12 boys. The *Donald Searle*, acquired in 1980, is the newest addition to the 'fleet'. She is a 75-foot ketch of the proven Ocean 75 class and purpose-built for a sea training role. She carries the same crew as the *Rona*.

The courses will cost £21 this year, a fully inclusive price covering coach travel to and from London and full board. Details of dates and application forms are available from me, here at SOLDIER.

BEWARE DOORSTEP SHARKS



THE SAD LETTER from Mrs A which we published in SOLDIER 11-24 January, prompted so many letters from you that we decided to follow it up with some general warnings about the dangers of doorstep salesmen who plague married quarters selling everything from encyclopaedias to insurance.

● DON'T be persuaded to buy expensive articles which you don't really need. They are usually highly over-priced and if bought on hire purchase or with a bank loan also involve the payment of high interest rates.

● DON'T sign any contract or bank loan form unless you know exactly what it says and you are absolutely sure you wish to accept the terms.

● DON'T believe everything the salesman tells you. There are 'con-men' about who will make glowing promises by word of mouth — but it is only the written contract that really matters if the case goes to court.

Thousands of servicemen and their wives are the victims of crooked firms and salesmen every year. Use your commonsense. Protect yourself, your family and your bank account.

A famous old gun has found a new resting place

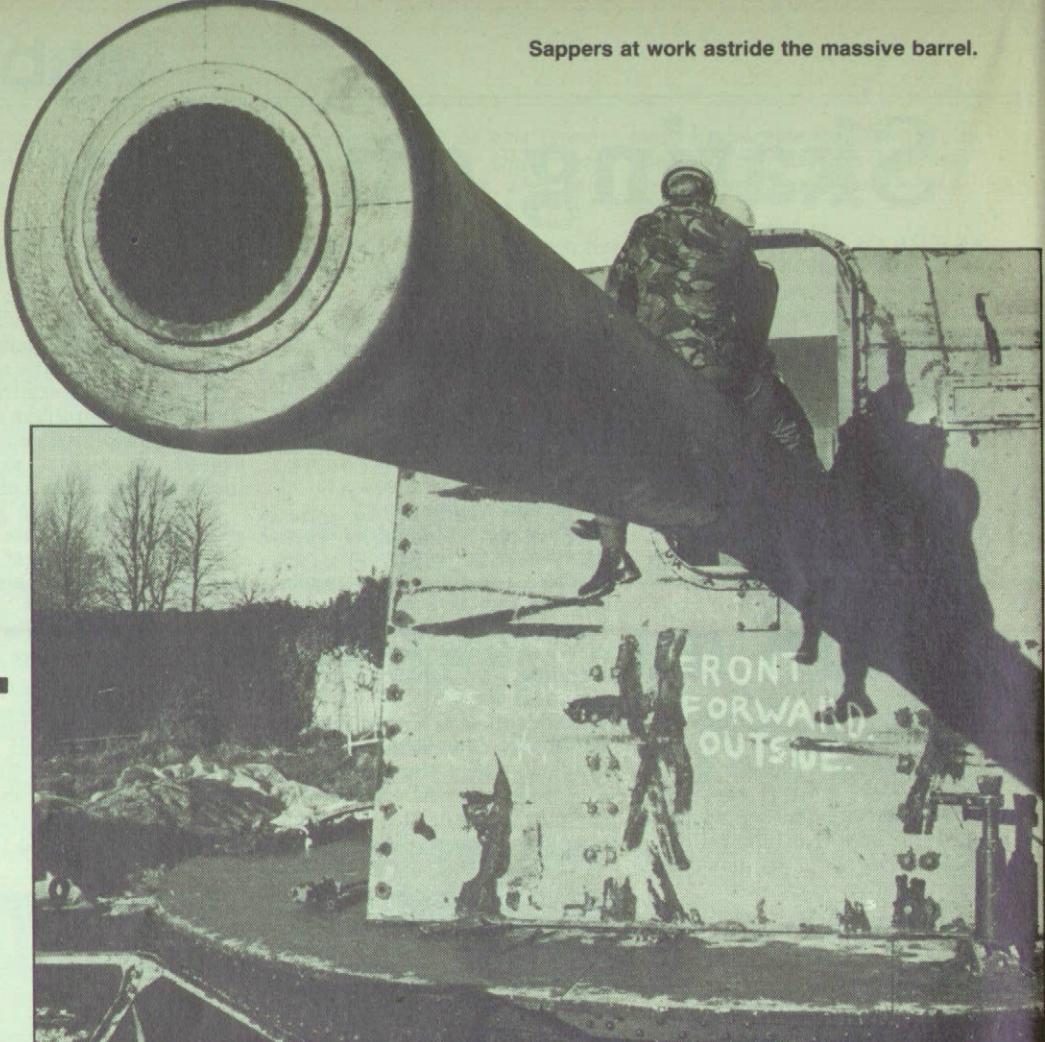
RETURN OF THE SENTINEL

GIBRALTAR'S 140-TON, 9.2-inch coastal artillery gun, which was forged in the UK and stood sentinel on the Rock for 80 years, has come home.

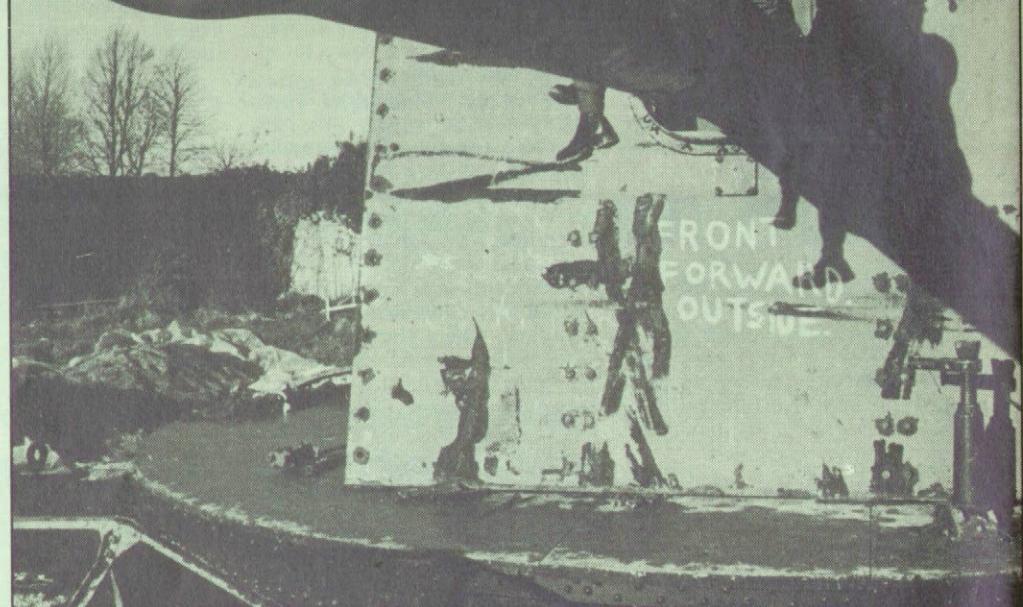
Sappers from Waterbeach have been preparing the massive instrument of fire-power ready for display this year among the 300 acres of the Imperial War Museum's new permanent outdoor exhibition at the Battle of Britain station of Duxford in Cambridgeshire alongside more than 70 historic aircraft and 30 armoured fighting vehicles.

A year ago the giant gun was still in Gibraltar, 250 feet below the top of the Rock at Spur Battery and 1000 feet above the Gateway to the Mediterranean.

Many moving parts had to be carefully reassembled — numbering provided the key.



Sappers at work astride the massive barrel.



But last spring the monolithic piece of naval-designed artillery with a range of more than 16 miles — yet never fired in anger — was dismantled into some 4000 components and brought down the steep, hairpin roads of the Rock to the Gibraltar Docks by men of 61 Field Support Squadron, Royal Engineers. Scanning the Straits with its secure limestone subterranean shell and cartridge stores, the rusting — and sadly — vandalised gun was protected in Gibraltar by some 42 tons of armoured plating shields.

The gun — its biggest component is its 37-foot-long barrel weighing 27 tons — was

shipped back to the UK aboard the Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel *Bacchus* bound for Portsmouth. From Pompey it was moved in 11 loads to Duxford by 56 Motor Transport (Training) Squadron, Royal Engineers.

Scanning the Straits with its secure limestone subterranean shell and cartridge stores, the rusting — and sadly — vandalised gun was protected in Gibraltar by some 42 tons of armoured plating shields.

Now the gun sits proudly on 50 tons of concrete plinth, back-dropped by an old,



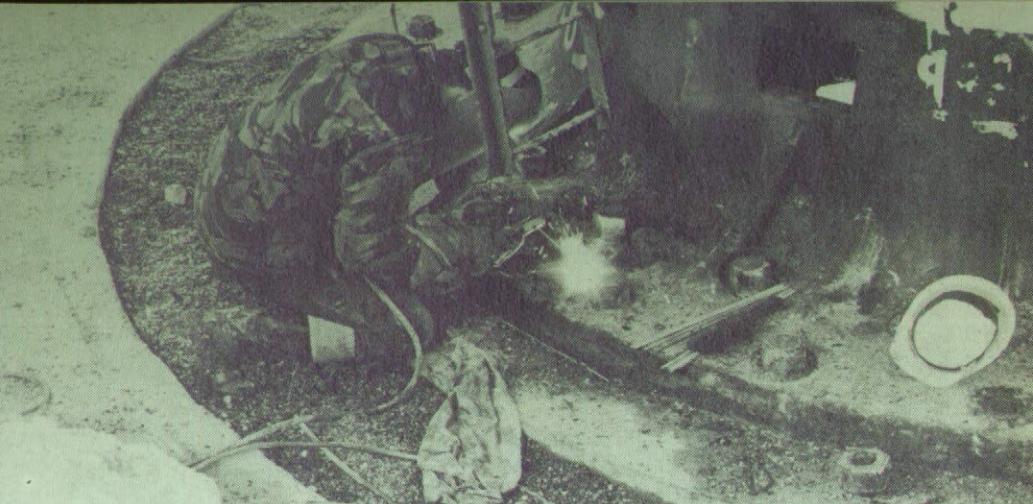
Now where does this bit go? Sappers check photos supplied by colleagues on the Rock.

renovated rifle range complete with butts. In its sights this time, not the North African littoral — but a static Anglo-French Concorde!

The task of re-siting the gun was achieved thanks to two dozen men from 2 Troop and their commander, Captain Mungo Melvin, from 34 Field Squadron, 29 Engineer Regiment. They eagerly set about Project Vitello Two despite a 26-mile-round trip each day from their Waterbeach base.

The sappers were responsible for constructing the foundations, re-assembling the gun itself and the final stages of putting up a parapet.

Captain Melvin, who had experience of



Welding underneath the circular base.

range building in Kenya, said: "We had to make a lot of use of civilian crane hire as the equipment we hold within the regiment was not sufficient to lift things around like 32-ton barrels.

"We had to improve access to the gun and lay a trackway using all the normal combat engineering work skills. Constructing a concrete plinth was good practice for us, involving circular concreting, which we don't do very often. It's been quite a challenge and involved some 4000 components. 61 Field Support Squadron who dismantled the gun left us a good photographic guide which was a great help in our seven-week contribution — four of them on re-assembly.

"It was like working on an oversize piece of meccano!"

Though originally of naval design, the 9.2-inch gun was subsequently adapted for land use in the 1890s to counter long-range coastal bombardment by battleships and cruisers. In the Second World War 27 coastal defence batteries in the UK were equipped with this sort of gun which stayed in service until the mid-50s.

Installed in 1902, Spur Battery was converted to its current configuration in 1935. The barrel — a Mark Ten on a Mark Seven mounting — was re-issued for service in Gibraltar in 1929 and has fired some 400 rounds in all — the last in 1973.

The old and the new — retired Concorde is a near neighbour on the Duxford airfield.

Two small museum rooms will complement the gun in its new home — one depicting the history of coastal artillery, the other, a Royal Engineers Display Room. It is hoped to complete these by the time the rest of the exhibition opens on 13 March although some delay is possible.

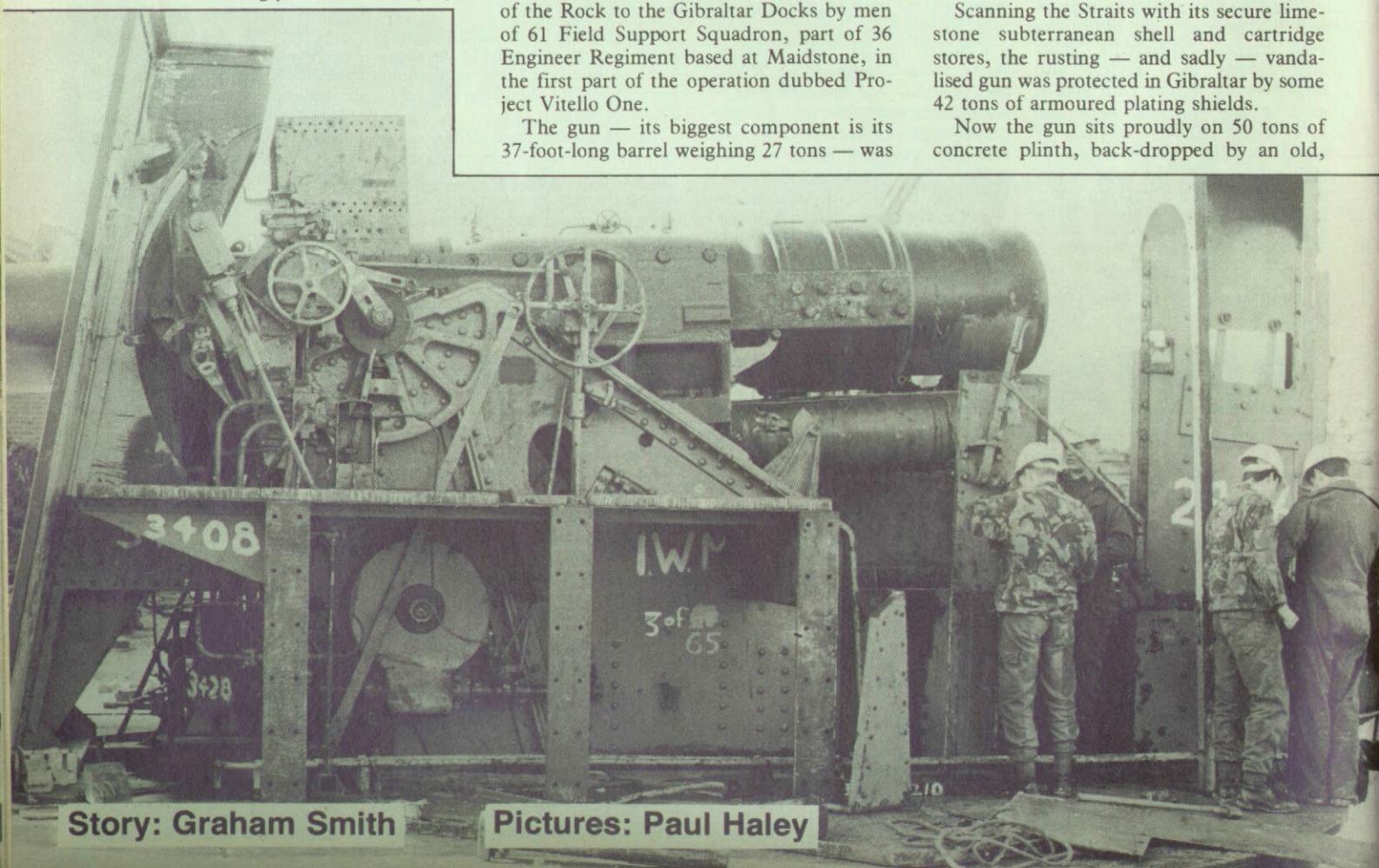
Visitors to Duxford — one-and-a-half million of them since its opening in June 1976 — will be able to clamber around the gun and there will be access for the disabled.

It has been estimated that Project Vitello Two would have cost £250,000 to carry out commercially, and Mr Ted Inman, Keeper of the Duxford Airfield which sustains 60 permanent staff, was quick to pay tribute to the sappers.

"It's a coup for the Royal Engineers to carry out this scheme and a great relief to us that they have got it here. It's all been most impressive and I don't know how we would have done the job without them."

"The importance of this exhibit to the Imperial War Museum is twofold. It's an example of the most sophisticated of British coastal artillery weapons and, more importantly, it is a reminder of the vital role of Gibraltar in the defence of the British Empire.

"The Trustees of the Museum certainly owe an enormous debt to the Royal Engineers for their role in the recovery of this historic exhibit."



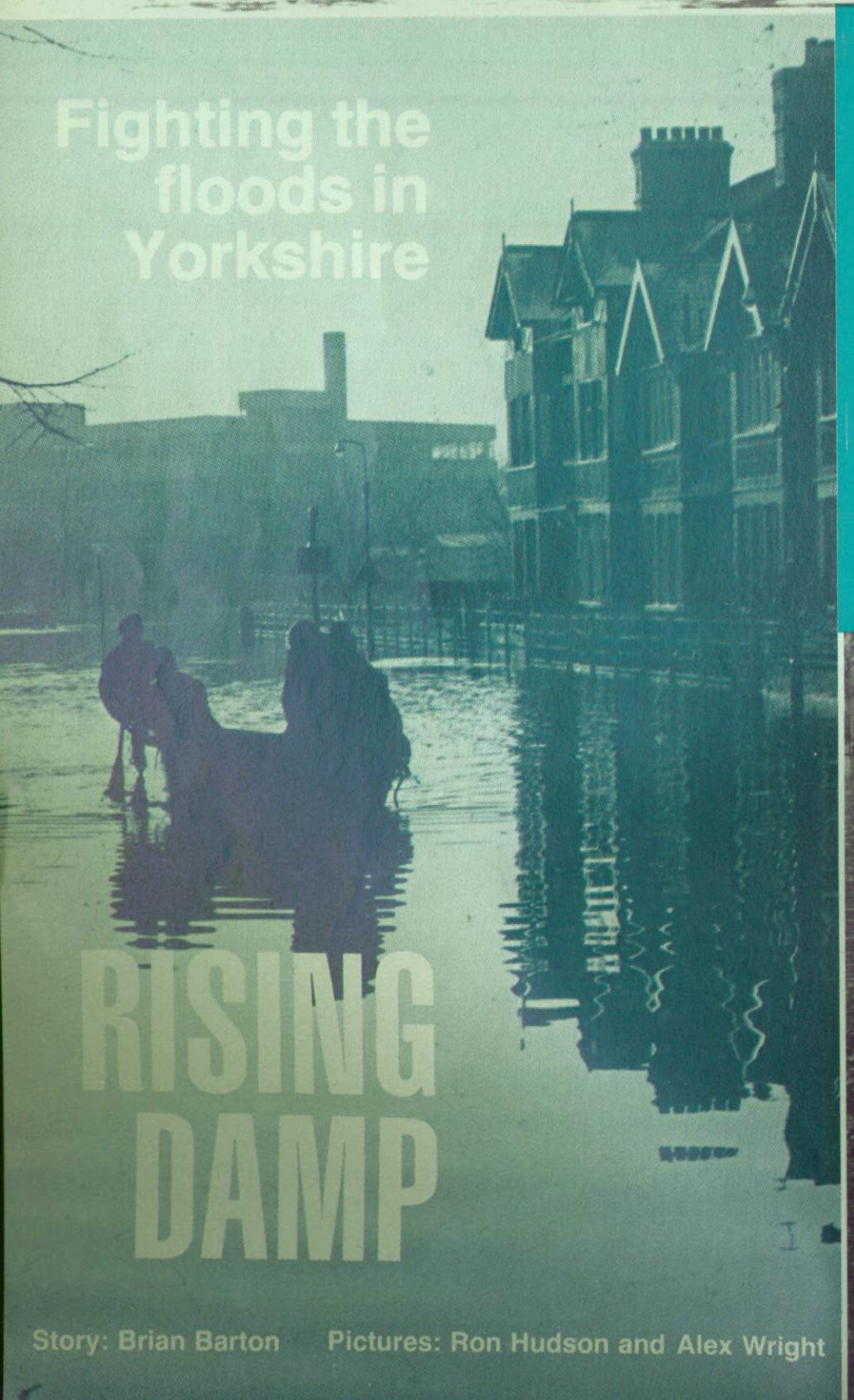
Story: Graham Smith

Pictures: Paul Haley





▼ Army water patrol in flooded Marygate, York. Rescuing sheep from drowning at Boroughbridge.



Fighting the floods in Yorkshire

RISING DAMP

Story: Brian Barton

Pictures: Ron Hudson and Alex Wright

SAPPERS FROM THE Ripon-based 38 Regiment Royal Engineers were the first soldiers in action in the New Year Floods as the River Ouse, gorged by melted Dale and Pennine snow and freshly injected by torrential rain, rose to 16ft 7in above normal in York — only five inches below the 1947 record of 17ft.

First town to suffer as the floodwaters surged down was Boroughbridge, north west of York, on the River Ure, and the sappers took to their assault boats and acted as waterborne shepherds to rescue sheep which were paddling for their lives in lakes which the day before had been fields.

Next victim was York itself where large areas of the city were inundated. The Ouse could have been mistaken for the Mississippi and the Minster looked like an island. Then it was Selby's turn. The little town south of York missed complete disaster by inches as its flood barrier held but surrounding farmland was awash for miles.

Five hundred troops were involved in supporting the local authorities and emergency services. The sappers had 150 men and 22 boats out, the Green Howards



Boroughbridge again — the main street.

from Catterick used three companies, the RHA from Topcliffe sent a battery and 60 Squadron RCT, Catterick, was busy with its trucks. The RAF from Church Fenton also weighed in with 22 men.

The operations room at HQ NE District, Imphal Barracks, York, was activated to co-ordinate their activities on a 24-hour basis and 60 Squadron used the car park in front of the HQ building for their vehicles.

Sappers on duty in York had the unusual experience of night patrols in flooded streets. The 14ft assault craft with two-man crews worked closely with the police watching for people at upstairs windows who needed help. One sapper was admonished by an old lady who said: "You should have wellies for this job." The sapper was waist deep in the water at the time.

Soldiers delivered newspapers and milk in affected areas and ferried families to relatives. In Marygate, York, a notorious Ouse-side area where the residents are old hands at floods, one soldier had a wasted journey. He waded through water thigh-deep to deliver milk to an old lady. When he got to her home he found a notice pinned to

continued on page 28



Sappers ferry terrified sheep to safety. ▼



Captain Dowson, left, briefs platoon commanders at flood control centre in Selby.

A Green Howard helps mopping-up effort.



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• Sappers aid a stranded Selby citizen.

the door saying "no milk today".

First troops into Selby were 82 Green Howards under the command of Captain Simon Dowson who made their Headquarters at Selby Abbey C of E Primary School, next door to the police station, and close to the brimming river. Armed with ten boats and ten trucks they made themselves useful within an hour.

One platoon with a four-tonner came across a young mother and two children, just back from a Christmas visit to mum in Rotherham, stranded on foot and separated from their home by half a mile of 4ft-deep water. The Green Howards put them on board the truck and chugged safely through the flood. Other housewives hitched lifts with the Army trucks to do their shopping.

The Green Howards made many mercy missions with fodder in their boats to outlying farms on the west side of Selby which were completely surrounded by hedge-high floodwater. Back in the town another party of Green Howards built a wall of sandbags round the vulnerable Post Office Exchange.

Troops operating the ice run to homes cut off from the rest of the town by the frozen floodwater were praised by householders. "They have been absolutely marvellous. I don't know how we could have carried on without them," said a woman living in the beleaguered Bondgate area.

Mr Alwyn Bell, the Man from the Pru in Selby, was also grateful to the soldiers. Armed with waders and claim forms, he

▼ Industrial heaters helped dry out homes.

Army and police to the rescue in York. ▲

visited clients in an Army boat.

"Some people with cash flow problems couldn't wait until all the red tape was dealt with and need the cheques immediately," he said. "But for the Army boat service they would have had to wait a bit longer."

On their second night in Selby a severe frost struck and soldiers out in boats had to call off trips as they found ice forming over the flooded fields as they paddled.

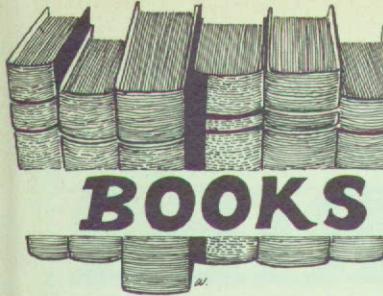
But after three days, helped by the frost which reduced the flow of water into the rivers, flood levels dropped rapidly and affected homes could be made habitable again.

Troops operated industrial heaters in saturated houses and in York the Green Howards formed eight-man teams to work with the health authorities during the mopping up operation.

The Army's flood relief role was codenamed Operation Landfall and as it drew to a close Major General Ian Baker, GOC North East District sent this message to his men: "All those taking part in Operation Landfall have done so with great spirit and enthusiasm. I have received many comments of commendation and these include tributes by ministers and the local authorities. I have been most impressed with all I have seen and would ask that my congratulations be passed to everyone involved in the operation. Conditions have been appalling and many have been wet and cold — but still with smiling faces." ■

▼ Delivering the daily pinta.





The Guards: John de St Jorre/Anthony Edgeworth

"It is a great thing at some time in your life to be associated with something which is quite first class." So said ex-Premier Harold Macmillan of his service in the Guards. Such sentiments are repeated throughout this book: first rate, second to none, high standards, one family, exclusive club, elite, etc, etc. But this is not a military history, nor a record of the regiments in the Household Division. It is rather an observation by an expert team — journalist, photographer and designer — who endeavoured to assess how the Guards 'tick'. They aimed to produce a "representative portrait 'warts and all'."



In their efforts they visited all units of the Foot Guards and the Household Cavalry in Pirbright, Windsor, London, Belize, Northern Ireland, Detmold and Berlin. And they interviewed individuals like the Academy Sergeant Major at the RMA Sandhurst and ex-Guardes such as Lord Carrington, Colonel David Stirling and the Archbishop of Canterbury. They knew the public's 'ceremonial' viewpoint and the somewhat caustic assessment of officers and soldiers in the remainder of the Army, so they have also recorded feelings and fantasies about 'wooden tops', faintings, queers, the 'thick', snobbery — and so on.

The result is a full overall review if not an in-depth study, neither an historical record nor a verdict. Nevertheless, the substance of 300 years association and growth is there and the opinions of present day officers, NCOs and men are laid bare for the reader to make his own assessment.

Your reviewer, who was trained as an infantry drill sergeant at the Guards Depot half a century ago and who has jostled and jostled with the 'Elite' in peace and war, felt and smelt the presence in all these pages. Read the book to get the flavour. The many coloured photographs also set a

high artistic standard. Oddly, for this most British of institutions, the book was printed in Japan.

Aurum Press Ltd, 11 Garrick Street, London WC2E 9AR — £12.95 GRH

The Royalist War Effort, 1642-1646: Ronald Hutton

The story of the Civil War has never been fully objectively told and the volumes that have emerged have generally favoured one side or the other. Propaganda used at the time has since tended to colour the accounts so that 'history' is distorted. Also, although glamour has surrounded leading figures like Cromwell and Prince Rupert, the feelings and reactions of the humble folk who supported each side, and who continued to pay with men and money, has never been determined or explained.

The author has set out to repair this omission and begins by considering in this volume the Royalist war effort as a whole. He concentrates upon 20 counties of the West, including Wales, the Marches and the West Midlands where King Charles I raised an army and where he made his last stand. The area supported him throughout the war. Great research has gone into this work and the author concludes with much evidence that it was the local community, not the Parliamentarians, that defeated Charles I, "not from hatred of his cause but from hatred of the war itself". The facts, as set out in these pages, are worthy of leisurely study.

Longman Group Ltd, Longman House, Burnt Mill, Harlow, Essex — £12 GRH

Auchinleck — The Lonely Soldier: Philip Warner

For humble soldiers in the Middle East in 1942 (like this reviewer) the sacking of Auchinleck as our Commander-in-Chief was a bit of a mystery. A few weeks later the successful Montgomery, for all his bumptiousness, was our hero; the Auk a distant memory.



Now, after nearly 40 years and Heaven knows how many volumes of memoirs and history, probably most of the survivors, even dedicated Monty men, will concede that the Auk had a rough deal. To oversimplify: Churchill wanted a quick victory; the Auk, cautious and none too diplomatic in his dealings with the Prime Minister, refused to move until he was good and ready. Monty, playing the bustling new broom, told

Churchill what he wanted to hear and, supported by Alexander, took just as long to get to Third Alamein as the Auk would have done.

One thing that emerges from Mr Warner's businesslike and sympathetic biography, is the extent to which Auchinleck was subsequently pursued by Monty's spite. The two men had clashed before, when Monty was an insufferable corps commander in the Auk's Southern Command after Dunkirk. Now, having taken over Eighth Army, Monty put it about that the Auk had planned to retreat from Egypt and he, Monty, had put a stop to that. (Like any sensible commander, the Auk had a plan for the worst contingency.) Monty claimed that it was he who planned the strengthening and defence of Alamein and subsequent offensive; in fact, the Auk had already made the plans.

The question is, why did Monty behave in this way? It was, says Mr Warner, "perhaps even reasonable" that he should have adopted the Auk's sound planning as his own brilliant idea as he tried to put the stamp of knowledge and authority on his new appointment. What was not acceptable was that he should vilify his predecessor in the process. He persisted in this long after the war.

Mr Warner thinks Monty's attempts to spoil the Auk's reputation, then and later, stemmed from the knowledge that the Auk was the better general and that people would say of Monty's failures (particularly to follow and destroy Rommel after Alamein and in handling his resources after D-Day) "Auchinleck would have done better". Another explanation could be that Monty hoped to be Supreme Commander in Europe and did not want Auchinleck to get the job. Thus, says Mr Warner, the Allies were robbed of their "potentially best general".

Be that as it may, the Auk, "possibly slightly humiliated but not hurt", as he said, after a few months went on to become Commander-in-Chief, India, contribute immensely to victory in the Far East, and head the Indian Army he loved until it broke up in 1947.

Buchan and Enright, 21 Oakley St, London SW3 5NT — £10.50 RLE

Rommel: Ward Rutherford

Monty, as Commander of 8th Army in North Africa, kept a photograph of Rommel in front of him in his command vehicle that he might better know his enemy. Both British and German troops knew Rommel as the Desert Fox because of the military expertise he used brilliantly to gain spectacular victories and advances.

Unlike most German generals, he was not hated as a Hun by British soldiers but almost admired for his good military bearing and chivalry. He treated Allied prisoners humanely and refused to summarily execute British commandos as instructed. Many historians have concluded that he was a military genius but, whatever his successes, there were defects in his make-up and in the end he took his own life rather than suffer the humiliation of trial and disgrace.

Montgomery studied his photograph and there must have been plenty to choose from, for there is



one or more on almost every page of this 168-page volume. They, and the well researched text, trace the history of this brilliant and unfortunate man — who might have succeeded Hitler had plans gone right — from his early days in World War One through to his death and state funeral in 1944. It is a tale of fine achievement and a record of military ambition fulfilled but the author concludes that this was no genius.

Resourceful, yes; good at managing men and at exploiting enemy weaknesses; a good psychologist with the ability to judge situations and opponents to a nicety. But he never fully trusted subordinates and was always 'pepping' the troops at the front end by badgering minor commanders when he might have been better employed coordinating the operation from his own headquarters. He blamed others in moments of adversity. Reverses made him physically ill. Even Hitler, who regarded him as exceptionally bold and clever, did not regard him as a 'stayer'. And he never did denounce Nazism.

Hamlyn Publishing Group Ltd, Feltham, Middlesex — £5.95 GRH

1941: Armageddon: Richard Collier

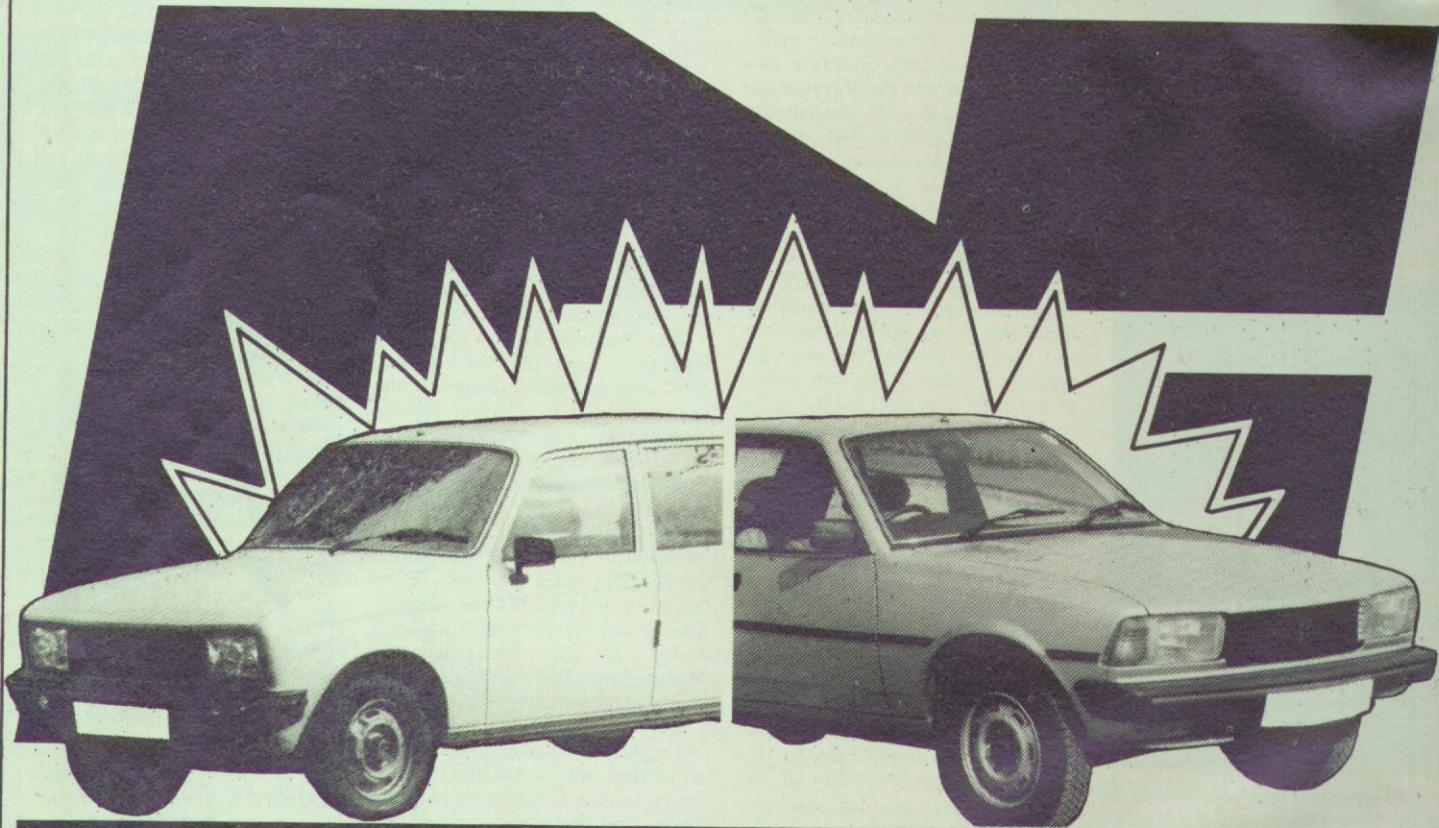
Histories of World War Two continue to appear at a rapid rate, but this one is a little different in that it concentrates on just one year. In 1941, the war reached its height. Hitler launched his grim assault on Russia, the execution squads following in the wake of the fighting men and stepping up the obscene 'Final Solution'. The Japanese struck at Pearl Harbour in the Pacific, and finally brought the United States into the War. Fighting was ranging in Europe, as organised resistance against German occupation began to emerge in Greece, Crete, North Africa and the Far East. In the North Atlantic, British battleships were hunting the powerful *Bismarck*. By the end of the year no less than 37 countries were engaged in all out war.

All this Richard Collier has woven together with rare power into a highly readable narrative. He has drawn on hundreds of published works, numerous eyewitness descriptions and a wealth of previously unavailable archive material.

Hamish Hamilton Ltd, Garden House, 57-59 Long Acre, London WC2E 9JZ — £9.95 IJK

continued on page 31

NATOCARS BREAK THE PRICE BARRIER WITH NEW DEALS ON PEUGEOT



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Peugeot confirms link-up with Natocars for 1982

European car giant Peugeot announced just a few days ago that it had formed an association with Natocars of Bridgwater to supply the full range of Peugeot cars to British Forces in the UK and Germany.

A delighted Robert Matthews, Managing Director of Natocars, said: "I am extremely pleased that our negotiations with Peugeot have been successful as it means we truly can offer Servicemen the widest choice of makes in Europe."

Natocars are receiving stocks of the entire Peugeot 1982 range within the next few weeks and brochures on all the new models are available now.

For 1982, the addition of a new 'economy' engine and a 5-speed gearbox are among changes within the Peugeot 104 range producing major savings in fuel consumption. All models have a redesigned front end and improvements to equipment specification.

305 Range

Both the saloons and the more recently introduced estates in the new 9 model strong 305 range have attracted wide-spread acclaim for being comfortable and immensely driveable motor cars whilst still being economical.

504 range

The major change in this highly successful, long-running series, is the fitting of the SC2 2304 cc diesel engine to the new 504 GRD estate. The 504 estate is legendary for its capacity to swallow up large families or bulky loads and has always proved popular with Service personnel.

Prices for the 1982 range are as follows:

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305 saloons from	£3062
305 estates from	£3261
504 saloons from	£3694
504 estates from	£4316
505 saloons from	£4325
604 saloons from	£5772

New Triumph as popular as Metro say Natocars

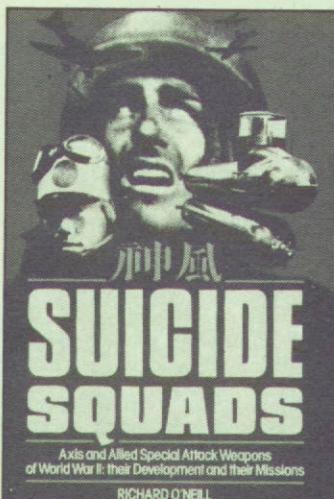
The new Triumph Acclaim which went on sale just a few weeks ago looks set to become as big a seller as the fabulous Mini Metro.

General Manager of Natocars of Bridgwater, Mike Perrin, said last week, "interest in the new Triumph has been outstanding, with requests for information and prices in every post, and I think BL are on to another winner." And of course with the present changes in the DM/£ exchange rates, cars bought from the UK are now terrific value.

MORE BOOKS

Suicide Squads: Richard O'Neill

Japanese suicide-squads were one of the most bizarre aspects of the Second World War in the Far East. Their Kamikaze aircraft, packed with explosives and deliberately crashed, like a piloted bomb, into enemy targets evoked terror, derision or just plain incomprehension from those who encountered them.



Author Richard O'Neill chooses to avoid a detailed analysis on why they did it, in favour of a meticulous look at how. There is a regrettably brief introductory chapter sketching in the Japanese codes of honour and duty which impelled them to undertake such missions, but the bulk of the book is taken up with detailed descriptions of the weapons they used, not just airplanes but flying bombs, boats, miniature submarines and 'human torpedoes' too. Each technical innovation is charted, described, and illustrated in line drawing, and the tactics employed in combat considered and evaluated. Among the wealth of photographs are many rare shots of suicide weapons in action, as well as some rather ghoulish ones of the aftermath of an infantry 'banzai charge' in the Aleutian Islands.

Although the bulk of the book is taken up with Japan, it does also consider those Allied and Axis 'special operations' craft, particularly miniature submarines, which were technically similar to those employed by the Japanese for suicide missions.

A comprehensive if rather clinical study of the mechanics of self-destruction.

Salamander Books Ltd, 27 Old Gloucester Street, London WC1N 3AF — £7.95 IJK

The War With Spain In 1898: David F Trask

America's War with Spain in Cuba is to a large extent her forgotten War, overshadowed by the cataclysm of the Civil War and her later involvement in the First World War. It boasted few hard-won victories or bloody defeats to add glamour and controversy, and lasted only a few months. Its importance lies in the fact that it marked America's entry onto the stage of world affairs, a tentative attempt at gun-boat diplo-

macy when Colonial expansion was the order of the day elsewhere. The Spanish-American War secured the place of the United States as the dominant power in the Caribbean, won her Puerto Rico and the Philippines, and sowed the seeds of her long-standing troubles over Cuba.

The war began following a Cuban uprising against Spanish rule. President McKinley sent the battleship *Maine* to protect American interests and when the ship was destroyed by an explosion in Havana harbour the resulting public outcry caused McKinley to declare war on Spain. The subsequent invasion of Cuba went almost entirely America's way, and is chiefly remembered for the much-romanticised charge of Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders at San Juan Hill.

David Trask's book is the first complete history of the campaign to be published for many years. Meticulously researched and very readable, it charts the course of American involvement in Cuba prior to the war, details the campaigning itself and explores the motives which impelled the US to take further possessions in the Philippines. There are several maps but regrettably no illustrations, an omission which detracts from an otherwise definitive account.

Collier Macmillan, Stockley Close, Stockley Road, West Drayton, Middlesex — £18.95 IJK

The Old Contemptibles: Keith Simpson

The popular image of the First World War remains that of the appalling trench warfare of the Western Front. It is easy to forget that in the first few months of hostilities, the war was one of movement rather than stalemate as the British and French tried to stop the victorious German sweep through Belgium. The British Expeditionary Force at this time was very different from the civilian armies which were to follow. It was a professional army, perhaps one of the best in Europe, comprised almost equally of Regulars and Reservists, many with previous service abroad in South Africa and India.

This book follows the fortunes of the BEF — who earned their nickname because the Kaiser once referred to them as "General French's contemptible little Army" — from the gruelling retreat from Mons, through the more successful actions on the Marne and the Aisne, and on to Ypres, the great defensive battle which was to see the death of the old pre-war Regular Army.

To tell his story, Keith Simpson has wisely chosen to rely heavily on

the vivid eyewitness descriptions by those who were there, and to illustrate it with a wealth of excellent photographic material. A few of these photographs were taken by newspaper reporters, but most were snapshots taken by amateur enthusiasts in the Army itself, a practise not altogether approved of! As a result, many lack the self-conscious technical proficiency of the professional, but present instead a fascinating and informal glimpse of the Army actually going about its business. Two photographs convey as well as any the appalling and unexpected casualties which characterised the War. In August 1914 the 1st Battalion, Queen's Royal Regiment is at full strength and fills up its parade ground; the same Battalion, pictured three months later, can scarcely muster a full Company.

A vivid study of a too-often overlooked aspect of 'the War to end all Wars'.

George Allen & Unwin, 40 Museum Street, London WC1 — £9.95 IJK

The Mons Star: David Ascoli

The men who fought in the South African War are now reduced to less than a dozen and they have held their last official reunion. Our grandfathers of the Great War (1914-1918) are now the most revered of veterans — and of them the men who fought at Mons are the heroes who set again the British Army style on the Continent. After 100 years of absence they demonstrated their ability with remarkable marksmanship, stamina and tenacity. They gained the first medal awarded in that war, officially called the Mons Star, for service under fire between 5 August and 22 November 1914. Their casualties alone show that they deserved this special recognition, for they suffered nearly 90,000 in this period. Most of these were in the first seven infantry divisions which totalled originally 84,000. A similar medal but with different dates was awarded to those others who served in 1914-15.

This book tells the story of the men of Mons, giving a full history of their battles, reverses and advances. The quality of this most efficient little British Expeditionary Force, which never exceeded 250,000 British and Imperial troops, is revealed in these pages, which includes personal observations of private soldiers as well as an assessment of the tactics and personalities of commanders. There are some illuminating photographs as well as 18 maps and diagrams to support the exhaustive text.

Harrap Ltd, 19-23 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7PD — £9.95 GRH



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*The conversion to sterling has been effected at the rate of SR 6.7 = £1.

For further details, telephone or write to Elaine Wyatt, IAL, Aeradio House, Hayes Road, Southall, Middlesex UB2 5NJ. Tel. 01-574 5432 Please quote Ref. M176.



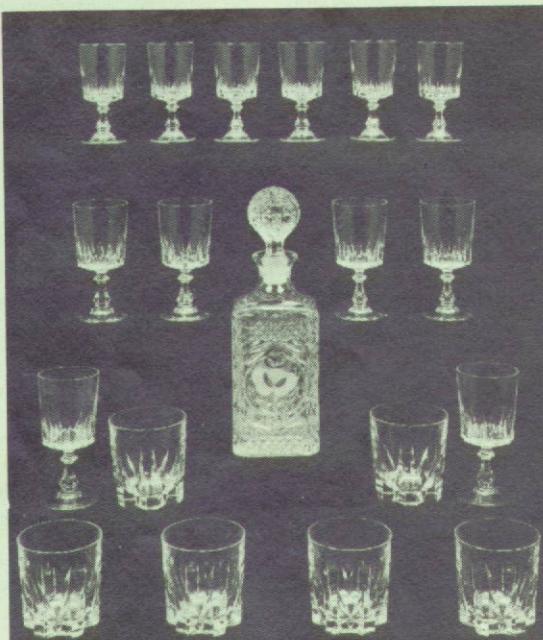
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Graham Smith visits the Army's newest regimental museum

A DAY'S PAY PRESERVES THE PAST

THE OFFICERS AND MEN of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire) currently stationed at Osnabrück, West Germany, can draw much satisfaction from the fact that they — to a man — have played a big financial part in the success story of the Army's latest regimental museum, which stands proudly just a stone's throw away from Salisbury Cathedral's imposing 404-foot-high spire.

For the BAOR-based battalion donated, individually, what amounted to a day's pay to ensure that all the regiment's artefacts formerly housed in two separate locations — Brock Barracks in Reading and Marchant Barracks in Devizes — are now safely together under one roof.

The Regiment of today was formed in June 1959 on the amalgamation of The Royal Berkshire Regiment and The Wiltshire Regiment. Its Colonel-in-chief is His Royal Highness, Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales.

Unofficially opened in July of last year, the Museum's collection in four rooms — including a medals and silver room — in a Grade Two historical interest building attracted just over 3000 visitors and raised nearly £1500 in its first three months.

It is planned that the Prince of Wales will officially open the Museum in Cathedral Close towards the end of May this year.

The museum, a completely private enterprise, is on a 99-year lease with the Regiment being responsible for its upkeep and any necessary renovations. The building, last used as a teachers' hostel but standing empty, has been gutted and re-structured internally by the DERR.

The choice of Salisbury as home for the museum was made by the former regimental secretary, Colonel Kensey Comerford-Green who said of the early moves to find a suitable site: "It was a rather tricky business. It was quite obvious we had to bring the mementoes of both regiments together. The trustees

of The Royal Berkshire Regiment looked around. We knew, it was going to have to be in a place which was a tourist attraction. We looked at eight places in Salisbury itself.

"We started work in July 1979 and it was finished 15 months later. We launched an appeal within the regiment which raised £25,000 and a two counties' appeal which brought in, after expenses, about £6,000. Another regimental appeal was made with soldiers giving a day's pay when we raised about £8000 earlier this year. We have also been helped by grants and the Landmark Trust who gave £60,000.

"This museum is different. You get lots of museums which are in barracks, stately homes or run by corporations. We are an entirely, private regimental venture. We took the building over and this is our responsibility. We have to ensure it does not fall down. I think the Green Howards is the only other regiment to have a similar

arrangement."

His successor as Regimental Secretary, Lieutenant-Colonel Basil Hobbs said: "We opened unofficially in July last year as a trial run to see how it went and to see what reaction we had from the public. We looked at it from a critical point of view to see what changes we could make."

"We have learned we have got to give more information about certain battles. We have got to produce some sort of brochure. We want to make some changes to the lay-out. We have a ready-made public who go into the cathedral."

Colonel Hobbs, who left the Regiment in May and is a former selector at the Regular Commissions Board and previously an instructor at the School of Infantry, Warminster, added: "The premises give us a nice, solid base on which we can build and we have learned one or two things about presentation. We have a museum staff of eight including the cleaner."

The Museum's Collection traces the history of the two former regiments — the Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales's) and The Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's) — from their formation in 1743 and 1756 respectively.

Much of the history deals with the history of the four regiments which now comprise The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment — the 49th and 66th of Foot (later The Royal Berkshire Regiment) and the 62nd and 99th Foot (which formed The Wiltshire Regiment).

Also there are eight Freedom Scrolls from towns in Berkshire and Wiltshire, eight VCs, 96 Egyptian Medals — "among hundreds" — and an embroidered silk robe belonging to the Emperor of China which was taken during the sacking of the Summer Palace at Peking during a "punitive expedition" in 1860 led by Captain Henry Ely of



the 99th Foot.

Staring out from another showcase and a testimony to the art of taxidermy is Bobbie, a be-medalled mongrel, owned by a Sgt P Kelly of the 66th of Foot.

Bobbie survived the Afghan Campaign of 1879-80 but only just — his master was one of 11 men killed in a heroic action at Maiwand — to return home with the Battalion in February 1881.

The brave Bobbie, a mongrel, was decorated with the Afghan Medal by Queen Victoria at Osborne in the Isle of Wight in June 1881.

The award was all the more valorous for,

The celebrated Bobbie, immortalised behind glass and one of the museum's prize exhibits.

after the action at Maiwand, the dog, wounded in the back, turned up one month later and 60 miles further away to be reunited with the Battalion!

But what the predatory Pathans had failed to achieve a Hansom cab did quite by accident. Bobbie was knocked down and killed by it just 16 months later at Gosport.

Now, Bobbie, the revered canine veteran of the Afghan encounter, is proving to be a firm favourite with the visitors to the newest of the Army's museums.

No 8

THE QUEEN'S OWN HUSSARS

NOVEMBER 3rd 1958 is a date well remembered by the older comrades of this Regiment, for it saw two long established units, which had both borne the prefix 'Queen's' during their history, united as one. The current cap is the White Horse of Hanover on ground with, below, a scroll inscribed 'The Queen's Own Hussars'. Horse and ground are in silver and the scroll in gold anodised. The badge was sealed in preparation for the amalgamation on September 15th 1958.

The senior of the pair, the 3rd (King's Own) Hussars, began life in 1685 as 'The Queen Consort's Own Regiment of Dragoons', shortened to 'Queen's Dragoons'. In 1714 they became the 'King's Own Regiment of Dragoons' and a variety of subsequent names reflected their changes in role culminating in 1920 with the title of '3rd The King's Own Hussars'. In 1707, at Almanza, the Regiment gallantly fought a far superior body of French cavalry, suffering severe losses. It was said that three generals and 34 other officers fought in the front rank — one wonders what the Treasury today would say about such conduct with the risk of paying pensions for loss of life or limb!

Included in their early service was much campaigning in India, with many honours being added to the growing list and none

brighter than that of Ferozeshah. Initially, their cap badge was the spirited White Horse of Hanover, on ground, in white metal, on a gilding metal scroll inscribed '3rd King's Own Hussars'. It was reduced in size and the inscription altered to include the word 'The', in September 1930, ten years after the official change of title.

From 1690 until 1715, the second antecedent of the Queen's Own Hussars bore the name of its colonel, but it changed in that year to 'The Prince of Wales's Own Royal Dragoons' and again in 1727 to be 'The Queen's Own Dragoons'. Numbered 7th in 1784, further changes reflected their role until 1866 when they finally became '7th Queen's Own Hussars'. Initially raised in Scotland, they followed the call of duty wherever needed — and the needs were many and varied. At Dunblane, Colonel Kerr had three horses killed under him — which was rather hard on the remount department, and even harder on the horses. The 7th's battle honours included Peninsula and Waterloo, they went to Canada to repress the rebellion there and on to India for action against the Mutineers. Service in South Africa against the Boers saw out the last part of the nineteenth century and proved the precursor to the bitter fighting of two World Wars and smaller actions since.

Your Cap Badge



Their first cap badge was a circlet inscribed '7th Queen's Own Hussars' surmounted by an unusual crown which reflected the influence of the Prince Consort. In the centre was the monogram QO, reversed and inter-twined, the monogram in white metal and the remainder in gilding metal. The crown changed in 1901 to the Imperial pattern and again in January 1955 to the St Edwards crown. Finally the metal changed to anodised material.

Next issue:
The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars



HIGHLAND GAMES

COMPETITION 284

IN DEFERENCE TO Burns Night and all our Scottish friends, we've given our puzzle a touch of the tartan this time. As always though, Sassenachs are welcome to join in too!

Four Highlanders, known respectively as McGavish, McTavish, McHavish and McLavish lived, but not necessarily respectively, in four Highland villages which were situated in Glenosaemuckle. These villages were Glenmickle, Glenmuckle, Glenmickler and Glenmuckler.

At the last local Highland Games one of the four men had been victorious at Tossing the Caber, one had won the Highland Dancing, one had beaten all rivals at the Pipes while the fourth had won the Hammer Throwing with ease. All came, as we have said, from different villages.

The first village encountered when entering Glenosaemuckle was Glenmickle and this was certainly not the home of the caber champion. Two miles further on was Glenmuckle. Yet another mile and Glenmickler was reached. Right away at the far end and a good eight miles from Glenmickle was Glenmuckler, where no-one was much good at throwing the hammer.

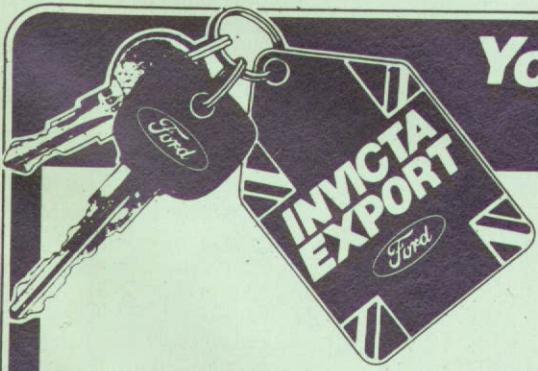
McHavish, who did not live in Glenmickle and wasn't made particularly welcome when he visited Glenmuckler, had, as his nearest neighbour, the finest piper for miles around while the piper had, as his nearest neighbours the dancing champion and McTavish. McLavish, who was lame, could barely dance a step and did not often visit Glenmickle or Glenmuckle and he had been to Glenmuckler only twice in the past year.

Therefore, who was the caber tossing champion and where did he live?

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 26 February. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 22 March. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 284' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or pre-paid labels will be disqualified. Send your answers by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 284' label from this page and your name and address to: **Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.**

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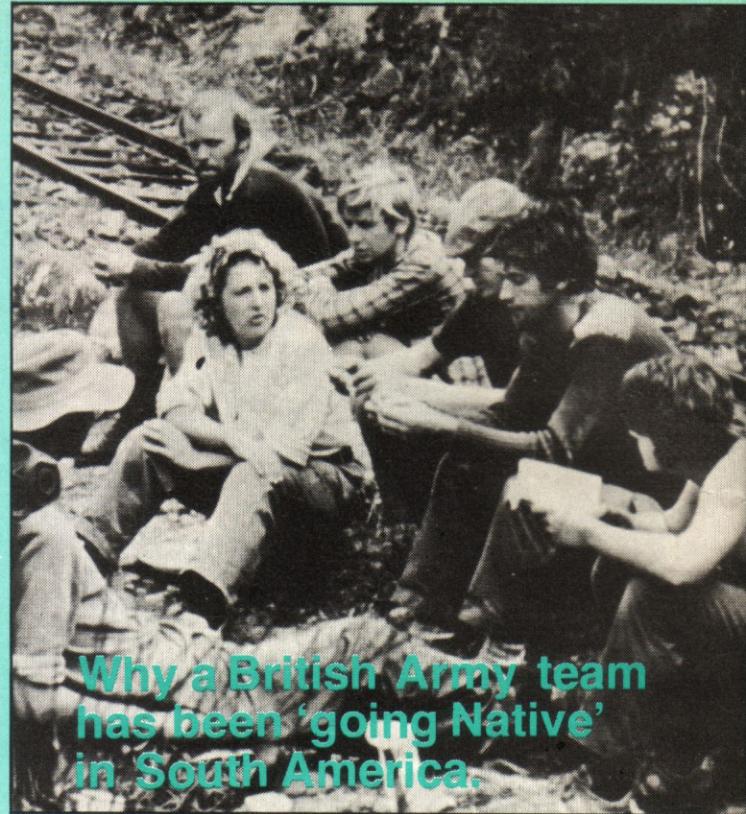
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S2/82





The campsite — 'home' for four months.



Why a British Army team has been 'going Native' in South America.



"DARKEST PERU", though home to small cuddly bears in Wellington boots, is not the place one would normally expect to find the British Army. But a primitive camp in the Cusi Chaca Valley, high in the Andes, was indeed home for four months to eight intrepid soldier volunteers. Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Rose the team leader, now back in his comfortable Surrey sitting-room, told SOLDIER all about it — appropriately, as Paddington Bear fans will appreciate, while eating a marmalade sandwich.

The Cusi Chaca Project is a joint British and Peruvian archeological expedition led by Dr Ann Kendall carrying out an intensive five-year study of the Inca and pre-Inca occupation of the valley. Each year the Army has been invited to send a team of volunteers to provide the expertise necessary to run a camp housing professional archeologists, Western and Peruvian student helpers and themselves — a total of 70 people.

For soldiers used to well organised daily routines, hot meals on demand and accustomed to the most up-to-date equipment, pitching and running a base camp provided plenty of opportunity for using their initiative.

One thing in their favour was that they had learned from the experience of previous

Even rudimentary dental work was not beyond QARANC Kay Foster's brief.

The Challenge of Cusi Chaca

years' teams. This year, for instance, instead of physically carrying water from the nearby river, a water pump cut out much of the tedious work.

Only personal experience however taught many of the Project members not to drink the water before it was sterilised. "The Cusi Chaca Cha Cha is a very catchy little melody" said Colonel Rose wryly!

Using Army field equipment, cooking techniques were soon mastered by Corporal Steve Munday, ACC. Apart from some fruit and vegetables, most other provisions were bought weekly in Cuzco, the old Inca capital, lying at 11,500 ft.

Towards the end of each week when rations were low, pasta was the staple diet. "But when new supplies arrived, everyone indulged in an orgy of roast beef and other succulent dishes," said Colonel Rose smacking his lips.

Bread which was made on camp, provided the 'bulk'. Everyone in the team was taught by Steve Munday how to make it and took turns on bread duty. A 40 gallon oil drum with its top and bottom cut out proved ideal for smoking hams and freshly-caught trout.

One logistic problem facing the team was how to get the stores and equipment from the railway across the river to the camp on the other side. They solved it by means of the custom-built 'oroya' on an overhead pulley system. Colonel Rose made sure that

Building the latrines — note the luxury of lavatory seats!

The waiting game — hoping a train will make an unscheduled stop to carry stores and equipment to Cuzco.

this was padlocked to the 'home' bank when not in use as otherwise "the locals would cross the river, and leave it on the far bank, usually when you were in a hurry to catch the train."

Medical services were ably provided by Captain Kay Foster, QARANC, who often found herself having to deal with the unexpected. One man, a local, walked five miles to the camp with a wooden stake through his neck. Apart from coping with common cuts, bruises and the Cusi Chaca Cha Cha, Kay also became the local midwife and surgeon. Once a site worker cut his hand with a machete severing the tendon. Undeterred, Kay managed to pull the two ends of the tendon together and sew them up.

But one case Kay was unable to deal with was that of the second-in-command Captain (QM) John Winter.

"John had worked wonders through his contacts in organising all sorts of equipment we would have otherwise gone without, such as shower fittings, a hot water system and even lavatory seats, but he never saw them in use," explained Colonel Rose.

Sadly John was badly affected by the altitude to the point of hallucinating, and had to be evacuated three days after his arrival in Cuzco.

While in the area and despite the privations, the Army team took advantage of the wild and mountainous terrain for adventure training by climbing to an altitude of 14,500 ft. One group trekking above the snow line were caught in a most unseasonal blizzard for three days.

They also tried their hand, a week at a time, at a bit of excavating. "That was awful," said Colonel Rose. "None of the soldiers liked it. I spent seven days on my hands and knees with a trowel scratching away at the surface. We never found anything except bits of broken pot."

Something all the Project members had to adjust to quickly was stealing by the local peasants.

"Thieving is a way of life in Peru," commented Colonel Rose. "When walking in towns or travelling on the railway, if your camera was round your neck it also had to be chained to your belt or else someone would lift it. Passports and wallets were of course very attractive items."

Buckets, shovels and trowels were also stolen from the camp. Towards the end 'panic stealing' took hold as the locals realised their source of pickings would soon dry up.

In this remote and primitive corner no excuse was ever needed for a party. Beer and Cusi Chaca 'whisky' (an evil white spirit) were the liquid accompaniments to whatever form of entertainment could be found. Since work on the sites finished at 2pm the 'International' football matches (Peruvians v Gringos) proved the most popular sport. "These were amazing," said Hugh Rose. "Everyone got so excited... and the Supporters' Clubs were very strong."

But no animosity arose either during these

Kay Foster pulling together the ends of the severed tendon in the hand of one of the site workers.

matches or at any other time. The civilians and the Army team got on extraordinarily well and although the groups were a little distant at first, the living conditions soon brought them together as one team.

Colonel Rose believes the expedition did wonders for Army public relations: "Soon all the soldiers came to realise that not all civilians are long-haired layabouts and the civilians realised not all soldiers are jack-booted fascists!"

The overall leader of the expedition, Dr Kendall, thought the 1981 Army team was the best to support the project since it began in 1978. And the soldiers' verdict? Out in Peru most of them felt that one trip was enough and they would not want to go again. But once back in UK, and faced with the traumas of 'civilised' life, many had second thoughts. Colonel Rose in particular had no doubts: "It was certainly the most astonishing experience of my life." ■



**Story: Sally Daniell
Pictures: Hugh Rose**



MAIL DROP



DAMAGE

Your article "Food for Thought" (SOLDIER, 14 December) gave a very unbalanced impression of the standard of food served in the Army. To publish comments like "I wouldn't feed it to my worst enemy" alongside unsubstantiated complaints can only do grave damage to relationships between the ACC cooks and their customers.

To most people, overcooked beef is a crime, but it is well known that many soldiers prefer well-cooked roast beef. The usual method of pleasing everyone is to slightly over-cook roast beef, and carve it at the servery as required. Those who like it well done can ask for a portion from the ends of the joint, and devotees of rare beef ask for a slice from the middle. Nothing is too much trouble if there is good rapport across the counter.

At the very least, your article should have included a typical day's menu, to enable readers to judge for themselves how well, or how badly, the Gordon Highlanders eat. The only way to deal with complaints about food is to investigate them and, if justified, rectify them. Anyone who does so will soon discover that many such complaints are not true, and to publish them without confirmation of their veracity is irresponsible. Your article shows no evidence of any investigation, and the result does little credit to the Gordon Highlanders or to SOLDIER.

The public at large would dearly love to eat as well as the average soldier. The true remark in your article came from Corporal Bradley, who wished that he could eat as well at home.

How many of us could afford to opt for grilled steak every day, as Private McBeath does? It is also evident that he could choose roasts, curries, pizzas, steak and kidney puddings, chicken legs, and whatever else appears on the (unpublished) menu. — Major D B Nelson

ACC, 13 Highfield Avenue, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 3BY.

The whole point of our "Soldiers Talking" feature is that it is not an article by SOLDIER writers but a random sample of opinions and comments expressed by soldiers themselves. We never claim that the statements expressed necessarily reflect all shades of opinion on a given subject. Analysing the Gordons' comments on their food however, it will be seen that two were complimentary, four gave qualified approval and only one was wholly adverse — surely not an "unbalanced" selection of views. As for publishing a typical Gordon Highlanders menu, this would only have illustrated the variety of food on offer — it would have said nothing about its quality.

SOLDIER has published many articles in the past drawing attention to the excellent work being done by the Army Catering Corps and we have great respect and admiration for its high professional standards. All the same, we see nothing irresponsible in taking a sample of consumer views occasionally if only to illustrate the wide divergence of opinions on such fundamental questions of taste. — Ed.

INVALUABLE

Having just received my last copy of the old SOLDIER, I realised that I have been a reader and subscriber for more than half the magazine's life — I first subscribed in 1957.

I have always been interested in the British Army and after 20 years in the US Army have returned to college for graduate study of British military history. Needless to say SOLDIER has been invaluable both as a window on what the British Army is like today and for your excellent historical articles.

I have been most impressed by the way you have been able to walk a tightrope between seemingly irreconcilable requirements:

- Although an official publication you have been able to maintain an independent editorial policy and to avoid becoming a propaganda organ.
- Whilst doing a fine job of catering to readers like me you have managed to continue as a soldier's magazine. 'Soldier News' and your new format attest to your interest in this matter.
- The technical standards — layout, proof reading, printing are almost flawless.

I have been interested in seeing the evolution of the magazine over the past 24 years during which time the standard of journalism in SOLDIER has been excellent. Your magazine appeared to have gone through something of an identity crisis or loss of purpose in the late 1960s (but then didn't we all), but with that possible exception the editorial policy appears to have been stable and well thought out.

The dichotomy of requirements —

trying to please British Army enthusiasts like me and serving soldiers will continue to be a problem — I hope you will truly continue to make it a soldier's magazine. Even the enthusiasts will probably be interested in the real issues. — George H Kelling, 4223 Dauphine Drive, San Antonio, TX 78218, USA.

Excuse us while we polish our haloes! We hope you enjoy your next quarter century of readership even more. — Ed.

BARRACKY BILL

As Accommodation Services Accountants working in Dover we were particularly interested in your very informative article 'Life on the Corner' (SOLDIER 16 Nov.).

However, in his references to the married quarters in the Garrison it is a pity your reporter's coverage did not extend far enough to include a mention of the Accommodation Services Unit RAOC which, as its name implies, is responsible for all aspects of accommodation and related services for both married quarters and units in an area that covers Chatham, Gravesend, Maidstone, Canterbury and Brighton and which includes the Dover/Shorncliffe Garrison. Furthermore it has been in existence in the Garrison under one title or another since the beginning and doubtless the very first occupant in the very first quarter had to sign on the dotted line in the presence of an eagle-eyed 'Barracky Bill!' — J Northam and W Duffy, MQES RAOC, Burgoyne Heights, Dover, CT15 5LY.

Can you Help?

As Honorary Secretary of the British Mule Society, which has among its members many serving and retired soldiers, I am collecting material on mules for our quarterly magazine.

Many of our members are particularly interested in the military use of mules, and I should like to hear from anyone who has any knowledge or experience of mules. Any item of information, however small, technical information or personal reminiscences, would all be most welcome, as would photographs or other material. — Mrs L Travis, Hope Mount Farm, Top of Hope, Alstonfield, Nr Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

I wonder if any readers can throw some light upon the whereabouts of some relative of a great friend of mine in Canada.

Her name is Ethel Mary Hales and was originally from Birmingham. She tells me that her brother Stanley Hales was in the Army and died approximately 38 years ago at the age of 27. He was sent to Ireland then to Egypt then to India where he became sick, was sent back to England, and died immediately upon his return. I understand he was given a military funeral and his belongings were passed on to a half brother Joseph Rundle also in the Birmingham area.

Whilst I am aware that this information is rather thin, I am trying all sources possible in trying to trace someone for her. She was sent to Canada as a child of 13 and is now 68, and would love to return home for a visit if she can find someone. — F R Whale, 199 Jael St, Pinner, Middx, HA5 2PJ.

The mention of the Blood Transfusion Service on Anne Armstrong's page in the December issue of SOLDIER prompts me to remind Service readers that the Army operates its own Blood Transfusion Service based at the Army Blood Supply Depot in Aldershot.

We work in close co-operation with the National Blood Transfusion Service and by agreement with them our mobile donor team visits selected units in London, South East and South West Districts to collect blood from volunteer donors, both serving soldiers and their families. MOD civilians employed in these units are also welcomed.

Anyone in the Aldershot area wishing to give blood is welcome to call at the Depot during normal working hours although it is advisable to ring us first on Aldershot 24431 Ext 3389.

Soldiers serving abroad who wish to give blood will be welcomed at their local military hospital. — K P Barnes, Army Blood Supply Depot, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants.

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. We're offering £5 for the best letter we publish every fortnight. All we ask is that you keep it brief and include your full name and address. Write to: Mail Drop, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

ACC BEEF

First of all I would like to thank you for producing an excellent magazine which keeps the likes of me up to date on what is happening around the world. But in the December issue I came across your 'Food for Thought' item, and being a proud member of the Army Catering Corps decided to read what the consumers thought of what I consider to be a high standard of catering.

I was totally disgusted to read what some of the members of the Gordon Highlanders thought. Picking a Scots clan I thought was wrong in the first place, because from my experience the only things jocks like are tatties and mince.

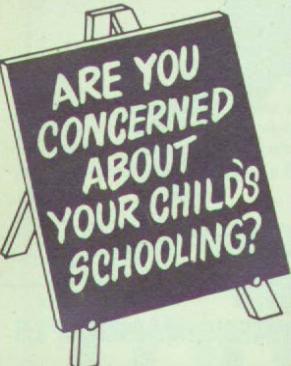
According to Corporal Ralph Bruce "Cooks don't seem to pay so much attention to things like laying out the food ... they are just flung there." If he would like to visit the unit I am with he would see that nothing could be more important than presentation. He says he has no real complaints about the grub, but if that is not a 'real' complaint then he must tell me more!

If what Corporal Hugh Bradley says about the food is true, it must not be as bad as is made out by the others such as Private Tom Gibson. What his comment about Army food means I can't for the life of me understand, as Army food is no different from any other. Can't he understand that he won't get the necessary vitamins from the pies and beer he would like to spend his money on? As for Private David Grant, he would not know good food if it jumped from the hotplate to his plate.

The way in which SOLDIER has gone about this interview makes all cooks out to be criminals and suggests that they are only in that profession because they can't do anything else. This is not so, and I would like to see an interview done about what the chefs think and the way they conduct their daily tasks. That would open a few eyes. — L/Cpl Saetta ACC, 1 Sqn, Yankee Tp, 3 Armd Div, HQ & Sig Regt, Salamanca Bks, BFPO 106.

This letter wins our £5 prize. — Ed.

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Pen Pals

I am eighteen and work for a local reprographic company. My hobbies are dancing, horse riding and swimming. I should like to write to someone (male) of around 20-25. — *Mandi Way, 'Robara', 22 Church St, Tintinhull, Yeovil, Somerset.*

I should like to write to an athletic, sexy, good looking 18 or 19-year-old soldier. I am sixteen with brown hair, blue eyes. I enjoy listening to Madness and The Specials, etc. Please enclose a photo. All letters answered. — *Angela Standen, 4's, Christ's Hospital, Hertford, Herts SG14 1AY.*

My name is Jane and I am nineteen years old. I am 5ft 8ins tall and have short red hair and blue eyes. I like discos, pubs, reading and going to pop concerts. I especially like mad people! — *Miss Jane Clarke, 7 Heron Close, Stoughton, Guildford, Surrey.*

I am a twenty-six-year-old auxiliary nurse and would like a soldier penpal. My interests are reading, knitting, dancing and growing houseplants from seed. — *Miss S. A. Arch, Belle View, The Street, Brampton, nr Norwich NR10 5AA.*

My age is 32. I am a slimly-built divorcee and get very lonely. I am the proud mother of two boys and two girls (ranging between thirteen and five). Being a well-organised person I have a lot of spare time and would like to write to a soldier. My interests are dancing, music, horse riding, most sports and in general keeping

fit. I have also done some modelling. — *Elaine Stacey, 8 Marshall Gdns, Hadlow, Kent TN11 0HQ.*

My name is Susan Day, aged 30 and 5ft 8ins tall. I am divorced with young children. I enjoy music, theatre, cinema and reading. I would be interested in hearing from anyone at home or abroad. — *Susan Day, 33 Lodge Lane, North Finchley, London N12.*

My name is Lynda and I am sixteen years old. I would like to write to someone in the Army. — *Miss Lynda Ryan, 37 Shafter Road, Dagenham, Essex RM10 8AJ.*

My friend and I would both like soldier penpals. My name is Angela and my friend's name is Eileen Naylor. We share a flat together and are both divorcees. I am twenty and Eileen is twenty-seven. Our main hobbies are meeting people and going out to dances and enjoying ourselves. — *Angela Bayham, 60 Mersey Road, Derriton Rd, Pyworthy, Devon EX22 6SZ.* 2nd Mr G. Maynard, 45 Barfield Rd, Thatcham, Berks RG13 3BL. 3rd Mr G. A. Gladman, 23 Victoria Rd, Harborne, Birmingham B17 0AQ. 4th Mr T. M. Brown, 17 Tennyson Ave, Gedling, Nottingham NG4 3HJ. 5th Major A. H. J. Dunlop, 18 Avenue Rd, Doncaster DN2 4AQ.

I am twenty three, 5ft 6ins, have brown hair and brown eyes. I like reading, animals, all kinds of music, handicrafts and discos. I am presently working as a nanny. — *Miss Adrienne Elizabeth Ward, 5 Elm Row, Hampstead, London NW3 1AA.*

I am Julie and my friend Lorraine and I would both like Army penpals. Our interests are swimming, pop music, going places and travelling. I am fifteen and Lorraine is fourteen. — *Miss Julie Towsey, 23 Mayswood Gdns, Dagenham, Essex RM10 8UU.*

Collector's Corner

A F Clarke, 341 Muirfield Road, South Oxhey, Watford, WD1 6JZ. *Wishes to buy a copy of "Lion with Blue Wings" by Ronald Seth and "Arnhem Lift" by Louis Hagen.*

C A Mosley, 75 Waterloo Road, Ramsey, Isle of Man. *Wants badges – insignia of Mercenary units, Katanga, Congo, etc and para wings. Also wants French Foreign Legion kepi.*

D M Whitecross, 179 Wyoming Ave, Berario, 2195 Johannesburg, South Africa. *Wants British brass and anodised shoulder titles in exchange for similar SA items.*

Helen V Wilson, 1218 Lockley Road, Victoria BC, Canada, V9A 4S8. *Seeks Navy ribbons, badges, Titanic material etc. Will welcome all letters.*

Dieter Kalter, Burgerweg, D-4156, Willich, West Germany. *Wants stamps of Great Britain. Will swap for stamps of West Germany.*

D J Buckley, 28 Norbiton Road, Kingstanding, Birmingham, B44 0EE. *Collects German personal equipment, ie, ammo pouches, etc, and requires the following: entrenching tool, KFS, gas cape, assault frame, stick grenade inert! All must be WW2 vintage.*

Frank Whittle, 4 Darnford Close, Parkside, Stafford. *Requires the fol-*

lowing badges (brass and white metal only), King's Own WM, Black Watch QC WM, Green Howards XIX WM, Yorkshire RGT KT WM East Lancs QC BM, Wiltshire Regt BM (Prince Phillip's cypher) and Royal Ulster Rifles QC WM. Is prepared to purchase or exchange for other badges.

Bdr P Elliott, D Battery RHA, BFPO 30. *Wants RHA cap badge with imperial crown (King's crown), also any current anodised cap badge for a display. Will pay a reasonable price or swap from a modest collection of cap badges and collar badges. All letters answered.*

W A Taylor, 5 Brook Grove, Irlam, Manchester, M30 6NL. *Seeks the following brass shoulder titles, in pairs if possible: Seaforth (non voided), T4 Seaforth, T5 Seaforth, T6 Seaforth.*

M O Reilly, 12 Arrow Place, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, Bucks. *Seeks any British and Commonwealth cap badges, shoulder titles, formation signs, and buttons for incipient collection. Price lists welcome.*

M G D'Arcy, Glydene, Ashford Hill, Newbury, Berks, RG15 8BB. *Seeks the following items. Cap badges: South Nottinghamshire Hussars; 107 RHA, TA – now 307 Fd Regt (RHA) TA; South Staffs Regt; 192 Fd Regt RA, TA. Topee flashes with bty numerals: 4 and 7 Light Bty, RA; 25 Mountain Bty. Shoulder flashes: 4 Indian Division.*

Reunions

2nd Bn Beds & Herts Regt. 35th Annual Reunion. Saturday 27th February 1982 at Victory Club, Seymour St, London WC2. All new and old members welcome. Details from George Austin, 63 Redwood Drive, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. Tel: 43413. SAE please.

Competition

In our Competition No 280, Going Round In Circles (16 November) we had one hundred per cent correct entries. This is not surprising though, because if you did not have the right answers to the clues you could not complete the puzzle. For those of you who gave up half-way through, the two Army Corps you should have discovered hidden in the answers were Transport and Engineers. Prizewinners were: 1st Mrs G. M. Johns, "Berry Park", Derriton Rd, Pyworthy, Devon EX22 6SZ. 2nd Mr G. Maynard, 45 Barfield Rd, Thatcham, Berks RG13 3BL. 3rd Mr G. A. Gladman, 23 Victoria Rd, Harborne, Birmingham B17 0AQ. 4th Mr T. M. Brown, 17 Tennyson Ave, Gedling, Nottingham NG4 3HJ. 5th Major A. H. J. Dunlop, 18 Avenue Rd, Doncaster DN2 4AQ.

How Observant are You? (See page 16)

1 Cow's left hind leg; 2 Top trunk mark of tree second from left; 3 Tail of black fish; 4 Lines on body of lower fish; 5 Wave below "S" of "Salmon"; 6 Leaf above top bird's head; 7 Head of lower bird; 8 Shape of rock surface behind lower bird; 9 Curve of land above waterfall; 10 Clump of grass just above lower bird.

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However, if economists, some MPs and members of the CBI are to be believed the recession has bottomed out and the house price slide has reached its lowest point. Now is the ideal time for the first time buyer to get into the market. No sensible vendor is likely to turn down a realistic offer.

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Eaden, Lockwood & Riddle, Sheffield (0742) 71277.

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Kerry Stephenson 01-439 3611/2.

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

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Mr Brian Todd, HQ Naafi (ES), BFPO 40, Schwalmatal 02163, 45462 evenings.

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DARTS CONTEST ROUND 2

IT'S NOT ONLY the FA Cup that's run into trouble with bad weather. The snows and floods seem to have disrupted the postal system with only a handful of results in our darts contest reaching us by the nominated date.

Rather than scratch all the teams who didn't get their results to us on time — which would have made a nonsense of the competition — we decided to extend the deadline by three weeks. But as this issue went to press we were still waiting to hear from eight of the 20 teams drawn in the first round — DRD, Hameln Hopefuls, Tornadoes, WO & Sgts Mess 9/12 Royal Lancers, Double Tops Club B, The Jackets, Shiny RCs and Ale & Artes.

To avoid delaying the contest any further we have gone ahead with the second round draw. But secretaries of the teams whose results are still awaited **MUST** telephone contest organiser Sally Daniell **immediately** on Aldershot Mil 2586 — and not later than 1st February. Otherwise they will have to be scratched and a walk-over given to their opponents. We would also ask all team secretaries to keep a copy of their results should any scores go astray.

Of the first round matches that have been decided, two were nail-bitingly close. The Nomads from Dhekelia edged out the Millbank Arrows from Munster by a single dart in the deciding leg, Cpl Colin Atkins and Sgt Dave Dowling both chalking up 'maximums'.

And there was an even closer finish in the match between Ton Up Taunton and ORE Place Social Club. The lads from Somerset lost the first leg 39-37, won the second 37-38 and tied the third 39-39. But the men from Hastings went through on aggregate by a single dart, J Vidler chalking up three 'tons'.



2nd ROUND

BIATHLON BAR — MINSK MISSED

BRITAIN WILL NOT be represented at the world biathlon championship at Minsk in the Soviet Union next month following a Government ban on British Servicemen taking part. The biathlon team is composed entirely of soldiers and Royal Marines.

The Ministry of Defence stated this week that it was Government policy to restrict military contacts between Britain and the USSR. For many years British biathlon teams have been composed entirely of serving military personnel although it is not an official military team.

Taking a similar stance to that

before the Moscow Olympic Games the Government has told Servicemen not to compete. However, if individuals insisted on ignoring Government policy, permission to take annual leave or special unpaid leave it would not be withheld unless there were overriding operational reasons that would justify refusal in other circumstances.

But the team sponsors, the British Ski Federation, feel that the Government decision gives them no option but to withdraw from the world championships.

"We have had to stand by the decision of the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign and

Commonwealth Office because all of the team members are soldiers or marines and there is no way we can go against their Commanding Officers' wishes", the BSF told **SOLDIER**.

"It's very unfortunate and we are very upset but what they are going to do is continue on the world cup circuit probably for longer than they would have been able to before."

The BSF spokesman admitted there had been no chance of a British medal in the biathlon championships — "but who is to say whether we would have got in the first ten or something like that."



Armstrong presses home his advantage over L/Cpl Frank Gargon.

have taken over from a better champion."

Corporal Armstrong had little trouble in taking the under 78 kgs title — disposing of his final opponent, Lance-Corporal Frank Gargon (20 Squadron, RCT) in only 1 minute 42 seconds.

Another double title winner was Corporal Anthony Thomas, stationed with the RCT in Northern Ireland. He took the under 71 kgs title as well as the open title for lighter weights. In both cases the defeated finalist was Lance-Corporal Bob Kubath of 1 Para.

The Army's standing in what the chief official, Captain Dennis Martindale describes as "a Cinderella sport" has been high in recent years. And the organisers were pleased with some of the displays by younger competitors who are expected to come to the fore in the next year or two.

Other results: Special Kyu 'B': 1 L/Bdr A Millington, 2 Gnr D Stansfield (both 40 Field Regt RA). Under 60 kgs: 1 Gnr K MacDonald (26 Field Regt RA), 2 Gnr A Allen (RSA Larkhill). Under 65 kgs: 1 Gnr J Weir, 2 Gnr J Ross (both 40 Field Regt RA). Special Kyu A: 1 Pte David Nash (ACC Bielefeld), 2 Pte Tony Groves (RAPC). Under 86 kgs: 1 Staff Sgt Mal Williams APTC, 2 Bdr Sean Maloney (32 Guided Weapons Regt RA).

Strongarm Armstrong defeats Travis

ALL-ENGLAND middle-weight judo champion, Corporal Stuart Travis of the Royal Pioneer Corps, succeeded in winning the Army's light-heavyweight title for the seventh time in the last eight years in the championships at Bulford last week.

But in the open section at over 71 kgs weight he went down to defeat at the hands of another of the Army's current judo stars 22-year-old Corporal Richard Armstrong from the School of Electronic Engineering at Arborfield.

A delighted Armstrong told **SOLDIER**: "This is only the second time I have met Stuart but I have beaten him both times. I didn't think I would succeed today as he has been in such great form."

Corporal Armstrong himself was an Olympic reserve two years ago and is a former junior European silver medallist. He has won all-England titles and bronze medals in the Swedish and Dutch opens.

Despite the grim weather there was a good entry for the championships with contestants coming from Rhine Army as well as UK. Prizes were presented by Arthur Mapp, Olympic bronze medallist and former corporal. He is now assistant manager of the British national judo team.

His successor as heavyweight champion of the Army is Gunner Kevin Mitchell from the Royal School of Artillery who defeated Lance Corporal of Horse M Jones of the Household Cavalry in the final. Said Gunner Mitchell afterwards: "I could not

This week we throw the spotlight on an unsung hero — the man who looks after the pitch at the Army's prestige Military Stadium . . .

ONE MAN WENT TO MOW

AFTER THE AUSTRALIANS had played their recent Rugby match against the Combined Services at the Aldershot Military Stadium they were full of praise for the efforts of a man who was not actually on the pitch during the game — but who spends more time on it than anyone else.

The lush green pitch was amazingly firm after the snow followed by heavy rain and this was due to the untiring efforts of head groundsman, Robin Ellis and his five assistants.

Mr Ellis, who is 33, became an assistant groundsman at Aldershot 14 years ago and moved into the top spot after seven years. Now he is not only responsible for the prestige military stadium but for pitches on the nearby Queen's Parade as well as a couple of cricket pitches and tennis courts and hockey pitches.

But the stadium takes priority and as it is played on at least once a week throughout the winter it gets as much use as most League football grounds. The secret of its condition he says is for his staff to get to work on the pitch immediately after a game finishes and not leave it until the next day.

"We take forks and fork in most of the divots. It is sometimes harrowed properly or it may be spiked. And I regularly

use the mower, walking the whole pitch — both ways if I have time in order to get a nice effect."

Wet conditions are a big problem and frost can make the pitch completely unplayable for Rugby and dangerous for soccer. The pitch, according to Robin, suffers from compaction but the soil is very good.

In the summer the stadium turns to athletics and this gives Robin and his staff the chance to re-seed. "We have to use the watering system during dry spells in the summer and we try to keep people off it as much as possible. But that can be difficult because it is used for field events like discus and javelin. It's really in use for 12 months a year."

He was pleased with the Australian comments but says modestly: "I don't know how it compares with other first class pitches because I don't ever see any. I watch most of the games played here and that's quite enough for me."

Robin Ellis took up the job of groundsman because he fancied an outdoor life. The tricks of the trade he picked up as he went along with tips from others who went before him.

Now he says: "This job is very rewarding. What I like about it is that I am helping others to enjoy themselves."

Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Tayne Sewell, Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, finished 13th in his battalion's 10 kilometre cross-country run.

★ ★ ★

An eight day coaching and refereeing course organised by the Army FA at Sandhurst was pronounced a great success. Of 22 students taking part 15 have since registered with the Army FA as fully qualified Class III officials.

★ ★ ★

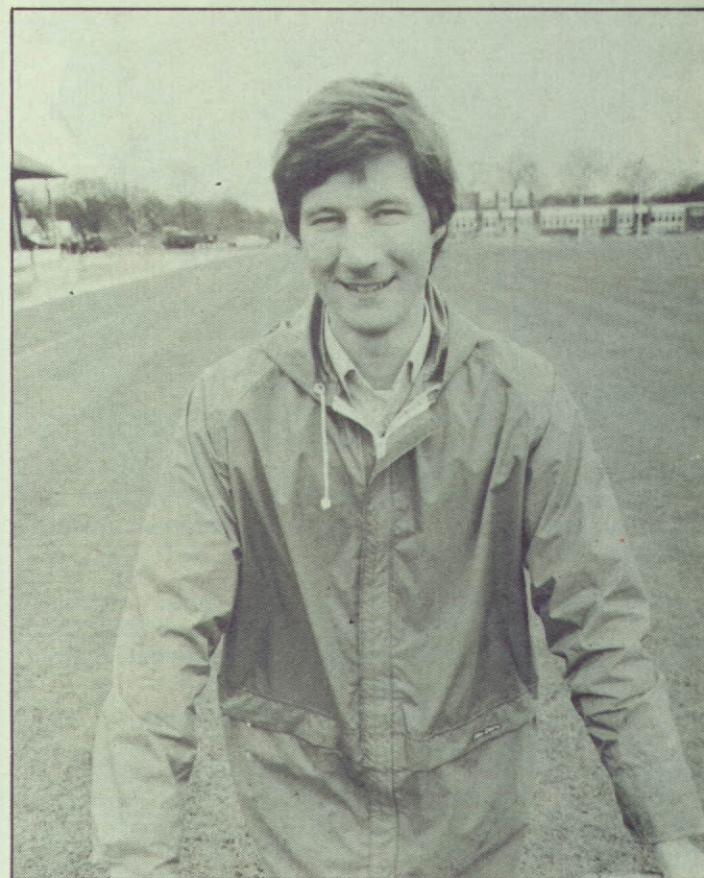
The snow receded sufficiently to permit this year's Army Junior Soldiers Challenge Cup Final at Aldershot to be played — but the fog descended on Aldershot and made spectating impossible. At the end of the match the referee reported that the Junior Soldiers' Battalion, Taunton had beaten the Scottish Infantry Depot (Bridge of Don) by five goals to one. This was Taunton's second success in three years in this competition.

★ ★ ★

The British Armed Forces will meet the French Armed Forces in the first leg of the three nation Kentish Cup soccer competition at the Military Stadium, Aldershot, at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 10 February.

Admission will be by programme for which a small charge will be made for Service charities. The French are holders of the Cup, which has been competed for since 1921 and was instituted at the initiative of Brigadier General R J Kentish. Belgium are the third team taking part.

For the second year running 265 (KSY) Signal Squadron (V) based at Bexleyheath have won the London District TA soccer cup.



SOCER ROUND-UP

Happy New Year

Civil Service 1 Army 3

FOLLOWING an enforced lay-off of over a month and a surfeit of Christmas fare, the Army faced the powerful Civil Service at Chiswick with some misgivings — but they need not have worried. They set about their hosts with great determination and forced the early pace.

S/Sgt Mickey Doig RE set up Cpl Gary Brooksby RGJ as early as the fourth minute only for the youngster to be foiled by some brave goalkeeping. Soon afterwards L/Cpl George Torrance RE put them on the road to success when he intercepted a loose clearance on the edge of the penalty area and crashed home an unstoppable shot.

The Army continued to press and in the 25th minute Cpl Mark Bowen RAFC picked up a throw-in and whipped the ball across the back of the penalty area. WO 2 'Korky' Cawkwell PWO headed it back to Cpl Phil White REME, who was unmarked and close in.

The burly striker rapped it home.

The Army were still on top until just before the interval some slack covering was punished when Augustus scored for the Civil Ser-



Mickey Doig (right) battling for the ball

vice. But the Army quickly made amends when, following a partially cleared corner kick, Cpl 'Ginger' Butler REME sent over a high cross and Corporal Ian Good, Royal Signals, headed just inside the upright to restore a two goal lead.

The Civil Servants had much the better of the second half exchanges but apart from an occasional lapse the Army rear-guard contained their lively attack and there were no further goals.

SPORTS SHORTS

The British Armed Forces will meet the French Armed Forces in the first leg of the three nation Kentish Cup soccer competition at the Military Stadium, Aldershot, at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 10 February.

Admission will be by programme for which a small charge will be made for Service charities. The French are holders of the Cup, which has been competed for since 1921 and was instituted at the initiative of Brigadier General R J Kentish. Belgium are the third team taking part.

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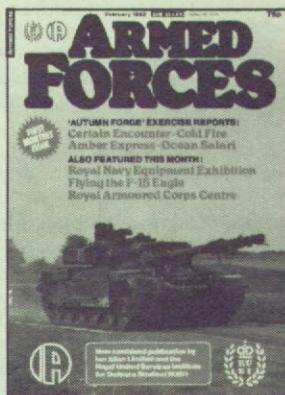
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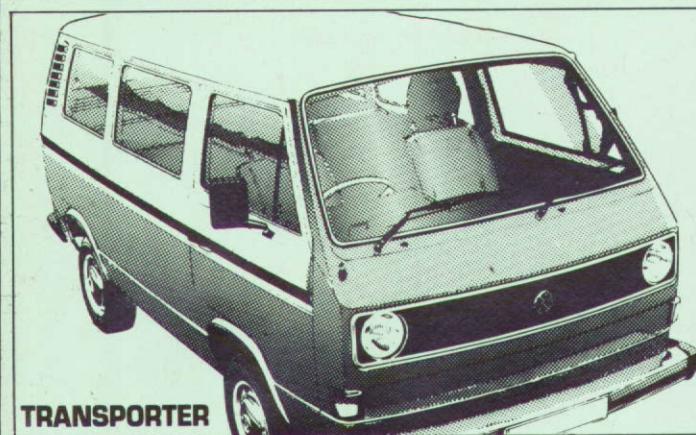
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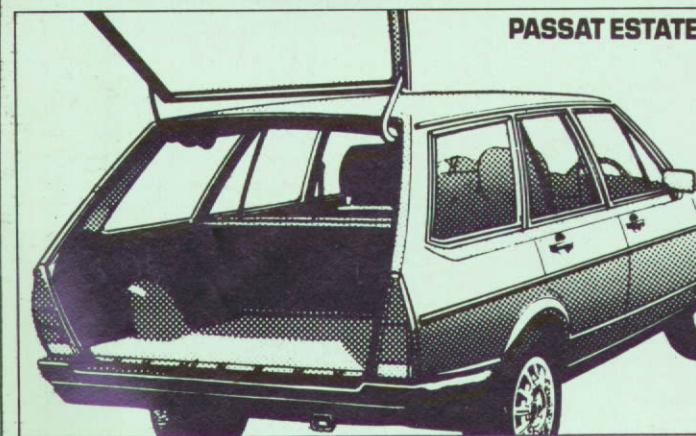
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