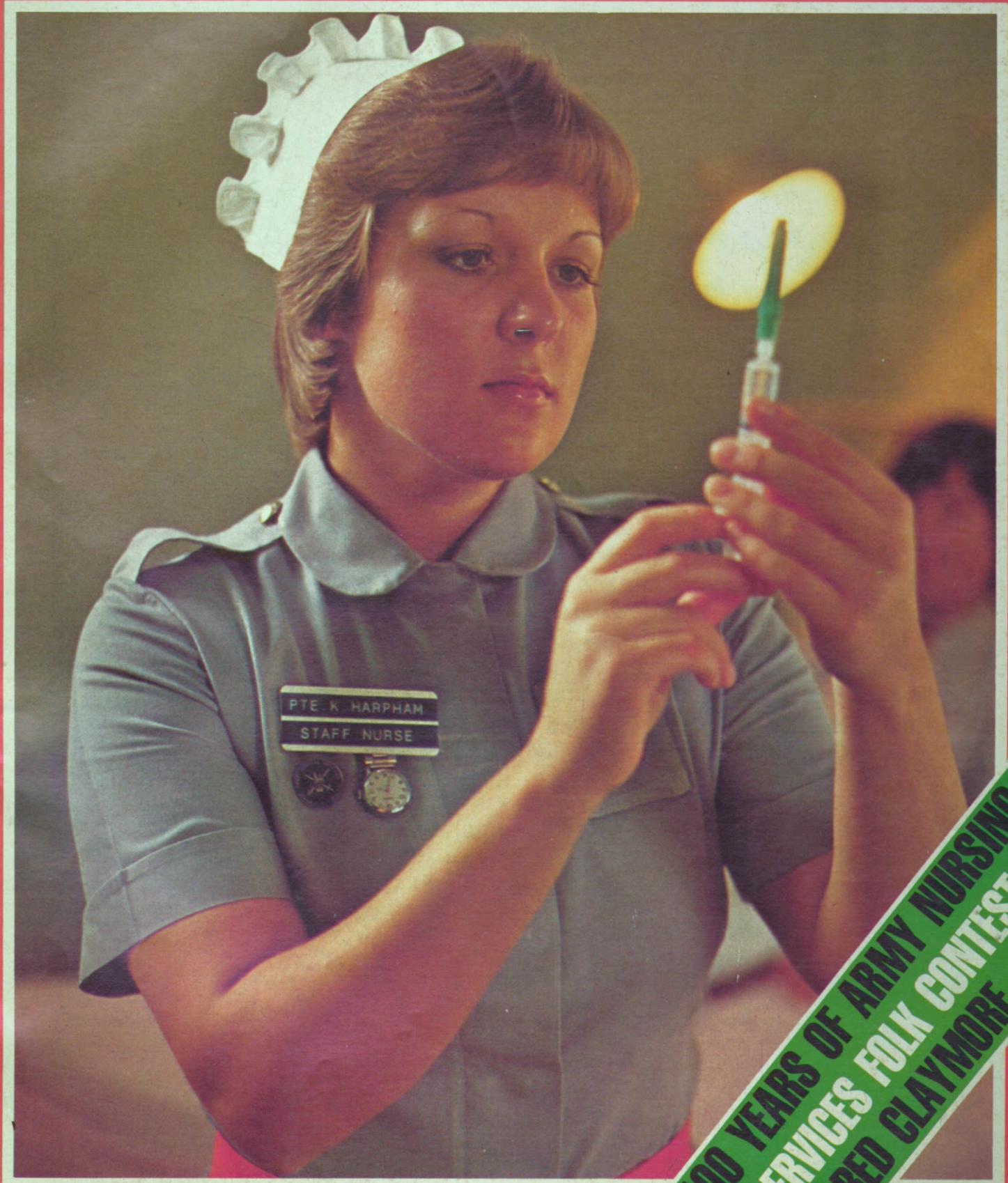


THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY · 25 PENCE · 2-15 NOVEMBER 1981

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FRONT COVER

Private Kathryn Harpham of the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps prepares a hypodermic syringe at the Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot. A feature on 100 years of Army nursing starts on page 26.

Picture: Doug Pratt

BACK COVER

Captain David Taylor, Royal Engineers, glides free as a bird over Hay's Bluff on the South Wales Border. A report on this year's Army Hang Gliding Championships is on page 45.

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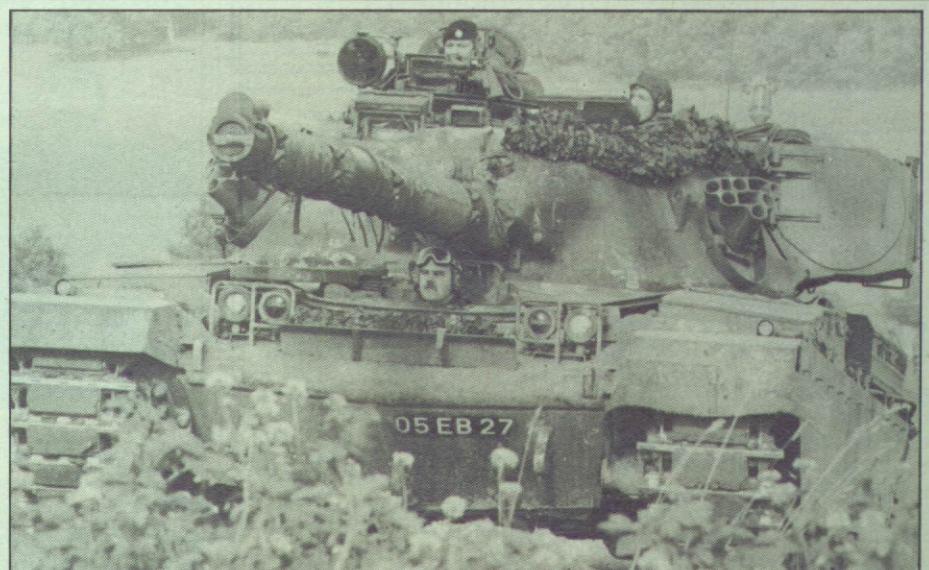


Beaton's war pictures
 — fresh perspective on
 a giant of photography
 — page 25.

Why firing tests on the
 Dorset coast can save
 the taxpayer millions —
 page 30.



How the British Third
 Armoured Division
 have been sharpening
 up their battle skills —
 page 14



Subscription (25 issues): UK/BFPO £10.50, Elsewhere £11.25. Send UK cheque, UK postal order or international money order **expressed in sterling** and state when subscription is to start and to whom, to be addressed. Payments to be sent to SOLDIER and made payable to Command Cashier UKLF.

Editorial, photographic, advertising and circulation enquiries should be addressed to SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, ALDERSHOT, Hants, GU11 2DU (phone GPO Aldershot 24431, military network Aldershot Military). SOLDIER is published by the Ministry of Defence and printed by Eden Fisher (Southend) Ltd, 555 Sutton Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex. Crown copyright 1981.

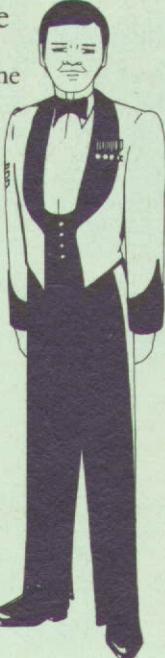
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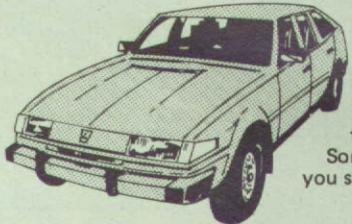
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SOLDIER to Soldier

BAREHEADED THEY stand. Bedecked in black. The silent homage of our Head of State and political leaders as they gather at the Cenotaph to salute our war dead is a moving moment, a time when the nation's differences are briefly set aside and we can unite in patriotic tribute.

It is a scene mirrored in hundreds of smaller ceremonies at war memorials and in churches the length and breadth of the land. It is an occasion that reflects the country's gratitude for the sacrifices of its sons and daughters. But although we are very good at remembering once a year those who have gone, how much do we really care for the rest of the year about our war disabled who must still struggle on?

At the launch of this year's Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, concern was expressed at spending cutbacks that have seriously reduced some welfare services on which the disabled and disadvantaged depend. A reduction of a mere four per cent in statutory funding, it was pointed out, means that the voluntary sector must double its income to plug the gaps.

Yet as each year passes, more and more of those men and women who served in two world wars reach an age when they find it increasingly difficult to care for themselves or their families. Often it is the Legion's welfare services that can lend a little extra comfort and dignity to their declining years.

Against this background of fewer State resources and increased need, this year's Poppy Appeal takes on even greater importance. Last year it raised £4.9 million. This year still more is needed if the Legion is to keep pace.

But buying a poppy should be only the start of our commitment. We should also strive to do much more, in our daily lives throughout the year, to give positive help, support and friendship to the war veterans in our own local communities.

Many of them gave the best years of their youth to serve their country. Now it is our turn.

Success logged

Exercise 'Live Log' in which 14,000 tons of stores and 550 vehicles were moved was a very successful logistic follow-up to last year's Exercise 'Crusader', a UKLF spokesman told SOLDIER.

"Everyone played a significant part," he said, "including the Territorial Army and the Army's civilian workforce who were deeply involved."

"The exercise showed up some areas where improvements will be needed," the spokesman continued. "But we are happy that we can re-inforce BAOR logistically."

Some 1,750 civilians as well as 2,700 regular and TA servicemen took part with the main movement going through Marchwood Military port near Southampton.

Stores shipped to the Continent formed part of the normal flow which would normally be spread over several months but was concentrated for the exercise into a few days.

TREADMILL



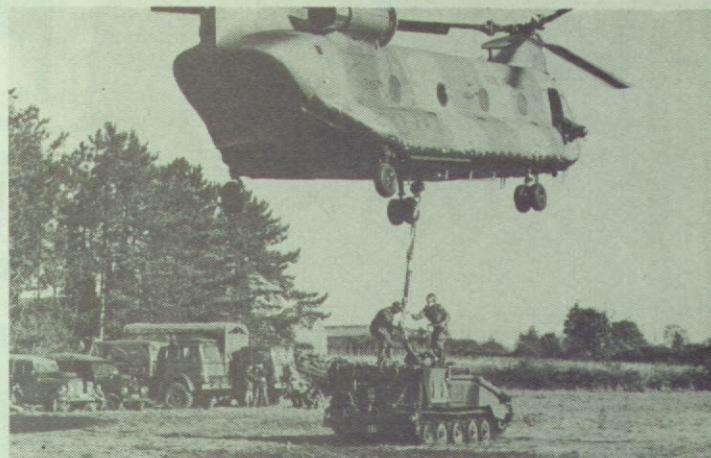
Capt Philip Hargreaves keeps a careful check.

Tackling a treadmill at the age of 74 sounds like a bit of an undertaking, especially if you are blind. But Miss Mary Hargreaves was a volunteer.

Mary is soon to get a new guide dog and was worried that she might be out of training. That was when she asked the Army School of Physical Training at Aldershot to help her get back in trim.

Now she is in the middle of a three-week long course designed to get her in tip top shape, ready for her new companion.

Mary lost the sight of one eye in a playground accident at the age of 12 and the other in 1959 when she walked into a wall in dense fog. She covered some 22,000 miles with her last guide dog, Honey, including taking part in 14 sponsored walks.



One of the RAF's new Chinook heavy lift helicopters in action during 'Live Log'.

Self-help Terriers

Self-help in renovating Horns Cross TA Centre at Stone, near Dartford, Kent, was praised by Mr Jerry Wiggins, the new Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces when he opened the 'new' centre, home of 579 and 591 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squadrons, Royal Engineers (Volunteers).

The centre was originally a drill hall but was then taken over by the G.P.O.

Now, because of the expansion of 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), Royal Engineers, by the formation of additional TA Squadrons it has been returned to its former role.

Mr Wiggins told the Terriers: "I'm delighted to hear that it has been restored to its former glory by your own efforts and I congratulate you most warmly."

Most of the renovation work was done by 579 and 591 Squadrons with the help of the Regulars of 49 Squadron.

After declaring the 'new old'

More bombs

An Army EOD team neutralised an incendiary device found in the Army Careers Office in Pontypridd, shortly before a visit to Wales by the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Later the same day a Scotland Yard bomb expert, an ex-soldier, was killed when a bomb in an Oxford Street Wimpy Bar exploded. A bomb in a nearby department store was neutralised.

General Sir Edwin Bramall, Chief of the General Staff, has arrived in Peking for talks with Chinese military leaders.

drill hall open and unveiling a plaque Mr Wiggins toured a display of bomb disposal equipment.

Later Captain George Huxford and members of the 591 Squadron team which took part in the charity 'Starlight Marathon' at Maidstone in the summer handed over cheques totalling £1,240 to Mrs Jane George, Kent Organiser of Action Research for the Crippled Child.

General resigns

Major General Henry Salusbury Legh Dalzell-Payne, the former GOC of 3rd Armoured Division in BAOR has resigned after being called upon to do so by the Army Board.

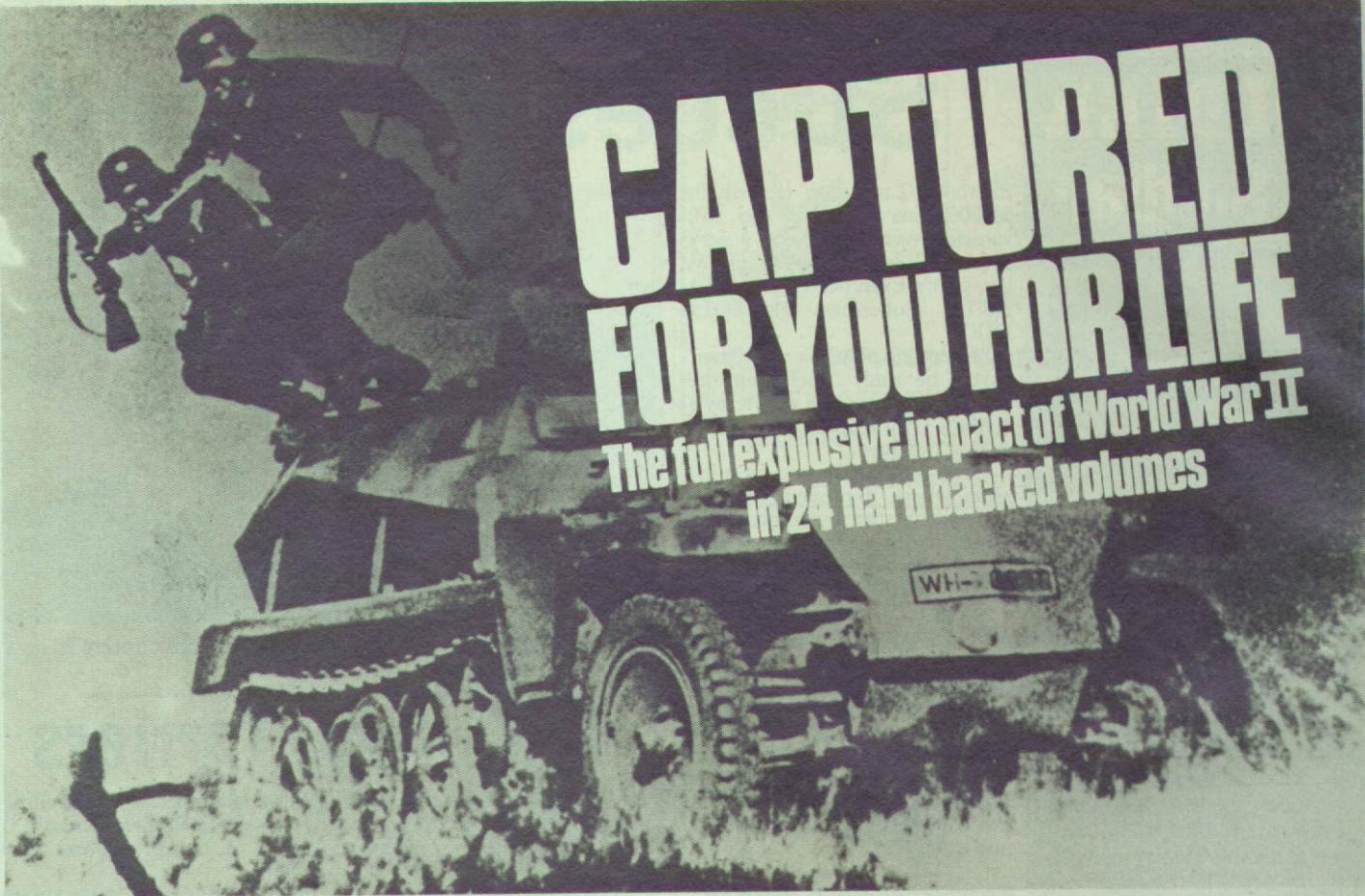
The move, described as unprecedented in modern Army history, follows an investigation into the General's conduct.

In particular, said a Ministry of Defence statement, the inquiry had established that the General had failed to keep proper accounts of divisional non-public funds and although he may have had the interests of his division at heart, the Army Board had come to the conclusion that he had displayed a gross lack of judgement.

The board had also considered matters of a personal financial nature, said the statement. While accepting that the General had not acted dishonestly, they had concluded that his overall conduct over the period inquired into had demonstrated irresponsibility and disregard for Service requirements unacceptable in an officer of his rank.

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commanded the artillery of the Polish 41st Infantry. And civilians remember what it was like to live during the tension of the Phoney War, and the excitement of being caught up in the Hitler Youth.

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MINISTERS SLAM DISARMERS

All three senior defence ministers have slammed the unilateral disarmament lobby in a series of speeches.

“Wishful thinking”, was the term used by Mr John Nott, the Defence Secretary when he spoke to the Conservative conference. The disarmers, he said, could not be trusted with the future of the nation’s children.

Double trouble



Double trouble on a big Army exercise in Germany got full-time and TA soldiers in a regular muddle — because two of the top commanders, working in the same division, are identical twins.

The kernel of the problem lay between 43-year-old brothers-in-arms, Lieutenant Colonels Peter and Paul French, taking part in Exercise Red Claymore.

Lt Col Peter French pictured, right, commands 3rd Armoured Division Transport Regiment, RCT — a Regular Army unit — and Lt Col Paul commands the TA unit, sent out in support, 155 (Wessex) Transport Regiment RCT (V), whose volunteers come from all over the South-West of England.

“There have been several amusing incidents — but it’s mostly been confusion,” Lt Col Paul French confessed. “We not only look the same, but our voices too sound very similar.

“My adjutant mistook my brother Peter for me and even my RSM has got the pair of us mixed up.

Russian leaders did not give a damn about moral gestures by the British, he continued. Unless we were prepared to stand up against the bullies they would eventually triumph over freedom and democracy — and they would probably do so by blackmail without firing a single shot.

Addressing the British Atlantic Committee Armed Forces Minister Mr Peter Blaker posed the question of what would happen to a Britain robbed of nuclear weapons. “What would we say”, he asked. “if the Russians demanded a naval base in Plymouth or a sympathetic British government.

“Would we resist, knowing Russia has nearly five million men under arms? Soviet military pressure would be overwhelming”, he continued. “The stark choice would be surrender under threat of nuclear attack or defeat by conventional forces.”

And Defence Procurement Minister Lord Trenchard described the Russian offer to reduce its medium range nuclear missiles in Europe as “an empty gesture” when he took part in a debate in Canterbury.

“To maintain our security the outcome must be balanced”, he said. “But how low the limit is set depends on how willing the Soviet Union is to dismantle its own SS-20 missiles.”

The offer was conditional on Nato abandoning its own modernisation programme but even then the Russians could implement the proposal by dismantling older missiles and leaving the SS-20 untouched.

The SS-20 system, said Lord Trenchard, could threaten the whole of Europe even if stationed East of Urals.

VC sale

The Victoria Cross posthumously awarded to Sergeant Samuel Forsyth of the New Zealand Engineers in 1918 is expected to fetch up to £10,000 when it is offered at Sotheby’s on 5 November.

Also on sale will be the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal, and seven others, of WO2 LW Turnbull of the Army Air Corps and East Yorkshire Regiment. They are expected to fetch up to £4,000.

Briefly

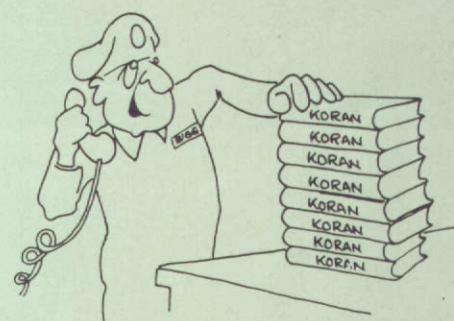
More than 30 civil and military police teams from five nations competed in ‘Cop Shoot 81’ at Hohne. Top military team was 113 Provost Coy, RMP from Münster. Policemen from Merseywide took the civil award and the overall individual top shot was Polizeiobermeister Klaus Volker from the Hamburg Police School.

★ ★ ★
A team of TA soldiers from ‘A’ Coy 5/8 Bn The King’s Regiment have raised nearly £2,000 by walking the 200 miles from Hadrian’s Wall to the M62 near Burnley. It took them seven days.

★ ★ ★
Colonel J F Lucas, BAOR Director of Pioneers and Labour, has been made a honorary life member of the German trade union Deutsche Angestellten Gewerkschaft in recognition of his work in industrial relations. He is the first foreigner to be honoured by the union.

★ ★ ★
A British Army team from the Joint Air Reconnaissance Centre at RAF Brampton, Cambs, won both individual and team falling plate competitions in their annual match against a US Army team from nearby RAF Alconbury.

PENDLE



YES PADRE, ARMY CATALOGUES CAN TAKE SOME GETTING USED TO!





• Mixing it

Preparations are well in hand for Christmas at BMH Kowloon in Hong Kong. Weighing about 50 lbs this year's pudding will take about nine hours to cook before being served to the 400 patients and staff. Doing the mixing were Matron, the CO and the youngest members of the male and female staff.

• Swap

Submariners from the patrol submarine HMS Onslaught swapped one kind of steel box for another when they visited the Armoured Trials Development Unit at Bovington, Dorset. They had a look at the Army's new main battle tank, Challenger, and took turns at driving a Chieftain.



• Dad's Army

Father and son team Steven and Alan Williams from Glasgow spend a lot of time together. Apart from home, they work for the same firm and are both members of the same TA unit — 1/52nd Lowland Volunteers. They were even in Germany together on exercise.



• Up we go

An RAF Puma from Gutersloh came to the rescue after a Scout was forced to land near Hameln because of engine trouble. The 'Big Brother' lift avoided the inevitable crop damage which would have resulted if heavy recovery vehicles had been used.

• Days Saved

Sappers from the Antrim-based 33 Independent Field Squadron, RE, beat the clock when they set about building a perimeter fence, sangars and a double helicopter landing pad at Carrickmore's new RUC police station. They were given ten days but did it in a week.





No Worry ▶

These two pretty TA medical assistants could afford to smile because the equally cheerful Army cadets 'injury' was only make-up. From 208 (Liverpool) General Hospital, RAMC(V), the girls were taking part Exercise Green Octopus involving more than 500 TA medics helped by 300 cadets.



Tomboy ▶

Sun Page 3 girl Debbie Boyland, 18, describes herself as a bit of a Tomboy. Her adventurous spirit had already gained her a trip with an aerobatic team when she had the bright idea of tackling the assault course at the Parachute Regiment Depot at Aldershot. But she reckoned without the weather. This was just the first of many tumbles on the sodden course but irrepressible Debbie kept smiling.

Nearly there ▶

Not to be outdone 43 padres ran their own exercise — Parsons Panther — when 7 Field Force exercised 4000 regular and TA soldiers. Padre Colin Wilson of 39 Engineer Regiment even paddled his own canoe. 7 Field Force becomes 19 infantry Brigade on 1 January.

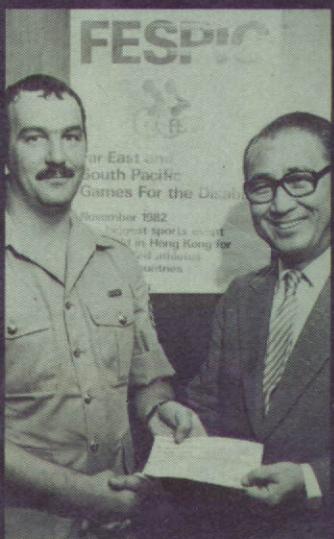
Merger

A word for an officer cadet from Brunei as the Duchess of Kent inspects the parade at Sandhurst to mark the incorporation of the WRAC College with the Royal Military Academy. The Duchess Controller Commandant of the WRAC, said that the merger acknowledged that the future of the Corps was inseparable from the rest of the Army.



Man Trap ▶

A member of 2/2 King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles demonstrates a mantrap during the battalions's open day with a difference. Members of the public were taken to a jungle clearing in Brunei to see firepower and jungle warfare demonstrations.



Cheque ▶

Sergeant Alf Spencer of 50 Command Workshops, REME in Hong Kong hands over a cheque for HK\$4160 to Dr Hon Harry SF Tang, chairman of the organising committee for the Far East Sports for the Physically Handicapped. The money was raised in a sponsored swim in which the eight swimmers had to complete a maximum of 300 lengths inside six hours.



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Private Dave Clark. Aged 20.

Aged 26.

"It's the tailors that make the uniform fit and look smart. Hooks on webbing could be stronger, too, but I think the uniforms we have do the job they were intended for. The combat suit could be waterproofed though and perhaps issued with a liner."



Private Paul Evans. Aged 25.

"I don't think we need No. 2 Dress because you don't use it many times. I think more money could be shifted from uniforms and spent on things like a lightweight sleeping bag for the arctic. Webbing is heavy and sticks in your back and we need a waterproof combat suit instead of the present one which takes hours to dry out. American combat kit, to me, looks like our working dress but it's pretty smart — yet I'm proud of my uniform."



Private Andrew Sheader.

Aged 21.

"I don't mind wearing my uniform when I'm working but I don't think I'd like to wear it off duty. The smartness of the uniform depends on how you wear it, like keeping it pressed and washed. I would like to get rid of puttees, preferring the high boot. With jumpers, you've got to wash them by hand and KF shirt collars tend to hurt. If you wear a uniform, I suppose there's more chance of being picked up as a hitch-hiker when you are off on leave."

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UNIFORM VIEWS

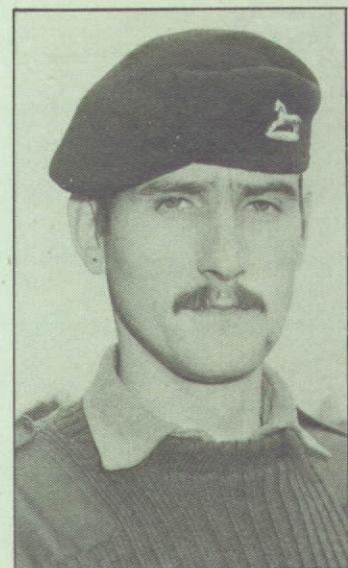
It was a field marshal, no less, the late Earl Alexander of Tunis, who once wrote that soldiers were never satisfied with their regulation uniforms. He went on: "I admit we have no genius for inventing a uniform which is both practical, serviceable and agreeable to our taste, but I think it goes deeper than that, any form of regimentation is naturally repugnant to a Britisher, which of course includes what he has to wear."

Earl Alexander made his comments 21 years ago. But do they still hold true? SOLDIER asked half a dozen young soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, based at Bulford, for their thoughts ...



Private Chris Marston. Aged 28.

"There is room for some improvement and change in lightness and durability in some items of uniform. Nine times out of ten the British soldier is proud of his appearance and likes to look smart in his uniform. My complaint is that if you take your puttees off, it takes you five minutes to put them back on again!"



Private David Barker. Aged 20. "I wouldn't mind wearing my No. 2 Dress. I like the Danish style of uniform that I've seen on exercise because their trousers hang loose over their boots which give you more movement when you are running. American uniforms just look smarter but they are not as practical compared with our own. I think the British Army could introduce more velcro adhesive shoulder taping instead of buttons which are fiddly on items like combat suits."

What do you think of your uniform?

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See page 36



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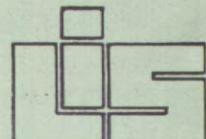
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A helping hand to a hard-up football club made these Catering Corps apprentices

THE PICK OF THE CHERRIES

FOURTH DIVISION soccer team AFC Bournemouth — 'The Cherries' to their fans — are looking a pretty slick outfit this season with sights set firmly on promotion. And their homely Dean Court ground has got a bit of extra sparkle too — thanks to 35 youngsters from the Army Catering Corps College, Aldershot.

The lads, all first year apprentices aged 16-17, have just been camping under canvas beneath the Cherries' 'Brighton Beach' stand. But theirs was strictly a working visit in the cause of public relations.

They painted corrugated ironwork, made good the concreting on the terraces, cleaned the site of the Brighton Beach stand and re-painted crash barriers. And they gave their services absolutely free, saving the hard-up club around £100 an hour in commercial labour costs.

Their reward was a soccer match between the Catering Corps team and a Bournemouth side which included former West Ham flier, Harry Redknapp, plus assorted members of the first team squad and some reserves and youth team players.

And the lads may be returning to Dean Court in style later in the season — as special guests of the club's directors for a Bournemouth home game.

The offer of help was made by Second Lieutenant Peter Kingston, commander of Cassino Platoon whose lads provided the



Manager Dave Webb, flanked by director Alec Stock, receives souvenir ACC plaque from Peter Kingston.

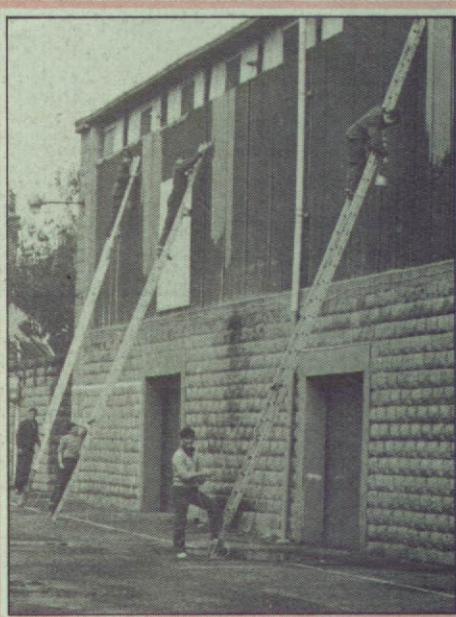
labour. He was educated near Bournemouth and used to play for the club's youth side.

"All the youngsters volunteered for this weekend activities scheme," he said. "I made a recce visit and it was looking a bit dog-eared. I thought a coat of paint would certainly make the club look a bit smarter. We travelled down on the Thursday evening and got to work on the following days."

The apprentices got a warm welcome from Dave Webb and director Alec Stock. And Mr Harry Ivey, the club's Youth Development Officer, said: "We were delighted that these lads offered to take part in this public relations exercise." ■

A report and picture of the ACC v Bournemouth game appears on page 43.

Ready for work — the apprentices with member of club ground staff.

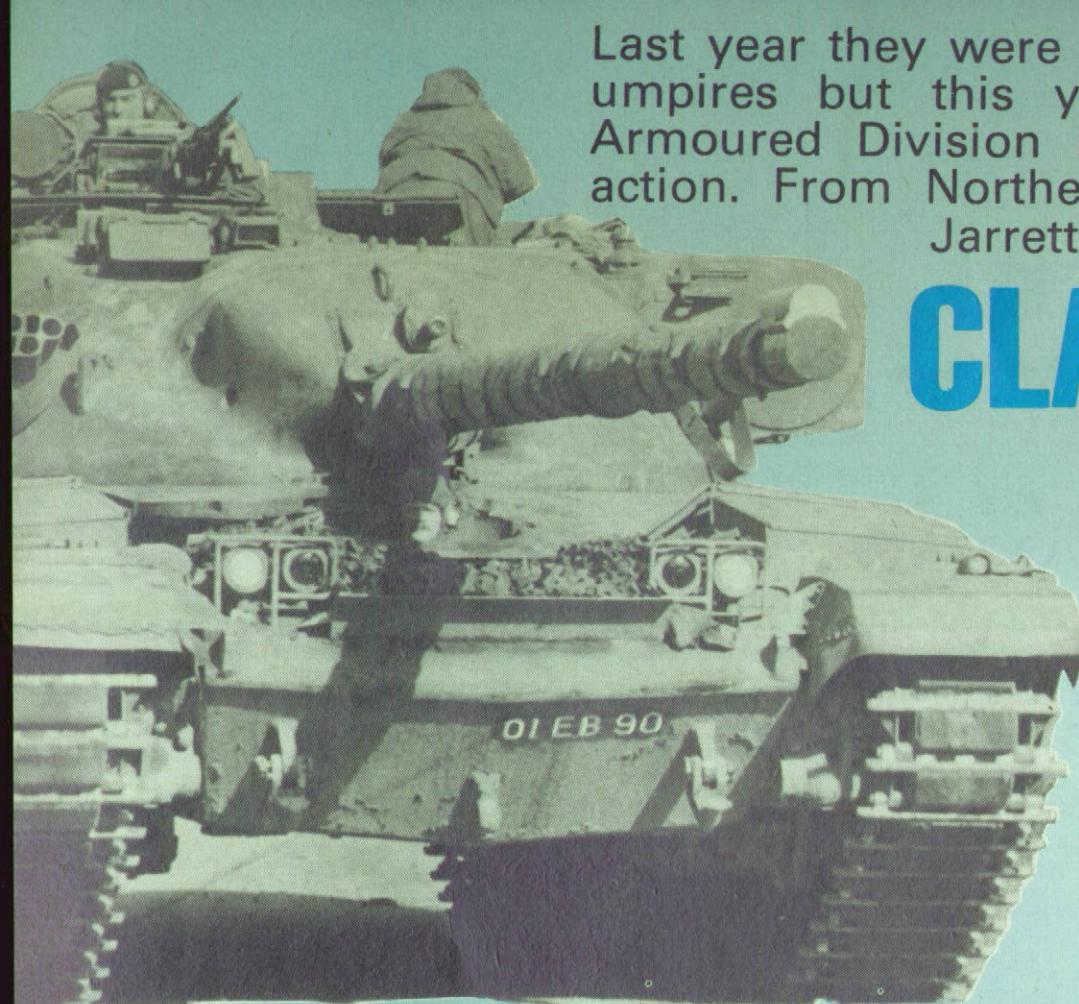


A lick of paint for Brighton Beach stand.



Story: Graham Smith

Pictures: Doug Pratt



Last year they were 'sidelined' as battle umpires but this year Britain's Third Armoured Division really got into the action. From Northern Germany Chris Jarrett reports.

CLAYMORE WITH A CLOUD

DEEP IN A FOREST 60 miles from the Iron Curtain of the Inner German Border it was 5 am and pitch dark. Even the birds were still asleep but inside the Chieftain, bulked black against the trees, things were starting to happen.

The circuits buzzed in the crewmen's helmets. The auxiliary engine hummed with a belch of black smoke. The main engine rattled into life. Every cable, switch, every circuit breaker, the traverse, the gun, the driving compartment, the engine, the cupola, the turret — every detail of the tank was etched indelibly in the minds of its crew.

Suddenly they were off, shattering the

'C' Squadron Leader's Chieftain, 3rd Royal Tank Regiment. ▲

1st Bn, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, assault Greene Bridge. ▼

morning stillness and sliding down the forest track followed by the other two tanks in the troop. The troop flowed with the squadron. And as they joined the road, the drivers built up revs to send their battle wagons surging forward like ships on the sea.

The squadron merged with the other elements of its combat team, which conformed with the battle group, which conformed with brigade, which in turn conformed with division. Third Armoured Division was on the move, fit and raring to go on its first field training exercise for two years — Exercise Red Claymore.

Last year the Division acted as umpires in Exercise Spearpoint battle play. But this year it was right in the thick of the action instead of watching from the sidelines.

Spread over three-and-a-half weeks with manouevres taking place amid the fields and hedgerows of Lower Saxony and North Rhine Westphalia, Red Claymore involved more than 23,000 men, 1100 tracked vehicles, 40 helicopters and 3000 wheeled vehicles. Also taking part were TA units plus brigades of the British Second Armoured Division, a Bundeswehr company and aircraft of various NATO forces.

Although the rain poured down, nothing could dampen the humour of the soldiers taking part, particularly the irrepressible 'Jocks'. Sergeant Alexander McCarthy, Regimental Provost Sergeant of 1st Battalion, The Black Watch, recalled for instance how one vital piece of 'equipment' was deliberately mislaid.

"We lost the RSM's thunderbox — Desert Rose, he calls it. Painted lovely and green with a hessian screen — a real masterpiece. One of my provost staff is an excellent cludge (latrine) digger, getting sick of the

Sappers complete bridging task. ▼

job, so the Desert Rose accidentally fell off the 432 and was lost!"

Meanwhile, the battalion's Physical Training Staff Sergeant, 'Stuff the Face' Samson proudly explained how he earned his gastronomic appellation.

"I'm the only man on this crew with the technical knowledge to operate the gas stove; the dexterity to open a tin with a can opener. And I'm the only one who can read — that's how I eat the chocolate!"

On a more serious note, the Squadron Sergeant Major Jimmie James of 'D' Squadron, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, was quick to praise the performance of his team in the field.

"This is a complicated exercise but morale is high in my squadron. Reliability is excellent and we have a good fitter section. The squadron works through problems."

And a Norwegian officer, attached to 'B' Company, 1st Battalion The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters, Captain Svrre Diesen, commented: "This was a valuable exercise for me, with a chance to learn mechanised infantry operations. I am also impressed by the British NBC kit."

Captain Diesen remarked too, on the high standard of rations available to the troops in the field.

"There is more emphasis on food as a morale factor in the British Army."

Exercises on the scale of Red Claymore and in open countryside are a vital element in NATO training because there is just not enough room in normal training areas to deploy and exercise mechanised formations properly.

After so much rain on the North German plain, there were fears that damage to fields and tracks might be heavy. But common-
Infantryman rescues a fallen comrade. ▼

sense prevailed.

Major John Wyatt, who commands 43 Field Support Squadron, Royal Engineers, at Osnabrück and was in charge of damage control on the exercise summed up:

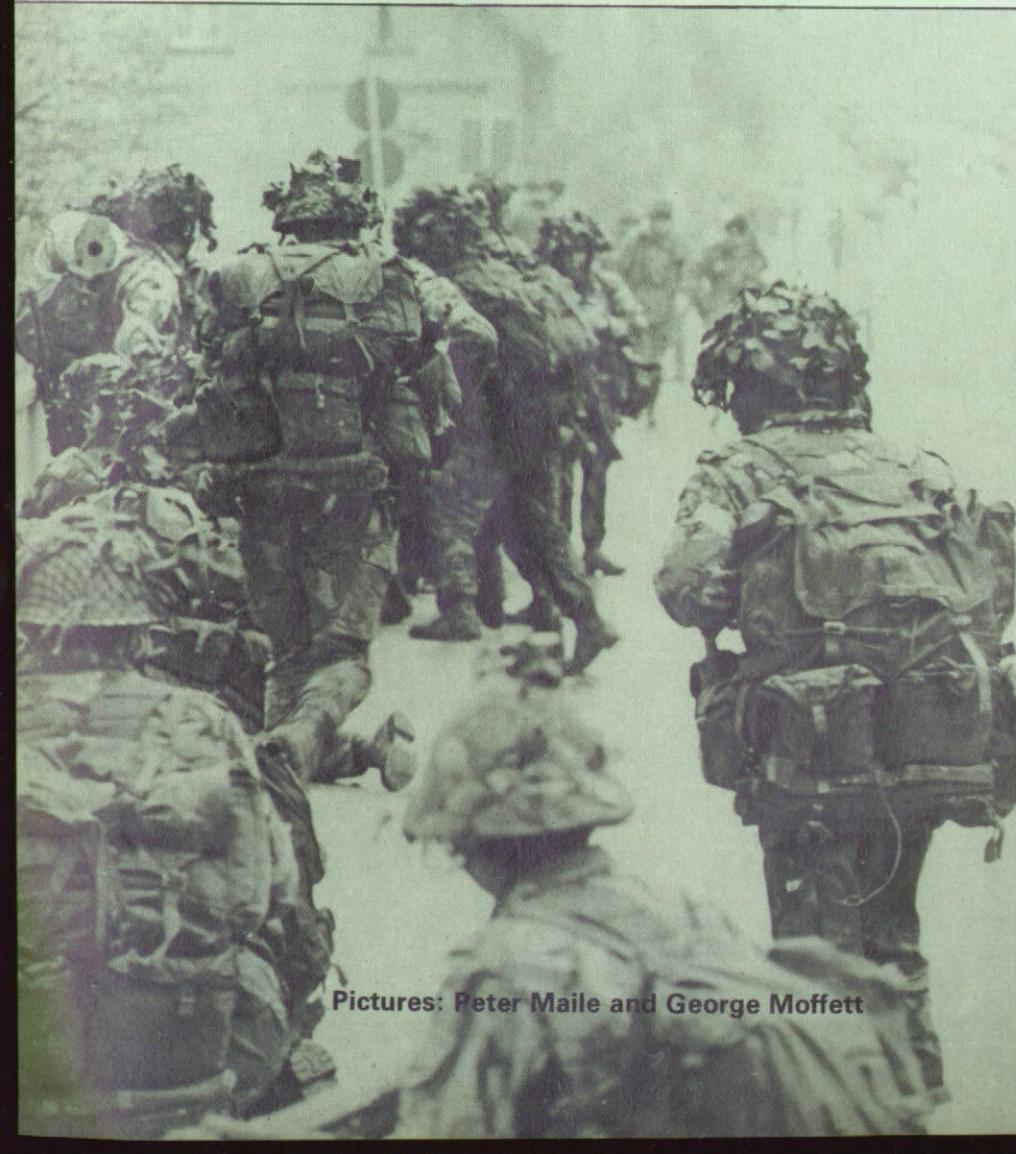
"The exercise witnessed extremely wet conditions but the Division had been carefully briefed on damage and the soldiers did their best."

"The sappers cleared up and prevented damage developing into a problem or emergency. They applied first aid although certain types of damage had to be left to specialist contractors — drainage systems for instance."

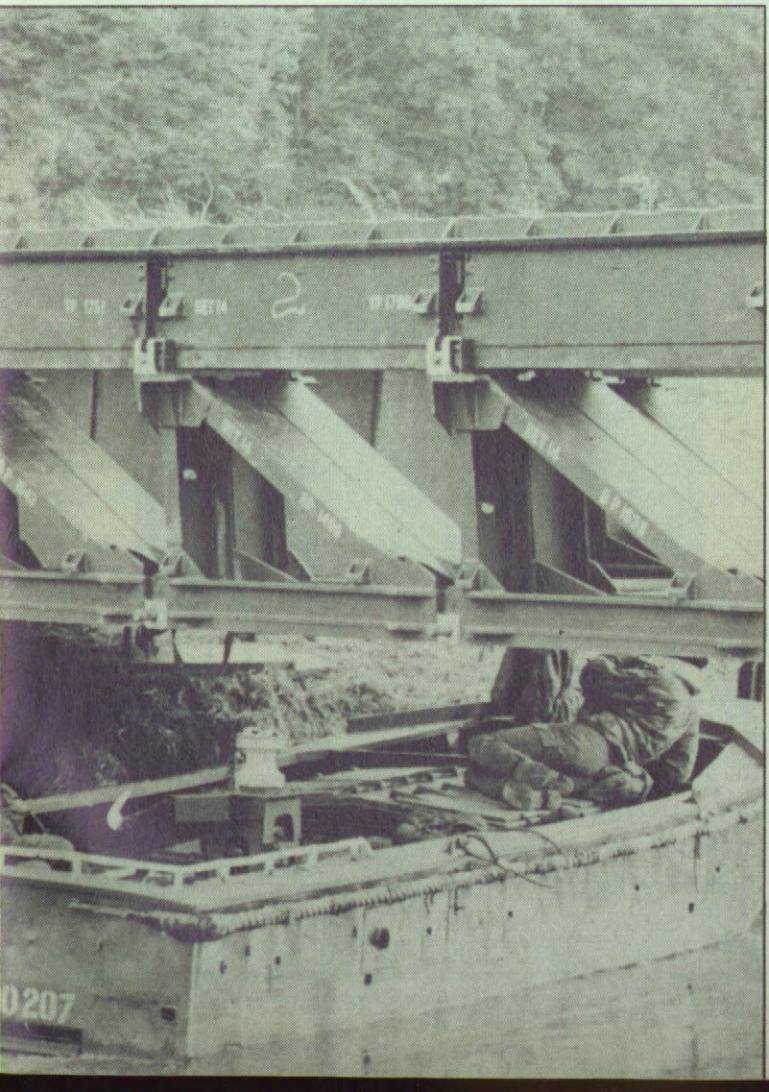
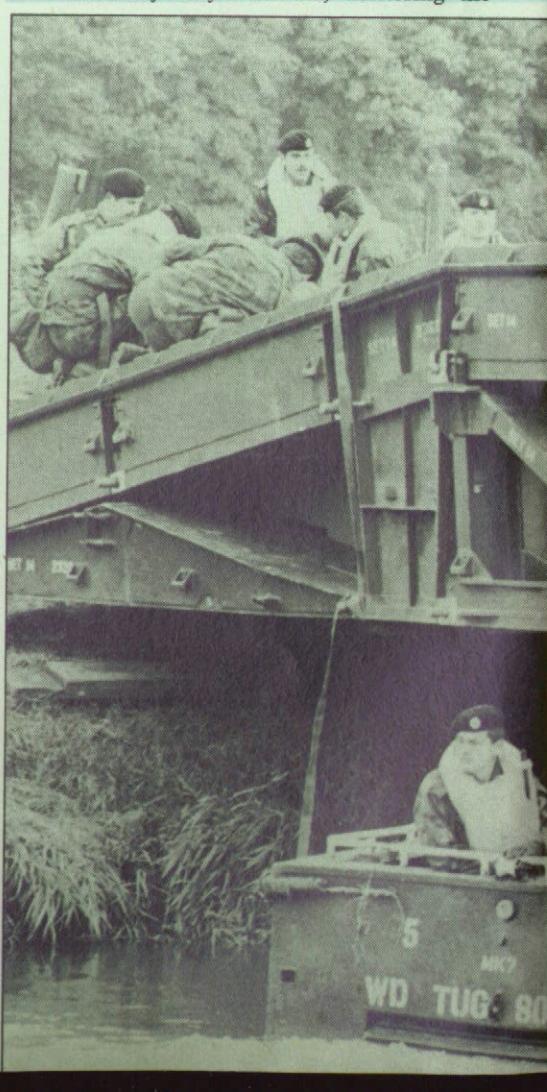
"The level of damage has been on a par with what one would expect on a divisional exercise. We have established excellent working relationships with the German police and civil authorities." ▀



The infantry capture and hold ground. ▲



Pictures: Peter Maile and George Moffett





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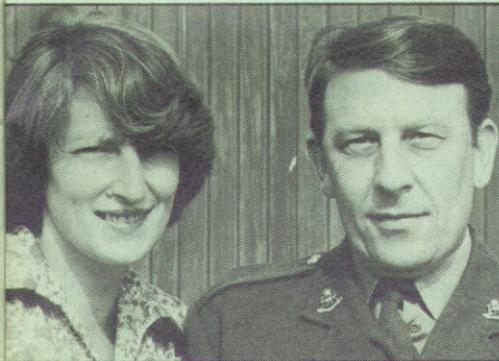
2000 YEARS A SOLDIERS' TOWN

COLCHESTER, BRITAIN'S OLDEST recorded town, has been a military garrison community with its citizens and soldiers living side-by-side for almost 2000 years.

It was perhaps the free-ranging Romans, under their Emperor Claudius, who moulded the Essex community, 52 miles from Londinium, into a bustling town landscaped with heated baths, forums, theatres and even a 'centre for retired veterans of the Roman Army'.

Nearly 16 centuries on, the 70,000-population modern town of today with its wide streets and ample commerce, has its share of retired veterans of the British Army.

It seems, to quote the old cliché, that Col-



Sgt. Derek Rothwell and wife Anne: "You wouldn't know there was a garrison town here."

chester has always been something of a 'coveted posting'. The Belgae, Normans, French, Norwegians, Danes, Royalists, Wellington's armies — even the venerable King Canute — have all 'bivvied' there in days past.

Contemporary Colchester, to the north of the garrison, is a town famous for its oysters, roses and, of course, its biennial military Tattoo for which boat-loads of day trippers flock from the Continent.

To the soldiers there Colchester is all things. Some are happy with their lot. A few are not. And there are some who feel they are treated by the town's traders as 'second class citizens' on matters such as hire-purchase agreements.

There are 4000 soldiers at the garrison and three headquarters — those of 7 Field Force, HQ Eastern District and HQ Colchester Garrison.

And although off-duty amenities have come a long way since the days of the denarius coin-doling legionnaires, the tavern is still one of the most popular escapes. There are 91 of them!

But Colchester Garrison is blessed with a wide range of facilities — many of them available to local civilians. And all are well patronised by the 9000 soldiers and families — including about 1700 wives — who live in quarters plus the 150 families who live locally in their own property.

Spread over a four-square-mile area are two churches, a Naafi families shop, a telephone centre (though many quarters have their own phones nowadays), the Musket Club for married soldiers and their families, two child-minding centres and many sports

amenities such as soccer and cricket pitches, an indoor swimming pool, a gym and a projected £230,000 international, eight-lane running track in the garrison stadium.

The Garrison Officers' Club, though on Ministry of Defence Land and run by the Army, is used widely by Colchester civilians.

And other sporting facilities include a golf driving range and shooting, angling, saddle and sailing clubs. There is even a beagling club with its own kennels.

Lieutenant-Colonel Leon Paul, the Garrison Adjutant, said: "Colchester is good and popular for various reasons. Firstly, the liaison between the town and garrison is very friendly. There is no animosity — 'them' or 'us' and that sort of stuff. We get on terribly well with the local authorities and the locals.

"The Garrison is one entity and clearly defined. It's close to the beaches and the sea and within easy reach of London. It's a nice part of the country and the town has what most people like."

It was typical of the close military-civilian relationship, he explained, that Fourth Division Colchester United trained on garrison pitches from time to time. Housing Commandant Major Martin Franks, retired but once with The Essex Regiment, confirmed the Garrison's popularity. There was currently a waiting list of 76 people for married quarters.

"Soldiers want to come to Colchester because it's near the town and, for those without cars, there's a good public transport service. There is also a chance of employment for the wives. Several local firms offer good discounts to servicemen. I think the garrison has maintained its character with new buildings blastered on to certain areas without loss of originality."

Wives, temporarily alone while husbands are overseas, are not forgotten either. Estate

'liaison between the town and garrison is very friendly'

Wardens are available to help sort out small, day-to-day problems on house maintenance such as fixtures, insurances, overseas travel and the like.

Sergeant Derek Rothwell, 35, of the Military Corrective Training Centre, who is married with two children aged nine and eight said: "I think it is one of the best garrison towns outside of Aldershot, Tidworth and Bulford where you tend to see soldiers everywhere. You wouldn't know there was a garrison town here."

His wife, Anne, helps runs a play group and she likes Colchester and its amenities, too. Her one complaint was the centralising of living accommodation with the closing down of the smaller garrison estates.

"It's rather like living in the middle of a concrete jungle with dogs running about though I'm happy in my house. The £2.40 rail card system to London is good."



Tree-lined walkway in the shopping centre.

Her view was echoed by Mrs Rachel Rees, 24, a very recent mum and married to Lance-Corporal Peter Rees, 25, her childhood sweetheart, who is serving with the 3rd Battalion, the Royal Anglian Regiment.

"I'm very green in moving about with the Army — we've been married about a year — but the Army really helped me. We were originally allocated a flat with a no-pets clause but as we had a dog we were then given a house," she explained.

Husband Peter affirmed: "I'm very pleased with what I've got as a married quarter and with the help my wife got. I genuinely have no gripes about Colchester. It's turned out a lot rosier than I expected."

Lance Corporal James Roach, 24, married with two toddlers, said: "I like Colchester. There are beaches for the kids. I prefer it to BAOR except for the loss of Local Overseas Allowance. My wife is quite happy too and there's much more social life for her and no language barriers."

Signalman Gary Smith, 19 and a bachelor said: "I go out socially — drinking. We like to celebrate like anyone else, especially if a bloke goes away. Lots of unmarried blokes can't stand the blocks and get on each others' nerves so they go down town. I go home to Portsmouth two weekends every month. Soldiers go round in twos and threes but I've never had any trouble. I don't think the locals mind us. We keep our mouths shut. Live and let live."

But Signalman Andy Wise, also 19, said: "I don't think the locals are very sociable. I'm from Darlington and would rather be at Catterick."

Staff Sergeant Harold Forsyth, 35, Chief

continued over ▶

COLCHESTER continued

Clerk, said: "I don't think you could ask for many more facilities in Colchester town. Many go down to the town just for the booze which is normally behind any trouble and occasionally gets into the newspapers. I like it here because the locals treat you just like anyone else but I have heard reports where shop-keepers won't give you hire purchase if you are in the Army. They tend to look at the rank on your arm. If you are less than a sergeant they can be very difficult."

Corporal Cook Hugh Williams said: "I like Colchester myself because my wife is a mid-wife and she has got plenty of work locally, but there are a lot of people against the Army who say nasty things about some of the wives while their husbands are away on detachment."

Corporal Hilary Metcalfe of the Royal Military Police said: "I don't like the town because it's always full of squaddies and even when I am off duty — and my seven girl colleagues — they tend to recognise us. But we all have cars and tend to go elsewhere. The soldiers take a shine to Provost girls and we get on well with them generally. But when some of them have had a few beers things can get difficult."

Her colleague Corporal John Lucas, 35, was unhappy about the town and its traders.

"A friend of mine tried to get HP on a bike and was refused after she had filled in all the forms and it was found that she had Army connections. It's not fair. Anyone in the Army can be traced and the payment will be made on any default and docked from the pay of the individual. But it's different in the case

of a civvy. He can move away and just disappear!"

For Corporal Bill Orton, 36, of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, Colchester is "middle of the road."

"It's mediocre. It's not excellent, it's not rubbish. But its display of pubs is atrocious both inside and outside. In the majority of pubs the licensees have a couldn't-care-less attitude. They know soldiers have got to go somewhere to drink and don't seem to care."

His wife Jenny was more charitable. In her view, it was "better than Northern

L/Cpl Peter Rees with wife Rachel and their new baby: "...no gripes about Colchester."



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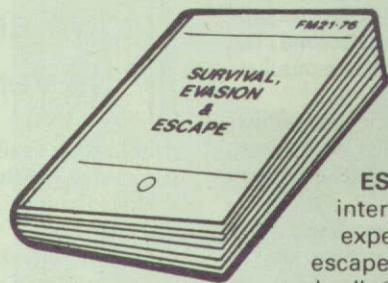
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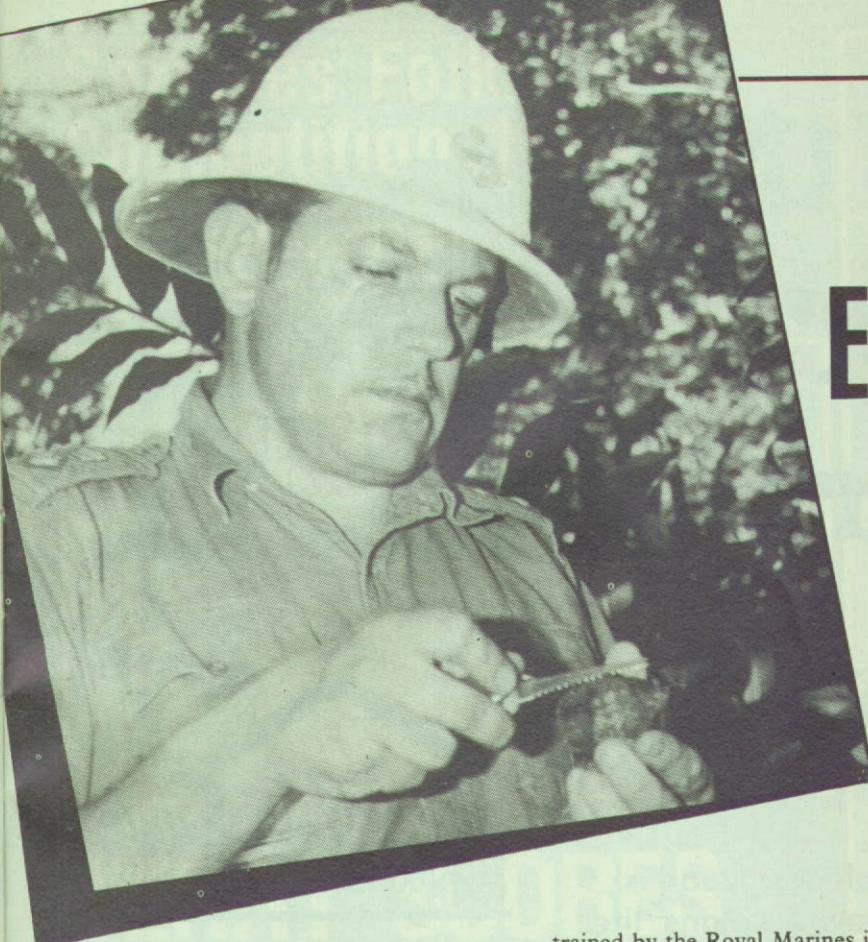
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EXPLORER EXTRAORDINARY



THE last time SOLDIER had seen Lieutenant-Colonel John Blashford-Snell he had been wearing his familiar pith helmet and was on the edge of thick jungle in Papua New Guinea. Now he was wearing a City suit and sitting at a desk in a Whitehall office talking about faraway places and adventures.

JBS, as he is known to his legions of supporters, is a character right out of 'Boy's Own Paper'. For more than two decades he has been going on expeditions to the last of the world's great untamed regions. The double barrelled name and the pith helmet have made him one of Britain's best known peacetime soldiers.

His father was a TA chaplain who became a full-time soldier on the outbreak of war. And his family includes lots of other soldiers and seafarers.

"My father went out to New Zealand and was ordained there. My mother ran a girl guide troop and my father the boy scouts — they used to go up into the mountains on horseback expeditions. I probably inherited the love of expeditions from both of them."

Britain was at war and the vicarage in which the young John lived became a meeting place for soldiers. The lad listened to their tales of the North-West frontier and avidly devoured travel books. Like all small boys he thought "one day I will do that!" But, unlike most, the dream persisted into adult life and became reality.

"As a boy I was fascinated by the advent of the aqua lung and Jacques Cousteau and Hans Haas became my heroes. I built my first apparatus, using an old German gas mask, a fire extinguisher and a piece of garden hose and nearly drowned myself in the process."

By 1958 he was in the Army, had been

trained by the Royal Marines in diving and spent a lot of his time underwater, mostly around Cyprus. Then he went dry for a while — taking part in many expeditions by Land-Rover in the Libyan desert.

Besides underwater work he lists two other favourite aspects of his exploration — archaeology and wild life conservation.

"I used to be a hunter — but I've changed now. I'm more interested in photographing these animals and preserving them rather than killing them."

hostile natives have thrown away their bows and arrows and have surface-to-air missiles'

In 1963 JBS became a Sandhurst instructor with responsibility for organising adventure training. He launched some 60 expeditions to various parts of the world.

In 1968 began the series of big expeditions which were to make him famous. The first was the Great Abai Expedition when a team of 70 servicemen and civilians made the first descent and exploration of the Blue Nile.

Three years later came the famous 'Darien Gap' expedition. The aim was to take motor vehicles from Alaska to Cape Horn and make a crossing of the notorious Darien Gap. The conquest of the gap by the 100 strong team took 99 days in gruelling conditions of both climate and terrain.

The plaudits came thick and fast after this achievement. He was awarded a special gold medal in Colombia, was voted the British Army's 'Man of the Year' and became known to local Panamanians as 'El Quebracha' — 'The Axebreaker.'

In 1974 he followed in the footsteps of one of history's most famous explorers, H M Stanley. Exactly a century earlier Stanley had crossed Africa from East to West in 999 days, proving that the Congo river ran into the Atlantic and was not the start of the Nile.

The Blashford-Snell expedition consisted of 140 explorers, servicemen and scientists and it took three-and-a-half months to navigate the giant Congo (now Zaire) river. The expedition suffered 50 per cent casualties although no-one died.

Then came 'Operation Drake'. The two year voyage round the world using teams of 'young explorers' has been well chronicled in the world's press — including SOLDIER. Now the first of a number of books on the project has appeared.

Last December the flagship *Eye of the Wind* arrived back in Britain. But what was set in motion by that voyage is likely to go on for many years. Now the Operation Drake Fellowship is taking young people from underprivileged backgrounds and taking them out on adventure training exercise.

John Blashford-Snell is still heavily involved in all this. "I do a normal Army job but most of my spare time and weekends is taken up with this. I have not officially taken leave with my family for years."

He feels that the British Army is the envy of the world with its adventure training. "I always remember an American general saying to me 'it's all very well, but in this country it would be considered immoral for an American soldier to be enjoying himself.'"

Operation Drake created its own camaraderie between youngsters from different backgrounds and countries. Most of those who took part are eager to help again.

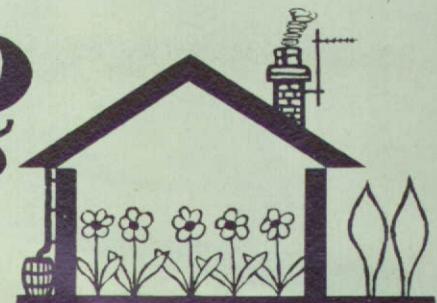
"Every youngster longs for excitement and a challenge. The sort of places you could go to 20 years ago you cannot now. The hostile natives have thrown away their bows and arrows and have surface-to-air missiles. And you have to apply for visas and so on."

The build up has already begun for the next major adventure, 'Operation Raleigh'. It will be in 1984 — the 400th anniversary of Raleigh's founding of Virginia and will be like Drake but bigger and better.

John Blashford-Snell's life now offers him what he considers an ideal combination of opportunities — for adventure, for exploration and for helping young people.

"Whatever job I do in the Army I hope will be something to do with the training of young people. Everyone in life has a time when he asks what he is achieving. I'm not being conceited but I feel I am achieving something and so are the team. And I shall continue until the day I die."

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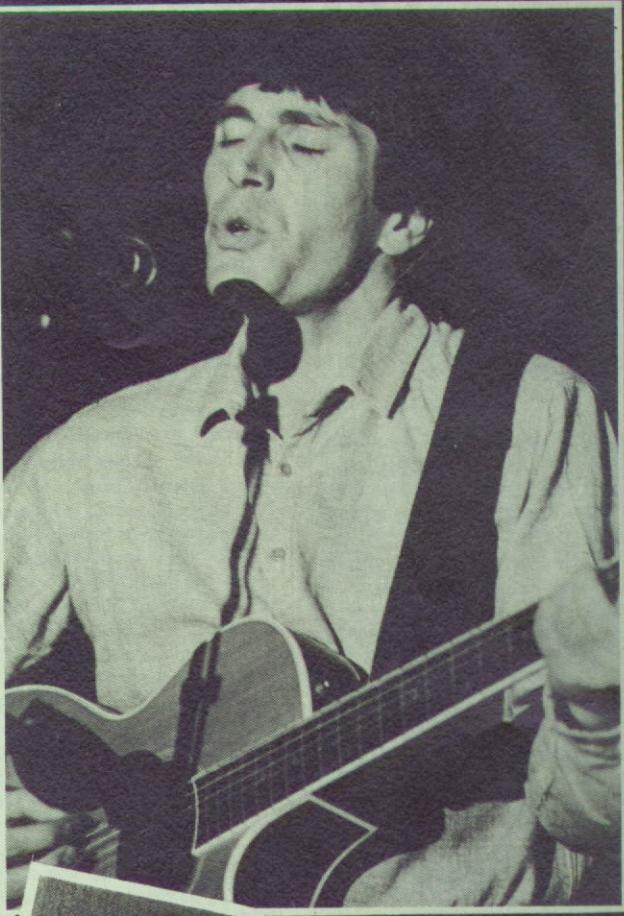
NAAFI-YOUR OWN INSURANCE BROKER

Services Folk Competition 1981

Pictures: Doug Pratt

Report: Ann Beecham

▼ The panel of judges



▲ Sgt Terry Ford — take two . . .

TERRY SCORES ANOTHER WINNER

SONGWRITING SERGEANT Terry Ford REME has written another winner. His entry entitled 'Who's Child am I?' won him first prize for the Best Original Composition in the Services Folk Competition 1981. Terry shared his first prize last year but was an outright winner with his latest song.

And the audience for the finals at the Spotlight Club, RAF Brize Norton, had the chance to hear an encore of Terry's performance when the BFBS engineers had some trouble with their recording equipment. The finals were being recorded for broadcast through BFBS to all areas where Servicemen and women are stationed, as well as on local BBC Radio stations in UK.

The results of the Group Class meant another Army entry triumph. A delighted WO2 Mike Mooney and Bombardier Brian Bruce collected the Professional Folk Artists Challenge Cup for their performance as "Mike and Brian" which impressed the judges, Geoff Love, Ann Dex, Karl Dallas and Colin Irwin. They have been singing together for about two years and have pleasing style, somewhat reminiscent of Simon and Garfunkel. It was noticeable that there were no large groups in the finals this year but the standard of entries was as high as ever.

Junior Technician Doug Young RAF was awarded first place in the Solo Performer class and the evening finished with a performance by the special guest group, The Spinners.



Centre: Mike and Brian's winning performance.
Above: Smiles all round from the victors.
Left: The Spinners on stage.

ANNE ARMSTRONG



THERE ARE 270,000 young people in England and Wales who will not be able to vote in 1983 or cast their votes at the next general election.

Their names will not have been added to the electoral register because they are the children of soldiers serving in Germany at the time when the Forms A go through every door back home. Neither are they eligible for inclusion on the alternative forms provided for serving soldiers and their wives, the F Vote 33 and 34.

So, every year, the 17-year-olds drop through the net. A number of them will be back in UK in 1983 but will have been disenfranchised even before they return.

I do hope that Lord Lloyd of Kilgerran and Julian Critchley MP, who have worked so hard to amend the recent Bill on behalf of wives and husbands of serving soldiers, will take up this vital issue on behalf of tomorrow's adults.

Of course, neglect does deprive a lot of youngsters of their right to vote and parents must remember to include their teenage sons and daughters on the Form A, if they are in UK and will be 18 by 15 February 1983.

And now I want to make amends for any misunderstanding that might have occurred over my letter in *SOLDIER* of 5 October. I had no intention of casting aspersions on the effectiveness or otherwise of the postal services in Gibraltar itself. The situation of the Rock can create problems along the line between the post box in Gibraltar and the delivery to UK and elsewhere, as well as for incoming mail. I must have been unfortunate as I experienced delays in getting mail to and from Gibraltar and Germany during my visit!

One last item of good news: autistic children will be eligible to claim mobility allowance in the future, following an appeal hearing before a social security commissioner. The announcement was made by Hugh Rossi, Minister for the Disabled.

I have had a certain amount of correspondence in reply to my article in *Soldier News* Issue No 56 on self-help in Army quarters. The following letter is from Lieutenant Colonel Peter Whitmore who is the Commandant Families Housing and Welfare in South East Kent:

It might be of some assistance if I describe the arrangements for self-help in this area.

Self-help decoration is encouraged but is subject to certain rules which vary slightly and depend on which District Works Office area the married quarter is located in.

The quarter is inspected to see if it is in need of decoration. If so, sufficient paint, polyfill and sandpaper when available is issued to decorate one room. When this room has been decorated by the occupant, it is examined to ascertain whether it has been carried out to an acceptable standard. If it has, sufficient paint and materials are issued for the rest of the house.

The minor variations I have mentioned apply as to who examines the married quarter. In some areas it is the Estate Warden, who also holds a stock of paint. In others it is the PSA who inspect and issue the paint if they are satisfied it is necessary.

Gloss paint for woodwork is not included in this scheme and wallpaper is not permitted nor issued. Brushes are not provided either. It is certainly our experience that self-help decoration is considered to be an acceptable alternative to waiting a considerable time for the professional decorators to arrive.

I must confess that a stock of tap washers, bath plugs and the like for issue to householders to do their own minor repairs attracts me and I am sure that some simple accounting procedure could be devised to meet this. The extent of self-help repair would need to be carefully controlled as not all married quarter occupants are enthusiastic or competent at Do-It-Yourself jobs and I do not believe self-help should include jobs involving heating, electricity or gas in any form.

In certain estates in this dependency we operate the W54 scheme

whereby the Estate Warden has a budget and can bid direct to certain designated contractors for specified repairs to married quarters. The financial ceiling for any one job is £250 and this amply covers repairs such as tap washers, drainage, glazing of windows, easing doors and other common problems that occur from time to time. The direct contact with a contractor cuts the response time and enables most repairs to be completed very quickly.

It works well when there is sufficient money available, but when the budget is cut, priorities have to apply and householders inevitably get frustrated when told that a repair cannot be defined as urgent and will have to wait until funds are available.

ASK ANNE

And now to some other letters concerning another important point — nationality and the Serviceman.

I have three children all born in Germany and, in my reading of the new Nationality Bill, all my children are second class citizens just because the Army posted my husband abroad. I feel that there is an injustice being done here to children of Service families.

I have heard of people being told they are 'British German' rather than 'British English' because they have been born in Germany.

An Indian whose child is born in UK is more British than my children. I feel that something should be done at the highest level to get all Servicemen's children registered as 'British English' no matter where they are born, as long as they register with the British Colony Office of

the country in which they are serving at the time.

Mrs B BFPO 36

I passed your letter to Michael Mates MP who was on the select committee dealing with the Nationality Bill and, being ex-Army, realises the specific problems of Service families. He received the following reply from Timothy Raison at the Home Office:

"Under the present law a child born abroad to a man who is a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies in Crown Service (this includes members of the armed forces) is automatically a citizen of the United Kingdom himself.

"Under the Bill, a child born abroad in future to a parent of either sex who is a British citizen (this is one of the citizenships which will replace citizenship of the United Kingdom and Colonies) in Crown Service and recruited in the United Kingdom will automatically be a British citizen.

"Moreover, such a child will be deemed to be a British citizen otherwise than by descent, as will someone who becomes a British citizen but was born abroad before the new legislation takes effect to a father who was then in Crown Service and recruited in the United Kingdom. This means that the people concerned will be able to transmit British citizenship to any children they in turn may have abroad on the same terms as a British citizen born in the United Kingdom.

"To take the specific case given by Mrs Armstrong's correspondent, I assume from her letter that her husband was born in the United Kingdom. If this is the case, her children born in Germany are all now citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies with the right of abode in this country and under the Bill they would therefore become British citizens.

"They would continue to enjoy the right of abode by reason of that citizenship. Furthermore, as their father was in Crown Service when they were born they would, (provided he was recruited in the United Kingdom) be placed in the same position with regard to the transmission of citizenship to their own children born abroad as a British citizen born in the United Kingdom."

My first baby is due at the end of the year. How do I register his/her birth as I shall be overseas by then?

I have read about problems due to the new Nationality Bill. Can you throw some light on this please?

Mrs L London

Details of the arrangements for the registration of births overseas are contained in Part 6 of Chapter 7 of Queen's Regulations for the Army 1975 and in Annex E (J) to that chapter.

As my husband is due to leave the Forces later this year when we will be returning to UK, could you please give me details on drawing Family Allowance on our return?

Mrs H, BFPO 103

Complete and sign (yourself) form "Annex J to Chapter 4". Your husband's pay office has these forms.

DID YOU KNOW?

MAKE SURE that YOUR Christmas gifts are not delayed by the Customs men this year.

An increase in the number of parcels sent to UK addresses from overseas (and the other way) without a completed customs declaration has prompted a plea from HM Customs and Excise.

All packets and parcels must be accompanied by a completed declaration form describing the contents and their value. Otherwise delays will occur while the Customs men open the parcel to check the contents.

It is not enough to mark it 'gift — no value' as many people seem to think.

And don't leave it too late before you post your gifts. The latest posting dates for Christmas mail should be on display at your local post office and BFPOs. Some surface mail has to be sent by 9 November to be sure of delivery in time for 25 December.

Anne Armstrong



Sir Harry clowning with Royal Artillery trumpeters.

A FANFARE of trumpets and a burst of laughter heralded the official opening of Squire House, the Hospital Visitors' accommodation at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich.

Sir Harry Secombe unveiled the commemorative plaque with his inimitable brand of goon humour.

"As the senior Lance Bombardier present, I have been asked to open Squire House. Actually having been retired from the active list in 1945/46, I no longer use my Army rank. Not that I wasn't proud of it — many a man present never managed to get a stripe," he added, looking at Brigadier Trevor Jones.

"We are here this morning to mark an example of comradeship. Squire House is going to provide accommodation for wives, husbands, parents, relatives and friends of patients.

"For those from overseas it will be a welcome help and I know, as I was taken into Barbados hospital last year and was up to here in grapes, that it's the crumbs in the bed that kill you!"

The project has taken two years to complete since the issue was raised in earnest by the Ssafa committee in Germany. The

target of £40,000 has almost become a reality and the hard work and effort devoted to the scheme by Anne Hodge, the ex-Ssafa committee chairwoman, has paid off.

The rooms above the ground floor community centre are clean and simple providing the much-needed accommodation for friends and relatives visiting patients in hospitals in and around London. Each double or single room has tea and coffee making equipment and there is a small lounge with TV donated by the Dunkirk Veterans Association, as well as a utility room with a washing machine, tumble dryer, fridge and irons.

Sue Lumsden is the newly-appointed warden responsible for



Sue Lumsden welcomes Mary Moore to Squire House.

the general upkeep of Squire House. She told Sir Harry how the hostel will be run:

"Visitors can purchase all meals from the QEH. They will be asked to make their own beds and clean their rooms but I'll do all the general cleaning and administration in conjunction with the QEH."

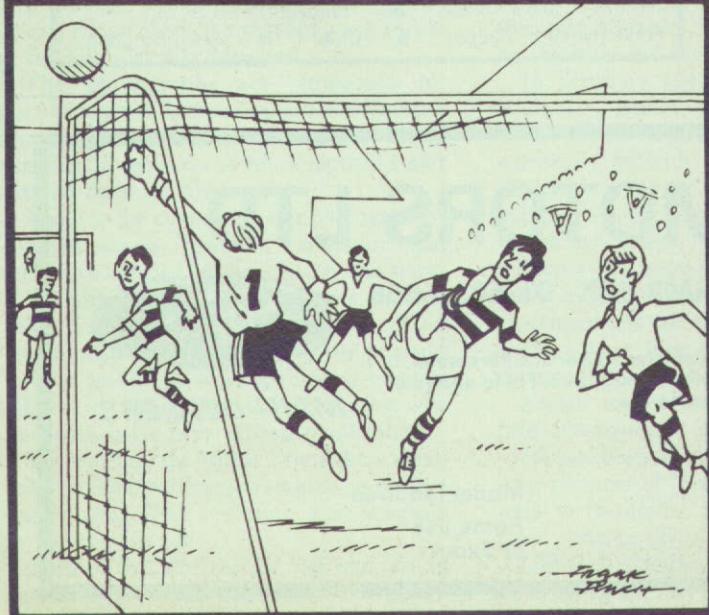
Mary Moore has been at Squire House for a week and is grateful for the comfort and convenience it provides. "The cost is very reasonable and it will help young families and those faced with long and expensive journeys to visit patients in hospital" she said. "I would have been unable to afford both the travel and hotel costs, but here I am."

The cost of staying at Squire House is £3.50 per night, exclusive of meals. Children under 13 are half-price and babes-in-arms are free.

Sir Harry knows a bargain when he sees one. "The next time Bombardier Milligan comes in to have his ingrowing toenails cut, I know where to come for a cheap night's kip!"

If you want to book accommodation, you should write to the Chief Wardmaster, Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Stadium Road, Woolwich, London SE18 6XN. In an emergency, 'phone 01-856 5533, ext. 2283.

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences turn to page 37.



How observant are you?

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PHOTO: IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

St Paul's Cathedral after incendiary raid, 1940 ▲

Some of the late Sir Cecil Beaton's best — but least known — photographs were taken during World War Two. Now they are the subject of a new exhibition at the Imperial War Museum.

CONFlict IN CAMERA

THE LATE Sir Cecil Beaton, the son of a wealthy timber merchant, was obsessed with photography from the age of three, an interest nurtured by picture postcards of Edwardian beauties of the era.

Educated at Harrow and Cambridge he eventually found his way into the world of photography, the theatre and literature. His socialite stature grew and, with it, his commissions — including a contract worth several thousands of pounds a year from the editor of *Vogue* magazine.

By 1939 — then aged 35 — he had already established himself as a leading portrait photographer of royalty and the wealthy, the famous and the fashionable both in England and America.

But when war broke out Beaton confessed to finding himself at a loss. He wrote: "This war, as far as I can see, is something specifically designed to show up my inadequacy in every possible capacity."

A friend though had other ideas. He secured a position for Beaton as an official photographer with the Ministry of Information. And by the end of the war the former fashion photographer and socialite had taken 10,000 pictures all over the world, more than anyone else, and had at least one brush with death.

Now 250 of the best examples of his military lensmanship, made from the original negatives and including some of his original prints, are on show in a year-long exhibition at the Imperial War Museum.

The photographs are supported by documentary and three-dimensional material including a number of Beaton's own wartime sketches, a selection of his scrapbooks and extracts from his diaries.

Much to the envy of his war photographer contemporaries, Beaton's reputation and credentials earned him special pay and status in his Ministry of Information role. He had more freedom in the interpretation of his assignments and was not only given personal by-line credits on work published but was allowed to retain the use of it for his own purposes, aside from official publications.

His work on the Home Front alone amassed over 3000 photographs which, as his personal photographic collection, were later sold to Sotheby's in 1977.

Most of this work in the UK was carried out in 1940-41 with the simplest of equip-



ment, usually a Rolleiflex. Through it he was able to capture vividly service personnel in their wartime roles, the destruction wrought by the Blitz and the effect on its victims.

In February 1942, still with his trusted Rolleiflex, Beaton travelled to the Middle East. In the Western Desert he found it extremely difficult to take pictures of the Eighth Army in the strong contrasts of light and shade while keeping the ubiquitous sand out of his camera.

Even so, his series of pictures depicting the debris of war — wrecked tanks, abandoned equipment and the fretwork remains of aircraft — won him high praise when they appeared in various magazines.

Beaton moved on through Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Transjordan, Syria and Lebanon.

He had been instructed by the Ministry to take pictures of 'everything' that could be used to familiarise the British people with these strategically important countries.

Eighteen months later he prepared to move off again, this time to India and China



Beaton in his wartime RAF photographer's uniform. ▲

Pilot and co-pilot of Wellington bomber, 1941. ▼

PHOTO: SOTHEBY'S

PHOTO: IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

and the war theatres there. His aircraft, taking off from Land's End in December 1943, crashed — but Beaton escaped with his life.

The deprivations of the 'forgotten' Fourteenth Army in action against the Japanese in the jungle of the Burma Front also brought him acclaim.

In 1974, Sir Cecil — he had been knighted two years earlier — making his own verdict on his wartime work recorded: "I had not realised that I had taken so many documentary pictures, some of purely technical interest. Looking at them today, I spotted ideas that are now 'accepted' but which, thirty years ago, were before their time. The sheer amount of work I had done confounded me."

Sir Cecil died in January 1980 aged 76 so sadly never lived to see the fruits of his collaboration in the exhibition at the Imperial War Museum. It runs until October 10 1982 and is open on weekdays from 10.00 am to 5.30 pm and on Sundays from 2 pm to 5 pm. Admission is 60 pence for adults and 30 pence for pensioners.



THERE'S AN EIGHTEEN-MONTH waiting list to become a student nurse with the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps. For pupil nurses it's a year. And Colonel Jean Adams, commandant of the QARANC training centre, has no doubts why. "I don't think there is any better nursing career for any girl in the Services."

Known universally throughout the Army as the 'QAs', the Corps has come a long way since the pioneering days of the Lady of the Lamp, Florence Nightingale.

It was during the Crimean War of 1854-56 that Miss Nightingale, working with 38 other nurses, won immortal fame by tending soldiers in squalid barracks at Scutari, near Istanbul.

These gallant women strove to get blankets, sheets, chairs and even bedsteads for their patients who lay there in blood-stained uniforms stifling the pain amid conditions of unimaginable degradation.

On one notable occasion there was a line of beds stretching for four miles — each bed just 18 inches from the next one!

Florence Nightingale's was an era when there were no regularly appointed women nurses serving with the Army. But her work

QARANC nursing sister in Brunei, 1966. ▼

It's 100 years since the Army Nursing Service was established and the demand to join its modern-day ranks has never been higher. Graham Smith has been talking to some of the women who are following...

IN NIGHTINGALE'S FOOTSTEPS

was to revolutionise the care of sick and wounded soldiers. In 1881 the Army Nursing Service was set up by an Army Order and followed by the creation of an Army Nursing Reserve for time of war in 1897.

During the Boer War of 1889-1902 the service was strengthened and its potential demonstrated. In March 1902, a Royal Warrant changed its title to the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. And in February 1949, after distinguished service in two world wars, it took on its present name as a regular Corps within the British Army.

Conditions today for the girls in their scarlet-and-red uniforms bear no relation to those hard, formative years a century ago and even earlier when untrained women earned a shilling a day in military hospitals while engaged in home service.

Today, for instance, a second year student nurse gets £11.86 a day or £83.02 a week with deductions of £21.63 for food and accommodation plus further allotments for tax and national insurance.

There are some 1500 QAs in service around the world and the waiting list for new entrants shows no sign of diminishing.

Boer War — nurses at Rondesbosch, SA. ▼

Colonel Jean Adams is quick to point out the benefits of an Army nursing career: "I don't want to decry the National Health Service but we do care for our nurses more as a family organisation where their welfare, training and advancement is very much our primary role.

"We used to have a very high attrition rate among trainees but this has been drastically reduced by personnel selection and better interviewing techniques and really getting to know the individuals. Our nurse training is second-to-none in the United Kingdom."

Her remarks about training and morale seemed to be amply borne out by the dozen nurses of differing experience and specialities that SOLDIER talked to in Aldershot.

Private Elaine Pinnock, 23, a QA of five months, is a State Enrolled Nurse, who had previously worked in Nottingham City Hospital for three years. "I was a bit fed up there," she admitted. "It was boring but it's not like that here. I had always wanted to travel and my sister, who is in the WRAC, told me about the QAs so I decided to join. The training is better and there is a lot more

World War One — group picture in Salonika ▼





Sergeant Ruth Hickman: "we see patients' care through..."



Student Nurse Bridget Haycock: "more theoretical training in the QAs..."



Colonel Jean Adams: "our nurse training is second-to-none..."

theory. You also get more examinations.

"I am off to Rinteln later this month for two years and I am looking forward to going to Germany. My fiancé — a PTI — is there, and the work in the hospital there is going to be very hard, I am sure. I am looking forward to working on the wards, doing actual nursing and looking after the patients. So far, life with the QAs is great and my social life has been better. I've been going out a lot more. I found a boy friend and maybe we'll marry in two to three years. After that, I don't know. I might leave."

Major Rhoda Parks, who has been a QA since 1974 when she joined as a 'mature entrant' said: "I just felt I wanted a complete change in my career. I was a community nurse doing district nursing and I became a staff nurse and then went into midwifery. But I've had a wonderful life and I've thoroughly enjoyed myself."

Her Army career has taken her not only to Hanover but four months on detachment in Australia and a year in Ulster.

She added: "The QAs give a good career for any nurse who comes in to be trained by the Army. There are a few who miss home and cannot settle down but on the whole our method of selection is so good that this is rare. The general public tend to think of us as battlefield nurses but we are not. People

can be run over in the streets and this can be just as horrific. But we are always geared up to expect the unexpected. Nursing is nursing wherever you are and it's a great life and one to be highly recommended."

Sergeant Suzanne Young, 29, a recruit instructor, who has been a QA for ten years — she was formerly a solicitor's secretary in St Helens — said she simply "fancied nursing" as a career but did not want to do it in a civilian hospital.

She too has served in Hanover and Ulster. "I think it is better training than with a civilian hospital and you also get more time to do things. It's a very good career and it has a very good social life. I shall stay with the QAs."

Lieutenant Amada Foyster, 25, a non-nursing officer, joined the QAs after service with the WRAC at Camberley when she "got the info" on the Army's nursing corps and decided that was for her.

Now she is a Company officer with responsibility for recruit training. Referring to her WRAC background, she added: "It's useful now having seen both sides and I am also sports officer for the unit."

Over at the Cambridge Military Hospital, Student Nurse Class One, 22-year-old Bridget Haycock, who had previously passed her nursing finals in a civilian hospital, said: "I think we have more theoretical

training in the QAs, more than we ever had in civvy street. We also see some unusual things like tropical diseases and deal with a younger group of patients than in civilian hospitals. I hope to work in intensive care of some description."

Corporal Sharon Bassett, 26, who is married to a former serviceman, has been a QA for the past six-and-a-half years.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time and wouldn't advise anybody not to join," she said. She met her husband while serving 18 months in Cyprus.

Sharon thought it better for girls wanting to be nurses in the QAs to enlist already trained. "I've been one of the fortunate ones. When I have applied for postings or whatever, I have usually managed to get what I asked for."

Third year student nurse, Lorraine Marley, 22, left school and worked for an insurance company in the National Health Service for six months before she became an auxiliary nurse.

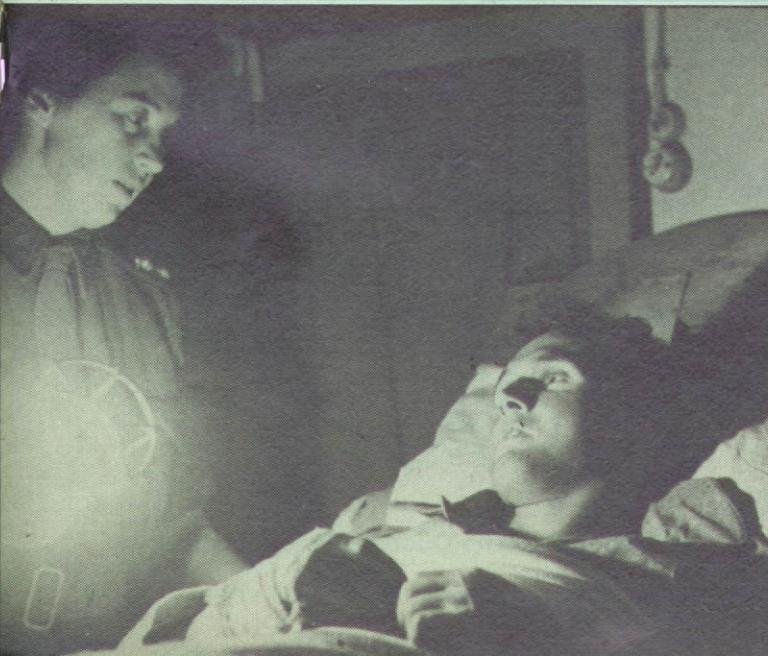
"It's always been my ambition to be a QA," she said. "My godmother was a QA and the nursing officer at Beckenham Hospital was an ex-QA."

Sergeant Michelle Dyche, 25, a student midwife and QA of seven years who came in straight from school, said: "I had always wanted to do nursing. I wanted to travel. I

continued over

World War Two — with Eighth Army in Italy

Present day — at the Cambridge Hospital



have just qualified with 30 deliveries. The training is good and better than any civvy training. We get more theory and more trained staff in relation to students and it's a smaller hospital. The pay is better too."

Sergeant Ruth Hickman, 23, a QA of five years who has also made 30 deliveries as a student midwife said: "I find we have more time to do our job than in civvy street where it is very rushed. We also see patients' care through. Outside, patients can be discharged in two to three days. We see the whole process through individually."

Captain Tessa Broughton, 39, a midwife tutor who delivered 200 babies in Iran in two years prior to Army service and about as many again since, has been a QA for six years. After Iran, she was a midwife in Northampton, but subsequently felt that "the Army had most to offer".

Some 2,000 babies are born each year in Aldershot's Louise Margaret maternity hospital and student midwives — 16 a year pass through, she said — get plenty of practice in deliveries.

"I shall stay as a tutor for some years. Midwifery is to be very highly recommended with the Army," she said.

A final summing-up came from Captain Jenny Grenier, 30, a nurse tutor and a QA for three-and-a-half years who was formerly a clinical tutor with the NHS.

Like all the other girls SOLDIER spoke to, she had no regrets about joining.

"The opportunities are there if you want them, in pursuit of a military nursing career. It gives you two ladders to climb, one in nursing and the other with the Army."



Corporal Sharon Bassett: "I've thoroughly enjoyed my time..."



Sergeant Michelle Dyche: "I always wanted to do nursing..."



Captain Tessa Broughton: "The Army had most to offer..."



Captain Jenny Grenier: "The opportunities are there if you want them..."

No 3 THE ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY

THIS 'CORPS D'ELITE' within the Royal Regiment of Artillery justly prides itself on its professionalism and the exceptional record gained over the many years since its formation in 1793. The early Troops quickly gained an enviable reputation for themselves and their Corps by magnificent conduct on the field.

They were identified by letters but obtained secondary titles that were not made official until 1926; the right to battle honours being held by individual batteries was withdrawn in 1883 to be replaced by the single 'Ubique' (Everywhere).

These honour titles were derived from various associations. Thus 'A' Troop was The Chestnut Troop; 'G', Mercers Troop; 'I', Bulls Troop; 'L', Nery Battery; 'N', The Eagle Troop; 'O', The Rocket Troop — to give just a few examples.

Campaigning in Europe, Africa, Asia and India, the RHA by the very nature of its role took the forward positions of greater glory, and therefore danger. Not for them the good natured bantering insult of being nine mile snipers, often hurled at the Artillery by the 'Poor Bloody Infantry' in recent times.

They boast the great distinction, when with their guns and the Sovereign not being present, of taking precedence over any other regiment. Even the cavalry of the Household Division gives way to them. This privilege will be brought to your notice by any past or present Horse Gunner upon very short acquaintance.

Since 1902 cap badges have been worn but until 1948 the design was of the format worn by the Royal Regiment of Artillery — the well-known gun badge with the crown and the two all-embracing scrolls bearing the battle honour 'Ubique' and the motto 'Quo fas et gloria ducunt' ('Whither right and glory lead'). This badge is still worn in the cap but in the beret the smaller badges are worn, of which that illustrated here is the current issue.

Badges similar to this, but with the Imperial crown bearing the cyphers of George V and Edward VIII, were produced regiments for wear in the foreign service helmet but cannot be considered as official. From 1948 the beret badges were the Royal cypher of George VI within the Garter and below the Garter a scroll inscribed 'Royal Horse Artillery', the whole surmounted by the Imperial crown. Upon the Accession of our present Queen the cypher and crown were changed. Both patterns were struck in brass and in white metal, latterly in silver anodised.

by Arthur L Kipling and Hugh L King.

Your Cap Badge



Next issue: The Queen's Dragoon Guards

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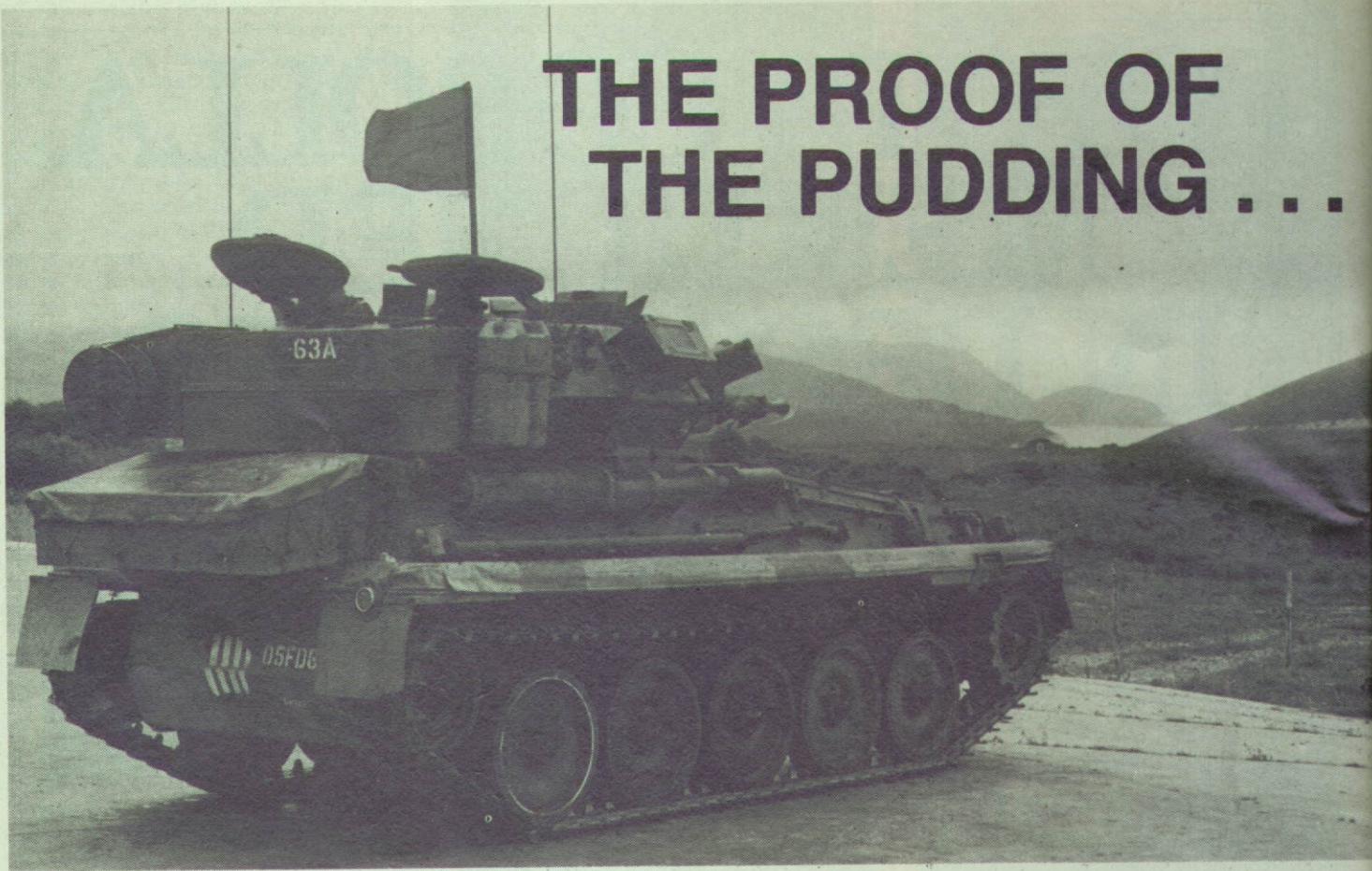
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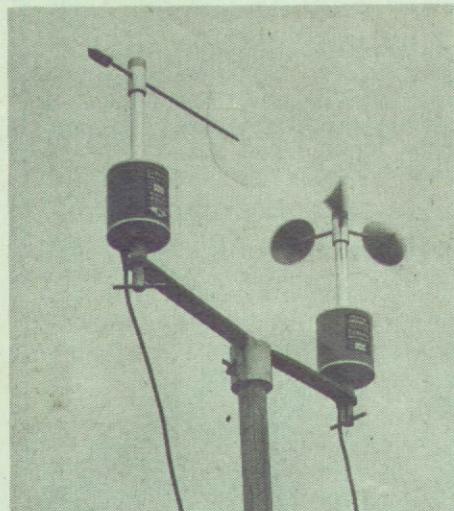
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THE PROOF OF THE PUDDING . . .



▲ Scimitar at the firing point looking across to Lulworth Cove.



▲ Anemometer monitors wind speed. Strong gusts mean no firing.

FOUR SCIMITARS STOOD ready to fire on the ranges at Lulworth. Nearby stood a team of military and civilian experts ready to take all sorts of measurements. The low cloud had cleared but the wind was still gusting in from the sea — and the whole operation had to be called off for the day.

That's by no means an unusual occurrence for the team from the Proof Branch of the Directorate of Land Service Ammunition who were waiting for The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars to fire their Scimitars. For this particular firing exercise has to be under precise conditions and Britain's unpredictable weather can often lead to a lot of waiting about.

Meanwhile the 30 mm Apse ammunition was being kept ready at a controlled temperature of 70° Fahrenheit. And Warrant Officer 1 Jim Lewis confessed: "It's terribly frustrating sometimes. But we always have to allow at least two or three days because of the weather. At the moment the wind is gusting at nine to ten metres a second which is almost double the maximum we allow. We have got to keep the same point of aim for the results to mean anything."

"Even when the weather is good there may be problems. Recently we had a beautiful day in Germany but soon after we started we had a fire on the range which kept us hanging around. Eventually we managed to fire it all off but it was touch and go."

For the crews from D Squadron, QRIH, led by troop sergeant, Brian Douglas, it was a chance to get in a bit of extra practice. But the object of the exercise was to test the ammunition, not the men firing it.

Lance-Corporal Fred Bates was one of the observers. Using a Questar Mirror telescope giving up to 180 times magnification, he focussed on the targets. They were marked with grids and he had a similar grid on a piece of paper at his side. He then noted the position of the holes in the target so as to

later identify the order of shot.

Meanwhile the elevation of the guns had been carefully measured while other instruments recorded such things as muzzle velocity, wind speed and direction.

The Lulworth firings and all the others which take place under the auspices of the In-Service Surveillance are not just some academic exercise. They can and do save millions of pounds of the taxpayers' money by increasing the shelf life of the Army's ammunition.

Lieutenant-Colonel Shaun de Wolf, the man who runs the Proof team, explains: "Our war stocks of ammunition deteriorate with age, no matter how good the storage. Our job is to make sure older ammunition will still do what was intended when it was made. We take samples, have them fired under scientific control and then assess the results statistically."

"The main aim is to give the user confidence in the ammunition but we also save money. We are all the time looking at ammunition and its failure patterns to increase shelf life and to improve designs."

Complete round proof is a comparatively new method of proofing in-service ammunition. Until 1971 most in-service proof was limited to static testing of components such as primers, fuzes and detonators. At a time when operational use of ammunition was declining rapidly the new method was needed to keep a quality control of stocks.

Huge savings can be achieved by extending shelf life. A particular bit of ammunition may have a planned life of ten years — but after the proof this may often be safely lengthened by a few years.

The stocks are randomly selected and are then taken to a range and fired from normal user equipment with a standard crew from a typical user unit.

The results tend to be very reassuring. Colonel de Wolf reports: "We find very

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◀ Using an inclinometer to make sure gun's alignment is correct.

little which is not serviceable. We are able to confirm in most cases that the ammunition is good.

The Proof Branch is a Royal Army Ordnance Corps unit and is based at Didcot. But it works closely with the Gunners, the Royal Armoured Corps and the infantry — the people who benefit.

More and more today ammunition sits in stockpiles waiting for the use which everyone hopes will never come. This particularly applies to certain items such as barmines.

"Our barmines are never fired by the user in training so the only confidence factor they will have is if someone takes some of the stocks and fires under user conditions," says Colonel de Wolf.

The unit has also tested in such places as Hong Kong and Belize, where high temperatures and humidity might be expected to have some effect on stockpiles. But the word is that storage in those places is pretty good and ammunition generally stands up well to these extreme conditions.

Summing up, Colonel de Wolf concludes: "We are still learning. It's not a black and white science. And we are always trying to get better equipment onto the ground in order to get more accurate results and remove some of the subjectivity from our assessments.

"It is very interesting and rewarding work. We need good conscientious people, and continuity. If you criticise a piece of ammunition you have got to be absolutely sure of your facts."

The Proof Service is a very small unit doing a very big job. Its reward comes in knowing that the user can have confidence in his ammunition — and that the money the taxpayer spends on Defence is being stretched just that little bit further. ■



◀ Loading rounds into the Scimitar.

▼ Checking where shots have landed.



THE BOOK FOR EVERY SOLDIER'S FAMILY THIS CHRISTMAS

RATS

The Story of a Dog Soldier
by Max Halstock

'He was like an oasis of friendship in a desert of sadness'

— Sergeant-Major, Welsh Guards, Crossmaglen

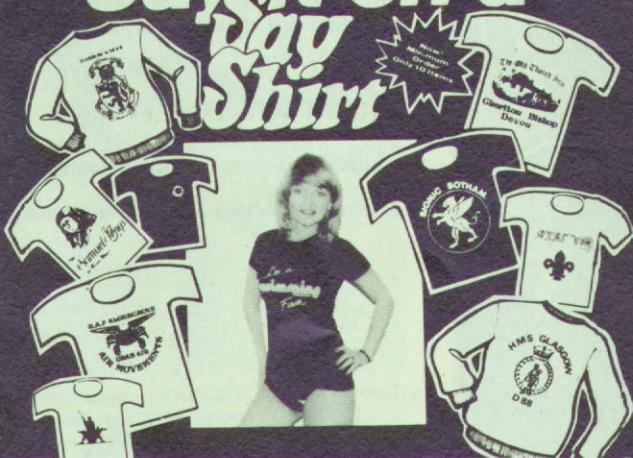
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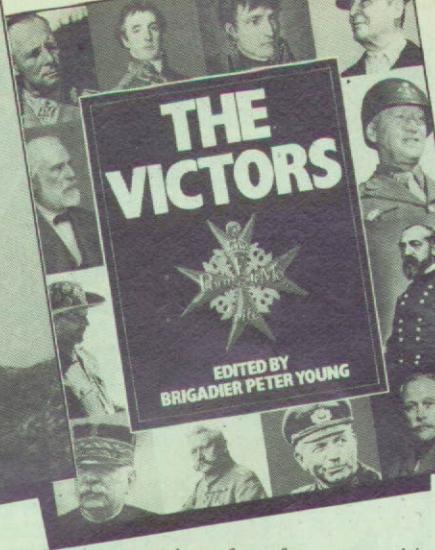
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JOHN TOLAND NO MAN'S LAND

THE STORY OF 1918



BOOKS

network in Western Europe. There were others at work too, individuals and groups, and everywhere the efficient and widespread Swiss intelligence service was co-operating with both Western and Soviet services.

Stories of deception and intrigue in the shadowy world of the Swiss corridor fill the pages — stories such as the contacts of Admiral Canaris, the head of Abwehr, with British Intelligence and how the Black Orchestra strangely received more sympathy from the Soviets than from the West.

To sum up, what better conclusion can one reach than that of Professor Michael Foot who in his foreword says: "This is history as it was lived: unheroic, but, so far as the historian can see it, true."

J M Dent & Sons, Aldine House, 33 Welbeck Street, London W1M 8LX — £9.95. JFPJ

Armoured Combat in Vietnam: General Donn A Starry

Primarily this is a review of the part played in Vietnam by tank crews, mechanised infantry, armoured cavalry and airborne troops of the United States army. Based on official war records and personal interviews, it discusses American strategy in the use of armoured units against a background of the generally unsuccessful experience of the French army with similar weapons culminating in their defeat in Indo-China in 1954.

Pulitzer Prize winner John Toland opens his compelling narrative with the great artillery duel of March 21-24 when some 6000 German guns began pounding the 3rd and 5th Armies along a 50-mile front. The din was such that when 2500 British guns opened up in answer to the barrage their additional noise was hardly noticeable.

A German artillery officer, Lieutenant Herbert Sulzbach, described the hellish duel "as if

the world was coming to an end".

The story proceeds through that all-important final year with accounts of vital actions and battles interlaced with many a lively anecdote, revealing conversations between officers of the high commands and intimate glimpses of politicians like Lloyd George and Clemenceau. A scholarly, penetrating and meticulously prepared book.

Eyre Methuen Ltd, 11 New Fetter Lane, London EC4P 4EE — £10. JFPJ

The Swiss Corridor: Jozef Garlinski

As in World War One Switzerland by her very position, geographically central and politically neutral, again became the ideal site for a gigantic corridor of espionage and intrigue for the intelligence networks of many of the warring nations in World War Two.

Working in that country were spymasters of the highest calibre — men like Sandor Rado, code-named Dora, who ran the Russian dominated intelligence circuit from Geneva, or Rudolf Roessler, busy as Lucy under a journalistic cover in Lucerne. The Black and Red Orchestras were also Swiss-based, the former with its membership of men and women of the German establishment working for the overthrow of Hitler and the latter controlling the Russian espionage

On Rhine Army, Mr Smith says MBT 80 (Chieftain's replacement as main battle tank) will be vulnerable to modern anti-tank weapons despite Chobham armour and, "It might make more budgetary sense to delete tanks from the Army's force structure and . . . develop a different kind of force prioritising the deployment of anti-tank weapons in small units."

This book was first published last year when, the publishers complain, it was ignored by defence correspondents. This cheaper edition is in paperback.

Croom Helm, 2-10 St. Johns Road, London SW11 — £6.95 RLE

The Victors: Editor, Brigadier Peter Young

"Good generals come in all different shapes and sizes," writes Brigadier Young in the introduction to this book. Some reach high rank by long training and careful selection, others are wafted upwards by the changes and chances of the period in which they live.

His team of British and American authors examines 16 generals, spanning 145 years in this very readable and attractively illustrated volume — the earliest, Napoleon and Wellington at Waterloo. Richard Holmes has a nice conclusion for Wellington: "His grateful countrymen nicknamed him the 'Iron Duke' but they did him less than justice. Wellington's military character was rather of the finest spring steel and never was its strength and resilience better shown than at Waterloo."

No less than five American generals have been included in the list. Three of them are Civil War commanders, Lee, Grant and Meade; the fourth is Patton at the Battle of the Bulge and the last the astonishingly durable Douglas MacArthur in his finest hour at Inchon, in Korea, at the age of 70.

Of our own more recent generals, Haig gets a sympathetic appreciation from Ward Rutherford on the Black Day (for the Germans), 8 August 1918, when the great Allied offensive was launched. "It is hard," writes Mr Rutherford, "to see how victory on the Black Day or in the days and weeks which followed could have come about in his absence."

Judith Steen finds Montgomery less important to Alamein: "Many of the innovations . . . were based on planning done by Auchinleck and his staff, while many of Montgomery's own plans led to chaos and confusion." But she concedes that "it required one man with Montgomery's self-confidence, determination and rapport with the ranks to elicit the dogged, unremitting effort that eventually resulted in British victory." Hamlyn, Astronaut House, Hounslow Road, Feltham, Middlesex TW14 9AR — £9.95. RLE

No Man's Land: John Toland

Both sides in World War One had entered the conflict in the expectation of a quick and easy victory. But instead the years passed in bloody deadlock with gains and losses in bit-

Target Rifle Shooting: David Parish and John Anthony

Target Rifle Shooting is not dependent upon physical strength, sex or age and can currently field more active participants than, surprisingly, angling or golf.

This slim volume is an excellent introduction to this increasingly popular sport, and a useful aid to experienced shooters. It is divided into two sections, target shooting and moving target shooting, and each section presents the fundamentals of safety, equipment, position, the effects of wind and weather, ammunition, cleaning, maintenance and so on. There are useful tips on what to wear and how to prepare for a match. As a layman, I was surprised to learn that too much tea or coffee beforehand could be disastrous, since the caffeine content of either could give an otherwise steel-nerved shooter the jitters!

Numerous illustrations support a concise and readable text.

EP Publishing Ltd, East Ardsley, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF3 2JN — £4.95. IJK

The Life of a Regiment, Volume V: Wilfrid Miles

For a volume of regimental history to be reprinted nearly twenty years after first publication is rare, if not unique. It must say something for the Gordon Highlanders' regimental spirit that they, or their publishers, have the confidence to market this one again, especially at the high price of £18.

This is the volume that covers the period from 1919 to 1945, and World War Two was as dramatic a period as any in the Regiment's history. The 1st and 5th Battalions went into the bag with the 51st Highland Division at St Valery; the 2nd in the fall of Singapore. The two Regular battalions were reformed, the 5th amalgamated with the 7th.

Battalions of Gordon Highlanders fought in North Africa with both Eighth and First Armies, in Sicily and Italy and in North West Europe. The 8th and 9th Battalions, reorganised as an artillery and a tank unit respectively, were in action against the Japanese in Burma.

The Gordons paid a high price for their achievements in World War Two: they lost 2400 men. It is understandable that they do not want to see that period of their history fade into limbo.

Frederick Warne, 40 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HE — £18. RLE



"It's not my hair, sir. I'm the barrack room lawyer."

Humour

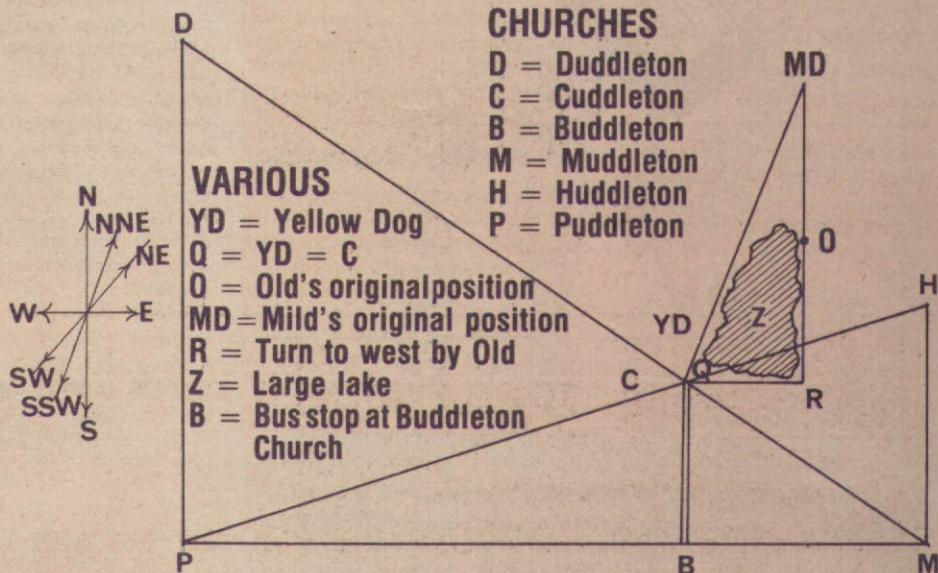


"How's the poker game going, stranger?"



"Bruce! For heaven's sake get into the water before somebody sees you."

OLD AND MILD AND THE BUDDLETON BUS



REACH FOR YOUR pen and paper. Our brainteaser is back!

The bumper film and holiday quizzes that marked our first two fortnightly issues meant that we had to hold over our popular puzzle feature. So, to make up for lost head-scratching time, we've got a particularly knotty problem for you to solve. We shall be running lots more brainteasers in future issues but varying them from time to time with other types of competitions for different prizes. So watch this space — and get puzzling!

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 11 December 1981. The answers and winners' names will appear in our first New Year issue (11-24 January 1982). More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 279' 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 279' label from this page and your name and address to: Prize competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

HARD by Cuddleton church stands the Yellow Dog Inn and it was about this far-famed Yellow Dog that Signaller Old spoke to Signaller Mild by land line one day. He said: "Tavern due south-west I am proceeding at noon 4mph due south, then due west to tavern. Large lake stops direct route."

Signaller Mild replied to Signaller Old who was 1000 yards due south of him: "Tavern due south-south-west. Am proceeding noon at 4mph direct to tavern. First there buys the drinks."

Signaller Old: "OK. Mine's old and mild."

After their drink the two left Cuddleton at 1330 hours on the road which runs due north-south from Cuddleton church to Buddleton church. They walked at 4mph.

To help you with the three answers required here are a few details. At the top you will find a rough sketch (not to scale) of the operations.

Muddleton church is six miles due east of Puddleton church, and from Puddleton church Buddleton church can be seen in a direct line with Muddleton church (on the Puddleton side of Muddleton).

From Huddleton church, which is 2 miles due north of Muddleton church, Cuddleton church (with the Yellow Dog hard by) is on the direct route to Puddleton church. While

PRIZES

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from Duddleton church, which is 4 miles due north of Puddleton church, Cuddleton church (with the Yellow Dog) lies on the direct route to Muddleton church.

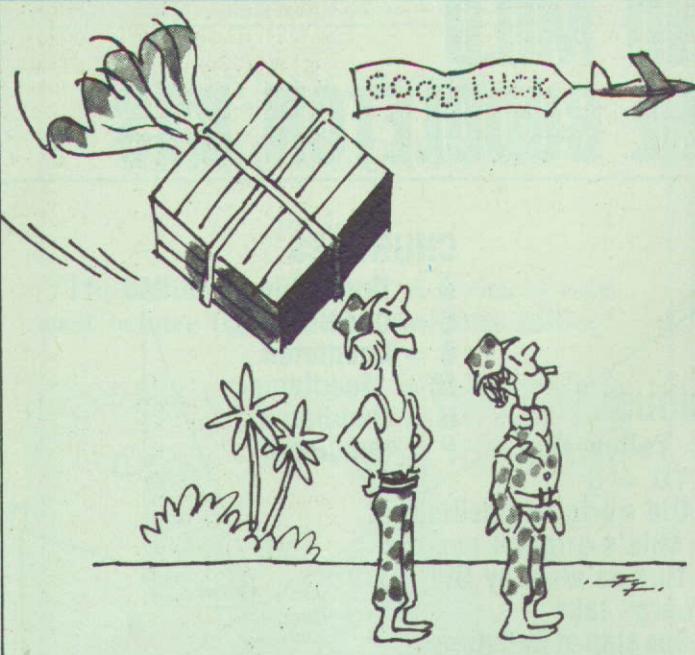
The road from Buddleton church due north to Cuddleton church is perfectly straight.

The details mentioned give direct 'as the crow flies' routes and except for the road from Buddleton church to Cuddleton church no notice has been taken of roads, railways, footpaths, hedges, ditches, stray animals or courting couples.

All we want to know is:

- 1 Who paid for the old and mild? Old — or Mild?
- 2 Did Mild arrive at the Yellow Dog before 1220 hours?
- 3 Did the pair arrive at Buddleton church corner in time to catch the local bus which left Buddleton church at 1345 hours? ■

MAIL DROP



Got something to say, a point to make or a story to tell? This is *your* page to exchange *your* news, views, comments and opinions. 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.

PROUD TO SERVE

I must put pen to paper to defend the TA against Mr Stevenson's attack (Letters 19 Oct). It is not a 'Beer Army' but full of young and not-so-young dedicated people.

I myself resent the statement about 'booze and bumph'. At the age of 27 I was a sergeant serving with a TA Missile Regiment. At a military tattoo my No 2 and I were involved in an accident which cost me two fingers blown off my left hand, and damage to my lower left arm. My number 2 was badly cut on his arms also. We did not get these injuries opening beer bottles, but using some of the most up-to-date weapons entrusted to this country's part-time Army.

My regiment tried to keep me in the TA but being a Nato Role regiment this is no longer possible. I have now offered my services to the ACF and at the age of 29 I look forward to that. If there was some sort of home guard or a sort of TAVR III I would gladly serve in that, not for the beer but the privilege of wearing the Queen's uniform and knowing that in my spare time I was giving something back to my country.

There is one other point I would like to make to Mr Stevenson: my TA centre was twenty six miles from the village I live in. It seems a bloody long way to travel just for beer and bumph, so don't knock the TA — let's have more of them. — M J Sloman, 23 Glebeland Place, St Athan, S Glam, CF6 9PQ.

For being first off the mark with this spirited defence of the TA, Mr Sloman wins our £5 letter prize. — Ed

BADGE WARNING

My congratulations on the layout and content of the new SOLDIER Magazine, but I am afraid that I must carp about a couple of points that I noticed in the first of the fortnightly editions.

First, in the article 'No Ease in Belize' your correspondent has moved Government House from Belmopan to Belize City; secondly, in the article 'Skellen of the SAS' one paragraph reads "The (film) company . . . says 'The men of the Special Air Service are probably more feared, misrepresented and misunderstood than any soldiers since the hordes of Ghengis Khan.'" Reference to the Military Book Society ad on page 10 of the magazine will show that the quotation is in fact attributable to the *Sunday Telegraph*!

Cavilling apart, I am very pleased to see the introduction of the series 'Your Cap Badge'. I have been a collector for several years now, and

earlier this year I had the privilege of seeing Mr Hugh L King's collection. A warning to any collector wishing to do the same: Don't! At sight of the myriads of beautiful and often rare badges the heart is likely to flutter; the blood pressure will rise, your eyes will go green in a veritable fit of jealousy and, worst of all, your pride in your own collection will be somewhat deflated! I've never before seen such a magnificent display; literally thousands upon thousands of badges. To be fair though Mr King himself says that he got a head start on the rest of us because when he began collecting you could count the other collectors on the thumbs of both hands!

Once again, thank you for a most interesting magazine, and keep up the good work! — Cpl C J Allen, Ops (EW) Sqn, RAF Wyton, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE17 2EA.

Sorry about the slips Corporal Allen but glad you like the new look. — Ed

TOP QUALITY

A word of congratulations on the new look fortnightly SOLDIER with its 'busy' atmosphere right from the front cover, and mass of military information packed into its illustrated pages. It ably reflects the top quality efforts of your feature writers, news gatherers and photographers in their search for outstanding activities of the British Army wherever formations, units and individuals are operating throughout the world.

Oddly your issue of 19 October struck a nostalgic chord with the excellent action picture of Sapper Michael Brown operating up a telephone pole in Canada. In 1919 as a boy soldier with the first British Army of the Rhine I gained my first journalistic payment of five shillings for a short comment about a telephone operator climbing a pole with sickle-like attachments to his feet. This was published in the *Cologne Post*, the British Army newspaper of those days, equivalent to SOLDIER. Alas, the *Cologne Post* died with the withdrawal of Rhine Army in 1930 and I have the final copy. May it be many long years before anyone can match it with the last issue of SOLDIER. — Major G R Hogan, 5 Queenswood Road, St John's, Woking, Surrey, GU21 1XJ.

DOUBLE THANKS

May I please add my congratulations on your new issue of SOLDIER. As a reader of many years I think you have made excellent progress both in journalism and photography. One of the features I would like to see if it was possible, is a series of articles on 'This is your Division'.

I would also like to draw attention to an organisation which gets little or no mention for the valuable work it does for ex-servicemen and associations — the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and its predecessor, the Imperial War Graves Commission. I have used the services of both and it amazed me how quickly my enquiries were dealt with. May they continue their excellent work. — Mr W Smart, 84 Grange Farm Drive, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38 8EQ.

HAND HORSE

I was interested to observe that in the team of six horses drawing the gun-carriage bearing the remains of Egypt's President Anwar Sadat the 'hand' horse of each pair was on the 'near' side which is the opposite to the orthodox position always used by our Artillery.

This must have been noticed by others, particularly old Horse Gunners and drivers, and is clearly demonstrated by The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery when the 'hand' horse is, as always, on the 'off' side. — Arthur H Silvester, Khanspur, 6 Old Court Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 6LW.

WRITER WRONGED

No marks at all for Colonel Anderson! (Ex WO2 W Cooper's letter 5 Oct)

Surely Colonel Anderson, who was in the car, should have accepted the blame when the General instructed him to put the Corporal on a fizzer? And I'm surprised that General Wavell didn't hand the Colonel a rocket — after all, if the car was travelling too fast it was up to him to tell his driver to slow down. And then to hear the charge and award punishment when he should have been a witness for the defence . . . oh dear!

Hard luck WO Cooper! You were sadly wronged all those years ago. — Wing Commander P A C McDermott RAF (Retd), Am Zoppenberg 28, 4056 Schwalmtal, Germany.

ROCK PUZZLE

I wonder if any readers can identify this photograph of a painted rock showing the badges of 12 British regiments? They are (in the form of spelling of the day) with the dates painted on or near the badges: The Royal Warwickshire Regiment, 1871-73, 1908-10; Seaforth Highlanders, 1874, 1909; The 51st (2nd Yorkshire), West Riding, The King's Own Light Infantry Regiment, 1877; The King's Royal Rifle Corps, 1886; The Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1886-87; 1888-89; The Wiltshire Regiment, 1887; The Royal Scots Fusiliers, 1891, 1900; The Royal Welch Fusiliers, 1892; The Devonshire Regiment, 1896; The Prince Albert's (Somerset Light Infantry), 1st Battalion, 1904; The Black Watch, 2nd Battalion, 1905; The Northumberland Fusiliers, 1908.



This picture turned up in the collection of the Canadian Forces Photographic Unit in Ottawa without a caption. It seems reasonable to guess that the rock is a record of the regiments that occupied some British fortress or garrison town over a period of forty years, but which one? — W A B Douglas, Director, Directorate of History, National Defence HQ, 101 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1A 0K2.

CAN YOU HELP?

I am writing on the off-chance that one of your readers has a spare copy of a photograph of a Ramped Cargo Lighter. The RCLs as they were known were manufactured in Canada and shipped to Ismailia in Egypt for re-erection by the Royal Engineers. If anyone can help I would be very grateful. — William O'Rourke, 50 Twist Lane, Leigh, Lancashire, WN7 4DA.

I would like to contact Lance Corporal Bond formerly of 102 Provost Company, Int Corps, BEF (last heard of at the end of WWII). L/Cpl Bond had earlier experience with the Green Howards. I do not recall his Christian names but he may well now be on AA patrol staff. Does anyone remember him? — George Hare, Dunkirk, 18-19 Main Road, Leadenham, Lincoln, LN5 0QB.

Many years ago I served in the Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers and I am now employed as an officer

in the Prison Service. My posting, for the last six years, has been at the Civil Prison in Shepton Mallet, the oldest penal establishment still in full use in this country. From 1939 to 1966 it was a British and American Military Detention Barracks, better known to many as the 'Glasshouse'.

Another officer and myself are engaged in compiling a comprehensive history of the prison from its inception in 1610 to the present day and we would like to hear from anyone able to furnish any information about the military era of this prison's chequered life or in possession of any old postal mail or other items sent into or out of this establishment. — F J Disney, c/o The Governor, HM Prison, Cornhill, Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

As a collector of PoW items I have recently added to my collection a galvanised iron tag approx 2½" x 1½" stamped 8B NR 1387. I would be grateful to hear from any ex-PoW from this camp who could give me

any information as to what this was used for, also from anyone with any similar items, including PoW Kreisgefangenpost cards, or other material for disposal. All postage will be refunded. — Douglas F S Smith, 105 Cromwell Road, Rushden, Northamptonshire, NN10 0NP.

I am trying to get in touch with any of my father's wartime Army pals who served with the 212th Battery 53rd Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery

between 1938-41, and salvage collecting centre, Royal Pioneer Corps from 1941-46. He was in France with the RA and when the unit came back he was stationed at Budleigh Salterton. When he joined the RPC he went to North Africa and later Cyprus. My father's name is Laurence Henry Robinson, his Army number 857911. I would be grateful for any help at all.

— David Robinson, 5 Marshside, Brancaster, Norfolk.

Collectors' corner

Items for this column will continue to be accepted free of charge but must, in future, be accompanied by a 'Collectors' Corner' heading from this page. Entries should be as brief as possible — maximum 40 words.

Mr S J Male, RHQ, PSA, BFPO 40. Has for sale copies of an illustrated colour chart of formation signs worn by British and Commonwealth Forces during WW2.

Dean Owen, 89 Hiawatha Road, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M4L 2X7. Is willing to buy or exchange WW2-to date flying gear, camo equipment and elite unit badges — all countries. Also interested in writing to Armed Forces personnel all over the world.

John Swan, 265 Compton Ave, Ottawa, Ontario, K2B 5A8, Canada. Has for sale 1939-1945 Pacific Stars, CVSM and Bar, 1939-45 war medal and Mothers Cross 6 VIR to: Lt W S Fry, Royal Rifles of Canada — a Canadian group. Researched — open to offers. Wanted — Royal Army Chaplains Dept Jewish KC cap badge and collars (pr), genuine only.

George Pray, 48 Kennedy Ave, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M6S 2X5. Wishes to purchase photographs preferably from negs size 5 x 7 of Royal Marines depicting various activities in WW1 and WW2. Also a RM cap badge, shoulder insignia plus set of buttons from best blues. Will pay post.

C A Mosley, 75 Waterloo Road, Ramsey, Isle of Man. Offers (French) Foreign Legion badges, crest and beret insignia for sale. Also books: *Insignes de la Legion Etrangere, Sauver Kolwezi* by Col Erulin (c/o 2 Rep) (2nd Rep Legion Para Drop in Zaire 1978) in French but 90% pictorial.

G Coxon, 18 Omega Way, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs. Is dismantling extensive collection of genuine British and CEF badges. Many scarce. Badges to suit long established collectors and beginners. All wants lists answered.

P M Bristow, Glyders, Lodge Farm, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire. Requires, for research purposes, photographs of Austin Champs in service in the Middle East, especially Aden/Cyprus.

Charles Duereb, 4 Ruby St, Yagoona, NSW 2199, Australia. Wishes to trade, cap and collar badges K/C: British, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Canada CEF, India and South Africa for PT Glengarry's 1874-1881: 2nd, 3rd, 7th, 8th, 14th, 15th, 20th, 22nd, 25th, 26th, 29th, 32nd, 33rd, 42nd, 45th, 50th, 57th, 73rd, 74th, 78th, 83rd, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd.

J Reeney, 87 Shipbrook Road, Rudheath, Northwich, Cheshire, CW9 7HG. Offers various numbers of copies of SOLDIER Magazines from 1945-1980, £10 complete collection and postage. No separates. 31 copies of Pegasus, regimental journal of paras 1971-80, £6 + postage. Books: 'The Essex Regiment 1929-50' by Col T A Martin, £3 + postage; 'Soldiers in the Air (the development of Army Flying AAC)' by Peter Mead, £2 + postage.

Mr J Curtis, 1 Sycamore Road, Shirley Warren, Southampton, SO1 6BP (ex 70 Field Regiment RA). Wants 46 Division blazer badge (green oak tree on black background).

David G Marriott, 11 Cressington Ave, Higher Tramere, Birkenhead, Merseyside. Offers for straight exchange World War II badges of NFS (National Fire Service) cap badges for any modern anodised cap badges; these are for badge board for youth organisation.

Bart H Vanderveen, Lavastraat 13, 8084 CL 't Harde, Netherlands. Seeks soft-skin military vehicle manuals (particularly for Alvis Stalwart and Leyland FV1100 series 10-ton 6 x 6), parts catalogues, photographs etc. Will swap or pay reasonable price.

In your next issue of SOLDIER ...

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The forces' 'Mr Showbiz'

PLUS all your latest news, sport and family pages

Competition

Competition No 277, 'North of the Circle' drew an enormous response from those of you who enjoy mental exercise of a trigonometric nature. It wasn't an easy puzzle as the number of incorrect entries showed, but two thirds of you got it right. The answers, to the nearest mile, were (i) 14 miles (ii) 11 miles (iii) NORTH lives east of WEST. Prizewinners were: 1st R H G Travers-Bogusz, 77 St Thomas's Road, Hardway, Gosport, Hants; 2nd Sgt Winstanley, 1 Cheshire Regt, Aliwal Barracks, Tidworth, Hants; 3rd E L Forman, JRC NAAFI R/No 10080, 4400 Munster Gremendorf, Buller Kaserne, Alberslohe Weg 210, BFPO 17; 4th C D Kennedy, 31 Guildford Avenue, Guildford, Surrey; 5th Master G Membery c/o HQ RAMC, 3 Armd Div, BFPO 106; 6th R O Nebel, 69 Farley Road, Selsdon, S Croydon; 7th Major N A Cox, 25 Frampton Road, Pimperne, Blandford Forum, Dorset; 8th R G Webster, RAC MRO, Queen's Park, Chester, Cheshire.

Reunions

7th Armoured Division Officers' Club. Annual Dinner on Wednesday, 2 December in the Naval and Military Club, Piccadilly. Prospective new members should contact the Hon Secretary at once: Maj Christopher Milner, Mill Lane, Radford, Inkberrow, Worcester, WR7 4LP. Telephone: (0386) 792262.

Battersea Army Cadets. Annual reunion of all former members at the Drill Hall, 27 St John's Hill, Clapham Junction on Saturday 21 November at 7.30 pm. Details from Captain J D McNeil at the Drill Hall.

Clever caption winner

The winner of Clever Caption Competition No 37 in *Soldier News* was Sgt M A Bendall, Drill Wing Depot and Trg Regt RCT, Buller Bks, Aldershot, for his merry quip: "Are you sure this is the favourite for the 3:30?" Congratulations!

Pen Pals

I am 26 years old, 5' 5" tall with short, brown hair and blue eyes, and I would like to write to a soldier. I like reading, discos and generally having a good time. — Miss Janice Camp, 39 School Road, Dagenham, Essex.

My name is Fernanda and I am 17. I would very much like a pen-pal in the Forces. I like Adam Ant and other intellectual pursuits! — Miss Fernanda Ferreira, 1 Bridge Road, Llan-daff, Cardiff, S Glam.

I am Helen and I am 17. My hobbies include travelling, motorbikes, music and nightlife. — Miss Helen Mayberry, 'Cartreff', Welsh St Donat's, Cowbridge, S Glam.

My name is Catherine, I am 17. I like travelling, nightlife, and most types of music. I would like to write to someone in the Services. — Miss Catherine Harris, 87 Llewellyn Avenue, Ely, Cardiff, S Glam.

My name is Helen, I like swimming, music, custom cars and rallies. I am 17 and would like to correspond with someone in the Forces. — Miss Helen Francis, 1 Despenser Avenue, Llantrisant, Mid Glam.

I am 20 years old with blue eyes and blonde hair. I am 5' 6" tall and would like to correspond with a young man who is interested in dancing, the supernatural, sport, jokes etc . . . or who enjoys writing! — Miss Claire Allaway, 268 Fencepiece Road, Hainault, Ilford, Essex, IG6 2ST.

My name is Caroline and I am 16; I would like a penfriend in the Army. Please send photo if possible. — Miss Caroline Smith, 12 Stepney Green, London E1 3JU.

How observant are you? (See page 23)

1 Arm of player left of goalpost; 2 Numeral on goalkeeper's jersey; 3 Stripe on goalkeeper's shorts; 4 Fingers of goalkeeper's right hand; 5 Left sleeve of player left of goalkeeper; 6 Mouth of player second from right; 7 Height of grandstand roof above middle player; 8 Stocking of player third from right; 9 Left sleeve of right player; 10 Distant goalkeeper.



On the Record with Rodney Bashford

Band of the 13th/18th Royal Hussars (QMO)

Conductor: Bandmaster G E Locker. Music Masters MM 0579

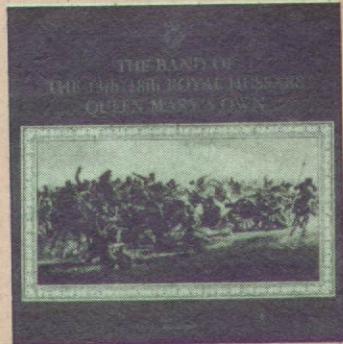
There's a nice old-fashioned sound about this band. Hard to say why unless you want a half-hour lecture, but I like to think that 'one' has not preached in vain. Style is everything, for without the musical resources of a staff band Mr Locker and his boys play marches and all else with that most elusive quality. When my wife shouts from the next room "Who's that?" it's either a very good or a very bad sound, never characterless mush. Here we have precision, attack, characterization, skill, musical awareness, commitment; in a word — style. For clarity I have not heard its equal on record for a decade, and if it is too early to name the record of the year I have it, like W S Gilbert, on my list.

Not a single item has appeared on disc before except the regimental slow and quick marches. *The Regimental Call* and *Band Call* introduces *The Right O' The Line*, a march by G O Walker of circa 1900 referring to the 13th's position at Balaklava, two other marches from Germany called *Ein Treuer Husar* and *Der Jaeger aus Kurpfalz*, and Terence Brian's *The Little Hussar*, which with the complete slow marches of both the 13th and 18th is an inspired choice of music.

For his 'B' or flip side Mr Locker does even better. No themes from this and that, or highlights from low musicals, but a stirring cavalry fanfare of his own, a thrilling *Overture Jubiloso* by Frank Erikson, *Cable Car*, a rush-hour piece by Sammy Nestico, and the attractive *Echoes from Alhambra* in Latin-American style.

From Bandmaster, Carver Bar-

racks, Debden, Saffron Walden, Suffolk, price £4.50 inclusive.



The Queen's Division

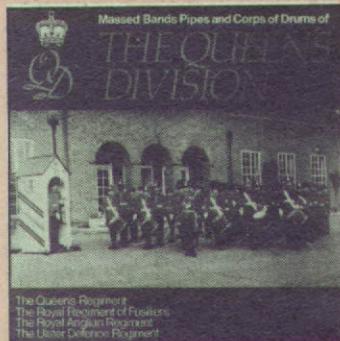
Massed Bands, Pipes & Corps of Drums. Conductor: Captain P Hannam BEM RRF, DR Records 35

The costly seating which is installed on Horse Guards for the Queen's Birthday Parade is nowadays very sensibly used for additional displays by musicians from various divisions, usually incorporating the Retreat Beating ceremony. And never has retreat been beaten in so many varied and glorious ways. I missed this one of June 1981 but a fine programme of music comes across very well in a studio recording with added effects by the ubiquitous and skilled Herbert Iredell.

The Queen's Regiment, the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, the Royal Anglian Regiment, and the Ulster Defence Regiment were on parade but here we have reduced forces from the Queen's Regiment plus a Northumbrian piper who magically sets the scene with three tunes, *Chevy Chase*, *Bobby Shaftoe*, and *Salmon Tails Up the Water*; a marvellous change from the highland pipes. After a fanfare

and Walton's *Crown Imperial* the corps of drums gets a look in for a change with *Flag and Empire* march, and *Retreat Marches* and *Retreat Risings*. Marches from bands only are *On the Square*, *Kneller Hall* slow march (Young), and the *Regimental Marches*. With either bugles or fifes added are *Hogan's Heroes*, *Radetzky*, *Samre et Meuse*, *Marche de la Gendarmerie Belge*, *Children of the Regiment*, *Queen's Division*, and *Ulster Defence Regiment* march.

A series of bugle calls, the trumpet tune *Il Silenzio*, and a pipe and drums



medley complete the well-arranged programme except that is for the deathless tune *Charlie is my Darling* and one of the many *Diana-s* that were born only to blush unseen.

From Queen's Division, Bassingbourn Barracks, Royston, Herts, £4.60 inclusive.

Faugh A Ballagh

Band of the 2nd Bn Royal Irish Rangers. Conductor: Bandmaster J F Winterflood. Music Masters Ltd MM 0578 Faugh a ballagh (clear the way) for as varied a regimental music record as you will find. With their origins in

fusilier and rifle regiments — Irish, Inniskilling and Ulster — the present Rangers can call upon bugle corps, pipes and drums, and military band for ceremonial and other occasions. American generals, certain MPs, and disgruntled tax-payers would be horrified to know that sixty-five men in one battalion are engaged in music, and impervious to the fact that musicians fulfil a dual and sometimes triple role within the regiment. I wonder what the Commanding Officer, who is the dedicatee of two items in the programme, would say to losing a couple of platoons, his medical orderlies, reserve drivers, and general dogs-bodies, let alone his main source of recruiting.

You can tell a mile off when a record is put together with hurried indifference, or with love and careful forethought, and even whether a regiment is a true unit with its musicians fully integrated into the life of that regiment. To an old trooper like me a battalion bares its soul when I see or hear its band, pipes, buglers or corps of drums.

If you're Irish, come into the Rangers' parlour. If not then write to Mr Winterflood, Wavell Barracks, BFPO45, enclosing a fiver and demanding recorded proof that this unit is in full working order thank you very much.

Music: *Bugle fanfares*, *Drum Salute*, *Pipe Medley*, *Regimental Slow and Quick Marches*. Theme music from *Dallas*, and some fine combined efforts from pipes and band including the *Rangers' Retreat*, a new offering from the bandmaster, and Trevor Sharpe's great fantasia *Soldiers*. An Irish Folk Trio from the band is really folky in *Mountain Tae* and *Crooked Jack*.



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LOOKING FOR A QUIETER LIFE?

Lincolnshire's leisurely life-style has got a lot to commend it. It has long stretches of traffic free roads, a rural atmosphere and a quality of life that is the envy of those living in polluted inner-city areas. The tourist fame of places like Spalding and Lincoln is international.

That said, it is rather isolated and offers a limited choice of jobs to service wives. High petrol prices concern those who need to commute to major cities.

Sleaford is dominated by the nearby RAF Cranwell Staff College and the influx of RAF personnel and the back-up civilian staff tends to push up house prices, compared with some other towns.

Undermodernised terraced property can be found for under £10,000 but anything modernised with an acceptable bathroom and kitchen is going to cost at least £11,000. Semi-detacheds are priced £17,000 to £20,000 and detached properties find buyers in the £21,000 to £30,000 range.

Grantham can be a better bet for someone hoping to work in commerce or industry and it also has the advantage of being on the London-Edinburgh inter-city line. There is a feeder-service to Grantham from Sleaford whose two major employers apart from the farming community are Interflora and the local authority.

Lincoln city continues to be a major tourist town and vigorous promotion has attracted a lot of new industry. Prices are slightly more expensive there than in rural areas and smaller towns but for anyone planning to retire it is most attractive. There are many large detached bungalows in the £30,000 to £40,000 range.

Earl & Lawrence, 55 Northgate, Sleaford, Lincs. 0529-302946
Kerry Stephenson 01-439 3611

These articles are prepared in conjunction with Kerry Stephenson of Home Relocation Ltd. Home Relocation is a private estate 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 Home Relocation Ltd, 303 Radnor House, 93 Regent St, London, W1R 7TE. Tel: 01-439 3611/2.

Houses for sale

Situated at Winterslow, near Salisbury: 3-bedroomed terraced house, oil central heating throughout, fitted kitchen, large lounge, dining room, garage, patio. Included in sale carpets as fitted, lights and light fittings. Built two years, 8 years of NHBC to run. Price £27,750. Central for Larkhill/Bulford, Andover, Salisbury. WO2 (BSM) B M Harrison, 01-856-5533 ext 816 or Winterslow (0980) 862753 after 7pm or at weekends.

Newcastle upon Tyne, 4 miles from city centre. An individual detached 3 double bedroom house consisting of entrance porch, hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, rear passage with WC, large landing and bathroom with WC, integral garage with sink unit H/C, fully double glazed and cavity wall insulated, carpets and curtains to be included. For quick sale offers in the region of £26,500. Contact: RQMS Graham, Tel: Bulford Camp 3371 ext 5400.

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Between Bude and Tintagel. Detached 3-bedroom modern bungalow in village of Crackington Haven. Large lounge/dining room, fitted kitchen, CH, bathroom, sep WC, garage. Large gardens with delightful coastal views over National Trust land. Half a mile from large sandy beach. £29,950. S/Sgt Reynolds, MOD, Main Building, Room 7301, Whitehall, London SW1. Tel: 01-218-6863.

Bedford Brickhill. Modern three-bedroomed detached house. Excellent decorative order, gas central heating, fully-fitted kitchen, all carpets included. Close to all amenities. For quick sale: £28,500. WO2 D Bryceson. Tel: 0861 524914.

Blandford, Dorset. Three bedroomed detached house, large lounge, dining room, kitchen, garage, gas central heating. Phone Mrs Harvey, Home Blandford 54164, Office Dorchester 67224.

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Sgt Groom, EI Keogh Bks, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hants. Tel: Aldershot Mil ext Keogh 269.

Few copies of author's very slightly marked/damaged in transit book, 'The Winged Messenger'. Reduced to £5, P&P £1.50, BAOR extra.

P E A Hall, Kohima, 1030 Harrow Road, Wembley, Middx, HA2 2QT.

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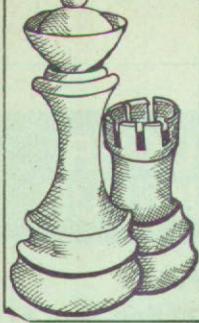
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CHECKMATE!

CORPORAL MARTIN COOK leads a double life. His days are spent working in the Medical and Dental Section at the School of Electronic Engineering at Arborfield, but his evenings are spent with knights, bishops, queens and kings.

Nor is he merely a pawn in the power struggles of this exalted company for he has carried off the Army Chess Association Championship trophy for the third year in succession, in a hard-fought contest at Bramcote.

His opponent was Sergeant Les Jenkinson, Royal Army Pay Corps, and they had to play no less than four tie-breakers to decide the winner. Martin was eventually awarded the first place as his score, when he was playing with the black pieces, was higher than Sergeant Jenkinson's. "I wanted to share the cup," said Martin, "but they said there had to be a winner."

Martin has been playing chess on and off for about 15 years. "It was something I learnt from my Dad and then I played at school. I lost touch with the game until I went to 5 Armoured Workshops in Korbecke where I played with the local club team.

"There were no Army chess clubs there so I just found out where the nearest one was and went along one evening and said 'can I have a game'."

It proved a good move, not

only for his game but also for his knowledge of the language as he had to learn all the chess terms in German.

From those early beginnings Martin's chess-playing in the Army has gone from strength to strength. Practice is the key to improvement in the game. "The ideal is to play as much as possible. You always learn from your mistakes and wrong moves. I also watch when I can and read a lot of books, but that is a slow business as you have to sift out the bits you require."

In perhaps four hours of tense, concentrated play with move and counter-move across the board, chess players need to develop a technique of coping with the stress and challenge.

"I always have a safe opening move. It's the second one that really counts. I just play the moves but I keep thinking of my opponent. I don't like people who stare at me for a reaction and I keep dead-pan if he makes a brilliant move. In fact, I get up and walk around when it's not my turn. It helps..."

Venues for chess tournaments tend to be backrooms or church halls in the main and these offer little diversion to distract players. In Germany however, games are invariably played in bars and concentration is more difficult. "My game gets worse the more I drink!" admits Martin.

There are around 300 chess players in the Army, although the number tends to fluctuate, influenced in part by the interest stimulated in the media coverage of World Championships and the like. They get together at tour-

nments and renew old acquaintances as they do battle on the boards.

There are Army competitions, Inter-Service championships and overseas tournaments.

Army players usually have to foot the bill for expenses involved in taking part in tournaments. Martin had to find the money for his fares and fees when he was in Korbecke and tournaments were held in UK. However, he will be travelling to Denmark for the Nato Championships with his passage paid,

and the PRI at SEE not only made it possible for him to go but are also paying his fees.

Chess players in the Army are optimistic about the state of the game at present. Martin believes that they are on the up now and he is hopeful of a good showing against the other Services this year. "The RAF are generally thought to be stronger, but I'm always hopeful that we are going to get back."

Martin doesn't see chess as the exclusive province of those with superior grey matter. "Anybody can play it as long as they enjoy it," he said, adding casually, "It does require a lot of thinking though..."



Brave showing by Army

ACC 1

AFC Bournemouth 5

An impressive goal by the Army Catering Corps was answered by a string of goals from AFC Bournemouth that put them three up by half-time.

A fine tackle by Corporal Mick Peplinski in the opening minutes of the match left a clear path for a solo run by Corporal Paul Stebbing who held off two defenders to slide the ball past



Above: The Army opens the scoring in the first minutes of the game.

the Bournemouth goalie.

The Army side played a mainly defensive game during the second half. There were some brave attempts at scoring

from Corporal Stebbing and Second Lieutenant Peter Kingston but it was a number of magnificent saves by Lance Corporal Ossie Ostick in goal that

prevented the Bournemouth side from scoring again until a few minutes before the final whistle of a fast and exciting match.

Motorcyclists tough ride



The British Army Motorcycling team put up a good showing in the International Six-Day Enduro event held on the island of Elba and code-named Exercise Brutus.

The competition attracts the creme de la creme of the motorcycling world and five medals won by the Army team reflect an impressive standard.

Silver medals were carried off by Sergeant Gwyn Barraclough RCT, Sergeant Ron Kirkland IG, and Lance Corporal Phil Oakley REME, who was riding for Wales. Sergeant Keith Hall RE, and Corporal Geoff Porter REME, took home bronze medals.

Army teams have been participants in the event since 1932 and this is their best showing to date.

Snippets

Profits from the Army Cup Final, which amounted to £200, were donated to the International Year of Disabled People Appeal Fund.

The Army Football Association will launch a new four-day referees' course followed by a four-day coaching course for Officer Cadets at RMA Sandhurst from 12-19 December 1981.

Kay's Mail Order Stores will be sponsoring this season's Army Cup Final. They have also donated a smaller sum to support the BAOR Cup Final.

Torrential rain made the going very hard for the competitors in this year's Army Motorcycling Championships at Aldershot.

The riders, who included civilians, police, and a guest team from Sweden as well as Service personnel, were faced with a circuit of over six miles of tracks made hazardous by deep mud and surface water.

The Championships consisted of five classes of which the largest was Class One for riders on Service machines. The other classes covered civilian entrants and Servicemen riding civilian machines.

Corporal Buckley RCT took the Norton Trophy for the Best Individual Overall and Sergeant Gwyn Barraclough JLR RCT won the Motorcycle Industries Trophy for the Best Regular Army Rider. The Soldier Magazine Award went to Marine Dunning RM as Best Private and the Mills Trophy for the Best Regular Team went to a team from 2 Armd Div Tpt Regt comprising Corporal Geoff Porter, Corporal Buckley and Driver Peter Belton, (left).

SOCCKET ROUND-UP

Champs again

TRRE 3: 22 Eng Regt 1

The Army Six-a-Side Championships turned into a predominantly Sapper battle in the finals when Training Regiments Royal Engineers met 22 Engineer Regiment and successfully defended their title.

TRRE raced into a three-goal lead and a goal by their opponents never really threatened their firm grip on the coveted PACE Petroleum Trophy, presented by the sponsors of the Championships.

Both teams had their share of exciting matches on their way to the final and 22 Eng Regt's total of 21 goals secured them the Thorpe Trophy, awarded to the team scoring most goals.

The semi-final ties were keenly contested. Dep Regt RA went down to their only defeat of the day, losing 2-1 to TRRE after dropping only one point in their five group games. 22 Eng Regt came from two goals behind in their games against QRIH to force it into extra time, then scored twice more to go through.

Captain Moore takes a fence in fine style for Britain in the International Military Event at Windsor.



UK TEAM IN SECOND PLACE

The British team were runners-up in this year's International Military Event held at Smith's Lawn, Windsor.

The Event, which first took place in the UK in 1976, is a competition between riders from Great Britain, West Germany, France and Bel-

gium. It includes dressage, cross-country and show jumping.

The British team included two Army riders, Captain C Moore RA and Sergeant M Bennett RHA, together with Captain A Stevens RM and Flight Lieutenant P Grant RAF. They finished in second

place behind Germany with a final score of 284.06, some way ahead of France with 364.46 and Belgium in fourth place with 445.85.

Captain Moore took third place in the Individual with 81.66 and was also chosen as Best National Rider in the British team.

UP... UP... AND AWAY...



Captain Jim Taggart takes off from Pen Dinas during the Army Hang Gliding Championships

Weather conditions were far from favourable for the 1981 Army Hang Gliding Championships. Pilots waited vainly on the top of Craig Y Pistyll for winds of 50 miles per hour to ease off.

The three-day Championships, sponsored as usual by Natocars of Bridgwater, were held this year under the auspices of the Mid Wales Hang Gliding Club at Aberystwyth.

Flying was blown out completely by the strong winds on the second day and nobody managed to get away on a cross-country flight. The variable and light winds on the first and last days also caused problems for the 21 competitors as they carried out the tasks set for them. But they completed four tasks in all, taking off from Pen Dinas and landing 350 feet below.

The number of entries in the Championships was disappointingly

low. A couple of military exercises had prevented some Army pilots from taking part.

The RAF, who have been streaking ahead in the sport, took first place as Flight Lieutenant Bob Hurst finished 26 points ahead of Major MacDonald. Flying one of the new CFX, Concealed Floating Crossboom, gliders for the first time, Flight Lieutenant Hurst scored 337 points in the tasks. He told SOLDIER: "It is really bad that the Army have taken the lead in establishing hang gliding. It should have been the RAF!"

Army pilots took five of the first eight places in the Championships and second place in both P1 and P2 classes. Sergeant John Cockshott justified the sponsorship of the Kings Division by his second place in the P2 class, in which he scored 253 points in spite of a false start.

Results:

1st 337 pts F/Lt Bob Hurst RAF
2nd 311 pts Maj Rod MacDonald RE
3rd 302 pts J/T Pat Gardner RAF
4th 300 pts MEA (P) Alan Smith RN
5th 297 pts Capt Jim Taggart REME
6th 292 pts S/Sgt Dave Fenwick 3 PARA
7th 280 pts Capt Adrian Hicks RE
8th 268 pts Dvr Dick Mosley RCT
Overall winner P2 class: F/Lt Bob Hurst

Runner-up: Maj Rod MacDonald

Overall winner P1 class: J/T Steve Dominik RAF

Runner-up: Sgt John Cockshott KINGS DIV
Rhine Area Rose Bowl — Army Championship Trophy

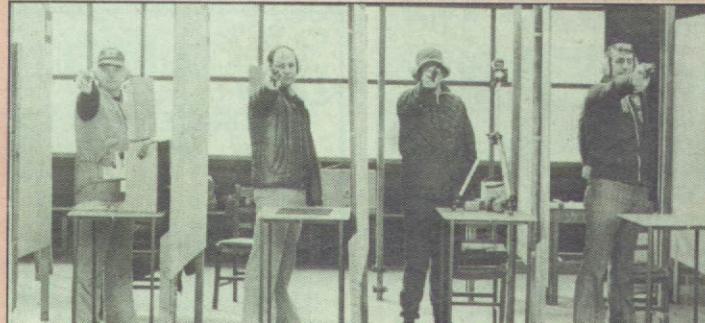
1st: Maj Rod MacDonald RE
2nd: Capt Jim Taggart REME

Army in shoot-out at Bisley

The Army pistoliers took on worthy opponents from the Police and civilian clubs in the Army Target Shooting Club Pistol Open Meeting at Bisley. It was the first time that the club has run such a meeting since the reorganisation of the Army Rifle Association earlier this year.

The Meeting was divided into ten events and 140 marksmen and women took part.

The Army took first place in five events with the Standard Army Pistol and the Centre Fire Aggregate Army being won by WO 2 Jim Cairns. The Rapid Fire section Army was won by WO 1 Chris Godwin who also won the Silhouettes Open Small bore and the Silhouettes Open Fullbore.



Members of the Army Target Shooting Club Pistol section (l to r) WO1 Chris Godwin, Major Mike Payne, Major David Mumford and Captain Jim Brown.

It's a knockout — twice

Army boxers were packing powerful punches when they met opponents from the South West Division London Amateur Boxing Association in a match organised by Farnborough Lions in aid of local charities for disabled children.

The Army put forward a select team of eight contestants to meet the Londoners on a matched bout basis. An appreciative audience of around 400 was treated to a good evening's entertainment as they saw the Army prove slightly superior in the well-balanced contest.

A knockout by Lance Corporal Shanley GREEN HOWARDS, in the first bout, put the Army one up in the match. Lance Corporal Turnell IG, Lance Corporal Roberts 1 D&D, and Private Rea 2 RIR all won their



bouts on points and another KO by Ranger Muir 2 RIR added to the Army wins. The bouts boxed by Private Akinlami RAOC and Lance Corporal Sheehan RPC were stopped by the referee because of cut eyes.

The Army ended the evening with a final score of seven bouts to one, which left their supremacy in no doubt.

Above: Private Akinlami makes contact.

Members of the British Army Target Pistol Team covered themselves in glory as they represented their countries at a shooting competition organised by the Commonwealth Shooting Federation.

Major John Woods REME won a gold medal in the .22 Rapid Fire Pistol event, an Olympic event, and **WO1 Chris Godwin ACC** took the silver medal. Sergeant Alan Westlake REME and **WO2 Jim Cairns SASC** won gold and silver medals in the Centre Fire Full Bore Pistol competition.

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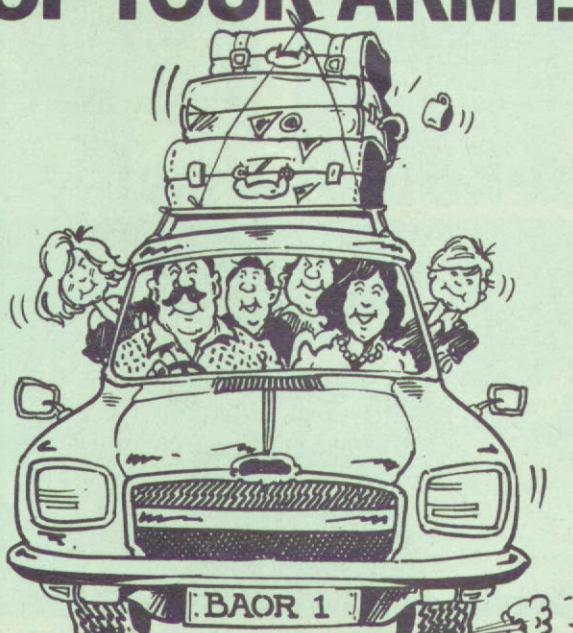
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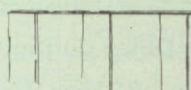
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